

UNITED KINGDOM COMPANY REPORTS

Detailed Summary of Data, Sources & FAQs



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OUR DATA SOURCES

Please find below the main original sources of information (e.g., Chambers of commerce, local courts, etc). This should apply to registered companies and sole traders/non-registered companies.

Financial data: The Financial data that we hold have on registered businesses in the UK is keyed by our own keying analysts. They key the information directly from the Annual Accounts documents that are filed at the registrar, these accounts are filed each year at the registrar and are usually updated on the Creditsafe system within 3-5 working days of the document being released on the registrar. Our keying analyst's key data for 6 days of the week so these are updated on a regular basis where new information is present.

Negative data: We have county court Judgments and high court judgments which are supplied by RTL who work alongside the courts in the UK. We have Judgments for England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland therefore we have full coverage of CCJ Data in the UK. Also, we have gazette data which is collected and notifies us of different insolvency notices that have been published in the Gazettes. These notices can be published up to 4 weeks before the insolvency practitioner would notify the Companies House. The notices we receive are Members Voluntary Liquidation, Creditor Voluntary Liquidation, winding up Order, and Petition for Winding Up, Creditors Meeting, Liquidator Appointed, Receivership, Examinership and Other Special Events etc. We use these notices to suspend companies risk scores until we receive the official notice from Companies House or if we are notified of a cancellation for example if a petition was dismissed.

Demographic data: Companies house and directory companies. Daily.

Payment Data: This data is collected from customers and organisations, customers and other organisations agree to share their payment ledgers with Creditsafe, this gives us information on how well other businesses are paying these organisations and allows a more complete view of businesses. We receive daily updates on this data, and it is collected and verified by our own payment data team.

Collection data:

Shareholder's data: As with the financial information the shareholder data is collected from filed documentation at the registrar. The shareholder information will be keyed from the most recent document that contains full shareholders details, this can either be from a Confirmation Statement, Annual Return and in the case of Newly Incorporated Companies, the new incorporation document. This is again keyed by our own keying analysts 6 days a week and is updated within 3-5 working days of the information being released on the registrar.



Group Structure/Corporate hierarchy: The group structure information is collected and delivered to Creditsafe by a third-party supplier, this information is based on the shareholder information that has been filed by a business as to be a holding company of another entity a business must hold more than 50% of allotted shares. In addition a company can also include the immediate parent company and ultimate holding company within the accounts, if the accounts document is more recent than the shareholder information filed then this can also be used to build the group structure. This is updated on a weekly basis.

Other key information: Creditsafe also have additional data which is unique only to our system in comparison to other CRA's, an example of this would be the unadvertised petitions. The Unadvertised petitions are winding up petitions that are not officially published in the gazette, these petitions have the same impact as a petition that is advertised within the Gazette and are typically used when a creditor wishes to get full payment quickly. A creditor would use this method to avoid alerting other creditors who can support the petition and potentially force insolvency on the business. This information is gathered through a third party supplier that get their feed direct from a weekly feed issued by HMCS (Her Majesty's Courts Service). This information is publicly available via the link <https://www.justice.gov.uk/courts/court-lists/list-companies-winding-up>

Do you contact companies via a telephone interview or site visits at regular intervals e.g., once a year?

Our Limited company data feeds a sourced directly through the official sources. However our Non-Limited company information is gathered by a telephone interview with representatives of the businesses. We hold a contract with a third party supplier, they agree that they collect the data in accordance with GDPR requirements on our behalf. They call the companies on an annual basis in order to maintain a current view on the company's details and regularly update the information held. We receive daily updates on the non-Limited information from our supplier.

NEGATIVE DATA

What type of negative data is available?

Bankruptcies/Insolvencies: Yes.

Court Cases/ Actions: Yes.

Debt Collection cases: Yes.

How often is this negative data updated? The updates on the negative data that we receive vary depending on the type of adverse data it is, for example our unadvertised petitions are updated on a weekly basis. With all other typical insolvency/negative data is received and updated through daily data feeds from our suppliers.



