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# HM Revenue and Customs

## Regional Trade in Goods

### Statistics

## Fourth Quarter 2017

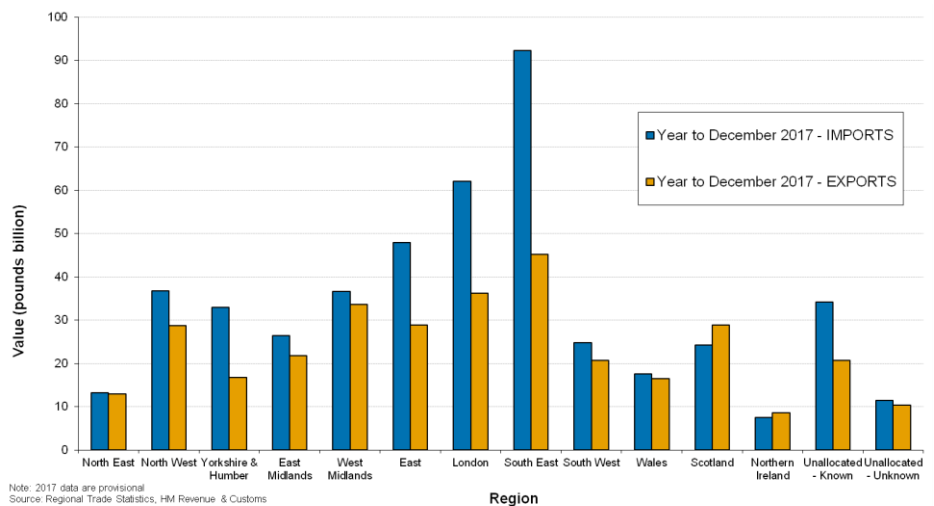
#### Summary

In the year to December 2017, the value of UK trade in goods exports increased by 13 per cent compared with the same period last year. Similarly, imports increased by 10 per cent.

On a regional basis

- Of the four UK countries, all saw an increase in value of both exports and imports.
- There were increases in annual export and import values for all English regions

**Figure 1: UK Imports and Exports by Region, Year to December 2017**



Note: 2017 data are provisional  
Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

## Overview - Exports

The total annual value of UK exports increased by 13 per cent to £330 billion in the year ending December 2017 compared with the same period the previous year.

**Figure 2: UK Exports by Region, 2015 Q1 – 2017 Q4**

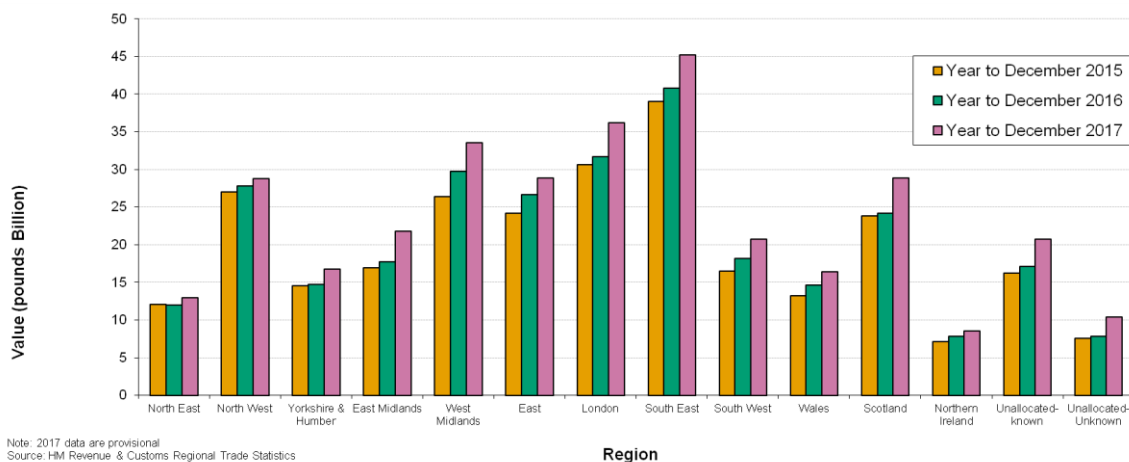


Figure 2 shows the total value of UK exports by region for the three annual periods ending December 2015, December 2016 and December 2017.

When comparing the annual period ending December 2017 with the annual period ending December 2016:

- Value of exports from England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland increased during the year.
- All nine of the English regions experienced increases in the value of exports.

When comparing the annual period ending December 2015 with year ending December 2017, there was an increase of UK exports from £275 billion to £330 billion. This is an increase of £54 billion or 20 per cent.

- Value of exports from England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland increased during this period by 18 per cent, 24 per cent, 21 per cent and 19 per cent respectively.
- Value of exports from all nine English regions saw an increase.

**Figure 3: UK Exports by country / region, year ending Q4 2017 – percentage of value**

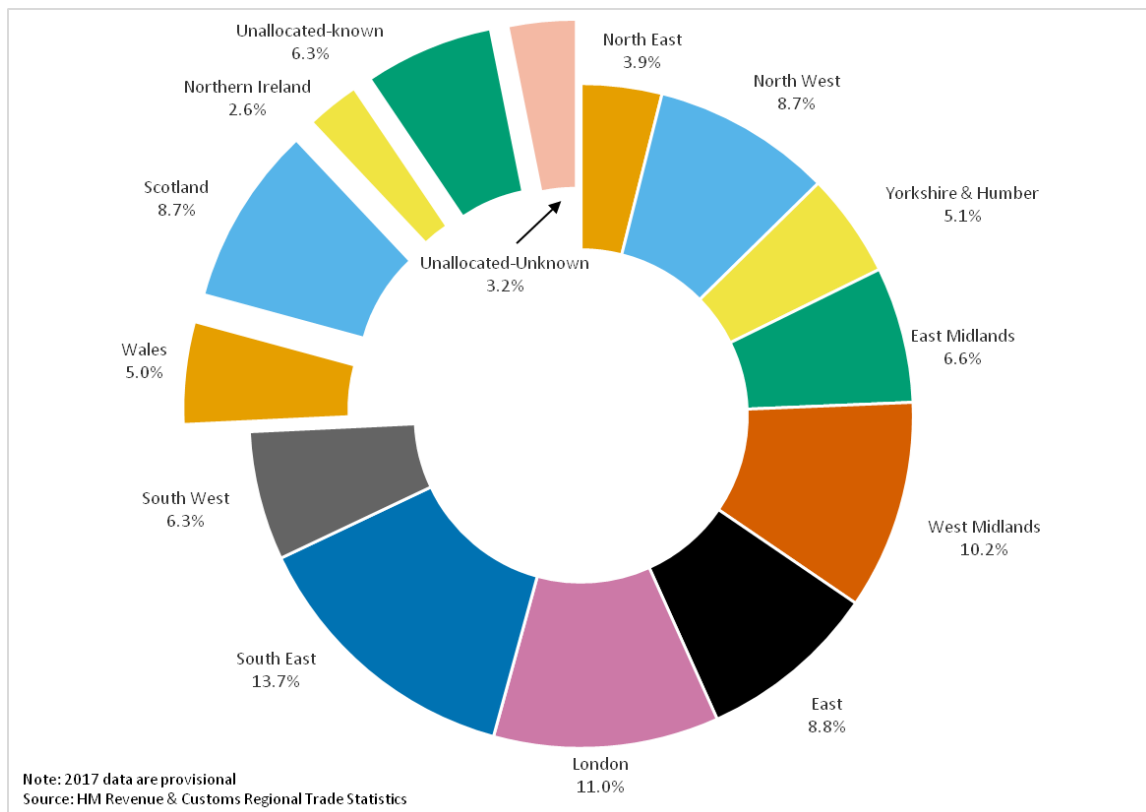


Figure 3 shows the breakdown by region of UK exports for the 12 month period ending December 2017.

