

UK Trade in Numbers

February 2020



Disclaimer

The figures used in this pocketbook are the latest at the time of publication. We include figures from monthly and quarterly publications, such as ONS Balance of Payments, Trade in Services by Partner Country, GDP and UK monthly Trade figures.

Often more up-to-date headline figures are available however a geographical breakdown is not available. Thus in some instances figures in the summary page may differ to other visuals presented.

UK and International sources do not always match. This can be due to exchange rate conversions used or delays in processing revisions. Readers are advised to reference sources and access the latest published statistics online.

Contact

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Foreword

With a renewed focus on trade and with it the increased interest in UK trade data, we are delighted to present this pocketbook of UK trade and investment statistics. Trade statistics are a fascinating aspect of economic statistics and are a substantial source of information to help inform how we meet the challenges of trade policy and promotion in the UK.

Trade statistics are derived from a number of sources and can be presented in different ways. The UK's trade statistics are primarily provided by Office for National Statistics (ONS) releases including the ONS UK monthly trade, ONS UK quarterly trade in services by partner country, UK Balance of Payments as well as the 'Pink Book'.

These releases, alongside Trade in Value Added data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), set out the UK's economic relationship with other countries on an internationally comparable basis. Beneath the surface is a wealth of data for us to understand and exploit for developing trade and investment policy. This pocketbook brings together and summarises trade statistics produced by ONS, HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC), Department for International Trade (DIT), OECD and others into a single visual product.

This is a handy reference whether you use trade statistics on a daily basis or are travelling abroad and want to show the UK trade position to colleagues.

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Summary (calendar year*)



UK Total trade: **£1,407.3bn** (↑ 4.8%)

(2019*)

Source: ONS UK Trade (December 2019)

of which (as % change since 2018):



← Imports: **£718.3bn** (↑ 4.7%)

→ Exports: **£689.0bn** (↑ 5.0%)

Goods: £873.7bn (↑ 4.2%)

Services: **£533.6bn** († 5.8%)

Source: ONS UK Trade (December 2019)

2018*

£659.5bn († 5.3%)

Non-EU: **£683.3bn** († 4.0%)

Source: ONS Balance of Payments (July to September 2019)

2019



Trade as % of GDP: **63.5%** (↑ 0.9 ppts)

Trade deficit as % of GDP: 1.3% (\$ 0.1 ppts)

Exports as % of GDP: **31.1%** (↑ 0.5 ppts)

Source: ONS UK Trade (December 2019) and ONS GDP first quarterly estimate, UK (October to December 2019)

^{*}Figures provided are for the latest calendar year where available (whilst figures in brackets show the change on the previous year).



2018

Number of GB

businesses exporting*: 233,900 (\$\dagger\$ 1.8%)

Proportion of GB businesses exporting*:

9.6% (\$ 0.4 ppts)

Source: ONS, Annual Business Survey, Great Britain Non-Financial Business Economy: 2018 Exporters and Importers.

*Experimental statistics. Only covers registered businesses in the GB non-financial business economy.



2018

Outward FDI Stock: **£1,408.7bn** († 2.9%)



Inward FDI Stock:

£1,520.6bn († 9.2%)

Note: Data are on a directional basis

Source: ONS Foreign Direct Investment Involving UK Companies: 2018



2018 (rankings unchanged from 2017)

Global Ranking: Outward FDI stock 5th



Global Ranking: Inward FDI stock 3rd

Note: Data are on a directional basis

Source: UNCTAD, World Investment Report 2019

Top 10 UK trading partners (2018)

TOTAL TRADE RANK

	Country	Total trade £bn (% of total trade)	change since 2017	UK exports £bn, to (% of total exports)	since	UK imports £bn, from (% of total imports)		% change since 2017
1	United States*	201.6 (15.0%)	↑ 5.3%	123.5 (18.8%)	↑ 5.7%	78.1 (11.4%)	1	4.8%
2	Germany	136.0 (10.1%)	↓ -1.0%	56.7 (8.6%)	↓ -0.3%	79.3 (11.6%)	\	-1.4%
3	Netherlands	94.7 (7.1%)	↑ 9.9%	44.8 (6.8%)	↑14.5%	49.9 (7.3%)	1	6.1%
4	France	86.0 (6.4%)	↑ 4.8%	41.9 (6.4%)	↑ 3.5%	44.1 (6.4%)	1	6.1%
5	China	68.3 (5.1%)	↑ 4.4%	23.4 (3.6%)	↑ 7.9%	44.9 (6.5%)	1	2.7%
6	Ireland	62.5 (4.7%)	↑ 9.9%	37.6 (5.7%)	↑ 8.5%	24.9 (3.6%)	1	12.1%
7	Spain	50.4 (3.8%)	↑ 3.1%	18.2 (2.8%)	↑ 1.8%	32.2 (4.7%)	1	3.8%
8	Belgium	48.8 (3.6%)	↑ 3.6%	19.4 (3.0%)	↑ 1.4%	29.3 (4.3%)	1	5.1%
9	Italy	46.9 (3.5%)	↑ 7.3%	21.0 (3.2%)	↑ 7.4%	26.0 (3.8%)	1	7.1%
10	+ Switzerland	34.7 (2.6%)	↑ 4.5%	21.8 (3.3%)	↑ 5.5%	12.9 (1.9%)	1	2.7%

