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Visualizing the UK and EU Tra



Published 8 months ago on February 8, 2021

By [Avery Koop](#)

Visualizing the UK-EU Trade Relationship

As a Share of Total UK-EU Trade (2019)

After long standing discussions around their trading relationship, the EU and the UK finally come to an agreement. But how important is trade between the two entities?





IMPORTS

Imports to the UK
from the EU

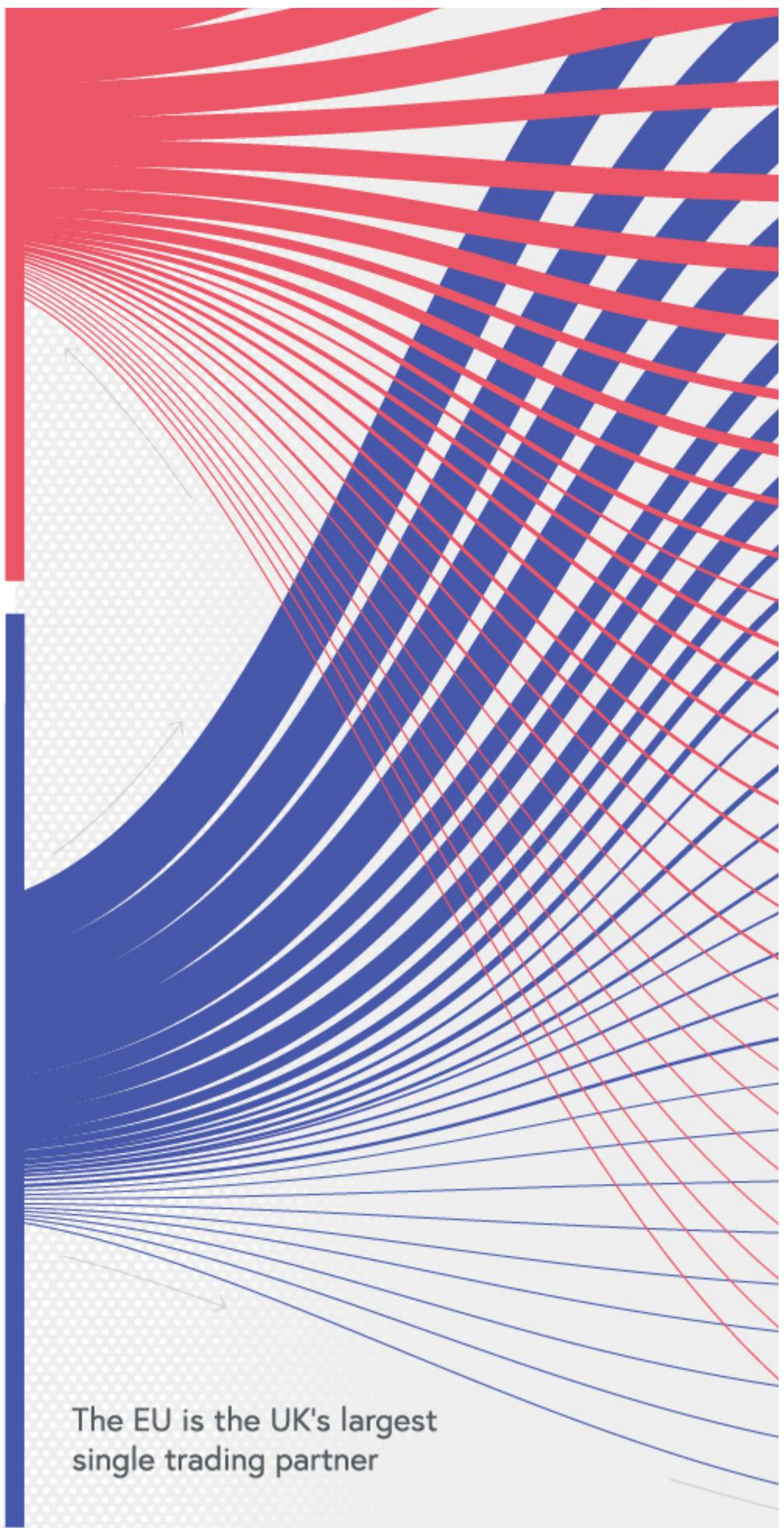


United
Kingdom



EXPORTS

Exports from the UK
to the EU





SOURCE
UK House of Commons Library



COLLABORATORS RESEARCH + WRITING Avery Koop | DESIGN Jennifer West | ART DIRECTION Jennifer West

