

# United-kingdom



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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

The United Kingdom has historically played a leading role in developing parliamentary democracy and in advancing literature and science. At its zenith in the 19th century, the British Empire stretched over one-fourth of the earth's surface. The first half of the 20th century saw the UK's strength seriously depleted in two world wars and the Irish Republic's withdrawal from the union. The second half witnessed the dismantling of the Empire and the UK rebuilding itself into a modern and prosperous European nation. As one of five permanent members of the UN Security Council and a founding member of NATO and the Commonwealth, the UK pursues a global approach to foreign policy. The Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales, and the Northern Ireland Assembly were established in 1998.

The UK has been an active member of the EU since its accession in 1973, although it chose to remain outside the Economic and Monetary Union. However, motivated in part by frustration at a remote bureaucracy in Brussels and massive migration into the country, UK citizens on 23 June 2016 narrowly voted to leave the EU. The UK is scheduled to depart the EU on 31 January 2020, but negotiations on the future EU-UK economic and security relationship will continue throughout 2020 and potentially beyond.

## 2. Geography

### 2.1 Location

Western Europe, islands - including the northern one-sixth of the island of Ireland - between the North Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea; northwest of France

### 2.2 Geographic coordinates

54 00 N, 2 00 W

### 2.3 Map references

Europe

### 2.4 Area

**total:**

243,610 sq km

**land:**

241,930 sq km

**water:**

1,680 sq km

note 1: the percentage area breakdown of the four UK countries is: England 53%, Scotland 32%, Wales 9%, and Northern Ireland 6%  
note 2: includes Rockall and the Shetland Islands, which are part of Scotland

## 2.5 Area - comparative

twice the size of Pennsylvania; slightly smaller than Oregon

## 2.6 Land boundaries

**total:**

499 km

**border countries (1):**

Ireland 499 km

## 2.7 Coastline

12,429 km

## 2.8 Maritime claims

**territorial sea:**

12 nm

**continental shelf:**

as defined in continental shelf orders or in accordance with agreed upon boundaries

**exclusive fishing zone:**

200 nm

## 2.9 Climate

temperate; moderated by prevailing southwest winds over the North Atlantic Current; more than one-half of the days are overcast

## 2.10 Terrain

mostly rugged hills and low mountains; level to rolling plains in east and southeast

## 2.11 Elevation

**mean elevation:**

162 m

**lowest point:**

The Fens -4 m

**highest point:**

Ben Nevis 1,345 m

## 2.12 Natural resources

coal, petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, lead, zinc, gold, tin, limestone, salt, clay, chalk, gypsum, potash, silica sand, slate, arable land

## 2.13 Land use

### **agricultural land:**

71% (2018 est.) arable land: 25.1% (2018 est.) permanent crops: 0.2% (2018 est.) permanent pasture: 45.7% (2018 est.)

### **forest:**

11.9% (2018 est.)

### **other:**

17.1% (2018 est.)

## 2.14 Irrigated land

950 sq km (2012)

## 2.15 Population distribution

the core of the population lies in and around London, with significant clusters found in central Britain around Manchester and Liverpool, in the Scottish lowlands between Edinburgh and Glasgow, southern Wales in and around Cardiff, and far eastern Northern Ireland centered on Belfast

## 2.16 Natural hazards

winter windstorms; floods

## 2.17 Geography - note

lies near vital North Atlantic sea lanes; only 35 km from France and linked by tunnel under the English Channel (the Channel Tunnel or Chunnel); because of heavily indented coastline, no location is more than 125 km from tidal waters

# 3. People And Society

## 3.1 Population

66,052,076 United Kingdom (July 2021 est.) constituent countries by percentage of total population: England 84% Scotland 8% Wales 5% Northern Ireland 3%

## 3.2 Nationality

### **noun:**

Briton(s), British (collective plural)

### **adjective:**

British

### 3.3 Ethnic groups

White 87.2%, Black/African/Caribbean/black British 3%, Asian/Asian British: Indian 2.3%, Asian/Asian British: Pakistani 1.9%, mixed 2%, other 3.7% (2011 est.)

### 3.4 Languages

English

**note:**

the following are recognized regional languages: Scots (about 30% of the population of Scotland), Scottish Gaelic (about 60,000 speakers 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 people in Cornwall) (2012 est.)

### 3.5 Religions

Christian (includes Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist) 59.5%, Muslim 4.4%, Hindu 1.3%, other 2%, unspecified 7.2%, none 25.7% (2011 est.)

### 3.6 Age structure

**0-14 years:**

17.63% (male 5,943,435/female 5,651,780)

**15-24 years:**

11.49% (male 3,860,435/female 3,692,398)

**25-54 years:**

39.67% (male 13,339,965/female 12,747,598)

**55-64 years:**

12.73% (male 4,139,378/female 4,234,701)

**65 years and over:**

18.48% (male 5,470,116/female 6,681,311) (2020 est.)

### 3.7 Dependency ratios

**total dependency ratio:**

57.1

**youth dependency ratio:**

27.8

**elderly dependency ratio:**

29.3

**potential support ratio:**

3.4 (2020 est.)

