

Industrial Sector

Process

(Offshore Oil & Gas)

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Industry profile

Offshore Oil & Gas:

- Supports 265,000 jobs.
- Has generated £190 billion in revenue for the Treasury since the 1960's.
- Is the fourth largest gas producer in the world.
- Is the tenth largest oil producer in the world.
- Annual oil production stands at 842 million barrels, with proven reserves of 4,655 million barrels (Source: NGS).
- The industry has another 25 to 30 years of productive capacity left in the UKCS.
- Unite is the largest trade union in the offshore industry representing process, technical, support, contracting and engineering construction workers

Trade union profile

- Other unions with significant membership are GMB and RMT

Major organised employers:

OCA (Offshore Contractors Association)

Aker Offshore Partner Ltd, Amec Oil & Gas, RBG Ltd, Petrofac Facilities Management, Production Services Network, Hertel, Cape, Sparrows Offshore, Wood Group, BIS Salmis(M&I) Ltd

UKDCA (Drilling Sector)

Transocean, Noble Drilling, Maersk Drilling, Diamond Drilling, Odjifell Drilling, Ensco, KCA Deutag

UKFPOA

Maersk FPSO, Teekay Petrojarl

COTA (Caterers Offshore Trade Association)

Aramark, Entier, Trinity International Services, Sodexo, ESS

Unite is affiliated to the European Mine, Chemical and Energy Workers Federation (EMCEF) and also the International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions (ICEM).

The sector skills council for the industry is Cogent.

Workers Uniting

The off shore oil and gas sector of Unite is working closely with our brothers and sisters who work in the oil and gas sector in the USA/Canada via Workers Uniting. Workers Uniting is the name of the global union created by Unite and the United steelworkers (USW). Workers Uniting is the union of 3 million members of Unite and the USW working together to protect their jobs, pay and benefits in the face of the ever increasing power of multinational companies.

Key sector issues

Paid holiday provision – The Working Time Directive and the Horizontal Amendment Directive (HAD).

This is an ongoing issue for our members working offshore. The union has won employment tribunals establishing the principle that offshore workers should receive paid holiday when working in the UKCS outside of the main UK waters. However, the employers' side have appealed the decision through a number of courts. The next hearings are in the Court of Session this summer.

Health & Safety

Unite continues to be active in this most important aspect of the industry, and offers safety rep training second to none which is IOSH accredited. Accidents and fatalities have no place in modern industry. Safety provision must continue moving forward, not backwards. Safety

on platforms and helicopter safety are of paramount importance to the workforce who endure arduous conditions in the North Sea on behalf of UK society.

Skills

It is also a fact that the UK process sector is faced with severe skill shortages. The shortages are caused by an ageing workforce and the failure to recruit young workers. Sub-contractors continue to provide an alternative to employing direct staff for many companies.

Lack of Job security

This leads to a culture of fear, with the term NRB – 'Not Required Back' being synonymous with blacklisting, and on less progressive platforms and contractors this stifles effective trade union organisation.



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