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HM Revenue and Customs

Regional Trade Statistics First Quarter 2014

Summary

- In the year to March 2014, 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 North West, London and Wales, with a rise in the remaining eight 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 and imports both decreased in Quarter 1 2014 compared with Quarter 1 2013. The value of exports fell for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland between Quarter 1 2013 and Quarter 1 2014; the value of imports rose for Scotland and Northern Ireland but fell for England and Wales. Exports rose in the North East, the West Midlands and the East but decreased in all other English regions. Imports decreased in the North East, the North West, London and the South West but increased in all other English regions.
- The number of exporters fell between Quarter 1 2013 and Quarter 1 2014 in all UK regions. The number of importers also decreased in all UK regions.
- For England, the value of exports to China increased most in the year ending March 2014; 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 Germany (England), Norway (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 'Other transport equipment' (Northern Ireland).
- For imports, the commodity groups with the largest annual value increases were 'Road vehicles' (England), 'Other transport equipment' (Scotland), 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances' (Wales) and 'Meat & meat preparations' (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. 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 located¹.

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.

Although trade in non-monetary gold (NMG) is now included in OTS data (see [News Item](#) published on www.uktradeinfo.com on 12 February 2014), this trade will continue to be excluded from RTS data. This is because the majority of NMG trade would be assigned to the London region and this would distort the RTS figures. The following reconciliation table shows the differences at total trade level between OTS and RTS by quantifying the elements of OTS that are excluded from RTS: NMG, estimates for late response and Missing Trader Intra-Community fraud (MTIC):

RTS/OTS Reconciliation Table Quarter 1, 2014

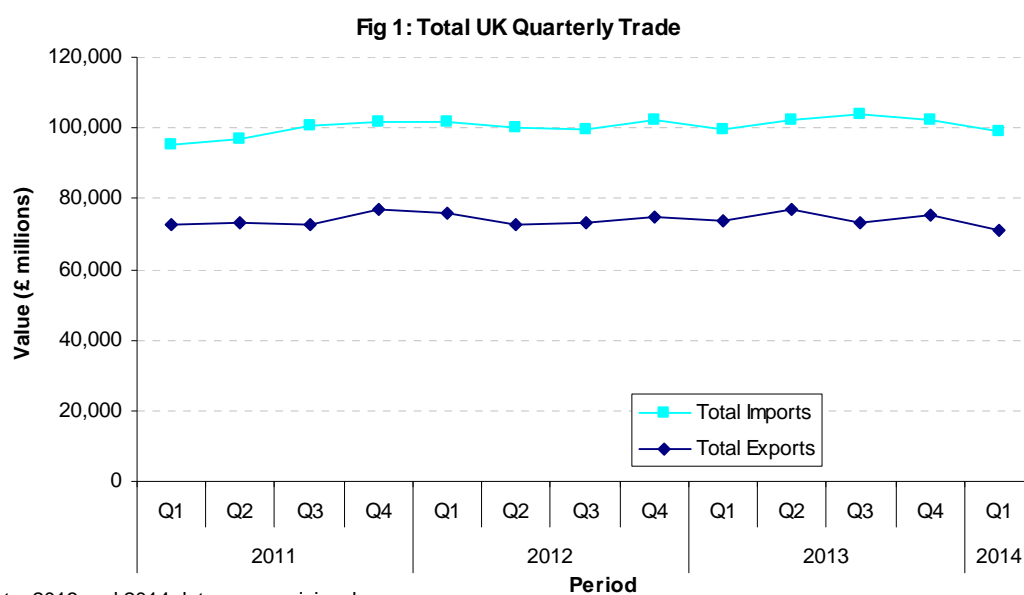
	Non-EU Imports £ millions	EU Imports £ millions	Non-EU Exports £ millions	EU Exports £ millions
OTS total value	46,606.4	54,934.5	42,463.3	37,511.5
RTS total value	45,048.7	53,742.0	34,269.1	36,975.8
Allocated to a region	41,519.3	47,614.3	31,350.4	30,891.5
Unknown region	3,529.3	6,127.8	2,918.7	6,084.3
MTIC estimate	-	269.6	-	-
Late response estimate	-	773.4	-	512.5
Non-monetary gold	1,557.7	149.5	8,194.2	23.2
RTS total plus exclusions¹	46,606.4	54,934.5	42,463.3	37,511.5

Note 1: There may be rounding differences between the total shown and the sum of its components
Source: Regional Trade Statistics and Overseas Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

¹ See note 3

Overview of UK trade

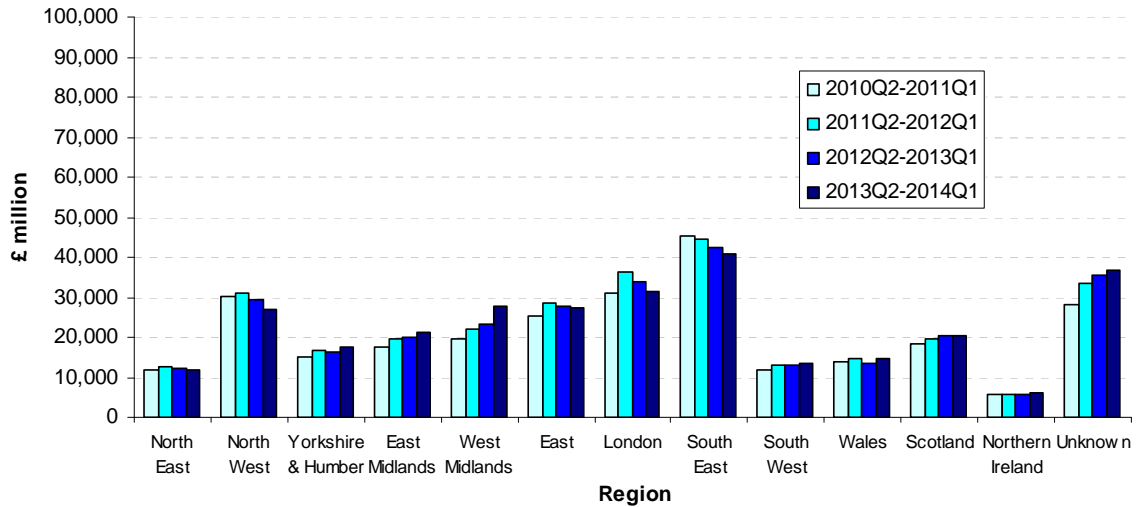
Figure 1 shows the quarterly values of imports to and exports from the UK since 2011. The value of imports decreased by 3.2 per cent during the first quarter of 2014, and the value of exports decreased by 5.3 per cent. This increased the trade deficit to £27.5 billion, 2.7 per cent higher than it was at the end of the previous quarter.



Overview - Exports

Figure 2a shows the total value of UK exports by region for the four annual periods ending March 2011, March 2012, March 2013 and March 2014.

Fig 2a: UK Exports by Region, 2010/11 - 2013/14



Note: 2013 and 2014 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 £296.6 billion in the year ending March 2014; this is a similar size increase to that reported at the end of the previous quarter. 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 0.1 per cent to £218.8 billion during the year, the largest value decrease coming from the ‘Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials’ sector. Exports from Scotland rose marginally by 0.2 per cent to £20.4 billion; the largest increase during the year was in Scotland’s exports from the ‘Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials’ sector. Exports from Wales rose by 9.9 per cent to £14.6 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’² amounted to £36.8 billion in the year ending March 2014, accounting for 12.4 per cent of UK exports by value.
- The South East continues to have the largest total export value of all the English regions. For the year ending March 2014 this was £41.0 billion, 18.7 per cent of England’s total. The South East experienced a percentage decrease of 3.8 per

² See note 4

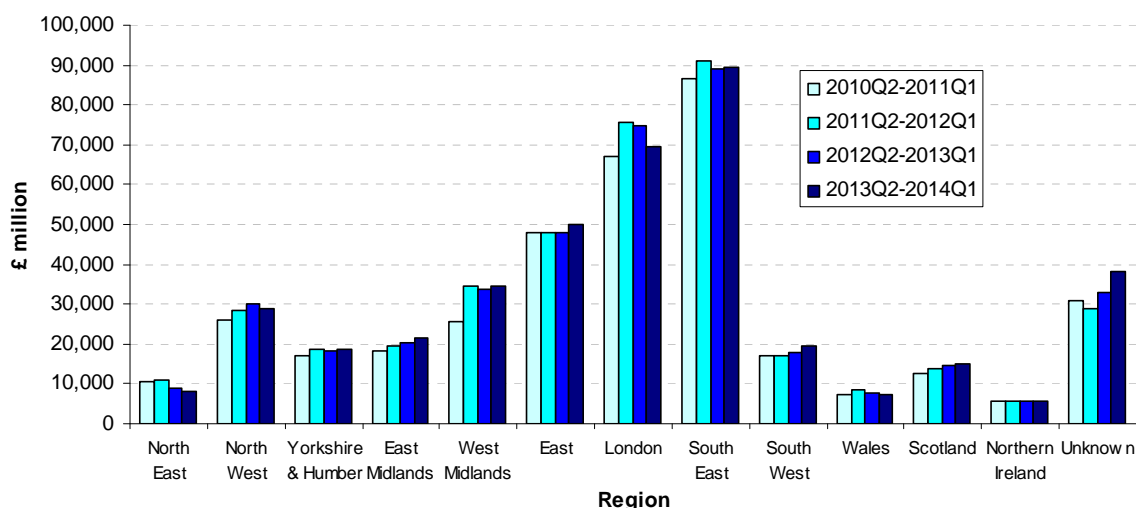
cent in export value over the annual period, while London's exports fell by 7.2 per cent.

