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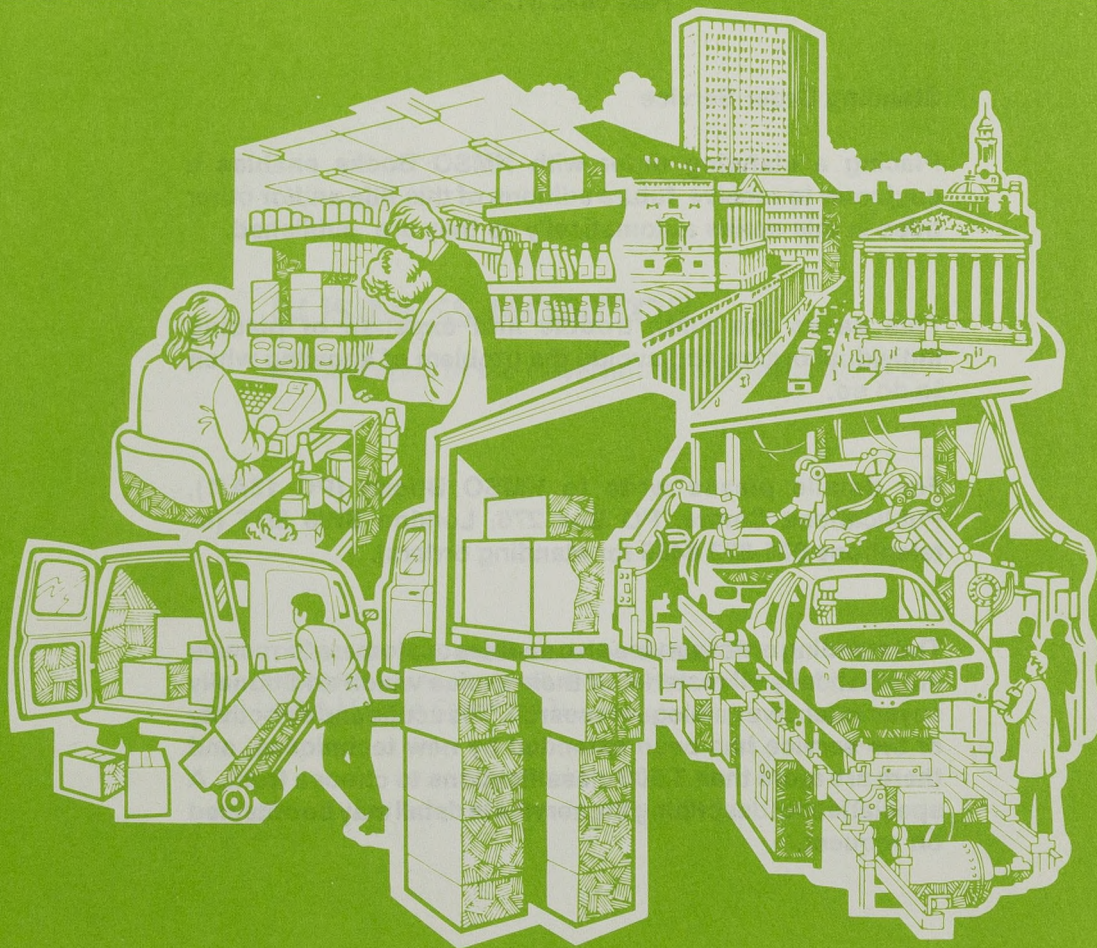
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Business Monitor

1992 Report on the Census of Production

PA500

Construction industry



A publication of the Government Statistical Service

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Report on the Census of Production 1992

PA500 Construction industry

BUSINESS MONITOR

A publication of the Government Statistical Service

Presented by the Chancellor of the Exchequer
to Parliament in pursuance of the Statistics of Trade Act 1947
(10 & 11 Geo.6 Cha.39 sec 7)

London: HMSO

BUSINESS MONITORS MAKING UP THE COMPLETE CENSUS REPORT

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PA500 CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

The information in this report relates to United Kingdom undertakings engaged in the construction industry - Division 5 of the Standard Industrial Classification (Revised 1980). For more detail see paragraph 7 of the notes on page 4.

The report covers the construction work done by private undertakings and by persons directly employed by local authorities, public authorities and government departments. It excludes construction work carried out by the employees of nationalised industries and transport and water undertakings, except for the housing departments of the National Coal Board.

In interpreting the data in the tables it is essential to bear in mind the notes and definitions which commence on page 4.

