

UK automotive manufacturing figures rise in September

Figures released by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) showed that UK engine production grew by 6.5% in September, with 224,917 units produced in the month. September 2015 showed the strongest month on month growth for exports this year, with overseas demand up 18.4%. Overall engine output remained steady in year to date, down 1.9% on last year.

CV production

The UK commercial vehicle industry more than doubled its output in September, latest figures show. With key new models now up to full production – and buoyed by the ongoing recovery in European market – output in the month increased 103.6% over September last year with 9,811 commercial vehicles built. Manufacturing for both domestic and export markets made strong gains, with volumes up 94.3% and 113.9% respectively.

Car manufacturing

British car production posted healthy growth in September. Output rose 15.5% compared with September last year, with year-to-date volumes 3.3% up on the same period in 2015. As seen in previous months, production for the UK market led the way with a gain of 20.1% – but new car exports were not far behind with a robust 13.9% increase in volumes. September's results follow latest industry projections that set British car manufacturing on track to achieve record production levels by 2020.

(Source: [SMMT](#))



MPs to look at Defra's role in tackling air quality

The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee has launched an inquiry into air quality in the UK. The Committee invites written submissions by Monday 23 November on several issues. Regarding Transport emissions, they ask:

- Are the correct incentives in place to support consumers and businesses in reducing transport emissions, for example to move away from diesel and petrol vehicles towards low emission options or to promote other forms of transport?
- Do recently highlighted disparities between laboratory and real-world emissions from vehicles mean that Defra should remodel the assumptions behind its plans to meet EU requirements?

(Source: [Parliament](#))

UK-China business deals agreed at business summit

Prime Minister David Cameron and Chinese President Xi Jinping witnessed the signing of billions of pounds in business deals further strengthening UK-China relations. The deals include:

- [Jaguar Land Rover](#) will invest into a new aluminium body plant at their factory in China. This is the first of its kind in the country and a significant transfer of knowledge and expertise to the company's joint venture with Chery Automobile Company.
- [Aston Martin](#) and Chinese investment group, ChinaEquity, announced an agreement to explore the development of a production version of the RapidE concept. If successful, the new luxury sports car would be constructed at Aston Martin's global HQ in Gaydon, Warwickshire, and could be brought to market in around two years.
- The [London Taxi Company](#) have launched the latest battery-powered TX5 model, which will be made with Chinese electric vehicle technology. The TX5 will be manufactured at a new £300m plant outside Coventry

(Source: [Prime Minister's Office](#))

Go Ultra Low – The Future of Business Mobility

The Future of Business Mobility brought together fleet managers and experts from across the country to discuss how today's businesses can introduce Electric Vehicles into their fleets. The event provided a unique opportunity to get a real understanding of how businesses have done this already and for people to talk opening and discuss the merits of this technology. Andrew Jones MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport held the keynote address in which he assured that this government will support businesses so they can continue to be bold in adopting new technology.

(Source: SMMT, [DfT](#))

LowCVP to focus on cutting emissions from trucks

LowCVP is calling on fleet operators, local authorities and others to join forces in building the market for heavy goods vehicles which cut carbon, reduce emissions and lower fuel costs. In earlier work, the LowCVP has identified three main opportunities for cutting emissions from HGVs which pointed to the need for specific interventions: independent testing to validate the effectiveness of retrofit technology; conversion to the use of natural gas/biomethane; and supporting the uptake of hybrid and pure electric vehicles, particularly for use in urban environments. The Partnership will be holding a stakeholder workshop in late November to progress the LowCVP's commercial vehicle activity, including the accreditation scheme for after-market technologies as well as providing opportunities for operators and others to collaborate in a new, DfT-funded test programme to benchmark vehicles powered by natural gas/biomethane. The group will also commence activity on the specific actions needed to stimulate low carbon urban freight solutions.

(Source: [LowCVP](#))

Week ahead

Commons chamber

Monday 26 October

- Finance Bill: Report Stage and Third Reading

Commons Committees

Tuesday 26 October

- Treasury Committee: The economic and financial costs and benefits of UK membership of the EU (9:30am, Wilson room)
- Environmental Audit Committee: Diesel Emissions and Air Quality (11:30am, room 18)

Thursday 29 October

- 9:30am: Transport Questions

Lords Chamber

Wednesday 27 October

- European Union Referendum Bill: Committee (Day 1 of 3)

Lords Committees

Tuesday 26 October

- EU Select Committee: Visions of EU Reform

