

WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 25 September

UK to launch vehicle emissions investigation

UK government has announced its intentions to launch an investigation into vehicle emissions testing. The UK regulator, the Vehicle Certification Agency, will work with car makers to re-run lab tests where necessary. It will then compare the results against "real-world" driving emissions. Meanwhile the EU has also said that there should be a Europe-wide investigation into emissions testing. Separately, the European Commission said in a statement: "We invite all member states - in addition to the ones who are already doing so - to carry out all the necessary investigations".

(Source: [DfT](#))

Demand for British-built CVs continues growth in August

The UK's commercial vehicle manufacturing sector continued its recovery in August, posting a seventh consecutive month of growth, latest figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) show. Output for the month rose by 70.3% to 3,628 units, while year-to-date volumes were up 34.1% to 61,595. Exports went up 85% on the same month last year, with demand in the home market growing 59.6%.

UK engine and car manufacturing – output increased

UK car manufacturing output increased 40.6% in August, according to latest figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT). Some 99,910 cars were built in the month, taking year-to-date production volumes past one million – a gain of 1.6%.

The UK engine output increased by 15.8% in August, with 112,777 units produced. A boost for home and export markets was seen, with demand up 15.1% and 16.3% respectively. The year-to-date volumes remain steady at 1,562,503, down 3.4% on 2014.

(Source: [SMMT](#))

SMMT and ADS host Liberal Democrat Party Conference Roundtable

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders and ADS, the trade organisation advancing the UK Aerospace, Defence, Security and Space industries, hosted a joint roundtable at the Liberal Democrat Party Conference on Monday 22 September. Political attendees included Baroness Jolly, Lord Newby OBE, Baroness Randerson, Lord Shipley OBE, Lord Stoneham of Droxford and Dr John Pugh MP. The discussion concentrated on industrial strategy, as well as the upcoming EU referendum and the role the Liberal Democrat Party could play. At the Liberal Democrat conference, Tim Farron gave his maiden speech as leader, inviting liberals across the political spectrum to join the party and focussing on issues relating to housing, the migration crisis and the EU.

(Source: SMMT, [BBC](#))

CBI – Manufacturing output stalls for the first time in 2 years

Manufacturing output growth stalled in September – for the first time in two and a half years, according to the latest CBI Monthly Industrial Trends Survey. That came as total and export orders also deteriorated the latter falling back to the lowest level in six months. Manufacturers' expectations for growth in the volume of output over the coming three months are the weakest since October 2013. Meanwhile, firms expect average prices to edge down further in the next quarter, to the greatest extent since August 2009.

(Source: [CBI](#))

New appointments to Innovate UK board

Business Secretary Sajid Javid has appointed 2 new members to the governing board of Innovate UK, the UK government's innovation agency. Tim Edwards, an entrepreneur in the biotechnology and charitable sectors and John Latham, Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer of Coventry University have been appointed for a 3 year term on the board. The Business Secretary also reappointed Hazel Moore to Innovate UK's board to serve a second 3 year term. Innovate UK is the UK's innovation agency. Sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), Innovate UK brings together business, research and the public sector, supporting and accelerating the development of innovative products and services to meet market needs, tackle major societal challenges and help build the future economy.
(Source: [BIS](#))



Nigel Farage: EU exit my priority, not UKIP

UKIP leader Nigel Farage has said his party is not his priority as he dedicates its annual conference to the campaign to leave the EU. He said there would be a "surprise" coming together of all anti-EU groups in the country in a "show of unity". It was also revealed strategist Lynton Crosby's firm had rejected an offer to help one of the No campaigns. UKIP, which is committed to Britain withdrawing from the European Union, had launched its own No campaign for the referendum, which the government has pledged to hold by 2018. Now it is officially joining forces with millionaire party donor Arron Banks, who is behind

The Know campaign - their relaunched campaign will be called "Leave.eu"
(Source: [BBC](#))

Lombard to sponsor SMMT's 2015 Annual Dinner

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) is pleased to announce Lombard, the UK's largest provider of asset finance for business, as sponsor of its Annual Dinner taking place on Tuesday 24 November 2015 at Grosvenor House on Park Lane, London. Nick Robinson, broadcaster and the BBC's former Political Editor, who will present BBC Radio 4's Today Programme from the autumn, will be making the keynote speech at the event, while SMMT's President, Gareth Jones, Managing Director of ebm-papst Automotive and Drives (UK) Ltd, will make an address on the industry. The winners of [SMMT's Award for Automotive Innovation 2015](#), run in partnership with the Advanced Propulsion Centre (APC), sponsored by GKN and supported by *The Times*; and the [Autocar Courland Next Generation Award](#) will be announced during the evening's proceedings.
(Source: [SMMT](#))

Week ahead

From Friday 18 September, the House of Commons and the House of Lords will be in recess until 12 October.

Party Conferences:

- **Labour**
27 – 30 September in Brighton
- **Conservatives**
4 – 7 October in Manchester
- **SNP**
15 – 17 October in Aberdeen