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HM Revenue and Customs

Trade asymmetries in international trade in goods statistics published between the UK and EU Member States, 2014 to 2016

Summary

- Asymmetries are the differences between the published trade statistics of the reporting country and its partner countries. Each country collects data on their own international trade-in-goods for both imports and exports, simplistically the 'mirror flow' collected by the partner countries should match (i.e. one country's export should mirror the partner countries import). In reality, it is often the case that the figures do not match and this is referred to as an 'asymmetry'
- The total asymmetry in 2016 between UK reported arrivals from the EU and EU reported dispatches to the UK was -€24bn. The asymmetry in 2014 was -€16bn, and -€14bn in 2015.
- The total asymmetry in 2016 between UK dispatches to the EU and EU arrivals from the UK was €3.6bn. The asymmetry in 2014 was €1.2bn, and €561m in 2015.
- The relative asymmetry in 2016 between UK reported arrivals from the EU and EU reported dispatches to the UK was -8.0%, The asymmetry in 2014 was -4.4%, and -5.5% in 2015.
- The relative asymmetry in 2016 between UK reported dispatches from the EU and EU reported arrivals to the UK was -2.0%, The asymmetry in 2014 was 0.7%, and 0.3% in 2015.

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1 Introduction

Asymmetries are the differences between the published trade statistics of the reporting country and its partner countries. Each country collects data on their own international trade-in-goods for both imports and exports, simplistically the 'mirror flow' collected by the partner countries should match (i.e. one country's export should mirror the partner countries import). In reality, it is often the case that the figures do not match and this is referred to as an 'asymmetry'.

For example, there may be a difference between what the United Kingdom (UK) records as arrivals¹ from France, and what France records as dispatches² to the UK. This difference or asymmetry can be measured.

For trade-in-goods between the European Union (EU) Members States, trade information is collected via the Intrastat³ survey and is controlled by EU Statistical legislation which aims to harmonise the classifications and collection. However, there remain legitimate reasons why asymmetries still exist. More information, including possible causes of asymmetries, can be found in the [overview of asymmetries](#) paper published on HMRC's trade statistics [website](#).

The Trade Statistics Unit, in HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC), carries out regular analyses of the asymmetries between the UK and the EU, and occasional analyses of the differences with other major trading partners. This information is used as part of the quality assurance work on the trade data and to investigate discrepancies.

This paper is an asymmetry study covering trade in goods between the UK and the EU for the calendar years 2014 to 2016. The data used in the compilation of this report has been extracted from Eurostat's⁴ [Comext database](#). There is a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet available to download with more detailed information.

¹ The term used to describe goods imported by an EU Members State from another EU Members State.

² The term used to describe goods exported by an EU Members State to another EU Members State.

³ Intrastat was introduced in 1993 to replace customs declarations for trade between EU Members States following the introduction of the single market.

⁴ Eurostat is the statistical office of the European Union situated in Luxembourg.

2 Executive Summary

UK Arrivals

For the calendar year 2016 the total asymmetry recorded between UK arrivals from the EU and EU dispatches to the UK was -€24bn. The asymmetry in 2014 was -€16bn. The UK has seen an increased asymmetry of over €8bn. In part this may be attributed to the increase in the total value of trade for UK arrivals which was €275bn in 2014 and €291bn in 2016, however in 2015, the total value of trade for arrivals was €303bn with a total asymmetry of -€14bn.

The country contributing the most to the total absolute asymmetry in 2016 (ignoring whether it is a positive or negative asymmetry) was Germany. This is the same in the calendar years 2014 and 2015. The German share progressively increased from 21% in 2014 to 25% in 2016. In value terms, the difference between the UK arrivals from Germany and the German dispatches to the UK was €7.7bn in 2016.

Other countries that have a significant asymmetry in value terms in 2016 are the Netherlands and Belgium, the Netherlands having an asymmetry of €6.7bn, and Belgium €3.6bn. These two countries accounted for 33% of the UK's total absolute asymmetry. This remained relatively consistent between 2014 and 2016. In 2014 the Netherlands and Belgium accounted for 31% of the UK's total absolute asymmetry and in 2015 they accounted for 34%.

At a commodity level the largest asymmetries were in Chapter 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock) and Chapter 85 (Electrical machinery and equipment). In 2016 the absolute asymmetries in these chapters were €4.6bn and €3.3bn respectively.

In terms of relative asymmetry, there hasn't been much change in comparison to 2014 and 2015 with Chapter 93 (Arms and ammunition) remaining the largest positive relative asymmetry at 116% and Chapter 99 (Other Products) the largest negative figure at -127%. Contributing factors could be due to the suppression of data with arms and ammunition, and the miscellaneous nature of the heading "other products".

UK Dispatches

The total asymmetry in 2016 between UK reported dispatches to the EU and EU reported arrivals from the UK was -€3.6bn. The asymmetry was €1.2bn in and €560m in 2015. The overall value of trade for UK dispatches has decreased by €6.5 billion (3.7%) between 2014 and 2016. This has resulted in a change in the relative asymmetry to -2% in 2016 from 0.7% in 2014.

Germany had the largest share of absolute asymmetry in 2014 of 15%, this changed from 12% in 2015 and then notably again in 2016 to 3%. The actual difference in UK dispatches to Germany against German arrivals from the UK in 2016 was €336m. France had the largest share of absolute asymmetry in 2016 with €1.9bn which accounts for 16%. France's share of absolute asymmetry increased by 8.6% from 2014 when the absolute asymmetry was €1.1bn.

At a product level the largest asymmetries are in Chapter 88 (Aircraft) and Chapter 85 (Electrical machinery and equipment). These chapters accounted for 20% and 15% of the total absolute asymmetry respectively. The asymmetry in Chapter 88 rose from €875m in 2014 to €4.6bn in 2016.

Conclusion

Some work is needed to further understand the differences between EU Members States published data. This also applies to international trade in goods with Non-EU countries. As this paper specifically focusses on EU Members States, HMRC plan a further publication to highlight the differences the UK has with countries outside of the EU. This will present a methodological challenge as the source data systems differ (Eurostat publish EU data via the Comext database and the United Nations published data for EU and Non-EU countries via it's Comtrade database).

3 Measures of Asymmetries

There are two types of asymmetries for EU trade in goods that are referred to in this report: the **arrivals asymmetry** and the **dispatches asymmetry**.

The **arrivals asymmetry** is the difference between the declarant country's arrivals from the partner country and the partner country's dispatches to the declarant country. If this asymmetry is positive it means that the declarant country's arrivals from the partner country are greater than the partner country's dispatches to the declarant country.

The **dispatches asymmetry** is the difference between the declarant country's dispatches to the partner country and the partner country's arrivals from the declarant country. If this asymmetry is positive it means that the declarant country's dispatches to the partner country are greater than the partner country's arrivals from the declarant country.

As an example, the UK's arrivals asymmetry with Germany is the difference between what the UK records as arrivals from Germany and what Germany records as dispatches to the UK. If the value of UK arrivals minus German dispatches is negative, it suggests that the UK is recording less goods as received from Germany, than Germany is recording as dispatched to the UK.

If we use D to represent the declarant country and P to represent the partner country, we can set out the main indicators used by Eurostat to calculate asymmetry. Note that for the purposes of this report the UK will always be the declarant.

Indicators of Asymmetry

(1) Absolute Asymmetry:

$$= | \text{Value (D)} - \text{Value (P)} |$$

This is the absolute difference between the value of recorded by the declarant and their partner country (mirror value).

(2) Relative Asymmetry (%):

$$= \frac{\text{Value (D)} - \text{Value (P)}}{0.5 (\text{Value (D)} + \text{Value (P)})} \times 100$$

The relative asymmetry looks at the difference between the value reported by the declarant country and the value reported by the partner country with respect to the mean of those two flows. This method makes no assumption about which value (D or P) is the correct value and instead looks at the asymmetry with respect to the average of the two values shown in percent.

(3) Share of Total Absolute Asymmetry (%):

$$= \frac{|\text{Value (D)} - \text{Value (P)}|}{\sum |\text{Value (D)} - \text{Value (P)}|} \times 100$$

This percentage dictates the contribution a country or HS⁵ Chapter is having on the absolute total of the asymmetries within a certain flow, e.g. Chapter 45 may be responsible for 10 per cent of the total UK arrivals asymmetry.

Note: The values used within the tables in this report are quoted in euros. UK declarations are made in pounds sterling and converted to euros by Eurostat. The data that Eurostat receives from each Members State is compiled in the local currency and is then converted to euros using a monthly exchange rate.

Unallocated trade: Whilst the vast majority of trade declared between EU Members States provides detail at value, product and country levels, there is provision for Members States to apply suppressions.

For trade reported by the declarant (UK arrivals and dispatches), there is some trade 'not allocated' to a country. For example 'countries & territories not specified in the framework of Intra-Community trade' and 'countries & territories not specified for commercial or military reasons in the framework of Intra-Community trade' are identified as 'unallocated'.

For trade reported by our EU partners (arrivals and dispatches), the chapter total does not add up to the country total and is therefore referred to as unallocated.

⁵ HS Chapter as defined by Eurostat on Comext

4 EU Members State trade in goods asymmetries between 2014 - 2016

4.1 Members State share of absolute asymmetries for arrivals

Graph 4.1 looks at the share of arrivals absolute asymmetry from each Members State against the rest of the EU for the years 2014-2016.

It may seem logical to assume that the country with the largest EU arrivals will have the largest share of total absolute asymmetries. However this is not always the case.