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Visualizing the UK and EU Trade Relationship

With Brexit solidified and a new trade deal having been struck between the UK and the EU, it appears that a sense of normalcy has returned to the European continent.

The [Trade and Cooperation Agreement](#) (TCA) between the two entities came into effect on January 1st, 2021, corresponding with the UK officially leaving the EU Single Market and Union on the same day. The new deal will help the status quo of trade continue, but how important is trade between the EU and the UK?

This visualization, using data from the British House of Commons' Statistics on UK-EU Trade Briefing Paper, reveals the significance of trade between the UK and EU member states.

Who Does the UK Trade With in the EU?

The EU is the UK's biggest global trading partner, representing 47% of the country's total exports.

To break it down further, the EU is the buyer of 42.6% of the UK's total exports, while also being the source of 51.8% of their total imports. Here's a closer look at exports and imports by country.

Search:

Country	▼ % of UK's Exports to the EU	▼ % of UK Imports from the EU
Luxembourg	1.8%	1.0%
Austria	1.1%	1.4%
Czech Republic	1.1%	1.8%
Total EU 28	100%	100%

Country	◆ % of UK's Exports to the EU	◆ % of UK Imports from the EU
🇫🇮 Finland	1.1%	0.8%
🇵🇹 Portugal	1.1%	1.5%
🇬🇷 Greece	0.9%	1.0%
🇷🇴 Romania	0.9%	1.1%
🇭🇺 Hungary	0.7%	1.3%
🇲🇹 Malta	0.7%	0.2%
🇨🇾 Cyprus	0.6%	0.3%
🇪🇺 Total EU 28	100%	100%

