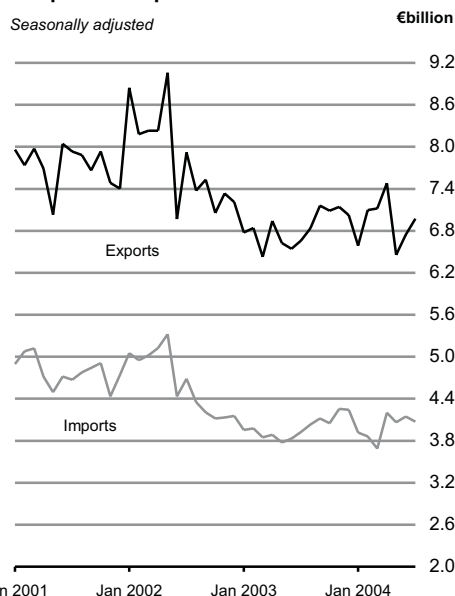




External Trade

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

Imports v Exports



	Seasonally adjusted		
	Imports	Exports	Surplus
May 2004	€4,063m	€6,456m	€2,393m
June 2004	€4,146m	€6,744m	€2,598m
July 2004	€4,074m	€6,973m	€2,899m
August 2004 (Preliminary)	€4,350m	€7,380m	€3,030m

Merchandise Trade strong in August

Seasonally adjusted merchandise trade (*see Table 2*) for August 2004 (preliminary) show exports increased by 6% to €7,380m on July 2004 and imports increased by 7% to €4,350m. Relative to June 2004, exports for July 2004 increased by 3% to €6,973m but imports decreased by 2% to €4,074m.

The unadjusted merchandise trade (*see Table 1*) for August 2004 (preliminary) give exports of €6,220m, an increase of 6% on the August 2003 level of €5,885m, and imports of €3,820m, an increase of 12% on the August 2003 figure of €3,400m. The July exports are €6,964m, an increase of €298m (+4%) on July 2003, while imports increased slightly to €3,868m.

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

Exports increased from €46,932m to €48,916m (+4%) -

- ◆ Medical and pharmaceutical products increased from €7,820m to €8,988m (+15%) and Professional, scientific & controlling apparatus from €1,669m to €2,222m (+33%) but Computer equipment decreased from €8,187m to €7,366m (-10%).
- ◆ Exports increased to Belgium from €5,613m to €7,507m (+34%) and to Italy from €2,001m to €2,280m (+14%). Exports decreased to Great Britain from €7,798m to €7,536m (-3%), to Germany from €3,852m to €3,566m (-7%) and to the USA from €9,972m to €9,898m (-1%).

Imports increased from €27,448m to €28,275m (+3%) -

- ◆ Other transport equipment (including aviation) increased from €265m to €866m and Organic chemicals from €1,016m to €1,388m (+37%). Computer equipment decreased from €4,440m to €4,383m (-1%) and Medical and pharmaceutical products from €1,313m to €1,114m (-15%).
- ◆ Imports from China increased from €1,092m to €1,507m (+38%) and from France from €1,085m to €1,236m (+14%). Imports from Japan decreased from €1,358m to €1,253m (-8%).

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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					
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
2003 ²	47,853.3	82,009.2	34,155.9	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
2003 ² January	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	3,850.3	6,665.5	2,815.2	253.3	411.2	114.0	107.6	94.4
August	3,400.0	5,884.9	2,484.9	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
2004 ² January ³	3,929.7	6,129.6	2,200.0	250.1	385.8	115.5	103.4	89.6
February	3,798.2	6,767.1	2,968.9	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 ⁴	3,820.0	6,220.0	2,400.0	..	..	..	..	..

¹ Export Price Index divided by Import Price Index² Provisional³ Revised⁴ Based on current Intrastat response levels. Figures rounded to the nearest EUR 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
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	4,032.7	6,835.2	2,802.4	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	3,917.2	6,590.3	2,673.1	247.3	413.8
	February	3,862.6	7,093.6	3,231.0	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	4,350.0	7,380.0	3,030.0	..	..

¹ Based on seasonal patterns up to December 2003.

