

Regional Trade Statistics – Third Quarter 2011

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Summary

- The total value of imports and exports trade in goods to the rest of the world from the nine Government regions of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland continues to steadily increase after the recession which began in the second half of 2008. Wales had the highest growth rate of the UK countries in both imports and exports during the 12 months ending September 2011.
- Imports increased in the third quarter of 2011, but exports decreased. For exports, the North East, East Midlands, London, the South West and Scotland were the only regions to see an increase. For imports all regions increased apart from the North West, Yorkshire & Humberside and Scotland.
- For each region of England and for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, the number of importers for Quarter 3 2011 decreased compared with Quarter 3 2010. The number of exporters decreased for every region apart from the North East, which saw a 1 per cent increase. For both imports and exports the South West had the largest percentage decrease in number of traders.
- For the 12 months ending September 2011, Germany was the country with the largest increase in exports from England compared with the 12 months ending September 2010; for Scotland and Wales exports to the USA increased in value the most, while for Northern Ireland exports to the Irish Republic increased most. For imports, the largest increases were in goods from Norway (England), Canada (Wales), Nigeria (Scotland) and China (Northern Ireland).
- For the UK as a whole the SITC section with the largest increase in exports in the 12 months ending September 2011 was section 7, 'Machinery & transport equipment', where trade increased by 13 per cent; Scotland was the only UK country where trade remained static in section 7. For the UK as a whole there were no SITC sections where exports decreased in value.
- The SITC with the largest increase in imports to the UK was section 3, 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' which increased in value by 42 per cent; most of this increase was in imports to London and the West Midlands. For the UK as a whole there were no SITC sections where imports decreased in value.

This release of the Regional Trade Statistics is presented in a new format with expanded commentary. The changes address one of the requirements of the UK Statistics Authority assessment report, on UK Trade-in-Goods statistics compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The assessment report can be found [here](#).

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

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

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

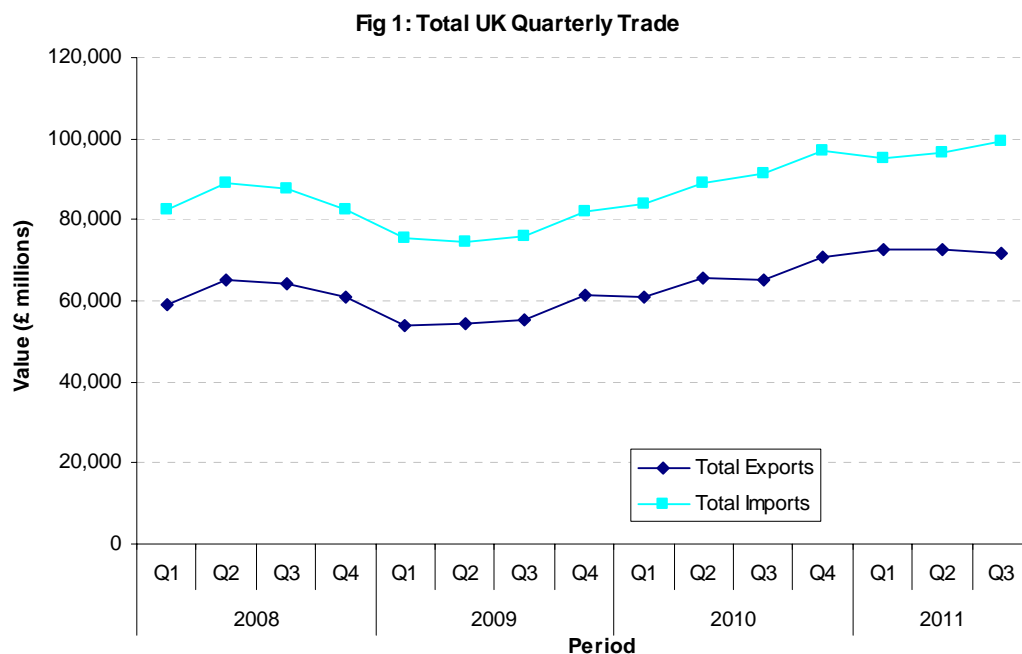
RTS data is categorised by partner country and [Standard International Trade Classification, Rev.4](#) (SITC) at division level (2-digit). The SITC is a relatively broad classification of goods and is not as detailed as the commodity classification available in the OTS. In this release RTS data is analysed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

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

Overview of UK trade

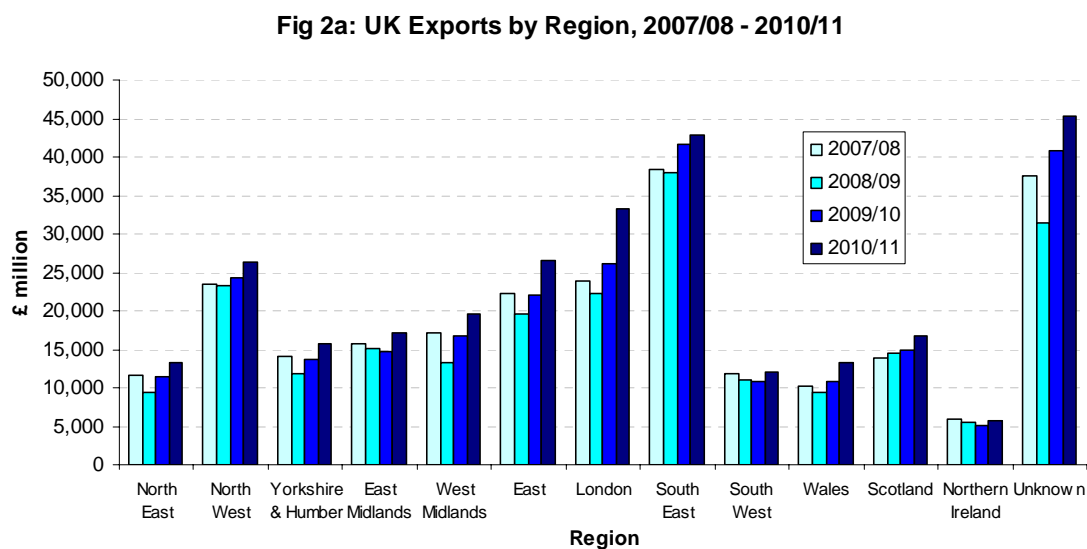
Figure 1 shows the quarterly values of imports to and exports from the UK since 2008. The graph shows a dip in trade levels corresponding to the recession in late 2008, followed by a slow recovery. Quarter 3 2011 saw an increase in import levels together with a decrease in exports, widening the trade deficit to £27.9 billion for the quarter; this is the largest quarterly percentage rise in trade deficit over the four years.

¹ See note 3 page 39



Overview - Exports

Figure 2a shows the total value of UK exports by region for the four annual periods ending September 2008, September 2009, September 2010 and September 2011.



- The total value of UK exports for the 12 months ending September 2011 increased by 13.5 per cent to £287.6 billion compared with the 12 months ending

September 2010. This increase is in excess of the Export Price Index² rise of 11.5 per cent for the period which suggests that the volume of exports, as well as their price, has increased. There was a rise in export value during the period for every English region and for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The total value of exports from England rose by 13.8 per cent to £206.7 billion, mainly due to an increase in the value of exports from the 'Machinery and transport equipment' sector. Exports from Scotland rose by 11.7 per cent to £16.7 billion; this can mainly be attributed to an increase in export value in the 'Beverages and tobacco' sector. Exports from Wales rose by 22.3 per cent to £13.3 billion and exports from Northern Ireland rose by 9.5 per cent to £5.7 billion.

