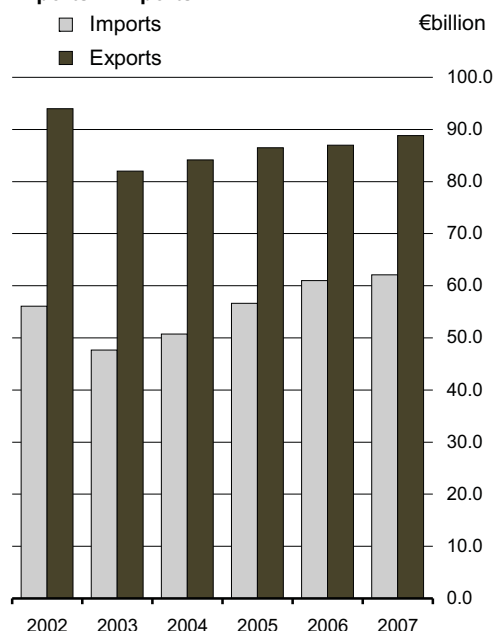




Imports v Exports



External Trade

December 2007 (Details), January 2008 (First estimate)

	Imports	Exports	Surplus
Jan-Dec 2006	€60,857m	€86,772m	€25,915m
Jan-Dec 2007	€62,179m	€88,581m	€26,402m
% change	+2%	+2%	+2%
November 2007	€5,921m	€7,960m	€2,039m
December 2007	€5,017m	€6,116m	€1,098m
January 2008 (preliminary)	€5,328m	€6,958m	€1,630m

Merchandise trade remains steady in 2007

Exports of merchandise trade for the year 2007 were €88,581m, up 2% on 2006. This rise was due to Organic chemicals and Pharmaceuticals (*see Table 3*). Excluding these categories exports actually fell by 2%. Imports for 2007 were €62,179m, up 2% on 2006. This increase was due to Transport equipment. If we exclude this, imports were flat.

In December 2007 (*see Table 1*) the value of exports was €6,116m, down €1,048m (-15%) on December 2006, while imports were €5,017m, down €351m (-7%). On a seasonally adjusted basis (*see Table 2*) the value of exports in December 2007 was €6,310m, 14% down on November 2007, while imports were €4,970m, down 11%.

Preliminary estimates for January 2008 (*see Table 5*) show exports of €6,958m and imports of €5,328m. The corresponding seasonally adjusted values for January 2008 (*see Table 2*) are €7,198m for exports and €5,175m for imports.

A comparison of the preliminary January 2008 values with January 2007 is given in Table 5 at broad commodity level by principal country.

Comparing the 2007 figures with those of 2006 shows that (*see Tables 3-4*):

- Exports of Organic chemicals increased from €17,059m to €19,427m (+14%), Eggs and dairy products from €1,195m to €1,436m (+20%) and General industrial machinery from €1,216m to €1,449m (+19%).

Exports of Computer equipment decreased from €14,063m to €12,533m (-11%).

- Exports of goods to China and Hong Kong increased from €1,498m to €1,950m (+30%), to the Philippines from €424m to €709m (+67%) and to Switzerland from €2,516m to €3,248m (+29%).

Goods to the United States decreased from €16,182m to €15,779m (-2%) (in \$ terms this represented a 9.5% increase) and to Italy from €3,613m to €3,125m (-14%).

- Imports of Other transport equipment (including aviation equipment) increased from €1,452m to €2,564m (+77%), Petroleum and related materials from €3,842m to €4,055m (+6%), Iron and steel from €911m to €1,080m (+18%) and Road vehicles from €4,102m to €4,382m (+7%).

Computer equipment decreased from €10,452m to €9,233m (-12%).

- Imports of goods from China and Hong Kong increased from €4,768m to €5,148m (+8%), France from €2,219m to €2,616m (+18%), Germany from €5,012m to €5,399m (+8%) and Great Britain from €18,099m to €18,704m (+3%).

Goods from Singapore decreased from €1,218m to €838m (-31%) and Norway from €1,857m to €1,425m (-23%).

Please note that the apparent increases and decreases are partially influenced by the transition from SITC (Rev3) to SITC (Rev4) nomenclature (*see background notes on page 8*).

