

# Regional Trade Statistics



## Regional Trade Statistics Methodology Paper

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# 1 Introduction

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC), formerly HM Customs and Excise, introduced the Regional Trade Statistics (RTS) series in January 1999 to support the economic decision-making of the devolved Scottish and Welsh Governments and other regional bodies within the UK. These statistics provide a useful breakdown of the flows of imports and exports between regions of the UK and other countries. RTS was designed to provide a meaningful breakdown of the UK's Overseas Trade Statistics (OTS), presented in the standard 'Government Office Region' geography:

United Kingdom

England

North East  
North West  
Yorkshire and the Humber

East Midlands  
West Midlands

East  
London  
South East  
South West

Wales  
Scotland  
Northern Ireland

RTS includes all merchandise trade within the scope of the UK's OTS. It therefore excludes trade in services (e.g. banking, tourism) and intangibles (e.g. financial investments or transfers) and also the movement of goods between regions of the UK.

In 2002, a review of the RTS system was carried out by the Trade Statistics unit in HMRC. This was intended not only to improve the robustness and maintenance of the RTS system, but also to review the range of outputs generated and the extent to which users' needs were being met. This review included consultation with the users of RTS as to which data elements were most useful and where further development or additional detail would be most beneficial. One key recommendation of the 2002 review concluded that, in order to match OTS as far as possible, the RTS totals should aim to match the OTS trade totals.

This paper covers the methodology used in the production of RTS, including the source of the data, the scope and limitations of trade statistics information received by HMRC, and provides a brief discussion of outputs and data dissemination.

A description of the methodology used by HMRC in the preparation of the OTS can be found [here](#)

## 2 Source of data

This section provides an overview of the production process of the RTS figures.

### 2.1 Data collection process

The RTS figures are derived from OTS data prepared on the 'general trade'<sup>1</sup> basis. The RTS system makes use of transaction information such as commodity code, value of trade (in £), weight of trade (in kg), partner country/country group and other data fields. The RTS also uses trader information such as the trader's postcode and trade class (principal industrial activity of the trader as defined under the Standard Industrial Classification).

Trade below the Intrastat threshold is contained within OTS in the form of 'below threshold trade allocations' (BTTAs), and is also included within the RTS system. Although these BTTAs do not contain trader information, the same methodology used in OTS to calculate BTTAs is replicated in RTS. This is described further in section 4.11.

Note that where traders are not VAT-registered, there is no mechanism in place to collect information on EU trade movements. These trade flows are therefore not included in either the EU OTS or RTS figures.

### 2.2 Administrative information

In order to produce the RTS, the trader postcode information extracted from the OTS data sources is matched with geographical information such as region and county boundaries. Aggregation at the product level is achieved by matching commodity information with various accepted classification systems. These data sources are described more fully below.

### 2.3 ONS All Fields Postcode Directory

This database is managed by ONS Geography and matches geographic units such as regions, counties and unitary authorities to 8-digit postcodes in the UK. The postcode of each active trader within the HM Revenue & Customs business register is matched against the contents of the postcode database, to incorporate information such as region, county, district and unitary authority indicators. The RTS system uses an annual update to ensure timeliness of postcode data.

### 2.4 HMRC Departmental Trader Register (DTR)

This database contains administrative details on every VAT-registered trader in the UK (of which there are in excess of 2 million). The DTR is used to match the VAT

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<sup>1</sup> Under the **general system**, goods are recorded as they enter or leave the UK. For imports/arrivals this will include goods imported into a free zone or customs warehouse, regardless of whether the goods are intended for subsequent entry into home use or for re-export. For exports/dispatches, goods exported from free zones or customs warehouses are included.

registration number and branch identifier of the trader to the current postcode recorded for that trader. The trader register is updated monthly.

## **2.5 Commodity correlation tables**

UK trade figures presented within the OTS publications are broken down by 8 digit Combined Nomenclature (CN8) descriptions, which are grouped within the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC, Rev. 4) 5-digit headings.

The introduction of regional breakdowns within the RTS framework makes it necessary to aggregate commodity code information for two main reasons. First, the presentation of RTS figures is simplified if all CN8 descriptions can be combined within a manageable number of higher levels. Second, aggregation helps to ensure trader confidentiality.

The system for aggregation within RTS is based on the SITC (Rev. 4) 2-digit headings (called 'SITC Divisions'). A list of SITC Divisions is contained in Annex 1. For regular outputs, each unique CN8 code is correlated to one unique SITC Division. Being an internationally accepted classification system that forms the basis for the publication of OTS figures, SITC is the system of choice to use within the RTS methodology. The SITC correlation is managed by the United Nations.

## **3 Methodology**

This section provides an overview of the production process of the RTS figures.

### **3.1 Data collection process**

The data required for the allocation of trade to regions are taken from various sources within HMRC. A broad outline of the matching process is given below:

### **3.2 Collecting trader specific data**

The system collects a list of all traders making trade movements during the month of account from the trader registers. The fields include the trader reference, postcode and trade class.

### **3.3 Collecting trade declarations data**

The system collects all lines of trade made for the month of account from the OTS data systems. The category fields include the month of account, flow (import or export), the trader's reference (the VAT registration number plus a branch identifier), the partner country, the commodity code of the goods (in Combined Nomenclature 8 digit form), a UK port code, whether the shipment was 'containerised' or not and whether the statistics require suppression e.g. for military goods. Note the port and containerisation information is available for non-EU data only.

The statistical data fields are the 'statistical value' of the shipment (in £) and its weight (in kg, excluding packaging). Note that for EU trade, the 'statistical value' of the shipment is a figure calculated by HMRC from the declared invoice value

submitted by the trader plus data on delivery terms. This adjustment is to reflect the value of the shipment as at the boundary of the UK statistical territory<sup>2</sup>.

### **3.4 Merging data sources**

The system matches the trader information and trade data with the contents of the 'ONS All Fields Postcode Directory', to include the trader's geographic information on every line of trade declared by that trader. This process is outlined in Annex 2.

## **4 Matching regionalised data with other fields**

Data are merged with the CN8/SITC correlation table to introduce a 5-digit SITC code for each CN8 code. The SITC code is then truncated to 2-digit level (SITC Division) for the production of outputs.