- UK exports were dominated by those from England. They accounted for 74 per cent of value.
- Within the English regions; South East, London and West Midlands accounted for the greatest shares with 14, 11 and 10 per cent of UK exports respectively.
- North East had the lowest share in the English regions of 3.9 per cent.
- Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland accounted for 2.6, 5.0 and 8.7 per cent of exports respectively.

## Exporters Business Count

The business count is derived from trade declarations and is a count of all VAT Registered businesses importing and exporting. Where businesses have branches in multiple regions, there are two ways of deriving the count:

- **Whole Number Method:** A business will be counted as one in every region they have employees. This represents the actual count of businesses in any region. However, it will mean the sum of the business count for each region will be greater than that for the UK.
- **Proportion Method:** A business will be counted as a fraction in each region they trade based on the proportion of their employees in each region. An individual business counts as one business in the UK. The sum of businesses (whole and fractions) gives the total business count for a region.

We analyse results from both methods in this commentary. A quarter-on-quarter comparison enables us to measure seasonal changes of business counts.

For the UK, the number of exporting businesses increased by 1.2 per cent between quarter 4 2016 and quarter 4 2017, from 108,500 to 109,700.

**Figure 4: Percentage Change in Number of Exporters between Q4 2016 and Q4 2017 - Whole Number Method**

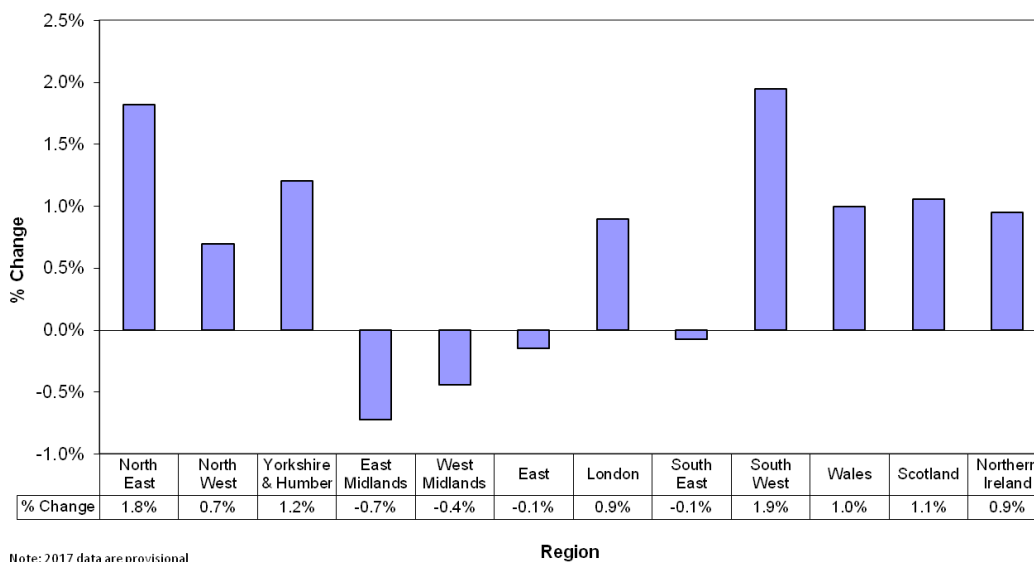


Figure 4 shows that under the whole number method:

- The number of active exporters increased for all UK countries and for all English regions except the East Midlands, the West Midlands, East and the South East.
- South West experienced the largest percentage rise in exporting businesses, a rise of 1.9 per cent.
- East Midlands saw the largest percentage fall, 0.7 per cent.

**Figure 5: Percentage Change in Number of Exporters between Q4 2016 and Q4 2017 - Proportion Method**

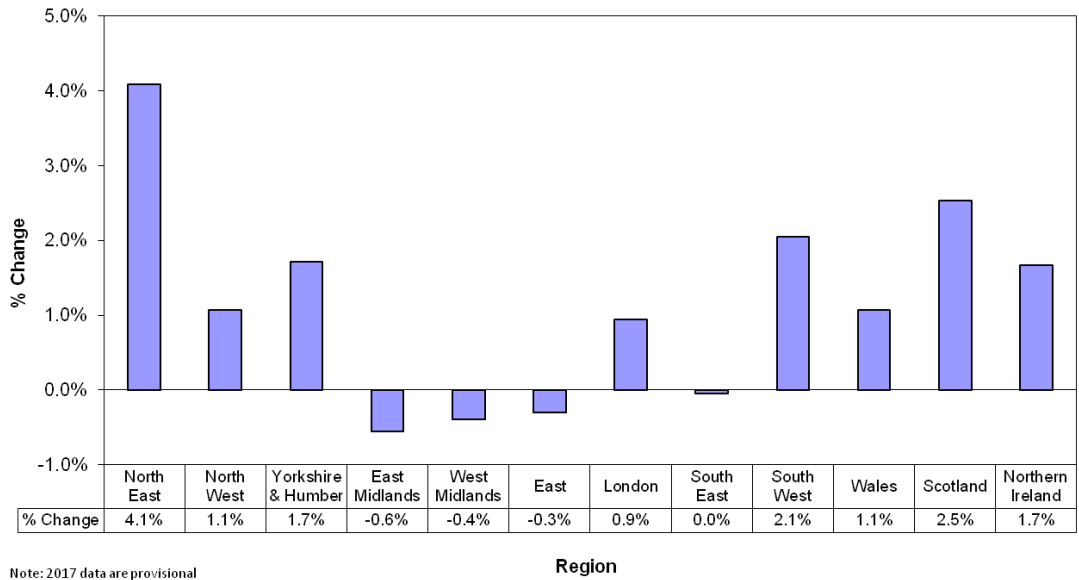


Figure 5 shows that under the proportion method:

- The number of active exporters increased for all UK countries and for all English regions except the East Midlands, the West Midlands, East and the South East.
- North East experienced the largest percentage rise in exporting businesses, a rise of 4.1 per cent.
- East Midlands saw the largest percentage decrease, 0.6 per cent.

## Overview – Imports

The total annual value of UK imports increased by 10 per cent to £468 billion in the year ending December 2017 compared with the same period the previous year.

**Figure 6: UK Imports by Region, 2015 Q1 – 2017 Q4**

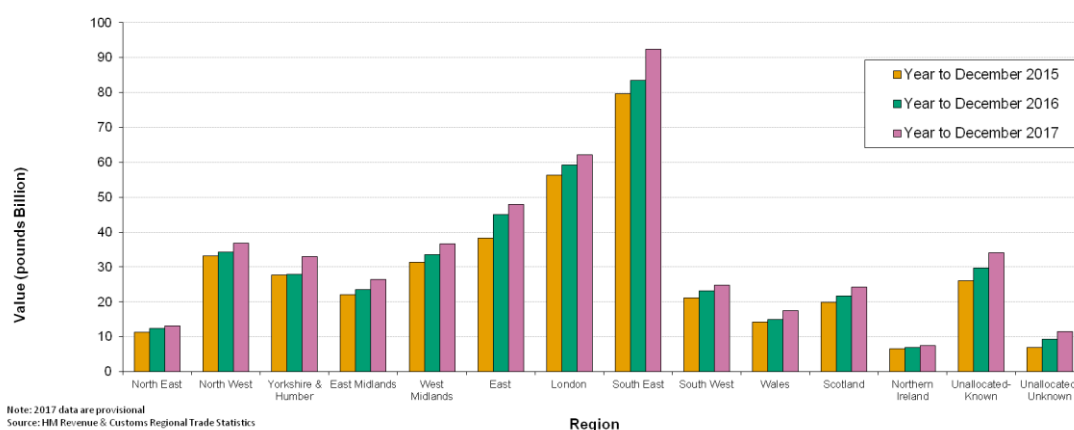


Figure 6 shows the total value of UK imports by region for the three annual periods ending December 2015, December 2016 and December 2017.

When comparing the annual period ending December 2017 with the annual period ending December 2016

- There was a rise in import value during the year for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- Among the English regions, there were increases for all English regions.

When comparing the annual period ending December 2015 with year ending December 2017, there was an increase of annual UK imports from £395 billion to £468 billion. This was an increase of £73 billion or 19 per cent.

