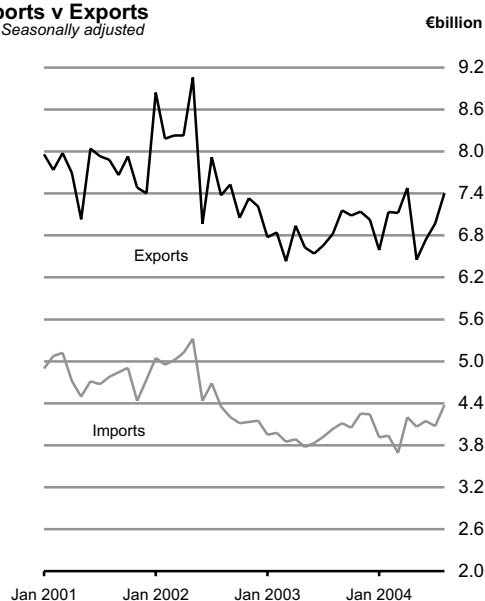




### Imports v Exports

*Seasonally adjusted*



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August 2004 (Details),  
September 2004 (First estimate)

	Seasonally adjusted		
	Imports	Exports	Surplus
June 2004	€4,146m	€6,744m	€2,598m
July 2004	€4,074m	€6,973m	€2,899m
August 2004	€4,374m	€7,407m	€3,033m
September 2004 (Preliminary)	€4,260m	€6,560m	€2,300m

## Exports down in September

Seasonally adjusted merchandise trade (see Table 2) for September 2004 (preliminary) shows exports decreased by 11% to €6,560m relative to August 2004 and imports decreased by 3% to €4,260m. Relative to July 2004, exports for August increased by 6% to €7,407m and imports increased by 7% to €4,374m.

The unadjusted merchandise trade (*see Table 1*) for September 2004 (preliminary) gives exports of €7,120m, a decrease of 7% on the September 2003 level of €7,621m and imports of €4,110m, an increase of 2% on the September 2003 figure of €4,042m. The August exports were €6,238m, an increase of €367m (+6%) on August 2003, while imports increased by €432m (13%) to €3,832m in the same period.

Comparing the aggregate January to August 2004 figures with the same period in 2003 shows (*see Tables 3-4*):

Exports increased from €52,803m to €55,193m (+5%) –

- ◆ Medical and Pharmaceutical products increased from €8,777m to €9,976m (+14%) and Professional, scientific and controlling apparatus from €1,948m to €2,527m (+30%) but Computer equipment decreased from €9,100m to €8,273m (-9%).
- ◆ Exports increased to Belgium from €6,275m to €8,317m (+33%) and to Italy from €2,230m to €2,533m (+14%). Exports decreased to Great Britain from €8,798m to €8,655m (-2%), to Germany from €4,362m to €4,059m (-7%) and to the USA from €11,225m to €11,160m (-1%).

Imports increased from €30,848m to €32,175m (+4%) –

- ◆ Other transport equipment (including aviation) increased from €282m to €983m and Organic chemicals from €1,117m to €1,458m (+30%). Medical and Pharmaceutical products decreased from €1,496m to €1,319m (-12%) and General industrial machinery and equipment decreased from €839m to €715m (-15%).
- ◆ Imports from China increased from €1,266m to €1,775m (+40%) and from France from €1,214m to €1,369m (+13%). Imports from Japan decreased from €1,542m to €1,418m (-8%).

