

# Regional Trade Statistics – First Quarter 2013

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## **Summary**

- In the year to March 2013, there was a fall in annual export value in all UK countries and regions apart from the East Midlands and the West Midlands. There was a fall in annual import value during the year in all UK countries and regions apart from Scotland, the East Midlands, the North West and the South West. Of the four UK countries, England had the lowest rate of decrease for exports. Scotland was the only UK country to see an increase in imports.
- The value of UK exports and imports both decreased in Quarter 1 2013 compared with Quarter 1 2012. The value of exports fell for England, Scotland and Northern Ireland but rose for Wales between Quarter 1 2012 and Quarter 1 2013; the value of imports fell for all four UK countries. Exports increased in Yorkshire & Humberside, the East Midlands, the West Midlands and the South West but decreased in all other English regions. Imports decreased in all English regions apart from the North West and the South West.
- The number of exporters rose between Quarter 1 2012 and Quarter 1 2013 in all UK regions apart from the North East, Yorkshire & Humberside, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The number of importers rose in all UK regions apart from Scotland.
- For England, the value of exports to South Korea increased most in the year ending March 2013; for Wales exports to Ecuador increased the most; for Scotland exports to Australia increased the most, while for Northern Ireland exports to the USA increased most. For imports, the largest increases were in goods from Switzerland (England), Nigeria (Scotland), Sweden (Wales) and China (Northern Ireland).
- For exports, the commodity groups with the largest annual value increases were 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (England) 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (Wales), 'Iron & steel' (Scotland) and 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (Northern Ireland).
- For imports, the commodity groups with the largest annual value increases were 'Non-ferrous metals' (England), 'Office machines & automatic data processing machines' (Wales), 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (Scotland) and 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' (Northern Ireland).

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

RTS data is compiled by linking trade data collected by HMRC with Office for National Statistics postcode data to obtain the region in which the VAT registered business (importer or exporter) is based. Because the trade is regionalised according to the location of the VAT registered business some of the trade may be allocated to the region where the head office of the business is located<sup>1</sup>.

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

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

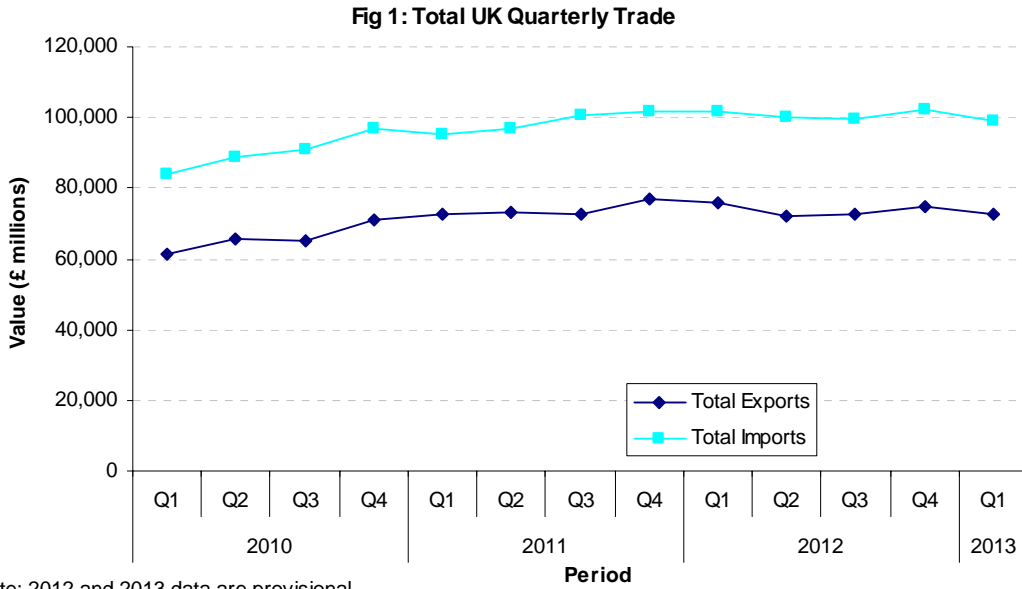
This release includes some important revisions to RTS data. As well as incorporating the historic revisions which have already been applied to published OTS data for [Non-EU trade](#) and [EU trade](#), this release includes some further large-scale revisions that are being applied to move a proportion of trade out of the 'Unknown' region and redistribute it to the appropriate UK regions. These changes are being applied to 2008 data onwards. Further details of the effects of the revisions can be found in the accompanying news release published on [www.uktradeinfo.com](http://www.uktradeinfo.com) on 6 June 2013.

## Overview of UK trade

Figure 1 shows the quarterly values of imports to and exports from the UK since 2010. The value of both imports and exports decreased by 2.8 per cent during the first quarter of 2013. This reduced the trade deficit to £26.6 billion for the quarter, the largest ever first quarter deficit over this period.

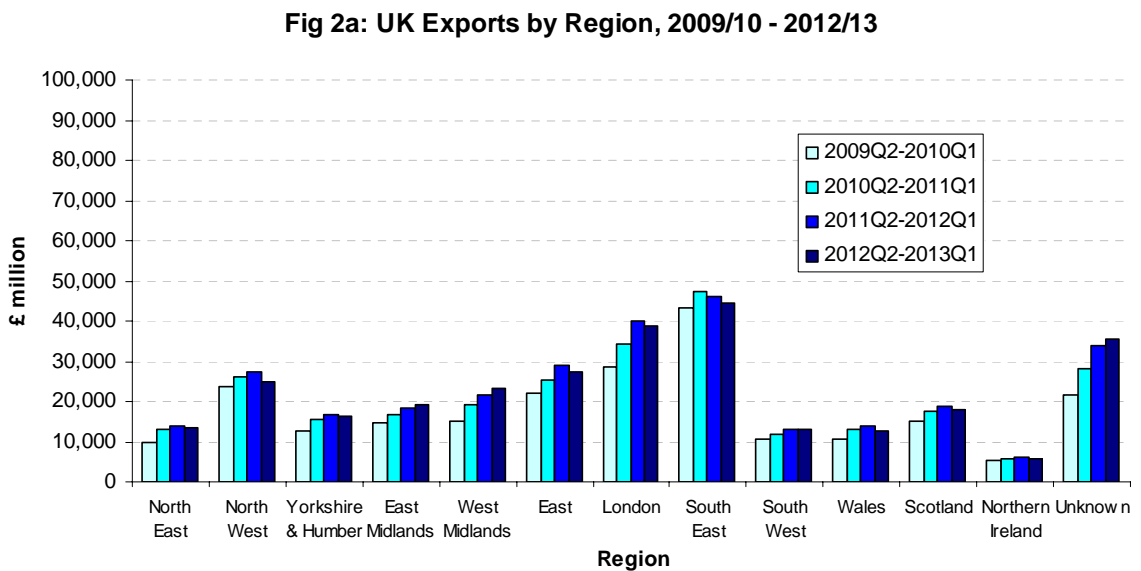
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<sup>1</sup> See note 3



## Overview - Exports

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



- The total annual value of UK exports decreased by 2.2 per cent to £292.2 billion in the year ending March 2013; this is a marked change from the 8.9 per cent increase seen in the year ending March 2012. There was a fall in the value of exports across all countries and regions of the UK apart from the East Midlands and the West Midlands during the year ending March 2013. The total annual value of exports from England fell by 2.8 per cent to £220.1 billion during the year, the largest decrease coming from the 'Chemicals & related products' sector. Exports from Scotland fell by 3.4 per cent to £18.0 billion; the largest decreases during the year were in Scotland's exports from the 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' sector. Exports from Wales fell by 8.9 per cent to £12.7 billion; there were decreases in all sectors, the largest decline during the year coming from 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials'. Exports from Northern Ireland fell by 5.5 per cent to £5.7 billion, with the 'Machinery & transport equipment' sector contributing a large portion of the value decrease. Exports allocated to the 'Unknown region'<sup>2</sup> amounted to £35.7 billion in the year ending March 2013.
- The South East continues to have the largest total export value of all the English regions (£44.5 billion for the year ending March 2013) accounting for 20.2 per cent of total exports from England. This is despite a value decrease of 3.9 per cent in exports from the South East over the annual period.
- The South West had the smallest total value of exports of £12.9 billion for the year ending March 2013, 5.8 per cent of England's total. The first quarter of 2013 marked the third successive quarterly increase in exports from the South West.
- Year on year, the largest percentage increase in the English regions was for the West Midlands, whose exports increased by 6.5 per cent to £23.1 billion during the year. Exports of £6.1 billion were reported for the first quarter of 2013, the highest quarterly figure on record for the region.
- Year on year, the largest percentage decrease among the English regions was for the North West (down 9.9 per cent); this was mainly due to a fall in exports from the 'Chemicals & related products' sector over the last 12 months.

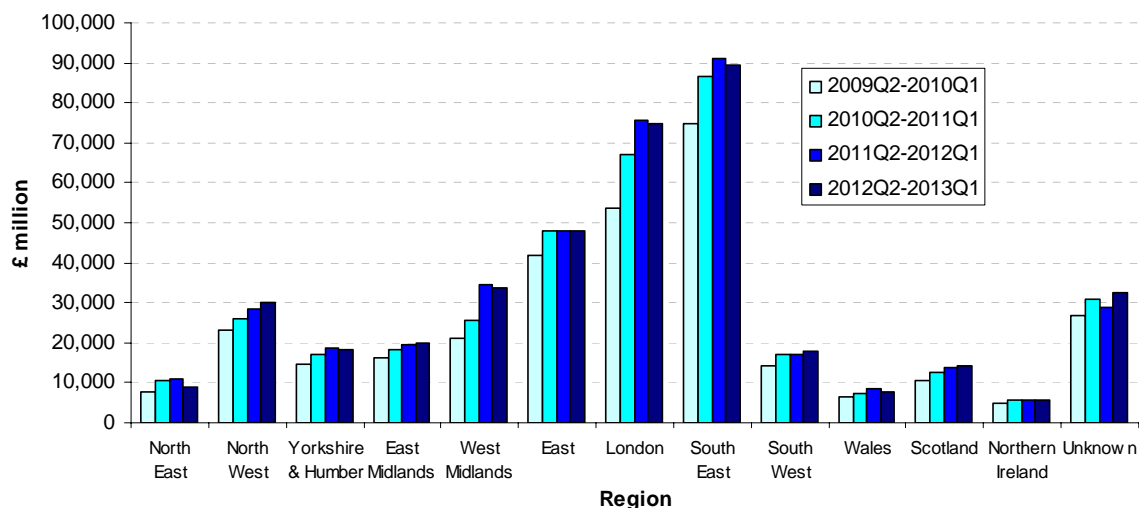
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<sup>2</sup> See note 4

## Overview - Imports

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

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



Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional  
Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

- The total annual value of UK imports for the year ending March 2013 decreased marginally by 0.1 per cent to £400.7 billion compared with the year ending March 2012. There was a fall in import value during the year for all UK regions apart from Scotland, the East Midlands, the North West and the South West. The total value of imports to England fell by 0.9 per cent to £340.8 billion during the year, the largest decreases coming from the 'Chemicals & related products' sector. The total value of imports to Scotland rose by 4.1 per cent to £14.4 billion, the only positive import growth rate of the four UK countries; this was driven by increases in the 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' sector. The total value of imports to Wales fell by 13.8 per cent to £7.5 billion; this was driven by a decrease in imports from the 'Crude materials, inedible, except fuel' sector'. Total imports to Northern Ireland decreased by 4.1 per cent to £5.6 billion; the decline was largely due to the 'Machinery & transport equipment' and 'Beverages &

tobacco' sectors. Imports allocated to the 'Unknown region'<sup>3</sup> amounted to £32.4 billion in the year ending March 2013.

