

Press release: Global demand for British beer boosts exports

The British beer revolution shows no sign of slowing, Food Minister George Eustice today announced as the latest figures reveal one billion pints were shipped to beer lovers around the world last year, bringing a £600 million boost to the UK economy.

More than 500 breweries opened in the last year to meet the growing demand for a British pint – with shipments to a record 121 countries, including brewing powerhouses Australia and Germany. A further 2,000 new beer brands, including Sheffield's first craft lager and Arkell's first flavoured beer range, also launched – the highest figures of new beer on the market for over a decade.

To build on this momentum, this week the Government is connecting some of the country's best craft beers with buyers from across the US and Europe, putting the UK's national drink in the global spotlight and helping boost the bottles of British beer on shop shelves around the world.

Food Minister George Eustice said:

The UK's beer industry has a lot to celebrate – our established breweries now export to more countries than ever before, with bottles of British beer on shelves as far as Japan and New Zealand.

The craft beer boom in particular has secured our position at the forefront of the industry and made us a first choice for beer lovers the world over – with major retailers and supermarkets now stocking our smaller, unique brands over global big hitters.

Through the Food is GREAT campaign, the Government is working hard to make sure this important sector goes from strength to strength, which is why we are connecting our finest brewers with world-leading buyers, opening new markets and driving exports.

Total exports of UK beer grew by nearly £100 million in the last year, securing British brewers' spot among the UK's top five food and drink exports for the second year running – ahead of some of our most famous exports like salmon and cheese.

Taking advantage of this trend, the Government's [Food is GREAT](#) inbound trade mission will show leading buyers our renowned craft-beer industry in action. The trade mission includes tours of local breweries and a visit to the Bristol Craft Beer Festival, which showcases more than 200 UK beers to more than 2,500 visitors.

International Trade Minister Mark Garnier said:

The boost in beer exports is great news for UK breweries and beer enthusiasts across the globe.

Our beer industry now exports to more countries than ever before and, as an international economic department, we are committed to help them build on this success to make the most of rising demand.

British breweries can use our overseas network which operates in 108 countries, or look for live exporting opportunities on our digital hub great.gov.uk, to build their brands abroad as part of a Global Britain.

Across the country, breweries and exporters are recognising the growing demand overseas, and with Government support have set their sights on emerging and growing markets such as China and the US. This trend isn't only being felt in the beer sector – last week Lloyds Bank announced 69% of UK food and drink companies are looking to tap into new international markets around the world.

Sovereign Beverages, based in the North West, has strong links with nearly 70 of the world's biggest beer markets and now exports more than 5 million pints of over 700 UK beer brands each year.

Managing Director of Sovereign Beverage Company David Davies said:

British Beer is thriving both at home and abroad. We support some of the largest regional breweries in the UK providing sales and operational expertise to help smooth out the complexities of exporting excise goods. That is what we do.

We've seen double digit growth over the past 12 months through opening up new markets and developing existing ones. South Africa, South America and Eastern Europe are currently importing our beers in record quantities. We get calls every week from UK breweries looking to export their beers around the world.

Last year Defra and Department for International Trade (DIT) launched the first International Action Plan for food and drink which will see Government and industry working together to boost food and drink exports over the next five years.

Led by Defra in partnership with DIT and VisitBritain, the Food is GREAT campaign plays a key role in driving exports for UK produce overseas – increasing the demand around the world and positive public perception of our food and drink. UK businesses can explore their potential exporting opportunities through DIT's digital portal, great.gov.uk. The website acts as a single destination for trade and investment. There are more than 1,900 'live export opportunities' online, bringing together and connecting UK businesses, international buyers and international investors.

[Press release: Universal Credit – payments and labour market reports published](#)

Research also shows Universal Credit offers real personalised service, providing more support to help people find a job. New figures show that Universal Credit claimants are 4 percentage points more likely to be in work within 6 months than people who claimed Jobseeker's Allowance.

Universal Credit payments are designed to mirror the world of work, with monthly payments reflecting the way many working people are paid. Work coaches can support claimants in getting budgeting advice, and research shows that 3 in 4 claimants felt confident about budgeting on a monthly basis.

Today's research also shows that, for full service claimants, nearly 80% receive their first payment in full and on time.

Universal Credit is already in every jobcentre for single claimants, and Universal Credit full service is being gradually rolled out across the country for all types of claimants.

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, David Gauke said:

Universal Credit lies at the heart of welfare reform which is helping people to improve their lives by supporting them into work.

Universal Credit provides claimants with an unprecedented level of personalised support which takes into account their individual circumstances and makes work pay. We have been rolling out Universal Credit in a careful, safe and controlled way, allowing us to make improvements as we go. We want to ensure that payments are made on time and that people can take up all the extra support that didn't exist under the previous system.

Read the Universal Credit reports:

Some of the main findings are as follows.

