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# HM Revenue and Customs

## Regional Trade Statistics Fourth Quarter 2013

### Summary

- In the year to December 2013, there was a fall in annual export value in the North East, the North West, the East, London and the South East; the value of exports rose in the remaining UK regions. There was a fall in annual import value during the year in the North East, the West Midlands, the South East, London and Wales, with a rise in the remaining six regions. Of the four UK countries, Wales had the highest rate of increase for exports, while Northern Ireland had the highest growth rate for imports.
- The value of UK exports increased in Quarter 4 2013 compared with Quarter 4 2012, while imports decreased. The value of exports rose for Wales and Northern Ireland but fell for England and Scotland between Quarter 4 2012 and Quarter 4 2013; the value of imports rose for all UK countries except England. Exports decreased in the North West, the East, London and the South East, but increased in all other English regions. Imports increased in Yorkshire & the Humber, the East Midlands, the East and the South West but decreased in all other English regions.
- The number of exporters fell between Quarter 4 2012 and Quarter 4 2013 in all UK regions apart from Yorkshire & the Humber, the East Midlands, London and Wales. The number of importers decreased in all UK regions.
- For England, the value of exports to China increased most in the year ending December 2013; for Wales exports to the United Arab Emirates increased the most; for Scotland exports to Belgium increased the most, while for Northern Ireland exports to the Irish Republic increased most. For imports, the largest increases were in goods from the Germany (England), Qatar (Scotland), China (Wales) and the Irish Republic (Northern Ireland).
- For exports, the commodity groups with the largest annual value increases were 'Road vehicles' (England) 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (Scotland), 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (Wales) and 'Medicinal and pharmaceutical products' (Northern Ireland).
- For imports, the commodity groups with the largest annual value increases were 'Road vehicles' (England and Wales), 'Other transport equipment' (Scotland) and 'General industrial machinery & equipment' (Northern Ireland).

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

The OTS and RTS data series are published in HMRC's trade data website [www.uktradeinfo.com](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.

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

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

This release includes some [revisions](#) to 2008-2012 RTS data to rectify a processing error. The error has predominantly resulted in some EU and non-EU export trade being allocated to incorrect regions. The effect of rectifying the error has been to reallocate this trade to the proper region, namely the region where the main reporting unit of the business is located. In addition, some small revisions have been made to 2012 EU imports and EU exports trade to address a further processing error that affected the regional distribution of below-threshold trade.

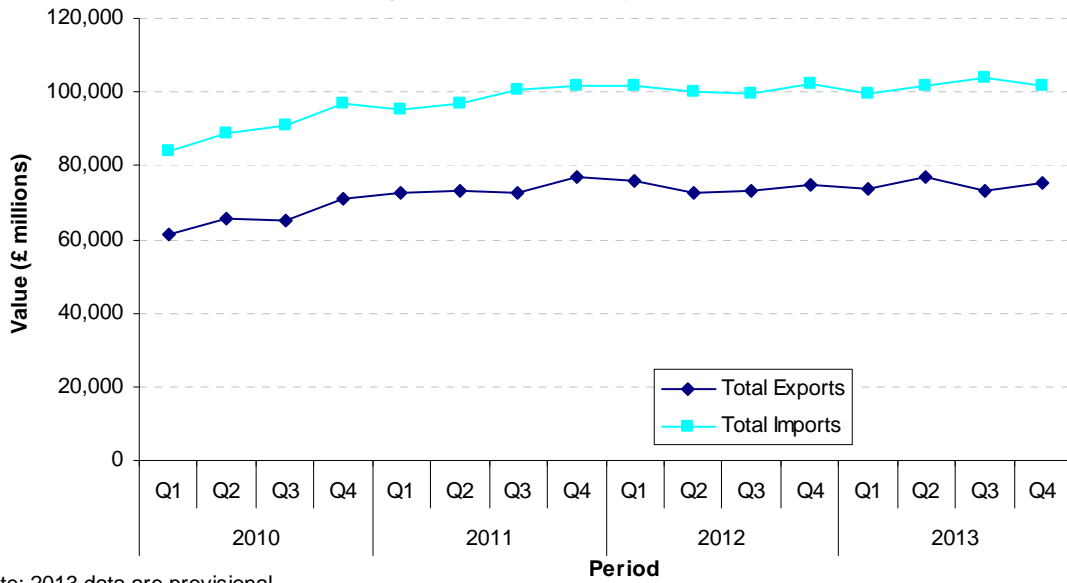
## Overview of UK trade

Figure 1 shows the quarterly values of imports to and exports from the UK since 2010. The value of imports decreased by 2.0 per cent during the fourth quarter of 2013, while the value of exports increased by 2.8 per cent. This reduced the trade deficit to £26.3 billion, 13.6 per cent lower than it was at the end of the previous quarter.

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<sup>1</sup> See note 3

**Fig 1: Total UK Quarterly Trade**

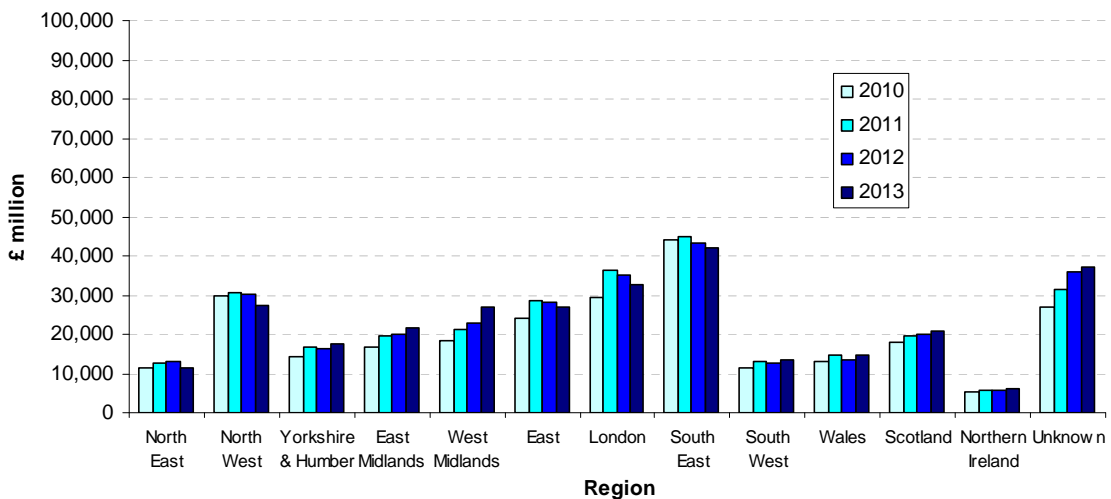


Note: 2013 data are provisional  
 Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

## Overview - Exports

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

**Fig 2a: UK Exports by Region, 2010 - 2013**



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

- The total annual value of UK exports increased marginally by 0.9 per cent to £298.9 billion in the year 2013; this is a similar size increase to the 0.3 per cent rise seen during the year 2012. While exports from England decreased marginally during the year, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland all saw increases. Four of the nine English regions experienced an increase in exports – the East Midlands, the South West, the West Midlands and Yorkshire & the Humber. The total annual value of exports from England fell by 0.6 per cent to £220.2 billion during the year, the largest value decrease coming from the ‘Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials’ sector. Exports from Scotland rose by 3.0 per cent to £20.6 billion; the largest increases during the year were in Scotland’s exports from the ‘Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials’ sector. Exports from Wales rose by 11.2 per cent to £14.8 billion due to a large increase in the ‘Machinery & transport equipment’ sector. Exports from Northern Ireland rose by 6.4 per cent to £6.0 billion, with the ‘Food & live animals’ sector contributing the largest portion of the value increase. Exports allocated to the ‘Unknown region’<sup>2</sup> amounted to £37.2 billion in the year 2013, accounting for 12.5 per cent of UK exports by value.
- The South East continues to have the largest total export value of all the English regions (£41.9 billion for the year 2013) accounting for 19.0 per cent of total exports from England, despite experiencing a percentage decrease of 3.5 per in value over the annual period.
- The North East had the smallest total value of exports, totalling £11.6 billion for the year 2013; this was 5.3 per cent of England’s total. This region also saw the largest percentage decrease among the English regions during the year (down 10.3 per cent).
- Year on year, the largest percentage increase in the English regions was for the West Midlands, whose exports increased by 18.4 per cent to £27.0 billion during the year. This now makes the West Midlands the fourth largest exporting region after the South East, London and the North West.

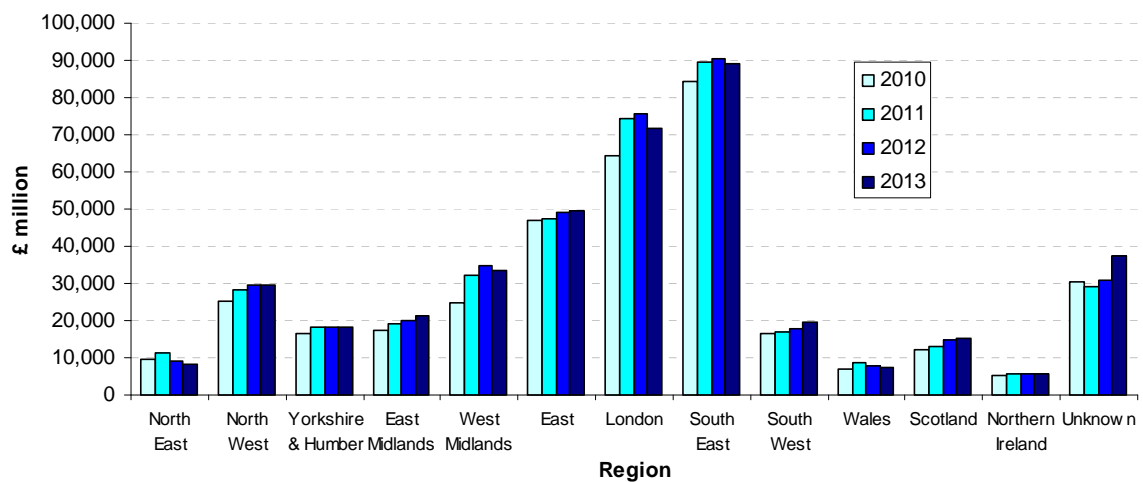
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<sup>2</sup> See note 4

## Overview - Imports

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

Fig 2b: UK Imports by Region, 2010 - 2013



Note: 2013 data are provisional

Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

- The total annual value of UK imports for the year 2013 increased marginally by 0.7 per cent to £406.8 billion compared with the year 2012. There was a rise in import value during the year for Scotland and Northern Ireland, while England and Wales experienced a decrease. Among the English regions there were decreases in imports for London, the North East, the South East and the West Midlands during 2013. The total value of imports to England fell by 1.1 per cent to £340.9 billion during the year, the largest value decrease coming from the 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' sector. The total value of imports to Wales fell by 1.9 per cent to £7.5 billion; this was driven by decreases within the 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' sector. The total value of imports to Scotland rose by 1.5 per cent to £15.1 billion; this was driven by an increase in imports from the 'Machinery & transport equipment' sector. Total imports to Northern Ireland increased by 2.1 per cent to £5.8 billion; this growth was mainly due to the 'Chemicals & related products' and 'Manufactured goods

amounted to £37.5 billion in the year 2013, accounting for 9.2 per cent of UK imports by value.

