



BRIEFING PAPER

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Trade agreements: a reading list

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1. Summary

The UK Government has started negotiations for trade agreements with the US, Australia, New Zealand. It also intends to pursue accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

On 11 September 2020 the Government reached 'an agreement in principle' with Japan – an important step towards the conclusion of the UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.¹

This reading list brings together a selection of statements from the UK Government and the other parties to these negotiations. It also includes material from Select Committees, press articles and other commentary.

This paper will be updated periodically.

2. UK-US trade agreement

2.1 UK Government publications

[UK-USA: Agreement on the Mutual Recognition of certain distilled Spirits/Spirit Drinks](#), 7 February 2019

[UK-USA: Agreement on Trade in Wine](#), 7 February 2019

[UK-USA Mutual Recognition Agreement on marine equipment](#), 12 March 2019

[UK-USA Mutual Recognition Agreement](#), 12 March 2019

¹ An agreement in principle is subject to the final transcription into texts, translation and legal review, before it can be officially signed.

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[UK-US Free Trade Agreement](#), Department for International Trade, 18 July 2019

[Policy paper: The UK's approach to trade negotiations with the US](#), 2 March 2020

[Consultation outcome: Trade with the US](#), 20 July 2018 [updated: 2 March 2020]

[Correspondence: Exchanging information during UK-US trade agreement negotiations](#), 24 April 2020

2.2 UK Government updates on negotiations

[Negotiations on the UK's future trading relationship with the US: Update : Written statement - HCWS238](#), 18 May 2020

[Negotiations on the UK's Future Trading Relationship with the US: Update: Written statement - HCWS324](#), 30 June 2020

[Negotiations on the UK's Future Trading Relationship with the US: Update](#), 12 August 2020

2.3 Parliamentary material

Statements and debates

[NHS: Future UK Trade Deals](#), Lords Chamber, 798 cc1528-1556, 4 July 2019

[UK-US Trade Deal](#), Commons Chamber, 672 cc643-657, 2 March 2020

[Negotiations on the UK's future trading relationship with the US: Update: Written statement - HCWS238](#), 18 May 2020

[Negotiations on the UK's Future Trading Relationship with the US: Update: Written statement - HCWS361](#), 30 June 2020

Select Committee reports

[UK-US Trade Relations: Second Report of Session 2017–19](#), International Trade Committee, 1 May 2018

[UK-US trade relations: Government Response to the Committee's Second Report](#), 10 September 2018

[UK trade negotiations](#), International Trade Committee

[UK-US trade negotiations](#), EU International Agreements Sub-Committee

2.4 Office of the United States Trade Representative publications

[Trump Administration Announces Intent to Negotiate Trade Agreements with Japan, the European Union and the United Kingdom](#), 16 October 2018:

- [Notification letters sent to Congress regarding the United Kingdom](#)

[United States-United Kingdom Negotiations: Summary of Specific Negotiating Objectives](#), February 2019

[Joint Statement of USTR Robert Lighthizer and UK Secretary of State for International Trade Elizabeth Truss](#), 5 May 2020

[U.S.-UK Trade Agreement Negotiations](#) [no date]

[Negotiating Objectives for a U.S.-United Kingdom Trade Agreement](#), public hearing, regulations.gov:

- [Federal Register Notice requesting public input](#)
- [United States - United Kingdom Trade Agreement Public Hearing Schedule, January 29, 2019](#)
- [United States-United Kingdom Hearing Transcript](#)
- [Comments](#)

2.5 UK-US Trade and Investment Working Group press releases

[UK-US Trade and Investment Working Group](#) [website]

[First UK-US Trade and Investment Working Group](#), 25 July 2017

[Second UK-US Trade and Investment Working Group](#), 15 November 2017

[Joint Statement of UK International Trade Secretary Dr Fox MP and United States Trade Representative Ambassador Lighthizer](#), 15 March 2018

[Third UK-US Trade and Investment Working Group](#), 3 April 2018

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[Fourth UK-US Trade and Investment Working Group](#), 13 July 2018

