

Analysis of Preference Utilisation in Trade with the United Kingdom

UK Report

Output for Iceland

March 2025

Background Information

This report summarises the most important information on the EFTA States' trade relations with the United Kingdom (UK) on the import and export side. In addition to general information on bilateral trade, it includes the share of duty-free trade, as well as tariff savings and preference utilisation rates. The aim of this report is to enable interested readers to see all relevant figures at a glance in order to identify both successes and potential for improvement.

Methodology: The preference utilisation rate (PUR)

To calculate and compare the use of tariff preferences across time and countries, This report uses one central indicator, the preference utilisation rate (PUR):

$$\text{Preference utilisation rate (\%)} = \frac{\text{Trade value of preferences used}}{\text{Trade value of preferences that could be used}}$$

The PUR represents the value of traded goods for which economic operators actually make use of the preferential tariff regime granted under the EEA EFTA – UK Free Trade Agreement (henceforth FTA) in relation to the total value of traded goods for which economic operators are entitled to make use of the FTA.¹

Scope

The scope of this report covers both imports and exports between Iceland and the UK for the period 2022–2023.

For exports, this report relies on data provided by the UK.

Limitations

The data on preference utilisation in this report is based on import data collected and processed by different parties. Thus, the existence of different sources for the import data might limit the accuracy of the output due to possible differences in data and methods used.

In addition, preferences within tariff rate quotas, variable tariffs (e.g. price band systems, input-based tariffs or seasonal tariffs) and ex-outs within tariff lines have not been considered in the calculations

¹Further details regarding the methodology for this report can be found in the [Swiss study "Analysis on the use of free trade agreements"](#).

due to the difficulty in quantifying them through the available customs statistics. Trade under preferential schemes other than FTAs has been included in the analysis of overall trade flows, but not in the assessment of applicable tariff rates and preference utilisation, given the lack of data on the tariffs applicable under those schemes.

Subject to national laws, regulations and procedures in Iceland and the UK, trade under certain tariff lines may be confidential and therefore not shown in the report. As a result, trade under certain tariff lines has been removed from the tables in the lower part of each country page to ensure statistical confidentiality.

Explanation of this report

Information

The upper part of each country page contains information on the FTA and bilateral trade, including the entry into force of the FTA and trade values for 2023. Values are indicated consistently in US dollars (USD). For exports, duty-free trade under the MFN and preferential trade regimes is indicated. The information section also details the PUR for 2022–2023.

All monetary values are converted from national currencies to USD using the [IMF's yearly average exchange rates](#) for the given period.

Graphs

Below, the different graphs depicted in this report are explained. It is important to note that the data analysed and results presented do not represent total trade flows but only a subset thereof. Gold as well as products with import quotas have been excluded from the analysis.

The first graph (top left) shows the imports or exports for all years analysed, illustrated according to the four trade regimes: FTA, MFN zero, MFN, and other preferences. The graph therefore gives an overview of the relevance of the different trade regimes, including of the FTA.

The second graph (top right) shows the duty-free share of imports/exports in the most recent year covered by this report. The calculation of duty-free trade is based on the subset of data considered by this report. Therefore, it excludes other preferential schemes and applies other exclusions described above. Tariff lines under duty-free trade are those subject to either an MFN or a preferential tariff rate of zero.

The third graph (bottom left) shows tariff duties revenue. In addition to the duties actually paid, the hypothetical tariff savings have been included both in the graph and numerically in the heading. These hypothetical tariff savings are calculated by multiplying trade flows with the respective FTA or MFN tariffs.

The fourth graph (bottom right) compares the aggregated utilisation rates over the past years, allowing a comparison of the use of the FTA over the time period for which data is available.

Table

In the lower part of each country page, this report features a table with key figures for selected products. The product groups are simplified descriptions based on the Harmonised System (HS) of the

World Customs Organization (WCO), [2022](#) version. The first part of the table displays the ten most important product groups (2-digit HS codes), sorted by trade value. In the lower section, the top ten products (6-digit HS codes) with the largest non-achieved tariff savings are listed. For products appearing recurrently in the lower table section, shortened descriptions of HS 6-digit labels are used. In instances where the PUR is 100% or not applicable, no information on the corresponding product(s) is provided in the lower section of the table. For all products / product groups, the trade values are shown according to trade regimes, the PUR, and the achieved and non-achieved tariff savings. If there is an indication of "0.00", the corresponding value may be at a lower-digit level. Additional information on the products with the highest non-achieved tariff savings can be obtained by clicking on the hyperlinks to the dedicated sections of the WCO website provided in the lower part of the table.

