# UK CAR MANUFACTURING (data for 2015)

# Strictly embargoed to 00:01 on 21 January 2016

**Hi-res images available via Dropbox:** [**https://www.dropbox.com/sh/cnl60r3jlzmd9e6/AADzlP3P2dEdP-FMvcm5Nlbma?dl=0**](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/cnl60r3jlzmd9e6/AADzlP3P2dEdP-FMvcm5Nlbma?dl=0)

**Best year in a decade for British car manufacturing as exports reach record high**

* UK car manufacturing reaches 10-year high, growing 3.9% to 1,587,677 vehicles.
* More cars exported than ever before, up 2.7% on previous year at 1,227,881.
* Domestic production surges 8.1% to 359,796 to meet increasing demand for British-built cars.
* EU demand grows 11.3%, with 57.5% of exports destined for the continent.
* US overtakes China as UK’s largest export destination, with demand up by a quarter.

**21 January 2016** British manufacturers made more cars in 2015 than any year since 2005 when 1,595,697 vehicles were produced, according to figures released today by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT). Production increased 3.9% on 2014, with output at 1,587,677 overtaking pre-recession levels for the first time.1

A record number of cars – representing 77.3% of total production – was for export, with 1,227,881 units leaving the UK, up 2.7% on 2014 levels. Challenges were experienced in some global markets such as China, where demand fell by 37.5%, and Russia, where export volumes declined 69.4%. However, the economic recovery in Europe, the UK’s biggest trading partner, boosted demand for UK-built cars considerably by 11.3% in 2015. The region now accounts for 57.5% of all UK car exports.

Appetite for British-built cars grew significantly in other key and emerging regions, demonstrating the strength and diversity of UK manufacturing and product. In the US, demand rose by more than a quarter (26.5%), making it the UK’s biggest trading destination outside the EU, ahead of China. Meanwhile, notable growth was also seen in Australia, South Korea, Turkey and Japan with volumes up 53.7%, 55.2%, 41.1% and 35.4% respectively.

British consumer and business demand for British-made cars also contributed to last year’s success, with the home car market rising 8.1% on the previous year. One in seven new cars registered in the UK in 2015 was made in Britain.

**Mike Hawes, SMMT Chief Executive,** said, “Despite export challenges in some key markets such as Russia and China, foreign demand for British-built cars has been strong, reaching record export levels in the past year. Achieving these hard fought for results is down to vital investment in the sector, world class engineering and a committed and skilled UK workforce – one of the most productive in the world.

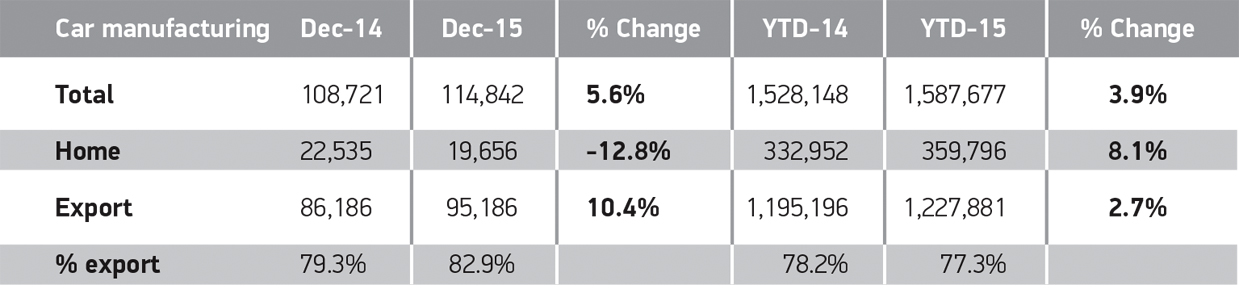
“Continued growth in an intensely competitive global marketplace is far from guaranteed, however, and depends heavily on global economic conditions and political stability. Europe is our biggest trading partner and the UK’s membership of the European Union is vital for the automotive sector in order to secure future growth and jobs.”

