

International Trade - Food



International trade: the exchange of goods and services between countries. There are many reasons why international trade in food is important:

- In some countries, the conditions are not suitable for growing food, so they trade with other countries. An

example is the United Arab Emirates, which is mostly desert, so it imports a lot of its food from other countries.

- Different climates allow different types of food to be grown. Colombia has a good climate for growing coffee beans and the United Kingdom does not.
- Countries can earn money by exporting food to other countries. The world's biggest food exporter is the United States of America.

Human Processes

According to most sources, seafood is the most traded food in the world, with over \$130 billion traded each year. Coffee is the most traded beverage.

Diversity

Other foods that are traded in huge quantities across the world include:

- soya beans
- wheat
- palm oil
- sugar
- corn

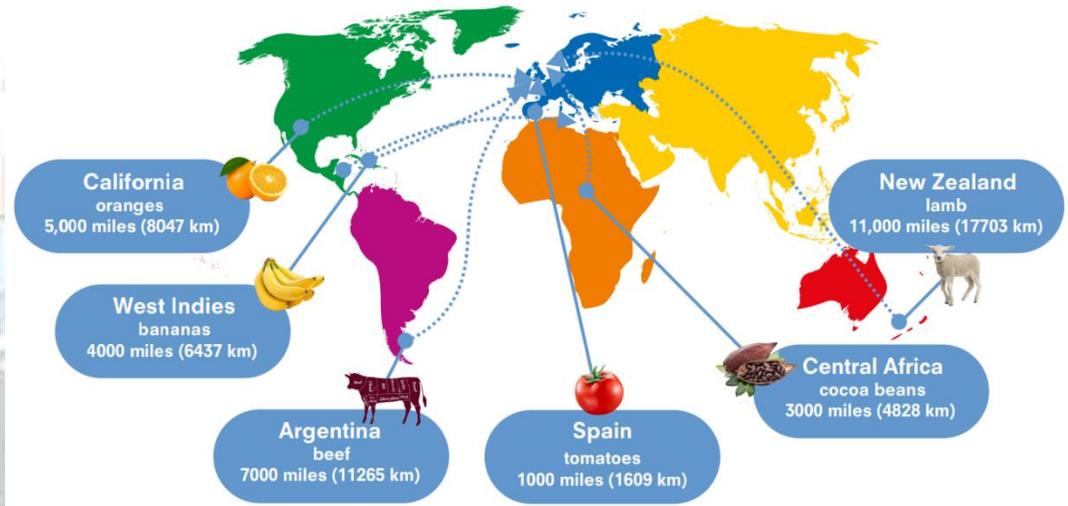
Key Vocabulary

import: buy goods from another country

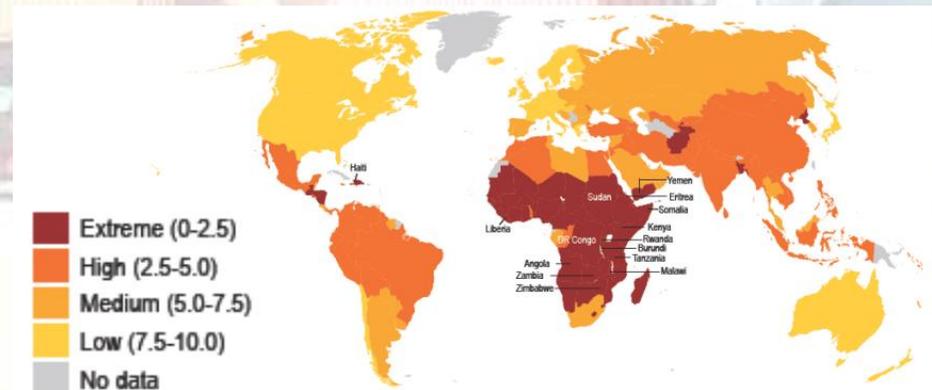
exporting: selling goods to another country

beverage: drink

The term 'food miles' describes how far the food we eat travels from where it is first produced, before it ends up on our tables. Despite the trading of food being essential, the vehicles that transport the food cause pollution. The more miles, the greater the pollution. Below is a map that shows some popular imported foods in the UK and their food miles.



'Food security' is all about the availability of and access to food. The map below shows different levels of food security, meaning, the ability of countries to produce or import enough food for their population.



International Trade - Natural Resources



Reminder: International trade is the exchange of goods and services between countries.

Natural resources include the land, forests, energy sources and minerals existing naturally that can be used by people. For humans to survive, we depend on natural resources.

Reasons why international trade in natural resources is important:

- In some parts of the world each resource occurs more commonly than in others.
- If the resources are not available in a country then they must be imported.
- Countries can earn money by exporting natural resources to other countries.

Common Natural Resources



Water: producing electricity, drinking water, fishing



Oil: fuel for transport, heating, producing electricity



Forests: wood, food, paper, medicine, cotton, rubber



Rocks: construction, shelter



Minerals: jewellery, glass, metal objects, ceramics



Soils: agriculture



Animals: food, clothing (wool, leather, etc.)

Key Vocabulary

international: between countries

natural: exists without humans

resources: the things available for people to use

International Trade - Tourism



International tourism involves people travelling between countries for a holiday or leisure.

Why is 'tourism' important?

• Each country has physical and human features that make it interesting to visit. Physical features such as the climate make a place interesting. For example, many people enjoy beach holidays in warmer climates. Human features like cultural and historical sites make a place interesting to visit. Rome and Pompeii are excellent places for tourism as both are full of amazing ruins.

• Tourism is a good way for a country to generate income from other countries.

What are the different 'features' of tourism?

- **Intangibility:** tourism is an experience not an object.
- **An inability to be stored:** an unsold plane seat or an empty hotel room is a lost opportunity to make money.
- **Seasonality:** customers may be more or less likely to go somewhere according to the season, for example, a beach holiday in summer and skiing in winter.
- **Interdependence:** all sorts of independent companies depend on one another to provide experiences, for example, hotels offer rooms but tourists need to get to the hotel - perhaps by aeroplane.
- **Diversity:** the tourist industry tries to mix things up in order to offer customers different experiences, for example, some people like cultural and historical attractions while others like outdoor adventure.



Key Vocabulary

tourism: providing services for people on holiday

cultural: relating to art, theatre, music, literature, etc.

historical: relating to things from the past

intangibility: being impossible to touch