- Imports into England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland increased during this period by 16 per cent, 23 per cent, 22 per cent and 13 per cent respectively.
- All English regions experienced an increase.

**Figure 7: UK Imports by country / region, year ending Q4 2017 – percentage of value**

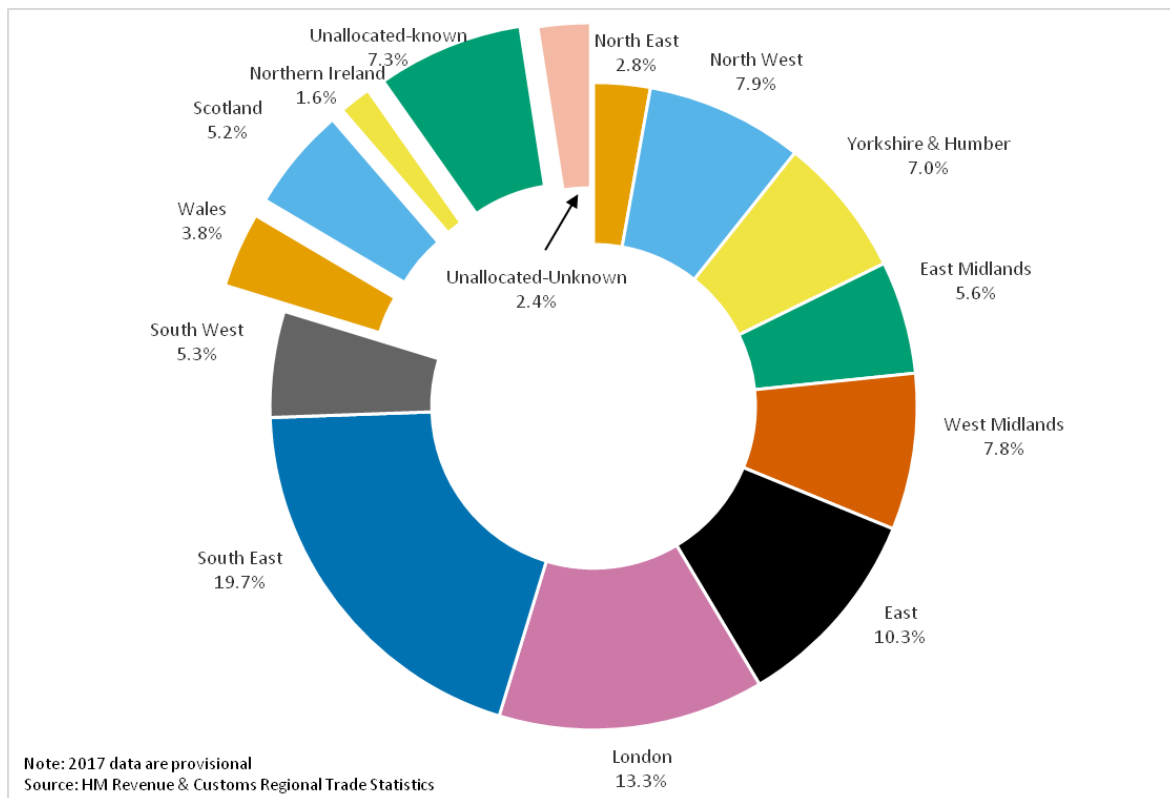


Figure 7 shows the breakdown by region of UK imports for the 12 month period ending December 2017.

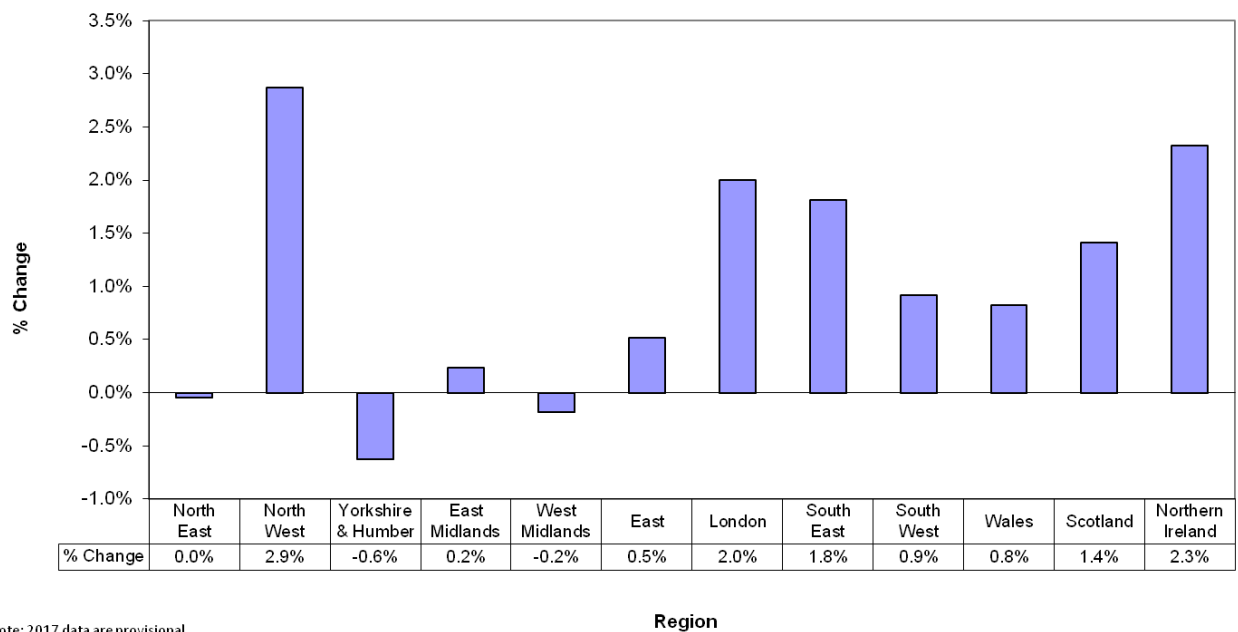
- UK imports were dominated by those to England. They accounted for 80 per cent of value.
- Within the English regions; South East, London and the East accounted for the greatest shares with 20, 13 and 10 per cent of UK imports respectively.
- North East had the smallest share of England’s imports. It accounted for 2.8 per cent of UK imports.
- Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland accounted for 1.6, 3.8 and 5.2 per cent of imports respectively.

## Importers Business Count

Similar to the exporters count, two ways are used to derive the count especially when dealing with businesses which have branches in multiple regions, the whole number method and the proportion method.

For the UK, the number of importing businesses increased by 1.9 per cent between quarter 4 2016 and quarter 4 2017, from 164,200 to 167,400.

**Figure 8: Percentage Change in Number of Importers between Q4 2016 and Q4 2017 – Whole Number Method**



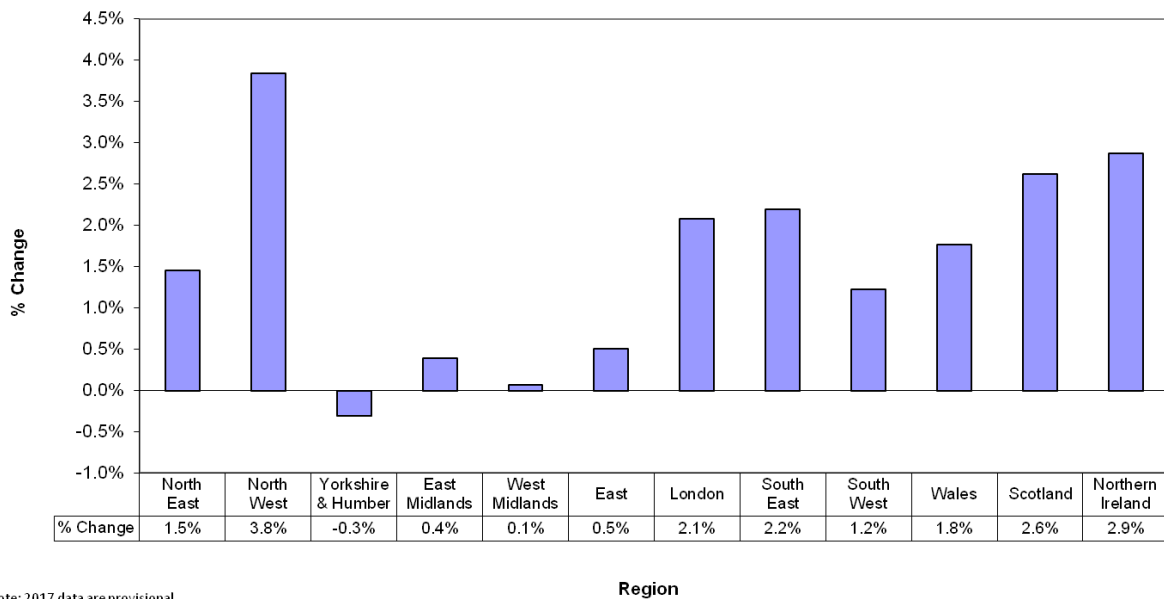
Note: 2017 data are provisional  
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Figure 8 shows that under the whole number method

