

Key facts about UK-China Relations

Trade and Economic Ties

- China is the **UK's 3rd largest goods trading partner**, after the U.S. and Germany. It was the 3rd largest buyer of British goods exports in 2019, and our 2nd largest source of imports.
- The UK's links to China via goods trade, tourism and education support an estimated 114,000 to 129,000 jobs across the country, according to recent research by Cambridge Econometrics.
- The UK shipped goods worth £25.1 billion to China in 2019, a 34% annual rise, and up three fold since 2010. 7% of UK good exports now go to China.
- The UK also imported £46.9 billion worth of Chinese goods in 2019, 9% up year-on-year and a rise of nearly 60% compared with 2010.
- In 2019, the UK exported over £5.5 billion worth of services to China, more than double the amount it exported in 2010.
- In 2019, the UK shipped nearly 26% of its crude oil exports, over 8% of its car exports, and nearly 8% of its power-generating machinery exports to China.

Investment and Financial Services

- The UK is Europe's most popular destination for Chinese FDI; between 2000 and 2019, Chinese firms invested over £45.1 billion here.
- Between 2000 and 2019, British firms invested over £14 billion in mainland China.
- The London-Shanghai Stock Connect opened in June 2019, the first trading link for a mainland Chinese market outside of Hong Kong.
- London is the world's largest hub for trading in the renminbi outside China.

Education

- UK universities welcomed 120,385 students in 2019, up 20% year-on-year. Chinese students are by far the largest cohort of foreign students in Britain, accounting for a fifth of full-time places.
- Chinese students contribute £2.1 billion (7% of all revenue) to the UK education sector

Tourism

- Chinese tourists made a total of over 880,000 visits to Britain in 2019, up nearly sevenfold from a decade ago.
- Those tourists spent some £1.7 billion in the UK, with London, Edinburgh and Oxfordshire among the most popular destinations.

General

- China is the world's second largest economy with a nominal GDP of £10.9 trillion in 2019; last year alone it grew by the economic size of Nigeria.
- Even if China's growth were to drop to 5% in 2020, it still would add another Switzerland to its immense domestic market
- China is indispensable when it comes to solving global problems like climate change. It is the world's leader in renewable energy, with more capacity installed than the next three countries -- Brazil, the U.S. and Canada - combined.