Explanations on the UK FTA Monitor

The upper part contains some general information and key figures.

Total imports/exports	Governing preferential trade regime
PUR over the last years	
Imports/exports without gold and TRQs (if applicable)	

The relevant limitations are specified.

Decomposition of imports/exports over the past years by trade regime.	Duty-free share of trade in 2023.
<i>Transactions in recent years according to the trade regime (FTA, MFN zero, MFN, other preferential treatment).</i>	<i>Pie chart representation of duty-free share of trade in 2023.</i>

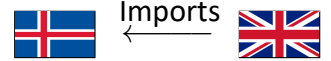
Hypothetical tariff revenue according to FTA or MFN over time. Green: Achieved tariff savings. Red: Non-achieved tariff savings.	Comparison of preference utilisation rates over time.
<i>Duty revenue if all imports had been made under FTA or MFN clauses.</i>	
<i>Actually paid tariffs are also indicated. The coloured areas show the realised and the non-realised tariff savings.</i>	<i>The preference utilisation rates over time are indicated.</i>

	Product group	HS Code	Imports/Exports					Utilisation Rate (%)	Tariff savings	
			Total	MFN	MFN-zero	FTA	other		achieved	non-achieved
			(in millions/thousands of USD)						(in thousands of USD)	
			<i>The total import/export value is indicated.</i>							
Top-10 product groups with highest import/export values			<i>The top-ten product categories (two-digit HS codes) sorted by import/export value are displayed.</i>							
Top-10 products with highest non-ach. tariff savings			<i>The top-ten products (six-digit HS codes) with the greatest non-realised savings potential are displayed.</i>							
			<i>The detailed HS tariff headings are available by clicking on the hyperlink in the HS code column.</i>							

List of abbreviations

- **FTA:** Free trade agreement
- **HS:** Harmonized System
- **MFN:** Most-favoured nation
- **Other pref.:** Other preferential schemes
- **PUR:** Preference utilisation rate
- **TRQ:** Tariff-rate quota
- **USD:** United States dollar

Iceland: Imports from United Kingdom 2023



Total imports: 352.45 mln. USD

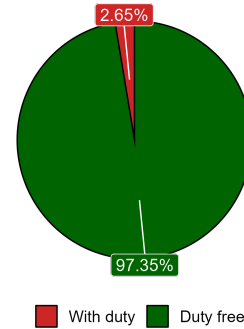
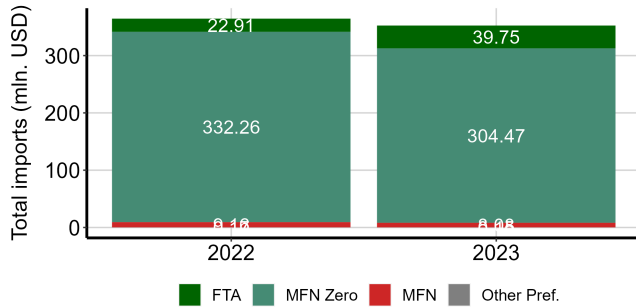
Trade regime: EEA-EFTA UK FTA 2021

Preference utilisation rate: – (2021), 70.1% (2022), 82.4% (2023)

Decomposition of imports over the past years by trade regime.

2023: FTA (11.3%), MFN zero (86.4%), MFN (2.3%), other pref. (0%).

Duty-free share of trade in 2023.

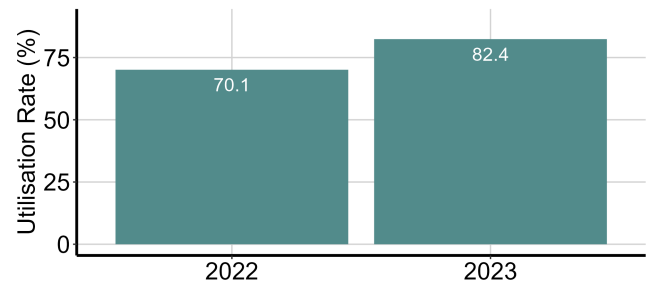
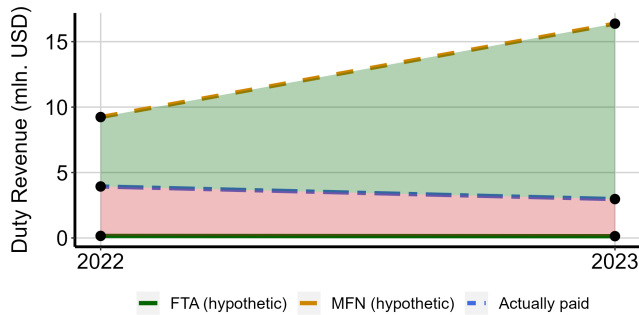


