

**Key Indicators Report** 

# **UK's Global Gateway**

September 2022

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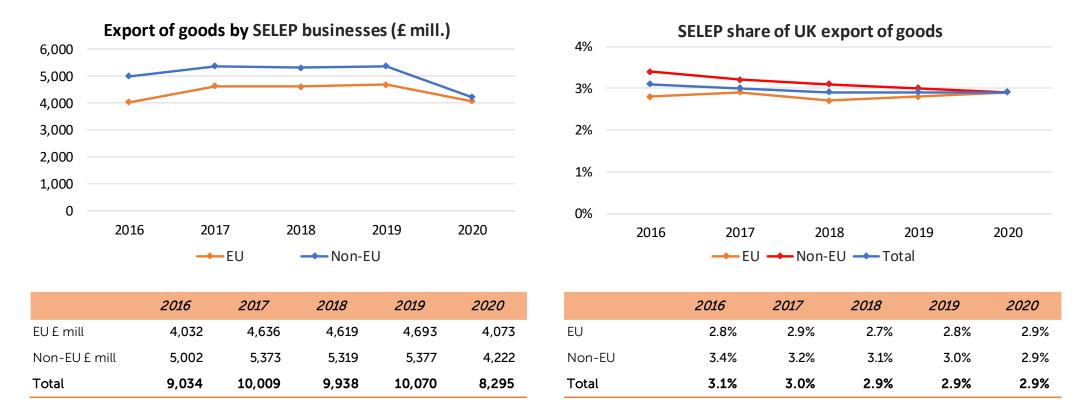
### Headline Summary

- SELEP's export value of goods was 18% down in 2020 compared to 2019, with Non-EU trade down more than EU trade and with Machinery and Transport equipment exports down most
- Import tonnage through SELEP ports remains high at 25% of the UK major port total, although throughput at Dover was low in quarter 2 of 2022
- Stansted continues to have a higher share of UK air-freight tonnage, having seen an increase in throughput during the pandemic, although throughput of exports has declined in recent quarters
- Port passenger numbers at Dover were lower throughout most of 2021 compared to 2020 and despite some recovery in late 2021 still remain more than 50% below pre-pandemic levels
- Airport passenger numbers, having reduced to near zero during lockdown periods picked up in late 2021 and reached 80% of 2019 levels in quarter 2, 2022, with Stansted having recovered slightly more than UK airports overall



### **Export Value of Goods**

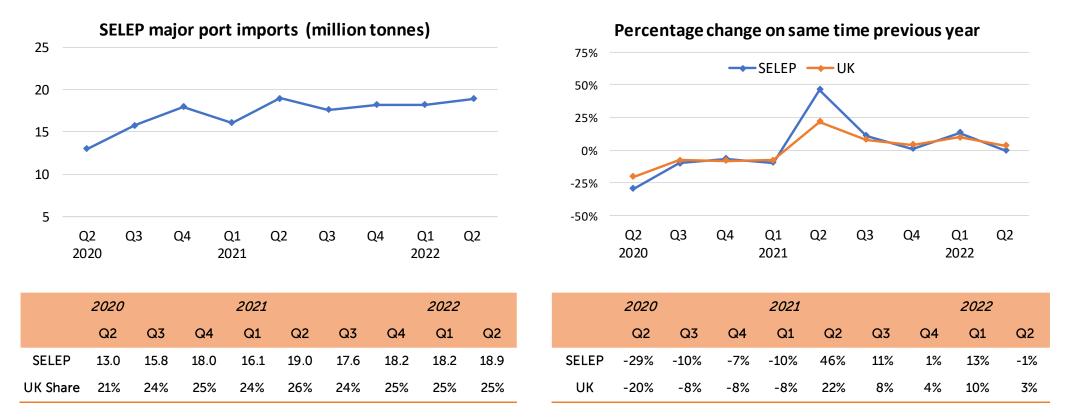
- Export trade value of goods for SELEP businesses in 2020 was 18% below 2019 export trade value, which compares to a 16% decline for the UK as a whole
- Non-EU trade declined the most at 21% (UK 18%) with EU trade only declining 13% (UK 15%)
- The decline in exports was more severe for Machinery and Transport Equipment, particularly for non-EU trade
- Food products exceptionally saw an increase in exports in 2020, driven by increased sales to the EU



