



Department for
International Trade



Trade & Investment Factsheets

Japan

This factsheet provides the latest statistics on trade and investment between the UK and Japan.

Date of release: 9 April 2021; Date of next planned release: May 2021

Total trade in goods and services (exports plus imports) between the UK and Japan was **£24.7 billion** in the four quarters to the end of Q4 2020, a decrease of 15.4% or £4.5 billion from the four quarters to the end of Q4 2019. Of this £24.7 billion:

- Total UK **exports** to Japan amounted to £12.3 billion in the four quarters to the end of Q4 2020 (a decrease of 10.3% or £1.4 billion compared to the four quarters to the end of Q4 2019);
- Total UK **imports** from Japan amounted to £12.4 billion in the four quarters to the end of Q4 2020 (a decrease of 19.9% or £3.1 billion compared to the four quarters to the end of Q4 2019).

Japan was the UK's 11th largest trading partner in the four quarters to the end of Q3 2020 accounting for 2.1% of total UK trade.¹

In 2019, the **outward stock of foreign direct investment (FDI)** from the UK in Japan was £5.2 billion accounting for 0.3% of the total UK outward FDI stock.

In 2019, the **inward stock of foreign direct investment (FDI)** in the UK from Japan was £90.5 billion accounting for 5.8% of the total UK inward FDI stock.²

¹ Trade data sourced from ONS [UK Economic Accounts](#), with the ranking based on ONS [UK total trade](#) data.

² Investment data sourced from ONS publication on [Foreign Direct Investment Involving UK Companies](#).

About these statistics

This factsheet presents the latest statistics on trade and investment between the UK and Japan. It summarises a wide range of publicly available data, from data providers such as the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), as well as international data providers.

This factsheet is part of a wider range produced by the Department for International Trade which draws together many data sources into one single compendium document for each individual trade and investment partner. The full set of factsheets for different individual partners can be found on the [Trade and Investment Factsheets website](#) on GOV.UK.

Where data are available, these factsheets contain metrics on:

- [Headline trade statistics between the UK and each trading partner for the latest four quarters.](#)
- [Trade statistics by commodity and service type.](#)
- [Trade between the UK and each trading partner, broken down by UK country and English region.](#)
- [UK's market share as a total of all imports for each trading partner.](#)
- [Number of VAT-registered businesses trading goods.](#)
- [UK's Foreign Direct Investment \(FDI\) with each investment partner.](#)
- ['Ease of doing business' rankings and scores.](#)
- [Summary trade and investment data as reported by each trade and investment partner, as well as economic data and projections.](#)

All statistics are correct at the time of publication, with upcoming release dates available on the [Government update schedule for Official Statistics](#). The Department for International Trade strongly recommends users download the latest factsheet to ensure the most up-to-date statistics are used as some statistics are revised on a regular basis.

For the most up to date snapshot of the UK's trade and investment position with all partners, please see the [trade and investment core statistics book](#). These statistics are based on the same data sources as the trade and investment factsheets and therefore are comparable between the two publications. A list of all [Official Statistics](#) publications from the Department for International Trade can be found online.

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Trade with Japan (ONS)^{3 4 5}

Trade definitions

UK exports - Goods and services that were produced or sourced in the UK, which were sold to Japan.

UK imports - Goods and services that were sold to the UK, which were produced or sourced by Japan.

Total or 'bilateral' trade - The value of total trade between the UK and Japan (exports plus imports).

Trade balance - The difference between exports and imports, calculated by UK exports minus UK imports.

Trade surplus - This occurs when the value of UK exports to Japan is greater than the value of UK imports from Japan.

Trade deficit - This occurs when the value of UK exports to Japan is less than the value of UK imports from Japan.

Headline trade statistics include trade in non-monetary gold (reported within the unspecified goods category), which can significantly affect trends for some partners. Please see the factsheet [quality and methodology report](#) for more information. These statistics are given on a balance of payments (change of ownership) basis.

Note: *The latest data includes trade between March and December 2020, which have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. As data are presented here for the whole of 2020, trade between January and February 2020 is included before any UK lockdown measures were introduced. Data quality has also been affected and may be subject to larger revisions.*

Total trade in goods and services (exports plus imports) between the UK and Japan was £24.7 billion in the four quarters to the end of Q4 2020, a decrease of 15.4% or £4.5 billion from the four quarters to the end of Q4 2019.

In the four quarters to the end of Q4 2020, **total UK exports** to Japan amounted to £12.3 billion (a decrease of 10.3% or £1.4 billion compared to the four quarters to the end of Q4 2019).

Of all UK exports to Japan in the four quarters to the end of Q4 2020, £5.9 billion (48.3%) were **goods** and £6.4 billion (51.7%) were **services**. In the four quarters to the end of Q4 2020, **UK exports of goods** to Japan decreased by 13.0% or £890 million compared to the four quarters to the end of Q4 2019 while **UK exports of services** to Japan decreased by 7.5% or £518 million compared to the four quarters to the end of Q4 2019.

In the four quarters to the end of Q4 2020, **total UK imports** from Japan were £12.4 billion (a decrease of 19.9% or £3.1 billion compared to the four quarters to the end of Q4 2019).

Of all UK imports from Japan in the four quarters to the end of Q4 2020, £7.1 billion (57.0%) were **goods** and £5.3 billion (43.0%) were **services**. In the same period, **UK imports of goods** from Japan decreased by 27.3% or £2.7 billion compared to the four quarters to the end of Q4 2019 while **UK imports of services** from Japan decreased by 7.5% or £432 million compared to the four quarters to the end of Q4 2019.

