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Summary

- In the year to June 2013, there was a fall in annual export value in all UK countries and regions apart from Scotland, the East Midlands, the West Midlands, the South West and Yorkshire and the Humber. There was a fall in annual import value during the year in all UK countries and regions apart from Scotland, the East Midlands, the North West and the South West. Of the four UK countries, Scotland was the only UK country to see an increase in both imports and exports. England had the lowest rate of decrease for imports, and Northern Ireland for exports.
- The value of UK exports and imports both increased in Quarter 2 2013 compared with Quarter 2 2012. The value of exports rose for all four UK countries between Quarter 2 2012 and Quarter 2 2013; the value of imports rose for all UK countries except Wales. Exports decreased in the North East and South East but increased in all other English regions. Imports decreased in five of the nine English regions (the North East, the North West, Yorkshire and the Humber, West Midlands and London) but increased for the other four.
- The number of exporters rose between Quarter 2 2012 and Quarter 2 2013 in all UK regions apart from the Yorkshire & the Humber, West Midlands, Scotland and Northern Ireland. In contrast, the number of importers decreased in all UK regions.
- For England, the value of exports to Switzerland increased most in the year ending June 2013; for Wales exports to the United Arab Emirates increased the most; for Scotland exports to Belgium increased the most, while for Northern Ireland exports to the USA increased most. For imports, the largest increases were in goods from the Netherlands (England), Nigeria (Scotland), Spain (Wales) and the USA (Northern Ireland).
- For exports, the commodity groups with the largest annual value increases were 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (England) 'Power generating machinery' (Scotland and Wales) and 'Medicinal and pharmaceutical products' (Northern Ireland).
- For imports, the commodity groups with the largest annual value increases were 'Non-ferrous metals' (England), 'Road vehicles' (Wales), 'Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials' (Scotland) and 'Cereals and cereal preparations' (Northern Ireland).

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 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 business (importer or exporter) is based. Because the trade is regionalised according to the location of the VAT registered business some of the trade may be allocated to the region where the head office of the business is located¹.

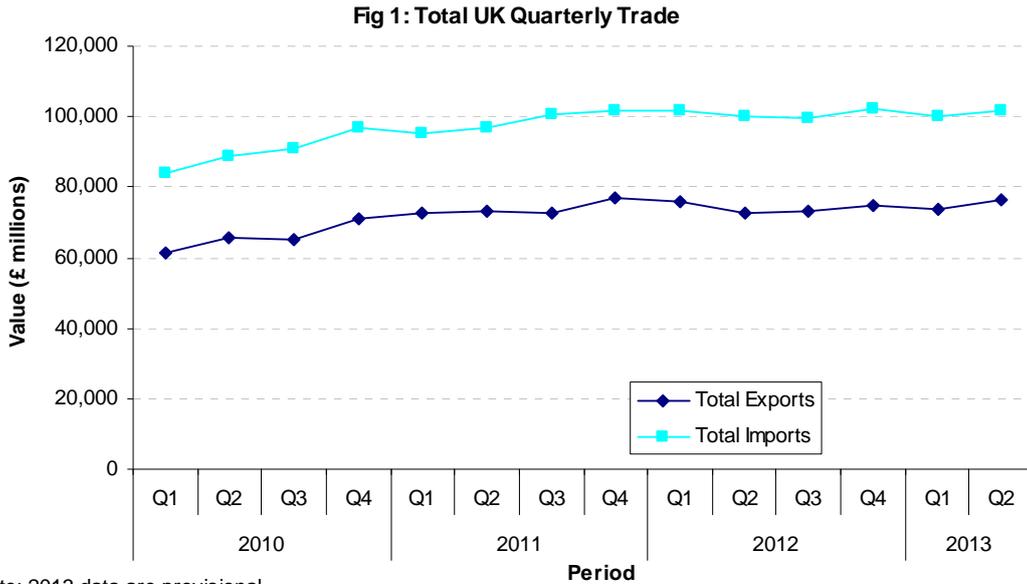
RTS data is categorised by partner country and [Standard International Trade Classification, Rev.4](#) (SITC) at division level (2-digit). The SITC is a relatively broad classification of goods and is not as detailed as the commodity classification available in the OTS. In this release RTS data is analysed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

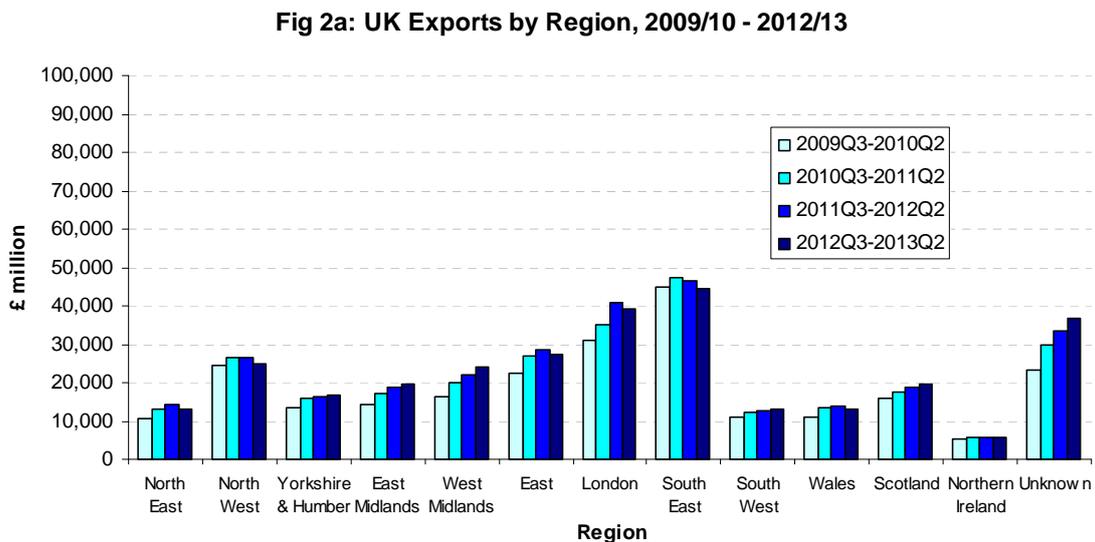
Figure 1 shows the quarterly values of imports to and exports from the UK since 2010. The value of both imports and exports increased by 1.6 and 3.8 per cent respectively during the second quarter of 2013. This reduced the trade deficit to £25.1 billion for the quarter, a decrease of 4.6 per cent compared to the previous quarter.

¹ See note 3



Overview - Exports

Figure 2a shows the total value of UK exports by region for the four annual periods ending June 2010, June 2011, June 2012 and June 2013.



- The total annual value of UK exports marginally decreased by 0.1 per cent to £297.8 billion in the year ending June 2013; this is a marked change from the 5.8

² amounted to £36.5 billion in the year ending June 2013.

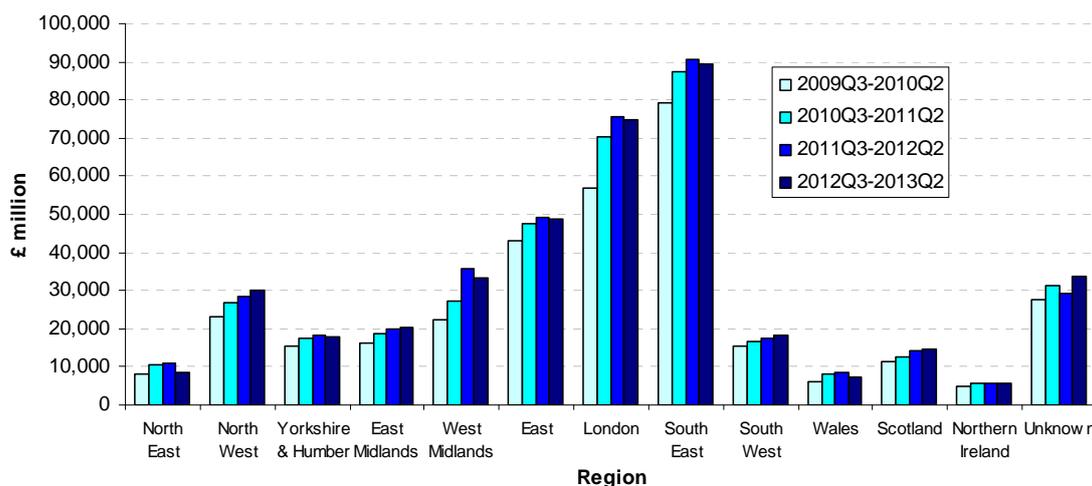
- The South East continues to have the largest total export value of all the English regions (£44.4 billion for the year ending June 2013) accounting for 19.9 per cent of total exports from England. This is despite a value decrease of 4.2 per cent in exports from the South East over the annual period.
- The North East had the smallest total value of exports of £12.9 billion for the year ending June 2013, 5.8 per cent of England's total. This region also saw the largest percentage decrease in the English regions with this quarter's exports being the lowest since the first quarter of 2010.
- Year on year, the largest percentage increase in the English regions was for the West Midlands, whose exports increased by 9.3 per cent to £24.2 billion during the year. Exports of £6.6 billion were reported for the second quarter of 2013, the highest quarterly figure on record for the region.

² See note 4

Overview - Imports

Figure 2b shows the total value of UK imports by region for the four annual periods ending June 2010, June 2011, June 2012 and June 2013.

Fig 2b: UK Imports by Region, 2009/10 - 2012/13



Note: 2013 data are provisional
Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

- The total annual value of UK imports for the year ending June 2013 decreased marginally by 0.2 per cent to £403.2 billion compared with the year ending June 2012. There was a fall in import value during the year for all UK regions apart from Scotland, the East Midlands, the North West and the South West. The total value of imports to England fell by 1.4 per cent to £341.6 billion during the year, the largest decreases coming from the 'Chemicals & related products' sector. The total value of imports to Scotland rose by 4.2 per cent to £14.7 billion, the only positive import growth rate of the four UK countries; this was driven by increases in the 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' sector. The total value of imports to Wales fell by 12.9 per cent to £7.4 billion; this was driven by a decrease in imports from the 'Crude materials, inedible, except fuel' sector'. Total imports to Northern Ireland decreased by 2.2 per cent to £5.7 billion; the decline was largely due to the 'Machinery & transport equipment' and 'Beverages &

³ amounted to £33.7

billion in the year ending June 2013.

