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HM Revenue and Customs

Regional Trade Statistics Third Quarter 2015

Summary

In the year to September 2015, the value of UK trade in goods exports decreased by 1.9 per cent and imports fell by 1.3 per cent.

In the year to September 2015:

- Of the four UK countries, England and Northern Ireland saw an increase in exports during the year
- Northern Ireland was also the only country that saw an increase in imports.
- There was an increase in annual export value for all England regions except the North West, Yorkshire and the Humber, the East Midlands and the East.
- There was an increase in annual import value for the North East, Yorkshire and the Humber, the East Midlands, the South East and the South West. The remaining four English regions decreased.

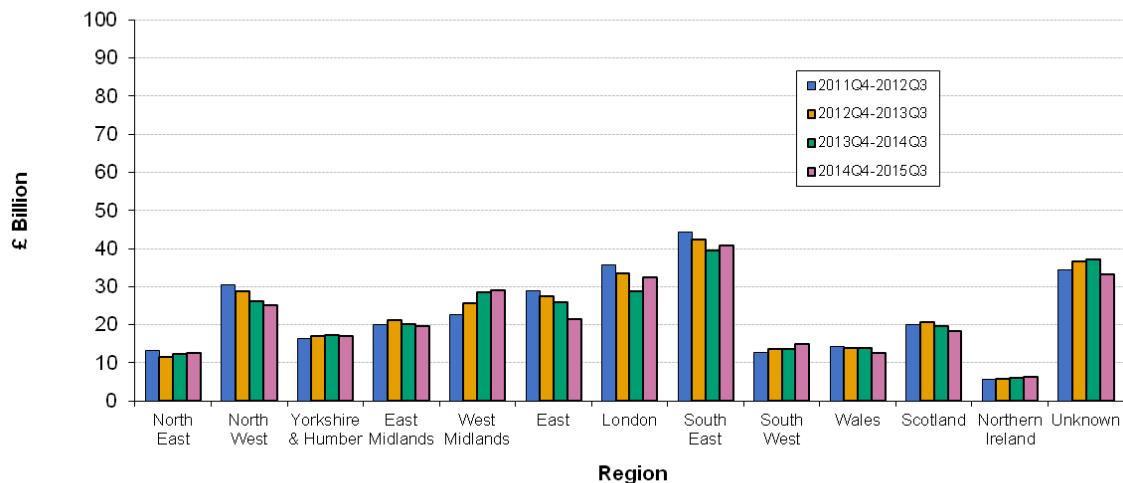
When comparing **quarter 3 2015 with quarter 3 2014**:

- The value of UK exports decreased by 3.9 per cent whilst imports decreased by 4.5 per cent.
- The value of exports increased for Northern Ireland but fell for England, Wales and Scotland. Exports decreased in all English regions apart from London, South East and South West.
- The number of exporters rose for all UK regions except the North East, Yorkshire and the Humber, the East and the South West.
- The value of UK imports fell for all countries. Imports increased in the North East, the East Midlands, the South East and the South West, but decreased in all other English regions.
- The number of importers rose for all UK regions.

Overview - Exports

The total annual value of UK exports decreased by 1.9 per cent to £283 billion in the year ending September 2015.

Figure 1: UK Exports by Region, 2011 Q4 – 2015 Q3



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

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

When comparing the annual period ending September 2015 with the annual period ending September 2014.

- Exports from Scotland and Wales decreased during the year, but England and Northern Ireland showed an increase.
- Five of the nine English regions experienced increases in exports, with just the North West, Yorkshire and the Humber, the East Midlands and the East seeing decreases.

When comparing the annual period ending September 2012 with year September 2015, there was a decrease of UK Exports from £299 billion to £283 billion. This is a drop of £15.9 billion or 5.3 per cent.

- Exports from England, Wales and Scotland decreased during this period by 12 per cent, 1.7 per cent and 1.8 per cent respectively. There was a small increase of 0.5 per cent in exports from Northern Ireland.
- Exports from three English regions saw an increase; Yorkshire and the Humber, the West Midlands and the South West. All the others saw a decrease.

Figure 2: UK Exports by country / region, year ending Q3 2015 – percentage of value

