

Regional Trade Statistics – Third Quarter 2012

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Summary

- In the year ending September 2012, there was a rise in annual export value in all UK countries and regions apart from the South East, the North West, Wales and Northern Ireland. There was a rise in annual import value during the year in all UK countries and regions apart from the North East and Wales. Scotland had the highest annual growth rate of the UK countries for both imports and exports.
- The value of UK exports and imports both decreased slightly in Quarter 3 2012. The value of exports increased for England and Scotland but decreased for Wales and Northern Ireland between Quarter 2 2012 and Quarter 3 2012; the value of imports decreased for England and Wales but increased for Scotland and Northern Ireland. Exports decreased in all English regions except for the North West, London, the South West and Yorkshire & Humberside. Imports increased in all English regions apart from the West Midlands, the East and London.
- The number of exporters decreased between Quarter 3 2011 and Quarter 3 2012 in all UK countries and regions apart from the East, London and the South West. The number of importers increased in all UK countries and regions except Northern Ireland.
- For England, the value of exports to South Korea increased most in the year ending September 2012; for Wales exports to Ecuador increased the most; for Scotland exports to the USA increased the most, while for Northern Ireland exports to Australia increased most. For imports, the largest increases were in goods from Germany (England), Norway (Scotland), Canada (Wales) and Spain (Northern Ireland).
- For exports, the commodity groups with the largest annual value increases were 'Road vehicles' (England) 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (Wales), 'Beverages' (Scotland) and 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances' (Northern Ireland).
- For imports to England and Scotland the largest annual value increase was in 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'. For Wales the largest increase was in 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' and for Northern Ireland 'Other transport equipment' increased most in value.

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.

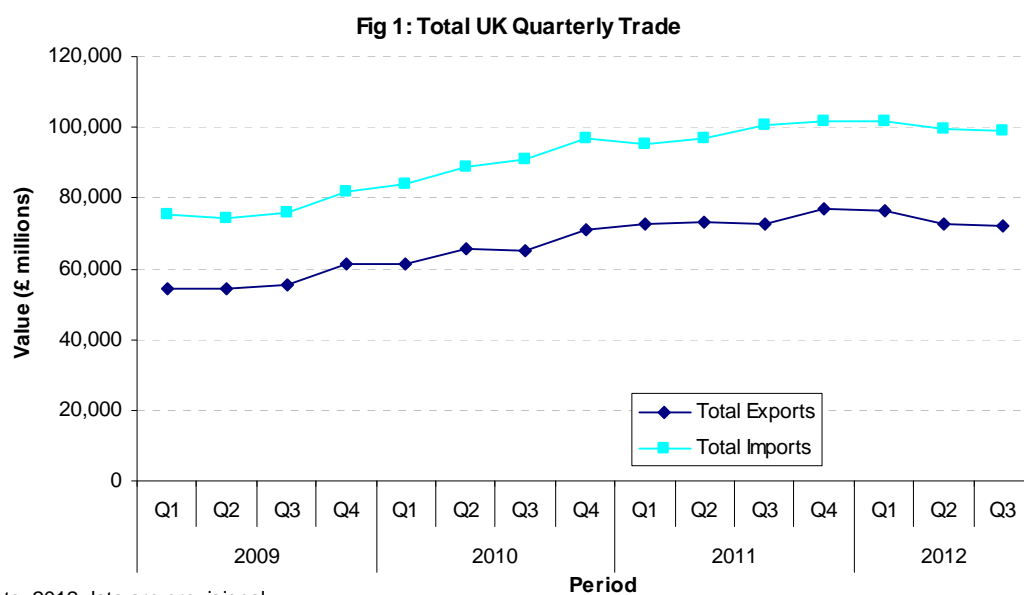
RTS data is categorised by partner country and [Standard International Trade Classification, Rev.4](#). (SITC) at division level (2-digit). The SITC is a relatively broad classification of goods and is not as detailed as the commodity classification available in the OTS. In this release RTS data is analysed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

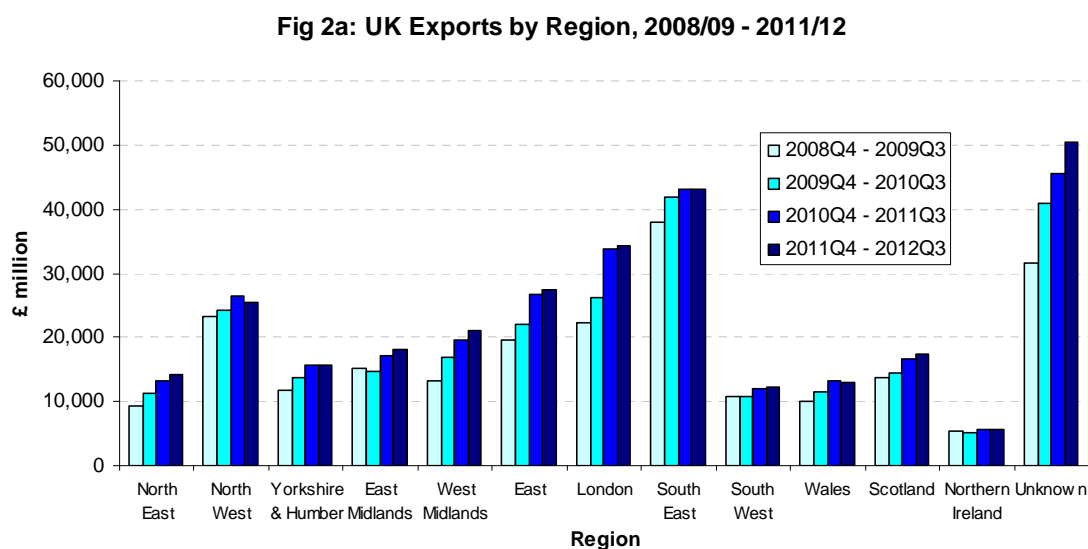
Figure 1 shows the quarterly values of imports to and exports from the UK since 2009. The value of both imports and exports decreased slightly during the third quarter of 2012, with the trade deficit decreasing to £26.8 billion for the quarter. The marginal 0.4 and 0.8 per cent decreases in the value of exports and imports during quarter 3 of 2012 are both less than the decreases seen in 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 September 2009, September 2010, September 2011 and September 2012.



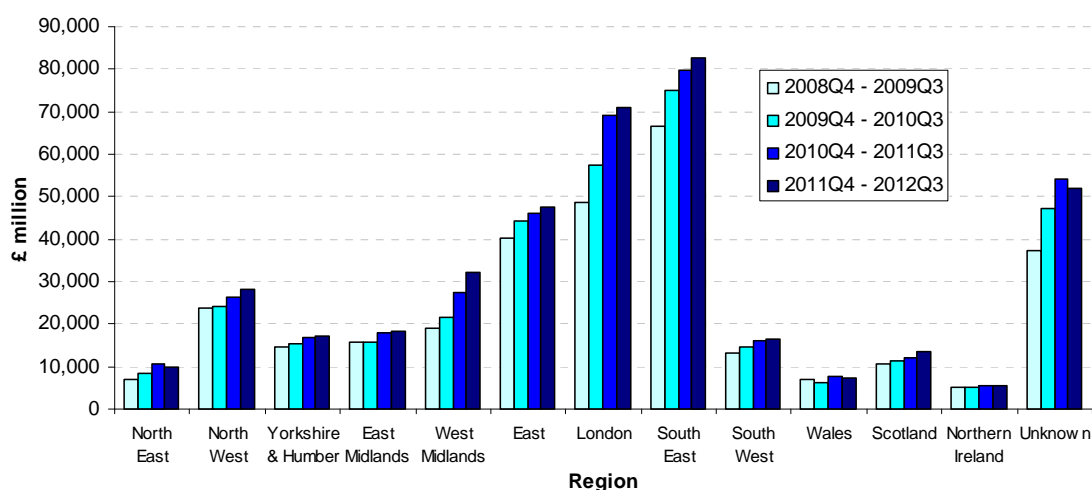
- The total value of UK exports increased by 3.0 per cent to £297.9 billion between September 2011 and September 2012. There was a rise in the value of exports across all countries and regions of the UK apart from the North West, the South East, Wales and Northern Ireland in the year ending September 2012. The total value of exports from England rose by 1.7 per cent to £211.4 billion during the year, the largest increase coming from the 'Machinery & transport equipment' sector. Exports from Scotland rose by 4.0 per cent to £17.4 billion, the largest percentage increase of the four UK countries; this was due mainly to increases in the 'Machinery & transport equipment' and 'Chemicals & related products' sectors. Exports from Wales fell by 2.3 per cent to £13.0 billion; most of the decrease for the year came from the 'Manufactured goods' and 'Machinery & transport equipment' sector. Exports from Northern Ireland fell by 1.6 per cent to £5.6 billion, with the 'Beverages & tobacco' and 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' sectors contributing most of the value decrease. Exports allocated to the 'Unknown region'² amounted to £50.5 billion in the year ending September 2012.
- The South East continues to have the largest total export value of all the English regions (£43.0 billion for the year ending September 2012) and accounts for 20 per cent of total exports from England. This is despite a marginal value decrease of 0.3 per cent in exports from the South East over the annual period.
- Year on year, the largest percentage increase in the English regions was for the West Midlands, whose exports increased by 7.4 per cent to £21.0 billion during the year. However, after a peak in the fourth quarter of 2011, there has been a successive decline in subsequent quarters.
- The South West had the smallest total value of exports of £12.2 billion for the year ending September 2012, 5.8 per cent of England's total. There was an increase in exports from the South West in the third quarter of 2012 compared to the second quarter; this is in contrast to the successive decreases seen in the previous two quarters.

