

Statistical bulletin

# UK trade in services by partner country: April to June 2019

Trade in services data Experimental Statistics, including breakdown of exports and imports by country and geographical region, EU and non-EU.

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Release date:  
23 October 2019

Next release:  
22 January 2020

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# 1 . Main points

- This release covers all of the UK economy's trade in services, presenting UK trade in services by 67 countries and 32 service types, on a non-seasonally adjusted basis.
- Exports of services were £1.5 billion lower in Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2019 compared with the same quarter last year. Imports of services were worth £0.6 billion more in Quarter 2 2019 compared with the same quarter last year.
- Exports of the top five exported service types (excluding transportation) decreased in Quarter 2 2019 compared with the same quarter a year ago.
- Other business services was the largest service type import, accounting for 32.6% of total imports in Quarter 2 2019.
- The UK imported £23.3 billion of services from the EU in Quarter 2 2019, compared with £25.2 billion imported from non-EU countries; the UK exported £28.6 billion of services to the EU over the same period, compared with exports of £43.6 billion to non-EU countries.
- The UK's largest trading partner when looking at individual countries for both exports and imports of services in Quarter 2 2019 was the US.

## 2 . Things you need to know about this release

The UK trade in services data have been produced as part of planned improvements to our trade statistics described in Section 3.3 of the [trade development plan](#). In response to user needs, one of our main priorities is to publish detailed trade figures across more dimensions, for example, across industries, geographic trade partners and service types. A large focus for the trade development plan is also making improvements to the quality of the trade figures.

This is the fifth of our more detailed quarterly services releases containing 32 service types by 67 countries. While we currently publish service type by partner country annually in [The Pink Book](#), we have increased the level of detail available and produced quarterly data for Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2016 to Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2019. This publication will also be consistent with [UK National Accounts, The Blue Book: 2019](#), which will be published on 31 October 2019.

We have made significant quality improvements to the UK trade in services by partner country experimental dataset. This is partly through fuller use of the improved quarterly country breakdown derived from the increased and optimised quarterly International Trade in Services Survey (ITIS).

We have now removed the following country aggregates as specified in [UK trade in services by partner country experimental data: January to March 2019 on 24 July 2019](#):

- Total EFTA (R2)
- Total Europe (E1)
- Total Americas (A1)
- Total Asia (S1)
- Total Australasia & Oceania (O1)
- Total Africa (F1)

We have now included a Rest of the World (D5) series alongside Total EU28 (B5) and World total (W1). Removal of these additional country aggregates has allowed us to reduce the number of cells that need to be suppressed to protect confidentiality, meaning more country level data are available. We have also included a further breakdown of 10.1 Research and development services; these are 10.1.1 Work undertaken on a systematic basis to increase the stock of knowledge and 10.1.2 Other research and development services.

Data are provided in as much detail as possible without disclosing the details of any individual companies, but this means some figures have been suppressed to protect confidentiality.

You are advised to be cautious when interpreting changes between quarters given that the series are not seasonally adjusted and few data points are presented. It is therefore recommended that comparisons are made with the same quarter a year ago or between years. We plan to develop these statistics to be seasonally adjusted in the future.

These data are our best estimates of bilateral UK trade flows, compiled in accordance with internationally agreed standards and using a wide range of robust data sources. However, in some cases alternative estimates of bilateral trade flows are available from the statistical agencies for those countries or through central databases such as [UN Comtrade](#). Differences between estimates are known as “trade asymmetries” and are a recognised aspect of international trade statistics, affecting bilateral estimates across the globe, not just in the UK.

We are heavily engaged in analysing these asymmetries, developing strong bilateral relationships with other countries to understand, explain and potentially reduce these differences. A [series of analyses](#) shows comparisons and the relative strengths of different estimates, which users may wish to reference to help understand the quality of our bilateral trade estimates.