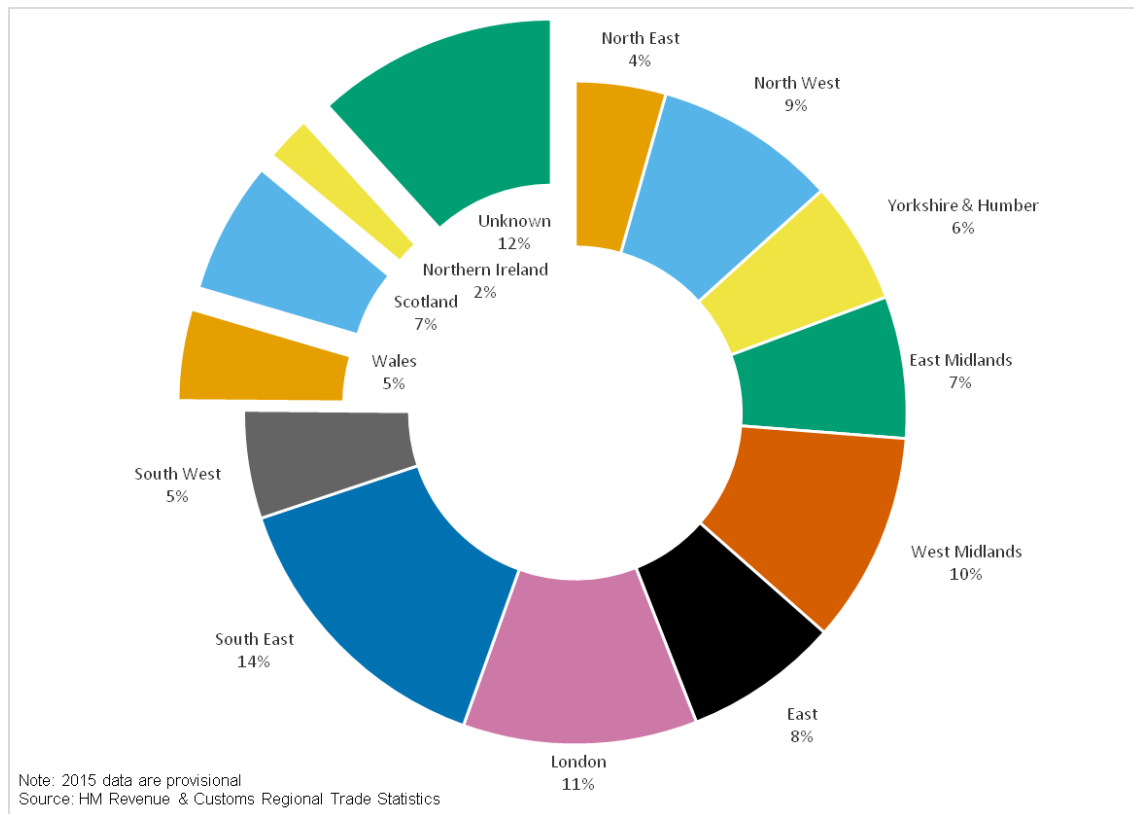
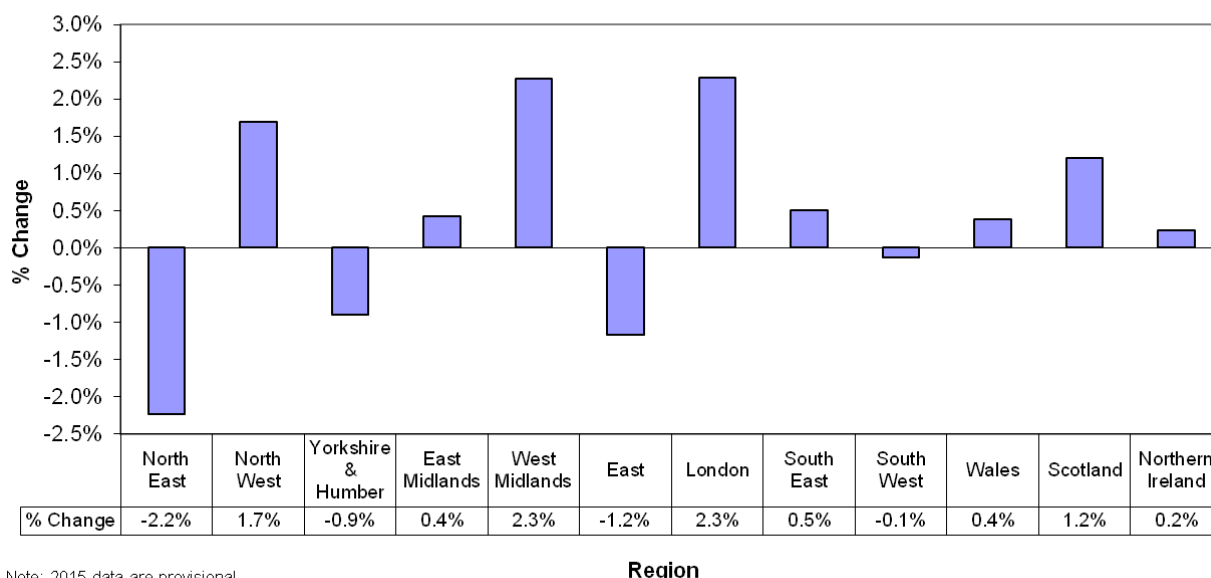


Figure 2 shows the breakdown by region of UK exports for the 12 month period ending Q3 2015.

- UK exports are dominated by those from England. They account for 75 per cent of value.
- Within the English regions, South East, London and West Midlands account for the greatest shares with 14, 11 and 10 per cent of UK exports respectively.

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

Figure 3: Percentage Change in Number of Exporters between Q3 2014 and Q3 2015



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

For the UK, the number of exporting businesses increased by 0.7 per cent between quarter 3 2014 and quarter 3 2015, from 49,500 to 49,900.

- The number of active exporters increased in all regions of the UK except for the North East, Yorkshire and the Humber, the East and the South West.
- London and the West Midlands experienced the largest percentage rise in exporting businesses. Both experienced rises of 2.3 per cent.
- The North East saw the largest percentage decline, 2.2 per cent.

Overview – Imports

The total annual value of UK imports decreased by 1.3 per cent to £401 billion in the year ending September 2015.

Figure 4: UK Imports by Region, 2011 Q4 – 2015 Q3

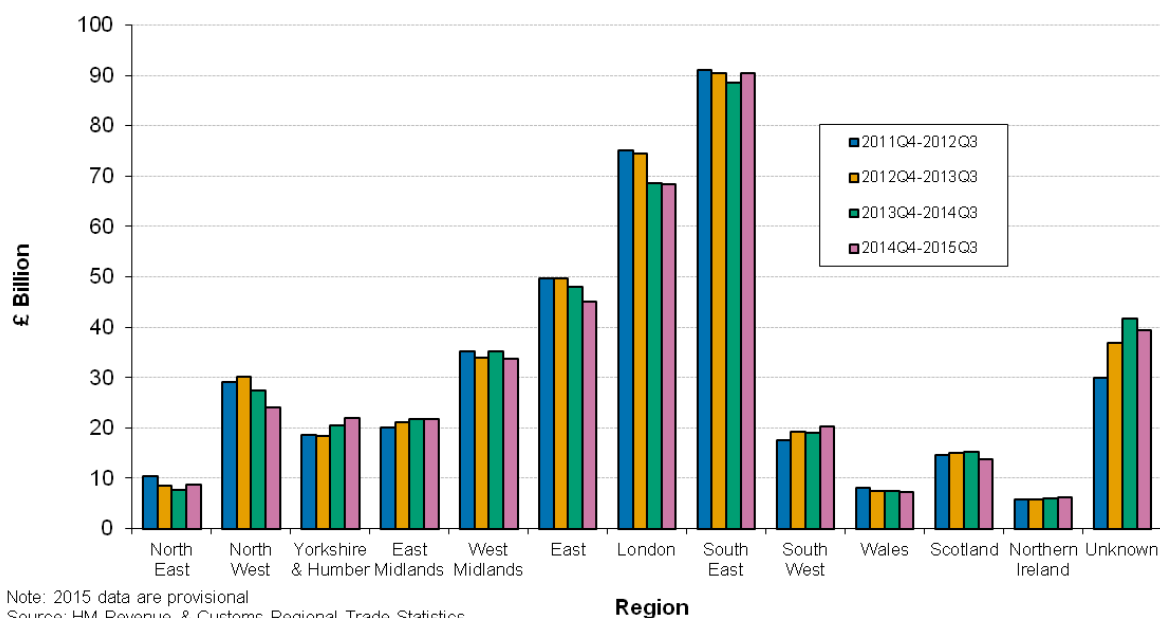


Figure 4 shows the total value of UK imports by region for the four annual periods ending September 2012, September 2013, September 2014 and September 2015.

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

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

When comparing the annual period ending September 2012 with year ending September 2015, there was a decrease of annual UK imports from £405 billion to £401 billion. This is a decrease of £3.8 billion or 0.9 per cent.

