

UK economic growth slows 最新公布数据显示英国经济增长速度缓步

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据最新公布的数据显示，2014年英国经济增长率为2.6%，这是自2007年以来经济增长的最快速度。然而，过去三个月的数字可能预示快速增长的势头正在减弱。以下是BBC Jonty Bloom 的报道。

Growth last year was good, but not as good as originally hoped and there are worries that the economy is losing **momentum**. The British economy is probably still **expanding** faster than any other major economy, and this is the fastest **rate** of growth since 2007.

However, that growth is rather **patchy**. The **services sector** is once again leading the way. But the **construction industry** is **contracting** quite **sharply** and **manufacturing industry** is pretty **flat**.

All eyes will now be on the growth rate in the first three months of this year. That could show the economy's **expansion** is slowing down again or it could be **boosted** by lower fuel prices. It's too early to say. We'll only know for certain in three months' time, just before the general election.

Questions

1. Everyone is happy with the current economic situation. True or false?
2. When did the economy last perform as well as it is at the moment?
3. Not all sectors of the economy are performing to the same level. True or false?
4. What could help improve the current economic situation?

Vocabulary and definitions

growth	增长
momentum	动力, 势头
expanding	扩张, 发展
rate	速度, 速率
patchy	分布不均衡的
services sector	服务行业
construction industry	建筑业
contracting	缩小, 收缩
sharply	大幅度的, 急剧的
manufacturing industry	制造业
flat	停滞的, 不景气的
all eyes	所有的注意力
expansion	扩张, 发展
boosted	推动

Answers to the questions

1. Everyone is happy with the current economic situation. True or false?
Answer: False. There are worries that the economy is losing momentum, or slowing down.
2. When did the economy last perform as well as it is at the moment?
Answer: In 2007.
3. Not all sectors of the economy are performing to the same level. True or false?
Answer: True. The services sector is performing well, but the construction and manufacturing industries aren't.
4. What could help improve the current economic situation?
Answer: Lower fuel prices could help improve the economy.