



HM Revenue
& Customs

Coverage:
United Kingdom

Theme:
Business and Energy

Released:
03 March 2016

Next Release:
07 June 2016

Frequency of release:
Quarterly

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HM Revenue and Customs

Regional Trade Statistics

Fourth Quarter 2015

Summary

In the year to December 2015, the value of UK trade in goods exports fell by 2.7 per cent. Similarly, imports fell by 2.4 per cent.

In the year to December 2015:

- Of the four UK countries, only England and Northern Ireland saw an increase in the value of exports.
- Northern Ireland was also the only country that saw an increase in the value of imports.
- There was a decrease in annual export value for all English regions except the West Midlands, London, South East and South West.
- There was a decrease in annual import value for the North West, the West Midlands and the East. All other English regions increased.

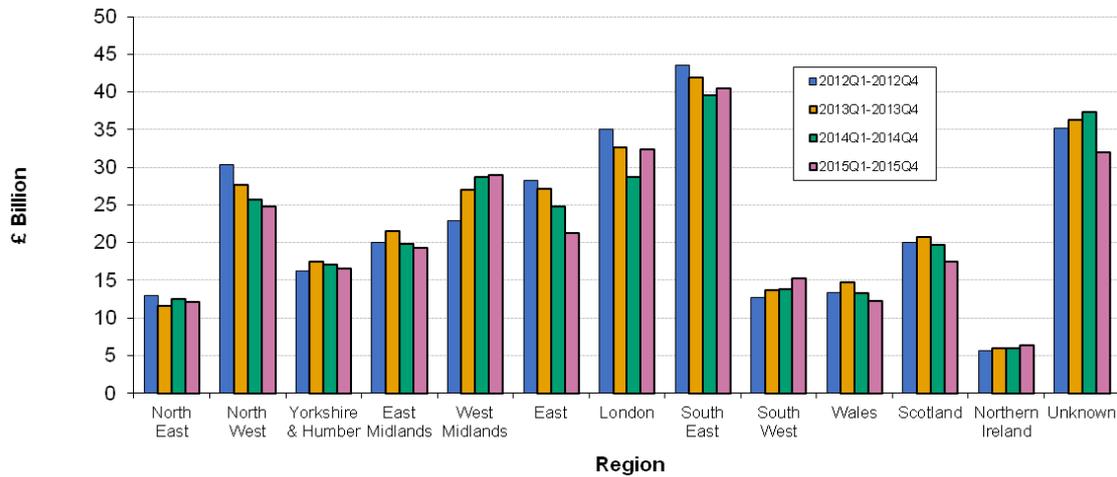
When comparing **quarter 4 2015 with quarter 4 2014**:

- The value of UK exports decreased by 5.8 per cent whilst imports decreased by 3.8 per cent.
- The value of exports increased for Northern Ireland but fell for England, Wales and Scotland. Exports decreased in all English regions apart from London and the South West.
- The number of exporters rose for all UK countries except Scotland. They rose for all English regions except the East Midlands and West Midlands.
- The value of imports fell for all UK countries. Imports increased in the East and London but decreased in all other English regions.
- The number of importers rose for all UK countries and all English regions.

Overview - Exports

The total annual value of UK exports decreased by 2.7 per cent to £279 billion in the year ending December 2015.

Figure 1: UK Exports by Region, 2012 Q1 – 2015 Q4



Note: 2015 data are provisional
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Figure 1 shows the total value of UK exports by region for the four annual periods ending December 2012, December 2013, December 2014 and December 2015.

When comparing the annual period ending December 2015 with the annual period ending December 2014.

- Value of exports from England and Northern Ireland increased but Wales and Scotland decreased during the year.
- Five of the nine English regions experienced decreases in the value of exports, just the West Midlands, London, the South East and the South West saw increases.

When comparing the annual period ending December 2012 with year December 2015, there was a decrease of UK exports from £296 billion to £279 billion. This is a drop of £17.0 billion or 5.7 per cent.

- Value of exports from England, Wales and Scotland decreased during this period by 4.8 per cent, 8.3 per cent and 12.9 per cent respectively. There was an increase of 11 per cent in exports from Northern Ireland.
- Value of exports from three English regions saw an increase; Yorkshire and the Humber, the West Midlands and the South West. All the others saw a decrease.

Figure 2: UK Exports by country / region, year ending Q4 2015 – percentage of value

