



International comparisons of manufacturing output

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International comparisons of manufacturing output are published by the United Nations Statistics Division in their [Main Aggregates Database](#). The latest available data are for 2010. The data are in US dollars at market exchange rates, so they are influenced by the strength of local currencies against the dollar at a given time. 'Manufacturing' is defined as far as possible using the [International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities](#) revision 3, ISIC D. There are, however, some definitional differences between countries and these data should be used with caution.

In 2010, the UK ranked:

- **9th in terms of manufacturing output** (value added) at \$231 billion, behind the USA, China, Japan, Germany, Italy and France. The UK was between 5th and 8th on this list in the entire period since 1970.
- **33rd in terms of manufacturing output per head** (around \$3,700), behind most major developed countries.
- **108th in terms of manufacturing output as a share of gross value added** (11%), marginally ahead of France but behind most major developed countries. That compares with 32% in China.

The UK accounts for around 2.3% of global manufacturing output. In the early 1970s, the UK and China each accounted for around 4% of global manufacturing output, whereas in 2010, China accounted for 18.9%, more than the USA. The UK's position in several of these rankings has been adversely affected by the weakness of the pound against the dollar.

- **Table 1** shows various measures of manufacturing output for the top 30 countries in 2010. **Chart 1** shows trends in the UK's rankings.
- **Chart 1** and **Table 2** show trends in shares of global output for selected countries.

Standard Note [SN/EP/1942](#) provides more detailed statistics about the UK manufacturing industry, along with a summary of Government policy.

Standard Note [SN/EP/5206](#) is a regularly updated statistical summary.

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Table 1: International comparisons of manufacturing output

\$US at current prices and market exchange rates

	Manufacturing gross value added						Manufacturing gross value added per head						% total value added				
	Rank					\$ billion	Rank					\$					
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010		1970	1980	1990	2000	2010		1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
China	6	6	8	3	1	1,923	102	101	142	84	64	1,459	37%	44%	37%	40%	32%
United States	1	1	1	1	2	1,856	2	12	13	10	15	5,980	24%	21%	18%	15%	13%
Japan	3	3	2	2	3	1,084	12	11	3	2	6	8,566	35%	27%	26%	21%	19%
Germany	4	4	3	4	4	614	6	6	5	12	10	7,463	35%	30%	28%	23%	21%
Italy	8	8	4	6	5	308	21	17	10	20	23	5,090	28%	29%	23%	21%	17%
Brazil	15	9	12	12	6	282	71	55	76	74	65	1,445	27%	33%	24%	17%	16%
Republic of Korea	39	28	13	8	7	279	93	66	35	26	17	5,799	19%	25%	27%	28%	31%
France	7	5	7	7	8	268	14	13	18	25	27	4,143	25%	23%	18%	16%	12%
United Kingdom	5	7	6	5	9	231	13	16	16	19	33	3,717	32%	25%	23%	17%	11%
India	18	15	16	13	10	226	139	145	164	146	140	185	14%	16%	17%	16%	14%
Russian Federation	--	--	9	16	11	209	--	--	52	90	63	1,464	--	--	27%	22%	16%
Mexico	13	11	14	9	12	179	41	46	60	41	58	1,580	19%	19%	20%	21%	18%
Indonesia	47	31	25	20	13	176	157	122	130	107	90	732	10%	14%	23%	28%	25%
Spain	12	10	10	11	14	170	31	27	24	28	34	3,695	27%	25%	21%	19%	13%
Canada	9	12	11	10	15	167	10	22	21	16	24	4,905	22%	19%	17%	19%	11%
Australia	11	13	20	19	16	117	9	21	27	29	22	5,274	25%	19%	14%	12%	10%
Turkey	23	21	15	14	17	114	58	60	48	62	60	1,564	21%	23%	29%	21%	17%
Thailand	45	38	31	22	18	114	116	98	90	68	54	128	16%	22%	25%	34%	36%
Switzerland	21	16	18	21	19	96	5	2	2	5	2	12,484	24%	25%	21%	19%	19%
Netherlands	16	14	17	15	20	92	15	20	19	23	20	5,566	25%	18%	19%	16%	13%
Poland	14	22	28	27	21	76	32	54	72	67	47	1,998	32%	32%	33%	19%	18%
Argentina	10	19	22	18	22	70	25	41	42	43	52	1,725	36%	29%	26%	18%	21%
Sweden	17	18	19	17	23	66	4	7	8	8	13	6,998	26%	23%	21%	22%	16%
Austria	24	23	23	24	24	65	18	15	11	15	8	7,803	30%	24%	22%	21%	19%
Malaysia	56	43	42	26	25	62	92	62	71	44	44	2,187	15%	22%	23%	30%	26%
Belgium	19	17	21	23	26	61	8	10	12	18	19	5,678	35%	24%	23%	19%	15%
Venezuela	27	26	37	33	27	53	29	34	63	57	49	1,827	25%	23%	27%	19%	15%
South Africa	26	25	27	31	28	48	43	52	62	76	78	960	23%	22%	24%	19%	15%
Ireland	48	45	40	29	29	48	28	26	20	4	4	10,636	27%	27%	28%	32%	26%
Singapore	68	52	47	30	30	47	48	29	22	6	5	9,151	18%	27%	25%	27%	22%

