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# **WELCOME LETTER**

This study was carried out by the team at Araújo Ibarra in coordination with the British Chamber of Commerce in Colombia. This study was completed over a period of more than six months in which the competitive advantages offered by Colombia as a business and export platform for the United Kingdom (UK) in America were explored in depth.

Among the most significant findings, we found more than fifty products in which Colombia is more competitive in terms of tariff costs and market dynamism than the UK, and that based on this information, British companies could establish themselves in the country to serve the regional market.

Araújo Ibarra´s team is made up of the following members:

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The British-Colombo Chamber of Commerce's team is made up of the following members:

- Jaime Gonzalez Moore (President of the Board)
- Santiago Uribe (Executive Director)
- Martha Ramirez (Vice President of the Board)
- Roger Sánchez (Commercial Coordinator)

We hope that this study has a transformative effect in attracting companies from the UK to Colombia. We also hope that it serves as an input for the discussion of public policy on international trade and the promotion and attraction of investment.

Martin Ibarra

CEO of Araújo Ibarra International Consultants





# 2. INTRODUCTION: THE TRANSFORMATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND REGLOBALISATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Global trade has been impacted by various phenomena of the global environment. This means that countries need to think about transforming their economies, giving way to new forms of doing business, new sectors of development, generation of relevant employment and rethinking the ways in which they relate to their commercial partners.

Since the creation of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the world trade volume index is 40 times that recorded since the first days of GATT, increasing from 100 in 1950 to 4,100 in 2020 (OMC, 2022). Additionally, according to the report on global trade by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in 2022, 25% of global GDP is currently generated through international trade and 70% of global trade comes from multinational companies, which generate the largest foreign direct investment (FDI) flows in the world.

Whilst Colombia has made a great effort to insert itself into the global value chain, it is a long way from being a leading player in global and regional trade, since it is the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) country with the lowest level of per capita exports. Whilst the value of global per capita exports is USD \$2,801, the average for the OECD is USD \$8,834. In Latin America and the Caribbean it is only USD \$1,816. The per capita exports of Colombia (Trademap, 2021) are only USD \$790, which are considerably lower than those of countries such as Chile, Mexico and Costa Rica. Exports of goods and services as a proportion of GDP have remained practically stagnant for decade in Colombia, maintaining a level close to 20% of GDP. This is the lowest level among the largest economies of Latin America (such as Peru, Chile Ecuador, Brazil and Argentina)

https://www.wto.org/spanish/res\_s/statis\_s/trade\_evolution\_s/evolution\_trade\_wto\_s.htm (Consultado el 1 de febrero de 2023)

<sup>2</sup>Organización Mundial del Comercio (2023). Informe sobre el comercio mundial 2022. Disponible en: https://www.wto.org/spanish/res\_s/booksp\_s/wtr22\_s/wtr22\_s.pdf (Consultado el 1 de febrero de 2023).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Organización Mundial del Comercio (S.F). Evolución del comercio en el marco de la OMC: Estadísticas útiles. Disponible en:





**Table 1. Analysis of Exports: World, OECD and Latin American Countries** 

COUNTRY	EXPORTS (USD MILLIONS)	PER CAPITA EXPORTS
World	\$21,953,101	\$2,801
OECD	\$12,154,305	\$8,834
Latin America	\$1,195,371	\$1,816
Chile	\$92,888	\$4,835
Mexico	\$494,596	\$3,797
Costa Rica	\$14,345	\$2,791
Argentina	\$77,839	\$1,699
Peru	\$56,260	\$1,686
Brazil	\$280,815	\$1,312
Dominican Republic	\$11,832	\$1,080
Guatemala	\$13,594	\$795
Colombia	\$40,489	\$790
Honduras	\$4,976	\$494
Ecuador	\$26,269	\$128

Source: Calculations by Araújo Ibarra with data from Trademap

With the data presented above, it should be considered imperative by Colombia's authorities of international trade and s business network that the country reaches the average level of per capita exports in Latin America.

# 1.1 THE 8 MILESTONES THAT MARKED THE BEGINNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF REGLOBALISATION

The recovery of world trade has been driven by the regionalisation of value chains, the easing of restrictions imposed during the pandemic and the disbursement of economic stimulus packages. This

recovery, which the following milestones have been integral to, has been transforming and imposing new challenges that will continue to impact the exchange of goods and services globally:





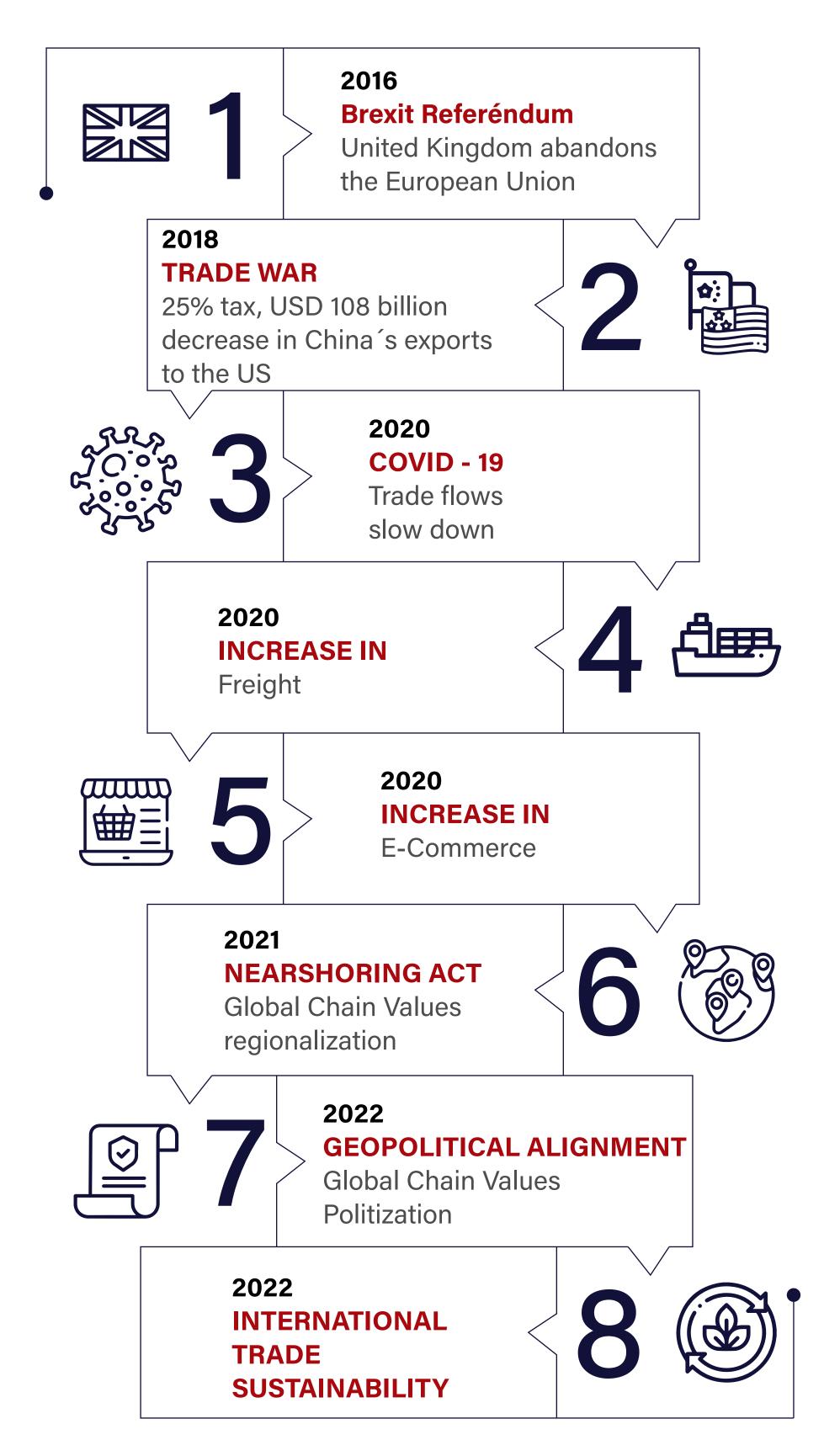


Illustration 1. 8 Milestones of Reglobalisation





- UK exit from the European Union (Brexit Referendum): The UK called in to question the principle of free flow of capital, business and people by withdrawing from the European. It has had one of the highest inflation rates in the world since. It has generated a new era in bilateral trade exchange, providing opportunities for countries such as Colombia to negotiate more flexible conditions.
- The trade war between the United States (U.S.) and China: The trade war between the two largest economies in the world, the U.S. and China, has had global consequences. Not only was the trade of goods affected, but there were also disruptions in the exchange of services and even in intellectual property issues.

China reduced its exports to the U.S. by USD \$120 billion in 2021 and as a consequence, 30 countries replaced this trade, increasing their exports towards to the U.S. by USD \$85 billion. The major winners have been Vietnam, Mexico, Taiwan and France. Colombia is called to participate in this major reengineering of U.S. import structure, taking advantage of the free trade agreement with the U.S. and its favourable conditions.

• **COVID** - **19:** Without doubt, the pandemic generated major ruptures in global value chains. It highlighted to multinationals their vulnerability by concentrating their supply in a single region such as China, which alone accounts for 15% of global exports. However, nowadays, costs and efficiency, although key, are no longer the determining factors when defining suppliers. Factors such as proximity and flexibility in supply, as well as diversification of risk and political and cultural affinity come into play.

As a result, the concentration of global value chains at a regional level rose. Colombia should play an active role in becoming a favourable destination for manufacturing with the destination of markets such as the U.S., promoting the advantages of each of its regions.

• Increase in freight rates: Port congestion caused by various factors in recent years has led to a sustained increase in international freight rate, which have risen by up to 408%, such as rates from China to the U.S. in 2021. The rise in logistics costs impacts international competitiveness and generates opportunities for countries such as Colombia with a privileged strategic location in the Americas.

• E-Commerce: In 5 years it is expected that e-commerce will account for 35% of world trade. China has 120 e-commerce free trade zones following the global trend towards demand for products through digital channels.

If the U.S. eliminated the De minimis clause for Chinese products, which is currently USD \$800, a great opportunity for Colombia would arise as the country would be able to bring domestic products to the U.S. market without tax under the De minimis clause.

- Nearshoring: As of 2021 the President Joe Biden introduced an executive order promoting resilient supply chains, beneficial biomedical products, electrical circuits, state of the art technology and nearshoring. The Interamerican Development Bank (IDB) estimates that nearshoring will bring at least USD \$78 billion to Latin America.
- Geopolitical alignment of value chains: From the beginning of the war between Russia and Ukraine, the U.S., along with its European allies, has promoted the economic inclination to trade with countries that share the same political principals and regimes. This can be seen as an evolution of democratic peace theory from the field of international relations, applied to world trade.
- Decarbonisation of international trade: The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), have led countries to include new measurement indicators, as well as restrictions or new taxes that enable them to get closer to the goals proposed for 2030.

One of the phenomena that has the greatest impacts on carbon footprint is the production and distribution of products, which the maritime industry is seeking reduce double-track journeys which contaminate goods through the use of pollutant-based fuels in ships.





Finally, in 2022, a continuation of alignment of global value chains has been observed, meaning that there is a tendency to trade with countries that share the same political principals and regimes. The Ruso-Ukrainian war and the effects of global warming point to environmentally sustainable products, where hydrogen will play a fundamental role in the decarbonisation of the planet, as both a fuel and as an industrial raw material.

The events described show that companies must have more manoeuvrability, resilience and robustness in their supply chains to cope with violent external shocks.

In response to these phenomena, UNCTAD identified in their report 'A decade of transformation (2020 -2030), four behavioural trends that companies and FDI in general are following:

- Relocalisation: : Shorter and less fragmented value chains, greater geographic concentration of value added
- Diversification: Duplication of suppliers, especially strategically important ones, differentiating geographical origin of suppliers
- Regionalisation: Formation of production chains that are concentrated in a geographically limited area.
- Replication: Replication of standardised production centres with similar characteristics in proximity with relevant markets

In the case of each strategy, the principal objective is to diversify the risk underlying the distant supply chains. Consequently, companies' investment strategies will revolve, varying in proportion, around expanding their network of suppliers from different locations, and locating closer to their key markets.

As a result, Latin American countries that are aware of the importance of FDI contributing to their economic growth and employment generation have implemented policies and strategies that continuously improve their business climate, aimed at reducing, facilitating and streamlining the procedures that companies interested in operating in Latin America must carry out.





# 2. THE UNITED KINGDOM IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AFTER ITS EXIT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION

The UK's exit from the European Union (EU) began in 2015 with a referendum approved by the British parliament through the 'European Union Referendum Act'. This referendum would allow for a vote on the UK's membership of the EU in 2016.

One year later, the referendum took place in the UK. The results of the vote surprised the country and the world, with 51.9% of voters deciding to leave the EU and 48.1% deciding to remain.

<sup>4</sup> UNCTAD (2020). Transformar el comercio y el desarrollo en un fracturado mundo pospandémico. **Disponible en:** https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/osg2020d2\_es.pdf (Consultado el 14 de abril de 2023).

As well as being a political and economic milestone, Brexit was the beginning of reglobalisation. If one observes the event from a historical point of view, it is surprising that the UK, being the cradle of capitalism and free trade and the originator of concepts such as competitive advantage and the law of competition by economists such as Adam Smith and David Ricardo, should decide to withdraw from an organization that promulgates these values.

# 2.1 THE UNITED KINGDOM S AGREEMENT ON TRADE AND COOPERATION WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION

With the provisional application of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and the UK on January 1st, 2021 and its entry into force on May 1st, 2021, the UK ceased to be a member state of the EU and became a third state. Thus, the country ceased to enjoy the rights and obligations it had as an EU member state. This led to the development of barriers to trade in goods and services and to cross-border mobility and exchanges that had not existed until then.

For the UK's withdrawal from the EU, a withdrawal agreement was signed that established a transition deadline of December 30, 2020.

The withdrawal agreement was intended to provide stability during the negotiation of an agreement on the future relationship between the EU and UK. These negotiations culminated with the ratification of an agreement on trade and cooperation, an agreement on security of information and an agreement relating to cooperation on the peaceful

use of nuclear energy between the EU and the UK. The three agreements entered into force on the 1st May 2021.

The agreement on trade and cooperation between the EU and the UK covers the trade in goods, services, investment, public contracts, intellectual property rights, road and air transport, energy and sustainability, fishing and social security coordination.

Trade and investment rules are based on global commitments to a level playing field and sustainable development.

## The agreement:

- Establishes tariff and quota exemption for all goods that meet the appropriate rules of origin.
- Establishes a level playing field for EU investors already established or wishing to establish themselves.





- Contains a chapter on SMEs aimed at promoting SME participation in the agreement.
- Commits both parties to: environmental protection; combating climate change and carbon pricing; social and labour rights; fiscal transparency and state aid. There is also binding dispute settlement mechanism with the possibility for both parties to take remedial action.

However, when comparing the benefits of being a member of the EU versus having a cooperation and trade

Table 2. Benefits as a Third State vs. Member State of the EU

ANÁLISIS COMPARADO DE BENEFICIOS COMO TERCER ESTADO VS. ESTADO MIEMBRO DE LA UE					
Description of Benefits Item	UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement	EU Member Country			
Elimination of border controls	X	<b>√</b>			
Passports for pets	X	✓			
Visa-free travel (90 days in a 180-day period)	✓	✓			
Visa free travel (more than 90 days)	X	<b>√</b>			
Right to work, study, live in another EU country	0	✓			
Elimination of roaming charges	X	✓			
Trade	of goods				
Frictionless trade	X	<b>√</b>			
Zero tariffs or quotas	✓	✓			
Zero customs formalities	0	✓			
Zero SPS controls	X	<b>√</b>			
Zero rules of origin procedures	0	<b>√</b>			
Fisheries agreement	0	✓			
Benefit from EU international agreements	X	✓			
Trade	services				
Financial services passport	X	<b>√</b>			
Easy recognition of professional qualifications	X	✓			
Air tran	sportation				
Single aviation area, full freedoms	X	✓			
Fifth bilateral freedoms for extra-EU air cargo	0	✓			





COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF BENEFITS AS A THIRD COUNTRY  VS. EU MEMBER STATE				
Description of Benefits Item	UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement	EU Member Country		
Air trans	sportation			
Single aviation area, full freedoms	X	<b>√</b>		
Fifth bilateral freedoms for extra-EU air cargo	0	✓		
Road trai	nsportation			
Single internal transport market for hauliers	X	✓		
Cross trade operations	0	✓		
En	ergy			
Single internal transport market for carriers	X	✓		
Cross trade operations	0	<b>√</b>		
EU Pr	ograms			
Access to Erasmus	X	<b>√</b>		
Access to NextGenerationEU, SURE	X	✓		
Galileo encrypted military signal	X	✓		
Access to Horizon Europe	0	✓		

Source: Prepared by Araújo Ibarra based on the Maastricht Treaty and the United Kingdom-European Union Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

 $\checkmark$ = OK, X = NO, O: Specific conditions related to the United Kingdom-European Union trade and cooperation agreement.





