

Investment Casting Industry in Japan

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INVESTMENT CASTING INDUSTRY IN JAPAN

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1. Number of foundries

There are due to date approximately 80 investment casting foundries including small size art foundries.

2. Total turnover

The total turnover for the Japanese investment casting industry is between £230M and £250M.

3. Split of turnover

The approximate split of turnover between aerospace and commercial castings is as follows: -

Aerospace	£30M - £33M
Commercial	£200M - £217M

4. Number of employees

The approximate number of employees in the industry is 4600 – 5200. The main foundries and the numbers they employ are: -

Hitachi	650
NPC	400
IHI	250
Mitsubishi Steel	230
Komatsu	220
Mitsubishi Materials	200
Daido Steel	120

5. The major range of metals cast and the approximate turnover for each: -

Ferrous	£112M
Stainless	£63M
Magnet (3% S1 Fe)	£18M
Aluminium alloy	£20M
Magnesium alloy	£0.5M
Titanium alloy	£9M
Copper base alloy	£8M

6. How the Japanese investment casting industry is developing

- i) No new foundries have been established this year
- ii) There is a greater tendency for foundries to look towards automation and mechanisation.
- iii) The range of metals cast has already been mentioned. However recently there has been interest in casting more titanium alloy.

7. The main markets and the individual turnover of these are as follows: -

a) Engineering machinery	£40M
b) Aerospace	£31M
c) Electronics and communications equipment	£30M
d) Power plant including nuclear parts	£26M
e) Automobile industry	£25M
f) Sports and leisure	£15M
g) Sewing machine	£13M
h) Measurement instruments	£13M
i) Building parts interior and exterior	£9M
j) Valve and chemical equipment	£9M
k) Medical instruments and machinery	£4M

8. This year a growth of 5 to 10% is predicted for the industry

9. The Japanese industry is organised into 3 main associations representing investment-casting interests: -

- a) Japan Foundrymen's Association
- b) Japan Association of Casting Technology (JACT)
- c) Japan Forging and Casting Association

The so called big 6 foundries. Hitachi, NPC, IHI, Komatsu, Daido and Mitsubishi are now forming private social gatherings once every month or two.

This concludes the information and I hope it has helped to update the details Roger discussed in his lecture.