CREDIT SCORES & LIMITS

Do you give a credit score & limit on all companies?

We provide a credit score on all limited companies that are registered to file at Companies House. In addition to this any Non-Limited business that we hold current and up to date information on will also be provided with a credit score.

Are there any exceptions?

There are certain exceptions where limited businesses are not provided with a credit score which can be down to several reasons. There are Negative Statuses that we hold on to our system, where a company meets any of the statuses their credit score will be removed, a few examples are stated below.

- Winding up petition
- Winding up order
- Voluntary Arrangement
- Liquidation
- Administration
- Examinership
- Meeting of creditors
- Financial statements too old
- Non-trading/dormant

Some of these statuses are not what you would consider as negative, but these do take priority and are applied overactive credit scores.

What is the credit score intended to predict?

The Limited company credit score is our own assessment of a business, the credit score predicts the likelihood of a company failing/entering insolvency within the next 12 months.

Is payment data included in your credit scoring model?

Payment data is included within all our scoring models, it has been proven to be highly predictive based on recent trends and commonalities within failed businesses.

What does the credit limit represent?

The Limited company credit limit is our recommendation of the total amount of credit that should be offered to a given company at any one time.

**How is the credit limit calculated?**

The Credit Limit is calculated combining the 'risk' and strength of the business. The risk is determined through the risk score and risk banding of the company, and the strength is determined through proven financial factors stated below;

Turnover

Stock

Cash

Shareholders' Funds

Working Capital

Total Assets

LOCAL ACTIVITY CODES & VAT NUMBERS**What version of activity codes are used in the reports?**

The activity codes that are used in the UK is the standardised 5-digit numerical SIC07 Activity code that is used at Companies House. The information is filed and updated through the Confirmation Statement documents that are filed at the registrar.

What company ID numbers are available? (e.g., the local registration number, VAT number, etc.)

There are several different unique identifiers that we use within the UK, these include the company registration number. This is the unique numerical identifier that is designated to a business when they are registered at Companies House. The safe number is also used, this is again another unique identifier, this is our own identifier, which is unique to our system, this is allocated to a company when they are first received in the Creditsafe system. In addition, the VAT number is also available in the UK, this is again a unique reference number that is officially sourced through HMRC.

How are the company ID numbers formatted?

The company registration number is a standard unique numerical value, the company registration number will always be a total of 8 characters long. The Safe Numbers that are created for each new company record are pre-fixed always with UK and are followed by a unique numerical sequence of characters totalling always for a total of 10 characters. The UK VAT Numbers all total 11 characters, these are pre-fixed with 'GB' and are followed by a unique numerical sequence.

Are companies obliged to file a VAT number?

Not all companies are required to file for VAT, companies can choose of their own accord to register for VAT, or they are obliged to once their revenue surpasses £85,000 per annum.

How is the VAT Number derived?

The VAT Number isn't something that is derived, it's a unique reference number that is applied by HMRC when a company registers for VAT.

**If they are not obliged to file and you have this data where has this data come from?**

Even though certain companies aren't obligated to file for VAT they can choose to regardless of whether they meet the criteria of the £85,000 of revenue per annum.

How often is the VAT number updated?

We receive the VAT information directly from the official source (HMRC), we receive updates on the VAT information on a weekly basis. When a VAT number is designated to a certain a company, they don't tend to change the VAT number, this tends to be a constant throughout the company's trading history.

LOCAL BUSINESS CLASSIFICATIONS

SMEs are what is known as Small Medium Enterprises, this is a company categorisation which includes any business that fall within the official size guidelines set out at Companies House for a Micro, Small & Medium company thresholds. The guidelines for these are as stated below;

Micro Entity

- Turnover must be no more than £632,000
- The balance sheet total must be no more than £316,000
- The average number of employees must be no more than 10

Small

- Annual turnover must be no more than £10.2 million
- The balance sheet total must be no more than £5.1 million
- The average number of employees must be no more than 50

Medium

- Annual turnover must be no more than £36 million
- The balance sheet total must be no more than £18 million
- The average number of employees must be no more than 250

The Thresholds can also be seen on the Companies House site using this link

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/life-of-a-company-annual-requirements/life-of-a-company-part-1-accounts>



FINANCIAL DATA & FILING REQUIREMENTS

Which types of company must file financial data?

