

Industrial Strategy Sector Mapping Guide V1, Jan 2025



Defining a Modern Industrial Strategy

Places seeking to bid for central funding support are forced to conduct their own mapping of sectors for their bids and central funding teams are faced with each region defining sectors in different ways. This can lead to every region feeling compelled to claim they are world leading in every sector, as defined by them. We're hoping to help national and local government, academia and industry to approach this in a more efficient way.

The problem? The lack of shared definitions for frontier economy sectors, such as Advanced Manufacturing and AI, has led to a fragmented and inefficient sector mapping process:

1. Each sector is mapped multiple times, wasting significant resources.
2. Inconsistent taxonomies and methodologies produce widely varying results.
3. Without a shared understanding, national and local government struggle to identify and support genuine sector clusters.
4. Measuring the impact of funding and interventions becomes difficult.
5. Regions feel pressured to bid for everything, rather than specialising in their real areas of strength.

Following the release of [Invest 2035: The UK's Modern Industrial Strategy](#) Green paper, we have been working with our clients and [The Productivity Institute \(TPI\)](#) to develop an early view of the scale and distribution of these key sectors. Through collaboration we aim to address three critical questions raised in the strategy:

1. How should the UK government identify the most important subsectors for delivering our objectives?
2. How should the UK government account for emerging sectors and technologies for which conventional data sources are less appropriate?
3. How should the UK government incorporate foundational sectors and value chains into this analysis?

Our Data & Platform

At The Data City, we classify companies based on what they actually do, using real-time analysis of website text and machine learning, rather than outdated SIC codes. This revolutionary approach allows users to map, measure and understand emerging economies with far greater accuracy.

Our platform holds data on over 5 million UK companies and more than 100 million companies worldwide. With 400+ sector classifications (RTICs), it gives a clear view of modern industries, revealing trends and growth areas that traditional methods overlook.

Methodology

The Data City's RTICs have been largely created in collaboration with government or industry experts. This positions us well in creating consensus around the sectors identified in the Industrial Strategy Green paper, since cross-government thinking is represented within the existing RTICs and existing analysis. The Data City and TPI have reviewed the currently available RTICs and have created suggested groupings for each of the Industrial Strategy sectors.

We recognise that Standard Industrial Classifications (SIC), although flawed for classifying the emerging economy, have merit and are widely used. For example, SIC codes allow for linking to Official Statistics as well as international comparisons. SICs are flawed in defining emerging economy sectors given the frequency at which they are updated.

Each company in an RTIC also has at least one SIC code and the SIC codes are self-declared. Therefore, each RTIC has a large list of distinct SIC codes that are used by companies. The SIC codes vaguely describe the sector when combined together, but the more popular SIC codes will contribute to a better description of the RTIC.

For this reason TPI and The Data City have developed a methodology for identifying SIC codes that are well represented within an RTIC. This approach finds significant concentrations of companies within specific SICs, enabling us to identify overrepresented SICs in an RTIC. To do this, we compare the proportion of the SICs found nationally, with the proportion found in the RTIC. Additionally, we consider the raw percentage of companies associated with each SIC. To ensure accuracy, we normalise the data and highlight the SICs that show significant representation.

Some of the more established sectors, such as Financial Services, are well defined using SICs. We've manually suggested SICs to include alongside those identified from RTICs. Lastly, Defence is a sector that we know is not well categorised using SICs. We're in the process of creating an RTIC for defence, using materials from the MOD. Across all of the industrial strategy sectors, if you are aware of RTICs that should be mapped, please get in touch.

Get Involved

This mapping exists to serve as the starting point of a discussion on definitively defining these sectors and to power preliminary analysis. This is version 1 and updates to the mapping, and the included spreadsheet, will be available to download at: thedatacity.com/invest-2035-guide. A shared approach to analysing the Modern Industrial Strategy is only possible with feedback and engagement. Feedback is welcomed and can be sent to: Invest2035@thedatacity.com.