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Table 1 Summary of trade

Period	Value			Volume Index ¹		Price Index ¹		Terms of Trade ²	
	Imports	Exports	Trade Surplus	Base year 1990=100					
				Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports		
	€m	€m	€m						
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	276.6	435.1	126.7	118.5	93.5	
2003	47,864.6	82,076.1	34,211.5	259.7	418.4	116.1	108.0	93.0	
2004	51,105.4	84,409.5	33,304.1	283.6	446.5	113.5	104.0	91.7	
2005	57,464.9	86,732.3	29,267.3	316.3	456.7	114.4	104.5	91.3	
2006	60,857.4	86,772.0	25,914.6	325.2	458.0	117.7	104.4	88.7	
2007	62,179.4	88,581.1	26,401.7	..	..	..	..	..	
2005 January	4,457.2	6,476.6	2,019.4	293.7	428.5	114.7	99.8	87.0	
February	4,469.4	6,516.3	2,046.9	298.5	420.3	113.2	102.4	90.5	
March	4,836.3	7,603.3	2,767.0	319.8	493.1	114.3	101.8	89.1	
April	5,119.3	7,528.9	2,409.6	338.9	493.1	114.1	100.8	88.3	
May	4,685.7	7,119.4	2,433.7	312.2	453.7	113.4	103.6	91.4	
June	4,651.6	7,546.0	2,894.4	305.0	468.9	115.2	106.3	92.2	
July	4,351.9	6,896.6	2,544.7	288.8	426.6	113.9	106.8	93.8	
August	4,360.0	6,530.4	2,170.4	288.9	404.0	114.1	106.7	93.6	
September	4,785.0	7,815.7	3,030.6	318.7	493.3	113.5	104.6	92.2	
October	4,998.2	7,128.9	2,130.7	328.1	444.5	115.1	105.9	92.0	
November	5,215.5	8,175.8	2,960.3	341.4	503.2	115.4	107.3	93.0	
December	5,534.8	7,394.5	1,859.6	360.1	452.0	116.1	108.0	93.0	
2006 January	4,988.0	7,004.4	2,016.5	320.4	441.0	117.6	104.9	89.2	
February	4,918.2	6,435.4	1,517.2	312.6	394.8	118.9	107.6	90.5	
March	5,589.9	8,040.6	2,450.6	358.8	499.2	117.7	106.4	90.4	
April	4,643.7	6,514.9	1,871.1	295.5	410.5	118.7	104.8	88.3	
May	4,992.2	7,769.0	2,776.8	320.2	497.8	117.8	103.1	87.5	
June	5,018.1	7,302.0	2,283.9	315.7	468.4	118.4	103.0	87.0	
July	4,626.9	7,039.3	2,412.4	295.2	452.4	118.4	102.8	86.8	
August	4,771.7	6,821.1	2,049.4	304.4	436.8	118.4	103.4	87.3	
September	4,923.7	7,461.6	2,537.8	321.6	470.4	115.7	104.8	90.5	
October	5,455.4	7,586.0	2,130.6	351.7	478.5	117.2	104.7	89.3	
November	5,560.8	7,633.6	2,072.7	358.9	485.5	116.5	104.1	89.4	
December ³	5,368.6	7,164.1	1,795.5	347.0	459.7	116.9	102.9	88.0	
2007 ⁴ January ³	5,603.2	7,298.3	1,695.1	360.4	480.4	117.5	103.3	87.9	
February	5,290.1	6,969.9	1,679.8	338.6	453.0	118.1	101.6	86.1	
March	5,536.6	8,392.2	2,855.6	355.7	545.6	119.2	101.6	85.2	
April	4,782.6	7,522.6	2,740.0	304.9	487.1	118.6	101.9	85.9	
May	5,334.2	7,471.6	2,137.4	322.9	484.5	118.6	101.8	85.8	
June	4,859.1	7,823.9	2,964.9	306.7	495.7	119.3	102.7	86.1	
July	4,933.7	7,382.5	2,448.7	307.8	481.8	118.6	101.4	85.6	
August ³	4,641.2	6,731.5	2,090.3	291.1	439.3	120.1	101.6	84.6	
September ³	4,751.4	7,284.8	2,533.3	296.3	478.0	119.0	100.3	84.3	
October ³	5,509.1	7,628.6	2,119.5	351.7	511.0	118.7	99.5	83.9	
November	5,920.9	7,959.7	2,038.7	376.0	536.5	119.2	98.0	82.2	
December	5,017.3	6,115.7	1,098.4	314.8	401.8	120.4	100.5	83.5	
2008 ⁴ January ⁵	5,328.0	6,958.0	1,630.0	..	..	..	..	..	