### **3 . The value of UK imports of services increased and the value of UK services exports decreased in Quarter 2 2019 compared with the same quarter a year ago**

The value of UK exports of services decreased by 2.1% between Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2018 and Quarter 2 2019, from £73.7 billion to £72.2 billion , as shown in Table 1.

The value of UK imports of services increased by 1.3% over the same period, from £47.9 billion to £48.5 billion.

Table 1: Imports have increased and exports have decreased in Quarter 2 2019 compared with the same quarter a year ago

Total UK trade in services exports and imports, Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2016 to Quarter 2 2019, non-seasonally adjusted

	£ million													
	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019
UK exports	60,438	67,098	68,525	73,516	67,203	73,900	75,335	75,181	68,681	73,693	75,409	79,636	72,695	72,178
UK imports	36,447	40,358	48,656	42,260	41,219	45,246	51,239	43,147	42,366	47,913	53,693	48,797	47,782	48,524

Source: Office for National Statistics – UK trade in services

#### Notes

1. Quarter 1 is January to March, Quarter 2 is April to June, Quarter 3 is July to September and Quarter 4 is October to December. [Back to table](#)

## 4 . The value of UK exports of services increased to non-EU countries and decreased to EU countries in Quarter 2 2019 compared with the same quarter a year ago

The value of UK exports of services for Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2019 increased by £0.2 billion to non-EU countries when compared with Quarter 2 2018, whereas exports to EU countries decreased by £1.7 billion over the same period. The largest country level increase in exports to non-EU countries was to the US, which rose by £0.6 billion from £16.7 billion to £17.3 billion. The service type primarily causing this was other business services, which increased by £0.7 billion between Quarter 2 2018 and Quarter 2 2019.

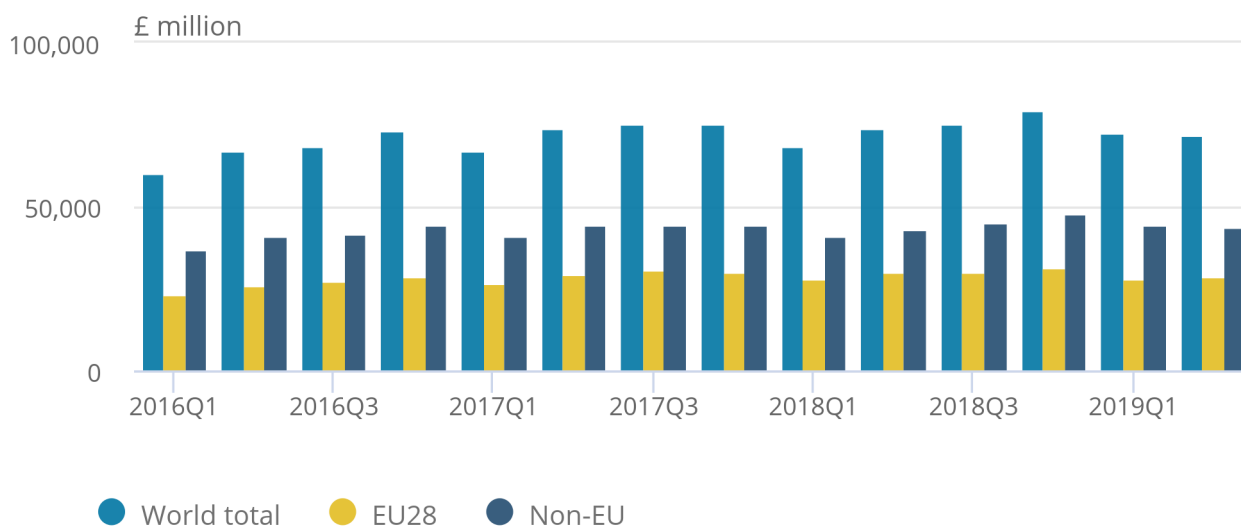
The largest country level decrease in exports to EU countries was to the Netherlands, which decreased by £0.7 billion from £4.7 billion to £4.1 billion between Quarter 2 2018 and Quarter 2 2019. This was primarily caused by other business services, which fell by £0.5 billion over the same period.