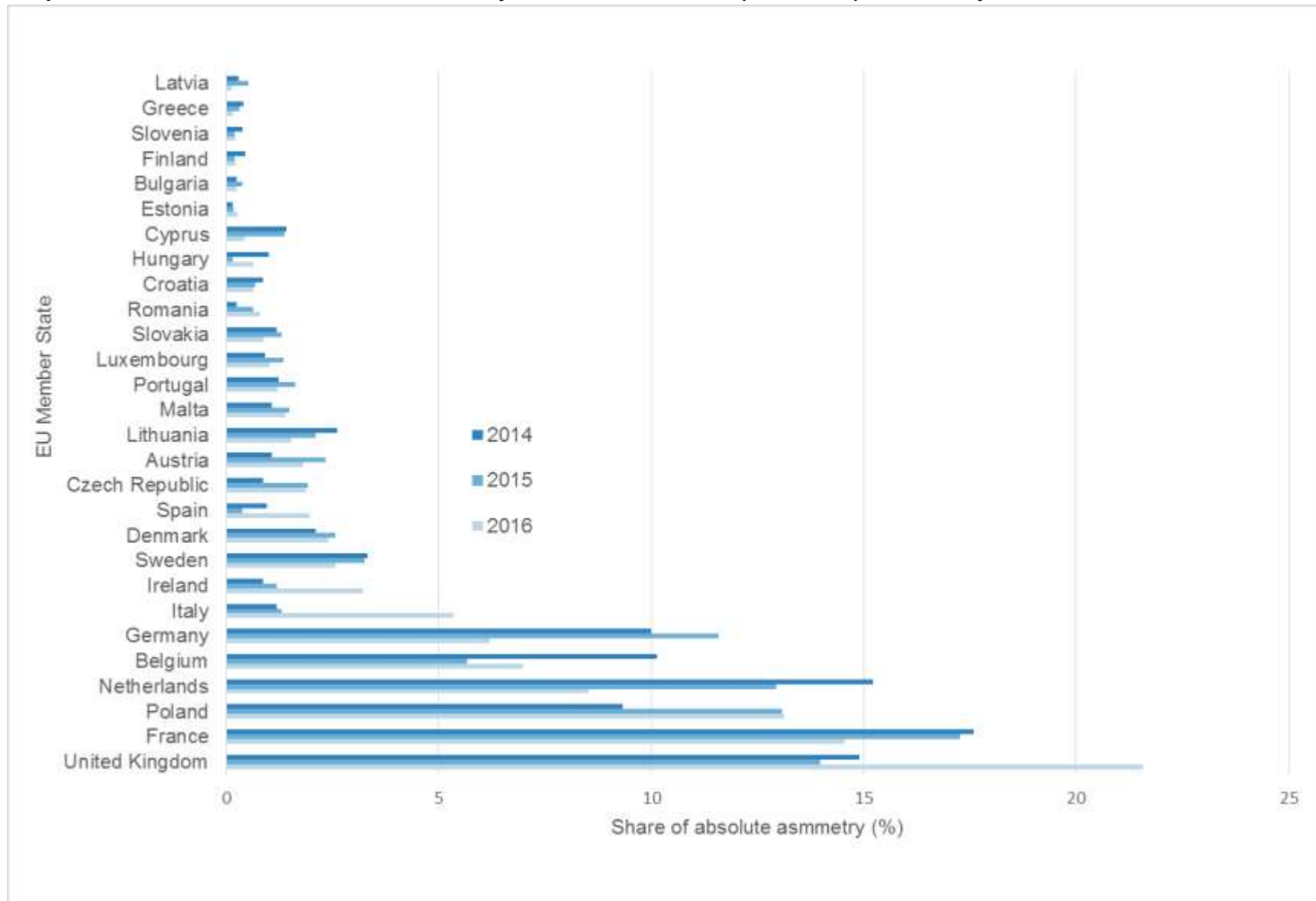
The top five Members States by value of EU arrivals in 2016 were Germany, France, United Kingdom, Italy and the Netherlands these contributed 56% of the share of total absolute asymmetry for EU arrivals. Netherlands had the fourth largest share of total absolute asymmetry in 2016 with 8.5% and were the fifth largest Member State by value of EU arrivals.

The smallest five Members States by value of EU arrivals in 2016 were Malta, Cyprus, Latvia, Estonia and Luxembourg these contributed 3.3% of the share of total absolute asymmetry for EU arrivals. Latvia had the smallest share of absolute asymmetry across all 28 Members States with a share of 0.1%.

In 2014 France had the largest total share of absolute asymmetry within the EU with 18%, France also had the largest share in 2015 with 17%. In 2016 France's total share of absolute asymmetry within the EU decreased to the second largest with 15%. In 2014 Poland had the sixth largest share of total absolute asymmetry for EU arrivals of 9.3%. In 2015 and 2016 Poland had the third largest share of total absolute asymmetry for EU arrivals of 13% in both years.

In 2014 the UK had the third largest share of total absolute asymmetry within the EU of 15%. In 2015, the UK had the second largest share of total absolute asymmetry within the EU despite a slight decrease in the total absolute asymmetry with 14%. In 2016 the UK had the largest share of the total absolute asymmetry within the EU with 22%.

Graph 4.1 Members State share of absolute asymmetries for arrivals (2014-2016), ordered by 2016 value



Source: Comext database, extracted 19th September 2017

4.2 Members State share of absolute asymmetries for dispatches

Graph 4.2 looks at the share of dispatches absolute asymmetry from each Members State against the rest of the EU for the years 2014 to 2016.

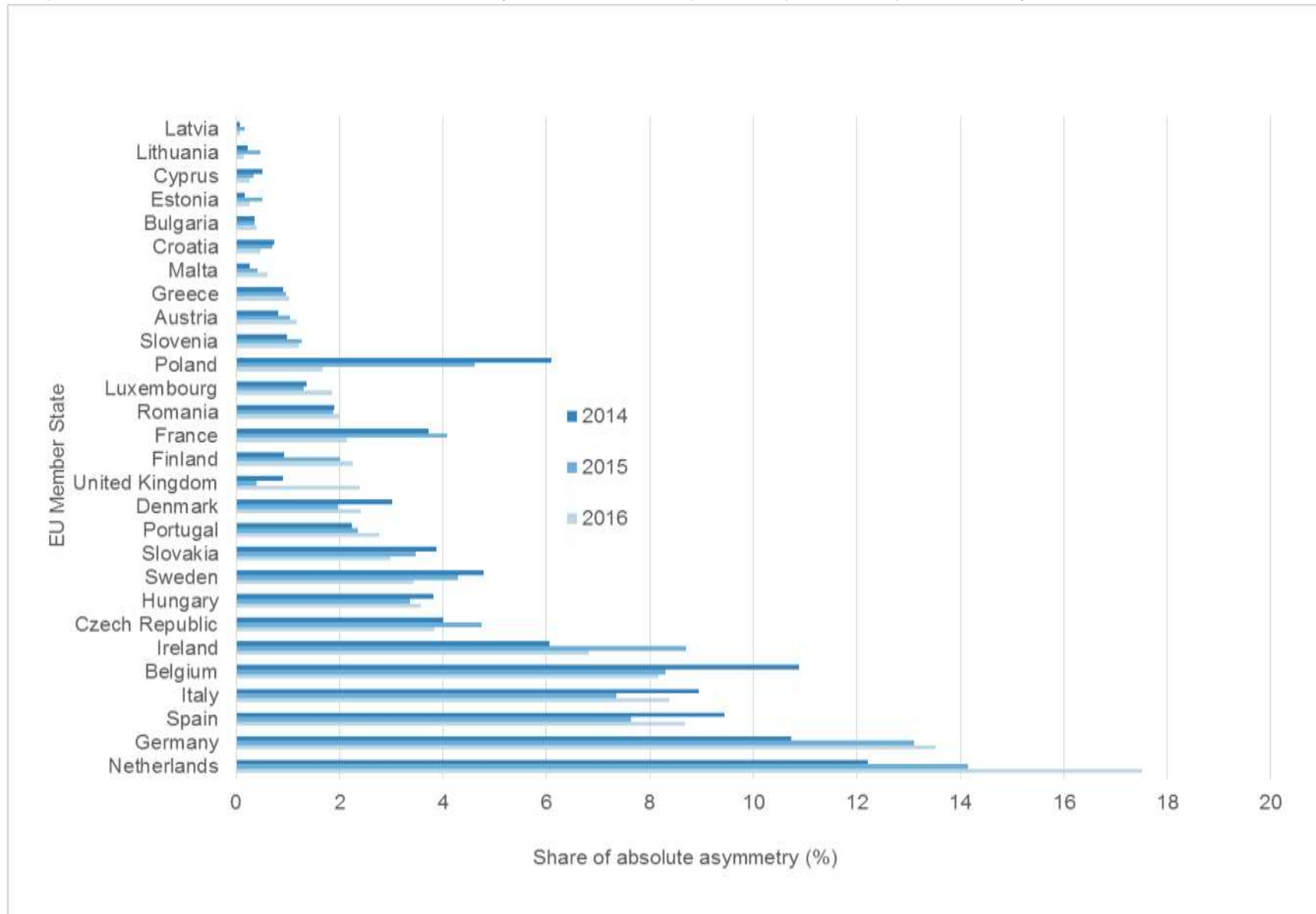
The top five EU Member States by value of EU dispatches in 2016 were Germany, the Netherlands, France, Belgium and Italy, they contributed 50% of the share of the total absolute asymmetry for EU dispatches. France were the third largest by value of EU dispatches in 2016, they had a share of the total absolute asymmetry of 2.1%.