¹ Monthly data for 2006 has been rescaled to make their average equal to the annual² Export Price Index divided by Import Price Index³ Revised⁴ Provisional⁵ Based on current Intrastat response levels

.. 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
2004	January	3,961.7	6,547.8	2,586.1	262.3	408.5
	February	3,950.0	7,212.4	3,262.4	264.2	459.6
	March	3,965.2	7,320.5	3,355.2	260.1	454.7
	April	4,164.7	7,151.5	2,986.8	275.2	448.6
	May	4,242.4	6,569.9	2,327.5	285.5	412.5
	June	4,263.8	7,159.0	2,895.2	286.8	450.2
	July	4,293.1	7,134.1	2,841.0	283.5	455.5
	August	4,424.4	7,254.3	2,829.9	290.6	457.3
	September	4,411.4	6,847.9	2,436.5	290.3	435.9
	October	4,487.8	6,707.3	2,219.6	300.8	428.3
	November	4,320.8	7,109.9	2,789.1	291.5	462.8
	December	4,486.1	7,164.8	2,678.7	302.4	471.6
2005	January	4,564.4	6,961.1	2,396.7	300.6	451.6
	February	4,585.4	7,048.3	2,462.9	305.5	450.8
	March	4,460.6	6,882.0	2,421.4	291.8	447.1
	April	4,878.6	7,381.7	2,503.1	323.7	483.8
	May	4,720.6	7,316.1	2,595.4	316.1	464.2
	June	4,774.9	7,162.4	2,387.5	313.5	448.8
	July	4,757.0	7,061.8	2,304.8	316.2	436.0
	August	4,763.6	7,219.9	2,456.2	317.6	449.9
	September	4,887.4	7,496.0	2,608.6	325.1	475.9
	October	4,922.1	7,177.2	2,255.1	323.4	449.7
	November	4,883.8	7,505.6	2,621.9	318.4	463.8
	December	5,366.4	7,469.0	2,102.5	347.2	456.7
2006	January	4,948.4	7,509.1	2,560.7	318.0	462.4
	February	5,027.7	7,004.4	1,976.7	319.2	427.1
	March	5,219.1	7,237.9	2,018.8	333.0	449.0
	April	4,548.7	6,520.9	1,972.3	290.2	413.1
	May	4,916.8	7,744.5	2,827.6	317.7	494.1
	June	5,152.9	7,047.7	1,894.8	326.0	454.7
	July	5,051.8	7,279.8	2,228.0	324.3	467.9
	August	5,232.6	7,516.4	2,283.8	334.0	485.4
	September	5,142.0	7,154.8	2,012.9	334.5	452.6
	October	5,186.6	7,640.3	2,453.7	332.6	482.7
	November	5,272.6	7,019.0	1,746.5	339.4	450.0
	December	5,340.9	7,317.1	1,976.2	343.4	469.1
2007	January	5,411.5	7,540.6	2,129.2	348.4	486.3
	February	5,399.7	7,612.0	2,212.3	345.7	492.8
	March	5,297.5	7,647.4	2,349.9	337.7	495.1
	April	4,535.9	7,562.7	3,026.7	292.1	492.4
	May	5,295.7	7,475.6	2,179.9	321.9	484.0
	June	5,103.0	7,513.0	2,410.0	324.2	478.2
	July	5,225.8	7,657.1	2,431.2	327.3	498.9
	August	5,126.5	7,336.4	2,209.9	323.4	481.7
	September	5,112.5	7,199.2	2,086.7	317.1	475.6
	October	5,100.5	7,434.4	2,333.9	322.5	499.1
	November	5,613.7	7,364.8	1,751.1	356.3	498.0
	December	4,970.3	6,310.2	1,339.9	311.2	415.7
2008	January	5,175.0	7,198.0	2,023.0	..	..

