

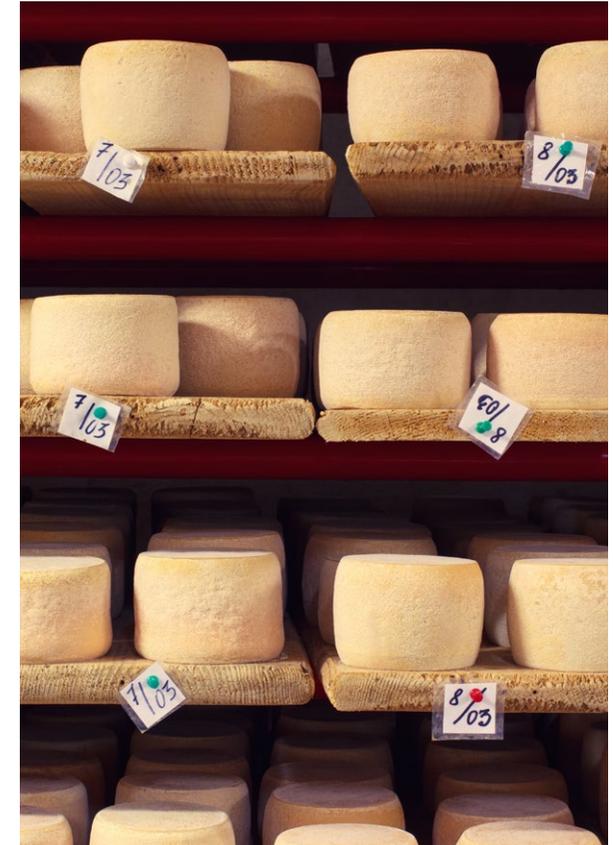


# Powering Communities

UK FOOD & DRINK MANUFACTURING:  
REGIONAL REPORT 2026

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FDF's Powering Communities report shows the impact our sector has on every corner of the UK. Food and drink manufacturing contributes **£42bn to the economy** – nearly **a quarter of total manufacturing turnover** – and supports nearly **half a million jobs**.

Day in and day out, colleagues at our sites everywhere work to create the high-quality, affordable and safe food that fills everyone's cupboards, fridges and freezers. Our reputation for heritage, innovation and high standards stretches beyond our national borders, with over **£25bn of food and drink exports in 2025**.

This report shines a spotlight on an industry that is not only economically significant, but deeply rooted in local life and what it means to be British. From Wrexham to York, Glasgow and Slough, manufacturers are creating apprenticeships, using advanced technology, driving healthier diets and strengthening regional supply chains, while supporting local charities and, of course, creating the food and drink we know and love.

But 2025 was a challenging year for food businesses. We have been grappling with rising production costs and continuing global supply chain shocks, which have restricted investment and innovation.

However, our sector remains ambitious. We want to grow in productivity, efficiency and exports; and to continuously improve, innovate and modernise to protect UK food security and resilience. We want to partner with government to create the conditions where industry can do this, **growing our GVA to £50bn by 2035**.

But food and drink must be recognised by government as part of Advanced Manufacturing. The food and drink we buy every day is made by advanced manufacturers. Our sector should therefore receive the same support as other sectors with energy costs, skills and R&D funding. This would be a powerful signal of the government's commitment to ensuring a secure, competitive, healthy and sustainable food and drink system, to serve our growing population and future generations.



# UK

Food and drink is the UK's biggest manufacturing sector

<b>GVA</b>	<b>£41.8bn</b>	<b>+3.3%</b>
<b>Employment</b>	<b>489,333</b>	<b>+1.6%</b>
<b>Businesses</b>	<b>12,130</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>
<b>Exports</b>	<b>£25.6bn</b>	<b>+4.8%</b>

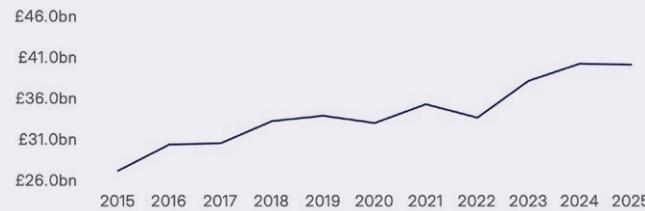


Source: ONS  
 All figures use the latest available data  
 2025: Business, GVA, Employment  
 2024: Sectoral Employment, Exports

**The UK delivers:**  
**17.7%** of total UK manufacturing GVA  
**23.7%** of total UK manufacturing turnover

**Top sectors by Gross Value Added:**  
 Other foods **£9.3bn**  
 Meat **£7.5bn**  
 Bakery goods **£5.0bn**

GVA\* grew **47.4%** since 2015

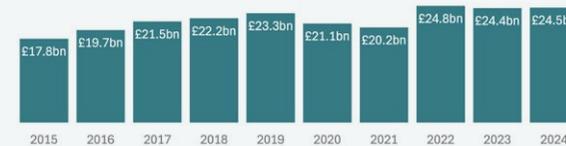


\*Gross value added in chained volume measures

**Top markets by value:**

<b>Beverages</b>	<b>£8,195.4m</b>	<b>-3.4%</b>	United States <b>£1593.6m</b>	France <b>£548.2m</b>	Ireland <b>£503.4m</b>
<b>Cereals</b>	<b>£2,406.2m</b>	<b>-13.0%</b>	Ireland <b>£799.8m</b>	Netherlands <b>£176.2m</b>	France <b>£158.7m</b>
<b>Dairy</b>	<b>£2,122.7m</b>	<b>+1.9%</b>	Ireland <b>£654.1m</b>	Netherlands <b>£237.2m</b>	France <b>£158.5m</b>

Export values over the years

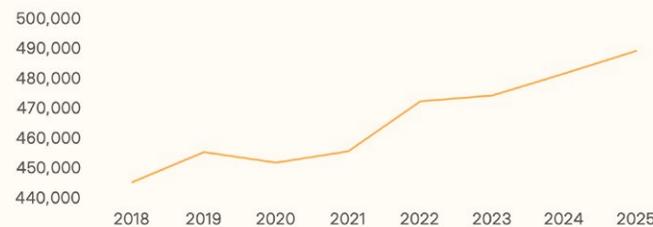


**£25.6bn** of exports  
**6.0%** of total UK exports

UK food & drink **manufacturing** makes up:  
**19.3%** of total manufacturing employment  
**1.3%** of total employment

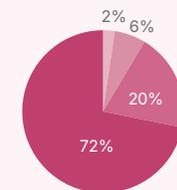
**Top sectors by employment:**  
 Bakery goods **102,700**  
 Meat **78,450**  
 Other foods **37,750**  
 Prepared meals **30,500**  
 Beer **21,250**

We added **43,833** jobs since 2018



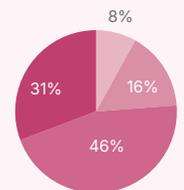
**Top sectors by # of businesses:**  
 Bakery goods **3,210**  
 Other foods **1,315**  
 Beer **1,245**  
 Meat **1,000**  
 Spirits **890**

**% of businesses by employment:**

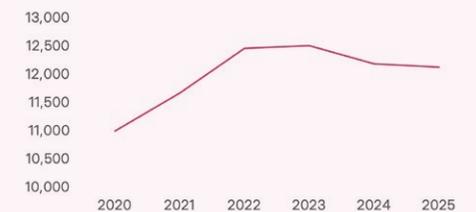


■ Large ■ Medium ■ Small ■ Micro

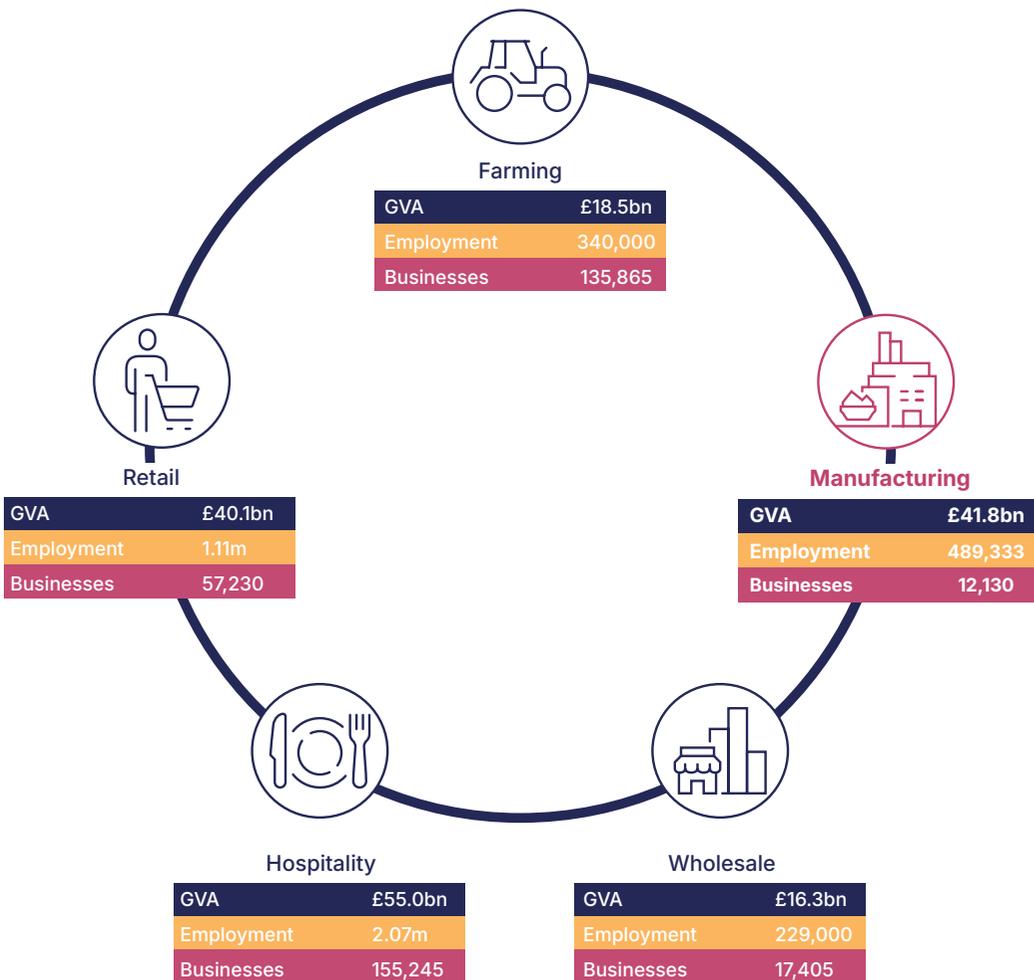
**% of businesses by turnover:**



Number of businesses grew **10.3%** between 2020 and 2025



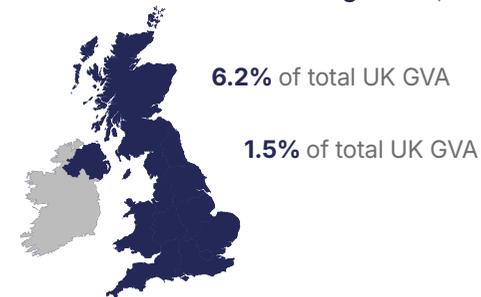
# At the heart of a complex and diverse food system



