



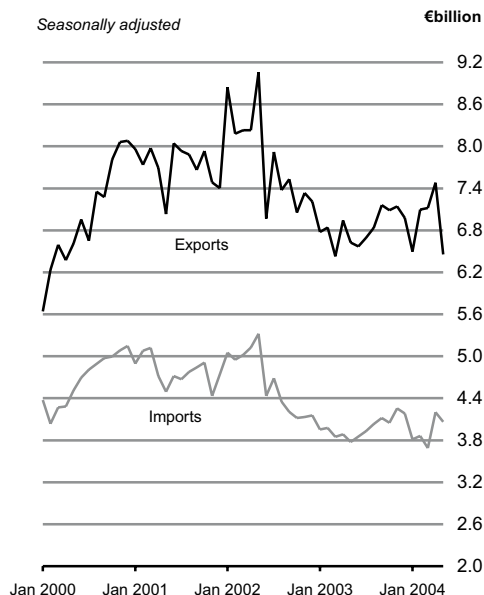
**Central Statistics Office**  
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

25 August 2004

## External Trade

May 2004 (Details),  
June 2004 (First estimate)

### Imports v Exports



	Seasonally adjusted		
	Imports	Exports	Surplus
March 2004	€3,688m	€7,121m	€3,433m
April 2004	€4,200m	€7,478m	€3,278m
May 2004	€4,063m	€6,456m	€2,393m
June 2004 (Preliminary)	€4,120m	€6,690m	€2,570m

### Small recovery in June exports

Preliminary seasonally adjusted figures for June 2004 relative to May 2004 (*see Table 2*) show exports increased by 4% to €6,690m, and imports increased by 1% to €4,120m. The May 2004 figures relative to April 2004 (*see graph and Table 2*) show exports decreased from €7,478m to €6,456m (-14%), while imports decreased from €4,200m to €4,063m (-3%).

On an unadjusted basis (*see Table 1*) preliminary figures for June 2004 show exports of €7,540m, an increase of €410m on June 2003, and imports of €4,060m, an increase of €376m. The value of exports in May 2004 was €6,327m, down €298m (-5%) on the May 2003 figure, while the value of imports for the same period was €4,024m, up €211m (+6%).

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

- ◆ Exports increased from €33,170m to €34,262m (+3%). Exports of Medical and pharmaceutical products increased from €5,464m to €5,954m (+9%) and of Professional, scientific & controlling apparatus from €1,062m to €1,585m (+49%). Exports of Computer equipment decreased from €5,838m to €5,337m (-9%).
- ◆ Exports to Belgium increased from €3,837m to €5,069m (+32%) and to Italy from €1,416m to €1,648m (+16%). Exports to Great Britain decreased from €5,567m to €5,283m (-5%) to Germany from €2,732m to €2,526m (-8%) and to the USA from €7,192m to €7,133m (-1%).
- ◆ Imports increased from €19,935m to €20,207m (+1%). Imports of Other transport equipment (including aviation) increased from €154m to €666m and of Organic chemicals from €780m to €1,016m (+30%). Imports of Computer equipment decreased from €3,293m to €3,152m (-4%) and of Medical and pharmaceutical products from €950m to €777m (-18%).
- ◆ Imports from Great Britain decreased from €5,608m to €5,483m (-2%). Imports from the USA increased from €2,909m to €3,056m (+5%) and from China from €770m to €1,117m (+45%).

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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					
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 <sup>2</sup>	55,628.1	93,675.2	38,047.1	275.7	434.9	126.7	118.5	93.5
2003 <sup>3</sup>	47,821.8	82,027.6	34,205.7	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 <sup>3</sup> 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 <sup>2</sup>	3,812.7	6,625.3	2,812.6	246.9	411.9	116.7	106.9	91.7
June	3,684.1	7,130.2	3,446.1	239.9	439.8	115.2	107.1	93.0
July	3,858.3	6,697.0	2,838.8	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 <sup>2</sup>	4,413.4	7,305.0	2,891.7	285.9	456.7	113.8	105.5	92.7
December	4,282.8	6,805.6	2,522.8	284.1	430.7	113.8	104.4	91.7
2004 <sup>3</sup> January	3,821.4	6,041.6	2,220.2	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	4,361.1	7,134.7	2,773.6	..	..	..	..	..
May	4,023.8	6,327.3	2,303.5	..	..	..	..	..
June <sup>4</sup>	4,060.0	7,540.0	3,480.0	..	..	..	..	..

