

MANUFACTURING PRIORITIES

FOR THE NEXT MAYOR OF THE WEST OF ENGLAND

The South West manufacturing sector accounts for

£17 BILLION OF OUTPUT



Providing 243,000 JOBS



AVERAGE WAGES 18% HIGHER

than the rest of the economy in the region



1.

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.

2.

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.

3.

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 West Midlands, embracing Net Zero, digitalisation and upskilling employees.

MANUFACTURING IN THE SOUTH WEST

TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT **21.6%**

FOOD & DRINK **14.3%**

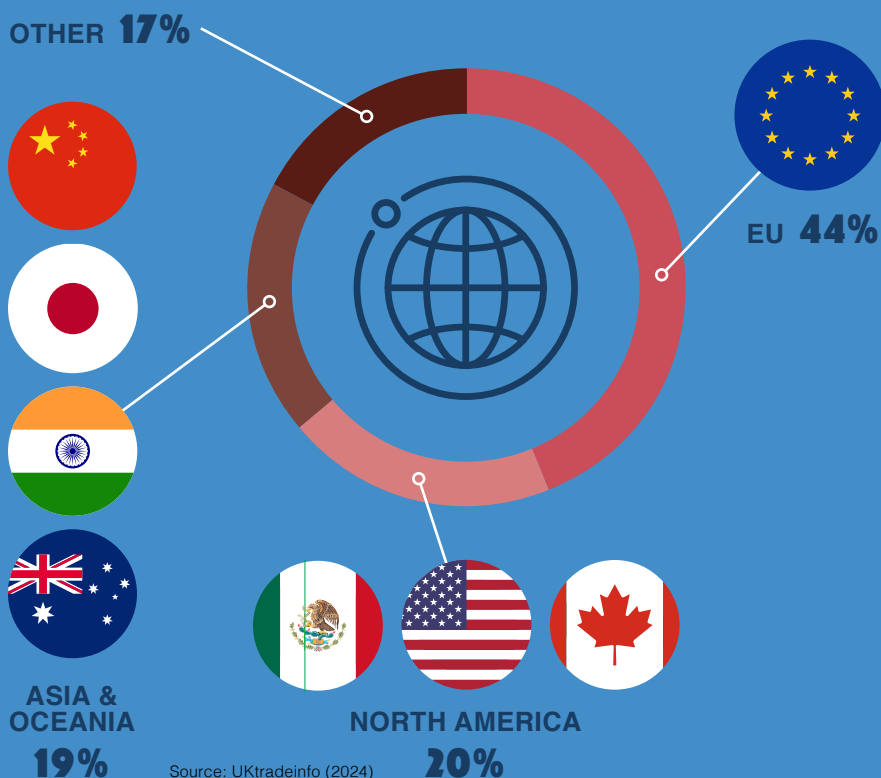
ELECTRONICS **12.3%**

OTHER
MANUFACTURING*
51.8%

*The sum of subsectors not included in the top 3

Source: ONS (2024)

DESTINATION OF EXPORTS IN THE SOUTH WEST



MANUFACTURING
ACCOUNTS FOR
10%
OF THE WEST
OF ENGLAND'S
TOTAL OUTPUT

THE WEST OF ENGLAND'S
**OVERALL
PRODUCTIVITY**
IS THE
7TH BEST
IN THE UK AT
97.8%

WHERE MANUFACTURERS IN WEST OF ENGLAND ARE PLANNING TO INVEST IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS



1. Expansion of
production capacity



2. Existing
workforce
development
and training



3. Sustainable and
green technologies

WHERE MANUFACTURERS IN THE WEST OF ENGLAND SEE THE BIGGEST NEW MARKET OPPORTUNITIES OVER THE NEXT DECADE



1. Defence and
security technologies



2. Electric vehicles
and associated
components.

3. Advanced
materials
(e.g. graphene,
carbon fibre)



KERRI-ANNE MRUK, MAKE UK REGION DIRECTOR - SOUTH

Manufacturing has long been a cornerstone of the West of England's economy, and it is essential that the next Mayor strengthens this foundation. By creating well-paid, skilled jobs, manufacturers in the West of England can continue driving growth, particularly by seizing opportunities presented by the transition to net zero.

To support this, the next Mayor must enhance regional infrastructure and skills programs, and strengthen collaboration between businesses, educational institutions, and government agencies. This will be key to fostering innovation and equipping manufacturers with the skills needed to thrive in emerging industries across the West of England.

I look forward to working with the next Mayor to build a strong partnership that ensures manufacturing remains central to the region's long-term vision and economic success.



Kerr-Anne Mruk

07825 487 887

kamruk@makeuk.org



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

For more information please contact:

Kerr-Anne Mruk
Region Director - South
kamruk@makeuk.org

Tom Burdon
Stakeholder Engagement Advisor
tburdon@makeuk.org
