



#### About this release

This ad-hoc release reports the value of trade in goods flows for each of the 4 countries within the UK for April 2020, with comparisons to March 2020 (referred to as 'last month') and April 2019.

A supporting table can be found at [www.uktradeinfo.com](http://www.uktradeinfo.com)

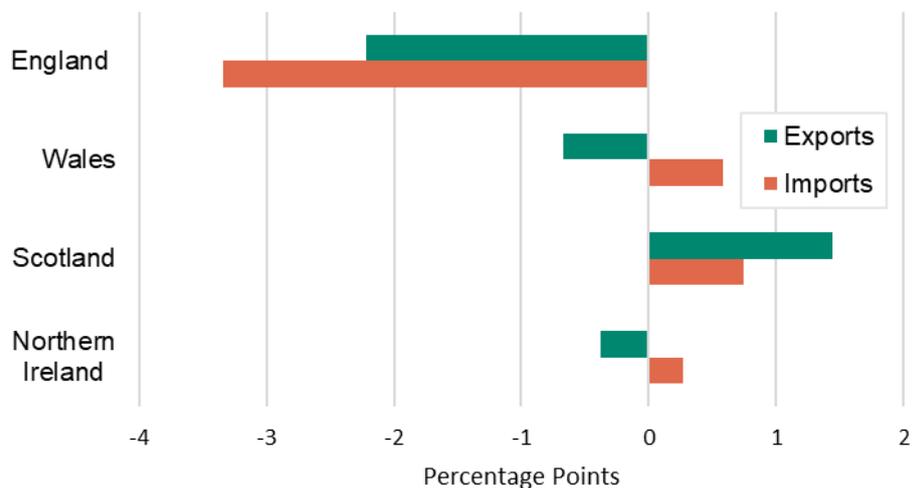
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#### Trade in Goods by Country, April 2020

- **England's** share of the UK's total exports was 72%, this was a decrease from 74% last month. England's share of the UK's total imports was 77%, this was a decrease from 81% last month.
- **Wales'** share of the UK's total exports was 4.4%, this was a decrease from 5.0% last month. Wales' share of the UK's total imports was 4.1%, this was an increase from 3.6% last month.
- **Scotland's** share of the UK's total exports was 10%, this was an increase from 8.8% last month. Scotland's share of the UK's total imports was 5.8%, this was an increase from 5.1% last month.
- **Northern Ireland's** share of the UK's total exports was 2.5%, this was a decrease from 2.8% last month. Northern Ireland's share of the UK's total imports was 1.9%, this was an increase from 1.6% last month.

Figure 1: Change in % share compared with March 2020



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics  
Note: 2020 data is provisional

Coverage: United Kingdom  
Theme: Business and Energy  
Released: 30 June 2020  
Next release: TBC

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# England

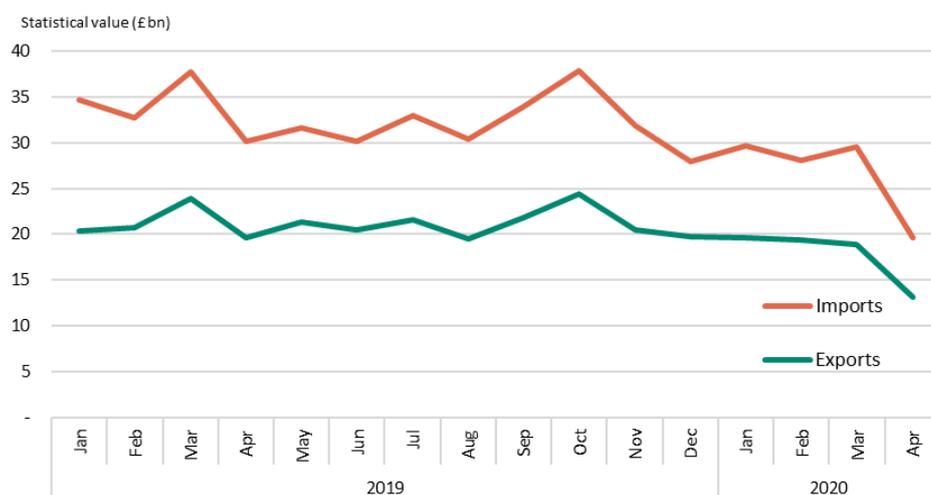
In April 2020:

- Total exports from England were £13.2 billion. This was a decrease of £5.7 billion (30%) on last month, and a decrease of £6.4 billion (33%) on April 2019.
- EU exports accounted for £5.7 billion, while non-EU exports were £7.4 billion.
- Total imports to England were £19.6 billion. This was a decrease of £9.9 billion (33%) on last month, and a decrease of £10.5 billion (35%) on April 2019.
- EU imports accounted for £9.8 billion, while non-EU imports were £9.8 billion.
- The trade gap for England was in deficit, where imports exceeded exports by £6.4 billion.

↓ **England's exports down 33% on April 2019**

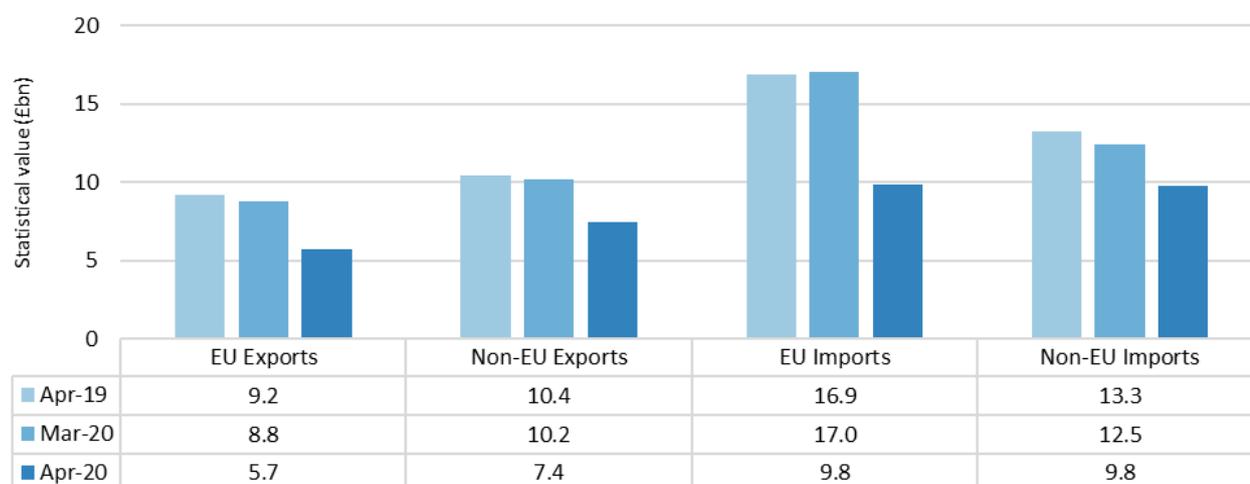
↓ **England's imports down 35% on April 2019**

**Figure 2: England Exports and Imports (January 2019 to April 2020)**



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics  
Note: 2019 and 2020 data is provisional

**Figure 3: England Exports and Imports by EU and Non-EU**



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics  
Note: 2019 and 2020 data is provisional