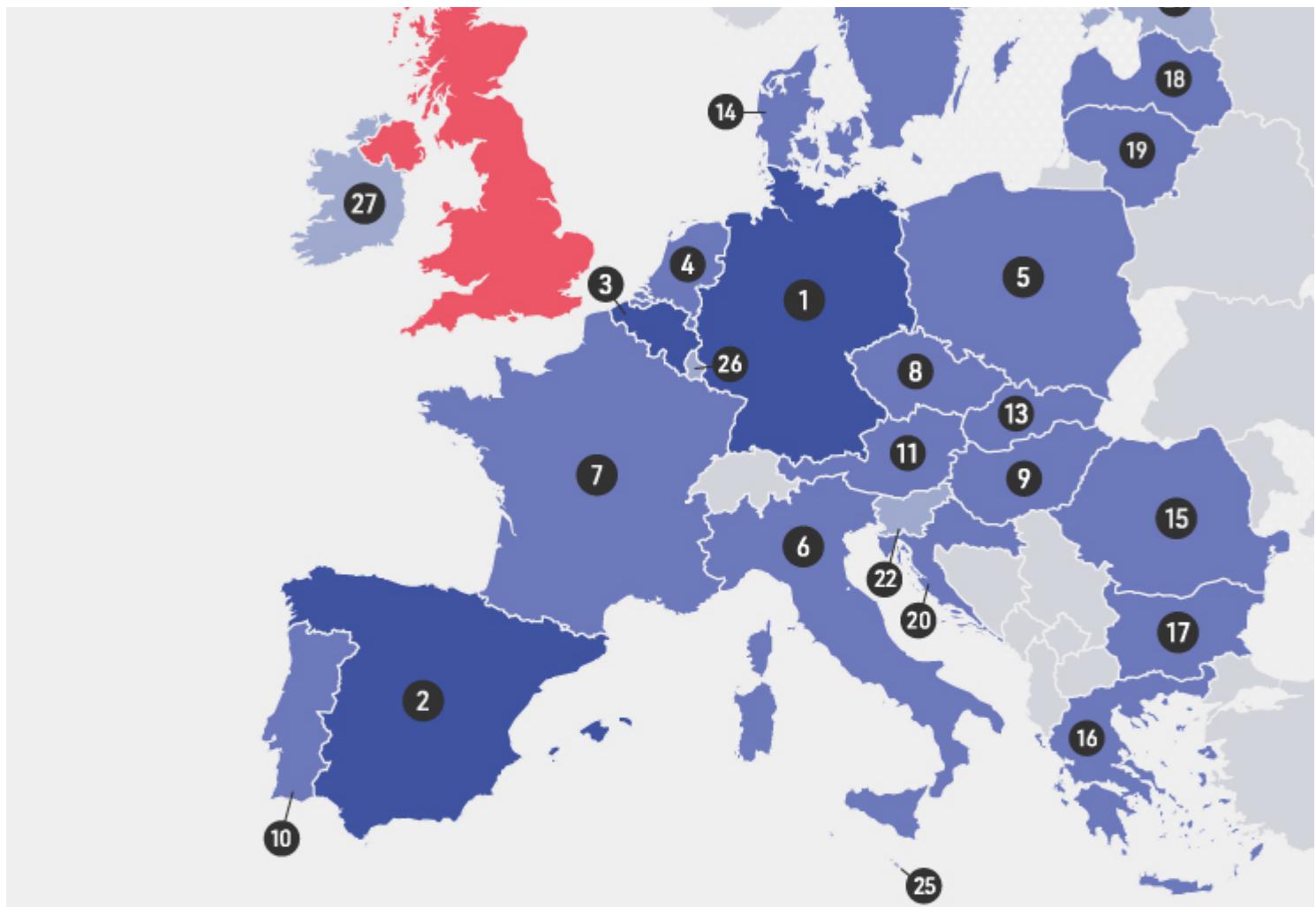
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The UK's biggest trading partners within the EU are Ireland, Germany, the Netherlands, and France. Germany comes in at number one, making up nearly 21% of the UK's imports and receiving almost 19% of the country's exports.

Here's a breakdown of the trade balances between the UK and the individual EU members:





1	-£22.3		Germany
2	-£12.1		Spain
3	-£10.7		Belgium
4	-£9.8		Netherlands
5	-£6.9		Poland
6	-£5.3		Italy
7	-£4.9		France
8	-£3.6		Czech Republic
9	-£2.6		Hungary
10	-£2.5		Portugal
11	-£2.3		Austria
12	-£2.2		Sweden
13	-£1.8		Slovakia
14	-£1.5		Denmark
15	-£1.5		Romania
16	-£1.0		Greece
17	-£0.6		Bulgaria
18	-£0.5		Latvia
19	-£0.5		Lithuania
20	-£0.4		Croatia
21	£0.0		Estonia
22	£0.0		Slovenia
23	£0.1		Finland
24	£0.7		Cyprus
25	£1.3		Malta
26	£1.6		Luxembourg
27	£10.0		Ireland

SOURCE UK House of Commons Library

What's in the Bag?

In any trade relationship, it's also worth examining what types of products and services are switching hands.

Top Imports

The UK's top three goods imports from the EU (in terms of percentage of total imports) are:

- Motor vehicles (18%)
- Pharmaceuticals (7%)
- Electric machinery and appliances (4%)

Without the new agreement, goods would face tariffs based on the World Trade Organization standards. For example, motor vehicles, would have an average tariff of **10%** imposed or without the provisions of the agreement.

The UK's top three service imports from the EU are:

- Travel (33%)
- Business services (27%)
- Transportation (18%)

Looking at services, the main import from the EU is travel, followed closely by business services and transportation. Travel makes the top three, as many countries in the EU make attractive vacation spots for UK citizens.