- The North East had the smallest total value of exports, totalling £11.7 billion for the year ending March 2014; this was 5.4 per cent of England's total. This region saw a decrease of 5.7 per cent in exports during the year.
- Year on year, the largest percentage increase in the English regions was for the West Midlands, whose exports increased by 19.3 per cent to £27.8 billion. This now makes the West Midlands the third largest exporting region in England after the South East and London. The North West has slipped from third to fifth largest exporting region following a fall of 8.7 per cent in exports during the year; this was the largest decrease among the English regions.

Overview - Imports

Figure 2b shows the total value of UK imports by region for the four annual periods ending March 2011, March 2012, March 2013 and March 2014.

Fig 2b: UK Imports by Region, 2010/11 - 2013/14



Note: 2013 and 2014 data are provisional
 Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

- The total annual value of UK imports for the year ending March 2014 increased by 1.3 per cent to £406.8 billion compared with the year ending March 2013. 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 and the North West during the year. The total value of imports to England fell marginally by 0.2 per cent to £340.2 billion during the year, the largest value decrease coming from the ‘Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material’ sector. The total value of imports to Wales fell by 1.7 per cent to £7.5 billion; this was again driven by decreases within the ‘Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material’ sector. The total value of imports to Scotland rose by 3.8 per cent to £15.2 billion; this was driven by an increase in imports from the ‘Machinery & transport equipment’ sector. Total imports to Northern Ireland rose by 4.0 per cent to £5.8 billion; this growth was led by increases in the ‘Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material’ and ‘Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials’ sectors. Imports allocated to the ‘Unknown region’³ amounted to £38.1 billion in the year to March 2014, accounting for 9.4 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 March 2014 this was £89.5 billion, 26.3 per cent of England’s total. The South East experienced marginal growth of 0.5 per cent in imports during the year, while imports to London decreased by 6.9 per cent.
- The largest year-on-year percentage increase among the English regions was for the East Midlands, where imports increased by 7.7 per cent to £21.7 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 8.2 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 with a positive trade balance (exports exceeding imports) for the year ending March 2014.

³ See note 4

Rolling 12 Month Overview - Exports

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

Partner country analysis - England

Table 1a: England - Top five export partners, year ending March 2014

	Country	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2013	% Total Exports in year ending March 2014
Top 5	USA	29,922.9	28,894.1	3.6	13.7
	Germany	22,551.8	24,512.6	-8.0	10.3
	France	16,034.7	16,793.1	-4.5	7.3
	Netherlands	14,367.5	14,178.0	1.3	6.6
	Irish Republic	11,278.6	11,090.8	1.7	5.2
	Others	124,609.3	123,603.4	0.8	57.0
	Total EU	106,416.8	108,696.5	-2.1	48.6
	Total Non-EU	112,347.9	110,375.6	1.8	51.4
	Grand Total	218,764.7	219,072.1	-0.1	100.0

Note: 2013 and 2014 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 1a shows that the total value of exports from England has declined by 0.1 per cent during the year ending March 2014. This is the third quarter in succession in which exports from England have been lower than in the same quarter of the previous year. 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 USA saw the largest percentage increase in value over the last 12 months (up 3.6 per cent); this was primarily due to growth within SITC division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (up 75.7 per cent). Germany's share of England's exports has declined from 11.2 per cent to 10.3 per cent during the year; there were large decreases in exports to Germany within SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' and division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products'.

England's exports to the EU have decreased by 2.1 per cent during the last year, while exports to non-EU countries have increased by 1.8 per cent. Exports to non-EU countries now account for 51.4 per cent of England's exports by value, compared

with 50.4 per cent a year ago. The EU partner countries where exports from England have decreased most are Germany (down 8.0 per cent), France (down 4.5 per cent) and Belgium (down 5.8 per cent); the largest decreases were in SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (Germany and France) and division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures' (Belgium). The EU partner countries where exports from England have increased most during the year are the Netherlands (up 1.3 per cent) and the Irish Republic (up 1.7 per cent).

The non-EU partner countries where exports from England decreased in value the most over the last 12 months were Switzerland (down 16.2 per cent) and Russia (down 9.4 per cent). The non-EU partner countries with the largest increase in value of goods exported from England were China (up 23.6 per cent), the USA (up 3.6 per cent) and Saudi Arabia (up 30.9 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'.

Partner country analysis - English regions

Table 2a: Top five export partners for the English regions, year ending March 2014

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

Note 2013 and 2014 data are provisional
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 2a shows the top five export trading partners for each of the English regions in the year ending March 2014. There have been a number of changes in the order of the top five partners over the last 12 months. For the North East, Spain has moved up from fifth to fourth largest export partner, overtaking Russia, although exports to both these countries have decreased during the year. For the North West, the USA

has overtaken Germany to become the top export partner, although exports to both these countries have declined. For the East Midlands, Belgium has moved up from fifth to third largest export partner ahead of Singapore and the Irish Republic. For the West Midlands, China has overtaken the USA to become the top export partner. For the East, the USA has overtaken Germany to become the top export partner, while the Netherlands has moved up to become the third largest export partner ahead of France. For London, India has moved up from tenth to third largest export partner ahead of Switzerland and the Irish Republic; Germany is now London's second largest export partner, despite a fall in exports here during the year. For the South West, the Netherlands has moved up 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 among the top three export partners for eight of the nine regions, the only exception being the North East. 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 exports from the North East to the Netherlands within this division have reduced in value by 2.7 per cent during the year.

In the year ending March 2014, export value decreased for five of the nine English regions and increased for the remaining four. The regions with the largest percentage increases were the West Midlands (up 19.3 per cent), Yorkshire & the Humber (up 6.5 per cent) and the South West (up 5.9 per cent). For the West Midlands the largest increases were in goods going to China (up 55.7 per cent) and the USA (up 25.4 per cent). For Yorkshire & the Humber the largest increase was for the USA (up 61.1 per cent), while for the South West the largest growth was in goods going to France (up 15.7 per cent) and Germany (up 7.3 per cent). The largest percentage decreases in exports were seen in the North West (down 8.7 per cent) and London (down 7.2 per cent). For the North West this was largely attributable to a sharp decrease in exports to Germany (down 35.0 per cent) and the USA (down 17.5 per cent) while for London the biggest losses were in exports to Switzerland (down 32.1 per cent) and Belgium (down 35.1 per cent). The other regions where exports

decreased were the North East (down 5.7 per cent), the South East (down 3.8 per cent) and the East (down 1.8 per cent). For the East much of the decline was due to a fall in exports to France (down 26.9 per cent) while for the North East the largest value decreases were in exports to the USA, Russia and France. For the South East the decline was driven by a reduction in goods going to Russia and the USA.

For England as a whole, exports to China had the largest rise of all the partner countries. Despite this, exports to China only increased for four of the nine English regions during the year. By far the largest increase was for the West Midlands, where exports of SITC division 78 'Road vehicles' to China rose by 70.1 per cent. Exports to Saudi Arabia have increased for seven of the nine regions. Exports to Qatar rose for six regions, with London and the East Midlands experiencing the largest percentage increases.

Exports to the major EU partners – Germany and France - have declined for five of the nine English regions over the past year. However, exports to the Netherlands and the Irish Republic have each increased for six 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 42.0 per cent). For the Irish Republic the biggest increase was in exports from the West Midlands (up 14.0 per cent), led by a large rise in SITC division 55 'Essential oils & perfume materials'.

Partner country analysis - Wales

Table 3a: Wales - Top five export partners, year ending March 2014

	Country	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2013	% Total Exports in year ending March 2014
Top 5	USA	2,992.9	2,985.2	0.3	20.4
	Irish Republic	1,761.8	1,543.0	14.2	12.0
	United Arab Emirates	1,217.9	706.7	72.3	8.3
	Germany	1,111.2	1,093.5	1.6	7.6
	Netherlands	835.9	793.6	5.3	5.7
	Others	6,729.2	6,209.0	8.4	45.9
	Total EU	6,414.3	6,015.0	6.6	43.8
	Total Non-EU	8,234.6	7,316.0	12.6	56.2
	Grand Total	14,648.9	13,331.0	9.9	100.0

Note: 2013 and 2014 data are provisional
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 3a shows that the total export value for Wales has increased by 9.9 per cent during the year ending March 2014; this was the largest increase of the four UK countries. Wales' top two partner countries remain the same as in the year ending March 2013, although the United Arab Emirates has moved up from fifth to third place over the last year. Exports have increased for all of the top five partners, with the largest percentage increase coming from the United Arab Emirates (up 72.3 per cent). The USA saw the smallest percentage increase during the year among the top five partners (up 0.3 per cent).