Note: These figures for countries are only available on a non-seasonally adjusted basis, therefore for aggregate totals we recommend users to use summary page 4. Summary page 4 provides seasonally adjusted figures showing totals for UK total trade with the World, EU and Non-EU.

Source: ONS UK Trade, quarterly trade in goods and services: July to September 2019

^{*} including Puerto Rico

Top 10 UK Non-EU trading partners (2018)

TOTAL TRADE RANK

	Country	Total trade £bn (% of total trade)	% change since 2017	UK exports £bn, to (% of total exports)	change since 2017	UK imports £bn, from (% of total imports)		% change since 2017
1	United States*	201.6	↑ 5.3%	123.5 (18.8%)	↑ 5.7%	78.1 (11.4%)	1	4.8%
2	China	68.3 (5.1%)	1 4.4%	23.4 (3.6%)	↑ 7.9%	44.9 (6.5%)	1	2.7%
3	Switzerland	34.7 (2.6%)	↑ 4.5%	21.8 (3.3%)	↑ 5.5%	12.9 (1.9%)	1	2.7%
4	Japan	29.1 (2.2%)	↑ 8.5%	14.2 (2.2%)	↑10.6%	14.9 (2.2%)	1	6.4%
5	Norway	28.9 (2.2%)	↑ 5.6%	7.1 (1.1%)	↑11.3%	21.8 (3.2%)	1	3.8%
6	India	21.9 (1.6%)	↑17.1%	9.2 (1.4%)	↑39.2%	12.7 (1.8%)	1	5.0%
7	Hong Kong	21.8 (1.6%)	↑ 0.1%	11.6 (1.8%)	↑ 3.1%	10.2 (1.5%)	1	-3.1%
8	Canada	19.8 (1.5%)	↑10.5%	11.3 (1.7%)	↑ 7.6%	8.5 (1.2%)	1	14.5%
9	United Arab Emirates	17.3 (1.3%)	↓ -0.1%	10.7 (1.6%)	↓ -0.7%	6.7 (1.0%)	1	0.9%
10	C* Turkey	17.1 (1.3%)	↑ 3.2%	6.5 (1.0%)	↓ -7.4%	10.6 (1.5%)	1	11.1%

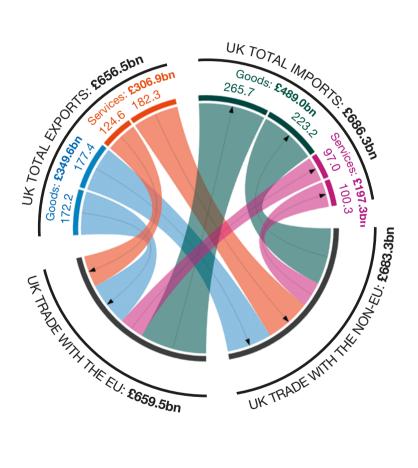
Note: These figures for countries are only available on a non-seasonally adjusted basis, therefore for aggregate totals we recommend users to use summary page 4. Summary page 4 provides seasonally adjusted figures showing totals for UK total trade with the World, EU and Non-EU.

Source: ONS UK Trade, quarterly trade in goods and services: July to September 2019

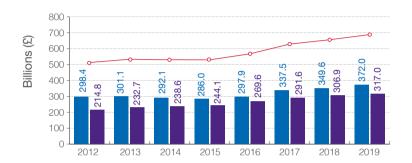
^{*} including Puerto Rico

UK Trade with the EU and Non-EU (2018)

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS



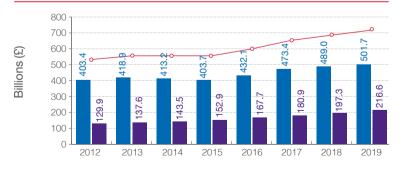
UK exports of goods and services (2012-2019)



- Total goods exports
- Total services exports
- Total exports

Source: ONS UK Trade (December 2019)

UK imports of goods and services (2012-2019)