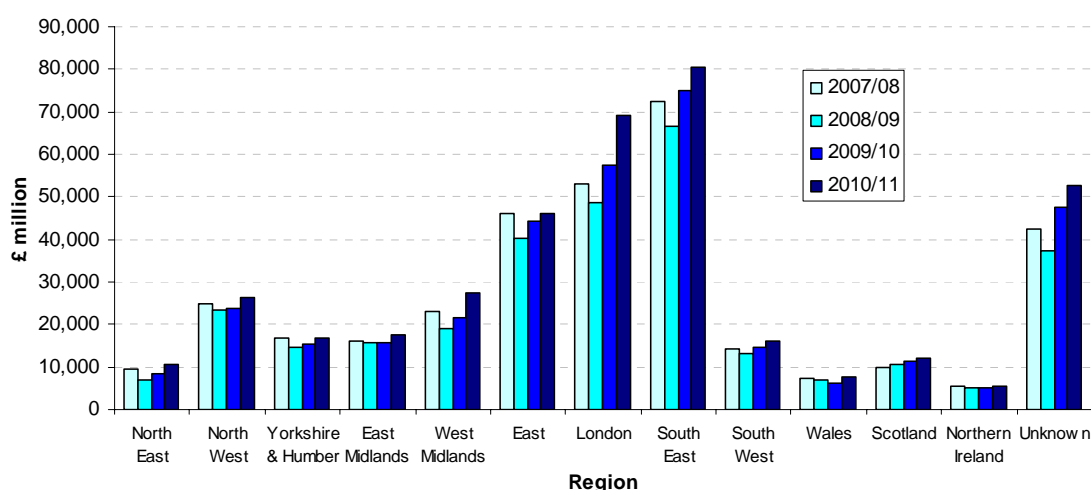
- Within England, the South East continues to have the largest total value of exports. For the 12 months ending September 2011 this was £42.9 billion, 14.9 per cent of the UK total. The South West has the smallest total value of exports of £12.1 billion, 4.2 per cent of the UK total.
- Year on year, the largest percentage increase in the English regions for this period was for London, whose exports increased by 27.3 per cent to £33.3 billion. The smallest percentage increase in the English regions for this period was for the South East region which increased by 3.0 per cent to £42.9 billion.

Overview - Imports

Figure 2b shows the total value of UK imports by region for the four annual periods ending September 2008, September 2009, September 2010 and September 2011.

² From Monthly Review of External Trade Statistics (September 2011 edition, Office for National Statistics)

Fig 2b: UK Imports by Region, 2007/08 - 2010/11



Note: 2011 data are provisional

Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

- The total value of UK imports for the 12 months ending September 2011 increased by 12.3 per cent to £388.7 billion compared with the 12 months ending September 2010. This is slightly in excess of the Import Price Index³ rise of 11.6 per cent for the period which suggests a marginal rise in the volume of goods being imported during the period. There was a rise in import value during the period for every English region and for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The total value of imports to England rose by 12.6 per cent to £310.9 billion, imports to Wales rose by 23.6 per cent to £7.7 billion, imports to Scotland rose by 7.2 per cent to £12.0 billion and imports to Northern Ireland rose by 10.2 per cent to £5.5 billion. For England and Scotland these fluctuations are largely accounted for by rises in the 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' sector. For Wales the increases are driven by the 'Crude materials' and 'Manufactured goods' sectors, while for Northern Ireland the growth is largely fuelled by the 'Food & live animals' sector.
- Within England, the South East continues to have the largest total value of imports. For the 12 months ending September 2011 this was £80.4 billion, 20.7 per cent of the UK total. The North East continues to have the smallest total value of imports of £10.7 billion, 2.8 per cent of the UK total.
- The largest percentage increase for the English regions for the 12 months ending September 2011 was for the West Midlands region where imports increased by

³ From Monthly Review of External Trade Statistics (September 2011 edition, Office for National Statistics)

27.9 per cent to £27.5 billion. The smallest percentage increase was for the Eastern region which saw an increase of 4.1 per cent in imports to £46.0 billion

Rolling 12 Month Overview - Exports

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

Partner country analysis - England

Table 1a: England - main export partners

	Country	Year ending September 2011 Total £ millions	Year ending September 2010 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2010	% Total Trade in year ending September 2011
Top 5	USA	29,167.5	28,994.6	0.6	14.1
	Germany	22,327.3	18,277.8	22.2	10.8
	France	15,877.9	13,471.6	17.9	7.7
	Netherlands	12,705.7	10,739.7	18.3	6.1
	Belgium	10,303.8	8,155.8	26.3	5.0
	Others	116,330.5	101,988.2	14.1	56.3
	<i>Total EU</i>	104,192.9	89,648.3	16.2	50.4
	<i>Total Non-EU</i>	102,519.8	91,979.3	11.5	49.6
	Grand Total	206,712.7	181,627.6	13.8	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Exports from England are equally balanced between EU and non-EU countries, with the balance shifting slightly in favour of the EU over the 12 months to September 2011. England is responsible for 85 per cent of exports from the UK that were allocated to a region (excluding the 'Unknown region'⁴). This means that the export pattern for England is similar to that for the UK as a whole.

Table 1a shows that around one quarter of all the export trade from England goes to its top export partners the USA and Germany, while the top five export partners currently account for 44 per cent of all exports from England.

⁴ See Note 4 page 39

In the 12 months to September 2011 Belgium has replaced the Irish Republic as England's fifth largest export partner, the value of exports received by Belgium having risen by 26 per cent (Table 1a). This has been mostly due to increased exports of goods from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up £878 million). Of England's top five partner countries for exports, the USA has seen the lowest increase over the 12 month period with export trade remaining virtually static (up 0.6 per cent). The USA's share of England's export market has decreased from 16 per cent to 14 per cent over the period, with a notable decrease in exports within SITC division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (down £1.4 billion).

The partner countries whose exports from England have decreased the most in value are Chile (down £210 million), Libya (down £182 million) and Greece (down £177 million). The partner countries with the largest increase in exports over the 12 months were Germany (up £4.0 billion) and France (up £2.4 billion). Some of the increase in total exports for England has been as a result of increased trade with countries outside of the top five. In particular there has been an increase in exports to China which increased by 24 per cent (£1.4 billion) compared with the 12 months ending September 2010; this resulted primarily from an increase in exports within SITC division 78 'Road vehicles' (up £626 million).

Partner country analysis - English regions

Table 2a: Top 5 export partners for the English regions in Q4 2010 – Q3 2011

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

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

The value of exports increased for all English regions in the 12 months to September 2011. The South East and London continue to dominate England's export trade,

accounting for 21 per cent and 16 per cent of export value respectively. London has seen the largest increase in export value (up 27 per cent to £33.3 billion) of all the English regions, while the South East had the smallest increase (up 3 per cent to £42.9 billion). For London, increases in the value of exports to Belgium (up £995 million) and India (up £842 million) were the largest contributors to the overall increase. For the South East, the small overall increase was mainly as a result of increased exports to France (up £410 million), although this was offset by a decline in exports to the USA (down £480 million).

Table 2a shows the top five export trading partners for each of the English regions in the year to September 2011. There is some regional variation in the relative proportions of export trade going to EU and non-EU countries. For the Eastern region 64 per cent of export trade goes to EU Member States; conversely, the South East region exported 55 per cent of goods to non-EU countries. For other regions the difference is not as pronounced and the relative proportions of EU and non-EU export trade vary over time.

The majority of the nine English regions follow a similar pattern to England as a whole, with the USA and Germany featuring as the top export partners; the most notable exception is the North East, with the Netherlands as its second largest export partner. The USA is the top export partner for 7 of the English regions (Table 2a). Exports to the USA declined during the 12 months to September 2011 for the Eastern region, the North West and the South East but increased for the other English regions.

Exports to France have increased for every English region during the 12 months to September 2011. Exports to China have also increased consistently across the English regions apart from in Yorkshire & Humberside where the export value remained static. Greece and Spain are the two EU countries for which export trade from the English regions has consistently declined over the 12 month period. This could be an effect of the current Eurozone crisis.

Partner country analysis - Wales

Table 3a: Wales - main export partners

		Year ending September 2011 Total £ millions	Year ending September 2010 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2010	% Total Trade in year ending September 2011
	Country				
Top 5	USA	3,288.8	2,650.3	24.1	24.7
	Irish Republic	1,357.1	1,076.3	26.1	10.2
	Germany	1,039.3	915.0	13.6	7.8
	Netherlands	809.5	638.5	26.8	6.1
	United Arab Emirates	718.9	348.0	106.6	5.4
	Others	6,078.9	5,244.5	15.9	45.7
	<i>Total EU</i>	<i>5,757.9</i>	<i>4,860.3</i>	<i>18.5</i>	<i>43.3</i>
	<i>Total Non-EU</i>	<i>7,534.6</i>	<i>6,012.2</i>	<i>25.3</i>	<i>56.7</i>
	Grand Total	13,292.5	10,872.5	22.3	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 3a shows that total export value from Wales has increased dramatically over the 12 months to September 2011 (up 22 per cent); this increase was much higher than the corresponding percentage increases in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Trade with the United Arab Emirates has more than doubled in the 12 months to September 2011, making it Wales' fifth largest export partner during the period; this was almost entirely due to increased exports of goods from SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up £338 million).

