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Media contact:
HMRC Press Office
020 7147 2318

Statistical contacts:

Andrew Watson
Tel: 03000 594162
andy.watson@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

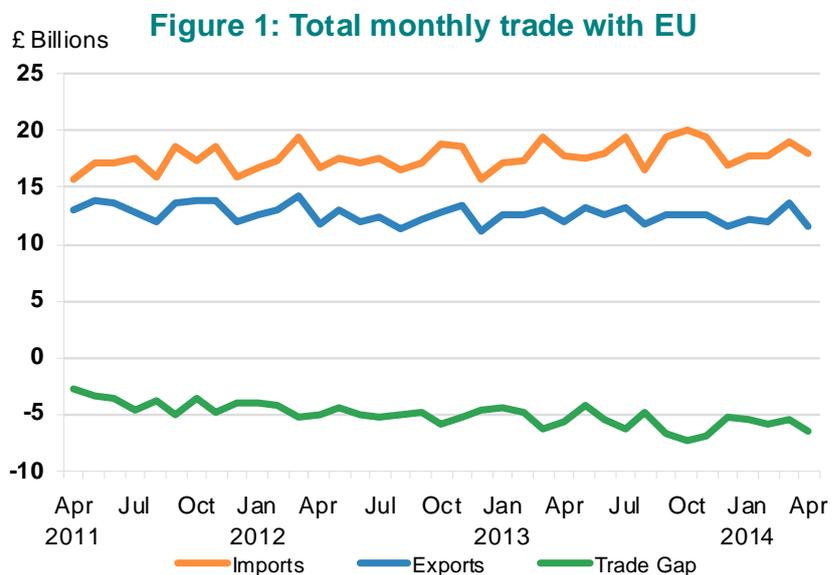
Customs Trade Statistics
HM Revenue & Customs
21 Victoria Avenue
Southend-on-Sea
SS99 1AA

Website:
<http://www.uktradeinfo.com>

UK Overseas Trade Statistics with EU April 2014

Summary

- Exports for April 2014 are £11.5 billion. This is a decrease of £2.1 billion (15.8 per cent) compared to last month. However, this is expected to increase by around £0.7 billion due to late declarations of Mineral Fuels, and will be updated in next month's report.
- Imports for April 2014 are £17.9 billion. This is a decrease of £1.1 billion (5.8 per cent) compared to last month.
- The UK remains a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports.



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
Note: 2013 and 2014 data are provisional

