

Regional Trade Statistics – First Quarter 2012

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Summary

- In the year ending March 2012, there was a rise in annual export value in all UK countries and regions apart from the South East. There was a rise in annual import value during the year in all UK countries and regions apart from the East of England. Wales had the highest annual growth rate of the UK countries for imports and Scotland had the highest growth rate for exports.
- The value of UK exports and imports both decreased in Quarter 1 2012. Wales was the only country where exports rose between Quarter 4 2011 and Quarter 1 2012. Scotland was the only country where imports increased in the last quarter, reaching an all-time high in Quarter 1 2012. Exports decreased in all English regions apart from the North East, the North West, the South East and the South West. Imports decreased in all English regions apart from the East Midlands, the West Midlands, the East and the South West.
- The number of exporters increased between Quarter 1 2011 and Quarter 1 2012 in all UK countries and regions apart from the North East, the East Midlands, the West Midlands and Northern Ireland. The number of importers increased in all UK countries and regions apart from the South East.
- For England, the value of exports to Germany increased most in the year ending March 2012; for Scotland and Wales exports to the USA increased the most, while for Northern Ireland exports to the Irish Republic increased most. For imports, the largest increases were in goods from Norway (England), Canada (Wales), Russia (Scotland) and Spain (Northern Ireland).
- For exports from England and Wales, the commodity group with the largest annual value increase was 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'. For Scotland the largest increase was in 'Beverages' and for Northern Ireland 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances' increased most in value.
- For imports to England the largest annual value increase was in 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'. Scotland's biggest value increase was in 'Coal, coke & briquettes'. For Wales the largest increase was in 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' and for Northern Ireland 'Other transport equipment' increased most in value.

If you have any comments regarding the new format release and expanded commentary, please email our Customer Services team on uktradeinfo@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) are responsible for collecting the UK's international trade in goods data, which are published as two National Statistics series - the 'Overseas Trade Statistics (OTS)' and the 'Regional Trade Statistics (RTS)'. The RTS are published quarterly showing trade at summary product and country level, split by UK government office regions and devolved administrations.

RTS data is compiled by linking trade data collected by HMRC with Office for National Statistics postcode data to obtain the region in which the VAT registered trader (importer or exporter) is based. Because the trade is regionalised according to the location of the VAT registered trader some of the trade may be allocated to the region where the head office of the trader is located¹.

RTS data is categorised by partner country and [Standard International Trade Classification, Rev.4](#). (SITC) at division level (2-digit). The SITC is a relatively broad classification of goods and is not as detailed as the commodity classification available in the OTS. In this release RTS data is analysed mainly at partner country and SITC section (1-digit) level, with references to specific SITC divisions where appropriate.

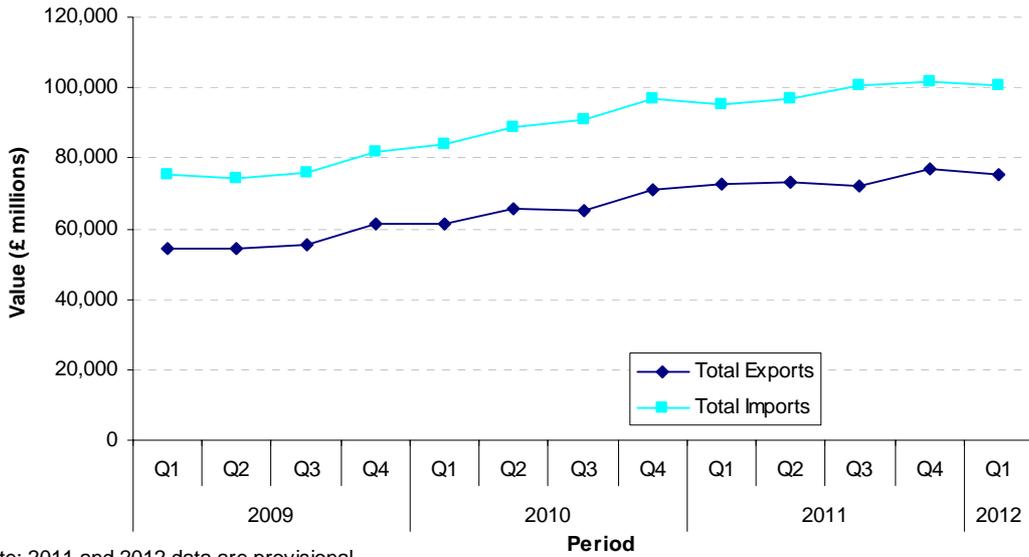
You can find details of how users interested in import and export markets for specific goods make use of the detailed RTS data in '[The User Story](#)'. You can also access the detailed data in our interactive database [here](#).

Overview of UK trade

Figure 1 shows the quarterly values of imports to and exports from the UK since 2009. The value of both imports and exports decreased during the first quarter of 2012, increasing the trade deficit to £25.5 billion for the quarter. The 2.3 per cent decrease in the value of exports during quarter 1 of 2012 is the largest quarterly decrease in exports over the last three years.

¹ See note 3

Fig 1: Total UK Quarterly Trade

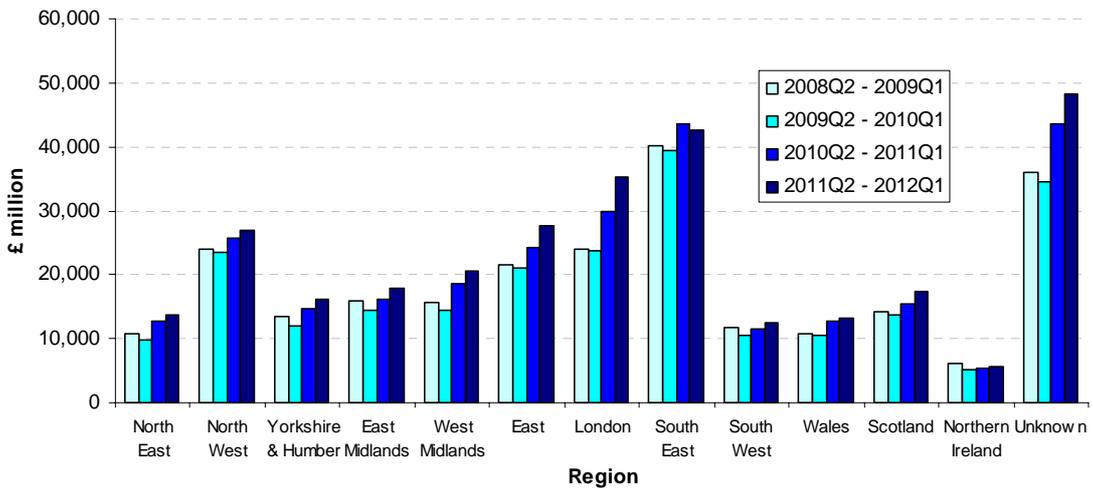


Note: 2011 and 2012 data are provisional
 Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

Overview - Exports

Figure 2a shows the total value of UK exports by region for the four annual periods ending March 2009, March 2010, March 2011 and March 2012.

Fig 2a: UK Exports by Region, 2008/09 - 2011/12



Note: 2011 and 2012 data are provisional
 Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

- The total value of UK exports increased by 8.6 per cent to £298.0 billion between March 2011 and March 2012. This increase exceeds the Export Price Index² rise of 5.2 per cent for the period which suggests that the volume of exports, as well as their price, has increased. There was a rise in the value of exports across all countries and regions of the UK apart from the South East in the year ending March 2012. However, these increases were considerably less than those reported at the end of 2011. The total value of exports from England rose by 8.2 per cent to £213.3 billion during the year, the largest increase coming from the 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' sector. Exports from Scotland rose by 12.4 per cent to £17.5 billion, the largest percentage increase of the four UK countries; this was due mainly to increases in the 'Beverages & tobacco' and 'Chemicals & related products' sectors. Exports from Wales rose by 5.0 per cent to £13.3 billion, with growth declining during the fourth quarter of 2011 and the first quarter of 2012; most of the overall value increase for the year came from the 'Mineral Fuels' sector. Exports from Northern Ireland rose by 3.8 per cent to £5.7 billion, with the 'Machinery and transport equipment' and 'Food & live animals' sectors contributing most of the value increase. Exports allocated to the 'Unknown region'³ amounted to £48.3 billion in the year ending March 2012.
- The South East continues to have the largest total export value of all the English regions, £42.5 billion for the year ending March 2012; this is despite a 2.4 per cent value decrease over the annual period, the only decrease experienced across the English regions. Exports from the South East were lower in every quarter of the annual period compared with the same quarter of the previous year. Nevertheless the South East still accounts for 20 per cent of total exports from England.
- Year on year, the largest percentage increase in the English regions was for London, whose exports increased by 18.0 per cent to £35.3 billion during the year. However, the growth rate declined in the first quarter of 2012 to less than 1 per cent compared with the same quarter of the previous year. This is in marked contrast to the strong growth in London's exports seen over the last two years.
- The South West had the smallest total value of exports of £12.5 billion for the year ending March 2012, 5.9 per cent of England's total. Growth in exports

² From Monthly Review of External Trade Statistics (March 2012 edition, Office for National Statistics)

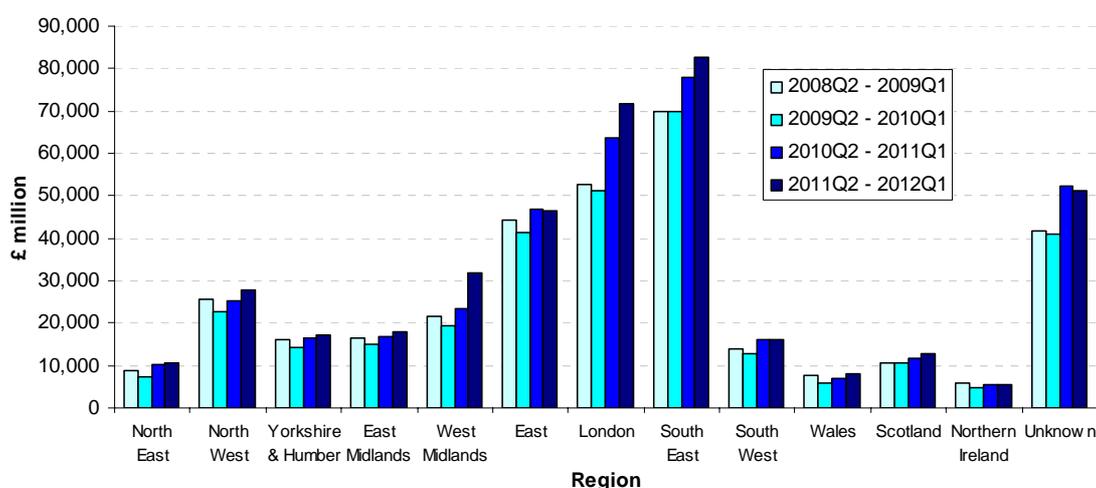
³ See note 4

slowed for the South West during the first quarter of 2012, as in most other regions of the UK.