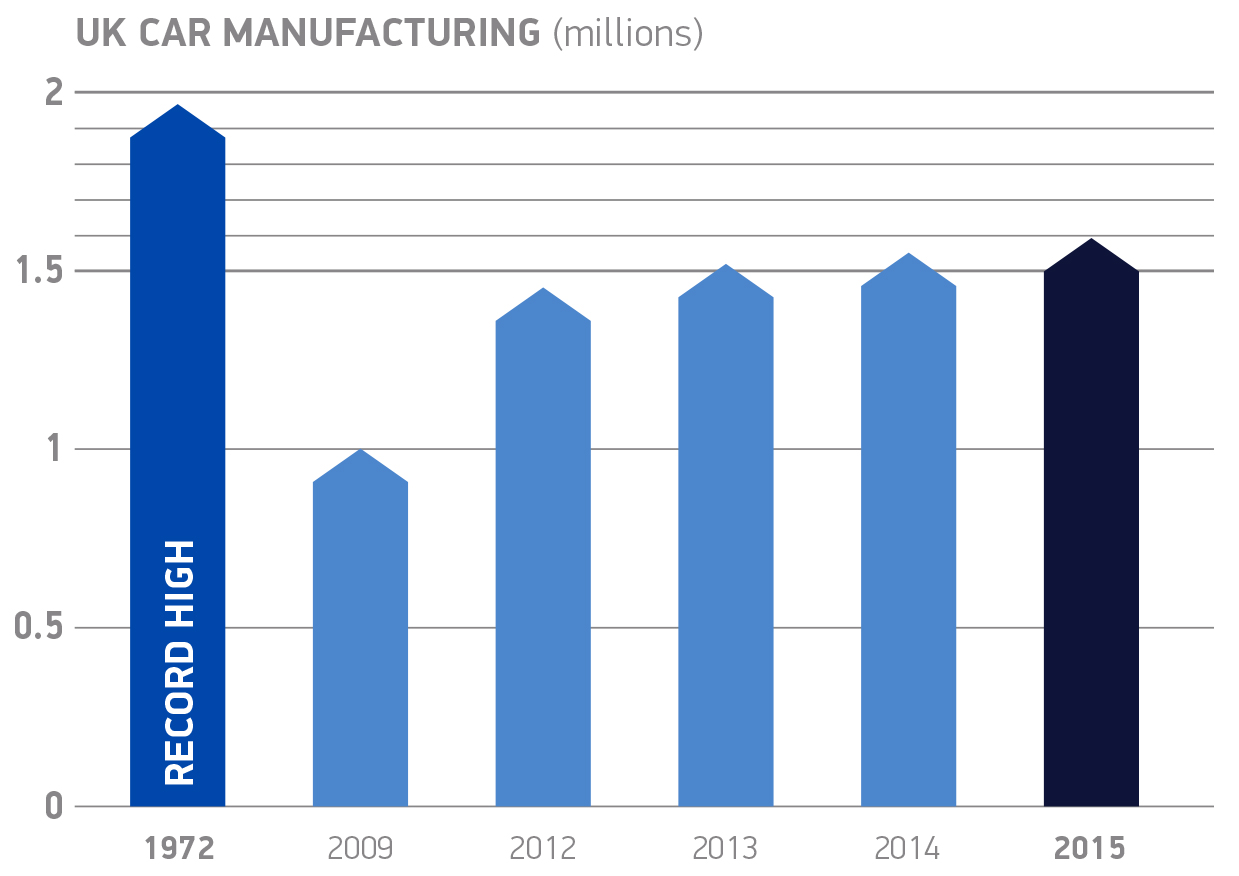
**Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne said,** “Backing Britain’s car industry has been a priority for this government and today we see the industry going from strength to strength.

