

UNITED KINGDOM

Country Facts

GEOGRAPHICAL PRESENCE
MARCH 2021

UNITED KINGDOM AT GLANCE

Population:
66,797,000

Capital:
London

Currency:
**Pound
Sterling
(GBP)**

Government:
**Constitutional
Monarchy**

General information

The United Kingdom (the UK) is an island state located off the northwestern coast of mainland Europe. The UK is among the most urbanized countries, and over 80% of the population lives in urban areas. The capital is London, which is among the world's leading commercial, financial, and cultural centers. The UK is made up of four nations: England, Scotland and Wales (which comprise the island of Great Britain), as well as Northern Ireland. The official language is English, but other native languages, such as Scots, Scottish Gaelic, Welsh, Irish and Cornish, are also spoken across the country.

The UK is a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary democracy. The country's head of state is the reigning King or Queen, and the head of government is the Prime Minister, who is the leader of the majority political party in the House of Commons. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II ascended to the throne in 1952 upon the death of her father, George VI, and she is the longest reigning monarch in the world. As a constitutional monarch, her role is largely ceremonial.

The UK high education system is renowned throughout the world for its high standards, and some of the UK universities are considered to be among the best universities in the world.



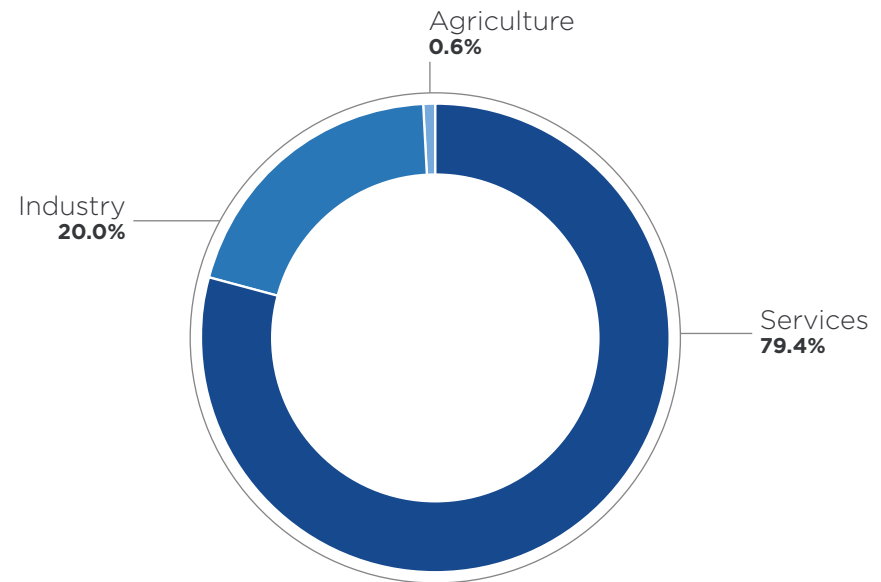
Economic information

The United Kingdom is a leading trading power and financial center and it is the second largest economy in Europe (after Germany). It is also among the world's largest economies. In 2008, the global financial crisis hit the economy particularly hard, due to the importance of its financial sector. The UK economy has begun to slow since the referendum vote to leave the EU in June 2016, and it is expected that Brexit will adversely affect the UK economy in the coming years.

The UK is historically known for the Industrial Revolution, but for many years its economy has been based on service industries rather than manufacturing. Services, particularly banking, insurance, and business services, have been key drivers of the GDP growth. In addition, the tourism industry has been a leading sector in the UK economy as the UK's many cultural treasures make it a popular tourist destination. The importance of manufacturing has declined but it still accounts for approximately 10% of economic output. Meanwhile, agriculture in the UK is highly efficient and mechanized, and only about 2% of the labor force is engaged in this sector. The UK has achieved a high level of self-sufficiency in the main agricultural products except for sugar and cheese. It is also one of Europe's leading fishing countries, although the fishing industry has been in long-term decline for some years. The UK has relatively large energy resources, including coal, natural gas, and oil.