Data are matched with country groups as defined within the UK statistical reporting system. Producing outputs based on country groups, rather than on individual countries, are sometimes useful where a query demands more detail at the commodity or regional level. Grouping countries into one of eight continents or country groupings e.g. EU28, renders the outputs less disclosive.

To ensure that all calculations have been carried out correctly, checksums are computed at each point of the matching and aggregation process, so that any discrepancy can be quickly identified and resolved.

### **4.1 Issues**

This methodological approach offers a sound basis for allocating trade to regions, based on the recorded postcode of the trader involved in the trade transaction. However, the nature of the trade information received by HMRC invariably leads to a number of problems. These issues and the approaches chosen to solve them are described below.

### **4.2 Incomplete or incorrect trader information**

The quality of the RTS outputs is to a large part dependent on the accuracy and completeness of OTS data. Within the Trade Statistics unit, significant efforts are made to assess the quality of the statistical information provided by traders and agents on the supplementary declarations (EU trade), while Customs processes provide checks on the single administrative documents (non-EU trade). These procedures are used to quality assure the OTS outputs.

Looking specifically at RTS, the two fields that are essential for the matching process to work are the trader VAT number and the postcode fields. A regional coding may or may not be found, depending on the outcome of the matching procedure outlined in Annex 2.

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<sup>2</sup> This is consistent with the 'general trade' method of international trade accounting.

The introduction of HMRC's 'New Export System' in March 2002 brought a reduction in the incidence of missing or incorrect information within non-EU export data, from 11.7 per cent (early 2001) to around 4 per cent (early 2003).

### 4.3 Head office distortion

Traders are identified for RTS purposes by a Trader's Unique Reference Number (TURN), which is a combination of VAT registration number and branch identifier. It is the TURN, in particular the branch identifier, which is the main data source used in the compilation of the RTS as it is matched with the relevant postcode in order to allocate trade to specific regions of the UK. In the vast majority of trade declarations where the TURN and postcode are present, the RTS process is able to allocate trade to regions. However, a simple allocation would not necessarily be an accurate reflection of reality. One particular branch within a trading group may make trade declarations on behalf of some or all companies within that group. Such offices could represent the national head office or one of many regional administrative centres.

In these cases the trade declaration will contain the registered number of the administrative centre as the declarant. If not corrected, the RTS process would allocate this trade to the region of the declarant and not to the region of the branch responsible for manufacture or processing. This approach essentially allocates trade on the basis of '*value responsibility*' instead of '*value creation*' or '*value-added*'. The impact of this phenomenon on the RTS figures is that there is a bias to record trade to regions around London and the South-East (where head/administrative offices predominate) and away from other regions.

To compensate for this and reallocate trade data, HMRC carry out periodic surveys of the top 200 traders by value of exports (both EU and non-EU), to elicit information regarding the values and proportions of trade generated by each branch.

If the trader reference on a line of trade matches the trader reference of a company that has provided a response to the survey, the RTS process forces a split of value to various regions according to the parameters supplied by the respondent. If not, then the region where the head office is located is used by default. Although this cannot eradicate all of the distortion, at least by surveying the top companies we estimate that we are dealing with a large proportion of the trade in a statistically sound manner.

This approach is applied to both the EU and non-EU export data. Of course, head office distortion will remain for companies that have not been contacted via the survey, and it is not possible to survey every trader within the UK for detailed information of this nature. For imports, such adjustments cannot be made, as survey respondents cannot produce a reasonable assessment of the final regional location for goods. For example, imports of finished goods such as cars are destined for many places throughout the UK, typically to salesrooms or other points of sale, which would be difficult to quantify for RTS purposes. The approach works better on exports, because manufacture of goods is typically more regionally concentrated compared to sale of goods.

In 2009 the introduction of the Economic Operator Registration and Identification (EORI) system enabled EU economic operators (businesses) to register for customs purposes in one Member State to obtain an EORI number which is valid throughout all EU member states. The EORI number replaced the TURN supplied on trade data

for all businesses trading with non-EU countries. Under the EORI system, the vast majority of businesses are not allowed to retain branch identifiers. This affects RTS, as it results in all trade being declared to the head office(s) in a single region (or a small number of regions). The result is that the recorded trade for regions containing branches of a business is reduced, while the recorded trade for regions containing the head office(s) of that business increases. The impact of the change is being monitored and reviewed by the Trade Statistics unit.

#### **4.4 Treatment of unusual trade**

There are a number of categories of trade that present difficulties in terms of assigning regions to the traders or activities responsible for the trade flows. These are described below.

#### **4.5 Natural gas and electricity**

Trade data relating to Natural gas and electricity is obtained directly from pipeline and grid operators. As this data contains no trader reference number, it cannot be assigned to any one region and is therefore categorised under 'Unknown region'.

#### **4.6 Oil dispatch trade**

Where oil is processed on rigs in the North Sea and dispatched directly to other countries, the oil does not enter the UK and therefore does not obtain any regional coding. Naturally this category is significant in terms of value of trade. This category applies only to the movements of oils to other EU countries, and does not apply to imports of oil to the UK or exports of oils to non-EU countries. The RTS system categorises this oil trade as 'Unknown region' in the absence of a strong supporting case to allocate it to any one region.

#### **4.7 Overseas traders registered in the UK**

There are a number of traders who act within the UK on behalf of foreign companies overseas, operating as 'ghost presences'. For ease of administration, these traders are registered for VAT purposes with Customs House, Aberdeen. This trade amounted to £17.5 billion of imports and £12.2 billion of exports in 2012. The RTS system categorises this ghost trade as 'Unknown region', as allocating it all to Scotland would falsely inflate the Scottish share and we do not have any information to enable us to re-allocate these data to other regions.

#### **4.8 Private individuals' trade**

Where individuals are importing goods from non-EU countries, the declaration will not contain a valid trader reference number, but an alternative number which is usually prefixed by P (for internal administrative purposes). These individuals do not provide other address and postcode information; therefore the trade within this category cannot be allocated to a specific region. This trade is relatively small, amounting to £1.1 billion of imports and £0.4 billion of exports in 2012. The RTS system categorises this trade under 'Unknown region'.

