

# IMPACT REPORT 2024



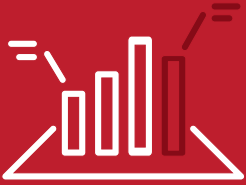
# FORGING A POWERFUL FUTURE FOR UK MANUFACTURING

Britain's manufacturing sector is stronger than ever, contributing £224 billion to the UK economy and creating more than 2.6 million jobs across the country. By working together, we are shaping a strong and sustainable future for the UK's manufacturing industry. From driving next-generation innovation, to equipping our workforce with essential skills, we are building an ecosystem that fosters resilience, growth and opportunity.

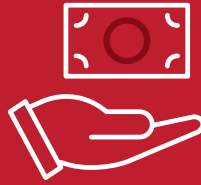


# THE STRENGTH AND POTENTIAL OF UK MANUFACTURING

The UK manufacturing sector is a global leader and a vital pillar of our economy:



**12TH LARGEST**  
MANUFACTURING  
ECONOMY GLOBALLY  
BY OUTPUT



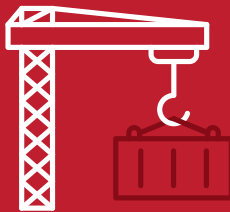
CONTRIBUTED  
**£224 BILLION**  
TO THE UK  
ECONOMY IN 2024



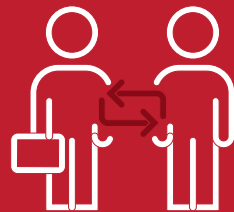
PROVIDED  
**2.6 MILLION JOBS**  
PAYING  
**9% HIGHER WAGES**  
THAN THE UK AVERAGE



ACCOUNTED FOR  
**41% OF UK  
BUSINESS R&D**  
AND  
**16% OF TOTAL  
INVESTMENT**



REPRESENTED  
**49% OF ALL  
EXPORTED GOODS**  
FROM THE UK



A SECTOR BRIMMING  
WITH POTENTIAL, WITH  
**58,000 LIVE  
VACANCIES**  
READY TO DRIVE  
FURTHER GROWTH

Source: UK Manufacturing: The Facts 2024

# 2024: A YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND MILESTONES

In 2024, we were proud to represent Britain's manufacturing industry at the highest levels of Government, working to secure an even stronger future for the sector. Against the backdrop of a general election, bringing change and challenges, we ensured that the voice of UK manufacturers remained front and centre of the policy conversation.

## CAMPAIGNING FOR CHANGE

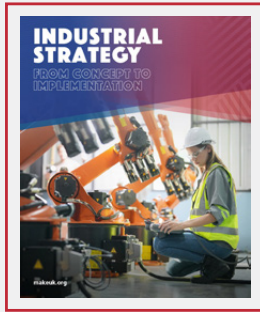
**Industrial strategy success:** We welcomed the new government's announcement that they were going ahead with the promised creation of a robust industrial strategy. We were especially pleased to see the re-establishment of the Industrial Strategy Council, ensuring a joined-up strategic plan for the future of manufacturing which is independently monitored and delivered.



Image Credit: Autodesk

# INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY: A MAKE UK CAMPAIGN

**FOR YEARS  
WE'VE KEPT  
INDUSTRIAL  
STRATEGY IN THE  
HEADLINES...**



Industrial Strategy: From Concept to Implementation report, 2024

**CAMPAIGNED  
AT THE HIGHEST  
LEVELS OF  
WESTMINSTER...**

Letter: Reminder why UK needs an industrial strategy  
From Stephen Phipson and others

