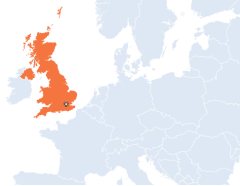


## Introduction

United Kingdom is an island country spanning an archipelago including Great Britain, located in Western Europe comprising England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. United Kingdom is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, the North Sea, the English Channel, and the Irish Sea. It lies near vital North Atlantic sea lanes and is only 35 km from France and linked by tunnel under the English Channel. The geography is mostly rugged hills and low mountains. The government system is constitutional monarchy and a Commonwealth realm; the chief of state is the queen, and the head of government is the prime minister. United Kingdom has an advanced open market economy in which the prices of goods and services are determined in a free price system. United Kingdom is a member of the European Union (EU).



**Location:** Northern Europe

**Capital City:** London (GMT)

**Chief of State:** Queen Elizabeth II

**Head of Govt.:** Prime Minister Theresa May

**Currency:** British pound (GBP)

**Major Languages:** <p>English, Scots (about 30% of the population of Scotland), Scottish Gaelic (about 60,000 in Scotland), Welsh (about 20% of the population of Wales), Irish (about 10% of the population of Northern Ireland), Cornish (some 2,000 to 3,000 in Cornwall) (2012)</p>

**Primary Religions:** <p>Christian (includes Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist) 59.5%, Muslim 4.4%, Hindu 1.3%, other 2%, unspecified 7.2%, none 25.7%</p>

**Calling Code:** 44

**Voltage:** 230

## Key Websites

Main Government Page: [gov.uk](http://gov.uk)

Commerce Ministry: [gov.uk](http://gov.uk)

Investment Promotion Agency: [gov.uk](http://gov.uk)

## Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	High Income
Level of Development:	Developed
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$2,796.73 billion (2016)
GDP growth (annual %):	1.81% (2016)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$42,608.92 (2016)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	9.69% (2016)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	-\$115.53 billion (2016)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	0.64% (2016)
Labor force, total:	34,032,734 (2017)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	5.01% (2017)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$785.36 billion (2016)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$735.64 billion (2016)

## GDP Composition %



*\*Although Manufacturing is included in the Industry figures, it is also separately reported because it plays a critical role in economy.*

## Rankings

Index	Rank
Corruption Perceptions Index	10 / 176
EY Globalization Index	10 / 60
Global Competitiveness Index	6 / 137
Global Enabling Trade Index	8 / 136
Global Manufacturing Competitiveness Index (GMCI)	6 / 40
Global Services Location Index	19 / 55
Index of Economic Freedom	8 / 180
International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	8 / 160
Inward FDI Potential Index	3 / 139
KOF Index of Globalization	8 / 185
Networked Readiness Index (NRI)	8 / 139
Open Budget Index	10 / 115

## Risk Assessment (Provided by Coface)

**Country rating: A3** - Changes in generally good but somewhat volatile political and economic environment can affect corporate payment behavior. A basically secure business environment can nonetheless give rise to occasional difficulties for companies. Corporate default probability is quite acceptable on average.

**Business Climate rating: A1** - The business environment is very good. Corporate financial information is available and reliable. Debt collection is efficient. Institutional quality is very good. Intercompany transactions run smoothly in environments rated A1.

### Strengths

- Hydrocarbon production meeting three-quarters of energy needs
- Advanced sectors (aerospace, pharmaceuticals, and automotive)
- Low corporate taxes

### Weaknesses

- Uncertainties about the implementation and impact of the decision to leave the EU
- Economy's dependence on financial services
- High level of public debt
- Sizable private debt (especially property debt being 125% of disposable household income)

## U.S. Embassy

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<https://uk.usembassy.gov>