.. Data not yet available

Table 3 Trade classified by Commodity

€ million

SITC (Rev 3)	Imports				Exports			
	Jul 2003	Jul 2004	Jan-Jul 2003	Jan-Jul 2004	Jul 2003	Jul 2004	Jan-Jul 2003	Jan-Jul 2004
0 Food and live animals	267.0	251.6	1,767.9	1,755.2	499.8	453.3	3,253.0	3,405.7
00 Live animals other than animals of Division 03	32.8	18.4	67.7	53.5	10.4	8.0	83.5	80.7
01 Meat & meat preparations	33.3	36.9	234.6	247.5	147.3	150.1	1,010.2	1,072.6
02 Dairy products and birds' eggs	27.0	24.2	196.5	189.7	95.8	94.5	544.8	598.7
03 Fish, crustaceans, molluscs and preparations thereof	7.8	8.4	56.0	57.5	25.3	24.4	215.7	213.9
04 Cereals & cereal preparations	37.9	40.5	280.2	293.7	15.7	14.1	122.3	123.3
05 Vegetables & fruit	55.2	49.4	369.8	355.1	21.1	18.4	134.1	117.5
06 Sugars, sugar preparations & honey	12.3	12.0	95.4	93.5	9.6	11.8	65.3	78.9
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices & manufactures thereof	18.5	14.6	140.5	132.4	24.8	19.5	152.6	159.2
08 Feeding stuff for animals (excl unmilled cereals)	24.3	31.0	193.5	204.2	12.1	15.5	84.4	97.4
09 Miscellaneous edible products & preparations	18.1	16.2	133.7	128.0	137.6	97.1	840.1	863.4
1 Beverages and tobacco	58.9	61.5	360.1	354.2	78.1	71.0	554.6	499.5
11 Beverages	51.7	56.2	317.5	318.9	69.1	61.6	496.6	445.0
12 Tobacco & tobacco manufactures	7.2	5.2	42.5	35.3	9.0	9.3	58.0	54.5
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	66.0	67.2	459.0	464.5	76.2	83.5	505.3	565.1
21 Hides, skins & furskins, raw	0.5	0.2	3.1	1.3	6.4	5.5	48.9	45.6
22 Oil seeds & oleaginous fruits	0.4	0.9	5.3	11.7	0.1	0.3	0.3	4.1
23 Crude rubber (incl synthetic & reclaimed)	1.7	1.3	12.0	10.4	0.1	0.1	0.7	1.0
24 Cork & wood	31.1	28.3	188.5	196.7	8.7	6.9	49.4	49.6
25 Pulp & waste paper	2.0	2.1	12.9	12.2	1.7	4.7	12.7	21.4
26 Textile fibres & their wastes	2.1	1.4	24.5	10.4	12.5	9.2	75.1	61.3
27 Crude fertilisers & minerals (excl coal, petroleum and precious stones)	13.2	14.5	91.8	88.1	5.3	5.8	30.8	31.2
28 Metalliferous ores & metal scrap	8.2	12.0	56.4	64.2	36.7	45.8	241.5	306.6
29 Crude animal & vegetable materials nes	6.9	6.6	64.7	69.4	4.9	5.1	45.9	44.3
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	152.7	180.3	1,175.4	1,289.2	19.9	46.1	156.5	161.0
32 Coal, coke & briquettes	9.8	5.1	71.5	108.9	4.7	2.6	48.0	27.0
33 Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials	127.4	161.4	943.7	1,063.4	14.6	41.8	105.6	125.5
34 Gas, natural & manufactured	13.1	10.8	143.5	95.8	0.2	0.9	1.6	3.1
35 Electric Current	2.5	3.0	16.7	21.0	0.3	0.8	1.2	5.3
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	10.8	10.5	71.9	67.6	3.1	1.9	17.1	14.6
41 Animal oils & fats	0.3	0.4	2.1	2.6	2.2	1.5	14.2	11.1
42 Fixed vegetable fats & oils	6.6	6.7	44.3	42.2	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.7
43 Animal or vegetable fats & oils, processed; waxes	3.9	3.4	25.5	22.7	0.8	0.3	2.5	2.7
5 Chemicals and related products nes	509.6	542.1	4,064.0	4,188.9	2,877.5	3,220.9	20,975.7	22,586.9
51 Organic chemicals	111.1	139.8	1,015.6	1,388.4	1,143.6	1,119.5	8,813.2	9,067.9
52 Inorganic chemicals	13.4	15.5	89.8	104.3	10.8	11.6	68.5	100.7
53 Dyeing, tanning & colouring materials	14.7	15.1	98.6	100.6	5.0	6.4	38.2	41.8
54 Medical & pharmaceutical products	185.4	166.7	1,313.4	1,113.7	1,053.6	1,372.4	7,820.3	8,988.0
55 Essential oils; perfume materials; toilet & cleansing preparations	70.5	74.6	508.6	494.1	377.3	463.5	2,493.3	2,784.4
56 Fertilisers (other than those of Division 27)	5.6	10.9	161.0	154.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.6
57 Plastics in primary forms	38.8	45.2	306.0	318.7	13.5	15.4	104.0	111.4
58 Plastics in non-primary forms	37.6	37.5	261.1	252.2	17.0	21.2	123.7	130.0
59 Chemical materials & products nes	32.5	36.8	310.0	262.9	256.7	210.8	1,513.9	1,362.1

