



**Table 1 Summary of trade**

Period	Value			Volume Index		Price Index		Terms of Trade <sup>1</sup>
	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	34,910.4	52,732.3	17,821.9	236.5	336.5	118.0	109.5	92.8
2000 <sup>2</sup>	43,802.3	65,671.9	21,869.6	272.7	398.5	128.0	115.0	89.9
1999 January	2,576.7	3,685.9	1,109.2	212.0	283.2	116.6	109.1	93.6
February	2,528.2	3,841.1	1,312.9	209.5	287.8	115.8	111.9	96.6
March	2,947.1	4,268.7	1,321.6	241.7	335.7	117.0	106.6	91.2
April	2,890.8	4,030.9	1,140.1	233.9	319.1	118.6	105.9	89.3
May	2,787.5	4,247.8	1,460.3	228.1	325.2	117.3	109.5	93.4
June	2,810.2	4,499.9	1,689.6	227.2	337.7	118.7	111.7	94.2
July	2,824.2	4,535.7	1,711.5	230.0	352.0	117.8	108.1	91.7
August	2,622.2	3,905.5	1,283.3	207.7	292.7	121.1	111.9	92.4
September	3,010.6	5,049.9	2,039.4	247.5	380.9	116.7	111.2	95.3
October	3,323.5	4,823.5	1,500.0	272.2	364.5	117.1	111.0	94.7
November	3,457.3	4,736.9	1,279.6	279.3	367.9	118.8	108.0	90.9
December	3,132.2	5,106.5	1,974.4	248.6	392.3	120.9	109.2	90.3
2000 <sup>2</sup> January	3,375.0	4,085.2	710.2	254.0	303.3	122.5	112.3	91.7
February	3,212.6	4,749.9	1,537.3	249.9	357.1	123.0	111.4	90.6
March	3,720.0	5,834.9	2,114.9	284.7	421.1	125.4	116.2	92.7
April <sup>3</sup>	3,298.6	4,765.5	1,466.9	254.9	339.3	124.2	117.8	94.8
May	3,758.3	5,181.0	1,422.6	283.5	365.5	127.2	118.9	93.4
June	3,621.8	6,030.6	2,408.8	267.9	437.8	129.7	115.5	89.1
July	3,520.3	5,096.6	1,576.3	263.6	367.4	128.6	114.8	89.3
August	3,392.8	5,090.2	1,697.4	252.6	372.7	128.9	114.5	88.8
September	3,680.9	6,172.6	2,491.6	270.4	447.9	130.6	115.6	88.5
October <sup>3</sup>	4,119.0	6,161.9	2,042.9	299.5	447.2	132.0	115.5	87.6
November	4,239.9	6,407.2	2,167.4	304.5	477.9	133.6	112.4	84.2
December	3,863.1	6,096.2	2,233.1	285.5	443.2	129.9	115.3	88.8
2001 <sup>2</sup> January	3,987.2	5,803.2	1,816.0	292.3	419.5	130.9	116.0	88.6
February	3,763.3	5,587.1	1,823.8	281.4	402.8	128.3	116.3	90.6
March	4,311.5	6,907.6	2,596.2	316.0	489.3	130.9	118.4	90.4
April	3,725.8	5,716.1	1,990.4	272.9	401.7	131.0	119.3	91.1
May <sup>4</sup>	3,670.0	5,470.0	1,800.0	..	..	..	..	..