1. Advanced Manufacturing

RTIC ¹	SIC	Description	MethodOfSelection
1. Advanced manufacturing 2. Design and Modelling Technologies 3. Advanced Materials	71129	Other engineering activities	Well represented in RTIC
	25990	Manufacture of other fabricated metal products n.e.c.	Well represented in RTIC
	25620	Machining	Well represented in RTIC
	32990	Other manufacturing n.e.c.	Well represented in RTIC
	71121	Engineering design activities for industrial process and production	Well represented in RTIC
	22290	Manufacture of other plastic products	Well represented in RTIC
	25610	Treatment and coating of metals	Well represented in RTIC
	25110	Manufacture of metal structures and parts of structures	Well represented in RTIC
	46720	Wholesale of metals and metal ores	Well represented in RTIC
	28990	Manufacture of other special-purpose machinery n.e.c.	Well represented in RTIC
	24100	Manufacture of basic iron and steel and of ferro-alloys	Well represented in RTIC
	25730	Manufacture of tools	Well represented in RTIC
	28490	Manufacture of other machine tools	Well represented in RTIC
	25500	Forging, pressing, stamping and roll-forming of metal; powder metallurgy	Well represented in RTIC
	25940	Manufacture of fasteners and screw machine products	Well represented in RTIC

¹RTIC codes are available in the attached excel workbook. More information on the subsectors within these RTICs is available at: thedatacity.com/rtics/.

2. Clean Energy Industries

RTIC ¹	SIC	Description	MethodOfSelection
1. Clean tech 2. Net zero 3. Energy management 4. Energy generation ²	35110	Production of electricity	Well represented in RTIC
	43210	Electrical installation	Well represented in RTIC
	38110	Collection of non-hazardous waste	Well represented in RTIC
	74901	Environmental consulting activities	Well represented in RTIC
	38210	Treatment and disposal of non-hazardous waste	Well represented in RTIC
	39000	Remediation activities and other waste management services	Well represented in RTIC
	38320	Recovery of sorted materials	Well represented in RTIC
	35140	Trade of electricity	Well represented in RTIC
	38120	Collection of hazardous waste	Well represented in RTIC
	38220	Treatment and disposal of hazardous waste	Well represented in RTIC

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²All verticals except Fossil Fuels.

3. Creative Industries

RTIC ¹	SIC	Description	MethodOfSelection
1. Digital Creative 2. Agency market 3. Gaming 4. Immersive technology 5. Media & Publishing 6. Adtech	73110	Advertising agencies	Well represented in RTIC
	82990	Other business support service activities n.e.c.	Well represented in RTIC
	62020	Information technology consultancy activities	Well represented in RTIC
	62090	Other information technology service activities	Well represented in RTIC
	74100	specialised design activities	Well represented in RTIC
	59112	Video production activities	Well represented in RTIC
	59111	Motion picture production activities	Well represented in RTIC
	71111	Architectural activities	Well represented in RTIC
	62012	Business and domestic software development	Well represented in RTIC
	90030	Artistic creation	Well represented in RTIC
	18129	Printing n.e.c.	Well represented in RTIC
	59113	Television programme production activities	Well represented in RTIC
	59200	Sound recording and music publishing activities	Well represented in RTIC
	70210	Public relations and communications activities	Well represented in RTIC
	73120	Media representation services	Well represented in RTIC
	59120	Motion picture, video and television programme post-production activities	Well represented in RTIC
	62011	Ready-made interactive leisure and entertainment software development	Well represented in RTIC
	74202	Other specialist photography	Well represented in RTIC
	74209	Photographic activities not elsewhere classified	Well represented in RTIC

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4. Defence

RTIC	SIC	Description	MethodOfSelection
Being mapped			
	84220	Defence activities	Manual

5. Life Sciences

RTIC ¹	SIC	Description	MethodOfSelection
	86900	Other human health activities	Well represented in RTIC
1. Life science	86230	Dental practice activities	Well represented in RTIC
2. Biopharma	86210	General medical practice activities	Well represented in RTIC
3. Medtech	72110	Research and experimental development on biotechnology	Well represented in RTIC
4. Pharma			
5. Omics	86220	Specialists medical practice activities	Well represented in RTIC
6. Agritech	74901	Environmental consulting activities	Well represented in RTIC
7. Neurotechnology	72190	Other research and experimental development on natural sciences and engineering	Well represented in RTIC