Non-EU partner countries continue to dominate the export market in Wales, receiving 56.2 per cent of goods exported; this percentage has increased from 54.9 per cent in the previous year. Exports to EU and non-EU partners have both increased over the year, although goods going to non-EU partners have risen at almost double the rate of those going to the EU. The USA's share of the export market in Wales has fallen from 22.4 per cent to 20.4 per cent over the past year; there were decreases in goods going to the USA from SITC division 78 'Road vehicles' (down 87.1 per cent), although this was offset by an increase in goods from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up 7.7 per cent). The Irish Republic remains Wales' second largest partner country, taking a 12.0 per cent share of its exports. The increase of 14.2 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 76.1 per cent).

The partner countries with the largest value decrease in exports from Wales over the year were Ecuador (down 45.5 per cent) and Switzerland (down 38.9 per cent). For Ecuador the decline was driven by SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down 45.9 per cent), while for Switzerland the largest reduction was in goods from SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (down 44.0 per cent).

The partner countries where export values increased most during the year were the United Arab Emirates and the Irish Republic (see above), followed by Qatar (up 49.0

per cent). For Qatar 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 March 2014

	Country	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2013	% Total Exports in year ending March 2014
Top 5	USA	3,061.8	3,169.0	-3.4	15.0
	France	1,318.4	1,410.3	-6.5	6.5
	Belgium	1,289.4	1,146.8	12.4	6.3
	Netherlands	1,229.4	1,350.1	-8.9	6.0
	Germany	1,229.0	1,245.7	-1.3	6.0
	Others	12,236.0	12,001.8	2.0	60.1
	Total EU	8,560.9	8,358.7	2.4	42.0
	Total Non-EU	11,803.0	11,965.1	-1.4	58.0
	Grand Total	20,363.9	20,323.7	0.2	100.0

Note: 2013 and 2014 data are provisional
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 4a shows that exports from Scotland rose marginally in value by 0.2 per cent during the year ending March 2014. 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 41.1 per cent to 42.0 per cent. This was mainly due to large increases in goods going to Belgium (up 12.4 per cent) and Sweden (up 40.8 per cent). In contrast, exports to the Netherlands declined by 8.9 per cent over the 12 months. While Scotland's top five export partner group remains the same as in the previous annual period, Belgium has moved up to become the third largest partner from fifth largest a year ago.

Exports to four of the top five partners for Scotland decreased in value during the year, the only exception being Belgium. Exports to Scotland's top partner, the USA, fell by 3.4 per cent, mainly due to reductions in goods from SITC division 59 'Chemical materials & products' and division 79 'Other transport equipment'. Scotland's exports to France decreased by 6.5 per cent, with the largest decline in SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down 88.6 per cent). The decrease for the Netherlands was led by a fall in SITC division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances' (down 66.9 per cent), while the 1.3 per cent decrease in goods going to Germany was driven by reductions in SITC division

51 'Organic chemicals' and division 11 'Beverages'. For Belgium, the only top five partner to see an increase, there was a large rise in goods from SITC division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures'.

After Belgium, the largest value increases among Scotland's exports were in goods going to Sweden (up 40.8 per cent), the United Arab Emirates (up 21.9 per cent), Saudi Arabia (up 39.5 per cent) and Latvia, where exports from Scotland doubled during the year.

After the Netherlands and the USA, the largest value decreases among Scotland's exports were in goods going to Singapore (down 14.2 per cent), followed by France and then Australia (down 24.1 per cent). For Singapore the decline was primarily in SITC division 11 'Beverages', while for Australia much of the reduction was contributed by SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment' and division 67 'Iron & steel'.

Partner country analysis – Northern Ireland

Table 5a: Northern Ireland - Top five export partners, year ending March 2014

	Country	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2013	% Total Exports in year ending March 2014
Top 5	Irish Republic	2,233.4	2,047.4	9.1	37.4
	USA	572.7	508.6	12.6	9.6
	Canada	360.2	347.7	3.6	6.0
	France	321.6	268.9	19.6	5.4
	Germany	282.6	217.5	29.9	4.7
	Others	2,203.1	2,225.6	-1.0	36.9
	Total EU	3,527.1	3,196.3	10.4	59.0
	Total Non-EU	2,446.4	2,419.4	1.1	41.0
	Grand Total	5,973.5	5,615.6	6.4	100.0

Note: 2013 and 2014 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 ending March 2014. The top five export partners have remained the same as in the previous annual period. The Irish Republic continues to

dominate Northern Ireland's export market; its share of Northern Ireland's exports increased from 36.5 per cent to 37.4 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 10.4 per cent over the year, while exports to non-EU partners increased by only 1.1 per cent. Although the growth in exports to the EU was mainly in goods going to the Irish Republic there were also considerable rises in exports to France (up 19.6 per cent) and Germany (up 29.9 per cent).

There were 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 rise was driven by SITC division 01 'Meat & meat preparations' (up 27.2 per cent) and SITC division 02 'Dairy products & birds' eggs' (up 18.8 per cent). The second largest value increase was for Germany; this was led by growth in SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment', which trebled in export value over the year.

The partner countries with the largest value decrease in exports from Northern Ireland were Saudi Arabia (down 24.3 per cent) and Australia (down 17.2 per cent). For both these partner countries the majority of the decline came from SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment'.

The largest increases in exports from Northern Ireland during the year were for the top five partner countries, excluding Canada. For the USA the growth was led by a rise in SITC division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products', while for France 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 were Spain (up 30.1 per cent) and Angola (up 89.6 per cent).

Commodity analysis - England

Table 6a: Top five commodities for export from England - year ending March 2014

SITC section	Description	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2013	% Total Exports in year ending March 2014
7	Machinery & transport equipment	91,159.7	86,782.8	5.0	41.7
5	Chemicals & related products	35,238.0	36,387.9	-3.2	16.1
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	31,817.5	30,715.1	3.6	14.5
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	24,786.0	25,715.8	-3.6	11.3
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	19,344.6	22,701.3	-14.8	8.8
	Other SITCs	16,418.9	16,769.2	-2.1	7.5
	All SITCs	218,764.7	219,072.1	-0.1	100.0

Note: 2013 and 2014 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 39.6 per cent to 41.7 per cent over the last year, with an increase of 5.0 per cent by value over 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 11.2 per cent, with exports to China up 44.5 per cent).

Exports decreased for three of the top five export commodity groups during the year. 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 14.8 per cent, with exports to Germany down 53.2 per cent). For section 5 'Chemicals & related products', the largest decreases were in division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (down 5.0 per cent), division 52 'Inorganic chemicals' (down 19.2 per cent) and division 51 'Organic chemicals' (down 8.1 per cent); for these divisions the largest value decreases were in exports to Germany (division 54) and the USA (divisions 51 and 52). For section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material', the largest decline was in division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures' (down 27.6 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 3.6 per cent); here, much of the increase was due to division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' (up 14.6 per cent, with exports to Germany up 21.4 per cent) and division 87 'Professional, scientific & controlling instruments & apparatus' (up 7.6 per cent, with exports to South Korea 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 14.6 per cent). Here, most of the reduction came from division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' (down 15.1 per cent).

Twenty-five of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in export value during the year. After divisions 33, 66, 54, 28, 52 and 51 (see above), the largest reduction was in division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (down 2.5 per cent). After division 78 the largest increase at division level was in division 71 'Power generating machinery equipment' (up 4.4 per cent).

Commodity analysis – English regions

Table 7a - Top five commodities for export from English regions, year ending March 2014

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

Table 7a shows the top five export SITC section commodity groups by value for the English regions. There has been very little change in the order of the top five commodity groups in the last 12 months. For the North East, section 0 has become the fifth largest export commodity group by value, overtaking section 3. For Yorkshire & the Humber section 5 has become the highest valued commodity group for exports, moving up from fourth position a year ago. The top five commodity groups have remained the same for the other seven regions.

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 72.2 per cent, 68.6 per cent and 63.0 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 38.6 per cent and 46.9 per cent respectively); for the East Midlands this was primarily 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 10.3 per cent) with a substantial rise in goods going to France.

The North West remains the top English region for exports within section 5 'Chemicals and related products', accounting for 25.8 per cent of England's exports from this section. However, this share has reduced over the past year, with a 21.6 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 34.8 per cent), with much of the reduction in goods going to Germany. In contrast, the South East has seen a 1.0 per cent increase in exports from section 5 during the year, increasing its share of England's exports from this section to 23.9 per cent. The largest percentage increase in section 5 exports was for Yorkshire & the Humber (up 66.6 per cent); here, most of the growth came from division 54 where exports increased more than six-fold during the year.

The East, the South East and Yorkshire & the Humber are the dominant regions for exports within section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials'. The South East was the only one of these three regions to see an increase in section 3 exports during the year (up 9.4 per cent), largely due to growth in division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'; there were large increases in division 33 exports from the South East to China, the Netherlands and France during the year. Six of the nine regions saw substantial decreases in the value of section 3 exports over the year. The largest value decrease was for London (down 37.8 per cent), where much of the decline was in exports from division 33 going to South Korea and Germany.