Source: HMRC, Regional trade in goods

### Port Imports

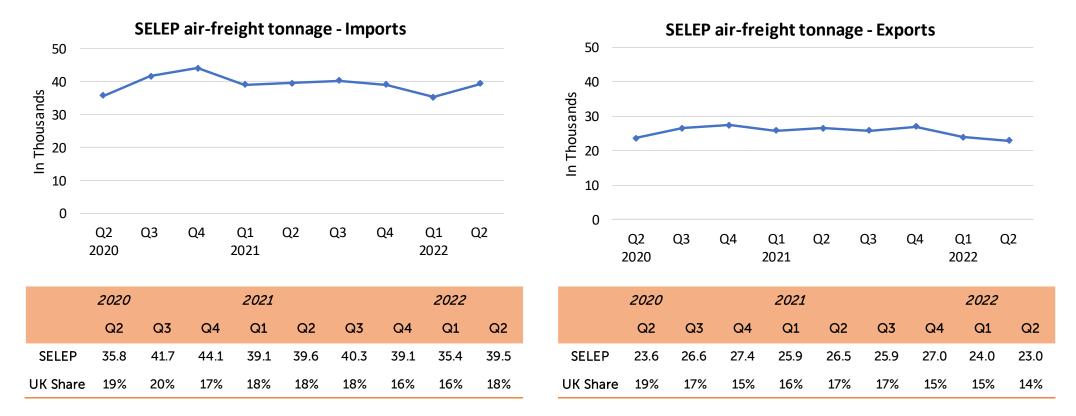
- The SELEP area is host to five of the country's major ports, London, Dover, Medway, Harwich and Newhaven
- SELEP ports collectively handle a quarter of the UK's sea-borne import freight tonnage
- Import tonnage reduced significantly within lockdown periods during the pandemic
- Quarter 2 of 2021 saw strong recovery with import tonnage returning to pre-pandemic levels
- The most recent quarter saw high imports at London and Medway, but low imports for Dover



Source: DfT, Major Port Statistics, Table 502

## Air Freight

- Stansted airport is the UK's third largest airport in terms of air freight handled
- During the pandemic, with reduced passenger numbers, Stansted took on a greater share of the country's air freight
- The share of both national imports and exports has reduced slightly in recent quarterly figures
- However tonnage throughput remains high compared to 2019 levels
- Over the last year, Southend airport has also been handling air freight, with reduced passenger numbers



Source: CAA, Airport data, Table 13

### Port Passengers

- Ports in the SELEP area account for two thirds of the UK's short sea ferry passengers
- The port of Dover accounts for the majority of these passengers, with a 59% share of UK ferry passenger numbers
- Passenger numbers declined to less than a quarter of usual seasonal numbers in quarter 2 of 2020
- Although there was some recovery of numbers by late 2020, numbers declined again in 2021
- In the most recent quarter, passenger numbers still remained significantly below the usual seasonal level

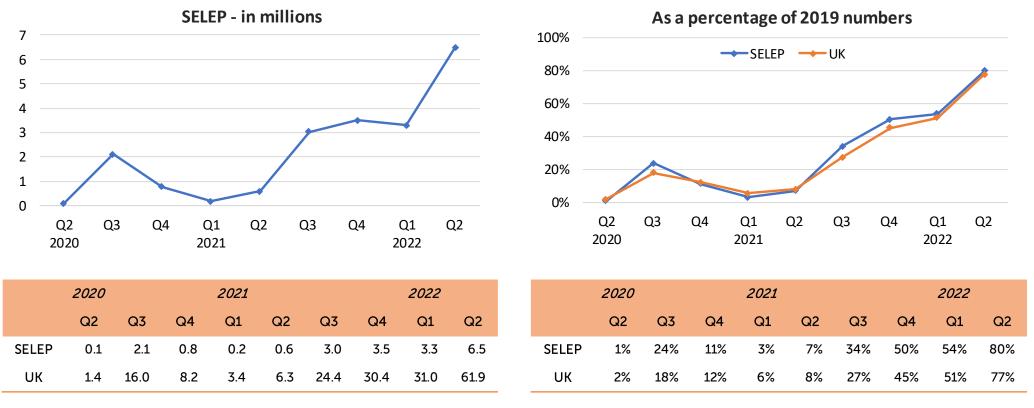


Source: Port of Dover

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### Airport Passengers

- The SELEP area is host to two of the London Area International Airports Stansted and Southend
- Airport passenger numbers reduced to near zero in quarter 2 of 2020 with some slight recovery in quarter 3
- Numbers remained at very low levels until quarter 3 of 2021
- Quarter 2 of 2022 saw a significant recovery in airport passenger numbers, although they remained some 20% below the pre-pandemic level



Source: CAA, Airport data, Table 9

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