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Introduction

1. These notes give the information needed for interpreting the figures in this Business Monitor. More general information about the census is given in a separate Business Monitor - Report on the Census of Production, Introductory Notes (PA 1001).

Coverage

2. All private undertakings in Great Britain with 50 or more employees were required to make a return, together with a 1-in-2 sample of those with from 20 to 49 employees. Public authorities were sampled in a similar fashion in respect of their direct labour construction work. Shorter census forms were re-introduced in 1990 following the 1989 benchmark census. Copies of the private and public sector forms can be found at appendices A and B respectively.
3. The Department of Economic Development conducts the Annual Census of Construction for Northern Ireland. The information collected is passed to the Central Statistical Office for incorporation in the United Kingdom tables. Undertakings in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are excluded.

Reporting unit

4. For construction, the reporting unit is referred to as the undertaking. An undertaking need not be a single geographical location and cannot be broken down into local units. Because of this, regional data are not available from the census.

The register

5. The census was conducted on the Central Statistical Office's register. The construction part of the register was created from the Department of the Environment's builders' address file of undertakings in Great Britain to which the addresses of public authorities' direct labour departments have been added.

Industrial classification

6. Since 1980, censuses have been conducted on the Standard Industrial Classification Revised 1980 (SIC(80)). The Standard Industrial Classification exists to promote uniformity and comparability in the official statistics of the United Kingdom. The SIC(80) is the result of an attempt to align the United Kingdom classification with the General Industrial Classification of Economic Activities within the European Communities (NACE). It is based on activity rather than on commodities produced.

7. Activities included in Division 5 of the Standard Industrial Classification (Revised 1980) are:-

Group 500 General construction and demolition work

Undertakings engaged in building and civil engineering work, not sufficiently specialised to be classified elsewhere in Division 5, demolition work and the hiring of contractors plant (with operatives) are included as are direct labour establishments of local authorities and government departments. The hiring of contractors plant (without operatives) is classified to Division 8, Group 842.

Group 501 Construction and repair of buildings

Undertakings engaged in the construction, improvement and repair of both residential and non-residential buildings, including specialists engaged in sections of construction and repair work such as bricklaying, building maintenance and restoration, carpentry, roofing, scaffolding and the erection of steel and concrete structures for buildings are included.

Group 502 Civil engineering

Construction of roads, car parks, railways, airport runways, bridges and tunnels. Hydraulic engineering, e.g. dams, reservoirs, harbours, rivers and canals. Irrigation and land drainage systems. Laying of pipe-lines, sewers, gas and water mains and electricity cables. Construction of overhead lines, line supports and aerial towers. Construction of fixed concrete oil production platforms. Construction work at oil refineries, steel works, electricity and gas installation and other large sites. Shaft drilling and mine sinking. Laying out of parks and sports grounds. Contractors responsible for the design, construction and commissioning of complete plants are classified to Group 324. Manufacture of construction steelwork is classified to Group 320.

Opencast coalmining is classified to Division 1, Group 111.

Group 503 Installation of fixtures and fittings

Undertakings engaged in the installation of fixtures and fittings, including such things as gas fittings, plumbing, heating and ventilation plant, sound and heat insulation, electrical fixtures and fittings are included.

Group 504 Building completion work

Undertakings specialising in building completion work such as painting and decorating, glazing, plastering, tiling, on-site joinery and carpentry, flooring (including parquet floor laying), installation of fire places etc. are included.

Period covered

8. Undertakings were asked to make returns in respect of the calendar year but a return for a business year ending on any date from 6 April 1992 to 5 April 1993 was accepted. Returns covering less than 12 months were accepted for businesses which had started or ceased trading during the year.

9. All published census results include estimates for non-responders, unsatisfactory returns and undertakings not selected for the census.
10. For Great Britain, ratio estimates were obtained from satisfactory returns using, as the auxiliary variables, either employment or output figures obtained in the Department of the Environment's inquiries for 1992. Separate ratios were calculated for each industry sub-division by employment size strata. These ratios are used to provide estimates for non-responding undertakings or smaller units not covered by the inquiry. For Northern Ireland, the Central Statistical Office made individual estimates for non-response using the information available from previous census returns; for small firms not sampled estimation was made on the basis of employment figures supplied by the Department of Economic Development.