¹ Based on seasonal patterns up to December 2007. Accordingly all values in this table have been revised

.. Data not yet available

Table 3 Trade classified by Commodity

€ million

SITC (Rev 3 for 2006 Rev 4 for 2007) ¹	Imports				Exports			
	Dec 2006	Dec 2007	Jan-Dec 2006	Jan-Dec 2007	Dec 2006	Dec 2007	Jan-Dec 2006	Jan-Dec 2007
0 Food and live animals	408.2	447.1	4,086.1	4,502.4	638.7	575.7	7,034.2	7,327.5
00 Live animals other than animals of Division 03	84.3	80.6	294.1	275.3	60.4	34.0	350.8	324.4
01 Meat & meat preparations	56.9	50.6	612.9	612.8	247.0	223.3	2,391.8	2,358.2
02 Dairy products and birds' eggs	33.0	34.7	410.3	435.0	93.0	89.2	1,195.1	1,435.8
03 Fish, crustaceans, molluscs and preparations thereof	11.7	12.1	150.7	174.5	34.8	36.9	343.8	349.9
04 Cereals & cereal preparations	60.0	81.7	640.2	762.4	19.4	19.4	245.3	258.1
05 Vegetables & fruit	67.9	69.9	787.1	892.6	24.1	21.8	277.0	292.2
06 Sugars, sugar preparations & honey	15.6	18.8	216.9	240.6	9.0	6.6	144.8	135.4
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices & manufactures thereof	22.1	24.5	295.0	322.3	27.5	18.9	279.8	259.7
08 Feeding stuff for animals (excl unmilled cereals)	29.4	41.6	380.7	424.9	14.9	14.6	142.7	140.1
09 Miscellaneous edible products & preparations	27.3	32.4	298.2	361.9	108.5	110.9	1,663.1	1,773.5
1 Beverages and tobacco	61.5	64.6	804.8	906.3	97.7	102.1	1,359.0	1,437.0
11 Beverages	56.1	60.4	727.1	823.6	91.6	96.2	1,285.0	1,356.8
12 Tobacco & tobacco manufactures	5.5	4.2	77.7	82.8	6.1	5.9	74.0	80.3
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	91.9	66.9	1,069.0	1,094.3	133.0	94.7	1,493.0	1,515.6
21 Hides, skins & furskins, raw	0.1	0.1	2.8	2.2	8.6	7.1	93.4	94.9
22 Oil seeds & oleaginous fruits	0.7	3.6	20.0	34.8	0.5	1.3	6.6	10.2
23 Crude rubber (incl synthetic & reclaimed)	3.0	1.0	23.4	19.2	0.2	0.2	5.3	6.9
24 Cork & wood	28.1	22.2	412.1	408.4	4.1	3.7	70.6	94.2
25 Pulp & waste paper	0.7	1.6	17.4	24.5	3.9	3.6	51.0	57.1
26 Textile fibres & their wastes	1.0	1.3	17.8	18.7	7.3	11.0	105.7	119.6
27 Crude fertilisers & minerals (excl coal, petroleum and precious stones)	36.2	13.6	320.1	287.2	3.8	2.8	69.9	49.4
28 Metalliferous ores & metal scrap	11.2	11.9	127.1	156.8	96.3	56.7	1,014.9	994.1
29 Crude animal & vegetable materials nes	10.8	11.7	128.4	142.4	8.3	8.3	75.7	89.2
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	366.9	482.0	4,719.4	4,895.1	42.9	85.2	562.3	691.0
32 Coal, coke & briquettes	13.3	17.1	169.9	158.0	3.0	2.2	71.3	63.5
33 Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials	257.9	377.9	3,841.8	4,055.2	34.3	81.6	437.0	594.3
34 Gas, natural & manufactured	91.0	79.9	651.9	635.6	2.1	0.6	20.6	11.5
35 Electric Current	4.6	7.1	55.9	46.3	3.5	0.8	33.3	21.6
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	12.4	15.0	162.9	152.8	1.8	2.7	19.5	27.7
41 Animal oils & fats	0.4	0.7	6.6	7.2	1.4	2.5	14.7	23.0
42 Fixed vegetable fats & oils	8.7	12.6	105.0	121.4	0.1	0.1	2.4	2.5
43 Animal or vegetable fats & oils, processed; waxes	3.2	1.7	51.2	24.2	0.2	0.1	2.4	2.2
5 Chemicals and related products nes	582.0	585.1	7,963.6	8,182.1	2,772.4	2,501.5	39,695.8	42,664.0
51 Organic chemicals	144.7	130.0	2,083.7	2,009.8	1,208.7	965.1	17,059.1	19,427.0
52 Inorganic chemicals	14.4	13.4	211.1	195.0	7.5	5.3	115.9	109.2
53 Dyeing, tanning & colouring materials	12.8	13.9	203.7	209.2	3.3	3.7	52.4	48.4
54 Medical & pharmaceutical products	168.6	174.6	2,235.1	2,399.0	953.4	924.2	14,247.0	14,597.6
55 Essential oils; perfume materials; toilet & cleansing preparations	88.1	97.9	1,151.8	1,177.9	413.5	364.5	5,327.8	5,319.0
56 Fertilisers (other than those of Division 27)	26.0	31.1	295.4	296.9	0.0	0.1	2.1	1.7
57 Plastics in primary forms	47.1	49.7	661.4	716.8	14.2	18.8	209.4	267.2
58 Plastics in non-primary forms	32.5	33.7	484.8	514.5	15.3	20.7	250.7	249.4
59 Chemical materials & products nes	47.9	40.8	636.6	663.0	156.5	199.0	2,431.4	2,644.6