Overview - Imports

Figure 2b shows the total value of UK imports by region for the four annual periods ending March 2009, March 2010, March 2011 and March 2012.

Fig 2b: UK Imports by Region, 2008/09 - 2011/12



Note: 2011 and 2012 data are provisional
Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

- The total value of UK imports for the year ending March 2012 increased by 7.4 per cent to £400.1 billion compared with the year ending March 2011. This increase is only slightly higher than the Import Price Index⁴ rise of 6.1 per cent for the period which suggests that most of the increase has been due to price rises rather than increases in the volume of imports. There was a rise in import value during the year for Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and every English region apart from the East. The total value of imports to England rose by 8.9 per cent to £322.6 billion, and imports to Scotland rose by 8.9 per cent to £12.8 billion; for both England and Scotland these changes are largely accounted for by sharp increases in the 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' sector. The total value of imports to Wales rose by 17.3 per cent to £8.0 billion, the highest growth rate of the four UK countries; this was driven by a marked increase in imports from the 'Crude materials' sector. Total imports to Northern Ireland increased by

⁴ From Monthly Review of External Trade Statistics (March 2012 edition, Office for National Statistics)

4.3 per cent to £5.6 billion; here, growth was largely fuelled by the 'Food & live animals' sector. Imports allocated to the 'Unknown region'⁵ amounted to £51.1 billion in the year ending March 2012.

- Within England, the South East continues to have the largest total value of imports. For the year ending March 2012 this was £82.8 billion, 25.7 per cent of England's total. Imports to the South East increased moderately in value by 6.3 per cent during the year, whereas imports to London increased by 12.6 per cent. Growth rates for both these regions were lower than in the previous year.
- The largest year-on-year increase among the English regions was for the West Midlands, where imports increased by 35.7 per cent to £31.7 billion. The West Midlands now accounts for 9.8 per cent of England's imports, compared with only 7.9 per cent a year ago.
- The only English region where import value decreased during the year was the East, with a 0.4 per cent reduction. However, quarter 1 of 2012 saw a 5 per cent increase in imports to the East compared with quarter 1 of 2011. Similarly, the South West experienced only a marginal increase in import value of 0.5 per cent during the year as a whole, but saw a 6 per cent increase in quarter 1 of 2012.
- The North East continues to have the smallest total value of imports of £10.7 billion; imports to the North East have risen in value by only 4.8 per cent during the last 12 months, with a sharp decrease of 14 per cent for quarter 1 of 2012 compared with quarter 1 of 2011.

⁵ See note 4

Rolling 12 Month Overview - Exports

The following analysis of a rolling 12 month period smoothes the seasonal quarterly variation of trade. This serves to better illustrate the longer term trend in the value of exports within the regions.

Partner country analysis - England

Table 1a: England - main export partners

Country	Year ending March 2012 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2011	% Total Exports in year ending March 2012
USA	28,898.9	30,505.0	-5.3	13.5
Germany	23,747.0	20,295.9	17.0	11.1
France	16,521.7	14,629.2	12.9	7.7
Netherlands	13,146.7	12,039.2	9.2	6.2
Irish Republic	10,339.5	9,745.8	6.1	4.8
Others	120,626.1	109,829.3	9.8	56.6
Total EU	105,920.1	97,222.5	8.9	49.7
Total Non-EU	107,359.7	99,821.8	7.6	50.3
Grand Total	213,279.8	197,044.3	8.2	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

England's top export partner, the USA, is the only one of its top five partners to have seen a decrease in export value over the last 12 months. The decline was most marked in quarter 1 of 2012. This has reduced the USA's share of England's export market from 16 per cent to 14 per cent during the year. This has mainly been caused by a decline in exports within SITC division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (down £1.4 billion).

The partner countries where exports from England have decreased in value the most over the last 12 months are the USA (down £1.6 billion), and Spain (down £324 million). The partner countries with the largest increase in exports over the 12 months were Germany (up £3.5 billion) and France (up £1.9 billion); for Germany the majority of the growth came from SITC divisions 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' and 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials', and for France SITC division 33 contributed most of the increase. Other partner countries outside the top

five whose exports from England have increased significantly during the year are India (up £1.3 billion), China (up £1.3 billion) and Russia (up £1.3 billion); for China and Russia these rises stemmed from an increase in exports of goods within SITC division 78 'Road vehicles' whereas for India the main contributor was division 68 'Non-ferrous metals'.

Partner country analysis - English regions

Table 2a: Top 5 export partners for the English regions, year ending March 2012

	Top 5 partner countries				
	1	2	3	4	5
North East	USA	Netherlands	Russia	France	Germany
North West	USA	Germany	France	China	Irish Republic
Yorkshire & Humberside	USA	France	Germany	Irish Republic	Netherlands
East Midlands	USA	Germany	Irish Republic	Belgium	France
West Midlands	USA	China	Germany	France	Netherlands
East	Germany	France	USA	Belgium	Netherlands
London	USA	Germany	Belgium	Netherlands	India
South East	USA	Germany	France	Netherlands	Irish Republic
South West	Germany	France	USA	Irish Republic	Netherlands

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

The value of exports increased for all English regions apart from the South East during the year ending March 2012. The decline in exports from the South East was mainly due to a sharp decline in goods going to the USA, its top export partner, although the South East also saw a decrease in exports to Germany, the Netherlands and the Irish Republic during the year. London had the largest increase in export value (up 18 per cent to £35.3 billion) of all the English regions, driven mainly by increased exports to India (up £1.2 billion, an 84 per cent increase on the previous year) and the Netherlands (up £914 million, a rise of 52 per cent).

Table 2a shows the top five export trading partners for each of the English regions in the year ending March 2012. There has been little change in the membership of the top five partners for any of the regions during the past year. For the West Midlands, China has overtaken Germany, becoming the second highest export partner; goods going to China from the West Midlands increased in value by 48 per cent during the year. There is some regional variation in the relative proportions of export trade going to EU and non-EU countries. For the East, over 60 per cent of exports go to EU

countries, whereas for the West Midlands 55 per cent of exports go to non-EU countries. For most of the other regions export trade is split fairly evenly between EU countries and non-EU countries.

The majority of the English regions continue to follow a similar pattern to England as a whole, with the USA featuring as the top export partner for seven of the nine regions. This is in spite of a general decline in the value of exports from England to the USA during the last year. The East and the South West continue to be the only English regions where exports to Germany and France exceed those going to the USA. The North East, Yorkshire & Humberside and the South West stand out as the only English regions where the value of exports going to the USA has increased during the year.

India remains one of London's largest export partners for the second quarter in succession (up 84 per cent during the year, with exports from SITC division 68 'Non-ferrous metals' up £1.0 billion). In contrast, London's largest decline in export value was in goods going to Poland (down 58 per cent, with exports from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' down £226 million).

Exports to France and Germany have increased for every English region during the year apart from the South East; here, exports to Germany saw a 5 per cent decrease and exports to France remained fairly static. Exports to China and Russia have also increased consistently across the English regions apart from in London and the South West where exports to China declined.

Exports to Greece and Spain have declined for most English regions over the past year. Exports to Libya have also decreased dramatically, with a loss of over 63 per cent in every English region during the period; this is likely to be an effect of the conflict in the Middle East during the year, which caused trade with Libya to stop during the middle of 2011. Although exports to Libya began to recover from the fourth quarter of 2011, they continue to remain at a much lower level than a year ago.

Partner country analysis - Wales

Table 3a: Wales - main export partners

Country	Year ending March 2012 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2011	% Total Exports in year ending March 2012
USA	3,506.7	3,073.2	14.1	26.4
Irish Republic	1,470.7	1,247.1	17.9	11.1
Top 5 Germany	963.8	940.5	2.5	7.3
Netherlands	718.9	766.6	-6.2	5.4
United Arab Emirates	644.4	600.0	7.4	4.9
Others	5,975.6	6,024.6	-0.8	45.0
Total EU	5,468.8	5,416.1	1.0	41.2
Total Non-EU	7,811.2	7,236.0	8.0	58.8
Grand Total	13,280.0	12,652.0	5.0	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 3a shows that total export value from Wales has increased by 5 per cent during the past year. This growth rate is considerably lower than the 14 per cent year on year increase seen at the end of 2011; this was partly due to a decrease in exports in the first quarter of 2012 compared with the first quarter of 2011. Wales' top five partner countries remain the same, although exports to all these countries have slowed during the last quarter; the only exception is the USA, where growth has remained consistent and exports have increased by 14 per cent year on year.

Non-EU partner countries continue to dominate the export market in Wales, receiving almost 59 per cent of goods exported. The USA's share of the export market rose to over 26 per cent annually by the end of the first quarter of 2012. The majority of this export value comes from SITC divisions 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up £330 million) and 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up £159 million).