## Figure 1: Exports to non-EU countries rose and exports to EU countries fell compared with Quarter 2 2018

UK exports of services by EU and non-EU countries, Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2016 to Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2019, non-seasonally adjusted

### Figure 1: Exports to non-EU countries rose and exports to EU countries fell compared with Quarter 2 2018

UK exports of services by EU and non-EU countries, Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2016 to Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2019, non-seasonally adjusted



Source: Office for National Statistics – UK trade in services

It is important to note that these estimates for UK services exports are not seasonally adjusted. Therefore, some variation from quarter to quarter will be explained by the time of the year, where trade in some services could be more common than at other times of the year. An example of this would be an increase of trade in travel services over the summer period.

## 5. The US remains the UK's largest trading partner for services exports

The United States (US) remains the UK's largest services export partner, accounting for £17.3 billion, or 24.0%, of all UK exports of services in Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2019 (Table 2). The value of exports to Germany was the second-highest at £4.8 billion, with exports to France the third-highest at £4.2 billion.

Of the top 10 exporting countries, the US had the largest increase of exports between Quarter 2 2018 and Quarter 2 2019, amounting to £0.6 billion. The US and Italy were the only countries in the top 10 whose exports increased during this period. The Netherlands had the largest decrease of exports at £0.7 billion.

Exports to Germany and France were equivalent to 6.6% and 5.8% of total UK services exports, respectively. Taken together, UK exports to the top three countries accounted for 36.4% of all UK services exports in Quarter 2 2019.

Table 2: The US was the UK's largest services export partner in Quarter 2 2019 at £17.3 billion  
 UK's largest export partner countries, Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2018 and Quarter 2 2019, non-seasonally adjusted

Country	£ million		Percentage of total exports	
	Q2 2018	Q2 2019	Q2 2018	Q2 2019
United States	16,683	17,331	22.6	24.0
Germany	5,109	4,791	6.9	6.6
France	4,489	4,201	6.1	5.8
Netherlands	4,745	4,050	6.4	5.6
Ireland	3,450	3,255	4.7	4.5
Switzerland	2,906	2,737	3.9	3.8
Italy	2,590	2,680	3.5	3.7
Spain	1,908	1,912	2.6	2.6
Japan	1,807	1,784	2.5	2.5
Australia	1,679	1,646	2.3	2.3
Rest of the World	28,327	27,791	38.4	38.5
World total	73,693	72,178	100.0	100.0

Source: Office for National Statistics

#### Notes

1. Quarter 1 is January to March, Quarter 2 is April to June, Quarter 3 is July to September and Quarter 4 is October to December. [Back to table](#)
2. "United States" includes Puerto Rico. [Back to table](#)

## 6 . Exports of other business services remains the UK's largest export service type

Comparing Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2019 with the same quarter a year ago for the top five export service types, transportation had the largest value increase at £0.2 billion; this is an increase of 2.6%. The other export service types all saw a decrease in value when comparing Quarter 2 2019 with Quarter 2 2018. Could this be changed to The other export service types all saw a decrease in value when comparing Quarter 2 2018 with Quarter 2 2019.

Other business services, which includes research and development; professional and management consulting services; and technical, trade-related and other business services not included elsewhere, continues to be the largest export service type, accounting for 31.7% of total services exports in Quarter 2 2019.

Table 3: Other business services accounted for 31.7% of total service exports in Quarter 2 2019  
 UK's largest service type exports, Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2018 and Quarter 2 2019, non-seasonally adjusted

Service type	£ million		Percentages of total service exports	
	Q2 2018	Q2 2019	Q2 2018	Q2 2019
Other business services	23,043	22,887	31.3	31.7
Financial	16,133	14,439	21.9	20.0
Travel	9,426	9,248	12.8	12.8
Transportation	7,318	7,509	9.9	10.4
Insurance and pension	5,139	5,056	7.0	7.0
Other service types	12,634	13,039	17.1	18.1
Total services	73,693	72,178	100.0	100.0

Source: Office for National Statistics – UK trade in services

#### Notes

1. Quarter 1 is January to March, Quarter 2 is April to June, Quarter 3 is July to September and Quarter 4 is October to December. [Back to table](#)

Figure 2 shows the value for each component of other business services in Quarter 2 2019. Legal, accounting, management consulting and public relations made up the largest share of other business services, accounting for 35.8%.

