

Capital Markets in the UK Key Performance Indicators

December 2025

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Executive Summary

This report is an extension of the eighth edition of AFME's annual Capital Markets Union: Key Performance Indicators report, which tracks the development of the European capital markets ecosystem. The purpose of this report is to assess the UK's progress in enhancing and expanding its capital markets against a set of benchmark indicators.

We group our eight indicators into four areas which seek to measure the various features needed to develop an efficient, deep, and interconnected capital market, namely:

1. Access to capital
2. Availability of pools of capital for investment
3. Transition to sustainable finance and digitalisation
4. Efficiency of capital markets ecosystem and integration

We compare the evolution of the UK's capital market, according to our indicators, with other global regional peers such as the United States (US), China, the European Union (EU), Japan, Australia, and some selected EU Member States.

Key Findings

The United Kingdom's capital markets have long stood as a global financial hub and as an engine for growth. As 2025 comes to an end, this report offers an assessment of the current shape of the UK's capital markets, drawing on a range of key performance indicators that demonstrates the UK's strengths and challenges.

Over the past three years, UK corporates have consistently raised a substantial share of their funding through public markets, notably due to record bond issuances, with levels of total market-based finance rivalling those of the United States. Yet, this does not show the complete picture. The UK's IPO activity has come under continued pressure over the same period, with fewer (at times zero) new listings and a longer-term trend of delistings. Over the last 9 years, there has only been one year (2021) where the number of new listings has been greater than companies leaving public markets.

The report also looks at the critical role of risk capital in funding the next generation of UK companies. While the UK remains a leader in pre-IPO funding compared to many European peers, the gap with the US has widened, and the ability of small and medium-sized enterprises to access equity risk capital remains an important challenge to the UK economy. The rise of UK Unicorns and scale-ups illustrates the country's entrepreneurial dynamism but also highlights the growing tendency for high-growth firms to remain private for longer, delaying the benefits of public market participation.

Household investment patterns continue to undergo a transformation. The decline in pension and annuity values, coupled with a shift away from bonds and toward cash holdings, reflects both the current macroeconomic climate in the UK and changing attitudes toward long-term savings.




Sustainability and innovation are at the heart of the UK Government's Growth and Competitiveness Strategy for the financial sector. The ESG finance indicator reveals both the challenges and opportunities of green finance, as recent noticeable declines in ESG investment flows demonstrate. Meanwhile, the UK's fintech sector continues to thrive, though its leadership is increasingly concentrated in traditional activities, with next-generation innovations such as bond issuance through Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) and Tokenisation are often led by international competitors.

Finally, the UK's role as a global financial hub remains strong and world leading, accounting for 17% of the world's financial services exports. However, this share has declined over the past decade, highlighting the need for continued adaptation and innovation to maintain the UK's competitive edge.

This report is intended not only as a snapshot of where we stand today, but as a call to action for policymakers, market participants, and stakeholders across the financial system. By looking at the current conditions across several markets, we can support not only the sector's ongoing success and importantly its ability to address the objectives set forth by the Government and Regulators in support of UK growth.

Overview of indicators and ranking of the United Kingdom

Table 1: Comparison of United Kingdom Capital Markets Against Key Performance Indicators

	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>UK</i>	<i>US</i>	<i>China</i>	<i>EU</i>	<i>DE</i>	<i>FR</i>	<i>NL</i>
Access to capital 	Market Finance							
	NFC Equity and Bond issuance as % of total NFC annual financing	30%	30%	21%	13%	11%	23%	17%
Pools of investment capital	Pre-IPO Risk Capital							
	Equity crowdfunding, Business Angel Growth Private Equity investment, and venture capital investment as % of GDP	0.5%	1.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Transition to sustainable finance and digitalisation 	Household Market Investment							
	Household financial assets saved in financial instruments (listed equity, bonds, funds, pensions, and insurance reserves) as % GDP*	122%	332%	52%	94%	103%	101%	164%
Efficiency of capital markets ecosystem, integration and competitiveness 	ESG Finance							
	ESG bond issuance as % of total bond issuance	4.3%	0.8%	2.0%	10.7%	8.3%	11.9%	17.8%
	FinTech							
	Composite indicator of funding for FinTech companies, talent pool, regulatory environment, and innovation. Range 0-1	0.33	0.21	0.16	0.16	0.21	0.19	0.18
	Loan Transfer**							
	Securitisation issuance and loan portfolio transactions as % of outstanding bank loans	1.9% Inc-SRT	7.5% Inc-SRT	0.8% Inc-SRT	1.7% Inc-SRT	2.6% Inc-SRT	0.5% Inc-SRT	1.9% Inc-SRT
		1.8% Ex-SRT	7.5% Ex-SRT	0.8% Ex-SRT	1.6% Ex-SRT	2.6% Ex-SRT	0.4% Ex-SRT	1.7% Ex-SRT
	Global cross-border Finance							
	Financial services exports (% world's total)	17%	25%	4%	17%	5%	4%	3%
	Global equity footprint							
	Market capitalisation as a % of world's total	3.4%	54%	10%	15%	3%	3%	1%

*Data as of 2025H1 except for the Household Market Investment Indicator which is based on Q1 2025 data.

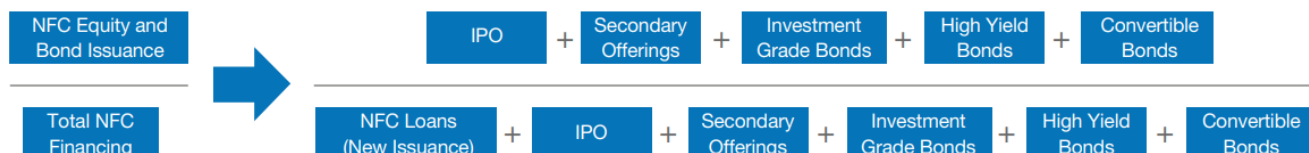
**US Indicator includes Agency securitisation issuance. SRT volumes represent the tranche value of risk transferred, rather than portfolio notional volumes.

ACCESS TO CAPITAL



1. Market Finance Indicator

The Market Finance Indicator measures the capacity for companies to raise finance on public markets. The indicator achieves this by quantifying the proportion of total finance for non-financial corporates (NFCs), which is provided by capital markets instruments (equity and bonds). The indicator is calculated as annual gross NFC equity and bond issuance as a percentage of the sum of annual gross lending (new loans) to NFCs and equity and bond issuance.

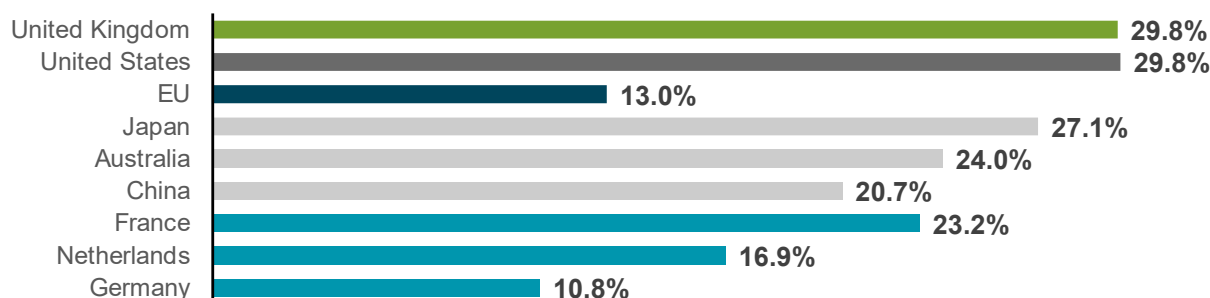


UK corporates continue to access high levels of market-based debt, due to record bond issuance

UK capital markets continue to be a regional and global hub for capital market funding. Over the past 3 years, UK corporates have raised over a quarter of their funding via public markets, with a record-breaking amount raised through bond issuances. Levels of capital market funding in the UK match those found in the US with around 30% of funding coming from public markets, although this figure has remained at 2024 levels through the first half of 2025. More UK businesses continue to use capital markets for a significant share of their finance needs compared to other European countries, with the UK raising a far greater proportion of their financing needs from public markets compared to France, the Netherlands and Germany.

