



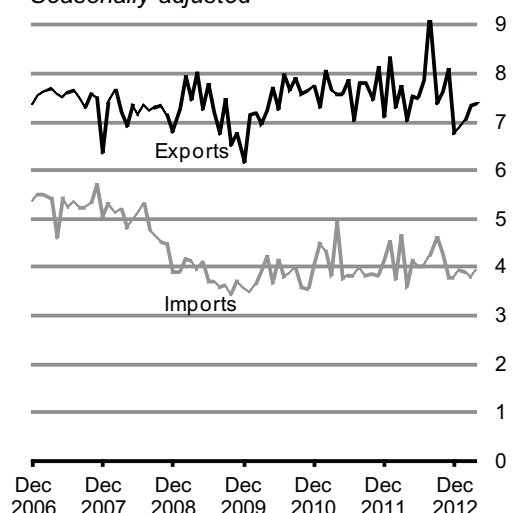
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh
Central Statistics Office

14 June 2013

Exports and Imports

Seasonally adjusted

€billion



Goods Exports and Imports

April 2013

Seasonally adjusted

€ million

	Exports	Imports	Surplus
November 2012	8,054	3,776	4,279
December 2012	6,734	3,774	2,959
January 2013	6,852	3,947	2,905
February 2013	7,015	3,881	3,134
March 2013	7,330	3,787	3,543
April 2013	7,383	3,956	3,427

Seasonally adjusted trade surplus down 3% in April

Preliminary figures for April 2013 indicate a marginal increase in seasonally adjusted exports of €53 million (or 1%) to €7,383 million from March 2013. Seasonally adjusted imports increased by €169 million (or 4%) to €3,956 million resulting in a 3% decrease in the seasonally adjusted trade surplus to €3,427 million (*see Table 2*).

Comparing April 2013 with April 2012, the value of exports increased by €433 million (or 6%) to €7,506 million. The main drivers were increases of €212 million (or 12%) in the exports of *Medical and pharmaceutical products* and €127 million (or 58%) in the exports of *Office machines and automatic data processing machines*. The exports of *Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials* decreased by €167 million (or -66%).

On an overall basis the EU accounted for €4,362 million (or 58%) of total exports in April 2013. The USA was the main non-EU destination accounting for 20% (€1,509 million) of total exports in April 2013.

Comparing April 2013 with April 2012, the value of imports increased by €387 million (or 10%) to €4,128 million. The largest increases were €191 million (or 59%) in the imports of *Medical and pharmaceutical products* and €106 million (or 13%) in the imports of *Machinery and transport equipment*.

The EU was the source of 62% of the value of imports in April 2013, with 28% coming from Great Britain. The USA (11%) and China (5%) were the main non-EU sources of imports.

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Table 1 Goods Exports and Imports summary analysis