### 3.8 Median age

**total:**

40.6 years

**male:**

39.6 years

**female:**

41.7 years (2020 est.)

## 3.9 Population growth rate

0.48% (2021 est.)

## 3.10 Birth rate

11.77 births/1,000 population (2021 est.)

## 3.11 Death rate

9.41 deaths/1,000 population (2021 est.)

## 3.12 Net migration rate

2.47 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2021 est.)

## 3.13 Population distribution

the core of the population lies in and around London, with significant clusters found in central Britain around Manchester and Liverpool, in the Scottish lowlands between Endinburgh and Glasgow, southern Wales in and around Cardiff, and far eastern Northern Ireland centered on Belfast

## 3.14 Urbanization

**urban population:**

83.9% of total population (2020)

**rate of urbanization:**

0.89% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

## 3.15 Major urban areas - population

9.426 million LONDON (capital), 2.750 million Manchester, 2.626 million Birmingham, 1.902 million West Yorkshire, 1.681 million Glasgow, 936,000 Southampton/Portsmouth (2021)

## 3.16 Sex ratio

**at birth:**

1.05 male(s)/female

**0-14 years:**

1.05 male(s)/female

**15-24 years:**

1.05 male(s)/female

**25-54 years:**

1.05 male(s)/female

**55-64 years:**

0.98 male(s)/female

**65 years and over:**

0.82 male(s)/female

**total population:**

0.99 male(s)/female (2020 est.)

## 3.17 Mother's mean age at first birth

28.8 years (2017 est.)

**note:**

data represent England and Wales only

## 3.18 Maternal mortality rate

7 deaths/100,000 live births (2017 est.)

## 3.19 Infant mortality rate

**total:**

4.27 deaths/1,000 live births

**male:**

4.82 deaths/1,000 live births

**female:**

3.69 deaths/1,000 live births (2021 est.)

## 3.20 Life expectancy at birth

**total population:**

81.3 years

**male:**

79.02 years

**female:**

83.7 years (2021 est.)

## 3.21 Total fertility rate

1.86 children born/woman (2021 est.)

## 3.22 Drinking water source

**improved:**

urban: 100% of populationrural: 100% of populationtotal: 100% of population

**unimproved:**

urban: 0% of populationrural: 0% of populationtotal: 0% of population (2017 est.)



### 3.23 Current Health Expenditure

10% (2018)

### 3.24 Physicians density

2.81 physicians/1,000 population (2018)

### 3.25 Hospital bed density

2.5 beds/1,000 population (2017)

### 3.26 Sanitation facility access

**improved:**

urban: 100% of population rural: 100% of population total: 100% of population

**unimproved:**

urban: 0% of population rural: 0% of population total: 0% of population (2017 est.)

### 3.27 HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate

NA

### 3.28 HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS

NA

### 3.29 HIV/AIDS - deaths

NA

### 3.30 Major infectious diseases

**respiratory diseases:**

Covid-19 (see note) (2020)

**note:**

widespread ongoing transmission of a respiratory illness caused by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is occurring throughout the UK; as of 24 January 2021, the UK has reported a total of 3,617,463 cases of COVID-19 or 5,328.7 cumulative cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 population with 143.4 cumulative deaths per 100,000 population; individuals arriving in the UK must self-isolate for 14 days and may be contacted to verify compliance; new arrivals will be required to provide UK officials with contact and travel information prior to arrival; the US Department of Homeland Security has issued instructions requiring US passengers who have been in the UK to travel through select airports where the US Government has implemented enhanced screening procedures

### 3.31 Obesity - adult prevalence rate

27.8% (2016)

### 3.32 Education expenditures

5.4% of GDP (2017)

### 3.33 School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education)

**total:**

17 years

**male:**

17 years

**female:**

18 years (2018)

### 3.34 Unemployment, youth ages 15-24

**total:**

11.3%

**male:**

12.2%

**female:**

10.3% (2018 est.)

## 4. Government

### 4.1 Country name

**conventional long form:**

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; note - the island of Great Britain includes England, Scotland, and Wales

**conventional short form:**

United Kingdom

**abbreviation:**

UK

**etymology:**

self-descriptive country name; the designation "Great Britain," in the sense of "Larger Britain," dates back to medieval times and was used to distinguish the island from "Little Britain," or Brittany in modern France; the name Ireland derives from the Gaelic "Eriu," the matron goddess of Ireland (goddess of the land)

### 4.2 Government type

parliamentary constitutional monarchy; a Commonwealth realm

## 4.3 Capital

**name:**

London

**geographic coordinates:**

51 30 N, 0 05 W

**time difference:**

UTC 0 (5 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

**daylight saving time:**

+1hr, begins last Sunday in March; ends last Sunday in October

note: the time statements apply to the United Kingdom proper, not to its crown dependencies or overseas territories  
etymology: the name derives from the Roman settlement of Londinium, established on the current site of London around A.D. 43; the original meaning of the name is uncertain

## 4.4 Administrative divisions

**England:**

26 two-tier counties, 32 London boroughs and 1 City of London or Greater London, 36 metropolitan districts, 56 unitary authorities (including 4 single-tier counties\*);