GDP Structure

United Kingdom 2019



Source: OECD



Average age
40.3

Number of people aged over 100 years



11,010 **2,310**

Life expectancy



83.1 **79.4**



Average number of people per household
2.37



Fertility rate
1.68



Automobile stock
31,869,400

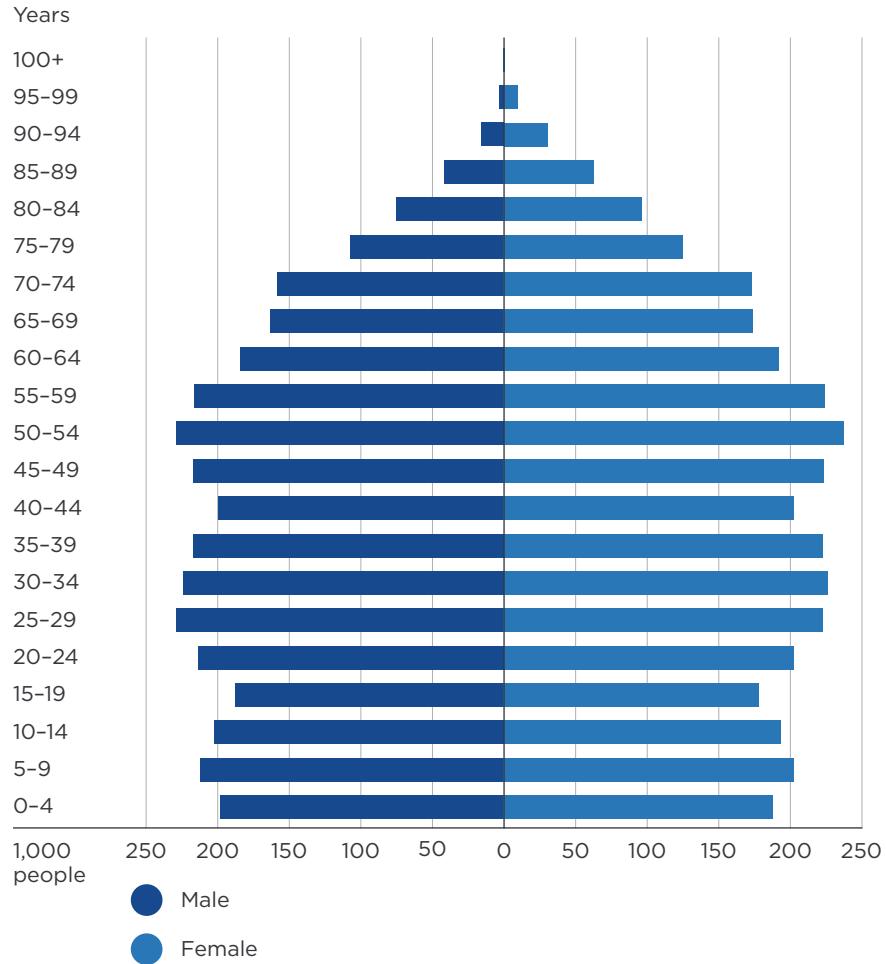


House price index*
123.0
*2015 = 100

Geography	The UK consists of a group of islands situated off the northwest coast of Europe and it is located between the North Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea. The terrain of the UK is diverse: from bustling cities to snow-capped mountains, and rolling green hills to highlands and lakes.								
Memberships	United Nations (UN), World Trade Organization (WTO), The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), World Health Organization (WHO), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Commonwealth of Nations, Council of Europe (CoE), Group of Seven (G7), Group of Twenty (G20).								
Neighboring countries	Republic of Ireland								
Language	English								
Flight times	Stockholm 2.5 hours, Berlin 1.75 hours, New York 7.5 hours, Beijing 10.75 hours, Tokyo 12.5 hours								
Major natural resources	Arable land, coal, natural gas, oil, minerals (e.g. clay, silica sand, gypsum, potash, salt, gold, iron ore, limestone)								
Time zone	The UK is on Greenwich Mean Time (GMT +0)								
