

Industry Profile

Employees: 400,000 Chemicals - 250,000 Pharmaceuticals - 150,000

The Chemical and Pharmaceutical industries remain major contributors to the UK economy. The Amicus membership now extends across engineering and maintenance, supervisory, scientific, administration, marketing and sales and management grades, with total numbers exceeding 20,000.

The pharmaceutical industry is the biggest sector investor in R&D in the UK accounting for around 24% of total investment by business, valued at £3.2bn, about £9m a day in 2004.

Trade Union Membership: Amicus 28,000 members
Other major unions: TGWU and GMB
Membership: Process workers/technicians/engineers/admin/scientists/lab workers

Major organised employers:
Chemical Industry: INEOS; ICI; Rhodia; Syngenta; Avecia; Sanofi-Synthelabo
Pharmaceutical Industry: AstraZeneca, GSK, Pfizer

Current Issues and Activities

Strategic issues

- Energy costs
- Protection of pensions
- Protection from intimidation/violence for workers
- REACH – European Chemicals Directive
- Skills shortages

Current activities

Astrazeneca have announced 700 redundancies at its production facility in Macclesfield. The redundancies will take place over a 3 year period. Amicus is in talks with the company and has yet to be convinced of the business rationale behind the decision.

Recent pay settlements

Akzo Nobel Coatings (Non-manual) Settlement date from 01/01/07 to 01/01/08
Increase of 3.76% with no changes in hours, holidays, shift allowances or other benefits.

Sanofi-Aventis (Dagenham) Manual Settlement date from 01/01/07 to 01/01/08
Increase of 3.75% on all rates of pay.

Glaxo SmithKline (Ware) Settlement date from 01/07/06 to 01/07/07
Increase of 3% on basic pay and associated allowances. Shift payments increased by £75 for Double Days, £123 for night work and £169 for 7 days continuous working.