- Within England, the South East continues to have the largest total value of imports. For the year ending June 2013 this was £89.4 billion, 26.2 per cent of England's total despite a decrease in value by 1.4 per cent during the year. Similarly, imports to London decreased by 1.2 per cent.
- The largest year-on-year percentage increase among the English regions was for the South West, where imports increased by 6.4 per cent to £18.4 billion. Much of this growth came in imports from the 'Machinery & transport equipment' sector.
- The largest year-on-year decrease among the English regions was for the North East, where imports declined by 21.4 per cent. The North East continues to have the smallest total value of imports of all the English regions, making up just 2.5 per cent of England's total.

³ 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 - Top five export partners, year ending June 2013

Country	Year ending June 2013 Total £ millions	Year ending June 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from June 2012	% Total Exports in year ending June 2013
USA	29,726.7	29,260.5	1.6	13.3
Germany	24,214.1	26,974.5	-10.2	10.9
Top 5 France	16,976.6	17,656.7	-3.9	7.6
Netherlands	14,114.5	15,336.5	-8.0	6.3
Irish Republic	11,235.5	11,123.9	1.0	5.0
Others	126,581.9	125,661.8	0.7	56.8
Total EU	109,562.1	116,631.0	-6.1	49.2
Total Non-EU	113,287.2	109,382.9	3.6	50.8
Grand Total	222,849.3	226,013.9	-1.4	100.0

Note: 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 1a shows that the total value of exports from England has declined by 1.4 per cent during the year ending June 2013. England's top five export partners for the year were the same as in the previous annual period. Only two of England's top five export partner countries, the USA and the Irish Republic, saw an increase in export value over the last 12 months and in both cases these increases were only marginal (1.6 and 1.0 per cent respectively). The USA's share of England's exports has risen from 12.9 per cent to 13.3 per cent over the last 12 months and the Irish Republic's share increased from 4.9 per cent to 5.0 per cent, while the share for the other partners in the top five has decreased year on year. While there were large increases in exports to the USA within SITC division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' (up 31.4 per cent) and division 78 'Road vehicles' (up 24.8 per cent), these were balanced by large decreases in exports within division 51 'Organic chemicals' (down 30.3 per cent) and division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (down 29.9 per cent)

England's exports to the EU have decreased by 6.1 per cent during the last year, while exports to non-EU countries have increased by 3.6 per cent. Exports to non-EU countries now account for over half of England's exports by value. The EU partner countries where exports from England have decreased most are Germany (down 10.2 per cent), the Netherlands (down 8.0 per cent) and Italy (down 11.2 per cent). The only EU partner countries where exports from England increased during the year were Lithuania (up 27.9 per cent), Latvia (up 17.5 per cent), Estonia (up 1.1 per cent) and the Irish Republic (up 1.0 per cent).

The non-EU partner countries where exports from England have decreased in value the most over the last 12 months are Canada (down 13.7 per cent) and Senegal (down 47.3 per cent). The non-EU partner countries with the largest increase in value of goods exported from England were Switzerland (up 26.1 per cent) and China (up 10.4 per cent). For Switzerland the increase came mainly from SITC divisions 68 'Non-ferrous metals' and 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere', while for China the rises stemmed from an increase in exports of goods within SITC division 78 'Road vehicles'.

Partner country analysis - English regions

Table 2a: Top five export partners for the English regions, year ending June 2013

	Top 5 partner countries				
	1	2	3	4	5
North East	Netherlands	France	USA	Russia	Spain
North West	USA	Germany	Netherlands	China	France
Yorkshire & the Humber	USA	France	Germany	Netherlands	Irish Republic
East Midlands	USA	Germany	Singapore	Belgium	Irish Republic
West Midlands	USA	China	Germany	France	Netherlands
East	USA	Germany	France	Belgium	Irish Republic
London	USA	Germany	Switzerland	Netherlands	Belgium
South East	USA	Germany	France	Netherlands	Belgium
South West	Germany	France	USA	Irish Republic	Netherlands

Note 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 2a shows the top five export trading partners for each of the English regions in the year ending June 2013. There has been some change in the membership of the top five partners over the last 12 months. For London, the USA has become the largest export partner, overtaking Germany; Switzerland has become London's third

largest export partner, overtaking the Netherlands and Belgium. For the North East, the Netherlands has become the top export partner, overtaking the USA, and France is now the second largest export partner having overtaken Russia and the USA. For the North West, the Netherlands and China have become the third and fourth largest partners respectively, overtaking France. For the East Midlands, Singapore has moved up from fifth to third largest export partner. For the East, the USA has become the top export partner, overtaking Germany.

For all English regions apart from the North East and the North West, the proportion of exports going to EU countries has decreased over the last year. The majority of the English regions continue to follow a similar pattern to England as a whole, with the USA now featuring as the top export partner for seven of the nine regions. The two regions which did not have the USA as the top partner country were the North East and the South West where the top partner country was the Netherlands and Germany respectively. All English regions saw an increase in exports to the USA during the year apart from the North East and the North West.

During the year ending June 2013, export value decreased for five of the nine English regions and increased for the remaining four. The regions with the largest increases were the West Midlands (up 9.3 per cent) and the East Midlands (up 4.8 per cent). For the West Midlands the largest increases were in goods going to China (up 28.7 per cent) and the USA (up 18.9 per cent). For the East Midlands much of the increase was in exports to the USA (up 10.8 per cent) and Singapore (up 28.6 per cent). The largest value decrease in exports was for the South East (down 4.2 per cent) and was attributable to falls in exports to Germany (down 12.1 per cent), South Korea (down 48.5 per cent) and Senegal (down 48.2 per cent). The largest percentage decrease in exports was for the North East (down 9.6 per cent) led by falls in exports of 54.9 per cent to the USA. This region was only one of two English regions to experience a fall in exports to the USA. Two other regions saw substantial reductions in their exports – the North West (down 5.6 per cent) and London (down 3.6 per cent). For the North West, this fall was driven by decreases in exports to the USA (down 17.1 per cent) and Germany (down 15.2 per cent), whereas for London it was driven by decreases in goods going to the Netherlands (down 28.9 per cent) and Germany (down 17.6 per cent).

Exports to China have risen for six of the nine English regions, while exports to Australia have increased for seven. Exports to Switzerland, which had the largest rise in exports for England as a whole, increased for six regions.

Exports to the major EU partners have declined in the majority of English regions over the past year. Exports to Germany have declined for all English regions apart from the South West. Exports to Spain and Italy have fallen for all regions apart from the North East.

Partner country analysis - Wales

Table 3a: Wales - Top five export partners, year ending June 2013

Country	Year ending June 2013 Total £ millions	Year ending June 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from June 2012	% Total Exports in year ending June 2013
USA	2,816.9	3,442.5	-18.2	21.9
Irish Republic	1,543.7	1,598.6	-3.4	12.0
Top 5 Germany	877.4	959.1	-8.5	6.8
United Arab Emirates	845.8	644.5	31.2	6.6
Netherlands	788.9	812.0	-2.8	6.1
Others	5,993.6	6,287.6	-4.7	46.6
Total EU	5,517.8	5,847.0	-5.6	42.9
Total Non-EU	7,348.5	7,897.2	-6.9	57.1
Grand Total	12,866.3	13,744.3	-6.4	100.0

Note: 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 3a shows that the total export value for Wales has decreased by 6.4 per cent during the past year although the value of exports in the second quarter of 2013 was the highest quarterly value since the first quarter of 2011. Wales' top five partner countries remain the same as in the previous annual period apart from the United Arab Emirates moving to fourth place and forcing the Netherlands down from fourth to fifth place. The value of exports to the top three countries has declined considerably over the last year. The largest decrease both in terms of value and percentage was in exports to the USA, which fell by 18.2 per cent in value.

Non-EU partner countries continue to dominate the export market in Wales, receiving 57.1 per cent of goods exported; this percentage has remained very close to that seen in the previous annual period. Exports to both EU and non-EU partners have declined by 5.6 and 6.9 per cent per cent respectively during the last year. The USA's share of the export market in Wales has fallen from 25.0 per cent to 21.9 per cent over the past year; the decline in exports to the USA was led by decreases in goods from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down 33.8 per cent) and division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (down 18.9 per cent). The Irish Republic remains Wales' second largest partner country, taking a 12.0 per cent share of exports from Wales compared with 11.6 per cent during the previous annual period. This is despite a decrease of 3.4 per cent in export value during the last year; the largest value decrease for the Irish Republic was in SITC division 33 while the largest increase was in division 69 'manufactures of metal not elsewhere specified'.

The United Arab Emirates has become Wales' fourth largest export partner, with a substantial 31.2 per cent increase in exports in the last year. Much of the increase was attributable to SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up 40.4 per cent).

The partner countries with the largest value decrease in exports from Wales over the year were the USA, Brazil and Canada. The decreases for all of these countries were driven by declines in SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials', the USA down by 33.8 per cent, Brazil down 100.0 per cent (to zero trade from £182.5 million) and Canada down 15.2 per cent.

Partner countries where export values have increased most during the year are the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, where trade more than doubled. For both of these countries, the increases were very strongly influenced by rises in SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' of 40.4 per cent for the United Arab Emirates, and a doubling of trade in this division for Qatar

Partner country analysis – Scotland

Table 4a: Scotland - Top five export partners, year ending June 2013

Country	Year ending June 2013 Total £ millions	Year ending June 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from June 2012	% Total Exports in year ending June 2013
USA	3,105.2	3,132.3	-0.9	15.7
Netherlands	1,372.8	1,138.3	20.6	7.0
Top 5 France	1,277.2	1,382.5	-7.6	6.5
Belgium	1,215.1	912.4	33.2	6.2
Germany	1,119.5	1,147.0	-2.4	5.7
Others	11,631.6	11,233.9	3.5	59.0
Total EU	7,825.9	7,613.5	2.8	39.7
Total Non-EU	11,895.5	11,332.8	5.0	60.3
Grand Total	19,721.4	18,946.3	4.1	100.0

Note: 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 4a shows that exports from Scotland rose in value by 4.1 per cent during the year to April 2013; this is the only UK country to experience an increase in export trade. The value of exports from Scotland in the second quarter of 2013 was the highest quarterly value seen in recent years and is a 16.1 per cent increase over the value observed in the first quarter of 2013. Non-EU partner countries continue to dominate exports from Scotland; over 60 per cent of Scotland's exports by value now go to non-EU partner countries. Non-EU exports have increased by 5.0 per cent over the year, while EU exports rose by 2.8 per cent. There have been some changes to Scotland's five largest export partner countries compared with to the previous annual period. France and the Netherlands have exchanged places and the Netherlands is now in second place and France in third; while Belgium has moved from sixth to fourth place, forcing Germany into fifth place and Norway out of the top five into sixth place.