Source: UN National Accounts Main Aggregates Database

Chart 1: UK rankings for manufacturing output 1970-2010
 Gross value added at market exchange rates in current \$US
 (1=highest)

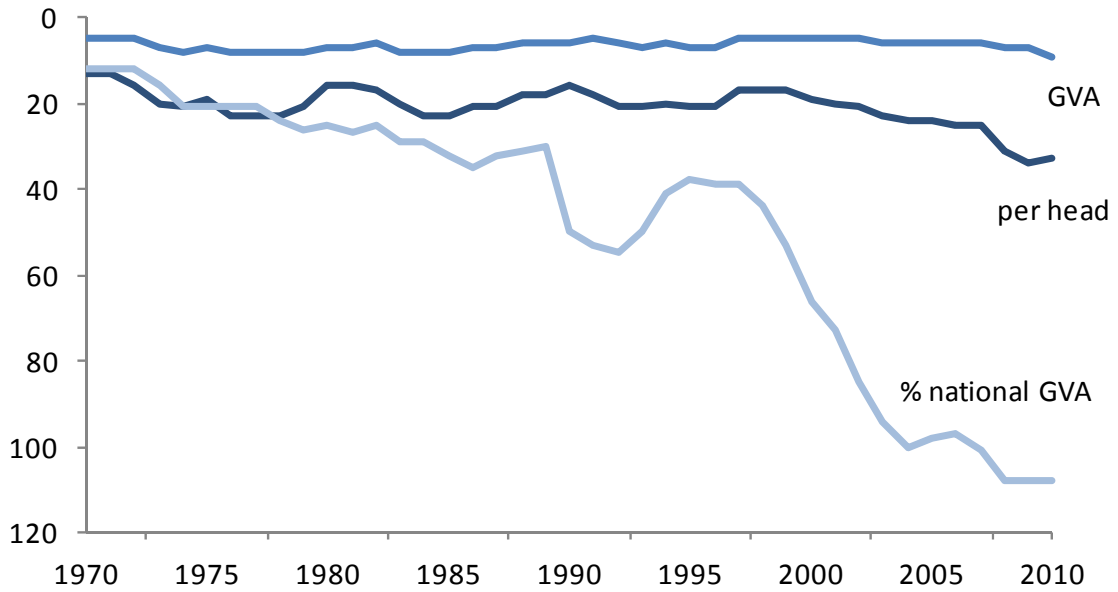


Chart 2: Manufacturing output as shares of world total 1970-2010
 Gross value added at market exchange rates in current \$UK

