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HM Revenue and Customs

Regional Trade Statistics First Quarter 2015

Summary

The value of UK exports and imports decreased in the year to March 2015 by 4.7 per cent and 1.3 per cent respectively.

In the year to March 2015:

- Of the four UK countries, none saw an increase in exports during the year
- Northern Ireland was the only country that saw an increase in imports.
- There was a fall in annual export value for all England regions except the North East, the West Midlands and the South West.
- There was a decrease in annual import value for the North West, East, London and South East with an increase in the remaining five English regions.

When comparing quarter 1 2015 with quarter 1 2014:

- The value of UK exports and imports both decreased
- The value of exports fell for England, Wales and Scotland but rose for Northern Ireland. Exports rose in the North East, Yorkshire & the Humber, the West Midlands, London and South West but decreased in all other English regions.
- The number of exporters rose for all UK regions except the North East, the South East and Northern Ireland.
- The value of UK imports fell for England and Scotland but increased for Wales and Northern Ireland. Imports increased in the North East, Yorkshire & the Humber, East Midlands, London and and South West but decreased in all other English regions.
- The number of importers rose for all UK regions.

Overview - Exports

The total annual value of UK exports decreased by 4.7 per cent to £283 billion in the year ending March 2015.

100 90 ■2011Q2-2012Q1 80 ■2012Q2-2013Q1 70 ■2013Q2-2014Q1 60 ■2014Q2-2015Q1 50 40 30 20 10 0 North North East West East London South South Wales Scotland Northern Unknown Yorkshire East West & Midlands Midlands East West Ireland Humber Region

Figure 1: UK Exports by Region, 2011 Q2 - 2015 Q1

Note: 2014 and 2015 data are provisional Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

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

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

- Exports from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland all decreased during the year.
- Six of the nine English regions experienced decreases in exports with just North East, West Midlands and South West seeing increases.

When comparing the period year ending March 2012 with year ending March 2015, there was a decrease of annual UK Exports from £299 billion to £283 billion. This is a decrease of £15.2 billion or 5.1 per cent.

- Exports from England, Wales and Scotland all decreased during this period by 7.1 per cent, 12 per cent and 1.1 per cent respectively. There was a small increase of 1.9 per cent in exports from Northern Ireland.
- Exports from four English regions saw an increase; Yorkshire & Humber, East Midlands, West Midlands and South West. All the others saw a decrease.

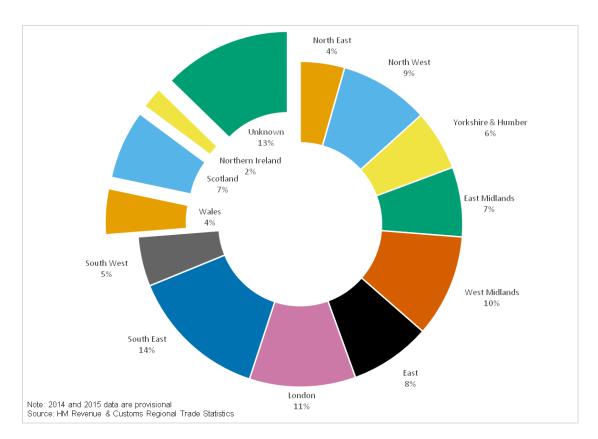


Figure 2: UK Exports by country / region, year ending Q1 2015

Figure 2 shows the breakdown by region of UK exports for the 12 month period ending Q1 2015.

- UK exports are dominated by those from England. They account for 74 per cent.
- Within the English regions, South East, London and West Midlands account for the greatest shares with 14 per cent, 11 per cent and 10 per cent of UK exports respectively.

Figure 3 shows the percentage change in number of exporters per region between quarter 1 2014 and quarter 1 2015. A quarterly analysis is more appropriate here than an annual analysis, as summing the number of active businesses over a year could produce ambiguous results. A quarter-on-quarter comparison enables us to measure seasonal changes of businesses. The number of businesses counted excludes those who trade only with the EU and whose trade is below the Intrastat Exemption Threshold (see note 10).

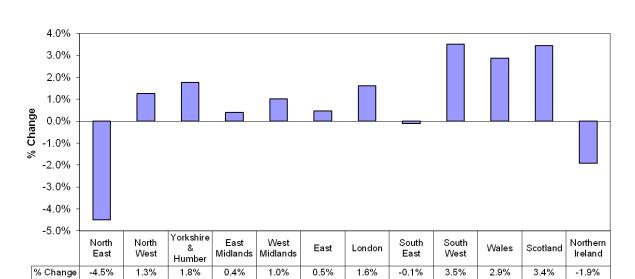


Figure 3: Percentage Change in Number of Exporters between Q1 2014 and Q1 2015

Note: 2014 and 2015 data are provisional Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Region

For the UK, the number of exporting businesses increased by 1.1 per cent between quarter 1 2014 and quarter 1 2015, from 48,700 to 49,300. This increase follows four quarters in succession in which the number of active exporters has been lower than in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

- The number of active exporters increased in all regions of the UK except for the North East, South East and Northern Ireland.
- The South West experienced the largest percentage rise in exporting businesses, 3.5 per cent.
- The North East saw the largest percentage decline, 4.5 per cent.

Overview - Imports

The total annual value of UK imports decreased by 1.3 per cent to £403 billion in the year ending March 2015.

