



The Law
Society

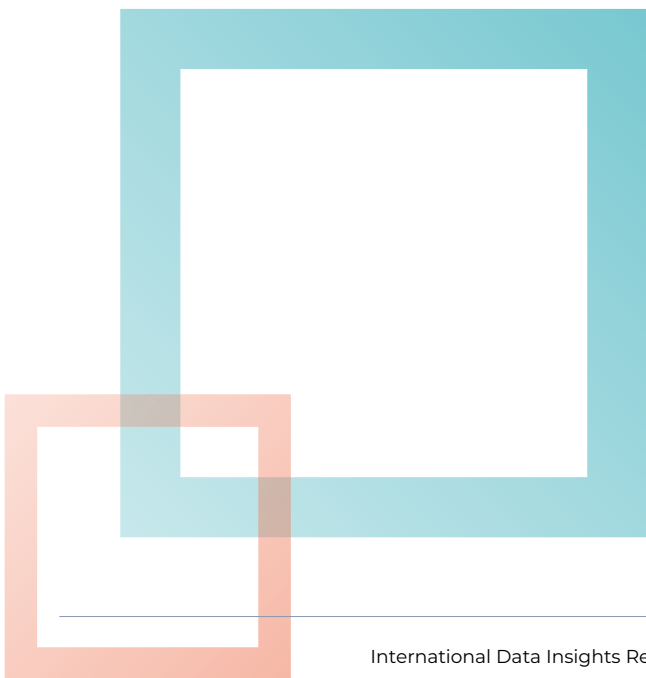
International Data Insights Report 4th Edition 2026

The Law Society of
England and Wales



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Introduction

The Law Society's annual International Data Insights Report examines the use of English law globally and the growth of the English and Welsh solicitors' profession.

It also compares the performance of the UK's primary commercial dispute resolution centres that are tasked with hearing international disputes with commercial courts and arbitration centres globally.

Key findings

Strong international demand for UK legal services continues to drive export growth

- Exports of UK legal services rose by over 60% over the course of five years, from £6.81 billion (2021) to £10.97 billion (2025), with the UK's legal services trade surplus reaching £9.63 billion in 2025.

English law underpins international commercial activity

- English law governs 28% of global agricultural trade, over £70 billion worth of the London insurance market, and around half of all international seaborne trade; English law was the governing law of choice for global derivatives transactions valued at over £250 trillion in 2025.
- More than £22.5 billion of global assets have been protected by the UK court-approved schemes of arrangement since 2006.

The London Commercial Court (LCC) continues to deliver a high volume of judgments while maintaining efficient case resolution

- The London Commercial Court (LCC) delivered 212 written judgments between October 2024 and September 2025, surpassing others including the New York Commercial Division, the Civil and Commercial Division of the Dubai International Financial Centre, and the Singapore International Commercial Court.
- The LCC handled more than half of all contested trials in less than a week (four working days) between October 2024 and September 2025.

Strong growth in London-seated ad hoc arbitration

- The London Maritime Arbitrators Association (LMAA) recorded an estimated 2,015 new cases in 2025, its highest caseload since 2014, reflecting sustained demand for London-seated ad hoc arbitration.

English law remains one of the most frequently chosen laws in international institutional arbitration

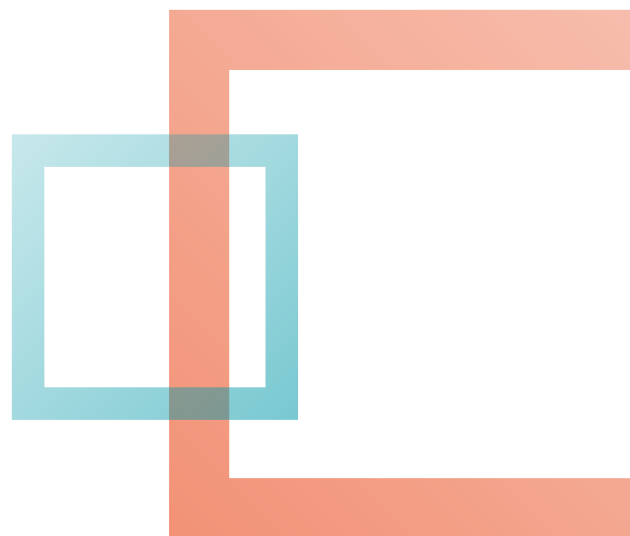
- In 2025, 79% of the cases pursuant to the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) Rules were governed by English law.
- English law was the most commonly selected governing law in International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) arbitrations. It remained the second most used law in cases before the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC), the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC) and the Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce (SCC) after their respective domestic laws.

Mediation activity continues to expand

- The Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) estimates in its biennial report that approximately 21,000 civil and commercial cases were mediated in England and Wales in the year ending September 2024, a 24% increase compared with the 17,000 cases reported in 2022.

The solicitors' profession and revenue of UK law firms demonstrate continuous growth

- As of July 2025, there were 208,077 solicitors of England and Wales on the roll, representing a 2.8% increase compared with the previous year.
- The overall turnover of solicitor firms in England and Wales grew by 8% to £37.14 billion in 2025.





1

The value of the UK's legal sector and its contribution to the economy

1.1 The value of English law

English law remains embedded in global business transactions

English law is used around the world in transnational contracts and transactions even where neither party has any ties to the UK.

The report “[Harnessing English Law for Economic Growth](#)”, commissioned by the UK Ministry of Justice and published by the consultancy firm Hook Tangaza in 2026, examined the economic importance of English law in international commerce. The report highlighted the prevalent use of English law in standard-form contracts and commercial arrangements across sectors such as shipping, commodities, insurance, trade finance and derivatives. It also highlighted how the use of English law contributes to legal certainty and reduces transaction costs for businesses operating internationally. The report identified several examples of the scale and economic significance of English law across international markets:

- English law governed **28% of global agricultural trade** (Sources: GAFTA, FOSFA, ICA, UN)
- English law governed an estimated **£73-£83 billion of the London insurance market** in 2024 (Sources: IUA, Lloyds 2024)
- English law was the governing law of choice for **global derivatives transactions** valued at over **£250 trillion** in 2025 (Sources: ISDA, BIS)
- Since 2006, **UK court-approved schemes of arrangement** have protected over **£22.5 billion in global assets** (Sources: market reports)
- Around **half of all international seaborne trade** is conducted under English law contracts in any year (estimated at over **£13 trillion** in 2025) (Sources: BIMCO, UNCTAD)
- English law plays a leading role in international finance, governing the vast majority of the **\$1.51 trillion EMEA syndicated loan market** and **around 70% of new Eurobond issues** (Sources: ION Analytics, Euroclear)

According to [TheCityUK's 2025 Legal Services report](#), English law is used for around 40% of the world's cross-border business and financial transactions, including syndicated bank lending, international bond issuance and derivatives trading.

1.2 The value of UK legal services trade

Exports reach another record high

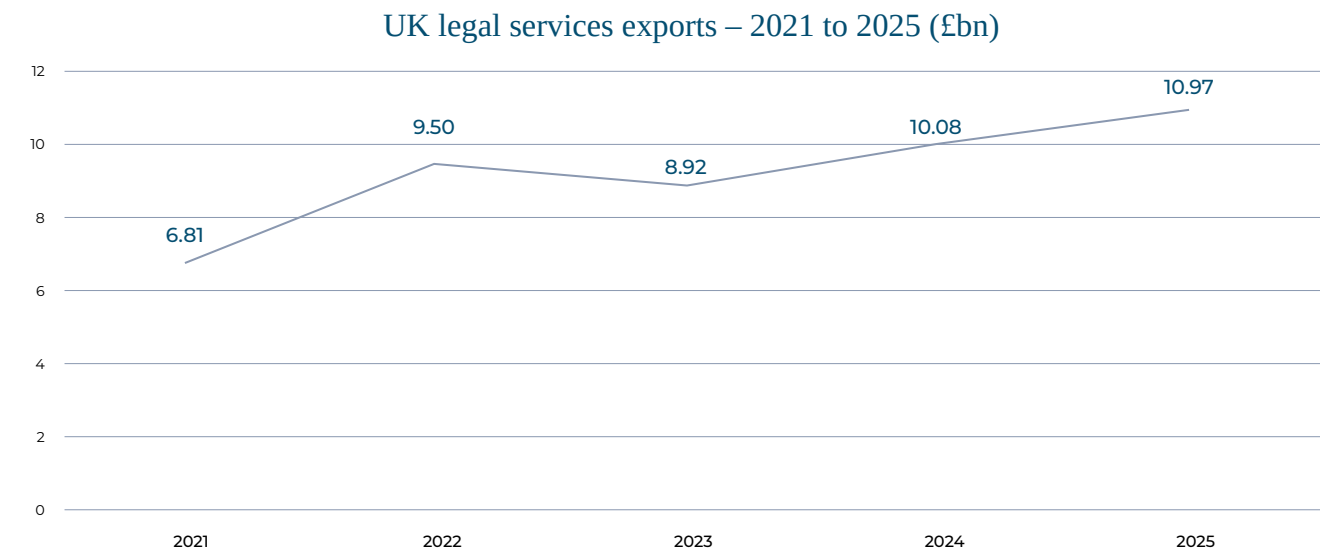


Table 1. Source: [Office for National Statistics: UK trade in services: service type by partner country](#) based on the most updated version of statistics available as of 7th August 2026¹

In 2025, UK legal services exports reached £10.97 billion, an increase of 8.8% compared with 2024. Over the course of five years, the value of UK legal services exports has increased by £4.16 billion.

