



UK Fashion & Textile Industry: Facts and Figures 2024

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Introduction



INTRODUCTION

This comprehensive study provides an in-depth overview of the UK fashion and textile industry, incorporating data from various years with a particular emphasis on recent trends. The primary objective is to analyse the industry's performance and outlook by examining key indicators and factors. Drawing from a diverse range of official sources, this study delves into the intricate dynamics of the UK fashion and textile sector. By analysing pertinent data, it aims to shed light on the industry's past performance, current state, and future prospects.

The report examines industry-specific metrics including production output, consumer spending patterns, business demographics, investment levels, productivity measures, and international trade dynamics. By doing so, it seeks to unravel the underlying trends and patterns that shape the industry's trajectory.

The study places a strong emphasis on recent trends, ensuring that the analysis remains relevant and reflective of the industry's evolving landscape. It also takes into account factors that may influence future developments, providing valuable insights into the industry's outlook.

After the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the completion of the Brexit process, the UK fashion and textile sector has been gradually evolving and adapting to the new circumstances. Despite initial setbacks, the industry has shown resilience and has been undergoing notable changes. One significant aspect of the sector's evolution is the increased emphasis on digital transformation. With the accelerated shift towards online shopping and ecommerce during the pandemic, fashion and textile businesses have been investing in their digital capabilities. This includes expanding their online presence, enhancing virtual shopping experiences, and leveraging social media platforms for marketing and customer engagement.

Ultimately, this study aims to equip stakeholders with a comprehensive understanding of the UK fashion and textile industry, enabling informed decision-making and strategic planning in a dynamic and competitive market environment.

** All data comes from the Office for National Statistics, unless otherwise specified.*



1. The UK Macroeconomic environment



1. THE UK MACROECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The post-COVID and post-Brexit period has had a profound impact on the wider macroeconomic environment in the UK, significantly shaping the landscape within which the fashion and textile industry operates. Both events brought about substantial changes that affected various sectors and influenced consumer behaviour and economic dynamics.

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in widespread disruptions across industries, leading to a contraction in economic activity. Lockdowns, restrictions on movement, and reduced consumer spending had a significant impact on businesses, including the fashion and textile sector. Many retailers faced temporary closures, supply chain disruptions, and shifts in consumer preferences towards comfort wear and online shopping. Brexit, on the other hand, brought about changes in trade policies and regulations between the UK and the European Union. The shift to new trade arrangements introduced complexities and uncertainties for businesses, including potential tariff barriers, changes in customs procedures, and adjustments to supply chains. These changes posed challenges for the fashion and textile industry, which heavily relies on international trade and sourcing of materials.

The combined effects of COVID-19 and Brexit led to increased uncertainty and reduced consumer confidence, impacting the overall macroeconomic environment in the UK. The GDP growth rate fluctuated, and inflation rates experienced volatility. Unemployment levels were influenced by both the pandemic-related job losses and changes in the labour market due to Brexit.

Understanding this broader macroeconomic context is crucial for comprehending the challenges and opportunities that the UK fashion and textile industry has faced. The industry has had to navigate through a period of economic uncertainty, changing consumer preferences, and shifts in trade dynamics. Adapting to these changes has required resilience, agility, and strategic decision-making to ensure sustainable growth and competitiveness in the post-COVID and post-Brexit era.



1.1. GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

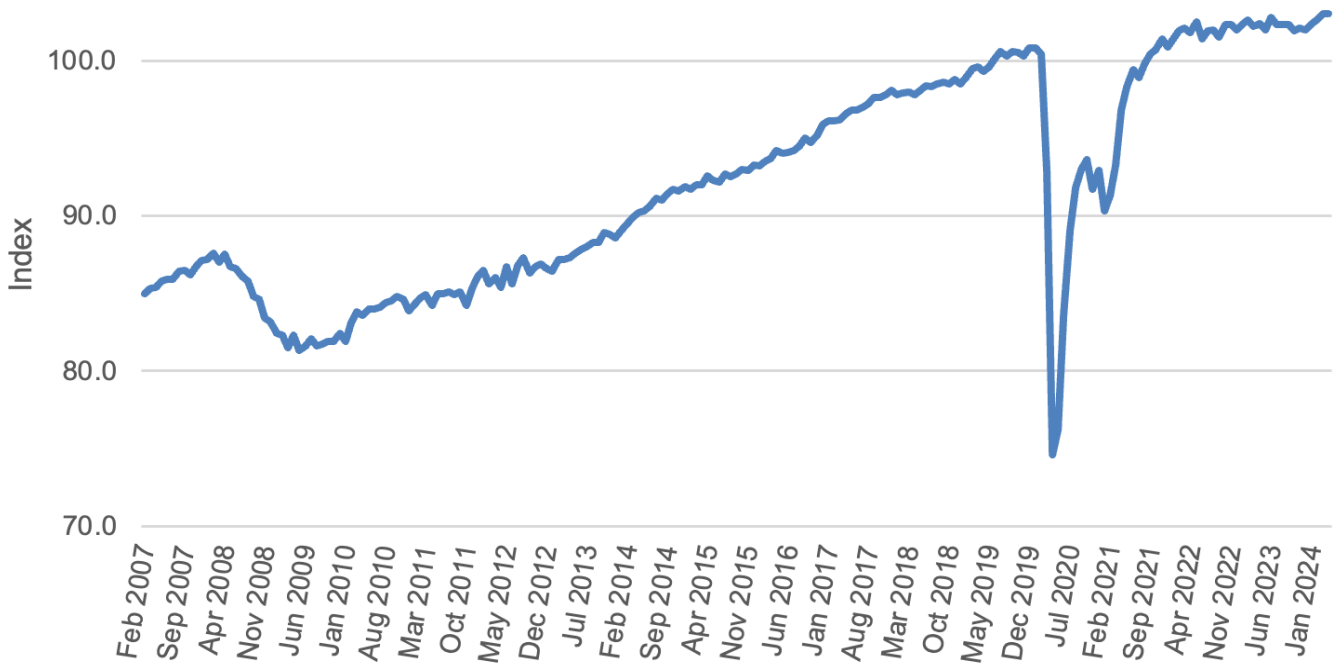


Figure 1: UK monthly index of GDP, January 2007 to April 2024, 2019=100

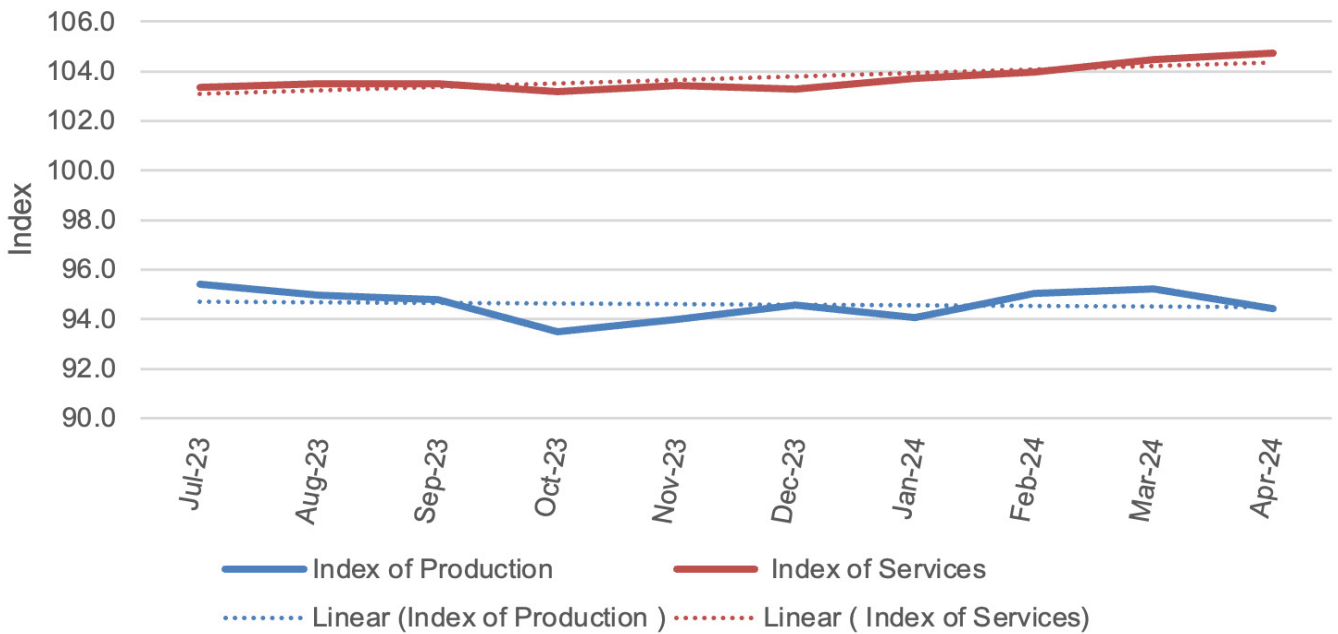


Figure 2 Monthly index of GDP by sector

1.2. PRICES AND INFLATION

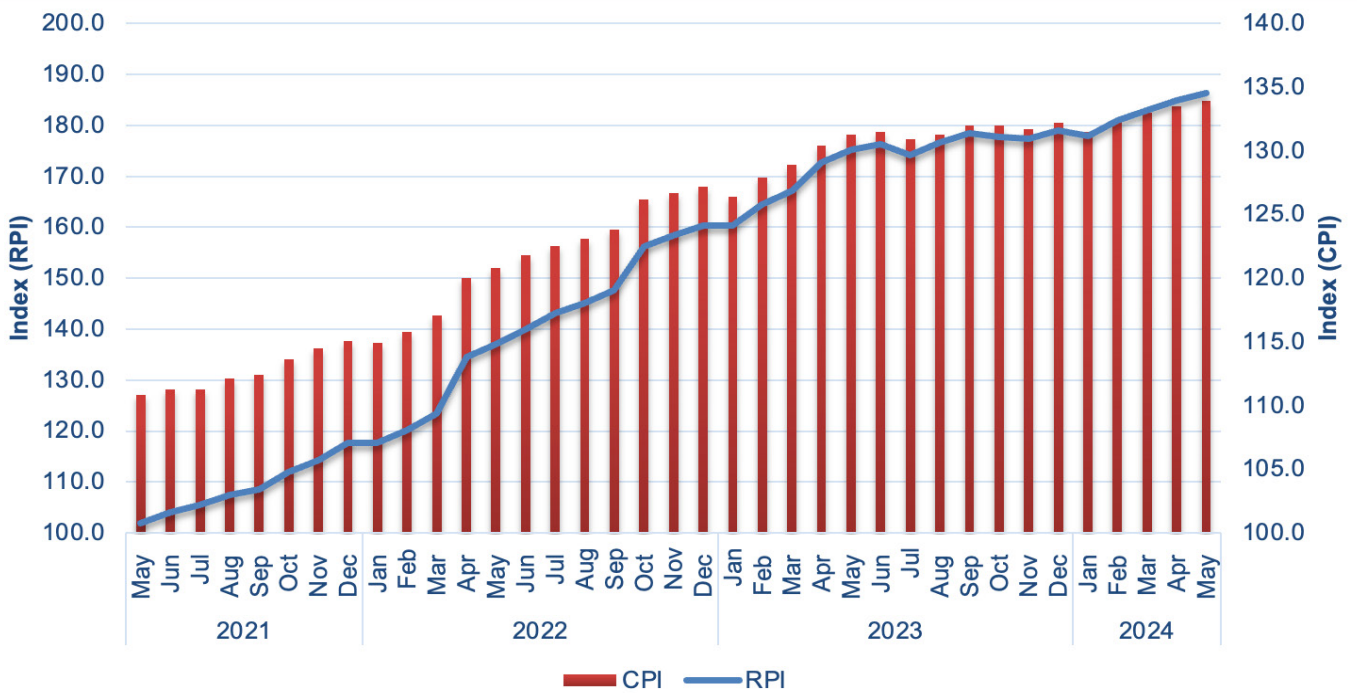


Figure 3 CPI and RPI inflation, May 2021 to May 2024

1.3. UNEMPLOYMENT

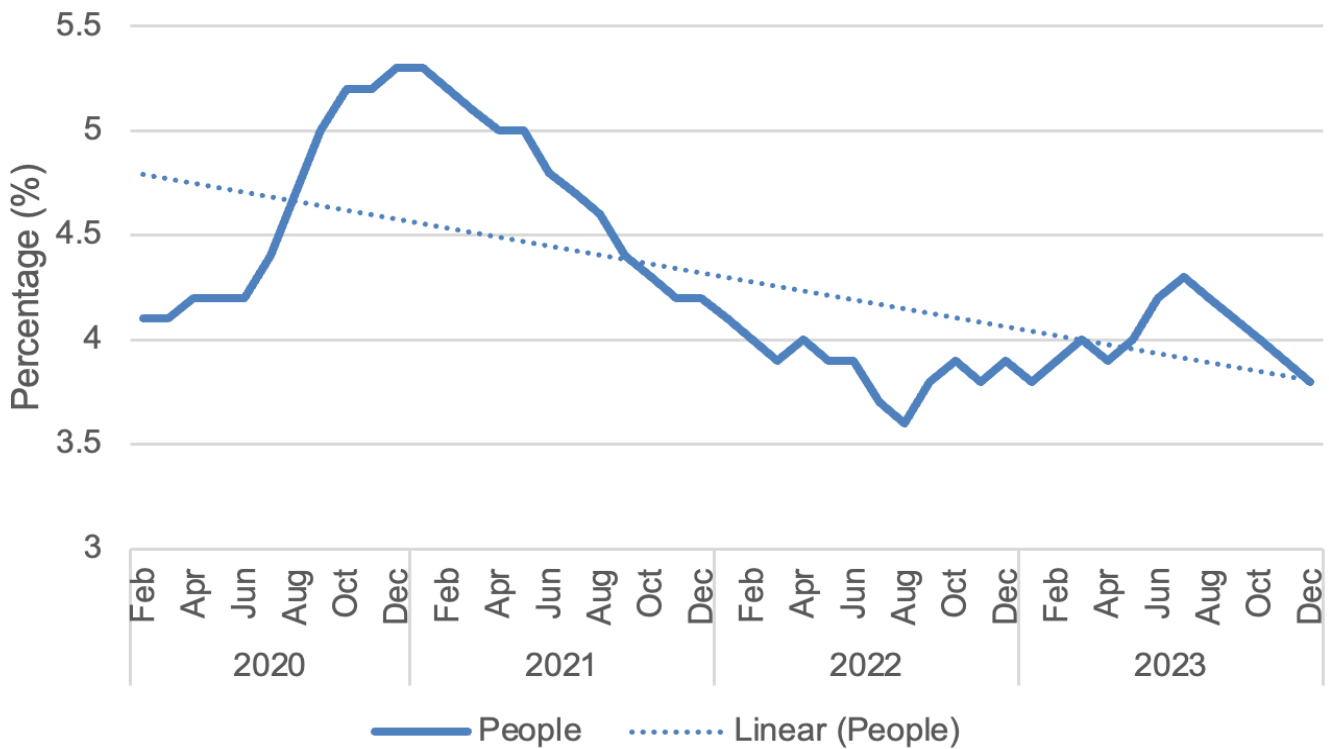
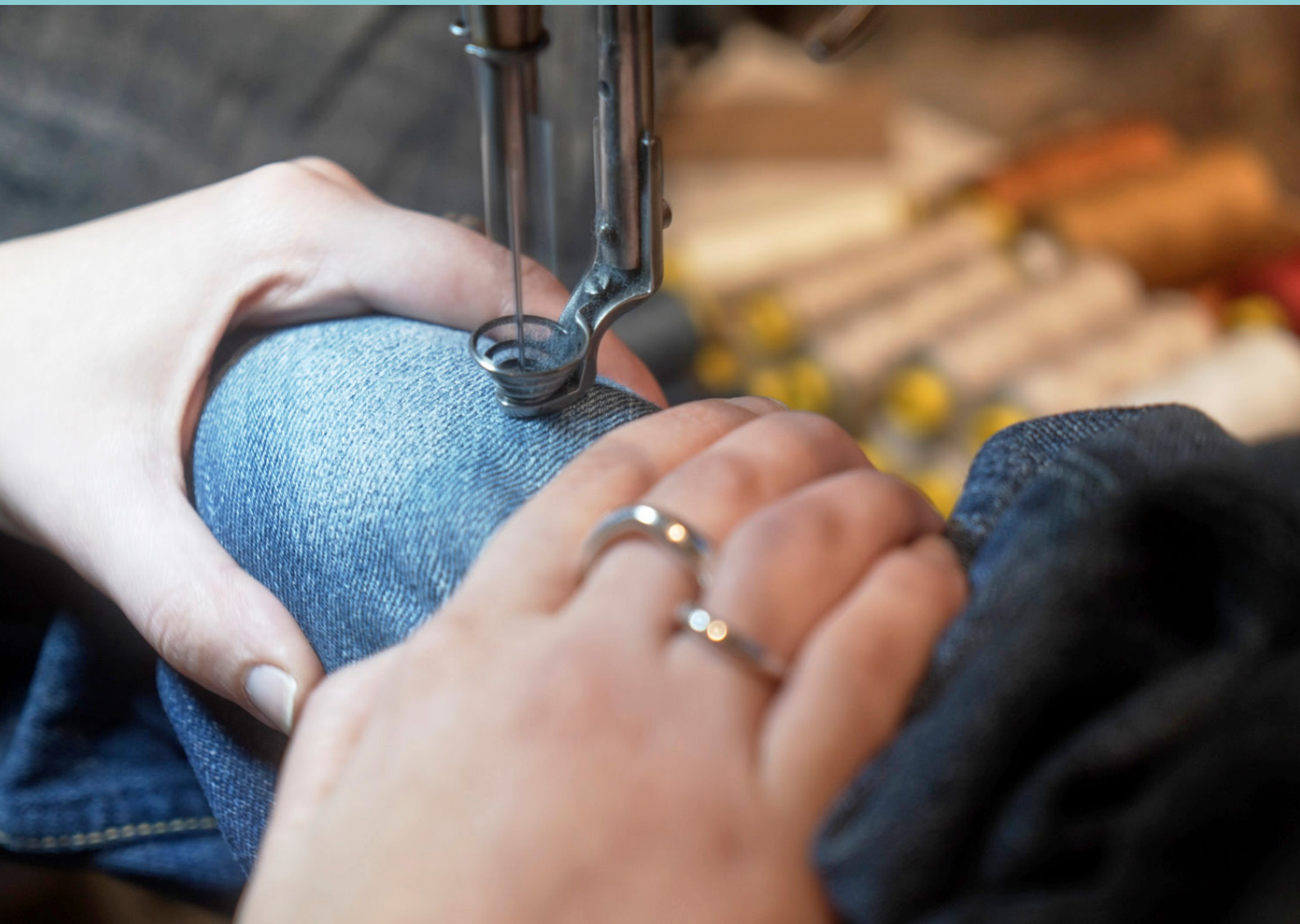


