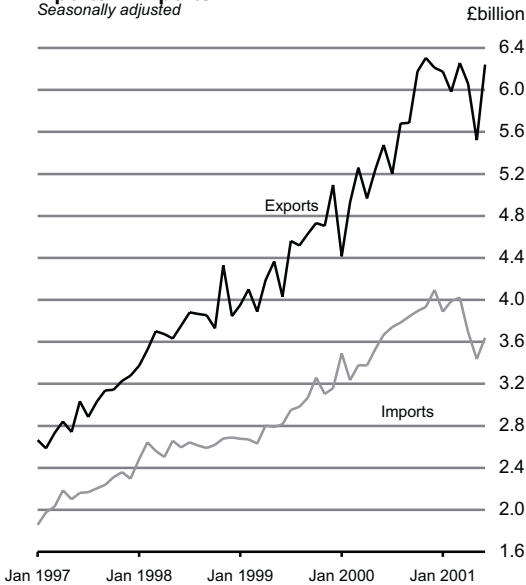




External Trade

May 2001 (Details),
June 2001 (First estimate)

Imports v Exports
Seasonally adjusted



	Imports	Exports	Surplus
Jan - May 2000	£17,364m	£24,611m	£7,247m
Jan - May 2001	£19,427m	£29,480m	£10,053m
% Change	+12%	+20%	+39%
May 2001	£3,639m	£5,466m	£1,827m
June 2001 <i>(Preliminary)</i>	£3,500m	£6,970m	£3,470m

Imports and exports lower in May

Unadjusted imports were valued at £3,639m in May 2001, while exports were valued at £5,466m, giving a surplus of £1,827m. The corresponding surplus in May 2000 was £1,420m. Initial indications for June 2001 show a strong level of export activity at £6,970m, with imports of £3,500m giving an unadjusted surplus of £3,470m. *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 May were valued at £5,521m down from £6,057m in April. Imports were valued at £3,435m down from £3,692m in April. The adjusted surplus for May was £2,086m. Provisional figures for June show adjusted imports of £3,640m and exports stronger at £6,240m.

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

- ◆ Exports increased from £24,611m to £29,480m (+20%). Exports of Electrical machinery and parts increased from £2,028m to £3,264m (+61%) and exports of Computer equipment increased from £5,696m to £6,912m (+21%). Exports of Organic chemicals increased from £4,683m to £5,709m (+22%) and Medical and pharmaceutical products increased from £1,610m to £2,419m (+50%).
- ◆ Exports to the USA increased from £3,779m to £5,242m (+39%) and exports to Germany increased from £2,616m to £3,625m (+39%). There were also large increases to Switzerland and the Philippines.
- ◆ Imports increased from £17,364m to £19,427m (+12%). Imports of Computer equipment increased from £3,273m to £4,002m (+22%) and imports of Electrical machinery and parts increased from £1,941m to £2,626m (+35%).
- ◆ Imports from the USA increased from £2,647m to £3,359m (+27%) and imports from Great Britain increased from £5,080m to £5,665m (+12%). Imports from France and the Netherlands also recorded a large increase.

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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	34,910.4	52,732.3	17,821.9	236.5	336.5	118.0	109.5	92.8
2000 ²	43,874.8	65,764.1	21,889.3	274.2	399.5	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 ² 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	3,298.6	4,765.5	1,466.9	254.9	339.3	124.2	117.8	94.8
May ³	3,757.6	5,177.7	1,420.1	283.4	365.3	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	4,119.0	6,161.9	2,042.9	299.5	447.2	132.0	115.5	87.6
November ³	4,313.1	6,502.7	2,189.6	309.8	485.0	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 ² 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	3,638.9	5,466.0	1,827.1	266.1	386.9	131.2	118.5	90.3
June ⁴	3,500.0	6,970.0	3,470.0

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	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	3,530.6	5,241.3	1,710.7	267.6	371.5
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	3,932.4	6,305.8	2,373.5	277.8	459.7
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	3,435.4	5,521.2	2,085.7	250.1	394.3
June	3,640.0	6,240.0	2,600.0

