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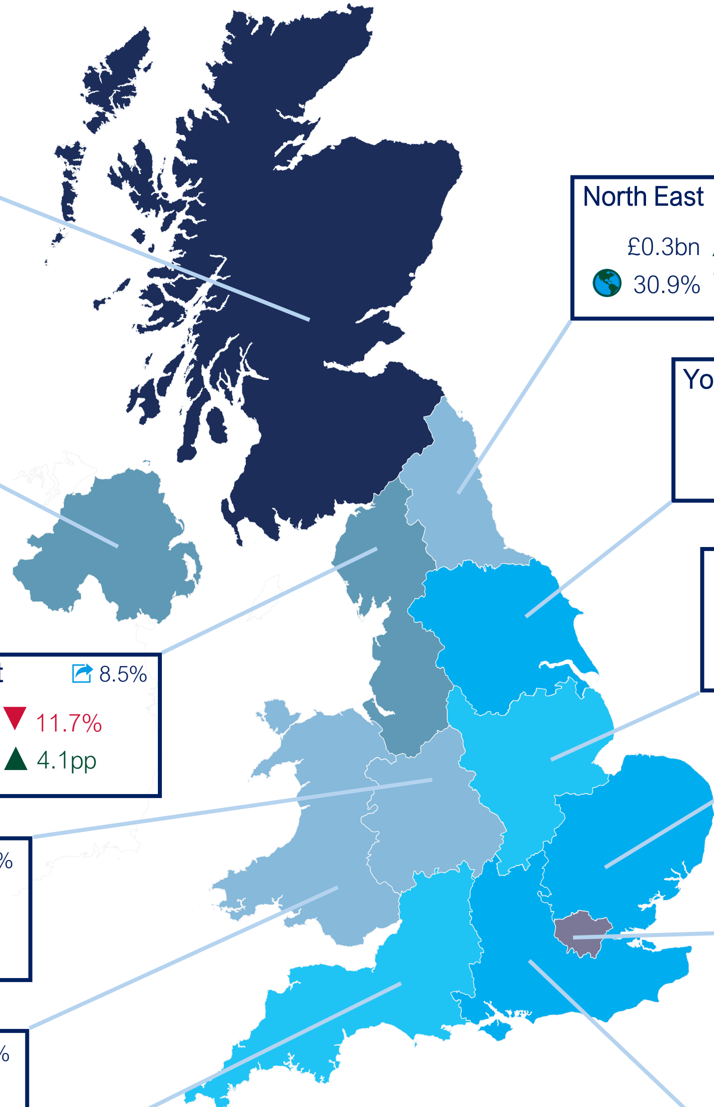
UK Food and Drink Exports

2021

Summary

- The North East, Wales and Scotland have seen the strongest recovery in response to the challenges of COVID and the new UK-EU trading relationship.
- Scotland accounts for the largest share (30%) of UK food and drink exports, while the North East saw the largest increase, reaching £280m – a 20.4% increase from 2020.
- The share of exports to non-EU markets is increasing and there are strong opportunities to drive further export growth as new trade deals deliver increased market access.



Scotland 29.8%
£5.7bn ▲ 14.6%
56.9% ▲ 1.8pp

Northern Ireland 8.4%
£1.6bn ▼ 0.9%
20.4% ▲ 3.0pp

North East 1.5%
£0.3bn ▲ 20.4%
30.9% ▼ 0.5pp

Yorkshire and the Humber 5.7%
£1.1bn ▼ 8.5%
35.9% ▲ 3.9pp

East Midlands 4.4%
£0.9bn ▼ 8.2%
28.1% ▲ 2.1pp

North West 8.5%
£1.6bn ▼ 11.7%
37.9% ▲ 4.1pp

East England 6.3%
£1.2bn ▼ 25.6%
42.8% ▲ 8.3pp

West Midlands 4.2%
£0.8bn ▲ 12.6%
23.2% ▲ 0.7pp

London 12.8%
£2.5bn ▼ 5.6%
63.1% ▲ 8.5pp

Wales 2.9%
£0.6bn ▲ 20.1%
25.6% ▲ 3.2pp

South West 4.0%
£0.8bn ▲ 1.9%
34.8% ▲ 5.5pp

South East 5.8%
£1.1bn ▼ 15.3%
34.9% ▲ 6.4pp

Food and drink export value (£bn)