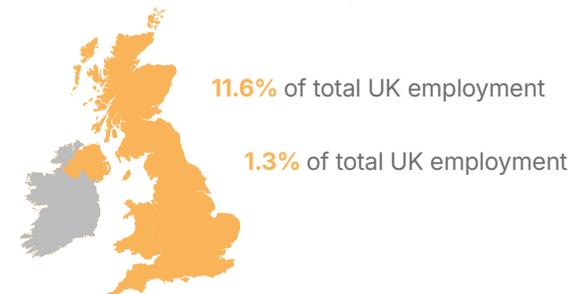
**Food and drink manufacturing** is worth over **£171bn** to the economy and employs over **4.2 million people**. We are UK farming's largest customer and we keep the shelves, freezers and fridges of supermarkets stocked up and down the country.

GVA	£171.7bn
Employment	4,242,333
Businesses	377,875
Exports	£25.6bn
Imports	£66.9bn

In the United Kingdom, the agri-food **supply chain** & food and drink **manufacturing** deliver, respectively:



In the United Kingdom, the agri-food **supply chain** & food and drink **manufacturing** make up, respectively:



# East of England



All figures use the latest available data  
 2025: Business  
 2024: Employment, Exports  
 2023: GVA

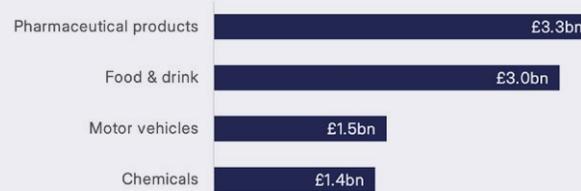
## F&D manufacturing accounts for:

**13.5%** of total manufacturing GVA  
**25.3%** of total manufacturing turnover

## The region delivers:

**7.9%** of total F&D manufacturing GVA  
**10.0%** of total F&D manufacturing turnover

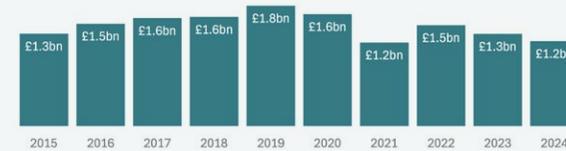
### Top manufacturing sectors in the region



## Top markets by value:



## Export values over the years



**£1.2bn** of exports  
**5.3%** of total F&D exports

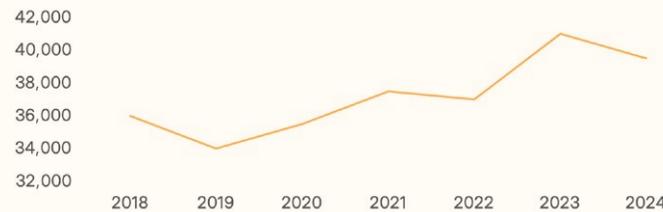
## Food & drink manufacturing makes up:

**19.8%** of total manufacturing employment  
**1.4%** of total employment

## Top sectors by employment:

Meat	11,000
Bakery goods	6,350
Fruit & veg processing	3,675
Beer	2,000
Other foods	2,000

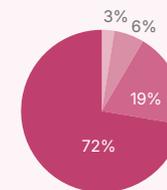
We added **5,500** jobs since 2019



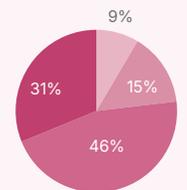
## Top sectors by # of businesses:

Bakery goods	245
Other foods	100
Beer	100
Meat	95
Fruit & veg processing	55

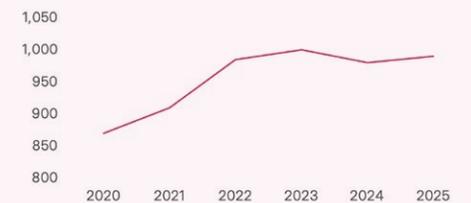
## % of businesses by employment:



## % of businesses by turnover:



Number of businesses grew **13.8%** between 2020 and 2025



## East of England

With a £3.0bn GVA, the East of England is a leader in sugar, malt, poultry, and cider production. Nomad Foods' Lowestoft site, established in 1949, is the area's largest private employer, specialising in frozen foods.

Local specialities like Suffolk cider and Norfolk black turkey highlight the region's deep-rooted food heritage, reinforcing its long-standing role in the UK's food and drink industry.



**Established in 1949, Nomad Foods' Lowestoft factory is the largest private sector employer in the area with 800 employees and an apprenticeship programme in partnership with a local college.**

The factory itself spans more than 25 acres and manufactures approximately 250 products across categories such as fish, chicken, potatoes and vegetables. Around 10% of production is currently exported.

Over the years, the site has seen increased investment, particularly in terms of sustainability initiatives, and now runs on 100% green electricity. Further investments in water treatment, low energy lighting and waste segregation have driven a double-digit reduction in carbon emissions at the site. The company is also currently exploring opportunities to supplement the green electricity with solar energy and wind power. Last year, Nomad Foods' Birds Eye brand partnered with DFDS and Sunswap to introduce solar-powered, battery-assisted trailers to transport products from the Lowestoft production facility. The change is expected to remove c.24 tonnes of CO2 emissions annually from Nomad Foods' supply chain.

From a product perspective, continuous investment in innovation has led to the creation and manufacture of Birds Eye's Chunky Fish Fingers and Steamfresh Meals range, both made on-site. Nomad Foods has also invested over £12m on a new chicken line at the site.

# London

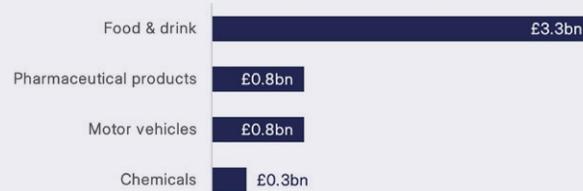


All figures use the latest available data  
 2025: Business  
 2024: Employment, Exports  
 2023: GVA

**F&D manufacturing accounts for:**  
**35.3%** of total manufacturing GVA  
**39.0%** of total manufacturing turnover

**The region delivers:**  
**10.4%** of total F&D manufacturing GVA  
**10.0%** of total F&D manufacturing turnover

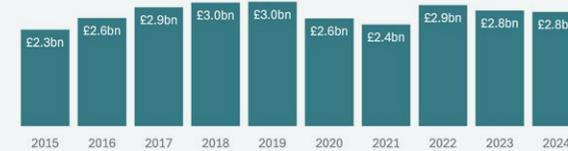
### Top manufacturing sectors in the region



### Top markets by value:



### Export values over the years



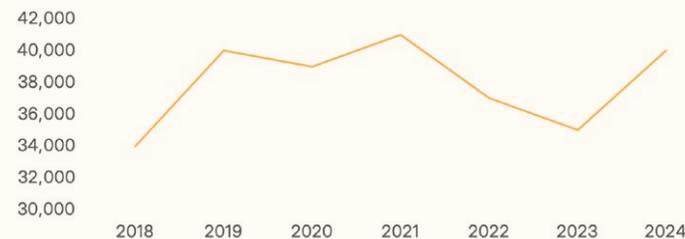
**£2.8bn** of exports  
**11.3%** of total F&D exports

Food & drink **manufacturing** makes up:  
**31.0%** of total manufacturing employment  
**0.7%** of total employment

**Top sectors by employment:**

Bakery goods	10,750
Prepared meals	7,000
Soft drinks	4,500
Other foods	4,000
Beer	3,500

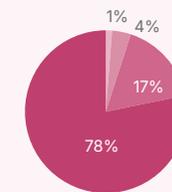
We added **6,000** jobs since 2018



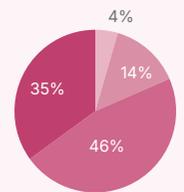
### Top sectors by # of businesses:

Bakery goods	630
Other foods	330
Beer	120
Soft drinks	110
Fruit & veg processing	105

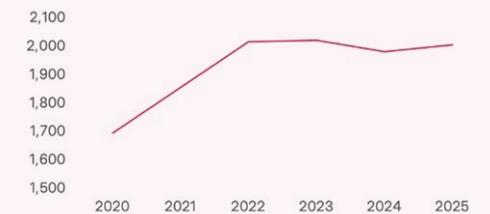
### % of businesses by employment:



### % of businesses by turnover:



Number of businesses grew **18.3%** between 2020 and 2025



## London

London's food and drink industry, valued at £3.9bn, is the city's largest manufacturing industry, balancing tradition with cutting edge innovation. The sector includes historic brands like Tate & Lyle Sugars, refining cane sugar since 1878, alongside a dynamic startup ecosystem fostering sustainable food solutions, such as PLAYin Choc, who produce organic, vegan chocolate at their Uxbridge site.

From pie and mash to salt beef bagels, London's diverse culinary history continues to shape its thriving food scene.

The logo for PLAYin CHOC is displayed in a dark teal color. The word 'PLAYin' is in a smaller, sans-serif font, and 'CHOC' is in a larger, bold, sans-serif font. The entire logo is arched over a thin, dark teal line.

**PLAYin Choc is an Uxbridge based manufacturer producing organic, allergen free chocolate and sustainably designed toys. Their products are made using ethically sourced ingredients and fully recyclable, biodegradable, and home compostable packaging.**

PLAYin Choc was the London regional finalist in FDF's inaugural MP's Choice Award. It was recognised for its commitment to ethical production and sustainable innovation.

In 2024, the company achieved Certified B Corporation status, reflecting its high standards of social and environmental responsibility. PLAYin Choc sources single origin Peruvian cacao from small family farms, using fair and sustainable farming methods, ensuring a supply chain free from slave, child, and animal labour.