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			
	May 2000	May 2001	Jan-May 2000	Jan-May 2001	May 2000	May 2001	Jan-May 2000	Jan-May 2001
0 Food and live animals	174.9	188.3	857.7	930.9	441.9	397.7	1,824.4	1,754.1
00 Live animals other than animals of Division 03	2.2	4.3	29.2	29.5	27.7	5.9	119.7	43.8
01 Meat & meat preparations	20.4	26.1	86.7	119.9	124.9	98.8	542.5	449.9
02 Dairy products and birds' eggs	16.9	15.3	96.8	73.7	100.3	87.4	325.6	301.8
03 Fish, crustaceans, molluscs and preparations thereof	7.3	6.7	31.9	32.3	20.6	28.5	96.8	142.8
04 Cereals & cereal preparations	31.5	32.0	154.9	154.3	20.3	19.2	94.4	91.5
05 Vegetables & fruit	37.0	42.1	155.5	184.4	11.6	14.0	53.2	67.2
06 Sugars, sugar preparations & honey	8.1	11.0	42.8	49.8	8.1	7.4	33.2	36.1
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices & manufactures thereof	13.5	14.9	74.9	79.2	20.2	18.9	88.4	88.3
08 Feeding stuff for animals (excl unmilled cereals)	23.8	19.0	120.5	130.9	7.0	7.9	41.2	40.5
09 Miscellaneous edible products & preparations	14.2	16.9	64.4	77.0	101.2	109.7	429.4	492.3
1 Beverages and tobacco	32.0	38.6	137.2	163.6	55.8	49.3	260.8	229.2
11 Beverages	27.4	34.0	115.2	137.9	50.0	40.9	232.9	189.5
12 Tobacco & tobacco manufactures	4.6	4.6	22.0	25.8	5.7	8.4	27.9	39.8
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	57.3	59.7	260.4	273.4	68.8	63.3	295.7	309.9
21 Hides, skins & furskins, raw	0.2	0.3	3.4	1.6	7.1	7.8	28.4	31.0
22 Oil seeds & oleaginous fruits	1.4	0.5	4.0	3.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.5
23 Crude rubber (incl synthetic & reclaimed)	1.4	1.3	5.7	7.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.5
24 Cork & wood	21.2	20.6	96.1	94.1	4.2	5.1	20.4	19.9
25 Pulp & waste paper	1.5	1.6	9.5	10.7	1.0	1.0	4.1	4.6
26 Textile fibres & their wastes	5.2	4.7	22.6	22.1	7.4	8.0	35.5	41.1
27 Crude fertilisers & minerals (excl coal, petroleum and precious stones)	11.0	9.4	42.0	39.8	3.2	1.7	12.3	7.4
28 Metalliferous ores & metal scrap	9.2	14.7	43.7	59.2	39.3	35.3	163.0	172.5
29 Crude animal & vegetable materials nes	6.1	6.6	33.5	35.5	6.5	4.2	31.6	32.5
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	149.5	160.5	698.2	750.0	23.9	28.4	89.9	106.5
32 Coal, coke & briquettes	5.0	7.2	29.4	56.2	3.2	7.8	21.0	22.9
33 Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials	131.9	131.2	578.0	570.3	20.5	20.4	68.0	82.3
34 Gas, natural & manufactured	12.4	22.1	89.8	122.9	0.2	0.2	0.9	1.2
35 Electric Current	0.2	0.0	1.1	0.6	0.0	–	0.1	–
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	7.9	8.8	39.9	41.0	1.7	1.7	9.4	6.2
41 Animal oils & fats	0.8	0.6	3.8	3.7	1.3	1.2	7.6	4.6
42 Fixed vegetable fats & oils	3.8	4.5	20.6	21.8	0.3	0.4	1.4	1.4
43 Animal or vegetable fats & oils, processed; waxes	3.3	3.8	15.5	15.5	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3
5 Chemicals and related products nes	482.6	457.5	2,088.4	2,153.3	1,863.5	1,849.9	7,884.2	10,220.4
51 Organic chemicals	139.9	134.2	640.0	560.6	1,084.3	1,047.8	4,683.1	5,709.2
52 Inorganic chemicals	25.0	19.4	98.7	108.8	22.6	16.0	109.4	96.7
53 Dyeing, tanning & colouring materials	17.0	13.8	73.5	61.5	3.9	3.9	19.3	15.5
54 Medical & pharmaceutical products	130.5	119.5	483.6	580.4	390.8	342.3	1,609.9	2,418.7
55 Essential oils; perfume materials; toilet & cleansing preparations	47.0	55.9	204.5	262.7	183.5	229.4	740.4	1,031.1
56 Fertilisers (other than those of Division 27)	17.7	12.6	104.8	84.8	2.5	3.3	12.6	16.5
57 Plastics in primary forms	40.9	38.3	181.6	184.2	12.7	12.0	64.7	65.1
58 Plastics in non-primary forms	31.2	32.0	128.4	140.2	17.8	18.4	71.3	79.7
59 Chemical materials & products nes	33.3	31.8	173.5	170.1	145.4	176.9	573.5	787.8