Non-EU partner countries continue to dominate the export market in Wales, receiving almost 57 per cent of goods exported. The USA alone takes almost a quarter of all exports from Wales, with the majority of value coming from SITC divisions 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up £342 million) and 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up £219 million).

The partner countries with whom export trade from Wales has increased the most are the USA (up £639 million), the United Arab Emirates (up £371 million) and the Irish Republic (up £281 million, with exports of 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' up £258 million). The biggest decreases in export value were in

goods going to South Korea (down £50 million, with exports from SITC division 67 'Iron & steel' down £43 million) and Thailand (down £46 million, with exports from SITC division 67 'Iron & steel' down £43 million).

Partner country analysis – Scotland

Table 4a: Scotland - main export partners

		Year ending September 2011 Total £ millions	Year ending September 2010 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2010	% Total Trade in year ending September 2011
Country					
Top 5	USA	2,768.4	2,444.1	13.3	16.6
	France	1,201.8	1,089.1	10.3	7.2
	Germany	887.7	749.9	18.4	5.3
	Norway	843.3	774.7	8.9	5.1
	Netherlands	767.8	885.3	-13.3	4.6
Others		10,217.0	8,997.8	13.6	61.2
<i>Total EU</i>		6,043.8	5,451.0	10.9	36.2
<i>Total Non-EU</i>		10,642.2	9,489.9	12.1	63.8
Grand Total		16,686.0	14,940.9	11.7	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Exports from Scotland have increased in value by almost 12 per cent in the 12 months to September 2011 (Table 4a). Export trade in Scotland is dominated by partner countries outside the EU, with only 36 per cent of trade going to EU countries. The top five partner countries for Scotland receive 39 per cent of Scotland's exports by value – this is a lower proportion than in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, making Scotland's export trade more evenly dispersed amongst a large number of partner countries. Norway features as Scotland's fourth largest export partner, mainly in goods from SITC division 87 'Professional, scientific & controlling instruments & apparatus'.

The Netherlands is Scotland's only top five partner to see a decrease in exports over the 12 month period; the 13 per cent decrease moved the Netherlands from third to fifth in Scotland's top ranking export partners during the 12 month period. The decrease was mainly due to a £164 million reduction in goods exported under SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'.

The partner countries with the largest increases in exports from Scotland over the 12 months were the USA (up £324 million, with SITC division 11 'Beverages' up £296 million) and Chile (up £140 million, a five-fold increase, due to a new export market in SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'). The biggest value decreases in exports from Scotland were in goods going to the Netherlands (down £118 million), Angola (down £99 million, with SITC division 67 'Iron & steel' down £47 million) and Libya (down £92 million, with SITC division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances' down £50 million).

Partner country analysis – Northern Ireland

Table 5a: Northern Ireland - main export partners

	Country	Year ending September 2011 Total £ millions	Year ending September 2010 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2010	% Total Trade in year ending September 2011
Top 5	Irish Republic	2,115.9	2,055.6	2.9	37.3
	Canada	559.2	505.4	10.6	9.8
	USA	473.0	434.9	8.7	8.3
	France	212.8	186.4	14.2	3.7
	Germany	202.2	198.4	1.9	3.6
	Others	2,115.3	1,807.0	17.1	37.3
	<i>Total EU</i>	3,222.3	3,083.0	4.5	56.7
	<i>Total Non-EU</i>	2,456.0	2,104.8	16.7	43.3
	Grand Total	5,678.3	5,187.7	9.5	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Exports from Northern Ireland have increased in value by 9.5 per cent during the 12 months to September 2011 (Table 5a). This is a smaller increase than that seen in England, Scotland and Wales. Northern Ireland's exports are dominated by goods going to the Irish Republic, which accounts for over 37 per cent of export value. Northern Ireland's balance of exports remains with the EU, although the proportion of export value going to the EU has reduced from 59 to 57 per cent during the 12 month period.

The partner countries with the largest increase in exports from Northern Ireland during the 12 months were the Irish Republic (up £60 million, with SITC division 02

'Dairy products & birds' eggs' up £32 million), Canada (up £54 million, with SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' up £70 million) and Australia (up £42 million, with SITC division 72 'Machinery specialized for particular industries' up £28 million).

The partner countries experiencing the biggest decreases in exports from Northern Ireland during the period were Greece (down £11 million, with SITC division 12 'Tobacco' down £10 million) and Iran (down £10 million, with SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' down £9 million).

Commodity analysis - England

Table 6a: Top 5 commodities for England's exports, year ending September 2011 compared to year ending September 2010

SITC section	Description	Year to September 2011 Total £ millions	Year to September 2010 Total £ millions	% Change from Sep 2010	% Total Trade in year ending Sep 2011
7	Machinery & transport equipment	79,942.6	70,065.9	14.1	38.7
5	Chemicals & related products	38,754.2	38,642.5	0.3	18.7
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	26,730.4	25,376.2	5.3	12.9
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	26,238.9	21,196.9	23.8	12.7
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	18,523.3	12,035.4	53.9	9.0
Other SITCs		16,523.5	14,310.7	15.5	8.0
All SITCs		206,712.7	181,627.6	13.8	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 6a shows that over 90 per cent of exports from England come from the top five SITC sections, the most valuable of which is section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment'. Section 7 made up 39 per cent of England's export value in the 12 months to September 2011 and also accounted for the largest value increase (up £9.9 billion), mainly due to increased exports of goods from divisions 78 'Road

vehicles' (up £4.1 billion) and 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up £2.4 billion).

Of the 65 SITC divisions, all but five increased in export value during the period. The SITC division experiencing the biggest decrease was division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products', which declined in value by £1.2 billion (down 7 per cent). This led to the overall value of exports from SITC section 5 'Chemicals & related products' remaining fairly static over the 12 month period.

The SITC section that increased most in value percentage-wise was section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (up £6.5 billion), the main contributor being division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up £6.3 billion). This was largely due to increased exports to France (up £1.6 billion) and the Netherlands (up £1.2 billion).

Commodity analysis – English regions

Table 7a - Top 5 commodities for export from English regions - 12 months ending September 2011

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

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 7a shows the top five export SITC section commodity groups for the English regions. The top five commodity groups for the English regions are similar to those for England overall although the ordering of the top five commodities shows some regional variation.

Table 7a shows that SITC section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' is the top export section by value for seven out of the nine English regions. In the South West, West Midlands and East Midlands this section dominates the market, accounting for over 60 per cent of goods exported. In contrast, for London and the North West only 15 per cent and 18 per cent respectively of export value comes from goods within section 7. In London and Yorkshire & Humberside the types of good exported tend to be more diverse, with the value spread among a number of different SITC sections.

Every English region has SITC sections 5, 6, 7 and 8 in its top five by value. The South West and East Midlands are the only regions with SITC section 0 'Food & live animals' in their top five; even for these two regions, section 0 accounts for only around 5 per cent of total export value. The North West and West Midlands are the only regions with SITC section 2 'Crude materials' in their top five, with a large increase in exports from division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' going to Turkey and India respectively. For both the North West and West Midlands exports from SITC section 2 have risen sharply during the 12 months to September 2011 (up 26 per cent and 31 per cent respectively).

Most regions have seen increases in the majority of their top five SITC sections during the period. Section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' has increased dramatically in value for London and East Anglia (up £2.7 billion and £2.5 billion respectively); in both cases this was largely due to SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' where exports have more than doubled over the period, mainly in goods going to the Netherlands, France and Germany. Yorkshire & Humberside also saw its largest increase in export value coming from SITC section 3 (up £1.2 billion), primarily in exports from division 33 going to France and the Irish Republic. The North East, in contrast, has seen a 41 per cent reduction in the value of exports from SITC section 3, with exports from division 33 decreasing by £247 million; this was the largest division-level reduction for the region and was mainly due to a decrease in exports to the Netherlands.

All English regions saw a rise in export value for the majority of the 65 SITC divisions. For the North East, North West and West Midlands division 78 'Road vehicles' was the division that increased the most in value; this was mainly fuelled by a growth in exports to Russia, Germany and China. For the South East and South West, division 79 'Other transport equipment' was the division with the largest value increase, mainly due to a growth in exports to Kazakhstan, China, France and Germany. While the East, Yorkshire & Humberside and London saw their biggest increases in division 33, the largest growth for the East Midlands was in division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment', mainly due to a rise in exports to Germany.