- Within England, the South East continues to have the largest total value of imports. For the year ending March 2013 this was £89.2 billion, 26.2 per cent of England's total. Imports to the South East decreased in value by 1.8 per cent during the year, with imports to London decreasing by 1.1 per cent.
- The largest year-on-year increase among the English regions was for the South West, where imports increased by 5.7 per cent to £18.0 billion. Much of this growth came in imports from the 'Machinery & transport equipment' sector.
- The largest year-on-year decrease among the English regions was for the North East, where imports declined by 20.4 per cent. The North East continues to have the smallest total value of imports of all the English regions, making up just 2.6 per cent of England's total.

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<sup>3</sup> See note 4

## Rolling 12 Month Overview - Exports

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

### *Partner country analysis - England*

Table 1a: England - Top five export partners, year ending March 2013

Country	Year ending March 2013 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2012	% Total Exports in year ending March 2013
USA	29,086.5	28,901.3	0.6	13.2
Germany	24,590.4	26,920.6	-8.7	11.2
Top 5 France	16,871.4	18,318.8	-7.9	7.7
Netherlands	13,989.8	15,395.1	-9.1	6.4
Irish Republic	11,126.8	11,458.4	-2.9	5.1
Others	124,464.0	125,542.3	-0.9	56.5
Total EU	109,234.0	119,155.2	-8.3	49.6
Total Non- EU	110,894.8	107,381.3	3.3	50.4
Grand Total	220,128.9	226,536.5	-2.8	100.0

Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional  
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 1a shows that the total value of exports from England has declined by 2.8 per cent during the year ending March 2013. England's top five export partners for the year were the same as in the previous annual period. England's top export partner, the USA, is the only one of its top five partners to have seen an increase in export value over the last 12 months, although this increase was only marginal (0.6 per cent). The USA's share of England's exports has risen from 12.8 per cent to 13.2 per cent over the last 12 months, while the share for the other partners in the top five has decreased year on year. While there were large increases in exports to the USA within SITC division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' (up 35.1 per cent) and division 78 'Road vehicles' (up 24.8 per cent), these were balanced by large decreases in exports within division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (down 37.7 per cent) and division 51 'Organic chemicals' (down 39.2 per cent).

England's exports to the EU have decreased by 8.3 per cent during the last year, while exports to non-EU countries have increased by 3.3 per cent. Exports to non-EU countries now account for over half of England's exports by value. The EU partner countries where exports from England have decreased most are Germany (down 8.7 per cent), France (down 7.9 per cent), the Netherlands (down 9.1 per cent) and Italy (down 16.6 per cent). The only EU partner countries where exports from England increased during the year were Lithuania (up 30.1 per cent) and Estonia (up 12.2 per cent).

The non-EU partner countries where exports from England have decreased in value the most over the last 12 months are India (down 22.4 per cent) and Canada (down 16.4 per cent). The non-EU partner countries with the largest increase in value of goods exported from England were South Korea (up 51.6 per cent), Switzerland (up 18.4 per cent) and China (up 10.8 per cent). For South Korea the vast majority of the growth came from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'. For China the rises stemmed from an increase in exports of goods within SITC division 78 'Road vehicles', while for Switzerland the increase came mainly from SITC divisions 68 'Non-ferrous metals' and 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere'.

### ***Partner country analysis - English regions***

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

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

Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional  
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 2a shows the top five export trading partners for each of the English regions in the year ending March 2013. There has been some change in the membership of the



top five partners over the last 12 months. For London, the USA has become the second largest export partner, overtaking the Netherlands; Switzerland has become London's fourth largest export partner, overtaking Belgium and India. For the North East, the Netherlands has become the top export partner, overtaking the USA, and France is now the third largest export partner having overtaken Russia. For the North West, China and the Netherlands have become the third and fourth largest partners respectively, overtaking France. For the East Midlands, Singapore has moved up from sixth to third largest export partner. For the West Midlands, China has overtaken Germany, becoming the second largest export partner. For the East, the USA has become the top export partner, overtaking Germany and France.

For all English regions apart from the North East and North West, the proportion of exports going to EU countries has decreased over the last year. The majority of the English regions continue to follow a similar pattern to England as a whole, with the USA now featuring as the top export partner for six of the nine regions. All English regions saw an increase in exports to the USA during the year apart from the North East, the North West and the South East. London and the South West are the only English regions where exports to Germany exceed those going to the USA.

During the year ending March 2013, export value decreased for seven of the nine English regions. The only regions to see an increase were the West Midlands (up 6.5 per cent) and the East Midlands (up 3.7 per cent). For the East Midlands much of the increase was in exports to the USA (up 16.1 per cent) and Singapore (up 36.4 per cent). For the West Midlands the largest increases were in goods going to China (up 29.6 per cent) and the USA (up 12.1 per cent). The largest decreases in exports from the East, the South East and Yorkshire & Humberside were attributable to EU partners: there were large reductions in goods going to the Netherlands, Germany and France for the East and South East, while the largest decrease for Yorkshire & Humberside was in goods going to the Irish Republic (down 26.4 per cent). For London, the North East, the North West and the South West the largest decrease in export value was in goods going to non-EU countries; for London, exports to India decreased by 47.1 per cent, for the North West and North East exports to the USA fell by 22.2 per cent and 39.0 per cent respectively and for the South West exports to Algeria decreased by 89.7 per cent.

Exports to Australia have increased for all English regions apart from the North West. Exports to China have risen for seven of the nine regions and exports to Russia have

increased for six regions. Exports to Singapore have also increased for six of the nine regions, as have exports to South Korea.

Exports to the major EU partners have declined in the majority of English regions over the past year. Exports to Germany have declined for all English regions apart from London and the South West. Exports to Spain and Italy have fallen for all regions apart from the North East. Exports to France have decreased for six of the nine regions, as have exports to the Netherlands.

### ***Partner country analysis - Wales***

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

<b>Country</b>	<b>Year ending March 2013 Total £ millions</b>	<b>Year ending March 2012 Total £ millions</b>	<b>% Change from March 2012</b>	<b>% Total Exports in year ending March 2013</b>
USA	2,891.7	3,506.8	-17.5	22.9
Irish Republic	1,541.1	1,602.3	-3.8	12.2
Top 5 Germany	863.4	1,063.8	-18.8	6.8
Netherlands	787.8	785.8	0.3	6.2
United Arab Emirates	705.9	644.2	9.6	5.6
Others	5,861.1	6,283.4	-6.7	46.3
Total EU	5,531.4	6,075.1	-8.9	43.7
Total Non-EU	7,119.5	7,811.2	-8.9	56.3
Grand Total	12,651.0	13,886.3	-8.9	100.0

Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional  
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 3a shows that the total export value for Wales has decreased by 8.9 per cent during the past year. The value of exports from Wales in the first quarter of 2013 was the highest quarterly value since the second quarter of 2011. Wales' top four partner countries remain the same as in the previous annual period, with the United Arab Emirates overtaking France for fifth place. The value of exports to the top three countries has declined considerably over the last year. The largest percentage decrease among the top five was in exports to Germany, which fell by 18.8 per cent in value.

Non-EU partner countries continue to dominate the export market in Wales, receiving 56.3 per cent of goods exported; this percentage has remained the same as in the previous annual period. Exports to both EU and non-EU partners have declined by 8.9 per cent per cent during the last year. The USA's share of the export market in Wales has fallen from 25.3 per cent to 22.9 per cent over the past year; the decline in exports to the USA was led by decreases in goods from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down 32.4 per cent) and division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (down 16.4 per cent). The Irish Republic remains Wales' second largest partner country, taking a 12.2 per cent share of exports from Wales compared with 11.5 per cent during the previous annual period. This is despite a decrease of 3.8 per cent in export value during the last year; the largest value decrease for the Irish Republic was in SITC division 33 while the largest increase was in division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment'.

The United Arab Emirates has become Wales' fifth largest export partner, with a 9.6 per cent increase in exports in the last year. Much of the increase was attributable to SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up 16.7 per cent).

The partner countries with the largest value decrease in exports from Wales over the year were the USA, Germany and Canada. The decrease for Germany was driven by a decline in SITC division 67 'Iron & steel', while for Canada much of the reduction was in SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'.

Partner countries where export values have increased most during the year are Ecuador, where trade more than trebled in value, and Qatar, where trade more than doubled. For Ecuador the increase was almost entirely due to SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'. For Qatar the increase was largely due to a rise in SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment'.

## Partner country analysis – Scotland

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

Country	Year ending March 2013 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2012	% Total Exports in year ending March 2013
USA	3,046.4	3,071.3	-0.8	16.9
France	1,175.6	1,366.7	-14	6.5
Top 5 Germany	1,047.3	1,151.6	-9.1	5.8
Netherlands	940.3	1,036.1	-9.3	5.2
Norway	906.1	859.7	5.4	5.0
Others	10,923.1	11,184.8	-2.3	60.6
Total EU	6,439.9	7,560.7	-14.8	35.7
Total Non-EU	11,598.8	11,109.5	4.4	64.3
Grand Total	18,038.8	18,670.2	-3.4	100.0

Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 4a shows that exports from Scotland have declined in value by 3.4 per cent during the year to March 2013. The value of exports from Scotland in the first quarter of 2013 was the lowest quarterly value since the first quarter of 2010 (although 2012 and 2013 data is still subject to revision). Non-EU partner countries continue to dominate exports from Scotland; over 64 per cent of Scotland's exports by value now go to non-EU partners, up from 59.5 per cent a year ago. Non-EU exports have increased by 4.4 per cent over the year, while EU exports have declined by 14.8 per cent. Scotland's five largest export partner countries have remained similar to the previous annual period, with Norway overtaking Belgium to take fifth place.

Exports to all of the top five partners apart from Norway have fallen in value during the year. Exports to Scotland's top export partner, the USA, decreased marginally by 0.8 per cent; the largest decreases here were in SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials', although these were offset by increases in SITC division 11 'Beverages'. The largest value decreases among Scotland's exports were in exports to EU partners; Italy, France, Spain, the Irish Republic, Germany and the Netherlands all saw large reductions. For France the largest decrease was in SITC 11 'Beverages' and for the Netherlands the decrease was led by SITC division 51 'Organic chemicals'; for the other EU countries mentioned the largest decreases were in SITC division 33.