Table 3 Trade classified by Commodity - continued

£ million

SITC (Rev 3)	Imports				Exports			
	May 2000	May 2001	Jan-May 2000	Jan-May 2001	May 2000	May 2001	Jan-May 2000	Jan-May 2001
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	294.3	299.0	1,390.5	1,445.2	130.7	139.2	638.7	680.1
61 Leather; leather manufactures nes; dressed furskins	0.5	0.7	3.7	3.6	4.7	4.5	21.0	23.2
62 Rubber manufactures nes	15.8	14.5	74.9	71.5	6.9	7.9	39.0	37.2
63 Cork & wood manufactures (excl furniture)	15.9	16.0	70.8	76.5	10.9	10.9	44.7	54.9
64 Paper, paperboard & articles thereof	54.5	55.3	264.1	266.2	12.8	12.3	59.0	66.3
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles & related products	42.7	41.0	194.5	209.4	35.4	34.1	166.0	170.0
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures nes	38.5	34.0	174.6	169.2	18.3	21.6	109.3	114.9
67 Iron & steel	38.4	37.6	185.3	196.3	9.9	12.0	45.5	51.5
68 Non-ferrous metals	24.9	36.3	121.2	145.0	5.8	8.2	31.3	31.9
69 Manufactures of metals nes	63.1	63.5	301.4	307.4	26.1	27.7	122.9	130.3
7 Machinery and transport equipment	2,006.6	1,888.6	9,039.6	10,867.3	1,899.5	2,219.6	9,722.5	12,321.5
71 Power generating machinery & equipment	48.2	58.9	216.4	281.6	20.0	25.9	100.6	131.7
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries	85.7	70.0	354.8	378.0	34.7	23.0	113.2	109.8
73 Metalworking machinery	18.9	11.2	72.9	52.1	4.7	3.5	19.9	17.7
74 General industrial machinery & equipment nes & parts nes	106.0	84.3	439.4	411.1	69.6	61.9	347.4	322.5
75 Office machines & automatic data processing machines	706.9	719.9	3,272.7	4,002.4	1,070.4	1,154.3	5,695.7	6,912.4
76 Telecommunications & sound equipment	185.3	205.6	840.9	1,099.2	189.4	244.8	1,139.2	1,261.5
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances nes & parts	416.6	466.3	1,941.0	2,626.2	450.3	629.7	2,027.8	3,263.8
78 Road vehicles (incl air-cushion vehicles)	310.1	197.6	1,613.0	1,382.5	46.6	56.6	206.2	224.1
79 Other transport equipment	129.1	74.7	288.6	634.2	13.7	19.9	72.7	77.9
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	367.9	379.8	1,769.0	1,936.2	506.1	503.9	2,779.5	2,868.3
81 Prefab buildings; plumbing & electrical fixtures & fittings	14.8	13.8	67.4	69.8	5.9	6.3	27.3	30.0
82 Furniture & parts thereof; bedding, cushions etc	22.9	22.7	103.8	109.4	9.3	6.4	39.7	32.5
83 Travel goods, handbags & similar containers	5.3	6.7	22.5	38.6	1.7	1.5	5.8	6.2
84 Articles of apparel; clothing accessories	75.9	67.8	403.7	408.4	20.7	20.8	115.2	113.0
85 Footwear	15.3	15.6	89.2	87.1	1.8	3.3	10.9	12.1
87 Professional, scientific & controlling apparatus nes	81.8	71.7	357.5	347.0	122.6	133.4	564.3	612.8
88 Photographic apparatus; optical goods; watches & clocks	21.0	23.2	103.8	111.0	31.3	31.8	146.4	145.4
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes	130.8	158.4	621.1	764.8	312.9	300.5	1,869.8	1,916.3
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	51.8	73.0	353.9	408.5	135.7	188.0	814.7	911.7
Unclassified estimates¹	132.9	85.2	729.0	457.3	50.0	25.0	291.3	72.2
Total	3,757.6	3,638.9	17,363.8	19,426.7	5,177.7	5,466.0	24,611.1	29,480.0

