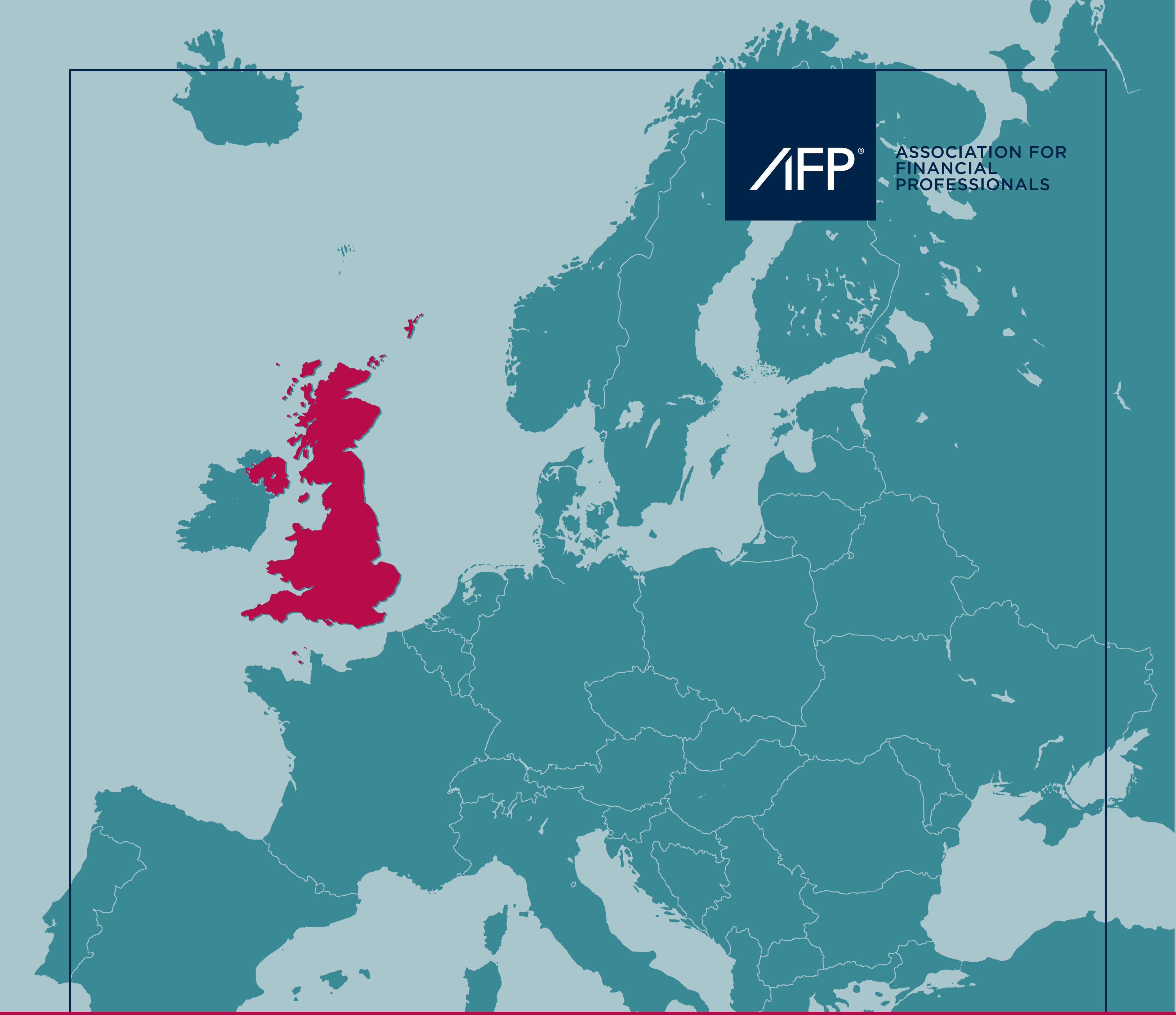

ASSOCIATION FOR FINANCIAL PROFESSIONALS

Underwritten by PNC

CASH AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT
COUNTRY REPORT

UNITED KINGDOM

Executive Summary

Banking

The UK's central bank is the Bank of England. Bank supervision is performed by the Financial Services Authority. Prudential regulation and supervision of the banking sector is performed by the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA), a part of the Bank of England.

The UK does not impose central bank reporting requirements.

Resident entities are permitted to hold fully convertible domestic currency (GBP) and foreign currency bank accounts within and outside the UK. Non-resident entities are permitted to hold fully convertible domestic and foreign currency bank accounts within the UK.

The UK has 157 banks and 44 building societies in operation. There is a significant foreign banking presence in the UK and 160 foreign banks have established branches.

Payments

The UK's four main payment systems are CHAPS, BACS, the Faster Payments Service and the C&CC system.

The most important cashless payment instruments in the UK are electronic credit transfers in terms of value and card payments in terms of volume. Checks and direct debits are also popular payment instruments in the UK. The increased use of electronic and internet banking by consumers and businesses has led to significant growth in the use of electronic payments.

Liquidity Management

UK-based companies have access to a variety of short-term funding alternatives. There is also a range of short-term investment instruments available.

Cash concentration is a widely available technique used by British companies to manage company and group liquidity. Zero, target and threshold balancing are all commonly available techniques offered by both domestic and foreign banks.

Notional pooling is available in the UK. Both resident and non-resident bank accounts can participate in a notional cash pooling structure located in the UK.

Trade Finance

The UK applies the European Union (EU) customs code and all its associated regulations and commercial policies. All trade is free from restriction between the UK and its fellow European Economic Area (EEA) member states.

PNC's International Services

PNC can bring together treasury management, foreign exchange, trade finance and credit capabilities to support your international needs in a coordinated and collaborative way.

International Funds Transfers

PINACLE®, PNC's top-rated, online corporate banking portal provides access to International Funds Transfers to more than 130 countries in U.S. dollars and foreign currencies.

Multicurrency Accounts

Demand deposit accounts that hold foreign currency instead of U.S. dollars offer a simple and integrated way to manage and move money denominated in more than 30 currencies, including offshore Chinese Renminbi. In addition, our EUR and GBP multicurrency accounts (MCAs) are able to receive payments via the local payment systems, SEPA and BACS/ FPS, respectively. You can easily view deposit and withdrawal details through PINACLE.

PNC Bank Canada Branch ("PNC Canada")

PNC Bank, through its full service branch in Canada, can help you succeed in this important market. PNC Canada offers a full suite of products including payables, receivables, lending, and specialized financing to help streamline cross border operations. We offer a comprehensive treasury management platform in Canada including U.S. dollar and Canadian dollar accounts, payment initiation services (ACH, wire and check), receivables (A/R Advantage lockbox, branch deposits, electronic payments) and information reporting (with previous day through PINACLE®).

Multibank Services

PNC's Multibank Services provide you with balances and activity for all your accounts held with PNC and other financial institutions around the world. PINACLE's Information Reporting module can give you a quick snapshot of your international cash position, including U.S. dollar equivalent value, using indicative exchange rates for all your account balances. You can also initiate Multibank Transfer Requests (MT101s), and reduce the time and expense associated with subscribing to a number of balance reporting and transaction systems.

Establish accounts in foreign countries

Establishing good banking relationships in the countries where you do business can help you simplify your international transactions. PNC offers two service models to help you open and manage accounts at other banks in countries outside the United States.

- PNC Gateway Direct comprises an increasing number of banks located in many European countries and parts of Latin America. PNC's team will serve as a point of contact for setting up the account, help with any language and time barriers and will continue to serve as an intermediary between you and the bank you select. You can access reporting and make transfers via PINACLE.
- PNC's Gateway Referral service can help you connect to a correspondent banking network that comprises more than 1,200 relationships in 115 countries.

Foreign Exchange Risk Management

PNC's senior foreign exchange consultants can help you develop a strategy to mitigate the risk of exchange rate swings so you can more effectively secure pricing and costs, potentially increasing profits and reducing expenses.

Trade Services

PNC's Import, Export, and Standby Letters of Credit can deliver security and convenience, along with the backing of an institution with unique strengths in the international banking arena. PNC also provides Documentary Collections services to both importers and exporters, helping to reduce payment risk and control the exchange of shipping documents. We assign an experienced international trade expert to each account, so you always know your contact at PNC and receive best-in-class service. And PNC delivers it all to your computer through advanced technology, resulting in fast and efficient transaction initiation and tracking.

Trade Finance

For more than 30 years, PNC has worked with the Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank) and consistently ranks as a top originator of loans backed by the Ex-Im Bank both by dollar volume and number of transactions.

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Disclosure

PNC, PNC Bank, ACHIEVEMENT, PINACLE, Working Cash, ActivePay, Global Trade Excellence, Vested Interest, Midland Loan Services, Enterprise!, CMBS Investor Insight, Portfolio Investor Insight, Borrower Insight, Shared Servicing, PNC Riverarch Capital, and PNC Erieview Capital are registered marks of The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. ("PNC"). PNC Retirement Solutions is a service mark of PNC.

Bank deposit, treasury management and lending products and services, foreign exchange and derivative products (including commodity derivatives), and investment and wealth management and fiduciary services, are provided by PNC Bank, National Association ("PNC Bank"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of PNC and **Member FDIC**. Certain fiduciary and agency services are provided by PNC Delaware Trust Company.

Important Investor Information: Securities, insurance, foreign exchange, and derivative products are:

Not FDIC Insured • Not Bank Guaranteed • Not A Deposit **Not Insured By Any Federal Government Agency • May Lose Value**

In Canada, PNC Bank Canada Branch, the Canadian branch of PNC Bank, provides bank deposit, treasury management, lending (including asset-based lending) and leasing products and services. Deposits with PNC Bank Canada Branch are not insured by The Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation or by the United States Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Lending, leasing and equity products and services, as well as certain other banking products and services, require credit approval.