Figure 4 UK Unemployment Rate

2. The UK Fashion and Textile Sector in 2023



2.1. RETAIL SALES

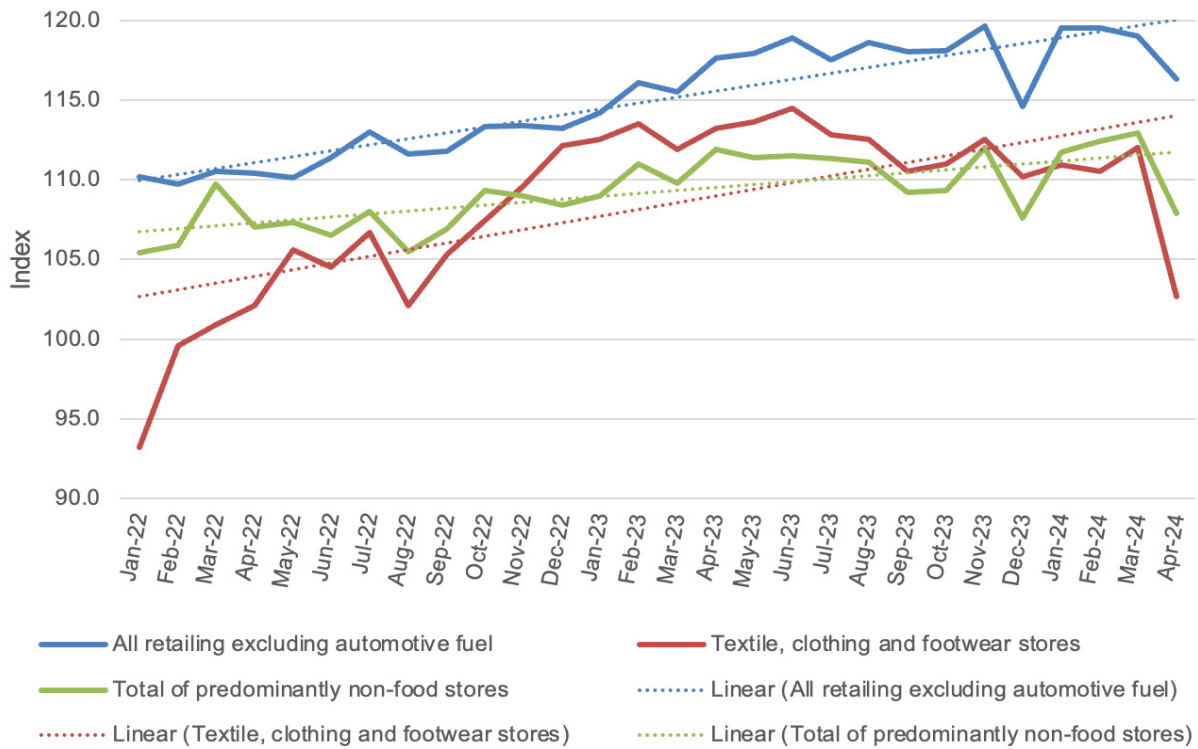


Figure 5 UK monthly Retail Sales Index, chained volume of retail sales

2.2. PRICES

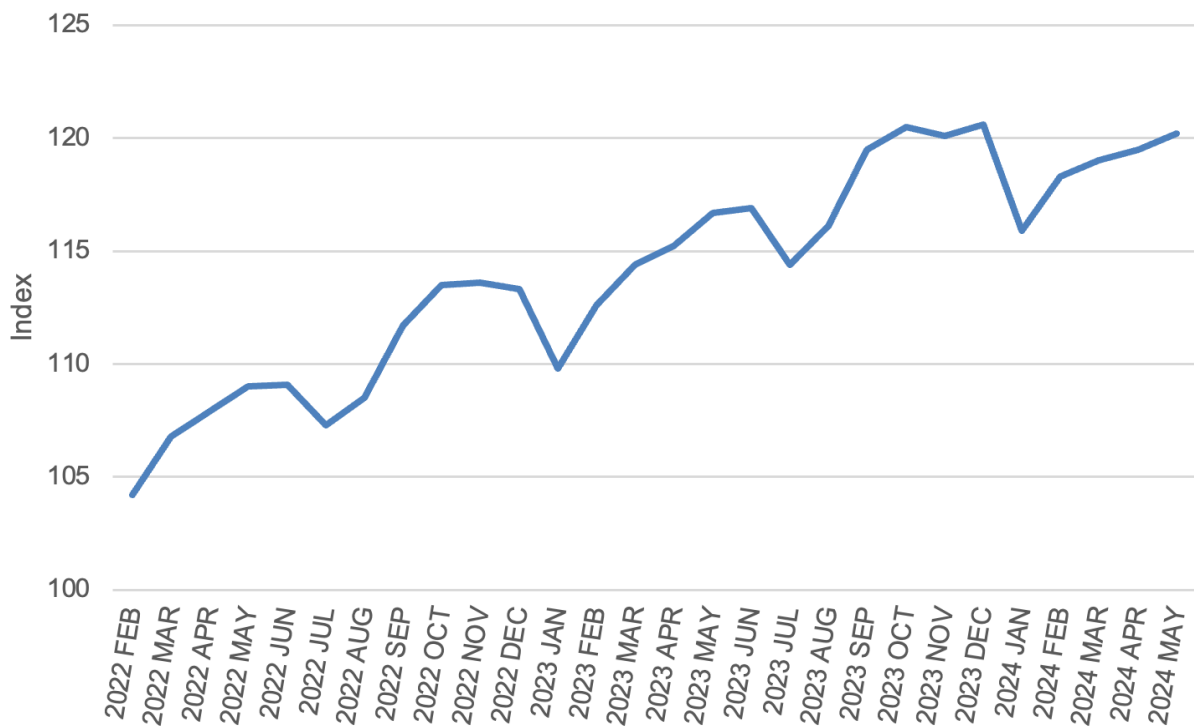


Figure 6 Clothing and Footwear price indices

2.3. TURNOVER/ OUTPUT

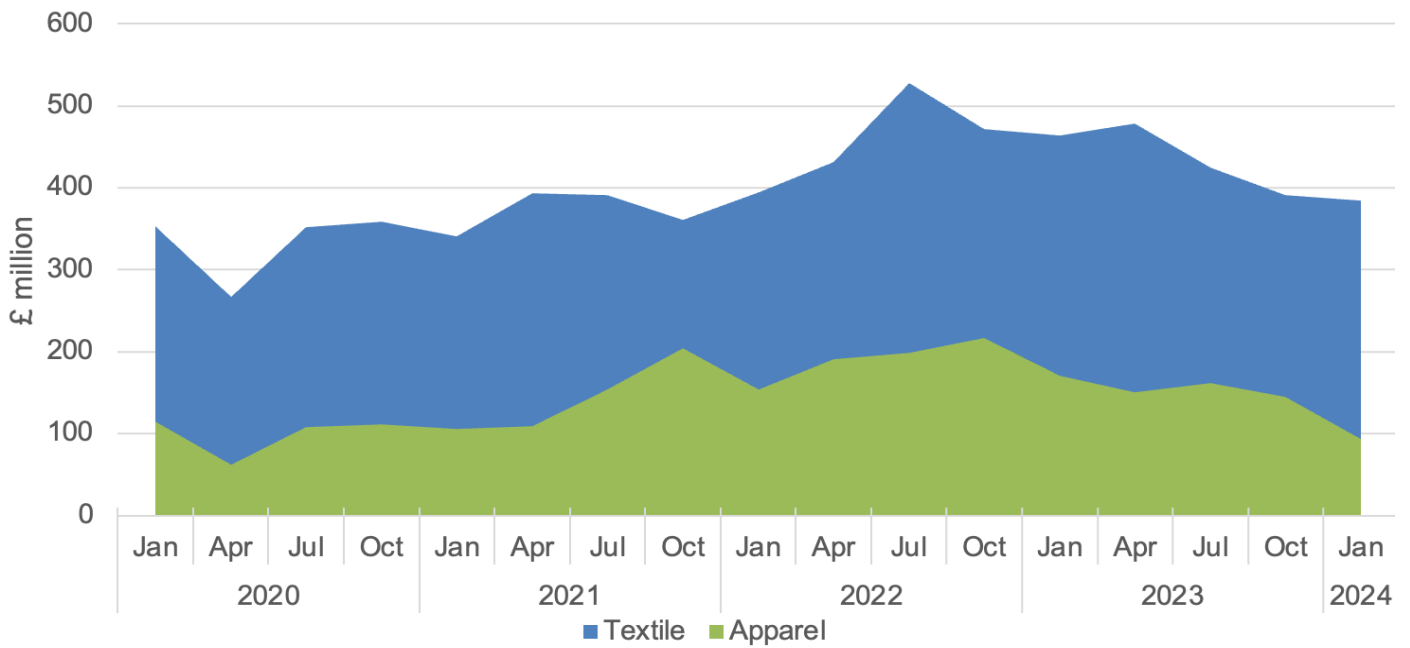


Figure 7 Monthly turnover of Textile and Apparel Manufacturing industries

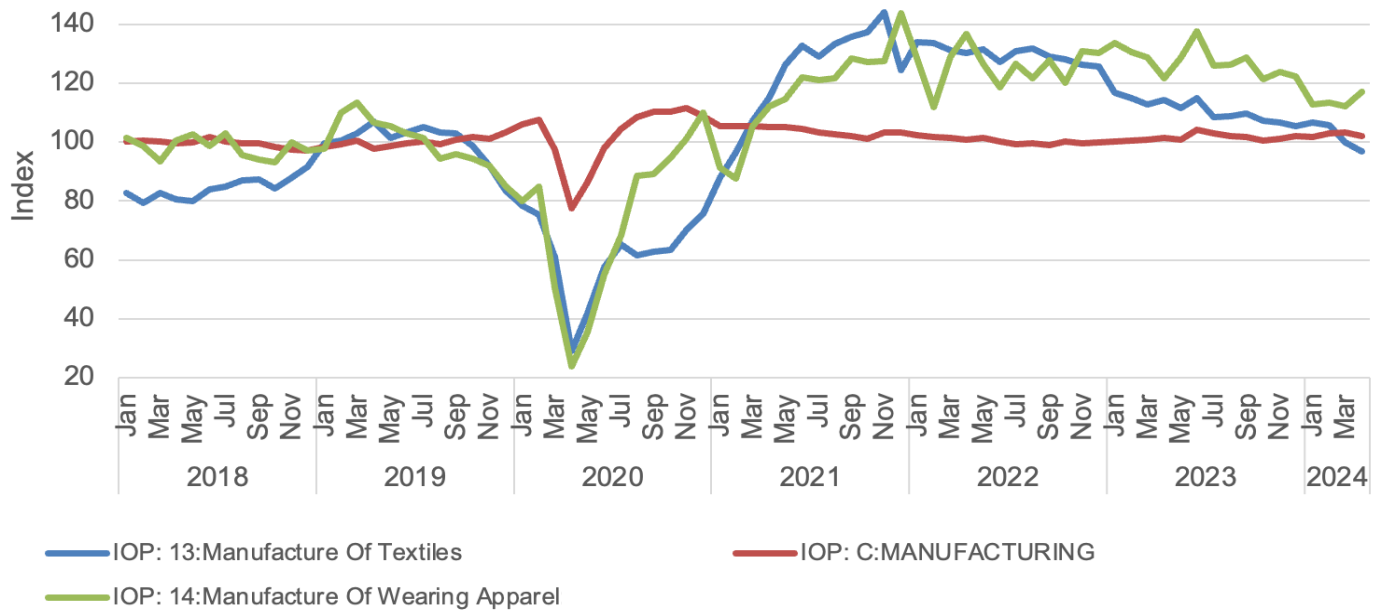


Figure 8 Index of Production by industry, Chained Value Measure

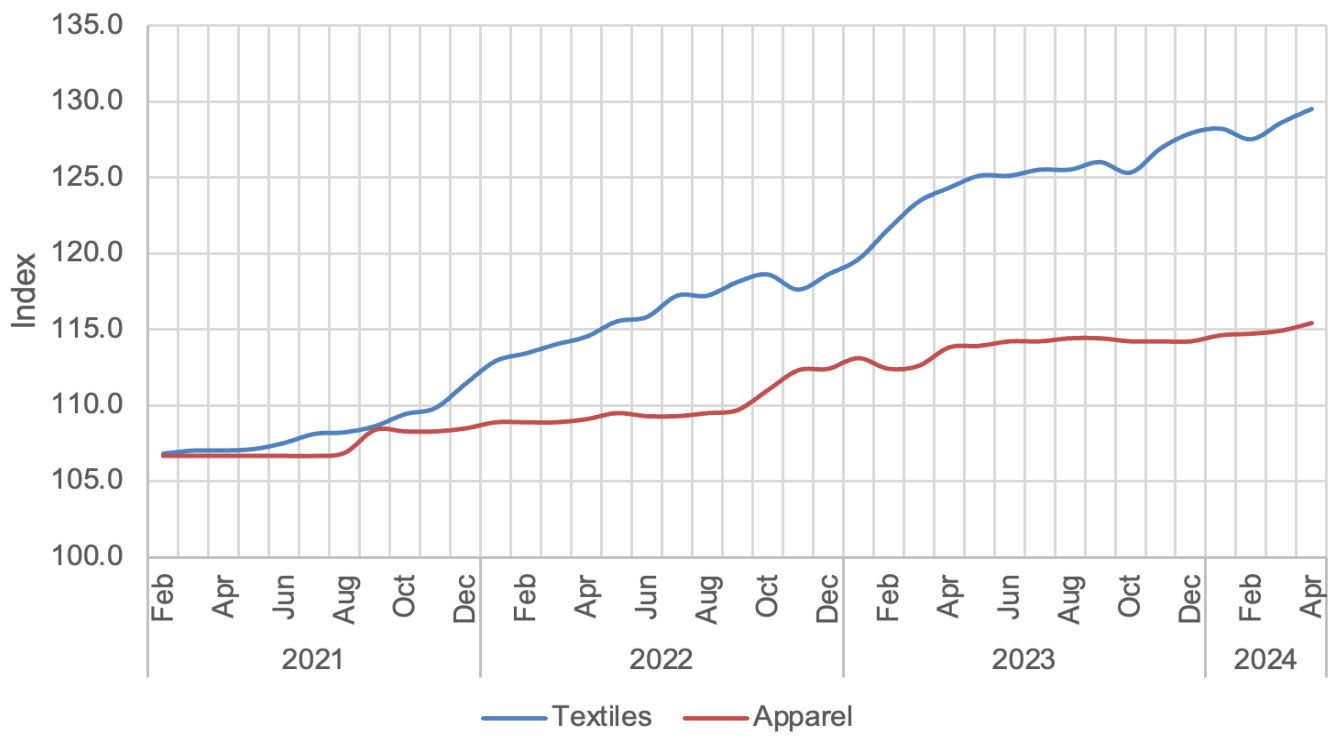


Figure 9 Producer prices (output) by sector

2.4. EXPORTS

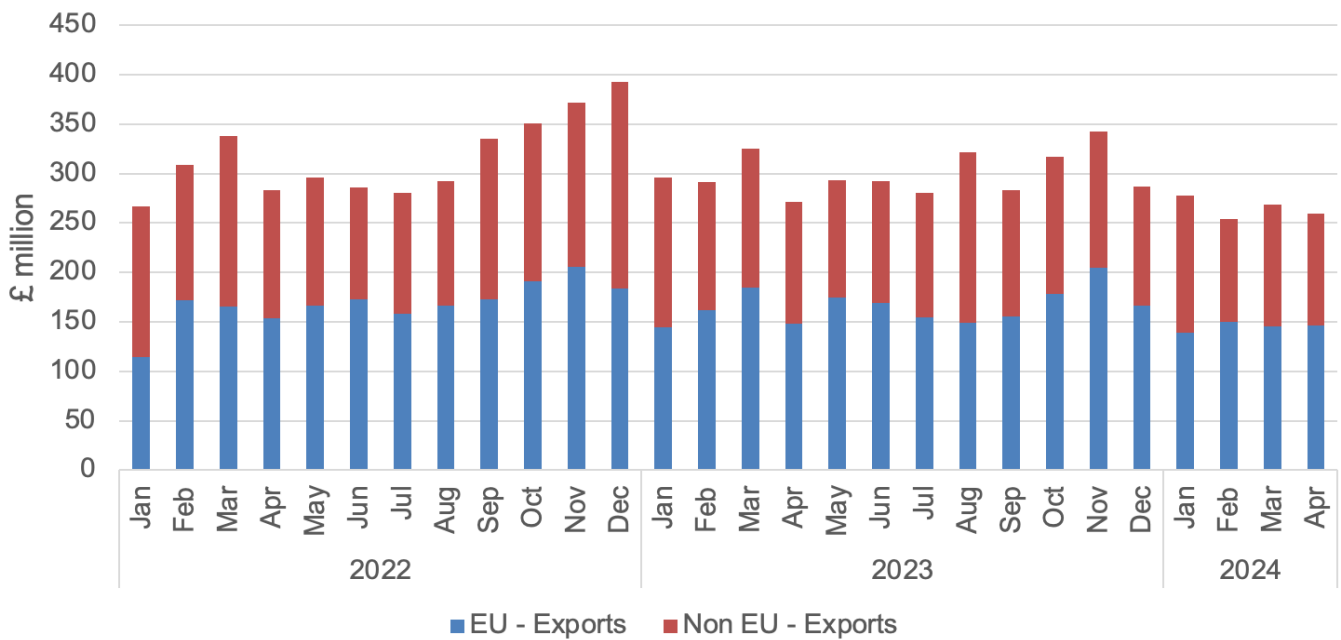


Figure 10 Monthly export turnover of UK apparel producers (SITC84), EU and non-EU, January 2022 to April 2024

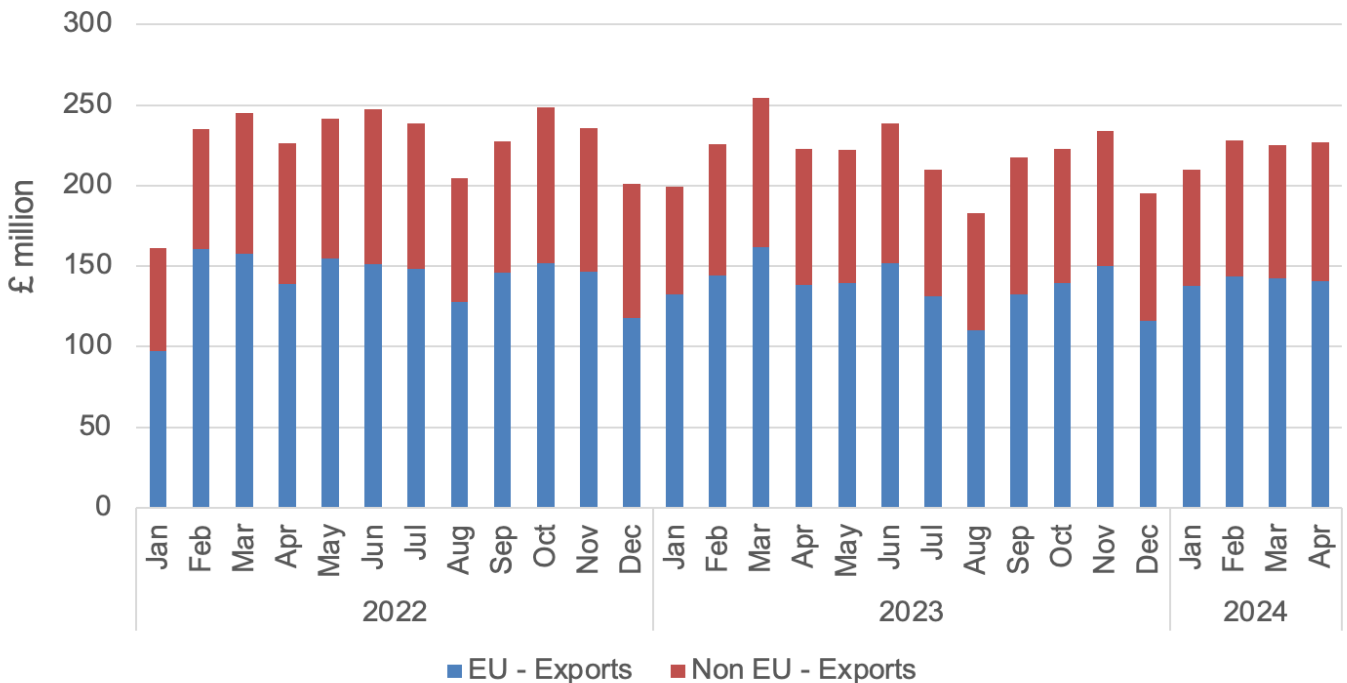


Figure 11 Monthly export turnover of UK textile producers (SITC65), EU and non-EU, January 2022 to April 2024



3. Fashion and Textile Sector Review



3.1. OUTPUT AND PRODUCTION

3.1.1. Total Manufacturing Production Sales

The SIC code that companies register under may not always be correct and that might skew the number of companies

Code	13	14
Description	Manufacture of textiles	Manufacture of wearing apparel
2012	5,595.4	3,149.1
2013	5,422.5	2,890.2
2014	5,158.7	3,010.1
2015	4,587	3,295.8
2016	5,045.4	2,826.9
2017	5,962.7	2,857.9
2018	5,867.5	2,279.1
2019	6,001.2	2,372.4
2020	5,574.4	1,828.3
2021	6,165.5	2,172.6
2022	6,594.3	2,614.8
2023	6,308.5	2,508.5

Table 1 Total Manufacturing Production by sales year (£m)

**Total manufacturing production for textile manufacturing was suppressed in 2013 and 2014 to avoid being disclosive.

[c] = confidential data suppressed to avoid disclosure.