Period	Value			Volume index ¹		Unit value index ¹		Terms of Trade ²
	Exports	Imports	Trade Surplus	Base year 1990=100				
				Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	
	€m	€m	€m					
1990	18,204	15,832	2,372	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1991	19,070	16,317	2,753	105.6	100.8	99.3	102.3	97.0
1992	21,260	16,754	4,506	121.1	105.6	96.6	100.2	96.4
1993	25,178	18,900	6,279	133.4	113.0	103.9	105.4	98.6
1994	28,891	21,945	6,946	153.2	127.9	103.8	108.1	96.0
1995	35,330	26,181	9,149	184.0	146.3	105.7	112.7	93.7
1996	38,609	28,480	10,130	202.2	160.9	105.1	111.4	94.3
1997	44,868	32,864	12,004	232.4	184.8	106.3	112.0	94.9
1998	57,322	39,715	17,607	289.2	218.3	109.1	114.6	95.2
1999	66,956	44,327	22,629	336.5	236.5	109.5	118.0	92.8
2000	83,889	55,909	27,980	401.4	275.2	115.0	128.0	89.9
2001	92,690	57,384	35,306	422.0	274.2	120.9	131.8	91.7
2002	93,675	55,628	38,047	435.1	276.6	118.5	126.7	93.5
2003	82,076	47,865	34,212	418.4	259.7	108.0	116.1	93.0
2004	84,410	51,105	33,304	446.5	283.6	104.0	113.5	91.7
2005	86,732	57,465	29,267	456.7	316.3	104.5	114.4	91.3
2006	86,772	60,857	25,915	458.0	325.2	104.4	117.7	88.7
2007	89,226	63,486	25,740	481.8	340.9	101.9	117.3	86.9
2008	86,394	57,585	28,810	484.5	300.5	98.0	119.7	81.9
2009	85,804	45,061	40,742	468.4	249.2	98.9	113.9	86.8
2010	89,703	45,764	43,940	485.5	241.3	101.2	119.2	84.9
2011	91,228	48,315	42,913	507.9	240.8	99.7	126.4	78.8
2012	92,048	49,219	42,830	479.1	231.9	105.8	133.7	79.2
2011 January	6,948	4,302	2,646	462.9	252.5	100.3	125.7	79.7
February	7,586	4,297	3,288	512.6	252.0	99.3	125.4	79.2
March	8,511	4,286	4,225	573.8	249.1	99.1	126.6	78.3
April	7,841	4,669	3,172	527.4	280.5	98.0	126.0	77.7
May	7,446	3,745	3,701	505.6	229.0	96.7	123.8	78.1
June	8,280	3,883	4,397	562.5	232.5	98.7	124.4	79.3
July	7,072	3,519	3,554	475.7	211.4	98.5	126.3	78.0
August	7,029	3,686	3,343	472.8	223.3	97.5	125.6	77.6
September	7,988	3,823	4,165	543.5	227.8	99.7	127.2	78.4
October	7,337	3,810	3,526	497.2	229.4	100.1	128.1	78.1
November	8,596	4,159	4,436	564.7	238.3	102.5	128.5	79.7
December	6,593	4,135	2,458	437.6	237.4	105.5	129.2	81.6
2012 ³ January	7,678	4,466	3,212	483.9	251.4	104.7	134.2	78.0
February	7,402	3,957	3,445	470.5	224.9	103.9	133.0	78.1
March	8,628	4,987	3,640	548.1	286.5	103.9	131.7	78.9
April	7,073	3,741	3,332	449.8	210.5	103.8	134.3	77.3
May	7,631	4,066	3,564	479.3	231.8	105.2	132.5	79.4
June	8,065	3,980	4,085	492.8	225.1	107.8	133.0	81.0
July	7,808	3,799	4,009	482.2	212.9	107.1	134.5	79.7
August	8,376	3,865	4,511	508.3	214.6	108.8	135.7	80.1
September	7,531	4,332	3,199	465.4	242.5	106.8	134.9	79.2
October	7,569	4,372	3,197	471.4	245.6	106.0	134.3	78.9
November	8,339	3,963	4,376	524.5	224.0	105.2	133.6	78.8
December	5,950	3,691	2,259	372.3	211.5	106.8	132.2	80.8
2013 ³ January	6,790	4,407	2,382	423.4	248.8	105.9	133.9	79.1
February	6,656	3,896	2,760	425.1	219.7	103.4	134.0	77.2
March	7,994	4,117	3,877	503.4	234.9	104.9	132.4	79.2
April ⁴	7,506	4,128	3,378	466.4	233.4	106.3	133.7	79.5

¹ Monthly data have been rescaled to make their average equal to the annual² Export unit value index divided by Import unit value index³ Revised, see Background notes⁴ April 2013 is based on current Intrastat response levels, see Background notes