<sup>1</sup> Export Price Index divided by Import Price Index

<sup>2</sup> Provisional

<sup>3</sup> Revised

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

.. Data not yet available

**Table 2 Seasonally adjusted<sup>1</sup> Series**

Period	Value			Volume Index	
	Imports £M	Exports £M	Trade Surplus £M	Base year 1990=100	
				Imports	Exports
1998					
January	2,482.6	3,371.6	889.0	204.6	259.1
February	2,643.1	3,524.9	881.8	224.6	273.5
March	2,560.5	3,702.5	1,142.0	215.5	281.7
April	2,504.0	3,672.3	1,168.4	209.6	278.2
May	2,656.7	3,629.6	973.0	224.2	281.2
June	2,593.2	3,752.6	1,159.4	216.2	286.1
July	2,642.1	3,882.4	1,240.4	218.6	294.8
August	2,613.0	3,866.3	1,253.3	219.0	295.8
September	2,588.8	3,853.3	1,264.5	210.3	293.4
October	2,619.2	3,728.3	1,109.1	224.1	291.7
November	2,680.5	4,329.1	1,648.6	227.5	338.3
December	2,689.8	3,845.5	1,155.7	226.0	300.8
1999					
January	2,675.9	3,950.5	1,274.6	220.0	302.6
February	2,670.3	4,101.0	1,430.8	222.3	309.5
March	2,631.2	3,888.1	1,256.9	216.4	309.4
April	2,801.9	4,185.1	1,383.1	230.5	329.6
May	2,788.2	4,366.4	1,578.2	229.8	336.1
June	2,812.9	4,030.1	1,217.1	228.9	300.9
July	2,952.2	4,561.7	1,609.5	241.6	359.7
August	2,981.4	4,519.3	1,537.9	238.9	339.5
September	3,067.5	4,628.0	1,560.5	247.6	353.9
October	3,259.5	4,732.3	1,472.8	264.7	350.9
November	3,103.6	4,704.9	1,601.3	247.3	356.4
December	3,157.3	5,095.0	1,937.8	250.0	391.0
2000					
January	3,491.4	4,414.1	922.7	262.7	328.5
February	3,234.3	4,927.6	1,693.3	251.0	372.2
March	3,377.5	5,260.1	1,882.5	259.4	385.4
April	3,373.8	4,967.4	1,593.6	263.5	349.5
May	3,531.3	5,244.6	1,713.3	267.7	371.7
June	3,667.2	5,474.8	1,807.7	275.6	397.0
July	3,740.8	5,201.7	1,461.0	283.0	381.3
August	3,783.8	5,679.1	1,895.3	282.6	418.0
September	3,841.9	5,685.2	1,843.3	278.3	415.7
October	3,892.6	6,176.3	2,283.7	279.5	441.3
November	3,865.6	6,213.3	2,347.7	273.0	452.9
December	4,093.5	6,211.6	2,118.2	301.8	449.6
2001					
January	3,886.3	6,173.5	2,287.2	284.3	446.8
February	3,986.9	5,982.9	1,996.0	299.2	433.8
March	4,020.5	6,256.5	2,236.0	294.2	450.5
April	3,692.1	6,057.2	2,365.0	276.1	420.9
May	3,460.0	5,530.0	2,070.0	..	..