Code	Description	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
13.10	Preparation and spinning of textile fibres	396	392	411	436	253	345	310	226	245	264
13.20	Weaving of textiles	619	620	602	610	630	652	642	557	589	594
13.30	Finishing of textiles	500	537	458	309	318	361	336	288	295	329
13.91	Manufacture of knitted and crocheted fabrics	[c]	[c]	[c]	[c]	141	165	136	[c]	99	[c]
13.92	Manufacture of made-up textile articles, except apparel	1,094	1,170	1,183	1,325	1,245	1,238	1,504	1,430	1,609	1,557
13.93	Manufacture of carpets and rugs	708	761	719	723	719	738	757	[c]	755	780
13.94	Manufacture of cordage, rope, twine and netting	50	59	[c]	[c]	62	68	83	92	88	74
13.95	Manufacture of non-wovens and articles made from non-wovens, except apparel	178	177	173	208	206	223	237	253	306	[c]
13.96	Manufacture of other technical and industrial textiles	315	327	335	358	366	352	370	323	351	384
1399	Manufacture of other textiles not elsewhere classified	114	129	134	134	143	138	151	108	116	114

Table 2 Manufacture of textiles, total production by component (£m)
(Most recent data not yet available)

[c] = confidential data suppressed to avoid disclosure.

Code	Description	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
14.11	Manufacture of leather clothes	4	[c]	4	[c]	[c]	[c]	[c]	[c]	[c]	[c]
14.12	Manufacture of workwear	107	113	101	104	105	119	125	136	148	150
14.13	Manufacture of other outerwear	620	752	725	736	681	665	714	523	464	544
14.14	Manufacture of underwear	388	403	271	284	215	202	213	186	134	168
14.19	Manufacture of other wearing apparel and accessories	258	284	312	282	287	298	312	366	283	317
14.20	Manufacture of articles of fur	1	[c]	2	[c]	[c]	[c]	[c]	[c]	[c]	[c]
14.31	Manufacture of knitted and crocheted hosiery	84	85	80	63	38	40	32	22	27	32
14.39	Manufacture of other knitted and crocheted apparel	172	187	170	145	[c]	192	201	145	146	174

Source: Office for National Statistics

Table 3 Manufacture of apparel, total production by component (£m)
(Most recent data not yet available)

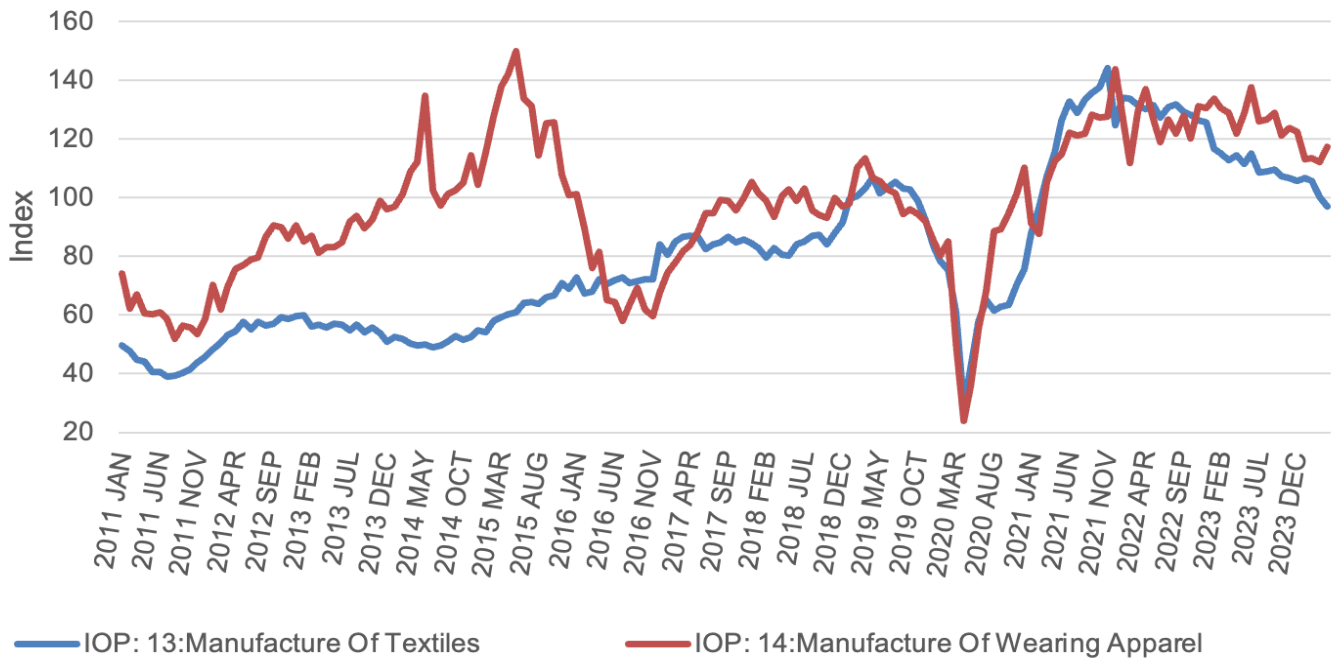


Figure 12 Index of production, textile and apparel manufacturing, 2018=100, CVM, SA, UK

3.1.3. Producer Prices

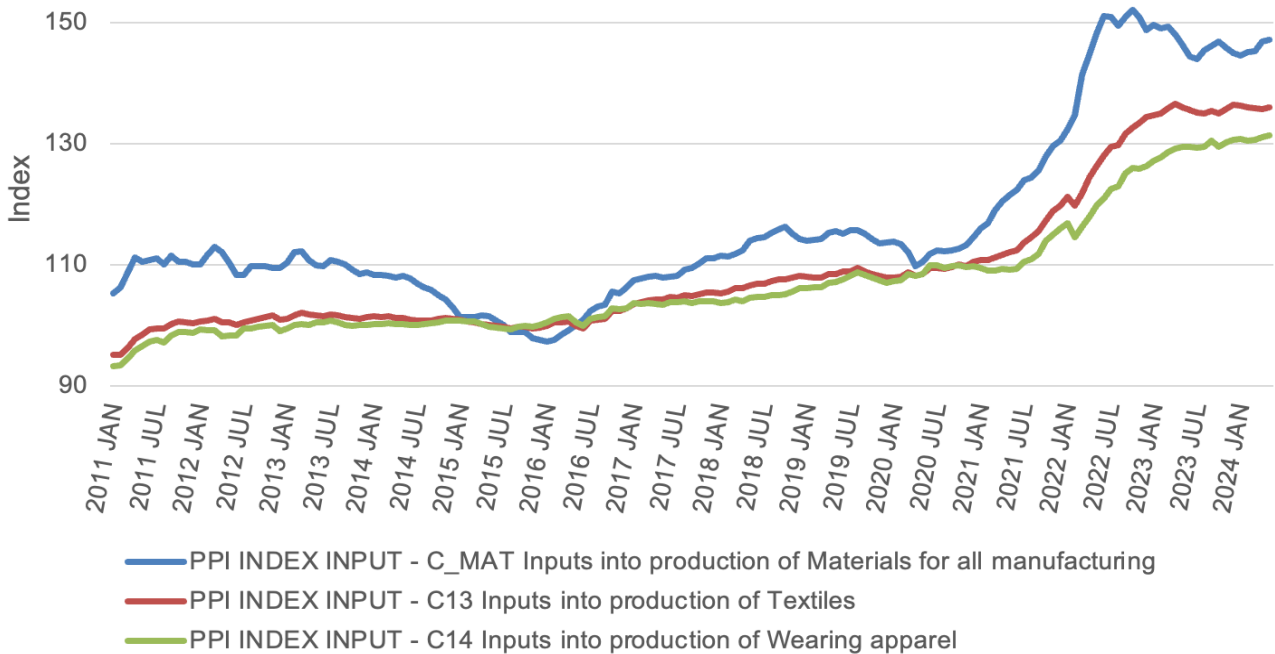


Figure 13 UK Producer Price Index, Inputs into Textile and Apparel Manufacturing, 2010-2023, index: 2015=100

