



Department for
International Trade



Trade & Investment Factsheets

Laos

This factsheet provides the latest statistics on trade and investment between the UK and Laos.

Date of release: 17 September 2021; Date of next planned release: 7 October 2021

Total trade in goods and services (exports plus imports) between the UK and Laos was **£15 million** in the four quarters to the end of Q1 2021, a decrease of 54.5% or £18 million from the four quarters to the end of Q1 2020. Of this £15 million:

- Total UK **exports** to Laos amounted to £2 million in the four quarters to the end of Q1 2021 (a decrease of 88.2% or £15 million compared to the four quarters to the end of Q1 2020);
- Total UK **imports** from Laos amounted to £13 million in the four quarters to the end of Q1 2021 (a decrease of 18.8% or £3 million compared to the four quarters to the end of Q1 2020).

Laos was the UK's 195th largest trading partner in the four quarters to the end of Q1 2021 accounting for less than 0.1% of total UK trade.¹

In 2019, the **outward stock of foreign direct investment (FDI)** from the UK in Laos was £3 million.

In 2019, the **inward stock of foreign direct investment (FDI)** in the UK from Laos was £2 million.²

¹ Trade data sourced from the latest ONS publication of [UK total trade](#) data.

² Investment data sourced from the ONS [ad-hoc data release](#) if not provided in the latest ONS [main FDI release](#).

About these statistics

This factsheet presents the latest statistics on trade and investment between the UK and Laos. It summarises a wide range of publicly available data, from data providers such as the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), as well as international data providers.

This factsheet is part of a wider range produced by the Department for International Trade which draws together many data sources into one single compendium document for each individual trade and investment partner. The full set of factsheets for different individual partners can be found on the [Trade and Investment Factsheets website](#) on GOV.UK.

Where data are available, these factsheets contain metrics on:

- [Headline trade statistics between the UK and each trading partner for the latest four quarters.](#)
- [Trade statistics by commodity and service type.](#)
- [Trade between the UK and each trading partner, broken down by UK country and English region.](#)
- [UK's market share as a total of all imports for each trading partner.](#)
- [Number of VAT-registered businesses trading goods.](#)
- [UK's Foreign Direct Investment \(FDI\) with each investment partner.](#)
- ['Ease of doing business' rankings and scores.](#)
- [Summary trade and investment data as reported by each trade and investment partner, as well as economic data and projections.](#)

All statistics are correct at the time of publication, with upcoming release dates available on the [Government update schedule for Official Statistics](#). The Department for International Trade strongly recommends users download the latest factsheet to ensure the most up-to-date statistics are used as some statistics are revised on a regular basis.

For the most up to date snapshot of the UK's trade and investment position with all partners, please see the [trade and investment core statistics book](#). These statistics are based on the same data sources as the trade and investment factsheets and therefore are comparable between the two publications. A list of all [Official Statistics](#) publications from the Department for International Trade can be found online.

Contact Details

Responsible statistician: Rebekah Paul

Author: Ben Hubbard

Media contact number: 020 7215 2000

Public contact e-mail address: statistics@trade.gov.uk

Trade with Laos (ONS)^{3 4 5}

Trade definitions

UK exports - Goods and services that were produced or sourced in the UK, which were sold to Laos.

UK imports - Goods and services that were sold to the UK, which were produced or sourced by Laos.

Total or 'bilateral' trade - The value of total trade between the UK and Laos (exports plus imports).

Trade balance - The difference between exports and imports, calculated by UK exports minus UK imports.

Trade surplus - This occurs when the value of UK exports to Laos is greater than the value of UK imports from Laos.

Trade deficit - This occurs when the value of UK exports to Laos is less than the value of UK imports from Laos.

Headline trade statistics include trade in non-monetary gold (reported within the unspecified goods category), which can significantly affect trends for some partners. Please see the factsheet [quality and methodology report](#) for more information. These statistics are given on a balance of payments (change of ownership) basis.

Note: The latest data include trade between April 2020 and March 2021. Trade has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated lockdown measures globally. There was also a change in data collection for Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) exports to the EU between 2020 and 2021. Consequently, data quality has been affected and may be subject to larger revisions than normal.

Total trade in goods and services (exports plus imports) between the UK and Laos was £15 million in the four quarters to the end of Q1 2021, a decrease of 54.5% or £18 million from the four quarters to the end of Q1 2020.

