An objective assessment of the UK's core strengths in this global economy suggests that the UK has a comparative advantage in many services sectors, in particular high value added professional services such as financial services, computer & information services and other business services, but also strengths in manufacturing sectors such as medical and pharmaceutical products (Figure 1).

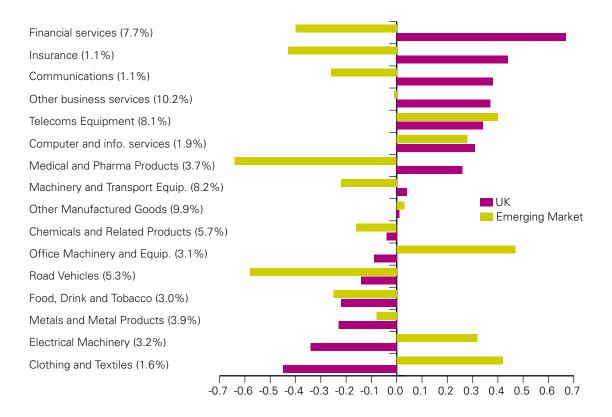


Figure 1: UK and Emerging Market Revealed Comparative Advantage Source: BIS Calculations based on UNCOMTRADE and IMF Balance of Payments data, 2006

Investments made by the Strategic Investment Fund reflect the opportunities arising from the wider global trends and aim to build on the UK's core strengths.