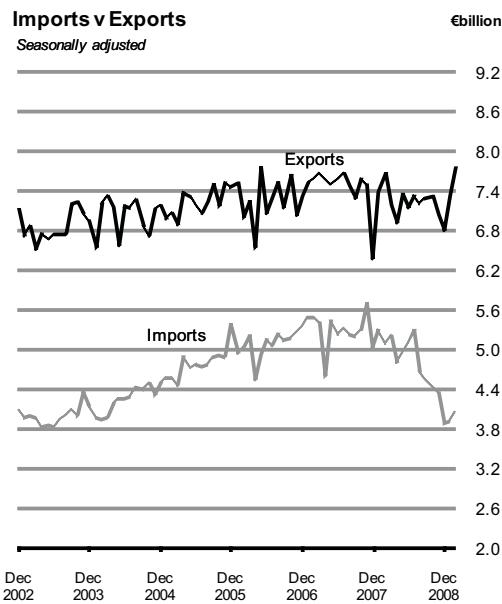


29 April 2009



External Trade

January 2009 (Provisional details),
February 2009 (Preliminary)

Seasonally adjusted trade summary

	Imports	Exports	Surplus
November 2008	4,350	7,038	2,688
December 2008	3,868	6,789	2,920
January 2009	3,907	7,308	3,401
February 2009	4,060	7,750	3,690

Trade surplus up in January and February

The **Seasonally adjusted** Trade Surplus achieved a seven year high in January and went higher in February as exports increased by 6% and imports by 4% relative to January 2009 (see graph and Table 2). Relative to December 2008, exports in January 2009 increased by 8%, while imports increased by 1%.

On an **unadjusted** basis, the value of exports in February 2009 (see Table 1) was down 5% on February 2008, while the value of imports was down 23%. The value of exports in January 2009 was down 3% on January 2008, while the value of imports was down 28%.

The **January** figures for 2009 when compared with those of 2008 (see Tables 3-4) show that:

Exports decreased from €7,120m to €6,932m (-3%) –

- ◆ Electrical machinery decreased by 51%, Computer equipment by 22%, Edible products by 34% and Industrial machinery by 44%.
- Medical and pharmaceutical products increased by 15%, Organic chemicals by 10%, Essential oils by 6% and Other transport equipment (including aircraft) by 610%.
- ◆ Goods to China decreased by 39%, to Great Britain by 13%, to Germany by 14% and to Malaysia by 44%.
- Goods to the United States increased by 5%, to Belgium by 4%, to Bermuda by €70m and to Switzerland by 147%.

Imports decreased from €5,448m to €3,937m (-28%) –

- ◆ Road vehicles decreased by 71%, Computer equipment by 35%, Other Transport equipment by 43%, Specialised machinery by 56%, Industrial machinery by 34%, Electrical machinery by 24%, Iron and steel by 43%, Telecommunications equipment by 26% and Organic chemicals by 22%.
- Power generating machinery increased by 49%, Medical and pharmaceutical products by 6%, Electric current by 101%.
- ◆ Goods from Germany decreased by 43%, the United States by 25%, Great Britain by 19%, China by 29% and Norway by 55%.
- Goods from Argentina increased by 29%, Poland by 10%, Indonesia by 47%, India by 12% and Egypt by 55%.

