FOCUS ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE

UNITED KINGDOM

THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN TODAY

Location	The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland lies in
	north western Europe, occupying the major portion of the British
	Isles. The country's only land boundary is with the Republic of
	Ireland. Northern Ireland is a constitutionally distinct part of the
	United Kingdom. Great Britain, consisting of one large island and a
	number of smaller ones, comprises England, Scotland to the north
	and Wales to the west. It is separated from the coast of western
	Europe by the English Channel to the south and by the North Sea to
	the east. The northern and western shores are washed by the
	Atlantic Ocean. Ireland lies to the west across the Irish Sea.
Size	243,073 Sq. K.M.
Population	68,138,484 estimated for 2023.
Population Density	245 per sq. km.
Population Growth Rate	0.49% (2023 est.).
Birth Rate	10.8/1000 (2023 est.).
Death Rate	9.12/1000 (2023 est.).
Life Expectancy Rate	82.05 Years. Male 80.01 Years. Female 84.21Years (Est. 2023).
Literacy	99%.
Capital City	London
Other Large Cities	Birmingham, Leeds, Glasgow, Sheffield, Bradford, Liverpool,
_	
_	Edinburgh, Manchester & Bristol etc.
Religion	Edinburgh, Manchester & Bristol etc. The Church of England is the established church in England. Other
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NATIONAL ECONOMY

The UK entered 2021 with significant challenges but also with some positive developments. Covid cases were spiking again, prolonging health and economic impacts. Elements of the post-Brexit framework were left unsettled, policy frameworks were under review, and post-pandemic growth strategy and climate policies had not been spelled out. At the same time, the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement was concluded. An ambitious vaccination campaign was just launched, and further policy support was deployed to contain the pandemic impact.

The recovery in 2021 has proceeded faster than expected, but rising price pressures have emerged. Growth is estimated to have reached 7.2 percent in 2021 on the back of continued policy support and rapid vaccination. However, inflation rose to 5.4 percent at end-2021 due to strained global supply chains, rising traded goods and energy prices, and tightened labour markets. Fiscal policy has been able to rotate towards more targeted support, with a back-loaded medium-term consolidation plan. With continued above-target inflation readings, the BoE made a first move to raise the policy rate in December, and followed this with another rise in February. Financial stability has been maintained, and macro prudential policies are returning to more standard risk settings.

The near-term growth outlook remains strong, but so too are price pressures. Despite an expected mild slowdown in Q1 due to Omicron and associated restrictions, strong private demand should support continued growth in 2022, projected at about 4.7 percent. Inflation is expected to peak at about 7 percent in the Spring of 2022 before gradually returning to target by 2024Q2 (helped by declining global energy prices, more robust supply chains, and tighter demand management policies). In the medium-term, growth is projected to ease to about 1½ percent, with real GDP settling about 2–2½ percent below its pre-pandemic trend, held back by investment shortfalls in 2020–21 and a less-than-full recovery of labour force participation. Risks are considerable in the period ahead. There is a risk of higher inflation in the near term, but 2–3 years out, the risk shifts to lower growth (as policy interventions pull inflation back). However, the major risk stems from new Covid-19 waves and spill overs from tensions in Eastern Europe.

The United Kingdom operates a well-functioning financial stability framework with resilient banks and insurers. This framework—well-aligned with global standards—has helped support the safety and soundness of the core part of the UK financial system through the strains of Brexit and the COVID-19 shock. As outlined in the FSSA, practical use is being made of macro prudential policies. However, data and information gaps exist concerning non-bank financial institutions (NBFI) and their cross-border operations. Debtors, creditors, and market intermediaries face interlinked risks ranging from adverse macro financial effects of a prolonged pandemic, lingering post-Brexit uncertainties on financial services, and rapidly shifting financial conditions. Financial stability also remains highly sensitive to the interconnectedness of markets and cross-border risks. These, and issues relating to other ongoing financial sector transitions, are starting to pose a challenge for the financial stability authorities. Post-Brexit regulatory and related institutional reforms that are now being considered offer the opportunity to reaffirm the primacy of the authorities' objective of financial stability.

Executive Board Assessment

The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) concluded the Article IV consultation with the United Kingdom. Directors commended the authorities' strong policy measures and rapid vaccination campaign that helped contain the health, economic, and financial impact of the pandemic, which supported a faster than expected recovery. Directors noted that the near-term outlook remains strong but is subject to significant risks, including from emerging price pressures, medium-term scarring, and Covid-19 uncertainties.

