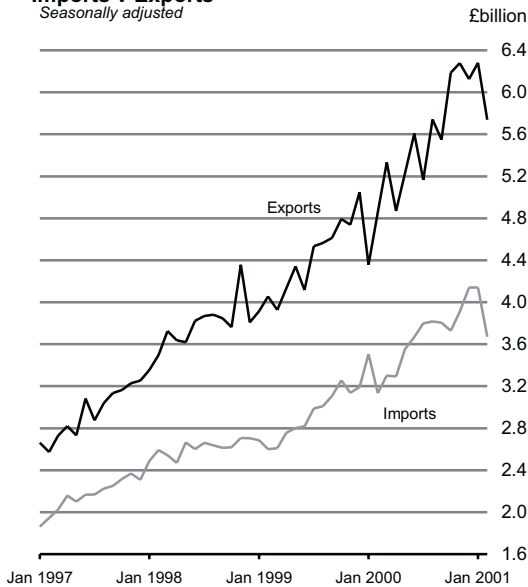




## External Trade

### February 2001 (Details), March 2001 (First estimate)

**Imports v Exports**  
Seasonally adjusted



	Imports	Exports	Surplus
<b>Jan - Feb 2000</b>	£6,588m	£8,833m	£2,245m
<b>Jan - Feb 2001</b>	£7,750m	£11,500m	£3,749m
<b>% change</b>	+18%	+30%	+67%
<b>March 2001 (preliminary)</b>	£4,320m	£6,930m	£2,610m

### February 2001 trade-levels down

Ireland's merchandise imports were valued at £3,763m in February 2001, while exports were valued at £5,611m, giving a surplus of £1,848m. The corresponding surplus in February 2000 was £1,537m. This merchandise surplus differs from the Balance of International Payments concept of current account balance which further includes transactions relating to invisibles.

On a seasonally adjusted basis (*see graph*), the value of imports was £3,672m and the value of exports was £5,739m giving an adjusted surplus of £2,068m. The factors are based on seasonal patterns up to December 1999.

Initial indications for March 2001 show imports of £4,320m and exports of £6,930m giving an unadjusted surplus of £2,610m.

Comparing January-February 2001 with January-February 2000 shows that (*see Tables 3-4*):

- ◆ Exports increased from £8,833m to £11,500m (+30%). Exports of Organic chemicals increased from £1,670m to £2,441m (+46%), of Computer equipment from £1,999m to £2,559m (+28%) and of Electrical machinery from £732m to £1,231m (+68%).
- ◆ Exports to the USA increased from £1,351m to £2,209m (+64%). Exports to Great Britain increased from £1,757m to £2,168m (+23%) and exports to Germany increased from £939m to £1,495m (+59%). Exports from Northern Ireland decreased from £228m to £172m (-24%).
- ◆ Imports increased from £6,588m to £7,750m (+18%). Computer equipment imports increased from £1,207m to £1,653m (+37%) and imports of Electrical machinery increased from £730m to £1,082m (+48%). Imports of Organic chemicals decreased from £321m to £205m (-36%).
- ◆ Imports from Great Britain increased from £1,964m to £2,314m (+18%). Imports from France increased from £250m to £374m (+50%) and imports from the Netherlands increased from £185m to £288m (+56%). Imports from Belgium decreased from £178m to £108m (-40%).

The provisional annual volume and price indices in respect of 2000 indicate a volume increase of 15% for imports and 18% for exports. The monthly indices for the year 2000 have been rescaled in line with the provisional annual volume and price indices.