The partner countries receiving the largest value increases in exports from Scotland over the year were Australia (up 41.2 per cent, with a large increase in exports from SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment'), China (up 21.5 per cent, with large increases in SITC division 78 'Road vehicles') and Switzerland (up 64.4 per cent, with a large increase in SITC division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere'). Within the top five partner countries, Norway saw an increase of 5.4 per cent in exports from Scotland; this was mainly attributable to SITC divisions 67 'Iron & steel' and 74 'General industrial machinery & equipment'.

### ***Partner country analysis – Northern Ireland***

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

<b>Country</b>	<b>Year ending March 2013 Total £ millions</b>	<b>Year ending March 2012 Total £ millions</b>	<b>% Change from March 2012</b>	<b>% Total Exports in year ending March 2013</b>
Irish Republic	2,087.6	2,234.4	-6.6	36.7
USA	533.5	488.2	9.3	9.4
Top 5 Canada	347.7	461.4	-24.6	6.1
France	272.2	303.0	-10.2	4.8
Germany	217.3	259.1	-16.1	3.8
Others	2,224.5	2,269.5	-2.0	39.1
Total EU	3,226.7	3,519.3	-8.3	56.8
Total Non-EU	2,456.1	2,496.2	-1.6	43.2
Grand Total	5,682.8	6,015.5	-5.5	100.0

Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional  
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 5a shows that exports from Northern Ireland have decreased in value by 5.5 per cent during the year to March 2013. The top five export partners have remained the same as in the previous annual period. The Irish Republic has continued to dominate Northern Ireland's export market, although its share has reduced slightly from 37.1 per cent to 36.7 per cent during the last 12 months due to a 6.6 per cent decrease in exports. In contrast with other UK countries, the majority of Northern Ireland's exports (56.8 per cent) go to the EU; this is largely due to the Irish Republic's dominance as a partner country.

The USA was the only partner country among the top five to see an increase in exports during the year; the 9.3 per cent rise for the USA was the largest increase in export value of all Northern Ireland's partner countries. A large proportion of the increase was attributable to SITC division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (up 38.7 per cent).

Exports to Canada decreased by 24.6 per cent during the year. This was the largest percentage decrease of the top five partner countries; the decline was mainly due to dramatic fall in exports from SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment'.

The partner country with the largest value decrease in exports from Northern Ireland during the year was the Irish Republic, with much of the reduction coming from SITC division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' (down 26.2 per cent) and division 11 'Beverages' (down 17.6 per cent).

Apart from the USA, the partner countries with the largest increase in exports from Northern Ireland during the year were Kuwait (up more than threefold) and Russia (up 68.0 per cent). For Kuwait much of the increase was in SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' while for Russia the increase was driven by SITC division 72 'Machinery specialized for particular industries'.

## Commodity analysis - England

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

SITC section	Description	Year to March 2013 Total £ millions	Year to March 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2012	% Total Exports in year ending March 2013
7	Machinery & transport equipment	87,431.1	86,684.2	0.9	39.7
5	Chemicals & related products	36,457.1	40,695.4	-10.4	16.6
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	30,722.5	29,035.7	5.8	14.0
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	25,737.1	28,187.8	-8.7	11.7
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	22,293.4	23,066.5	-3.4	10.1
	Other SITCs	17,487.6	18,866.9	-7.3	7.9
	All SITCs	220,128.9	226,536.5	-2.8	100.0

Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional  
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 6a shows that SITC section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' continues to dominate exports from England, making up 39.7 per cent of export value. However, growth in section 7 slowed to 0.9 per cent during the year to March 2013, following the 7.2 per cent growth seen in the previous annual period (year ending March 2012). Most of the increase in section 7 during the year came from exports of goods within SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment' (up 7.4 per cent) and division 78 'Road vehicles' (up 2.4 per cent), although these increases were offset to some extent by decreases in division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment' (down 5.8 per cent) and division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances' (down 4.1 per cent).

Of the top five export commodity groups, only SITC sections 7 and 8 saw increases over the year. For section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' the annual growth of 5.8 per cent was greater than the 5.7 per cent growth seen in the previous annual period. Section 8 was the only one of the top five sections where growth in the year

to March 2013 exceeded that in the previous year; this may have been partly attributable to exports of products associated with the London 2012 Olympic Games. Most of the growth in this section came from division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' (up 7.5 per cent).

The SITC section with the biggest value decrease during the year was section 5 'Chemicals & related products' (down 10.4 per cent). Much of the reduction was attributable to division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (down 14.8 per cent), which lost more value than any other SITC division.

Sections 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' and 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' have both declined in value over the year, in contrast to the large increases in both these sections in the previous annual period. For section 6 most of the reduction came from division 68 'Non-ferrous metals' (down 20.0 per cent, with exports to India down 66.4 per cent) while for section 3 the decrease was driven by division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down 2.9 per cent, with exports to France and the Netherlands down 17.1 per cent and 6.1 per cent respectively).

Thirty-seven of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in export value during the year. After division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' and division 68 'Non-ferrous metals', the largest reductions were in division 51 'Organic chemicals' (down 16.2 per cent) and division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures' (down 11.4 per cent). The largest increases at division level were in division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' (exports to the USA up 35.1 per cent and exports to Switzerland up 30.6 per cent) and division 79 'Other transport equipment' (exports to Germany up 14.6 per cent and exports to the USA up 16.5 per cent).



## Commodity analysis – English regions

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

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

Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 7a shows the top five export SITC section commodity groups by value for the English regions. There has been very little change in the order of the top five commodity groups in the last 12 months. For London, exports from section 3 have exceeded those from section 6, making section 3 the second largest export commodity group by value.

SITC section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' remains the top export section by value for seven of the nine English regions. In the West Midlands, East Midlands and South West this section continues to dominate the market, accounting for over 60 per cent of goods exported; the market share for this section has increased during the year for all three of these regions. The value of exports from section 7 increased

during the year for the East Midlands (up 9.1 per cent), the West Midlands (up 11.6 per cent), the South East (up 1.0 per cent) and Yorkshire & Humberside (up 1.5 per cent), but decreased in all other regions. In the West Midlands and South East, exports from division 78 'Road vehicles' increased the most within section 7 (up 11.8 per cent and 16.8 per cent respectively); for the East Midlands exports from division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' increased the most (up 12.9 per cent) and for Yorkshire & Humberside exports from division 74 'General industrial machinery & equipment' increased the most (up 11.4 per cent).

The North West remains the top English region for exports within section 5 'Chemicals and related products', accounting for 31.3 per cent of England's exports from this section. However, there has been a decrease of 16.4 per cent in the value of section 5 exports from the North West over the past year. Most of this decrease was attributable to division 51 'Organic chemicals' (down 32.7 per cent), which sustained the North West's largest division-level decrease during the year. The only regions to see an increase in section 5 exports during the year were London (up 2.3 per cent) and the South West (up 1.2 per cent), although these two regions together only account for 8.3 per cent of England's exports from section 5.

The South East, London and the East are the dominant regions for exports within SITC section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials'. All three regions have seen decreases in export value within this section during the year, by far the largest being in the South East region (down 12.0 per cent). For the South East much of the decline was in exports from division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' going to the USA and Senegal. For London the decreases in section 3 were mainly in division 33 exports going to the Netherlands, Belgium and Denmark, while for the East the largest decreases were in division 33 exports going to the Netherlands and France.

For SITC section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' and section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' London continues to be the dominant exporting region, accounting for 30.8 per cent and 37.7 per cent of England's total exports in these two sections respectively. For section 8, London has seen a large increase in export value over the last year (up 14.0 per cent); this was London's largest section-level value increase and was led by a rise in goods from division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' going to the USA and Switzerland. In contrast, London's exports from section 6 decreased by 18.1 per cent, with exports of

division 68 'Non-ferrous metals' down by 31.8 per cent (exports to India down 71.3 per cent). The only regions to experience increases in exports from section 6 were the North East (up 99.6 per cent, with exports of division 67 'Iron & steel' more than doubling) and the South West (up 0.4 per cent, with exports of division 69 'Manufactures of metal' up 5.2 per cent).

The South West and East Midlands continue to be the only regions with SITC section 0 'Food & live animals' in their top five. For both these regions exports from section 0 have decreased considerably over the past year (down 28.1 per cent for the South West and down 19.4 per cent for the East Midlands). The North West remains the most dominant region for exports within section 2 'Crude materials' despite a decrease of 22.2 per cent during the year, the largest percentage decline among the English regions for this section. This reduction was primarily due to the decline in exports from division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' (down 24.4 per cent), mainly in goods going to India, China and Germany.

Apart from the West Midlands and the East Midlands all English regions saw a decline in export value for the majority of the sixty-five SITC divisions. For the East, the North East and the South West the biggest decreases were in divisions within section 7, while for London, the West Midlands and Yorkshire & Humberside the largest decreases were in divisions of section 6. For the South East and the North West the largest reductions were in division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' and division 51 'Organic chemicals' respectively. For the East Midlands exports of division 04 'Cereals & cereal preparations' decreased the most in value.

For the North West the largest increase at division level during the year was in division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials', where exports more than trebled in value. For the North East the biggest rise was in division 67 'Iron & steel', where exports more than doubled, while London's largest division-level increase was in division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' (up 16.3 per cent). All other regions saw their largest value increases in divisions within section 7.

## Commodity analysis - Wales

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

SITC section	Description	Year to March 2013 Total £ millions	Year to March 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2012	% Total Exports in year ending March 2013
7	Machinery & transport equipment	4,639.5	4,901.4	-5.3	36.7
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	3,452.3	4,105.6	-15.9	27.3
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1,982.5	2,122.7	-6.6	15.7
5	Chemicals & related products	1,339.9	1,448.5	-7.5	10.6
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	823.5	833.9	-1.2	6.5
	Other SITCs	413.2	474.1	-12.8	3.3
	All SITCs	12,651.0	13,886.3	-8.9	100.0

Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional  
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 8a shows that annual exports from Wales decreased for all of the top five SITC sections during the past year; there were also decreases in all other SITC sections over the year. Exports from Wales continue to be dominated by goods from section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' and section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials'. Exports from section 7 decreased by 5.3 per cent during the year, with much of the decline coming from division 78 'Road vehicles' (down 24.8 per cent) and division 72 'Machinery specialized for particular industries' (down 38.3 per cent).

The largest value decrease in exports over the year was for section 3 (down 15.9 per cent). This was caused by a temporary slump in exports in the fourth quarter of 2012, which was followed by a rise back to the previous level of exports in the first quarter of 2013. The annual decline for section 3 was predominantly due to a decrease in division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down 16.1 per cent during the year), with exports to the USA down 32.4 per cent.

Almost two thirds of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in export value over the year. The largest annual decreases at division level were in divisions 33, 78 and 72

(see above). After these, the biggest decrease in export value came from division 67 'Iron & steel', primarily in goods going to Germany.

The commodity groups with the biggest increases at division level were SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up 1.5 per cent, with exports to Qatar more than doubling) and SITC division 82 'Furniture & parts thereof' (up 38.8 per cent, with exports to the USA increasing the most in value).

