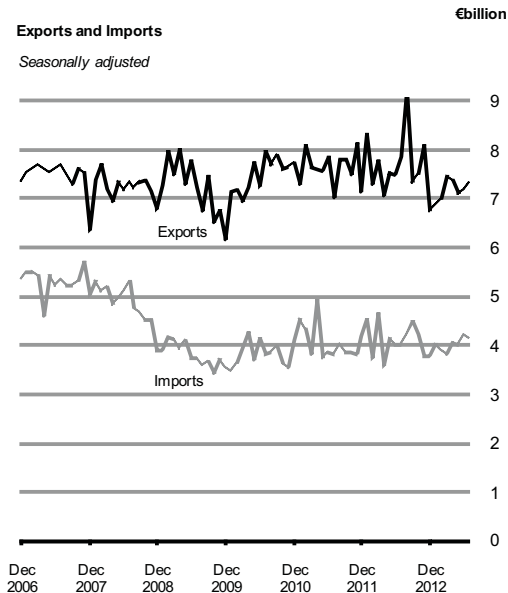




Goods Exports and Imports July 2013



	Seasonally adjusted € million		
	Exports	Imports	Surplus
February 2013	6,961	3,892	3,069
March 2013	7,419	3,815	3,604
April 2013	7,366	4,052	3,314
May 2013	7,065	4,001	3,064
June 2013	7,147	4,183	2,964
July 2013	7,331	4,122	3,210

Seasonally adjusted surplus up 8% in July

Preliminary figures for July 2013 indicate an increase in seasonally adjusted exports of €184 million (+3%) to €7,331 million from June 2013. Seasonally adjusted imports decreased by €61 million (-2%) to €4,122 million resulting in an 8% increase in the seasonally adjusted trade surplus to €3,210 million (*see Table 2*).

Comparing July 2013 with July 2012, the value of exports decreased by €209 million (-3%) to €7,599 million. The main driver was a decrease of €301 million (-13%) in the exports of *Medical and pharmaceutical products*. The exports of *Food and live animals* increased by €101 million (+15%).

On an overall basis the EU accounted for €4,146 million (55%) of total exports in July 2013. The USA was the main non-EU destination accounting for 18% (€1,363 million) of total exports in July 2013.

Comparing July 2013 with July 2012, the value of imports increased by €105 million (+3%) to €3,904 million. The main drivers were an increase of €52 million (+12%) in the imports of *Food and live animals* and €50 million (+6%) in *Chemicals and related products*.

The EU was the source of 66% of the value of imports in July 2013, with 31% coming from Great Britain. The USA (11%) and China (6%) 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	48,302	42,925	507.9	240.8	99.7	126.4	78.8
2012	91,860	49,125	42,735	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	4,122	2,471	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	7,464	4,204	3,260	465.4	242.5	106.8	134.9	79.2
October	7,470	4,328	3,142	471.4	245.6	106.0	134.3	78.9
November	8,317	4,042	4,275	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	6,787	4,447	2,340	423.0	251.7	106.0	133.5	79.4
February	6,605	3,906	2,698	422.2	221.9	103.3	133.1	77.7
March	8,091	4,148	3,943	506.8	237.4	105.4	132.0	79.9
April	7,488	4,228	3,260	466.1	238.6	106.1	133.9	79.2
May	7,196	3,925	3,271	450.9	225.5	105.4	131.5	80.1
June	7,359	3,992	3,367	459.5	226.3	105.8	133.3	79.3
July ⁴	7,599	3,904	3,695	475.6	218.8	105.5	134.8	78.3

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 July 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	4,129	2,984	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	7,299	4,479	2,820	457.5	261.2
October	7,492	4,216	3,276	465.4	238.1
November	8,033	3,851	4,182	498.6	216.0
December	6,734	3,774	2,959	430.2	218.5
2013					
January	6,849	3,982	2,867	426.5	236.9
February	6,961	3,892	3,069	442.0	222.3
March	7,419	3,815	3,604	460.6	217.7
April	7,366	4,052	3,314	460.7	230.0
May	7,065	4,001	3,064	444.8	227.0
June	7,147	4,183	2,964	449.8	235.7
July	7,331	4,122	3,210	462.8	228.3