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**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>	43,500.5	65,479.2	21,978.7	271.8	396.2	128.0	115.5	90.3
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	302.1	122.5	112.8	92.1
February <sup>3</sup>	3,212.6	4,749.9	1,537.3	249.9	355.6	123.0	111.9	90.9
March	3,676.0	5,820.7	2,144.7	281.3	418.4	125.4	116.7	93.0
April	3,283.4	4,766.8	1,483.4	253.8	338.1	124.2	118.2	95.2
May	3,758.3	5,181.0	1,422.6	283.5	364.0	127.2	119.3	93.8
June	3,621.8	6,030.6	2,408.8	267.9	436.0	129.7	116.0	89.4
July	3,520.3	5,096.6	1,576.3	263.6	365.9	128.6	115.3	89.7
August <sup>3</sup>	3,392.8	5,090.2	1,697.4	252.6	371.2	128.9	115.0	89.2
September	3,589.4	6,070.2	2,480.8	263.6	438.7	130.6	116.0	88.8
October	3,967.8	6,084.5	2,116.7	288.5	439.8	132.0	116.0	87.9
November	4,239.9	6,407.2	2,167.4	304.5	476.0	133.6	112.9	84.5
December	3,863.1	6,096.2	2,233.1	285.5	441.4	129.9	115.8	89.2
2001 <sup>2</sup> January	3,987.2	5,888.1	1,900.9	293.3	418.6	130.4	117.9	90.4
February	3,763.3	5,611.4	1,848.1	292.6	405.1	123.4	116.2	94.1
March <sup>4</sup>	4,320.0	6,930.0	2,610.0	..	..	..	..	..

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

<sup>2</sup> Provisional; the monthly indices for the year 2000 have been rescaled in line with the provisional annual volume and price indices

<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	2,488.2	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	2,607.9	3,926.3	1,318.4	216.0	310.8
April	2,755.1	4,130.4	1,375.3	228.1	328.3
May	2,800.4	4,340.4	1,540.0	231.1	331.7
June	2,818.2	4,116.5	1,298.3	228.2	304.4
July	2,986.2	4,533.7	1,547.5	244.5	356.0
August	3,008.9	4,563.8	1,554.9	240.5	344.5
September	3,105.9	4,614.4	1,508.6	250.2	352.2
October	3,254.9	4,792.4	1,537.5	262.4	354.8
November	3,136.4	4,738.2	1,601.8	248.9	362.9
December	3,190.6	5,048.8	1,858.3	252.1	384.9
2000					
January	3,505.2	4,357.2	852.0	265.3	322.7
February	3,134.2	4,858.1	1,723.9	243.3	371.2
March	3,302.3	5,331.6	2,029.3	255.5	386.7
April	3,292.7	4,868.4	1,575.7	259.3	345.3
May	3,553.7	5,228.3	1,674.6	269.5	366.4
June	3,669.0	5,607.8	1,938.8	273.7	400.0
July	3,797.3	5,166.4	1,369.1	287.4	374.8
August	3,818.2	5,740.1	1,921.9	284.9	423.9
September	3,804.4	5,549.4	1,745.0	274.6	402.9
October	3,730.0	6,186.3	2,456.3	266.3	439.3
November	3,909.1	6,277.0	2,367.9	275.1	461.9
December	4,140.5	6,126.9	1,986.3	304.5	438.1
2001					
January	4,141.0	6,280.1	2,139.1	306.3	447.2
February	3,671.5	5,739.3	2,067.8	284.8	422.8
March	3,880.0	6,350.0	2,470.0	..	..