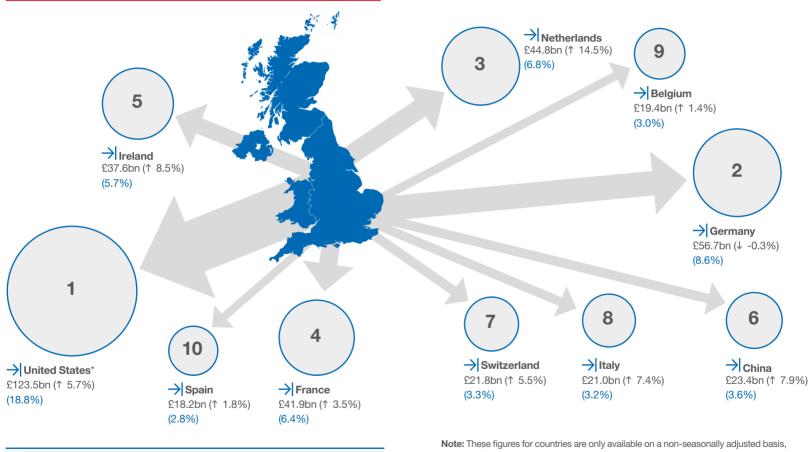


- Total goods imports
- Total services imports

Total imports

Source: ONS UK Trade (December 2019)

Top 10 UK export markets for goods and services (2018)



Export market

UK export value £bn, (% change from 2017) (% of total exports)



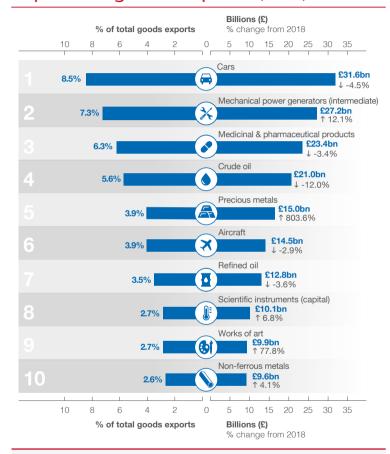
UK **Exports** \rightarrow

therefore for aggregate totals we recommend users to use summary page 4. Summary page 4 provides seasonally adjusted figures showing totals for UK total trade with the World. EU and Non-EU.

*including Puerto Rico

Source: ONS UK Trade, quarterly trade in goods and services: July to September 2019

Top 10 UK goods exports (2019)



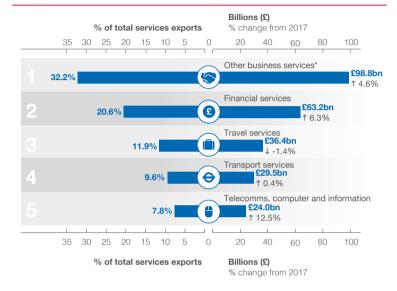
Total goods exports:

£372.0bn

Note: This list of goods includes oil and other erratic commodities, which are high value but traded at irregular intervals. The "erratics" series includes ships, aircraft, precious stones, works of art, silver and non-monetary gold.

Source: ONS UK Trade (December 2019)

Top 5 UK services exports (2018)

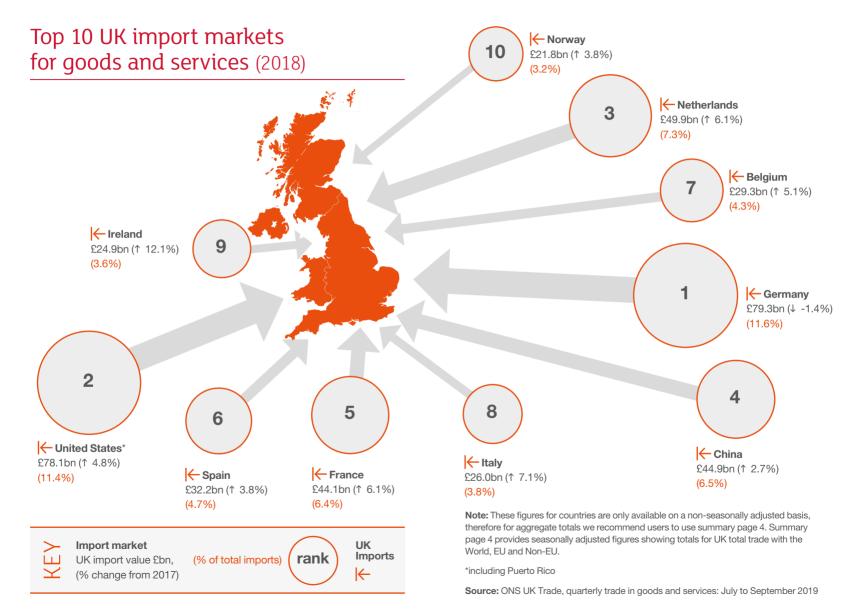


Total services exports:

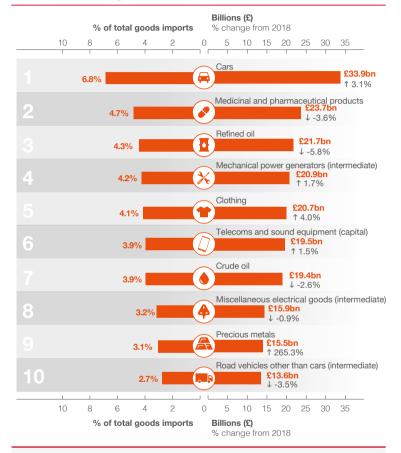
£306.9bn

Source: ONS Balance of Payments (July to September 2019)

^{*}including professional, management consulting, technical and trade-related services



Top 10 UK goods imports (2019)



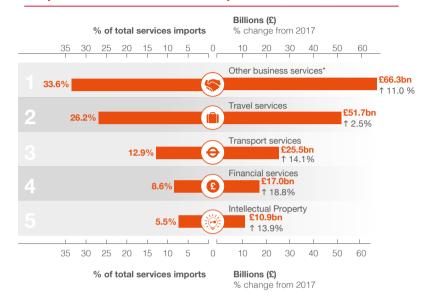
Total goods imports:

£501.7bn

Note: This list of goods includes oil and other erratic commodities, which are high value but traded at irregular intervals. The "erratics" series includes ships, aircraft, precious stones, works of art, silver and non-monetary gold.

Source: ONS UK Trade (December 2019)

Top 5 UK services imports (2018)



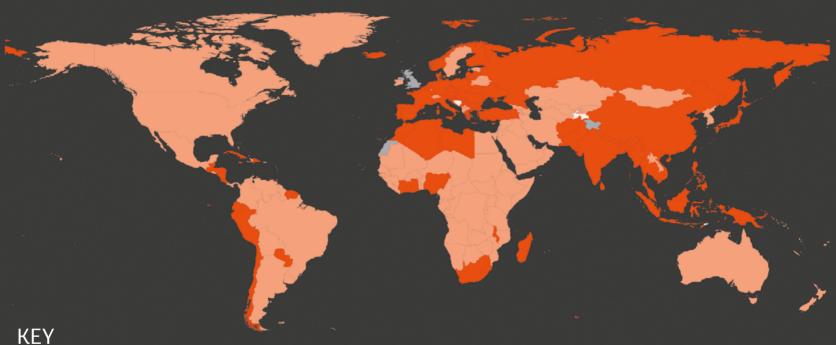
Total services imports:

£197.3bn

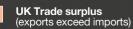
Source: ONS Balance of Payments (July to September 2019)

^{*}including professional, management consulting, technical and trade-related services

UK bilateral trade in goods and services balances (2018)











This map should not be taken as representative of the UK governments view of boundaries or political status

Source: ONS UK Trade, quarterly trade in goods and services: July to September 2019

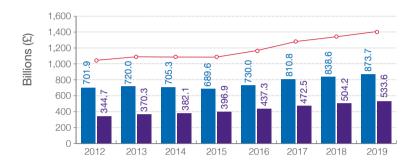
UK's largest trade surpluses (2018)

Ranking	Partner country	£ billion	change from 2017 £ billion
1	United States*	45.4	↑ 3.1
2	Ireland	12.7	↑ 0.3
3	Switzerland	8.9	↑ 0. 8
4	Australia	6.8	↑ 0.8
5	United Arab Emirates	4.0	↓ -0.1
6	South Korea	4.0	↑ 0.1
7	Saudi Arabia	3.8	↓ -2.9
8	Cayman Islands	3.5	↑ 1.1
9	Singapore	3.4	↑ 0.6
10	Canada	2.7	↓ -0.3

UK's largest trade deficits (2018)

Ranking	Partner country	£ billion	change from 2017 £ billion
1	Germany	-22.6	↑ 1.0
2	*: China	-21.4	↑ 0.5
3	Norway	-14.8	↓ -0.1
4	Spain	-14.1	↓ -0.8
5	Belgium	-9.9	↓ -1.1
6	Poland	-5.5	↑ 0.6
7	Netherlands	-5.0	↑ 2.8
8	Italy	-5.0	↓ -0.3
9	Turkey	-4.0	↓ -1.6
10	Russia	-3.9	↓ -3.1

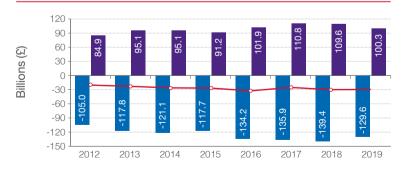
UK total trade in goods and services (2012 - 2019)