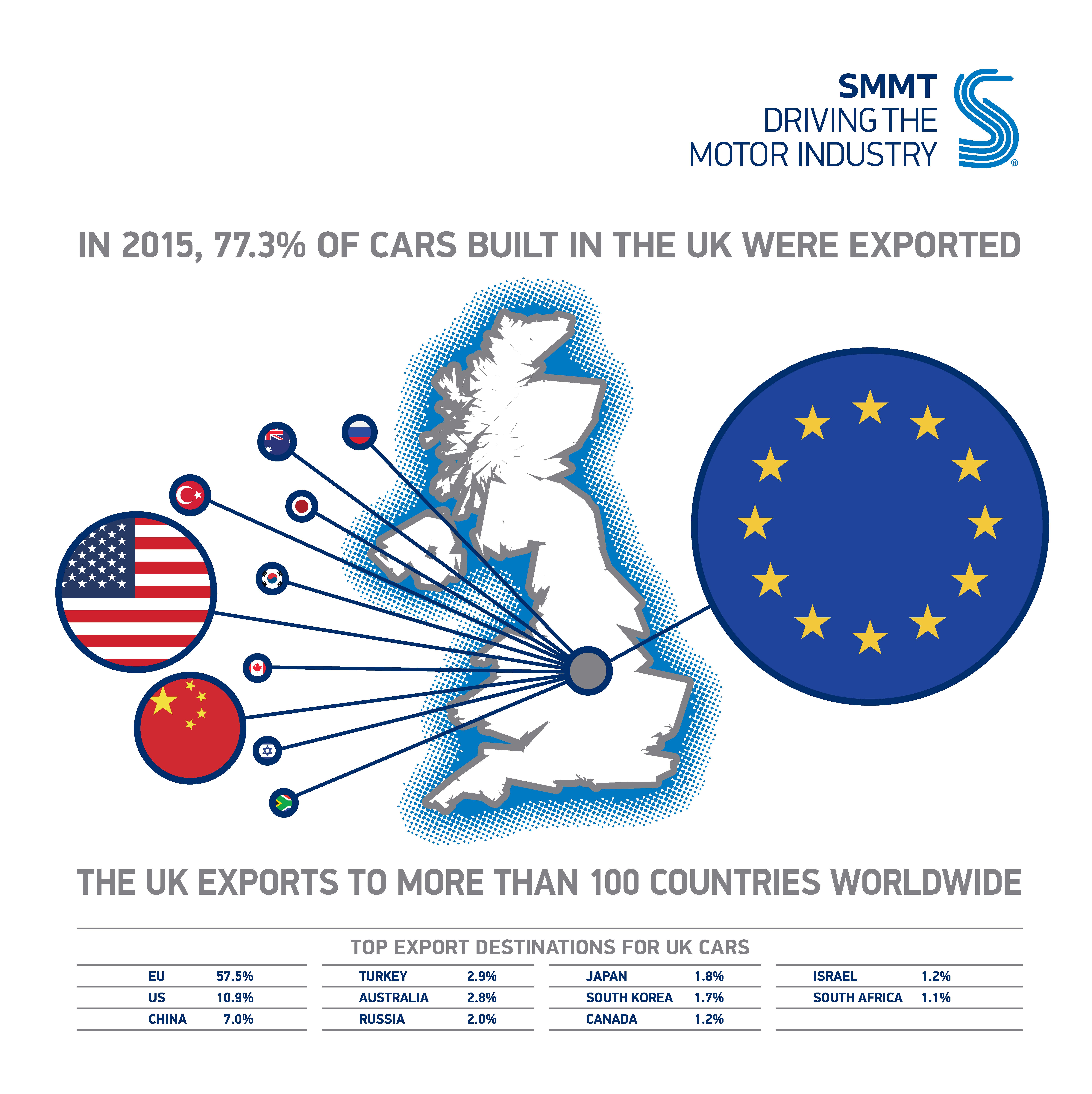
“I am hugely encouraged that manufacturing is at a 10-year high and exports ‎are at a record level. All this means jobs and the security of a pay packet for workers and their families.

“Our plans to rebalance the economy mean we have to continue to build on our great manufacturing strengths in the Midlands and the North of England, and work together to ensure that Britain continues to prosper as a global leader in car production.”