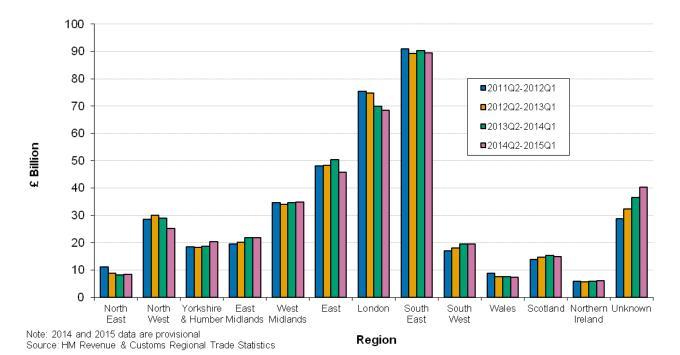


Figure 4: UK Imports by Region, 2011 Q2 - 2015 Q1

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

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

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

When comparing the periods year ending March 2012 with year ending March 2015, there was an increase of annual UK imports from £401 billion to £403 billion. This is an increase of £1.7 billion or 0.4 per cent.

- Imports into England and Wales decreased during this period by 2.8 per cent and 16 per cent respectively. There were increases of 8.6 per cent and 5.2 per cent in imports into Scotland and Northern Ireland respectively.
- Imports into four English regions saw an increase; Yorkshire & Humber, East Midlands, West Midlands and South West. All the others saw a decrease.

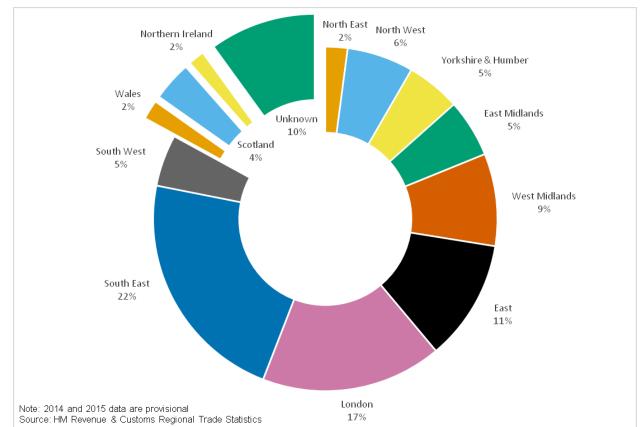


Figure 5: UK Imports by Region, year ending Q1 2015

Figure 5 shows the breakdown by region of UK imports for the year ending quarter 1 2015.

- UK imports are dominated by those to England. They account for 83 per cent.
- Within the English regions, South East, London and East account for the greatest shares with 22 per cent, 17 per cent and 11 per cent of UK exports respectively.

Figure 6 shows the percentage change in the number of importers in the UK between quarter 1 2014 and quarter 1 2015. As discussed earlier a quarterly analysis is more appropriate here than an annual analysis.

10.0% 9.0% 8.0% 7.0% 6.0% 5.0% 4.0% 3.0% 2.0% 1.0% 0.0% Yorkshir North North East West South South Northern East London Wales Scotland Midlands Midlands Humber 7.6% % Change 9.0% 8.3% 7.1% 5.4% 7.7% 7.3% 9.5% 4.5% 8.5% 6.9% 1.4%

Figure 6: Percentage Change in Number of Importers between Q1 2014 and Q1 2015

Note: 2014 and 2015 data are provisional Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Region

In the UK as a whole, the number of importing businesses increased by 7.1 per cent between quarter 1 2014 and quarter 1 2015 rising from 63,400 to 67,900.

- All twelve UK regions to saw an increase between quarter 1 2014 and quarter 1 2015.
- These increases followed a long period of decrease (seven consecutive quarters for the majority of UK regions). However, a considerable portion of the 2014 quarterly reductions was due to the increase in the Intrastat Arrivals threshold in January 2014 from £0.6 million to £1.2 million. This meant traders whose imports fell between these two levels were no longer counted. Therefore this is the first full year-on-year comparison since the Arrivals threshold increased, which may in part explain the consistent increase observed across all regions.

Rolling 12 Month Overview

Exports from England

Partner country analysis

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

	Country	Year ending March 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2014	% Total Exports in year ending March 2015
	USA	30,910.3	29,895.3	3.4	14.8%
	Germany	22,535.1	22,841.1	-1.3	10.8%
Top 5	France	13,986.0	16,110.8	-13.2	6.7%
	Netherlands	12,295.8	14,567.8	-15.6	5.9%
	China	11,244.6	10,805.7	4.1	5.4%
	Others	118,137.8	125,713.0	-6.0	56.5%
	Total EU	100,824.1	107,682.1	-6.4	48.2%
	Total Non-EU	108,285.5	112,251.6	-3.5	51.8%
	Grand Total	209,109.6	219,933.7	-4.9	100.0%

Note: 2014 and 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Exports from England decreased by 4.9 per cent during the year ending March 2015. This is the seventh quarter in succession in which exports from England have been lower than in the same quarter of the previous year.