The bottom five EU Member States by value of EU dispatches in 2016 were Malta, Cyprus, Latvia, Croatia and Estonia, they contributed 1.7% of the share of total absolute asymmetry for EU dispatches. Latvia had the smallest total share of absolute asymmetry in 2016 with 0.1%.

Between 2014 and 2016, Netherlands have consistently had the largest share of total absolute asymmetry within the EU for dispatches, this has increased from 12% in 2014, to 14% in 2015 and 18% in 2016. Belgium had the second largest share of total absolute asymmetry within the EU with 11% in 2016, this dropped to 8.3% in 2015 and 8.2% in 2016. In 2014 Poland had the sixth largest share of total absolute asymmetry within the EU with a share of 6.1%, this dropped to 4.6% in 2015 and 1.7% in 2016.

In 2014 the UK had a share of the total absolute asymmetry within the EU for dispatches of 0.9%. In 2015 this was 0.4%, and in 2016 this was 2.4%.

Graph 4.2 Members State share of absolute asymmetries for dispatches (2014-2016), ordered by 2016 value



Source: Comext database, extracted 19th September 2017

4.3 Members State relative asymmetries for arrivals

Graph 4.3 looks at the arrivals relative asymmetry from each Members State against the rest of the EU for the years 2014-2016.

In 2016 the largest five EU Members States by value of EU arrivals were Germany, France, United Kingdom, Italy and Netherlands. The relative asymmetry for each of the top five Members States arrivals is small. Germany have the smallest relative asymmetry in the top five with 1.1%

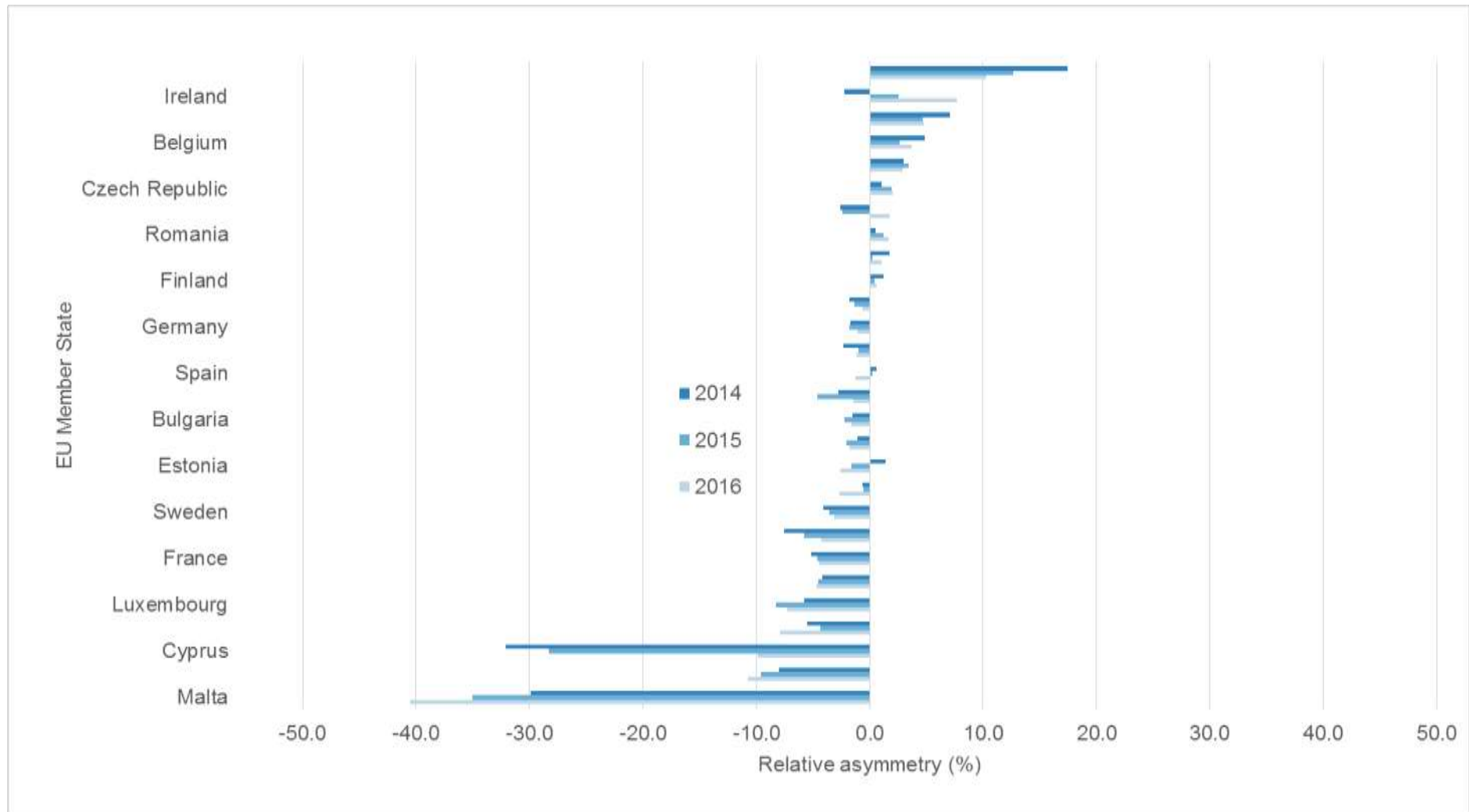
The smallest five EU Members States by value of EU arrivals in 2016 were Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Cyprus and Malta. Cyprus had a relative asymmetry of -9.8%, and Malta had a relative asymmetry of -41%. Latvia had a small relative asymmetry for arrivals of -1.5%.

In 2016, 22 of the EU Members States had a relative asymmetry between +/-5%, a further four were between +/-10%.

Between 2014 and 2016 Cyprus had a change in their relative asymmetry from -32% to -10%. Lithuania had a change between 2014 and 2016, going from 17% to 10%. Malta had the largest change over the same period, going from -30% to -41%.

In 2016 the UK had the third largest total value for arrivals. The total arrivals reported was €291bn, with an asymmetry of -€24bn, this equates to a relative asymmetry of -7.9%, in 2014 and 2015 the UK reported relative asymmetries of -5.5% and -4.4% respectively.

Graph 4.3 Members State relative asymmetries for arrivals (2014-2016), ordered by 2016 value



Source: Comext database, extracted 19th September 2017

4.4 Members State relative asymmetries for dispatches

Graph 4.4 looks at the dispatches relative asymmetry from each Members State against the rest of the EU for the years 2014-2016.

In 2016 the largest five EU Members States by value of EU dispatches were Germany, Netherlands, France, Belgium and Italy. These five countries made up 60% of dispatches reported by EU Members States, but as demonstrated in graph 4.4 the relative asymmetry for each is quite small. Netherlands who are the second largest by value of total EU dispatches had the largest relative asymmetry within the top five largest countries of 6.5%.

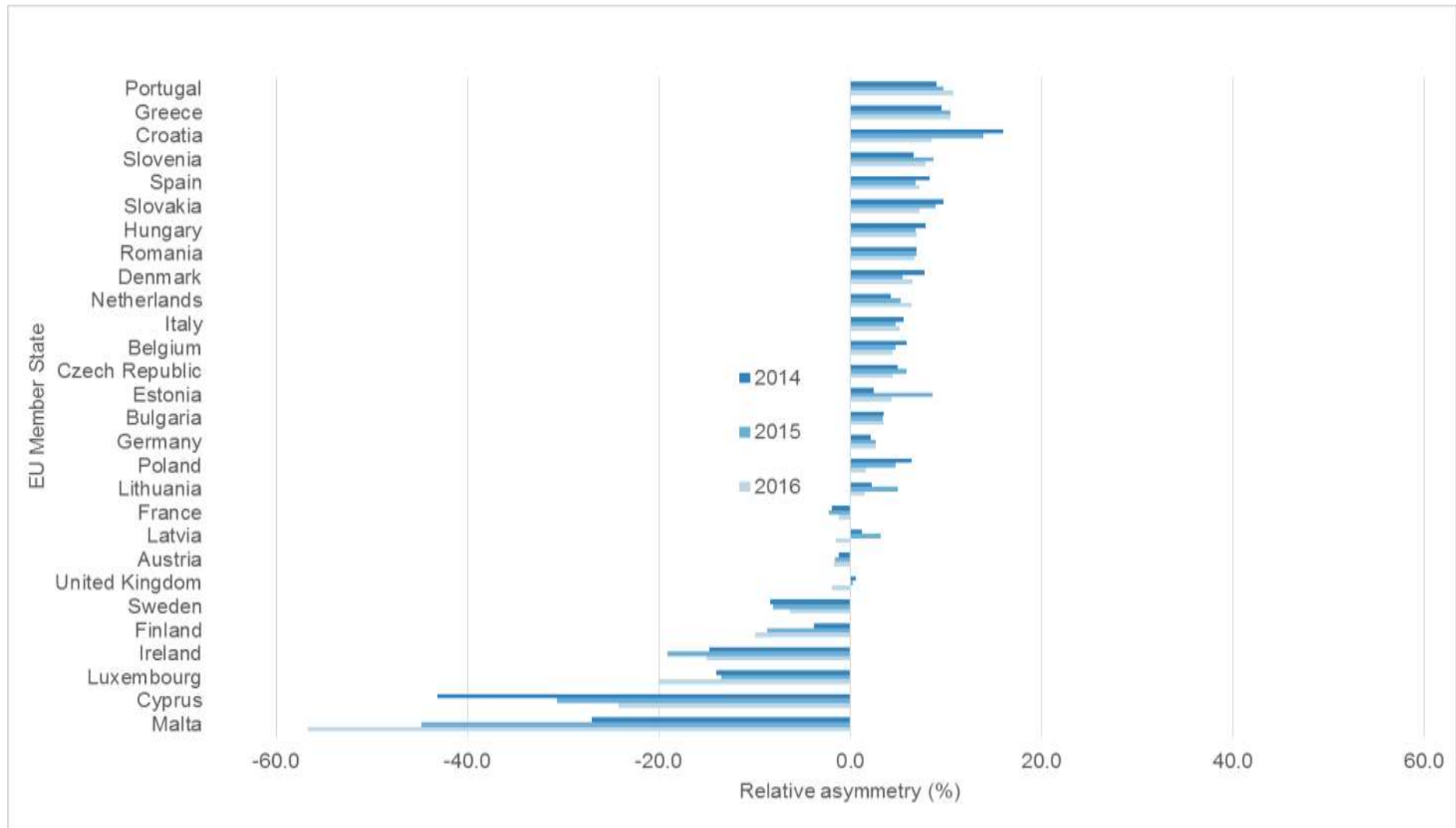
In 2016 the smallest five EU Members States by value of EU dispatches were Estonia, Latvia, Croatia, Cyprus and Malta. These five countries made up less than 1% of the total trade within the EU. Croatia had a relative asymmetry of 8.6%, and Malta had a relative asymmetry of -57%. Latvia had a small relative asymmetry for dispatches of -1.5%.