All Limited companies are required to file their financial information through Companies House. However there are other types of corporations that do not report to Companies House and are governed by the FCA or even their own register. For example, charitable organisations now have their own register where they are required to report their documentation, they are not required to file their information at Companies House.

Are there any filing exemptions and thresholds?

There are certain filing exemptions in the UK that the companies can adhere to and take advantage of should they choose. In the UK Micro and Small companies can take exemption from filing a Profit & Loss account under the companies' act 2006. In addition, Small and Micro companies are not required to carry out an audit, they can choose to carry out an audit if they wish but they are entitled to omit the process altogether.

Unlimited companies

If the unlimited company is a private company it has no obligation to file accounts with its CS01. Although accounts are not required to be filed, it should be noted that, a private unlimited company is required to file an auditor's report and a CS01 (they are separate docs).

Foreign companies

These are all companies that begin with the prefix FC, SF, and NF. These companies are not governed by the same rules and restrictions as other companies. They are unlikely to have a credit rating as they have different rules on directors and filing accounts.

Industrial Provident Companies

An industrial and provident society is an organisation conducting an industry, business or trade, either as a co-operative or for the benefit of the community, and is registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965. The FCA (Financial Conduct Authority) is the registering authority for societies which register under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965 (I&P Act 1965). Industrial and provident are not required to file their documents at Companies House as they are regulated by the FCA (Financial Conduct Authority). Customers can get further information as regards to the industrial and provident company however they will need to contact the financial services authority. Industrial and provident can still file their accounts at companies house however it is not a legal requirement.

Assurance Company

Assurance Companies are a type of company that are specifically related to a type of insurance company. These companies are not required to file their documents at Companies house and therefore we cannot give an assurance company a rating. The company may file accounts at companies house however it is not a legal requirement.



Royal Charter Company

A royal charter is a charter (a type of legal instrument) granted by a Sovereign to create institutions or other forms of incorporated bodies (such as a city, company, or university). In the British legal tradition a royal charter is in the form of letters patent. Historically, royal charters were granted as an exercise of the royal prerogative, and were generally used to confer rights that would today be created by or under statute. At one time a royal charter was the only way in which an incorporated body could be formed, but other means (such as the registration process for limited companies) are generally now used instead. This means the company does not have to adhere to Companies house filing regulations.

How long after the financial year end do companies have to file financials?

Typically, you can work out the correct accounts due date for companies, a standard calculation that is used by Companies House is to take the most recent financial year end from a company's latest accounts and then add 21 months to produce the next due date. This isn't always the case as in some cases a company can apply for an extension, if they have sufficient evidence to confirm the mitigating circumstances for them not being able to file then they can be granted a three-month extension.

What is the penalty for not filing the financial data, and is it likely a company would prefer the penalty rather than filing them?

The level of the penalty depends on how late the accounts reach Companies House and is shown in the following table.

| Length of delay (Measured from the date the accounts are due) | Penalty : Private company | Penalty : Public company |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Not more than 1 month | £ 150 | £ 750 |
| More than 1 month but not more than 3 months | £ 375 | £ 1,500 |
| More than 3 months but not more than 6 months | £ 750 | £ 3,000 |
| More than 6 months | £ 1,500 | £ 7,500 |

More information on late filing can be found looking at the following link:

<http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk/about/gbhtml/gp5.shtml>

It is unlikely that a company would prefer to be late and incur further filing penalties instead of filing, if the company does not choose to file, they will eventually undergo the process of dissolution, a strike off action will be initiated by the registrar at which point the registrar will begin winding down the company and it will be eventually removed from the companies register. Dissolution typically begins when the company is late by 3 months, the registrar will then give the company a total of 3 months in dissolution, if they do not file within this time they are typically removed from the register.