<sup>1</sup> Based on seasonal patterns up to December 2000. 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			
	Apr 2000	Apr 2001	Jan-Apr 2000	Jan-Apr 2001	Apr 2000	Apr 2001	Jan-Apr 2000	Jan-Apr 2001
<b>0 Food and live animals</b>	<b>167.8</b>	<b>192.0</b>	<b>682.8</b>	<b>742.6</b>	<b>366.1</b>	<b>346.9</b>	<b>1,382.5</b>	<b>1,356.4</b>
00 Live animals other than animals of Division 03	4.0	4.8	27.0	25.1	18.3	4.0	91.9	37.9
01 Meat & meat preparations	17.1	22.7	66.3	93.7	115.7	90.5	417.6	351.1
02 Dairy products and birds' eggs	18.2	13.2	80.0	58.4	60.7	60.1	225.3	214.4
03 Fish, crustaceans, molluscs and preparations thereof	5.9	6.6	24.5	25.6	21.3	26.0	76.2	114.3
04 Cereals & cereal preparations	35.5	29.5	123.4	122.3	22.1	16.9	74.1	72.3
05 Vegetables & fruit	31.2	34.7	118.5	142.3	11.1	15.1	41.5	53.2
06 Sugars, sugar preparations & honey	8.4	12.1	34.7	38.8	6.6	7.1	25.2	28.7
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices & manufactures thereof	13.3	16.1	61.5	64.3	18.2	19.3	68.2	69.3
08 Feeding stuff for animals (excl unmilled cereals)	21.9	38.7	96.7	111.9	8.5	8.1	34.2	32.6
09 Miscellaneous edible products & preparations	12.3	13.7	50.2	60.1	83.6	99.8	328.2	382.6
<b>1 Beverages and tobacco</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>34.9</b>	<b>105.2</b>	<b>125.0</b>	<b>45.7</b>	<b>35.3</b>	<b>205.0</b>	<b>179.9</b>
11 Beverages	23.8	30.3	87.8	103.9	40.5	27.3	182.9	148.6
12 Tobacco & tobacco manufactures	4.5	4.6	17.4	21.2	5.2	8.1	22.2	31.4
<b>2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels</b>	<b>51.4</b>	<b>47.4</b>	<b>203.1</b>	<b>213.7</b>	<b>58.7</b>	<b>56.7</b>	<b>226.9</b>	<b>246.6</b>
21 Hides, skins & furskins, raw	0.8	0.2	3.2	1.3	4.6	5.2	21.4	23.2
22 Oil seeds & oleaginous fruits	0.5	1.7	2.6	2.8	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.4
23 Crude rubber (incl synthetic & reclaimed)	1.0	1.0	4.2	5.8	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4
24 Cork & wood	19.9	17.1	74.9	73.5	3.8	3.9	16.2	14.8
25 Pulp & waste paper	2.1	2.6	7.9	9.1	0.7	0.7	3.1	3.6
26 Textile fibres & their wastes	3.9	3.6	17.3	17.4	7.6	7.5	28.2	33.1
27 Crude fertilisers & minerals (excl coal, petroleum and precious stones)	8.0	6.9	31.0	30.5	1.3	1.6	9.1	5.6
28 Metalliferous ores & metal scrap	8.5	6.8	34.5	44.5	33.4	29.7	123.6	137.2
29 Crude animal & vegetable materials nes	6.6	7.5	27.4	28.8	7.2	7.9	25.1	28.3
<b>3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials</b>	<b>150.8</b>	<b>145.7</b>	<b>548.7</b>	<b>589.5</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>66.0</b>	<b>78.1</b>
32 Coal, coke & briquettes	8.0	5.6	24.4	49.0	2.9	5.6	17.7	15.1
33 Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials	124.3	116.3	446.1	439.1	10.1	15.0	47.5	62.0
34 Gas, natural & manufactured	18.2	23.7	77.4	100.8	0.1	0.1	0.7	1.0
35 Electric Current	0.4	0.1	0.8	0.6	0.0	-	0.1	-
<b>4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>4.6</b>
41 Animal oils & fats	0.6	0.4	3.0	3.1	1.4	0.7	6.3	3.4
42 Fixed vegetable fats & oils	4.4	4.2	16.7	17.3	0.3	0.3	1.1	1.0
43 Animal or vegetable fats & oils, processed; waxes	2.8	3.3	12.3	11.7	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.1
<b>5 Chemicals and related products nes</b>	<b>363.3</b>	<b>407.2</b>	<b>1,605.8</b>	<b>1,695.8</b>	<b>1,564.6</b>	<b>2,177.9</b>	<b>6,020.7</b>	<b>8,370.4</b>
51 Organic chemicals	83.2	104.0	500.0	426.5	871.0	1,080.2	3,598.8	4,661.5
52 Inorganic chemicals	17.8	21.5	73.6	89.4	16.8	11.7	86.8	80.7
53 Dyeing, tanning & colouring materials	12.2	12.0	56.5	47.6	3.6	2.2	15.4	11.6
54 Medical & pharmaceutical products	93.9	103.7	353.1	460.9	343.6	593.0	1,219.0	2,076.3
55 Essential oils; perfume materials; toilet & cleansing preparations	39.5	51.7	157.5	206.8	164.4	247.6	556.9	801.7
56 Fertilisers (other than those of Division 27)	18.5	17.5	87.1	72.2	2.4	3.2	10.1	13.2
57 Plastics in primary forms	34.7	34.9	140.7	146.0	11.6	12.8	52.0	53.1
58 Plastics in non-primary forms	25.5	27.4	97.2	108.1	14.2	17.1	53.5	61.3
59 Chemical materials & products nes	38.0	34.6	140.2	138.3	136.9	210.3	428.1	610.9