Although exports to three of the top five partner countries fell in value during the year, there were two very substantial increases for the remaining two countries. Exports to Scotland's top export partner, the USA, decreased marginally by 0.9 per cent; the largest decreases here were in SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials', although these were offset by increases in SITC division 11 'Beverages'. The largest value decreases among Scotland's exports were in exports to EU partners; Italy, France, and Spain all saw large reductions. For Italy the largest decrease was in SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' whereas France the largest decrease was in SITC 11 'Beverages'.

However, for Spain, the decrease was driven by falls in exports in both of these divisions (i.e. 11 and 33).

However, these decreases to EU countries were counterbalanced by the two largest increases also being to the EU. The two partner countries with the largest value rises in exports from Scotland over the year were Belgium (up 33.2 per cent, with a large increase in exports from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials') and the Netherlands (up 20.6 per cent, also with large increases in SITC division 33). These two countries were both in Scotland's top five export partners, and were the only ones in that category to experience increases.

Partner country analysis – Northern Ireland

Table 5a: Northern Ireland - Top five export partners, year ending June 2013

Country	Year ending June 2013 Total £ millions	Year ending June 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from June 2012	% Total Exports in year ending June 2013
Irish Republic	2,133.7	2,177.4	-2.0	36.7
USA	556.4	497.3	11.9	9.6
Top 5 Canada	369.8	372.4	-0.7	6.4
France	291.2	296.2	-1.7	5.0
Germany	217.9	254.9	-14.5	3.7
Others	2,245.1	2,293.7	-2.1	38.6
Total EU	3,310.8	3,434.9	-3.6	56.9
Total Non-EU	2,503.4	2,457.0	1.9	43.1
Grand Total	5,814.2	5,891.9	-1.3	100.0

Note: 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 5a shows that exports from Northern Ireland have decreased in value by 1.3 per cent during the year to June 2013. The top five export partners have remained the same as in the previous annual period. The Irish Republic has continued to dominate Northern Ireland's export market, although its share has reduced slightly from 37.0 per cent to 36.7 per cent during the last 12 months due to a 2.0 per cent decrease in exports. In contrast with other UK countries, the majority of Northern

Ireland's exports (56.9 per cent) go to the EU; this is largely due to the Irish Republic's dominance as a partner country.

The USA was the only partner country among the top five to see an increase in exports during the year; the 11.9 per cent rise for the USA was the largest increase in export value of all Northern Ireland's partner countries. A large proportion of the increase was attributable to SITC division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (up 72.3 per cent).

Exports to Germany decreased by 14.5 per cent during the year. This was the largest percentage decrease of the top five partner countries; the decline was driven by a fall in exports from SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment'.

Despite being Northern Ireland's largest export partner country, the Irish Republic had the largest value decrease in exports during the year, with much of the reduction coming from SITC division 11 'Beverages' (down 14.9 per cent) and division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' (down 17.9 per cent).

Apart from the USA, the partner countries with the largest increase in exports from Northern Ireland during the year were Kuwait (up more than threefold) and Russia (up 46.1 per cent). For Kuwait much of the increase was in SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' while for Russia the increase was driven by SITC division 72 'Machinery specialized for particular industries'.

Commodity analysis - England

Table 6a: Top five commodities for export from England - year ending June 2013

SITC section	Description	Year to June 2013 Total £ millions	Year to June 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from June 2012	% Total Exports in year ending June 2013
7	Machinery & transport equipment	89,007.6	87,734.6	1.5	39.9
5	Chemicals & related products	36,473.9	39,674.5	-8.1	16.4
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	31,510.8	29,456.8	7.0	14.1
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	26,667.2	27,222.3	-2.0	12.0
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	21,411.8	23,433.1	-8.6	9.6
Other SITCs		17,777.9	18,492.7	-3.9	8.0
All SITCs		222,849.3	226,013.9	-1.4	100.0

Note: 2013 data are provisional

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 39.9 per cent of export value. However, growth in section 7 slowed to 1.5 per cent during the year to June 2013, following the 6.4 per cent growth seen in the previous annual period (year ending June 2012). Most of the increase in section 7 during the year came from exports of goods within SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment' (up 4.4 per cent) and division 78 'Road vehicles' (up 2.7 per cent), although these increases were offset to some extent by a decrease in division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances' (down 2.8 per cent).

Of the top five export commodity groups, only SITC sections 7 and 8 saw increases over the year. For section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' the annual growth of 7.0 per cent was greater than the 6.1 per cent growth seen in the previous annual period. Section 8 was the only one of the top five sections where growth in the year to June 2013 exceeded that in the previous year; this may have been partly attributable to exports of products associated with the London 2012 Olympic Games. Most of the growth in this section came from division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' (up 7.9 per cent).

The SITC section with the biggest value decrease during the year was section 5 'Chemicals & related products' (down 8.1 per cent). Much of the reduction was attributable to division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (down 11.8 per cent), which lost more value than any other SITC division, as well as division 51 'Organic chemicals' (down 14.8 per cent).

Sections 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' and 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' have both declined in value over the year, in contrast to the large increases in both these sections in the previous annual period. For section 6 most of the reduction came from division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures not elsewhere specified' (down 7.5 per cent, with exports to Belgium down 15.5 per cent) while for section 3 the decrease was driven by division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down 8.2 per cent, with exports to Germany down 28.2 per cent).

Thirty-six of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in export value during the year. After divisions 54, 33, 51 and 66, the next largest reduction was in division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' (down 10.5 per cent). The largest increases at division level were in division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' (exports to the USA up 31.4 per cent and exports to Switzerland up 38.8 per cent) and division 78 'Road vehicles' (exports to the USA up 24.8 per cent and exports to China up 24.9 per cent).

Commodity analysis – English regions

Table 7a - Top five commodities for export from English regions, year ending June 2013

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	9 - Commodities/ transactions not classified elsewhere
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 & the Humber	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	3 - Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	5 - Chemicals & related products	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	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

Note: 2013 data are provisional

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 very little change in the order of the top five commodity groups in the last 12 months. For London, exports from section 6 now exceed those from section 3, making section 6 the second largest export commodity group by value. For Yorkshire and the Humber, exports from section 5 now exceed those from section 6, making section 5 the third largest export commodity group by value.

SITC section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' remains 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; the market share for this section has increased during the year for all three of these regions. The value of exports from section 7 increased during the year for the East Midlands (up 10.7 per cent), the West Midlands (up 14.6

per cent), the South West (up 5.1 per cent) and Yorkshire & the Humber (up 0.9 per cent), but decreased in all other regions. In the West Midlands, exports from division 78 'Road vehicles' increased the most within section 7 (up 21.4 per cent); for the East Midlands exports from division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' increased the most (up 10.7 per cent); for the South West exports from division 79 'Other transport equipment' increased the most (up 11.1 per cent) and for Yorkshire & the Humber exports from division 74 'General industrial machinery & equipment' increased the most (up 6.0 per cent).

The North West remains the top English region for exports within section 5 'Chemicals and related products', accounting for 30.7 per cent of England's exports from this section. However, there has been a decrease of 13.4 per cent in the value of section 5 exports from the North West over the past year. Most of this decrease was attributable to divisions 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (down 16.9 per cent) and 51 'Organic chemicals' (down 23.0 per cent). The only regions to see an increase in section 5 exports during the year were London (up by less than 0.1 per cent), the South West (up 5.9 per cent) and Yorkshire and the Humber (up 21.4 per cent), although these three regions together only account for 17.3 per cent of England's exports from section 5.

The South East, London and the East are the dominant regions for exports within SITC section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials'. All three regions have seen decreases in export value within this section during the year, by far the largest being in the London region (down 22.6 per cent). For London much of the decline was in exports from division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' going to the Netherlands and Germany. For the South East the decreases in section 3 were also mainly in division 33 exports going to the South Korea and Senegal. On the other hand, for the East the largest decreases were similarly in division 33 exports going to France, the Netherlands and South Korea, although these were offset by increases to Belgium, the USA, and Irish Republic.

For SITC section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' and section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' London continues to be the dominant exporting region, accounting for 32.3 per cent and 38.5 per cent of England's total exports in these two sections respectively. For section 8, London has seen a large increase in export value over the last year (up 14.9 per cent); this was London's largest section-level value increase and was led by a rise in goods from division 89 'Miscellaneous

manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' going to the USA and Switzerland. In contrast, London's exports from section 6 decreased by 4.3 per cent, with exports of division 66 'non-metallic mineral manufactures not elsewhere specified.' down by 7.1 per cent (exports to Belgium down 15.2 per cent). The only regions to experience increases in exports from section 6 were the North East (up 99.1 per cent, with exports of division 67 'Iron & steel' more than doubling) and the South West (up 0.7 per cent, with exports of division 69 'Manufactures of metal' rising by 4.0 per cent).

The South West and East Midlands continue to be the only regions with SITC section 0 'Food & live animals' in their top five. For both these regions exports from section 0 have decreased considerably over the past year (down 25.2 per cent for the South West and down 20.4 per cent for the East Midlands). The North West remains the most dominant region for exports within section 2 'Crude materials' despite a decrease of 12.5 per cent during the year, the largest decline in value among the English regions for this section. This reduction was primarily due to the decline in exports from division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' (down 12.7 per cent), mainly in goods going to China, India and Germany, though offset to a degree by an increase to the USA.

Apart from London, the South West, the West Midlands and Yorkshire and the Humber all English regions saw a decline in export value for the majority of the sixty-five SITC divisions. For the South East and the East, the biggest decreases were in divisions within section 7, while for the West Midlands and Yorkshire & the Humber the largest decreases were in divisions of section 6. For the North East and the North West the largest reductions were in section 5. For the East Midlands and South West, exports of division 04 'Cereals & cereal preparations' decreased the most in value, whereas for London the biggest drop was in division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'.