- The number of active importers increased in all countries of the UK.
- The number of active importers increased in all English regions apart from North East, Yorkshire & the Humber and West Midlands
- The North West saw the largest percentage increase, 2.9 per cent.
- Yorkshire and the Humber the largest decrease, 0.6. per cent.



**Figure 9: Percentage Change in Number of Importers between Q4 2016 and Q4 2017 – Proportion Method**



Note: 2017 data are provisional  
 Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Figure 9 shows that under the proportion method:

- The number of active importers increased in all countries of the UK.
- The number of active importers increased in all English regions except Yorkshire and the Humber.
- The North West saw the largest percentage increase, 3.8 per cent.
- Yorkshire and the Humber saw a decrease of 0.3 per cent.

## Annual Overview

### Exports from England

#### Partner country analysis

**Table 1: England - Top five export partners, year ending December 2017**

	Country	Year ending December 2017 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2016 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2016	% Total Exports in year ending December 2017
Top 5	USA	34,693.9	35,132.5	-1.2	14.2
	Germany	25,521.5	23,247.9	9.8	10.4
	France	18,632.8	13,851.6	34.5	7.6
	Netherlands	14,471.5	13,323.9	8.6	5.9
	China	12,984.5	10,176.4	27.6	5.3
	Others	138,537.6	123,645.0	12.0	56.6
	Total EU	120,308.3	106,708.7	12.7	49.1
	Total Non-EU	124,533.4	112,668.4	10.5	50.9
	Grand Total	244,841.7	219,377.2	11.6	100.0

Note: 2017 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Value of exports from England increased by 12 per cent during the year ending December 2017 compared with the previous year. This was compared with an increase of 13 per cent for the UK as a whole.

England's exports to the EU increased by 13 per cent during the last year, while exports to non-EU countries increased by 11 per cent. The market share for EU exports was 49 per cent, an increase of less than a percentage point from the previous year.

- Four of the top five export partners saw an increase in value over the last 12 months. The exception was the USA, although remained the top export partner.
- The largest value increase in export trade was to France (up £4.8 billion, 35 per cent) followed by China (up £2.8 billion, 28 per cent).
- The largest value decrease in exports was to Saudi Arabia (down £0.5 billion, 12 per cent) followed by USA (down £0.4 billion, 1.2 per cent).

## Commodity analysis

**Table 2: England - Top five commodities for export, year ending December 2017**

SITC section	Description	Year ending December 2017 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2016 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2016	% Total Exports in year ending December 2017
7	Machinery & transport equipment	111,328.8	100,155.0	11.2	45.5
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	38,594.1	35,233.2	9.5	15.8
5	Chemicals & related products	37,879.8	36,590.5	3.5	15.5
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	23,274.3	20,107.1	15.8	9.5
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	14,838.1	9,979.0	48.7	6.1
	Other SITCs	18,926.7	17,312.3	9.3	7.7
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>244,841.7</b>	<b>219,377.2</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note: 2017 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

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

- 'Machinery & transport equipment' continued to dominate exports from England; its share of England's exports was 45 per cent.
- Nine SITC sections increased. The largest increases were 'Machinery & transport equipment' (up £11 billion, 11 per cent), and 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (up £4.9 billion, 49 per cent).
- The only value decrease was for 'Commodities/transactions not classified elsewhere' (down £0.3 billion, 23 per cent).
- At the more detailed commodity classification SITC division level, 9 of the 66 SITC divisions decreased in export value during the year.
- A large decrease was in 'Other transport equipment' (down £0.2 billion, 2.0 per cent).
- The largest increases were in divisions 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up £5.5 billion, 32 per cent) and 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up £4.3 billion, 52 per cent).

## Imports into England

### Partner country analysis

**Table 3: England - Top five import partners, year ending December 2017**

	Country	Year ending December 2017 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2016 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2016	% Total Imports in year ending December 2017
Top 5	Germany	59,364.2	55,239.8	7.5	15.9
	China	35,089.8	33,358.3	5.2	9.4
	Netherlands	33,650.6	28,815.3	16.8	9.0
	USA	27,876.2	26,980.1	3.3	7.5
	France	21,895.4	20,621.8	6.2	5.9
	Others	195,128.5	177,721.5	9.8	52.3
	Total EU	212,557.2	197,164.2	7.8	57.0
	Total Non-EU	160,447.4	145,572.6	10.2	43.0
	Grand Total	373,004.6	342,736.7	8.8	100.0

Note: 2017 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Imports into England increased by 8.8 per cent during the year ending December 2017; this compared with a 10 per cent increase in imports to the UK as a whole.

- EU partner countries accounted for 57 per cent of England's imports during the year; a decrease from 58 per cent the previous year.
- Germany remained the top import partner for England by a wide margin. For the latest annual period it accounted for 16 per cent of all imports into England, a decrease of less than one percentage point compared with the previous year.
- Trade with all the top five import partners increased compared with the previous year.
- The largest value increases were for imports from the Netherlands (up £4.8 billion, 17 per cent) followed by Germany (up £4.1 billion, 7.5 per cent).
- The largest value decreases were for imports from Switzerland (down £0.3 billion, 6.4 per cent) followed by Sri Lanka (down £0.3 billion, 33 per cent).

## Commodity analysis

**Table 4: England - Top five commodities imported, year ending December 2017**

SITC section	Description	Year ending December 2017 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2016 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2016	% Total Imports in year ending December 2017
7	Machinery & transport equipment	151,683.9	143,794.8	5.5	40.7
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	61,712.0	58,235.7	6.0	16.5
5	Chemicals & related products	43,042.9	39,679.8	8.5	11.5
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	41,703.4	36,833.2	13.2	11.2
0	Food & live animals	31,102.0	28,536.3	9.0	8.3
	Other SITCs	43,760.4	35,657.0	22.7	11.7
	Grand Total	373,004.6	342,736.7	8.8	100.0

Note: 2017 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

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

- 'Machinery & transport equipment' continued to dominate England's imports, accounting for 41 per cent of total import value, a decrease from 42 per cent the previous year.
- The largest value increases at SITC section level were in 'Machinery & transport equipment' (up £7.9 billion, 5.5 per cent) and 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (up £7.2 billion, 33 per cent).
- The only value decrease at SITC section level was in 'Commodities/transactions not classified elsewhere' (down £0.3 billion, 46 per cent).

At the more detailed commodity classification SITC division level, 5 of the 66 SITC divisions decreased in import value over the 12 months.

- The largest reduction was in 'Other transport equipment' (down £1.7 billion, 15 per cent).
- The largest increases were in divisions 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up £5.7 billion, 35 per cent) and 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up £3.0 billion, 19 per cent).