**Table 3 Trade classified by Commodity - continued**

£ million

SITC (Rev 3)	Imports				Exports			
	Apr 2000	Apr 2001	Jan-Apr 2000	Jan-Apr 2001	Apr 2000	Apr 2001	Jan-Apr 2000	Jan-Apr 2001
<b>6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material</b>	<b>256.7</b>	<b>263.7</b>	<b>1,096.2</b>	<b>1,146.2</b>	<b>119.6</b>	<b>128.2</b>	<b>508.0</b>	<b>540.9</b>
61 Leather; leather manufactures nes; dressed furskins	0.8	0.7	3.2	3.0	3.9	4.4	16.3	18.8
62 Rubber manufactures nes	14.5	13.1	59.1	57.1	5.6	6.8	32.1	29.2
63 Cork & wood manufactures (excl furniture)	14.5	14.8	54.9	60.5	8.5	10.4	33.9	44.0
64 Paper, paperboard & articles thereof	54.1	50.7	209.6	210.9	9.4	12.0	46.2	54.0
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles & related products	35.2	41.0	151.8	168.4	32.6	29.2	130.5	135.8
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures nes	31.8	31.2	136.1	135.2	21.3	23.5	91.0	93.3
67 Iron & steel	30.7	35.9	146.9	158.7	9.2	10.7	35.6	39.5
68 Non-ferrous metals	23.0	23.9	96.4	108.8	5.9	5.5	25.5	23.7
69 Manufactures of metals nes	52.1	52.4	238.3	243.9	23.3	25.7	96.9	102.6
<b>7 Machinery and transport equipment</b>	<b>1,732.4</b>	<b>2,087.4</b>	<b>7,033.0</b>	<b>8,978.7</b>	<b>1,818.3</b>	<b>2,256.9</b>	<b>7,823.1</b>	<b>10,101.9</b>
71 Power generating machinery & equipment	38.0	41.5	168.2	222.8	16.9	27.0	80.5	105.8
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries	71.7	78.9	269.1	307.9	22.3	27.4	78.6	86.8
73 Metalworking machinery	11.9	7.5	54.1	40.9	5.0	3.3	15.2	14.2
74 General industrial machinery & equipment nes & parts nes	84.9	73.7	333.4	326.7	69.8	59.9	277.8	260.6
75 Office machines & automatic data processing machines	644.4	771.7	2,565.8	3,282.6	1,077.3	1,266.2	4,625.2	5,758.1
76 Telecommunications & sound equipment	147.9	177.0	655.5	893.6	185.2	192.0	949.7	1,016.7
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances nes & parts	389.8	507.9	1,524.4	2,159.9	389.8	631.6	1,577.5	2,634.1
78 Road vehicles (incl air-cushion vehicles)	320.4	246.1	1,302.9	1,184.9	36.0	45.0	159.6	167.5
79 Other transport equipment	23.4	183.0	159.5	559.4	15.9	4.6	58.9	58.0
<b>8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles</b>	<b>325.0</b>	<b>372.4</b>	<b>1,401.1</b>	<b>1,556.4</b>	<b>538.0</b>	<b>529.0</b>	<b>2,273.4</b>	<b>2,364.4</b>
81 Prefab buildings; plumbing & electrical fixtures & fittings	11.1	13.5	52.6	56.1	6.0	6.1	21.4	23.7
82 Furniture & parts thereof; bedding, cushions etc	19.3	22.5	80.9	86.7	8.3	5.8	30.4	26.1
83 Travel goods, handbags & similar containers	4.5	7.7	17.2	31.9	0.8	1.1	4.1	4.7
84 Articles of apparel; clothing accessories	67.4	72.4	327.8	340.6	20.4	21.4	94.5	92.2
85 Footwear	16.4	16.5	73.8	71.5	2.2	2.8	9.1	8.8
87 Professional, scientific & controlling apparatus nes	66.2	62.8	275.7	275.3	106.4	112.2	441.8	479.4
88 Photographic apparatus; optical goods; watches & clocks	18.7	17.7	82.9	87.8	29.0	31.3	115.2	113.6
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes	121.3	159.3	490.3	606.4	364.8	348.3	1,556.9	1,615.8
<b>9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere</b>	<b>83.8</b>	<b>78.1</b>	<b>302.1</b>	<b>335.5</b>	<b>185.2</b>	<b>158.1</b>	<b>679.0</b>	<b>723.7</b>
<b>Unclassified estimates<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>131.3</b>	<b>88.9</b>	<b>596.2</b>	<b>372.1</b>	<b>54.7</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>241.2</b>	<b>47.2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,298.6</b>	<b>3,725.8</b>	<b>13,606.2</b>	<b>15,787.7</b>	<b>4,765.5</b>	<b>5,716.1</b>	<b>19,433.4</b>	<b>24,014.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Estimates for which a commodity classification is not available.