¹ Possible discontinuities due to changes to SITC classification. See Background notes

Table 3 Trade classified by Commodity - continued

€ million

SITC (Rev 3 for 2006 Rev 4 for 2007) ¹	Imports				Exports			
	Dec 2006	Dec 2007	Jan-Dec 2006	Jan-Dec 2007	Dec 2006	Dec 2007	Jan-Dec 2006	Jan-Dec 2007
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	401.7	401.1	5,569.4	6,041.0	122.9	122.0	1,714.4	1,806.5
61 Leather; leather manufactures nes; dressed furskins	1.6	2.7	17.5	20.7	1.6	2.3	28.2	36.4
62 Rubber manufactures nes	20.4	21.1	292.6	318.8	3.5	3.4	61.2	61.2
63 Cork & wood manufactures (excl furniture)	25.4	22.2	384.2	366.2	17.4	16.5	263.1	282.8
64 Paper, paperboard & articles thereof	64.7	63.7	819.8	879.9	12.1	10.0	158.9	145.0
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles & related products	35.9	36.1	521.7	523.1	14.5	13.1	202.9	197.0
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures nes	66.0	60.4	866.1	909.3	23.6	21.9	322.2	314.2
67 Iron & steel	64.3	65.6	911.3	1,079.5	6.1	8.3	89.0	99.3
68 Non-ferrous metals	37.3	36.9	532.1	635.2	5.5	6.2	86.7	127.2
69 Manufactures of metals nes	86.1	92.3	1,224.2	1,308.5	38.6	40.3	502.3	543.3
7 Machinery and transport equipment	2,509.7	2,056.4	25,570.6	25,003.7	2,357.3	1,773.6	23,185.8	21,752.5
71 Power generating machinery & equipment	47.3	45.7	739.4	702.3	51.8	31.7	592.2	521.8
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries	103.0	110.9	1,342.2	1,440.5	29.9	30.6	342.3	455.1
73 Metalworking machinery	12.7	7.7	171.2	108.6	5.0	4.4	87.1	42.6
74 General industrial machinery & equipment nes & parts nes	92.9	95.9	1,374.0	1,373.5	101.4	93.9	1,215.9	1,449.1
75 Office machines & automatic data processing machines	914.8	816.8	10,451.8	9,233.0	1,626.2	1,161.7	14,063.0	12,533.0
76 Telecommunications & sound equipment	225.2	170.3	2,129.1	1,938.1	100.8	115.3	1,384.2	1,375.2
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances nes & parts	245.5	248.8	3,809.3	3,262.5	414.1	304.6	5,132.5	4,857.0
78 Road vehicles (incl air-cushion vehicles)	496.9	503.8	4,101.6	4,381.7	15.7	20.6	247.5	324.6
79 Other transport equipment	371.4	56.5	1,452.1	2,563.6	12.5	10.8	121.0	194.2
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	595.1	586.5	7,360.0	7,461.0	758.5	612.5	8,650.9	8,425.7
81 Prefab buildings; plumbing & electrical fixtures & fittings	22.3	25.5	321.4	346.9	8.2	8.3	111.9	126.4
82 Furniture & parts thereof; bedding, cushions etc	50.5	47.6	615.9	661.0	8.4	7.9	146.4	121.4
83 Travel goods, handbags & similar containers	8.1	13.8	91.9	134.4	1.2	1.1	11.7	32.9
84 Articles of apparel; clothing accessories	122.1	122.7	1,639.2	1,792.7	14.7	10.8	228.2	185.2
85 Footwear	27.8	26.0	369.1	374.6	2.3	2.3	27.9	31.1
87 Professional, scientific & controlling apparatus nes	83.5	71.3	948.1	943.4	164.5	134.5	2,308.4	2,094.9
88 Photographic apparatus; optical goods; watches & clocks	22.9	19.6	290.5	276.8	50.6	58.9	879.5	855.3
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes	258.0	260.0	3,083.8	2,931.3	508.6	388.6	4,936.8	4,978.5
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	120.8	75.7	1,142.1	1,294.8	164.9	147.1	2,167.8	1,908.1
Unclassified estimates²	218.4	236.9	2,409.5	2,645.8	74.1	98.4	889.4	1,025.7
Total	5,368.6	5,017.3	60,857.4	62,179.3	7,164.1	6,115.7	86,772.0	88,581.1