## 3. THE UNITED KINGDOM IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

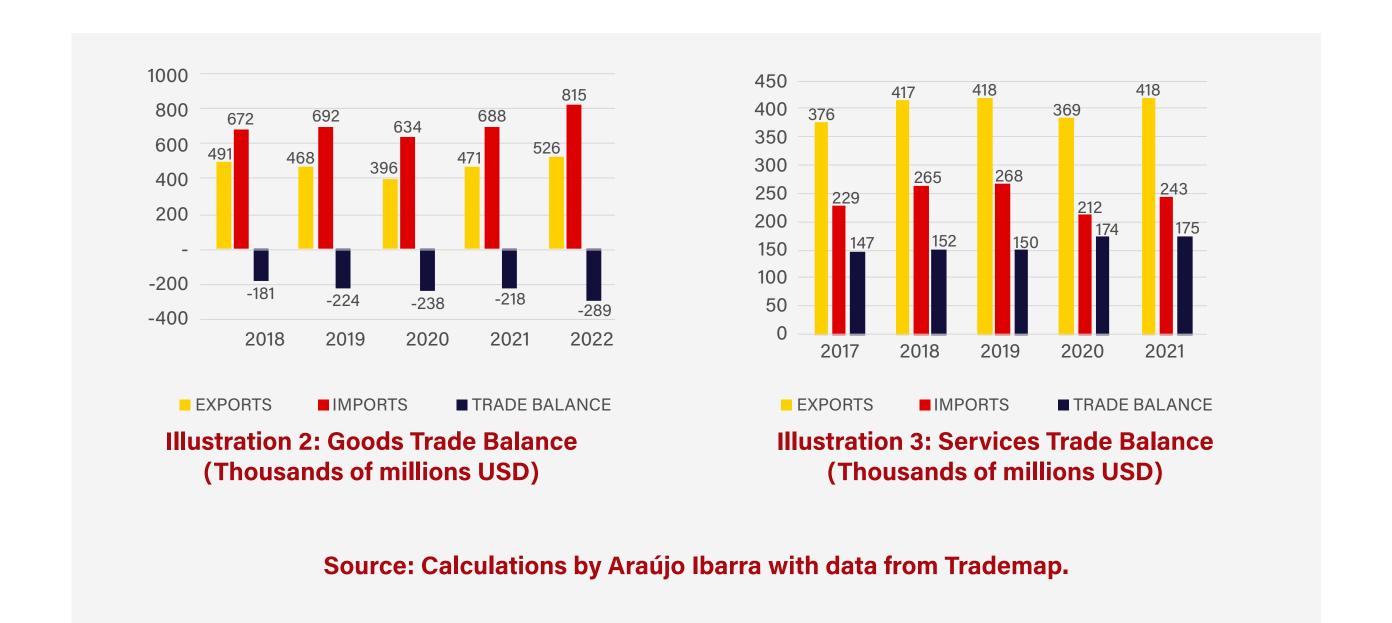
# **3.2** THE UNITED KINGDOM'S COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WORLD

Despite the UK being the country of origin of free trade and the epicentre of the industrial revolution in 18th and 19th centuries, now in the 21st century it has a trade balance of goods in deficit and a trade balance of services in surplus.

The UK has undergone a large macroeconomic and trade transition over the last 20 years and its balance of trade in goods has not been in surplus since the 1990s. Although UK companies such as AstraZeneca, Diageo and British Petroleum are vital to the world economy, today its main exports that

contribute significantly to the balance of trade and payments are services companies such as Deloitte, Price Waterhouse Cooper and Vodafone Group.

With reference to the above, whilst the import of goods grew by an average of 5% yearly between 2018 and 2022, exports only grew 1.8%. In services, the situation is the opposite. Between 2018 and 2022 the balance of trade has always been positive, which reflects a transition in the UK's trade in goods and services.

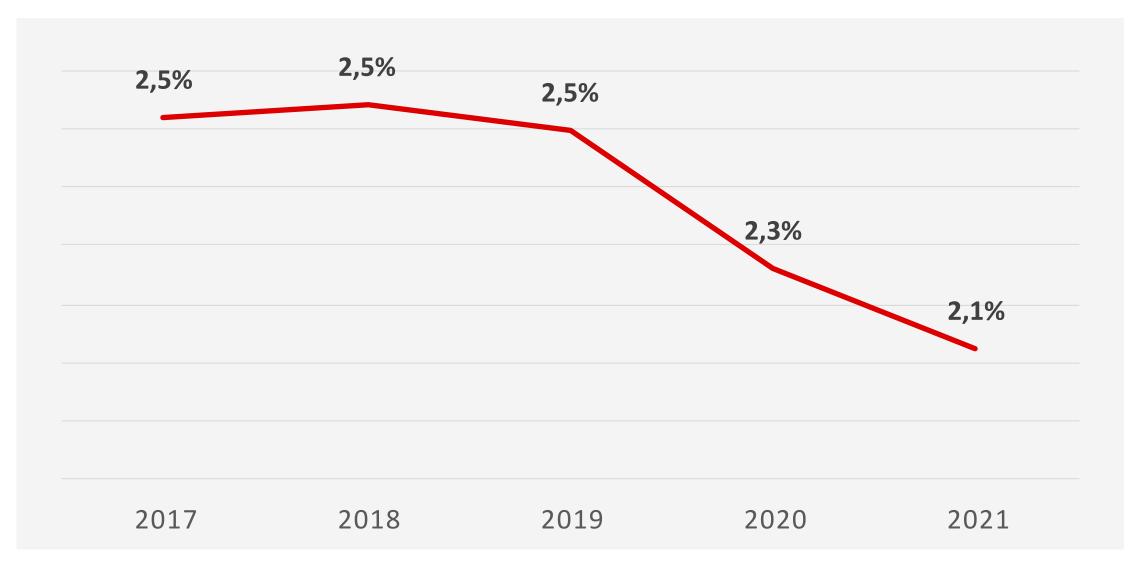


It is also observed that the UK's share of world trade in goods reduced from 2.5% in 2018 to 2.1% in 2021.





Illustration 4. Participation of the UK in the Global Export of Goods (%)



Source: Calculations by Araújo Ibarra with data from Trademap

The U.S., the Netherlands and Germany are the main destinations for UK exports. It is observed that UK exports to the U.S. and Germany have shown negative growth between 2018 and 2022. Similarly, other important destinations for UK exports such as France, Italy and Spain have also shown negative growth.

The UK registers the largest trade deficit with the following countries.

Table 3. Countries With Which the UK Has the Largest Trade Deficit (Thousands of USD)

COUNTRIES WITH WHICH THE UK HAS THE LARGEST TRADE DEFICIT (THOUSANDS USD)					
COUNTRY	EXPORTS	IMPORTS	TRADE BALANCE 2022		
China	34.378	102.114	-67.737		
Norway	4.238	53.371	-49.133		
U.S.	63.385	97.347	-33.962		
Germany	41.234	71.278	-30.044		
Italy	11.340	30.566	-19.225		
Spain	11.869	23.509	-11.640		
Poland	7.002	17.283	-10.281		
Canada	7.645	16.967	-9.322		
Vietnam	864	8,866	-8.001		
Kazakhstan	303	7.679	-7.376		

Source: Calculations by Araújo Ibarra with data from Trademap





The following are the products with which the UK records the largest trade deficit and the country that contributes most to this deficit.

Table 4. High Deficit Products in the UK's Trade Balance

	HIGHLY DEFICIENT I	PRODUCTS OF L	JK'S TRADE BAL	ANCE (USD MILLIC	ON)
TARIFF ITEM	PRODUCT	EXPORTS	IMPORTS	TRADE BALANC 2022	E COUNTRY WITH LARGEST DEFICIT
'271111	Natural gas, liquefied	0	29.048	-29.048	Qatar
'271121	Natural gas, gaseous	8.833	30.303	-21.470	Norway
'270900	Crude petroleum oils	21.124	39.531	-18.407	Norway
'271019	Medium petroleum oils	8.725	25.422	-16.697	Saudi Arabia
'870380	Passenger cars	1.829	10.802	-8.973	Germany
'870421	Vehicles for transportation of goods	756	6.905	-6.149	Turkey
'851713	Smartphones for wireless networks	1.246	6.912	-5.666	China
'851762	Conversation machines	2.521	7.875	-5.354	China

Source: Calculations by Araújo Ibarra with data from Trademap

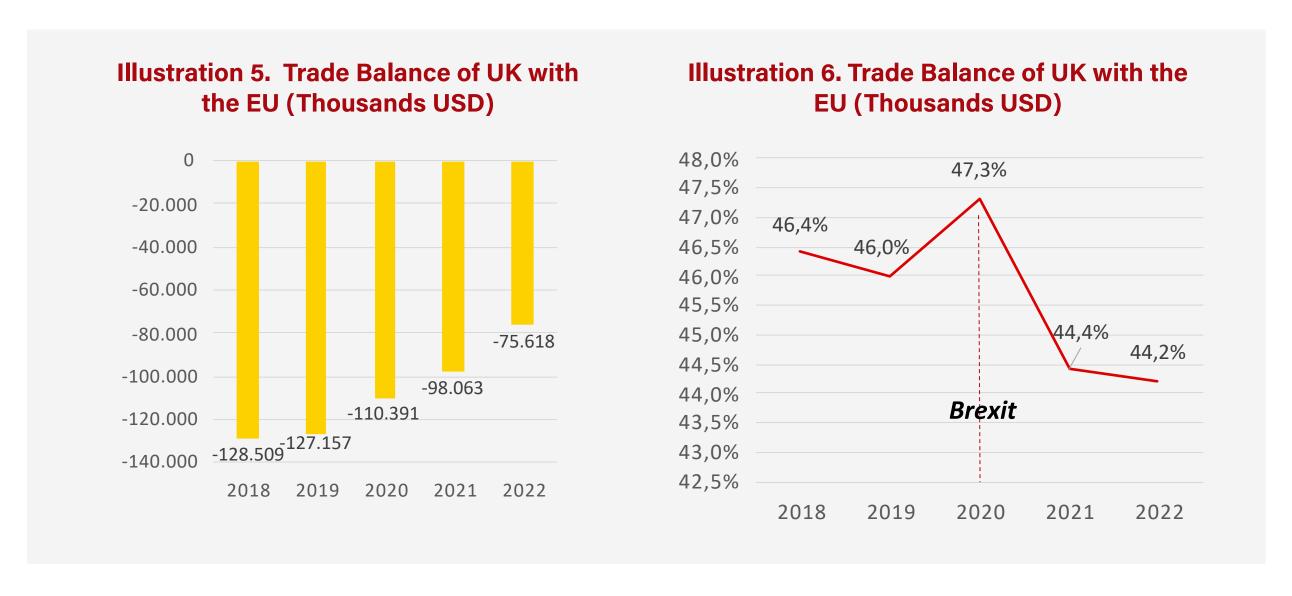
# 3.3 THE UNITED KINGDOM'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION

The UK's balance of trade in goods with the EU was also negative between 2018 and 2022. However, the negative balance reduced by 12% during the time period analysed.

There was also a reduction in the share of exports to the EU market, falling from 46.4% to 44.2%.







Source: Calculations by Araújo Ibarra with data from Trademap

The sectors with the largest trade deficits in the UK and the country that contributes the most to these deficits are shown below.

Table 5. Sectors With the Greatest Trade Deficit in the United Kingdom

SECTOR	BALANCE 2022 (THOUSANDS OF US	COUNTRY WITH DIARGEST DEFICIT
Motor vehicles	-33.930.015	Germany
Pharmaceuticals	- 5.712.693	Germany
Wood, charcoal and articles of wood	- 5.067.133	Sweden
Plastics and plastic products	-4.956.373	Germany
Paper and cardboard	-4.368.907	Germany
Electrical machinery, apparatus and equipmen	t -3.947.022	Polonia
Furniture; medical and surgical furniture;	-3.889.478	Italy
bedding, mattresses and similar furnishings		
Products based on cereals, flour, starch, meal, or milk	-3.782.072	Italy
Meat and edible meat offal	-3.478.038	Netherlands
Products containing of vegetables, fruits, nuts, fruit, nuts or other parts of plants	-3.297.394	Italy

Source: Calculations by Araújo Ibarra with data from Trademap





# 3.4 THE UNITED KINGDOM'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE WITH COLOMBIA

The UK's balance of trade in goods with Colombia is negative. However, there was a reduction in the deficit between 2021 and 2022 of 1.69% and a slight increase in Colombia's market share in the UK (0.11% to 0.15%).

87% of UK imports from Colombia are made up of fuel, fruit, coffee and flowers. Significant growth in Colombia's sales to the UK has been observed in the following products, but the value exported does not exceed USD \$15 million.

**Table 6. UK Imports from Colombia** 

UK IMPORTS FROM COLOMBIA (MILLIONS USD)				
PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	IVAR 18/22	IVAR 18/22	SHARE 2022	
All products	784	8%	100%	
Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous materials	274	15%	35%	
Edible fruits and nuts	221	-3%	28%	
Coffee, tea, yerba mate and spices	100	11%	13%	
Live plants and floriculture products	82	13%	11%	
Miscellaneous food preparations	14	17%	2%	
Foundry, iron and steel	14	78%	2%	
Plastics and articles thereof	8	32%	1%	
Preparations of vegetables, fruits or other fruits or other parts of plants	7.496	14%	1%	
Inorganic chemical products, inorganic or organic compounds of precious metals, elements, etc.	6	46%	1%	
Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; edible fats and oils and their cleavage products	6	27%	1%	

Source: Calculations y Araújo Ibarra with data from Trademap





Similarly, looking at Colombia's imports from the UK there is evidence of an average growth of 12% in the last 5 years (2018-2022) and a high concentration in the import basket from the first 4 products. Thus, cocoa, tea, alcoholic beverages and clothing account for 41% of imports

**Table 7. Colombian Imports from the UK** 

COLOMBIAN IMPORTS FROM THE UK (MILLIONS USD)COLOMBIAN IM-				
PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	VALUE IN 2022	IVAR 18/22	SHARE 2022	
All products	765	8%	100%	
Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation	282	19%	37%	
Beverages, alcoholic liquids and vinegar	125	23%	16%	
Pharmaceutical products	66	5%	9%	
Machinery, apparatus and mechanical appliances	60	-6%	8%	
Motor vehicles	47	-5%	6%	
Miscellaneous chemical products	31	2%	4%	
Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, control or precision instruments and appliances	26	-3%	4%	
Electrical machinery, apparatus and equipment and parts thereof; apparatus for recording or reproduction	19	10%	2%	
Plastics and articles thereof	14	2%	2%	
Organic chemical products	11	-4%	2%	



TO SEE UK INTERNATIONAL TRADE DATA IN POWER BI, SCAN THIS QR CODE





# 4. COLOMBIA AS A UNITED KINGDOM TRADE HUB FOR THE UNITED STATES

Colombia today has one of the best trade agreements with the U.S. which is the main importer and generator of international demand for goods and services. This can be seen in that 95% of products are not tariffed and in the coming years the group of sensitive products in the agricultural sector will also achieve total tariff elimination. It should also be borne in mind that specific origin requirements were agreed in the trade agreement with the U.S. and Colombia. These requirements are more flexible for most of the goods in the industrial sector than those agreed by the U.S. with other trading partners, allowing the incorporation of inputs and raw

materials from third countries.

In addition, due to its strategic geographical location only 3 hours from Miami by air and 3 days by sea from the Caribbean, Colombia has one of the lowest air and sea freight rates, offering competitiveness to products exported from the country.

The following section identifies a group of products that the UK can export to the U.S. from Colombia without paying tariffs, with more competitive freight and delivery times.

# **4.1** THE COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES

The United States is the main destination for exports from the UK. However, between 2018 and 2022 the U.S.´s share in the UK export market fell.

Share of U.K. goods exports in U.S. market (%) 18% 16% 16% 14% 13% 13% 14% 12% 12% 10% Brexit 8% 6% 4% 2% 0% 2020 2021 2018 2019 2022

Illustration 7. Share of UK Goods Exports in the U.S. market

Source: Calculations by Araújo Ibarra with data from Trademap





The UK exported just over USD \$63.385 billion worth of goods to the U.S. in 2022. Between 2018 to 2022 UK exports to the U.S. demonstrated an average negative annual growth of 0.1% and in 2012 they represented 12% of total exports to the U.S.