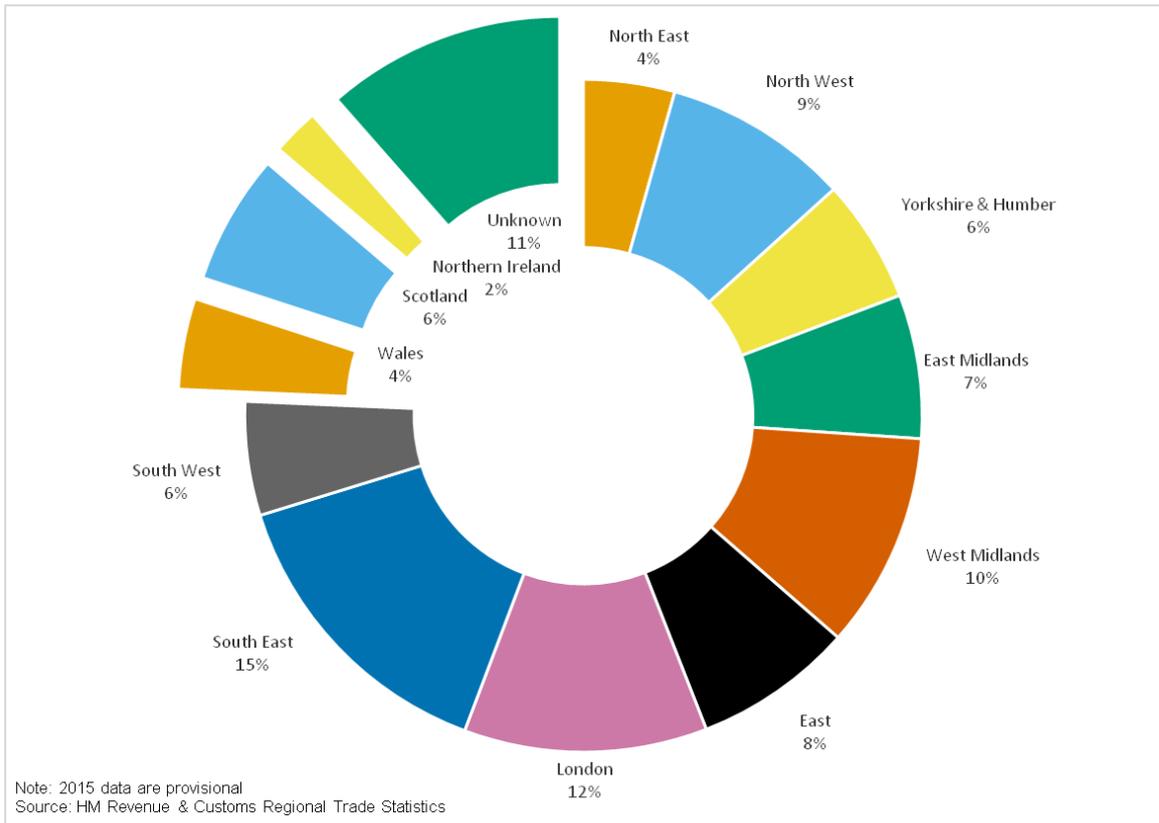
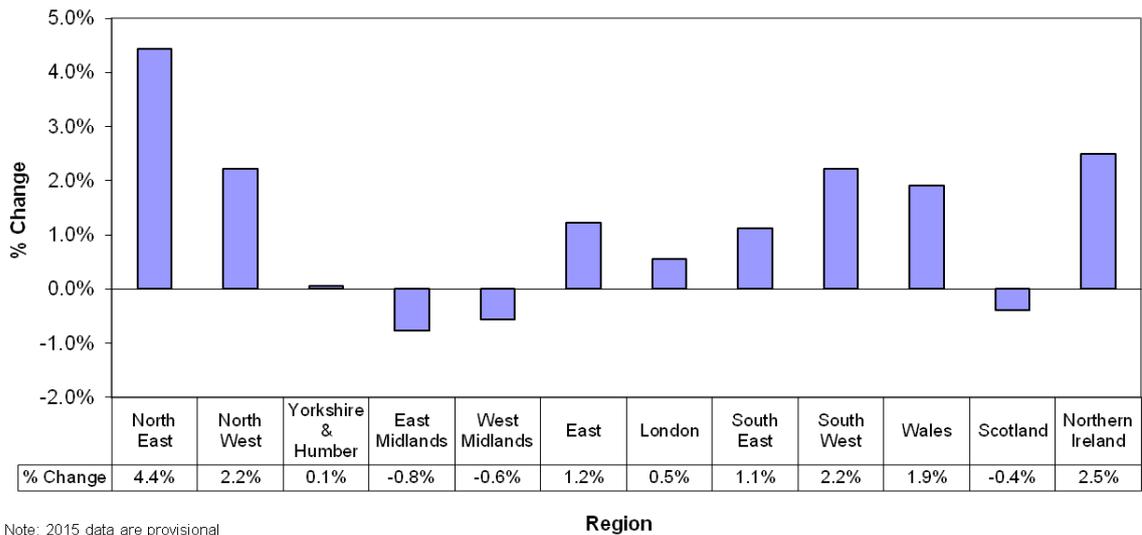


Figure 2 shows the breakdown by region of UK exports for the 12 month period ending Q4 2015.

- UK exports were dominated by those from England. They accounted for 76 per cent of value.
- Within the English regions, South East, London and West Midlands accounted for the greatest shares with 15, 12 and 10 per cent of UK exports respectively.
- North East had the lowest share in the English regions of 4.4 per cent.
- Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland accounted for 2.3, 4.4 and 6.3 per cent of exports respectively.

Figure 3 shows the percentage change in number of exporters per region between quarter 4 2014 and quarter 4 2015. 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 changes of businesses. The number of businesses counted excludes those who trade only with the EU whose trade is below the Intrastat Exemption Threshold (see note 11).

Figure 3: Percentage Change in Number of Exporters between Q4 2014 and Q4 2015



For the UK, the number of exporting businesses increased by 0.9 per cent between quarter 4 2014 and quarter 4 2015, from 50,200 to 50,600.

- The number of active exporters increased in all regions of the UK except for the East Midlands, the West Midlands and Scotland.
- North East experienced the largest percentage rise in exporting businesses, a rise of 4.4 per cent.
- The East Midlands saw the largest percentage decline, 0.8 per cent.

Overview – Imports

The total annual value of UK imports decreased by 2.4 per cent to £398 billion in the year ending December 2015.

Figure 4: UK Imports by Region, 2012 Q1 – 2015 Q4

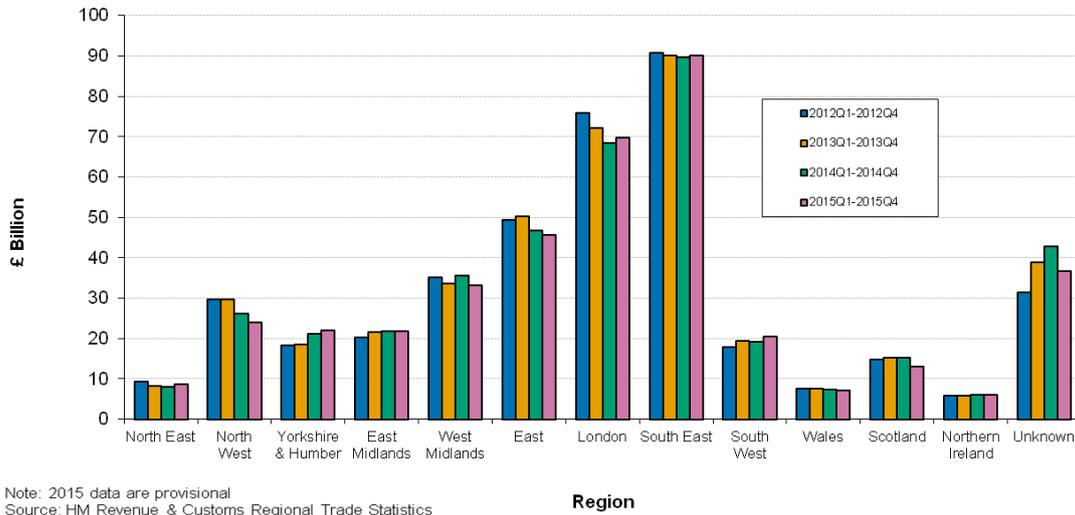


Figure 4 shows the total value of UK imports by region for the four annual periods ending December 2012, December 2013, December 2014 and December 2015.