PNC does not provide legal, tax or accounting advice unless, with respect to tax advice, PNC Bank has entered into a written tax services agreement.

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Contents

Financial Environment

Country Information

Geographical Information

Capital	London
Area	243,610 km^2
Population	65.11 million
Official languages	English, Welsh, Scottish Gaelic, Cornish, Irish
Political leaders	Head of State — Queen Elizabeth II (since February 6, 1952) Head of Government — Prime Minister Theresa May (since July 13, 2016)

Business Information

Currency (+ SWIFT code)	Pound sterling (GBP)
Business/Banking hours	09:00–17:00 (Mon–Fri)
Bank holidays	2019 — April 19, 22, May 6, 27, August 26, December 25, 26 2020 — January 1, April 10, 13, May 4, 25, August 31, December 25, 28 2021 — January 1, April 2, 5, May 3, 31, August 30, December 27, 28 Source: www.goodbusinessday.com
International dialing code	+ 44

UNITED KINGDOM

Country Credit Rating

FitchRatings last rated United Kingdom on October 26, 2018 for issuer default as:

Term	Issuer Default Rating
Short	F1 +
Long	AA
Long-term rating outlook	Negative

Source: www.fitchratings.com, February 2019.

Economic Statistics

Economics Table

		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
GDP per capita	(USD)	41,282	41,904	45,878	44,037	37,802
GDP	(GBP billion)	1,655	1,713	1,791	1,864	1,940
GDP	(USD billion)	2,624	2,680	2,951	2,850	2,487
GDP volume growth*	(%)	+ 1.5	+ 2.1	+ 3.1	+ 2.3	+ 1.9
BoP (goods, services & income) as % GDP		– 2.4	– 2.9	– 3.3	– 4.1	– 3.3
Consumer inflation*	(%)	+ 2.8	+ 2.6	+ 1.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.6
Population	(million)	63.57	63.96	64.33	64.72	65.79
Unemployment	(%)	8.0	7.6	6.2	5.4	4.9
Interest rate (local currency MMR)†	(%)	0.48	0.45	0.41	0.39	0.30
Exchange rate‡	(USD per GBP)†	1.5853	1.5645	1.6474	1.5290	1.2821

		2017	2018			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
GDP per capita	(USD)	39,691	–	–	–	–
GDP	(GBP billion)	2,041	–	–	–	–
GDP	(USD billion)	2,627	–	–	–	–
GDP volume growth*	(%)	+ 1.8	+ 2.2	+ 0.9	+ 1.1	NA
BoP (goods, services & income) as % GDP		– 3.0	–	–	–	–
Consumer inflation*	(%)	+ 2.6	+ 2.5	+ 2.3	+ 2.3	+ 2.1
Population	(million)	66.18	–	–	–	–
Unemployment	(%)	4.4	4.1	NA	NA	NA
Interest rate (local currency MMR)†	(%)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Exchange rate‡	(USD per GBP)†	1.2870	1.3908	1.3605	1.3038	1.2853

*Year on year. †Period average. ‡Market rate.

Sources: *International Financial Statistics*, IMF, February 2019 and 2018 Yearbook.

Sectoral Contribution as a % of GDP

Agriculture – 0.7%

Industry – 20.2%

Services – 79.2% (2017 estimate)

Major Export Markets

USA (13.2%), Germany (10.5%), France (7.4%), Netherlands (6.2%), Ireland (5.6%), China (4.8%), Switzerland (4.5%)

Major Import Sources

Germany (13.7%), USA (9.5%), China (9.3%), Netherlands (8%), France (5.4%), Belgium (5%)

Political and Economic Background

Economics

Interest Rate Management Policy

The UK's interest rate is set through the mechanism of the Bank of England. Its main objective is to maintain price stability, defined by the British government as keeping inflation at around 2%. Interest rates are set at monthly meetings of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

Foreign Exchange Rate Management Policy

The pound sterling (GBP) is a free floating currency. The GBP exchange rate is determined through supply and demand in the foreign exchange market. The Bank of England is permitted to intervene to moderate volatile fluctuations in the exchange rate.

Major Economic Issues

The UK is one of the world's largest economies through its position as a highly competitive, services-oriented economy, particularly within the financial and insurance sectors.

The UK's main economic concern is the impact of high levels of both consumer and government debt, as well as a slower than expected return to normal lending, on economic growth. Low productivity, relative inequality and uncertainty surrounding the UK's exit from the European Union (EU) are also causes of concern. Annual GDP growth fell from 1.8% in 2017 to 1.4% in 2018, the lowest level since 2012, as Brexit uncertainty and the global slowdown weighed on the UK's economy. Inflation stood at 1.8% in January 2019, down from 2.1% in December 2018 and below the Bank of England's target of 2% for the first time in two years. The inflation rate is currently well below its recent peak of 3.1% in November 2017 but still higher than the pre-Brexit vote period.

In November 2017, the Bank of England increased its benchmark interest rate for the first time in a decade, from 0.25% to 0.5%, in an attempt to control inflation. The move reversed the cut made in August 2016 in the wake of the Brexit vote. In August 2018, the central bank raised its benchmark rate to 0.75%, the highest level since 2009, saying that the economy had bounced back from weaker-than-expected economic performance in early 2018, and its focus should move to taming inflation rather than supporting jobs growth. The Bank of England also said that future rises "are likely to be at a gradual pace and to a limited extent" but signalled willingness to reverse the increase in case of a disorderly Brexit.

The government deficit fell to 2% of GDP in the 2017-18 fiscal year, down from 10% in 2010 and the lowest level in 16 years. In October 2018, the Conservative government delivered an unexpectedly generous Autumn Budget, promising that its eight-year austerity program is coming to an end with lower taxes and more public spending. However, the government also conceded that the implementation of many of the measures outlined in the package will depend on the outcome of the Brexit negotiations.

In October 2018, the OBR slightly lowered its growth forecast for 2018 from 1.5% to 1.3%, lifted its prediction for growth in 2019 and 2020 from at 1.3% to 1.6% and 1.4%, respectively, and kept its forecast for 2021 unchanged at 1.4%. The government expects the budget deficit to stand at 1.3% in 2018-2019, 1.6% in 2019-2020 and 1.3% in 2020-2021.

Politics

Government Structure

Political power is divided between the government and the bicameral Houses of Parliament in the UK.

The national government is based in London.

There are four elected regional governments, within which autonomous governing powers vary.

- The Scottish Parliament – the 129-member parliament is elected every four years through a combination of simple majority voting (73 constituencies) and proportional representation (56 regional members). It is able to pass primary legislation on health, education, local government, housing, tourism, economic development, and most aspects of criminal and civil law. It has some powers to vary taxes.
- The National Assembly for Wales – the 60-member assembly is elected every four years through a combination of simple majority voting (40 constituencies) and by regional closed lists using an alternative member system (20 regional members). It is able to pass primary legislation on specific matters not explicitly reserved to the UK Parliament.
- The Northern Ireland Assembly – the 108-member assembly is elected for five-year terms via proportional representation. It is able to pass primary legislation on specific matters not explicitly reserved to the UK Parliament.
- The London Assembly– the Greater London Authority's 25-member assembly is elected every four years through a combination of simple majority voting (14 constituencies) and proportional representation (11 London regional members). Its purpose is to examine the work of the mayor, who is directly elected every four years and has some responsibility for transport, emergency services and economic development in London.

The UK also operates two systems of local government: unitary authorities and two-tier county and district councils.

The constitutional monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, is the head of state. Her role is essentially ceremonial, although she does have the right to be consulted, to advise and to warn the prime minister on government policy.

Executive

At national level, the government is headed by the prime minister and the cabinet. The prime minister forms a government with the support of the lower House of Commons, but is formally asked to form a government by the Queen. The government is formed by the majority party in the Parliament's lower house, the House of Commons.

The current Conservative Party administration is headed by Prime Minister Theresa May.

Legislature

The UK's bicameral parliament consists of the upper House of Lords and lower House of Commons.

The 805-member House of Lords is composed of 90 hereditary peers, 26 archbishops and bishops from the Church of England and 689 life peers. The House of Lords Act 1999 abolished the right of most hereditary peers to sit in the House of Lords and replaced them with government-appointed peers who serve for their lifetime. The House of Lords has the power to delay legislation introduced in the House of Commons, but not the veto power. It has no power over finance bills.

The 650-member House of Commons is directly elected at least every five years through simple majority voting in single member constituencies. The next election is to be held by May 5, 2022.

International memberships

The UK is currently a member of the European Union (EU) but voted in a June 2016 national referendum to leave. The government invoked Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, which formally began the UK's withdrawal from the EU, on March 29, 2017.

The UK is also a member of the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the G-7 and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Major Political Issues

A referendum on the UK's continued membership of the EU was held on June 23, 2016. The people of the United Kingdom voted to leave the EU by 51.9% to 48.1% on a national turnout of 72% (the highest ever for a UK-wide referendum). After campaigning for the UK to remain in the EU, David Cameron resigned as Prime Minister. He was replaced by Theresa May on July 13, 2016. Theresa May has appointed several prominent "Brexit" advocates to key government positions responsible for negotiating the UK's withdrawal.

The government triggered Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty on March 29, 2017. Article 50 is the mechanism through which the UK can leave the EU. It provides a period of two years before the UK leaves the EU. At the end of Article 50 talks with the EU, the UK Parliament will get to vote on any deal struck with EU negotiators, however they will be unable to veto Brexit. If a majority of MPs reject the deal, the UK will leave the EU regardless and would trade with the EU under World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules.

In April 2017, Theresa May called a snap general election for June 8, 2017, despite having pledged several times after taking office in 2016 not to call an early election. Ms May claimed that disagreement in parliament over the terms of Brexit risks hampering the negotiations and wanted a fresh mandate to reinforce her ability to negotiate a transition to a new trade deal with the EU.