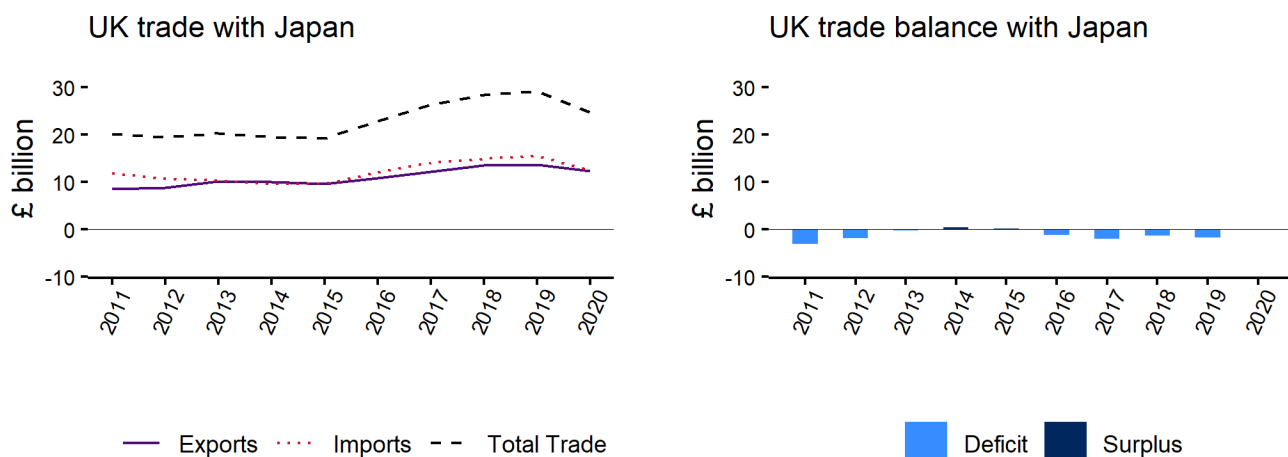
This means the UK reported a **total trade deficit** of £123 million with Japan, compared to a trade deficit of £1.8 billion in the four quarters to the end of Q4 2019. In the four quarters to the end of Q4 2020, the UK had a **trade in goods deficit** of £1.1 billion with Japan, compared to a trade in goods deficit of £2.9 billion in the four quarters to the end of Q4 2019. Meanwhile, in the four quarters to the end of Q4 2020 the UK reported a **trade in services surplus** of £1.0 billion with Japan, compared to a trade in services surplus of £1.1 billion in the four quarters to the end of Q4 2019.

³ Office of National Statistics (ONS) data source for total trade: [UK Economic Accounts \(seasonally adjusted series\)](#).

⁴ This factsheet contains data as reported by the UK, users are advised to use UK-reported data where possible for consistency between partners. These data are subject to [asymmetries](#) e.g. the value of UK exports to Japan (reported by the UK) may not match the value of Japan imports from the UK (reported by Japan).

⁵ Data are in nominal terms, meaning no adjustment has been made to account for changes in inflation or exchange rate. The totals may not exactly match the sum of their parts due to rounding. Data in this section are seasonally adjusted unless otherwise stated and should not be compared to non-seasonally adjusted data.

The charts below present a time series for trade between the UK and Japan for each year between 2011 and 2020:



Source: ONS, UK Economic Accounts, Q4 2020

The data that are presented in the charts above are given in the table below in £ billion:

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Value of total trade	20.2	19.5	20.3	19.5	19.2	22.8	26.3	28.4	29.2	24.7
Value of exports	8.5	8.8	10.1	10.0	9.6	10.8	12.2	13.5	13.7	12.3
Value of imports	11.7	10.7	10.3	9.6	9.6	12.0	14.1	14.9	15.5	12.4
Trade balance	-3.1	-1.9	-0.2	+0.4	+0.1	-1.2	-2.0	-1.4	-1.8	-0.1

In the four quarters to the end of Q3 2020, Japan was the UK's:⁶

- **11th largest trading partner** (accounting for 2.1% of total UK trade).
 - 14th largest **goods** trading partner (1.8% of UK goods trade).
 - 8th largest **services** trading partner (2.6% of UK services trade).
- **12th largest export market** (accounting for 2.0% of total UK exports).
 - 13th largest **goods** export market (1.8% of UK goods exports).
 - 9th largest **services** export market (2.3% of UK services exports).
- **12th largest import market** (accounting for 2.2% of total UK imports).
 - 13th largest **goods** import market (1.8% of UK goods imports).
 - 8th largest **services** import market (3.2% of UK services imports).

More timely data, for trade in goods only⁷, show that UK exports of goods to Japan decreased by 9.1% in the 12 months to January 2021 compared to the same period the previous year. UK imports of goods from Japan decreased by 27.9% over the same period.

Note: Data between March 2020 and January 2021 have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. As these data are presented for the 12 months ending January 2021 this also includes trade in February 2020, before any UK lockdown or other measures were introduced. Data quality has also been affected and may be subject to larger revisions than usual.

⁶ Rankings are based on the ONS dataset which contains data for all individual partners: [UK total trade data \(non-seasonally adjusted\)](#). Note this dataset is not comparable with other ONS seasonally adjusted datasets.

⁷ ONS data source for trade in the latest 12 months up to January 2021: [UK Trade data \(seasonally adjusted\)](#). Note that these statistics use seasonally adjusted data and are **not directly comparable** to statistics which use non-seasonally adjusted data.

