

Car registrations show 29th consecutive month of growth

New car registrations

A total of 172,907 new cars were registered in July, a rise of 6.6% and marking the 29th consecutive month of growth. For the year-to-date, the market has seen an increase of 10.1%, up to 1,460,172 units. The faster-than-expected growth has so far this year prompted an upward revision of the 2014 market forecast to 2.45 million registrations, up 8.1% on 2013.

Commercial vehicles

In July, the total number of commercial vehicle registrations increased by 25.8%, rising by 13.1% for the year-to-date and 18.4% over the rolling year. The van market continued its period of strong growth, increasing by 34.5% in July, and over the year-to-date reaching more than 180,000 units, an increase of 18.9%. July truck registrations, however, fell by 16.3%, a decrease of 21.9% over the year-to-date, although the rolling year total remains up by 16.4%.

Bus and coach registrations

Bus and coach registrations increased by 20.3% in July, with year-to-date volumes up by 5.4% to 7,934 units. July growth was driven by a 69.8% rise for purpose built buses, while coaches dipped 27.4% in the month. July figures for converted bus registrations were stable, although for the year-to-date, volumes were still 12% up.

(Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2014/08/new-car-registrations-july-2014/>



New UTCs announced

Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, has announced proposals for seven new university technical colleges (UTCs) and four new studio schools, which will offer specialist, technical education. The new schools, which will be backed by local businesses and universities, will provide more than 5,000 places for 14 to 19 year-olds, and will offer a more technical or vocational based education using curricula developed in partnership with universities and employers. The new schools will work with more than 40 major national and local employers including Jaguar Land Rover and Bentley, and the new UTCs will work alongside seven universities to provide the next generation of school leavers with the technical knowledge and other skills that industry demands. George Osborne said, "The new colleges will provide the next generation of British workers with the skills they need to secure the high-tech jobs of the future".

(Source: DfE)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-technical-schools-provide-job-boost-for-young-people>

UK manufacturers reaping the rewards of high levels of innovation

According to a study published by EEF, the manufacturers' organisation and Natwest, UK manufacturers are reaping the rewards of high levels of innovation over the past few years. The 2014 EEF/Natwest Innovation Monitor shows strong demand is now putting pressure on management time to working capital, and so as a result manufacturers have focussed on a smaller number of innovative activities aimed at satisfying existing customers. Manufacturers continue to prioritise innovation; however resources are spread more thinly. This has led to an increase in the proportion of manufacturers who have expressed concern that their level of expenditure on innovation is not enough to keep pace with competitors, from 19% in 2013, to 26% in the 2014 survey. The EEF have therefore made the following recommendations:

- Funding for the Technology Strategy Board must be sustained in real terms, at the very least for 2015/16 levels.
- Funding for the High Value Manufacturing Catapult should be increased and the structure adjusted to encourage SME engagement.
- The R&D tax credit should be maintained and the definition of R&D within the credit should remain broad and stable.
- Longer-term, Government should develop a framework for regular assessment of the breadth of science and innovation support to ensure all schemes remain well-directed and adequately funded.

(Source: EEF)

<http://www.eef.org.uk/releases/uk/2014/Industry-reaps-rewards-of-innovation-though-concern-grows-at-falling-behind-competitors.htm>



Week ahead

**The House of Commons is in Recess from
Wednesday 23 July to Monday 1 September**

**The House of Lords is in recess from Thursday 31
July until Monday October 13**