



UK Export
Finance

Performance Highlights 2015–16

Key facts



We supported **279 companies** this year – **23% more than last year**



77% of exporters benefiting from our support in the UK are **SMEs**



An estimated **7,000 companies** indirectly benefited from UKEF's support in 2015–16 through exporters' supply chains



In 2015–16 we provided **£1.8 billion** of support for exports to **69 countries**



In the last five years we've provided **£15 billion** of support for UK exporters



In total we manage around **£20 billion of financial risk**



We work in partnership with over **70** banks, brokers and other providers to supply export finance and insurance that complements their commercial business



As the **world's first** export credit agency we've been supporting UK exports for nearly **100 years**



UKEF received the **TXF News Exporters' Choice Award** for 2015

Minister's foreword

Lord Price

With its award-winning support for UK exporters, UK Export Finance is ready to play its part in the ambitious whole-of-government push for 100,000 new exporters and £1 trillion of exports by 2020.

Exporting can help businesses grow – and grow fast. The statistics show that in the first two years of exporting alone, a business can grow by up to one third. That means more jobs, more profits, more tax revenue and more benefit to society.

As it approaches its centenary, UKEF is continuing its unique role providing broad shoulders to help UK exporters to win, fulfil and get paid for the overseas contracts that will help them grow.

It also has a 21st century challenge: to meet the ever changing demands of businesses as they seek to compete in a global market place. This will require UKEF to keep pace with digital technology, to show innovation in providing the solutions UK companies

need and to work in partnership across government and the private sector to support exporters.

The recent history of UKEF indicates it is capable of meeting the challenge. It has been recognised for its innovation – its historic sukuk, its direct lending and its support for loans in local currencies all stand out. It continues to grow its trade finance support for smaller companies, with ambitious plans to take this to the next level. Its close working partnership with UK Trade & Investment is stronger than ever. And it is making great strides in developing future digital processes and technology.

I'd like to extend my thanks to all the staff for their hard work and to encourage them to continue challenging themselves to give the best possible support for UK business success overseas.



Lord Price
Minister for Trade and Investment

Award-winning support



From the Chief Executive Louis Taylor



UKEF has now completed the second year of its ambitious three-year business plan, and 2015–16 saw significant progress against our objectives.

As the UK’s export credit agency, we exist to ensure that no viable UK export fails for want of finance or insurance from the private sector. We help exporters access the finance and insurance they need to win export contracts, fulfil them and make sure they get paid. As part of HM Government, we complement, rather than compete with, the private sector, and we do this at no net cost to the taxpayer.

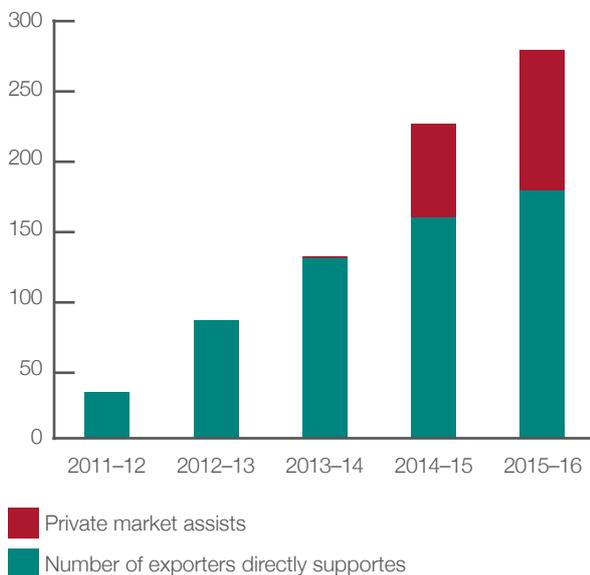
External economic factors in 2015–16 have led to a fall in global demand for all export credit agency support, including UKEF’s. These factors included a slowdown in global growth, a historically low oil price, generally high levels of bank liquidity, a strongly

recovering commercial credit insurance market and a slight increase in bank lending.

