

WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 17 August

Automotive manufacturing increases 20% in July

SMMT has published the latest automotive manufacturing figures for July 2012. The data shows that overall UK automotive manufacturing has risen 20% in July year-on-year. Car output rose for the 13th consecutive month, up 22.2% in July and 15.1% up for the year-to-date. Commercial vehicle production stabilised down 1.3% in the month with a 7.7% fall for the first seven months. UK engine production was up 0.3% over the year with a narrow 1.9% downturn in the month. SMMT Chief Executive Paul Everitt said: "While uncertainty in Europe remains a challenge, the £6 billion investment committed to the UK in the last two years delivers long-term growth opportunities and the latest figures show that our products have enormous global appeal" (Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2012/08/smmt-uk-automotive-manufacturing-july-2012/>

Manufacturing Advisory Service barometer shows growth for manufacturing

The Manufacturing Advice Service (MAS) has issued the latest results of its national manufacturing barometer for England. The results show that 53% of manufacturing SMEs have seen orders grow in the last six months, with 53% also anticipating further growth for the rest of the year. One third of companies said they were looking to create jobs and over half, 55% said they expect their workforce to remain the same size. 71% are looking to increase their turnover through exporting in the next eighteen months. Business Minister Mark Prisk MP commented: "This latest MAS Barometer shows that many small manufacturing firms across the UK are growing and expect to continue to grow despite the challenging wider economic environment. The Government is committed to helping manufacturers make the most of the opportunities for growth and job creation through our continued investment in MAS."

(Source: MAS) <http://www.mymas.org/news/mas-barometer-shows-2018growth2019-still-there-for-english-manufacturers>



Inflation figures for July 2012 released

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has released inflation data for July 2012. The ONS says that the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) annual inflation stands at 2.6% in July 2012, up from 2.4% in June, with pressures from increasing costs related to air fares and clothing. The ONS also said that the Retail Prices Index (RPI) annual inflation rose to 3.2% in July, up from 2.8% in June. The ONS highlights the largest upward pressures came from the purchase of cars, air fares, clothing & footwear and housing.

(Source: ONS)

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/cpi/consumer-price-indices/july-2012/index.html>

Jaguar Land Rover plant moves to 24 hour shifts

Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) has introduced a third shift at its Halewood plant, which manufactures the Freelander 2 and Range Rover Evoque models. The plant will now operate around the clock production to cope with rising global demand for its new Evoque model. The move will take production at Halewood to 24 hours for the first time in its history and demonstrates the global appeal of the new Range Rover Evoque, with nearly 88,000 vehicles sold in more than 170 markets. Des Thurlby, HR Director at JLR said: "With 4,500 employees, JLR Halewood has trebled its workforce in just three years - and the size of the workforce is now the highest it has been for 20

years. As well as creating new jobs, our on-going global success means we continue to have a positive economic impact in the North West and throughout the UK supply chain." (Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2012/08/jlr-boosts-halewood-manufacturing-with-move-to-three-shifts/>



Week ahead

House of Commons

The House of Commons is in recess until Monday 3 September

House of Lords

The House of Lords is in recess until Friday 1 September