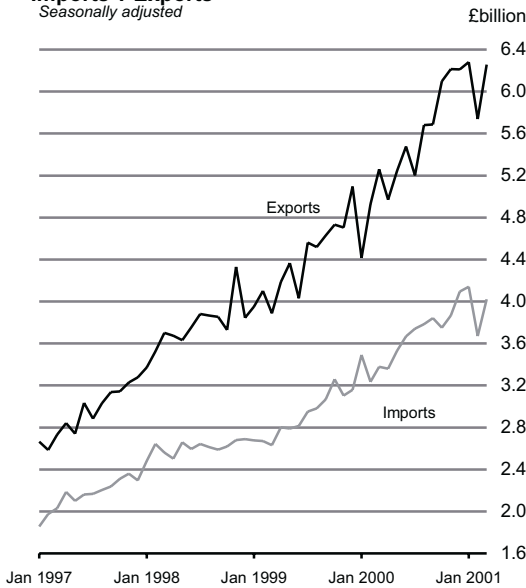




Imports v Exports
Seasonally adjusted



External Trade

March 2001 (Details), April 2001 (First estimate)

	Imports	Exports	Surplus
Jan - Mar 2000	£10,308m	£14,668m	£4,360m
Jan - Mar 2001	£12,062m	£18,298m	£6,236m
% Change	+17%	+25%	+43%
March 2001	£4,312m	£6,908m	£2,596m
April 2001 (Preliminary)	£3,730m	£5,630m	£1,900m

Trade stronger in March 2001

Exports, in March 2001, were valued at £6,908m while imports were valued at £4,312m, giving a surplus of £2,596m. The corresponding surplus in March 2000 was £2,115m. 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*), exports in March 2001 reached £6,256m, while imports were £4,020m. The adjusted surplus was £2,236m.

Initial indications for April 2001 show exports of £5,630m and imports of £3,730m, giving an unadjusted surplus of £1,900m.

Comparing the January-March 2001 figures with the same period in 2000 shows that (*see Tables 3-4*):

- ◆ Exports increased from £14,668m to £18,298m (+25%). Exports of Computer equipment increased from £3,548m to £4,492m (+27%), exports of Organic chemicals increased from £2,728m to £3,581m (+31%) and exports of Electrical machinery and parts increased from £1,188m to £2,003m (+69%).
- ◆ Exports to the USA increased from £2,130m to £3,205m (+50%), to Germany from £1,620m to £2,445m (+51%) and to Great Britain from £2,933m to £3,523m (+20%).
- ◆ Imports increased from £10,308m to £12,062m (+17%). Imports of Computer equipment increased from £1,921m to £2,511m (+31%) and Electrical machinery and parts increased from £1,135m to £1,652m (+46%).
- ◆ Imports from the USA increased from £1,554m to £2,161m (+39%) and from Great Britain from £3,078m to £3,529m (+15%).

Published by the Central Statistics Office, Ireland.

Ardee Road Skehard Road
Dublin 6 Cork
Ireland Ireland

LoCall: 1890 313 414

Tel: +353-1 497 7144 Tel: +353-21 453 5000
Fax: +353-1 497 2360 Fax: +353-21 453 5555

Both offices may be contacted through any of these telephone numbers.

CSO on the Web: <http://www.cso.ie>

Director General: Donal Garvey

Enquiries:

Trade Statistics Trade Help Desk (01) 498 4200
trade@cso.ie
Queries and Sales Information Section, ext 5032
information@cso.ie

For more information, contact Gerry Milligan at (01) 4984254 or Claire Hanley at (01) 4984206.

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	34,910.4	52,732.3	17,821.9	236.5	336.5	118.0	109.5	92.8
2000 ²	43,636.0	65,595.8	21,959.8	272.7	396.9	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 ² January	3,375.0	4,085.2	710.2	254.0	302.1	122.5	112.8	92.1
February	3,212.6	4,749.9	1,537.3	249.9	355.6	123.0	111.9	90.9
March ³	3,720.0	5,834.9	2,114.9	290.1	410.9	123.0	119.1	96.8
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	3,392.8	5,090.2	1,697.4	252.6	371.2	128.9	115.0	89.2
September ³	3,680.9	6,172.6	2,491.6	275.5	437.0	128.2	118.5	92.4
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 ² 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	4,311.5	6,907.6	2,596.2	..	..	..	..	..
April ⁴	3,730.0	5,630.0	1,900.0	..	..	..	..	..

