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HM Revenue and Customs

Regional Trade Statistics

Fourth Quarter 2014

Summary

- In the year to December 2014, there was a fall in annual export value for all UK regions except the North East, the South West and the West Midlands. There was an increase in annual import value during the year for the West Midlands and Yorkshire & the Humber, with a decrease in the remaining seven UK regions. Of the four UK countries, none saw an increase in exports during the year, while Northern Ireland was the only country that saw an increase in imports.
- The value of UK exports and imports both decreased in Quarter 4 2014 compared with Quarter 4 2013. The value of exports fell for England, Wales and Scotland and Northern Ireland between Quarter 4 2013 and Quarter 4 2014 whilst imports fell for England, Wales and Scotland. Exports rose in the North East, West Midlands, London, South East and South West but decreased in all other English regions. Imports increased in the North East, Yorkshire & the Humber, West Midlands, South East and South West but decreased in all other English regions.
- For England, the value of exports to China increased most in the year ending Quarter 4 2014; for Wales exports to Singapore; for Scotland exports to the Irish Republic and for Northern Ireland exports to the USA increased most. For imports, the largest increases were in goods from Germany (England), Nigeria (Scotland), China (Wales) and Germany Republic (Northern Ireland).
- The number of importers fell between Quarter 4 2013 and Quarter 4 2014 in all UK regions except Yorkshire and The Humber. The number of exporters fell for all UK regions except the West Midlands and London.
- For exports, the commodity groups with the largest annual value increases were 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles n.e.s.' (England), 'Office machines & automatic data processing machines' (Scotland), 'Machinery specialised for particular industries' (Wales) and 'Meat & meat preparations' (Northern Ireland).
- For imports, the commodity groups with the largest annual value increases were 'Road vehicles' (England), 'Office machines & automatic data processing machines' (Scotland), 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing app. & eqp.' (Wales) and 'Machinery specialised for particular industries' (Northern Ireland).

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) are responsible for collecting the UK's international trade in goods data, which are published as two National Statistics series - the 'Overseas Trade Statistics (OTS)' and the 'Regional Trade Statistics (RTS)'. The RTS are published quarterly showing trade at summary product and country level, split by UK regions and devolved administrations. 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 User Story](#)' explains how users utilise it to analyse import and export markets.

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.

¹ See note 3

Although trade in non-monetary gold (NMG) is now included in OTS data (see [News Item](#) published on www.uktradeinfo.com on 12 February 2014), 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: NMG, estimates for late response and Missing Trader Intra-Community fraud (MTIC):

RTS/OTS Reconciliation Table Quarter 4, 2014

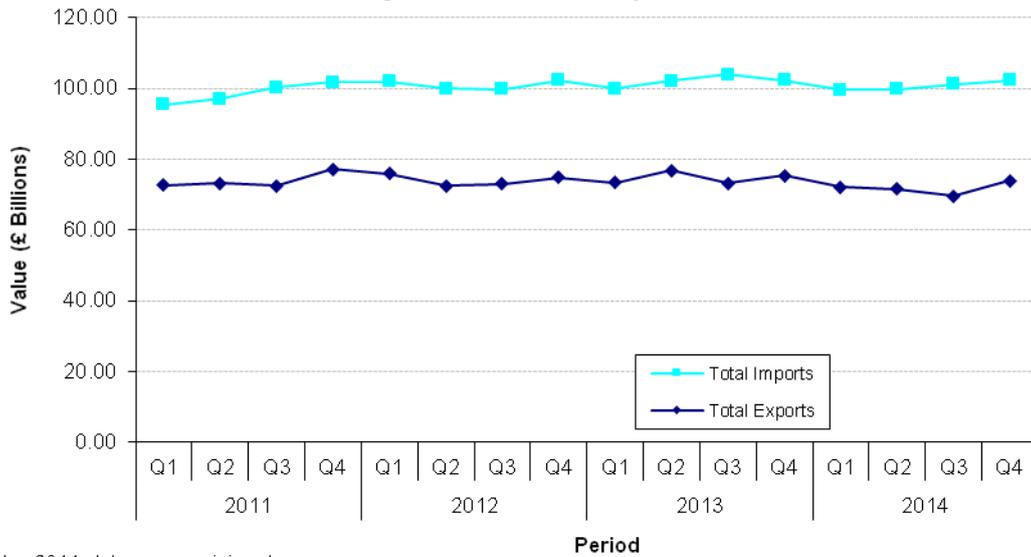
	Non-EU Imports £ millions	EU Imports £ millions	Non-EU Exports £ millions	EU Exports £ millions
OTS total value	49,434.0	56,415.0	45,439.5	36,856.7
RTS total value	47,041.3	55,250.2	37,861.4	36,063.3
Allocated to a region	42,689.6	48,199.2	34,935.6	29,682.0
Unknown region	4,351.6	7,051.0	2,925.8	6,381.3
MTIC (Missing Trader Intra-Community fraud)	-	189.7	-	-
Late response estimates	-	828.3	-	778.8
Non-monetary gold	2,392.7	146.7	7,578.1	14.7
RTS total plus exclusions¹	49,434.0	56,415.0	45,439.5	36,856.7

Note 1: There may be rounding differences between the total shown and the sum of its components
Source: HM Revenue & Customs, Regional Trade Statistics and Overseas Trade Statistics

Overview of UK trade

Figure 1 shows the quarterly values of imports to and exports from the UK since 2011. The value of imports increased by 1.1 per cent during the fourth quarter of 2014, and the value of exports increased by 6.4 per cent. This decreased the trade deficit to £28.4 billion, 10.4 per cent lower than it was at the end of the previous quarter.

Fig 1: Total UK Quarterly Trade

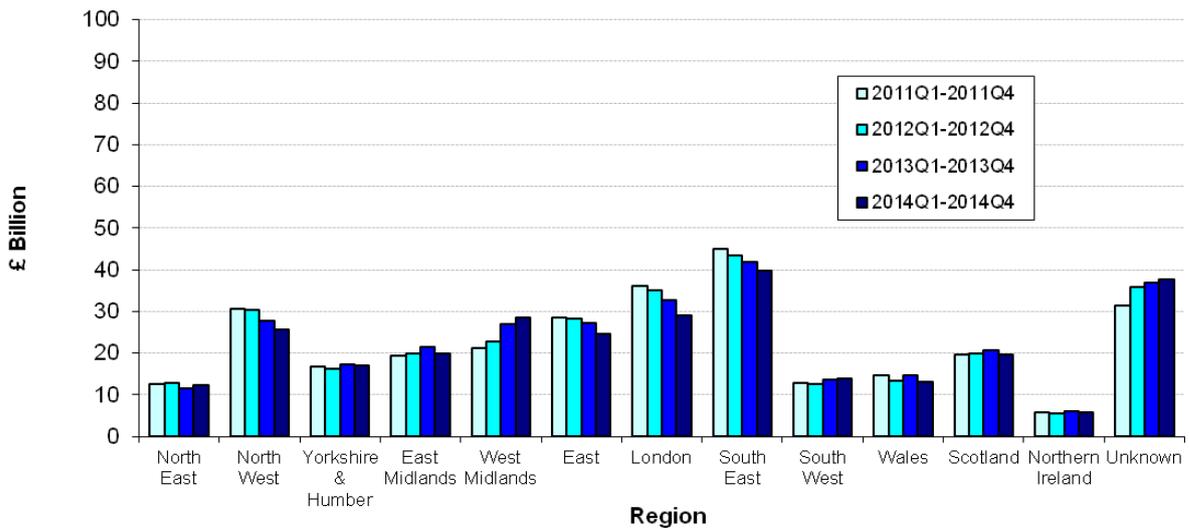


Note: 2014 data are provisional
 Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Overview - Exports

Figure 2a shows the total value of UK exports by region for the four annual periods ending December 2011, December 2012, December 2013 and December 2014.

Fig 2a: UK Exports by Region, 2011 - 2014



Note: 2014 data are provisional
 Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

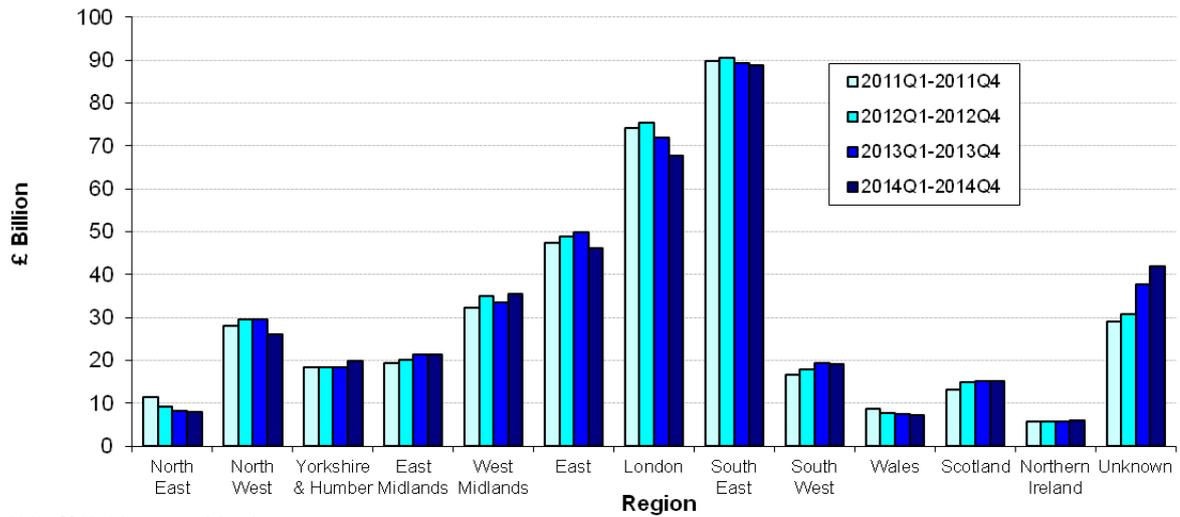
- The total annual value of UK exports decreased by 3.9 per cent to £287.0 billion in the year ending December 2014. Exports from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland all decreased during the year. Six of the nine English regions experienced decreases in exports with just the North East, South West and the West Midlands seeing increases. The total annual value of exports from England fell by 4.4 per cent to £210.7 billion during the year, the largest value decrease coming from the ‘Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials’ sector. Exports from Scotland fell by 5.2 per cent to £19.6 billion; the largest decrease during the year was in Scotland’s exports from the ‘Beverages & tobacco’ sector. Exports from Wales fell marginally by 11.0 per cent to £13.1 billion, with the largest decrease in the ‘Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials’ sector. Exports from Northern Ireland fell by 1.0 per cent to £5.9 billion, with the ‘Machinery & transport equipment’ sector contributing the largest portion of the value decrease. Exports allocated to the ‘Unknown region’² amounted to £37.7 billion in the year ending December 2014, accounting for 13.1 per cent of UK exports by value.
- The South East continues to have the largest total export value of all the English regions. For the year ending December 2014 this was £39.8 billion, 18.9 per cent of England’s total. The South East experienced a percentage decrease of 4.9 per cent in export value over the annual period, while London’s exports fell by 11.2 per cent, the largest decrease among the English regions.
- The North East had the smallest total value of exports, totalling £12.4 billion for the year ending December 2014; this was 5.9 per cent of England’s total. This region saw an increase of 7.2 per cent in exports during the year.
- Year on year, the largest percentage increase in the English regions was for the North East. This is despite the North East having the smallest total value of exports amongst the English regions.