- < £0.75bn
- £0.75bn – 0.99bn
- £1.00bn – 1.24bn
- £1.25bn – 1.74bn
- £1.75bn – 2.24bn
- £2.25bn – 2.74bn
- > £2.75bn

▲▼ Percentage increase/ decrease, 2020-2021

Share of total food and drink exports

Share of exports to non-EU markets

Data Sources: Her Majesty's Customs & Excise

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England

Summary

- Food and drink exports from England totalled £10.2bn in 2021, down 9% from 2020, and 15% lower than in 2019.
- England's biggest, beverages, was worth £2.3bn with sales up nearly 8% in 2021, but still down on pre-COVID sales from 2019.
- Most categories are down on pre-COVID levels. Vegetables and fruit have been hit hardest, with sales down nearly 36%.
- Ireland was the top destination for exports in England, buying nearly 15% of all exports, worth £1.5bn in 2021. However these sales are down a quarter since 2020.
- 2021 saw healthy growth in sales to France and the USA, with exports up 12% and 10% respectively.

"We are pleased to see signs of recovery in England's exports, especially to non-EU markets and expect further strong improvement in 2022."

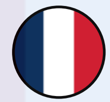
Dominic Goudie
Head of International Trade, FDF

Data Sources: Her Majesty's Customs & Excise

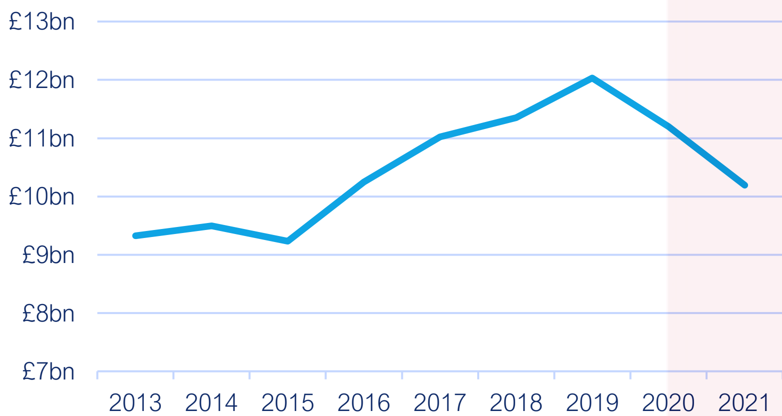
PRODUCT CATEGORIES

	Value	Change 2019-21	Change 2020-2021
All food and drink	£10.2bn	-15.3%	-9.0%
Beverages	£2.3bn	-13.6%	7.8%
Miscellaneous	£1.7bn	-3.2%	-5.0%
Cereals & cereal preps	£1.4bn	-26.6%	-19.7%
Coffee, tea & spices	£1.2bn	13.2%	12.7%
Meat and meat preps	£1.1bn	-14.4%	-14.8%
Dairy products	£778.7m	-19.5%	-11.1%
Vegetables & fruits	£632.9m	-37.1%	-35.7%
Animal & veg oils/fats	£412.1m	8.3%	6.9%
Fish and seafood	£357.8m	-37.7%	-28.3%
Sugars & honey	£245.4m	-30.7%	-29.8%

