





## Government Officially Launches Industrial Strategy

Greg Clark officially launched the government's ambitious Industrial Strategy last month. With the aim of making the UK the world's most innovative nation by 2030, the government has committed to investing a further £725 million over the next 3 years in the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund to respond to some of the greatest global opportunities faced by the UK.

Please click <u>here</u> to read the Industrial Strategy White Paper and <u>here</u> to read the Black Country Chamber's reaction.

## British Chambers of Commerce, CBI and IoD United in Urging for Clarity





Please click **here** to read the full article.



## Currency Volatility Continues to Compound Cost Pressures for Many Businesses

UK industrial production is increasing more than expected and the trade deficit is narrowing, official figures showcased this month. In particular, production for the third quarter was estimated to have increased by 1.1% quarter-on-quarter, up from 1.0% as September's production was revised up from the 0.3% expansion pencilled in by the ONS in its preliminary estimate of GDP.

Please click **here** to read the full article.

## EY Regional Forecast Identifies West Midlands Strength

According to EY's UK Regional Economic Forecast, the West Midlands will see growth of 1.8% in its Gross Value Added (GVA) each year until 2020. The region's performance will be in line with UK average growth (1.8%) but is ahead of the East Midlands (1.7%), North West (1.5%) and Scotland (1.5%).



Please click **here** to read more.