In 2016, 11 of the EU Members States had a relative asymmetry between +/-5%, a further 11 were between +/-10%.

Between 2014 and 2016 Malta's relative asymmetry changed from -27% to -57%. Croatia changed from 16% in 2014 to 8.6% in 2016. Very few countries moved from a negative to positive or positive to negative relative asymmetry between the years of 2014-2016.

In 2016 the UK had the sixth largest value for EU dispatches. The total value of dispatches reported was €176bn, with an asymmetry of -€3.4bn, this equated to a relative asymmetry of -1.9%. France is the only country within the top five to have a relative asymmetry closer to 0% than the UK with a relative asymmetry of -1.1%. Between 2014 and 2016 the UK's relative asymmetry remained consistently small.

Graph 4.4 Members State relative asymmetries for dispatches (2014-2016), ordered by 2016 value



Source: Comext database, extracted 19th September 2017

4.5 Members State total trade versus average relative asymmetries for arrivals

Graph 4.5 looks at each Members States average total trade values with the rest of the EU between 2014 and 2016 and compares this with each Members States average relative asymmetry between 2014 and 2016.

Graph 4.5 helps to conceptualise the relationship between a country's total arrivals value and its relative asymmetry. A country with a large total arrivals value and what seems to be a large absolute asymmetry at first, may actually have a low relative asymmetry. Similarly a country with small total arrivals and a small absolute asymmetry may have a large relative asymmetry. The spikes up and down indicate that these countries have an abnormal asymmetry in relation to their total trade.

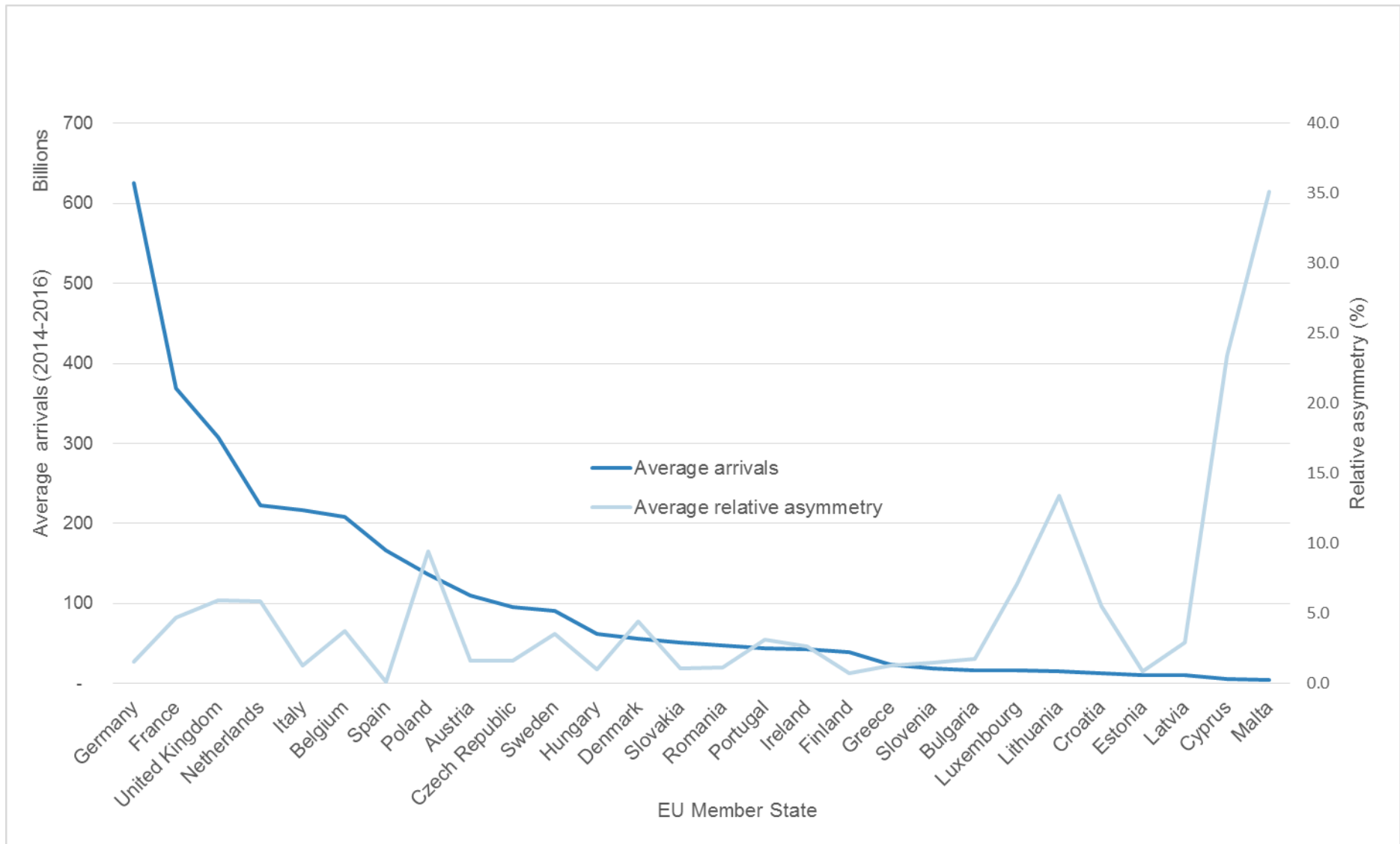
Malta was the smallest Members State by value of EU arrivals with €3.2bn, but they had the largest average relative asymmetry between 2014 and 2016 of -35%. Germany had average EU arrivals within the EU between 2014 and 2016 of €616bn, and had one of the smallest relative asymmetries with -1.5% for the same period.

Lithuania had an average relative asymmetry between 2014 and 2016 of 13%, and had an average total EU arrivals value of €17bn. Bulgaria who had similar average EU arrivals to Lithuania between 2014 and 2016 at €17bn had an average relative asymmetry of 13%.

As the two trend lines cross and to the left of graph 4.5 there is a noticeable peak where Poland stand out as having a large average relative asymmetry of -9.4% in relation to their average total EU dispatches of €124bn

The UK had an average asymmetry between 2014 and 2016 of -5.9%, behind this, however, an increase in relative asymmetry between from -5.5% in 2014 to -7.9% in 2016.

Graph 4.5 Members State Total trade versus relative asymmetries for arrivals (2014-2016), ordered by average total arrivals.