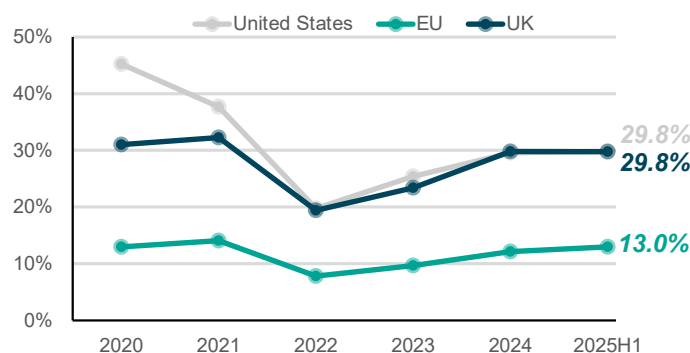
1.1 2025H1 Market Finance Indicator by country

Corporate bond and equity issuance as % of total corporate financing



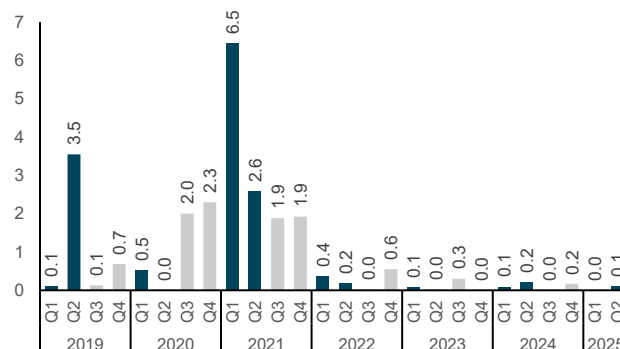
Source: Dealogic, US FED, ECB, BoE, and other European central banks

1.2 Market Finance Index (NFC equity and bond issuance as a % of total NFC annual financing)



Source: Dealogic, US FED, ECB, BoE, and other European central banks

1.3 UK IPOs (£bn)



Source: Dealogic. IPO volumes include SPACs.

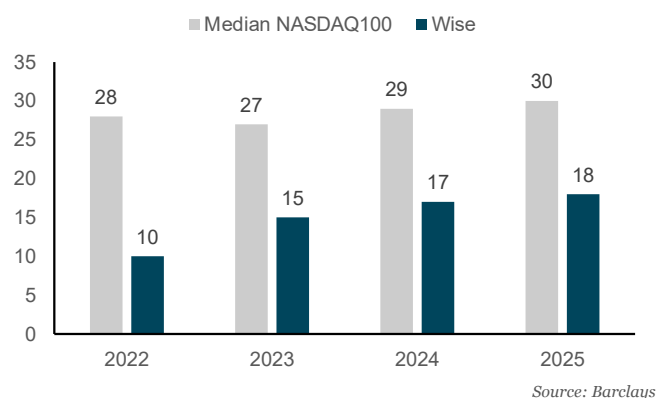
UK IPO Market at historic lows through the first half of 2025

The UK, long regarded as the leading hub for European IPOs thanks to its deep liquidity and the prominence of the London Stock Exchange, has seen an unprecedented decline in activity in recent years. Historically, London has

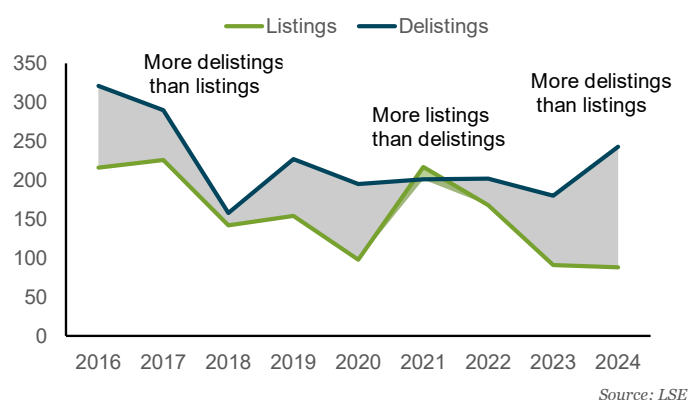
attracted the majority of listings across Europe, but recent trends suggest its dominance could be under threat. In the first half of 2025, the UK recorded fewer IPOs than several other European markets, including Sweden, Spain, the Netherlands, Germany, and Greece, a reversal that highlights the severity of the slowdown across UK primary markets.¹

Compounding this challenge, delistings have continued to outpace new listings. Over the last 9 years, there has only been one year (2021) where the number of new listings has been greater than companies leaving public markets.

1.4 WISE analyst coverage



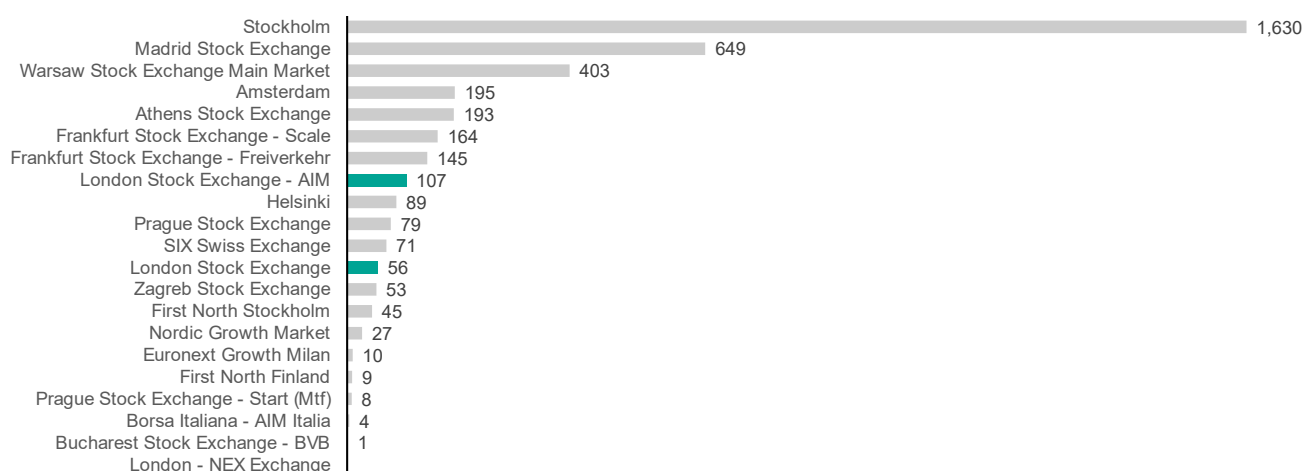
1.5 LSE Listings and delistings



Delisting from the London Stock Exchange is increasingly common due to undervaluation and perceived regulatory hurdles and reporting burdens (although this is changing with the Primary Market Effectiveness Review and the Prospectus and Admission to Trading Reforms). UK-listed firms often feel their shares trade at a discount compared to those in the US, while domestic institutional investment has declined, reducing market depth. Brexit-related uncertainty and shifting investor preferences towards high-growth sectors like technology have further weakened London's appeal. Many UK companies also opt to stay private for longer, accessing alternative sources of funding.

A visible case of this trend is Wise, a major UK fintech, which announced plans to transfer its primary listing from the UK to a US exchange while retaining a secondary listing in London. The rationale includes higher valuations, deeper capital pools, and enhanced liquidity in the US market. Wise also expects strategic benefits such as improved analyst coverage (see chart 1.4) and a stronger profile in its largest growth market. Shareholder approval for the move was overwhelming, despite governance debates over dual-class shares which further illustrates the perceived advantages of a US listing.

1.6 IPO Proceeds by listing market (2025 YtD, GBP mm)

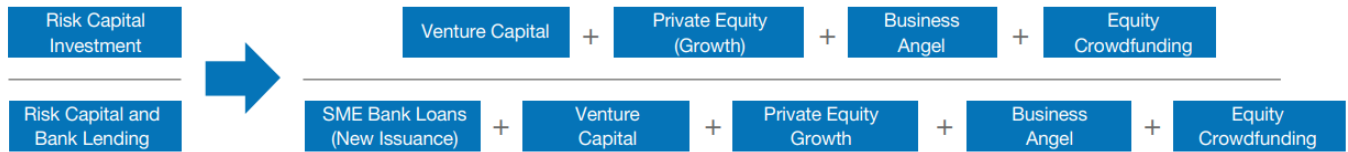


Source: Dealogic

¹ It should be noted, and although not covered in this report, the second half of 2025 has seen renewed activity in the IPO landscape in the UK. This includes high-profile IPOs such as Metlen Energy & Metals, which transferred its primary listing to London with an initial market cap of €6.7bn, and The Beauty Tech Group, which raised £106m. Food and beverage company Princes Group and digital bank Shawbrook also announced UK listings which will be reflected in next year's KPI report.