The United Arab Emirates remains Wales' fifth largest export partner, despite a marked decline in export value over the last six months. Most of the reduction was in SITC section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment', where export values have returned to the levels of early 2010 following a large rise between September 2010 and March 2011. Most of the year on year increase in exports to the United Arab

Emirates came from SITC divisions 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up £16 million) and 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up £15 million).

Exports from Wales to the Netherlands decreased sharply in the first quarter of 2012, contributing to a 6 per cent reduction in export value over the year. This was largely due to a decrease in exports from SITC 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere'.

Apart from the USA, partner countries where export value has increased most during the year are the Irish Republic (up £224 million, mainly due to growth in SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials') and Brazil, where exports more than doubled due to a new market in goods from SITC division 33.

The biggest decreases in export value during the year were in goods going to Saudi Arabia (down £120 million, with exports from SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' down £64 million) and Spain (down £114 million, with exports from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' down £57 million).

Partner country analysis – Scotland

Table 4a: Scotland - main export partners

	Country	Year ending March 2012 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2011	% Total Exports in year ending March 2012
Top 5	USA	3,071.1	2,570.7	19.5	17.6
	France	1,227.5	1,115.5	10.0	7.0
	Germany	973.7	778.6	25.1	5.6
	Norway	859.5	757.2	13.5	4.9
	Belgium	857.1	606.4	41.4	4.9
	Others	10,479.7	9,717.3	7.8	60.0
	Total EU	6,359.6	5,541.8	14.8	36.4
	Total Non-EU	11,109.0	10,004.0	11.0	63.6
	Grand Total	17,468.5	15,545.8	12.4	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Exports from Scotland have increased in value by over 12 per cent during the 12 months to March 2012 (Table 4a), a higher growth rate than for any other UK country. This is despite a slowing of growth in exports over the last quarter. Although non-EU partner countries continue to dominate exports from Scotland, the annual growth rate has been stronger for partner countries within the EU; this is largely a result of increases in goods going to Belgium, Germany and France. Belgium has become Scotland's fifth largest export partner during the year, replacing the Netherlands; the 41 per cent rise in exports to Belgium was mainly due to increases within SITC division 57 'Plastics in primary forms'.

Much of the growth during the year has come from increased exports to the USA (up £500 million, with exports from SITC division 11 'Beverages' up £252 million). However, growth in exports to the USA reduced in the first quarter of 2012. Norway continues to feature as Scotland's fourth largest export partner, with growth maintained during quarter 1 of 2012; the commodity group gaining the most value during the year was SITC division 72 'Machinery specialized for particular industries' (up £41 million).

Apart from the USA and Belgium the partner countries with the largest increases in exports from Scotland over the year were Germany (up £195 million, with SITC division 51 'Organic chemicals' up £108 million) and Canada (up £133 million, a 50 per cent increase mainly due to growth in exports from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials')

The biggest value decreases in exports to Scotland were in goods going to Angola (down £195 million, with SITC division 74 'General industrial machinery & equipment & machine parts' down £116 million) and Chile (down £63 million, a 38 per cent decrease). In the case of Chile this was due partly to an absence of exports from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' during the first quarter of 2012.

Partner country analysis – Northern Ireland

Table 5a: Northern Ireland - main export partners

	Country	Year ending March 2012 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2011	% Total Exports in year ending March 2012
	Irish Republic	2,124.2	2,070.7	2.6	37.2
	USA	488.2	465.5	4.9	8.5
Top 5	Canada	461.4	563.5	-18.1	8.1
	France	216.8	201.0	7.9	3.8
	Germany	208.8	198.9	5.0	3.7
	Others	2,217.4	2,007.2	10.5	38.8
	Total EU	3,221.0	3,148.6	2.3	56.3
	Total Non-EU	2,495.8	2,358.3	5.8	43.7
	Grand Total	5,716.9	5,506.9	3.8	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Exports from Northern Ireland have increased in value by 4 per cent during the 12 months to March 2012, the smallest increase of the four UK countries (Table 5a). After a slump in the second half of 2011 growth in Northern Ireland's exports continued to decline in the first quarter of 2012. Exports to Canada decreased by over 18 per cent, mainly due to a reduction in exports from SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (down £84 million). This has resulted in the USA overtaking Canada and becoming Northern Ireland's second largest export partner.

Although Northern Ireland's exports continue to be dominated by goods going to the Irish Republic, there has been a low growth rate of less than 3 per cent during the last year. In particular, there has been a reduction in exports to the Irish Republic from within SITC division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures'. Despite this, the Irish Republic still accounted for the largest increase in export value during the year (up £53 million, with SITC division 02 'Dairy products & birds' eggs' up £33 million).

Apart from the Irish Republic, the partner countries with the largest increase in exports from Northern Ireland during the 12 months were Australia (up £37 million, with SITC division 72 'Machinery specialized for particular industries' up £27 million)

and Saudi Arabia (up £33 million, with SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' up £29 million).

Apart from Canada, the partner countries experiencing the largest decreases in exports from Northern Ireland during the period were Greece (down £20 million, a fall of 65 per cent, with no exports at all from SITC division 12 'Tobacco' during the last year) and Belgium (down £14 million, exports from SITC division 12 down 99 per cent in value during the year). This decline in exports of tobacco may be the result of the high excise duty rates for tobacco in some EU countries.

Commodity analysis - England

Table 6a: Top 5 commodities for England's exports, year ending March 2012 compared to year ending March 2011

SITC section	Description	Year to March 2012 Total £ millions	Year to March 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2011	% Total Exports in year ending March 2012
7	Machinery & transport equipment	82,702.8	77,048.7	7.3	38.8
5	Chemicals & related products	39,000.8	39,557.5	-1.4	18.3
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	27,675.1	26,372.4	4.9	13.0
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	26,684.4	23,556.7	13.3	12.5
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	20,088.0	15,091.2	33.1	9.4
	Other SITCs	17,128.7	15,417.8	11.1	8.0
	All SITCs	213,279.8	197,044.3	8.2	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 6a shows that SITC section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' continues to dominate exports from England, making up 39 per cent of export value. Although section 7 also continues to account for the largest annual value increase of any SITC section, growth was less in the first quarter of 2012. This reduced the annual increase in section 7 to £5.6 billion, compared with £8.9 billion at the end of 2011. Most of the increase in section 7 during the year came from exports of goods within

SITC divisions 78 'Road vehicles' (up £2.7 billion) and 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up £1.9 billion), although both these increases were more than 20 per cent lower than those reported at the end of 2011.

Exports from SITC section 5 'Chemicals & related products' decreased slightly in value during the year. This has been partly due to a revision of the 2010 trade figures in April 2012, which resulted in £307 million of additional exports from section 5 being included.

Ten of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in export value during the period. The biggest decrease was in division 75 'Office machines & adp machines' (down £623 million). Much of the decrease in section 5 was within divisions 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (down £597 million) and 52 'Inorganic chemicals' (down £568 million); these SITC divisions were not affected by the 2010 revisions. The large decrease in division 54 was partly offset by an increase within division 59 'Chemical materials & products' (up £365 million).

The SITC section with the biggest percentage increase was section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (up £5.0 billion), although this increase was over 25 per cent less than that reported at the end of 2011. Most of the increase came from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up £4.9 billion), largely due to increased exports to France (up £1.3 billion) and Germany (up £1.1 billion).

Commodity analysis – English regions

Table 7a - Top 5 commodities for export from English regions - 12 months ending March 2012

Region	Top 5 SITC Sections				
	1	2	3	4	5
North East	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	5 - Chemicals & related products	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	3 - Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials
North West	5 - Chemicals & related products	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2 - Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles
Yorkshire & Humberside	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	3 - Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	5 - Chemicals & related products	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles
East Midlands	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	5 - Chemicals & related products	0 - Food & live animals
West Midlands	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	5 - Chemicals & related products	2 - Crude materials, inedible, except fuels
East	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	5 - Chemicals & related products	3 - Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material
London	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	3 - Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	5 - Chemicals & related products
South East	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	5 - Chemicals & related products	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	3 - Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material
South West	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	5 - Chemicals & related products	0 - Food & live animals

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 7a shows the top five export SITC section commodity groups by value for the English regions. There has been no change in the order of the top five commodity groups in the last quarter with the exception of the London region, where section 8 has replaced section 6 as the top SITC section by value.

SITC section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' is the top export section by value for seven of the nine English regions. In the West Midlands, East Midlands and South West this section continues to dominate the market, accounting for over 60 per cent of goods exported. In the North East this section has also gained prominence over the past year and now accounts for over 59 per cent of goods exported. In the West Midlands and North East, division 78 'Road vehicles' dominates the exports from this section. For the South West, division 79 'Other transport equipment' contributes the majority of export value within section 7, and for the East Midlands division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' dominates the section.

The North West remains the top English region for exports within section 5 'Chemicals and related products', despite a decrease of 1.5 per cent in the value of exports from this section over the past year. Decreases in section 5 during the year were also seen in London, the South East, the East and Yorkshire & Humberside. These perceived decreases were partly the result of an upward revision of 2010 export figures in April 2012, which resulted in additions to section 5.

London is the most important region for exports within SITC section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials'. London and the East have again seen large increases in export value within this section during the year (up £2.9 billion and £1.8 billion respectively) although these increases were over 20 per cent less than those reported at the end of 2011. For both these regions, much of the increase was in goods from division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' going to Germany and France. Yorkshire & Humberside again saw its largest increase in export value coming from SITC division 33 (up £1.4 billion), primarily in exports going to France and the Netherlands. In contrast, the North East and South East saw large reductions in exports from section 3 (down £425 million and £873 million respectively). For the South East exports from section 3 rose in the first quarter of 2012 after a slump in the second half of 2011. The erratic nature of trade in section 3 is partly governed by the price of petroleum products within division 33, which have risen during the past year.