**two-tier counties:**

Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cumbria, Derbyshire, Devon, Dorset, East Sussex, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, North Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Somerset, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Surrey, Warwickshire, West Sussex, Worcestershire

**London boroughs and City of London or Greater London:**

Barking and Dagenham, Barnet, Bexley, Brent, Bromley, Camden, Croydon, Ealing, Enfield, Greenwich, Hackney, Hammersmith and Fulham, Haringey, Harrow, Havering, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Islington, Kensington and Chelsea, Kingston upon Thames, Lambeth, Lewisham, City of London, Merton, Newham, Redbridge, Richmond upon Thames, Southwark, Sutton, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest, Wandsworth, Westminster

**metropolitan districts:**

Barnsley, Birmingham, Bolton, Bradford, Bury, Calderdale, Coventry, Doncaster, Dudley, Gateshead, Kirklees, Knowlsey, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Oldham, Rochdale, Rotherham, Salford, Sandwell, Sefton, Sheffield, Solihull, South Tyneside, St. Helens, Stockport, Sunderland, Tameside, Trafford, Wakefield, Walsall, Wigan, Wirral, Wolverhampton

**unitary authorities:**

Bath and North East Somerset; Bedford; Blackburn with Darwen; Blackpool; Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole; Bracknell Forest; Brighton and Hove; City of Bristol; Central Bedfordshire; Cheshire East; Cheshire West and Chester; Cornwall; Darlington; Derby; Dorset; Durham County\*; East Riding of Yorkshire; Halton; Hartlepool; Herefordshire\*; Isle of Wight\*; Isles of Scilly; City of Kingston upon Hull; Leicester; Luton;

Medway; Middlesbrough; Milton Keynes; North East Lincolnshire; North Lincolnshire; North Somerset; Northumberland\*; Nottingham; Peterborough; Plymouth; Portsmouth; Reading; Redcar and Cleveland; Rutland; Shropshire; Slough; South Gloucestershire; Southampton; Southend-on-Sea; Stockton-on-Tees; Stoke-on-Trent; Swindon; Telford and Wrekin; Thurrock; Torbay; Warrington; West Berkshire; Wiltshire; Windsor and Maidenhead; Wokingham; York

**Northern Ireland:**

5 borough councils, 4 district councils, 2 city councils;

**borough councils:**

Antrim and Newtownabbey; Ards and North Down; Armagh City, Banbridge, and Craigavon; Causeway Coast and Glens; Mid and East Antrim

**district councils:**

Derry City and Strabane; Fermanagh and Omagh; Mid Ulster; Newry, Murne, and Down

**city councils:**

Belfast; Lisburn and Castlereagh

**Scotland:**

32 council areas;

**council areas:**

Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus, Argyll and Bute, Clackmannanshire, Dumfries and Galloway, Dundee City, East Ayrshire, East Dunbartonshire, East Lothian, East Renfrewshire, City of Edinburgh, Eilean Siar (Western Isles), Falkirk, Fife, Glasgow City, Highland, Inverclyde, Midlothian, Moray, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, Orkney Islands, Perth and Kinross, Renfrewshire, Shetland Islands, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire, Stirling, The Scottish Borders, West Dunbartonshire, West Lothian

**Wales:**

22 unitary authorities;

**unitary authorities:**

Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Isle of Anglesey, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire, Neath Port Talbot, Newport, Pembrokeshire, Powys, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Swansea, The Vale of Glamorgan, Torfaen, Wrexham

## 4.5 Dependent areas

Anguilla; Bermuda; British Indian Ocean Territory; British Virgin Islands; Cayman Islands; Falkland Islands; Gibraltar; Montserrat; Pitcairn Islands; Saint Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha; South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands; Turks and Caicos Islands

## 4.6 Independence

no official date of independence: 927 (minor English kingdoms unite); 3 March 1284 (enactment of the Statute of Rhuddlan uniting England and Wales); 1536 (Act of Union formally incorporates England and Wales); 1 May 1707 (Acts of Union formally unite England, Scotland, and Wales as Great Britain); 1 January 1801 (Acts of Union formally unite Great Britain and Ireland as the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland); 6 December 1921 (Anglo-Irish Treaty formalizes partition of Ireland; six counties remain part of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland); 12 April 1927 (Royal and Parliamentary Titles Act establishes current name of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

## 4.7 National holiday

the UK does not celebrate one particular national holiday

## 4.8 Constitution

### **history:**

unwritten; partly statutes, partly common law and practice

### **amendments:**

proposed as a bill for an Act of Parliament by the government, by the House of Commons, or by the House of Lords; passage requires agreement by both houses and by the monarch (Royal Assent); many previous, last in 2020 - The European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020, European Union (Future Relationship) Act 2020 (2021)

## 4.9 Legal system

common law system; has nonbinding judicial review of Acts of Parliament under the Human Rights Act of 1998

## 4.10 International law organization participation

accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations; accepts ICCt jurisdiction