<sup>1</sup> Export Price Index divided by Import Price Index<sup>2</sup> Revised<sup>3</sup> Provisional<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	3,854.4	6,571.5	2,717.1	252.0	405.0
	July	3,932.0	6,692.6	2,760.6	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	4,183.7	6,975.7	2,792.0	278.1	438.9
2004	January	3,809.4	6,495.7	2,686.4	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	4,200.2	7,478.3	3,278.2	..	..
	May	4,062.6	6,455.7	2,393.2	..	..
	June	4,120.0	6,690.0	2,570.0	..	..

<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			
	May 2003	May 2004	Jan-May 2003	Jan-May 2004	May 2003	May 2004	Jan-May 2003	Jan-May 2004
<b>0 Food and live animals</b>	<b>241.4</b>	<b>252.1</b>	<b>1,248.9</b>	<b>1,252.9</b>	<b>511.3</b>	<b>511.9</b>	<b>2,271.2</b>	<b>2,384.0</b>
00 Live animals other than animals of Division 03	2.8	9.2	25.9	23.4	12.4	9.5	61.7	59.7
01 Meat & meat preparations	36.5	38.3	168.6	169.0	154.3	150.8	708.1	755.7
02 Dairy products and birds' eggs	31.9	22.9	138.1	139.4	101.7	106.1	355.2	373.1
03 Fish, crustaceans, molluscs and preparations thereof	7.9	9.2	40.2	40.5	31.2	28.6	168.5	160.2
04 Cereals & cereal preparations	39.1	43.4	195.8	216.2	18.7	16.2	85.1	91.8
05 Vegetables & fruit	54.7	50.6	266.1	254.3	18.3	14.7	92.7	77.0
06 Sugars, sugar preparations & honey	14.1	18.0	68.7	68.6	9.0	11.3	44.8	53.9
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices & manufactures thereof	18.0	19.0	104.1	99.3	23.0	20.4	102.6	110.9
08 Feeding stuff for animals (excl unmilled cereals)	17.5	22.1	145.1	149.6	10.8	13.8	59.9	68.2
09 Miscellaneous edible products & preparations	18.9	19.4	96.3	92.7	132.0	140.4	592.7	633.5
<b>1 Beverages and tobacco</b>	<b>57.9</b>	<b>52.1</b>	<b>240.4</b>	<b>228.7</b>	<b>81.3</b>	<b>72.1</b>	<b>402.1</b>	<b>353.1</b>
11 Beverages	52.3	47.6	210.2	203.3	72.8	63.7	361.2	316.5
12 Tobacco & tobacco manufactures	5.6	4.5	30.2	25.4	8.4	8.5	40.9	36.6
<b>2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels</b>	<b>71.1</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>330.1</b>	<b>325.7</b>	<b>75.4</b>	<b>81.4</b>	<b>361.5</b>	<b>419.1</b>
21 Hides, skins & furskins, raw	0.2	0.1	2.2	0.8	6.1	5.5	35.1	33.3
22 Oil seeds & oleaginous fruits	0.7	1.9	4.2	6.7	0.1	0.3	0.3	3.4
23 Crude rubber (incl synthetic & reclaimed)	1.5	1.5	8.3	7.5	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.8
24 Cork & wood	31.4	27.2	129.8	139.5	7.9	7.8	34.2	36.0
25 Pulp & waste paper	2.3	1.2	9.4	8.2	1.7	2.0	9.3	14.7
26 Textile fibres & their wastes	4.1	0.9	20.0	7.3	10.6	9.1	51.0	43.8
27 Crude fertilisers & minerals (excl coal, petroleum and precious stones)	13.5	13.1	65.0	60.5	5.3	3.5	20.5	20.7
28 Metalliferous ores & metal scrap	7.5	9.9	41.4	42.8	36.1	48.4	174.7	233.2
29 Crude animal & vegetable materials nes	10.0	9.7	49.7	52.5	7.5	4.7	35.8	33.2
<b>3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials</b>	<b>143.2</b>	<b>192.7</b>	<b>889.7</b>	<b>921.2</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>124.3</b>	<b>57.1</b>
32 Coal, coke & briquettes	11.8	11.5	58.3	83.3	8.7	1.8	36.6	18.2
33 Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials	114.0	165.6	702.0	746.9	1.2	6.5	85.8	34.2
34 Gas, natural & manufactured	15.5	12.8	117.2	75.9	0.2	0.2	1.3	1.0
35 Electric Current	2.0	2.8	12.2	15.1	0.4	0.8	0.6	3.8
<b>4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>10.3</b>
41 Animal oils & fats	0.2	0.2	1.5	1.8	1.3	1.4	10.2	8.3
42 Fixed vegetable fats & oils	6.6	6.2	31.5	29.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.5
43 Animal or vegetable fats & oils, processed; waxes	3.2	3.3	18.0	15.7	0.1	0.2	1.6	1.5
<b>5 Chemicals and related products nes</b>	<b>616.3</b>	<b>653.5</b>	<b>3,021.0</b>	<b>2,995.4</b>	<b>3,086.3</b>	<b>2,861.4</b>	<b>14,861.3</b>	<b>15,807.8</b>
51 Organic chemicals	179.3	235.5	780.3	1,015.7	1,196.6	1,029.1	6,435.3	6,754.8
52 Inorganic chemicals	13.2	14.1	64.8	73.5	10.2	13.4	49.9	76.1
53 Dyeing, tanning & colouring materials	13.6	13.8	69.9	69.6	5.5	7.8	28.8	28.1
54 Medical & pharmaceutical products	172.5	177.5	949.7	777.1	1,116.2	1,138.0	5,463.7	5,954.2
55 Essential oils; perfume materials; toilet & cleansing preparations	80.7	74.7	366.9	344.3	458.6	423.0	1,689.8	1,904.0
56 Fertilisers (other than those of Division 27)	19.4	13.6	150.1	132.4	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.5
57 Plastics in primary forms	42.8	44.8	226.4	224.8	12.9	15.2	76.4	79.3
58 Plastics in non-primary forms	40.4	37.7	183.4	172.8	21.5	19.7	89.0	89.5
59 Chemical materials & products nes	54.3	41.8	229.6	185.2	264.6	215.0	1,027.8	921.2