<sup>1</sup> 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 2000	Feb 2001	Jan-Feb 2000	Jan-Feb 2001	Feb 2000	Feb 2001	Jan-Feb 2000	Jan-Feb 2001
<b>0 Food and live animals</b>	<b>165.4</b>	<b>185.4</b>	<b>333.5</b>	<b>371.5</b>	<b>337.8</b>	<b>338.2</b>	<b>623.3</b>	<b>657.6</b>
00 Live animals other than animals of Division 03	4.2	4.5	21.1	19.3	20.6	20.2	52.0	31.5
01 Meat & meat preparations	14.9	26.5	30.8	47.8	109.2	81.2	177.2	162.3
02 Dairy products and birds' eggs	23.0	13.8	38.7	31.0	49.3	54.2	96.7	104.5
03 Fish, crustaceans, molluscs and preparations thereof	6.1	5.7	11.9	12.1	18.9	25.8	33.3	53.3
04 Cereals & cereal preparations	29.3	29.9	55.3	60.3	17.4	16.3	32.4	36.0
05 Vegetables & fruit	27.9	36.1	55.4	71.4	9.9	12.5	19.6	24.1
06 Sugars, sugar preparations & honey	9.1	8.2	15.6	17.1	6.5	6.6	11.5	12.3
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices & manufactures thereof	16.5	15.0	30.2	30.0	18.0	17.9	31.5	32.8
08 Feeding stuff for animals (excl unmilled cereals)	21.3	30.5	49.3	52.5	8.0	7.4	15.7	15.6
09 Miscellaneous edible products & preparations	13.1	15.3	25.3	30.1	80.0	96.1	153.3	185.3
<b>1 Beverages and tobacco</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>47.4</b>	<b>55.8</b>	<b>58.0</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>99.2</b>	<b>87.8</b>
11 Beverages	19.9	22.1	39.3	45.8	50.8	37.3	88.5	74.2
12 Tobacco & tobacco manufactures	4.0	5.6	8.1	10.0	7.1	8.0	10.7	13.7
<b>2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels</b>	<b>47.4</b>	<b>55.2</b>	<b>94.2</b>	<b>107.7</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>58.6</b>	<b>102.2</b>	<b>124.7</b>
21 Hides, skins & furskins, raw	0.5	0.3	1.7	0.9	6.9	5.1	10.3	11.1
22 Oil seeds & oleaginous fruits	0.4	0.3	1.3	0.7	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2
23 Crude rubber (incl synthetic & reclaimed)	0.9	2.3	1.5	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3
24 Cork & wood	17.9	17.4	36.3	36.1	4.1	3.7	7.9	6.4
25 Pulp & waste paper	1.2	2.7	4.6	4.8	0.7	0.9	1.3	1.9
26 Textile fibres & their wastes	4.6	3.4	8.3	7.9	6.5	8.9	12.6	16.9
27 Crude fertilisers & minerals (excl coal, petroleum and precious stones)	6.2	7.2	12.8	14.6	2.7	1.3	5.1	2.6
28 Metalliferous ores & metal scrap	8.4	14.0	14.5	26.0	27.9	32.2	54.3	70.6
29 Crude animal & vegetable materials nes	7.5	7.5	13.2	13.3	4.6	6.4	10.5	14.7
<b>3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials</b>	<b>113.6</b>	<b>148.3</b>	<b>273.8</b>	<b>282.2</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>37.1</b>	<b>37.4</b>
32 Coal, coke & briquettes	4.5	9.8	12.1	21.4	7.9	4.2	10.3	6.2
33 Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials	90.5	114.8	221.6	206.9	11.6	14.9	26.3	30.7
34 Gas, natural & manufactured	18.4	23.6	40.0	53.5	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.5
35 Electric Current	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.1	–	0.1	–
<b>4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>2.0</b>
41 Animal oils & fats	0.9	0.9	1.7	1.7	1.9	0.8	2.9	1.5
42 Fixed vegetable fats & oils	3.9	3.8	7.4	8.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5
43 Animal or vegetable fats & oils, processed; waxes	3.4	2.7	6.5	6.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
<b>5 Chemicals and related products nes</b>	<b>392.6</b>	<b>406.9</b>	<b>824.2</b>	<b>831.8</b>	<b>1,588.3</b>	<b>1,998.1</b>	<b>2,714.9</b>	<b>4,167.1</b>
51 Organic chemicals	122.4	84.0	321.2	204.8	1,070.3	1,143.9	1,669.5	2,441.0
52 Inorganic chemicals	14.1	28.0	30.8	47.9	22.8	17.3	41.5	48.7
53 Dyeing, tanning & colouring materials	13.4	10.7	29.4	23.1	3.4	3.1	7.9	6.1
54 Essential & pharmaceutical products	97.2	131.6	163.1	242.6	255.5	505.3	523.6	980.9
55 Essential oils; perfume materials; toilet & cleansing preparations	35.7	46.7	69.2	93.6	125.6	177.9	247.1	364.7
56 Fertilisers (other than those of Division 27)	23.7	13.4	38.2	31.3	2.0	2.6	3.8	5.7
57 Plastics in primary forms	32.7	37.4	67.9	72.5	11.4	12.1	24.9	23.8
58 Plastics in non-primary forms	24.9	26.2	47.8	51.7	13.3	13.5	24.1	26.5
59 Chemical materials & products nes	28.5	28.7	56.7	64.2	84.2	122.3	172.5	269.7