## London

# TATE & LYLE SUGARS



**Tate & Lyle Sugars produces over 650 different products, including Lyle's Golden Syrup – an iconic British staple and the world's oldest, unchanged brand.**

Specialising in cane sugars and syrups, their products are sold to consumers around the world. Tate & Lyle Sugars has been refining cane sugar at their Silvertown site in East London since 1878. With a commitment to building economic and social wealth in the community, they employ 850 people in skilled roles and are an accredited London Living Wage Employer.

Tate & Lyle Sugars makes a significant contribution to the East London economy through local jobs, local spend and community investment. Nearly 80% of its workforce live in East London and the Thames Gateway, ensuring wages are spent locally and supporting household incomes in surrounding communities. The business also directs 45% of its UK supplier spend to East London and Thames Gateway businesses, supporting hundreds of local supply chain jobs. Long term contracts with these suppliers in East London and Essex based help them grow, invest, hire apprentices and win new work with other major clients.

Taken together, Tate & Lyle Sugars creates £121.5m of GVA and 1,377 jobs across East London, an area of high deprivation. This is alongside ongoing financial and in-kind support for local charities, schools and social enterprises. The annual Lyle's Local Fund invests approximately £50,000 each year in 10–15 small local organisations to help improve Newham.

# South East

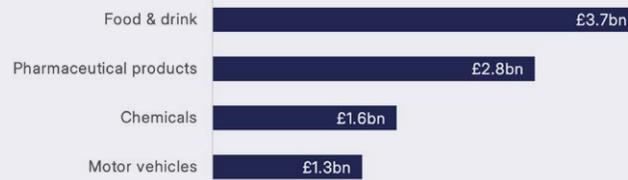


All figures use the latest available data  
 2025: Business  
 2024: Employment, Exports  
 2023: GVA

**F&D manufacturing accounts for:**  
**13.8%** of total manufacturing GVA  
**9.7%** of total manufacturing turnover

**The region delivers:**  
**9.8%** of total F&D manufacturing GVA  
**5.8%** of total F&D manufacturing turnover

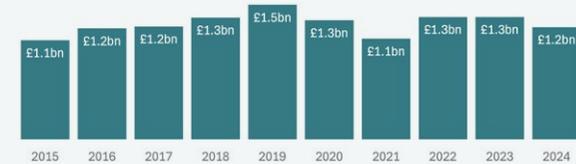
### Top manufacturing sectors in the region



### Top markets by value:



### Export values over the years



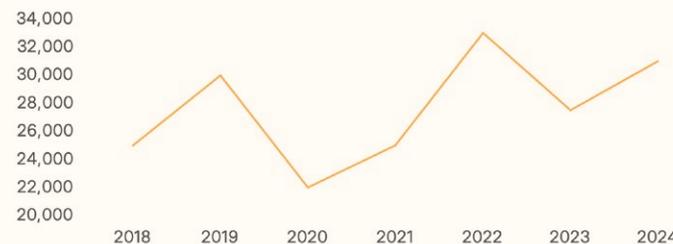
**£1.2bn** of exports  
**5.1%** of total F&D exports

Food & drink **manufacturing** makes up:  
**11.1%** of total manufacturing employment  
**0.7%** of total employment

**Top sectors by employment:**

- Bakery goods **7,800**
- Fruit & veg processing **3,800**
- Other foods **3,500**
- Meat **2,800**
- Chocolate **2,000**

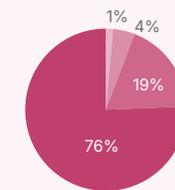
We added **9,000** jobs since 2020



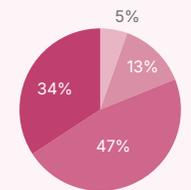
**Top sectors by # of businesses:**

- Bakery goods **350**
- Beer **185**
- Other foods **160**
- Spirits **100**
- Meat **75**

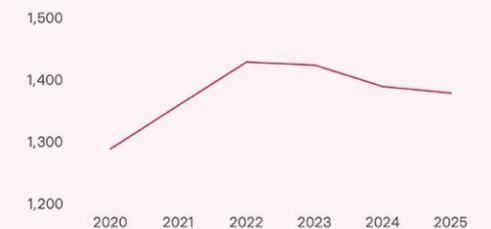
**% of businesses by employment:**



**% of businesses by turnover:**



Number of businesses grew **7.0%** between 2020 and 2025



## South East

Generating £3.7bn in GVA, the South East leads in beverages, bakery, and premium foods.

The region supports a rich culinary landscape. Kentish ale, Sussex Pond Pudding, and artisan cheeses are local favourites, while Ashford's Premier Foods site drives innovation by reformulating classic brands like Batchelors soups and Bisto gravies to meet modern consumer demands. Local businesses play a vital role in contributing to the local food offering, such as ChalkStream, who source English freshwater trout from the Test and Itchen rivers, while also protecting the health of nearby waterways.



**ChalkStream is a Hampshire based producer specialising in sustainably farmed trout from the Test and Itchen rivers.**

Known for championing high quality, Locally-raised fish, the company was the inaugural national winner of FDF's MP's Choice Award, celebrated for their innovation and commitment to revitalising local waterways.

With four supplier farms and around 20 employees, many drawn from nearby colleges and long-standing farming families, the business supports local employment and skills development.

Its approach has strengthened the regional economy while demonstrating how innovation and environmental stewardship can reinvigorate a rural food production sector.

## South East



Established in 1932, the Slough factory is the birthplace of the iconic Mars Bar and is home to several of the company's flagship confectionery brands including GALAXY®, MALTESERS® and CELEBRATIONS®. Mars is a major employer in the area, with 1,600 employees based in Slough.

Mars is making a significant series of capital investments in Slough this year, introducing state-of-the-art manufacturing capabilities and a series of sustainability upgrades. Upgraded machinery, robotics and AI-driven production are being rolled out, enabling precise process control, consistency and uniformity across products lines. Advanced cooling systems and energy-efficient utilities will improve the site's sustainability performance, with operations already powered by renewable energy.

Alongside physical upgrades, the investment will support ongoing workforce upskilling, creating new progression routes into advanced engineering, automation, data and AI-enabled manufacturing roles.

Mars has been providing apprenticeships for decades, but their programme has ramped up in recent years, with a focus on meeting evolving business needs. Mars has 131 apprentices across the UK this year, 52 of whom are based in Slough. Mars employees have been promoting apprenticeships by engaging with hundreds of students in local schools and providing mentoring and coaching. Supported by VisionPath, this work has helped significantly broaden the pool of apprentices at Mars.

Beyond engagement on apprenticeships and careers, Mars plays a wider role in the local community with volunteering programmes focused on litter clean-up, supporting food banks and the Britwell Youth and Community Project.

# South West

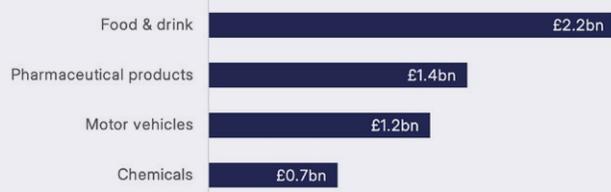


All figures use the latest available data  
 2025: Business  
 2024: Employment, Exports  
 2023: GVA

**F&D manufacturing accounts for:**  
**11.0%** of total manufacturing GVA  
**22.1%** of total manufacturing turnover

**The region delivers:**  
**5.9%** of total F&D manufacturing GVA  
**7.4%** of total F&D manufacturing turnover

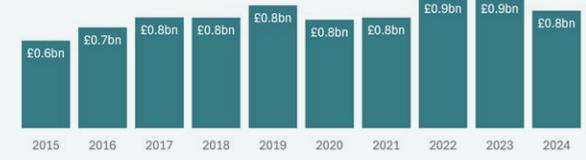
### Top manufacturing sectors in the region



### Top markets by value:



### Export values over the years

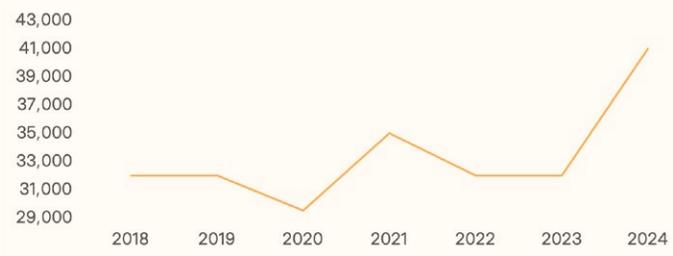


**£0.8bn** of exports  
**3.3%** of total F&D exports

Food & drink **manufacturing** makes up:  
**14.8%** of total manufacturing employment  
**1.6%** of total employment

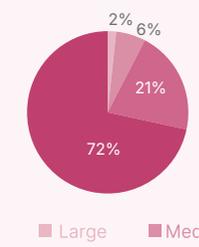
**Top sectors by employment:**  
 Bakery goods **8,000**  
 Meat **5,050**  
 Beer **3,500**  
 Milk & cream **3,000**  
 Other foods **3,000**

### We added 9,000 jobs since 2018

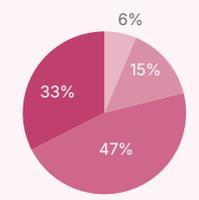


**Top sectors by # of businesses:**  
 Bakery goods **255**  
 Beer **150**  
 Other foods **105**  
 Spirits **100**  
 Meat **80**

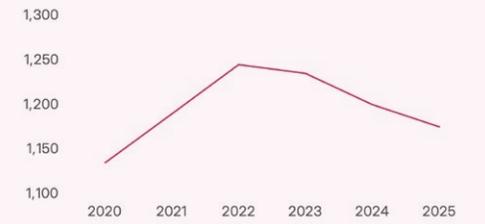
**% of businesses by employment:**



**% of businesses by turnover:**



Number of businesses grew **3.5%** between 2020 and 2025



## South West

With a £2.2bn GVA, the South West is known for dairy, cider, and seafood. Coleford is home to Suntory Beverage and Food GB&I's factory, which produces 800 million soft drinks annually. Premier Foods, the makers of Ambrosia, have reinforced their presence in Devon, with a £19m investment in their Lifton site.

The area is famed for iconic products such as Cornish pasties, cheddar cheese, and scones, reflecting the region's historical contributions to the UK's food and drink sector.

