The UK’s automotive industry has been seen as one of the ‘star performers’ of the UK economy in recent years – unlike most other manufacturing sectors. Output has increased by 60% since 2010 and there has been over £8bn worth of investment in the industry in the last four years. The industry supports some 800,000 jobs in the UK. The industry is seen as having benefitted from EU membership. So what might Brexit mean for the UK automotive sector, and in turn for industrial policy in the UK? This presentation considers short run impacts, before turning to the impact of uncertainty on foreign direct investment inflows and then the nature of a possible trading relationship. Some concluding thoughts highlight the need for a renewed industrial policy to support UK auto and manufacturing.
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David Bailey is Professor of Industrial Strategy at the Aston Business School, UK. He has written extensively on industrial and regional policy, especially in relation to manufacturing and the auto industry.

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