Table 2 Goods Exports and Imports seasonally adjusted¹ series

Period		Value			Volume index	
		Exports €m	Imports €m	Trade Surplus €m	Base year 1990=100	
					Exports	Imports
2010	January	7,128	3,455	3,673	488.4	225.4
	February	7,157	3,607	3,550	467.9	234.4
	March	6,939	3,906	3,032	462.1	248.6
	April	7,215	4,221	2,994	465.3	269.2
	May	7,695	3,669	4,026	477.2	236.8
	June	7,252	4,129	3,122	460.7	254.6
	July	7,938	3,786	4,152	494.3	235.3
	August	7,658	3,849	3,809	494.1	243.9
	September	7,863	3,980	3,883	505.7	247.9
	October	7,580	3,597	3,983	510.0	226.3
	November	7,628	3,532	4,096	519.5	222.6
	December	7,706	4,064	3,642	494.3	241.7
2011	January	7,289	4,495	2,795	485.9	263.6
	February	8,051	4,322	3,729	535.5	251.8
	March	7,626	3,820	3,806	520.7	222.1
	April	7,577	4,919	2,658	495.4	289.2
	May	7,568	3,724	3,844	503.9	227.2
	June	7,840	3,833	4,007	537.2	228.2
	July	7,022	3,805	3,217	470.7	228.9
	August	7,784	3,986	3,798	524.5	240.5
	September	7,799	3,827	3,973	531.2	231.9
	October	7,461	3,861	3,601	501.9	233.9
	November	8,095	3,806	4,289	541.9	219.5
	December	7,113	4,142	2,971	488.7	239.5
2012	January	8,302	4,506	3,796	516.1	253.4
	February	7,286	3,730	3,556	462.3	214.8
	March	7,739	4,623	3,116	498.5	260.9
	April	7,029	3,584	3,445	443.4	202.3
	May	7,528	4,119	3,409	472.2	229.7
	June	7,471	4,012	3,459	459.5	228.3
	July	7,833	4,003	3,829	485.9	225.1
	August	9,188	4,215	4,973	561.3	232.0
	September	7,365	4,616	2,748	457.5	261.2
	October	7,591	4,259	3,332	465.4	238.1
	November	8,054	3,776	4,279	498.6	216.0
	December	6,734	3,774	2,959	430.2	218.5
2013	January	6,852	3,947	2,905	426.9	234.2
	February	7,015	3,881	3,134	445.1	220.1
	March	7,330	3,787	3,543	457.5	215.4
	April	7,383	3,956	3,427	461.0	225.0

¹ Based on seasonal patterns up to December 2012. Accordingly all values in this table may have been revised

Table 3 Goods Exports and Imports classified by commodity¹

€ million

SITC (Rev 4)	Exports				Imports			
	Apr 2012	Apr 2013	Jan-Apr 2012	Jan-Apr 2013	Apr 2012	Apr 2013	Jan-Apr 2012	Jan-Apr 2013
0 Food and live animals	602	678	2,496	2,618	420	493	1,719	1,965
00 Live animals other than animals of Division 03	14	17	53	65	15	5	46	36
01 Meat and meat preparations	214	230	914	942	60	62	237	255
02 Dairy products and birds' eggs	122	139	458	480	49	45	187	197
03 Fish, crustaceans, molluscs and preparations thereof	32	42	197	193	20	16	82	72
04 Cereals and cereal preparations	25	25	93	94	68	88	259	336
05 Vegetables and fruit	18	18	75	76	78	85	320	331
06 Sugars, sugar preparations and honey	10	11	36	42	25	30	100	127
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and manufactures thereof	32	34	107	128	25	30	124	128
08 Feeding stuff for animals (excl unmilled cereals)	17	22	71	88	49	94	223	352
09 Miscellaneous edible products and preparations	117	142	492	510	32	37	140	133
1 Beverages and tobacco	78	85	336	345	66	65	242	226
11 Beverages	70	78	308	319	57	57	213	197
12 Tobacco and tobacco manufactures	7	7	27	26	9	8	28	29
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	137	139	584	576	59	59	246	223
21 Hides, skins and furskins, raw	8	8	35	42	0	0	0	0
22 Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits	0	0	3	1	1	3	7	10
23 Crude rubber (incl synthetic and reclaimed)	0	0	0	1	2	1	9	5
24 Cork and wood	11	10	39	40	10	9	35	30
25 Pulp and waste paper	4	5	17	18	5	5	18	16
26 Textile fibres and their wastes	11	12	44	49	1	1	5	6
27 Crude fertilisers and minerals (excl coal, petroleum and precious stones)	13	12	48	46	11	11	43	36
28 Metalliferous ores and metal scrap	83	83	363	344	14	16	67	60
29 Crude animal and vegetable materials nes	8	8	34	35	14	13	62	59
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	267	98	836	268	591	515	2,559	2,301
32 Coal, coke and briquettes	9	10	30	31	15	10	74	77
33 Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	253	86	795	231	453	436	2,005	1,719
34 Gas, natural and manufactured	5	1	10	3	121	67	475	501
35 Electric current	0	0	1	3	2	1	5	4
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	4	5	21	20	22	21	87	82
41 Animal oils and fats	3	3	18	17	1	1	4	5
42 Fixed vegetable fats and oils	1	1	2	3	19	18	72	69
43 Animal or vegetable fats and oils, processed; waxes	0	0	1	1	2	2	10	9
5 Chemicals and related products	4,206	4,510	18,659	17,323	833	1,105	3,478	3,747
51 Organic chemicals	1,505	1,538	7,330	6,412	205	269	825	903
52 Inorganic chemicals	16	19	65	72	15	21	66	73
53 Dyeing, tanning and colouring materials	13	15	49	67	15	14	62	60
54 Medical and pharmaceutical products	1,827	2,039	7,961	7,326	322	513	1,396	1,535
55 Essential oils; perfume materials; toilet and cleansing preparations	525	567	2,025	2,161	78	84	313	331
56 Fertilisers (other than those of Division 27)	1	0	1	1	40	50	204	205
57 Plastics in primary forms	21	23	95	112	60	69	249	265
58 Plastics in non-primary forms	29	30	104	119	37	38	142	140
59 Chemical materials and products nes	269	279	1,029	1,054	60	47	221	236