**SUNTORY**  
BEVERAGE & FOOD GB&I



**Suntory Beverage & Food (SBF) GB&I recently announced a significant new investment in its long standing Coleford factory in the Forest of Dean, supporting local employment, strengthening regional supply chains and ensuring two of the UK's best known soft drink brands continue to be manufactured in the Forest of Dean.**

It's at this site that SBF has produced its famous Lucozade and Ribena soft drinks brands for generations – all of which are now non-HFSS.

The company has committed £25m to install a new high speed aseptic production line, "Apollo 5", as part of a wider £57m supply chain upgrade. The new line will replace two older Ribena lines and bring both Lucozade and Ribena onto a single, more efficient system. Once operational, it will enable production of 55,000 bottles per hour, reduce energy and water use and simplify operations on site.

The construction phase is expected to channel £2.1m into local businesses across Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and South Wales, reinforcing Suntory's role as one of the area's major employers. The investment will help sustain hundreds of skilled jobs at the factory and underscores the company's long term commitment to the region. Local representatives welcomed the announcement as a positive signal for the Forest of Dean's manufacturing capability and future economic growth.

## South West



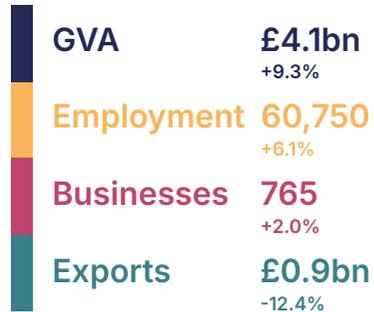
**Premier Foods, one of the UK's largest food businesses, has unveiled a £19m investment in its Lifton site in Devon, home of Ambrosia for more than a century, to increase production capacity in response to growth in consumer demand, improve efficiency and support local jobs.**

The three-year investment, which comes as part of Premier Foods' growth strategy to invest back into its manufacturing sites, is set to be delivered in two phases. The first £9m stage has modernised Ambrosia rice pudding and custard production through a new custard filling line and high-speed packing lines using cutting edge technology to streamline production, increase efficiency and switch to fully recyclable packaging. A second £10m phase, including a small factory extension, which will house a new custard-making plant, is now underway.

The increased efficiency delivered by the investments, frees up significant capacity elsewhere on site to support growing consumer demand for Ambrosia porridge pots. Furthering the goals of Premier Foods' Enriching Life Plan, the new high-speed process will also reduce energy use by 50% compared to traditional cooking methods and move its custard and rice pudding pots to recyclable packaging.

The Lifton site has been part of the local community since 1917, currently employing more than 320 people and producing 65 million kilograms of custard and rice pudding each year, using over 50 million litres of milk from West country farms. The site is home to over a dozen apprentices, alongside more than 70 employees with over 25 years' service – including local families with up to four generations working as part of the team. Colleagues from the site also support local good causes working on inclusion, skills development and local environmental quality.

# East Midlands



All figures use the latest available data  
 2025: Business  
 2024: Employment, Exports  
 2023: GVA

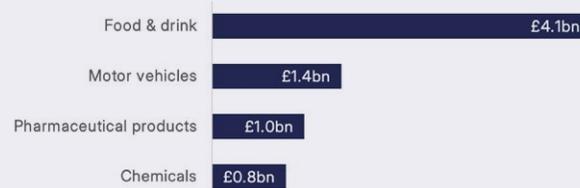
## F&D manufacturing accounts for:

**19.9%** of total manufacturing GVA  
**23.1%** of total manufacturing turnover

## The region delivers:

**11.1%** of total F&D manufacturing GVA  
**9.9%** of total F&D manufacturing turnover

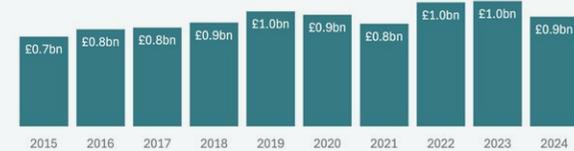
### Top manufacturing sectors in the region



### Top markets by value:



### Export values over the years



**£0.9bn** of exports  
**3.7%** of total F&D exports

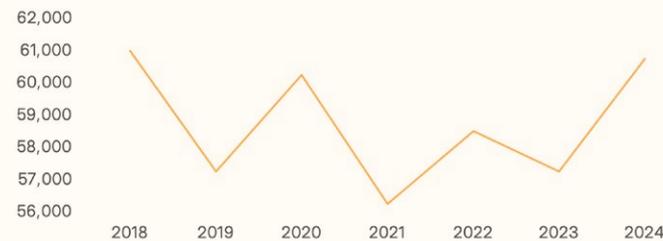
## Food & drink manufacturing makes up:

**22.7%** of total manufacturing employment  
**2.8%** of total employment

## Top sectors by employment:

Meat **13,000**  
 Other foods **11,000**  
 Bakery goods **10,500**  
 Fruit & veg processing **5,015**  
 Prepared meals **4,500**

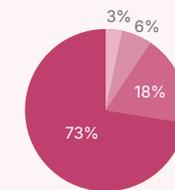
We added **4,500** jobs since 2021



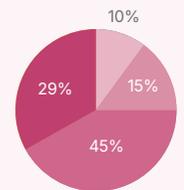
## Top sectors by # of businesses:

Bakery goods **200**  
 Other foods **95**  
 Beer **90**  
 Meat **65**  
 Fruit & veg processing **35**

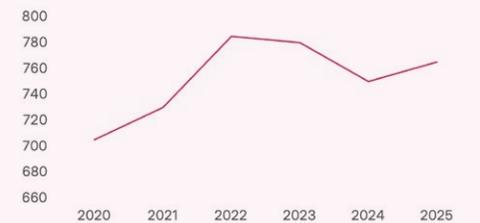
## % of businesses by employment:



## % of businesses by turnover:



Number of businesses grew **8.5%** between 2020 and 2025



## East Midlands

The East Midlands food and drink manufacturing sector contributes £4.1bn to the UK economy. Industry giants like Weetabix and Müller drive innovation, while PepsiCo's Walkers, founded in Leicester in 1948, remains an iconic British brand. The East Midlands is also home to a thriving ecosystem of emerging manufacturers, including Eat Curious, based in Northamptonshire, which makes 100% plant-based products.

The region's food heritage is reflected in products like Stilton cheese, Melton Mowbray pork pies, and Bakewell tarts, securing its position in the UK's food landscape.

**Eat  
CURIOUS**



**Eat Curious is a Northamptonshire based manufacturer producing innovative plant based foods designed to encourage healthier, low-carbon eating.**

As the East Midlands regional finalist for FDF's MP's Choice Award, the company was recognised for combining sustainability with support for local economic growth.

Sustainability is embedded throughout operations: recyclable wholesale packaging reduces waste, and the manufacturing site is powered entirely by solar energy.

All their products are plant-based, free from the top 14 allergens and are rich in protein and fibre.

## East Midlands



**PepsiCo’s Walkers factory in Leicester, founded in 1948, is one of the world’s largest crisp factories, employing around 1,000 people.**

Since 2020, PepsiCo has invested over £140m in its UK manufacturing sites, including at its three sites in the Midlands - Leicester, Coventry and Lincoln. This investment focused on improving employee facilities for frontline workers, increasing capacity, continuing to grow UK exports and upgrading equipment to reduce carbon emissions.

In February 2026, PepsiCo announced a further £3.3m investment into a roof-mounted solar power system at its distribution centre in Leicester. In a UK first for PepsiCo, the project will see solar panels installed across 30,000 square metres of roof space – equivalent to around four football pitches. Once complete, the panels will generate the same amount of electricity needed to power the logistics centre.

Leicester is also home to one of PepsiCo’s 13 global R&D hubs, where products are reformulated and developed for the UK and international markets. Work at the Beaumont Park R&D facility has led to innovations such as non-HFSS Walkers Sensations and in 2024 Doritos, in which the amount of salt and saturated fat has been reduced by an average of 18% and 14% respectively.

## East Midlands



**Based in Northamptonshire since 1932, Weetabix Food Company is a key local employer, contributing to both the national and local economy while supporting community projects such as Magic Breakfast and Fareshare.**

Weetabix vision is the UK's best-selling cereal, packed with 100% wholegrain and fortified with vitamins and iron. The Weetabix food company is home to a family of brands that include the iconic Weetabix, Weetabix Crispy Minis, Alpen, Ready Brek, and Weetos.

The company produces 70 million Weetabix biscuits a week at its Northamptonshire mills. Weetabix products are found in over a third of British homes and are exported to over 80 countries. Through the Wheat Protocol, Weetabix sources its Weetabix wheat from farms within 50 miles of its mills, working closely with its Growers Group, who share the company's commitment to sustainability. Sustainability is central to its strategy, and 2025 was a milestone year in which they have had their ambitious Net-Zero targets validated by the Science Based Targets initiative. 6 farms have been involved in field trials to reduce nitrogen use and improve efficiency – this was an FDF award winning initiative.

## Powering communities across every region



### YORK: Free breakfast cereal initiative

In May 2024, Nestlé and Arla pledged the equivalent of 1.25 million breakfasts to FareShare, the food charity, to support families and communities across the UK. Under the partnership, Nestlé provides cereals to community organisations and has worked with FareShare since 2005 to redistribute surplus food. In 2023 alone, Nestlé helped provide 220,000 meals through more than 2,500 charities nationwide.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### PONTEFRACT & CASTLEFORD: Supporting Martin House hospice

HARIBO has partnered with Martin House for 18 years, a hospice that supports children and young people with life limiting conditions across Yorkshire. In 24/25, HARIBO backed THE BUILD campaign, helping raise £2m to redevelop the hospice. HARIBO colleagues took part in fundraising events, and the company also supported Martin House with communications and media engagement, generating local awareness.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### COLEFORD, UXBRIDGE, DUBLIN: Together for Good community fund

Suntory Beverage & Food GB&I (SBF GB&I) launched its "Together for Good: SBF GB&I Community Fund" in 2026 to support community-based projects near its sites in Uxbridge and Dublin, and factory in the Forest of Dean. Up to £2.5m will be committed across the UK and Ireland by 2030, beginning with £250,000 this year. Under the programme, a match funding model offers up to £10,000 per project, with a focus on supporting public spaces, community wellbeing and essential services.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### BILLINGHAM: Expanding access to cricket

KP Snacks has installed 112 all weather community cricket pitches across England and Wales through its Everyone In initiative, delivered in partnership with The Hundred. Launched in 2022, the free to use pitches are expanding access to grassroots cricket, particularly in areas previously underserved by the sport. The programme supports KP Snacks' ambition to create one million opportunities for people to get more active by 2033.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### EASTFIELD: Providing essentials through the Community Shop

Funded by McCain Foods, the Eastfield Community Shop has delivered more than £2.3m in product donations since 2023. The shop offers surplus food and household goods at low prices, alongside a Community Kitchen where children eat free daily. More than 7,300 people have been supported, 20,000 free kids' meals served, and 1,600 residents engaged in skills programmes through the Community Hub.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### ST. ALBANS: Tackling food insecurity with FareShare

Premier Foods has been in a long-term partnership with FareShare to help reduce food insecurity. In 2022, Premier Foods and FareShare entered a 5-year agreement which helps reduce and redirect food waste. This partnership forms part of Premier Foods' efforts of donating 1 million meals and providing 1,000 volunteering days annually.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



## A Whole Systems Approach to Community Health

With food and drink manufacturers in every local authority across the UK, our industry plays an important role in supporting the health of our people and communities. Our members have a proud history of working with partner organisations to support communities, as well as delivering extensive workplace health initiatives.