When comparing the annual period ending December 2015 with the annual period ending December 2014

- There was a rise in import value during the year for Northern Ireland, while England, Scotland and Wales experienced a decrease.
- Among the English regions, there were decreases in the value of imports for the North West, the West Midlands and the East, while imports increased for all other regions.

When comparing the annual period ending December 2012 with year ending December 2015, there was a decrease of annual UK imports from £406 billion to £398 billion. This was a decrease of £8.1 billion or 2.0 per cent.

- Imports into England, Wales and Scotland decreased during this period by 3.2 per cent, 8.0 per cent and 13 per cent respectively. However, there was an increase of 5.1 per cent in imports into Northern Ireland.
- Only three English regions experienced an increase; Yorkshire and the Humber, the East Midlands and the South West. All the others saw a decrease.

Figure 5: UK Imports by country / region, year ending Q4 2015 – percentage of value

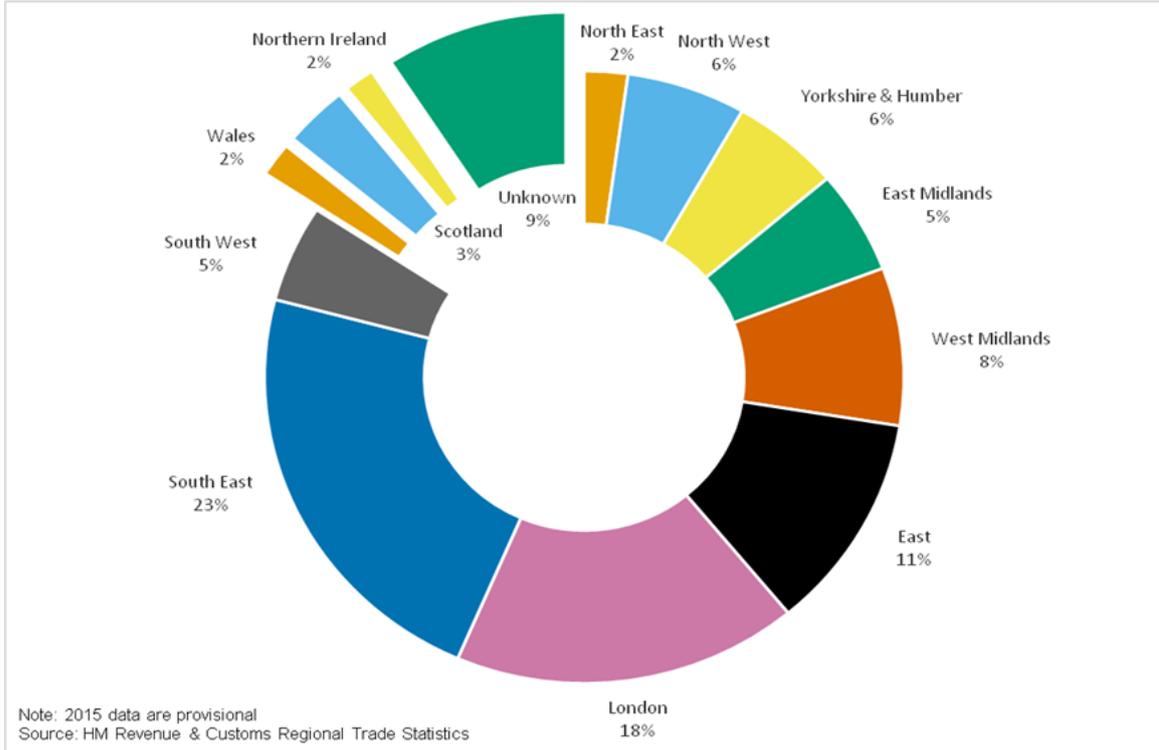
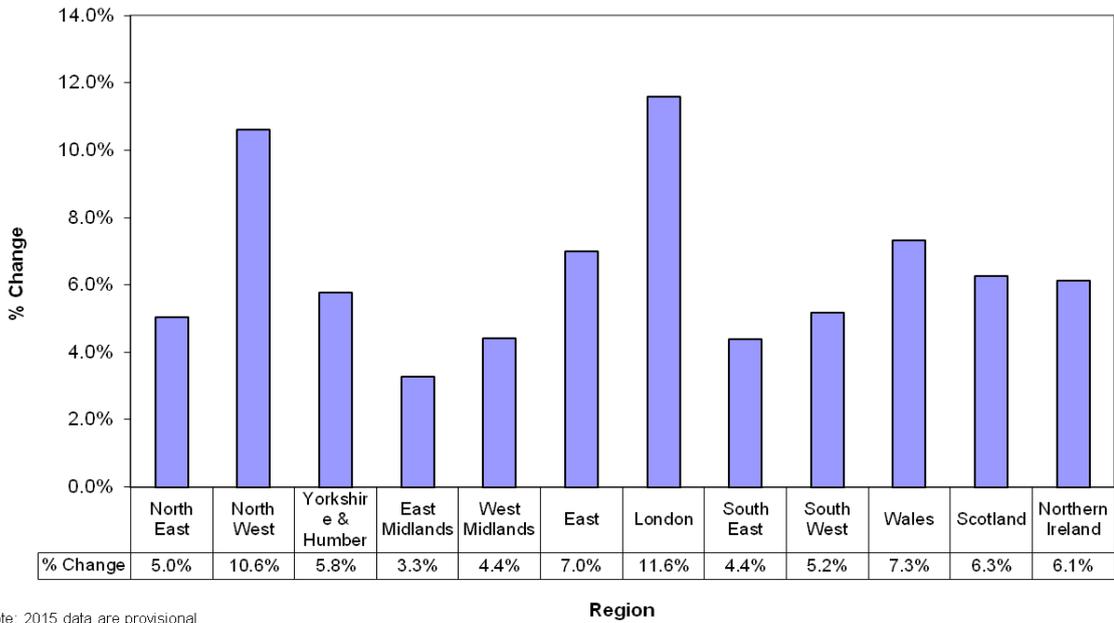


Figure 5 shows the breakdown by region of UK imports for the year ending quarter 4 2015.

- UK imports were dominated by those to England. They accounted for 84 per cent of value.
- Within the English regions, South East, London and the East accounted for the greatest shares with 23, 18 and 11 per cent of UK imports respectively.
- North East had the smallest share of England's imports. It accounted for 2.2 per cent of UK imports.
- Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland accounted for 1.5, 1.8 and 3.3 per cent of United Kingdom's imports respectively.

Figure 6 shows the percentage change in the number of importers in the UK between quarter 4 2014 and quarter 4 2015. As discussed earlier a quarterly analysis is more appropriate here than an annual analysis. The number of businesses counted excludes those who trade only with the EU and whose trade is below the Intrastat Exemption Threshold (see note 11).

