



## BRIEFING PAPER

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# Historic data on industries in the UK

By Chris Rhodes

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# 1. Introduction

The contribution of an industry to the economy can be measured in various ways, including the number of companies involved in that industry, their contribution to economic output, or the number of people they employ. This note focuses on economic output and employment.

It uses historic data from the ONS showing economic output of major sectors from 1970 to 2010.

## 1.1 Economic output

More recent data can be found in the Library note [Industries in the UK](#).

Data on the economic output of industries are produced by the ONS alongside [estimates of Gross Domestic Product](#) (GDP) and are available on a consistent basis back to 1990. These data are produced to internationally agreed standards and enable industries to be compared with one another and over time.

The economic output of part of the economy, such as an industry or a region can be measured and compared using Gross Value Added (GVA), a measure of economic activity that is similar to GDP. In brief, GVA is the contribution of part of the economy, minus any costs incurred.

## 1.2 Classifying industries

Different types of economic activity are grouped together to form industries such as retail or construction. For the purposes of analysis, these groupings are officially defined by the ONS to enable the classification of similar economic activity. The classification system is called the Standard Industrial Classification, and it is regularly updated to ensure that new types of economic activity are accurately represented and that the groupings make sense in the context of the modern economy. The most recent Standard Industrial Classification was published in 2007 (SIC 2007) and corresponds to internationally agreed standards that are used by the UN and EU. The ONS provides further [detailed information and guidance on using SIC 2007](#).

Data on industrial groupings for more specific types of economic activity is also available and is published as part of the [Annual Business Survey](#).

It should be noted that the way economic activity is classified can have a significant influence on the relative size of an industrial grouping. For example, the official sources combine the government, health, education and defence industries into one sector (a rough approximation of the public sector). If these sectors were grouped differently or on their own, their individual economic contribution would be a fraction of their combined contribution.

In London, only 2% of employees work in manufacturing, whilst 94% work in the services sector.

### 1.3 Industries in the UK since 1970

Assessing the contribution of industries over the last 40 years is complicated by changes to the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) – the system which organises different types of economic activity into categories such as ‘manufacturing’ or ‘construction’. SIC2007 is the most recent SIC and updates the SIC2003. Between the publication of SICs, various categories are created or removed and some activities are re-assigned to different categories so that the SIC more accurately reflects current economic activity. The SIC used in the UK corresponds to internationally agreed standards that are used by the UN and EU. The ONS provides further [detailed information and guidance on using SIC2007](#).

This appendix uses [ad hoc data produced by the ONS](#) (spreadsheet on *Historic GDP SIC 2003 basis*) which shows the value of the major industries in the UK between 1970 and 2010, according to the SIC2003 industrial definitions. These data show Gross Value Added (GVA) which is a measure of economic output used to show the total output of part of the economy, minus any costs incurred in production. The data presented below are not comparable to GVA data published in the rest of this note and in recent editions the ONS *Blue Book*.

On the SIC2003 basis in 2010 prices:

- The manufacturing industry was worth £162 billion in 1970 and £149 billion in 2010.
- The services industry was worth £280 billion in 1970 and just over £1 trillion in 2010.

As a % of total economic output:

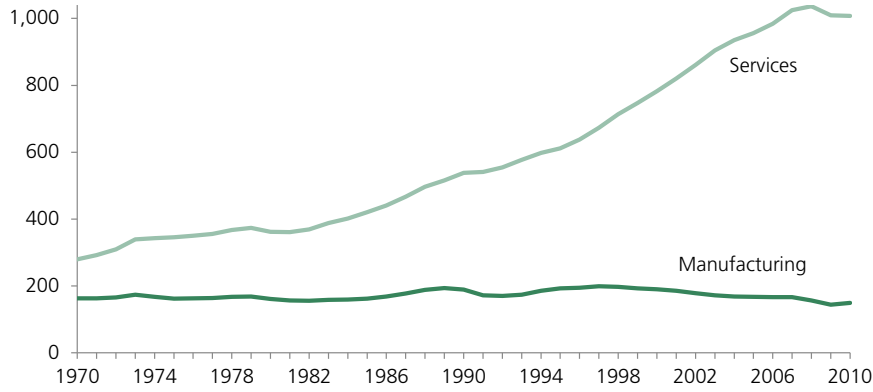
- The manufacturing industry accounted for 32% in 1970 and 11% in 2010.
- The service industry accounted for 55% in 1970 and 77% in 2010.
- The business services and finance industry (part of the services industry) accounted for 16% in 1970 and 33% in 2010.