**Table 4 Trade by Country**

£ million

Country	Imports				Exports			
	Apr 2000	Apr 2001	Jan-Apr 2000	Jan-Apr 2001	Apr 2000	Apr 2001	Jan-Apr 2000	Jan-Apr 2001
Great Britain	1,003.5	1,075.5	4,081.7	4,604.2	1,013.2	1,190.1	3,946.4	4,712.7
Northern Ireland	73.7	80.3	297.0	310.1	112.9	107.7	466.2	383.9
Austria	9.5	9.9	40.4	40.9	25.3	29.8	153.5	110.0
Belgium	56.2	56.1	282.2	227.3	250.9	238.8	1,031.5	1,108.4
Luxembourg	0.6	0.5	1.7	2.4	1.6	8.2	5.7	24.0
Denmark	29.3	56.8	124.9	188.6	38.6	35.5	156.4	165.5
Finland	25.1	12.5	93.6	61.4	23.7	22.8	103.1	98.6
France	137.6	288.5	558.8	852.6	385.3	375.9	1,587.7	1,617.7
Germany	221.7	216.6	888.3	1,003.4	434.6	691.7	2,054.2	3,137.0
Greece	2.0	2.8	10.5	11.1	19.4	31.8	75.9	92.1
Italy	67.8	72.6	315.9	323.3	239.1	200.1	833.3	863.8
Netherlands	112.3	135.5	410.8	555.1	251.7	311.1	1,288.9	1,363.8
Portugal	7.2	9.8	35.2	40.9	14.2	16.8	60.7	78.0
Spain	48.3	52.2	227.2	229.8	129.3	169.3	490.2	601.2
Sweden	48.2	28.2	174.4	135.0	82.1	87.5	348.7	383.6
EU Country not specified	36.8	39.4	138.7	136.5	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.5
<b>Total EU</b>	<b>1,879.8</b>	<b>2,137.3</b>	<b>7,681.2</b>	<b>8,722.8</b>	<b>3,021.9</b>	<b>3,517.3</b>	<b>12,602.8</b>	<b>14,740.7</b>
Australia	3.1	4.3	13.7	20.9	24.8	36.7	105.1	144.1
Brazil	6.8	8.4	27.4	36.3	7.7	12.6	37.4	49.9
Canada	42.6	30.6	128.5	163.2	37.5	21.3	102.6	139.8
China	47.5	66.1	188.2	277.1	14.9	11.3	38.1	66.8
Czech Republic	8.1	10.8	28.8	37.8	19.8	15.2	77.3	65.0
Egypt	0.4	1.3	2.8	9.0	18.3	6.8	70.1	44.0
Hong Kong	39.6	36.7	170.6	144.1	26.2	36.5	114.3	172.8
Hungary	11.4	21.0	73.0	100.6	13.0	10.6	54.3	47.7
India	9.0	10.2	34.5	44.9	2.8	4.6	17.2	28.4
Israel	18.0	21.5	66.5	78.7	28.2	23.0	108.0	125.5
Japan	171.5	149.9	710.2	656.2	201.5	151.3	849.9	844.7
Malaysia	41.8	40.8	174.7	218.9	56.5	50.9	202.6	287.8
Mexico	5.7	15.7	25.1	63.7	21.5	56.4	54.4	140.0
Norway	65.3	68.1	268.5	261.4	34.5	28.5	157.3	158.8
Philippines	26.6	28.0	95.0	126.3	29.4	84.7	114.0	335.5
Poland	5.4	7.4	20.2	35.1	20.4	19.0	79.1	86.3
Russia	1.0	2.5	2.5	10.1	8.1	18.1	41.8	56.6
Saudi Arabia	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.9	21.2	21.7	100.3	108.7
Singapore	92.6	94.7	417.7	441.3	21.4	32.5	104.3	144.5
South Africa	4.4	5.6	26.3	22.6	21.1	28.9	90.3	113.0
South Korea	89.6	56.9	336.3	270.8	42.5	43.9	171.9	172.2
Switzerland	14.8	21.5	97.1	123.6	93.0	202.8	374.8	641.2
Taiwan	57.8	74.0	237.2	276.0	14.0	20.2	45.8	101.1
Thailand	10.3	23.7	50.6	94.0	7.3	8.2	31.4	40.7
Turkey	7.6	9.1	28.3	35.9	21.6	15.6	91.9	85.8
USA	474.6	602.5	2,028.2	2,763.0	759.1	1,036.7	2,889.2	4,241.6
Other countries <sup>1</sup>	61.9	68.4	275.3	311.2	106.2	121.7	428.1	505.9
Country unknown <sup>2</sup>	9.9	9.6	25.4	27.4	20.2	27.5	73.8	109.2
Unclassified estimates <sup>3</sup>	91.4	98.8	371.9	414.1	50.9	51.9	205.4	215.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,298.6</b>	<b>3,725.8</b>	<b>13,606.2</b>	<b>15,787.7</b>	<b>4,765.5</b>	<b>5,716.1</b>	<b>19,433.4</b>	<b>24,014.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Other non-EU countries not listed individually.

