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Chapter 1

248

1.1 248.guide

Texified version of data for United Kingdom.

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United Kingdom

1.2 248.guide/United Kingdom

United Kingdom

Geography (United Kingdom)
Geography (United Kingdom 2. usage)
People (United Kingdom)
Government (United Kingdom)
Government (United Kingdom 2. usage)
Government (United Kingdom 3. usage)
Economy (United Kingdom)
Economy (United Kingdom 2. usage)
Communications (United Kingdom)
Defense Forces (United Kingdom)

1.3 248.guide/Geography (United Kingdom)

Geography (United Kingdom)
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Location:

Western Europe, bordering on the North Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea,
between Ireland and France

Map references:

Europe, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

244,820 km²

land area:

241,590 km²

comparative area:

slightly smaller than Oregon

note:

includes Rockall and Shetland Islands

Land boundaries:

total 360 km, Ireland 360 km

Coastline:

12,429 km

Maritime claims:

continental shelf:

as defined in continental shelf orders or in accordance with agreed upon
boundaries

exclusive fishing zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

Northern Ireland question with Ireland; Gibraltar question with Spain;
Argentina claims Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas); Argentina claims South
Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands; Mauritius claims island of Diego
Garcia in British Indian Ocean Territory; Rockall continental shelf dispute
involving Denmark, Iceland, and Ireland (Ireland and the UK have signed a
boundary agreement in the Rockall area); territorial claim in Antarctica
(British Antarctic Territory)

Climate:

temperate; moderated by prevailing southwest winds over the North Atlantic Current; more than half of the days are overcast

Terrain:
mostly rugged hills and low mountains; level to rolling plains in east and southeast

Natural resources:
coal, petroleum, natural gas, tin, limestone, iron ore, salt, clay, chalk, gypsum, lead, silica

Land use:
arable land:
29%
permanent crops: 0%
meadows and pastures:
48%
forest and woodland:
9%
other:
14%

Irrigated land:
1,570 km² (1989)

1.4 248.guide/Geography (United Kingdom 2. usage)

Geography (United Kingdom 2. usage)

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Environment:
pollution control measures improving air and water quality; because of heavily indented coastline, no location is more than 125 km from tidal waters

Note:
lies near vital North Atlantic sea lanes; only 35 km from France and now being linked by tunnel under the English Channel

1.5 248.guide/People (United Kingdom)

People (United Kingdom)

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Population:
57,970,200 (July 1993 est.)

Population growth rate:
0.29% (1993 est.)

Birth rate:
13.58 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Death rate:
10.87 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Net migration rate:

0.17 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 7.4 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 76.5 years
 male:
 73.71 years
 female:
 79.43 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 1.83 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Briton(s), British (collective pl.)
 adjective:
 British
 Ethnic divisions:
 English 81.5%, Scottish 9.6%, Irish 2.4%, Welsh 1.9%, Ulster 1.8%, West
 Indian, Indian, Pakistani, and other 2.8%
 Religions: Anglican 27 million, Roman Catholic 9 million, Muslim 1 million,
 Presbyterian 800,000, Methodist 760,000, Sikh 400,000, Hindu 350,000, ↵
 Jewish
 300,000 (1991 est.)
 note:
 the UK does not include a question on religion in its census
 Languages:
 English, Welsh (about 26% of the population of Wales), Scottish form of
 Gaelic (about 60,000 in Scotland)
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1978)
 total population:
 99%
 male:
 NA%
 female:
 NA%
 Labor force:
 28.048 million
 by occupation:
 services 62.8%, manufacturing and construction 25.0%, government 9.1%,
 energy 1.9%, agriculture 1.2% (June 1992)

1.6 248.guide/Government (United Kingdom)

Government (United Kingdom)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
 conventional short form:
 United Kingdom

Abbreviation:

UK

Digraph:

UK

Type:

constitutional monarchy

Capital:

London

Administrative divisions:

47 counties, 7 metropolitan counties, 26 districts, 9 regions, and 3 islands areas

England:

39 counties, 7 metropolitan counties*; Avon, Bedford, Berkshire, Buckingham, , , Cambridge, Cheshire, Cleveland, Cornwall, Cumbria, Derby, Devon, Dorset, Durham, East Sussex, Essex, Gloucester, Greater London*, Greater, Manchester*, Hampshire, Hereford and Worcester, Hertford, Humberside, Isle of Wight, Kent, Lancashire, Leicester, Lincoln, Merseyside*, Norfolk, Northampton, Northumberland, North Yorkshire, Nottingham, Oxford, Shropshire, Somerset, South Yorkshire*, Stafford, Suffolk, Surrey, Tyne and Wear*, Warwick, West Midlands*, West Sussex, West Yorkshire*, Wiltshire, Northern Ireland: 26 districts; Antrim, Ards, Armagh, Ballymena, Ballymoney, Banbridge, Belfast, Carrickfergus, Castlereagh, Coleraine, Cookstown, Craigavon, Down, Dungannon, Fermanagh, Larne, Limavady, Lisburn, Londonderry, Magherafelt, Moyle, Newry and Mourne, Newtownabbey, North Down, Omagh, Strabane

Scotland:

9 regions, 3 islands areas*; Borders, Central, Dumfries and Galloway, Fife, Grampian, Highland,

Lothian, Orkney*, Shetland*, Strathclyde, Tayside, Western Isles*, Wales:

8 counties; Clwyd, Dyfed, Gwent, Gwynedd, Mid Glamorgan, Powys, South Glamorgan, West Glamorgan

Dependent areas:

Anguilla, Bermuda, British Indian Ocean Territory, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Hong Kong (scheduled to become a Special Administrative Region of China on 1 July 1997), Jersey, Isle of Man, Montserrat, Pitcairn Islands, Saint Helena, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands

Independence:

1 January 1801 (United Kingdom established)

Constitution:

unwritten; partly statutes, partly common law and practice

Legal system:

common law tradition with early Roman and modern continental influences; no judicial review of Acts of Parliament; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction, with reservations

National holiday:

Celebration of the Birthday of the Queen (second Saturday in June)

1.7 248.guide/Government (United Kingdom 2. usage)

Government (United Kingdom 2. usage)

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Political parties and leaders:

Conservative and Unionist Party, John MAJOR; Labor Party, John SMITH;
 Liberal Democrats (LD), Jeremy (Paddy) ASHDOWN; Scottish National Party,
 Alex SALMOND; Welsh National Party (Plaid Cymru), Dafydd Iwan WIGLEY; ←
 Ulster

Unionist Party (Northern Ireland), James MOLYNEAUX; Democratic Unionist
 Party (Northern Ireland), Rev. Ian PAISLEY; Ulster Popular Unionist Party
 (Northern Ireland), James KILFEDDER; Social Democratic and Labor Party
 (SDLP, Northern Ireland), John HUME; Sinn Fein (Northern Ireland), Gerry
 ADAMS

Other political or pressure groups:

Trades Union Congress; Confederation of British Industry; National Farmers'
 Union; Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Elections:

House of Commons:

last held 9 April 1992 (next to be held by NA April 1997); results -
 Conservative 41.9%, Labor 34.5%, Liberal Democratic 17.9%, other 5.7%; ←
 seats

- (651 total) Conservative 336, Labor 271, Liberal Democratic 20, other 24

Executive branch:

monarch, prime minister, Cabinet

Legislative branch:

bicameral Parliament consists of an upper house or House of Lords and a
 lower house or House of Commons

Judicial branch:

House of Lords

Leaders:

Chief of State: Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952); Heir Apparent ←
 Prince CHARLES
 (son of the Queen, born 14 November 1948)

Head of Government:

Prime Minister John MAJOR (since 28 November 1990)

Member of:

AfDB, AG (observer), AsDB, Australian Group, BIS, C, CCC, CDB
 (non-regional), CE, CERN, COCOM, CP, CSCE, EBRD, EC, ECA (associate), ECE,
 ECLAC, EIB, ESCAP, ESA, FAO, G-5, G-7, G-10, GATT, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO,
 ICC, ICFTU, IDA, IEA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INMARSAT, INTELSAT,
 INTERPOL, IOC, IOM (observer), ISO, ITU, LORCS, MINURSO, MTRC, NACC, NATO,
 NEA, NSG, OECD, PCA, SPC, UN, UNCTAD, UNFICYP, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNIKOM,
 UNPROFOR, UNRWA, UN Security Council, UNTAC, UN Trusteeship Council, UPU,
 WCL, WEU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, ZC

Diplomatic representation in US:

chief of mission:

Ambassador Sir Robin RENWICK

chancery:

3100 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008

telephone:

(202) 462-1340

FAX:

(202) 898-4255

consulates general:
 Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, and ↵
 San
 Francisco,
 consulates:
 Dallas, Miami, and Seattle
 US diplomatic representation:
 chief of mission:
 Ambassador Raymond G. H. SEITZ
 embassy:
 24/31 Grosvenor Square, London, W.1A1AE

1.8 248.guide/Government (United Kingdom 3. usage)

Government (United Kingdom 3. usage)

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mailing address:
 PSC 801, Box 40, FPO AE 09498-4040
 telephone:
 [44] (71) 499-9000
 FAX:
 [44] (71) 409-1637
 consulates general:
 Belfast and Edinburgh
 Flag:
 blue with the red cross of Saint George (patron saint of England) edged in
 white superimposed on the diagonal red cross of Saint Patrick (patron saint
 of Ireland) which is superimposed on the diagonal white cross of Saint
 Andrew (patron saint of Scotland); known as the Union Flag or Union Jack;
 the design and colors (especially the Blue Ensign) have been the basis for ↵
 a
 number of other flags including dependencies, Commonwealth countries, and
 others

1.9 248.guide/Economy (United Kingdom)

Economy (United Kingdom)

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Overview:
 The UK is one of the world's great trading powers and financial centers, ↵
 and
 its economy ranks among the four largest in Europe. The economy is
 essentially capitalistic; over the past thirteen years the ruling Tories
 have greatly reduced public ownership and contained the growth of social
 welfare programs. Agriculture is intensive, highly mechanized, and ↵
 efficient

by European standards, producing about 60% of food needs with only 1% of the labor force. The UK has large coal, natural gas, and oil reserves, and primary energy production accounts for 12% of GDP, one of the highest shares of any industrial nation. Services, particularly banking, insurance, and business services, account by far for the largest proportion of GDP while industry continues to decline in importance, now employing only 25% of the work force and generating 21% of GDP. The economy is emerging out of its 3-year recession with only weak recovery expected in 1993. Unemployment is hovering around 10% of the labor force. The government in 1992 adopted a pro-growth strategy, cutting interest rates sharply and removing the pound from the European exchange rate mechanism. Excess industrial capacity probably will moderate inflation which for the first time in a decade is below the EC average. The major economic policy question for Britain in the 1990s is the terms on which it participates in the financial and economic integration of Europe.

National product:
 GDP - purchasing power equivalent - \$920.6 billion (1992)

National product real growth rate:
 -0.6% (1992)

National product per capita:
 \$15,900 (1992)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):
 3.6% (1992)

Unemployment rate:
 9.8% (1992)

Budget:
 revenues \$367.6 billion; expenditures \$439.3 billion, including capital expenditures of \$32.5 billion (FY92 est.)

Exports:
 \$187.4 billion (f.o.b., 1992)

commodities:
 manufactured goods, machinery, fuels, chemicals, semifinished goods, transport equipment

partners:
 EC countries 56.7% (Germany 14.0%, France 11.1%, Netherlands 7.9%), US 10.9%

Imports:
 \$210.7 billion (c.i.f., 1992)

commodities:
 manufactured goods, machinery, semifinished goods, foodstuffs, consumer goods

partners:
 EC countries 51.7% (Germany 14.9%, France 9.3%, Netherlands 8.4%), US 11.6%

External debt:
 \$16.2 billion (June 1992)

Industrial production:
 growth rate 0.4% (1992 est.)