Nonetheless, in the past year, we have supported more UK exporters than ever before. We have significantly improved awareness of our offering among exporters and potential exporters. And we continue to meet the financial objectives set for us by HM Treasury.

UKEF’s innovative and flexible support gives UK exporters a huge advantage. And to continue to provide our award-winning support we must also continue to be agile and adaptable, anticipating the needs of exporters and finding ways to meet them. By doing so, as we enter the final year of our 2014–17 business plan, we will be in a strong position to help UK exporters realise the world of opportunity out there for them.

Number of exporters supported



Business highlights 2015–16

UKEF's strategic priorities:



Competitive offering



Agile and adaptable



Customer service and awareness



Great place to work



UKEF supported more than **£800 million** of new UK export contracts via our trade finance and insurance products and issued **£1.8 billion** of export support



Over **£3 billion** of export contracts supported through new trade finance products introduced in 2011 in response to the economic downturn



We reached an agreement with General Electric that was instrumental in the company committing to a significant investment in the UK, with the potential to create **more than 1,000 jobs**



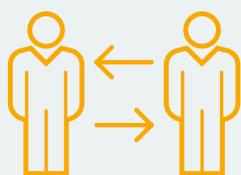
UKEF was the first export credit agency outside China to guarantee a **loan in Chinese currency** (the offshore renminbi), paving the way for UK companies to export more easily to the Chinese market



We reintroduced cover to support UK companies seeking to compete for **business in Iran**



We adopted the **Equator Principles** during the year, alongside our parallel commitment to meet OECD recommended standards



Our export finance advisers held more than **2,500 one-to-one interactions** with UK companies and more than **1,500** with intermediaries this year



We developed detailed **online product guides** to help and encourage bank staff and insurance brokers to use them in support of their clients



The department began development of a **new digital interface** to support customer applications that will be made available in 2016–17

UKEF around the world

Value of support provided: (our maximum liability)
£1.8 bn
Destination countries:
69



Canada
▶ UK steel technology
\$67m loan
steel mill

USA
▶ Coffee filters
Working capital for £82m contract
Union Papertech

▶ Alloy powders
Working capital for £55k contract
LSN Diffusion

Mexico
▶ Crusher equipment
Additional insurance cover
for UK SME

Brazil
▶ UK oil and gas businesses
\$500m line of credit
Petrobras

▶ Triathlon track for Olympics testing
Insurance cover
ES Global

Germany
▶ Survey vessel
Performance Bond Guarantee
To support small UK boat builder