In the four quarters to the end of Q1 2021, **total UK exports** to Laos amounted to £2 million (a decrease of 88.2% or £15 million compared to the four quarters to the end of Q1 2020).

Of all UK exports to Laos in the four quarters to the end of Q1 2021, £1 million (50.0%) were **goods** and £1 million (50.0%) were **services**. In the four quarters to the end of Q1 2021, **UK exports of goods** to Laos decreased by 87.5% or £7 million compared to the four quarters to the end of Q1 2020 while **UK exports of services** to Laos decreased by 88.9% or £8 million compared to the four quarters to the end of Q1 2020.

In the four quarters to the end of Q1 2021, **total UK imports** from Laos were £13 million (a decrease of 18.8% or £3 million compared to the four quarters to the end of Q1 2020).

Of all UK imports from Laos in the four quarters to the end of Q1 2021, £13 million (almost 100%) were **goods** and less than £1 million (less than 0.1%) were **services**. In the same period, **UK imports of goods** from Laos decreased by 18.8% or £3 million compared to the four quarters to the end of Q1 2020 while **UK imports of services** from Laos changed by less than £1 million compared to the four quarters to the end of Q1 2020.

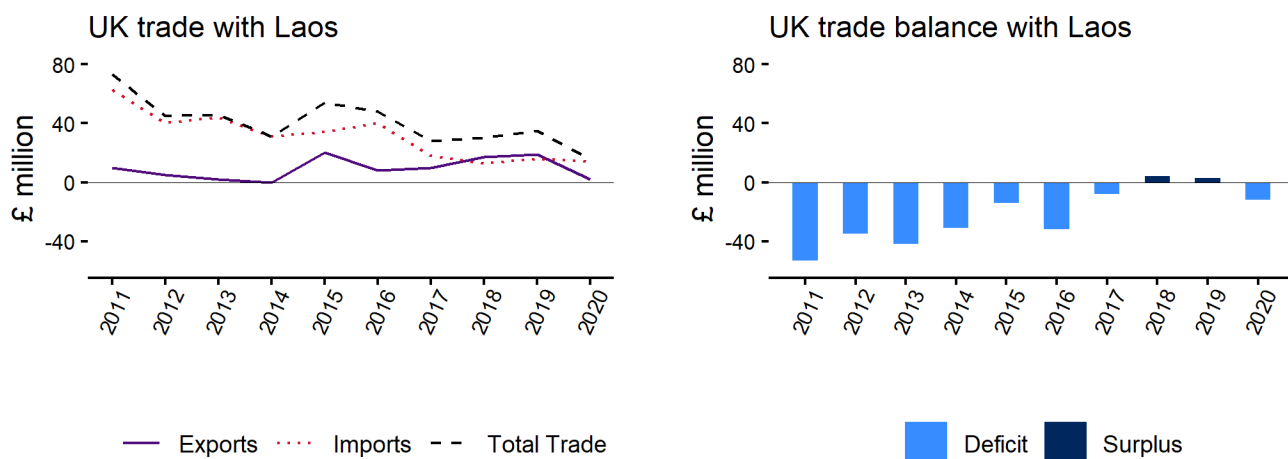
This means the UK reported a **total trade deficit** of £11 million with Laos, compared to a trade surplus of £1 million in the four quarters to the end of Q1 2020. In the four quarters to the end of Q1 2021, the UK had a **trade in goods deficit** of £12 million with Laos, compared to a trade in goods deficit of £8 million in the four quarters to the end of Q1 2020. Meanwhile, in the four quarters to the end of Q1 2021 the UK reported a **trade in services surplus** of £1 million with Laos, compared to a trade in services surplus of £9 million in the four quarters to the end of Q1 2020.

³ Office of National Statistics (ONS) data source for total trade: [UK total trade data \(non-seasonally adjusted\)](#).

⁴ This factsheet contains data as reported by the UK, users are advised to use UK-reported data where possible for consistency between partners. These data are subject to [asymmetries](#) e.g. the value of UK exports to Laos (reported by the UK) may not match the value of Laos imports from the UK (reported by Laos).

⁵ Data are in nominal terms, meaning no adjustment has been made to account for changes in inflation or exchange rate. The totals may not exactly match the sum of their parts due to rounding. Data in this section are non-seasonally adjusted unless otherwise stated and should not be compared to seasonally adjusted data.

