



About this release

This ad-hoc release reports the value of trade in goods flows for each of the 4 countries within the UK for December 2019, with comparisons to November 2019 (referred to as 'last month') and December 2018.

A supporting table can be found at www.uktradeinfo.com

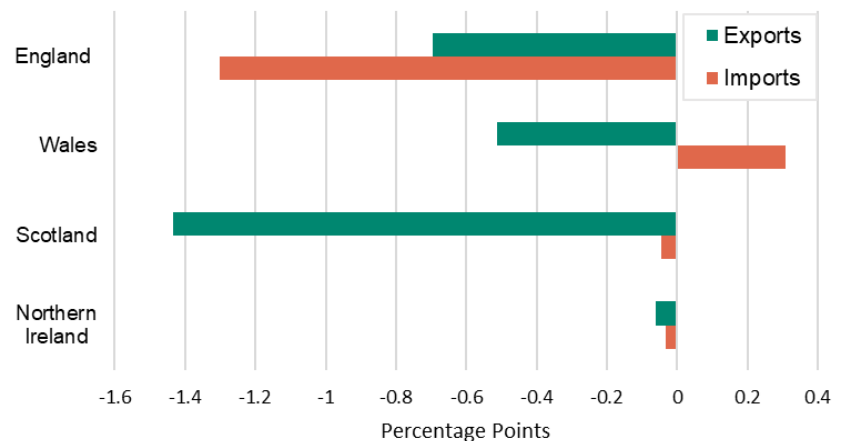
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Trade in Goods by Country, December 2019

- **England's** share of the UK's total exports was 73%, this was a decrease from 74% last month. England's share of the UK's total imports was 81%, this was a decrease from 82% last month.
- **Wales'** share of the UK's total exports was 4.6%, this was a decrease from 5.1% last month. Wales' share of the UK's total imports was 3.9%, this was an increase from 3.6% last month.
- **Scotland's** share of the UK's total exports was 8.6%, this was a decrease from 10% last month. Scotland's share of the UK's total imports was 4.9%, this was a decrease from 5.0% last month.
- **Northern Ireland's** share of the UK's total exports was 2.5%, this was a decrease from 2.6% last month. Northern Ireland's share of the UK's total imports was 1.6%, this was a decrease from 1.7% last month.

Figure 1: Change in % share compared with November 2019



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

Coverage: United Kingdom
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England

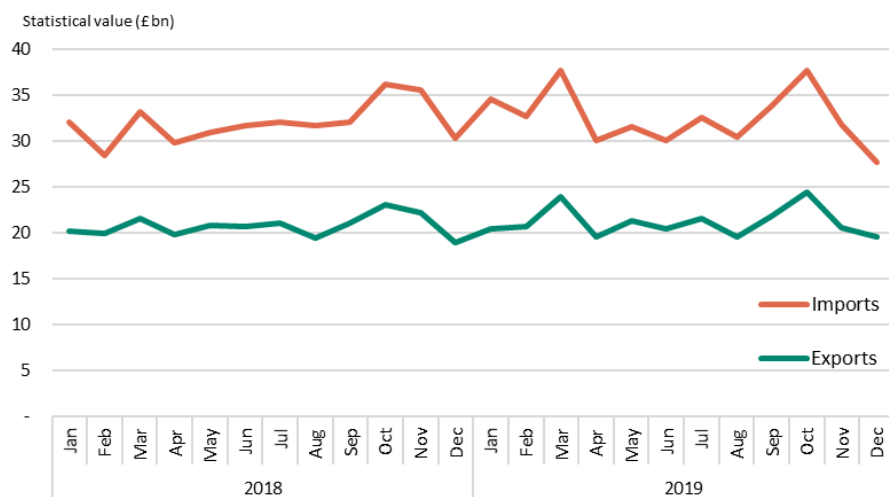
In December 2019:

- Total exports from England were £19.6 billion. This was a decrease of £0.9 billion (4.5%) on last month, and an increase of £0.6 billion (3.3%) on December 2018.
- EU exports accounted for £8.8 billion, while non-EU exports were £10.8 billion.
- Total imports to England were £27.7 billion. This was a decrease of £4.1 billion (13%) on last month, and a decrease of £2.6 billion (8.4%) on December 2018.
- EU imports accounted for £15.0 billion, while non-EU imports were £12.8 billion.
- The trade gap for England was in deficit, where imports exceeded exports by £8.2 billion.

