

# One-click report : United Kingdom

August 18th 2022

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## Briefing sheet

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### Political and economic outlook

- The UK economy is the fifth largest in the world. Services make up more than 40% of total exports and 80% of GDP. Having left the EU single market and customs union, the UK is seeking to rebalance trading relations towards markets outside the EU.
- On July 7th the prime minister, Boris Johnson, resigned as head of the Conservative Party. EIU expects the foreign secretary, Liz Truss, to win an internal party election and to take over as prime minister in September. The party will struggle to mend its divisions and win a majority at the 2024 election. A hung parliament is the most likely outcome.
- In the context of the cost-of-living crisis, the new prime minister will face pressure to ease fiscal policy via tax cuts and subsidies for households, and even rethink a planned rise in corporation tax that is scheduled to take effect in 2023. However, reduced fiscal income will complicate spending plans tied to the "levelling up" agenda.
- GDP surpassed its pre-pandemic level in the first quarter of 2022. The near-term outlook has deteriorated: in 2022 growth will be hampered by the fallout from the Russia-Ukraine conflict as higher inflation erodes private consumption. This will persist into 2023, when we expect real GDP to contract.

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- The trade agreement reached between the UK and the EU in December 2020 has created notable non-tariff barriers, causing serious dissatisfaction in Northern Ireland and making for difficult relations with the EU.
- The UK is one of eight European countries with a public debt/GDP ratio above 100%. Its ability to borrow in its own currency and long average debt maturity will keep borrowing costs manageable, but fiscal consolidation will be slow in 2022-26.
- Energy rationing in central and eastern Europe in the 2022/23 winter as Russia reduces gas supplies poses indirect risks to the UK. The UK has a low level of direct dependence on Russian gas but will be affected by the unprecedented increase in imported energy prices.

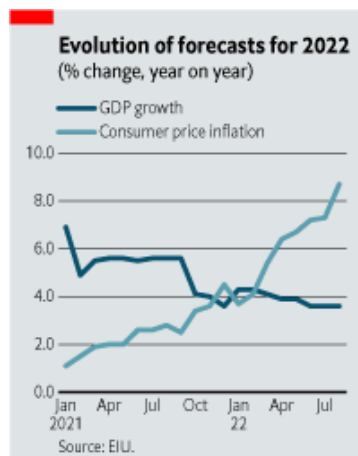
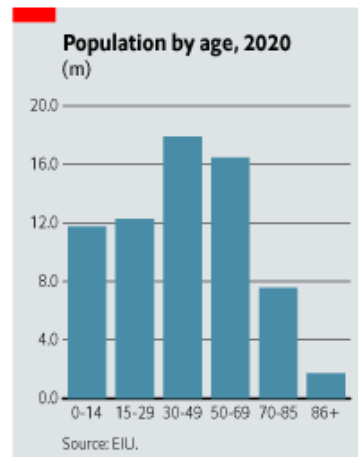
### Key indicators

	2021 <sup>a</sup>	2022 <sup>b</sup>	2023 <sup>b</sup>	2024 <sup>b</sup>	2025 <sup>b</sup>	2026 <sup>b</sup>
Real GDP growth (%)	7.4	3.6	-0.6	1.5	1.6	1.6
Consumer price inflation (av; %)	2.5	8.7	9.0	3.0	2.0	1.9
Government balance (% of GDP)	-8.1	-5.0	-6.7	-4.9	-4.3	-3.2
Current-account balance (% of GDP)	-2.6	-3.1	-3.5	-2.7	-2.7	-2.8
Short-term interest rate (av; %)	0.1	1.6	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4
Unemployment rate (%)	4.5	3.9	4.4	4.1	3.9	3.9
Exchange rate £:US\$ (av)	0.73	0.80	0.81	0.80	0.75	0.71

<sup>a</sup> Actual. <sup>b</sup> EIU forecasts.

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

### Market opportunities



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### Key changes since July 13th

- We now expect a prolonged, widespread cut-off in Russian gas supplies to Europe. The UK's low level of dependence on Russian gas makes energy rationing unlikely, but the economy will be hit by higher inflation and weaker external demand.
- We have raised our inflation forecast for 2022 from 7.3% to 8.7% and for 2023 from 4.6% to 9%. Nominal wages will rise much more slowly; we expect a 3% fall in real (inflation-adjusted) wages in both 2022 and 2023.
- This will prompt a contraction in private consumption in 2023, which along with a forecast contraction in fixed investment will be the main factor behind the 0.6% decline in real GDP (previously we forecast 0.6% growth).
- The weaker economic outlook will place even more pressure on the new prime minister to ease fiscal policy. We had expected the budget deficit to stabilise at about 5% of GDP in 2023, but we now expect the deficit to widen to 6.7% of GDP.

### The month ahead

- September 5th—Results of the Conservative Party leadership contest: Following a first stage of voting among Conservative members of parliament, a former chancellor of the exchequer—Rishi Sunak—and Ms Truss will contest a run-off among party members. We expect Ms Truss to win and take over as prime minister.
- August 12th—Flash real GDP growth (Q2): After quarterly growth of 0.8% in January-March, we expect a deceleration to 0.2% in April-June. High inflation is likely to have dampened private consumption. We expect another weak result in the third quarter, before a quarterly contraction in the fourth quarter.



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### Major risks to our forecast

Scenarios, Q2 2022	Probability	Impact	Intensity
High energy costs, inflation, monetary tightening and supply disruptions cause a recession	Very high	High	20
Supply-chain disruptions worsen over 2022, damaging economic activity	Very high	High	20
High energy prices push the UK electricity market into crisis	High	High	16
Further tax increases stifle the UK economy	Very high	Moderate	15
The UK is struck by another major cyber-attack	Very high	Moderate	15

Note. Scenarios and scores are taken from our Risk Briefing product. Risk scenarios are potential developments that might substantially change the business operating environment over the coming two years. Risk intensity is a product of probability and impact, on a 25-point scale.

Source: EIU.

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## Forecast summary

[United Kingdom](#) | [Economy](#) | [Forecast](#) | [Forecast summary](#)

August 1st 2022

### Forecast summary

(% unless otherwise indicated)

	2021 <sup>a</sup>	2022 <sup>b</sup>	2023 <sup>b</sup>	2024 <sup>b</sup>	2025 <sup>b</sup>	2026 <sup>b</sup>
Real GDP (% change)	7.4	3.6	-0.6	1.5	1.6	1.6
Industrial production (% change)	5.1	1.4	-4.0	2.2	1.6	1.6
Unemployment rate (av; EU/OECD harmonised measure)	4.5	3.9	4.4	4.1	3.9	3.9
Consumer price inflation (av; CPIH measure)	2.5	8.7	9.0	3.0	2.0	1.9
3-month £-LIBOR rate (av)	0.1	1.6	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4
Bank of England base rate (end-period)	0.25	2.50	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75
Government budget balance (% of GDP) <sup>c</sup>	-8.1	-5.0	-6.7	-4.9	-4.3	-3.2
Exports of goods fob (US\$ bn)	442.3	548.0	624.2	671.6	704.0	739.2
Imports of goods fob (US\$ bn)	-656.8	-770.6	-852.5	-891.7	-959.5	-1,010.0
Current-account balance (US\$ bn)	-82.5	-96.5	-114.6	-93.8	-104.1	-118.2
Current-account balance (% of GDP)	-2.6	-3.1	-3.5	-2.7	-2.7	-2.8
Exchange rate US\$:£ (av)	1.38	1.25	1.23	1.26	1.33	1.40
Exchange rate ¥:£ (av)	151.1	163.4	167.9	162.9	161.4	164.9

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Exchange rate €:£ (av)	1.16	1.16	1.08	1.05	1.08	1.12
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<sup>a</sup> Actual. <sup>b</sup> EIU forecasts. <sup>c</sup> General government.

## Political stability

[United Kingdom](#) | [Politics](#) | [Forecast](#) | [Political stability](#)

August 1st 2022

Following the resignation of the prime minister, Boris Johnson, as leader of the Conservative Party on July 7th, an internal party election is under way to select his successor. Mr Johnson reluctantly announced that he would step down after a wave of resignations of ministers and junior members of government, which was sparked by a series of scandals that raised questions about his judgement. The Conservative Party began the process of selecting its new leader on July 13th, when Conservative members of parliament (MPs) started voting to whittle down the pool of candidates from eight to two. The party membership (about 160,000 people) will vote in August to select a leader from the final two: a former chancellor of the exchequer, Rishi Sunak, and the foreign secretary, Liz Truss. The winner of this poll will take over from Mr Johnson on September 5th.

EIU believes that Ms Truss will win the leadership contest. She is more popular with the party base, and Mr Sunak has been tainted by his involvement in Mr Johnson's demise (Mr Sunak's resignation as chancellor sparked the wave of departures that forced Mr Johnson to step down). Mr Sunak, in contrast to Ms Truss, is reluctant to support immediate tax cuts, which is also likely to damage his leadership chances.

The next prime minister faces huge challenges in uniting a deeply-divided party, tackling a sharp economic slowdown and closing the polling gap with Labour. There is a general consensus about the need for greater probity

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under the next prime minister. Neither of the candidates has outlined a detailed alternative policy agenda or a proposal to unite the various factions within the party. The policy debate thus far has been strikingly narrow and has centred on taxation, accentuating the dearth of new ideas from Mr Sunak and Ms Truss.

There are medium-term risks to the Union of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, but the dissolution of the UK is not our core forecast for 2022-26. Pro-independence parties, led by the Scottish National Party (SNP), hold a majority in the Scottish parliament, and have introduced legislation in Scotland to hold a referendum on independence in 2023 unsanctioned by the UK parliament. The government has dismissed the possibility of granting a binding second referendum during this parliamentary term. Even if it were forced to grant one by a court order, the poll would take several years to organise. Opinion polling on Scottish independence has generally shown a consistent, if narrow, lead for remaining in the union, except during a period in 2020 when the devolved government's pandemic-related public health powers were abnormally relevant to voters. We do not expect Scotland to achieve independence in 2022-26. However, the issue may return to prominence if the SNP becomes the swing party in a hung parliament after the next election.

Brexit has inflamed tensions in Northern Ireland, which remains within a regulatory union with the EU for most goods to avoid border checks on the island of Ireland. This requires checks between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK for goods deemed to be "at risk" of passing into the EU. This arrangement has been difficult to implement and is disliked by Unionist politicians in Northern Ireland for, in effect, creating a border between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK. Following elections in May, the largest Unionist party, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), has refused to join the power-sharing executive unless the Northern Ireland protocol is changed radically. Constitutionally, this has prevented an executive from being formed. To appease the DUP, the government has introduced legislation to allow the UK to override parts of the protocol. However, the issue is likely to be put on hold until a new prime minister is in place. Overriding the protocol would risk provoking a trade war with the EU and at

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the very least would further sour relations. It would also meet opposition in parliament, and such legislation would be highly unlikely to be passed by the House of Lords (the upper chamber).

## Election watch

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August 1st 2022

The most likely date for the next general election is May 2nd 2024. Parliament must be dissolved within five years of the previous election (December 12th 2019) with an election to follow within 25 days, making the latest possible date January 24th 2025. However, elections are usually held in the spring or summer, usually in May to coincide with local elections, and autumn or winter elections are rare. UK governments often call early elections before the due date to consolidate their gains, but this is unlikely unless the new prime minister manages to engineer a significant recovery in the Conservative Party's electoral fortunes (which is unlikely, given the weak state of the economy and deep party divisions).

Despite Labour's poll lead, it remains unpopular in many of its former working-class seats, which swung to the Conservatives in the 2019 election, and has yet to articulate a convincing policy agenda. However, in by-elections, supporters of Labour and the centre-left Liberal Democrats are increasingly voting tactically against the Conservatives, with voters in affluent suburban and rural constituencies supporting the Liberal Democrats and metropolitan constituencies favouring Labour. This dynamic, combined with the dominance of the SNP in Scottish seats, means that it will be difficult for any one party to achieve an overall majority in the next election. This makes a hung parliament the most likely outcome.

## International relations

[United Kingdom](#) | [Politics](#) | [Forecast](#) | [International relations](#)

August 1st 2022

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24th, all EU countries have adopted severe sanctions against Russia, preventing the Central Bank of Russia from accessing international reserves, cutting Russian banks off from the SWIFT international bank messaging system and severely curtailing most non-energy trade with Russia. The UK also passed legislation providing greater scrutiny of foreign ownership of UK assets.

Serious tensions between the EU and the UK related to the latter's departure from the bloc remain. The EU-UK Trade and Co-operation Agreement came into force in May 2021. It provides for zero-tariff, zero-quota trade between the UK and the EU. However, leaving the single market and customs union has created a variety of non-tariff trade barriers in the form of border checks and product certifications. The Northern Ireland protocol is by far the main source of UK-EU friction. The government is seeking changes to the protocol to reduce trade blockages and political tensions in Northern Ireland, and has introduced legislation that would allow it to override parts of the protocol unilaterally. The EU has offered limited concessions on the implementation of the protocol, but has said that it will launch infringement proceedings against the UK if the UK reneges on the protocol. A UK-EU trade war is not our baseline forecast, especially given the war in Ukraine, but it remains a risk.

## Policy trends

[United Kingdom](#) | [Economy](#) | [Forecast](#) | [Policy trends](#)

August 1st 2022

For decades the UK has faced substantial economic policy challenges, including low public investment, wide regional disparities, high housing costs and chronically low productivity growth. The Conservatives' 2019 election manifesto promised greater public-sector investment (including in green energy and infrastructure) and additional current spending on the National Health Service, education and the police, and to address the issue of long-term social care. The pandemic led to a massive increase in state spending, but managing that emergency, along with divisions in the party, has delayed a more comprehensive investment programme.