[Fifth UK-US Trade and Investment Working Group](#), 9 November 2018

[Sixth UK-US Trade and Investment Working Group](#), 15 July 2019

2.6 Reports

[U.S.-UK Free Trade Agreement: Prospects and Issues for Congress](#), US Congressional Research Service, 14 April 2017

[On the Rebound: Prospects for a US-UK Free Trade Agreement](#), Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government, Harvard University, May 2018

[The Ideal U.S.-U.K. Free Trade Agreement: A Free Trader's Perspective](#), 18 September 2018, Daniel Ikenson, Simon Lester and Daniel Hannan (eds)

[UK and US trade prospects for a free trade deal](#), Ernst & Young, June 2019

[The Future of UK-US Trade: an update](#), UK Trade Policy Observatory, July 2019

[Can a US-UK Trade Agreement Become a Reality in 2021?](#), Mercatus Center, January 2020

[A roaring trade: Capitalising on the opportunities of a UK-US Free Trade Agreement](#), Confederation of British Industry, March 2020

[Will prioritising a UK-US free trade agreement make or break Global Britain?](#) Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government, Harvard University, May 2020

[Brexit and Outlook for a U.S.-UK Free Trade Agreement](#), US Congressional Research Service, [updated 8 July 2020]

[The art of a US-UK trade deal: Realising the opportunities and overcoming the challenges](#), Policy Exchange, 15 July 2020

2.7 Commentary

[Most arguments against a UK-US free trade deal are based on snobbery and anti-Americanism](#), Institute of Economic Affairs, 11 April 2018

[UK food safety Statutory Instruments: A problem for US-UK negotiations?](#), UK Trade Policy Observatory, 12 September 2019

[The NHS Is Not for Sale – But a US–UK Trade Deal Could Still Have an Impact](#), Chatham House, 29 November 2019

[How to protect the NHS in a post-Brexit trade deal with the US](#), The Conversation, 2 December 2019

[The UK's trade strategy should not place the US at the front of the queue](#), Institute for Government, 3 December 2019

[IEA responds to government plans for a UK-US Free Trade Agreement](#), Institute of Economic Affairs, 2 March 2020

[The UK's Just-Released Document Laying Out Trade Agreement Goals with the US Sets a Positive Tone for Future Negotiations](#), Mercatus Center, 3 March 2020

[Prospects for US-UK trade accord are daunting](#), Peterson Institute for International Economics, 21 May 2020

[UK-US trade negotiations: An analysis of the negotiating objectives](#), Norton Rose Fulbright, June 2020

[Engel Leads Bipartisan Group Calling on United Kingdom to Honor Good Friday Agreement](#), US House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs, 15 September 2020

[UK-US Trade Deal](#), Trade Justice Movement, [no date]

2.8 News articles

General

["UK and US to start talks on post-Brexit trade deal"](#), BBC, 24 July 2017

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["Inside a US/UK trade deal"](#), BBC, 25 July 2017

["General election 2019: UK-US trade deal - what do the leaked documents show?"](#), BBC, 27 November 2019

["Atlantic Crossing: What should be on the UK's trade deal wishlist?"](#), City AM, 2 February 2020

["The UK is on the horns of a dilemma in US trade talks"](#), Financial Times, 12 May 2020

["US says a UK trade deal 'unlikely' before November"](#), BBC, 17 June 2020

["Donald Trump's top trade rep says 'almost impossible' to get US-UK trade deal before US election"](#), Telegraph, 17 June 2020

["US cars 'must be left out of post-Brexit trade deal'"](#), BBC, 18 July 2020

["UK abandons hope of US trade deal by end of year"](#), Financial Times, 22 July 2020

["Putting deadline on trade talks with US would be 'dangerous', says Truss"](#), Financial Times, 23 July 2020

["UK trade secretary to criticise 'punitive' US tariffs on Washington trip"](#), Financial Times, 2 August 2020

["Pelosi says 'no chance' of US-UK trade deal if Irish peace undermined"](#), Financial Times, 10 September 2020

Food and drink

["Is chlorinated chicken about to hit our shelves after new US trade deal?"](#), Guardian, 29 January 2017

["Brexit: Theresa May refuses to rule out weakening of food standards in trade deal with US"](#), Independent, 24 July 2017