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Table 1 Summary of trade

Period	Value			Volume Index ¹		Price Index ¹			
	Imports €m	Exports €m	Trade Surplus €m	Base year 1990=100					
				Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Terms of Trade ²	
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	63,485.7	89,226.1	25,740.5	340.9	481.8	117.3	101.9	86.9	
2008	57,061.5	86,251.9	29,190.5	..	..	..	..	..
2007 January	5,694.4	7,279.2	1,584.8	365.5	463.4	115.8	104.0	89.8	
February	5,394.6	6,947.2	1,552.6	343.4	449.6	116.4	102.4	87.9	
March	5,645.4	8,419.8	2,774.3	355.9	541.6	117.6	102.3	87.0	
April	4,856.5	7,532.4	2,675.9	309.0	484.0	117.0	102.6	87.7	
May	5,462.5	7,491.9	2,029.3	344.6	481.3	117.0	102.5	87.6	
June	4,985.7	7,900.5	2,914.9	312.2	499.6	117.6	103.4	87.9	
July	5,037.3	7,388.9	2,351.7	318.9	477.2	116.9	102.2	87.4	
August	4,743.5	6,858.4	2,114.9	296.2	434.3	118.4	102.4	86.4	
September	4,840.8	7,367.8	2,527.0	305.9	476.0	117.4	101.1	86.1	
October	5,722.9	7,771.7	2,048.8	355.7	502.6	117.0	100.2	85.7	
November	6,008.2	8,103.9	2,095.7	380.7	532.6	117.5	98.7	84.0	
December	5,093.8	6,164.3	1,070.6	319.2	398.9	118.8	101.3	85.2	
2008 ³ January	5,447.9	7,119.6	1,671.7	341.7	468.1	118.4	98.9	83.5	
February	5,211.2	7,309.2	2,098.0	333.5	485.0	118.6	99.1	83.5	
March	4,952.3	7,053.9	2,101.5	321.0	491.6	116.9	97.1	83.1	
April	4,960.9	7,271.5	2,310.6	320.0	515.6	116.1	94.8	81.7	
May	4,825.8	7,298.9	2,473.1	310.1	514.8	117.0	95.0	81.2	
June ⁴	4,858.1	7,191.6	2,333.5	306.3	496.9	116.6	95.2	81.6	
July	5,080.6	7,273.5	2,192.9	322.2	490.8	115.6	95.4	82.5	
August	4,024.2	6,476.9	2,452.7	254.9	437.2	117.1	97.0	82.8	
September	4,495.6	7,432.4	2,936.8	280.9	493.7	120.6	99.3	82.3	
October ⁴	4,715.6	7,555.8	2,840.2	290.6	482.1	122.2	103.2	84.4	
November	4,354.2	7,496.6	3,142.5	274.1	464.9	120.0	106.5	88.7	
December	4,135.0	6,772.0	2,637.0	262.8	435.1	118.9	102.8	86.4	
2009 ³ January	3,937.2	6,932.2	2,995.0	..	..	..	..	..
February ⁵	3,995.0	6,968.2	2,973.2	..	..	..	..	..

¹ Monthly data for 2008 has been rescaled to make their average equal to the annual

² Export Price Index divided by Import Price Index

³ Provisional

⁴ Revised

⁵ Preliminary data 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
2006	January	4,948.4	7,509.1	2,560.7	318.0
	February	5,027.7	7,004.4	1,976.7	319.2
	March	5,219.1	7,237.9	2,018.8	333.0
	April	4,548.7	6,520.9	1,972.3	290.2
	May	4,916.8	7,744.5	2,827.6	317.7
	June	5,152.9	7,047.7	1,894.8	326.0
	July	5,051.8	7,279.8	2,228.0	324.3
	August	5,232.6	7,516.4	2,283.8	334.0
	September	5,142.0	7,154.8	2,012.9	334.5
	October	5,186.6	7,640.3	2,453.7	332.6
	November	5,272.6	7,019.0	1,746.5	339.4
	December	5,340.9	7,317.1	1,976.2	343.4
2007	January	5,499.6	7,520.9	2,021.4	353.3
	February	5,506.3	7,587.1	2,080.8	350.5
	March	5,401.6	7,672.5	2,270.9	337.9
	April	4,606.1	7,572.5	2,966.5	296.0
	May	5,423.1	7,495.9	2,072.8	343.5
	June	5,235.9	7,586.5	2,350.7	330.0
	July	5,335.5	7,663.7	2,328.2	339.1
	August	5,239.5	7,474.7	2,235.2	329.1
	September	5,208.7	7,281.3	2,072.5	327.4
	October	5,298.5	7,573.8	2,275.3	326.2
	November	5,696.5	7,498.3	1,801.8	360.8
	December	5,046.1	6,360.4	1,314.4	315.6
2008	January	5,291.4	7,365.0	2,073.6	330.9
	February	5,099.4	7,657.8	2,558.4	327.1
	March	5,202.4	7,177.7	1,975.2	337.0
	April	4,814.9	6,917.7	2,102.8	310.6
	May	4,942.3	7,334.0	2,391.8	320.8
	June	5,091.8	7,144.7	2,052.9	325.8
	July	5,283.0	7,327.4	2,044.4	333.6
	August	4,666.5	7,207.9	2,541.4	297.7
	September	4,531.0	7,283.9	2,752.9	281.7
	October	4,424.0	7,329.2	2,905.2	269.9
	November	4,349.8	7,037.9	2,688.1	273.2
	December	3,868.4	6,788.5	2,920.1	244.1
2009	January	3,907.2	7,308.0	3,400.8	..
	February	4,059.8	7,750.1	3,690.3	..