The Conservative Party, which had a small majority in the previous parliament, won the most seats, but lost their majority in what is seen as a humiliating election result for Ms. May, who had expected to increase her majority. However, Theresa May remained as prime minister, after a majority coalition government was agreed between the Conservatives (317 seats) and Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) (10 seats).

The opposition Labour Party, which had collapsed in the polls since the previous general election, affected by infighting over its divisive leader Jeremy Corbyn, run an effective campaign, pledging to nationalize key industries, scrap tuition fees and reverse a series of benefit cuts, and made an unexpected net gain of 30 seats, taking its total from 232 to 262 seats.

In November 2018, the government's deal on the UK's withdrawal from the EU, which would be legally-binding if ratified by the UK and European parliaments, and a political declaration on the future relationship between the EU and the UK, which does not have legal force, were approved by EU leaders. In January 2019, the House of Commons overwhelmingly rejected the deal in a historic vote. At the end of the month, Ms May, who had survived two votes of no confidence, won the backing of legislators to replace her backstop with alternative arrangements in an attempt to keep the Irish border open after Brexit. In February 2019, Ms May delayed the second vote on her Brexit deal in the House of Commons to no later than March 12, 2019, claiming progress was being made in her negotiations with the EU to secure the necessary changes to her deal to gain parliamentary support. At the end of February 2019, Ms May, amid the threat of a revolt by Remain-supporting ministers, said that if her deal is rejected in March 2019, MPs will be offered the choice of a no-deal Brexit or delaying the UK's departure from the EU, in a first significant concession that Brexit could take place after March 29, 2019. The move involves two separate votes, with the first on March 13, on whether MPs support a no-deal Brexit. If that is rejected, they will then be offered a vote on the following day on extending Article 50.

The constitutional position of Scotland remains an important political issue for the UK as a whole. The Scottish National Party (SNP), which favors independence from the UK, won a majority in the Scottish Parliament for the first time in the May 2011 election. In a referendum held in September 2014, voters rejected independence with a 55% "No" vote on an 85% turnout. However, further powers, including powers over taxation and welfare have been devolved to the Scottish Parliament through the Scotland Act 2016.

The threat posed by international terrorism continues to be a concern. A terrorist attack on a music concert in Manchester on May 22, 2017, resulted in a number of fatalities and injuries, including to children. The UK government responded by raising the security threat level from "severe" to "critical", meaning that another attack was "expected imminently". The threat level has since been reduced to "severe".

Taxation

Resident/Non-resident

A company is considered to be resident if it is incorporated in or is centrally managed and controlled in the UK, unless it is regarded as resident in another country under a double taxation treaty.

Tax Authority

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC).

Tax Year / Filing

The corporation tax assessment is based on the company's accounting year and is charged at the average corporation tax rate for the period.

The UK operates a self-assessment regime. The tax return is due to be filed within 12 months of the period end. Mandatory online filing of all company tax return applies.

In general, large companies (broadly those with annual profits exceeding GBP 1.5 million) pay corporation tax in quarterly instalments starting in month seven of their accounting period. For accounting periods commencing on or after April 1, 2019, "very large companies" with taxable profits exceeding GBP 20 million will pay tax in quarterly instalments starting in month three of the accounting period. Small companies pay corporation tax in a single payment nine months after the end of the year.

All companies file separate tax returns. However, losses may be 'group relieved' between UK group companies (broadly, where one is a 75% subsidiary of another or both are 75% subsidiaries of the same corporate parent in terms of share ownership, rights to income and rights on a winding up, taking account of direct and indirect holdings. There are other group rules that apply to capital gains allowing, for example, the intragroup transfer of assets at no gain/no loss for tax purposes or the transfer of gains/losses between group members.

Corporate Taxation

A UK resident company is subject to corporation tax on worldwide profits and gains (see below), with credit given for overseas taxes paid. Foreign profits and losses (including those from certain capital assets) arising from a permanent establishment (PE) of a UK resident company may be excluded by making an irrevocable election. The effect of the election may be deferred where the PE has incurred a loss. Anti-diversion rules based on the CFC rules (see "Controlled foreign companies," below) may restrict the profits that can be excluded from the charge to UK tax by virtue of the election.

A non-resident company is subject to tax only in respect of UK-source profits, which include the income of a UK PE of the non-resident, income and certain gains from UK real estate, certain UK-source interest income and gains on assets used for the purposes of a PE's trade.

The main rate of corporation tax is 19%, reducing to 17% as from April 1, 2020. The main rate does not apply to “ring fence” profits from oil rights and extraction.

A 25% rate applies as from April 1, 2015 where multinational companies use artificial arrangements to divert profits overseas to avoid UK tax.

For disposals prior to April 6, 2019, a 28% rate can apply to gains that arise on disposal of UK residential property where the gain is ATED-related (see “Capital gains”, below). Exemptions from the ATED-related capital gains charge are available in various circumstances.

There is no surtax or alternative minimum tax.

Where an accounting period straddles March 31, it will fall into two financial years; therefore the profits of the company must be time-apportioned between the two years, and tax for each portion calculated at the rate relevant to that financial year.

A dividend exemption applies to most dividends and distributions unless received by a bank, insurance company or other financial trader. Dividends received by a non-small UK company on most ordinary shares and many dividends on non-ordinary shares from another company (UK or foreign) are exempt from UK corporation tax, with no minimum ownership period or minimum ownership level. The exemption also can apply to small companies receiving dividends and distributions from UK companies or foreign companies resident in a jurisdiction that has concluded a tax treaty with the UK which includes a non-discrimination provision. (A small company is a “micro or small enterprise,” as defined by the EU).

Trading losses generally can offset total profits of the year (including capital gains), with carryback of the excess to the preceding year permitted. Trading losses arising before April 1, 2017 may be carried forward indefinitely and offset against future trading profits only. Trading losses arising after April 1, 2017, generally can be carried forward indefinitely and offset against any profits, or group relieved. In both cases, carried forward losses are restricted to 50% of profits above a groupwide GBP 5 million per year. If there is a change of ownership of the company and a major change in the nature and conduct of the trade within specified time limits, trading losses may be lost. Capital losses may be offset only against capital gains and may only be carried forward.

An enhanced tax deduction of 230% is available for certain R&D expenditure for small or medium-sized companies.

Large companies can claim an “above the line” R&D credit at a rate of 12% as from January 1, 2018.

A patent box regime allows companies to elect to apply a preferential rate of corporation tax of 10% to all profits attributable to qualifying patents.

There are also creative industry tax reliefs of up to an additional 100% deduction for qualifying expenditure on film production, animation, video gaming, high end television broadcasts (including children’s television programs), orchestral concerts and and theatrical productions.

Anti-avoidance Rules

There are many specific anti-avoidance rules.

A general anti-abuse rule (GAAR) applies across a wide range of taxes, including corporation tax, income tax, capital gains tax and stamp duty. The legislation gives the UK tax authorities power to potentially apply the GAAR to counteract tax advantages arising from tax arrangements that are abusive.

Advance Tax Ruling Availability

UK taxpayers may apply for advance pricing agreements as well as clearances from HMRC. Except where a clearance mechanism is available by statute, clearances (known as non-statutory clearances) may be applied for where it can be demonstrated that there is material uncertainty and the issue is commercially significant or the legislation is less than four years old. UK tax legislation includes a number of anti-avoidance provisions for which advance statutory clearance may be sought. Also, under a non-statutory clearance procedure, the UK tax authorities' view of the tax consequences of specific transactions can be sought, on a named basis, with full disclosure, where there is both commercial and material uncertainty.

Withholding Tax (Subject to Tax Treaties)

Payments to:	Interest	Dividends	Royalties	Other income	Branch Remittances
Resident companies	None	None	None	None	NA
Non-resident companies	0% / 20%	None	0% / 20%	None	None

Interest paid to a non-resident is subject to 20% withholding tax, unless the rate is reduced under a tax treaty or the interest is exempt under the EU interest and royalties directive. The continuing application of the directive after March 29, 2019 is dependent upon the outcome of ongoing negotiations in connection with the UK's withdrawal from the EU. A reduction of the withholding tax rate under a tax treaty is not automatic; advance clearance must be granted by the UK tax authorities.

There typically is no withholding tax on dividends paid by UK companies under domestic law, although a 20% withholding tax generally applies to distributions paid by a REIT from its tax-exempt rental profits (subject to relief under a tax treaty).

Royalties paid to a non-resident are subject to 20% withholding tax, unless the rate is reduced under a tax treaty or the royalties are exempt under the EU interest and royalties directive. The continuing application of the directive after March 29, 2019 is dependent upon the outcome of ongoing negotiations in connection with the UK's withdrawal from the EU. Advance clearance is not required to apply a reduced treaty rate.

Transfer Pricing

Comprehensive transfer pricing provisions apply to transactions with both domestic and foreign companies.

The UK transfer pricing rules follow OECD principles.

The rules include a requirement to prepare documentation to demonstrate compliance with the arm's length standard.

Advance pricing agreements are possible in certain situations.

Thin Capitalization

The arm's length principle applies.

There are no 'safe harbor' provisions.

There is a limit on deductions that can be taken for financing costs. These "interest deduction" rules broadly apply where the aggregate tax deductions for net financing costs of UK group companies exceed either 30% of tax EBITDA or, if the taxpayer so elects, the ratio of group net interest expense compared to accounting EBITDA (capped at 100%). There is a de minimis exemption from the interest restriction rules, under which the first GDP 2 million of interest expense is allowable. Where certain conditions are satisfied, restricted interest can be carried forward and deducted in future periods if additional capacity arises. Unused interest capacity can be carried forward for five years.

Controlled Foreign Companies

CFC provisions are applicable where, broadly, a UK company has a direct or indirect interest of at least 25% in a non-resident company that is controlled by UK residents (or associates of UK residents). The regime operates on an income stream basis. There is a "gateway" test and a number of provisions that may apply to exempt a company from the rules. Where the CFC rules do apply, the relevant profits of the CFC are computed as though it were UK resident and its UK shareholder is subject to tax accordingly. In addition, an overseas finance company can be fully or partially exempt from a CFC charge on profits derived from certain overseas group financing arrangements. The partial exemption works by taxing 25% of the finance company profits at the main corporate tax rate (resulting in an effective rate of 4.75% based on a main rate of 19%).