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

£ million

SITC (Rev 3)	Imports				Exports			
	Feb 2000	Feb 2001	Jan-Feb 2000	Jan-Feb 2001	Feb 2000	Feb 2001	Jan-Feb 2000	Jan-Feb 2001
<b>6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material</b>	<b>279.3</b>	<b>274.5</b>	<b>542.6</b>	<b>577.8</b>	<b>129.7</b>	<b>129.1</b>	<b>245.5</b>	<b>260.6</b>
61 Leather; leather manufactures nes; dressed furskins	1.0	0.8	1.7	1.7	4.6	5.1	8.2	8.9
62 Rubber manufactures nes	15.9	13.3	28.9	28.7	8.9	7.5	16.4	14.3
63 Cork & wood manufactures (excl furniture)	12.3	13.4	26.0	30.4	8.4	12.1	16.0	22.5
64 Paper, paperboard & articles thereof	52.5	51.0	98.6	105.5	10.7	13.7	22.9	27.6
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles & related products	38.6	39.2	74.7	83.1	34.0	30.7	63.6	64.2
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures nes	38.0	33.3	67.5	68.5	22.1	21.6	42.2	44.7
67 Iron & steel	35.8	39.8	76.2	83.7	9.9	8.4	19.1	18.8
68 Non-ferrous metals	24.4	26.5	46.7	56.6	6.6	5.4	11.7	12.2
69 Manufactures of metals nes	61.0	57.1	122.4	119.7	24.4	24.5	45.3	47.4
<b>7 Machinery and transport equipment</b>	<b>1,630.1</b>	<b>2,128.4</b>	<b>3,334.8</b>	<b>4,372.6</b>	<b>1,774.4</b>	<b>2,287.8</b>	<b>3,507.2</b>	<b>4,651.7</b>
71 Power generating machinery & equipment	42.6	52.1	84.7	133.1	18.2	27.6	35.9	51.2
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries	68.1	73.9	126.6	140.7	18.9	19.5	36.9	37.6
73 Metalworking machinery	14.1	9.0	27.7	20.8	3.5	3.0	7.4	6.1
74 General industrial machinery & equipment nes & parts nes	81.4	81.6	157.0	159.1	66.3	69.2	116.5	133.7
75 Office machines & automatic data processing machines	571.2	772.1	1,206.6	1,652.5	954.4	1,180.7	1,998.8	2,558.6
76 Telecommunications & sound equipment	165.5	233.5	324.8	481.7	276.8	267.7	474.7	514.6
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances nes & parts	344.6	531.2	730.2	1,081.7	380.8	648.0	731.9	1,231.0
78 Road vehicles (incl air-cushion vehicles)	307.2	320.0	608.4	629.5	45.4	37.0	78.0	71.4
79 Other transport equipment	35.4	55.0	68.8	73.6	10.0	35.2	27.0	47.6
<b>8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles</b>	<b>351.7</b>	<b>367.8</b>	<b>672.6</b>	<b>777.7</b>	<b>560.1</b>	<b>539.8</b>	<b>1,033.9</b>	<b>1,145.0</b>
81 Prefab buildings; plumbing & electrical fixtures & fittings	14.3	13.9	27.0	28.5	5.1	5.8	9.2	11.2
82 Furniture & parts thereof; bedding, cushions etc	21.0	18.5	40.1	40.6	8.0	6.1	13.8	12.8
83 Travel goods, handbags & similar containers	4.1	8.9	7.8	17.5	1.5	1.2	2.3	2.2
84 Articles of apparel; clothing accessories	89.1	86.1	163.9	175.4	26.4	24.8	46.9	44.8
85 Footwear	19.8	18.0	34.3	35.4	2.3	2.3	4.3	4.4
87 Professional, scientific & controlling apparatus nes	68.4	65.4	133.0	147.0	119.9	119.7	218.5	224.9
88 Photographic apparatus; optical goods; watches & clocks	15.1	13.3	35.0	43.9	31.5	28.7	54.7	55.7
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes	120.0	143.6	231.5	289.4	365.4	351.2	684.2	789.1
<b>9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere</b>	<b>59.2</b>	<b>72.3</b>	<b>145.6</b>	<b>173.4</b>	<b>164.6</b>	<b>183.4</b>	<b>329.3</b>	<b>343.9</b>
<b>Unclassified estimates<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>141.1</b>	<b>89.5</b>	<b>303.3</b>	<b>184.1</b>	<b>61.6</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>137.1</b>	<b>21.6</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,212.6</b>	<b>3,763.3</b>	<b>6,587.6</b>	<b>7,750.5</b>	<b>4,749.9</b>	<b>5,611.4</b>	<b>8,833.0</b>	<b>11,499.5</b>

