

PRESS RELEASE

SCDI RESPONSE TO GDP FIGURES

23 January 2009

Commenting on the latest GDP figures, Niall Stuart, spokesperson for the Scottish Council for Development and Industry, said:

“We all knew that the figures would confirm that we are firmly in a recession, but perhaps didn’t expect such a strong deceleration.

“Manufacturing been hardest hit, fuelled in part by the problems in the car industry, but every other sector apart from agriculture also saw a fall in output. Business and financial services have shrunk by 0.5%

“With continuing bad news in business surveys, we have to expect even larger fall in first quarter of 2009 and an increasingly negative picture in employment.

“These figures really reinforce the need to look at all ways of getting finance into the economy, and focusing investment in skills on re-training and keeping people in the labour market.”

ENDS

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