## Exports from Wales

### Partner country analysis – Exports from Wales

**Table 5: Wales - Top five export partners, year ending December 2017**

	Country	Year ending December 2017 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2016 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2016	% Total Exports in year ending December 2017
Top 5	Germany	3,218.7	3,001.9	7.2	19.6
	France	2,732.4	2,334.8	17.0	16.6
	USA	2,291.5	2,095.2	9.4	13.9
	Irish Republic	1,039.6	901.7	15.3	6.3
	Netherlands	689.2	580.4	18.7	4.2
	Others	6,458.0	5,715.5	13.0	39.3
	Total EU	9,909.6	8,852.3	11.9	60.3
	Total Non-EU	6,519.7	5,777.2	12.9	39.7
	Grand Total	16,429.4	14,629.5	12.3	100.0

Note: 2017 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Export values from Wales increased by 12 per cent during the year ending December 2017.

- Exports from Wales to the EU increased by 12 per cent during the last year, while exports to non-EU countries increased by 13 per cent. EU partner countries dominate the export market from Wales, receiving 60 per cent of goods exported. This was a slight decrease of less than one percentage point compared with the previous year.
- Germany was the top export partner. It accounted for 20 per cent of exports from Wales for the year ending December 2017, a decrease from 21 per cent for the previous year.
- All the top five export partners saw an increase in value over the last 12 months.
- The partner countries where export values increased most during the year were France (up £398 million, 17 per cent) and Germany (up £217 million, 7.2 per cent).
- The partner countries with the largest value decreases in exports over the year were Saudi Arabia (down £31million, 19 per cent) followed by Qatar (down £20 million, 12 per cent).

## Commodity analysis

**Table 6: Wales - Top five commodities for export, year ending December 2017**

SITC section	Description	Year ending December 2017 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2016 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2016	% Total Exports in year ending December 2017
7	Machinery & transport equipment	8,746.3	7,923.5	10.4	53.2
5	Chemicals & related products	1,943.0	1,697.4	14.5	11.8
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1,907.7	1,771.8	7.7	11.6
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	1,691.0	1,330.3	27.1	10.3
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,312.6	1,201.1	9.3	8.0
	Other SITCs	828.8	705.4	17.5	5.0
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>16,429.4</b>	<b>14,629.5</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note: 2017 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

The value of exports from Wales increased during the year for all of the top five commodities.

- Exports from Wales continued to be dominated by 'Machinery & transport equipment' which made up 53 per cent of the trade a decrease of one percentage point from the previous year.
- The SITC sections with the largest value increases were 'Machinery & transport equipment' (up £823 million, 10 per cent) and 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (up £361 million, 27 per cent).
- The only value decreases were for 'Commodities/transactions not classified elsewhere' (down £3.2 million, 3.7 per cent) and 'Beverages & tobacco' (down £2.5 million, 7.8 per cent).

At the more detailed commodity classification SITC division level, 12 of the 66 SITC divisions decreased in export value over the year.

- A large reduction was in 'Office machines & adp machines' (down £5 million, 2.5 per cent).
- The largest increases were in divisions 'Other transport equipment' (up £388 million, 9.7 per cent) and 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up £352 million, 27 per cent).

## Imports into Wales

### Partner country analysis

**Table 7: Wales - Top five import partners, year ending December 2017**

	Country	Year ending December 2017 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2016 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2016	% Total Imports in year ending December 2017
Top 5	USA	2,446.7	1,957.5	25.0	13.9
	Germany	1,997.2	1,908.2	4.7	11.4
	China	1,174.2	1,102.3	6.5	6.7
	Netherlands	1,024.3	798.4	28.3	5.8
	Norway	930.2	508.2	83.1	5.3
	Others	9,983.4	8,662.2	15.3	56.9
	Total EU	7,330.9	6,788.1	8.0	41.8
	Total Non-EU	10,225.2	8,148.6	25.5	58.2
	Grand Total	17,556.1	14,936.7	17.5	100.0

Note: 2017 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Imports to Wales increased in value by 18 per cent during the year ending December 2017.

- There was an increase in value of goods coming into Wales from both EU and non-EU.
- Of the top five imports partners, all saw an increase in value compared with the previous year.
- USA was the largest import partner for Wales. It accounted for 14 per cent of imports into Wales as a result of a 25 per cent increase in the last year.
- The largest increases in imports were from USA (up £489 million, 25 per cent) followed by Norway (up £422 million, 83 per cent).
- The largest decreases in imports were from Azerbaijan (down £56 million, 97 per cent) and Algeria (down £34 million, 9 per cent).



## Commodity analysis

**Table 8: Wales - Top five commodities imported, year ending December 2017**

SITC section	Description	Year ending December 2017 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2016 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2016	% Total Imports in year ending December 2017
7	Machinery & transport equipment	6,851.9	6,584.2	4.1	39.0
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	3,534.8	2,015.7	75.4	20.1
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,081.4	1,783.7	16.7	11.9
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,705.9	1,540.6	10.7	9.7
5	Chemicals & related products	1,688.4	1,449.9	16.5	9.6
	Other SITCs	1,693.6	1,562.7	8.4	9.6
	All SITCs	17,556.1	14,936.7	17.5	100.0

Note: 2017 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

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

- 'Machinery & transport equipment' remained the largest SITC section accounting for 39 per cent of all imports into Wales though this was 5 percentage points lower compared with the previous year.
- The largest value increases were for 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (up £1,519 million, 75 per cent) followed by 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' (up £298 million, 17 per cent).
- The only value decreases at SITC section level were for 'Beverages & tobacco' (down £0.5 million, 0.4 per cent).

At the more detailed commodity classification SITC division, 19 of the 66 SITC divisions decreased in import value during the year.

- The largest reductions were in divisions 'Other transport equipment' (down £181 million, 21 per cent) and 'Road vehicles (including air cushion vehicles)' (down £24 million, 1.5 per cent).
- The largest increases were in divisions 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up £1,441 million, 80 per cent) and 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up £307 million, 17 per cent).

## Exports from Scotland

### Partner country analysis

**Table 9: Scotland - Top five export partners, year ending December 2017**

	Country	Year ending December 2017 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2016 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2016	% Total Exports in year ending December 2017
Top 5	Netherlands	4,317.3	3,067.0	40.8	15.0
	USA	3,356.7	3,123.2	7.5	11.6
	Germany	2,810.6	2,352.8	19.5	9.7
	China	2,228.0	1,578.1	41.2	7.7
	France	1,813.3	1,430.2	26.8	6.3
	Others	14,312.7	12,632.7	13.3	49.6
	Total EU	14,111.7	11,364.1	24.2	48.9
	Total Non-EU	14,727.0	12,819.9	14.9	51.1
	Grand Total	28,838.7	24,184.0	19.2	100.0

Note: 2017 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Exports from Scotland increased in value by 19 per cent during the year ending December 2017.

- Scotland's exports to the EU increased by 24 per cent during the last year, while exports to non-EU countries increased by 15 per cent. Non-EU partner countries accounted for 51 per cent of all exports, a decrease from 53 per cent the previous year.
- The Netherlands took over from USA as Scotland's largest export partner.
- Exports to all of Scotland's top five partners increased in value during the year.
- The largest value increases among Scotland's exports were in goods going to the Netherlands (up £1,250 million, 41 per cent) and China (up £650 million, 41 per cent).
- The largest value decreases among Scotland's exports were in goods going to Norway (down £279 million, 26 per cent) and Saudi Arabia (down £131 million, 30 per cent).

## Commodity analysis

**Table 10: Scotland - Top five commodities for export, year ending December 2017**

SITC section	Description	Year ending December 2017 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2016 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2016	% Total Exports in year ending December 2017
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	8,961.1	6,174.9	45.1	31.1
7	Machinery & transport equipment	7,069.9	6,147.4	15.0	24.5
1	Beverages & tobacco	4,119.5	3,800.0	8.4	14.3
5	Chemicals & related products	2,359.8	2,174.5	8.5	8.2
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,161.3	2,034.2	6.2	7.5
	Other SITCs	4,167.0	3,853.0	8.1	14.4
	Grand Total	28,838.7	24,184.0	19.2	100.0

Note: 2017 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

The value of exports from Scotland increased during the year for all of the top five commodities.