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
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	327.2
February	3,234.3	4,927.6	1,693.3	251.0	370.7
March	3,377.6	5,260.1	1,882.5	264.4	376.1
April	3,358.2	4,968.7	1,610.5	262.4	348.3
May	3,531.3	5,244.7	1,713.4	267.7	370.2
June	3,667.1	5,474.8	1,807.7	275.5	395.4
July	3,740.8	5,201.7	1,461.0	283.0	379.7
August	3,783.8	5,679.0	1,895.2	282.6	416.3
September	3,841.9	5,685.3	1,843.3	283.6	405.6
October	3,749.7	6,098.7	2,348.9	269.3	434.0
November	3,865.7	6,213.3	2,347.6	273.0	451.1
December	4,093.5	6,211.6	2,118.1	301.8	447.7
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	4,020.5	6,256.5	2,236.0	..	..
April	3,700.0	5,960.0	2,260.0	..	..

¹ 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			
	Mar 2000	Mar 2001	Jan-Mar 2000	Jan-Mar 2001	Mar 2000	Mar 2001	Jan-Mar 2000	Jan-Mar 2001
0 Food and live animals	181.6	179.1	515.0	550.6	393.2	351.9	1,016.5	1,009.5
00 Live animals other than animals of Division 03	1.8	1.1	23.0	20.3	21.7	2.4	73.6	33.9
01 Meat & meat preparations	18.4	23.3	49.2	71.0	124.7	98.2	301.9	260.6
02 Dairy products and birds' eggs	23.0	14.2	61.7	45.2	67.9	49.8	164.6	154.3
03 Fish, crustaceans, molluscs and preparations thereof	6.8	6.9	18.7	19.0	21.6	35.1	55.0	88.4
04 Cereals & cereal preparations	32.6	32.6	87.8	92.8	19.6	19.4	52.0	55.4
05 Vegetables & fruit	32.0	36.2	87.3	107.6	10.7	14.0	30.4	38.1
06 Sugars, sugar preparations & honey	10.7	9.7	26.3	26.8	7.0	9.3	18.6	21.6
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices & manufactures thereof	18.0	18.2	48.2	48.2	18.6	17.2	50.0	50.0
08 Feeding stuff for animals (excl unmilled cereals)	25.6	20.7	74.9	73.3	10.0	9.0	25.7	24.6
09 Miscellaneous edible products & preparations	12.7	16.3	37.9	46.4	91.3	97.4	244.6	282.8
1 Beverages and tobacco	29.5	34.3	76.9	90.2	60.2	56.7	159.3	144.6
11 Beverages	24.7	27.8	64.0	73.6	53.9	47.1	142.4	121.3
12 Tobacco & tobacco manufactures	4.8	6.6	12.9	16.6	6.3	9.6	17.0	23.3
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	57.5	58.7	151.7	166.4	66.0	65.2	168.2	189.9
21 Hides, skins & furskins, raw	0.6	0.3	2.3	1.2	6.5	6.9	16.8	18.0
22 Oil seeds & oleaginous fruits	0.8	0.5	2.1	1.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.4
23 Crude rubber (incl synthetic & reclaimed)	1.7	1.3	3.2	4.8	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4
24 Cork & wood	18.7	20.3	55.0	56.4	4.5	4.4	12.4	10.8
25 Pulp & waste paper	1.2	1.7	5.8	6.6	1.1	1.0	2.4	2.9
26 Textile fibres & their wastes	5.2	5.9	13.4	13.8	7.9	8.6	20.5	25.5
27 Crude fertilisers & minerals (excl coal, petroleum and precious stones)	10.2	8.9	22.9	23.5	2.7	1.4	7.8	4.1
28 Metalliferous ores & metal scrap	11.5	11.7	26.1	37.7	35.9	36.9	90.2	107.5
29 Crude animal & vegetable materials nes	7.6	8.0	20.8	21.3	7.4	5.7	17.9	20.4
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	124.1	161.6	397.9	443.8	15.8	20.0	52.9	57.3
32 Coal, coke & briquettes	4.3	22.0	16.4	43.4	4.6	3.3	14.9	9.5
33 Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials	100.2	115.9	321.9	322.8	11.1	16.3	37.4	47.0
34 Gas, natural & manufactured	19.3	23.6	59.2	77.1	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.9
35 Electric Current	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.0	–	0.1	–
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	8.6	8.4	24.2	24.2	2.4	1.6	5.9	3.5
41 Animal oils & fats	0.7	1.0	2.4	2.7	2.0	1.3	4.9	2.7
42 Fixed vegetable fats & oils	4.9	5.0	12.3	13.1	0.3	0.3	0.8	0.7
43 Animal or vegetable fats & oils, processed; waxes	3.0	2.4	9.5	8.4	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1
5 Chemicals and related products nes	418.3	456.8	1,242.5	1,288.6	1,741.2	2,134.6	4,456.1	6,192.5
51 Organic chemicals	95.6	117.7	416.8	322.5	1,058.3	1,249.5	2,727.8	3,581.2
52 Inorganic chemicals	25.0	20.0	55.8	67.9	28.5	20.4	70.0	69.0
53 Dyeing, tanning & colouring materials	14.9	12.6	44.3	35.7	3.9	3.3	11.8	9.4
54 Medical & pharmaceutical products	96.1	114.6	259.1	357.2	351.8	502.4	875.4	1,483.4
55 Essential oils; perfume materials; toilet & cleansing preparations	48.8	61.4	117.9	155.1	145.3	189.5	392.4	554.1
56 Fertilisers (other than those of Division 27)	30.5	23.4	68.7	54.7	3.9	4.3	7.7	10.1
57 Plastics in primary forms	38.1	38.5	106.0	111.0	15.5	16.5	40.4	40.3
58 Plastics in non-primary forms	23.8	29.1	71.7	80.8	15.2	17.8	39.3	44.3
59 Chemical materials & products nes	45.5	39.4	102.2	103.7	118.8	130.9	291.2	400.6