Figure 6: Percentage Change in Number of Importers between Q4 2014 and Q4 2015



Note: 2015 data are provisional
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

For the UK, the number of importing businesses increased by 7.0 per cent between quarter 4 2014 and quarter 4 2015, from 65,500 to 70,100.

- The number of active exporters increased in all English regions and countries of the UK.
- London saw the largest percentage increase, 12 per cent.
- East Midlands saw the smallest increase of 3.3 per cent.

Rolling 12 Month Overview

Exports from England

Partner country analysis

Table 1: England - Top five export partners, year ending December 2015

	Country	Year ending Dec 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Dec 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Dec 2014	% Total Exports in year ending Dec 2015
Top 5	USA	34,767.1	29,908.7	16.2	16.4
	Germany	23,274.6	22,815.0	2.0	11.0
	France	13,708.6	14,378.4	-4.7	6.5
	Netherlands	11,445.0	13,214.2	-13.4	5.4
	Irish Republic	11,138.7	11,374.8	-2.1	5.3
	Others	117,053.1	119,072.0	-1.7	55.4
	Total EU	99,946.0	103,660.5	-3.6	47.3
	Total Non-EU	111,441.0	107,102.6	4.1	52.7
	Grand Total	211,387.1	210,763.0	0.3	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Value of exports from England increased by 0.3 per cent during the year ending December 2015. This was compared with a decrease of 2.7 per cent for the UK as a whole.

England's exports to the EU decreased by 3.6 per cent during the last year, while exports to non-EU countries increased by 4.1 per cent. The market share for non-EU exports was 53 per cent compared with 51 per cent for the previous year.

- Of the top five export partners, the USA and Germany were the only partner countries that increased in value over the last 12 months.
- The largest value increase in export trade was to USA (up £4.9 billion, 16 per cent) followed by Saudi Arabia (up £1.3 billion, 41 per cent).
- The largest value decrease in exports was to the Netherlands (down £1.8 billion, 13 per cent) followed by China (down £1.7 billion, 14 per cent).

Commodity analysis

Table 2: Top five commodities for export from England - year ending December 2015

SITC section	Description	Year ending Dec 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Dec 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Dec 2014	% Total Exports in year ending Dec 2015
7	Machinery & transport equipment	90,637.4	89,447.3	1.3	42.9
5	Chemicals & related products	37,802.2	34,731.0	8.8	17.9
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	35,783.1	32,747.8	9.3	16.9
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	21,171.0	22,243.7	-4.8	10.0
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	9,967.6	15,589.7	-36.1	4.7
	Other SITCs	16,025.7	16,003.6	0.1	7.6
	Grand Total	211,387.1	210,763.0	0.3	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

The value of exports increased during the year for three of England's top five commodities.

- 'Machinery & transport equipment' continued to dominate exports from England; its share of England's exports was 43 per cent, up from 42 per cent the previous year.
- Six SITC sections increased. The largest increases were 'Chemicals & related products' (up £3.1 billion, 8.8 per cent), and 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (up £3.0 billion, 9.3 per cent).
- The largest value decreases were for 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (down £5.6 billion, 36 per cent) and 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' (down £1.1 billion, 4.8 per cent).

At the more detailed commodity classification SITC division level, thirty-six of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in export value during the year.

- The largest reductions were in divisions 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down £5.3 billion, 36 per cent) and 'Iron & steel' (down £1.0 billion, 25 per cent).
- The largest increases were in divisions 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles n.e.s.' (up £2.1 billion, 14 per cent) and 'Organic chemicals' (up £1.9 billion, 35 per cent).

Imports into England

Partner country analysis

Table 3: England - Top five import partners, year ending December 2015

	Country	Year ending Dec 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Dec 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Dec 2014	% Total Imports in year ending Dec 2015
Top 5	Germany	53,793.5	52,118.7	3.2	16.0
	China	31,363.3	28,833.1	8.8	9.4
	USA	26,994.3	24,930.7	8.3	8.1
	Netherlands	25,982.1	25,033.7	3.8	7.7
	France	20,071.9	20,321.0	-1.2	6.0
	Others	177,124.7	185,178.1	-4.3	52.8
	Total EU	185,964.5	183,345.0	1.4	55.5
	Total Non-EU	149,365.5	153,070.3	-2.4	44.5
	Grand Total	335,330.0	336,415.3	-0.3	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Imports into England decreased by 0.3 per cent during the year ending December 2015; this was less than the 2.4 per cent decrease in imports to the UK as a whole.

- Non-EU partner countries accounted for 45 per cent of England's imports during the year; this percentage has fallen from 46 per cent in the previous annual period.
- Germany remained the top import partner for England by a wide margin. For the latest annual period it accounted for 16 per cent of all imports into England compared with 15 per cent the year before. Imports from Germany increased by 3.2 per cent during the year.
- Trade with all the top four import partners increased compared with the previous year.
- The largest value increases were for imports from China (up £2.5 billion, 8.8 per cent) followed by USA (up £2.1 billion, 8.3 per cent).
- The largest value decreases were for imports from Norway (down £4.0 billion, 32 per cent) followed by Algeria (down £1.5 billion, 47 per cent).

Commodity analysis

Table 4: Top five commodities for import to England, year ending December 2015

SITC section	Description	Year ending Dec 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Dec 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Dec 2014	% Total Imports in year ending Dec 2015
7	Machinery & transport equipment	134,409.0	127,573.6	5.4	40.1
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	59,033.3	55,558.4	6.3	17.6
5	Chemicals & related products	38,308.5	37,928.8	1.0	11.4
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	35,391.9	36,001.1	-1.7	10.6
0	Food & live animals	27,326.5	27,115.7	0.8	8.1
	Other SITCs	40,860.8	52,237.8	-21.8	12.2
	Grand Total	335,330.0	336,415.3	-0.3	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

The value of imports increased during the year in four of England's top five commodities.

- 'Machinery & transport equipment' continued to dominate England's imports, accounting for 40 per cent of total import value, an increase from 38 per cent the previous year.
- The largest value increase at SITC section level was in 'Machinery & transport equipment' (up £6.8 billion, 5.4 per cent).
- The largest value decrease at SITC section level was in 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (down £11.0 billion, 29 per cent).

At the more detailed commodity classification SITC division level thirty-five of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in import value over the 12 months.