↓ **England's exports for December 2019 down 5% on last month**

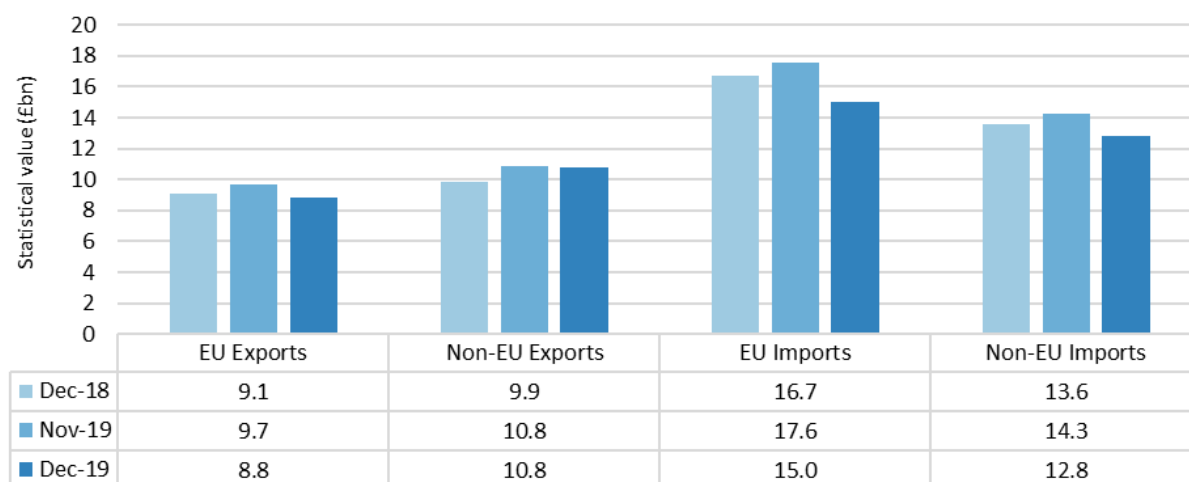
↓ **England's imports for December 2019 down 13% on last month**

Figure 2: England Exports and Imports (January 2018 to December 2019)



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

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



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

Wales

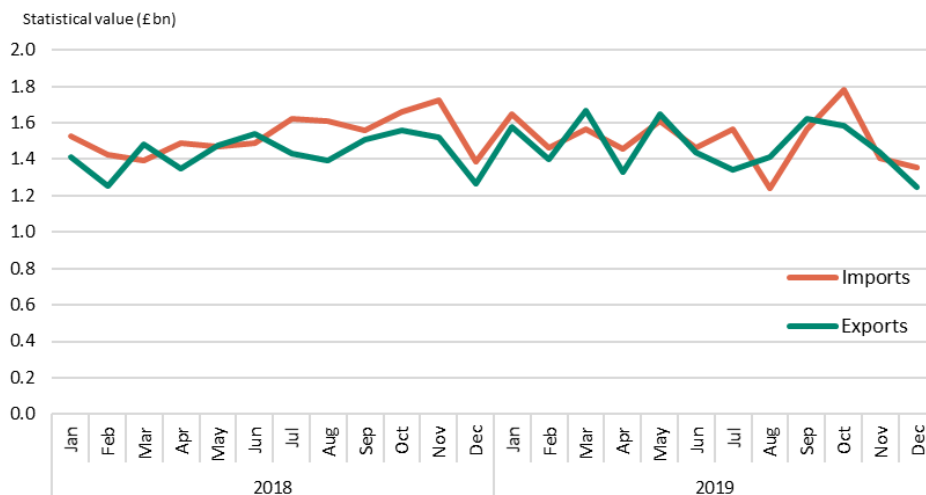
In December 2019:

- Total exports from Wales were £1.2 billion. This was a decrease of £0.2 billion (13%) on last month, and a small decrease of 1.5% on December 2018.
- EU exports accounted for £0.7 billion, while non-EU exports were £0.6 billion.
- Total imports to Wales were £1.4 billion. This was a decrease of £0.1 billion (3.9%) on last month, and a small decrease of 2.4% on December 2018.
- EU imports accounted for £0.5 billion, while non-EU imports were £0.9 billion.
- The trade gap for Wales was in deficit, with imports exceeding exports by £0.1 billion.

