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UK–MENA Markets Fact Sheet

Population, output, growth and trade across the United Kingdom, the GCC and key North African markets — with the relationships that connect them.

At a glance

The UK and the Arab world

475

Arab-world population (millions)

22

League of Arab States member states

\$4.1tn

Combined nominal GDP (IMF, 2025)

The League of Arab States spans 22 countries and around 475 million people, from Egypt and Sudan to the Gulf and the Maghreb. The GCC alone — some 62 million people — is, together, the UK's tenth-largest trading partner, and in May 2026 became the first bloc to conclude a free trade agreement with a G7 nation. The tables below cover the United Kingdom and all 22 Arab League markets.

Economies at a glance

Country	Population	GDP (nominal)	GDP per capita
United Kingdom	~69m	~\$3.7tn	~\$53,000
Saudi Arabia	~32.5m	~\$1.39tn	~\$37,800
United Arab Emirates	~11.6m	~\$622bn	~\$54,200
Egypt	~119m	~\$430bn	~\$3,900
Algeria	~47.8m	~\$317bn	~\$6,600
Iraq	~47.5m	~\$265bn	~\$5,700
Qatar	~3.1m	~\$217bn	~\$68,100
Morocco	~38.6m	~\$194bn	~\$5,100
Kuwait	~5.5m	~\$173bn	~\$33,200
Oman	~5.9m	~\$117bn	~\$21,600
Jordan	~11.9m	~\$65bn	~\$5,600
Tunisia	~12.4m	~\$61bn	~\$4,900
Libya	~7.5m	~\$52bn	~\$7,000
Bahrain	~1.6m	~\$49bn	~\$29,600
Sudan	~51.6m	~\$45bn	~\$900
Lebanon	~5.7m	~\$34bn	~\$6,400
Palestine	~5.7m	~\$16bn	~\$2,900
Mauritania	~5.4m	~\$14bn	~\$3,000
Somalia	~19.7m	~\$14bn	~\$800
Yemen	~42.3m	~\$7bn	~\$400
Djibouti	~1.2m	~\$5bn	~\$4,400
Comoros	~0.9m	~\$2bn	~\$2,000

Country	Population	GDP (nominal)	GDP per capita
Syria	~26.5m	Limited data	—

Trade profiles

Country	Key exports	Key imports
United Kingdom	Machinery, cars, pharmaceuticals, aircraft, financial & professional services	Machinery, cars, crude oil, foodstuffs
Saudi Arabia	Crude oil, refined petroleum, petrochemicals, plastics	Machinery, vehicles, electronics, foodstuffs
United Arab Emirates	Crude & refined oil, gold, re-exports, aluminium	Gold, machinery, vehicles, electronics
Egypt	Petroleum & gas, gold, textiles, agriculture	Machinery, wheat, vehicles, pharma
Algeria	Crude oil, natural gas, refined petroleum	Machinery, vehicles, cereals, pharmaceuticals
Iraq	Crude oil	Machinery, food, vehicles, manufactures
Qatar	LNG, petroleum, petrochemicals	Machinery, vehicles, aircraft
Morocco	Cars, phosphates & fertilisers, textiles, wiring	Energy, machinery, vehicles
Kuwait	Crude & refined oil	Vehicles, machinery, food
Oman	Crude oil, LNG, refined petroleum, metals	Machinery, vehicles, manufactures
Jordan	Phosphates, fertilisers, pharmaceuticals, textiles	Crude oil, machinery, food
Tunisia	Textiles & clothing, electrical machinery, olive oil, phosphates	Machinery, fuels, vehicles
Libya	Crude oil, natural gas	Machinery, vehicles, food
Bahrain	Aluminium, petroleum, textiles, gold	Crude oil, machinery, chemicals
Sudan	Gold, oil, livestock, sesame	Machinery, foodstuffs, manufactures
Lebanon	Gold & jewellery, pharmaceuticals, food & beverages	Fuels, vehicles, foodstuffs
Palestine	Stone & marble, agriculture, furniture	Foodstuffs, fuels, machinery
Mauritania	Iron ore, fish, gold, copper	Machinery, fuels, foodstuffs
Somalia	Livestock, bananas, hides, charcoal	Foodstuffs, fuels, manufactures
Yemen	Crude oil (limited), coffee, fish	Foodstuffs, machinery, fuels
Djibouti	Re-exports & port/transit services, hides	Foodstuffs, machinery, fuels
Comoros	Vanilla, cloves, ylang-ylang	Foodstuffs, fuels, equipment
Syria	Crude & olive oil, agriculture (disrupted)	Foodstuffs, fuels, machinery

The UK relationship

Selected bilateral relationships

United Arab Emirates. The UK's largest regional partner — total trade £24.8bn (to Q2 2025).

Saudi Arabia. Total trade ~£18bn; the UK in surplus; bilateral target of \$39.6bn by 2030.

Qatar. Major LNG supplier and a significant investor in the UK.

Kuwait. Long-standing investment ties via the Kuwait Investment Authority.

Oman. Close defence and commercial ties; tariff-free access via the UK–GCC FTA.

Bahrain. A regional financial hub with long, close UK ties.

Egypt. UK Export Finance support including a £1.7bn Cairo Monorail guarantee.

Morocco. UK Export Finance facility of up to £4bn for Moroccan importers.

Jordan. UK association agreement; development and trade cooperation.

Iraq. Energy and reconstruction opportunities; growing UK commercial interest.

Algeria. A significant gas and energy relationship; widening non-oil trade.

Notes & sources

Coverage: the United Kingdom and all 22 members of the League of Arab States. Population: 2025 UN projections. GDP and GDP-per-capita: IMF World Economic Outlook 2025. UK bilateral trade: UK Department for Business & Trade / ONS (2025–26). Figures for conflict-affected states (Syria, Yemen, Sudan, Libya, Palestine, Somalia) carry greater uncertainty. Geographic MENA also includes the non-Arab states Iran, Israel and Türkiye, outside this firm's Arab focus. Verify before formal use.

1. Macroeconomic data: IMF World Economic Outlook 2025; Arab League GDP & population lists; World Bank.
2. UK bilateral trade: UK Department for Business & Trade trade & investment factsheets; ONS UK total trade (2025–26).
3. UK–GCC FTA conclusion summary (gov.uk, May 2026).