- Total trade in goods
- Total trade in services
- Total trade

Source: ONS UK Trade (December 2019)

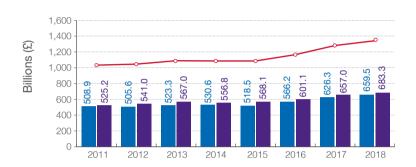
UK trade in goods and trade in services balances (2012 - 2019)



- Trade in goods balance
- Trade in services balance
- Total trade balance

Source: ONS UK Trade (December 2019)

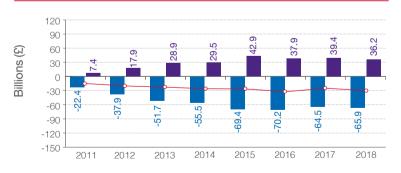
UK total trade with the EU and Non-EU (2011 - 2018)



- Total trade with the EU
- Total trade with the Non-EU
- Total trade

Source: ONS Balance of Payments (July to September 2019)

UK trade balances with the EU and Non-EU (2011 - 2018)



- Trade balance with the EU
- Trade balance with the Non-EU
- Total trade balance

Source: ONS Balance of Payments (July to September 2019)

Number of UK goods exporters and importers with the EU and Non-EU

	Expo	% change	
	2017	2018	2017 - 2018
EU ¹	119,843	121,430	↑ 1.3%
Non-EU ¹	75,901	77,312	↑ 1.9%
EU only ²	77,145	79,018	1 2.4%
% of total, EU only	50.4%	50.5%	
Non-EU only ²	33,203	34,900	↑ 5.1%
% of total, Non-EU only	21.7%	22.3%	
Both EU and Non-EU ²	42,698	42,412	↓ -0.7%
% of total, both EU/NEU	27.9%	27.1%	
Total	153,046	156,330	1 2.1%

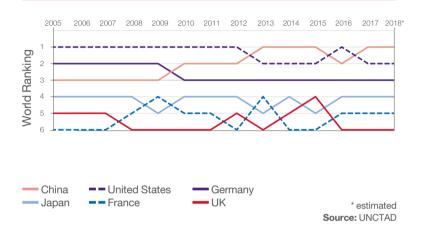
	Impo	rters	% change
	2017	2018	2017 - 2018
EU ¹	163,463	169,066	↑ 3.4%
Non-EU ¹	114,498	120,245	↑ 5.0%
EU only ²	118,039	123,063	↑ 4.3%
% of total, EU only	50.8%	50.6%	
Non-EU only ²	69,074	74,242	↑ 7.5%
% of total, Non-EU only	29.7%	30.5%	
Both EU and Non-EU ²	45,424	46,003	1.3%
% of total, both EU/NEU	19.5%	18.9%	
Total	232,537	243,308	1 4.6%

Note:

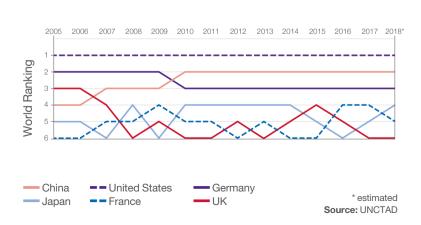
- 1. In these rows a trader can appear in both categories
- 2. In these rows a trader appears in only one category
- Not comparable to the data presented on page 40 and 41 due to differing sources and methodologies.

Source: HMRC, Regional Trade Statistics: Q3 (July to September 2019)

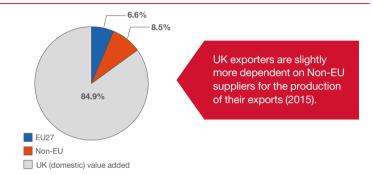
World rankings for exports of goods and services (2005 - 2018)



World rankings for imports of goods and services (2005 - 2018)



Origin of value added in UK gross exports (2015)



EU27	6.6%
Germany	1.8%
France	1.1%
Italy	0.6%
Ireland	0.5%
Spain	0.5%
Netherlands	0.5%
Belgium	0.3%
Sweden	0.2%
Poland	0.2%
Denmark	0.1%
Other	0.7%

⊕ Non- EU	8.5%
United States	2.1%
* [‡] China	1.2%
Norway	0.7%
Japan	0.4%
Russia	0.4%
Canada	0.4%
India	0.3%
Switzerland	0.3%
C ★ Turkey	0.2%
South Korea	0.2%
Other	2.3%

The strongest backward linkages are with the United States, China and Norway (from the Non-EU) and Germany and France (from the EU27).