² Estimates for which a commodity classification is not available

Table 4 Trade by Country

€ million

Country	Imports				Exports			
	Dec 2006	Dec 2007	Jan-Dec 2006	Jan-Dec 2007	Dec 2006	Dec 2007	Jan-Dec 2006	Jan-Dec 2007
Great Britain	1,649.1	1,640.7	18,099.3	18,703.8	1,195.4	1,192.6	13,894.3	14,799.0
Northern Ireland	100.4	105.3	1,325.3	1,336.9	140.2	132.2	1,671.5	1,762.9
Austria	15.1	18.6	228.7	215.2	39.2	36.7	423.4	511.2
Belgium	104.3	85.4	1,212.4	1,266.0	969.4	784.7	12,216.9	12,691.7
Bulgaria	1.8	0.6	19.6	16.4	3.2	1.6	35.2	42.1
Cyprus	2.2	1.0	17.8	16.3	2.5	2.2	29.6	34.9
Czech Republic	24.9	20.8	285.2	281.0	33.4	28.9	357.8	392.4
Denmark	47.4	22.4	654.2	671.8	54.2	51.3	595.4	569.9
Estonia	0.5	0.3	18.8	8.6	1.9	3.9	24.9	40.2
Finland	21.1	15.8	277.3	245.5	34.2	41.5	455.2	421.8
France	229.1	274.5	2,219.3	2,615.9	482.1	434.2	5,079.0	5,168.1
Germany	444.4	514.9	5,012.3	5,399.4	648.3	500.3	6,970.3	6,687.2
Greece	2.7	2.0	50.9	48.7	26.1	29.3	370.8	413.5
Italy	128.2	99.8	1,563.4	1,430.1	267.5	265.2	3,613.2	3,124.5
Latvia	2.6	4.1	67.5	51.3	0.4	0.7	5.6	17.1
Lithuania	2.0	2.5	28.9	36.4	2.2	1.4	18.9	26.2
Luxembourg	7.1	2.6	43.0	36.7	8.9	9.7	175.2	163.9
Hungary	22.8	24.1	333.4	328.5	23.3	18.2	246.5	212.6
Malta	0.1	0.0	2.7	8.3	1.3	0.3	14.7	16.7
Netherlands	165.8	206.2	2,444.5	2,637.9	300.7	232.1	3,402.0	3,423.6
Poland	16.6	20.6	181.9	264.9	64.5	72.8	417.0	586.3
Portugal	13.5	11.4	234.2	154.4	30.2	33.6	421.5	414.1
Romania	5.8	5.4	59.8	63.1	10.8	11.6	158.3	177.5
Slovakia	3.5	1.9	18.9	28.4	5.2	7.5	45.8	72.9
Slovenia	1.7	1.7	20.6	22.4	2.0	2.2	23.7	25.6
Spain	171.0	87.7	990.3	994.5	282.5	260.1	3,260.6	3,273.6
Sweden	63.8	39.2	665.7	577.8	99.5	71.8	1,084.6	1,000.3
EU Country not specified	42.7	45.8	653.9	677.1	6.8	3.7	72.8	58.8
Total EU¹	3,290.2	3,255.6	36,729.8	38,137.6	4,735.8	4,230.3	55,084.7	56,128.6