For the East, the SITC division that decreased the most in export value was division 51 'Organic chemicals' (down £217 million, largely due to reduced exports to France and Spain). In the North West, South East and Yorkshire & Humberside, division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' suffered the greatest loss in export value (down £83 million, £573 million and £338 million respectively, mainly due to decreases in exports going to the USA). The South West experienced the biggest losses in division 58 'Plastics in non-primary forms' (down £15 million), while for the East Midlands SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment' decreased the most in value (down £71 million). London saw its largest value decrease in division 75 'Office machines & adp machines' (down £44 million), while for the West Midlands the biggest value decreases were in division 34 'Gas, natural & manufactured' (down £51 million).

Commodity analysis - Wales

Table 8a: Top 5 commodities for Wales exports year ending September 2011 compared to year ending September 2010

SITC section	Description	Year to September 2011 Total £ millions	Year to September 2010 Total £ millions	% Change from Sep 2010	% Total Trade in year ending Sep 2011
7	Machinery & transport equipment	4,811.9	3,814.6	26.1	36.2
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	3,775.2	2,727.5	38.4	28.4
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,148.7	1,873.5	14.7	16.2
5	Chemicals & related products	1,410.4	1,450.5	-2.8	10.6
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	782.0	645.8	21.1	5.9
Other SITCs		364.4	360.6	1.1	2.7
All SITCs		13,292.5	10,872.5	22.3	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 8a shows that exports from Wales are dominated by goods from SITC section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' and section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials', which together account for 65 per cent of export value (up from 60 per cent in the previous 12 months). Both these SITC sections have seen considerable value increases in exports over the 12 months, mainly in division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up £1.1 billion, with exports to the Irish Republic up £258 million) and division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up £858 million, with exports to the USA up £342 million and exports to the United Arab Emirates up £338 million).

The commodity group with the biggest decrease in exports from Wales over the 12 months is SITC section 5 'Chemicals & related products', which has reduced in value by 3 per cent (down £40 million); this was largely due to decreases in exports of goods from division 57 'Plastics in primary forms' and division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products', which declined in value by £32 million and £28 million respectively. The largest percentage decrease was in exports from SITC section 1

'Beverages & tobacco', with a 40 per cent decline in value. This was largely due to a decrease of over £7 million in exports from SITC division 11 'Beverages', where exports to Cyprus have reduced in value by £9 million.

Commodity analysis - Scotland

Table 9a: Top 5 commodities for Scotland exports year ending September 2011 compared to year ending September 2010

SITC section	Description	Year to September 2011 Total £ millions	Year to September 2010 Total £ millions	% Change from Sep 2010	% Total Trade in year ending Sep 2011
7	Machinery & transport equipment	5,200.6	5,194.8	0.1	31.2
1	Beverages & tobacco	4,007.4	3,166.2	26.6	24.0
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1,998.6	1,941.1	3.0	12.0
5	Chemicals & related products	1,463.0	1,061.7	37.8	8.8
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,416.6	1,333.2	6.3	8.5
Other SITCs		2,599.7	2,243.8	15.9	15.6
All SITCs		16,686.0	14,940.9	11.7	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 9a shows that Scotland's exports are dominated by goods from SITC section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' and section 1 'Beverages & tobacco'. Although export trade value in section 7 has remained static during the 12 months to September 2011, this has been countered by a large rise of 27 per cent in SITC section 1; this was almost entirely due to division 11 'Beverages' which increased in value by £841 million – by far the largest rise in any SITC division. The majority of the increase was in exports to the USA (up £296 million), although exports to a number of other countries (including Singapore – up 47 per cent and Taiwan – up 38 per cent) also contributed to the growth. Exports of 'Beverages' to some EU member states decreased during the period (Spain – down £21 million and Greece – down £6 million). This may be a result of the current Eurozone crisis leading to decreases in exports of whisky, a good which attracts high excise duty rates in some EU countries. Scotland is the only region of the UK to have 'Beverages & tobacco' among its top

five export sections; Scotland now accounts for some 62 per cent of the UK's exports in division 11 'Beverages'.

Exports from Scotland under SITC section 5 'Chemicals & related products' have also seen a considerable increase in value (up 38 per cent); this was a much greater percentage increase than in any other region of the UK and was mainly due to increased exports in divisions 51 'Organic chemicals' and 57 'Plastics in primary forms', which rose in value by £123 million and £121 million respectively over the 12 month period.

None of Scotland's SITC sections decreased in export value during the 12 months, although within section 7 there was a relatively large decline in exports in division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (down £388 million); this was due mostly to decreased exports to the USA (down £181 million) and China (down £73 million).

Commodity analysis – Northern Ireland

Table 10a: Top 5 commodities for Northern Ireland exports year ending September 2011 compared to year ending September 2010

SITC section	Description	Year to September 2011 Total £ millions	Year to September 2010 Total £ millions	% Change from Sep 2010	% Total Trade in year ending Sep 2011
7	Machinery & transport equipment	2,371.8	2,075.8	14.3	41.8
0	Food & live animals	868.0	737.2	17.7	15.3
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	692.2	603.0	14.8	12.2
5	Chemicals & related products	579.9	531.5	9.1	10.2
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	476.6	532.9	-10.6	8.4
Other SITCs		689.8	707.2	-2.5	12.1
All SITCs		5,678.3	5,187.7	9.5	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 10a shows that the top five SITC section commodity classification headings cover around 88 per cent of the goods exported from Northern Ireland. Exports are

dominated by goods from SITC section 7 'Machinery & transport', with 42 per cent of exports coming from this commodity group. A 14 per cent rise in the value of exports from this group over the 12 months to September 2011 has been mainly in goods from division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up £176 million, with exports to Canada up £70 million).

Northern Ireland is the only UK country to have SITC section 0 'Food & live animals' among its top five sections by value; this section now has a 15 per cent share in Northern Ireland's total export value, its most important subgroups being division 01 'Meat & meat preparations' (up £52 million, with exports to the Irish Republic up £29 million) and division 02 'Dairy products & birds' eggs' (up £45 million, with exports to the Irish Republic up £32 million).

Exports from Northern Ireland have declined in value in over a third of SITC divisions during the 12 month period; this is a higher proportion than in other UK countries. The largest decreases were in SITC sections 1 (down £66 million) and 6 (down £56 million). These decreases were mainly fuelled by a decline in exports from divisions 12 'Tobacco & tobacco manufactures' (down £78 million, with exports to Germany down £30 million) and 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures' (down £43 million, with exports to the Irish Republic down £39 million).

Number of Traders - Exports

The following analysis compares the number of active exporters in Quarter 3 2011 with the number in Quarter 3 2010. A quarterly analysis is more appropriate here than an annual analysis, as summing the number of active traders over a year could produce ambiguous results. A quarter-on-quarter comparison enables us to measure seasonal movement of traders, such as the increase/decrease in number of active traders over the Christmas season (Quarter 4). The number of traders counted excludes traders with the EU whose trade is below the Intrastat Exemption Threshold (see note 7).

Figure 3a shows the percentage change in number of exporters per region between Quarter 3 2010 and Quarter 3 2011.