*For more information, contact Gerry Milligan at (01) 498 4254 or Claire Hanley at (01) 498 4206.*

**Table 1 Summary of trade**

Period	Value			Volume Index		Price Index		Terms of Trade¹
	Imports	Exports	Trade Surplus	Base year 1990=100				
				Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	
	€m	€m	€m					
1987	11,624.7	13,616.0	1,991.3	79.1	77.4	92.8	96.6	104.1
1988	12,970.1	15,623.9	2,653.9	82.8	82.9	98.9	103.6	104.7
1989	15,597.8	18,534.4	2,936.6	93.6	92.2	105.3	110.5	104.9
1990	15,832.1	18,203.9	2,371.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1991	16,317.2	19,070.1	2,752.9	100.8	105.6	102.3	99.3	97.0
1992	16,753.9	21,260.2	4,506.4	105.6	121.1	100.2	96.6	96.4
1993	18,899.7	25,178.5	6,278.9	113.0	133.4	105.4	103.9	98.6
1994	21,945.4	28,890.9	6,945.6	127.9	153.2	108.1	103.8	96.0
1995	26,180.9	35,330.1	9,149.2	146.3	184.0	112.7	105.7	93.7
1996	28,479.5	38,608.9	10,129.6	160.9	202.2	111.4	105.1	94.3
1997	32,863.5	44,868.0	12,004.5	184.8	232.4	112.0	106.3	94.9
1998	39,715.0	57,321.8	17,606.7	218.3	289.2	114.6	109.1	95.2
1999	44,327.1	66,956.2	22,629.1	236.5	336.5	118.0	109.5	92.8
2000	55,908.8	83,888.9	27,980.1	275.2	401.4	128.0	115.0	89.9
2001	57,384.2	92,689.9	35,305.7	274.2	422.0	131.8	120.9	91.7
2002	55,628.1	93,675.2	38,047.1	275.7	434.9	126.7	118.5	93.5
2003²	47,853.6	81,995.1	34,141.6	258.0	418.6	116.1	108.0	93.0
2002 January	5,227.7	8,251.9	3,024.2	304.4	456.5	129.8	119.3	91.9
February	4,784.1	7,668.4	2,884.3	279.2	427.5	129.2	118.4	91.6
March	5,327.8	9,099.0	3,771.3	314.8	503.6	127.8	119.3	93.4
April	5,405.6	7,789.0	2,383.5	318.7	437.3	128.0	117.5	91.8
May	5,499.4	9,122.3	3,623.0	325.3	504.5	126.3	119.3	94.5
June	4,113.8	7,662.6	3,548.8	246.9	431.6	125.8	117.2	93.2
July	4,643.0	7,915.6	3,272.5	282.5	443.1	124.1	117.9	95.0
August	3,760.5	6,437.0	2,676.5	227.5	360.2	124.8	117.9	94.5
September	3,984.2	7,895.8	3,911.6	236.5	442.5	126.7	117.6	92.8
October	4,338.8	7,347.0	3,008.3	257.5	407.4	126.0	119.1	94.5
November	4,408.6	7,645.9	3,237.3	264.0	426.2	126.0	118.6	94.1
December	4,134.6	6,840.6	2,706.0	248.5	378.0	125.6	119.6	95.2
2003²January	4,055.0	6,350.7	2,295.7	261.2	375.3	117.3	111.8	95.4
February	3,857.6	6,410.2	2,552.5	243.4	383.5	119.7	110.6	92.4
March	4,127.1	7,058.2	2,931.0	260.9	422.0	119.6	110.9	92.7
April	4,082.4	6,725.8	2,643.4	263.2	408.0	117.4	109.1	92.9
May	3,812.7	6,625.3	2,812.6	246.9	411.9	116.7	106.9	91.7
June	3,662.6	7,096.6	3,433.9	239.9	439.8	115.2	107.1	93.0
July	3,850.3	6,665.5	2,815.2	253.3	411.2	114.0	107.6	94.4
August³	3,400.3	5,870.8	2,470.5	221.6	360.3	115.3	107.9	93.5
September	4,042.1	7,621.1	3,579.0	263.6	469.4	114.7	107.3	93.5
October	4,206.4	7,413.7	3,207.3	272.7	459.2	115.4	106.4	92.2
November	4,413.4	7,305.0	2,891.7	285.9	456.7	113.8	105.5	92.7
December	4,343.7	6,852.5	2,508.8	284.1	430.7	113.8	104.4	91.7
2004²January	3,925.5	6,129.6	2,204.1	250.1	385.8	115.5	103.4	89.6
February³	3,870.6	6,806.0	2,935.5	249.7	437.0	115.0	102.3	88.9
March	4,202.0	7,991.6	3,789.6	271.4	498.7	117.0	105.8	90.4
April	4,364.4	7,134.9	2,770.5	281.8	448.8	117.0	105.0	89.8
May	4,023.8	6,327.3	2,303.5	264.2	399.6	115.1	104.6	90.9
June	4,088.7	7,601.5	3,512.8	270.2	479.2	114.4	104.8	91.7
July	3,868.0	6,964.1	3,096.1	..	..	..	..	..
August	3,831.9	6,237.8	2,405.8	..	..	..	..	..
September⁴	4,110.0	7,120.0	3,010.0	..	..	..	..	..

