

OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators – United Kingdom

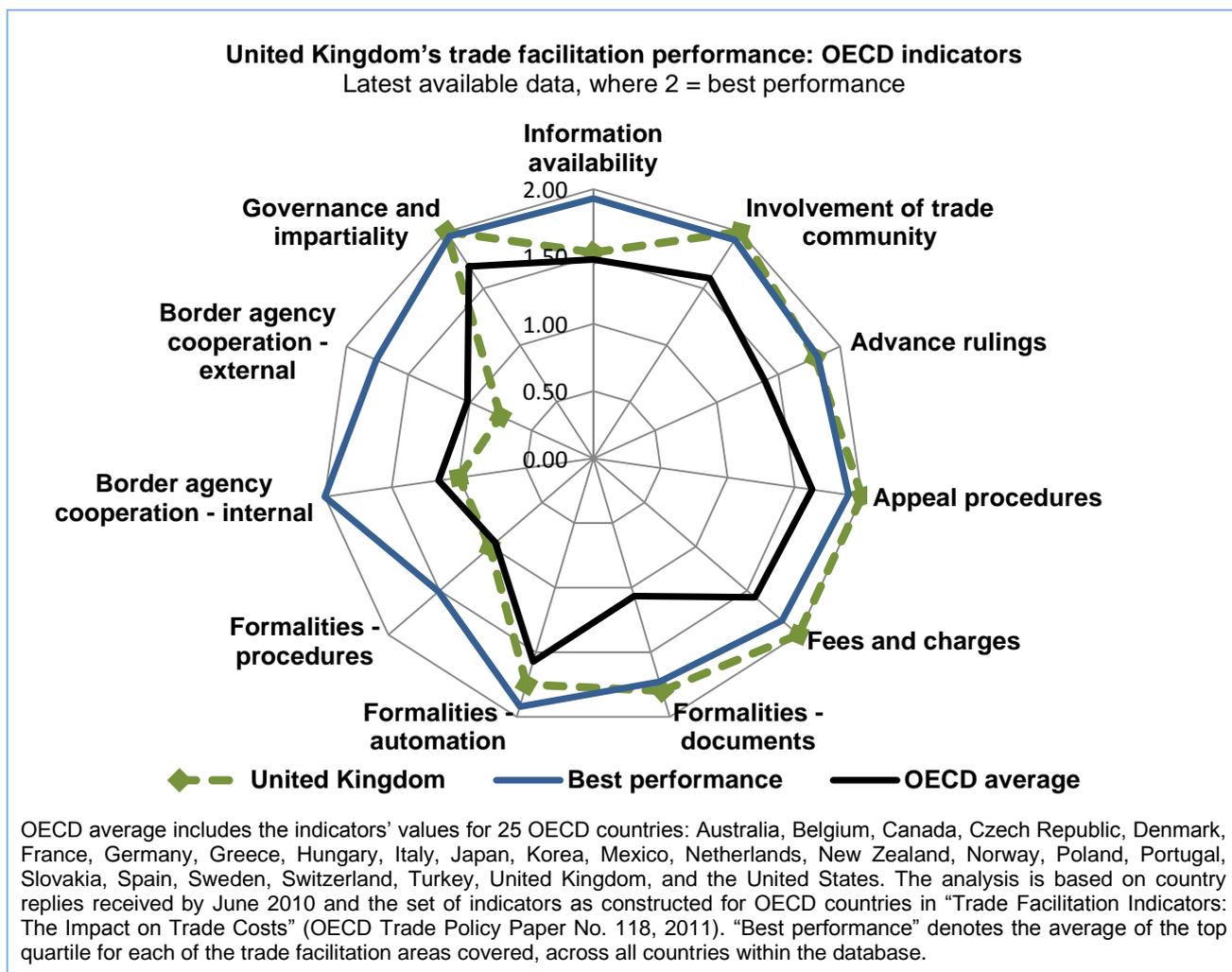
To help governments improve their border procedures, reduce trade costs, boost trade flows and reap greater benefits from international trade, OECD has developed a set of **trade facilitation indicators** that identify areas for action and enable the potential impact of reforms to be assessed.

