



FAST FACTS



UNITED KINGDOM

Capital: London

Population:

United Kingdom: 60.78 million

Virginia: 7.71 million

Government type:

Constitutional Monarchy

Head of government:

Head of Government: Prime Minister Gordon Brown

Chief of State: Queen Elizabeth II

Languages (Official):

English, Welsh, Scottish form of Gaelic

Land Size:

94,525 square miles

(CIA)

Currency: (www.oanda.com)

British Pound (GBP)

1US\$ = 0.5836 GBP (October 2008)



(United Kingdom Map. CIA)

Did You Know?

- The UK attracts U.S. business due to common legal and business practices. The UK and U.S. have similar intellectual property rights and relatively low rates of taxation. For many American businesses, the UK is a point of entry to the European Union market.
- U.S. exports to the United Kingdom grew by 10.8% in 2007 to total \$50.29 billion. The UK was the fifth largest buyer of U.S. goods in 2007.
- The United States is the UK's second largest trading partner, accounting for 8.9% of all imports.
- The UK is the world's third largest importer of services and the fifth largest importer of merchandise. The size of the market, as well as a commitment to openness and fair trade, has created a robust and competitive business environment.
- The U.S. and the UK are the largest foreign investors in each other's country.
- Over one million citizens in each country work for a company headquartered in the other nation.
- London will be hosting the 2012 Summer Olympic games, opening a host of opportunities for American companies with expertise in security, infrastructure, transportation, and specialized services.



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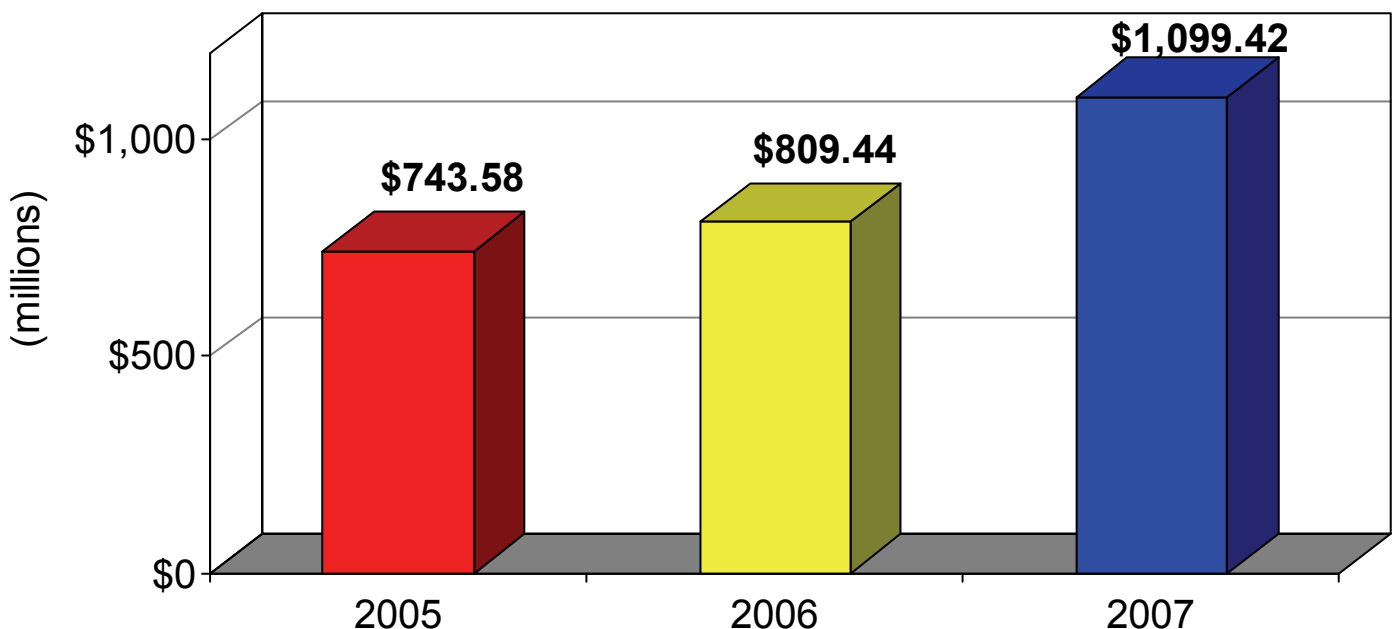


UNITED KINGDOM

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

The UK, a leading trading power and financial center, is among the five trillion dollar economies of Western Europe. Over the past two decades, the government has greatly reduced public ownership and contained the growth of social welfare programs. Agriculture is intensive, highly mechanized, and efficient by European standards, producing about 60% of food needs with less than 2% of the labor force. The UK has large coal, natural gas, and oil reserves; primary energy production accounts for 10% of GDP, one of the highest shares of any industrial nation. Services, particularly banking, insurance, and business services, account by far for the largest proportion of GDP while industry continues to decline in importance. Since emerging from recession in 1992, Britain's economy has enjoyed the longest period of expansion on record; growth has remained in the 2-3% range since 2004, outpacing most of Europe. The economy's strength has complicated the Labor government's efforts to make a case for Britain to join the European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), i.e. to adopt the Euro as national currency. Critics point out that the economy is doing well outside of EMU, and public opinion polls show a majority of Britons oppose adoption of the Euro. The Brown government has been prioritizing spending on education, health services, and affordable housing, which has resulted in higher taxes and a widening public deficit.