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

**Table 4 Trade by Country**

£ million

Country	Imports				Exports			
	Feb 2000	Feb 2001	Jan-Feb 2000	Jan-Feb 2001	Feb 2000	Feb 2001	Jan-Feb 2000	Jan-Feb 2001
Great Britain	986.0	1,152.2	1,963.5	2,313.9	969.2	1,054.1	1,757.1	2,167.6
Northern Ireland	74.4	71.3	138.8	147.2	122.3	86.0	227.9	172.1
Austria	11.8	6.4	21.8	22.1	24.6	21.4	97.8	43.3
Belgium	42.1	60.4	178.2	107.7	268.0	285.3	397.0	505.3
Luxembourg	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.2	1.3	3.7	2.4	6.5
Denmark	37.4	40.5	62.6	82.6	31.8	35.6	67.9	78.9
Finland	23.8	17.2	45.7	32.6	25.6	22.8	53.5	49.6
France	131.4	201.9	249.6	373.8	390.3	342.8	750.4	752.8
Germany	200.0	251.8	399.4	515.6	491.4	774.1	939.1	1,495.4
Greece	2.7	3.3	6.3	5.3	23.2	21.1	36.8	43.6
Italy	81.5	91.3	156.3	167.5	195.3	193.7	387.8	396.7
Netherlands	81.4	121.3	185.0	287.7	249.5	280.0	588.2	700.0
Portugal	7.0	9.6	15.0	18.5	14.6	19.5	30.3	38.0
Spain	57.1	55.1	115.8	116.1	101.8	119.1	207.1	264.6
Sweden	46.5	33.6	81.5	64.9	90.5	101.5	165.8	194.4
EU Country not specified	29.5	26.8	62.1	61.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
<b>Total EU</b>	<b>1,813.0</b>	<b>2,143.4</b>	<b>3,682.3</b>	<b>4,318.1</b>	<b>2,999.2</b>	<b>3,360.7</b>	<b>5,709.4</b>	<b>6,908.9</b>
Australia	3.3	7.6	6.2	11.9	30.1	34.6	43.7	67.3
Brazil	8.6	11.3	15.1	18.7	6.2	10.6	14.6	20.9
Canada	19.1	30.1	59.3	66.0	21.0	36.9	44.0	70.8
China	45.6	62.3	97.4	145.0	8.2	9.6	16.1	28.7
Czech Republic	5.5	8.3	12.0	17.0	13.5	14.0	29.6	31.3
Egypt	0.7	4.7	1.4	6.9	27.8	12.0	32.2	28.4
Hong Kong	44.0	30.7	80.5	73.1	22.2	50.0	46.4	85.0
Hungary	15.8	29.9	45.9	57.9	15.3	11.2	30.5	25.5
India	7.8	10.4	15.5	24.3	6.1	3.8	9.9	12.1
Israel	18.1	21.0	32.0	36.7	18.6	25.6	50.8	67.9
Japan	164.8	157.3	357.8	353.0	217.7	201.4	363.8	376.2
Malaysia	43.7	47.4	83.5	116.5	40.2	62.7	90.7	149.6
Mexico	5.4	15.4	11.1	28.6	8.8	30.5	18.8	64.4
Norway	41.6	68.5	153.8	126.5	32.6	32.3	74.7	83.7
Philippines	29.9	46.5	45.4	58.3	32.1	104.2	62.8	143.6
Poland	4.1	8.9	8.4	19.2	17.5	15.9	38.7	42.3
Russia	0.6	1.4	0.9	4.6	8.4	12.7	22.0	27.1
Saudi Arabia	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	35.2	24.1	54.1	50.9
Singapore	90.9	90.5	200.9	227.0	25.1	31.9	50.4	65.5
South Africa	4.7	3.8	17.0	11.3	18.2	17.7	36.5	43.0
South Korea	65.0	65.7	151.4	148.1	40.4	37.9	75.7	87.9
Switzerland	41.5	22.4	61.1	62.5	100.0	147.6	160.6	278.3
Taiwan	57.1	62.1	114.8	132.9	11.5	26.0	19.5	41.8
Thailand	12.4	24.1	25.2	45.7	6.6	7.6	12.5	19.7
Turkey	6.2	7.3	13.2	18.8	24.5	24.6	44.7	50.1
USA	489.4	595.9	957.5	1,234.8	784.9	1,055.8	1,350.9	2,209.3
Other countries <sup>1</sup>	78.7	80.8	145.1	167.9	109.0	132.4	193.4	261.8
Country unknown <sup>2</sup>	5.1	5.6	10.1	12.8	17.6	25.0	32.9	49.3
Unclassified estimates <sup>3</sup>	89.9	99.9	182.7	205.9	51.3	52.1	103.1	108.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,212.6</b>	<b>3,763.3</b>	<b>6,587.6</b>	<b>7,750.5</b>	<b>4,749.9</b>	<b>5,611.4</b>	<b>8,833.0</b>	<b>11,499.5</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>	55,234.2	83,141.4	27,907.2			
2000 <sup>3</sup> January	4,285.4	5,187.1	901.8	4,450.7	5,532.5	1,081.8
February <sup>4</sup>	4,079.2	6,031.1	1,952.0	3,979.6	6,168.5	2,188.9
March	4,667.6	7,390.8	2,723.2	4,193.1	6,769.7	2,576.7
April	4,169.1	6,052.6	1,883.5	4,180.9	6,181.6	2,000.7
May	4,772.1	6,578.5	1,806.3	4,512.3	6,638.6	2,126.3
June	4,598.7	7,657.3	3,058.5	4,658.7	7,120.4	2,461.8
July	4,469.9	6,471.3	2,001.5	4,821.6	6,560.0	1,738.4
August <sup>4</sup>	4,308.0	6,463.2	2,155.3	4,848.1	7,288.4	2,440.3
September	4,557.6	7,707.6	3,150.0	4,830.6	7,046.3	2,215.7
October	5,038.1	7,725.7	2,687.7	4,736.1	7,855.0	3,118.9
November	5,383.6	8,135.5	2,752.0	4,963.5	7,970.1	3,006.6
December	4,905.1	7,740.6	2,835.5	5,257.4	7,779.6	2,522.1
2001 <sup>3</sup> January	5,062.7	7,476.3	2,413.6	5,258.0	7,974.1	2,716.1
February	4,778.4	7,125.0	2,346.6	4,661.8	7,287.4	2,625.6
March <sup>5</sup>	5,490.0	8,800.0	3,310.0	4,930.0	8,060.0	3,130.0