For the North West the largest increase at division level during the year was in division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials', where there was almost a six-fold rise. For the North East the biggest rise was in division 67 'Iron & steel', where exports almost trebled, while London's largest division-level increase was in division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' (up 16.5 per cent). Yorkshire and the Humber saw its largest rise in division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' almost trebling in size. All other regions saw their largest value increases in divisions within section 7.

Commodity analysis - Wales

Table 8a: Top five commodities for export from Wales, year ending June 2013

SITC section	Description	Year to June 2013 Total £ millions	Year to June 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from June 2012	% Total Exports in year ending June 2013
7	Machinery & transport equipment	4,843.2	4,855.5	-0.3	37.6
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	3,341.1	4,195.1	-20.4	26.0
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,009.4	2,006.8	0.1	15.6
5	Chemicals & related products	1,390.6	1,421.6	-2.2	10.8
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	834.0	823.1	1.3	6.5
	Other SITCs	447.9	442.1	1.3	3.5
	All SITCs	5,517.8	5,847.0	-5.6	42.9

Note: 2013 data are provisional
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 8a shows that annual exports from Wales decreased for three of the top five SITC sections during the past year; there were also decreases in three other SITC sections over the year. 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 decreased by 0.3 per cent during the year, with much of the decline coming from division 78 'Road vehicles' (down 20.8 per cent), division 79 'Other transport equipment' (down 24.5 per cent) and division 72 'Machinery specialized for particular industries' (down 26.5 per cent). These were offset by an increase in division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' of 7.9 per cent.

The largest value decrease in exports over the year was for section 3 (down 20.4 per cent). This was caused by a temporary slump in exports in the fourth quarter of 2012, which was followed by a rise back to the previous level of exports in both the first and second quarter of 2013. The annual decline for section 3 was predominantly due to a decrease in division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down 20.3 per cent during the year), with exports to the USA down 33.8 per cent.

Forty of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in export value over the year. The largest annual decreases at division level were in divisions 33, 78, 79 and 72 (see

above). After these, the biggest decrease in export value came from division 87 'Professional, scientific & controlling instruments & appliances', primarily in goods going to the USA.

The commodity groups with the biggest increases at division level were SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up 7.9 per cent, with exports to the United Arab Emirates up 40.4 per cent, Qatar more than doubling and South Korea up by an eightfold increase) and SITC division 82 'Furniture & parts thereof' (up 61.9 per cent, with exports to the USA increasing the most in value).

Commodity analysis - Scotland

Table 9a: Top five commodities for export from Scotland, year ending June 2013

SITC section	Description	Year to June 2013 Total £ millions	Year to June 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from June 2012	% Total Exports in year ending June 2013
7	Machinery & transport equipment	6,269.5	5,702.9	9.9	31.8
1	Beverages & tobacco	4,514.1	4,352.3	3.7	22.9
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,377.0	2,277.7	4.4	12.1
5	Chemicals & related products	1,940.2	1,988.4	-2.4	9.8
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	1,681.4	1,634.8	2.8	8.5
	Other SITCs	2,939.2	2,990.2	-1.7	14.9
	All SITCs	19,721.4	18,946.3	4.1	100.0

Note: 2013 data are provisional
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 9a shows that annual exports from Scotland increased for all of the top three SITC sections over the last year. Scotland's exports continue to be dominated by goods from section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' and section 1 'Beverages & tobacco' with these sections taking an increasing share of Scotland's export market over the past year. The 9.9 per cent rise in exports from section 7 was the highest growth rate of the four UK countries for this section; much of the increase came from SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up 17.3 per cent, with

exports to the United Arab Emirates up by 33.4 per cent) and division 74 'General industrial machinery & equipment & machine parts' (up 15.3 per cent with exports to South Korea up by more than sevenfold).

Exports from SITC section 1 have seen a 3.7 per cent increase during the year. The vast majority of this increase was due to division 11 'Beverages' where exports to the USA rose by 18.1 per cent. Scotland is the most important country of the UK for exports of 'Beverages', taking a 63.5 per cent share of the UK export value over the last year.

Scotland also saw a rise in exports from its third largest SITC section - section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' during the year. The 4.4 per cent year-on-year increase in this section was led by division 67 'Iron & steel' (up 14.6 per cent, with exports to Norway up 70.6 per cent), division 69 'manufactures of metal' (up 12.4 per cent, with Norway up 65.1 per cent) and division 64 'Paper, paperboard & manufactures thereof' (up 17.6 per cent, with exports to the Irish Republic up 44.2 per cent).

Exports from Scotland within SITC section 5 'Chemicals & related products' decreased by 2.4 per cent during the year. The decline was led by a fall in exports from division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (down 11.7 per cent, with large reductions in the value of goods going to the Germany and the Irish Republic).

The remaining SITC section in the top five, section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials', also experienced a rise of 2.8 per cent. The increase was driven by division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up 5.6 per cent, with exports to the Netherlands more than doubling).

The largest section-level decrease was for section 0 'Food & live animals', which declined in value by 4.9 per cent. This reduction was mainly due to a fall in exports from division 01 'Meat & meat preparations' (down 24.0 per cent) and division 03 'Fish, crustaceans, molluscs & aquatic invertebrates' (down 4.2 per cent). Section 5 had the next largest decrease as previously discussed.

Commodity analysis – Northern Ireland

Table 10a: Top five commodities for export from Northern Ireland, year ending June 2013

SITC section	Description	Year to June 2013 Total £ millions	Year to June 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from June 2012	% Total Exports in year ending June 2013
7	Machinery & transport equipment	2,303.8	2,442.2	-5.7	39.6
0	Food & live animals	1,022.9	988.5	3.5	17.6
5	Chemicals & related products	709.1	615.1	15.3	12.2
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	645.0	699.0	-7.7	11.1
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	504.3	488.7	3.2	8.7
	Other SITCs	629.20	658.40	-4.4	10.8
	All SITCs	3,310.80	3,434.90	-3.6	56.9

Note: 2013 data are provisional
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 equipment'. However, exports in this section have declined by 5.7 per cent over the last year, the largest section-level value decrease. This was largely due to a fall in exports from SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (down 22.9 per cent, with a very large reduction in goods going to Canada).

In contrast, Section 5 'Chemicals & related products', the third largest section, experienced a substantial increase in exports during the year. This was mainly due to growth in division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (up 30.3 per cent, with exports to the USA up 72.3 per cent).

After section 7, the largest section-level decrease during the year was for the fourth largest section - section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (down 7.7 per cent). This was mainly caused by a decline in division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' (down 20.1 per cent), with exports to the Irish Republic falling by 17.9 per cent during the year.

Just over half of the SITC divisions (35 out of 65) increased in export value during the year. Apart from division 54, the largest value increases at division level were for division 79 'Other transport equipment' (up 11.3 per cent) and division 08 'Feeding stuff for animals' (up 31.7 per cent). Apart from divisions 71 and 89, the largest value decreases at division level were for division 78 'Road vehicles' (down 9.0 per cent) and division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' (down 25.3 per cent).

Number of Businesses - Exports

The following analysis compares the number of active exporters in quarter 2 2013 with the number in quarter 2 2012. A quarterly analysis is more appropriate here than an annual analysis, as summing the number of active businesses over a year could produce ambiguous results. A quarter-on-quarter comparison enables us to measure seasonal movement of businesses, such as the increase/decrease in number of active businesses over the Christmas season (quarter 4). The number of businesses counted excludes those who trade only with the EU and 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 2 2012 and quarter 1 2013.

Fig 3a: Percentage Change in Number of Exporters between Q2 2012 and Q2 2013



Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

For the UK as a whole, the number of exporting businesses increased by 0.9 per cent between quarter 2 2012 and quarter 2 2013, from 49,280 to 49,723.

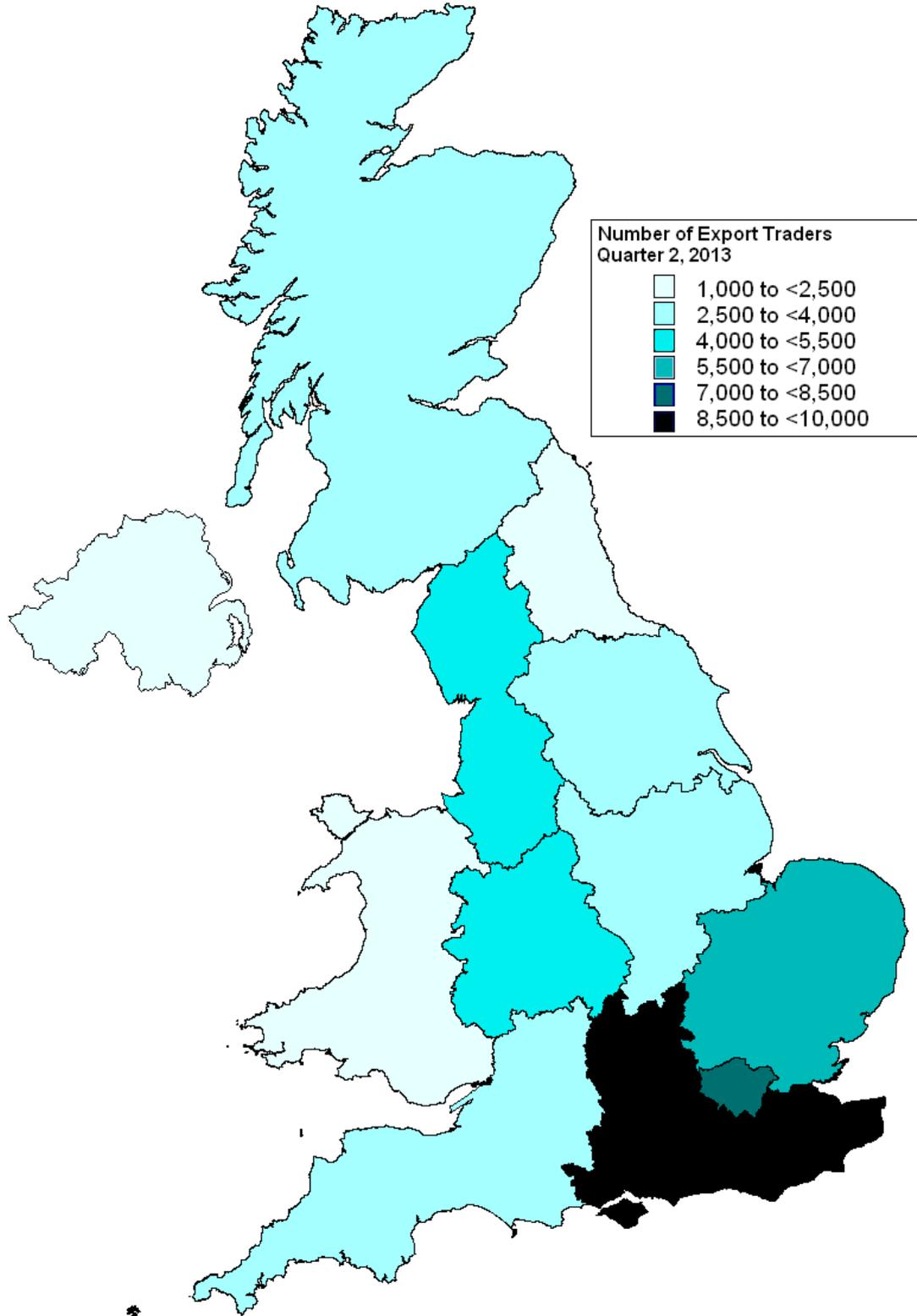
Figure 3a shows that the number of active exporters increased in all regions of the UK apart from the West Midlands, Yorkshire & the Humber, Scotland and Northern Ireland between quarter 2 2012 and quarter 2 2013. The North East experienced the largest percentage rise in exporting businesses, 4.6 per cent, while Northern Ireland saw the largest percentage decline, 4.6 per cent.