# Wales

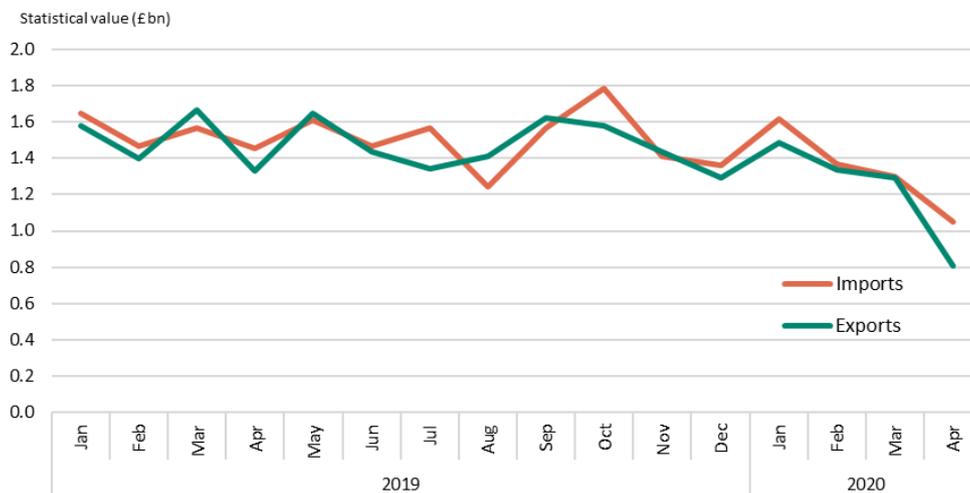
In April 2020:

- Total exports from Wales were £0.8 billion. This was a decrease of £0.5 billion (38%) on last month, and a decrease of £0.5 billion (40%) on April 2019.
- EU exports accounted for £0.4 billion, while non-EU exports were £0.4 billion.
- Total imports to Wales were £1.0 billion. This was a decrease of £0.3 billion (19%) on last month, and a decrease of £0.4 billion (28%) on April 2019.
- EU imports accounted for £0.4 billion, while non-EU imports were £0.7 billion.
- The trade gap for Wales was in deficit, with imports exceeding exports by £0.2 billion.

↓ **Wales' exports down 40% on April 2019**

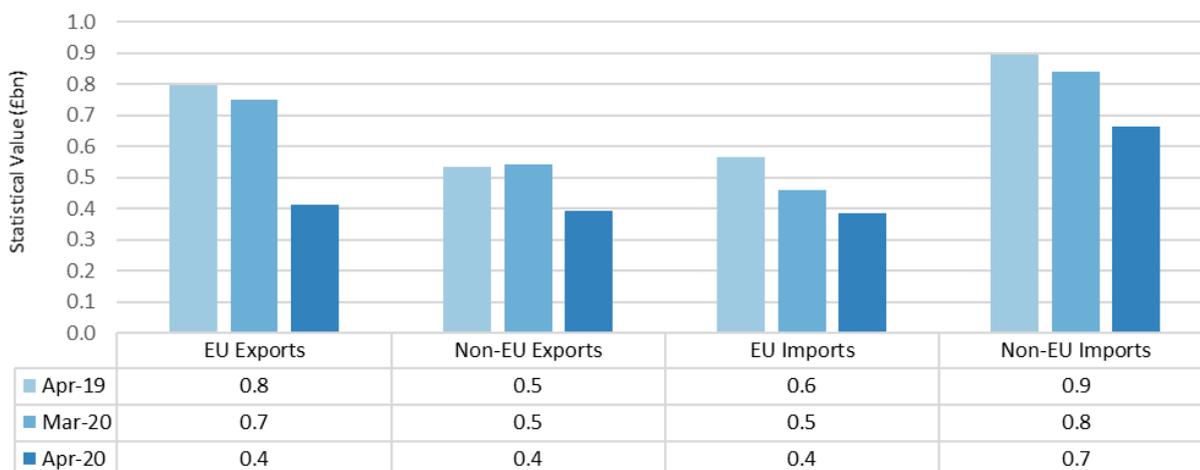
↓ **Wales' imports down 28% on April 2019**

**Figure 4: Wales Exports and Imports (January 2019 to April 2020)**



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics  
Note: 2019 and 2020 data is provisional

**Figure 5: Wales Exports and Imports by EU and Non-EU**



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics  
Note: 2019 and 2020 data is provisional