The charts below present a time series for trade between the UK and Laos for each year between 2011 and 2020:



Source: ONS, UK trade in goods and services, Q1 2021

The data that are presented in the charts above are given in the table below in £ million:

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Value of total trade	73	45	46	31	54	48	28	30	35	16
Value of exports	10	5	2	0	20	8	10	17	19	2
Value of imports	63	40	44	31	34	40	18	13	16	14
Trade balance	-53	-35	-42	-31	-14	-32	-8	+4	+3	-12

In the four quarters to the end of Q1 2021, Laos was the UK's:⁶

- **195th largest trading partner** (accounting for less than 0.1% of total UK trade).
 - 165th largest **goods** trading partner (less than 0.1% of UK goods trade).
 - 211th largest **services** trading partner (less than 0.1% of UK services trade).
- **Joint 206th largest export market** (accounting for less than 0.1% of total UK exports).
 - Joint 190th largest **goods** export market (less than 0.1% of UK goods exports).
 - 202nd largest **services** export market (less than 0.1% of UK services exports).
- **154th largest import market** (accounting for less than 0.1% of total UK imports).
 - Joint 123rd largest **goods** import market (less than 0.1% of UK goods imports).
 - 211th largest **services** import market (less than 0.1% of UK services imports).

More timely data, for trade in goods only⁷, show that UK exports of goods to Laos decreased by 40.0% in the 12 months to July 2021 compared to the same period the previous year. UK imports of goods from Laos decreased by 25.0% over the same period.

Note: As these data are presented for the 12 months ending July 2021, the UK and its trading partners have been affected by lockdown and other measures during the COVID-19 pandemic. Data quality has also been affected and may be subject to larger revisions than usual.

⁶ Rankings are based on the ONS dataset which contains data for all individual partners: [UK total trade data \(non-seasonally adjusted\)](#). Note this dataset is not comparable with other ONS seasonally adjusted datasets.

⁷ ONS data source for trade in the latest 12 months up to July 2021: [UK Trade data \(seasonally adjusted\)](#). Note that these statistics use seasonally adjusted data and are **not directly comparable** to statistics which use non-seasonally adjusted data.

Trade in goods by commodity (ONS)^{8 9}

The **top 5 goods exported from the UK to Laos** in the four quarters to the end of Q1 2021 were:

- 29 - Other crude animal & vegetable materials (£420 thousand)
- 78M - Cars (£220 thousand)
- 75K - Office machinery (capital) (£180 thousand)
- 83 - Travel goods, handbags etc (£180 thousand)
- 72K - Specialised machinery (capital) (£120 thousand)

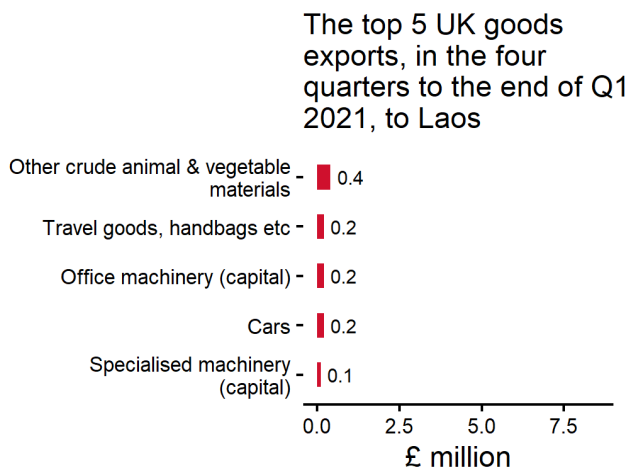
Note: The percentage of the total UK exports of goods to Laos accounted for by the above commodities are not provided here. This is due to the value of total UK exports of goods to Laos being rounded to the nearest £million, with commodity trade values being given to a greater level of accuracy. As a result, in some cases, the percentages of the total accounted for by each commodity would sum to more than 100%.