CHANGES MADE FOR 1992

11. The 1992 census like that for 1991 was a slimline one. An additional question identifying those businesses with employees engaged in Research and Development work was included and the break down on capital and current costs associated with pollution prevention and solid waste management, introduced for the 1991 census, was retained. As part of the CSO's efforts to reduce the form filling burden on industry, the breakdown of questions on capital expenditure were excluded. Data for these variables in the 1992 results have been estimated from information collected in the CSO Quarterly Capital Expenditure Inquiries.

SYMBOLS USED

12. The following symbols are used throughout the PA series of Business Monitors:

.. not available.

- nil or less than half of the final digit shown.

* figures cannot be shown owing to the risk of disclosing information about individual enterprises.

R revised.

ROUNDING OF FIGURES

13. Figures in the tables have been rounded to the nearest final digit where necessary. The sum of the constituent items may not, therefore, always agree exactly with the total shown.

TERMS USED IN THE CENSUS REPORT

Total employment

14. This is the average number of administrative, technical and clerical employees and operatives on the payroll and the number of working proprietors employed during the year of return. Full-time and part-time employees are included, but casual employees are excluded.

Employees

15. Undertakings were required to state the average number of employees on the payroll during the year of return, whether full-time or part-time employees, excluding working proprietors. The figure returned by individual undertakings may have been calculated by, for example, the average of the number of employees on the payroll for the last week of each calendar month.

Administrative, technical and clerical employees

16. This includes employees (including learners and trainees) engaged in the business who do not do manual work, e.g. managing and other directors in receipt of a definite wage, salary or commission, managers, architects, surveyors, engineers, other professionals, training officers, superintendents, research, experimental, technical and design staff, draughtsman and tracers, travellers, sales and office (including works office) staff, and general foreman and other supervisors. Public authorities were asked to include only such a proportion of total office and management staff as was fairly attributable to the building and civil engineering work carried out by direct labour employees.

Operatives

17. This covers all other employees, both on-site and off-site. It includes manual wage earners, apprentices, working foreman, operatives engaged in transport work, stores and warehouses, canteen workers and operatives engaged on the manufacture of goods for sale.

Working proprietors

18. These are people who are regarded as self-employed for National Insurance purposes, members of their families who worked in the business without receiving a definite wage or salary for at least half the normal working hours and directors who worked in the business but did not receive a definite wage, salary or commission. Part-time directors paid by fee only and directors who received a definite wage, salary or commission were excluded.

Estimates for the number of working proprietors were taken from figures supplied by the Department of the Environment.

Gross output

19. This figure represents the value of work (including sub-contract work) done and work in progress during the period and includes the sales of goods and receipts for services rendered to other organisations (including hiring out of plant, machinery and scaffolding and rents for industrial buildings). Figures for goods on hand for sale were not collected for the years 1988, 1990, 1991 and 1992 and have not been used in the calculation of gross output for those years.

20. This is calculated by dividing gross output by total employment.

Purchases of construction and other materials, fuel and electricity and goods for merchanting or factoring

21. These include the cost of raw materials and goods used or incorporated in buildings and civil engineering work or in production; of fuel and electricity for all purposes; of packaging materials, including the full cost of returnable cases and containers when first purchased; of workshop materials, office materials and materials for repairs to an undertaking's own buildings, plant and vehicles carried out by their own work people included in the return; of consumable tools, and of parts for machinery purchased during the year as replacements. Water charges and purchases of goods for merchanting or factoring are also included. Materials supplied by customers for processing are excluded, as are all purchases of plant and machinery charged to capital account.
22. The values shown exclude value added tax but include any duty paid (less rebate, etc.). Values exclude trade discounts allowed. The cost of transport is included only if included in the cost of materials as invoiced; amounts paid to transport organisations, including an establishment's own separate transport organisation, for delivery of materials and fuel are therefore excluded. Materials purchased overseas are included at their full delivered cost. If, however, the cost of transport from the docks was not included in the invoiced price, then the cif cost plus any duty payable is used.
23. Materials and fuel transferred from another department of the establishment not covered by the same return are included at the estimated selling value recorded by the other department.

Wages and salaries

24. This represents amounts paid during the year to administrative, technical and clerical employees and to operatives. All overtime payments, bonuses, commissions, holiday pay and redundancy payments less any amounts reimbursed from government sources are included. No deduction is made for income tax or employees' National Insurance contributions etc. Payments to working proprietors, payments in kind, travelling expenses, lodging allowances etc. are excluded.

Employers' National Insurance Contributions etc.