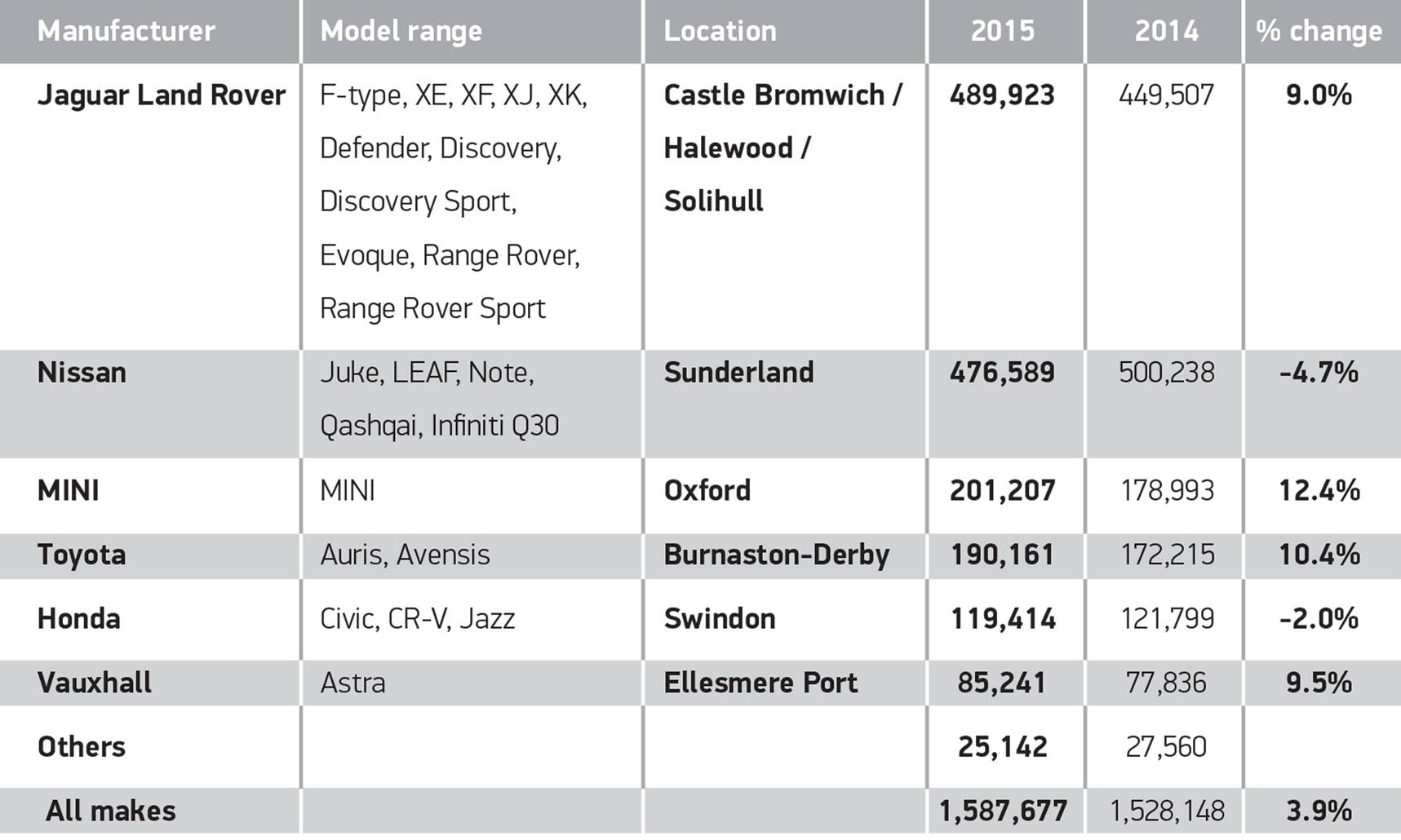
The performance of UK automotive is very different compared with UK manufacturing as a whole, according to Office for National Statistics figures, which show  the average manufacturing output to have slowed in recent months.2 Eight brand new car models3 were produced in UK plants in 2015, and with £2.5 billion of fresh investment committed to the sector in 2015, more are set to follow in the coming months.





****

**Manufacturing of cars in the UK – by brand**



**Notes to editors**

1. SMMT Data: 2007 full year car manufacturing total: 1,534,567.
2. ONS Index of Production, November 2015, published 12 January 2016, shows UK manufacturing output fell 1.2% in the 12 months to November 2015.
3. Bentley Bentayga, Infiniti Q30, Jaguar XE, Jaguar XF, Land Rover Discovery Sport, MINI Clubman, McLaren 570S, Vauxhall Astra.

**About SMMT and the UK automotive industry**

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) is one of the largest and most influential trade associations in the UK. It supports the interests of the UK automotive industry at home and abroad, promoting a united position to government, stakeholders and the media.

The automotive industry is a vital part of the UK economy accounting for more than **£69.5 billion turnover** and **£15.5 billion value added**. With some **160,000** people employed directly in manufacturing and in excess of **799,000** acrossthe wider automotive industry, it accounts for **11.8% of total UK export of goods** and invests **£2.4 billion** each year in automotive R&D. More than **30 manufacturers** build in excess of **70 models** of vehicle in the UK supported by around **2,500 component providers** and some of the world's most **skilled engineers**.

More detail on UK automotive available in SMMT's Motor Industry Facts 2015 publication at [www.smmt.co.uk/facts15](http://www.smmt.co.uk/facts15).

**Broadcasters: SMMT has an ISDN studio and access to expert spokespeople, case studies and regional representatives.**

**Media contacts**

Ben Foulds 020 7344 9222 [bfoulds@smmt.co.uk](mailto:bfoulds@smmt.co.uk)

Lucy Bielby 020 7344 1610 [lbielby@smmt.co.uk](mailto:lbielby@smmt.co.uk)

Francesca Fleming 020 7344 9206 [ffleming@smmt.co.uk](mailto:ffleming@smmt.co.uk)