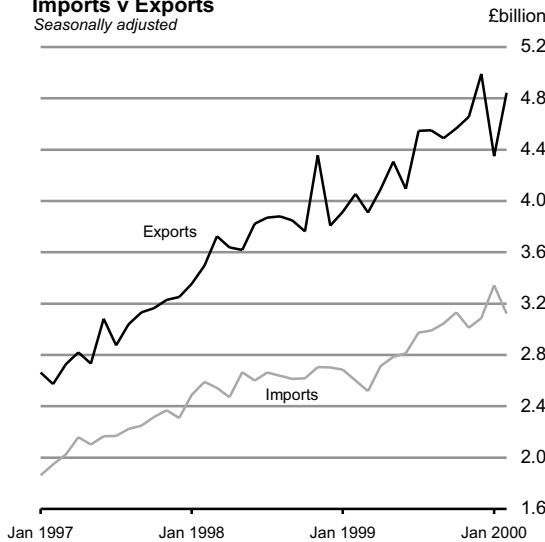




Imports v Exports
Seasonally adjusted



External Trade

February 2000 (Details)

March 2000 (First estimate)

	Imports	Exports	Surplus
Jan-Feb 1999	£5,105m	£7,527m	£2,422m
Jan-Feb 2000	£6,419m	£8,815m	£2,396m
% change	+26%	+17%	-1%
February 2000	£3,199m	£4,736m	£1,537m
March 2000 <i>(preliminary)</i>	£3,630m	£5,660m	£2,020m

Exports of £4.7 billion in February

Merchandise exports in February 2000 were valued at £4,736m, while imports were valued at £3,199m. This resulted in a surplus of £1,537m compared with a surplus in February 1999 of £1,313m.

On a seasonally adjusted basis (*see graph*), imports were £3,121m, while exports were £4,844m. The adjusted trade surplus was £1,723m.

Preliminary indications for March 2000 show exports at £5,660m. Imports are estimated at £3,630m, giving an unadjusted surplus of £2,020m.

Comparing the January-February 2000 figures with the same period in 1999 shows that (*see Tables 3-4*):

- ◆ Exports increased from £7,527m to £8,815m (+17%). Exports of Organic chemicals increased from £1,380m to £1,647m (+19%) and exports of Electrical machinery and parts increased from £529m to £737m (+39%).
- ◆ Exports to the USA increased from £1,201m to £1,508m (+26%) and exports to Italy increased from £280m to £385m (+37%). Exports to Great Britain increased from £1,499m to £1,756m (+17%) while exports to Northern Ireland increased from £172m to £205m (+19%).
- ◆ Imports increased from £5,105m to £6,419m (+26%). Imports of Electrical machinery and parts increased from £535m to £729m (+36%) and Road vehicle imports increased from £432m to £595m (+38%). Imports of Telecommunication equipment increased from £178m to £309m (+73%).
- ◆ Imports from Great Britain increased from £1,546m to £1,920m (+24%) and imports from Belgium increased from £60m to £174m (+188%).

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Table 1 Summary of trade

Period	Value			Volume Index		Price Index		Terms of Trade ¹
	Imports	Exports	Trade Surplus	Base year 1990=100				
				Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	
£M	£M	£M						
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	34,289.2	52,112.6	17,823.4	232.3	332.5	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	2,576.7	3,685.9	1,109.2	212.0	283.2	116.6	109.1	93.6
February ³	2,528.2	3,841.1	1,312.9	209.5	287.8	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	2,805.4	4,476.0	1,670.6	226.8	335.9	118.7	111.7	94.2
July ³	2,813.1	4,548.2	1,735.1	229.1	352.9	117.8	108.1	91.7
August ³	2,606.2	3,895.4	1,289.2	206.4	291.9	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	3,220.1	4,078.6	858.5	252.6	311.6	122.3	109.7	89.7
February	3,198.9	4,736.4	1,537.4	249.4	363.4	123.1	109.3	88.8
March ⁴	3,630.0	5,660.0	2,020.0