## 4.11 Citizenship

### **citizenship by birth:**

no

### **citizenship by descent only:**

at least one parent must be a citizen of the United Kingdom

### **dual citizenship recognized:**

yes

### **residency requirement for naturalization:**

5 years

## 4.12 Suffrage

18 years of age; universal

## 4.13 Executive branch

**chief of state:**

Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952); Heir Apparent Prince CHARLES (son of the queen, born 14 November 1948)

**head of government:**

Prime Minister Boris JOHNSON (Conservative) (since 24 July 2019)

**cabinet:**

Cabinet appointed by the prime minister

**elections/appointments:**

the monarchy is hereditary; following legislative elections, the leader of the majority party or majority coalition usually becomes the prime minister; election last held on 12 December 2019 (next to be held by 2 May 2024)

**note:**

in addition to serving as the UK head of state, the British sovereign is the constitutional monarch for 15 additional Commonwealth countries (these 16 states are each referred to as a Commonwealth realm)

## 4.14 Legislative branch

**description:**

bicameral Parliament consists of: House of Lords (membership not fixed; as of December 2019, 796 lords were eligible to participate in the work of the House of Lords - 679 life peers, 91 hereditary peers, and 26 clergy; members are appointed by the monarch on the advice of the prime minister and non-party political members recommended by the House of Lords Appointments Commission); note - House of Lords total does not include ineligible members or members on leave of absence House of Commons (650 seats; members directly elected in single-seat constituencies by simple majority popular vote to serve 5-year terms unless the House is dissolved earlier)

**elections:**

House of Lords - no elections; note - in 1999, as provided by the House of Lords Act, elections were held in the House of Lords to determine the 92 hereditary peers who would remain; elections held only as vacancies in the hereditary peerage arise) House of Commons - last held on 12 December 2019 (next to be held by 2 May 2024)

**election results:**

House of Lords - composition - men 579, women 217, percent of women 27.3% House of Commons - percent of vote by party - Conservative 43.6%, Labor 32.1%, Lib Dems 11.6%, SNP 3.9%, Greens 2.7%, Brexit Party 2.0%, other 4.1%; seats by party - Conservative 365, Labor 202, SNP 48, Lib Dems 11, DUP 8, Sinn Fein 7, Plaid Cymru 4, other 9; composition - men 430, women 220, percent of women 34%; total Parliament percent of women 30.2%

## 4.15 Judicial branch

**highest courts:**

Supreme Court (consists of 12 justices, including the court president and deputy president); note - the Supreme Court was established by the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 and implemented in 2009, replacing the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords as the highest court in the United Kingdom

**judge selection and term of office:**

judge candidates selected by an independent committee of several judicial commissions, followed by their recommendations to the prime minister, and appointed by the monarch; justices serve for life

**subordinate courts:**

England and Wales: Court of Appeal (civil and criminal divisions); High Court; Crown Court; County Courts; Magistrates' Courts; Scotland: Court of Sessions; Sheriff Courts; High Court of Justiciary; tribunals; Northern Ireland: Court of Appeal in Northern Ireland; High Court; county courts; magistrates' courts; specialized tribunals

## 4.16 Political parties and leaders

Alliance Party (Northern Ireland) [Naomi LONG]Brexit Party [Nigel FARAGE]Conservative and Unionist Party [Boris JOHNSON]Democratic Unionist Party or DUP (Northern Ireland) [Arlene FOSTER]Green Party of England and Wales or Greens [Sian BERRY and Jonathan BARTLEY]Labor (Labour) Party [Sir Keir STARMER]Liberal Democrats (Lib Dems) [Ed Davey]Party of Wales (Plaid Cymru) [Adam PRICE]Scottish National Party or SNP [Nicola STURGEON]Sinn Fein (Northern Ireland) [Mary Lou MCDONALD]Social Democratic and Labor Party or SDLP (Northern Ireland) [Colum EASTWOOD]Ulster Unionist Party or UUP (Northern Ireland) [Robin SWANN]UK Independence Party or UKIP [Pat MOUNTAIN, interim leader]

## 4.17 International organization participation

ADB (nonregional member), AfDB (nonregional member), Arctic Council (observer), Australia Group, BIS, C, CBSS (observer), CD, CDB, CE, CERN, EAPC, EBRD, ECB, EIB, EITI (implementing country), ESA, EU, FAO, FATF, G-5, G-7, G-8, G-10, G-20, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (national committees), ICCT, ICRM, IDA, IEA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, IGAD (partners), IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), MIGA, MINUSMA, MONUSCO, NATO, NEA, NSG, OAS (observer), OECD, OPCW, OSCE, Pacific Alliance (observer), Paris Club, PCA, PIF (partner), SELEC (observer), SICA (observer), UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNFICYP, UNHCR, UNMISS, UNRWA, UN Security Council (permanent), UPU, WCO, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, ZC

## 4.18 Diplomatic representation in the US

**chief of mission:**

Ambassador Karen Elizabeth PIERCE (since 8 April 2020)

**chancery:**

3100 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008

**telephone:**

[1] (202) 588-6500

**FAX:**

[1] (202) 588-7870

**consulate(s) general:**

Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, San Francisco

**consulate(s):**

Orlando (FL), San Juan (Puerto Rico)