### **Commodity analysis - Scotland**

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

SITC section	Description	Year to March 2013 Total £ millions	Year to March 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2012	% Total Exports in year ending March 2013
7	Machinery & transport equipment	5,886.2	5,627.3	4.6	32.6
1	Beverages & tobacco	4,385.5	4,338.0	1.1	24.3
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,279.5	2,241.8	1.7	12.6
5	Chemicals & related products	1,941.3	1,988.8	-2.4	10.8
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,476.9	1,478.3	-0.1	8.2
	Other SITCs	2,069.3	2,995.9	-30.9	11.5
	All SITCs	18,038.8	18,670.2	-3.4	100.0

Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional  
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 9a shows that annual exports from Scotland increased for all of the top three SITC sections over the last year. Scotland's exports are dominated by goods from section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' and section 1 'Beverages & tobacco' with these sections taking an increasing share of Scotland's export market over the past year. The 4.6 per cent rise in exports from section 7 was the highest growth rate of the four UK countries for this section; much of the increase came from SITC division 74 'General industrial machinery & equipment & machine parts' (up 7.8 per cent with exports to Norway up 29.7 per cent) and division 79 'Other transport equipment' (up 34.5 per cent, with exports to Australia up more than ten-fold).

Exports from SITC section 1 have seen a 1.1 per cent increase during the year, with exports in the first quarter of 2013 exceeding those in the first quarter of 2012. The vast majority of the increase in section 1 was due to division 11 'Beverages' where exports to the USA rose by 11.6 per cent. Scotland is the most important region of the UK for exports of 'Beverages', taking a 63.6 per cent share of the UK export value over the last year.

Scotland was the only one of the four UK countries to see a rise in exports from section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' during the year. The 1.7 per cent year-on-year increase in this section was led by division 67 'Iron & steel' (up 27.0 per cent, with exports to Norway up 69.0 per cent), although this growth was offset to some extent by a decrease of 10.4 per cent in division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures' (exports to Belgium down 5.2 per cent).

Exports from Scotland within SITC section 5 'Chemicals & related products' decreased by 2.4 per cent during the year. The decline was led by a fall in exports from division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (down 15.9 per cent, with large reductions in the value of goods going to the Netherlands, Germany and the Irish Republic).

Apart from section 4 'Animal & vegetable oils, fats & waxes' all of the SITC sections outside the top five decreased in export value during the 12 months. The largest decrease was for SITC section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials', which fell by 57.8 per cent. The decline was driven by division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down 61.2 per cent, with exports to the USA down by 45.2 per cent). The second largest section-level decrease was for section 0 'Food & live animals', which declined in value by 8.2 per cent. This reduction was mainly due to a fall in exports from division 03 'Fish, crustaceans, molluscs & aquatic invertebrates' (down 7.8 per cent) and division 02 'Dairy products & birds' eggs' (down 31.6 per cent).

## Commodity analysis – Northern Ireland

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

SITC section	Description	Year to March 2013 Total £ millions	Year to March 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2012	% Total Exports in year ending March 2013
7	Machinery & transport equipment	2,287.5	2,525.7	-9.4	40.3
0	Food & live animals	977.7	984.6	-0.7	17.2
5	Chemicals & related products	666.4	608.3	9.6	11.7
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	637.8	721.0	-11.5	11.2
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	485.0	501.1	-3.2	8.5
	Other SITCs	628.5	674.9	-6.9	11.1
	All SITCs	5,682.8	6,015.5	-5.5	100.0

Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional  
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 10a shows that Northern Ireland's exports continue to be dominated by goods from section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment'. However, exports in this section have declined by 9.4 per cent over the last year, the largest section-level value decrease. This was largely due to a fall in exports from SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (down 30.6 per cent, with a very large reduction in goods going to Canada).

Section 5 'Chemicals & related products' was the only top five section to show an increase in exports during the year. This was mainly due to growth in division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (up 23.1 per cent, with exports to the USA up 38.7 per cent).

After section 7, the largest section-level decrease during the year was for section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (down 11.5 per cent). This was mainly caused by a decline in division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' (down 27.0 per cent), with exports to the Irish Republic reducing substantially during the year.

Approximately half of the SITC divisions (32 out of 65) decreased in export value during the year. Apart from divisions 71 and 89, the largest value decreases at division level were for division 75 'Office machines & automatic data processing machines' (down 88.9 per cent) and division 11 'Beverages' (down 11.9 per cent). Apart from division 54, the largest value increases at division level were for division 79 'Other transport equipment' (up 6.3 per cent) and division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances' (up 9.1 per cent).

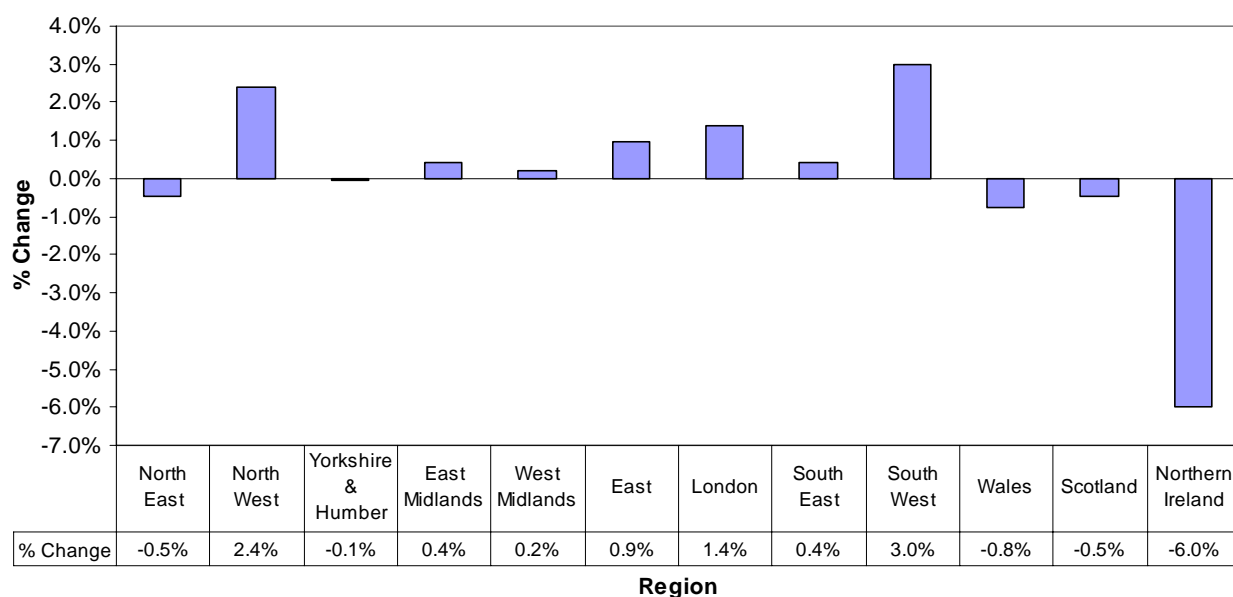
### **Number of Businesses - Exports**

The following analysis compares the number of active exporters in quarter 1 2013 with the number in quarter 1 2012. A quarterly analysis is more appropriate here than an annual analysis, as summing the number of active businesses over a year could produce ambiguous results. A quarter-on-quarter comparison enables us to measure seasonal movement of businesses, such as the increase/decrease in number of active businesses over the Christmas season (quarter 4). The number of businesses counted excludes those who trade only with the EU and whose trade is below the Intrastat Exemption Threshold (see note 6).

Figure 3a shows the percentage change in number of exporters per region between quarter 1 2012 and quarter 1 2013.



**Fig 3a: Percentage Change in Number of Exporters between Q1 2012 and Q1 2013**



Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

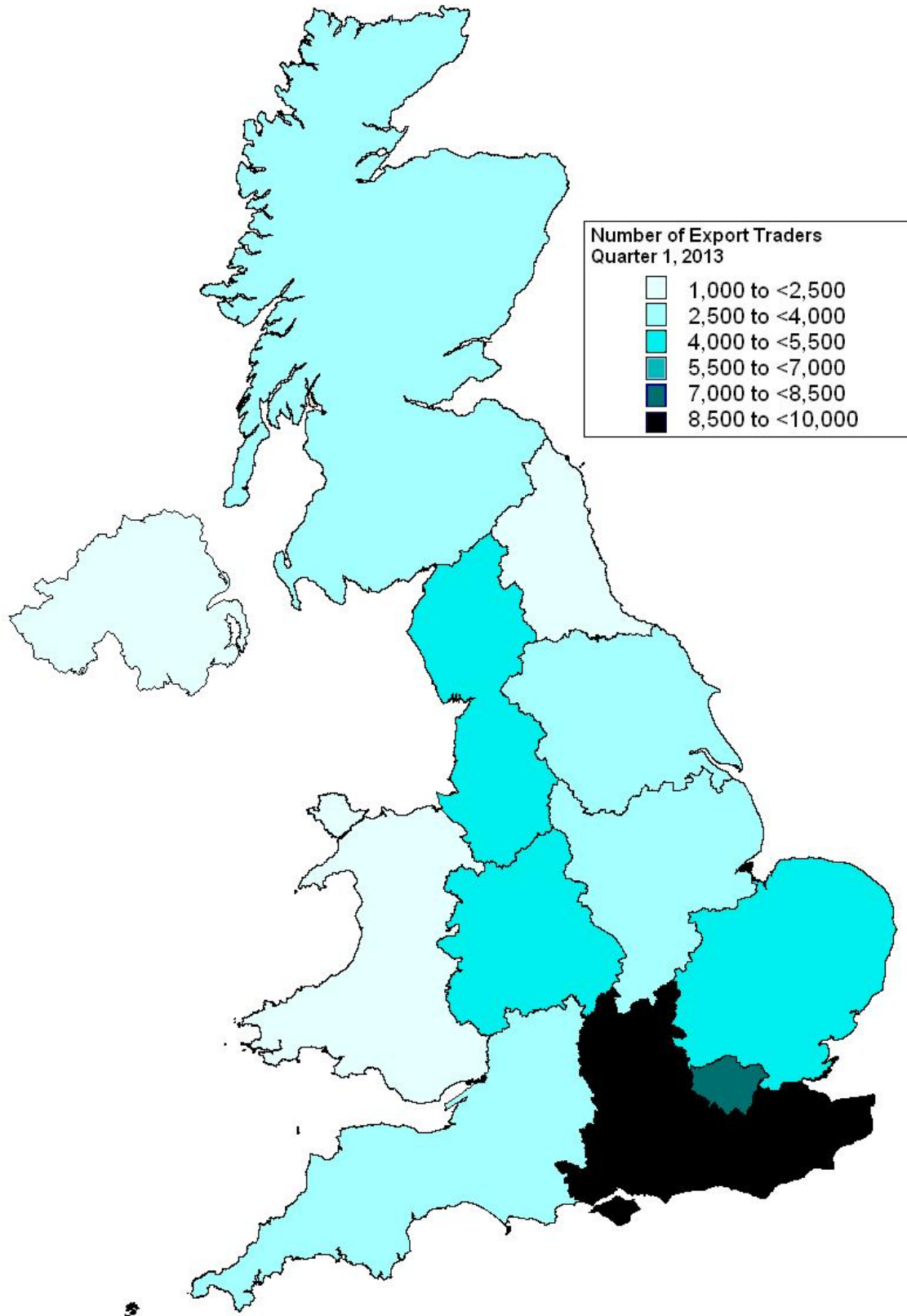
For the UK as a whole, the number of exporting businesses increased by 0.7 per cent between quarter 1 2012 and quarter 1 2013 from 48,967 to 49,303. This follows the successive decreases seen between quarter 4 2011 and quarter 4 2012, and between quarter 3 2011 and quarter 3 2012.