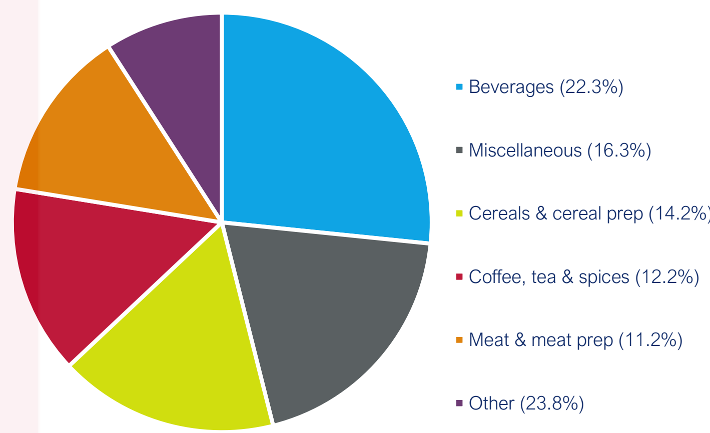
TOP 5 MARKETS

	Value	Share	Change 2020-2021
	£1.5bn	14.9%	-25.1%
	£1.1bn	10.9%	0.0%
	£985.1m	9.7%	11.6%
	£759.2m	7.4%	9.6%
	£532.1m	5.2%	-36.0%

EXPORTS OVER 9 YEARS



PRODUCT CATEGORIES



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Scotland

Scotland

Summary

- Scotland's food and drink exports were up 15% in 2021 to £5.7bn, recovering significant lost ground, but still down on pre-COVID levels.
- This recovery has been largely driven by a strong return to growth in exports of beverages and seafood products, with both up 16%.
- Given the global strength of Scotch Whisky exports, it is unsurprising that Scotland's biggest export category is beverages, which makes up almost three quarters of total exports.
- France is Scotland's largest export partner, overtaking the USA, with exports now worth more than £1bn.
- Exports to China nearly doubled in 2021 to nearly £225m, making up 4% of Scotland's food and drink exports.

"Scotland continues to punch above its weight – accounting for the largest share of UK food and drink exports - with an impressive 30% of total exports."

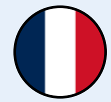
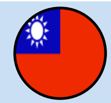
David Thomson
Chief Executive, FDF Scotland

Data Sources: Her Majesty's Customs & Excise

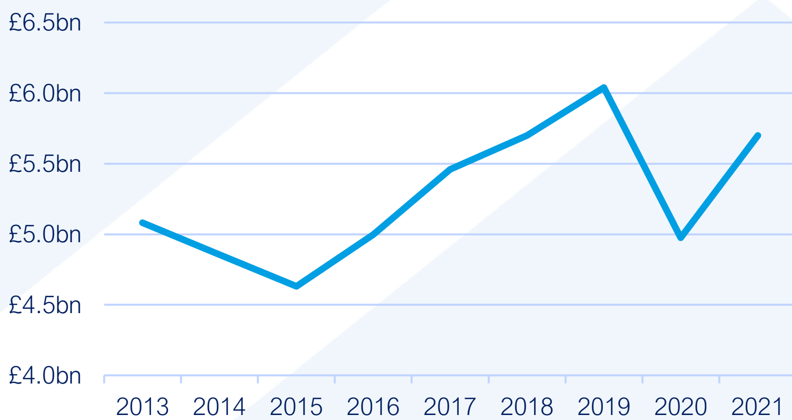
PRODUCT CATEGORIES

	Value	Change 2019-21	Change 2020-21
All food and drink	£5.7bn	-5.6%	14.6%
Beverages	£4.2bn	-6.6%	16.4%
Fish and seafood	£1.0bn	0.2%	16.4%
Cereals & cereal preps	£170.9m	-3.7%	2.2%
Meat and meat preps	£92.7m	-14.5%	-4.9%
Vegetables & fruits	£56.8m	-31.3%	-24.1%
Miscellaneous	£54.4m	9.9%	11.1%
Dairy products	£43.6m	-23.8%	-18.1%
Animal & veg oils/fats	£34.3m	35.8%	36.6%
Coffee, tea & spices	£28.4m	41.5%	50.1%
Sugars & honey	£11.4m	-44.8%	-23.4%

