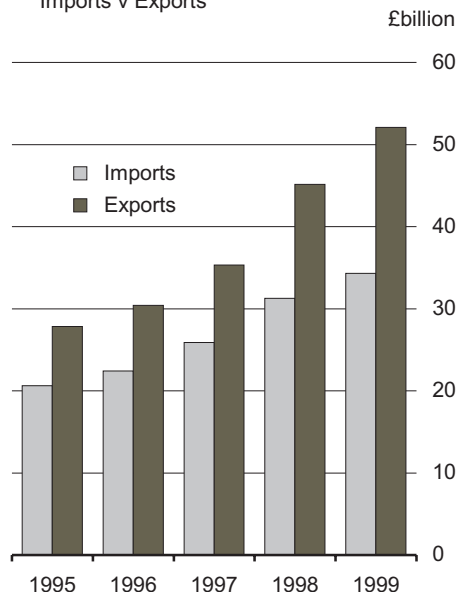




Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

20 April 2000

Imports v Exports



External Trade

December 1999 (Details)

January 2000 (First estimate)

	Imports	Exports	Surplus
Jan-Dec 1998	£31,278m	£45,145m	£13,866m
Jan-Dec 1999	£34,316m	£52,061m	£17,745m
% change	+10%	+15%	+28%
December 1999	£3,029m	£5,047m	£2,018m
January 2000 <i>(preliminary)</i>	£3,230m	£4,080m	£850m

Exports reached £52 billion in 1999

In 1999, Ireland's exports were valued at £52,061m and imports at £34,316m giving a surplus of £17,745m. This compares with a surplus of £13,866m in 1998 and £9,454m in 1997.

Exports for December were valued at £5,047m and imports at £3,029m, giving a surplus of £2,018m. Preliminary indications for January 2000 show a rise in imports to £3,230m and a large fall in exports to £4,080m from the record high of December 1999. The initial estimate of the surplus is therefore £850m.

Comparing the 1999 figures with those of 1998 shows that (*see Tables 3-4*):

- ◆ Exports of Computer equipment rose from £10,191m to £11,875m (+17%). Exports of Organic chemicals rose from £7,833m to £8,917m (+14%) and exports of Telecommunications equipment rose from £1,694m to £2,710m (+60%).
- ◆ Exports to the USA increased from £6,098m to £8,041m (+32%). There were also large increases in exports to Great Britain (+13%), the Netherlands (+28%) and France (+17%). There was a fall in exports to Germany (-5%) and Northern Ireland (-4%).
- ◆ Imports of Other transport equipment rose from £589m to £1,044m (+77%), Telecommunications equipment imports rose from £914m to £1,511m (+65%) and there was a drop of 25% in the imports of Machinery specialised for particular industries from £1,048m to £786m.
- ◆ Imports from the USA increased from £5,011m to £5,708m (+14%). Imports also increased from France (+18%), Italy (+34%), Hong Kong (+84%) and Taiwan (+22%). Imports from Japan fell by 10% to £1,962m.

Between 1998 and 1999 export prices rose by 0.4% while import prices rose by 3%. These changes, taken in conjunction with the increases in the value of trade, imply year-on-year volume increases of 6.5% for imports and 14.9% for exports.