¹ Based on seasonal patterns up to December 2008. Accordingly all values in this table have been revised

.. Data not yet available

Table 3 Trade classified by Commodity

SITC (Rev 4)	€ million			
	Imports		Exports	
	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2008	Jan 2009
0 Food and live animals	412.0	322.3	537.6	459.2
00 Live animals other than animals of Division 03	20.6	12.7	10.5	11.3
01 Meat & meat preparations	57.0	46.4	161.9	160.0
02 Dairy products and birds' eggs	42.7	23.5	81.9	70.3
03 Fish, crustaceans, molluscs and preparations thereof	14.9	9.9	21.0	17.6
04 Cereals & cereal preparations	70.4	56.2	24.4	20.8
05 Vegetables & fruit	73.8	61.2	21.9	23.2
06 Sugars, sugar preparations & honey	18.9	16.0	8.4	8.4
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices & manufactures thereof	31.4	22.5	21.0	19.8
08 Feeding stuff for animals (excl unmilled cereals)	50.0	44.9	13.4	13.8
09 Miscellaneous edible products & preparations	32.3	28.9	173.0	113.8
1 Beverages and tobacco	59.5	40.3	86.6	77.9
11 Beverages	54.1	33.7	79.4	70.2
12 Tobacco & tobacco manufactures	5.3	6.6	7.2	7.7
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	70.1	46.8	117.4	69.6
21 Hides, skins & furskins, raw	0.2	0.0	5.4	3.7
22 Oil seeds & oleaginous fruits	2.6	1.5	2.1	0.1
23 Crude rubber (incl synthetic & reclaimed)	1.1	0.7	0.2	0.1
24 Cork & wood	23.9	12.1	5.3	3.6
25 Pulp & waste paper	1.9	2.5	4.8	4.9
26 Textile fibres & their wastes	1.7	1.0	9.1	9.0
27 Crude fertilisers & minerals (excl coal, petroleum and precious stones)	15.8	8.7	2.5	4.6
28 Metalliferous ores & metal scrap	12.3	11.4	74.1	34.7
29 Crude animal & vegetable materials nes	10.5	8.8	13.8	9.1
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	473.4	437.9	46.5	31.4
32 Coal, coke & briquettes	19.5	6.8	4.7	4.6
33 Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials	326.0	292.4	40.6	25.6
34 Gas, natural & manufactured	120.4	123.7	0.4	0.2
35 Electric Current	7.5	15.1	0.9	1.0
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	16.0	16.5	6.9	1.2
41 Animal oils & fats	0.7	0.4	6.5	1.1
42 Fixed vegetable fats & oils	12.9	13.8	0.2	0.1
43 Animal or vegetable fats & oils, processed; waxes	2.4	2.3	0.1	0.1
5 Chemicals and related products nes	669.5	564.4	3,568.5	3,868.9
51 Organic chemicals	157.9	122.7	1,624.9	1,781.4
52 Inorganic chemicals	17.2	13.6	8.9	4.4
53 Dyeing, tanning & colouring materials	15.4	11.2	4.7	3.5
54 Medical & pharmaceutical products	194.4	206.8	1,189.8	1,364.4
55 Essential oils; perfume materials; toilet & cleansing preparations	83.1	73.4	430.6	457.8
56 Fertilisers (other than those of Division 27)	48.4	29.7	0.1	0.1
57 Plastics in primary forms	58.3	43.6	21.0	17.9
58 Plastics in non-primary forms	39.3	30.7	21.7	15.8
59 Chemical materials & products nes	55.4	32.7	266.9	223.4