2. Pre-IPO Risk Capital Indicator

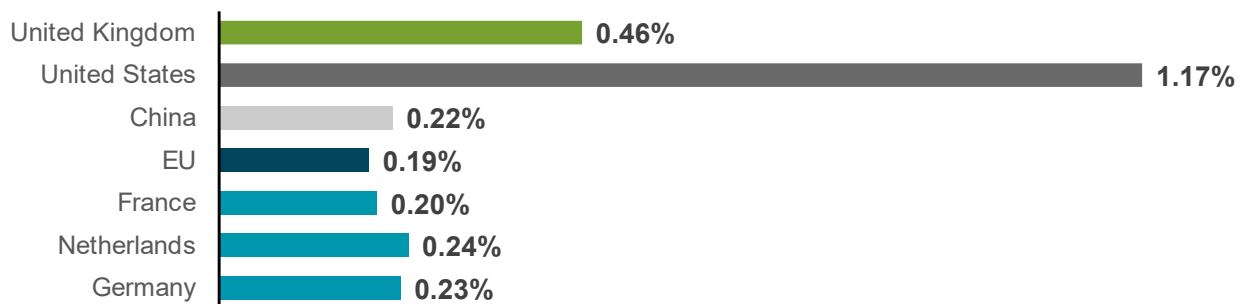
The pre-IPO risk capital indicator measures the capacity of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to raise equity risk capital from private markets. The indicator is measured as a ratio of the flow of equity risk capital investment relative to GDP.



UK risk capital continues to be underdeveloped compared to the US

The capacity of small and medium-sized enterprises to secure equity risk financing is pivotal in aiding new ventures to grow, thereby driving employment and economic expansion. Compared to 2024 the gap between the UK and US in risk capital funding in GDP terms has increased by 0.71%, with the US enjoying nearly double the volume of investment as the UK.

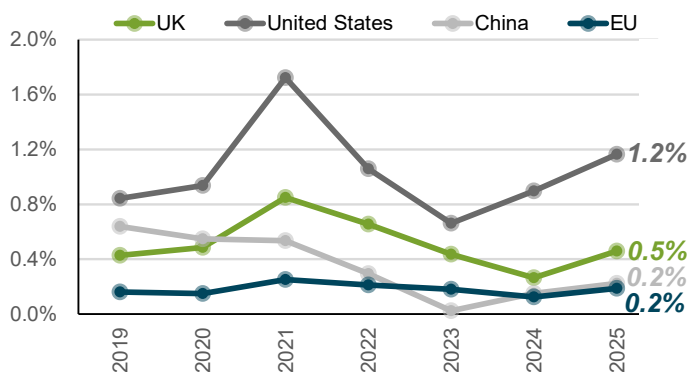
2.1 Venture capital, private equity (growth), business angel and equity crowdfunding investment (2025, %GDP)



Source: EBAN, Invest Europe, LSEG, and Dealroom

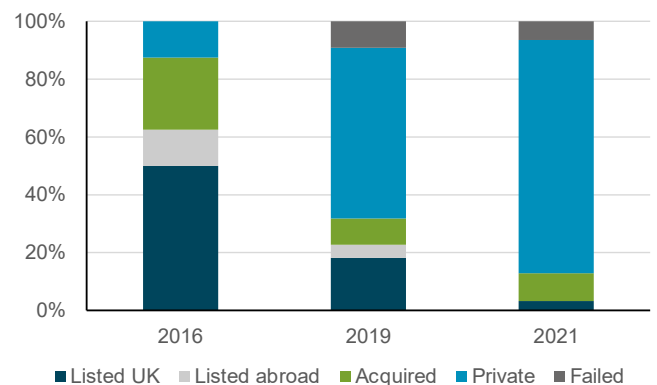
While the UK still enjoys a comparative advantage when comparing the levels of pre-IPO funding to the EU as a whole, the gap has reduced when comparing the UK to France, or the Netherlands. The US, already a leader in equity risk financing, continues to grow and consolidate its position in this space, with a notable divergence since 2023.

2.2 Evolution of Pre-IPO Indicator: (investment from VC, Growth PE, Business angel and equity crowdfunding as % of GDP)



Source: EBAN, Invest Europe, LSEG, and Dealroom

2.3 Evolution of company status of UK unicorns 4Y after

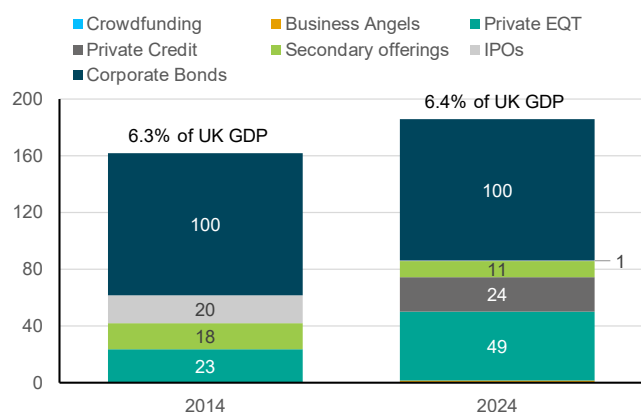


Source: AFME from multiple sources

Unicorns are increasingly attracting substantial amounts of private capital, enabling them to remain private for longer and delay public listings. This trend marks a sharp contrast with earlier years: of the Unicorns identified in 2016, 60% had gone public within four years. In comparison, only 22% of the 2019 cohort had listed within the same timeframe, and less than 5% of the 2021 cohort, with the vast majority still privately held.

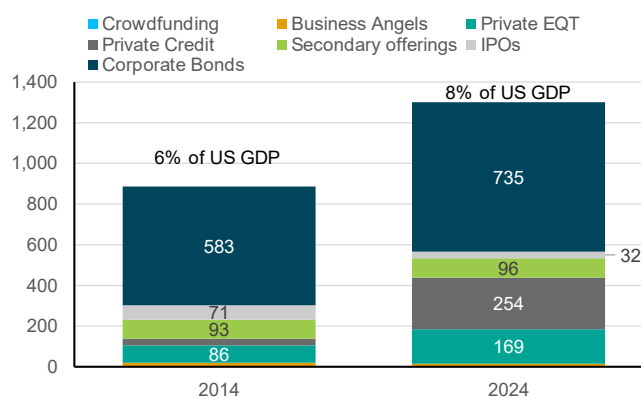
Scale-ups play a critical role in the UK economy, contributing approximately 3.2 million jobs nationwide according to the ScaleUp Institute. The 55 UK Unicorns alone employ around 85,000 people globally, which highlights their economic significance.

2.4 Breakdown of UK risk capital by category (£bn, at 2024 prices)



Source: EBAN, Invest Europe, LSEG, and OCTUS

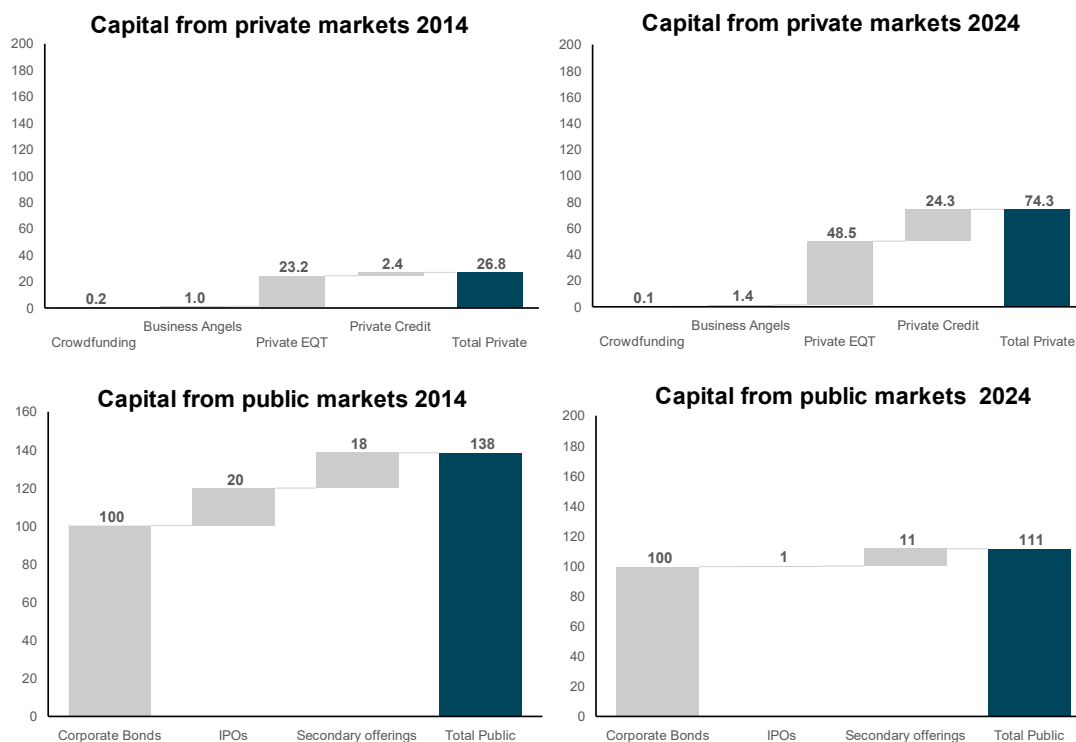
2.5 Breakdown of US risk capital by category (£bn, at 2024 prices)



Source: LSEG, Prequin, and OCTUS

The composition of capital markets in the UK has shifted notably over the past decade. While overall capital has remained relatively stable at around 7.5% of UK GDP, the balance between public and private markets has changed. Private capital has grown substantially, whereas capital raised from public markets has declined. Bank financing, however, has remained broadly unchanged, with corporate lending holding steady at approximately £300 billion per year, which is comparable to 2014 levels once adjusted for inflation.