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Table 1 Summary of trade

Period	Value			Volume Index		Price Index		Terms of Trade ¹
	Imports £M	Exports £M	Trade Surplus £M	Base year 1990=100				
				Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	
1971	754.9	538.7	-216.3	35.4	20.5	17.1	18.3	106.9
1972	838.1	647.5	-190.5	37.5	21.8	17.9	20.7	115.9
1973	1,137.2	869.2	-268.1	45.1	23.9	20.2	25.4	125.6
1974	1,626.3	1,134.3	-492.0	44.2	25.2	29.5	31.4	106.4
1975	1,704.1	1,447.4	-256.7	38.3	27.2	35.6	37.2	104.2
1976	2,337.9	1,859.1	-478.9	44.2	28.2	42.4	45.9	108.3
1977	3,090.9	2,518.2	-572.7	49.9	33.2	49.7	52.9	106.5
1978	3,713.1	2,963.2	-749.9	57.1	36.7	52.1	56.4	108.1
1979	4,827.9	3,477.7	-1,350.2	65.5	39.6	59.1	61.3	103.7
1980	5,420.7	4,082.5	-1,338.2	62.3	42.7	69.7	66.7	95.6
1981	6,578.4	4,777.6	-1,800.8	63.7	43.0	82.8	77.4	93.5
1982	6,816.2	5,691.4	-1,124.7	61.5	46.1	88.9	86.0	96.8
1983	7,366.8	6,943.8	-422.9	63.5	51.7	93.1	93.6	100.6
1984	8,912.2	8,897.5	-14.6	70.0	61.2	102.1	101.5	99.3
1985	9,428.2	9,743.0	314.8	72.3	65.2	104.5	104.3	99.8
1986	8,621.3	9,374.3	753.0	74.4	67.6	92.9	96.7	104.0
1987	9,155.2	10,723.5	1,568.3	79.1	77.4	92.8	96.6	104.1
1988	10,214.8	12,304.8	2,090.1	82.8	82.9	98.9	103.6	104.7
1989	12,284.3	14,597.0	2,312.8	93.6	92.2	105.3	110.5	104.9
1990	12,468.8	14,336.7	1,867.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1991	12,850.8	15,018.9	2,168.1	100.8	105.6	102.3	99.3	97.0
1992	13,194.8	16,743.8	3,549.1	105.6	121.1	100.2	96.6	96.4
1993	14,884.7	19,829.7	4,945.0	113.0	133.4	105.4	103.9	98.6
1994	17,283.4	22,753.4	5,470.1	127.9	153.2	108.1	103.8	96.0
1995	20,619.1	27,824.7	7,205.6	146.3	184.0	112.7	105.7	93.7
1996	22,429.4	30,407.0	7,977.7	160.9	202.2	111.4	105.1	94.3
1997	25,882.1	35,336.4	9,454.3	184.8	232.4	112.0	106.3	94.9
1998	31,278.1	45,144.6	13,866.4	218.3	289.2	114.6	109.1	95.2
1999 ²	34,316.5	52,061.6	17,745.1	232.5	332.2	118.0	109.5	92.8
1998 January	2,455.9	3,202.3	746.4	203.2	246.0	116.0	109.2	94.1
February	2,514.5	3,313.1	798.6	212.7	254.7	113.4	109.1	96.2
March	2,810.6	3,922.0	1,111.5	235.5	295.4	114.5	111.4	97.2
April	2,585.6	3,607.9	1,022.3	213.9	272.9	116.0	110.9	95.6
May	2,636.1	3,569.1	933.0	220.7	276.3	114.6	108.3	94.5
June	2,604.3	4,079.6	1,475.4	215.3	310.5	116.1	110.2	94.9
July	2,572.5	3,867.7	1,295.2	211.1	290.8	116.9	111.5	95.4
August	2,221.4	3,362.7	1,141.3	184.0	256.2	115.8	110.1	95.0
September	2,566.4	4,200.0	1,633.6	212.4	318.1	115.9	110.7	95.5
October	2,740.7	3,858.1	1,117.4	237.2	306.3	110.9	105.6	95.3
November	2,881.9	4,308.4	1,426.4	246.7	343.9	112.1	105.1	93.7
December	2,688.2	3,853.7	1,165.4	228.9	301.7	112.7	107.1	95.1
1999 ² January	2,577.8	3,713.7	1,136.0	212.1	285.4	116.6	109.1	93.6
February	2,573.7	3,818.9	1,245.2	213.2	286.2	115.8	111.9	96.6
March	2,844.4	4,251.6	1,407.2	233.3	334.3	117.0	106.6	91.2
April	2,845.3	3,990.8	1,145.5	230.2	315.9	118.6	105.9	89.3
May	2,772.5	4,214.4	1,441.9	226.9	322.6	117.3	109.5	93.4
June ³	2,805.4	4,476.0	1,670.6	226.8	335.9	118.7	111.7	94.2
July	2,785.8	4,555.9	1,770.1	226.8	353.5	117.8	108.1	91.7
August	2,614.2	3,831.0	1,216.9	207.1	289.1	121.1	111.9	92.4
September	2,950.7	4,911.8	1,961.2	242.6	370.5	116.7	111.2	95.3
October	3,197.2	4,595.3	1,398.0	261.9	347.3	117.1	111.0	94.7
November	3,320.4	4,654.8	1,334.4	268.2	361.5	118.8	108.0	90.9
December	3,029.2	5,047.4	2,018.2	240.4	387.7	120.9	109.2	90.3
2000 ² January ⁴	3,230.0	4,080.0	850.0

¹ Export Price Index divided by Import Price Index

² Provisional

³ Revised

⁴ Based on current Intrastat response levels. Figures rounded to the nearest £10 million.

