

WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 21 February

January UK car output makes solid start to 2014

Figures published by SMMT show that in January 2014 UK car manufacturing fell just 0.3% off the 2013 performance, reaching 128,620 units. During this period exports rose 1.2% reaching 80.4% of total production. SMMT expects domestic car output to accelerate throughout 2014 as new model introductions reach full volume. Looking further ahead, SMMT Chief Executive, Mike Hawes commented that industry anticipates further growth as investments by some of the world's biggest automotive brands become reality, creating more jobs and huge opportunities for UK-based suppliers.

(Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2014/02/january-uk-car-output-makes-solid-start-2014/>

Commercial vehicle manufacturing down 14.6% in January 2014

Figures published by SMMT show that in January 2014 commercial vehicle manufacturing fell 14.6% to 6,681 units. The decline was evident across both home and export markets and was attributed to continuing restructuring. However, SMMT expect commercial vehicle manufacturing figured to stabilise in the second half of the year. Commenting on the announcement, SMMT Chief Executives, Mike Hawes stated: "New Euro-6 engine emission legislation came into effect from January this year, a change which invariably results in a lull in UK heavy commercial vehicle manufacturing and a contributor to January's 14.6% fall in output. While van production was strong in the month, the 2014 market will, for some months, continue to be affected by the Europe-wide restructuring that occurred last year."

(Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2014/02/cv-manufacturing-january-low-eu-demand-restructuring-impact-rolls/>

Modest dip in engine production in January 2014

Figures published by SMMT show that in January 2014 UK engine manufacturing declined 6.1% to 209,291 units. The decline followed a sharp fall in output for the home market, down 17.4%, export volumes, however, held firm. SMMT attributed the dip in engine demand to newly introduced UK-built models still gearing up to full output levels and highlighted that the rolling 12 months tally remains over 2.5 million units.

(Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2014/02/modest-dip-engine-production-january-2014/>



Rise in number of young people considering an engineering career

A survey commissioned by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills following Tomorrow's Engineers Week has shown that the number of 11 to 14 year olds thinking about working in engineering has increased by 6%. Significantly, the survey showed a 6% rise in the number of girls saying they would consider an engineering career, in an industry that acknowledges the need to recruit more women. More parents (a rise of 4%) also said they would encourage their children to become engineers. The increases followed Tomorrow's Engineers Week, which ran from 4 to 8 November 2013, when government, employers

and educators came together to enthuse young people, particularly girls, about the rewarding careers on offer in engineering. Commenting on the survey results, Business Secretary Vince Cable stated: "It is encouraging to see that our efforts to highlight the importance of engineering as a career has had a positive affect and that more women and girls are seeing it as an exciting career. As a country we excel in hi-tech industries but we need the engineers to maintain our competitive advantage. Government alone cannot solve this. We need to work with industry, universities, colleges and schools to keep momentum and guarantee the pipeline of talent so that businesses are not disadvantaged."

(Source: BIS)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-young-people-want-to-be-engineers-after-government-and-industry-efforts-to-showcase-exciting-careers>



Unite, Cogent and TUC launch initiative to promote engineering to young women

Unite, Cogent and the TUC have launched an initiative to attract young women into science, engineering and manufacturing apprenticeships. The joint scheme will develop literature for use by teachers at schools and colleges and will host a number of events promoting engineering and manufacturing careers, starting at the Mechanics institute in Manchester on Friday 21 February. Commenting on the launch, Unite assistant general secretary Diana Holland stated: "We want to spread the word to young women in schools and colleges that there should be no barriers to pursuing the career of their choice."

(Source: Unite)

<http://www.unitetheunion.org/news/unite-launches-joint-initiative-to-promote-engineering-and-science-to-young-women/>

Week ahead

Commons Chamber

Tuesday 25 February

Backbench business debate: Transatlantic trade and investment partnership (John Healey, Lab, Wentworth and Dearne)

Westminster Hall

Wednesday 26 February

11.00am - 11.30am: Future of motorsport tyre manufacturing in Birmingham and Britain (Jack Dromey, Lab, Birmingham Erdington)

House of Lords

Thursday 27 February

External Affairs (EU Sub-Committee C) (10.00am, room 1) Transatlantic trade and investment partnership