- England's exports to the EU decreased by 6.4 per cent during the last year, while exports to non-EU countries decreased by 3.5 per cent. The market share for non-EU exports was 52 per cent compared to 51 per cent for the previous year.
- Of the top five export partners, the USA and China were the only partner countries that increased in value over the last 12 months
- The largest value increase in export trade is to USA (up £1.0 billion, 3.4 per cent) followed by China (up £439 million, 4.1 per cent).
- The largest value decrease in exports is to the Netherlands (down £2.3 billion, 16 per cent) followed by France (down £2.1 billion, 13 per cent).

Commodity analysis

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

SITC section	Description	Year ending March 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2014	% Total Exports in year ending March 2015
7	Machinery & transport				
•	equipment	89,268.6	91,317.5	-2.2	42.7
5	Chemicals & related products	35,400.6	35,327.4	0.2	16.9
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	33,648.9	31,905.0	5.5	16.1
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	22,207.5	24,857.6	-10.7	10.6
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	12,641.0	19,986.4	-36.8	6.0
	Other SITCs	15,943.1	16,539.9	-3.6	7.6
	Grand Total	209,109.6	219,933.7	-4.9	100.0

Note: 2014 and 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

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

- 'Machinery & transport equipment' continues to dominate exports from England; its share of England's exports has risen from 42 per cent to 43 per cent over the year, despite a decrease of 2.2 per cent by value.
- Only three SITC sections increased; 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (up £1.7 billion, 5.4 per cent), 'Food & Live Animals' (up £220 million, 2.8 per cent) and Chemicals & related products (up £73 million, 0.2 per cent).
- The largest value decreases were for 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (down £7.3 billion, 37 per cent) and 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material (down £2.7 billion, 11 per cent).

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

- The largest reductions were in divisions 'petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down £7.3 billion, 38 per cent) and 'non-metallic mineral manufactures n.e.s.' (down £1.9 billion, 43 per cent).
- The largest increase were in divisions 'miscellaneous manufactured articles n.e.s. (up £1.8 billion, 12 per cent) and 'medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (up £637 million, 4.7 per cent).

Imports into England

Partner country analysis

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

	Country	Year ending March 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2014	% Total Exports in year ending March 2015
	Germany	52,085.8	49,982.1	4.2	15.6
	China	30,147.8	27,623.1	9.1	9.0
Top 5	USA	25,421.2	25,305.5	0.5	7.6
	Netherlands	23,593.8	26,220.7	-10.0	7.1
	France	20,203.9	20,635.3	-2.1	6.0
	Others	182,574.1	192,851.1	-5.3	54.7
	Total EU	181,001.8	181,925.2	-0.5	54.2
	Total Non-EU	153,024.8	160,692.7	-4.8	45.8
	Grand Total	334,026.6	342,617.8	-2.5	100.0

Note: 2014 and 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Imports into England decreased by 2.5 per cent during the year ending March 2015; this was bigger than the 1.3 per cent decrease in imports to the UK as a whole.

- Non-EU partner countries accounted for 46 per cent of England's imports during the year; this percentage has fallen from 47 per cent in the previous annual period.
- Germany remains the top import partner for England by a wide margin. For the latest annual period it accounts for 16 per cent of all imports into England compared to 15 per cent the year before. Imports from here rose by 4.2 per cent during the year.
- Trade with three of the top five import partners increased compared to the previous year.
- The largest value increases were for imports from China (up £2.5 billion, 9.1 per cent) followed by Germany (up £2.1 billion, 4.2 per cent).
- The largest value decreases were for imports from Norway (down £3.14 billion, 22 per cent) followed by Netherlands (down £2.63 billion, 10 per cent).

Commodity analysis

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

		Year ending March 2015	Year ending March 2014	% Change	% Total Exports in
SITC section	Description	Total £ millions	Total £ millions	from March 2014	year ending March 2015
7	Machinery & transport equipment	128,250.2	126,285.6	1.6	38.4
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	56,566.8	54,102.8	4.6	16.9
5	Chemicals & related products	36,896.4	36,720.0	0.5	11.0
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	36,476.4	37,287.2	-2.2	10.9
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	34,862.4	46,256.2	-24.6	10.4
	Other SITCs	40,974.4	41,966.1	-2.4	12.3
	Grand Total	334,026.6	342,617.8	-2.5	100.0

Note: 2014 and 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

The value of imports has decreased during the year in three of England's top five commodities.

- 'Machinery & transport equipment' continues to dominate England's imports, accounting for 38 per cent of total import value, an increase from 37 per cent the previous year.
- The largest value increase at SITC section level was in 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (up £2.5 billion, 4.6 per cent).
- The largest value decrease at SITC section level was in 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (down £11.4 billion, 25 per cent).

Thirty-four of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in import value over the 12 months.

- The largest division-level value decreases were contributed by 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down £9.53 billion, 24 per cent) followed by 'gas, natural & manufactured' (down £1.32 billion, 27 per cent).
- The largest division-level value increases were in imports of 'Road vehicles' (up £1.97 billion, 4.9 per cent) followed by 'Electrical machinery' (up £1.15 billion, 7.1 per cent).