Source: Comext database, extracted 19th September 2017

4.6 Members State total trade versus average relative asymmetries for dispatches

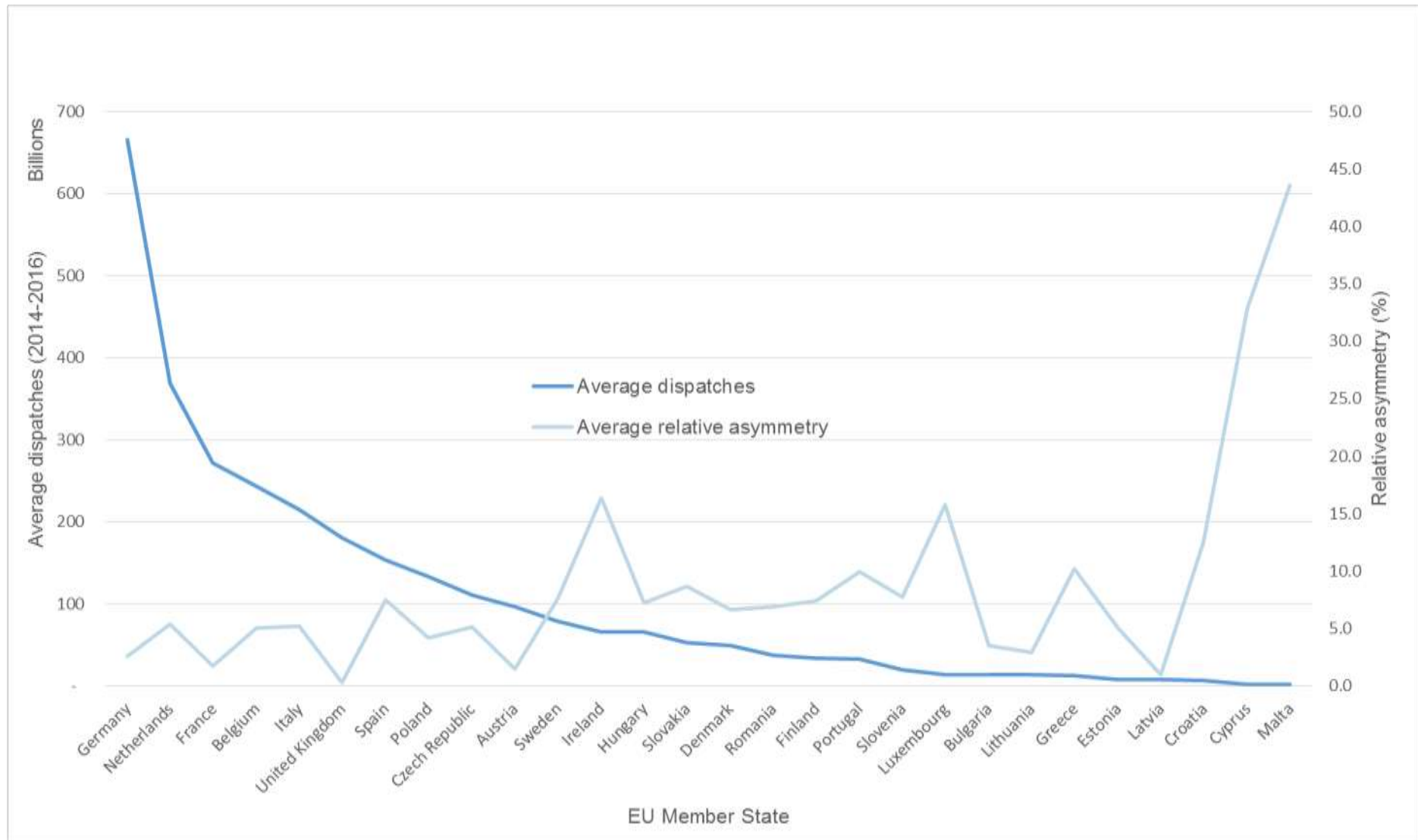
Graph 4.6 looks at each Members States average total dispatches trade values between 2014 and 2016 and compares this with each Members States average relative asymmetry between 2014 and 2016.

Similar to arrivals there is a trend where countries with a larger total trade tend to have a smaller relative asymmetry. For example, Germany had an average relative asymmetry between 2014 and 2016 of 2.6%. Ireland had a relative asymmetry of 16%, and dispatches of €67bn. Hungary had dispatches of €71bn and a relative asymmetry of 7.2%.

As the two trend lines cross there is a noticeable trough with Austria who had an average relative asymmetry of 1.5%, noticeably smaller than countries who had a similar trade total. Spain on the other hand had a larger average relative asymmetry of 7.5% compared with countries with a similar trade total.

Graph 4.6 highlights the UK had a small average relative asymmetry in relation to its total dispatches value. It is clear that the UK had the smallest average relative asymmetry (2014-2016), with -0.3% compared with the other 27 Member States.

Graph 4.6 Members State total trade versus relative asymmetry for dispatches (2014-2016), ordered by average total dispatches.



Source: Comext database, extracted 19th September 2017

5 UK Asymmetries with the EU, 2014-2016

5.1 UK arrivals asymmetries by partner country

Table 5.1 shows the asymmetries between UK arrivals from the EU and EU dispatches to the UK for the years 2014-2016.

Through the years 2014-2016, the top three Members States with the largest share of total absolute asymmetries with the UK were Germany, Netherlands and Belgium. In all three years these three countries made up half of the share of total absolute asymmetries. In 2014, Poland and Denmark were the fourth and fifth largest for absolute asymmetries, whilst in 2015 Ireland and Poland were fourth and fifth. Finally in 2016, France and Italy had the fourth and fifth largest absolute asymmetries for that year.

The Members States with the smallest share of total absolute asymmetries with the UK were less consistent. In 2014, Latvia had the smallest absolute asymmetry with the UK, followed by Cyprus, Bulgaria, Malta and Estonia. In 2015, Lithuania had the smallest absolute asymmetry with the UK followed by Finland, Estonia, Croatia then Bulgaria. Lastly, in 2016 Sweden had the smallest absolute asymmetry with the UK followed by Luxembourg, Croatia, Slovenia and Bulgaria.

In terms of relative asymmetries with the UK, for 2014 the top five (in magnitude) were Croatia (-58%), Malta (46%), Slovakia (-33%), Estonia (27%) and Cyprus (-25%). In 2015, the top five were Malta (51%), Cyprus (49%), Croatia (-45%), Slovakia (-29%) and Estonia (-24%). Finally in 2016 the top five were Malta (82%), Cyprus (-42%), Croatia (-35%), Latvia (34%) and Slovakia (-30%). From this we can infer that Croatia, Malta, Cyprus and Slovakia have been in the top five in terms of magnitude for relative asymmetries for all three years.

Notable trends through the time series include the sudden rise in absolute asymmetry for Germany in 2016. Another country to highlight is France, where the absolute asymmetry decreases from 2014 to 2015 but then nearly quadruples between 2015 and 2016. There are also some countries e.g. Hungary and Latvia, where the absolute asymmetries have increased substantially between 2014 and 2016. On the flip side, Sweden's absolute asymmetry has decreased from €497m in 2014 down to €35m in 2016. Also worth noting is Lithuania's absolute asymmetry with the UK changed from €263m in 2014 down to -€9.4m in 2016.

The total absolute asymmetry between UK arrivals from the EU and EU dispatches to the UK for 2014 was €26bn, this decreased to €24bn in 2015 and then rose to €31bn in 2016.

Table 5.1 Asymmetries between UK arrivals from the EU and EU dispatches to the UK (2014-2016)

Country	2014			2015			2016		
	Absolute asymmetry (€m)	Share of total absolute asymmetry (%)	Relative asymmetry (%)	Absolute asymmetry (€m)	Share of total absolute asymmetry (%)	Relative asymmetry (%)	Absolute asymmetry (€m)	Share of total absolute asymmetry (%)	Relative asymmetry (%)
Germany	5,443.5	20.7	-7.1	5,384.0	22.1	-6.2	7,727.8	24.9	-9.4
Netherlands	4,118.2	15.7	-9.8	5,062.4	20.8	-11.2	6,662.1	21.5	-14.6
Belgium	3,986.1	15.2	-14.5	3,274.4	13.4	-11.0	3,648.6	11.8	-12.1
France	839.8	3.2	-2.8	493.0	2.0	1.5	1,633.0	5.3	-5.3
Italy	495.2	1.9	-2.4	650.7	2.7	-3.0	1,527.4	4.9	-7.0
Czech Republic	878.6	3.3	-14.1	855.1	3.5	-12.0	1,137.6	3.7	-16.0
Ireland	941.9	3.6	6.7	1,923.0	7.9	11.8	1,117.2	3.6	7.3
Slovakia	938.7	3.6	-33.0	918.4	3.8	-28.5	1,081.0	3.5	-30.0
Poland	1,034.1	3.9	-10.3	920.5	3.8	-7.9	817.5	2.6	-7.0
Denmark	1,038.1	3.9	-17.1	697.6	2.9	-13.7	785.6	2.5	-15.1
Spain	702.9	2.7	-4.2	572.8	2.4	3.0	685.2	2.2	-3.5
Hungary	88.6	0.3	-2.9	124.8	0.5	-3.5	378.0	1.2	-10.9
Romania	324.7	1.2	-16.3	240.9	1.0	-10.7	374.3	1.2	-16.3
Austria	288.6	1.1	-7.3	167.4	0.7	-3.9	325.6	1.0	-8.0
Portugal	162.2	0.6	-5.7	131.6	0.5	-4.0	289.1	0.9	-8.5

Table 5.1 Continued

Country	2014			2015			2016		
	Absolute asymmetry (€m)	Share of total absolute asymmetry (%)	Relative asymmetry (%)	Absolute asymmetry (€m)	Share of total absolute asymmetry (%)	Relative asymmetry (%)	Absolute asymmetry (€m)	Share of total absolute asymmetry (%)	Relative asymmetry (%)
Latvia	16.6	0.1	-3.3	116.7	0.5	19.4	237.8	0.8	34.0
Finland	122.2	0.5	-4.1	46.5	0.2	1.7	165.2	0.5	6.4
Malta	59.3	0.2	46.0	102.3	0.4	51.3	141.0	0.5	81.9
Cyprus	47.0	0.2	-25.1	81.9	0.3	48.5	109.9	0.4	-41.5
Greece	118.3	0.5	-12.9	121.2	0.5	-11.7	104.3	0.3	-10.2
Bulgaria	51.6	0.2	-11.1	80.7	0.3	-14.8	92.2	0.3	-16.8
Slovenia	86.6	0.3	-20.1	99.0	0.4	-20.0	85.4	0.3	-16.2
Croatia	68.0	0.3	-57.8	74.7	0.3	-44.7	52.1	0.2	-35.4
Luxembourg	93.8	0.4	18.7	81.8	0.3	-11.7	38.9	0.1	-7.5
Sweden	497.2	1.9	5.5	352.1	1.4	3.8	35.0	0.1	0.5
Lithuania	263.1	1.0	25.1	46.3	0.2	4.4	9.4	0.0	-1.0
Estonia	67.8	0.3	-26.9	70.0	0.3	-24.0	5.9	0.0	2.0
Unallocated	3,511.9	13.4	200.0	1,671.5	6.9	200.0	1,752.0	5.6	200.0
Total	26,284.8	100.0	-5.5	24,361.1	100.0	-4.4	31,019.4	100.0	-8.0

Note: 1. 2014 and 2015 may not match previous releases due to revisions of data

Source: Comext database, extracted 19th September 2017

2. Unallocated is trade that is not assigned to a particular country

5.2 UK arrivals asymmetries by commodity

Table 5.2 Top ten arrivals chapters by share of total absolute asymmetry (2014-2016)

Table 5.2 shows the top ten arrivals products in order of their share of total absolute asymmetry between the years 2014 and 2016.