Trade Trends

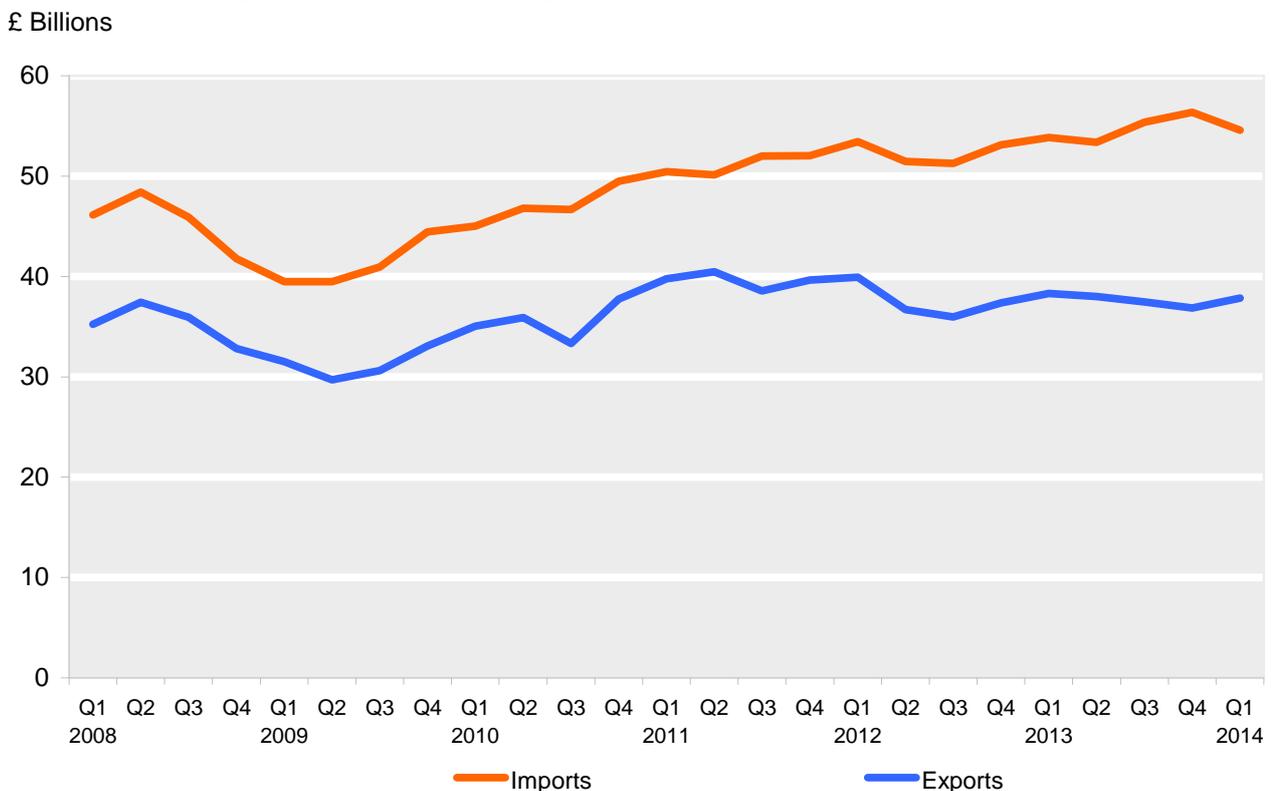
- Following the global economic crisis, UK trade started to decrease in 2008. Since the lows in early 2009, there has been a steady increase in imports through to the end of 2013, with a slight fall in 2014. Exports growth was seen until 2011, after which it fell in 2012 and has remained relatively constant in 2013.
- The total EU export trade for 2013 is £151 billion, which is marginally greater than the figure of £150 billion in 2012 (0.4 per cent increase).
- The total EU import trade for 2013 is £219 billion, which is greater than the figure of £209 billion in 2012 (4.6 per cent increase).
- The UK is a net EU importer (imports are greater than exports). The size of the annual trade gap has substantially grown between 2008 (£41 billion) and 2013 (£68 billion). This is a 68 per cent increase.
- For many years Germany has been both the UK's largest EU import and export trading partner by value.
- Motor vehicles has predominantly been the largest import commodity by value. For exports, Mineral fuels has consistently been the largest valued commodity.

Imports up 4.6%
in 2013 against
2012

Exports up 0.4%
in 2013 against
2012

Trade gap up
68% between
2008 -2013

Figure 2: Quarterly UK trade with EU, 2008-2014



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
Note: 2013 and 2014 data are provisional

Exports

Country Analysis

Table 1: UK exports to the top 5 EU partner countries, April 2014

Partner country	April 2014 exports (£ millions)	Change from March 2014 (%)	Change from April 2013 (%)	Rank March 2014	Rank April 2013
Germany	2,487	-21.0	3.0	1	1
Netherlands	1,563	-29.2	-12.4	2	3
Irish Republic	1,485	-1.8	2.6	4	4
France	1,484	-9.9	-26.4	3	2
Belgium	1,077	-7.7	-8.0	5	5
Others	3,394	-5.6	1.4	-	-
Total Exports	11,490	-15.8	-4.9	-	-