- Within England, the South East continues to have the largest total value of imports. For the year ending 2013 this was £89.3 billion, 26.2 per cent of England's total although there was a decrease of 1.3 per cent in the value of imports to the South East during the year, while imports to London decreased by 5.1 per cent.
- The largest year-on-year percentage increase among the English regions was for the South West, where imports increased by 8.2 per cent to £19.4 billion. Much of this growth came in imports from the 'Machinery & transport equipment' sector.
- The largest year-on-year percentage decrease among the English regions was for the North East, where imports declined by 10.2 per cent. The North East continues to have the smallest total value of imports of all the English regions, making up just 2.4 per cent of England's total. The North East is the only English region to have maintained a positive trade balance (exports exceeding imports) over the last four years 2010-2013.

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<sup>3</sup> See note 4

## Rolling 12 Month Overview - Exports

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

### *Partner country analysis - England*

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

	Country	Year ending December 2013 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2012	% Total Exports in year ending December 2013
Top 5	USA	29,868.2	29,367.9	1.7	13.6
	Germany	22,818.3	25,214.2	-9.5	10.4
	France	16,616.5	16,934.2	-1.9	7.5
	Netherlands	14,641.1	14,458.3	1.3	6.6
	Irish Republic	11,377.4	10,959.3	3.8	5.2
	Others	124,918.1	124,655.8	0.2	56.7
	Total EU	107,809.7	110,000.8	-2.0	49.0
	Total Non-EU	112,429.9	111,588.9	0.8	51.0
	Grand Total	220,239.5	221,589.6	-0.6	100.0

Note: 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 1a shows that the total value of exports from England has declined by 0.6 per cent during the year 2013. England's top five export partners for the year were the same as in the previous annual period. Of the top five export partners, the Irish Republic saw the largest percentage increase in value over the last 12 months (up 3.8 per cent). Germany's share of England's exports has declined from 11.4 per cent to 10.4 per cent during 2013, while the share for the other partners in the top five has remained approximately the same. There were large decreases in exports to Germany within SITC division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' and division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'. Exports to the USA increased by 1.7 per cent over the year; this was primarily due to growth within SITC division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (up 27.9 per cent).

England's exports to the EU have decreased by 2.0 per cent during the last year, while exports to non-EU countries have increased by 0.8 per cent. Exports to non-EU countries continue to account for just over half of England's exports by value. The EU

partner countries where exports from England have decreased most are Germany (down 9.5 per cent), Belgium (down 3.5 per cent) and France (down 1.9 per cent). The EU partner countries where exports from England have increased most during the year are the Irish Republic (up 3.8 per cent) and the Netherlands (up 1.3 per cent).

The non-EU partner countries where exports from England decreased in value the most over the last 12 months were Switzerland (down 13.4 per cent) and Senegal (down 70.4 per cent). The non-EU partner countries with the largest increase in value of goods exported from England were China (up 18.1 per cent) and Saudi Arabia (up 31.8 per cent). For China the largest rise was in exports from SITC division 78 'Road vehicles' while for Saudi Arabia the increase came mainly from SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment, which trebled in value over the year.

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

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

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

Note 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 2a shows the top five export trading partners for each of the English regions in the year 2013. There have been a number of changes in the order of the top five partners in the last year. For the North East, France has moved from up from fourth to second largest export partner, overtaking the USA and Russia, although exports to all three of these countries have decreased during the year. For the North West the USA has become the top export partner, moving ahead of Germany, and China has moved up from fifth to fourth largest export partner, overtaking France. For the East Midlands, Belgium has moved up from fifth to third largest export partner, ahead of



Singapore and the Irish Republic. For the East, the Irish Republic has moved into the top five, while Belgium has dropped out. For London, India has moved up from ninth to second largest export partner over the last 12 months, and the Irish Republic has moved into the top five. For the South East, the Netherlands has moved up from fourth to third largest export partner, overtaking France. For the South West, the Netherlands has moved up from fifth to fourth largest partner, ahead of the Irish Republic.

Four of the English regions – the East Midlands, the North East, the South East and the South West – experienced an increase in the proportion of exports going to EU countries during the year, while for the remaining five regions this proportion decreased. The majority of the English regions continue to follow a similar pattern to England as a whole; the USA features as the top export partner for six of the nine regions and Germany is one of the top three export partners for seven of the nine regions. The North East is the only region to have the Netherlands as its top export partner; this is largely due to a high value of exports within SITC division 78 ‘Road vehicles’, although there has been a decline of 12.5 per cent in this region’s exports to the Netherlands from this division during the year.

During the year 2013, export value decreased for five of the nine English regions and increased for the remaining four. The regions with the largest increases were the West Midlands (up 18.4 per cent), East Midlands (up 7.7 per cent) and Yorkshire & the Humber (up 7.8 per cent). For the West Midlands the largest increases were in goods going to China (up 47.2 per cent) and the USA (up 33.0 per cent). For Yorkshire & the Humber the largest increases were for the USA (up 56.3 per cent) and the Irish Republic (up 15.0 per cent). For the East Midlands much of the increase was in exports to Belgium (up 35.6 per cent) and the USA (up 10.4 per cent). The largest percentage decreases in exports were seen in the North East (down 10.3 per cent) and the North West (down 9.5 per cent). For the North East this was largely attributable to a sharp decrease in exports to the USA (down 51.4 per cent) while for the North West the largest decline was in exports to Germany (down 37.4 per cent). The other regions where exports decreased were London (down 6.6 per cent), the East (down 4.6 per cent) and the South East (down 3.5 per cent). For the East much of the decline was due to a fall in exports to France (down 24.9 per cent) while for London the largest value decrease was in exports to Switzerland (down 28.8 per cent). For the South East the decline was driven by a reduction in goods going to Senegal (down 73.9 per cent).

Exports to China, which had the largest rise in exports for England as a whole, have risen for every English region during the year; the largest increase was for the West Midlands, where exports of SITC division 78 'Road vehicles' rose by 60.2 per cent. Exports to Saudi Arabia have also increased for six of the nine regions. Exports to the USA rose for five regions, with Yorkshire & the Humber and the West Midlands experiencing the largest percentage increases (up 56.3 per cent and 33.0 per cent respectively).

Exports to the major EU partners – Germany and France - have declined in the majority of English regions over the past year. However, exports to the Netherlands have increased for six regions, and exports to the Irish Republic have risen for seven regions. For the Netherlands the largest increase was in exports from the South East, driven by a rise in SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up 58.7 per cent). For the Irish Republic the largest increase was in exports from the West Midlands, led by a rise in SITC division 55 'Essential oils & perfume materials'.

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

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

	<b>Country</b>	<b>Year ending December 2013 Total £ millions</b>	<b>Year ending December 2012 Total £ millions</b>	<b>% Change from December 2012</b>	<b>% Total Exports in year ending December 2013</b>
Top 5	USA	3,090.4	3,047.0	1.4	20.9
	Irish Republic	1,767.1	1,550.1	14.0	12.0
	United Arab Emirates	1,164.5	633.6	83.8	7.9
	Germany	1,134.3	1,112.5	2.0	7.7
	Netherlands	941.6	708.3	32.9	6.4
	Others	6,681.7	6,240.5	7.1	45.2
	Total EU	6,552.6	5,916.0	10.8	44.3
	Total Non-EU	8,227.1	7,375.9	11.5	55.7
	Grand Total	14,779.7	13,291.9	11.2	100.0

Note: 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 3a shows that the total export value for Wales has increased by 11.2 per cent during the year 2013. Wales' top two partner countries remain the same as at the

end of 2012; however, the United Arab Emirates has moved up from sixth to third place over the last year, while France has dropped out of the top five. Exports have increased for all of the top five partners, with the largest percentage increase coming from the United Arab Emirates (up 83.8 per cent). The USA saw the smallest percentage increase during the year (up 1.4 per cent). The 32.9 per cent increase in exports to the Netherlands during the year was mainly due to growth in SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up 92.5 per cent).

Non-EU partner countries continue to dominate the export market in Wales, receiving 55.7 per cent of goods exported; this percentage has increased slightly since 2012. Exports to both EU and non-EU partners have increased considerably over the year. The USA's share of the export market in Wales has fallen from 22.9 per cent to 20.9 per cent over the past year; there were decreases in goods going to the USA from SITC division 78 'Road vehicles' (down 87.4 per cent), although this was offset by an increase in goods from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up 6.9 per cent). The Irish Republic remains Wales' second largest partner country, taking a 12.0 per cent share of its exports. The increase of 14.0 per cent in exports to the Irish Republic during the last year was led by growth in SITC division 33.

The United Arab Emirates is now Wales' third largest export partner. Much of the large increase in exports in the last year was attributable to SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up 90.4 per cent).

The partner countries with the largest value decrease in exports from Wales over the year were Brazil (down 41.4 per cent), Switzerland (down 44.0 per cent) and Japan (down 23.4 per cent). For Brazil the decline was driven by SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (exports down from £87 million in 2012 to nil in 2013), while for Switzerland and Japan the largest reduction was in goods from SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment'.

The partner countries where export values increased most during the year were the United Arab Emirates, the Netherlands and the Irish Republic, followed by Qatar (up 99.3 per cent) and South Korea (up 63.2 per cent). For both Qatar and South Korea much of the growth was in goods from SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment'.