- The largest reductions were in divisions 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down £9,620 million, 29 per cent) and 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (down £794 million, 5.3 per cent).
- The largest increases were in divisions 'Road vehicles' (up £4.7 billion, 11 per cent) and 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing appliances & equipment' (up £1.6 billion, 10 per cent).

Exports from Wales

Partner country analysis – Exports from Wales

Table 5: Wales - Top five export partners, year ending December 2015

	Country	Year ending Dec 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Dec 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Dec 2014	% Total Exports in year ending Dec 2015
Top 5	USA	2,797.6	2,834.1	-1.3	22.9
	UAE	1,049.3	1,136.5	-7.7	8.6
	Germany	1,039.7	1,061.8	-2.1	8.5
	Irish Republic	1,034.3	1,531.5	-32.5	8.5
	France	652.8	646.3	1.0	5.4
	Others	5,626.4	6,081.0	-7.5	46.1
	Total EU	5,024.2	5,761.3	-12.8	41.2
	Total Non-EU	7,176.0	7,529.8	-4.7	58.8
	Grand Total	12,200.2	13,291.1	-8.2	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Export values from Wales decreased by 8.2 per cent during the year ending December 2015.

- Exports from Wales to the EU decreased by 13 per cent during the last year, while exports to non-EU countries decreased by 4.7 per cent. Non-EU partner countries continued to dominate the export market from Wales, receiving 59 per cent of goods exported. This compared with 57 per cent the previous year.
- USA remained the top export partner. It accounted for 23 per cent of exports from Wales for the year ending December 2015, compared with 21 per cent for the previous year.
- Four of the top five export partners saw a decrease in value over the last 12 months, the exception being France.
- The partner countries where export values increased most during the year were Gibraltar (up £49 million, a seven-fold increase) and Japan (up £47 million, 19 per cent).
- The partner countries with the largest value decreases in exports over the year were the Irish Republic (down £497 million, 32 per cent) followed by Canada (down £156 million, 45 per cent).

Commodity analysis

Table 6: Top five commodities for export from Wales, year ending December 2015

SITC section	Description	Year ending Dec 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Dec 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Dec 2014	% Total Exports in year ending Dec 2015
7	Machinery & transport equipment	5,651.3	5,836.6	-3.2	46.3
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	2,013.6	2,653.0	-24.1	16.5
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1,754.1	2,029.7	-13.6	14.4
5	Chemicals & related products	1,492.1	1,474.1	1.2	12.2
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	897.4	909.5	-1.3	7.4
	Other SITCs	391.7	388.1	0.9	3.2
	Grand Total	12,200.2	13,291.1	-8.2	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

The value of exports from Wales has decreased during the year for four of the top five commodities.

- Exports from Wales continued to be dominated by 'Machinery & transport equipment' which makes up 46 per cent of the trade. Despite value of trade falling by 3.2 per cent in the past year, its total export share increased from 44 per cent.
- The SITC sections with the largest value increases were 'Commodities / transactions not classified elsewhere' (up £50 million, two-fold) and 'Chemicals & related products' (up £18 million, 1.2 per cent).
- The largest value decreases were for 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (down £639 million, 24 per cent) and 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' (down £276 million, 14 per cent).

At the more detailed commodity classification SITC division level thirty-nine of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in export value over the year.

- The largest reductions were in divisions 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down £620 million, 24 per cent) and 'Iron & Steel' (down £249 million, 19 per cent).
- The largest increases were in divisions 'Machinery specialised for particular industries' (up £65 million, 33 per cent) and 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (up £63 million, 15 per cent).

Imports into Wales

Partner country analysis

Table 7: Wales - Top five import partners, year ending December 2015

	Country	Year ending Dec 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Dec 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Dec 2014	% Total Imports in year ending Dec 2015
Top 5	Germany	902.2	915.1	-1.4	12.8
	China	747.8	671.8	11.3	10.6
	France	665.7	684.7	-2.8	9.4
	USA	591.9	607.3	-2.5	8.4
	Canada	484.6	589.7	-17.8	6.9
	Others	3,682.0	3,955.9	-6.9	52.0
	Total EU	3,550.1	3,742.8	-5.1	50.2
	Total Non-EU	3,524.1	3,681.6	-4.3	49.8
	Grand Total	7,074.2	7,424.5	-4.7	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Imports to Wales decreased in value by 4.7 per cent during the year ending December 2015.

- There was a reduction in value of goods coming into Wales from both EU and non-EU.
- Of the top five imports partners, four saw a decrease in value compared with the previous year. China was the exception.
- Germany was the largest import partner for Wales. Despite seeing a 1.4 per cent decrease over the year, it still accounted for 13 per cent of imports into Wales, an increase from 12 per cent the previous year.
- The largest increases in imports were from China (up £76 million, 11 per cent) followed by Australia (up £27 million, 57 per cent).
- The largest decreases in imports were from Sweden (down £110 million, 41 per cent) and Canada (down £105 million, 18 per cent).

Commodity analysis

Table 8: Top five commodities for import to Wales, year ending December 2015

SITC section	Description	Year ending Dec 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Dec 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Dec 2014	% Total Imports in year ending Dec 2015
7	Machinery & transport equipment	2,052.3	1,873.5	9.5	29.0
5	Chemicals & related products	1,487.1	1,598.1	-6.9	21.0
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1,366.3	1,395.0	-2.1	19.3
2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	896.4	1,284.5	-30.2	12.7
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	648.1	612.2	5.9	9.2
	Other SITCs	624.0	661.2	-5.6	8.8
	All SITCs	7,074.2	7,424.5	-4.7	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

The value of imports to Wales has decreased during the year for three of the top five commodities.

- 'Machinery & transport equipment' remained the largest SITC section accounting for 29 per cent of all imports into Wales. This was compared with 25 per cent for the previous year.
- The largest value increases were for 'Machinery & transport equipment' (up £179 million, 9.5 per cent) followed by 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (up £36 million, 5.9 per cent).
- The largest value decreases at SITC section level were for 'Crude materials, inedible, except fuels' (down £388 million, 30 per cent) followed by 'Chemicals & related products' (down £111 million, 6.9 per cent).

At the more detailed commodity classification SITC division, thirty-four of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in import value during the year.

- The largest reduction were in divisions 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' (down £385 million, 33 per cent) and 'Plastics in primary forms' (down £45 million, 19 per cent).
- The largest increases were in divisions 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up £68 million, 104 per cent) and 'Other transport equipment' (up £46 million, 104 per cent).