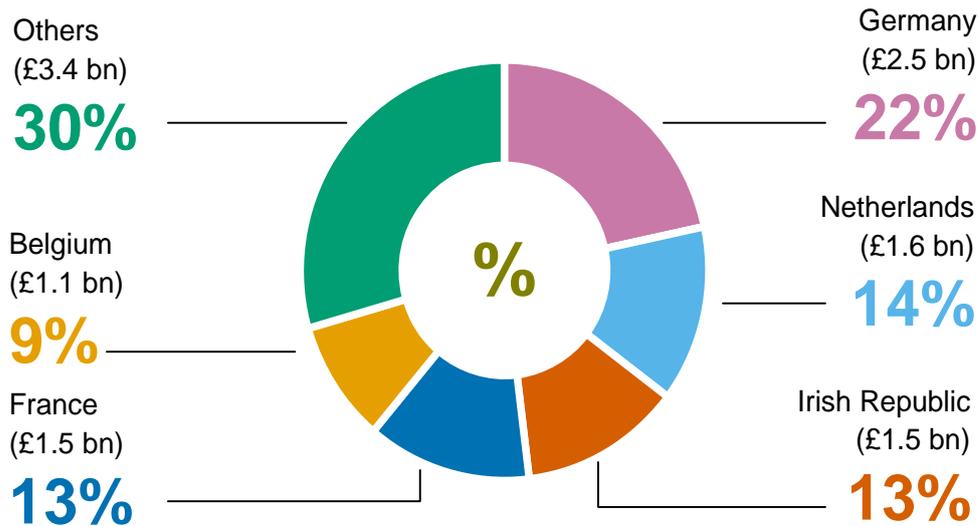
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2013 and 2014 data are provisional

- The top five EU export partner Member States (rank by value) has changed slightly from last month, with France falling behind the Irish Republic.
- All of the top five Member States have decreased trade values compared with last month. However, Germany and the Irish Republic showed increases compared to April 2013.
- Germany is the largest EU export partner country, accounting for 22 per cent of the total value of exports. However, trade to this country decreased the most in value when compared with last month, down £0.7 billion (21 per cent). Despite this, exports to Germany increased the most by value on April 2013, up £72 million (3.0 per cent).
- In the top five, trade with the Netherlands decreased the most by percentage compared with last month (29 per cent). France had the largest fall in value for all countries compared with April 2013, down by £533 million (26 per cent).
- Trade with Malta had the largest percentage increase compared with last month, up £9 million (26 per cent).

Exports to the Netherlands down 30% on last month

Exports to France down 29% on April 2013

Figure 3: UK exports to top 5 EU partner countries, April 2014



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2014 data are provisional

The top five EU Member States account for 70 per cent of total EU exports, compared to 73 per cent in April 2013.

Commodity Analysis

Table 2: UK exports to EU by top 5 commodities, April 2014

Commodity Description	April 2014 Exports (£ millions)	Change from March 2014 (%)	Change from April 2013 (%)	Rank March 2014	Rank April 2013
Mineral fuels	1,457	-48.2	-32.2	1	1
Mechanical appliances	1,324	-2.2	0.7	3	2
Motor vehicles	1,219	-13.6	8.7	2	3
Pharmaceutical products	875	-7.9	11.5	4	5
Electronic equipment	800	-7.8	-0.2	5	4
Others	5,816	-4.3	-1.0	-	-
Total Exports	11,490	-15.8	-4.9	-	-

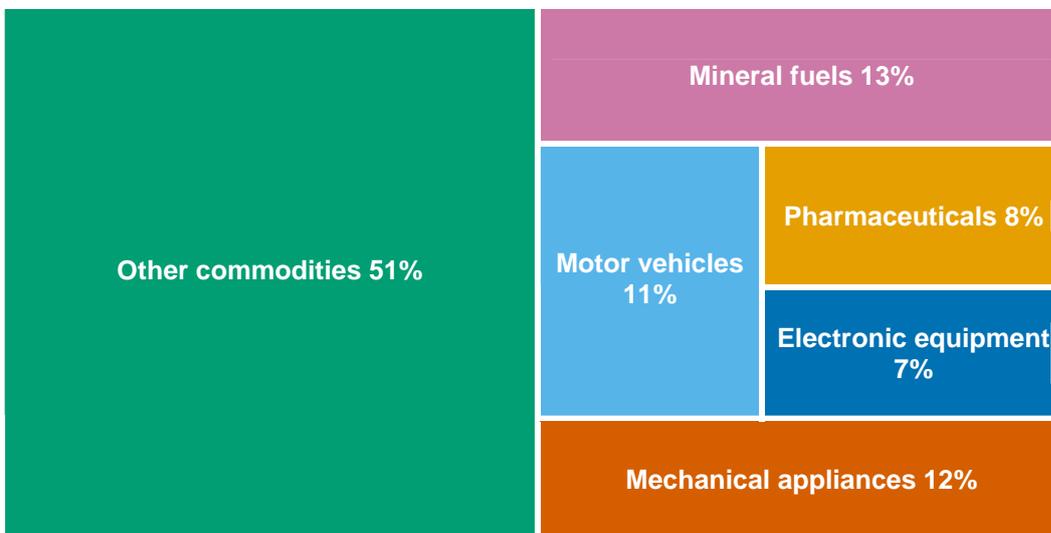
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2013 and 2014 data are provisional