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
1997					
January	1,861.9	2,662.4	800.5	163.7	215.3
February	1,945.5	2,572.6	627.1	169.8	206.9
March	2,024.3	2,727.3	703.0	174.5	219.1
April	2,158.9	2,821.1	662.2	191.3	229.0
May	2,100.8	2,732.7	631.9	179.3	212.7
June	2,167.1	3,082.8	915.8	187.0	240.5
July	2,168.4	2,873.8	705.4	183.0	229.7
August	2,223.8	3,039.7	815.8	187.1	238.4
September	2,249.6	3,132.8	883.1	191.1	245.6
October	2,316.0	3,165.1	849.0	194.4	249.8
November	2,367.2	3,228.0	860.8	198.2	247.3
December	2,308.7	3,252.3	943.6	197.8	249.0
1998					
January	2,488.2	3,352.7	864.5	205.8	257.7
February	2,591.1	3,496.9	905.8	220.1	273.7
March	2,543.1	3,726.3	1,183.2	215.1	282.6
April	2,470.6	3,638.6	1,168.0	208.3	277.5
May	2,665.8	3,617.5	951.7	224.9	279.2
June	2,599.5	3,822.2	1,222.7	216.2	288.0
July	2,662.4	3,870.4	1,208.0	220.1	293.5
August	2,638.2	3,880.5	1,242.2	220.6	297.3
September	2,613.5	3,847.0	1,233.5	211.7	293.2
October	2,618.7	3,762.1	1,143.4	222.8	294.3
November	2,705.8	4,356.6	1,650.8	228.9	342.5
December	2,702.8	3,806.7	1,103.8	227.0	296.7
1999					
January	2,685.0	3,914.7	1,229.6	221.7	300.0
February	2,600.2	4,054.3	1,454.2	216.2	309.8
March	2,517.0	3,910.5	1,393.5	208.4	309.6
April	2,711.8	4,089.4	1,377.6	224.5	325.0
May	2,785.3	4,306.3	1,520.9	229.9	329.1
June	2,813.4	4,094.7	1,281.3	227.8	302.8
July	2,974.5	4,546.2	1,571.7	243.6	356.9
August	2,990.5	4,552.0	1,561.4	239.0	343.6
September	3,044.1	4,488.2	1,444.1	245.2	342.6
October	3,131.2	4,565.6	1,434.4	252.4	338.0
November	3,012.2	4,656.1	1,643.9	239.0	356.6
December	3,085.7	4,990.4	1,904.7	243.8	380.4
2000					
January	3,344.3	4,350.1	1,005.8	263.8	332.9
February	3,120.9	4,844.2	1,723.4	242.8	379.3
March	3,270.0	5,180.0	1,920.0