We believe there is a real opportunity to build the reach and impact of existing programmes through a Whole Systems Approach, to contribute to national goals to reduce working-age ill health, improve economic participation, and support healthier, more resilient communities.

The FDF worked with Leeds Beckett University and Morelife to develop a pilot programme which explores opportunities for companies to work with local partners to elevate initiatives in communities surrounding their factory sites.

Initial insights from the pilots found that employers were already delivering a range of activities including:

- Mental health and wellbeing support
- Occupational health and safety programmes
- Skills, training and apprenticeships
- Community volunteering and social value initiatives



**Across the seven pilot sites, more than £35m in annual proxy social value was identified<sup>1</sup>**

Through the pilots, companies were supported to build connections with local stakeholders including public health teams and local authorities to consider opportunities to align on shared goals and connect resources. Early insights from the pilots have found positive developments including:

- Increased participation in wellbeing activities
- Improved engagement scores
- Reduced short-term absence in some sites
- More collaboration with Integrated Care Systems and local authorities
- Better understanding between employers and public-health teams

These initial findings demonstrate our industry has significant untapped potential to become a national delivery partner for government ambitions on prevention, inclusive growth and good work.



<sup>1</sup>Proxy social value estimates were calculated using established UK methodologies, including the HACT Social Value Bank, National TOMs and the Government Social Value Model

## A Whole Systems Approach to Community Health



### BIRMINGHAM: Mondelēz International

Since its creation in 2011, Mondelēz International’s award-winning Health for Life programme has helped over 266,000 children and adults in Birmingham to live healthier lifestyles by learning how to grow their own food, and engage in physical activity, healthy eating, and cookery. To date, they’ve invested over £5.2m in this programme, while over 1,400 colleagues have volunteered to support food growing spaces.

The pilot with Mondelēz mapped and evaluated its social and economic impact across existing initiatives including workforce wellbeing, volunteering activity, and its Health for Life™ programme within a single structured evidence framework. Internally, the process strengthened alignment between HR, CSR, and site leadership. Externally, it reinforced engagement with Birmingham City Council public health and food system priorities. The outcome was clearer evidence, stronger alignment, and a more coherent account of the Bournville site’s contribution as a local anchor institution.



### HELLABY: KP Snacks

The pilot consolidated existing People & Planet wellbeing activity, including NHS health checks, mental health support sessions and workplace physical activity initiatives delivered with local partners. Site data indicated improved retention and increased participation in wellbeing initiatives. Workshops also highlighted inconsistent awareness of available support among shift-based staff.

The pilot clarified strengths and gaps, strengthened dialogue with local authority and health partners, and established a clearer baseline from which workforce engagement and measurement can be improved.



### WAKEFIELD: Haribo

As a result of engagement with the pilot, HARIBO have made a number of changes within their business to promote employee health and wellbeing. This includes onsite interventions including changing their canteen suppliers, physio access and off-site engagement such as community focused partnerships.

For example, in March 2025 to mark the UN International Day of Happiness, HARIBO announced the start of a new partnership with The Together Project to bring its Songs & Smiles Programme aiming to combat loneliness in the local community. Songs & Smiles is a weekly intergenerational music group held in local care homes, where singing and playing together helps forge friendships between older people, parents and guardians, and their little ones. With HARIBO’s support, new sessions were set up in West Yorkshire care homes that were nominated by HARIBO colleagues.



### BARNSELY: Premier Foods

The pilot structured existing initiatives under the Live Well, Work Well strategy, including on-site health checks, flu vaccination programmes and mental health first aid training. The process improved cross-functional visibility and clarified how workforce health initiatives align with Barnsley’s local public health priorities.

Internal feedback pointed to improved wellbeing survey scores and greater organisational understanding of impact, alongside recognition of data gaps. The pilot strengthened oversight and measurement, providing a clearer platform for sustained workforce health investment.

## MP'S CHOICE

## Food and Drink Manufacturer of the Year



The MP's Choice – Food and Drink Manufacturer of the Year Award is a celebration of the extraordinary small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that make up 97% of the UK's food and drink manufacturing sector.

Across every corner of our nation, at the centre of towns and villages, these remarkable businesses are the backbone of our industry and fuel local economies.

This industry is far more than just products on shelves; it is about people – the passionate entrepreneurs and skilled workers who create the safe, nutritious, and affordable food and drink we enjoy every day.

We invited Members of Parliament to nominate outstanding SME food and drink manufacturers in their constituency, shining a spotlight on the local businesses shaping the future of the UK food and drink sector.

Interested in recognising an outstanding local business in your community? Entries for the 2026 MP's Choice Awards open again this summer. Find out more at [fdf.org.uk/MPsChoice](https://fdf.org.uk/MPsChoice)

### Congratulations to all our 2025 regional finalists

East Midlands - Eat Curious

East of England - The Cambridge Oven

London - PLAYin CHOC

North East - Fentiman's

North West - Dodgshons Bakery Ltd

Northern Ireland - Cooper Family Butcher's

Scotland - Paisley Pie Company

South East - ChalkStream **WINNER**

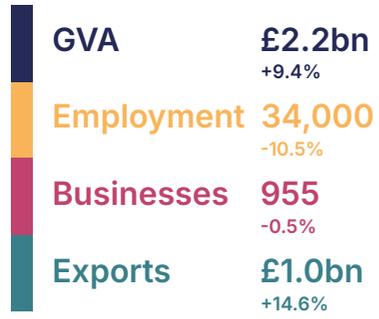
South West - Philip Warren Butchers

Wales - Hive Mind Mead

West Midlands - Bridge Cheese

Yorkshire and the Humber -  
Yorkshire Pecorino Cheese

# West Midlands

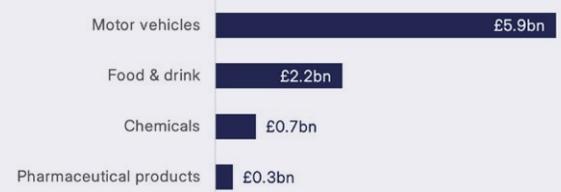


All figures use the latest available data  
 2025: Business  
 2024: Employment, Exports  
 2023: GVA

**F&D manufacturing accounts for:**  
**8.9%** of total manufacturing GVA  
**12.2%** of total manufacturing turnover

**The region delivers:**  
**5.8%** of total F&D manufacturing GVA  
**7.7%** of total F&D manufacturing turnover

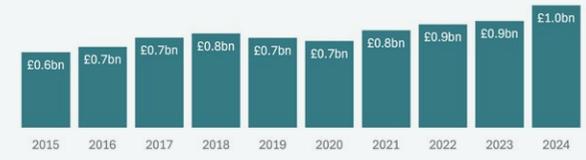
### Top manufacturing sectors in the region



### Top markets by value:



### Export values over the years



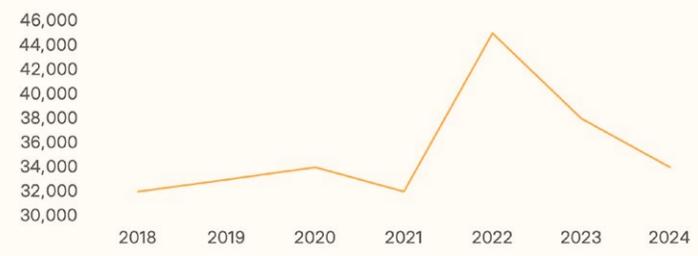
**£1.0bn** of exports

**4.1%** of total F&D exports

Food & drink **manufacturing** makes up:  
**14.8%** of total manufacturing employment  
**1.3%** of total employment

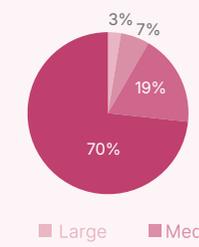
**Top sectors by employment:**  
 Meat **11,250**  
 Bakery goods **5,300**  
 Beer **3,000**  
 Milk & cream **1,750**  
 Prepared meals **1,750**

We added **2,000** jobs since 2018

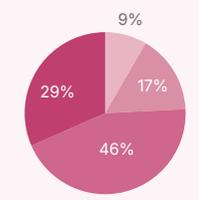


**Top sectors by # of businesses:**  
 Bakery goods **250**  
 Meat **140**  
 Other foods **115**  
 Beer **95**  
 Spirits **55**

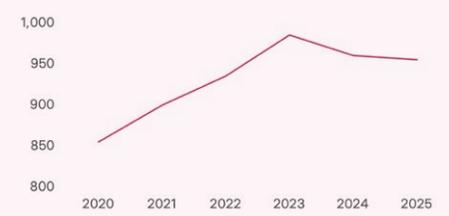
**% of businesses by employment:**



**% of businesses by turnover:**



Number of businesses grew **11.7%** between 2020 and 2025



## West Midlands

The West Midlands' £2.2bn food industry is anchored by snacks and beverages. Mondelez International is key industry player, with Bournville remaining a global R&D hub for chocolate. Telford-based Bridge Cheese, an SME set up in 2017, have harnessed technological innovation to boost their manufacturing capacity.

The region's food heritage includes Cadbury's Dairy Milk and the Balti, while ongoing investments in sustainable production and skills training to ensure continued growth.