<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 EUR 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
2001	January	4,895.3	7,959.4	3,064.1	280.8	447.2
	February	5,076.9	7,737.2	2,660.3	296.1	433.4
	March	5,119.6	7,976.3	2,856.8	295.6	446.2
	April	4,716.9	7,692.4	2,975.6	272.0	425.3
	May	4,494.4	7,031.5	2,537.1	256.1	390.6
	June	4,715.0	8,043.3	3,328.2	264.5	426.0
	July	4,672.2	7,932.3	3,260.1	259.1	428.0
	August	4,778.1	7,880.9	3,102.8	269.5	425.2
	September	4,840.3	7,663.8	2,823.5	276.9	407.9
	October	4,908.6	7,932.6	3,024.0	279.4	425.7
	November	4,434.6	7,483.5	3,048.9	259.3	392.6
	December	4,738.5	7,401.9	2,663.5	268.8	411.0
2002	January	5,049.6	8,842.1	3,792.6	290.0	487.9
	February	4,951.8	8,181.7	3,229.9	288.7	454.8
	March	5,017.1	8,230.5	3,213.4	297.4	457.7
	April	5,123.2	8,228.8	3,105.6	302.0	466.1
	May	5,321.7	9,057.9	3,736.2	316.6	505.7
	June	4,434.3	6,967.9	2,533.6	265.7	389.2
	July	4,686.8	7,919.6	3,232.8	282.9	441.5
	August	4,351.6	7,373.6	3,022.0	263.6	413.1
	September	4,203.1	7,529.6	3,326.5	249.2	423.7
	October	4,115.7	7,053.2	2,937.5	244.1	396.8
	November	4,133.2	7,332.0	3,198.8	251.2	400.2
	December	4,152.8	7,212.1	3,059.3	249.6	396.5
2003	January	3,951.4	6,774.3	2,822.9	252.6	400.0
	February	3,977.7	6,841.8	2,864.1	250.5	407.4
	March	3,849.0	6,429.8	2,580.7	244.6	387.5
	April	3,885.8	6,938.5	3,052.7	248.7	423.4
	May	3,776.8	6,626.9	2,850.1	246.2	414.6
	June	3,831.9	6,540.5	2,708.6	252.0	405.0
	July	3,923.9	6,661.0	2,737.1	253.9	409.9
	August	4,033.0	6,818.8	2,785.8	263.3	415.5
	September	4,116.5	7,160.8	3,044.2	267.4	441.7
	October	4,048.4	7,087.0	3,038.6	263.9	447.2
	November	4,253.3	7,140.0	2,886.8	278.9	437.5
	December	4,243.2	7,023.7	2,780.5	278.1	438.9
2004	January	3,913.1	6,590.3	2,677.2	247.3	413.8
	February	3,936.2	7,134.4	3,198.2	253.0	454.8
	March	3,687.7	7,120.7	3,432.9	238.6	447.5
	April	4,203.3	7,478.6	3,275.2	270.9	477.8
	May	4,062.6	6,455.7	2,393.2	269.8	408.7
	June	4,145.9	6,743.8	2,597.9	272.2	422.7
	July	4,073.7	6,973.1	2,899.3	..	..
	August	4,374.3	7,406.8	3,032.5	..	..
	September	4,260.0	6,560.0	2,300.0	..	..

