

News story: Scotland's biggest trading partner continues to be rest of UK

Exports to the rest of the UK make up 61 per cent of Scotland's total exports, nearly four times the amount of trade with the EU market.

Independent research published by the Fraser of Allander Institute in November last year showed that around 560,000 jobs in Scotland (nearly one in four of all jobs) are supported by demand for Scottish goods and services from the rest of the UK.

These statistics underline how vital it is that we do maintain Scottish businesses' trade with their closest and most valuable market.

Commenting on the figures, Scottish Secretary David Mundell said:

These figures from the Scottish Government again show that Scotland's trade with the rest of the UK is worth nearly four times that with the EU. We know that more than half a million Scottish jobs depend on the vital UK internal market.

I cautiously welcome today's labour market statistics. But we know the Scottish economy continues to lag behind the rest of the UK, reinforcing the need to maintain our trade with the rest of the UK.

As the UK prepares to leave the EU, it is essential that we ensure the UK internal market continues unimpeded.

The trade figures also show an increase of over half a billion pounds in exports to markets outside the EU. This demonstrates the opportunities that lie ahead for Scottish businesses, as we strike new, ambitious trade deals around the world.

Press release: North east rivers get fish stocks boost

The Environment Agency has released more than 40,000 young fish into north east rivers during last year to give stocks a boost.

The fish – chub, dace, roach, bream, barbel, tench, grayling, crucian carp and rudd – are just some that were released right across the region during 2017.

And on Monday (22 January), the Environment Agency's north east fisheries team started off the new year by releasing 4,000 chub and 5,000 roach into the River Skerne at Darlington.

All the fish were reared at the Environment Agency's fish farm near Calverton, Nottinghamshire, using funding from rod licence sales.

Last year fish were released into rivers such as the Tees, Wear, Skerne, Gaunless, Browney, Blyth, Pont, Clow Beck and Langley Beck as well as Stillwater fisheries.

The work is part of the Environment Agency's ongoing plan to develop and restore rivers and fisheries in the region, targeting those which have previously been affected by pollution or where barriers affect fish passage.

Paul Frear, Fisheries Officers for the Environment Agency in the north east, said:

Restocking is one of many things we do together with our partners to develop fisheries, including reducing the impact of pollution, improving habitats and removing barriers to fish migration.

The Environment Agency releases fish into our waterways annually. Fisheries officers target fish stocking activity using data from national fish surveys to identify where there are problems with poor breeding and survival. Paul added:

By releasing fish into the rivers it helps the process of natural recovery and development. We're pleased to be able to provide these young fish as part of our commitment to rod licence paying anglers. Restoration and the creation of new fisheries for all people to enjoy is a very important aspect of our work.

Many of our industrialised rivers have improved dramatically in water quality in the last 30 years and targeted and appropriate restocking has helped the restoration of natural fish stocks and viable fisheries.

Angling is a great way to keep healthy and enjoy the natural environment. All rod licence income is used to fund work to protect and improve fish stocks and fisheries.

Fishing is free for children under 16, although those aged between 12 and 16 still need a junior licence. For anyone over 16, a full annual licence costs from just £30, with some short term and concessionary licences also available. You can buy your rod licence online at the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk)

Press release: Number in employment reaches record high

This is a rise of 415,000 compared to last year's figures.

The figures, released by the Office for National Statistics, also show that unemployment is at its lowest level since 1975.

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Esther McVey, said:

We had a record-breaking 2017 for employment, and I'm delighted to see this trend continue as we enter the new year.

The number of people in work is at an all-time high and the unemployment rate has not been this low for over 40 years.

At this time of year, straight after Christmas, people might be feeling a squeeze on their finances. We're determined to help people keep more of what they earn.

That's why we've increased the National Living Wage, introduced Universal Credit to offer greater flexibility and taken millions of people out of income tax altogether by raising the tax-free personal allowance.

In 2017, at least 10 employment records were broken. The employment rate and the number of people in work, the number of women in work and black and minority ethnic employment all reached record highs during the year.

Today's employment figures also show:

- there are a record 810,000 vacancies in the economy at any one time
- the number of people in employment has increased by over 3 million since 2010
- the UK has the third highest employment rate in the G7
- the number of workers aged 50 plus has reached a record 10 million
- youth unemployment has fallen by over 40% since 2010

Separate figures also released today show there are [700,000 people claiming Universal Credit](#) as the rollout of the new benefit continues, with 42% in employment.