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			
	Feb 1999	Feb 2000	Jan-Feb 1999	Jan-Feb 2000	Feb 1999	Feb 2000	Jan-Feb 1999	Jan-Feb 2000
0 Food and live animals	156.4	163.4	299.4	329.5	315.8	332.8	614.1	617.6
00 Live animals other than animals of Division 03	2.0	4.9	7.3	21.8	11.2	18.8	46.7	49.2
01 Meat & meat preparations	13.1	15.2	28.3	31.2	105.4	108.6	187.2	180.2
02 Dairy products and birds' eggs	14.3	22.8	26.3	38.2	41.3	46.4	86.0	92.0
03 Fish, crustaceans, molluscs and preparations thereof	5.3	6.1	10.1	11.9	16.2	18.8	29.9	32.4
04 Cereals & cereal preparations	27.4	27.1	49.7	51.7	17.1	17.5	32.3	32.3
05 Vegetables & fruit	29.1	27.5	57.2	54.8	11.5	11.3	19.5	21.0
06 Sugars, sugar preparations & honey	7.3	9.1	14.0	15.6	6.0	6.3	11.5	11.3
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices & manufactures thereof	14.5	16.4	27.5	29.9	18.8	17.5	34.9	30.6
08 Feeding stuff for animals (excl unmilled cereals)	29.4	21.2	55.0	49.3	7.0	7.8	13.9	15.4
09 Miscellaneous edible products & preparations	14.0	13.0	24.0	25.1	81.3	79.9	152.1	153.2
1 Beverages and tobacco	22.4	22.3	43.0	48.1	42.0	57.4	76.6	98.0
11 Beverages	17.1	18.2	33.8	40.0	38.4	50.4	70.2	87.3
12 Tobacco & tobacco manufactures	5.3	4.1	9.2	8.1	3.6	7.0	6.4	10.6
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	40.6	46.1	80.6	92.2	53.1	52.7	100.8	100.6
21 Hides, skins & furskins, raw	0.3	0.5	0.7	1.7	5.0	6.5	9.5	9.6
22 Oil seeds & oleaginous fruits	0.6	0.4	1.5	1.3	0.4	0.0	0.7	0.1
23 Crude rubber (incl synthetic & reclaimed)	1.1	0.9	2.2	1.6	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1
24 Cork & wood	13.5	17.8	28.1	36.0	2.6	4.1	5.3	7.9
25 Pulp & waste paper	1.7	1.2	3.4	4.6	0.2	0.7	0.5	1.1
26 Textile fibres & their wastes	4.0	4.6	8.1	8.3	10.2	6.5	18.1	12.6
27 Crude fertilisers & minerals (excl coal, petroleum and precious stones)	6.1	6.0	10.8	12.5	4.0	2.6	6.1	5.0
28 Metalliferous ores & metal scrap	8.2	8.4	15.7	14.6	23.8	27.7	48.0	54.0
29 Crude animal & vegetable materials nes	5.2	6.4	10.1	11.7	6.9	4.5	12.4	10.2
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	56.1	118.7	122.7	211.0	8.6	19.9	16.9	37.1
32 Coal, coke & briquettes	7.3	4.4	15.9	11.8	4.3	7.9	7.0	10.2
33 Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials	34.9	98.9	78.6	165.6	4.1	11.6	9.5	26.3
34 Gas, natural & manufactured	13.5	15.2	27.5	33.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4
35 Electric Current	0.4	0.2	0.7	0.2	–	0.1	–	0.1
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	9.3	8.3	17.3	15.7	2.4	2.2	4.5	3.5
41 Animal oils & fats	0.2	0.9	0.4	1.7	1.6	1.8	2.9	2.9
42 Fixed vegetable fats & oils	4.8	3.8	9.1	7.3	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.5
43 Animal or vegetable fats & oils, processed; waxes	4.3	3.6	7.8	6.7	0.5	0.0	1.0	0.1
5 Chemicals and related products nes	292.3	384.6	598.9	798.6	1,137.8	1,546.4	2,324.0	2,686.5
51 Organic chemicals	83.4	122.3	207.6	307.8	649.0	1,031.8	1,380.4	1,647.0
52 Inorganic chemicals	11.6	14.2	27.6	31.0	12.6	22.8	24.7	41.5
53 Dyeing, tanning & colouring materials	15.8	13.4	25.1	29.3	3.2	3.3	6.0	7.9
54 Medical & pharmaceutical products	64.1	97.4	114.2	163.9	240.3	252.3	444.2	519.9
55 Essential oils; perfume materials; toilet & cleansing preparations	29.2	34.4	55.7	66.5	122.8	126.3	258.8	246.8
56 Fertilisers (other than those of Division 27)	17.8	18.4	32.1	30.1	4.5	2.0	7.2	3.8
57 Plastics in primary forms	27.1	31.9	51.6	66.5	8.1	11.2	14.0	24.5
58 Plastics in non-primary forms	17.4	24.3	36.4	47.1	13.0	12.8	24.2	23.1
59 Chemical materials & products nes	25.8	28.4	48.5	56.6	84.2	84.0	164.4	171.9