<sup>1</sup> Based on seasonal patterns up to December 2003.

.. Data not yet available

**Table 3 Trade classified by Commodity**

€ million

SITC (Rev 3)	Imports				Exports			
	Aug 2003	Aug 2004	Jan-Aug 2003	Jan-Aug 2004	Aug 2003	Aug 2004	Jan-Aug 2003	Jan-Aug 2004
<b>0 Food and live animals</b>	<b>235.9</b>	<b>230.7</b>	<b>2,003.8</b>	<b>1,985.5</b>	<b>451.7</b>	<b>443.3</b>	<b>3,704.7</b>	<b>3,856.1</b>
00 Live animals other than animals of Division 03	5.3	10.0	73.1	64.6	14.8	11.7	98.3	92.3
01 Meat & meat preparations	36.6	36.9	271.3	286.4	144.9	156.3	1,155.0	1,229.6
02 Dairy products and birds' eggs	26.1	30.7	222.6	220.7	84.7	98.4	629.5	696.9
03 Fish, crustaceans, molluscs and preparations thereof	7.4	8.1	63.4	65.5	28.1	23.7	243.8	237.9
04 Cereals & cereal preparations	37.8	31.5	318.0	324.0	19.9	11.8	142.2	135.2
05 Vegetables & fruit	54.3	45.4	424.1	398.0	19.4	14.7	153.6	138.8
06 Sugars, sugar preparations & honey	11.5	11.7	106.9	105.2	8.8	12.7	74.1	91.5
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices & manufactures thereof	17.1	15.1	157.6	148.4	20.5	15.0	173.1	174.1
08 Feeding stuff for animals (excl unmilled cereals)	22.5	24.0	216.0	228.9	11.4	12.0	95.8	109.2
09 Miscellaneous edible products & preparations	17.2	17.2	150.9	143.9	99.2	87.2	939.3	950.6
<b>1 Beverages and tobacco</b>	<b>54.3</b>	<b>60.5</b>	<b>414.4</b>	<b>414.8</b>	<b>89.2</b>	<b>87.7</b>	<b>643.8</b>	<b>586.4</b>
11 Beverages	50.0	56.2	367.5	375.7	81.5	79.4	578.1	523.7
12 Tobacco & tobacco manufactures	4.4	4.3	46.9	39.1	7.7	8.3	65.7	62.7
<b>2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels</b>	<b>57.7</b>	<b>62.4</b>	<b>516.7</b>	<b>529.2</b>	<b>66.6</b>	<b>72.9</b>	<b>571.9</b>	<b>624.5</b>
21 Hides, skins & furskins, raw	0.5	0.3	3.6	1.6	8.0	7.5	56.8	53.2
22 Oil seeds & oleaginous fruits	0.6	0.9	5.9	12.6	0.0	0.3	0.4	4.4
23 Crude rubber (incl synthetic & reclaimed)	1.2	1.0	13.2	11.5	0.1	0.1	0.8	1.0
24 Cork & wood	26.7	27.0	215.2	224.6	6.6	6.0	56.0	55.0
25 Pulp & waste paper	1.9	1.3	14.8	13.6	1.6	2.4	14.3	23.8
26 Textile fibres & their wastes	1.4	1.1	25.8	11.6	7.9	7.8	83.0	69.1