To reiterate, when comparing industries in the 1970s and in more recent years, the data in this appendix should be used. When comparing different industries’ contribution to the economy in recent years, the best source is the data presented in the main part of this note.

## 5 Industries in the UK

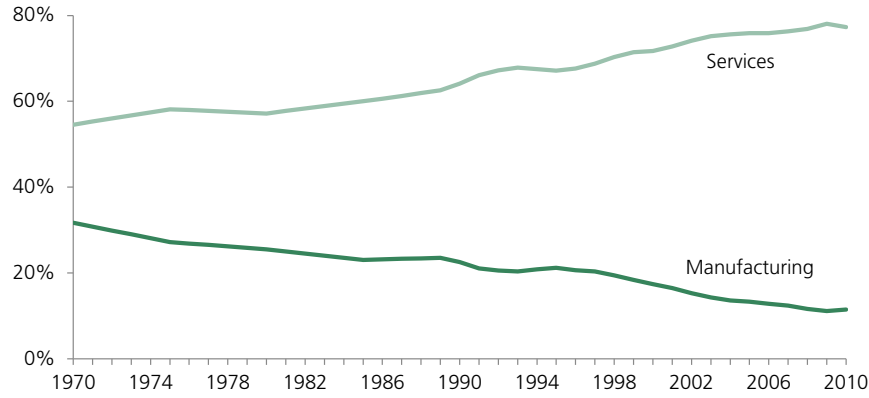
### Economic contribution of services and manufacturing

