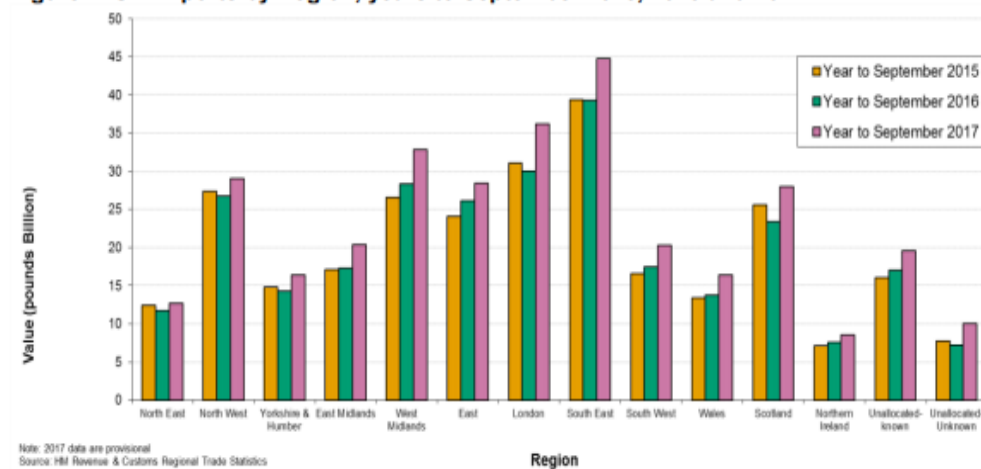


Trade Performance and Outlook

Figure 2: UK Exports by Region, years to September 2015, 2016 and 2017



- 1.1 In the year to September 2017, the overall value of UK trade in goods exports increased by 16% compared with the same period last year. There was an increase in annual export value for all English regions, with Yorkshire & the Humber showing an increase of 15%.
- 1.2 The total number of UK businesses exporting increased by 2.6%, between Quarter 3 2016 and Quarter 3 2017. The number of businesses in Yorkshire & the Humber grew by 1.7% over the same period.
- 1.3 The British Chambers of Commerce Quarterly Economic Survey for Q3 2017 shows that exporters in the manufacturing sector are enjoying strong sales and orders in foreign markets and are also reporting improvements in domestic sales and orders.
- 1.4 The BCC/DHL Trade Confidence Index, a measure of the volume of trade documentation issued nationally, increased by 2.3% on Q2 2017, and increased by 4.0% on Q3 2016. After a fall in the growth of export documentation volume in Q2 2017, most regions have rebounded in Q3. The largest quarter-on-quarter increase was in Yorkshire and the Humber at 27.4%.
- 1.5 The EEF/BDO Manufacturing Outlook survey for Quarter 4 2017 also shows export orders increasing for the fourth quarter in a row. Particular improvements in demand are showing across Asia and North America with EU markets also showing a notable improvement in demand. The trend in global demand is expected to continue, but at a slower pace.