

UK-EU Food and Drink Trade Snapshot: January 2021

Exports

- Exports fell significantly in January 2021, driven by a fall in sales to the EU of 75.5% compared to January 2020, a drop of nearly £0.75bn.
- Impacts of COVID and stockpiling by UK businesses in the EU ahead of the end of the transition period were contributing factors, but much of this is likely due to new non-tariff barriers faced by UK exporters and the collapse of groupage movements which has shut out many SME exporters.

UK food and drink exports			
	Jan-20	Jan-21	Change
All food and drink	£1.7bn	£824.9m	-51.1%
EU	£1.0bn	£256.4m	-75.5%
Non-EU	£639.9m	£568.5m	-11.1%

- Exports to all EU Member States fell, with Ireland, Germany and Italy each down more than 80%.
- In January 2020, Ireland was the UK's biggest market, representing around 18% of total food and drink exported, however in January 2021 this figure has dropped to only 5%.

	Jan-20	Jan-21	Change
France	£164.0m	£53.3m	-67.5%
Ireland	£299.5m	£45.3m	-84.9%
Netherlands	£128.4m	£45.2m	-64.8%
Germany	£105.7m	£20.5m	-80.6%
Belgium	£56.2m	£20.2m	-64.1%
Spain	£70.4m	£15.2m	-78.4%
Poland	£33.4m	£10.1m	-69.6%
Italy	£44.4m	£7.1m	-84.0%
Sweden	£23.6m	£7.1m	-70.0%
Denmark	£26.6m	£6.4m	-75.9%
Latvia	£15.7m	£4.7m	-70.0%
Czech Rep.	£11.0m	£2.8m	-74.2%
Hungary	£4.3m	£2.7m	-37.6%
Greece	£7.5m	£2.7m	-64.0%

	Jan-20	Jan-21	Change
Finland	£7.1m	£1.9m	-72.9%
Bulgaria	£4.0m	£1.8m	-53.3%
Portugal	£11.2m	£1.6m	-85.8%
Lithuania	£2.9m	£1.4m	-50.6%
Malta	£5.2m	£1.2m	-76.2%
Cyprus	£5.8m	£1.2m	-79.3%
Austria	£5.6m	£1.1m	-80.4%
Romania	£5.9m	£1.0m	-82.9%
Slovakia	£1.4m	£0.6m	-59.1%
Estonia	£2.3m	£0.4m	-82.4%
Slovenia	£1.9m	£0.4m	-80.7%
Croatia	£1.9m	£0.3m	-84.8%
Luxembourg	£0.9m	£0.1m	-91.1%

- Each of the UK's top 10 products exported to the EU fell by between 45% and 98% in January 2021. Salmon fell by 98% and beef by 91.5% compared to the same period in January 2020.

Top 10 products exported to the EU			
	Jan-20	Jan-21	Change
Whisky	£105.4m	£38.9m	-63.1%
Cheese	£45.3m	£6.8m	-85.1%
Chocolate	£41.4m	£13.1m	-68.4%
Beef	£39.9m	£3.4m	-91.5%
Animal feed	£34.3m	£6.8m	-80.3%
Lamb and mutton	£32.8m	£18.0m	-45.1%
Salmon	£27.7m	£0.5m	-98.0%
Pork	£27.0m	£3.5m	-86.9%
Fish	£25.2m	£5.3m	-79.1%
Breakfast cereals	£24.8m	£6.3m	-74.4%

Imports

- Imports also fell significantly in January 2021, driven by a drop of nearly 25% from the EU compared to January 2020 worth around £700m.
- Impacts of COVID will be a major issue, particularly due to the continued closure of much of the UK's hospitality sector. The phased implementation of border checks is likely to mean that the full impacts of the end of the transition on imports from the EU will not be seen until 2022.

UK food and drink imports			
	Jan-20	Jan-21	Change
All food and drink	£3.8bn	£3.1bn	-18.1%
EU	£2.6bn	£1.9bn	-24.8%
Non-EU	£1.2bn	£1.2bn	-4.1%

- Imports from the majority of EU Member States fell in January 2021.
- The top nine markets which supply the overwhelming majority of EU sales of food and drink to the UK all fell, with the Netherlands, Ireland and Germany each down around a third.

	Jan-20	Jan-21	Change
Netherlands	£406.5m	£264.5m	-34.9%
Spain	£300.9m	£257.5m	-14.4%
France	£320.3m	£252.8m	-21.1%
Ireland	£340.4m	£233.3m	-31.5%
Germany	£330.4m	£218.6m	-33.8%
Italy	£208.7m	£181.9m	-12.8%
Belgium	£193.9m	£156.9m	-19.1%
Poland	£154.6m	£120.7m	-22.0%
Denmark	£108.5m	£67.0m	-38.3%
Lithuania	£10.0m	£29.6m	194.3%
Austria	£21.6m	£22.7m	5.0%
Greece	£26.1m	£21.7m	-16.9%
Sweden	£46.4m	£21.0m	-54.7%
Portugal	£22.3m	£20.2m	-9.6%

	Jan-20	Jan-21	Change
Hungary	£12.5m	£15.4m	23.8%
Czech Rep.	£9.7m	£10.1m	3.5%
Cyprus	£11.5m	£8.1m	-29.3%
Romania	£11.9m	£7.4m	-38.0%
Latvia	£7.0m	£5.9m	-15.9%
Slovakia	£6.4m	£4.2m	-34.6%
Bulgaria	£6.9m	£3.7m	-46.5%
Slovenia	£0.9m	£1.1m	26.3%
Croatia	£1.7m	£0.7m	-58.8%
Malta	£0.5m	£0.6m	29.6%
Finland	£2.8m	£0.3m	-89.3%
Luxembourg	£0.1m	£0.2m	86.7%
Estonia	£0.2m	£0.2m	8.7%

- Each of the UK's top 10 products imported from the EU fell in January 2021 compared to the same period in 2020. Pork sales were down nearly 50%, chicken fell 42.7% while beef was down by 37.2%.

Top 10 products imported from the EU			
	Jan-20	Jan-21	Change
Vegetables	£219.7m	£180.9m	-17.7%
Pork	£177.3m	£88.8m	-49.9%
Wine	£135.6m	£108.9m	-19.7%
Fruit	£134.5m	£106.6m	-20.7%
Cheese	£124.8m	£86.7m	-30.5%
Chicken	£123.9m	£71.0m	-42.7%
Chocolate	£111.6m	£99.5m	-10.8%
Savoury snacks	£103.6m	£82.0m	-20.9%
Beef	£81.9m	£51.4m	-37.2%
Animal feed	£80.0m	£68.2m	-14.8%

Data Source: Her Majesty's Customs & Excise