↓ **Wales' exports for December 2019 down 13% on last month**

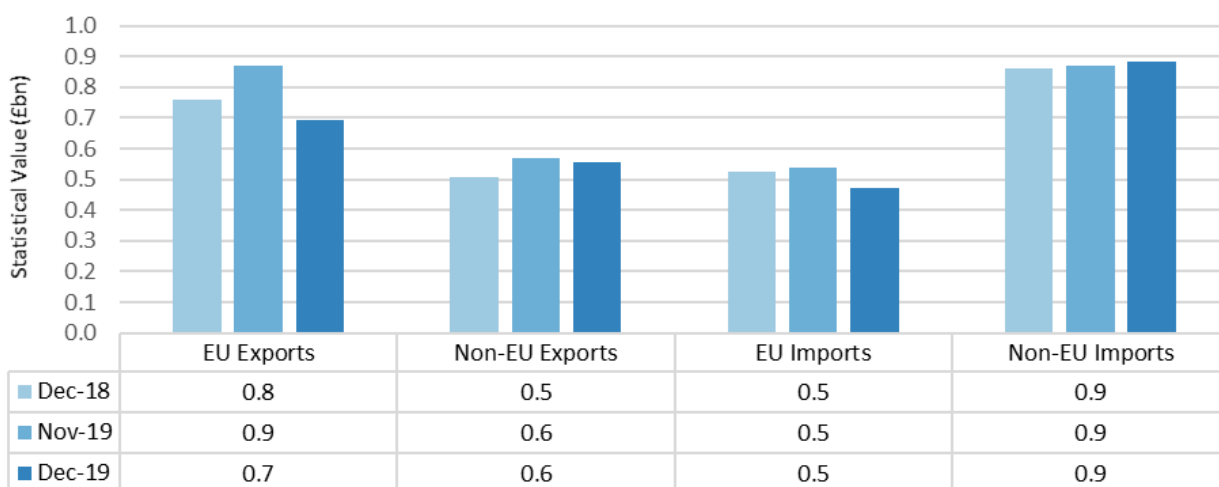
↓ **Wales' imports for December 2019 down 4% on last month**

Figure 4: Wales Exports and Imports (January 2018 to December 2019)



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

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



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

Scotland

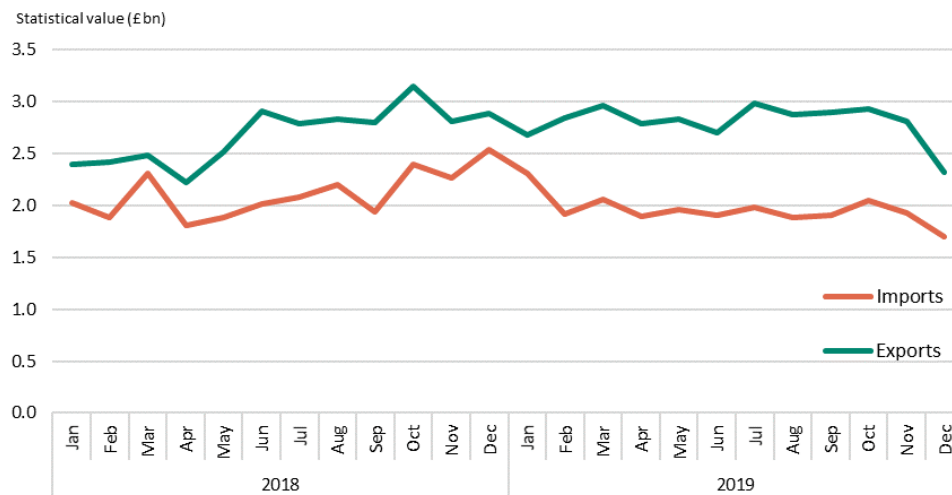
In December 2019:

- Total exports from Scotland were £2.3 billion. This was a decrease of £0.5 billion (17%) on last month, and a decrease of £0.6 billion (19%) on December 2018.
- EU exports accounted for £1.0 billion, while non-EU exports were £1.3 billion.
- Total imports to Scotland were £1.7 billion. This was a decrease of £0.2 billion (12%) on last month, and a decrease of £0.8 billion (33%) on December 2018.
- EU imports accounted for £0.7 billion, while non-EU imports were £1.0 billion.
- The trade gap for Scotland was in surplus, with exports exceeding imports by £0.6 billion.