Exports from Wales

Partner country analysis – Exports from Wales

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

	Country	Year ending March 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2014	% Total Exports in year ending March 2015
	USA	2,774.8	2,992.9	-7.3	21.6
	Irish Republic	1,364.0	1,762.9	-22.6	10.6
Top 5	UAE	1,198.6	1,217.9	-1.6	9.3
-	Germany	1,057.2	1,118.0	-5.4	8.2
	France	641.8	688.5	-6.8	5.0
	Others	5,838.9	6,897.5	-15.3	45.3
	Total EU	5,529.3	6,443.2	-14.2	42.9
1	Total Non-EU	7,345.9	8,234.5	-10.8	57.1
	Grand Total	12,875.3	14,677.7	-12.3	100.0

Note: 2014 and 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Export values for Wales decreased by 12 per cent during the year ending March 2015. There has been a fall in exports for each of the last five quarters compared with the same quarter of the previous year.

- Wales' exports to the EU decreased by 14 per cent during the last year, while
 exports to non-EU countries decreased by 11 per cent. Non-EU partner
 countries continue to dominate the export market in Wales, receiving 57 per
 cent of goods exported. This is compared to 56 per cent the previous year.
- USA remains Wales' top export partner despite a decrease of £218 million (7.3 per cent).
- All of the top five export partners saw a decrease in value over the last 12 months.
- The partner countries where export values increased most during the year were the Singapore (up £113 million, 36 per cent) and Saudi Arabia (up £41.8 million, 22 per cent).
- The partner countries with the largest value decreases in exports over the year were the Irish Republic (down £399 million, 23 per cent) followed by the Netherlands (down £220 million, 26 per cent).

Commodity analysis

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

SITC section	Description	Year ending March 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2014	% Total Exports in year ending March 2015
7	Machinery & transport equipment	5,738.2	6,195.0	-7.4	44.6
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	2,356.5	3,651.3	-35.5	18.3
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1,972.4	2,073.6	-4.9	15.3
5	Chemicals & related products	1,499.7	1,468.0	2.2	11.6
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	931.5	870.2	7.0	7.2
	Other SITCs	377.0	419.5	-10.1	2.9
	Grand Total	12,875.3	14,677.7	-12.3	100.0

Note: 2014 and 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

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

- Exports from Wales continue to be dominated by goods from 'Machinery & transport equipment' which makes up 45 per cent of the trade. Despite value of trade falling by 7.4 per cent in the past year, its total export share increased from 42 per cent.
- The SITC sections with the largest value increases were for 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (up £61 million, 7.0 per cent) and 'Chemicals & related products' (up £32 million, 2.2 per cent).
- The largest value decreases were for 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (down £1.3 billion, 35 per cent) and 'Machinery & transport equipment' (down £457 million, 7.4 per cent).

Thirty-eight of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in export value over the year.

- By far the largest annual reduction at division level was petroleum, petroleum products & related materials (down £1.3 billion, 36 per cent) followed by 'power generating machinery & equipment (down £359 million, 8.3 per cent).
- The biggest increases at division level were 'medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (up £104 million, 30 per cent) followed by 'Furniture & parts thereof; bedding, mattresses etc.' (up £59 million, 35 per cent).

Imports into Wales

Partner country analysis

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

	Country	Year ending March 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2014	% Total Exports in year ending March 2015
	Germany	856.7	875.1	-2.1	11.7
	China	739.2	594.2	24.4	10.1
Top 5	France	664.8	622.8	6.7	9.1
	USA	619.7	631.2	-1.8	8.5
	Canada	585.4	769.1	-23.9	8.0
	Others	3,829.0	3,991.7	-4.1	52.5
	Total EU	3,579.9	3,530.9	1.4	49.1
	Total Non-EU	3,714.9	3,953.4	-6.0	50.9
	Grand Total	7,294.8	7,484.2	-2.5	100.0

Note: 2014 and 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Imports to Wales decreased in value by 2.5 per cent during the year ending March 2015.

- Despite the overall reduction in imports to Wales, goods coming from the EU have increased in value over the year (up 1.4 per cent). Goods from EU make up nearly half of total imports into Wales.
- Of the top five imports partners, China and France were the only partner countries that increased in value compared to the previous year.
- Germany is the largest import partner for Wales despite a 2.1 per cent decrease over the year. It accounts for 12 per cent of imports into Wales, the same as the previous year.
- The largest increase in imports was from China (up £145 million, 24 per cent).
 Over the past year, China has moved up from fifth largest to second largest import partner for Wales.
- The largest decrease in imports was for Canada (down £184 million, 24 per cent) followed by Russia (down 63 million, 37 per cent).

Commodity analysis

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

SITC section	Description	Year ending March 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2014	% Total Exports in year ending March 2015
7	Machinery & transport equipment	1,954.6	1,871.5	4.4	26.8
5	Chemicals & related products	1,425.6	1,436.7	-0.8	19.5
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1,422.5	1,331.0	6.9	19.5
2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	1,201.9	1,500.9	-19.9	16.5
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	623.9	601.0	3.8	8.6
	Other SITCs	666.3	743.2	-10.3	9.1
	All SITCs	7,294.8	7,484.2	-2.5	100.0

Note: 2014 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

The value of imports has increased during the year for three of Wales' top five top commodities.

- Machinery & transport equipment remains the largest SITC section accounting for a 27 per cent of all imports into Wales. This is compared to 25 per cent for the previous year.
- The largest value increase was for 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' (up £92 million, 6.9 per cent) followed by 'Machinery & transport equipment' (up £83 million, 4.4 per cent).
- The largest value decrease at SITC section level was for 'Crude materials, inedible, except fuels' (down £299 million, 20 per cent) followed by 'Food & live animals' (down £49 million, 12 per cent).