Trade in goods by commodity (ONS)^{8 9}

The **top 5 goods exported from the UK to Japan** in the four quarters to the end of Q3 2020 were:

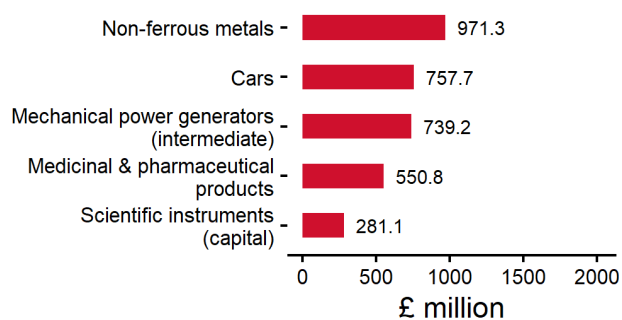
- 68 - Non-ferrous metals (£971.3 million or 16.0% of all UK goods exported to Japan)
- 78M - Cars (£757.7 million or 12.5%)
- 71MI - Mechanical power generators (intermediate) (£739.2 million or 12.2%)
- 54 - Medicinal & pharmaceutical products (£550.8 million or 9.1%)
- 87K - Scientific instruments (capital) (£281.1 million or 4.6%)

The **top 5 goods imported to the UK from Japan** in the four quarters to the end of Q3 2020 were:

- 78M - Cars (£1.6 billion or 20.9% of all UK goods imported from Japan)
- 71MI - Mechanical power generators (intermediate) (£707.2 million or 9.5%)
- 77I - Miscellaneous electrical goods (intermediate) (£525.5 million or 7.0%)
- 78I - Road vehicles other than cars (intermediate) (£349.7 million or 4.7%)
- 28 - Metal ores & scrap (£343.0 million or 4.6%)

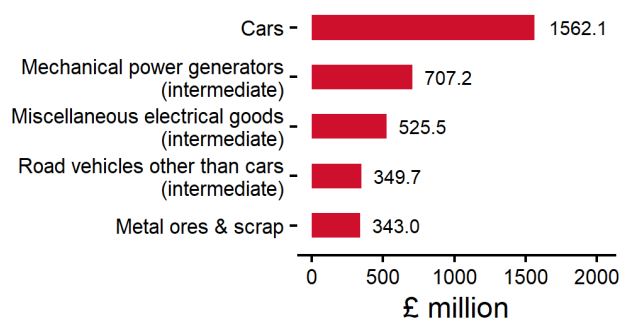
The chart below shows the top 5 products exported from the UK to Japan and the top 5 products imported to the UK from Japan, by value, in the four quarters to the end of Q3 2020. All data shown in the chart are provided in the text above.

The top 5 UK goods exports, in the four quarters to the end of Q3 2020, to Japan



Source: ONS, January 2021

The top 5 UK goods imports, in the four quarters to the end of Q3 2020, from Japan



Source: ONS, January 2021

⁸ Data on trade in goods by commodity are sourced from data by the ONS: [UK trade release \(non-seasonally adjusted\)](#). These statistics for [exports](#) and [imports](#) present the latest data from the January 2021 ONS publication which are given on a monthly basis.

⁹ The commodities are categorised based on [SITC](#) codes using a mixture of level 2 and level 3 codes.

Trade in services by service type (ONS)^{10 11 12}

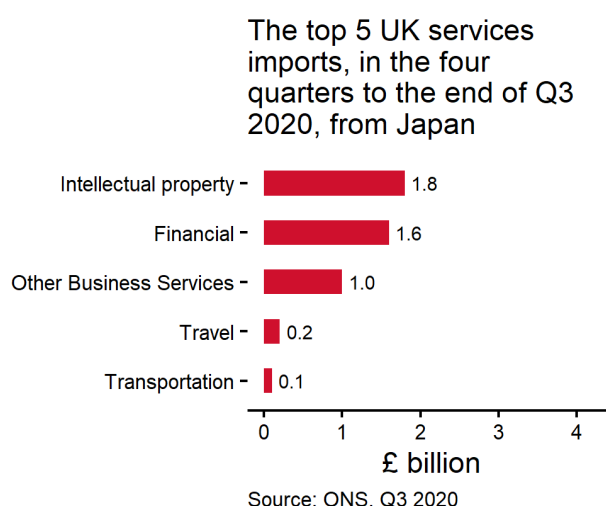
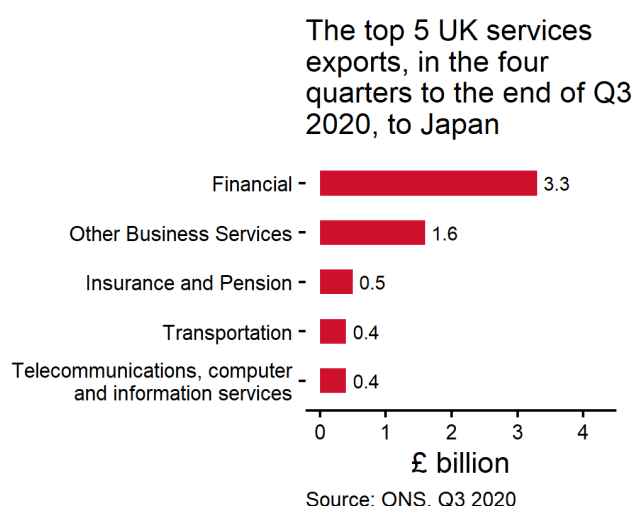
The **top 5 service types exported from the UK to Japan** in the four quarters to the end of Q3 2020 were:

- Financial (£3.3 billion or 48.5% of all UK services exported to Japan)
- Other Business Services (£1.6 billion or 23.4%)
- Insurance and Pension (£464 million or 6.9%)
- Telecommunications, computer and information services (£375 million or 5.6%)
- Transportation (£358 million or 5.3%)

The **top 5 service types imported to the UK from Japan** in the four quarters to the end of Q3 2020 were:

- Intellectual property (£1.8 billion or 32.2% of all UK services imported from Japan)
- Financial (£1.6 billion or 29.3%)
- Other Business Services (£1.0 billion or 18.3%)
- Travel (£161 million or 2.9%)
- Transportation (£101 million or 1.8%)

The chart below shows the top 5 service types exported from the UK to Japan and the top 5 service types imported to the UK from Japan, by value, in the four quarters to the end of Q3 2020. All data shown in the chart are provided in the text above.



¹⁰ Trade in services by service type is sourced from data by the ONS: [UK trade in services by partner country \(non-seasonally adjusted\)](#).

¹¹ Data are classified on the [EBOPS 2010](#) basis. 'Other business services' include: Research and development, professional and management consulting services, technical services and trade related services. A full description of all service types can be found on the [UN Statistics Division website](#).

¹² Service type data may be unavailable for some quarters, due to the suppression of figures for the confidentiality of individual traders.

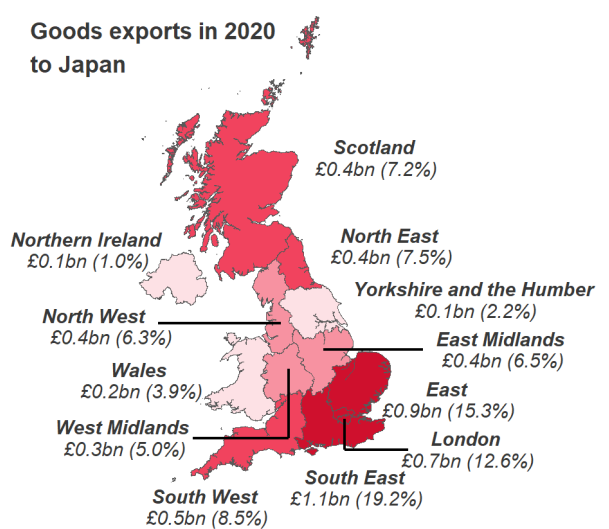
Trade in goods by UK countries and English regions (HMRC)^{13 14}

Regional trade definitions

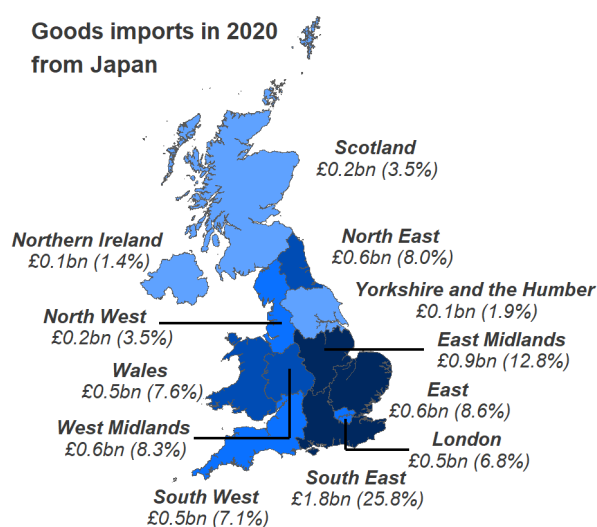
UK regions - The UK is categorised into 12 regions, which includes 9 regions in England, as well as Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. These UK regions are based on the *Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics* references as defined by Eurostat as [NUTS1](#) regions.

Regional trade data - The data are compiled by merging HM Revenues & Customs (HMRC) trade data with employment data from the Interdepartmental Business Register (IDBR) so a business' trade can be allocated to a UK region based on the proportion of its employees employed in that region. Where a trader is not matched with the IDBR, its trade is matched with ONS postcode data to obtain the UK region in which the Head Office of the VAT-registered business is based.

The maps below show the value of UK goods exports and imports between each UK region and Japan in 2020. The maps are shaded with the 3 UK regions with the highest amount of trade as the darkest colour, and the 3 UK regions with the lowest amount of trade as the lightest colour.



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Source: HMRC, March 2021



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Source: HMRC, March 2021

The data that are presented in the maps above for 2020 in £ billion are also given in the table below:

UK country or English region	North East	North West	Yorkshire and the Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East	London	South East	South West	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
Value of goods exports to Japan	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.9	0.7	1.1	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.1
Percentage of total goods exports to Japan	7.5%	6.3%	2.2%	6.5%	5.0%	15.3%	12.6%	19.2%	8.5%	3.9%	7.2%	1.0%
Value of goods imports from Japan	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.5	1.8	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.1
Percentage of total goods imports from Japan	8.0%	3.5%	1.9%	12.8%	8.3%	8.6%	6.8%	25.8%	7.1%	7.6%	3.5%	1.4%

Note that these figures from HMRC are reported on a physical movement basis and are **not directly comparable** to trade data from ONS which are reported on a change of ownership basis. **Percentages will not total 100%** as data not allocated to a single UK country or English region are not presented.