Table 3 Trade classified by Commodity - continued

€ million

SITC (Rev 3)	Imports				Exports			
	Jul 2003	Jul 2004	Jan-Jul 2003	Jan-Jul 2004	Jul 2003	Jul 2004	Jan-Jul 2003	Jan-Jul 2004
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	371.8	372.8	2,510.1	2,510.6	158.9	151.4	1,065.1	1,039.7
61 Leather; leather manufactures nes; dressed furskins	1.0	1.1	5.9	6.5	3.3	3.3	26.8	15.1
62 Rubber manufactures nes	19.9	20.7	142.6	136.7	7.3	7.2	51.5	52.2
63 Cork & wood manufactures (excl furniture)	23.0	25.9	157.1	169.8	20.7	15.9	121.0	128.5
64 Paper, paperboard & articles thereof	68.2	58.3	480.5	420.3	17.4	15.7	120.6	113.7
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles & related products	41.3	40.5	287.5	282.9	29.2	30.6	215.8	188.7
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures nes	47.8	52.1	314.8	337.8	29.3	32.2	212.7	212.7
67 Iron & steel	48.5	61.9	334.1	364.1	4.3	5.6	30.0	37.7
68 Non-ferrous metals	36.6	35.3	236.9	261.1	6.7	6.4	38.8	42.3
69 Manufactures of metals nes	85.5	77.0	550.8	531.3	40.7	34.4	247.9	248.7
7 Machinery and transport equipment	1,609.8	1,578.1	11,860.5	12,315.3	1,799.5	1,769.2	13,232.7	12,746.2
71 Power generating machinery & equipment	60.2	64.5	352.2	350.5	33.7	23.1	188.0	178.7
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries	98.7	92.9	647.2	581.6	23.1	23.3	170.4	164.9
73 Metalworking machinery	26.8	12.1	110.9	81.2	5.1	6.5	35.6	52.8
74 General industrial machinery & equipment nes & parts nes	120.3	100.1	737.4	632.6	97.7	106.2	604.4	697.3
75 Office machines & automatic data processing machines	600.1	601.0	4,439.8	4,382.7	1,102.9	953.2	8,186.5	7,365.7
76 Telecommunications & sound equipment	106.8	117.8	746.2	827.3	99.0	115.4	784.9	765.2
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances nes & parts	379.6	357.4	2,650.6	2,685.6	400.1	513.2	2,977.4	3,274.9
78 Road vehicles (incl air-cushion vehicles)	163.8	181.4	1,910.8	1,907.2	27.5	22.7	225.0	179.3
79 Other transport equipment	53.5	50.8	265.4	866.5	10.4	5.6	60.4	67.4
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	550.4	512.9	3,471.2	3,448.6	859.6	781.4	5,178.2	5,622.2
81 Prefab buildings; plumbing & electrical fixtures & fittings	19.3	22.6	122.9	140.0	9.1	5.4	58.6	50.2
82 Furniture & parts thereof; bedding, cushions etc	31.1	35.0	200.7	233.3	8.7	7.1	63.1	54.6
83 Travel goods, handbags & similar containers	6.2	6.1	38.4	35.6	1.2	0.9	9.8	8.2
84 Articles of apparel; clothing accessories	110.0	107.5	711.7	696.1	28.7	26.4	181.5	165.2
85 Footwear	24.1	25.1	151.5	150.2	3.5	2.2	17.0	17.2
87 Professional, scientific & controlling apparatus nes	76.3	58.6	479.1	393.7	329.7	320.2	1,668.7	2,222.3
88 Photographic apparatus; optical goods; watches & clocks	25.2	24.0	170.1	127.7	57.7	55.2	378.1	421.7
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes	258.1	234.1	1,596.8	1,671.9	421.0	364.0	2,801.5	2,682.8
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	111.0	121.4	742.8	717.0	227.6	297.6	1,518.6	1,667.1
Unclassified estimates¹	142.3	169.6	964.8	1,163.9	65.3	87.8	475.3	608.2
Total	3,850.3	3,868.0	27,447.8	28,274.9	6,665.5	6,964.1	46,932.2	48,916.1