Thirty-six of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in import value during the year.

- The largest value decreases were in 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' (down £296 million, 22 per cent), followed by division 78 'Road vehicles' (down £94 million, 24 per cent).
- The largest value increases at division level were in division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment' (up £130 million, 72 per cent) and division 67 'Iron & steel' (up £123 million, 38 per cent).

Exports from Scotland

Partner country analysis

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

	Country	Year ending March 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2014	% Total Exports in year ending March 2015
	USA	2,719.6	3,061.8	-11.2	14.0
	France	1,300.1	1,317.8	-1.3	6.7
Top 5	Netherlands	1,246.9	1,232.0	1.2	6.4
	Germany	1,093.8	1,232.8	-11.3	5.6
	Belgium	1,049.8	1,289.6	-18.6	5.4
	Others	11,996.3	12,245.2	-2.0	61.8
	Total EU	8,130.1	8,574.8	-5.2	41.9
	Total Non-EU	11,276.3	11,804.4	-4.5	58.1
	Grand Total	19,406.4	20,379.2	-4.8	100.0

Note: 2014 and 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Exports from Scotland decreased in value by 4.8 per cent during the year ending March 2015. There was a decrease in Scotland's exports for each of the last five quarters when compared with the same quarter of the previous year.

- Scotland's exports to the EU decreased by 5.2 per cent during the last year, while exports to non-EU countries fell by 4.5 per cent. Non-EU partner countries continue to dominate the export market in Scotland accounting for 62 per cent of all exports, an increase from 60 per cent in the previous year.
- USA remains Scotland's largest export partner despite a decrease of £342 million (11 per cent) in the last year.
- Exports to four of Scotland's top five partners decreased in value during the year; the only exception was the Netherlands, where there was an increase of £15 million (1.2 per cent).
- The largest value increases among Scotland's exports were in goods going to the Irish Republic (up £198 million, 39 per cent) and Norway (up £84 million, 9.7 per cent).
- The largest value decreases among Scotland's exports were in goods going to USA (down £342 million, 11 per cent) and Belgium (down £240 million, 19 per cent).

Commodity analysis

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

SITC section	Description	Year ending March 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2014	% Total Exports in year ending March 2015
7	Machinery & transport equipment	6,229.4	6,189.4	0.6	32.1
1	Beverages & tobacco	4,662.7	4,954.7	-5.9	24.0
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,408.4	2,490.6	-3.3	12.4
5	Chemicals & related products	1,744.2	1,849.7	-5.7	9.0
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	1,580.8	1,940.2	-18.5	8.1
	Other SITCs	2,781.0	2,954.6	-5.9	14.3
	Grand Total	19,406.4	20,379.2	-4.8	100.0

Note: 2014 and 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

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

- 'Machinery & transport equipment' and 'Beverages & tobacco' continue to dominate exports from Scotland.
- The only value increase was for the top SITC section 'Machinery & transport equipment' (up £40 million, 0.6 per cent).
- The largest value decrease at SITC section was in 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (down £359 million, 8.5 per cent) followed by 'Beverages & tobacco' (down £292 million, 5.9 per cent).

Thirty-four of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in export value during the year.

- The largest value division-level decreases were for SITC 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down £374 million 20 per cent), followed by 'Beverages' (down £292 million, 5.9 per cent).
- The largest increases at division level were for 'Office machines & automatic data processing machines' (up £145 million, 37 per cent) followed by 'Other transport equipment' (up £127 million, 26 per cent).

Imports into Scotland

Partner country analysis

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

	Country	Year ending Sep 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending Sep 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2014	% Total Exports in year ending March 2015
	USA	2,165.8	2,017.9	7.3	14.5
	China	1,581.9	1,230.4	28.6	10.6
Top 5	Norway	1,570.1	1,633.5	-3.9	10.5
	Nigeria	1,033.5	920.8	12.2	6.9
	Netherlands	980.3	979.4	0.1	6.5
	Others	7,637.2	8,456.8	-9.7	51.0
	Total EU	5,169.3	5,241.8	-1.4	34.5
	Total Non-EU	9,799.5	9,997.0	-2.0	65.5
	Grand Total	14,968.8	15,238.8	-1.8	100.0

Note: 2014 and 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Imports to Scotland have decreased in value by 1.8 per cent during the year.

- Scotland's imports from non-EU countries decreased by 2.0 per cent during the last year, compared to a fall of 1.4 per cent in imports from EU countries. Nevertheless, trade from non-EU partners now account for almost two-thirds of Scotland's imports by value despite this proportion having slightly decreased over the past year.
- There has been an increase in import value for four of the top five import partners over the last 12 months. The exception was Norway, which fell by 0.6 billion or 3.9 per cent.
- The USA remains Scotland's largest import partner, with an increase of 7.3
 per cent in imports over the last year. It accounts for 14 per cent of all imports
 into Scotland compared to 13 per cent the year before.
- The largest value increase was for China (up £352 million, 29 per cent) followed by USA.
- The largest value decreases over the 12 months were in imports from Algeria (down £156 million, 76 per cent) and Singapore (down £153 million, 36 per cent).

