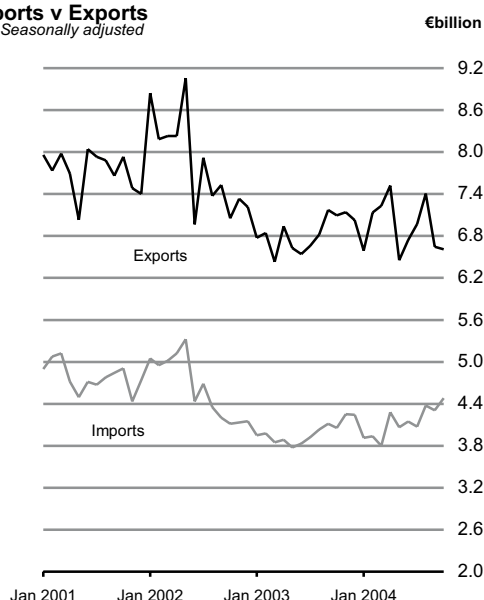




Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

28 January 2005

Imports v Exports
Seasonally adjusted



External Trade

October 2004 (Details), November 2004 (First estimate)

	<i>Seasonally adjusted</i>		
	Imports	Exports	Surplus
August 2004	€4,374m	€7,407m	€3,033m
September 2004	€4,309m	€6,644m	€2,335m
October 2004	€4,480m	€6,609m	€2,129m
November 2004 <i>(Preliminary)</i>	€3,960m	€7,170m	€3,210m

Exports up in November while imports down

Seasonally adjusted merchandise trade for November 2004 relative to October 2004, shows exports increased by 8% to €7,170m and imports decreased by 12% to €3,960m. On the same basis for October 2004 but relative to September 2004, exports decreased slightly to €6,609m while imports increased by 4% to €4,480m.

The unadjusted merchandise trade (*see Table 1*) for November 2004 (preliminary) gives exports of €7,330m, a slight increase on November of the previous year, and imports of €4,400m, a slight decrease over the same period. The corresponding October trade was €6,786m for exports, a decrease of €638m (-9%) on October 2003, and €4,427m for imports, an increase of €215m (+5%).

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

Exports increased from €67,859m to €69,358m (+2%) –

- ◆ Medical and Pharmaceutical products increased from €11,437m to €12,527m (+10%), Professional, scientific and controlling apparatus from €2,660m to €3,154m (+19%), Essential oils and cleansing preparations from €3,486m to €3,926m (+13%). Computer equipment decreased from €11,945m to €10,848m (-9%).
- ◆ Goods to Belgium increased from €8,439m to €10,380m (+23%) and to Japan from €1,704m to €1,939m (+14%). Goods to Germany decreased from €5,647m to €5,184m (-8%), to the Netherlands from €3,376m to €3,025m (-10%).

Imports increased from €39,100m to €40,965m (+5%) –

- ◆ Other transport equipment (including aviation) increased from €365m to €1,226m, Organic chemicals from €1,512m to €1,857m (+23%) and Petroleum and related materials from €1,333m to €1,674m (+26%). Medical and Pharmaceutical products decreased from €1,827m to €1,659m (-9%) and General industrial machinery and equipment decreased from €1,037m to €904m (-13%).
- ◆ Goods from China increased from €1,781m to €2,292m (+29%), Great Britain from €11,157m to €11,545m (+3%), France from €1,526m to €1,840m (+21%) and Germany from €2,845m to €3,066m (+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	47,856.6	82,016.7	34,160.1	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	3,850.3	6,665.5	2,815.2	253.3	411.2	114.0	107.6	94.4
August	3,400.3	5,870.8	2,470.5	221.6	360.3	115.3	107.9	93.5
September	4,039.8	7,632.5	3,592.7	263.6	469.4	114.7	107.3	93.5
October ³	4,211.7	7,423.7	3,212.0	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	3,925.5	6,129.6	2,204.1	250.1	385.8	115.5	103.4	89.6
February	3,870.6	6,806.0	2,935.5	249.7	437.0	115.0	102.3	88.9
March	4,330.7	8,115.7	3,785.0	271.4	498.7	117.0	105.8	90.4
April ³	4,444.8	7,172.5	2,727.7	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	250.6	446.7	116.6	103.0	88.3
August	3,831.9	6,237.8	2,405.8	244.5	392.3	118.4	105.0	88.7
September	4,153.9	7,217.9	3,064.1	268.8	457.2	116.8	104.4	89.4
October	4,426.6	6,785.7	2,359.1	..	..	..	..	..
November ⁴	4,400.0	7,330.0	2,930.0	..	..	..	..	..