27 Crude fertilisers & minerals (excl coal, petroleum and precious stones)	12.9	12.9	104.7	101.2	4.3	4.8	35.1	36.1
28 Metalliferous ores & metal scrap	6.5	10.9	62.9	75.7	30.9	36.6	272.4	330.5
29 Crude animal & vegetable materials nes	6.0	7.0	70.7	76.6	7.3	7.3	53.2	51.5
<b>3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials</b>	<b>145.4</b>	<b>205.9</b>	<b>1,320.8</b>	<b>1,509.4</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>37.9</b>	<b>159.8</b>	<b>213.8</b>
32 Coal, coke & briquettes	9.2	19.8	80.7	128.8	2.1	2.4	50.1	33.9
33 Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials	121.8	172.1	1,065.5	1,249.8	0.7	33.5	106.3	169.2
34 Gas, natural & manufactured	12.4	11.2	155.9	107.0	0.2	1.3	1.8	4.7
35 Electric Current	2.0	2.8	18.7	23.8	0.4	0.7	1.6	6.0
<b>4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>80.5</b>	<b>77.2</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>16.1</b>
41 Animal oils & fats	0.3	0.4	2.4	3.0	1.4	1.3	15.7	12.2
42 Fixed vegetable fats & oils	5.2	6.0	49.5	48.5	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.8
43 Animal or vegetable fats & oils, processed; waxes	3.1	3.0	28.6	25.7	0.6	0.3	3.1	3.0
<b>5 Chemicals and related products nes</b>	<b>480.6</b>	<b>475.1</b>	<b>4,544.7</b>	<b>4,681.1</b>	<b>2,602.9</b>	<b>2,844.6</b>	<b>23,578.6</b>	<b>25,438.6</b>
51 Organic chemicals	101.6	69.0	1,117.2	1,457.7	1,070.3	1,200.5	9,883.5	10,268.2
52 Inorganic chemicals	12.1	13.9	101.9	118.5	12.0	12.8	80.6	113.5
53 Dyeing, tanning & colouring materials	11.9	14.4	110.5	114.8	4.6	4.7	42.8	46.6
54 Medical & pharmaceutical products	182.3	195.2	1,495.7	1,319.5	956.6	984.0	8,776.8	9,975.8
55 Essential oils; perfume materials; toilet & cleansing preparations	69.1	66.4	577.7	561.9	351.8	409.1	2,845.1	3,197.5
56 Fertilisers (other than those of Division 27)	4.3	8.3	165.2	166.1	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.6
57 Plastics in primary forms	38.2	43.7	344.1	362.2	12.8	13.6	116.8	125.1
58 Plastics in non-primary forms	28.6	35.1	289.7	288.2	13.5	16.0	137.2	145.0
59 Chemical materials & products nes	32.6	28.9	342.6	292.2	181.3	203.9	1,695.3	1,566.1