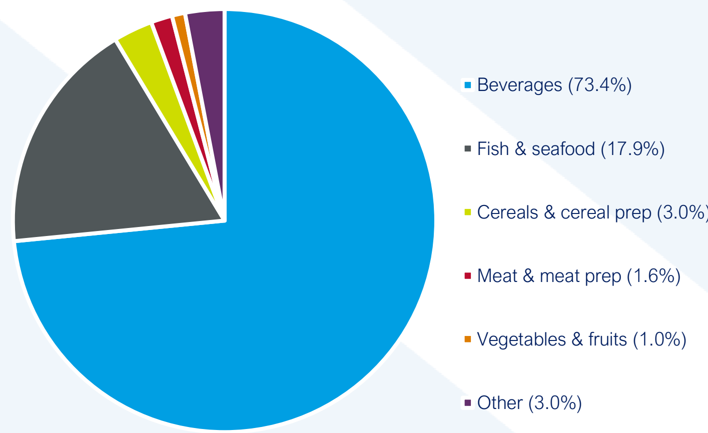
TOP 5 MARKETS

	Value	Share	Change 2020-21
	£1.0bn	17.7%	29.4%
	£922.8m	16.2%	3.2%
	£224.5m	3.9%	96.3%
	£197.3m	3.5%	22.5%
	£187.5m	3.3%	15.8%

EXPORTS OVER 9 YEARS



PRODUCT CATEGORIES



Wales 

Summary

- Wales is the only UK nation to exceed pre-COVID export levels. In 2021, exports were worth £558m, 13% higher than in 2019.
- This was driven by strong exports of cereals, up 173% since 2020, and now 132% higher than 2019 levels.
- However, the picture is less positive for exporters of fish and seafood, with sales down 7% since 2020 and 29% compared to 2019.
- Ireland is Wales' largest export partner, with exports up 7% since 2020.
- Strong growth was seen in exports to France and Belgium, growing 42% and 163% respectively.

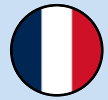
"Welsh food manufacturers are leading the way in putting the UK on the map while providing vital jobs for local people at the heart of our communities."

Pete Robertson
Chief Executive, FDF Cymru

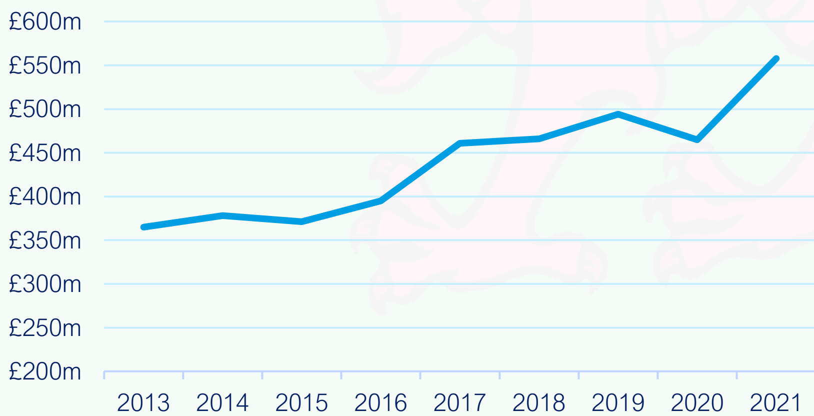
PRODUCT CATEGORIES

	Value	Change 2019-21	Change 2020-21
All food and drink	£558.0m	13.0%	20.1%
Cereals & cereal preps	£138.9m	132.7%	172.7%
Meat & meat preps	£131.9m	7.1%	-8.8%
Dairy products	£105.9m	-20.1%	-0.8%
Miscellaneous	£74.6m	-3.1%	0.8%
Beverages	£31.0m	-2.1%	51.7%
Fish & seafood	£23.3m	-28.5%	-6.5%
Coffee, tea & spices	£19.2m	95.9%	74.8%
Vegetables & fruits	£14.0m	-23.5%	-19.8%
Sugars & honey	£10.6m	61.7%	-12.4%
Animal & veg oils/fats	£8.7m	277.1%	238.6%