.. Data not yet available

Table 2 Seasonally adjusted¹ Series

Period	Value			Volume Index	
	Imports £M	Exports £M	Trade Surplus £M	Base year 1990=100	
				Imports	Exports
1996					
January	1,913.1	2,720.1	806.9	163.3	210.2
February	1,857.1	2,599.1	741.9	156.7	201.6
March	1,896.2	2,463.0	566.8	161.4	193.0
April	1,843.5	2,402.6	559.1	158.7	192.0
May	1,824.7	2,571.1	746.3	158.5	202.5
June	1,903.0	2,546.5	643.6	164.3	200.8
July	1,833.0	2,532.1	699.1	160.9	205.4
August	1,764.1	2,271.4	507.3	149.8	184.5
September	1,869.4	2,556.5	687.1	161.1	207.0
October	1,861.1	2,553.9	692.8	159.4	205.0
November	1,878.0	2,519.9	641.9	162.8	204.9
December	1,885.9	2,623.9	738.1	165.9	215.7
1997					
January	1,861.7	2,659.2	797.6	163.7	214.9
February	1,946.0	2,573.0	627.0	169.9	206.9
March	2,024.4	2,727.9	703.5	174.6	219.1
April	2,156.6	2,821.8	665.2	191.1	229.0
May	2,100.6	2,733.2	632.6	179.1	212.7
June	2,166.4	3,081.7	915.3	186.9	240.3
July	2,173.9	2,873.9	700.0	183.4	230.0
August	2,220.7	3,040.2	819.4	187.1	238.4
September	2,249.8	3,133.5	883.7	190.9	245.6
October	2,316.3	3,165.8	849.5	194.4	249.9
November	2,368.3	3,227.5	859.2	198.3	247.3
December	2,307.5	3,253.6	946.1	197.9	249.1
1998					
January	2,488.8	3,346.9	858.1	205.8	257.1
February	2,591.8	3,497.9	906.1	220.2	273.8
March	2,542.2	3,727.4	1,185.2	215.1	282.6
April	2,468.0	3,640.0	1,172.0	208.0	277.5
May	2,663.7	3,618.1	954.4	224.5	279.2
June	2,598.1	3,820.6	1,222.5	216.1	287.8
July	2,673.2	3,870.2	1,197.0	221.0	294.1
August	2,634.2	3,881.7	1,247.6	220.5	297.2
September	2,612.4	3,847.9	1,235.5	211.4	293.2
October	2,619.6	3,763.0	1,143.3	222.9	294.4
November	2,706.6	4,356.1	1,649.5	229.0	342.6
December	2,702.1	3,808.5	1,106.4	227.1	296.9
1999					
January	2,685.8	3,936.1	1,250.3	221.8	301.6
February	2,647.8	4,032.2	1,384.4	220.2	308.2
March	2,516.1	3,912.2	1,396.1	208.5	309.6
April	2,709.0	4,090.7	1,381.7	224.2	325.0
May	2,783.1	4,307.7	1,524.6	229.4	329.1
June	2,810.5	4,092.5	1,282.0	227.5	302.6
July	2,960.2	4,553.5	1,593.3	242.4	358.4
August	2,994.7	4,478.3	1,483.6	239.6	340.2
September	3,042.9	4,489.6	1,446.7	244.8	342.6
October	3,131.3	4,566.3	1,434.9	252.4	338.1
November	3,013.8	4,655.8	1,642.0	239.1	356.6
December	3,084.4	4,992.8	1,908.4	243.9	380.6
2000					
January	3,360.0	4,350.0	990.0

¹ Based on seasonal patterns up to December 1999. All values in this table are subject to revision