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 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	4,033.0	6,818.8	2,785.8	263.3	415.5
	September	4,114.2	7,171.6	3,057.3	267.4	441.7
	October	4,053.5	7,096.6	3,043.1	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	3,800.7	7,231.3	3,430.6	238.6	447.5
	April	4,280.7	7,517.9	3,237.2	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	261.5	446.7
	August	4,374.3	7,406.8	3,032.5	279.1	463.4
	September	4,308.9	6,644.4	2,335.6	276.4	423.2
	October	4,479.9	6,609.4	2,129.5	..	..
	November	3,960.0	7,170.0	3,210.0	..	..

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			
	Oct 2003	Oct 2004	Jan-Oct 2003	Jan-Oct 2004	Oct 2003	Oct 2004	Jan-Oct 2003	Jan-Oct 2004
0 Food and live animals	286.4	293.2	2,534.4	2,532.5	514.3	513.2	4,744.9	4,879.8
00 Live animals other than animals of Division 03	36.7	41.3	115.8	113.1	16.7	45.6	152.0	158.8
01 Meat & meat preparations	36.0	40.2	343.3	368.1	171.2	164.8	1,508.0	1,586.9
02 Dairy products and birds' eggs	24.5	23.9	276.3	267.8	88.9	83.8	808.7	875.4
03 Fish, crustaceans, molluscs and preparations thereof	9.4	8.8	80.2	81.7	32.5	32.1	301.7	293.8
04 Cereals & cereal preparations	47.0	47.2	404.9	416.4	16.7	16.2	175.6	166.8
05 Vegetables & fruit	53.0	49.6	522.6	493.4	23.4	16.7	198.4	177.0
06 Sugars, sugar preparations & honey	15.1	16.1	135.7	137.0	10.9	9.7	99.8	114.2
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices & manufactures thereof	22.4	24.7	198.6	200.2	21.9	19.9	214.3	214.6
08 Feeding stuff for animals (excl unmilled cereals)	22.4	21.0	267.0	271.6	16.0	13.7	126.2	138.0
09 Miscellaneous edible products & preparations	19.7	20.4	189.9	183.1	116.1	110.8	1,160.2	1,154.2
1 Beverages and tobacco	75.6	69.0	554.9	548.8	140.7	140.1	905.5	825.1
11 Beverages	67.2	64.9	490.8	499.0	131.6	132.9	820.4	750.9
12 Tobacco & tobacco manufactures	8.4	4.1	64.1	49.9	9.1	7.1	85.1	74.1
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	73.4	72.1	662.3	681.8	77.1	78.5	725.9	793.8
21 Hides, skins & furskins, raw	0.7	0.1	5.1	2.0	8.6	7.0	73.3	68.8
22 Oil seeds & oleaginous fruits	1.0	1.0	8.8	15.9	0.0	0.2	0.5	5.3
23 Crude rubber (incl synthetic & reclaimed)	2.0	1.3	16.5	14.8	0.1	0.2	1.0	1.3
24 Cork & wood	32.2	29.5	278.0	287.5	6.8	6.1	70.0	68.0
25 Pulp & waste paper	0.9	1.8	17.3	17.6	2.1	3.8	18.1	30.4
26 Textile fibres & their wastes	2.3	1.4	30.6	14.9	9.0	10.9	102.0	90.5
27 Crude fertilisers & minerals (excl coal, petroleum and precious stones)	15.4	15.9	135.5	138.4	5.5	5.4	44.0	47.8
28 Metalliferous ores & metal scrap	9.6	11.7	83.3	96.9	35.7	36.8	349.4	414.6
29 Crude animal & vegetable materials nes	9.1	9.5	87.2	93.8	9.3	8.0	67.6	67.2
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	162.0	265.2	1,643.7	2,036.1	8.2	21.4	181.2	314.3
32 Coal, coke & briquettes	14.8	14.8	106.7	165.2	2.6	2.7	55.0	47.9
33 Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials	132.4	218.2	1,333.1	1,674.1	5.1	17.8	121.9	253.7
34 Gas, natural & manufactured	12.6	29.7	181.0	167.4	0.2	0.2	2.1	5.7
35 Electric Current	2.2	2.6	23.0	29.4	0.3	0.6	2.2	7.1
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	11.2	9.0	101.6	96.5	2.8	3.2	24.5	21.1
41 Animal oils & fats	0.2	0.5	3.0	3.9	2.6	2.1	20.1	15.7
42 Fixed vegetable fats & oils	7.3	5.7	63.0	61.2	0.1	0.1	0.8	1.1
43 Animal or vegetable fats & oils, processed; waxes	3.6	2.8	35.6	31.4	0.2	1.0	3.6	4.4
5 Chemicals and related products nes	646.4	643.0	5,762.0	5,916.5	3,070.0	2,768.7	29,928.3	31,293.5
51 Organic chemicals	239.6	236.9	1,511.6	1,856.7	1,292.6	994.2	12,500.2	12,377.1
52 Inorganic chemicals	14.3	15.0	129.2	147.4	12.6	15.6	106.1	140.6
53 Dyeing, tanning & colouring materials	15.1	13.5	144.9	143.9	4.7	3.9	51.7	55.7
54 Medical & pharmaceutical products	152.5	175.8	1,826.8	1,658.6	1,218.5	1,150.3	11,436.6	12,526.6
55 Essential oils; perfume materials; toilet & cleansing preparations	81.7	75.8	735.1	719.2	330.6	388.9	3,485.7	3,926.4
56 Fertilisers (other than those of Division 27)	16.7	11.7	190.9	200.3	0.1	0.0	0.6	0.6
57 Plastics in primary forms	47.7	51.8	443.1	465.9	17.0	17.8	150.0	157.6
58 Plastics in non-primary forms	38.9	31.4	362.2	357.8	14.4	17.8	166.4	179.1
59 Chemical materials & products nes	39.8	31.2	418.1	366.6	179.6	180.2	2,031.1	1,929.9

