



Department for  
International Trade

# UK Trade in Numbers

February 2019



## **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**

This publication was produced by the Macro Analysis and Statistics Team, if you have any enquiries about the content please contact us at [statistics@trade.gov.uk](mailto:statistics@trade.gov.uk)

# Foreword

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**With the renewed focus on trade that our department brings and the interest in UK trade data this brings, I am 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, UK Balance of Payments as well as the 'Pink Book'.

These releases, alongside the newly available ONS Quarterly Trade in Services by Partner Country release, set out the UK's economic relationship with other countries on an internationally comparable basis. But 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 this wealth of trade statistics produced by ONS, HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC), Department for International Trade (DIT), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and others into a single visual product.

I hope it proves to be 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.



**Tom Knight**

**Chief Statistician**

Department for International Trade

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# Summary (calendar year\*)



UK Total trade **£1,291.0bn** (↑ 2.5%)  
(2018\*)

Source: ONS UK Trade (December 2018)

of which (as % change since 2017):



← Imports: **£661.7bn** (↑ 3.1%)

→ Exports: **£629.4bn** (↑ 1.9%)

🛒 Goods: **£838.8bn** (↑ 3.0%)

👤 Services: **£452.3bn** (↑ 1.7%)

Source: ONS UK Trade (December 2018)

(2017\*)

🇪🇺 EU: **£619.3bn** (↑ 11.5%)

🌐 Non-EU: **£639.8bn** (↑ 8.6%)

Source: ONS Balance of Payments  
(July to September 2018)

2018



Trade as % of GDP **61.1%** (↓ -0.4 ppts)

Trade deficit as % of GDP **1.5%** (↑ 0.4 ppts)

Exports as a % of GDP **29.8%** (↓ -0.4 ppts)

Source: ONS UK Trade (December 2018) and  
ONS GDP first quarterly estimate, UK (January to March 2018)

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



2017

Number of GB  
businesses exporting\*: **235,800** (↑ 6.6%)

Proportion of GB  
businesses exporting\*: **9.9%** (↑ 0.5 pts)

**Source:** ONS, Annual Business Survey, Great Britain Non-Financial Business Economy: 2017 Exporters and Importers.

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

2017



Outward FDI Stock **£1,313.3bn** (↑ 3.0%)



Inward FDI Stock **£1,336.5bn** (↑ 12.6%)

**Note:** Data are on a directional basis

**Source:** ONS Foreign Direct Investment Involving UK Companies: 2017

2017



Global Ranking: Outward FDI stock **5th**



Global Ranking: Inward FDI stock **3rd**

**Note:** Data are on a directional basis

**Source:** UNCTAD

# Summary (latest period\*)



**UK Total trade** **£1,291.0bn** (↑ 2.5%)

(Year ending  
Dec 2018\*)

**Source:** ONS UK Trade (December 2018)

of which (as % change since 2017):



← Imports: **£661.7bn** (↑ 3.1%)

→ Exports: **£629.4bn** (↑ 1.9%)

🛒 Goods: **£838.8bn** (↑ 3.0%)

👤 Services: **£452.3bn** (↑ 1.7%)

**Source:** ONS UK Trade (December 2018)

(Year ending Sept 2018\*)

🇪🇺 EU: **£637.3bn** (↑ 4.6%)

🌐 Non-EU: **£643.9bn** (↑ 1.0%)

**Source:** ONS Balance of Payments  
(July to September 2018)

2018



**Trade as % of GDP** **61.1%** (↓ -0.4 ppts)

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**Exports as a % of GDP** **29.8%** (↓ -0.4 ppts)

**Source:** ONS UK Trade (December 2018) and  
ONS GDP first quarterly estimate, UK (January to March 2018)











\*Figures provided are for the latest 12 month period for which data are available (whilst figures in brackets show the change compared to previous 12 months where applicable).



# Top 10 UK trading partners (2017)

## TOTAL TRADE RANK

£bn (% change - since 2016)

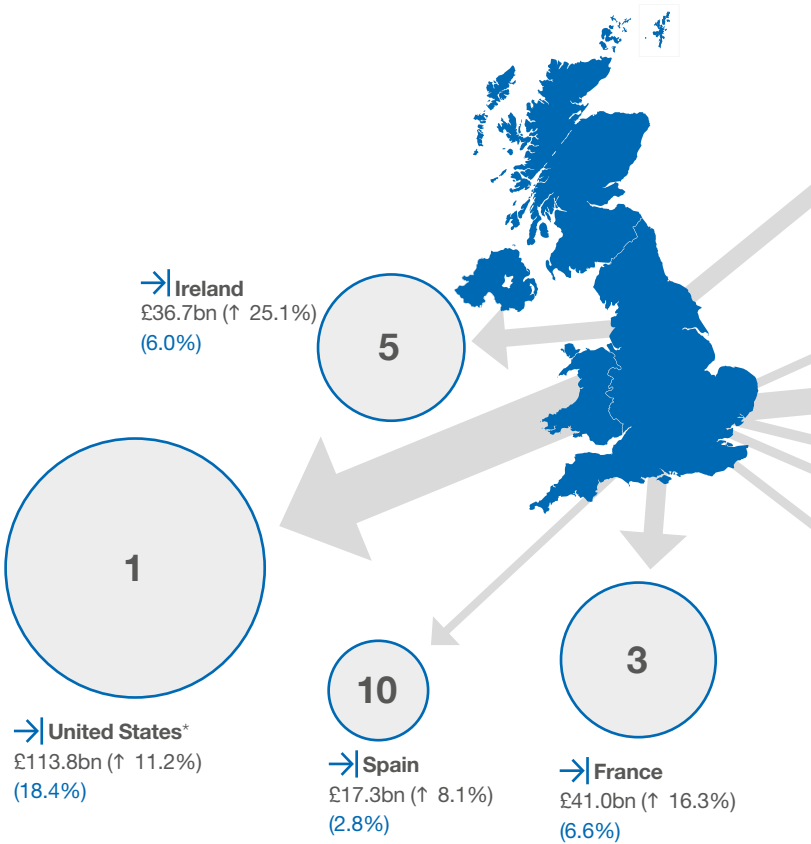
	Country	Total trade	% change	UK exports to	% change	UK imports from	% change
1	 United States*	183.2	↑ 9.9%	113.8	↑ 11.2%	69.5	↑ 7.9%
2	 Germany	134.9	↑ 10.5%	56.4	↑ 13.1%	78.6	↑ 8.7%
3	 Netherlands	85.7	↑ 13.9%	38.6	↑ 13.4%	47.1	↑ 14.2%
4	 France	81.4	↑ 12.1%	41.0	↑ 16.3%	40.4	↑ 8.0%
5	 China	67.0	↑ 13.8%	22.1	↑ 25.5%	44.9	↑ 8.8%
6	 Ireland	58.7	↑ 18.1%	36.7	↑ 25.1%	21.9	↑ 7.9%
7	 Spain	48.6	↑ 5.6%	17.3	↑ 8.1%	31.3	↑ 4.3%
8	 Belgium	47.1	↑ 11.6%	19.3	↑ 20.5%	27.9	↑ 6.2%
9	 Italy	43.1	↑ 4.6%	19.3	↑ 2.8%	23.8	↑ 6.2%
10	 Switzerland	32.1	↓ -7.1%	20.0	↓ -2.2%	12.1	↓ -14.1%

**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 6. Summary page 6 provides seasonally adjusted figures showing totals for UK total trade with the World, EU and Non-EU.