### Partner country analysis – Scotland

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

	Country	Year ending December 2013 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2012	% Total Exports in year ending December 2013
Top 5	USA	3,202.2	3,193.1	0.3	15.5
	Belgium	1,371.0	979.1	40.0	6.6
	France	1,294.6	1,442.4	-10.2	6.3
	Netherlands	1,260.2	1,308.0	-3.7	6.1
	Germany	1,248.5	1,228.7	1.6	6.1
	Others	12,254.2	11,883.9	3.1	59.4
	Total EU	8,668.6	8,137.6	6.5	42.0
	Total Non-EU	11,962.3	11,897.6	0.5	58.0
	Grand Total	20,630.9	20,035.2	3.0	100.0

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

Table 4a shows that exports from Scotland rose in value by 3.0 per cent during the year 2013. While Scotland's top five export partner group remains the same as in 2012, Belgium has moved up to become the second largest partner from fifth largest a year ago. Scotland has seen an increase of 40.0 per cent in goods going to Belgium during the year, while its exports to France declined by 10.2 per cent. Non-EU partner countries continue to dominate exports from Scotland, although the percentage of goods by value going to the EU has increased during the year from 40.6 per cent to 42.0 per cent. This was mainly due to the large increase in goods going to Belgium.

Although Scotland's exports to France and the Netherlands decreased in value during the year and there was a large increase for Belgium, there were small increases for the remaining two partners in the top five; exports to the USA increased marginally (up 0.3 per cent) and those to Germany increased by 1.6 per cent. For the USA there was a large increase in goods from SITC divisions 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' and 11 'Beverages' (up 60.2 per cent and 6.3 per cent respectively), although this was partly offset by decreases in division 74 'General industrial machinery & equipment' and division 87 'Professional, scientific & controlling instruments & apparatus'. For Germany there was a large rise in Scotland's exports from SITC division 33; this was partly offset by a reduction in SITC division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products'. The largest value increase

among Scotland's exports was in goods going to Belgium; this was led by a four-fold rise in SITC division 33. Outside of the top five, the largest increases were in exports to the United Arab Emirates (up 30.9 per cent), Sweden (up 37.0 per cent) and Latvia, where exports from Scotland doubled during the year.

The largest value decreases among Scotland's exports were in goods going to France (down 10.2 per cent), China (down 18.7 per cent) and Switzerland (down 32.4 per cent). For France the decline was primarily in SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials', while for China the decrease was led by SITC 78 'Road vehicles'. For Switzerland the largest reduction was in SITC division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles'.

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

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

	<b>Country</b>	<b>Year ending December 2013 Total £ millions</b>	<b>Year ending December 2012 Total £ millions</b>	<b>% Change from December 2012</b>	<b>% Total Exports in year ending December 2013</b>
Top 5	Irish Republic	2,222.0	2,015.3	10.3	37.1
	USA	574.7	500.3	14.9	9.6
	Canada	383.7	345.5	11.1	6.4
	France	309.7	267.7	15.7	5.2
	Germany	259.2	225.9	14.7	4.3
	Others	2,237.9	2,272.7	-1.5	37.4
	Total EU	3,481.2	3,163.7	10.0	58.1
	Total Non-EU	2,505.9	2,463.8	1.7	41.9
	Grand Total	5,987.1	5,627.5	6.4	100.0

Note: 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 5a shows that exports from Northern Ireland have increased in value by 6.4 per cent during the year 2013. The top five export partners have remained the same since the end of 2012. The Irish Republic continues to dominate Northern Ireland's export market; its share of Northern Ireland's exports increased from 35.8 per cent to 37.1 per cent during the year. In contrast with other UK countries, the majority of Northern Ireland's exports go to the EU; the value of exports to EU partners rose by 10.0 per cent over the year, while exports to non-EU partners increased by only 1.7

per cent. Although the growth in exports to the EU was mainly in goods going to the Irish Republic there were also considerable increases in exports to France (up 15.7 per cent) and Germany (up 14.7 per cent).

There were substantial increases in exports to all of the top five partner countries during the year. The largest value increase was for the Irish Republic, where the largest increase was in SITC division 02 'Dairy products & birds' eggs' (up 20.8 per cent). The largest percentage increase among the top five was for France; this was driven by growth in SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment'.

The partner country with the largest value decrease in exports from Northern Ireland was Saudi Arabia (down 26.9 per cent). Here, a substantial proportion of the decline came from SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment'.

The largest increases in exports from Northern Ireland during 2013 were for the top five partner countries. For the USA the growth was led by a rise in SITC division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products', while for Canada and Germany the increase was primarily in SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment'. Outside of the top five, the partner countries with the biggest increases in exports from Northern Ireland during the year were South Korea, where exports more than doubled, and Spain (up 18.7 per cent).

## Commodity analysis - England

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

SITC section	Description	Year to December 2013 Total £ millions	Year to December 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2012	% Total Exports in year ending December 2013
7	Machinery & transport equipment	91,078.6	86,232.8	5.6	41.4
5	Chemicals & related products	35,262.3	38,053.1	-7.3	16.0
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	31,378.1	30,556.7	2.7	14.2
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	25,743.1	26,306.7	-2.1	11.7
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	20,170.1	23,236.8	-13.2	9.2
	Other SITCs	16,607.4	17,203.7	-3.5	7.5
	All SITCs	220,239.5	221,589.6	-0.6	100.0

Note: 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 6a shows that SITC section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' continues to dominate exports from England; its share of England's exports has risen from 38.9 per cent to 41.4 per cent over the last year, with an increase of 5.6 per cent by value during the 12 month period. Most of the increase in section 7 during the year came from exports of goods within SITC division 78 'Road vehicles' (up 10.2 per cent, with exports to China up 38.4 per cent).

Exports decreased for three of the top five export commodity groups during 2013. The largest percentage decrease was for section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials', where most of the decrease was within SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down 13.0 per cent, with exports to Germany down 40.8 per cent). For section 5 'Chemicals & related products' (down 7.3 per cent), the largest decreases were in division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (down 12.4 per cent) and division 51 'Organic chemicals' (down 15.7 per cent); for these divisions the largest value decreases were in exports to Germany (division 54) and the USA (division 51). For section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' (down 2.1 per cent), the largest decline was in division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures' (down 18.8 per cent), mainly in goods going to Belgium.

After section 7 the biggest value increase during the year was in section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (up 2.7 per cent); here, much of the increase was due to division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' (up 15.2 per cent, with exports to Germany up 26.8 per cent) and division 87 'Professional, scientific & controlling instruments & apparatus' (up 7.2 per cent, with exports to South Korea and the USA gaining the most value).

After section 3 and section 5 the largest decrease was in exports from section 2 'Crude materials, inedible, except fuels' (down 14.7 per cent). Here, most of the reduction came from division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' (down 15.1 per cent).

Thirty-one of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in export value during the year. After divisions 33, 54, 66 and 51 (see above), the largest reduction was in division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (down 4.5 per cent). After division 78 the largest increase at division level was in division 79 'Other transport equipment' (up 9.0 per cent).



## Commodity analysis – English regions

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

Region	Top 5 SITC Sections				
	1	2	3	4	5
North East	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	5 - Chemicals & related products	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	0 - Food & live animals
North West	5 - Chemicals & related products	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	3 - Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles
Yorkshire & the Humber	5 - Chemicals & related products	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	3 - Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	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	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	3 - Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	5 - Chemicals & related products	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material
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: 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 7a shows the top five export SITC section commodity groups by value for the English regions. There has been some change in the order of the top five commodity groups in the last 12 months. For the North East, section 0 has become the fifth largest export commodity group by value, overtaking section 3. For the North West, section 8 has moved into the top five, exceeding section 2. For Yorkshire & the Humber section 5 has become the highest valued commodity group for exports, moving up from fourth position a year ago. For London section 7 has become the third highest valued export group, overtaking section 3.

SITC section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' is the top export section by value for six of the nine English regions, the exceptions being the North West, Yorkshire & the Humber and London. In the West Midlands, East Midlands and South West, this section continues to dominate the market, accounting for 71.3 per cent, 69.2 per cent and 62.9 per cent of exports respectively; the market share for this section has increased during the year for all three of these regions. In the East Midlands and

West Midlands, exports from division 78 'Road vehicles' increased the most within section 7 (up 47.6 per cent and 46.6 per cent respectively); for the East Midlands this was mainly due to a rise in goods going to Belgium, while for the West Midlands the increase was driven by goods going to China. For the South West exports from division 79 'Other transport equipment' increased the most (up 14.8 per cent) with a substantial rise in exports to France.

The North West remains the top English region for exports within section 5 'Chemicals and related products', accounting for 26.5 per cent of England's exports from this section. However, this share has reduced considerably over the past year, with a 26.3 per cent decrease in the value of section 5 exports from the North West. Most of this decrease was attributable to division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (down 41.1 per cent), with much of the reduction in goods going to Germany. The only regions to see an increase in section 5 exports during the year were London (up 5.1 per cent), the South West (up 10.4 per cent) and Yorkshire & the Humber (up 59.3 per cent), although these three regions together only account for 20.8 per cent of England's total exports from section 5.

London, the South East, the East and Yorkshire & the Humber are the dominant regions for exports within section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials'. All these regions apart from Yorkshire & the Humber have seen decreases in export value within this section during the year, by far the largest being in the London region (down 33.5 per cent). For London, much of the decline was in exports from division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' going to Germany and the Netherlands. For the South East, the decreases in section 3 were mainly in division 33 exports going to Senegal and South Korea. For the East, the largest decreases were in division 33 exports going to France and Germany. In contrast, Yorkshire & the Humber saw a marginal increase in exports in section 3 during the year, with most of the growth in division 33 exports to the Irish Republic and the USA, partially offset by decreases to France.

For SITC section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' and section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' London continues to be the dominant exporting region, accounting for 29.4 per cent and 36.6 per cent of England's total exports in these two sections respectively. Apart from London and the East, all English regions experienced an increase in exports from section 8 during the year. London saw a 1.4 per cent decrease in section 8 export value over the last year; this was predominantly

due to a fall in exports from division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (down 8.6 per cent) going to Switzerland. While the East, the East Midlands, the North East and the South West saw increases in exports from section 6 during the year, there were decreases for the other five regions; London saw the largest decrease (down 10.0 per cent) with division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures' down 22.1 per cent.