Commodity analysis

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

SITC section	Description	Year ending March 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2014	% Total Exports in year ending March 2015
7	Machinery & transport equipment	5,982.2	5,711.8	4.7	40.0
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	2,352.9	3,038.6	-22.6	15.7
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,165.9	2,098.5	3.2	14.5
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,635.5	1,587.5	3	10.9
5	Chemicals & related products	1,107.0	1,021.5	8.4	7.4
'	Other SITCs	1,725.3	1,780.8	-3.1	11.5
	Grand Total	14,968.8	15,238.8	-1.8	100.0

Note: 2014 and 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

The value of imports has increased during the year for four of Scotland's top five commodities.

- 'Machinery & transport equipment continues to dominate imports into Scotland. Goods from this section increased by 4.7 per cent during the year ending March 2015. Its share of 40 per cent for the most recent year is slightly up on that of the previous year (37 per cent).
- The largest value increase during the year was in the top SITC section 'Machinery & transport equipment' (up £270 million) followed by 'Chemicals & related products' (up £85.4 million, 8.4 per cent).
- The largest section-level value decrease the year was in imports of section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (down £686 million, 23 per cent) followed by Food & live animals (down £140 million, 11 per cent).

Thirty-three of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in import value during the year.

- The largest value division level decreases were in division 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down £454 million, 19 per cent) and 'Coal, coke & briquettes' (down £229 million, 38 per cent).
- The two largest value increases were 'Office machines & adp machines' (up £215 million, 17 per cent) and 'Other transport equipment' (up £166 million, 25 per cent).

Exports from Northern Ireland

Partner country analysis

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

	Country	Year ending March 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2014	% Total Exports in year ending March 2015
	Irish Republic	2,242.6	2,286.6	-1.9	37.2
	USA	747.8	574.1	30.3	12.4
Top 5	Canada	357.4	360.2	-0.8	5.9
	Germany	314.7	281.2	11.9	5.2
	France	297.5	324.1	-8.2	4.9
	Others	2,066.3	2,209.6	-6.5	34.3
	Total EU	3,562.4	3,588.0	-0.7	59.1
	Total Non-EU	2,463.9	2,447.9	0.7	40.9
'	Grand Total	6,026.3	6,035.9	-0.2	100.0

Note: 2014 and 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Exports from Northern Ireland have marginally decreased in value by 0.2 per cent during the year ending March 2015.

- The majority (59 per cent) of Northern Ireland's exports go to the EU; the value of exports to EU partners decreased by 0.7 per cent over the year, while trade to non-EU partners increased by 0.7 per cent.
- There were increases in exports to two of the top five partner countries during the year, USA and Germany.
- The Irish Republic continues to dominate Northern Ireland's export market despite its share decreasing from 38 per cent to 37 per cent during the year. This is the main reason why Northern Ireland has a higher proportion of export trade with the EU in comparison with the other UK countries.
- The largest value increase was for the USA (up £174 million, 30 per cent) followed by Taiwan (up £34 million, 404 per cent).
- The partner countries with the largest value decrease in exports from Northern Ireland were Australia (down £48 million, 41 per cent) and Irish Republic (down £44 million, 1.9 per cent).

Commodity analysis - Exports from Northern Ireland

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

SITC section	Description	Year ending March 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2014	% Total Exports in year ending March 2015
7	Machinery & transport equipment	2,232.4	2,367.6	-5.7	37.0
0	Food & live animals	1,147.3	1,161.6	-1.2	19.0
5	Chemicals & related products	886.9	793.4	11.8	14.7
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	670.1	650.1	3.1	11.1
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	537.7	544.4	-1.2	8.9
	Other SITCs	551.9	518.7	6.4	9.2
	Grand Total	6,026.3	6,035.9	-0.2	100.0

Note: 2014 and 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

The value of exports has decreased during the year for three of Northern Ireland's top five commodities.

- Northern Ireland's exports continue to be dominated by goods from 'Machinery & transport equipment'. A decrease in value of 5.7 per cent saw its share fall from 39 per cent to 37 per cent.
- At SITC section level 'Chemicals & related products' experienced the largest increase in exports during the year (up £93 million, 12 per cent) followed by 'Beverages & tobacco' (up £47 million, 30 per cent).
- The largest decrease was for 'Machinery & transport equipment' (down £135 million, 5.7 per cent), followed by 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (down £19 million, 22 per cent).

Thirty-four of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in export value during the year.

- The largest value decreases at division level were for 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (down £111 million, 25 per cent) followed by 'Machinery specialized for particular industries' (down £72 million, 14 per cent).
- The biggest value increases at division level were in 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (up £58 million, 12 per cent) followed 'Beverages' (up £46 million, 30 per cent).

Imports into Northern Ireland

Partner country analysis - Northern Ireland

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

	Country	Year ending March 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2014	% Total Exports in year ending March 2015
	Irish Republic	1,639.4	1,666.7	-1.6	26.7
	China	1,048.5	986.9	6.2	17.1
Top 5	USA	466.2	427.2	9.1	7.6
	Germany	375.9	348.7	7.8	6.1
	Netherlands	342.6	329.8	3.9	5.6
	Others	2,258.6	2,156.9	4.7	36.8
	Total EU	3,376.0	3,323.1	1.6	55.1
	Total Non-EU	2,755.2	2,593.1	6.3	44.9
	Grand Total	6,131.2	5,916.2	3.6	100.0

Note: 2014 and 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Northern Ireland has seen a 3.6 per cent increase in the value of its imports during the year.

