

# MANUFACTURING PRIORITIES

## FOR THE SOUTH EAST

The South East manufacturing sector accounts for

**£24 BILLION OF OUTPUT**



Providing **292,000 JOBS**

**AVERAGE WAGES 21% HIGHER**

than the rest of the economy in the region



1.

Support manufacturers in the region to **deliver the jobs of the future** through the development of regional skills programmes. These initiatives provide manufacturers with the skills they need and can launch the career of students in a high paying exciting sector.

2.

**Support the ever growing industrial diversification** of the region through policies which allow the transformation of the manufacturing sector to take advantage of the vibrant new and emerging industries throughout the South East, embracing Net Zero, digitalisation and upskilling employees.

3.

**Upgrade transportation networks** including roads and public transit. The quality of infrastructure can be a large barrier to accessing labour and skills, the lifeblood of the manufacturing sector. As well as this manufacturers more than other make use of road and rail networks for logistical purposes.

# MANUFACTURING IN THE SOUTH EAST

ELECTRONICS **15.2%**

FOOD & DRINK **15%**

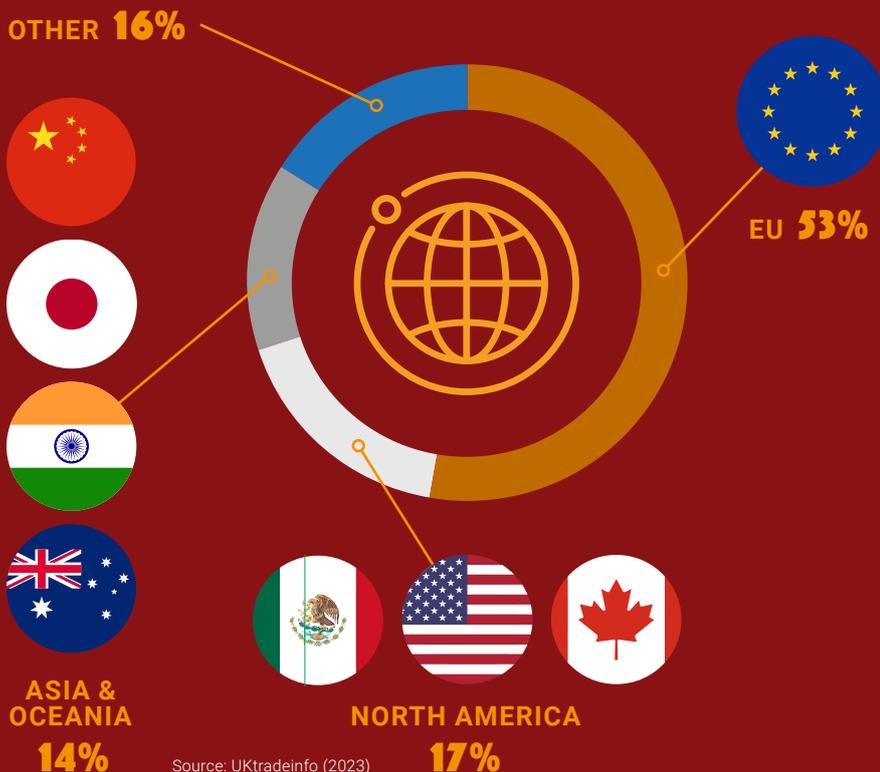
TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT **9%**

OTHER MANUFACTURING\*  
**60.8%**

\*The sum of subsectors not included in the top 3

Source: ONS (2019)

## WHERE SOUTH EAST EXPORTS GO



Source: UKtradeinfo (2023)

MANUFACTURING  
ACCOUNTS FOR  
**7.8%**  
OF THE SOUTH EAST'S  
TOTAL OUTPUT

THE SOUTH EAST'S  
OVERALL  
PRODUCTIVITY  
IS THE  
**4<sup>TH</sup> BEST**  
IN THE UK AT  
**107%**

# WHERE MANUFACTURERS IN THE SOUTH EAST ARE PLANNING TO INVEST IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS



**1. EXISTING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING**



**2. EXPANSION OF PRODUCTION CAPACITY**

**3. APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING AND NEW RECRUITS**



# WHERE MANUFACTURERS IN THE SOUTH EAST SEE THE BIGGEST NEW MARKET OPPORTUNITIES OVER THE NEXT DECADE



**1. RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY (E.G. SOLAR, WIND)**



**2. SUSTAINABLE AND ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS**

**3. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND MACHINE LEARNING APPLICATIONS**



# JIM DAVISON MAKE UK NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Manufacturing has always had a crucial presence in the economy of the South East and it's vital to continue building on the region's strength.

Manufacturers in the South East can drive growth by creating well-paid, skilled jobs, and it is vital that future opportunities provided through the shift to net zero are taken.

Building upon this, regional infrastructure and skills programmes must be improved. Greater collaboration between business, education, and government agencies will be essential in encouraging innovation and providing manufacturers with the skills they need to take advantage of emerging industries throughout the South East.



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Make UK is backing manufacturing – helping our sector to engineer a digital, global and green future. From the first industrial revolution to the emergence of the fourth, the manufacturing sector has been the UK's economic engine and the world's workshop.

The manufacturers we represent employ 1.2 million people who have created the new technologies of today and are designing the innovations of tomorrow. By investing in their people, they continue to compete on a global stage, providing the solutions to the world's biggest challenges.

Together, manufacturing is changing, adapting and transforming to meet the future needs of the UK economy. A forward-thinking, bold and versatile sector, manufacturers are engineering their own future.

[makeuk.org](http://makeuk.org)

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