¹ Estimates for which a commodity classification is not available.

Table 4 Trade by Country

€ million

Country	Imports				Exports			
	Jul 2003	Jul 2004	Jan-Jul 2003	Jan-Jul 2004	Jul 2003	Jul 2004	Jan-Jul 2003	Jan-Jul 2004
Great Britain	1,086.7	1,149.8	7,796.4	7,816.2	1,119.0	1,027.9	7,797.6	7,535.8
Northern Ireland	84.5	85.8	596.7	618.7	113.1	120.7	829.5	831.8
Austria	11.6	8.9	94.8	75.0	29.3	28.6	183.2	190.3
Belgium	71.2	78.0	473.1	499.1	783.9	936.1	5,612.8	7,507.2
Cyprus	0.6	0.2	5.5	3.6	3.8	1.8	16.2	13.1
Czech Republic	11.1	6.1	91.6	69.3	14.3	13.1	92.3	102.8
Denmark	83.1	52.8	483.2	435.1	43.8	37.7	276.9	274.5
Estonia	2.6	2.2	20.8	16.1	4.2	0.6	18.0	8.0
Finland	22.0	19.0	162.4	134.4	22.8	22.1	163.7	170.8
France	119.4	132.3	1,084.9	1,236.3	439.7	396.4	2,860.1	2,913.3
Germany	268.0	280.9	2,093.1	2,198.5	548.2	462.0	3,851.9	3,565.7
Greece	4.9	3.1	28.1	24.4	29.1	24.5	189.0	199.0
Italy	97.4	97.3	662.1	633.5	251.3	302.4	2,000.9	2,279.6
Latvia	5.9	3.6	29.8	26.7	2.5	0.1	15.1	14.5
Lithuania	2.2	0.8	14.4	12.8	1.8	0.3	8.6	4.8
Luxembourg	1.5	3.1	11.7	15.6	10.1	8.6	68.3	60.4
Hungary	8.4	16.0	58.1	129.0	12.0	11.4	81.2	81.9
Malta	0.2	0.2	2.9	1.7	0.9	0.5	9.9	6.4
Netherlands	150.9	131.6	989.9	1,055.3	377.7	296.9	2,234.8	2,125.9
Poland	12.7	7.9	87.2	79.2	23.6	17.5	144.8	141.6
Portugal	13.4	16.0	101.8	107.4	30.0	20.6	168.8	198.0
Slovakia	1.3	0.9	10.0	15.4	4.1	1.8	21.3	21.8
Slovenia	0.6	0.6	9.8	7.7	1.9	1.2	20.9	17.3
Spain	41.5	46.0	373.3	377.1	223.4	210.9	1,387.2	1,376.0
Sweden	32.0	41.3	258.4	309.9	65.8	62.3	583.6	558.8
EU Country not specified	30.7	29.9	252.8	249.3	0.2	4.7	0.7	10.7
Total EU¹	2,164.5	2,214.5	15,793.0	16,147.2	4,156.5	4,010.9	28,637.5	30,209.9
<i>of which EU-15</i>	2,118.9	2,175.9	15,462.7	15,785.7	4,087.4	3,962.4	28,209.1	29,797.7
Australia	8.5	9.3	64.7	87.9	54.8	61.4	370.4	414.5
Brazil	48.4	24.8	134.8	155.0	18.2	8.6	79.8	78.5
Canada	19.5	18.1	235.5	158.4	26.3	27.0	234.6	199.0
China	173.5	201.2	1,092.5	1,507.2	42.8	52.3	297.1	352.8
Hong Kong	29.8	41.7	214.9	233.6	45.8	83.7	369.8	528.3
India	11.3	11.1	83.1	81.5	8.5	8.1	55.0	63.4
Japan	206.7	209.3	1,357.9	1,253.0	135.5	217.1	1,152.6	1,338.1
Malaysia	37.5	35.4	285.5	229.3	44.0	40.4	326.3	256.2
Mexico	18.0	16.4	149.5	92.8	33.3	33.0	376.3	230.5
Norway	59.7	54.6	439.3	513.5	32.2	39.6	332.4	271.6
Philippines	11.8	9.0	123.5	68.2	19.0	15.6	120.8	110.6
Russia	3.8	2.3	27.3	37.6	21.7	17.8	139.8	121.7
Singapore	86.7	80.5	592.8	547.9	57.9	92.2	433.5	509.6
South Africa	16.4	15.6	92.6	93.1	24.4	18.8	167.9	156.7
South Korea	51.1	88.5	442.1	495.8	37.8	55.7	302.6	346.9
Switzerland	32.1	55.9	287.7	321.8	192.5	307.7	1,635.0	1,708.6
Taiwan	62.2	71.0	442.0	536.1	20.7	37.9	169.6	180.3
Thailand	25.1	32.0	183.2	212.9	11.5	12.5	79.7	120.2
Turkey	20.8	29.1	182.7	184.8	23.6	32.1	202.6	167.5
USA	610.2	483.1	4,100.4	4,129.8	1,429.2	1,528.1	9,972.4	9,898.2
Other countries ²	76.3	80.4	572.3	573.8	148.0	209.7	1,140.7	1,340.7
Country unknown ³	9.5	7.4	70.6	61.6	80.1	43.9	330.0	255.6
Unclassified estimates ⁴	66.7	76.9	480.0	552.3	1.2	10.3	5.5	56.6
Total	3,850.3	3,868.0	27,447.8	28,274.9	6,665.5	6,964.1	46,932.2	48,916.1