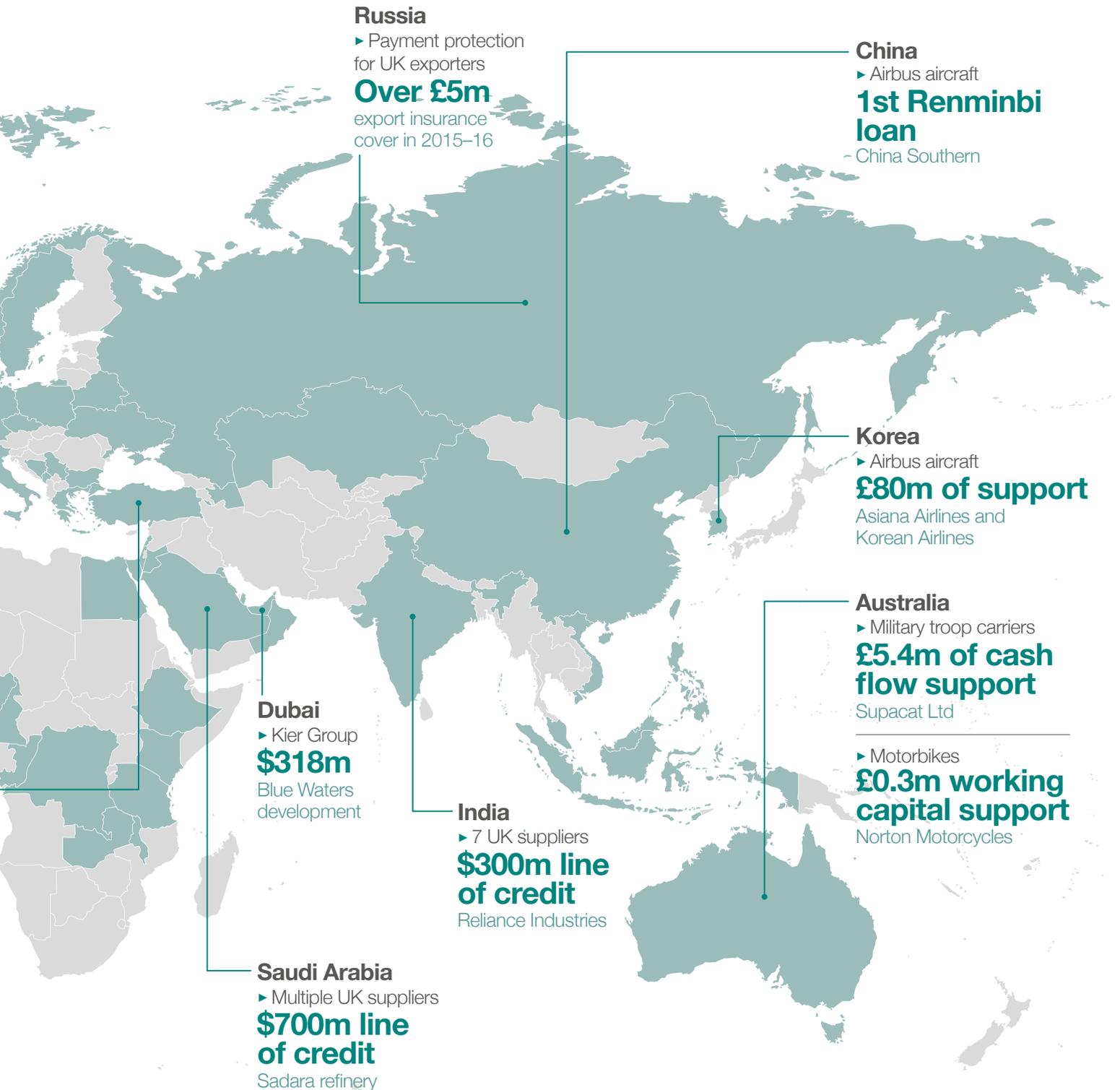
▶ £0.7m Glass coating machines
Bond support
Glasscoat International

Turkey
▶ 2 UK suppliers
€23m loan
Power station

Argentina
▶ £0.4m contract with University of Buenos Aires
Bond support
Phoenix Scientific industries

“ Without UKEF’s support, we would not have had the confidence to fulfil this contract, and we would have had to turn away a high profile customer. Working with UKEF meant that we were able to access the insurance we needed to sell to Brazil and significantly increase our revenue. ”