¹³ HMRC data source for regional UK trade data: [HMRC Regional Trade Statistics](#) (data extracted from the [interactive tables](#)).

¹⁴ Totals presented here will differ from overall HMRC trade figures due to the exclusion of trade in non-monetary gold and non-response estimates and the exclusion of data not allocated to a UK country or region. Figures for 2020 are provisional and subject to change.

UK Market Share (ONS and UNCTAD)^{15 16}

Market Share definitions

UK market share – Imports from the UK as a percentage of all the goods and services imported by Japan. Market share is provided for total imports from the UK, as well as for goods and services separately.

Market share methodology – These UK market share statistics are derived by the Department for International Trade, using publicly available data from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). These new statistics allows users to estimate the importance of UK trade on imports to each trading partner. Market share is calculated as the value of imports from the UK using data from [ONS](#), divided by the value of total imports using data from [UNCTAD](#). Data from UNCTAD are converted from US dollars into pounds sterling by using the annual average spot exchange rate¹⁷.

The UK's market share for Japan in 2019 was as follows:

- **The total UK market share in Japan was 1.9% in 2019 for goods and services.** This is unchanged from 2018.
- The UK market share in Japan was 1.3% in 2019 for **goods only**. This is an increase of 0.1 percentage points from 2018.
- The UK market share in Japan was 4.3% in 2019 for **services only**. This is a decrease of 0.3 percentage points from 2018.

Number of VAT-registered businesses trading goods (HMRC)^{18 19 20 21}

VAT-registered businesses definition

VAT-registered businesses - Any company with a VAT taxable turnover of more than £85,000 must be registered for VAT with HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC). These estimates do not cover unregistered businesses (those businesses who are not registered for VAT and do not have an Economic Operator Registration and Identification (EORI) number), or those businesses that trade in services.

Businesses trading with Japan in 2019:

- In 2019, around 9,900 UK **VAT-registered businesses exported goods to Japan**, worth around £6.5 billion of exports.
- In 2019, around 6,800 UK **VAT-registered businesses imported goods from Japan**, worth around £10.4 billion of imports.

Businesses trading with the world in 2019:

- In 2019, around 159,600 UK **VAT-registered businesses exported goods to the world**, worth around £366.5 billion of exports.
- In 2019, around 256,500 UK **VAT-registered businesses imported goods from the world**, worth around £543.5 billion of imports.

¹⁵ ONS data source for market share: [UK total trade data \(non-seasonally adjusted\)](#).

¹⁶ UNCTAD data source for market share: [Goods and Services \(BPM6\): Exports and imports of goods and services, annual](#). Some UNCTAD data may be based on estimates.

¹⁷ Annual average spot exchange rates for USD\$ to GBP£ are sourced from the [Bank of England](#).

¹⁸ HMRC data source for VAT-registered businesses trading goods: [HMRC Trade in Goods by Business Characteristics](#).

¹⁹ These are experimental statistics and results should be treated with caution.

²⁰ Estimates only cover VAT-registered businesses exporting or importing goods. Figures on the 'services' industry in this dataset refers to trade in goods carried out by businesses classified as 'services'. Similar data for UK businesses engaged in trade in services with Japan are not available. VAT-registered business may trade with multiple trading partners abroad so care should be taken when adding figures for a multiple number of trading partners.

²¹ Counts of businesses trading with individual EU partners exclude businesses trading below [Intrastat](#) thresholds, which for 2018 was £1.5million for EU imports and £250,000 for EU exports. The number of VAT-registered businesses has been rounded to the nearest 100 here.

Trade in Value Added (OECD)²²

Trade in Value Added definitions

Trade in Value Added (TiVA) - TiVA is a statistical approach to examine supply chains, which is not possible with conventional ('gross') trade statistics. This is because TiVA treats international trade flows as flows of value added rather than gross flows of final goods and services.

Domestic and foreign value added - In TiVA, gross exports are decomposed into domestic and foreign value added. Domestic value added measures the value added generated by the domestic economy in the production of its exports (e.g. the value added by UK car manufacturers and their UK supply chains in car exports). Foreign value added measures the value added contribution that foreign suppliers make to these exports (e.g. the import of foreign car parts).

TiVA statistics - Although TiVA offers advantages over traditional ways of measuring trade, these statistics are not fully developed. These results are estimates which should be considered complementary to conventional trade statistics and not be over-interpreted. In addition, the geographical detail is limited for developing countries. More information on TiVA can be found in a recent [research report](#) by the Department for International Trade and Cambridge Econometrics.

UK forward linkages for exports - Measures the reliance of foreign exporters on UK value added (inputs).

UK backward linkages for exports - Measures the reliance of UK exporters on foreign value added (inputs).

Employment supported by exports - This provides an estimate of the number of employees in exporting industries, and their domestic supply chains that are supported by exporting activity.

UK forward linkages for exports:

- **In 2015, 0.3% of the total value added in gross exports from Japan originated in the UK.**
- In 2015, 13.2% of the value added content in gross exports from Japan reflected foreign imports from abroad. The largest sources of foreign value added for gross exports from Japan were China (2.5%), United States (1.5%), and Australia (0.8%).

UK backward linkages for exports:

- **In 2015, 0.4% of the total value added in gross exports from the UK originated in Japan.**
- In 2015, 15.1% of the value added content in gross exports from the UK reflected foreign imports from abroad. The largest sources of foreign value added for gross exports from the UK were United States (2.1%), Germany (1.8%), and China (1.2%).