Overview - Imports

Figure 2b shows the total value of UK imports by region for the four annual periods ending December 2011, December 2012, December 2013 and December 2014.

² See note 4

Fig 2b: UK Imports by Region, 2011 - 2014



Note: 2014 data are provisional
 Source: HM Revenue & Customs, Regional Trade Statistics.

- The total annual value of UK imports for the year ending December 2014 decreased by 1.3 per cent to £402.7 billion compared with the year ending December 2013. 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 increases in imports for the West Midlands and Yorkshire & the Humber during the year, while imports for all other regions decreased. The total value of imports to England fell by 2.7 per cent to £332.5 billion during the year, the largest value decrease coming from the ‘Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials’ sector. The total value of imports to Wales fell by 3.6 per cent to £7.3 billion; this was driven by decreases within the ‘Crude materials, inedible, except fuels’ sector. The total value of imports to Scotland fell by 0.3 per cent to £15.1 billion; this was driven by a decrease in imports from the ‘Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials’ sector. Total imports to Northern Ireland rose by 2.3 per cent to £6.0 billion; this growth was led by increases in ‘Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material’ and ‘Miscellaneous manufactured articles’ sectors. Imports allocated to the ‘Unknown region’³ amounted to £41.9 billion in the year to December 2014, accounting for 10.4 per cent of UK imports by value.

³ See note 4

- Within England, the South East continues to have the largest total value of imports. For the year ending December 2014 this was £88.8 billion, 26.7 per cent of England's total. The South East experienced a decline of 0.64 per cent in imports during the year.
- The largest year-on-year percentage increase among the English regions was for Yorkshire & the Humber, where imports increased by 7.8 per cent to £19.9 billion. Much of this growth came in imports from the 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' sector.
- The largest year-on-year percentage decrease among the English regions was for the North West, where imports declined by 11.6 per cent. This fall was led by a substantial decline in the imports from the 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' sector.
- The North East continues to have the smallest total value of imports of all the English regions, making up just 2.4 per cent of England's total. The North East is the only English region with a positive trade balance (exports exceeding imports) for the year ending December 2014.

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 December 2014

	Country	Year ending December 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2013	% Total Exports in year ending December 2014
Top 5	USA	29,914.5	29,820.7	0.3	14.2
	Germany	22,596.5	22,917.1	-1.4	10.7
	France	14,225.0	16,504.4	-13.8	6.8
	Netherlands	13,530.7	14,673.8	-7.8	6.4
	China	11,769.0	10,092.3	16.6	5.6
	Others	118,647.0	126,368.2	-6.1	56.3
	Total EU	103,588.5	108,018.3	-4.1	49.2
	Total Non-EU	107,094.1	112,358.3	-4.7	50.8
	Grand Total	210,682.6	220,376.6	-4.4	100.0

Note: 2014 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs, Regional Trade Statistics

Table 1a shows that the total value of exports from England has declined by 4.4 per cent during the year ending December 2014. This is the fifth quarter in succession in which exports from England have been lower than in the same quarter of the previous year. Over the last 12 months England's exports to China have increased substantially; China is now the fifth largest export partner ahead of the Irish Republic and Belgium. Of the top five export partners, the USA and China were the only partner countries to experience an increase in value over the last 12 months. The large increase for China (16.6 per cent) was helped by a substantial rise in SITC division 78 'road vehicles (including air cushion vehicles)' (up 25.3 per cent).

The USA continues to be England's top export partner country, with its share of the export market increasing from 13.5 per cent to 14.2 per cent over the year.

England's exports to the EU decreased by 4.1 per cent during the last year, while exports to non-EU countries decreased by 4.7 per cent. The market share for non-EU

exports is now 50.8 per cent compared to 51.0 per cent for the previous year. The EU partner countries where exports have decreased in value most are France (down 13.8 per cent), Netherlands (down 7.8 per cent) and Belgium (down 9.4 per cent); the largest decreases were in SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (France and Netherlands) and division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures' (Belgium). The EU partner countries where exports from England have increased in value the most during the year are Irish Republic (up 2.2 per cent) and Hungary (up 13.2 per cent).

The non-EU partner countries where exports from England decreased in value the most over the last 12 months were India (down 28.0 per cent) and Russia (down 20.4 per cent). The non-EU partner countries with the largest value increase in exports from England were China (up 16.6 per cent), Qatar (up 34.9 per cent) and Norway (up 6.4 per cent). For China, the largest rise was in exports from SITC division 78 'Road vehicles'. The increase for Qatar was largely due to rises in SITC division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' and for Norway the rise was driven by increases in SITC 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'.

Partner country analysis - English regions

Table 2a: Top five export partners for the English regions, year ending December 2014

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

Note 2014 data is 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 December 2014. There have been a number of changes in the order of the top five partners over the last 12 months. For the North East, Belgium has

moved up from 16th to third largest export partner and Italy from sixth to fifth, while France and Russia have dropped out of the top five to ninth and sixth respectively. For the North West, there is very little change. The top three are the same for both periods, the only change in the top five being France and China swapping places. For Yorkshire & the Humber, only the order of the top five has changed with US remaining at the top. However, the Netherlands has moved up from fourth to second largest export partner, while France has dropped from second to fifth. For the East Midlands, USA, Germany and Belgium remain the top three but with the Irish Republic overtaking Singapore into fourth place. For the West Midlands, China has become the top export partner, overtaking the USA. For the East, the top five are the same apart from Irish Republic overtaking France into fourth. For London, Germany has moved up from fourth to second largest export partner and Netherlands has moved up into the top five, pushing out India. For South East Irish Republic has moved into the top five at the expense of Belgium. For South West there were no changes apart from Irish Republic overtaking Netherlands into fourth place.

Four of the English regions – the East, the South East, the West Midlands and Yorkshire & the Humber – experienced a decrease in the proportion of exports going to EU countries during the year, while for the remaining five regions this proportion increased. The majority of the English regions continue to follow a similar pattern to England as a whole; the USA is among the top three export partners for all nine regions and Germany is among the top three export partners for eight of the regions, the only exception being the North East. France is among the top five export partners for six of the nine regions. The North East is the only region to have the Netherlands as its top export partner; this is largely due to a high value of exports within SITC division 78 ‘Road vehicles’, although exports from the North East to the Netherlands within this division reduced in value by 12.0 per cent during the year.

In the year ending December 2014, export value decreased for six of the nine English regions and increased for the remaining three, these being the North East (up 7.2 per cent), the West Midlands (up 5.8 per cent), and the South West (up 1.0 per cent). For the North East the largest increases were in goods going to Belgium, a five-fold rise in value over the year. For the West Midlands the largest increases were in goods going to China (up 32.4 per cent), while for the South West the largest growth was in goods going to Germany (up 3.6 per cent) and Irish Republic (up 14.2 per cent). The largest percentage decreases in exports were seen in London (down 11.2 per cent) and the East (down 9.0 per cent). For London the biggest losses were

in exports to Belgium (down 67.5 per cent) and India (down 45.2 per cent) while for the East much of the decline was due to a fall in exports to France (down 29.6 per cent) and Belgium (down 24.3 per cent). The other regions that experienced decreases in exports were East Midlands (7.8 per cent), North West (7.0 per cent), South East (4.9 per cent) and Yorkshire and the Humber (2.7 per cent). For the South East the decline was driven by a reduction in goods going to the Netherlands (down 29.7 per cent) and France (13.1 per cent) and for the North West the decline was largely attributable to a decrease in exports to Germany (down 12.4 per cent) and the USA (down 11.2 per cent). For the East Midlands the decrease was largely attributable to reductions in exports to Hong Kong (down 37.5 per cent), USA (down 10.5 per cent) and Singapore (down 24.5 per cent).

Partner country analysis - Wales

Table 3a: Wales - Top five export partners, year ending December 2014

	Country	Year ending December 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2013	% Total Exports in year ending December 2014
Top 5	USA	2,834.1	3,090.2	-8.3	21.5
	Irish Republic	1,522.1	1,766.7	-13.8	11.6
	United Arab Emirates	1,136.5	1,164.5	-2.4	8.6
	Germany	1,041.4	1,135.3	-8.3	7.9
	France	635.2	684.5	-7.2	4.8
	Others	5,995.1	6,943.9	-13.7	45.5
	Total EU	5,630.7	6,558.2	-14.1	42.8
	Total Non-EU	7,533.5	8,226.9	-8.4	57.2
	Grand Total	13,164.3	14,785.2	-11.0	100.0

Note: 2014 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs, Regional Trade Statistics

Table 3a shows that the total export value for Wales decreased by 11.0 per cent during the year ending December 2014. There has been a fall in exports for each of the last four quarters compared with the same quarter of the previous year. Wales' top two partner countries remain the same as in the year ending December 2013, Exports have decreased for all of the top five partners, with the largest fall in terms of value coming from USA (down £256.1 million) and in terms of percentage coming from the Irish Republic (down 13.8 per cent).