["Britain must scrap EU rules and allow chlorine-washed chicken if it wants post-Brexit trade deal with US, Trump adviser says"](#), Independent, 6 November 2017

7 Commons Library Briefing, 21 July 2020

["Revealed: rightwing groups plot to ditch EU safety standards on food and drugs"](#), Guardian, 17 February 2018

["Boris Johnson hints at allowing GM food imports from US"](#), Guardian, 3 February 2020

["The US will 'push off' a post-Brexit trade deal with the UK until its food standards demands are met"](#), Business Insider, 18 June 2020

["US trade deal 'won't mean lower food standards'"](#), BBC, 10 July 2020

["UK farmers bite back in US food fight"](#), Financial Times, 28 July 2020

["Anger over US single malt whisky tariffs in aircraft subsidy dispute"](#), Financial Times, 13 August 2020

["Farmers push for UK parliament to have final say on trade deals"](#), Financial Times, 9 September 2020

NHS

["Could the NHS be part of a US-UK trade deal?"](#), Financial Times, 5 June 2019

["General election 2019: Row over Labour's 'NHS for sale' claim"](#), BBC, 27 November 2019

["Jeremy Corbyn reveals dossier 'proving NHS up for sale'"](#), Guardian, 27 November 2019

["Nine out of 10 believe NHS at risk of Trump trade deal"](#), Times, 25 January 2020

["Trump will insist NHS pays more for drugs in trade deal, says ambassador"](#), Guardian, 31 January 2020

["NHS 'off the table' in US trade talks, says Government"](#), Telegraph, 2 March 2020

["Trade deal: Was this week's vote bad news for the NHS?"](#), BBC, 24 July 2020

Tech tax

["UK could drop plans to tax tech firms in rush to secure US trade deal"](#), Guardian, 4 December 2019

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["UK to push on with digital tax in face of US anger"](#), Financial Times, 21 January 2020

["Trade tensions rise as US threatens car tariffs"](#), BBC, 22 January 2020

["UK to impose tax on tech giants but risks US tariffs on car exports"](#), Guardian, 22 January 2020

["Britain offers to back down on 'tech tax' after US fury"](#), Telegraph, 25 June 2020

3. UK-Australia trade agreement

3.1 UK Government publications and press releases

[Establishment of Australia-UK trade working group](#), 6 September 2016

[Joint statement by the Minister of State for Trade Policy and Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment](#), 30 November 2016

[Meeting of the Australia-UK Trade Working Group](#), 27 April 2018

[UK-Australia Trade Working Group joint statement](#), 30 July 2018

[UK-Australia Mutual Recognition Agreement](#), 12 March 2019

[Consultation outcome Trade with Australia](#), 20 July 2018 [updated 17 June 2020]

[UK's approach to negotiating a free trade agreement with Australia](#), 17 June 2020 [updated 17 July 2020]

3.2 UK Government updates on negotiations

[Update on Trade Negotiations with Australia and New Zealand: Written statement - HCWS297](#), 17 June 2020

[Negotiations on the UK's future trading relationship with Australia: Update: Written statement - HCWS361](#), 14 July 2020

3.3 Australia Government publications

[Australia-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement](#), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website

[Australia-UK FTA negotiating aims and approach](#), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website

[Australia-UK FTA objectives fact sheet](#), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website

[Australia-UK FTA benefits fact sheet](#), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website

[Overview of the First Negotiating Round](#), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website

[Inquiry into Australia's trade and investment relationship with the United Kingdom](#), Parliament of Australia, October 2017

[Strong Ties, Growing Stronger: Australia-United Kingdom investment relationship](#), Australian Trade and Investment Commission, July 2018

Feedback received on: [Legal act to apportion certain concessions between the EU and the United Kingdom \(Brexit preparedness\)](#):

- [Australian Government \(Australia\)](#), 16 July 2018
- [Meat & Livestock Australia \(Australia\)](#), 17 July 2018

3.4 News articles

["Australia aims for rapid post-Brexit trade deal with Britain"](#), Financial Times, 25 July 2019

["Australia looks for UK trade deal 'by end of 2020'"](#), Financial Times, 17 June 2020