² See note 4

Overview - Imports

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

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



- The total value of UK imports for the year ending September 2012 increased by 3.1 per cent to £402.1 billion compared with the year ending September 2011. There was a rise in import value during the year for all UK regions apart from Wales and the North East. The total value of imports to England rose by 4.3 per cent to £323.8 billion, largely accounted for by sharp increases in the 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' sector. The total value of imports to Scotland rose by 10.8 per cent to £13.4 billion, the highest growth rate of the four UK countries; this was driven by increases in both the 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' sector, and the 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' sector. The total value of imports to Wales fell by 2.8 per cent to £7.5 billion; this was driven by a decrease in imports from the 'Machinery & transport equipment' sector. Total imports to Northern Ireland increased by 1.0 per cent to £5.6 billion; here, growth was largely fuelled by the 'Food & live animals' sector. Imports allocated to the 'Unknown region'³ amounted to £51.8 billion in the year ending September 2012.

³ See note 4

- Within England, the South East continues to have the largest total value of imports. For the year ending September 2012 this was £82.9 billion, 25.6 per cent of England's total. Imports to the South East increased in value by 3.8 per cent during the year, with imports to London increasing by 2.6 per cent. Growth rates for both these regions were lower than in the previous year.
- The largest year-on-year increase among the English regions was for the West Midlands, where imports increased by 17.0 per cent to £32.1 billion. The West Midlands now accounts for 9.9 per cent of England's imports, compared with only 8.8 per cent a year ago.
- The only year-on-year decrease among the English regions was for the North East, where imports declined by 7.6 per cent to £9.9 billion. The North East continues to have the smallest total value of imports of all the English regions; imports to the North East increased slightly during quarter 3 of 2012 following successive decreases in the previous two quarters.

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 September 2012

	Country	Year ending September 2012 Total £ millions	Year ending September 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2011	% Total Exports in year ending September 2012
Top 5	USA	29,874.0	29,195.4	2.3	14.1
	Germany	22,357.2	22,724.1	-1.6	10.6
	France	15,916.3	15,968.5	-0.3	7.5
	Netherlands	12,211.6	12,941.1	-5.6	5.8
	Irish Republic	10,123.8	10,211.1	-0.9	4.8
	Others	120,952.8	116,820.8	3.5	57.2
	Total EU	99,771.6	105,263.5	-5.2	47.2
	Total Non- EU	111,664.2	102,597.6	8.8	52.8
	Grand Total	211,435.8	207,861.1	1.7	100.0

Note: 2012 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

England's top export partner, the USA, is the only one of its top five partners to have seen an increase in export value over the last 12 months. This reverses the pattern of the previous two quarters, when exports to other top five partners were increasing while exports to the USA were declining. This change has been due to an increase in exports to the USA over the last quarter following a decline in the previous two quarters. The annual increase has been led by a rise in exports within SITC division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (up 25.5 per cent during the year).

The Irish Republic has replaced Belgium as England's fifth largest export partner, with exports to Belgium falling by 5.1 per cent over the year. This decline was caused largely by a reduction in exports to Belgium from SITC division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures' (down 28.8 per cent).

The partner countries where exports from England have decreased in value the most over the last 12 months are Italy (down 16.0 per cent), the Netherlands (down 5.6 per cent) and Spain (down 10.5 per cent). The partner countries with the largest increase in value of goods exported from England were South Korea (where export value more than doubled), China (up 17.9 per cent) and Russia (up 34.5 per cent). For South Korea the vast majority of the growth came from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'. For China and Russia these 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 September 2012

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

Note: 2012 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 September 2012. There has been some change in the membership of the top five partners over the last quarter. For the North East, Spain has replaced Germany as the fifth highest export partner. For the East Midlands, Singapore has become the third highest export partner due to a 46.4 per cent increase in export value over the 12 months. For the East, the Irish Republic has replaced the Netherlands as the fifth largest export partner, with exports to the Netherlands falling by 29.3 per cent. In the London region, Switzerland has moved from fifth to third highest export partner following a 21.9 per cent rise in export value during the year.

For every English region the proportion of exports going to non-EU countries has increased over the last year. As a result of this, non-EU exports are now dominant in six of the nine English regions, the only exceptions being the East, the South West

and Yorkshire & Humberside. The majority of the English regions continue to follow a similar pattern to England as a whole, with the USA featuring as the top export partner for seven of the nine regions. All English regions saw an increase in exports to the USA during the year apart from the North West, the South East and the West Midlands. The East and the South West continue to be the only English regions where exports to Germany exceed those going to the USA.

During the year ending September 2012, export value remained fairly static for Yorkshire & Humberside. For all other English regions apart from the South East and North West the value of exports increased during the year. The decline in exports from the South East and North West was mainly due to a decline in goods going to the USA, the top export partner for both regions. The South East also saw a decrease in exports to France and Italy while the North West also experienced decreases in goods going to Spain and Italy. The West Midlands was the English region with the largest increase in export value (up 7.4 per cent to £21.0 billion); this was almost entirely driven by a 51.6 per cent increase in goods going to China, with SITC division 78 'Road vehicles' up 71.9 per cent. Exports from the West Midlands to Russia also rose by 52.6 per cent during the year, again due to an increase in division 78.

Exports to Russia and South Korea have increased for eight out of the nine English regions and exports to China rose in six of the nine regions. Exports to the United Arab Emirates have increased for all regions apart from the South East and Yorkshire & Humberside; the increases were spread over a variety of SITC divisions. Exports to Hong Kong also increased for six of the nine regions.

Exports to Italy and Greece have declined for all English regions over the past year and exports to Spain have fallen for all regions apart from the North East. Exports to Germany have also decreased for seven of the nine regions. Exports to Libya have continued to recover following the crisis in the Middle East which affected imports in 2011; there was an increase in goods going to Libya for all English regions apart from the North East and the West Midlands during the year.

Partner country analysis - Wales

Table 3a: Wales - Top five export partners, year ending September 2012

Country	Year ending September 2012 Total £ millions	Year ending September 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2011	% Total Exports in year ending September 2012
USA	3,311.2	3,288.9	0.7	25.4
Irish Republic	1,531.6	1,357.1	12.9	11.8
Top 5 Germany	809.7	1,049.0	-22.8	6.2
Netherlands	729.0	810.0	-10.0	5.6
United Arab Emirates	632.9	718.9	-12.0	4.9
Others	6,009.0	6,103.1	-1.5	46.1
Total EU	5,203.5	5,790.7	-10.1	40.0
Total Non-EU	7,819.9	7,536.4	3.8	60.0
Grand Total	13,023.4	13,327.1	-2.3	100.0

Note: 2012 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 3a shows that total export value from Wales has decreased by 2.3 per cent during the past year. This follows the slowing of growth reported at the end of the second quarter of 2012. The annual decrease has been due to a successive decline in exports over the last six months. The value of exports from Wales in the third quarter of 2012 was the lowest for two years. Wales' top five partner countries remain the same, although during the last quarter exports to all these countries apart from the Irish Republic have slowed. Exports to the Irish Republic rose by 12.9 per cent during the year, while exports to Germany saw a large decrease of 22.8 per cent. Exports to the USA have remained fairly static over the annual period.

Non-EU partner countries continue to dominate the export market in Wales, receiving 60.0 per cent of goods exported. The USA's share of the export market in Wales has fallen from 26.4 per cent to 25.4 per cent over the last six months; the decline in exports to the USA over the last two quarters was led by decreases in goods from SITC division 72 'Machinery specialized for particular industries' (down 49.5 per cent during the year) and division 59 'Chemical materials & products' (down 46.6 per cent). The Irish Republic remains Wales' second largest partner country; most of the increase during the year came from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up 16.7 per cent).

The United Arab Emirates remains Wales' fifth largest export partner, despite a decline in exports of 12.0 per cent in the last 12 months. Most of the reduction was in division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (down 11.4 per cent) although this was offset by an increase in division 74 'General industrial machinery & equipment', which more than doubled in value.

The partner countries with the largest value decrease in exports from Wales over the year were Germany (down 22.8 per cent) and Spain (down 40.3 per cent). The decrease for Germany was driven by a decline in SITC division 67 'Iron & steel', while for Spain most of the decrease was due to SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'.

Apart from the Irish Republic, partner countries where export values have increased most during the year are Ecuador (up from £0.4 million to £216 million) and Brazil (up from £108 million to £235 million). For Ecuador the increase was almost entirely due to a new market in goods under SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials', which has increased from minimal trade for the year ending September 2011 to £215 million in the last 12 months. For Brazil the increase has been led by large rises in division 33 and division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment'.