## The main products exported to the U.S. by the UK belong to the following sectors:

- Machinery, mechanical appliances and apparatus, nuclear reactors, boilers and parts thereof (18%)
- Motor vehicles, tractors, cycles and other land vehicles, and parts and accessories thereof (14%)
- Pharmaceutical products (9%)
- Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus; parts and accessories thereof (7%)
- Organic chemical products (7%)

Of these, the export of vehicles and pharmaceuticals decreased from 2018 to 2022, while all other goods increased above the average growth of total UK exports to the US.

Other UK exports which registered negative growth in the U.S. market were:

- Beverages, alcoholic drinks and vinegar
- Furniture
- Cast iron and Steel products
- Rubber and rubber products

On the other hand, the UK imported just over USD \$9.7347 billion worth of products from the U.S. in 2022, with an average annual growth of 11% from 2018 to 2022. The U.S. is the second largest exporter to the UK, followed by China, which accounts for 12% of the UK's goods import market.

## 4.2 LOGISTICAL COSTS TO EXPORT TO THE U.S

It is notable that in the U.S., the UK competes especially with products made in China which despite the trade war, maintain a significant share in the North American market. It also highlights the growing importance of trade between the U.S. and its NAFTA trading partners, in particular Mexico, which in recent years has become a more important supplier to the NAFTA market.





Table 8. Major U.S. Suppliers, Including the UK and Colombia

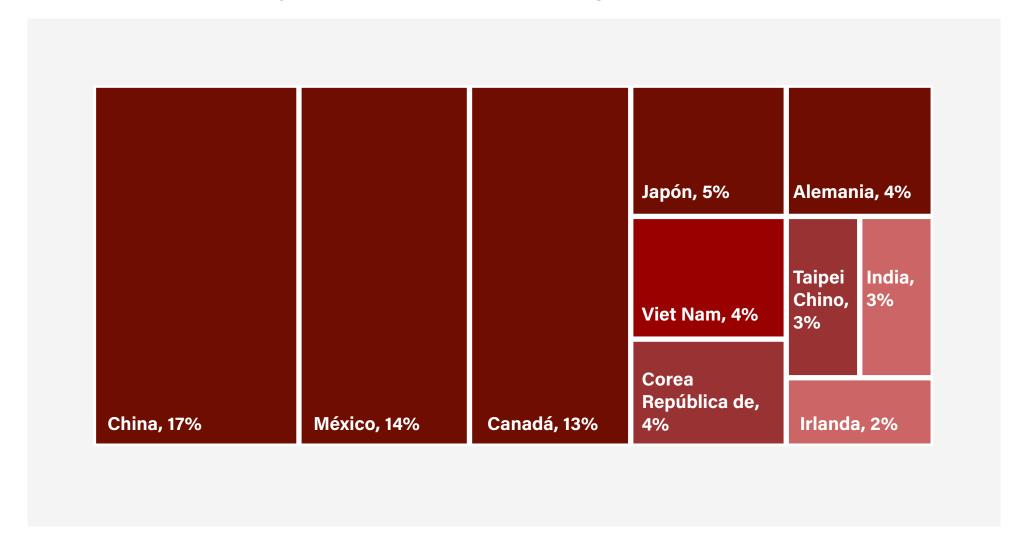


Table 9. Major U.S. Suppliers, Including the UK and Colombia

MAJOR U.S. SUPPLIERS, INCLUDING THE UK AND COLOMBIA						
COUNTRY	%SHARE BY AIR	AIR FREIGHT CHARGE USD/KG	% SHARE BY SEA	SEA FREIGHT CHARGE USD/KG		
Total	28,46%	3,7	44,20%	0,11		
China	31,63%	4,5	62,65%	0,40		
Japan	27,70%	5,0	67,87%	0,24		
Germany	42,70%	2,7	49,30%	0,17		
UK	49,34%	2,8	44,92%	0,07		
Colombia	25,90%	1,2	69,61%	0,02		

Source: Calculations by Araújo Ibarra with data from Trademap

As can be observed in the above table, the average air freight cost for products exported from Colombia to the U.S. is USD \$1.2 and the maritime freight charge is USD \$0.02, which is much lower than the freight rates paid by the main suppliers to the U.S. market.

It is also worth briefly highlighting that the majority of products exported from the UK to Colombia are exported by air. This is interesting considering that 44.2% of U.S. imports are transported by sea and that the trend in world trade in goods is to transport products by sea. Taking this into account, and as mentioned above, UK exports to the U.S. are perishable products such as pharmaceuticals and high value products such as machinery and equipment.





# 4.3 PRIORIZACIÓN DE PRODUCTOS

In order to identify the products that the UK exports to the U.S. market paying high taxes and freight, which could be manufactured in Colombia and then exported with lower taxes and freight costs and more competitive delivery times, the following methodology was applied:

As a first step, the U.S. import basket (6-digit products) was analysed and products were classified into three (3) categories: established stars, rising stars and stars to be developed.

### **Established Stars**

Refers to products with an average growth in demand taking into account that UK exports have slightly decreased. The selection criteria are:

- 1. U.S. imports per product are more than USD \$500 million.
- 2. Average rise in U.S. imports averages more than 10%
- 3. Export contraction less than 1%
- 4. Products from the UK that pay a tariff greater than 2.9% in the U.S. and that originate in Colombia, have a tariff of 0%

## **Rising Stars**

Refers to products which have a highly dynamic demand but with an average market value. They are considered to be rising precisely because of their high rate of growth and the average market value. The criteria are:

- 1. U.S. imports of the product are less than USD \$500 million
- 2. Average growth in U.S. imports greater than 10%
- 3. Contraction in exports greater than 1%.
- 4. Products from the UK that pay a tariff of more than 2.9% in the U.S. and that originate in Colombia, have a tariff of 0%.

## Stars to be developed

Refers to stars that have a low demand in terms of imported value. They are considered for development because of the high contraction in UK exports to the U.S., and given this, British companies can manufacture from Colombia instead. The criteria are:

- 1. U.S. imports of each product are greater than USD \$550 million.
- 2. Average rise in imports greater than 10%.
- 3. Contraction in U.S. imports greater than 7%.
- 4. Products from the UK that pay a tariff of more than 2.9% in the U.S. and that originate in Colombia, have a tariff of 0%.

By applying this methodology, 30 products were identified, with a U.S. market total of USD \$64 billion and an average annual growth of 15.1% between 2018 and 2022.





**Table 10. Summary of Prioritised Products by Category (Millions USD)** 

			CEXPORTS THE WORLD		IMPORTS FROM THE WORLD
CATEGORIES	# PTS	2022	VAR % 2018 A 2022	2022	VAR % 2018 A 2022
Total	30	3.354	-5,1%	63.958	15,1%
Established stars	9	2.305	-0,4%	36.784	13,7%
Rising stars	8	614	-7,8%	15.773	20,5%
Stars to be developed	13	435	-7,2%	11.401	10,9%

Source: Calculations by Araújo Ibarra with data from Trademap and USITC

Similarly, the products identified were classified into products that are transported by air and products that are mostly transported by sea.

**Table 11. Mode of Transport of Prioritised Products** 

Mode of	Mode of Transport of Prioritised Products					
	Products Transporte by Air	Products Transported by Sea				
Share in 2022 (%)	29%	44%				
Average freight greater than	1,2 USD/kg	0,07				

The prioritised products are listed below by category and sector:

**Table 12. Products Prioritised by Market Size and Dynamism (Thousands of USD)** 

			UK Exports t	o the World	U.S. Imports From the World		
Sectors	Product Code	Product Description	2022	Var % 2018 to 2022	2022	Var % 2018 to 2022	
			2.305.021	-0,4%	36.783.607	13,7%	
Plastics, rubber and manufactures thereof	401110	New rubber tires, used on automobiles.	219,707	-18.4%	10,419,415	6.5%	
Plastics, rubber and manufactures thereof	401120	New rubber tires, used on buses and coaches	121,663	-11.7%	7,790,700	13.2%	
Plastics, rubber and manufactures thereof	392062	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular, non-stressed polyethylene terephthalate	160,495	6.0%	1,411,443	13.8%	





			UK Exports t	to the World	U.S. Imports F	rom the World
Sectors	Product Code	Product Description	2022	Var % 2018 to 2022	2022	Var % 2018 to 2022
			2.305.021	-0,4%	36.783.607	13,7%
Chemicals	293499	Nucleic acids and their salts	476,158	-13.4%	9,848,174	25.0%
Chemicals	382600	Biodiesel and blends thereof	678,248	66.4%	1,447,627	28.7%
Machinery and equipment	854460	Electrical conductors, for a voltage > 1,000 V, (not included elsewhere).	136,758	10.4%	1,359,671	24.3%
Machinery and equipment	848790	Parts of machinery or apparatus, not put to specific uses	154,567	-2.3%	548,340	7.5%
Vehicles	871690	Parts of trailers and semi- trailers and of other non- automotive vehicles	114,398	-4.5%	1,766,193	11.8%
Glass and glass products	701090	Cylinders, bottles, flasks, jars, tubular containers and other glass containers	243,027	7.2%	2,192,044	7.9%

Source: Calculations by Araújo Ibarra with data from Trademap and USITC

**Table 13. Prioritised Products by Sector, Tariff and Rules of Origin** 

Sectors	Product Code	Product Description	Origin	Effective Tariff for UK in the USA
Machinery and equipment	8544601000	Electric conductors, for a voltage > 1.000 V, (not included elsewhere)	A change to this subheading from any other subheading, provided there is a regional value content of not less than:	3.5%
Machinery and equipment	8487901000	Parts of machinery or apparatus, for non-specific uses	(a) 35 percent under the increased value method, or,	3.9%
Plastics, rubber and manufactures thereof	4011101000	New rubber tires, used on motor vehicles	(b) 45 percent under the value reduction method.	4.0%
Plastics, rubber and manufactures thereof	4011200000	New rubber tires, used on buses and coaches	Change of heading	4.0%
Plastics, rubber and manufactures thereof	3920620020	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular, non-cellular, non-stressed polyethylene terephthalate	Change of heading	4.2%
Chemicals	2934991000	Nucleic acids and their salts	Change of heading	5.9%
Chemicals	3826000000	Biodiesel and blends thereof	Change of heading	De 4.6% a 6.5%
Vehicles	8716100000	Parts of trailers and semi-trailers and of other non-automotive vehicles	A change to this subheading from any other subheading; or a change to vulcanized fibres of subheading 3920.79 from any other good of subheading 3920.79 or from any other subheading; or No change in tariff classification is required, provided that a regional value content of not less than: (a) 35% under the value increase method, or, (b) 45 % under the value decrease method.	4.0%
Glass and glass products	7010904000	Cylinders, bottles, flasks, jars, jars, tubular containers and other containers of glass	Change of subheading	2.7%

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Table 14. Prioritised Products by Sector, Air or Sea Freight Charges (2022).

Code	Product description	% by air	Air freight USD/Kg	% by sea	Sea freight USD/Kg
	Average	14.6%	3.8	54.7%	0.3
854460	Electrical conductors, for a voltage > 1.000 V, (not				
634400	included elsewhere).	0.2%	4.5	71.8%	0.3
848790	Parts of machinery or apparatus, for non-specific uses.	87.1%	3.8	11.5%	0.4
401110	New rubber tires, used on motor vehicles.	0.0%	5.3	76.8%	0.4
401120	New rubber tires, used on buses and coaches	4.4%	2.1	59.1%	0.1
392062	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular, non-				
392002	stressed polyethylene terephthalate	0.8%	3.4	66.4%	0.3
293499	Nucleic acids and their salts	0.0%	2.9	46.0%	0.0
382600	Biodiesel and blends thereof	4.2%	4.8	72.2%	0.2
871690	Parts of trailers and semi-trailers and of other non-				
0/1090	automotive vehicles	5.9%	4.2	55.8%	0.3
701090	Cylinders, bottles, flasks, jars, tubular containers and other glass containers	28.5%	3.4	32.8%	0.4

Source: Calculations by Araújo Ibarra, with data from USITC

**Rising Stars:** 8 products

**Table 15. Prioritised Products by Sector, Size and Market Dynamism** 

			UK Exports t	to the World	U.S. Imports F	rom the World
Sectors	<b>Product Code</b>	Product description	2022	Var % 2018 to 2022	2022	Var % 2018 to 2022
			613,695	-7.8%	15,772,796	20.5%
Plastics,		Tableware and kitchenware				
rubber and manufactures thereof	392410		70,183	-22.5%	5,749,725	16.1%
Machinery		Plates, separators and other				
and equipment	850790	parts of electric accumulators, (not included elsewhere)	89,943	0.0%	5,641,267	36.3%
Chemicals	293090	Organic sulphur compounds	75,782	-4.6%	1,027,765	10.2%
Chemicals	291590	Acyclic monocarboxylic acids, their anhydrides, halides, peroxides and peroxyacids	82,882	-3.0%	937,326	34.0%
Copper products	741220	Copper alloy fittings, elbows, elbow fittings, sleeves and other tube and pipe fittings, of copper alloys	66,101	-1.4%	822,088	10.3%
Base metals and manufactures thereof	820559	Hand tools, incl. glazier's diamonds	75,166	-10.5%	792,906	7.5%
Glass and		Framed or unframed rear-view				
glass products	700910	mirrors, incl. rear-view mirrors, whether or not framed	92,486	-0.1%	445,749	9.9%
Chemicals		Plates, sheets, film, foil and				
	392043	strip, of polymers of vinyl chloride, non-cellular	61,152	-11.0%	355,970	10.4%





Note: The tariff for these products is 0% if the product is of Colombian origin Source: Calculations by Araujo Ibarra with data from Trademap and USITC.

**Table 16. Prioritised Products by Sector, Tariffs and Rules of Origin** 

Sectors	Product Code	Product Description	Origin	Effective Tariff for UK in the USA
Plastics, rubber and manufactures thereof	3924109000	Tableware and kitchenware	A change to heading 3922 through 3926 from any other heading.	3.57%
Machinery and equipment	8507903000	Plates, separators and A change to subheading 8507.10 from any other parts of electric other heading; or subheading, provided accumulators, (not that the regional content is 35%. included elsewhere)		3.42%
Chemicals	2915902000	Acyclic monocarboxylic acids, their anhydrides, halides, peroxides and peroxyacids	A change to subheading 8507.10 from any other subheading, whether or not there is a change from any other heading, provided that the regional content is 35%.	3.88%
Manufactures of copper	7412200000	Copper alloy fittings, elbows, elbow fittings, sleeves and other tube or pipe fittings	A change to subheading 2914.11 through 2918.90 from any other subheading,	3.00%
Manufactures of base metals	8205599100	Hand tools, incl. glazier's diamonds	A change to heading 7411 through 7419 from any other heading.	4.38%
Glass and glass products	7009100000	Framed or unframed rear-view mirrors	A change to heading 8201 to 8206 from any other chapter.	3.90%
Chemicals	3920430000	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of polymers of vinyl chloride, non- cellular	A change to subheading 7009.10 from any other heading; or	4.18%

Note: The tariff for these products is 0% if the product is of Colombian origin Fuente: FTA Colombia United States

**Table 17. Prioritised Products by Sector, Air or Sea Freight** 

Sectors	Product Code	Product Description	% by air	Air Freight USD/Kg	% by sea	Sea Freight USD/Kg
			6.5%	3.3	75.2%	0.3
Plastics, rubber and manufactures thereof	392410	Tableware and kitchenware	0.7%	2.6	89.9%	0.5
Machinery and equipment	850790	Plates, separators and other parts of electric accumulators	3.4%	2.3	83.6%	0.1
Chemicals	293090	Organic sulphur compounds	13.6%	5.1	81.3%	0.2
Chemicals	291590	Acyclic monocarboxylic acids, their anhydrides, halides, peroxides and peroxyacids	3.6%	3.7	93.8%	0.2
Copper Products	741220	Copper alloy fittings, elbows, elbow fittings, sleeves and other tube and pipe fittings, of copper alloys	8.6%	3.4	75.3%	0.5





Sectors	Product Code	Product Description	% by air	Air Freight USD/Kg	% by sea	Sea Freight USD/Kg
			6.5%	3.3	75.2%	0.3
Base metals and articles thereof	820559	Hand tools, incl. glazier's diamonds	10.9%	3.1	75.7%	0.3
Glass and glass products	700910	Framed or unframed rear- view mirrors	3.0%	3.5	57.4%	0.5
Chemicals	392043	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of polymers of non-cellular vinyl chloride, containing by weight	3.1%	1.6	76.0%	0.3