["Australia/UK trade: Tim Tam grand slam"](#), Financial Times, 20 June 2020

["Liz Truss to set out ambition for a 'gold standard' trade deal with Australia"](#), Telegraph, 29 August 2020

["Spirits, telecoms and financial services set to be in UK-Australia trade deal"](#), City A.M., 30 August 2020

4. UK-New Zealand trade agreement

4.1 UK Government publications

[UK-New Zealand Mutual Recognition Agreement](#), 12 March 2019

[Consultation outcome Trade with New Zealand](#), 20 July 2018 [updated 17 June 2020]

[UK approach to negotiating a free trade agreement with New Zealand](#), 17 June 2020 [updated 17 July 2020]

4.2 UK Government updates on negotiations

[Update on Trade Negotiations with Australia and New Zealand: Written statement - HCWS297](#), 17 June 2020

[Negotiations on the UK's future trading relationship with New Zealand: Update](#), 29 July 2020

4.3 New Zealand Government publications

[New Zealand - United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement](#), New Zealand Foreign Affairs & Trade website

[NZ-UK negotiating rounds](#), New Zealand Foreign Affairs & Trade website

- [Round 1 summary report](#)

[April Meeting of the UK-New Zealand Trade Policy Dialogue](#), April 2018

Feedback received on: [Legal act to apportion certain concessions between the EU and the United Kingdom \(Brexit preparedness\)](#):

- [International Beef Alliance \(New Zealand\)](#), 13 July 2018
- [New Zealand Government \(New Zealand\)](#), 17 July 2018
- [Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand \(New Zealand\)](#), 17 July 2018
- [Beef + Lamb New Zealand and the Meat Industry Association of New Zealand \(New Zealand\)](#), 17 July 2018

[New Zealand continues push to protect post-Brexit trade quotas](#), 1 February 2019

[Advancing New Zealand's trade agenda focus of Europe meetings](#), 20 January 2020

[Summary of Public Consultations on a UK-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement](#), June 2020

[New Zealand – United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement Negotiations High Level Negotiating Objectives](#), June 2020

4.4 News articles

["NZ begins free trade talks for 'comprehensive' deal with UK"](#), RNZ, 17 June 2020

["UK-New Zealand trade deal 'essential' to help recovery, says UK trade secretary"](#), Politico, 13 July 2020

["New Zealand 'frustrated' over UK trade talks, says deputy PM"](#), BBC, 12 August 2020

["A trade deal with New Zealand can kickstart a post-Brexit beef bonanza"](#), Telegraph, 7 September 2020

5. UK-Japan trade agreement

5.1 UK Government publications and press releases

[Japan-UK Joint Declaration on Prosperity Cooperation](#), 31 August 2017

[UK welcomes approval of new trade agreement with Japan](#), 13 December 2018

[UK-Japan Joint Statement](#), 10 January 2019

[Japan opens market to British beef and lamb](#), 10 January 2019

[UK-Japan exchange of letters on mutual recognition](#), 20 September 2019

[UK is taking forward future trade and investment relationship with Japan](#), 8 February 2020

[Closed consultation: Trade with Japan](#), 20 September 2019 [updated 13 May 2020]

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[UK's approach to negotiating a free trade agreement with Japan](#), 13 May 2020

[The UK's approach to Negotiations with Japan: Written statement - HCWS231](#), 13 May 2020

[UK and Japan start trade negotiations](#), 8 June 2020

[Truss opening Statement at launch of UK Japan trade talks](#), 9 June 2020

[UK and Japan agree historic free trade agreement](#), 11 September 2020

[UK-Japan trade deal offers boost to Scottish businesses](#), 11 September 2020

[Liz Truss opening statement for the UK-Japan agreement in principle](#), 11 September 2020

5.2 Japan Government publications

[Japan-United Kingdom Relations: The future economic partnership between Japan and the United Kingdom](#), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan website

5.3 Reports

[The UK and Japan Forging a Global and Proactive Partnership](#), Chatham House, 29 May 2019

[A Better Fit: Remodelling the EU-Japan EPA after Brexit](#), Initiative for Free Trade, November 2019