Table 3 Goods Exports and Imports classified by commodity¹ - continued

€ million

SITC (Rev 4)	Exports				Imports			
	Apr 2012	Apr 2013	Jan-Apr 2012	Jan-Apr 2013	Apr 2012	Apr 2013	Jan-Apr 2012	Jan-Apr 2013
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	128	130	552	519	297	307	1,223	1,218
61 Leather; leather manufactures nes; dressed furskins	1	2	9	9	1	1	5	5
62 Rubber manufactures nes	5	6	20	22	24	22	93	94
63 Cork and wood manufactures (excl furniture)	18	18	73	75	13	12	52	51
64 Paper, paperboard and articles thereof	10	11	42	48	62	65	259	264
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products	12	12	49	46	26	26	106	106
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures nes	21	23	89	81	28	31	120	121
67 Iron and steel	8	8	35	39	42	43	177	164
68 Non-ferrous metals	6	5	29	22	45	48	153	167
69 Manufactures of metals nes	47	45	207	177	57	58	257	246
7 Machinery and transport equipment	747	886	3,447	3,429	826	932	4,965	4,233
71 Power generating machinery and equipment	48	77	258	257	46	62	216	265
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries	39	40	164	172	61	95	263	325
73 Metalworking machinery	3	1	10	7	6	6	22	21
74 General industrial machinery and equipment nes and parts nes	100	113	467	432	72	79	328	330
75 Office machines and automatic data processing machines	220	347	1,125	1,330	211	243	885	986
76 Telecommunications and sound equipment	77	56	322	250	84	74	347	311
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances nes and parts	201	202	903	797	146	157	633	613
78 Road vehicles (incl air-cushion vehicles)	19	22	74	78	130	153	739	728
79 Other transport equipment	39	28	126	106	69	61	1,533	654
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	826	849	3,544	3,426	451	444	1,905	1,811
81 Prefab buildings; plumbing and electrical fixtures and fittings	7	9	29	36	11	11	50	45
82 Furniture and parts thereof; bedding, cushions etc	9	7	33	35	22	24	97	97
83 Travel goods, handbags and similar containers	3	1	10	4	8	7	34	31
84 Articles of apparel; clothing accessories	31	16	122	60	118	108	528	463
85 Footwear	5	3	18	9	27	23	109	99
87 Professional, scientific and controlling apparatus nes	262	287	1,150	1,141	77	94	334	348
88 Photographic apparatus; optical goods; watches and clocks	86	83	373	344	17	16	65	66
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes	424	442	1,809	1,797	171	161	689	662
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	24	56	93	171	79	87	355	355
Unclassified estimates²	55	70	213	250	98	101	372	386
Total	7,073	7,506	30,780	28,945	3,741	4,128	17,151	16,548