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

€ million

SITC (Rev 3)	Imports				Exports			
	May 2003	May 2004	Jan-May 2003	Jan-May 2004	May 2003	May 2004	Jan-May 2003	Jan-May 2004
<b>6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material</b>	<b>357.2</b>	<b>352.7</b>	<b>1,783.9</b>	<b>1,752.2</b>	<b>151.8</b>	<b>139.9</b>	<b>763.7</b>	<b>734.1</b>
61 Leather; leather manufactures nes; dressed furskins	0.7	1.0	3.9	4.5	4.1	1.9	21.5	7.8
62 Rubber manufactures nes	20.8	19.1	104.4	97.1	7.1	6.7	36.8	36.7
63 Cork & wood manufactures (excl furniture)	21.2	22.8	112.1	116.7	17.0	20.6	83.0	94.5
64 Paper, paperboard & articles thereof	69.3	56.7	341.7	297.1	17.0	15.1	86.2	81.4
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles & related products	42.4	42.6	206.0	198.9	30.5	23.3	153.9	131.9
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures nes	46.8	44.8	221.3	236.9	32.4	29.1	157.2	150.7
67 Iron & steel	48.0	51.2	237.8	237.5	5.0	5.6	21.2	26.3
68 Non-ferrous metals	34.0	38.1	169.6	193.0	5.5	5.4	27.8	30.0
69 Manufactures of metals nes	74.1	76.4	387.1	370.5	33.4	32.2	176.2	174.9
<b>7 Machinery and transport equipment</b>	<b>1,599.2</b>	<b>1,740.7</b>	<b>8,718.4</b>	<b>8,993.7</b>	<b>1,655.9</b>	<b>1,643.0</b>	<b>9,459.0</b>	<b>9,055.6</b>
71 Power generating machinery & equipment	48.1	55.3	238.1	226.7	27.8	17.0	131.1	125.6
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries	105.4	79.4	452.8	400.9	23.8	23.3	124.3	111.8
73 Metalworking machinery	12.8	10.2	61.1	55.4	6.0	8.2	26.3	39.5
74 General industrial machinery & equipment nes & parts nes	112.9	91.5	508.6	443.5	87.5	84.7	424.7	456.4
75 Office machines & automatic data processing machines	544.9	678.6	3,292.8	3,152.4	961.9	881.8	5,837.7	5,336.8
76 Telecommunications & sound equipment	93.4	120.0	537.2	604.2	105.6	112.6	570.4	537.7
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances nes & parts	385.1	368.4	1,906.8	1,933.0	405.2	479.6	2,137.5	2,263.0
78 Road vehicles (incl air-cushion vehicles)	223.7	271.6	1,566.8	1,511.5	30.9	24.6	168.0	127.9
79 Other transport equipment	73.0	65.6	154.3	666.2	7.2	11.1	39.0	57.1
<b>8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles</b>	<b>474.9</b>	<b>455.1</b>	<b>2,432.5</b>	<b>2,442.2</b>	<b>755.0</b>	<b>709.7</b>	<b>3,514.2</b>	<b>4,006.1</b>
81 Prefab buildings; plumbing & electrical fixtures & fittings	16.8	20.3	84.7	98.5	7.9	7.4	41.0	36.1
82 Furniture & parts thereof; bedding, cushions etc	29.5	36.2	141.6	164.0	8.2	7.5	46.3	38.8
83 Travel goods, handbags & similar containers	5.5	5.3	27.0	23.7	1.4	1.7	7.5	6.0
84 Articles of apparel; clothing accessories	84.4	82.1	519.6	498.0	25.1	21.5	129.9	124.8
85 Footwear	16.8	18.5	107.9	105.1	2.2	2.4	10.7	11.8
87 Professional, scientific & controlling apparatus nes	82.3	56.2	325.2	280.9	310.9	278.1	1,062.2	1,585.3
88 Photographic apparatus; optical goods; watches & clocks	20.8	16.8	120.5	84.6	58.9	58.9	259.9	297.5
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes	218.7	219.6	1,106.0	1,187.5	340.4	332.2	1,956.7	1,905.8
<b>9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere</b>	<b>106.0</b>	<b>83.7</b>	<b>529.4</b>	<b>469.2</b>	<b>229.0</b>	<b>212.3</b>	<b>1,056.1</b>	<b>1,066.5</b>
<b>Unclassified estimates<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>135.4</b>	<b>165.9</b>	<b>689.6</b>	<b>778.8</b>	<b>67.3</b>	<b>84.4</b>	<b>344.6</b>	<b>368.6</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,812.7</b>	<b>4,023.8</b>	<b>19,934.9</b>	<b>20,206.6</b>	<b>6,625.3</b>	<b>6,327.3</b>	<b>33,170.1</b>	<b>34,262.3</b>