For SITC section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' and SITC section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' London is the dominant exporting region. For SITC section 6 London has seen an increase of 20 per cent in export value over the last year (up £1.6 billion), although this is less than the increase reported at the end of 2011. The increase is largely due to SITC division 68 'Non-ferrous metals' (up £849 million) and division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures' (up £720 million), where exports to India and Belgium have increased during the year.

The South West and East Midlands continue to be the only regions with SITC section 0 'Food & live animals' in their top five. Although both regions have seen a rise in exports from this section during the year (up 14 per cent and 4 per cent respectively), these increases are less than those seen at the end of 2011. The North West and West Midlands continue to be the only regions with SITC section 2 'Crude materials'

in their top five; although these regions have experienced increases of 13 per cent and 16 per cent respectively in section 2 during the year, the growth rate has declined over the last 6 months.

All English regions saw a rise in export value for the majority of the sixty-five SITC divisions. For the London, the East and Yorkshire & Humberside the biggest increase was in division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' while for all other regions the largest rises were in divisions within section 7.

For the East and the North West the biggest decreases at division level during the year were in division 52 'Inorganic chemicals', while for Yorkshire & Humberside division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' decreased the most. In the North East and the South East, division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' lost the most value, and in the East Midlands division 27 'Crude fertilizers & crude materials' declined the most. For London, the South West and West Midlands the divisions losing the most value were all within section 7.

Commodity analysis - Wales

Table 8a: Top 5 commodities for Wales exports year ending March 2012 compared to year ending March 2011

SITC section	Description	Year to March 2012 Total £ millions	Year to March 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2011	% Total Exports in year ending March 2012
7	Machinery & transport equipment	4,733.7	4,789.4	-1.2	35.6
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	4,105.4	3,260.2	25.9	30.9
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,037.8	2,005.1	1.6	15.3
5	Chemicals & related products	1,305.4	1,485.3	-12.1	9.8
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	763.8	742.1	2.9	5.8
	Other SITCs	333.8	370.0	-9.8	2.5
	All SITCs	13,280.0	12,652.0	5.0	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 8a shows that exports from Wales continue to be dominated by goods from section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' and section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials'. Exports from section 7 continue to decline in the first quarter of 2012, where they were around 8 per cent lower than in the first quarter of 2011. Most of this reduction was in division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances' (down £75 million during the last year) and division 76 'Telecomms & sound reproducing apparatus & equipment' (down £28 million). The largest increase in exports over the 12 months was for section 3, although the growth rate slowed in the first quarter of 2012. The 26 per cent growth in section 3 exports during the year came almost entirely from division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' where much of the increase was in goods going to the USA.

Apart from SITC division 33 the biggest increase in export value during the year came from division 87 'Professional, scientific & controlling instruments & apparatus' (up £64 million) and division 34 'Gas, natural & manufactured' (up £31 million).

Nearly half of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in export value over the year. The commodity group with the biggest decrease in exports was SITC section 5 'Chemicals & related products', which reduced in value by 12 per cent (down £180 million). This decrease began in the second half of 2011 and continued in the first quarter of 2012; it was largely due to decreases in exports of goods from divisions 57 'Plastics in primary forms' and 51 'Organic chemicals' which declined in value by £84 million and £42 million respectively during the year; in both cases much of the reduction was in goods going to Belgium.

Commodity analysis - Scotland

Table 9a: Top 5 commodities for Scotland exports year ending March 2012 compared to year ending March 2011

SITC section	Description	Year to March 2012 Total £ millions	Year to March 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2011	% Total Exports in year ending March 2012
7	Machinery & transport equipment	5,367.8	5,017.8	7.0	30.7
1	Beverages & tobacco	4,265.0	3,646.0	17.0	24.4
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,121.2	1,929.8	9.9	12.1
5	Chemicals & related products	1,751.3	1,137.3	54.0	10.0
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,441.0	1,399.2	3.0	8.2
	Other SITCs	2,522.2	2,415.7	4.4	14.4
	All SITCs	17,468.5	15,545.8	12.4	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 9a shows that Scotland's exports are dominated by goods from section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' and section 1 'Beverages & tobacco'. In section 7 exports continued to increase in the first quarter of 2012, but growth was slower than during 2011. The increases in section 7 came largely from SITC divisions 74 'General industrial machinery & equipment & machine parts' (up £170 million) and 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up £126 million) in goods going to the USA, Malaysia and Norway. Exports from SITC section 1 have continued to increase during the first quarter of 2012, although less so than during 2011; the £619 million increase during the past year was entirely due to division 11 'Beverages', where exports to the USA increased by 31 per cent. Scotland is the most important region of the UK for exports of 'Beverages', maintaining its 63 per cent share of the UK's export value in the first quarter of 2012.

Exports from Scotland within SITC section 5 'Chemicals & related products' have seen a large increase in value of 54 per cent during the year (up £614 million); Scotland was the only UK country where the growth rate of exports in section 5 increased during the first quarter of 2012. The increase was mainly due to a rise in exports from divisions 51 'Organic chemicals' and 57 'Plastics in primary forms',

which together more than quadrupled over the past year. These increases were mainly due to growth in exports to Germany and the Netherlands (division 51), and Belgium (division 57).

None of Scotland's SITC sections decreased in export value during the 12 months. All of the top five SITC sections showed an increase in export value in the first quarter of 2012 compared with the first quarter of 2011. However, for section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' the value of exports reduced by over 50 per cent in the first quarter of 2012 compared with the first quarter of 2011; this was due to a decline in exports within SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' in the first quarter of 2012. The biggest decrease in division 33 over the year was in exports to the Netherlands, which declined by 73 per cent.

Commodity analysis – Northern Ireland

Table 10a: Top 5 commodities for Northern Ireland exports year ending March 2012 compared to year ending March 2011

SITC section	Description	Year to March 2012 Total £ millions	Year to March 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2011	% Total Exports in year ending March 2012
7	Machinery & transport equipment	2,361.0	2,253.8	4.8	41.3
0	Food & live animals	906.8	800.5	13.3	15.9
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	707.8	651.5	8.7	12.4
5	Chemicals & related products	602.2	560.5	7.4	10.5
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	480.5	503.2	-4.5	8.4
	Other SITCs	658.6	737.5	-10.7	11.5
	All SITCs	5,716.9	5,506.9	3.8	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 10a shows that Northern Ireland's exports continue to be dominated by goods from section 7 'Machinery & transport'. However, growth in this section has declined over the last 6 months, resulting in an annual increase of less than 5 per cent. The

decline was largely due to a fall in exports from SITC division 75 'Office machines & adp machines' (down £127 million during the year, a 70 per cent decrease), with a reduction in goods going to Thailand and Malaysia. This loss was offset by a large increase in division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & equipment' during the year (up £138 million, with much of the growth in goods going to Thailand and Malaysia).

Northern Ireland is the only UK country to have section 0 'Food & live animals' among its top five sections by value. This section had the strongest growth rate of the top five SITC sections during the year, with exports continuing to rise in the first quarter of 2012. Within section 0, the most valuable subgroups are division 01 'Meat & meat preparations' (up £46 million, with exports to the Irish Republic up £25 million) and division 02 'Dairy products & birds' eggs' (up £34 million, with exports to the Irish Republic up £33 million).

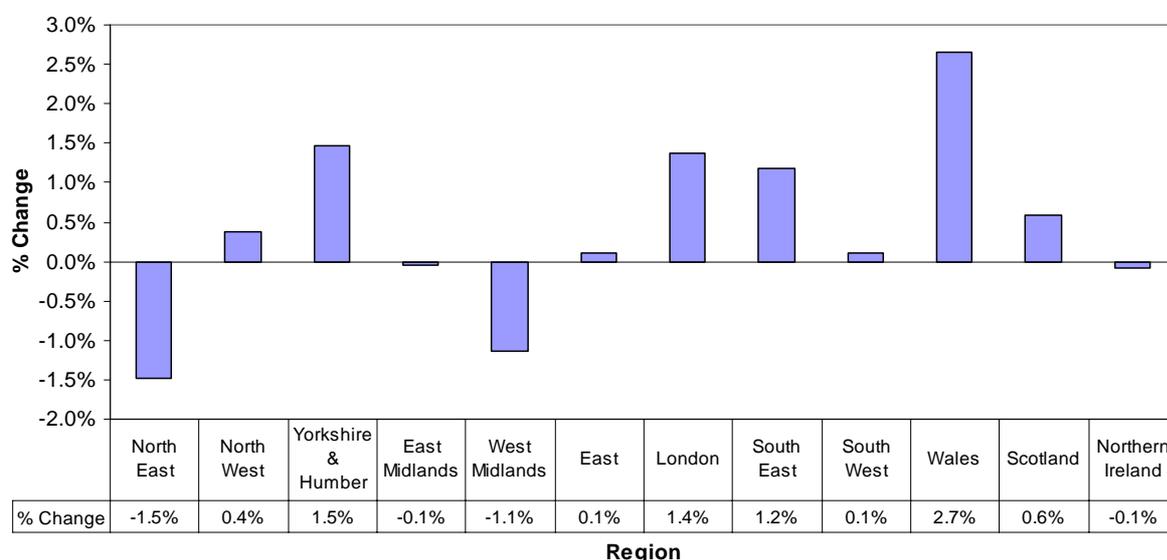
While SITC section 7 had the largest increases in export value during the year, the largest section level decrease was in section 1 'Beverages & tobacco' (down £90 million, a 24 per cent reduction). This was caused entirely by a decrease in the value of goods exported within division 12 'Tobacco & tobacco manufactures' which suffered a 98 per cent loss during the year, mainly in exports to Germany, Greece and Belgium. The other large value decrease during the year was in section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material', where exports declined by £23 million. This was mainly due to a reduction in exports from division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures' going to the Irish Republic.

