

## Lesson 1.1 Your Industry



Welcome to the fashion and textiles sector. The aim of this lesson is to help you understand and develop your knowledge of the industry you work in, the departments or key areas of activity involved in sewn product manufacture, where your role sits within the production process and your responsibilities as a production sewing machinist.

The fashion and textiles sector is a significant driver of growth to the economy, creating jobs and opportunity across the UK and responding to growing demand for speed to market, convenience, flexibility and responding quickly to increasing interest from international consumers looking for high quality UK-made products. With the ever-growing demand for 'made in the UK' the fashion and textiles manufacturing industry is growing at a steady pace as indicated by the statistics below:

- Consumers spent **£74bn** on clothing, clothing accessories, household textiles and carpets in 2018. Clothing makes up the lion's share at £53bn up 47% in the last 10 years.
- There are **34,055** UK businesses engaged in production, distributing, or selling fashion or textiles in the UK over **8000** of these are manufacturers.
- The industry is dominated by small and micro businesses employing 9 people or less with a growing number of self-employed individuals.
- In 2019 The UK's fashion and textiles industry directly employed approximately **500,000** people, 413,000 in

retail jobs, **88,000** in manufacturing jobs and 62,000 in wholesale.

- The UK's fashion and textiles manufacturing sector produces **£9.1bn** worth of products ranging from designer creations seen on the leading catwalks to technical textiles used in medical, defense and transport industries.
- The UK exports **£9.7bn** worth of fashion and textiles around the world, up 66% in 10 years. Clothing exports have more than doubled in the last decade.

Source: UKFT Industry statistics compendium 2020 and UKFT Manifesto 2019

## Knowledge Challenge 1.1

1. In 2019 how many people were employed in UK fashion and textiles manufacturing jobs?
  - 75,000
  - 88,000
  - 190,000
  - 200,000



### Regional breakdown of the UK Fashion and Textiles Sector

The sector is widespread across the UK, with the densest concentrations of manufacturers in London, Northwest, Southeast and the Midlands and the most apparel and homeware businesses in London, East Midlands, Northwest.

The chart below shows the total fashion and textile employment in Great Britain by region for 2019. It indicates the importance of London towards employment in the sector, employment across the other regions, and the relatively small but equally important industries within the Northeast and Wales:



Source: Office for National Statistics, Business Register of Employment Survey, via NOMIS

## Knowledge Challenge 1.2

- Where are the three key areas in the UK where the most apparel and homeware manufacturing businesses are based?
  - West Midlands, Yorkshire and Wales
  - Scotland, London and Northeast
  - East Midlands, Northern Ireland and Northwest
  - London, Northwest, and Wales

## Sector Definition

The UK textiles and fashion sector has three key areas, the manufacture of sewn products, the manufacture of textiles and the manufacture of footwear and leather, each area includes numerous sub-sectors as detailed below:

## Sewn Products:

- **Homeware** including beds, cushions, soft furnishings, and carpets
- **Clothing** including tailoring, bridal, couture, ready to wear, and fast fashion
- **Medical** including scrubs, medical accessories, and specialised bedding
- **Allied Products** including tents, safety products, car accessories, transport seating etc.

## Textiles Production:

- **Fabric/material manufacture** including woven, non-woven and knitted materials
- **Yarn/thread manufacture** including spinning yarn to be woven
- **Technical Textiles** including composites, automotive, bio textiles and performance textiles
- **Medical textiles** including pretreated bandages support aids and medical appliances
- **Textiles Recycling** including processing used textiles

## Footwear and Leather:

- **Leather processing** including cleaning, tanning and dyeing raw hides
- **Footwear manufacture** including the manufacture of trainers, fast fashion, bespoke and orthopedic footwear
- **Leather accessories production** including suitcases, bags, wallets, and purses

To learn more about the subsectors within the industry, and the types of careers, jobs, apprenticeships, and progression routes that are available follow the link below:

<https://www.ukft.org/skills-and-training/education-partners/careers-promotion/skills-england/>

## Knowledge Challenge 1.3

1. There are three main subsectors in the fashion and textiles industry. These are sewn products, textiles production and footwear/leather. Each subsector makes different products. Identify two products made by the sewn products sector.
  - Soft Furnishings
  - Wallets
  - Performance Textiles
  - Fast Fashion items
  - Orthopaedic Footwear
  - Woven Fabrics



Hello! Welcome to UKFT Futures  
Explore the UK Fashion and Textiles industry

### UKFT Futures

To find out more about job roles and opportunities within the sector, sign-up to the new UKFT platform – ‘UKFT Futures’. The site is full of advice, guidance, and industry information, including fashion and textiles company videos, job role descriptors, case studies, and training opportunities, presented in three categories:

**Get inspired** – Inspiring content from people and businesses within the industry. Videos, stories, and profiles demonstrating the breadth and variety of career type, employer, and environment.

**Get informed** – In depth information about the industry, sub-sectors, and job roles within. Showing you what jobs and careers are available, what is involved in them, how much you might earn and where you might work.

**Get involved** – A series of guides helping you find the best routes in with Information and advice about apprenticeships, internships, and traineeships. Help with compiling CVs and portfolios etc. And by signing up to UKFT Futures you will get news and updates about new opportunities and job alerts.

To sign up go to <https://www.ukft.org/skills-and-training/job-profile>