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

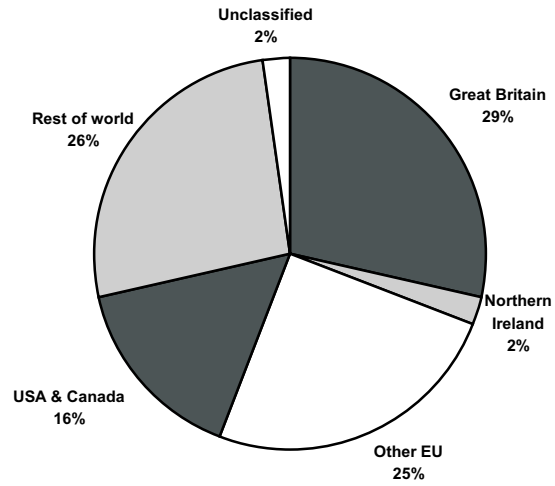
**Table 4 Trade by Country**

€ million

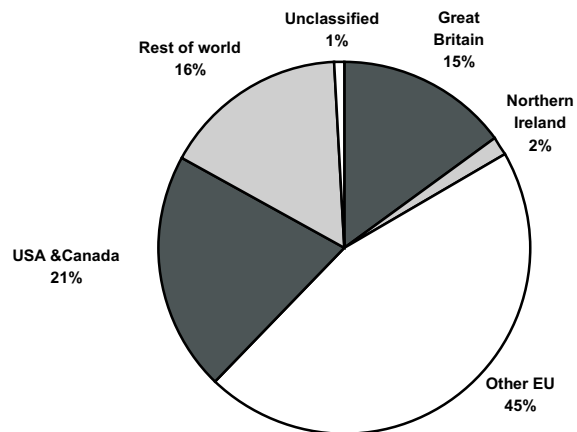
Country	Imports				Exports			
	May 2003	May 2004	Jan-May 2003	Jan-May 2004	May 2003	May 2004	Jan-May 2003	Jan-May 2004
Great Britain	1,085.5	1,153.3	5,607.6	5,482.6	995.6	941.3	5,567.0	5,283.3
Northern Ireland	91.1	84.2	415.6	430.6	119.9	121.4	589.3	570.1
Austria	11.3	9.5	66.5	57.6	26.2	23.4	126.2	132.8
Belgium	58.5	77.7	345.9	327.4	882.1	926.0	3,836.9	5,068.8
Cyprus	0.7	0.3	4.4	2.8	3.8	1.7	10.5	8.7
Czech Republic	12.4	7.7	68.5	58.0	12.8	12.7	65.6	77.3
Denmark	63.6	48.9	340.0	345.8	37.3	36.5	191.4	196.8
Estonia	3.9	1.5	14.9	13.2	2.0	0.8	11.2	6.6
Finland	22.1	15.7	119.5	99.4	25.1	26.1	117.7	124.7
France	136.3	154.7	820.2	816.6	373.2	358.1	1,948.8	2,037.6
Germany	269.7	310.2	1,582.7	1,608.9	575.7	491.6	2,731.6	2,525.9
Greece	4.2	3.5	18.4	17.7	26.6	29.3	131.8	144.6
Italy	88.2	87.6	479.8	433.8	274.0	303.9	1,415.6	1,647.8
Latvia	4.6	2.9	17.5	20.4	1.4	0.2	5.3	14.1
Lithuania	0.9	0.5	11.3	11.3	1.4	0.6	5.9	3.9
Luxembourg	2.0	2.4	8.8	9.8	10.6	6.5	44.9	39.5
Hungary	6.5	14.2	41.7	99.1	12.5	6.3	57.4	59.0
Malta	0.1	0.0	2.6	1.2	1.1	0.2	6.8	4.6
Netherlands	130.7	130.2	720.6	788.5	334.8	272.0	1,498.3	1,518.0
Poland	8.8	9.3	61.1	57.7	18.1	20.2	101.9	104.8
Portugal	14.3	14.8	77.5	75.7	21.2	32.1	113.3	146.2
Slovakia	1.7	1.8	6.4	13.7	3.3	2.6	14.7	18.1
Slovenia	1.8	0.8	7.7	6.0	3.0	0.9	17.3	15.1
Spain	46.3	41.9	289.5	272.1	196.2	249.9	916.9	953.2
Sweden	41.1	39.5	192.1	218.9	78.8	69.7	437.9	430.5
EU Country not specified	30.8	34.1	187.1	186.2	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.5
<b>Total EU<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2,137.2</b>	<b>2,247.3</b>	<b>11,508.0</b>	<b>11,454.9</b>	<b>4,036.9</b>	<b>3,934.1</b>	<b>19,964.5</b>	<b>21,132.6</b>
