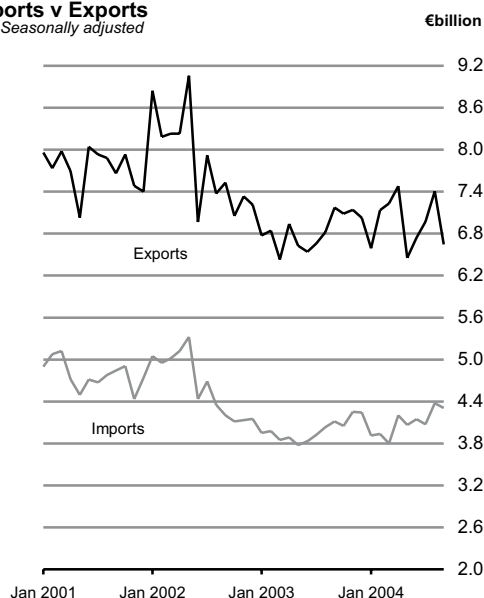




**Central Statistics Office**  
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

23 December 2004

**Imports v Exports**  
*Seasonally adjusted*



## External Trade

### September 2004 (Details), October 2004 (First estimate)

	<i>Seasonally adjusted</i>		
	Imports	Exports	Surplus
<b>July 2004</b>	€4,074m	€6,973m	€2,899m
<b>August 2004</b>	€4,374m	€7,407m	€3,033m
<b>September 2004</b>	€4,309m	€6,644m	€2,335m
<b>October 2004</b> (Preliminary)	€4,390m	€6,560m	€2,170m

### Exports down in both September and October

Seasonally adjusted merchandise trade for October 2004, relative to September 2004, shows exports decreased by 1% to €6,560m while imports increased by 2% to €4,390m. In September, on the same basis but relative to August 2004, exports decreased by 10% to €6,644m and imports decreased by 1% to €4,309m.

The unadjusted merchandise trade (*see Table 1*) for October 2004 (preliminary) gives exports of €6,730m, a decrease of 9% on October 2003, and imports of €4,340m, an increase of 3% over the same period. The corresponding September trade was €7,218m for exports, a decrease of €415m (-5%) on September 2003, and €4,154m for imports, an increase of €114m (+3%).

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

**Exports** increased from €60,436m to €62,535m (+3%) –

- ◆ Medical and Pharmaceutical products increased from €10,218m to €11,365m (+11%); Professional, scientific and controlling apparatus from €2,273m to €2,863m (+26%); Essential oils and cleansing preparations from €3,155m to €3,542m (+12%) and Electrical machinery and parts from €3,822m to €4,200m (+10%) but Computer equipment decreased from €10,508m to €9,504m (-10%).
- ◆ Exports increased to Belgium from €7,675m to €9,528m (+24%) and to Italy from €2,547m to €2,802m (+10%). Exports to Great Britain marginally decreased to €9,892m. Exports to Germany decreased from €5,006m to €4,659m (-7%); to the Netherlands from €2,987m to €2,743m (-8%) and to the USA from €12,744m to €12,561m (-1%).

**Imports** increased from €34,888m to €36,458m (+4%) –

- ◆ Other transport equipment (including aviation) increased from €346m to €1,071m; Organic chemicals from €1,272m to €1,622m (+28%) and Petroleum and related materials from €1,201m to €1,434m (+19%). Medical and Pharmaceutical products decreased from €1,674m to €1,499m (-10%) and General industrial machinery and equipment decreased from €945m to €808m (-15%).
- ◆ Imports from China increased from €1,534m to €2,040m (+33%); from Great Britain from €9,909m to €10,206m (+3%); from France from €1,369m to €1,620m (+18%) and from Germany from €2,556m to €2,752m (+8%). Imports from the USA decreased from €5,340m to €5,180m (-3%) and from Japan from €1,732m to €1,593m (-8%).