- 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' now accounted for 31 per cent of all exports from Scotland.
- The largest value increases at SITC section level were for 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (up £2,786 million, 45 per cent) and 'Machinery & transport equipment' (up £922 million, 15 per cent).
- The only decrease at SITC section level was in 'Commodities/transactions not classified elsewhere' (down £91 million, 63 per cent).

At the more detailed commodity classification SITC division, 18 of the 66 SITC divisions decreased in export value during the year.

- A large reduction was in 'Manufactures of metal n.e.s.' (down £43 million, 8.8 per cent).
- The largest increases were in divisions 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up £2,695 million, 46 per cent) and 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up £615 million, 36 per cent).

## Imports into Scotland

### Partner country analysis

**Table 11: Scotland - Top five import partners, year ending December 2017**

	Country	Year ending December 2017 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2016 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2016	% Total Imports in year ending December 2017
Top 5	Norway	3,854.9	2,682.4	43.7	15.9
	China	2,733.9	2,513.9	8.8	11.3
	USA	2,687.1	2,212.1	21.5	11.1
	Germany	1,897.1	1,839.8	3.1	7.8
	Netherlands	1,594.3	1,449.5	10.0	6.6
	Others	11,435.2	10,950.1	4.4	47.2
	Total EU	9,085.6	8,521.8	6.6	37.5
	Total Non-EU	15,116.8	13,125.9	15.2	62.5
	Grand Total	24,202.4	21,647.7	11.8	100.0

Note: 2017 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Imports to Scotland increased in value by 12 per cent during the year.

- Scotland's imports from EU countries increased by 6.6 per cent during the last year, compared with an increase of 15 per cent in imports from non-EU countries. As a result, trade from non-EU partners accounted for almost two-thirds of Scotland's imports by value.
- There was an increase in import value for all of the top five import partners.
- Norway remained Scotland's largest import partner. It accounted for 16 per cent of all imports into Scotland compared with 12 per cent the year before.
- The largest value increases were from Norway (up £1,172 million, 44 per cent) followed by the USA (up £475 million, 21 per cent).
- The largest decreases over the last 12 months were in imports from South Korea (down £494 million, 80 per cent) followed by the Falkland Islands (down £70 million, 99 per cent).

## Commodity analysis

**Table 12: Scotland - Top five commodities imported, year ending December 2017**

SITC section	Description	Year ending December 2017 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2016 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2016	% Total Imports in year ending December 2017
7	Machinery & transport equipment	9,670.2	9,304.2	3.9	40.0
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	4,012.5	2,530.4	58.6	16.6
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	3,191.1	3,012.1	5.9	13.2
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,819.9	2,661.2	6.0	11.7
5	Chemicals & related products	1,739.4	1,540.5	12.9	7.2
	Other SITCs	2,769.3	2,599.4	6.5	11.4
	All SITCs	24,202.4	21,647.7	11.8	100.0

Note: 2017 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

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

- 'Machinery & transport equipment' continued to dominate imports into Scotland. It represented 40 per cent of total import value which was down on the previous year (43 per cent).
- The largest section-level increases were for 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (up £1,482 million, 59 per cent) and 'Machinery and transport equipment' (up £366 million, 3.9 per cent).
- The only section-level value decrease during the year was in imports of 'Commodities/transactions not classified elsewhere' (down £14.4 million, 37 per cent).

At the more detailed commodity classification SITC division, 17 of the 66 SITC divisions decreased in import value during the year.

- The largest reductions were in divisions 'Other transport equipment' (down £119 million, 6.1 per cent) and 'Manufactures of metal n.e.s.' (down £77 million, 13 per cent).
- The largest increases were in divisions 'Gas, natural & manufactured' (up £1,163 million, 59 per cent) and 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up £328 million, 18 per cent).

## Exports from Northern Ireland

### Partner country analysis

**Table 13: Northern Ireland - Top five export partners, year ending December 2017**

Country	Year ending December 2017 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2016 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2016	% Total Exports in year ending December 2017
Irish Republic	2,714.9	2,368.0	14.7	31.7
USA	1,462.9	1,734.4	-15.7	17.1
Canada	482.3	363.0	32.9	5.6
France	446.4	391.0	14.2	5.2
Germany	402.6	384.1	4.8	4.7
Others	3,043.9	2,585.3	17.7	35.6
Total EU	4,812.2	4,180.2	15.1	56.3
Total Non-EU	3,740.9	3,645.6	2.6	43.7
Grand Total	8,553.1	7,825.7	9.3	100.0

Note: 2017 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Exports from Northern Ireland increased in value by 9.3 per cent during the year ending December 2017.

- The majority (56 per cent) of Northern Ireland's exports went to the EU. This was an increase from 53 per cent compared with the previous year. Exports to EU partners increased by 15 per cent compared with the previous year and exports to non-EU partners increased by 2.6 per cent.
- There were increases in exports to four of the top five partner countries during the year. The exception was USA.
- The Irish Republic continued to dominate Northern Ireland's export market with its share increasing from 30 per cent to 32 per cent compared with the previous year.
- The largest value increases were to the Irish Republic (up £347 million, 15 per cent), followed by Canada (up £119 million, 33 per cent).
- Northern Ireland's export trade saw the largest decreases with USA (down £272 million, 16 per cent) and Malaysia (down £34 million, 57 per cent).

## Commodity analysis – Exports from Northern Ireland

**Table 14: Northern Ireland - Top five commodities for export, year ending December 2017**

SITC section	Description	Year ending December 2017 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2016 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2016	% Total Exports in year ending December 2017
7	Machinery & transport equipment	2,881.6	2,598.8	10.9	33.7
5	Chemicals & related products	1,428.8	1,608.9	-11.2	16.7
0	Food & live animals	1,342.9	1,087.5	23.5	15.7
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,306.5	1,165.9	12.1	15.3
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	762.1	719.9	5.9	8.9
	Other SITCs	831.1	644.7	28.9	9.7
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8,553.1</b>	<b>7,825.7</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note: 2017 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

The value of exports from Northern Ireland increased during the year for four of the top five commodities. The exception was 'Chemicals and related products'.

- Northern Ireland's exports continued to be dominated by goods in 'Machinery & transport equipment'. There was an increase in value of 11 per cent.
- At SITC section level, 'Machinery & transport equipment' experienced the largest increase in exports during the year (up £283 million, 11 per cent) followed by 'Food & live animals' (up £255 million, 23 per cent).
- The only decrease was for 'Chemicals & related products' (down £180 million, 11 per cent).

At the more detailed commodity classification SITC division, 16 of the 66 SITC divisions decreased in export value during the year.

- The largest reductions were in 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (down £197 million, 16 per cent) and 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (down £20 million, 6.4 per cent).
- The biggest increases were in divisions 'Dairy products & birds' eggs' (up £177 million, 52 per cent) and 'Furniture & parts thereof; bedding, mattresses etc.' (up £103 million, 23 per cent).

## Imports into Northern Ireland

### Partner country analysis – Northern Ireland

**Table 15: Northern Ireland - Top five import partners, year ending December 2017**

	Country	Year ending December 2017 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2016 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2016	% Total Imports in year ending December 2017
Top 5	Irish Republic	2,055.6	1,945.0	5.7	27.6
	USA	758.4	896.9	-15.4	10.2
	China	665.6	623.2	6.8	8.9
	Netherlands	661.0	562.0	17.6	8.9
	Germany	555.7	503.8	10.3	7.5
	Others	2,746.6	2,377.7	15.5	36.9
	Total EU	4,801.6	4,301.8	11.6	64.5
	Total Non-EU	2,641.3	2,607.0	1.3	35.5
	Grand Total	7,442.9	6,908.7	7.7	100.0

Note: 2017 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Northern Ireland experienced a 7.7 per cent increase in the value of its imports during the year.

