



Key facts about UK-China Relations

Trade and Economic Ties (Combined China and Hong Kong ONS Data)

- Total UK trade (goods and services) with China fell **2.4%** to **£129.5 billion** in the four quarters to the end of Q3 2023, making it the UK's **third largest trading partner** after the USA (**£315.1b**) and Germany (**£147.7b**).
- China is the UK's **fourth largest export market** after the USA (**£193.1b**), Germany (**£60.4b**) and Ireland (**£57.6b**). In the four quarters to the end of Q3 2023, total UK goods and services exports to China grew **15%** to a total of **£56.1 billion**, accounting for **6.4%** of total UK exports.
- China is the UK's **third largest import market**. The UK imported **£73.5 billion** worth of Chinese goods and services in the four quarters to the end of Q3 2023.
- UK goods exports to China rose **23%** to **£39.8 billion** in the four quarters to the end of Q3 2023. Goods imports from China decreased **15%** to **£65.7 billion** over the same period.
- UK service exports to China fell **0.2%** to **£16.3 billion** in the four quarters to the end of Q3 2023, service imports from China grew **11%** to **£7.8 billion**.

China is the UK's
third largest
trading partner

China is the UK's
fourth largest
export market

In the year before
Q3 2023, UK
goods exports to
China grew 23% to
£39.8 billion

Contribution to the UK Economy

- According to 2020 research by Cambridge Econometrics, the UK's links to China via goods trade, tourism and education support **114,000-129,000** jobs in the UK.

Investment and Financial Services

- The UK is by far Europe's most popular destination for Chinese FDI; between 2000 and 2021, Chinese firms invested **€79.6 billion (£70.7 billion)** here. The second highest was Germany with **€30.1 billion (£26.7 billion)**.
- The UK received **€2.1 billion** in Chinese FDI in 2021, up **50%** from 2020.
- The UK received **€230 million (£204 million)** worth of Chinese venture capital investment in 2021, the second highest amount in Europe after Germany (**€597 million, or £530 million**).
- In 2021, British firms held FDI positions worth **£78.3 billion** in China, including Hong Kong. The stock of Chinese/Hong Kong FDI in the UK stood at **£21.3 billion**.
- The City of London is the **world's largest hub** for renminbi trading outside China.

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UK from
2000-2021

Education

- There were **151,690** Chinese students enrolled at British universities in the academic year 2021/22, making them the largest cohort of foreign students.
- In 2022, **142,655** students from China applied to UK universities, a **15%** increase on 2021. Accepted candidates numbered **82,360**.
- Chinese students contributed **£2.1 billion** (7% of all revenue) to the UK education sector in 2021.

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General

- China is the world's second largest economy with an estimated GDP of **£13.83 trillion** in 2023.
- The IMF estimates China will grow **4.6%** this year, nearly the equivalent of adding another Poland to the world economy.
- McKinsey research shows that **39% (138 million)** of Chinese urban households were upper-middle class or higher (over **£19,100** in annual income) in 2021.
- China is the world's leader in renewable energy, with **1020GW of capacity** installed in 2021 — more than the next six countries combined.

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