Public investment policy has been driven by efforts to "level up" deprived regions outside London and the south-east in an attempt to boost private investment. However, the potential positive impact of these proposals has been blunted by the combination of supply-chain disruption, higher global commodity prices due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and post-Brexit trade barriers. These factors have fuelled inflation, dampened growth, undermined investor confidence and aggravated cost-of-living concerns. The government has introduced some measures to increase support to households, but further measures to cushion the impact of higher utility prices are likely once a new prime minister is in office in September. However, by that point there will be only about 18 months until the next election, and the government is likely to focus on shorter-term stimulus, rather than longer-term investment projects.

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# Fiscal policy



## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

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[United Kingdom](#) | [Economy](#) | [Forecast](#) | [Fiscal policy outlook](#)

August 1st 2022

The pandemic triggered a massive expansion of fiscal support for workers and businesses. These initiatives had been mostly phased out by October 2021. The budget recorded a deficit of 8.1% of GDP in 2021, with the debt/GDP ratio reaching 102.8%.

The government's fiscal policy stance is likely to shift once a new prime minister is in office. Faced with a cost-of-living crisis and internal party criticism of recent tax increases, both the remaining leadership candidates have pledged to ease the tax burden. Mr Sunak, however, will do so only when inflation falls. Assuming that Ms Truss wins the leadership contest, she is likely to reverse the 2.5-percentage-point increase in national-insurance contributions (a form of social security), which took effect in April; lift a green levy from consumers' energy bills; and block a planned jump in the rate of corporation tax from 19% currently to 25%, scheduled to take effect in April 2023. Coupled with a forecast recession, government revenue is likely to fall as a share of GDP in 2023. The government will probably have to deliver further support to households in early 2023 as energy prices remain extremely high, sustaining pressure on expenditure. As a result, the fiscal deficit will rise from 5% of GDP in 2022 to 6.7% of GDP in 2023.

We forecast that expenditure as a share of GDP will decline thereafter, although much of this will be due to the normalisation of spending following the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis. On the assumption that revenue starts to rise in 2024 on the back of a stronger underlying economic performance, the fiscal deficit will shrink to 3.2% of GDP in 2026. We expect the public debt/GDP ratio to edge up from 102.5% in 2022 to 102.9% in 2023, before falling to just under 102% in 2026.

## Monetary policy

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August 1st 2022

On June 15th the Bank of England (BoE, the central bank) raised its key interest rate by 25 basis points, to 1.25%, following similar increases at its previous four meetings. We believe that four additional rate rises are likely before the end of 2022 (by 50 basis points in August and 25 basis points each in September, November and December), reaching 2.5%. From 2023 we expect the BoE to slow its tightening cycle significantly. The BoE has become more downbeat about prospects for 2023 and is now forecasting a 0.25% contraction in real GDP next year (having previously projected moderate growth). This will limit the scope for further significant tightening next year; after an early small increase of 25 basis points, we expect the BoE to keep the policy rate at 2.75%. With inflation only subsiding gradually, a loosening of monetary policy is unlikely in the forecast period, barring a severe recession. The policy interest rate is forecast to end 2026 at 2.75%.

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## Global forecast data

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August 1st 2022

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
<b>Economic growth (%)</b>						
US GDP	5.7	2.3	1.3	1.5	1.9	2.0
OECD GDP	5.2	2.6	1.6	1.8	1.9	1.9
EU27 GDP	5.4	2.6	1.7	2.1	2.0	1.9
World GDP	5.7	2.8	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.6
World trade	10.9	4.0	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.6
<b>Inflation indicators (% unless otherwise indicated)</b>						
US CPI	4.7	7.8	3.6	1.6	2.1	2.1
OECD CPI	3.6	8.3	4.2	2.4	2.4	2.2
EU27 CPI	2.8	7.8	3.9	2.2	2.0	1.9
Manufactures (measured in US\$)	5.8	2.5	3.3	3.7	3.1	1.8
Oil (Brent; US\$/b)	70.4	107.9	95.5	86.5	78.0	69.0
Non-oil commodities (measured in US\$)	37.9	21.8	-6.5	-5.6	-4.4	-3.6
<b>Financial variables</b>						
US\$ 3-month commercial paper rate (av; %)	0.1	1.7	3.4	2.7	2.6	2.6

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€ 3-month interbank rate (av; %)	-0.5	0.1	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5
US\$:£ (av)	1.38	1.25	1.23	1.26	1.33	1.40
US\$:€ (av)	1.18	1.08	1.14	1.20	1.23	1.25

## Economic growth

[United Kingdom](#) | [Economy](#) | [Forecast](#) | [Economic growth](#)

August 1st 2022

Surging inflation, supply-chain disruption, commodity price increases, post-Brexit trade frictions and domestic tax rises are dragging on growth in 2022. The main impact has been felt through accelerating inflation, which has eroded disposable incomes and weakened private consumption. Continued supply-chain disruption and rising overheads will also increase caution among businesses, affecting fixed investment. The introduction of new trade barriers after Brexit has exacerbated the supply shocks affecting countries across western Europe, making the UK particularly vulnerable to trade-related disruption. We forecast that real GDP will grow by 3.6% in 2022, but the headline figure is flattered by year-on-year comparisons with the 2021 base year, when many lockdown restrictions were still in place. These disruptions are likely to continue and be exacerbated further in 2023. We forecast a technical recession (two consecutive quarters of contraction) in the fourth quarter of 2022 and the first quarter of 2023 as higher energy prices erode consumer confidence and business investment, while the cut-off of Russian gas to Europe will slow growth among the UK's largest trade partners and keep the UK's energy prices elevated. With very little carry-over effect in 2023, real GDP will contract by 0.6%.

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Growth will rebound thereafter, at 1.5% in 2024, and stabilise at about 1.6% in 2025-26. Structural limitations such as low investment and poor productivity, significant skills gaps, high regional inequalities and a reliance on consumer-facing services to drive growth, alongside the creation of new trade barriers by Brexit, will undermine medium-term growth potential.

### Economic growth

%	2021 <sup>a</sup>	2022 <sup>b</sup>	2023 <sup>b</sup>	2024 <sup>b</sup>	2025 <sup>b</sup>	2026 <sup>b</sup>
GDP	7.4	3.6	-0.6	1.5	1.6	1.6
Private consumption	6.2	4.2	-1.2	1.0	1.4	1.7
Government consumption	14.3	2.0	3.5	1.4	1.4	1.3
Gross fixed investment	5.9	7.8	-1.3	3.5	3.4	3.0
Exports of goods & services	-1.3	6.0	2.1	2.5	2.8	2.8
Imports of goods & services	3.8	10.2	1.1	3.4	3.1	3.5
Domestic demand	8.5	4.6	-0.8	1.8	1.8	1.9
Agriculture	4.0	5.2	-0.8	1.6	1.6	1.6
Industry	7.5	3.4	-0.7	1.5	1.6	1.6
Services	7.5	3.6	-0.6	1.5	1.6	1.6

<sup>a</sup> Actual. <sup>b</sup> EIU forecasts.

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# Inflation

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[United Kingdom](#) | [Economy](#) | [Forecast](#) | [Inflation](#)

August 1st 2022

Inflation began to spike sharply in mid-2021 owing to the rapid post-lockdown reopening of the economy, which boosted consumer spending and exacerbated domestic and international supply-chain disruptions. The UK is also particularly dependent on natural gas, and a marked increase in gas prices from mid-2021 has drastically driven up electricity prices, an important component of the consumer prices index. We expect these price pressures to increase in the remainder of 2022 and early 2023, following the news that Russia will reduce gas supplies to Europe, driving up average inflation from 2.5% in 2021 to 8.7% in 2022. Inflation will rise further in 2023, to 9%, owing to base effects, and continued efforts by EU countries to replenish their gas stores following the 2022/23 winter will keep energy prices elevated over 2023. From 2024, energy markets will begin to stabilise, reducing inflation gradually to 1.9% by 2026.

## Exchange rates

[United Kingdom](#) | [Economy](#) | [Forecast](#) | [Exchange rates](#)

August 1st 2022

After a period of appreciation against the US dollar as the BoE began monetary tightening (with the pound strengthening from US\$1.32:£1 in December 2021 to US\$1.36:£1 in mid-February), sterling weakened to US\$1.22:£1 in mid-May as the Federal Reserve (the US central bank) began its own tightening cycle and the war in Ukraine prompted a "flight to safety" among investors. After several weeks of mild appreciation, sterling weakened again in June-July and was trading at about US\$1.20:£1 in late July. We expect the pound to remain weak against the dollar for the remainder of 2022 and most of 2023, only strengthening again once inflation eases and the flight to safety

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abates. After remaining broadly stable against the euro in 2022, sterling will weaken in 2023. We expect that sterling will remain relatively steady against the euro in 2024, before appreciating in 2025-26, and that both currencies will appreciate gradually against the dollar in the second half of the forecast period, with the pound reaching US\$1.43:£1 at end-2026.

## External sector

[United Kingdom](#) | [Economy](#) | [Forecast](#) | [External sector](#)

August 1st 2022

Brexit has weighed on imports and exports over the medium term, with exports of goods and services declining by 1.3% in real terms in 2021, even after the pandemic-related decline in 2020, a situation unique in Europe. Imports also rebounded slowly in 2021, growing by only 3.8% despite the pandemic rebound. We expect a return to overall export growth and acceleration in import growth in 2022, mainly because prices are rising rapidly, with overall trade volumes taking several years to recover to their 2019 levels. Alongside much of Europe, the UK has been badly hit by supply-chain disruptions. In the context of the conflict in Ukraine, such disruptions will continue to depress exports and imports.

The UK has run a persistent current-account deficit since 1985. After widening in 2021, the deficit will expand further to 3.1% of GDP in 2022, and to 3.5% of GDP in 2023. We expect the deficit to narrow thereafter, averaging 2.7% of GDP per year in 2024-26. Sanctions imposed on Russia are likely to have a minor influence on the UK external balance—aside from movements of gold in financial transactions, the UK's primary import from Russia is petroleum products, and its exports to Russia are minimal as a percentage of total exports.



# Country forecast overview: Business environment rankings

[United Kingdom](#) | [Business](#) | [Business environment](#) | [Rankings overview](#)

August 1st 2022

Value of index <sup>a</sup>		Global rank <sup>b</sup>		Regional rank <sup>c</sup>	
2017-21	2022-26	2017-21	2022-26	2017-21	2022-26
7.81	7.84	15	18	9	10

<sup>a</sup> Out of 10. <sup>b</sup> Out of 82 countries. <sup>c</sup> Out of 18 countries: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the UK.

- The UK’s global ranking drops by three places, and the country’s regional ranking falls by one place. Brexit has worsened the UK’s terms of trade, but the country’s strengths—a pro-business policy stance, a welcoming attitude to foreign investment, and flexible labour and product markets—will continue.

## Business environment at a glance

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August 1st 2022

### Policy towards private enterprise and competition

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

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2022-23: A 130% "super-deduction" on capital investment is in place.

2024-26: Elevated state intervention in investment and innovation continues. New state-aid rules are implemented.

### Policy towards foreign investment

2022-23: Continued openness to investment, but increased scrutiny in sectors considered sensitive to national security. Crackdown on Russian investment and money-laundering through the property sector.

2024-26: Infrastructure plans offer investment opportunities. Possible changes in tax policies to bolster inward investment.

### Foreign trade and exchange controls

2022-23: Increased trade barriers with EU. Negotiations over Northern Ireland protocol. Supply-chain disruptions persist. Sanctions imposed on Russian exports.

2024-26: Continued UK-EU negotiations probable. New trade agreements with other countries, including potential accession to the trade bloc of Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

### Taxes

2022-23: A new prime minister introduces new tax policies. A planned corporation tax increase from 19% to 25% in 2023 may be shelved, and the recently introduced 2.5-percentage-point increase in national-insurance contributions reversed.

2024-26: Some tax rises are possible to fund public spending, investment and social care.

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

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### Financing

2022-23: Monetary policy tightening, with Bank of England (central bank) raising interest rates. Loss of "passporting" rights and restrictions on EU services trade. Slow progress in establishing equivalence with EU.

2024-26: Modest decline in City of London's status. Steady growth in alternative forms of debt financing.

### The labour market

2022-23: Labour market remains tight. Pandemic-related departure of expatriates and sharp drop in immigration from EU due to the end to free movement of labour. Shortages in low-skilled occupations continue.

2024-26: Increased immigration from Hong Kong. Addition of more low-wage sectors to shortage lists.

### Infrastructure

2022-23: Modest rise in spending on housing, roads and infrastructure. Emphasis on "levelling up" regional infrastructure.

2024-26: Increased infrastructure investment, emphasis on boosting competitiveness.

### Technological readiness

2022-23: High e-commerce penetration and strong research base, but spending on research and development (R&D) remains below EU average. Continued high threat from cybercrime and cyber-espionage.

2024-26: Modest rise in public R&D spending. Development of state "blue skies" fund.

