

Logistics industry

Key facts 2026



LOGISTICS UK

Logistics UK is the champion of the logistics sector, providing a unique and authoritative voice for our members.

As one of the country's biggest business groups, we represent one of its largest economic sectors. We are the only trade association which represents all of logistics, with over 22,000 members, spanning road, rail, waterways, sea and air freight, in ports, airports and warehousing, as well as the customers of freight services such as retailers and manufacturers.

We deliver services, representation and thought leadership, helping members and policymakers to seize new opportunities for the sector and the economy as a whole, right across the country.

Nothing moves without logistics. Growth cannot be delivered without it.

Nothing moves without logistics

The logistics sector contributes £175 billion in GVA each year and employs 8% of the UK workforce, providing good jobs with strong career progression in communities across the country – making it comparable to, and in some cases larger than, construction, manufacturing, and financial and professional services.

Logistics underpins the whole economy and is fundamental to our way of life, delivering for homes, businesses and public services every day, as well as enabling over £1 trillion of international trade.

The sector plans and coordinates the movement and storage of the goods that we all rely on – using ports, airports, roads, railways, waterways, warehouses and smart digital systems to bring everything together.

As recognised in the Industrial Strategy, efficient logistics is essential to the competitiveness and resilience of the UK's supply chains. Oxford Economics found in 2023 that, with the right policies in place, the sector has the potential to boost UK growth by up to £8 billion a year.

UK logistics at a glance



£175 billion in GVA to the UK economy, 10% of the non-financial economy:

GVA	
£32,196 million Road (including postal and courier)	£544 million Rail
£153 million Air	£5,850 million Sea and inland waterways
£110,196 million Wholesale	£1,083 million Transport via pipeline
£24,604 million Warehousing and cargo	



Trades over **£1 trillion** in goods



Employs **8%** of the UK workforce



Pays **21%** above the UK average

UK logistics at a glance



Logistics businesses generate almost **£1.2 trillion** in revenues every year



99% of enterprises are small to medium sized businesses



Road accounts for **82%** of domestic goods moved



Approximately **200,000** freight trains run in Great Britain every year



UK ports handle **6 million** shipping containers each year



Around 40 UK airports handle **2.5 million tonnes** of freight every year, valued at around **£390 billion**

Sources: The Logistics Report 2026, Logistics UK, 2026, and Transport Statistics Great Britain, Department for Transport, 2025, and MDS Transmodal, 2026

International trade flows

UK businesses trade with over **200 countries** around the world.

The UK traded over **£1 trillion** in goods in 2025, **£630 billion** in goods imports and **£382 billion** in goods exports through UK ports and airports.

Around **51%** of UK imports and **48%** of exports involve the EU.

Top UK goods export partners (2025)

1. EU
2. United States
3. China

Top UK goods import partners (2025)

1. EU
2. United States
3. China



Source: The Logistics Report 2026. Logistics UK, 2026

Top import commodities by value:

Cars - **£46 billion**

Mechanical power generators (intermediate) - **£32 billion**

Medicinal and pharmaceutical products - **£27 billion**

Top export commodities by value:

Mechanical power generators (intermediate) - **£45 billion**

Medicinal and pharmaceutical products - **£38 billion**

Cars - **£29 billion**

Source: The Logistics Report 2026. Logistics UK, 2026



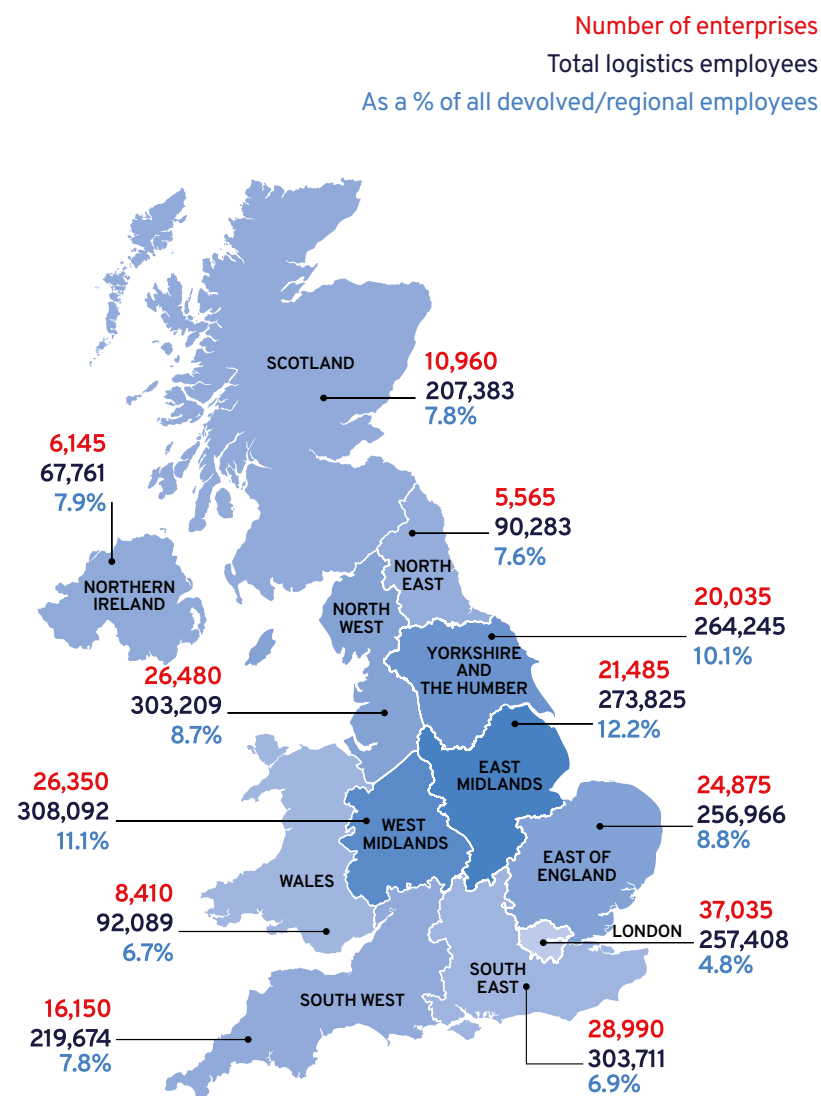
Source: The Logistics Report 2026. Logistics UK, 2026

Liner Shipping Connectivity Index

In **Q1 2026**, the UK's Liner Shipping Connectivity Index increased to **394**, up from **391** in **Q1 2025** and **379** in **Q1 2024**, reflecting an increase in the UK's shipping capacity and connectivity.

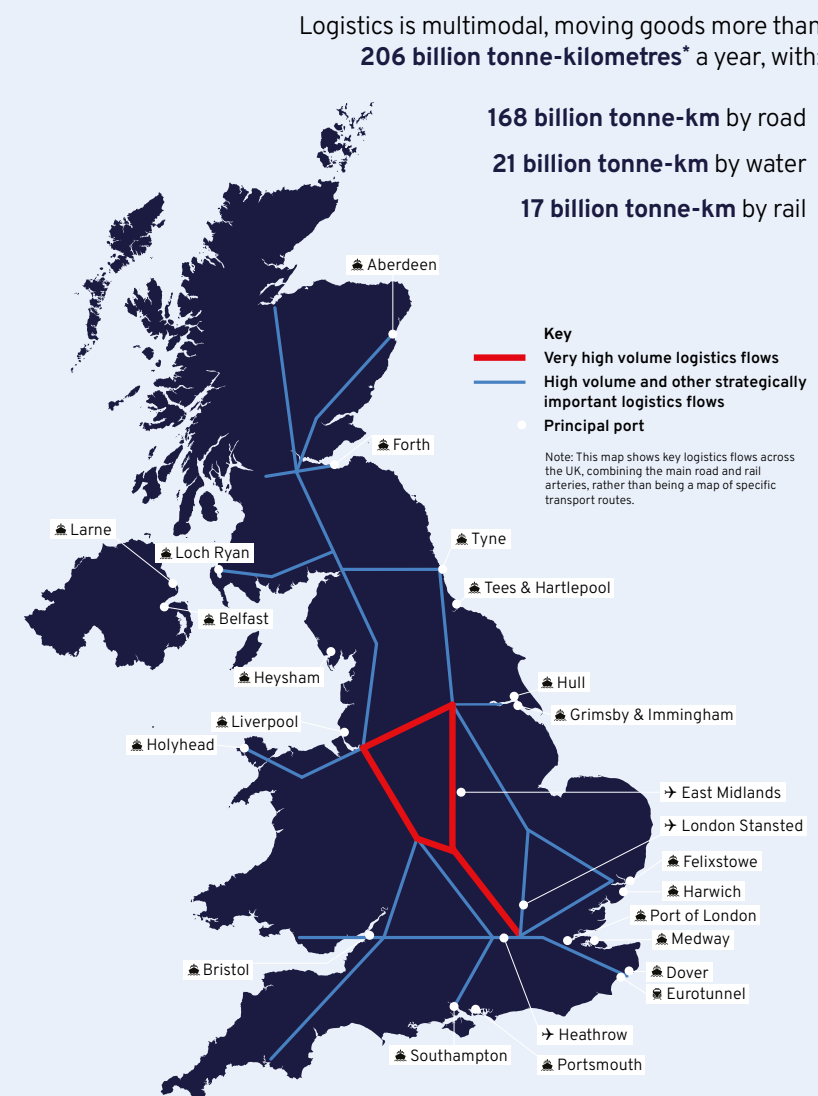
Source: Liner Shipping Connectivity Index (LSCI), UNCTAD and MDS Transmodal, 2026