Reports around payment timeliness

Timeliness

There has been an improvement in the payment timeliness figures over the last few months:

- in June 2017 92% of claimants received their full payment on time
- for all new Universal Credit claimants, around 76% receive their first payment in full and on time
- for full service claimants, around 77% receive their first payment in full and on time – this is a positive trend
- for new claims there are a number of one-off verification processes that must be completed and these can sometimes be delayed

Advances

Advances can be paid in the initial stages of a claim to help people who have short term budgeting issues. Claimants can receive up to 50% of their monthly entitlement, and we need to be confident they can repay the money. The advances are paid back over the initial months of the claim.

The data shows people are accessing support when they need it:

- 49% of new claims who were due a payment in June 2017 had an advance paid
- 45% of full service new claims who were due a payment in the same period had an advance paid
- 71% of all advances paid were new claim or change in circumstances advances

Waiting days

Waiting days are served, primarily, by those people coming out of employment. A range of groups are exempt from waiting days:

- people who are terminally ill
- victims of domestic violence
- care leavers or 16-17 year olds without parental support
- prison-leavers
- people who return to Universal Credit within a certain period of time, or who migrate over from legacy benefits within certain time periods will not serve waiting days

Currently the Universal Credit caseload is primarily made up of single childless claimants who are more likely to move in and out of employment than other claimant types, so are more likely to serve waiting days:

- as at June 2017, 75% of Universal Credit awards are paid to single people with no children
- between May 2016 and June 2017 64% of all households served waiting days
- 75% of single childless claimants, in the same period, served waiting days

Reports around the labour market

Universal Credit Employment Impact analysis

- Universal Credit has a positive impact on employment outcomes. Universal Credit claimants are 4 percentage points more likely to be in work within 6 months than a matched sample of Jobseeker's Allowance claimants
- the most recent data is supported by improved data and a larger cohort of claimants – 27,000 Universal Credit claims

Test and learn evaluation – families

Some test and learn evaluation was carried out with families in July 2015 and August 2016. Since this research was done we have improved the service and information available to families. The research found:

- Universal Credit claimants had flexible attitudes to work and were confident about applying for jobs
- 3 in 4 claimants felt confident about budgeting on a monthly basis

Follow DWP on:

[News story: The AAIB has sent a team to East Midlands Airport](#)

[unable to retrieve full-text content]The AAIB has sent a team to East Midlands Airport, Leicestershire

[News story: Parsons Green incident](#)

Officers from the Met's Counter Terrorism Command are investigating after an incident on a London tube train this morning.

Police were called at approximately 08:20hrs today (Friday, 15 September) to Parsons Green Underground Station following reports of a fire on the train.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu, the senior national coordinator for CT policing, has declared it a terrorist incident.

Officers from the Metropolitan Police Service and British Transport Police attended the scene, along with colleagues from London Fire Brigade and London

Ambulance Service.

At present we are aware of a number of casualties.

It is too early to confirm the cause of the fire, which will be subject to the investigation that is now underway by the Met's Counter Terrorism Command.

The station remains cordoned off and are advising people to avoid the area.

Anyone who has information that would assist detectives is urged to contact the hotline 0800 789321; if it's any emergency always call 999.

Anyone with images from the scene is asked to upload them to www.ukpoliceimageappeal.co.uk.

We urge the public to remain calm but alert and if you have any concerns, see or hear anything suspicious then contact police.

News updates

For latest updates on the incident you can [read more on the Metropolitan Police website](#).

You can follow [@MetPoliceUK](#) and [@BTP](#) for Twitter updates on the incident.

Protective Security Advice

Stay Safe – Run Hide, Tell:

[Advice for the public on the steps they can take to keep themselves safe in the rare event of a firearms or weapons attack.](#)

Useful information

Find out more about the [Action Counters Terrorism campaign](#).

If you see anything that causes you concern or raises your suspicions do not hesitate to call the Police on 0800 789 321 or in an emergency 999. If you get caught up in the rare event of a weapons attack we urge you to follow the Run, Hide, Tell advice.

[Press release: Dstl supports STEM at](#)

DSEI

Showcasing Dstl's support for STEM careers.

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) actively supports and encourages young people to take up exciting and rewarding careers in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

Today, Friday 15th September 2017, at the People and Skills day at the Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) event in London, Dstl is encouraging those interested in a STEM career to visit its stand and try out some hands-on experiments including a laboratory dexterity challenge and a colour vision team challenge.

Dstl's STEM Ambassadors will be available to demonstrate the science and technology behind the latest high-tech kit that supports the defence and security of the UK. They'll also be able to offer careers advice to young people who are interested in pursuing a career in a STEM subject. Dstl offers apprenticeships, student placements and graduate opportunities in a broad range of STEM disciplines.

Dstl's STEM Outreach Manager Jaime Williamson said:

It's important that students understand the opportunities available to them if they continue to pursue their STEM studies. At Dstl, our work involves solving fascinating problems for the defence and security of the UK, often with life-saving results. We need experts in all STEM subjects, and we hope to meet the next generation of problem-solvers at DSEI.

Visit the Dstl stand at DSEI number N3-582a.