¹ April 2013 is based on current Intrastat response levels, see Background notes

² Estimates for which a commodity classification is not available

Table 4 Goods Exports and Imports classified by country¹

€ million

Country	Exports				Imports			
	Apr 2012	Apr 2013	Jan-Apr 2012	Jan-Apr 2013	Apr 2012	Apr 2013	Jan-Apr 2012	Jan-Apr 2013
Great Britain	1,245	1,069	4,987	4,037	1,236	1,160	5,200	5,066
Northern Ireland	117	122	465	463	86	84	347	321
Austria	23	25	107	104	26	16	92	61
Belgium	895	927	5,055	3,549	64	84	288	369
Bulgaria	6	5	19	19	1	1	3	4
Cyprus	2	3	9	11	0	0	3	1
Czech Republic	25	40	119	138	19	22	118	105
Denmark	37	41	175	185	42	32	194	235
Estonia	2	2	5	7	1	1	2	5
Finland	25	27	117	135	9	8	35	31
France	398	361	1,644	1,361	149	201	654	710
Germany	574	681	2,268	2,577	261	314	1,197	1,372
Greece	21	26	93	100	2	1	8	8
Italy	205	220	965	848	69	67	259	277
Latvia	8	3	29	13	1	2	14	7
Lithuania	3	6	10	13	2	9	22	28
Luxembourg	5	4	21	19	5	3	14	13
Hungary	17	25	70	95	7	8	34	37
Malta	2	2	8	8	1	1	3	5
Netherlands	229	307	1,012	1,225	179	288	694	916
Poland	50	64	216	248	23	28	103	116
Portugal	28	31	119	122	11	11	41	42
Romania	29	32	115	124	19	12	50	39
Slovakia	4	7	21	23	2	3	25	18
Slovenia	1	2	6	8	0	1	3	3
Spain	224	260	917	861	55	61	236	264
Sweden	49	60	230	247	25	35	145	131
EU Country not specified ²	1	11	4	37	89	119	396	442
Total EU	4,227	4,362	18,806	16,578	2,385	2,573	10,179	10,626
<i>of which Euro-Zone³</i>	2,637	2,883	12,362	10,951	855	1,089	3,638	4,189
Australia	58	54	228	228	7	7	28	25
Brazil	20	22	91	96	63	14	191	100
Canada	43	80	244	268	17	20	58	100
China	135	177	758	657	197	218	866	917
India	18	19	81	83	41	39	155	138
Japan	139	105	616	550	53	77	247	314
Malaysia	16	17	83	75	19	16	73	69
Mexico	58	60	220	237	22	26	88	96
Norway	29	23	112	122	78	84	298	409
Philippines	5	6	23	25	2	3	9	9
Russia	45	70	189	216	8	16	40	53
Saudi Arabia	60	68	210	225	0	0	1	27
Singapore	42	54	180	188	24	66	86	136
South Africa	26	23	114	85	12	9	45	26
South Korea	29	29	113	101	22	41	104	147
Switzerland	583	409	1,773	1,017	92	123	298	334
Taiwan	10	15	47	39	20	15	75	60
Thailand	15	7	48	38	28	27	100	117
Turkey	35	42	141	155	26	23	109	95
USA	1,192	1,509	5,505	6,712	353	449	2,886	1,988
Other countries	286	352	1,184	1,241	218	249	977	587
Country unknown ⁴	3	1	15	9	54	32	237	174
Total	7,073	7,506	30,780	28,945	3,741	4,128	17,151	16,548

¹ April 2013 is based on current Intrastat response levels, see Background notes

² Includes estimates for traders below the Intrastat threshold and transactions where the EU country was not specified

³ Euro-zone members from January 2011: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Malta, Cyprus, Slovakia and Estonia

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

Table 5 Goods Exports and Imports classified by commodity and principal countries¹