## Market opportunities: Social indicators and living standards

[United Kingdom](#) | [Business](#) | [Market opportunities](#) | [Social indicators and living standards](#)

May 16th 2022

### Social indicators and living standards

	2021		2026	
	Western Europe (av)		Western Europe (av)	
Health				
Healthcare spending (% of GDP)	12.5	11.3	12.0	11.1
Healthcare spending (US\$ per head)	5,845	5,230	7,522	6,651
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	3.9	3.2	3.7	3.0
Physicians (per 1,000 population)	3.1	4.0	3.3	4.2
Food and beverages				
Food, beverages & tobacco (% of household spending)	12.6	19.1	10.9	17.5
Meat consumption (kg per person)	84.1	89.6	84.0	95.1
Milk consumption (litres per person)	239.0	261.0	248.0	279.0
Coffee & tea consumption (kg per person)	4.6	6.2	5.1	6.7
Consumer goods in use (per 1,000 population)				
Passenger cars	547	552	536	n/a
Telephone main lines	475	415	476	401

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

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Mobile phone subscribers	1,160	1,210	1,160	1,230
Television sets	1,177	837	1,339	935
Personal computers	872	843	878	867
<b>Households</b>				
No. of households (m)	28.0	193.0	28.4	200.9
No. of people per household (av)	2.4	2.2	2.5	2.1
<b>Income and income distribution</b>				
Median household income (US\$)	64,540	52,760	82,720	62,670
Average monthly wage (US\$)	4,500	4,150	5,730	n/a
Gini index	35.1 <sup>a</sup>	–	–	–

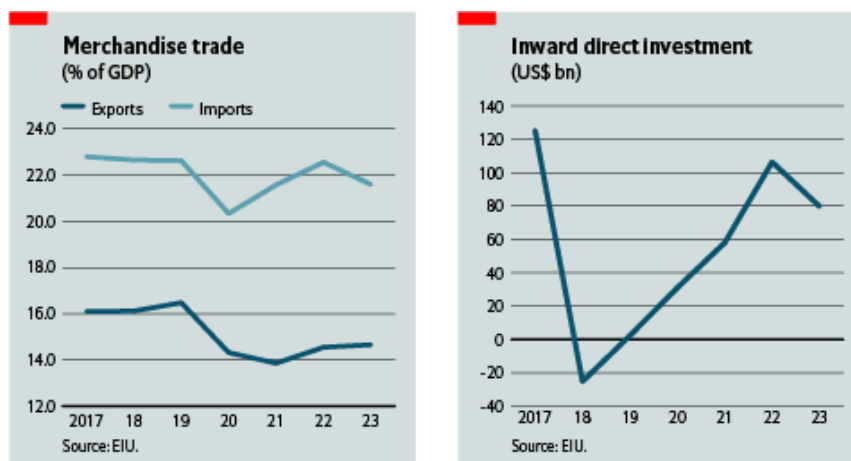
<sup>a</sup> Latest available year.

Sources: UN Statistical Office; World Bank; Food and Agriculture Organisation; Euromonitor; World Health Organisation; national statistical offices; International Telecommunication Union; EIU estimates and forecasts.

## Global position

[United Kingdom](#) | [Regulation](#) | [Global position](#)

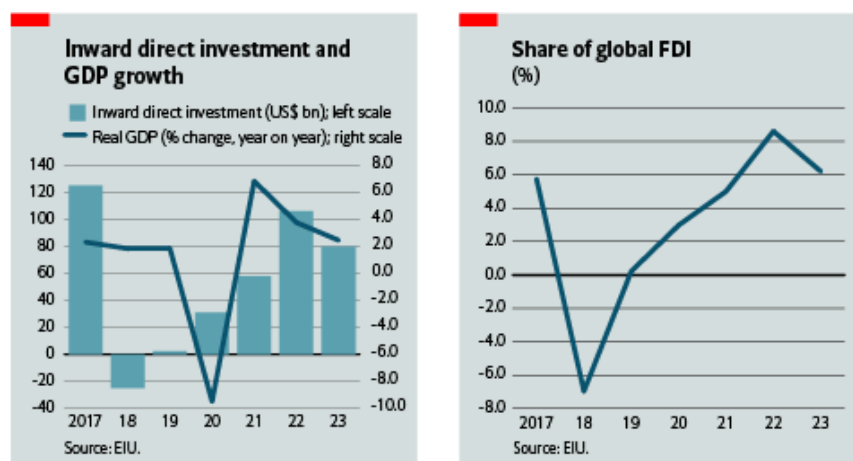
December 1st 2021



The outlook for the UK has become much more uncertain following the 2016 referendum vote to leave the EU. The UK departed the bloc on January 31st 2020, entering a transition period that lasted until end-2020, during which the UK retained most aspects of EU membership. An EU-UK Trade and Co-operation Agreement (TCA) came into force on January 1st 2021. It provides for zero-tariff, zero-quota trade between the UK and the EU. However, leaving the EU single market and customs union has created a variety of nontariff trade barriers. The TCA also leaves many aspects of the relationship between the UK and the 27-member bloc unsettled. The coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic has compounded an already uncertain outlook during 2020 and 2021. Lockdowns and travel restrictions have delivered a severe blow to industries such as hospitality, tourism and aviation, as well as parts of the retail sector. The UK still

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

has much to offer as an investment destination. Existing clusters and economies of scale in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, software development and financial services will remain powerful magnets for foreign entrants, while significant potential exists for large-scale, long-term investments in the energy, communications and transport sectors.



## Regulatory/market assessment

[United Kingdom](#) | [Regulation](#) | [Regulatory/market assessment](#)

December 1st 2021

- The National Security and Investment Act passed into law in April 2021 and comes fully into force from January 4th 2022. The act makes it mandatory for investors (domestic and foreign) in 17 sectors to notify the government in

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

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advance of any transaction, regardless of size, that might give rise to UK national security risks. The implicated sectors include defence, energy, transport and communications.

- In October 2021 the government unveiled a “net zero” strategy, outlining how the UK will meet its target to effectively eliminate green-house gas emissions by 2050. The following month, while the UK was hosting the UN’s COP26 climate talks, lawmakers approved a new Environmental Act that replaces EU legislation and oversight following the UK’s departure from the bloc.
- Citizens of the European Economic Area (the EU, plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and Switzerland became subject to UK immigration controls from January 1st 2021. A new points-based immigration system now treats EU and non-EU citizens equally.
- In March 2021 the UK government repealed legislation implementing the EU’s directive on the taxation of interest and royalty payments. Companies now must rely on arrangements set out in bilateral tax treaties with individual EU member states, which in many cases eliminate withholding tax.
- The EU-UK Trade and Co-operation Agreement came into force in January 2021, outlining the initial terms of trade relations following the UK’s departure from the EU. The agreement provides for zero-tariff, zero-quota trade between the UK and the EU, at least in the first instance. However, leaving the single market and customs union have created a variety of nontariff trade barriers in the form of border checks and product certifications.



## Regulatory/market watch

[United Kingdom](#) | [Regulation](#) | [Regulatory/market watch](#)

December 1st 2021

- After lifting most coronavirus (Covid-19) restrictions in mid-2021, the government introduced additional measures in early December 2021 following the emergence of the new Omicron variant. The provisions, which fall well short of the full lockdowns from earlier in the pandemic, include orders to work from home, wear face masks in public spaces and use vaccine passes.
- The government launched its coronavirus vaccination programme in December 2020, and nearly 70% of the UK population was fully vaccinated by end-November 2021. The government is encouraging uptake of booster shots following the emergence of Omicron, with just under 28% of the population having received the additional dose.
- The government has wound down most of the relief mechanisms it put in place to support workers and businesses during the pandemic, including the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, which expired in September 2021. A Kickstart scheme remains active; it funds new job placements for young people aged 16–24 and pays 100% of the national minimum wage for 25 hours per week for six months.
- A UK Shared Prosperity Fund is expected to launch in April 2022, with annual spending of around £1.5bn. It will replace the previous EU development funding schemes and will focus on regional development and employment support.
- The corporate income tax rate will increase from 19% to 25% in April 2023, according to an announcement by the government in March 2021. The higher rate will apply to companies with annual profits exceeding £250,000.

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

- At least in the short term, EIU does not expect the UK to trigger Article 16 of the Northern Ireland protocol, which would override that agreement. However, tensions remain high and a UK-EU trade war remains a notable risk. Checks between the UK and EU are likely to remain unenforced in the meantime as negotiations continue on a less invasive system.
- The government has said it will remove its 2% digital services tax once the OECD's new arrangement on global corporate tax takes effect. The agreement, which was finalised in October 2021, is meant to come into force by 2023 but could be derailed if the US fails to ratify it.

## Long-term outlook: The long-term outlook

[United Kingdom](#) | [Economy](#) | [Long-term outlook](#) | [Long-term outlook](#)

May 16th 2022

	2022-30	2031-50	2022-50
<b>Population and labour force (% change; annual av)</b>			
Total population	0.37	0.25	0.29
Working-age population	0.08	0.01	0.03
Working-age minus total population	-0.29	-0.24	-0.25
Labour force	0.40	0.16	0.24
<b>Growth and productivity (% change; annual av)</b>			
Growth of real GDP per head	1.6	1.4	1.5
Growth of real GDP	2.0	1.7	1.8

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## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

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Labour productivity growth	1.5	1.5	1.5
Growth of capital stock	3.2	2.7	2.8
Total factor productivity growth	0.4	0.6	0.6

Initial conditions: From the early 1990s to 2019, with the exception of the 2008 crisis period, the economic performance of the UK improved relative to that of many regional peers, owing in part to a sharp rise in labour utilisation, with strong employment growth fuelling strong overall expansion. The pace of economic growth began to soften in 2019, and the economy contracted sharply in 2020 amid the coronavirus pandemic. A firm rebound left the UK 0.4% below its 2019 level. Prospects for 2022-23 are weak as private consumption is hit by soaring inflation, corporates face rising debt from the coronavirus crisis (hampering investment), and trade frictions from Brexit and supply-chain disruption depress export-oriented industries. Despite securing the Trade and Co-operation Agreement with the EU, the UK's relationship with the bloc remains unsettled. The UK is likely to diverge in some areas of regulation, particularly in technology and life sciences, while non-tariff barriers put UK firms at a competitive disadvantage within the single market.

The UK's prospects for growth in the medium term will be highly dependent on government policy formulation in response to these challenges. Both major parties have signalled a willingness to pursue a more interventionist strategy in the economy and provide more public investment, in an effort to address the UK's regional inequality and weak productivity growth. The current government has increased its threshold for borrowing for investment from 2% of GDP to 3%, established a national infrastructure bank in addition to the pre-existing British Business Bank, and invested £800m (US\$1.1bn) into a "blue skies" fund to support innovative research.

The UK's structural advantages have traditionally included a comparatively low regulatory burden, a flexible labour market and a business environment that is conducive to foreign investment, which we expect to persist. On the negative side, factors that tend to constrain the UK's long-term outlook include an over-reliance on wealth effects

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

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generated by the volatile financial and real estate sectors, high levels of private-sector debt and a deficit in "intermediate" labour market skills, which are skewed by significant geographical inequalities. These have contributed to the development of an unbalanced economy. Levels of productivity in the UK, in terms of output per hour worked, lag well behind those in the US, Germany and France. This weak trend is worrying and will weigh on medium- and long-term growth if not reversed, as well as playing an increasing role in policy debates.

Demographic trends: The working-age population is forecast to rise gradually over the long-term horizon, and the share of the population aged 65 or over will continue to increase. We forecast that by 2050 those aged 65 or older will account for 25.4% of the population (up from 18.7% in 2018). The share of the working-age population peaked at 66% in 2008-09, and we forecast a steady decline to 58.3% by 2050. The labour force participation rate stands at just over 78%—higher than the OECD average. We expect migration to continue to provide a key source of population and human capital growth. Most countries that operate skills-based immigration systems adjust their requirements periodically, a trend that we expect the UK to follow.

### **The EU is set to remain a key export destination**

External conditions: The UK is a highly trade-dependent economy, and thus its departure from the world's largest trading bloc will have implications for its long-term prospects. Despite the UK leaving the single market, the EU is likely to remain the UK's most important export destination, particularly for goods trade, given its proximity and the volume of existing trade. Although the UK's departure from the EU will allow the UK to negotiate trade deals with third countries, the total estimated value of trade deals under negotiation will not make up for the loss of access to the EU market.

The UK is likely to maintain its surplus in services, which is expected to grow as a percentage of total trade value over the course of our long-term forecast period as e-commerce and trade in intangible goods become more prominent globally.

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

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**Institutions and policy trends:** The UK is a long-established democracy with well-entrenched rule of law (guaranteeing security of contracts), liberalised product markets and a rigorous competition policy regime. Much of the UK's policy around competition, trade, product regulation and other areas of economic policymaking had been informed by its EU membership, as was the governance of its own internal market, much of which is currently being repatriated to domestic equivalent authorities. It remains too early to gauge how effectively policymakers and institutions will manage these competencies on a national level, and whether any benefits can be realised from regaining direct control.

**Long-term performance:** Since the 2008 financial crisis the UK has suffered from chronically low productivity growth relative to its OECD peer countries, and relied heavily on moving people into work. The UK's ability to increase its productivity will be the determining factor behind long-term growth potential. A number of factors have been cited as possible causes for the UK's persistent productivity gap with its peers. These include a high degree of centralisation of the economy around the capital, London; the UK's relatively low share of spending on research and development (R&D); the dominance of the volatile financial services sector; and reliance on low-skilled immigration. Successive governments have tried to address the productivity issue, including the current government, which has committed to an increase in public investment to stimulate R&D, a shift in emphasis towards skilled immigration and

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

supporting investment outside London. Whether these plans will boost productivity remains highly uncertain. We forecast that real GDP will grow by an annual average of 2% in 2022-30, and moderate to 1.7% in 2031-50.