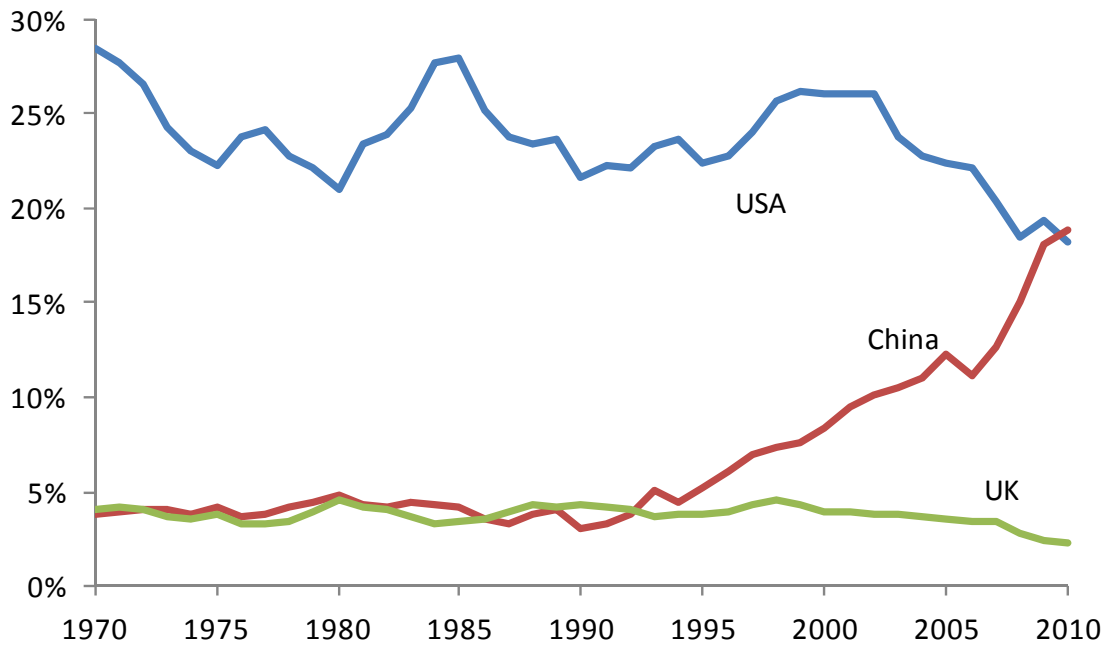


Table 2: Manufacturing output as % of world total: selected countries 1970-2010

Gross value added in \$US at market exchange rates and current prices

	United Kingdom	United States	China	Japan	Germany	Italy	France	India
1970	4.1%	28.5%	3.8%	8.1%	7.5%	3.1%	3.7%	0.9%
1971	4.2%	27.7%	4.0%	8.3%	7.7%	3.1%	3.8%	0.9%
1972	4.1%	26.6%	4.0%	9.4%	7.8%	3.1%	4.0%	0.9%
1973	3.7%	24.3%	4.0%	10.6%	8.5%	3.3%	4.3%	0.9%
1974	3.6%	23.0%	3.8%	10.2%	8.7%	3.6%	4.1%	1.0%
1975	3.8%	22.3%	4.2%	9.2%	8.5%	3.6%	4.7%	0.9%
1976	3.3%	23.7%	3.6%	9.8%	8.4%	3.6%	4.5%	0.9%
1977	3.3%	24.1%	3.9%	10.5%	8.6%	3.6%	4.5%	0.9%
1978	3.5%	22.7%	4.2%	12.3%	8.9%	3.6%	4.6%	0.9%
1979	3.9%	22.1%	4.4%	11.1%	9.1%	4.0%	4.8%	0.9%
1980	4.5%	20.9%	4.8%	10.8%	8.9%	4.5%	5.0%	1.0%
1981	4.2%	23.5%	4.3%	11.8%	7.3%	3.9%	4.3%	1.1%
1982	4.0%	23.9%	4.2%	11.2%	7.2%	3.8%	4.0%	1.1%
1983	3.7%	25.3%	4.4%	12.2%	7.1%	3.7%	3.8%	1.2%
1984	3.3%	27.7%	4.3%	12.9%	6.4%	3.6%	3.4%	1.2%
1985	3.4%	28.0%	4.1%	13.3%	6.6%	3.6%	3.5%	1.2%
1986	3.6%	25.1%	3.5%	16.6%	8.2%	4.3%	4.0%	1.1%
1987	3.9%	23.8%	3.3%	17.6%	8.8%	4.7%	4.1%	1.1%
1988	4.3%	23.4%	3.7%	18.9%	8.5%	4.6%	4.0%	1.1%
1989	4.2%	23.6%	4.0%	18.3%	8.1%	4.7%	3.9%	1.1%
1990	4.3%	21.6%	3.0%	16.8%	9.1%	5.0%	4.2%	1.1%
1991	4.2%	22.2%	3.3%	19.7%	9.6%	5.1%	4.2%	0.9%
1992	4.1%	22.1%	3.9%	19.8%	9.9%	5.1%	4.3%	0.9%
1993	3.7%	23.2%	5.1%	21.6%	8.8%	4.1%	3.9%	0.9%
1994	3.8%	23.7%	4.4%	21.4%	8.7%	4.0%	3.8%	1.0%
1995	3.8%	22.4%	5.2%	21.1%	9.0%	3.9%	4.0%	1.1%
1996	3.9%	22.8%	6.1%	18.6%	8.5%	4.3%	3.9%	1.1%
1997	4.3%	24.1%	6.9%	17.2%	7.7%	4.1%	3.6%	1.1%
1998	4.5%	25.6%	7.4%	15.6%	8.1%	4.3%	3.9%	1.1%
1999	4.3%	26.2%	7.6%	16.9%	7.5%	4.0%	3.7%	1.1%
2000	3.9%	26.0%	8.3%	17.7%	6.7%	3.5%	3.3%	1.2%
2001	3.9%	26.1%	9.5%	15.5%	7.0%	3.7%	3.3%	1.3%
2002	3.9%	26.0%	10.1%	14.2%	7.2%	3.8%	3.4%	1.3%
2003	3.8%	23.8%	10.5%	14.1%	7.8%	4.1%	3.6%	1.3%
2004	3.7%	22.7%	11.0%	13.6%	7.9%	4.1%	3.5%	1.4%
2005	3.5%	22.3%	12.3%	12.7%	7.4%	3.8%	3.3%	1.6%
2006	3.5%	22.2%	11.1%	11.5%	7.6%	3.9%	3.2%	1.8%
2007	3.4%	20.4%	12.7%	10.2%	7.8%	4.0%	3.2%	2.0%
2008	2.8%	18.5%	15.1%	10.2%	7.5%	3.8%	3.1%	2.0%
2009	2.4%	19.4%	18.1%	10.1%	6.4%	3.5%	2.8%	2.2%
2010	2.3%	18.2%	18.9%	10.7%	6.0%	3.0%	2.6%	2.2%

Source: UN National Accounts Main Aggregates Database