3.2. RETAIL SALES, PRICES AND CONSUMER SPENDING

3.2.1. Consumer Price Index

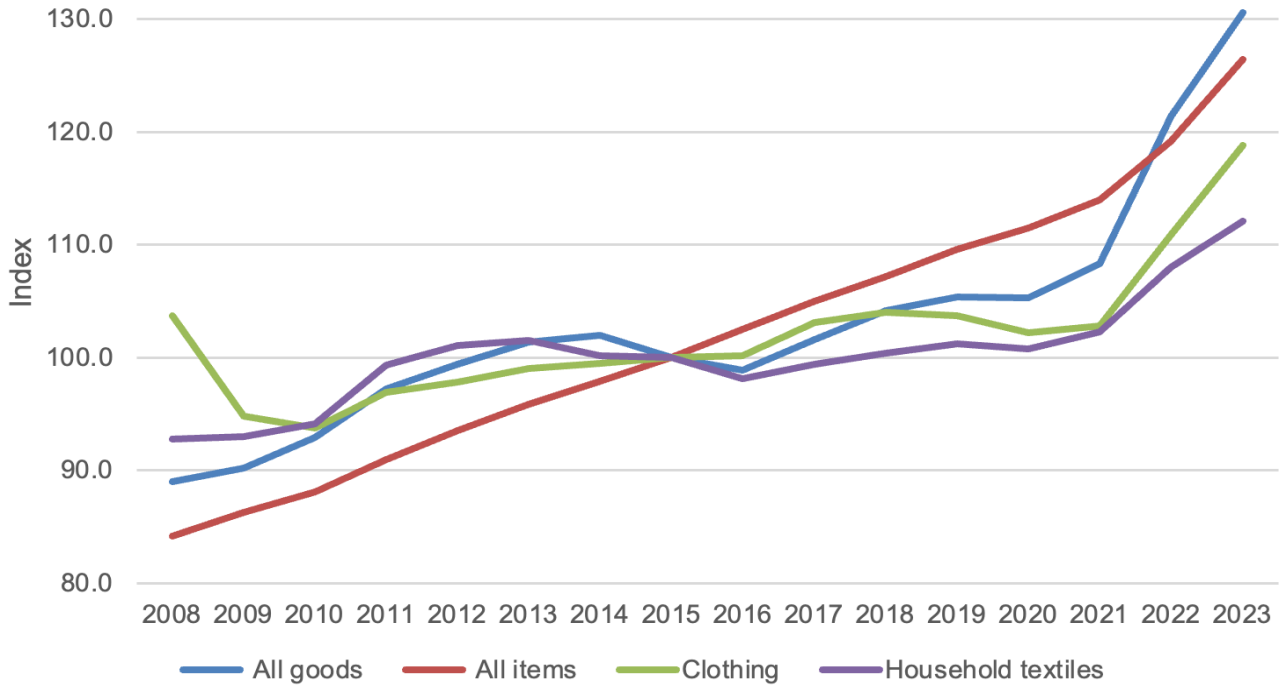


Figure 14 Annual CPI by product, 2008-2023, 2015=100

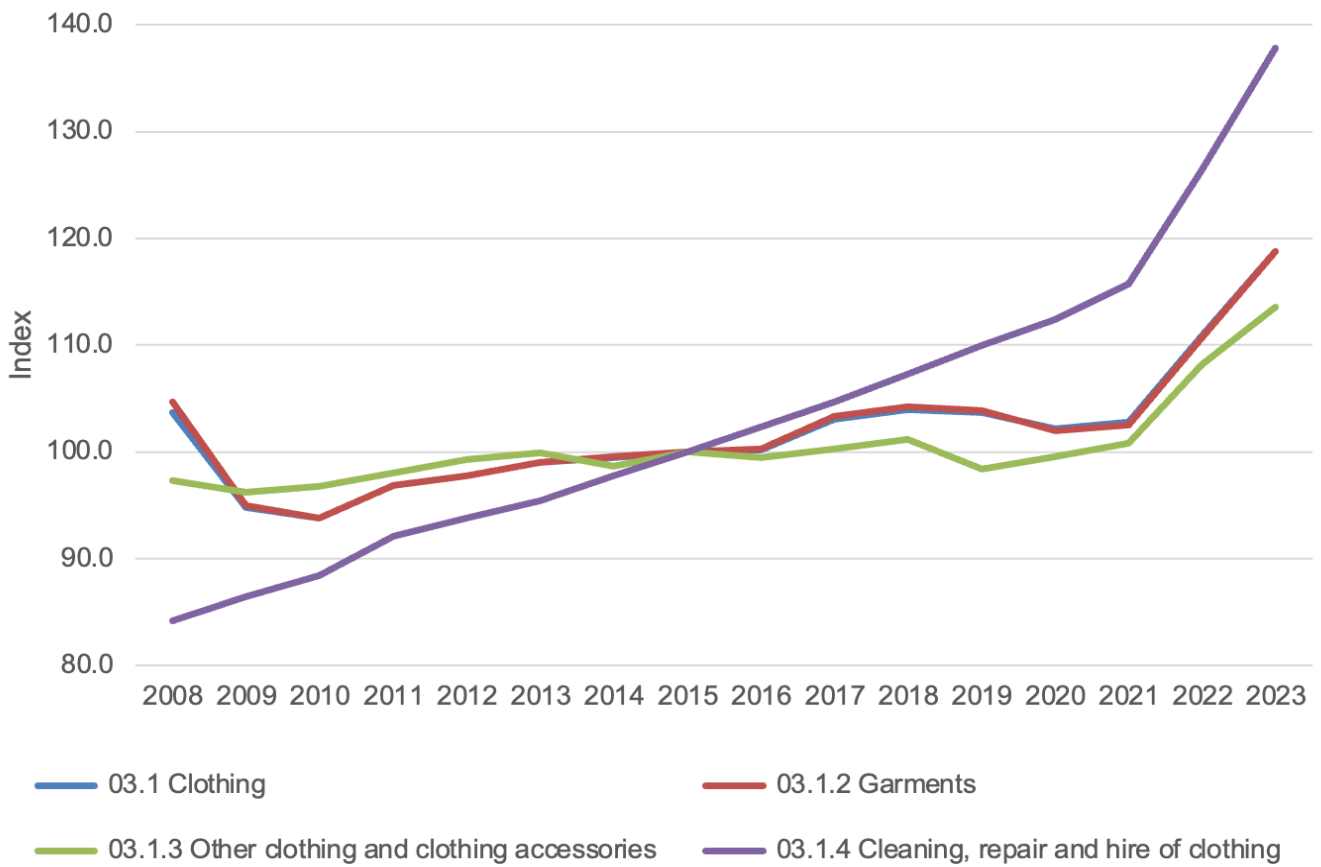


Figure 15 Clothing annual CPI by sub-category, 2008-2023, 2015=100

3.2.2. Retail Sales Index

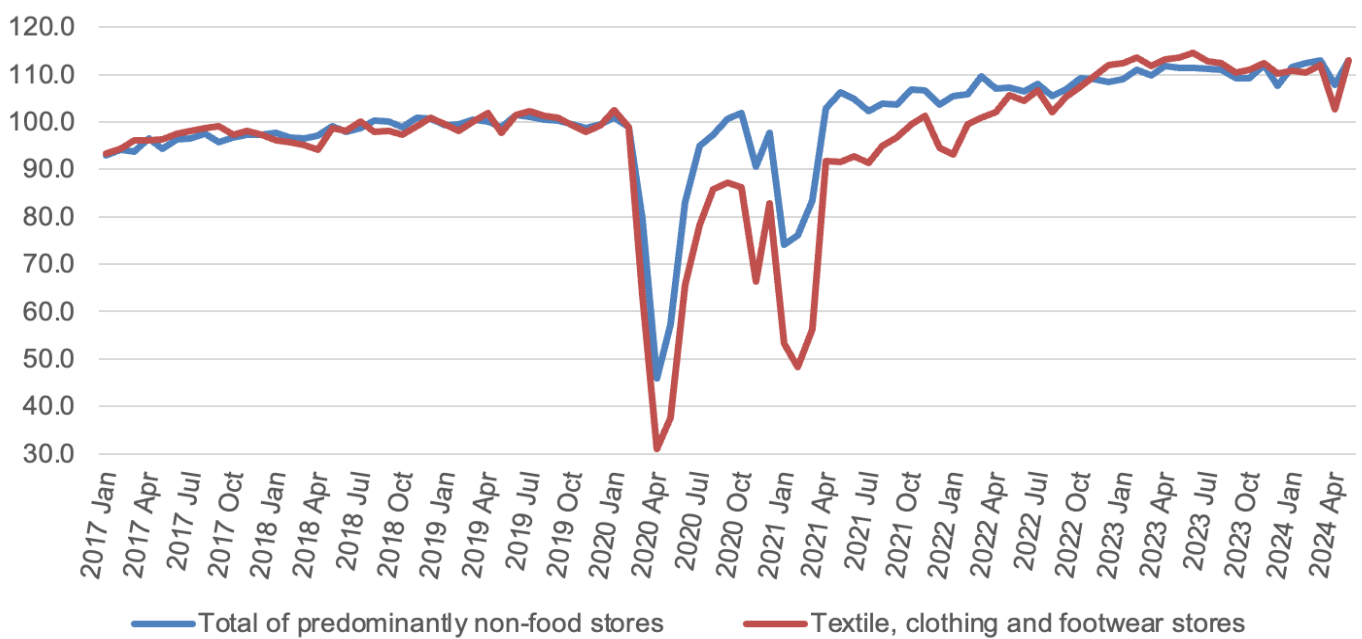


Figure 15 Clothing annual CPI by sub-category, 2008-2023, 2015=100

3.2.3. Consumer spending

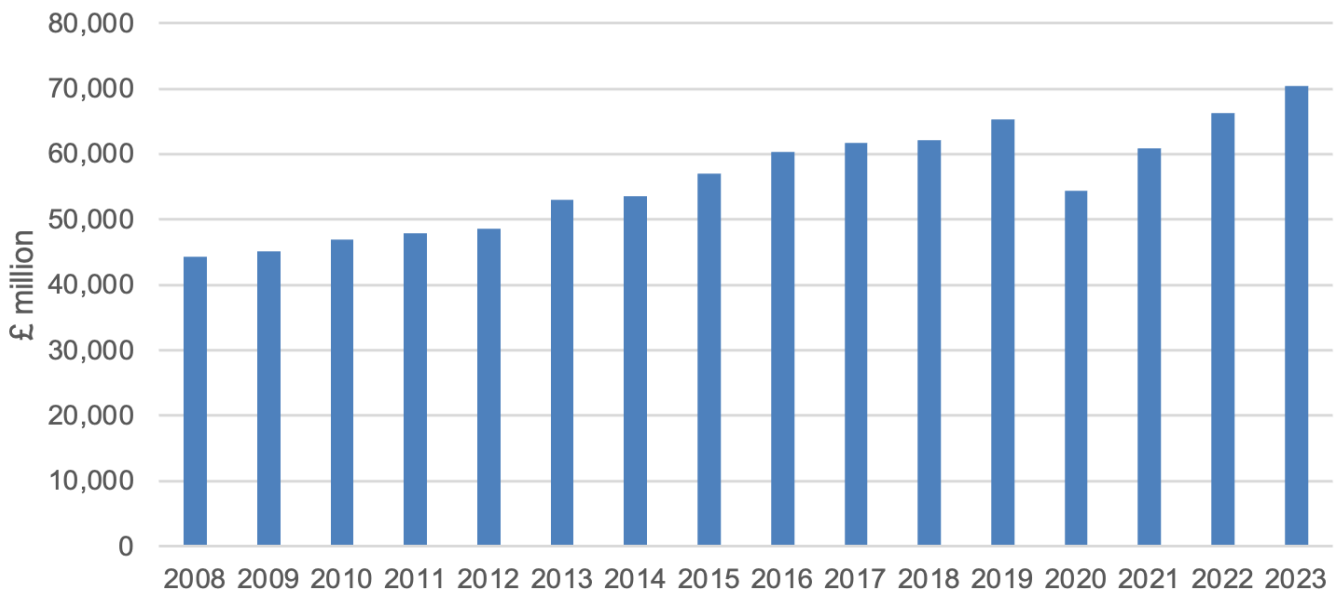


Figure 17 Annual consumer spending on clothing and textiles, UK, 2008 to 2023, non-seasonally

3.2.4. Internet Sales

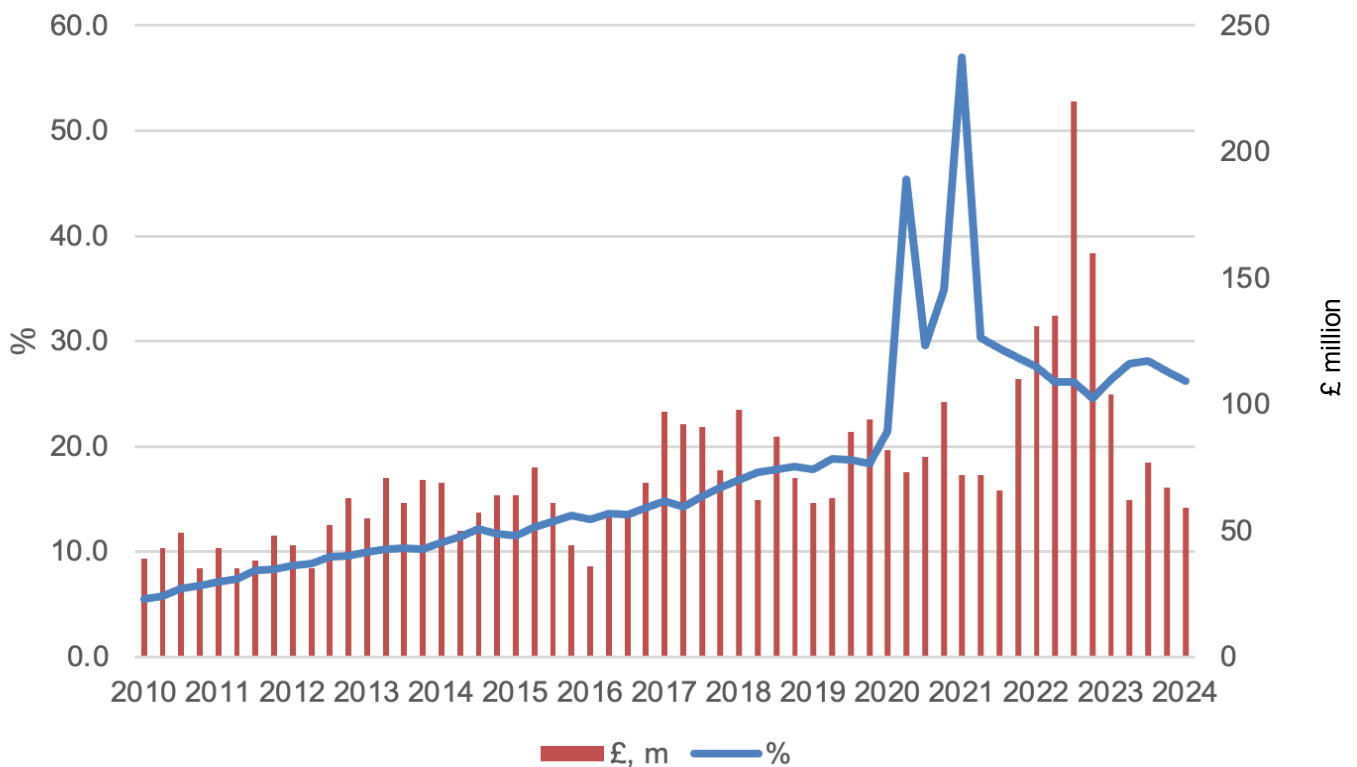


Figure 18 Annual online sales of textiles, clothing and footwear, volume measure, £m

3.3. BUSINESS DEMOGRAPHY

3.3.1. Enterprise Numbers by Sector

	Description	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2022	2023
Manufacturing	13: Manufacture of textiles	3,880	3,825	3,790	3,840	4,030	4,200	4,220	4,235	4,280	4,230	4,435	4,355
	14: Manufacture of wearing apparel	3,365	3,490	3,400	3,460	3,830	3,875	3,850	3,860	3,950	4,005	4,260	4,260
	20.60: Manufacture of man-made fibres	15	15	15	15	15	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Wholesale	46.16: Agents involved in the sale of textiles, clothing, fur, footwear and leather goods	2,045	2,165	2,215	2,020	1,890	1,770	1,775	1,755	1,790	1,790	1,790	1,975
	46.41: Wholesale of textiles	2,080	2,025	2,045	2,200	2,355	2,370	2,365	2,375	2,395	2,330	2,330	2,650
	46.42: Wholesale of clothing and footwear	4,370	4,185	4,135	4,450	4,615	4,680	4,710	4,745	4,785	4,705	4,705	5,110
Retail	47.51: Retail sale of textiles in specialised stores	1,560	1,460	1,390	1,530	1,650	1,740	1,780	1,840	1,915	1,865	1,870	2,105
	47.53: Retail sale of carpets, rugs, wall and floor coverings in specialised stores	3,865	3,705	3,660	3,660	3,720	3,735	3,745	3,800	3,845	3,865	3,865	4,115
	47.71: Retail sale of clothing in specialised stores	11,045	10,630	10,150	10,640	11,285	11,435	11,420	11,435	11,535	11,235	11,235	12,080

Table 4 Enterprise counts on the Interdepartmental Business Register (IDBR)

** 2021 data was not available

All figures are rounded to avoid disclosure. Values may be rounded down to zero and so all zeros are not necessarily true zeros. Totals across tables may differ by minor amounts due to the disclosure methods used. Furthermore, figures may differ by small amounts from those published in ONS outputs due to the application of a different rounding methodology.

3.3.2. Enterprise Numbers by size band

Examining enterprise numbers by size bands provides valuable insights into the composition and distribution of businesses in the UK based on their scale. The commonly used size bands are micro (0-9 employees), small (10-49), medium (50-249), and large (250+), categorised according to the number of employees or other relevant criteria.

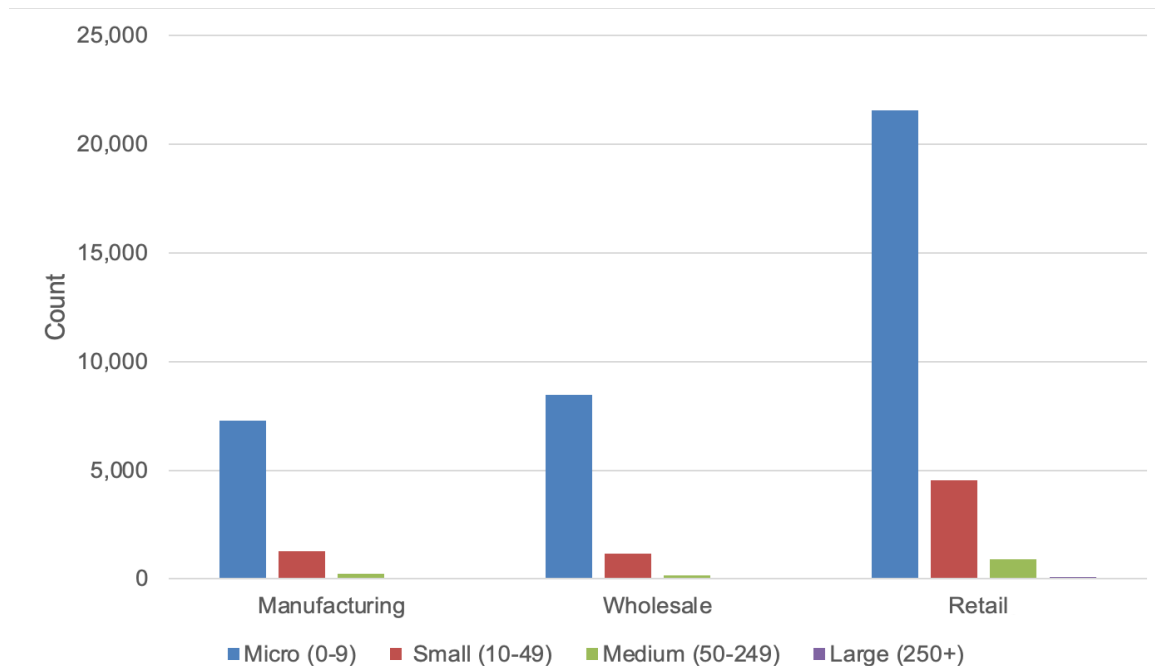


Figure 19 IDBR Enterprise count by size band

Area Code	Area	Manufacturing %	Wholesale %	Retail %
E12000001	North East	3.0	2.1	2.9
E12000002	North West	10.5	11.3	11.3
E12000003	Yorkshire and The Humber	9.1	7.8	7.7
E12000004	East Midlands	8.4	7.7	6.7
E12000005	West Midlands	10.1	9.2	8.5
E12000006	East	10.1	10.1	8.4
E12000007	London	11.6	20.2	20.2
E12000008	South East	13.4	13.6	13.5
E12000009	South West	9.1	6.8	7.7
W92000004	Wales	4.3	3.2	3.9
S92000003	Scotland	6.9	5.0	6.4
N92000002	Northern Ireland	3.6	3.1	2.7

Table 5 Regional make-up of sectoral enterprise counts

3.3.3. Enterprise Deaths and Births

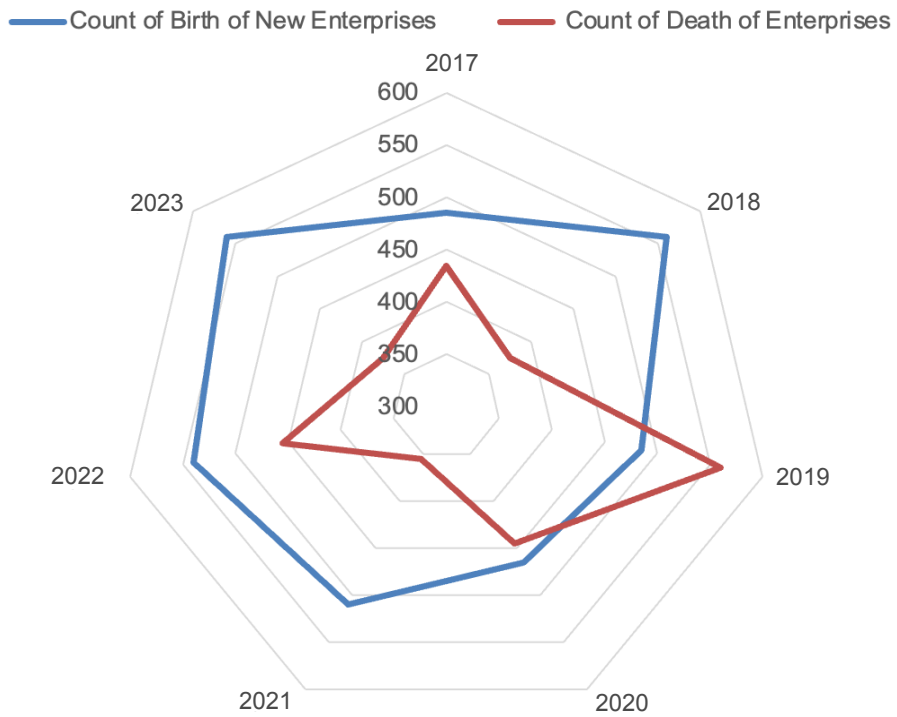


Figure 20 Textile manufacturing, enterprise births and deaths

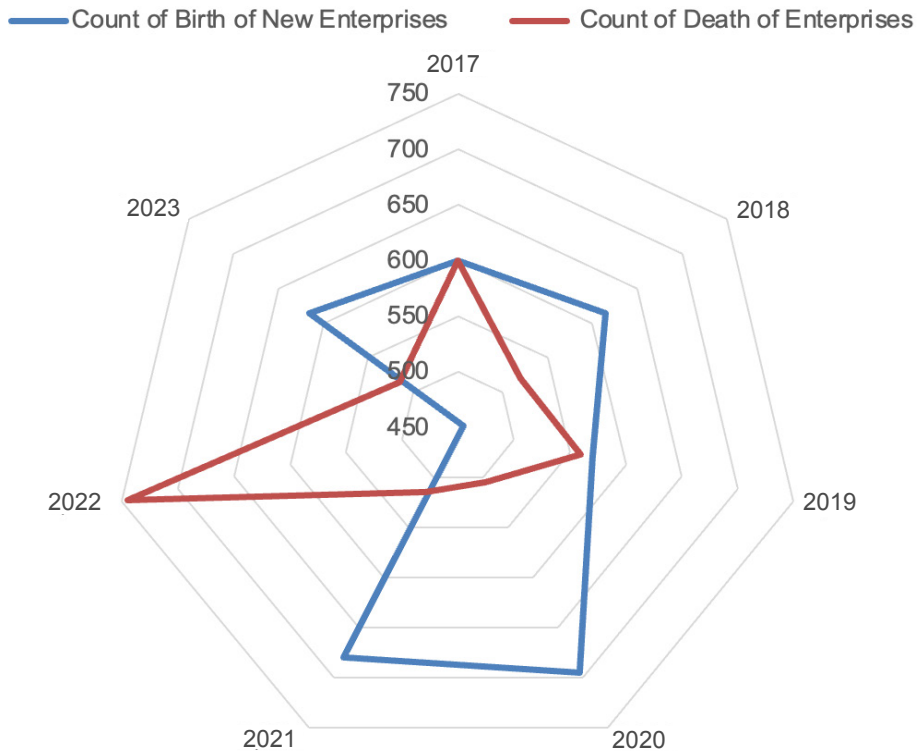


Figure 21 Apparel manufacturing, enterprise births and deaths

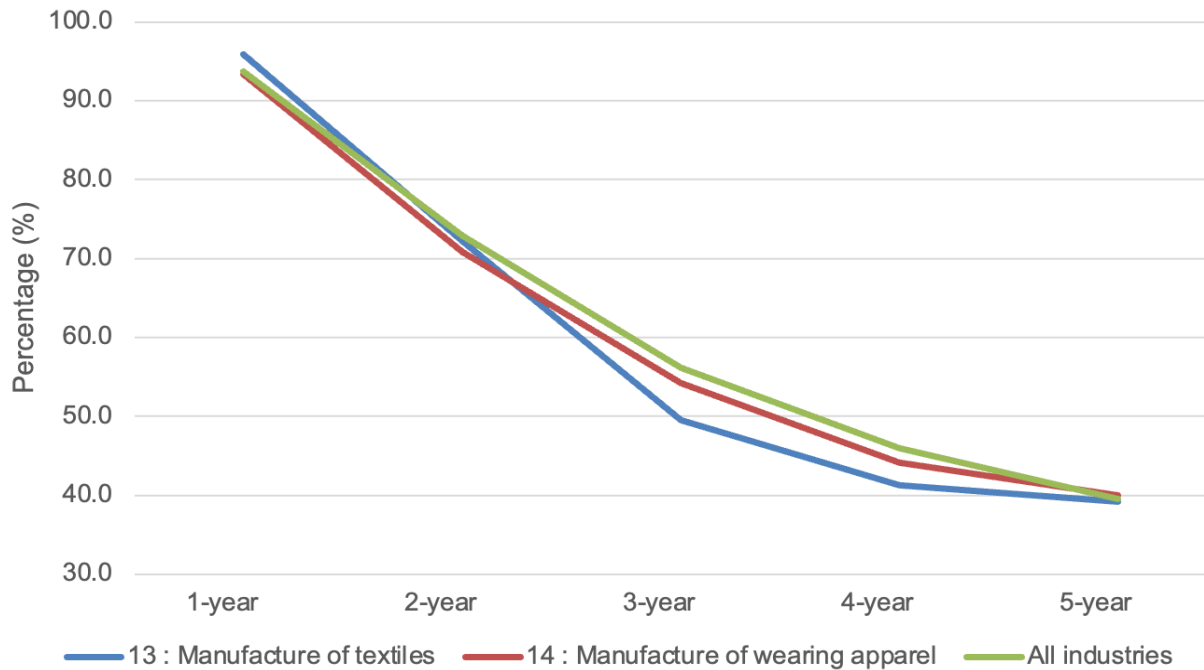


Figure 22 Five-year survival rate of 2017 entrants, textile manufacturing, apparel manufacturing and all industries