Figure 3a shows that the number of active exporters increased in all regions of the UK apart from the North East, Yorkshire & Humber, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland between quarter 1 2012 and quarter 1 2013. The South West experienced the largest percentage rise in exporting businesses, 3.0 per cent, while Northern Ireland saw the largest percentage decline, 6.0 per cent.

For all regions apart from the South West, Wales and Northern Ireland, the percentage growth in business numbers between quarter 1 2012 and quarter 1 2013 was an improvement on the growth between quarter 4 2011 and quarter 4 2012.

Figure 4a shows the total number of active UK exporters in each region for quarter 1 2013. The South East, London and the East are the three regions with the largest count of businesses, accounting respectively for 17.7 per cent, 17.1 per cent and 11.0 per cent of all UK businesses. There has been little change since quarter 1 of 2012 apart from a slight increase in the proportion of UK businesses exporting from the North West and a slight decrease in those exporting from Northern Ireland.

Fig 4a: Number of UK export businesses by region - Quarter 1, 2013



Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional  
Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

## Rolling 12 Month Overview – Imports

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

### *Partner country analysis – England*

Table 1b: England - Top five import partners, year ending March 2013

<b>Country</b>	<b>Year ending March 2013 Total £ millions</b>	<b>Year ending March 2012 Total £ millions</b>	<b>% Change from March 2012</b>	<b>% Total Imports in year ending March 2013</b>
Germany	45,196.8	45,300.3	-0.2	13.3
China	26,628.0	26,412.5	0.8	7.8
Top 5 USA	25,685.8	26,197.7	-2.0	7.5
Netherlands	24,965.8	23,184.8	7.7	7.3
France	18,818.0	19,232.6	-2.2	5.5
Others	199,511.5	203,649.1	-2.0	58.5
Total EU	171,469.9	173,456.0	-1.1	50.3
Total Non-EU	169,335.9	170,520.9	-0.7	49.7
Grand Total	340,805.8	343,976.9	-0.9	100.0

Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional  
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

With England receiving over 92 per cent of the UK's allocated imports<sup>4</sup> by value, the pattern of imports to England determines that for the UK as a whole. Table 1b shows that the total value of imports to England has decreased by 0.9 per cent during the year ending March 2013. England's top four import partners for the year have remained the same as in the year ending March 2012 but France has now become the fifth largest partner, overtaking Norway. This change was due to a 23.1 per cent decline in imports from Norway during the year, the largest value decrease of all the partner countries. The decline in imports from Norway has been driven by a decrease in imports from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'.

Germany remains the top import partner for England by a wide margin, although imports from here have fallen slightly by 0.2 per cent during the year. While there were large reductions in goods from Germany within SITC division 77 'Electrical

<sup>4</sup> 'Allocated imports' exclude those assigned to the Unknown region.

machinery, apparatus & appliances', these were offset by increases in goods within division 79 'Other transport equipment.

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

The largest increase in import value among the top five partners was for the Netherlands (up 7.7 per cent, with imports from SITC division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment' up 79.7 per cent). Imports from China have increased by 0.8 per cent over the year; there were rises in imports of goods within SITC division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' from China, while imports within SITC division 76 declined by 21.9 per cent.

Imports from the USA, England's third largest import partner by value, have decreased by 2.0 per cent over the 12 months. This decline was led by a reduction in goods received from within SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment'.

The partner country with the biggest increase in imports to England during the year was Switzerland (up 32.3 per cent). This increase was driven by a rise in goods imported from SITC division 68 'Non-ferrous metals'.

Apart from Norway, the partner countries where the value of imports decreased the most were Qatar (down 41.5 per cent, with SITC division 34 'Gas, natural & manufactured' down 41.3 per cent) and Belgium (down 7.2 per cent, with SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' down 33.3 per cent).

## Partner country analysis – English regions

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

	Top 5 partner countries				
	1	2	3	4	5
<b>North East</b>	Japan	Germany	Belgium	France	USA
<b>North West</b>	Netherlands	Germany	China	Belgium	Sweden
<b>Yorkshire &amp; Humberside</b>	China	Germany	Netherlands	USA	France
<b>East Midlands</b>	Germany	China	USA	France	Netherlands
<b>West Midlands</b>	Norway	Germany	China	France	Netherlands
<b>East</b>	Germany	Netherlands	USA	China	France
<b>London</b>	USA	China	Norway	Switzerland	Germany
<b>South East</b>	Germany	Netherlands	USA	Belgium	China
<b>South West</b>	USA	China	Germany	Netherlands	France

Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional  
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

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

There have been a number of changes in the order and membership of the top five over the last year. For the North West, the Netherlands has become the top import partner, overtaking Germany and China, while Sweden has entered the top five following a 54.6 per cent rise in import value during the year; the USA has moved from the fourth to sixth largest partner for the North West after a 13.7 per cent decrease in import value. For the East, China has entered the top five while the Irish Republic has left the top five following a 13.9 per cent decline in import value; the Netherlands has moved up from fourth to second largest partner for the East,

overtaking the USA and France. For London, the USA has become the top import partner, overtaking Norway and China, while the Netherlands has dropped out of the top five having been replaced by Switzerland (up 72.5 per cent). For the South East, the Netherlands has overtaken the USA, becoming the second largest import partner after Germany. For the South West, the Netherlands has overtaken France to become the fourth largest import partner.

Imports from the Netherlands have risen for six of the nine regions, with the highest growth rates in the South West (up 57.4 per cent) and the South East (up 13.7 per cent). Imports from China have also risen for six of the nine regions, the largest percentage increases occurring in the South West (up 10.0 per cent) and Yorkshire & Humberside (up 5.5 per cent). Imports from Norway have decreased for eight of the nine regions, the only exception being the South West which saw an increase of 71.4 per cent. The largest value decreases in imports from Norway were in London (down 32.8 per cent) and the West Midlands (down 20.4 per cent).

Six of the nine English regions saw a decrease in the value of imports during the year, the exceptions being the East Midlands (up 3.2 per cent), the North West (up 4.8 per cent) and the South West (up 5.7 per cent). The largest percentage decrease was in the North East (down 20.4 per cent); this was driven by a large decline in the value of imports from Japan (down 28.5 per cent, with SITC division 78 'Road vehicles' down 38.1 per cent) and Norway (down 77.1 per cent, with SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' down to nil), although there were also large reductions in goods coming from Russia, Algeria and Canada. The increase in imports to the South West stemmed primarily from a rise in goods coming from the Netherlands within SITC division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment', while the increase in the North West was driven by a rise in goods coming from Sweden (SITC division 33 more than doubling in value) and Russia (SITC division 33 up 88.7 per cent). The increase in imports to the East Midlands was led by a rise in goods from France (SITC division 78 up 56.4 per cent) and Japan (SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' more than doubling in value).

England's import trade continues to be dominated by the South East and London, although both these regions experienced growth rates below the UK average of -0.1 per cent. The South East accounted for 26.2 per cent of England's imports by value during the year, while London accounted for 21.9 per cent. London's imports declined

in value by 1.1 per cent during the year, the largest value decreases occurring in imports from Norway (SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' down 56.2 per cent) and Qatar (SITC division 34 'Gas, natural & manufactured' down 42.4 per cent); these decreases were offset by an increase in goods coming from Switzerland (SITC division 68 'Non-ferrous metals' up nearly fourfold). For the South East there was a decrease in imports of 1.8 per cent. Here, the decrease was driven by a reduction in goods within SITC division 78 'Road vehicles' coming from Germany (down 3.5 per cent) and a reduction in goods within SITC division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment' coming from Luxembourg (down 88.3 per cent), although there were also large decreases in imports from the USA, Qatar, Russia, Belgium and Hungary. These decreases were offset to some extent by an increase in imports to the South East from Vietnam (SITC division 76 more than doubling in value) and the Netherlands (SITC division 76 almost doubling).

For the majority of regions most of the import value comes from goods received from within the EU; the exceptions are the East Midlands, London, the North East and the South West. The EU market share increased in all regions apart from the East, the East Midlands and London during the year. For the East there was a 5.9 per cent decrease in EU imports, with large reductions in goods coming from the Irish Republic and France; this was coupled with a 9.1 per cent increase in imports from non-EU partners, most notably from Nigeria and Libya. For the East Midlands EU imports rose by only 0.5 per cent during the year, while non-EU imports rose by 6.0 per cent; the largest value increases in the East Midlands among non-EU partners were for Japan and the USA. For London, EU imports decreased at over twice the rate of non-EU imports during the year, with reductions in goods from the majority of EU partners.

## Partner country analysis – Wales

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

Country	Year ending March 2013 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2012	% Total Imports in year ending March 2013
Germany	763.2	829.2	-8.0	10.1
Canada	752.7	1,040.1	-27.6	10.0
Top 5 USA	693.9	718.9	-3.5	9.2
France	604.6	602.5	0.4	8.0
China	477.1	599.3	-20.4	6.3
Others	4,234.5	4,940.1	-14.3	56.3
Total EU	3,298.1	3,455.6	-4.6	43.8
Total Non-EU	4,227.9	5,274.6	-19.8	56.2
Grand Total	7,526.0	8,730.1	-13.8	100.0

Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional  
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Imports to Wales decreased in value by 13.8 per cent during the year, the largest percentage decline among the four UK countries. This decrease was largely due to reductions in goods coming from Canada (down 27.6 per cent), Brazil (down 24.5 per cent) and China (down 20.4 per cent). For Canada and Brazil, much of the reduction has been in goods from SITC division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap'. For China the decrease was largely due to a fall in the value of goods coming from SITC division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories'.

The most noticeable change in the top five in the last year is that Germany is now the top import partner for Wales, having overtaken Canada. Although imports from both these countries declined during the year, the decrease for Germany was less dramatic; much of Germany's reduction came from SITC division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' (down 39.7 per cent) and division 67 'Iron & steel' (down 18.9 per cent).

France was the only top five partner country to see a positive growth rate in imports to Wales, although this rise was only marginal (0.4 per cent). Here, imports from SITC division 52 'Inorganic chemicals' and division 55 'Essential oils & perfume materials' increased the most in value; this growth was countered by a large decrease in SITC division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing



apparatus & equipment'. France's share of Wales' imports has increased from 6.9 per cent to 8.0 per cent over the last year.