Fig 3a: Percentage Change in Number of Exporters between Q3 2010 and Q3 2011



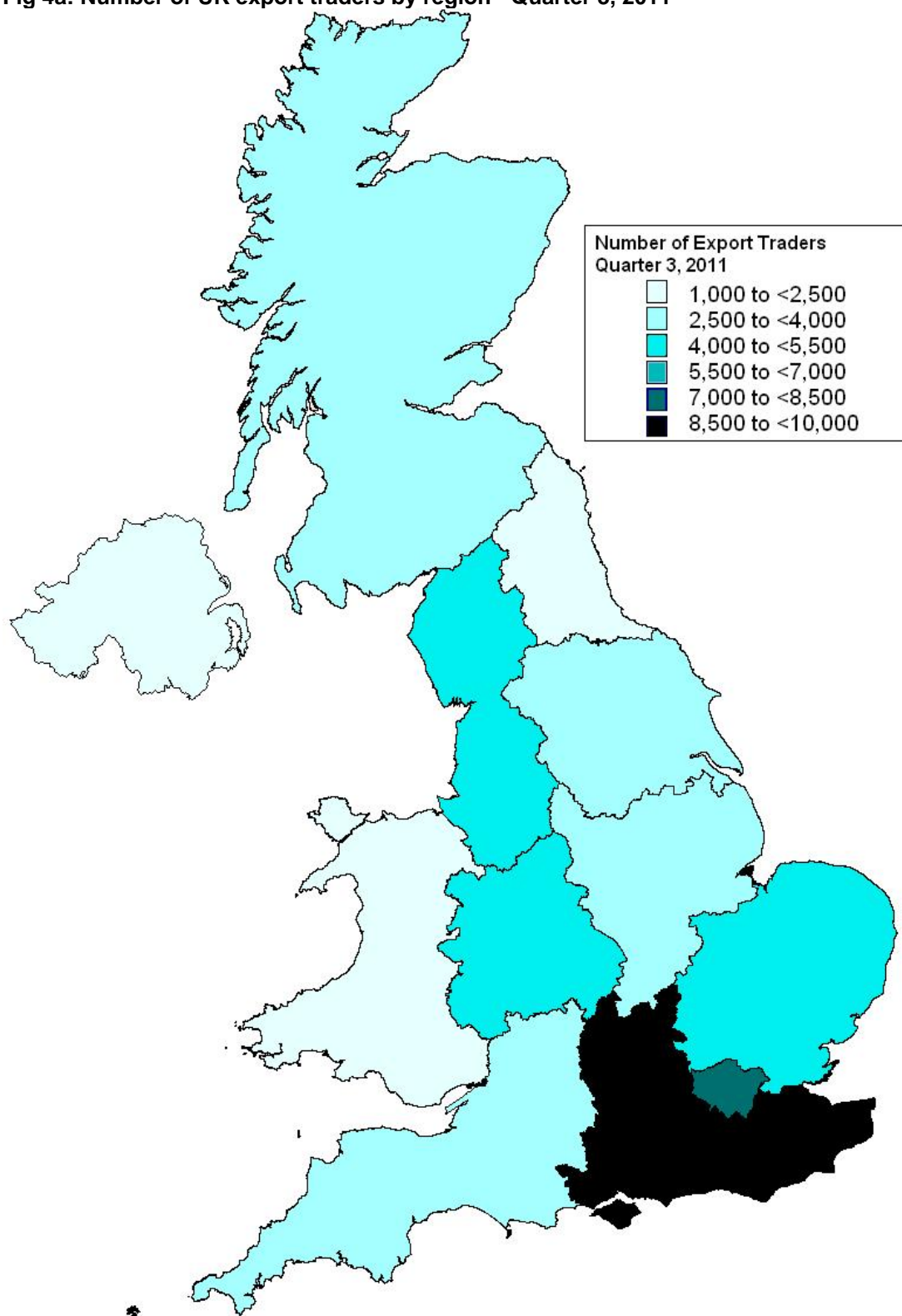
Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

For the UK as a whole, the number of exporting traders decreased by 3.1 per cent between Quarter 3 2010 and Quarter 3 2011 from 50,868 to 49,282.

Figure 3a shows that the number of active exporters has decreased in every region of the UK apart from the North East between Quarter 3 2010 and Quarter 3 2011. The South West experienced the largest drop in trader numbers, 4.0 per cent, whereas the number of exporters in the North East increased by 1.0 per cent.

Figure 4a shows the total number of UK Export traders in each region for Quarter 3 2011. The South East, London and the East are the three regions with the largest count of traders, accounting respectively for 17.7 per cent, 16.7 per cent and 11.0 per cent of all UK traders.

Fig 4a: Number of UK export traders by region - Quarter 3, 2011



Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

Rolling 12 Month Overview – Imports

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

Partner country analysis – England

Table 1b: England - main import partners

	Country	Year ending September 2011 Total £ millions	Year ending September 2010 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2010	% Total Trade in year ending September 2011
Top 5	Germany	39,773.4	36,701.0	8.4	12.8
	USA	25,718.0	24,422.9	5.3	8.3
	China	25,471.8	22,800.4	11.7	8.2
	Norway	19,405.1	12,793.8	51.7	6.2
	Netherlands	19,026.2	17,909.5	6.2	6.1
	Others	181,514.1	161,420.5	12.4	58.4
	<i>Total EU</i>	<i>148,359.2</i>	<i>137,371.5</i>	<i>8.0</i>	<i>47.7</i>
	<i>Total Non-EU</i>	<i>162,549.4</i>	<i>138,676.6</i>	<i>17.2</i>	<i>52.3</i>
	Grand Total	310,908.6	276,048.1	12.6	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

The pattern of imports to England follows a similar pattern to that for the UK as a whole. Germany remains the top import partner for England, but Norway has assumed a more dominant position as the fourth largest import partner after a 52 per cent rise in its imports to England in the 12 months to September 2011. This rise amounted to £6.6 billion in value and was over twice as large as the increase from any other partner country; the increase was mainly due to goods from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up £6.2 billion).

Overall, England's imports increased by nearly 13 per cent over the 12 month period. The value of imports from outside the EU has increased at more than double the rate of that from EU countries, tipping the balance of imports in favour of non-EU partner countries. Apart from Norway, the countries that contributed most to the increase were Germany (up £3.1 billion, with SITC division 78 'Road vehicles' up £1.6 billion)

and China (up £2.7 billion, with SITC 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances' up £499 million).

The partner countries from which the value of imports decreased the most were South Africa (down £1.3 billion, with SITC division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures' down £1.6 billion) and Libya (down £268 million, with SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' down £262 million).

Partner country analysis – English regions

Table 2b: Top 5 import partners for the English regions in the year ending September 2011

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

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Every region of England saw an increase in the value of imports during the 12 months to September 2011, the largest increase being in the West Midlands (up 28 per cent). The Eastern region had the smallest increase in import value (up 4 per cent). England's import trade is dominated by the South East and London, which together receive over 48 per cent of England's imports. London's imports increased by £11.8 billion during the 12 months to September 2011, while the South East saw a more modest increase in import value of £5.3 billion.

The South East, the East and the North West are the only regions where the balance of imports is with the EU; for all other regions the majority of imports come from outside the EU. London in particular is dominated by non-EU imports, mainly from Norway, the USA and China. London's imports are less governed by the top five

partner countries, with nearly one third of imports coming from countries outside the top five; this makes London's top five partner countries more changeable from year to year. The latest 12 months have seen Qatar become London's fifth largest import partner by value after imports from here more than doubled, mainly due to an increase in goods received from SITC division 34 'Gas, natural & manufactured' (up £2.1 billion).

Table 2b shows that the USA features in the top 5 import partners for every English region, while Germany is in the top 5 for every region except the North East. Imports from the USA have increased for all regions apart from the East and the North West. For the East, imports from the USA fell by £769 million, while for London imports from the USA rose by £737 million.

The North East and the East are the only English regions without China among their top five partners. In the North East, another large increase in imports from Japan (up £828 million) in the 12 months to September 2011 continues the trend which began in 2009. The increase has made Japan the top import partner for the North East over the last 12 months; this was mainly attributable to increased imports of goods from SITC division 78 'Road vehicles' (up £473 million).

For the West Midlands, a very large rise in imports from Norway (up £3.3 billion) has made Norway its top import partner for the 12 months ending September 2011; this has resulted in Norway's share of imports into the West Midlands doubling to 20 per cent. This increase was mainly due to an exceptionally high value of imports from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' in the second half of 2011.

Partner country analysis – Wales

Table 3b: Wales - main import partners

	Country	Year ending September 2011 Total £ millions	Year ending September 2010 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2010	% Total Trade in year ending September 2011
Top 5	Brazil	714.5	555.5	28.6	9.3
	Canada	697.7	212.7	228.0	9.1
	USA	690.7	677.8	1.9	9.0
	Germany	644.1	588.3	9.5	8.4
	China	637.8	567.8	12.3	8.3
	Others	4,292.1	3,608.4	18.9	55.9
	<i>Total EU</i>	<i>2,665.5</i>	<i>2,301.5</i>	<i>15.8</i>	<i>34.7</i>
	<i>Total Non-EU</i>	<i>5,011.4</i>	<i>3,909.0</i>	<i>28.2</i>	<i>65.3</i>
	Grand Total	7,676.9	6,210.5	23.6	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Over the 12 months to September 2011, imports to Wales increased in value by almost 24 per cent, over double the rate of increase for England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Import trade for Wales is less monopolised by a single partner country than other regions of the UK. Brazil and Canada have become Wales' top two import partners over the last 12 months. Imports to Wales from Canada more than trebled over the period, mainly due to a very large increase in goods from SITC division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' in the second half of 2011; this marks a return to the levels imported from this division in 2007. The 29 per cent increase in goods from Brazil was also mainly a result of increases in goods from SITC division 28 (up £123 million).