Number of Traders - Exports

The following analysis compares the number of active exporters in quarter 1 2012 with the number in quarter 1 2011. A quarterly analysis is more appropriate here than an annual analysis, as summing the number of active traders over a year could produce ambiguous results. A quarter-on-quarter comparison enables us to measure seasonal movement of traders, such as the increase/decrease in number of active traders over the Christmas season (quarter 4). The number of traders counted excludes traders with the EU whose trade is below the Intrastat Exemption Threshold (see note 6).

Figure 3a shows the percentage change in number of exporters per region between quarter 1 2011 and quarter 1 2012.

Fig 3a: Percentage Change in Number of Exporters between Q1 2011 and Q1 2012



Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

For the UK as a whole, the number of exporting traders increased by 0.6 per cent between quarter 1 2011 and quarter 1 2012 from 48,317 to 48,584. This marks an improvement after the decreases seen at the end of the previous two quarters.

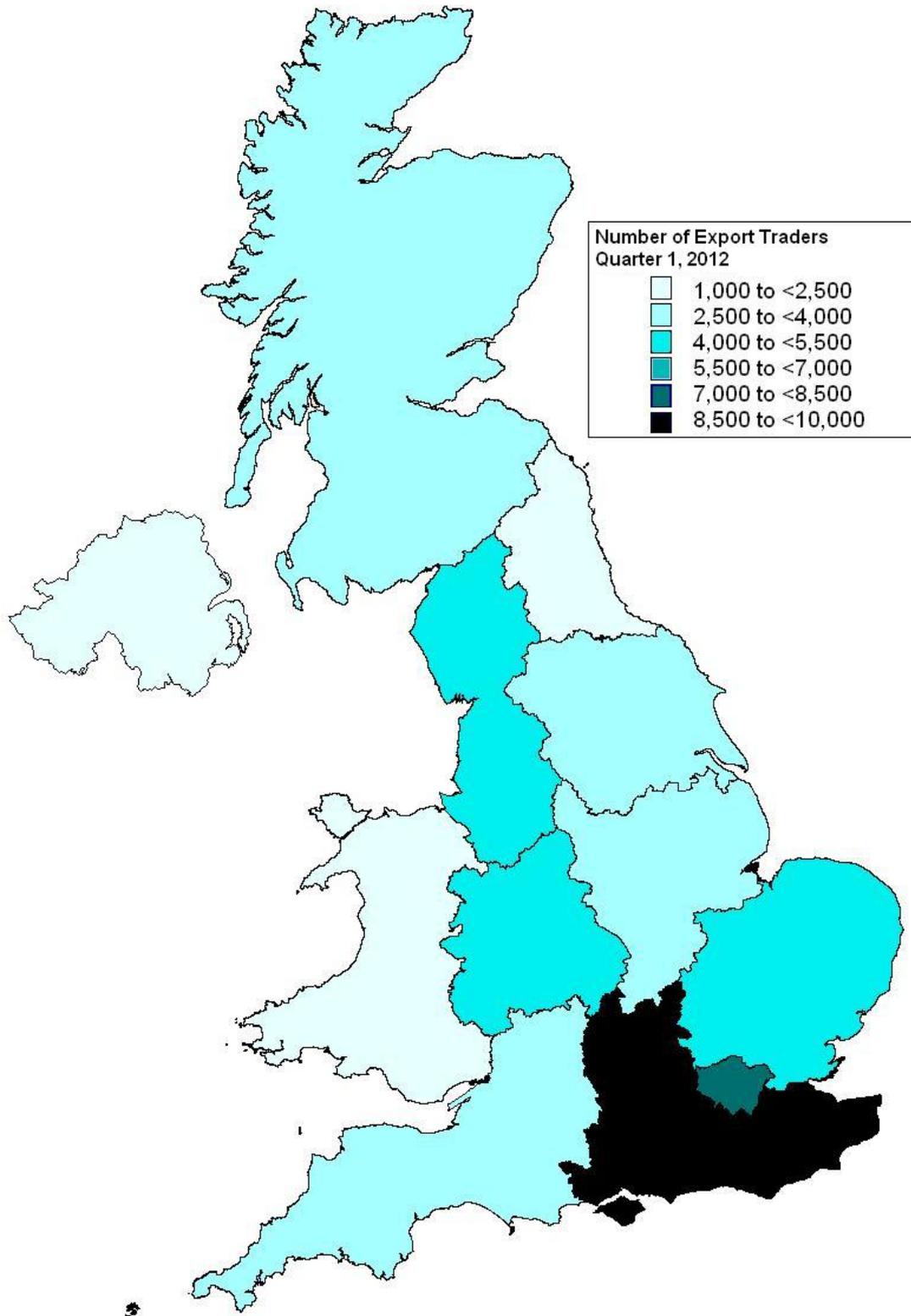
Figure 3a shows that the number of active exporters has increased in all regions of the UK apart from the North East, the East Midlands, the West Midlands and Northern Ireland between quarter 1 2011 and quarter 1 2012. Wales experienced the largest percentage rise in export trader numbers, 2.7 per cent, whereas the North East saw the largest decline in numbers, 1.5 per cent.

Most regions saw an improvement in trader numbers at the end of the first quarter of 2012 compared with the change reported at the end of quarter 4 2011. The only exceptions were the North East, where the number of exporters decreased further, and the West Midlands where the number of exporters decreased following the increase reported at the end of quarter 4 2011.

For Wales the number of exporting traders increased by 2.7 per cent, a turnaround after the 3.7 per cent decrease reported at the end of quarter 4 2011.

Figure 4a shows the total number of UK export traders in each region for quarter 1 2012. The South East, London and the East are the three regions with the largest count of traders, accounting respectively for 17.8 per cent, 17.0 per cent and 11.0 per cent of all UK traders. There has been little change since quarter 1 of 2011 apart from a slight increase in the proportion of UK traders exporting from London and the South East.

Fig 4a: Number of UK export traders by region - Quarter 1, 2012



Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

Rolling 12 Month Overview – Imports

The following analysis of a rolling 12 month period smoothes the seasonal quarterly variation of trade. This serves to better illustrate the longer term trend in the value of imports within the regions.

Partner country analysis – England

Table 1b: England - main import partners

Country	Year ending March 2012 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2011	% Total Imports in year ending March 2012
Germany	41,353.8	37,271.9	11.0	12.8
China	26,410.4	24,888.8	6.1	8.2
Top 5 USA	26,195.2	26,454.5	-1.0	8.1
Norway	22,177.3	15,458.6	43.5	6.9
Netherlands	19,745.9	18,661.6	5.8	6.1
Others	186,696.9	173,568.7	7.6	57.9
Total EU	152,177.4	142,896.3	6.5	47.2
Total Non-EU	170,402.0	153,407.9	11.1	52.8
Grand Total	322,579.4	296,304.1	8.9	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 1b shows that Germany remains the top import partner for England, and China remains the second highest after attaining this position at the end of 2011. Although imports from China exceeded those from the USA over the year, the first quarter of 2012 has seen a slight recovery in imports from the USA. Imports from the USA decreased slightly in value during the year, while imports from China rose by 6 per cent. Imports from Norway increased by 44 per cent during the year, maintaining its position as England's fourth largest import partner. This increase was driven by growth in imports from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up £7.0 billion). Price rises within this division during the year have contributed to the increase. Imports from Germany have risen more steeply during the first quarter of 2012, resulting in an 11 per cent annual increase.

Overall, England's imports increased by 9 per cent over the 12 month period. The value of imports from outside the EU has risen more sharply than that from EU

countries. Apart from Norway, the countries that contributed most to the overall increase were Germany (up £4.1 billion, with SITC division 78 ‘Road vehicles’ up £2.8 billion) and Russia (up £2.2 billion, with SITC division 33 ‘Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials’ up £2.0 billion).

The partner countries where the value of imports decreased the most were South Africa (down £1.1 billion with SITC division 66 ‘Non-metallic mineral manufactures’ down £953 million) and Canada (down £926 million, with SITC 28 ‘Metalliferous ores & metal scrap’ down £683 million).

Partner country analysis – English regions

Table 2b: Top 5 import partners for the English regions in the year ending March 2012

	Top 5 partner countries				
	1	2	3	4	5
North East	Japan	USA	France	Belgium	Germany
North West	Germany	China	Netherlands	USA	Belgium
Yorkshire & Humberside	China	Germany	Netherlands	USA	France
East Midlands	Germany	China	USA	Netherlands	France
West Midlands	Norway	Germany	China	France	USA
East	Germany	USA	Irish Republic	France	Netherlands
London	Norway	China	USA	Germany	Netherlands
South East	Germany	USA	Belgium	China	Netherlands
South West	USA	China	Germany	Netherlands	Japan

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 2b shows the top partner countries for imports to the English regions for the annual period ending March 2012. Unlike the pattern for exports, where the English regions are broadly similar to England as a whole, the pattern for imports shows more differences between the regions. Unlike exports where the manufacture of goods is typically more regionally concentrated, imports are based on the sale of goods, which is far more regionally dispersed. Nevertheless, there are a number of partner countries that appear consistently among the top five for most regions. The USA and Germany are among the top five import partners for every English region, and China is in the top five for all regions except the North East and the East. Imports from the USA have risen for all regions apart from the East and North West. Imports

from China have risen for all regions apart from the East and Yorkshire & Humberside. For the North West, Germany has overtaken China as the top partner country, owing to an 11 per cent increase in imports from Germany coupled with only a marginal increase of 0.6 per cent in imports from China.

Every region of England apart from the East saw an increase in the value of imports during the year to March 2012. By far the largest percentage increase was in the West Midlands, where imports were up 36 per cent due to a sharp rise during the last nine months; this has been mainly in imports from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' coming from Norway (up £5.7 billion).