Non-EU partner countries continue to dominate the export market in Wales, receiving 57.2 per cent of goods exported. The value of exports to non-EU partners fell over the year (down 8.4 per cent), while exports to EU partners fell by 14.1 per cent. Despite exports to the USA falling by 8.3 per cent, the USA's share of the export market in Wales nevertheless rose from 20.9 per cent to 21.5 per cent over the past year; there were large increases in goods going to the USA in SITC division 82 'Furniture & parts thereof; bedding, mattresses etc.' (doubling in size) although this was offset by a decrease in division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down 18.4 per cent). The Irish Republic remains Wales' second largest partner country, taking an 11.6 per cent share of its exports despite a decrease of 11.9 per cent from the previous year.

The United Arab Emirates is still Wales' third largest export partner despite seeing a decrease of 2.4 per cent over the past year. This drop in value was due to a decrease in exports in SITC 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment'.

The partner countries with the largest value decreases in exports from Wales over the year were the Netherlands (down 39.6 per cent) followed by the USA (see previous), the Irish Republic (see previous) and Ecuador (down 8.3 per cent). For all of these partners the decline was driven by SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'.

The partner countries where export values increased most during the year were Singapore (up 62.0 per cent) and India (23.1 per cent). For both countries, much of the growth was in goods from SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment'.

Partner country analysis – Scotland

Table 4a: Scotland - Top five export partners, year ending December 2014

	Country	Year ending December 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2013	% Total Exports in year ending December 2014
Top 5	USA	2,715.5	3,202.2	-15.2	13.9
	France	1,317.4	1,297.5	1.5	6.7
	Netherlands	1,231.4	1,267.0	-2.8	6.3
	Belgium	1,162.0	1,369.9	-15.2	5.9
	Germany	1,134.6	1,256.9	-9.7	5.8
	Others	12,036.5	12,269.2	-1.9	61.4
	Total EU	8,322.0	8,697.2	-4.3	42.5
	Total Non-EU	11,275.4	11,965.5	-5.8	57.5
	Grand Total	19,597.4	20,662.7	-5.2	100.0

Note: 2014 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs, Regional Trade Statistics

Table 4a shows that exports from Scotland decreased in value by 5.2 per cent during the year ending December 2014. There was a decrease in Scotland's exports for each of the last five quarters when compared with the same quarter of the previous year. Although non-EU partner countries continue to dominate exports from Scotland, the percentage of goods by value going to the EU has increased during the year from 42.1 per cent to 42.5 per cent as a result of the proportion of non-EU exports dropping from 57.9 per cent to 57.5 per cent. The 5.8 per cent reduction in goods going to non-EU countries was mainly due to a large decrease in exports to the USA (down 15.2 per cent). Among the EU partners there were sizeable reductions in goods going to Belgium. Over the last year, Belgium has moved down from second to fourth largest export partner for Scotland, behind France and the Netherlands.

Exports to four of Scotland's top five partners decreased in value during the year; the only exception was France, where there was a marginal increase of 1.5 per cent. The fall in exports to Scotland's top partner, the USA, was mainly due to substantial reductions in SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down 71.9 per cent), division 11 'Beverages' (down 8.6 per cent) and division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (down 27.5 per cent). The 2.8 per cent decrease for the Netherlands was led by a fall in SITC division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances' (down 52.8 per cent). The decreases in Scotland's exports to Belgium (down 15.2 per cent) and Germany (down 9.7 per

cent) were led by a decline in SITC division 51 'Organic chemicals. The marginal increase in exports to France was led by SITC division 33 (doubling in size).

The largest value increases among Scotland's exports were in goods going to the Irish Republic (up 42.7 per cent) and South Korea (up 29.4 per cent). For the Irish Republic the rise was mainly in SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment' (an increase by a factor of 100), while for South Korea the increase was driven by division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' – a rise from virtually zero trade to £65.5 million.

After the USA, the largest value decreases among Scotland's exports were in goods going to Belgium (see above), followed by Singapore (down 18.7 per cent). For Singapore, the decline was primarily in SITC division 11 'Beverages' (down 39.0 per cent).

Partner country analysis – Northern Ireland

Table 5a: Northern Ireland - Top five export partners, year ending December 2014

	Country	Year ending December 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2013	% Total Exports in year ending December 2014
Top 5	Irish Republic	2,247.8	2,220.8	1.2	37.9
	USA	645.4	574.7	12.3	10.9
	Canada	332.2	383.7	-13.4	5.6
	Germany	317.4	258.0	23.1	5.4
	France	300.0	310.6	-3.4	5.1
	Others	2,081.1	2,237.3	-7.0	35.1
	Total EU	3,576.1	3,479.1	2.8	60.4
	Total Non-EU	2,347.8	2,505.9	-6.3	39.6
	Grand Total	5,923.9	5,985.1	-1.0	100.0

Note: 2014 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs, Regional Trade Statistics

Table 5a shows that exports from Northern Ireland have decreased in value by 1.0 per cent during the year ending December 2014. The top five export partners have remained the same as in the previous annual period with only Germany and France swapping places. The Irish Republic continues to dominate Northern Ireland's export

market; its share of Northern Ireland's exports increased from 37.1 per cent to 37.9 per cent during the year. In contrast with other UK countries, the majority of Northern Ireland's exports go to the EU; the value of exports to EU partners rose by 2.8 per cent over the year, while exports to non-EU partners decreased by 6.3 per cent.

There were increases in exports to three of the top five partner countries during the year. The largest value increase was for the USA (up 12.3 per cent), where the rise was driven by SITC division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (up 20.9 per cent) and division 79 'other transport equipment' (up 36.4 per cent). The second largest value increase was for Germany; this was led by SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment' (up 36.0 per cent). The 1.2 per cent increase in exports to Irish Republic was driven by division 02 'Dairy products & birds' eggs'.

The decreases in exports to Canada and France were driven by falls in SITC 79 'Other transport equipment' in both cases.

The partner countries with the largest value decrease in exports from Northern Ireland were Canada (see above), Australia (down 33.1 per cent) and Russia (down 38.5 per cent).

Commodity analysis - England

Table 6a: Top five commodities for export from England - year ending December 2014

SITC section	Description	Year ending December 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2013	% Total Exports in year ending December 2014
7	Machinery & transport equipment	89,083.8	91,094.8	-2.2	42.3
5	Chemicals & related products	34,572.2	35,252.4	-1.9	16.4
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	32,926.4	31,319.0	5.1	15.6
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	22,179.4	25,725.4	-13.8	10.5
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	16,076.5	20,384.8	-21.1	7.6
	Other SITCs	15,844.4	16,600.2	-4.6	7.5
	All SITCs	210,682.6	220,376.6	-4.4	100.0

Note: 2014 data is provisional
Source: HM Revenue & Customs, Regional Trade Statistics

Table 6a shows that SITC section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' continues to dominate exports from England; its share of England's exports has risen from 41.3 per cent to 42.3 per cent over the year, despite a decrease of 2.2 per cent by value. Exports from division 78 'Road vehicles' rose by 3.0 per cent, while exports from most other divisions of section 7 decreased over the 12 month period. Section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' was the only one of the top five sections to increase in export value during the year, with much of the growth coming from SITC division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles n.e.s.' (up 10.1 per cent).

The largest percentage decrease was for section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials', where most of the decrease was within SITC division 33 'petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down 22.1 per cent, with exports to France down 60.1 per cent).

For exports of section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material', there was a large decrease of 13.8 per cent over the year; the biggest reduction was in division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures n.e.s.' (down 54.2 per cent), mainly in goods going to Belgium and Botswana. For section 5 'Chemicals & related products' (down 1.9 per cent over the year), the largest decreases were in division 52 'Inorganic chemicals' (down 28.5 per cent).

After section 8 the only other value increase during the year was in section 0 'Food & live animals' (up 3.8 per cent); here, much of the increase was due to division 09 'Miscellaneous edible products & preparations' (up 12.1 per cent with exports to Germany up 57.8 per cent).

After sections 6 and 3 the largest decrease was in exports from section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' (down 2.2 per cent). Here, most of the reduction came from division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (down 7.0 per cent) especially in exports to Hong Kong and Singapore.

Thirty-eight of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in export value during the year. After divisions 33 and 66 (see above), the largest reduction was in division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (down 7.0 per cent). After division 89, the largest increase at division level was in division 78 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles n.e.s.' (see above).

Commodity analysis – English regions

Table 7a - Top five commodities for export from English regions, year ending December 2014

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

Note: 2014 data is 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 little change in the order of the top five commodity groups in the last 12 months with six of the English regions remaining unchanged. For Yorkshire & the Humber; the top five remain the same with only sections 6 and 3 swapping places in third and fourth positions. For the East, section 5 has become the second largest commodity group, moving ahead of section 3, which fell to fourth place. For London, section 7 has become the second largest commodity group,

overtaking section 6. The top five commodity groups have remained the same for the other six regions.

SITC section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' is the top export section by value for six of the nine English regions, the exceptions being the North West, Yorkshire & the Humber and London. In the West Midlands, East Midlands, South West and North East, this section dominates the market, accounting for 73.1 per cent, 67.3 per, 62.9 per cent and 54.7 per cent of exports respectively; the market share for this section has increased during the year for the West Midlands and the North East but there was a decrease for the East Midlands and the South West. In the West Midlands exports from division 78 'Road vehicles' increased the most within section 7 (up 13.8 per cent) while for the North East the biggest increase was in division 72 'Machinery specialized for particular industries', where exports almost doubled in value.

The South East and the North West are the top English regions for exports within section 5 'Chemicals and related products'. The South East experienced an increase of 3.1 per cent, increasing its share of England's exports in this section from 23.9 per cent to 25.1 per cent. The North West's share of England's exports from this section has reduced from 26.5 per cent to 24.1 per cent over the past year, with a 10.8 per cent drop in export value in this section. For the North West, most of the decrease in exports from section 5 was attributable to division 52 'Inorganic chemicals' (down 33.9 per cent). The increase in section 5 exports from the South East was led by a rise in division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (up 6.5 per cent).