Directors welcomed the Bank of England's recent policy rate increases as they saw the need to withdraw the exceptional monetary support provided during 2020–21 to counter growing inflation pressures. They supported moving the policy toward a more neutral setting while emphasizing that the pace of the policy withdrawal should weigh the risks to inflation and growth. In this regard, they emphasized that predictability and clear communications about forward guidance would improve policy effectiveness.

Directors emphasized that fiscal policy should retain an important role in responding to large macroeconomic shocks. They supported gradual fiscal tightening with well targeted support to protect households from the sharply rising cost of living. Given continued demand-supply imbalances, a few Directors saw scope for moving forward some fiscal consolidation while bolstering spending on Build Back Better priorities later, which would improve growth over the medium term. However, a few Directors questioned the political feasibility of this suggestion. Directors recommended further increasing fiscal automatic stabilizers by formalizing some well-targeted and effective pandemic programs to protect marginalized workers and small businesses. They welcomed the authorities' new fiscal rules and noted that a structured and timely commentary on alignment of proposed rules with overarching fiscal objectives would be helpful.

Directors welcomed the positive assessment of the effectiveness of the UK's financial stability framework reflected in the FSAP review and supported the report's recommendations. To manage potential systemic risk posed by complex cross-border financial firms, they emphasized the need to address data and information gaps, expand regulatory perimeters, and enhance international coordination, especially on non-bank financial institutions. Directors also called for continued vigilance on housing market risks and the use of macro prudential measures. They encouraged the continued proactive approaches on the future regulatory framework, LIBOR transition, green finance, and cyber threat related risks, and securing institutional safeguards for preserving financial stability and market integrity.

Directors commended the authorities' "Build Back Better: Our Plan for Growth" agenda to facilitate structural transformation for green, inclusive growth. They supported efforts to further scale up public investment and strengthen active labour market policies, building on experience gained. Directors welcomed the ambitious Net Zero Strategy and encouraged the authorities to hone it further as necessary to deliver their targets. On implementing the EU-UK trade agreement, Directors urged continued engagement of both parties to find mutually beneficial solutions.

United Kingdom: Selected Economic Indicators									
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023			
				Est.	Proje	ections			
Real Economy (change in percent)									
Real GDP	1.7	1.7	-9.4	7.2	4.7	2.3			
Private final domestic demand	1.8	1.0	-10.7	4.9	7.4	2.3			
CPI, period average	2.5	1.8	0.9	2.6	6.3	3.1			
CPI, end-period	2.1	1.3	0.6	5.4	5.0	2.2			
Unemployment rate (in percent) 1/	4.1	3.8	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.2			
Gross national saving (percent of GDP)	14.0	15.3	14.0	13.8	13.3	13.6			
Gross domestic investment (percent of GDP)	17.9	18.0	16.7	17.2	17.9	18.0			
Public Finance (fiscal year, percent of GDP)									
Public sector overall balance	-2.0	-2.5	-14.9	-7.7	-3.1	-2.2			
Public sector cyclically adjusted primary balance (staff	-0.8	-1.3	-11.5	-5.6	-2.4	-1.3			
estimates)									
Public sector net debt 2/	78.9	84.1	96.6	93.7	91.2	91.5			
Money and Credit (end-period, 12-month percent									
change)									
M4 3/	2.1	3.8	13.5	6.9					
Net lending to private sector 3/	3.6	3.2	3.7	3.0					
Interest rates (percent; year average)									
Three-month interbank rate	0.7	0.8	0.3	0.1					
Ten-year government bond yield	1.5	0.9	0.3	8.0					
Balance of Payments (percent of GDP)									

-3.9	-2.7	-2.6	-3.4	-4.7	-4.3
-1.3	-0.9	0.1	-1.1	-2.4	-2.1
-0.1	-0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
2.8	3.4	-13.9	-1.4	3.9	8.5
3.1	2.9	-15.9	2.4	9.7	7.3
0.2	8.0	1.1	-0.6	0.6	0.4
-0.2	-1.8	-3.0	1.0	0.8	0.2
176.6	182.7	186.7	203.7		
					Floating
					USD\$1= £0.7420
07.0	07.7	00.1	102.4		£0./420
	_				
98.8	98.4	98.6	102.4		
2,174	2,255	2,153	2,333	2,591	2,736
2,905	2,880	2,762	3,211		
	-1.3 -0.1 2.8 3.1 0.2 -0.2 176.6 97.9 98.8 2,174	-1.3	-1.3 -0.9 0.1 -0.1 -0.1 0.1 2.8 3.4 -13.9 3.1 2.9 -15.9 0.2 0.8 1.1 -0.2 -1.8 -3.0 176.6 182.7 186.7 97.9 97.7 98.1 98.8 98.4 98.6 2,174 2,255 2,153	-1.3 -0.9 0.1 -1.1 -0.1 -0.1 0.1 0.1 2.8 3.4 -13.9 -1.4 3.1 2.9 -15.9 2.4 0.2 0.8 1.1 -0.6 -0.2 -1.8 -3.0 1.0 176.6 182.7 186.7 203.7 97.9 97.7 98.1 102.4 98.8 98.4 98.6 102.4 2,174 2,255 2,153 2,333	-1.3 -0.9 0.1 -1.1 -2.4 -0.1 -0.1 0.1 0.1 0.1 2.8 3.4 -13.9 -1.4 3.9 3.1 2.9 -15.9 2.4 9.7 0.2 0.8 1.1 -0.6 0.6 -0.2 -1.8 -3.0 1.0 0.8 176.6 182.7 186.7 203.7 97.9 97.7 98.1 102.4 98.8 98.4 98.6 102.4 2,174 2,255 2,153 2,333 2,591

