

# Providing financial services to the world





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## Facts and figures: UK financial services trade The UK is the largest net exporter of financial services in the world

The UK continued to be the largest net exporter of financial services in the world in 2021.

It generated a trade surplus of

**£65**bn

This accounted for almost half of the entire UK services surplus, demonstrating the importance of financial services to the wider UK economy.

It was followed by the **US and Singapore.** 



**London** is the UK's largest financial services export hub, exporting **£56.8**bn

of financial services in 2020. It accounted for over half of all UK financial services exports.

Outside London, financial services is also a key export across the UK.

Cardiff

54% of its services exports

£1.9bn

West Midlands

48% of its services exports £3bn

Edinburgh 53%

of its services exports £3.7bn

West Yorkshire

45% of its services exports £2.6bn



The UK exported over

4 times the worth of financial services than it imported.

The United States is by far the UK's largest export market, purchasing

**29**bn

worth in financial services. An increase of £1.8bn vs 2020 - up 7%. It accounted for 34% of the UK's total financial services exports.

**The EU** remains a key region for UK financial services exports, purchasing

£24.7bn ⊷

in 2021. It accounted for **29% of the** UK's total financial services exports.

Luxembourg, Ireland, France, Germany and the Netherlands are the next largest export markets both within the EU and globally.



In 2021, Asian countries continued to be key growth markets for UK financial services exports.

Hong Kong (up 25% vs 2020), China (up 20%) and **Singapore** (up 8%) recorded some of the largest increases in financial services exports from last year, a total of



#### Top 5 highest growth markets for UK financial services exports (absolute change, 2020-2021)



Sources: ONS Pink Book, Chapter 9: Geographical breakdown of the current account, 2021 data, released October 2022. UNCTAD, International Trade in Services, 2021. ONS, International trade in services by subnational areas of the UK, 2020 data, released July 2022 Notes: Financial services refers to financial and insurance services. Currency conversions for net exports have been made using the average annual exchange rate for the relevant year. Total services exports for regional/subnational data excludes travel services. UK subnational data based on UK City Regions as per ONS definitions Historical data is based on revised figures and may vary from earlier releases.



With the largest absolute increase in 2021 and consecutive yearon-year growth for the last five years, the US continues to be a top growth market. Luxembourg and Hong Kong have been among the top growth markets in the past three years, while Canada and Switzerland are new top growth markets as of 2021.





### **Global connections:** UK's financial services exports



Source: ONS Pink Book, Chapter 3: Trade in Services, Chapter 9: Geographical breakdown of the current account, 2021 data, released October 2022.

Notes: This map covers the top 35 export markets for UK financial services. Financial services refers to financial and insurance services. Historical data is based on revised figures and may vary from earlier releases.

\* The Arab Gulf region refers to the ONS's "Residual Gulf Arabian Countries" which includes Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, the UAE and Yemen, but excludes Saudi Arabia.









# **Top 10 countries for biggest share of UK financial services exports** (average 2019-2021)

1	United States
2	Luxembourg
3	Netherlands
4	France
5	Ireland
6	Germany
7	Japan
8	Canada
9	Switzerland
10	Australia

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These 10 countries accounted for around two-thirds of the UK's total financial services exports across this period.