This growth reflects sustained international demand for UK legal services.

¹ The above table represents the total value of work done on a short-term basis by UK lawyers travelling to other jurisdictions for business, work done in the UK for visiting foreign clients, and work done remotely by UK lawyers for clients in other jurisdictions.

The European Union and the United States remained the two largest markets for UK legal services exports.

Top UK Legal Services Export Destinations 2025		
Rank	Country/market	Value (£ millions)
	EU 27	£3,666
1	United States	£3,214
2	Luxembourg	£881
3	Netherlands	£443
4	France	£433
5	Germany	£404
6	Ireland	£403
7	Switzerland	£386
8	Canada	£280
9	Australia	£270
10	Sweden	£259
11	Japan	£182
12	Spain	£154

Table 2. Source: [Office for National Statistics: UK trade in services: service type by partner country](#) based on the most updated version of statistics available as of 7th August 2026

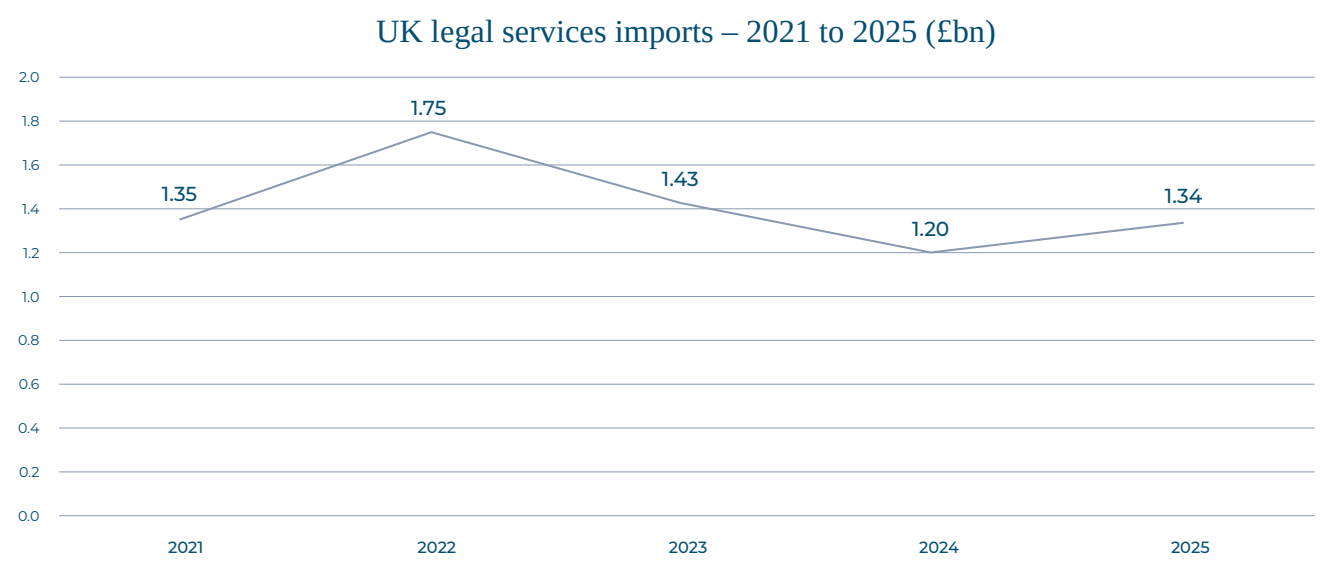


Table 3. Source: [Office for National Statistics: UK trade in services: service type by partner country](#) based on the most updated version of statistics available as of 7th August 2026

The value of UK legal services imports increased by 11.7% to £1.34 billion in 2025, returning to growth after two years of decline, though it remains below the figures recorded in 2021 (£1.35 billion), 2022 (£1.75 billion) and 2023 (£1.43 billion).

Trade surplus continues to widen

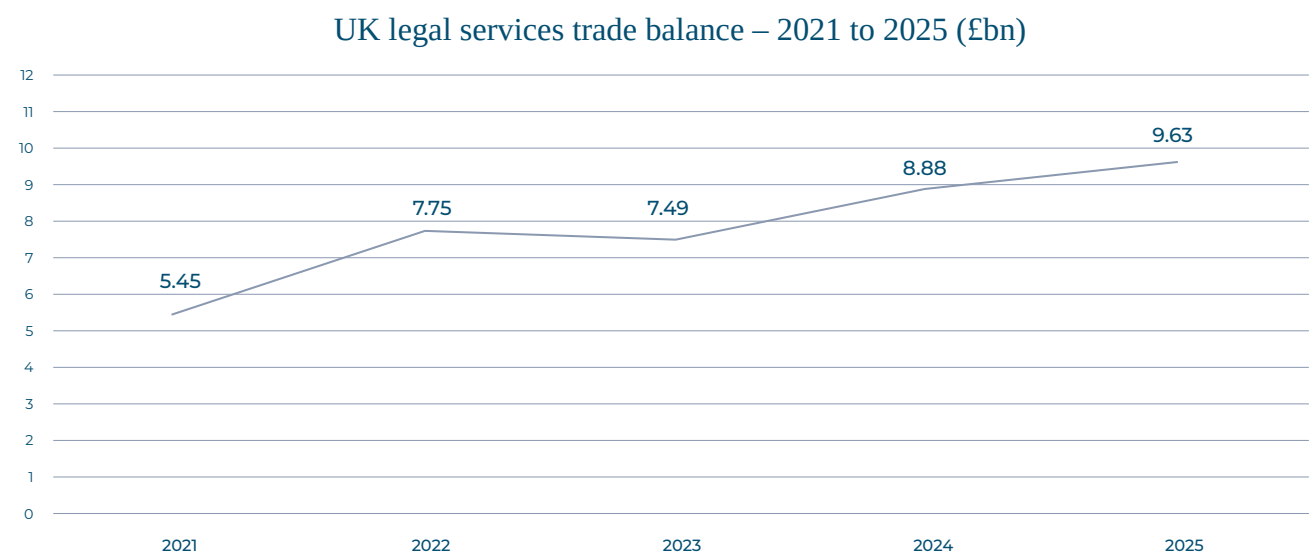


Table 4. Source: [Office for National Statistics: UK trade in services: service type by partner country](#) based on the most updated version of statistics available as of 7th August 2026

The UK's trade balance for legal services reached £9.63 billion in 2025, experiencing an annual growth of 8.4%, from £8.88 billion in 2024.

2 Litigation in the London Commercial Court (LCC)²

2.1 Analysis of the LCC statistics

The London Commercial Court (LCC) is one of the main international centres for commercial litigation. Its highly experienced judges handle disputes worth billions of pounds every year across a wide range of commercial and financial matters.

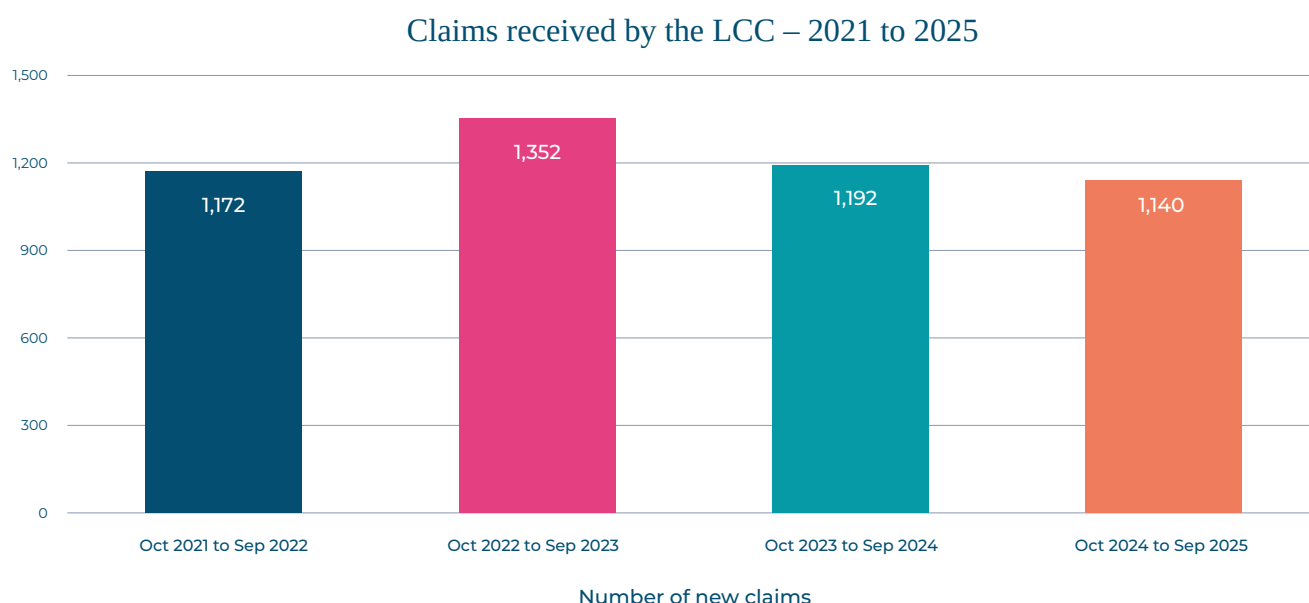


Table 5. Source: [Commercial Court annual reports](#)

The LCC received 1,140 new claims between October 2024 and September 2025, compared with 1,192 the previous year, and 1,352 the year before. This year's figure represents a 4% decrease compared with 2023 to 2024. During 2024 to 2025, the majority (75%) of the LCC's caseload was international.