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 26.3 per cent and 37.3 per cent of England's total exports in these two sections respectively. However, London saw a 17.6 per cent decrease in exports from section 6 during the year; this was mainly due to a 34.8 per cent fall in exports from division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures', with a large decline in goods going to Belgium. Four of the regions saw increases in section 6 exports; the most substantial rise was for the East (up 16.7 per cent), where much of the growth

came from division 68 'Non-ferrous metals' in goods going to Hong Kong and Germany. Exports from section 8 increased for every English region during the year. The largest value increases were for London (up 2.4 per cent) and the South East (up 3.2 per cent). For London the biggest increase was in SITC division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' (up 17.1 per cent), mainly in goods going to Germany, France and the USA. For the South East the increase was driven by division 87 'Professional, scientific & controlling instruments & apparatus' (up 9.6 per cent), with increased exports to South Korea and the United Arab Emirates.

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 20.1 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 17.2 per cent), and exports from division 02 'Dairy products & birds' eggs' more than doubled during the year. For the East Midlands there was an 8.6 per cent increase in section 0 exports, led by a rise in division 04 'Cereals & cereal preparations' exports going to Tunisia, the Netherlands and Saudi Arabia. In contrast, the South West experienced a 4.0 per cent decline in section 0 exports during the year.

The North West remains the most dominant region for exports of section 2 'Crude materials' despite a decrease of 8.9 per cent over the 12 months; this was primarily due to a decline in exports from division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' (down 9.9 per cent), mainly in goods going to China, Germany and India.

All English regions saw an increase in export value for the majority of the sixty-five SITC divisions. For the East and the North East the biggest increases at division level were in divisions 68 'Non-ferrous metals' and 67 'Iron & steel' respectively. For the South East the largest rise was in division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'. London's largest increase was in division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' while the biggest rise for Yorkshire & the Humber was in division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products'. The remaining regions all saw their largest division-level increases in division 78 'Road vehicles' and division 79 'Other transport equipment'.

For the East and Yorkshire & the Humber the largest decrease at division level during the year was in division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related

materials' while for London the biggest fall was in division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures'. The North East and North West experienced their largest decrease in division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' while for the South West the biggest fall was in division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap'. For the remaining three regions the biggest reductions were all in divisions of section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment'.

Commodity analysis - Wales

Table 8a: Top five commodities for export from Wales, year ending March 2014

SITC section	Description	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2013	% Total Exports in year ending March 2014
7	Machinery & transport equipment	6,193.3	5,343.0	15.9	42.3
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	3,651.3	3,452.0	5.8	24.9
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,073.8	1,982.7	4.6	14.2
5	Chemicals & related products	1,449.8	1,376.1	5.4	9.9
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	865.3	825.7	4.8	5.9
	Other SITCs	415.4	351.5	18.2	2.8
	All SITCs	14,648.9	13,331.0	9.9	100.0

Note: 2013 and 2014 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 of the top five SITC sections during the past year. The largest increase in export value was for section 7 (up 15.9 per cent); most of this growth was contributed by division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up 27.2 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 5.8 per cent per cent increase in export value during the year, with much of the increase coming from division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'; division 33 exports to the Irish Republic, Canada and the USA rose substantially over the year, although there were considerable decreases in division 33 exports to Ecuador.

There were also substantial increases in exports from sections 6 and 5; the increase for section 6 was led by division 67 'Iron & steel' (up 3.2 per cent) and division 69 'Manufactures of metal' (up 18.1 per cent) while for section 5, the largest rises were contributed by division 55 'Essential oils & perfume materials' (up 18.0 per cent) and division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (up 7.1 per cent)

For section 8 the biggest value increases were in exports from division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (up 7.3 per cent) and division 82 'Furniture & parts thereof' (up 11.8 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 27.9 per cent) with exports to the USA down 87.1 per cent. The second largest decrease was in division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment' with exports to the Irish Republic down 62.3 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 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & equipment' (up 9.3 per cent) where exports to the USA increased most during the year.

Commodity analysis - Scotland

Table 9a: Top five commodities for export from Scotland, year ending March 2014

SITC section	Description	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2013	% Total Exports in year ending March 2014
7	Machinery & transport equipment	6,190.8	6,045.2	2.4	30.4
1	Beverages & tobacco	4,954.6	5,254.2	-5.7	24.3
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,489.2	2,319.9	7.3	12.2
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	1,939.4	1,721.3	12.7	9.5
5	Chemicals & related products	1,847.1	1,981.3	-6.8	9.1
	Other SITCs	2,942.8	3,001.9	-2.0	14.5
	All SITCs	20,363.9	20,323.7	0.2	100.0

Note: 2013 and 2014 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. Scotland's exports continue to be dominated by goods from section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' and section 1 'Beverages & tobacco'. The largest annual value increase was in exports from section 3 'Mineral fuels & related materials' (up 12.7 per cent). The biggest value decrease during the year was for section 1 'Beverages & tobacco' where exports fell by 5.7 per cent. These fluctuations have resulted in a change in the top five commodity groups over the last year: section 3 has moved up into fourth position, having overtaken section 5.

The decline in exports from section 1 'Beverages & tobacco' has been evident since the third quarter of 2013; for each of the last three quarters, exports from this section have been lower than in the same quarter of the previous year. However, Scotland remains the most important country in the UK for exports of section 1, taking a 70.6 per cent share of the UK export market in the year ending March 2014. Much of the decrease for Scotland was due to reduced exports of division 11 'Beverages' (down 5.7 per cent with exports to Singapore and Venezuela down substantially). This decline in exports of division 11 has been echoed in Wales and Northern Ireland over the past year.

The other decrease among the top five sections was for section 5. Here, the largest reduction came from division 57 'Plastics in primary forms', where exports to China decreased by 92.4 per cent during the year.

The large increase in annual export value for section 3 was mainly contributed by division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (up 16.2 per cent). Exports to Sweden, the USA and Spain from this division accounted for a sizeable portion of the increase.

Scotland's exports from section 7 increased by 2.4 per cent during the year as a whole, although for each of the last three quarters exports from this section have been lower than in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The largest increases within section 7 during the year came from division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up 12.6 per cent) and division 75 'Office machines & automatic data processing machines' (up 38.4 per cent) although these were offset by a decline in division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances' (down 16.6 per cent).

Section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' saw a 7.3 per cent rise in exports over the year. The largest contributors were division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures' (up 21.4 per cent) and division 69 'Manufactures of metal' (up 20.4 per cent).

Twenty-five of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in export value during the year. The largest division-level decreases were for SITC division 11 'Beverages' and division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances' (see above), followed by division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (down 25.4 per cent). The largest increases at division level were for division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials', division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment', division 75 'Office machines & automatic data processing machines' 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 March 2014

SITC section	Description	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2013	% Total Exports in year ending March 2014
7	Machinery & transport equipment	2,351.3	2,295.1	2.5	39.4
0	Food & live animals	1,142.7	974.1	17.3	19.1
5	Chemicals & related products	789.5	667.0	18.4	13.2
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	644.6	656.9	-1.9	10.8
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	534.3	495.5	7.8	8.9
	Other SITCs	511.2	527.1	-3.0	8.6
	All SITCs	5,973.5	5,615.6	6.4	100.0

Note: 2013 and 2014 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'. Exports of this section have increased by 2.5 per cent over the last year; there was a large rise for SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment' (up 22.7 per cent, with a substantial increase in goods going to Germany and France), although this was offset by a fall in exports from division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (down 13.5 per cent, with a large decrease in goods going to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait).

Section 0 'Food & live animals' experienced the largest section-level increase in exports during the year (up 17.3 per cent). Exports rose in virtually all divisions of section 0, the largest contributors being division 01 'Meat & meat preparations' (up 21.9 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 18.4 per cent). This was primarily due to growth in exports from division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (up 31.3 per cent), where goods going to the USA increased in value by 77.4 per cent. The 7.8 per cent annual increase in exports of section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by

material' was led by division 69 'Manufactures of metal' (up 14.5 per cent) and division 63 'Cork & wood manufactures' (up 22.5 per cent).

