

## WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 20 November

### October automotive production figures released

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) has released UK vehicle and engine production figures for October 2015.

#### Car manufacturing

A total of 1,318,452 new cars rolled off UK production lines in the first 10 months of the year, the best performance since 2005 and up 2.8% year-to-date. Exports drove volumes in October, with foreign demand up 1.5%, while the domestic market fell marginally month-on-month. Mike Hawes, SMMT Chief Executive, said, "Despite a small drop in overall output last month, the industry has delivered a robust performance so far this year, particularly in terms of exports. Given the slowdown we've seen in several key global markets in recent months, UK automotive manufacturing still remains in a strong position."

#### Commercial vehicle manufacturing

In October, 7,995 commercial vehicles were built in the UK, the ninth consecutive month of growth with a 32.1% rise in production for export. Mike Hawes, SMMT Chief Executive said, "It's great to see UK commercial vehicle manufacturing continuing its resurgence in the third quarter of 2015, with year-to-date figures still demonstrating impressive double-digit growth. Particularly encouraging is the growing demand for exports, fuelled by the recovery of the sector's largest market, Europe."

#### Engine manufacturing

In October, UK engine production rose 4% to 219,737 units. Mike Hawes, SMMT Chief Executive, said, "Continued overseas demand for UK-built engines drove sector growth of 4% in October, compared with the same month last year. Some 135,434 engines were produced for foreign markets, representing an uplift of 13.2%. Year-to-date volumes fell slightly by 1.3% set against a 1.3% increase in exports, while overall output surpassed the two million unit milestone, reflecting the stability of the market."

(Source: [SMMT](#))

### Transport Select Committee: vehicle type approval inquiry

The Transport Select Committee has announced an inquiry into vehicle type approval and is taking submissions to help inform the first evidence session. The Committee would like to hear evidence on:

- the effectiveness of the current arrangements for type approval
- negotiations on World-wide Light-vehicle Test Procedures and Real Driving Emissions
- the appropriateness of the current drive cycle and how a move to Real Driving Emissions tests will change testing
- the gap between emissions detected in test and real world conditions
- comparisons with other jurisdictions (especially the US and markets in Asia)
- the range of metrics considered in type testing, whether the levels set represent a reasonable level of ambition and a reasonable pace of change, and the evidence base that underpins how levels have been set
- the role of type approval in driving change in levels of safety, emissions, and performance
- the appropriateness of the overall principles that determine the approach being taken on type approval.

(Source: [Transport Select Committee](#))



## EAC: response to Defra air quality consultation

The Environmental Audit Select Committee has published its response to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' consultation on air quality. The response states that government should consider a diesel scrappage scheme and ensure that Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) changes tackle NO2 pollution as well as CO2. The Committee welcome the proposal to create a national framework of Clean Air Zones but warns that the power for individual Local Authorities to decide the access rules for particular vehicles could lead to could lead to confusing signals being sent to drivers across the country. The Committee also raises concerns about government transferring responsibility on air quality to Local Authorities when they are facing reductions in funding.

(Source: [EAC](#))

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## Peers vote to allow 16-17 year olds to take part in EU referendum

This week, the House of Lords voted to amend the European Referendum Bill to extend the franchise to 16 and 17 year olds. If the move is not overturned by the House of Commons, it could affect the timing of the referendum vote. Some experts have suggested the process of registering the new voters who would be eligible to take part could delay the poll by up to a year, making it unlikely that the referendum could be held next year, the date that most commentators believe is the Prime Minister's preference.

(Source: [Guardian](#))



## Week ahead

**To note: The Chancellor will deliver the joint Autumn Statement and Spending Review on Wednesday 25 November.**

### Commons Committees

Tuesday 24 November

- BIS Committee (9:15, room 15)  
The Digital Economy
- Culture, Media and Sport Committee (10:15, room 16) Establishing World-Class Connectivity Throughout the UK

### Westminster Hall

Wednesday 25 November

- Introduction of low emission zones (Ben Howlett)

### Lords Chamber

Monday 23 November

- European Union Referendum Bill: Report Stage

### Lords Committees

Monday 23 November

- EU Internal Market Sub-Committee – Online platforms and the EU Digital Single Market