² For the purposes of this report, references to the London Commercial Court (LCC) encompass the four divisions: Commercial Court, Admiralty Court, London Circuit Commercial Court and Financial List, in line with the reporting scope of the Commercial Court Report, unless otherwise stated.

Claims received by the LCC subdivisions – 2021 to 2025

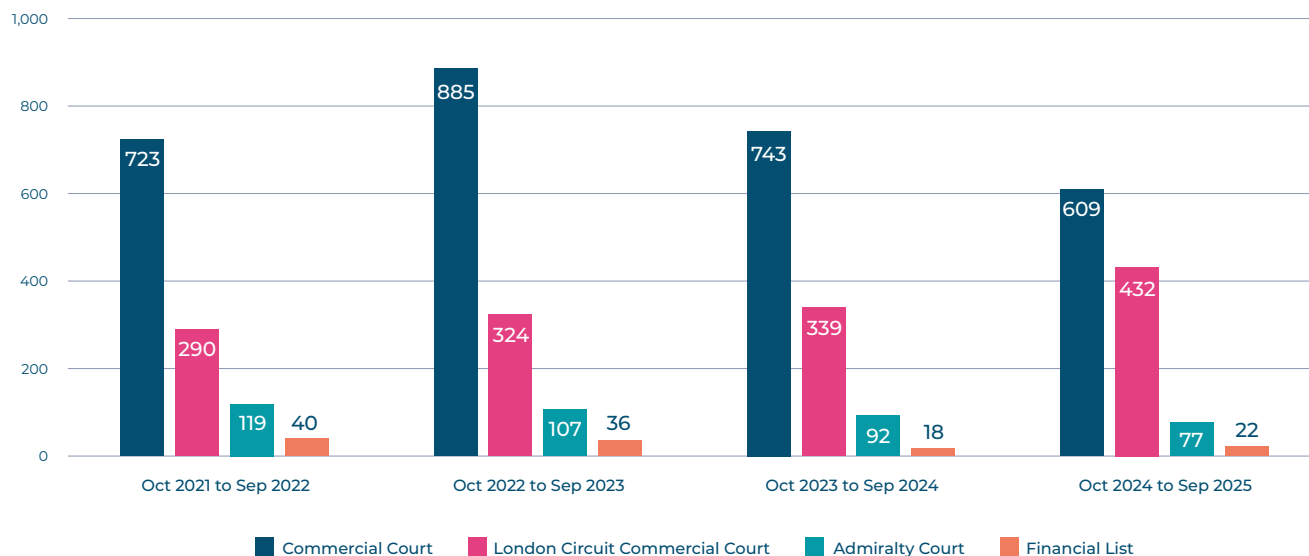


Table 6. Source: [Commercial Court annual reports](#)

The LCC comprises several specialist divisions and lists that deal with different types of commercial litigation, reflecting ongoing efforts to ensure cases are allocated to the most appropriate forum by value and subject matter.

With effect from 1 July 2025, claims with a value at risk of £7 million or less are generally allocated to the division of the London Circuit Commercial Court, while the division of the Commercial Court focuses on more complex and higher-value disputes.

Meanwhile, the division of the Admiralty Court deals principally with shipping, maritime and related disputes. The division of the Financial List hears cases involving financial markets and financial services.

The division of the Commercial Court received 609 new claims in the period from October 2024 to September 2025, compared with 743 new claims the previous year (a drop of 18%) and 885 the year before.

The division of the London Circuit Commercial Court received 432 claims over the same period, compared with 339 in the previous year (an increase of 27%) and 324 the year before.

There has been a decrease in Admiralty Court claims (from 92 to 77) but an increase in Financial List claims (from 18 to 22).

Length of contested LCC trials – 2021 to 2025

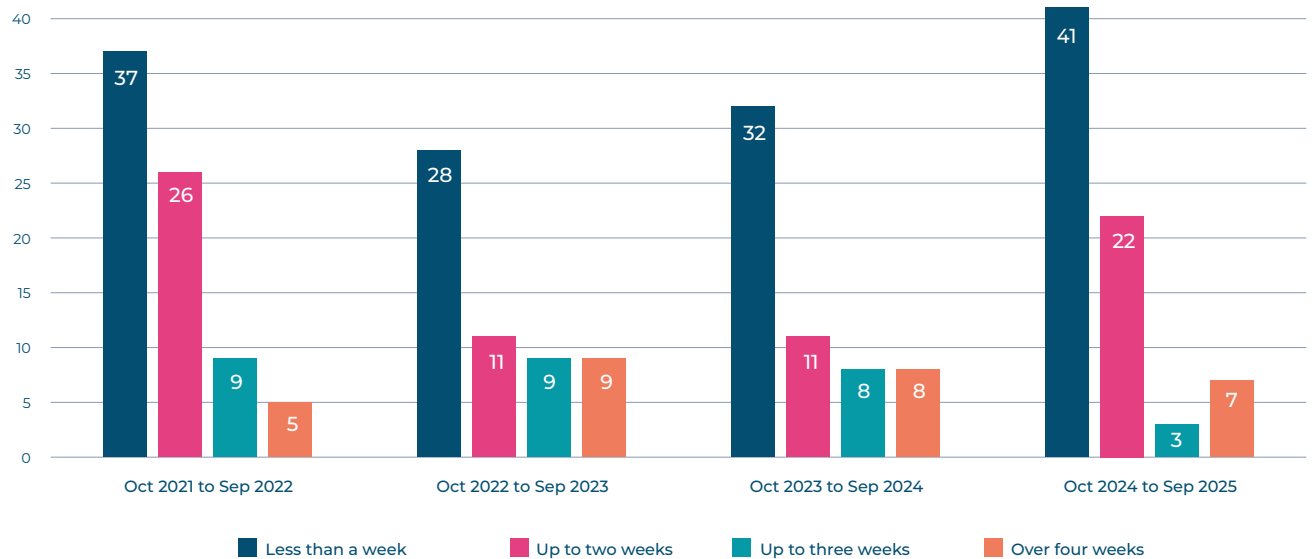


Table 7. Source: [Commercial Court annual reports](#)

Between October 2024 and September 2025, the LCC (Commercial, Admiralty and London Circuit Commercial combined) completed 56% (41 out of 73) of contested trials in less than a week (four working days). As demonstrated by the yearly figures, the LCC has consistently handled around half of all contested trials in less than a week. The LCC completed 54% (32 out of 59) of contested trials within four working days during the previous year (2023 to 2024), and 44% (28 out of 57) in the year before (2022 to 2023).

Number of judgments handed down by the LCC – 2021 to 2025

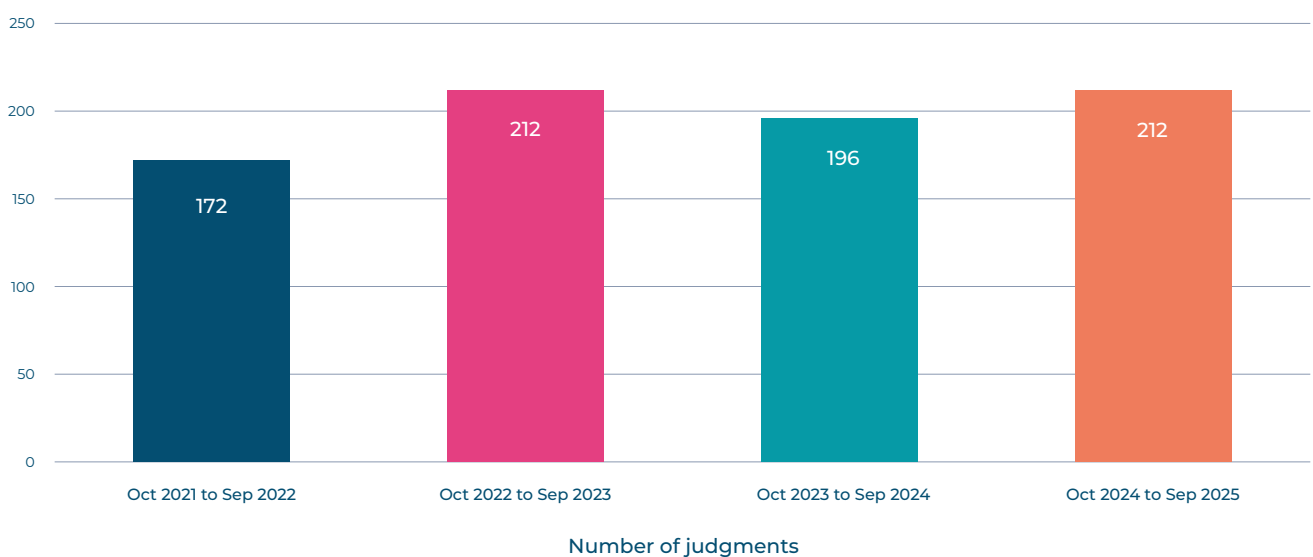


Table 8. Source: [Commercial Court annual reports](#)

The number of judgments handed down by the LCC rose in 2024 to 2025 but has generally remained steady over the years: 212 judgments were handed down by the LCC in 2024 to 2025, an increase of 8.2% compared with the previous year (196 judgments) and the same figure as that in 2022 to 2023.

Arbitration continues to generate significant court activity

The importance of London as a centre for international arbitration is underscored by the fact that around 30% of the claims issued in the LCC relate to arbitrations, and include applications for anti-suit injunctions, enforcement of arbitral awards and appointment of arbitrators.