Table 3 Trade classified by Commodity - continued

€ million

SITC (Rev 3)	Imports				Exports			
	Oct 2003	Oct 2004	Jan-Oct 2003	Jan-Oct 2004	Oct 2003	Oct 2004	Jan-Oct 2003	Jan-Oct 2004
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	385.5	388.5	3,568.4	3,682.7	170.4	155.4	1,520.7	1,490.5
61 Leather; leather manufactures nes; dressed furskins	0.9	0.9	8.6	9.9	4.4	7.6	39.5	30.3
62 Rubber manufactures nes	18.5	18.6	196.3	192.6	8.4	7.9	73.2	74.1
63 Cork & wood manufactures (excl furniture)	28.2	26.9	228.4	249.2	21.5	19.6	177.8	188.8
64 Paper, paperboard & articles thereof	68.0	58.0	674.8	601.0	20.1	12.4	174.8	153.2
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles & related products	46.4	44.0	409.1	410.3	29.3	33.8	290.9	275.3
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures nes	53.0	58.0	460.0	500.3	37.4	30.9	314.5	305.3
67 Iron & steel	53.4	52.2	474.2	538.9	5.5	5.2	45.0	54.7
68 Non-ferrous metals	36.2	38.6	343.9	381.8	5.4	6.4	53.7	61.4
69 Manufactures of metals nes	80.9	91.4	773.2	798.6	38.2	31.6	351.2	347.2
7 Machinery and transport equipment	1,723.8	1,850.1	16,705.6	17,588.7	2,190.6	2,045.5	19,143.9	18,453.9
71 Power generating machinery & equipment	64.0	49.9	542.1	488.7	46.4	32.0	297.1	297.8
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries	74.3	81.6	858.8	824.1	25.7	22.2	234.0	237.2
73 Metalworking machinery	8.1	11.2	159.6	114.8	8.3	6.8	56.6	72.3
74 General industrial machinery & equipment nes & parts nes	91.7	94.8	1,036.6	904.3	98.2	91.8	859.2	973.4
75 Office machines & automatic data processing machines	756.4	732.4	6,500.4	6,446.2	1,436.9	1,346.5	11,944.8	10,848.0
76 Telecommunications & sound equipment	121.0	163.0	1,077.8	1,245.1	107.3	77.8	1,100.6	1,022.5
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances nes & parts	441.2	377.9	3,893.6	3,868.0	424.4	436.6	4,246.8	4,642.8
78 Road vehicles (incl air-cushion vehicles)	148.3	185.5	2,271.8	2,471.6	33.0	22.4	315.4	268.8
79 Other transport equipment	19.0	153.8	364.9	1,225.9	10.4	9.3	89.3	91.0
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	602.8	530.5	5,157.8	5,116.4	924.0	755.2	7,737.5	8,050.1
81 Prefab buildings; plumbing & electrical fixtures & fittings	22.0	24.2	181.0	211.5	7.5	7.5	79.6	73.9
82 Furniture & parts thereof; bedding, cushions etc	33.0	37.7	295.0	339.7	9.2	8.8	85.5	82.5
83 Travel goods, handbags & similar containers	4.8	4.8	53.8	52.8	1.3	0.8	13.5	12.4
84 Articles of apparel; clothing accessories	127.5	119.5	1,090.0	1,074.4	29.5	27.1	269.8	246.5
85 Footwear	24.4	25.9	227.2	231.2	2.5	2.8	25.7	25.6
87 Professional, scientific & controlling apparatus nes	76.8	58.4	691.7	571.8	387.4	292.6	2,660.4	3,153.6
88 Photographic apparatus; optical goods; watches & clocks	22.3	19.3	231.0	181.0	66.0	53.0	555.9	592.1
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes	292.1	240.7	2,388.1	2,454.0	420.5	362.5	4,047.1	3,863.5
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	98.4	111.7	1,028.6	1,092.6	248.7	233.4	2,254.8	2,445.6
Unclassified estimates¹	146.2	194.3	1,380.2	1,671.6	76.9	71.1	692.0	790.4
Total	4,211.7	4,426.6	39,099.6	40,964.5	7,423.7	6,785.7	67,859.2	69,358.1