The North East, South West and East Midlands are the only regions with SITC section 0 'Food & live animals' in their top five. For the North East there has been a 14.1 per cent increase in exports from this section during the year, moving it into the top five; the largest value increase was in division 03 'Fish, crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates' (up 10.9 per cent) and exports from division 02 'Dairy products & birds' eggs' almost doubled during the year. This is in contrast to the South West and East Midlands, both of which experienced a decline in section 0 exports during 2013.

The North West remains the most dominant region for exports of section 2 'Crude materials' despite a decrease of 13.6 per cent during the year; this was primarily due to a decline in exports from division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' (down 14.4 per cent), mainly in goods going to India and China.

All English regions saw an increase in export value for the majority of the sixty-five SITC divisions. For London and the North East the biggest increases at division level were in divisions 68 'Non-ferrous metals' and 67 'Iron & steel' respectively. For Yorkshire & the Humber the largest rise was in division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (up more than six-fold during the year). For the other six regions the largest division-level increases all came from divisions of section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment'.

For London and the East the largest decrease at division level during the year was in division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'. For the East Midlands and the South West the biggest declines were in divisions 22 'Oil seeds & oleaginous fruit' and 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' respectively. For the North West the largest decrease was in division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products'. The remaining four regions - the North East, South East, West Midlands and Yorkshire & the Humber - all saw their largest decreases in divisions within section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment'.

## Commodity analysis - Wales

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

SITC section	Description	Year to December 2013 Total £ millions	Year to December 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2012	% Total Exports in year ending December 2013
7	Machinery & transport equipment	6,065.6	5,316.2	14.1	41.0
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	3,887.5	3,506.6	10.9	26.3
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,077.5	1,932.5	7.5	14.1
5	Chemicals & related products	1,465.8	1,386.1	5.7	9.9
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	878.3	797.8	10.1	5.9
	Other SITCs	404.9	352.8	14.8	2.7
	All SITCs	14,779.7	13,291.9	11.2	100.0

Note: 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 8a shows that exports from Wales continue to be dominated by goods from section 7 and section 3. Annual exports from Wales have increased for all ten SITC sections during the past year. The largest increase, in export value was for section 7 (up 14.1 per cent); most of this growth was contributed by division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up 28.2 per cent), with exports to the United Arab Emirates increasing substantially over the year.

For Wales' second highest export commodity group, section 3, there was a 10.9 per cent increase in export value during 2013, with much of the increase coming from division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up 11.2 per cent); division 33 exports to the Netherlands rose by 92.6 per cent over the year. There were also substantial increases in exports from sections 6 and 8; the increase for section 6 was led by division 67 'Iron & steel' (up 8.0 per cent) while for section 8 the largest rise was in exports from division 82 'Furniture & parts thereof' (up 56.6 per cent).

Nearly two-thirds of the sixty-five SITC divisions increased in export value over the year. By far the largest annual decrease at division level was in division 78 'Road vehicles' (down 28.6 per cent) with exports to the USA down 87.4 per cent. The second largest decrease was in division 79 'Other transport equipment' with exports to the USA down 28.2 per cent.

The commodity groups with the biggest increases at division level were SITC divisions 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (see above) and 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (see above). The next largest increase was for division 67 'Iron & steel' (up 8.0 per cent), where exports to France increased most during the year.

### **Commodity analysis - Scotland**

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

SITC section	Description	Year to December 2013 Total £ millions	Year to December 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2012	% Total Exports in year ending December 2013
7	Machinery & transport equipment	6,214.4	6,046.1	2.8	30.1
1	Beverages & tobacco	5,115.1	5,210.9	-1.8	24.8
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,476.7	2,291.9	8.1	12.0
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	1,998.7	1,428.3	39.9	9.7
5	Chemicals & related products	1,907.0	2,015.5	-5.4	9.2
	Other SITCs	2,919.0	3,042.6	-4.1	14.1
	All SITCs	20,630.9	20,035.2	3.0	100.0

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

Table 9a shows that annual exports from Scotland increased for three of the top five SITC sections during the year 2013. Scotland's exports continue to be dominated by goods from section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' and section 1 'Beverages & tobacco'. The largest annual growth, both in value and percentage terms, was in

exports from section 3 'Mineral fuels & related materials' (up 39.9 per cent). The biggest decrease during the year was for section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles', where exports fell by 9.6 per cent. Within the top five export commodity groups, section 5 'Chemicals & related products' had the largest annual decrease in value (down 5.4 per cent). These fluctuations have resulted in a change in the top five commodity groups since 2012: section 8 has moved out of the top five, and section 5 has moved down from fourth to fifth position, both having been overtaken by section 3.

Exports from section 1 have seen a 1.8 per cent decrease during 2013; this follows increases of 23.5 per cent and 1.5 per cent respectively in 2011 and 2012. However, Scotland remains the most important country in the UK for exports within this section, taking a 71.1 per cent share of the UK export market in 2013. The majority of the decrease was due to reduced exports of division 11 'Beverages' (down 1.8 per cent with exports to Venezuela, Taiwan and China all down substantially); most of the decline in this division was in the second half of 2013.

The other decrease among the top five sections was for section 5. Here, most of the reduction came from division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products', where exports to Germany decreased by 30.0 per cent during the year.

Section 3 saw the largest increase in export value during the year, which was mainly contributed by division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up 45.3 per cent). Exports to Belgium from this division accounted for a considerable portion of this increase.

Scotland's exports from section 7 increased by 2.8 per cent during 2013, although there was a slight decline in the second half of the year compared with the same period in 2012. The largest increase within section 7 during the year came from division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up 13.4 per cent), although this was offset by a decline in division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances' (down 12.1 per cent).

In contrast to section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles', section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' saw an 8.1 per cent rise in exports over the year. The largest contributors were division 66 'Non-metallic mineral

manufactures' (up 21.2 per cent) and division 69 'Manufactures of metal' (up 14.6 per cent).

Twenty-seven of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in export value in 2013. The largest division-level decreases were for SITC divisions 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances', 11 'Beverages' and 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (see above). The largest increases at division level were for division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials', division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' and division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures' (see above).

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

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

SITC section	Description	Year to December 2013 Total £ millions	Year to December 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2012	% Total Exports in year ending December 2013
7	Machinery & transport equipment	2,353.5	2,374.4	-0.9	39.3
0	Food & live animals	1,120.5	957.6	17.0	18.7
5	Chemicals & related products	788.8	633.1	24.6	13.2
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	652.3	656.9	-0.7	10.9
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	539.1	484.1	11.4	9.0
	Other SITCs	532.9	521.4	2.2	8.9
	All SITCs	5,987.1	5,627.5	6.4	100.0

Note: 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 10a shows that Northern Ireland's exports continue to be dominated by goods from section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment'. However, exports in this section have declined by 0.9 per cent over the last year, the largest section-level value decrease. This was largely due to a fall in exports from SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (down 21.5 per cent, with a large reduction in goods going to Saudi Arabia). However, this was offset by a rise in division 79 'Other

transport equipment' (up 18.6 per cent, with a large increase in goods going to Canada).

In contrast, section 0 'Food & live animals' experienced the largest section-level increase in exports during the year (up 17.0 per cent). Exports rose in virtually all divisions of section 0, the largest contributors being division 01 'Meat & meat preparations' (up 17.6 per cent) and division 02 'Dairy products & birds' eggs' (up 13.8 per cent).

After section 0, the largest section-level annual value increase was for section 5 'Chemicals & related products' (up 24.6 per cent). This was primarily due to growth in exports from division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (up 39.2 per cent), where goods going to the USA increased in value by 98.3 per cent. The 11.4 per cent annual increase in exports for section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' was mainly contributed by division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures' (up 25.5 per cent), division 62 'Rubber manufactures' (up 14.5 per cent) and division 69 'Manufactures of metal' (up 15.0 per cent).

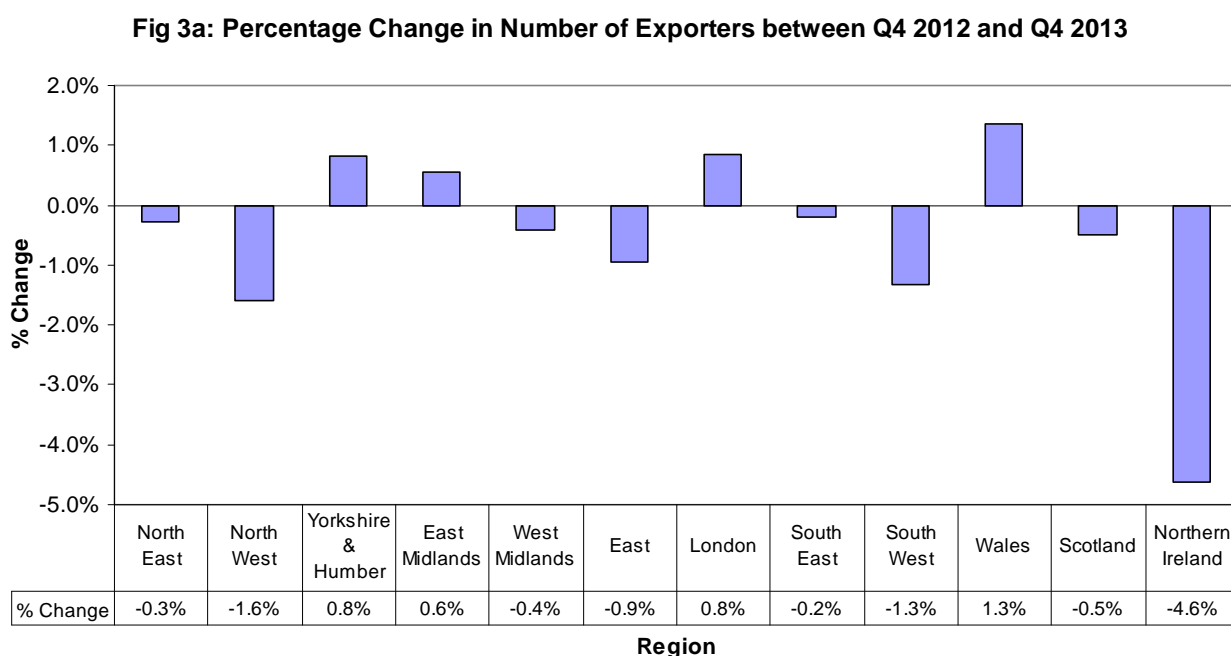
Only twenty of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in export value during the year. The largest value increases at division level were for divisions 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products', 79 'Other transport equipment' and 01 'Meat & meat preparations' (see above). After division 71, the biggest value decreases at division level were for divisions 59 'Chemical materials & products' (down 21.8 per cent) and 72 'Machinery specialised for particular industries' (down 2.6 per cent).