- Imports into England, Wales and Scotland decreased during this period by 3.5 per cent, 11 per cent and 4.7 per cent respectively. However, there was an increase of 5.1 per cent in imports into Northern Ireland.
- Only three English regions experienced an increase; Yorkshire and the Humber, the East Midlands and the South West. All the others saw a decrease.

Figure 5: UK Imports by Region, year ending Q3 2015 – percentage of value

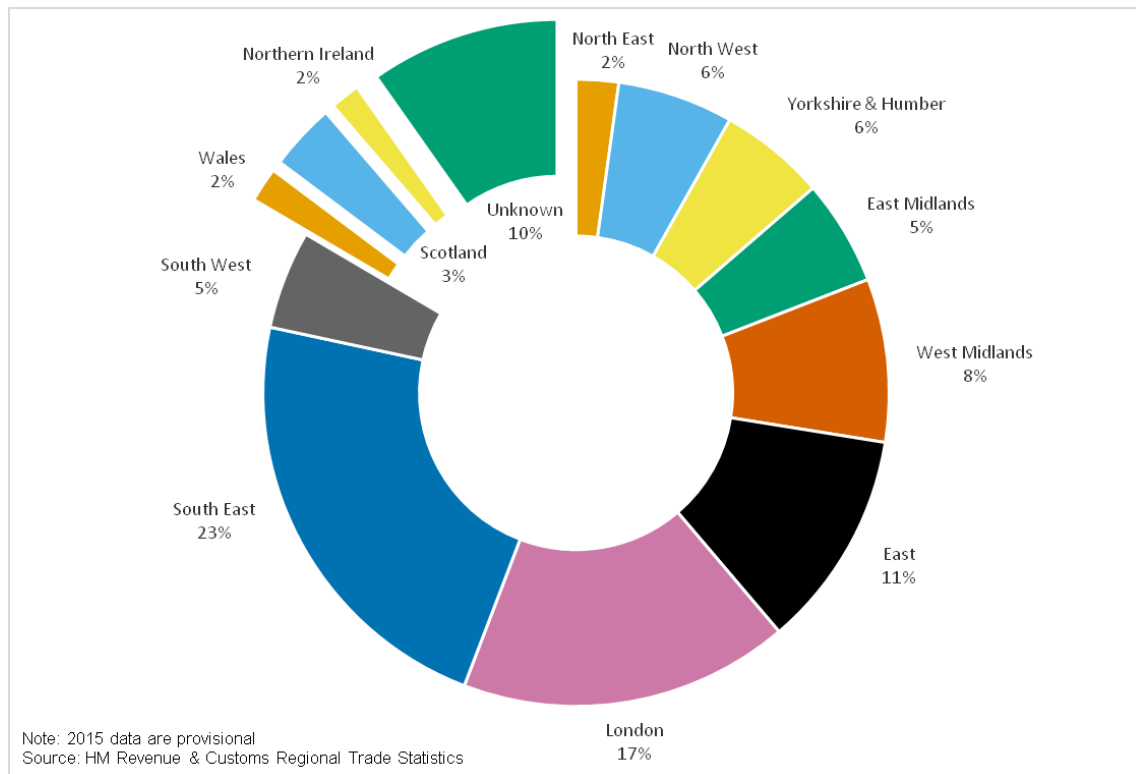
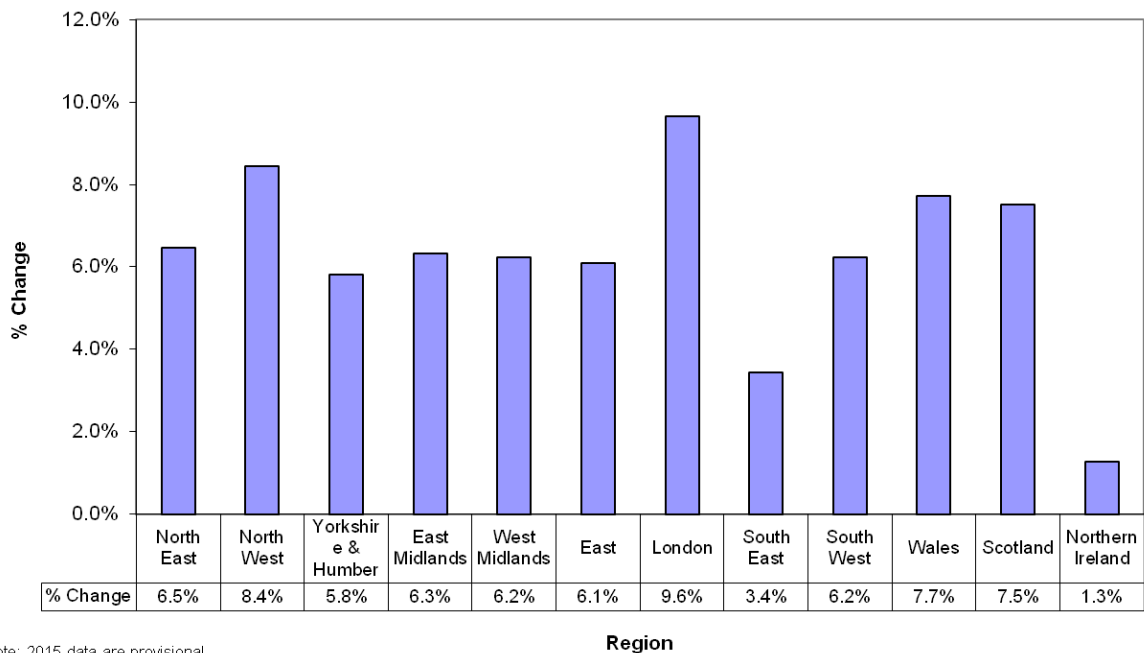


Figure 5 shows the breakdown by region of UK imports for the year ending quarter 3 2015.

- UK imports are dominated by those to England. They account for 83 per cent of value.
- Within the English regions, South East, London and the East account for the greatest shares with 23, 17 and 11 per cent of UK exports respectively.

Figure 6 shows the percentage change in the number of importers in the UK between quarter 3 2014 and quarter 3 2015. As discussed earlier a quarterly analysis is more appropriate here than an annual analysis. The number of businesses counted excludes those who trade only with the EU and whose trade is below the Intrastat Exemption Threshold (see note 10).

Figure 6: Percentage Change in Number of Importers between Q3 2014 and Q3 2015



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

In the UK as a whole, the number of importing businesses increased by 6.6 per cent between quarter 3 2014 and quarter 3 2015 rising from 65,400 to 69,700.

- All twelve UK regions to saw an increase between quarter 3 2014 and quarter 3 2015.
- London saw the largest increase.
- Northern Ireland saw the smallest increase.

