**Insights**

We pulled historical data -monthly Industrial Production Index (IPI) values from 1948 to 2024 and began analyzing how both countries have evolved over time.

Initially, we looked at long-term trends and noticed that for decades — right from 1948 until around 1990 the UK consistently led the US. But then, slowly, the US started catching up. By the early 2010s, the roles had reversed the US having overtaken the UK.

What exactly happened?  
We decided to zoom in and analyze how both countries responded to four major global economic shocks:

1. The 1973 oil crisis
2. The 1980–82 recession (second oil shock)
3. The 2008 global financial crisis
4. The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic

These were points in history where both economies were tested. We calculated year-over-year growth, looked at trend changes, and studied how each country reacted and recovered.

What stood out the most was the 2008 financial crisis.

Both the UK and US saw their industrial output drop sharply after 2008. But the difference lay in what happened afterward.

So, we chose 2007 as the base year, normalized the IPI data (set the value to 100 for both countries), and tracked how they performed post-crisis. This helped remove scale differences and let me compare *growth*, not just absolute numbers.

What we saw was striking.

* The US dipped but started recovering by 2010, steadily climbing back above its 2007 level.
* The UK also dipped but never recovered. Even by 2024, it's still below that base level.

This made it clear: the 2008 crisis became the major turning point, the point from which the US broke away and the UK plateaued.

To confirm this, we ran SARIMA forecasts for the next 10 years. The results matched what we saw in the data:

* US industrial production is expected to keep growing at a modest but stable pace.
* UK industrial production is projected to stay flat or decline slightly, unless significant change occurs.

To understand why this was happening, we broke down the UK’s industrial production by sector.

We found that:

* Pharmaceutical manufacturing was one of the few sectors showing strong, consistent growth.
* In contrast, automotive manufacturing, energy supply, and even capital goods had been declining or stagnant since 2016.
* These weak sectors were dragging the UK’s overall performance down.

Though we didn’t forecast US sectors in the same detail, even the visual trends showed stronger recovery in durable goods, mining, and manufacturing enough to push total US IPI upward.