

Industrial Sector

Electrical Engineering and Electronics



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Industry profile

Electrical Engineering and Electronics:

- After many years of consecutive growth, the demand for electronic components has declined significantly in the UK and across the EU.
- The global economic crisis also had a negative effect on production of and demand for electronic components
- The sector generated €50 billion in 2008, with Germany, Italy and France being the top performers in the EU.
- Almost 70% of production is generated by SMEs
- China and India have become lead competitor economies for the component market

Trade union profile

- Unite has members within the EEE sector
- Other union with some membership: GMB

Major organised employers:

Alstom Siemens Eaton Electronics Brush Electrical Honeywell
Cummins Generator Technologies Zetex Semi Conductors Schneider

Collective bargaining:

- No national bargaining

International bodies: International Metalworkers Federation (IMF), European Metalworkers Federation (EMF)

Skills

The sector is one where advances in technology workforce. The sector is lacking in apprenticeship are reducing the need for a skilled workforce schemes due to the contraction in the industry plus the high number of SMEs in the sector means

there is very little workplace training

The sector suffers from skills gaps and an ageing

Sector skills council: Semta

Key sector issues

There has been a systematic reduction in manufacturing processes on UK sites, this is mainly to do with changes to manufacturing processes and improvements in technological innovation.

The sector is perceived as declining within the UK and suffers from work being off-shored to overseas countries to take advantage of cheap labour. This has a detrimental effect on the existing workforce and acts as a barrier for new workers coming into the sector

There has been a limited amount of growth in orders from new 'green' industries but the limitations in this growth have shown that there is a need for capital investment from government and from the sector itself.

There is also a need for investment in R&D and innovation across the sector.

The sector comprises a large proportion of SMEs and as such does not benefit from the economies of scale enjoyed by larger tier 1 companies.

Pay settlements in the electrical engineering & electronics sector

Company	% Uplift	Date
Siemens	2.5%	January 2011
Eaton Electrics	2.5%	July 2011
Tyco Electronics	3%	January 2011



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