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

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



Figure 3a shows the percentage change in number of exporters per region between quarter 4 2012 and quarter 4 2013.



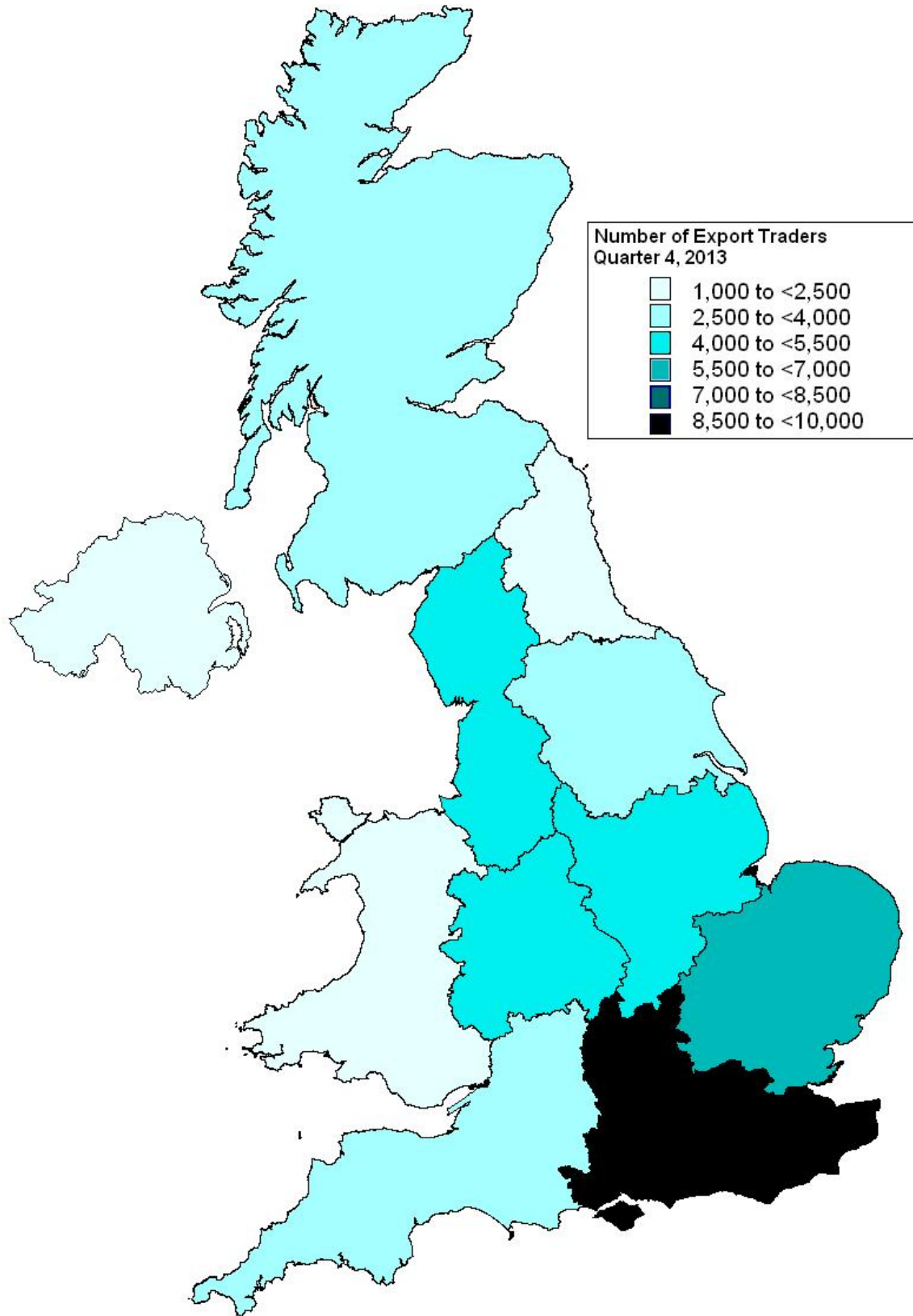
Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

For the UK as a whole, the number of exporting businesses decreased by 0.3 per cent between quarter 4 2012 and quarter 4 2013, from 50,352 to 50,197.

Figure 3a shows that the number of active exporters decreased in all regions of the UK apart from Yorkshire & the Humber, the East Midlands, London and Wales between quarter 4 2012 and quarter 4 2013. Wales experienced the largest percentage rise in exporting businesses, 1.3 per cent, while Northern Ireland saw the largest percentage decline, 4.6 per cent.

Figure 4a shows the total number of active UK exporters in each region for quarter 4 2013. The South East, London and the East are the three regions with the largest count of businesses, accounting respectively for 17.4 per cent, 17.3 per cent and 11.0 per cent of all UK businesses. There has been little change since quarter 4 of 2012 apart from a slight increase in the proportion of UK businesses exporting from London.

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



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

## Rolling 12 Month Overview – Imports

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

### Partner country analysis – England

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

	Country	Year ending December 2013 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2012	% Total Imports in year ending December 2013
Top 5	Germany	48,384.1	45,451.8	6.5	14.2
	China	27,414.0	26,380.1	3.9	8.0
	Netherlands	26,176.6	24,647.8	6.2	7.7
	USA	25,333.2	26,215.9	-3.4	7.4
	France	20,009.9	19,110.8	4.7	5.9
	Others	193,585.4	203,012.7	-4.6	56.8
	Total EU	177,821.4	173,125.0	2.7	52.2
	Total Non-EU	163,081.9	171,694.0	-5.0	47.8
	Grand Total	340,903.3	344,819.0	-1.1	100.0

Note: 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

With England receiving the vast majority of the UK's imports by value, the pattern of imports to England largely determines that for the UK as a whole. Table 1b shows that the total value of imports to England decreased by 1.1 per cent during the year 2013. There was some change in England's top five import partner group during the year: imports from the USA decreased, moving the USA down to fourth position, while those from the Netherlands increased, moving the Netherlands up into third position. Norway has now dropped out of the top five and is replaced by France; imports from France rose by 4.7 per cent during the year.

Germany remains the top import partner for England by a wide margin. Imports from here have risen by 6.5 per cent during the year, the largest percentage increase among the top five. There was a large increase in goods from Germany within SITC

division 78 'Road vehicles'. China remains the second highest import partner with a 3.9 per cent annual increase in goods imported from here.

Non-EU partner countries accounted for 47.8 per cent of England's imports during 2013; this percentage has fallen slightly from 49.8 per cent in 2012. The growth rate in imports from the EU in 2013 was 2.7 per cent, compared with a decrease of 5.0 per cent for non-EU countries.

The second largest increase in import value among the top five partners was for the Netherlands (up 6.2 per cent), where imports from SITC division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment' rose by 23.6 per cent. Imports from China also increased over the year; this growth for China was primarily attributable to SITC division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' (up 7.3 per cent).

The 3.4 per cent decrease in imports from the USA was led by reductions in goods received from SITC division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' and division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles'; these decreases were offset by a rise in division 79 'Other transport equipment'.

After Germany and the Netherlands the partner country with the biggest increase in imports to England during the year was Spain (up 14.7 per cent). This increase was driven by a rise in goods imported from SITC division 78 'Road vehicles'.

The partner country where the value of imports decreased the most during the year was Norway (down 26.3 per cent). This was predominantly due to a fall in imports from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related material' (down 34.9 per cent). This large decrease has led to Norway moving down from the fifth to the seventh largest import partner for England over the last year. Belgium is now England's sixth largest import partner, with an increase of 3.3 per cent during the year.

## Partner country analysis – English regions

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

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

Note: 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

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

There have been a number of changes in the order and membership of the top five over the last year. For the North East, Belgium has moved down from second to eighth largest import partner, while China has moved up into fifth position. For the North West, the Netherlands has overtaken Germany to become the top import partner. For the East Midlands, Japan has moved up into fifth position, overtaking the Netherlands. For the West Midlands, Germany has become the top import partner, overtaking Norway. For the East, the Irish Republic has moved down from third to

seventh largest import partner, with the USA moving up from fourth to second position. For London, Norway and Switzerland have moved out of the top five, and the Netherlands has moved up into fifth position, while China has overtaken the USA to become the top import partner. For the South East, Belgium has overtaken the USA, moving up into third position. For the South West, France has moved out of the top five, while the United Arab Emirates has moved up into fifth position, and the Netherlands has moved up from fourth to second largest import partner, overtaking China and Germany.

Imports from Germany have risen for seven of the nine regions, with the highest growth rates in the West Midlands (up 12.9 per cent) and the South East (up 10.6 per cent). Imports from China have risen for all regions apart from the East and South East; the largest annual percentage increase was for London (up 12.3 per cent). Imports from the Netherlands increased for all regions apart from the North East and West Midlands; by far the highest growth rate was in the South West (up 33.9 per cent). Imports from the USA decreased for six of the nine regions, the exceptions being the East, the South West and Yorkshire & the Humber.

Five of the nine English regions saw an increase in the value of imports during the year, the exceptions being London (down 5.1 per cent), the North East (down 10.2 per cent), the South East (down 1.3 per cent) and West Midlands (down 4.6 per cent). The largest percentage increase was in the South West (up 8.2 per cent); this was driven by growth in the value of imports from the United Arab Emirates (up 80.0 per cent, with SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' up 83.7 per cent), the USA (up 16.6 per cent) and the Netherlands (up 33.9 per cent). The 10.2 per cent decrease in imports to the North East stemmed primarily from a decline in goods coming from Japan (down 32.7 per cent) and Belgium (down 42.3 per cent).

England's import trade continues to be dominated by the South East and London, although both these regions experienced negative growth rates. The South East accounted for 26.2 per cent of England's imports by value during the year, while London accounted for 21.0 per cent. London's imports declined in value by 5.1 per cent, the largest value decreases occurring in imports from Norway (SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' down 58.9 per cent) and Sweden (SITC division 33 down 70.2 per cent). For the South East there was a decrease in imports of 1.3 per cent. Here, the decrease was driven by a reduction in goods coming from Russia (SITC division 33 down 46.7 per cent), the USA (SITC division

54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' down 55.1 per cent) and Norway (SITC division 33 down 36.1 per cent); these decreases were partly offset by increases in imports to the South East from Germany (SITC division 78 'Road vehicles' up 18.2 per cent) and Equatorial Guinea, where imports soared from virtually nil in 2012 to £976 million in 2013.