For the East there was a decrease in import value of 0.4 per cent during the year; this was mainly due to a large decrease of 29 per cent in goods coming from the USA, with imports from SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment' down £1.7 billion. England's import trade continues to be dominated by the South East and London; the South East accounted for per cent of England's imports by value during the year, while London accounted for per cent. London's imports increased in value by 13 per cent during the year, while the South East saw an increase of 6 per cent.

For the majority of regions most of the import value comes from goods received from outside the EU. The East is the region where imports from the EU are the most dominant, accounting for 62 per cent of import value; here, non-EU imports have declined by 7 per cent during the year while EU imports have increased by 4 per cent. London, the North East and the South West continue to be the three regions where non-EU imports are most prevalent; for these regions non-EU imports have grown more strongly than EU imports during the year.

London continues to receive imports from a diverse range of countries, with almost two-thirds of goods received from countries outside the top five. The most important of these are France, Qatar, Switzerland and Botswana. London's imports from China have increased in value by 22 per cent during the year, compared with only a 4 per cent rise in the South East.

For the North East, a 38 per cent increase in imports from Japan during the year has increased Japan's share of its imports to 18 per cent (up from 14 per cent in the previous 12 months). This has been mainly due to a growth in imports from SITC 78

'Road vehicles' (up £276 million). The North East was also the region with the highest growth rate in imports from the USA.

For the South East, the East Midlands and the East the biggest growth for the year was in imports from Germany. The South West and London were the only English regions where imports from Germany decreased during the year. Yorkshire & Humberside saw its largest increase in goods coming from the Netherlands (up 22 per cent), mainly due to a rise in goods within SITC division 51 'Organic chemicals'.

Partner country analysis – Wales

Table 3b: Wales - main import partners

Country	Year ending March 2012 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2011	% Total Imports in year ending March 2012
Canada	1,040.1	263.4	294.9	12.9
Germany	729.1	620.6	17.5	9.1
Top 5 USA	718.9	735.7	-2.3	8.9
China	599.3	634.8	-5.6	7.5
Brazil	594.2	693.5	-14.3	7.4
Others	4,352.2	3,898.3	11.6	54.2
Total EU	2,759.3	2,449.9	12.6	34.3
Total Non-EU	5,274.6	4,396.4	20.0	65.7
Grand Total	8,033.9	6,846.2	17.3	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Imports to Wales increased in value by 17 per cent during the year, over double the average growth rate for the UK. Most of the increase was due to rapid growth in imports from Canada, which remains Wales' top import partner; this rise was driven by a very large increase in goods imported from SITC division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' over the last 12 months. Imports from Brazil have declined during the year, moving Brazil from fourth to fifth largest import partner; this decline began in the fourth quarter of 2011 and was mainly due to decreases within SITC division 28.

Wales has also seen decreases in goods imported from the USA and China during the year. In both cases the decline began in the fourth quarter of 2011 and continued in the first quarter of 2012. For China, much of the decrease was in SITC divisions 52 'Inorganic chemicals' and 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories'. For the USA, SITC division 32 'Coke, coal & briquettes' contributed most to the decrease.

Apart from Canada, the partner countries whose imports to Wales increased the most during the 12 month period were South Africa, where imports more than doubled, and Germany (up £108 million, with SITC division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' up £40 million).

Partner country analysis – Scotland

Table 4b: Scotland - main import partners

Country	Year ending March 2012 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2011	% Total Imports in year ending March 2012
USA	2,056.7	1,994.1	3.1	16.1
Norway	1,442.3	1,267.9	13.8	11.3
Top 5 China	1,088.1	1,123.7	-3.2	8.5
Germany	678.1	603.6	12.4	5.3
Netherlands	676.8	700.3	-3.4	5.3
Others	6,818.9	6,032.7	13.0	53.4
Total EU	3,769.6	3,583.4	5.2	29.5
Total Non-EU	8,991.4	8,138.9	10.5	70.5
Grand Total	12,761.0	11,722.3	8.9	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Imports to Scotland have increased in value by almost 9 per cent during the year, a slightly higher rate of increase than the 7.4 per cent average for the UK. The USA remains Scotland's top import partner, with strong growth continuing in the first quarter of 2012. Imports from the USA that increased most during the year were in SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment'; those that decreased the most were from SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment'. Imports from Norway increased by 14 per cent during the year, with strong growth in the first

quarter of 2012. Most of the annual increase in imports from Norway came from SITC division 34 'Gas, natural & manufactured' (up £52 million).

Although Scotland's imports from China decreased during the year as a whole, there was some recovery in the first quarter of 2012. The decrease was mainly due to reductions in goods coming from SITC division 75 'Office machines & adp machines' (down £127 million). Imports from the Netherlands have declined in the last six months; here the decrease was also largely due to reduced imports from SITC division 75 (down £139 million). Apart from China and the Netherlands, the partner countries whose imports to Scotland have decreased most in value are Argentina (SITC division 08 'Feeding stuff for animals' down £81 million) and Hong Kong (SITC division 85 'Footwear' down £15 million).

Over 70 per cent of Scotland's imports now come from non-EU countries. Imports from Russia almost doubled during the year, with much of the increase coming from SITC division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes'. Imports from Nigeria from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' also increased during the year (up £154 million).

Partner country analysis – Northern Ireland

Table 5b: Northern Ireland - main import partners

Country	Year ending March 2012 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2011	% Total Imports in year ending March 2012
Irish Republic	1,619.5	1,658.0	-2.3	29.0
China	899.4	856.5	5.0	16.1
Top 5 USA	415.1	414.8	0.1	7.4
Germany	304.7	287.6	5.9	5.5
France	287.0	241.5	18.8	5.1
Others	2,059.6	1,898.4	8.5	36.9
Total EU	3,198.6	3,085.9	3.7	57.3
Total Non-EU	2,386.6	2,270.8	5.1	42.7
Grand Total	5,585.2	5,356.7	4.3	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 5b shows that Northern Ireland has seen relatively low growth of 4 per cent in the value of its imports during the year. This increase is less than that in other UK countries. Although imports to Northern Ireland are dominated by goods from the Irish Republic, there has been a decrease in the value of imports from here during the year; the main contributor was SITC division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' where imports fell by £68 million.

Around a third of Northern Ireland's imports from the Irish Republic are from SITC section 0 'Food & live animals'; imports from this section have risen by 18 per cent in value over the year, but growth declined in the first quarter of 2012.

Northern Ireland's imports from China declined in the first quarter of 2012; imports from China grew by only 5 per cent during the year compared with a 13 per cent increase at the end of 2011. There was a decrease in imports from China within SITC division 85 'Footwear' during the year, although imports from SITC division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' went up by 10 per cent. Imports from the USA have also declined during the last six months resulting in growth for the year remaining static. This was mainly due to a reduction in goods from SITC division 72 'Machinery specialized for particular industries'.

The largest increases in imports to Northern Ireland during the year were from Spain (SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment' up £72 million) and France (SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' up £11 million).

Commodity analysis - England

Table 6b: Top 5 commodities for England imports - year ending March 2012 compared to year ending March 2011

SITC section	Description	Year to March 2012 Total £ millions	Year to March 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2011	% Total Imports in year ending March 2012
7	Machinery & transport equipment	106,139.5	104,664.8	1.4	32.9
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	50,641.3	48,740.0	3.9	15.7
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	50,213.8	34,708.0	44.7	15.6
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	39,757.1	36,461.4	9.0	12.3
5	Chemicals & related products	38,534.8	35,726.1	7.9	11.9
	Other SITCs	37,293.0	36,003.8	3.6	11.6
	All SITCs	322,579.4	296,304.1	8.9	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 6b shows that section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' continues to dominate England's imports, accounting for almost one third of total import value. Growth in section 7 has been slow over the past year, with a rise of just 1.4 per cent compared with an average growth rate of 9 per cent across all sections. This was mainly due to a decrease in imports from SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment' (down £4.7 billion with imports from the USA in this section down £2.0 billion). This was partly offset by a rise in SITC division 78 'Road vehicles' (up £3.2 billion).

All of the top five SITC sections increased in value during the year. The largest section-level value increase over the year was in section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials', which rose by £15.5 billion; this 45 per cent increase was mainly due to division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up £14.1 billion, with imports from Norway up £7.0 billion). This increase was partly due to price rises within division 33 during the year.

Section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' increased in value by 9 per cent during the year; this rise was driven by increases in imports from division 68 'Non-ferrous metals' (up £1.1 billion) and division 66 'Non-metallic mineral

manufactures' (up £1.1. billion); for division 66 the majority of the increase was in imports from Botswana, whereas for division 68 the increase came from a variety of countries including Taiwan, Germany and Japan. Imports from section 5 'Chemicals & related products' increased by 8 per cent during the 12 months; much of the increase came from division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (up £1.2 billion, with imports from Israel up £756 million).

Fifteen of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in import value over the 12 months. Apart from division 79 'Other transport equipment', the biggest decreases were in division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment' (down £850 million) and division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' (down £658 million, a 20 per cent decline). For division 28 this is in contrast to Wales, where imports rose by 90 per cent during the year.

Commodity analysis – English regions

Table 7b - Top 5 commodities for import to English regions - 12 months ending March 2012

Region	Top 5 SITC Sections				
	1	2	3	4	5
North East	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	3 - Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	5 - Chemicals & related products	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material
North West	5 - Chemicals & related products	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	3 - Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials
Yorkshire & Humberside	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	5 - Chemicals & related products	0 - Food & live animals
East Midlands	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	5 - Chemicals & related products	0 - Food & live animals
West Midlands	3 - Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	0 - Food & live animals
East	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	5 - Chemicals & related products	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	3 - Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	0 - Food & live animals
London	3 - Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	0 - Food & live animals
South East	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	3 - Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	5 - Chemicals & related products	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material
South West	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	0 - Food & live animals	5 - Chemicals & related products

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 7b shows the top five import sections by value for the English regions. There have been a small number of changes in the order of the top five sections in the last quarter: for the North West section 7 has moved ahead of section 8, for the West Midlands section 3 has moved into top position, and for the South East section 3 has moved ahead of section 5.