3.4. EMPLOYMENT

	SIC Industry	Employment
Manufacturing	13: Manufacture of textiles	51,094
	14: Manufacture of wearing apparel	26,721
Wholesale	46.16: Agents involved in the sale of textiles, clothing, fur, footwear and leather goods	8,124
	46.41: Wholesale of textiles	15,335
	46.42: Wholesale of clothing and footwear	44,597
Retail	47.51 : Retail sale of textiles in specialised stores	10,315
	47.53: Retail sale of carpets, rugs, wall and floor coverings in specialised stores	20,838
	47.71: Retail sale of clothing in specialised stores	351,421

**Table 6 Employment by SIC industry, Great Britain, 2022
(The latest data is not yet available)**

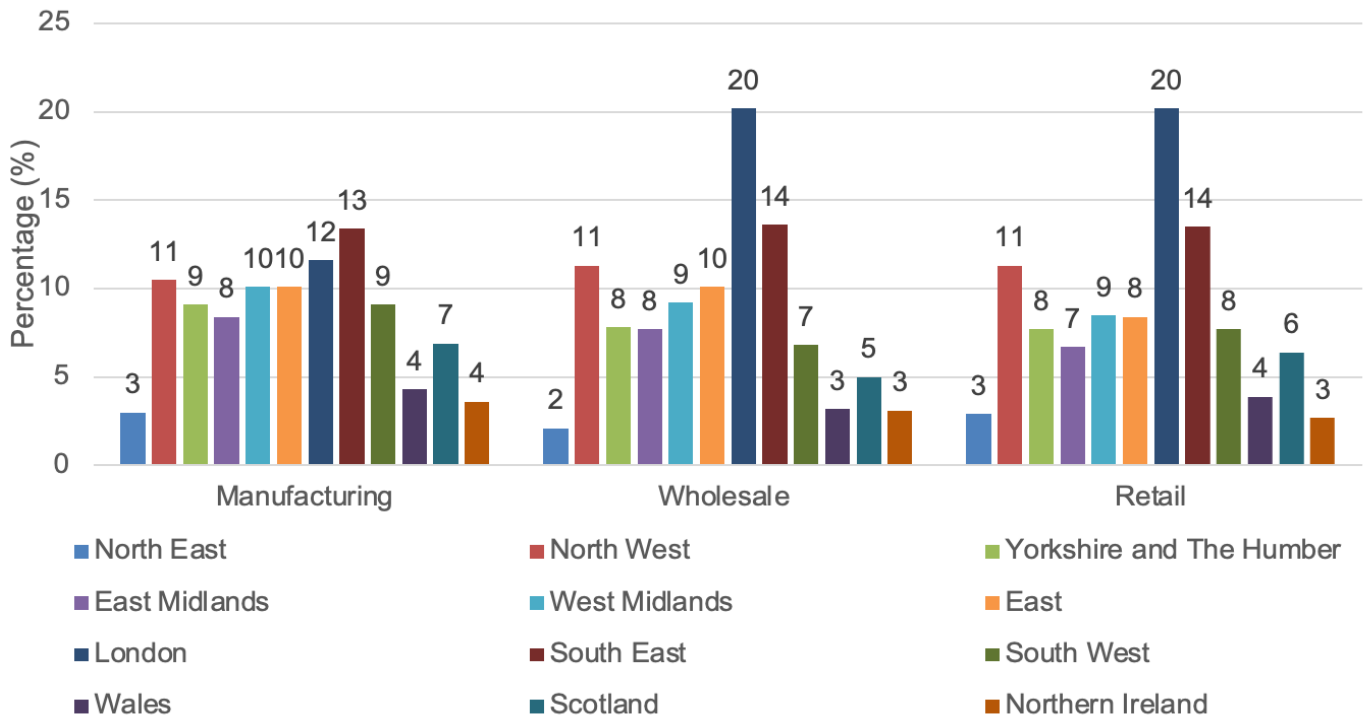


Figure 23 Regional breakdown of GB Fashion and Textiles Sectoral Employment, 2023

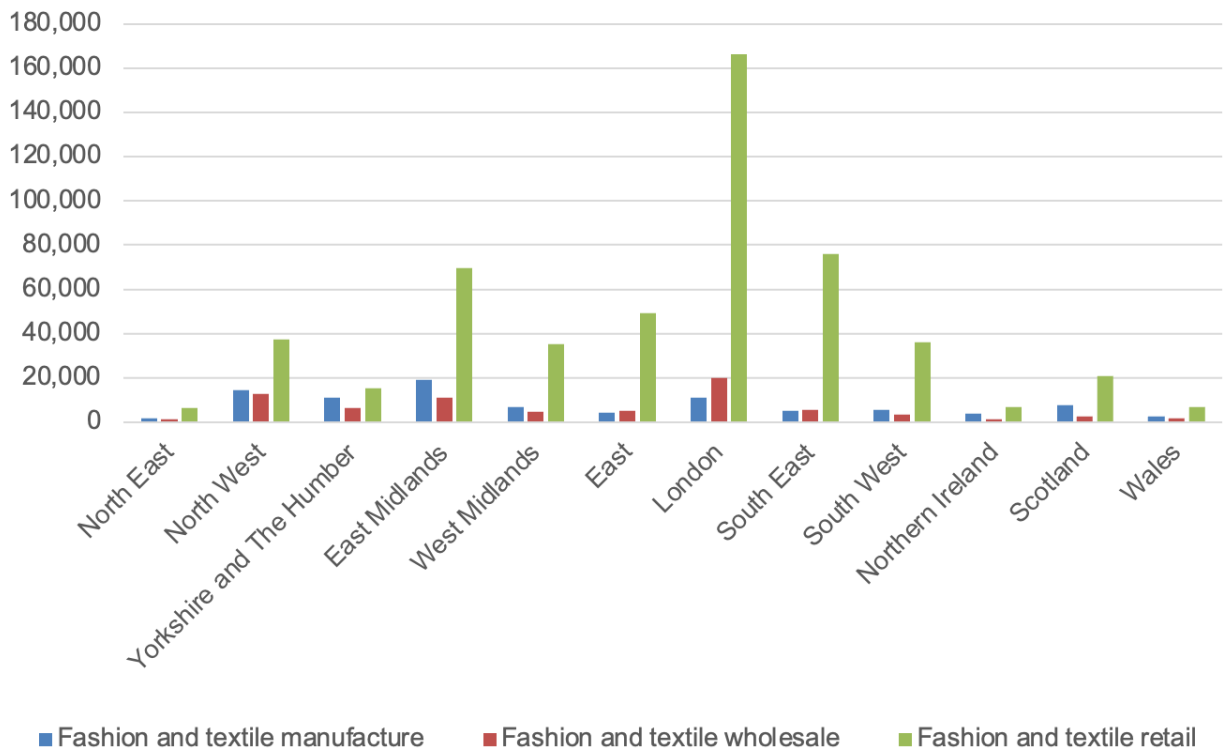


Figure 24 Regional breakdown of total Fashion and Textiles Sectoral Employment in Great Britain, 2023

3.5. PRODUCTIVITY

3.5.1. Gross Value Added

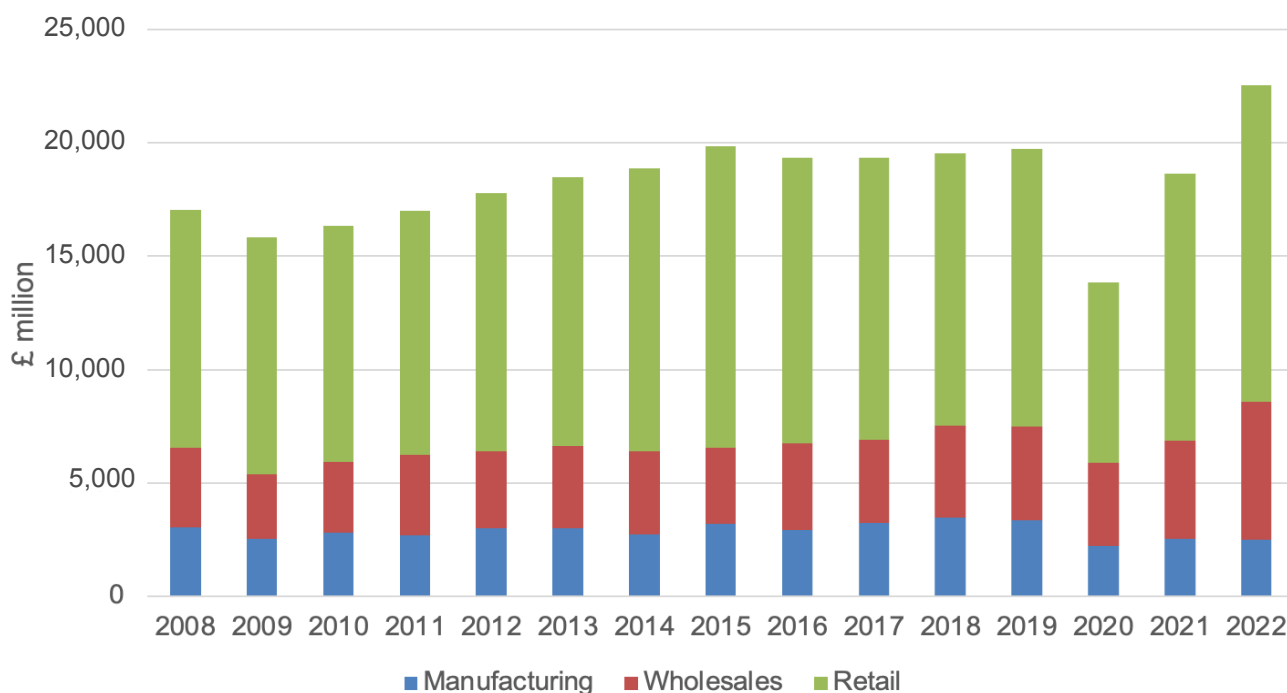


Figure 25 aGVA by Fashion and Textile sector, 2008 to 2022, £ million, at basic prices

	SIC Industry	£ million
Manufacturing	13: Manufacture of textiles	2,500
	14: Manufacture of wearing apparel	907
	20.60: Manufacture of man-made fibres	111
Wholesale	46.16: Agents involved in the sale of textiles, clothing, fur, footwear and leather goods	629
	46.41: Wholesale of textiles	1,233
	46.42: Wholesale of clothing and footwear	4,218
Retail	47.51: Retail sale of textiles in specialised stores	181
	47.53: Retail sale of carpets, rugs, wall and floor coverings in specialised stores	866
	47.71: Retail sale of clothing in specialised stores	12,902

Table 7 Gross value added by Fashion and Textile sub-sector

** Not all detailed has been provided by ONS

3.5.2. Output per worker (OPW)

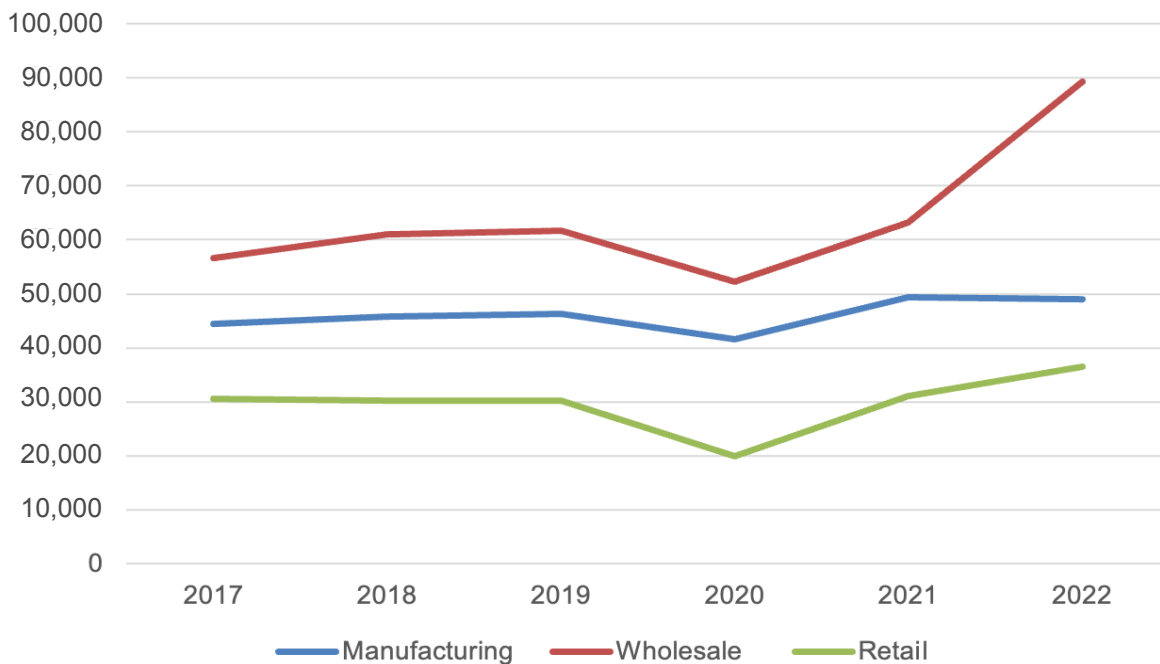


Figure 26 aGVA per worker by Fashion and Textile sector, 2017 to 2022, at basic prices

3.6. INVESTMENT

3.6.1. Gross Fixed Capital Formation

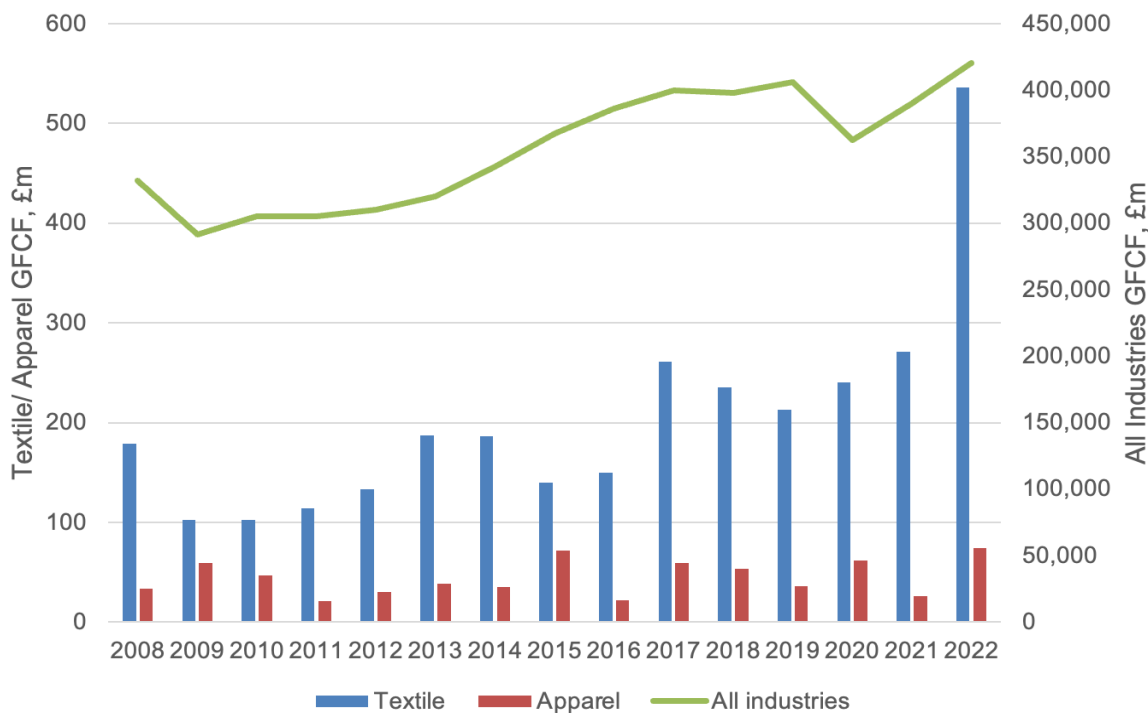


Figure 27 GFCF, textile and apparel manufacturing, 2008 to 2022, CVM, £m
(The latest data is not yet available)

Source: Office for National Statistics
Research and Development

3.6.2. Research & Development

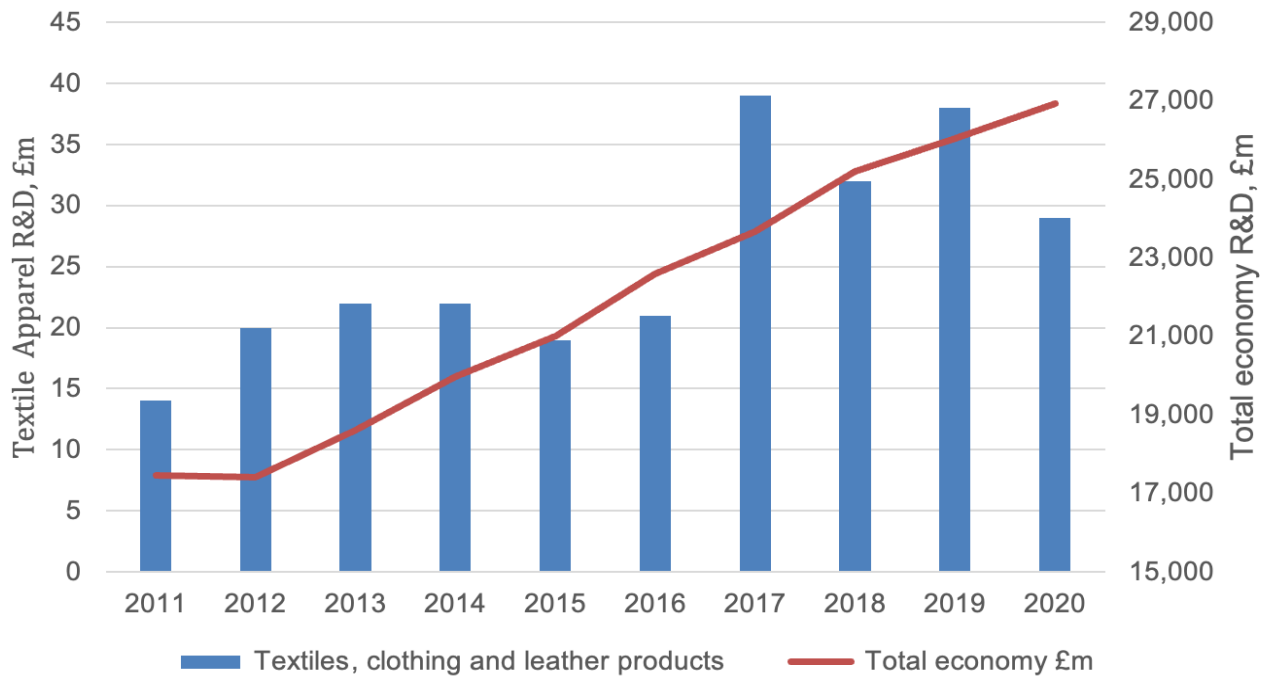


Figure 28 R&D spend, textile and apparel manufacturing sectors, UK, 2011 to 2020, current prices
(The latest data is not yet available)

3.7. INTERNATIONAL TRADE

3.7.1. Exports

The Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) codes 65 and 84 specifically represent the trade categories for textiles and clothing, respectively.