## **4.9 Non-registered entities' trade**

Similar to the preceding section, this category reflects trade carried out not by individuals but by entities that for whatever reason are not registered for VAT. No address information is available. This trade recorded amounted to £5.6 billion of exports to non-EU countries in 2012. The RTS system categorises this trade under 'Unknown region'.

## **4.10 Government trade**

Government departments carry out some international trade, the information for which is classed under dummy trader references. This trade is very small and is classified by the RTS system under 'Unknown region'.

## **4.11 Channel Islands and Isle of Man trade**

For the purposes of the OTS, 'United Kingdom' is defined as Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands and the Continental Shelf (UK governed area of the North Sea). Therefore the OTS exclude trade between these different parts of the UK but include their trade with other countries. The Channel Islands (CI) and the Isle of Man (IoM) do not belong in a political or administrative sense to any particular UK Government Office Region. For RTS purposes overseas trade carried out by CI and IoM is therefore classified as 'Unknown region'. The figures are relatively small, totalling around £1.6 billion for imports and £0.9 billion for exports in 2012.

## **4.12 Below Threshold Trade Allocations**

### **OTS**

For EU trade only, traders below the Intrastat Supplementary Declaration threshold (below-threshold traders) are not required to submit details of their EU trade to HMRC. Estimates known as 'below threshold trade allocations' are made of this trade; these are broken down by partner country and commodity and are included in OTS. It is assumed that the distribution of below-threshold trade by partner country and commodity is similar to the distribution of trade carried out by traders who are just above the Supplementary Declaration Threshold (this is known as 'just-above threshold trade' or JATT). The methodology is implemented separately for arrivals and dispatches and produces monthly allocations.

The below threshold trade (BTT) total for a month is calculated by adding up the global declarations (total supplies and acquisitions to/from the EU taken from the VAT returns) for all traders not on the Intrastat register that month. The below threshold trade total is used both in the calculation of the factors and their implementation.

The JATT for a period is calculated by adding up all the supplementary declarations for each trader over the period, then selecting the trade from the smallest traders, ascending until the BTT total is just exceeded.

Each month the BTTA allocation factors are calculated for each combination of 4-digit commodity code and country; these are based on the Intrastat trade received on Supplementary Declarations for the same month the previous year. Each factor represents the proportion of total trade in that commodity/country combination that is attributable to JATT.

Initial BTT allocations are then derived by multiplying the total trade received in each 8-digit commodity code and country combination by the appropriate factor. These initial allocations are scaled uniformly to ensure they add up to the required BTT total for the month.

When the OTS monthly releases for a calendar year are revised for the final time, at the time of the June release of the following year, the monthly BTT allocations are re-scaled to match the revised BTT total for the year, taking account of amendments to VAT returns and retrospective additions to the Intrastat register.

## **RTS**

For the RTS, the detailed BTT allocations obtained for OTS are first aggregated at HS6<sup>3</sup>/country level and then broken down by region. In order to obtain this regional split, regional BTT factors are calculated at HS6/country/region level using the following method:

- First, the JATT trade (equivalent to the BTTA total for the previous year) is obtained from the OTS figures and aggregated by HS6/country/trader, then the region for each trader is applied from the RTS figures. The JATT trade is then aggregated by HS6/country/region.
- The RTS BTTA factors are then obtained by calculating, for every HS6/country group, the proportion of JATT trade in each region. For each quarterly RTS release of the following year the RTS BTT allocations are derived by multiplying the total OTS BTT allocation in each HS6/country group by the appropriate regional factors to obtain the RTS BTT allocations by region.

### **4.13 Discontinuities in time series**

Changes in Combined Nomenclature commodity codes may introduce breaks in the time series. Where an existing commodity code is essentially split so that a new commodity is created, then at the SITC Division level the amount of trade within that Division is unchanged. It is extremely rare for commodity codes to move from one Division to another unless part of a planned overhaul of the SITC managed by the United Nations. The last SITC revision (SITC Rev. 4) was implemented in 2007.

The only time that a discontinuity arises at the product level is when demand for a new 'product' is created. For example, the increase in use of mobile telephones meant that trade within SITC Division 85, increased in real terms. It is not usually possible to backcast figures excluding these new products.

The advent of EORI (see section 4.3) in June 2008 also led to some discontinuity in the RTS data series due to the reduction in branch information available after that date. This has resulted in a greater degree head-office distortion (see section 4.3).

Occasionally, there may be discontinuities in the RTS data series caused by corrections of previous errors in the data. In the Quarter 1 2013 RTS release, the correction of a longstanding error resulted in RTS trade from 2008 onwards being

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<sup>3</sup> HS6 is the 6-digit commodity code level. This is the level at which RTS is calculated.

updated; data prior to this was not revised. The effect of this was the movement of a considerable amount of trade out of the Unknown region and into other regions.

#### **4.14 EU enlargement**

In May 2004, the membership of the EU was increased in size with the accession of ten countries. These were Czech Republic, Poland, Slovak Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Cyprus and Malta.

The accession of these countries led to an increase in the value of reported EU trade and a corresponding fall in the value of reported non-EU trade. There was an impact on the BTTA methodology used for the production of OTS. However, there was no impact on the RTS methodology, as valid BTTA records are output from the OTS system for use by the RTS methodology. The RTS outputs were changed to take account of this enlargement.

The accession occurring mid-way through a quarter caused minor problems with the RTS outputs. These would have mainly been in the figures for the quarter in which the accession occurred i.e. quarter two 2004. EU figures for this quarter would have therefore contained figures pertaining to EU15 for April 2004 and EU25 for May and June 2004. To avoid problems that may have been caused by the 'step' it was decided to produce two concurrent time-series for EU15 and EU25. EU15 refers to the membership of the EU up to May 2004 whilst EU25 refers to its membership from May 2004.

It was agreed to apply findings from the Trade Statistics User Consultation on incorporating EU enlargement in the OTS to the RTS. It was therefore decided to back-cast EU25 data to the beginning of 2004 and to continue producing figures based on EU15 until the press release of the quarter four 2005 data. From quarter one 2006, press release data for EU25 only were published. However, EU15 data are obtainable through the interactive RTS data tables on [www.uktradeinfo.com](http://www.uktradeinfo.com).