Rolling 12 Month Overview

Exports from England

Partner country analysis

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

Country	Year ending Sept 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Sept 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Sept 2014	% Total Exports in year ending Sept 2015
USA	35,016.0	29,248.2	19.7	16.5
Germany	22,960.5	22,785.0	0.8	10.8
Top 5 France	13,763.1	14,827.7	-7.2	6.5
Netherlands	11,570.1	13,510.7	-14.4	5.4
Irish Republic	10,968.1	11,438.8	-4.1	5.2
Others	118,181.0	120,172.9	-1.7	55.6
Total EU	99,565.8	104,378.1	-4.6	46.9
Total Non-EU	112,892.9	107,605.2	4.9	53.1
Grand Total	212,458.7	211,983.2	0.2	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Exports from England increased by 0.2 per cent during the year ending September 2015. This is compared with a decrease of 1.9 per cent for the UK as a whole.

England's exports to the EU decreased by 4.6 per cent during the last year, while exports to non-EU countries increased by 4.9 per cent. The market share for non-EU exports was 53 per cent compared with 51 per cent for the previous year.

- Of the top five export partners, the USA and Germany were the only partner countries that increased in value over the last 12 months.
- The largest value increase in export trade is to USA (up £5.8 billion, 20 per cent) followed by India (up £987 million, 36 per cent).
- The largest value decrease in exports is to the Netherlands (down £1.9 billion, 14 per cent) followed by China (down £1.5 billion, 13 per cent).

Commodity analysis

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

SITC section	Description	Year ending Sept 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Sept 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Sept 2014	% Total Exports in year ending Sept 2015
7	Machinery & transport equipment	90,479.6	89,825.8	0.7	42.6
5	Chemicals & related products	38,200.9	34,775.7	9.8	18.0
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	35,464.6	31,903.7	11.2	16.7
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	21,981.6	21,979.8	0.0	10.3
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	10,189.5	17,516.1	-41.8	4.8
	Other SITCs	16,142.4	15,982.2	1.0	7.6%
	Grand Total	212,458.7	211,983.2	0.2	100.0%

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

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

- 'Machinery & transport equipment' continues to dominate exports from England; its share of England's exports remains at 43 per cent.
- Seven SITC sections increased. The largest increases were 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (up £3.6 billion, 11 per cent), and Chemicals & related products (up £3.4 billion, 9.8 per cent).
- The largest value decreases were for 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (down £7.3 billion, 42 per cent) and 'Crude materials, inedible, except fuels' (down £549 million, 11 per cent). This can be attributed to falling prices of the commodities concerned.

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

- The largest reductions were in divisions 'petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down £7.0 billion, 42 per cent) and 'iron & steel' (down £632 million, 16 per cent).
- The largest increase were in divisions 'miscellaneous manufactured articles n.e.s.' (up £2.9 billion, 20 per cent) and 'organic chemicals' (up £1.8 billion, 33 per cent).

Imports into England

Partner country analysis

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

	Country	Year ending Sept 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Sept 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Sept 2014	% Total Exports in year ending Sept 2015
Top 5	Germany	53,170.7	51,348.2	3.5	15.9
	China	30,898.8	28,365.2	8.9	9.2
	USA	26,288.2	24,728.8	6.3	7.8
	Netherlands	25,583.6	25,665.6	-0.3	7.6
	France	19,810.3	20,526.1	-3.5	5.9
	Others	179,213.2	185,808.1	-3.5	53.5
	Total EU	184,424.2	183,032.9	0.8	55.1
	Total Non-EU	150,540.5	153,409.1	-1.9	44.9
	Grand Total	334,964.8	336,442.1	-0.4	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Imports into England decreased by 0.4 per cent during the year ending September 2015; this was less than the 1.3 per cent decrease in imports to the UK as a whole.

- Non-EU partner countries accounted for 45 per cent of England's imports during the year; this percentage has fallen from 46 per cent in the previous annual period.
- Germany remains the top import partner for England by a wide margin. For the latest annual period it accounts for 16 per cent of all imports into England compared to 15 per cent the year before. Imports from Germany increased by 3.5 per cent during the year.
- Trade with all the top three import partners increased compared to the previous year.
- The largest value increases were for imports from China (up £2.5 billion, 8.9 per cent) followed by Germany (up £1.8 billion, 3.5 per cent).
- The largest value decreases were for imports from Norway (down £2.8 billion, 22 per cent) followed by Russia (down £1.2 billion, 22 per cent).

Commodity analysis

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

SITC section	Description	Year ending Sept 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Sept 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Sept 2014	% Total Exports in year ending Sept 2015
7	Machinery & transport equipment	131,922.1	126,133.8	4.6	39.4
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	58,166.2	54,926.9	5.9	17.4
5	Chemicals & related products	38,342.7	37,381.0	2.6	11.4
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	35,858.9	35,811.4	0.1	10.7
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	29,633.1	41,096.9	-27.9	8.8
	Other SITCs	41,041.8	41,092.1	-0.1	12.3
	Grand Total	334,964.8	336,442.1	-0.4	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

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

- 'Machinery & transport equipment' continues to dominate England's imports, accounting for 39 per cent of total import value, an increase from 37 per cent the previous year.
- The largest value increase at SITC section level was in 'Machinery & transport equipment' (up £5.8 billion, 4.6 per cent).
- The largest value decrease at SITC section level was in 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (down £11.5 billion, 28 per cent).

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

- The largest division-level value decreases were contributed by 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down £10.3 billion, 29 per cent) followed by 'Coal, coke & briquettes' (down £604 million, 36 per cent).
- The largest division-level value increases were in imports of 'Road vehicles' (up £3.5 billion, 8.4 per cent) followed by 'Electrical machinery' (up £1.5 billion, 9.5 per cent).

Exports from Wales

Partner country analysis – Exports from Wales

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

Country	Year ending Sept 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Sept 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Sept 2014	% Total Exports in year ending Sept 2015
USA	2,928.6	2,886.5	1.5	23.3
UAE	1,192.1	1,111.9	7.2	9.5
Top 5 Irish Republic	1,120.1	1,711.1	-34.5	8.9
Germany	1,037.1	1,075.7	-3.6	8.3
France	641.9	671.2	-4.4	5.1
Others	5,644.4	6,292.9	-10.3	44.9
Total EU	5,109.0	6,139.8	-16.8	40.7
Total Non-EU	7,455.3	7,609.4	-2.0	59.3
Grand Total	12,564.3	13,749.2	-8.6	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Export values from Wales decreased by 8.6 per cent during the year ending September 2015.