The **top 5 goods imported to the UK from Laos** in the four quarters to the end of Q1 2021 were:

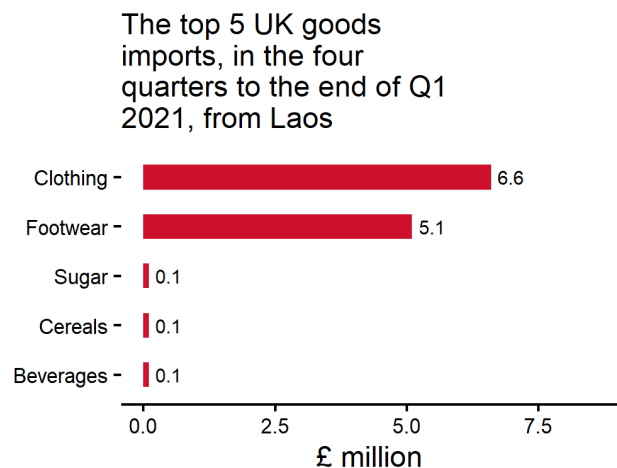
- 84 - Clothing (£6.6 million)
- 85 - Footwear (£5.1 million)
- 04 - Cereals (£110 thousand)
- 11 - Beverages (£100 thousand)
- 06 - Sugar (£90 thousand)

Note: The percentage of the total UK imports of goods from Laos accounted for by the above commodities are not provided here. This is due to the value of total UK imports of goods from Laos being rounded to the nearest £million, with commodity trade values being given to a greater level of accuracy. As a result, in some cases, the percentages of the total accounted for by each commodity would sum to more than 100%.

The chart below shows the top 5 products exported from the UK to Laos and the top 5 products imported to the UK from Laos, by value, in the four quarters to the end of Q1 2021. All data shown in the chart are provided in the text above.



Source: ONS, July 2021



Source: ONS, July 2021

⁸ Data on trade in goods by commodity are sourced from data by the ONS: [UK trade release \(non-seasonally adjusted\)](#). These statistics for [exports](#) and [imports](#) present the latest data from the July 2021 ONS publication which are given on a monthly basis.

⁹ The commodities are categorised based on [SITC](#) codes using a mixture of level 2 and level 3 codes.

Trade in services by service type (ONS)¹⁰

Note: Service type data for the trade in services between the UK and Laos in the four quarters to the end of Q1 2021 are not available from UK sources.

Trade in goods by UK countries and English regions (HMRC)¹¹

Regional trade definitions

UK regions - The UK is categorised into 12 regions based on the International Territorial level 1 (ITL1). This level includes 9 regions in England, as well as Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Regional trade data - The data are compiled by merging HM Revenues & Customs (HMRC) trade data with employment data from the Interdepartmental Business Register (IDBR) so a business' trade can be allocated to a UK region based on the proportion of its employees employed in that region. Where a trader is not matched with the IDBR, its trade is matched with ONS postcode data to obtain the UK region in which the Head Office of the VAT-registered business is based.

Note: Data for UK regions are not available for Laos in 2020.

¹⁰ Trade in services by service type is sourced from data by the ONS: [UK trade in services by partner country \(non-seasonally adjusted\)](#).

¹¹ HMRC data source for regional UK trade data: [HMRC Regional Trade Statistics](#) (data extracted from the [interactive tables](#)).

UK Market Share (ONS and UNCTAD)^{12 13}

Market Share definitions

UK market share – Imports from the UK as a percentage of all the goods and services imported by Laos. Market share is provided for total imports from the UK, as well as for goods and services separately.

Market share methodology – These UK market share statistics are derived by the Department for International Trade, using publicly available data from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). These new statistics allows users to estimate the importance of UK trade on imports to each trading partner. Market share is calculated as the value of imports from the UK using data from [ONS](#), divided by the value of total imports using data from [UNCTAD](#). Data from UNCTAD are converted from US dollars into pounds sterling by using the annual average spot exchange rate¹⁴.

The UK's market share for Laos in 2020 was as follows:

- **The total UK market share in Laos was 0.0% in 2020 for goods and services.** This is a decrease of 0.3 percentage points from 2019.
- The UK market share in Laos was 0.0% in 2020 for **goods only**. This is a decrease of 0.2 percentage points from 2019.
- The UK market share in Laos was 0.3% in 2020 for **services only**. This is a decrease of 0.5 percentage points from 2019.

Number of VAT-registered businesses trading goods (HMRC)^{15 16 17 18}

VAT-registered businesses definition

VAT-registered businesses - Any company with a VAT taxable turnover of more than £85,000 must be registered for VAT with HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC). These estimates do not cover unregistered businesses (those businesses who are not registered for VAT and do not have an Economic Operator Registration and Identification (EORI) number), or those businesses that trade in services.