Source: OFCD TiVA December 2018

Top 5 export markets in gross and value added terms (2015)

Top 5 export markets for the UK in 2015

Gross data

	Partner	% of total exports
1	United States	15.7%
2	Germany	8.1%
3	France	6.6%
4	Ireland	5.9%
5	China	4.6%
	EU	43.5%
	World	100.0%

Value added data

	Partner	% of total exports
1	United States	17.9%
2	Germany	7.8%
3	France	6.5%
4	China	5.6%
5	Ireland	3.4%
	EU	37.0%
	World	100.0%

The United States was the UK's largest export market in both gross and value added terms in 2015.

In value added terms, the importance of the United States as an export market is amplified, with a share of 17.9%, while the EU27 becomes a less important export market (with a share of 37.0%, compared to 43.5% in gross terms).

Top 10 destinations for UK FDI (2018)

Outward FDI stock, directional basis

The United States was the top destination for UK investment at the end of 2018.

> Ireland £53.1bn (\psi -14.7%) (3.8%)

United States £295.1bn (↑ 6.0%) (20.9%)

Jersey £40.7bn (↑ 9.5%) (2.9%)

Investment destination Outward FDI stock £bn, (% change from 2017)

rank (% of total outward FDI stock)

Spain

(5.3%)

£74.1bn (1 4.0%)

Outward **FDI** stock

France

(5.8%)

£82.1bn (↑ 5.8%)



UK FDI in the EU

£601.4bn (↑ 0.8%)

(42.7%)



UK FDI in the Non-EU

£807.3bn (↑ 4.5%) (57.3%)



Total UK FDI abroad

£1,408.7bn († 2.9%) (100%)

2

Netherlands

£160.2bn (↑ 1.8%) (11.4%)

Luxembourg £116.7bn (\psi -7.7%)

(8.3%)

Switzerland

£48.9bn (\(\psi -11.4\%)

(3.5%)

Australia £35.6bn (↑ 6.5%)

(2.5%)

6

Hong Kong £71.8bn (↑ 7.9%)

(5.1%)

FDI statistics are compiled on the basis of the immediate, rather than the ultimate, partner country. Pass-through investment often leads to an overstatement of investments in or from big financial centres, or countries offering favourable tax terms to investors, distorting the geographical distribution of FDI flows and FDI rankings.

Source: Foreign Direct Investment involving UK companies 2018, ONS (FDI stocks, directional basis)



Top 10 investors in the UK (2018)

Inward FDI stock, directional basis

The United States was the top investor in the UK at the end of 2018.



EU FDI in the UK

£579.0bn (\psi -2.1%) (38.1%)



Non-EU FDI in the UK

£941.6bn (↑ 17.5%) (61.9%)



Total FDI in the UK

£1,520.6bn (↑ 9.2%) (100%)



Netherlands £137.6bn (\psi-17.3%)

(9.0%)

Germany £83.9bn († 25.6%) (5.5%)

Luxembourg

£111.4bn (↑ 0.1%)

(7.3%)



Japan £89.2bn (17.6%) (5.9%)

United States £416.7bn (118.2%) (27.4%)

Jersey £111.5bn (↑ 6.7%)

3

(7.3%)

France £55.1bn (\psi -10.9%) (3.6%)

9

Spain £50.2bn (↑ 5.2%) (3.3%)



Switzerland £67.4bn (↑ 4.1%) (4.4%)

Belgium († 2.0%) £94.4bn (6.2%)

5

Source country

Inward FDI stock £bn, (% change from 2017) (% of total inward FDI stock)

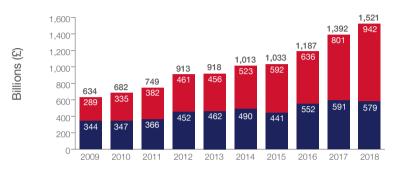


Inward FDI stock

FDI statistics are compiled on the basis of the immediate, rather than the ultimate, partner country. Pass-through investment often leads to an overstatement of investments in or from big financial centres, or countries offering favourable tax terms to investors, distorting the geographical distribution of FDI flows and FDI rankings.