### Income and market size

	2021	2030	2050
<b>Income and market size</b>			
Population (m)	68.2	70.5	74.1
GDP (US\$ bn at market exchange rates)	3,188.4	5,090.8	11,021.6
GDP per head (US\$ at market exchange rates)	46,750	72,220	148,780
Private consumption (US\$ bn)	1,960.1	3,165.5	7,139.8
Private consumption per head (US\$)	28,740	44,910	96,380
GDP (US\$ bn at PPP)	3,406.0	5,113.3	10,628.7
GDP per head (US\$ at PPP)	49,940	72,540	143,470
Exports of goods & services (US\$ bn)	860.6	1,592.2	4,805.6
Imports of goods & services (US\$ bn)	900.6	1,730.2	5,404.0
<b>Memorandum items</b>			
GDP per head (at PPP; index, US=100)	72.3	74.2	77.2
Share of world population (%)	0.9	0.8	0.8
Share of world GDP (% at market exchange rates)	3.4	3.5	2.9
Share of world GDP (% at PPP)	2.4	2.2	1.9
Share of world exports of goods & services (%)	3.1	3.7	3.8

## Automotive

[United Kingdom](#) | [Automotive](#) | [Overview](#)

July 28th 2022

- The UK's automotive sector is in trend decline. Vehicle production and exports have fallen steadily since 2016, reflecting the damaging effects of Brexit on trade and the wider economy, as well as structural global factors linked to overcapacity and environmental pressures. Since 2020 activity has also been badly affected by major supply-chain disruptions from the pandemic and, more recently, the fallout from the Russia-Ukraine war. The conflict has amplified supply-side frictions, material shortages, already high commodity costs and other input-price pressures. This will constrain vehicle output and new-car stock well into 2023, with soaring living costs and domestic tax increases weighing on consumer demand.
- New-car sales slumped by 29.4% in 2020 to 1.63m units, the lowest level since 1992 and the fourth consecutive annual decline. This compared with a recent peak of 2.7m in 2016 and an annual average of 2.3m in 2010-19. Sales remained constrained in 2021, rising by just 1%, and fell again over the first half of 2022 amid rising cost-of-living concerns and a collapse in consumer sentiment.
- New commercial vehicle (CV) sales fell by 29.6% in 2020, to a seven-year low of 300,400 units. Sales rebounded firmly in 2021, driven by demand for light CVs (vans) in the online and logistics sectors. However, sales weakened quite sharply over the first half of 2022.
- In 2021 the UK was the world's 18th-largest automotive producer (and the sixth largest in Europe), according to the International Organisation of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers. Vehicle production expanded steadily in 2010-16, but has since fallen sharply, declining for five successive years. Following a drop of 8% in 2018 and 14% in 2019, output

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

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slumped by 29% in 2020 and another 5% in 2021, with annual production of 933,172 units, the lowest in 40 years and just half the level of 2016. Output continued to decline over the first half of 2022.

- EIU forecasts that new-car sales will contract by 5% in 2022 to a multi-decade low. The near-term risk of a UK recession is high and the medium-term outlook for the economy is weak. There is considerable uncertainty amid the ongoing conflict in Ukraine over the path of energy prices and inflation. Pent-up demand and an expected gradual easing of supply bottlenecks should support a moderate upturn in sales in 2023-24, but overall activity will be subdued. We forecast a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 3.8% in 2022-26—inflated by the weak base in 2021—with annual sales remaining below their 2010-19 trend. The share of chargeable electric vehicles (EVs) will continue to rise (from 18.5% of new-car sales in 2021), but significantly wider take-up will be constrained by affordability issues and limited charging infrastructure. The UK is the only major European market not to offer purchase incentives for private EV buyers, having scrapped its subsidy scheme in mid-2022.
- The UK left the EU single market and customs union in January 2021, having agreed a limited Trade and Co-operation Agreement (TCA) with the EU. This averted the imposition of immediate tariffs and allowed for quota-free trade, but it represented a "hard Brexit" with significant new trade frictions and non-tariff barriers, and disruption to integrated global supply chains (already under strain from the pandemic). Full customs controls took effect in 2022, implying tighter import restrictions. Amid broad mistrust in the EU of the current UK government, UK-EU tensions will persist.
- The UK has five mass producers of vehicles (all foreign-owned) that have primarily used the country as an export base to the EU. Challenges posed by structurally weakened trade and investment links as a result of Brexit will be amplified by prolonged disruptive effects to supply chains from the pandemic and the war in Ukraine. Recent state-subsidised EV-related investments have safeguarded the near-term future of plants operated by Nissan (Japan) and Vauxhall (owned by Netherlands-based Stellantis), but risks of a downsizing of the UK's automotive industry will persist in the coming years. A major factor will be the UK's ability to attract EV battery production facilities



(gigafactories) in the face of strong competition from more-established hubs in Europe (such as Germany and Hungary) and Asia.

## Consumer goods

[United Kingdom](#) | [Consumer goods](#) | [Overview](#)

August 18th 2022

- The UK's large consumer sector has faced considerable headwinds in recent years, with an economically damaging Brexit process, the coronavirus pandemic and the fallout from the Russia-Ukraine war constraining household demand, hindering business activity and disrupting firms' supply chains. The near-term economic outlook is poor and has materially deteriorated in recent months, with household incomes facing a severe real-term squeeze in 2022-23 from soaring energy and food costs, elevated inflation, increased taxes and higher interest rates. Consumer sentiment has slumped to historical lows, and, although moderate fiscal support for households is expected in the coming months, the scale of the energy-price shock and related economic weakness imply a high likelihood of the UK falling into recession.
- Following an initial pandemic-driven slump, retail sales were fairly resilient in 2020-21, reflecting increased online spending, fiscal support and a shift in consumption from services (affected by movement restrictions) to retail goods. Underlying demand has weakened since mid-2021—retail volumes fell for a fourth successive quarter in April-June 2022—and EIU expects volume sales to decline this year, amid the inflationary hit to purchasing power and a post-restrictions transition from goods back to services, particularly travel and hospitality.
- Conditions will remain challenging in 2023-24, and we expect weak average volume growth of just 0.3% per year over our forecast period to 2026. Retail sales in value terms will be boosted by higher prices, but retailers' margins

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

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will be squeezed by increased costs of energy, transport, materials and labour.

- The UK will remain Europe's largest online retail market. Robust internet sales have gone hand in hand with falls in retail employment and the number of retail stores, mostly in town centres (traditional department stores have been a notable casualty). Online sellers will continue to thrive, despite increased regulatory scrutiny and plans for new e-commerce taxation. Online grocery retail is more extensive than in most peer countries and will be among the fastest-growing segments of the e-commerce market over the forecast period.
- The retail sector accounts for about 6% of UK GDP and employs about 2.9m people, of which a significant proportion work part-time. The ongoing impact of Brexit and the fallout from the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis will exacerbate relatively large existing social inequalities across the UK, sustaining more polarised demand in the discount and luxury channels. Usage of credit cards and buy-now-pay-later credit schemes will increase as consumers' purchasing power decreases.
- The UK left the EU single market and customs union on January 1st 2021, after finalising a Trade and Co-operation Agreement (TCA) with the EU. The TCA averted a no-deal fiasco, and in theory allows for tariff- and quota-free UK-EU trade. However, the agreement is limited in scope and the "hard Brexit" has created significant new non-tariff barriers, trade frictions and regulatory compliance issues. Disruption to trade has become more evident since full customs controls took effect in January 2022.
- Brexit has inflamed tensions in Northern Ireland, which remains in a regulatory union with the EU for most goods to avoid border checks on the island of Ireland. This has in effect created a border between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK, which is disrupting cross-region post-Brexit trade. This was widely anticipated and there is no easy solution. The UK government has threatened to override parts of the Northern Ireland protocol that it agreed to under the TCA, which the EU has warned would trigger retaliatory action by the bloc, potentially leading to a wider trade war.

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

**Retail sales**

	2017 <sup>a</sup>	2018 <sup>a</sup>	2019 <sup>a</sup>	2020 <sup>b</sup>	2021 <sup>b</sup>	2022 <sup>c</sup>	2023 <sup>c</sup>	2024 <sup>c</sup>	2025 <sup>c</sup>	2026 <sup>c</sup>
Retail sales (£ bn)	393.6	408.1	425.1	433.7	462.7	492.5	531.0	551.6	572.3	595.5
Retail sales (US\$ bn)	507.5	545.1	543.0	556.7	636.7	617.7	654.4	693.6	759.7	833.7
Retail sales, volume growth (%)	2.9	1.4	2.4	1.0	4.1	-2.1	-1.0	0.9	1.7	2.1
Retail sales, US\$ value growth (%)	0.4	7.4	-0.4	2.5	14.4	-3.0	5.9	6.0	9.5	9.7
Non-food retail sales (US\$ bn)	269.8	292.9	295.2	295.4 <sup>a</sup>	352.6	344.4	363.0	381.6	418.5	459.5
Food retail sales (US\$ bn)	237.7	252.3	247.7	261.3	284.1	273.3	291.4	312.0	341.2	374.2
Consumer price inflation (av; %)	2.6	2.3	1.7	1.0 <sup>a</sup>	2.5 <sup>a</sup>	8.7	9.0	3.0	2.0	1.9

<sup>a</sup> Actual. <sup>b</sup> EIU estimates. <sup>c</sup> EIU forecasts.

Sources: Edge by Ascential; EIU.

- More broadly, Brexit has led to a decline in UK-EU trade in food products and has disrupted large parts of the UK's fisheries, agriculture, and food and drink sectors, which face significant medium-term damage. An exodus of EU labour has contributed to employee shortages in some retail and foodservice sectors.

## Energy

[United Kingdom](#) | [Energy](#) | [Overview](#)

June 30th 2022

- EIU expects total energy consumption in the UK to increase by only 0.4% year on year in 2022 as the support given by a growing economy will be capped by soaring energy prices. During our 2022-31 forecast period energy demand will remain flat as energy-efficiency gains completely offset demand growth driven by economic growth—we forecast that real GDP will grow at an annual rate of 1.8% during that period.
- Despite rebounding by 11.6% year on year in 2021, oil consumption will decline by 0.9% in 2022, mainly pulled down by high crude and refined-product prices. We forecast that this decline will continue in 2022-31, during which oil demand will fall at an annual average of 1%, mainly owing to the electrification of transport and efficiency gains in new internal combustion (IC) vehicles. It is our view that oil demand in the UK will never return to pre-pandemic levels.
- Natural gas consumption increased by 6.3% in 2021, and we forecast it will grow by a further 3.1% in 2022, despite current high gas prices. However, the rate of growth will slow to an annual average of 0.9% in 2022-31, as renewables-based power generation increases. We expect gas demand in the UK to peak by the end of this decade.
- Coal consumption will fall dramatically, owing mainly to the planned phasing-out of coal use in power generation by the end of 2024. We expect annual coal consumption to fall by an annual average of 15.2% in 2022-31. The UK government has set a deadline of 2024 for phasing out coal-fired power, with only one coal-fired power plant remaining in the UK by the end of 2022. Although we expect the government to meet this target, there is some risk that this will be delayed if the "gas crisis" of a shortage of supply and high prices is not resolved.

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

- We expect the share of fossil fuels in total energy demand to decline from 77% in 2021 to 75% in 2031. Natural gas will continue to be the main energy source in the UK during our forecast period.
- The share of non-hydro renewables (without considering biomass) in power generation is forecast to rise from 33% in 2022 to 54% in 2031.

### Energy: key indicators

	2020 <sup>a</sup>	2021 <sup>a</sup>	2022 <sup>b</sup>	2023 <sup>b</sup>	2024 <sup>b</sup>	2025 <sup>b</sup>	2026 <sup>b</sup>	2031 <sup>b</sup>
GDP (US\$ bn at market exchange rates)	2,760	3,188	3,201	3,445	3,784	4,100	4,384	5,322
Real GDP (% change, year on year)	-9.3	7.4	3.6	0.5	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.7
Population (m)	67.9	68.2	68.5	68.8	69.0	69.3	69.5	70.7
Population (% change, year on year)	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3
Gross domestic energy consumption (ktoe)	156,477	166,724 <sup>c</sup>	165,956	164,402	163,134	162,850	163,416	166,030
Gross domestic energy consumption (% change, year on year)	-8.3	6.5 <sup>c</sup>	-0.5	-0.9	-0.8	-0.2	0.3	-0.1

Note. Forecasts for all dates are available via EIU's data tool.

<sup>a</sup> Actual. <sup>b</sup> EIU forecasts. <sup>c</sup> EIU estimates.

Sources: EIU; © OECD/IEA 2018 IEA statistics, [www.iea.org/statistics](http://www.iea.org/statistics), licence: [www.iea.org/t&c](http://www.iea.org/t&c).

## Financial services

[United Kingdom](#) | [Finance](#) | [Overview](#) | [Financial services](#) | [Overview](#)

July 27th 2022

- The UK has one of the world's best-developed financial industries. The coronavirus pandemic has delivered a sharp, but hopefully short, shock to the sector. Managing the country's departure from the EU may prove to be a greater challenge. It is likely to require a long-term shift in trading relationships and may contribute to an ongoing shrinkage of the sector. The country's financial firms are likely to face more difficult conditions in late 2022 and in 2023 as economic growth slows, inflation remains high and interest rates rise.
- London, the capital, is currently one of the two leading global financial centres (along with New York) and has the largest share of many international markets. The UK financial sector—banking, insurance, fund management, securities and alternative investment—plays a significant role in the economy. In 2021 it accounted for 8.3% of gross value added, down from 9.1% at its peak in 2009, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS). It employed 1.1m people, or 3.2% of the total workforce, down from 3.7% in 2009. The industry makes a substantial contribution to the balance of payments and tax revenue.
- In response to covid-19, the government enforced nationwide shutdowns and rolled out financial support to help workers and businesses affected. This included more than £330bn (US\$434bn) in government-backstopped loans, business tax deferments and holidays, targeted aid to the worst-hit sectors, and wage support for salaried and self-employed workers. However, most of the measures had been wound down by early 2022.
- The UK recorded real GDP growth of 7.4% in 2021, following a severe 9.3% contraction in 2020 amid the pandemic. GDP rose above its pre-pandemic level for the first time in November 2021, according to the ONS. EIU forecasts growth of 3.6% in 2022 and an average of 1.3% per year in 2023-26. The UK has been one of the worst-hit

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

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countries in Europe in economic terms, as well as having among the region's highest cumulative totals of covid-19 deaths and confirmed cases. However, its relatively high vaccination rate has helped to contain the recent incidence of serious illness and hospitalisation.