In addition, there were changes to the country groups that were in the high level tables as the ten countries moved to a different group. The country groupings are all mutually exclusive (no country is in more than one grouping) and the total of the constituents equal the total world trade. These groupings are the European Union and seven groups representing non-EU countries. Therefore the ten accessionary countries moved into the European Union group at the expense of their former group: Cyprus moved from 'Middle East and North Africa', Malta from Western Europe and the other eight countries from Eastern Europe. The groupings were subsequently re-named to identify the fact that they did not include the new EU countries e.g. Eastern Europe (excluding EU25).

Another EU enlargement occurred in January 2007, when Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU. A further EU enlargement took place in July 2013, when Croatia joined the EU. Lists of all country groupings before and after these EU enlargements can be found in Annex 1.

#### **4.15 Updates and revisions**

One of the features of the previous methodology used up until 2002 was that the RTS excluded trade amendments – trade declarations received later than the month of account to which the trade related.

The revised methodology now includes trade amendments for previous months, as published in the OTS, so that the outputs generated by the RTS system at any one point in time contains as much up-to-date information as is possible.

The addition of these items means that revised data for previous months continue to be provisional and open for revision until the trade year is officially 'closed down' in the following June's month of account. For example, trade data relating to 2005 are not finalised until August 2006, and may change in each intervening month. Fully revised data are published to the trade statistics website [www.uktradeinfo.com](http://www.uktradeinfo.com) to ensure consistency with other published outputs, including the quarterly press release.

Exceptionally, HMRC may find large errors or significant values of missing data in earlier years. In these cases, it may be decided that the earlier series should be revised. Users will be informed of these revisions on the [www.uktradeinfo.com](http://www.uktradeinfo.com) site.

#### **4.16 Exclusions**

The RTS data matches the 'total reported trade' figures in the OTS with the exception of trade in non-monetary gold, which is included in OTS data from 2005 onwards but is excluded from RTS. Furthermore, the RTS do not include any estimates for late response or for the impact of Missing Trader Intra-Community (MTIC) fraud. Information concerning these estimates can be found on [www.uktradeinfo.com](http://www.uktradeinfo.com). These estimates cannot be attributed to individual traders, and so cannot be allocated to regions. Therefore adding them to the RTS figures would not add any value to the outputs.

#### **4.17 Suppression**

The suppression regime operates to ensure that movements of particular transactions cannot be identified. Suppression is also applied to ensure that published RTS data, whether in the quarterly press release or on the [www.uktradeinfo.com](http://www.uktradeinfo.com) website, are at a level that protects trader confidentiality.

The full 'Suppressions and Confidentiality' policy for published trade data can be found on [www.uktradeinfo.com](http://www.uktradeinfo.com).

#### **4.18 OTS suppression policy**

OTS figures published at the CN8 level and grouped by SITC5, follow suppression principles as set out in the EC legislation on trade statistics. This permits 'passive' confidentiality which means an individual trader may request that HMRC suppress trade figures within a particular commodity code. Suppression is usually agreed where the applicant's trade forms the major part of the trade within that commodity code or where they are one of only two or three traders in the area. In addition, HMRC may suppress defence goods on the grounds of 'military secrecy.'

The suppression may only affect the partner country or weight, depending on the outcome of the analysis. The application of suppression will determine the presentation of the statistics, depending on whether the value, weight, partner country or any combinations of these are suppressed. However, the important point

to note is that suppression acts at the CN8 commodity level, because this is the lowest level of detail for published outputs. For OTS outputs aggregated to SITC 4-digit or higher, suppression is not required.

#### **4.19 RTS suppression and confidentiality policy**

The important point to note is that the RTS outputs are grouped at SITC 2-digit, outside the OTS rules on suppression.

However, a distinction is drawn here between the OTS and RTS as the OTS is governed by EC legislation, which does not permit active suppression, while the RTS is a national dataset. The RTS has confidentiality and disclosure restrictions applied in order to comply with the National Statistics Code of Practice. RTS data are only available at SITC division (2-digit).

It is inevitable that the use of suppression will in some cases limit the detail that can be provided in the range of outputs available.

RTS data is not available for all partner countries. In the current methodology, data is available for a country only if the country's total trade (Imports and Exports combined) exceeds one per cent of the total trade of that country's World Region (based on a historical baseline). However, this suppression policy does not apply to EU countries where data for all member states is available. A full list of suppressed and unsuppressed countries can be found in Annex 3.

#### **4.20 Trader counts**

For reasons of confidentiality, HMRC do not publish trader counts at detailed level for RTS. Instead, a separate table has been devised that provides information on the trader population in each particular region. Traders that are active in both EU and non-EU markets are counted once only in the total trader counts. The counts for traders dealing with the EU do not include traders where the value of their intra-EU trade is below the Intrastat Exemption Threshold. Traders that are active in more than one UK region are counted in each of these regions in the total trader count.

### **5 Outputs**

RTS data are provided to users in a number of formats.

#### **5.1 Quarterly RTS release**

Since 2000, HMRC have issued a quarterly set of tables presenting RTS, broken down by Government Office Region and showing value totals and trader count totals. From 2011 Quarter 4, the accompanying commentary has been expanded to give a more comprehensive analysis of the data presented. The tables and commentaries can be accessed via the [archive](#) page on [www.uktradeinfo.com](http://www.uktradeinfo.com).

The tables show RTS data for the preceding three years by quarter, plus the data for the current year's quarters. Annual figures are shown for all years from 1996. The

right-hand column shows the figures for the quarter just released; the preceding columns will reflect amendments and adjustments to previous quarters.

This approach has been taken to mirror the treatment of OTS and the inclusion of amendments and adjustments within the OTS outputs

The RTS release dates are pre-announced on the National Statistics' and the Trade Statistics website [www.uktradeinfo.com](http://www.uktradeinfo.com).

## **5.2 Web-based outputs**

HMRC makes trade statistics available to customers and the public via its dedicated website [www.uktradeinfo.com](http://www.uktradeinfo.com). There are a limited number of RTS tables that can be downloaded from the 'Static Data Tables' area.

Alternatively, more detailed trade statistics are available from the [Interactive Data Tables](#) area. This is a free service but it is necessary to register first. Users select category variables such as country, period, flow, product groups (SITC Section and Division) and the output variables. A dynamic table is returned which can be viewed online or downloaded into a data-processing package.

