

Who runs Britain's companies?

One of the main rallying calls of Brexiteers is to take back control of "our country" but who actually has control of the companies providing our goods and services? Many companies and products thought of as quintessentially English have been allowed to become foreign owned by lax UK rules concerning strategic ownership. The list below shows the extent of foreign ownership

| Company | Owner | Nationality |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| ARM Holdings | Softbank | Chinese |
| Arriva | Deutsche Bahn | German |
| Asda | Wal-Mart | American |
| Bass | AB-Inbev | American |
| Beefeater Gin | Ricard | French |
| Bentley | Volkswagen | German |
| Boots | Walgreens | American |
| Branston Pickle | Mizkan | Japanese |
| British Gypsum | Saint Gobain | French |
| Cadbury | Kraft | American |
| Caterham Team | Undisclosed | Swiss / Middle Eastern |
| Chivas Regal | Ricard | French |
| Colemans mustard | Unilever | Dutch / UK |
| E.ON | Group owners | German |
| EDF | EDF | French |
| Gatwick Airport | Global Infrastructure Partners | American |
| Harrods | State of Qatar | Qatari |
| Hartley's Jams | Hain Celestial | American |
| Heathrow Airport | Grupo | Spanish |
| House of Fraser | Sanpower | Chinese |
| HP Sauce | Heinz | American |
| ICI | AkzoNobel | Dutch |
| Jaguar- Land Rover | Tata | Indian |
| Manchester United | Glazer | American |
| Newcastle Brown Ale | Heineken | Dutch |
| Northern rail | Deutsche Bahn | German |
| Northumbrian Water | Chung Kong | Chinese |
| nPower | RWE | German |
| Npower | RWE Group | German |
| O2 | Telefonica | Spanish |
| Queen's Park Rangers | Fernandes | Malaysian |
| Radio Times | Hubert Burda | German |
| Rolls Royce motors | BMW | German |
| Rowntree | Nestle | Swiss |

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|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Sarson's Vinegar | Mizkan | Japanese |
| Scottish Power | Iberodrola | Spanish |
| South East water | CDPQ/ Utilities Trust | Canadian/Australian |
| Terry's Chocolates | Mondelez | Polish |
| Tetley's | Tata | Indian |
| Thames Water | Macquarie | Australian |
| Times | Murdoch | Australian / American |
| Typhoo | Surrenda | Indian |
| Walkers Crisps | PepsiCo | American |
| Weetabix | Bright Food | Chinese |

Foreign ownership is not necessarily disadvantageous, as long as inward investment is received, profits are not excessively exported, assets are not stripped, UK government subsidies are not unreasonably exploited and those working for these organisations are treated fairly. In many cases such companies contribute significantly to UK GDP.

However US-based companies owned more UK businesses than those from any other country. So will Brexit really enable us take back control or will the UK become a vassal colony of Trump's US with its much weaker environmental and labour protection controls and Trump's policy of America First?