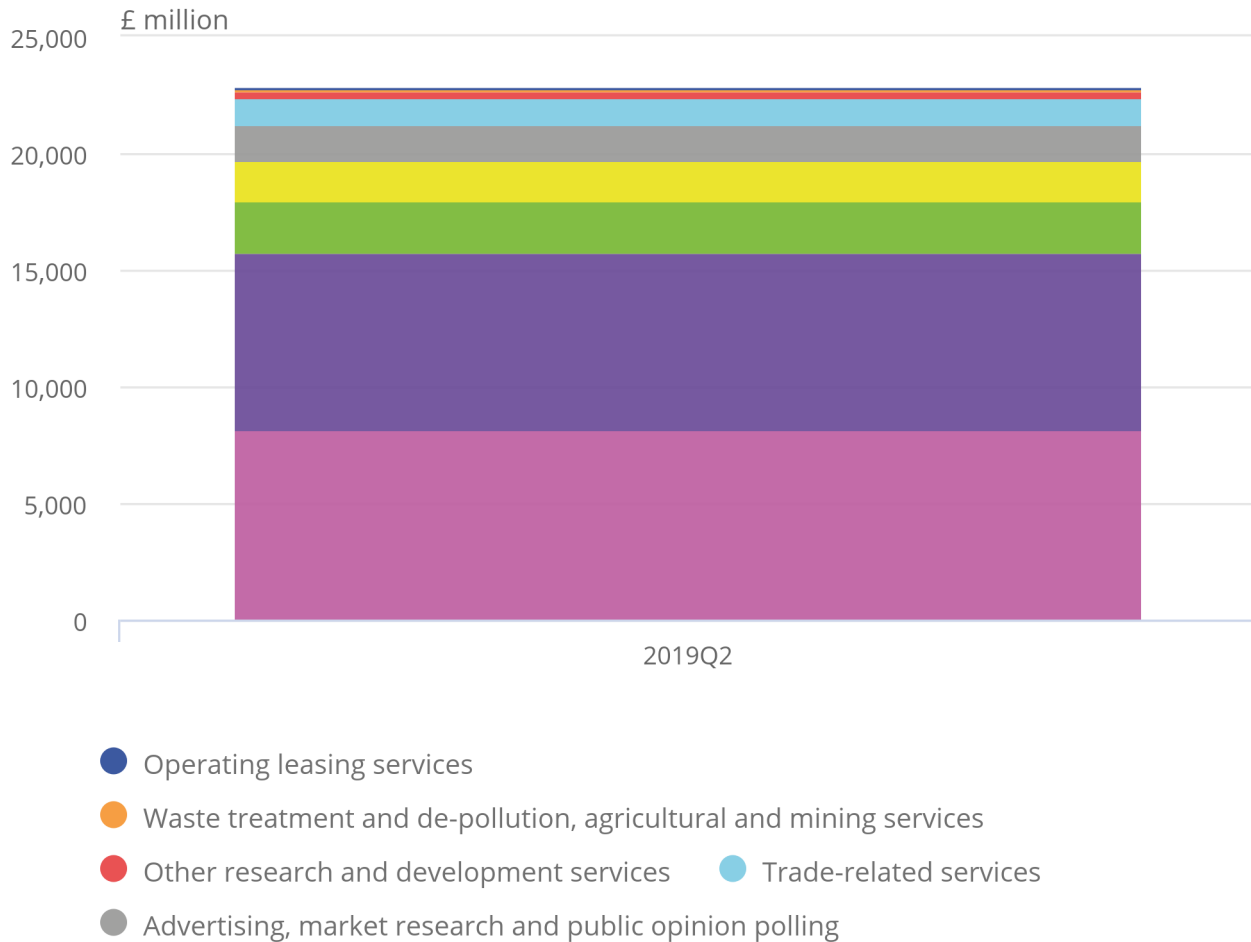
Legal, accounting, management consulting, and public relations is a subcomponent of professional and management consulting services.