- The majority of imports into Northern Ireland came from EU partners. The Irish Republic remained Northern Ireland's largest import partner, accounting for 28 per cent of Northern Ireland's total imports. This was a decrease of less than one percentage point from the previous year.
- Four of the top five import partners saw an increase in trade during the year. The exception was the USA
- The largest value increases were in goods from the Irish Republic (up £111 million, 5.7 per cent) and the Netherlands (up £99 million, 18 per cent).
- The largest value decreases most were from the USA (down £139 million, 15 per cent) and Sri Lanka (down £14 million, 48 per cent).



## Commodity analysis – Imports into Northern Ireland

**Table 16: Northern Ireland - Top five commodities imported, year ending December 2017**

SITC section	Description	Year ending December 2017 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2016 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2016	% Total Imports in year ending December 2017
7	Machinery & transport equipment	1,857.7	1,807.5	2.8	25.0
0	Food & live animals	1,462.1	1,286.5	13.6	19.6
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1,288.3	1,127.3	14.3	17.3
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,218.3	1,197.3	1.8	16.4
5	Chemicals & related products	885.6	893.7	-0.9	11.9
	Other SITCs	730.9	596.4	22.5	9.8
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>7,442.9</b>	<b>6,908.7</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note: 2017 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

The value of imports increased during the year in four of Northern Ireland's top five commodities. The exception was 'Chemicals & related products.'

- 'Machinery & transport equipment' share of Northern Ireland's total imports had remained the top import section by value. It accounted for 25 per cent of Northern Ireland's total imports, a decrease from 26 per cent over the last year.
- Northern Ireland experienced its largest value increases of imports in 'Food & live animals' (up £176 million, 14 per cent) and 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' (up £161 million, 14 per cent).
- The only decreases came from 'Chemicals & related products' (down £8 million, 0.9 per cent) and 'Commodities/transactions not classified elsewhere' (down £0.5 million, 12 per cent).

At the more detailed commodity classification SITC division, 16 of the 66 SITC divisions decreased in value during the year.

- The largest reductions were in divisions 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (down £155 million, 55 per cent) and 'Road vehicles (including air cushion vehicles)' (down £30 million, 13 per cent).
- The largest increases were in divisions 'Dairy products & birds' eggs' (up £91 million, 93 per cent) and 'Plastics in primary forms' (up £75 million, 45 per cent).

## Exports from English Regions

### Partner country analysis – Exports from English regions

**Table 17: Top export partners by value for the English regions, year ending December 2017**

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

Note: 2017 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 17 shows the top five export trading partners by value for each of the English regions in the year ending December 2017.

- The USA was the top exporting trader partner for seven of the nine English regions. The only English regions for which the USA was not the top were the North East and the East Midlands where it was third.
- Germany is the second largest export partner for seven English regions.
- France features in the top five for eight of the nine English regions and the Netherlands and Irish Republic appeared in five.

## Commodity analysis – Exports from English regions

**Table 18 - Top five commodities by value for export from English regions, year ending December 2017**

Region	Top 5 SITC Sections				
	1	2	3	4	5
North East	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	5 - Chemicals & related products	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	0 - Food & live animals
North West	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	5 - Chemicals & related products	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	0 - Food & live animals
Yorkshire & the Humber	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	5 - Chemicals & related products	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	0 - Food & live animals
London	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	3 - Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	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: 2017 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.

'Machinery and transport equipment' was the top SITC section in eight regions, the exception being London.

The following commodity groups were in the top five in all regions:

- 'Machinery and transport equipment',
- 'Chemicals & related products',
- 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles',
- 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material'.

## Imports into English Regions

### Partner country analysis – Imports into English regions

**Table 19: Top import partners by value for the English regions, year ending December 2017**

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

Note: 2017 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 19 shows the top five partner countries by value for imports to the English regions for the year ending December 2017.

- Germany was in the top five for all English regions and was top for six English regions.
- China was in the top five for all regions and the top for London.
- Netherlands was in the top five for all regions
- The USA featured in the top five for eight of the English regions, the exception being the North East.

## Commodity analysis – Imports into English regions

**Table 20 - Top five commodities by value for import to English regions, year ending December 2017**

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

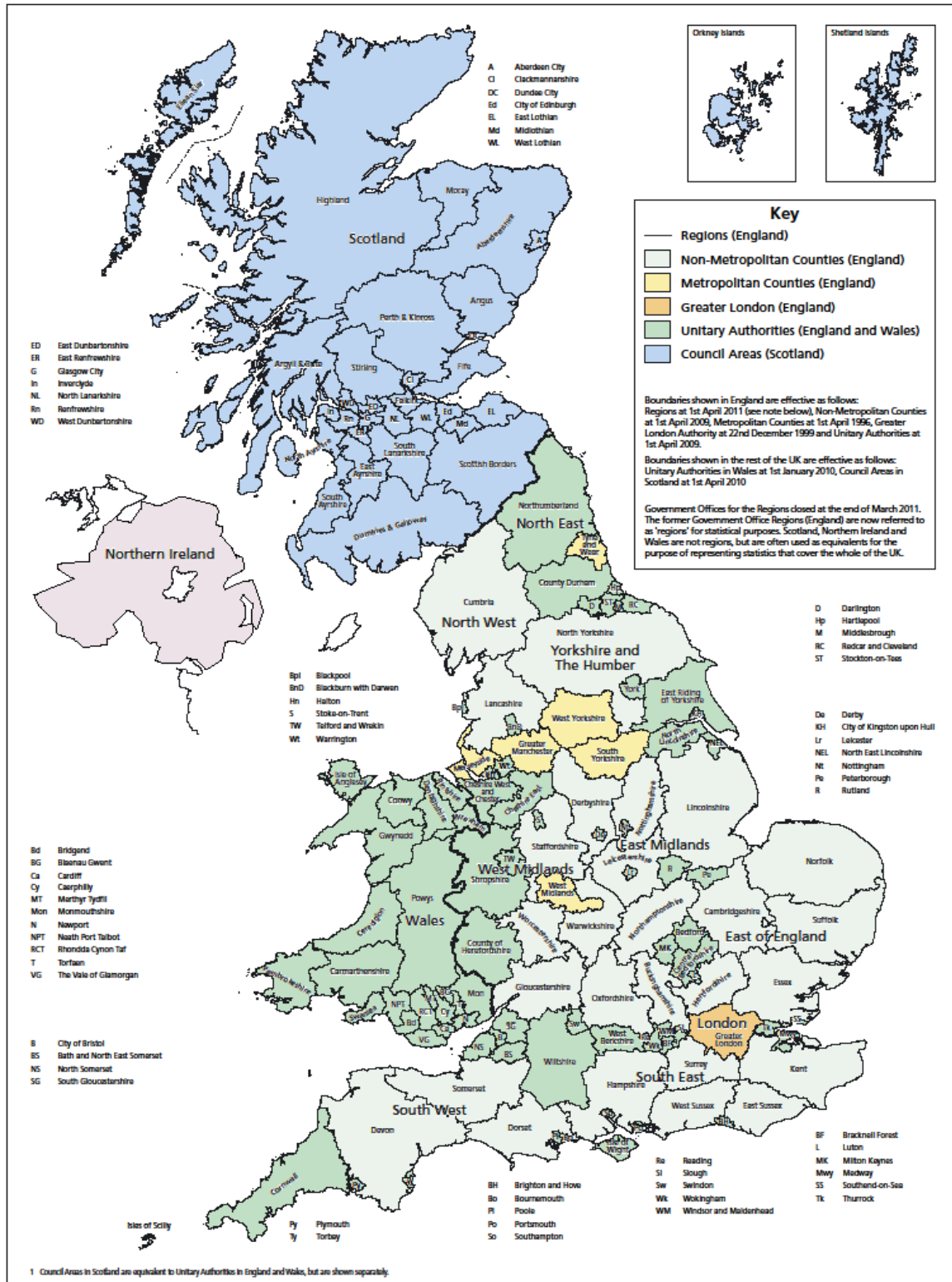
Note: 2017 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

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

- 'Machinery & transport equipment' was the top SITC section for all English regions except Yorkshire & the Humber.
- 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' was also in the top five imported commodities of all English regions.
- 'Food & live animals' was present in the top five of all English regions except the Yorkshire & the Humber.
- 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' was present in the top five of all English regions except the South East.