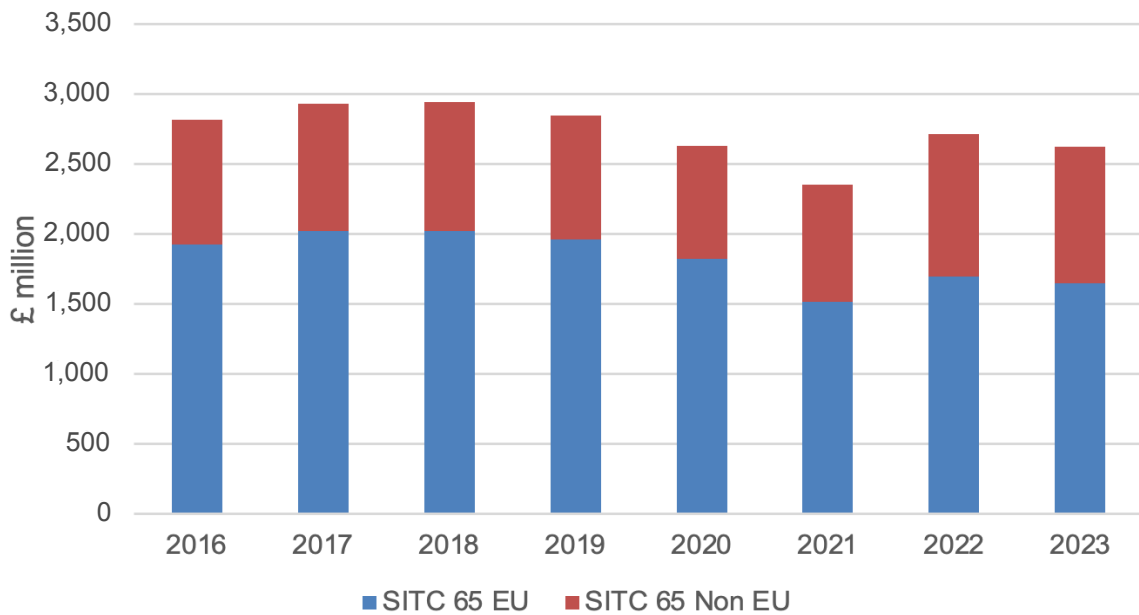


Figure 29 Annual export turnover of UK textile producers (SITC65), EU and non-EU, 2016 to 2023

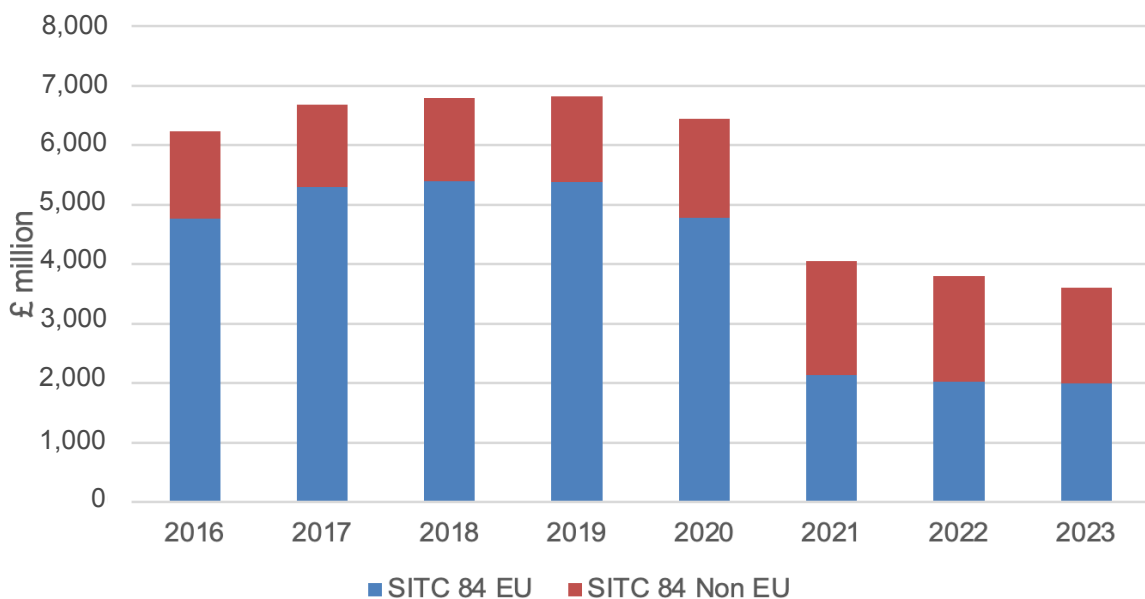


Figure 30 Annual export turnover of UK clothing producers (SITC84), EU and non-EU, 2016 to 2023

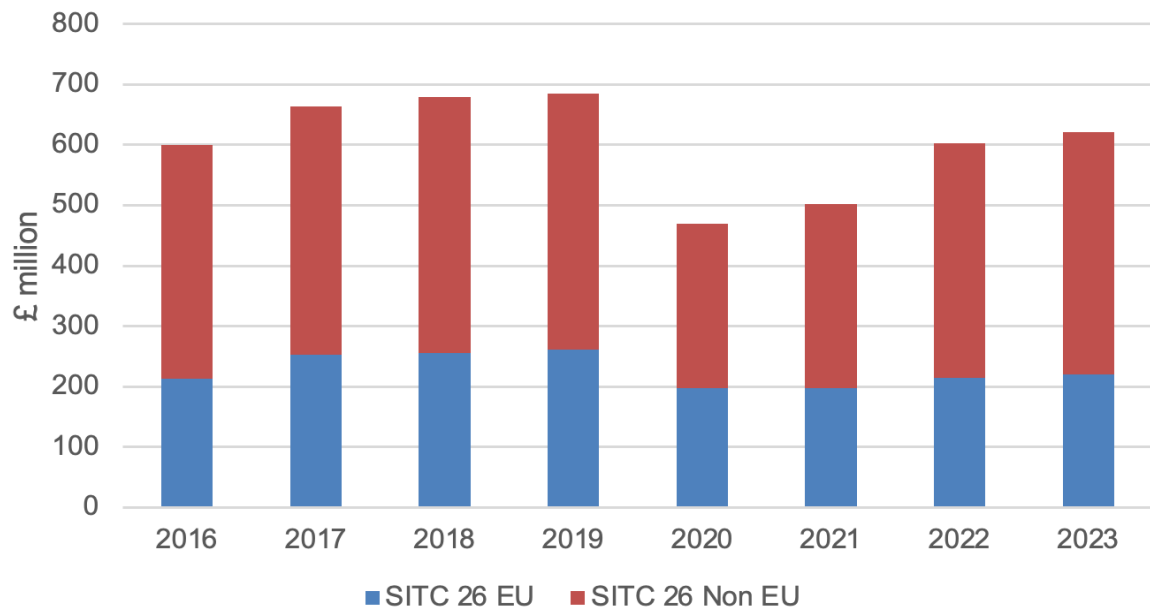
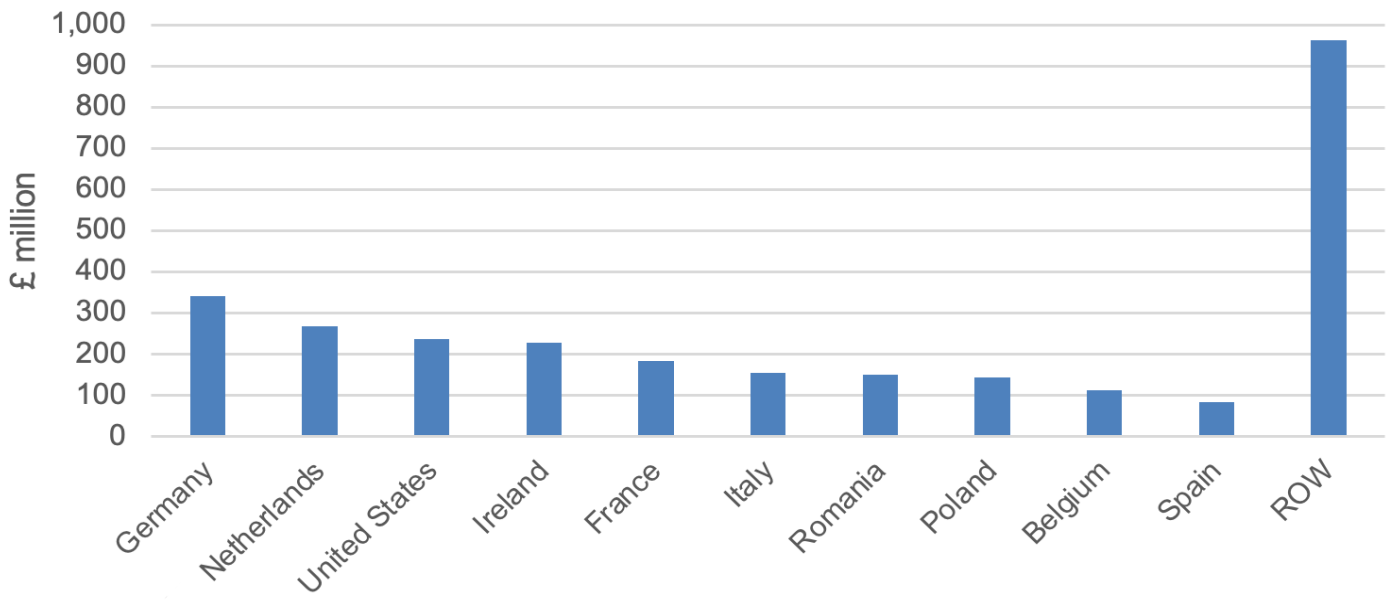


Figure 31 Annual export turnover of UK Textile fibre (SITC26), EU and non-EU, 2016 to 2023

2018



2023

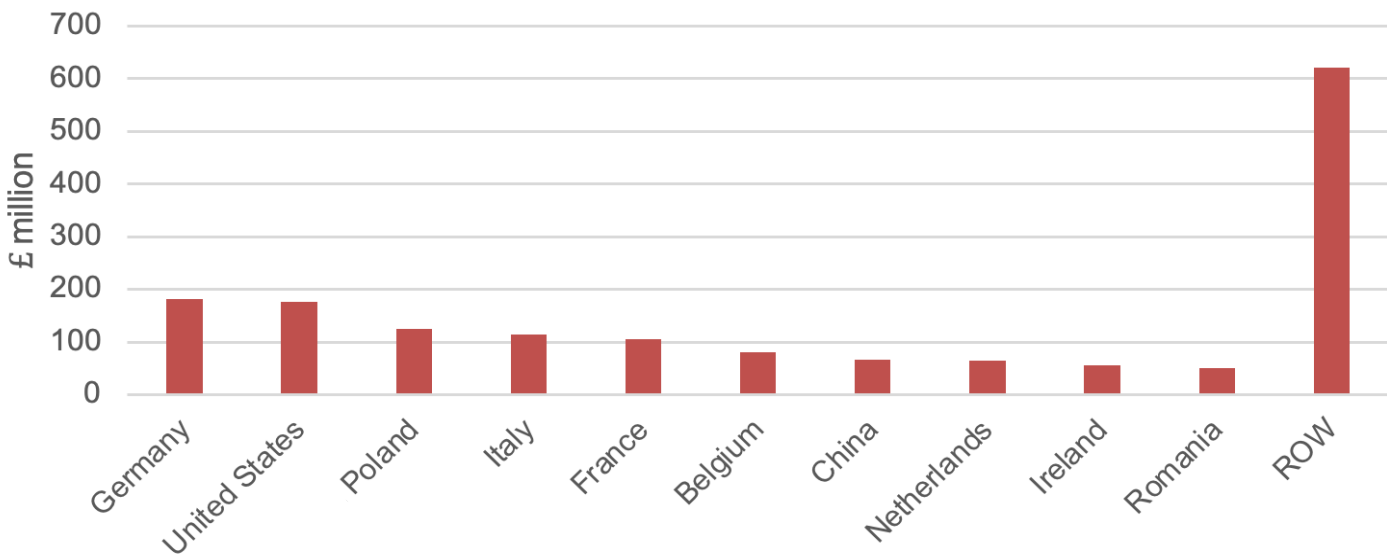


Figure 32 Top export destinations of UK textile producers (SITC65), 2018 vs. 2023, £m

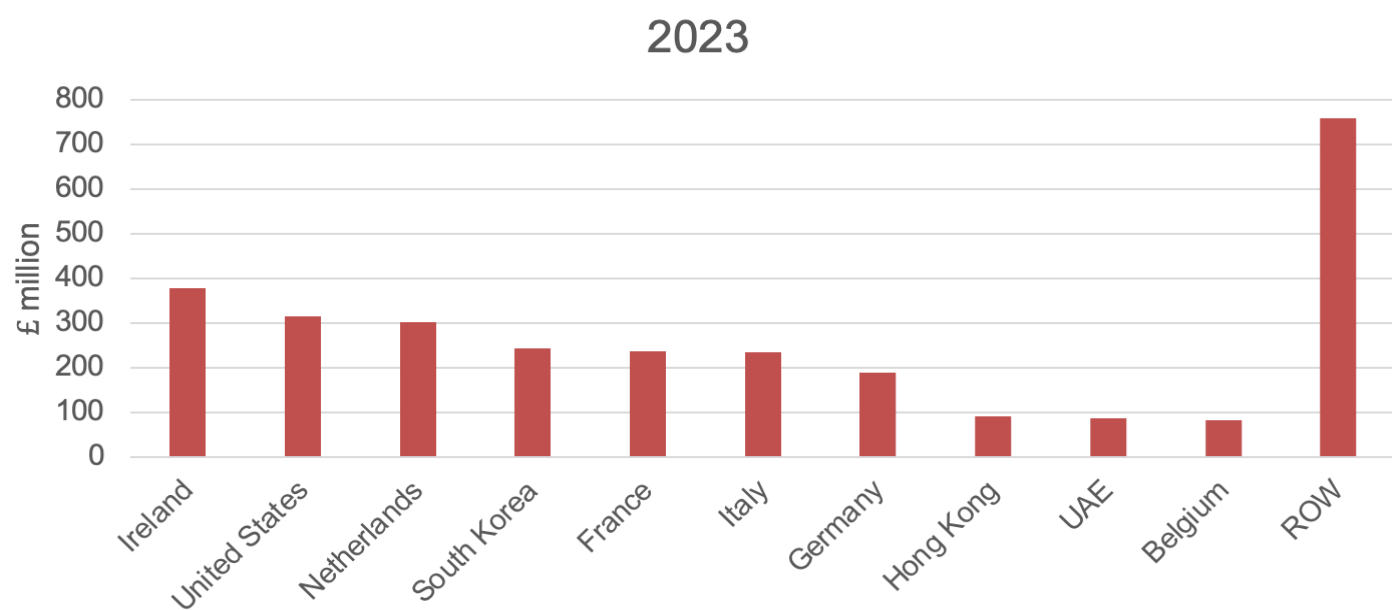
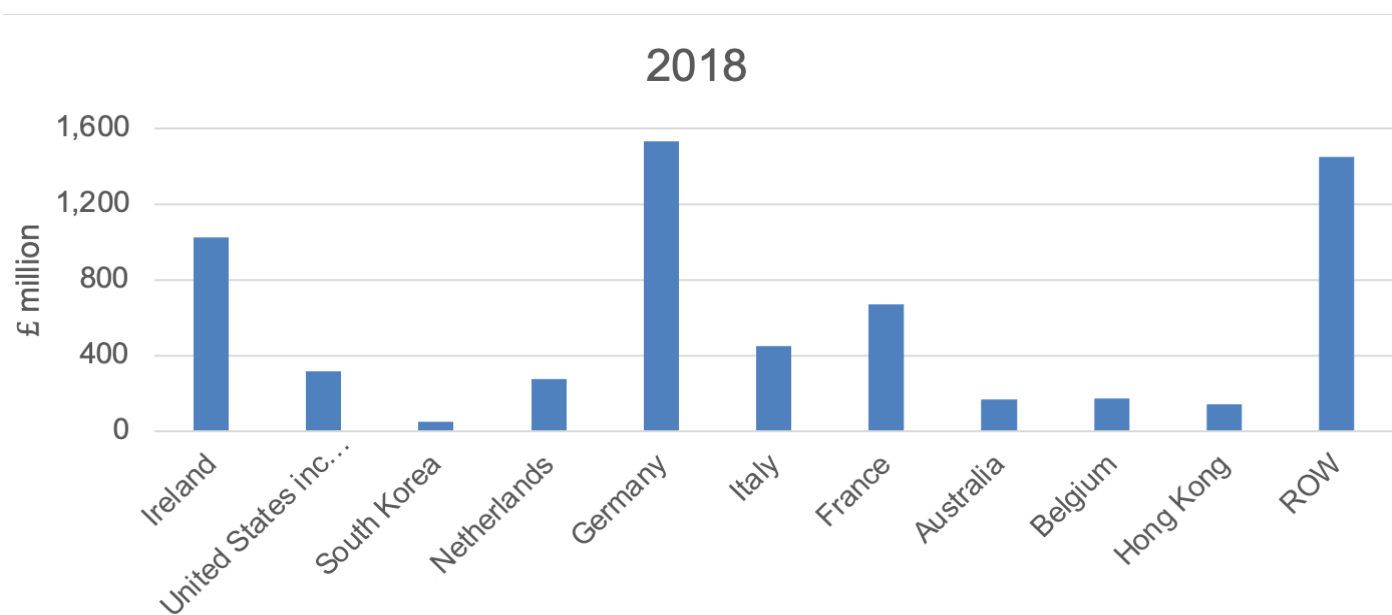


Figure 33 Top export destinations of UK apparel producers (SITC84), 2018 vs. 2023, £m