- In early July 2022 Boris Johnson resigned as prime minister following a series of scandals, but he remains in office until a successor is chosen by members of the ruling right-wing Conservative Party. The result of this contest will be announced on September 5th.
- The UK left the EU on January 31st 2020, ending 47 years of membership. A transition period with the EU ended on December 31st 2020. An EU-UK free-trade agreement was concluded in December 2020, which averted the most extreme form of "no deal" disorder. The trade pact did not include financial services, but the UK and the EU agreed and implemented some temporary arrangements to reduce disruption to financial markets. The UK granted a designation of regulatory equivalence for many EU financial firms, allowing them to continue to operate in the country. However, the EU did not reciprocate for UK financial firms, except for derivatives clearing houses.
- The UK government is emphasising the benefits of being able to determine its own priorities for the financial sector. It has begun to reform regulations governing UK financial markets, starting with changes to stockmarket listing rules. The government's legislative programme for the year ahead, announced in May 2022, includes the Financial Services and Markets Bill, which proposes to replace some elements of retained EU law applying to the sector.
- The Bank of England (BoE, the central bank) has increased its main rate five times since December 2021, from 0.1% to 1.25%, in the face of growing inflationary pressures. It has also signalled that further rises will be required in the coming months. The BoE has begun to reduce its quantitative easing programme, which peaked at £895bn. UK consumer price inflation averaged 2.5% in 2021, up from 1% in 2020, and we forecast that inflation will rise further, to an average of 7.3% in 2022.

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

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- We expect London to retain its status as one of the world's main financial centres, especially in the trading of foreign exchange and derivatives, but a loss of influence and post-Brexit restrictions on financial services trade with the EU are inevitable. Reaching agreement on a complex new trading arrangement will be difficult and time-consuming (taking years, rather than months), and financial firms in the UK must come to terms with the loss of "passporting" (the right of UK-regulated companies to do business in the EU and vice versa).
- Financial services companies previously serving the EU from the UK will continue to relocate some of their operations and staff to within the bloc. Although outflows of financial sector employees (and related tax revenue) from the UK have so far been modest, it is likely that the trend will continue as competing financial services hubs, including Amsterdam (Netherlands), Frankfurt (Germany) and Paris (France), gradually grow in size and influence. European policymakers will strive to attract major financial functions away from London.

## Healthcare

[United Kingdom](#) | [Healthcare](#) | [Spending](#)

June 21st 2022

### Overview

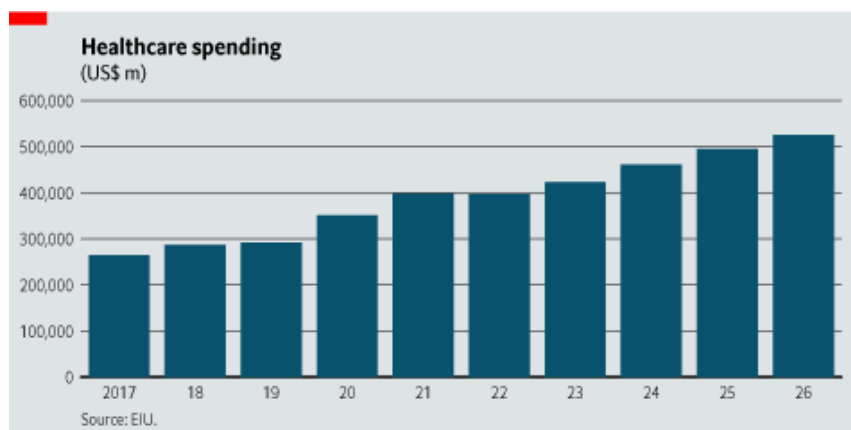
- In the past two years the UK's healthcare system, already struggling with high demand, has faced two challenges: the covid-19 pandemic and the UK's departure from the EU's single market on January 1st 2021. The first has pushed up death rates, necessitated additional funding and expanded waiting lists for non-covid care. The second has caused recruitment problems and necessitated an overhaul of pharmaceutical supervision.



## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

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- The UK responded to the pandemic by increasing spending on healthcare to an estimated 12.8% of GDP in 2020, from 10.2% in 2019, according to the OECD. We estimate that this share fell to 12.5% in 2021 as real GDP recovered, despite continued real growth in healthcare spending.
- An additional national insurance levy came into effect from April 2022 to help fund health and social care over the forecast period. The government has also allocated extra funding to help the National Health Service (NHS) cope with a backlog in demand for non-covid care. Even so, EIU expects total health spending growth to slow as fiscal constraints bite, taking the share of GDP back to 12% in 2026.



- We forecast that health spending will rise at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.2% in 2022-26. However, with inflation high, real growth in healthcare spending will average just 0.7% a year, compared with 2.5% a year in the five years before the pandemic.
- Pharmaceutical sales will grow at a CAGR of 4.5% in nominal local-currency terms in 2022-26, driven partly by covid-19 vaccine sales. So far, about 86.9% of the population aged over 12 have received at least two vaccine doses,

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

and over 68.2% have received three doses, according to government data. A booster (fourth) dose was offered to certain groups from early 2022.

- The 2021 Health and Care Act aims to reorganise NHS England funding flows from July this year. It will pass management from the 191 clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) set up in 2012 to 42 integrated care systems that will co-ordinate care at regional levels. The reforms do not apply in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

### Funding sources

- Healthcare provision in the UK is dominated by the NHS, which is financed primarily via general taxation. NHS care is free at the point of delivery, but fixed charges are levied (in England) for most prescription medicines and dental care, with some exemptions.
- Public expenditure (including compulsory contributions) accounted for 81.7% of current health spending in 2020, according to provisional data from the OECD, above the OECD average of 74%. The public share in the UK has increased from 78.5% in 2019, but remains lower than current shares in Germany (85.1%) and France (83.7%).

### Healthcare: key indicators

	2017 <sup>a</sup>	2018 <sup>a</sup>	2019 <sup>a</sup>	2020 <sup>a</sup>	2021 <sup>b</sup>	2022 <sup>c</sup>	2023 <sup>c</sup>	2024 <sup>c</sup>	2025 <sup>c</sup>	2026 <sup>c</sup>
Life expectancy, average (years)	81.0	81.0	81.1	81.2	81.3	81.4	81.5	81.6	81.8	81.9
Life expectancy, male (years)	79.1	79.2	79.3	79.4	79.5	79.7	79.9	80.0	80.2	80.4
Life expectancy, female (years)	82.8	82.8	82.9	82.9	83.0	83.1	83.1	83.2	83.3	83.4
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7
Healthcare spending (£ bn)	205.7	215.3 <sup>b</sup>	228.9 <sup>b</sup>	274.2 <sup>b</sup>	289.6	308.8	324.3	335.1	345.7	356.6
Healthcare spending (% of GDP)	9.8	9.9 <sup>b</sup>	10.2 <sup>b</sup>	12.8 <sup>b</sup>	12.5	12.4	12.3	12.2	12.1	12.0
Healthcare spending (US\$ bn)	265.2	287.5 <sup>b</sup>	292.4 <sup>b</sup>	352.0 <sup>b</sup>	398.6	396.9	423.8	461.6	496.0	526.0

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

Healthcare spending (US\$ per head)	3,975	4,282 <sup>b</sup>	4,330 <sup>b</sup>	5,185 <sup>b</sup>	5,843	5,794	6,162	6,688	7,161	7,566
Healthcare (consumer expenditure; US\$ bn)	31.6	33.6	32.0	29.5	34.1	33.4	35.5	37.8	40.1	42.3
Doctors (per 1,000 people)	2.8	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3
Hospital beds (per 1,000 people)	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3

<sup>a</sup> Actual. <sup>b</sup> EIU estimates. <sup>c</sup> EIU forecasts.

Sources: US Bureau of Census; UN; OECD; World Bank; EIU.

- Most NHS funding and commissioning occurs under separate frameworks in the four UK nations, with variations in some policy areas. About 86% of funding goes to NHS England, with Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland sharing the rest under a formula (the Barnett formula) related to population size. Within England, funding flows will now be channelled via 42 integrated care systems, which are set to replace the former system of CCGs.
- The UK's relatively weak public finances will come under further pressure as a result of the coronavirus crisis. However, the government reaffirmed a pre-pandemic funding deal in 2018, which will cause spending (excluding emergency covid-19 funds) to rise by £33.9bn (US\$44bn) per year by fiscal year 2023/24 (April 6th-March 5th).
- According to the King's Fund, a health policy think tank, NHS spending in England increased to £191bn in 2020/21, from £149bn in 2019/20. The 2020/21 total included £47bn in covid-19 funding. In 2021/22 the country spent £190bn on the NHS, including £34bn in covid-19 funding. Core spending (excluding covid) is expected to total £174bn in 2023/24.
- In September 2021 the government announced that national insurance payments for all working adults would increase by 1.25 percentage points and another 1.25 points for employers in April 2022. The levy, which will become a tax on earned income from 2023, is intended to raise health and social care funding by £12bn a year, in part to pay for elderly care.

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

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### Private health insurance

- Voluntary (or private) spending on healthcare accounted for 18.3% (provisional data) of the UK's total health expenditure in 2020, the smallest share since 2010, according to the OECD. By contrast, up until 2018, the share of voluntary spending on healthcare had been gradually rising as a share of overall health expenditure.
- This decline was driven by a fall in spending on healthcare from voluntary insurance schemes. These shrank in both per capita purchasing-power-parity (PPP) terms and also as a percentage of overall spending to 4.4%, from 5.6% in 2019.
- Out-of-pocket (OOP) spending accounted for 13.8% of total health spending, down from 15.9% in 2019. Nevertheless, the amount of spending continued to rise on a per capita basis (current prices; PPP) in 2020.
- The private health insurance market remained broadly flat in the years preceding the pandemic, reflecting the dominance of the NHS. However, according to a 2021 study by LaingBuisson, a consultancy, in 2020 private spending on private acute medical care in hospitals and clinics shrank by about 30%, to an estimated £6.17bn, as the private sector provided resources to the NHS (at cost).
- From the end of 2020, however, there was a strong rebound in private acute medical care. Again much of this comes from NHS contracts as the health services try to reduce the backlog of non-covid care.
- The leading independent healthcare group is Bupa, with 2.3m policyholders and 31m customers at the end of June 2020. It was boosted by an agreement between Bupa UK and a friendly society, CS Healthcare, to transfer the latter's 17,500 members as of January 2021.

# Telecommunications

[United Kingdom](#) | [Telecommunications](#) | [Overview](#)

August 11th 2022

- Mobile telephony makes up the majority of telecommunications connections in the UK. The mobile penetration rate has levelled off in recent years amid a saturated market. EIU expects a moderate rise during the five-year forecast period (2022-26), with the rate reaching 117.5%.
- There were an estimated 41.2 broadband subscriptions per 100 people in 2021, with total internet user penetration at 97.1% of the population. We forecast a rise in user penetration to 99.7% by 2026, with the coronavirus pandemic likely to accelerate the upward trend.
- The government published an updated UK Digital Strategy in June 2022, focusing on technology-led economic growth and productivity. A new central digital and data office became operational in April 2021. Its remit includes innovation and transformation strategies related to cyber-security, data and emerging technologies.
- The UK is ahead of many European countries in fifth-generation (5G) deployment, owing largely to a clear policy. The country's largest mobile operators have all launched 5G services, although speed remains below expectations. Operators will focus on boosting revenue from industrial usage of 5G.
- The Telecommunications (Security) Act, aimed at safeguarding the UK's 5G and fibre-broadband infrastructure, became law in November 2021. It provides the state with new powers to impose controls on the use of telecoms goods, services or facilities deemed to be a high risk to national security. Companies that violate these will be subject to a fine of up to 10% of their relevant turnover.

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

- The digital strategy aims for the majority of the population to have 5G mobile coverage by 2027. In 2020 the government and Ofcom, the telecoms regulator, agreed on a scheme with the UK's four main mobile network operators (MNOs)—O2, EE, Vodafone and Three—for a shared rural 4G network that would remove most connectivity "not spots" (areas without 4G coverage) by 2025.
- A 2018 commitment to achieve "full-fibre broadband coverage" by 2025 has been watered down to a minimum of 85% gigabit-capable broadband by the same year. Most of the network will be built through private investment, with a government budget of £5bn (US\$6.6bn) allocated to the 20% of premises that are hardest to reach. In November 2020 the government announced plans to spend £1.2bn of this funding in 2020-25.

### Telecoms penetration

	2017 <sup>a</sup>	2018 <sup>a</sup>	2019 <sup>b</sup>	2020 <sup>b</sup>	2021 <sup>b</sup>	2022 <sup>c</sup>	2023 <sup>c</sup>	2024 <sup>c</sup>	2025 <sup>c</sup>	2026 <sup>c</sup>
Telephone main lines (m)	31.8	31.5	32.4 <sup>a</sup>	32.0 <sup>a</sup>	31.5	31.3	31.2	31.1	31.1	31.0
Telephone main lines (per 100 people)	48.1	47.4	48.5	47.8	46.8	46.4	46.0	45.8	45.6	45.3
Mobile subscriptions (m)	79.1	78.9	79.8 <sup>a</sup>	79.0 <sup>a</sup>	79.1	79.5	79.6	79.8	80.1	80.4
Mobile subscriptions (per 100 people)	119.7	118.8	119.6	117.8	117.6	117.8	117.6	117.5	117.5	117.5

<sup>a</sup> Actual. <sup>b</sup> EIU estimates. <sup>c</sup> EIU forecasts.