Table 3 Trade classified by Commodity - continued

£ million

SITC (Rev 3)	Imports				Exports			
	Mar 2000	Mar 2001	Jan-Mar 2000	Jan-Mar 2001	Mar 2000	Mar 2001	Jan-Mar 2000	Jan-Mar 2001
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	296.9	304.7	839.5	882.5	143.0	152.1	388.4	412.7
61 Leather; leather manufactures nes; dressed furskins	0.8	0.6	2.4	2.3	4.2	5.4	12.5	14.3
62 Rubber manufactures nes	15.7	15.3	44.6	44.0	10.1	8.2	26.5	22.5
63 Cork & wood manufactures (excl furniture)	14.5	15.2	40.4	45.6	9.3	11.1	25.4	33.6
64 Paper, paperboard & articles thereof	56.9	54.7	155.5	160.2	13.9	14.3	36.8	41.9
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles & related products	41.8	44.3	116.5	127.4	34.4	42.5	98.0	106.7
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures nes	36.8	35.5	104.3	104.0	27.6	25.1	69.7	69.8
67 Iron & steel	40.0	39.1	116.2	122.8	7.3	10.0	26.5	28.8
68 Non-ferrous metals	26.6	28.2	73.3	84.8	7.8	6.0	19.5	18.2
69 Manufactures of metals nes	63.8	71.8	186.2	191.4	28.2	29.5	73.5	76.9
7 Machinery and transport equipment	1,965.8	2,518.7	5,300.6	6,891.3	2,497.5	3,193.2	6,004.7	7,845.0
71 Power generating machinery & equipment	45.5	48.1	130.2	181.2	27.8	27.6	63.7	78.8
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries	70.8	88.3	197.4	229.0	19.4	21.9	56.2	59.4
73 Metalworking machinery	14.5	12.6	42.2	33.4	2.8	4.7	10.2	10.9
74 General industrial machinery & equipment nes & parts nes	91.5	94.0	248.5	253.0	91.4	67.0	207.9	200.7
75 Office machines & automatic data processing machines	714.8	858.3	1,921.4	2,510.8	1,549.1	1,933.4	3,547.9	4,491.9
76 Telecommunications & sound equipment	182.8	234.8	507.6	716.6	289.8	310.1	764.5	824.7
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances nes & parts	404.5	570.3	1,134.7	1,652.0	455.7	771.5	1,187.7	2,002.5
78 Road vehicles (incl air-cushion vehicles)	374.2	309.3	982.5	938.8	45.6	51.1	123.6	122.5
79 Other transport equipment	67.3	302.9	136.1	376.4	15.9	5.8	43.0	53.4
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	403.5	406.2	1,076.1	1,183.9	701.6	690.4	1,735.4	1,835.4
81 Prefab buildings; plumbing & electrical fixtures & fittings	14.4	14.0	41.5	42.5	6.3	6.4	15.5	17.6
82 Furniture & parts thereof; bedding, cushions etc	21.5	23.7	61.5	64.2	8.4	7.4	22.1	20.3
83 Travel goods, handbags & similar containers	4.9	6.7	12.7	24.2	1.0	1.3	3.3	3.5
84 Articles of apparel; clothing accessories	96.5	92.8	260.4	268.2	27.2	26.1	74.0	70.8
85 Footwear	23.1	19.5	57.4	55.0	2.6	1.7	6.9	6.1
87 Professional, scientific & controlling apparatus nes	76.4	65.5	209.5	212.5	116.8	142.3	335.3	367.2
88 Photographic apparatus; optical goods; watches & clocks	29.1	26.2	64.1	70.1	31.5	26.6	86.2	82.3
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes	137.5	157.7	369.0	447.1	507.8	478.4	1,192.0	1,267.6
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	72.7	84.0	218.3	257.4	164.5	221.6	493.8	565.6
Unclassified estimates¹	161.5	99.0	464.8	283.2	49.5	20.4	186.5	42.0
Total	3,720.0	4,311.5	10,307.6	12,062.0	5,834.9	6,907.6	14,667.9	18,297.9