The South East, the East, London, the North West and Yorkshire & the Humber are the dominant regions for exports within section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' but all four saw a decrease in section 3 exports during the year. For all of these regions much of the decline was in exports from division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'.

For section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' and section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' London continues to be the dominant exporting region, accounting for 18.3 per cent and 36.9 per cent of England's total exports in these two sections respectively.

Two of the regions saw increases in section 6 exports; the rises were for the East (up 9.6 per cent), where much of the growth came from division 68 'Non-ferrous metals' and Yorkshire & the Humber (up 7.1 per cent) led by a rise in division 69 'Manufactures of metal'. Exports from section 8 increased for six of the nine English regions during the year. The largest value increase was for London (up 6.7 per cent), which was driven by a rise in division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (down 8.8 per cent). In contrast, the largest value decrease in section 8 exports was for the East Midlands (down 5.8 per cent), led by a reduction in SITC division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' (down 15.4 per cent).

The North East, South West and East Midlands are the only regions with section 0 'Food & live animals' in their top five. This is in spite of increases over the past year of exports from this section in seven out of the nine English regions. For the East there has been a 6.5 per cent increase in exports from section 0 during the year; the largest value increases were in division 09 'Miscellaneous edible products & preparations' (up 39.8 per cent), division 06 'Sugar, sugar preparations & honey' (up 24.3 per cent) and division 04 'Cereals & cereal preparations' (up 4.2 per cent).

The North West remains the most dominant region for exports of section 2 'Crude materials' despite a decrease of 13.4 per cent over the 12 months. This was primarily due to a decline in exports from division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' (down 14.5 per cent).

Six of the nine English regions saw a decrease in export value for the majority of the sixty-five SITC divisions. For four of the nine English regions the largest division-level increase was within section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment': for the North West the largest increase was division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing app. & eqp.', for the West Midlands, the largest increase was in division 78 'Road vehicles', for the North East it was in division 72 'Machinery specialized for particular industries' and for the East Midlands it was in division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances'. For the East, the South East and London the largest increases were in division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' and for South West division 87 'Professional, scientific & controlling instruments & apparatus' respectively. Yorkshire & the Humber saw its largest rise in division 69 'Manufactures of metal n.e.s.'

For the East, the South East and Yorkshire & the Humber the largest decreases at division level during the year were in division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'. However, London saw its largest reduction in division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures'. For the East Midlands the biggest fall was in division 71 'Power generating machinery and equipment', while for the West Midlands and South West it was in division 72 'Machinery specialized for particular industries'. The biggest decrease for the North West was in division 52 'Inorganic chemicals' and for the North East it was in division 51 'Organic chemicals'.

Commodity analysis - Wales

Table 8a: Top five commodities for export from Wales, year ending December 2014

SITC section	Description	Year ending December 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2013	% Total Exports in year ending December 2014
7	Machinery & transport equipment	5,823.1	6,067.1	-4.0	44.2
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	2,653.3	3,887.5	-31.7	20.2
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,026.6	2,076.8	-2.4	15.4
5	Chemicals & related products	1,399.0	1,468.4	-4.7	10.6
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	902.2	878.5	2.7	6.9
	Other SITCs	360.1	406.9	-11.5	2.7
	All SITCs	13,164.3	14,785.2	-11.0	100.0

Note: 2014 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs, Regional Trade Statistics

Table 8a shows that exports from Wales continue to be dominated by goods from sections 7 and 3. Annual exports from Wales have decreased for four of the top five SITC sections during the past year.

Wales exports from section 7 decreased by 4.0 per cent during the last year with the largest reduction coming from division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (down 4.1 per cent).

For section 3 there was a decrease of 31.7 per cent during the last year with the largest reduction coming from division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down 32.0 per cent).

Wales' exports from section 6 decreased by 2.4 per cent during the last year, with the largest reduction coming from division 67 'Iron & steel' (down 3.5 per cent).

For section 5 there was a decrease of 4.7 per cent in exports during the last year. This fall was led by division 51 'Organic chemicals' (down 14.4 per cent) and division 57 'Plastics in primary forms' (down 10.8 per cent).

In contrast, exports from section 8 increased by 2.7 per cent over the 12 months, led by a 17.7 per cent rise in division 82 'Furniture & parts thereof'.

Forty-two of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in export value over the year. By far the largest annual reduction at division level was in division 33 (see above). The second largest decrease was in division 71 'power generating machinery & equipment'.

The commodity groups with the biggest increases at division level were SITC division 72 'Machinery specialized for particular industries' (see above) followed by division 82 'Furniture & parts thereof; bedding, mattresses etc.' (see above).

Commodity analysis - Scotland

Table 9a: Top five commodities for export from Scotland, year ending December 2014

SITC section	Description	Year ending December 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2013	% Total Exports in year ending December 2014
7	Machinery & transport equipment	6,114.5	6,237.3	-2.0	31.2
1	Beverages & tobacco	4,681.3	5,115.3	-8.5	23.9
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,436.8	2,487.5	-2.0	12.4
5	Chemicals & related products	1,766.5	1,905.5	-7.3	9.0
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	1,760.5	1,998.6	-11.9	9.0
	Other SITCs	2,837.8	2,918.5	-2.8	14.5
	All SITCs	19,597.4	20,662.7	-5.2	100.0

Note: 2014 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs, Regional Trade Statistics

Table 9a shows that the value of exports has decreased during the year for all of Scotland's top five commodity groups. Scotland's exports continue to be dominated by goods from section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' and section 1 'Beverages & tobacco', although exports within these sections fell by 2.0 per cent and 8.5 per cent respectively during the year. There has been a change in the top five commodity groups over the last year with section 5 having moved up into fourth position, overtaking section 4 'Animal & vegetable oils, fats & waxes'.

The largest decrease in Scotland's exports over the year was in section 1 'Beverages & tobacco'. This decline has been evident since the third quarter of 2013; for each of the last six quarters, exports from this section have been lower than in the same quarter of the previous year. Much of the decrease for Scotland was due to reduced exports of division 11 'Beverages' (down 8.5 per cent) with exports to the USA and Singapore down substantially.

The other decreases among the top five commodities were in sections 6 (down 2.0 per cent), 5 (down 7.3 per cent) and 3 (down 11.9 per cent). Here, the largest

reductions came from division 62 'Rubber manufactures n.e.s' (down 10.2 per cent), 51 'Organic chemicals' (down 42.3 per cent) and 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down 12.5 per cent).

Thirty-three of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in export value during the year. The largest division-level reductions were for SITC division 11 'Beverages' (see above), followed by division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' and division 51 'Organic chemicals' (see above). The largest increases at division level were for division 75 'Office machines & automatic data processing machines' (up 45.0 per cent), division 79 'Other transport equipment' (up 7.7 per cent) and division 59 'Chemical materials & products n.e.s.' (up 8.1 per cent).

Commodity analysis – Northern Ireland

Table 10a: Top five commodities for export from Northern Ireland, year ending December 2014

SITC section	Description	Year ending December 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2013	% Total Exports in year ending December 2014
7	Machinery & transport equipment	2,231.8	2,355.1	-5.2	37.7
0	Food & live animals	1,158.6	1,120.5	3.4	19.6
5	Chemicals & related products	821.9	787.9	4.3	13.9
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	640.2	650.5	-1.6	10.8
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	531.3	539.1	-1.4	9.0
	Other SITCs	540.2	532.0	1.5	9.1
	All SITCs	5,923.9	5,985.1	-1.0	100.0

Note: 2014 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs, Regional Trade Statistics

Table 10a shows that Northern Ireland's exports continue to be dominated by goods from section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment'. Exports from this section decreased by 5.2 per cent, with a large fall in division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (down 23.3 per cent), which was led by reductions in goods going to Hong Kong the United Arab Emirates.

Out of the top 5 commodities only sections 0 'Food & live animals' and 5 'Chemicals & related products' saw an increase.

Section 0 'Food & live animals' experienced the largest section-level increase in exports during the year (up 3.4 per cent), the largest contributors being division 01 'Meat & meat preparations' (up 10.3 per cent) and division 02 'Dairy products & birds' eggs' (up 5.6 per cent). In both cases the increases were driven by large rises in exports to the Irish Republic.

The second largest annual value increase was for section 5 'Chemicals & related products' (up 4.3 per cent). This was primarily due to growth in exports from division 59 'Chemical materials & products' (up 56.3 per cent) where goods going to the Irish Republic increased in value by 47.5 per cent.

The 1.4 per cent annual decrease in exports of section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' was led by division 62 'Rubber manufactures n.e.s.' (down 15.6 per cent). The 1.6 per cent decrease in exports for section 8 was driven largely by a decrease in division 87 'Professional, scientific & controlling instruments & apparatus' (down 9.9 per cent) which was offset by a rise in division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' (up 21.3 per cent).