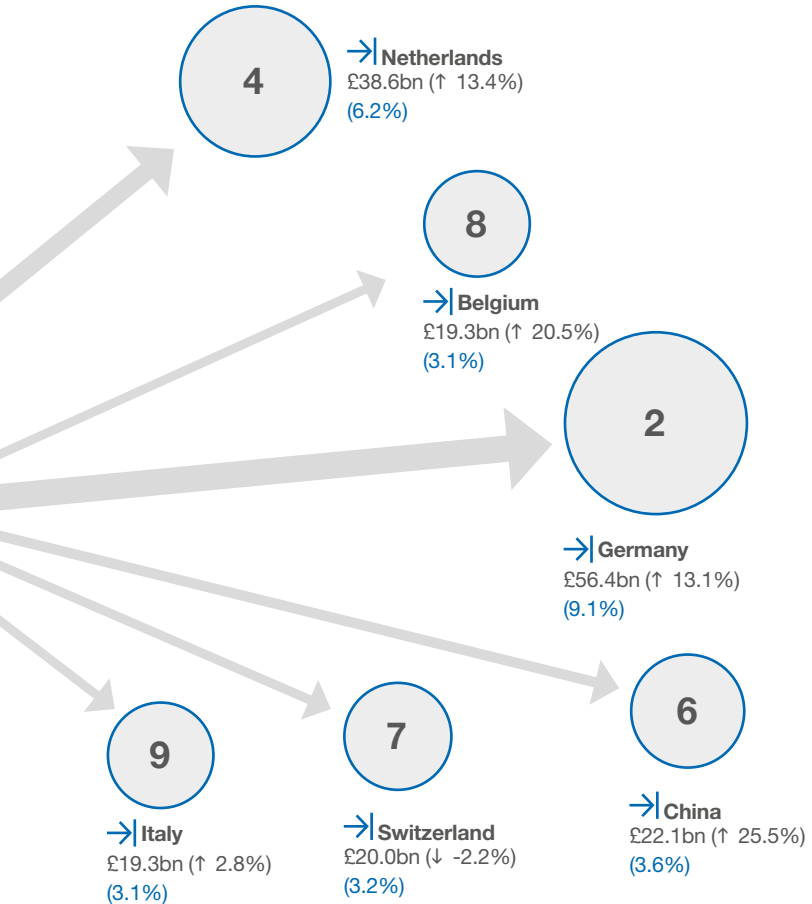
\* including Puerto Rico

**Source:** ONS UK Trade experimental quarterly trade in goods and services: July to September 2018

# Top 10 UK export markets for goods and services (2017)



<b>KEY</b>	<b>Export market</b>			<b>rank</b>	<b>UK Exports</b> →
	UK export value (£bn, (% change from 2016)	(% of total exports)			

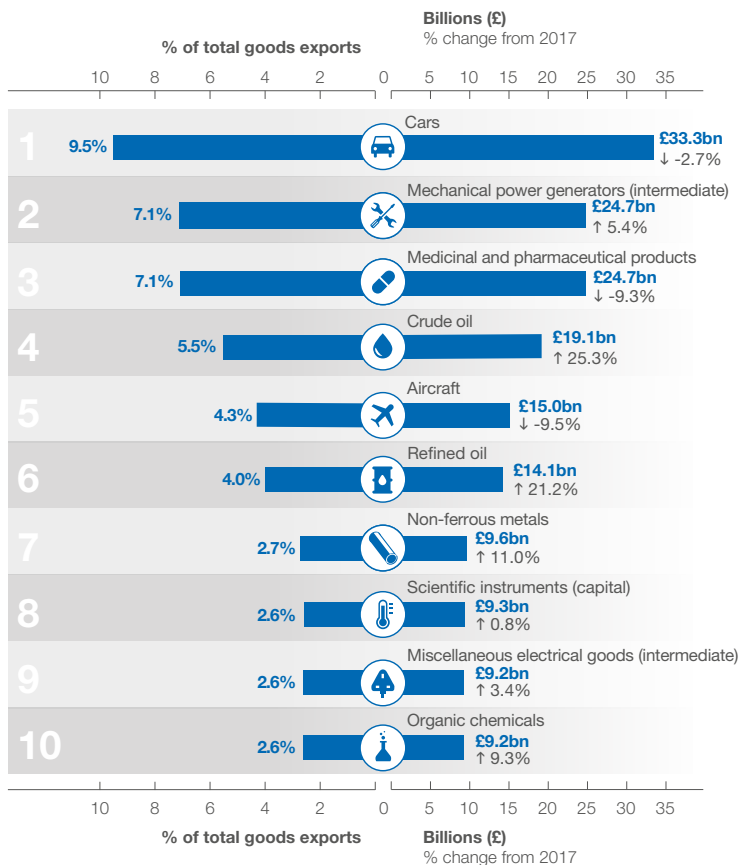


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\*including Puerto Rico

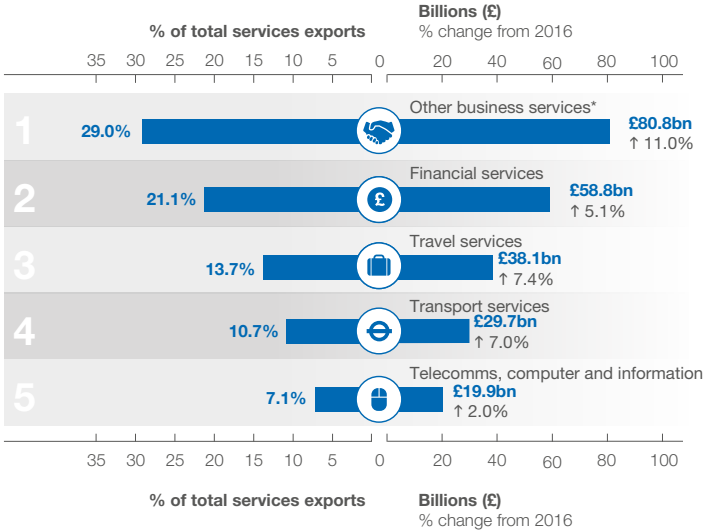
**Source:** ONS UK Trade experimental quarterly trade in goods and services: July to September 2018

## Top 10 UK goods exports (2018)



Total goods exports: **£350.0bn**

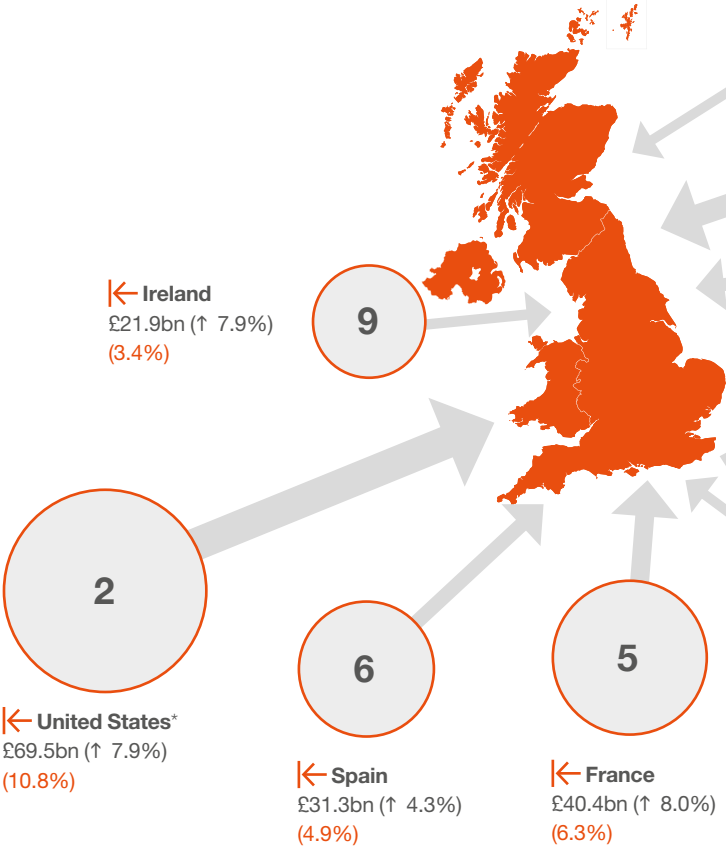
# Top 5 UK services exports (2017)