Chapters that were consistently in the top ten through all three years included 85 (Electrical machinery and equipment), 99 (Other products), 88 (Aircraft and spacecraft) and 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway).

Looking at the UK's total absolute asymmetry, in 2014 it was €24bn. This remained consistent in 2015 but then increased to €32bn in 2016.

In 2014, the top ten chapters accounted for 43% of the total absolute asymmetry for all chapters, this decreased to 38% in 2015 but then increased to 49% in 2016. It is also important to point out that in 2016, the top two chapters alone accounted for nearly a quarter of the total absolute asymmetry for all chapters.

Trade that is not allocated to a chapter made up 17.1% of the total absolute asymmetry for 2014. This rose to 15.7% in 2015 but fell to 14.5% in 2016.

Table 5.2 Top ten arrivals chapters by share of total absolute asymmetry (2014-2016)

2014			2015			2016		
Chapter	Absolute Asymmetry (€m)	Share of total absolute asymmetry (%)	Chapter	Absolute Asymmetry (€m)	Share of total absolute asymmetry (%)	Chapter	Absolute Asymmetry (€m)	Share of total absolute asymmetry (%)
85	2,183.3	9.0	85	2,604.7	10.8	87	4,577.1	14.2
99	1,432.4	5.9	84	1,322.9	5.5	85	3,328.5	10.3
84	1,398.4	5.8	87	943.1	3.9	84	1,813.5	5.6
88	1,398.4	5.8	99	885.3	3.7	88	1,259.2	3.9
29	829.2	3.4	88	625.2	2.6	99	882.7	2.7
73	815.6	3.4	94	614.0	2.5	94	855.2	2.7
27	684.2	2.8	89	602.3	2.5	30	844.5	2.6
87	603.9	2.5	73	577.4	2.4	90	813.6	2.5
90	535.6	2.2	30	527.5	2.2	39	704.5	2.2
94	534.8	2.2	40	507.8	2.1	27	632.7	2.0
Sum of top 10	10,415.9	43.1	Sum of top 10	9,210.2	38.1	Sum of top 10	15,711.4	48.8
Sum of others	9,629.2	39.8	Sum of others	11,171.7	46.2	Sum of others	11,828.7	36.7
Unallocated	4,130.7	17.1	Unallocated	3,788.3	15.7	Unallocated	4,669.0	14.5
Total	24,175.8	100.0	Total	24,170.2	100.0	Total	32,209.1	100.0

Note: 1.2014 and 2015 may not match previous release due to revisions of data

2. Unallocated is trade that is not assigned to a particular chapter

Source: Comext database, extracted 19th September 2017

Table 5.3 Top ten arrivals chapters by relative asymmetry (2014-2016)

Table 5.3 shows the top ten arrivals chapters by relative asymmetry between the years 2014 and 2016. Whereas the previous table looked at the largest asymmetries, this table shows asymmetries with respect to the average of the two flows.

Chapters that were consistently in the top ten through all three years included 99 (Other products) which had a relative asymmetry of -171% in 2014, -132% in 2015 and -127% in 2016. Chapter 93 (Arms and ammunition) had a relative asymmetry of 89% in 2014, 122% in 2015 and 116% in 2016. Chapter 26 (Ores, slag and ash) was also in the top ten for all three years where it had a relative asymmetry of 56% in 2014, 84% in 2015 and 78% in 2016. Finally, chapter 66 (Umbrellas, walking-sticks) was also in the top ten arrivals chapters from 2014 to 2016 where it had a relative asymmetry of -34% in 2014, -42% in 2015 and -57% in 2016.

Table 5.3 Top ten arrivals chapters by relative asymmetry (2014-2016)

2014			2015			2016		
Chapter	Absolute Asymmetry (€m)	Relative asymmetry (%)	Chapter	Absolute Asymmetry (€m)	Relative Asymmetry (%)	Chapter	Absolute Asymmetry (€m)	Relative asymmetry (%)
99	1,432.4	-171.2	89	602.3	-143.5	99	882.7	-126.7
89	339.0	-98.3	99	885.3	-131.6	93	346.4	116.2
93	220.5	89.0	93	394.8	122.0	89	503.1	-114.1
26	284.0	56.1	26	324.9	84.2	97	210.8	81.9
14	2.7	-45.8	47	186.6	46.7	26	342.4	77.7
03	367.1	-45.0	03	416.1	-45.4	66	9.3	-56.6
80	18.0	-43.0	66	7.0	-42.4	14	3.3	-45.1
46	2.7	-35.7	86	202.1	-38.0	05	40.6	-42.7
66	4.6	-33.6	14	2.7	-37.0	63	201.5	-42.6
43	21.0	-33.2	63	163.9	-35.8	03	424.1	-42.6
Sum of top 10	2,691.8	-58.4	Sum of top 10	3,185.8	-33.2	Sum of top 10	2,964.1	-31.3
Sum of others	17,353.3	-3.5	Sum of others	17,196.2	-3.9	Sum of others	24,576.0	-6.2
Unallocated	4,130.7	-200.0	Unallocated	3,788.3	-200.0	Unallocated	4,669.0	-200.0
Total	24,175.8	-5.5	TOTAL	24,170.2	-4.4	Total	32,209.1	-8.0

Note: 1. 2014 and 2015 may not match previous release due to revisions of data

2. Unallocated is trade that is not assigned to a particular chapter

Source: Comext database, extracted 19th September 2017

Table 5.4 UK dispatches asymmetries by partner country

Table 5.4 shows the asymmetries between UK dispatches to the EU and EU arrivals from the UK for the years 2014-2016.

Looking at the share of total absolute asymmetry, in 2014 the top five countries with the largest share of total absolute asymmetries were Germany, Ireland, France, Spain and Belgium, making up 43% of the share of total absolute asymmetry. Then in 2015, the top five were France, Spain, Germany, Belgium and Ireland. Finally in 2016, the top five were France Belgium, Netherlands, Czech Republic and Sweden. Belgium is the only country to remain in the top five through the three years.

The five Members States with the smallest share of total absolute asymmetries make up just over 1% of the share of total absolute asymmetries. In 2014, Slovenia had the smallest absolute asymmetry with the UK, followed by Luxembourg, Greece, Croatia and Latvia. In 2016 Bulgaria had the smallest absolute asymmetry followed by Poland Cyprus, Croatia and Hungary. Bulgaria and Cyprus remain in the smallest five states through all three years.

In terms of relative asymmetries, for 2014 the top five (in magnitude) were Lithuania (-99%), Cyprus (37%), Slovakia (-29%), Estonia (27%) and Malta (26%). In 2015, the top five were Lithuania (-67%), Slovakia (-51%), Malta (28%), Luxembourg (27%) and Slovenia (-23%). Finally in 2016 the top five were Slovakia (-71%), Lithuania (-52%), Malta (36%), Czech Republic (-33%) and Slovenia (-21%). From this we can infer that Malta and Slovakia have been in the top five in terms of magnitude for relative asymmetries for all three years.

Notable trends through time include Germany, whose absolute asymmetry has decreased from €2.4bn in 2014 to €0.3bn in 2016. Other countries who have also had a steady decrease between these years were Cyprus and Ireland. Countries that have had a steady increase in absolute asymmetries between the years 2014 and 2016 include Sweden, Italy and Malta. Italy's absolute asymmetry increased from €439m in 2014 to €855m in 2016.

The total absolute asymmetry between UK dispatches to the EU and EU arrivals from the UK for 2014 was €16bn, this decreased to €13bn in 2015 and then decreased further to €12bn in 2016.