Partner country analysis – Scotland

Table 4a: Scotland - Top five export partners, year ending September 2012

Country	Year ending September 2012 Total £ millions	Year ending September 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2011	% Total Exports in year ending September 2012
USA	3,108.1	2,768.4	12.3	17.9
France	1,147.5	1,207.0	-4.9	6.6
Top 5 Germany	962.7	891.6	8.0	5.5
Norway	877.4	843.2	4.1	5.0
Belgium	819.7	702.6	16.7	4.7
Others	10,460.8	10,292.4	1.6	60.2
Total EU	5,925.0	6,063.7	-2.3	34.1
Total Non-EU	11,451.2	10,641.6	7.6	65.9
Grand Total	17,376.2	16,705.3	4.0	100.0

Note: 2012 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Exports from Scotland have increased in value by 4.0 per cent during the 12 months to September 2012 (Table 4a), a higher growth rate than for any other UK country. Exports have increased steadily over the last two quarters following the decrease in the first quarter of 2012. Non-EU partner countries continue to dominate exports from Scotland; almost two-thirds of Scotland's exports by value go to non-EU partners, up from 64 per cent a year ago. Non-EU exports have increased by 7.6 per cent over the year, while EU exports have declined by 2.3 per cent. Scotland's five largest export partner countries remain the same as for the previous two quarters.

Most of the growth during the year has come from increased exports to the USA (up 12.3 per cent, with exports from SITC division 11 'Beverages' up 22.9 per cent). Exports to Belgium have increased by 16.7 per cent during the year, with a six-fold increase in SITC division 51 'Organic chemicals'.

Apart from the USA and Belgium, the partner countries receiving the largest increases in exports from Scotland over the year were China (up 27.0 per cent, with exports from SITC division 78 'Road vehicles' almost doubling in value) and Australia (up 39.4 per cent, with SITC division 67 'Iron & steel' increasing from £1.7 million to £34.2 million).

The biggest value decreases in exports from Scotland were in goods going to Italy (down 23.5 per cent, with SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' down 99.7 per cent) and Spain (down 15.4 per cent, with SITC division 74 'General industrial machinery & equipment' down 56.8 per cent).

Partner country analysis – Northern Ireland

Table 5a: Northern Ireland - Top five export partners, year ending September 2012

	Country	Year ending September 2012 Total £ millions	Year ending September 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2011	% Total Exports in year ending September 2012
Top 5	Irish Republic	2,033.8	2,128.0	-4.4	36.2
	USA	502.1	472.9	6.2	8.9
	Canada	356.4	559.2	-36.3	6.4
	France	244.5	218.8	11.8	4.4
	Germany	209.8	203.7	3.0	3.7
	Others	2,265.0	2,121.6	6.8	40.4
	Total EU	3,124.5	3,248.0	-3.8	55.7
	Total Non-EU	2,487.3	2,456.2	1.3	44.3
	Grand Total	5,611.7	5,704.2	-1.6	100.0

Note: 2012 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 5a shows that exports from Northern Ireland have decreased in value by 1.6 per cent during the 12 months to September 2012. Since the end of 2011 exports from Northern Ireland have declined in each successive quarter. The top five export partners remain the same for the third quarter in succession, with the Irish Republic continuing to dominate Northern Ireland's export market, taking a 36.2 per cent share during the year. This is despite a decline of 4.4 per cent in exports going to the Irish Republic during the last 12 months. In contrast with other UK countries, the majority of Northern Ireland's exports (55.7 per cent) go to the EU; this is largely due to the Irish Republic's dominance as a partner country.

Exports to Canada rose in the third quarter of 2012 following successive decreases in the previous four quarters. The net result was a decrease of 36.3 per cent for the year, the largest decline of all Northern Ireland's partner countries. This was mainly due to a fall in exports from SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (down 79.1 per cent).

Apart from Canada, the partner country with the largest decrease in exports from Northern Ireland during the year was the Irish Republic, with much of the reduction coming from SITC division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' (down 14.8 per cent) and division 11 'Beverages' (down 11.0 per cent).

The decreases have been partly offset by increases in SITC division 59 'Chemical materials & products', where export value more than doubled.

The partner countries with the largest increase in exports from Northern Ireland during the 12 months were Australia (up 31.2 per cent, with SITC division 72 'Machinery specialized for particular industries' up 33.7 per cent) and the USA (up 6.2 per cent, with SITC division 72 up 23.8 per cent). France saw the largest percentage increase of the top five partners (up 11.8 per cent); this was driven by a rise in SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment' from £1.7 million to £50.7 million.

Commodity analysis - England

Table 6a: Top five commodities for export from England - year ending September 2012

SITC section	Description	Year to September 2012 Total £ millions	Year to September 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2011	% Total Exports in year ending September 2012
7	Machinery & transport equipment	84,141.9	80,223.1	4.9	39.8
5	Chemicals & related products	37,603.2	38,921.0	-3.4	17.8
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	28,873.4	26,837.5	7.6	13.7
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	25,119.1	26,252.5	-4.3	11.9
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	18,952.1	19,062.9	-0.6	9.0
Other SITCs		16,746.1	16,564.1	1.1	7.9
All SITCs		211,435.8	207,861.1	1.7	100.0

Note: 2012 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 39.8 per cent of export value. Although section 7 also continues to account for the largest annual value increase of any SITC section, quarterly growth was negative in the first three quarters of 2012. This reduced the annual increase in section 7 to 4.9 per cent compared with 6.7 per cent at the end of the previous quarter. Most of the increase in section 7 during the year came from exports of goods within SITC divisions 78 'Road vehicles' (up 9.1 per

cent) and 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up 9.6 per cent), although both these increases have slowed over the last six months.

Of the top five export commodity groups, only SITC sections 7 and 8 saw increases over the year. For section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' there was a large increase in the third quarter of 2012; most of the annual increase came from division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' and division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' (both up 9 per cent).

The SITC section with the biggest value decrease during the year was section 5 'Chemicals & related products' (down 3.4 per cent). Much of the reduction was attributable to division 51 'Organic chemicals' (down 5.5 per cent) and division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (down 2.1 per cent), largely in goods going to the USA.

Sections 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' and 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' have both declined in value over the year. For section 6 most of the reduction came from divisions 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures' and 68 'Non-ferrous metals', while for section 3 the decrease was driven by division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'.

Twenty-seven of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in export value during the year, the largest reductions coming from division 66 (down 10.2 per cent), division 68 (down 7.2 per cent) and division 75 'Office machines & adp machines' (down 11.1 per cent). These decreases were led by a reduction in goods going to Belgium (division 66), Canada (division 68) and the Netherlands (division 75).

Commodity analysis – English regions

Table 7a - Top five commodities for export from English regions, year ending September 2012

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

Note: 2012 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 quarter. For the East exports from section 3 have exceeded those from section 5 during the year, making section 3 the second highest commodity group. For London, exports from section 7 have overtaken those from section 3, making section 7 the third highest commodity group.

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. Section 7 has also become more prominent in the North East over the past year and now accounts for almost 58 per cent of goods exported. The value of exports from section 7 has increased during the year for every English region apart from the South West, where there was a marginal decrease of 0.3 per

cent. In the West Midlands and North East, division 78 'Road vehicles' dominates the exports from this section; for the South West, division 79 'Other transport equipment' contributes most of the export value within section 7, and for the East Midlands division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' dominates the section. All of these regions saw increases in exports from the respective divisions during the year.

The North West remains the top English region for exports within section 5 'Chemicals and related products', accounting for one third of England's exports from this section; this is despite a decrease of 6.1 per cent in the value of exports from section 5 over the past year, the largest decrease of all the English regions. Most of this decrease was attributable to division 51 'Organic chemicals', which sustained the North West's largest division-level decrease during the year. Decreases in section 5 during the year were also seen in the South East, the East and the North East.

The South East, London and the East are the dominant regions for exports within SITC section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials'. While the East has again seen large increases in export value within this section during the year (up 9.4 per cent) London experienced only a marginal increase (up 0.4 per cent) and the South East saw a decrease of 7.3 per cent. For the East much of the increase was in goods from division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' going to the USA and the Irish Republic. For London, large increases in exports from division 33, led by goods going to South Korea and Germany, were offset by decreases in exports from this division going to Poland and the Netherlands. For the South East, the decrease in section 3 was chiefly due to a reduction in exports from division 33 going to the USA.

For SITC section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' and section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' London is the dominant exporting region. For section 8 London has seen a large increase in export value over the last year (up £1.6 billion, 17.7 per cent); this was led by a rise in goods from division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' going to the USA. In contrast, London's exports from section 6 decreased by £1.4 billion (down 14.2 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 there has been little change in the value of exports from this section over the past year (down 1.1 per cent

for the South West and up 0.2 per cent for the East Midlands). The North West is the most dominant region for exports within section 2 'Crude materials'. Here, a decrease of 13.8 per cent during the year was primarily due to the decline in exports from division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' (down 17.2 per cent), mainly in goods going to Germany.

Apart from Yorkshire & Humberside, all English regions saw a rise in export value for the majority of the sixty-five SITC divisions. For the East the biggest increase was in division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' and for London the biggest increase was in division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere'. For all other regions the largest rises were in divisions within section 7.

For the North East the biggest decrease at division level during the year was in division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'. For the East, the East Midlands and the South West the biggest division-level decreases were within section 7. For Yorkshire & Humberside and London the biggest decreases were in divisions 67 'Iron & Steel' and 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures not specified elsewhere' respectively. The South East saw its largest decrease in division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' while for the West Midlands division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' lost the most value during the year.