Olly Watts, Director at ES Global



From the Chief Economist Paul Radford

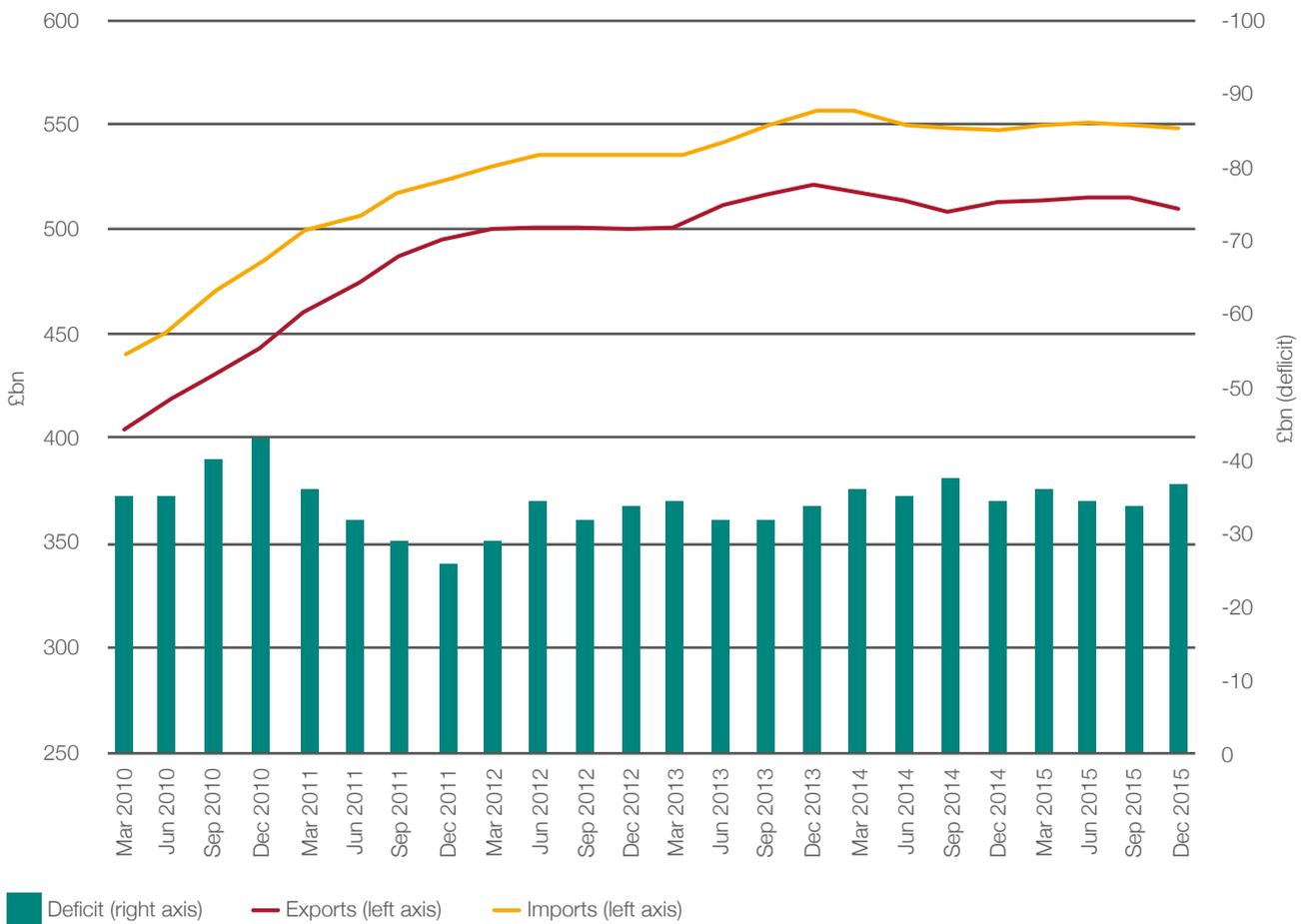


Global economic context

Slowdown in global activity and improved bank liquidity contributed to a reduction in demand in 2015–16. A report by Trade Export Finance (TXF) found that global volumes of all export credit agency deals fell by around a third in 2015 compared to 2014.

World economic growth in 2015 is estimated to have been at around 3.1%, 0.3% lower than the previous year (3.4%). This fall was driven by slower growth in emerging markets and developing economies (which accounted for approximately 70% of global growth), and lacklustre growth in advanced economies.