Top Exports

The UK's top three goods exports to the EU (in terms of percentage of total exports to the EU) are:

- Petroleum and petroleum products (12%)

- Motor vehicles (10%)
- Transport equipment (6%)

In terms of exports, petroleum is the UK's largest export to the EU, representing **68%** of the country's total petroleum exports.

The UK's top three service exports to the EU are:

- Business services (33%)
- Financial services (21%)
- Travel (14%)

The main service export is business services, such as accounting, legal, advertising, R&D, engineering, and so on. Travel to the UK is a significant revenue generator as London is one of the top tourist destinations in the world.

EU vs. Global Trade

The UK's relationship with other countries has remained steady. China is one of the most important export destinations, growing 7% per year from 2010-2019.

At the same time, the UK's exports to the United States have grown just over 4% per year over the same period, continuing to increase at a similar rate up to 2030.

UK-Global Trade

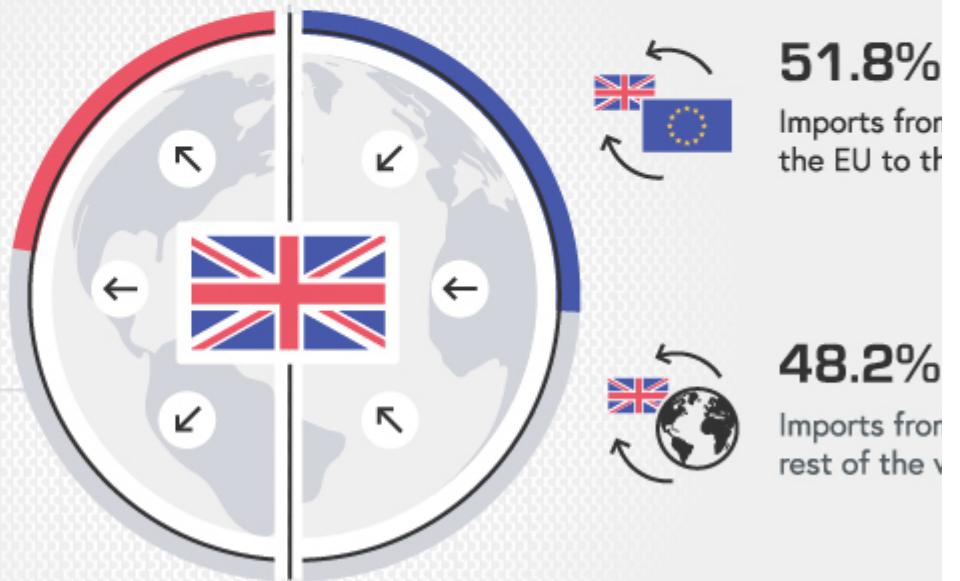
GLOBAL EXPORTS

The UK's exports to the EU represent 42.6% of their total global exports



GLOBAL IMPORTS

The UK's imports from the EU make up 51.8% of the country's total global imports



SOURCE UK House of Commons Library

While the UK currently has a **£79 billion** (\$108 billion) trade deficit with the EU, they have a surplus of **£49 billion** (\$67 billion) with non-EU countries. Additionally, the share of the UK's exports going to the EU has been consistently falling over the last number of years. Foreign investment flows between the two entities have also been drastically reduced.

However, the UK and EU trade relationship is still highly intertwined and significant. Not only are the two connected through intangible flows but physically as well via pipelines, transport highways, and cables. In a typical year, **210 million** passengers and **230 million tonnes** of goods are transported between the two entities.

The TCA will help to regulate these flows and continue a sense of status quo, however, it's noting that if EU regulations are not met, tariffs could be imposed.

The [Economist Intelligence Unit](#) recently determined risk and resilience factors for different industries based on the agreement. The report found that the food & agriculture, automotive, financial services industries are most at risk, due to interconnected supply chains and the tariffs being imposed. The life sciences and tech industries stand to do the best.

The Trade and Cooperation Agreement

Overall, Brexit has had significant ramifications for all nations involved. Ireland, for example, now geographically cut off from the EU, creating potential obstacles for both the movement of people and goods.