Commodity analysis - Wales

Table 8a: Top five commodities for export from Wales, year ending September 2012

SITC section	Description	Year to September 2012 Total £ millions	Year to September 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2011	% Total Exports in year ending September 2012
7	Machinery & transport equipment	4,603.6	4,829.7	-4.7	35.3
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	4,250.0	3,775.0	12.6	32.6
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1,873.8	2,150.0	-12.9	14.4
5	Chemicals & related products	1,250.9	1,417.4	-11.7	9.6
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	737.5	788.0	-6.4	5.7
	Other SITCs	307.7	366.9	-16.2	2.4
	All SITCs	13,023.4	13,327.1	-2.3	100.0

Note: 2012 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 8a shows that exports from Wales decreased in all of the top five SITC sections apart from section 3 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'. Quarterly exports from section 7 have decreased steadily since the start of 2012, resulting in a 4.7 per cent decline over the past year. Most of this reduction was in division 72 'Machinery specialized for particular industries' (down 40.1 per cent during the year) and division 78 'Road vehicles' (down 18.5 per cent).

The largest value increase in exports over the 12 months was for section 3 (up 12.6 per cent). Much of this growth was due to an increase in division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up 12.0 per cent), primarily in goods going to Ecuador. Division 34 'Gas, natural & manufactured' also saw dramatic growth in export value over the year, with a six-fold increase to £54.1 million.

Apart from SITC divisions 33 and 34 the biggest increases in export value during the year came from division 87 'Professional, scientific & controlling instruments & apparatus' (up 8.5 per cent) and division 01 'Meat & meat preparations' (up 74.5 per cent).

Over half of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in export value over the year. The commodity group with the biggest decrease in exports was SITC section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' (down 12.9 per cent); this was largely due to a 15.7 per cent reduction in exports from division 67 'Iron & steel', mainly in goods going to the Netherlands and Germany.

Commodity analysis - Scotland

Table 9a: Top five commodities for export from Scotland, year ending September 2012

SITC section	Description	Year to September 2012 Total £ millions	Year to September 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2011	% Total Exports in year ending September 2012
7	Machinery & transport equipment	5,559.5	5,205.0	6.8	32.0
1	Beverages & tobacco	4,237.6	4,008.3	5.7	24.4
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,132.7	1,993.4	7.0	12.3
5	Chemicals & related products	1,801.5	1,465.1	23.0	10.4
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,414.5	1,418.3	-0.3	8.1
	Other SITCs	2,230.4	2,615.1	-14.7	12.8
	All SITCs	17,376.2	16,705.3	4.0	100.0

Note: 2012 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 9a shows that Scotland's exports are dominated by goods from section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' and section 1 'Beverages & tobacco'. Exports from section 7 have risen steadily over the last six months after a slight dip in the first quarter of 2012. The increases in section 7 came largely from SITC division 74 'General industrial machinery & equipment & machine parts' (up 16.1 per cent) in goods going to the USA and China.

Exports from SITC section 1 have also increased steadily over the last six months, leading to a 5.7 per cent year-on-year increase. However, during the third quarter of 2012 exports from section 1 were less than those in the third quarter of 2011, contrary to the pattern of the previous two years. The vast majority of the increase in section 1 was due to division 11 'Beverages' (up 5.7 per cent during the year) where

exports to the USA increased by 22.9 per cent. Scotland is the most important region of the UK for exports of 'Beverages', maintaining its 63 per cent share of the UK's export value in the third quarter of 2012.

Exports from Scotland within SITC section 5 'Chemicals & related products' have seen a large increase in value of 23.0 per cent during the year, although quarterly levels of exports from this section have declined over the past six months. The annual increase was mainly due to a rise in exports from division 51 'Organic chemicals' (up 92.1 per cent) and division 57 'Plastics in primary forms' (up 47.7 per cent). These increases were led by growth in exports to Belgium.

The 7.0 per cent year-on-year rise in exports from section 6 was less than half that reported at the end of the previous quarter. While exports from division 67 'Iron & steel' saw an increase of 41.3 per cent over the year, there were decreases of 5.3 per cent in division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures' and 7.7 per cent in division 65 'Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, etc.'.

Four of Scotland's SITC sections decreased in export value during the 12 months. The largest decrease was for SITC section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials', which fell by 25.1 per cent due to a slump in exports in quarters 1 and 3 of 2012. The decrease was driven by division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down 28.3 per cent), with exports to Canada down by 78.6 per cent and substantial declines in exports to Italy and Chile. The other large annual decrease was in section 0 'Food & live animals', which declined by 10.2 per cent. The reduction was mainly due to a fall in exports from division 03 'Fish, crustaceans, molluscs & aquatic invertebrates' (down 10.3 per cent) and division 02 'Dairy products & birds' eggs' (down 37.1 per cent).

Commodity analysis – Northern Ireland

Table 10a: Top five commodities for export from Northern Ireland, year ending September 2012

SITC section	Description	Year to September 2012 Total £ millions	Year to September 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2011	% Total Exports in year ending September 2012
7	Machinery & transport equipment	2,340.9	2,368.4	-1.2	41.7
0	Food & live animals	902.5	870.4	3.7	16.1
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	661.7	703.7	-6.0	11.8
5	Chemicals & related products	620.3	583.5	6.3	11.1
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	464.2	487.0	-4.7	8.3
	Other SITCs	622.2	691.2	-10.0	11.1
	All SITCs	5,611.7	5,704.2	-1.6	100.0

Note: 2012 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'. However, growth in this section has declined over the last six months, resulting in a year-on-year decrease of 1.2 per cent. The decline was largely due to a fall in exports from SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (down 24.6 per cent) and division 75 'Office machines & adp machines' (down 93.7 per cent). For division 71 there was a reduction in goods going to Canada, and for division 75 the loss was largely in goods going to Malaysia and Thailand. These decreases were offset by a large increase in division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances' during the year (up 92.9 per cent) with much of the growth in goods going to Malaysia and Thailand.

Only two SITC sections showed an increase in exports during the year – section 5 'Chemicals & related products' (up 6.3 per cent) and section 0 'Food & live animals' (up 3.7 per cent). For both these sections the annual increases were less than those reported at the end of the previous quarter. For section 5 most of the growth came from division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (up 13.6 per cent) where exports to Switzerland, the Ukraine and Colombia have increased during the year. For section 0 growth was largely fuelled by division 01 'Meat & meat preparations' (up 4.7 per cent), division 02 'Dairy products & birds' eggs' (up 2.5 per cent) and

division 08 'Feeding stuff for animals' (up 7.6 per cent); these divisions saw substantial increases in goods going to France (division 01), the Netherlands and Venezuela (division 02), and the Irish Republic (division 08).

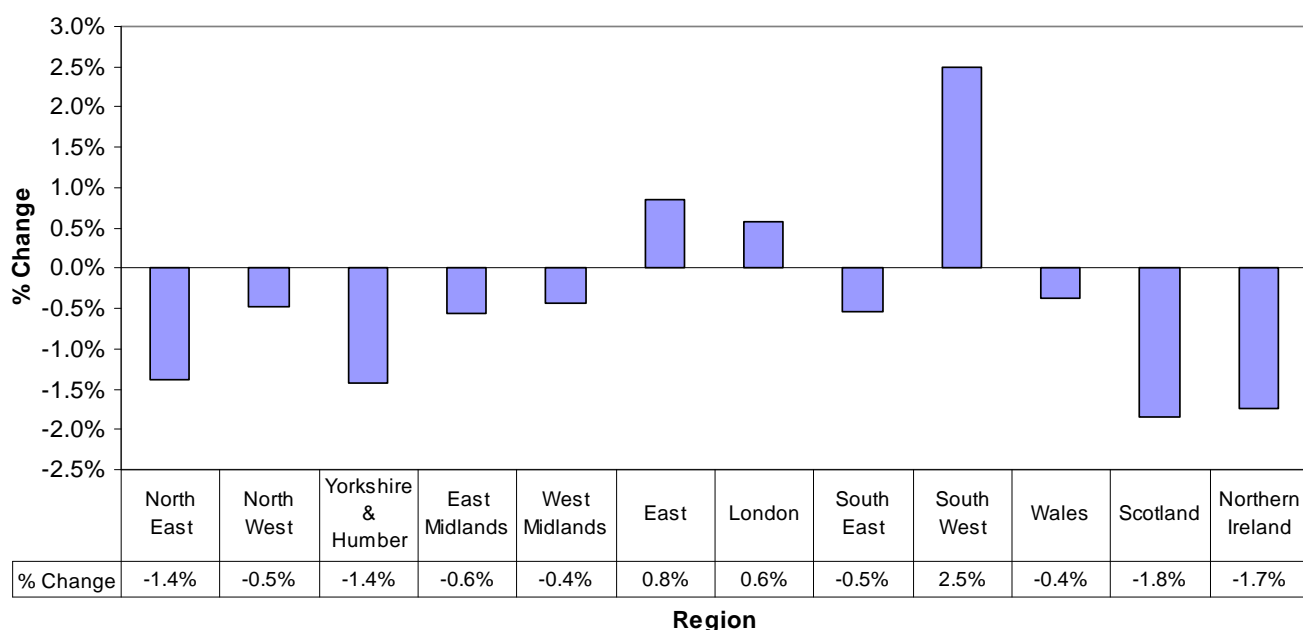
The largest section-level value decrease during the year was for section 1 'Beverages & tobacco' (down 14.8 per cent). This was caused almost entirely by a decline in the value of goods exported within division 12 'Tobacco & tobacco manufactures' which suffered a 93.7 per cent loss during the year, mainly in exports to Germany, Greece, the Irish Republic and Belgium. The other large value decrease during the year was in section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (down 6.0 per cent). This was mainly due to a reduction in exports from division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' going to the Irish Republic.