**Bridge Cheese is a Telford based dairy manufacturer producing a wide range of cheese products.**

The company was the West Midlands' regional finalist for FDF's MP's Choice Award, with their entry highlighting how food and drink SMEs can combine technological innovation, sustainability, and strong community engagement to build a thriving business.

The business plays an active role in the local community, supporting care experienced young people through the Care Leavers' Covenant and a local Virtual School. It provides equipment donations, careers talks, work experience opportunities, and interview support, while maintaining a strong apprenticeship programme. The company also contributes to local initiatives, including sports sponsorship and fundraising for a major local health charity.

They have modernised their processes through a new Enterprise Resource Planning system, enabling real time monitoring and improved efficiency, and are now using AI tools to strengthen forecasting, logistics, production planning, and stock management.

## West Midlands



### **Mondelēz International contributes nearly £1bn in Gross Value Added to the UK economy each year.**

In 2025, the company opened its brand new £3.3m Consumer Research Centre, located in its existing Global Centre of Excellence for Chocolate Research and Development in Bournville. This new facility supports nearly 50 new local jobs, and plays a leading role in sensory and consumer research.

The UK is home to the largest Research and Development workforce anywhere within Mondelēz International globally. Over 750 personnel including food scientists, engineers and nutritionists split across two sites, supporting local and global product development, ingredient science and packaging innovation.

The company supports over 100 apprentices, interns and graduates in the UK through its early careers programme, and has partnerships to support future talent pipelines.

Mondelēz International recently announced that its entire Belvita Soft Bakes range is now non-HFSS, building on previous innovations including Cadbury Brunch Light and Oreo No Added Sugar. The business also continues to promote responsible consumption and portion control through its Be Treatwise and Mindful Snacking consumer education initiatives. To support sustainability, in 2025, over 300 million Cadbury sharing bars in the UK and Ireland transitioned to 80% recycled plastic.

Last year the Cadbury Foundation celebrated its 90th anniversary, while its Your Charity Your Choice programme reached a significant milestone, with over £1m donated to support local communities since its inception.

# Yorkshire & the Humber

- GVA** £4.1bn +12.9%
- Employment** 61,500 -8.2%
- Businesses** 985 -1.0%
- Exports** £1.3bn +9.5%

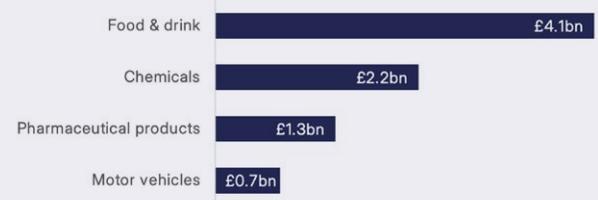


All figures use the latest available data  
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**The region delivers:**  
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 13.2% of total F&D manufacturing turnover

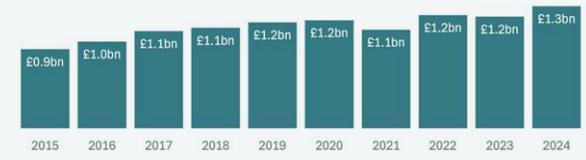
### Top manufacturing sectors in the region



### Top markets by value:



### Export values over the years



**£1.3bn** of exports

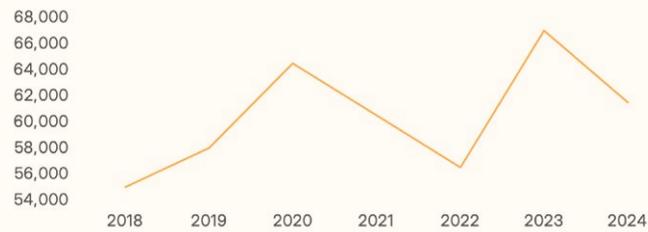
**5.5%** of total F&D exports

Food & drink **manufacturing** makes up:  
 25.8% of total manufacturing employment  
 2.5% of total employment

**Top sectors by employment:**

- Meat 16,250
- Bakery goods 14,250
- Other foods 5,000
- Fish 4,000
- Sugar confectionery 2,500

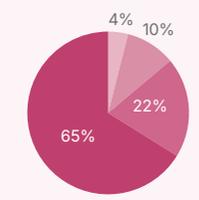
We added **6,500** jobs since 2018



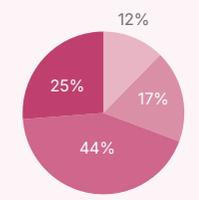
**Top sectors by # of businesses:**

- Bakery goods 250
- Beer 125
- Other foods 100
- Meat 90
- Fruit & veg processing 40

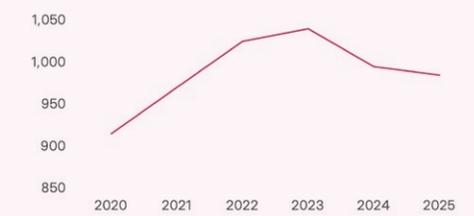
% of businesses by **employment:**



% of businesses by **turnover:**



Number of businesses grew **7.7%** between 2020 and 2025



## Yorkshire & the Humber

Yorkshire's £4.1bn food sector is home to major firms like Nestlé and HARIBO. Smaller manufacturers are also invaluable in contributing to Yorkshire's culinary offering, including Yorkshire Pecorino, an artisan cheese maker that sources milk from local farms.

HARIBO's Pontefract and Castleford sites continue the region's confectionery tradition, dating back to Pontefract cakes in 1767. Yorkshire Pudding, Wensleydale cheese, and parkin showcase the area's culinary legacy.

### YORKSHIRE PECORINO — CHEESE LTD —



**Yorkshire Pecorino is an artisan cheese producer, creating a unique range of cheeses using sustainably sourced ewe's milk from farms as close as 12 miles away.**

Yorkshire Pecorino are dedicated to supporting local farmers and the local community.

The company was the Yorkshire and Humber's regional finalist in FDF's MP Choice Award, having grown from a small dairy in Adel to a brand with significant following.

From starting with their classic Pecorino Fresco, they have worked hard to create a whole range of cheeses. These include Leeds Blue Pecorino, Yorkshire Ricotta, the (locally named) Chevin Goat and the latest Ewemi grilling Yorkshire Pecorino.

## Yorkshire & the Humber

# HARIBO



**HARIBO is the UK's leading sweets manufacturer and one of Yorkshire's largest employers, operating two production sites in Pontefract and Castleford.**

It employs 600 skilled staff across these sites, with an additional 120 colleagues in 13 retail stores across the UK.

In 2026, HARIBO is set to open its new purpose-built warehouse in Castleford, a facility that will manage increased volumes and demand. Alongside an additional production and packaging line, the new warehouse represents an investment of £35 million into HARIBO's West Yorkshire facility. Since 2015, their total investments in its two West Yorkshire sites have totalled in excess of £150 million, a clear demonstration of HARIBO's commitment to the region and to upholding the county's proud sweet-making heritage.

In 2025, HARIBO launched the best-selling NPD, Nostalgix, a mix of soft jelly sweets inspired by classic hard-boiled sweets.

As a responsible manufacturer, HARIBO has invested millions in sugar reduction. Starmix and Tangfastics sweets contain 23% and 18% less sugar than similar brands. And with five products currently in its sugar-reduced range, HARIBO is the UK's leading manufacturer of reduced-sugar sweets.

Last year, HARIBO launched a new partnership with The Together Project, to bring the organisation's Songs & Smiles sessions to West Yorkshire for the first time.

HARIBO UK exports to Europe and North America, including the Netherlands, Belgium and the Republic of Ireland.

## Yorkshire & the Humber



**The Nestlé York site manufactures some of the UK's best known confectionery brands including Aero, KitKat, Polo and Yorkie.**

The campus operates a 24/7, 364 days a year factory, alongside the company's UK head office, a distribution centre for the north of the UK, a Cereal Partners Worldwide Research & Development Centre, and the Nestlé Product Technology Centre (NPTC). York is also a global Centre of Excellence for Nestlé's confectionery research and development activity.

Exports of Nestlé products made in York reach more than 40 countries worldwide, whilst Nestlé products are sold in over 121,000 retail locations across the UK.

Over the last decade, Nestlé has invested more than £800m into its people and operations across the UK, with more than £85m invested at its York site to improve manufacturing efficiency and future-proof the business for long-term growth. Last year, Nestlé invested £5.2m into upgrades to improve efficiency and modernise facilities at its on-site distribution centre - one of three that it operates across the country. It is also transforming its logistics network fleet to become fully run on electricity or low-carbon alternative fuels.

Across the UK, Nestlé directly employs over 7000 people, 2,000 of whom are based at the Nestlé York site and is the largest private employer in the city of York - with 58% of employees living within a 5-mile radius of the site. The site also provides early career opportunities for more than 75 apprentices, graduates and placement students.

# North East



All figures use the latest available data  
 2025: Business  
 2024: Employment, Exports  
 2023: GVA

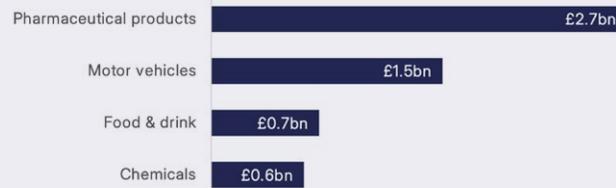
## F&D manufacturing accounts for:

**7.2%** of total manufacturing GVA  
**7.9%** of total manufacturing turnover

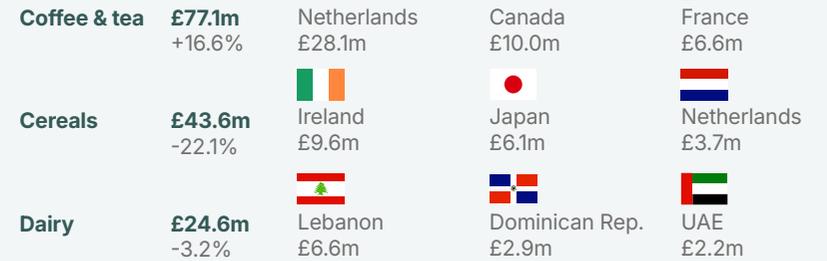
## The region delivers:

**1.9%** of total F&D manufacturing GVA  
**1.8%** of total F&D manufacturing turnover

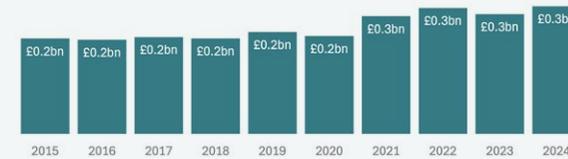
### Top manufacturing sectors in the region



### Top markets by value:



### Export values over the years



**£0.3bn** of exports  
**1.3%** of total F&D exports

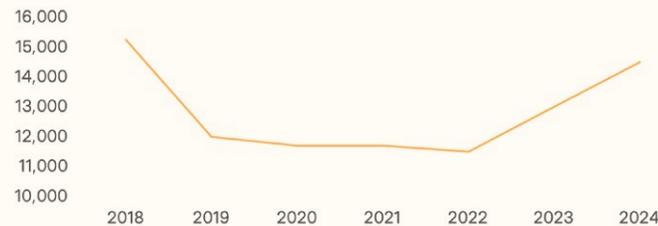
## Food & drink manufacturing makes up:

**12.1%** of total manufacturing employment  
**1.3%** of total employment

## Top sectors by employment:

Bakery goods	3,000
Meat	1,500
Tea	1,000
Other foods	1,000
Potatoes	800

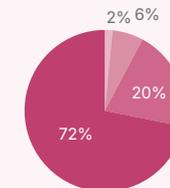
We added **3,000** jobs since 2022



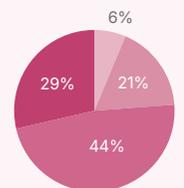
## Top sectors by # of businesses:

Bakery goods	80
Beer	50
Meat	30
Other foods	30
Spirits	20

## % of businesses by employment:



## % of businesses by turnover:



Number of businesses grew **1.6%** between 2020 and 2025



## North East

With a £700m GVA, the North East specialises in seafood, brewing, and baked goods. Major employers like Greggs and Quorn balance tradition with innovation, while KP Snacks' Billingham site produces nearly 1 billion packets of crisps annually, demonstrating the region's expertise in crisp production.

Local staples like stottie cake and pease pudding reflect its rich food heritage.

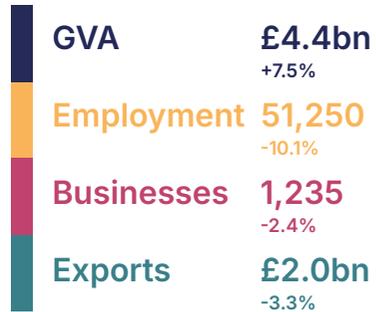


**KP Snacks' Teesside site in Billingham is the proud home of several iconic brands, including McCoy's, Pom Bear, Hula Hoops Puft and Discos.**

Opened in 1969, the Billingham site is KP Snacks' largest manufacturing facility and today employs more than 700 colleagues. KP Snacks continues to invest in the site, increasing production capacity, enhancing efficiency and quality, and improving workplace environments for its people.

The site has a rich history in snack production. It made its first Hula Hoops in 1971 before production moved to Ashby in 1982. McCoy's manufacturing began in 1985, and in 1989 the site expanded again to accommodate additional snack brands such as Frisps and Discos. A further major expansion in 2014 enabled in house pellet production, allowing the site to manufacture Pom Bear and Hula Hoops Puft.

# North West

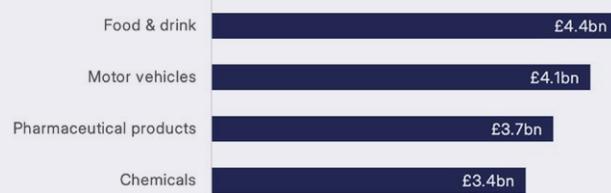


All figures use the latest available data  
 2025: Business  
 2024: Employment, Exports  
 2023: GVA

**F&D manufacturing accounts for:**  
 13.9% of total manufacturing GVA  
 16.8% of total manufacturing turnover

**The region delivers:**  
 11.8% of total F&D manufacturing GVA  
 12.4% of total F&D manufacturing turnover

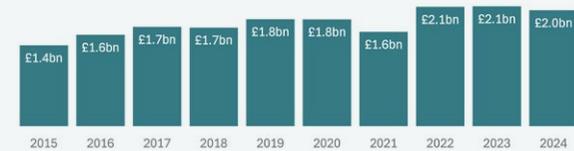
### Top manufacturing sectors in the region



### Top markets by value:



### Export values over the years



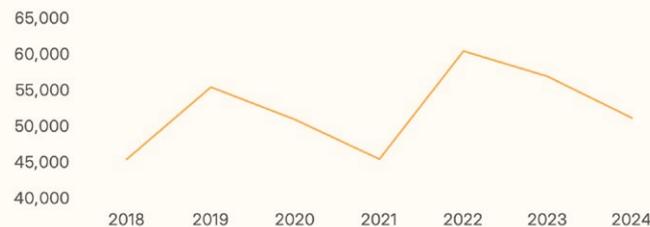
**£2.0bn** of exports  
 8.2% of total F&D exports

Food & drink **manufacturing** makes up:  
 18.4% of total manufacturing employment  
 1.4% of total employment

**Top sectors by employment:**

Bakery goods	19,000
Meat	6,750
Prepared meals	6,000
Other foods	3,000
Fruit & veg processing	2,515

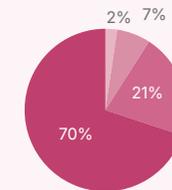
We added **5,750** jobs since 2021



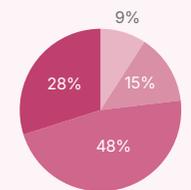
**Top sectors by # of businesses:**

Bakery goods	355
Meat	125
Other foods	115
Spirits	70
Ice cream	45

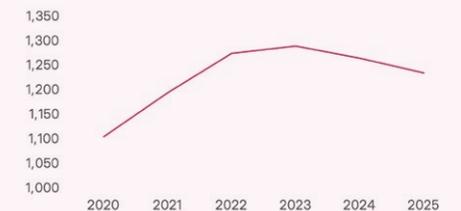
% of businesses by **employment:**



% of businesses by **turnover:**



Number of businesses grew **11.8%** between 2020 and 2025



## North West

The North West's £4.4bn food industry excels in dairy, bakery, and soft drinks. Home to major firms like Warburtons, the region has a strong legacy in food innovation.

Carr's, dating back to 1831, pioneered biscuit production at their Carlisle factory, and remains a market leader. Famous for Lancashire Hotpot and Eccles Cakes, the region continues to invest in research and development, ensuring its status as a key player in the UK food industry.



**Founded in 1831 by Master Baker Jonathan Dodgson (JD) Carr, Carr's is rooted in rich history and nearly 200 years of baking expertise.**

Now part of pladis — the global snacking company behind iconic UK brands including McVitie's, Carr's and Jacob's, the Carlisle factory proudly holds the title of the oldest biscuit factory in the world, a symbol of enduring tradition and unparalleled craftsmanship.

Purpose built over six years and opened in 1837, the factory quickly became a pioneer in the sector, producing both savoury and sweet biscuits and, in 1849, introducing the world's first biscuit cutting machine.

Today, pladis continues to bake the much loved Carr's Table Water Crackers at Carlisle, still using traditional brick ovens to achieve their signature thin, crisp texture. As part of his early marketing strategy, JD Carr supplied numerous expeditions with his Table Water biscuits, including the maiden voyage of the Titanic.

Today, the Carlisle site spans approximately 103,500 m<sup>2</sup> and employs over 850 permanent colleagues, with an average service length of 12.5 years. It produces around 246 products across 19 process lines, making roughly 80,000 tonnes of product each year.

# Scotland



All figures use the latest available data  
 2025: Business  
 2024: Employment, Exports  
 2023: GVA

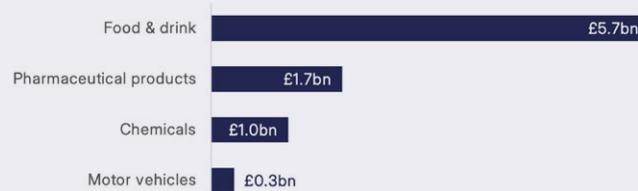
## F&D manufacturing accounts for:

**31.5%** of total manufacturing GVA  
**32.4%** of total manufacturing turnover

## The region delivers:

**15.4%** of total F&D manufacturing GVA  
**10.4%** of total F&D manufacturing turnover

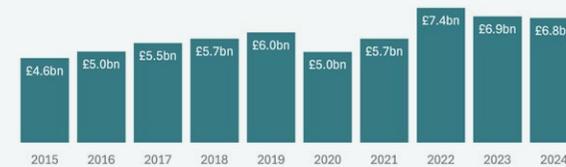
### Top manufacturing sectors in the region



### Top markets by value:



### Export values over the years



**£6.8bn** of exports  
**28.0%** of total F&D exports

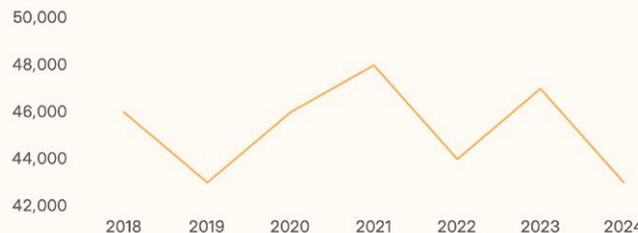
## Food & drink manufacturing makes up:

**26.0%** of total manufacturing employment  
**1.7%** of total employment

## Top sectors by employment:

Spirits	10,000
Bakery goods	9,500
Fish	6,000
Meat	4,800
Beer	2,000

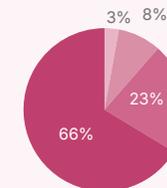
We have the same number of jobs as in 2019



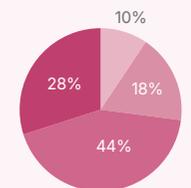
## Top sectors by # of businesses:

Bakery goods	300
Spirits	245
Fish	105
Beer	105
Meat	95

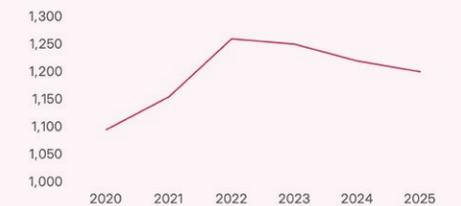
## % of businesses by employment:



## % of businesses by turnover:



Number of businesses grew **9.6%** between 2020 and 2025



## Scotland

Scotland's £5.7bn food and drink sector is renowned for whisky, dairy, and bakery products. Nestlé's Girvan factory produces chocolate crumb for KitKats and Yorkies, using locally sourced Ayrshire milk. Burgeoning manufacturers, including Paisley Pie Co. have played a role in bringing innovative products to customers, as well as supporting town regeneration in Paisley with a new shop.

