



CDI

Commitment to Development Index 2018

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom ranks **eighth** on the Commitment to Development Index. It dropped one place from the 2017 CDI publication mainly due to a lower score on the aid component. The United Kingdom still performs strongly on aid, as well as on security and trade, but could significantly improve its performance on technology and migration.

Overall: 5.27 (8/27)



Aid : 5.43 (6/27)



Finance : 5.35 (10/27)



Technology : 4.66 (19/27)



Environment : 5.31 (8/27)



Trade : 5.64 (4/27)



Security : 5.58 (4/27)



Migration : 4.88 (17/27)



Aid

In 2017, the United Kingdom provided 0.7 percent of its GNI for development assistance, making it one of the few countries to meet the international commitment of 0.7 percent GNI. The UK provides 64 percent of its aid bilaterally and 36 percent multilaterally. Its bilateral aid quality scores above average on indicators that measure how well donors reduce the burden on recipient countries and transparency and learning. However, the UK has significant room for improvement on its bilateral aid quality based on indicators that measure how well donors foster recipient country institutions. The UK's multilateral aid quality is helped by relatively large contributions to the International Development Association (IDA), which scores well among multilateral institutions.

SCORE: 5.4

RANK: 6

Finance

The UK is in the top half of the finance component, ranking 10th. Its international investment agreements are slightly better than average: they take some account of the public policy goals of the UK's investment partners and support their environmental and social regulations, but there is room for improvement. The UK also scores well on international commitments and is rewarded, for instance, for its compliance with the OECD anti-bribery convention. However, the UK could strengthen its performance as an open and transparent investor by making a more comprehensive commitment to the OECD guidelines on multinational companies. The UK also receives a low score on the financial secrecy indicator but could improve significantly if its overseas territories and crown dependencies moved in line with the rest of the UK.

SCORE: 5.4

RANK: 10

Technology

As in previous years, the UK's performance in the technology sector is poor. Its current 19th position is due to weak performance in both subcomponents. The UK provides only relatively low government support to research and development (R&D). In 2016 (last available data) the UK government provided only 0.48 percent of its GDP to R&D and relatively limited incentives for business R&D. The UK also does not play a leading role in the diffusion of technology to developing countries due to its intellectual property rights regulations. It could encourage and facilitate knowledge sharing by putting in place rights loss provisions, which are better for developing countries, and by relaxing its strict database protection rights.

SCORE: 4.7

RANK: 19



Environment

The UK achieves eighth place on the environment component. It scores above average due to its relatively high petrol taxes and large reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. The UK also scores well for having low fishing subsidies. The UK could improve its diligence in ratifying biodiversity treaties in a timely and accurate fashion, and by further reducing greenhouse gas emissions (despite large reductions, it is still only just below average).

SCORE: 5.3

RANK: 8



Trade

The UK ranks fourth on trade. It has very good trade infrastructure and efficient customs procedures. It also has very few restrictions on trade in services and, being in the EU Customs Union, has low tariffs (weighted by low partner country income). Against this record, the UK receives high levels of EU agricultural subsidies and could further improve its score by lowering these after Brexit.

SCORE: 5.6

RANK: 4



Security

The UK does relatively well on security, ranking fourth overall. Its strong performance reflects generous contributions to international peacekeeping efforts and sea lanes protection. Against this, however, the UK exports large amounts of arms to poor and undemocratic countries. It has also yet to ratify the fifth protocol on the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

SCORE: 5.6

RANK: 4



Migration

The UK scores 17th on the migration component. The UK has a comparatively large proportion of foreign students from countries that receive development aid. There is room for improvement, however, in accepting more migrants overall from lower-income countries and in the UK's integration policies. The UK could welcome more asylum seekers: application levels per capita and the UK's acceptance rate are both below the average. It could also demonstrate leadership in migration policy by ratifying the Convention on the Treatment of Migrant Workers and not excluding provisions on the Migration for Employment Convention.

SCORE: 4.9

RANK: 17



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