Disclosure Requirements

Certain tax arrangements that result in a UK tax advantage and fall within prescribed hallmarks must be disclosed to the UK tax authorities by, for example, a promoter and the user must note the use of such arrangements on the tax return. Certain international arrangements implemented from June 25, 2018, also may need to be disclosed under EU mandatory disclosure rules, with the first disclosures commencing in 2020. Separately, certain transactions valued at more than

GBP 100 million must be reported to the UK tax authorities within six months of the transaction; these include, for example, the issue of shares or debentures by, or the transfer or permitting the transfer of shares or debentures of, a foreign subsidiary of a UK company. There is a list of excluded transactions that do not need to be reported.

The UK has implemented country-by-country reporting requirements under the OECD BEPS project that apply to groups with consolidated revenue of EUR 750 million in the previous year. Under UK rules, a report must be filed with the UK tax authorities within 12 months of the end of the fiscal year of the group.

Stamp Duty

Stamp duty arises on instruments of transfer relating to "stock and marketable securities" and is charged at a rate of 0.5% of the consideration provided in the form of cash, shares or debt. Stamp duty reserve tax (SDRT) arises on agreements to transfer "chargeable securities" at a rate of 0.5% of any consideration provided in the form of "money or money's worth."

Loan capital is generally exempt from stamp duty and out of the scope of SDRT unless it is in some way equity-related, for example convertible into equity, or carries a return relating to profits, an interest rate that exceeds a reasonable commercial return, or a right to repayment that exceeds the nominal and is not commercially comparable.

A charge to SDRT at 1.5% may also arise on entry to certain systems, e.g. on the transfer of UK shares to clearing services or national securities depositaries.

Stamp duty land tax (SDLT) is charged on transfers of UK real property. Land and buildings transaction tax (LBTT) is charged instead of SDLT on Scottish property.

For residential property, SDLT rates are between 0% and 12% (increased to 15% for certain property), depending on the value of the property. The rates for non-residential property are 0% to 5%. A 15% rate applies to purchases of residential property valued at more than GBP 500,000 by companies and certain other vehicles, though relief from the 15% rate is available for some businesses.

In certain circumstances, transfers within a tax group may be free from stamp duty/SDLT.

VAT/TVA (including Financial Services)

VAT is a transaction tax levied on supplies of taxable goods and services. VAT is intended to tax final consumers, and therefore businesses typically act as collectors of the tax through the charges made to customers, and recover it (to the extent they are permitted) on expenses incurred in the course of their business.

The standard rate of UK VAT is 20%. A reduced rate of 5% (on domestic fuel and power, for example) and a zero rate (on transport, food, books and medicines, for example) apply to certain supplies (seen to be in the public interest).

The supply of certain services is exempt from VAT, e.g. supplies relating to land, education and health, as well as supplies within the financial services and insurance sectors. Suppliers of exempt services are not entitled to recover VAT they incur which is linked to the supply of those exempt services (unlike businesses that make taxable supplies). Suppliers that make both taxable and exempt supplies are entitled to recover part of the input tax they incur, calculated based on the proportion of taxable supplies made (including supplies made to non-UK counterparties that would be taxable if made to UK counterparties, as well as many exempt supplies made to non-EU counterparties). It should be noted that Insurance Premium Tax (IPT) may be due on VAT-exempt supplies of insurance.

Businesses are required to register for VAT where the value of taxable supplies made exceeds GBP 85,000 (tax year 2018/19) in a 12-month period or where the business expects that its taxable supplies will exceed this threshold within the next 30 days. Voluntary registration is possible for businesses making taxable supplies below this threshold. VAT reporting to HMRC is performed using a VAT return, which is typically submitted on a quarterly basis. Other related compliance obligations also exist for certain businesses, e.g. those involved in cross-border transactions.

Deregistration is possible if taxable supplies fall below GDP 83,000 (for 2018/19). If a business does not have a place of business in the UK, the registration threshold does not apply. The registration date will be the earlier of the date the business makes taxable supplies in the UK or the date the business expects it will make taxable supplies in the next 30 days.

Tax Treaties/Tax Information Exchange Agreements (TIEAs)

The UK has tax treaties with 127 countries. Different rates of withholding tax can apply to interest and royalties, depending on the terms of the agreement with the particular country.

The UK has exchange of information relationships with 146 jurisdictions through 129 double tax treaties and 26 TIEAs and one multilateral mechanism (www.eoi-tax.org, February 2019).

In January 2016, the UK, as part of the OECD/G20 Base Erosion and Profit Shift (BEPS) initiative, signed a multilateral co-operation agreement with 30 other countries (“the MCAA”). Under this multilateral agreement, information will be exchanged between tax administrations, giving them a single, global picture on some key indicators of economic activity within multinational enterprises (MNE).

With Country-by-Country reporting tax administrations of jurisdictions where a company operates will have aggregate information annually relating to the global allocation of income and taxes paid, together with other indicators of the location of economic activity within the MNE group. It will also cover information about which entities do business in a particular jurisdiction and the business activities each entity engages in. The information will be collected by the country of residence of the MNE group, and will then be exchanged through exchange of information supported by such agreements as the MCAA. First exchanges under the MCAA will start in 2017-2018 on 2016 information.

There are currently 104 signatory countries, including:-

- Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

Insurance Premium Tax

Insurance premium tax (IPT) is charged on most insurance premiums, such as motor, accident, medical, liability, building and travel insurance, where the risk is located in the UK. Certain insurance contracts are exempt from IPT, including reinsurance, life insurance and other "long-term" insurance.

Any company receiving premiums in the course of a taxable business must register with HMRC. The rate of IPT is 12% on the gross premium received, although a higher rate (20%) applies to certain insurance contracts, such as travel insurance and insurance sold by intermediaries in connection with the supply of domestic goods and motor cars or motor cycles.

Capital Gains Tax

Capital gains form part of a company's taxable profits. Gains or losses on the disposal of substantial shareholdings in both UK and foreign companies can be exempt. The main conditions, broadly, require the selling company to have continuously owned at least 10% of the shares of the company being sold for at least 12 in the six years the 24 months before disposal and the selling company/company being sold both must be trading or members the holding company of a trading group (without, to a substantial extent, any non-trading activities) for at least 12 months before the disposal (24 months longer in some cases) and immediately after the disposal. When an election has been made to exclude the profits of PEs (see "Corporate tax" above), the exclusion also may apply to gains and losses of certain capital assets of the PE. In certain circumstances, the company being sold also must be either trading or the holding company of a trading group immediately after the disposal. There is a broader exemption for certain "qualifying institutional investors". A non-resident company generally is not subject to tax on its capital gains unless the asset is held through a UK PE or, in certain cases, where UK residential property is owned. Where an election has been made to exclude the profits of Pes, the exclusion also may apply to gains and losses of certain capital assets of the PE.

From April 2019, gains from the disposal of UK property and certain UK property-related investment assets by non-residents are subject to UK tax. For pre-April 2019 disposals, the scope of the charge is restricted to disposals of UK residential property only, and to narrower categories of non-resident person.

Financial Transactions/Banking Services Tax

There are no specific financial transactions taxes.

The UK bank levy is a tax on bank balance sheets; bank liabilities are taxed at a rate of 0.16%. The rate is halved for long-term borrowing, 0.08%. There is no charge on the first GDP 20 billion of chargeable liabilities.

Cash Pooling

There are no specific tax rules for cash pooling arrangements.

Property Taxes

The national non-domestic rate is payable by occupiers of business premises. Local authorities collect the tax by charging a uniform business rate, which is deductible in computing income subject to corporation tax. Council tax applies to the occupation of domestic property.

The annual tax on enveloped dwellings (ATED) is an annual tax charge that applies where companies and certain other entities own UK residential property worth more than GBP 500,000, regardless of the residence of the entity owning the property. The amount of ATED payable depends on the property value band in which the property is classified. Reliefs from ATED are available where, broadly, the property is used for buisness purposes and is not occupied by a person connected with the company or other entity which owns the property.

Stamp duty land tax (SDLT) and the Scottish LBTT is charged on transfers of UK real property.

Payroll and Social Security Taxes

There is no payroll tax payable by employers.

Except where stated otherwise, all rates and limits relate to the 2018-19 tax year.

Under the PAYE (pay as you earn) system, tax on employment income is withheld by employers from employees' pay, as they earn it, and remitted to HMRC. This includes income tax and social security contributions (National Insurance Contributions – NIC).

NIC is payable by employers, employees and self-employed individuals.

Employers must pay NIC in respect of every director and employee whose earnings exceed a specified earnings threshold. For earnings in excess of GBP 162 per week, the amount payable by the employer is 13.8% of total earnings. Lower rates apply where the individual is contracted out of the State Second Pension under a salary-related pension scheme.

Employees pay NIC at a rate of 12% on earnings in excess of GBP 162 per week and at 2% on earnings above GBP 892 per week. Lower rates apply where the individual is contracted out of the State Second Pension, although this is not available for defined contribution schemes.

Self-employed individuals pay NIC at a rate of 9% on annual income between GBP 8,424 and GBP 46,350 and 2% on the excess, together with a fixed charge of GBP 2.95 per week.

All tax information supplied by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu and Deloitte Highlight 2019 (www.deloitte.com).

Cash Management

Banking System

Banking Regulation

Banking Supervision

Central bank

The UK's central bank is the Bank of England. It was established in 1694 and is based in the City of London. Its authority currently derives from the 1998 Bank of England Act.