Table 3 Trade classified by Commodity - continued

£ million

SITC (Rev 3)	Imports				Exports			
	Feb 1999	Feb 2000	Jan-Feb 1999	Jan-Feb 2000	Feb 1999	Feb 2000	Jan-Feb 1999	Jan-Feb 2000
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	226.9	270.8	453.4	519.3	117.5	127.7	226.9	242.3
61 Leather; leather manufactures nes; dressed furskins	0.6	0.9	1.3	1.6	3.4	4.6	6.0	8.2
62 Rubber manufactures nes	12.9	15.6	25.7	28.5	6.1	8.8	12.9	16.1
63 Cork & wood manufactures (excl furniture)	8.7	12.1	19.9	24.7	7.6	8.5	13.7	16.1
64 Paper, paperboard & articles thereof	45.9	49.4	91.3	93.6	8.1	10.3	17.1	21.6
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles & related products	34.7	37.8	70.2	74.1	29.6	32.9	56.6	62.4
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures nes	26.7	37.4	50.5	66.5	22.3	22.1	38.9	42.1
67 Iron & steel	28.5	34.3	56.3	66.9	8.6	9.7	15.5	18.6
68 Non-ferrous metals	23.5	24.4	45.6	46.4	8.8	6.6	13.4	11.7
69 Manufactures of metals nes	45.3	59.0	92.5	117.0	23.1	24.2	52.6	45.5
7 Machinery and transport equipment	1,291.6	1,631.7	2,622.7	3,303.2	1,541.4	1,727.5	2,983.7	3,462.8
71 Power generating machinery & equipment	29.9	42.8	58.4	84.6	22.0	18.0	40.8	33.0
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries	106.0	67.8	176.1	125.7	13.3	18.6	34.7	36.2
73 Metalworking machinery	7.8	13.8	15.1	27.7	4.9	3.5	9.1	7.3
74 General industrial machinery & equipment nes & parts nes	57.7	80.3	120.7	154.1	55.5	66.2	101.8	115.9
75 Office machines & automatic data processing machines	504.5	582.7	1,057.2	1,213.8	848.1	934.2	1,762.1	1,963.3
76 Telecommunications & sound equipment	92.5	157.6	177.9	308.6	278.5	266.4	422.6	474.2
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances nes & parts	259.7	346.2	535.3	728.9	265.2	371.9	528.7	736.8
78 Road vehicles (incl air-cushion vehicles)	208.7	305.3	432.3	594.7	27.2	38.7	48.5	68.3
79 Other transport equipment	24.8	35.2	49.8	65.0	26.7	10.0	35.4	27.9
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	281.5	345.5	562.8	659.6	441.6	554.2	851.0	1,025.0
81 Prefab buildings; plumbing & electrical fixtures & fittings	11.9	14.0	24.8	26.1	4.4	4.9	9.4	9.3
82 Furniture & parts thereof; bedding, cushions etc	13.7	20.0	26.5	38.7	8.3	7.9	14.5	13.4
83 Travel goods, handbags & similar containers	2.8	4.1	5.2	7.8	0.8	1.5	1.4	2.3
84 Articles of apparel; clothing accessories	69.6	87.2	130.7	159.9	26.1	27.1	49.7	48.3
85 Footwear	15.9	19.4	28.4	34.1	1.4	2.3	3.5	3.9
87 Professional, scientific & controlling apparatus nes	45.3	68.4	83.3	132.7	74.5	111.7	156.8	209.1
88 Photographic apparatus; optical goods; watches & clocks	21.6	14.8	37.0	34.6	32.5	37.6	53.7	60.9
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes	100.7	117.6	226.8	225.8	293.6	361.2	561.9	677.9
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	53.6	61.9	109.6	146.2	136.1	155.6	253.2	312.6
Unclassified estimates¹	97.7	145.6	194.6	295.6	44.7	160.0	75.3	229.0
Total	2,528.2	3,198.9	5,104.9	6,419.0	3,841.1	4,736.4	7,527.0	8,815.0

¹ Estimates for which a commodity classification is not available.