<i>of which Euro-Zone²</i>	1,345.8	1,365.4	14,938.2	15,733.7	3,091.1	2,629.7	36,411.9	36,318.8
Australia	8.4	7.1	141.5	165.6	57.9	43.5	804.3	817.7
Brazil	11.8	22.3	190.0	234.3	10.4	17.8	147.2	160.9
Canada	34.4	36.8	395.8	344.8	27.8	29.3	375.1	421.1
China	398.4	394.4	4,433.2	4,765.9	94.1	121.6	875.2	1,271.3
Hong Kong	35.2	42.5	335.0	382.0	60.2	51.1	622.3	679.1
India	16.1	14.9	230.8	279.8	20.0	16.8	153.8	167.5
Japan	128.9	139.9	1,730.9	1,632.8	169.9	109.1	1,980.0	1,691.6
Malaysia	27.5	42.9	414.7	490.4	73.3	44.9	952.7	694.2
Mexico	12.5	14.7	149.5	187.7	30.3	25.4	534.6	595.3
Norway	100.0	82.7	1,857.0	1,425.0	47.5	39.3	620.5	586.2
Philippines	9.2	9.4	147.5	132.4	56.7	25.4	424.2	708.7
Russia	6.4	2.6	113.8	76.3	24.3	20.2	283.8	323.5
Singapore	55.2	77.0	1,217.6	838.3	47.7	35.2	618.3	513.2
South Africa	25.5	6.4	180.2	172.5	28.6	21.6	317.9	376.0
South Korea	100.1	64.0	904.5	857.2	51.3	39.5	499.6	463.6
Switzerland	31.4	33.8	565.6	587.1	298.9	219.1	2,515.5	3,248.0
Taiwan	66.0	74.2	973.1	770.3	22.8	13.5	291.1	236.3
Thailand	35.2	29.8	498.0	423.8	9.4	9.3	116.2	143.0
Turkey	44.0	36.7	515.1	531.3	23.8	17.1	369.0	412.1
USA	736.2	419.2	6,808.1	7,034.5	1,048.3	750.4	16,182.0	15,779.0
Other countries ³	74.5	85.5	1,156.3	1,400.7	203.0	211.3	2,726.4	2,831.0
Country unknown ⁴	27.4	17.5	90.3	125.7	21.8	16.6	269.7	287.3
Unclassified estimates ⁵	94.1	107.3	1,079.1	1,183.5	0.3	7.4	7.7	46.0
Total	5,368.6	5,017.3	60,857.4	62,179.3	7,164.1	6,115.7	86,772.0	88,581.1

¹ On 1st January 2007, two countries joined the EU - Bulgaria and Romania

² Euro-zone members; Austria, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Slovenia

³ Other non-EU countries not listed individually

⁴ Trade for which the country of origin or country of final destination is unknown