**Figure 2: Legal, accounting, management consulting and public relations accounted for 35.8% of total exports of other business services**

Total UK exports of other business services, Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2019, non-seasonally adjusted

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Total UK exports of other business services, Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2019, non-seasonally adjusted



Source: Office for National Statistics – UK trade in services

In Quarter 2 2019, the United States (US) was the UK's largest export partner for other business services, accounting for 30.3%. The £6.9 billion worth of exports of other business services to the US was primarily caused by £3.4 billion worth of exports of professional and management consulting services.

Ireland was the second-largest export partner for other business services, followed by Switzerland, Germany and the Netherlands (Figure 3). The top five services export partners accounted for 53.7% of total exports of other business services.

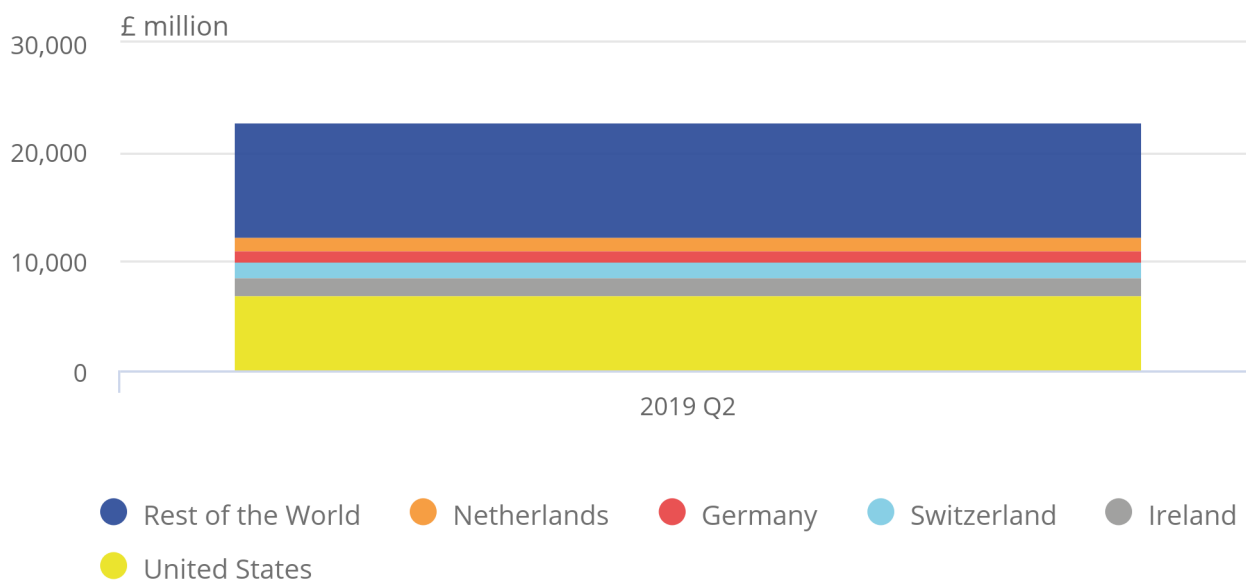


**Figure 3: The US was the largest export partner for other business services, accounting for 30.3%**

UK exports of other business services by partner country, Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2019, non-seasonally adjusted

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UK exports of other business services by partner country, Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2019, non-seasonally adjusted



Source: Office for National Statistics

## 7 . The value of UK imports of services from non-EU countries was greater and from EU countries was lesser in Quarter 2 2019 than in Quarter 2 2018

The value of UK imports of services from non-EU countries increased by £0.7 billion in Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2019 compared with Quarter 2 2018. The largest increase of imports from non-EU countries was from the United States (US), which increased by £0.5 billion from £8.7 billion to £9.2 billion. The service type primarily causing this was other business services, which increased by £0.3 billion between Quarter 2 2018 and Quarter 2 2019.