¹ Estimates for which a commodity classification is not available.

Table 4 Trade by Country

£ million

Country	Imports				Exports			
	May 2000	May 2001	Jan-May 2000	Jan-May 2001	May 2000	May 2001	Jan-May 2000	Jan-May 2001
Great Britain	997.9	1,060.8	5,079.6	5,665.1	1,005.0	1,116.6	4,951.4	5,829.4
Northern Ireland	79.4	82.1	376.4	392.2	130.2	111.9	596.4	495.8
Austria	8.9	11.0	49.3	52.0	22.4	28.5	175.9	138.5
Belgium	56.0	65.1	338.2	292.4	251.3	375.5	1,282.8	1,483.9
Luxembourg	0.4	0.8	2.1	3.2	2.1	13.2	7.8	37.1
Denmark	51.8	55.7	176.7	244.4	34.0	31.8	190.4	197.2
Finland	22.1	19.0	115.7	80.4	22.0	22.0	125.2	120.6
France	266.6	224.8	825.4	1,077.4	387.4	346.5	1,975.1	1,964.2
Germany	213.4	208.9	1,101.7	1,212.4	561.9	488.0	2,616.2	3,625.0
Greece	2.5	2.8	12.9	13.9	30.2	27.9	106.1	119.9
Italy	108.1	73.6	424.0	396.9	230.9	189.7	1,064.2	1,053.5
Netherlands	118.6	118.1	529.3	673.2	286.9	224.4	1,575.9	1,588.1
Portugal	7.3	10.1	42.5	51.0	15.5	14.5	76.2	92.5
Spain	54.3	38.4	281.4	268.2	124.2	150.6	614.4	751.8
Sweden	41.8	34.6	216.2	169.7	82.5	73.0	431.2	456.6
EU Country not specified	43.3	34.9	182.0	171.5	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.6
Total EU	2,072.4	2,040.8	9,753.6	10,763.6	3,186.7	3,214.1	15,789.6	17,954.8
Australia	8.5	5.2	22.1	26.1	30.0	69.2	135.1	213.3
Brazil	4.7	9.1	32.0	45.4	15.1	19.8	52.6	69.7
Canada	21.6	58.5	150.1	221.7	24.9	30.4	127.5	170.2
China	58.9	70.2	247.1	347.3	14.3	12.5	52.5	79.3
Czech Republic	6.3	7.3	35.1	45.1	19.9	23.3	97.2	88.3
Egypt	1.2	0.8	4.0	9.7	18.1	8.1	88.2	52.1
Hong Kong	49.6	38.4	220.2	182.5	41.4	40.2	155.7	212.9
Hungary	16.0	47.8	89.0	148.4	15.1	13.3	69.4	61.0
India	8.8	9.2	43.2	54.2	3.6	7.3	20.8	35.7
Israel	12.7	20.1	79.2	98.8	25.0	22.2	133.0	147.7
Japan	198.9	127.2	909.1	783.4	184.1	177.2	1,034.0	1,021.8
Malaysia	39.9	58.1	214.6	277.0	50.4	97.6	253.0	385.4
Mexico	8.5	11.8	33.6	75.5	20.0	48.5	74.4	188.5
Norway	68.7	71.4	337.2	332.9	27.7	51.1	184.9	209.9
Philippines	12.3	14.1	107.3	140.4	51.4	47.4	165.4	382.9
Poland	6.9	5.8	27.1	40.9	24.3	17.4	103.4	103.6
Russia	1.5	0.8	4.1	10.9	9.8	15.1	51.6	71.6
Saudi Arabia	0.2	0.1	0.6	1.0	27.9	33.0	128.2	141.7
Singapore	128.3	92.5	546.0	533.8	37.7	41.2	142.0	185.6
South Africa	6.8	7.8	33.1	30.4	25.8	21.8	116.1	134.9
South Korea	115.2	49.8	451.5	320.5	58.4	30.8	230.3	203.0
Switzerland	24.7	22.7	121.8	146.3	116.6	142.8	491.4	784.1
Taiwan	74.7	71.5	311.9	347.5	12.9	32.0	58.7	133.1
Thailand	13.2	18.2	63.8	112.2	6.5	6.3	37.8	47.0
Turkey	8.5	9.0	36.8	44.9	30.4	15.3	122.2	101.1
USA	618.8	595.7	2,647.0	3,358.7	889.7	1,000.8	3,778.9	5,242.4
Other countries ¹	66.8	72.3	342.1	383.5	139.9	136.3	568.0	642.3
Country unknown ²	4.1	6.8	29.5	34.2	19.3	38.8	93.1	148.0
Unclassified estimates ³	99.0	95.9	471.0	510.0	50.9	52.3	256.4	268.2
Total	3,757.6	3,638.9	17,363.8	19,426.7	5,177.7	5,466.0	24,611.1	29,480.0