Employment supported by exports:²³

- Exporting activity in Japan supported 8.9 million persons in 2015 (13.5% of total Japan employment). Exports to the UK supported around 172,400 jobs in Japan.
- Exporting activity in the UK supported 6.6 million persons in 2015 (21.2% of total UK employment). Exports to Japan supported around 166,800 jobs in the UK.

²² The estimates in this factsheet are based on Trade in Value Added statistics published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD): a) [Trade in Value Added database \(Origin of Value Added in Gross Exports, December 2018\)](#); and b) [Trade in Employment \(TiM\) database: Principal indicators](#), indicators EXGR_DEM and EMPN_EXGRDEM. Latest data available from this data source are for 2015.

²³ These estimates measure employees directly and indirectly supported by exports i.e. workers employed in exporting businesses and in other domestic businesses supplying inputs to the exporting businesses. The estimates should be interpreted as employment *supported* by exports, rather than employment *created* by exports, as the jobs may have previously existed to serve the domestic market. Employees may also be supported by exports from a multiple number of trading partners. As with the core TiVA data, these estimates are based on a number of assumptions and modelling, so should be interpreted with caution.

Foreign Direct Investment with Japan (ONS)^{24 25 26}

Foreign direct investment definitions

Foreign direct investment (FDI) - Investment made by a firm or individual in one economy ('direct investor') to acquire a 'lasting interest' in an enterprise operating in another economy. The lasting interest is deemed to exist if the direct investor acquires at least 10% of equity, or equivalently 10% of the voting rights, of the company.

FDI stock - The accumulated value of all previous investments at the end of a reference period. Figures are net, that is the value of investment minus disinvestment. **UK outward FDI stock** provides the total value of FDI by UK investors in economies abroad (investment of a UK parent company in Japan), while **UK inward FDI stock** provides the total value of FDI by non-UK investors in the UK (investment of a foreign parent company in Japan).

Data disclosure - It can happen that FDI to a certain partner is coming from only a few investors. In that case, figures are suppressed by the ONS to avoid disclosure of information relating to individual enterprises.

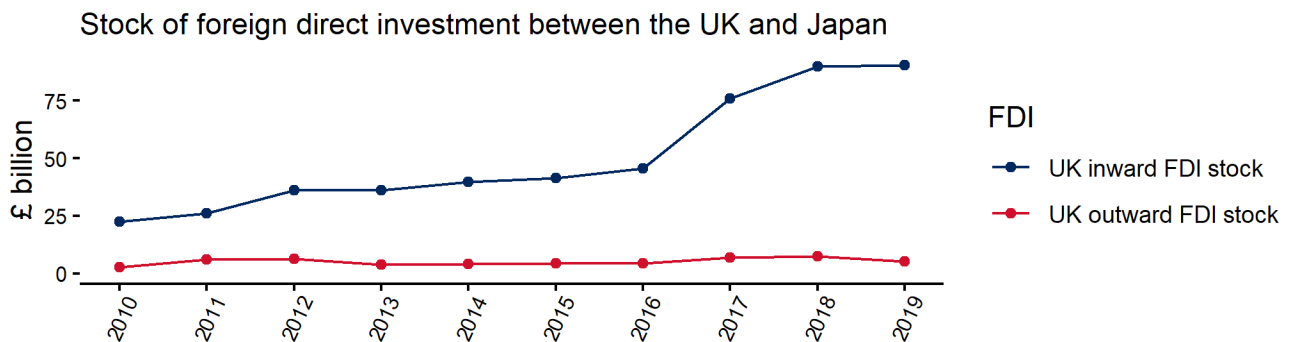
UK outward FDI stock:

- In 2019, the **stock of FDI from the UK in Japan** was £5.2 billion, 29.3% or £2.2 billion lower than in 2018. In 2019, Japan accounted for 0.3% of the total UK outward FDI stock.
- In 2019, the total UK FDI abroad was £1.5 trillion. In 2019, the **top destination for UK FDI** was United States, accounting for 25.3% of the total UK outward FDI stock, followed by Netherlands (10.4%) and Luxembourg (6.4%).

UK inward FDI stock:

- In 2019, the **stock of FDI from Japan in the UK** was £90.5 billion, 0.6% or £566 million higher than in 2018. In 2019, Japan accounted for 5.8% of the total UK inward FDI stock.
- In 2019, the total FDI in the UK was £1.6 trillion. In 2019, the **top investor in the UK** was United States, accounting for 24.5% of the total UK inward FDI stock, followed by Netherlands (10.7%) and Luxembourg (8.6%).

The chart below shows FDI between the UK and Japan between 2010 and 2019:



Source: ONS, 2019 FDI main release. Data is on a directional basis, data suppression can cause breaks in the trends.

The data that are presented in the charts above are given in the table below in £ billion:

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
UK outward FDI stock	2.7	6.0	6.3	3.8	4.1	4.5	4.3	6.9	7.4	5.2
UK inward FDI stock	22.5	26.1	36.0	36.2	39.8	41.3	45.5	75.9	89.9	90.5

²⁴ ONS data source for FDI statistics: [Foreign Direct Investment involving UK companies](#).