Table 5.4 Asymmetries between UK reported dispatches to the EU and EU reported arrivals from the UK (2014-2016)

Country	2014			2015			2016		
	Absolute asymmetry (€m)	Share of total absolute asymmetry (%)	Relative asymmetry (%)	Absolute asymmetry (€m)	Share of total absolute asymmetry (%)	Relative asymmetry (%)	Absolute asymmetry (€m)	Share of total absolute asymmetry (%)	Relative asymmetry (%)
France	1,141.3	7.0	5.1	2,288.5	17.0	9.8	1,901.3	15.6	8.3
Belgium	993.6	6.1	-6.2	1,178.0	8.8	-7.1	1,843.3	15.1	-12.2
Netherlands	927.0	5.7	3.4	427.3	3.2	1.8	1,146.0	9.4	-4.9
Czech Republic	405.9	2.5	-14.8	624.4	4.6	-20.7	1,051.8	8.6	-33.4
Sweden	800.1	4.9	-11.2	819.6	6.1	-12.6	957.2	7.8	-15.7
Italy	438.6	2.7	4.2	696.5	5.2	6.2	855.1	7.0	7.5
Slovakia	198.1	1.2	-29.5	421.0	3.1	-51.4	705.8	5.8	-70.8
Spain	998.3	6.1	-8.8	1,670.2	12.4	-12.9	556.4	4.6	-4.6
Austria	352.5	2.2	-16.2	243.3	1.8	-10.5	444.7	3.6	-18.3
Germany	2,427.4	14.9	-6.3	1,606.0	11.9	3.9	335.9	2.8	0.9
Lithuania	723.9	4.4	-99.2	378.0	2.8	-67.4	278.4	2.3	-51.8
Romania	171.1	1.0	-13.7	208.4	1.5	-14.2	270.4	2.2	-19.2
Ireland	1,400.2	8.6	6.6	1,062.1	7.9	4.7	185.0	1.5	0.9
Denmark	142.2	0.9	-4.1	337.4	2.5	-10.2	149.6	1.2	-4.8
Malta	114.6	0.7	25.6	128.0	1.0	28.1	147.9	1.2	36.4

Table 5.4 Continued

Country	2014			2015			2016		
	Absolute asymmetry (€m)	Share of total absolute asymmetry (%)	Relative asymmetry (%)	Absolute asymmetry (€m)	Share of total absolute asymmetry (%)	Relative asymmetry (%)	Absolute asymmetry (€m)	Share of total absolute asymmetry (%)	Relative asymmetry (%)
Portugal	171.6	1.1	-9.9	173.2	1.3	-9.6	134.8	1.1	-7.4
Greece	28.7	0.2	-2.3	43.6	0.3	-3.5	114.0	0.9	-9.7
Finland	161.6	1.0	8.5	84.7	0.6	4.7	90.5	0.7	-5.4
Slovenia	5.9	0.0	-1.9	73.5	0.5	-23.4	69.0	0.6	-20.7
Estonia	101.4	0.6	-26.5	49.5	0.4	-15.1	50.7	0.4	-16.3
Luxembourg	9.3	0.1	3.6	71.5	0.5	26.9	32.1	0.3	13.4
Latvia	84.3	0.5	22.6	4.2	0.0	-1.4	26.3	0.2	-8.7
Hungary	119.6	0.7	8.3	173.3	1.3	10.4	13.9	0.1	-0.8
Croatia	42.5	0.3	-21.6	18.3	0.1	-9.2	10.2	0.1	-4.9
Cyprus	169.3	1.0	36.9	29.3	0.2	-5.6	5.6	0.0	1.4
Poland	176.8	1.1	3.8	167.9	1.2	-3.3	1.6	0.0	0.0
Bulgaria	104.4	0.6	21.0	3.0	0.0	-0.6	1.5	0.0	-0.2
Unallocated	3,925.9	24.0	200.0	465.3	3.5	200.0	816.1	6.7	200.0
Total	16,336.1	100.0	0.7	13,445.7	100.0	0.3	12,195.1	100.0	-2.0

Note: 1. 2014 and 2015 may not match previous release due to revisions of data

Source: Comext database, extracted 19th September 2017

2. Unallocated is trade that is not assigned to a particular chapter

Table 5.5 Top ten dispatches chapters by share of total absolute asymmetry (2014-2016)

Table 5.5 shows the top ten dispatches chapters in order of their share of total absolute asymmetry between the years 2014 and 2016.

Chapters that were consistently in the top ten through all three years included 27 (Mineral fuel and mineral oils), 30 (Pharmaceutical products), 61 (Knitted or crocheted apparel and clothing accessories), 62 (non-knitted or crocheted apparel and clothing accessories), 85 (Electrical machinery and equipment), 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway), 88 (Aircraft and spacecraft) and 99 (Other products).

Looking at total absolute asymmetry, in 2014 it was €21bn. This increased to just under €22bn in 2015 and increased further to just over €22bn in 2016. So it can be said that there is a gradual increase in dispatches asymmetry through the three years.

In 2014, the top ten dispatches chapters accounted for 52% of the total absolute asymmetry for all chapters, this rose to 53% in 2015 but then surged to 60% in 2016.

Trade that is not allocated to a chapter made up 17% of the total absolute asymmetry for 2014. This fell to 14% in 2015 but remained consistent at 14% in 2016.

Table 5.5 Top ten dispatches chapters by share of total absolute asymmetry (2014-2016)

2014			2015			2016		
Chapter	Absolute Asymmetry (€m)	Share of total absolute asymmetry (%)	Chapter	Absolute Asymmetry (€m)	Share of total absolute asymmetry (%)	Chapter	Absolute Asymmetry (€m)	Share of total absolute asymmetry (%)
27	2,969.5	14.3	88	2,687.4	12.4	88	4,519.7	20.3
30	2,061.4	9.9	85	2,303.5	10.6	85	3,297.9	14.8
85	1,146.5	5.5	30	1,430.9	6.6	99	1,252.5	5.6
99	1,029.4	4.9	99	1,017.8	4.7	27	917.0	4.1
88	875.2	4.2	27	849.3	3.9	38	656.1	3.0
87	639.7	3.1	62	750.0	3.5	30	649.6	2.9
40	563.7	2.7	87	706.4	3.3	62	637.4	2.9
62	562.9	2.7	40	630.3	2.9	61	467.5	2.1
29	500.9	2.4	71	560.2	2.6	87	460.0	2.1
61	440.4	2.1	61	558.0	2.6	94	394.2	1.8
Sum of top 10	10,789.4	51.9	Sum of top 10	11,493.7	52.9	Sum of top 10	13,251.9	59.6
Sum of others	6,486.2	31.2	Sum of others	7,125.5	32.8	Sum of others	5,989.7	26.9
Unallocated	3,519.8	16.9	Unallocated	3,113.4	14.3	Unallocated	2,992.8	13.5
Total	20,795.4	100.0	Total	21,732.7	100.0	Total	22,234.5	100.0

Note: 1.2014 and 2015 may not match previous release due to revisions of data

2. Unallocated is trade that is not assigned to a particular chapter

Source: Comext database, extracted 19th September 2017

Table 5.6 Top ten chapters by relative asymmetry (2014-2016)

Table 5.6 shows the top ten dispatches chapters by relative asymmetry between the years 2014 and 2016. Whereas the previous table looks at the largest asymmetries, this table shows asymmetries with respect to the average of the two flows.

Chapters that were consistently in the top ten through all three years included 08 (Edible fruit and nuts), 26 (Ores, slag and ash), 47 (Pulp of wood), 57 (Carpet), 67 (Prepared feathers and down), 80 (Tin and articles thereof), 93 (Arms and ammunition) and 99 (Other products). It is worth noting that the top three remain in the top three throughout all three years. Furthermore, 99 consistently remained the chapter with the largest relative asymmetry through all three years.

Chapters that were consistently in the top ten through all three years include 99 (Other products) which had a relative asymmetry of -118% in 2014, -119% in 2015 and -123% in 2016. Chapter 93 (Arms and ammunition) had a relative asymmetry of 132% in 2014, 135% in 2015 and 153% in 2016. Chapter 26 (Ores, slag and ash) was also in the top ten for all three years where it had a relative asymmetry of -101% in 2014, -77% in 2015 and -116% in 2016. Chapter 67 (Prepared feathers and down) was in the top ten arrivals chapters from 2014 to 2016 where it had a relative asymmetry of 66% in 2014, 70% in 2015 and 54% in 2016. Another chapter in the top ten throughout the three years was 08 (Edible fruit and nuts) which had a relative asymmetry of -62% in 2014, -57% in 2015 and -59% in 2016. Chapter 47 (Pulp of wood) had a relative asymmetry of -63% in 2014, -66% in 2015 and -59% in 2016.

The top ten arrivals chapters had a relative asymmetry of -69% in 2014, this decreased to -63% in 2015. In 2016 the relative asymmetry changed from a negative to a positive asymmetry to 35.2%.

Table 5.6 Top ten dispatches chapters by relative asymmetry (2014-2016)

2014			2015			2016		
Chapter	Absolute Asymmetry (€m)	Relative asymmetry (%)	Chapter	Absolute Asymmetry (€m)	Relative asymmetry (%)	Chapter	Absolute Asymmetry (€m)	Relative asymmetry (%)
93	131.6	132.4	93	155.1	135.4	93	159.3	153.0
80	50.6	-120.9	99	1,017.8	-118.5	99	1,252.5	-123.0
99	1,029.4	-117.9	80	43.5	-105.6	80	43.6	-117.6
26	75.6	-101.3	26	56.7	-77.2	26	121.5	-115.9
67	14.5	66.2	67	16.5	69.8	88	4,519.7	66.8
47	94.0	-63.6	47	103.8	-65.6	57	94.0	61.9
08	182.2	-62.8	57	94.3	58.1	08	209.9	-59.1
43	19.7	-62.7	08	196.6	-57.2	47	94.5	-58.7
57	94.7	61.1	66	6.1	49.9	53	9.9	54.4
79	42.5	-54.1	79	48.7	-48.3	67	13.7	53.7
Sum of top 10	1,734.7	-69.1	Sum of top 10	1,738.9	-63.3	Sum of top 10	6,518.6	35.2
Sum of others	15,540.9	3.4	Sum of others	16,880.3	2.7	Sum of others	12,723.1	-2.2
Unallocated	3,519.8	-200.0	Unallocated	3,113.4	-200.0	Unallocated	2,992.8	-200.0
Total	20,795.4	0.7	Total	21,732.7	0.3	Total	22,234.5	-2.0