.. Data not yet available

Table 3 Trade classified by Commodity

£ million

SITC (Rev 3)	Imports				Exports			
	Dec 1998	Dec 1999	Jan-Dec 1998	Jan-Dec 1999	Dec 1998	Dec 1999	Jan-Dec 1998	Jan-Dec 1999
0 Food and live animals	190.0	186.0	1,831.8	1,999.1	329.7	390.5	3,896.1	4,268.4
00 Live animals other than animals of Division 03	31.6	22.1	110.6	111.4	20.4	21.3	140.4	212.2
01 Meat & meat preparations	14.0	17.4	171.2	186.7	113.8	144.4	1,166.9	1,392.4
02 Dairy products and birds' eggs	17.9	19.6	185.4	220.5	48.1	59.4	802.6	784.6
03 Fish, crustaceans, molluscs and preparations thereof	6.0	6.8	66.3	69.9	24.9	24.5	232.3	224.7
04 Cereals & cereal preparations	29.0	28.5	304.8	346.6	15.2	16.9	195.5	205.2
05 Vegetables & fruit	28.9	28.3	334.4	369.8	11.2	12.1	146.0	135.0
06 Sugars, sugar preparations & honey	7.2	10.8	86.5	102.5	6.8	7.1	70.8	78.2
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices & manufactures thereof	15.7	18.2	179.0	174.2	23.0	21.9	205.5	194.1
08 Feeding stuff for animals (excl unmilled cereals)	29.5	22.8	248.3	266.0	7.3	8.7	83.1	89.2
09 Miscellaneous edible products & preparations	10.2	11.5	145.3	151.4	59.0	74.2	853.0	952.8
1 Beverages and tobacco	26.0	41.1	323.4	400.3	49.3	49.1	567.9	601.3
11 Beverages	21.7	35.1	271.1	342.3	45.6	43.1	527.8	554.1
12 Tobacco & tobacco manufactures	4.3	6.0	52.3	58.0	3.8	6.0	40.1	47.2
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	42.3	44.3	514.3	526.3	49.1	51.7	583.3	621.7
21 Hides, skins & furskins, raw	0.2	0.5	4.1	5.0	5.2	5.0	62.3	57.6
22 Oil seeds & oleaginous fruits	1.4	0.5	13.2	8.5	0.3	0.0	1.0	1.3
23 Crude rubber (incl synthetic & reclaimed)	0.7	1.0	12.5	11.4	0.2	0.1	1.0	1.3
24 Cork & wood	11.8	13.4	172.0	180.4	3.1	2.9	41.5	41.5
25 Pulp & waste paper	1.4	1.9	17.5	18.9	0.2	0.6	4.0	5.9
26 Textile fibres & their wastes	3.0	3.8	51.2	49.1	6.7	5.4	95.2	95.9
27 Crude fertilisers & minerals (excl coal, petroleum and precious stones)	7.2	7.2	84.8	89.6	2.9	2.9	24.9	53.8
28 Metalliferous ores & metal scrap	12.0	10.5	100.3	99.5	22.0	31.0	268.3	293.0
29 Crude animal & vegetable materials nes	4.5	5.5	58.6	63.9	8.7	3.9	85.1	71.3
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	55.5	81.7	793.9	948.4	7.5	14.3	118.7	144.9
32 Coal, coke & briquettes	6.7	5.5	102.3	77.0	2.1	2.3	30.6	47.7
33 Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials	37.4	59.9	579.9	723.7	5.1	11.9	85.5	95.3
34 Gas, natural & manufactured	11.4	15.3	109.9	139.9	0.2	0.1	2.1	1.8
35 Electric Current	0.0	0.9	1.8	7.7	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	8.0	8.8	97.3	107.4	3.0	2.1	40.3	22.9
41 Animal oils & fats	0.3	0.9	3.7	7.9	1.6	1.7	21.4	16.9
42 Fixed vegetable fats & oils	4.8	4.6	59.4	55.2	0.3	0.3	3.3	3.5
43 Animal or vegetable fats & oils, processed; waxes	2.8	3.4	34.2	44.3	1.0	0.1	15.6	2.5
5 Chemicals and related products nes	262.3	305.6	3,418.3	3,895.5	1,080.2	1,415.1	14,299.0	16,578.5
51 Organic chemicals	70.0	79.8	970.0	1,185.7	627.7	789.3	7,833.3	8,917.4
52 Inorganic chemicals	9.4	9.7	120.8	147.3	9.0	17.0	132.9	168.2
53 Dyeing, tanning & colouring materials	9.0	11.3	133.4	159.1	2.2	2.6	38.0	40.4
54 Medical & pharmaceutical products	69.2	80.2	733.3	881.8	206.5	290.9	3,317.5	3,778.2
55 Essential oils; perfume materials; toilet & cleansing preparations	33.0	38.3	407.3	447.2	134.4	158.9	1,584.9	1,910.9
56 Fertilisers (other than those of Division 27)	9.8	9.6	128.4	135.3	2.9	2.6	36.0	27.1
57 Plastics in primary forms	23.8	26.4	354.1	332.0	10.9	11.4	111.5	125.3
58 Plastics in non-primary forms	15.7	21.0	252.0	259.4	8.0	8.6	131.0	145.2
59 Chemical materials & products nes	22.5	29.4	319.1	347.8	78.6	133.8	1,113.7	1,465.8