- Exports from Wales to the EU decreased by 17 per cent during the last year, while exports to non-EU countries decreased by 2.0 per cent. Non-EU partner countries continue to dominate the export market from Wales, receiving 59 per cent of goods exported. This is compared with 55 per cent the previous year.
- USA remains the top export partner. It accounts for 23 per cent of exports from Wales for the year ending September 2015, compared with 21 per cent for the previous year.
- Three of the top five export partners saw a decrease in value over the last 12 months, the exceptions being the top two, USA and the UAE.
- The partner countries where export values increased most during the year were UAE (up £80 million, 7.2 per cent) and Mexico (up £48 million, 168 per cent).
- The partner countries with the largest value decreases in exports over the year were the Irish Republic (down £591 million, 35 per cent) followed by Canada (down £186 million, 51 per cent).

Commodity analysis

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

SITC section	Description	Year ending Sept 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Sept 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Sept 2014	% Total Exports in year ending Sept 2015
7	Machinery & transport equipment	5,900.6	5,847.8	0.9	47.0
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	2,032.3	3,130.3	-35.1	16.2
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1,848.6	2,033.4	-9.1	14.7
5	Chemicals & related products	1,499.9	1,434.5	4.6	11.9
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	910.0	897.5	1.4	7.2
	Other SITCs	372.8	405.7	-8.1	3.0
	Grand Total	12,564.3	13,749.2	-8.6	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

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

- Exports from Wales continue to be dominated by goods from 'Machinery & transport equipment' which makes up 47 per cent of the trade. Despite value of trade falling by 0.9 per cent in the past year, its total export share increased from 43 per cent.
- The SITC sections with the largest value increases were 'Chemicals & related products' (up £65 million, 4.6 per cent) and 'Machinery & transport equipment' (up £53 million, 0.9 per cent).
- The largest value decreases were for 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (down £1.1 billion, 35 per cent) and 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' (down £185 million, 9.1 per cent).

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

- By far the largest annual reduction at division level was petroleum, petroleum products & related materials (down £1.1 billion, 35 per cent) followed by 'Iron & Steel' (down £164 million, 13 per cent).
- The biggest increases at division level were 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (up £145 million, 41 per cent) followed by 'Machinery specialised for particular industries' (up £98 million, 58 per cent).

Imports into Wales

Partner country analysis

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

	Country	Year ending Sept 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Sept 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Sept 2014	% Total Exports in year ending Sept 2015
Top 5	Germany	888.0	937.0	-5.2	12.3
	China	752.2	666.0	12.9	10.5
	France	679.7	655.2	3.7	9.4
	USA	599.5	605.7	-1.0	8.3
	Canada	511.3	631.2	-19.0	7.1
	Others	3,763.0	4,001.9	-6.0	52.3
	Total EU	3,598.5	3,708.0	-3.0	50.0
	Total Non-EU	3,595.3	3,789.1	-5.1	50.0
	Grand Total	7,193.7	7,497.1	-4.0	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Imports to Wales decreased in value by 4.0 per cent during the year ending September 2015.

- There was a reduction in value of goods coming into Wales from both EU and non-EU. However, the share of the market from the EU has increased from 49 per cent to 50 per cent.
- Of the top five imports partners, three of the five partner countries saw a decrease in value compared with the previous year.
- Germany is the largest import partner for Wales. Despite seeing a 5.2 per cent decrease over the year, it still accounts for 12 per cent of imports into Wales, the same percentage as in the previous year.
- The largest increases in imports was from China (up £86 million, 13 per cent) followed by Portugal (up £28 million, 33 per cent).
- The largest decreases in imports were from Canada (down £120 million, 19 per cent) and Russia (down £101 million, 59 per cent).

Commodity analysis

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

SITC section	Description	Year ending Sept 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Sept 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Sept 2014	% Total Exports in year ending Sept 2015
7	Machinery & transport equipment	2,034.7	1,876.4	8.4	28.3
5	Chemicals & related products	1,503.4	1,565.4	-4.0	20.9
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1,351.1	1,407.4	-4.0	18.8
2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	1,000.7	1,375.1	-27.2	13.9
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	656.2	598.2	9.7	9.1
	Other SITCs	647.7	674.6	-4.0	9.0
	All SITCs	7,193.7	7,497.1	-4.0	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

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

- 'Machinery & transport equipment' remains the largest SITC section accounting for 28 per cent of all imports into Wales. This is compared with 25 per cent for the previous year.
- The largest value increase was for the top SITC section 'Machinery & transport equipment' (up £158 million, 8.4 per cent) followed by 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (up £58 million, 9.7 per cent).
- The largest value decrease at SITC section level was for 'Crude materials, inedible, except fuels' (down £374 million, 27 per cent) followed by 'Chemicals & related products' (down £62 million, 4.0 per cent).

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

- The largest value decreases were in 'Metalliferous ores & metal scrap' (down £370 million, 30 per cent), followed by 'Paper, paperboard & manufactures thereof' (down £43 million, 19 per cent).
- The largest value increases at division level were in 'Telecomms & sound recording & reproducing app. & eqp.' (up £75 million, 31 per cent) and 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles n.e.s.' (up £70 million, 32 per cent).

Exports from Scotland

Partner country analysis

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

Country	Year ending Sept 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Sept 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Sept 2014	% Total Exports in year ending Sept 2015
USA	2,688.1	2,690.1	-0.1	14.7
France	1,238.5	1,348.4	-8.1	6.8
Top 5 Netherlands	1,032.1	1,218.8	-15.3	5.7
Germany	956.2	1,186.8	-19.4	5.2
Belgium	894.1	1,188.8	-24.8	4.9
Others	11,434.0	12,030.2	-5.0	62.7
Total EU	7,125.9	8,503.8	-16.2	39.1
Total Non-EU	11,117.2	11,159.4	-0.4	60.9
Grand Total	18,243.1	19,663.2	-7.2	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Exports from Scotland decreased in value by 7.2 per cent during the year ending September 2015.

- Scotland's exports to the EU decreased by 16 per cent during the last year, while exports to non-EU countries fell by 0.4 per cent. Non-EU partner countries continue to dominate the export market in Scotland accounting for 61 per cent of all exports, an increase from 57 per cent the previous year.
- USA remains Scotland's largest export partner despite a negligible decrease of £2 million (0.1 per cent) in the last year.
- Exports to all of Scotland's top five partners decreased in value during the year.
- The largest value increases among Scotland's exports were in goods going to Saudi Arabia (up £91 million, 25 per cent) and Azerbaijan (up £59 million, 74 per cent).
- The largest value decreases among Scotland's exports were in goods going to Belgium (down £295 million, 25 per cent) and Germany (down £231 million, 19 per cent).