Published by the Central Statistics Office, Ireland.

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Ref 263/2004

ISSN 1393-5364

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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	55,628.1	93,675.2	38,047.1	275.7	434.9	126.7	118.5	93.5
2003 <sup>2</sup>	47,851.3	82,006.6	34,155.3	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>2</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	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 <sup>3</sup>	4,039.8	7,632.5	3,592.7	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 <sup>2</sup> 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 <sup>3</sup>	4,330.7	8,115.7	3,785.0	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	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 <sup>4</sup>	4,340.0	6,730.0	2,390.0	..	..	..	..	..

<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	4,114.2	7,171.6	3,057.3	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	3,800.7	7,231.3	3,430.6	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	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	4,390.0	6,560.0	2,170.0	..	..

<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			
	Sep 2003	Sep 2004	Jan-Sep 2003	Jan-Sep 2004	Sep 2003	Sep 2004	Jan-Sep 2003	Jan-Sep 2004
<b>0 Food and live animals</b>	<b>244.3</b>	<b>243.6</b>	<b>2,248.1</b>	<b>2,234.0</b>	<b>525.9</b>	<b>496.3</b>	<b>4,230.6</b>	<b>4,358.9</b>
00 Live animals other than animals of Division 03	6.1	6.0	79.2	71.0	37.0	19.8	135.3	113.1
01 Meat & meat preparations	36.0	36.4	307.3	325.5	181.7	184.7	1,336.7	1,415.4
02 Dairy products and birds' eggs	29.1	22.1	251.7	243.6	90.3	93.8	719.8	790.9
03 Fish, crustaceans, molluscs and preparations thereof	7.3	7.3	70.7	72.8	25.4	23.5	269.2	261.7
04 Cereals & cereal preparations	40.0	44.0	357.9	368.3	16.7	14.8	158.9	150.0
05 Vegetables & fruit	45.6	46.3	469.6	443.9	21.5	18.4	175.1	160.6
06 Sugars, sugar preparations & honey	13.7	15.1	120.6	120.4	14.8	13.2	88.9	104.6
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices & manufactures thereof	18.6	26.5	176.2	175.3	19.4	20.4	192.4	194.9
08 Feeding stuff for animals (excl unmilled cereals)	28.6	20.9	244.6	250.4	14.3	14.9	110.1	124.3
09 Miscellaneous edible products & preparations	19.3	19.1	170.2	162.9	104.8	92.9	1,044.1	1,043.4
<b>1 Beverages and tobacco</b>	<b>64.9</b>	<b>62.5</b>	<b>479.3</b>	<b>479.0</b>	<b>121.0</b>	<b>97.2</b>	<b>764.8</b>	<b>684.6</b>
11 Beverages	56.1	55.8	423.6	433.2	110.7	93.0	688.8	617.6
12 Tobacco & tobacco manufactures	8.8	6.7	55.7	45.8	10.2	4.3	76.0	67.0