Hypothetical duty revenue according to MFN or FTA.

Green: achieved tariff savings (2023: 13'405'050 USD, savings rate: 82.5%).

Red: non-achieved tariff savings (2023: 2'834'590 USD).

Comparison of aggregated utilisation rates over the past years.



	Product group	HS code	Imports					Utilisation Rate (%)	Tariff savings	
			Total	MFN	MFN-zero	FTA	other		achieved	non-achieved
			(in millions of USD)					(in thousands of USD)		
Total			352.45	8.08	304.47	39.75	0.15	82.36	13'405.05	2'834.59
Top-10 product groups with highest imp. values	Machines	84	45.90	0.00	45.90	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	0.00
	Vehicles	87	44.91	0.00	44.91	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	0.00
	Electrical equipment/electronics	85	20.20	0.00	20.20	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	0.00
	Plastics	39	18.20	0.00	18.14	0.06	0.00	—	0.00	0.00
	Animal feed	23	18.09	0.08	1.59	16.42	0.00	99.52	8'947.99	43.65
	Cereal/flour prep, pastries	19	14.73	0.90	4.38	9.45	0.00	91.20	1'710.30	91.39
	Beverages	22	11.99	0.51	7.56	3.93	0.00	88.52	782.85	100.67
	Ships	89	11.82	0.00	11.82	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	0.00
	Precision Instruments	90	11.70	0.00	11.70	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	0.00
	Articles of Iron and Steel	73	10.63	0.00	10.60	0.03	0.00	—	0.00	0.00
Top-10 products with highest non-ach. tariff savings	Cereals	1003.90	2.71	1.84	0.00	0.87	0.00	32.16	478.73	1'009.71
	Cereals	1001.19	1.90	1.27	0.00	0.63	0.00	33.10	345.60	698.56
	Cereals	1001.99	1.21	1.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	666.06
	Beverages	2202.10	4.12	0.46	0.00	3.65	0.00	88.79	730.62	92.21
	Cereal/flour prep, pastries	1905.90	3.60	0.27	0.00	3.32	0.00	92.42	770.04	54.45
	Animal feed	2304.00	0.08	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	43.25
	Vegetable/fruit prep	2009.90	0.48	0.16	0.00	0.31	0.00	65.16	61.43	32.85
	Chocolate	1806.90	2.64	0.16	0.00	2.48	0.00	94.05	533.67	26.95
	Sugar/Confectionary	1704.90	0.97	0.13	0.00	0.83	0.00	86.25	166.44	26.60
	Other food preparations	2106.90	5.98	0.13	4.96	0.89	0.00	87.15	97.27	25.98

Iceland: Exports to the United Kingdom 2023



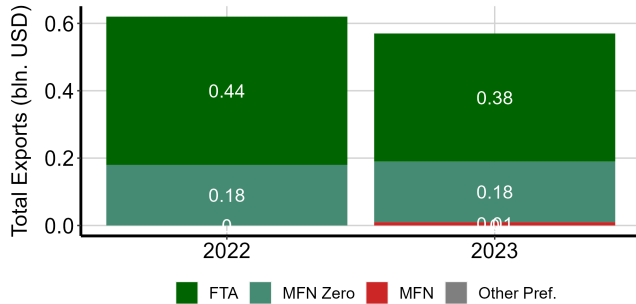
Total exports: 0.57 bln. USD

Trade regime: EEA-EFTA UK FTA 2021

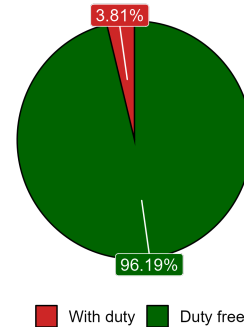
Preference utilisation rate: – (2021), 99.2% (2022), 97.7% (2023)

Preferences within TRQs, variable tariffs and ex-outs within tariff lines have not been considered.

