

UK MANUFACTURING 4 FACTS

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE
INDUSTRY IN 2025





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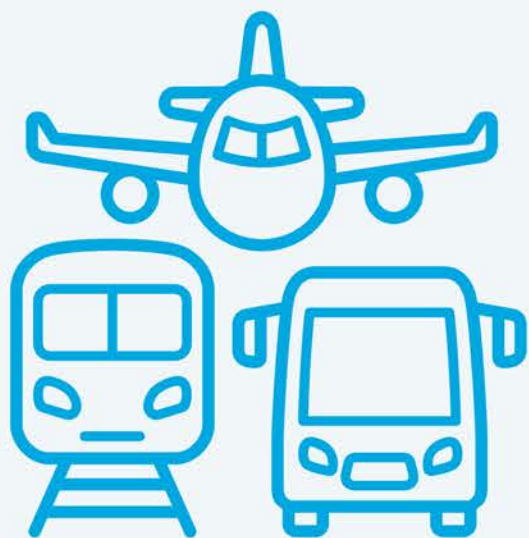
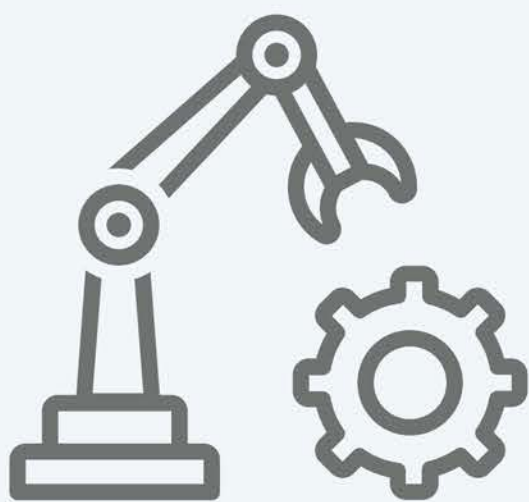
info@eemits.co.uk



www.eemits.co.uk

PUTTING OUTPUT INTO PERSPECTIVE

Whilst the sector experienced month-on-month dips in the early stages of 2025, quarterly figures (three months to April 2025), showed a 1.2% rise in output - compared to the three months leading to January 2025.



THE DRIVING FORCES

Transport equipment (which includes aerospace and automotive) and machinery and equipment were the positive contributors to the slight upturn in fortunes - with increases of 2.7% and 3.8% respectively.



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MAJOR ACCIDENTS A MAJOR CONCERN

94,000 workers suffered from work-related ill health (new or long-standing) over the three year period that covered 2021 to 2024. The most common causes of non-fatal injuries included slips and trips, injured whilst lifting or carrying, being struck by moving objects, and coming into contact with moving machinery.

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The number of fatal injuries to workers in 2023/2024. The most common causes were being struck by a moving object, falls from a height, and contact with moving machinery.



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FOOD MANUFACTURING OUTLOOK LOOKING SOUR, NOT SWEET

The UK's largest manufacturing sector (food and drink) is grappling with the pressures of rising costs, new regulations, and weakening demand in 2025. Over 40% of manufacturers have been scaling back investment in long-term productivity drivers, despite 54% expressing a desire to invest in automation to overcome consistent labour shortages.



43% of food and drink businesses reported cost increases of more than 10% so far in 2025.

53% cited labour costs as the biggest contributor.



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POWER TO PRODUCTIVITY DESPITE WORKFORCE DECLINE

Analysis from Q3 2024 shows that manufacturing output per employee increased by 2.2% year-on-year, despite there being 25,000 fewer workers in the sector.



This gives some indication that the industry as a whole is becoming leaner and more efficient - producing more with a smaller workforce.

It's data that needs to be built upon for the positive future of a critical sector in the UK.

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