⁵ Estimates not allocated by country

Table 5 Trade classified by Commodity and Principal Countries

€ million

Country by Section level of SITC (data for the latest month is preliminary)	Imports		Exports	
	January 2007	January 2008	January 2007	January 2008
Great Britain & Northern Ireland				
0 Food and live animals	184	188	265	248
1 Beverages and tobacco	21	27	35	33
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	22	20	31	29
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	218	211	21	43
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	5	5	1	2
5 Chemicals and related products nes	209	184	290	415
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	220	223	69	68
7 Machinery and transport equipment	414	383	336	325
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	230	226	121	106
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	92	80	71	64
Other EU				
0 Food and live animals	112	130	160	153
1 Beverages and tobacco	24	25	14	16
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	25	26	68	67
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	52	41	3	3
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	5	7	0	5
5 Chemicals and related products nes	284	251	1,698	1,693
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	157	161	47	55
7 Machinery and transport equipment	686	643	780	664
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	108	107	243	234
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	121	109	144	88
USA				
0 Food and live animals	11	13	7	5
1 Beverages and tobacco	2	1	26	23
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	4	4	8	0
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	7	1	0	0
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0	1	–	–
5 Chemicals and related products nes	91	94	1,109	883
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	21	24	9	8
7 Machinery and transport equipment	621	560	160	178
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	149	87	205	239
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	9	42	20	47
Japan				
0 Food and live animals	0	0	3	1
1 Beverages and tobacco	0	0	0	1
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	0	0	0	0
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	0	–	–	0
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0	–	–	–
5 Chemicals and related products nes	21	17	58	33
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	3	3	1	2
7 Machinery and transport equipment	121	98	18	35
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	8	9	61	34
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	12	10	5	4
China ¹				
0 Food and live animals	1	1	6	5
1 Beverages and tobacco	0	0	0	0
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	5	4	3	5
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	0	0	–	0
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0	0	0	0
5 Chemicals and related products nes	8	10	55	54
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	33	36	1	4
7 Machinery and transport equipment	324	282	67	153
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	68	74	8	11
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	4	3	4	3
Switzerland				
0 Food and live animals	1	1	1	1
1 Beverages and tobacco	0	0	0	0
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	0	0	0	0
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	0	0	0	0
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	–	–	0	–
5 Chemicals and related products nes	23	21	222	119
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	3	2	1	1
7 Machinery and transport equipment	6	6	19	12
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	2	3	5	4
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	13	0	3	3
Rest of World				
0 Food and live animals	42	59	91	107
1 Beverages and tobacco	10	5	14	13
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	34	16	16	16
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	119	120	9	0
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	2	2	0	0
5 Chemicals and related products nes	49	76	212	215
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	55	33	9	6
7 Machinery and transport equipment	354	362	347	345
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	59	68	54	51
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	118	131	61	26
Total	5,603	5,328	7,298	6,958

¹ China includes Hong Kong and Macao

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.

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 a detailed import return is about 7,468 while about 2,072 must make a detailed export return. The response rate in terms of number of traders in December 2007 was 89%, covering an estimated 93% of the total value of intra-EU trade. For January 2008 the respective response rates being 65% and 85%.

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.

Discontinuity in Commodity classification Merchandise Trade source data are collected using the 8-digit Combined Nomenclature (CN) – the EU's tariff and statistical nomenclature. This nomenclature is managed and updated annually by the Commission in co-operation with the member states. The CN is aligned with the 6-digit Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) – the nomenclature of the Customs Co-operation Council that is used throughout the world for applying customs tariffs and compiling external trade statistics. The CN contains over 9,700 8-digit subheadings, the first six digits of which correspond to the HS code.

A major revision of the HS, with corresponding changes to the CN, entered into force on 1 January 2007. The motivation for the revision relates to keeping the nomenclature up to date in the light of changes in technology and in patterns of international trade. Over 350 sets of amendments were carried out broadly covering

- Technological progress;
- Change in trade patterns and practice;
- To facilitate the monitoring and control in the environmental and social fields.

In this publication, imports and exports are classified according to the United Nations' Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)¹. The SITC has been developed by the United Nations for the advancement of the international comparability of statistics on external trade.

The SITC follows the structure of the HS. Each of the categories in the SITC (including all the basic headings) is equivalent to a combination of HS headings (and therefore to a combination of CN headings). Accordingly, in order to make the SITC more completely synchronised with the HS a major revision to the SITC was also carried out. This new version of the classification, known as SITC (Rev4), concords with HS2007 and HS2002 and is the basis for dissemination of data from 2007 onward.

These changes will create some discontinuity in time series between data up to December 2006 and that from January 2007 onwards. A preliminary examination suggests that at Division level, those within Sections 5 and 7 and Division 87 are the most affected.