Estimates based on the indicators provide a basis for governments to prioritise trade facilitation actions and mobilise technical assistance and capacity-building efforts for developing countries in a more targeted way.

OECD analysis shows that trade facilitation measures can benefit all countries in their role as exporters as well as importers, allowing better access to inputs for production and greater participation in the international trading system.

United Kingdom's trade facilitation performance

- United Kingdom performs significantly better than the OECD average in the areas of **involvement of the trade community, advance rulings, appeal procedures, fees and charges, simplification and harmonisation of documents** and **governance and impartiality**, according to OECD trade facilitation indicators.
- United Kingdom's performance for **information availability, automation, streamlining of procedures, internal border agency cooperation** is relatively on par with the average, while its performance for **external border agency cooperation** is below the OECD average.



Areas for action in trade facilitation

OECD quantitative analysis for the group of developed countries, which includes the United Kingdom, shows that the areas impacting trade flows and trade costs the most are: **information availability, advance rulings, fees and charges, automation and streamlining of procedures**. Taking into account the trade flow increase and costs reduction potential of the policy areas highlighted by the quantitative analysis, the United Kingdom would see increased trade volumes and reduced trade costs from continued improvements in the following areas:

Information availability:

- Introduce a full-time hotline (24/7) for addressing enquiries to Customs.
- Publish more detailed information concerning the agreements with trading partners.
- Introduce user friendly guidance on key issues regarding the applicable Customs legislation.
- Publish examples of judicial decisions on the Customs website.

Advance rulings:

- Reduce the average issuance time for advance rulings.

Formalities – Automation:

- Increase the percentage of import declarations that can be cleared electronically.

Formalities – Procedures:

- Publish the average release time in a consistent manner and on a periodic basis, for all major Customs offices.
- Increase the percentage of import/export documents (out of the total) submitted to Customs that benefit of pre-arrival processing.
- Further develop the Post-Clearance Audit program.
- Further reduce the percentage of physical inspections.
- Further develop the Authorised operators programs (the percentage of authorized operators in the total number of traders remains low compared to the OECD average).
- Reduce the length of time necessary for obtaining the authorised operator certification.
- Continue overall simplification of procedures in terms of both time and costs.

OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators

OECD has developed the following indicators to assess trade facilitation policies.

- *Information Availability*: Publication of trade information, including on internet; enquiry points.
- *Involvement of the Trade Community*: Consultations with traders.
- *Advance Rulings*: Prior statements by the administration to requesting traders concerning the classification, origin, valuation method, etc., applied to specific goods at the time of importation; the rules and process applied to such statements.
- *Appeal Procedures*: The possibility and modalities to appeal administrative decisions by border agencies.
- *Fees and Charges*: Disciplines on the fees and charges imposed on imports and exports.
- *Formalities-Documents*: Simplification of trade documents; harmonisation in accordance with international standards; acceptance of copies.
- *Formalities-Automation*: Electronic exchange of data; automated border procedures; use of risk management.
- *Formalities-Procedures*: Streamlining of border controls; single submission points for all required documentation (single windows); post-clearance audits; authorised economic operators.
- *Internal Co-operation*: Co-operation between various border agencies of the country; control delegation to Customs authorities.
- *External Co-operation*: Co-operation with neighbouring and third countries.
- *Governance and Impartiality*: Customs structures and functions; accountability; ethics policy.

Further reading

Read about the methodology, sources and findings from the OECD trade facilitation indicators in these two papers, available on our website: oecd.org/trade/facilitation

- **Trade Facilitation Indicators: The Potential Impact of Trade Facilitation on Developing Countries' Trade** (OECD Trade Policy Paper No. 144, 2013)
- **Trade Facilitation Indicators: The Impact on Trade Costs** – covering OECD member countries (OECD Trade Policy Paper No. 118, 2011)