\*including professional, management consulting, technical and trade-related services

Total services exports: **£278.8bn**

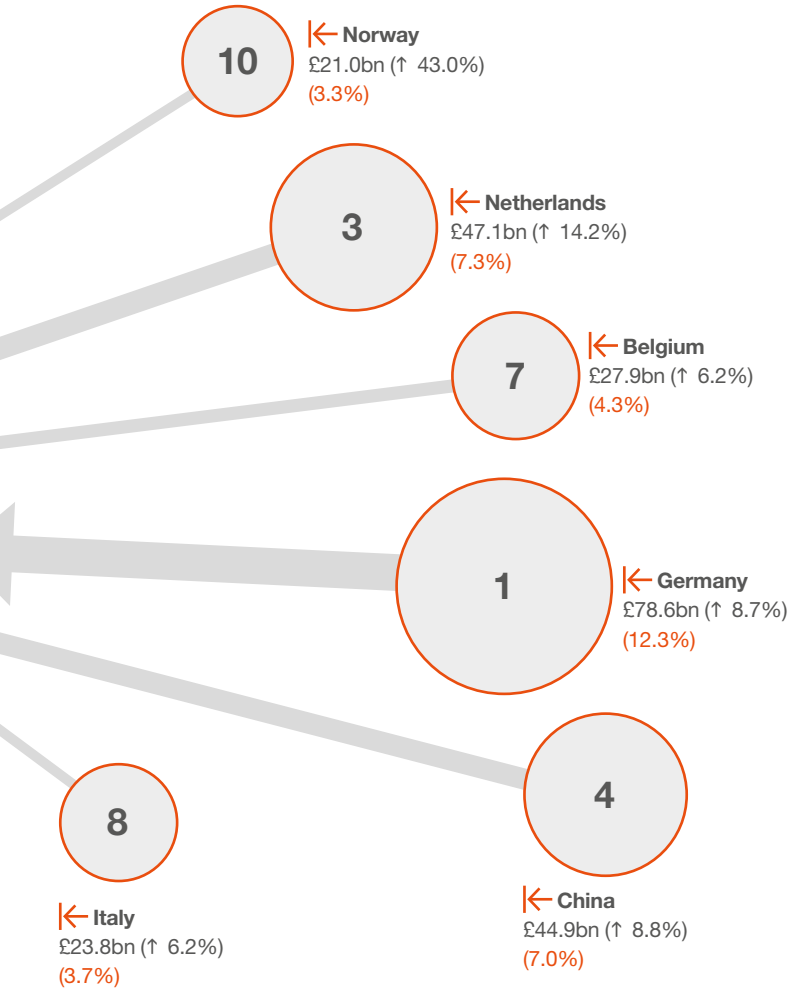
# Top 10 UK import markets for goods and services (2017)



**KEY** **Import market**  
UK import value £bn, (% of total imports)  
(% change from 2016)

**rank**

**UK Imports**  
←

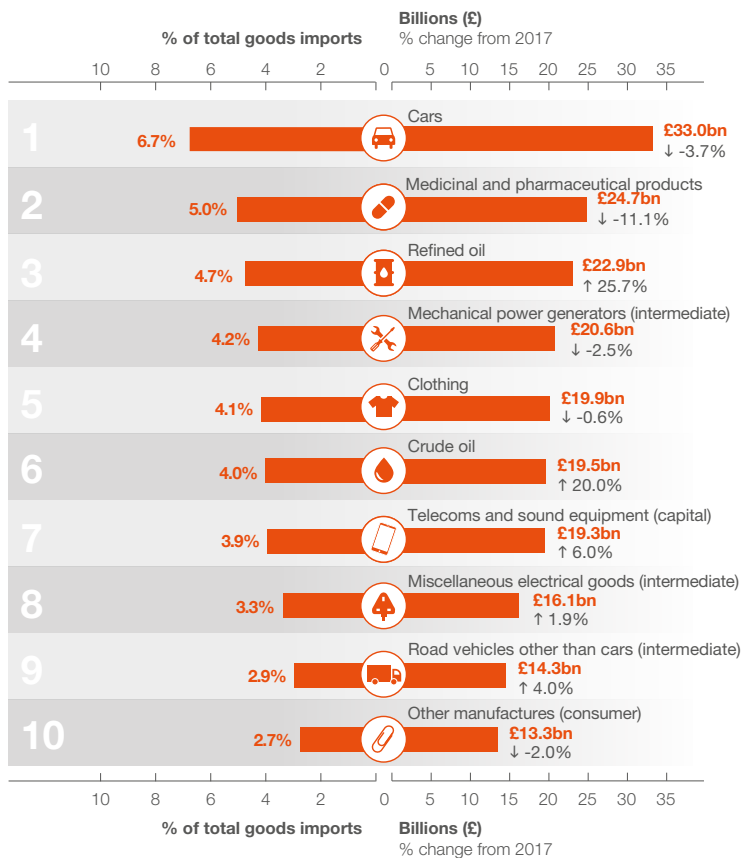


**Note:** These figures for countries are only available on a non-seasonally adjusted basis, therefore for aggregate totals we recommend users to use summary page 6. Summary page 6 provides seasonally adjusted figures showing totals for UK total trade with the World, EU and Non-EU.

\*including Puerto Rico

**Source:** ONS UK Trade experimental quarterly trade in goods and services: July to September 2018

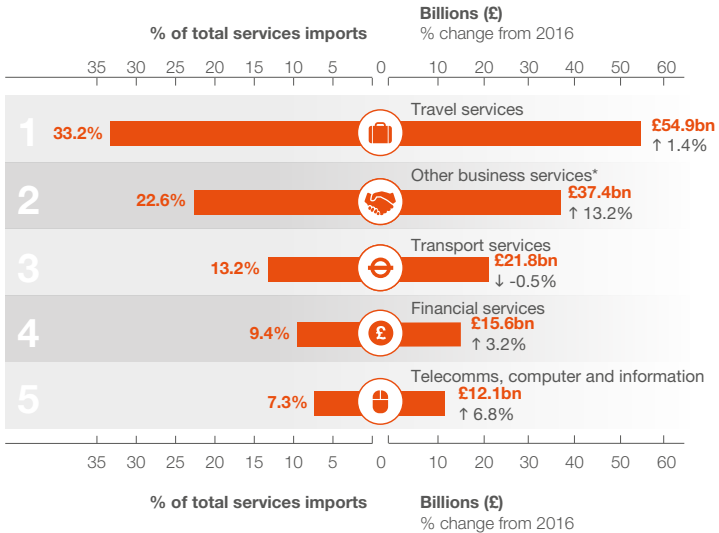
## Top 10 UK goods imports (2018)



Total goods imports: **£488.8bn**



## Top 5 UK services imports (2017)



\*including professional, management consulting, technical and trade-related services

Total services imports: **£165.7bn**















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

**Source:** ONS UK Trade experimental quarterly trade in goods and services: July to September 2018

## UK's largest trade surpluses (2017)

Ranking	Partner country	£ billion	change from 2016 £ billion
1	 United States*	44.3	↑ 6.4
2	 Ireland	14.8	↑ 5.8
3	 Switzerland	7.9	↑ 1.5
4	 Australia	5.5	↑ 0.9
5	 United Arab Emirates	4.7	↓ -0.6
6	 Saudi Arabia	3.9	↓ -0.2
7	 South Korea	3.8	↑ 3.1
8	 Singapore	3.6	↑ 0.6
9	 Oman	3.0	↑ 1.8
10	 Gibraltar	2.9	↑ 0.5