**How did you collect the accounts?**

The accounts are collected directly from Companies House, we receive the image documents directly from Companies House, and our keying analysts then fully analyse and key the information on to the Creditsafe system.

What is the number of companies that must publish accounts?

There are currently roughly 3.7 million active UK companies, all of which would be required to publish financial information at Companies House.

What is the number of companies that can decide to publish or not publish accounts?

The only companies that are registered at Companies House but are not actually required to file and keep to date with their documentation is the “FC” companies. These FC companies are foreign branches that are registered to trade in the UK, it is a requirement for foreign companies to register at Companies House in order to be able to trade in the UK. However as this is only a branch, they would not be required to file their annual documentation and we would always advise to refer to the actual foreign report when making credit decisions for these businesses.

Are the accounts free in this country?

All documentation that is filed at Companies House is free for active companies or companies that have been dissolved for no longer than 10 years. The can be retrieved through the Companies House BETA service <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/> any more historical dissolved companies and their documents would need to be purchased through Companies House as the information is archived.

REGISTERED & LAW INFORMATION

Source: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/46/contents>



FAQS REGARDING UNAVAILABLE INFORMATION

Why does the local score show as inactive, however the report status shows as active?

This can be the case whereby a company is non-trading/dormant. These status are applied when the company is not actively trading, however they would still be considered as active as they are still required to file their documentation at the registrar. Below are some statuses where the score is removed but the company is still active.

Non-Trading and Dormant Company

The term dormant applies to a company that, in legal terms, has no significant accounting transactions during a financial year. It is not the same as a non-trading company, a term that has no legal meaning. No significant accounting transactions means no entries in the company's accounting records. The amount paid for shares when the company is first formed and a few costs that the company may incur in order to keep the company registered at Companies House do not count as significant accounting transactions. A company can be non-trading in the sense that it is not doing business. However, it may still have other accounting transactions going through its books, which means that it is not dormant in a legal sense. A dormant company must not have any accounting transactions except specific allowable transactions that can be disregarded. Dormant or Non-Trading - as the company is non-trading, it is required to file Dormant Accounts annually to Companies House. Dormant accounts show very little financial data except for assets and shares held. If the company becomes active again, it will be required to file normal Annual Accounts again. Due to the lack of financial data, a dormant company will not be assigned a credit score or limit, also there will be little company information.

Financial transactions that do not affect the submitting of dormant company accounts are payment for shares taken by subscribers to the memorandum of association, fees paid for a change of company name, the re-registration of a company and filing of annual returns and payment made because of penalties incurred due to late filing. Dormant company accounts do not have to include a profit and loss account and can be very brief, particularly if the company has been dormant since incorporation. If the company has not traded since incorporation, then form DCA can be used to submit the dormant company accounts.

Analysed - Non balancing

The accounts have been analysed as far as possible but have been found not to balance (Net Assets and Shareholders Funds should be the same). As the accounts cannot be analysed correctly then the company will not be issued with a credit rating. The company will have been referred to CRO/Companies House as a complaint.

**Analysed - Pages missing**

The accounts have been analysed as far as possible but have been found to have some important pages missing. As the accounts cannot be analysed correctly then the company will not be issued with a credit rating. The company will have been referred to CRO/Companies House as a complaint.

Analysed - Query raised

The accounts have been analysed but there is question over the analysis. These companies will often be changed to a live status quickly. If they are not, it is because a query has been raised with CRO/Companies House.

No Rating – Not Analysed – Pages Missing

The accounts have not been analysed due to too many pages missing. As the accounts cannot be analysed correctly then the company will not be issued with a credit rating. The company will have been referred to CRO/Companies House as a complaint.

No Rating – Not Analysed – Documents Illegible

The accounts cannot be analysed because they are either poorly scanned, the accounts have been provided in Irish or in Welsh. This can be checked by looking at the Image document.