Source: Calculations made by Araujo Ibarra with USITC

## Stars to be developed: 13

Table 18. Products Prioritised by Sector, Size and Market Dynamism (Thousands USD)

		Product Description _	UK Exports t	o the World	USA Imports F	rom the World
Sectors	<b>Product Code</b>	Product Description –	2022	Var % 2018 to 2022	2022	Var % 2018 to 2022
		Total	435,444	-7.2%	11,401,206	10.9%
Plastics,		Shutters, blinds, incl. Venetian				
rubber and		blinds, and similar articles and				
articles		parts thereof				
thereof	392530		30,866	-4.43%	1,100,197	7.61%
Plastics,		Office and school supplies				
rubber and						
manufactures						
thereof	392610		41,864	-9.89%	586,375	12.03%
Plastics,		Acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene				
rubber and		(ABS) copolymers in primary				
manufactures		forms.				
thereof	390330		30,422	12.22%	596,450	10.21%
Plastics,		Polycarbonates, in primary forms	•			
rubber and		, , , , ,				
manufactures						
thereof	390740		26,361	10.97%	548,035	14.38%
Plastics,		Polyvinyl chloride, in primary	,		,	
rubber and		forms, not mixed with other				
manufactures		substances				
thereof	390410	34,554,1105	39,810	-21.73%	521,692	17.56%
Machinery		Portable electric lamps for	22,020		0==,00=	27.0070
and		machine tools and for hand tools				
equipment	846610	of any kind.	34,626	-8.29%	1,144,623	7.60%
Machinery	040010	Portable electric lamps designed	34,020	0.2370	1,144,023	7.0070
and		to operate on their own source				
equipment	851310	of energy	26,838	-10.32%	1,073,677	7.05%
Wood and	831310		20,838	-10.5270	1,073,077	7.03/0
wood		Wooden articles, (not included				
	442100	elsewhere)	20.001	1 00%	1 022 670	11 020/
products	442199	Dears windows frames and	29,091	-1.99%	1,822,678	11.02%
Aluminium		Doors, windows, frames and				
products	761010	thresholds	48,923	0.52%	1,273,477	16.71%
Vehicles		Hand-held and other non-				
	871680	automotive vehicles	28,596	-4.44%	1,053,286	11.85%
Agro-food		Jams, fruit jellies, marmalades,				
		fruit or nut purée and fruit or nut				
	200799	pastes	26,019	-9.20%	568,289	16.94%
Agro-food		Vegetables and vegetable	, -	<del></del>	,	
G. 2 . 2 3 W		mixtures, prepared or preserved				
	200599	without vinegar, not frozen	38,065	-2.81%	826,821	8.04%
Footwear		Footwear with outer soles of	-,		-,	
· Cottroui		leather or composition leather				
	640420	and uppers of textile materials	33,963	-12.69%	285,606	9.59%
	0 10 120	and appers of textile materials	20,300	12.00/0	_00,000	3.3370

Source: Calculations by Araújo Ibarra with data from Trademap and USITC





# **Table 19. Products Prioritised by Sector, Tariffs and Norms of Origin**

Sectors	Product Code	Product Description	Origin	Effective Tariff for UK in the USA
Agro-food	2007991100	Jams, fruit jellies, marmalades, fruit or nut purée and fruit or nut pastes	A change from any other chapter	4.3%
Agro-food	2005999000	Vegetables and vegetable mixtures, prepared or preserved without vinegar, not frozen	A change to heading 2005 from any other chapter, except that goods that have been prepared by packing (including canning) in water, brine or natural juices (including processing incidental to packing) shall be originating only if the fresh goods were wholly obtained or produced entirely in the territory of one or more of the Parties.	12.7%
Footwear	6404200000	Footwear with outer soles of leather or composition leather and uppers of textile materials (excl. footwear	A change to subheading 6401.10 or 6401.91, tariff item numbers (2) 6401.92. aa, 6401.99. aa, 6401.99.bb, 6401.99.cc, 6402.30. aa, 6402.30.bb, 6402.30.cc, 6402.91. aa, 6402.91.bb, 6402.91.cc, 6402.99. aa, 6402.99.bb, 6402.99.cc, 6404. 11.aa or 6404.19.aa. from any other heading outside of heading 64.01 through 64.05, except from subheading 6406.10, provided there is a regional value content of not less than 55 percent under the increased value method; or	12 0%
Wood and wood products	4421999000	Wooden articles, (not included elsewhere)	A change to heading 4401 through 4421 from any other heading.	3.3%
Aluminium products	7610100000	Doors, windows and their frames, trimmings and thresholds (excl. trimmings)	A change to heading 7610 through 7615 from any other heading.	5.7%
Machinery and equipment	8466100000	Tool holders for machine tools and for hand tools of all kinds; portable electrical	A change to heading 8466 from any other heading, provided there is a regional value content of not less than: 35 percent	3.9%
Machinery and equipment	8513109000	Portable electric lamps designed to operate from their own power source	A change to subheading 8513.10 from any other heading; or	4.5%
Plastics, rubber and manufactures thereof	3925300000	Shutters, blinds, shutters (incl. Venetian blinds) and similar articles and parts thereof	A change to subheading 8513.10 from subheading 8513.90, whether or not there is a change from any other heading, provided there is a regional value content of not less than: 35 percent under the increased value method.	4.2%
Plastics, rubber and manufactures thereof	3926100000	Office and school supplies, of plastics, (not included elsewhere)	A change to heading 3922 through 3926 from any other heading.	5.3%
Plastics, rubber and manufactures thereof	3903300000	Acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS) copolymers, in primary forms	A change to heading 3901 through 3915 from any other heading, provided that the content of originating polymers is not less than 50 percent by weight of the total polymer content.	6.5%





Sectors	Product Code	Product Description	Origin	Effective Tariff for UK in the USA
Plastics, rubber and manufactures thereof	3907400000	Polycarbonates, in primary forms	A change to heading 3901 to 3915 from any other heading, provided that the content of originating polymers is not less than 50 percent by weight of the total polymer content.	5.8%
Plastics, rubber and manufactures thereof	3904101000	Polyvinyl chloride, in primary forms, not mixed with other substances	A change to heading 3901 to 3915 from any other heading, provided that the content of originating polymers is not less than 50 percent by weight of the total polymer content.	6.5%
Vehicles	8716809000	Hand-held vehicles and other non-automotive vehicles (excl. trailers for any vehicle)	A change to subheading 8716.10 through 8716.80 from any other heading; or	3.2%

Source: FTA Colombia United States

Table 20. Products Prioritised by Sector, Air Freight Cost and Sea Freight Cost

Sectors	Product Code	Product Description	% by air	Air Freight USD/Kg	% by sea	Sea Freight USD/Kg
		Average	10.5%	2.2	68.4%	0.3
Agro-food	200799	Jams. fruit jellies. marmalades. fruit or nut purée and fruit or nut pastes	0.1%	1.8	80.7%	0.1
Agro-food	200599	Vegetables and vegetable mixtures. prepared or preserved without vinegar. not frozen	0.1%	1.7	80.5%	0.2
Footwear	640420	Footwear with outer soles of leather or composition leather and uppers of textile materials	72.3%	2.0	27.1%	0.8
Wood and wood products	442199	Wooden articles. (not included elsewhere)	1.0%	1.2	70.9%	0.2





Sectors	Product Code	Product Description	% by air	Air Freight USD/Kg	% by sea	Sea Freight USD/Kg
Average			10.5%	2.2	68.4%	0.3
Aluminium products	761010	Doors. windows and their frames. casings and thresholds	1.5%	2.5	72.8%	0.3
Machinery and equipment	846610	Tool holders for machine tools and for hand tools of all kinds; appliances	42.1%	3.7	53.9%	0.3
Machinery and equipment	851310	Portable electric lamps designed to operate from their own power source	5.8%	2.1	89.2%	0.6
Plastics, rubber and articles thereof	392530	Shutters. blinds. (incl. Venetian blinds) and similar articles and parts thereof	2.2%	0.7	70.1%	0.2
Plastics, rubber and manufactures thereof	392610	Office and school supplies. (not included elsewhere)	4.6%	3.0	85.2%	0.4
Plastics, rubber and manufactures thereof	390330	Acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS) copolymers. in primary forms	1.0%	2.7	75.3%	0.3
Plastics, rubber and manufactures thereof	390740	Polycarbonates. in primary forms	3.3%	2.4	77.7%	0.3
Plastics, rubber and manufactures thereof	390410	Polyvinyl chloride in primary forms. not mixed with other substances	0.3%	2.6	35.5%	0.1
	871680	Hand-held and other non-automotive vehicles	2.4%	2.4	70.2%	0.4

Source: Calculations by Araujo Ibarra, with USITC data.

# 5. THE OPENING AND IMPROVEMENT OF COLOMBIA-VENEZUELA RELATIONS AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM

In September 2022, the official reopening of the Colombian-Venezuelan border took place at the Atanasio Girardot international bridge. After months of talks between the delegates of the heads of state Gustavo Petro and Nicolás Maduro, an important step was taken towards regional reintegration, rehabilitating land trade routes that, prior to the

breakdown of trade relations between Colombia and Venezuela, accounted for a high percentage of the transport of goods and passengers in the region. Following this initiative, new agreements have been established between Colombia and Venezuela to encourage trade relations in the region. These are composed of:





# **5.1** COLOMBIA-VENEZUELA PARTIAL SCOPE AGREEMENT (AAP – 28)

Currently the trade relationship between the two countries is governed by the Partial Scope Agreement signed between the Republic of Colombia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on 28th November 2011 in the city of Caracas. On 16th February 2023, Decision No. 001 - First Additional Protocol to the Partial Scope Agreement No. 28 between Colombia and Venezuela was signed, which amended the agreement which had been in force since 2012.

The aforementioned deepening of relations entered into force under Decree 0609 of 26 April 2023, where Appendices A and B of Annex I were amended to include new products that enjoy tariff preferences, as well as the exclusion of certain sensitive products for importation into the national territory. On the other hand, a new introductory note to Appendix I on the Specific Origin Requirements of the Agricultural

Sector was included, which is presented in Annex II of the Decision.

You can consult Decree 0609 which was signed on the 26th April 2023 with the changes of inclusion and exclusion of products to Appendices A and B of the deepening of Partial Scope Agreement No. 28 in the attached QR code.



# 5.2 RELATIVE AGREEMENT ON THE PROMOTION AND RECIPROCAL PROTECTION OF INVESTMENTS

Venezuela has adopted the strategy of implementing investment agreements with different countries in the region and the world in order to re-establish the confidence of investors in Venezuela and provide them with a series of benefits and protection guarantees that would encourage direct investment in the reopening process of their economy.

On the 4 February 2023, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Republic of Colombia signed an investment protection agreement named the 'Agreement on the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments' with the aim of promoting greater cross-border economic cooperation between the two countries, particularly with regard to direct investment.

The agreement is valid for 10 years and is based on a

series of benefits to solidify investment promotion between the two parties, the main one being to give investors from the other party the same treatment it grants to its own investors with respect to the acquisition of land, real estate and rights, in accordance with its national legal system.

Of particular note is Article 8 on compensation for losses. This article states that investors of either party whose investments suffer losses in the territory of the other party due to war, insurrection, civil disturbance, a state of national emergency or other events, shall be accorded restitution, indemnification, compensation or other settlement treatment no less favourable than that which the host party would accord to its own investors or to investors of any non-party third State.





Similarly, article 12 of the agreement on dispute settlement between a Party and Investors of the other Party. This article describes the resolution path which should be applied in the event of a dispute arising within the framework of the agreement. If an amicable solution between the parties is not possible after six months of written notification, the affected investor may choose between the competent tribunal of the party in whose territory the investment was made or an ad hoc arbitral tribunal

established under the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). It may also be agreed that the administration of arbitrary disputes can be carried out by a bi-national arbitration centre, which would take into account that arbitral awards are final and binding to all parties involved in the dispute as stipulated in the Agreement.

The complete text of the document can be found at:

https://www.tlc.gov.co/getattachment/acuerdos/a-internacional-de-inversion/contenido/acuerdos-internacionales-de-inversion-suscritos-1/venezuela/acuerdo-inversion-colombia-venezuela-febrero-2023.pdf.aspx

# 5.3 AGREEMENT ON TRANSPORT BETWEEN COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA

In April 2023, the Second Commission of the House of Representatives approved the bill, ratifying the International Road Freight and Passenger Transport Agreement between Colombia and Venezuela as a legal framework which regulates the transport of people and goods after the reopening of the land bridges at the border.

It is hoped that with the implementation of the agreement, trade relations in the region will continue to develop and be facilitated with the goal of

returning to the level of movement and transport between the two countries that existed prior to the rupture of political relations.

The agreed regulation includes requirements that must be followed for movement by land from one country to another, including the use of a valid passport or migration card. The objective of the agreement is to encourage regional trade by restoring confidence and security in land border transport.

## 5.4 CONSTITUTIONAL LAW ON PRODUCTIVE FOREGIN INVESTMENT

On the 29th of December 2017, the National Constituent Assembly published the Constitutional Law on Productive Foreign Investment, which aims to establish the principles, policies and procedures regulating productive foreign investment in goods and services.

In order to obtain the registration of a foreign investment, the contributions must be made at the official exchange rate in force, for a minimum amount of eight hundred thousand euros (€800,000) or its equivalent in another foreign currency. The governing body may establish a minimum amount for the constitution of the foreign investment, which may not be less than ten percent (10%) of the amount described in this article, taking into account the sectoral interest, the promotion of small and

medium-sized industry, and other organisational forms of productive economic character. Foreign investors who meet the above-mentioned amount will have access to a number of benefits such as:

- Tax credits.
- Accelerated amortization.
- Purchase of goods by public sector bodies.
- Tax rebates.
- Tariff exemptions.
- Tax exemptions.
- Special credit conditions.
- Special rates on public services
- Preferential access to inputs and/or raw materials administered by the State.
- Duration of tax stability





# **5.5** SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES (SEZ)

In 2022, the Constitutional Law of Special Economic Zones in Venezuela was published, which seeks to develop a new productive national model that promotes national and foreign productive economic activity in Venezuelan territory. It also seeks to diversify and increase exports, innovation, production chains and participation in international markets with the aim of diversifying the economy which was previously focused on the oil sector.

According to the activity that Free Trade Zones promote, they are classified as follows:

- Industrial: includes goods production, manufacturing, strategic agro-industry, export and re-export and the aeronautical and energy sectors
- Technology: includes the setting up of technology parks for the development and production of systems, components and parts, and components for telecommunications, computing and telematics, computer applications and systems, recycling of solid and technological waste, scientific research and development activities for outer space as well as development of military science and technology.
- Financial Services: includes the installation of banking and financial services under a preferential tax regime.
- Non-Financial Services: includes the installation and production of logistics sectors for the provision and export of tourism services,

hospitality, recreation and entertainment.

 Primary Agro-food Production: includes primary production activities in the agricultural, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture sectors for export purposes and to achieve the country's food sovereignty.

The Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) are located in the Paraguaná Peninsula (Falcón state); in the Puerto Cabello - Morón corridor (Carabobo state); in La Guaira (capital of the state of La Guaira); on Margarita Island (Nueva Esparta state) and on La Tortuga Island (Federal Dependencies).

In conclusion, during the last year, progress has been made in strengthening the legal and trade policy instruments that provide greater security and confidence to entrepreneurs and other commercial actors in relation to doing business with Venezuela. It is expected that under the recent implementation of the Deepening of the Partial Scope Agreement - PPA No. 28 and the implementation of the Investment Protection Agreement, trade relations between Colombia and Venezuela will continue to improve, promoting trade within the region.

## 5.6 BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT OF SANCTIONS

The OFAC (Office of Foreign Assets Control) division of the U.S. Treasury Department publishes the OFAC list of individuals and companies owned by or acting on behalf of countries that pose a national security threat to the US. It also lists individuals, groups and

entities, such as terrorists and drug traffickers. Collectively, such individuals and companies are called "Specially Designated Nationals" (SDN's). Their assets are blocked and U.S. citizens are prohibited from doing business with them.





In the OFAC list there are different types of filters depending on the search you want to perform. It is possible to search by the country to which sanctions are applied or more specifically by the name of the individual or entity.