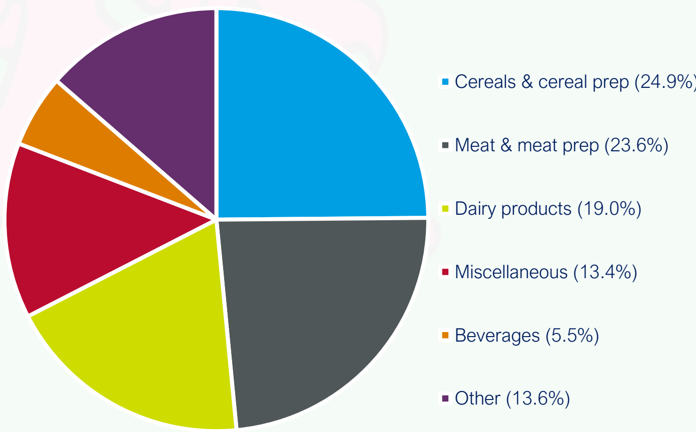
TOP 5 MARKETS

	Value	Share	Change 2020-21
	£102.9m	18.4%	7.3%
	£94.0m	16.8%	41.5%
	£55.7m	10.0%	163.0%
	£42.4m	7.6%	-7.0%
	£38.0m	6.8%	-9.9%

EXPORTS OVER 9 YEARS



PRODUCT CATEGORIES



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Northern Ireland

Summary

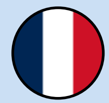
- Northern Ireland's food and drink exports fell 1% in 2021 to £1.6bn.
- This was driven by a fall in Northern Ireland's top category dairy, which was down 11% since 2019 and meat which fell nearly 19% in the same period.
- More positively, exports of beverages have seen a strong recovery, growing 9% since 2020, while vegetables and fruits are showing some signs of recovering.
- 61% of Northern Ireland's exports are destined for the Republic of Ireland, worth £970m in 2021 – more than ten times higher than the next biggest trade partner, the USA.
- Exports to Northern Ireland third largest trade partner, the Netherlands, have been badly impacted since 2020, with sales down nearly a quarter.

Data Sources: Her Majesty's Customs & Excise

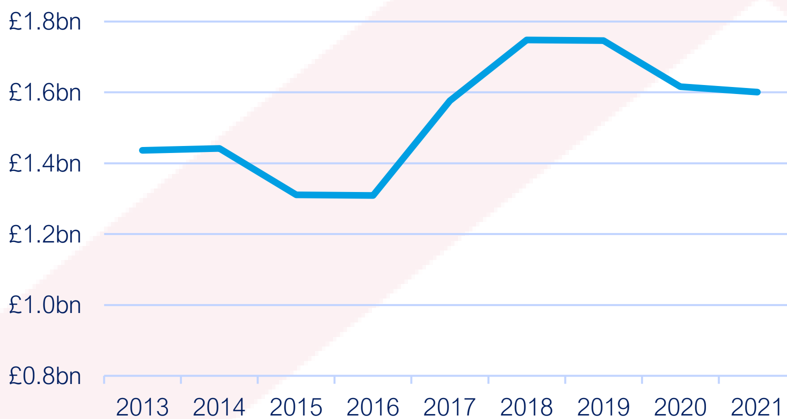
PRODUCT CATEGORIES

	Value	Change 2019-21	Change 2020-21
All food and drink	£1.6bn	-8.3%	-0.9%
Dairy products	£487.3m	-11.3%	-4.8%
Beverages	£385.7m	-1.8%	9.3%
Meat & meat preps	£284.2m	-18.7%	-11.6%
Cereals & cereal preps	£147.9m	-1.4%	-2.6%
Vegetables & fruits	£96.2m	-9.3%	4.1%
Miscellaneous	£61.3m	3.5%	35.6%
Animal & veg oils/fats	£49.1m	90.5%	33.8%
Fish and seafood	£38.7m	-39.1%	-27.7%
Coffee, tea & spices	£28.9m	-0.8%	1.2%
Sugars & honey	£22.0m	5.6%	-0.2%

TOP 5 MARKETS

	Value	Share	Change 2020-21
	£969.5m	60.6%	-3.2%
	£86.6m	5.4%	21.4%
	£72.5m	4.5%	-22.5%
	£57.7m	3.6%	-0.1%
	£37.2m	2.3%	-13.9%

EXPORTS OVER 9 YEARS



PRODUCT CATEGORIES