



UK

Chemical & Process

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Overview

- The UK is one of the world's top chemical-producing nations, with a high-performance industry achieving outstanding levels of growth, exports, productivity performance and international investment.
- The UK is ranked top within Europe and sixth globally for 'ease of doing business' according to a World Bank survey covering several legal issues including the ability to enforce contracts and overall business protection
- The UK remains the number one inward investment destination in Europe, with almost one fifth of the total accumulated stock of foreign direct investment
- R&D investment into the UK increased by 83 per cent in 2007/08
- In 2007/08, the UK attracted 1,573 foreign direct investment projects from 48 countries, a record-breaking performance
- The UK accounts for 57 per cent of the whole European private equity and venture capital market
- Sales by the UK chemicals industry are equivalent to around 12 per cent of the value of all UK manufacturing
- The chemical sector provides direct employment for 214,000 people and supports several hundred thousand additional jobs throughout the economy
- The UK government has more than doubled its annual investment in science to £3.4 billion in the decade to 2007
- Chemical companies in the North West employ 22 per cent of the workforce and generate a combined turnover of £10 billion
- More than £1 billion has been invested in over 40 chemicals projects by multinational companies in the North East since 2003
- The UK's North West chemicals cluster attracted around £250 million foreign investment over the past two years
- The Humber region is one of the fastest-growing chemical bases in the UK, with investment in new build, expansion and maintenance exceeding £1 billion in the four years to 2007
- The Scottish chemicals manufacturing sector generates £9.3 billion in revenue
- The Pharmaceutical Industry is the second largest contributor to Gross Domestic Product behind Financial Services.
- There are several very big players in the UK with GlaxoWellcome, SmithKline Beecham and AstraZeneca being the three largest UK based companies.

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North East

- North East England's chemicals and process industry is a well-established, globally significant cluster that has developed over decades and benefits from the region's excellent infrastructure, support networks, skills and extensive technical expertise.
- With core strengths in science, research & development and innovation, North East England supports four key process and chemical industries:
 - Base & Petrochemicals
 - Fine & Speciality Chemicals
 - Pharmaceuticals Manufacture
 - Biotechnology.
- Contributing to over 30% of the region's industrial economy, the sector attracts some of the chemical and process industry's world leaders. These include [SABIC UK Petrochemicals](#) (a leading global producer of petrochemicals), [Dow](#) (a major global chemical manufacturer and processor), [Petroplus](#) (a major European bio-diesel producer) and [sanofi-aventis](#) (a leading pharmaceutical manufacturer with two major locations in the North East).
- At the heart of Wilton International, one of the few sites in Western Europe with special development status enabling it to be used for chemical processing, the region is home to a number of innovative projects such as SABIC's world-scale Cracker plant and the UK's first large scale biomass power station of its kind developed by Semcorp Utilities UK.
- Easy, direct access to international markets is achieved via two international airports and three ports including major deep sea port, Teesport, which is the UK's third largest port handling approximately 50 million tonnes of cargo a year and is ideally positioned to take advantage of the ever increasing opportunities in European and Scandinavian trades, the emerging markets of Eastern Europe.
- Alongside these major manufacturing assets, public and private sector backing for innovative new processes is providing a range of investment opportunities on a global scale.
- The region is home to some of the world's leading companies including [Avecia](#), [SABIC UK Petrochemicals](#), [SSL International](#), [sanofi-aventis](#), [Huntsman](#), [Semcorp Utilities UK](#), [DuPont Teijin Films](#) and [AMEC](#)
- One-fifth of the UK's production capacity for process industries is based in North East England, including 58% of its petrochemical industry, 35% of its pharmaceuticals and a major share of its speciality chemicals sector
- The chemical process industry is now Britain's only net manufacturing export sector, with sales approaching £70 billion and exports of £37.3 billion
- The UK's [National Skills Academy for Process Industries](#) (NSAPI) has been established in North East England, confirming the region as a world-leading centre for the process and chemicals sector
- The [Centre for Process Innovation](#) (CPI), based in TeesValley, has been recognised by the UK Government as an example of best practice for its approach to market-led innovation. This approach champions the commercialisation of new products and technologies ready for the market place
- There are 200 chemical, pharmaceutical, speciality and biotechnology companies in the region employing 34,000 people and creating £9 billion of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), including 33% of UK pharmaceutical GDP. A further 450 companies are involved in the supply chain with key companies including [Baker Petrolite](#), [BASF](#), [Dupont](#), [Elementis](#) and [Invista](#)
- Tees Valley is home to the UK's largest petrochemical complex and has Europe's biggest hydrogen network. It also has key pipeline infrastructure with BOC, receiving a £100m investment over the last three years - and the largest UK chemical handling port, at Teesport
- Wilton International in Tees Valley is an integrated site and one of the few in Western Europe with special development status, enabling it to be used for heavy industrial purposes such as chemical processing. A global player, its primary market is Europe, exporting its products via the deep-sea port at the mouth of the river Tees. It also hosts the UK's first large-scale wood biomass facility developed by Semcorp Utilities UK

Map



Sources

One North East
UKTI
Chemical Industries Association
Nepic