

20. United Kingdom

The space budget for the United Kingdom amounted to GBP 312.52 million in 2010 (around USD 487.3 million). Around 13% is devoted to national programmes (GBP 41.34 million) (Figure 20.1). In April 2010, the UK Space Agency replaced the British National Space Centre (BNSC) to rationalise the British space efforts (UK Space Agency, 2010). BNSC has carried out periodic surveys of the size and health of the UK space industry since 1991. The most recent study, in 2010, found that the industry employed around 19 000 people, generating a turnover of GBP 5.8 billion (around USD 9 billion). This represented a rise of 8% on the previous survey from two years ago (Figure 20.2). The largest area of commercial growth in recent years has been in the downstream sector: the applications and services that use space. Satellite broadcasting, particularly television, is the primary commercial application of space technology, with sales of more than GBP 5 billion in 2008-09. The bulk of the remaining revenues are linked to applications for telecommunications, generating GBP 1.8 billion. Together these two applications account for over 90% of the space applications' revenues. Upstream and downstream industries have both grown at a rate of over 12%. The primary challenge is the lack of competent engineers in the market, as nearly 12% of the businesses survey respondents reported difficulty in filling their requirements. A major cluster of space activities in the UK is located in Harwell, Oxfordshire. It includes a new European Space Agency research facility (focusing on climate change modelling, innovative robotics systems and the design of new power sources), industries (Astrium, SSTL, Infoterra, Vega and Logica) the UK Space Agency, the Science

Technology Facilities Council, Technology Strategy Board, Natural Environment Research Council and the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA).

Methodological notes

The budget figures are based on interim estimates, and the Ministry of Defence's expenditures on satellite telecommunications are not released publicly. The UK industry report produced for the UK Space Agency surveyed 260 companies across both upstream segments (companies which provide space technology) and downstream segments (companies that utilise space technologies).

Sources

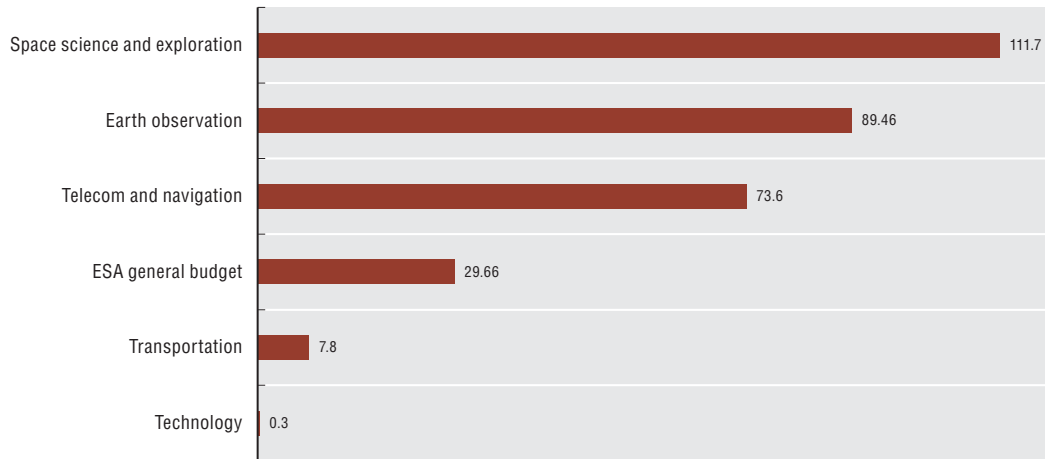
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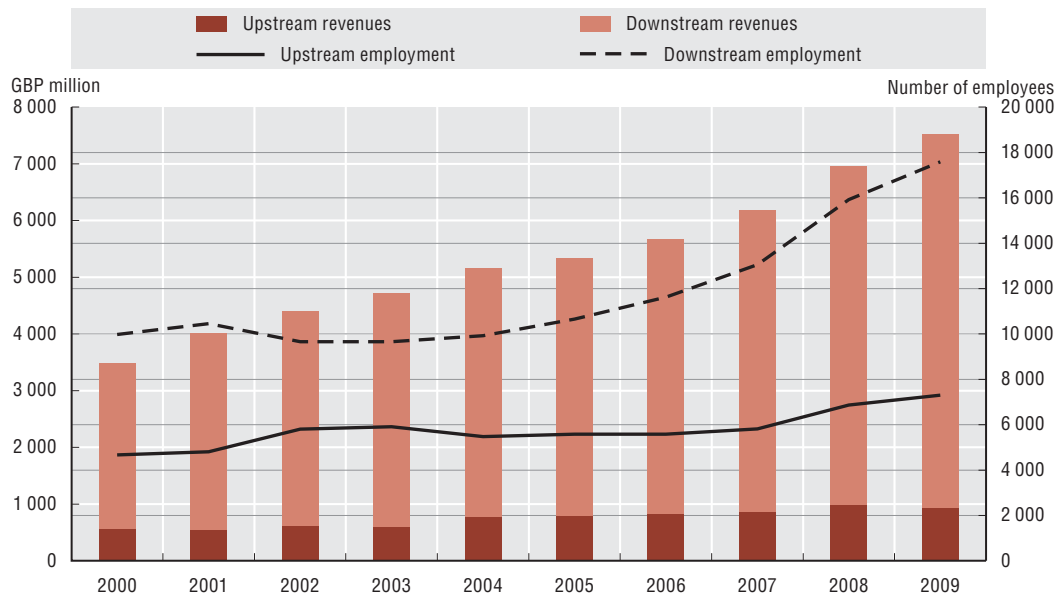
20.1 Distribution of UK space budget in 2010

GBP million (total budget GBP 312.52 million)



Source: UKSA (2010a).

20.2 Revenues and employment in the UK space sector



Source: UKSA (2010b).



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