↓ **Scotland's exports for December 2019 down 17% on last month**

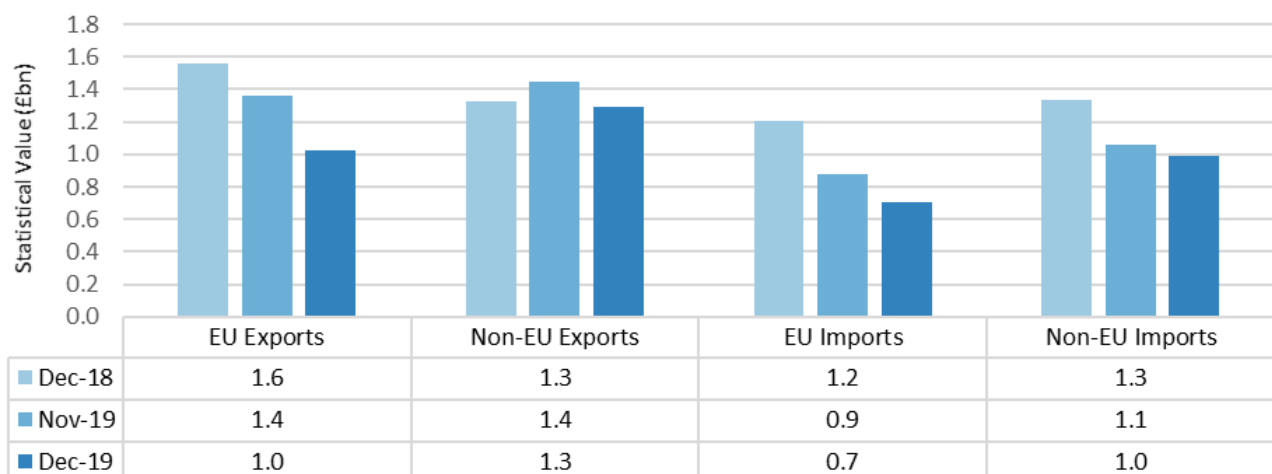
↓ **Scotland's imports for December 2019 down 12% on last month**

Figure 6: Scotland Exports and Imports (January 2018 to December 2019)



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

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



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

Northern Ireland

In December 2019*:

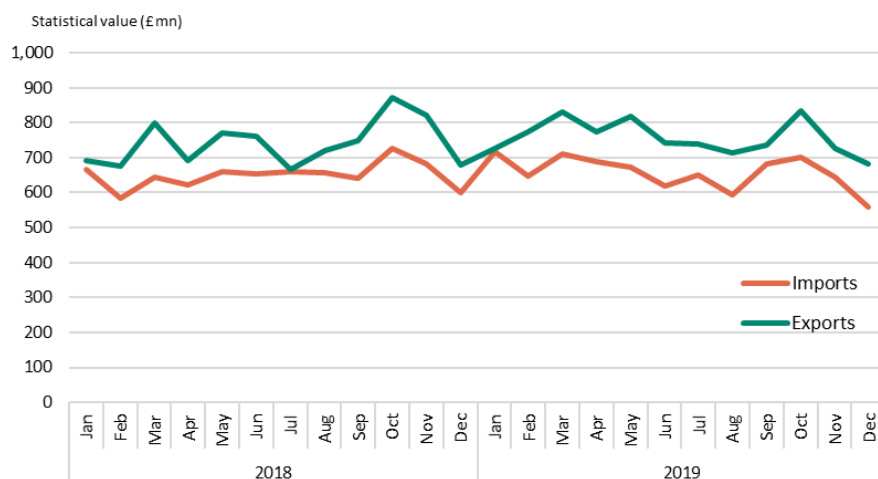
- Total exports from Northern Ireland were £682 million. This was a decrease of £42.9 million (5.9%) on last month, and an increase of £3.2 million (0.5%) on December 2018.
- EU exports accounted for £374 million, while non-EU exports were £308 million.
- Total imports to Northern Ireland were £558 million. This was a decrease of £85.0 million (13%) on last month, and a decrease of £41.6 million (6.9%) on December 2018.
- EU imports accounted for £370 million, while non-EU imports were £188 million.
- The trade gap for Northern Ireland was in surplus, with exports exceeding imports by £124 million.