For all regions apart from Yorkshire and the Humber, the West Midlands, London and Scotland, the percentage growth in business numbers between quarter 2 2012 and quarter 2 2013 was an improvement on the growth between quarter 1 2012 and quarter 1 2013.

Figure 4a shows the total number of active UK exporters in each region for quarter 2 2013. The South East, London and the East are the three regions with the largest count of businesses, accounting respectively for 17.4 per cent, 16.9 per cent and 11.2 per cent of all UK businesses. There has been little change since quarter 2 of 2012 apart from a slight increase in the proportion of UK businesses exporting from

the North West and South West and a slight decrease in those exporting from Northern Ireland and Yorkshire and the Humber.

Fig 4a: Number of UK export businesses by region - Quarter 2, 2013



Note: 2013 data are provisional
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 - Top five import partners, year ending June 2013

	Country	Year ending June 2013 Total £ millions	Year ending June 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from June 2012	% Total Imports in year ending June 2013
Top 5	Germany	46,060.4	45,465.0	1.3	13.5
	China	26,230.8	27,018.3	-2.9	7.7
	USA	26,067.8	26,374.1	-1.2	7.6
	Netherlands	25,666.7	23,522.3	9.1	7.5
	France	19,213.8	19,204.0	0.1	5.6
	Others	198,377.3	204,903.9	-3.2	58.1
	Total EU	172,723.2	174,006.0	-0.7	50.6
	Total Non-EU	168,893.7	172,481.6	-2.1	49.4
	Grand Total	341,616.9	346,487.7	-1.4	100.0

Note: 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

With England receiving nearly 85 per cent of the UK's allocated imports⁴ by value, the pattern of imports to England largely determines that for the UK as a whole. Table 1b shows that the total value of imports to England has decreased by 1.4 per cent during the year ending June 2013. England's top four import partners for the year have remained the same as in the year ending June 2012 but France has now become the fifth largest partner, overtaking Norway. This change was due to a 28.8 per cent decline in imports from Norway during the year, the largest value decrease of all the partner countries. The decline in imports from Norway has been driven by a 37.1 per cent decrease in imports from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'.

⁴ 'Allocated imports' exclude those assigned to the Unknown region.

Germany remains the top import partner for England by a wide margin. Imports from here have risen slightly by 1.3 per cent during the year. While there were large increases in goods from Germany within SITC division 78, 'Road vehicles (including air cushion vehicles)', these were offset by decreases in goods within division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances' and 79 'Other transport equipment'.

Just under half of England's imports come from non-EU partner countries; this proportion has fallen slightly compared to the previous annual period, as imports from non-EU partners have declined slightly more in value than imports from EU partners.

The largest increase in import value among the top five partners was for the Netherlands (up 9.1 per cent, with imports from SITC division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment' up 67.7 per cent). Imports from China have decreased by 2.9 per cent over the year, led by imports within SITC division 76, falling by 24.7 per cent.

Imports from the USA, England's third largest import partner by value, have decreased by 1.2 per cent over the 12 months. This decline was led by reductions in goods received from within SITC divisions 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' and 52 'Inorganic chemicals', offset by a rise in SITC 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'.

Apart from the Netherlands, the partner country with the biggest increase in imports to England during the year was Switzerland (up 26.8 per cent). This increase was driven by a rise in goods imported from SITC division 68 'Non-ferrous metals'.

Apart from Norway, the partner countries where the value of imports decreased the most were the Irish Republic (down 16.7 per cent, with SITC division 51 'Organic chemicals' down 65.6 per cent), Japan (down 15.5 per cent, with SITC division 78 'Road vehicles' down 23.1 per cent) and Qatar (down 30.9 per cent, with SITC division 34 'Gas, natural & manufactured' down 33.0 per cent).

Partner country analysis – English regions

Table 2b: Top five import partners for the English regions, year ending June 2013

	Top 5 partner countries				
	1	2	3	4	5
North East	Japan	Germany	France	USA	Belgium
North West	Netherlands	Germany	China	Belgium	Sweden
Yorkshire & the Humber	China	Germany	Netherlands	USA	France
East Midlands	Germany	China	USA	France	Netherlands
West Midlands	Norway	Germany	China	France	Netherlands
East	Germany	Netherlands	USA	France	China
London	USA	China	Norway	Switzerland	Germany
South East	Germany	Netherlands	Belgium	USA	China
South West	USA	China	Netherlands	Germany	France

Note: 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 2b shows the top partner countries for imports to the English regions for the year ending June 2013. 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. For exports the manufacture of goods is typically more regionally concentrated, whereas imports are based on the purchase of goods, which is more regionally dispersed. Nevertheless, there are a number of partner countries that appear consistently among the top five for most regions. Germany is among the top five import partners for every English region, and China is in the top five for all regions except the North East. The USA is among the top five for all regions apart from the North West and the West Midlands, while the Netherlands is in the top five for all regions except London and the North East. France is among the top five for six of the nine regions.

There have been a number of changes in the order and membership of the top five over the last year. For the North West, the Netherlands has become the top import partner, overtaking Germany and China, while Sweden has entered the top five following a 27.6 per cent rise in import value during the year; the USA has moved from the fourth to sixth largest partner for the North West after a 22.4 per cent decrease in import value. For the East, China has entered the top five while the Irish

Republic has left the top five following a 37.3 per cent decline in import value to fall from second to sixth; the Netherlands has moved up from fourth to second largest partner for the East, overtaking the USA and the Irish Republic. For London, the USA has become the top import partner, overtaking Norway and China, while the Netherlands has dropped out of the top five having been replaced by Switzerland (up 60.2 per cent). For the South East, Belgium has overtaken the USA, becoming the third largest import partner after Germany and the Netherlands. For the South West, the Netherlands has overtaken Germany and France to become the third largest import partner from fifth.

Imports from the Netherlands have risen for five of the nine regions, with the highest growth rates in the South West (up 52.8 per cent) and the South East (up 13.0 per cent). Imports from Germany have risen for seven of the nine regions, the largest percentage increases occurring in the West Midlands (up 6.5 per cent) and London (up 2.8 per cent). Imports from Norway have decreased for seven of the nine regions, the only exceptions being the South West and the North West, which saw increases of 24.8 per cent and 14.3 per cent respectively. The largest value decreases in imports from Norway were in the West Midlands (down 35.7 per cent) and London (down 27.9 per cent).

Six of the nine English regions saw a decrease in the value of imports during the year, the exceptions being the East Midlands (up 3.4 per cent), the North West (up 5.3 per cent) and the South West (up 6.4 per cent). The largest percentage decrease was in the North East (down 21.4 per cent); this was driven by a large decline in the value of imports from Japan (down 35.0 per cent, with SITC division 78 'Road vehicles' down 44.6 per cent) and Norway (down 74.8 per cent, with SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' down to nil), although there were also large reductions in goods coming from Algeria and Australia. The increase in imports to the South West stemmed primarily from rises in goods coming from the Netherlands within SITC division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment' and within SITC 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' from the United Arab Emirates; while the increase in the North West was driven by a rise in goods coming from Russia (SITC division 33 more than trebling in value) and the Netherlands (SITC division 33 up 19.8 per cent) though there was also a large decrease from the USA. The increase in imports to the East Midlands was led by a rise in goods from France (SITC division 71 up 48.3 per cent) and

Japan (SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' up 83.2 per cent).

England's import trade continues to be dominated by the South East and London, although both these regions experienced growth rates below the UK average of -0.2 per cent. The South East accounted for 26.2 per cent of England's imports by value during the year, while London accounted for 21.9 per cent. London's imports declined in value by 1.2 per cent during the year, the largest value decreases occurring in imports from Norway (SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' down 55.3 per cent), Qatar (SITC division 34 'Gas, natural & manufactured' down 30.1 per cent) and Singapore (SITC 51 'Organic chemicals' down 43.1 per cent); these decreases were offset by an increase in goods coming from Switzerland (SITC division 68 'Non-ferrous metals' trebling in value) and the USA (SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' with a fivefold rise). For the South East there was a decrease in imports of 1.4 per cent. Here, the decrease was driven by a reduction in goods within SITC division 33 coming from Norway (down 23.5 per cent) and a reduction in goods within SITC division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' coming from the USA (down 44.0 per cent), although there were also large decreases in imports from Russia and Luxembourg. These decreases were offset to some extent by an increase in imports to the South East from Vietnam (SITC division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment' more than doubling in value) and the Netherlands (SITC division 76 up 74.0 per cent).