Electricity:
 99,000,000 kW capacity; 317,000 million kWh produced, 5,480 kWh per capita (1992)

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Economy (United Kingdom 2. usage)

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Industries:

production machinery including machine tools, electric power equipment, equipment for the automation of production, railroad equipment, shipbuilding, aircraft, motor vehicles and parts, electronics and communications equipment, metals, chemicals, coal, petroleum, paper and paper products, food processing, textiles, clothing, and other consumer goods

Agriculture:

accounts for only 1.5% of GDP and 1% of labor force; highly mechanized and efficient farms; wide variety of crops and livestock products produced; about 60% self-sufficient in food and feed needs; fish catch of 665,000 metric tons (1987)

Illicit drugs:

increasingly important gateway country for Latin American cocaine entering the European market

Economic aid:

donor - ODA and OOF commitments (1970-89), \$21.0 billion

Currency:

1 British pound (#) = 100 pence

Exchange rates:

British pounds (#) per US\$1 - 0.6527 (January 1993), 0.5664 (1992), 0.5652 (1991), 0.5603 (1990), 0.6099 (1989), 0.5614 (1988)

Fiscal year:

1 April-31 March

1.11 248.guide/Communications (United Kingdom)

Communications (United Kingdom)

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Railroads:

UK, 16,914 km total; Great Britain's British Railways (BR) operates 16,584 km 1.435-meter (standard) gauge (including 4,545 km electrified and 12,591 km double or multiple track), several additional small standard-gauge and narrow-gauge lines are privately owned and operated; Northern Ireland Railways (NIR) operates 330 km 1.600-meter gauge (including 190 km double track)

Highways:

UK, 362,982 km total; Great Britain, 339,483 km paved (including 2,573 km limited-access divided highway); Northern Ireland, 23,499 km (22,907 paved, 592 km gravel)

Inland waterways:

2,291 total; British Waterways Board, 606 km; Port Authorities, 706 km; other, 979 km

Pipelines:

crude oil (almost all insignificant) 933 km, petroleum products 2,993 km,

natural gas 12,800 km

Ports:

London, Liverpool, Felixstowe, Tees and Hartlepool, Dover, Sullom Voe, Southampton

Merchant marine: 204 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 3,819,719 GRT ↔ /4,941,785 DWT; includes

7 passenger, 16 short-sea passenger, 37 cargo, 25 container, 14 roll-on/roll-off, 5 refrigerated cargo, 1 vehicle carrier, 65 oil tanker, 1 chemical tanker, 8 liquefied gas, 1 specialized tanker, 22 bulk, 1 combination bulk, 1 passenger cargo

Airports:

total:

496

usable:

385

with permanent-surface runways:

249

with runways over 3,659 m:

1

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

37

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

134

Telecommunications:

technologically advanced domestic and international system; 30,200,000 telephones; equal mix of buried cables, microwave and optical-fiber systems ↔ ;

excellent countrywide broadcast systems; broadcast stations - 225 AM, 525 (mostly repeaters) FM, 207 (3,210 repeaters) TV; 40 coaxial submarine cables; 5 satellite ground stations operating in INTELSAT (7 Atlantic Ocean and 3 Indian Ocean), INMARSAT, and EUTELSAT systems; at least 8 large international switching centers

1.12 248.guide/Defense Forces (United Kingdom)

Defense Forces (United Kingdom)

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Branches:

Army, Royal Navy (including Royal Marines), Royal Air Force

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 14,445,998; fit for military service 12,084,913 (1993 est.) ↔ ;

no conscription

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$42.5 billion, 3.8% of GDP (FY92/93)