# United Kingdom: Regions, Counties and Unitary Authorities,<sup>1</sup> 2011



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 Source of boundary for Northern Ireland: UNEP (2014):  
 UNEP Environmental Data Explorer. United Nations  
 Environment Programme. <http://geodata.grid.unep.ch>.

## Explanatory Notes

### Introduction

1. HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) is responsible for collecting the UK's international trade in goods data, which are published as two National Statistics series - the 'Overseas Trade Statistics (OTS)' and the 'Regional Trade Statistics (RTS)'. The RTS is published quarterly showing trade at summary product and country level, split by UK regions and devolved administrations.
2. The latest statistics on Regional Trade were released on 8 March 2018 by HM Revenue & Customs under arrangements set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#). This release includes the first provisional estimates of trade-in-goods for quarter 4 2017. At the same time revisions for all previously published regional data from 2017 are also being released.
3. Aggregated tables are produced to allow time series analysis; these tables are provided in a separate document released in conjunction with this release.
4. The following tables can be found in the 'Accompanying Tables' document.
  - Table 1 Value of Exports (EU / Non-EU) by Region
  - Table 2 Value of Imports (EU / Non-EU) by Region
  - Table 3 Count of Exporters (EU / Non-EU) by Region
  - Table 4 Count of Importers (EU / Non-EU) by Region
  - Table 5 Value of Trade by SITC Section and Country Group (separate tables for each region)

### Overseas Trade Statistics

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. The Overseas Trade Statistics (OTS) were published on a Special Trade basis from May 2016 account onwards, as described on [uktradeinfo](#). This change has been reflected in the RTS from 2016 Q2 release onwards. All data in this release has been compiled on a Special Trade basis to allow comparisons across periods to be made.

7. Trade in non-monetary gold (NMG) is now included in OTS data, however this trade will continue to be excluded from RTS data. This is because the majority of NMG trade would be assigned to the London region and this would distort the RTS figures. The following reconciliation table shows the differences at total trade level between OTS and RTS by quantifying the elements of OTS that are excluded from RTS:

**Table A: RTS/OTS Reconciliation Table Quarter 4, 2017**

	<b>EU Exports £ millions</b>	<b>Non-EU Exports £ millions</b>	<b>EU Imports £ millions</b>	<b>Non-EU Imports £ millions</b>
<b>OTS total value</b>	42,716.7	46,788.1	66,559.8	60,830.0
<b>RTS total value</b>	41,651.1	43,792.0	65,029.8	54,782.0
Allocated to a region	38,311.9	38,800.8	59,645.2	48,659.0
Unallocated region	3,339.2	4,991.2	5,384.6	6,123.0
<b>Late response estimates</b>	854.6	-	1,262.5	
<b>Non-monetary gold</b>	211.0	2,996.1	267.5	6,048.0
<b>RTS total plus exclusions</b>	42,716.7	46,788.1	66,559.8	60,830.0

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

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

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

Note 4: 2017 data is provisional and subject to update.

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

## Balance of Payments

8. The Balance of Payments (BoP) figures published by the ONS are calculated on a different basis to the OTS. Therefore adjustments are made when producing BoP which means that the RTS and BoP are not comparable. Further details on the link between OTS and BoP can be found on the [Related Data](#) page on [uktradeinfo](#).

## Methodology

9. Following an informal public consultation on Regional Trade Statistics (RTS), releases from the 2016 Q3 release incorporates changes to the methodology and presentation that resulted from this consultation. The main changes were:
- Allocating a business' trade to a region based on their proportion of employees in that region rather than where the location of the Head Office of the business is.



- Dividing trade that cannot be allocated to a region into 'Known' and 'Unknown'.
- For specific energy goods using data received by HMRC direct from interconnector and rig operators rather than the business doing the trade.
- The number of businesses now includes all VAT Registered traders rather than just those who are required to make full declarations to HMRC for their EU trade.
- Shorter commentary for publications relating to Quarters 1, 2 and 3; followed by fuller report for Quarter 4.

Further details on the Consultation can be found [here](#).

10. RTS data is compiled by merging trade data collected by HMRC with employment data from the Interdepartmental Business Register (IDBR). A business' trade is allocated to a region based on the proportion of its employees employed in that region. Where a trader is not matched with the IDBR, its trade is matched with Office for National Statistics postcode data to obtain the region in which the Head Office of the VAT registered business (importer or exporter) is based.
11. 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 'Unallocated Trade'. Unallocated Trade is split into:
  - i. 'Unallocated – Known': where we have virtually full details of the trade but it is not appropriate to allocate it to a region. This covers:
    - Trade going into or out of the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man;
    - Trade carried out by the UK Government;
    - Trade carried out by overseas based traders who have a VAT presence in the UK; and
    - Parcel post trade that is dealt with centrally (trade with non-EU countries only).
  - ii. 'Unallocated – Unknown': This includes:
    - Trade where business details submitted are invalid
    - Un-registered businesses (Non-EU only)
    - Private Individuals (non-EU only); and
    - Low Value Trade (non-EU only).
12. For specific energy goods only, trade is allocated to the region where the goods enter or leave the UK rather than the location / employment of the business doing the trade. This is because HMRC receives details of the trade in these goods directly from grid operators rather than the business. The goods concerned are Electrical energy, Natural Gas in a gaseous state and Crude Oil exported directly from offshore oil rigs. Crude Oil imported to the UK and exported from terminals is still allocated to the region of the business.

13. The business count is derived from trade declarations and is a count of all VAT Registered businesses importing and exporting. The non-EU and Total figures will not include businesses whose non-EU trade is made up entirely of consignments below the statistical threshold (£873 for 2017).

Where businesses have branches in multiple regions, there are two ways of deriving the count:

- **Whole Number Method:** A business will be counted as one in every region they have employees. This represents the actual count of businesses in any region. However, it will mean the sum of the trader count for each region will be greater than that for the UK.
- **Proportion Method:** A business will be counted as a fraction in each region they trade based on the proportion of their employees in each region. An individual business counts as one business in the UK. The sum of businesses (whole and fractions) gives the total business count for a region.

We show results from both methods in the table 3 of the accompanying data tables

14. RTS data is categorised by partner country and [Standard International Trade Classification, Rev.4](#). (SITC) at division level (2-digit). The SITC is a relatively broad classification of goods and is not as detailed as the commodity classification available in the OTS. In this release RTS data is analysed at partner country and SITC section (1-digit) level, with references to SITC divisions where appropriate.
15. More information can be found in the [RTS methodology document](#).
16. Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) published the Broad Economic Sales and Exports Statistics (BESES) recently. These are an experimental measure, based on an annual survey of local businesses' sales to markets outside Northern Ireland. Due to methodological differences, the BESES and the RTS are not directly comparable. Statisticians in NISRA and HMRC are working together to understand the differences.
17. Scottish Government published the annual Export Statistics Scotland (ESS) recently. These are based on survey returns to the Global Connections Survey from businesses in Scotland as well as other official survey and administrative sources. Due to methodological differences, the ESS and the RTS are not directly comparable so statisticians in Scottish Government and HMRC are working together to understand the differences. The main methodological differences identified so far are the inclusion of Trade in Services in the ESS and the ESS breaking down by Industry as opposed to the product breakdown used in the RTS.
18. HMRC is producing a new statistical release of Trade in Goods broken down by UK areas smaller than the Regional Trade Statistics (RTS). This new release will be called Regional Trade in Goods Statistics disaggregated by smaller geographical areas. This release will first be published on 28 March 2018.

## Governance

19. 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.
20. 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](#).
21. 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 [here](#).
22. There is a limited service to provide RTS outputs directly from HMRC Trade Statistics where the data cannot be obtained from other sources. This service is subject to HMRC standard disclosure rules applied to previously un-published data. Further details can be found on the [User Support](#) page of [uktradeinfo](#).

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

Next release: 7 June 2018 at 9:30am

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