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	44,327.1	66,956.2	22,629.1			
2000 ³	55,709.5	83,503.2	27,793.7			
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	2,150.0
March	4,723.4	7,408.8	2,685.4	4,288.5	6,678.9	2,390.3
April	4,188.4	6,050.9	1,862.6	4,283.8	6,307.3	2,023.5
May ⁴	4,771.2	6,574.3	1,803.2	4,482.9	6,655.1	2,172.1
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	5,230.1	7,824.0	2,593.9	4,942.6	7,842.3	2,899.7
November ⁴	5,476.5	8,256.7	2,780.2	4,993.1	8,006.7	3,013.7
December	4,905.1	7,740.6	2,835.5	5,197.7	7,887.1	2,689.6
2001 ³ 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	4,620.4	6,940.4	2,319.9	4,362.1	7,010.5	2,648.3
June ⁵	4,440.0	8,850.0	4,410.0	4,620.0	7,920.0	3,300.0

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

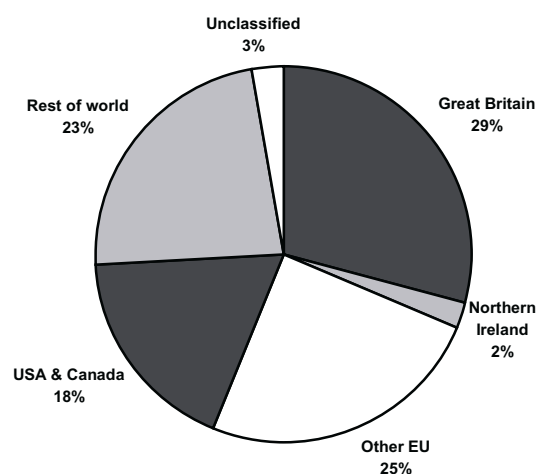
² Based on seasonal patterns up to December 2000

³ Provisional

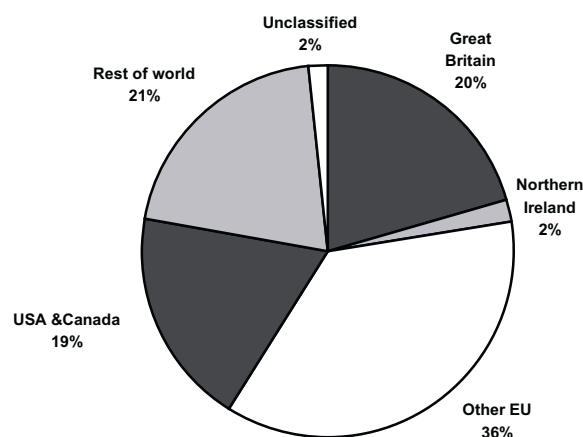
⁴ Revised

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

Imports, May 2001 (See Table 4)



Exports, May 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.

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 6,770 while about 1,925 must make an export return. The response rate in terms of number of traders in May 2001 was 81%, covering an estimated 94% 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.