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			
	Jul 2012	Jul 2013	Jan-Jul 2012	Jan-Jul 2013	Jul 2012	Jul 2013	Jan-Jul 2012	Jan-Jul 2013
0 Food and live animals	666	767	4,513	4,912	435	487	3,058	3,477
00 Live animals other than animals of Division 03	59	68	140	162	10	12	73	65
01 Meat and meat preparations	220	237	1,604	1,675	63	67	435	457
02 Dairy products and birds' eggs	144	171	918	1,052	40	55	324	347
03 Fish, crustaceans, molluscs and preparations thereof	32	36	303	304	17	19	132	128
04 Cereals and cereal preparations	22	24	162	169	74	77	491	591
05 Vegetables and fruit	18	20	133	138	87	92	591	611
06 Sugars, sugar preparations and honey	8	8	64	71	29	32	179	230
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and manufactures thereof	34	32	216	229	28	29	213	221
08 Feeding stuff for animals (excl unmilled cereals)	17	19	124	151	54	71	381	585
09 Miscellaneous edible products and preparations	112	152	850	961	32	34	238	241
1 Beverages and tobacco	104	103	609	617	68	65	444	414
11 Beverages	98	95	560	569	62	56	395	364
12 Tobacco and tobacco manufactures	7	8	50	48	6	8	49	50
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	132	144	1,026	1,008	53	62	421	402
21 Hides, skins and furskins, raw	9	10	63	75	0	0	0	0
22 Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits	0	0	4	2	1	3	10	17
23 Crude rubber (incl synthetic and reclaimed)	0	0	0	1	1	1	15	8
24 Cork and wood	9	11	70	72	8	9	60	57
25 Pulp and waste paper	5	4	32	30	4	4	32	27
26 Textile fibres and their wastes	14	12	82	82	1	2	9	11
27 Crude fertilisers and minerals (excl coal, petroleum and precious stones)	12	12	84	80	10	10	75	70
28 Metalliferous ores and metal scrap	77	86	628	603	17	19	119	109
29 Crude animal and vegetable materials nes	7	9	62	62	10	13	101	103
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	93	65	1,228	512	519	441	4,151	4,022
32 Coal, coke and briquettes	3	7	47	56	22	26	120	149
33 Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	88	54	1,162	443	389	297	3,210	2,920
34 Gas, natural and manufactured	1	3	18	10	104	112	807	929
35 Electric current	0	1	2	4	3	6	14	24
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	3	4	32	31	21	19	152	140
41 Animal oils and fats	3	3	27	25	1	1	8	7
42 Fixed vegetable fats and oils	0	0	4	5	17	16	127	118
43 Animal or vegetable fats and oils, processed; waxes	0	0	1	1	3	2	17	15
5 Chemicals and related products	4,945	4,578	33,065	30,352	839	889	6,130	6,495
51 Organic chemicals	1,678	1,615	11,984	10,788	197	171	1,516	1,459
52 Inorganic chemicals	18	24	118	123	16	19	114	127
53 Dyeing, tanning and colouring materials	18	14	97	109	17	16	111	110
54 Medical and pharmaceutical products	2,340	2,039	14,853	13,081	360	396	2,453	2,753
55 Essential oils; perfume materials; toilet and cleansing preparations	537	533	3,703	3,871	82	89	569	602
56 Fertilisers (other than those of Division 27)	0	0	2	2	13	48	288	336
57 Plastics in primary forms	27	21	183	184	62	64	445	472
58 Plastics in non-primary forms	32	34	193	226	38	40	257	263
59 Chemical materials and products nes	295	299	1,932	1,967	53	46	377	373

