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# Impact of UK–India Trade Relations on India’s Textile Exports to the United Kingdom (FY2013–14 to FY2023–24)

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**ABSTRACT:** Year by year, trade links connecting the UK and India guided fabric exports from India to British markets across eleven financial years. Data drawn directly from official sources - including reports filed by the Department of Commerce and the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics - supported every observation. Measurements expressed in crores of Indian rupees became the foundation for scrutiny, handled systematically using custom-built Python scripts. Patterns emerged only after thorough number crunching, not before. Structural changes slowly revealed themselves alongside movement trends and hints about expansion. Every annual cycle unfolded on its own terms, examined without preset conclusions shaping interpretation. What shifted, what held steady, showed clearly when seen over time.

Step by step, the study divides time into four phases: pre-Brexit, post-referendum, pandemic peak, and early recovery. Growth climbed consistently until 2017–18 - then began a gradual decline. Even though exiting the EU did not cause immediate damage, its effect crept in slowly, weakening progress over time. In contrast, the worldwide health emergency arrived abruptly, pulling figures sharply downward - and those lower levels remained fixed well beyond the initial shock.

Fragility abroad often hits export flows - changes in governance, disruptions to production chains, setbacks tied to domestic resilience all weigh heavily. Staying resilient isn’t only about enduring turbulence; clarity in regulations together with broader market reach sustains performance amid worldwide instability.  
India UK textile trade after Brexit and pandemic

## I. INTRODUCTION

Factories hum to life when countries exchange goods, their engines fed by international demand. Beyond borders, economic ties strengthen as shipments move back and forth. In India, producing textiles for foreign buyers sustains livelihoods while filling national accounts with outside earnings. Long-standing but far from faded, the textile sector threads through society - beginning at cotton fields, winding past spinning mills, ending in boutiques and markets alike.

Finished clothing now joins cotton on ships bound for Britain, a shift fueled by closer links between nations. Not only does London take cut-and-sewn pieces today, but regulations grow stricter each season - traceability, fire standards, clear tags become non-negotiable. After the UK left the EU, freight paths trembled; soon after, a global illness scrambled timelines beyond repair. These upheavals failed to halt exports completely, still they triggered holdups, added inspections, steeper expenses along the way. After both disruptions ended, a single truth emerged - the former flow of exports has collapsed. Instead of familiar routes, fresh systems face redefined boundaries, sudden medical warnings, red tape unlike anything encountered earlier. Steadiness no longer stems from routine; it rises from how quickly production sites shift during crisis nights. Still, United Kingdom purchasers look back toward India’s textile plants once reserves shrink. Today, what counts exceeds mere pace - it lives in reliable outcomes despite endless shifts.

Surprising turns marked export patterns, not steady progress. Policy decisions shifted trajectories before global events bent them further. Though worldwide disruptions mattered, changing UK–India trade links weighed equally. Outcomes unfolded unlike earlier forecasts suggested they would. Twists emerged where external pressures met altered pathways. Unexpected pauses in global flows created stress at unpredictable times. At the same time, agreements between pairs of nations shifted economic landscapes without fanfare. As a result, those forces nudged results off their usual path.



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Earlier trends reveal that impact flowed in more than one direction. Because of such dynamics, exchange developed in lopsided fashion.

### II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Back then, research highlighted trade liberalization, global agreements, and domestic policies reshaping India's textile industry. Shifts tied to economic reforms emerged clearly in Ramaswami's work from 2008, also echoed by Tewari in 2006. International accords - particularly the WTO garment pact - meant stiffer competition; adaptation became necessary. Firms responded not by choice but necessity, improving methods under pressure.

What catches attention lately is how much non-tariff measures count, particularly in regions like the United Kingdom. Earlier work by Saini in 2009 pointed out that strict regulatory demands tend to hurt export performance, largely due to higher compliance costs. Meeting those requirements goes beyond forms and filings - it affects actual market access. Meanwhile, examining global production networks uncovers a subtler truth: strong results stem not so much from low-cost supplies but from integration into wider industrial chains.

A fresh look at commerce linking India and Britain shows shared agreements steer product flows. However, deep dives into specific sectors stay uncommon - textiles adjusting to events such as Brexit or virus closures stand out here. Filling this gap, the present effort offers a structured review laid out by phase.

### III. METHODOLOGY

Time reveals patterns that guide this study. Drawn strictly from official sources, data come mostly from institutions such as the Department of Commerce and DGCI&S. Numbers on Indian clothing exports to the United Kingdom grow detail by year. Continuous records span the period between 2013–14 and 2023–24 without gaps. Evidence within these values informs each point made ahead.