¹ Estimates for which a commodity classification is not available.

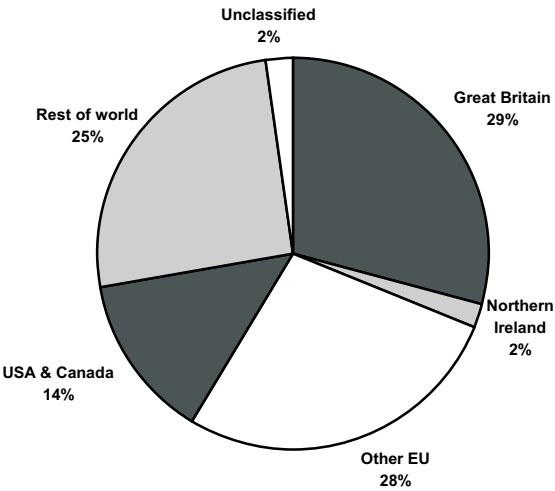
Table 4 Trade by Country

€ million

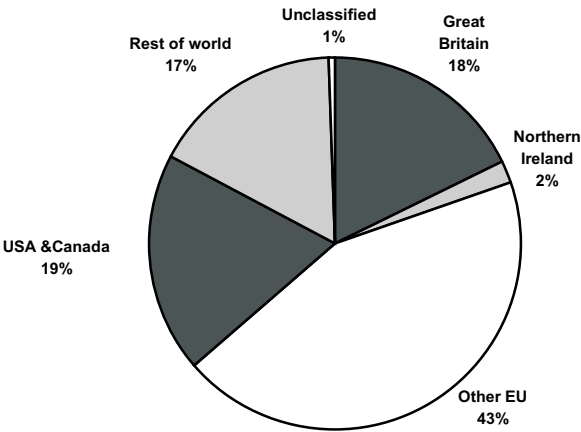
Country	Imports				Exports			
	Oct 2003	Oct 2004	Jan-Oct 2003	Jan-Oct 2004	Oct 2003	Oct 2004	Jan-Oct 2003	Jan-Oct 2004
Great Britain	1,248.2	1,285.1	11,157.2	11,544.9	1,204.7	1,211.6	11,124.9	11,101.2
Northern Ireland	91.7	92.6	858.0	908.7	126.1	119.5	1,192.3	1,208.3
Austria	13.9	9.2	125.8	101.7	30.0	35.6	266.1	283.7
Belgium	58.9	100.9	633.7	769.7	764.6	850.6	8,439.2	10,380.1
Cyprus	0.9	0.4	7.6	4.5	1.8	1.2	21.6	17.0
Czech Republic	9.0	9.3	119.8	86.9	20.2	22.4	137.0	154.5
Denmark	111.9	106.2	710.6	631.2	49.2	44.2	407.3	395.9
Estonia	3.8	0.9	30.6	19.2	1.4	0.8	21.7	10.8
Finland	17.0	19.5	218.0	193.6	25.3	26.2	231.7	243.7
France	156.9	189.1	1,525.8	1,839.6	471.1	434.2	4,140.4	4,102.1
Germany	289.5	299.7	2,845.4	3,065.5	640.4	495.3	5,646.8	5,183.6
Greece	5.4	3.1	40.9	33.4	29.4	21.2	265.2	264.8
Italy	92.6	101.1	901.8	899.4	563.0	277.1	3,110.0	3,084.3
Latvia	3.2	2.1	42.1	32.8	0.7	0.5	17.6	15.6
Lithuania	1.5	7.8	19.2	22.1	1.4	0.4	12.5	6.2
Luxembourg	1.5	1.7	17.4	21.7	8.4	8.0	86.5	83.9
Hungary	15.6	17.6	95.1	177.6	11.3	10.2	112.7	116.9
Malta	0.6	0.2	3.9	2.3	1.2	0.7	13.4	8.8
Netherlands	159.2	201.2	1,416.7	1,578.0	388.9	290.7	3,375.6	3,024.5
Poland	14.7	9.8	133.9	104.6	27.3	20.3	213.9	205.8
Portugal	16.6	20.9	145.1	161.8	23.9	26.5	242.2	276.0
Slovakia	1.4	0.8	14.5	17.6	3.1	1.8	29.3	30.0
Slovenia	1.5	1.2	14.3	10.9	1.7	1.2	26.6	20.7
Spain	41.3	45.5	478.7	514.6	197.2	181.1	1,942.6	1,933.5
Sweden	36.3	37.9	359.6	431.3	98.3	235.2	839.0	932.8
EU Country not specified	48.3	36.4	370.6	368.3	0.1	4.9	1.0	22.9
Total EU¹	2,441.4	2,600.2	22,286.3	23,542.0	4,690.8	4,321.3	41,917.4	43,107.5