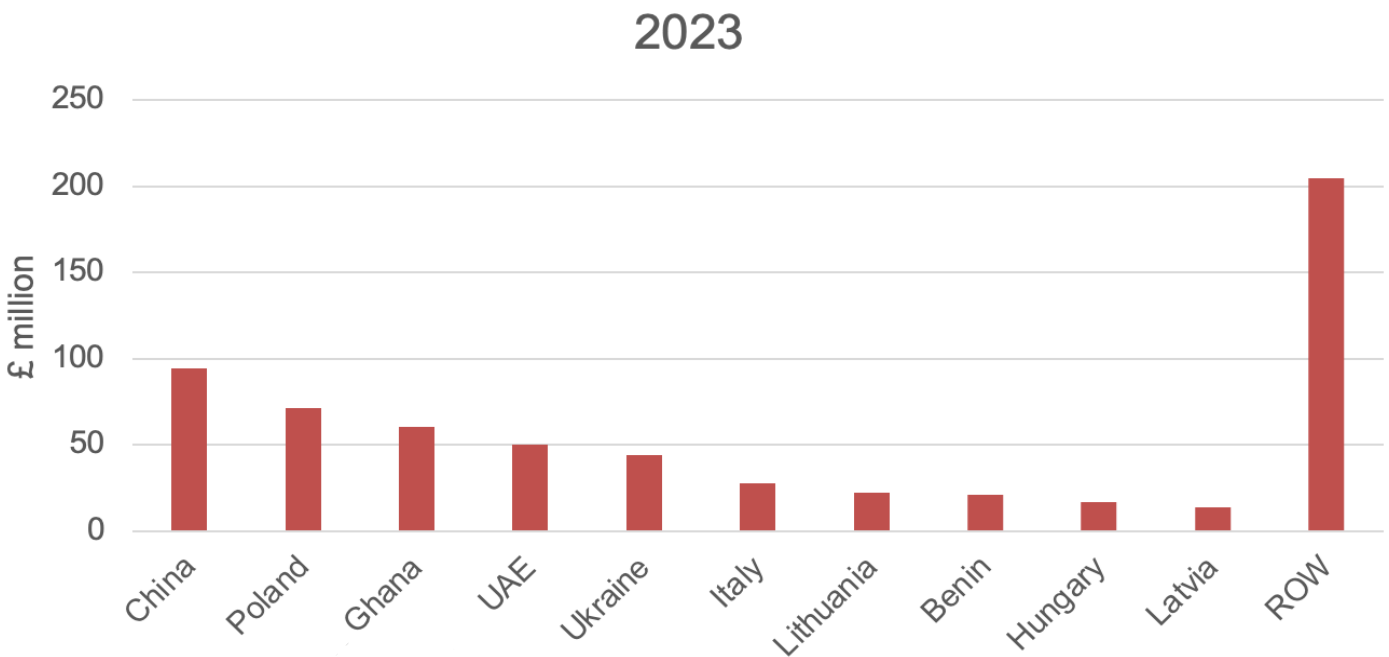
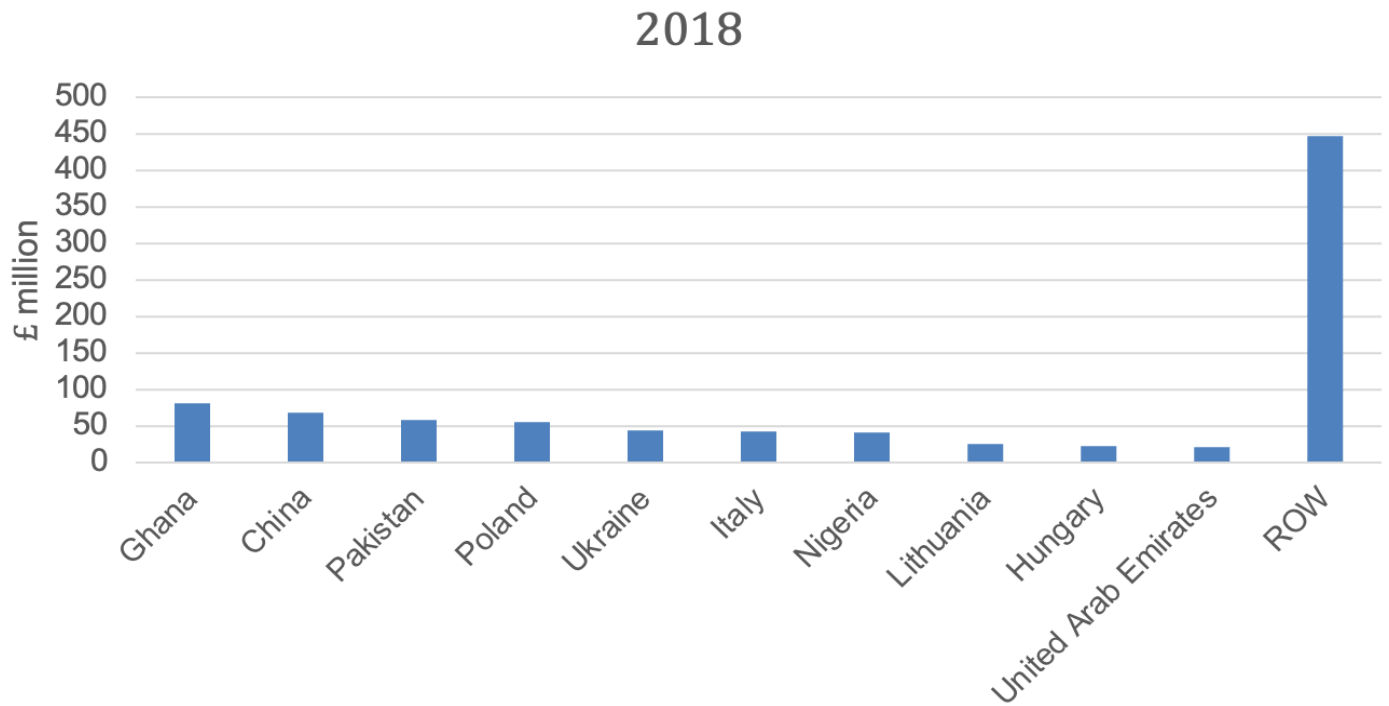


Figure 34 Top export destinations of UK Textile fibre (SITC26), 2018 vs. 2022, £m

3.7.2. Imports

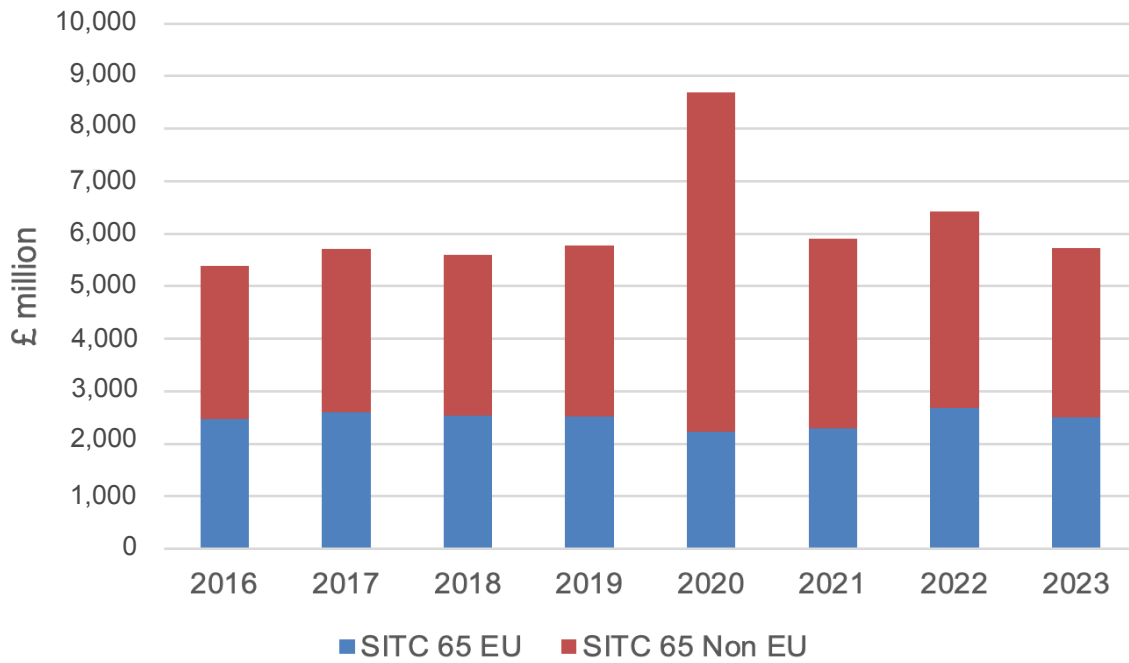


Figure 35 Annual textile import value (SITC65), EU and non-EU, 2016 to 2023, £m

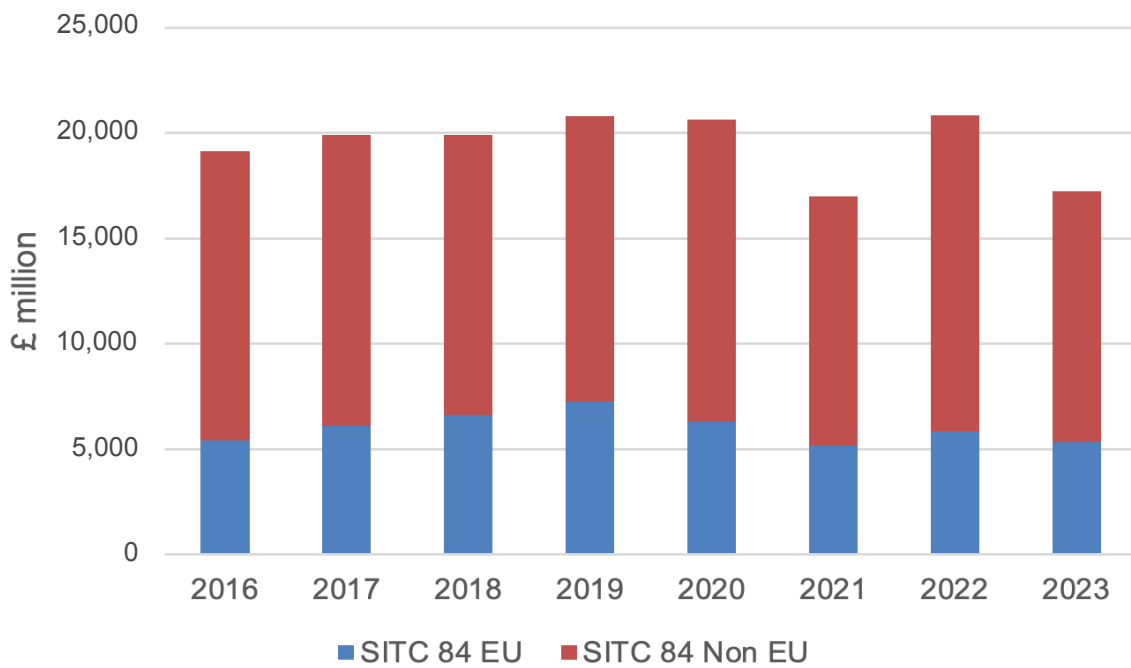


Figure 36 Annual clothing import value (SITC84), EU and non-EU, 2016 to 2023, £m

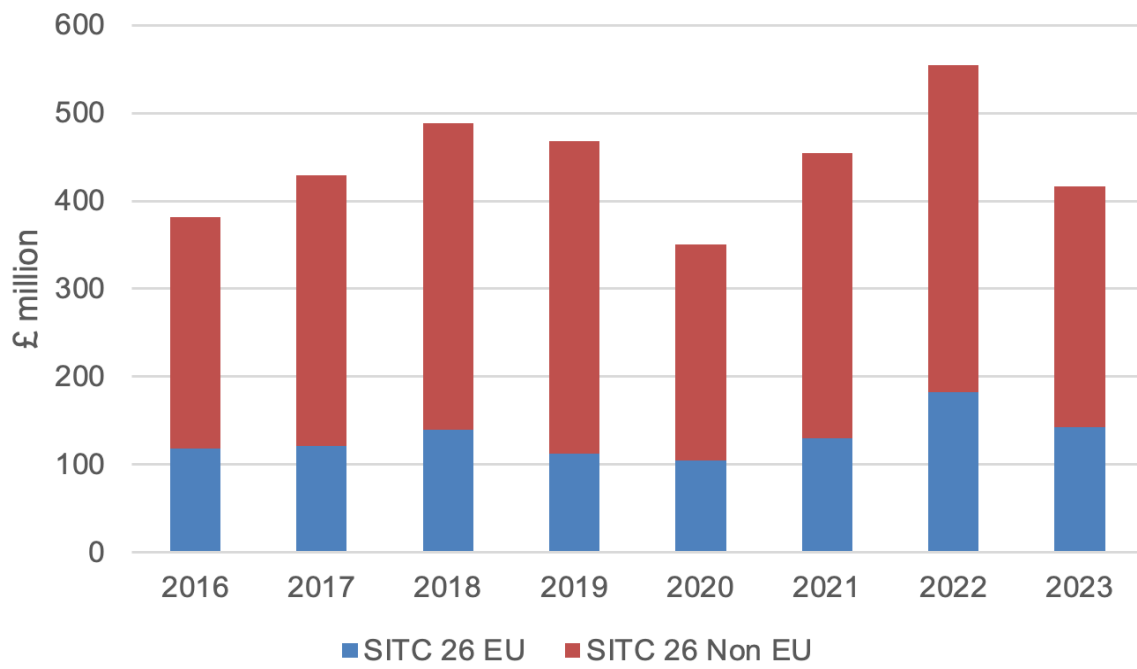
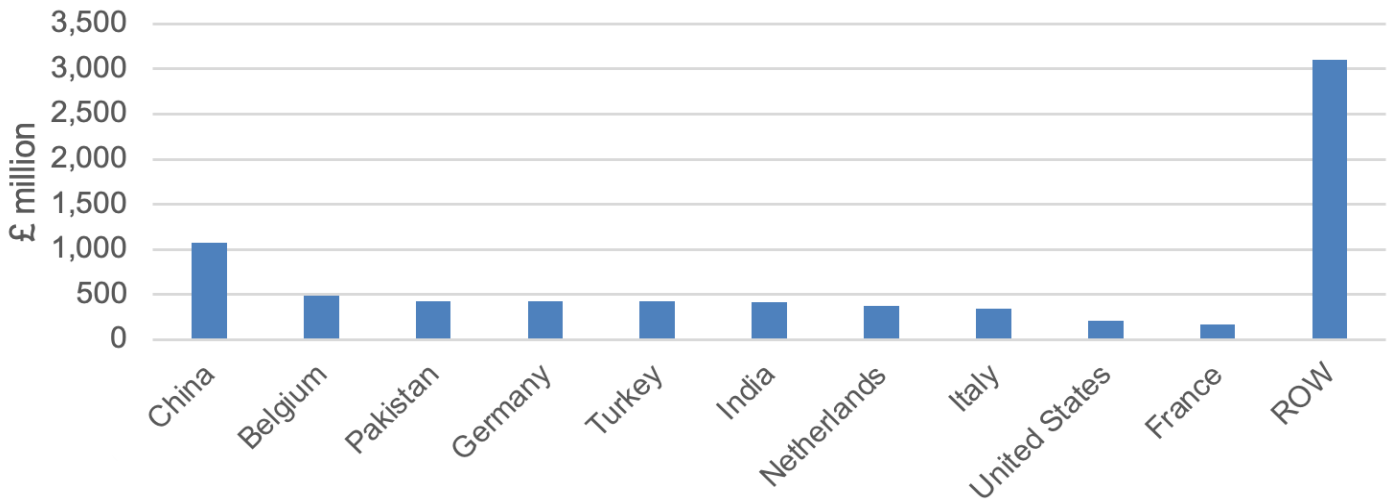


Figure 37 Annual import value of UK Textile fibre (SITC26), EU and non-EU, 2016 to 2023

2018



2023

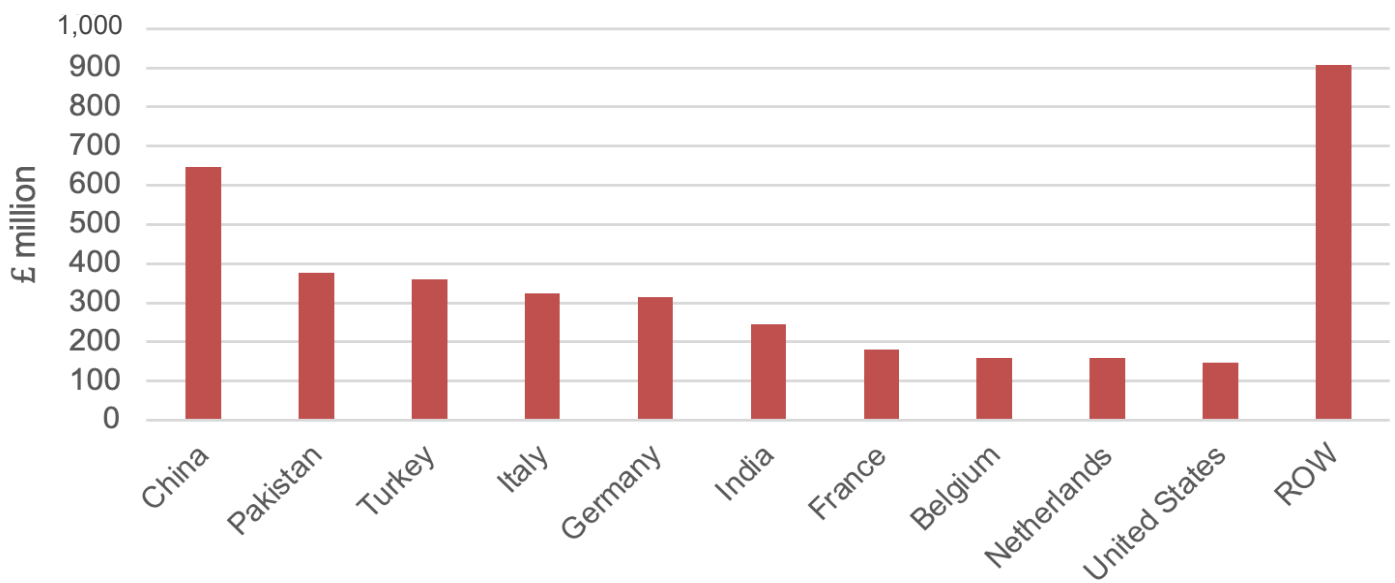
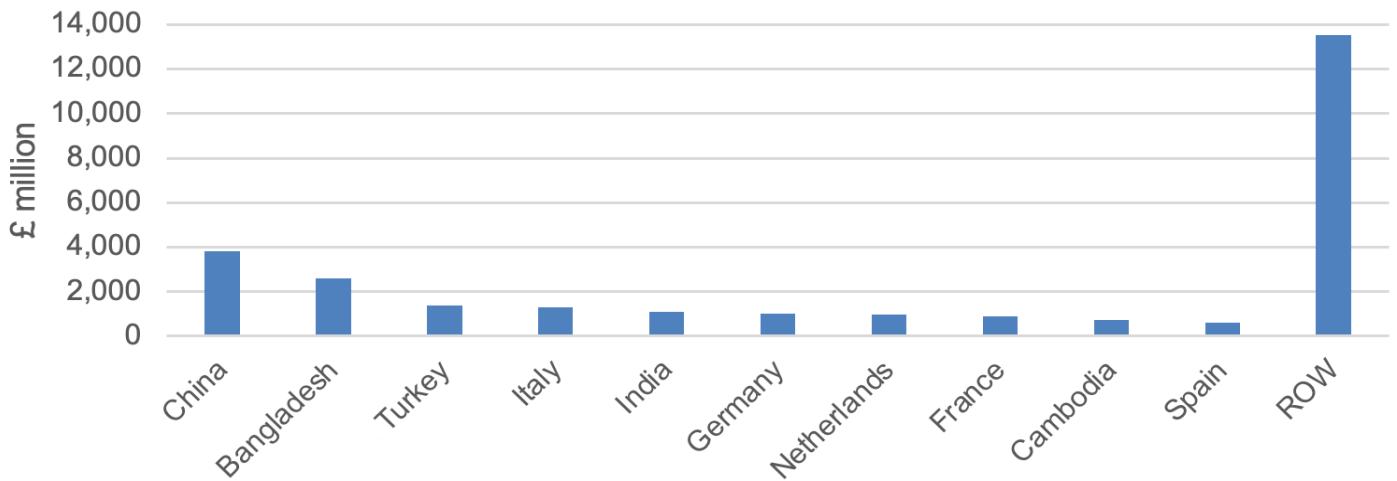