Looking at export value first sets the stage, followed by annual differences along with typical movements over time. Using Python brought structure - pandas managed missing entries, numpy tackled calculations, whereas visual plots emerged through matplotlib.

Outside events shape the study's timeline, divided into four phases: pre-Brexit, post-vote, pandemic period, and aftermath. To explore these, researchers followed trends, assessed pace shifts, while contrasting one phase with another. Each stage gets examined through movement over time, rate analysis, alongside cross-period checks.

### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 4.1 Trend Analysis

Early in the data, Indian fabric shipments to Britain sparked rapid expansion. By 2017–18, totals had surged - reaching close to ₹76,518 crore. Strong appetite met favorable conditions during that phase. Markets happened to be open at just the right moment.

Far beyond the peak, overseas deliveries began a gradual slide downward. Right after the pandemic struck, declines turned much sharper - persisting even later on - shaping a distinct shift from growth into ongoing contraction.

#### 4.2 Growth Rate Analysis

Imagine those early days - export figures leaping sharply, mainly due to tiny starting values. Speed defines that phase more than anything else. Still, once the decision passed, shifts arrived gradually, much like a vehicle slowing on a rising road. Expansion continued, although its pace weakened across years. The drive lessened but never fully disappeared.

Worldwide, growth began slipping soon after the outbreak struck - disruption spread quickly. Though activity improved a little later on, confidence never fully returned. Recently, figures have remained negative, suggesting challenges go beyond temporary setbacks.



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### 4.3 Phase-wise Analysis

Even when split apart, the figures reveal how exports changed under different conditions. Following the vote, average shipments reached their highest level, suggesting resilience despite uncertain policies. Yet expansion began to weaken afterward, signaling a loss of momentum. What made this period distinct was stability rather than increase. Though output did not climb, it managed to stay steady.

Though exports remained stable during the pandemic, movement lost momentum once global operations stalled. Following that pause, figures declined steeply - sliding in worth and growth rate - as underlying challenges emerged into view.

### 4.4 brexit and pandemic impacts

Soon after Brexit, export performance showed little drop. Instead, growth continued rising in the period following the public vote. Still, momentum gradually weakened - suggesting evolving regulations quietly influenced trading patterns over time.

When the pandemic hit, exports fell sharply. With production delays came shipping disruptions. As demand shrank, international flows of goods weakened further. Though limits eased, movement across borders stayed low for some time. A hint of slowness pointed to changes running below the surface. As conditions shifted, trading behaviors evolved - persisting even after restrictions faded.

## V. CONCLUSION

India's textile shipments to Britain rest not mainly on political goodwill, but rather on disruptions in production networks coupled with changing buyer demand. While relations between the two capitals offered occasional support, their impact weakened once stronger economic currents pulled elsewhere.

Things started slipping when Brexit made trading uncertain. Then came the pandemic - sudden, sharp, dragging export figures into decline. When lockdowns ended, the fall didn't stop. That lingering slump suggests more than bad timing: markets changed, rivals grew stronger, buyers wanted different goods.

When markets move quickly, figuring out effective approaches becomes key. Readiness for shifts helps maintain export momentum. Over time, handling stress well proves valuable.

## VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

Exports grow partly because staying ahead counts more than most admit. Because progress waits for no one, firms dive into fresh technologies - this strengthens their position overseas just like sharpening everyday skills does. Slow shifts in how things are made often go unnoticed yet shift outcomes later on. Even small changes in methods add up when standards rise. Rules shape choices; strict checks reshape strategies whether anyone likes it or not. Beyond wealth, access shifts - especially across Britain's landscape. In affluent zones, hidden lines form, quietly guiding opportunity toward some, away from others.

A single market dependency weakens under pressure. Diversifying trade routes cushions impact when worldwide changes occur unexpectedly. Resilience grows where supply chains absorb shocks without collapsing. Resource-efficient practices support endurance during extended strain. Adaptability shapes lasting performance more than short-term volume ever does.

## VII. LIMITS AND WHAT FOLLOWS

Even with current data available, the study relies on annual updates - too slow for rapid shifts. Down the road, better insights may come through updated reports, while watching exchange rates alongside production expenses might add clarity.

Every now and then, fresh data points help highlight trends - especially when matched with more precise analysis techniques. When global events unfold, export figures tend to waver; deeper scrutiny can pull apart cause from effect.



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Rather than sweeping assumptions, targeted approaches uncover real drivers behind trade shifts. Right after new policies take hold, cargo movements may reflect adjustments almost immediately, visible only through close monitoring.

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