Within the UK, it is the banker to the national government and to other banks. It issues currency, manages the country's monetary reserves and is responsible for financial stability, including acting as lender of last resort. It also sets interest rates. Its main responsibility is to maintain price stability through the operation of monetary policy. Price stability is defined as keeping the consumer price index close to 2% in the medium term.

Though not a member of the eurozone, it is a member of the General Council of the European Central Bank.

Other banking supervision bodies

The independent Financial Services Authority (FSA) was abolished on April 1, 2013; the independent Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) has assumed responsibility for policing the City of London and the banking sector; while the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA), a part of the Bank of England, has assumed responsibility for the prudential regulation and supervision of the banking sector; the Bank of England's Financial Policy Committee has assumed all other responsibilities.

UK Financial Investments (UKFI) is a government-run agency responsible for monitoring the activities of banks that have received government funding.

Central Bank Reporting

General

The UK does not apply central bank reporting requirements.

Exchange Controls

Exchange structure

The UK's official currency is the pound sterling (GBP). The value of the GBP is determined freely in the foreign exchange market, based on supply and demand. The GBP has a free floating exchange rate structure.

Standing reciprocal currency swap arrangements are currently in place between the Bank of England, the European Central Bank, the Bank of Canada, the Bank of Japan, the Federal Reserve, and the Swiss National Bank. The standing arrangements comprise a network of bilateral liquidity swap lines agreement among the six central banks and are to remain in place until further notice.

Exchange tax

There is no exchange tax.

Exchange subsidy

There is no exchange subsidy.

Forward foreign exchange market

There are no restrictions on forward foreign exchange operations.

Capital flows

There are restrictions on foreign investment in broadcasting, shipping and air transportation.

Loans, interest and repayments

There are no controls on the provision of loans by commercial banks.

Royalties and other fees

There are no restrictions.

Profit remittance

There are no restrictions on the remittance of profits into or out of the UK.

Bank Account Rules

Resident entities are permitted to hold fully convertible foreign currency bank accounts domestically and outside the UK, and fully convertible domestic currency (GBP) bank accounts outside the UK.

Non-resident entities are permitted to hold fully convertible domestic and foreign currency bank accounts within the UK and GBP bank accounts outside the UK.

To open a bank account, a company must supply a list of authorized signatories and a copy of its registration documents along with the appropriate account opening documentation and proof of identity of the person who is to operate the account.

The Payments Council launched the Current Account Switch Service on September 16, 2013 which enables current account holders to switch banks within seven working days. Forty-four banks and building societies are currently participants, covering over 99% of UK current accounts.

Anti-money Laundering and Counter-terrorist Financing

- The UK has enacted anti-money laundering legislation, including legislation implementing the first four EU anti-money laundering directives and counter-terrorist financing legislation (the Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Transfer of Funds (Information on the Payer)

Regulations 2017, which transpose the 4th EU anti-money laundering directive into UK law, the Terrorism Act 2000, as amended by the Anti-Terrorism; Crime and Security Act 2001 and the Terrorism Act 2006; the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002; the Serious Crime Act 2015; the Counter Terrorism Act 2008, as amended, and the Terrorist Asset-Freezing Act of 2010). The Joint Money Laundering Steering Group has also issued a series of Guidance Notes. The 5th EU Anti-Money Laundering Directive (Directive (EU) 2018/843) entered into force on July 9, 2018, amending the 4th EU Anti-Money Laundering Directive, and member states must transpose this Directive into national law by January 10, 2020. It may have to be transposed in full by the UK during the post-Brexit transitional period.

- A Financial Action Task Force (FATF) member, the UK observes most of the FATF+49 standards. The UK is also a member of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) as a Co-operating and Supporting Nation, and has observer status of the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), the Eurasian Group on Money Laundering (EAG) and the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG).
- The UK has established a financial intelligence unit (FIU), housed within the National Crime Agency (NCA), which is a member of the Egmont Group.
- Account opening procedures require formal identification of the account holder.
- Beneficial owners must also be identified and have their identity verified by taking adequate measures on a risk-sensitive basis.
- All financial institutions are required to adopt a risk-based approach to ongoing customer due diligence.
- All financial institutions have to identify clients in respect of any individual or aggregated transactions, where the amount involved is equal to or greater than EUR 15,000.
- Relationships with shell banks are prohibited.
- Financial institutions in the broadest sense are required to record and report suspicious transactions to the UKFIU.
- Individuals entering or leaving the EU with EUR 10,000 or its equivalent in other currencies must make a written declaration to the customs authorities.
- All records must be kept for at least five years after the relationship has ended or the transaction has been completed.

Data as at February 2019.

Banking Sector Structure

Major Domestic Banks

Bank	Total assets (USD million) December 31, 2017
Barclays Bank	1,512,445
HSBC Bank	1,096,649
Lloyds Bank †	1,022,554*
Royal Bank of Scotland	972,595
Standard Chartered Bank	663,501
Bank of Scotland †	495,610
Santander UK	421,541
NatWest Bank	394,574**
Nationwide Building Society	275,709***
Credit Suisse International	249,440

† part of Lloyds Banking Group. *As at December 31, 2016. **As at December 31, 2018 ***As at April 4, 2017. Source: www.accuity.com

Overall Trend

The UK has 157 banks and 44 building societies in operation. There is a significant foreign banking presence in the UK and 160 foreign banks have established branches. There are also approximately 470 credit unions in the UK.

There are four main domestic banking groups, providing the full range of banking services to corporate clients – Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds Banking Group (Bank of Scotland and Lloyds Bank) and Royal Bank of Scotland. All the major international cash management banks are established in London and can provide banking services to multinational companies and international asset management clients.

The most significant consolidations involving domestic banks prior to the most recent banking crisis included HSBC's acquisition of Midland Bank in 1992, the merger of Halifax and Bank of Scotland (to become HBOS, now part of Lloyds Banking Group) in 2001, and Banco Santander's takeover of Abbey in 2004 (known as Santander UK since January 2010). Significant merger and acquisition activity since the recent banking crisis has included Banco Santander's takeover of Alliance & Leicester in October 2008 as well as its purchase of the fully nationalized Bradford & Bingley's branch network and savings book. After competition rules were waived, Lloyds TSB and HBOS merged in January 2009 to form Lloyds Banking Group.

Due to the global liquidity crisis, an emergency bailout of the UK banks was announced by the government in October 2008, providing recapitalization for the banks most affected by the crisis. The government has since provided additional funding, guarantees to savings customers and to banks against bad loans, and loan facilities to credit institutions and large companies. It has also enacted legislation permitting the Bank of England to provide undisclosed aid to struggling banks.

These measures resulted in the government part-nationalizing some banks, exchanging GBP 45.5 billion for a 79% stake (currently 62.4%) in the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) and GBP 20.3 billion for a 43% stake in Lloyds Banking Group. RBS agreed to participate in the Asset Protection Scheme launched by the government in February 2009. The scheme enables banks to transfer the risk of some of their assets to the government in order to strengthen their balance sheets. Lloyds decided against participating in the scheme in November 2009, preferring instead to raise capital from its shareholders through a GBP 22.5 billion recapitalization. The UK Financial Investments (UKFI), a government-run bank agency, has been responsible for monitoring the activities of the banks that have taken government funding. In May 2017, the government, which had been slowly selling down its stake in Lloyds since 2013, sold its remaining stake (0.25%) in Lloyds Banking Group, marking the group's return to full private ownership and the final stage in its recovery.

Other large UK banks such as Barclays, HSBC Bank, Santander UK and Standard Chartered Bank chose to seek additional capital from private investors.

On February 13, 2017, the Co-operative Bank announced that the bank was up for sale and they were inviting offers as well as considering other options to build capital, such as raising cash from investors. However, the plan was dropped after the bank's investors agreed to a GBP 700 million rescue plan, which will see them swap debt for a stake in the institution. As part of the deal, the Co-op Group's stake in the bank has dropped from 20% to about 1%.

As of January 1, 2019, Britain's largest banks (UK banks with a 3-year average of more than GBP 25 billion 'core deposits' [broadly from individuals and small to medium-sized businesses]) are required to run their retail banking arms as independent banks, as if they are entirely separate from their investment banking and overseas operations. These banks (currently, Barclays, Royal Bank of Scotland, HSBC, Lloyds Banking Group, Santander UK and Co-operative Bank) are expected to be required to hold GBP 3.3 billion of extra capital as part of ringfencing plans to separate retail banking from their riskier investment banking operations. The fact that EU and US regulated banks are not subject to ringfencing rules has led to concerns that foreign banks could have advantage over UK banks, which also have to deal with Brexit, when it comes to risk diversification.

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Payment Systems

Overview

The UK's four main payment systems are CHAPS, BACS, the Faster Payments Service and the C&CC system.

CHAPS is the country's high-value payment system, used for high-value and urgent electronic payments in GBP. It has been operated by the Bank of England since November 13, 2017. CHAPS uses an enhanced Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system where each individual payment is settled in real time across settlement accounts at the Bank of England.

The Bank of England has announced plans to develop a new generation of RTGS capable of supporting the future demands of a rapidly changing payments environment. It expects most of the enhanced functionality in the new system to be live by the end of 2020. As part of the RTGS renewal program, the Bank of England will implement ISO 20022 compliant messaging standards in the high-value payment system.

BACS is the country's main retail payment clearing system for electronic payments. BACS processes the majority of non-urgent and low-value payments. VocaLink handles the payments processing on behalf of BACS Payment Schemes Ltd (BPSL).

The Cheque and Credit Clearing (C&CC) system settles paper-based payments, such as checks and credit transfers, in Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) and is operated by the Cheque and Credit Clearing Company Ltd. Paper-based payments in Northern Ireland are settled within four days on a bilateral basis by the Belfast Bankers Clearing Company which has four member banks, i.e. Danske Bank (Northern Ireland), Ulster Bank, Bank of Ireland and First Trust Bank.