Commodity analysis

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

SITC section	Description	Year ending Sept 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Sept 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Sept 2014	% Total Exports in year ending Sept 2015
7	Machinery & transport equipment	6,049.5	6,029.2	0.3	33.2
1	Beverages & tobacco	4,548.9	4,721.4	-3.7	24.9
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,274.8	2,457.9	-7.4	12.5
5	Chemicals & related products	1,654.9	1,739.1	-4.8	9.1
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,349.2	1,366.0	-1.2	7.4
	Other SITCs	2,365.8	3,349.6	-29.4	13.0
	Grand Total	18,243.1	19,663.2	-7.2	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

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

- 'Machinery & transport equipment' and 'Beverages & tobacco' continue to dominate exports from Scotland.
- The only value increases at SITC section level were for 'Commodities / transactions not classified elsewhere' (up £77 million, 137 per cent) and 'Machinery & transport equipment' (up £20 million, 0.3 per cent).
- The largest value decrease at SITC section was in 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (down £894 million, 49 per cent) followed by 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' (down £183 million, 7.4 per cent).

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

- The largest value division-level decreases were for SITC 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down £870 million, 50 per cent), followed by 'Beverages' (down £172 million, 3.7 per cent).
- The largest increases at division level were for 'Military arms and ammunition' (up £93 million, 679 per cent) followed by 'Road Vehicles' (up £61 million, 23 per cent).

Imports into Scotland

Partner country analysis

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

	Country	Year ending Sept 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Sept 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Sept 2014	% Total Exports in year ending Sept 2015
Top 5	USA	2,176.9	2,038.3	6.8	15.7
	China	1,500.4	1,399.6	7.2	10.8
	Norway	1,051.2	1,636.9	-35.8	7.6
	Germany	999.9	860.7	16.2	7.2
	Netherlands	882.9	1,028.6	-14.2	6.4
	Others	7,246.8	8,310.2	-12.8	52.3
	Total EU	5,042.4	5,202.2	-3.1	36.4
	Total Non-EU	8,815.8	10,072.1	-12.5	63.6
	Grand Total	13,858.2	15,274.4	-9.3	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Imports to Scotland have decreased in value by 9.3 per cent during the year.

- Scotland's imports from non-EU countries decreased by 13 per cent during the last year, compared with a fall of 3.1 per cent in imports from EU countries. Nevertheless, trade from non-EU partners still accounts for almost two-thirds of Scotland's imports by value.
- There has been an increase in import value for three of the top five import partners over the last 12 months. The exceptions were Norway (down £586 million, 36 per cent) and Netherlands (down £146 million, 14 per cent).
- The USA remains Scotland's largest import partner, with an increase of 6.8 per cent in value over the last year. It accounts for 16 per cent of all imports into Scotland compared with 13 per cent the year before.
- The largest value increase was from South Korea (up £556 million, a 9-fold increase) followed by Germany (up £139 million, 16 per cent).
- The largest decreases over the last 12 months were falls in imports from Nigeria (down £635 million, 62 per cent) followed by Norway (down £586 million, 36 per cent).

Commodity analysis

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

SITC section	Description	Year ending Sept 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Sept 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Sept 2014	% Total Exports in year ending Sept 2015
7	Machinery & transport equipment	6,495.8	5,853.0	11.0	46.9
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,062.1	2,185.6	-5.7	14.9
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,614.5	1,603.0	0.7	11.7
5	Chemicals & related products	1,094.9	1,028.4	6.5	7.9
0	Food & live animals	1,048.5	1,164.2	-9.9	7.6
	Other SITCs	1,542.3	3,440.1	-55.2	11.1
	Grand Total	13,858.2	15,274.4	-9.3	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

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

- 'Machinery & transport equipment' continues to dominate imports into Scotland. Goods from this section increased by 11 per cent during the year ending September 2015. It currently represents 47 per cent of total import value which is up on the previous year (38 per cent). This is followed by 'Chemicals & related products' (up £66 million, 6.5 per cent).
- The largest value increase during the year was also in 'Machinery & transport equipment' (up £643 million, 11 per cent).
- The largest section-level value decrease during the year was in imports of 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (down £1.9 billion, 67 per cent) followed by 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' (down £124 million, 5.7 per cent).

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

- The largest value division level decreases were in 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' (down £1.6 billion, 69 per cent) and 'Coal, coke & briquettes' (down £267 million, 54 per cent).
- The two largest value increases were 'Other transport equipment' (up £353 million, 44 per cent) and 'Power generating machinery & equipment' (up £231 million, 15 per cent).

Exports from Northern Ireland

Partner country analysis

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

	Country	Year ending Sept 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Sept 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Sept 2014	% Total Exports in year ending Sept 2015
Top 5	Irish Republic	2,133.4	2,322.9	-8.2	34.1
	USA	1,047.1	585.3	78.9	16.8
	Canada	367.7	362.9	1.3	5.9
	Germany	333.8	312.9	6.7	5.3
	France	307.6	306.4	0.4	4.9
	Others	2,061.3	2,121.9	-2.9	33.0
	Total EU	3,468.7	3,655.4	-5.1	55.5
	Total Non-EU	2,782.2	2,356.9	18.0	44.5
	Grand Total	6,250.9	6,012.3	4.0	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Exports from Northern Ireland have increased in value by 4.0 per cent during the year ending September 2015.

- The majority (55 per cent) of Northern Ireland's exports still go to the EU. This is despite the value of exports to EU partners decreasing by 5.1 per cent over the year and trade to non-EU partners increasing by 18 per cent.
- There were increases in exports to four of the top five partner countries during the year. The exception is the Irish Republic.
- The Irish Republic continues to dominate Northern Ireland's export market despite its share decreasing from 39 per cent to 34 per cent during the year. This is the main reason why Northern Ireland has a higher proportion of export trade with the EU in comparison with the other UK countries.
- The largest value increase was to the USA (up £462 million, 79 per cent) followed by South Korea (up £22 million, a two-fold increase).
- Northern Ireland's export trade decreased the most with the Irish Republic (down £190 million, 8.2 per cent) and Taiwan (down £32 million, 79 per cent).

Commodity analysis – Exports from Northern Ireland

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

SITC section	Description	Year ending Sept 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Sept 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Sept 2014	% Total Exports in year ending Sept 2015
7	Machinery & transport equipment	2,229.9	2,293.6	-2.8	35.7
5	Chemicals & related products	1,158.6	792.8	46.1	18.5
0	Food & live animals	1,065.2	1,170.1	-9.0	17.0
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	740.6	659.6	12.3	11.8
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	523.0	553.4	-5.5	8.4
	Other SITCs	533.7	542.7	-1.7	8.5
	Grand Total	6,250.9	6,012.3	4.0	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

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

- Northern Ireland's exports continue to be dominated by goods in 'Machinery & transport equipment'. This is despite a decrease in value of 2.8 per cent, that saw its share of total exports fall from 38 per cent to 36 per cent.
- At SITC section level, 'Chemicals & related products' experienced the largest increase in exports during the year (up £366 million, 46 per cent) followed by 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (up £81 million, 12 per cent).
- The largest decrease was for 'Food & live animals' (down £105 million, 9.0 per cent), followed by 'Machinery & transport equipment' (down £64 million, 2.8 per cent).