Scotch whisky, Scottish seafood and treats like Scottish shortbread all contribute to the nation's strong export market, while investment in regenerative farming and sustainability secures its future as a leader in high-quality food production.



**Founded in 2023, Paisley Pie Co. has grown quickly from its original Bridge Street shop to a new deli-style premise on Causeyside Street, supported by council funding.**

The Scottish bakery has since rapidly expanded, having recently moved to a larger deli-style premise on Causeyside Street with the support of local council funding. The move has given the business a larger kitchen and space for around 30 customers.

As the Scottish regional finalist for FDF's MP Choice Award, Paisley Pie Co. are known for their creative pies. Their "Big Daddy Donner" pie gained significant online attention, helping raise their profile across Scotland. They regularly involve customers in flavour development, with ideas like a garlic mushroom pie coming directly from the community.

They have been expanding into wholesale and aiming to supply retailers such as Nisa. Using a local grant, the company renovated a long vacant unit, contributing to town centre regeneration. Their focus on local sourcing supports nearby suppliers, and their community involvement includes working with local organisations and events.

## Scotland



### **Nairn's celebrates its 130th anniversary of baking oatcakes in 2026.**

The business which started with John and Sarah Nairn in 1896 now employs over 240 people and exports to over 40 markets around the world. Baking great tasting healthy oat based snacks remains at the heart of the business, with oats the main ingredient in all products.

In 2025, Nairn's continued to grow and achieved £50m sales for the first time. These sales come from conventional and gluten free oat based products. Gluten free products are baked at a dedicated facility, which is critical to ensure product quality. The business remains focussed on improving existing products and developing new products informed by consumer insights to drive sustainable growth.

Nairn's continues to build for the long term. The team has been strengthened through recruitment, engagement and development. The business has invested in its plant to increase capacity and capability. Finally, Nairn's continues to foster closer links with local communities through working with schools and charitable support.

# Wales



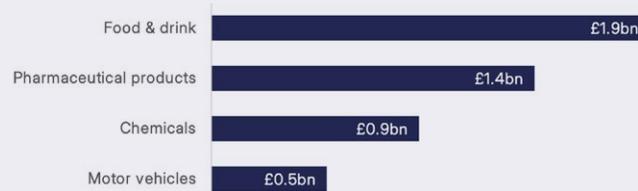
## F&D manufacturing accounts for:

**15.2%** of total manufacturing GVA  
**17.0%** of total manufacturing turnover

## The region delivers:

**5.2%** of total F&D manufacturing GVA  
**5.3%** of total F&D manufacturing turnover

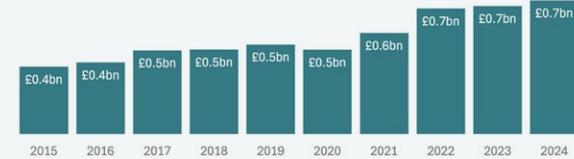
### Top manufacturing sectors in the region



### Top markets by value



### Export values over the years



**£0.7bn** of exports  
**3.0%** of total F&D exports



All figures use the latest available data  
 2025: Business  
 2024: Employment, Exports  
 2023: GVA

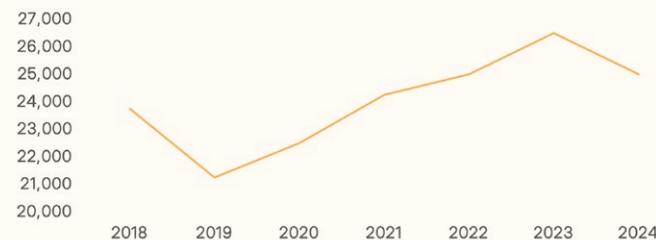
## Food & drink manufacturing makes up:

**19.9%** of total manufacturing employment  
**1.9%** of total employment

## Top sectors by employment:

Bakery goods	5,750
Meat	5,000
Prepared meals	4,000
Other foods	2,000
Breakfast cereals	1,500

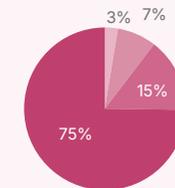
We added **3,750** jobs since 2019



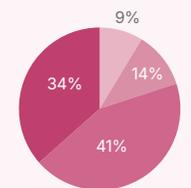
## Top sectors by # of businesses:

Bakery goods	150
Beer	80
Other foods	55
Meat	45
Spirits	35

## % of businesses by employment:

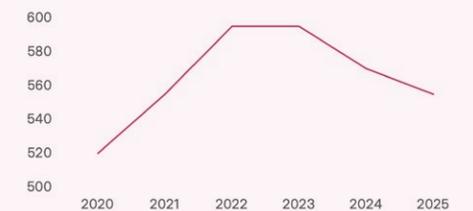


## % of businesses by turnover:



■ Large ■ Medium ■ Small ■ Micro

Number of businesses grew **6.7%** between 2020 and 2025



## Wales

Wales' £1.9bn food industry supports thousands of jobs, combining heritage with modern manufacturing.

The region is famous for Welsh Cakes, Bara Brith, and Welsh Lamb, while Kellanova's Wrexham factory, Europe's largest cereal site, recently received a £75m investment to drive innovation.



**In October 2024, Kellanova announced a major £75m investment in the Kellogg's factory in Wrexham, marking the biggest commitment to British cereal production in thirty years.**

Cornelius the cockerel, who has been a familiar face on Kellogg's Corn Flakes boxes since 1958, now stands proudly on site as 21ft-tall weathervane - a symbol of the company's long-term commitment to the region.

Work is well underway to transform the plant into Europe's largest cereal factory, which will produce 1.5 million boxes daily and secure continued UK production for Kellogg's iconic brands. The investment is not only about scale, but also about supporting the local community—creating at least 130 new jobs and advancing the careers of 350 current employees through upgraded training facilities and enhanced skill development.

Innovation and sustainability are central to Kellogg's strategy. Over the past thirteen years, the company has reduced sugar by 27%, salt by 22%, and increased fibre by 28% across its UK cereals. Recent launches, such as the high-fibre family cereal, Oaties, highlight ongoing product innovation.

Importantly, the investment in the Wrexham plant includes two advanced production lines using AI and machine learning to lower energy consumption and cut CO2 emissions from cereal production by 11% annually—the equivalent of planting 600,000 trees. This move positions Wrexham as a leader in sustainable food manufacturing, benefiting both the local community and the environment.

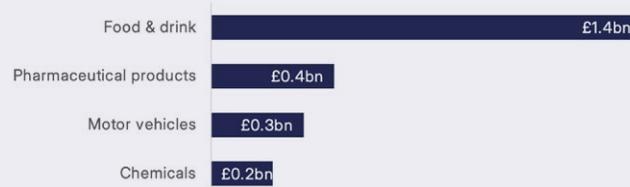
# Northern Ireland



**F&D manufacturing accounts for:**  
**21.7%** of total manufacturing GVA  
**35.1%** of total manufacturing turnover

**The region delivers:**  
**3.8%** of total F&D manufacturing GVA  
**5.4%** of total F&D manufacturing turnover

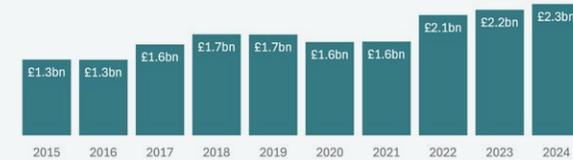
### Top manufacturing sectors in the region



### Top markets by value:



### Export values over the years

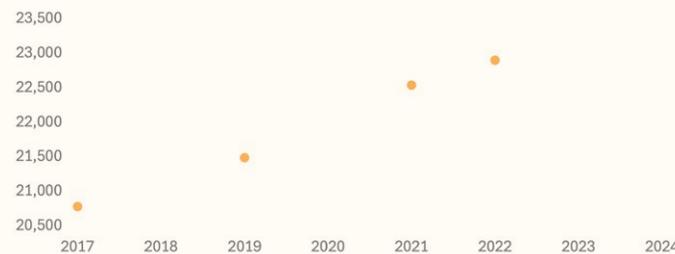


**£2.3bn** of exports  
**9.3%** of total F&D exports



Food & drink **manufacturing** makes up:  
**26.0%** of total manufacturing employment  
**2.9%** of total employment

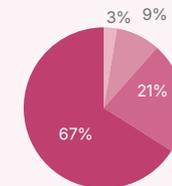
We added **2,119** jobs since 2017



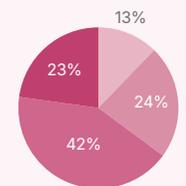
### Top sectors by # of businesses:



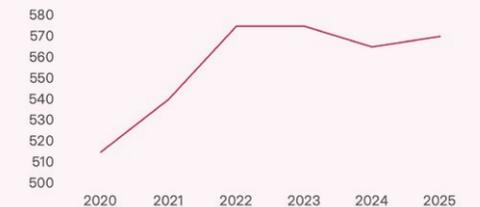
### % of businesses by employment:



### % of businesses by turnover:



Number of businesses grew **10.7%** between 2020 and 2025



All figures use the latest available data  
 2025: Business  
 2024: Employment, Exports  
 2023: GVA



# Ambition for growth

## POWERING PRODUCTIVITY

The UK's food and drink industry is our largest manufacturing sector. It contributes £42bn in gross value added (GVA), employs almost half a million people in good jobs and exciting careers, and underpins food security in every nation and region of the UK. With a strong presence in communities everywhere, the scale and reach of the sector makes it uniquely placed to drive economic and productivity growth.

By 2035, the United Kingdom will be recognised as the most dynamic and competitive place to start, grow and invest in Food and Drink Manufacturing.



Read the report  
at [fdf.org.uk](https://fdf.org.uk)



## Shaping the future of food and drink manufacturing

Our industry is at the heart of everyone's daily lives, providing nourishment and joy with a wide range of affordable and nutritious products for all. Join us in creating a secure, sustainable future for food and drink.

Find out more about our latest news and the work we do at [fdf.org.uk](https://www.fdf.org.uk)