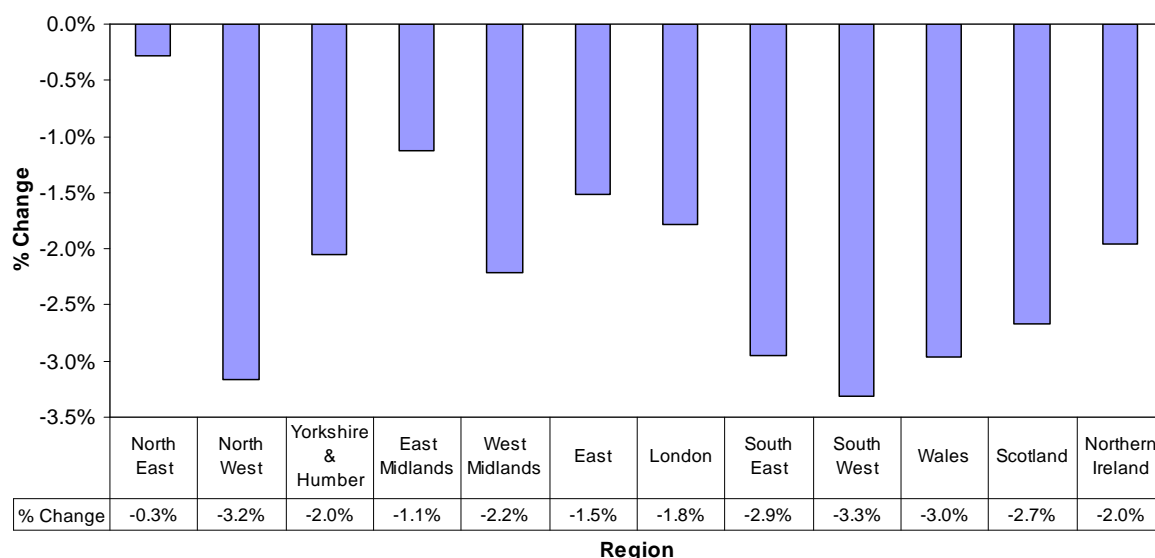
Only twenty-one of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in export value during the year. The largest value increases at division level were for division 79 'Other transport equipment', division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' and division 01 'Meat & meat preparations' (see above). After division 71, the biggest value decreases at division level were for division 59 'Chemical materials & products' (down 28.5 per cent) and division 87 'Professional, scientific & controlling instruments & apparatus' (down 6.9 per cent).

Number of Businesses - Exports

The following analysis compares the number of active exporters in quarter 1 2014 with the number in quarter 1 2013. A quarterly analysis is more appropriate here than an annual analysis, as summing the number of active businesses over a year could produce ambiguous results. A quarter-on-quarter comparison enables us to measure seasonal movement of businesses, such as the increase/decrease in number of active businesses over the Christmas season (quarter 4). The number of businesses counted excludes those who trade only with the EU and whose trade is below the Intrastat Exemption Threshold (see note 6).

Figure 3a shows the percentage change in number of exporters per region between quarter 1 2013 and quarter 1 2014.

Fig 3a: Percentage Change in Number of Exporters between Q1 2013 and Q1 2014



Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

For the UK as a whole, the number of exporting businesses decreased by 2.3 per cent between quarter 1 2013 and quarter 1 2014, from 49,485 to 48,365. This is the third quarter in succession in which the number of active exporters has been lower than in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. It is also the first time since quarter 2 of 2011 that all regions of the UK have shown a decline in exporter numbers compared with the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

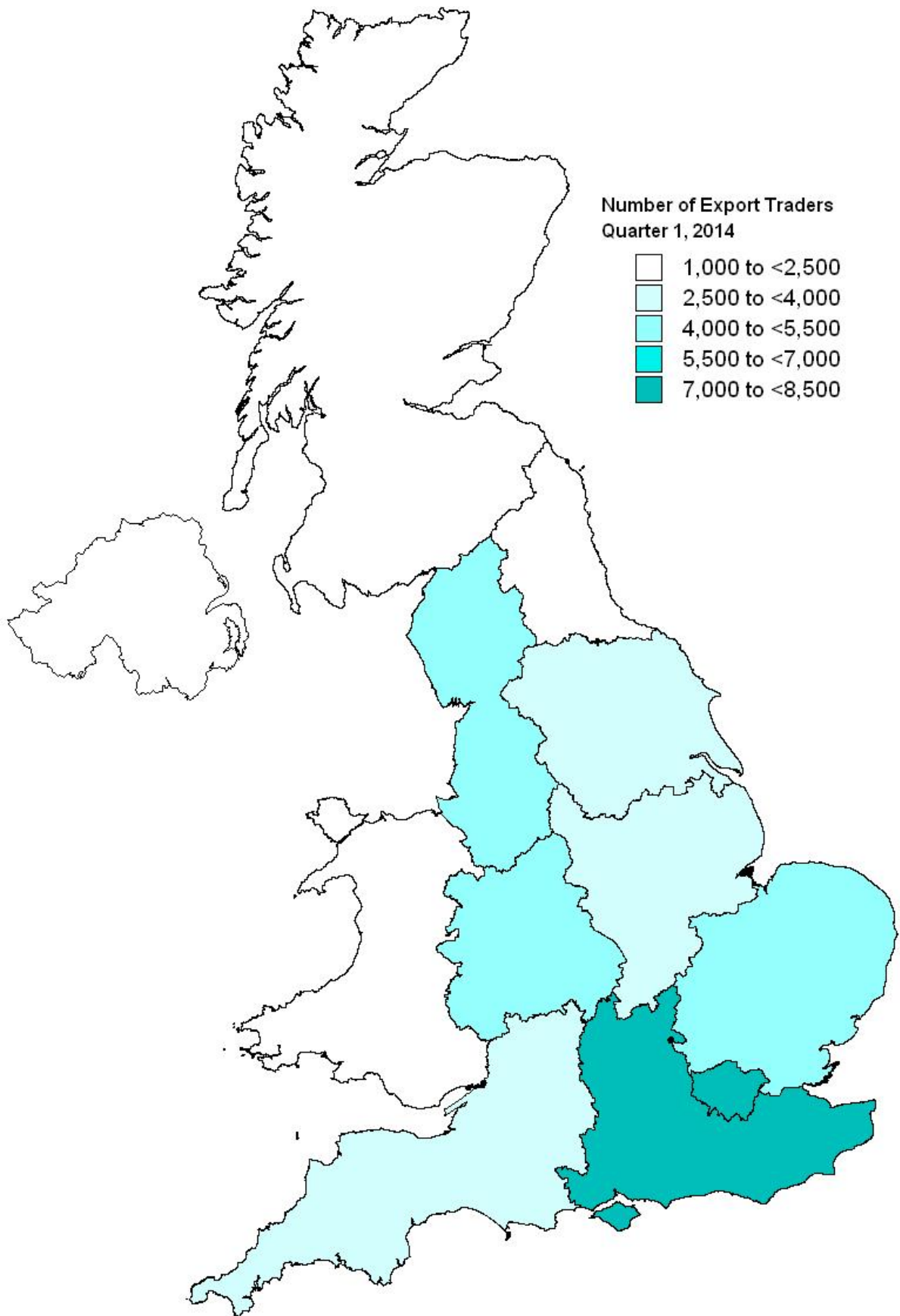
Figure 3a shows that the number of active exporters decreased in all regions of the UK between quarter 1 2013 and quarter 1 2014. The South West experienced the largest percentage fall in exporting businesses, 3.3 per cent, while the North East saw the smallest percentage decline, 0.3 per cent.

For the South East and the South West, this is the third successive quarter in which the number of active exporters has been lower than in the same quarter of the previous year. A similar quarter-on-quarter comparison for Scotland shows a decrease in exporters for the last seven quarters in succession, and for Northern Ireland there has been a decline for the last fourteen quarters in succession.

Figure 4a shows the total number of active UK exporters in each region for quarter 1 2014. The South East, London and the East are the three regions with the largest count of businesses, accounting respectively for 17.5 per cent, 17.2 per cent and

11.1 per cent of all UK businesses. The North East has the smallest number of exporters, making up 2.2 per cent of the UK's total exporter count.

Fig 4a: Number of UK export businesses by region - Quarter 1, 2014



Note: 2013 and 2014 data are provisional
Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

Rolling 12 Month Overview – Imports

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

Partner country analysis – England

Table 1b: England - Top five import partners, year ending March 2014

	Country	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2013	% Total Exports in year ending March 2014
Top 5	Germany	49,648.6	45,317.4	9.6	14.6
	China	27,621.1	26,628.0	3.7	8.1
	Netherlands	25,935.4	25,142.1	3.2	7.6
	USA	25,302.5	25,471.3	-0.7	7.4
	France	20,519.1	18,992.5	8.0	6.0
	Others	191,135.9	199,403.3	-4.1	56.2
	Total EU	179,586.6	171,951.4	4.4	52.8
	Total Non-EU	160,576.0	169,003.0	-5.0	47.2
	Grand Total	340,162.6	340,954.5	-0.2	100.0

Note: 2013 and 2014 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 marginally by 0.2 per cent during the year ending March 2014. 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.

Germany remains the top import partner for England by a wide margin. Imports from here have risen by 9.6 per cent during the year, the biggest value increase by far of all England's import partners. There was a large increase in goods from Germany within SITC division 78 'Road vehicles'. China remains the second highest import partner with a 3.7 per cent annual increase.

Non-EU partner countries accounted for 47.2 per cent of England's imports during the year; this percentage has fallen from 49.6 per cent in the previous annual period. The annual growth rate in imports from the EU in 2013 was 4.4 per cent, compared with a decrease of 5.0 per cent for non-EU countries.

The second largest increase in import value over the year was for France (up 8.0 per cent), where imports from SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment' rose by 75.5 per cent. Imports from China also increased over the year; this growth for China was primarily attributable to SITC division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment' (up 12.9 per cent).