2.6 Capital from UK public and private markets (2014 vs 2024, £bn)



Source: EBAN, Invest Europe, LSEG, and Dealroom

POOLS OF CAPITAL



3. Household Market Investment Indicator

The household market investment indicator measures the availability of savings from retail investors to invest in capital markets instruments. This ratio is estimated as household financial assets (excluding cash, deposits, and unlisted equity) as a percentage of GDP. The asset classes aggregated as “Household financial assets” in this indicator include listed equity shares², investment fund shares, bonds, life insurance reserves and pension fund holdings.

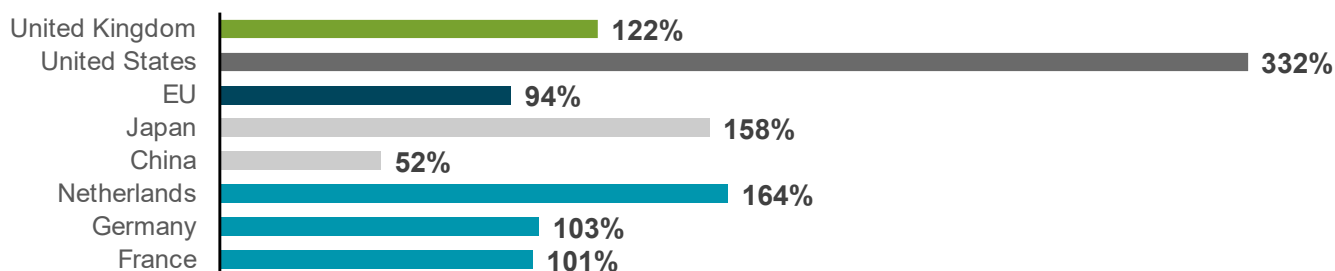


Savings in capital markets instruments continues to decline

UK households still have a deep pool of savings invested in capital markets instruments with the equivalent of 122% of GDP invested in listed equity, bonds, investment funds, or insurance and pension products.

This remains above household investment in France and Germany; however, UK household financial assets have experienced a significant decline, driven primarily by falling values in pensions and annuities. Within pensions, private defined benefit (DB) schemes have notably underperformed compared to defined contribution (DC) asset pools. According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS), this decrease was concentrated in private sector DB schemes, except for a small proportion of schemes with fewer than 2,000 members and was largely attributable to losses in “equity” and “other” fund categories. The latter likely reflects private equity investments, which saw an 8% drop in value.

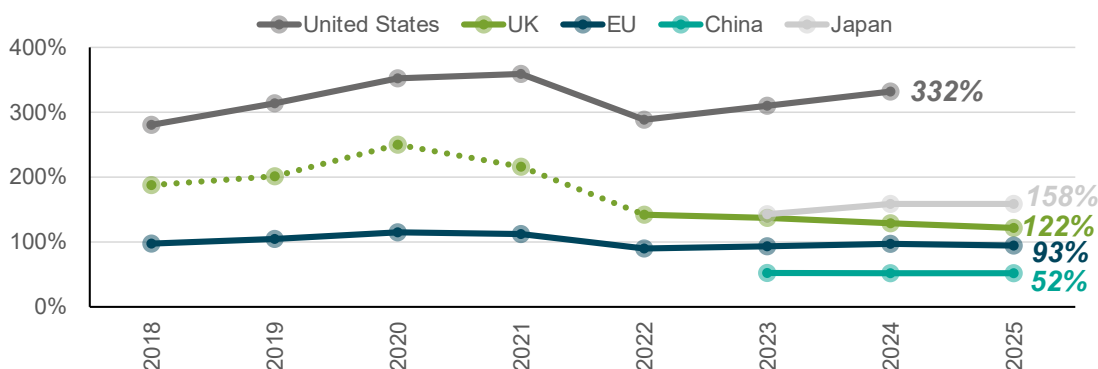
3.1 2025 Household Market Investment Indicator: household market financial assets (listed equity, bonds, funds, pensions, insurance reserves) as a % of GDP



Source: Eurostat, US FED, and OECD

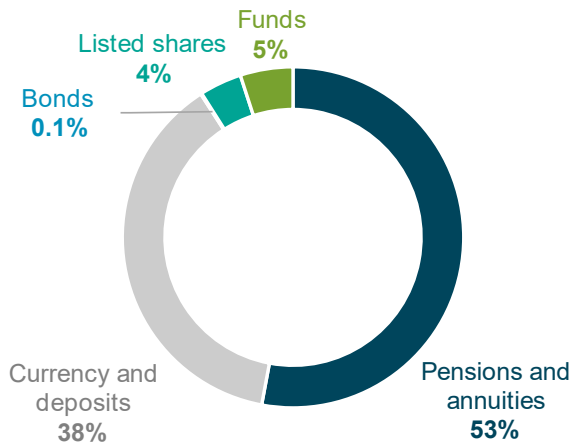
In contrast to the US, cash holdings represent a substantially larger share of UK household financial assets. UK households continue to hold a significant proportion of cash compared to other investment types.

3.2 Household Market Investment Indicator: Household savings in market instruments as % of GDP



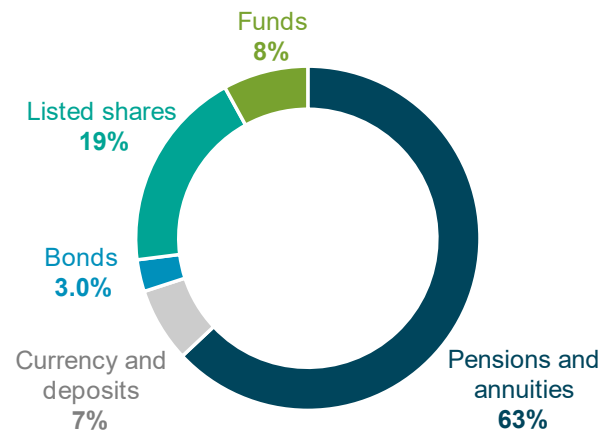
Source: Eurostat, US FED, and OECD. UK dotted line reflects previous ONS methodology which might not be comparable with data from 2022 onwards

3.3 UK: Composition of household financial assets



Source: ONS

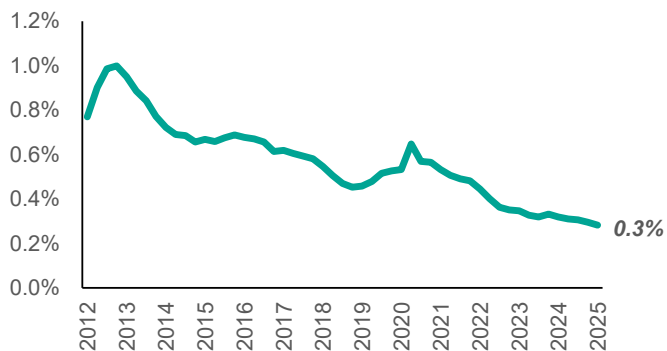
3.4 US: Composition of household financial assets



Source: US FED FRED

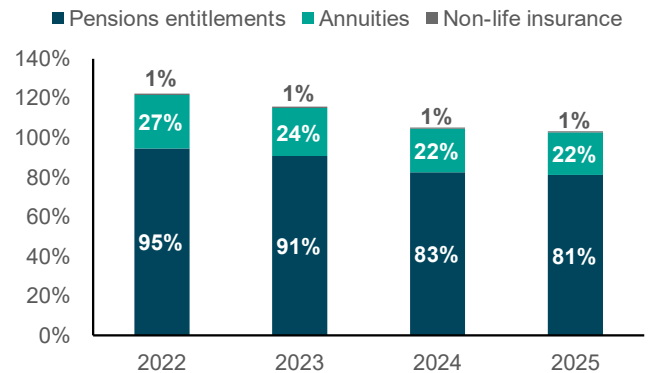
Meanwhile, household's bond holdings have steadily declined over the past 15 years, both in nominal terms and as a proportion of household assets and GDP.