## 4.19 Diplomatic representation from the US

33 Nine Elms Lane, London, SW11 7US or SW8 5DB (driving/GPS postcode)

## 4.20 Flag description

blue field with the red cross of Saint George (patron saint of England) edged in white superimposed on the diagonal red cross of Saint Patrick (patron saint of Ireland), which is superimposed on the diagonal white cross of Saint Andrew (patron saint of Scotland); properly known as the Union Flag, but commonly called the Union Jack; the design and colors (especially the Blue Ensign) have been the basis for a number of other flags including other Commonwealth countries and their constituent states or provinces, and British overseas territories

## 4.21 National symbol(s)

lion (Britain in general); lion, Tudor rose, oak (England); lion, unicorn, thistle (Scotland); dragon, daffodil, leek (Wales); shamrock, flax (Northern Ireland); national colors: red, white, blue (Britain in general); red, white (England); blue, white (Scotland); red, white, green (Wales)

## 4.22 National anthem

**name:**

God Save the Queen

**lyrics/music:**

unknown

note: in use since 1745; by tradition, the song serves as both the national and royal anthem of the UK; it is known as either "God Save the Queen" or "God Save the King," depending on the gender of the reigning monarch; it also serves as the royal anthem of many Commonwealth nations

# 5. Economy

## 5.1 Economic overview

The UK, a leading trading power and financial center, is the third largest economy in Europe after Germany and France. Agriculture is intensive, highly mechanized, and



efficient by European standards, producing about 60% of food needs with less than 2% of the labor force. The UK has large coal, natural gas, and oil resources, but its oil and natural gas reserves are declining; the UK has been a net importer of energy since 2005. Services, particularly banking, insurance, and business services, are key drivers of British GDP growth. Manufacturing, meanwhile, has declined in importance but still accounts for about 10% of economic output.

In 2008, the global financial crisis hit the economy particularly hard, due to the importance of its financial sector. Falling home prices, high consumer debt, and the global economic slowdown compounded the UK's economic problems, pushing the economy into recession in the latter half of 2008 and prompting the then BROWN (Labour) government to implement a number of measures to stimulate the economy and stabilize the financial markets. Facing burgeoning public deficits and debt levels, in 2010 the then CAMERON-led coalition government (between Conservatives and Liberal Democrats) initiated an austerity program, which has continued under the Conservative government. However, the deficit still remains one of the highest in the G7, standing at 3.6% of GDP as of 2017, and the UK has pledged to lower its corporation tax from 20% to 17% by 2020. The UK had a debt burden of 90.4% GDP at the end of 2017.

The UK economy has begun to slow since the referendum vote to leave the EU in June 2016. A sustained depreciation of the British pound has increased consumer and producer prices, weighing on consumer spending without spurring a meaningful increase in exports. The UK has an extensive trade relationship with other EU members through its single market membership, and economic observers have warned the exit will jeopardize its position as the central location for European financial services. The UK is slated to leave the EU at the end of January 2020.

## 5.2 Real GDP growth rate

1.26% (2019 est.) 1.25% (2018 est.) 1.74% (2017 est.)

## 5.3 Inflation rate (consumer prices)

1.7% (2019 est.) 2.4% (2018 est.) 2.6% (2017 est.)

## 5.4 Credit ratings

**Fitch rating:**

AA- (2020)

**Moody's rating:**

Aaa (2020)

**StandardPoors rating:**

AA (2016)

## 5.5 Real GDP (purchasing power parity)

\$3,118,396,000,000 (2019 est.)\$3,073,442,000,000 (2018 est.)\$3,032,781,000,000 (2017 est.)

**note:**

data are in 2010 dollars

## 5.6 GDP (official exchange rate)

\$2,827,918,000,000 (2019 est.)

## 5.7 Real GDP per capita

\$46,659 (2019 est.)\$46,245 (2018 est.)\$45,910 (2017 est.)

**note:**

data are in 2010 dollars

## 5.8 Gross national saving

13.3% of GDP (2019 est.)13.4% of GDP (2018 est.)13.9% of GDP (2017 est.)

## 5.9 GDP - composition, by sector of origin

**agriculture:**

0.7% (2017 est.)

**industry:**

20.2% (2017 est.)

**services:**

79.2% (2017 est.)

## 5.10 GDP - composition, by end use

**household consumption:**

65.8% (2017 est.)

**government consumption:**

18.3% (2017 est.)

**investment in fixed capital:**

17.2% (2017 est.)

**investment in inventories:**

0.2% (2017 est.)

**exports of goods and services:**

30.2% (2017 est.)

**imports of goods and services:**

-31.5% (2017 est.)

## 5.11 Ease of Doing Business Index scores

93.8 (2020)

## 5.12 Agricultural products

wheat, milk, barley, sugar beet, potatoes, rapeseed, poultry, oats, pork, beef

## 5.13 Industries

machine tools, electric power equipment, automation equipment, railroad equipment, shipbuilding, aircraft, motor vehicles and parts, electronics and communications equipment, metals, chemicals, coal, petroleum, paper and paper products, food processing, textiles, clothing, other consumer goods

## 5.14 Industrial production growth rate

3.4% (2017 est.)