<i>of which EU-15</i>	<b>2,095.7</b>	<b>2,208.3</b>	<b>11,271.8</b>	<b>11,171.4</b>	<b>3,977.5</b>	<b>3,888.0</b>	<b>19,668.1</b>	<b>20,820.4</b>
Australia	8.9	10.1	47.6	60.6	54.9	56.3	256.6	276.4
Brazil	10.7	11.5	69.0	112.8	13.8	10.6	50.4	49.3
Canada	20.4	23.7	171.8	116.8	37.7	24.2	184.7	141.5
China	140.1	271.5	770.3	1,117.2	40.5	37.4	215.6	224.8
Hong Kong	30.3	29.2	160.2	152.8	52.6	83.3	254.5	343.8
India	11.2	11.7	61.5	58.7	6.2	6.1	35.0	48.6
Japan	226.1	142.5	949.4	878.9	161.0	163.3	820.8	866.2
Malaysia	29.8	33.9	217.8	167.2	47.3	35.6	233.4	187.1
Mexico	16.4	16.3	115.2	64.2	37.0	39.5	289.7	155.1
Norway	47.1	72.1	325.4	354.0	34.0	39.5	267.6	198.6
Philippines	19.0	10.4	89.3	51.4	17.5	14.6	89.3	76.8
Russia	3.9	2.7	21.7	33.8	31.2	18.6	100.3	86.7
Singapore	73.9	75.0	437.3	397.3	37.2	76.2	296.0	363.9
South Africa	16.4	13.1	67.2	64.3	26.7	18.1	122.8	113.0
South Korea	51.5	72.4	349.9	333.3	37.2	38.1	205.4	236.9
Switzerland	80.2	73.6	229.3	225.2	203.4	123.8	1,205.0	1,183.5
Taiwan	56.7	86.9	326.5	377.1	22.7	21.8	120.6	116.7
Thailand	25.1	24.2	139.6	158.4	10.5	28.6	50.1	84.3
Turkey	28.0	28.6	135.9	130.8	34.5	19.6	146.6	107.0
USA	625.5	602.7	2,908.9	3,056.4	1,454.1	1,292.2	7,191.6	7,133.1
Other countries <sup>2</sup>	73.0	75.0	427.1	403.1	183.8	186.5	862.8	934.9
Country unknown <sup>3</sup>	14.7	6.4	56.1	44.1	42.5	49.6	203.2	163.5
Unclassified estimates <sup>4</sup>	66.7	83.0	349.9	393.0	2.2	9.8	3.8	38.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,812.7</b>	<b>4,023.8</b>	<b>19,934.9</b>	<b>20,206.6</b>	<b>6,625.3</b>	<b>6,327.3</b>	<b>33,170.1</b>	<b>34,262.3</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, May 2004** (See Table 4)



**Exports, May 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 6,740 while about 2,050 must make an export return. The response rate in terms of number of traders in May 2004 was 88%, 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.