

BRITISH MANUFACTURING BAROMETER

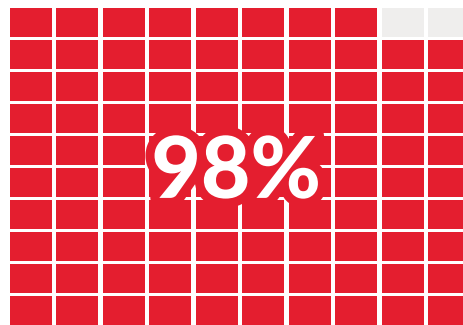
SEPT 2024

ENVIRONMENT & SOCIETY

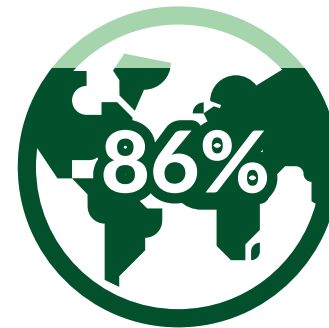


“ This edition highlights the sector’s commitment and value to the environment and society.

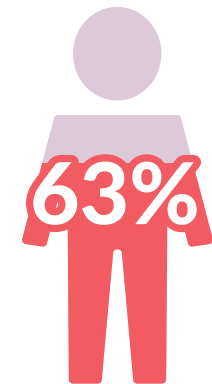
John Pearce, CEO, Made in Britain



98% of companies are doing at least one initiative to contribute to the Environment or Society



86% of companies are doing more Environment-related initiatives than they were 5 years ago



63% of companies are doing more Society-related initiatives than they were 5 years ago

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Welcome to the British Manufacturing Barometer, which captures and shares UK manufacturing companies' current views and voices, highlighting the sector's commitment and value to the environment and society. This builds on our report in June, that was focused on the [economy and industry](#), and revealed **more than 70%** of UK manufacturers expect revenue growth over the next year. This strong evidence of business confidence is a positive signal for professionals across industries and a significant benefit for the communities they support.

This report's findings include:

- **98% of companies are taking positive action related to the environment or society**
- **86% are doing more environment-related initiatives now than 5 years ago, such as waste reduction, sustainable sourcing and reducing energy**
- **Beyond the creation of jobs, 55% will do more to contribute to society over the next 12 months, including offering apprenticeships and training opportunities, as well as promoting employee health and wellbeing**
- **Reputation (76%), customer expectations (69%) and long-term cost reductions (49%) are amongst the main reasons for why companies are doing more**
- **There is scope to further grow the engagement of manufacturing companies with UK and international initiatives**

As a business-led, independent trade body, Made in Britain is committed to representing, promoting, and supporting UK manufacturers. This is underpinned by the

licensing of the official Made in Britain trademark, registered with the UK Intellectual Property Office across 30 product classes. With a growing membership of over 2,100 UK manufacturing companies—95% of which are SMEs—our community is an increasingly powerful and positive force.

The Barometer forms part of Made in Britain's commitment to an environmentally sustainable and socially responsible economy. It also complements our [Buying British](#) and [Export Surveys](#), which show that 8 in 10 UK companies recognise the Made in Britain trademark, and Europe remains as the most popular export market for UK manufacturers. Please contact us for more on any of those surveys.

While the data and insights in this Barometer come directly from Made in Britain companies, the findings offer a representative snapshot of the wider UK manufacturing sector. We thank all of the companies that input to this Barometer and, where they have agreed we may, their company is named on page 10.

As we continue to evolve this Barometer, we invite manufacturers, policymakers, journalists, academics and other stakeholders to collaborate with us on future editions. Your input is invaluable as we work together to advance the role of UK manufacturing sector. If you are reading this and want to know more, or may be interested to work with Made in Britain on future versions, please do get in touch with us.



John Pearce
CEO, Made in Britain
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“ Britain can lead the way in sustainable products, processes, sourcing and materials.

UK manufacturer in North Yorkshire

Results highlight UK manufacturing’s strong and growing commitment to environmental sustainability.

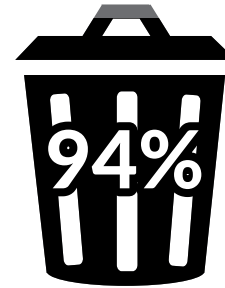
78% of Made in Britain companies have increased their environmental efforts this year compared to last, with the vast majority applying waste reduction practices. Further, 59% have adopted energy-efficient technologies and over half source sustainably.

Engagement in environmental accreditation programmes is lower, with 43% of companies participating, indicating potential for growth. Around a quarter have committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2025.

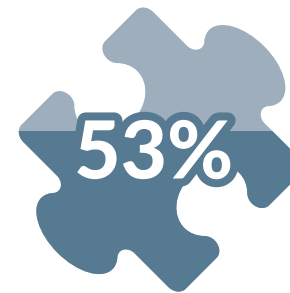
Over a longer time period, 86% of companies are doing now more than 5 years ago.