Decomposition of exports over the past years by trade regime.
2023: FTA (66.6%), MFN zero (31.6%), MFN (1.6%), other pref. (0.1%).

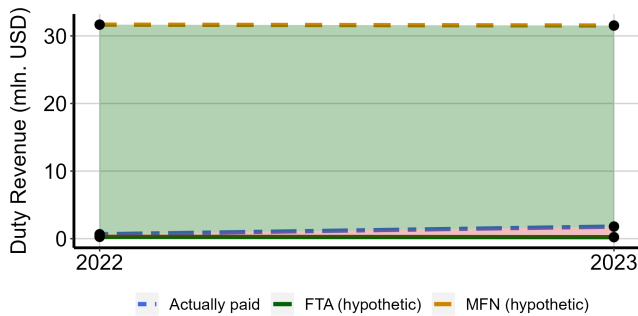


Duty-free share of trade in 2023.

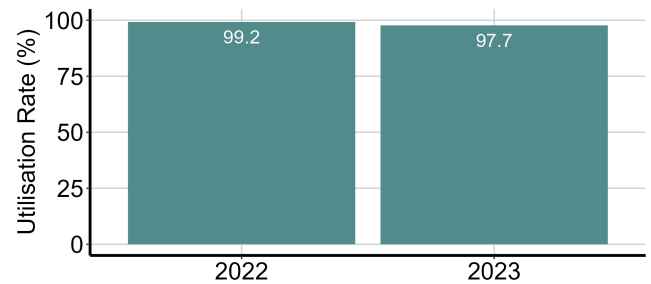


Hypothetical duty revenue according to MFN or FTA.

Green: achieved tariff savings (2023: 29'744'890 USD, savings rate: 95%).
Red: Non-achieved tariff savings (2023: 1'567'090 USD).



Comparison of aggregated utilisation rates over the past years.



		Product group	HS code	Exports				Utilisation Rate (%)	Tariff savings	
				Total	MFN	MFN-zero	FTA		other	achieved
				(in millions of USD)				(in thousands of USD)		
Total			567.66	9.36	179.30	378.09	0.57	97.70	29'744.89	1'567.09
Top-10 product groups with highest exp. values	Seafood	03	254.59	0.56	0.00	254.00	0.00	99.8	17'974.51	41.55
	Aluminium	76	78.29	0.00	6.91	71.10	0.00	100.0	1'747.01	0.11
	Animal feed	23	70.78	0.01	70.77	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	0.00
	Meat/seafood preparations	16	56.74	7.48	0.00	49.30	0.00	87.2	9'837.68	1'440.74
	Fats and Oils	15	41.12	0.21	40.37	0.50	0.00	72.5	25.28	30.62
	Pharmaceuticals	30	19.67	0.00	19.67	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	0.00
	Machines	84	13.38	0.06	13.24	0.00	0.04	38.2	0.87	1.49
	Precision Instruments	90	12.07	0.02	11.87	0.00	0.17	0.0	0.00	0.34
	Other Animal Prod	05	5.36	0.00	5.36	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	0.00
	Beverages	22	2.47	0.01	2.46	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.58
Top-10 products with highest non-ach. tariff savings	Meat/seafood preparations	1605.29	8.88	3.52	0.00	5.36	0.00	60.40	1'072.32	703.08
	Meat/seafood preparations	1605.21	46.86	3.25	0.00	43.60	0.00	93.06	8'720.74	650.56
	Meat/seafood preparations	1604.32	0.60	0.43	0.00	0.17	0.00	28.06	33.76	86.55
	Fats and Oils	1517.90	0.29	0.19	0.00	0.10	0.00	34.38	15.94	30.29
	Seafood	0304.83	2.69	0.17	0.00	2.52	0.00	93.55	242.61	24.32
	Electrical equipment/electronics	8528.59	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.99
	Clothing (woven)	6210.50	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.88
	Seafood	0304.71	127.30	0.10	0.00	127.20	0.00	99.92	7'632.08	5.84
	Furniture	9403.89	0.12	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.90
	Seafood	0304.74	0.07	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.23

For further information and contact points please consult www.efta.int/free-trade/FTA-Monitor.