For the majority of regions most of the import value comes from goods received from within the EU; the only exceptions are London and the South West. The EU market share increased in all regions apart from the East during the year. For the East, although there was a 0.5 per cent increase in EU imports, this was coupled with a 3.4 per cent increase in imports from non-EU partners; the non-EU increase came mainly from Norway (up 53.6 per cent) and the USA (up 16.8 per cent). Six of the nine regions saw a decrease in non-EU imports over the year, the only exceptions being the East, the East Midlands and the South West.

### **Partner country analysis – Wales**

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

	<b>Country</b>	<b>Year ending December 2013 Total £ millions</b>	<b>Year ending December 2012 Total £ millions</b>	<b>% Change from December 2012</b>	<b>% Total Imports in year ending December 2013</b>
Top 5	Canada	833.1	788.2	5.7	11.1
	Germany	832.6	806.0	3.3	11.1
	USA	638.3	707.8	-9.8	8.5
	France	609.6	599.8	1.6	8.1
	China	567.5	473.7	19.8	7.5
	Others	4,044.3	4,294.0	-5.8	53.7
	Total EU	3,464.9	3,365.2	3.0	46.0
	Total Non-EU	4,060.4	4,304.3	-5.7	54.0
	Grand Total	7,525.4	7,669.5	-1.9	100.0

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

Imports to Wales decreased in value by 1.9 per cent during the year, the largest percentage decline among the four UK countries. This decrease was driven by reductions in goods from non-EU partners, the largest value decreases coming from Australia (down 62.2 per cent), Russia (down 34.6 per cent), South Africa (down 35.8

per cent) and Brazil (down 20.8 per cent). For Australia much of the reduction has been in goods from SITC division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes'. For Russia the decrease was led by reductions in SITC divisions 67 'Iron & steel' and 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap'; for both Brazil and South Africa the largest decrease was also in division 28.

The only decline in import value among the top five partners was for the USA (down 9.8 per cent). This reduction was driven by decreases in goods coming from SITC division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes' and division 67 'Iron & steel'.

The largest increase in imports, both in value and percentage terms, was for China (up 19.8 per cent); this rise was contributed mainly by division 52 'Inorganic chemicals' and division 79 'Other transport equipment'. For Canada, Wales' top import partner, the 5.7 per cent increase in imports over the year was led by growth in division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap'.

Despite the overall reduction in imports for Wales, goods coming from the EU have increased in value over the year (up 3.0 per cent). This recovery follows a large decline in EU imports to Wales during 2012. Imports from the most dominant EU partners – Germany and France – increased during the year, with the largest rises in SITC division 78 'Road vehicles' (Germany) and division 55 'Essential oils & perfume materials' (France). The EU country with the largest increase in imports to Wales was Belgium (up 20.2 per cent), with SITC division 05 'Vegetables & fruit' almost trebling in value.



## Partner country analysis – Scotland

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

	Country	Year ending December 2013 Total £ millions	Year ending December 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2012	% Total Imports in year ending December 2013
Top 5	USA	1,971.2	2,129.8	-7.4	13.1
	Norway	1,510.5	1,804.0	-16.3	10.0
	China	1,166.3	1,139.3	2.4	7.7
	Netherlands	942.1	905.2	4.1	6.3
	Germany	913.4	916.9	-0.4	6.1
	Others	8,549.0	7,932.5	7.8	56.8
	Total EU	5,205.3	5,059.1	2.9	34.6
	Total Non-EU	9,847.1	9,768.7	0.8	65.4
	Grand Total	15,052.4	14,827.8	1.5	100.0

Note: 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Imports to Scotland have increased in value by 1.5 per cent during the year, despite a decrease in imports for three of the top five partners. Over the last year, a decline in imports from Germany together with an increase in imports from the Netherlands has resulted in the Netherlands moving up from fifth to fourth largest import partner for Scotland. Imports from EU partners have increased at a higher rate than those from outside the EU, although non-EU partners still supply almost two-thirds of Scotland's imports by value.

The USA remains Scotland's top import partner, despite a decrease in imports of 7.4 per cent over the last year. Imports from the USA that reduced the most in value were from SITC division 87 'Professional, scientific & controlling instruments & apparatus'.

Imports from Norway decreased by 16.3 per cent during the year; this was the largest value decrease among Scotland's partner countries. Most of the reduction came from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'. This has reduced Norway's share of Scotland's import market to 10.0 per cent compared with 12.2 per cent a year ago.

Scotland's imports from China have risen by 2.4 per cent during the year, with the largest increase contributed by SITC division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' (up 24.5 per cent). The 4.1 per cent rise in imports from the Netherlands during the year was led by SITC division 08 'Feeding stuff for animals', which more than trebled in value.

Outside of the top five partners, Scotland saw its largest increases in imports from Qatar (up more than ten-fold during the year, mainly due to division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment'), Singapore (up 43.1 per cent, with SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment' increasing the most) and Nigeria (up 15.7 per cent, mainly due to a large rise for division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials').

After Norway and the USA the largest value decreases during the 12 months were for Sri Lanka (down 46.7 per cent) and Russia (down 17.2 per cent). For both these partners the decline was mainly the result of reductions in SITC division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes'.

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

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

	<b>Country</b>	<b>Year ending December 2013 Total £ millions</b>	<b>Year ending December 2012 Total £ millions</b>	<b>% Change from December 2012</b>	<b>% Total Imports in year ending December 2013</b>
Top 5	Irish Republic	1,620.7	1,526.6	6.2	27.9
	China	997.0	938.4	6.2	17.2
	USA	424.2	436.2	-2.8	7.3
	Germany	325.8	324.9	0.3	5.6
	Netherlands	308.0	307.4	0.2	5.3
	Others	2,131.0	2,156.5	-1.2	36.7
	Total EU	3,204.0	3,180.7	0.7	55.2
	Total Non-EU	2,602.7	2,509.4	3.7	44.8
	Grand Total	5,806.7	5,690.0	2.1	100.0

Note: 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 5b shows that the majority of imports to Northern Ireland come from EU partners; the proportion of imports coming from the EU is higher than in England, Wales and Scotland. However, in terms of growth, EU imports were outstripped by non-EU imports during the year, with goods from the EU rising by only 0.7 per cent in value compared to 3.7 per cent for non-EU partners. The most dominant import partner in value terms is the Irish Republic; a growth of 6.2 per cent in imports from here during the year has increased the Irish Republic's share of Northern Ireland's import market.

Northern Ireland has seen a 2.1 per cent increase in the value of its imports during the year; this was the largest rise of the four UK countries. The increase was led by growth in imports from the Irish Republic (SITC division 74 'General industrial machinery & equipment' more than doubling in value) and China (SITC division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' up 5.3 per cent). However, these increases were offset to some degree by large reductions in goods coming from France (down 25.0 per cent) and Spain (down 36.9 per cent). For France the decline was led by SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (down 31.1 per cent), while for Spain the largest reduction was in goods from SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment' (down 98.7 per cent).

The USA was the only top five import partner with a decrease in imports to Northern Ireland during the year. This was largely due to a decline in goods coming from SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (down 22.1 per cent).

After France and Spain, the largest decreases were in imports from Turkey (down 11.0 per cent) and Poland (down 22.3 per cent). After the Irish Republic and China, the biggest increases were in imports from Belgium (up 27.6 per cent) and India (up 18.5 per cent). For Belgium the increase was driven by SITC division 57 'Plastics in primary forms', while for India the largest rise was in SITC division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories'.

## Commodity analysis - England

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

SITC section	Description	Year to December 2013 Total £ millions	Year to December 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2012	% Total Imports in year ending December 2013
7	Machinery & transport equipment	122,562.8	116,232.1	5.4	36.0
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	53,222.7	52,625.8	1.1	15.6
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	47,048.6	53,571.6	-12.2	13.8
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	39,170.1	42,747.9	-8.4	11.5
5	Chemicals & related products	37,208.4	39,879.7	-6.7	10.9
	Other SITCs	41,690.7	39,761.9	4.9	12.2
	All SITCs	340,903.3	344,819.0	-1.1	100.0

Note: 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 6b shows that section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' continues to dominate England's imports, accounting for 36.0 per cent of total import value; this proportion has risen over the past year. Imports from section 7 have increased by 5.4 per cent during the year, the largest increases coming from SITC division 78 'Road vehicles' (up 11.5 per cent) and division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment' (up 4.0 per cent); these increases were led by goods coming from Germany (division 78) and the Netherlands (division 76).

Section 8 was the only other top five section to increase in value during the year (up 1.1 per cent). The largest rises were in division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' (up 3.5 per cent, with imports from China up 7.3 per cent) and division 87 'Professional, scientific & controlling instruments & apparatus' (up 7.4 per cent, with imports from Germany up 13.0 per cent). However, these increases were balanced by a decrease in division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (down 5.5 per cent, with imports from the USA down 17.3 per cent).

Section 3 imports declined in value by 12.2 per cent during the year, the largest value and percentage decrease of all the SITC sections. This was largely due to a

reduction of 13.5 per cent in division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials', with imports from Norway losing the most value (down 34.9 per cent). Division 33 accounted for 11.7 per cent of England's total imports in 2013, down from 13.3 per cent in 2012, although it still remains the most valuable import commodity at division level.

Section 6 imports decreased by 8.4 per cent during the year. The largest decreases were in SITC division 68 'Non-ferrous metals' (down 23.7 per cent, with large reductions in imports from Switzerland). For section 5, the majority of the 6.7 per cent annual decrease was contributed by division 51 'Organic chemicals' (down 23.4 per cent).

Twenty-four of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in import value over the 12 months. The largest division-level value decreases were contributed by divisions 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials', 68 'Non-ferrous metals' and 51 'Organic chemicals' (see above). The largest division-level value increases were in imports of division 78 'Road vehicles' and 76 'Telecomms & sound-recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment' (see above), followed by division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances' (up 4.1 per cent).