2.2 Comparison between the LCC and other international commercial courts³

The LCC is one of several commercial courts with expertise in complex international litigation. Its counterparts include:

The New York Commercial Division: a specialised section of the Supreme Court of New York State responsible for handling complex commercial disputes, staffed with experienced judges.

The Civil and Commercial Division of the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC): a special economic zone established in Dubai in 2004, which handles complex disputes arising out of civil and commercial matters, including employment, breach of contract and banking and finance matters.

The Qatar International Court (QIC): a civil and commercial court, part of the Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre, which also comprises the Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Tribunal and provides mediation and arbitration services.

The Singapore International Commercial Court (SICC): part of the Supreme Court of Singapore, established in 2015 as a neutral forum to resolve international disputes, leveraging Singapore's strategic location in Asia.

The Netherlands Commercial Court (NCC): based in Amsterdam, a specialist division of the Amsterdam District Court and Amsterdam Court of Appeal that hears international civil and commercial disputes.

The Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC) Court: an independent court established within the Astana International Financial Centre in Kazakhstan to resolve civil and commercial disputes under a common law framework.

There are also other specialised commercial courts in France, Germany and other locations which handle international disputes. These courts often have the ability to hear cases in English with specialist judges. Other jurisdictions are also considering or implementing similar initiatives, including Hong Kong, Vietnam and Uzbekistan.

³ At the time of writing, Portland Communications had not published its report in 2026. As a result, the relevant figures are not included in this report.

LCC delivered more written judgments than comparable international commercial courts

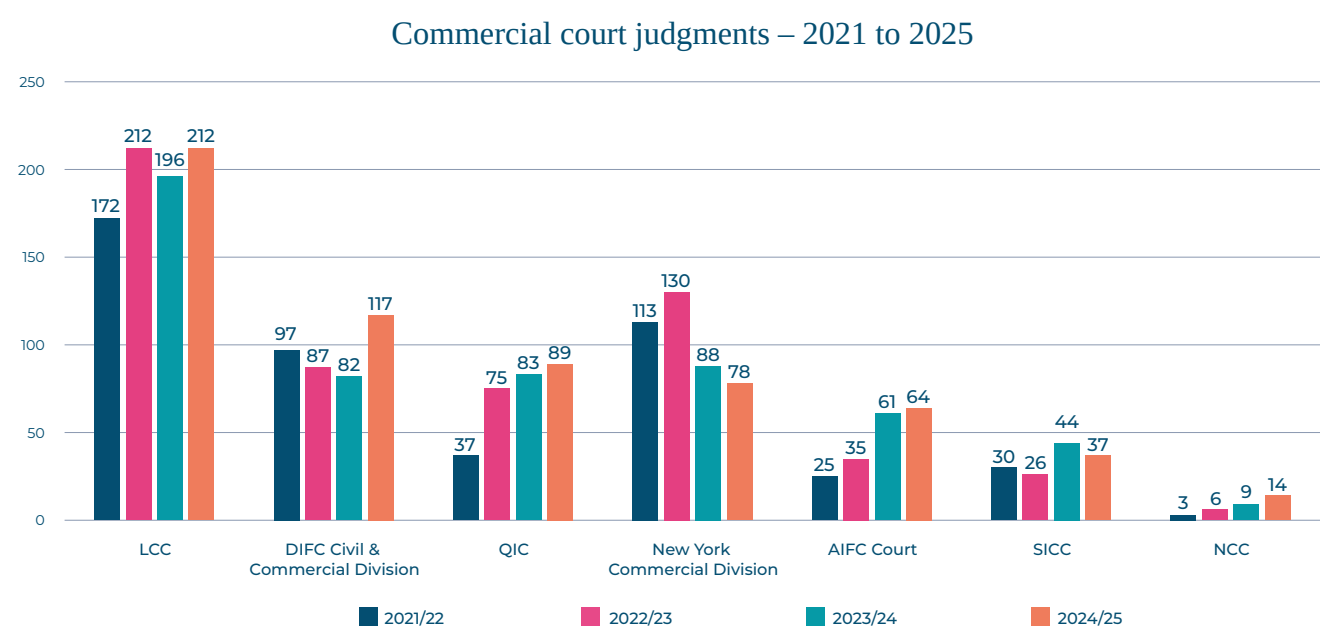
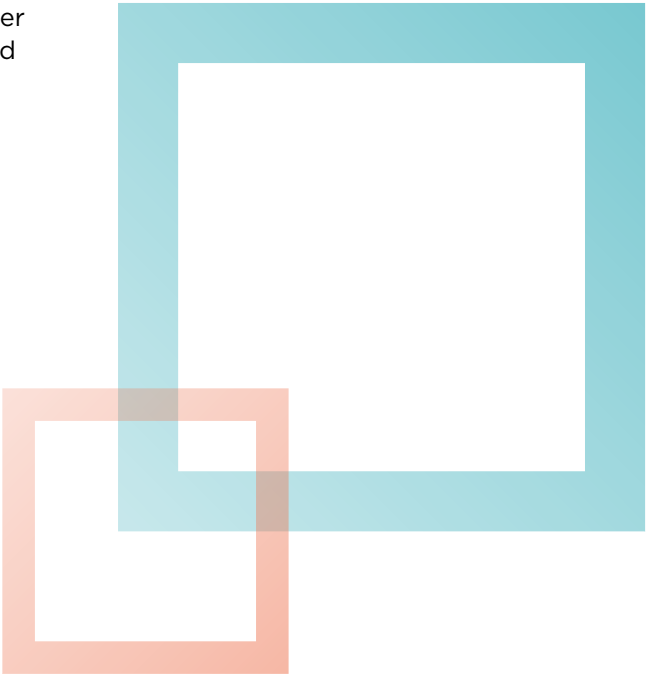


Table 9. Source: [Commercial Court annual reports](#), [statistics of DIFC⁴](#), databases of [QIC](#), [New York Commercial Division](#), [AIFC Court](#), [SICC](#) and [NCC](#)

The LCC issued more written judgments between October 2024 and September 2025 (212) than the DIFC’s Civil and Commercial Division (117), the QIC (89), the New York Commercial Division (78), the AIFC Court (64), the SICC (37) and the NCC (14) over an equivalent time period.

The data indicates that the LCC continues to handle a substantial volume of complex commercial disputes relative to comparable international courts, while specialist commercial courts continue to develop across multiple jurisdictions.



4 The data for the DIFC reflects the number of cases received in each calendar year from 2022 to 2025. Data on the number of written judgments delivered by the court has not been published and the actual number may be lower.



3 Arbitration in London

International arbitration remains a popular dispute resolution mechanism. Parties can choose between a wide range of arbitral rules and services, including ad hoc and institutional arbitration, and have the freedom to select the seat (the jurisdiction in which the arbitration is heard, and providing its supporting legal framework) and the governing law (the law which is applied to the contract in dispute).

3.1 The international arbitration landscape in London

London is one of the world's leading centres for international arbitration, handling a wide range of commercial disputes across diverse sectors and industries.

The legal framework underpinning arbitrations seated in England and Wales was updated through the [Arbitration Act 2025](#). The Act introduced reforms aimed at enhancing legal certainty and procedural efficiency in arbitration proceedings, maintaining the attractiveness of England and Wales as a seat for international arbitration.

The London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) is a leading international arbitral institution, headquartered in London. It administers arbitration proceedings for parties from a wide range of jurisdictions and legal systems.

The LCIA's main competitors are other international arbitral institutions. These include long-established institutions such as the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Court of Arbitration (headquartered in Paris), the International Centre for Dispute Resolution of the American Arbitration Association (ICDR-AAA), the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC), the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC), the Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce (SCC) and the Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC)⁵.

There are also multiple international arbitration institutions that continue to enhance their international profile and whose caseload is increasing, such as the Swiss Arbitration Centre (SAC), the Abu Dhabi International Arbitration Centre and the International Arbitration Centre of the Astana International Financial Centre, alongside other initiatives emerging across the Middle East, Africa and Central Asia.

However, while institutional arbitrations form an important part of the market for London, most arbitrations seated in London are ad hoc arbitrations under the rules of specialist trade bodies and organisations such as the Grain and Feed Trade Association (GAFTA) and the London Maritime Arbitrators Association (LMAA).

GAFTA is an international trade association specialising in the global grain and feed trade. It operates a well-developed system of ad hoc arbitration under the GAFTA Arbitration Rules, which are widely incorporated into international grain and commodity sale contracts. GAFTA arbitrations are generally governed by English law, with England and Wales designated as the juridical seat of the arbitration under their Rules.

The LMAA is an association of arbitrators with expertise in areas of maritime law and international trade. Its members provide a range of services to parties on an ad hoc basis, including arbitration

⁵ Not all of these institutions are covered in the comparative tables in this section due to differences in data availability at the time of writing and reporting methods.

and mediation. The majority of cases handled under the LMAA's Terms and Procedures are governed by English law and seated in London.

