

Made in Fife

Engineering strength and manufacturing excellence, powering global progress



Fife has long stood at the forefront of manufacturing and engineering in Scotland, recognised for its innovation, resilience and skilled workforce. The sector plays a pivotal role in both the regional economy and international markets. With a strong foundation of traditional expertise and a forward-looking approach to advanced technologies, Fife offers an ideal environment for growth, innovation and long-term investment.

From traditional fabrication to cutting-edge advanced manufacturing, businesses in Fife are shaping the future of industry. Names like **Normand and Thomson**, engineering specialists since 1905, exemplify the region's commitment to long-term workforce development and technical excellence. At the same time, world-renowned companies like **Raytheon** in Glenrothes, **Babcock** in Rosyth and **BAE Systems** at Hillend near the City of Dunfermline have put Fife on the map for advanced defence engineering, cementing its role in sectors that demand precision and innovation.

The region's manufacturing landscape is vast and varied. Companies here design, prototype, test, and deliver solutions that serve industries from oil and gas to advanced electronics. This diversity fuels a dynamic economy and attracts a wide range of talent and investment.

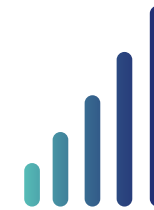
The City of **Dunfermline**, along with towns

like **Glenrothes, Kirkcaldy** and **Leven**, are key centres of industrial activity, offering modern facilities, strong transport links and access to a skilled workforce. With a unique combination of competitive commercial property rates and an outstanding quality of life, Fife provides an ideal base for both established industry leaders and ambitious innovators.

The region benefits from an experienced and adaptable workforce supported by robust educational pathways. **Fife College** plays a critical role in equipping students with practical, industry-ready skills, while the Kingdom's proximity to seven universities, including the **University of St Andrews** and the **University of Edinburgh**, creates valuable opportunities for research collaboration and talent development. This synergy between education and enterprise ensures that businesses in Fife have access to a steady pipeline of skilled professionals, from apprentices to advanced engineers.

Fife is actively engaged in a range of innovation and skills-focused initiatives. This includes engagement in the **Central Scotland Photonics and Quantum Accelerator (PQA)** and membership of the **Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre (IBioIC)**. These partnerships strengthen productivity, support low-carbon and advanced manufacturing processes, and enhance industry-academic collaboration across the region.

Manufacturing Sector Highlights



7.2% of Scottish manufacturing jobs were located in Fife



Total manufacturing turnover increased by **59.4%** between 2023 and 2024



Fife has the **third highest** number of people employed in manufacturing after Glasgow and Aberdeenshire



12.2% of total Scottish manufacturing turnover was generated in Fife, the highest proportion of all Scotland's local authorities. (Fife £6,107m – Scottish average £1,563m)

Investment opportunities in Fife's growing manufacturing sector

Advanced Manufacturing

Fife has a globally competitive advanced manufacturing sector spanning precision engineering, renewable energy technologies, electronics, food and drink production and defence supply chains. Rosyth is a key hub for defence and marine engineering, supporting major complex manufacturing activity. £5 million has been secured through the UK Government's Defence Growth Deal for the Arrol Gibb Innovation Campus, Rosyth, strengthening collaboration, innovation and supply chain capability within the Forth Green Freeport investment area.

Shipbuilding & Maritime Engineering

Rosyth and Methil are hubs of shipbuilding and maritime engineering, anchored by Babcock International's world-class facilities. Fife is renowned for complex shipbuilding, naval support, and marine innovation, supported by a skilled workforce in fabrication, logistics, and systems engineering. With deepwater access, modern port infrastructure, and robust supply chains, the region plays a vital role in Scotland's maritime economy and continues to attract investment in both defence and commercial vessel construction.

AI & Automation

Fife companies are harnessing AI and automation to optimise production, improve quality, and streamline supply chains. From robotics and predictive maintenance to smart manufacturing, businesses are driving efficiency and innovation. Collaboration with academia and industry networks ensures rapid adoption of new digital solutions and strengthens Fife's position in global markets.

Energy Transition

Fife is central to Scotland's offshore wind and energy transition, with fabrication yards in Methil and Burntisland and strong port infrastructure at Rosyth. As part of the **Forth Green Freeport** initiative supported by £13 million in seed funding – Fife plays a pivotal role in developing strategic tax and logistical sites at Rosyth and Burntisland, accelerating green growth, advanced manufacturing, and supply chain expansion.

Local companies deliver turbine towers, jackets, cabling, and specialist services across the supply chain, while emerging **floating offshore wind facilities** at Burntisland are being planned to pre-assemble and commission floating turbine foundations before deployment to deeper ScotWind sites. This capability supports net-zero ambitions, attracts investment, and cements Fife as a hub for renewable energy engineering and manufacturing.

Key Fife Facts



230,154
Working age population (16–64) 62%



£17.1bn
Total annual turnover of Fife businesses



9,485 businesses
supporting around 100,840 jobs



34,000
students at University of St Andrews and Fife College



£730 per week
Average earnings of people living in Fife



1 Million
workers within an hours drive

In good company



Fife

The place to do business

Looking to start, grow, or relocate a manufacturing business in Fife? InvestFife provides dedicated support to help businesses succeed, from investment and funding to strategic growth and development. In partnership with [Centre for Engineering, Education and Development \(CeeD\)](#), [Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service \(SMAS\)](#), Scottish Enterprise, Business Gateway Fife, Fife College, and the University of St Andrews, we deliver the Innovation Support Pathway and have launched the Fife Manufacturing Forum to engage local businesses, address challenges, and drive growth – making Fife the best place to do business.

With expertise in securing funding, identifying suitable sites, facilitating valuable connections, and utilising Fife's robust supply chain, InvestFife is committed to making Fife the premier destination for businesses to thrive and grow.



To find out how we can help you, contact:

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Disclaimer

The statistics and information presented in this prospectus have been compiled from our most recent sector analysis conducted in April 2025. All data was accurate to the best of our knowledge at the time of publication. Please note that figures may be subject to change as new information becomes available.

Fife

Connected, skilled & welcoming!

Connectivity to the rest of the world

Our transport links via road, rail and sea enable businesses of all types to use Fife as a base.

ROAD

Edinburgh	45 Minutes
Dundee	45 minutes
Stirling	55 Minutes
Perth	35 Minutes
Glasgow	1 hour

MOTORWAYS

South & west: M90, M8, M73, M74, M6, A1M & M1 North: M90

AIR

Airport connections from Edinburgh

20 direct UK destinations
87 International including US & Middle East
46 flights per day to London

RAIL

Main East Coast Rail link
Fife Circle – Edinburgh
Main West Coast Rail link
Freight links

PORTS

Rosyth Deep Water Port
Grangemouth Docks
Kirkcaldy
Methil
Burntisland

