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| UK CAR MANUFACTURING (data for January 2016) |
| **Hi-res images available via Dropbox:**  [**https://www.dropbox.com/sh/lgy5eldcew73beh/AABeNLSFdM8MMXjYLHzFXv4Ga?dl=0**](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/lgy5eldcew73beh/AABeNLSFdM8MMXjYLHzFXv4Ga?dl=0) |
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| **Strong start to the year for UK car manufacturing with best January since 2008** |
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| * UK car production grows 8% in January, with 137,552 vehicles built. * Strong overseas demand drives output, lifting exports 9.7%. * 31,111 cars built for home market, with production for UK buyers up 2.5%. |
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| **25 February, 2016** UK car manufacturing got off to a strong start in 2016 with output in January up 8% compared with the same month last year, according to figures published today by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT). 137,552 cars were produced in the month – the best January performance for eight years.  Increased foreign demand for British-built cars saw manufacturing for export grow for the sixth consecutive month with volumes up 9.7%. Meanwhile, production for UK customers grew 2.5% – an indication of the strong state of the domestic market.  The performance follows a record year for exports in 2015, with total car production reaching 1.6 million – the highest in a decade.  **Mike Hawes, SMMT Chief Executive,** said, “January’s figures mark an encouraging start to the year for the UK car industry, following an impressive 2015. We expect output to continue growing in the coming years as the industry benefits from continuing investment, but much will depend on global economic and political conditions and consumer confidence.” |
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| **Notes to editors**  **About SMMT and the UK 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 **£69.5 billion turnover** and **£15.5 billion value added**. With some **160,000** people employed directly in manufacturing and in excess of **799,000** acrossthe wider automotive industry, it accounts for **11.8% of total UK export of goods** and invests **£2.4 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 2015 publication at [www.smmt.co.uk/facts15](http://www.smmt.co.uk/facts15).  **Broadcasters: SMMT has an ISDN studio and access to expert spokespeople, case studies and regional representatives.** |
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