Now, after years of discussions, the UK and the EU have finally agreed to the terms for their relationship, with a focus on sustainable trade, citizens' security, and governance for long-standing cooperation, in order to guarantee a level playing field. The TCA has helped ease the transition, and while they're no longer in a union, the UK and the EU have created a strong foundation for trade to continue normally.

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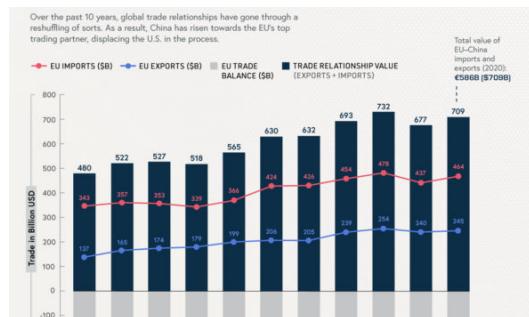
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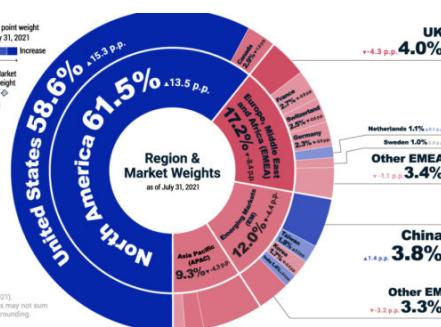
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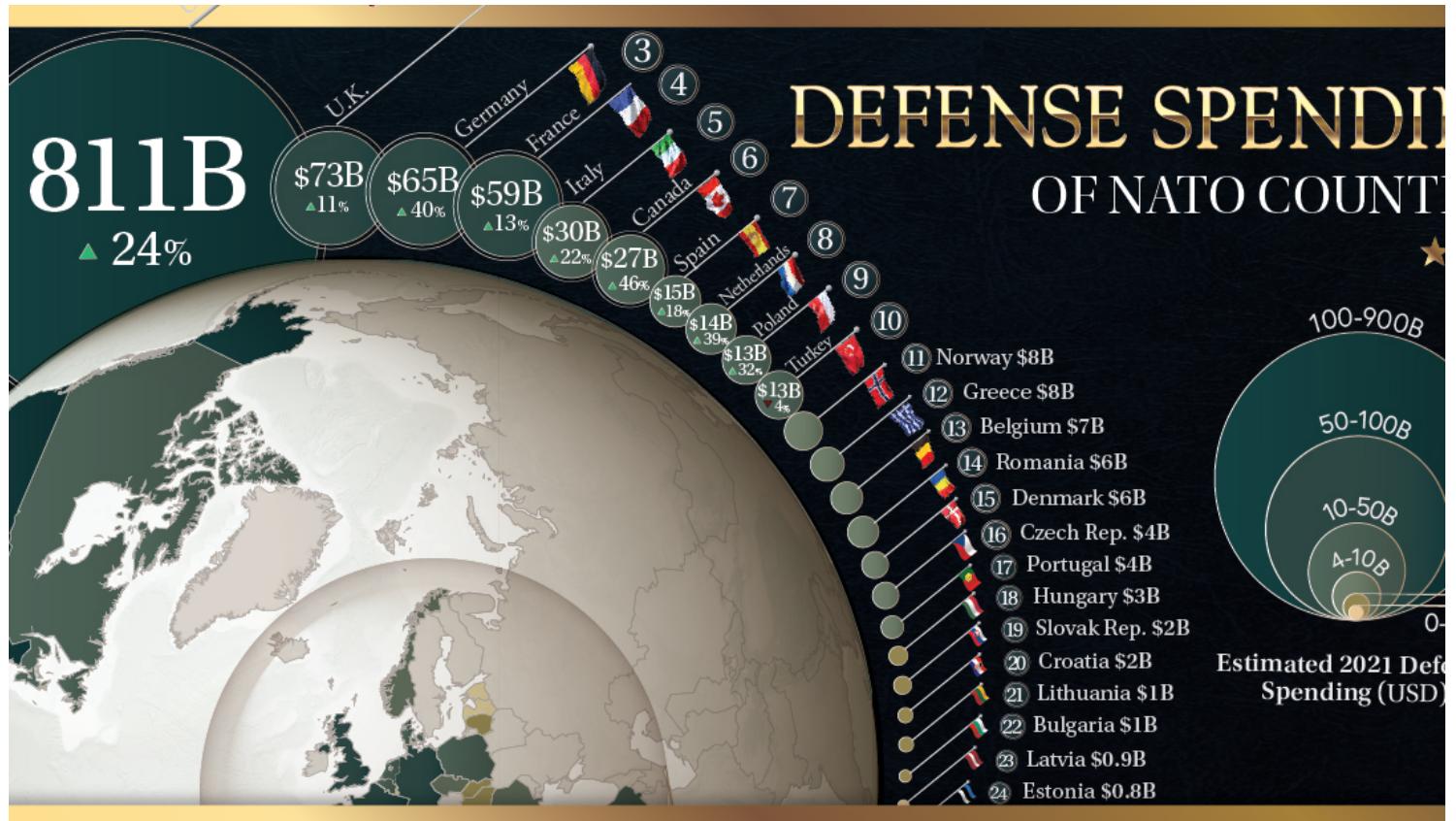
This is How Much NATO Countries Spend on Defense