Financial Times, 2023

**CALLED FOR  
AN INDUSTRIAL  
STRATEGY  
THROUGHOUT  
OUR POLICY  
WORK...**



@MakeUKCampaigns on X, 2021

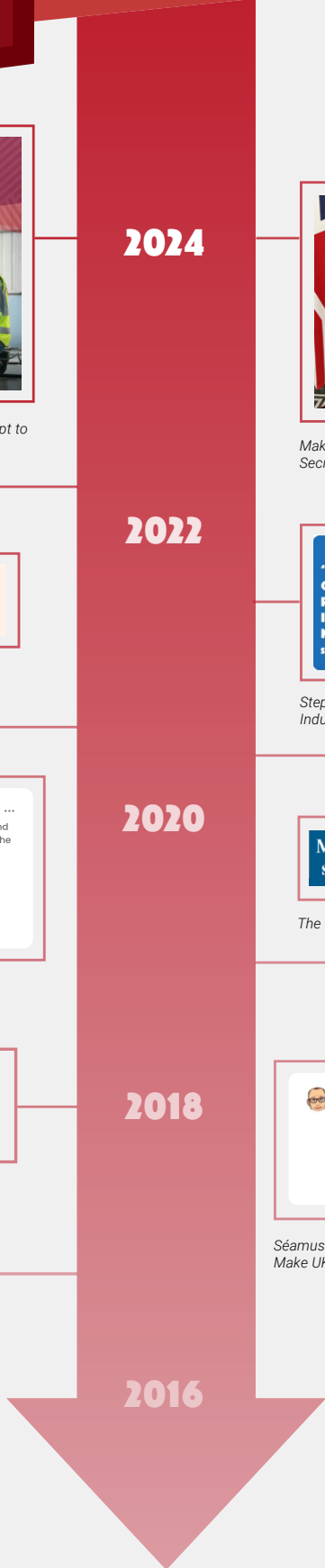
Make UK: Government Needs Coherent Plan for Manufacturing

Bloomberg UK, 2018

**AND LED THE  
CONVERSATION  
ON SOCIAL  
MEDIA.**



Make UK briefing MPs on Industrial Strategy in 2017



2024



Make UK CEO Stephen Phipson and Business Secretary Jonathan Reynolds MP, July 2024

2022



Stephen Phipson calling for an Industrial Strategy in 2022

2020

Missing in action: an industrial strategy to point Britain's way

The Times, 2021

2018



Séamus Nevin, Chief Economist, Make UK on X, 2019

2016

# 2024 IMPACT: DRIVING POLICY CHANGE

**Our advocacy resulted in major breakthroughs for manufacturers:**



**Permanent full expensing:** The Government has made full expensing a permanent feature and expanded it to include leased assets, providing manufacturers with greater incentives for capital investment.



**Recovery Loan Scheme extended:** Small businesses will continue to benefit from the Recovery Loan Scheme, now extended until 2026, ensuring ongoing access to vital funding during economic uncertainty.



**£270 million for green technologies:** A significant investment will support zero-emission vehicles, clean aviation, and other green technologies, driving innovation and sustainability in manufacturing.



**Brownfield development pathways clarified:** New measures will streamline the process for developing brownfield sites, unlocking infrastructure growth and creating opportunities for manufacturers to support regeneration projects.



**Pause on defunding Level 3 qualifications:** The Government has paused plans to defund Level 3 qualifications like BTECs, following Make UK's concerns about limiting student choice and reducing pathways into industry. This ensures continued support for qualifications that complement T Levels, with a commitment to an ongoing review as engineering and manufacturing T Levels roll out.



**Devolution agreements to boost regional innovation:** New devolution agreements are designed to strengthen local economies and foster innovation, providing regions with greater autonomy to support manufacturing and industrial growth.



**Make Work Pay – key measures delayed until 2026:** The Government's decision to delay impactful employment measures until 2026 ensures manufacturers have sufficient time for consultation and preparation, enabling a more informed approach to implementation.



**Expansion of the Made Smarter Adoption Programme:** The Government has extended this key initiative across England, enabling more SMEs to adopt advanced technologies like AI and robotics, boosting productivity and competitiveness.



**Apprenticeship Levy reform begins:** The introduction of 'foundation apprenticeships' at levels 2 and 3 addresses critical skills gaps in engineering and manufacturing. This move supports Make UK's advocacy for better apprenticeship training as we look to reverse the decline in these essential roles.



**Flexibility for T Level placements:** Employers can now deliver T Level industry placements in simulated environments or with training providers, a critical step in overcoming safety concerns and expanding the talent pipeline.