<b>2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels</b>	<b>72.3</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>589.0</b>	<b>608.9</b>	<b>76.9</b>	<b>88.2</b>	<b>648.8</b>	<b>713.9</b>
21 Hides, skins & furskins, raw	0.8	0.3	4.4	1.9	7.9	8.2	64.7	61.7
22 Oil seeds & oleaginous fruits	2.0	2.2	7.8	14.9	0.1	0.7	0.4	5.1
23 Crude rubber (incl synthetic & reclaimed)	1.3	2.0	14.5	13.4	0.1	0.1	0.9	1.1
24 Cork & wood	30.6	29.6	245.8	257.3	7.3	6.7	63.3	61.8
25 Pulp & waste paper	1.5	2.0	16.3	15.8	1.7	2.7	16.0	26.5
26 Textile fibres & their wastes	2.5	1.6	28.3	13.3	10.0	10.4	93.0	79.5
27 Crude fertilisers & minerals (excl coal, petroleum and precious stones)	15.4	19.5	120.1	122.6	3.4	6.1	38.5	42.3
28 Metalliferous ores & metal scrap	10.8	8.6	73.7	85.3	41.3	46.2	313.7	376.9
29 Crude animal & vegetable materials nes	7.4	6.8	78.1	84.3	5.2	7.2	58.3	59.1
<b>3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials</b>	<b>160.9</b>	<b>227.8</b>	<b>1,481.8</b>	<b>1,743.0</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>42.6</b>	<b>173.0</b>	<b>285.0</b>
32 Coal, coke & briquettes	11.2	21.5	91.9	150.3	2.2	3.6	52.3	43.3
33 Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials	135.2	184.2	1,200.7	1,434.2	10.5	38.3	116.8	229.8
34 Gas, natural & manufactured	12.5	19.0	168.4	131.6	0.2	0.2	1.9	5.4
35 Electric Current	2.1	3.0	20.8	26.8	0.3	0.5	1.9	6.4
<b>4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>90.4</b>	<b>87.4</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>18.2</b>
41 Animal oils & fats	0.3	0.4	2.7	3.4	1.9	1.8	17.6	13.9
42 Fixed vegetable fats & oils	6.2	6.8	55.7	55.3	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.9
43 Animal or vegetable fats & oils, processed; waxes	3.4	2.9	32.0	28.7	0.4	0.7	3.5	3.4
<b>5 Chemicals and related products nes</b>	<b>570.9</b>	<b>562.8</b>	<b>5,115.6</b>	<b>5,281.2</b>	<b>3,279.6</b>	<b>3,072.1</b>	<b>26,858.2</b>	<b>28,517.5</b>
51 Organic chemicals	154.7	164.1	1,271.9	1,621.9	1,324.1	1,116.6	11,207.7	11,382.6
52 Inorganic chemicals	13.0	13.5	114.9	132.2	12.8	11.8	93.4	125.3
53 Dyeing, tanning & colouring materials	19.3	14.7	129.8	129.6	4.1	4.4	47.0	52.0
54 Medical & pharmaceutical products	178.6	160.7	1,674.3	1,499.0	1,441.3	1,386.5	10,218.1	11,364.8
55 Essential oils; perfume materials; toilet & cleansing preparations	75.7	78.0	653.4	643.7	310.0	340.4	3,155.1	3,542.2
56 Fertilisers (other than those of Division 27)	9.0	10.5	174.2	183.6	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.6
57 Plastics in primary forms	51.3	48.6	395.5	412.3	16.2	14.1	133.0	139.8
58 Plastics in non-primary forms	33.6	35.0	323.3	326.4	14.8	16.5	151.9	160.5
59 Chemical materials & products nes	35.7	37.7	378.3	332.6	156.3	181.8	1,851.5	1,749.8