Sources: International Telecommunication Union; EIU.

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

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# Data and charts: Annual trends charts

[United Kingdom](#) | [Economy](#) | [Charts and tables](#) | [Annual trends charts](#)

August 1st 2022

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

## Annual trends charts

Real GDP growth  
(% change)

Source: EIU.

Consumer price inflation  
(% change, year on year; av)

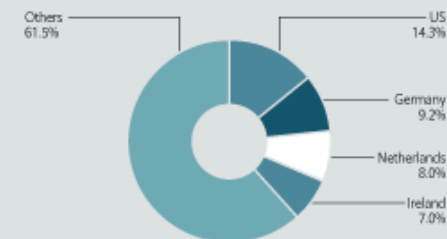
Source: EIU.

Gross fixed investment  
(% of GDP)

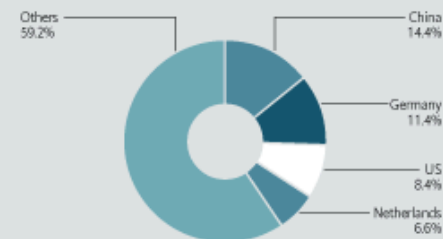
Source: EIU.

Budget balance  
(% of GDP)

Source: EIU.

Main destinations of exports, 2021  
(share of total)

Source: EIU.

Main origins of imports, 2021  
(share of total)

Source: EIU.

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## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

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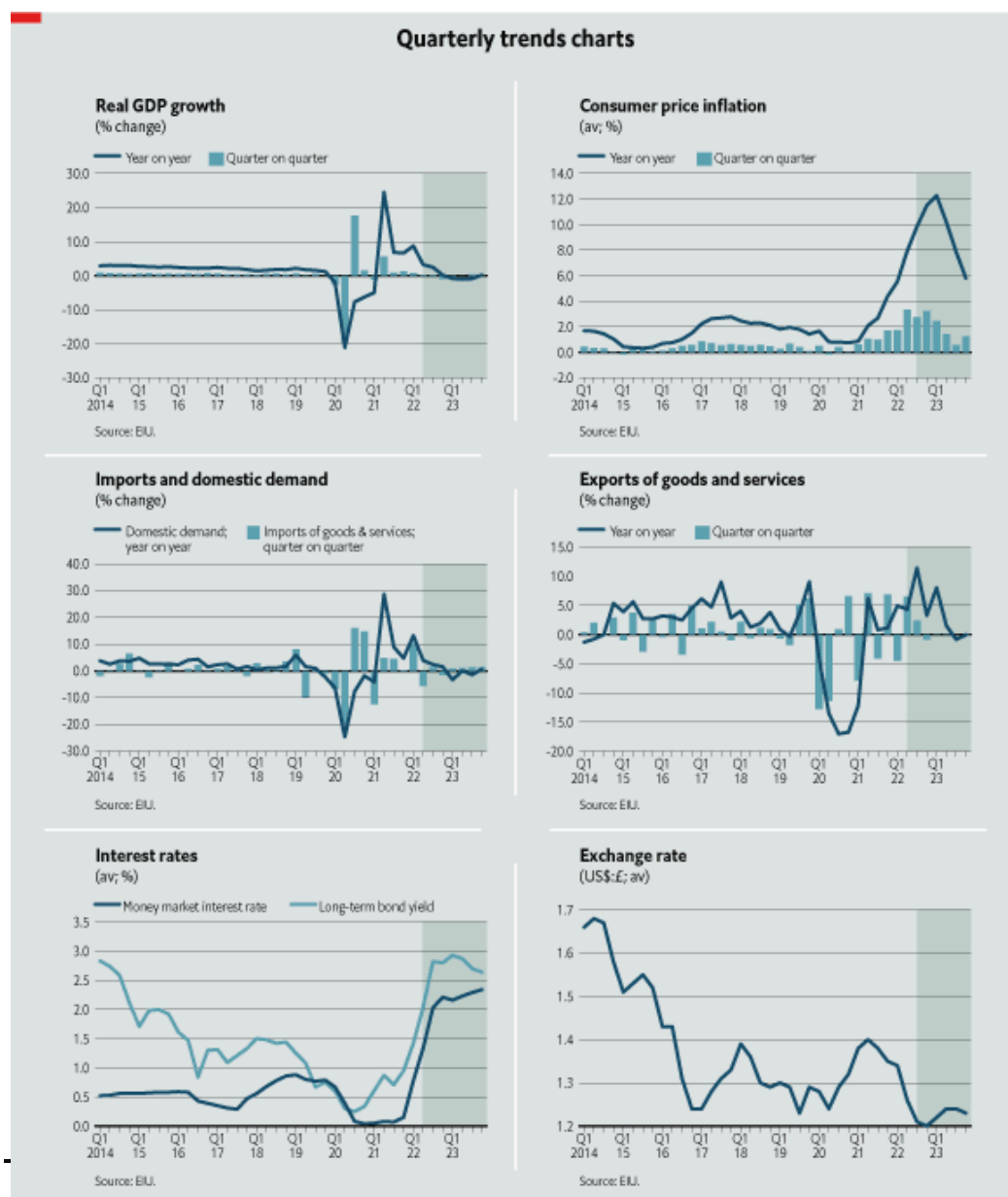
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# Data and charts: Quarterly trends charts

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August 1st 2022

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024



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## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

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## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

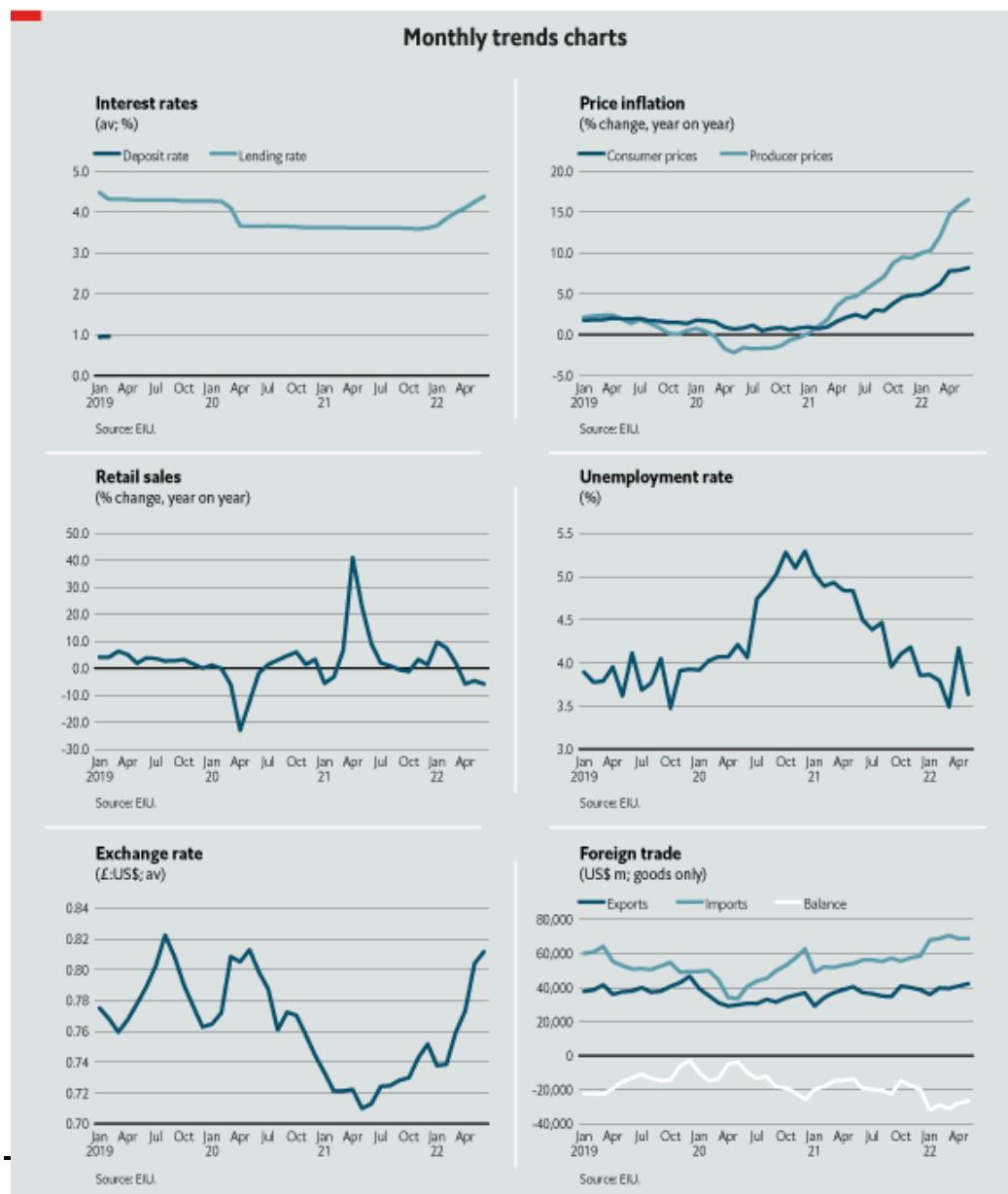
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# Data and charts: Monthly trends charts

[United Kingdom](#) | [Economy](#) | [Charts and tables](#) | [Monthly trends charts](#)

August 1st 2022

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024



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## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

## Data summary: Gross domestic product, current market prices

[United Kingdom](#) | [Economy](#) | [Charts and tables](#) | [GDP at current market prices](#)

August 1st 2022

### Gross domestic product, at current market prices

	2017 <sup>a</sup>	2018 <sup>a</sup>	2019 <sup>a</sup>	2020 <sup>a</sup>	2021 <sup>a</sup>	2022 <sup>b</sup>	2023 <sup>b</sup>	2024 <sup>b</sup>	2025 <sup>b</sup>	2026 <sup>b</sup>
<b>Expenditure on GDP (£ bn at current market prices)</b>										
GDP	2,097.1	2,174.4	2,255.3	2,150.4	2,317.1	2,495.3	2,668.3	2,788.4	2,894.7	3,010.3
Private consumption	1,352.8	1,412.3	1,449.1	1,309.6	1,424.4	1,568.3	1,647.3	1,706.7	1,766.0	1,833.1
Government consumption	388.6	399.0	424.0	477.9	511.3	582.4	662.6	698.7	729.6	760.4
Gross fixed investment	377.9	386.5	399.6	367.9	395.8	418.0	412.5	426.8	441.1	454.3
Exports of goods & services	630.1	663.3	699.3	609.9	625.4	773.2	869.7	911.4	931.7	950.5
Imports of goods & services	656.6	691.6	719.9	603.5	654.5	856.1	918.8	957.2	974.7	990.0
Stockbuilding	4.4	4.9	3.3	-8.4	8.1	9.5	-5.0	2.0	1.0	2.0
Domestic demand	2,123.6	2,202.7	2,276.0	2,147.0	2,339.5	2,578.2	2,717.4	2,834.2	2,937.7	3,049.8
<b>Expenditure on GDP (US\$ bn at current market prices)</b>										
GDP	2,703.5	2,904.4	2,880.8	2,760.5	3,188.4	3,129.7	3,288.6	3,506.4	3,842.8	4,214.4
Private consumption	1,743.9	1,886.4	1,851.0	1,681.2	1,960.1	1,967.0	2,030.2	2,146.2	2,344.4	2,566.3
Government consumption	501.0	533.0	541.6	613.4	703.5	730.5	816.6	878.6	968.5	1,064.6

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## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

Gross fixed investment	487.1	516.2	510.4	472.3	544.6	524.3	508.4	536.7	585.6	636.0
Exports of goods & services	812.3	886.0	893.2	782.9	860.6	969.7	1,071.9	1,146.1	1,236.8	1,330.7
Imports of goods & services	846.5	923.8	919.6	774.8	900.6	1,073.7	1,132.4	1,203.7	1,293.8	1,385.9
Stockbuilding	5.7	6.5	4.2	-10.8	11.1	11.9	-6.2	2.5	1.3	2.8
Domestic demand	2,737.7	2,942.2	2,907.2	2,756.2	3,219.4	3,233.7	3,349.1	3,564.0	3,899.8	4,269.7
<b>Economic structure (% of GDP at current market prices)</b>										
Household consumption	64.5	65.0	64.3	60.9	61.5	62.8	61.7	61.2	61.0	60.9
Government consumption	18.5	18.4	18.8	22.2	22.1	23.3	24.8	25.1	25.2	25.3
Gross fixed investment	18.0	17.8	17.7	17.1	17.1	16.8	15.5	15.3	15.2	15.1
Stockbuilding	0.2	0.2	0.1	-0.4	0.3	0.4	-0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1
Exports of goods & services	30.0	30.5	31.0	28.4	27.0	31.0	32.6	32.7	32.2	31.6
Imports of goods & services	31.3	31.8	31.9	28.1	28.2	34.3	34.4	34.3	33.7	32.9
<b>Memorandum item</b>										
National savings ratio (%)	14.6	14.1	15.2	14.2	14.8	14.0	11.8	12.7	12.6	12.4

<sup>a</sup> Actual. <sup>b</sup> EIU forecasts.



## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

## Data summary: Gross domestic product, at constant prices

[United Kingdom](#) | [Economy](#) | [Charts and tables](#) | [GDP at constant prices](#)

August 1st 2022

### Gross domestic product, at constant prices

	2017 <sup>a</sup>	2018 <sup>a</sup>	2019 <sup>a</sup>	2020 <sup>a</sup>	2021 <sup>a</sup>	2022 <sup>b</sup>	2023 <sup>b</sup>	2024 <sup>b</sup>	2025 <sup>b</sup>	2026 <sup>b</sup>
<b>Real expenditure on GDP (£ bn at 2019 prices)</b>										
GDP	2,182.2	2,218.2	2,255.3	2,046.2	2,198.5	2,276.6	2,261.9	2,296.1	2,333.5	2,371.4
Household consumption	1,398.0	1,430.9	1,449.0	1,295.9	1,376.1	1,434.1	1,417.3	1,431.3	1,452.0	1,476.1
Government consumption	405.4	406.9	424.0	398.9	456.1	465.3	481.6	488.3	495.1	501.6
Gross fixed investment	397.7	397.4	399.6	361.6	382.9	412.7	407.2	421.3	435.5	448.5
Exports of goods & services	658.3	676.5	699.3	608.6	600.8	636.6	649.9	666.4	684.9	704.1
Imports of goods & services	678.6	699.5	719.9	606.4	629.7	693.8	701.4	725.5	748.3	774.2
Stockbuilding (% of GDP)	12.7	1.8	6.5	-9.0	0.2	9.5	-5.0	2.0	2.0	3.0
Domestic demand	2,214.3	2,240.1	2,275.9	2,046.6	2,221.0	2,323.9	2,305.0	2,346.1	2,388.1	2,432.5
<b>Real expenditure on GDP (% change)</b>										
GDP	2.1	1.7	1.7	-9.3	7.4	3.6	-0.6	1.5	1.6	1.6
Household consumption	1.6	2.4	1.3	-10.6	6.2	4.2	-1.2	1.0	1.4	1.7
Government consumption	0.6	0.4	4.2	-5.9	14.3	2.0	3.5	1.4	1.4	1.3
Gross fixed investment	3.3	-0.1	0.5	-9.5	5.9	7.8	-1.3	3.5	3.4	3.0

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

Exports of goods & services	5.7	2.8	3.4	-13.0	-1.3	6.0	2.1	2.5	2.8	2.8
Imports of goods & services	2.9	3.1	2.9	-15.8	3.8	10.2	1.1	3.4	3.1	3.5
Stockbuilding (% contribution to GDP growth)	0.2	-0.5	0.2	-0.7	0.4	0.4	-0.6	0.3	0.0	0.0
Domestic demand	1.9	1.2	1.6	-10.1	8.5	4.6	-0.8	1.8	1.8	1.9
<b>Real contribution to GDP growth (% points)</b>										
Private consumption	1.0	1.5	0.8	-6.8	3.9	2.6	-0.7	0.6	0.9	1.0
Government consumption	0.1	0.1	0.8	-1.1	2.8	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.3
Gross fixed investment	0.6	0.0	0.1	-1.7	1.0	1.4	-0.2	0.6	0.6	0.6
External balance	0.7	-0.1	0.1	1.0	-1.5	-1.3	0.2	-0.3	-0.2	-0.3
<b>Memorandum items</b>										
Industrial production (% change)	0.1	3.5	3.6	-8.4	5.1	1.4	-4.0	2.2	1.6	1.6
Real personal disposable income (% change)	0.9	2.8	1.3	-0.3	1.3	0.1	-1.4	0.9	1.3	1.6

<sup>a</sup> Actual. <sup>b</sup> EIU forecasts.

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

## Data summary: Gross domestic product by sector of origin

[United Kingdom](#) | [Economy](#) | [Charts and tables](#) | [GDP by sector of origin](#)

August 1st 2022

### Gross domestic product by sector of origin

	2017 <sup>a</sup>	2018 <sup>a</sup>	2019 <sup>a</sup>	2020 <sup>a</sup>	2021 <sup>a</sup>	2022 <sup>b</sup>	2023 <sup>b</sup>	2024 <sup>b</sup>	2025 <sup>b</sup>	2026 <sup>b</sup>
<b>Origin of GDP (£ bn at constant 2018 prices)</b>										
GDP at factor cost	1,950.8	1,981.4	2,017.3	1,832.4	1,969.8	2,039.8	2,026.6	2,057.3	2,090.8	2,124.7
Agriculture	13.4	11.9	13.8	12.5	12.9	13.6	13.5	13.7	13.9	14.2
Industry	389.3	396.1	405.5	361.5	388.5	401.6	398.9	405.0	411.5	418.2
Services	1,548.3	1,573.5	1,598.0	1,458.4	1,568.3	1,624.5	1,614.2	1,638.5	1,665.3	1,692.3
<b>Origin of GDP (real % change)</b>										
Agriculture	5.9	-10.9	15.9	-9.8	4.0	5.2	-0.8	1.6	1.6	1.6
Industry	1.3	1.7	2.4	-10.8	7.5	3.4	-0.7	1.5	1.6	1.6
Services	2.4	1.6	1.6	-8.7	7.5	3.6	-0.6	1.5	1.6	1.6
<b>Origin of GDP (% of factor cost GDP)</b>										
Agriculture	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Industry	20.0	20.0	20.1	19.7	19.7	19.7	19.7	19.7	19.7	19.7

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

Services	79.4	79.4	79.2	79.6	79.6	79.6	79.7	79.6	79.6	79.6
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**Memorandum item**

Industrial production (% change)	0.1	3.5	3.6	-8.4	5.1	1.4	-4.0	2.2	1.6	1.6
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<sup>a</sup> Actual. <sup>b</sup> EIU forecasts.

## Data summary: Growth and productivity

[United Kingdom](#) | [Economy](#) | [Charts and tables](#) | [Growth and productivity](#)

August 1st 2022

**Growth and productivity**

	2017 <sup>a</sup>	2018 <sup>a</sup>	2019 <sup>a</sup>	2020 <sup>a</sup>	2021 <sup>a</sup>	2022 <sup>b</sup>	2023 <sup>b</sup>	2024 <sup>b</sup>	2025 <sup>b</sup>	2026 <sup>b</sup>
<b>Growth and productivity (%)</b>										
Labour productivity growth	1.1	0.5	0.6	-8.5	7.8	3.1	-1.0	0.6	1.0	1.1
Total factor productivity growth	0.4	0.0	0.1	-8.9	1.2	-1.1	-1.0	0.8	1.0	1.0
Growth of capital stock	3.1	2.6	2.3	0.7	1.3	2.2	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.2
Growth of potential GDP	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.5	-1.2	-0.5	-0.1	1.9	2.1	2.2
Growth of real GDP	2.1 <sup>c</sup>	1.7 <sup>c</sup>	1.7 <sup>c</sup>	-9.3 <sup>c</sup>	7.4 <sup>c</sup>	3.6	-0.6	1.5	1.6	1.6
Growth of real GDP per head	1.7 <sup>c</sup>	1.1 <sup>c</sup>	1.1 <sup>c</sup>	-9.7 <sup>c</sup>	7.1 <sup>c</sup>	3.2	-1.0	1.2	1.3	1.3

<sup>a</sup> EIU estimates. <sup>b</sup> EIU forecasts. <sup>c</sup> Actual.

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

## Data summary: Economic structure, income and market size

[United Kingdom](#) | [Economy](#) | [Charts and tables](#) | [Economic structure, income and market size](#)

August 1st 2022

### Economic structure, income and market size

	2017 <sup>a</sup>	2018 <sup>a</sup>	2019 <sup>a</sup>	2020 <sup>a</sup>	2021 <sup>a</sup>	2022 <sup>b</sup>	2023 <sup>b</sup>	2024 <sup>b</sup>	2025 <sup>b</sup>	2026 <sup>b</sup>
<b>Population, income and market size</b>										
Population (m)	66.1	66.4	66.8	67.1	67.3	67.5	67.7	68.0	68.2	68.4
GDP (US\$ bn at market exchange rates)	2,704	2,904	2,881	2,760	3,188	3,130	3,289	3,506	3,843	4,214
GDP per head (US\$ at market exchange rates)	40,922	43,719	43,140	41,165	47,390	46,359	48,549	51,594	56,362	61,620
Private consumption (US\$ bn)	1,744	1,886	1,851	1,681	1,960	1,967	2,030	2,146	2,344	2,566
Private consumption per head (US\$)	26,397	28,396	27,718	25,070	29,133	29,137	29,972	31,580	34,385	37,522
GDP (US\$ bn at PPP)	3,075	3,165	3,315	3,044	3,406	3,732	3,837	3,965	4,115	4,269
GDP per head (US\$ at PPP)	46,538	47,636	49,636	45,387	50,623	55,276	56,648	58,347	60,348	62,420
Personal disposable income (£ bn)	1,381	1,448	1,487	1,499	1,556	1,645	1,723	1,784	1,844	1,912
Personal disposable income (US\$ bn)	1,780	1,935	1,900	1,924	2,141	2,064	2,124	2,243	2,447	2,676
Growth of real disposable income (%)	0.9	2.8	1.3	-0.3	1.3	0.1	-1.4	0.9	1.3	1.6
<b>Memorandum items</b>										
Share of world population (%)	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.87	0.87	0.86	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.85
Share of world GDP (% at market exchange rates)	3.36	3.41	3.33	3.29	3.37	3.15	3.12	3.13	3.24	3.44

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

Share of world GDP (% at PPP)	2.55	2.48	2.49	2.32	2.35	2.37	2.28	2.24	2.20	2.21
Share of world exports of goods (%)	2.51	2.47	2.58	2.32	2.05	2.21	2.42	2.47	2.46	2.73

<sup>a</sup> Actual. <sup>b</sup> EIU forecasts.

## Data summary: Fiscal indicators

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August 1st 2022

### Fiscal indicators

	2017 <sup>a</sup>	2018 <sup>a</sup>	2019 <sup>a</sup>	2020 <sup>a</sup>	2021 <sup>a</sup>	2022 <sup>b</sup>	2023 <sup>b</sup>	2024 <sup>b</sup>	2025 <sup>b</sup>	2026 <sup>b</sup>
<b>Fiscal indicators (% of GDP)</b>										
Government expenditure	37.2	37.0	36.8	47.9	44.6	42.0	42.3	41.9	41.5	40.3
Interest <sup>c</sup>	2.6	2.4	2.1	1.9	2.6	3.1	3.5	3.8	4.0	4.0
Non-interest <sup>c</sup>	34.6	34.6	34.7	46.1	41.9	38.9	38.8	38.1	37.5	36.3
Government revenue <sup>c</sup>	35.3	35.1	34.9	35.1	36.4	37.0	35.6	37.0	37.2	37.1
Budget balance <sup>c</sup>	-1.9	-1.9	-1.9	-12.8	-8.1	-5.0	-6.7	-4.9	-4.3	-3.2
Primary balance <sup>c</sup>	0.7	0.5	0.2	-10.9	-5.5	-1.9	-3.2	-1.1	-0.3	0.8
Government debt <sup>d</sup>	85.2	84.5	83.8	102.5	102.8	102.5	102.9	103.0	102.5	101.8

<sup>a</sup> Actual. <sup>b</sup> EIU forecasts. <sup>c</sup> General government. <sup>d</sup> General government, gross public debt (Maastricht definition). Includes impact of financial sector interventions in Northern Rock, Bradford & Bingley and compensation payments to Icelandic bank depositors. Does not include impact

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

of reclassification of Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds Banking Group as public corporations by the Office for National Statistics. Does not include impact of gilt transactions with the Bank of England. End-period.

# Data summary: Monetary indicators

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August 1st 2022

## Monetary indicators

	2017 <sup>a</sup>	2018 <sup>a</sup>	2019 <sup>a</sup>	2020 <sup>a</sup>	2021 <sup>a</sup>	2022 <sup>b</sup>	2023 <sup>b</sup>	2024 <sup>b</sup>	2025 <sup>b</sup>	2026 <sup>b</sup>
<b>Monetary indicators</b>										
Exchange rate US\$:£ (av)	1.29	1.34	1.28	1.28	1.38	1.25	1.23	1.26	1.33	1.40
Exchange rate €:£ (av)	1.14	1.13	1.14	1.12	1.16	1.16	1.08	1.05	1.08	1.12
Exchange rate US\$:€ (av)	1.13	1.18	1.12	1.14	1.18	1.08	1.14	1.20	1.23	1.25
Exchange rate €:£ (year-end)	1.13	1.11	1.18	1.11	1.19	1.11	1.05	1.05	1.09	1.14
Real effective exchange rate (av; 2010=100)	97.1	98.9	98.4	98.6	102.4	100.3	101.3	101.4	105.1	109.9
M4 money supply growth (%) <sup>c</sup>	4.8	2.3	3.8	12.6	6.4 <sup>d</sup>	1.8	3.6	4.1	2.5	3.7
Domestic credit growth (%)	5.4	3.2	4.9	3.1	6.4 <sup>d</sup>	2.0	3.6	4.8	3.5	4.6
Purchasing power parity US\$:£ (av)	1.47	1.46	1.47	1.42	1.47	1.50	1.44	1.42	1.42	1.42
3-month £-Libor rate (av; %)	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.3	0.1	1.6	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

10-year government bond yield (av; %)	1.2	1.5	0.9	0.4	0.8	2.3	2.8	2.8	3.0	3.0
Bank of England base rate (%; end-period)	0.50	0.75	0.75	0.10	0.25	2.50	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75
Lending rate (%; average mortgage SVR from UK MFIs)	4.4	4.3	4.3	3.8	3.6	4.6	5.8	6.0	6.0	6.0
Deposit rate (av; %)	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.4	0.2	1.7	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.2

<sup>a</sup> Actual. <sup>b</sup> EIU forecasts. <sup>c</sup> Headline broad money (M4) figures from the Bank of England include deposits of "intermediate other financial corporations" that specialise in intermediation between banks, giving a distorted measure of underlying M4 growth. <sup>d</sup> EIU estimates.