**Source:** ONS UK Trade experimental quarterly trade in goods and services: July to September 2018

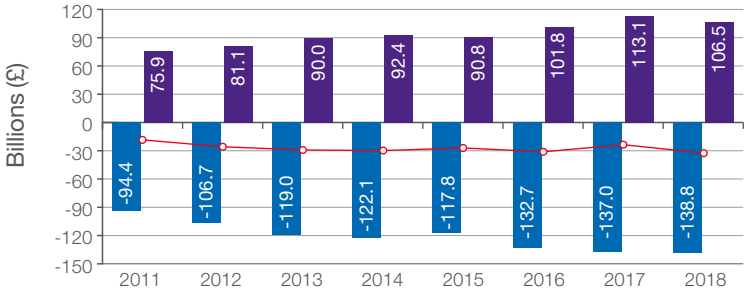
\*including Puerto Rico

## UK's largest trade deficits (2017)

Ranking	Partner country	£ billion	change from 2016 £ billion
1	 China	-22.8	↑ 0.9
2	 Germany	-22.2	↑ 0.2
3	 Norway	-15.1	↓ -6.6
4	 Spain	-14.1	↔ 0.0
5	 Belgium	-8.6	↑ 1.7
6	 Netherlands	-8.6	↓ -1.3
7	 Poland	-5.9	↓ -0.6
8	 India	-4.7	↓ -0.9
9	 Italy	-4.5	↓ -0.9
10	 Vietnam	-3.6	↓ -0.3

**Source:** ONS UK Trade experimental quarterly trade in goods and services: July to September 2018

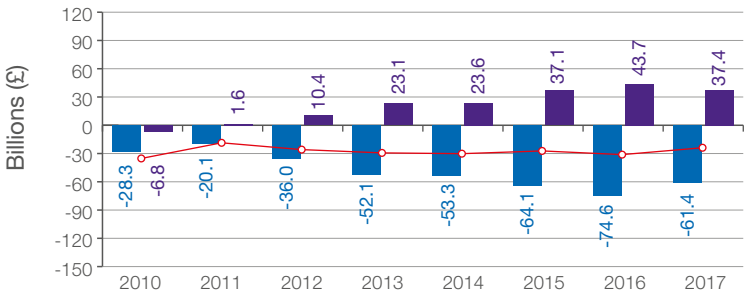
## UK trade in goods and trade in services balances (2011 - 2018)



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

Source: ONS UK Trade  
(December 2018)

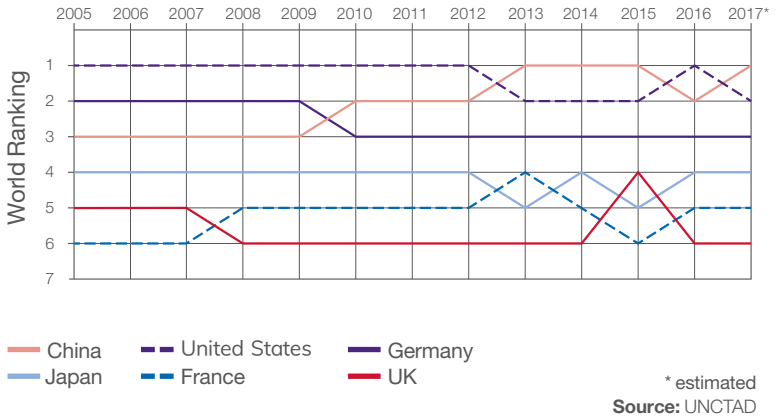
## UK trade balances with the EU and non-EU (2010 - 2017)



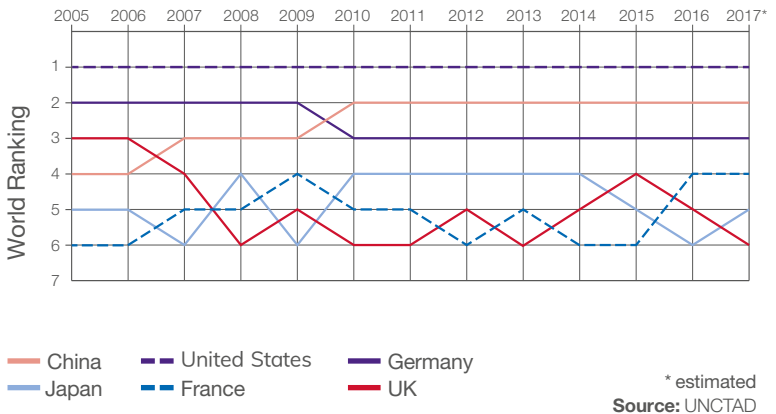
- Trade balance with the EU
- Trade balance with non-EU
- Total trade balance

Source: Balance of Payments  
(July to September 2018)

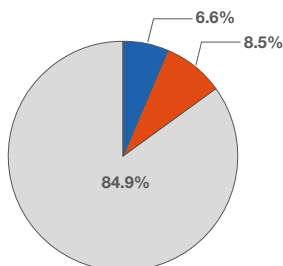
## World rankings for exports of goods and services (2005 - 2017)



## World rankings for imports of goods and services (2005 - 2017)

























## Origin of value added in UK gross exports (2015)



■ EU27   
 ■ Non-EU   
 ■ UK (domestic) value added

UK exporters are slightly more dependent on Non-EU suppliers for the production of their 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%
 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).



# 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%

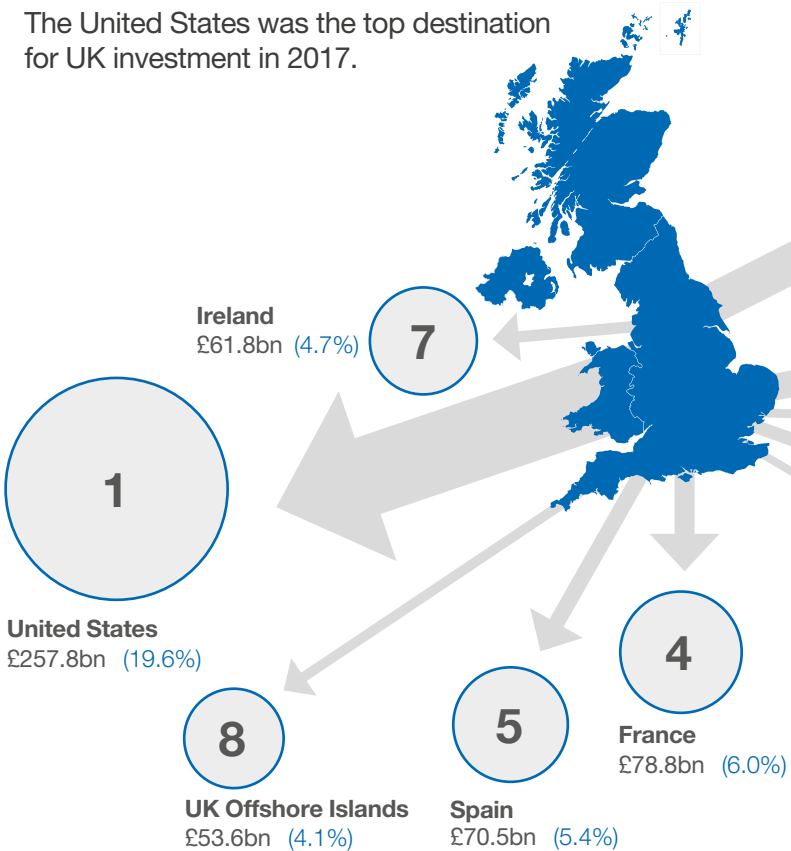
The United States was the UK's largest export market in both gross and value added terms in 2015.

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 (2017)

## Outward FDI stock, directional basis

The United States was the top destination for UK investment in 2017.