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

€ million

SITC (Rev 3)	Imports				Exports			
	Sep 2003	Sep 2004	Jan-Sep 2003	Jan-Sep 2004	Sep 2003	Sep 2004	Jan-Sep 2003	Jan-Sep 2004
<b>6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material</b>	<b>355.7</b>	<b>399.6</b>	<b>3,182.9</b>	<b>3,278.6</b>	<b>154.3</b>	<b>157.0</b>	<b>1,350.3</b>	<b>1,332.8</b>
61 Leather; leather manufactures nes; dressed furskins	1.1	0.9	7.6	9.1	4.4	3.6	35.0	22.6
62 Rubber manufactures nes	17.5	19.4	177.8	173.9	8.0	7.9	64.8	65.7
63 Cork & wood manufactures (excl furniture)	21.3	25.2	200.2	220.7	19.6	21.8	156.3	169.2
64 Paper, paperboard & articles thereof	64.6	66.0	606.8	542.7	16.9	12.6	154.7	140.9
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles & related products	43.0	43.9	362.7	365.5	28.1	30.7	261.5	241.6
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures nes	50.3	56.8	407.0	441.9	33.2	32.4	277.1	274.2
67 Iron & steel	45.9	51.5	420.8	477.9	4.7	5.7	39.5	49.3
68 Non-ferrous metals	35.7	46.8	307.7	342.4	4.9	6.5	48.2	54.8
69 Manufactures of metals nes	76.3	89.1	692.3	704.6	34.6	35.7	313.0	314.3
<b>7 Machinery and transport equipment</b>	<b>1,771.5</b>	<b>1,687.2</b>	<b>14,981.8</b>	<b>15,694.2</b>	<b>2,195.2</b>	<b>1,985.3</b>	<b>16,953.3</b>	<b>16,382.0</b>
71 Power generating machinery & equipment	80.0	40.9	478.1	438.0	34.9	42.0	250.7	250.0
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries	74.4	80.6	784.5	738.9	22.8	23.0	208.4	213.8
73 Metalworking machinery	15.3	9.2	151.5	100.5	8.2	7.0	48.3	65.8
74 General industrial machinery & equipment nes & parts nes	105.9	86.7	944.9	807.8	89.4	100.8	761.0	880.6
75 Office machines & automatic data processing machines	754.8	654.3	5,744.0	5,704.2	1,408.1	1,221.0	10,507.9	9,503.6
76 Telecommunications & sound equipment	110.8	128.3	956.8	1,081.4	113.8	90.0	993.3	943.3
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances nes & parts	453.3	428.3	3,452.4	3,491.5	472.9	464.0	3,822.5	4,199.8
78 Road vehicles (incl air-cushion vehicles)	113.3	170.9	2,123.5	2,261.0	33.2	31.1	282.4	243.5
79 Other transport equipment	63.7	88.1	345.9	1,070.9	11.9	6.4	78.9	81.7
<b>8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles</b>	<b>558.9</b>	<b>559.4</b>	<b>4,555.0</b>	<b>4,577.1</b>	<b>928.7</b>	<b>909.7</b>	<b>6,813.6</b>	<b>7,286.0</b>
81 Prefab buildings; plumbing & electrical fixtures & fittings	21.3	25.1	159.1	186.3	7.7	7.4	72.1	65.9
82 Furniture & parts thereof; bedding, cushions etc	31.4	34.2	262.1	301.5	7.2	9.1	76.3	74.6
83 Travel goods, handbags & similar containers	5.1	5.7	49.0	47.8	1.1	0.9	12.2	11.3
84 Articles of apparel; clothing accessories	133.3	130.5	962.5	952.7	32.1	29.4	240.3	218.8
85 Footwear	26.5	28.1	202.8	205.0	2.4	2.5	23.2	22.8
87 Professional, scientific & controlling apparatus nes	70.6	60.8	614.8	512.8	324.8	332.3	2,273.1	2,862.7
88 Photographic apparatus; optical goods; watches & clocks	20.9	18.3	208.7	162.3	60.7	67.8	489.9	536.0
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes	249.8	256.7	2,096.0	2,208.6	492.8	460.3	3,626.5	3,494.0
<b>9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere</b>	<b>86.8</b>	<b>146.6</b>	<b>930.2</b>	<b>984.5</b>	<b>260.2</b>	<b>287.8</b>	<b>2,006.1</b>	<b>2,212.5</b>
<b>Unclassified estimates<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>143.9</b>	<b>181.6</b>	<b>1,234.0</b>	<b>1,489.7</b>	<b>75.2</b>	<b>79.2</b>	<b>615.1</b>	<b>743.4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,039.8</b>	<b>4,153.9</b>	<b>34,887.9</b>	<b>36,457.6</b>	<b>7,632.5</b>	<b>7,217.9</b>	<b>60,435.5</b>	<b>62,534.9</b>