²⁵ Data are presented on a directional basis which means they are not directly comparable to the asset/liability report prepared by ONS as part of the Balance of Payments statistical release. Figures are on net basis (investments minus disinvestments) and are given in nominal terms. Negative FDI values occur when disinvestments are greater than investments. Data are on an immediate destination/source basis and not an ultimate destination/source, which is likely to overstate financial centres such as the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

²⁶ This factsheet contains data as reported by the UK and are subject to asymmetries e.g. UK outward FDI to Japan (reported by the UK) may not match Japan inward FDI from the UK (reported by Japan). For consistency when comparing between partners, users are advised to use UK-reported data as far as possible.

Ease of doing business (World Bank)²⁷

Ease of doing business definitions

Ease of doing business ranking - Trading partners are ranked by World Bank on how easy it is to conduct business with them. A high 'Ease of doing business' ranking means the regulatory environment is more conducive to the starting and operation of a local firm than other trading partners. A total of 190 partners were ranked by World Bank for this metric.

Ease of doing business score - The ease of doing business rankings are based on each partners 'Ease of doing business' score. These scores were determined by scoring each partner in 10 individual indicators, such as the ease of starting a new business and trading across borders, and then taking an average. Rankings for each of these individual indicators can be found on the [World Bank website](#). Each score is on a scale from 0 to 100, where 100 represents the best performance. These scores can be compared between years as an increase in score would indicate that a partner is improving in their ease of doing business with. For further detail, see the [methodology](#) explaining how these scores are calculated.

Note that this report shows data for 2019 in the latest 'Doing Business 2020' report, as all data was benchmarked in May 2019.

- **In 2019, Japan was ranked 30th for its ease of doing business.** This was 9 places better than in 2018.
- **In 2019, the UK was ranked 8th for its ease of doing business** (1 place better than in 2018), behind New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong SAR, Denmark, South Korea, United States and Georgia.

These rankings were based on their individual ease of doing business scores:

- **In 2019, Japan had an ease of doing business score of 78.0**, compared to 78.0 in the previous year.
- **In 2019, the UK had an ease of doing business score of 83.5**, compared to 83.6 in the previous year.

²⁷ World Bank data source: [Ease of Doing Business rankings](#).

Economic statistics (as reported by Japan)

Trade and investment data for Japan (UNCTAD)^{28 29 30}

The following data are reported by Japan and are for reference only. Whenever possible use data from UK sources for trade and investment. All data below are presented in USD\$ in billions.

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
TRADE								
Nominal exports	913.2	830.2	863.6	784.7	810.8	875.5	929.0	902.3
Nominal imports	1,014.5	955.7	991.1	808.0	770.5	837.9	926.1	897.3
Nominal trade balance	-101.3	-125.5	-127.5	-23.3	40.3	37.6	2.9	5.0
INVESTMENT								
Inward FDI stock	205.8	170.7	171.7	174.1	196.6	202.4	204.8	222.5
Outward FDI stock	1,037.7	1,118.0	1,152.0	1,228.8	1,315.2	1,497.5	1,567.2	1,818.1

²⁸ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) data sources for trade: [Goods and Services \(BPM6\): Exports and imports of goods and services, annual](#); and for investment: [Foreign direct investment: Inward and outward flows and stock, annual](#).

²⁹ Estimates are given in italics. Historic data pre-2012 can be found on the [UNCTAD website](#).

³⁰ All trade data are on a Balance of Payments basis. The FDI data are on a directional and net (investment minus disinvestment) basis. These figures are given in current prices and are rounded to the nearest \$0.1 billion, with missing data represented by dashes.

Economic data and projections for Japan (IMF)^{31 32}

The following table presents economic statistics for Japan. Projections include assumptions of the effects of COVID-19 and may be subject to change in the future. Estimated data, as well as projections up to 2026, are presented in italics and are subject to revision.

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
TRADE GROWTH									
Change in exports (%)	3.8	-1.4	-12.3	<i>15.0</i>	<i>6.2</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>2.7</i>	<i>2.2</i>	<i>1.8</i>
Change in imports (%)	3.8	-0.4	-6.8	<i>12.6</i>	<i>8.7</i>	<i>2.4</i>	<i>2.3</i>	<i>2.1</i>	<i>2.1</i>
CURRENT ACCOUNT									
Current account balance (% of GDP)	3.5	3.7	3.3	3.6	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2
GDP									
Change in real GDP (%)	0.6	0.3	-4.8	3.3	2.5	1.1	0.7	0.6	0.5
GDP per capita (1000 USD)	39.8	40.8	40.1	42.9	45.3	48.1	49.9	51.6	53.4
GDP PPP (Int'l \$billion)	5,404.5	5,515.8	5,313.0	5,585.8	5,856.5	6,057.1	6,226.5	6,384.9	6,536.7
INFLATION									
Inflation, year average (CPI %)	1.0	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.0
UNEMPLOYMENT									
Unemployment rate (% of total labour force)	2.4	2.4	2.8	2.8	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
POPULATION									
Population (million)	126.5	126.2	125.8	125.3	124.8	124.2	123.6	123.0	122.4
INVESTMENT-SAVINGS									
Total investment (% of GDP)	25.6	25.8	25.5	25.4	24.9	24.6	24.5	24.5	24.5
Gross national savings (% of GDP)	29.1	29.4	28.8	29.0	28.1	27.9	27.9	27.8	27.8
BUDGET DEFICIT-DEBT									
General government net lending/borrowing (% of GDP)	-2.7	-3.1	-12.6	-9.4	-3.8	-2.5	-2.3	-2.3	-2.4
General government gross debt (% of GDP)	232.5	234.9	256.2	256.5	253.6	252.9	253.4	254.0	254.7

³¹ International Monetary Fund (IMF) provide economic commentary in their [World Economic Outlook reports](#). The latest data presented here can be found in their [World Economic Database, April 2021](#).