GVA, £ billions, 2010 prices, SIC2003



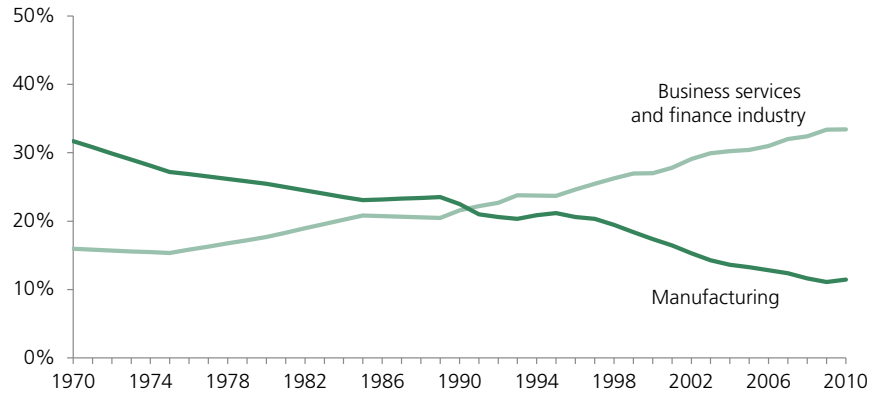
### % of total economic output

GVA, SIC2003



### % of total economic output

GVA, SIC2003



**Economic output by industry - Gross Value Added - SIC2003***£ billions - Current prices*

	Services		Manufacturing	Construction	Agriculture
	Business services & finance	Total services			
1970	7.5	25.7	14.9	2.9	1.4
1971	8.4	29.2	16.3	3.4	1.5
1972	9.4	33.4	17.8	3.9	1.7
1973	10.8	39.3	20.1	4.7	1.9
1974	12.2	45.5	22.3	5.5	2.2
1975	15.4	58.3	27.3	7.1	2.7
1976	18.6	68.2	31.6	8.1	3.1
1977	22.2	78.7	36.1	9.1	3.4
1978	26.4	90.7	41.2	10.2	3.7
1979	31.6	105.4	47.5	11.6	4.1
1980	37.7	121.9	54.3	13.0	4.5
1981	43.0	135.6	58.7	14.1	4.8
1982	48.3	148.7	62.5	15.0	5.0
1983	54.6	164.4	67.0	16.2	5.3
1984	60.3	177.5	70.3	17.1	5.4
1985	68.1	196.4	75.5	18.4	5.6
1986	72.5	212.0	81.0	20.8	6.2
1987	79.4	235.6	89.6	24.1	7.0
1988	88.3	265.7	100.4	28.4	8.0
1989	96.8	295.7	111.1	32.9	9.0
1990	110.9	329.8	115.8	34.2	9.3
1991	119.0	354.6	112.7	31.6	9.3
1992	126.4	374.6	114.8	30.5	9.8
1993	139.7	398.3	119.5	29.4	10.6
1994	147.2	418.6	129.3	31.0	10.9
1995	155.1	439.2	138.4	32.8	12.1
1996	171.8	472.2	144.0	35.0	11.8
1997	188.2	508.3	150.2	37.3	10.0
1998	205.3	549.8	152.0	39.7	9.2
1999	221.9	587.7	151.2	42.2	9.0
2000	233.4	619.8	150.0	45.6	8.5
2001	252.2	660.7	149.2	50.5	8.3
2002	278.2	709.1	146.3	54.7	9.0
2003	303.7	763.0	144.8	59.5	9.8
2004	323.8	809.6	145.7	66.0	10.7
2005	339.7	847.0	148.1	69.9	7.5
2006	366.9	897.8	151.5	74.6	7.8
2007	400.7	954.9	154.7	80.7	8.6
2008	420.0	995.8	150.3	80.8	9.7
2009	419.7	982.0	139.7	78.3	9.0
2010	435.9	1,008.1	149.3	84.2	9.3

Source: ONS, *Historic GDP data on an SIC2003 basis*

ONS series: QTQH, QTPZ, QTPI, QTPL, QTOP; House of Common Library calculations

HM Treasury: *GDP deflator*, accessed 30 April 2013

Note: Based on the 2003 Standard Industrial Classification

Not comparable to other GVA data published by the ONS in, for example, *The Blue Book*