The USA remains Wales' third largest import partner. Imports from the USA decreased in value by 3.5 per cent during the year, with the largest value reductions coming from SITC division 59 'Chemical materials & products' (down 46.1 per cent) and division 72 'Machinery specialized for particular industries' (down 39.3 per cent). Despite the general decrease in imports from the USA, its share of Wales' total imports increased from 8.2 per cent to 9.2 per cent year-on-year, due to the large decreases seen in imports from other partner countries.

Despite the overall decline in imports to Wales, some partner countries saw substantial increases: imports from Sweden increased by 53.4 per cent and imports from Spain increased by 23.7 per cent. For Sweden, most of the growth came from division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' (up more than four-fold). The rise for Spain was driven by an increase in division 68 'Non-ferrous metals' (up more than four-fold).

### ***Partner country analysis – Scotland***

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

<b>Country</b>	<b>Year ending March 2013 Total £ millions</b>	<b>Year ending March 2012 Total £ millions</b>	<b>% Change from March 2012</b>	<b>% Total Imports in year ending March 2013</b>
USA	2,029.7	2,057.3	-1.3	14.1
Norway	1,380.9	1,443.2	-4.3	9.6
Top 5 China	1,128.3	1,088.9	3.6	7.9
Nigeria	1,014.4	627.3	61.7	7.1
Germany	927.1	903.6	2.6	6.5
Others	7,872.3	7,666.7	2.7	54.8
Total EU	4,900.5	4,794.0	2.2	34.1
Total Non-EU	9,452.4	8,993.0	5.1	65.9
Grand Total	14,352.8	13,787.0	4.1	100.0

Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional  
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Imports to Scotland have increased in value by 4.1 per cent during the year, the only increase among the four UK countries. Imports from non-EU partners have increased

at more than double the rate of those from the EU, with partners outside the EU now supplying almost two-thirds of Scotland's imports by value. The USA remains Scotland's top import partner, despite a decrease in imports of 1.3 per cent over the last year. Imports from the USA that reduced the most in value were from SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment'.

Imports from Norway decreased by 4.3 per cent during the year. Most of this decrease came from SITC division 34 'Gas, natural & manufactured'. This has reduced Norway's share of Scotland's import market to 9.6 per cent compared with 10.5 per cent a year ago.

Scotland's imports from China increased in value by 3.6 per cent during the year, with much of the increase coming from SITC division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' (up 51.2 per cent). Outside of the top five partner countries, Scotland has seen imports from Algeria more than treble during the year; this was almost entirely due to a rise in division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'.

The most striking change in the top five since March 2012 is the rise of Nigeria from seventh largest to fourth largest import partner, following an increase of 61.7 per cent in import value over the 12 months. The rise was driven by an increase in imports from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up 66.1 per cent). In contrast, imports from the Netherlands have declined during the year (down 9.2 per cent); this has resulted in the Netherlands moving from fourth to sixth largest import partner for Scotland. The largest decrease here was in SITC division 01 'Meat & meat preparations' (down 25.2 per cent). The other partner country where imports to Scotland have decreased substantially during the year is Colombia (down 83.8 per cent); this decline was mainly the result of reductions in division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes' (down 84.5 per cent).

**Partner country analysis – Northern Ireland**

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

<b>Country</b>	<b>Year ending March 2013 Total £ millions</b>	<b>Year ending March 2012 Total £ millions</b>	<b>% Change from March 2012</b>	<b>% Total Imports in year ending March 2013</b>
Irish Republic	1,524.5	1,691.4	-9.9	27.2
China	952.3	899.4	5.9	17.0
Top 5 USA	427.7	415.1	3.0	7.6
Germany	316.4	330.3	-4.2	5.6
Netherlands	303.8	315.5	-3.7	5.4
Others	2,077.4	2,186.9	-5.0	37.1
Total EU	3,088.0	3,452.0	-10.5	55.1
Total Non-EU	2,514.1	2,386.6	5.3	44.9
Grand Total	5,602.0	5,838.6	-4.1	100.0

Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional  
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 5b shows that the majority of imports to Northern Ireland come from EU partners; the proportion of imports coming from the EU is higher than in England, Wales and Scotland, although this share has fallen from 59.1 per cent to 55.1 per cent over the past year. This has been due to a decrease of 10.5 per cent in EU imports, together with a 5.3 per cent increase in imports from non-EU partners. The most dominant import partner in value terms is the Irish Republic, and the large decrease (9.9 per cent) in imports from here over the year was the greatest value decrease seen among all Northern Ireland's partners.

Northern Ireland has seen an overall decline of 4.1 per cent in the value of its imports during the year; this is a steeper decline than the UK average decrease of 0.1 per cent. While much of the decrease for Northern Ireland was caused by reduced imports from the Irish Republic, there were also large decreases in goods coming from Spain (down 45.1 per cent) and France (down 24.1 per cent). For the Irish Republic, much of the decline was in SITC division 11 'Beverages' (down 31.9 per cent) while for Spain and France the decreases were led by reductions in SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment' and division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' respectively. Among the top five partners, decreases in goods coming from Germany and the Netherlands also contributed to the decline in EU imports.

Northern Ireland's imports from China increased by 5.9 per cent during the year, the largest value increase of all its import partners. Imports from China from SITC division 85 'Footwear' went up by 25.1 per cent, with imports from division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' up 2.5 per cent.

Imports from the USA have risen by 3.0 per cent during the last year. Most of the increase came from SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up 12.5 per cent) and division 79 'Other transport equipment' (up 25.8 per cent).

After China, the largest value increases in imports to Northern Ireland were from the Ukraine (up from less than £1 million to over £30 million during the year, with a large increase in SITC division 04 'Cereals & cereal preparations') and Argentina (up 60.7 per cent, with a large increase in SITC division 08 'Feeding stuff for animals'). The largest value decreases among non-EU import partners were from Japan (down 17.2 per cent) and Indonesia (down 15.7 per cent).

### ***Commodity analysis - England***

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

<b>SITC section</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Year to March 2013 Total £ millions</b>	<b>Year to March 2012 Total £ millions</b>	<b>% Change from March 2012</b>	<b>% Total Imports in year ending March 2013</b>
7	Machinery & transport equipment	114,904.6	114,982.4	-0.1	33.7
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	53,135.1	52,677.8	0.9	15.6
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	50,849.3	52,528.8	-3.2	14.9
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	43,081.0	42,244.9	2.0	12.6
5	Chemicals & related products	38,813.5	41,257.7	-5.9	11.4
	Other SITCs	40,022.4	40,285.3	-0.7	11.7
	All SITCs	340,805.8	343,976.9	-0.9	100.0

Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional  
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 6b shows that section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' continues to dominate England's imports, accounting for over one third of total import value.

Imports from section 7 have decreased marginally by 0.1 per cent during the year; this decrease was considerably less than the declines seen in section 7 imports for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Within section 7, the largest increases were in division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up 4.3 per cent) and division 79 'Other transport equipment' (up 7.1 per cent). These increases were led by a rise in goods coming from Singapore and Japan (division 71) and Germany (division 79).

Only two of the top five SITC sections increased in value during the year – section 8 (up 0.9 per cent) and section 6 (up 2.0 per cent). For section 8 the largest rise was in division 87 'Professional, scientific & controlling instruments & apparatus' (up 4.1 per cent, with imports from Belgium up 35.3 per cent) although this was offset by a decrease in division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' (down 1.8 per cent with imports from Hong Kong down 18.9 per cent). For section 6 the largest increase was in division 68 'Non-ferrous metals' (up 35.6 per cent); this was the largest value rise by far of all the SITC divisions, with imports from Switzerland increasing the most. However, this increase was offset by a decrease in division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures' (down 13.3 per cent) with imports from Botswana, Namibia and Canada losing the most value.

Section 3 imports declined in value by 3.2 per cent during the year, largely due to a decrease of 18.9 per cent in division 34 'Gas, natural & manufactured'. This was the largest decrease at division level, although the overall UK decrease of just 4.8 per cent for this division indicates that a higher proportion of division 34 imports have been allocated to the 'Unknown' region in the year to March 2013, since Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland take only a small proportion of UK imports of gas. England's imports of division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' decreased in value by 0.9 per cent during the year, with imports from Norway losing the most value (down 29.4 per cent); this decrease was offset to some degree by an increase in imports from Sweden, the USA and a number of other countries. Division 33 accounts for 12.8 per cent of England's total imports, making it the most valuable import commodity at division level.

Section 5 imports decreased by 5.9 per cent during the year. The largest value decreases were from SITC division 52 'Inorganic chemicals' (down 22.4 per cent, with large reductions in imports from the USA), and division 51 'Organic chemicals' (down 8.0 per cent, with substantial reductions in goods coming from the Irish Republic).

Thirty-six of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in import value over the 12 months. After divisions 34, 66, 52 and 51 the largest division-level value decrease was in division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances' (down 4.5 per cent). After divisions 68 and 71 the largest division-level value increase was in imports of division 04 'Cereals & cereal preparations' (up 25.7 per cent). This is likely to be due to the poor UK cereal harvest in 2012 which was caused by adverse weather conditions. This has resulted in a need for greater quantities of imported cereals, particularly wheat, to cover the shortfall.<sup>5</sup>

### **Commodity analysis – English regions**

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

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

Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional  
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

<sup>5</sup> For further details see the latest [Cereal Stocks](#) release published on 9 May 2013 by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Table 7b shows the top five import sections by value for the English regions. There have been some changes in the order and membership of the top five sections during the last year. For the North East the value of imports from section 3 has decreased dramatically by £1.7 billion, moving this section from second highest valued in the previous annual period to only sixth highest in the year to March 2013. In contrast, the North West has seen a £2.0 billion increase in imports of section 3, resulting in this section moving from fifth to second highest valued over the year. For Yorkshire & Humberside, section 8 has overtaken section 7, becoming the top import section by value. For the East Midlands section 0 has moved up from fifth to fourth highest value section. For the East section 3 has overtaken section 8, becoming the third highest section by value. For the South East imports from section 3 have exceeded those from section 5, making it the second highest valued section, while section 0 has moved up into fifth place, overtaking section 6.

For section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' there have been large fluctuations in import value during the year for a number of English regions. The 55.4 per cent increase in import value in section 3 for the North West was the largest value increase in this section among all the English regions, while the North East saw the largest value and percentage decrease, 83.5 per cent. The West Midlands and London also saw large decreases in section 3 imports (down 14.3 per cent and 10.3 per cent respectively), while the East and South East both saw increases (up 15.7 per cent and 4.6 per cent respectively). Virtually all of these fluctuations in value were largely attributable to SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'. For the North East the decrease was due to a complete cessation of imports from a number of countries, including Norway, Algeria, Canada and Russia, while the North West saw a large rise in imports from Sweden. The decline for the West Midlands was largely in imports from Norway while the decrease for London was mainly in imports from Norway and Qatar. The largest value increases in the East and South East were in imports from Nigeria and Libya (the East) and Sweden, the USA and Saudi Arabia (South East). London remains the dominant region for imports from section 3, although its share of England's imports from this section has dropped from 37.4 per cent to 34.6 per cent over the past year.