Rolling annual data: UK imports and exports of goods and services (£bn)

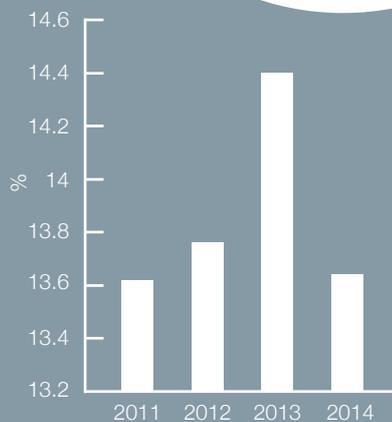


UK exports

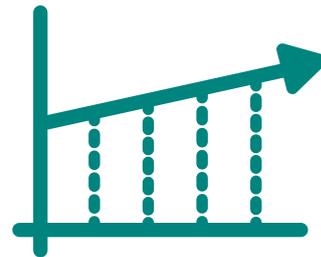


The UK exported £512 billion in 2015, a 0.4% reduction compared to 2014 (£513 billion). The decline in the exports of goods was much sharper at around 3% as a result of lower demand from the EU.

The proportion of UK companies exporting has also shown a downward trend. In the five sectors that received **over 90% of UKEF support**, the proportion of companies exporting fell in 2014. Figures for 2015 are not yet available.



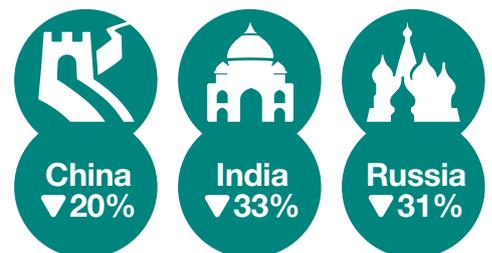
Exports of goods to non-EU countries **grew at a modest 2%** owing to higher demand from countries such as the US and UAE.



However, there were sharp falls in the exports of goods to some of the bigger emerging market economies, for example, goods exports to:

Overall **availability of credit for large businesses remained high** in 2015, increasing for SMEs, suggesting that companies saw some improvement in access to finance.

However, a 2015 survey by the British Business Bank found that 9% of SMEs cited external finance as a barrier to exporting.



All of this emphasises the the need for UKEF to maintain a product suite that can assist exports in all economic weathers.

How we help exporters



Winning export contracts

The attractive financing terms UKEF can offer to overseas buyers of UK goods and services can help exporters make their bids more competitive.

Historic currency boost

Thanks to UKEF, China Southern Airlines was able to access a UK government-guaranteed loan in offshore Renminbi to purchase an Airbus aircraft. This was alongside support for loans in US Dollars, Euros, Swiss Francs and Japanese Yen.

Backing construction

UKEF was able to support Meraas Holding, the project sponsors of the Dubai Blue Waters Island development, with a US\$317.9m loan, enabling UK construction firm Kier Group to win the contract.

Supporting working capital to fulfil orders

UKEF can help companies access the working capital they need to fulfil a contract, giving them the confidence to take on more contracts and increase their turnover.

Securing cash for growth

Dudley-based Glasscoat International was able to secure the working capital it needed from HSBC to fulfil two important export contracts to Germany and Austria, thanks to UKEF's bond support scheme.

Unlocking working capital

With the help of our working capital facility, Swansea-based Unit Birwelco was able to access £2m in working capital to enable them to export industrial heaters to Russia.

Making sure exporters get paid

We can help exporters manage risks in challenging markets, ensuring that they get paid even where the private market is not able to offer insurance.

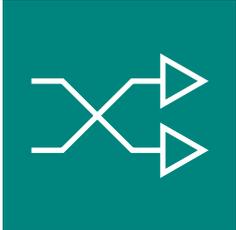
Protecting against risk

UKEF provided export insurance to ES Global Solutions to ensure that it received payment for a £400,000 track for pre-Olympic testing on the celebrated Copacabana beach in Rio, Brazil.