London as a major centre for arbitral activity

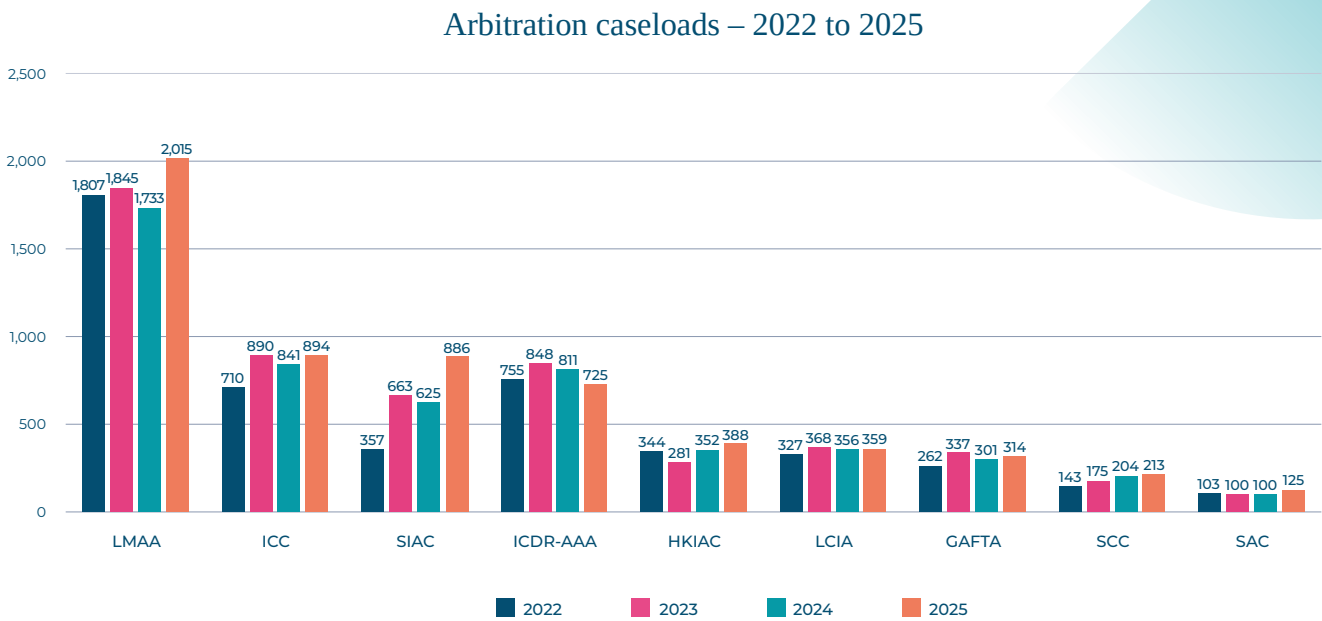


Table 10. Source: [LMAA website](#), [ICC annual reports](#), [SIAC annual reports](#), [ICDR-AAA website](#), [HKIAC annual reports](#), [LCIA annual reports](#), [GAFTA annual reports](#), [SCC annual reports](#) and [SAC annual reports](#)⁶

London remains the leading global centre for maritime arbitration. The LMAA’s members and other arbitrators saw a 16% increase in new cases, with an estimated 2,015 new cases in 2025 compared with 1,733 in 2024. The 2025 figure is the highest recorded by the LMAA since 2014 and illustrates the continued strength of ad hoc arbitration in London.

An increase in arbitration cases has also been recorded in GAFTA (+4%), ICC Court of Arbitration (+6%), HKIAC (+10%), SCC (+4%), SAC (+25%) and, to a lesser extent, LCIA (+0.8%), compared with the previous year. SIAC has seen a 40% increase in new referrals, from 625 new cases in 2024 to 886 new cases in 2025.

Meanwhile, the number of new cases filed with the ICDR-AAA dropped by 11% in 2025 compared with the previous year.

⁶ GAFTA caseload figures are reported for the period October to September. SAC figures may include both arbitration and mediation cases as the Centre did not provide a breakdown of arbitration vs mediation cases for all the years referenced in the table. DIAC does not feature in this table as its arbitration caseload figures for 2025 were not yet available at the time of writing.

Sustained demand for experienced arbitrators

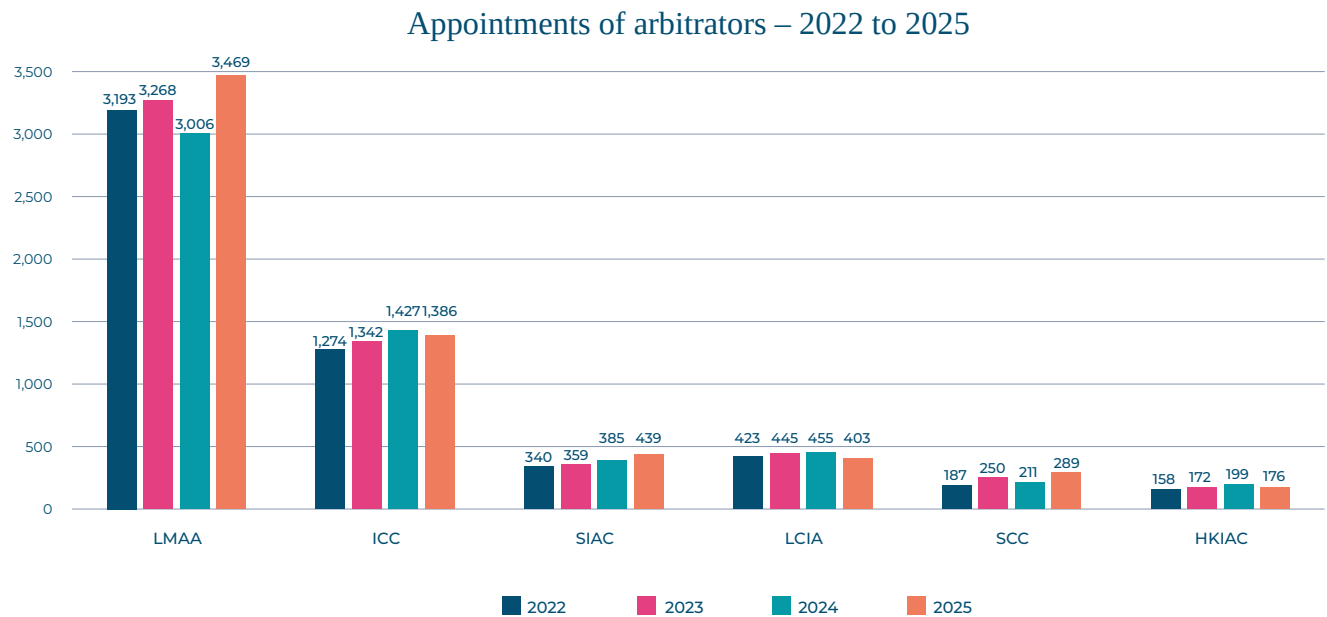


Table 11. Source: [LMAA website](#), [ICC annual reports](#), [SIAC annual reports](#), [LCIA annual reports](#), [SCC annual reports](#) and [HKIAC annual reports](#)⁷

In 2025, parties made 3,469 appointments of arbitrators in LMAA cases, a 15% increase compared with 3,006 the year before. The ICC made the second highest number of appointments in 2025 (1,386), followed by the SIAC (439), the LCIA (403), the SCC (289) and the HKIAC (176).

⁷ At the time of writing, no comparable and complete figures were available for the other arbitration bodies previously referenced in this report.

3.2 The prevalence of English law

English law continues to feature prominently across arbitral institutions

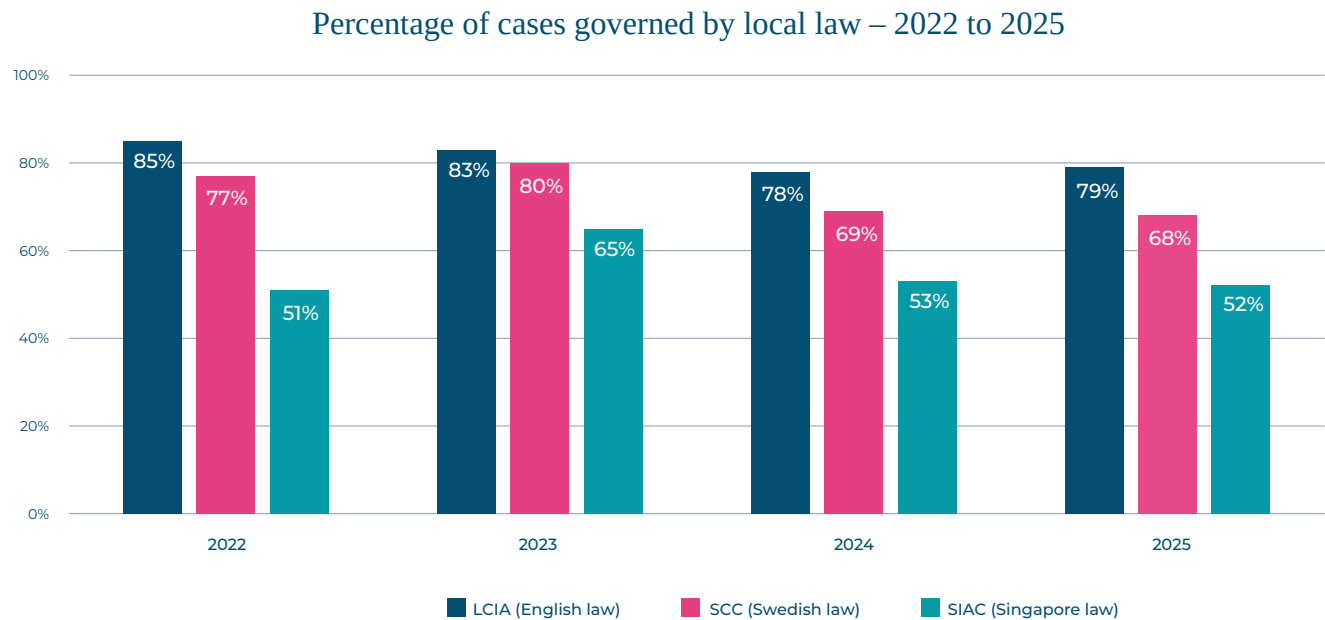


Table 12. Source: [LCIA annual reports](#), [SCC annual reports](#) and [SIAC annual reports](#)⁸

English law governs most cases submitted to LCIA arbitration (79%). English law is also the most frequently selected law at the [ICC](#), with 113 of its new cases (13%), followed by:

- New York law with 64 cases (7.2%)
- Brazilian law with 54 cases (6%)
- Swiss law with 50 cases (5.6%)
- German law with 48 cases (5.4%)
- French law with 44 cases (4.9%)
- Spanish law with 43 cases (4.8%)

A trend of English law ranking second, with local law being more commonly chosen by parties, has also been observed in other arbitral institutions.