Source: Foreign Direct Investment involving UK companies 2018, ONS (FDI stocks, directional basis)

UK Inward FDI stocks (2009 - 2018)

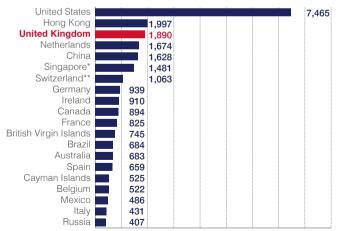


Note: Data are on a directional basis

Source: EU Source: Non-EU

Source: ONS Foreign Direct Investment Involving UK Companies: 2018

Top 20 global destinations for FDI (2018)



1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 5,000 6,000 7,000 8,000 9,000

Source: UNCTAD

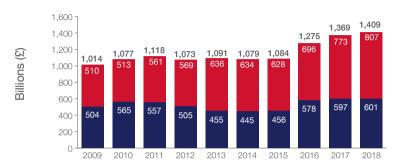
Note: Data are on a directional basis

** includes Liechtenstein

Billions (\$)

^{*} Singapore is on an asset and liability basis

UK Outward FDI stocks (2009 - 2018)

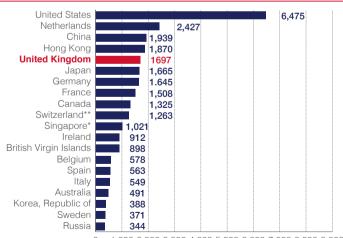


Note: Data are on a directional basis

■ Destination: EU ■ Destination: Non-EU

Source: ONS Foreign Direct Investment Involving UK Companies: 2018

Top 20 global investors (2018)



1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 5,000 6,000 7,000 8,000 9,000

Source: UNCTAD

Note: Data are on a directional basis

Billions (\$)

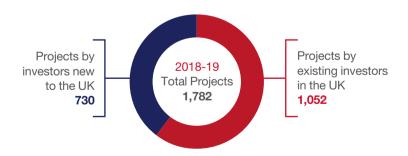
^{*} Singapore is on an asset and liability basis

^{**} includes Liechtenstein

Number of FDI projects into the UK and jobs created / safeguarded

(2017-18 - 2018-19)

	2017-18	2018-19	% change
Total projects	2,072	1,782	↓ -14.0 %
Involved projects	1,682	1,436	↓ -14.6%
Total Jobs	91,031	64,623	↓ -29.0%
Total Jobs New jobs	91,031 75,968	64,623 57,625	↓ -29.0% ↓ -24.1%



Number of FDI projects into the UK (2017 - 2018)

The fDi Report 2019:

Number of UK Inward FDI Projects is increasing

2017	2018	% change
1,075	1,278	18.9%
698	588	↓ -15.8%
1,031	568	↓ -44.9%
395	551	↑ 39.5%
275	275	↔ 0.0%
202	219	↑ 8.4%
	1,075 698 1,031 395 275	1,075 1,278 698 588 1,031 568 395 551 275 275

The EY UK Attractiveness Survey 2018 and 2019:

Number of UK Inward FDI Projects is decreasing

		_	
Country	2017	2018	% change
UK	1,205	1,054	↓ -12.5%
France	1,019	1,027	1 0.8%
Germany	1,124	973	↓ -13.4%

Source:

The fDi Report 2019, Financial Times &

The EY UK Attractiveness Survey 2018 and 2019

Notes:

EY and FT (supported fDi Markets), publish data on greenfield FDI only, and report on a calendar year basis.

DIT reports on greenfield and M&A FDI on a financial year basis.

UK exports of goods by region (2018)

Of the total UK goods exports in 2018, £249.0bn (73%) were from England. The region with the highest value of exports was the South East, which exported £47.0bn worth of goods. 14% of the total value of UK goods exports.

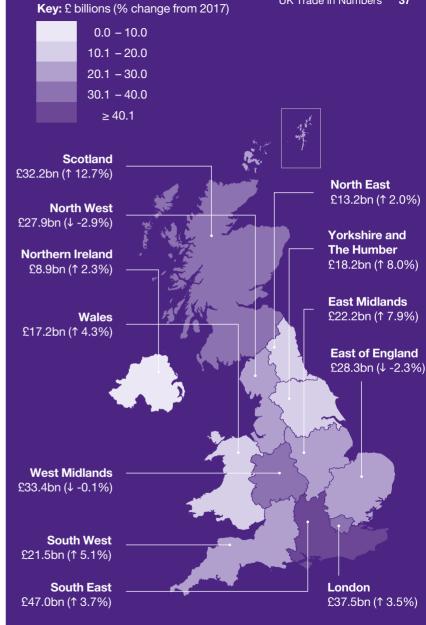
The region or UK country with the highest growth in goods exports during 2018 was Scotland, where the value of goods exports grew by 13%.

Yorkshire and The Humber and the East Midlands also achieved high levels of goods export growth during 2018, both with increases of 8%. Whilst three regions, the North West, the West Midlands and the East, saw decreases in the value of goods exported in 2018 compared to 2017.