Forty-two of the sixty-five SITC divisions decreased in export value during the year.

- The largest value decreases at division level were for 'Dairy products & birds' eggs' (down £53 million, 15 per cent) followed by 'Meat & meat preparations' (down £51 million, 13 per cent).
- The biggest value increases at division level were in 'Medicinal & pharmaceutical products' (up £357 million, 76 per cent) followed 'Professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus, n.e.s.' (up £93 million, 47 per cent).

Imports into Northern Ireland

Partner country analysis – Northern Ireland

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

	Country	Year ending Sept 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Sept 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Sept 2014	% Total Exports in year ending Sept 2015
Top 5	Irish Republic	1,647.1	1,678.4	-1.9	26.8
	China	1,056.8	947.4	11.6	17.2
	USA	497.6	425.0	17.1	8.1
	Germany	365.1	364.7	0.1	5.9
	Netherlands	342.3	336.9	1.6	5.6
	Others	2,243.5	2,152.1	4.3	36.5
	Total EU	3,337.8	3,380.7	-1.3	54.3
	Total Non-EU	2,814.7	2,523.8	11.5	45.7
	Grand Total	6,152.5	5,904.5	4.2	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

Northern Ireland has seen a 4.2 per cent increase in the value of its imports during the year.

- The majority of imports to Northern Ireland come from EU partners. This is due mainly to the Irish Republic being Northern Ireland's largest import partner country.
- Four of the top five import partners saw an increase in trade during the year, Irish Republic was the one that decreased.
- The Irish Republic remains Northern Ireland's largest import partner, accounting for 27 per cent of Northern Ireland's total imports. This is a decrease from 28 per cent in the previous year.
- The largest value increases were in goods from China (up £109 million, 12 per cent) and USA (up £73 million, 17 per cent).
- Imports to Northern Ireland decreased the most from the Irish Republic (down £31 million, 1.9 per cent) and France (down £21 million, 10 per cent).

Commodity analysis – Imports into Northern Ireland

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

SITC section	Description	Year ending Sept 2015 Total £ millions	Year ending Sept 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from Sept 2014	% Total Exports in year ending Sept 2015
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,782.2	1,533.0	16.3	29.0
7	Machinery & transport equipment	1,120.9	1,121.3	0.0	18.2
0	Food & live animals	1,089.6	1,038.4	4.9	17.7
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	848.6	871.7	-2.7	13.8
5	Chemicals & related products	574.8	560.4	2.6	9.3
	Other SITCs	736.5	779.6	-5.5	12.0
	Grand Total	6,152.5	5,904.5	4.2	100.0

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

The value of imports increased during the year in four of Northern Ireland's top five commodities. The one that decreases is 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material.'

- 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' remains the top import section by value. Its share of Northern Ireland's total imports has increased slightly from 26 per cent to 29 per cent over the last year.
- Northern Ireland experienced its largest value increase in imports of 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (up £249 million, 16 per cent). This was followed by 'Food & live animals' which increased by £51 million (4.9 per cent).
- The biggest decreases came from 'Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials' (down £25 million, 15 per cent) and 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' (down £23 million, 2.7 per cent).

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

- The biggest decreases at division level came from 'electrical machinery and appliances and parts' (down £47 million, 26 per cent) and 'Coal, coke & briquettes' (down £28 million, 23 per cent).
- The largest increases in import value at division level were in 'Articles of apparel and clothing accessories' (up £219 million, 22 per cent) and 'Meat & meat preparations' (up £35 million, 9.3 per cent).

Exports from English Regions

Partner country analysis – Exports from English regions

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

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

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

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

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

Commodity analysis – Exports from English regions

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

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	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	2 - Crude materials, inedible, except fuels
Yorkshire & Humberside	5 - Chemicals & related products	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	3 - Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles
East Midlands	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	5 - Chemicals & related products	0 - Food & live animals
West Midlands	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	5 - Chemicals & related products	2 - Crude materials, inedible, except fuels
East	7 - Machinery & transport equipment	5 - Chemicals & related products	8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	0 - Food & live animals
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: 2015 data is provisional
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

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

- 'Machinery and transport equipment' is the top SITC section in six regions.
- The following commodity groups are in the top five in all regions.
 - 'Machinery and transport equipment',
 - 'Chemicals & related products',
 - 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles',
 - 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material'.

Imports into English Regions

Partner country analysis – Imports into English regions

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

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

Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

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

- Germany is in the top five for all English regions.
- China and the Netherlands are in the top five for all regions except the North East.
- The USA features in the top five for seven of the English regions.
- France features in the top five for six of the English regions.
- Germany is the top partner country for five regions. The same occurred for year ending September 2014.

