

## Strong start to the year for UK car manufacturing

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. (Source: [SMMT](#))

## CV manufacturing +24.4%

Figures released by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) show that Commercial vehicle (CV) manufacturing rose by 24.4% in the first month of 2016, with 6,770 new vans, trucks, buses and coaches made in Britain this January. Foreign demand continued to fuel production, with commercial vehicle output for overseas markets showing substantial growth compared with January 2015. Mike Hawes, SMMT Chief Executive said, “CV production got off to a great start in January, with output up by a quarter on last year. Recovery in Europe continues to benefit the sector, driving production for export up an impressive 65% last month, with more than half of all commercial vehicles in January produced for international markets.” (Source: [SMMT](#))



## Single Departmental Plans for 2015–2020

Each central government department has published their plan for how they will deliver government's priorities and manifesto commitments. Launched on Friday, 19 February, each single departmental plan brings together efficiency, spending review and activity plans into a single, clear road map for the first time. The plans will provide a new way of monitoring performance against department objectives and improve financial management across government. The plans include:

- key commitments made by the government in its manifesto
- delivery of public services and other core departmental responsibilities
- actions to improve efficiency and to transform the way in which departments work
- cross-cutting issues where departments will need to work together to make progress

The plans also include indicators to show progress towards achieving each objective. Each department will update their plan with new data, as this becomes available, or provide written updates on performance where more appropriate. They also include links to more detailed published data sources. The plans will be revised annually, each April. A small number of amendments may be made this April.

(Source: [Cabinet Office](#))

## Automotive industry's progress on air quality and CO2

The UK automotive industry is demonstrating its ongoing commitment to improving air quality and reducing vehicle emissions with a new consumer-facing video, launched ahead of this year's Geneva Motor Show. Air quality and climate change are two of the biggest issues facing society, yet there is widespread confusion about the advances in new car technology and official emissions testing that, if uncorrected, could limit adoption of the latest low emission vehicles and undermine the UK's efforts to

meet strict air quality and climate change obligations. With this in mind, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) produced a [new animation](#) to reassure and inform motorists. The short, consumer-focused video explains how modern cars have improved compared to those of the past. New cars have significantly reduced emissions compared to their historic counterparts, with diesel cars saving three million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> since 2002, cutting nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) emissions by 84% in 15 years and virtually eliminating soot particulates – sometimes referred to as black carbon. The video also clarifies misconceptions regarding emissions testing in Europe which, from next year, will feature on-the-road testing. (Source: [SMMT](#))

---

## Boundary Commission Review launched

MPs will find out in six months whether their constituencies are likely to be scrapped for the 2020 election, after the Boundary Commissions began their controversial review to identify 50 seats to abolish. The four commissions covering the UK launched the review on Wednesday, saying they will draw up plans by September to scrap 32 seats in England, 11 in Wales, six in Scotland and one in Northern Ireland. The final recommendations will be presented to parliament in 2018. The commissions said seats would have to have no fewer than 71,031 voters and no more than 78,507. Overall, the commission for England said it wanted to remove five seats in London, two in the rest of the south-east, one in eastern England, two in the east Midlands, six in the West Midlands, four in the north-east, seven in the north-west, and four in Yorkshire and the Humber. The recommendations will be based on figures for the total UK electorate announced by the Office for National Statistics as 44.7 million people. After the publication of the commissions' proposals in September, there will be a 12-week consultation and then revisions to the plans in 2017. (Source: [The Guardian](#))

## Week ahead

### Commons Committees

Monday 29 February

- Transport Committee (4:05pm, Grimond room) – Vehicle type approval

Tuesday 1 March

- Treasury Committee (9:15am, Thatcher room) – the economic and financial costs and benefits of EU membership
- BIS Committee (9:30am, room 6) – Exports and the role of UKTI

Wednesday 2 March

- Treasury Committee (2:15pm, Wilson room) – The economic and financial costs and benefits of UK's EU membership

### Commons Chamber

Monday 29 February

- European Union Referendum Regulations 2016: Motion to approve

### Lords Chamber

Wednesday 2 March

- European Union Referendum Regulations 2016: Motion to approve
- Debate on the government's policy paper on the UK's special status in a reformed EU