## Commodity analysis – English regions

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

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

Note: 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 7b shows the top five import sections by value for the English regions. There has been little change in the order and membership of the top five sections since the end of 2012. The North East has seen a large decline in imports from section 8, with this section moving down from second highest to fourth highest section during the year; section 2 has become the fifth highest values import commodity group for the North East, exceeding section 3. For Yorkshire & the Humber section 8 has become the highest valued import section, exceeding section 7. For the East Midlands section 0 has moved up into fourth position, ahead of section 5.

Section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' remains the dominant section for imports in six of the nine regions. Seven regions have seen an increase in import value for section 7 during the year, the only exceptions being the North East (down

13.3 per cent) and Yorkshire & the Humber (down 3.2 per cent). The largest value increase was for London (up 21.1 per cent with division 79 'Other transport equipment' more than doubling in value). The largest value decrease for section 7 was in imports to the North East (down 13.3 per cent, with division 78 'Road vehicles' down 19.3 per cent). The South East remains by far the most dominant region for imports of section 7, accounting for 37.6 per cent of England's imports within this section. There was an increase of 2.9 per cent in section 7 imports to the South East during the last year; the largest rise came from division 78 (up 14.8 per cent) where imports from Germany increased substantially during 2013.

Imports from section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' increased for seven of the nine regions, the exceptions being London and the North East. The biggest value increase was in the West Midlands (up 6.4 per cent) where the largest rise was in division 87 'Professional, scientific & controlling instruments & apparatus' (up 18.8 per cent) with the largest increases in goods coming from the USA. The decreases in section 8 imports for London were led by a reduction in division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' while for the North East the largest reduction was in division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories'.

For section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials', import value declined during the year for six of the nine regions. The largest value decreases were in the West Midlands (down 31.4 per cent), London (down 10.0 per cent) and the South East (down 13.4 per cent). For these three regions the reductions were largely due to a fall in imports of SITC division 33 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials'. The three regions where section 3 imports increased were the East Midlands (up 6.7 per cent), Yorkshire & the Humber (up 7.8 per cent) and the North West (up 4.6 per cent). The largest value increase was for the North West, driven by growth in imports of division 33 from Russia.

Imports from section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' decreased for five of the nine regions, the exceptions being the East Midlands (up 3.1 per cent), the North East (up 4.2 per cent), the South East (up 1.6 per cent) and the South West (up 1.6 per cent). The largest value increase was for the East Midlands, with most of the growth in SITC division 69 'Manufactures of metal' (up 8.2 per cent). The largest value decrease in imports from section 6 was for London (down 21.2 per cent); here, most of the decline was in division 68 'Non-ferrous metals' (down 33.8 per cent, with a large reduction in goods coming from Switzerland).

For section 5 'Chemicals & related products' the South East, the North West and the East remain the top importing regions. The South East and the North West saw annual decreases of 8.6 per cent and 8.7 per cent respectively in imports from this section, while the East saw a marginal increase of 0.3 per cent. Within section 5, the South East and North West both experienced their largest decrease in division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products'; for the South East this was primarily in goods coming from the USA, while for the North West the largest reduction was in imports from Israel. For the East there was a very large decline in imports of division 51 'Organic chemicals' from the Irish Republic (down 79.4 per cent), although imports of this division from most other partner countries increased over the year.

All nine English regions experienced an increase in imports from section 0 'Food & live animals' during the year. All regions received rises in imports of division 05 'Vegetables & fruit'. The South East, London and the East are the dominant importing regions for division 05; for these regions imports increased by 6.4 per cent, 8.8 per cent and 5.4 per cent respectively. These increases may have been triggered by the challenging weather conditions in the UK in 2012-13 which have resulted in smaller than usual fruit and vegetable crops. All regions apart from Yorkshire & the Humber also received substantial increases in imports of division 04 'cereals & cereal preparations' during 2013; this is also likely to have been caused by the adverse UK weather conditions in 2012 which reduced the national cereal harvest.



## Commodity analysis – Wales

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

SITC section	Description	Year to December 2013 Total £ millions	Year to December 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2012	% Total Imports in year ending December 2013
7	Machinery & transport equipment	1,825.7	1,513.5	20.6	24.3
2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	1,586.3	1,694.0	-6.4	21.1
5	Chemicals & related products	1,393.3	1,307.7	6.5	18.5
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1,356.9	1,751.7	-22.5	18.0
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	587.6	585.9	0.3	7.8
	Other SITCs	775.7	816.6	-5	10.3
	All SITCs	7,525.4	7,669.5	-1.9	100.0

Note: 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 8b shows that imports to Wales increased in three of the top five sections during 2013. The largest increase was for section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' (up 20.6 per cent); this marks a recovery following the large decrease in imports from this section during 2012. Section 7 has now become the highest valued import section for Wales, moving up from third highest a year ago. In contrast, section 6 saw a decrease of 22.5 per cent in import value over the year and moved from top import section in 2012 to only fourth highest in 2013.

The large increase in imports from section 7 was driven by a rise in division 78 'Road vehicles' (up 48.6 per cent), mainly in goods coming from Germany. There were also substantial increases in division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances' (up 12.8 per cent), division 79 'Other transport equipment' (which more than doubled in value during the year) and division 75 'Office machines and automatic data processing machines' (up 26.5 per cent).

Imports from section 2 'Crude materials' decreased in value by 6.4 per cent during the year; this was a smaller decline than the 17.1 per cent reduction seen in 2012. Most of this decrease was due to division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' (down 7.1 per cent, with a fall in goods coming from South Africa).

The 6.5 per cent rise in the value of imports from section 5 'Chemicals & related products' during 2013 was a contrast to the decrease in imports of this commodity group in 2012. The largest increases in 2013 were in division 55 'Essential oils & perfume materials' (up 10.6 per cent) and division 57 'Plastics in primary forms' (up 14.3 per cent).

The large decline in imports from section 6 during 2013 follows a 9.5 per cent decrease for this section in 2012. The decline in this section over the last year was driven by division 67 'Iron & steel' (down 49.6 per cent), chiefly in goods coming from Germany and the Netherlands.

Twenty-five of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in import value during the year, the largest decreases coming from division 67 'Iron & steel' and division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' (see above), followed by division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes' (down 21.4 per cent). The largest increases at division level were in division 78 'Road vehicles', division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances' and division 79 'Other transport equipment' (see paragraph 2 for detail).

### **Commodity analysis – Scotland**

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

SITC section	Description	Year to December 2013 Total £ millions	Year to December 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2012	% Total Imports in year ending December 2013
7	Machinery & transport equipment	5,455.1	5,093.9	7.1	36.2
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	3,050.7	3,143.1	-2.9	20.3
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,099.7	1,977.3	6.2	13.9
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,576.5	1,769.3	-10.9	10.5
0	Food & live animals	1,246.5	1,211.2	2.9	8.3
	Other SITCs	1,623.9	1,632.9	-0.5	10.8
	All SITCs	15,052.4	14,827.8	1.5	100.0

Note: 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 9b shows that Scotland's imports continue to be dominated by goods from SITC section 7 with imports from this section increasing by 7.1 per cent during the year. This was mainly due to a rise in imports of SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment' (up 73.6 per cent), with large increases in goods coming from Singapore and Norway.

Scotland saw increases in the value of imports during the year for three of the top five SITC sections. Section 7 increased most in value, followed by section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' (up 6.2 per cent). The growth in section 6 was led by division 64 'Paper, paperboard & manufactures thereof' (up 16.0 per cent, with the largest rise in goods coming from Finland).

Section 0 'Food & live animals' increased in value by 2.9 per cent during the 12 month period. The largest increases were in imports of division 08 'Feeding stuff for animals' (up 41.7 per cent) and division 04 'Cereals & cereal preparations' (up 56.6 per cent). For both these commodities the rise in imports may be due to the poor UK harvest of cereals and other crops in 2012 due to challenging weather conditions.

The largest section-level value decrease during the year was in imports of section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (down 10.9 per cent); this was in contrast to the large increase in this section seen in 2012. Much of the decline during 2013 was in division 87 'Professional, scientific & controlling instruments & apparatus' (down 15.6 per cent) and division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (down 22.9 per cent); for both these divisions the decreases were primarily in goods from the USA.

Of the sixty-five SITC divisions, 60 per cent increased in import value during the year. After division 79 'Other transport equipment' the largest value increase was in division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up 6.9 per cent) where imports from Nigeria increased substantially. The biggest decreases at division level were in division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes' (down 18.4 per cent) and division 34 'Gas, natural & manufactured' (down 81.5 per cent). The overall decrease in imports of section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' during 2013 is in contrast to the large annual increases for this section seen in 2011 and 2012.

## Commodity analysis – Northern Ireland

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

SITC section	Description	Year to December 2013 Total £ millions	Year to December 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2012	% Total Imports in year ending December 2013
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,579.6	1,552.8	1.7	27.2
7	Machinery & transport equipment	1,087.9	1,135.8	-4.2	18.7
0	Food & live animals	1,007.5	1,009.0	-0.1	17.4
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	807.0	756.9	6.6	13.9
5	Chemicals & related products	546.4	492.1	11.0	9.4
	Other SITCs	778.2	743.5	4.7	13.4
	All SITCs	5,806.7	5,690.0	2.1	100.0

Note: 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' remains Northern Ireland's top import section by value, with a 27.2 per cent share of the import market. There was a 1.7 per cent increase in the value of imports from section 8 over the year; the largest rise was in division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' (up 3.8 per cent), mainly in goods coming from India and China.

Northern Ireland experienced decreases in imports for two of the top five sections during the year. The largest value decrease was in section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' (down 4.2 per cent), where the decline was led by a reduction in imports of division 79 'Other transport equipment' coming from Spain (down 98.7 per cent). There was a marginal reduction in imports from section 0 'Food & live animals' during the year; here, a decrease in imports of division 04 'Cereals & cereal preparations' (down 21.0 per cent) was balanced by an increase in division 01 'Meat & meat preparations' (up 13.5 per cent). Outside of the top five there was an 8.3 per cent decrease in imports of section 1 'Beverages & tobacco', led by a reduction in goods from division 11 'Beverages' coming from France and the Netherlands.

The largest value increase during the year was in section 5 'Chemicals & related products' (up 11.0 per cent). Here, the rise was led by increases in imports of division 58 'Plastics in non-primary forms' coming from the Irish Republic and division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' coming from Switzerland and India.

