

MANUFACTURING PRIORITIES

FOR THE NEXT MAYOR OF THE WEST MIDLANDS

The West Midlands manufacturing sector accounts for
£21 BILLION OF OUTPUT



Providing **310,000 JOBS**



AVERAGE WAGES 13% HIGHER

than the rest of the economy in the region



1.

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. Driving success for both multinational and SME manufacturers.

2.

Support manufacturers in the region to **deliver the jobs of the future** through the development of regional skills programmes. Initiatives such as apprenticeships can provide manufacturers with the skills they need and can launch the career of students in a high paying exciting sector.

3.

Help **promote exports** by providing in-market support and advice. West Midlands manufacturers have performed well on the international stage despite post Brexit challenges, but with advice and support we can create the next generation of exporters.

MANUFACTURING IN THE WEST MIDLANDS

TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT **36.4%**

METAL PRODUCTS **15.4%**

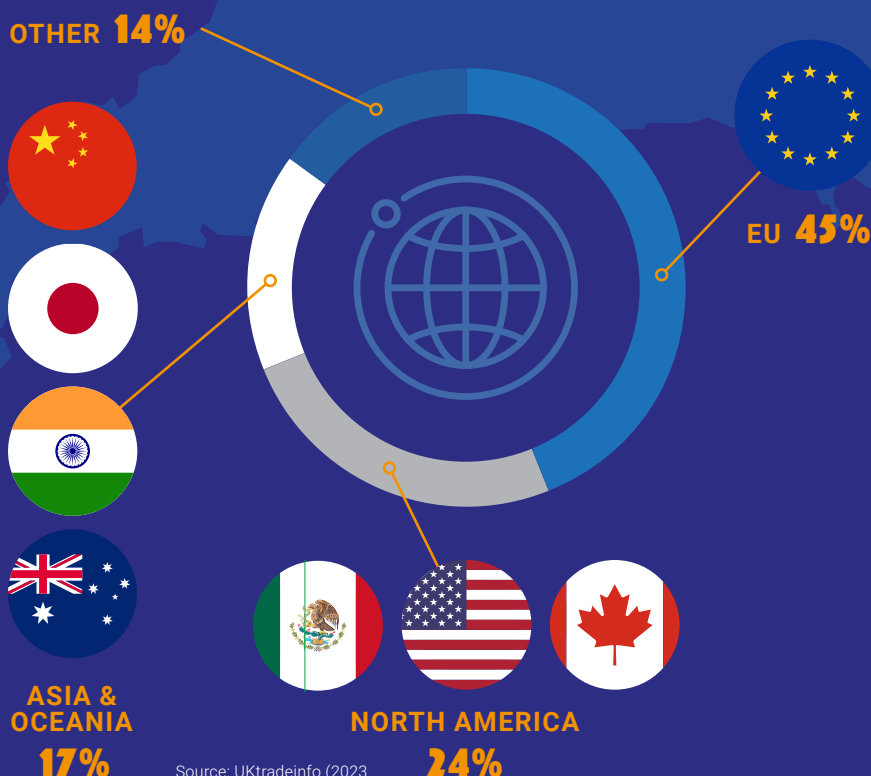
MACHINERY EQUIPMENT **10.6%**

OTHER
MANUFACTURING*
37.6%

*The sum of subsectors not included in the top 3

Source: ONS (2023)

WHERE WEST MIDLANDS EXPORTS GO



MANUFACTURING
ACCOUNTS FOR
14%
OF THE WEST MIDLAND'S
TOTAL OUTPUT

THE WEST MIDLAND'S
**OVERALL
PRODUCTIVITY**
IS THE
6TH BEST
IN THE UK AT
88.9%

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



1. EXPANSION OF PRODUCTION CAPACITY



2. SUSTAINABLE AND GREEN TECHNOLOGIES



3. EXISTING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

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



1. ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND ASSOCIATED COMPONENTS



3. DEFENCE AND SECURITY TECHNOLOGIES

2. ADVANCED MATERIALS (E.G. GRAPHENE, CARBON FIBRE)



CHRIS CORKAN, MAKE UK REGION DIRECTOR – MIDLANDS AND EAST OF ENGLAND

Manufacturing has always had a crucial presence in the economy of the West Midlands and it's vital that the future Mayor continues to build on the region's strength.

Manufacturers in the West Midlands can continue to drive growth through creating well paid, skilled jobs and it is vital that future opportunities provided through the shift to net zero are taken. Building upon this, the Mayor must ensure that the regional infrastructure and skill programmes are improved upon, as these are essential for providing manufacturers with the skills they need to take advantage of emerging industries throughout the West Midlands.

I look forward to working with the Mayor to ensure a successful partnership can be built and that provides a long-term vision with manufacturing continuing to be at the heart of it.



Christopher Corkan

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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](https://www.makeuk.org)

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