Individuals or entities will be sanctioned if they carry out:

- Any transaction involving the Venezuelan government or a sanctioned person or entity (the making or receipt of any contribution or provision of funds, goods or services to such persons)
- Any transaction with Venezuela or a resident of a country that is subject to comprehensive sanctions or with a designated blocked person.
- Purchase of any debt of the government of Venezuela, including accounts receivable
- Any indebtedness to the government of Venezuela that has been pledged as collateral after the effective date of the underwritten order, including accounts receivable

 Sale, transfer, assignment or pledge as collateral for the Government of Venezuela of any equity interest in any entity in which the Government of Venezuela has an equity interest of fifty per cent or more

The following is a brief explanation of each type of sanction applied

## 5.7 CURRENT SANCTIONS AGAINST VENEZUELA

## 5.7.1 Revoking of Visa's and Sanctions Pertaining to Individuals Involved in the Maduro Government

As of January 2023, 186 members were identified on the OFAC list, of which 136 are SDN's with sea, land and air travel restrictions.

In March 2015, the first Executive Order 13692 was issued, which blocks the ownership, transfer or payment of property, possession or control of assets, including donations, and prohibits the entry into the U.S. of members of the Venezuelan government,

unless authorised by the Secretary of State. It also prohibits the entry of any person who has taken part directly or indirectly in political actions that undermine democratic processes, engage in human rights abuses or limit freedom of expression.

### **5.7.2 Trade Sanctions**

The most well-known economic sanction against Venezuela was the blockade of the Venezuelan state oil company Petróleos de Venezuela (PDVSA,) blocking its access to U.S. financial markets under Executive Order 13808 of 24th March 2017. This also prohibits transactions by individuals or companies in the U.S. with PDVSA, the purchase of bonds and the payment of profits or dividends directly or indirectly to the Venezuelan government.

Based on the previous Order, the third Executive Order 13827 of March 19th 2018 was issued. This

order responded to the creation of digital currency by the Venezuelan government and described it as an attempt by the Venezuelan government to evade the previously imposed sanctions. For this reason, it prohibits provision, transaction and financing with this digital currency by U.S. persons or persons in the U.S..





The sanctions focus heavily on limiting Venezuela's oil sector in order to cut off the government's largest source of revenue, PDVSA. The measures prevented PDVSA from receiving support from Citgo, its US-based subsidiary. In addition, it was added to the OFAC list, prohibiting any U.S. citizen or entity, and allies, from doing business with the oil company.

Under the tight trade restrictions, PDVSA was forced to look to Asia as a new destination for export.

### **5.7.3 Financial Sanctions**

The fourth Executive Order 13835 of the 1st May 2018 prohibited transactions or financing related to the purchase of any debt owed to the Government of Venezuela. The order also prohibited the sale, transfer, assignment or pledge of collateral to the Government of Venezuela and any equity interest in any entity in which the Government of Venezuela has a 50% or greater ownership interest.

The fifth Executive Order, number 13850 of the 1st November, 2018, blocks transactions related to property in the U.S. and operating in the gold sector in Venezuela. It also blocks transactions related to deceptive practices and corruption and projects or programmes managed by the Venezuelan government.

The sixth Executive Order 13857 of the 25th January 2019, clarifies that for the purposes of the orders previously issued, the Government of Venezuela shall mean the State of Venezuela and any political

subdivision, agency, the Central Bank of Venezuela and PDVSA and any person that is part of or controlled directly or indirectly by the Maduro regime.

The latest Executive Order 13884 of the 5th August 2019 orders the blocking of all properties and interests of the Government of Venezuela in the U.S. It also blocks members of the Government of Venezuela from entering the U.S. in the future and prohibits any transactions with them.

In September 2022, Venezuela's foreign minister, Carlos Faría Tortosa, told the UN General Assembly that Europe and the U.S. had stolen 31 tonnes of gold reserves deposited in the Bank of England by Venezuela, the value of which reached USD \$1.3 billion according to the financial sanctions applied to the withholding of assets.

### **5.7.4 Sanctions Related to Terrorism**

Under Executive Order 13224, any individual or entity found to be financing so-called terrorist groups is sanctioned.

Since 2006, the U.S. Secretary of State has made an annual finding that Venezuela is not "cooperating fully with United States counterterrorism efforts" pursuant to Section 40A of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S. Congress 2781). The most recent determination was made in May 2022 when the U.S.

banned all U.S. commercial transactions (sales and transfers) of arms to Venezuela.

In 2008, financial sanctions were imposed on two individuals and two travel agencies in Venezuela that were found to be financially supporting the radical Islamic organisation Hezbollah in Lebanon.

## **5.7.5 Sanctions Related to Drug Trafficking**

Since 2005, in accordance with the procedures in the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (P.L. 107-228, §706; 22 U.S.C.2291j), the sitting President has made an annual finding that Venezuela

has demonstrably failed to adhere to its obligations under international narcotics agreements.





The U.S. has imposed economic sanctions on at least 22 individuals with connections to Venezuela and 27 companies by designating them as 'Specially Designated Narcotics Traffickers' under the Foreign

Narcotics Act and the Kingpin Designation Act (P.L. 106-120, Title VIII; 21 USC 1901 et seq.)

### **5.7.6 Multilateral Sanctions**

The EU implemented sanctions against Nicolas Maduro's government on the 13th November 2017. EU sanctions are currently focused on:

- An embargo on all weapons or equipment used for repression within Venezuelan national territory.
- A travel ban and freezing of assets and accounts for 55 government officials responsible for human rights violations against the civilian population.

The EU, the U.S., the UK and Canada have historically led sanctions initiatives against Venezuela. A joint communiqué was recently issued to Venezuelan negotiators in Mexico City showing a willingness to act 'in good faith' towards a comprehensive

agreement leading to 'free and fair' elections in 2024. EU, Canadian and UK sanctions currently remain in place.

In September 2022, Venezuela's foreign minister, Carlos Faría Tortosa, told the UN General Assembly that the Venezuelan nation was subject to 913 international sanctions that have caused more than \$150 billion in losses in recent years.

## **5.8** LATESTS DEVELOPMENTS

### 5.8.1 CHEVRON TENDER

Joe Biden's administration responded to the willingness of Nicolás Maduro's government to negotiate an easing of its oil restrictions against Venezuela by authorising the energy company Chevron to partially resume its oil extraction activities in the country.

The authorisation to resume economic activities in Venezuelan territory was granted by the U.S. Treasury Department on 26th November 2022, on the condition that no income from oil sales would be attributed to the state-owned oil company PDVSA, which means that the Venezuelan government will not obtain profits that could be reinvested in oil fields where Chevron is not involved. It was also stipulated that the barrels of oil extracted can only be traded with the U.S. and that the profits from the economic activity will be used to pay off Venezuela's creditors in the U.S.

Initially, the extended licence granted to Chevron has a review date of 25th May 2023, with the possibility of an extension if the current Venezuelan government shows progress in improving national conditions or makes a commitment to respect the principles of democracy in the upcoming elections in 2024.

This opens a new opportunity for a definitive or extended lifting of the sanctions imposed by the U.S. If the Venezuelan government succeeds in extending Chevron's licence, new companies will apply to reopen economic ties with Venezuela.}

On the 20th April, The President of the U.S. Joe Biden and the President of Colombia Gustavo Petro met in Washington D.C. to discuss issues of shared interest such as climate change, the fight against drug trafficking and the strengthening of their respective national economies. Under the framework of the meeting, the importance of addressing the gradual and progressive lifting of trade and financial sanctions on Venezuela while addressing the stipulated requirements by the U.S. for democratically guaranteed elections in 2024 was discussed.





#### 5.8.2 Great Summit on Venezuela

On 25 April 2023, the "Great Summit on Venezuela" will take place to facilitate continued political dialogue between the Republic of Colombia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. It is estimated that delegates from more than 15 countries, including the U.S., Canada and countries belonging to the EU will participate. The importance of the attendance of these delegations lies in the fact that historically it has been North America and the EU countries that have led the way in imposing sanctions on Venezuela.

The aim of the summit in Bogotá is to emphasise the importance of lifting the sanctions on Venezuela due to their repercussions on neighbouring countries. The sanctions have a particularly limiting effect on Colombia's trade as it shares a 2,219-kilometer border with Venezuela and hosts nearly 3 million

Venezuelan migrants.

During the summit, the need for an electoral calendar in Venezuela which would contribute to the lifting or easing of sanctions was highlighted as a necessary incentive on the part of the international community.

Whether the summit will be successful in relaxing or reaching an agreement to lift sanctions on Venezuela depends on whether the government of Nicolás Maduro is able to guarantee the respect for democracy and free elections that the U.S. and its allies have been demanding since the beginning of the talks in Mexico.

# 5.9 HOW TO EFFICIENTLY MANAGE RISK WHEN DOING BUSINESS WITH VENEZUELA?

It is important to draw attention to the key aspects that any Colombian company should take into account when carrying out transactions with companies with Venezuelan capital or ownership. Although Colombia does not directly apply sanctions to Venezuela, it is part of the international system to combat money laundering and transnational crimes which obliges legal representatives, administrators and attorneys of companies to fully comply with the applicable regulations on prevention and control of money laundering and terrorist financing (ML/TF). Colombia has implemented the policies, procedures and mechanisms for the prevention and control of ML/TF that derive from these legal provisions.

Likewise, each company must ensure that neither its shareholders, associates or partners, their legal representatives, administrators nor members of their corporate bodies are registered on the international lists binding Colombia in accordance with international law (United Nations lists) or on the OFAC lists.

The OFAC list, commonly known as the "Clinton List", is a consultation tool of OFAC used to verify that companies and individuals with whom they do business are not related to activities or money from drug trafficking, terrorism or money laundering.

As explained above, the U.S. Treasury Department has already placed a large group of Venezuelan persons and entities on the list of SDN's and Blocked Persons. As a result of these actions, all property and assets of such persons and entities, which are in the U.S. or in the possession or control of U.S. persons, will be blocked and must be reported to OFAC.

In addition, any entity where 50 percent or more is owned by one or more blocked persons, whether directly or indirectly, is also blocked. All transactions by U.S. persons or persons within or in transit through the U.S. involving the property or interests in the property of designated or otherwise blocked persons are prohibited, unless authorized by a general or specific license issued by OFAC, or unless the person is exempt. These prohibitions include the contribution or provision of funds, goods or services by, to or for the benefit of any blocked person and the receipt of any funds, goods or services from any such person.

The OFAC list lists all persons whose money laundering activities affect the U.S. Treasury. However, it extends to all subsidiaries of U.S. companies around the world, so this situation obliges companies to terminate their business relationships with those who appear on it.





In Colombia, progress has been made in the implementation of instruments for Self-Control and Integral ML/FT/FPWMD. Risk Management, such as the SAGRILAFT, which seeks to enable commercial companies, branches of foreign companies and sole proprietorships to prevent operational, legal, reputational and contagion risks in situations such as money laundering, financing of terrorism and financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Likewise, the validation of customers and suppliers in the OFAC list is considered to be a necessary step for foreign trade operations (imports and exports). This is because it enables identification of the legitimacy and legality of the companies and persons with whom business is conducted. This is done in order to avoid sanctions or commercial exclusion in international negotiations due to commercial relations with companies that are on the

OFAC list and are related to activities or money from drug trafficking, terrorism or money laundering.

#### 5.9.1 With whom Should I Do business?

- Validate the other party's identity: Who are they, where are they from, what do they do, with whom did they start a business or commercial relationship? All data is relevant when proving and validating the identity of an individual or entity.
- Consult previously available information: There are a series of binding lists, public data bases, social networks and web pages belonging to the Comptroller's Office, Prosecutor's Office and National Police where you can check whether the individual or entity in question has a criminal record.
- It doesn't matter if you are an investor, advertiser, contractor, employee, supplier. Everyone is susceptible to being used directly or indirectly by criminal schemes that can cause legal problems and reputational problems for individuals, companies, industries and even countries.
- Apply due diligence and know who is behind all the legal structures that make up a company or entity before starting a business relationship.

## **5.9.2** Where Does the Money Involved in a Transaction Come From?

The suspicious provenance of money in business transaction can cause legal problems for the recipient, even if the recipient was unaware of the illegality of the funds.

It is important to validate questions such as:

- What is the economic activity carried out by the potential business partner?
- With which individuals or sectors is the potential business partner related?
- What is the potential business partner's financial activity?
- Is potential business partner on a national or international list or credit bureau?





### **5.9.3** Reporting Suspicious Activity

It is important to keep in mind that an individual or a company can have legal problems if they identify suspicious activity and fail to report it to the competent authorities. It is imperative that we inform ourselves, denounce illegal activities and work with authorities such as the Public Prosecutors Office and Information and Financial Analysis Unit (UIAF).

### 5.9.4 Binding Compliance Lists for Colombia

- 1. Sub numeral 1.18 of Part I, Title IV, Chapter IV of the CBJ.
- 2. Circular Letter 11, 10th February 2020, issued by the SFC
- 3. Lists of the United Nations
- 4. U.S. terrorist lists
- 5. EU list of terrorist organisations
- 6. EU list of people designated as terrorists
- 7. OFAC

# 5.10 UK OPPORTUNITIES IN COLOMBIA IN RELATION TO THE OPENING OF TRADE WITH VENEZUELA

The government of President Gustavo Petro, in his official government plan, expressed great interest in consolidating economic, trade and investment relations with Venezuela. Because of this, the following chapter identifies and prioritizes the commercial opportunities for U.K. companies to

competitively enter the Venezuelan market through Colombia, taking advantage of the geographical proximity and preferential access in light of the Partial Scope Agreement No. 28.

#### **5.10.1** Prioritised Products

Considering that it has not been possible to obtain official information on Venezuela's international trade since 2013, this analysis has been carried out using "mirror data", i.e., by consulting exports from other countries to Venezuela, for the tariff universe imported by that country from 2017 to 2021. Likewise, the year 2012 is used as a reference of the potential of the Venezuelan market, since it was the time of greatest imported value according to available official statistics.

Based on this exercise, commercial opportunities have been identified and prioritised based on Venezuela's imports in 2012.

The parameters considered for the identification and prioritisation of products were:





- Products whose exports to the world from the UK are greater than or equal to USD \$25 million in 2021.
- Products whose total imports from Venezuela are greater than or equal to USD \$5 million in 2021.
- Imports from Venezuela that show dynamism, i.e., those whose imported value between 2020 and 2021 increased by a percentage greater than the average growth of the customs tariff section to which it belongs.
- Products whose total exports from the UK decreased between 2020 and 2021.

By applying the above parameters, 50 products were identified by 6-digit customs tariff codes. These products had a market value in Venezuela of USD \$958 million in 2021, with an average annual growth of 169.6% between 2020 and 2021. It should be noted that in 2012 the value of these imported products in Venezuela registered a value of USD \$2.71 billion. In contrast, the export of these products from the UK to the world decreased by 19.4% and in 2021 recorded a value of USD \$13.937 billion.

The products prioritised by sector are:

**Table 21. Prioritised Products for All Sectors** 

	N°		Impoi	ts From V	enezuela -	Thousand	s USD		· · · · · ·	- Thousands SD
Sector/Code 6 dig	Products	2012	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Var% 2020/2021	2021	Var% 2020/2021
Grand total	50	2,709,777	587,115	432,552	423,705	441,823	958,301	169.6%	13,937,198	-19.4%
Agro-food	9	1,019,910	278,437	216,506	119,806	168,210	325,130	157.1%	1,616,055	-15.6%
Machinery and equipment	12	704,215	150,457	98,562	71,648	105,010	231,021	164.3%	4,843,979	-14.9%
Vehicles and parts	3	160,472	8,281	4,318	16,296	43,141	76,177	66.5%	3,543,572	-11.5%
Textiles and apparel	5	112,703	21,777	14,946	40,276	22,713	62,203	183.7%	592,296	-23.9%
Pharmacist	2	189,029	20,877	17,874	21,586	9,586	59,860	435.1%	663,167	-43.9%
Footwear	3	112,891	21,749	12,856	30,884	21,782	44,874	117.6%	620,686	-37.5%
Plastics, rubber and rubber products	3	55,546	6,519	9,748	12,481	19,896	42,005	119.2%	286,959	-18.8%
Cleanliness and beauty	2	110,264	15,184	9,779	17,710	21,236	33,775	60.4%	495,231	-11.1%
Chemicals	3	21,686	23,140	19,527	43,786	8,222	23,532	204.0%	457,833	-23.9%
Iron and steel products	3	42,703	8,831	5,297	3,023	5,446	22,288	311.5%	174,233	-27.9%
Medical-surgical and measurement	2	126,192	26,072	16,047	39,505	7,656	16,800	152.6%	313,528	-24.3%
Furniture and lighting	1	21,759	1,542	1,217	3,239	4,266	8,399	96.9%	92,605	-5.2%
Base metal fabrications	1	27,801	3,171	4,967	1,701	2,279	6,132	169.1%	188,413	-1.1%
Paper, cardboard	1	4,606	1,078	908	1,764	2,380	6,105	156.5%	48,641	-7.3%

Source: Calculations with data from Trademap

**Agro-food:** Venezuela imported USD \$9.387 billion of Agro-food products in 2012 and USD \$2.621 billion in 2021, with a growth of 29% between 2020 and 2021. The UK exported USD \$558,526 of agro-food products of with an average annual growth of 1.7% between 2018 and 2022.