<sup>2</sup> Trade for which the country of origin or country of final destination is unknown.

<sup>3</sup> Estimates not allocated by country.

**Table 5 Summary of trade (in Euro currency)**

€ million<sup>1</sup>

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted <sup>2</sup>		
	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	44,327.1	66,956.2	22,629.1			
2000 <sup>3</sup>	55,617.4	83,386.1	27,768.7			
2000 <sup>3</sup> January	4,285.4	5,187.1	901.8	4,433.2	5,604.8	1,171.6
February	4,079.2	6,031.1	1,952.0	4,106.7	6,256.8	2,150.0
March	4,723.4	7,408.8	2,685.4	4,288.5	6,678.9	2,390.3
April <sup>4</sup>	4,188.4	6,050.9	1,862.6	4,283.8	6,307.3	2,023.5
May	4,772.1	6,578.5	1,806.3	4,483.8	6,659.3	2,175.4
June	4,598.7	7,657.3	3,058.5	4,656.4	6,951.6	2,295.3
July	4,469.9	6,471.3	2,001.5	4,749.8	6,604.8	1,855.1
August	4,308.0	6,463.2	2,155.3	4,804.4	7,211.0	2,406.5
September	4,673.8	7,837.6	3,163.7	4,878.2	7,218.7	2,340.5
October <sup>4</sup>	5,230.1	7,824.0	2,593.9	4,942.6	7,842.3	2,899.7
November	5,383.6	8,135.5	2,752.0	4,908.3	7,889.3	2,981.0
December	4,905.1	7,740.6	2,835.5	5,197.7	7,887.1	2,689.6
2001 <sup>3</sup> January	5,062.7	7,368.5	2,305.8	4,934.6	7,838.7	2,904.1
February	4,778.4	7,094.2	2,315.7	5,062.3	7,596.7	2,534.4
March	5,474.5	8,770.8	3,296.5	5,105.0	7,944.1	2,839.1
April	4,730.8	7,257.9	2,527.3	4,688.0	7,691.1	3,002.9
May <sup>5</sup>	4,660.0	6,950.0	2,290.0	4,390.0	7,020.0	2,630.0

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

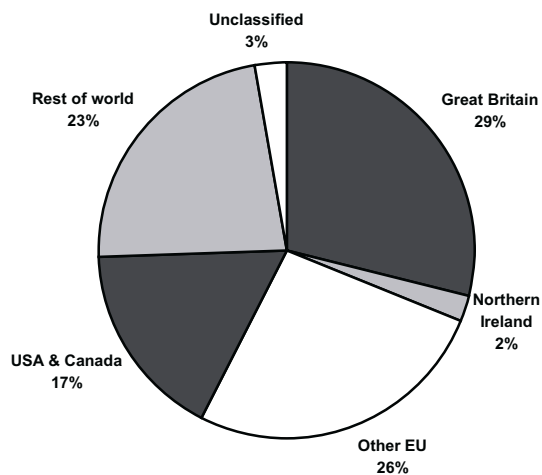
<sup>2</sup> Based on seasonal patterns up to December 2000

<sup>3</sup> Provisional

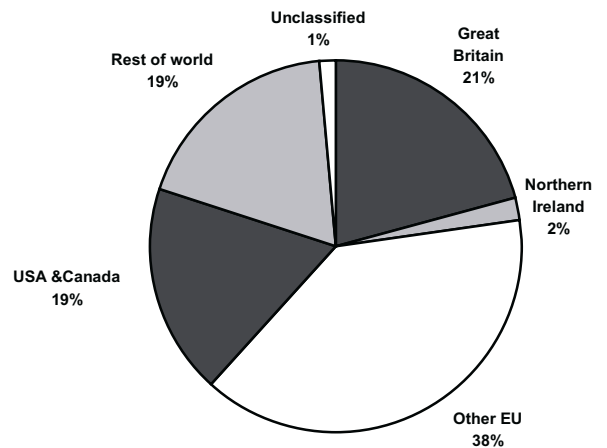
<sup>4</sup> Revised

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

**Imports, April 2001 (See Table 4)**



**Exports, April 2001 (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 6,660 while about 1,900 must make an export return. The response rate in terms of number of traders in April 2001 was 82%, covering an estimated 87% 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.