3.5 Bond holdings by UK households (as a % of GDP)



Source: ONS

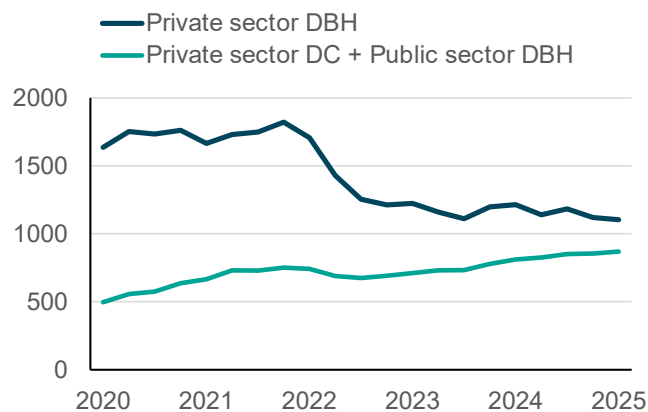
3.6 UK Household pensions, annuities, and insurance assets (as a % of GDP)



Source: ONS

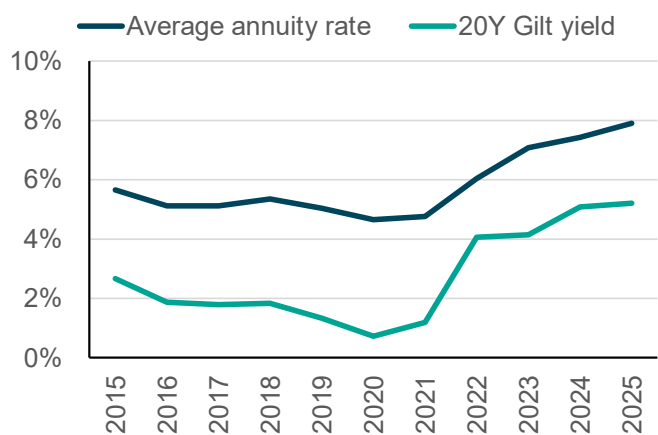
Annuities have suffered as long-term gilt yields have risen sharply over recent years, reducing the market value of existing investments in this space. Historically, annuity pricing has been closely correlated with gilt yields because providers match long-term liabilities with corresponding assets for asset-liability management purposes. Lower annuity values (and the higher cost of purchasing new annuities) pose challenges for retirees seeking to sell existing annuities or for individuals approaching retirement who now need to accumulate more assets to secure adequate income.

3.7 Market value of UK funded occupational pension schemes: Defined Benefit and Defined Contribution plans (£bn)



Source: ONS

3.8 UK annuity rate and 20Y Gilt yield (%)



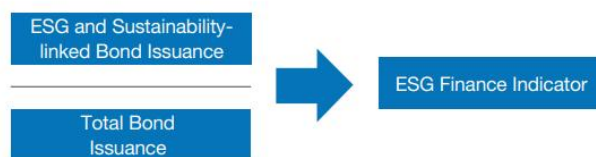
Source: Standard Life and LSEG

TRANSITION TO SUSTIANABLE FINANCE AND DIGITALISATION



4. ESG Finance Indicator

Funding a sustainable transition to net-zero is a cornerstone of future growth. This indicator seeks to quantify the labelling of ESG bond instruments and is estimated as a ratio of issuance of ESG bond instruments (corporate, government, municipal, agency, securitisation, and covered bonds) relative to total bond issuances. The definition of ESG is based on the Climate Bond's Initiative proceeds-based criteria (green, social, and sustainable).

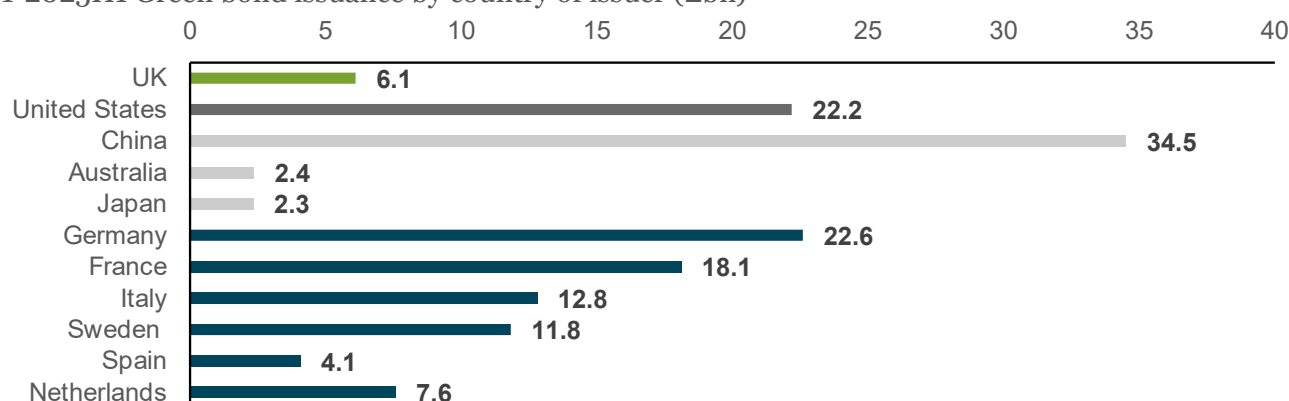


A substantial decline in green issuances

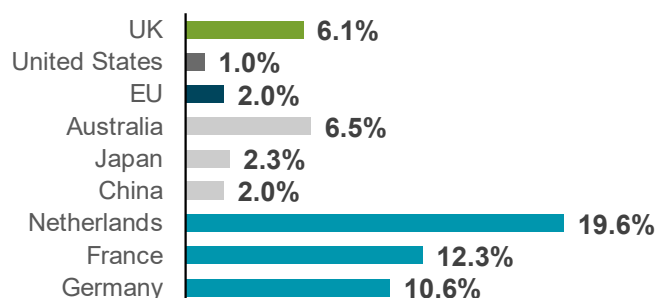
The UK's position in green bond issuance is now relatively low compared to global peers, with a downward trend over the previous 4 years. At just €6.1bn in green bond issuance in the first half of 2025, the UK now trails far behind major economies such as China (€34.5bn), Germany (€22.6bn), and the United States (€22.1bn). Even countries with historically smaller financial markets outperform the UK by a wide margin.

This sharp contrast highlights a significant decline in ESG activity in the UK, from a peak of 8% in 2021 in the proportion of ESG bonds relative to total bond issuance to 4.3% in 2025.

4.1 2025H1 Green bond issuance by country of issuer (£bn)

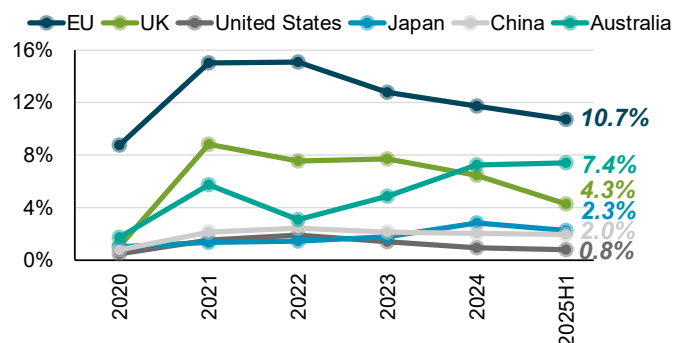


4.2 ESG Indicator (3Y average)



Source: CBI, Dealogic, ECB, SIFMA, and AFME

4.3 ESG Indicator evolution (2020-2025H1)

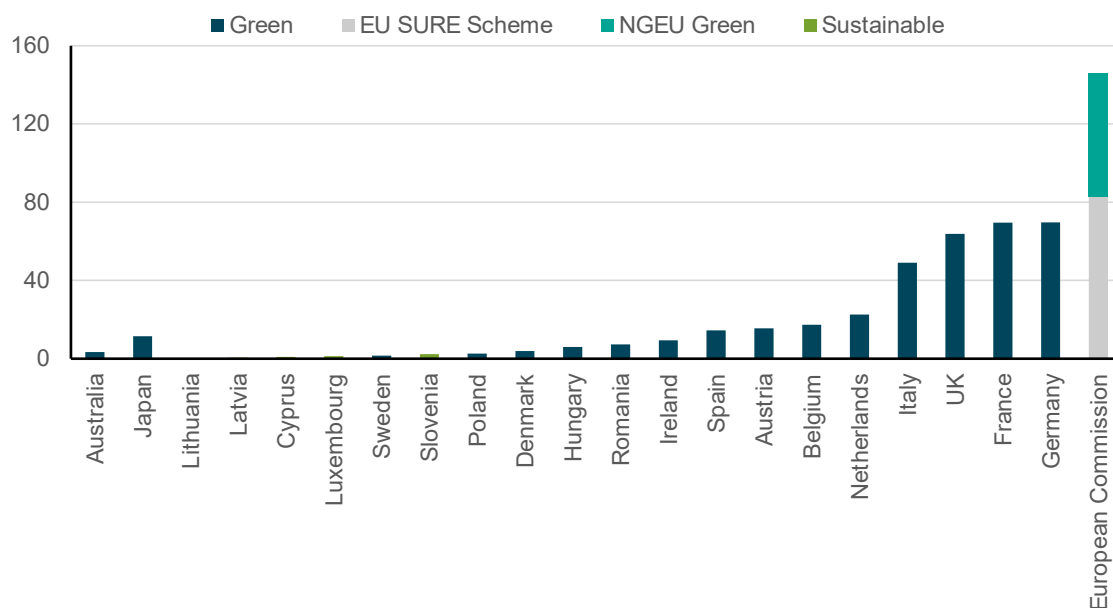


Source: CBI, Dealogic, ECB, SIFMA, and AFME

Published this year, the UK Government's Financial Services Growth and Competitiveness Strategy confirms the commitment to maintaining the UK's position as a global leader in sustainable finance. With 3 years of declining issuances and a 3-year average below many European economies, renewed focus on this market will be needed to reverse current trends.