¹ Estimates for which a commodity classification is not available.

Table 4 Trade by Country

£ million

Country	Imports				Exports			
	Mar 2000	Mar 2001	Jan-Mar 2000	Jan-Mar 2001	Mar 2000	Mar 2001	Jan-Mar 2000	Jan-Mar 2001
Great Britain	1,114.7	1,214.8	3,078.2	3,528.7	1,176.1	1,355.1	2,933.2	3,522.7
Northern Ireland	84.6	82.6	223.4	229.8	125.5	104.1	353.3	276.2
Austria	9.1	9.0	30.9	31.1	30.4	36.9	128.2	80.2
Belgium	47.8	63.5	226.0	171.2	383.6	364.3	780.6	869.6
Luxembourg	0.3	0.6	1.1	1.9	1.7	9.3	4.2	15.8
Denmark	33.0	49.3	95.6	131.9	49.9	51.1	117.8	130.0
Finland	22.9	16.2	68.5	48.9	26.0	26.2	79.5	75.8
France	171.5	190.3	421.2	564.1	451.9	489.0	1,202.4	1,241.8
Germany	267.2	271.3	666.7	786.8	680.5	949.9	1,619.6	2,445.3
Greece	2.2	2.9	8.4	8.3	19.7	16.6	56.5	60.3
Italy	91.8	83.3	248.1	250.8	206.4	267.0	594.2	663.6
Netherlands	113.5	131.8	298.5	419.6	449.1	352.7	1,037.3	1,052.7
Portugal	13.0	12.6	28.0	31.1	16.1	23.2	46.5	61.2
Spain	63.1	61.5	178.9	177.6	153.8	167.3	360.9	431.9
Sweden	44.6	41.9	126.2	106.8	100.8	101.7	266.6	296.1
EU Country not specified	39.8	35.8	101.9	97.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2
Total EU	2,119.1	2,267.5	5,801.4	6,585.5	3,871.5	4,314.6	9,580.9	11,223.5
Australia	4.4	4.7	10.6	16.6	36.5	40.2	80.2	107.4
Brazil	5.5	9.2	20.6	27.9	15.1	16.4	29.7	37.3
Canada	26.5	66.7	85.9	132.6	21.2	47.7	65.2	118.5
China	43.2	66.0	140.7	211.0	7.2	26.9	23.3	55.5
Czech Republic	8.8	10.0	20.7	27.0	28.0	18.6	57.5	49.9
Egypt	1.0	0.8	2.4	7.7	19.5	8.8	51.7	37.1
Hong Kong	50.5	34.3	131.0	107.4	41.8	51.3	88.1	136.3
Hungary	15.7	21.6	61.6	79.5	10.9	11.7	41.3	37.1
India	10.0	10.5	25.5	34.8	4.5	11.6	14.4	23.7
Israel	16.5	20.4	48.5	57.1	29.0	34.5	79.8	102.4
Japan	180.8	153.3	538.6	506.3	284.6	328.2	648.4	693.4
Malaysia	49.4	61.6	132.9	178.1	55.5	87.4	146.1	237.0
Mexico	8.3	19.4	19.4	48.0	14.1	19.1	32.9	83.6
Norway	49.4	66.8	203.2	193.3	48.0	46.6	122.7	130.4
Philippines	23.0	40.0	68.4	98.3	21.7	107.2	84.5	250.8
Poland	6.3	8.4	14.8	27.6	20.0	25.0	58.7	67.3
Russia	0.6	2.9	1.5	7.5	11.7	11.3	33.8	38.4
Saudi Arabia	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.7	24.9	36.1	79.0	87.0
Singapore	124.2	119.6	325.1	346.6	32.5	46.5	82.9	112.0
South Africa	4.9	5.7	22.0	17.0	32.7	41.1	69.2	84.1
South Korea	95.4	65.8	246.7	213.9	53.7	40.5	129.4	128.4
Switzerland	21.3	39.6	82.4	102.1	121.2	160.1	281.8	438.4
Taiwan	64.7	69.1	179.5	202.0	12.3	39.1	31.8	80.9
Thailand	15.1	24.6	40.3	70.3	11.5	12.8	24.1	32.5
Turkey	7.5	7.9	20.7	26.8	25.6	20.1	70.3	70.2
USA	596.2	925.7	1,553.6	2,160.5	779.2	1,093.8	2,130.0	3,204.9
Other countries ¹	68.3	74.9	213.4	242.8	128.5	122.5	321.9	384.3
Country unknown ²	5.3	5.0	15.5	17.8	20.7	32.4	53.6	81.7
Unclassified estimates ³	97.8	109.3	280.5	315.3	51.4	55.4	154.6	164.0
Total	3,720.0	4,311.5	10,307.6	12,062.0	5,834.9	6,907.6	14,667.9	18,297.9