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6. Digital and Technology

RTIC ¹	SIC	Description	MethodOfSelection
1. Foodtech 2. Artificial Intelligence 3. Cloud Computing 4. Computer Hardware 5. Internet of Things 6. Data infrastructure 7. Data intermediary 8. Edtech 9. Geospatial technologies 10. Space 11. Quantum technology 12. Quantum Economy 13. Robotics and Autonomous systems 14. Sensors 15. Photonics 16. Software as a Service 17. Software development 18. Streaming 19. Telecommunication 20. Wearables and Quantified self	62020	Information technology consultancy activities	Well represented in RTIC
	62090	Other information technology service activities	Well represented in RTIC
	62012	Business and domestic software development	Well represented in RTIC
	82990	Other business support service activities n.e.c.	Well represented in RTIC
	61900	Other telecommunications activities	Well represented in RTIC
	74909	Other professional, scientific and technical activities n.e.c.	Well represented in RTIC
	63110	Data processing, hosting and related activities	Well represented in RTIC
	61100	Wired telecommunications activities	Well represented in RTIC
	72190	Other research and experimental development on natural sciences and engineering	Well represented in RTIC
	61200	Wireless telecommunications activities	Well represented in RTIC
	62030	Computer facilities management activities	Well represented in RTIC
	26511	Manufacture of electronic measuring, testing etc. equipment, not for industrial process control	Well represented in RTIC
	26110	Manufacture of electronic components	Well represented in RTIC
	61300	Satellite telecommunications activities	Well represented in RTIC
	26512	Manufacture of electronic industrial process control equipment	Well represented in RTIC

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7. Professional and Business Services

RTIC ¹	SIC	Description	MethodOfSelection
1. Research & Consulting 2. B2B Services	7111	Architectural activities	Well represented in RTIC
	73200	Market research and public opinion polling	Well represented in RTIC
	7112	Urban planning and landscape architectural activities	Well represented in RTIC
	69101	Barristers at law	Manual
	69102	Solicitors	Manual
	69201	Accounting and auditing activities	Manual
	69202	Bookkeeping activities	Manual
	69203	Tax consultancy	Manual
	70210	Public relations and communications activities	Manual

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8. Financial Services

RTIC ¹	SIC	Description	MethodOfSelection
1. FinTech	64999	Financial intermediation not elsewhere classified	Well represented in RTIC
	62012	Business and domestic software development	Well represented in RTIC
	62090	Other information technology service activities	Well represented in RTIC
	62020	Information technology consultancy activities	Well represented in RTIC
	64205	Activities of financial services holding companies	Well represented in RTIC
	66190	Activities auxiliary to financial intermediation n.e.c.	Well represented in RTIC
	64303	Activities of venture and development capital companies	Well represented in RTIC
	64921	Credit granting by non-deposit taking finance houses and other specialist consumer credit grantors	Well represented in RTIC
	64929	Other credit granting n.e.c.	Well represented in RTIC
	64191	Banks	Well represented in RTIC
	64192	Building societies	Manual
	64201	Activities of agricultural holding companies	Manual
	64202	Activities of production holding companies	Manual
	64203	Activities of construction holding companies	Manual
	64204	Activities of distribution holding companies	Manual
	64205	Activities of financial services holding companies	Manual
	64302	Activities of unit trusts	Manual
	64303	Activities of venture and development capital companies	Manual
	64304	Activities of open-ended investment companies	Manual
	64305	Activities of property unit trusts	Manual
	64306	Activities of real estate investment trusts	Manual
	64910	Financial leasing	Manual
	64929	Other credit granting n.e.c.	Manual
	64991	Security dealing on own account	Manual
	64992	Factoring	Manual
	65201	Life reinsurance	Manual
	65202	Non-life reinsurance	Manual
	65300	Pension funding	Manual
	66110	Administration of financial markets	Manual
	66120	Security and commodity contracts dealing activities	Manual
	66190	Activities auxiliary to financial intermediation n.e.c.	Manual
	66210	Risk and damage evaluation	Manual
	66220	Activities of insurance agents and brokers	Manual
	66300	Fund management activities	Manual

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