The Faster Payments Service clears customer-initiated electronic credit transfers (typically internet or telephone banking-initiated payments) and standing orders in near real-time. The system runs concurrently with BACS and CHAPS and began operations on May 27, 2008. All the UK retail payment systems (BACS, Faster Payments and the Cheque and Credit Clearing Company) are now operated by Pay.UK, which was set up in 2017 to develop the capability and capacity of the UK's retail payment systems and reduce the complexity and costs of having three separate retail payment system operators. Pay.UK has started work designing and developing a New Payments Architecture (NPA) for retail payments which will eventually replace BACS, Faster Payments Service and potentially, check payments.

In addition, some USD-denominated paper-based payment instruments (i.e. checks, drafts and mandated currency debits) which are drawn, or payable, at City of London branches of five UK clearing banks, can be cleared by the Cheque and Credit Clearing Company-operated Currency Clearings Committee scheme. Payments submitted before 14:00 GMT/BST are settled on a same-day basis. In addition to the five settlement members, there are around 60 agency banks participating in the Currency Clearings Committee scheme.

High-value

Name of system	Clearing House Automated Payment System (CHAPS)
Settlement type	Real-time gross settlement
Settlement cycle	Payments are settled in real time with immediate finality across participants' accounts at the Bank of England, on a first-in-first-out basis.
Links to other systems	NA
Payments processed	High-value and urgent electronic credit transfers
Currency of payments processed	GBP
Value and other limits to processing	There are no value thresholds.
Operating hours	06:00 to 18:00 GMT/BST, Monday to Friday
System holidays	The system is closed on weekends and bank holidays.
Cut-off times	Customer payments = 17:40 GMT/BST Interbank payments = 18:00 GMT/BST
Participants	33 direct participants, including the Bank of England.
Access to system	Using SWIFT message formats and the SWIFTNet Internet Protocol network
Future developments	The Bank of England has announced plans to develop a new generation of RTGS capable of supporting the future demands of a rapidly changing payments environment. It expects most of the enhanced functionality in the new system to be live by the end of 2020. As part of the new generation RTGS development plan, the Bank of England took over the direct running of CHAPS in November 2017. The Bank of England also has plans to implement ISO 20022 compliant messaging standards in the high-value payment system as part of the RTGS renewal program.

Low-value

Name of system	Bankers' Automated Clearing Services (BACS)
Settlement type	Multilateral net settlement
Settlement cycle	Payments are settled in batches in three days. Final settlement is effected via CHAPS across participants' accounts at the Bank of England on day 3 at 09:30 GMT/BST.
Links to other systems	NA
Payments processed	Low-value and non-urgent electronic payments, such as credit transfers, direct debits and standing orders
Currency of payments processed	GBP
Value and other limits to processing	There are no value thresholds, though most are low-value retail payments.
Operating hours	The system operates 07:00–22:30 GMT/BST, Monday to Friday.
System holidays	BACS is closed on weekends and all UK bank holidays.
Cut-off times	Payments must be received by BACS by 21:00 (or 22:30 if payment is submitted through BACSTEL-IP, a direct online connection service).
Participants	25 direct participants
Access to system	Corporate customers can use BACSTEL-IP, a secure online connection service, which can track payment status online.
Future developments	BACS has produced a new translation guide that provides a best practice framework for conversion between its Standard 18 payments message format and the ISO 20022 international messaging standard. Pay.UK has started developing a New Payments Architecture (NPA) for retail payments. The NPA is an architectural model for the delivery of new retail payment capabilities for the UK, which will eventually take over the processing of BACS, Faster Payments Service and potentially, check payments. The program will be delivered in stages and the core clearing and settlement layer, which will enable fund transfers regardless of whether it's an online banking payment, direct debit or a check, is expected to be implemented after 2021.

Name of system	Faster Payments Service
Settlement type	Multilateral net settlement
Settlement cycle	One-off customer-initiated electronic credit transfers and standing orders are cleared and settled in near real-time through the VocaLink Immediate Payments Platform. Final settlement is effected via CHAPS across participants' accounts at the Bank of England three times a day (07:15, 13:00 and 15:45).
Links to other systems	NA
Payments processed	One-off customer-initiated electronic credit transfers (typically internet, mobile or telephone banking-initiated payments) as well as standing orders
Currency of payments processed	GBP
Value and other limits to processing	A maximum of GBP 250,000 for branch, internet, mobile and telephone-initiated payments and for standing orders. Individual banks and building societies set their own limits depending on how the payment is sent and the type of account their customer is sending from.
Operating hours	The system operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
System holidays	None
Cut-off times	NA
Participants	27 direct participants
Access to system	ATM/debit card (ISO 8523) message formats
Future developments	In January 2017, Faster Payments launched a new free-to-use HTML resource for developers that create solutions for financial service providers and fintech innovators to help these business link customers' bank accounts to Faster Payments. Called Faster Payments Standard Library, the resource provides the recommended mapping of Faster Payments' existing ISO 8583 message protocol to the globally recognised ISO 20022 standard. The Faster Payments Standards Library functionality has been extended to allow XML messages to be tested for conformance with the syntax of both the ISO 8583 and ISO 20022 standards specifications. Pay.UK has started developing a New Payments Architecture (NPA) for retail payments. The NPA is an architectural model for the delivery of new retail payment capabilities for the UK, which will eventually take over the processing of BACS, Faster Payments Service and potentially, check payments. The program will be delivered in stages and the core clearing and settlement layer, which will enable fund transfers regardless of whether it's an online banking payment, direct debit or a check, is expected to be implemented after 2021.

Name of system	Cheque and Credit Clearing Company (C&CC) system
Settlement type	Multilateral net settlement
Settlement cycle	Payments are settled in batches in three days. Final settlement is effected via CHAPS across participants' accounts at the Bank of England on day 3 (six settlements staggered from 10:40 to 11:10 GMT/BST). EUR-denominated payments are settled by Ireland's national component of TARGET2.
Links to other systems	NA
Payments processed	Paper-based payment instruments, such as checks and paper-based credit transfers, in Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales)
Currency of payments processed	GBP and EUR
Value and other limits to processing	There are no value thresholds.
Operating hours	The system operates 24 hours per day, Monday to Friday.
System holidays	The C&CC system is closed on weekends and bank holidays.
Cut-off times	17:00 GMT/BST
Participants	Eighteen direct participants
Access to system	Checks collected by each bank are sent to their central processing centers. Checks are then truncated and data is exchanged between banks. Physical checks are exchanged at an exchange center on day two of the clearing cycle.
Future developments	The C&CC is developing a new image-based check clearing system, called the Image Clearing System, through which checks will be cleared using a digital image of the check rather than the paper checks being physically exchanged between banks and building societies. The new system will speed up the clearing process from six weekdays to one weekday. The system went live with some institutions on October 30, 2017 and the rollout of this new system is continuing in 2019. Paper clearing will stop operating when all banks and building societies are clearing all checks via the new image-based system. Pay.UK has started developing a New Payments Architecture (NPA) for retail payments. The NPA is an architectural model for the delivery of new retail payment capabilities for the UK, which will eventually take over the processing of BACS, Faster Payments Service and potentially, check payments. The program will be delivered in stages and the core clearing and settlement layer, which will enable fund transfers regardless of whether it's an online banking payment, direct debit or a check, is expected to be implemented after 2021.

Payment and Collection Instruments

Overview and Trends

The most important cashless payment instruments in the UK are electronic credit transfers in terms of value and card payments in terms of volume. Checks and direct debits are also popular payment instruments in the UK. The increased use of electronic and internet banking by consumers and businesses has led to significant growth in the use of electronic payments.

Since January 1, 2008, all debit cards issued by banks in the UK have been SEPA (Single Euro Payments Area)-compliant. The country's banks have offered pan-European SEPA credit transfers (SCTs) for EUR-denominated payments since January 28, 2008. SEPA direct debits (SDDs) have been available since November 2, 2009. SEPA migration for EUR-denominated payments outside the eurozone was finalized on October 31, 2016.

In January 2016, a Revised Directive on Payment Services (PSD2) entered into force. The overall objective of the PSD2 is to increase the competition on the European Union payment market, facilitate innovative payment services and ensure that payment services are safe and offer complete consumer protection.

Statistics of Instrument Usage and Value

	Transactions (million)		% change	Traffic (value) (GBP billion)		% change
	2016	2017	2017/2016	2016	2017	2017/2016
Checks	477.0	405.0	- 15.1	551.0	492.0	- 10.7
Electronic credit transfers	4,019.0	4,259.0	6.0	81,538.0	90,406.4	10.9
Paper-based credit transfers	214.3	186.5	- 13.0	436.0	387.0	- 11.2
Direct debits	4,071.9	4,227.0	3.8	1,262.2	1,305.0	3.4
Debit cards	15,962.0	17,349.0	8.7	732.8	758.4	3.5
Credit cards	3,093.0	3,455.0	11.4	164.9	178.3	8.1
Total	**27,837.2**	**29,881.5**	**7.3**	**84,684.9**	**93,527.1**	**10.4**

Source: *ECB payment statistics*, September 2018

Paper-based

Checks

Despite the increase in electronic payments and unwillingness of most of the UK's major retailers to accept checks, the use of checks remains widespread among small businesses. Checks are also sometimes used to pay utility and credit card bills.

All checks are truncated into electronic items by the collecting bank before clearing through the C&CC system, but they are also still physically exchanged between banks. Settlement is generally completed in three days, though it can be longer if a check is drawn on a Northern Irish bank and presented in Great Britain or vice versa. This is because there are separate clearing systems in place for Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Checks in Northern Ireland are processed by the Belfast Bankers Clearing Company, which settles cheque payments bilaterally within four days. Under 2-4-6 rules adopted by the C&CC system in November 2007, customers are able to start receiving interest within two days of the deposit of a check, withdraw money within four days of the deposit (six days in the case of savings accounts), and know funds have cleared within six days.