€ million

Country by Section level of SITC	Exports				Imports			
	Apr 2012	Apr 2013	Jan-Apr 2012	Jan-Apr 2013	Apr 2012	Apr 2013	Jan-Apr 2012	Jan-Apr 2013
Great Britain	1,245	1,069	4,987	4,037	1,236	1,160	5,200	5,066
0 Food and live animals	242	261	978	1,027	168	178	725	732
1 Beverages and tobacco	17	21	80	81	23	21	77	75
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	30	29	127	115	13	10	53	45
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	101	58	504	184	384	302	1,587	1,535
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	1	1	9	6	3	4	13	15
5 Chemicals and related products	581	417	2,129	1,500	159	156	653	631
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	51	50	209	201	114	117	485	486
7 Machinery and transport equipment	119	127	540	523	180	185	813	777
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	77	75	310	298	140	143	593	586
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	25	29	100	103	52	44	200	184
Other EU²	2,982	3,293	13,819	12,541	1,149	1,413	4,979	5,561
0 Food and live animals	223	258	929	1,003	174	212	693	854
1 Beverages and tobacco	28	26	104	103	33	32	127	114
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	76	75	319	314	20	21	82	78
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	66	11	231	54	21	22	150	241
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	2	3	10	11	14	13	57	53
5 Chemicals and related products	1,937	2,118	9,193	7,923	331	491	1,371	1,596
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	56	59	248	231	112	119	442	461
7 Machinery and transport equipment	270	379	1,361	1,444	250	283	1,214	1,296
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	290	319	1,297	1,296	82	88	367	364
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	34	45	128	164	112	130	476	504
USA	1,192	1,509	5,505	6,712	353	449	2,886	1,988
0 Food and live animals	7	8	33	32	11	43	52	131
1 Beverages and tobacco	20	22	95	99	1	1	3	3
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	2	3	9	8	3	3	14	14
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	99	28	100	28	12	0	59	23
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
5 Chemicals and related products	693	1,074	3,714	5,049	139	212	649	655
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	7	7	39	34	21	25	89	90
7 Machinery and transport equipment	74	82	302	301	100	102	1,756	825
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	290	284	1,206	1,147	61	59	249	232
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	1	3	7	13	4	4	14	15
China³	135	177	758	657	197	218	866	917
0 Food and live animals	22	32	93	109	2	3	8	8
1 Beverages and tobacco	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	7	6	30	31	1	2	5	8
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
5 Chemicals and related products	27	41	253	150	16	16	57	58
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2	1	6	6	22	17	99	86
7 Machinery and transport equipment	57	77	309	288	85	121	370	459
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	19	20	65	71	68	57	316	285
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	0	0	0	0	3	3	11	13
Rest of World	1,519	1,457	5,711	4,998	805	889	3,219	3,017
0 Food and live animals	107	120	463	447	65	57	241	241
1 Beverages and tobacco	13	16	55	61	9	11	34	34
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	23	26	99	109	21	23	90	78
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	0	1	1	2	173	190	764	502
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0	0	1	2	5	5	17	14
5 Chemicals and related products	967	860	3,369	2,702	187	230	748	808
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	11	12	50	47	29	29	109	96
7 Machinery and transport equipment	227	221	936	874	210	240	811	874
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	151	152	666	614	100	97	380	345
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	19	48	72	141	6	7	26	25
Total	7,073	7,506	30,780	28,945	3,741	4,128	17,151	16,548

¹ April 2013 is based on current Intrastat response levels, see Background notes

² Includes estimates for traders below the Intrastat threshold and transactions where the EU country was not specified

³ China includes Hong Kong and Macao

Background Notes

Introduction Goods Exports and Imports statistics provide data on the movement of goods between countries. The statistics are a combination of Customs-based non-EU trade statistics and data from the Intrastat Survey of Irish traders involved in trade with other EU member states. The collection of trade data is the responsibility of VIMA (a branch of Revenue). The CSO is responsible for processing and disseminating the data.

Revisions Trade figures are subject to revision on the incorporation of late Intrastat and VAT returns and corrections made by traders. When the preliminary results for a month are published, the results for months -1 (March 2013 in this publication), -4 (December 2012) and -8 (August 2012) are revised.

Intrastat System The Intrastat system has two components. Firstly, the Intrastat survey (conducted by the Revenue Commissioners), in which traders, above the Intrastat survey trade thresholds, 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 around 6,700 while around 1,900 must make a detailed export return. The response rate in terms of number of traders in April 2013 was 69%, covering an estimated 90% 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 countries. 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 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.

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.

Imports incorporate an upward adjustment of 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.

More information is now being processed on lower value transactions. Prior to January 2012, transactions below €254 were grouped together, this value has now decreased to €127. Therefore, this has resulted in more detail being available at commodity level in Table 3 and at country level in Tables 4 and 5.

Unit Value Indices The monthly unit value index measures monthly unit value 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 trade in goods.

The monthly index series should be regarded as interim measures suitable for month-to-month comparisons within a given year. Previous monthly indices are revised when late returns are received.

When the annual unit value index is compiled, the monthly unit value indices are rescaled to make their average equal to the annual index.

Seasonally Adjusted Series Monthly exports, imports, trade surplus and the volume series for exports and imports have been seasonally adjusted using the US Bureau of the Census X-11 Variant of the Census Method 11 Seasonal Adjustment Program. In the main, monthly projections are based on series recalculated at the end of the previous year.

Services Exports and Imports The quarterly Balance of Payments (BOP) statistics provide detail on Services exports and imports.