# UK CAR MANUFACTURING (data for March 2015)

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# British car output grows in March as productivity hits all-time high

* Stable March for car manufacturing with overall production volumes up 1.9%.
* UK automotive industry more productive than ever before, according to new SMMT calculations.
* Year-to-date output steady, but outlook positive with new models starting production.

SMMT figures released today show that the strong British car market drove domestic production up 1.9% in March with 144,893 cars built – the best March since 2006. Manufacturing output for the domestic market, meanwhile, rose almost a quarter, reflecting continuing strong demand for new cars in the UK.

The figures come as new analysis by SMMT reveals that productivity in UK automotive manufacturing is at an all-time high. Looking at the past five year period, 11.5 vehicles were produced a year for each person employed in the industry. For the period from 2005 to 2009, the figure was 9.3 vehicles produced per employee per year.

**Mike Hawes, SMMT Chief Executive, said,** “‘Built in Britain’ is more than just a brand: our automotive industry is increasingly competitive on a global scale. The latest production figures are yet more evidence of that, and with £1 billion worth of fresh manufacturing investments announced by three UK manufacturers in March alone, the future is optimistic.

“Productivity figures prove that the UK is not only making a diverse range of vehicles which are in high demand around the world, but that manufacturers, supported by a flexible workforce, are producing them more efficiently than ever.”

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| **Car manufacturing** | **Mar-14** | **Mar-15** | **% Change** | **YTD-14** | **YTD-15** | **% Change** |
| **Total** | 142,158 | 144,893 | 1.9% | 404,803 | 402,193 | -0.6% |
| **Home** | 33,211 | 41,339 | 24.5% | 86,505 | 105,515 | 22.0% |
| **Export** | 108,947 | 103,554 | -5.0% | 318,298 | 296,678 | -6.8% |
| **% export** | 76.6% | 71.5% |   | 78.6% | 73.8% |   |

**UK automotive productivity, 1970-2014**

Source: ONS employment data and SMMT production data. 1970-77 production volumes are estimates.

**Car output – rolling year totals total vs home**