Table 3 Goods Exports and Imports classified by commodity¹ - continued

€ million

SITC (Rev 4)	Exports				Imports			
	Jul 2012	Jul 2013	Jan-Jul 2012	Jan-Jul 2013	Jul 2012	Jul 2013	Jan-Jul 2012	Jan-Jul 2013
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	138	148	987	951	303	352	2,173	2,217
61 Leather; leather manufactures nes; dressed furskins	2	2	13	13	1	2	8	10
62 Rubber manufactures nes	5	5	37	37	21	22	162	162
63 Cork and wood manufactures (excl furniture)	17	19	127	137	15	14	93	91
64 Paper, paperboard and articles thereof	11	13	75	83	67	68	475	457
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products	14	12	91	80	28	27	191	189
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures nes	24	26	163	157	34	34	217	218
67 Iron and steel	9	15	63	73	41	41	317	291
68 Non-ferrous metals	6	6	49	38	38	65	273	338
69 Manufactures of metals nes	50	51	368	333	57	78	436	461
7 Machinery and transport equipment	736	786	5,939	5,889	878	880	7,841	6,832
71 Power generating machinery and equipment	45	68	412	455	86	57	466	463
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries	40	42	283	299	67	78	474	561
73 Metalworking machinery	3	1	17	12	7	7	36	37
74 General industrial machinery and equipment nes and parts nes	103	117	799	796	85	109	580	644
75 Office machines and automatic data processing machines	211	290	1,921	2,216	215	228	1,501	1,568
76 Telecommunications and sound equipment	74	48	550	389	94	91	633	591
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances nes and parts	214	175	1,586	1,347	157	167	1,096	1,090
78 Road vehicles (incl air-cushion vehicles)	21	20	137	142	82	122	1,031	1,100
79 Other transport equipment	25	24	233	234	84	22	2,025	778
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	903	885	6,288	6,143	508	519	3,377	3,238
81 Prefab buildings; plumbing and electrical fixtures and fittings	7	7	52	61	13	12	86	81
82 Furniture and parts thereof; bedding, cushions etc	8	10	56	66	27	27	173	175
83 Travel goods, handbags and similar containers	4	3	19	10	13	11	68	60
84 Articles of apparel; clothing accessories	33	16	223	115	142	124	909	798
85 Footwear	5	2	34	15	31	27	188	171
87 Professional, scientific and controlling apparatus nes	302	296	2,075	2,063	85	117	591	666
88 Photographic apparatus; optical goods; watches and clocks	93	93	659	616	15	20	114	121
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes	450	458	3,170	3,197	182	181	1,247	1,166
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	32	51	225	317	81	85	606	610
Unclassified estimates²	55	69	373	392	94	104	642	702
Total	7,808	7,599	54,283	51,123	3,799	3,904	28,995	28,549

¹ July 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			
	Jul 2012	Jul 2013	Jan-Jul 2012	Jan-Jul 2013	Jul 2012	Jul 2013	Jan-Jul 2012	Jan-Jul 2013
Great Britain	1,040	1,018	8,483	7,134	1,216	1,190	8,761	8,759
Northern Ireland	114	118	824	823	82	78	589	580
Austria	27	31	186	240	13	16	135	114
Belgium	1,300	844	8,468	6,625	65	78	541	611
Bulgaria	6	8	39	41	1	1	6	7
Croatia ²	–	4	–	4	–	0	–	0
Cyprus	2	3	20	20	0	0	3	2
Czech Republic	23	33	196	241	17	25	173	177
Denmark	48	45	312	315	31	31	292	375
Estonia	2	1	11	12	0	0	3	6
Finland	23	29	201	212	13	8	71	63
France	345	334	2,760	2,363	153	173	1,111	1,254
Germany	533	717	4,172	4,185	273	329	2,016	2,373
Greece	28	28	166	174	2	4	12	15
Italy	220	193	1,663	1,443	72	81	465	505
Latvia	3	6	40	32	2	2	25	17
Lithuania	3	3	21	19	2	7	28	50
Luxembourg	4	5	38	33	3	4	28	26
Hungary	26	17	145	162	7	9	58	67
Malta	2	2	16	15	0	1	5	8
Netherlands	286	294	1,929	2,140	225	216	1,306	1,573
Poland	51	68	393	461	34	33	184	208
Portugal	33	27	230	200	10	13	75	80
Romania	32	29	207	234	8	9	79	65
Slovakia	4	4	37	37	4	6	38	33
Slovenia	1	4	19	20	1	1	5	6
Spain	199	224	1,645	1,623	49	53	390	440
Sweden	45	48	414	442	26	31	224	226
EU Country not specified ³	3	10	13	53	94	164	687	818
Total EU	4,405	4,146	32,648	29,304	2,400	2,564	17,312	18,457
<i>of which Euro-Zone⁴</i>	3,009	2,738	21,549	19,330	905	1,064	6,364	7,306
Australia	108	100	450	451	9	10	53	51
Brazil	19	16	149	153	68	14	398	140
Canada	73	73	458	450	28	23	136	153
China	204	174	1,330	1,164	262	249	1,592	1,617
India	20	20	130	145	29	31	239	236
Japan	203	148	1,175	1,007	75	69	444	511
Malaysia	21	22	144	130	24	21	134	131
Mexico	56	55	391	419	20	26	159	171
Norway	24	30	185	223	53	79	511	762
Russia	50	61	340	398	9	19	73	90
Saudi Arabia	72	51	379	432	0	0	3	72
Singapore	42	37	315	315	24	30	165	210
South Africa	17	20	179	147	15	8	84	49
South Korea	31	34	200	200	31	39	187	263
Switzerland	269	824	2,618	2,459	91	46	661	510
Taiwan	9	11	77	69	20	17	134	115
Thailand	16	18	89	80	34	35	185	205
Turkey	35	47	273	283	25	25	179	157
USA	1,785	1,363	10,537	10,989	332	426	4,251	3,217
Other countries	344	346	2,188	2,291	229	143	1,763	1,154
Country unknown ⁵	6	2	28	15	20	29	332	276
Total	7,808	7,599	54,283	51,123	3,799	3,904	28,995	28,549