More encouraging is the level of outstanding ESG government bonds, where the UK marginally trails behind France and Germany.

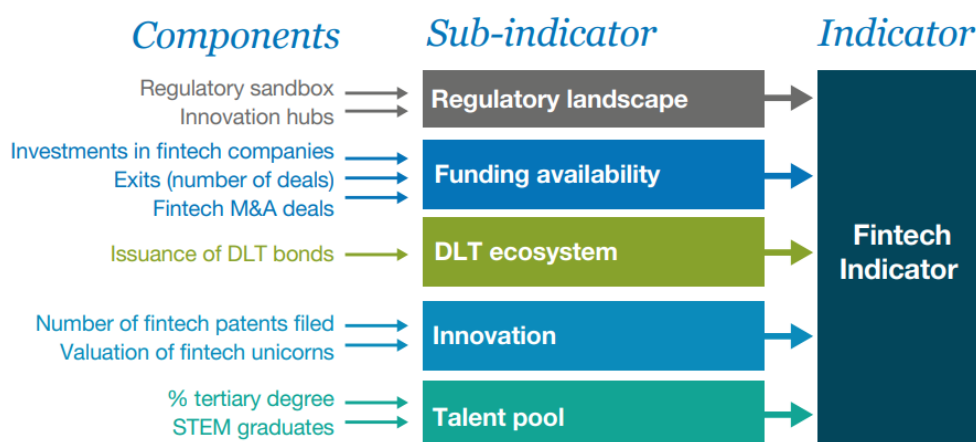
4.4 Outstanding ESG government bonds by country as of 2025H1 (£bn)



Source: CBI, Dealogic, LSEG, AFME

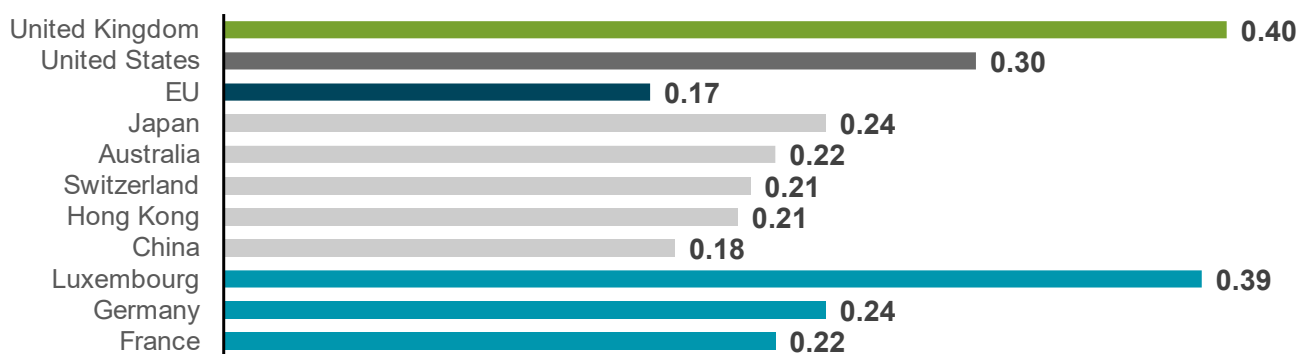
5. FinTech Indicator

The FinTech Composite Indicator seeks to evaluate countries by their capacity to host a fintech ecosystem. The indicator is constructed based on four sub-indicators: (i) regulatory landscape; (ii) availability of finance for companies; (iii) degree of innovation; and (iv) talent pool. Each of the four sub-indicators is composed of individual metrics as illustrated in the figure below:



The FinTech Indicator highlights that the United Kingdom is both a global and regional centre for FinTech companies, surpassing other major economies such as the United States, China, and the European Union. This leading position is underpinned by several key factors, including the generation of innovative ideas evidenced by company patents, the presence of numerous FinTech unicorns valued at over \$1 billion, a supportive regulatory framework, a strong talent pool, and substantial funding available to the sector.

5.1 FinTech Indicator (0: Min, 1: Max): Composite indicator based on regulatory landscape, funding availability, innovation, and talent pool (3Y average)



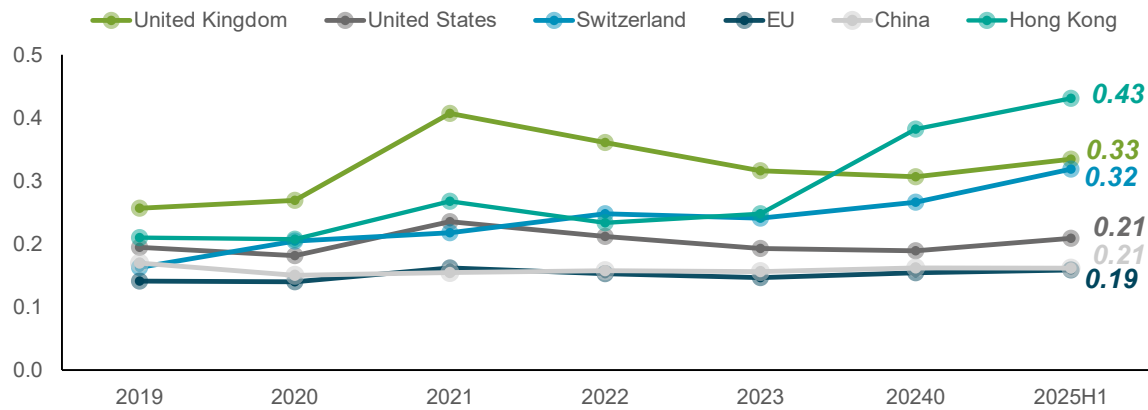
Source: AFME

Nevertheless, recent figures suggest a decline in the UK's global standing as measured by our indicator (see chart 5.2), attributed by reduced funding volumes for FinTech firms and a significant increase in DLT issuance observed in other countries.

Distributed ledger technology (DLT) issuance in the UK has been relatively slow, though the prospect of a digital gilt represents a positive step forward.

5.2 Evolution of FinTech Indicator (0: Min, 1: Max)

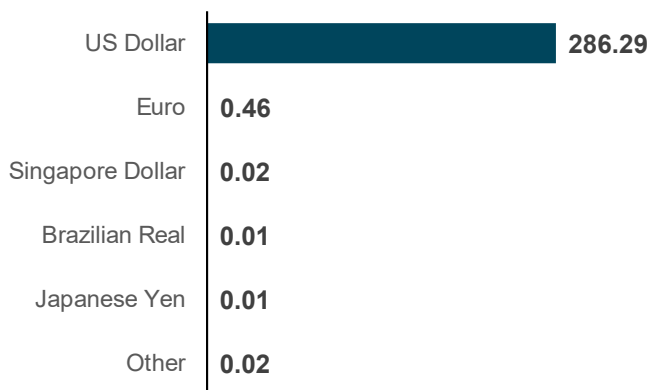
Composite indicator based on regulatory landscape, funding availability, innovation, and talent pool



Source: AFME

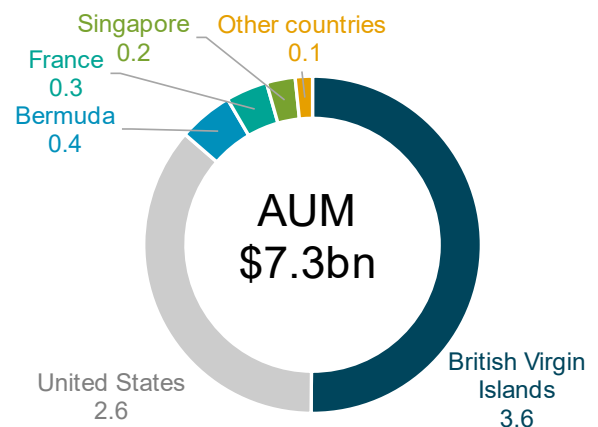
The UK once held a leading position in FinTech, reaching its peak around 2021. Since then, its share has declined and settled at a lower level. It is important to recognise that after 3 years of decline in the FinTech indicator the UK has shown an increase over the past 12 months for the first time since the peak in 2021.