The 0.7 per cent decrease in imports from the USA was driven by reductions in goods received from SITC division 54 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' and division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles'; these decreases were offset by a large rise in division 79 'Other transport equipment'.

The partner country where the value of imports decreased the most during the year was Norway (down 16.7 per cent). This was predominantly due to a fall in imports from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related material' (down 20.6 per cent). After Norway, the largest decreases were in imports from Sweden (down 22.1 per cent, with SITC division 33 down 52.4 per cent) and Switzerland (down 22.1 per cent, with SITC division 68 'Non-ferrous metals' down 54.2 per cent).

Partner country analysis – English regions

Table 2b: Top five import partners for the English regions, year ending March 2014

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

Note: 2013 and 2014 data are provisional
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Table 2b shows the top partner countries for imports to the English regions for the year ending March 2014. 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 out of the top five, while China has moved up into fifth position. For the North West, Germany has overtaken the Netherlands to become the top import partner and Russia has moved up into fifth position, while Sweden has moved out of the top five after a 21.0 per cent decrease in imports from here. For the East Midlands, Japan has moved up into fifth position, overtaking the Netherlands and Italy. For the West Midlands, Germany has become the top import partner, overtaking Norway. For the East, the USA has become the second largest import partner ahead of the Netherlands. For London, China has

overtaken the USA to become the top import partner, while France has moved up from seventh to third position; Norway and Switzerland have both moved out of the top five after imports dropped in value by over one third during the year for both these partners. For the South East, Belgium has overtaken the USA, moving up into third position. For the South West, the Netherlands has become the second largest import partner, overtaking China and Germany.

Imports from Germany have risen for eight of the nine regions, the exception being the South West; the highest growth rates were in the South East (up 15.2 per cent) and the West Midlands (up 13.8 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 15.3 per cent). Imports from the Netherlands increased for all regions apart from the North East and the East; the highest growth rate was in the South West (up 14.0 per cent). Imports from the USA increased for five of the nine regions, as did imports from France.

Six of the nine English regions saw an increase in the value of imports during the year, the exceptions being London (down 6.9 per cent), the North East (down 8.2 per cent) and the North West (down 3.8 per cent). The largest percentage increases were in the East Midlands (up 7.7 per cent) and the South West (up 7.6 per cent). For the East Midlands the growth was driven by imports from Japan (up 65.1 per cent, with large increases in SITC division 78 'Road vehicles' and division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment') while for the South West the increase was led by imports from the USA (up 19.8 per cent, with SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment' more than doubling in value) and the United Arab Emirates (up 54.4 per cent, with SITC division 71 up 56.4 per cent).

England's import trade continues to be dominated by the South East and London; the South East accounted for 26.3 per cent of England's imports by value during the year, while London accounted for 20.4 per cent. London's imports declined in value by 6.9 per cent, the largest value decreases occurring in imports from Norway (SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' down 56.3 per cent) and Switzerland (SITC division 68 'Non-ferrous metals' down 54.8 per cent). For the South East there was an increase of 0.5 per cent in the value of imports; a large rise in imports from Germany was offset by substantial decreases in the value of goods coming from Norway and Russia. The increase in imports to the South East from Germany was primarily due to a rise in SITC division 78 'Road vehicles'; the

decreases in imports to the South East from Norway and Russia were both driven by a decline in SITC division 33.

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 South West during the year. Although the South West experienced a 6.3 per cent increase in EU imports, this was coupled with an 8.4 per cent rise in imports from non-EU partners, the largest non-EU import growth among the English regions. 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 March 2014

	Country	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2013	% Total Exports in year ending March 2014
Top 5	Germany	866.4	769.4	12.6	11.6
	Canada	769.1	752.7	2.2	10.3
	USA	631.2	693.9	-9.0	8.5
	France	620.6	605.9	2.4	8.3
	China	594.2	477.1	24.5	8.0
	Others	3,978.8	4,292.3	-7.3	53.3
	Total EU	3,507.1	3,360.2	4.4	47.0
	Total Non-EU	3,953.4	4,231.1	-6.6	53.0
	Grand Total	7,460.5	7,591.3	-1.7	100.0

Note: 2013 and 2014 data are provisional
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Imports to Wales decreased in value by 1.7 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 Russia (down 42.4 per cent), Brazil (down 27.5 per cent) and Australia (down 68.7 per cent). For Russia and Brazil much of the reduction has been in goods from SITC division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap'. For Australia the decrease was led by a reduction in SITC division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes'.

Since the previous quarter, Germany has once again overtaken Canada to become the top import partner for Wales. The 12.6 per cent increase in imports from Germany over the year was driven by an increase in SITC division 78 'Road vehicles' (up 71.9 per cent).

The only decline in import value among the top five partners was for the USA (down 9.0 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 was for China (up 24.5 per cent); much of this rise was contributed by division 52 'Inorganic chemicals' and division 79 'Other transport equipment'. For Canada, Wales' second largest import partner, the 2.2 per cent increase in imports over the year was led by growth in division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap', although this was countered to some extent by a decrease in division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes'.

Despite the overall reduction in imports to Wales, goods coming from the EU have increased in value over the year (up 4.4 per cent). This recovery over the last three quarters follows a decline in EU imports to Wales during 2012 and the first half of 2013. The largest increases in EU imports came from Germany (see above) and Belgium (up 11.7 per cent, with the biggest increase in SITC division 57 'Plastics in primary forms' and division 51 'Organic chemicals').

Partner country analysis – Scotland

Table 4b: Scotland - Top five import partners, year ending March 2014

	Country	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2013	% Total Exports in year ending March 2014
Top 5	USA	2,017.9	2,029.7	-0.6	13.3
	Norway	1,633.5	1,380.9	18.3	10.7
	China	1,230.4	1,128.3	9.0	8.1
	Netherlands	971.3	899.8	7.9	6.4
	Nigeria	920.8	1,014.4	-9.2	6.1
	Others	8,424.1	8,183.2	2.9	55.4
	Total EU	5,201.0	5,184.1	0.3	34.2
	Total Non-EU	9,996.9	9,452.4	5.8	65.8
	Grand Total	15,197.9	14,636.5	3.8	100.0

Note: 2013 and 2014 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Imports to Scotland have increased in value by 3.8 per cent during the year. A decline in imports from Germany (down 8.8 per cent) together with an increase in imports from the Netherlands has resulted in the Netherlands moving up from sixth to fourth largest import partner while Germany has moved out of the top five. Imports from non-EU partners have increased at a higher rate than those from the EU, with non-EU partners supplying almost two-thirds of Scotland's imports by value.

The USA remains Scotland's top import partner, despite a small decrease of 0.6 per cent in imports over the last year. Imports from the USA that reduced the most in value were from SITC division 87 'Professional, scientific & controlling instruments & apparatus' and division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes', although these were offset by an increase in SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment'.

Imports from Norway increased by 18.3 per cent during the year; this was the largest value increase among Scotland's partner countries. Most of the growth came from SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'.

Scotland's imports from China rose by 9.0 per cent during the year, with the largest increase contributed by SITC division 75 'Office machines & automatic data processing machines' (up 9.6 per cent). The 7.9 per cent rise in imports from the

Netherlands during the year was led by SITC division 08 'Feeding stuff for animals', which more than doubled in value.

Outside of the top five partners, Scotland saw its largest increases in imports from Qatar (up more than seven-fold during the year, mainly due to division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment') and Singapore (up 53.1 per cent, with SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment' increasing the most).

The largest value decreases during the 12 months were in imports from Algeria (down 61.1 per cent) and Nigeria (down 9.2 per cent). For both these partner countries the decline was mainly due to reductions in SITC division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials'.

Partner country analysis – Northern Ireland

Table 5b: Northern Ireland - Top five import partners, year ending March 2014

	Country	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2013	% Total Exports in year ending March 2014
Top 5	Irish Republic	1,626.4	1,517.4	7.2	27.9
	China	986.9	952.3	3.6	16.9
	USA	427.0	427.7	-0.2	7.3
	Germany	331.9	327.1	1.5	5.7
	Netherlands	313.7	304.4	3.0	5.4
	Others	2,147.5	2,081.2	3.2	36.8
	Total EU	3,240.5	3,096.0	4.7	55.5
	Total Non-EU	2,593.0	2,514.1	3.1	44.5
	Grand Total	5,833.5	5,610.1	4.0	100.0

Note: 2013 and 2014 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. Northern Ireland's imports from the EU rose by 4.7 per cent in value during the year, compared with 3.1 per cent for non-EU imports. The most dominant import partner in value terms is the Irish Republic; growth of 7.2 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 4.0 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 01 'Meat & meat preparations' up 12.1 per cent), China (SITC division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances' up 47.4 per cent) and Belgium (SITC division 72 'Machinery specialized for particular industries' up more than four-fold).

The USA was the only top five import partner with a decrease in imports to Northern Ireland during the year. This marginal reduction of 0.2 per cent was largely due to a decline in goods coming from SITC division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (down 20.8 per cent), although this was offset by a substantial increase in imports of SITC division 08 'Feeding stuff for animals'.

