

## Stuff you didn't know about insurance!

The UK insurance industry is the largest in Europe and the third largest in the world, accounting for 8% of total worldwide premium income.

It employs around 275,000 people and is responsible for investments of £1.6 trillion, equivalent to 24% of the UK's total net worth, accounting for almost a third of all financial services jobs, and twice as many as are employed in the combined electricity, gas and water supply sectors.

It's a major contributor to the UK's tax take, contributing £8.2 billion in taxes, equivalent to 1.6% of total Government tax receipts. Of this, £1.8 billion was Corporation Tax and £1.2 billion was Insurance Premium Tax. This compares to 12.8% held by company pension funds, 3.5% by banks, 1.8% by unit trusts, and 10.0% by other financial institutions.

As well as this UK insurance is a major exporter. One-fifth of its net premium income comes from overseas business. Premium income from overseas is £54 billion, of which £41 billion is long-term business and £13 billion is general business

In 2009, the industry paid out:

- £173 million per day in pension and life insurance benefits
- £58 million per day in general insurance claims which included
  - £20.4 million in private motor car claims - more than one in six private car drivers make a claim each year
  - £8.5 million to householders for property damage or the loss of possessions - one in ten householders make a claim each year
  - £3.8 million to businesses on property damage
  - £6.4 million in liability claims, such as for accidents at work, professional liability, and injuries to the public on commercial premises

Phew!