- The majority of imports to Northern Ireland come from EU partners and the proportion is greater than for England, Wales and Scotland. This is due mainly to the Irish Republic being Northern Ireland's largest import partner country.
- Four of the top five import partners saw an increase in trade during the year.
 Irish Republic was the only top five import partner with a decrease.
- The Irish Republic remains Northern Ireland's largest import partner, accounting for 27 per cent of Northern Ireland's total imports. This is down from 28 per cent in the previous year.
- The largest value increases were in goods from China (up £62 million, 6.2 per cent) and USA (up £39 million, 9 per cent).
- The largest value decreases in imports to Northern Ireland were in goods from Hong Kong (down £33 million, 60 per cent) and the Irish Republic (down £28 million, 1.6 per cent).

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Commodity analysis - Imports into Northern Ireland

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

SITC section	Description	Year ending March 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2014	% Total Exports in year ending March 2015
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,724.3	1,562.2	10.4	28.1
7	Machinery & transport equipment	1,119.1	1,118.0	0.1	18.3
0	Food & live animals	1,068.8	1,051.5	1.6	17.4
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	886.8	831.5	6.6	14.5
5	Chemicals & related products	581.8	557.1	4.4	9.5
	Other SITCs	750.4	795.9	-5.7	12.2
-	Grand Total	6,131.2	5,916.2	3.6	100.0

Note: 2014 and 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

The value of imports increased during the year in all of Northern Ireland's top five commodities.

- 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' remains the top import section by value. Its share of Northern Ireland's total imports has increased slightly from 26 per cent to 28 per cent over the last year.
- Northern Ireland experienced its largest value increase in imports of 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (up £162 million, 10 per cent). This was followed by 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' which increased by £55 million (6.6 per cent).
- The biggest decreases came from 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (down £30 million, 17 per cent) and 'Beverages & Tobacco' (down £13 million, 3.7 per cent).

Thirty of the twenty-six SITC divisions decreased in value during the year.

- The biggest decreases at division level came from 'electrical machinery and appliances and parts' '(down £49 million, 25 per cent) and 'Cereals and cereal preparations' (down £19 million, 16 per cent).
- The largest increases in import value at division level were in 'Articles of apparel and clothing accessories' (up £109 million, 10 per cent) and 'Machinery specialised for particular industries' (up £30 million, 15 per cent).

Exports from English Regions

Partner country analysis – Exports from English regions

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

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

Note 2014 and 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

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

- The USA was in the top 5 of all English regions for both the year ending March 2015 and the year ending March 2014.
- Germany was in the top 5 for all English regions for the year ending March 2015; for the previous year it was in the top five for all regions except the North East.
- In addition, Netherlands and France feature in the top 5 partner countries for six of the nine regions.

Commodity analysis – Exports from English regions

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

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

Note: 2014 and 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

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

- 'Machinery and transport equipment' featured as top SITC section in six out of the nine regions.
- 'Chemicals and related products', 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material', Machinery and transport equipment' and 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' featured in the top five of all English regions.

Imports into English Regions

Partner country analysis - Imports into English regions

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

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

Note: 2014 and 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 19 shows the top partner countries for imports to the English regions for the year ending March 2015.

- China and Germany features in the top 5 for all English regions. Germany is top for five out of the nine, China for 3 out of the nine.
- The USA and Netherlands features in the top 5 for seven of the English regions. The USA is the top for the South West.
- France features in the top 5 for six of the nine English regions.

Commodity analysis - Imports into English regions

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

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

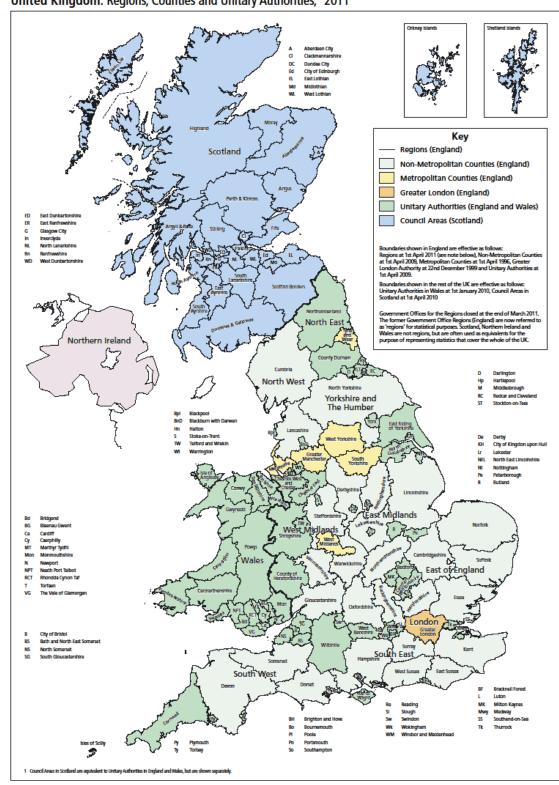
Note: 2014 and 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

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

- 'Machinery & transport equipment' features as the top SITC section for seven out of the nine regions. The two exceptions are the North West and London.
- 'Machinery & transport equipment' and 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' featured in the top five of all English regions
- 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' featured in the top five of all English regions except the South East.

