

## WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 22 November

### UK car manufacturing rises 17.4% in October

Figures published by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) show that UK car manufacturing in October rose 17.4% to 160,854 units, the largest monthly increase so far this year. Within this, manufacturing for the UK market showed the strongest growth, up 52.4%, while export growth also grew, up 11.4%. Year-to-date figures are also up reaching 1,286,287 cars produced, a rise of 5.4% and with European demand showing early signs of recovery, production is expected to continue positively in the coming months. Engine production also had a strong October with output growing 6.5% in October to 254,480 units. On the year-to-date 2,172,775 engines were built in 2013, representing a steady 2.4% growth. Growth has predominantly been fuelled by the domestic market whilst exports have remained steady both in October and 2013. Commercial vehicle production has fared less well with 7,825 commercial vehicles (CV) produced in October, a decline of 33.8%. In addition, CV output for 2013 is down 19.9% to 75,484 units. Despite some areas of good news for the sector, with UK bus and truck manufacturing growing in the month, the domestic CV manufacturing outlook remains negative for the rest of the year.

(Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2013/11/october-2013-uk-car-manufacturing/>

### Engineering at the heart of multi-million college investment

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has announced that colleges are set to invest millions of pounds in building modern facilities after two further rounds of government capital investment unlocked £488 million of funding. This investment in college estates forms the third and fourth rounds of the College Capital Investment Fund (CCIF), through which £550 million is being made available between 2013 and 2015. The government is targeting those in the greatest need of help and those that can best

support growth in the economy by investing £232.7 million in colleges, matched with more than £250 million investment from colleges themselves. Many of the successful colleges will use this money to build state of the art science and engineering facilities to provide training for the next generation of engineers. Projects being funded include Dudley College's new engineering and advanced manufacturing workshops, Leeds City College centre for mechanical engineering and Runshaw College's industry standard engineering and science facilities. Commenting on the announcement, Business Secretary Vince Cable stated: "Boosting the quality and availability of training is fundamental to building a stronger economy, with skilled jobs spread across all regions of the UK. Our commitment to support modern, well-equipped colleges and training centres to train the next generation sits alongside the government's industrial strategy giving business the confidence to invest in the long-term". Dr Cable also announced that a further £330 million will also be available for skills capital investment through the Local Growth Fund in 2016-17 in order to support local priorities.

(Source: BIS)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/engineering-at-the-heart-of-multi-million-college-investment>



### CBI: Growth in manufacturing output strongest since 1995

The latest CBI Industrial Trends Survey has shown that growth in the UK's manufacturing sector was the strongest for 18 years over the past three months. The survey of nearly 350 manufacturers found that total order books relative to normal levels were their strongest since March 1995. Export order books were

also very firmly above average. Output volumes over the three months to November rose at their fastest rate since January 1995, with all but one sector (electrical engineering) reporting growth. Manufacturers expect output growth to continue at a robust pace over the coming three months. Commenting on the figures, Stephen Gifford, CBI Director of Economics stated: "This new evidence shows encouraging signs of a broadening and deepening recovery in the manufacturing sector. Manufacturers finally seem to be feeling the benefit of growing confidence and spending within the UK and globally. Both order books and the pace of output growth are the strongest they've been since 1995, and firms are expecting similar-paced growth over the coming three months as well. But challenges remain. UK exporters need government support to break into high-growth export markets to reduce their vulnerability to any further Eurozone flare-ups". (Source: CBI)

<http://www.cbi.org.uk/media-centre/press-releases/2013/11/growth-in-manufacturing-output-strongest-since-1995-cbi-survey/>



## DVLA review opens for consultation

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) has opened its review of DVLA services, announced on 8 October, to customer and stakeholder views. The review is looking at the services the DVLA provides and how they can improve what they currently offer. It is led by Mary Reilly, a non-executive director of the Department for Transport (DfT) and is due to conclude at the end of the year. The government has committed to improving motor services and a review of DVLA's operation is a key element of this pledge. Government has stated that services to DVLA customers will not be affected during the review. The DVLA has also announced that from early December 2013 newly issued driver tachographs will no longer display an

address, as part of government's drive to reduce unnecessary red tape. Commenting on the announcement Roads Minister Robert Goodwill stated: "The government is determined to cut red tape and make lorry drivers' lives easier. Removing the address from the tachograph card is a great example of this - it saves drivers time and it drives down costs." (Source: DVLA)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/review-of-dvla-services>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/removal-of-the-address-from-the-driver-tachograph-card>

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## Barbara Spicer announced as interim CEO of Skills Funding Agency

Skills Minister Matthew Hancock has announced the appointment of Barbara Spicer as the interim Chief Executive of the Skills Funding Agency (SFA). Barbara leaves her post as Chief Executive of Salford City Council. She will take up her role on Monday 25 November 2013, taking over from Kim Thorneywork who took up the post in May 2012 and is currently off due to ill health.

(Source: BIS)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/barbara-spicer-announced-as-interim-chief-executive-of-skills-funding-agency>

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## Week ahead

### Commons Chamber

Thursday 28 November

Launch of report from the European Scrutiny Committee on reforming the European scrutiny system in the House of Commons

### Westminster Hall

Tuesday 26 November

4:00pm-4:30pm: Safe cycling in London (Mary Macleod, Con, Brentford and Isleworth)

Wednesday 27 November

11.00am-11.30am: Creating skills and apprenticeships in the North East (Guy Opperman, Con, Hexham)

### House of Lords

Thursday 28 November

Question for short debate on the action the government are taking to increase the take-up of apprenticeships among young people (Baroness Wilcox, Con) (1 hour)