Number of Businesses - Exports

The following analysis compares the number of active exporters in quarter 3 2012 with the number in quarter 3 2011. 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 3 2011 and quarter 3 2012.

Fig 3a: Percentage Change in Number of Exporters between Q3 2011 and Q3 2012



Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

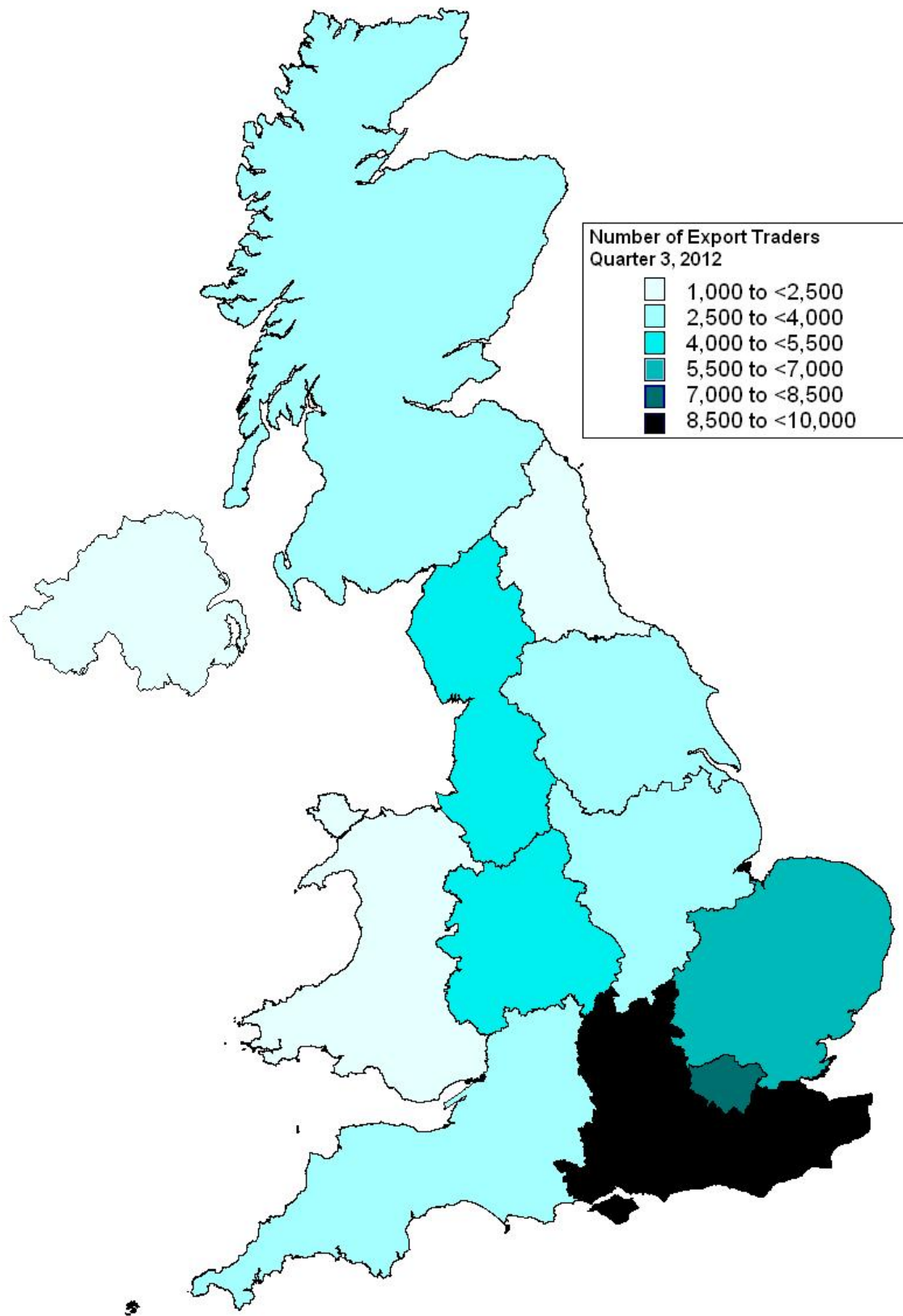
For the UK as a whole, the number of exporting businesses decreased marginally by 0.1 per cent between quarter 3 2011 and quarter 3 2012 from 49,427 to 49,357. This is a negative change compared with the 1.1 per cent increase reported at the end of the last quarter.

Figure 3a shows that the number of active exporters has decreased in all regions of the UK apart from the East, London and the South West between quarter 3 2011 and quarter 3 2012. The South West experienced the largest percentage rise in exporting businesses, 2.5 per cent, while Scotland saw the largest percentage decline, 1.8 per cent.

Most regions saw reduced growth in business numbers at the end of the third quarter of 2012 compared with the change reported at the end of the previous quarter. The only exceptions were the South West and Northern Ireland.

Figure 4a shows the total number of active UK exporters in each region for quarter 3 2012. The South East, London and the East are the three regions with the largest count of businesses, accounting respectively for 17.6 per cent, 16.8 per cent and 11.2 per cent of all UK businesses. There has been little change since quarter 3 of 2011 apart from a slight increase in the proportion of UK businesses exporting from the East and the South West.

Fig 4a: Number of UK export businesses by region - Quarter 3, 2012



Note: 2012 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 September 2012

	Country	Year ending September 2012 Total £ millions	Year ending September 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2011	% Total Imports in year ending September 2012
Top 5	Germany	41,711.9	39,072.7	6.8	12.9
	China	26,950.2	25,471.8	5.8	8.3
	USA	26,615.3	25,717.5	3.5	8.2
	Norway	20,607.7	19,405.1	6.2	6.4
	Netherlands	20,309.5	19,134.7	6.1	6.3
	Others	187,627.0	181,816.1	3.2	57.9
	Total EU	151,407.7	148,061.3	2.3	46.8
	Total Non-EU	172,413.8	162,556.6	6.1	53.2
	Grand Total	323,821.5	310,617.9	4.3	100.0

Note: 2012 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 1b shows that imports from all the top five partner countries have increased in value during the last year. Germany remains the top import partner for England; imports from Germany have seen a 6.8 per cent annual increase, led by a rise of 9.8 per cent in SITC division 78 'Road vehicles'. China remains the second highest import partner after attaining this position at the end of 2011.

Growth in imports from Norway has slowed in the last six months, with the annual growth rate now 6.2 per cent compared with 28.8 per cent at the end of the previous quarter. This decline has been mainly due to a lower growth rate in imports from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'. Imports from the USA have increased by 3.5 per cent during the year, despite a decline over the past six months.

Overall, England's imports increased in value by 4.3 per cent over the 12 month period. The value of imports from outside the EU has risen more sharply than that from EU countries. Germany and Nigeria were the two countries that contributed most to the overall increase. Imports from both Nigeria and Algeria more than doubled over the year, in both cases mainly due to a large increase in goods coming from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'.

The partner countries where the value of imports decreased the most were Qatar (down 20.8 per cent) and Canada (down 16.1 per cent). For Qatar the reduction was led by a decrease in SITC division 34 'Gas, natural & manufactured' (down 23.1 per cent) while for Canada the decline was due largely to a decrease in division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' (down 83.1 per cent).

Partner country analysis – English regions

Table 2b: Top five import partners for the English regions, year ending September 2012

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

Note: 2012 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 annual period ending September 2012. Unlike the pattern for exports, where the English regions are broadly similar to England as a whole, the pattern for imports shows more differences between the regions. 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. The USA and Germany are among the top five import partners for every English region, and China is in the top three for all regions except the North East and the East.

The most striking change since the previous quarter is that China has become the top import partner for the North West and the East Midlands, overtaking Germany in both cases. China has also become the third highest import partner for the South East, overtaking Belgium. The other notable change is that the USA has become the top import partner for London, overtaking Norway and China; the USA has also regained its position as second highest import partner for the East, with the Irish Republic dropping back to third highest.

Imports from the USA have risen for all regions apart from the East and the North West during the past year. Imports from Germany have risen for all regions apart from the South West.

Every region of England apart from the North East saw an increase in the value of imports during the year to September 2012. By far the largest percentage increase was in the West Midlands, where imports were up 17.0 per cent due to a sharp rise in imports from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' coming from Norway (up 45.7 per cent). In contrast, the North East saw a 7.6 per cent decrease in import value over the year, mainly due to a 61.6 per cent decline in imports from Norway, with imports from division 33 down 73.6 per cent.

England's import trade continues to be dominated by the South East and London; the South East accounted for 25.6 per cent of England's imports by value during the year, while London accounted for 21.9 per cent. London's imports increased in value by 2.6 per cent during the year, while the South East saw an increase of 3.8 per cent. These increases were lower than those reported at the end of the previous quarter, and were lower than the annual import growth rate for England as a whole (4.3 per cent).

For the majority of regions most of the import value comes from goods received from outside the EU; the only exceptions are the East, the South East and the North West. For the East, strong growth in non-EU imports during the year (up 10.1 per cent) combined with a slight decrease in EU imports (down 0.6 per cent) has reduced the EU market share to 59.6 per cent compared with 62.0 per cent a year ago. The

pattern is similar in the South East, where the EU market share has fallen to 52.6 per cent from 54.2 per cent a year ago. Import growth has been stronger in non-EU imports for all regions apart from London, the North East and Yorkshire & Humberside; the North East was the only region to experience a decline in non-EU imports during the year (down 14.1 per cent).