25. This includes employers' National Insurance contributions, including the National Insurance surcharge, under the Social Security Pensions Act 1975, commercial insurance premiums for policies providing pensions, superannuation or other retirement benefits, sickness benefits, personal accident benefits, disability benefits or death benefits for employees or their dependants. Also included are contributions to canteens, social centres, children's and holiday homes etc. and the cost of supplying luncheon vouchers.

Cost of industrial and non-industrial services rendered

26. This includes amounts payable to other organisations for work done on materials supplied by the undertaking completing the return, for repairs and maintenance including those in respect of rented buildings, and for contracts which have been sublet, commercial insurance premiums, bank charges and amounts payable to other organisations for the hire of vehicles, plant and machinery, for the rent of industrial and commercial buildings, for the services of accountants, auditors, agents, solicitors and surveyors other than in connection with the acquisition or disposal of capital assets, for postal and telecommunications services, for carriage by all forms of transport within the United Kingdom, for advertising, market research etc., for the right to use patents, trade marks, copyrights etc., for manufacturing and quarrying rights and technical 'know-how'. Direct payments to outworkers and amounts charged to capital account, interest payments and amounts payable for sea and air freight on goods exported and materials and fuel imported are excluded.

Gross value added at factor cost

27. This is calculated by deducting from gross output the cost of purchases of construction and other materials, fuel and electricity and goods for merchanting or factoring and the cost of industrial and non-industrial services received. Figures for rates and motor vehicle licences were not collected for the years 1988, 1990, 1991 and 1992 and have therefore not been used in the calculation of gross value added for those years.

Gross value added at factor cost per head

28. This is calculated by dividing gross value added at factor cost by total employment.

Capital expenditure

29. This represents the value charged to capital account together with any other amounts which ranked as capital items for taxation purposes during the year to which each undertaking's return related. The value is inclusive of any amounts received or expected to be received in grants and/or allowances from government sources, statutory bodies or local authorities. Where expenditure is spread over more than one census year, payments are included in the years in which they were made. Capital expenditure during the year in respect of production units where production had not started before the end of the year and the value of capital goods produced for undertakings' own use by undertakings' own staff are included. The value of any assets acquired in taking over an existing business are excluded. The figures include non-deductible VAT but exclude deductible VAT. No allowance is made for depreciation, amortisation or obsolescence.

a. New building work

30. This represents the value of new building and other constructional work to be used in connection with the business covered by the return such as the extension and reconstruction of old buildings, and the value of any newly constructed buildings acquired. The figures include architects' and surveyors' fees, legal fees, stamp duties, agents' commissions and Land Registry fees.

b. Land and existing buildings

31. This represents the value of freeholds and the value of premium payable or receivable for leaseholds acquired or disposed of. The figures for acquisitions include architects' and surveyors' fees, legal fees, stamp duties, agents' commissions and Land Registry fees. The figures for disposals are net of any such professional fees payable.

c. Plant and machinery, vehicles

32. This represents the value of new and second-hand plant and machinery and vehicles acquired or disposed of. The figures for acquisitions are net of any discounts received but include the cost of transport and installation and Customs and Excise car tax. The figures for disposals exclude amounts written off for capital assets which are scrapped.

Net capital expenditure

33. This is calculated by adding to the value of new building work acquisitions less disposals of land and existing buildings, vehicles and plant and machinery.

Operating ratios

34. These ratios are calculated for each industry sub-division using totals, for undertakings employing 20 or more persons, including estimates for undertakings not responding to, or not selected for the census. Respondents are able to compare the ratios for their own businesses with those for the industry as a whole.

Stocks, rates, licensing of motor vehicles

35. Figures for stocks were not collected for the years 1988, 1990, 1991 and 1992 neither were figure for rates and the cost of licensing of motor vehicles. These items are omitted from the calculations leading to gross output and gross value added at factor cost for those years.

Table 1 Output and costs, 1988-1992
United Kingdom undertakings classified to the construction industry

PA500

		All undertakings				
	Unit	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Number of undertakings	No	185,854	205,218	215,227	206,237	210,813
Total employment	No	1,146,559	1,160,278	1,163,051	1,035,239	1,015,521
Gross output (a)	£ million	59,298.0	66,268.0	73,240.4	66,548.4	62,389.6
Gross output per head	£	51,718	57,114	62,973	64,283	61,436
Purchases of construction and other materials, fuel and electricity and goods for merchandising or factoring	£ million	19,063.4	19,519.5	22,105.3	19,955.8	19,297.5
Cost of industrial and non-industrial services received	£ million	23,173.5	26,041.6	30,453.9	28,286.6	25,449.8
Gross value added at factor cost (a)	£ million	17,061.0	20,426.2	20,681.2	18,306.1	17,642.4
Gross value added at factor cost per head	£	14,880	17,605	17,782	17,683	17,373
Wages and salaries (b)	£ million	13,261.1	13,018.3	16,310.6	15,442.0	15,999.5
Employers' National Insurance contributions etc.	£ million		1,597.7			

(a) See paragraphs 19, 27 and 35 of the explanatory notes and definitions for an account of how gross output and gross value added are calculated.