<i>of which EU-15</i>	2,389.2	2,550.2	21,805.3	23,063.6	4,620.6	4,261.8	41,310.9	42,521.2
Australia	12.3	20.7	99.8	135.8	70.1	66.9	551.1	605.5
Brazil	13.5	11.1	181.4	197.3	17.6	11.7	120.5	121.6
Canada	35.8	18.0	371.6	222.9	39.1	28.2	345.9	275.6
China	247.4	253.9	1,781.4	2,291.7	51.3	56.0	461.5	511.9
Hong Kong	40.6	67.7	321.4	386.4	55.8	49.4	560.7	705.9
India	11.8	14.9	115.8	123.9	7.6	8.5	81.8	87.1
Japan	160.3	156.7	1,892.6	1,732.7	175.8	204.6	1,703.9	1,939.3
Malaysia	42.0	50.9	389.3	364.6	57.6	41.7	482.2	370.2
Mexico	12.3	13.7	185.8	128.2	26.6	35.2	467.6	348.8
Norway	60.5	74.2	622.4	740.7	47.1	39.0	457.7	395.9
Philippines	10.4	6.7	159.3	90.9	23.3	14.4	173.2	152.6
Russia	2.8	1.0	35.1	46.6	22.9	19.0	210.4	168.2
Singapore	113.3	68.9	858.4	745.5	72.6	74.5	613.9	709.8
South Africa	17.0	10.9	133.3	135.6	20.0	22.2	229.5	215.2
South Korea	62.8	112.6	603.9	807.0	39.2	49.0	429.0	491.1
Switzerland	36.9	41.9	410.1	463.9	219.5	171.1	2,113.0	2,315.9
Taiwan	76.7	88.1	644.0	772.6	23.0	30.2	243.0	275.7
Thailand	36.2	27.5	268.9	293.0	12.7	7.4	127.0	143.4
Turkey	18.8	17.5	233.0	250.5	24.8	30.0	270.3	253.2
USA	595.8	581.8	5,935.5	5,760.6	1,510.5	1,275.5	14,254.5	13,836.3
Other countries ²	80.4	85.8	787.7	840.1	167.2	189.0	1,598.0	1,902.0
Country unknown ³	9.6	8.9	100.0	87.0	47.7	32.1	438.8	357.0
Unclassified estimates ⁴	73.2	92.9	682.6	805.1	0.9	8.8	8.3	68.5
Total	4,211.7	4,426.6	39,099.6	40,964.5	7,423.7	6,785.7	67,859.2	69,358.1

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, October 2004 (See Table 4)



Exports, October 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 6,810 while about 2,045 must make an export return. The response rate in terms of number of traders in October 2004 was 90%, covering an estimated 95% 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.