The C&CC is currently developing a new way of clearing checks called the Image Clearing System. The new system will enable digital images of checks to be exchanged between banks and building societies for clearing and payment, speeding up the clearing process from six weekdays to one weekday. The Image Clearing System went live with some financial institutions at the end of October 2017 and the rollout of this new system is continuing in 2019. Paper clearing will stop operating when all banks and building societies are clearing all checks via the new image-based system.

Lockbox services are available, although they are mainly used when companies need to collect complex remittance advice with the payment.

Bills of Exchange

Bills of exchange are only usually used to finance trade in the UK.

They are cleared through the C&CC system.

Bank Drafts

Bank drafts offer security of payment, but are high-cost payment instruments.

They are cleared through the C&CC system.

Credit Transfers

Paper-based credit transfers are still used among small companies and consumers, though electronic credit transfers are rapidly replacing paper-based ones. Paper-based credit transfers are most commonly used in retail transactions, such as credit card or utility payments.

They are cleared through the C&CC system.

Electronic

Credit Transfers

Credit transfers are the most popular method of payment used by companies to pay suppliers and salaries. They are also used to make treasury, tax and benefit payments.

Domestic and cross-border electronic credit transfers in EUR can be made using the Europe-wide SEPA-compliant XML-based credit transfer format.

High-value

High-value and urgent credit transfers in GBP are processed through CHAPS. All CHAPS payments are settled in real time with immediate finality.

High-value and urgent domestic and cross-border EUR-denominated transfers can be processed by the Irish or Dutch national components of TARGET2, in which a number of UK banks participate, or via the EBA's EURO1 system (in which 14 UK banks participate).

Credit transfers in other currencies can also be processed by bilateral correspondent banking arrangements. The majority of these are processed via SWIFT.

Low-value

Non-urgent and low-value credit transfers in GBP are processed through BACS or the Faster Payments Service. Most payments are processed through BACS to be settled on a three-day basis. Over 95% of monthly salaries for 90% of the total workforce are paid by BACS Direct Credit. One-off internet or telephone banking-initiated payments can processed through the Faster Payments Service for settlement in near real-time.

Low-value cross-border transfers can be processed through banks' traditional correspondent banking relationships or networks. Low-value cross-border electronic payments in EUR can also be processed via the EBA's STEP1 or STEP2 systems.

EBA Clearing and Italy's SIA Group (which already serves as a technical operator for STEP2) have developed and implemented a pan-European real-time infrastructure for instant payment of any EUR payment product. The service, called RT1, is fully compliant with the SEPA Instant Credit Transfer (SCT Inst) Scheme of the European Payments Council (EPC) and aligns with the ISO 20022 global messaging standards for instant payments. Both RT1 and SCT Inst were launched in eight European countries (Austria, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands and Spain) on November 21, 2017. The EPC's SCTInst service will be available across 34 SEPA countries, 24/7, 365 days a year, by 2019. SCTInsts have a maximum limit of EUR 15,000 per transaction and take no more than ten seconds to complete.

Direct Debits

Preauthorized direct debits are the most common type of direct debit in the UK and permit a beneficiary's bank to seek the release of funds from a debtor's bank. Preauthorized direct debits are used to collect regular payments, such as insurance or utility payments, as well as variable payments such as mobile phone payments. In 2017, 75% of all household bills in the UK were paid via direct debit.

Direct debits are processed through BACS. Most payments are processed to be settled on a three-day basis.

SEPA Direct Debit (SDD) CORE and B2B services have been available since November 2, 2009, enabling cross-border EUR-denominated direct debits to be made. The EBA has been processing SDD payments in STEP2 since the launch of the SDD schemes on that date. Banks within SEPA but outside the eurozone have been obliged to offer and accept SEPA direct debits since November 1, 2014.

Payment Cards

The use of payment cards continues to increase in the UK, especially among retail consumers. Debit cards are expected to take over from cash as the UK's most popular payment method by 2021.

Approximately 102.7 million debit cards and 64.1 million credit and charge cards were in circulation at the end of 2017.

Maestro, Solo, Visa Delta and Visa Electron debit cards are issued in the UK. Visa debit cards account for two-thirds of those in circulation.

Most credit cards are issued in affiliation with Visa or MasterCard. American Express and Diners Club credit cards are also in circulation.

As of January 1, 2011, all payment cards in circulation should now be SEPA-compliant EMV chip cards.

ATM/POS

At the end of 2017, there were approximately 69,603 ATMs and approximately 2.42 million POS terminals in the UK. All ATMs and POS terminals in the UK should now be EMV chip-compliant.

ATMs are owned individually by banks or independent ATM deployers, but are linked through the ATM network, LINK, operated by VocaLink. There are currently 36 member financial institutions in the LINK ATM network.

Electronic Wallet

Prepaid cards are principally single-purpose cards used at retail stores, or on public transport like London Transport's Oyster card. Banks offer pre-paid stored value cards. These cards can be reloaded and used to effect payment up to the value stored on the card.

Contactless payments are being accepted at an increasing number of locations in the UK, with all POS terminals expected to have contactless functionality by 2020. The maximum limit for a single transaction is GBP 30.

There were 70.1 million contactless debit cards in the UK by the end of 2016, accounting for 70% of all debit cards in circulation in the country. There were 32.6 million contactless credit cards in circulation in the UK at the end of 2016. There were 74.2 million contactless debit cards and 36.6 million contactless credit cards in circulation in the UK in June 2017.

Mobile wallet payment apps are available from banks. Internet-based e-money schemes are also available.

Liquidity Management

Short-term Borrowing

Overdrafts

Both resident and non-resident entities can arrange overdrafts with the bank. These are legally repayable on demand or at short notice. Companies commonly use bank overdrafts for the flexibility and convenience that they provide. Overdrafts may be unsecured, secured or guaranteed depending on the borrower's creditworthiness.

A commitment fee is payable on overdrafts, which often utilize annual lines of credit.

Banks will usually charge interest at a margin (usually from one to five percent) on their base rate.

Bank Lines of Credit / Loans

Resident and non-resident entities can arrange short-term bank loans and revolving lines of credit denominated in local and foreign currency from local and foreign banks. The average tenor is between three and six months.

Banks will usually charge interest at a margin on Libor for GBP loans and advances, or on other benchmarks for foreign currency loans and advances.

Trade Bills – Discounted

Discounted trade bills with recourse to the borrower are used by companies in the UK.

In most cases, the borrower will borrow through the use of discounted trade bills for periods of three to six months.

Factoring

The UK is home to the world's largest factoring market. In most cases, the factoring company does not accept the credit risk as they usually have recourse to the borrower.

Factoring services, such as invoice discounting through to credit control and collection (i.e. full accounts receivable management), are increasingly used by SMEs.

Commercial Paper

Many large UK corporations access the eurocommercial paper (ECP) market (usually EUR or USD-denominated commercial paper).

There is also a smaller domestic GBP commercial paper market, with most issues having one or more ratings. To issue GBP commercial paper, a company must have its shares or other public debt issue quoted on the London Stock Exchange or another EEA exchange, or it must be a guaranteed subsidiary of such a company. Issues range from one day to one year, but the average tenor is usually between one and three months.

Bankers' Acceptances

Bankers' acceptances are less used than in the past as other forms of funding are less expensive. Eligible bills (accepted by banks, with eligibility determined by the Bank of England) are freely tradable.

Funding is usually arranged for a maximum of 180 days.

Supplier Credit

Open account trading is the most common form of domestic trade. Payment terms are usually 30 days, although collection averages around two months.

Intercompany Borrowing, including Lagging Payments

Affiliated UK groups are permitted to establish intercompany loans, and they are common among large groups both as part of a liquidity management scheme or for longer term working capital financing.

Short-term Investments

Interest Payable on Bank Account Surplus Balances

Interest-bearing current, or checking, accounts are available in the UK, to resident and non-resident entities. Yields tend to be low. The relative ease of sweeping surplus balances in the UK allows companies to take advantage of higher yielding alternatives such as money market funds.

Demand Deposits

Interest-bearing demand, or sight, deposit accounts are available to both resident and non-resident entities.

Time Deposits

Time deposits are popular investment instruments in the UK. Banks usually offer them for terms ranging from overnight to up to a year, though they can be arranged for up to five years. Companies can invest in several different currencies. Banks can require minimum investment amounts.

Certificates of Deposit

Certificates of deposit (CDs) are common investment instruments in the UK. They are available in dematerialized form for maturities ranging from one week to five years (though most have maturities of three to six months). Most CDs can be issued in a range of currencies. CDs in GBP and USD require a minimum investment of GBP 50,000 and USD 1 million respectively. The UK has an active secondary market for CDs.

Treasury (Government) Bills

Treasury bills (T-bills) are issued by the UK Government Debt Management Office through weekly tenders. Maturities of one, three, six months and 12 months are available. The UK has an active secondary market for T-bills. T-bills require a minimum investment of GBP 500,000.

Short-term obligations are issued by local authorities.

Commercial Paper

UK companies issue CP in a range of currencies for terms ranging between one week and one year (terms of three to six months are most popular). The minimum denomination amount is usually GBP 100,000 with a minimum investment amount of GBP 500,000.

Money Market Funds

Money market funds are widely available and popular with UK companies.

Repurchase Agreements

Repurchase agreements (repos) are available as a short-term investment instrument in the UK and there is an active repo market.

Bankers' Acceptances

Bankers' acceptances (BAs) are infrequently issued between banks in the UK. Popularity is low as yields are low.

Liquidity Management Techniques

Cash Concentration

Cash concentration is a widely available technique and increasingly used by UK companies to manage company and group liquidity. Zero and target balancing are both commonly available techniques offered by both domestic and foreign cash management banks.

Different legal entities and both resident and non-resident bank accounts can participate in a cash concentration structure located in the UK. Intercompany cross-guarantees are required if accounts held by different legal entities participate in the same structure. Some banks will also allow cross-currency pools. Cross-border structures are often located within the UK because of the large number of domestic and international banks located in the City of London, the non-restrictive regulatory environment (including the absence of regulatory constraints over residency), and because withholding taxes are not applied at the source to any interest earned.