(b) Estimates of wages and salaries and insurance contributions for undertakings with an employment of less than 20 are based on total employment, including working proprietors.

PA500

Undertakings employing 20 or more - 1992

		General construction and demolition work Group 500	Construction and repair of buildings Group 501	Civil engineering Group 502	Installation of fixtures and fittings Group 503	Building completion work Group 504	Total
	Public sector	Private sector					
Number of undertakings	453	222	1,824	694	992	697	4,882
Total employment	111,018	16,382	195,311	104,921	91,846	38,875	558,353
Gross output (a)	3,366.6	1,125.8	20,194.2	10,243.9	5,131.9	2,079.2	42,141.6
Gross output per head	30,325	68,723	103,395	97,635	55,875	53,483	75,475
Purchases of construction and other materials, fuel and electricity and goods for merchandising or factoring	1,036.3	272.5	4,796.3	2,984.3	2,095.0	810.4	11,994.8
Cost of industrial and non-industrial services received	491.4	381.9	11,298.5	4,824.4	1,225.6	535.7	18,757.5
Gross value added at factor cost (a)	1,838.9	471.4	4,099.4	2,435.2	1,811.3	733.0	11,389.2
Gross value added at factor cost per head	16,564	28,778	20,989	23,210	19,721	18,856	20,398
Wages and salaries (b)	1,673.6	270.5	3,185.7	2,069.5	1,623.4	565.1	9,387.8

Table 2 Capital expenditure, 1988-1992
United Kingdom undertakings classified to the construction industry

PA500

	All undertakings				
	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992 (a)
Capital expenditure:					
Land and buildings:					
New building work	132.9	154.9	170.1	110.1	126.1
Land and existing buildings:					
Acquisitions	123.3	223.9	192.8	120.8	120.7
Disposals	76.3	122.7	77.7	75.3	88.7
Net expenditure on land and existing buildings	47.0	101.2	115.1	45.5	32.0
Vehicles:					
Acquisitions	715.0	749.4	630.6	470.3	323.0
Disposals	262.6	277.3	281.3	253.2	163.6
Net expenditure on vehicles	452.4	472.1	349.3	271.1	159.4
Plant and machinery:					
Acquisitions	849.2	811.5	666.0	439.4	448.4
Disposals	244.7	251.3	224.9	191.3	134.4
Net expenditure on plant and machinery	604.5	560.1	441.1	248.1	314.0
Total net capital expenditure	1,236.8	1,288.4	1,075.8	620.9	631.4

(a) See paragraph 11 of explanatory notes for changes in method introduced for the 1992 Census.

PA500
£ million

Undertakings employing 20 or more - 1992

	General construction and demolition work Group 500		Construction and repair of buildings Group 501	Civil engineering Group 502	Installation of fixtures and fittings Group 503	Building completion work Group 504	Total
	Public sector	Private sector					
4.6	0.9	31.6	7.6	5.2	4.6	54.5	
1.7	4.6	35.3	13.9	5.0	4.5	65.0	
0.8	2.1	36.3	4.6	2.7	2.8	49.3	
0.9	2.5	-1.0	9.3	2.3	1.7	15.7	
23.5	19.5	61.1	53.1	20.6	17.2	195.0	
3.3	5.9	57.3	28.7	11.0	7.4	113.6	
20.2	13.6	3.8	24.4	9.6	9.8	81.4	
11.6	93.3	97.8	84.0	28.5	11.5	326.7	
1.8	37.9	30.6	27.8	2.1	0.5	100.7	
9.8	55.4	67.2	56.2	26.4	11.0	226.0	
35.5	72.3	101.5	97.5	43.5	27.2	377.5	

Table 3 Analysis of undertakings by size of total employment, 1992
All United Kingdom undertakings classified to the construction industry