As in the previous year, the [SIAC's 2025 casework report](#) notes that English law was applied in 28% of the cases it administered in 2025, making it the second most common governing law after Singapore law (52%).

The [SCC's latest report](#) notes that English law was the second most frequently used governing law in cases it administered in 2025 (4%), though it was a distant second to Swedish law (68%).

The [HKIAC's online reporting](#) shows Hong Kong law as the most frequently selected governing law, followed by English law.

⁸ At the time of writing, some of the arbitration bodies previously referenced in this report are not covered as they did not appear to have published equivalent statistics on the governing law of their cases.

3.3 International cases

International parties are the lifeblood of major arbitral institutions

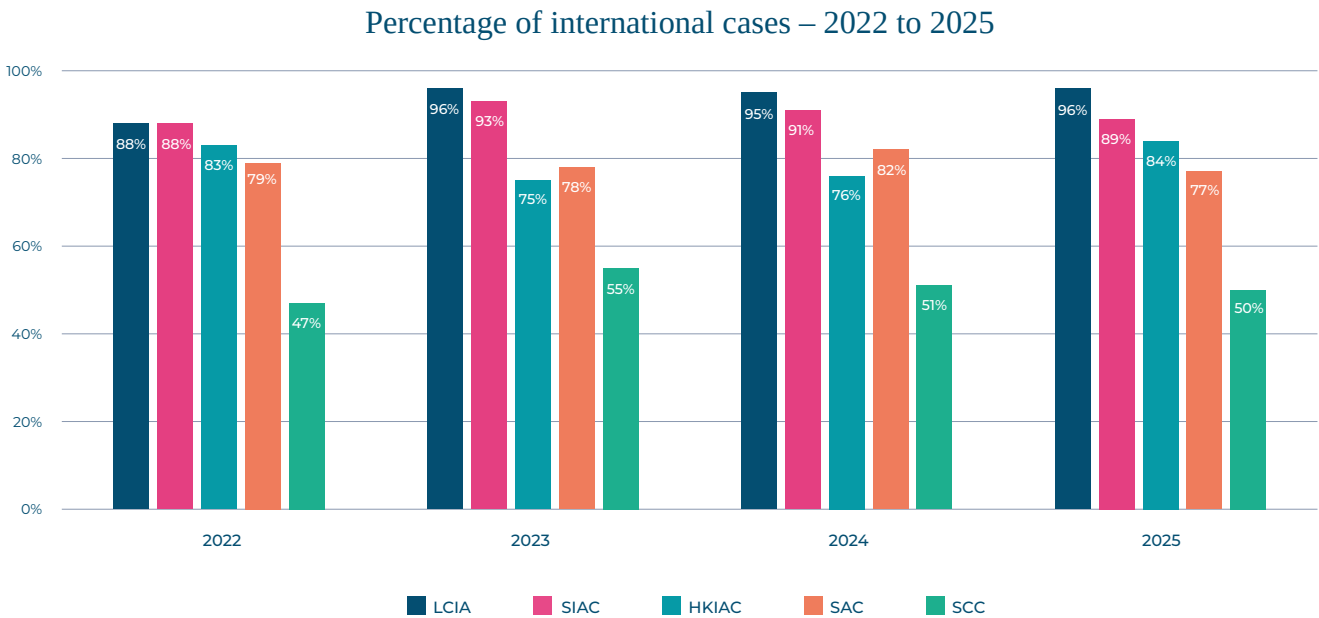


Table 13. Source: [LCIA annual reports](#), [SIAC annual reports](#), [HKIAC annual reports](#), [SAC annual reports](#) and [SCC annual reports](#)⁹

The majority of arbitral proceedings before the institutions referenced above are international in nature with parties from different jurisdictions, or an international element to the subject matter of the dispute.

⁹ At the time of writing, some of the arbitration bodies previously referenced in this report are not covered as they did not appear to have published equivalent statistics on international cases.

96% of the LCIA's caseload in 2025 involved at least one non-UK party. Like the year before, the SIAC and the SCC have both seen a slight decrease in the number of cases involving international parties, from 91% in 2024 to 89% in 2025, and from 51% in 2024 to 50% in 2025, respectively. SAC has recorded a drop in newly registered international cases, from 82% in 2024 to 77% in 2025. In comparison, the HKIAC's percentage of international work grew again, up from 76% in 2024 to 84% in 2025. In 2025, 69% of ICC arbitrations involved cross-border disputes.

Overall, this data supports the contention that international arbitration remains popular as a dispute resolution mechanism for parties in dispute around the globe in different jurisdictions.

3.4 Average amounts in disputes across arbitral institutions

In 2025, the average amount in dispute in the [ICC](#) was over United States Dollar (USD) 50 million in new cases, compared with USD 53.7 million in [HKIAC](#)-administered arbitrations, USD 24.7 million in new case filings with [SIAC](#), and around USD 18.5 million (Euro (EUR) 16 million) for the average amount in dispute under the [SCC](#) Arbitration Rules in the same year. At the time of writing, the [LCIA](#) had not published data on the average amount in dispute. However, 85% of LCIA cases with quantified monetary claims in 2024 involved claims of USD 50 million or less.

While methodologies may differ between institutions, the reported data shows that parties continue to refer disputes involving substantial commercial sums to major arbitral institutions.



4 Mediation

4.1 Mediation centres in England and Wales

The UK hosts several well-established mediation bodies active in the commercial mediation landscape. These include the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR), ADR Group, Independent Mediators Ltd and IPOS Mediation, among others. In addition, dispute resolution institutions such as the LCIA and the London Chamber of Arbitration and Mediation (LCAM) also offer mediation services alongside arbitration and other ADR services.

Furthermore, trade organisations like GAFTA also provide mediation, through dedicated mediation procedures, as an alternative to arbitration for resolving disputes.

Commercial mediation is also frequently conducted on an ad hoc basis under specialist institutional frameworks, for instance, through trade bodies such as the LMAA, which facilitates mediation under its own mediation terms.

4.2 Available data on civil and commercial mediation in England and Wales

Civil and Commercial Mediation Cases (England and Wales) reported in CEDR Mediation Audits

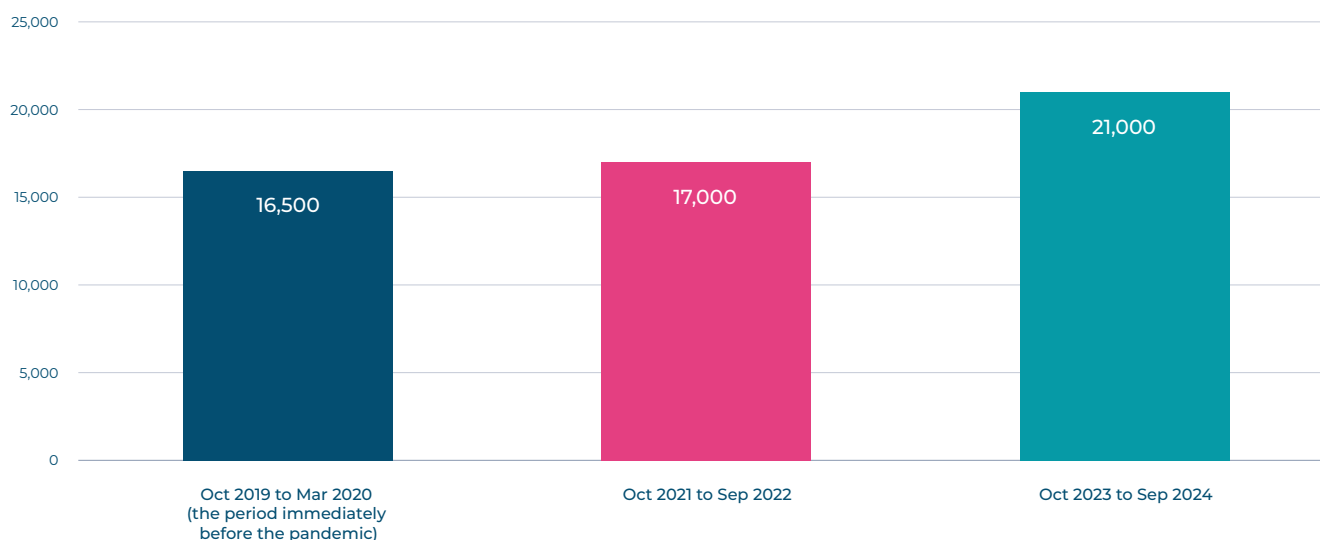


Table 14. Source: [The CEDR Mediation Audit Reports](#)

Based on the responses to its biennial survey of UK-based mediators, the CEDR estimated that the civil and commercial mediation market in England and Wales was in the order of 21,000 cases in the year to September 2024. This represented an increase of approximately 24% compared with the figure reported in 2022.