# Scotland

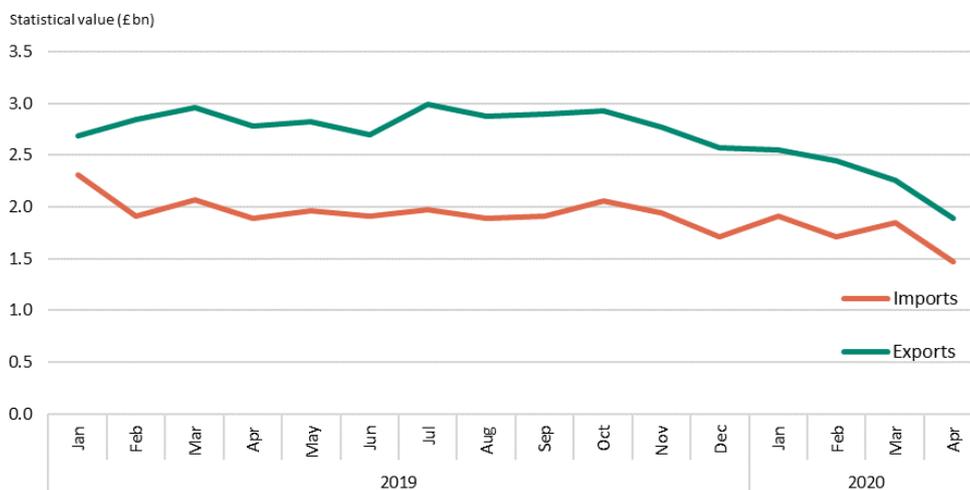
In April 2020:

- Total exports from Scotland were £1.9 billion. This was a decrease of £0.4 billion (16%) on last month, and a decrease of £0.9 billion (32%) on April 2019.
- EU exports accounted for £1.0 billion, while non-EU exports were £0.9 billion.
- Total imports to Scotland were £1.5 billion. This was a decrease of £0.4 billion (20%) on last month, and a decrease of £0.4 billion (22%) on April 2019.
- EU imports accounted for £0.7 billion, while non-EU imports were £0.8 billion.
- The trade gap for Scotland was in surplus, with exports exceeding imports by £0.4 billion.

↓ **Scotland's exports down 32% on April 2019**

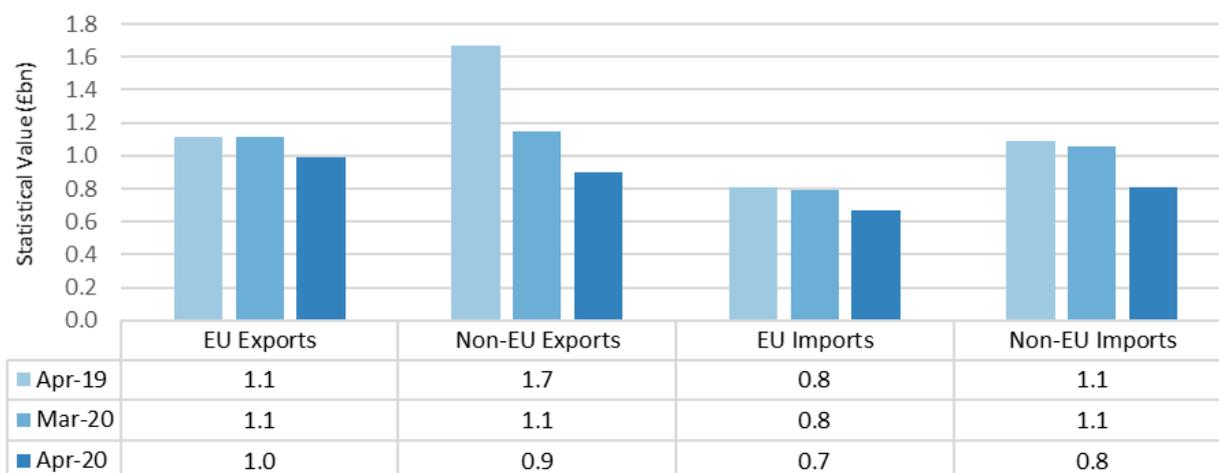
↓ **Scotland's imports down 22% on April 2019**