Table 3 Trade classified by Commodity - continued

£ million

SITC (Rev 3)	Imports				Exports			
	Dec 1998	Dec 1999	Jan-Dec 1998	Jan-Dec 1999	Dec 1998	Dec 1999	Jan-Dec 1998	Jan-Dec 1999
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	213.4	232.8	2,968.0	2,989.7	101.1	134.6	1,420.4	1,413.0
61 Leather; leather manufactures nes; dressed furskins	0.8	0.6	7.7	8.1	3.8	4.2	54.6	45.9
62 Rubber manufactures nes	11.1	11.7	156.3	158.3	5.9	9.8	79.5	68.9
63 Cork & wood manufactures (excl furniture)	8.5	9.9	124.0	134.4	5.9	6.3	84.9	93.2
64 Paper, paperboard & articles thereof	45.2	53.0	606.0	617.7	7.5	13.3	107.0	114.9
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles & related products	31.0	34.3	491.9	436.2	24.1	32.7	358.5	316.6
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures nes	23.6	26.6	318.9	361.4	23.4	28.1	260.6	310.7
67 Iron & steel	26.9	25.5	386.4	374.2	5.9	7.8	108.6	99.0
68 Non-ferrous metals	22.9	21.3	307.3	266.6	4.3	5.2	67.5	69.0
69 Manufactures of metals nes	43.4	50.0	569.4	632.8	20.3	27.2	299.3	294.7
7 Machinery and transport equipment	1,448.6	1,625.6	15,797.2	17,489.9	1,622.4	2,210.5	16,888.3	20,435.0
71 Power generating machinery & equipment	49.2	29.4	351.1	392.4	21.5	23.5	277.3	269.3
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries	145.8	57.2	1,047.9	786.0	13.1	17.7	185.1	219.0
73 Metalworking machinery	9.2	12.7	127.1	107.8	3.2	1.7	30.3	50.9
74 General industrial machinery & equipment nes & parts nes	57.0	81.4	879.9	915.1	48.3	53.7	635.0	689.2
75 Office machines & automatic data processing machines	485.4	659.8	6,262.1	6,657.9	1,049.6	1,420.5	10,191.2	11,874.5
76 Telecommunications & sound equipment	108.7	145.5	913.7	1,511.4	166.1	235.6	1,693.6	2,709.8
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances nes & parts	296.2	348.6	3,436.2	3,723.2	274.7	400.2	3,317.4	4,059.9
78 Road vehicles (incl air-cushion vehicles)	225.0	270.1	2,189.8	2,352.2	16.1	23.3	296.4	338.3
79 Other transport equipment	72.0	21.0	589.3	1,043.9	29.9	34.3	261.8	223.9
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	280.0	310.5	3,483.6	3,808.8	457.2	573.2	5,280.8	5,725.0
81 Prefab buildings; plumbing & electrical fixtures & fittings	10.4	12.3	119.3	148.7	3.6	4.5	59.2	58.6
82 Furniture & parts thereof; bedding, cushions etc	16.9	21.5	179.6	205.3	6.0	6.6	96.2	82.1
83 Travel goods, handbags & similar containers	3.4	3.7	36.4	40.6	0.7	0.6	11.1	8.6
84 Articles of apparel; clothing accessories	69.5	63.5	834.2	852.4	20.7	23.8	353.3	296.0
85 Footwear	12.6	11.8	184.0	185.0	1.0	1.5	18.2	19.5
87 Professional, scientific & controlling apparatus nes	32.5	55.9	528.1	602.7	89.5	102.0	1,098.6	1,087.2
88 Photographic apparatus; optical goods; watches & clocks	16.7	17.8	212.3	218.8	25.9	23.0	311.6	342.8
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes	118.0	124.0	1,389.7	1,555.5	309.7	411.2	3,332.5	3,830.2
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	47.4	51.4	674.8	645.7	113.8	133.1	1,529.1	1,649.5
Unclassified estimates¹	114.7	141.3	1,375.6	1,505.3	40.2	72.6	520.8	601.1
Total	2,688.2	3,029.2	31,278.1	34,316.5	3,853.7	5,046.9	45,144.6	52,061.1

¹ Estimates for which a commodity classification is not available.