Section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' has seen large rises in import value during the year in virtually all English regions. The main exception is the North East, where imports have decreased in value by 24 per cent. The most dramatic increase was for the West Midlands, where imports from section 3 trebled in value to £9.4 billion during the year. This makes the West Midlands the third highest importing region for the year after London and the South East. London, the South East, the East and the North West all saw increases of 25-35 per cent in the value of imports from section 3. For all these regions, the increase came from division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'. Some of the increase was the result of price rises within this division during the year

Section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' remains the most dominant section for imports in the majority of regions, as it is for exports. Some regions have seen a rise in import value for section 7 during the year while others have experienced a decline. The regions with the most significant increases were the North East (up 28 per cent), the West Midlands (up 14 per cent), the East Midlands (up 12 per cent) and the North West (up 10 per cent). For all these regions except the East Midlands SITC division 78 'Road vehicles' contributed most of the value increase. The regions with the biggest decreases in section 7 were the East (down 11 per cent), London (down 3 per cent) and the South West (down 3 per cent). In London and the East, SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment' contributed most to the decline, while in the South West SITC division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment' lost the most value.

For section 5 'Chemicals & related products' the South East and North West remain the top importing regions. The North West has seen a rise of 14 per cent over the year, mainly due to increased imports from SITC division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (up £592 million, with imports from Israel up £757 million). Imports to the South East rose by just 3 per cent, with much of the increase coming from SITC division 52 'Inorganic chemicals' (up £199 million).

For section 6, all regions saw increases in import value over the year, the largest being in London (up 14 per cent), the North East (up 13 per cent) and the West Midlands (up 12 per cent). For London the increase was driven by goods from SITC division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures' from Botswana, whereas for the North East and West Midlands a large portion of the increase was from goods in SITC division 67 'Iron & steel' coming from Germany and China respectively.

Imports from section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' increased for five of the nine regions. The largest value increase by far was for London (up 13 per cent) where SITC division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' increased by 20 per cent, mainly in goods coming from the USA and Switzerland. The region with the biggest decrease in imports from section 8 was the North East (down 6 per cent), mainly due to a reduction in goods within division 89 coming from Denmark.

Commodity analysis – Wales

Table 8b: Top 5 commodities for Wales imports - year ending March 2012 compared to year ending March 2011

SITC section	Description	Year to March 2012 Total £ millions	Year to March 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2011	% Total Imports in year ending March 2012
2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	2,105.4	1,164.8	80.8	26.2
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1,850.6	1,475.7	25.4	23.0
7	Machinery & transport equipment	1,492.2	1,542.1	-3.2	18.6
5	Chemicals & related products	1,016.2	966.4	5.2	12.6
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	708.7	700.9	1.1	8.8
	Other SITCs	860.9	996.4	-13.6	10.7
	All SITCs	8,033.9	6,846.2	17.3	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 8b shows that section 2 'Crude materials, inedible, except fuels' is the top commodity group for Wales, with an 81 per cent increase in value during the past year; this was almost entirely due to a large rise in SITC division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap, which almost doubled in value over the 12 months. This increase was driven by growth in imports from Canada (up £707 million). Wales now accounts for over 40 per cent of the UK's imports from this division.

Wales saw its other large value increase in section 6 (up £375 million) where the growth was mainly triggered by a rise in divisions 68 'Non-ferrous metals' (up £254 million, with imports from South Africa increasing sharply) and 67 'Iron & steel' (up £85 million, with imports from the Netherlands contributing most of this).

The value of imports from section 8 has increased by only 1 per cent during the year, which suggests a fall in the overall volume of imports given the average UK import price rise for the year of 6.1 per cent. The majority of divisions within section 8 decreased in value, the biggest losses coming from division 88 'Photographic & optical goods' (down £15 million).

Section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' was the only section out of the top five to decrease in value year on year (down 3 per cent). The decline was brought about by reductions in SITC division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment' (down £84 million), mainly in goods coming from Mexico. At division level the largest value decrease was from SITC division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes' (down £178 million, with a decline in goods from Australia and the USA).

Commodity analysis – Scotland

Table 9b: Top 5 commodities for Scotland imports - year ending March 2012 compared to year ending March 2011

SITC section	Description	Year to March 2012 Total £ millions	Year to March 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2011	% Total Imports in year ending March 2012
7	Machinery & transport equipment	4,912.4	4,952.6	-0.8	38.5
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	2,403.7	1,764.0	36.3	18.8
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1,685.1	1,329.7	26.7	13.2
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,568.7	1,454.3	7.9	12.3
0	Food & live animals	940.8	1,106.3	-15.0	7.4
	Other SITCs	1,250.2	1,115.5	12.1	9.8
	All SITCs	12,761.0	11,722.3	8.9	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 9b shows that Scotland's imports continue to be dominated by goods from SITC section 7, despite a slight decrease in import value for this section over the past year. The decline was largely due to a reduction in imports from SITC division 75 'Office machines & adp machines' (down 20 per cent) mainly in goods coming from the Netherlands (down £139 million).

The SITC section that increased most over the year was section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (up £640 million) with imports from division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes' up 86 per cent, primarily due to growth in imports from Russia (up £252 million). SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' has seen an increase of 15 per cent during the year; most of this increase was in the first 6 months of the year, although imports in the first quarter of 2012 increased sharply following a decline in the last quarter of 2011.

Scotland's top five import sections have remained the same since the end of 2011. The strong growth in section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' seen in 2011 has tapered off slightly in the first quarter of 2012. Over the 12 month period there were large increases in imports from SITC divisions 67 'Iron & steel' (up £135 million) and 69 'Manufactures of metal' (up £86 million). For division 67 the

increase was mainly in goods from Japan, France, Italy and the USA, whereas for division 69 most of the increase was in goods from Norway, China and Italy.

The section with the largest decline in value during the year was section 0 'Food & live animals' which went down by £166 million; much of this decrease occurred during the last six months. The reduction over the year was mainly attributable to division 08 'Feeding stuff for animals' (down £98 million) and division 02 'Dairy products & birds' eggs' (down £77 million) where there were reductions in goods coming from Argentina and France respectively.

Commodity analysis – Northern Ireland

Table 10b: Top 5 commodities for Northern Ireland imports - year ending March 2012 compared to year ending March 2011

SITC section	Description	Year to March 2012 Total £ millions	Year to March 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2011	% Total Imports in year ending March 2012
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,515.8	1,573.3	-3.7	27.1
7	Machinery & transport equipment	1,086.4	1,042.2	4.2	19.5
0	Food & live animals	920.2	766.6	20.0	16.5
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	793.6	737.7	7.6	14.2
5	Chemicals & related products	472.2	487.9	-3.2	8.5
	Other SITCs	797.1	749.0	6.4	14.3
	All SITCs	5,585.2	5,356.7	4.3	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' remains Northern Ireland's top import section by value, despite a fall of 4 per cent over the last year; this is in contrast to England, Scotland and Wales, which have all seen an increase in imports from this section. The majority of the decline came from SITC division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' (down £73 million, a 24 per cent decrease) with a reduction in goods coming from the Irish Republic. Northern Ireland also saw a decline in imports from section 5 'Chemicals & related

products'; the 3 per cent decrease was chiefly caused by a reduction in imports from SITC division 57 'Plastics in primary forms' (down £19 million, a 28 per cent decrease).

Apart from division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' the biggest decrease at division level was for division 72 'Machinery specialized for particular industries' (down £62 million) with imports from the USA and Germany declining in value during the year.

Section 0 'Food & live animals' had by far the largest increase in value for the year (up £154 million); this was largely driven by a rise in imports within SITC divisions 08 'Feeding stuff for animals' (imports from the USA up £15 million) and 04 'Cereals & cereal preparations' (imports from the Irish Republic up £25 million).

The most valuable increase at division level was for SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment' where imports rose by 60 per cent during the year (up £62 million, with imports from Spain continuing to grow). There was also a large increase in value for imports from SITC division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' (up £53 million, mainly due to increased imports from China and Bangladesh).

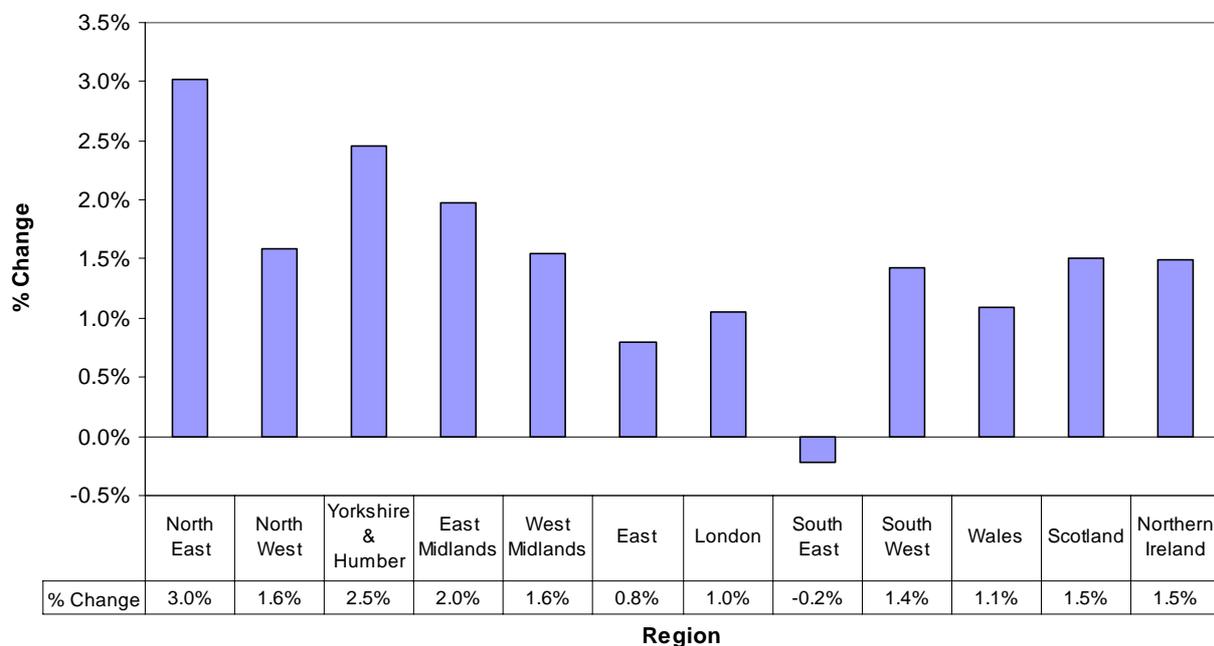
Outside of the top five SITC sections, there was a 10 per cent rise in section 1 'Beverages & tobacco' where virtually all the increase was due to imports from SITC division 11 'Beverages' (up £40 million). This was largely driven by growth in goods coming from Germany and Sweden.