Businesses trading with Laos in 2019:

- Data on the number of VAT-registered businesses trading with Laos are not available from this source.

Businesses trading with the world in 2019:

- In 2019, around 159,600 UK **VAT-registered businesses exported goods to the world**, worth around £366.5 billion of exports.
- In 2019, around 256,500 UK **VAT-registered businesses imported goods from the world**, worth around £543.5 billion of imports.

¹² ONS data source for market share: [UK total trade data \(non-seasonally adjusted\)](#).

¹³ UNCTAD data source for market share: [Goods and Services \(BPM6\): Exports and imports of goods and services, annual](#). Some UNCTAD data may be based on estimates.

¹⁴ Annual average spot exchange rates for USD\$ to GBP£ are sourced from the [Bank of England](#).

¹⁵ HMRC data source for VAT-registered businesses trading goods: [HMRC Trade in Goods by Business Characteristics](#).

¹⁶ These are experimental statistics and results should be treated with caution.

¹⁷ Estimates only cover VAT-registered businesses exporting or importing goods. Figures on the 'services' industry in this dataset refers to trade in goods carried out by businesses classified as 'services'. Similar data for UK businesses engaged in trade in services with Laos are not available. VAT-registered business may trade with multiple trading partners abroad so care should be taken when adding figures for a multiple number of trading partners.

¹⁸ Counts of businesses trading with individual EU partners exclude businesses trading below [Intrastat](#) thresholds, which for 2018 was £1.5million for EU imports and £250,000 for EU exports. The number of VAT-registered businesses has been rounded to the nearest 100 here.

Trade in Value Added (OECD)¹⁹

Trade in Value Added definitions

Trade in Value Added (TiVA) - TiVA is a statistical approach to examine supply chains, which is not possible with conventional ('gross') trade statistics. This is because TiVA treats international trade flows as flows of value added rather than gross flows of final goods and services.

Domestic and foreign value added - In TiVA, gross exports are decomposed into domestic and foreign value added. Domestic value added measures the value added generated by the domestic economy in the production of its exports (e.g. the value added by UK car manufacturers and their UK supply chains in car exports). Foreign value added measures the value added contribution that foreign suppliers make to these exports (e.g. the import of foreign car parts).

TiVA statistics - Although TiVA offers advantages over traditional ways of measuring trade, these statistics are not fully developed. These results are estimates which should be considered complementary to conventional trade statistics and not be over-interpreted. In addition, the geographical detail is limited for developing countries. More information on TiVA can be found in a recent [research report](#) by the Department for International Trade and Cambridge Econometrics.

UK forward linkages for exports - Measures the reliance of foreign exporters on UK value added (inputs).

UK backward linkages for exports - Measures the reliance of UK exporters on foreign value added (inputs).

Employment supported by exports - This provides an estimate of the number of employees in exporting industries, and their domestic supply chains that are supported by exporting activity.

Note: Data for Laos on forward and backward linkages for exports in 2015 are not available from this data source.

Employment supported by exports:²⁰

- Data for Laos on employment supported by exports in 2015 are not available.
- Exporting activity in the UK supported 6.6 million persons in 2015 (21.2% of total UK employment). Data regarding the number of UK jobs supported by export activity to Laos in 2015 are unavailable.

¹⁹ The estimates in this factsheet are based on Trade in Value Added statistics published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD): a) [Trade in Value Added database \(Origin of Value Added in Gross Exports, December 2018\)](#); and b) [Trade in Employment \(TiM\) database: Principal indicators](#), indicators EXGR_DEM and EMPN_EXGRDEM. Latest data available from this data source are for 2015.

²⁰ These estimates measure employees directly and indirectly supported by exports i.e. workers employed in exporting businesses and in other domestic businesses supplying inputs to the exporting businesses. The estimates should be interpreted as employment *supported* by exports, rather than employment *created* by exports, as the jobs may have previously existed to serve the domestic market. Employees may also be supported by exports from a multiple number of trading partners. As with the core TiVA data, these estimates are based on a number of assumptions and modelling, so should be interpreted with caution.