How much does each country in the military alliance contribute to NATO defense spending? We break it down with this map.



Published 6 days ago on September 23, 2021

By Avery Koop



This Is How Much NATO Countries Spend on Defense

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) exists for the sole purpose of facilitating a political and military alliance between almost 30 countries. All are obligated to defend one another in times of war, but some countries have much stronger militaries and defense systems than others.

Using data from [NATO](#), this map reveals what each NATO member country spends on its own national defense.

Note: Numbers are 2021 projections.

Biggest NATO Defense Spenders

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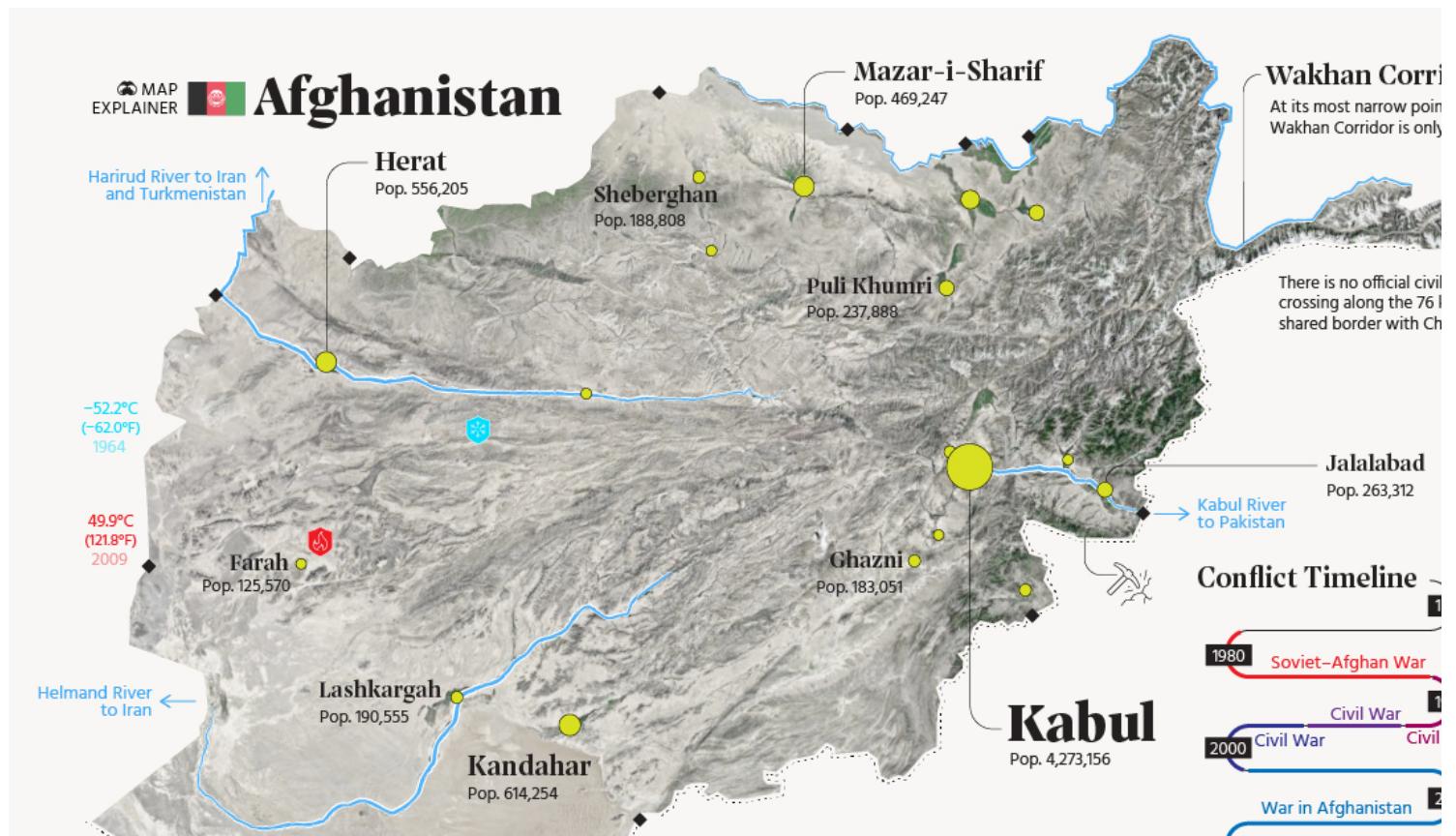
Map Explainer: Key Facts About Afghanistan