Two thirds of imports into Wales come from non-EU partner countries, this share having increased in the last 12 months. Imports from the USA have only increased in value by 2 per cent, with goods from SITC division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes' declining in value by £111 million.

The partner countries whose imports to Wales decreased the most during the 12 month period were Australia (down £93 million, with SITC division 32 'Coke, coal & briquettes' down £97 million after a brief rise in value during 2010) and Thailand

(down £26 million, with SITC division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment' down £16 million).

Partner country analysis – Scotland

Table 4b: Scotland - main import partners

	Country	Year ending September 2011 Total £ millions	Year ending September 2010 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2010	% Total Trade in year ending September 2011
Top 5	USA	1,934.6	2,089.7	-7.4	16.1
	Norway	1,195.9	1,036.8	15.3	9.9
	China	1,076.2	997.9	7.8	9.0
	Nigeria	734.8	511.2	43.7	6.1
	Netherlands	719.8	594.8	21.0	6.0
	Others	6,361.8	5,988.1	6.2	52.9
	<i>Total EU</i>	<i>3,589.3</i>	<i>3,429.2</i>	<i>4.7</i>	<i>29.9</i>
	<i>Total Non-EU</i>	<i>8,433.7</i>	<i>7,789.3</i>	<i>8.3</i>	<i>70.1</i>
	Grand Total	12,023.0	11,218.5	7.2	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Imports to Scotland have increased in value by 7 per cent during the 12 months to September 2011; this was a lower percentage increase than those in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The USA remains Scotland's top import partner by a wide margin despite a decrease in imports from the USA of over 7 per cent during the 12 month period; this decrease was mostly attributable to SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (down £186 million).

Apart from the USA, the partner countries whose imports to Scotland have declined the most in value are the United Arab Emirates (down £99 million, with SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' down £104 million) and Poland (down £50 million, with SITC division 75 'Office machines & adp machines' down £79 million).

Over 70 per cent of Scotland's imports come from non-EU countries, this proportion having increased over the period in line with other regions of the UK. Scotland's imports from Nigeria increased in value by 44 per cent (£224 million) during the

period; this was the largest increase of any partner country, making Nigeria Scotland's fourth largest import partner for the year ending September 2011, compared with only sixth largest in the previous year. The main contributor to the increase was SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up £217 million).

Apart from Nigeria, partner countries from whom imports to Scotland have increased the most are Norway (up £159 million, with SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' up £141 million) and Russia (up £155 million, with SITC division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes' up £150 million).

Partner country analysis – Northern Ireland

Table 5b: Northern Ireland - main import partners

		Year ending September 2011 Total £ millions	Year ending September 2010 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2010	% Total Trade in year ending September 2011
Country					
Top 5	Irish Republic	1,642.2	1,641.4	0	29.7
	China	910.6	753.2	20.9	16.4
	USA	421.7	340.6	23.8	7.6
	Germany	297.7	262.0	13.6	5.4
	France	264.1	227.0	16.3	4.8
Others		2,000.7	1,800.8	11.1	36.1
<i>Total EU</i>		<i>3,156.2</i>	<i>2,964.5</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>57.0</i>
<i>Total Non-EU</i>		<i>2,380.7</i>	<i>2,060.6</i>	<i>15.5</i>	<i>43.0</i>
Grand Total		5,537.0	5,025.1	10.2	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 5b shows that Northern Ireland has seen a 10 per cent increase in the value of its imports over the 12 months to September 2011; this is a little less than the average UK increase. Imports to Northern Ireland continue to be dominated by goods from the Irish Republic, which make up almost 30 per cent of import value. This proportion has declined from 33 per cent in the previous 12 months due to the value of imports from the Irish Republic remaining static over the last year; this was partly the result of a decline in imports from SITC division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (down £17 million) and division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related

materials' (down £12 million). Due to the Irish Republic's monopoly, Northern Ireland is the only UK country whose balance of imports is with the EU.

Northern Ireland was the only UK country to see a large increase of goods from the USA during the 12 months; the 24 per cent increase was mainly due to goods from SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up £68 million).

Northern Ireland also had the largest percentage increase in imports from China (up 21 per cent) of all the UK regions during the 12 month period; this stemmed from the growth in imports from SITC division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' (up £106 million).

The largest decreases in imports to Northern Ireland were from India (down £15 million, with SITC division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' down £23 million) and Denmark (down £13 million, with imports from SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment' reduced to nil).

Commodity analysis - England

Table 6b: Top 5 commodities for England imports year ending September 2011 compared to year ending September 2010

SITC section	Description	Year to September 2011 Total £ millions	Year to September 2010 Total £ millions	% Change from Sep 2010	% Total Trade in year ending Sep 2011
7	Machinery & transport equipment	103,536.0	99,366.0	4.2	33.3
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	50,368.9	46,091.8	9.3	16.2
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	43,073.1	28,414.7	51.6	13.9
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	39,409.5	34,116.0	15.5	12.7
5	Chemicals & related products	37,789.5	33,844.1	11.7	12.2
Other SITCs		36,731.6	34,215.5	7.4	11.8
All SITCs		310,908.6	276,048.1	12.6	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 6b shows that over 88 per cent of England's imports come from the top five SITC sections. The most important section by value is section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment', which accounted for one third of total import value in the 12 months ending September 2011; section 7 has become less dominant over the past year, its share of England's import value decreasing from 36 per cent to 33 per cent. This was largely due to a reduction of £2.2 billion in imports received from SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment', caused mainly by a decrease in imports from the USA (down £1.6 billion).

All SITC sections increased in value during the 12 months except for section 9 'Commodities/transactions' not classified elsewhere'. The largest section-level value increase over the 12 months was in section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials', which rose by £14.7 billion; this 52 per cent increase was mainly due to division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up £10.9 billion, with imports from Norway up £6.2 billion).

All but ten of the 65 SITC divisions increased in import value over the 12 months. Apart from division 33, the largest increases were in division 34 'Gas, natural & manufactured' (up £2.9 billion, with imports from Qatar up £2.3 billion) and division 78 'Road vehicles' (up £2.3 billion, with imports from Germany up £1.6 billion). Apart from division 79, the commodity group experiencing the biggest decrease during the 12 months was division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment' (down £851 million, with imports from Hong Kong down £207 million).

Commodity analysis – English regions

Table 7b - Top 5 commodities for import to English regions - 12 months ending September 2011

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

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 7b shows that SITC section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' is the most valuable import section for six of the English regions. This section is particularly dominant in the South West (53 per cent of import value), the South East (49 per cent) and the East (44 per cent). In the other regions imports are less concentrated in a single SITC section and are more evenly distributed between the top five sections.

The region with the largest overall percentage increase in import value was the West Midlands (up 28 per cent), followed by the North East (up 25 per cent). For the West Midlands most of the increase was in SITC section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (up £3.7 billion), while for the North East the majority of the increase came from section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' (up £1.5 billion).

The North West continues to be the only English region with SITC section 5 'Chemicals & related products' as its top-ranking import commodity group. For

Yorkshire & Humberside section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' remains the top SITC section by value, although this is becoming less prominent with only a minimal rise of 2 per cent during the period. For London, SITC section 3 has become the top-ranking section by value over the last 12 months, with an increase of £3.0 billion in division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'; this has been mainly due to a rise in imports from Norway (up £1.6 billion).

While SITC sections 7 and 8 appear in the top five for all English regions, the other sections making up the top five are variable. The North East and North West are the only regions without section 0 'Food & live animals' in their top five, whereas for Yorkshire & Humberside this section makes up around 12 per cent of imports, the highest share of all the English regions; a sizeable portion of these imports come from Spain and the Netherlands. London and the West Midlands are the only regions without section 5 'Chemicals & related products' in their top five, whereas for the North West this section makes up over 28 per cent of imports, a large proportion of goods coming from Canada, Belgium and Israel.