London continues to receive imports from a diverse range of countries, with almost two-thirds of goods coming from countries outside the top five. The most important of these in terms of trade value are France, Switzerland, Qatar and Hong Kong. London's imports from China have increased in value by 12.6 per cent during the year; this was the largest value increase in imports from China of all the English regions. In contrast London experienced a 16.5 per cent decrease in imports from Norway during the year, led by a decline in goods received from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'.

Within the top five countries for all the English regions, the strongest growth rate for the year for the North East, the East Midlands and Yorkshire & Humberside was in imports from the USA; the highest growth rate for the South West and the South East was in imports from the Netherlands, while for the East the growth rate was strongest in imports from the Irish Republic (up 14.6 per cent).

Partner country analysis – Wales

Table 3b: Wales - Top five import partners, year ending September 2012

	Country	Year ending September 2012 Total £ millions	Year ending September 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2011	% Total Imports in year ending September 2012
Top 5	Canada	882.3	697.7	26.5	11.8
	Germany	764.0	649.9	17.6	10.2
	USA	730.1	690.7	5.7	9.8
	China	513.1	637.8	-19.6	6.9
	Brazil	494.3	714.5	-30.8	6.6
	Others	4,101.1	4,308.8	-4.8	54.8
	Total EU	2,801.7	2,688.0	4.2	37.4
	Total Non-EU	4,683.2	5,011.4	-6.5	62.6
	Grand Total	7,484.9	7,699.4	-2.8	100.0

Note: 2012 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Imports to Wales decreased in value by 2.8 per cent during the year, the only negative import growth rate among the UK countries. This decline was largely due to a 30.8 per cent decrease in imports from Brazil, with Brazil moving down from fourth to fifth largest import partner; most of the reduction has been in goods from SITC division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' (down 36.7 per cent). Imports from China have also declined during the year (down 19.6 per cent), largely due to a decrease in goods coming from SITC division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories'. For both Brazil and China the annual decreases were more pronounced than those reported at the end of the previous quarter.

Wales has also seen large decreases in goods imported from the Netherlands (down 20.6 per cent) and Mexico (down 93.3 per cent) during the year. For the Netherlands much of the decrease was in SITC division 67 'Iron and steel' while for Mexico SITC division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment' contributed most to the decline.

Although imports from Canada increased by 26.5 per cent during the year, this increase was considerably less than that reported at the end of the previous quarter; this was due to import value decreasing steadily over the last nine months after peaking in the second quarter of 2011. Most of the increase during the year came from SITC division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap'. Apart from Canada, the partner countries whose imports to Wales increased the most during the 12 month period were Germany (up 17.6 per cent) and Sweden, where imports more than doubled. For Germany the increase was led by a 51.0 per cent rise in SITC division 67 'Iron & steel', while for Sweden most of the growth came from division 28.

Partner country analysis – Scotland

Table 4b: Scotland - Top five import partners, year ending September 2012

	Country	Year ending September 2012 Total £ millions	Year ending September 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2011	% Total Imports in year ending September 2012
Top 5	USA	2,160.1	1,934.6	11.7	16.1
	Norway	1,754.3	1,195.9	46.7	13.1
	China	1,156.9	1,076.2	7.5	8.6
	Germany	661.7	635.0	4.2	4.9
	Netherlands	650.0	735.2	-11.6	4.9
	Others	7,009.2	6,505.8	7.7	52.3
	Total EU	3,879.4	3,649.0	6.3	29.0
	Total Non-EU	9,512.8	8,433.7	12.8	71.0
	Grand Total	13,392.2	12,082.7	10.8	100.0

Note: 2012 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Imports to Scotland have increased in value by 10.8 per cent during the year; this was the strongest growth rate of all the UK countries and considerably higher than the 3.1 per cent average for the UK. The USA remains Scotland's top import partner, with an increase of 11.7 per cent over the year; this was over double the rate of increase reported at the end of the previous quarter. Imports from the USA that increased the most in value during the year were from SITC division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes'. Imports from Norway increased by 46.7 per cent, almost double the rate of increase reported at the end of the previous quarter. Most of this increase came from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up 49.9 per cent). This has increased Norway's share of Scotland's import market to 13.1 per cent compared with 9.9 per cent a year ago. This large increase for Norway has contributed to a general rise in the proportion of Scotland's imports coming from non-EU countries; around 71.0 per cent are now from non-EU partners, compared with 69.8 per cent a year ago.

Scotland's imports from China continued to recover during the third quarter of 2012, increasing by 7.5 per cent during the last 12 months. Much of the increase has been in SITC division 62 'Rubber manufactures'. Outside the top five partner countries, Scotland has seen a five-fold increase in imports from Algeria during the year, mainly due to a rise in division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'.

In contrast to the other top five import partners, imports from the Netherlands have declined during the year (down 11.6 per cent). This was mainly the result of a reduction in goods received from SITC division 75 'Office machines & adp machines'. Other partner countries whose imports to Scotland have decreased substantially during the year are Nigeria (down 19.5 per cent) and Colombia (down 39.7 per cent). These decreases were led by reductions in division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (Nigeria) and division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes' (Colombia).

Partner country analysis – Northern Ireland

Table 5b: Northern Ireland - Top five import partners, year ending September 2012

	Country	Year ending September 2012 Total £ millions	Year ending September 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2011	% Total Imports in year ending September 2012
Top 5	Irish Republic	1,555.4	1,645.5	-5.5	27.9
	China	918.6	910.6	0.9	16.5
	USA	430.8	421.7	2.2	7.7
	Germany	301.3	301.3	0.0	5.4
	Netherlands	273.7	255.9	7.0	4.9
	Others	2,090.6	1,978.9	5.6	37.5
	Total EU	3,126.8	3,133.2	-0.2	56.1
	Total Non-EU	2,443.6	2,380.7	2.6	43.9
	Grand Total	5,570.3	5,513.9	1.0	100.0

Note: 2012 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 5b shows that Northern Ireland differs from England, Wales and Scotland in that the majority of its import trade (56.1 per cent) is with the EU; this is largely due to a substantial proportion of imports being received from the Irish Republic. However, the percentage of imports received from the EU has fallen slightly in the last year due to a combination of growth in non-EU imports and a marginal decline in EU imports.

Northern Ireland has seen low growth of 1.0 per cent in the value of its imports during the year. This increase is lower than the UK average of 3.1 per cent. Although imports to Northern Ireland are dominated by goods from the Irish Republic, there has been a 5.5 per cent decrease in the value of imports from here during the year;

much of the decrease was in SITC division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' where imports reduced in value by 41.7 per cent. The Irish Republic's share of Northern Ireland's import market has fallen to 27.9 per cent for the year, compared with 29.8 per cent for the previous year.

Northern Ireland's imports from China increased by 0.9 per cent during the year, a much lower growth rate than the 4.8 per cent increase reported at the end of the previous quarter. Imports from China from SITC division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances' went up by 20.1 per cent, but this was offset by a decrease in goods received from SITC division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories'

Imports from the USA have risen during the last quarter, resulting in an annual increase of 2.2 per cent. Most of the increase during the year came from SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up 28.0 per cent).

The largest increases in imports to Northern Ireland during the year were from Spain (SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment' almost trebling in value) and Turkey (SITC division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' up 38.4 per cent). Apart from the Irish Republic, the partners with the largest value decreases in imports during the year were India (down 12.1 per cent) and Canada (down 14.8 per cent).

Commodity analysis - England

Table 6b: Top five commodities for import to England, year ending September 2012

SITC section	Description	Year to September 2012 Total £ millions	Year to September 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2011	% Total Imports in year ending September 2012
7	Machinery & transport equipment	108,094.9	103,160.5	4.8	33.4
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	51,241.2	43,090.4	18.9	15.8
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	50,624.1	50,459.5	0.3	15.6
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	39,306.7	39,430.7	-0.3	12.1
5	Chemicals & related products	37,820.0	37,695.9	0.3	11.7
	Other SITCs	36,734.6	36,780.9	-0.1	11.3
	All SITCs	323,821.5	310,617.9	4.3	100.0

Note: 2012 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 one third of total import value. Section 7 has shown an increase of 4.8 per cent over the year, compared with an average growth rate of 4.3 per cent across all sections. Within this section, the largest increases were in division 78 'Road vehicles' (up 5.3 per cent) and division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up 11.1 per cent). For division 78 most of the increase was in imports from Germany, while for division 71 the rise was led by increases in goods coming from the USA.

All of the top five SITC sections apart from section 6 increased in value during the year, although the increases were only marginal for sections 8 and 5. By far the largest section-level value increase over the year was in section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (up 18.9 per cent) where the rise was led by growth in the value of imports from division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up 25.7 per cent), with imports from Nigeria and Algeria increasing substantially in value. As always, the fluctuations in the price of petroleum products play a large part in the changes in value within this section. Despite the large annual increase, the value of imports from section 3 has declined over the last two quarters.

Section 6 declined marginally in value during the year (down 0.3 per cent); this was a turnaround after the 5.8 per cent growth reported at the end of the previous quarter. The decrease was largely due to reductions in division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures' (down 7.5 per cent) and division 64 'Paper, paperboard & manufactures thereof' (down 9.0 per cent) in goods coming from Botswana and Finland respectively.