Exports from Scotland

Partner country analysis

Table 9: Scotland - Top five export partners, year ending December 2015

	Country	Year ending Dec 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Dec 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Dec 2014	% Total Exports in year ending Dec 2015
Top 5	USA	2,620.3	2,715.5	-3.5	15.0
	France	1,226.5	1,325.1	-7.4	7.0
	Germany	950.9	1,142.5	-16.8	5.4
	Netherlands	944.4	1,235.1	-23.5	5.4
	Norway	905.4	900.6	0.5	5.2
	Others	10,820.5	12,318.4	-12.2	61.9
	Total EU	6,719.9	8,364.4	-19.7	38.5
	Total Non-EU	10,748.1	11,272.9	-4.7	61.5
	Grand Total	17,468.0	19,637.3	-11.0	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Exports from Scotland decreased in value by 11 per cent during the year ending December 2015.

- Scotland's exports to the EU decreased by 20 per cent during the last year, while exports to non-EU countries fell by 4.7 per cent. Non-EU partner countries continued to dominate the export market in Scotland accounting for 62 per cent of all exports, an increase from 57 per cent the previous year.
- USA remained Scotland's largest export partner despite a decrease of £95 million (3.5 per cent) in the last year.
- Exports to four of Scotland's top five partners decreased in value during the year, the exception being Norway.
- The largest value increases among Scotland's exports were in goods going to Saudi Arabia (up £127 million, 35 per cent) and Ivory Coast (up £42 million, 222 per cent).
- The largest value decreases among Scotland's exports were in goods going to Belgium (down £323 million, 28 per cent) and Netherlands (down £291 million, 24 per cent).

Commodity analysis

Table 10: Top five commodities for export from Scotland, year ending December 2015

SITC section	Description	Year ending Dec 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Dec 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Dec 2014	% Total Exports in year ending Dec 2015
7	Machinery & transport equipment	5,804.7	6,123.9	-5.2	33.2
1	Beverages & tobacco	4,476.6	4,681.8	-4.4	25.6
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,210.0	2,438.1	-9.4	12.7
5	Chemicals & related products	1,607.9	1,769.8	-9.2	9.2
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,343.5	1,345.5	-0.1	7.7
	Other SITCs	2,025.3	3,278.2	-38.2	11.6
	Grand Total	17,468.0	19,637.3	-11.0	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

The value of exports from Scotland decreased during the year for all of Scotland's top five commodities.

- 'Machinery & transport equipment' and 'Beverages & tobacco' continued to dominate exports from Scotland.
- The only value increase at SITC section level was for 'Commodities / transactions not classified elsewhere' (up £88 million, more than two-fold).
- The largest value decreases at SITC section were in 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (down £1,170 million, 67 per cent) followed by 'Machinery & transport equipment' (down £319 million, 5.2 per cent).

At the more detailed commodity classification SITC division, forty-four of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in export value during the year.

- The largest reductions were in divisions 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down £1,150 million, 67 per cent) and 'Beverages' (down £205 million, 4.4 per cent).
- The largest increases were in divisions 'Military arms and ammunition' (up £103 million, eight-fold increase) and 'Road Vehicles' (up £79 million, 33 per cent).

Imports into Scotland

Partner country analysis

Table 11: Scotland - Top five import partners, year ending December 2015

	Country	Year ending Dec 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Dec 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Dec 2014	% Total Imports in year ending Dec 2015
Top 5	USA	2,117.4	2,064.4	2.6	16.3
	China	1,480.9	1,482.5	-0.1	11.4
	Germany	1,005.5	904.2	11.2	7.7
	Norway	835.8	1,585.1	-47.3	6.4
	Netherlands	817.1	996.2	-18.0	6.3
	Others	6,747.8	8,116.0	-16.9	51.9
	Total EU	4,895.5	5,178.0	-5.5	37.6
	Total Non-EU	8,109.0	9,970.5	-18.7	62.4
	Grand Total	13,004.5	15,148.5	-14.2	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Imports to Scotland decreased in value by 14 per cent during the year.

- Scotland's imports from non-EU countries decreased by 19 per cent during the last year, compared with a fall of 5.5 per cent in imports from EU countries. Nevertheless, trade from non-EU partners still accounted for almost two-thirds of Scotland's imports by value.
- There has been a decrease in import value for three of the top five import partners over the last 12 months. The exceptions were USA (up £53 million, 2.6 per cent) and Germany (up £101 million, 11 per cent).
- The USA remains Scotland's largest import partner. It accounted for 16 per cent of all imports into Scotland compared with 14 per cent the year before.
- The largest value increases were from South Korea (up £572 million, an 8-fold rise) followed by Germany.
- The largest decreases over the last 12 months were in imports from Nigeria (down £1,190 million, 96 per cent) followed by Norway (down £749 million, 47 per cent).

Commodity analysis

Table 12: Top five commodities for import to Scotland, year ending December 2015

SITC section	Description	Year ending Dec 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Dec 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Dec 2014	% Total Imports in year ending Dec 2015
7	Machinery & transport equipment	6,510.1	5,623.9	15.8	50.1
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,019.8	2,148.3	-6.0	15.5
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,582.2	1,611.6	-1.8	12.2
5	Chemicals & related products	1,061.8	1,084.8	-2.1	8.2
0	Food & live animals	1,007.0	1,127.2	-10.7	7.7
	Other SITCs	823.6	3,552.8	-76.8	6.3
	Grand Total	13,004.5	15,148.5	-14.2	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

The value of imports into Scotland decreased during the year for four of the top five commodities.

- 'Machinery & transport equipment' continued to dominate imports into Scotland. This was also the largest section-level increase during the year (up £886 million, 16 per cent). It represented 50 per cent of total import value which was up on the previous year (37 per cent).
- The largest section-level value decreases during the year were in imports of 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (down £2.7 billion, 91 per cent) followed by 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' (down £129 million, 6.0 per cent).

At the more detailed commodity classification SITC division, forty-two of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in import value during the year.

- The largest reductions were in divisions 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down £2,340 million, 96 per cent) and 'Coal, coke & briquettes' (down £309 million, 66 per cent).
- The largest increases were in divisions 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up £489 million, 36 per cent) and 'Other transport equipment' (up £473 million, 73 per cent).