- Mineral fuels remains the top commodity exported. However, around £0.7 billion is expected to be added in next month's report, potentially increasing its share.
- Motor vehicles had the second largest value fall against last month, £192 million (14 per cent) but had the largest value increase against April 2013, up £98 million (8.7 per cent).
- Ships and boats more than doubled on last month, up £40 million (the largest percentage increase).
- Pharmaceuticals had the largest percentage increase compared with April 2013, up £90 million (11 per cent).

Motor vehicles exports down 14% on last month

Pharmaceuticals exports up 11% on April 2013

Figure 4: UK exports to EU by top five commodities, April 2014



Total value of exports to EU partner countries £11.5 billion

Source: HM Revenue and Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2014 data are provisional

Combined Commodity and Country Analysis

- The substantial decrease in Mineral fuels compared to last month was led by falls in exports to the Netherlands and Germany. However, this decrease is likely to reduce when updated next month.
- The decrease in Motor vehicles was led by a fall in exports to Belgium of £69 million (21 per cent) compared to last month.
- The rise in Pharmaceuticals compared to April 2013 was led by exports to Germany doubling in value, up £113 million.

Motor vehicles to Belgium down 21% on last month

Pharmaceuticals to Germany double from April 2013

Imports

Country Analysis

Table 3: UK imports from top 5 EU countries, April 2014

Partner Country	April 2014 imports (£ millions)	Change from March 2014 (%)	Change from April 2013 (%)	Rank March 2014	Rank April 2013
Germany	4,874	-5.5	5.4	1	1
Netherlands	2,649	-4.9	-3.5	2	2
France	2,045	-10.3	0.1	3	3
Belgium	1,614	-10.7	-3.2	4	4
Italy	1,326	-2.7	15.8	5	5
Others	5,386	-2.1	-1.3	-	-
Total Imports	17,893	-5.8	0.9	-	-

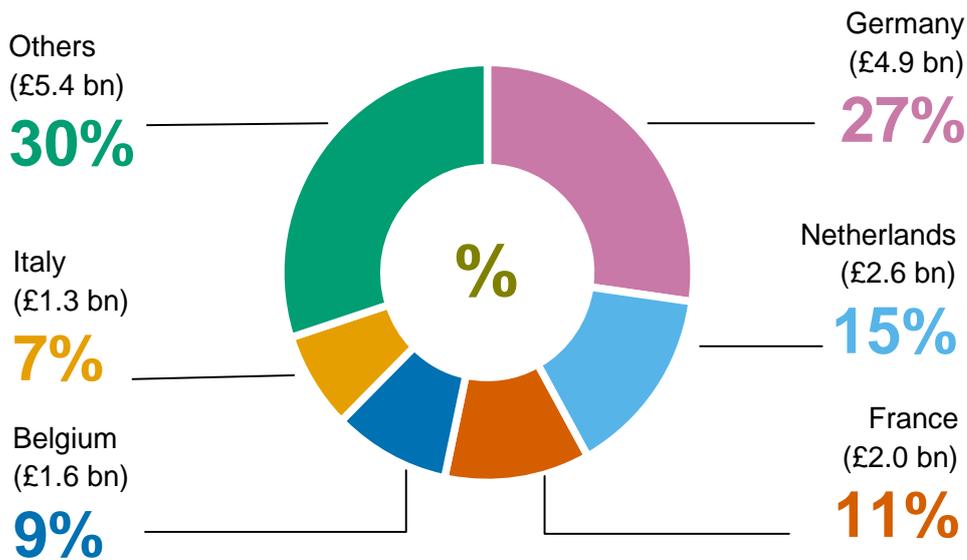
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2013 and 2014 data are provisional

- The top five EU import partner Member States (ranked by value) remain unchanged compared with last month, and with April 2013.
- Imports from all of these Member States have decreased compared with last month. Germany, France and Italy all rose compared to April 2013.
- The UK imports most goods from Germany, which accounts for 27 per cent of total value of EU imports. However, this country decreased the most in value compared with last month, down £285 million (5.5 per cent), but increased the most in value on April 2013, up £252 million (5.4 per cent).
- Imports from France showed the next largest decrease, of £234 million (10 per cent) compared to last month. Denmark had the largest fall compared to April 2013, down £141 million (34 per cent).
- Italy had the second largest increase compared to April 2013, up £181 million (16 per cent).