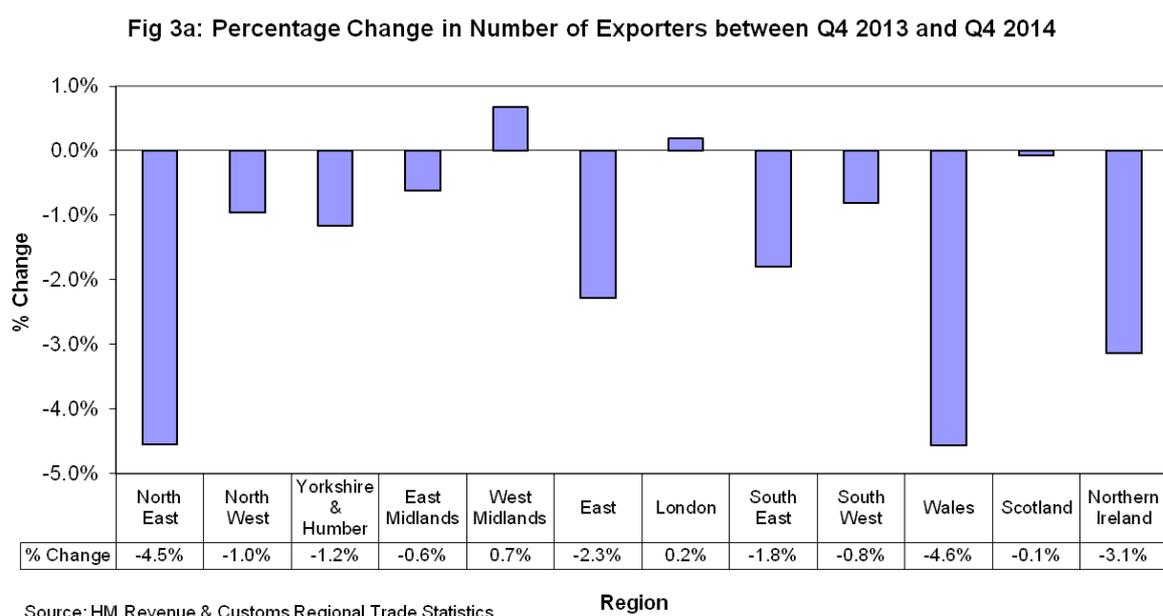
Five of the ten aggregated SITC commodities decreased over the year. The largest decrease was for section 7 (see above), followed by section 3 (down 19.4 per cent). The fall in exports of the latter was driven by a reduction in division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes' (down 19.0 per cent).

Only twenty-nine of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in export value during the year. The largest value decreases at division level were for division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (see above), division 72 'Machinery specialized for particular industries' (down 12.7 per cent) and division 87 'Professional, scientific & controlling ins & app n.e.s.' (see above). The biggest value increases at division level were in division 01 'Meat & meat preparations' (up 10.3 per cent), division 59 'Chemical materials & products n.e.s.' (up 56.3 per cent) and division 78 'Road vehicles (including air cushion vehicles)' (up 11.7 per cent).

Number of Businesses - Exports

The following analysis compares the number of active exporters in quarter 4 2014 with the number in quarter 4 2013. 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 4 2013 and quarter 4 2014.



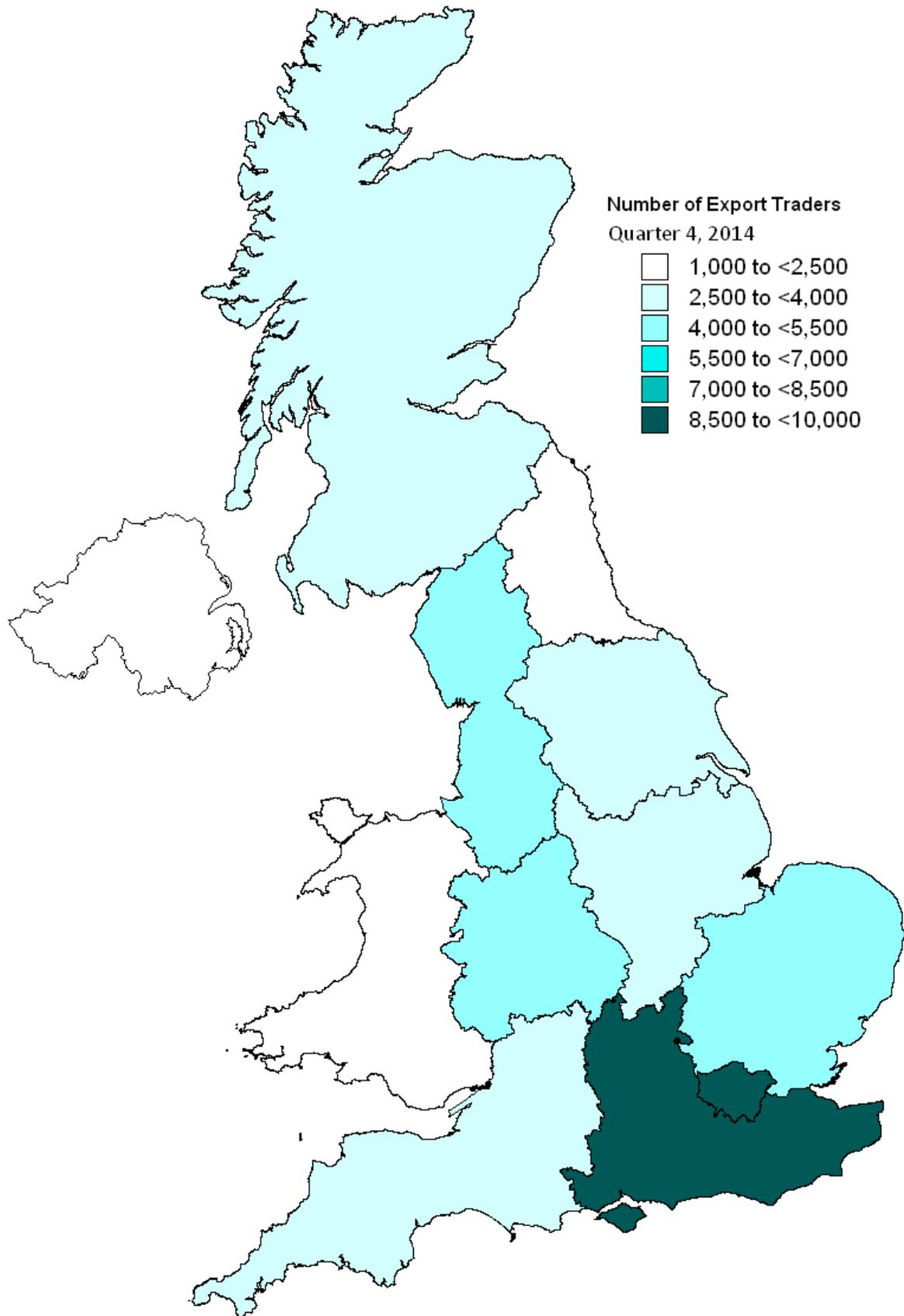
For the UK as a whole, the number of exporting businesses decreased by 1.1 per cent between quarter 4 2013 and quarter 4 2014, from 50,343 to 49,810. This is the sixth quarter in succession in which the number of active exporters has been lower than in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

Figure 3a shows that the number of active exporters decreased in all regions of the UK except for West Midlands and London between quarter 4 2013 and quarter 4 2014. The West Midlands experienced the largest percentage rise in exporting businesses, 0.7 per cent, Wales saw the largest percentage decline, 4.6 per cent.

For the South East and the East this is the seventh successive quarter in which the number of active exporters has been lower than in the same quarter of the previous year.

Figure 4a shows the total number of active UK exporters in each region for quarter 4 2014. London, the South East and the East are the three regions with the largest number of businesses, accounting respectively for 17.5 per cent, 17.3 per cent and 10.9 per cent of all UK export businesses.

Fig 4a: Number of UK export businesses by region - Quarter 4, 2014



Note: 2014 data is provisional
Source: HM Revenue & Customs, Regional Trade Statistics

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 December 2014

	Country	Year ending December 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2013	% Total Exports in year ending December 2014
Top 5	Germany	51,388.3	48,209.9	6.6	15.5
	China	28,828.2	27,414.2	5.2	8.7
	USA	24,942.9	25,327.3	-1.5	7.5
	Netherlands	23,573.0	26,367.3	-10.6	7.1
	France	20,132.4	20,084.5	0.2	6.1
	Others	183,639.3	194,356.9	-5.5	55.2
	Total EU	179,558.1	178,554.3	0.6	54.0
	Total Non-EU	152,946.1	163,205.8	-6.3	46.0
	Grand Total	332,504.2	341,760.1	-2.7	100.0

Note: 2014 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs, Regional Trade Statistics

With England receiving the vast majority of the UK's imports by value, the pattern of imports to England largely determines that for the UK as a whole. However, Table 1b shows that the total value of imports to England decreased by 2.7 per cent during the year ending December 2014; this was bigger than the 1.3 per cent decrease in imports to the UK as a whole. There was some change in England's top five import partner group during the year: imports from the Netherlands decreased, moving the Netherlands down to fourth position, while those from the USA decreased by a smaller amount, moving the USA up into third position.

Germany remains the top import partner for England by a wide margin. Imports from here rose by 6.6 per cent during the year, the biggest value increase by far of all England's import partners. There was a large increase in goods from Germany within SITC division 78 'Road vehicles'. China remains England's second highest import partner with a 5.2 per cent annual increase.

Non-EU partner countries accounted for 46.0 per cent of England's imports during the year; this percentage has fallen from 47.8 per cent in the previous annual period. Imports from the EU have increased by 0.6 per cent over the year, while imports from non-EU countries have decreased by 6.3 per cent.

The second largest increase in import value over the year was for China, with large rises in imports from division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances' (up 14.2 per cent) and SITC division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (up 10.3 per cent). Imports from France also increased over the year; this growth was primarily attributable to SITC division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (up 48.9 per cent) and division 79 'Other transport equipment' (up 44.5 per cent).

The partner country where the value of imports decreased the most during the year was the Netherlands. The 10.6 per cent decrease in imports from the Netherlands was driven by reductions in goods received from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down 57.6 per cent) and division 51 'Organic chemicals' (down 45.1 per cent).

After Germany and China, the partner countries where the value of imports increased most over the 12 months were Italy (up 6.3 per cent) and Spain (up 7.0 per cent). These increases were led by SITC division 78 'Road vehicles (including air cushion vehicles)' (Spain) and division 71 'Organic chemicals' (Italy).

Partner country analysis – English regions

Table 2b: Top five import partners for the English regions, year ending December 2014

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

Note: 2014 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs, Regional Trade Statistics

Table 2b shows the top partner countries for imports to the English regions for the year ending December 2014. 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 region is representative of where the manufacturing business is located. In some cases this will relate to the location where the goods are manufactured. However, for Imports the region is not representative of where the goods are consumed. It represents the location of the importing business who are then likely to disperse the goods across the UK regions for consumption. Nevertheless, there are a number of partner countries that appear consistently among the top five for most regions. Germany and China are among the top five import partners for every English region, with Germany now the top import partner for five of the nine regions. The USA is among the top five for all regions apart from the North West and the West Midlands. The Netherlands is in the top five for all regions except the North East and East Midlands. France is among the top five for six of the regions.