Table 3 Trade classified by Commodity - continued

SITC (Rev 4)	€ million			
	Imports		Exports	
	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2008	Jan 2009
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material				
61 Leather; leather manufactures nes; dressed furskins	488.8	329.8	137.4	99.4
62 Rubber manufactures nes	1.7	1.3	1.5	1.3
63 Cork & wood manufactures (excl furniture)	29.4	18.7	4.9	3.4
64 Paper, paperboard & articles thereof	31.2	14.2	18.8	12.6
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles & related products	73.9	61.0	14.9	9.5
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures nes	39.7	24.9	16.1	12.4
67 Iron & steel	64.5	38.6	22.3	16.4
68 Non-ferrous metals	89.8	50.9	8.7	4.6
69 Manufactures of metals nes	48.3	33.2	9.7	4.6
	110.2	87.0	40.6	34.7
7 Machinery and transport equipment				
71 Power generating machinery & equipment	2,332.2	1,362.3	1,701.3	1,222.3
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries	58.8	87.5	46.3	18.6
73 Metalworking machinery	116.7	51.8	31.2	24.7
74 General industrial machinery & equipment nes & parts nes	11.2	4.1	2.4	1.8
75 Office machines & automatic data processing machines	117.5	77.3	117.4	66.3
76 Telecommunications & sound equipment	710.7	460.0	890.9	694.5
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances nes & parts	139.7	103.2	112.6	97.7
78 Road vehicles (incl air-cushion vehicles)	265.3	201.7	463.0	225.4
79 Other transport equipment	506.3	145.6	26.2	12.9
	405.9	231.1	11.4	80.6
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles				
81 Prefab buildings; plumbing & electrical fixtures & fittings	563.7	470.8	692.9	732.7
82 Furniture & parts thereof; bedding, cushions etc	24.7	16.7	14.2	10.5
83 Travel goods, handbags & similar containers	46.8	28.8	7.8	7.8
84 Articles of apparel; clothing accessories	9.6	8.0	1.0	1.5
85 Footwear	142.7	133.4	10.6	11.9
87 Professional, scientific & controlling apparatus nes	28.5	24.3	2.6	1.9
88 Photographic apparatus; optical goods; watches & clocks	76.1	74.8	186.7	210.6
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes	20.1	13.7	68.0	68.3
	215.2	171.2	401.9	420.1
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere				
	259.9	215.2	151.2	269.2
Unclassified estimates¹	102.9	131.0	73.3	100.4
Total	5,447.9	3,937.2	7,119.6	6,932.2

¹ Estimates for which a commodity classification is not available

Table 4 Trade by Country

Country	€ million			
	Imports Jan 2008	Imports Jan 2009	Exports Jan 2008	Exports Jan 2009
Great Britain	1,509.5	1,224.0	1,191.7	1,041.4
Northern Ireland	108.5	66.6	131.3	100.7
Austria	15.4	9.7	28.7	29.2
Belgium	100.8	65.5	978.1	1,021.5
Bulgaria	0.4	0.3	8.3	3.4
Cyprus	2.3	0.3	3.8	4.6
Czech Republic	29.4	12.2	32.9	25.9
Denmark	53.6	36.3	43.5	34.3
Estonia	0.3	0.5	2.3	1.6
Finland	24.6	19.1	27.4	19.2
France	208.1	133.3	394.1	392.0
Germany	481.1	272.0	485.8	418.4
Greece	3.2	1.8	31.4	28.4
Italy	139.0	90.2	258.9	230.6
Latvia	2.0	4.1	0.9	2.2
Lithuania	3.6	1.7	0.9	1.0
Luxembourg	2.7	2.8	14.0	11.8
Hungary	22.9	24.0	13.0	14.5
Malta	1.1	0.8	1.1	1.0
Netherlands	232.6	223.9	260.1	234.0
Poland	33.1	36.4	60.9	51.9
Portugal	13.0	11.1	36.4	30.9
Romania	3.3	3.3	21.5	14.5
Slovakia	1.4	2.2	5.3	5.3
Slovenia	1.8	1.3	2.5	1.8
Spain	91.3	46.6	255.3	282.0
Sweden	50.2	21.1	80.9	56.5
EU Country not specified	33.3	25.3	7.8	2.6
Total EU	3,168.5	2,336.5	4,378.8	4,061.3
<i>of which Euro-Zone¹</i>	1,350.8	905.8	2,782.9	2,710.9
Australia	8.4	4.1	64.8	57.9
Brazil	32.5	10.8	11.2	21.0
Canada	36.0	31.0	34.9	25.3
China ²	414.8	295.9	264.6	161.7
India	23.3	26.1	12.5	10.3
Japan	136.3	92.4	123.7	148.2
Malaysia	41.8	19.7	92.2	51.3
Mexico	28.3	12.3	49.3	30.1
Norway	151.8	68.7	42.3	31.2
Philippines	9.8	3.0	42.9	13.0
Russia	19.2	3.4	19.2	13.6
Saudi Arabia	0.5	0.3	39.2	39.0
Singapore	66.2	53.1	51.6	29.5
South Africa	8.6	4.5	25.2	18.1
South Korea	79.0	34.3	50.8	40.5
Switzerland	34.3	26.9	141.0	348.1
Taiwan	47.2	30.1	22.0	10.4
Thailand	46.5	27.5	15.7	9.1
Turkey	45.4	21.8	27.9	27.8
USA	827.0	618.3	1,410.5	1,487.0
Other countries ³	105.3	87.9	186.1	255.6
Country unknown ⁴	18.2	21.4	12.6	14.4
Unclassified estimates ⁵	99.0	107.2	0.5	27.6
Total	5,447.9	3,937.2	7,119.6	6,932.2