## Data summary: Employment, wages and prices

[United Kingdom](#) | [Economy](#) | [Charts and tables](#) | [Employment, wages and prices](#)

August 1st 2022

### Employment, wages and prices

	2017 <sup>a</sup>	2018 <sup>a</sup>	2019 <sup>a</sup>	2020 <sup>a</sup>	2021 <sup>a</sup>	2022 <sup>b</sup>	2023 <sup>b</sup>	2024 <sup>b</sup>	2025 <sup>b</sup>	2026 <sup>b</sup>
<b>The labour market (av)</b>										
Labour force (m)	33.5	33.8	34.1	34.1	33.9	33.8	34.0	34.3	34.4	34.7
Labour force (% change)	0.5	0.9	0.8	-0.1	-0.4	-0.3	0.5	0.8	0.5	0.7
Employment (m)	32.1	32.4	32.8	32.5	32.4	32.5	32.7	33.0	33.2	33.3
Employment (% change)	1.0	1.2	1.1	-0.9	-0.3	0.4	0.4	0.9	0.6	0.5



## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

Unemployment (m)	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Unemployment rate (%; EU/OECD standardised measure)	4.4	4.1	3.8	4.6	4.5	3.9	4.4	4.1	3.9	3.9
<b>Wage and price inflation (% except labour costs per hour)</b>										
GDP deflator	1.8	2.0	2.0	5.1	0.3	4.0	7.6	2.9	2.2	2.3
Consumer prices (av; CPIH measure)	2.6	2.3	1.7	1.0	2.5	8.7	9.0	3.0	2.0	1.9
Producer prices (av)	3.9	3.4	1.4	-1.0	5.2	18.3	21.7	6.0	2.0	2.0
GDP deflator (av)	1.8	2.0	2.0	5.1	0.3	4.0	7.6	2.9	2.2	2.3
Private consumption deflator (av)	1.8	2.0	1.3	1.1	2.4	5.6	6.3	2.6	2.0	2.1
Government consumption deflator (av)	1.0	2.3	2.0	19.8	-6.4	11.7	9.9	4.0	3.0	2.9
Fixed investment deflator (av)	3.0	2.3	2.8	1.7	1.6	-2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Average nominal wages (av)	2.3	3.0	3.4	1.8	5.8	5.5	5.7	3.8	3.0	3.1
Average real wages (av)	-0.3	0.7	1.6	0.8	3.2	-3.0	-3.0	0.8	1.0	1.2
Unit labour costs (£-based; av)	2.0	2.4	3.0	13.4	-1.4	3.3	7.8	4.2	3.0	3.0
Unit labour costs (US\$-based)	-2.9	6.1	-1.5	14.0	5.6	-5.9	5.9	6.3	8.7	8.6
Labour costs per hour (£)	22.0 <sup>c</sup>	22.7 <sup>c</sup>	23.5 <sup>c</sup>	23.9 <sup>c</sup>	25.3 <sup>c</sup>	26.7	28.2	29.3	30.2	31.1
Labour costs per hour (US\$)	28.4 <sup>c</sup>	30.3 <sup>c</sup>	30.0 <sup>c</sup>	30.7 <sup>c</sup>	34.8 <sup>c</sup>	33.5	34.8	36.8	40.0	43.5

<sup>a</sup> Actual. <sup>b</sup> EIU forecasts. <sup>c</sup> EIU estimates.

## Data summary: Current account and terms of trade

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

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### Current account and terms of trade

	2017 <sup>a</sup>	2018 <sup>a</sup>	2019 <sup>a</sup>	2020 <sup>a</sup>	2021 <sup>a</sup>	2022 <sup>b</sup>	2023 <sup>b</sup>	2024 <sup>b</sup>	2025 <sup>b</sup>	2026 <sup>b</sup>
<b>Current account (US\$ bn)</b>										
Current-account balance	-98.1	-112.5	-77.0	-69.9	-82.5	-96.5	-114.6	-93.8	-104.1	-118.2
Current-account balance (% of GDP)	-3.6	-3.9	-2.7	-2.5	-2.6	-3.1	-3.5	-2.7	-2.7	-2.8
Goods: exports fob	435.4	468.3	474.9	396.8	442.3	548.0	624.2	671.6	704.0	739.2
Goods: imports fob	-616.4	-658.0	-651.9	-564.2	-656.8	-770.6	-852.5	-891.7	-959.5	-1,010.0
Trade balance	-180.9	-189.8	-176.8	-167.3	-214.4	-222.6	-228.2	-220.1	-255.5	-270.8
Services: credit	376.6	416.7	417.7	386.2	417.4	447.6	474.9	513.6	573.4	635.0
Services: debit	-229.8	-264.7	-267.4	-211.9	-242.9	-278.8	-303.7	-335.6	-365.1	-390.4
Services balance	146.8	152.0	150.3	174.3	174.5	168.8	171.3	178.0	208.4	244.6
Primary income: credit	241.8	291.9	277.8	174.5	249.6	338.8	408.2	435.9	411.4	401.8
Primary income: debit	-277.0	-332.6	-294.4	-214.8	-266.1	-356.0	-439.0	-458.7	-436.4	-461.8
Primary income balance	-35.2	-40.7	-16.6	-40.3	-16.5	-17.2	-30.8	-22.8	-24.9	-60.1
Secondary income: credit	22.7	25.0	24.4	26.5	23.2	22.8	23.9	23.8	24.2	26.6
Secondary income: debit	-51.7	-59.1	-58.3	-62.8	-49.2	-48.3	-50.7	-52.7	-56.3	-58.4

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

Secondary income balance	-29.0	-34.1	-33.9	-36.3	-26.0	-25.5	-26.8	-28.9	-32.1	-31.8
<b>Terms of trade</b>										
Export price index (US\$-based; 2010=100)	89.9	96.5	92.3	89.7	109.4	123.6	134.6	139.4	143.2	146.5
Export prices (% change)	1.1	7.3	-4.3	-2.8	21.9	13.0	8.8	3.6	2.7	2.3
Import price index (US\$-based; 2010=100)	89.6	95.4	89.6	86.3	93.4	104.3	107.7	109.6	112.7	114.9
Import prices (% change)	1.2	6.5	-6.0	-3.7	8.2	11.7	3.3	1.8	2.8	2.0
Terms of trade (2010=100)	100.4	101.2	103.0	104.0	117.2	118.5	124.9	127.1	127.0	127.5
<b>Memorandum item</b>										
Export market growth (%)	4.7	4.4	1.1 <sup>c</sup>	-4.8 <sup>c</sup>	10.3 <sup>c</sup>	6.1	3.1	3.6	3.2	3.3

<sup>a</sup> Actual. <sup>b</sup> EIU forecasts. <sup>c</sup> EIU estimates.

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

## Data summary: Foreign direct investment

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### Foreign direct investment

	2017 <sup>a</sup>	2018 <sup>a</sup>	2019 <sup>a</sup>	2020 <sup>a</sup>	2021 <sup>a</sup>	2022 <sup>b</sup>	2023 <sup>b</sup>	2024 <sup>b</sup>	2025 <sup>b</sup>	2026 <sup>b</sup>
<b>Foreign direct investment (US\$ bn)</b>										
Inward direct investment	125.4	-25.2	2.3	31.0	22.6	60.2	48.2	40.6	58.7	87.2
Inward direct investment (% of GDP)	4.6	-0.9	0.1	1.1	0.7	1.9	1.5	1.2	1.5	2.1
Inward direct investment (% of gross fixed investment)	25.7	-4.9	0.5	6.6	4.1	11.5	9.5	7.6	10.0	13.7
Outward direct investment	-172.0	28.7	48.2	53.3	-101.5	-18.2	-41.3	-37.9	-47.0	-66.7
Net foreign direct investment	-46.6	3.5	50.5	84.3	-78.9	42.0	6.9	2.8	11.6	20.5
Stock of foreign direct investment	2,369.0	2,226.0	2,317.0	2,548.0	2,562.0	2,622.2	2,670.4	2,711.1	2,769.7	2,856.9
Stock of foreign direct investment per head (US\$)	35,859	33,507	34,697	37,996	38,079	38,842	39,423	39,891	40,623	41,772
Stock of foreign direct investment (% of GDP)	87.6	76.6	80.4	92.3	80.4	83.8	81.2	77.3	72.1	67.8
<b>Memorandum items</b>										
Share of world inward direct investment flows (%)	6.2	-6.3	0.2	3.1	2.0	4.9	3.7	3.0	4.2	6.0
Share of world inward direct investment stock (%)	7.9	6.9	6.8	7.6	6.9	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.0	6.0

<sup>a</sup> Actual. <sup>b</sup> EIU forecasts.

## Political structure

[United Kingdom](#) | [Summary](#) | [Political structure](#)

August 1st 2022

### Official name

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

### Form of state

Parliamentary monarchy

### Legal system

Based on statute and common law; no written constitution; Scotland has its own system

### National legislature

Bicameral; the House of Commons (the lower house of parliament) has 650 members directly elected on a first-past-the-post basis; the House of Lords (the upper house, with about 775 members) was reformed in 1999, when most hereditary peers lost their seats

### Electoral system

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## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

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Universal direct suffrage from the age of 18

### National elections

The last general election was held on December 12th 2019; the next election is scheduled for May 2nd 2024

### Head of state

Queen Elizabeth II, who acceded to the throne in 1952

### National government

Cabinet headed by the prime minister, who is appointed by the monarch on the basis of ability to form a government with the support of the House of Commons. The centre-right Conservative Party took office as a majority government in December 2019

### Main political parties

Conservative Party; Labour Party; Liberal Democrats; Reform UK (formerly Brexit Party); Green Party; Scottish National Party (SNP); Plaid Cymru (Welsh National Party); Northern Ireland parties: Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), Alliance Party, Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP), Sinn Fein

Prime minister: Boris Johnson

Attorney general: Suella Braverman

Chancellor of the exchequer: Nadhim Zahawi

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

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Chief secretary to the Treasury: Simon Clarke

Leader of the House of Commons: Mark Spencer

Leader of the House of Lords & Lord Privy Seal: Lady Evans

Minister for Brexit opportunities: Jacob Rees-Mogg

Minister for the Cabinet Office: Michael Ellis

Parliamentary secretary to the Treasury & chief whip: Chris Heaton-Harris

Party chair & minister without portfolio: Andrew Stephenson

President for COP26: Alok Sharma

### **Secretaries of state**

Business, energy & industrial strategy: Kwasi Kwarteng

Defence: Ben Wallace

Digital, culture, media & sport: Nadine Dorries

Education: James Cleverly

Environment, food & rural affairs: George Eustice

Foreign, Commonwealth & development: Liz Truss

Health & social care: Steve Barclay

Home Office: Priti Patel

Housing, communities & levelling up: Greg Clark



## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

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International trade: Anne-Marie Trevelyan

Justice & Lord Chancellor: Dominic Raab

Northern Ireland: Shailesh Vara

Scotland: Alister Jack

Transport: Grant Shapps

Wales: Robert Buckland

Work & pensions: Therese Coffey

### Central bank governor

Andrew Bailey

## Basic data

[United Kingdom](#) | [Summary](#) | [Basic data](#)

August 1st 2022

### Land area

244,100 sq km (including inland water), of which 71% is arable and pasture land, 10% forest and 19% urban and other. England totals 130,400 sq km, Scotland 78,800 sq km, Wales 20,800 sq km and Northern Ireland 14,100 sq km

## One-click report : United Kingdom ,March 21st 2024

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### Population

67.1m (official mid-year estimate, 2020)

### Main urban areas

Population in '000 (official mid-year estimates, 2020)

Greater London (capital): 9,304

Greater Manchester: 2,730

West Midlands: 2,607

West Yorkshire: 1,889

Glasgow: 1,673

### Climate

Temperate

### Weather in London (altitude 5 metres)

Hottest month, July, 13-22°C; coldest month, January, 2-6°C; driest months, March and April, 37 mm average rainfall; wettest month, November, 64 mm average rainfall

### Language

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English. Welsh is also spoken in Wales, and Gaelic in parts of Scotland

### Measures

Officially metric system, but the former UK imperial system is still widely used

### Currency

Pound (or pound sterling) = 100 pence

### Time

GMT (summer time, 1 hour ahead)

### Fiscal year

April 1st to March 31st; tax year April 6th to April 5th

### Public holidays

January 3rd (New Year's Day\*), April 15th (Good Friday), April 18th (Easter Monday), May 2nd (Early May Bank Holiday), June 2nd (Spring Bank Holiday), June 3rd (Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday), August 29th (Summer Bank Holiday), December 26th and 27th (Christmas Day and Boxing Day\*)

\*New Year's Day is traditionally celebrated on January 1st, and Christmas Day and Boxing Day are traditionally celebrated on December 25th and 26th. As those days fall on weekends in 2022, the next two working days are given

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as holiday

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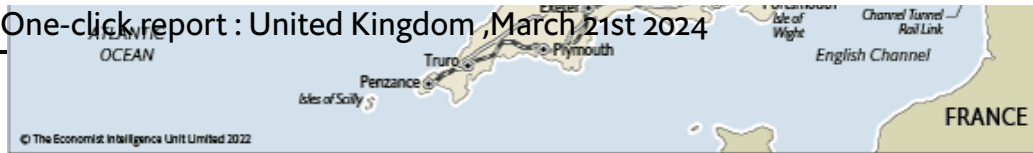
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"o or 0.0" means nil or negligible; "n/a" means not available; "-" means not applicable

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