Table 4 Trade by Country

£ million

Country	Imports				Exports			
	Feb 1999	Feb 2000	Jan-Feb 1999	Jan-Feb 2000	Feb 1999	Feb 2000	Jan-Feb 1999	Jan-Feb 2000
Great Britain	803.5	982.1	1,546.2	1,920.4	766.8	974.9	1,498.7	1,755.5
Northern Ireland	66.7	72.4	131.0	134.6	91.9	110.4	172.3	205.2
Austria	4.3	11.6	11.5	21.8	20.1	25.0	38.1	98.2
Belgium	28.7	38.7	60.5	174.0	178.5	269.0	373.7	397.7
Luxembourg	0.3	0.5	1.3	0.8	1.9	1.3	2.4	2.4
Denmark	21.0	33.8	36.3	55.3	38.6	31.7	79.9	66.3
Finland	17.6	27.6	34.7	49.2	24.1	25.8	45.2	53.4
France	90.7	126.9	192.9	242.5	311.8	346.6	665.7	694.1
Germany	174.0	191.1	332.1	381.3	436.7	407.0	877.1	821.8
Greece	2.0	2.7	3.7	6.2	14.0	23.1	26.5	36.9
Italy	59.7	78.8	110.8	150.9	127.9	194.3	280.0	384.9
Netherlands	77.3	83.3	158.5	185.7	251.6	251.5	496.5	576.7
Portugal	7.1	6.8	13.0	14.4	15.0	14.5	32.7	30.5
Spain	33.0	56.0	64.7	100.0	103.9	101.0	206.5	204.3
Sweden	27.7	46.1	52.1	79.5	51.0	89.7	118.0	163.5
EU Country not specified	10.9	30.7	24.3	63.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Total EU	1,424.4	1,789.1	2,773.6	3,580.2	2,434.0	2,866.0	4,913.3	5,491.5
Australia	2.0	3.3	7.2	6.2	26.7	30.1	49.0	45.8
Brazil	3.3	8.6	6.3	14.4	9.9	6.2	19.2	14.6
Canada	26.5	19.2	53.7	59.4	15.5	21.0	38.8	44.0
China	36.5	44.4	72.2	95.6	5.6	8.2	16.5	16.1
Czech Republic	4.3	5.5	8.7	12.0	8.5	13.5	16.5	29.6
Egypt	0.6	0.7	1.1	1.4	11.4	27.8	23.2	32.2
Hong Kong	15.8	44.4	33.6	80.6	20.7	22.2	37.1	46.4
Hungary	12.2	15.7	27.9	40.4	4.9	15.3	9.9	30.5
India	5.1	7.7	10.2	15.3	5.4	6.1	8.3	9.9
Israel	13.1	18.1	40.7	32.1	16.1	18.6	30.8	50.8
Japan	167.0	165.8	325.1	357.2	87.3	213.5	165.9	359.6
Malaysia	39.5	43.7	78.5	83.4	54.6	40.2	115.2	90.7
Mexico	3.2	5.4	6.2	11.2	9.0	8.8	17.5	18.8
Norway	23.1	41.6	54.0	73.5	42.1	32.6	75.1	74.7
Philippines	15.0	30.0	31.9	45.5	32.4	32.1	58.3	62.8
Poland	7.1	4.0	11.3	8.4	12.9	17.5	28.7	38.7
Russia	0.6	0.6	2.6	0.9	7.0	8.4	15.0	22.0
Saudi Arabia	1.8	0.3	4.2	0.3	18.8	35.2	37.6	54.1
Singapore	92.5	90.3	240.2	200.5	27.0	25.1	53.7	50.4
South Africa	3.0	4.7	6.4	17.0	14.3	18.2	28.7	36.5
South Korea	40.6	80.2	81.1	166.4	13.7	40.9	27.5	76.2
Switzerland	16.2	41.5	32.6	61.0	93.2	100.0	172.2	160.6
Taiwan	54.4	53.8	101.8	111.3	10.6	11.5	26.1	19.5
Thailand	8.9	12.6	18.6	25.3	4.7	6.6	8.6	12.5
Turkey	5.0	6.2	10.6	13.0	11.7	24.5	24.7	44.7
USA	381.8	488.9	810.9	953.8	672.2	887.8	1,201.2	1,508.0
Other countries ¹	41.9	63.3	87.6	128.6	101.6	108.5	168.9	192.9
Country unknown ²	4.0	5.2	7.1	10.3	25.1	17.6	48.8	32.9
Unclassified estimates ³	78.8	104.2	158.8	214.0	44.1	72.2	90.5	148.0
Total	2,528.2	3,198.9	5,104.9	6,419.0	3,841.1	4,736.4	7,527.0	8,815.0