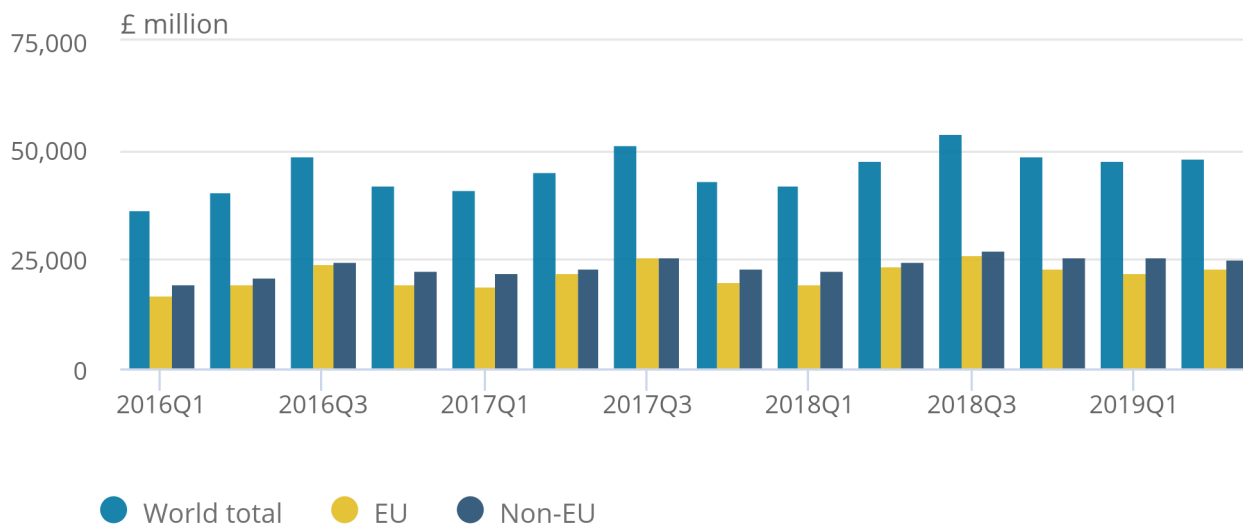
Imports of services from the EU decreased by £0.1 billion in Quarter 2 2019 compared with Quarter 2 2018. The largest decrease of imports from the EU was from Ireland, which fell by £0.5 billion from £2.4 billion to £1.9 billion. The service type primarily causing this was other business services, which decreased by £0.5 billion during this period.

**Figure 4: Imports from the EU decreased and from non-EU countries increased compared with the same quarter a year ago**

UK imports of services by EU and non-EU, Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2016 to Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2019, non-seasonally adjusted

Figure 4: Imports from the EU decreased and from non-EU countries increased compared with the same quarter a year ago

UK imports of services by EU and non-EU, Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2016 to Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2019, non-seasonally adjusted



Source: Office for National Statistics – UK trade in services

## 8 . The three highest-value trading partners for imports of services accounted for over one-third of total UK services imports in Quarter 2 2019

The US remains the UK's largest services import partner, accounting for £9.2 billion, or 19.1%, of imports of services. The value of imports from Spain was the second-highest, with imports from France the third-highest. Imports from Spain and France were equivalent to 8.1% and 8.0% of total UK services imports, respectively (Table 4). The top three countries accounted for 35.2% of all UK services imports.