The section with the largest value decrease over the year was section 2 'Crude materials, inedible, except fuels' (down 12.3 per cent). Most of the decline was contributed by division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' (down 22.4 per cent), where imports from the USA reduced considerably.

Twenty-one of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in import value over the 12 months. The largest division-level value decrease was in division 34 'Gas, natural & manufactured' (down 16.8 per cent), with imports from Qatar down 23.1 per cent. Apart from divisions 33, 78 and 71, the largest value increases were in division 76 'Telecomms & sound-recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment' (up 4.3 per cent) and division 75 'Office machines & adp machines' (up 6.8 per cent).

Commodity analysis – English regions

Table 7b - Top five commodities for import to English regions, year ending September 2012

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	3 - Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials
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 & Humberside	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	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	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	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	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material
South West	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	0 - Food & live animals	5 - Chemicals & related products

Note: 2012 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 a number of changes in the order of the top five sections in the last quarter. For the North East the value of imports from section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' has declined by 59.4 per cent, moving it from second to fifth highest section by value. In contrast, for the North West imports from section 3 have risen by 42.0 per cent during the year, moving it from fourth to second highest section by value. The East has also seen a large increase in imports from section 3 (up 35.3 per cent) moving it from fourth to third highest-valued section. Although the West Midlands saw a 46.0 per cent increase in imports from section 3 during the year, this section was still exceeded by section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' (up 15.8 per cent), which remains in the top position. For Yorkshire & Humberside section 0 'Food & live animals' has moved from fifth to fourth highest-valued section after a rise of 7.0 per cent during the year.

Section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' has seen large rises in import value during the year in virtually all English regions. The main exception is the North East, where imports within section 3 have decreased in value by 59.4 per cent. The most dramatic increase was for the West Midlands, where the 46.0 per cent annual growth was mainly due to imports from division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' from Norway (up 45.7 per cent). However, the growth in section 3 for the West Midlands has declined over the last quarter. For the North West (section 3 up 42 per cent) and the East (section 3 up 35.3 per cent) the increase came from division 33, while for the South West (section 3 up 53.7 per cent) the increase came from division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes'.

Section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' remains the most dominant section for imports in seven of the nine regions, as it is for exports. All regions have seen a rise in import value for section 7 during the year except for the East (down 3.3 per cent), where there was a decline in imports from division 78 'Road vehicles' (down 5.1 per cent). The regions with the most significant increases were the West Midlands (up 15.8 per cent), London (up 9.7 per cent), the East Midlands (up 9.6 per cent) and the North East (up 9.5 per cent). For the West Midlands, division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances' and division 78 contributed most of the value increase; for the North East the main contributor was division 78; for London most of the increase was from division 75 'Office machines & adp machines' and division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment'; for the East Midlands the main contributor was division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment'.

For section 5 'Chemicals & related products' the South East, the North West and the East remain the top importing regions. The East has seen a rise of 14.1 per cent over the year, mainly due to increased imports from SITC division 51 'Organic chemicals' (up 24.0 per cent, with imports from the Irish Republic up 27.5 per cent) and division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (up 12.1 per cent, with imports from the USA up 81.9 per cent). Imports to the North West within section 5 rose by 2.7 per cent with much of the increase coming from SITC division 54 (up 24.1 per cent). However, the South East experienced a decrease of 6.3 per cent in imports from section 5 over the year. This was predominantly due to a 13.1 per cent decrease in division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products'.

Imports from section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' increased for five of the nine regions, with the highest growth rates for the year coming from the North East (up 13.3 per cent) and the West Midlands (up 5.5 per cent). For the North East a large proportion of the increase was from division 67 'Iron & steel' in goods coming from Germany. For the West Midlands the increase was led by division 69 'Manufactures of metal' and division 68 'Non-ferrous metals' in goods coming from the Netherlands and Belgium respectively.

Imports from section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' increased for five of the nine regions, although most of the increases were relatively small. The largest growth was for the West Midlands (up 3.4 per cent) where division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' increased by 7.1 per cent, mainly in goods coming from Switzerland and India. The region with the biggest decrease in imports from section 8 was the East (down 4.6 per cent), mainly due to a reduction in goods within division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' coming from China.

Commodity analysis – Wales

Table 8b: Top five commodities for import to Wales, year ending September 2012

SITC section	Description	Year to September 2012 Total £ millions	Year to September 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2011	% Total Imports in year ending September 2012
2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	1,878.0	1,697.2	10.7	25.1
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1,773.1	1,804.4	-1.7	23.7
7	Machinery & transport equipment	1,396.8	1,612.7	-13.4	18.7
5	Chemicals & related products	976.2	1,029.8	-5.2	13.0
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	628.0	704.3	-10.8	8.4
	Other SITCs	832.9	850.9	-2.1	11.1
	All SITCs	7,484.9	7,699.4	-2.8	100.0

Note: 2012 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 8b shows that section 2 'Crude materials, inedible, except fuels' is the top commodity group for Wales; during the last 12 months this was the only top five section that increased in value (up 10.7 per cent). The rise was almost entirely due to growth of 11.2 per cent in division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap'; this increase was driven by growth in imports from Canada (up 38.1 per cent). Section 2 now accounts for over one quarter of imports to Wales, up from 22.0 per cent a year ago. The increase over the year in division 28 is in contrast to the decline in imports from this division seen in England and Scotland.

Section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' had the largest annual value decrease (down 13.4 per cent); this marked a further decline following the 9.4 per cent decrease reported at the end of the previous quarter. The decline was brought about by reductions in SITC division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment' (down 60.1 per cent over the last year), mainly in goods coming from France and Mexico.

The second largest value decrease was for section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (down 10.8 per cent) where imports from division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' decreased by 48.1 per cent over the year; this was largely due to a reduction in goods coming from China.

The value of imports from section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' has decreased during the year by 1.7 per cent. Most of the reduction has come from division 67 'Iron & steel' (down 9.9 per cent over the year) in goods coming from the Netherlands and Russia.

Commodity analysis – Scotland

Table 9b: Top five commodities for import to Scotland, year ending September 2012

SITC section	Description	Year to September 2012 Total £ millions	Year to September 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2011	% Total Imports in year ending September 2012
7	Machinery & transport equipment	4,922.9	4,858.4	1.3	36.8
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	2,704.0	2,104.8	28.5	20.2
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1,883.1	1,392.8	35.2	14.1
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,676.6	1,462.8	14.6	12.5
0	Food & live animals	967.9	1,045.6	-7.4	7.2
Other SITCs		1,237.7	1,218.3	1.6	9.2
All SITCs		13,392.2	12,082.7	10.8	100.0

Note: 2012 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 this section's share of Scotland's imports has reduced to 36.8 per cent compared with 40.2 per cent a year ago. The slight increase (1.3 per cent) in value for section 7 over the year was mainly due to growth in division 74 'General industrial machinery & equipment' (up 21.0 per cent); this growth was countered by a reduction in SITC division 75 'Office machines & adp machines' (down 11.3 per cent). The growth in division 74 was driven by imports from Norway while the decline in division 75 was caused largely by reduced imports from the Netherlands.

Scotland saw increases in the value of imports for all SITC sections apart from sections 0 'Food & live animals' and 2 'Crude materials' during the year. The section that increased most in value over the year was section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (up 28.5 per cent), with imports from division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' up 26.7 per cent; the growth in this division was primarily due to a rise in imports from Norway and Algeria. SITC division 32 'Coke, coal & briquettes' has seen an increase of 21.6 per cent during the year; much of this increase was due to imports from Sri Lanka (up from nil to £141.6 million).

The value of imports from section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' has continued to grow strongly during the year (up 35.2 per cent). Over the 12 month period there were large increases in imports from divisions 67 'Iron & steel' (up 70.8 per cent) and 64 'Paper, paperboard & manufactures thereof' (up 76.0 per cent). For division 67 the increase was mainly in goods from Italy, Japan, the USA and Germany, whereas for division 64 most of the increase was in goods from Finland.

The section with the largest decrease in value during the year was section 0 'Food & live animals' (down 7.4 per cent). The reduction over the year was mainly attributable to division 02 'Dairy products & birds' eggs' (down 73.0 per cent, with imports from France down 96.0 per cent) and division 08 'Feeding stuff for animals' (down 20.2 per cent, with imports from Brazil down 55.3 per cent).

Commodity analysis – Northern Ireland

Table 10b: Top five commodities for import to Northern Ireland, year ending September 2012

SITC section	Description	Year to September 2012 Total £ millions	Year to September 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2011	% Total Imports in year ending September 2012
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,515.7	1,585.0	-4.4	27.2
7	Machinery & transport equipment	1,127.2	1,027.9	9.7	20.2
0	Food & live animals	958.1	840.4	14.0	17.2
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	761.1	776.5	-2.0	13.7
5	Chemicals & related products	472.3	484.4	-2.5	8.5
Other SITCs		735.9	799.7	-8.0	13.2
All SITCs		5,570.3	5,513.9	1.0	100.0

Note: 2012 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' remains Northern Ireland's top import section by value, despite a 4.4 per cent decrease over the last year. The majority of the decline came from SITC division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured

articles not specified elsewhere' (down 26.7 per cent) with a reduction of 41.7 per cent in goods coming from the Irish Republic.