Imports from Germany down 5.5% on last month

Imports from Italy up 16% on April 2013

Figure 5: UK imports from top 5 EU partner countries, April 2014



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2014 data are provisional

The top five EU Member States account for 70 per cent of total EU imports, compared to 69 per cent in April 2013.

Commodity Analysis

Table 4: UK imports from EU by top 5 commodities, April 2014

Description	April 2014 Exports (£ millions)	Change from March 2014 (%)	Change from April 2013 (%)	Rank March 2014	Rank April 2013
Motor vehicles	3,230	-8.6	8.2	1	1
Mechanical appliances	2,181	-9.9	3.4	2	2
Electronic equipment	1,516	-3.0	2.9	3	3
Pharmaceutical products	1,291	9.4	23.7	4	5
Mineral fuels	780	-5.2	-26.4	5	4
Others	8,894	-5.8	-1.7	-	-
Total Imports	17,893	-5.8	0.9	-	-

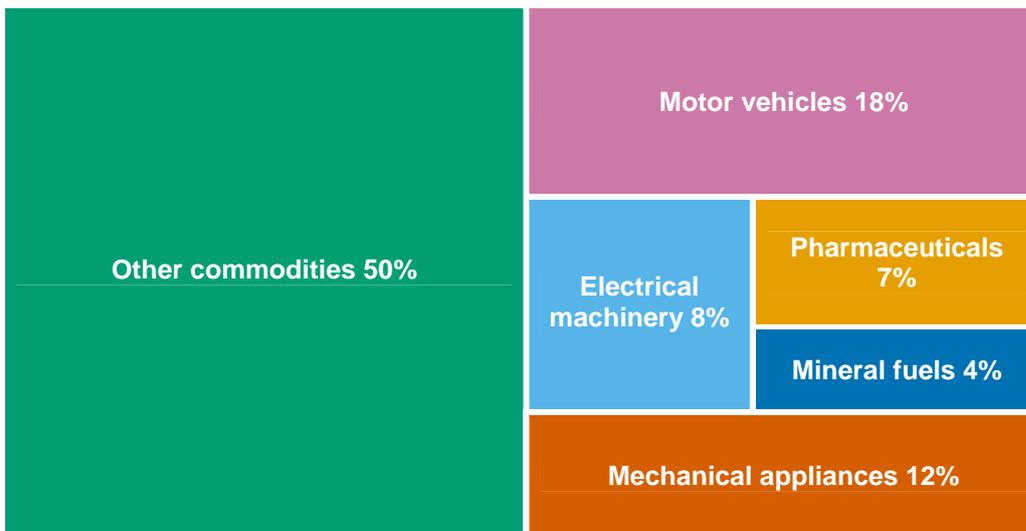
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2013 and 2014 data are provisional

- Motor vehicles remains the top commodity imported, contributing £3.2 billion (18 per cent of the total value of EU import trade), but saw the largest fall compared with last month, £304 million (8.6 per cent). However, it rose by £244 million (8.2 per cent) compared to April 2013.
- Pharmaceuticals experienced the largest increase compared to both last month, up £111 million (9.4 per cent), and April 2013, up £247 million (24 per cent).
- Mineral fuels had the largest fall against April 2013, down £280 million (26 per cent).