Figure 38 Top countries of origin for UK textile imports (SITC65), 2018 vs. 2022, £m

2018



2023

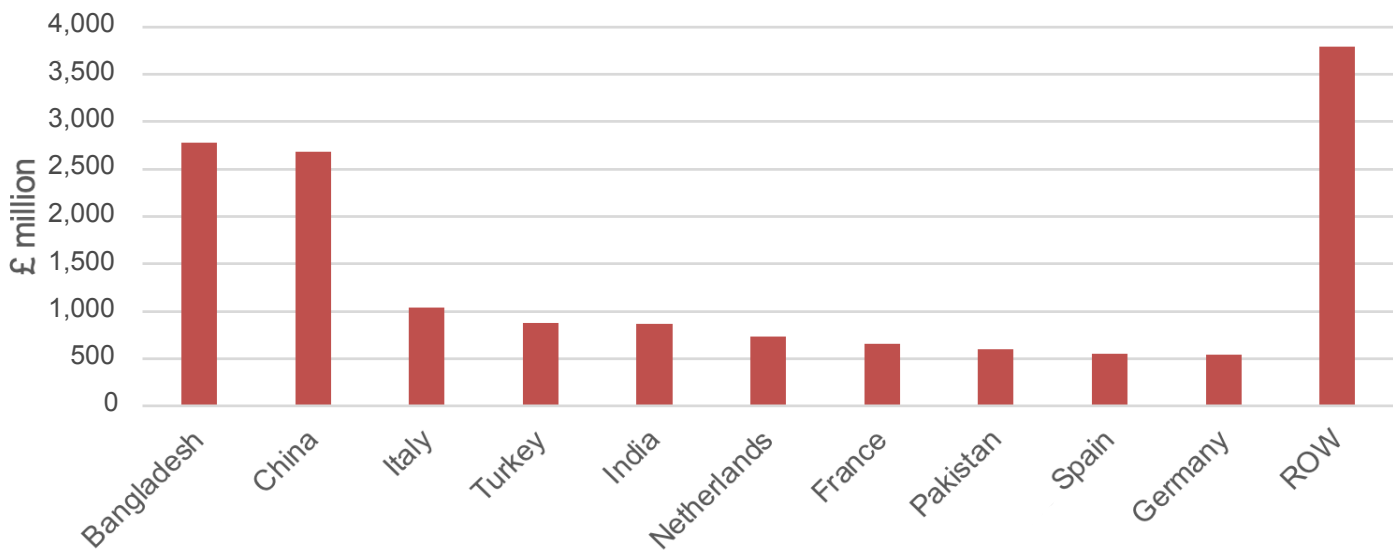
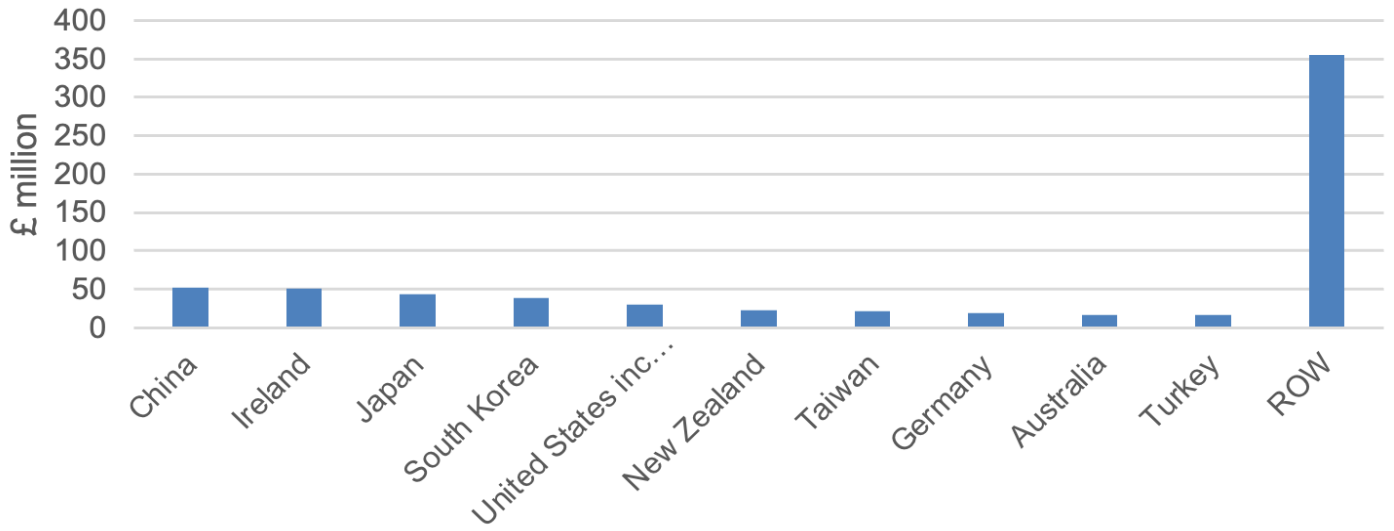


Figure 39 Top countries of origin for UK clothing imports (SITC84), 2018 vs. 2023, £m

2018



2023

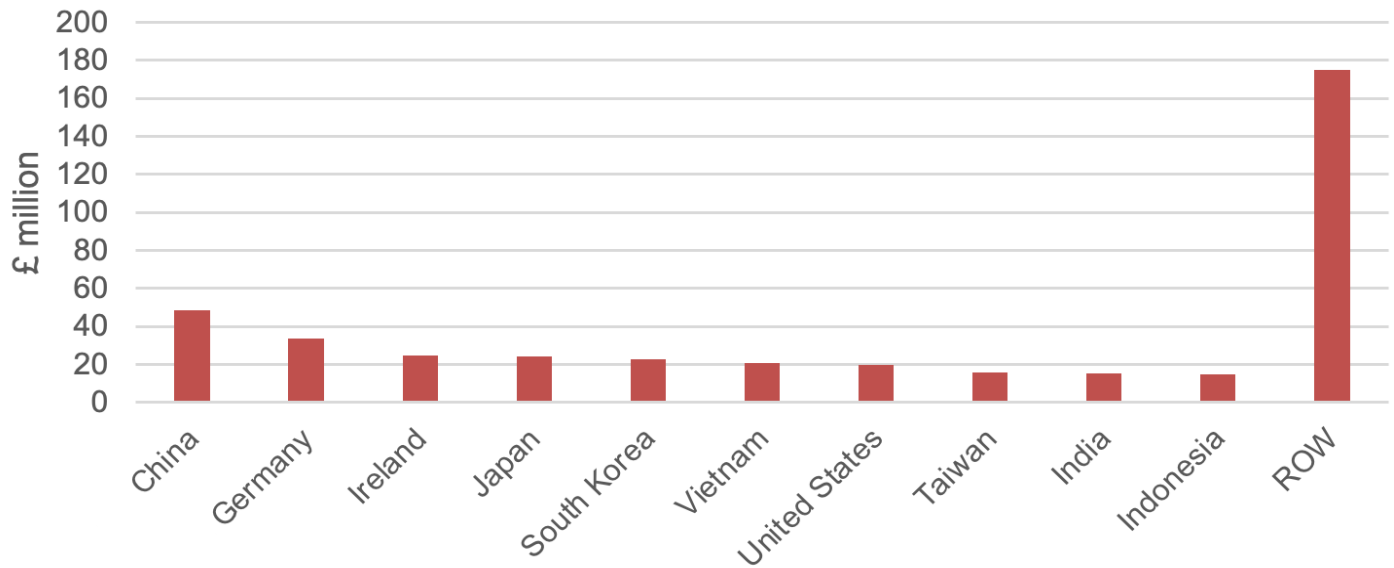


Figure 40 Top countries of origin for UK Textile fibre (SITC26), 2018 vs. 2023, £m

3.8. EXPORTS BY PRODUCT

Rank	SITC Commodity Hierarchy – SITC65	£m	% Share
1	65720 Nonwovens, whether or not impregnated, coated, covered or laminated, nes	74.2	7.1
2	65893 Life-jackets & life-belts & other made up articles, inc dress patterns, wholly or chiefly of tex mat	61.2	5.9
3	65162 High tenacity yarn of nylon. other polyamides or of polyesters, not put up for retail sale	53.2	5.1
4	65942 Carpets and other textile floor coverings, tufted, of nylon or other polyamides, whether or not made up	50.7	4.9
5	65732 Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics, other than of heading 657.93	40.4	3.9
6	65195 Slivers, rovings, yarn and chopped strands, of glass fibres	33.2	3.2
7	65422 Fab, wov, ctg 85% or more by weight of combed wool or combed fine animal hair (o/t pile and chenille fabrics)	32.1	3.1
8	65523 Other fabrics of hdg 655.20: warp knit (including those made on galoon knitting machines)	29.1	2.8
9	65733 Rubberized textile fabrics, other than those of heading 657.93	28.6	2.7
10	65311 Woven fabrics obtained from high tenacity yarn of nylon or other polyamides or of polyesters	25.4	2.4
11	65734 Tex fab otherwise impr, coated or covered; painted canvas being theatrical scenery, studio back-cloths etc	23.2	2.2
12	65421 Fab, wov, ctg 85% or more by weight of carded wool or carded fine animal hair (o/t pile and chenille fabrics)	22.2	2.1
13	65771 Wadding of tex mat and atl thereof; tex fibres ne 5 mm in length (flock), textile dust and mill neps	20.8	2.0
14	65315 Other woven fabrics, containing 85% or more by weight of textured polyester filaments	20.7	2.0

15	65751 Twine, cordage, rope, cables whether or not impr/ coated/covered with rubber or plastic, plaited or braided	18.4	1.8
16	65232 Other woven fabrics, containing 85% or more by weight of cotton, dyed, weighing not more than 200 g/m2	17.6	1.7
17	65951 Carpets and other textile floor coverings, woven, of wool or fine animal hair, nes, whether or not made up	15.4	1.5
18	65773 Textile products and articles, for technical uses	14.6	1.4
19	65969 Other carpets and other textile floor coverings, whether or not made up	14.6	1.4
20	65141 Sewing thread of synthetic filaments, whether or not put up for retail sale	13.6	1.3
21	65711 Needle loom felt and stitch-bonded fibre fabrics	13.1	1.3
22	65132 Cotton yarn (other than sewing thread) put up for retail sale, containing less than 85% by weight of cotton	12.9	1.2
23	65813 Sacks and bags, of man-made textile materials, of a kind used for the packing of goods	12.7	1.2
24	65441 Fabrics, woven, or flax containing 85% or more by weight of flax	12.6	1.2
25	65393 Other pile fabrics and chenille fabrics	12.3	1.2

Table 8 Top 20 Textile Export products, SITC 65, 2024 (Till May)**

Rank	SITC Commodity Hierarchy – SITC84	£m	% Share
1	84240 Women's & girls' dresses, of textile fabrics, not knitted or crocheted, (other than those of heading 845.20)	141.9	10.7
2	84530 Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles, knitted or crocheted	126.0	9.5
3	84540 T-shirts, singlets and other vests, knitted or crocheted	115.5	8.7
4	84424 Women's & girls' dresses, of textile fabrics, knitted or crocheted, (other than those of heading 845.20)	78.1	5.9
5	84140 Men's or boys' trousers, bib & brace overalls & shorts, of tex fab, not knt or crd (o/t those of hdg 845.2)	51.7	3.9
6	84260 Women's & girls' trousers, shorts, breeches & bib & brace overalls, of tex fab,not knt or crd (o/t hdg 845.2)	51.6	3.9
7	84219 Women's & girls' anoraks,ski-jackets,wind-cheaters & the like, of textile fab, not knt or crd (o/t hdg 845.20)	48.5	3.7
8	84119 Other men's or boys' overcoats, car-coats, anoraks & the like of tex fab, not knt or crd (o/t hdg 845.20)	42.4	3.2
9	84270 Women's & girls' blouses, shirts & shirt-blouses, of tex fab, not knt or crd, (o/t those of heading 845.20)	32.1	2.4
10	84426 Women's & girls' bib & brace overalls, breeches & shorts, trousers, of tex fab,knt or crd,(o/t of hdg 845.20)	28.7	2.2
11	84843 Hats & other headgear, knitted or crd, made up from lace, felt or other tex fab not in strips; hair-nets	27.6	2.1
12	84844 Safety headgear, whether or not lined or trimmed	27.1	2.0
13	84619 Other made-up clothing acc & pt of gmt or clothing o/t of hdg 845.5,of tex fab, not for babies, not knt or crd	26.5	2.0
14	84130 Men's and boys' jackets & blazers, of tex fab, not knitted or crocheted, (other than those of heading 845.20)	23.7	1.8
15	84522 Men's & boys' garments of fabrics not knitted or crocheted of headings 657.32, 657.33 or 657.34	22.6	1.7

16	84230 Women's & girls' jackets/blazers of tex.fab.not knitted or crocheted, (other than those of heading 845.20)	22.5	1.7
17	84612 Shawls, scarves, mufflers, mantillas, veils etc, of textile fabrics, not for babies, not knitted or crd	21.8	1.7
18	84324 Men's & boys' trousers,bib & brace overalls,shorts & breeches, of tex fab, knt or crd,(o/t those of hdg 845.2)	19.8	1.5
19	84512 Babies' garments & clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted	18.7	1.4
20	84564 Women's and girls swimwear, knitted or crocheted	18.1	1.4
21	84811 Articles of apparel, of leather or composition leather	18.0	1.4
22	84599 Garments, knitted or crocheted, nes	17.5	1.3
23	84151 Men's and boys' shirts of cotton, not knitted or crocheted, (other than those of heading 845.20)	15.0	1.1
24	84587 Men's and boys' articles of apparel, of textile fabrics, not knitted or crocheted, nes	15.0	1.1
25	84629 Other hosiery, knitted or crocheted, not for babies	14.5	1.1

Table 9 Top Clothing Export Products, SITC 84, 2024 (Till May)**

	SITC Commodity Hierarchy – SITC26	Value (£ m)	% Share
1	26901 Used clothing, rugs, linen & furnishing <u>atl</u> , of <u>tex mat</u> , <u>ftw</u> & headgear of any mat, traded in bulk form	161.7	60.4
2	267 Suppressed for Confidentiality *2	47.5	17.7
3	26821 Degreased wool, not carbonized, not carded or combed	17.7	6.6
4	26830 Fine animal hair, not carded or combed	5.8	2.2
5	26877 Fine or coarse animal hair, carded or combed	4.1	1.5
6	26130 Raw silk (not thrown)	4.0	1.5
7	26659 Synthetic staple fibres, not processed for spinning, nes	3.9	1.4
8	26873 Wool tops and other combed wool	3.8	1.4
9	26652 Synthetic staple fibres, of polyesters, not carded, combed or otherwise processed for spinning	3.7	1.4
10	26721 Waste (inc noils, yarn waste and garnetted stock), of synthetic fibres	2.8	1.0
11	26811 Shorn wool, greasy (inc fleece-washed wool)	2.3	0.9
12	26902 Used or new rags, scrap twine, cordage, rope and cables; worn out <u>atl</u> of twine etc & cables of textile mat	2.0	0.7
13	26653 Synthetic staple acrylic or modacrylic fibres, not carded, combed or otherwise processed for spinning	1.9	0.7
14	26651 Synthetic staple fib, of nylon or other polyamides not carded, combed or otherwise processed for spinning	1.1	0.4
15	26310 Cotton (other than linters), not carded or combed.	0.9	0.3
16	26869 Other waste of wool or of fine or coarse animal hair (other than horsehair)	0.8	0.3
17	26142 Silk waste (inc cocoons unsuitable for reeling, yarn waste and garnetted stock)	0.7	0.2
18	26663 Synthetic filament tow of acrylic or modacrylic	0.6	0.2
19	26863 Noils of wool or of fine animal hair, not garnetted	0.4	0.2
20	26711 Artificial staple fibres, not carded, combed or otherwise processed for spinning	0.4	0.1
21	26871 Carded wool; combed wool in fragments	0.3	0.1
22	26580 Vegetable textile fibres, nes, raw or processed but not spun; waste of these fibres	0.2	0.1
23	26819 Wool, greasy (inc fleece-washed), other than shorn wool	0.2	0.1
24	26490 Jute and other bast fibres, nes, processed but not spun; tow and waste of these fibres	0.1	0.1
25	26521 True hemp, raw or retted	0.1	0.0

Table 10 Top Textile fibre export product, SITC 26 2024** (Till May)

University enrolments by subject

HECoS Subject	Full-time	Part-time	Total
100214 Textile technology	250	10	260
100051 Textile design	2950	150	3,140
100203 Polymers and textiles	50	5	55
100109 Clothing production	30	5	35
100054 Fashion	9,965	215	10,185
100055 Fashion design	8,370	120	8,490
Total	21,615	505	22,120

Table 11 UK textile and apparel undergraduate enrolments by study type,2021
(The latest data is not yet available)



Conclusion



In conclusion, the outlook for the UK fashion and textile sectors presents a mix of challenges and opportunities. The industry has experienced a decline in textile and manufacturing output, leading to a loss of market share to international imports. However, there is a strong interest in fashion-related subjects among UK students, indicating a potential talent pool for the industry.

The formal exit of the UK from the EU has introduced uncertainties in terms of accessing European markets, which were previously key trading partners. The industry must navigate new trade agreements and customs procedures to maintain its international competitiveness.

The shift towards online shopping has become a prominent trend, accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Retailers need to adapt their strategies and invest in robust digital platforms to cater to the growing demand from digital consumers.

Investments in research and development (R&D) and gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) are crucial for driving innovation, improving productivity, and enhancing the industry's competitiveness. These investments can help address the decline in manufacturing output and foster long-term sustainability.

To succeed in the evolving global marketplace, businesses in the UK fashion and textile sectors should focus on enhancing their competitiveness, embracing digital transformation, exploring new markets, and investing in R&D and GFCF. Policymakers and stakeholders need to provide support through skills development, access to finance, and navigating trade dynamics.

While challenges exist, the UK fashion and textile sectors have the potential to thrive by leveraging their design heritage, creativity, and craftsmanship. By adapting to changing consumer preferences, embracing technological advancements, and capitalising on international opportunities, the industry can position itself for long-term success.

The 4-digit SIC code and 5-digit SITC code are of utmost importance in the UK textile and fashion sector. The 4-digit SIC code allows for precise classification and analysis of different sub-sectors within the industry, aiding in problem identification and targeted strategies. On the other hand, the 5-digit SITC code facilitates detailed product classification and market analysis, enabling accurate tracking of international trade patterns and informed policy formulation. Together, they provide valuable insights and support decision-making in the dynamic textile and fashion sector.

Overall, the future of the UK fashion and textile sectors relies on the industry's ability to adapt, innovate, and collaborate across the value chain. With the right strategies and support, the industry can overcome challenges and capitalise on opportunities, ensuring its growth and sustainability in the global fashion landscape.

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