**Figure 6: Scotland Exports and Imports (January 2019 to April 2020)**



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics  
Note: 2019 and 2020 data is provisional

**Figure 7: Scotland Exports and Imports by EU and Non-EU**



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics  
Note: 2019 and 2020 data is provisional

# Northern Ireland

In April 2020\*:

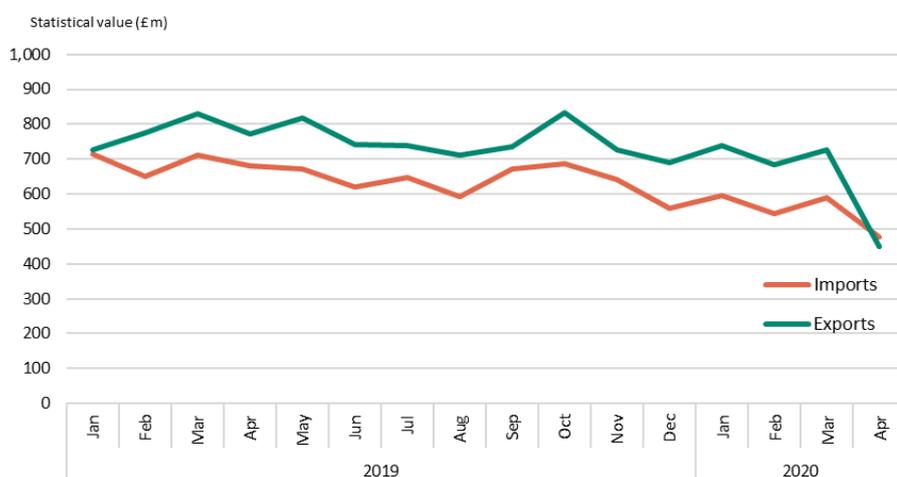
- Total exports from Northern Ireland were £451 million. This was a decrease of £275 million (38%) on last month, and a decrease of £322 million (42%) on April 2019.
- EU exports accounted for £274 million, while non-EU exports were £177 million.
- Total imports to Northern Ireland were £477 million. This was a decrease of £113 million (19%) on last month, and a decrease of £205 million (30%) on April 2019.
- EU imports accounted for £299 million, while non-EU imports were £177 million.
- The trade gap for Northern Ireland was in deficit, with imports exceeding exports by £26 million.

↓ Northern Ireland's exports down 42% on April 2019

↓ Northern Ireland's imports down 30% on April 2019

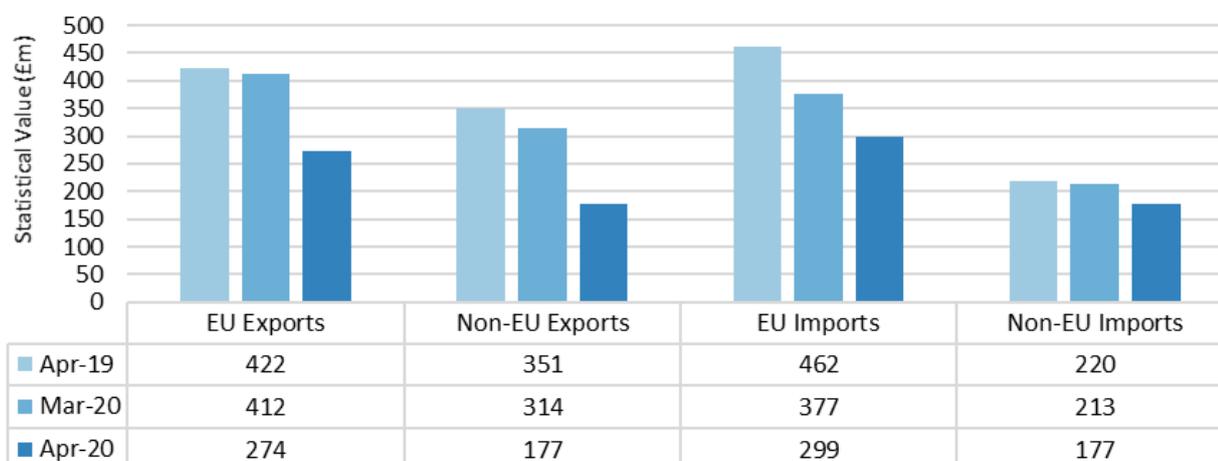
\*Please note: All Northern Ireland values are provided in millions