KEY	Investment destination	rank	Outward FDI stock
	Outward FDI stock bn, (% of total outward FDI stock)		←



### UK FDI in the EU

£576.3bn (43.9%)



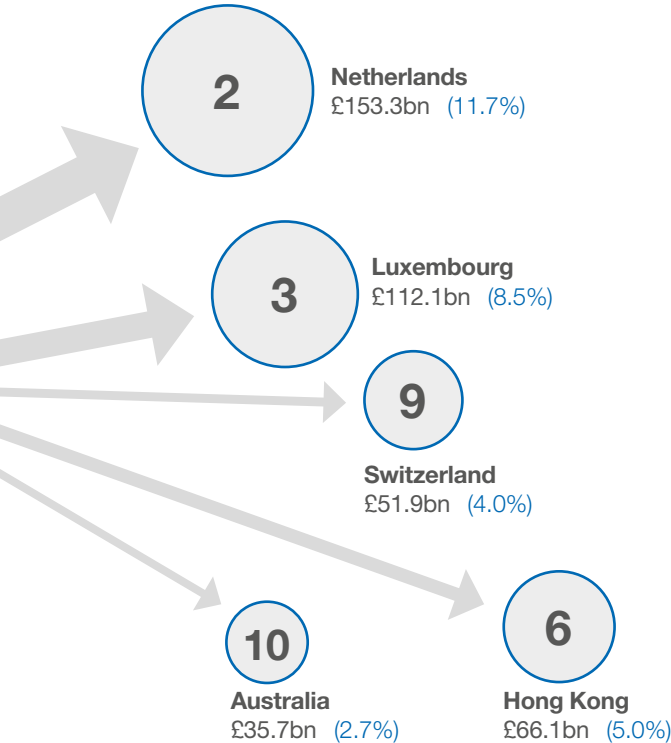
### UK FDI in the Non-EU

£737.0bn (56.1%)



### Total UK FDI abroad

£1,313.3bn (100%)



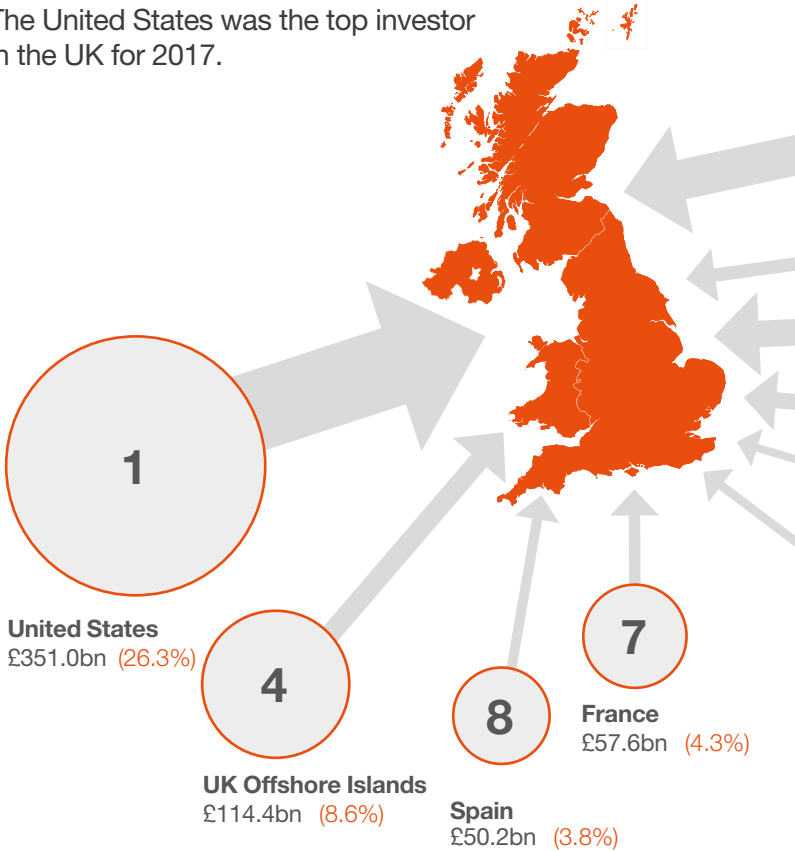
FDI statistics are compiled on the basis of the immediate, rather than the ultimate, partner country. Pass-through investment often leads to an overstatement of investments in or from big financial centres, or countries offering favourable tax terms to investors, distorting the geographical distribution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

**Source:** Foreign Direct Investment involving UK companies 2017, ONS (FDI stocks, directional basis)

# Top 10 investors in the UK (2017)

## Inward FDI stock, directional basis

The United States was the top investor in the UK for 2017.



**KEY**

**Source country**  
Inward FDI stock bn,  
(% of total inward FDI stock)

**rank**

**Inward FDI stock**





## EU FDI in the UK

£573.1bn (42.9%)



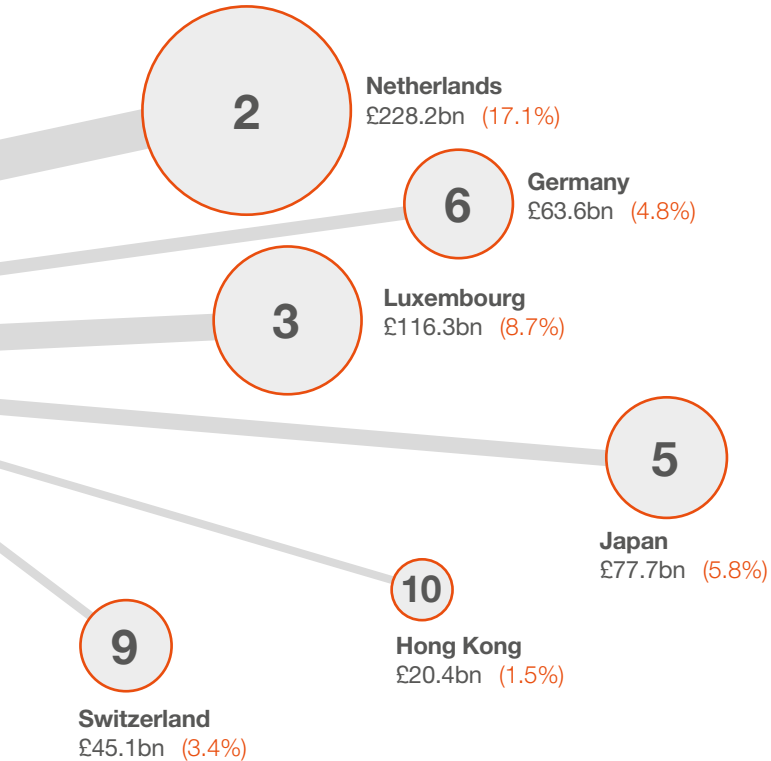
## Non-EU FDI in the UK

£763.4bn (57.1%)



## Total FDI in the UK

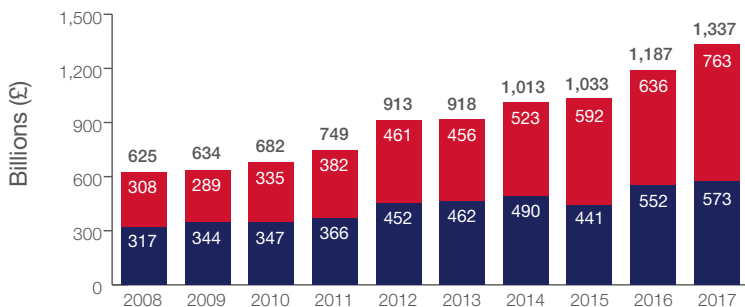
£1,336.5bn (100%)



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 2017, ONS (FDI stocks, directional basis)