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

€ million

SITC (Rev 3)	Imports				Exports			
	Aug 2003	Aug 2004	Jan-Aug 2003	Jan-Aug 2004	Aug 2003	Aug 2004	Jan-Aug 2003	Jan-Aug 2004
<b>6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material</b>	<b>317.0</b>	<b>349.2</b>	<b>2,827.2</b>	<b>2,864.6</b>	<b>130.8</b>	<b>130.3</b>	<b>1,195.9</b>	<b>1,171.2</b>
61 Leather; leather manufactures nes; dressed furskins	0.7	1.5	6.5	8.1	3.8	4.2	30.6	19.3
62 Rubber manufactures nes	17.7	17.4	160.3	154.4	5.3	5.5	56.8	57.9
63 Cork & wood manufactures (excl furniture)	21.8	22.7	178.8	193.4	15.8	18.9	136.8	147.4
64 Paper, paperboard & articles thereof	61.7	54.2	542.2	474.6	17.2	14.1	137.8	128.2
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles & related products	32.2	36.0	319.7	319.2	17.6	21.7	233.5	210.5
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures nes	41.9	48.7	356.7	386.9	31.1	28.5	243.8	241.3
67 Iron & steel	40.8	54.8	374.9	421.2	4.9	5.3	34.8	43.2
68 Non-ferrous metals	35.2	34.6	272.0	295.3	4.6	5.4	43.3	47.8
69 Manufactures of metals nes	65.2	79.4	616.0	611.4	30.5	26.6	278.4	275.6
<b>7 Machinery and transport equipment</b>	<b>1,349.8</b>	<b>1,607.4</b>	<b>13,210.3</b>	<b>13,958.9</b>	<b>1,525.5</b>	<b>1,562.1</b>	<b>14,758.1</b>	<b>14,332.9</b>
71 Power generating machinery & equipment	45.9	44.7	398.1	395.7	27.8	15.3	215.8	194.3
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries	62.8	70.9	710.1	654.0	15.2	23.9	185.6	189.0
73 Metalworking machinery	25.4	9.9	136.2	91.3	4.5	6.0	40.1	58.8
74 General industrial machinery & equipment nes & parts nes	101.6	83.5	839.0	714.7	67.2	77.0	671.5	776.0
75 Office machines & automatic data processing machines	549.5	649.1	4,989.2	5,041.3	913.4	906.1	9,099.9	8,272.5
76 Telecommunications & sound equipment	99.8	126.2	846.0	952.8	94.5	85.7	879.5	851.7
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances nes & parts	348.6	365.7	2,999.2	3,056.3	372.2	417.7	3,349.6	3,706.4
78 Road vehicles (incl air-cushion vehicles)	99.3	141.1	2,010.2	2,070.0	24.1	22.5	249.2	208.8
79 Other transport equipment	16.8	116.2	282.2	982.7	6.6	8.0	67.0	75.4
<b>8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles</b>	<b>524.9</b>	<b>533.7</b>	<b>3,996.1</b>	<b>3,995.0</b>	<b>706.7</b>	<b>720.0</b>	<b>5,884.9</b>	<b>6,352.0</b>
81 Prefab buildings; plumbing & electrical fixtures & fittings	14.9	18.7	137.7	159.8	5.8	7.1	64.4	57.6
82 Furniture & parts thereof; bedding, cushions etc	30.0	31.6	230.7	265.7	6.1	9.6	69.1	64.5
83 Travel goods, handbags & similar containers	5.5	6.4	43.9	41.9	1.3	1.1	11.1	9.7
84 Articles of apparel; clothing accessories	117.5	121.5	829.2	819.0	26.7	25.2	208.2	189.4
85 Footwear	24.7	25.5	176.3	176.2	3.8	2.3	20.8	20.0
87 Professional, scientific & controlling apparatus nes	65.1	56.8	544.3	450.7	279.5	297.5	1,948.3	2,526.6
88 Photographic apparatus; optical goods; watches & clocks	17.7	16.2	187.8	143.4	51.2	46.4	429.3	468.7
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes	249.5	257.0	1,846.3	1,938.3	332.3	330.8	3,133.7	3,015.7
<b>9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere</b>	<b>100.6</b>	<b>129.1</b>	<b>843.4</b>	<b>840.6</b>	<b>227.4</b>	<b>258.4</b>	<b>1,745.9</b>	<b>1,925.5</b>
<b>Unclassified estimates<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>125.4</b>	<b>168.7</b>	<b>1,090.1</b>	<b>1,318.6</b>	<b>64.6</b>	<b>78.9</b>	<b>539.9</b>	<b>675.7</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,400.3</b>	<b>3,831.9</b>	<b>30,848.1</b>	<b>32,175.0</b>	<b>5,870.8</b>	<b>6,237.8</b>	<b>52,802.9</b>	<b>55,192.8</b>