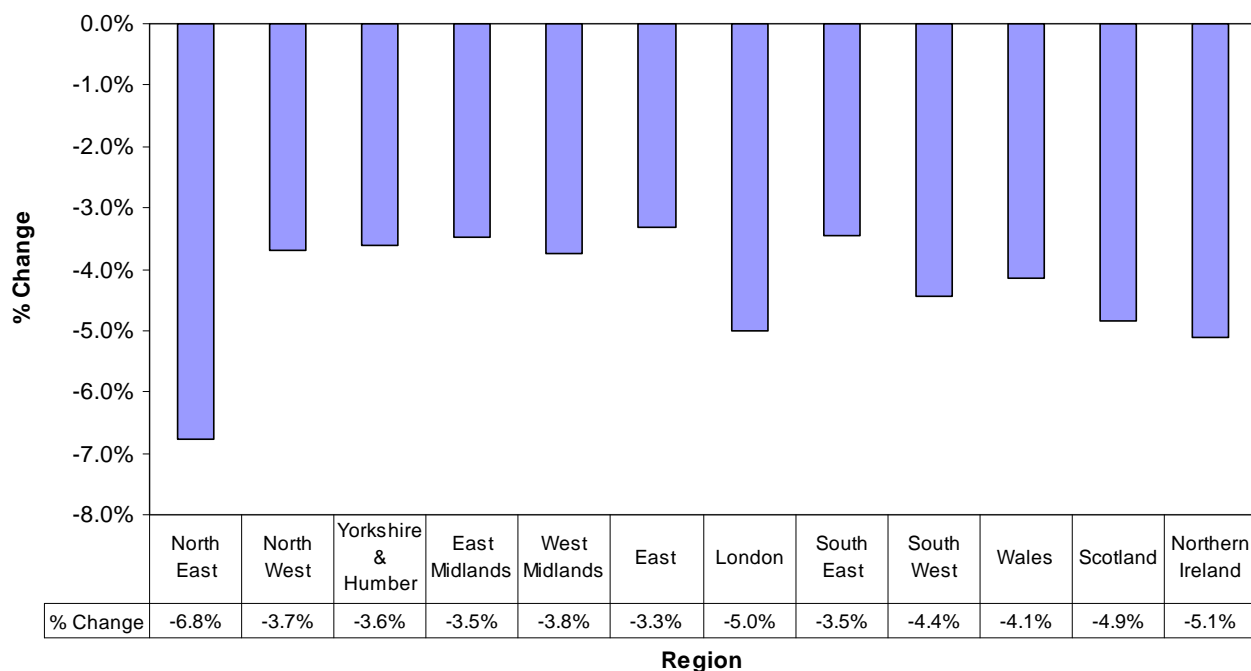
More than half of the SITC divisions increased in value during the year. The largest increases in import value at division level were in division 74 'General industrial machinery & equipment' (up 34.3 per cent) and division 01 'Meat & meat preparations' (see above). The largest value decreases at division level were in division 79 'Other transport equipment' (see above), followed by division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (down 16.4 per cent).

### **Number of Businesses – Imports**

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

Figure 3b shows the percentage change in the number of importers in the UK between quarter 4 2012 and quarter 4 2013.

**Fig 3b: Percentage Change in Number of Importers between Q4 2012 and Q4 2013**



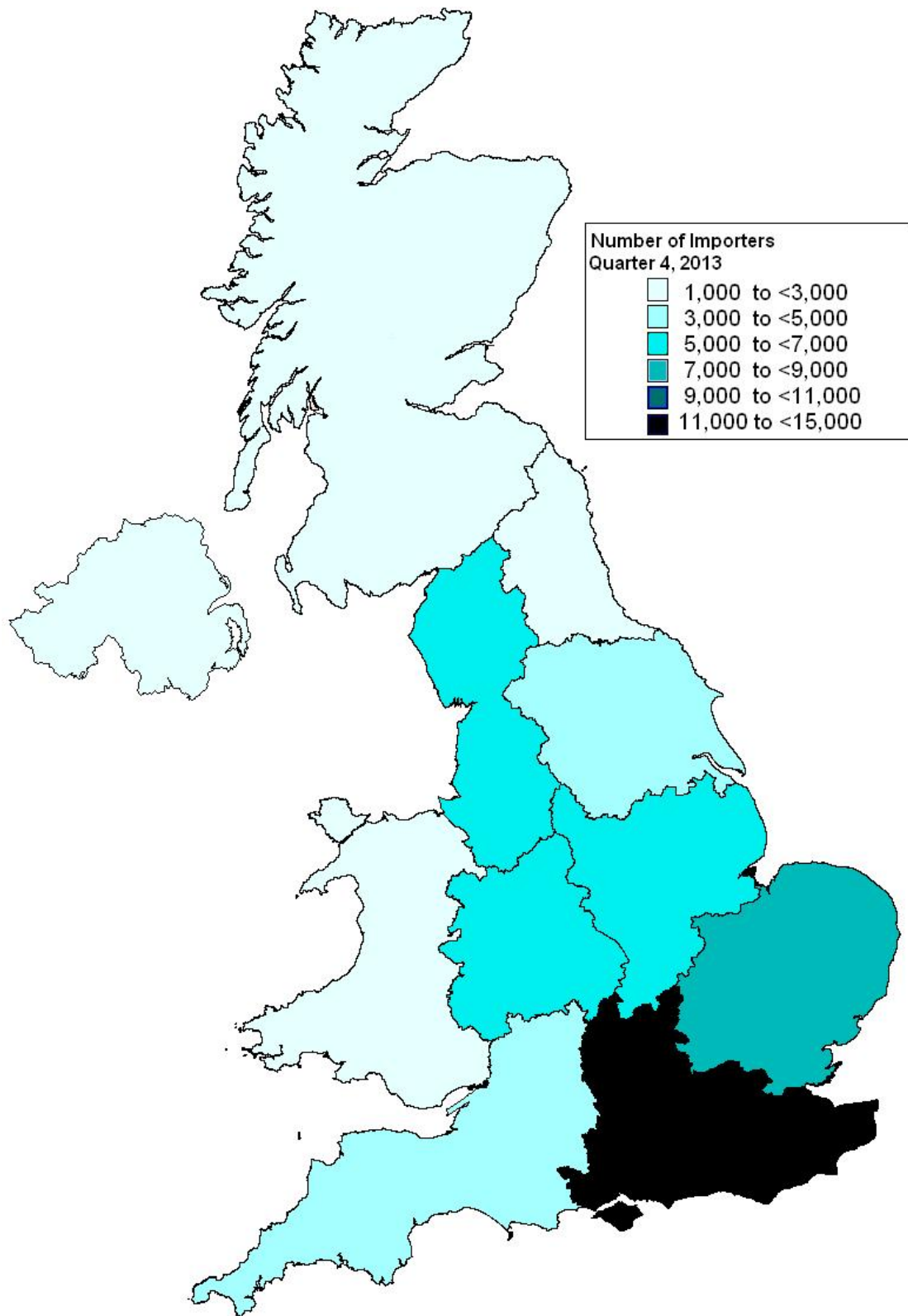
Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

In the UK as a whole, the number of importing businesses decreased by 4.1 per cent between quarter 4 2012 and quarter 4 2013 from 68,449 to 65,664.

Figure 3b shows that the number of active importers decreased in all of the twelve UK regions between quarter 4 2012 and quarter 4 2013. The greatest percentage decreases were in the North East (down 6.8 per cent), Northern Ireland (down 5.1 per cent) and London (down 5.0 per cent). The smallest decrease was for the East (down 3.3 per cent).

Figure 4b shows the total number of active UK importers in each region for quarter 4, 2013. London, the South East and the East are the three regions with the largest count of importers, accounting for 19.4 per cent, 17.2 per cent and 10.8 per cent of all UK importers respectively. The North East has the smallest number of importing businesses for the quarter, making up 2.0 per cent of all UK importers. The proportion of UK importers in each region has remained virtually the same over the past year, apart from a slight decrease for the London region.

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



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

## Notes

1. The latest statistics on Regional Trade were released on 06 March 2014 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 2013. At the same time revisions for all previously published regional data for 2013 are also being released. This release also includes some revisions to 2008-2012 data to rectify a processing error. The error has predominantly resulted in some EU and non-EU export trade being allocated to incorrect regions. The effect of rectifying the error has been to reallocate this trade to the proper region, namely the region where the main reporting unit of the business is located. In addition, some small revisions have been made to 2012 EU imports and EU exports trade to address a further processing error that affected the regional distribution of below-threshold trade.
2. Data is taken primarily from Customs systems (for non-EU trade) and the Intrastat survey (for EU trade). HMRC does not receive information in respect of goods that move wholly within the UK, nor in intangibles and services such as banking or tourism. Trade is mainly allocated to a region by the postcode associated with a company's VAT registration.
3. Some adjustments have been necessary in the production of export statistics by region to ensure manufacturing that takes place at branch premises is properly allocated to the region where the branch is situated. This adjustment is based on the results of periodic surveys of the top 200 businesses by value of exports (both EU and non-EU), to determine the values and proportions of trade generated by each branch. Therefore, for businesses who have provided a response to the survey, their trade is split by value to various regions in line with the information provided by the survey. For all other businesses the region where the head office is located is used by default unless the export is assigned to a specific branch. For imports, such adjustments cannot be made, as businesses would not be able to produce a reasonable assessment of the final regional destination for their goods. Unlike exports where the manufacture of goods is typically more regionally concentrated, imports are based on the sale of goods, which is far more regionally dispersed.
4. Not all trade can be assigned to one of the 9 English Regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Where appropriate, this is referred to in the tables as the 'Unknown region' and includes:



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

More information can be found in the RTS methodology document.

[https://www.uktradeinfo.com/Statistics/NonEUOverseasTrade/AboutOverseasTradeStatistics/User%20support/RTS\\_Methodology\\_Revision\\_2013.pdf](https://www.uktradeinfo.com/Statistics/NonEUOverseasTrade/AboutOverseasTradeStatistics/User%20support/RTS_Methodology_Revision_2013.pdf)

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

recorded trade for regions containing branches of a business is reduced, while the recorded trade for regions containing the head office(s) of that business increases.

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

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

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

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*The OTS and RTS data series are published in HMRC's trade data website [www.uktradeinfo.com](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.*

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