[UK releases strategic approach for securing a free trade agreement with Japan](#), Clifford Chance, June 2020

[UK-Japan trade negotiations: Analysis of the negotiating objectives](#), Norton Rose Fulbright, July 2020

5.4 Commentary

[UK to start talks with Japan to remove tariffs and boost GDP](#), Institute of Export & International Trade, 13 May 2020

[The Japan-UK FTA: Three fundamental issues to consider when assessing its value](#), UK Trade Policy Observatory at the University of Sussex, 8 July 2020

[UK and Japan FTA negotiations](#), Norton Rose Fulbright, 4 August 2020

[What the UK-Japan trade deal signifies](#), Policy Exchange, 11 September 2020

[£1.5bn GDP boost from UK-Japan trade deal is not on top of existing EU-Japan deal benefits](#), Full Fact, 15 September 2020

5.5 News articles

["Japan trade accord becomes post-Brexit priority for UK"](#), Financial Times, 20 September 2019

["Britain in rescue mission to replicate EU trade deal with Japan"](#), Borderlex, 13 May 2020

["Britain and Japan seek mutual benefits as relationship blossoms; Free trade deal offers chance for both sides to address economic strife"](#), Daily Telegraph, 19 May 2020 [via Nexis News]

["Japan rushes UK to agree first post-Brexit trade deal"](#), Financial Times, 22 June 2020

["CPTPP dimension looms large in UK Japan negotiations"](#), Borderlex, 23 June 2020

["Japan presses UK on speedy trade talks for end-of-year deal"](#), Nikkei Asian Review, 25 June 2020

["Japan is taking hard-headed approach to UK trade talks"](#), Financial Times, 14 July 2020

["UK-Japan trade talks to run past July deadline"](#), Financial Times, 29 July 2020

["UK and Japan close in on post-Brexit trade deal"](#), Financial Times, 7 August 2020

["UK trade deal with Japan stalls over blue cheese demands"](#), Financial Times, 10 August 2020

["Cheese drives a wedge between UK and Japan in trade talks"](#), Financial Times, 8 September 2020

[“UK strikes ‘historic’ trade deal with Japan”](#), Financial Times, 11 September 2020

[“UK-Japan trade deal shows need for EU pact”](#), Financial Times, 13 September 2020

[“Japan trade deal commits UK to stricter state aid curbs than in EU talks”](#), Financial Times, 13 September 2020

6. UK and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)

6.1 UK Government publications

[Government statement following Cabinet away day at Chequers](#), 6 July 2018

[Closed consultation: Trade with the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership](#), 20 July 2018 [updated 18 July 2019]

[UK approach to joining the CPTPP trade agreement](#), 17 June 2020

[Global Britain and the CPTPP](#), 3 July 2020

[UK takes major step towards membership of Trans-Pacific free trade area](#), 9 September 2020

6.2 News articles and press releases

[“Britain’s cold comfort of an Asia-Pacific trade deal”](#), Financial Times, 9 October 2018

[“Enemies of free trade must not be allowed to use coronavirus to bring back protectionism”](#), Telegraph, 28 April 2020

[UK edges closer to joining Asia-Pacific pact for trade and supply chain boost, MPs told](#), Institute of Export & International Trade, 18 June 2020

[CPTPP + US: the emergence of a British trade policy strategy](#), Borderlex, 16 July 2020

[“CPTPP—as easy as one, two, three?”](#), Prospect, 4 August 2020

[UK takes major step towards membership of Trans-Pacific free trade area](#), Department for International Trade, 9 September 2020

[“UK accelerates talks with TPP members after closing Japan trade deal”](#), Nikkei Asian Review, 13 September 2020

6.3 Reports

[A roadmap for UK accession to CPTPP](#), Initiative for Free Trade, October 2018

6.4 Other material

[Despite Abe’s Invitation, the CPTPP Does Not Make Sense for Britain](#), Chatham House, 12 October 2018

[Global Britain and the CPTPP: Advancing UK trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific](#), [video] Policy Exchange, 3 July 2020

[Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership \(CPTPP\)](#), Institute for Government, 6 July 2020

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