Foreign Direct Investment with Laos (ONS)^{21 22 23}

Foreign direct investment definitions

Foreign direct investment (FDI) - Investment made by a firm or individual in one economy ('direct investor') to acquire a 'lasting interest' in an enterprise operating in another economy. The lasting interest is deemed to exist if the direct investor acquires at least 10% of equity, or equivalently 10% of the voting rights, of the company.

FDI stock - The accumulated value of all previous investments at the end of a reference period. Figures are net, that is the value of investment minus disinvestment. **UK outward FDI stock** provides the total value of FDI by UK investors in economies abroad (investment of a UK parent company in Laos), while **UK inward FDI stock** provides the total value of FDI by non-UK investors in the UK (investment of a Laos parent company in the UK).

Data disclosure - It can happen that FDI is coming from only a few investors. In that case, figures are suppressed by the ONS to avoid disclosure of information relating to individual enterprises.

UK outward FDI stock:

- In 2019, the **stock of FDI from the UK in Laos** was £3 million, 16.7% or £600 thousand lower than in 2018. In 2019, Laos accounted for less than 0.1% of the total UK outward FDI stock.
- In 2019, the total UK FDI abroad was £1.5 trillion. In 2019, the **top destination for UK FDI** was United States, accounting for 25.3% of the total UK outward FDI stock, followed by Netherlands (10.4%) and Luxembourg (6.4%).

UK inward FDI stock:

- In 2019, the **stock of FDI from Laos in the UK** was £2 million, a change of less than £1 million compared to 2018. In 2019, Laos accounted for less than 0.1% of the total UK inward FDI stock.
- In 2019, the total FDI in the UK was £1.6 trillion. In 2019, the **top investor in the UK** was United States, accounting for 24.5% of the total UK inward FDI stock, followed by Netherlands (10.7%) and Luxembourg (8.6%).

²¹ Data for both inward and outward FDI between the UK and Laos are not available in the main ONS release ([Foreign Direct Investment involving UK companies](#)). Therefore, an [ONS FDI ad-hoc data release](#) is used to provide the latest FDI data for Laos where it is unavailable in the main ONS release.

²² Data are presented on a directional basis which means they are not directly comparable to the asset/liability report prepared by ONS as part of the Balance of Payments statistical release. Figures are on net basis (investments minus disinvestments) and are given in nominal terms. Negative FDI values occur when disinvestments are greater than investments. Data are on an immediate destination/source basis and not an ultimate destination/source, which is likely to overstate financial centres such as the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

²³ This factsheet contains data as reported by the UK and are subject to asymmetries e.g. UK outward FDI to Laos (reported by the UK) may not match Laos inward FDI from the UK (reported by Laos). For consistency when comparing between partners, users are advised to use UK-reported data as far as possible.

Ease of doing business (World Bank)²⁴

Ease of doing business definitions

Ease of doing business ranking - Trading partners are ranked by World Bank on how easy it is to conduct business with them. A high 'Ease of doing business' ranking means the regulatory environment is more conducive to the starting and operation of a local firm than other trading partners. A total of 190 partners were ranked by World Bank for this metric.

Ease of doing business score - The ease of doing business rankings are based on each partners 'Ease of doing business' score. These scores were determined by scoring each partner in 10 individual indicators, such as the ease of starting a new business and trading across borders, and then taking an average. Rankings for each of these individual indicators can be found on the [World Bank website](#). Each score is on a scale from 0 to 100, where 100 represents the best performance. These scores can be compared between years as an increase in score would indicate that a partner is improving in their ease of doing business with. For further detail, see the [methodology](#) explaining how these scores are calculated.

Note that this report shows data for 2019 in the latest 'Doing Business 2020' report, as all data was benchmarked in May 2019.

- **In 2019, Laos was ranked 154th for its ease of doing business.** This was the same ranking as in 2018.
- **In 2019, the UK was ranked 8th for its ease of doing business** (1 place better than in 2018), behind New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong SAR, Denmark, South Korea, United States and Georgia.

These rankings were based on their individual ease of doing business scores:

- **In 2019, Laos had an ease of doing business score of 50.8**, compared to 49.8 in the previous year.
- **In 2019, the UK had an ease of doing business score of 83.5**, compared to 83.6 in the previous year.

²⁴ World Bank data source: [Ease of Doing Business rankings](#).

Economic statistics (as reported by Laos)

Trade and investment data for Laos (UNCTAD)^{25 26 27}

The following data are reported by Laos and are for reference only. Whenever possible use data from UK sources for trade and investment. All data below are presented in USD\$ in billions.