**We've made a real difference for manufacturers in 2024, but don't just take our word for it...**

**“MAKE UK IS A POWERFUL ADVOCATE FOR POLICIES THAT FAVOUR GROWTH AND HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY... I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE COUNTRY WOULD BE POORER WITHOUT THEIR VOICE SHOUTING THE CASE FOR MANUFACTURING IN THE CORRIDORS OF POWER.”**

Chris Rea, Managing Director and founder of AES Engineering Ltd group

# 2024 INFLUENCE: YEAR IN NUMBERS



**30+ Government consultations** supported by in-depth insights and evidence.



**Delivered more than 50 events with 3500 attendees**, including: workshops; networking and showcasing events; awards dinners; policy roundtables and briefings; and our National Manufacturing Conference.



**4 appearances before parliamentary select committees**, giving evidence on innovation, tech, freeports and the Employment Rights Bill.



**Opened the doors to UK factories during National Manufacturing Day**, welcoming local communities, school children and policy-makers to see first-hand how everyday products are being made here in the UK.



**24 mentions in Parliament**, including by the Secretary of State for Business and Trade and the Chancellor during her Autumn Budget speech.



**Nearly 600 high-level national and international meetings:** Including policy briefings; regular discussions with secretaries of state; and diplomatic engagements with ambassadors and officials.





# 2024 INSIGHTS: A YEAR IN REPORTS

Click titles to read!



[Executive Survey 2024](#)

[Finance: Opening Doors to Investment in Manufacturing](#)

[Infrastructure: Enabling Growth by Connecting People and Places](#)

[Salary Guide 2024](#)

[Shift Premia and Benefits Benchmark 2024](#)

[HR Bulletin Q3](#)

[Investment Zones: Unlocking Growth in the UK](#)

[For or Against? The Case for Further Devolution](#)

[The Skills Needed to Support an Industrial Strategy](#)

[My Net Zero Guide](#)

[Makers' Manifesto 2024](#)

[Manufacturing Outlook Q3](#)

[ESG in Manufacturing](#)

[Wellbeing and Work in Manufacturing](#)

[Industrial Strategy: From Conception to Implementation](#)

[HR Bulletin Q1](#)

[Beyond Ambition: Advanced Manufacturing](#)

[Manufacturing Outlook Q2](#)

[Investment Monitor 2024: Using Data to Drive Manufacturing Productivity](#)

[Absence Benchmark 2024](#)

[Regional Manufacturing Outlook 2024](#)

[Future Factories Powered by AI](#)

[Labour Turnover 2024](#)

[HR Bulletin Q2](#)

[HR Bulletin Q4](#)

[Manufacturing Outlook Q1](#)

[UK Manufacturing: The Facts 2024](#)

[Manufacturing Outlook Q4](#)






# MEDIA AND SOCIALS




Through impactful storytelling and media engagements, we amplified the pride and value of UK manufacturing.



## THIS YEAR, IN THE PRESS:

-  We landed 5,859 pieces of news across national, trade, and regional media titles.
-  Regularly featured in the likes of The Financial Times, The Times and The Telegraph, and on BBC News and Sky News' programmes.
-  Reached a potential audience of 1.85 billion in the UK and beyond, securing us coverage worth £51.4 million had we paid for it.

## WHILE ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

-  We reached nearly 1.5 million of you across our LinkedIn and X channels.
-  With our National Manufacturing Day campaign alone meeting 100,000 users.
-  We received tens of thousands of reposts, likes and shares, including from secretaries of state and leading industry voices.

**JOIN THE CONVERSATION  
ONLINE, FOLLOW US!**



@makeukcampaigns



Make UK



We just wanted to say...

# THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS AND PARTNERS!

[View our partners from 2024 here](#)



Together, we have faced some significant challenges this year, but have also had some incredible achievements. Achievements only made possible with the help and insights of thousands of you, our members, and the support of the 30+ organisations we partnered with in 2024.

Now, we turn our sights to 2025 – a year to push boundaries even further.

## CAMPAIGNS 2025 – OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Strengthening collaboration between Government and industry to secure long-term growth and focusing campaigning in the four key areas:



An industrial strategy that delivers for manufacturing



Unlocking innovation and accelerating digitalisation



Creating good jobs and shared prosperity



Driving decarbonisation and green growth

Together, we will continue to innovate, inspire, and build a thriving future for UK manufacturing.

Help us champion your business, drive innovation, and secure a sustainable future for manufacturing.

[Click here to become a Make UK member today](#)



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



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