1/ ILO unemployment; based on Labour Force Survey data.

2/ Public sector net debt is defined as public sector gross debt minus liquid assets held by general government and non-financial public corporations. It includes operations from Bank of England. The fiscal year begins in April. Debt stock reported in this table has been transformed into calendar year by using end-of-fiscal year information on debt and centered-GDP as a denominator.
3/ 2021 values are estimated using November

4/ Historical annual series available until 2020.

"NATIONAL ECONOMY' is based on IMF Executive Board Concludes 2021 Article IV Consultation with the United Kingdom February 22, 2022.

FOREIGN TRADE

United Kingdom's total exports in 2016 were of the order of US\$ 394,727 million. It decreased to US\$ 381,130 million in 2020. Exports during the period from 2016 to 2020, in terms of percentage, grew highest (7.45%) in 2018 and fell maximum (-14.10%) in 2020 in comparison with 2017 and 2019 respectively. The annual average compound growth rate worked out at -0.87%.

Imports, on the other hand, were of the order of US\$ 543,961 million in 2020 while in 2016 it was US\$ 576,610 million. Imports during the period from 2016 to 2020, in terms of percentage, grew highest (6.83%) in 2018 and fell maximum (-12.63%) in 2020 as compared to 2017 and 2019 respectively. The annual average compound rate of increase worked out at -1.45%.

Volume of trade registered an annual average (compound) growth rate of -1.21% from US\$ 971,337 million in 2016 to US\$ 925,091 million in 2020. **United Kingdom** faced a deficit balance of trade payment during the said period.

United Kingdom's export and import, volume and balance of trade between 2016 and 2020 along with their growth rates are given in **Table-I**.

United Kingdom's major trading partners are Australia, Austria, Belgium-Luxembourg, Canada, China PR, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea Republic, Malaysia, Netherlands, Norway Philippines, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey and USA etc. and main exportable commodities are food and live animals, mineral fuels, lubricants, etc, petroleum, petroleum products etc., chemicals and related products, organic chemicals, medicinal products, basic manufactures, machinery and transport equipment, mechanical machinery and equipment, electrical machinery, apparatus etc., scientific and photographic apparatus etc.

In addition to many international air services into and out of the country, an internal air network operates from more than 20 main commercial airports. The principal airports are Heathrow and Gatwick serving London, and Manchester, Birmingham and Glasgow. In March 1991 a new development was opened at Stansted, including a new terminal, cargo center and rail link to central London.

There are more than 400 ports in the United Kingdom, of which London (Tilbury), Milford Haven, the Tees and Hartlepool ports, the Forth ports, Grimsby and Immingham, Southampton, Sullom Voe and Medway ports, Dover, Felixstowe and Liverpool are the largest in terms of the tonnage of goods traffic handled. Twenty two ports, including Southampton, Grimsby and Immingham, Hull and five ports in South Wales, are owned and administered by Associated British Ports. The majority of the other large ports are owned any operated by public trusts, including London, which is administered by the Port of London Authority, and Belfast, administered by the Belfast Harbour Commission.

An extensive passenger and vehicle ship ferry service link Britain to the rest of Europe. There are also hovercraft services to Belgium and France for passengers and vehicles. There are approximately 3,500 miles of navigable canals and river navigations in Great Britain. Of these, the publicly-owned British Waterways (BW) is responsible for some 385 miles of commercial waterways and some 1.160 miles of cruising waterways.

River navigations and canals managed by other authorities include the Thames, Great Ouse and Nene, Norfolk Broads and Manchester Ship Canal.