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
TRADE								
Nominal exports	2.9	3.9	4.3	4.9	5.5	6.2	6.8	6.4
Nominal imports	4.0	6.0	6.5	6.3	6.7	7.5	7.5	5.9
Nominal trade balance	-1.1	-2.1	-2.2	-1.4	-1.3	-1.3	-0.7	0.5
INVESTMENT								
Inward FDI stock	3.5	4.4	5.4	6.4	8.1	9.4	9.9	-
Outward FDI stock	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	-

²⁵ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) data sources for trade: [Goods and Services \(BPM6\): Exports and imports of goods and services, annual](#); and for investment: [Foreign direct investment: Inward and outward flows and stock, annual](#).

²⁶ Estimates are given in italics. Historic data pre-2013 can be found on the [UNCTAD website](#).

²⁷ All trade data are on a Balance of Payments basis. The FDI data are on a directional and net (investment minus disinvestment) basis. These figures are given in current prices and are rounded to the nearest \$0.1 billion, with missing data represented by dashes.

Economic data and projections for Laos (IMF)^{28 29}

The following table presents economic statistics for Laos. Projections include assumptions of the effects of COVID-19 and may be subject to change in the future. Estimated data, as well as projections up to 2026, are presented in italics and are subject to revision.

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
TRADE GROWTH									
Change in exports (%)	1.3	14.2	-13.1	-9.0	6.7	4.9	2.9	6.7	7.5
Change in imports (%)	-1.2	-3.9	-10.7	5.4	4.5	3.2	6.7	6.3	6.3
CURRENT ACCOUNT									
Current account balance (% of GDP)	-12.0	-6.5	-5.7	-7.5	-7.2	-7.8	-8.7	-7.0	-6.6
GDP									
Change in real GDP (%)	6.3	4.7	-0.4	4.6	5.6	5.8	5.8	6.1	6.0
GDP per capita (1000 USD)	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.9	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.6
GDP PPP (Int'l \$billion)	54.9	58.5	58.9	62.8	67.8	73.4	79.3	85.7	92.6
INFLATION									
Inflation, year average (CPI %)	2.0	3.3	5.1	4.9	3.7	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
UNEMPLOYMENT									
Unemployment rate (% of total labour force)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
POPULATION									
Population (million)	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.7	7.8	7.9
INVESTMENT-SAVINGS									
Total investment (% of GDP)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gross national savings (% of GDP)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BUDGET DEFICIT-DEBT									
General government net lending/borrowing (% of GDP)	-4.7	-5.0	-6.5	-5.6	-5.3	-4.9	-4.5	-4.1	-3.8
General government gross debt (% of GDP)	59.7	61.6	68.0	68.3	68.8	69.1	68.8	67.7	66.1

²⁸ International Monetary Fund (IMF) provide economic commentary in their [World Economic Outlook reports](#). The latest data presented here can be found in their [World Economic Database, April 2021](#). Change in real GDP (%) includes latest estimates from the [July 2021](#) World Economic Outlook report for those economies where data were provided.

²⁹ Projections and estimates are given in italics. More information for each metric and each partner, as well as historic data pre-2018, can be found on the [IMF website](#).

Top goods traded with the world by Laos (UN Comtrade)^{30 31}

Data presented here shows the top commodities traded to the world, not solely the UK, by Laos. These commodities are presented on a different classification from the earlier data by commodity from the ONS and should not be directly compared.

You access more statistics about individual export and import **markets** for Laos by using the online [UN Comtrade tool](#) developed by the Department for International Trade and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Top goods exported to the world by Laos in 2019:

Rank	HS Commodity	USD million	% of total goods exported
1	27 - Mineral fuels or oils, products of their distillation	1347	23.2%
2	26 - Ores, slag and ash	654	11.3%
3	74 - Copper and articles thereof	435	7.5%
4	85 - Electrical machinery and equipment	404	6.9%
5	47 - Pulp of wood or other fibrous cellulose material	286	4.9%
6	08 - Edible fruit and nuts	284	4.9%
7	22 - Beverages, spirits and vinegar	250	4.3%
8	01 - Live animals	229	3.9%
9	71 - Precious stones and metals	223	3.8%
10	40 - Rubber and articles thereof	219	3.8%
	All goods exported	5809	100.0%