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

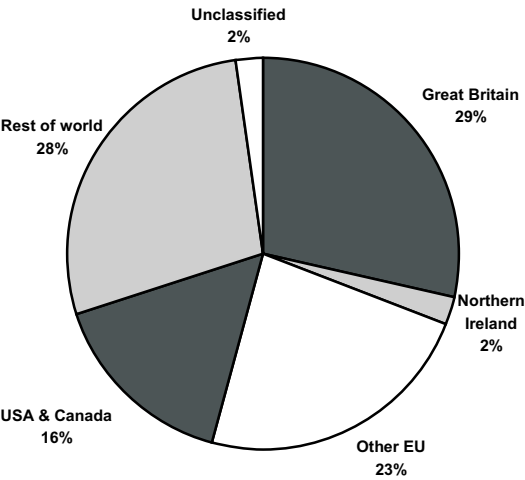
**Table 4 Trade by Country**

€ million

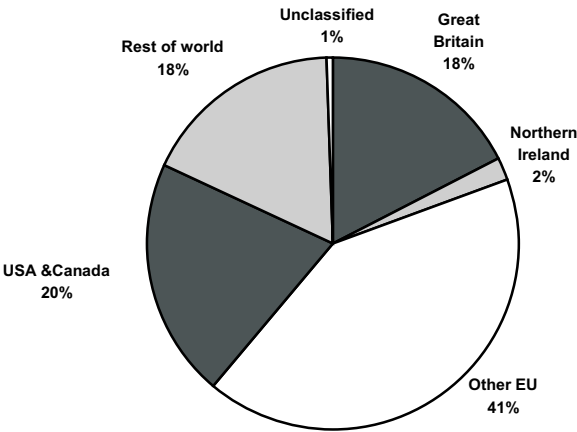
Country	Imports				Exports			
	Aug 2003	Aug 2004	Jan-Aug 2003	Jan-Aug 2004	Aug 2003	Aug 2004	Jan-Aug 2003	Jan-Aug 2004
Great Britain	977.2	1,092.0	8,773.6	8,916.6	1,000.1	1,095.1	8,797.7	8,655.3
Northern Ireland	80.8	89.1	677.5	710.4	112.0	125.8	941.5	956.5
Austria	7.5	7.9	102.3	82.1	23.9	27.1	207.1	217.6
Belgium	46.5	63.8	519.5	573.1	662.0	809.8	6,274.8	8,317.1
Cyprus	0.8	0.1	6.3	3.8	1.3	1.9	17.6	15.0
Czech Republic	7.5	2.9	99.1	72.6	11.7	13.4	104.0	116.3
Denmark	31.5	49.7	514.8	484.0	33.0	30.3	309.9	304.9
Estonia	3.1	0.5	23.9	16.7	1.1	0.8	19.1	8.8
Finland	20.6	17.4	183.0	152.2	18.5	22.2	182.2	192.9
France	128.6	116.5	1,213.5	1,368.9	374.0	343.1	3,234.1	3,258.7
Germany	209.4	245.4	2,302.5	2,451.4	509.7	478.9	4,361.7	4,058.9
Greece	3.6	2.7	31.7	27.3	19.5	22.6	208.5	221.8
Italy	61.4	67.6	723.6	703.2	229.0	248.2	2,229.9	2,532.7
Latvia	4.8	3.0	34.6	29.5	0.9	0.2	16.0	14.8
Lithuania	1.0	0.8	15.4	13.6	1.3	0.5	9.9	5.3
Luxembourg	1.8	2.1	13.5	17.9	2.5	6.4	70.8	66.7
Hungary	10.0	13.0	68.2	142.0	8.0	9.8	89.2	91.7
Malta	0.1	0.2	3.0	1.8	1.3	0.7	11.2	7.1
Netherlands	131.8	158.7	1,121.7	1,218.6	356.8	291.4	2,591.6	2,413.0
Poland	10.8	5.8	98.0	85.0	19.2	19.4	164.0	161.0
Portugal	10.9	14.1	112.7	121.6	23.7	28.3	192.5	227.3
Slovakia	1.8	0.7	11.7	16.1	2.0	2.2	23.3	24.0
Slovenia	0.9	0.8	10.7	8.5	1.9	0.9	22.8	18.1
Spain	30.5	34.4	403.8	418.5	160.9	178.6	1,548.1	1,555.7
Sweden	28.6	39.3	287.0	350.5	61.8	58.4	645.4	616.6
EU Country not specified	36.0	45.2	288.8	298.4	0.2	3.1	0.9	13.9
<b>Total EU<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>1,847.5</b>	<b>2,073.9</b>	<b>17,640.5</b>	<b>18,284.2</b>	<b>3,636.4</b>	<b>3,819.1</b>	<b>32,273.9</b>	<b>34,071.6</b>
<i>of which EU-15</i>	<b>1,806.7</b>	<b>2,046.0</b>	<b>17,269.4</b>	<b>17,894.7</b>	<b>3,587.6</b>	<b>3,769.2</b>	<b>31,796.7</b>	<b>33,609.5</b>
Australia	13.6	12.5	78.3	100.6	64.7	56.3	435.1	470.8