Table 4 Trade by Country

£ million

Country	Imports				Exports			
	Dec 1998	Dec 1999	Jan-Dec 1998	Jan-Dec 1999	Dec 1998	Dec 1999	Jan-Dec 1998	Jan-Dec 1999
Great Britain	871.6	936.9	9,760.7	10,306.3	834.2	934.7	8,991.5	10,174.4
Northern Ireland	63.6	72.5	845.1	884.9	88.3	101.9	1,184.3	1,140.4
Austria	4.5	7.0	65.8	84.7	22.7	29.1	252.0	315.3
Belgium & Luxembourg	28.5	39.0	365.3	457.7	194.2	219.9	2,871.0	2,732.2
Denmark	19.4	35.2	206.1	274.5	78.2	49.5	462.3	482.7
Finland	15.0	24.4	245.5	231.2	22.9	30.2	227.8	404.4
France	106.3	140.8	1,222.5	1,438.7	333.8	460.3	3,791.5	4,418.0
Germany	160.7	167.7	1,942.7	2,123.1	590.5	848.5	6,530.9	6,183.9
Greece	1.6	2.2	19.6	25.3	7.5	17.5	123.4	185.9
Italy	58.5	68.2	605.1	810.6	159.1	178.6	1,525.6	1,956.3
Netherlands	72.8	90.2	971.2	1,057.6	191.0	338.0	2,492.9	3,178.9
Portugal	6.3	7.4	84.6	99.4	14.3	20.5	183.8	192.8
Spain	33.6	44.1	346.5	419.5	107.0	134.8	1,210.5	1,411.8
Sweden	26.0	34.4	309.3	347.6	75.5	90.9	857.7	845.9
EU Country not specified	0.5	29.3	3.6	263.0	2.5	0.0	42.6	1.9
Total EU	1,469.1	1,699.2	16,993.7	18,824.0	2,721.7	3,454.4	30,747.9	33,624.9
Australia	2.3	3.0	36.5	49.2	30.5	42.1	353.7	454.8
Brazil	1.6	5.5	33.4	65.4	8.4	12.5	114.7	112.4
Canada	20.8	22.1	292.3	297.0	22.7	13.4	272.6	259.9
China	48.5	54.9	503.6	513.9	6.9	9.6	59.3	93.4
Czech Republic	3.5	4.8	40.5	49.0	15.9	17.7	106.5	154.4
Egypt	0.2	0.6	6.4	7.7	13.6	25.6	150.7	181.8
Hong Kong	14.0	29.9	189.2	347.9	18.4	25.0	232.4	260.7
Hungary	11.1	20.5	186.9	191.8	6.6	13.7	73.7	127.7
India	4.3	6.1	63.7	82.5	3.3	4.4	38.1	61.0
Israel	6.6	12.8	142.2	212.1	19.5	27.2	182.0	223.1
Japan	178.3	179.0	2,184.0	1,961.8	117.8	170.7	1,170.9	1,505.8
Malaysia	38.0	38.8	344.6	448.5	36.0	48.3	255.4	644.3
Mexico	3.5	6.1	59.3	53.6	13.3	14.0	129.2	135.9
Norway	20.3	9.7	355.0	345.3	34.8	54.5	441.3	466.8
Philippines	19.1	13.4	165.4	185.0	17.7	37.3	227.4	332.5
Poland	4.3	7.4	56.8	68.5	19.0	23.7	191.7	198.8
Russia	0.3	0.2	11.7	21.5	4.5	10.4	193.7	202.2
Saudi Arabia	4.7	0.1	25.0	6.9	17.2	11.0	226.7	257.9
Singapore	134.4	118.7	1,536.2	1,347.1	26.4	31.0	296.0	377.4
South Africa	3.9	5.3	45.1	55.8	25.9	18.5	270.6	288.7
South Korea	43.4	57.9	502.1	493.7	18.1	31.9	285.6	252.2
Switzerland	22.8	18.3	253.5	223.7	79.8	167.3	910.6	1,247.1
Taiwan	51.4	61.8	583.1	713.2	8.5	8.8	116.4	129.7
Thailand	11.7	14.5	148.5	122.9	4.9	5.9	65.1	76.0
Turkey	5.5	8.1	69.2	74.1	10.2	22.4	138.9	169.2
USA	441.4	459.4	5,010.9	5,707.9	407.4	526.8	6,097.8	8,041.0
Other countries ¹	37.8	64.2	533.8	674.5	80.2	111.6	1,069.9	1,190.9
Country unknown ²	3.9	4.2	52.5	47.3	15.7	25.8	221.0	327.0
Unclassified estimates ³	81.7	102.7	853.1	1,124.8	48.8	81.5	504.6	663.6
Total	2,688.2	3,029.2	31,278.1	34,316.5	3,853.7	5,046.9	45,144.6	52,061.1