Note: 1. 2014 and 2015 may not match previous release due to revisions of data

2. Unallocated is trade that is not assigned to a particular chapter

Source: Comext database, extracted 19th September 2017

6 Annexes

6.1 Annex 1: HS 2 Chapter Descriptions

Chapter	Description
01	Live Animals
02	Meat And Edible Meat Offal
03	Fish And Crustaceans, Molluscs And Other Aquatic Invertebrates
04	Dairy Produce; Birds' Eggs; Natural Honey; Edible Products Of Animal Origin, Not Elsewhere Specified Or Included
05	Products Of Animal Origin, Not Elsewhere Specified Or Included
06	Live Trees And Other Plants; Bulbs, Roots And The Like; Cut Flowers And Ornamental Foliage
07	Edible Vegetables And Certain Roots And Tubers
08	Edible Fruit And Nuts; Peel Of Citrus Fruits Or Melons
09	Coffee, Tea, Maté And Spices
10	Cereals
11	Products Of The Milling Industry; Malt; Starches; Inulin; Wheat Gluten
12	Oil Seeds And Oleaginous Fruits; Miscellaneous Grains, Seeds And Fruit; Industrial Or Medicinal Plants; Straw And Fodder
13	Lac; Gums, Resins And Other Vegetable Saps And Extracts
14	Vegetable Plaiting Materials; Vegetable Products Not Elsewhere Specified Or Included
15	Animal Or Vegetable Fats And Oils And Their Cleavage Products; Prepared Edible Fats; Animal Or Vegetable Waxes
16	Preparations Of Meat, Of Fish Or Of Crustaceans, Molluscs Or Other Aquatic Invertebrates
17	Sugars And Sugar Confectionery
18	Cocoa And Cocoa Preparations
19	Preparations Of Cereals, Flour, Starch Or Milk; Pastry cooks' Products
20	Preparations Of Vegetables, Fruit, Nuts Or Other Parts Of Plants
21	Miscellaneous Edible Preparations
22	Beverages, Spirits And Vinegar
23	Residues And Waste From The Food Industries; Prepared Animal Fodder
24	Tobacco And Manufactured Tobacco Substitutes
25	Salt; Sulphur; Earths And Stone; Plastering Materials, Lime And Cement
26	Ores, Slag And Ash
27	Mineral Fuels, Mineral Oils And Products Of Their Distillation; Bituminous Substances; Mineral Waxes
28	Inorganic Chemicals; Organic Or Inorganic Compounds Of Precious Metals, Of Rare-Earth Metals, Of Radioactive Elements Or Of Isotopes
29	Organic Chemicals
30	Pharmaceutical Products
31	Fertilisers
32	Tanning Or Dyeing Extracts; Tannins And Their Derivatives; Dyes, Pigments And Other Colouring Matter; Paints And Varnishes; Putty And Other Mastics; Inks
33	Essential Oils And Resinoids; Perfumery, Cosmetic Or Toilet Preparations

Chapter	Description
34	Soap, Organic Surface-Active Agents, Washing Preparations, Lubricating Preparations, Artificial Waxes, Prepared Waxes, Polishing Or Scouring Preparations, Candles And Similar Articles, Modelling Pastes, 'Dental Waxes' And Dental Preparations With A Basis Of Plaster
35	Albuminoidal Substances; Modified Starches; Glues; Enzymes
36	Explosives; Pyrotechnic Products; Matches; Pyrophoric Alloys; Certain Combustible Preparations
37	Photographic Or Cinematographic Goods
38	Miscellaneous Chemical Products
39	Plastics And Articles Thereof
40	Rubber And Articles Thereof
41	Raw Hides And Skins (Other Than Furskins) And Leather
42	Articles Of Leather; Saddlery And Harness; Travel Goods, Handbags And Similar Containers; Articles Of Animal Gut (Other Than Silkworm Gut)
43	Furskins And Artificial Fur; Manufactures Thereof
44	Wood And Articles Of Wood; Wood Charcoal
45	Cork And Articles Of Cork
46	Manufactures Of Straw, Of Esparto Or Of Other Plaiting Materials; Basketware And Wickerwork
47	Pulp Of Wood Or Of Other Fibrous Cellulosic Material; Recovered (Waste And Scrap) Paper Or Paperboard
48	Paper And Paperboard; Articles Of Paper Pulp, Of Paper Or Of Paperboard
49	Printed Books, Newspapers, Pictures And Other Products Of The Printing Industry; Manuscripts, Typescripts And Plans
50	Silk
51	Wool, Fine Or Coarse Animal Hair; Horsehair Yarn And Woven Fabric
52	Cotton
53	Other Vegetable Textile Fibres; Paper Yarn And Woven Fabrics Of Paper Yarn
54	Strip And The Like Of Man-Made Textile Materials
55	Man-Made Staple Fibres
56	Wadding, Felt And Nonwovens; Special Yarns; Twine, Cordage, Ropes And Cables And Articles Thereof
57	Carpets And Other Textile Floor Coverings
58	Special Woven Fabrics; Tufted Textile Fabrics; Lace; Tapestries; Trimmings; Embroidery
59	Impregnated, Coated, Covered Or Laminated Textile Fabrics; Textile Articles Of A Kind Suitable For Industrial Use
60	Knitted Or Crocheted Fabrics
61	Articles Of Apparel And Clothing Accessories, Knitted Or Crocheted
62	Articles Of Apparel And Clothing Accessories, Not Knitted Or Crocheted
63	Other Made-Up Textile Articles; Sets; Worn Clothing And Worn Textile Articles; Rags
64	Footwear, Gaiters And The Like; Parts Of Such Articles
65	Headgear And Parts Thereof
66	Umbrellas, Sun Umbrellas, Walking-Sticks, Seat-Sticks, Whips, Riding-Crops And Parts Thereof
67	Prepared Feathers And Down And Articles Made Of Feathers Or Of Down; Artificial Flowers; Articles Of Human Hair
68	Articles Of Stone, Plaster, Cement, Asbestos, Mica Or Similar Materials
69	Ceramic Products

Chapter	Description
70	Glass And Glassware
71	Natural Or Cultured Pearls, Precious Or Semi-Precious Stones, Precious Metals, Metals Clad With Precious Metal, And Articles Thereof; Imitation Jewellery; Coin
72	Iron And Steel
73	Articles Of Iron Or Steel
74	Copper And Articles Thereof
75	Nickel And Articles Thereof
76	Aluminium And Articles Thereof
78	Lead And Articles Thereof
79	Zinc And Articles Thereof
80	Tin And Articles Thereof
81	Other Base Metals; Cermets; Articles Thereof
82	Tools, Implements, Cutlery, Spoons And Forks, Of Base Metal; Parts Thereof Of Base Metal
83	Miscellaneous Articles Of Base Metal
84	Nuclear Reactors, Boilers, Machinery And Mechanical Appliances; Parts Thereof
85	Electrical Machinery And Equipment And Parts Thereof; Sound Recorders And Reproducers, Television Image And Sound Recorders And Reproducers, And Parts And Accessories Of Such Articles
86	Railway Or Tramway Locomotives, Rolling-Stock And Parts Thereof; Railway Or Tramway Track Fixtures And Fittings And Parts Thereof; Mechanical (Including Electro-Mechanical) Traffic Signalling Equipment Of All Kinds
87	Vehicles Other Than Railway Or Tramway Rolling-Stock, And Parts And Accessories Thereof
88	Aircraft, Spacecraft, And Parts Thereof
89	Ships, Boats And Floating Structures
90	Optical, Photographic, Cinematographic, Measuring, Checking, Precision, Medical Or Surgical Instruments And Apparatus; Parts And Accessories Thereof
91	Clocks And Watches And Parts Thereof
92	Musical Instruments; Parts And Accessories Of Such Articles
93	Arms And Ammunition; Parts And Accessories Thereof
94	Furniture; Bedding, Mattresses, Mattress Supports, Cushions And Similar Stuffed Furnishings; Lamps And Lighting Fittings, Not Elsewhere Specified Or Included; Illuminated Signs, Illuminated Name-Plates And The Like; Prefabricated Buildings
95	Toys, Games And Sports Requisites; Parts And Accessories Thereof
96	Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles
97	Works Of Art, Collectors' Pieces And Antiques
99	Other Products

6.2 Annex 2: Glossary

Arrivals	Goods imported into an EU Members State from another EU Members State.
Asymmetries	Differences between the trade recorded by countries, e.g. the difference between what the United Kingdom records as an arrival from Germany and what Germany records as a dispatch to the United Kingdom.
Comext	Eurostat's Trade Statistics database, which contains standardised trade data from all EU Members States.
Comtrade	United Nations International Trade Statistics Database. Over 170 reporter countries/areas provided the United Nations Statistics Division with their annual International trade statistics data.
Dispatches	Goods exported from an EU Members State to another EU Members State.
Exports	Goods exported to non EU countries, but often used to describe EU trade as well.
Imports	Goods imported from non EU countries, but often used to describe EU trade as well.
Intrastat	Survey of trade in goods between EU Members States.
Threshold	The Intrastat system has thresholds including an exemption threshold (above which traders must submit declarations giving details of their trade with the rest of the EU). In the UK there is also a delivery terms threshold (a simplification where only traders above this threshold must submit details on delivery terms and costs in order to calculate <i>statistical value</i>).