For all English regions the majority of top five SITC sections have increased in value during the 12 month period. The most notable exception is the East where SITC section 7 has lost £1.1 billion in import value, with division 79 down £1.9 billion mainly due to a reduction in goods coming from the USA. London also saw a decrease in value for SITC section 7 (down £652 million, with division 79 down £709 million due mainly to a decline in imports from the USA).

The largest percentage increase at SITC section level was for the West Midlands, where imports from section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' more than doubled in value (up £3.7 billion, with SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' up £3.5 billion due to a growth in imports from Norway). The London region also saw a sizeable increase of 54 per cent for imports within SITC section 3 (up £5.6 billion, with division 33 up £3.0 billion due to growth in imports from Norway).

All regions experienced a rise in import value for the majority of the 65 SITC divisions. While division 33 yielded the largest value increases for five of the regions (the East, London, the South East, the North West and the West Midlands), the East Midlands and the South West saw their biggest growth in division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' with imports from the USA contributing much of

this increase. The North East saw its largest value increase in division 78 'Road vehicles' (up £831 million with imports from Japan up £473 million) while for Yorkshire & Humberside the biggest increase was in division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes' (up £201 million, with imports from the USA up £120 million).

For 7 of the regions the divisions where import value declined the most were within section 7. While the East and London experienced their largest value decreases in division 79 'Other transport equipment', the South West and Yorkshire & Humberside saw their biggest reductions in SITC divisions 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment'. For the North West the greatest decrease was in division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances' and for the South East the biggest value reduction was in division 75 'Office machines & adp machines'. The West Midlands experienced its largest reduction in division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment'. The two exceptions to the pattern were the East Midlands and the North East, where the largest value decreases were in divisions 82 'Furniture' and 04 'Cereals & cereal preparations' respectively.

Commodity analysis – Wales

Table 8b: Top 5 commodities for Wales imports - year ending September 2011 compared to year ending September 2010

SITC section	Description	Year to September 2011 Total £ millions	Year to September 2010 Total £ millions	% Change from Sep 2010	% Total Trade in year ending Sep 2011
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1,799.9	1,182.8	52.2	23.4
2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	1,696.5	944.9	79.5	22.1
7	Machinery & transport equipment	1,603.2	1,386.3	15.6	20.9
5	Chemicals & related products	1,025.3	952.1	7.7	13.4
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	702.9	694.3	1.2	9.2
Other SITCs		849.2	1,050.1	-19.1	11.1
All SITCs		7,676.9	6,210.5	23.6	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 3b shows that, for Wales, two thirds of import value is split fairly evenly between the top three SITC sections: section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material', section 2 'Crude materials, inedible, except fuels' and section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment'. Wales is the only region of the UK to have section 2 among its top five; this section's prominence is mainly due to imports within division 28, 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap', which have increased in value by £744 million during the 12 months to September 2011; this increase was driven by growth in imports from Canada.

Wales saw its other large value increase in section 6 (up £617 million) where the growth was mainly triggered by a rise in divisions 67 'Iron & steel' (up £372 million, with imports from Netherlands and Russia increasing sharply) and 68 'Non-ferrous metals' (up £179 million, with imports from South Africa and Canada contributing most of this).

The only notable value decrease for Wales was in imports from division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes' (down £213 million, with a decline in goods from the USA).

Commodity analysis – Scotland

Table 9b: Top 5 commodities for Scotland imports - year ending September 2011 compared to year ending September 2010

SITC section	Description	Year to September 2011 Total £ millions	Year to September 2010 Total £ millions	% Change from Sep 2011	% Total Trade in year ending Sep 2011
7	Machinery & transport equipment	4,834.8	5,065.3	-4.5	40.2
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	2,104.6	1,435.5	46.6	17.5
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,442.7	1,418.8	1.7	12.0
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1,375.1	1,284.5	7.1	11.4
0	Food & live animals	1,052.8	1,039.1	1.3	8.8
Other SITCs		1,212.9	975.3	24.4	10.1
All SITCs		12,023.0	11,218.5	7.2	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

The membership and order of Scotland's top five import sections have remained the same over the past year. Table 9b shows that Scotland's imports are dominated by goods from SITC section 7, which accounts for 40 per cent of total import value; this share has reduced from 45 per cent in the previous 12 months due to a £230 million decrease in import value, mainly in goods from division 71 'Power-generating machinery & equipment' (down £508 million, with imports from the USA down £186 million).

The SITC section with the largest increase in import value is section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (up £669 million) with imports from division 33 up £381 million, primarily due to growth in imports from Nigeria. SITC division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes' has also seen a large increase of £268 million in import value during the period, with goods from Russia increasing in value by £150 million.

Commodity analysis – Northern Ireland

Table 10b: Top 5 commodities for Northern Ireland imports - year ending September 2011 compared to year ending September 2010

SITC section	Description	Year to September 2011 Total £ millions	Year to September 2010 Total £ millions	% Change from Sep 2011	% Total Trade in year ending Sep 2011
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,580.1	1,474.7	7.2	28.5
7	Machinery & transport equipment	1,052.5	956.5	10.0	19.0
0	Food & live animals	840.7	708.6	18.6	15.2
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	772.4	697.5	10.7	13.9
5	Chemicals & related products	482.6	449.8	7.3	8.7
Other SITCs		808.6	738.0	9.6	14.6
All SITCs		5,537.0	5,025.1	10.2	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Northern Ireland's top 5 SITC import sections have remained in the same order during the last 12 months, the most valuable being section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' with a 29 per cent share of total import value. Table 10b shows that imports from section 8 have risen in value by a modest 7 per cent, with division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' increasing in value the most at division level (up £93 million, with imports from China up £106 million). Northern Ireland is the only UK region apart from Yorkshire & Humberside to have section 8 as its most valuable; Northern Ireland also parallels Yorkshire & Humberside in that the membership of its top five SITC sections is the same.

Apart from the increase in division 84, the most valuable increase at division level was in division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' which increased by £79 million, driven by a rise in imports from the USA and France; it was this division that fuelled the 10 per cent overall increase in section 7.

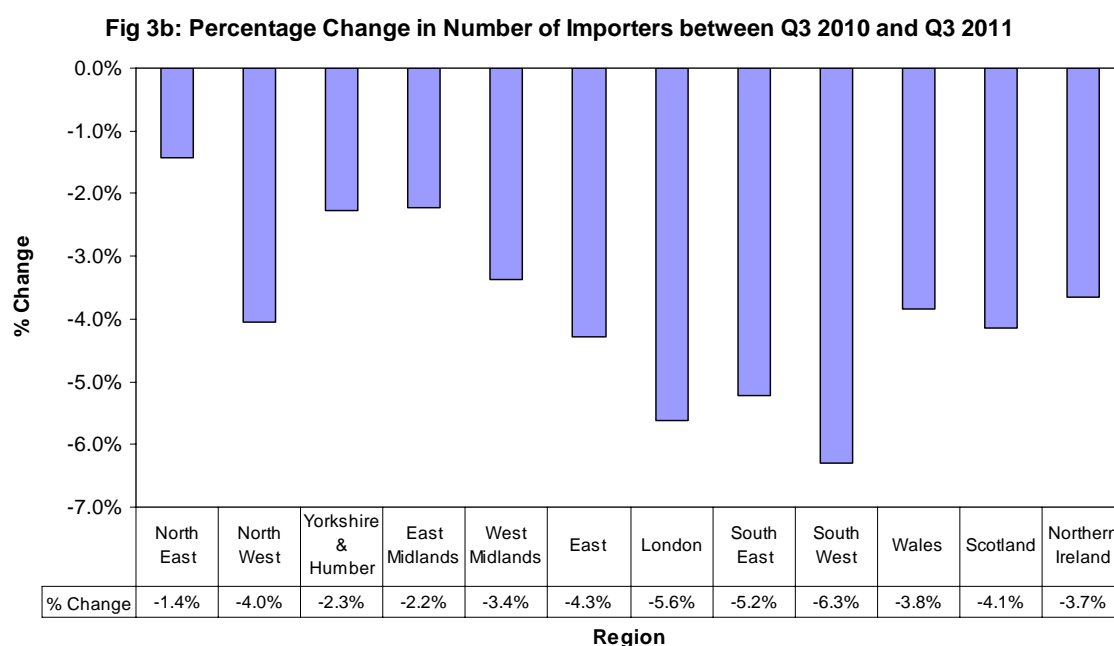
The only SITC section that decreased in import value during the period was section 9 'Commodities/transactions not classified elsewhere'. At division level, Northern

Ireland saw its largest value decrease in division 72 'Machinery specialized for particular industries' (down £30 million, with imports from the USA down £22 million).