## **5.3 Bespoke outputs**

There is a limited service to provide RTS outputs directly from HMRC Trade Statistics where the data cannot be obtained from other sources. This service is chargeable and subject to resource availability and confidentiality restrictions.

A description of the range of variables available for analysis can be reviewed in the paper '*RTS: Form and Content of Data Series*' in Annex 1.

## Annex 1 - Format and content of data series

Statistics: Value expressed in £000s (Sterling), nominal prices  
Weight expressed in tonnes

Categories: Flow (import / export)  
Commodity (SITC Division (2 digit) classification of product traded)  
Country (individual or grouped)  
Region (England (by Government Office Region), Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland or 'Unallocated')  
Period (from quarter one 1996 onward, tabulated quarterly or annually)

Exclusions: RTS includes all merchandisable trade within the scope of the UK's OTS. It therefore excludes trade in services (e.g. banking, tourism) and intangibles (e.g. financial investments or transfers) and also the movement of goods between regions of the UK. It also excludes estimates for MTIC and late response.

### Note:

1. The data are prepared in accordance with the methodology detailed in this paper. Issues relating to data completeness and quality are presented therein. Users of the data should be aware of these issues when interpreting data. HMRC Trade Statistics will inform all users of methodological and quality issues that affect the RTS time series as they arise.

2. For further information, please contact uktradeinfo Customer Services, HMRC:

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[www.uktradeinfo.com](http://www.uktradeinfo.com)

Last Revised: January 2015

## **SITC (Rev.4) Divisions**

### **Section 0 Food and live animals**

Division 00 Live animals other than animals of division 03

Division 01 Meat and meat preparations

Division 02 Dairy products and birds' eggs

Division 03 Fish (not marine mammals), crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates, and preparations thereof

Division 04 Cereals and cereal preparations

Division 05 Vegetables and fruit

Division 06 Sugars, sugar preparations and honey

Division 07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, and manufactures thereof

Division 08 Feeding stuff for animals (not including unmilled cereals)

Division 09 Miscellaneous edible products and preparations

### **Section 1 Beverages and tobacco**

Division 11 Beverages

Division 12 Tobacco and tobacco manufactures

### **Section 2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels**

Division 21 Hides, skins and furskins, raw

Division 22 Oil-seeds and oleaginous fruits

Division 23 Crude rubber (including synthetic and reclaimed)

Division 24 Cork and wood

Division 25 Pulp and waste paper

Division 26 Textile fibres (other than wool tops and other combed wool) and their wastes (not manufactured into yarn or fabric)

Division 27 Crude fertilizers, other than those of division 56, and crude minerals (excluding coal, petroleum and precious stones)

Division 28 Metalliferous ores and metal scrap

Division 29 Crude animal and vegetable materials, n.e.s.

### **Section 3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials**

Division 32 Coal, coke and briquettes

Division 33 Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials

Division 34 Gas, natural and manufactured

Division 35 Electric current

### **Section 4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes**

Division 41 Animal oils and fats  
Division 42 Fixed vegetable fats and oils, crude, refined or fractionated  
Division 43 Animal or vegetable fats and oils, processed; waxes of animal or vegetable origin;  
inedible mixtures or preparations of animal or vegetable fats or oils, n.e.s.

**Section 5 Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.**

Division 51 Organic chemicals  
Division 52 Inorganic chemicals  
Division 53 Dyeing, tanning and colouring materials  
Division 54 Medicinal and pharmaceutical products  
Division 55 Essential oils and resinoids and perfume materials; toilet, polishing and cleaning  
preparations  
Division 56 Fertilizers (other than those of group 272)  
Division 57 Plastics in primary forms  
Division 58 Plastics in non primary forms  
Division 59 Chemical materials and products, n.e.s.

**Section 6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material**

Division 61 Leather, leather manufactures, n.e.s., and dressed furskins  
Division 62 Rubber manufactures, n.e.s.  
Division 63 Cork and wood manufactures (excluding furniture)  
Division 64 Paper, paperboard and articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard  
Division 65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made up articles, n.e.s., and related products  
Division 66 Non metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s.  
Division 67 Iron and steel  
Division 68 Non ferrous metals  
Division 69 Manufactures of metals, n.e.s.

**Section 7 Machinery and transport equipment**

Division 71 Power generating machinery and equipment  
Division 72 Machinery specialized for particular industries  
Division 73 Metalworking machinery  
Division 74 General industrial machinery and equipment, n.e.s., and machine parts, n.e.s.  
Division 75 Office machines and automatic data processing machines  
Division 76 Telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and  
equipment  
Division 77 Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, n.e.s., and electrical parts thereof  
(including non electrical counterparts, n.e.s., of electrical household type  
equipment)  
Division 78 Road vehicles (including air cushion vehicles)  
Division 79 Other transport equipment

### **Section 8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles**

Division 81 Prefabricated buildings; sanitary, plumbing, heating and lighting fixtures and fittings, n.e.s.

Division 82 Furniture, and parts thereof; bedding, mattresses, mattress supports, cushions and similar stuffed furnishings

Division 83 Travel goods, handbags and similar containers

Division 84 Articles of apparel and clothing accessories

Division 85 Footwear

Division 87 Professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus, n.e.s.

Division 88 Photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies and optical goods, n.e.s.; watches and clocks

Division 89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s.

### **Section 9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC**

#### **Country Groups**

##### **Up to December 2006**

Asia and Oceania

Eastern Europe (excluding EU25)

European Union<sup>25</sup>

Latin America and Caribbean

Middle East and North Africa (excluding EU25)

North America

Sub-Saharan Africa

Western Europe (excluding EU25)

##### **January 2007 – June 2013**

Asia and Oceania

Eastern Europe (excluding EU27)

European Union<sup>27</sup>

Latin America and Caribbean

Middle East and North Africa (excluding EU27)

North America

Sub-Saharan Africa

Western Europe (excluding EU27)

##### **From July 2013**

Asia and Oceania

Eastern Europe (excluding EU28)

European Union<sup>28</sup>

Latin America and Caribbean

Middle East and North Africa (excluding EU28)

North America

Sub-Saharan Africa

Western Europe (excluding EU28)

## **UK Regions**

North East  
North West  
Yorkshire and the Humber  
East Midlands  
West Midlands  
East  
London  
South East  
South West  
Wales  
Scotland  
Northern Ireland

Unknown (trade that cannot be assigned a region)

## Annex 2 - Matching geographic information

### 1. Is the Trader Unique Reference Number (TURN) present?

If yes, go to step 2.