This map explainer looks at Afghanistan from a structural point of view, delving into geography and population patterns.



Published 1 month ago on August 18, 2021

By **Nick Routley**



Map Explainer: Key Facts About Afghanistan

The country of Afghanistan has a long and complicated history of domination by foreign powers and conflict between factions within the country.

While Afghanistan is well covered in headlines and news stories, the lion's share of coverage is directly related to conflict. As a result, Afghanistan is viewed by many in Western countries as a war-torn desert, with conflict, ideology, and geopolitical power obscuring more practical information about the country and its people.

In the Afghanistan map graphic above, we step back and examine Afghanistan from a structural point of view. How does its unique landscape influence population patterns? How does this geography influence the economy and relationships with neighboring nations? Let's dive in.

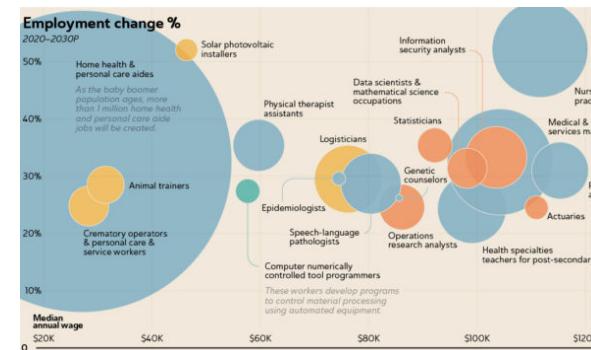
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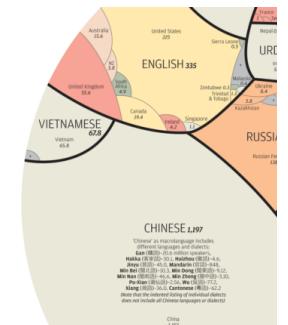
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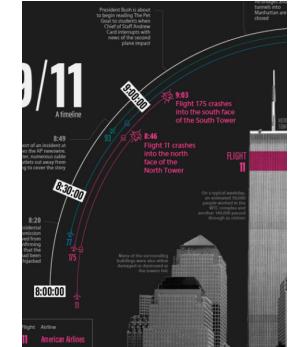
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