

# UNITED KINGDOM



## INTRODUCTION

The United Kingdom played a leading role in developing parliamentary democracy and in advancing literature and science. At its zenith in the 19th century, the British Empire stretched over one-fourth of the earth's surface. With the dismantling of the Empire, the UK rebuilt itself into a modern and prosperous European nation. The Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales, and the Northern Ireland Assembly were established in 1998.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

Queen ELIZABETH II

### Head of Government

Prime Minister Boris JOHNSON

### Government Type

parliamentary constitutional monarchy

### Capital

London

### Legislature

bicameral Parliament consists of the House of Lords (membership not fixed) and the House of Commons (650 seats)

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

Total: 243,610 sq km

Land: 241,930 sq km

Water: 1,680 sq km

### Climate

temperate; moderated by prevailing southwest winds over the North Atlantic Current

### Natural Resources

coal, petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, lead, zinc, gold, tin, limestone, salt, clay, chalk, gypsum, potash, silica sand, slate, arable land

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

high-income, diversified non-EU European economy; fifth-largest importer and exporter globally; after 2016 EU Brexit, increased quantitative easing avoided economic decline; 10% GDP contraction from COVID-19; global financial and diplomacy leader

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$2.798 trillion (2020 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$41,600 (2020 est.)

**Industries** - machine tools, electric power equipment, automation equipment, railroad equipment, shipbuilding, aircraft, motor vehicles and parts, electronics and communications equipment

**Agricultural products** - wheat, milk, barley, sugar beets, potatoes, rapeseed, poultry, oats, pork, beef

**Exports** \$742 billion (2020 est.)

cars, gas turbines, gold, crude petroleum, packaged medicines (2019)

**partners:** US 15%, Germany 10%, China 7%, Netherlands 7%, France 7%, Ireland 6% (2019)

**Imports** \$752.8 billion (2020 est.)

gold, cars, crude and refined petroleum, broadcasting equipment (2019)

**partners:** Germany 13%, China 10%, US 8%, Netherlands 7%, France 6%, Belgium 5% (2019)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

67.1 million (June 2020 est.)

England 84.3%, Scotland

8.1%, Wales 4.7%, Northern

Ireland 2.8%

### Population Growth

0.48% (2021 est.)

### Ethnicity

White 87.2%, Black/African/Caribbean/Black British 3%,

Asian/Asian British: Indian 2.3%, Asian/Asian British: Pakistani

1.9%, mixed 2%, other 3.7% (2011 est.)

### Language

English; Scots, Scottish Gaelic, Welsh, Irish, Cornish

### Religion

Christian 59.5%, Muslim 4.4%, Hindu 1.3%, other 2%, unspecified 7.2%, none 25.7% (2011 est.)