Definition:

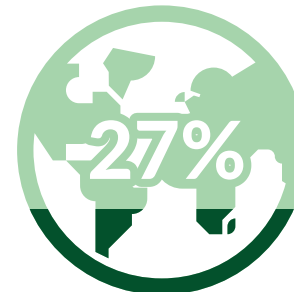
Environment refers to the natural world, encompassing all living and non-living things that occur naturally. In the context of Made in Britain, it involves the sustainable usage and management of natural resources and ecosystems, aiming to minimise negative impacts and enhance positive contributions to the environment.



94% have adopted waste reduction practices



53% source sustainable raw materials



27% have committed to net zero emissions by 2025

“ As a small manufacturing start-up it’s not possible to do everything you want to at once, but as we grow we are able to look more at ways in which we can make changes to contribute positively to society and our local community.

UK manufacturer in Nottinghamshire

UK manufacturers actively and increasingly contribute to society, locally and internationally. This in addition to creating and sustaining employment.

55% of companies expect to do more to benefit society over the next 12 months. Highlights include 76% promoting employee health and wellbeing and 61% enhancing diversity and inclusion, reflecting a commitment to a more equitable workplace.

Manufacturers also demonstrate a commitment to ethical labour practices, including the implementation of a modern slavery policy and support for fair trade. Further, they support the next generation of workers via youth employment and apprenticeship programmes.

Comparing now with 5 years ago, 63% of companies are doing more than they were.

Definition:

Society refers to the collective community of people, including their interactions, relationships, and the social structures within which they live. In the context of Made in Britain, it involves contributing to fairness, employment and skills, and the health, wellbeing, safety and security of staff employed by companies and within supply chains, as well as customers and local communities.



67% have implemented a modern slavery policy



59% support fair trade and ethical sourcing



49% have a youth employment and/or apprenticeship programme

“ As a medium-sized UK manufacturer, we find most of the information out there is based around larger business.

UK manufacturer in Birmingham

Customer expectations are the leading motivator for UK manufacturers adopting more sustainable practices, with 69% of respondents citing this. Regulatory requirements and staff morale are also significant factors, highlighted by 43% and 41% of manufacturers, respectively. However, securing public sector could be more of a motivator, as currently noted by only 27%.

The primary barriers to adopting sustainable practices include financial constraints, supply chain challenges, and inadequate infrastructure. To address these hurdles, manufacturers are seeking external support, with nearly half needing funding, 37% looking for advice, and 24% seeking partnerships to enhance their capabilities.

These findings indicate a shift towards sustainability driven by market demands and internal values, though financial and logistical challenges remain significant. Enhanced support mechanisms could help overcome these barriers, facilitating a smoother transition to sustainable practices essential for business resilience and competitiveness in the sector.

Why get involved?



What are the barriers?



What support is needed?

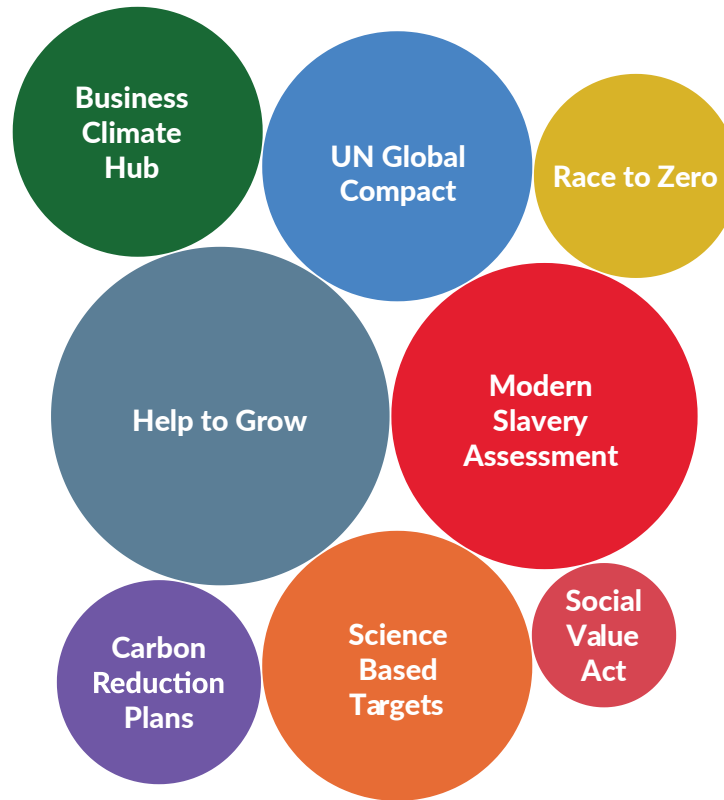


UK and International Policies

Made in Britain engages with a range of UK and international policies that promote and support companies' work attached to the environment and society. Through cooperation with Made in Britain, there is scope for the organisations behind those initiatives to get more UK manufacturing companies involved.

In order of awareness:

1. [Help to Grow](#)
2. [Modern Slavery Assessment](#)
3. [Science-Based Targets](#)
4. [UN Global Compact](#)
5. [Business Climate Hub](#)
6. [Race to Zero](#)
7. [Carbon Reduction Plans](#)
8. [Social Value Act](#)



A strong trend among UK manufacturers is seen towards increased engagement in environmental and social initiatives, with 78% enhancing their environmental efforts and 55% boosting social activities.