BILATERAL TRADE WITH INDIA

Indo--United Kingdom bilateral trade in 2018-19 was of the order of Rs.117,996.97 crores. It increased to Rs.163,965.07 crores in 2022-23. The annual compound growth rate of volume of trade during the period from 2018-19 to 2022-23 was 8.57%. India enjoyed a surplus balance of trade during the said period **(see table II).** The average annual compound growth rates of exports and imports worked out at 9.01% and 8.02% respectively.

India's exports to, and imports from **United Kingdom** of Merchandise Goods between 2018-19 and 2022-23 along with their growth rates are presented in **Table II.**

India's top ten merchandise goods exported to and imported from **United Kingdom** during 2018-19 and 2022-23, along with their growth rates are depicted in **Table III & IV** respectively.

SOME IMPORTANT LINKS

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URL :http://www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk

Natural Resources Institute (NRI) Tel

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Sources

The Statesman Year Book, the Europa World Year Book, Monthly Bulletin on Statistics UN Publication, IMF, World Bank.org, BBC News, the World Fact Book, Visa HQ, World Development Indicator, MEA, wikipedia.org, and D.G.C.I & S etc.

NOTICE

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			TABLE - I						
	<u>U. K. 'S</u>	TOTAL EXPO	RTS AND IM	PORTS, VOLU	JME AND BAI	ANCE OF TRA	DE		
	BETWEEN 2016 AND 2020.								
			(Figures in US MILLION DOLLARS)						
Year	Exports	Percentage	Import	Percentage	Volume	Percentage	Balance		
		Growth in		Growth in	of	Growth in	of		
		Exports		Imports	Trade	Vol. of Trade	Trade		
2016	394727		576610		9,71,337		-181883		
2017	422361	7.00	603263	4.62	10,25,624	5.59	-180902		
2018	453806	7.45	644472	6.83	10,98,278	7.08	-190666		
2019	443702	-2.23	622621	-3.39	10,66,323	-2.91	-178919		
2020	381130	-14.10	543961	-12.63	9,25,091	-13.24	<i>-162831</i>		
Annual									
Compound	ompound								
Growth Rate	-0.87		-1.45		-1.21				
NOTE :	Figures	relate to calend	dar year, Janu	ary to Decemb	er.				
SOURCE :	UN COMTRA	ADE PUBLICA	ATION						

	TABLE - II									
	INDIA'S EXPORT TO AND IMPORT FROM UNITED KINGDOM MERCHANDISE									
	GOODS DURING 2018-2019 TO 2022-2023									
					(Value in Rs. CRORES)					
Year	Exports	Percentage	Import	Percentage	Volume	Percentage	Balance			
		Growth in		Growth in	of	Growth in	of			
		Exports		Imports	Trade	Vol. of Trade	Trade			
2018-19	65251.40		52745.57		117996.97		12505.83			
2019-20	62086.32	-4.85	47496.17	-9.95	109582.49	-7.13	14590.15			
2020-21	60612.03	-2.37	36613.17	-22.91	97225.20	-11.28	23998.86			
2021-22	78271.54	29.14	52288.41	42.81	130559.95	34.29	25983.13			
2022-23	92140.54	17.72	71824.53	37.36	163965.07	25.59	20316.01			
Annual										
Compound										
Growth Rate	9.01		8.02		8.57					
NOTE :	Figures relate	to Financial Yea	h.							
SOURCE :	Directorate Gene	eral of Commerc	cial Intelligence	& Statistics,						
	Ministry of (Commerce & Inc	dustry, Kolkata	700 107.						