The largest decreases in imports to Northern Ireland were in goods from France (down 16.8 per cent), Argentina (down 22.7 per cent) and Ukraine (down 50.1 per cent). For France the decrease was led by SITC division 11 'Beverages' and division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment', while for Argentina the biggest reduction was in SITC division 08 'Feeding stuff for animals'.

Commodity analysis - England

Table 6b: Top five commodities for import to England, year ending March 2014

SITC section	Description	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2013	% Total Exports in year ending March 2014
7	Machinery & transport equipment	125,136.8	115,067.5	8.8	36.8
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	53,752.5	52,733.0	1.9	15.8
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	46,115.2	50,912.8	-9.4	13.6
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	37,066.6	43,125.4	-14.0	10.9
5	Chemicals & related products	36,507.3	39,096.6	-6.6	10.7
	Other SITCs	41,584.3	40,019.2	3.9	12.2
	All SITCs	340,162.6	340,954.5	-0.2	100.0

Note: 2013 and 2014 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 36.8 per cent of total import value; this proportion has risen from 33.7 per cent a year ago. Imports from section 7 have increased by 8.8 per cent during the year, the largest increases coming from SITC division 78 'Road vehicles' (up 15.2 per cent) and division 79 'Other transport equipment' (up 26.8 per cent); these increases were led by goods coming from Germany (division 78) and the USA (division 79).

Section 8 was the only other top five section to increase in import value during the year (up 1.9 per cent). The largest rises were in division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' (up 4.0 per cent, with imports from China up 4.9 per cent) and division 87 'Professional, scientific & controlling instruments & apparatus' (up 6.1 per cent, with imports from Germany up 14.4 per cent). However, these increases were balanced by a decrease in division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (down 3.4 per cent, with imports from the USA down 21.7 per cent).

Section 3 imports declined in value by 9.4 per cent during the year. This was largely due to a reduction of 10.2 per cent in division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials', with imports from Norway losing the most value (down 20.6 per

cent). Division 33 accounted for 11.5 per cent of England's total imports during the year, down from 12.8 per cent in the previous year.

Section 6 imports decreased by 14.0 per cent during the year. The largest decreases were in SITC division 68 'Non-ferrous metals' (down 38.5 per cent, with large reductions in imports from Switzerland). For section 5, the majority of the 6.6 per cent annual decrease was contributed by division 51 'Organic chemicals' (down 23.7 per cent), with substantial reductions in imports from the Irish Republic and Singapore.

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 division 68 'Non-ferrous metals', division 33 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' and division 51 'Organic chemicals' (see above). The largest division-level value increases were in imports of division 78 'Road vehicles' and division 79 'Other transport equipment' (see above), followed by division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up 7.1 per cent).

Commodity analysis – English regions

Table 7b - Top five commodities for import to English regions, year ending March 2014

Region	Top 5 SITC Sections				
	1	2	3	4	5
North East	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
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	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	3 - Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	0 - Food & live animals
South East	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	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 and 2014 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 of the top five sections in the last year. The North East has seen an increase in imports from section 6, with this section moving up to second largest import section during the year ahead of sections 8 and 5, which have both decreased in value. For London, section 8 has become the top import section by value after a decrease in section 3 imports during the year; London's imports from section 6 have reduced dramatically during the year, with section 7 now the third largest import section by value.

Section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' remains the dominant section for imports in six of the nine regions. Eight regions have seen an increase in import value for section 7 during the year, the only exception being the North East (down 5.8 per cent). By far the largest increase, both in value and percentage terms, was for

London (up 32.8 per cent with division 79 'Other transport equipment' increasing more than six-fold). The decrease in section 7 imports to the North East was mainly due to reductions in division 78 'Road vehicles' (down 12.7 per cent) and division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (down 19.1 per cent). The South East remains the most dominant region for imports of section 7; there was an increase of 4.6 per cent in section 7 imports to the South East during the last year, the largest rise coming from division 78 (up 18.3 per cent) where imports from Germany increased substantially during the year.

Imports from section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' increased for eight of the nine regions, the only exception being the North East. The biggest value increase was in the South East (up 2.5 per cent) where the largest rise was in division 87 'Professional, scientific & controlling instruments & apparatus' (up 4.6 per cent) with the largest increases in goods coming from Germany. The decreases in section 8 imports for the North East were led by a substantial reduction in division 84 'Articles of apparel & clothing accessories' (down 30.6 per cent).

For section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials', import value declined during the year for seven of the nine regions. The largest value decreases were in the South East (down 12.8 per cent), London (down 8.3 per cent) and the West Midlands (down 15.9 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 two regions where section 3 imports increased were the East (up 4.3 per cent) and Yorkshire & the Humber (up 6.1 per cent). The largest value increase was for the East, driven by growth in imports of division 33 from Norway.

Although imports of section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' decreased markedly during the year for England as a whole, only three of the nine regions experienced a decrease over this period – the East (down 1.9 per cent), London (down 39.2 per cent) and the North West (down 1.7 per cent). By far the largest value decrease was for London, where imports of division 68 'Non-ferrous metals' and division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures' reduced considerably. The largest value increase in imports from section 6 was for the South East (up 3.8 per cent); here, most of the growth was in division 69 'Manufactures of metal' (up 18.6 per cent).

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 4.8 per cent and 16.0 per cent respectively in imports from this section, while the East saw an increase of 1.3 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 decline 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 large increase in imports of division 54 (up 19.6 per cent) although this was counteracted by a substantial decrease in division 51 'Organic chemicals' (down 31.0 per cent).

All English regions apart from Yorkshire & the Humber experienced an annual increase in imports from section 0 'Food & live animals', although in the first quarter of 2014 imports from this section declined slightly compared with the first quarter of 2013. The most valuable import commodity within section 0 is division 05 'Vegetables & fruit'; all regions received rises in imports of this division during the year. The South East, London and the East are the dominant regions for division 05; for these regions imports increased by 5.8 per cent, 7.6 per cent and 1.8 per cent respectively.

Commodity analysis – Wales

Table 8b: Top five commodities for import to Wales, year ending March 2014

SITC section	Description	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2013	% Total Exports in year ending March 2014
7	Machinery & transport equipment	1,863.2	1,557.5	19.6	25.0
2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	1,500.8	1,670.0	-10.1	20.1
5	Chemicals & related products	1,431.1	1,306.4	9.5	19.2
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1,328.0	1,667.6	-20.4	17.8
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	600.4	568.0	5.7	8.0
	Other SITCs	736.9	821.9	-10.3	9.9
	All SITCs	7,460.5	7,591.3	-1.7	100.0

Note: 2013 and 2014 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 the year ending March 2014. The largest increase was for section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' (up 19.6 per cent); this continues the recovery following a large decrease in imports from this section during 2012. Section 7 has become the highest valued import section for Wales, moving up from third highest a year ago. In contrast, section 6 saw a decrease of 20.4 per cent in import value over the year and moved down to fourth highest import section from second highest a year ago. Section 2 has moved down from top import section to second highest following a decline of 10.1 per cent in annual import value.

The large increase in imports from section 7 was driven by a rise in division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances' (up 21.6 per cent) and division 78 'Road vehicles' (up 29.2 per cent). For division 77 there were substantial increases in goods coming from China and Germany, while for division 78 the growth was led by imports from Germany. There were also large increases in division 79 'Other transport equipment', which more than doubled in value during the year, and division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment' (up 32.0 per cent).

The reduction in imports from section 2 'Crude materials' was led by division 28 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' (down 11.2 per cent) where there were large decreases in goods coming from South Africa, Brazil and Russia.

The 9.5 per cent rise in the value of imports from section 5 'Chemicals & related products' during the year was driven by increases in division 55 'Essential oils & perfume materials' (up 12.6 per cent) and division 57 'Plastics in primary forms' (up 17.7 per cent). For division 55 there were large increases in goods coming from France, while for division 57 the biggest growth was in imports from Germany and France.

The large decline in imports from section 6 during the year was primarily due to a fall in division 67 'Iron & steel' (down 48.4 per cent), chiefly in goods coming from the Netherlands and Germany.

Only nineteen of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in import value during the year. The largest decreases were in division 67 'Iron & steel' and division 28

'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' (see above), followed by division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes' (down 25.9 per cent). The largest increases at division level were in division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances', division 78 'Road vehicles', division 79 'Other transport equipment' and division 76 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing apparatus & equipment' (see paragraph 2 for detail).

Commodity analysis – Scotland

Table 9b: Top five commodities for import to Scotland, year ending March 2014

SITC section	Description	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2013	% Total Exports in year ending March 2014
7	Machinery & transport equipment	5,697.3	4,952.3	15.0	37.5
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	3,010.8	3,120.3	-3.5	19.8
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,091.7	2,004.4	4.4	13.8
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,581.1	1,689.5	-6.4	10.4
0	Food & live animals	1,233.8	1,241.6	-0.6	8.1
	Other SITCs	1,583.2	1,628.4	-2.8	10.4
	All SITCs	15,197.9	14,636.5	3.8	100.0

Note: 2013 and 2014 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 15.0 per cent during the year. This was mainly due to rises in imports of SITC division 79 'Other transport equipment' (up 95.4 per cent) and division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment'. Section 7 contributed the vast majority of Scotland's growth in imports over the year; this section now makes up 37.5 per cent of Scotland's import value, up from 33.8 per cent a year ago.