³² Projections and estimates are given in italics. More information for each metric and each partner, as well as historic data pre-2018, can be found on the [IMF website](#).

Top goods traded with the world by Japan (UN Comtrade)^{33 34}

Data presented here shows the top commodities traded to the world, not solely the UK, by Japan. These commodities are presented on a different classification from the earlier data by commodity from the ONS and should not be directly compared. You can find out more about individual export and import **markets** for Japan by using the online [UN Comtrade tool](#).

Top goods exported to the world by Japan in 2020:

Rank	HS Commodity	USD billion	% of total goods exported
1	87 - Vehicles other than railway or tramway stock	122.4	19.1%
2	84 - Machinery and mechanical appliances	121.6	19.0%
3	85 - Electrical machinery and equipment	102.5	16.0%
4	99 - Commodities not specified according to kind	41.1	6.4%
5	90 - Optical, photographic, cinematographic and medical equipment	37.4	5.8%
6	39 - Plastics and articles thereof	25.6	4.0%
7	72 - Iron and steel	22.8	3.6%
8	29 - Organic chemicals	14.9	2.3%
9	71 - Precious stones and metals	13.3	2.1%
10	38 - Miscellaneous chemical products	12.1	1.9%
	All goods exported	640.8	100.0%

Top goods imported from the world by Japan in 2020:

Rank	HS Commodity	USD billion	% of total goods imported
1	27 - Mineral fuels or oils, products of their distillation	105.5	16.6%
2	85 - Electrical machinery and equipment	96.6	15.2%
3	84 - Machinery and mechanical appliances	67.0	10.6%
4	30 - Pharmaceutical products	28.6	4.5%
5	90 - Optical, photographic, cinematographic and medical equipment	25.9	4.1%
6	26 - Ores, slag and ash	21.2	3.3%
7	87 - Vehicles other than railway or tramway stock	19.8	3.1%
8	71 - Precious stones and metals	15.9	2.5%
9	29 - Organic chemicals	15.8	2.5%
10	39 - Plastics and articles thereof	15.0	2.4%
	All goods imported	634.1	100.0%

³³ United Nations (UN) Comtrade data are sourced from the online [UN Comtrade tool](#). The data reported above are for 2020, but as the data upload to UN Comtrade is continuous, more timely data may be available from the source.

³⁴ Data are classified using the [Harmonized System](#) and are given on a physical movement basis, with UK data comparable to HMRC data sources rather than the headline trade figures presented here from ONS.

Top services traded with the world by Japan (ITC Trade Map)^{35 36 37}

Data presented here shows the top service types traded to the world, not solely the UK, by Japan.

Top services exported to the world by Japan in 2019:

Rank	EBOPS Service Type	USD billion	% of total services exported
1	Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.	46.7	22.8%
2	Other business services	45.8	22.3%
3	Travel	45.2	22.1%
4	Transport	26.2	12.8%
5	Financial services	13.8	6.7%
	All services exported	205.1	100.0%

Top services imported from the world by Japan in 2019:

Rank	EBOPS Service Type	USD billion	% of total services imported
1	Other business services	65.6	32.2%
2	Transport	34.1	16.7%
3	Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.	25.8	12.7%
4	Travel	21.1	10.4%
5	Telecommunications, computer, and information services	19.9	9.8%
	All services imported	203.6	100.0%

³⁵ International Trade Centre (ITC) Trade Map data are sourced from the online [ITC Trade Map tool](#). The data above are for 2019, but as the data upload to ITC is continuous, more timely data may be available from the source.

³⁶ Data are classified on the [EBOPS 2010](#) basis. 'Other business services' include: Research and development, professional and management consulting services, technical services and trade related services. A full description of all service types can be found on the [UN Statistics Division website](#).

³⁷ Estimates are shown in italics, where for some partners only estimates are available - These data have been included for information and should be treated with caution.

Background Notes

This document is one of a wider set of factsheets between the UK and its individual trade and investment partners which can be found on the [Trade and Investment Factsheets website](#). All of these factsheets are published as [Official Statistics](#) as defined by the [UK Statistics Authority](#), and are compliant with the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) where they meet user needs as well as promoting trustworthiness, quality and public value in Government statistics. The publication of these factsheets as Official Statistics was agreed by the Chief Statistician at the Department for International Trade, who monitors these factsheets to ensure they continue to adhere to the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#). These factsheets have not been formally assessed by the [Office of Statistics Regulation](#) and are therefore not designated as [National Statistics](#).

As a requisite of publishing as Official Statistics, a [quality and methodology report](#) has been produced which outlines the quality of these factsheets, as well as providing more information on the methodology of the data sources presented here. This report contains hyperlinks to information on the strengths and weaknesses for each data source. Statistics contained in the factsheets from UK data providers all come from Official Statistics publications, with some sources also being from National Statistics publications.

Future updates of these factsheets can be found on the [Government update schedule for Official Statistics](#). These scheduled updates are in line with significant updates from UK data providers when they release new data. Unscheduled releases of the factsheets may also be necessary to accommodate data updates where little or no advanced notice are given, such as in the case of international data updates. Please see the data update schedule and revisions policy in the [quality and methodology report](#) for more information. Please note that there may be occasions where more recent data than is provided here can be found directly from the data providers.

The Department for International Trade welcome any feedback or comments on these factsheets, please send these to statistics@trade.gov.uk.



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