Section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' is the dominant section for imports in six of the nine regions. Six regions have seen a decrease in import value for section 7 during the year, the exceptions being the East Midlands (up 8.5 per cent), the South West (up 11.5 per cent) and the West Midlands (up 5.8 per cent). For the East

Midlands and the South West much of the increase was in division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' while for the West Midlands the largest increase was in division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment'. The largest percentage decrease in section 7 was for the North East (down 16.6 per cent); this was mainly due to a reduction in imports of division 78 'Road vehicles'. The South East remains the dominant region for imports of section 7, accounting for 38.6 per cent of England's imports within this section. There was a marginal decrease of 0.3 per cent in section 7 imports to the South East during the last year; reductions in division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances & electrical parts thereof' and division 78 were offset by increases in division 79 'Other transport equipment' and division 76.

For section 5 'Chemicals & related products' the South East, the North West and the East remain the top importing regions. These three regions have all seen a decrease in imports from section 5 over the year. For the East there was a marginal decline of 0.4 per cent, mainly due to a reduction in imports of SITC division 51 'Organic chemicals' (down 10.3 per cent, with imports from the Irish Republic down 23.1 per cent). The North West and South East saw decreases of 1.9 per cent and 11.1 per cent respectively in imports of section 5 during the year. For the North West the decline was led by a reduction in goods from division 52 'Inorganic chemicals' and division 57 'Plastics in primary forms' coming from France and Germany respectively. For the South East most of the decrease was attributable to imports from division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (down 14.4 per cent) coming from the USA, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Imports from section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' decreased for seven of the nine regions, the exceptions being London (up 16.5 per cent) and the North East (up 0.6 per cent). For London the vast majority of the increase was in division 68 'Non-ferrous metals' (up 84.8 per cent), mainly in goods coming from Switzerland and Taiwan. For the North East the rise was driven by goods from division 67 'Iron & steel' coming from Germany although this was offset to some extent by a decrease in division 64 'Paper, paperboard & manufactures thereof' in goods coming from Germany. The region with the largest percentage decrease in section 6 imports was the North West (down 10.4 per cent); here, the decline was largely due to a 35.9 per cent decrease in division 64, mainly in goods coming from Finland.



Imports from section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' increased for seven of the nine regions. The highest growth rate was in the East Midlands (up 4.1 per cent) where the largest rises were in division 85 'Footwear' (increases in goods coming from the Czech Republic and China) and division 81 'Pre-fabricated buildings; sanitation, plumbing, heating & lighting fixtures' (increases in goods coming from Slovakia and Germany). The region with the biggest percentage decrease in imports from section 8 was the East (down 5.7 per cent), mainly due to a reduction in goods within division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' coming from China and Denmark.

Six of the nine regions experienced an increase in imports from section 0 'Food & live animals' during the year, with all nine regions receiving a large rise in imports of division 04 'Cereals & cereal preparations'. For London, the dominant importing region for division 04, imports of division 04 increased by 11.7 per cent while for the other regions the growth rates were between 13.8 per cent and 196.2 per cent. The likely reason for this growth in cereal imports across all regions is the poor cereal harvest in the UK in 2012 which has necessitated a greater level of imports to meet the needs of the UK.

### **Commodity analysis – Wales**

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

SITC section	Description	Year to March 2013 Total £ millions	Year to March 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2012	% Total Imports in year ending March 2013
2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	1,663.7	2,164.5	-23.1	22.1
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1,661.6	1,932.2	-14.0	22.1
7	Machinery & transport equipment	1,523.7	1,649.3	-7.6	20.2
5	Chemicals & related products	1,304.0	1,315.6	-0.9	17.3
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	564.0	740.6	-23.8	7.5
	Other SITCs	809.0	928.0	-12.8	10.7
	All SITCs	7,526.0	8,730.1	-13.8	100.0

Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional  
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 8b shows that section 2 'Crude materials, inedible, except fuels' and section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' are the two highest-valued commodity groups for imports to Wales. Both these sections have seen large decreases in import value during the year, although the decline was more marked in section 2. Here, much of the decline over the past year was due to SITC division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' (down 24.2 per cent), with imports from Canada and Brazil decreasing the most. The fall of 14.0 per cent in section 6 was mainly due to decreases in SITC divisions 67, 68 and 69 of 16.2 per cent, 14.9 per cent and 23.7 per cent respectively.

The value of imports declined for all of the top five SITC sections during the year. Of the total of all ten sections, it was only the two lowest-valued that increased: section 1 'Beverages & tobacco' and section 4 'Animal & vegetable oils, fats & waxes'. In the top five SITC sections, section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' had the largest percentage decrease (down 23.8 per cent), with the largest reduction coming from SITC division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' (down 68.6 per cent), mainly in imports from China. The top five section where imports decreased the least was section 5 'Chemicals & related products' (down 0.9 per cent); there were large decreases in division 59 'Chemical materials & products' in goods coming from the USA, although this was offset by increases in imports of division 55 'Essential oils & perfume materials' from France and imports of division 53 'Dyeing, tanning & colouring materials' from France and Germany.

The largest division-level increase during the year was in imports of SITC division 75 'Office machines & automatic data processing machines' (up 14.5 per cent), mainly in goods coming from Hong Kong and China. The largest decreases at division level were in division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' and division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' (see above), followed by division 67 'Iron & steel' (down 16.2 per cent, with most of the reduction in goods coming from Russia, the Netherlands and Germany).

## Commodity analysis – Scotland

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

SITC section	Description	Year to March 2013 Total £ millions	Year to March 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2012	% Total Imports in year ending March 2013
7	Machinery & transport equipment	4,890.3	5,120.2	-4.5	34.1
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	2,917.4	2,420.1	20.6	20.3
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1,995.5	1,808.1	10.4	13.9
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,686.2	1,604.6	5.1	11.7
0	Food & live animals	1,236.8	1,166.1	6.1	8.6
	Other SITCs	1,626.5	1,668.0	-2.5	11.3
	All SITCs	14,352.8	13,787.0	4.1	100.0

Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 9b shows that Scotland's imports continue to be dominated by goods from SITC section 7, although imports from this section have decreased by 4.5 per cent during the year. This was mainly due to a reduction in imports of SITC division 75 'Office machines & automatic data processing machines' (down 13.0 per cent), particularly from Poland and Germany.

Scotland saw increases in the value of imports during the year for all of the top five SITC sections apart from section 7. The section that increased most in value over the year was section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (up 20.6 per cent), with imports from division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' up 51.5 per cent; the growth in this division was primarily due to a rise in imports from Nigeria and Algeria.

The value of imports from section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' has increased by 10.4 per cent during the year. Over the 12 month period there was a large increase in imports from division 64 'Paper, paperboard &

manufactures thereof', which more than doubled. Here, most of the increase was in goods from Finland and Germany.

Section 0 'Food & live animals' increased in value by 6.1 per cent during the 12 month period, with all of the increase occurring from the third quarter of 2012 onwards. The largest increase was in imports of division 04 'Cereals & cereal preparations' which more than doubled during the year. This is likely to be the result of the poor cereal harvest experienced throughout the UK in 2012 following adverse weather conditions; the need for greater levels of imported cereal to cover the shortfall has been reflected similarly in the increased cereal imports in other areas of the UK.

More than half of the SITC divisions decreased in import value during the year. After division 75 'Office machines & automatic data processing machines' the largest value decrease was in division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes' (down 18.3 per cent), notably in goods from Colombia. The largest value increases at division level were in division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' and division 64 'Paper, paperboard & manufactures thereof' (see above).

### **Commodity analysis – Northern Ireland**

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

SITC section	Description	Year to March 2013 Total £ millions	Year to March 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2012	% Total Imports in year ending March 2013
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,535.3	1,538.2	-0.2	27.4
7	Machinery & transport equipment	1,055.0	1,145.8	-7.9	18.8
0	Food & live animals	1,008.3	997.7	1.1	18.0
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	759.5	826.3	-8.1	13.6
5	Chemicals & related products	509.9	502.3	1.5	9.1
	Other SITCs	734.0	828.2	-11.4	13.1
	All SITCs	5,602.0	5,838.6	-4.1	100.0

Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional  
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' remains Northern Ireland's top import section by value, despite a marginal decrease of 0.2 per cent over the last year. Within this section the largest value decrease was from division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles not specified elsewhere' (down 18.7 per cent), primarily in goods coming from the Irish Republic. This decrease was offset by a large increase in division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' (up 4.0 per cent), mainly in goods coming from Bangladesh, Turkey and China.

Within the top 5 sections, Northern Ireland saw its largest percentage decrease in section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' (down 8.1 per cent). The decline was led by a reduction in imports of division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures' (down 17.3 per cent) coming from the Irish Republic and division 67 'Iron & steel' (down 27.6 per cent) coming from Japan. There was also a large decrease in imports of section 7 (down 7.9 per cent), led by a reduction in goods from division 79 'Other transport equipment' (down 35.8 per cent) coming from Spain.

The only two sections in the top five that increased in value during the year were section 5 (up 1.5 per cent) and section 0 (up 1.1 per cent). For section 5 the rise was led by an increase in imports of division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (up 11.1 per cent) coming from India and division 55 'Essential oils & perfume materials' (up 15.4 per cent) coming from the Irish Republic; these increases were balanced by a reduction in imports of division 59 'Chemical materials & products' (down 37.9 per cent) coming from the Irish Republic. For section 0 the rise was driven by a 25.5 per cent increase in imports of division 04 'Cereals & cereal preparations', largely in goods coming from the Ukraine. This increase in cereal imports is likely to be linked to the reduced quantity and quality of the UK cereal harvest in 2012; similar increases in imports of cereals were reported for England and Scotland.