For this sector, 9 products were prioritised with a total market of USD \$325 million in Venezuela in 2021

and a potential market reflected in the imported value of USD \$1.02 billion in 2012. This market had an average growth of 157.1% between 2020 and 2021.





**Table 22. Sectors Prioritised within the Agro-food Sector** 

Sector/Code	Dundunk		Impo	orts From V	enezuela ·	- Thousand	ls USD		· ·	ts UK - nds USD
6 dig	Product	2012	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Var 2020/2021	2021	Var 2020/2021
Ag	ro-food (9)	1,019,910	278,437	216,506	119,806	168,210	325,130	157.1%	1,616,055	-15,6%
	Wheat and meslin									
	(excl, seed for									
	sowing, and durum									
100199	wheat)	0	163,794	160,241	78,667	84,057	148,458	76.6%	86,478	-20.2%
	Mixes and doughs									
	of flour, groats,									
	meal, starch, or									
100100	malt extract, not		<b>-</b> 0.04	4 60 4	45 400			60.00/	400.000	0.00/
190120	containing cocoa	464	7,364	1,624	15,102	35,930	57,554	60.2%	132,893	-8.8%
	Sweet biscuits (with									
190531	added sweetener)	20,133	6,612	1,614	2,986	12,108	30,129	148.8%	364,345	-7.1%
	Non-cocoa									
	confectionery, incl,									
	white chocolate									
170490	(excl, chewing gum)	150,102	31,169	19,630	3,883	12,761	26,847	110.4%	211,374	-2.9%
	Undenatured ethyl									
	alcohol with									
	alcoholic strength									
220740	by volume >= 80%	605	0	427	2	4 575	47.024	272.40/	425.054	4.4.50/
220710	vol,	695	8	137	2	4,575	17,024	272.1%	125,054	-14.5%
	Wafers including									
	filled "gaufrettes,									
190532	wafers" and waffles	12,113	5,883	615	1,228	8,371	16,961	102.6%	76,318	-8.8%
	Milk and cream, in									
	powder, granules or									
40221	other solid forms,	817,684	61,492	31,081	15,104	2,487	15,224	512.1%	107,582	-16.4%
	Protein									
	concentrates and									
	textured protein									
210610	substances	12,210	1,667	1,350	1,456	5,023	7,894	57.2%	126,800	-45.7%
	Dog or cat food,									
230910	packaged for retail	6,509	448	214	1,378	2,898	5,039	73.9%	385,211	-16.0%

Machinery and equipment: Venezuela imported USD \$17.88 billion of machinery and equipment in 2012 and USD \$1.5866 billion in 2021, with a growth of 20% between 2020 and 2021. The UK exported USD \$102,322 of machinery and equipment with an average annual growth of 0.3% between 2018 and 2022.

For this sector, 12 products were prioritised with a

total market in of USD 231 million Venezuela in 2021 and with a potential market reflected in the imported value of USD 704 million in 2012. This market had an average growth of 164.3% between 2020 and 2021.





**Table 23. Prioritised Products within the Machinery and Equipment Sector** 

Sector/Code	Droduct		Impo	rts From	Venezuel	la - Thousa	inds USD		•	rts UK - inds USD
6 dig	Product	2012	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Var 2020/2021	2021	Var 2020/2021
Machine	ery and Equipment (12)	704,215	150,457	98,562	71,648	105,010	231,021	164.3%	4.843.979	-14.9%
851762	Machines for the reception and transmission of speech, or regeneration of voice and images	0	42,563	19,568	18,225	26,696	69.500	160.3%	2.317.598	-2.3%
853950	LED lamps and tubes	0	4,022	3,235	10,843	20,665	41.320	100.0%	37.225	-18.5%
850980	Electromechanical appliances with built-in electric motor, for household use (exc, vacuum cleaners)	7,157	684	1,629	5,579	17,039	24.571	44.2%	47.033	-2.9%
841810	Combined refrigerator- freezers, with independent doors or outside drawers, or combinations	176,455	38,298	28,782	7,203	9,801	16.534	68.7%	31.114	-24.2%
841850	Cabinets, chests, display cabinets, counters and similar furniture	70,833	2,016	1,185	2,984	4,581	12.866	180.9%	44.775	-27.4%
852352	Cards equipped with an electronic integrated circuit smart card	0	19,889	15,099	6,946	4,871	11.715	140.5%	51.917	-15.1%
851821	Loudspeakers	15,537	621	261	1,453	3,065	11.149	263.8%	53.912	-16.1%
841330	Fuel, oil or coolant pumps, for spark or compression ignition engines	56,265	9,216	3,366	5,362	6,173	10.913	76.8%	184.015	-9.2%
844399	Parts and accessories for printers, photocopiers and fax machines, (not included elsewhere)	0	10,051	7,755	5,126	2,107	10.602	403.2%	779.183	-10.7%
850610	Cells and manganese dioxide cell batteries	28,870	1,221	829	2,094	1,775	8.000	350.7%	29.322	-38.5%
847330	Parts and accessories for automatic data processing	331,168	17,377	15,752	4,311	5,731	7.571	32.1%	836.139	-7.6%
853669	Plugs and sockets, for a voltage of <= 1,000 V (excl, lamp holders)	17,930	4,499	1,101	1,522	2,506	6.280	150.6%	431.746	-5.7%

**Vehicles and parts:** Venezuela imported USD \$2.156 billion of vehicles and parts in 2012 and USD \$380 million in 2021, with a growth of 20% between 2020 and 2021. The UK exported USD \$40.594 billion of vehicles and parts with an average annual growth of 7.2% between 2018 and 2022.

Three products were prioritised for this sector, with a total market of USD \$77 million in Venezuela in 2021 and a potential market reflected in the imported value of USD \$160 million in 2012. This market had an average growth of 66.5% between 2020 and 2021.





Table 24. Prioritised Products within the Vehicles and Parts Sector

Sector/Code	Product		Impor	ts From \	/enezuela	- Thousa	nds USD		Exports UK - Thousands USD	
6 dig	Product	2012	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Var 2020/2021	2021	Var 2020/2021
V	ehicles and Parts (3)	160,472	8,281	4,318	16,296	43,141	76,177	66.5%	3.543.572	-11.5%
871410	Parts and accessories of vehicles of headings 8711 to 8713, including motorcycles	0	5,119	2,359	9,625	25,259	51.174	102.6%	113.464	-1.8%
871200	Bicycles and similar vehicles, including delivery tricycles, not motor-driven	35,277	714	761	2,743	13,974	18.596	33.1%	110.138	-19.1%
870322	Passenger cars, incl, station wagons	125,195	2,448	1,198	3,928	3,908	6.407	63.9%	3.319.970	-13.6%

**Textiles and apparel:** Venezuela imported USD \$2.027 billion of textiles and apparel in 2012 and USD \$527 million in 2021, with a growth of 116% between 2020 and 2021. The UK exported USD \$7.715 billion of textiles and apparel in 2022 with an average annual growth of 11.8% between 2018 and 2022.

Five products were prioritised for this sector, with a total market of USD \$62 million in Venezuela in 2021 and a potential market reflected in the imported value of USD \$113 million in 2012. This market had an average growth of 183.7% between 2020 and 2021.

**Table 25. Prioritised Sectors Within the Textiles and Apparel Sector** 

Sector/Code	Product		Impor	ts From \	/enezuela	a - Thous	ands USD			orts UK - ands USD
6 dig	Product	2012	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Var 2020/2021	2021	Var 2020/2021
Textile	es and apparel (5)	112,703	21,777	14,946	40,276	22,713	62,203	183,7%	592,296	-23,9%
620462	Trousers, dungarees, shorts, long johns, and shorts made of cotton	58,902	9,086	6,092	20,896	9,240	23,269	151,8%	150,437	-49.8%
620469	Trousers, dungarees, shorts, long johns, and shorts made of cotton	10,345	5,086	3,007	9,876	4,846	14,527	199,8%	60,109	-11.4%
540752	Woven fabrics with a content of textured polyester filaments: 85% by weight	10,737	4,186	2,454	3,302	3,753	10,159	170,7%	46,860	-11.4%
611020	Sweaters, pullovers, cardigans, vests and similar articles, knitted or crocheted	28,031	1,988	1,724	3,028	3,181	8,877	179.1%	309.624	-34.0%
620690	Women's or girls' blouses, shirts and shirt- blouses, of textile materials (excl. silk)	4,688	1,431	1,669	3,174	1,693	5,371	217.2%	25.266	-12.8%

Source: Calculations with data from Trademap

**Pharmaceuticals:** Venezuela imported USD \$3.487 billion of pharmaceuticals in 2012 and USD \$288 million in 2021, with a growth of 48% between 2020 and 2021. The UK exported USD \$27.77 billion of pharmaceuticals in 2022 with an average annual growth of 2% between 2018 and 2022.

For this sector, 2 products were prioritised with a total market of USD \$60 million in Venezuela in 2021 and a potential market reflected in the imported value of USD \$189 million in 2012. This market had an average growth of 435.1% between 2020 and 2021.





**Table 26. Prioritised Products Within the Pharmaceutical Sector** 

Sector/Code			Impo	rts From V	'enezuela	- Thousai	nds USD		Exports (	JK - Thousands USD
6 dig	Product	2012	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Var 2020/2021	2021	Var 2020/2021
	Pharmacist (2)	189,029	20,877	17,874	21,586	9,586	59,860	435.1%	663,167	-43.9%
300220	Vaccines for humans	34,260	14,728	14,250	19,803	5,988	53,506	793.6%	618,000	-37.0%
300450	Medication containing: provitamins, vitamins, incl. natural concentrates	154,769	6,149	3,624	1,783	3,598	6,354	76.6%	45,167	-50.7%

**Footwear:** Venezuela imported USD \$485million of footwear in 2012 and USD \$194 million in 2021, with a growth of 19% between 2020 and 2021. The UK exported USD \$985 million of footwear with an average annual growth of 20% between 2018 and 2022.

3 products were prioritised for this sector with a total market of USD \$45 million in Venezuela in 2021 and a potential market reflected in the imported vale of USD \$113 million in 2012. This market had an average growth of 117.6% between 2020 and 2021.

**Table 27. Prioritised Products Within the Footwear Sector** 

Sector/Code	Product		Impor		Exports UK - Thousands USD					
6 dig	Product	2012	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Var 2020/2021	2021	Var 2020/2021
	Footwear (3)	112,891	21,749	12,856	30,884	21,782	44,874	117.6%	620,686	-37.5%
640411	Sports footwear, incl, tennis shoes, basketball shoes, gym shoes, training shoes and general footwear	44,536	8,601	5,147	12,638	10,579	19,353	82.9%	319,455	-29.7%
640399	Footwear with rubber, plastic and regenerated leather soles and natural leather uppers	63,459	6,743	2,708	11,924	7,245	15,253	110.5%	266,928	-46.8%
640291	Footwear with rubber or plastic soles and uppers, with protective metal toecaps	4,896	6,405	5,001	6,322	3,958	10,268	159.4%	34,303	-35.8%

Source: Calculations with data from Trademap

Plastic, rubber, and their manufactures: Venezuela imported USD \$485 million of plastic, rubber, and their manufactures in 2012 and USD \$194 million in 2021, with a growth of 19% between 2020 and 2021. The UK exported USD \$958 million of plastic, rubber, and their manufactures in 2022 with an average annual growth of 20% between 2018 and 2022.

3 products were prioritised for this sector with a total market of USD \$42 million in Venezuela in 2021 and a potential market reflected in the imported value of USD \$55 million in 2012. The market had an average growth of 119.2% between 2020 and 2021.





**Table 28. Prioritised Products Within the Plastic and Rubber Sectors** 

Sector/Code	Duadicat		Impo	SD	Exports UK - Thousands USD					
6 dig	Product	2012	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Var 2020/2021	2021	Var 2020/2021
Plastics, r	ubber and rubber products (3)	55,546	6,519	9,748	12,481	19,896	42,005	119.2%	286,959	-18.8%
392490	Household products and toilet products (excl, crockery, cutlery, pots, pans, dishes and other plastic products)	22,117	1,936	1,435	4,401	9,046	17,537	93.9%	129,122	-15.9%
392410	Tableware and kitchenware	25,051	3,301	3,136	4,643	6,963	14,583	109.4%	80,941	-40.2%
390230	Propylene copolymers, in primary forms	8,378	1,282	5,177	3,437	3,887	9,885	154.3%	76,896	-0.2%

Cleanliness and beauty products: Venezuela imported USD \$1.017 billion of cleaning and beauty products in 2012 and USD \$212 million in 2021, with a growth of 19% between 2020 and 2021. The UK exported USD \$8.17 billion of cleaning and beauty products in 2022 with an average annual growth of 0.6% between 2018 and 2022.

2 products were prioritised for this sector with a total market of USD 34 million in Venezuela in 2021 and a potential market reflected in the imported value of USD 110 million in 2012. This market had an average growth of 60% between 2020 and 2021.

**Table 29. Prioritised Products Within the Cleanliness and Beauty industry** 

Sector/Code	Product	Imports From Venezuela - Thousands USD								rts UK - ands USD
6 dig	Product	2012	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Var 2020/2021	2021	Var 2020/2021
Clear	liness and beauty (2)	110,264	15,184	9,779	17,710	21,236	33,775	60.4%	495,231	-11.1%
340111	Soap, organic surfactant products and products used as soap	61,514	11,001	7,402	13,818	16,895	26,709	58.1%	110,978	-12.8%
330720	Body deodorants and antiperspirants	48,750	4,183	2,377	3,892	4,341	7,066	62.8%	384,253	-9.4%

Source: Calculations with data from Trademap

**Chemicals:** Venezuela imported USD \$860 million of chemical products in 2012 and USD \$111 million in 2021, with a growth of 45% between 2020 and 2021. The UK exported USD \$7.947 billion of chemical products in 2022 with an average annual growth of 3.5% between 2018 and 2022.

For this sector, 3 products were prioritised with a total market value in Venezuela in 2021 of USD \$24 million and an average growth of 204% from 2020 to 2021, exceeding the value imported in 2012.





**Table 30. Products Prioritised Within the Chemical Sector** 

Sector/Code	Droduct		Impor		Exports UK - Thousands USD					
6 dig	Product	2012	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Var 2020/2021	2021	Var 2020/2021
	Chemicals (3)	21,686	23,140	19,527	43,786	8,222	23,532	204.0%	457,833	-23.9%
380893	Herbicides, germination inhibitors, and plant growth regulators	0	12,335	11,192	33,655	2,118	9,123	330.7%	273,756	-13.0%
381600	Cements, mortars, concretes and similar compositions, fireproof material, incl. dolomite mixture	21,686	7,745	4,353	795	2,675	7,416	177.2%	93,999	-3.4%
380891	Insecticides for retail, as concentrates or packaged	0	3,060	3,982	9,336	3,429	6,993	103.9%	90,078	-55.1%

**Iron and steel products:** Venezuela imported USD \$3.529 billion of iron and steel products in 2012 and USD \$152 million in 2021, with a growth of 71% between 2020 and 2021. The UK exported USD \$15.56 billion of iron and steel products in 2022 with an average annual growth of 3.5% between 2018 and 2022.

market of USD \$22 million in Venezuela in 2021 and a potential market reflected in the imported value of USD \$43 million 2012. This market had an average growth of 311.5% between 2020 and 2021.