United Kingdom: Regions, Counties and Unitary Authorities, ¹ 2011



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Explanatory Notes

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

Table A: RTS/OTS Reconciliation Table Quarter 1, 2015

	EU Exports £ millions	Non-EU Exports £ millions	EU Imports £ millions	Non-EU Imports £ millions
OTS total value	33,615.1	40,800.6	54,534.7	48,866.5
RTS total value	33,054.9	35,629.0	53,254.8	45,031.6
Allocated to a region	28,626.0	32,400.9	47,544.6	41,650.6
Unknown region	4,428.8	3,228.2	5,710.3	3,381.0
Late response estimates	509.9	-	1072.1	-
Non- monetary gold	50.3	5,171.6	207.7	3,834.9
RTS total plus exclusions ¹	33,615.1	40,800.6	54,534.7	48,866.5

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

Note 2: Late Response estimates includes an estimate for MTIC (Missing Trader Intra-Community fraud) in EU Imports only

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

- The latest statistics on Regional Trade were released on 04 June 2015 by HM
 Revenue & Customs under arrangements set out in the <u>Code of Practice for</u>
 <u>Official Statistics</u>. This release includes the first provisional estimates of tradein-goods for quarter 1 2015. At the same time revisions for all previously
 published regional data for 2014 are also being released.
- 4. Aggregated tables are produced to allow time series analysis; these tables are provided in a separate document released in conjunction with this release.
- 5. Data is taken primarily from Customs systems (for non-EU trade) and the Intrastat survey (for EU trade). HMRC does not receive information in respect of goods that move wholly within the UK, nor in intangibles and services such as banking or tourism.
- 6. RTS data is compiled by merging trade data collected by HMRC with Office for National Statistics postcode data to obtain the region in which the VAT registered business (importer or exporter) is based.
- 7. Some adjustments are necessary in producing the region of export statistics to ensure manufacturing at branch premises is properly allocated to the region where the branch is situated. This adjustment is based on the results of periodic surveys of the top 200 businesses by value of exports (both EU and non-EU), to determine the values and proportions of trade generated by each branch. Therefore, for these businesses, their trade is proportioned across the regions. For all other businesses the head office is used by default unless the export is assigned to a specific branch. For imports, such adjustments cannot be made, as businesses cannot reasonably assess of the final regional destination for their goods. Unlike exports where the manufacture of goods is typically more regionally concentrated, imports are based on the sale of goods, which is far more regionally dispersed. Because the trade is regionalised according to the location of the VAT registered business some of the trade may be allocated to the region where the head office of the business is located¹.
- 8. In 2009 the introduction of the Economic Operator Registration and Identification (EORI) system enabled EU economic operators (businesses) to register for customs purposes in one Member State, obtaining an EORI number which is valid throughout all EU member states. The EORI number replaced the VAT registration number and Branch ID supplied on trade data, which together made up the Trader's Unique Reference Number (TURN). The TURN or EORI number is the main data source used in the compilation of the RTS as it is matched with the relevant postcode in order to allocate trade to specific regions of the UK. Under EORI, the vast majority of businesses were not allowed to retain Branch IDs; this has impacted RTS, with the majority of trade now being declared to the head office(s) in a single region (or a small number of regions). The result is that the recorded trade for regions containing branches of a business has been reduced, while the recorded trade for regions containing the head office(s) of that business has increased.

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- 9. Not all trade can be assigned to one of the 9 English Regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Where appropriate, this is referred to in the tables as the 'Unknown region' and includes:
 - Trade carried out by persons or entities which cannot be matched to a region;
 - b. Low Value Trade; and
 - c. Data relating to Natural Gas and Electricity direct from pipeline and grid operators and information on petroleum production from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC).

More information can be found in the RTS methodology document. https://www.uktradeinfo.com/Statistics/NonEUOverseasTrade/AboutOverseastrade/Statistics/Documents/OTSMethodology_paper.pdf

- The RTS does not include estimates for late-response for EU trade including the missing EU Imports associated with Missing Trader Intra-Community VAT Fraud (MTIC Fraud).
- 11. RTS data is categorised by partner country and <u>Standard International Trade Classification</u>, <u>Rev.4</u>. (SITC) at division level (2-digit). The SITC is a relatively broad classification of goods and is not as detailed as the commodity classification available in the OTS. In this release RTS data is analysed at partner country and SITC section (1-digit) level, with references to SITC divisions where appropriate.
- 12. The counts for businesses dealing with the EU and those for 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. 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.
- 13. 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.

14. The Regional Trade in Goods figures undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs. These reviews are published as a Government Statistical Service Quality report. The RTS has been reviewed as part of an assessment made of Overseas Trade Statistics by the <u>UK Statistics Authority</u>. 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

16. In January 2014, a new style OTS commentary report was introduced, which was much shorter and more concise than the previous version and introduced enhanced graphics. However, similar changes were not applied to the RTS commentary reports and it was therefore decided that a consultation exercise was need to determine if users wanted the RTS commentary to be revised in the same way. A consultation was launched on 17 December 2014 and remained open until 31 January 2015. The results of the consultation showed support for a more concise and succinct RTS commentary with enhanced graphics. This format is being used in this release published on 4 June 2015.

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

Next release: 03 September 2015 9:30am

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