VIRGINIA EXPORTS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM



(Source for graph: World Trade Atlas)



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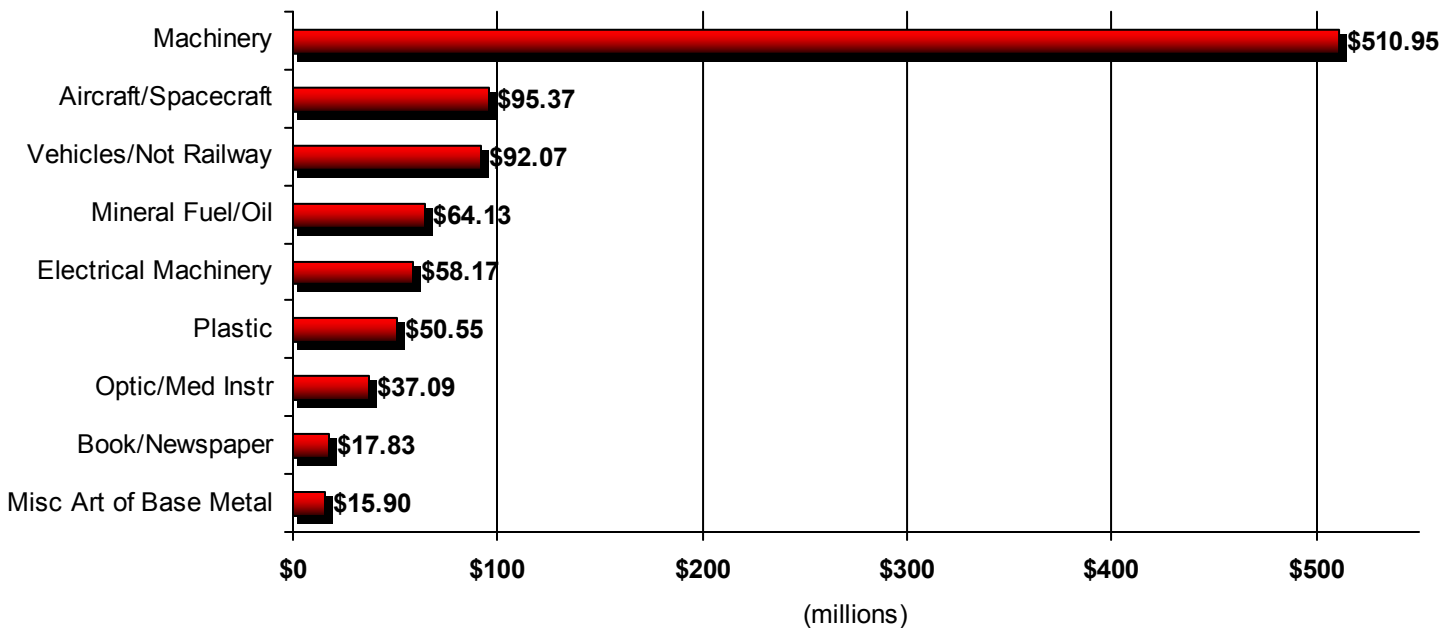
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VIRGINIA EXPORTS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

The United Kingdom is Virginia's fifth largest export destination. After a decrease in exports in 2004, Virginia exports to the UK rebounded in 2005 by 12.10%, continued to climb 8.86% in 2006, and kept growing in 2007 with 35.82% growth. Industrial machinery remains the top export at \$510.9 million, an increase of 38.94% over 2006. Aircraft and spacecraft exports remain high and have increased by 9.73% in the past year. Due to extensive cooperation between the U.S. and British militaries, aircraft/spacecraft is typically a strong export for Virginia, especially during times of war. The overwhelming percent of exports in this sector in 2007 was parts for planes and helicopters, valued at \$95.2 million. Vehicles/Not Railway experienced 256.15% growth in 2007 jumping from \$25.9 to \$92.1 million, and was comprised of passenger cars and motorized armored war vehicles.

Other top exports include coal (\$64.1 million), electrical machinery (\$58.9 million), plastic (\$50.6 million), optical/medical instruments (\$37.1 million) and books/newspaper (\$17.8 million).

VIRGINIA'S TOP EXPORTS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM - 2007



(Source for Text and Graph: World Trade Atlas)



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VEDP TRADE EVENTS

Trade Mission to the UK: April 27—May 1, 2009.

For more information contact Knox Hubard, International Trade Manager, (804) 545-5758, or email at KHubard@yesvirginia.org

For a complete listing of VEDP's international trade events, please visit the "Events" tab on our website: www.ExportVirginia.org

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

UK Trade Info: <<http://www.uktradeinfo.com>>

British Office for National Statistics: <<http://www.statistics.gov.uk>>

UK Trade & Investment: <<http://www.uktradeinvestusa.com>>

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