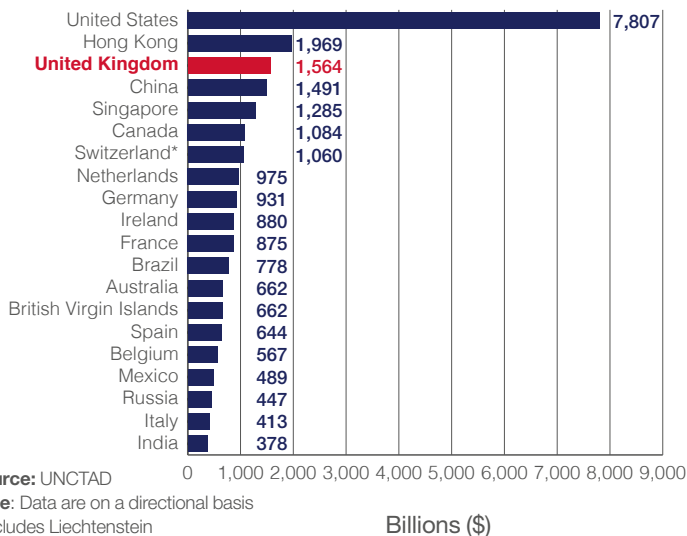
## UK Inward FDI stocks (2008 - 2017)



Source: ONS Foreign Direct Investment Involving UK Companies: 2017

■ Source: EU    ■ Source: Non EU

## Top 20 global destinations for FDI (2017)



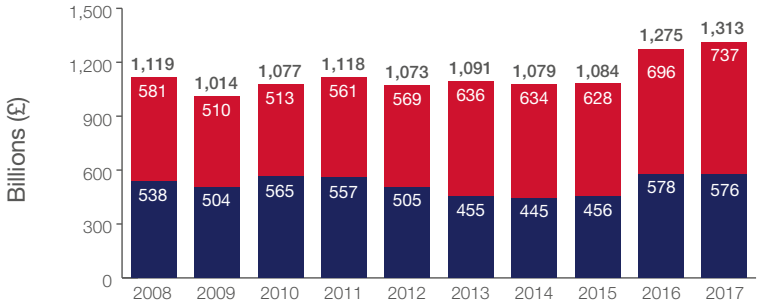
Source: UNCTAD

Note: Data are on a directional basis

\* Includes Liechtenstein

Billions (\$)

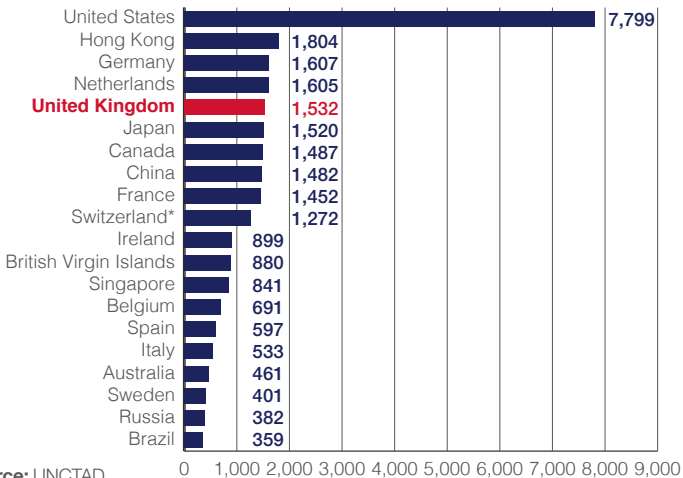
## UK Outward FDI stocks (2008 - 2017)



Source: ONS Foreign Direct Investment Involving UK Companies: 2017

■ Destination: EU ■ Destination: Non EU

## Top 20 global investors (2017)



Source: UNCTAD

Note: Data are on a directional basis

\* Includes Liechtenstein

Billions (\$)

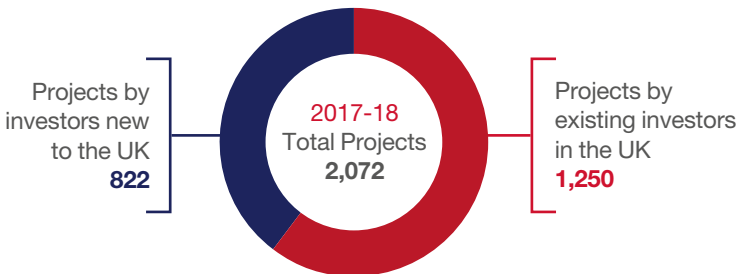
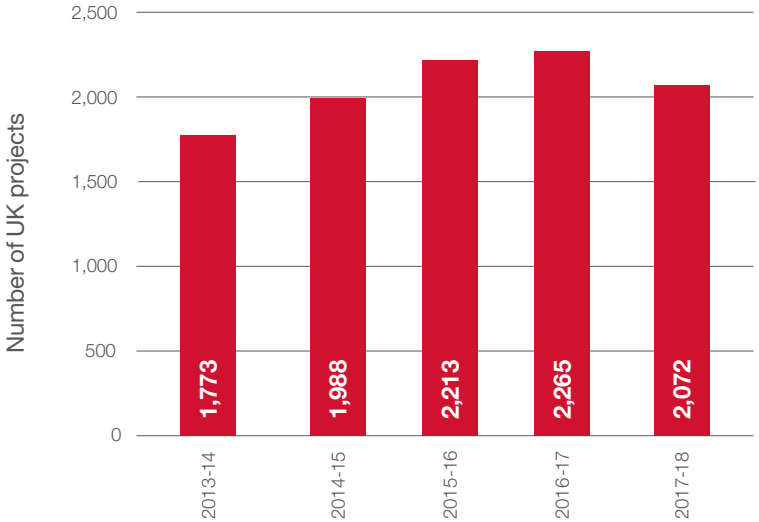
## Number of FDI projects into the UK and jobs created / safeguarded (2016-17 – 2017-18)

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	2016-17	2017-18	% change
<b>Total projects</b>	<b>2,265</b>	<b>2,072</b>	<b>↓ -8.5%</b>
Involved projects	1,859	1,682	↓ -9.5%
<b>Total Jobs</b>	<b>107,898</b>	<b>91,031</b>	<b>↓ -15.6%</b>
New jobs	75,226	75,968	↑ 1.0%
Safeguarded jobs	32,672	15,063	↓ -53.9%



## Number of FDI projects into the UK (2013-14 – 2017-18)



# Top source markets for FDI projects into the UK (2017-18)

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## Canada

**85 Projects**  
2,114 New jobs  
1,156 Safeguarded jobs

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## Ireland

**48 Projects**  
1,577 New jobs  
551 Safeguarded jobs

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## United States

**514 Projects**  
26,570 New jobs  
3,572 Safeguarded jobs

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## Rest of Americas

**54 Projects**  
1,459 New jobs  
0 Safeguarded jobs

## Rest of Europe, Middle East & Africa

**238 Projects**  
5,627 New jobs  
150 Safeguarded jobs

## Nordic & Baltic region

**138 Projects**  
2,537 New jobs  
1,670 Safeguarded jobs

## Rest of Asia Pacific<sup>c</sup>

**62 Projects**  
1,365 New jobs



**Source:** Department for International Trade inward investment results 2017 to 2018  
c: Indicates data for safeguarded jobs are disclosive