For the majority of regions most of the import value comes from goods received from within the EU; the exceptions are London, the North East and the South West. The EU market share increased in all regions apart from the East, the East Midlands and the South West during the year. For the East there was a 7.3 per cent decrease in EU imports, with large reductions in goods coming from the Irish Republic and France; this was coupled with an 8.5 per cent increase in imports from non-EU partners, most notably from Libya and Angola. For the East Midlands EU imports rose by 1.8 per cent during the year, while non-EU imports rose by 5.0 per cent; the largest value increases in the East Midlands among non-EU partners were for Japan and the USA. For the South West, EU imports increased, but at a slower rate than non-EU imports during the year.

Partner country analysis – Wales

Table 3b: Wales - Top five import partners, year ending June 2013

Country	Year ending June 2013 Total £ millions	Year ending June 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from June 2012	% Total Imports in year ending June 2013
Germany	777.9	850.4	-8.5	10.5
Canada	752.1	962.1	-21.8	10.2
Top 5 USA	692.6	714.9	-3.1	9.3
France	602.5	602.0	0.1	8.1
China	491.3	563.8	-12.9	6.6
Others	4,091.2	4,811.7	-15.0	55.2
Total EU	3,285.3	3,426.4	-4.1	44.4
Total Non-EU	4,122.2	5,078.4	-18.8	55.6
Grand Total	7,407.5	8,504.9	-12.9	100.0

Note: 2013 data are provisional
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Imports to Wales decreased in value by 12.9 per cent during the year, the largest percentage decline among the four UK countries. This decrease was largely due to reductions in goods coming from Canada (down 21.8 per cent), South Africa (down 48.2 per cent) and Brazil (down 26.0 per cent). For Canada and Brazil, much of the reduction has been in goods from SITC division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap'. For China the decrease was largely due to a fall of 71.5 per cent in the value of goods coming from SITC division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories'.

The most noticeable change in the top five in the last year is that Germany is now the top import partner for Wales, having overtaken Canada. Although imports from both these countries declined during the year, the decrease for Germany was less dramatic; much of Germany's reduction came from SITC division 67 'Iron & steel' (down 43.9 per cent) and division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' (down 52.0 per cent).

France was the only top five partner country to see a positive growth rate in imports to Wales, although this rise was only marginal (0.1 per cent). Here, imports from SITC division 52 'Inorganic chemicals' and division 55 'Essential oils & perfume materials' increased the most in value; this growth was countered by large decreases in SITC division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus &

equipment' and division 67 'Iron and steel'. France's share of Wales' imports has increased from 7.1 per cent to 8.1 per cent over the last year.

The USA remains Wales' third largest import partner. Imports from the USA decreased in value by 3.1 per cent during the year, with the largest value reduction coming from SITC division 67 'Iron and steel' (down 81.8 per cent). Despite the general decrease in imports from the USA, its share of Wales' total imports increased from 8.4 per cent to 9.3 per cent year-on-year, due to the large decreases seen in imports from other partner countries.

The largest increase was outside the top five, as imports from Spain increased by 25.4 per cent, to rise from 15th place to ninth, driven by a fourfold rise in division 68 'Non-ferrous metals'.

Partner country analysis – Scotland

Table 4b: Scotland - Top five import partners, year ending June 2013

Country	Year ending June 2013 Total £ millions	Year ending June 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from June 2012	% Total Imports in year ending June 2013
USA	2,005.5	2,093.5	-4.2	13.6
Norway	1,295.3	1,634.9	-20.8	8.8
Top 5 Nigeria	1,215.0	629.4	93.0	8.3
China	1,131.3	1,117.4	1.2	7.7
Germany	956.4	899.8	6.3	6.5
Others	8,116.7	7,749.0	4.7	55.1
Total EU	5,127.4	4,907.8	4.5	34.8
Total Non-EU	9,592.7	9,216.2	4.1	65.2
Grand Total	14,720.2	14,124.0	4.2	100.0

Note: 2013 data are provisional
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Imports to Scotland have increased in value by 4.2 per cent during the year, the only increase among the four UK countries. Imports from EU partners have increased at a slightly higher rate than those from outside the EU; however partners outside the EU still supply almost two-thirds of Scotland's imports by value. The USA remains Scotland's top import partner, despite a decrease in imports of 4.2 per cent over the

last year. Imports from the USA that reduced the most in value were from SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment'.

Imports from Norway decreased by 20.8 per cent during the year. Most of this decrease came from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'. This has reduced Norway's share of Scotland's import market to 8.8 per cent compared with 11.6 per cent a year ago.

The most striking change in the top five since June 2012 is the rise of Nigeria from seventh largest to third largest import partner, following an increase of 93.0 per cent in import value over the 12 months. The rise was driven by an increase in imports from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' almost doubling in value. Imports from the Netherlands had a much smaller increase during the year (up 1.9 per cent); this has resulted in the Netherlands moving from fourth to sixth largest import partner for Scotland. The largest increase here was in SITC 33, up nearly fivefold, balanced by a fall in division 01 'Meat & meat preparations' (down 31.5 per cent).

Outside of the top five partner countries, Scotland has seen increases in imports from Algeria, which more than trebled during the year; almost entirely due to a rise in division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials', and Finland, with a near fourfold rise in division 64 'Paper, paperboard & manufactures thereof'.

There was also a substantial decrease during the year from Colombia (down 66.7 per cent); this decline was mainly the result of reductions in division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes' (down 67.2 per cent).

Partner country analysis – Northern Ireland

Table 5b: Northern Ireland - Top five import partners, year ending June 2013

	Country	Year ending June 2013 Total £ millions	Year ending June 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from June 2012	% Total Imports in year ending June 2013
Top 5	Irish Republic	1,545.9	1,654.5	-6.6	27.1
	China	960.7	916.9	4.8	16.9
	USA	459.4	413.0	11.3	8.1
	Germany	321.0	334.5	-4.0	5.6
	Netherlands	303.0	322.1	-5.9	5.3
	Others	2,109.9	2,184.5	-3.4	37.0
	Total EU	3,118.1	3,421.6	-8.9	54.7
	Total Non-EU	2,582.0	2,403.8	7.4	45.3
	Grand Total	5,700.1	5,825.5	-2.2	100.0

Note: 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 5b shows that the majority of imports to Northern Ireland come from EU partners; the proportion of imports coming from the EU is higher than in England, Wales and Scotland, although this share has fallen from 58.7 per cent to 54.7 per cent over the past year. This has been due to a decrease of 8.9 per cent in EU imports, together with a 7.4 per cent increase in imports from non-EU partners. The most dominant import partner in value terms is the Irish Republic, and the large decrease (6.6 per cent) in imports from here over the year was the greatest value decrease seen among all Northern Ireland's partners.

Northern Ireland has seen an overall decline of 2.2 per cent in the value of its imports during the year; this is a steeper decline than the UK average decrease of 0.2 per cent. While much of the decrease for Northern Ireland was caused by reduced imports from the Irish Republic, there were also large decreases in goods coming from Spain (down 43.7 per cent) and France (down 27.2 per cent). For the Irish Republic, much of the decline was in SITC division 11 'Beverages' (down 25.5 per cent) while for Spain and France the decreases were led by reductions in SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment' and division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' respectively. Among the top five partners, decreases in goods coming from Germany and the Netherlands also contributed to the decline in EU imports.

Northern Ireland's imports from the USA increased by 11.3 per cent during the year, the largest value increase of all its import partners. Imports from the USA from SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' went up by 24.7 per cent, with imports from division 79 'Other transport equipment' up 38.6 per cent.

Imports from China have risen by 4.8 per cent during the last year. Most of the increase came from SITC division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' (up 5.0 per cent).

Commodity analysis - England

Table 6b: Top five commodities for import to England, year ending June 2013

SITC section	Description	Year to June 2013 Total £ millions	Year to June 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from June 2012	% Total Imports in year ending June 2013
7	Machinery & transport equipment	116,957.8	116,230.3	0.6	34.2
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	53,041.9	52,648.2	0.7	15.5
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	50,599.4	53,623.7	-5.6	14.8
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	41,924.3	42,505.1	-1.4	12.3
5	Chemicals & related products	38,211.8	41,316.9	-7.5	11.2
	Other SITCs	40,881.7	40,163.4	1.8	12.0
	All SITCs	341,616.9	346,487.7	-1.4	100.0

Note: 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 6b shows that section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' continues to dominate England's imports, accounting for over one third of total import value. Imports from section 7 have increased marginally by 0.6 per cent during the year; this increase was the same rate as for the UK as a whole. Within section 7, the largest increases were in division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up 5.5 per cent) and division 78 'Road vehicles' (up 2.0 per cent). These increases were led by a rise in goods coming from the United Arab Emirates (division 71) and Germany (division 78).

Only one other of the top five SITC sections increased in value during the year – section 8 (up 0.7 per cent). The largest rise was in division 87 ‘Professional, scientific & controlling instruments & apparatus’ (up 4.4 per cent, with imports from Belgium up 24.6 per cent) although this was offset by a decrease in division 89 ‘Articles of apparel & clothing accessories’ (down 1.7 per cent, with imports from Hong Kong and Switzerland down 17.1 per cent and 15.0 per cent respectively).

Section 5 imports decreased by 7.5 per cent during the year. The largest value decreases were from SITC division 51 ‘Organic chemicals’ (down 21.1 per cent, with large reductions in imports from the Irish Republic and Singapore).

Section 3 imports declined in value by 5.6 per cent during the year, largely due to a decrease of 5.3 per cent in division 33 ‘Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials’, with imports from Norway losing the most value (down 37.1 per cent); this decrease was offset to some degree by an increase in imports from the USA, Libya and a number of other countries. Division 33 accounts for 12.5 per cent of England’s total imports, making it the most valuable import commodity at division level.

Thirty-two of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in import value over the 12 months. After divisions 33 and 51 the largest division-level value decrease was in division 66 ‘Non metallic mineral manufactures, not elsewhere specified’ (down 13.1 per cent). The largest division-level value increase was in imports of division 68 ‘Non-ferrous metals’ (up 19.3 per cent).

