

Interregional trade in goods and services, UK: 2020

East and West Midlands Trade

This short report provides analysis on the interregional trade between the East and West Midlands based on the '[Interregional trade in goods and services, UK: 2019 and 2020](#)' release from the ONS published on the 13th January 2025. The below analysis looks at the latest 2020 data.

Summary:

Exports (reverse for imports):

- The **East Midlands exported £19.0bn to the West Midlands**, representing 23% of total East Midlands UK interregional exports.
 - The largest exports by £m to the West Midlands were in Non-manufacturing production (£6.3bn), Retail (excluding motor trades) (£3.6bn), and Other service industries (£2.8bn).
- The **West Midlands exported £15.0bn to the East Midlands**, representing 17% of UK total West Midlands UK interregional exports.
 - The largest exports by £m to the East Midlands were in Wholesale and motor trades (£5.9bn), Manufacturing (£3.4bn) and Retail (excluding motor trades) (3.2bn).
- The East Midlands exported a significant portion of its total UK interregional exports to the West Midlands in key sectors with **34% in Non-manufacturing production, 30% in Other service industries and 19% in both Retail (excluding motor trades) and Information and communication.**
- The West Midlands exported a significant portion of its total UK interregional exports to the East Midlands in key sectors with **24% both in Retail (excluding motor trades) and Wholesale and motor trades, and 20% in Manufacturing.**
- As per table 1, the **East Midlands exported the most goods and services to the West Midlands (23%), followed by Greater London (15%), and the North West (13%).**
- At the Same time, the **West Midlands exported the most to both the East Midlands and Greater London (17%) followed by the North West (16%).**

Table 1. International Exports for the Midlands across All Industries across all UK regions

UK Regions	East Midlands		West Midlands	
	East Midlands exports (£m)	% of East Midlands Exports	West Midlands exports (£m)	% of West Midlands Exports
East Midlands	-	-	14,965	17%
West Midlands	19,017	23%	-	-
East of England	10,512	12%	8,321	9%
Greater London	13,079	15%	15,182	17%
North East	3,316	4%	4,222	5%
North West	10,941	13%	14,414	16%
Northern Ireland	2,387	3%	664	1%
Scotland	2,246	3%	2,529	3%
South East	10,434	12%	11,602	13%
South West	4,233	5%	9,287	10%
Wales	1,482	2%	2,184	2%
Yorkshire and the Humber	6,857	8%	5,919	7%
Total	84,504	100%	89,289	100%

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Balance:

- **The East Midlands had a positive trade balance (surplus) of £4.0bn with the West Midlands.** This trade surplus was driven by Non-manufacturing production (£5.8bn) and Other service industries (£1.7bn). East Midlands largest deficit was with Wholesale and motor trades (-£3.3bn) and Manufacturing (-£1.5bn).
- On the other hand, **the West Midlands had a negative trade balance (deficit) of -£4.0bn with the East Midlands.** This trade deficit was driven by Non-manufacturing production (-£5.8bn) and Other service industries (-£1.7bn), despite having surpluses with Wholesale and motor trades (£3.3bn) and Manufacturing (£1.5bn).

Appendix

Table 2. Interregional Imports between the East and West Midlands

Region	East Midlands (£m)			West Midlands (£m)		
Partner Region	West Midlands	%	UK	East Midlands	%	UK
Non-manufacturing production	513	7%	7,196	6,289	18%	34,695
Manufacturing	3,407	15%	22,136	1,944	8%	24,225
Wholesale and motor trades	5,879	10%	56,372	2,629	6%	41,623
Retail (excluding motor trades)	3,237	15%	21,053	3,626	17%	21,609
Transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	[z]	0%	149	[z]	0%	518
Information and communication	198	4%	5,359	518	3%	16,117
Real estate activities, professional, scientific and technical activities	162	7%	2,288	[z]	0%	8,450
Other service industries	1,085	15%	7,285	2,801	8%	33,283
All industries	14,965	11%	133,021	19,017	9%	217,076

Table 3. Interregional Exports between the East and West Midlands

Region	East Midlands (£m)			West Midlands (£m)		
Partner Region	West Midlands	%	UK	East Midlands	%	UK
Non-manufacturing production	6,289	34%	18,299	513	4%	12,092
Manufacturing	1,944	16%	12,279	3,407	20%	16,779
Wholesale and motor trades	2,629	18%	14,835	5,879	24%	24,785
Retail (excluding motor trades)	3,626	19%	19,125	3,237	24%	13,307
Transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	[z]	0%	406	[z]	0%	349
Information and communication	518	19%	2,676	198	6%	3,532
Real estate activities, professional, scientific and technical activities	[z]	0%	309	162	5%	3,159
Other service industries	2,801	30%	9,475	1,085	14%	7,877
All industries	19,017	23%	84,504	14,965	17%	89,289

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Table 4. Interregional Trade Balance between the East and West Midlands

Region	East Midlands (£m)		West Midlands (£m)	
Partner Region	West Midlands	UK	East Midlands	UK
Non-manufacturing production	5,776	11,103	-5,776	-22,603
Manufacturing	-1,463	-9,855	1,463	-7,447
Wholesale and motor trades	-3,250	-44,912	3,250	-21,574
Retail (excluding motor trades)	389	-1,926	-389	-8,301
Transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	222	1,302	-222	-6,003
Information and communication	320	-3,210	-320	-15,722
Real estate activities, professional, scientific and technical activities	342	-2,148	-342	-16,531
Other service industries	1,716	1,133	-1,716	-29,602
All industries	4,052	-48,515	-4,052	-127,786