

June 2010

TheVoice

FDF: Speaking for the food and drink manufacturing industry

Why food and drink is a high value manufacturing sector

FDF has commissioned the Institute for Manufacturing at the University of Cambridge (IfM) to examine the value of food and drink manufacturing to the UK economy.

All too often, debates about the food industry overlook the strategic importance of our sector – which is the key link in the chain between farms and the supermarkets. IfM aims to fill that gap by looking beyond the traditional measures of GDP and employment to develop a broader picture of the positive role played by food manufacturers.

As well as exploring whether our industry is a high value manufacturing sector, we hope the research will help us to dispel some of the myths that exist around food production in this country. For instance: the IfM team is looking at the nature of employment in our sector and its work shows how food manufacturers provide high quality jobs with a lengthy tenure.

IfM Director Finbarr Livesey says: “The food and drink industry has a significant impact on the UK economy. This report provides a broad view of the strengths and weaknesses of the manufacturing elements of the sector, which will challenge existing perceptions of the industry.”

FDF reception to highlight importance of sector

The Annual FDF Parliamentary Reception will take place on Monday 05 July from 1600 to 1800 in the Members’ Dining Room of the House of Commons.

This key event on the industry calendar will provide an excellent opportunity to meet representatives from food and drink companies across the UK, as well as stakeholders dealing with the issues affecting the sector.

Kindly sponsored by Nigel Evans MP this year’s reception will focus on the economic importance of the industry and mark the launch of research from the Institute for Manufacturing at the University of Cambridge, mentioned in the article above.

Show your support for the UK food and drink sector

By joining the Food and Drink Manufacturing All-Party Parliamentary Group you can meet representatives from across the food chain to hear about and discuss issues affecting the sector.

The meetings are proving to be a useful forum for dialogue between parliamentarians and food and drink companies from constituencies across the UK, on local and regional to national and global topics.

The group meets for an hour three to four times per year in the House of Commons or Westminster. Recent meetings have included a lunchtime tasting event on changing product recipes and a roundtable discussion on improving skills for the sector.

FDF provides secretarial support for the All-Party Parliamentary Group so please get in touch if you would like to join the group or visit the website, which contains a list of members and reports of recent meetings:

www.appgfooddrink.org.uk

www.fdf.org.uk

If you want information about anything in this newsletter, please call Abigail Cross on 020 7420 7127

Food and Drink
Federation



Making a real difference

Ombudsman will help smaller food and drink firms

The decision to create a new body to enforce the Grocery Supply Code of Practice will be of particular help to smaller businesses, FDF told the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when responding to its ombudsman consultation.

We hope to see the new ombudsman operate as an independent, effective, low-cost monitoring and enforcement body and achieve its primary objective of preventing the practice of supply chain behaviour by grocery retailers that has an adverse impact on a supplier's ability to innovate and invest.

Like others in the food chain we were pleased to see the coalition Government confirm they will create an ombudsman – in the Office of Fair Trading – and look forward to working with the body in the future.

How FDF works for its members

The Food and Drink Federation speaks on behalf of the biggest manufacturing sector in the country, which directly employs almost 440,000 people.

In promoting and protecting the interests of our members, FDF is focusing on the issues that matter most to members and to the consumers the industry serves:

- Food Safety and Science
- Health and Wellbeing
- Sustainability
- Competitiveness

Our front cover was taken at the Aunt Bessie's Yorkshire puddings factory in Hull. The business is owned by Tryton Foods, part of William Jackson Food Group which has been an FDF member since 2007.

Food exports outperform other manufacturing sectors

Exports of food and non-alcoholic drinks have hit record levels, according to new research conducted for the Food and Drink Federation.

With food and drink exports growing in value by 4.4% to £9.65bn in 2009, a fifth consecutive year of growth, the food and drink industry significantly outperformed other manufacturing sectors, which experienced an 11.8% slump in overseas sales.

Non-alcoholic drinks was the best performing sector, growing 20.6% to £318.6m, driven by strong sales in EU markets such as Ireland, France, Spain and Germany. Fish and seafood was up by 15% to £1160.4m, including a 42.3% rise in the exports of fresh salmon. Other added value product areas in strong growth included breakfast cereals, sauces and condiments and sugar confectionary.

The EU remains the main destination for UK food and drink exports, accounting for 79.2% of overseas sales. But significant growth has been recorded outside Europe – with sales to the Oceania region up 15.9% and exports to North America jumping 14.8%.

Melanie Leech, Director General of the Food and Drink Federation, said:

“This strong performance is testimony to the persistence and entrepreneurial spirit of British manufacturers – as well as a reflection of the quality of what they produce. I am proud of the fact our sector has continued to report significant overseas success at a time when UK exports as a whole have taken a significant hit.”

The figures were launched to coincide with the Annual FDF President's Dinner, which took place in April at the Dorchester Hotel in London. The event saw over 250 industry professionals come together to celebrate the success of the sector.



FDF President Ross Warburton addresses guests at the Annual FDF President's Dinner

Steps to protect the food and drink industry

The new Government must place a sustainable UK food sector at the heart of its strategy for economic recovery, according to the Food and Drink Federation, which has updated its manifesto.

‘Support a British Success Story’ includes 20 ways in which we think the Government can help safeguard the future success of the country's biggest manufacturing industry – a sector that has an excellent track record of generating wealth for the nation, boosting exports and providing jobs across the regions.

The document is set out across five themes: create a vision for food; back us in going green; cut the red tape; support manufacturers; and, protect innovation.

To order a copy please call Abigail Cross on 020 7420 7127 or visit www.fdf.org.uk

www.fdf.org.uk

If you want information about anything in this newsletter, please call Abigail Cross on 020 7420 7127

Food and Drink Federation 

Making a real difference