¹ Other non-EU countries not listed individually.

² Trade for which the country of origin or country of final destination is unknown.

³ Estimates not allocated by country.

Table 5 Summary of trade (in Euro currency)

€ million¹

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted ²		
	Imports	Exports	Trade Surplus	Imports	Exports	Trade Surplus
1990	15,832.1	18,203.9	2,371.7			
1991	16,317.2	19,070.1	2,752.9			
1992	16,753.9	21,260.2	4,506.3			
1993	18,899.7	25,178.5	6,278.9			
1994	21,945.4	28,890.9	6,945.5			
1995	26,180.9	35,330.1	9,149.2			
1996	28,479.5	38,608.9	10,129.5			
1997	32,863.5	44,868.0	12,004.5			
1998	39,715.0	57,321.8	17,606.8			
1999 ³	43,573.0	66,104.6	22,531.6			
1998 January	3,118.3	4,066.1	947.7	3,160.1	4,249.7	1,089.6
February	3,192.8	4,206.8	1,014.0	3,290.9	4,441.4	1,150.5
March	3,568.7	4,979.9	1,411.3	3,228.0	4,732.9	1,504.9
April	3,283.0	4,581.1	1,298.1	3,133.7	4,621.8	1,488.2
May	3,347.2	4,531.8	1,184.7	3,382.2	4,594.0	1,211.8
June	3,306.8	5,180.0	1,873.4	3,298.9	4,851.1	1,552.2
July	3,266.4	4,911.0	1,644.6	3,394.2	4,914.1	1,519.9
August	2,820.6	4,269.7	1,449.2	3,344.7	4,928.8	1,584.1
September	3,258.7	5,332.9	2,074.2	3,317.1	4,885.8	1,568.7
October	3,480.0	4,898.8	1,418.8	3,326.3	4,778.0	1,451.7
November	3,659.3	5,470.5	1,811.2	3,436.7	5,531.1	2,094.4
December	3,413.3	4,893.2	1,479.8	3,431.0	4,835.8	1,404.9
1999 ³ January	3,273.1	4,715.4	1,442.4	3,410.2	4,997.8	1,587.6
February	3,267.9	4,849.0	1,581.1	3,362.0	5,119.8	1,757.8
March	3,611.6	5,398.4	1,786.8	3,194.8	4,967.4	1,772.6
April	3,612.8	5,067.3	1,454.5	3,439.8	5,194.2	1,754.4
May	3,520.3	5,351.2	1,830.8	3,533.8	5,469.6	1,935.8
June ⁴	3,562.1	5,683.3	2,121.2	3,568.6	5,196.4	1,627.8
July	3,537.2	5,784.8	2,247.6	3,758.7	5,781.8	2,023.1
August	3,319.3	4,864.4	1,545.1	3,802.5	5,686.3	1,883.8
September	3,746.6	6,236.7	2,490.2	3,863.7	5,700.6	1,836.9
October	4,059.6	5,834.8	1,775.1	3,976.0	5,798.0	1,822.0
November	4,216.0	5,910.4	1,694.3	3,826.7	5,911.6	2,084.9
December	3,846.3	6,408.9	2,562.6	3,916.4	6,339.5	2,423.1
2000 ³ January ⁵	4,100.0	5,180.0	1,080.0	4,270.0	5,520.0	1,260.0

¹ Converted at the EU official Exchange rate conversion factor, fixed at 0.787564, effective from 1 January 1999