Northern Ireland also saw a decline in imports from section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' (down 2.0 per cent) and section 5 'Chemicals & related products' (down 2.5 per cent). For section 6 the decrease was chiefly caused by a reduction in imports from division 68 'Non-ferrous metals' (down 20.1 per cent) and division 63 'Cork & wood manufactures' (down 8.9 per cent). For section 5 the reduction was mainly in imports from division 59 'Chemical materials & products' (down 35.1 per cent) and division 57 'Plastics in primary form' (down 27.6 per cent).

Section 0 'Food & live animals' had the largest increase in value for the year (up 14.0 per cent); this was spread between imports within SITC division 04 'Cereals & cereal preparations' (up 51.8 per cent, with imports from France almost trebling), division 08 'Feeding stuff for animals' (up 19.9 per cent with imports from the Irish Republic up 65.1 per cent) and division 01 'Meat and meat preparations' (up 11.4 per cent, with imports from the Irish Republic up 8.8 per cent).

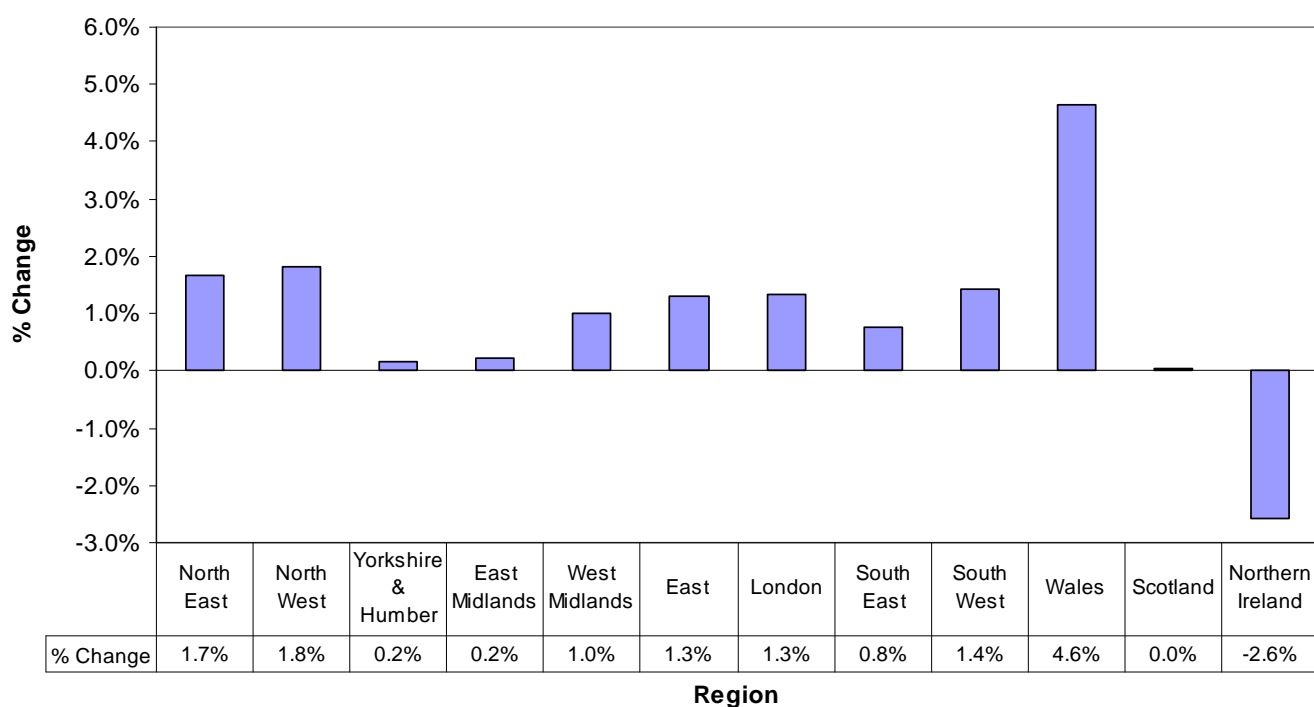
Section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' saw the second largest value increase for the year (up 9.7 per cent). This rise was greater than the 6.8 per cent annual increase reported at the end of the previous quarter. Most of the increase was contributed by division 79 'Other transport equipment' (up 68.4 per cent) with a substantial rise in the value of goods coming from Spain.

Number of Businesses – Imports

The following analysis compares the number of active importers in quarter 3 2012 with the number in quarter 3 2011. 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 3 2011 and quarter 3 2012.

Fig 3b: Percentage Change in Number of Importers between Q3 2011 and Q3 2012



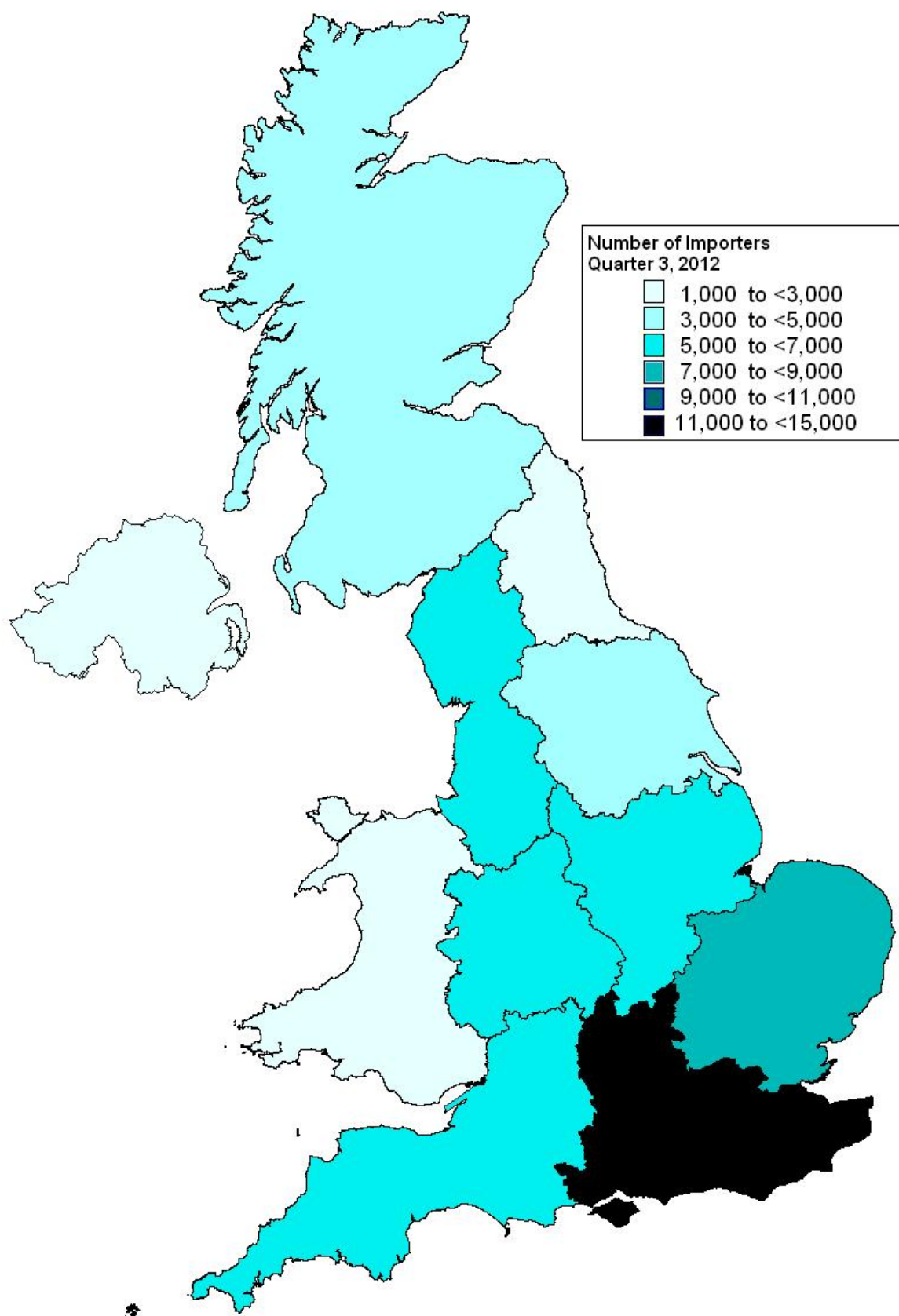
Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

In the UK as a whole, the number of importing businesses increased by 1.0 per cent between quarter 3 2011 and quarter 3 2012 to 68,481. This was a smaller increase than the 2.4 per cent growth reported at the end of the previous quarter.

Figure 3b shows that the number of active importers increased in every region of the UK apart from Northern Ireland between quarter 3 2011 and quarter 3 2012. However, many of the increases were marginal; there were rises of less than 1 per cent in Yorkshire & Humberside, the East Midlands, the South East and Scotland. The largest increase in active importers was in Wales (up 79, 4.6 per cent), while Northern Ireland saw a decrease of 2.6 per cent.

Figure 4b shows the total number of active UK importers in each region for quarter 3, 2012. London, the South East and the East are the three regions with the largest count of importers, accounting for 19.5 per cent, 17.2 per cent and 10.8 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.

Fig 4b: Number of UK import businesses by region - Quarter 3, 2012



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

Notes

1. The latest statistics on Regional Trade were released on 06 December 2012 by HM Revenue & Customs under arrangements set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#). This release includes the first provisional estimates of trade-in-goods for Quarter 3 2012. At the same time revisions for all previously published regional data for 2012 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 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. 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 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-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](#).

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