

learn your world the united kingdom

To support your global practice, ACC *Docket* offers country-specific fun facts from your peers who've been there – literally.

Economy

GDP (current US\$)
\$2,472 trillion (2012)

GDP by composition:
Agriculture: 0.7%
Industry: 20.8%
Services: 78.5% (2012 est.)

GDP in 2013 Q3:
GDP increased by 0.8%
in Q3 2013, compared
with Q2 2013.

Forecast

The Centre for Economic and Business Research forecasts that Britain is on track to overtake France and Germany to become the biggest economy in Europe by 2030.

Corruption

According to Transparency International's "2013 Corruption Perception Index," the United Kingdom is the 14th "cleanest" (i.e., least corrupt) country out of the 176 that were scored.

Additional resources:

Office for National Statistics
(www.ons.gov.uk/ons/index.html)

UK Parliament
(www.parliament.uk)

UK Legislation
(www.legislation.gov.uk/)



LONDON, ENGLAND FEB 13: THE FAMOUS LEADENHALL MARKET © STUART MONK


There are many odd laws on the English statute book that have yet to be repealed. For instance, it is illegal to enter the Houses of Parliament wearing a suit of armour, and it is illegal to beat or shake any carpet or rug in any street, although you'll be relieved to know that shaking a door mat is allowed before 8 AM. It has been asserted that it is legal to shoot a Welshman with a bow and arrow inside the city walls of Chester after midnight, although, if true, this is likely to now be over-ruled by European Union law. If you do visit London, then ensure that you don't break the Metropolitan Police Act of 1839 by carrying a plank along a pavement, flying a kite, playing annoying games or by sliding in the snow.

Apart from the obvious assessment of law firms based on how good they are, there appears to be a strange obsession with rating law firms in the UK based on the quality of the cookies on the conference table at client meetings. Currently, Clifford Chance, Wragge and Co, and Kirkland Ellis seem to be doing well on this particular measure.

DON HUGHES, GENERAL COUNSEL, EMEA, HITACHI DATA SYSTEMS CORPORATION

In the UK, the in-house culture is very much a "can do" culture — reflecting the needs of the UK business culture. There is appreciation of the need to get things done quickly, efficiently and pragmatically in order to meet the deadlines of the business. Those in-house lawyers who are most successful are also able to communicate with brevity and to focus on the top (business) line. In addition, the ability to adapt, apply and align with business processes in Legal is increasingly a necessary part of the role of all in-house teams.

JANICE MORE, VICE PRESIDENT, EUROPEAN GENERAL COUNSEL, H. J. HEINZ FOODS UK LIMITED



**“IT CAN HELP
ANY GENERAL
COUNSEL
SAVE MONEY.”**

JENNIFER NICOLITZ
LAW LIBRARIAN, FIDELITY NATIONAL FINANCIAL
JACKSONVILLE

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