## 5.15 Labor force

35.412 million (2020 est.)

## 5.16 Labor force - by occupation

**agriculture:**

1.3%

**industry:**

15.2%

**services:**

83.5% (2014 est.)

## 5.17 Unemployment rate

3.17% (2019 est.)2.51% (2018 est.)

## 5.18 Population below poverty line

15% (2013 est.)

## 5.19 Gini Index coefficient - distribution of family income

34.8 (2016 est.)33.4 (2010)

## 5.20 Household income or consumption by percentage share

**lowest 10%:**

1.7%

**highest 10%:**

31.1% (2012)

## 5.21 Budget

### **revenues:**

1.028 trillion (2017 est.)

### **expenditures:**

1.079 trillion (2017 est.)

## 5.22 Taxes and other revenues

39.1% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

## 5.23 Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-)

-1.9% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

## 5.24 Public debt

87.5% of GDP (2017 est.)87.9% of GDP (2016 est.)

note: data cover general government debt and include debt instruments issued (or owned) by government entities other than the treasury; the data include treasury debt held by foreign entities; the data include debt issued by subnational entities, as well as intragovernmental debt; intragovernmental debt consists of treasury borrowings from surpluses in the social funds, such as for retirement, medical care, and unemployment; debt instruments for the social funds are not sold at public auctions

## 5.25 Fiscal year

6 April - 5 April

## 5.26 Current account balance

-\$121.921 billion (2019 est.)-\$104.927 billion (2018 est.)

## 5.27 Exports

\$901.882 billion (2019 est.)\$877.501 billion (2018 est.)\$851.693 billion (2017 est.)

## 5.28 Exports - partners

US 13.2%, Germany 10.5%, France 7.4%, Netherlands 6.2%, Ireland 5.6%, China 4.8%, Switzerland 4.5% (2017)

## 5.29 Exports - commodities

manufactured goods, fuels, chemicals; food, beverages, tobacco

## 5.30 Imports

\$987.018 billion (2019 est.)\$955.655 billion (2018 est.)\$930.354 billion (2017 est.)

## 5.31 Imports - partners

Germany 13.7%, US 9.5%, China 9.3%, Netherlands 8%, France 5.4%, Belgium 5% (2017)

## 5.32 Imports - commodities

manufactured goods, machinery, fuels; foodstuffs

## 5.33 Reserves of foreign exchange and gold

\$150.8 billion (31 December 2017 est.)\$129.6 billion (31 December 2015 est.)

## 5.34 Debt - external

\$8,721,590,000,000 (2019 est.)\$8,696,559,000,000 (2018 est.)

## 5.35 Exchange rates

British pounds (GBP) per US dollar -0.7836 (2017 est.)0.738 (2016 est.)0.738 (2015 est.)0.607 (2014 est.)0.6391 (2013 est.)

# 6. Energy

## 6.1 Electricity access

**electrification - total population:**  
100% (2020)

## 6.2 Electricity - production

318.2 billion kWh (2016 est.)

## 6.3 Electricity - consumption

309.2 billion kWh (2016 est.)

## 6.4 Electricity - exports

2.153 billion kWh (2016 est.)

## 6.5 Electricity - imports

19.7 billion kWh (2016 est.)

## 6.6 Electricity - installed generating capacity

97.06 million kW (2016 est.)

## 6.7 Electricity - from fossil fuels

50% of total installed capacity (2016 est.)

## 6.8 Electricity - from nuclear fuels

9% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

## 6.9 Electricity - from hydroelectric plants

2% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

## 6.10 Electricity - from other renewable sources

39% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

## 6.11 Crude oil - production

1 million bbl/day (2018 est.)

## 6.12 Crude oil - exports

710,600 bbl/day (2017 est.)

## 6.13 Crude oil - imports

907,100 bbl/day (2017 est.)

## 6.14 Crude oil - proved reserves

2.069 billion bbl (1 January 2018 est.)

## 6.15 Refined petroleum products - production

1.29 million bbl/day (2017 est.)

## 6.16 Refined petroleum products - consumption

1.584 million bbl/day (2017 est.)

## 6.17 Refined petroleum products - exports

613,800 bbl/day (2017 est.)

## 6.18 Refined petroleum products - imports

907,500 bbl/day (2017 est.)

## 6.19 Natural gas - production

42.11 billion cu m (2017 est.)

## 6.20 Natural gas - consumption

79.17 billion cu m (2017 est.)

## 6.21 Natural gas - exports

11.27 billion cu m (2017 est.)

## 6.22 Natural gas - imports

47 billion cu m (2017 est.)

## 6.23 Natural gas - proved reserves

176 billion cu m (1 January 2018 est.)

## 6.24 Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy

424 million Mt (2017 est.)

# 7. Communications

## 7.1 Telephones - fixed lines

**total subscriptions:**

31,160,866

**subscriptions per 100 inhabitants:**

47.62 (2019 est.)

## 7.2 Telephones - mobile cellular

**total subscriptions:**

76,920,618

**subscriptions per 100 inhabitants:**

117.55 (2019 est.)