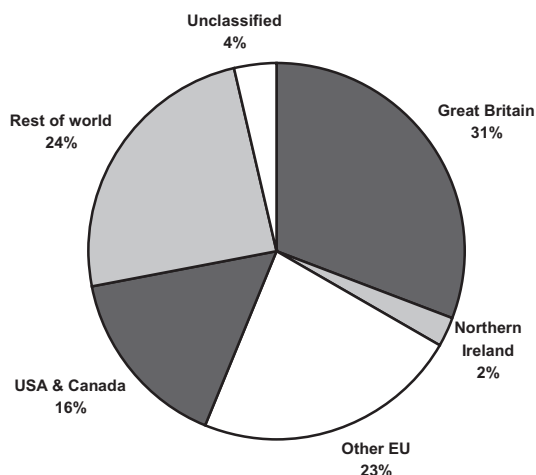
² Based on seasonal patterns up to December 1999

³ Provisional

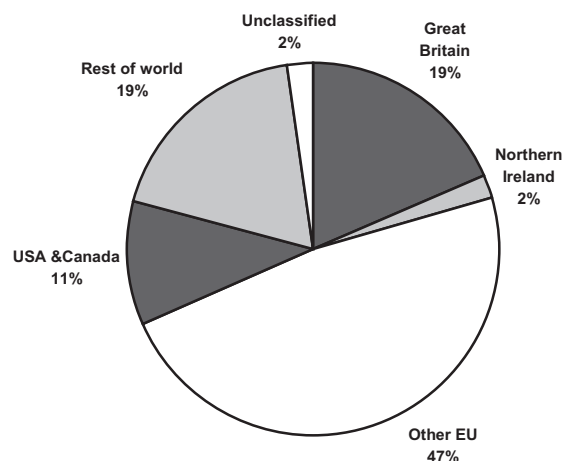
⁴ Revised

⁵ Based on current Intrastat response levels. Figures rounded to the nearest EUR 10 million

Imports, December 1999 (See Table 4)



Exports, December 1999 (See Table 4)



Background Notes

Introduction The statistics are a combination of Customs-based non-EU trade statistics and estimates from the Intrastat Survey of Irish traders involved in trade with other EU member states. Details of non-EU trade have already been published in a separate Statistical Release.

Revisions All figures are estimates. They are subject to revision on the incorporation of late Intrastat and VAT returns and corrections made by traders to Intrastat returns already submitted.

When the results for a particular month are published, the results for the same month in the previous year are revised for the last time and may be considered final. However, further revisions are possible in very exceptional cases.

From July 1996, sales of some software licences previously included in export returns have been excluded. It is estimated that this has reduced exports by about £50m a month. These sales are now captured in the Balance of Payments as an adjustment to merchandise exports.

Intrastat System The Intrastat system has two components. Firstly, the Intrastat survey itself (conducted by the Revenue Commissioners), in which the larger traders make detailed monthly returns giving information on the quantity and value of all exports to or imports from EU countries.

The total number of traders required to make an import return is about 7,140 while about 1,890 must make an export return. The response rate in terms of number of traders in December 1999 was 84%, covering an estimated 95% of the total value of intra-EU trade.

The second component of the Intrastat system is the regular VAT return, on which all traders are required to record the *total* value of goods imported from and exported to other EU member states. This information provides the basis for determining total EU trade for those traders below the Intrastat survey thresholds. It is also used to maintain the register of EU traders.

Estimation The figures in this release include estimates for traders above the Intrastat thresholds who did not make detailed returns for the period and for traders below the thresholds who did not provide aggregate intra-EU trade figures on their VAT returns.

Estimates for Intrastat non-respondents are apportioned to individual commodities and countries whenever previous Intrastat returns are available. Estimates for traders below the Intrastat thresholds are assigned to partner country where possible, but not to commodity.

The estimate of imports incorporates an upward adjustment equivalent to about 1.75% of total imports, which is included in 'Unclassified estimates'. This special adjustment arises from the difficulty of comprehensively covering all EU imports through the Intrastat survey system.

The unclassified category also includes certain miscellaneous adjustments.

Price and Volume Indices The monthly price (unit value) index measures monthly price trends relative to the annual levels in the preceding year using value weights relating to that year's trade (Laspeyres index).

The annual index is compiled using value weights for both the current and previous year (Fisher index) to allow for change in the structure of external trade.

The monthly index series should be regarded as interim measures suitable for month-to-month comparisons within a given year. However, when the annual price index is compiled, the monthly price indices are rescaled to make their average equal to the annual index.