Largest cities by population	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>London</td> <td>8,962,000</td> <td>Birmingham</td> <td>1,142,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Leeds</td> <td>793,000</td> <td>Glasgow</td> <td>633,000</td> </tr> </table>	London	8,962,000	Birmingham	1,142,000	Leeds	793,000	Glasgow	633,000
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Public holidays	There are a low number of public holidays (12) of which 7 are common to all countries, 1 is common to England, Wales and Northern Ireland, 2 are unique to Scotland and 2 are unique to Northern Ireland <table border="0"> <tr> <td>England & Wales</td> <td>(8)</td> <td>Scotland</td> <td>(9)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Northern Ireland</td> <td>(10)</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	England & Wales	(8)	Scotland	(9)	Northern Ireland	(10)		
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Demography 2019

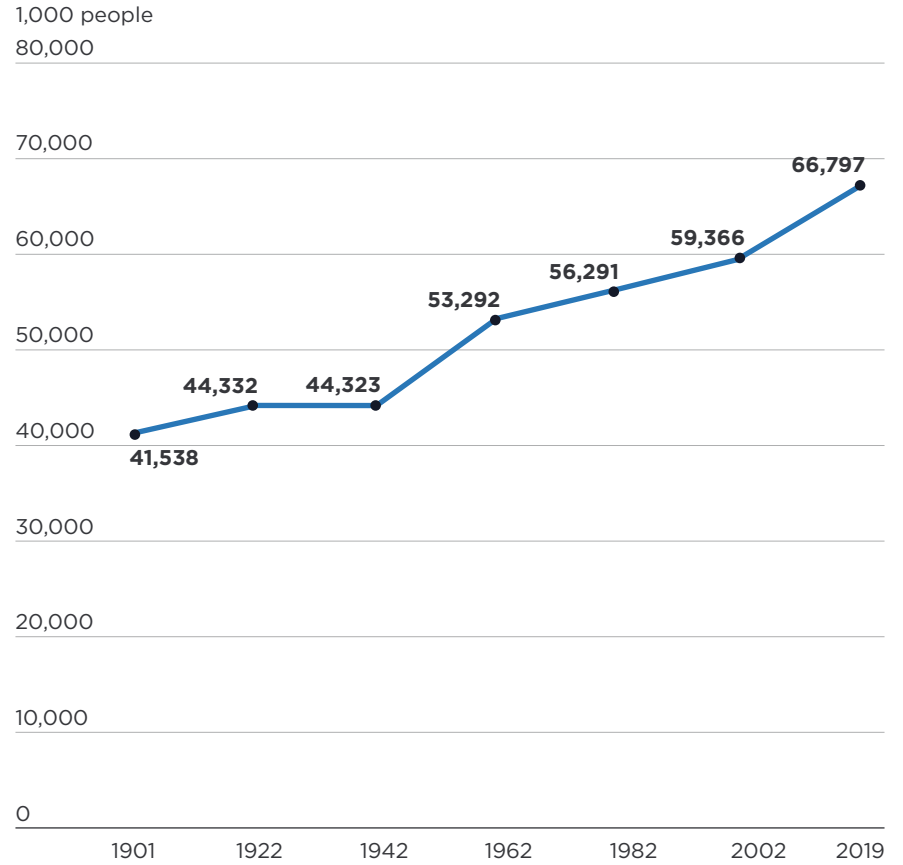
United Kingdom



Source: Office for National Statistics

Population

United Kingdom



Source: Office for National Statistics

References

www.britannica.com, www.cia.gov, www.gov.uk, www.ons.gov.uk,
study-uk.britishcouncil.org, www.travelmath.com

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Data is updated on an annual basis