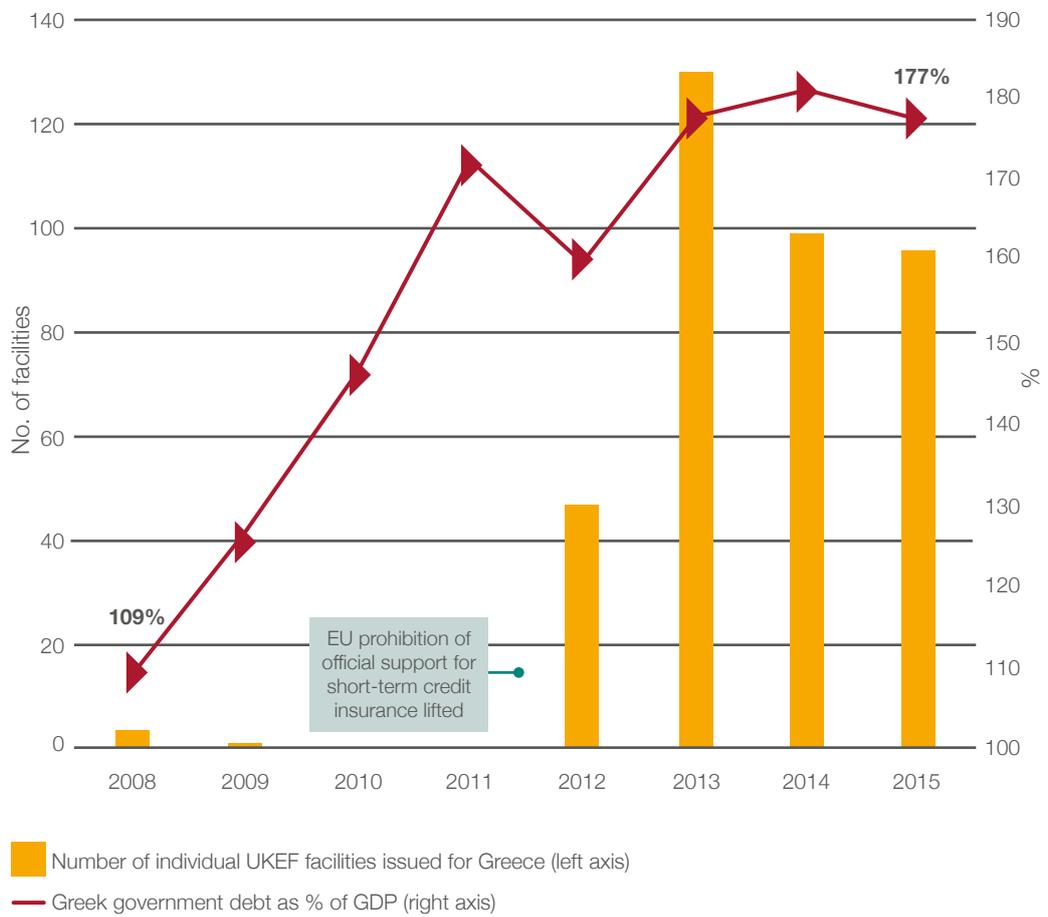
Image GE employee at work in Aberdeen

Managing risk



UKEF provides support through economic cycles and market disruptions. Our role is to step in when the commercial market needs us to help support export business.

Greece provides a recent example:



Many of the loans we support will be repaid over more than 10 years and, in the event of defaults, we will seek to make recoveries. This means that final business losses, as a result of unrecovered claims paid, can take many years to crystallise.