Commodity analysis – English regions

Table 7b - Top five commodities for import to English regions, year ending June 2013

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

Note: 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 7b shows the top five import sections by value for the English regions. There have been some changes in the order and membership of the top five sections during the last year. For the North East the value of imports from section 3 has decreased dramatically by £1.4 billion, moving this section from second highest valued in the previous annual period to only sixth highest in the year to June 2013. In contrast, the North West has seen a £1.7 billion increase in imports of section 3, resulting in this section moving from fourth to second highest valued over the year. For Yorkshire & the Humber, section 8 has overtaken section 7, becoming the top import section by value. For the East Midlands section 0 has moved up from fifth to fourth highest value section. For the East section 3 has overtaken section 8, becoming the third highest section by value. For the South East imports from section 0 have exceeded those from section 6, making it the fifth highest valued section.

For section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' there have been large fluctuations in import value during the year for a number of English regions. The 44.0 per cent increase in import value in section 3 for the North West was the largest value increase in this section among all the English regions, while the West Midlands saw the largest value decrease, 27.4 per cent. The North East and London also saw large decreases in section 3 imports (down 80.5 per cent and 8.3 per cent respectively), while the East and South East both saw increases (up 14.9 per cent and 1.4 per cent respectively). Virtually all of these fluctuations in value were largely attributable to SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'. For the North East the decrease was due to a complete cessation of imports from a number of countries, including Norway, Algeria, Canada and Russia, while the North West saw a large rise in imports from Russia and Sweden. The decline for the West Midlands was largely in imports from Norway while the decrease for London was mainly in imports from Norway and Nigeria. The largest value increases in the East were in imports from Libya, Nigeria and Angola; and Saudi Arabia and South Africa for the South East. London remains the dominant region for imports from section 3, although its share of England's imports from this section has dropped from 36.6 per cent to 35.6 per cent over the past year.

Section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' is the dominant section for imports in six of the nine regions. Five regions have seen an increase in import value for section 7 during the year, the exceptions being the East (down 1.6 per cent), London (down 1.8 per cent), the North East (down 20.0 per cent) and Yorkshire and the Humber (down 4.7 per cent). For the East Midlands and the South West much of the increase was in division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' while for the West Midlands the largest increase was in division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment'. The largest percentage decrease in section 7 was for the North East (down 20.0 per cent); this was mainly due to a reduction in imports of division 78 'Road vehicles'. The South East remains the dominant region for imports of section 7, accounting for 38.4 per cent of England's imports within this section. There was a marginal increase of 0.7 per cent in section 7 imports to the South East during the last year; increases in division 78 'Road vehicles' were offset by reductions in division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances & electrical parts thereof'

For section 5 'Chemicals & related products' the South East, the North West and the East remain the top importing regions. These three regions have all seen a decrease

in imports from section 5 over the year. For the East there was a decline of 9.9 per cent, mainly due to a reduction in imports of SITC division 51 'Organic chemicals' (down 45.5 per cent, with imports from the Irish Republic down 70.0 per cent). The North West and South East saw decreases of 0.5 per cent and 10.4 per cent respectively in imports of section 5 during the year. For the North West the decline was led by a reduction in goods from division 52 'Inorganic chemicals' and division 59 'Chemical materials & products not elsewhere specified' coming from France and the USA respectively. For the South East most of the decrease was attributable to imports from division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (down 13.1 per cent) coming from the USA and the Netherlands.

Imports from section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' decreased for eight of the nine regions, the exception being London (up 7.1 per cent). For London the vast majority of the increase was in division 68 'Non-ferrous metals' (up 46.3 per cent), mainly in goods coming from Switzerland and the USA. The regions with the largest decrease in section 6 imports were the North West and the South East (down 9.2 per cent and 7.0 per cent respectively). For the North West, the decline was largely due to a 32.5 per cent decrease in division 64, mainly in goods coming from Finland, while for the South East the decline was due to a 38.9 per cent decrease in division 67 (Iron and steel), mainly in goods coming from Russia.

Imports from section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' increased for five of the nine regions. The biggest increase was in London (up 2.6 per cent) where the largest rise was in division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' (increases in goods coming from Germany). The region with the biggest decrease in imports from section 8 was the East (down 6.3 per cent), mainly due to a reduction in goods within division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' coming from France and China.

Seven of the nine regions experienced an increase in imports from section 0 'Food & live animals' during the year, with all nine regions receiving a large rise in imports of division 04 'Cereals & cereal preparations'. London is the dominant importing region for division 04, imports of which increased by 17.6 per cent while for the other regions the growth rates were between 10.7 per cent and 257.6 per cent. The likely reason for this growth in cereal imports across all regions is the poor cereal harvest in the UK in 2012 caused by adverse weather conditions, which has necessitated a greater level of imports to meet the needs of the UK.

Commodity analysis – Wales

Table 8b: Top five commodities for import to Wales, year ending June 2013

SITC section	Description	Year to June 2013 Total £ millions	Year to June 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from June 2012	% Total Imports in year ending June 2013
7	Machinery & transport equipment	1,611.9	1,589.1	1.4	21.8
2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	1,589.2	2,107.0	-24.6	21.5
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1,483.2	1,874.6	-20.9	20.0
5	Chemicals & related products	1,331.9	1,304.5	2.1	18.0
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	563.2	721.8	-22.0	7.6
	Other SITCs	828.2	907.9	-8.8	11.2
	All SITCs	7,407.5	8,504.9	-12.9	100.0

Note: 2013 data are provisional
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 8b shows that for Wales section 2 'Crude materials, inedible, except fuels' and section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' have seen large decreases in import value during the year, and section 7 'Machinery and transport equipment' has become the top import. The decline of 24.6 per cent in section 2, was mainly due to SITC division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' (down 25.9 per cent), with imports from Brazil and Canada decreasing the most. The fall of 20.9 per cent in section 6 was mainly due to decreases in SITC divisions 67, 68 and 69 of 31.6 per cent, 19.9 per cent and 18.5 per cent respectively.

The value of imports declined for six of the ten SITC sections during the year. In the top five SITC sections, section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' fell 22.0 per cent, with the largest reduction coming from SITC division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' (down 61.1 per cent), mainly in imports from China. The top five sections where imports increased were section 5 'Chemicals & related products' (up 2.1 per cent) and section 7 (up 1.4 per cent). For section 5 there were large increases in division 53 'Dyeing, tanning & colouring materials' in goods coming from France and Germany, while section 7 was dominated by a rise in division 78 'Road vehicles' from Germany.

The largest division-level increase after division 78 was in imports of SITC 75 'Office machines and other data processing machines' (up 16.1 per cent), mainly in goods coming from China and Hong Kong. The largest decrease at division level after division 28 was in division 67 'Iron & steel' (down 31.6 per cent, with large reductions in goods coming from Germany and the USA).

Commodity analysis – Scotland

Table 9b: Top five commodities for import to Scotland, year ending June 2013

SITC section	Description	Year to June 2013 Total £ millions	Year to June 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from June 2012	% Total Imports in year ending June 2013
7	Machinery & transport equipment	4,932.0	5,129.2	-3.8	33.5
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	3,222.1	2,560.7	25.8	21.9
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,020.6	1,902.9	6.2	13.7
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,643.7	1,654.0	-0.6	11.2
0	Food & live animals	1,279.4	1,158.5	10.4	8.7
	Other SITCs	1,622.4	1,718.8	-5.6	11.0
	All SITCs	14,720.2	14,124.0	4.2	100.0

Note: 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 9b shows that Scotland's imports continue to be dominated by goods from SITC section 7, although imports from this section have decreased by 3.8 per cent during the year. This was mainly due to a reduction in imports of SITC division 75 'Office machines & automatic data processing machines' (down 14.7 per cent), particularly from Poland and Germany.

Scotland saw increases in the value of imports during the year for three of the top five SITC sections. The section that increased most in value over the year was section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (up 25.8 per cent), with imports from division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' up 58.0 per cent; the growth in this division was primarily due to a rise in imports from Nigeria and Algeria.

Section 0 'Food & live animals' increased in value by 10.4 per cent during the 12 month period. The largest increase was in imports of division 04 'Cereals & cereal preparations' which more than doubled during the year. This is likely to be the result of the poor cereal harvest experienced throughout the UK following adverse weather conditions in 2012; the need for greater levels of imported cereal to cover the shortfall has been reflected similarly in the increased cereal imports in other areas of the UK.

The value of imports from section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' has increased by 6.2 per cent during the year. Over the 12 month period there was a large increase in imports from division 64 'Paper, paperboard & manufactures thereof', which more than doubled. Here, most of the increase was in goods from Finland and Germany.

More than half of the SITC divisions decreased in import value during the year. After division 75 'Office machines & automatic data processing machines' the largest value decrease was in division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes' (down 16.9 per cent), notably in goods from Colombia. The largest value increases at division level were in division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' and division 64 'Paper, paperboard & manufactures thereof' (see above).

Commodity analysis – Northern Ireland

Table 10b: Top five commodities for import to Northern Ireland, year ending June 2013

SITC section	Description	Year to June 2013 Total £ millions	Year to June 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from June 2012	% Total Imports in year ending June 2013
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,541.4	1,536.1	0.3	27.0
7	Machinery & transport equipment	1,069.3	1,155.1	-7.4	18.8
0	Food & live animals	1,044.8	1,008.8	3.6	18.3
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	776.5	819.8	-5.3	13.6
5	Chemicals & related products	521.8	504.2	3.5	9.2
	Other SITCs	746.2	801.6	-6.9	13.1
	All SITCs	5,700.1	5,825.5	-2.2	100.0

Note: 2013 data are provisional
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' remains Northern Ireland's top import section by value, with a 27 per cent share of the import market. There was a marginal increase of 0.3 per cent over the last year. Within this section the largest value increase was from division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' (up 4.0 per cent), mainly in goods coming from China, Bangladesh and India. This was partially offset by a large decrease from division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' (down 15.2 per cent), primarily in goods coming from the Irish Republic.

Within the top 5 sections, Northern Ireland saw its largest percentage decrease in section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' (down 7.4 per cent). The decline was led by a reduction in imports of division 79 'Other transport equipment' (down 33.7 per cent) coming from Spain. There was also a large decrease in imports of section 6 (down 5.3 per cent), led by a reduction in goods from division 67 'Iron and steel' (down 32.7 per cent) coming from the Irish Republic.