Commodity analysis – Imports into English regions

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

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

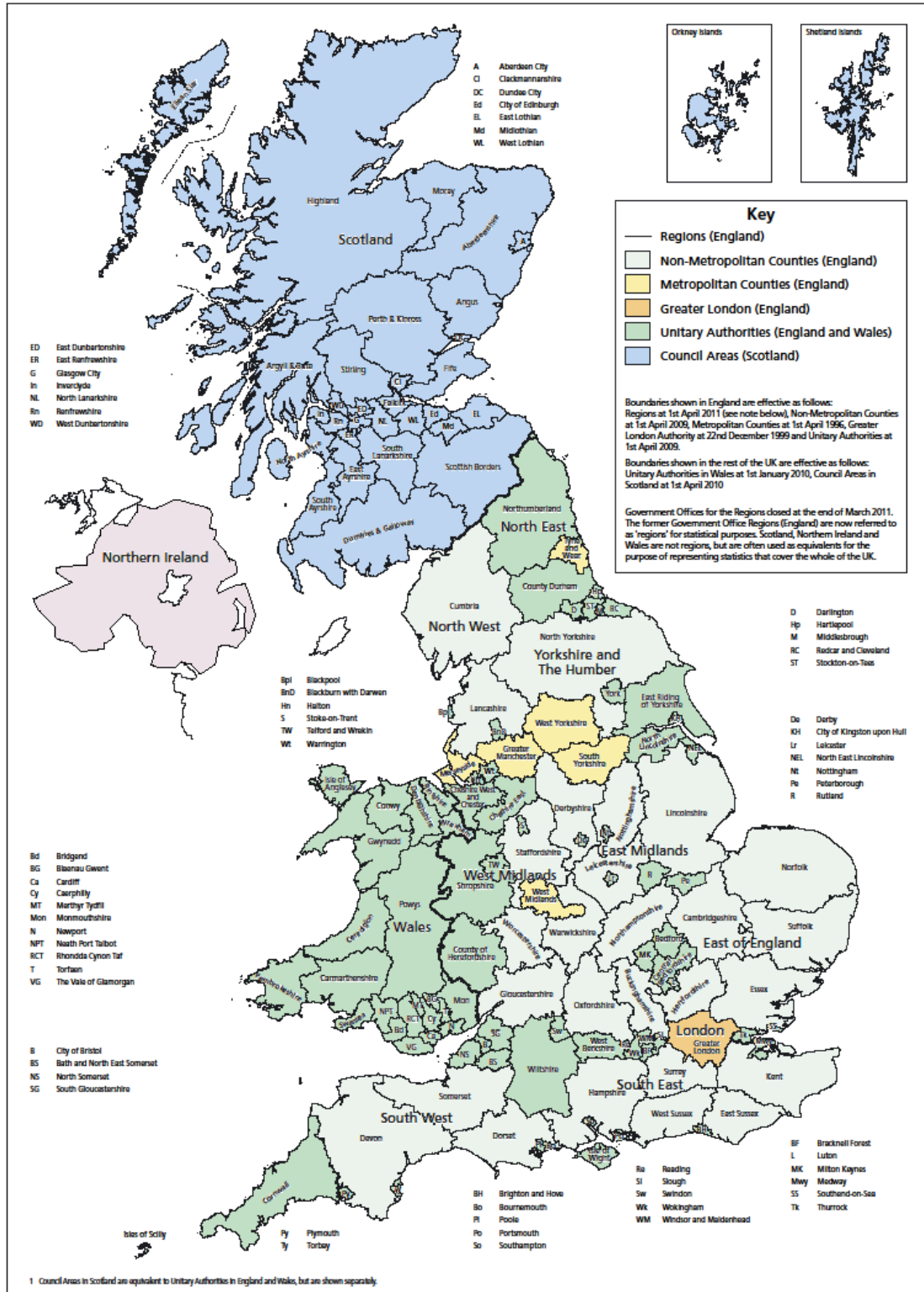
Note: 2015 data is provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade Statistics

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

- 'Machinery & transport equipment' is in the top five imported commodities of all English regions. It is the top SITC section for six of the regions. The three exceptions are the North West, Yorkshire and the Humber and London.
- Miscellaneous manufactured articles is also in the top five imported commodities of all English regions.
- 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' is shown in the top five of all English regions except the South East.

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



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

Explanatory Notes

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

Table A: RTS/OTS Reconciliation Table Quarter 3, 2015

	EU Exports £ millions	Non-EU Exports £ millions	EU Imports £ millions	Non-EU Imports £ millions
OTS total value	32,183	41,843	53,825	46,995
RTS total value	31,716	34,834	53,224	44,175
Allocated to a region	27,327	31,313	48,591	39,928
Unknown region	4,389	3,522	4,634	4,248
Late response estimates	418.1	-	483.5	-
Non-monetary gold	49	7,009	117	2,820
RTS total plus exclusions¹	32,183	41,843	53,825	46,995

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

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

Note 3: 2015 data is provisional and subject to update.

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

3. The latest statistics on Regional Trade were released on 03 December 2015 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 3 2015. At the same time revisions for all previously published regional data for 2015 are also being released. 2014 is no longer provisional and is closed for scheduled updates.

4. Aggregated tables are produced to allow time series analysis; these tables are provided in a separate document released in conjunction with this release.
5. Data is taken primarily from Customs systems (for non-EU trade) and the Intrastat survey (for EU trade). HMRC does not receive information in respect of goods that move wholly within the UK, nor in intangibles and services such as banking or tourism.
6. RTS data is compiled by merging trade data collected by HMRC with Office for National Statistics postcode data to obtain the region in which the VAT registered business (importer or exporter) is based.
7. Some adjustments are necessary in producing the region of export statistics to ensure manufacturing at branch premises is properly allocated to the region where the branch is situated. This adjustment is based on the results of periodic surveys of the top 200 businesses by value of exports (both EU and non-EU), to determine the values and proportions of trade generated by each branch. Therefore, for these businesses, their trade is proportioned across the regions. For all other businesses the head office is used by default unless the export is assigned to a specific branch. For imports, such adjustments cannot be made, as businesses cannot reasonably assess of the final regional destination for their goods. Unlike exports where the manufacture of goods is typically more regionally concentrated, imports are based on the sale of goods, which is far more regionally dispersed. Because the trade is regionalised according to the location of the VAT registered business some of the trade may be allocated to the region where the head office of the business is located.
8. In 2009 the introduction of the Economic Operator Registration and Identification (EORI) system enabled EU economic operators (businesses) to register for customs purposes in one Member State, obtaining an EORI number which is valid throughout all EU member states. The EORI number replaced the VAT registration number and Branch ID supplied on trade data, which together made up the Trader's Unique Reference Number (TURN). The TURN or EORI number is the main data source used in the compilation of the RTS as it is matched with the relevant postcode in order to allocate trade to specific regions of the UK. Under EORI, the vast majority of businesses were not allowed to retain Branch IDs; this has impacted RTS, with the majority of trade now being declared to the head office(s) in a single region (or a small number of regions). The result is that the recorded trade for regions containing branches of a business has been reduced, while the recorded trade for regions containing the head office(s) of that business has increased.
9. Not all trade can be assigned to one of the 9 English Regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Where appropriate, this is referred to in the tables as the 'Unknown region' and includes:

- a. 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).
- b. Trade carried out by persons or entities which cannot be matched to a region;
- c. Low Value Trade (non-EU trade only);

More information can be found in the RTS methodology document.
https://www.uktradeinfo.com/Statistics/OverseasTradeStatistics/AboutOverseastradeStatistics/User%20support/RTS_Methodology_Revision_2015.pdf

10. RTS data is categorised by partner country and [Standard International Trade Classification, Rev.4](#). (SITC) at division level (2-digit). The SITC is a relatively broad classification of goods and is not as detailed as the commodity classification available in the OTS. In this release RTS data is analysed at partner country and SITC section (1-digit) level, with references to SITC divisions where appropriate.
11. The number of businesses dealing with the EU and those for non-EU do not sum to the total number of businesses. Businesses that are active in both EU and non-EU markets are counted once only. The counts for businesses do not include businesses who only trade with EU whose value of their intra-EU trade is below the [Intrastat Exemption Threshold](#).
12. 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.
13. The Regional Trade in Goods figures undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs. These reviews are published as a [Government Statistical Service Quality report](#).
14. 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.

Next release: 03 March 2016 9:30am

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