Follow DWP on:

News story: New emission controls will help improve air quality

Restrictions on air pollution from combustion plants and generators were passed by parliament this week, as the government continues to take action against poor air quality.

Air pollution is the biggest environmental risk to public health in the UK, and currently unregulated medium sized combustion plants (MCPs) and generators, commonly used to heat hospitals, hotels, offices, prisons and other large buildings as well as powering some industries, are a significant source of pollution.

A statutory instrument was debated and passed in the house of Commons and House of Lords on Monday and will come into force shortly, implementing a new Medium Combustion Plant Directive.

However, the government is going even further by introducing additional domestic emission controls on generators to tackle pollution from small scale, flexible generators which not covered by the Directive but are highly polluting and have been increasingly used in recent years.

The new regulations are expected to provide 43% of the sulphur dioxide emissions reduction, 9% of the reduction for particulate matter, and 22% of the nitrogen oxides emissions reduction needed to meet the UK's 2030 targets.

Environment Minister Therese Coffey said:

Air pollution has improved significantly since 2010, but we recognise there is more to do which is why we have put in place a £3.5billion plan to improve air quality and reduce harmful emissions.

These regulations will help deliver further substantial reductions in emissions, while minimising the impact on energy security and costs to businesses. Poor air quality affects public health, the economy, and the environment, which is why we are determined to do more, and later this year we will publish a comprehensive clean air strategy which will set out further steps to tackle air pollution.

These regulations will require new medium combustion plants to reduce emissions from 20 December 2018 and existing medium combustion plants from 2025 or 2030, depending on their size – larger plants must comply sooner than smaller plants.

Additionally, newer generators will need to comply with a nitrogen oxides

emissions limit from 1st January 2019. Older generators, operating prior to December 2016, and those providing certain services to the National Grid will need to comply from a later date, depending on their size, emissions, operating hours, duration of their agreements with National Grid and whether they sign up to new agreements.

Dr Penny Woods, chief executive of the British Lung Foundation, said:

Breathing in toxic pollutants increases all our chances of getting lung cancer, it can worsen symptoms for people who have a lung condition and it can stunt the growth of children's lungs. We therefore welcome these restrictions on generators that will see a reduction in the invisible but deadly pollutants harming our health.

We need action on all sources of pollution, from traffic emissions to generators, if we are truly going to clean up the air in our towns and cities.

News story: High demand for innovation in Indian healthcare system

UK healthcare innovation in action: the Hamlyn Centre at Imperial College London is pioneering brain computer interface technologies to improve complex skills training.

India's healthcare market is estimated to grow to \$280 billion (US) by 2020 (CII-KPMG 'The Indian services sector: Poised for global ascendancy' Report 2016). It's a country with a diverse and geographically spread population, with a real need for excellent in clinical care of lifestyle diseases.

With its recent commitment to developing 100 smart cities across the country, demand for innovative healthcare solutions in the Indian healthcare system has never been higher. Indian healthcare leaders are looking for solutions that will drive further efficiencies in costs, increase patient access in remote areas, and provide more personalised healthcare solutions.

India looks to the UK for innovative care solutions

The UK is well placed to meet this demand. The UK's National Health Service (NHS) continues to be ranked by the US-based Commonwealth Fund as the leading

health system in the world. To remain at the top of the rankings, the NHS and UK healthcare sector are focusing their expertise towards continuous development of innovative healthcare practices.

Healthcare utopia is a future with no waiting time for patients, sophisticated surgical robots in operating rooms, radiology images in the cloud, consulting in real time and flexible touch screens capturing important health data. A future of disruptive technologies; artificial intelligence, wearable sensors, virtual reality and artificial intelligence.

India Innovation Mission: February 2018

Healthcare UK is bringing representatives of the UK healthcare system to India to learn how India is:

- approaching the challenges of scale and resource
- sharing their expertise
- discussing with Indian healthcare colleagues what can be achieved through working with the latest smart systems and devices

These representatives are from leading NHS hospitals and pioneering British companies whose innovative solutions are delivering results across health and care economies in the UK and around the world.

If you are an innovative healthcare system provider looking to develop operations overseas please contact us at healthcare.uk@trade.gov.uk to discuss how we can help you.

Healthcare UK is a joint initiative of the Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England and the Department for International Trade. Find out more about what we do [here](#).