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	43,538.3	66,169.4	22,631.0			
1999 ³ January	3,271.7	4,680.1	1,408.4	3,409.2	4,970.6	1,561.3
February ⁴	3,210.2	4,877.2	1,667.0	3,301.6	5,147.9	1,846.5
March	3,611.6	5,398.4	1,786.8	3,196.0	4,965.4	1,769.4
April	3,612.8	5,067.3	1,454.5	3,443.2	5,192.4	1,749.2
May	3,520.3	5,351.2	1,830.8	3,536.7	5,467.8	1,931.2
June	3,562.1	5,683.3	2,121.2	3,572.2	5,199.1	1,626.9
July ⁴	3,571.9	5,775.0	2,203.1	3,776.8	5,772.5	1,995.6
August ⁴	3,309.2	4,946.1	1,636.9	3,797.2	5,779.8	1,982.6
September	3,746.6	6,236.7	2,490.2	3,865.2	5,698.8	1,833.6
October	4,059.6	5,834.8	1,775.1	3,975.8	5,797.2	1,821.4
November	4,216.0	5,910.4	1,694.3	3,824.7	5,912.0	2,087.3
December	3,846.3	6,408.9	2,562.6	3,918.0	6,336.4	2,418.4
2000 ³ January	4,088.7	5,178.8	1,090.1	4,246.4	5,523.5	1,277.1
February	4,061.8	6,014.0	1,952.1	3,962.7	6,150.9	2,188.3
March ⁵	4,610.0	7,170.0	2,560.0	4,150.0	6,580.0	2,440.0

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

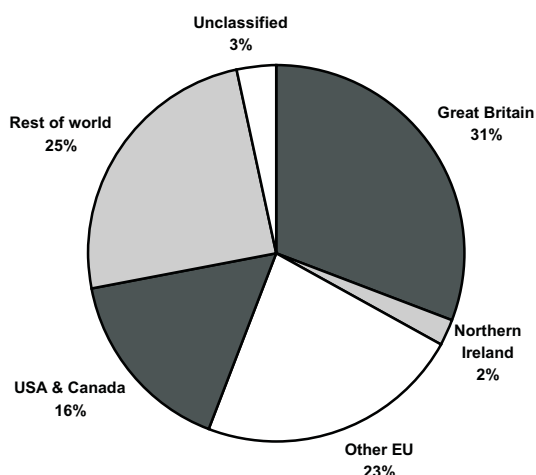
² Based on seasonal patterns up to December 1999

³ Provisional

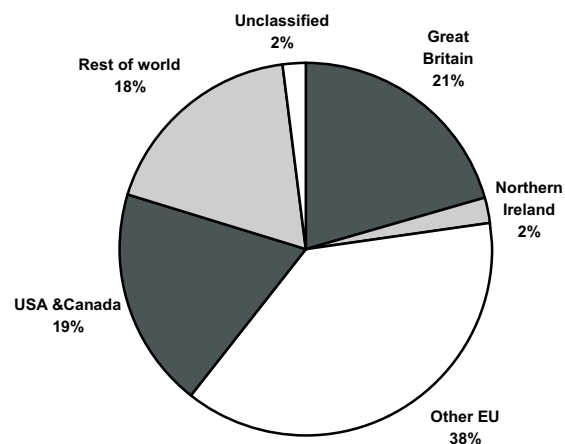
⁴ Revised

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

Imports, February 2000 (See Table 4)



Exports, February 2000 (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 6,600 while about 1,870 must make an export return. The response rate in terms of number of traders in February 2000 was 82%, covering an estimated 86% 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.