Notional Pooling

Notional pooling is offered by leading cash management banks in the UK. Different legal entities and both resident and non-resident bank accounts can participate in a notional cash pooling structure located in the UK. Inter-company cross-guarantees will usually be required if participating companies are different legal entities.

Trade Finance

General Rules for Importing/Exporting

A member of the EU, the UK follows the EU customs code and all associated regulations and commercial policies apply.

All trade with other countries in the EEA (European Economic Area) is free from tariffs and other controls.

The EU has also agreed trade agreements with a number of countries as well as with other regional trade blocs.

In the end of March 2017, the government triggered Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, which gives the UK a two-year deadline to leave the EU. Brexit negotiations have been challenging and the kind of post-Brexit relationship the UK will have with the EU remains uncertain. Possible outcomes range from the revoking of Article 50 to cancel Brexit to a reversal to WTO rules.

There is a free zone operating at Ronaldsway Airport, Isle of Man.

Imports

Documentation Required

Imports originating outside the EU will normally need to be accompanied by a commercial invoice, a customs declaration, a bill of lading and a packing list. A certificate of origin may also be required.

Imports originating inside the EU do not require formal supporting documentation, although a commercial invoice should normally be supplied.

Import Licenses

Various steel products from outside the EU require import licenses, as do as armaments, ammunition, and nuclear materials.

Textiles and clothing imports from North Korea, textile imports from Belarus, and various steel products from Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine require import licenses with quotas.

A Kimberley Process certificate and specific tamper-proof containers are required to import rough diamonds.

Minimum import prices (enforced through autonomously imposed variable import levies) apply to cereals, beef, veal, mutton, lamb, poultry, and dairy products (excluding butter and cheese.

Import Taxes/Tariffs

As a member of the EU, the UK applies the common customs code to all imports originating from outside the EU. In general terms, the EU customs code applies higher levels of tariffs on agricultural imports from non-EEA countries.

Financing Requirements

There are no particular financing requirements for imports.

Risk Mitigation

The UK does not operate a national risk mitigation program for importers.

Prohibited Imports

The UK prohibits imports in line with EU regulations and UN Security Council resolutions. Imports are also prohibited to protect national security, to preserve wildlife, and for safety and moral reasons.

Exports

Documentation Required

Exports to countries outside the EU will normally need to be accompanied by a commercial invoice, a customs declaration, a bill of lading and a packing list. A certificate of origin may also be required.

Exports to countries within the EU do not require formal supporting documentation, although a commercial invoice should normally be supplied.

Export Licenses

Various items are subject to international controls and require export licenses for reasons of national security, national heritage and animal welfare.

To export rough diamonds, a Kimberley Process certificate and specific tamper-proof containers are required.

Export Taxes/Tariffs

The UK does not levy taxes or tariffs on exports.

Proceeds

There are no restrictions on the use of export proceeds.

Financing Requirements

There are no particular financing requirements for exports.

Risk Mitigation

Export financing is provided by UK commercial banks.

The UK's official export credit agency is UK Export Finance, the government's Export Credits Guarantee Department, which provides export credit insurance against political and commercial risk.

Private export credit insurance is also available.

Prohibited Exports

The UK prohibits exports in line with EU regulations and UN Security Council resolutions.

Information Technology

Electronic Banking

Almost all UK companies have access to electronic banking services. No bank-neutral electronic banking standard has been developed in the UK so most banks provide their own proprietary electronic banking systems. A full range of electronic banking services is available, from daily transaction and balance reporting, to automated sweeping of balances, multilateral netting and domestic and international payment initiation. Banks are increasingly offering automated services that can facilitate liquidity management techniques.

Most larger banks offer internet banking to companies, frequently as part of their proprietary banking system. In most cases, internet users have a similar range of electronic banking services to those offered through a physical workstation, as well as more up-to-date account information.

The Faster Payments Service allows for near real-time clearing and settlement of internet, mobile, or telephone banking-initiated payments with a maximum value of GBP 250,000.

Launched by eWise in conjunction with VocaLink in January 2011, PayWithMyBank (formerly eWise payo) is an online payment application, allowing for secure retail purchases and bill payments over the internet from bank accounts via credit transfer.

Electronic invoicing and bill presentment and payment services can be provided online by the country's leading banks. However, the VocaLink-operated the OneVu electronic bill and data presentment service and MyBillsOnline online portal (powered by OneVu) both closed on November 30, 2014.

In September 2011, VocaLink launched its new Multi-Channel Gateway enabling payments made by mobile phone to be effected in real-time.

Paym, a mobile phone payment service enabling security-protected payments between account holders of participating banks without disclosing account details, was launched by the Payments Council in April 2014. Seventeen banks and building societies, which together account for over 90% of current accounts (i.e. over 40 million customers) in the UK, currently offer the service. Paym is now run by the Mobile Payments Service Company Limited (MPSCo).

In June 2015, VocaLink launched the Pay by Bank app paymark for mobile payments. Consumers can click the Pay by Bank app symbol online which will automatically open a bank app on their mobile phone. Pay by Bank app transactions are protected by the consumer's existing bank app security.

External Financing

Long-term Funding

Bank Lines of Credit / Loans

Medium and long-term financing are both available in the form of bank loans. Depending on the nature of the borrower's requirements, funding can be available as a bilateral facility or in the form of a syndicated loan. A number of large UK-based banks are experienced arrangers of syndicated loans. Long-term loans usually require collateral.

Bank loans can be arranged by both domestic and foreign-based companies in both domestic and foreign currency. Both real-estate mortgages and sales and leasebacks are used when companies want long-term funding.

Bank loans denominated in domestic currency are usually arranged at a margin to Libor (London interbank offered rate). The precise margin is dependent on general market conditions, the creditworthiness of the borrower, and the nature of any guarantees and other credit enhancements in place. Large companies with good credit can borrow without having to provide security.

Leasing

Leasing is an option for longer-term finance for UK companies. It is used to finance a range of underlying assets, whose nature determines the term of the lease contract.

Large ticket items are leased at variable interest rates set at a margin over Libor. They may give the lessee the option to purchase the underlying asset at the end of the lease term (hire purchase). Leases can also be arranged as an operating lease (where maintenance costs are covered by the leasing company) or as a finance lease. Finance leases are the most popular.

Bonds

Both domestic and foreign companies can issue GBP or foreign currency bonds and the timing of issues is now unregulated. However, almost all issues have one or more credit ratings. Both banks and companies issue medium-term notes denominated in GBP and foreign currency under established programs.

All types of bonds are available, including convertible bonds and zero-coupon bonds. When issuing asset-backed bonds, financial institutions will usually use floating rate notes.

Private Placement

Medium-sized companies often privately place loan notes with insurance companies. Borrowers can place notes with equity conversion features. When placed with US investors, notes can be denominated in USD.

Asset Securitization / Structured Finance

UK and foreign-based banks commonly arrange asset securitization programs for non-bank corporations. These are used to refinance assets such as consumer debt, mortgages, and privatized railways' rolling stock.

Government (Agency) Investment Incentive Schemes / Special Programs or Structures

The UK government's Private Finance Initiative (PFI) is available to finance infrastructural development including hospitals, school buildings and IT. Infrastructure UK, operating as a standalone unit within HM Treasury's Public Services and Growth Directorate, works on major infrastructure projects with private sector assistance.

The EU's structural funds are alsoavailable to finance infrastructural development. Funds are also available through the European Investment Bank and the European Investment Fund.

Useful Contacts

National Treasurers' Association

Association of Corporate Treasurers (ACT) — www.treasurers.org

National Investment Promotion Agencies

UK Trade & Investment — www.gov.uk/ukti

Invest Northern Ireland — www.investni.com

Scottish Development International — www.sdi.co.uk

Finance Wales — www.financewales.co.uk

Central Bank

Bank of England — www.bankofengland.co.uk

Supervisory Authorities

Prudential Regulation Authority — www.bankofengland.co.uk/pra/Pages/default.aspx

Financial Conduct Authority — www.the-fca.org.uk

Financial Policy Committee — www.bankofengland.co.uk/financial-stability

UK Financial Investments — www.ukfi.co.uk

Payment System Operators

UK Payments Administration — www.ukpayments.org.uk

UK Finance — www.ukfinance.org.uk

Access to Payment Systems — www.accesstopaymentsystems.co.uk

BACS Payment Schemes Limited — www.bacs.co.uk

CHAPS Clearing Company — www.chapsco.co.uk

Cheque and Credit Clearing Company — www.chequeandcredit.co.uk

Belfast Bankers Clearing Company Limited — www.bbccl.co.uk

Faster Payments — www.fasterpayments.org.uk

VocaLink — www.vocalink.com

Pay by Bank app — paybybankapp.mastercard.co.uk

PayWithMyBank — www.paywithmybank.com

Paym — www.paym.co.uk

The UK Cards Association — www.theukcardsassociation.org.uk

Pay Your Way — www.payyourway.org.uk

SWIFT UK — www.swiftuk.org.uk

ATM/POS Network Operator

Link Interchange Network— www.link.co.uk

Banks

Barclays Bank — www.barclays.co.uk

Royal Bank of Scotland — www.rbs.co.uk

Lloyds Banking Group — www.lloydsbankinggroup.com

HSBC Bank — www.hsbc.co.uk

Stock Exchange

London Stock Exchange — www.londonstockexchange.com

Ministry of Finance

HM Treasury — www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-treasury

Ministry of Economy

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills — www.gov.uk/bis

Chamber of Commerce

British Chambers of Commerce — www.britishchambers.org.uk

Bankers' Associations

British Bankers' Association — www.bba.org.uk

Chartered Banker Institute — www.charteredbanker.com

Association of Foreign Banks — www.foreignbanks.org.uk

Building Societies Association — www.bsa.org.uk