

Today's rise in trade deficit shows this country is falling far behind its potential under the Tories – Barry Gardiner

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Gardiner MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for International Trade, commenting on today's ONS figures, said:

"Today's

rise in the trade deficit shows yet again that after seven years of economic failure under the Tories, this country is falling far behind its potential.

"The

rise in the deficit with non-EU countries is particularly concerning given the failure of this government to offer serious proposals for Britain's trading relationships with the rest of the world, post-Brexit. Tory fantasies about future trade deals are meaningless without delivering the investment and industrial strategy needed in this country for future export success.

"Only

Labour will deliver the investment and industrial strategy needed to create good, secure jobs and build an economy that works for the many, not the few."