			TABLE -III									
	INDIA'S MAJO	GDOM										
	201	2018-2019 TO 2022-2023 AND THEIR GROWTH RATES							(Value in Rs. CRORES)			
SI. No.	Name of the Merchandise Commodities	Value of Exports						Annual Growth Rates				
		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	19-20 ove	20-21 over	21-22 over	22-23 ove		
							2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22		
1	Petroleum Products	1546.54	1575.98	801.27	1292.91	7496.34	1.90	-49.16	61.36	479.80		
	Share in total export	2.37	2.54	1.32	1.65	8.14						
2	Telecom Instruments	89.15	481.77	1955.57	3755.25	7290.81	440.40	305.91	92.03	94.15		
	Share in total export	0.14	0.78	3.23	4.80	7.91						
3	RMG Cotton Including Accessories	6521.63	6147.99	4819.83	6301.42	7080.89	-5.73	-21.60	30.74	12.37		
	Share in total export	9.99	9.90	7.95	8.05	7.68						
4	Electric Machinery And Equipments	3893.19	4524.50	2810.12	3962.49	5251.00	16.22	-37.89	41.01	32.52		
	Share in total export	5.97	7.29	4.64	5.06	5.70						
5	Drugs Formulations, Biologicals	3670.41	3164.16	4526.31	4524.38	4212.58	-13.79	43.05	-0.04	-6.89		
	Share in total export	5.63	5.10	7.47	5.78	4.57						
6	Gold & Other Precs. Metal Jewellery	2094.92	2248.70	1573.99	3234.24	3045.56	7.34	-30.00	105.48	-5.83		
	Share in total export	3.21	3.62	2.60	4.13	3.31						
7	RMG Manmade Fibres	2924.43	2904.89	1620.45	2329.01	2719.82	-0.67	-44.22	43.73	16.78		
	Share in total export	4.48	4.68	2.67	2.98	2.95						
8	Products Of Iron & Steel	2230.03	2099.33	2001.60	3135.44	2714.23	-5.86	-4.66	56.65	-13.43		
	Share in total export	3.42	3.38	3.30	4.01	2.95						
9	Footwear Of Leather	2410.70	2243.77	1414.42	1935.92	2375.32	-6.92	-36.96	36.87	22.70		
	Share in total export	3.69	3.61	2.33	2.47	2.58						
10	Pearl, Precs. Semiprecs. Stones	1052.53	1077.30	887.60	1682.38	1862.16	2.35	-17.61	89.54	10.69		
	Share in total export	1.61	1.74	1.46	2.15	2.02						
	Total export to UNITED KINGDOM	65251.40	62086.32	60612.03	78271.54	92140.54	-4.85	-2.37	29.14	17.72		
	NOTE: Figures relate to Financial Year	, April to Ma	arch.									
	SOURCE: Directorate General of Comm	nercial Intel	ligence & St	tatistics, Mi	nistry of Co	mmerce &	Industry, Ko	olkata : 700	0 107.			

TABLE -IV INDIA'S MAJOR ITEMS OF MERCHANDISE IMPORT FROM UNITED KINGDOM 2018-2019 TO 2022-2023 AND THEIR GROWTH RATES (Value in Rs. CRORES) **Annual Growth Rates** Name of the Merchandise Commodities Value of Imports 2019-20 19-20 over 20-21 over 21-22 over 22-23 over 2022-23 No 2018-19 2020-21 2021-22 2019-20 2020-21 2018-19 2021-22 3422.35 1 Silver 7296.57 9756.38 21343.29 -53.10 -74.95 1038.13 118.76 857.23 Share in total imports 7.21 2.34 13.83 18.66 29.72 2 Iron & Steel 2893.17 2309.82 1639.26 1382.98 6220.19 -20.16 -29.03 -15.63 349.77 Share in total imports 5.49 4.86 4.48 2.64 8.66 4355.31 4643.17 3 Electric Machinery & Equipments 2452.76 3400.78 3875.67 6.61 -47.17 38.65 13.96 Share in total imports. 8.26 9.78 6.50 6.70 5.40 4 Alumunium, Products Of Almnm. 1847.04 1667.55 2753.56 3307.36 2396.96 -22.94 -9.72 65.13 20.11 3.89 5.27 Share in total import 4.54 4.55 4.60 5 Alcoholic Beverages 1356.11 1193.02 974.13 1440.94 3017.13 -12.03 -18.35 47.92 109.39 Share in total import 2.57 2.51 2.66 2.76 4.20 6 Paper, Paper Board And Products 1257.14 2105.97 1072.44 1245.00 1748.95 17.22 -0.97 40.48 20.41 Share in total import 2.03 2.65 3.40 3.34 2.93 804.28 1160.61 1508.97 1211.69 1644.84 35.75 7 Other Precs. Base Metals 44.30 30.02 -19.70 2.44 4.12 2.29 Share in total import 1.52 2.32 8 Ind. Machinery And Instruments 1334.57 1425.59 1548.04 1638.35 1580.68 6.82 8.59 5.83 -3.52 Share in total import 2.53 3.00 4.23 3.13 2.20 -14.22 9 Electronic Instruments 1449.23 1574.38 1350.47 1376.00 1575.42 8.64 1.89 14.49 2.75 3.31 3.69 2.19 Share in total import 2.63 1055.93 10 Medical And Scientific Instruments 998.35 891.32 1266.48 1532.74 -5.45 -10.72 42.09 21.02 2.00 2.10 2.43 2.42 2.13 Share in total import Total import from UNITED KINGDOM | 52745.57 | 47496.17 36613.17 52288.41 71824.53 -22.91 37.36 -9.95 42.81 **NOTE**: Figures relate to Financial Year, April to March.

SOURCE: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Kolkata: 700 107.