**Figure 8: Northern Ireland Exports and Imports (January 2019 to April 2020)**



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics  
Note: 2019 and 2020 data is provisional

**Figure 9: Northern Ireland Exports and Imports by EU and Non-EU**



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics  
Note: 2019 and 2020 data is provisional

# Methodology Notes

## Methodology

There are 3 releases within the Regional Trade Statistics (RTS) theme:

- RTS by month: new ad-hoc statistical release, reporting at high level the 4 flows (EU imports, EU exports, ROW imports, ROW exports) for each of the 4 countries (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland);
- RTS quarterly: full release, reporting on 12 NUTS1 regions, SITC division (2-digit) and 100 pre-defined partner countries in a combination of static and interactive products;
- RTS by local area geographies: annual release that reports on NUTS2 and NUTS3 regions. NUTS2 is reported by SITC section (1-digit) and 100 pre-defined partner countries in separate tables.

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.

Not all trade can be assigned to one of the four UK countries. Where appropriate, this is referred to in the tables as the 'Unallocated Trade'. In a quarterly RTS release, Unallocated Trade is split into Unallocated – Known and Unallocated – Unknown but they are combined in this release.

- 'Unallocated – Known': where we have virtually full details of the trade, but it is not appropriate to allocate it to a region.
- 'Unallocated – Unknown'

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.

All three releases use the same allocation methodology outlined above. More information on the RTS and this release can be found in the [RTS methodology document](#).

## Comparison with OTS and RTS

The following reconciliation table shows the differences at total trade level between OTS and this release by quantifying the elements of OTS that are excluded from this release.

### Reconciliation Table: April 2020

	EU Exports £ millions	Non-EU Exports £ millions	EU Imports £ millions	Non-EU Imports £ millions
<b>This Release</b>	8,290.5	10,109.9	12,254.1	13,053.3
Allocated to a country	7,423.1	8,904.2	11,192.1	11,416.0
Unallocated region	867.4	1,205.7	1,062.1	1,637.3
<b>Late response estimates</b>	1,066.6	-	1,500.6	-
<b>Non-monetary gold</b>	736.7	4,135.00	19.5	3,683.6
<b>OTS Total</b>	<b>10,093.8</b>	<b>14,244.9</b>	<b>13,774.1</b>	<b>16,736.9</b>

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 and this release

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

Note 4: 2020 data is provisional and subject to update.

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

## Governance

Currently these statistics are labelled as ad-hoc. The reasons for this are:

- to enable us to identify whether there is a need and public interest in the publication;
- to allow us to build in improvements to the methodology, data included, visuals, etc.;
- to allow external users to provide feedback on the publication so that enhancements can be made to future releases.

As the UK leaves the EU, it is important that our statistics continue to be of high quality and are internationally comparable. During the transition period, those UK statistics that align with EU practice and rules will continue to do so in the same way as before 31 January 2020. After the transition period, we will continue to produce statistics in line with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Statistics and in accordance with internationally agreed statistical guidance and standards.

HMRC applies Statistical Disclosure Control (SDC) on all its statistical releases to protect our data providers. Therefore, requests for data relating to other geographies or greater disaggregation, e.g. partner countries or types of goods traded cannot be provided.

HMRC initially announced that this release will be produced for 6 months (January to June 2020). They are currently carrying out consultation with key stakeholders concerning the continuation of this product.

We would welcome hearing views from readers, please send comments to James Durnford at [uktradeinfo@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:uktradeinfo@hmrc.gov.uk).