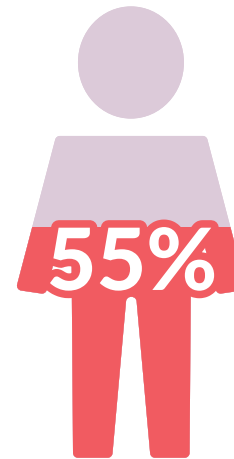
However, despite this commitment, there's a notable disparity in monitoring: only 6% of manufacturers were unsure about their environmental progress, compared to 18% for social activities, indicating better tracking of environmental initiatives.

This lack of clarity extends over the past five years, with manufacturers showing less certainty about the progress of social activities compared to environmental. To ensure comprehensive and effective sustainability practices, manufacturers need to want the tools and support to enhance the tracking and transparency of their social impacts.

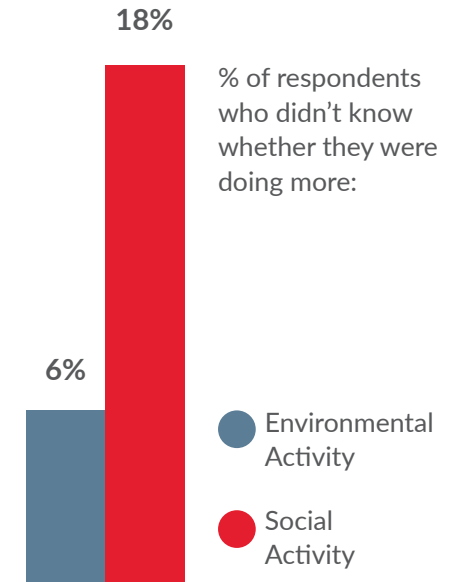
Made in Britain is responding to this with its Environmental & Social Value Assessment.



78% are likely to do more on the environment this year than last year



55% are likely to do more on society initiative this year than last year



A much higher percentage of companies aren't able to measure social activity compared to environmental activity

UK manufacturing companies' views and voices were gathered by Made in Britain, through an online survey.

The survey consisted of quantitative and qualitative questions.

The survey was shared by Made in Britain with all members, all of whom are UK manufacturing companies. The survey was issued by email and conducted during August 2024. It took an average of 5-10 minutes to complete.

Representative or other quotas were not applied by Made in Britain for this version of the Barometer.

Fuller information and data tables are available on request, via info@madeinbritain.org.



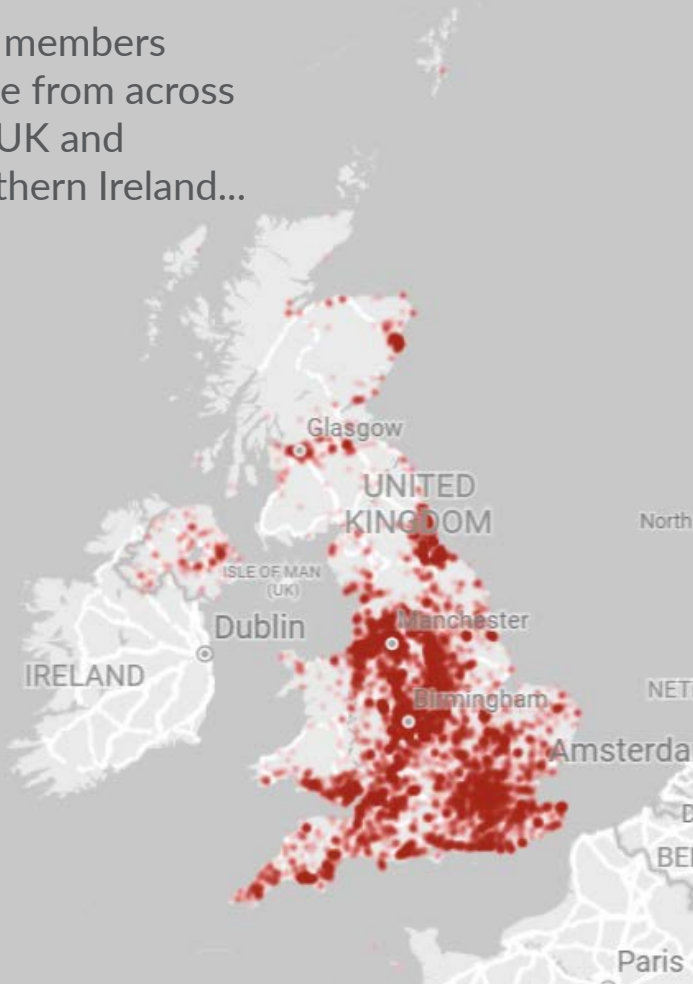
Views and Voices

Thank you to the companies that took the time to respond to the survey.
Where they have agreed those companies are listed below:



Made in Britain Today...

Our members
come from across
the UK and
Northern Ireland...



2,100
member UK
manufacturing
companies

5%
growth in
members over
the last 12
months

Companies
across all
four nations
of the UK

40+
sector
classifications

[Member directory >](#)

[Product directory >](#)



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