5.3 Top Stablecoins by Market Cap and Asset (Sep 2025, \$bn)



Source: RWA.xyz

5.4 AuM of Global Tokenised Funds by Issuer Domicile in 2025 YtD



Source: RWA.xyz

Stablecoins remain a marginal feature of the UK market. Globally, 99% of stablecoins are denominated in US dollars, while in Europe, nearly all are issued in euros. UK-based participants have only a minor presence, reflecting the dominance of foreign issuers and the lack of domestic scale.

Similarly, tokenisation efforts in the UK are minimal and clearly overshadowed by US-led initiatives such as Tokenised Funds (see chart 5.4). Despite growing interest in digital assets and tokenised securities, UK market participants have yet to establish a significant role in developing this trend.

INTEGRATION AND EFFICIENCY OF CAPITAL MARKETS ECOSYSTEM



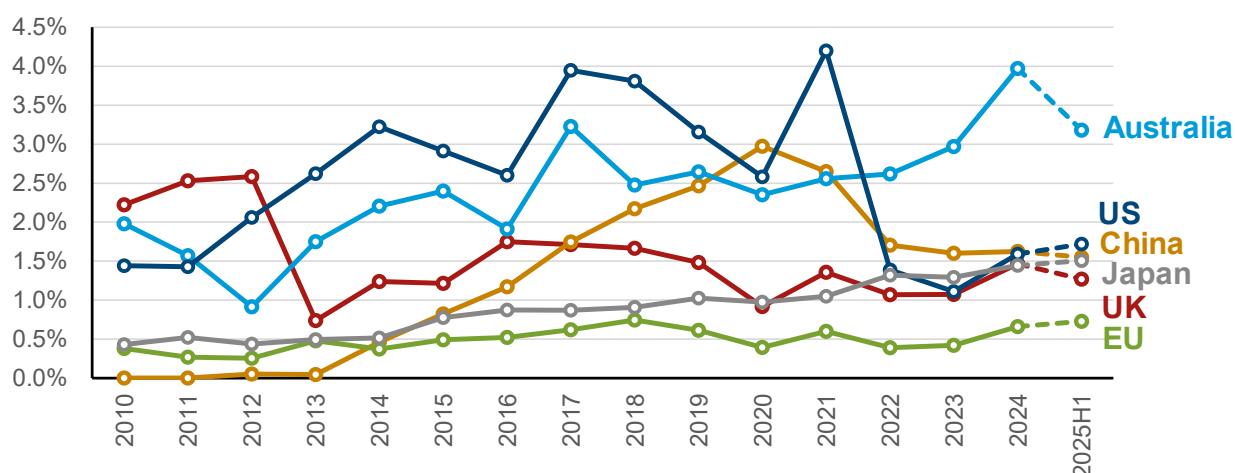
6. Loan Transfer Indicator

The Loan Transfer Indicator measures the capacity to transform bank loans into capital markets vehicles. The transformation of loans is crucial for enabling additional lending to the real economy by freeing up bank balance sheet capacity.

The indicator is estimated as a ratio of securitisation issuance (placed and retained) and loan portfolio sales relative to outstanding loans to businesses and households.



6.1 International securitisation issuance (2010-2025H1, % GDP. Excludes US agency issuance)

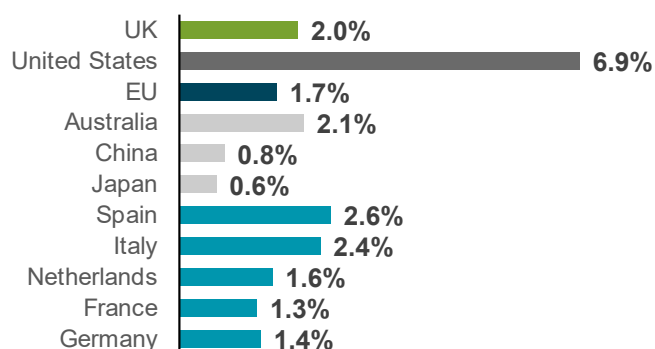


Source: AFME, SIFMA, Bank of America, JP Morgan, NAB (National Australian Bank), Macquarie, S&P, World Bank, IMF. US and Australian volumes include ABS, RMBS, CMBS and CDO. US volumes exclude Agency issuance. Australian volumes include ABS and RMBS. European volumes include placed issuance only. This is a flow measure and quantifies new issuance in a given year as a proportion of GDP. Securitisation issuance in 2025 estimated via the annualisation of 2025H1 issued volumes. Latest GDP data is as of 2024FY, with calculations for 2025 estimated using IMF GDP growth figures.

International securitisation issuance as a share of GDP shows stark regional differences over time. Australia has consistently led the market, peaking at above 4% in 2021 and maintaining strong levels into 2024, far ahead of other jurisdictions when excluding the US government-sponsored mortgage-backed securities market.

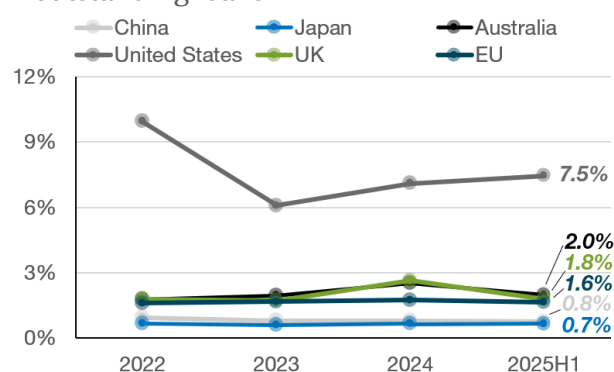
The US market (outside the government-sponsored market) has been volatile, peaking in 2021 when the ABS market played a key role in the post-pandemic recovery, before falling sharply and partially recovering over the last three years. China demonstrates a clear upward trajectory from near zero in 2010 to around 2% by 2020, though growth has since plateaued. Japan remains relatively stable, while the UK and EU have persistently lagged, with the UK only edging up to around 1% and the EU staying below that throughout the period.

6.2 Securitisation and loan portfolio sales as % of outstanding loans (3Y average)



Source: AFME, SIFMA, ECBC, FDIC, ECB, US Fed, Bank of America, JP Morgan, Debtwire, Deloitte, and React News. US indicator includes Agency securitisation issuance volumes.

6.3 Securitisation and loan portfolio sales as a % of outstanding loans

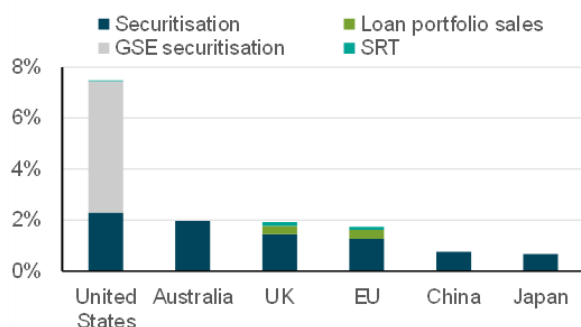


Source: AFME, SIFMA, ECBC, FDIC, ECB, US Fed, Bank of America, JP Morgan, Debtwire, Deloitte, and React News. US indicator includes Agency securitisation issuance volumes.

As shown on chart 6.2, over a three-year average, the UK ranks mid-tier in securitisation and portfolio sales as a percentage of outstanding loans, at 2.0%, behind Italy and Spain (at 2.6% and 2.4% respectively and far below the United States at 6.9% once including the government-sponsored agency market. Other European markets such as Germany, France, Spain, and the Netherlands sit between 1.3% and 2.6%. This indicates that while the UK is ahead of some continental peers, it is significantly behind the US in terms of market depth and activity.

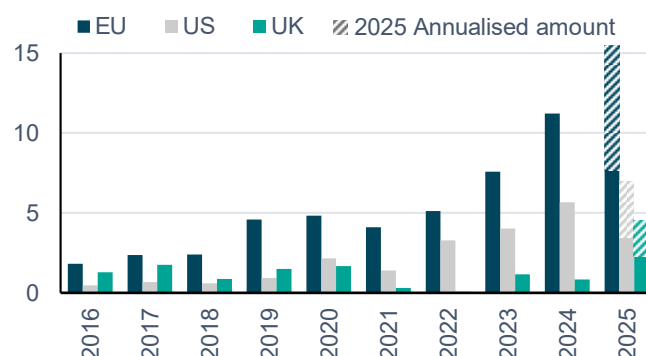
Looking at recent trends, the gap is even more pronounced. In 2025H1, the United States leads with 7.5%, while the UK remains flat at 2.0%, alongside the EU at 1.6%. Australia and China trail further at 0.7%. This suggests that the UK's securitisation market has not gained momentum in recent years, reinforcing concerns about its ability to compete with the US and other markets. The contrast between historical averages and current performance highlights a structural challenge for the UK in scaling securitisation activity.