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

↓ Northern Ireland's exports for December 2019 down 6% on last month

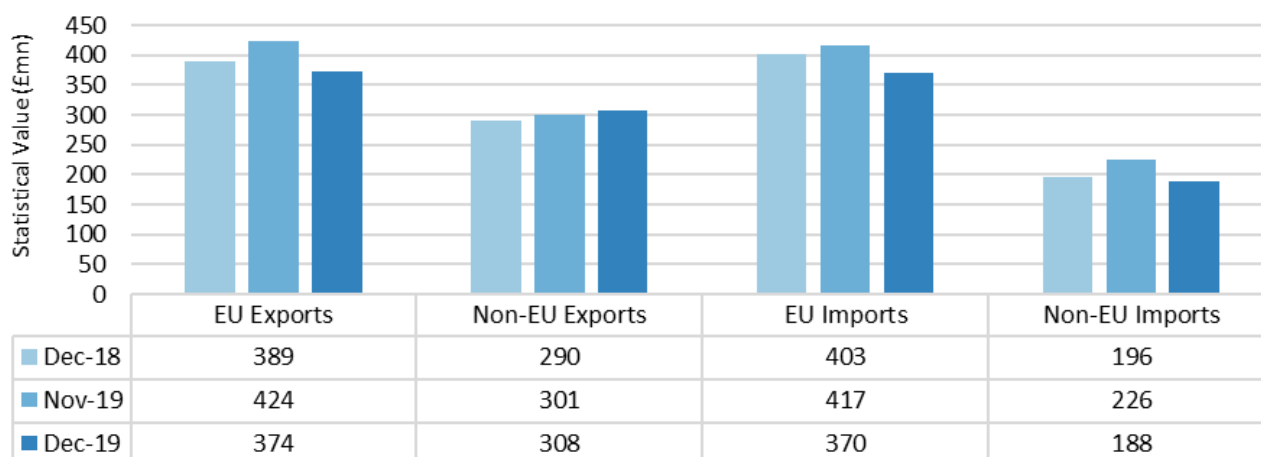
↓ Northern Ireland's imports for December 2019 down 13% on last month

Figure 8: Northern Ireland Exports and Imports (January 2018 to December 2019)



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

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



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

Methodology Notes

Methodology

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

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

RTS data is compiled by merging trade data collected by HMRC with employment data from the Interdepartmental Business Register (IDBR). A business' trade is allocated to a region based on the proportion of its employees employed in that region. Where a trader is not matched with the IDBR, its trade is matched with Office for National Statistics postcode data to obtain the region in which the Head Office of the VAT registered business (importer or exporter) is based.

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

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

For specific energy goods only, trade is allocated to the region where the goods enter or leave the UK rather than the location / employment of the business doing the trade. This is because HMRC receives details of the trade in these goods directly from grid operators rather than the business. The goods concerned are Electrical energy, Natural Gas in a gaseous state and Crude Oil exported directly from offshore oil rigs. Crude Oil imported to the UK and exported from terminals is still allocated to the region of the business.

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

Comparison with OTS and RTS

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

Reconciliation Table: December 2019

	EU Exports £ millions	Non-EU Exports £ millions	EU Imports £ millions	Non-EU Imports £ millions
This Release	12,055.4	14,850.9	17,875.2	16,390.6
Allocated to a country	10,921.6	12,920.4	16,513.6	14,839.2
Unallocated region	1,133.8	1,930.5	1,361.6	1,551.4
Late response estimates	490.1	-	551.8	
Non-monetary gold	148.1	2,969.10	43.4	3,453.6
OTS Total	12,693.6	17,820.0	18,470.4	19,844.2

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

Note 2: Late Response estimates are for EU trade only. This will reduce over time. They are excluded from RTS trade and this release

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

Note 4: 2019 data is provisional and subject to update.

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

Governance

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

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

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

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

This release will be produced for 6 months (January to June 2020), HMRC will then review any further publications.

We would welcome hearing views from readers, please send comments to James Durnford at uktradeinfo@hmrc.gov.uk.