Motor vehicles imports down 8.6% on March 2014

Pharmaceuticals imports up 24% on April 2013

Figure 6: UK imports from EU by top five commodities, April 2014



Total value of imports from EU partner countries £17.9 billion

Source: HM Revenue and Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
Note: 2014 data are provisional

Combined Commodity and Country Analysis

- Motor vehicles had the largest decrease against last month, led by a fall from Belgium of £159 million (30 per cent). The increase against April 2013 was led by a rise of £169 million (12 per cent) from Germany.
- The increase in Pharmaceuticals was driven by a rise from the Netherlands, up £185 million (nearly three-fold) on last month; and by Germany, France and the Netherlands, increasing by £85 million, £84 million and £77 million against April 2013 respectively.
- The drop in Mineral fuels compared to April 2013 was led by falls of £170 million (38 per cent) from the Netherlands, £110 million (99 per cent) from Denmark, and £105 million (57 per cent) from Belgium.

Motor vehicles from Belgium down 30% on last month

Mineral fuels from Netherlands down 38% on April 2013

Annex I – Metadata

You can access the data behind this bulletin through our [uktradeinfo web site](#).

- Detailed Trade Statistics data at 8-digit commodity code level is available in our [interactive database](#). This is based on the Harmonised System (HS).
- Aggregate OTS data is available in [pre-prepared Excel tables](#).
- Data relating to monthly EU import and export totals for January 2008 onwards with a breakdown of non-monetary gold and other trade is available in an [OTS time series spreadsheet](#).
- You can find details of how users interested in import and export markets for specific goods make use of the detailed OTS data in '[The User Story](#)'.

Annex II – Methodological Notes

1. HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with Member States of the European Union (EU) on 10 June under arrangements set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#).
2. This release includes the first provisional estimates of trade-in-goods between the UK and Member States of the EU for April 2014. At the same time revisions for all previously published EU data for 2013 are also being released in line with the [HM Revenue & Customs Policy on Revisions](#).
3. The figures provided in this publication of the April 2014 EU Overseas Trade Statistics are collected from the Intrastat survey. They will include:
 - a. Estimates for businesses who have yet to submit detailed data on the trade they had with other EU Member States in April.
 - b. Estimates for businesses who do not have to submit detailed data on the trade they have with other EU Member States
 - c. An adjustment for trade associated with Missing Trader Intra Community fraud. More details of this can be found [here](#).
4. Estimates are included in all high level totals including HS2 and country totals.
5. Detailed trade information is presented according to the [Harmonised System \(HS\)](#) nomenclature.
6. The aggregate estimates here will differ slightly from those that are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as part of the Balance of Payments (BoP), as the two sets of data are compiled to different sets of rules. The ONS web site provides an overview of BoP at the [Guide to UK Trade](#) as well as the detailed monthly [UK Trade Releases](#). The BoP publication shows a high level picture of UK trade-in-goods, whereas the OTS publication shows a detailed picture of the UK's trade-in-goods by commodity and partner country. More detail about the differences between the BoP and OTS publications can be found [here](#).
7. The aggregate estimates here will differ from the Eurostat publication [Euro area external trade](#). The OTS is published as 'general trade' based upon goods recorded as they enter or leave the UK. This will include goods imported into and exported from a freezone or customs warehouse, regardless of their future use. The Eurostat EU external trade data are published as 'special trade' where goods are recorded as trade only when they enter free circulation or are

declared to specific Customs regimes such as Inward Processing (IP) or Processing under Customs Control (PCC). Imports from a free zone or customs warehouse are similarly recorded in 'special trade'.

8. Information to help support users of the EU Overseas Trade Statistics can be found [here](#). This includes links to our policies on revision and suppression of data, descriptions of the methodology used to compile the Overseas Trade Statistics and information on the quality of the data published.
9. HMRC has suspended the National Statistics designation for this edition of the EU Overseas Trade Statistics. This is in response to the [concerns raised by UKSA](#) in relation to the omission of estimates for the dispatch of Oil from the UK Trade Statistics (ONS) release. The Code of Practice for Official Statistics aims to ensure that official statistics meet the needs of users; are produced, managed, and disseminated to a high standard; and that statistics are well explained. The OTS release also included estimates affected by this omission and the scale of the error in this case has led to the conclusion that this overall objective of the Code has not been met. The designation will be removed from this edition and it is anticipated that it will be reintroduced with a subsequent release that incorporates revisions to the data correcting this issue.

Statistical contact:

Andrew Watson 03000 594162

e-mail uktradeinfo@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

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