Source: HMRC, Regional Trade Statistics: Q3 (July to September 2019)

Notes:

- 1. The ONS UK Trade (December 2019) currently provides the best estimate for the total value of UK exports of goods in 2018 and 2019 which is £349.6bn and £372.0bn respectively. This is not directly comparable with the HMRC estimates presented here due to differences in coverage and methodology.
- The sum of exports of goods by region does not add up to 100% as 9.5% (£32.2bn) of goods exported from the UK in 2018 cannot be allocated to a region.
- 3. These data are not comparable with the ONS regional trade in services data on pages 38 and 39 due to differences in coverage and methodology.



UK exports of services by region (2017)

Of the total UK services exports in 2017, £245.7bn (88%) were from England. The region with the highest value of exports was London, which exported £116.6bn in services, 42% of the total value of services exported by the UK.

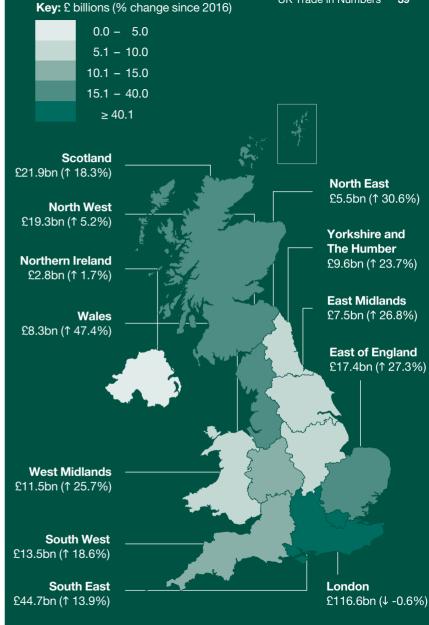
The regions or UK countries with the highest growth in services exports were Wales, exporting 47% more services during 2017, and the North East, exporting 31% more.

Only one region exported fewer services in 2017, London, down 1% compared to 2016.

Source: ONS, Subnational exports of services from the UK, 2017

Notes:

- The ONS UK Trade (December 2019) currently provides the best estimate for the total value of UK exports of services in 2017, £291.6bn.
- Experimental statistics (i.e. not yet fully developed). Data for 2017 are not entirely
 consistent with data for 2016 due to methodological improvements and ONS therefore
 strongly advise caution when comparing these results with previous results.
- These data are not comparable with the HMRC regional trade in goods data on pages 36 and 37 due to differences in coverage and methodology.



Number of exporters of goods and/or services by region (2018)

There were 233,900 exporters of goods and/ or services in Great Britain in 2018. Of these exporters, 217,600 (93%) were in England.

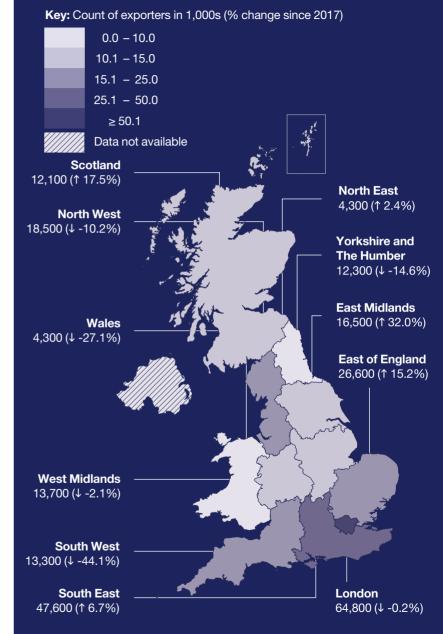
The region with the highest number of exporters was London, which had 64,800 exporters, 28% of the total number of exporters in Great Britain. The North East and Wales were the regions with the lowest number of exporters at 4,300.

East Midlands experienced the highest amount of growth, up 32% in 2018 from 2017. Similarly, the East of England had the second highest growth up 15% in 2018 from 2017. In 2018, East Midlands, the East of England, South East, North East and Scotland all saw increases in the number of exporters from 2017.

Source: ONS, Annual Business Survey, Great Britain Non-Financial Business Economy: 2018 Exporters and Importers

Notes:

- 1. Experimental statistics (i.e. not yet fully developed).
- These estimates do not cover all businesses. They only cover registered businesses (for VAT and/or PAYE) in the GB non-financial business economy which accounts for around two-thirds of the economy in terms of gross value added.
- 3. Other sources also estimate the number or proportion of businesses which export (e.g. HMRC Regional Trade Statistics) but they differ in their methodology and coverage so are not directly comparable with the ABS.
- 4: Not comparable to the data presented on page 24 due to differing sources and methodologies.



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The UK's Department for International Trade (DIT) has overall responsibility for promoting UK trade across the world and attracting foreign investment to our economy. We are a specialised government body with responsibility for negotiating international trade policy, supporting business, as well as delivering an outward-looking trade diplomacy strategy.

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