Table 4: The US remained the largest import partner country in Quarter 2 2019, representing 19.1% of total imports

Change from UK's largest import partner countries, Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2018 to Quarter 2 2019, non-seasonally adjusted to UK's largest import partner countries, Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2018 and Quarter 2 2019, non-seasonally adjusted

Country	£ million		Percentages of total services imports	
	Q2 2018	Q2 2019	Q2 2018	Q2 2019
United States	8,749	9,245	18.3	19.1
Spain	3,824	3,942	8.0	8.1
France	3,879	3,902	8.1	8.0
Germany	2,907	2,903	6.1	6.0
Netherlands	1,902	2,095	4.0	4.3
Ireland	2,439	1,918	5.1	4.0
Italy	1,568	1,669	3.3	3.4
India	1,344	1,453	2.8	3.0
Japan	1,243	1,346	2.6	2.8
Switzerland	1,213	1,211	2.5	2.5
Rest of the World	18,845	18,840	39.3	38.8
World total	47,913	48,524	100.0	100.0

Source: Office for National Statistics – UK trade in services

#### Notes

1. Quarter 1 is January to March, Quarter 2 is April to June Quarter 3 is July to September and Quarter 4 is October to December. [Back to table](#)
2. "United States" includes Puerto Rico. [Back to table](#)

## 9 . Imports of other business services in Quarter 2 2019 accounted for 32.6% of total UK imports

Other business services was the largest service type for imports, accounting for 32.6% of total imports in Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2019 (Table 5). Imports of other business services saw a 1.0% decrease between Quarter 2 2018 and Quarter 2 2019.

Travel was the second largest import, contributing 28.3% of total services imports in Quarter 2 2019, an increase of 1.1% on Quarter 2 2018. Users should note that these data are non-seasonally adjusted and show the seasonal trends throughout the year, with the majority of imports of travel seen in Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 (July to Sept). Travel imports cover goods and services provided to UK residents during visits abroad of less than one year, excluding students and medical patients who remain residents of their country of origin, even if the length of stay in another economy is more than a year. Transport to and from the UK is excluded from travel and shown as "passenger services" under "transportation".

Table 5: Other business services accounted for 32.6% of total UK services imports in Quarter 2 2019  
 UK's largest service type imports, Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2018 and Quarter 2 2019, non-seasonally adjusted

Service type	£ million		Percentages of total services imports	
	Q2 2018	Q2 2019	Q2 2018	Q2 2019
Other business services	16,004	15,838	33.4	32.6
Travel	13,054	13,752	27.2	28.3
Transportation	6,232	6,263	13.0	12.9
Financial	3,962	4,752	8.3	9.8
Telecommunications, computer and information services	2,901	2,482	6.1	5.1
Other service types	5,760	5,437	12.0	11.2
Total services	47,913	48,524	100.0	100.0

Source: Office for National Statistics – UK trade in services

#### Notes

1. Quarter 1 is January to March, Quarter 2 is April to June Quarter 3 is July to September and Quarter 4 is October to December. [Back to table](#)

In Quarter 2 2019, the United States (US) was the largest import partner of other business services, accounting for 28.9% of total imports of other business services. Of the £4.6 billion imports of other business services from the US, £3.2 billion was from technical, trade-related and other business services.