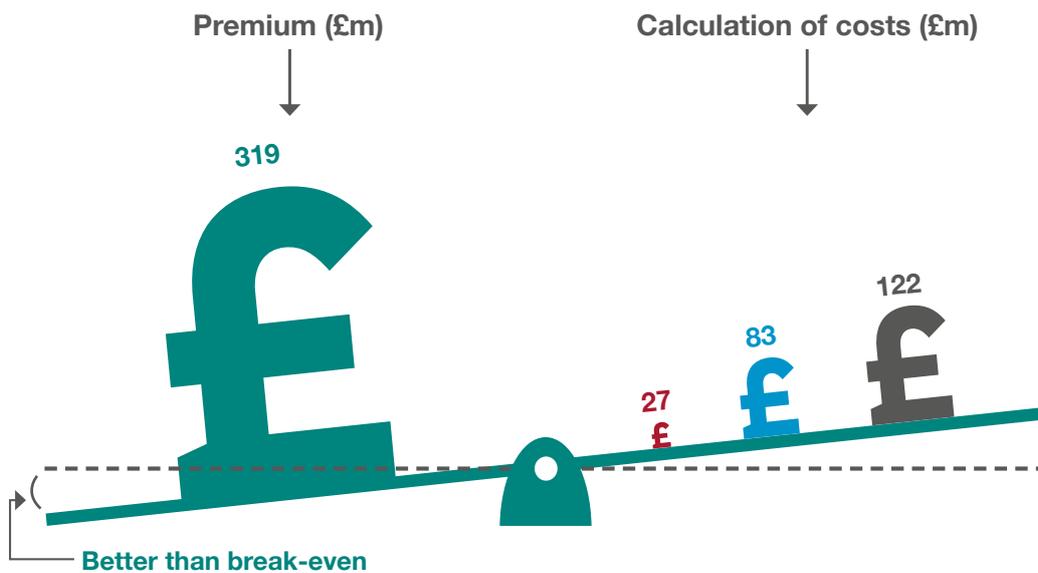
We aim to operate at no net cost to the taxpayer over time, so we charge a premium for each case we support. To make sure we break even over time, we calculate the premium we earn against an estimation of the potential associated risks and costs:

£ – a statistical estimate of potential losses that cannot be recovered

£ – administration costs

£ – a further amount to allow for a portion of unexpected losses

2013 to 2016



We support UK exporter competitiveness by setting the lowest premium rates permissible, subject to meeting our financial objectives and to aligning with our international obligations, most notably the minimum rates set out by the OECD.

UKEF's low rate of new claims is evidence of our strengths in risk assessment and underwriting and the currently benign economic environment.

UKEF's risk management model



Our people



One of our strategic priorities is to ensure UKEF is a great place to work.

It helps that we are unique. Our people can gain experience of working on award-winning transactions, recognised within the financial sector for their innovation. At the same time, they gain experience of working in a central government department, perhaps shaping international policy, or briefing Ministers on export finance – a distinctive position among OECD export credit agencies. This mix of government with a commercial focus offers the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills, and we are committed to doing more to help our staff fulfil their potential.

2015 staff survey results

The 2015 staff survey measured experience at work across nine themes. UKEF’s overall staff engagement score was 58%, in line with the civil service average, and we scored highly in six of the nine areas.



Areas for improvement

Three areas received low scores, which we are now addressing through measures such as staff focus groups, a leadership development programme, and improvements to our benefits package.



Our future

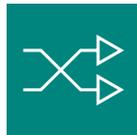
Our mission

To ensure no viable UK export fails for want of finance or insurance, while operating at no net cost to the taxpayer.

Our strategy



Competitive offering



Agile and adaptable



Customer service and awareness



Great place to work

Our priorities for 2016–17



1. Improving our performance through a broader and deeper delivery of our mission



2. Becoming more efficient by continuously improving the way we work



3. Increasing our competence by developing our talent and leadership capability



4. Getting better at teamwork by generously collaborating with partners



5. Promoting our brand by building our reputation and stakeholder awareness

Our key relationships



Banks and alternative finance providers

Work more closely with banks, speeding up applications and improving awareness of our support.



Customers

Make it easier than ever for companies to access our support, with an online application service and enhanced business development.



Government

Continue to collaborate across government to raise awareness of UKEF support, working as part of the Exporting is GREAT and other campaigns.



People

Restructure our business group so resource can be deployed more quickly and invest in learning and development for staff and leadership.



UK Export Finance

Our mission is to ensure that no viable UK export fails for lack of finance or insurance, while operating at no net cost to the taxpayer.

We are a government department and the UK's export credit agency, complementing rather than competing with the private sector.

Contact a UKEF export finance adviser in your region for a free and independent consultation.

Our regional Export Finance Advisers are located across the UK. They are the first point of contact for guidance.

Search online for UKEF to find out more.
Or contact our national customer service helpline:

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