The two sections in the top five that had the largest increases in value during the year were section 5 (up 3.5 per cent) and section 0 (up 3.6 per cent). For section 5 the rise was led by an increase in imports of division 55 'Essential oils & perfume materials' (up 11.4 per cent) coming from the Irish Republic and division 56 'Fertilizers' (up 24.8 per cent) from Belgium; these increases were balanced by a reduction in imports of division 59 'Chemical materials & products' (down 27.0 per cent) coming from the Irish Republic. For section 0 the rise was driven by a 30.2 per cent increase in imports of division 04 'Cereals & cereal preparations', largely in goods coming from the Ukraine. This increase in cereal imports is likely to be linked to the reduced quantity of the UK cereal harvest in 2012; similar increases in imports of cereals were reported for England and Scotland.

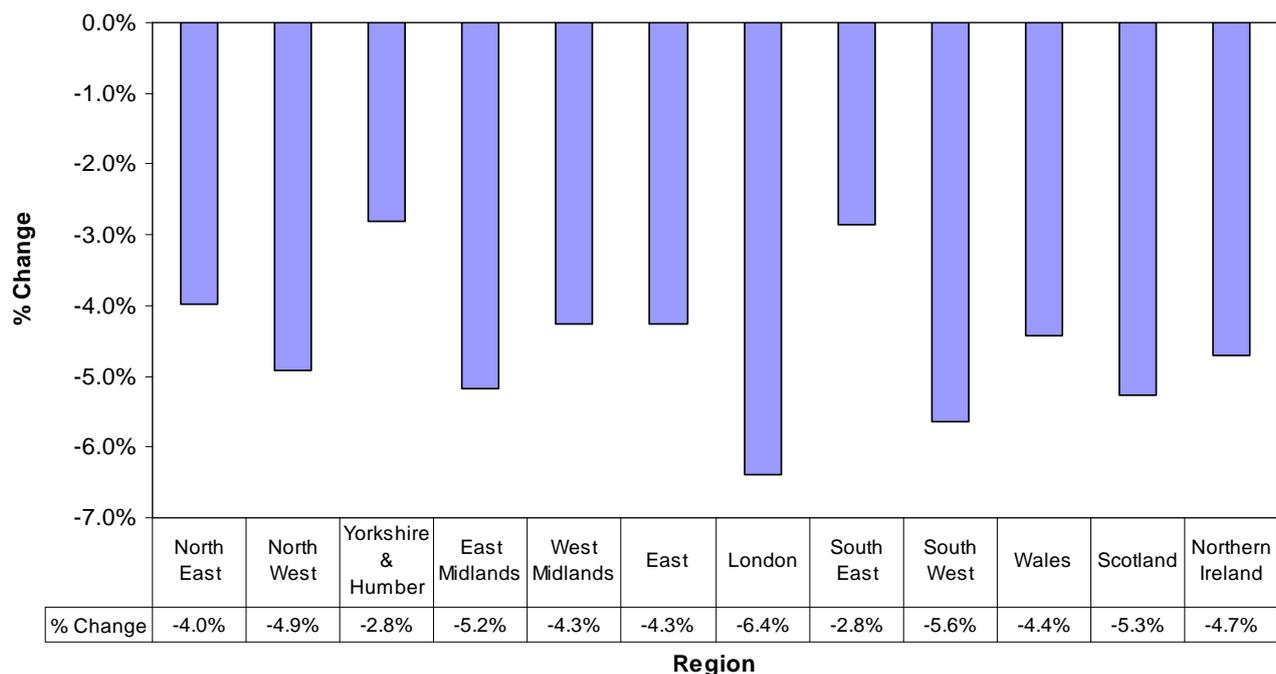
The majority of SITC divisions decreased in value during the year. The largest decrease in import value at division level was in division 11 'Beverages' (down 17.2 per cent), mainly in goods coming from the Irish Republic. The largest value increases at division level were in division 04 'Cereals & cereal preparations' and division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' (see above).

Number of Businesses – Imports

The following analysis compares the number of active importers in quarter 2 2013 with the number in quarter 2 2012. A quarterly analysis is more appropriate here than an annual analysis, since summing the number of active businesses over a year could produce ambiguous results. A quarter-on-quarter comparison enables us to measure seasonal movement of businesses, such as the increase/decrease in number of importers over the Christmas season (quarter 4). The number of businesses counted excludes those who trade only with the EU and 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 2 2012 and quarter 2 2013.

Fig 3b: Percentage Change in Number of Importers between Q2 2012 and Q2 2013

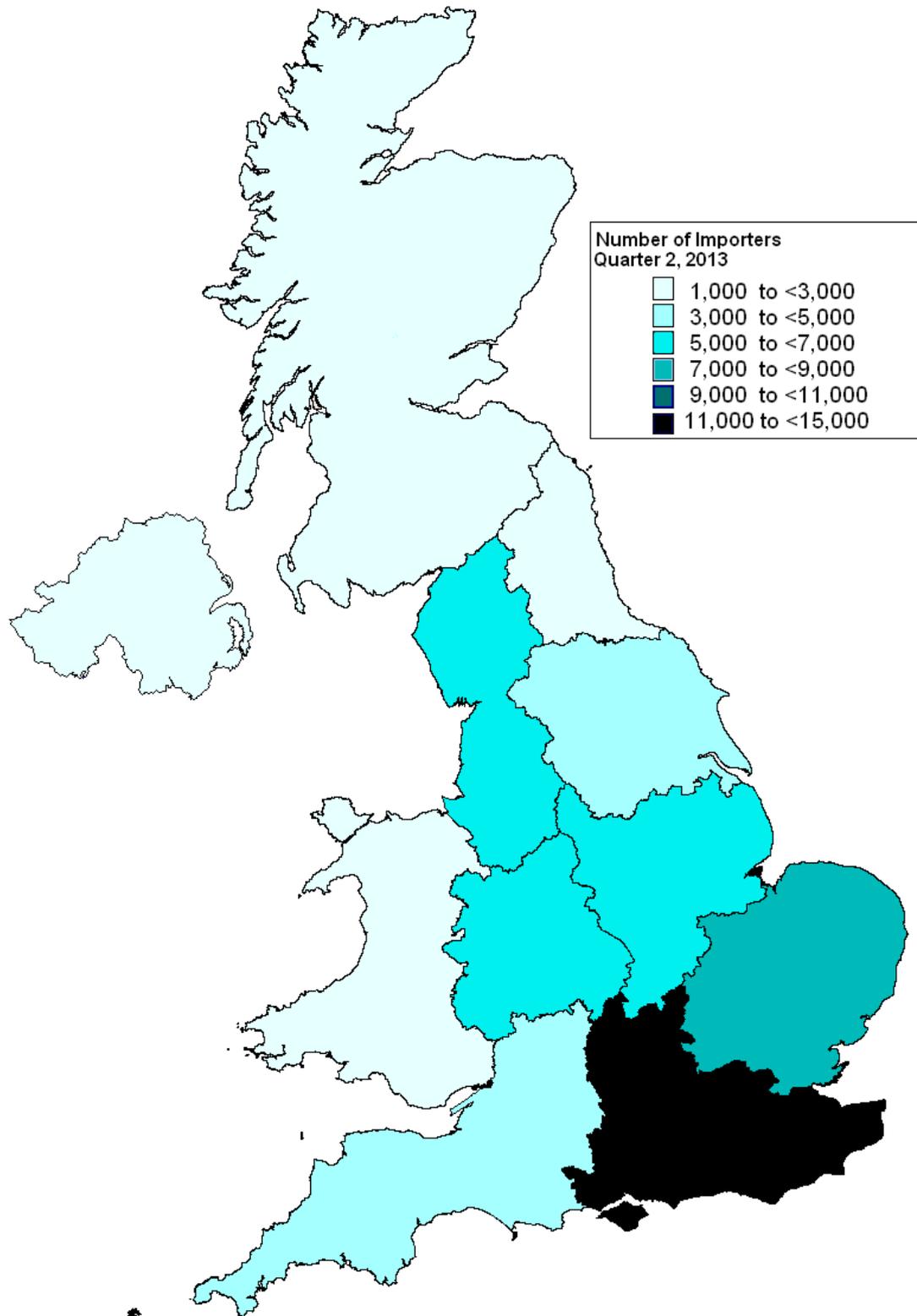


In the UK as a whole, the number of importing businesses decreased by 4.6 per cent between quarter 2 2012 and quarter 2 2013 from 68,841 to 65,655. This was the first fall in annual growth rate since quarter 4 of 2011.

Figure 3b shows that the number of active importers decreased in all of the twelve UK regions between quarter 2 2012 and quarter 2 2013. The greatest decrease was in London, where the number of active importers fell by 6.4 per cent over the year.

Figure 4b shows the total number of active UK importers in each region for quarter 2, 2013. London, the South East and the East are the three regions with the largest count of importers, accounting for 19.1 per cent, 17.3 per cent and 10.9 per cent of all UK importers respectively. The North East has the smallest number of importing businesses for the quarter, making up 2.1 per cent of all UK importers. The proportion of UK importers in each region has remained virtually the same over the past year, apart from a slight decrease in the proportion in London, and a slight increase in the South East.

Fig 4b: Number of UK import businesses by region - Quarter 2, 2013



Note: 2013 data are provisional
Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

Notes

1. The latest statistics on Regional Trade were released on 05 September 2013 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 2 2013. At the same time revisions for all previously published regional data for 2012 are also being released. This release also incorporates a small number of revisions to historic data relating to the year 2011; these changes were applied to Overseas Trade Statistics data in the May 2013 release, as announced [here](#).
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 businesses by value of exports (both EU and non-EU), to determine the values and proportions of trade generated by each branch. Therefore, for businesses 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 businesses the region where the head office is located is used by default unless the export is assigned to a specific branch. For imports, such adjustments cannot be made, as businesses 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 and information on petroleum production from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC).

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 businesses dealing with the EU and counts for businesses dealing with the non-EU do not sum to the total business counts. Businesses that are active in both EU and non-EU markets are counted once only in the total business counts. The counts for businesses dealing with the EU do not include businesses where the value of their intra-EU trade is below the [Intrastat Exemption Threshold](#).
- 7. 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 VAT registration number and Branch ID supplied on trade data, which together made up the Trader's Unique Reference Number (TURN) for those businesses participating in the scheme. It is the TURN, in particular the Branch ID, 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. Under EORI, the vast majority of businesses are not allowed to retain Branch IDs which 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.

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 Government Statistical Service Quality report can be found [here](#).
11. The RTS has 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: 05 December 2013 9:30am

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