Although the CEDR estimate reflects a wider segment of the civil and commercial mediation market rather than international commercial mediation alone, it nevertheless provides a useful indication of the growing use of mediation as a voluntary dispute resolution mechanism.

Mediation outcomes remain consistently strong, with an aggregate settlement rate of 87% in 2024. Despite a modest decline from the 92% settlement rate reported in 2022, the reported settlement rate remains high for mediated disputes in England and Wales.

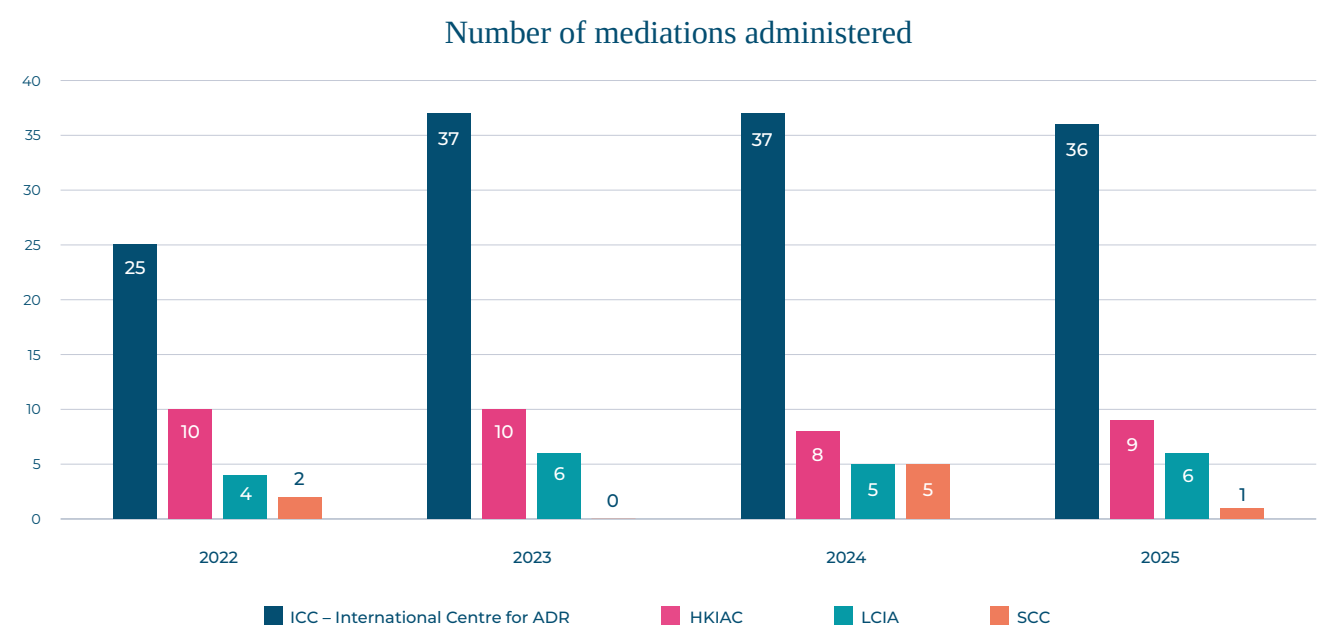


Table 15. Source: [ICC annual reports](#), [HKIAC annual reports](#), [LCIA annual reports](#) and [SCC annual reports](#)

Several leading dispute resolution institutions offer mediation alongside arbitration and other forms of alternative dispute resolution. Although mediation volumes remain substantially lower than arbitration caseloads, the availability of mediation services across major institutions reflects continuing interest in mediation to resolve commercial disputes.

The relatively stable number of institutional mediations suggests that mediation continues to complement, rather than replace, arbitration and litigation as a dispute resolution mechanism.

Publicly available data on commercial mediation remains limited. As a result, comparisons between different mediation bodies, in England and Wales and in the rest of the world, are difficult. The figures presented in this section primarily reflect broader civil and commercial mediation activity rather than international commercial mediation alone.

5

The size of the legal profession – solicitors and law firms

5.1 Growth of the profession: English and Welsh solicitors

Steady expansion of the profession



Table 16. Source: the Law Society of England and Wales data¹⁰

As of July 2025, there were 208,077 solicitors of England and Wales on the roll, representing a 2.8% increase in the total number of qualified solicitors compared with July 2024. This is the second consecutive year of growth in the number of solicitors on the roll following the drop in numbers recorded in 2023, when the reintroduction of roll maintenance meant that solicitors without a practising certificate had to apply to remain on the roll or else they would be removed.

Meanwhile, the number of practising certificate holders has continued to increase steadily, hitting 172,966 in 2025, up 3.2% on the previous year. The number of new solicitors admitted to the roll had a slight increase of 0.6%, with 9,635 new admissions in the year to July 2025.

¹⁰ The data on solicitors admitted to the roll reflects the number of new admissions on an annual basis.

An increasingly international profession

The number of solicitors based outside of England and Wales also grew 9.6% to 9,066 in 2025, with 8,904 holding a practising certificate. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) was the largest overseas location for solicitors in 2025, hosting 1,513 (16.7% of all solicitors abroad), followed by Hong Kong (949) and Singapore (862).

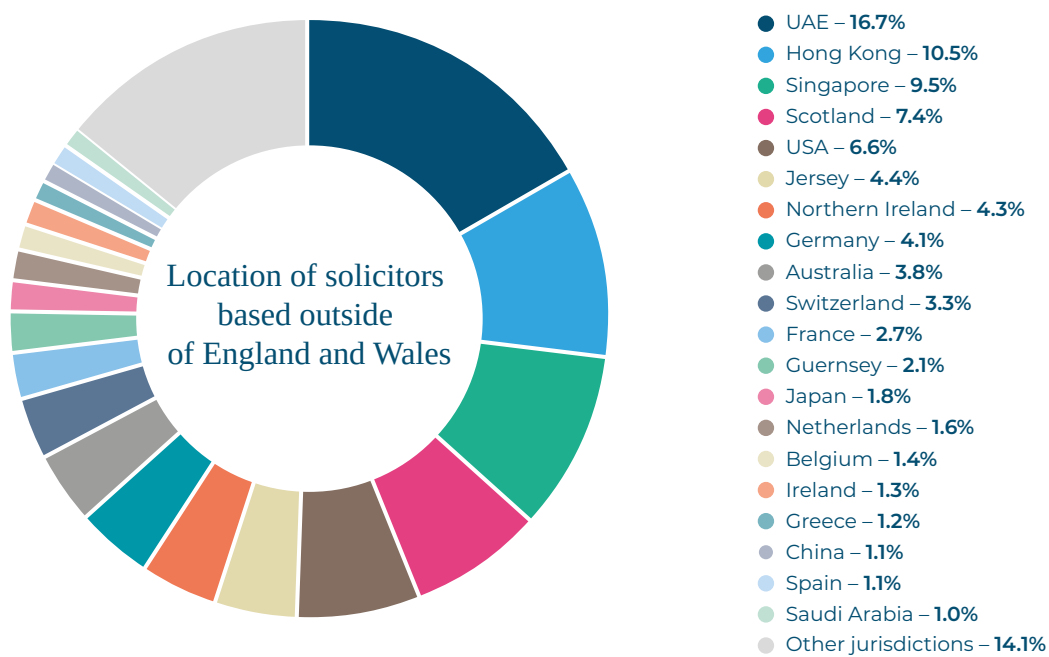


Table 17. Source: the Law Society of England and Wales data

Strong interest in qualifying as a solicitor of England and Wales

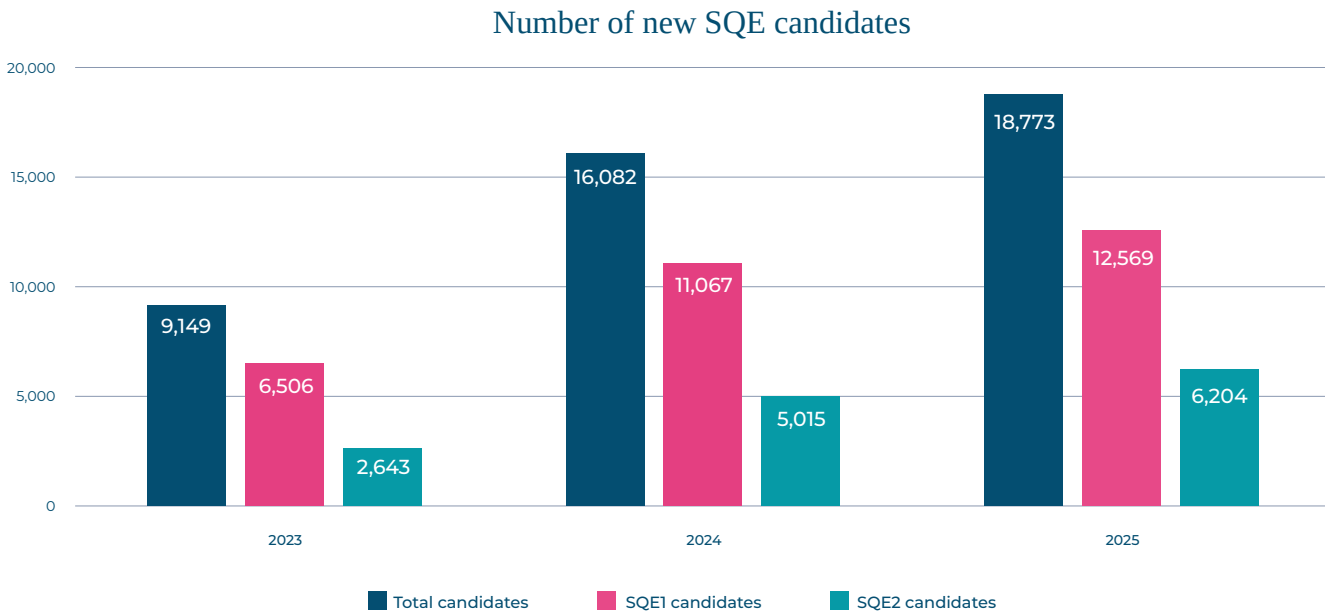


Table 18. Source: Solicitors Regulation Authority, [Solicitors Qualifying Examination Reports](#)

Over the course of the assessment windows between January and December 2025¹¹, 18,773 candidates sat at least one part of the Solicitors Qualifying Examination, representing a 17% increase compared with the previous year.