## 7 Industries in the UK

### Economic output by industry - Gross Value Added - SIC2003

£ billions - 2010 prices

	Services		Manufacturing	Construction	Agriculture
	Business services & finance	Total services			
1970	81.7	279.5	162.4	31.9	14.8
1971	83.6	291.9	162.6	33.8	15.1
1972	86.6	309.0	165.0	36.3	15.6
1973	93.0	338.6	173.1	40.4	16.7
1974	92.1	342.2	167.5	41.3	16.5
1975	91.1	345.2	161.5	42.2	16.2
1976	95.5	350.0	162.2	41.7	15.8
1977	100.2	355.6	163.2	41.3	15.3
1978	106.8	367.1	166.9	41.4	15.1
1979	112.0	373.3	168.0	40.9	14.6
1980	111.8	361.3	161.0	38.4	13.4
1981	114.5	360.9	156.2	37.4	12.8
1982	119.9	369.0	155.1	37.3	12.4
1983	128.8	387.4	158.0	38.2	12.4
1984	136.3	401.2	158.9	38.6	12.2
1985	145.9	420.6	161.6	39.4	12.1
1986	150.6	440.3	168.3	43.2	12.8
1987	157.2	466.2	177.2	47.8	13.8
1988	164.9	496.3	187.5	53.0	14.8
1989	168.7	515.4	193.6	57.4	15.6
1990	181.1	538.5	189.1	55.9	15.2
1991	181.6	541.0	172.0	48.3	14.1
1992	186.9	554.0	169.8	45.1	14.5
1993	202.4	577.0	173.2	42.6	15.4
1994	210.4	598.1	184.8	44.3	15.6
1995	215.9	611.5	192.7	45.6	16.8
1996	232.1	637.8	194.5	47.3	16.0
1997	249.1	672.8	198.9	49.4	13.2
1998	266.3	713.2	197.2	51.5	12.0
1999	282.0	746.9	192.1	53.7	11.5
2000	294.6	782.4	189.4	57.6	10.8
2001	313.3	820.7	185.4	62.8	10.4
2002	337.8	861.1	177.7	66.4	10.9
2003	360.0	904.3	171.7	70.5	11.6
2004	374.1	935.4	168.3	76.3	12.3
2005	383.3	955.7	167.1	78.8	8.5
2006	402.3	984.5	166.1	81.8	8.5
2007	429.9	1,024.5	166.0	86.5	9.3
2008	437.3	1,036.8	156.5	84.1	10.1
2009	431.3	1,009.1	143.6	80.5	9.3
2010	435.9	1,008.1	149.3	84.2	9.3

Source: ONS, *Historic GDP data on an SIC2003 basis*

ONS series: QTQH, QTPZ, QTPI, QTPL, QTOP; House of Common Library calculations

HM Treasury: *GDP deflator*, accessed 30 April 2013

Note: Based on the 2003 Standard Industrial Classification

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**Economic output by industry - Gross Value Added - SIC2003***% of total economic output*

	Services		Manufacturing	Construction	Agriculture
	Business services & finance	Total services			
1970	16%	55%	32%	6%	3%
1971	16%	55%	31%	6%	3%
1972	16%	56%	30%	7%	3%
1973	16%	57%	29%	7%	3%
1974	15%	57%	28%	7%	3%
1975	15%	58%	27%	7%	3%
1976	16%	58%	27%	7%	3%
1977	16%	58%	27%	7%	2%
1978	17%	58%	26%	6%	2%
1979	17%	57%	26%	6%	2%
1980	18%	57%	25%	6%	2%
1981	18%	58%	25%	6%	2%
1982	19%	58%	25%	6%	2%
1983	20%	59%	24%	6%	2%
1984	20%	59%	24%	6%	2%
1985	21%	60%	23%	6%	2%
1986	21%	61%	23%	6%	2%
1987	21%	61%	23%	6%	2%
1988	21%	62%	23%	7%	2%
1989	20%	63%	24%	7%	2%
1990	22%	64%	23%	7%	2%
1991	22%	66%	21%	6%	2%
1992	23%	67%	21%	5%	2%
1993	24%	68%	20%	5%	2%
1994	24%	67%	21%	5%	2%
1995	24%	67%	21%	5%	2%
1996	25%	68%	21%	5%	2%
1997	25%	69%	20%	5%	1%
1998	26%	70%	19%	5%	1%
1999	27%	71%	18%	5%	1%
2000	27%	72%	17%	5%	1%
2001	28%	73%	16%	6%	1%
2002	29%	74%	15%	6%	1%
2003	30%	75%	14%	6%	1%
2004	30%	76%	14%	6%	1%
2005	30%	76%	13%	6%	1%
2006	31%	76%	13%	6%	1%
2007	32%	76%	12%	6%	1%
2008	32%	77%	12%	6%	1%
2009	33%	78%	11%	6%	1%
2010	33%	77%	11%	6%	1%

Source: ONS, *Historic GDP data on an SIC2003 basis*

ONS series: QTQH, QTPZ, QTPI, QTPL, QTOP; House of Common Library calculations

HM Treasury: *GDP deflator*, accessed 30 April 2013

Note: Based on the 2003 Standard Industrial Classification

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