There have been a number of changes in the order and membership of the top five over the last year. For the North East, China has overtaken USA into fourth place. For the North West, Germany, China and Belgium have overtaken the Netherlands which fell from first to fourth place. For the East Midlands, Japan has moved up into fourth position, overtaking France. For the East, China has overtaken France into

fourth place. For the South West, China has overtaken the Netherlands and France has entered the top five, pushing out the United Arab Emirates. For London, South East, West Midlands and Yorkshire & the Humber there has been no change in the top five in comparison with the previous year.

Imports from China have risen for eight of the nine regions, the exception being the North East; the highest growth rates were in the West Midlands (up 12.1 per cent), Yorkshire and the Humber (up 8.2 per cent) and the East (up 8.2 per cent). Imports from Germany have risen for all regions apart from the South West, East Midlands and North East; the largest annual percentage increases in imports from Germany were for South East (up 11.6 per cent), London (up 7.4 per cent) and the West Midlands (up 6.3 per cent).

Only two of the nine English regions saw an increase in the value of imports during the year – the West Midlands (up 5.9 per cent) and Yorkshire & the Humber (up 7.8 per cent). The regions with the largest percentage decreases were the North West (down 11.6 per cent), the East (down 7.5 per cent) and London (down 5.9 per cent).

England's import trade continues to be dominated by the South East and London; the South East accounted for 26.7 per cent of England's imports by value during the year, while London accounted for 20.4 per cent. The 5.9 per cent decline in London's imports was led by a reduction in goods coming from Botswana (down 99.8 per cent), and Norway (down 25.1 per cent). For the South East there was a decrease of 0.6 per cent in the value of imports; here, a large rise in imports from Germany (up 11.6 per cent) was offset by substantial decreases in the value of goods coming from the Netherlands (down 14.2 per cent).

For the majority of regions most of the import value comes from goods received from within the EU; the only exceptions are East Midlands, London and the South West. The EU market share increased in all regions during the year apart from the East Midlands, the South West and Yorkshire & the Humber. For the East Midlands, the decrease was caused by a 3.4 per cent decrease in EU imports coupled with a 3.1 per cent increase in imports from non-EU partners. For Yorkshire & the Humber a 4.6 per cent rise in EU imports was exceeded by an 11.7 per cent rise in non-EU imports. For the South West, a 1.8 per cent decrease in EU imports accompanied by a 1.7 per cent decrease in non-EU imports led to a marginal rise in the proportion on non-EU imports.

Only three of the English regions saw an increase in non-EU imports over the year; East Midlands (see above), Yorkshire & the Humber (see above) and West Midlands (up 5.3 per cent). For most of the other regions there were considerable decreases in goods coming from non-EU partners, the biggest percentage reductions being in the East (down 15.6 per cent), the North West (down 12.0 per cent) and the North East (down 11.2 per cent).

Partner country analysis – Wales

Table 3b: Wales - Top five import partners, year ending December 2014

	Country	Year ending December 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2013	% Total Exports in year ending December 2014
Top 5	Germany	831.9	835.0	-0.4	11.4
	China	671.8	567.5	18.4	9.2
	France	660.4	611.1	8.1	9.1
	USA	607.3	638.3	-4.9	8.4
	Canada	589.7	833.1	-29.2	8.1
	Others	3,907.5	4,054.5	-3.6	53.8
	Total EU	3,586.9	3,479.2	3.1	49.3
	Total Non-EU	3,681.6	4,060.4	-9.3	50.7
	Grand Total	7,268.5	7,539.6	-3.6	100.0

Note: 2014 data are provisional
Source: HM Revenue & Customs, Regional Trade Statistics

Imports to Wales decreased in value by 3.6 per cent during the year. This decrease was driven by reductions in goods from non-EU partners, the largest value decreases were from Canada (down 29.2 per cent), Brazil (down 18.7 per cent) and South Africa (down 22.6 per cent). For Canada and Brazil, the decrease was led by a reduction in SITC division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap'.

Germany remains the top import partner for Wales for the fourth quarter in succession despite a 0.4 per cent decrease over the year.

The largest increase in imports was for China (up 18.4 per cent). Over the past year, China has moved up from fifth largest to second largest import partner for Wales.

Much of the rise was contributed by growth in imports of division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances' and division 67 'Iron & steel'.

Despite the overall reduction in imports to Wales, goods coming from the EU have increased in value over the year (up 3.1 per cent). The largest value increases in EU imports came from Portugal (up more than threefold, with SITC division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment' increasing dramatically in value).

Partner country analysis – Scotland

Table 4b: Scotland - Top five import partners, year ending December 2014

	Country	Year ending December 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2013	% Total Exports in year ending December 2014
Top 5	USA	2,064.4	1,971.2	4.7	13.6
	Norway	1,585.1	1,510.5	4.9	10.5
	China	1,482.3	1,166.3	27.1	9.8
	Nigeria	1,233.9	912.9	35.2	8.2
	Netherlands	988.3	943.7	4.7	6.5
	Others	7,771.2	8,663.7	-10.3	51.4
	Total EU	5,155.1	5,321.1	-3.1	34.1
	Total Non-EU	9,970.3	9,847.1	1.3	65.9
	Grand Total	15,125.3	15,168.1	-0.3	100.0

Note: 2014 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs, Regional Trade Statistics

Imports to Scotland have marginally decreased in value by 0.3 per cent during the year. This is despite there being a rise in import value for all of the top five import partners over the 12 months. A large increase in imports (35.2 per cent) has seen Nigeria move from sixth to fourth in the last year. A decline in imports from Germany together with an increase in imports from the Netherlands has resulted in the Netherlands moving up from sixth to fifth to replace Germany in the top 5. Imports from non-EU partners now account for almost two-thirds of Scotland's imports by value, this proportion having increased over the past year.

The USA remains Scotland's top import partner, with an increase of 4.7 per cent in imports over the last year. Imports from the USA that increased the most in value were from SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up 21.8 per cent).

Scotland's imports from Nigeria rose by 35.2 per cent during the year; this was the largest value increase among Scotland's partner countries. Much of this growth was contributed by SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up 34.7 per cent).

Outside of the top five partners, Scotland saw its largest increases in value of imports from Belgium (up 18.7 per cent) with a very large increase in SITC division 33 (up four-fold).

The largest value decreases over the 12 months were in imports from Algeria (down 88.1 per cent) and France (down 30.9 per cent). For Algeria the decline was mainly due to reductions in division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'.

Partner country analysis – Northern Ireland

Table 5b: Northern Ireland - Top five import partners, year ending December 2014

	Country	Year ending December 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2013	% Total Exports in year ending December 2014
Top 5	Irish Republic	1,617.2	1,615.7	0.1	27.2
	China	991.7	997.0	-0.5	16.7
	USA	438.4	424.2	3.3	7.4
	Germany	362.7	333.2	8.9	6.1
	Netherlands	339.5	318.1	6.7	5.7
	Others	2,206.0	2,133.2	3.4	37.0
	Total EU	3,334.2	3,218.7	3.6	56.0
	Total Non-EU	2,621.3	2,602.7	0.7	44.0
	Grand Total	5,955.5	5,821.4	2.3	100.0

Note: 2014 data are provisional
Source: HM Revenue & Customs, Regional Trade Statistics

Table 5b shows that the majority of imports to Northern Ireland come from EU partners; the proportion of imports coming from the EU is higher than in England, Wales and Scotland. Northern Ireland's imports from the EU rose by 3.6 per cent in value during the year, compared with a 0.7 per cent rise for non-EU imports. The most dominant import partner in value terms is the Irish Republic which has seen a negligible growth of 0.1 per cent during the year.

Northern Ireland has seen an overall 2.3 per cent increase in the value of its imports during the year. China was the only top five import partner with a decrease in imports to Northern Ireland during the year.

The largest decreases in imports to Northern Ireland were in goods from Hong Kong (down 59.2 per cent) and Bangladesh (down 7.2 per cent).

Commodity analysis - England

Table 6b: Top five commodities for import to England, year ending December 2014

SITC section	Description	Year ending December 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2013	% Total Exports in year ending December 2014
7	Machinery & transport equipment	126,098.9	122,854.4	2.6	37.9
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	55,145.9	53,550.7	3.0	16.6
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	38,125.6	47,186.7	-19.2	11.5
5	Chemicals & related products	36,633.9	37,158.2	-1.4	11.0
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	35,765.3	39,232.5	-8.8	10.8
	Other SITCs	40,734.6	41,777.7	-2.5	12.3
	All SITCs	332,504.2	341,760.1	-2.7	100.0

Note: 2014 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 37.9 per cent of total import value; this proportion has risen from 35.9 per cent a year ago. Imports from section 7 have increased by 2.6 per cent during the year, the largest rises coming from SITC division 78 'Road vehicles' (up 7.9 per cent) and division 79 'Other transport equipment' (up 13.1 per cent); these increases were led by goods coming from Germany for division 78 and France for division 79.

Section 8 was the only other top five section to increase in import value during the year (up 3.0 per cent). Imports increased for all divisions within this section over the 12 months. The largest rise was in division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' (up 2.6 per cent, with imports from China up 10.3 per cent).

Section 3 imports declined in value by 19.2 per cent during the year. This was largely due to a reduction of 17.6 per cent in division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials', with the largest decreases in imports from Netherlands, Russia and Nigeria. Division 33 accounted for 9.9 per cent of England's total imports during the year, down from 11.7 per cent in the previous year.

For section 5, the majority of the 1.4 per cent annual decrease was contributed by division 51 'Organic chemicals' (down 15.2 per cent), with the largest decline in imports from the Netherlands.

Section 6 imports decreased by 8.8 per cent during the year. The largest decreases were in SITC division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures n.e.s.' (down 35.1 per cent, with large reductions in imports from Botswana and Canada) and division 68 'Non-ferrous metals' (down 20.8 per cent with substantial reductions in goods coming from Switzerland).