Size group	Undertakings	Employment		Wages and salaries of employees and employers' National Insurance contributions etc.		Gross output (a)		Gross value added at factor cost (a)		Net Capital Expenditure
		Total	Employees	Total	per head	Total	per head	Total	per head	
Employment	Number	Number	Number	£ million	£	£ million	£ million	£	£ million	
1-19	205,931	457,168	..	6,611.7 (b)	..	20,248.0	6,253.0	13,678	254.0	
20-49	2,849	87,981	86,347	1,268.8	14,694	5,444.1	1,684.5	19,146	69.3	
50-99	1,005	69,450	69,139	1,066.0	15,418	5,061.3	1,369.3	19,717	57.0	
100-199	519	71,865	71,785	1,169.5	16,292	5,586.0	1,504.7	20,938	70.7	
200-499	329	100,340	100,328	1,672.5	16,670	6,951.8	2,056.4	20,495	87.7	
500-999	110	75,193	75,193	1,327.5	17,654	5,586.8	1,599.4	21,271	40.7	
1,000-2,499	54	82,608	82,608	1,512.9	18,314	7,309.6	1,662.4	20,124	33.7	
2,500-4,999	12	39,482	39,482	761.0	19,275	2,625.1	824.7	20,889	10.7	
5,000 and over	4	31,434	31,434	609.6	19,395	3,576.9	688.0	21,886	7.6	
Total	210,813	1,015,521	..	15,999.5	..	62,389.6	17,642.4	17,373	631.4	

(a) See paragraphs 19, 27 and 35 of the explanatory notes and definitions for an account of how gross output and gross value added are calculated.

(b) Estimates of wages and salaries and Insurance Contributions for undertakings with an employment of less than 20 are based on total employment, including working proprietors.

Table 4 Percentage analysis of twelve-month periods covered by returns received for the 1992 census by number of returns and total employment

PA500

Accounting year ended	Percentage of total returns received	Percentage of total number employed
1992 6-30 April	3.8	1.6
May	3.2	2.0
June	5.5	4.1
July	2.5	1.4
August	3.1	1.5
September	7.0	6.0
October	3.9	2.5
November	2.8	1.4
December	28.8	38.6
1993 January	3.8	2.6
February	2.5	1.6
1 March-5 April	33.1	36.7
	100.0	100.0

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Table 5 Operating ratios, 1992
All United Kingdom undertakings classified to the construction industry

		Undertakings employing 20 or more persons						All undertakings	
		Sub-divisions of the industry							
	Unit	General construction and demolition work		Construction of buildings	Civil engineering	Installation of fixtures and fittings	Building completion work	Total	Total
		GROUP 500		GROUP 501	GROUP 502	GROUP 503	GROUP 504		
		Public Sector	Private Sector						
Gross value added per head (a)	£	16,564	28,778	20,989	23,210	19,721	18,856	20,398	17,373
Gross value added as a percentage of gross output	%	55	42	20	24	35	35	27	28
Gross output per head (a)	£	30,325	68,723	103,395	97,635	55,875	53,483	75,475	61,436
Employment costs as a percentage of gross value added (b)	%	91	57	78	85	90	77	82	91
Employment costs per head (b)	£	15,075	16,664	16,374	19,785	17,757	14,687	16,875	19,863
Net capital expenditure per head	£	320	4,413	520	929	473	700	676	622
Net capital expenditure as a percentage of gross value added	%	2	15	2	4	2	4	3	4

(a) See paragraphs 19, 27 and 35 of the explanatory notes and definitions of how gross output and gross value added are calculated.

(b) Employment costs represent wages and salaries plus employers' National Insurance contributions, pensions and other welfare costs.



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UK Balance of Payments (CSO Pink Book)	Annually	Trade by Industry	Monthly
UK Economic Accounts - Economic Trends Supplement (Incorporating the National Accounts and Balance of Payments Quarterly Articles)	Quarterly	Credit Business	Monthly
National Accounts (PN2) (UK Output, income and expenditure)	Quarterly	Annual Census of Production (ACOP)	Annually
Preliminary GDP	Quarterly	Company Liquidity	Quarterly
Dividend and Interest	Quarterly	Pensions and Insurance	Quarterly
Index of Production	Monthly	Institutional Investment	Quarterly
Cyclical Indicators	Monthly		
Acquisitions and Mergers within the UK	Quarterly		
Cross-border Acquisitions & Mergers	Quarterly		
Employment and Earnings	Monthly/ Quarterly		
Unemployment	Monthly		
RPI/TPI	Monthly		
Producer Price Indices	Monthly		
Financial Statistics	Monthly		
Public Sector Borrowing Requirement	Monthly		

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