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

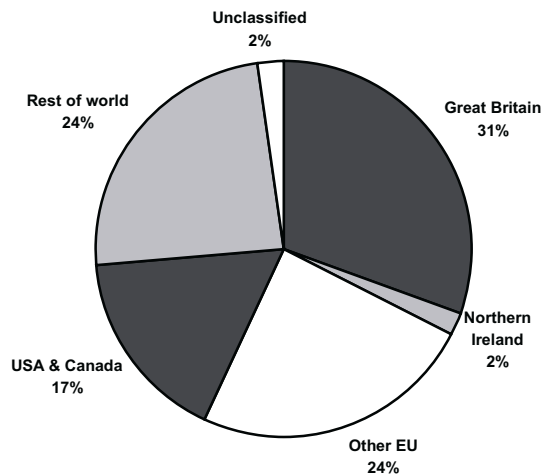
<sup>2</sup> Based on seasonal patterns up to December 1999

<sup>3</sup> Provisional

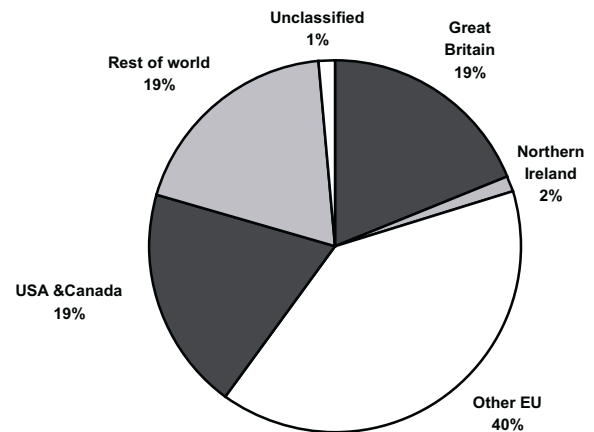
<sup>4</sup> Revised

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

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



**Exports, February 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 6,690 while about 1,920 must make an export return. The response rate in terms of number of traders in February 2001 was 80%, covering an estimated 93% 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.