¹ Euro-zone members from January 2009: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Malta, Cyprus and Slovakia

² China includes Hong Kong and Macao

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	
	Feb 2008	Feb 2009	Feb 2008	Feb 2009
Great Britain & Northern Ireland				
0 Food and live animals	189	180	264	242
1 Beverages and tobacco	32	19	36	38
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	25	14	34	18
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	294	190	33	21
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	5	5	2	1
5 Chemicals and related products nes	225	162	317	456
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	230	141	71	56
7 Machinery and transport equipment	384	174	267	164
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	226	164	121	102
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	68	63	40	74
Other EU				
0 Food and live animals	122	121	173	170
1 Beverages and tobacco	24	20	16	14
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	29	17	61	35
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	82	75	6	15
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	8	8	2	2
5 Chemicals and related products nes	323	303	2,073	1,911
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	163	108	55	41
7 Machinery and transport equipment	586	329	606	415
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	118	98	287	301
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	79	69	74	85
USA				
0 Food and live animals	15	7	6	6
1 Beverages and tobacco	1	1	18	13
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	12	3	1	2
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	19	0	0	0
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	1	1	—	—
5 Chemicals and related products nes	82	81	1,023	1,038
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	23	21	10	5
7 Machinery and transport equipment	477	471	171	176
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	62	94	229	276
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	55	75	20	51
Japan				
0 Food and live animals	0	0	6	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
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0	0	—	—
5 Chemicals and related products nes	20	16	51	72
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2	2	2	1
7 Machinery and transport equipment	84	26	42	19
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	10	6	45	50
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	8	3	4	2
China¹				
0 Food and live animals	1	1	3	14
1 Beverages and tobacco	0	0	1	0
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	6	1	6	5
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	0	0	0	0
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0	0	0	0
5 Chemicals and related products nes	7	12	35	60
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	29	21	2	1
7 Machinery and transport equipment	186	141	147	106
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	71	74	7	8
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	2	6	2	1
Switzerland				
0 Food and live animals	0	1	1	1
1 Beverages and tobacco	1	1	0	0
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	0	0	0	1
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	0	—	0	—
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	—	—	—	—
5 Chemicals and related products nes	42	19	116	237
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	3	1	1	1
7 Machinery and transport equipment	8	4	18	6
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	2	3	3	2
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	0	0	4	2
Rest of World				
0 Food and live animals	23	48	122	61
1 Beverages and tobacco	4	5	11	8
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	16	13	10	7
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	171	136	0	7
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	2	2	0	0
5 Chemicals and related products nes	69	80	256	241
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	34	19	9	6
7 Machinery and transport equipment	291	152	330	231
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	65	62	41	49
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	96	124	21	42
Total	5,211	3,995	7,309	6,968

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 7,700 while about 1,900 must make a detailed export return. The response rate in terms of number of traders in January 2009 was 74%, covering an estimated 93% of the total value of intra-EU trade. For February 2009 the respective response rates being 71% and 89%.
- 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.
- Extrastat System** The statistics of trade with non-EU countries are compiled mainly from the documents supplied by importers and exporters to the Customs authorities. The document is the Single Administrative Document (SAD) used for Customs clearance purposes. The VIMA Office in Dundalk is the branch of Revenue responsible for editing and validation of the data supplied. The VIMA Office passes the edited data to the External Trade Statistics section of the Central Statistics Office (CSO).
- 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.