Top goods imported from the world by Laos in 2019:

Rank	HS Commodity	USD million	% of total goods imported
1	27 - Mineral fuels or oils, products of their distillation	935	16.1%
2	85 - Electrical machinery and equipment	788	13.6%
3	87 - Vehicles other than railway or tramway stock	522	9.0%
4	84 - Machinery and mechanical appliances	518	8.9%
5	73 - Articles of iron or steel	370	6.4%
6	72 - Iron and steel	275	4.8%
7	22 - Beverages, spirits and vinegar	246	4.2%
8	01 - Live animals	235	4.1%
9	39 - Plastics and articles thereof	175	3.0%
10	17 - Sugars and sugar confectionery	90	1.6%
	All goods imported	5797	100.0%

³⁰ United Nations (UN) Comtrade data are sourced from the online [UN Comtrade tool](#). The data reported above are for 2019, but as the data upload to UN Comtrade is continuous, more timely data may be available from the source.

³¹ Data are classified using the [Harmonized System](#) and are given on a physical movement basis, with UK data comparable to HMRC data sources rather than the headline trade figures presented here from ONS.

Top services traded with the world by Laos (ITC Trade Map)^{32 33 34}

Data presented here shows the top service types traded to the world, not solely the UK, by Laos.

Top services exported to the world by Laos in 2019:

Rank	EBOPS Service Type	USD million	% of total services exported
1	Travel	935	79.3%
2	Transport	167	14.2%
3	Telecommunications, computer, and information services	33	2.8%
4	Insurance and pension services	27	2.3%
5	Construction	15	1.3%
	All services exported	1179	100.0%

Top services imported from the world by Laos in 2019:

Rank	EBOPS Service Type	USD million	% of total services imported
1	Travel	1011	81.1%
2	Transport	145	11.7%
3	Insurance and pension services	38	3.0%
4	Telecommunications, computer, and information services	17	1.3%
5	Other business services	14	1.1%
	All services imported	1246	100.0%

³² International Trade Centre (ITC) Trade Map data are sourced from the online [ITC Trade Map tool](#). The data above are for 2019, but as the data upload to ITC is continuous, more timely data may be available from the source.

³³ Data are classified on the [EBOPS 2010](#) basis. 'Other business services' include: Research and development, professional and management consulting services, technical services and trade related services. A full description of all service types can be found on the [UN Statistics Division website](#).

³⁴ Estimates are shown in italics, where for some partners only estimates are available - These data have been included for information and should be treated with caution.

Background Notes

This document is one of a wider set of factsheets between the UK and its individual trade and investment partners which can be found on the [Trade and Investment Factsheets website](#). All of these factsheets are published as [Official Statistics](#) as defined by the [UK Statistics Authority](#), and are compliant with the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) where they meet user needs as well as promoting trustworthiness, quality and public value in Government statistics. The publication of these factsheets as Official Statistics was agreed by the Chief Statistician at the Department for International Trade, who monitors these factsheets to ensure they continue to adhere to the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#). These factsheets have not been formally assessed by the [Office of Statistics Regulation](#) and are therefore not designated as [National Statistics](#).

As a requisite of publishing as Official Statistics, a [quality and methodology report](#) has been produced which outlines the quality of these factsheets, as well as providing more information on the methodology of the data sources presented here. This report contains hyperlinks to information on the strengths and weaknesses for each data source. Statistics contained in the factsheets from UK data providers all come from Official Statistics publications, with some sources also being from National Statistics publications.

Future updates of these factsheets can be found on the [Government update schedule for Official Statistics](#). These scheduled updates are in line with significant updates from UK data providers when they release new data. Unscheduled releases of the factsheets may also be necessary to accommodate data updates where little or no advanced notice are given, such as in the case of international data updates. Please see the data update schedule and revisions policy in the [quality and methodology report](#) for more information. Please note that there may be occasions where more recent data than is provided here can be found directly from the data providers.

The Department for International Trade welcome any feedback or comments on these factsheets, please send these to statistics@trade.gov.uk.



© Crown copyright 2021

This publication is licensed under the terms of the except where otherwise stated.

Where the Department for International Trade have identified any third party copyright information, users will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available on the GOV.UK website.

Any media enquiries regarding this publication should be directed to the Department of International Trade [website](#) or by phoning 0207 215 2000.