Number of trader – Imports

The following analysis compares the number of active importers in quarter 1 2012 with the number in quarter 1 2011. A quarterly analysis is more appropriate here than an annual analysis, since summing the number of active traders over a year could produce ambiguous results. A quarter-on-quarter comparison enables us to measure seasonal movement of traders, such as the increase/decrease in number of importers over the Christmas season (quarter 4). The number of traders counted excludes traders with the EU whose trade is below the Intrastat Exemption Threshold (see note 6).

Figure 3b shows the percentage change in the number of importers in the UK between quarter 1 2011 and quarter 1 2012.

Fig 3b: Percentage Change in Number of Importers between Q1 2011 and Q1 2012



Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

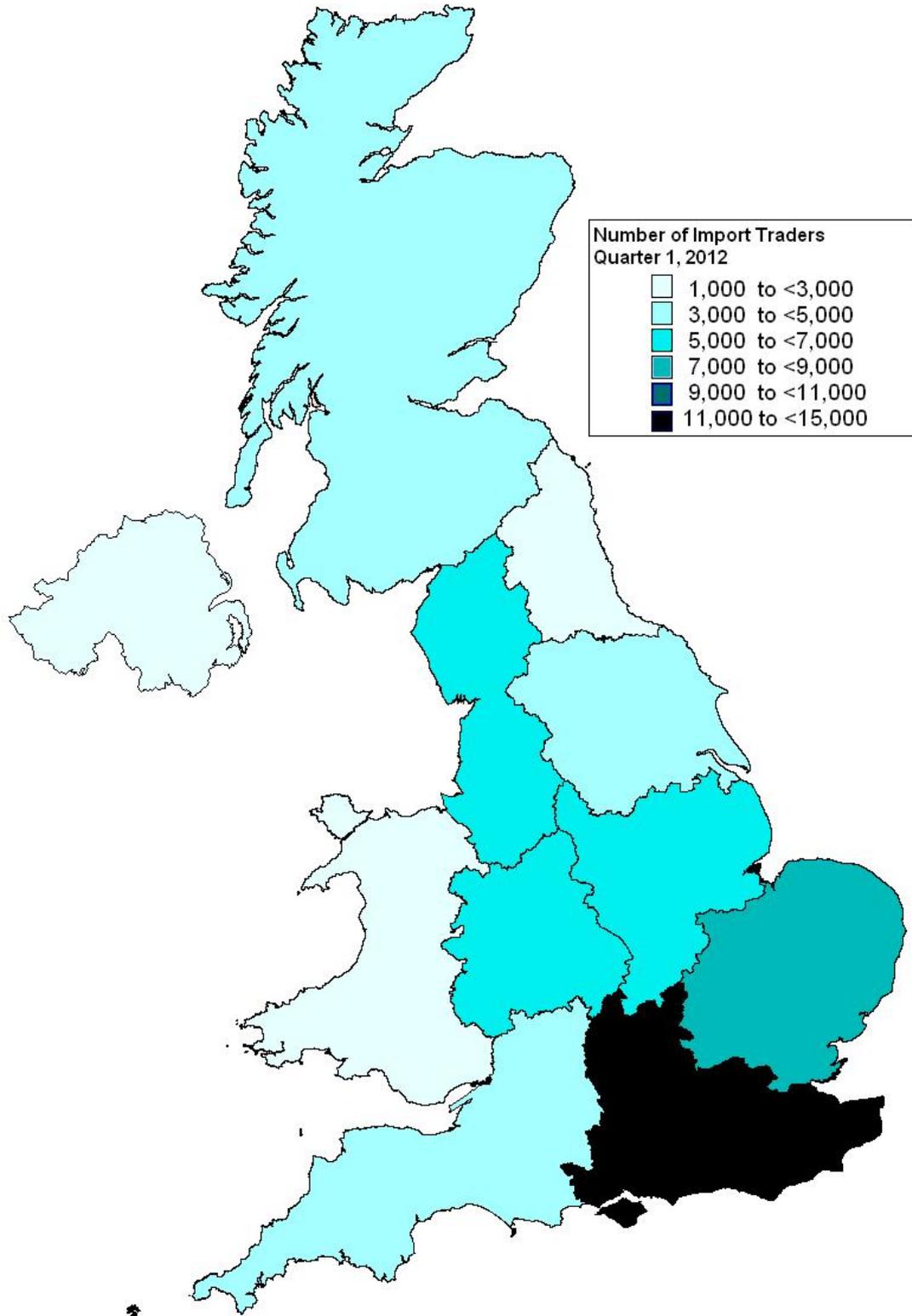
In the UK as a whole, the number of importing traders increased by 1.2 per cent between quarter 1 2011 and quarter 1 2012 to 66,048. This is in contrast to the 3.8 per cent decrease reported for quarter 4 2011.

Figure 3b shows that the number of active importers increased in every region of the UK apart from the South East between quarter 1 2011 and quarter 1 2012. For the South East the number of importing traders fell slightly, while the largest increase in importers was in the North East (up 3 per cent). This marks a turnaround, with the previous two quarters having shown a decrease in importer numbers in all regions. The pattern is similar to that for exporter numbers, which have also begun to increase.

Figure 4b shows the total number of UK import traders in each region for quarter 1, 2012. London, the South East and the East are the three regions with the largest count of traders, accounting for 19.3 per cent, 17.3 per cent and 10.9 per cent of all

UK traders respectively. The North East has the smallest number of importing traders for the quarter, making up 2 per cent of all UK importers.

Fig 4b: Number of UK import traders by region - Quarter 1, 2012



Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

Notes

1. The latest statistics on Regional Trade were released on 07 June 2012 by HM Revenue & Customs under arrangements set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#). This release includes the first provisional estimates of trade-in-goods for Quarter 1 2012. At the same time revisions for all previously published regional data for 2011 are also being released. This release also incorporates a small number of unscheduled revisions (first announced [here](#)) which have been applied to 2009 and 2010 data.
2. Data is taken primarily from Customs systems (for non-EU trade) and the Intrastat survey (for EU trade). HMRC does not receive information in respect of goods that move wholly within the UK, nor in intangibles and services such as banking or tourism. Trade is mainly allocated to a region by the postcode associated with a company's VAT registration.
3. Some adjustments have been necessary in the production of export statistics by region to ensure manufacturing that takes place at branch premises is properly allocated to the region where the branch is situated. This adjustment is based on the results of periodic surveys of the top 200 traders by value of exports (both EU and non-EU), to determine the values and proportions of trade generated by each branch. Therefore, for traders who have provided a response to the survey, their trade is split by value to various regions in line with the information provided by the survey. For all other traders the region where the head office is located is used by default. For imports, such adjustments cannot be made, as traders would not be able to produce a reasonable assessment of the final regional destination for their goods. Unlike exports where the manufacture of goods is typically more regionally concentrated, imports are based on the sale of goods, which is far more regionally dispersed.
4. Not all trade can be assigned to one of the 9 English Regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Where appropriate, this is referred to in the tables as the 'Unknown region' and includes:
 - a. Trade carried out by persons or entities which cannot be matched to a region.
 - b. Low Value Trade and estimates made for EU trade below the Intrastat threshold.

- c. Goods within classification codes that have changed since the previous year are not assigned to a region but are included within Unknown region for completeness.
- d. Data relating to Natural Gas and Electricity direct from pipeline and grid operators.

More information can be found in the RTS methodology document.

<https://www.uktradeinfo.com/Statistics/documents/rtsmethodsrevision2007v3.pdf>

- 5. The RTS does not include estimates for non-response or estimates for the missing EU Imports associated with Missing Trader Intra-Community VAT Fraud (MTIC Fraud).
- 6. The counts for traders dealing with the EU and counts for traders dealing with the non-EU do not sum to the total trader counts. 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](#).
- 7. In 2009 a change took place to the Customs administrative data source used in the compilation of the RTS. The impact of the change is being monitored and reviewed by the Trade Statistics Unit.
- 8. Aggregated tables are produced to allow time series analysis; these tables are provided in a separate document released in conjunction with this Release.
- 9. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:
 - meet identified user needs;
 - are well explained and readily accessible;
 - are produced according to sound methods, and
 - are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

10. The Regional Trade in Goods figures undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs. The latest Trade Statistics Quality report can be found [here](#).
11. The RTS has recently been reviewed as part of an assessment made of Overseas Trade Statistics by the [UK Statistics Authority](#). The report of that assessment can be found at <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-93---uk-trade-in-goods.pdf>

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To access the detailed Regional Trade Statistics data in our free interactive database please click [here](#).

Next release: 06 September 2012 9:30am

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