For this sector, 3 products were prioritised with a total

Table 31. Prioritised Products in the Iron and Steel Sector

Sector/Code	Duodust		Import	s From '	Venezue	ela - Tho	usands L	JSD	Exports UK - Thousands USD		
6 dig	Product	2012	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Var 2020/2021	2021	Var 2020/2021	
Iro	n and Steel products (3)	42,703	8,831	5,297	3,023	5,446	22,288	311.5%	174,233	-27.9%	
721050	Flat products of iron or non-alloy steel, width >= 600 mm, cold-rolled	15,676	7,592	4,595	1,841	1,884	9,895	425.2%	50,523	-47.4%	
731021	Cans or tins of cast iron, iron or steel, of capacity < 50, To be closed by welding	3,095	327	309	263	1,645	7,271	342.0%	83,278	-0.1%	
732393	Tableware, kitchenware, or household articles and parts thereof, of stainless steel	23,932	912	393	919	1,917	5,122	167.2%	40,432	-36.3%	

Source: Calculations with data from Trademap

Medical, surgical, and measuring tools: Venezuela imported USD \$1.885 billion of medical, surgical, and measuring tools in 2012 and USD \$99 million in 2021, with a growth of 26% between 2020 and 2021. The UK exported USD \$20.21 billion of medical, surgical, and measuring tools with an average annual growth of 1.4%

between 2018 and 2022

For this sector, 2 products were prioritised with a total market of USD \$17 million in Venezuela in 2021 and a potential market reflected in the imported value of USD \$126 million 2012. This market had an average growth of





Table 32. Prioritised Products in the Medical, Surgical and Measuring Tools Sector

Sector/Code	Droduct		Import	s From V	enezuela	- Thous	ands USI	D	Exports UK - Thousands USD	
6 dig	Product	2012	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Var 2020/2021	2021	Var 2020/2021
Medical-sur	gical and measuring tools (2)	126,192	26,072	16,047	39,505	7,656	16,800	152.6%	313,528	-24.3%
901831	Syringes, incl, with needles, For medical use	19,392	7,333	5,337	11,484	2,801	10,536	276.2%	110,560	-24.8%
901839	Needles, catheters, cannulae and similar instruments, for medical use (excl, syringes and tubular needles)	106,800	18,739	10,710	28,021	4,855	6,264	29.0%	202,968	-23.7%

**Furniture and lighting:** Venezuela imported USD \$1.272 billion of furniture and lighting in 2012 and USD \$152 million in 2021, with a growth of 82% between 2020 and 2021. The UK exported USD \$3.47 billion of furniture and lighting in 2022 with an average annual growth of -3.8% between 2018 and 2022.

For this sector, 1 product was prioritised with a total market of USD \$8 million in Venezuela in 2021 and a potential market reflected in the imported value of USD \$22 million in 2012. This market had an average growth of 96.9% between 2020 and 2021.

**Table 33. Prioritised Products in the Furniture and Lighting Sector** 

Sector/Code Product		Imports From Venezuela - Thousands USD					•	orts UK - ands USD		
6 dig	Product	2012	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Var 2020/2021	2021	Var 2020/2021
F	Furniture and lighting	21,759	1,542	1,217	3,239	4,266	8,399	96.9%	92,605	-5.2%
940161	Seats with wooden frame, with upholstery (excl, those convertible into beds)	21,759	1,542	1,217	3,239	4,266	8,399	96.9%	92,605	-5.2%

Source: Calculations with data from Trademap

**Base metal products:** Venezuela imported USD \$205 million of base metal products in 2012 and USD \$34million in 2021, with a growth of 63% between 2020 and 2021. The UK exported USD \$1.244 billion of base metal products with an average annual growth of 0.3% between 2018 and 2022.

For this sector, 1 product was prioritised with a total market of USD \$6 million in Venezuela in 2021 and a potential market reflected in the imported value of USD \$28 million in 2012. This market had an average growth of 169.1% between 2020 and 2021.





**Table 34. Prioritised Products in the Base Metal Fabrications Sector** 

Sector/Code	Duodusta		Imports	From \	/enezue	la - Tho	usands	USD	•	orts UK - ands USD
6 dig	Products	2012	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Var 2020/2021	2021	Var 2020/2021
Base metal fa	abrications	27,801	3,171	4,967	1,701	2,279	6,132	169.1%	188,413	-1.1%
830990	Stoppers, caps, incl, screw caps and pourer caps, bottle capsules	27,801	3,171	4,967	1,701	2,279	6,132	169.1%	188,413	-1.1%

Paper and cardboard: Venezuela imported USD \$981 million of paper and cardboard in 2012 and USD \$89 million in 2021, with a growth of -4% between 2020 and 2021. The UK exported USD \$3.164 billion of paper and cardboard in 2021 with an average annual growth of -0.9% between 2018 and 2022.

For this sector, 1 product was prioritised with a total market value of USD \$6 million in 2021 Venezuela. This product had an average growth of 156.5% between 2020 and 2021 exceeding the value imported in 2012.

**Table 35. Prioritised Products in the Paper and Cardboard Sector** 

Sector/Code Product		Imports From Venezuela - Thousands USD							rts UK - Inds USD	
6 dig	Product	2012	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Var 2020/2021	2021	Var 2020/2021
Paper, cardb	oard	4,606	1,078	908	1,764	2,380	6,105	156.5%	48,641	-7.3%
	Paper, paperboard, cellulose wadding and cellulose fibre webs, in									
482390	strips or in rolls	4,606	1,078	908	1,764	2,380	6,105	156.5%	48,641	-7.3%

Source: Calculations with data from Trademap

Note that whilst all of the prioritised products do not yet have a significant market in Venezuela, they do show growth from 2020 to 2021 close to or above 100%.

can be found in the annex on UK opportunities in Venezuela.

More details on the market for the prioritised products





# 6. COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR UK INVESTORS IN COLOMBIA

Colombia has a privileged geographical location. It is the junction between Central and South America. It has 10 port areas which makes it a maritime trade hub and it is the closest country in South America to any of the main ports in Europe.

In addition, it is a country committed to climate change and energy transition and this can be observed in public policy actions such as the green hydrogen roadmap, Law 2099 of 2021, which encourages transition from traditional to renewable energies. Additionally, Decree 1476, regulates incentives for green hydrogen. The result of these public sector actions is demonstrated in the fact that Colombia has the sixth cleanest energy matrix in the world.

Additionally, Colombia has significant oil, natural gas and coal reserves which provide near self-sufficiency in fuels and could be used for the production of blue hydrogen through carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS). Colombia has sixteen Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs) and more than fifteen Trade Agreements that offer duty-free access to over fifty countries in the world and more than 1.5 billion potential consumers.

This section details all the advantages and benefits described above that position Colombia as a privileged, unique and competitive destination for investors from the UK and the world.

## **6.1** AGREEMENTS TO AVOID **DOUBLE TAXATION**

One of the key elements that investors evaluate to determine whether to invest in a country is related to the tax burden of two main taxes: Value Added Tax (VAT) and Income Tax. Thus, the income tax rate or the corporate tax rate is a determinant for the arrival of FDI to any country. Currently, according to its tax structure, Colombia is not very competitive

compared to its regional peers that attract similar FDI flows, as detailed in the table below.

**Table 36. Tax Comparison of Colombia and Other Latin American Countries** 

<u>Tax Burden</u>	<u>Colombia</u>	<u>Chile</u>	<u>Peru</u>	<u>Mexico</u>	<u>Argentina</u>	<u>Brazil</u>
Income tax	35%	25 a 27%	29.50%	30%	25%	34%
VAT	19%	19%	18%	16%	21%	17%
Tax on dividends	20%	5% a 10%	5%	10%	13%	NO

Source: with data from PwC





Note how Colombia is the country with the highest statutory rates in income tax and dividend tax and the second highest in VAT after Argentina.

Considering the above, instruments such as the DTAA's signed by the Colombian State, are a factor that will allow the country to compete in tax matters despite the established statutory rates.

DTAAs allow investors to choose the tax rate at which they would like to be taxed; that of the country receiving the FDI (in this case Colombia) or that of the country of origin of their tax residence. In this way, DTAA's, in addition to generating a greater probability of foreign exchange income, facilitate for competitiveness and fiscal equalization. According to theory, DTAAs should positively influence the entry of FDI to the country that subscribes the agreements.

If the effect of DTAA's are evaluated for Colombia through econometric and impact evaluation methodologies, it could be established through causal inference that the signing of a DTAA increases FDI for the country.

Having made a preliminary estimate on the matter, the results of a regression estimating the impact of double taxation agreements on FDI flows for Colombia are presented below.

For this, the estimation of the present model was run with the difference-in-difference method (Dif-in-dif). The specific function is as follows:

IED\_it= $\beta$ \_o+ $\beta$ \_1 (T\_t x [ADT] \_i)+X\_it + $\epsilon$ \_it

#### Where:

- IED: Foreign direct investment history in Colombia by country of origin. Information from the official website of the 'Banco de la República' in millions of USD.
- ADT: Dummy variable identifying whether the country has a double taxation agreement. Information from the Banco de la República and the Dirección de Impuestos y Aduanas Nacionales (DIAN).
- T: Time variable indicating the period "t" in which the agreement becomes effective.
- X: Fixed effects of time

For the structuring of the treatment, control groups,

and treated groups, it is established that the treatment refers to the entry into force of double taxation agreements signed between Colombia and each country. The evaluation period is from 2007 to 2021, and it assesses the before and after timelapses effects of the treatment event.





**Table 37. Double Taxation Agreements Subscribed to by Colombia** 

Country	Date Entered Into Force	Law Regulating the Double Taxation Agreement
Japan	September 4 of 2022	Law 2095 of 2021
France	January 1 of 2022	Law 2061 of 2020
Italy	October 7 of 2021	Law 2004 of 2019
UK	December 13 of 2019	Law 1939 of 2018
Czech Republic	May 6 of 2015	Law 1690 of 2013
Portugal	January 30 of 2015	Law 1692 of 2013
India	July 7 of 2014	Law 1668 of 2013
South Korea	July 3 of 2014	Law 1667 of 2013
Mexico	July 11 of 2013	Law 1578 of 2013
Canada	June 12 of 2012	Law 1459 of 2011
Switzerland	January 1 of 2013	Law 1344 of 2009
Chile	December 22 of 2009	Law 1261 of 2008
Spain	October 23 of 2008	Law 1082 of 2006

## In this sense, the identifying assumption is:

 $\texttt{E} \ [\texttt{IED}]_{0i} \ | \texttt{ADT}_i = \texttt{0}, \ \texttt{t=1}] - \ \texttt{E} \ [\texttt{IED}_{0i} \ | \ \texttt{ADT}_i = \texttt{0}, \ \texttt{t=0}] = \texttt{E} \ [\texttt{IED}_{0i} \ | \ \texttt{ADT}_i = \texttt{1}, \ \texttt{t=1}] - \ \texttt{E} \ [\texttt{IED}_{0i} \ | \ \texttt{ADT}_i = \texttt{1}, \ \texttt{t=0}]$ 

ADT<sub>i</sub> = 1 country with which Colombia has a DTAA (Treatment group)

ADT = 0 countries with which Colombia does not have a DTAA (Control group)

The results of the model are presented below:

Table 38. Results of the Regression Model of Differences in Differences (Dif in Dif)

IED	Coef.	St.Err.	t-	p-	[95% Conf	Interval]	Sig
			value	value			
ADTxT	41.16	16.327	2.52	.012	9.132	73.189	**
Constant	101.372	6.435	15.75	0	88.749	113.995	***
Mean dependent	var	111.867	SD depe	ndent var		241.037	
R-squared		0.005	Number of obs			1408	
F-test		6.356	Prob > F			0.000	
Akaike crit. (AIC)		18663.620	Bayesiar	crit. (BIC	)	18674.120	

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> p<.01, \*\* p<.05, \* p<.1





Based on the above results, it can be affirmed with 95% confidence that the implementation of a double taxation agreement increases foreign direct investment by at least USD \$41 million, ceteris paribus.

Colombia's or the UK's, according to their business model. As shown above, this is an investment incentive and is an example of preferential treatment for inbound investors.

The State of Colombia and the UK signed a double taxation agreement which entered into force in 2019.

The agreement establishes clear rules on how income should be taxed and reported and it allows the investor to choose their preferential tax rate,

# 6.2 AGREEMENT FOR THE PROTECTION OF INVESTMENTS BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND COLOMBIA

The Agreement for the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments (ARPI) signed between Colombia and the UK entered into force on the 10th October 2014. The agreement seeks to promote and protect investments made by investors from both countries, establishing a clear and predictable legal framework that provides stability, legal certainty and protection to investors.

- Arbitration clause for the settlement of disputes.
- International arbitration mechanism to resolve disputes between investors and states, which gives life to a dispute settlement system.

## This agreement contains provisions relating to:

- Free movement of capital.
- Protection against expropriation and nationalisation of assets.

# **6.3** COLOMBIA'S HYDROGEN POTENTIAL AS A **FACTOR FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND INVESTMENT ATTRACTION**

## **6.3.1** Background Regulatory framework

Colombia is committed to the decarbonisation of its economy. It has the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Today, hydrogen is considered to be one of the main tools available to the country to meet their goal of decarbonisation by 2050.

In Colombia, hydrogen is considered a non-conventional renewable energy source. Both blue hydrogen and green hydrogen are classified as non-conventional renewable energy sources. Blue hydrogen emits low emissions when obtained and green hydrogen produces zero emissions when obtained.





### 6.3.2 Hydrogen Roadmap in Colombia

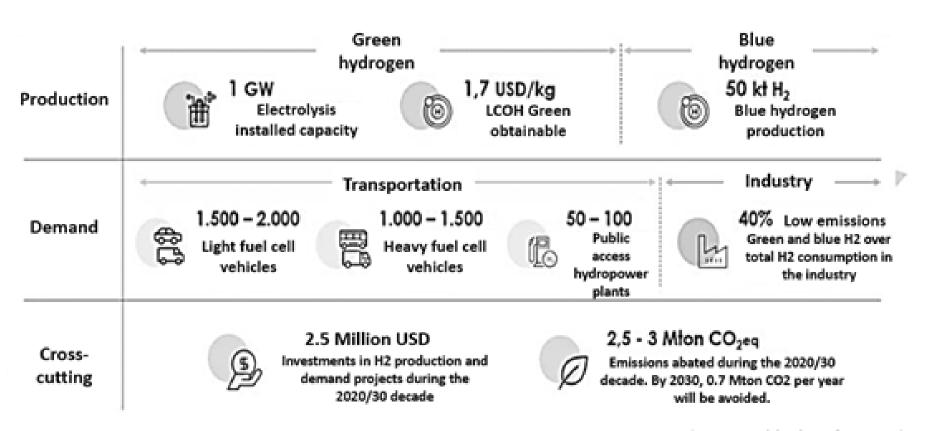
In September 2021, the Hydrogen roadmap for Colombia was published with the objective of evaluating the competitiveness of hydrogen in Colombia and to propose guidelines for the development of measures that will bring the country closer to the goal of national decarbonisation.

According to the roadmap, it is expected that green hydrogen will be produced in some regions of Colombia by 2030, reaching cost parity with blue hydrogen. In the Guajira region, it is expected that by 2027 wind hydrogen will reach price parity with blue hydrogen (by coal gasification); and it is expected to

reach the break-even point of solar hydrogen by 2037.

Between 2030 and 2040, blue and green hydrogen are expected to coexist, depending on the natural resources available for their production in each region of Colombia. The roadmap assumes that by 2040 green hydrogen will be the most competitive alternative throughout Colombia. In terms of emissions abated, the energy demand supplied by green or blue hydrogen would represent 9.6% of the total energy demand in 2050.

Ilustración 8. Metas nacionales de hidrógeno de bajas emisiones a 2030



Source: Ministerio de Minas y Energía

The roadmap projects a domestic demand in Colombia of 1.6-1.8 Megatons (Mt) of hydrogen in 2050, with solar potential in the La Guajira region alone reaching 42 Gigawatts (GW). If the maximum renewable potential can be exploited, up to 3.2 Mt or 5.8 Mt (including offshore potential) could be obtained. Therefore, there is a possibility of supplying Colombia's hydrogen demand by 2050 (approximately 525 million tons) with the potential offered by renewable energies.

Some of the industries that will drive the hydrogen economy in the country are refining, long-distance heavy transport, fertilisers, mining and steel production. Colombia is also expected to export around four million tons of low-carbon hydrogen by 2050.





#### **6.3.3 Current Projects**

Colombia currently has 2 projects producing this energy source and another 8 under development. In addition, the Non-Conventional Energy and Efficient Energy Management Fund closed a call for proposals to provide finance of more than USD \$6.5 billion to 10 projects and 9 firms for the development of green and blue hydrogen projects in the mobility, industry and electricity generation sectors.

Ecopetrol's project uses industrial water from the Cartagena refinery to produce 20 kilograms of green hydrogen daily, testing the use of this hydrogen in different processes at the refinery. For the project,

Ecopetrol installed 250 solar panels that produce the energy needed to separate the hydrogen from the oxygen in the water. The total investment in the project was USD \$1.5 million.

Moreover, the Promigas project injects green hydrogen into natural gas distribution networks, becoming the first hydrogen and natural gas blending project in the region, reducing the environmental footprint of the operation by avoiding the emission of 6 tons of CO2 per year.