If no, there cannot be a postcode match and the trade is classified to 'Unknown region'. Missing trader numbers may arise because the trader has omitted to fill out the relevant box, or because a forwarding agent has submitted a declaration on behalf of the trader, and has left the trader box blank.

### 2. According to the Departmental Trader Register (DTR), is the TURN valid?

If yes, then retrieve the postcode information from DTR and go to step 5.

If no, go to step 3.

### 3. Is the invalid TURN on a recognised list?

The declared trader number is checked against an internal list of traders who have been known to provide incorrect details in the past.

If the trader is on this list, replace the incorrect trader number with the matched trader number, retrieve the postcode information from DTR and go to step 5.

If not, go to step 4.

### 4. Can the TURN be matched at Head Office level?

The TURN is truncated to 9 digits and the final 3 digits are replaced by '000', which is generally the branch identifier of the Head Office or main administrative centre.

If this produces a valid TURN according to DTR then retrieve the postcode information from DTR and go to step 5.

If not, then the trade is classified to 'Unknown Region'.

### 5. According to the ONS 'All Fields database', is the trader's postcode valid?

If yes, the system will adopt the ONS geographic information.

If no, the system will attempt to match at the next level postcode. For example, the postcode 'SS99 1ZZ' would be trimmed to 'SS99 1Z'. If no match is found again, it is further trimmed to 'SS99 1', at which point postcodes beginning with 'SS99 1??' are identified as Southend-on-Sea, Essex, East of England Region. This process iterates up as far as 2-digit until the first match is found. If no postcode match is found, the trade is classified to 'Unknown region'.

## Annex 3 – Suppressed countries on RTS

The following is a list of all countries for which OTS data is available, with their current suppression status for RTS (December 2014). RTS data is not available at country level for those countries that are suppressed:

Country	Geographical Area	Suppressed Country
Australia	Asia and Oceania	NO
China	Asia and Oceania	NO
Hong Kong	Asia and Oceania	NO
India	Asia and Oceania	NO
Indonesia	Asia and Oceania	NO
Japan	Asia and Oceania	NO
New Zealand	Asia and Oceania	NO
Pakistan	Asia and Oceania	NO
Philippines	Asia and Oceania	NO
Singapore	Asia and Oceania	NO
South Korea	Asia and Oceania	NO
Taiwan	Asia and Oceania	NO
Thailand	Asia and Oceania	NO
Afghanistan	Asia and Oceania	YES
American Samoa	Asia and Oceania	YES
Antarctica	Asia and Oceania	YES
Bangladesh	Asia and Oceania	YES
Bhutan	Asia and Oceania	YES
Bouvet Island	Asia and Oceania	YES
Brunei	Asia and Oceania	YES
Burma	Asia and Oceania	YES
Cambodia	Asia and Oceania	YES
Christmas Is	Asia and Oceania	YES
Cocos Islands	Asia and Oceania	YES
Cook Islands	Asia and Oceania	YES
Fiji	Asia and Oceania	YES
Fr Southern Terr	Asia and Oceania	YES
French Polynesia	Asia and Oceania	YES
Guam	Asia and Oceania	YES
Heard & Mcdonald	Asia and Oceania	YES
Kiribati	Asia and Oceania	YES
Laos	Asia and Oceania	YES
Macao	Asia and Oceania	YES
Malaysia	Asia and Oceania	YES
Maldives	Asia and Oceania	YES
Marshall Islands	Asia and Oceania	YES
Micronesia	Asia and Oceania	YES
Mongolia	Asia and Oceania	YES
N Mariana Is	Asia and Oceania	YES
Nauru	Asia and Oceania	YES
Nepal	Asia and Oceania	YES
New Caledonia	Asia and Oceania	YES

<b>Country</b>	<b>Geographical Area</b>	<b>Suppressed Country</b>
Niue Island	Asia and Oceania	YES
Norfolk Island	Asia and Oceania	YES
North Korea	Asia and Oceania	YES
Palau	Asia and Oceania	YES
Papua New Guinea	Asia and Oceania	YES
Pitcairn	Asia and Oceania	YES
Samoa	Asia and Oceania	YES
Solomon Islands	Asia and Oceania	YES
South Georgia Is	Asia and Oceania	YES
Sri Lanka	Asia and Oceania	YES
Timor-Leste	Asia and Oceania	YES
Tonga	Asia and Oceania	YES
Tuvalu	Asia and Oceania	YES
US Minor Islands	Asia and Oceania	YES
Vanuatu	Asia and Oceania	YES
Vietnam	Asia and Oceania	YES
Wallis & Futuna	Asia and Oceania	YES
Croatia	Eastern Europe	NO
Russia	Eastern Europe	NO
Ukraine	Eastern Europe	NO
Albania	Eastern Europe	YES
Armenia	Eastern Europe	YES
Azerbaijan	Eastern Europe	YES
Belarus	Eastern Europe	YES
Bosnia & Herz.	Eastern Europe	YES
FYR Macedonia	Eastern Europe	YES
Georgia	Eastern Europe	YES
Kazakhstan	Eastern Europe	YES
Kosovo	Eastern Europe	YES
Kyrgyz Republic	Eastern Europe	YES
Moldova	Eastern Europe	YES
Montenegro	Eastern Europe	YES
Serbia	Eastern Europe	YES
Tajikistan	Eastern Europe	YES
Turkmenistan	Eastern Europe	YES
Uzbekistan	Eastern Europe	YES
Austria	European Community	NO
Belgium	European Community	NO
Bulgaria	European Community	NO
Cyprus	European Community	NO
Czech Republic	European Community	NO
Denmark	European Community	NO
Estonia	European Community	NO
Finland	European Community	NO
France	European Community	NO
Germany	European Community	NO
Greece	European Community	NO
Hungary	European Community	NO
Irish Republic	European Community	NO

