

Industry Profile

- Manufacturing companies make up a fifth of the UK economy and employ 3.5 million people, which equates to one in seven of the workforce
- Manufacturing accounts for 60% of our exports and makes a substantial contribution to the balance of payments and supports a wide range of jobs in the service sector
- UK manufacturing continues to shed jobs at a rate of 2500 per week
- Productivity in the manufacturing sector is 25 % higher than in the rest of the economy. But still has a substantial gap when compared to overseas competitors.
- Manufacturing productivity is 55 % higher in the US than in the UK 32 per cent

Current Issues and Activities

- Amicus have recently held a number of regional manufacturing rallies.
- The Research Department is to produce an alternative manufacturing strategy.
- Amicus have contributed to the TUC response to HMG Manufacturing Strategy.
- Public procurement policy continues to be a key campaigning issue for Amicus.
- ECGD continues to be an issue.
- LG Electronics is planning to close its microwave ovens factory in Washington, Wearside, in August with the loss of about 170 jobs.
- Advantage West Midlands is to provide GBP 6m of funding to the Manufacturing Advisory Service, allowing the Wolverhampton-based support and advice organisation to continue for a further three years
- Courtaulds is to close its textiles factory in Limavady over the next few months, with the loss of 185 jobs.