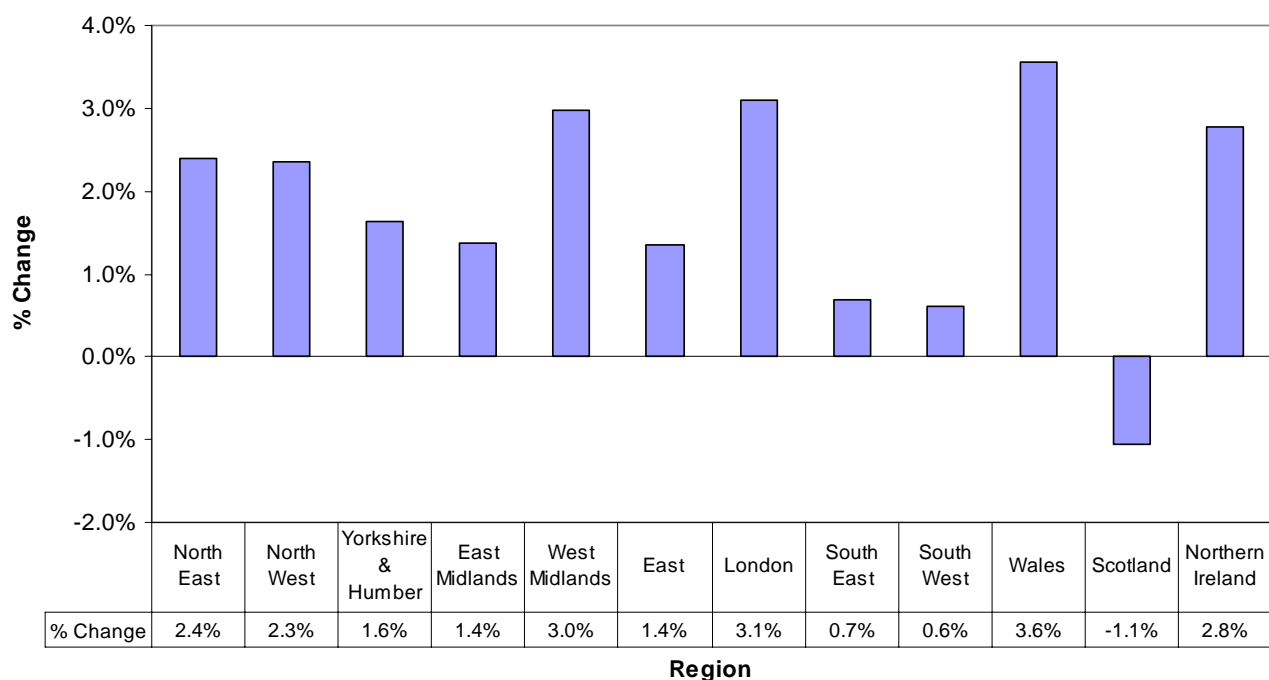
The majority of SITC divisions decreased in value during the year. The largest decrease in import value at division level was in division 11 'Beverages' (down 19.2 per cent), mainly in goods coming from the Irish Republic. The largest value increases at division level were in division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' and division 04 'Cereals & cereal preparations' (see above).

## Number of Businesses – Imports

The following analysis compares the number of active importers in quarter 1 2013 with the number in quarter 1 2012. A quarterly analysis is more appropriate here than an annual analysis, since summing the number of active businesses over a year could produce ambiguous results. A quarter-on-quarter comparison enables us to measure seasonal movement of businesses, such as the increase/decrease in number of importers over the Christmas season (quarter 4). The number of businesses counted excludes those who trade only with the EU and whose trade is below the Intrastat Exemption Threshold (see note 6).

Figure 3b shows the percentage change in the number of importers in the UK between quarter 1 2012 and quarter 1 2013.

**Fig 3b: Percentage Change in Number of Importers between Q1 2012 and Q1 2013**



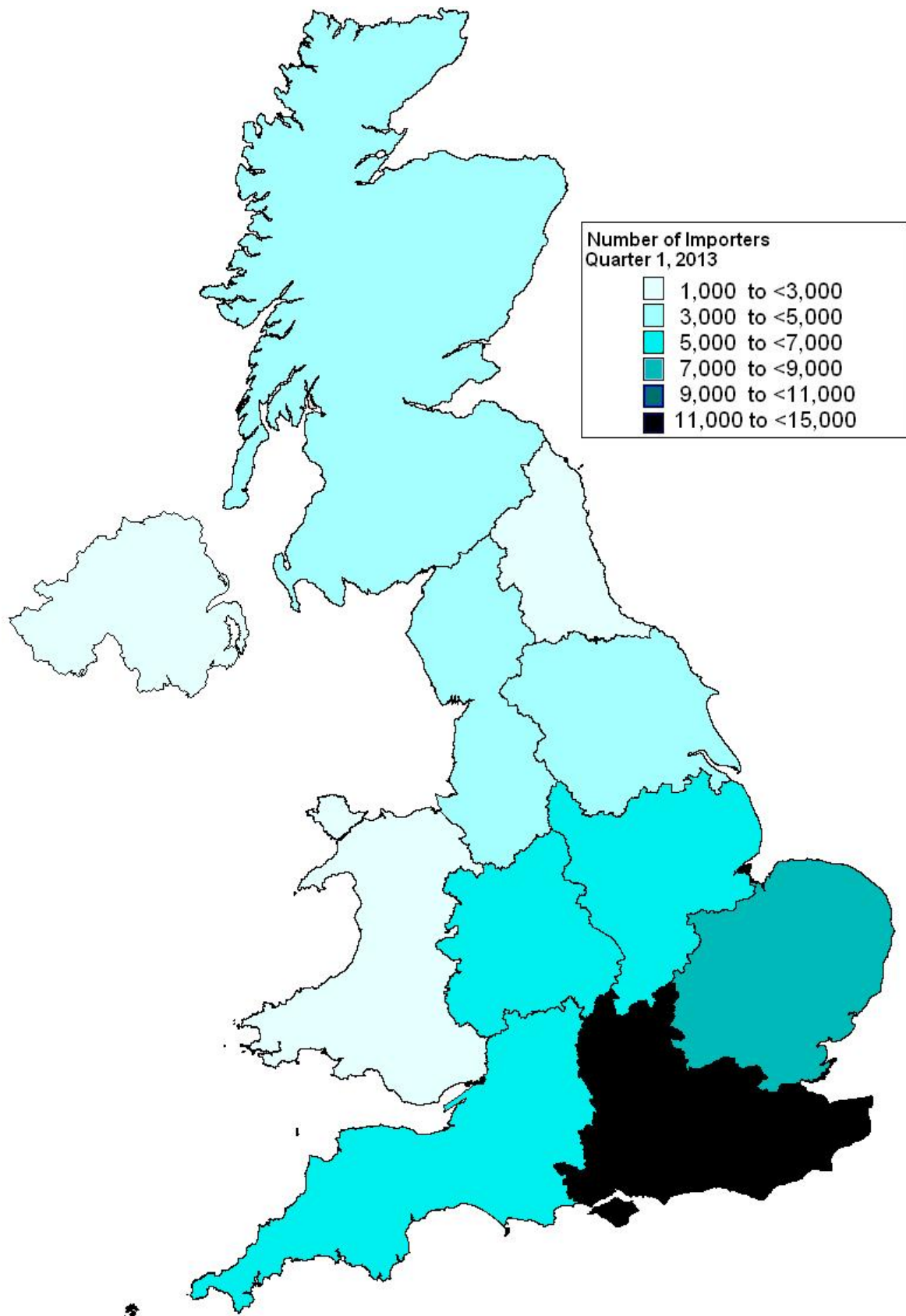
Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

In the UK as a whole, the number of importing businesses increased by 1.8 per cent between quarter 1 2012 and quarter 1 2013 from 66,347 to 67,538. This was a higher annual growth rate than those observed at the end of the previous two quarters.

Figure 3b shows that the number of active importers increased in eleven of the twelve UK regions between quarter 1 2012 and quarter 1 2013. The only exception was Scotland, where the number of importers decreased by 1.1 per cent. The greatest increase was in Wales, where the number of active importers rose by 3.6 per cent over the year.

Figure 4b shows the total number of active UK importers in each region for quarter 1, 2013. London, the South East and the East are the three regions with the largest count of importers, accounting for 19.5 per cent, 17.1 per cent and 10.8 per cent of all UK importers respectively. The North East has the smallest number of importing businesses for the quarter, making up 2.0 per cent of all UK importers. The proportion of UK importers in each region has remained virtually the same over the past year, apart from a slight increase in the proportion in London and a slight decrease in the South East and Scotland.

Fig 4b: Number of UK import businesses by region - Quarter 1, 2013



Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional  
Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs



## Notes

1. The latest statistics on Regional Trade were released on 06 June 2013 by HM Revenue & Customs under arrangements set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#). This release includes the first provisional estimates of trade-in-goods for Quarter 1 2013. This release also incorporates a small number of revisions to historic data relating to years 2008-2011; these changes have already been applied to Overseas Trade Statistics data (see page 2). All data for the years 2008-2013 has also been revised to take account of the RTS processing change described on page 2.
2. Data is taken primarily from Customs systems (for non-EU trade) and the Intrastat survey (for EU trade). HMRC does not receive information in respect of goods that move wholly within the UK, nor in intangibles and services such as banking or tourism. Trade is mainly allocated to a region by the postcode associated with a company's VAT registration.
3. Some adjustments have been necessary in the production of export statistics by region to ensure manufacturing that takes place at branch premises is properly allocated to the region where the branch is situated. This adjustment is based on the results of periodic surveys of the top 200 businesses by value of exports (both EU and non-EU), to determine the values and proportions of trade generated by each branch. Therefore, for businesses who have provided a response to the survey, their trade is split by value to various regions in line with the information provided by the survey. For all other businesses the region where the head office is located is used by default unless the export is assigned to a specific branch. For imports, such adjustments cannot be made, as businesses would not be able to produce a reasonable assessment of the final regional destination for their goods. Unlike exports where the manufacture of goods is typically more regionally concentrated, imports are based on the sale of goods, which is far more regionally dispersed.
4. Not all trade can be assigned to one of the 9 English Regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Where appropriate, this is referred to in the tables as the 'Unknown region' and includes:
  - a. Trade carried out by persons or entities which cannot be matched to a region.

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

More information can be found in the RTS methodology document.

<https://www.uktradeinfo.com/Statistics/documents/rtsmethodsrevision2007v3.pdf>

- 5. The RTS does not include estimates for non-response or estimates for the missing EU Imports associated with Missing Trader Intra-Community VAT Fraud (MTIC Fraud).
- 6. The counts for businesses dealing with the EU and counts for businesses dealing with the non-EU do not sum to the total business counts. Businesses that are active in both EU and non-EU markets are counted once only in the total business counts. The counts for businesses dealing with the EU do not include businesses where the value of their intra-EU trade is below the [Intrastat Exemption Threshold](#).
- 7. In 2009 the introduction of the Economic Operator Registration and Identification (EORI) system enabled EU economic operators (businesses) to register for customs purposes in one Member State to obtain an EORI number which is valid throughout all EU member states. The EORI number replaced the VAT registration number and Branch ID supplied on trade data, which together made up the Trader's Unique Reference Number (TURN) for those businesses participating in the scheme. It is the TURN, in particular the Branch ID, which is the main data source used in the compilation of the RTS as it is matched with the relevant postcode in order to allocate trade to specific regions of the UK. Under EORI, the vast majority of businesses are not allowed to retain Branch IDs which affects RTS, as it results in all trade being declared to the head office(s) in a single region (or a small number of regions). The result is that the recorded trade for regions containing branches of a business is reduced, while the recorded trade for regions containing the head office(s) of that business

increases. The impact of the change is being monitored and reviewed by the Trade Statistics Unit.

8. Aggregated tables are produced to allow time series analysis; these tables are provided in a separate document released in conjunction with this Release.
9. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:
  - meet identified user needs;
  - are well explained and readily accessible;
  - are produced according to sound methods, and
  - are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

10. The Regional Trade in Goods figures undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs. The latest Government Statistical Service Quality report can be found [here](#).
11. The RTS has been reviewed as part of an assessment made of Overseas Trade Statistics by the [UK Statistics Authority](#). The report of that assessment can be found at <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-93---uk-trade-in-goods.pdf>

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To access the detailed Regional Trade Statistics data in our free interactive database please click [here](#).

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