**Netherlands**

56 Projects  
2,204 New jobs  
65 Safeguarded jobs

**Germany**

127 Projects  
9,357 New jobs  
704 Safeguarded jobs

**Switzerland<sup>c</sup>**

51 Projects  
1,458 New jobs

**France**

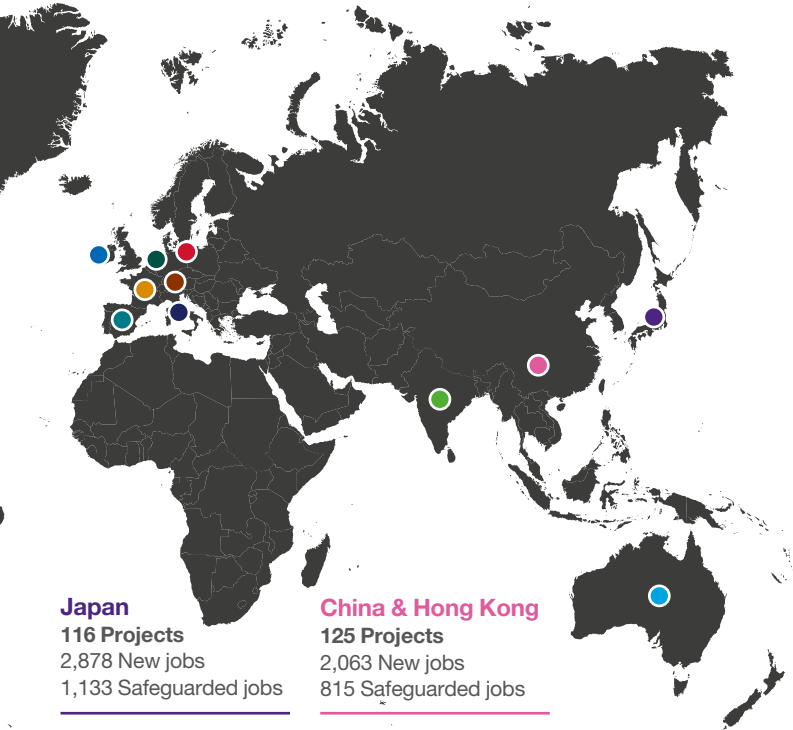
94 Projects  
5,054 New jobs  
890 Safeguarded jobs

**Spain**

54 Projects  
2,229 New jobs  
949 Safeguarded jobs

**Italy**

95 Projects  
1,343 New jobs  
2,698 Safeguarded jobs

**Japan**

116 Projects  
2,878 New jobs  
1,133 Safeguarded jobs

**China & Hong Kong**

125 Projects  
2,063 New jobs  
815 Safeguarded jobs

**India**

120 Projects  
5,659 New jobs  
532 Safeguarded jobs

**Australia & New Zealand<sup>c</sup>**

95 Projects  
2,474 New jobs

## New projects and jobs from FDI into the UK (2017-18)

**Note:** Figures in brackets represent the percentage change from the previous financial year.

### Scotland

141 projects (↓ -23.0%)  
4,148 new jobs (↓ -25.2%)



### Northern Ireland

28 projects (↓ -17.6%)  
1,251 new jobs (↓ -22.9%)

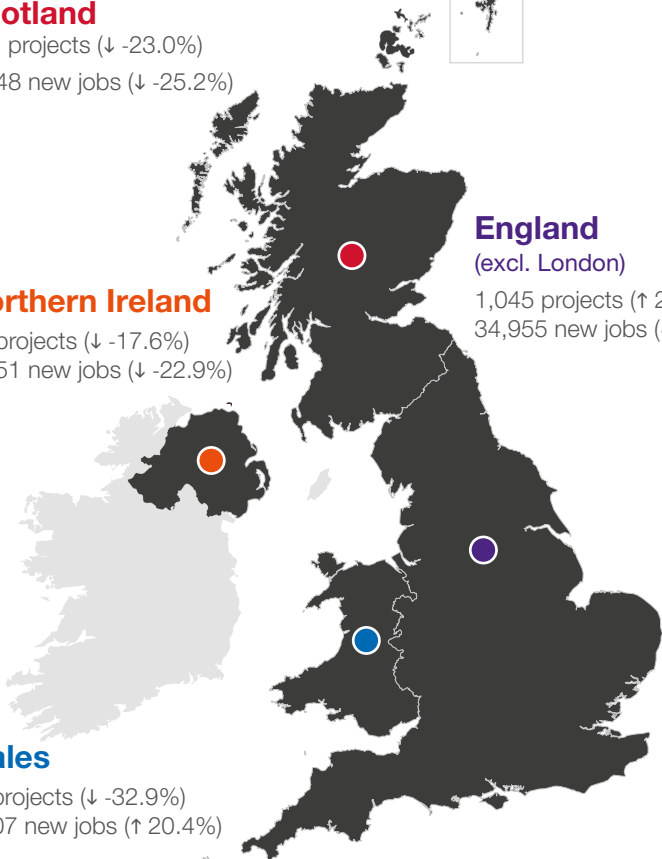
### England

(excl. London)

1,045 projects (↑ 2.9%)  
34,955 new jobs (↓ -2.4%)

### Wales

57 projects (↓ -32.9%)  
3,107 new jobs (↑ 20.4%)



**Note:** 61 multiple location projects associated with 15,029 new jobs are not included.

English Regions	FDI projects	% change in projects from 2016/17	New jobs	% change in new jobs from 2016/17
North East	69	↔ 0.0%	2,379	↓ -48.4%
North West	139	↓ -5.4%	3,689	↓ -43.3%
Yorkshire and The Humber	107	↓ -18.9%	4,623	↑ 19.4%
East Midlands	72	↓ -2.7%	3,714	↑ 106.8%
West Midlands	171	↑ 13.2%	9,424	↑ 43.4%
East of England	94	↓ -24.8%	2,235	↓ -38.5%
London	740	↓ -16.9%	17,478	↓ -15.8%
South East	294	↑ 35.5%	5,238	↓ -3.6%
South West	99	↓ -2.0%	3,653	↑ 7.4%

## UK exports of goods by region (2017)

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According to HMRC, the total value of UK exports of goods was £328.4bn in 2017.

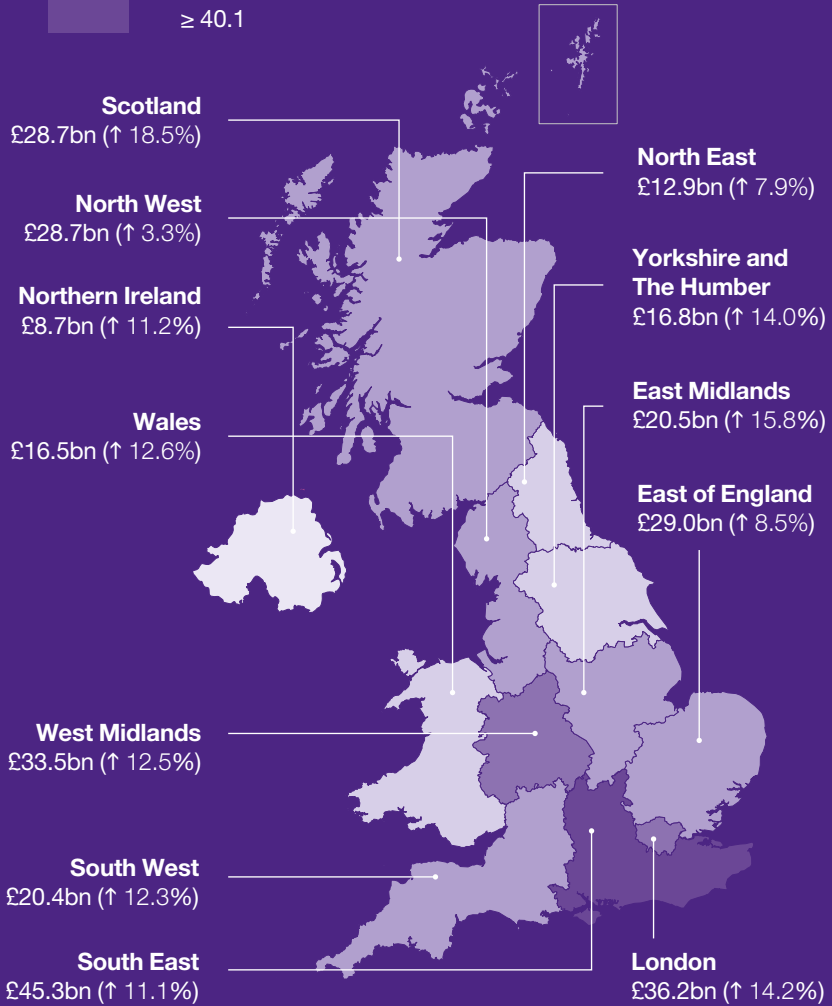
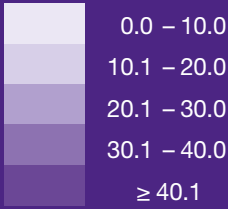
Of these exports, £243.4bn (74%) were from England. The region with the highest value of exports was the South East, which exported £45.3bn worth of goods, 14% of the total value of UK goods exports.