Rating Suspended – Negative Press Event

This rating is caused as we are now being pro-active in changing a company's credit rating when it appears in the national press as in administration/liquidation. This should help us in the marketplace. When a company goes into administration it has 14 days to inform its creditors. The company may wait until after those 14 days to advise the official sources we gather the information on. To counter this we will look at reputable news sources for both UK and ROI and try to identify companies that have gone under. We now change the rating once we have two sources showing a company has gone into administration/liquidation.

Winding Up Petition(s)

A Winding up petition is a way of enforcing a judgment after a claim has been won, in an effort to actually get your money. Once the winding up petition has been filled, it is issued against the company and if they fail to pay the outstanding debt then the company will be wound up and dissolved. These are often quickly dismissed; however, they can result in an insolvency if enough creditors support the petition.

Financial Statements Too Old

In line with the registrars guidelines a company will be supplied with a certain due date on which they are required to file their annual accounts. If the company surpasses this date and have not filed their accounts they will be supplied with the above status. This is applied as the accounts in question are now too old to formulate an accurate assessment.

**Dissolution**

Dissolution, also known as a Strike off action is the process of in which the registrar begins to wind down a company and can even eventually remove the company from the registrar. The Registrar will publish a notice in the London Gazette advertising the proposed striking off and inviting objections. In the absence of objections or withdrawal of the application, the Registrar will strike the company off the register not less than three months after the date of the notice. The company is dissolved when the Registrar publishes a notice to that effect in the Gazette.

Why are the headquarters of companies not rated?

This can often occur as regularly companies will incorporate a holding company to be the “Head Quarters”, and these can often be companies that are non-trading entities, thus they are not always provided with a credit score.

Why is there no shareholders information?

There can be several reasons as to why shareholder information wouldn't be available for a business. There is first of all the factor that a company has neglected to include their shareholder information within the documentation that has been filed at the registrar. Also, companies that are certain legal forms do not issue shares and therefore have no shareholders, these include companies such as Limited Partnerships, Limited Liability Partnerships, Private Limited by guarantee without Share Capital Exempt from using “Limited” and Unlimited/No Share Capital.

Why are some reports not available instantly on-line?

The delivery process from the registrar can sometimes take up to 10 working days from when the company is incorporated but are usually delivered well within this time frame. Due to the delivery and refresh of our own records there can sometimes be delay compared to when the report comes available on the registrar.



COUNTRY POPULATION & TRADE DATA

Population

68,332,989

Source - <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/uk-population/>

GDP

United Kingdom grew 4.8% in the second quarter of 2021 compared to the previous quarter. This rate is 64 -tenths of one percent higher than the figure of -1.6% published in the first quarter of 2021.

The year-on-year change in GDP was 22.2%, 283 -tenths of one percent more than the -6.1% recorded in the first quarter of 2021.

The GDP figure in the second quarter of 2021 was \$786,251 million, leaving United Kingdom placed 4th in the ranking of quarterly GDP of the 52 countries that we publish.

Source - <https://countryeconomy.com/countries/uk>

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the United Kingdom was worth 2707.74 billion US dollars in 2020, according to official data from the World Bank. The GDP value of the United Kingdom represents 2.40 percent of the world economy.

Source: <https://tradingeconomics.com/united-kingdom/gdp>

Import / Export

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|---|
| Export goods | Manufactured goods • fuels • chemicals • food • beverages • tobacco | Import goods | Manufactured goods • machinery • fuels • foodstuffs |
| Main export partners | [show] European Union(+) 48.8% United States(+) 18.6% China(-) 3.6% Switzerland(+) 3.1% (2020) ^[21] | Main import partners | [show] European Union(+) 51.2% United States(+) 10.9% China(-) 6.8* Turkey(+) 5.2* (2020) ^[21] |

Source - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_the_United_Kingdom

IMF Economy and Response to COVID-19

Source - <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19#Unitedkingdom>