<b>Country</b>	<b>Geographical Area</b>	<b>Suppressed Country</b>
Italy	European Community	NO
Latvia	European Community	NO
Lithuania	European Community	NO
Luxembourg	European Community	NO
Malta	European Community	NO
Netherlands	European Community	NO
Poland	European Community	NO
Portugal	European Community	NO
Romania	European Community	NO
Slovakia	European Community	NO
Slovenia	European Community	NO
Spain	European Community	NO
Sweden	European Community	NO
Argentina	Latin America and Caribbean	NO
Barbados	Latin America and Caribbean	NO
Brazil	Latin America and Caribbean	NO
Chile	Latin America and Caribbean	NO
Colombia	Latin America and Caribbean	NO
Costa Rica	Latin America and Caribbean	NO
Dominican Rep	Latin America and Caribbean	NO
Ecuador	Latin America and Caribbean	NO
Guyana	Latin America and Caribbean	NO
Jamaica	Latin America and Caribbean	NO
Panama	Latin America and Caribbean	NO
Trinidad:Tobago	Latin America and Caribbean	NO
Uruguay	Latin America and Caribbean	NO
Venezuela	Latin America and Caribbean	NO
Anguilla	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
Antigua:Barbuda	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
Aruba	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
Bahamas	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
Belize	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
Bermuda	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
Bolivia	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
Bonaire	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
Br Virgin Is	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
Cayman Islands	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
Cuba	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
Curacao	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
Dominica	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
El Salvador	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
Falkland Islands	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
Grenada	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
Guatemala	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
Haiti	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
Honduras	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
Montserrat	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
Nicaragua	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
NI Antilles	Latin America and Caribbean	YES

<b>Country</b>	<b>Geographical Area</b>	<b>Suppressed Country</b>
Paraguay	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
Peru	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
Saint Barthelemy	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
Sint Maarten	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
St Kitts & Nevis	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
St Lucia	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
St Vincent	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
Surinam	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
Turks & Caicos	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
US Virgin Is	Latin America and Caribbean	YES
Algeria	Middle East and N Africa	NO
Bahrain	Middle East and N Africa	NO
Egypt	Middle East and N Africa	NO
Iran	Middle East and N Africa	NO
Israel	Middle East and N Africa	NO
Jordan	Middle East and N Africa	NO
Kuwait	Middle East and N Africa	NO
Lebanon	Middle East and N Africa	NO
Libya	Middle East and N Africa	NO
Morocco	Middle East and N Africa	NO
Oman	Middle East and N Africa	NO
Qatar	Middle East and N Africa	NO
Saudi Arabia	Middle East and N Africa	NO
South Sudan	Middle East and N Africa	NO
Syria	Middle East and N Africa	NO
Tunisia	Middle East and N Africa	NO
UAE	Middle East and N Africa	NO
Ceuta	Middle East and N Africa	YES
Iraq	Middle East and N Africa	YES
Melilla	Middle East and N Africa	YES
Occ Palest Terr	Middle East and N Africa	YES
Sudan	Middle East and N Africa	YES
Yemen	Middle East and N Africa	YES
Canada	North America	NO
Mexico	North America	NO
United States	North America	NO
Greenland	North America	YES
St Pierre-Mique	North America	YES
Angola	Sub-Saharan Africa	NO
Botswana	Sub-Saharan Africa	NO
Cameroon	Sub-Saharan Africa	NO
Ethiopia	Sub-Saharan Africa	NO
Ghana	Sub-Saharan Africa	NO
Ivory Coast	Sub-Saharan Africa	NO
Kenya	Sub-Saharan Africa	NO
Mauritius	Sub-Saharan Africa	NO
Namibia	Sub-Saharan Africa	NO
Nigeria	Sub-Saharan Africa	NO
South Africa	Sub-Saharan Africa	NO

<b>Country</b>	<b>Geographical Area</b>	<b>Suppressed Country</b>
Tanzania	Sub-Saharan Africa	NO
Zimbabwe	Sub-Saharan Africa	NO
Benin	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Br Ind Oc Terr	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Burkina	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Burundi	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Cape Verde	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Cent Afr Rep	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Chad	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Comoros	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Congo (Dem. Rep)	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Congo (Republic)	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Djibouti	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Equat Guinea	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Eritrea	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Gabon	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Gambia	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Guinea	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Guinea-Bissau	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Lesotho	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Liberia	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Madagascar	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Malawi	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Mali	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Mauritania	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Mayotte	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Mozambique	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Niger	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Rwanda	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Sao Tome-Princ.	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Senegal	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Seychelles	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Sierra Leone	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Somalia	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
St Helena	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Swaziland	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Togo	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Uganda	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Western Sahara	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Zambia	Sub-Saharan Africa	YES
Iceland	Western Europe exc EC	NO
Norway	Western Europe exc EC	NO
Switzerland	Western Europe exc EC	NO
Turkey	Western Europe exc EC	NO
Andorra	Western Europe exc EC	YES
Faroe Islands	Western Europe exc EC	YES
Gibraltar	Western Europe exc EC	YES
Liechtenstein	Western Europe exc EC	YES
San Marino	Western Europe exc EC	YES

<b>Country</b>	<b>Geographical Area</b>	<b>Suppressed Country</b>
Vatican City	Western Europe exc EC	YES

## Glossary

<b>Acquisition fraud</b>	<b>Where the goods are imported from the EU by a trader who then goes missing without completing a VAT return or Intrastat declaration after selling the goods to an internal buyer. The ‘missing trader’ therefore has a VAT free supply of goods, as they make no payment of the VAT monies due on the goods. See <i>Carousel fraud</i></b>
<b>ACS</b>	<b>Ancillary Cost Survey</b>
<b>Arrivals</b>	<b>Goods sent from the rest of the EU to the UK, commonly referred to as imports.</b>
<b>Asymmetries</b>	<b>Differences between the trade recorded by countries. e.g. the difference between what the UK records as an arrival from Germany and what Germany records as a dispatch to the UK.</b>
<b>BoP</b>	<b>Balance of Payments</b>
<b>BTTA</b>	<b>Below Threshold Trade Allocation</b>
<b>Box 8</b>	<b>Box on VAT form for recording the total value of sales from the UK to customers registered for VAT in the rest of the EU.</b>
<b>Box 9</b>	<b>Box on VAT form for recording the total value of purchases to the UK from suppliers registered for VAT in the rest of the EU.</b>
<b>Carousel fraud</b>	<b>Similar to <i>Acquisition fraud</i> in the first stage, but the goods are not sold for consumption on the home market. Rather, they are sold through a series of companies and then re-exported to another Member State, hence the goods moving in a circular pattern or ‘carousel’.</b>
<b>CHIEF</b>	<b>Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight system.</b>
<b>CIF</b>	<b>Cost, Insurance &amp; Freight</b>
<b>CFSP</b>	<b>Customs Freight Simplified Procedures</b>
<b>CN</b>	<b>Combined Nomenclature</b>
<b>COD</b>	<b>Country of dispatch</b>
<b>CoP</b>	<b>Code of Practice</b>