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

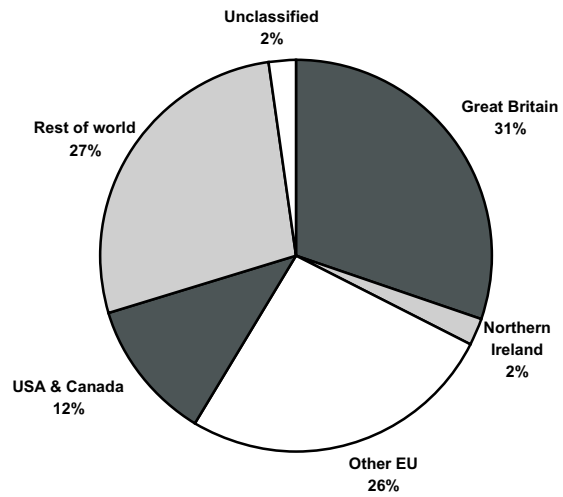
**Table 4 Trade by Country**

€ million

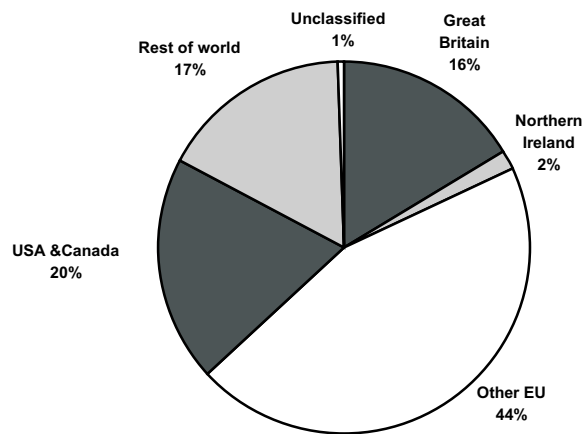
Country	Imports				Exports			
	Sep 2003	Sep 2004	Jan-Sep 2003	Jan-Sep 2004	Sep 2003	Sep 2004	Jan-Sep 2003	Jan-Sep 2004
Great Britain	1,135.4	1,252.6	9,909.0	10,206.3	1,122.5	1,175.2	9,920.2	9,891.9
Northern Ireland	88.8	96.9	766.3	811.8	124.7	129.1	1,066.2	1,092.0
Austria	9.6	10.9	111.9	93.4	29.0	30.1	236.1	248.1
Belgium	55.3	80.3	574.9	670.1	1,399.7	1,208.0	7,674.5	9,528.0
Cyprus	0.4	0.2	6.7	4.1	2.3	0.8	19.9	15.9
Czech Republic	11.6	5.1	110.8	77.6	12.7	16.0	116.8	132.3
Denmark	83.9	38.6	598.6	524.6	48.2	39.6	358.1	345.1
Estonia	2.9	1.6	26.9	18.3	1.2	1.2	20.3	10.0
Finland	18.1	19.0	201.0	172.9	24.2	24.6	206.4	218.0
France	155.3	230.4	1,368.9	1,620.2	435.2	397.2	3,669.3	3,659.1
Germany	253.4	276.5	2,555.9	2,751.7	644.7	568.1	5,006.3	4,659.1
Greece	3.8	3.2	35.5	30.3	27.3	21.6	235.8	244.3
Italy	85.6	82.8	809.1	796.1	317.1	259.3	2,547.0	2,802.4
Latvia	4.3	1.2	38.9	30.7	0.9	0.2	16.9	15.0
Lithuania	2.3	0.7	17.7	14.3	1.2	0.5	11.1	5.8
Luxembourg	2.4	2.4	15.9	20.1	7.4	9.0	78.1	75.7
Hungary	11.3	18.0	79.5	160.0	12.2	15.0	101.4	106.7
Malta	0.3	0.4	3.3	2.2	1.1	1.0	12.3	8.1
Netherlands	135.9	146.3	1,257.6	1,372.9	395.2	319.2	2,986.8	2,742.7
Poland	21.1	9.6	119.2	94.7	22.6	24.5	186.6	185.6
Portugal	15.9	20.2	128.6	141.1	25.8	23.0	218.3	250.3
Slovakia	1.4	0.7	13.1	16.8	2.9	4.2	26.2	28.2
Slovenia	2.0	1.2	12.8	9.7	2.1	1.4	24.9	19.5
Spain	33.6	44.2	437.4	466.4	197.3	189.3	1,745.4	1,748.6
Sweden	36.3	43.7	323.3	394.4	95.3	79.6	740.7	694.3
EU Country not specified	33.5	43.6	322.3	339.4	0.1	4.2	1.0	18.1
<b>Total EU<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2,204.3</b>	<b>2,430.4</b>	<b>19,844.8</b>	<b>20,840.0</b>	<b>4,952.7</b>	<b>4,542.0</b>	<b>37,226.6</b>	<b>38,744.9</b>