**Table 39. Hydrogen Projects in Colombia** 

Hydrogen Projects in Colombia							
No.	Name	In development	In operation	Application			
1	Proyecto Piloto- Ecopetrol		Х	Industrial feedstock, mobility			
2	Proyecto Piloto- Promigas		X	Natural gas grid injection			
3	OPEX S.A.S.		X	Mobility			
4	Ecopetrol- Proyecto Piloto 1	Х		Industrial feedstock, mobility, Natural gas grid injection			
5	Ecopetrol- Proyecto Piloto 2	X		Industrial feedstock			
6	Proyecto META	X		Industrial feedstock			
7	OCENSA	X		Industrial feedstock, electric power generation			
8	MEC H2	х		Industrial feedstock, e-fuels, natural gas grid injection, electric power generation industrial heat, mobility			
9	H2 acoplado a Central Eléctrica	X		Electric power generation			
10	Refinería Sebastopol	X		Industrial feedstock, mobility			
11	Proyecto Piloto- Celsia	X		Mobility			

### 6.3.4 Regulatory Framework for Energy Transition in Colombia

Law 1715 – 2014: Provides benefits for investment in non-conventional energy sources such as exemption from customs duties, VAT exclusion, accelerated depreciation and income tax deduction of 50% of the investment. These are powerful support instruments which ensure the competitiveness of low-emission hydrogen projects and provide security to investors.

Law 1931 – 2018: Establishes guidelines for the management of climate change. Defines the Colombian system of tradable quotas in which it seeks to include emission quotas for blue and green hydrogen.





Law 2099 – 2021: The Energy Transition Law establishes a favourable fiscal framework for investment in non-conventional energy sources, including green hydrogen and blue hydrogen, contributing to the recovery of the economy. Likewise, it extends the scope of action of the Non-Conventional Energy and Efficient Energy

Management Fund to the financing and/or execution of viable projects with any link to the low-emission hydrogen value chain.

Law 2169 – 2021: Promotes the low carbon development of Colombia through the establishment of minimum goals and measures in terms of carbon neutrality and climate resilience.

## 6.4 PROPOSITION OF COLOMBIA'S HYDROGEN VALUE

Colombia has strategic advantages in terms of hydrogen because it has:

- High availability of renewable energy sources which can be used to produce green hydrogen in the north of the country, the main example being the La Guajira region. In Colombia the average wind speed is 9m/s (2 times the world average) as well as having a solar radiation of 4.5 kWh/m2, which is higher than the world average. Colombia has more than 740,000 hydrographic basins, which places it among the top 10 countries with the highest concentration of water supply in the world.
- Privileged geographical location for exports:
   Colombia is the nexus between Central and South
   America and is linked by transport, distribution
   and trade networks with five other countries
   (Panama, Venezuela, Brazil, Peru and Ecuador). It
   is also located between two oceans and is a

maritime trade and export hub with 10 port areas. Cartagena with access to the Caribbean Sea and Buenaventura with access to the Pacific Ocean are the most important ports. Colombia also shares maritime borders with 9 countries including; Panama, Venezuela, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica and Honduras.

Additionally, considering the energy crisis in Europe caused by the war between Russia and Ukraine, the demand for renewable energy is growing exponentially. With respect to this, Colombia is the closest Latin American country to Europe when compared to countries with similar hydrogen potential, such as Brazil and Chile, (using forecasts from the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA))...

Table 40. Distance from Colombia and Competitor Countries to Main European Ports (Km)

Port	Distance From Colombia	Distance From Chile	Distance From Brazil
Valencia (ESP)	8,302	12.041	8,494
Amberes (BEL)	8,820	12,150	9,076
Rotterdam (NL)	8,833	12,197	9,125
Hamburgo (GER	9,216	12,608	9,534

Source: Calculations by Araújo Ibarra using distances from Google maps





- Reserves: Colombia has significant reserves of oil, natural gas and coal giving it a position of near fuel self-sufficiency. These fuels could be used to produce blue hydrogen through carbon capture and storage.
- Competitive price: IRENA indicated that Colombia had the potential to achieve the fourth lowest price for green hydrogen worldwide by 2050, which could only be beaten by China, Chile and Morocco.
- Tax incentives: Colombia is the only country in Latin America to date with a framework of tax incentives specifically designed for hydrogen production. These incentives are articulated through Decree 1476 of 2022.

Likewise, if these incentives are combined with existing incentives to encourage foreign trade, such as free trade zones, Colombia has a very strong fiscal value proposition.

**Table 41. Colombia's Tax Incentive Framework Compared to its Regional Peers** 

Tax burden	Colombia	Chile	Brasil
Income tax	Project cost deduction up to 50% of income tax (maximum 15 years)	25% – 27%	15%
VAT	Excluded (0%)	19%	17%
Depreciation	In three years	NO	NO
Tariff levies	Excluded (0%)	NO	NO

Source: Prepared by the authors based on all the tax statutes of each country.

In conclusion, compared to the other strategies published by countries in the region, the hydrogen roadmap in Colombia takes into account the production and projections of blue hydrogen as an alternative for change towards energy transition, as well as being the document published with the largest number of clean energy sources and the largest number of applicable sectors.





**Table 41. Latin American Strategies - Energy Transition** 

	AM	LAT Strate	egies - Eb	ergetic Transiti	on
Country	Document	Publication Year	Hydrogen type	Sources	Application
Colombia	Roadmap	2021	Green and blue	Solar, wind, SHP, biomass, geothermal y tidal	Refinery, heavy haulage, green ammonia (fertilizers), light transport, mining transport, air transport, power generation, iron and steel industry and shipping
	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bolivia	Roadmap in planning	2023	N/A	N/A	N/A
Brasil	National Strategy	2022	Green	Solar, wind, hydroelectric and biomass	N/A
Chile	National Strategy	2020	Green	Solar, wind, CSP and hydroelectric	Buses, refinery, ammonia, mining trucks, heavy haulage, injection network, maritime transport, light transport
Costa Rica	National Strategy	2022	Green	Solar, hydroelectric, wind, goethermal power	Transport, industry and export
Ecuador	Roadmap in planning	2023	N/A	N/A	N/A
El Salvador	Roadmap in planning	2023	Green	Solar, goethermal and biomass	Transport, industry and export
México	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Paraguay	Roadmap	2021	Green	Hydroelectric and Solar	Heavy haulage, shipping, food industry, chemical, steel, e-fuels, export, etc.
Perú	Roadmap in planning	2023	N/A	N/A	N/A
República Dominicana	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Uruguay	Roadmap	2022	Green and yellow	Solar and wind	Heavy haulage, maritime transport and fertilizer production





## **6.5** OPPORTUNITIES WITH **THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Hydrogen demand worldwide will have a year-on-year growth of 42% between 2030 and 2070. In 2022 Latin America will be the main exporter of hydrogen and Europe will be the main importer with a demand of more than 6 million tons.

Considering the high cost of using green hydrogen as a means of decarbonizing the economy, the use and commercialisation of blue hydrogen as a non-conventional energy source in energy transition has become popular. Blue hydrogen, because of its low emissions, continues to be a step in the right direction of energy transition without the high price

of green hydrogen. That is why countries such as Norway have adopted a blue hydrogen approach as a sustainable solution in the export of clean energy. Colombia's roadmap is the only one in Latin America that takes into account the production of blue hydrogen in development projects and investment opportunities in order to achieve their energy transition goals.

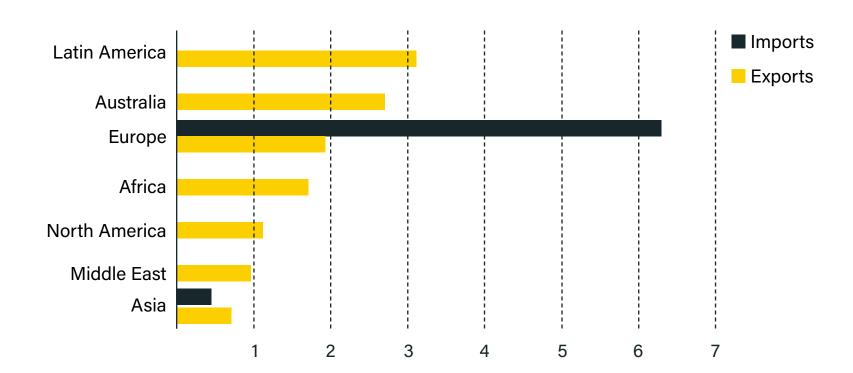


Ilustración 9. Exportaciones e importaciones de hidrógeno Fuente: IRENA

The UK Sustainable Infrastructure Program (UK SIP) was involved in the development of the hydrogen roadmap as part of the IDB investment platform. The roadmap has been key to mobilising strategic private sector investment which in turn promotes sustainable low-carbon infrastructure and meets energy efficiency and emissions reduction targets in the energy, transport and industry sectors. Technology development, technical capabilities and infrastructure sectors are highlighted for growth and investment opportunities.

Currently in Colombia there are two major groups of companies focused on hydrogen: la Cámara de Hidrógeno ANDI-NATURGAS and Hidrógeno Colombia.





## La Cámara de Hidrógeno de la ANDI y NATURGAS are made up of the following members

aes Colombia	DRUMMOND LTD.	CMS law-tax-future	epm®
Air Liquide	GII	cenit	G
Gases del Oriente Gases del Oriente SA ESR	ecopetrol	Linde	vanti <del>\</del>
TEBSA	corona nos gusta como eres	O terpel	monómeros
Haceb	PROMIGAS	ho <b>col</b>	
■ BASF We create chemistry	CELSIA	TECHTINT Ingeniería y Construcción	Refinería de Cartagena
C ALFA®	PRODUCTS 2	Fanalca =	TGI GrupoEnergiaBogotá
Surtigas	SIEMENS		





## Hidrógeno Colombia is made up of the following members:

Hinicio	AHORRO YEFICIENCIA ENERGÉTICA	Air Liquide	ArceRojas CONSULTORES Soluciona sus Necesidades
engie	Espinel ABOGADOS	PROMIGAS	SIEMENS
TW Solar leading Energy into the future	Sumitomo Corporation Andes S.A.S.	JEMAS Consultoría S.A.S	Potencia y Tecnologías Incorporadas
aes Colombia	Holland & Knight	MESSER Gases for Life	KPING
<b>EDF</b> renewables	ARUP	BlueFloat	STROPOL SPOSTEWBLE SAS
energía finanzas competencia	Ó P T I M A	summum projects	SERINGTECS.A.S INGENIERIA Y SERVICIOS TECNICOS
VatiA Primeros, después de ti	PRF	Universidad de La Sabana	Termoem Cali  a Contour GLOBAL company
enerfín	PETROMIL	STORK  A Fluor Company	Curnins
<b>CUATRECASAS</b>	Cedf		





Hydrogen demand is estimated to reach 80 to 140 Megatons in 2035. The following UK energy companies are highlighted as potential investors in Colombia:

sustainable infrastructure to expand the capacity for clean energy use in Colombia.

- ITM Power
- Power Energy Group
- AFC Energy
- Ceres power

In January 2023, the UK and Colombia reaffirmed the Colombia-UK Partnership for Sustainable Growth which was first signed in 2019. The initial theme of the partnership reflected a joint agenda to address climate change, the fight against deforestation, the sustainability of sectors such as energy and transport, and the strengthening of climate change measurement systems. However, in its new version it proposes the promotion of the green economy and

# 7. KEY UK COMPANIES THAT COLOMBIA COULD ATTRACT BASED ON THE PRIORITISED SECTORS

International trade is a key driver of economic growth and development in the world. Taking this into account, the identification of opportunities to attract foreign investment and companies that use Colombia as an export platform is an important strategy to boost economic growth and improve the country's competitiveness. This study has identified more than 120 companies from UK that could be attracted to Colombia for this purpose. These companies represent a great opportunity to increase foreign investment in the country and promote international trade.

Based on the more than one hundred prioritised products in roughly twenty strategic sectors in which Colombia could an export platform for the UK, the following sample of companies was drawn up. This is based on the cross-referencing of the tariff headings of the prioritised sectors, which should be the same as those of the exports registered by these companies.





Top 20 de compañías									
Químico Orgánico	Plástico	Vehículos	Maquinaria mecánica	Maquinaria eléctrica	Manufacturas fundición de Hierro y Acero				
Sigma- Aldrich Company Ltd	Amazon Eu Sarl	Copart Uk Ltd	Amazon Eu Sarl	Amazon Eu Sarl	Bae Systems (Operations) Ltd				
Biosynth Limited	Costco Wholesale Uk Limited	British Car Auctions Limited	Airbus Flight Hour Services Limited	A J Walter Aviation Limited	Caterpillar Logistics (Uk) Ltd				
Apollo Scientific Ltd	Aerospheres (Uk) Limited	Jaguar Land Rover Limited	A J Walter Aviation Limited	Airbus Flight Hour Services Limited	Bolt And Nut Manufacturing Ltd				
R C Treatt & Co Limited	B/E Aerospace Uk Limited	Uk Motor Imports (Irl) Ltd	Aerfin Ltd	Anixter Ltd	Boeing Distribution Services Inc				
Avocado Research Chemicals Limited	Aerospace Reliance Limited	Team Lees Limited	Allmakes Pr2 4x4 Limited	Anglia Components Plc	Baker Hughes Energy Technology Uk Limite D				
Fisher Scientific Uk Ltd	3m United Kingdom Plc	Emcc Solutions Limited	Aerotron Limited	Aerfin Ltd	Cummins Ltd				
International Flavours And Fragrances Iff (Gb) Limited	Altro Limited	Car 99 Ltd	Airbus Military Uk Limited	Altway (Uk) Limited	Bulten Ltd				
Fluorochem Limited	A.Schulman Gainsborough Ltd	Roberto Parts Ltd	Air Products Plc	Adams Aviation Supply Company Ltd	Dp Fasteners Limited				
Tocris Cookson Ltd	British Polythene Industries Ltd	Adrian&Biggie Limited	Alexander Dennis Limited	America li Europe Limited	Canmec Limited				
Glentham Life Sciences Limited	Amcor Flexibles Uk Limited	Mhh International Ltd	Aggreko Uk Ltd	Aerotron Limited	Apollo Aerospace Components Limited				
Molekula Ltd	Coba Automotive Uk Ltd	Bayerische Motoren Werke Aktiengesellschaft	Aalberts Integrated Piping System Limite D	Abb Limited	Amazon Eu Sarl				





Químico Orgánico	Plástico	Vehículos	Maquinaria mecánica	Maquinaria eléctrica	Manufacturas fundición de Hierro y Acero
Cambridge Commodities Ltd	Bae Systems (Operations) Ltd	R S D Cars Ltd	Acorn Industrial Services Ltd	Aamp Global Limited	Clarendon Specialty Fastener S Limited
Tilley Distribution Uk Limited	A.Schulman Thermoplastic Compounds L Imited	Arval Uk Group Limited	Aiv Europe Ltd	Adi-Gardiner Limited	Boeing Distribution Services Iii Ltd
Manchester Organics Limited	Colorcon Ltd	Classic Cars (Uk) Ltd	Airtanker Services Ltd	Apple Distribution International Limited	Bentley Motors Limited
Univar Solutions Bv	Baker Hughes Ltd	Synetiq Ltd	Apple Distribution International Limited	Airbus Military Uk Limited	Aviation & Defence Spares Limited
Azelis Uk Limited	A J Walter Aviation Limited	Pinnacle Corporation Ltd	Agilent Technologies Lda Uk Ltd	Aggreko Uk Ltd	Auto Fasteners Ltd
Lehvoss Uk Ltd	B E Aerospace (Uk) Ltd	Holding & Barnes (Ci) Limited	Alatas Uk Limited	Allmakes Pr2 4x4 Limited	Basetek Ltd
Augustus Oils Ltd	Basell Sales & Marketing Company Bv	Cox Automotive Uk Limited	Agco International Limited	Abb Bv	Beck Prosper Limited
Oqema Ltd	Bunzl Retail And Healthcare Supplies Limited	Marcus Freeman Limited	Apex Auto Parts Ltd	A C Entertainment Technologies Limited	B/E Aerospace Uk Limited
Nig Europe Limited	Antalis Limited	L.F. Trade Sales Limited	3m United Kingdom Plc	Airbus Defence And Space Ltd	Apex Stainless Fasteners Limited





## 8. CONCLUSIONS

In this study, the different opportunities that Colombia has to become an export platform for the UK have been presented. First, the commercial relationship between the UK and the world was analysed through the analysis of the trade balance of payments and its components. Additionally, a prioritisation of products was carried out with relation to the U.S. market, the main importer in the world, as well as the Venezuelan market.

The product prioritisation methodology was based on the alignment of demand, driven by imports from each destination market, with the export supply of Colombia and the UK, as detailed in the respective section.

The study also explored the potential and presented the business case and value proposition of Colombia as a producer of green and blue hydrogen and also established parameters of competitiveness that make the country an excellent investment destination.

We hope this study will be useful for the British-Colombo Chamber of Commerce, its institutional allies and even more, for the growth and business development of the UK and Colombia.