## 7.3 Telecommunication systems

**general assessment:**

technologically advanced domestic and international system; one of the largest mobile and telecom markets in Europe for revenue and subscribers; will complete the switch to fiber

by 2033; mobile penetration above the EU average; govt. to invest in fiber infrastructure and 5G technologies; operators expanded the reach of 5G services; FttP provided to over a million customers; super-fast broadband available to about 95% of customers (2020)

**domestic:**

equal mix of buried cables, microwave radio relay, and fiber-optic systems; fixed-line 48 per 100 and mobile-cellular 118 per 100 (2019)

**international:**

country code - 44; Landing points for the GTT Atlantic, Scotland-Northern Ireland -1, & -2, Lanis 1,-2, &-3, Sirius North, BT-MT-1, SHEFA-2, BT Highlands and Islands Submarine Cable System, Northern Lights, FARICE-1, Celtic Norse, Tampnet Offshore FOC Network, England Cable, CC-2, E-LLan, Sirius South, ESAT -1 & -2, Rockabill, Geo-Eirgrid, UK-Netherlands-14, Circle North & South, Ulysses2, Conceto, Farland North, Pan European Crossing, Solas, Swansea-Bream, GTT Express, Tata TGN-Atlantic & - Western Europe, Apollo, EIG, Glo-1, TAT-14, Yellow, Celtic, FLAG Atlantic-1, FEA, Isle of Scilly Cable, UK-Channel Islands-8 and SeaMeWe-3 submarine cables providing links throughout Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Australia, and US; satellite earth stations - 10 Intelsat (7 Atlantic Ocean and 3 Indian Ocean), 1 Inmarsat (Atlantic Ocean region), and 1 Eutelsat; at least 8 large international switching centers (2018)

**note:**

the COVID-19 outbreak is negatively impacting telecommunications production and supply chains globally; consumer spending on telecom devices and services has also slowed due to the pandemic's effect on economies worldwide; overall progress towards improvements in all facets of the telecom industry - mobile, fixed-line, broadband, submarine cable and satellite - has moderated

## 7.4 Broadcast media

public service broadcaster, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), is the largest broadcasting corporation in the world; BBC operates multiple TV networks with regional and local TV service; a mixed system of public and commercial TV broadcasters along with satellite and cable systems provide access to hundreds of TV stations throughout the world; BBC operates multiple national, regional, and local radio networks with multiple transmission sites; a large number of commercial radio stations, as well as satellite radio services are available (2018)

## 7.5 Internet country code

.uk

## 7.6 Internet users

**total:**

61,784,878

**percent of population:**

94.9% (July 2018 est.)



## 7.7 Broadband - fixed subscriptions

**total:**

26,586,110

**subscriptions per 100 inhabitants:**

41 (2018 est.)

## 7.8 Communications - note

**note 1:**

the British Library claims to be the largest library in the world with well over 150 million items and in most known languages; it receives copies of all books produced in the UK or Ireland, as well as a significant proportion of overseas titles distributed in the UK; in addition to books (print and digital), holdings include: journals, manuscripts, newspapers, magazines, sound and music recordings, videos, maps, prints, patents, and drawings

**note 2:**

on 1 May 1840, the United Kingdom led the world with the introduction of postage stamps; the Austrian Empire had examined the idea of an "adhesive tax postmark" for the prepayment of postage in 1835; while the suggestion was reviewed in detail, it was rejected for the time being; other countries (including Austria) soon followed the UK's example with their own postage stamps; by the 1860s, most countries were issuing stamps; originally, stamps had to be cut from sheets; the UK issued the first postage stamps with perforations in 1854

## 8. Transportation

### 8.1 National air transport system

**number of registered air carriers:**

20 (2020)

**inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers:**

794

**annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers:**

165,388,610 (2018)

**annual freight traffic on registered air carriers:**

6,198,370,000 mt-km (2018)

### 8.2 Civil aircraft registration country code prefix

G (2016)

### 8.3 Airports

**total:**

460 (2013)

## 8.4 Airports - with paved runways

**total:**

271 (2013)

**over 3,047 m:**

7 (2013)

**2,438 to 3,047 m:**

29 (2013)

**1,524 to 2,437 m:**

89 (2013)

**914 to 1,523 m:**

80 (2013)

**under 914 m:**

66 (2013)

## 8.5 Airports - with unpaved runways

**total:**

189 (2013)

**1,524 to 2,437 m:**

3 (2013)

**914 to 1,523 m:**

26 (2013)

**under 914 m:**

160 (2013)

## 8.6 Heliports

9 (2013)

## 8.7 Pipelines

502 km condensate, 9 km condensate/gas, 28603 km gas, 59 km liquid petroleum gas, 5256 km oil, 175 km oil/gas/water, 4919 km refined products, 255 km water (2013)

## 8.8 Railways

**total:**

16,837 km (2015)

**standard gauge:**

16,534 km 1.435-m gauge (5,357 km electrified) (2015)

**broad gauge:**

303 km 1.600-m gauge (in Northern Ireland) (2015)

## 8.9 Roadways

**total:**

394,428 km (2009)

**paved:**

394,428 km (includes 3,519 km of expressways) (2009)