Brazil	12.2	19.6	147.0	174.7	10.2	11.2	90.0	89.7
Canada	69.6	22.7	305.2	181.1	34.6	23.2	269.2	222.2
China	173.8	267.4	1,266.2	1,774.9	57.4	48.5	354.5	401.3
Hong Kong	33.5	37.9	248.4	271.4	52.9	54.5	422.7	582.8
India	11.3	12.4	94.4	93.8	6.6	8.1	61.6	71.4
Japan	184.0	165.4	1,541.9	1,418.4	157.2	169.0	1,309.8	1,507.1
Malaysia	25.9	42.2	311.3	271.4	41.1	32.5	367.4	288.7
Mexico	12.1	11.6	161.6	104.4	27.6	38.6	403.8	269.2
Norway	52.7	69.4	492.0	588.4	27.5	44.8	360.0	316.4
Philippines	12.0	7.7	135.5	75.8	13.2	15.7	134.0	126.3
Russia	3.2	4.1	30.5	42.4	17.8	14.6	157.7	136.3
Singapore	61.9	71.9	654.8	619.8	54.9	75.3	488.4	584.9
South Africa	12.6	22.0	105.2	115.7	18.2	15.0	186.1	171.7
South Korea	45.0	106.8	487.1	602.8	30.4	39.5	333.0	386.4
Switzerland	31.1	27.9	318.8	350.0	153.4	216.5	1,788.4	1,925.1
Taiwan	58.2	67.6	500.1	604.2	16.9	30.8	186.5	211.1
Thailand	24.3	25.1	207.6	237.9	12.3	7.1	92.0	127.3
Turkey	16.1	27.4	198.7	211.9	24.2	29.9	226.8	197.3
USA	570.4	582.5	4,670.8	4,712.3	1,252.9	1,261.6	11,225.2	11,159.8
Other countries <sup>2</sup>	59.9	67.6	632.2	641.1	129.5	186.9	1,270.2	1,527.6
Country unknown <sup>3</sup>	10.2	8.1	80.9	69.6	30.4	30.1	360.5	285.7
Unclassified estimates <sup>4</sup>	59.1	78.5	539.1	628.3	0.6	9.1	6.1	62.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,400.3</b>	<b>3,831.9</b>	<b>30,848.1</b>	<b>32,175.0</b>	<b>5,870.8</b>	<b>6,237.8</b>	<b>52,802.9</b>	<b>55,192.8</b>

<sup>1</sup> On 1st May 2004, ten countries joined the EU - Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia.<sup>2</sup> Other non-EU countries not listed individually.<sup>3</sup> Trade for which the country of origin or country of final destination is unknown.<sup>4</sup> Estimates not allocated by country.

**Imports, August 2004** (See Table 4)



**Exports, August 2004** (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.

**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 6,715 while about 2,045 must make an export return. The response rate in terms of number of traders in August 2004 was 89%, 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.