# SMMT NEWS RELEASE

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# Number of car exports to China multiplied seven times since 2009

* Automotive sector now has greater share of UK exports than ever before at 11.2%
* China is the largest single market for British-built cars after the UK
* Number of car sales to Asia trebled in five years
* UK exported just under 1.2 million cars to more than 100 countries in 2014

**London 19 February, 2015,** Figures released today by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) show that exports of cars to China have increased seven-fold since 2009. In 2014,137,410 UK-built cars were exported to China, an increase of 14.5% over 2013. Only the UK bought more British-built cars than China last year, with exports to China greater than combined UK exports to Brazil, India and Russia.

The trend in China reflects substantial growth in the wider Asian market, with the number of UK-built cars exported to Asia having more than trebled in five years. In 2014, the UK exported 220,682 cars to the region, compared to 60,804 in 2009. Asia is now the UK automotive industry’s largest export market after Europe, with 18.5% of all cars destined for the region.

In 2014 the automotive sector represented a greater share of total UK exports than ever before, accounting for 11.2% of revenue, valued at £26.2 billion. The UK exported 1,195,190 cars to more than 100 countries worldwide last year, marking a 54.7% increase over 2009, when 772,210 cars were exported.

**Mike Hawes, SMMT Chief Executive, said,** “Economic growth in Asia over the last five years has seen demand for new cars accelerate massively. A desire for high-quality premium vehicles with a strong brand heritage has placed the UK in a prime position to take advantage of this emerging market. The British car industry’s success in the region is down to the quality of our globally competitive products built with our engineering excellence and our highly skilled workforce. The strength and importance of the UK automotive sector to the UK economy is self-evident and automotive exports at 11.2 % are the highest share of UK exports in history. ”

**Drivers of export growth**

Economic growth in a number of Asian markets such as China has led to an increased demand for high-quality and luxury vehicles. The UK has a rich heritage of producing premium vehicles which it has taken advantage of in recent years. Significant investment in brands such as Aston Martin, Bentley, Jaguar Land Rover, McLaren and Rolls-Royce, mean that 60% of all UK-built models on offer are from premium manufacturers.

Not only has growth in the Asian market seen a surge in UK exports, it has also helped the average export value of UK-built cars increase from £10,200 in 2004 to £21,900 in 2014.

**Export volumes by region**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2014** | **2009** | **% change** |
| **EU28** | 634,168 | 535,908 | 18.3 |
| **Asia** | 220,682 | 60,804 | 262.9 |
| **America** | 151,472 | 94,716 | 59.9 |
| **Other Europe** | 136,516 | 52,861 | 158.3 |
| **Australasia** | 25,565 | 11,072 | 130.9 |
| **Africa** | 21,067 | 13,450 | -17.6 |

**Top 10 Asian export markets**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2014** | **2009** | **% change** |
| **China** | 137,410 | 19,417 | 607.7 |
| **Japan** | 16,625 | 12,195 | 36.3 |
| **South Korea** | 13,337 | 2,315 | 476.1 |
| **United Arab Emirates** | 9,619 | 2,570 | 274.3 |
| **Saudi Arabia** | 3,138 | 787 | 298.7 |
| **Taiwan** | 3,105 | 543 | 471.8 |
| **India** | 2,836 | 309 | 817.8 |
| **Kuwait** | 2,548 | 1,259 | 102.4 |
| **Hong Kong** | 2,362 | 551 | 328.7 |
| **Qatar** | 2,085 | 457 | 356.7 |

There has been growth in almost all Asian export markets since 2009. The number of cars exported to South Korea has increased five-fold, making it the UK’s eighth largest export market outside of Europe – up from 16th in 2009.

Export volumes are still modest in a number of Asian markets, with the majority of countries enforcing high import duty to drive local production. However, there has been significant growth in the number of cars exported to most Asian countries, underlining the strong appetite for UK-built cars.

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**Notes to editors**

**Asia market**

The Asia export market consists of the following countries: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kampuchea, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Macau, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, North Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Syria, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, UAE, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen.

**About SMMT and UK the 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 **£64 billion turnover** and **£12 billion value added**. With more than **160,000** people employed directly in manufacturing and in excess of **770,000 across** the wider automotive industry, it accounts for **10% of total UK export of goods** and invests **£1.9 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 2014 publication at [www.smmt.co.uk/facts14](http://www.smmt.co.uk/facts14).

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

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