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

² Croatia joined the EU on the 1st of July 2013

³ Includes estimates for traders below the Intrastat threshold and transactions where the EU country was not specified

⁴ 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

⁵ 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			
	Jul	Jul	Jan-Jul	Jan-Jul	Jul	Jul	Jan-Jul	Jan-Jul
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
Great Britain	1,040	1,018	8,483	7,134	1,216	1,190	8,761	8,759
0 Food and live animals	251	276	1,747	1,876	182	196	1,302	1,333
1 Beverages and tobacco	24	27	143	157	21	18	139	138
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	26	31	220	200	8	10	92	79
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	69	54	724	289	341	305	2,491	2,555
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	1	1	13	10	3	3	22	23
5 Chemicals and related products	401	353	3,599	2,596	160	159	1,140	1,126
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	55	60	383	375	123	124	871	858
7 Machinery and transport equipment	115	113	944	919	176	176	1,321	1,302
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	72	73	537	541	152	148	1,038	1,012
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	25	29	176	170	50	50	344	334
Other EU^{2,3}	3,365	3,128	24,164	22,171	1,184	1,375	8,551	9,698
0 Food and live animals	239	267	1,703	1,867	188	204	1,249	1,495
1 Beverages and tobacco	28	27	197	185	34	33	227	204
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	68	68	572	543	18	20	136	140
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	23	9	339	75	14	44	226	388
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	2	2	17	17	13	11	99	89
5 Chemicals and related products	2,363	2,054	16,137	14,149	375	415	2,435	2,875
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	57	60	435	409	109	149	789	853
7 Machinery and transport equipment	235	283	2,266	2,408	228	268	1,944	2,116
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	313	313	2,274	2,264	93	105	631	651
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	35	44	226	253	112	125	815	887
USA	1,785	1,363	10,537	10,989	332	426	4,251	3,217
0 Food and live animals	10	12	60	61	12	23	88	191
1 Beverages and tobacco	32	30	165	169	1	1	6	6
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	3	2	17	14	3	4	25	26
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	0	0	163	116	5	6	78	40
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
5 Chemicals and related products	1,357	882	7,350	7,880	96	168	1,044	1,136
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	9	12	65	68	19	24	148	166
7 Machinery and transport equipment	83	106	568	563	131	119	2,392	1,192
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	288	316	2,136	2,096	62	76	444	432
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	3	2	13	23	3	4	24	25
China⁴	204	174	1,330	1,164	262	249	1,592	1,617
0 Food and live animals	16	35	155	210	3	2	17	14
1 Beverages and tobacco	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	9	8	55	53	2	2	9	16
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	2	2	0	0	0	0
5 Chemicals and related products	67	38	408	267	22	13	110	105
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2	2	12	12	26	30	176	162
7 Machinery and transport equipment	86	66	565	481	105	112	676	786
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	23	24	132	137	102	87	585	512
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	0	0	0	0	3	3	19	21
Rest of World	1,414	1,916	9,768	9,666	804	665	5,841	5,258
0 Food and live animals	150	177	849	900	50	62	402	443
1 Beverages and tobacco	20	18	103	104	12	12	72	66
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	26	35	163	198	23	26	160	141
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	0	2	2	32	158	86	1,356	1,038
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0	0	1	2	4	4	30	27
5 Chemicals and related products	757	1,251	5,570	5,459	186	134	1,401	1,252
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	14	14	92	86	27	25	190	178
7 Machinery and transport equipment	217	217	1,597	1,517	239	204	1,509	1,437
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	206	158	1,210	1,105	100	104	678	631
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	24	44	183	262	6	7	44	44
Total	7,808	7,599	54,283	51,123	3,799	3,904	28,995	28,549

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

² Croatia joined the EU on the 1st of July 2013

³ Includes estimates for traders below the Intrastat threshold and transactions where the EU country was not specified

⁴ 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 (June 2013 in this publication), -4 (March 2013) and -8 (November 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 July 2013 was 62%, covering an estimated 88% of the total value of intra-EU trade (these response rates will have increased by the next time we publish data for July).

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.