<b>COMEXT</b>	<b>Eurostat's public statistical database, which contains standardised trade data from all EU Members States.</b>
<b>Continental Shelf</b>	<b>The UK Continental Shelf is the region of waters surrounding the United Kingdom, in which the country claims mineral rights.</b>
<b>Dispatches</b>	<b>Dispatches Goods sent from the UK to the rest of the EU, commonly referred to as exports.</b>
<b>Diversion fraud</b>	<b>The ostensibly legitimate freight consignments of duty suspended excise goods moving between warehouses in different EU Member States but which never arrive at the stated destination, either in the dispatch Member State (inward diversion) or in the partner Member State (outward diversion). Instead the goods are diverted onto the home market without payment.</b>
<b>EDI</b>	<b>Electronic Data Interchange</b>
<b>EDIFACT</b>	<b>Electronic Data Interchange For Administration, Commerce and Transport</b>
<b>ESS</b>	<b>European Statistical System</b>
<b>EU</b>	<b>European Union</b>
<b>Eurostat</b>	<b>The European Statistical Agency</b>
<b>Eurozone</b>	<b>The eurozone is an economic and monetary union (EMU) of the European Union member states which have adopted the euro currency as their sole legal tender.</b>
<b>Exemption threshold</b>	<b>See Threshold</b>
<b>Exports</b>	<b>Goods sent from the UK to non EU countries, but often used to describe EU trade as well.</b>
<b>FOB</b>	<b>Free On Board</b>
<b>HMRC</b>	<b>Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs</b>
<b>HS</b>	<b>Harmonised System</b>
<b>IAOs</b>	<b>Intrastat Assurance Officers</b>
<b>ICN</b>	<b>Intrastat Classification Nomenclature</b>
<b>Imports</b>	<b>Goods sent from non EU countries to the UK, but often used to describe EU trade as well.</b>
<b>IMTS</b>	<b>International Merchandise Trade Statistics</b>

<b>Intrastat</b>	<b>Survey of trade in goods between EU Member States.</b>
<b>JATT</b>	<b>Just Above Trade Threshold</b>
<b>IHS Fairplay Register</b>	<b>This is an international maritime information provider. In addition to providing information on ships, companies, ports, movements etc. it offers research and consultancy services to marine companies of the world.</b>
<b>LVO</b>	<b>Local VAT Office</b>
<b>MOD</b>	<b>Ministry of Defence</b>
<b>MTIC</b>	<b>Missing Trader Intra-Community (VAT Fraud)</b>
<b>Net Mass</b>	<b>The net mass is the weight of the goods themselves without any packaging. Net mass, if required, is shown in kilograms, rounded up to the nearest kilogram.</b>
<b>Notice 60</b>	<b>The <a href="#">general guide</a> for completing Intrastat:</b>
<b>OECD</b>	<b>Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.</b>
<b>OMS</b>	<b>Other Member States (within the EU)</b>
<b>ONS</b>	<b>Office for National Statistics</b>
<b>OTS</b>	<b>Overseas Trade Statistics</b>
<b>PPRS</b>	<b>Petroleum Production Reporting system</b>
<b>Quinquennial Review</b>	<b>Surveys with lower annual compliance costs are subject to a review every five years.</b>
<b>RTS</b>	<b>Regional Trade Statistics</b>
<b>SAD</b>	<b>Single Administrative Document</b>
<b>SDP</b>	<b>Simplified Declaration Procedure.</b>
<b>SIs</b>	<b>Statutory Instruments.</b>
<b>SITC</b>	<b>Standard International Trade Classification</b>
<b>Statistical value</b>	<b>On export, the value of the goods at the place and time where they leave the statistical territory of the exporting Member State. On import the value of goods at the place and time where they enter the statistical territory of the importing Member State.</b>

<b>Supplementary Unit</b>	<b>Supplementary Units is the number of units e.g. the number of pairs of contact lenses in the consignment.</b>
<b>TSO</b>	<b>The Stationery Office</b>
<b>TSu</b>	<b>Trade Statistics Unit</b>
<b>Threshold</b>	<b>The Intrastat system has two thresholds, an exemption threshold (above which traders must submit details of their trade with the rest of the EU) and a delivery terms threshold (above which traders additionally submit details on delivery terms and costs).</b>
<b>Triangular Trade</b>	<b>Where goods are sold from a business in Member State A to a business in Member State B which in turn sells them onto a business in Member State C, but the goods physically move only once from A to C. The term triangular trade is often used to symbolize the fact that most foreign trade is more complicated than the simple assumption of an even balance of the dispatches and arrivals moving between two countries trading with each other.</b>
<b>Triennial Review</b>	<b>Statistical surveys with large annual compliance costs subject to a comprehensive review every three years.</b>
<b>TS93</b>	<b>Trade Statistics database</b>
<b>UK</b>	<b>United Kingdom</b>
<b>UKSA</b>	<b>UK Statistics Authority</b>
<b>uktradeinfo</b>	<b>UK Trade Information is a site providing current UK Trade statistics from HM Revenue &amp; Customs covering UK, world wide global trading and international trade in goods data.</b>
<b>VAT</b>	<b>Value Added Tax</b>
<b>VAT returns</b>	<b>Submissions from VAT registered traders – all traders above a predetermined threshold must submit information about their business transactions.</b>
<b>WCO</b>	<b>World Customs Organisation</b>