Thirty-three of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in import value over the 12 months. The largest division-level value decreases were contributed by division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials', division 66 'non-metallic mineral manufactures' and division 68 'Non-ferrous metals' and (see above). The largest division-level value increases were in imports of division 78 'Road vehicles' and division 79 'Other transport equipment' (see above), followed by division 77 'Electrical machinery & appliances' (up 4.0 per cent).

Commodity analysis – English regions

Table 7b - Top five commodities for import to English regions, year ending December 2014

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

Note: 2014 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs, Regional Trade Statistics

Table 7b shows the top five import sections by value for the English regions. There have been some changes in the order of the top five sections in the last year. The North East has seen an increase in imports from section 8, with this section moving up to second largest import section during the year ahead of sections 6 and 5, which have both decreased in value; section 2 has moved out of the top five, being replaced by section 0. For the North West, imports from section 3 have decreased, moving section 3 down from second to fifth position, while imports from sections 7 and 8 have increased and moved up to second and third position respectively. Section 6 has decreased but by far less than section 3 so also overtakes section 3 into fourth position. For the West Midlands, section 6 has moved up to become the second largest import commodity group ahead of section 3. The East has seen a decrease in imports of section 3, which has moved down from third to outside the top 5. For London, section 8 has become the top import section by value after a

decrease in section 3 imports during the year; London's imports from section 6 have reduced dramatically during the year, with section 7 now the third largest import section by value. For the South East, section 3 imports have decreased over the year, with this section moving down from second to third position.

Section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' remains the dominant section for imports in seven of the nine regions. Eight regions have seen an increase in import value for section 7 during the year, the exception being the South West (down 2.1 per cent). By far the largest increase, both in value and percentage terms, was for London (up 11.1 per cent with division 79 'Other transport equipment' increasing by 54.7 per cent). The South East remains the most dominant region for imports of section 7 even though its share of imports into England have declined from 37.5 per cent to 36.7 per cent; the marginal increase in section 7 imports to the South East during the last year was due to a rise coming from division 78 'Road vehicles' (up 9.3 per cent) which was offset by a decline in division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment' (down 17.9 per cent).

Imports from section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' increased for all nine regions. The biggest value increase was in London (up 2.0 per cent) where the largest rise was in division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' (up 5.1 per cent). For the South East there was an increase of 3.3 per cent in section 8 imports during the year with the largest rise in SITC division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles n.e.s.' (up 4.0 per cent).

For section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials', import value declined during the year for six of the nine regions. The largest value decreases were in the East (down 62.1 per cent) the North West (down 46.7 per cent), London (down 11.6 per cent) and the South East (down 11.5 per cent). For London the reduction was largely due to a fall in imports of SITC division 34 'Gas, natural and manufactured' while for the other three of these regions the decrease was mainly attributable to division 33 'Petroleum products & related materials'. The only regions where section 3 imports increased were Yorkshire & the Humber (up 119.9 per cent), West Midlands (up 3.2 per cent) and the East Midlands (up 3.7 per cent). For Yorkshire & the Humber and the West Midlands this was due to rises in SITC division 33 and for the East Midlands this was due to rises in imports of division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes' and division 34.

For section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' five of the nine regions experienced a decrease in import value. By far the largest value decrease was for London (down 31.8 per cent), where imports of division 68 'Non-ferrous metals' and division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures' reduced considerably. The largest value increase in imports from section 6 was for the West Midlands (up 6.6 per cent), with most of the growth in division 67 'Iron & steel' (up 18.9 per cent).

For section 5 'Chemicals & related products' the South East, the East and the North West remain the top importing regions. This was despite the East and North West experiencing decreases of 4.4 per cent and 12.6 per cent respectively. The South East saw a rise of 2.6 per cent which was driven by an increase of division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products'. The North West experienced its largest decrease in division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' while for the East there were large decreases in imports of division 51 'Organic chemicals' (down 12.8 per cent) and division 54 (down 1.1 per cent).

Commodity analysis – Wales

Table 8b: Top five commodities for import to Wales, year ending December 2014

SITC section	Description	Year ending December 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2013	% Total Exports in year ending December 2014
7	Machinery & transport equipment	1,869.8	1,828.9	2.2	25.7
5	Chemicals & related products	1,456.5	1,396.4	4.3	20.0
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1,391.5	1,363.6	2.0	19.1
2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	1,284.6	1,580.1	-18.7	17.7
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	615.2	588.2	4.6	8.5
	Other SITCs	651.0	782.4	-16.8	9.0
	All SITCs	7,268.5	7,539.6	-3.6	100.0

Note: 2014 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs, Regional Trade Statistics

Table 8b shows that imports to Wales increased in four of the top five sections during the year ending December 2014. The largest increase was for section 5 'Chemicals & related products' (up 4.3 per cent); this continues the recovery following a large decrease in imports from this section during 2012. The value of imports from section 2 has decreased by 18.7 per cent over the year, with this section moving down from second to fourth highest valued import commodity group. Increases in imports for sections 5 and 6 during the year have resulted in these sections moving up to second and third highest in import value respectively.

The large increase in imports from section 5 was driven by a rise in division 52 'inorganic chemicals' (up 14.2 per cent) and division 51 'Organic chemicals' (up 9.7 per cent). For division 52 there were substantial increases in goods coming from France, while for division 51 the growth was led by imports from Belgium.

The reduction in imports from section 2 'Crude materials' was led by division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' (down 20.2 per cent) where there were large decreases in goods coming from Canada.

The 2.2 per cent rise in the value of imports from section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' during the year was driven by increases in division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing app. & equipment' (up 91.2 per cent) with the biggest growth in imports coming from Portugal.

Twenty-eight of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in import value during the year. The largest decreases were in division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' (see above), followed by division 78 'Road vehicles' (down 24.4 per cent) and division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes' (down 19.4 per cent). The largest increases at division level were in division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment' (see above) and division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances' (up 17.9 per cent).

Commodity analysis – Scotland

Table 9b: Top five commodities for import to Scotland, year ending December 2014

SITC section	Description	Year ending December 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2013	% Total Exports in year ending December 2014
7	Machinery & transport equipment	5,615.2	5,566.2	0.9	37.1
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	2,924.0	3,073.1	-4.9	19.3
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,145.5	2,101.3	2.1	14.2
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,605.2	1,577.8	1.7	10.6
0	Food & live animals	1,125.3	1,247.3	-9.8	7.4
	Other SITCs	1,710.1	1,602.5	6.7	11.3
	All SITCs	15,125.3	15,168.1	-0.3	100.0

Note: 2014 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 with imports from this section increasing by 0.9 per cent during the year ending December 2014. This was mainly due to rises in imports of SITC division 75 'Office machines & adp machines' (up 14.1 per cent). Section 7 now makes up 37.1 per cent of Scotland's import value, up from 36.7 per cent a year ago.

The next largest increase in annual import value within the top 5 was section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' (up 2.1 per cent). The growth in section 6 was led by division 63 'Cork & wood manufactures (excluding furniture)' (up 31.8 per cent), with a large rise in goods coming from the United States.

The largest section-level value decrease out of the top 5 during the year was in imports of section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials', which fell by 4.9 per cent. Here, the biggest reductions were in imports of division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes' (down 20.6 per cent) and division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down 0.6 per cent).

Thirty-four of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in import value during the year. The largest decreases were in division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes' (see above), followed by division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (down 4.7 per cent). After division 75 'Office machines & adp machines' and division 63 'Cork & wood manufactures (excluding furniture)' the largest value increase was in division 69 'manufactures of metal n.e.s.' (up 9.6 per cent) where imports from the United Arab Emirates increased substantially.

Commodity analysis – Northern Ireland

Table 10b: Top five commodities for import to Northern Ireland, year ending December 2014

SITC section	Description	Year ending December 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2013	% Total Exports in year ending December 2014
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,624.2	1,580.4	2.8	27.3
7	Machinery & transport equipment	1,099.7	1,088.4	1.0	18.5
0	Food & live animals	1,045.8	1,016.0	2.9	17.6
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	877.7	809.6	8.4	14.7
5	Chemicals & related products	546.5	547.1	-0.1	9.2
	Other SITCs	761.5	779.9	-2.4	12.8
	All SITCs	5,955.5	5,821.4	2.3	100.0

Note: 2014 data are provisional
Source: HM Revenue & Customs, Regional Trade Statistics

Four of Northern Ireland's top five import sections increased in value during the year ending December 2014. Section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' remains the top import section by value. Its share of Northern Ireland's total imports has only increased slightly from 27.1 per cent to 27.3 per cent over the last year. Nevertheless, there was a 2.8 per cent increase in the value of imports from section 8 over the year; the biggest increase was in division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' (up 2.0 per cent), mainly in goods coming from Turkey and India.

Northern Ireland experienced its largest section-level value increase in imports of section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' (up 8.4 per cent). The biggest growth was in division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures n.e.s' (up 15.1 per cent), led by increases in goods from Irish Republic.

For section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' the 1.0 per cent increase in imports over the year was led by large rises in division 72 'Machinery specialized for particular industries' (up 21.2 per cent) and division 78 'Road vehicles (including air cushion vehicles)' (up 20.9 per cent).