<i>of which EU-15</i>	<b>2,146.6</b>	<b>2,391.7</b>	<b>19,416.1</b>	<b>20,411.6</b>	<b>4,893.7</b>	<b>4,477.2</b>	<b>36,690.3</b>	<b>38,217.9</b>
Australia	9.2	12.6	87.5	114.3	45.9	67.8	481.0	538.6
Brazil	20.9	11.1	167.9	186.0	12.9	20.2	102.9	109.9
Canada	30.5	23.6	335.7	204.7	37.5	25.1	306.7	247.3
China	267.8	265.6	1,534.0	2,039.9	55.7	54.6	410.2	455.9
Hong Kong	32.4	46.8	280.8	318.5	82.1	73.7	504.8	656.5
India	9.6	15.2	104.0	109.0	12.6	7.1	74.2	78.5
Japan	190.5	174.8	1,732.3	1,592.7	218.3	227.6	1,528.1	1,734.7
Malaysia	36.0	41.6	347.4	313.2	57.1	39.9	424.5	328.5
Mexico	12.0	10.1	173.6	114.5	37.2	35.3	441.0	313.6
Norway	69.9	72.3	561.9	666.5	50.6	40.6	410.6	357.0
Philippines	13.4	8.4	148.9	84.2	15.9	11.9	149.9	138.3
Russia	1.8	3.0	32.3	45.5	29.9	12.9	187.6	149.2
Singapore	90.4	56.6	745.2	676.5	52.9	50.4	541.3	635.3
South Africa	11.1	9.4	116.3	125.1	23.4	21.3	209.5	193.0
South Korea	54.0	92.7	541.1	694.5	56.8	55.7	389.8	442.1
Switzerland	54.4	71.9	373.2	421.9	105.1	219.7	1,893.5	2,144.8
Taiwan	67.1	80.9	567.3	684.8	33.5	34.4	220.1	245.5
Thailand	25.2	27.7	232.7	265.6	22.3	8.7	114.3	136.0
Turkey	15.4	21.1	214.2	232.9	18.7	25.8	245.5	223.2
USA	668.9	467.5	5,339.7	5,179.7	1,518.8	1,401.0	12,744.1	12,560.8
Other countries <sup>2</sup>	75.2	112.5	707.3	754.2	160.6	194.5	1,430.8	1,712.9
Country unknown <sup>3</sup>	9.5	8.5	90.4	78.1	30.5	39.2	391.0	324.9
Unclassified estimates <sup>4</sup>	70.2	89.5	609.3	715.2	1.3	8.4	7.5	63.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,039.8</b>	<b>4,153.9</b>	<b>34,887.9</b>	<b>36,457.6</b>	<b>7,632.5</b>	<b>7,217.9</b>	<b>60,435.5</b>	<b>62,534.9</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, September 2004** (See Table 4)



**Exports, September 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 6,775 while about 2,045 must make an export return. The response rate in terms of number of traders in September 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.