6.4 2025H1 Securitisation, SRT and loan portfolio sales as a % of outstanding loans



Source: AFME, SIFMA, ECBC, FDIC, ECB, US Fed, Bank of America, JP Morgan, Debtwire, Deloitte, and React News, SCI, RTRA. SRT volumes represent the tranche value of risk transferred, rather than portfolio notional volumes.

6.5 SRT Global comparison: issuance in selected regions (€bn, by tranche value)



Source: SCI, RTRA. SRT volumes represent the tranche value of risk transferred, rather than portfolio notional volumes.

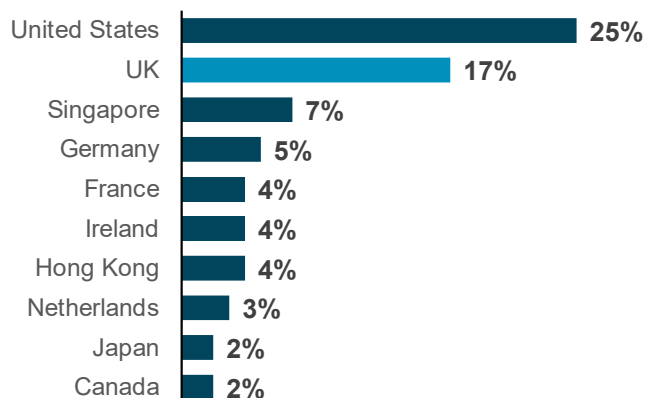
The dominance of the United States in securitisation activity, with issuance close to 8% relative to the amount of outstanding loans, stands far ahead of all other markets due to the large contribution of the Government sponsored market as shown on chart 6.4. Australia follows at around 2%, while the UK and EU sit in the mid-tier at roughly 1.5–2%, with only marginal contributions from loan portfolio sales and SRT transactions. China and Japan remain at the bottom, with negligible activity.

Figure 6.5 shows annualised SRT issuance trends from 2016 to 2025, revealing strong growth particularly in the US and EU. By 2024, US volumes exceed €11bn, and EU issuance approaches €8bn, whereas the UK remains below €3bn. The projected 2025 annualised figures widen this gap further, with the US expected to surpass €14bn in 2025, the EU around €10bn, and the UK trailing at approximately €4bn.

7. Cross-Border Finance Indicator

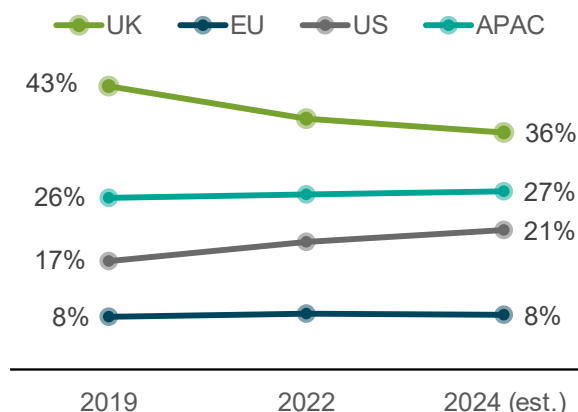
The UK remains a major global hub for financial services, but its position has not evolved significantly over the past two decades. While financial services continue to dominate, other professional services activities, such as legal, accounting, and consulting, are steadily gaining a larger share of total services exports, according to official trade data from the ONS.

7.1 Financial services exports (% of world's total)



Source: UNCTAD

7.2 Global FX trading by region (% of world's total)



Source: BIS

Despite this shift, the UK is still the world's second-largest exporter of financial services, accounting for 17% of global exports, behind only the United States at 25%. However, this share has declined from 21% in 2011, reflecting a gradual erosion of the UK's global market position over the last decade and a half. Over the same period, the US has strengthened its participation, widening the gap between the two leading financial centres.

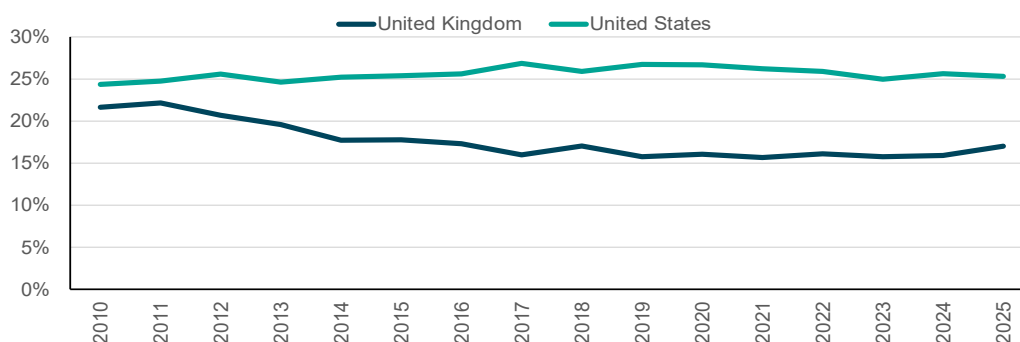
7.3 UK financial services exports

Source: ONS



Notably, the City of London highlights in analysis conducted this year that the UK remains the world's largest net exporter of financial services on a net basis (measured by the total value of its exports minus the total value of its imports). This underscores the sector's enduring importance to the national economy even as competitive pressures mount and diversification within services trade accelerates

7.4 Financial services exports (as a % of world's total, 2010-2024)



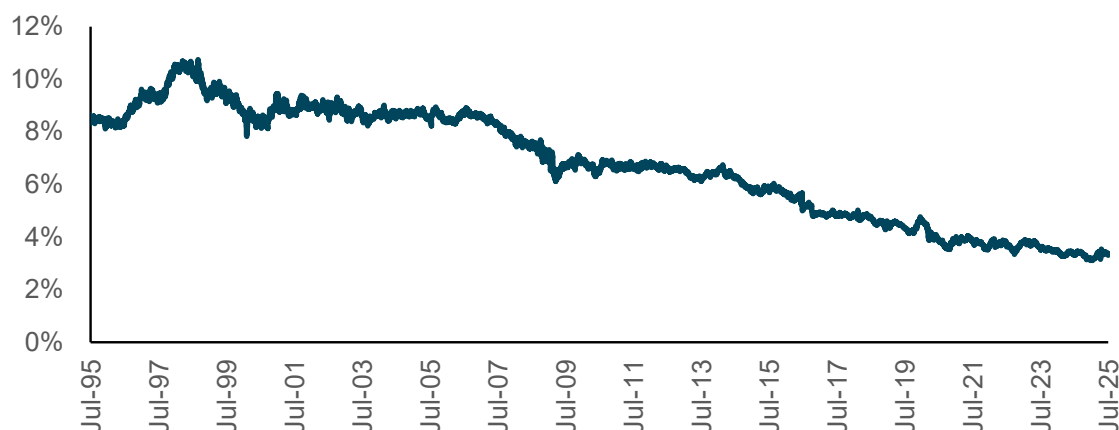
Source: UNCTAD

8. Global Equity Footprint

The global equity footprint is a simple ratio of market capitalisation of listed shares relative to the world's total market capitalisation.

The purpose of the indicator is to keep track the degree of competitiveness and global relevance of the various primary and secondary equity markets.

8.1 Market capitalisation of UK listed shares as a % of world's total



Source: LSEG

The UK's share of global market capitalisation has fallen dramatically over the past three decades. In 1990, UK-listed shares represented around 10% of the world's total, but this has declined steadily to just 3.4% in 2025, as shown in the long-term trend chart. This trend contrasts sharply with the United States, which has expanded its position from 30% in 1990 to 54% today, and with China and Hong Kong, which have grown from near zero to 10%. The EU has also maintained a relatively strong position at 15%, while Japan has dropped from 35% to 6%. India and the rest of the world have seen modest gains.

8.2 Market capitalisation by geographic region as a % of the world's total

	1990	1994	2024	2025
United States	30%	35%	54%	54%
Japan	35%	32%	6%	6%
United Kingdom	10%	9%	3%	3%
EU	20%	17%	13%	15%
China & HK	1%	2%	10%	10%
India	0%	1%	4%	4%
RoW	4%	4%	10%	8%

Source: LSEG

This persistent decline highlights the UK's diminishing role in global equity markets. Despite its historical prominence, the UK now accounts for a fraction of global capitalisation, raising strategic concerns about competitiveness, attractiveness for listings.

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