Employment and businesses across the UK



Source: Logistics UK, 2025

UK Logistics Network: key flows

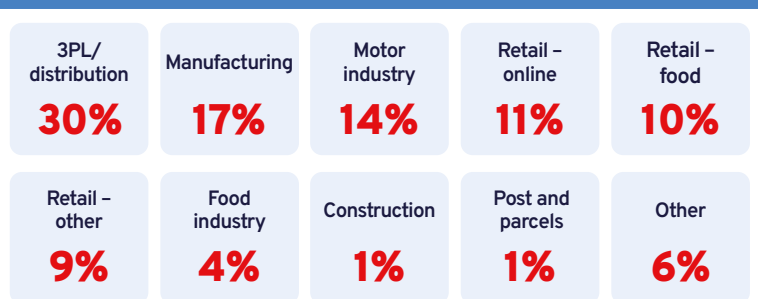


Source: The UK Logistics Network. Logistics UK and MDS Transmodal, 2024

*Billion tonne-kilometres are a measure of freight transport activity, calculated by multiplying weight carried by the distance travelled. An HGV carrying 10 tonnes a distance of 10 kilometres would equal 100 tonne-kilometres.

Warehousing

UK warehousing take-up by sector, 2025



Source: The Logistics Report 2026. Logistics UK, 2026

Decarbonisation

The logistics sector is **committed to decarbonising**.

Domestic transport GHG emissions have **fallen by 17% since 2007**.

Electrifying the UK road freight sector will require an **annual 32TWh of energy**.

Licensed zero-emission logistics vehicles, Q4 2025

115,000 of **5.4 million**



Vans **113,000** of **4.9 million**



HGVs **1,500** of **520,000**

Source: VEH1103a Vehicle registrations by fuel and body type, DfT, 2026

Policy priorities

- A cost-competitive business environment to support the logistics sector to drive growth and supply chain resilience, and to ease the cost of living.
- Long-term investment in the UK's interconnected transport infrastructure, backed by planning reform, to support safe, sustainable and efficient journeys.
- A fair transition to a green economy that keeps the costs of decarbonisation down, ensures resilient supply chains, and attracts investment.
- A reformed national skills system to attract new talent and support progression and upskilling in the logistics sector.
- Trade-led growth, supported by the removal of trade frictions, particularly through a closer trading relationship with the EU.

To learn more about the logistics sector, view our reports and publications here:



To see how many people are employed in logistics by constituency, view here:



To discuss how logistics can drive growth across the whole economy, contact: **publicaffairs@logistics.org.uk**

Visit us at: **www.logistics.org.uk** Follow us at: **@LogisticsUKNews**

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