

# Contribution of the UK legal services sector to the UK economy

Legal services in the UK are worth almost £60bn (GVA)\* to the economy, a new independent and authoritative report commissioned by the Law Society reports.

- The Contribution of the UK Legal Services Sector to the UK Economy report, produced by KPMG for the Law Society, demonstrates the role professional legal services play and why they should be at the heart of any new talks relating to a deal with the EU following Brexit.
- It is crucial that the Government seeks to maintain access to the EU27 for our legal professionals, as well as recognition of their qualifications beyond the post-Brexit transition period at the end of 2020.
- The legal services sector is highly productive – with productivity up 17% from £84,000 per employee in 2013 to £100,500 in 2018 – almost double the average nationally.
- The value of voluntary work conducted by legal professionals, known as ‘pro bono’, saw 43,800 solicitors working an astonishing 1,446,000 unbilled hours, worth an estimated £439m.



**552k**  
FULL TIME  
employees

## Legal services support around 552,000 full time employees

- 358,000 in the sector itself (225,000 in legal activities sector – 133,000 as legal professionals in other sectors)
- 150,000 indirectly
- 43,000 more from spend

*Numbers do not add up to 552k due to rounding*

The UK legal sector’s GVA\* was worth £59.93bn in 2018

**£59.93bn** 

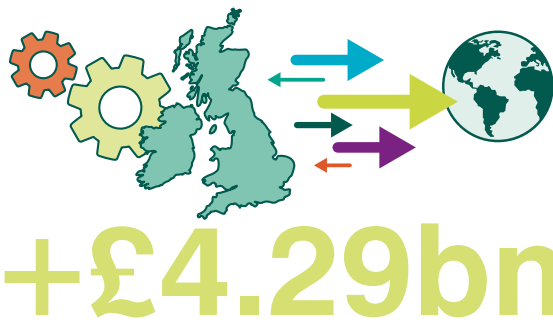
**+1% productivity**



£0.99bn-£1.2bn

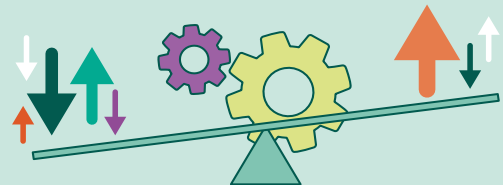


The report projects that a **1% productivity improvement in legal services in 2020 could boost UK GDP by between £0.99bn and £1.2bn by 2050**



In 2017, the UK exported approximately £5bn worth of legal services, and imported approximately £0.80bn – a positive net contribution of £4.29bn to UK balance of trade

Legal services had the highest balance of trade among professional services sectors in the UK

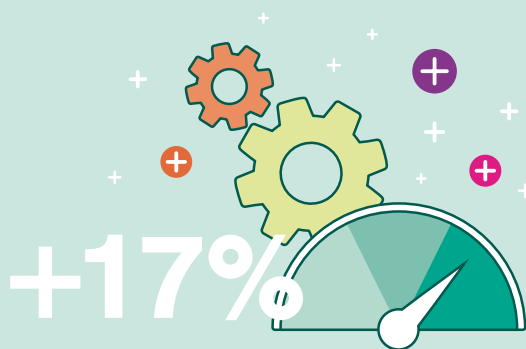


**1.1%**



The sector accounts for 1.1% of the total UK labour force

Levels of employment in legal services has fallen slightly in the years between 2013 and 2018 – by 0.7%



Over the same period productivity grew 17% – in legal services the average value of each employee's contribution is £100,500 compared to £54,330 which is the average nationally

\* Gross Value Added (GVA) is a key measure of economic activity – it is the value of goods and services produced at an individual company, or by industry or at sector level. GVA estimates the value of goods and services offset by costs incurred in the production of those services.

To see the full Contribution of the UK Legal Services Sector to the UK Economy report visit [www.lawsociety.org.uk/economic-contribution-legal-services-sector-report](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/economic-contribution-legal-services-sector-report)

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