**Source:** HMRC, Regional Trade Statistics (July to September 2018)

**Notes:**

1. The ONS UK Trade (December 2018) currently provides the best estimate for the total value of UK exports of goods in 2017 which is £338.7bn and in 2018, £350.0bn. This is not directly comparable with the HMRC estimates presented here due to differences in coverage and methodology.
2. The sum of exports of goods by region does not add up to 100% as 9.5% (£31.2bn) of goods exported from the UK in 2017 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.

**Key:** £ billions (% change from 2016)



## UK exports of services by region (2016)

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The total value of UK exports of services was £254.0bn in 2016. Of these exports, £227.1bn (89%) were from England. The region with the highest value of exports was London, which exported £117.3bn in services, 46% of the total value of services exported by the UK.

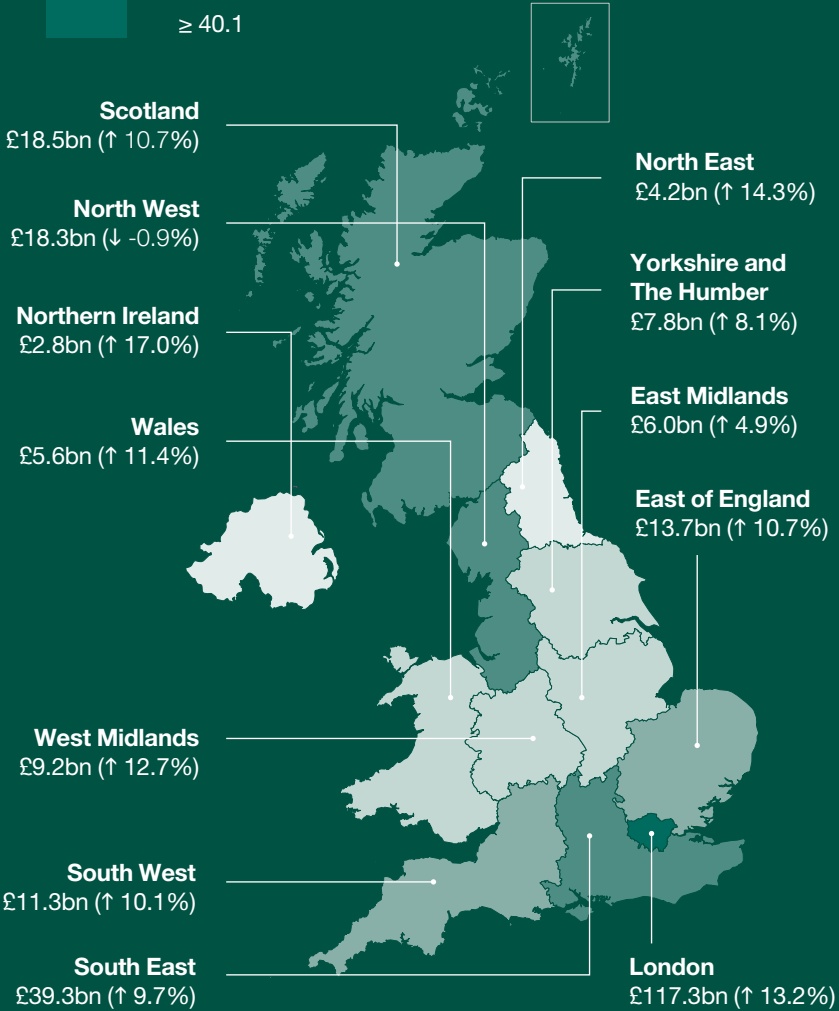
**Source:** ONS, Estimating the value of service exports abroad from different parts of the UK: 2011 to 2016

**Notes:**

1. The ONS UK Trade (December 2018) currently provides the best estimate for the total value of UK exports of services in 2016, £257.9bn. This is not directly comparable with the estimates presented here due to differences in methodology.
2. Experimental statistics (i.e. not yet fully developed).
3. 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.



**Key:** £ billions (% change since 2015)



## Number of exporters of goods and/or services by GB region (2017)

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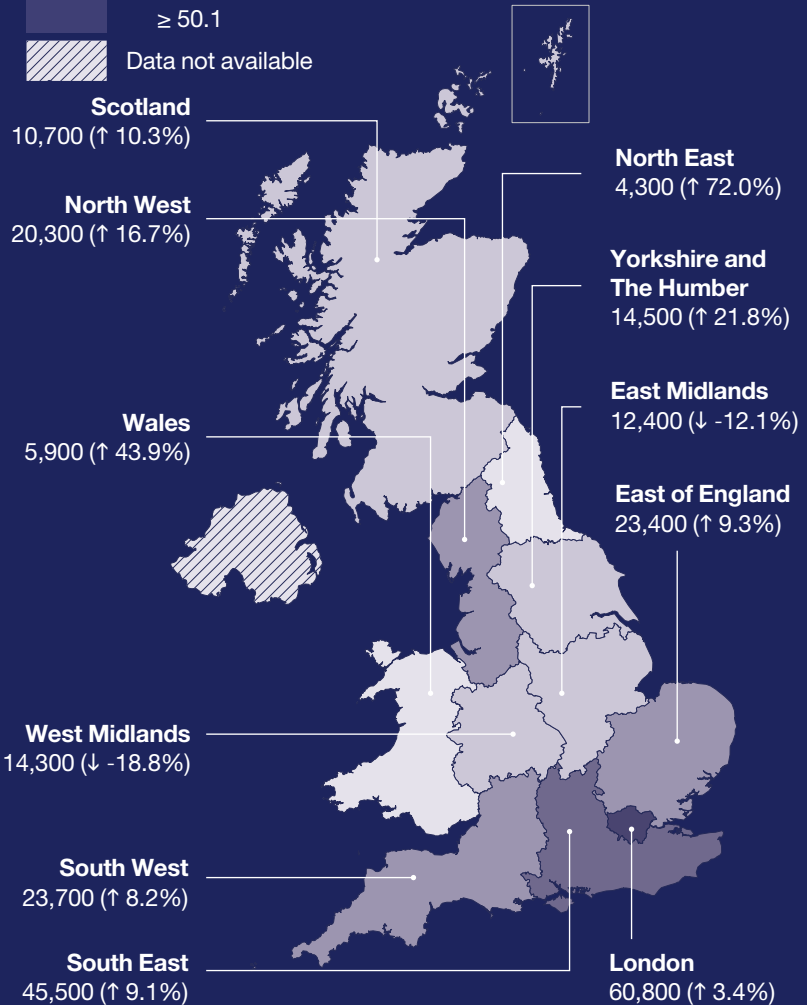
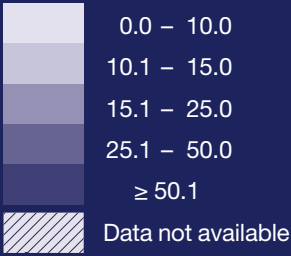
There were 235,800 exporters of goods and/or services in Great Britain in 2017. Of these exporters, 219,200 (93%) were in England. The region with the highest number of exporters was London, which had 60,800 exporters, 26% of the total number of exporters in Great Britain. Data for Northern Ireland was not available.

**Source:** ONS, Annual Business Survey, Great Britain Non-Financial Business Economy: 2017 Exporters and Importers

**Notes:**

1. Experimental statistics (i.e. not yet fully developed).
2. 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.

**Key:** Count of exporters in 1,000s (% change since 2016)



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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