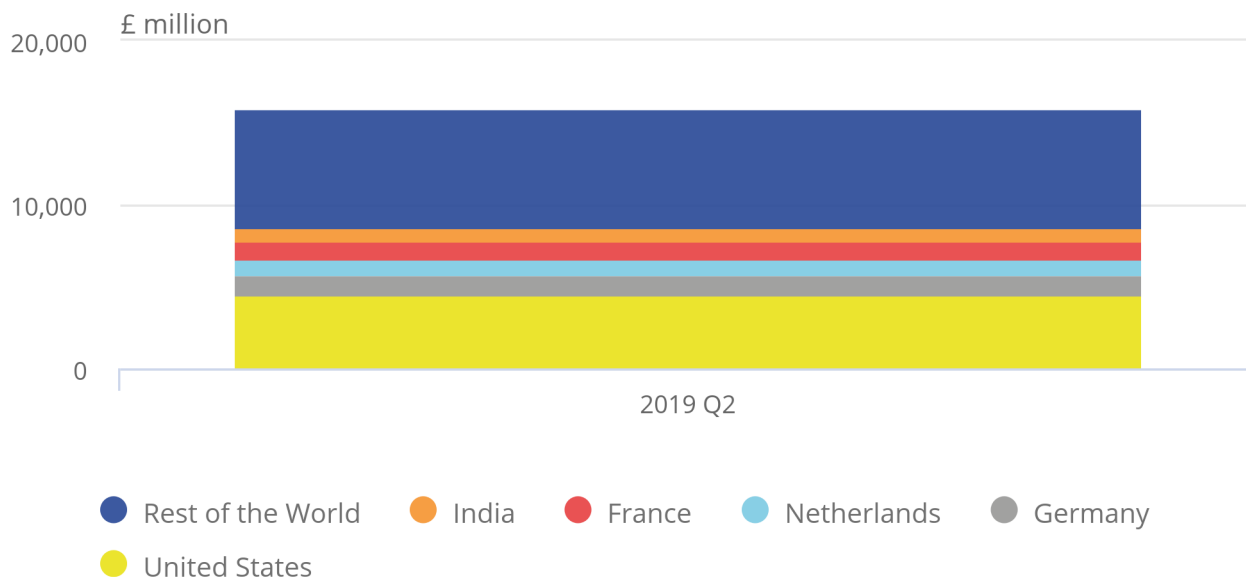
Germany was the second-largest import partner for imports of other business services, followed by the Netherlands, France and India. The top five import partners accounted for 54.7% of total imports of other business services (Figure 5).

**Figure 5: The US was the largest import partner for other business services, accounting for 28.9% of total other business services imports**

UK imports of other business services by partner country, Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2019, non-seasonally adjusted

Figure 5: The US was the largest import partner for other business services, accounting for 28.9% of total other business services imports

UK imports of other business services by partner country, Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2019, non-seasonally adjusted



Source: Office for National Statistics – UK trade in services

## 10 . Explore the new trade in services data with our interactive tools

We have produced some interactive tools to help explore the data.

Data are provided in as much detail as possible without disclosing the details of any individual companies, but this means some figures have been suppressed to protect confidentiality. The interactive tool will show no data available if the data are zero, suppressed or unavailable at this level of detail.

Select a country by hovering over it or using the drop-down menu.

### Figure 6: UK trade in services with the rest of the world, exports and imports, 2018

#### What about trade in a particular service type?

Use our interactive tools to understand UK trade of a particular service type.

Select a service type from the drop-down menu, or click through the levels to explore the data.

## Figure 7: UK exports, 2018

## Figure 8: UK imports, 2018

If you have any questions about the new data or would like to provide feedback on these tools, please email [trade@ons.gov.uk](mailto:trade@ons.gov.uk) with your comments.

# 11 . Quality and methodology

Trade in services covers export and import activity across 12 categories:

- manufacturing
- maintenance and repair services
- transportation
- travel
- construction
- insurance and pensions
- financial
- intellectual property
- telecommunications services
- other business services
- personal, cultural and recreational
- government

Trade in services statistics are derived from a variety of sources, though the International Trade in Services Survey (ITIS) and the International Passenger Survey (IPS) form the bulk of these data. Most of our data sources are supplied with geographical breakdowns to enable the production of trade in services statistics by country and service type. If the data source does not include geographical breakdowns, the data are estimated using a closely aligned source.

Detailed methodological notes are published in [UK Balance of Payments, The Pink Book 2018](#).

The [UK trade methodology web pages](#) have been developed to provide detailed information about the methods used to produce UK trade statistics.

The [UK trade Quality and Methodology Information \(QMI\) report](#) contains important information on:

- the strengths and limitations of the data and how it compares with related data
- the uses and users of the data
- how the output was created
- the quality of the output including the accuracy of the data