The only other top five section to see an increase in annual import value was section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' (up 4.4 per cent). The growth in section 6 was led by division 69 'Manufactures of metal' (up 8.8 per cent), with a large rise in goods coming from Kuwait.

The largest section-level value decrease during the year was in imports of section 3 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials', which fell by 3.5 per cent. Here, the biggest reduction was in imports of division 32 'Coal, coke & briquettes' (down 8.2 per cent).

The other large section-level value decrease during the year was in imports of section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (down 6.4 per cent). Much of the decline was in division 87 'Professional, scientific & controlling instruments & apparatus' (down 10.5 per cent) and division 89 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (down 14.9 per cent); for both these divisions the decreases were primarily in goods from the USA.

Twenty-four of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in import value during the year. After division 79 'Other transport equipment' and division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' the largest value increase was in division 08 'Feeding stuff for animals' (up 25.7 per cent) where imports from the Netherlands and Argentina increased substantially. The biggest decrease at division level was in division 01 'Meat & meat preparations' (down 35.7 per cent) with imports from the Netherlands reducing the most in value.

Commodity analysis – Northern Ireland

Table 10b: Top five commodities for import to Northern Ireland, year ending March 2014

SITC section	Description	Year ending March 2014 Total £ millions	Year ending March 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2013	% Total Exports in year ending March 2014
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,554.2	1,543.0	0.7	26.6
7	Machinery & transport equipment	1,114.0	1,065.1	4.6	19.1
0	Food & live animals	1,011.5	1,002.5	0.9	17.3
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	820.5	761.2	7.8	14.1
5	Chemicals & related products	546.7	505.8	8.1	9.4
	Other SITCs	786.5	732.5	7.4	13.5
	All SITCs	5,833.5	5,610.1	4.0	100.0

Note: 2013 and 2014 data are provisional
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

All of Northern Ireland's top five import sections increased in value during the year ending March 2014. Section 8 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' remains the top import section by value, with a 26.6 per cent share of the import market, although this share has fallen slightly over the last year. There was a 0.7 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 2.5 per cent), mainly in goods coming from India and China, although this was offset by a decrease in division 85 'Footwear' (down 10.5 per cent, with imports from China losing the most value).

Northern Ireland experienced its largest section-level value increase in imports of section 6 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' (up 7.8 per cent). The biggest growth was in division 66 'Non-metallic mineral manufactures' (up 30.0 per cent) and division 69 'Manufactures of metal' (up 11.0 per cent). For division 66 the increase came in goods from the Irish Republic, while for division 69 imports from the USA and China increased the most.

The largest value decrease at section level was in imports of section 1 'Beverages & tobacco' (down 6.6 per cent). Most of the decline was in division 11 'Beverages' where imports from the Netherlands and France reduced considerably.

For section 7 'Machinery & transport equipment' the 4.6 per cent increase in imports over the year was due mainly to large rises in division 74 'General industrial machinery & equipment' (up 30.5 per cent), division 77 'Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances' (up 21.3 per cent) and division 78 'Road vehicles' (up 20.4 per cent). These increases were offset by reductions in imports of division 71 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (down 11.8 per cent) and division 79 'Other transport equipment' (down 13.9 per cent).

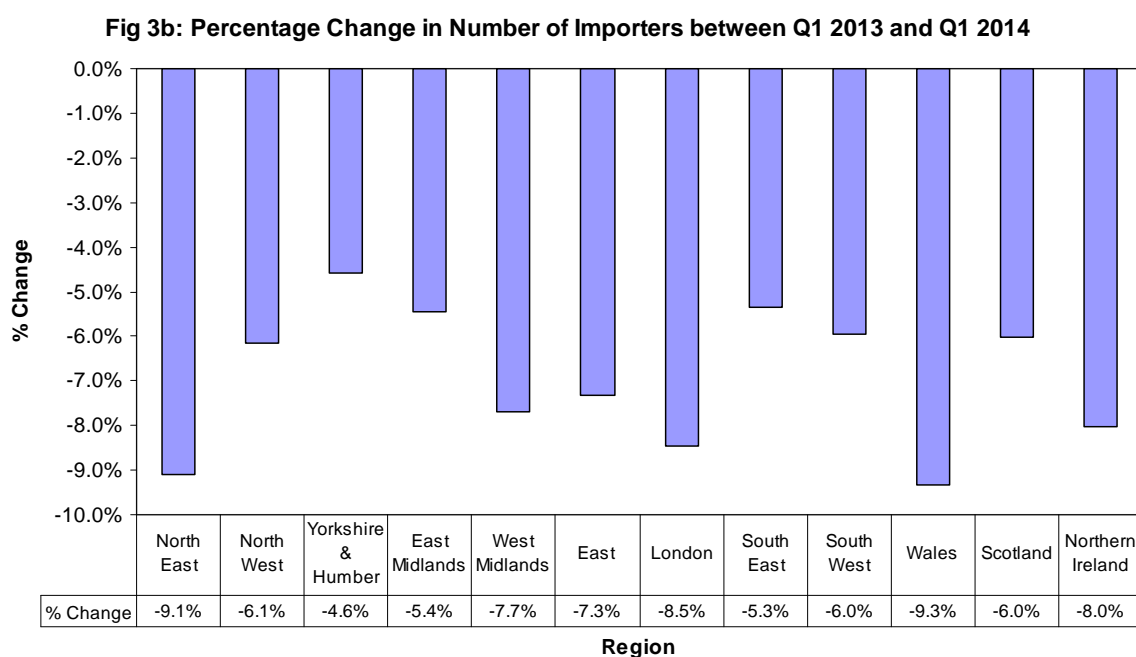
The 8.1 per cent annual increase in imports from section 5 'Chemicals & related products' was led by a rise in division 58 'Plastics in non-primary forms' and division 56 'Fertilisers'; for both of these divisions there was a large increase in goods coming from the Irish Republic.

Twenty-eight of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in value during the year. The largest increase in import value at division level was for division 01 'Meat & meat preparations' (up 17.4 per cent), while the largest decrease came from division 04 'Cereals & cereal preparations' (down 27.0 per cent).

Number of Businesses – Imports

The following analysis compares the number of active importers in quarter 1 2014 with the number in quarter 1 2013. A quarterly analysis is more appropriate here than an annual analysis, since summing the number of active businesses over a year could produce ambiguous results. A quarter-on-quarter comparison enables us to measure seasonal movement of businesses, such as the increase/decrease in number of importers over the Christmas season (quarter 4). The number of businesses counted excludes those who trade only with the EU and whose trade is below the Intrastat Exemption Threshold (see note 6).

Figure 3b shows the percentage change in the number of importers in the UK between quarter 1 2013 and quarter 1 2014.



Source: Regional Trade Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

In the UK as a whole, the number of importing businesses decreased by 6.7 per cent between quarter 1 2013 and quarter 1 2014 from 67,702 to 63,139. This is the lowest quarterly count of active importers since 2005⁴, although a considerable portion of the reduction is due to the increase in the Intrastat threshold from January 2014⁵; for

⁴ RTS trader counts are not available for pre-2005 data.

⁵ See [announcement](#) on uktradeinfo.com

quarter 1 2014, traders who import only from EU countries are not included in the count if their total annual imports are less than £1.2 million, whereas the equivalent threshold for quarter 1 2013 was £0.6 million.

Figure 3b shows that the number of active importers decreased in all of the twelve UK regions between quarter 1 2013 and quarter 1 2014. This is the fourth quarter in succession in which every region of the UK has seen a decrease in the number of importing businesses compared with the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The greatest percentage decreases were in Wales (down 9.3 per cent), the North East (down 9.1 per cent) and London (down 8.5 per cent). The smallest percentage decrease was for Yorkshire & the Humber (down 4.6 per cent). These decreases were generally greater than those reported at the end of the previous quarter, although this is at least partly due to the rise in the Intrastat threshold (see paragraph 1).

Figure 4b shows the total number of active UK importers in each region for quarter 1, 2014. London, the South East and the East are the three regions with the largest count of importers, accounting for 19.2 per cent, 17.3 per cent and 10.7 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 similar over the past year, although there has been a slight decrease for the London region.

Notes

1. The latest statistics on Regional Trade were released on 05 June 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 1 2014. At the same time revisions for all previously published regional data for 2013 are also being released. All RTS data excludes non-monetary gold, which is now being included in OTS data from 2005 onwards.
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

- 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. The TURN or EORI number is the main data source used in the compilation of the RTS as it is matched with the relevant postcode in order to allocate trade to specific regions of the UK. Under EORI, the vast majority of businesses were not allowed to retain Branch IDs; this has adversely affected RTS, with the majority of trade now being declared to the head office(s) in a single region (or a small number of regions). The result is that the recorded trade for regions containing branches of a business has been reduced, while the recorded trade for regions containing the head office(s) of that business has increased.

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. 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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