Of these candidates, 12,569 sat the first part of the exam (SQE1) and 6,204 attempted the second (SQE2).

This data demonstrates that there is a growing demand to qualify as a solicitor in England and Wales.

¹¹ Figures for 2025 include provisional data at the time of writing.

5.2 Growth of the profession: firm revenue

Firm revenues continue to increase

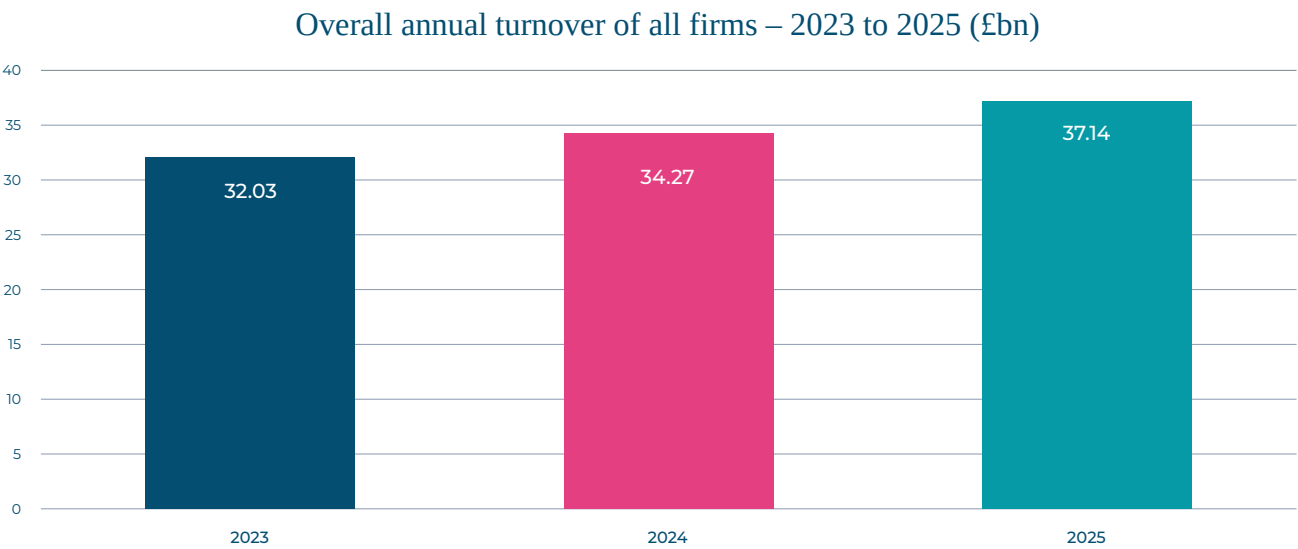


Table 19. Source: the Law Society of England and Wales data

The overall turnover of solicitor firms in England and Wales in 2025 grew by 8% to £37.14 billion.

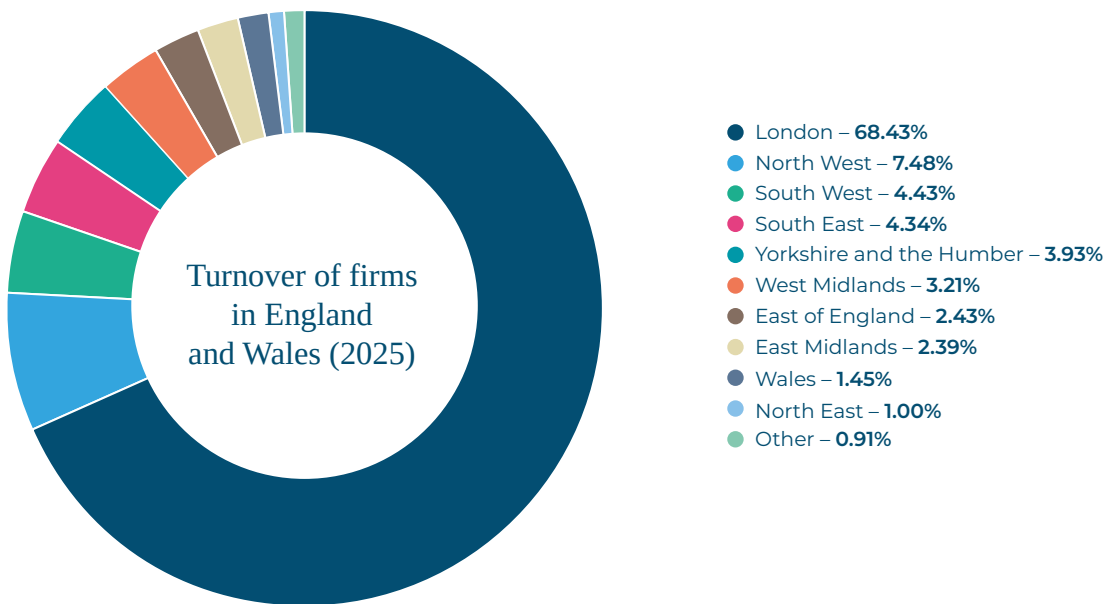


Table 20. Source: the Law Society of England and Wales data¹²

The revenue of London-headquartered firms grew by an even higher 10% to £25.41 billion, meaning these firms account for around 68% of the overall turnover of the profession.

¹² Turnover of firms in England and Wales by regions, police force areas and local authority districts.

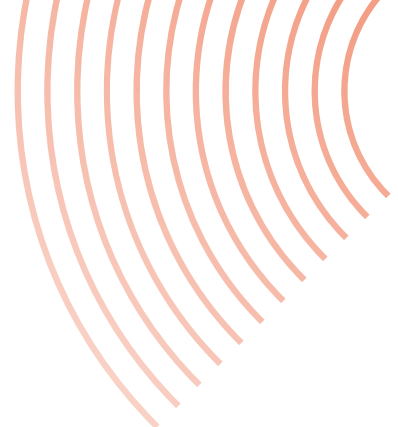
The average firm turnover was £4.4 million across England and Wales, and £8.7 million in London.

Of the 9,063 law firms in England and Wales, 80 had a turnover of more than £100 million in 2025. Together, this group of firms accounted for 56% of the profession's overall turnover (£20.9 billion) and employed 36% of the solicitor workforce (37,981 practising certificate holders).

Another 304 law firms turned over between £10 million and £99 million in 2025, generating another 23% of the overall turnover of the profession (£8.4 billion) and employing another 27% of the workforce (28,459 practising certificate holders).

Meanwhile, 25% of firms had a turnover between £1 million and £9 million, 51% between £100k and £999k, and 19% below £100k.





Conclusion

Perhaps the most eye-catching figure in this year's report is the value of legal services exports, which has grown by over 60% in five years to just under £11 billion. The legal services trade surplus is now approaching £10 billion. It is further evidence that international demand for legal services connected with England and Wales keeps on getting stronger.

As a result, the English and Welsh legal sector continues to make an ever more significant contribution to the UK economy.

Law firm revenues are continuing their upward trajectory, their combined turnover surpassing £37 billion – further underscoring the enduring strength and resilience of the sector.

It is perhaps unsurprising that the solicitors' profession is continuing to grow too, with increases recorded in practising certificate holders, solicitors based in overseas jurisdictions and candidates sitting the Solicitors Qualifying Examination.

London has further consolidated its position as one of the foremost centres for international dispute resolution. While the number of new claims received has seen a small decrease in the past two years, the London Commercial Court is still delivering more written judgments than each of its main international counterparts, drawing litigants from a diverse range of jurisdictions worldwide. The court further sustained its strong record of resolving a significant proportion of contested trials within comparatively short timeframes.

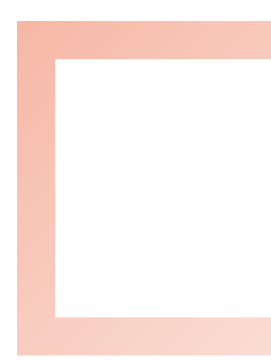
Arbitration activity remains strong too, as major London-based institutions and specialist arbitration bodies administer significant caseloads. English law has also maintained its standing as one of the most frequently selected governing laws in international arbitral proceedings.

The data also points to a growing use of mediation as a means of dispute resolution. While comprehensive international commercial mediation statistics remain limited in scope, available figures indicate a continued expansion of mediation activity and consistently high settlement rates.

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