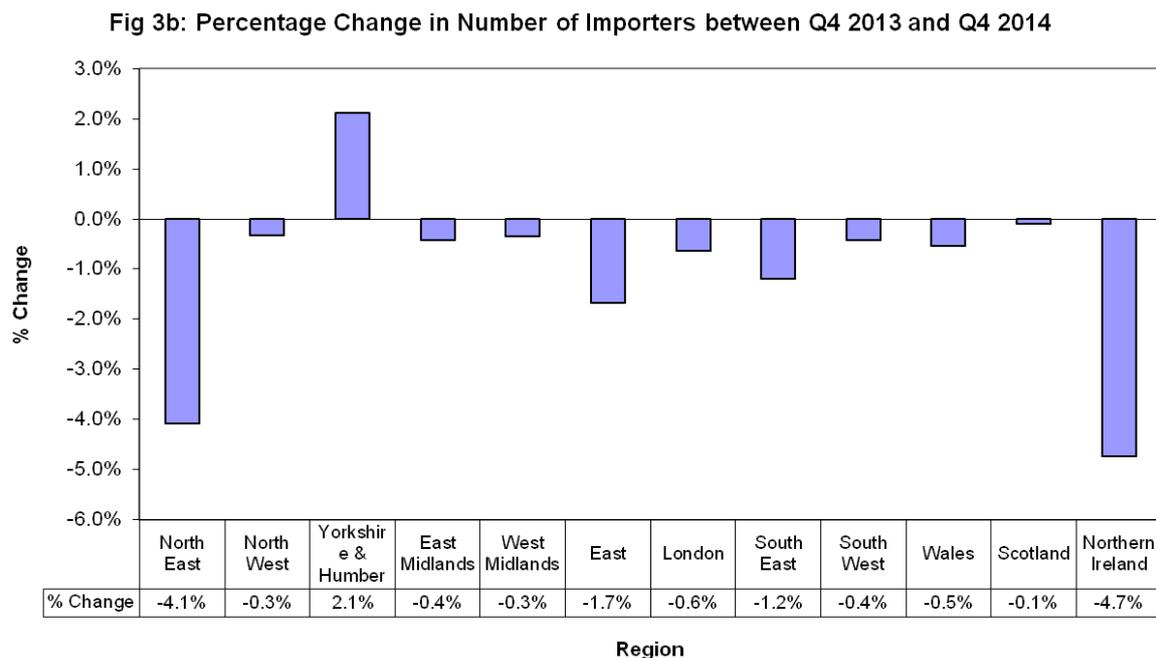
Imports of Section 0 'Food and live animals' increased in value by 2.9 per cent over the year. This was led by a rise in division 01 'Meat & meat preparations' (up 8.5 per cent).

Thirty of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in value during the year. The largest increases in import value at division level were in division 72 'Machinery specialized for particular industries' (see above) and division 01 'Meat & meat preparations' (see above). The biggest decreases came from division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, n.e.s., and electrical parts thereof' (down 12.3 per cent) and division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (down 14.9 per cent).

Number of Businesses – Imports

The following analysis compares the number of active importers in quarter 4 2014 with the number in quarter 4 2013. 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 4 2013 and quarter 4 2014.



Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

In the UK as a whole, the number of importing businesses decreased by 0.7 per cent between quarter 4 2013 and quarter 4 2014 from 65,737 to 65,281. However, a considerable portion of the reduction is due to the increase in the Intrastat threshold from January 2014⁴; for quarter 4 2014; traders who import only from EU countries

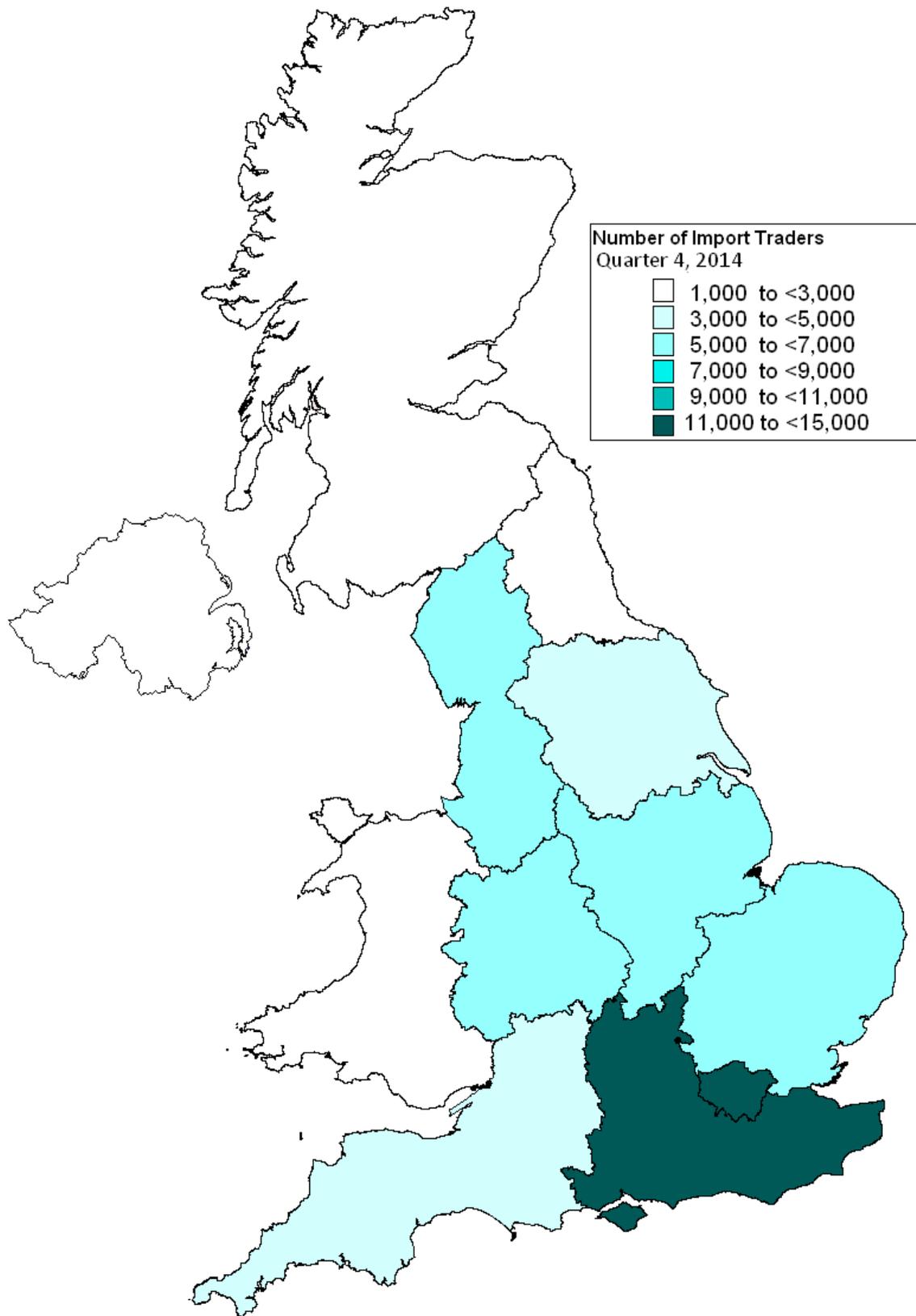
⁴ See [announcement](#) on uktradeinfo.com

are not included in the count if their total annual imports are less than £1.2 million, whereas the equivalent threshold for quarter 4 2013 was £0.6 million.

Figure 3b shows that the number of active importers decreased in eleven of the twelve UK regions between quarter 4 2013 and quarter 4 2014; Yorkshire & Humber was the only region to see an increase. For every region of England and for Northern Ireland, this is the sixth quarter in succession in which the number of importers has decreased compared with the corresponding quarter of the previous year. This is also true for Scotland, with the exception of quarter 2 2014, and for Wales, with the exception of the previous quarter. The biggest percentage decreases were in Northern Ireland (down 4.7 per cent) North East (down 4.1 per cent), and East (down 1.7 per cent). The smallest decreases were in Scotland, where the number of importers only decreased by three, and Wales, where the number of importers only decreased by nine.

Figure 4b shows the total number of active UK importers in each region for quarter 4, 2014. London, the South East and the East are the three regions with the largest count of importers, accounting for 19.4 per cent, 17.1 per cent and 10.7 per cent of all UK importers respectively. The North East has the smallest number of importing businesses for the quarter, making up 1.9 per cent of all UK importers. The proportion of UK importers in each region has remained similar over the past year.

Fig 4b: Number of UK import businesses by region - Quarter 4, 2014



Note: 2014 data are provisional
Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

Notes

1. The latest statistics on Regional Trade were released on 05 March 2015 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 2014. At the same time revisions for all previously published regional data for 2014 are also being released. All RTS data excludes non-monetary gold, which is now being included in OTS data from 2005 onwards.
2. Data is taken primarily from Customs systems (for non-EU trade) and the Intrastat survey (for EU trade). HMRC does not receive information in respect of goods that move wholly within the UK, nor in intangibles and services such as banking or tourism. Trade is mainly allocated to a region by the postcode associated with a company's VAT registration.
3. Some adjustments have been necessary in the production of export statistics by region to ensure manufacturing that takes place at branch premises is properly allocated to the region where the branch is situated. This adjustment is based on the results of periodic surveys of the top 200 businesses by value of exports (both EU and non-EU), to determine the values and proportions of trade generated by each branch. Therefore, for businesses who have provided a response to the survey, their trade is split by value to various regions in line with the information provided by the survey. For all other businesses the region where the head office is located is used by default unless the export is assigned to a specific branch. For imports, such adjustments cannot be made, as businesses would not be able to produce a reasonable assessment of the final regional destination for their goods. Unlike exports where the manufacture of goods is typically more regionally concentrated, imports are based on the sale of goods, which is far more regionally dispersed.
4. Not all trade can be assigned to one of the 9 English Regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Where appropriate, this is referred to in the tables as the 'Unknown region' and includes:
 - a. Trade carried out by persons or entities which cannot be matched to a region.
 - b. Low Value Trade and estimates made for EU trade below the Intrastat threshold.

- c. Goods within classification codes that have changed since the previous year are not assigned to a region but are included within Unknown region for completeness.
- d. Data relating to Natural Gas and Electricity direct from pipeline and grid operators and information on petroleum production from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC).

More information can be found in the RTS methodology document.

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/Statistics/NonEUOverseasTrade/AboutOverseasTradeStatistics/User%20support/RTS_Methodology_Revision_2013.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. 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 adversely affected 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.

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, and are published as a [Government Statistical Service Quality report](#).
11. The RTS has been reviewed as part of an assessment made of Overseas Trade Statistics by the [UK Statistics Authority](#). The report of that assessment can be found at <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-93---uk-trade-in-goods.pdf>

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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: 04 June 2015 9:30am

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