## 8.10 Waterways

3,200 km (620 km used for commerce) (2009)

## 8.11 Merchant marine

**total:**

1,304

**by type:**

bulk carrier 147, container ship 59, general cargo 116, oil tanker 99, other 883 (2020)

## 8.12 Ports and terminals

**major seaport(s):**

Dover, Felixstowe, Immingham, Liverpool, London, Southampton, Teesport (England); Forth Ports (Scotland); Milford Haven (Wales)

**oil terminal(s):**

Fawley Marine terminal, Liverpool Bay terminal (England); Braefoot Bay terminal, Finnart oil terminal, Hound Point terminal (Scotland)

**container port(s) (TEUs):**

Felixstowe (3,849,700), London (2,431,000), Southampton (2,040,000) (2017)

**LNG terminal(s) (import):**

Isle of Grain, Milford Haven, Teesside

## 8.13 Transportation - note

begun in 1988 and completed in 1994, the Channel Tunnel (nicknamed the Chunnel) is a 50.5-km (31.4-mi) rail tunnel beneath the English Channel at the Strait of Dover that runs from Folkestone, Kent, England to Coquelles, Pas-de-Calais in northern France; it is the only fixed link between the island of Great Britain and mainland Europe

# 9. Military And Security

## 9.1 Military and security forces

British Army, Royal Navy (includes Royal Marines), Royal Air Force, Strategic Command (2021)note: Strategic Command develops and manages the British military's medical services, training and education, intelligence and information systems across the land, sea, air, space, and cyber domains; it also manages joint overseas operations

## 9.2 Military expenditures

2.43% of GDP (2020 est.) 2.1% of GDP (2019) 2.11% of GDP (2018) 2.09% of GDP (2017) 2.08% of GDP (2016)

## 9.3 Military and security service personnel strengths

the British military has approximately 150,000 total active duty troops (84,000 Army; 33,000 Navy, including 7,000 marines; 33,000 Air Force) (2020)

## 9.4 Military equipment inventories and acquisitions

the inventory of the British military is comprised of a mix of domestically-produced and imported Western weapons systems; the US is the leading supplier of armaments to the UK since 2010; the UK defense industry is capable of producing a wide variety of air, land, and sea weapons systems (2020)

## 9.5 Military deployments

750 Afghanistan (NATO); approximately 1,000 Brunei; approximately 400 Canada (BATUS); approximately 2,200 Cyprus; 250 Cyprus (UNFICYP); 850 Estonia (NATO); approx. 1,200 Falkland Islands; est. 200 Germany (note - previously about 2,500, but the UK withdrew all but 200 troops by the end of 2020); 570 Gibraltar; approx. 1,400 Middle East (coalition against ISIS; NATO); up to 350 Kenya (BATUK); approx. 400 Mali (EUTM, MINUSMA, and Operation Barkhane); 150 Poland (NATO) (2021)

## 9.6 Military service age and obligation

slight variations by service, but generally 16-36 years of age for enlisted (with parental consent under 18) and 18-29 for officers; minimum length of service 4 years; women serve in military services including ground combat roles; conscription abolished in 1963 (2021)

# 10. Terrorism

## 10.1 Terrorist group(s)

Continuity Irish Republican Army; Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham; New Irish Republican Army (2020) note: details about the history, aims, leadership, organization, areas of operation, tactics, targets, weapons, size, and sources of support of the group(s) appear(s) in Appendix-T

# 11. Transnational Issues

## 11.1 Disputes - international

in 2002, Gibraltar residents voted overwhelmingly by referendum to reject any "shared sovereignty" arrangement between the UK and Spain; the Government of Gibraltar insisted on equal participation in talks between the two countries; Spain disapproved

of UK plans to grant Gibraltar greater autonomy; Mauritius and Seychelles claim the Chagos Archipelago (British Indian Ocean Territory); in 2001, the former inhabitants of the archipelago, evicted 1967 - 1973, were granted UK citizenship and the right of return, followed by Orders in Council in 2004 that banned rehabilitation, a High Court ruling reversed the ban, a Court of Appeal refusal to hear the case, and a Law Lords' decision in 2008 denied the right of return; in addition, the UK created the world's largest marine protection area around the Chagos islands prohibiting the extraction of any natural resources therein; UK rejects sovereignty talks requested by Argentina, which still claims the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands; territorial claim in Antarctica (British Antarctic Territory) overlaps Argentine claim and partially overlaps Chilean claim; Iceland, the UK, and Ireland dispute Denmark's claim that the Faroe Islands' continental shelf extends beyond 200 nm

## 11.2 Refugees and internally displaced persons

### **refugees (country of origin):**

19,744 (Iran), 13,755 (Eritrea), 10,575 (Sudan), 10,389 (Syria), 9,513 (Afghanistan), 8,164 (Pakistan), 5,522 (Sri Lanka) (2019)

### **stateless persons:**

161 (2019)

## 11.3 Illicit drugs

producer of limited amounts of synthetic drugs and synthetic precursor chemicals; major consumer of Southwest Asian heroin, Latin American cocaine, and synthetic drugs; money-laundering center