Exports from Northern Ireland

Partner country analysis

Table 13: Northern Ireland - Top five export partners, year ending December 2015

	Country	Year ending Dec 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Dec 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Dec 2014	% Total Exports in year ending Dec 2015
Top 5	Irish Republic	2,111.3	2,296.2	-8.1	33.4
	USA	1,116.4	645.5	72.9	17.6
	Canada	367.6	332.2	10.7	5.8
	Germany	334.1	318.9	4.7	5.3
	France	302.4	301.2	0.4	4.8
	Others	2,095.7	2,083.8	0.6	33.1
	Total EU	3,462.6	3,630.0	-4.6	54.7
	Total Non-EU	2,864.8	2,347.9	22.0	45.3
	Grand Total	6,327.4	5,977.9	5.8	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Exports from Northern Ireland increased in value by 5.8 per cent during the year ending December 2015.

- The majority (55 per cent) of Northern Ireland's exports still went to the EU. This was despite the value of exports to EU partners decreasing by 4.6 per cent over the year and trade to non-EU partners increasing by 22 per cent.
- There were increases in exports to four of the top five partner countries during the year. The exception was the Irish Republic.
- The Irish Republic continued to dominate Northern Ireland's export market despite its share decreasing from 38 per cent to 33 per cent during the year. This was the main reason why Northern Ireland has a higher proportion of export trade with the EU in comparison with the other UK countries.
- The largest value increases were to the USA (up £471 million, 73 per cent) followed by South Korea (up £47 million, a three-fold increase).
- Northern Ireland's export trade decreased the most with the Irish Republic (down £185 million, 8.1 per cent) and Taiwan (down £36 million, 84 per cent).

Commodity analysis – Exports from Northern Ireland

Table 14: Top five commodities for export from Northern Ireland, year ending December 2015

SITC section	Description	Year ending Dec 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Dec 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Dec 2014	% Total Exports in year ending Dec 2015
7	Machinery & transport equipment	2,249.1	2,242.7	0.3	35.5
5	Chemicals & related products	1,172.9	824.3	42.3	18.5
0	Food & live animals	1,023.3	1,165.9	-12.2	16.2
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	787.5	651.1	21.0	12.4
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	530.4	541.8	-2.1	8.4
	Other SITCs	564.2	552.1	2.2	8.9
	Grand Total	6,327.4	5,977.9	5.8	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

The value of exports from Northern Ireland increased during the year for three of the top five commodities.

- Northern Ireland's exports continued to be dominated by goods in 'Machinery & transport equipment'. There was a negligible increase in value of 0.3 per cent but its share of total exports fell from 38 per cent to 36 per cent.
- At SITC section level, 'Chemicals & related products' experienced the largest increase in exports during the year (up £349 million, 42 per cent) followed by 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (up £136 million, 21 per cent).
- The largest decrease was for 'Food & live animals' (down £143 million, 12 per cent), followed by 'Crude materials, inedible, except fuels' (down £44 million, 18 per cent).

At the more detailed commodity classification SITC division, thirty-eight of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in export value during the year.

- The largest reductions were in 'Meat & meat preparations' (down £84 million, 21 per cent) and 'Dairy products & birds' eggs' (down £61 million, 17 per cent).
- The biggest increases were in divisions 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (up £337 million, 67 per cent) and 'Professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus, n.e.s' (up £133 million, 69 per cent).

Imports into Northern Ireland

Partner country analysis – Northern Ireland

Table 15: Northern Ireland - Top five import partners, year ending December 2015

	Country	Year ending Dec 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Dec 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Dec 2014	% Total Imports in year ending Dec 2015
Top 5	Irish Republic	1,650.9	1,663.8	-0.8	27.2
	China	1,004.6	991.7	1.3	16.5
	USA	496.8	438.4	13.3	8.2
	Germany	372.3	366.1	1.7	6.1
	Netherlands	346.6	341.3	1.6	5.7
	Others	2,207.0	2,210.6	-0.2	36.3
	Total EU	3,349.0	3,390.6	-1.2	55.1
	Total Non-EU	2,729.1	2,621.3	4.1	44.9
	Grand Total	6,078.1	6,011.9	1.1	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Northern Ireland has seen a 1.1 per cent increase in the value of its imports during the year.

- The majority of imports to Northern Ireland came from EU partners. This was due mainly to the Irish Republic being Northern Ireland's largest import partner country.
- Four of the top five import partners saw an increase in trade during the year, Irish Republic was the one that decreased.
- The Irish Republic remained Northern Ireland's largest import partner, accounting for 27 per cent of Northern Ireland's total imports. This was a decrease from 28 per cent in the previous year.
- The largest value increases were in goods from USA (up £58 million, 13 per cent) and Bangladesh (up £30 million, 21 per cent).
- Imports to Northern Ireland that decreased the most were from the France (down £27 million, 14 per cent) and Turkey (down £24 million, 15 per cent).

Commodity analysis – Imports into Northern Ireland

Table 16: Top five commodities for import to Northern Ireland, year ending December 2015

SITC section	Description	Year ending Dec 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Dec 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Dec 2014	% Total Imports in year ending Dec 2015
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,725.1	1,632.1	5.7	28.4
7	Machinery & transport equipment	1,111.9	1,105.6	0.6	18.3
0	Food & live animals	1,072.6	1,063.8	0.8	17.6
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	835.6	892.6	-6.4	13.7
5	Chemicals & related products	610.9	550.9	10.9	10.1
	Other SITCs	722.0	766.9	-5.9	11.9
	Grand Total	6,078.1	6,011.9	1.1	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

The value of imports increased during the year in four of Northern Ireland's top five commodities. The one that showed a decrease was 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material.'

- 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' remained the top import section by value. Its share of Northern Ireland's total imports has increased slightly from 27 per cent to 28 per cent over the last year.
- Northern Ireland experienced its largest value increase of imports in 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (up £93 million, 5.7 per cent). This was followed by 'Chemicals & related products' which rose by £60 million (11 per cent).
- The biggest decreases came from 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' (down £57 million, 6.4 per cent) and 'Crude materials, inedible, except fuels' (down £21 million, 9.5 per cent).

At the more detailed commodity classification SITC division, thirty-seven of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in value during the year.

- The largest reductions were in divisions 'Electrical machinery and appliances and parts' (down £29 million, 18 per cent) and 'Iron & steel' (down £19 million, 29 per cent).
- The largest increases were in divisions 'Articles of apparel and clothing accessories' (up £65 million, 6.1 per cent) and 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (up £56 million, 43 per cent).

Exports from English Regions

Partner country analysis – Exports from English regions

Table 17: Top export partners by value for the English regions, year ending December 2015

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

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 17 shows the top five export trading partners by value for each of the English regions in the year ending December 2015.