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	44,327.1	66,956.2	22,629.1			
2000 ³	55,406.3	83,289.5	27,883.2			
2000 ³ 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	2,150.1
March ⁴	4,723.4	7,408.8	2,685.4	4,288.6	6,678.9	2,390.3
April	4,169.1	6,052.6	1,883.5	4,264.1	6,309.0	2,044.9
May	4,772.1	6,578.5	1,806.3	4,483.8	6,659.4	2,175.6
June	4,598.7	7,657.3	3,058.5	4,656.3	6,951.5	2,295.3
July	4,469.9	6,471.3	2,001.5	4,749.8	6,604.8	1,855.0
August	4,308.0	6,463.2	2,155.3	4,804.4	7,210.9	2,406.5
September ⁴	4,673.8	7,837.6	3,163.7	4,878.2	7,218.8	2,340.5
October	5,038.1	7,725.7	2,687.7	4,761.2	7,743.7	2,982.5
November	5,383.6	8,135.5	2,752.0	4,908.4	7,889.2	2,980.9
December	4,905.1	7,740.6	2,835.5	5,197.6	7,887.1	2,689.5
2001 ³ 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	5,474.5	8,770.8	3,296.5	5,105.0	7,944.1	2,839.1
April ⁵	4,740.0	7,150.0	2,410.0	4,700.0	7,570.0	2,870.0

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

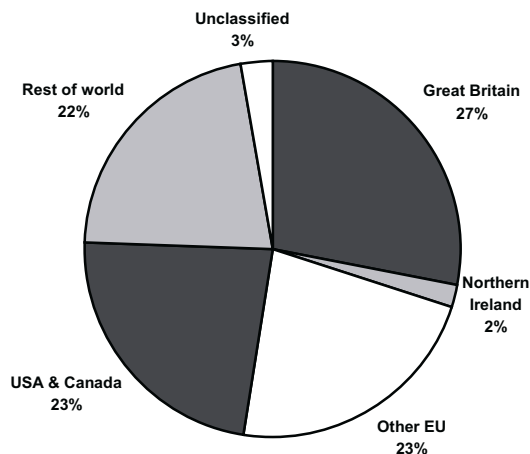
² Based on seasonal patterns up to December 2000

³ Provisional

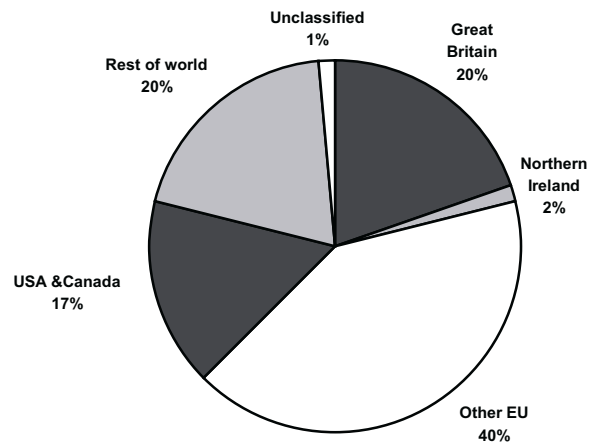
⁴ Revised

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

Imports, March 2001 (See Table 4)



Exports, March 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 6,630 while about 1,900 must make an export return. The response rate in terms of number of traders in March 2001 was 79%, covering an estimated 85% 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.