Imports – number of traders

The following analysis compares the number of active importers in Quarter 3 2011 with the number in Quarter 3 2010. A quarterly analysis is more appropriate here than an annual analysis, since summing the number of active traders over a year could produce ambiguous results. A quarter-on-quarter comparison enables us to measure seasonal movement of traders, such as the increase/decrease in number of importers over the Christmas season (Quarter 4). The number of traders counted excludes traders with the EU whose trade is below the Intrastat Exemption Threshold (see note 7).

Figure 3b shows the percentage change in the number of importers in the UK between Quarter 3 2010 and Quarter 3 2011.



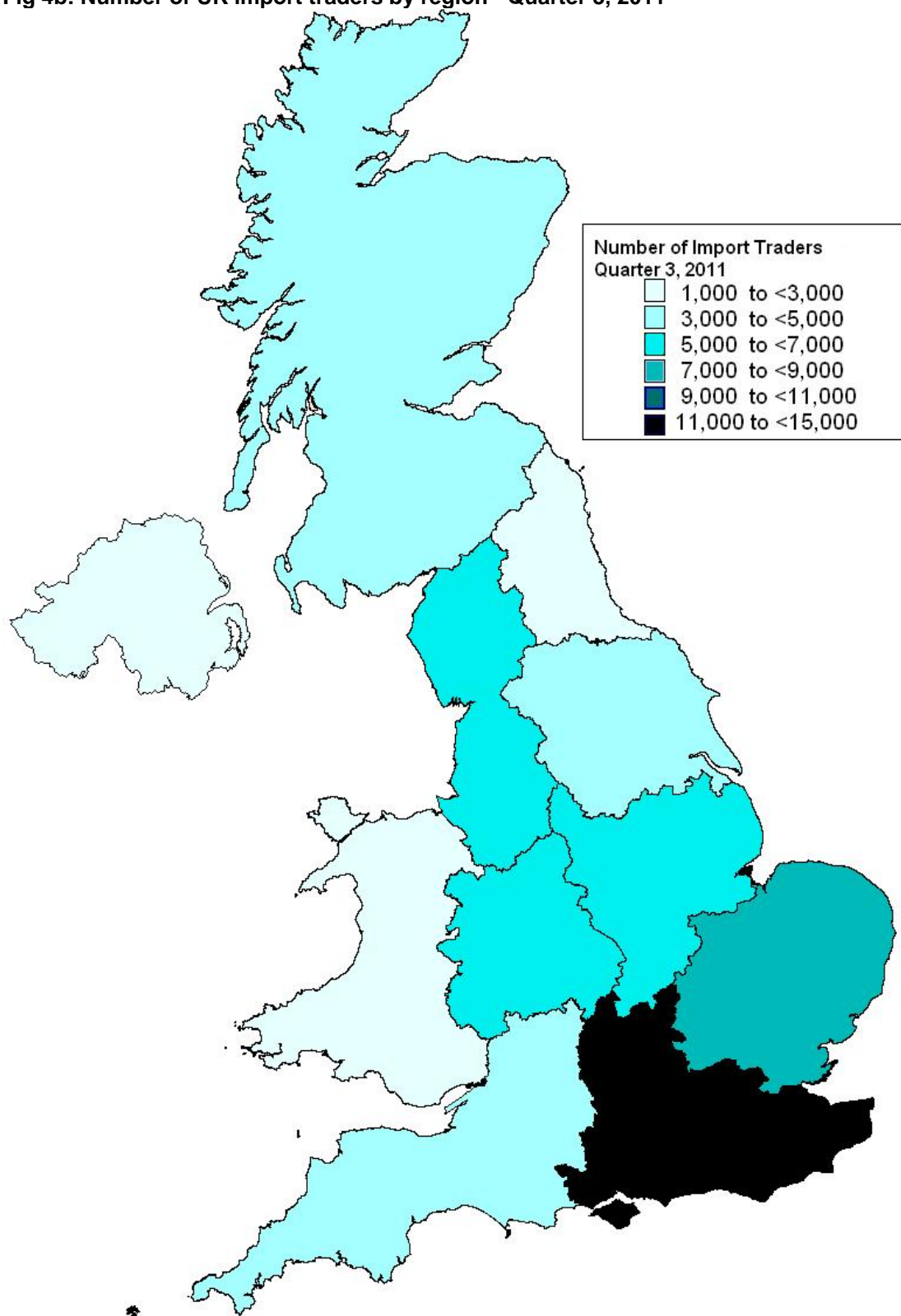
Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

In the UK as a whole, the number of importing traders decreased by 4.4 per cent between Quarter 3 2010 and Quarter 3 2011 to 67,720.

Figure 3b shows that the number of active importers has decreased in every region of the UK between Quarter 3 2010 and Quarter 3 2011. The South West experienced the largest drop in trader numbers, 6.3 per cent, while the North East was least affected with a decrease of 1.4 per cent.

Figure 4b shows the total number of UK Import traders in each region for Quarter 3, 2011. London, the South East and the East are the three regions with the largest count of traders, accounting for 19.4 per cent, 17.2 per cent and 10.8 per cent of all UK traders respectively.

Fig 4b: Number of UK import traders by region - Quarter 3, 2011



Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

Notes

1. The latest statistics on Regional Trade were released on 08 December 2011 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 3 2011. At the same time revisions for all previously published regional data for 2011 are also being released.
2. Data is taken primarily from Customs systems (for non-EU trade) and the Intrastat survey (for EU trade). HMRC does not receive information in respect of goods that move wholly within the UK, nor in intangibles and services such as banking or tourism. Trade is mainly allocated to a region by the postcode associated with a company's VAT registration.
3. Some adjustments have been necessary in the production of export statistics by region to ensure manufacturing that takes place at branch premises is properly allocated to the region where the branch is situated. This adjustment is based on the results of periodic surveys of the top 200 traders by value of exports (both EU and non-EU), to determine the values and proportions of trade generated by each branch. Therefore, for traders who have provided a response to the survey, their trade is split by value to various regions in line with the information provided by the survey. For all other traders the region where the head office is located is used by default. For imports, such adjustments cannot be made, as traders would not be able to produce a reasonable assessment of the final regional location 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 Government Office Regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Where appropriate, this is referred to in the tables as the 'Unknown region' and includes:
 - a. Trade carried out by persons or entities which cannot be matched to a region.
 - b. Low Value Trade and estimates made for EU trade below the Intrastat threshold.
 - c. Goods within classification codes that have changed since the previous year are not assigned to a region but are included within Unknown region for completeness.

- d. Data relating to Natural Gas and Electricity direct from pipeline and grid operators.

More information can be found in the RTS methodology document.

<https://www.uktradeinfo.com/pagecontent/RTSdocuments/rtMethodsrevision2007v3.pdf>

5. The RTS does not include estimates for non-response or estimates for the missing EU Imports associated with Missing Trader Intra-Community VAT Fraud (MTIC Fraud).
6. The counts for traders dealing with the EU and counts for traders dealing with the non-EU do not sum to the total trader counts. Traders that are active in both EU and non-EU markets are counted once only in the total trader counts. The counts for traders dealing with the EU do not include traders where the value of their intra-EU trade is below the [Intrastat Exemption Threshold](#).
7. In 2009 a change took place to the Customs administrative data source used in the compilation of the RTS. More detail on this can be found at https://www.uktradeinfo.com/pagecontent/downloads/RTS_EORI_web.pdf
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 Regional Trade in Goods figures are National Statistics. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs. The latest Trade Statistics Quality report can be found here
https://www.uktradeinfo.com/pagecontent/documents/Quality_Report_2010.pdf
They are produced free from any political interference.
10. The RTS has recently been reviewed as part of an assessment made of Overseas Trade Statistics by the [UK Statistics Authority](#). The report of that assessment can be found at
<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-93---uk-trade-in-goods.pdf>

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To access the detailed Regional Trade Statistics data in our interactive database please log in [here](#). If you have not yet registered for this **free** area click [here](#).

More detailed tables are available as a separate Excel file; click on the link below:

[Data Tables](#)

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