- The USA was in the top five of all English regions for both the year ending December 2015 and the year ending December 2014. It was also top partner for six regions for the year ending December 2015.
- Germany was in the top five for all English regions for the year ending December 2015; and all regions except the North East the year ending December 2014. It was also the top partner for two regions; the East and the South West.
- France featured for seven of the nine English regions as one of the top 5 partner countries.
- Netherlands featured for five of the nine English regions as one of the top 5 partner countries. It was also top for North East.

Commodity analysis – Exports from English regions

Table 18 - Top five commodities by value for export from English regions, year ending December 2015

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	0 - Food & live animals
North West	5 - Chemicals & related products	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	2 - Crude materials, inedible, except fuels
Yorkshire & the Humber	5 - Chemicals & related products	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	3 - Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	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	0 - Food & live animals
East	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	5 - Chemicals & related products	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	0 - Food & live animals
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: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 18 shows the top five export commodity groups by value for the English regions. There was little change in the order of the groups in the last 12 months.

- ‘Machinery and transport equipment’ was the top SITC section in six regions.
- The following commodity groups were in the top five in all regions.
 - ‘Machinery and transport equipment’,
 - ‘Chemicals & related products’,
 - ‘Miscellaneous manufactured articles’,
 - ‘Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material’.

Imports into English Regions

Partner country analysis – Imports into English regions

Table 19: Top import partners by value for the English regions, year ending December 2015

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

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 19 shows the top five partner countries by value for imports to the English regions for the year ending December 2015.

- Germany was in the top five for all English regions and was top for four English regions.
- China was in the top five for all regions except the North East and the top for three regions.
- Netherlands was in the top five for all regions except the North East and the top for Yorkshire & the Humber.
- The USA featured in the top five for eight of the English regions.
- France featured in the top five for six of the English regions.

Commodity analysis – Imports into English regions

Table 20 - Top five commodities by value for import to English regions, year ending December 2015

Region	Top 5 SITC Sections				
	1	2	3	4	5
North East	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	5 - Chemicals & related products	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2 - Crude materials, inedible, except fuels
North West	5 - Chemicals & related products	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	0 - Food & live animals
Yorkshire & the Humber	5 - Chemicals & related products	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	0 - Food & live animals
East Midlands	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	0 - Food & live animals	5 - Chemicals & related products
West Midlands	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	3 - Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	0 - Food & live animals
East	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	5 - Chemicals & related products	0 - Food & live animals	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material
London	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	3 - Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	0 - Food & live animals
South East	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	5 - Chemicals & related products	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	0 - Food & live animals	3 - Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials
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: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 20 shows the top five import commodity groups by value for the English regions.

- ‘Machinery & transport equipment’ was in the top five imported commodities of all English regions. It was the top SITC section for six of the regions. The three exceptions were the North West, Yorkshire and the Humber and London.
- ‘Miscellaneous manufactured articles’ was also in the top five imported commodities of all English regions.
- ‘Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material’ was present in the top five of all English regions except the South East.
- ‘Food & live animals’ was present in the top five of all English regions except the North East.

Explanatory Notes

1. HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) is 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 is published quarterly showing trade at summary product and country level, split by UK regions and devolved administrations.
2. Although trade in non-monetary gold (NMG) is now included in OTS data, this trade will continue to be excluded from RTS data. This is because the majority of NMG trade would be assigned to the London region and this would distort the RTS figures. The following reconciliation table shows the differences at total trade level between OTS and RTS by quantifying the elements of OTS that are excluded from RTS:

Table A: RTS/OTS Reconciliation Table Quarter 4, 2015

	EU Exports £ millions	Non-EU Exports £ millions	EU Imports £ millions	Non-EU Imports £ millions
OTS total value	33,535	44,323	55,762	47,864
RTS total value	33,040	36,550	55,131	45,408
Allocated to a region	29,020	32,921	50,307	40,652
Unknown region	4,019	3,629	4,824	4,756
Late response estimates	431	-	482	-
Non-monetary gold	64	7,773	149	2,456
RTS total plus exclusions	33,535	44,323	55,762	47,864

Note 1: There may be rounding differences between the total shown and the sum of its components.

Note 2: Late Response estimates are for EU trade only. This will reduce over time. They are excluded from RTS trade

Note 3: Non-Monetary Gold is excluded from RTS trade

Note 4: 2015 data is provisional and subject to update.

Source: Regional Trade Statistics and Overseas Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

3. The latest statistics on Regional Trade were released on 03 March 2016 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 4 2015. At the same time revisions for all previously published regional data for 2015 are also being released.
4. Aggregated tables are produced to allow time series analysis; these tables are provided in a separate document released in conjunction with this release.
5. 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.

6. RTS data is compiled by merging 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.
7. Some adjustments are necessary in producing the region of export statistics to ensure manufacturing 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 these businesses, their trade is proportioned across the regions. For all other businesses the head office is used by default unless the export is assigned to a specific branch. For imports, such adjustments cannot be made, as businesses cannot reasonably assess 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. 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 located.
8. 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, obtaining 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). The TURN or EORI number 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 were not allowed to retain Branch IDs; this has impacted RTS, with the majority of trade now 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 has been reduced, while the recorded trade for regions containing the head office(s) of that business has increased.
9. 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. Data relating to
 - o Natural Gas and Electricity direct from pipeline and grid operators; and
 - o Information on petroleum production from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC).
- b. Trade carried out by persons or entities which cannot be matched to a region e.g. non VAT registered
- c. Low Value Trade declarations (non-EU trade only);

More information can be found in the RTS methodology document.

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/Statistics/OverseasTradeStatistics/AboutOverseastradeStatistics/User%20support/RTS_Methodology_Revision_2015.pdf

10. 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 at partner country and SITC section (1-digit) level, with references to SITC divisions where appropriate.
11. The number of businesses dealing with the EU and those for non-EU do not sum to the total number of businesses. Businesses that are active in both EU and non-EU markets are counted once only. The counts of businesses is not comprehensive. It does not include businesses who only trade with EU whose value of their intra-EU trade is below the [Intrastat Exemption Threshold](#).
12. 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.
13. The Regional Trade in Goods figures undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs. These reviews are published as a [Government Statistical Service Quality report](#).
14. The RTS has been reviewed as part of an assessment made of Overseas Trade Statistics by the [UK Statistics Authority](#). The report of that assessment can be found at

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-93---uk-trade-in-goods.pdf>

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The OTS and RTS data series are published in HMRC's trade data website www.uktradeinfo.com. Detailed data is available within an [interactive database](#) and '[The Customer Story](#)' explains how users utilise it to analyse import and export markets.

Next release: 07 June 2016 at 9:30am

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