

## UK trade

The UK trade figures were altered as we finally left the EU, disrupting comparisons. We are told they were changed from an Intrastate to a Customs basis, and were told there were missing numbers from the early months after the change owing to data collection issues. As many Remain MPs and commentators thought the issue of the EU was all about trade it is irritating that the numbers were disrupted just as we left.

Now things should have settled down a bit we can compare 2022 as we came out of covid lockdowns with 2019 before covid and before exit. The 2022 figures show goods imports and exports both strongly up. I use goods because the Remain MPs never seemed interested in our good surplus in services and our success in selling services to non EU Countries despite the absence of services chapters in EU trade deals with other countries.

Non EU trade has continued to grow faster than our EU trade as it was doing when we were still in the EU, and is larger than our EU trade. Our imports from the EU are still very large. We need to adopt the various policies I have been proposing to grow more of our own food, produce more of our own energy and make more of our own goods. Government has promised the first two and needs to get on with the methods to do so.

It was always strange that UK pro Remain MPs and commentators always pretended the EU was just a free trade area when it was a customs union as part of a much bigger Union where the other members saw the importance of wide ranging EU level government, single currency, common debts, common foreign and security policy and the rest. Even on the issue of trade the Remain MPs were wrong. Our trade has not been badly damaged by the exit. It is up, though as in the EU we still import more than we export to the continent and need to tackle the imbalances.