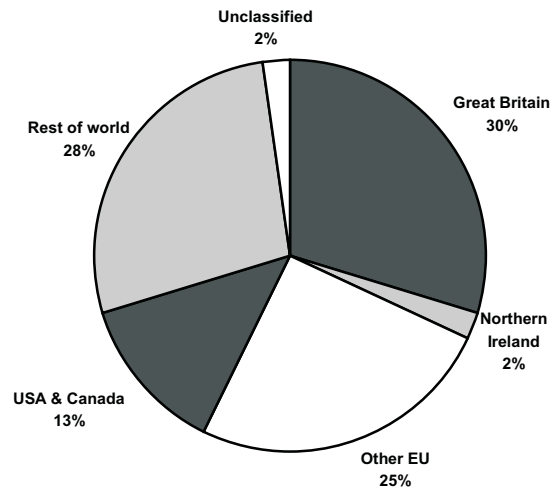
¹ On 1st May 2004, ten countries joined the EU - Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia.

² Other non-EU countries not listed individually.

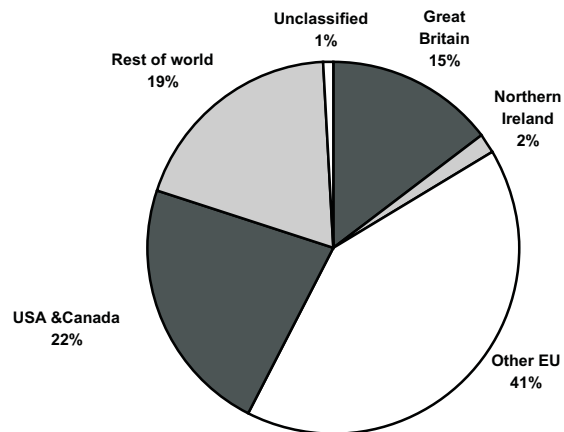
³ Trade for which the country of origin or country of final destination is unknown.

⁴ Estimates not allocated by country.

Imports, July 2004 (See Table 4)



Exports, July 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 6,665 while about 2,030 must make an export return. The response rate in terms of number of traders in July 2004 was 87%, 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.