



External Trade

November 2011 (Provisional details)
December 2011 (Preliminary)

	Seasonally adjusted € million		
	Imports	Exports	Surplus
September 2011	3,838	8,010	4,172
October 2011	3,922	7,660	3,738
November 2011	3,708	8,252	4,544
December 2011	4,019	7,503	3,484

Exports down in December

From a November high of €8,252m, seasonally adjusted exports decreased by 9% to €7,503m in December. Imports increased by 8% to €4,019m, resulting in a 23% decrease in the seasonally adjusted trade surplus to €3,484m (see graph and table 2). A substantial part of the decline in the value of exports was due to a high value product in the *Chemicals and related products* sector coming off patent in December.

The figures for **January to November of 2011 compared with the same period of 2010** show (see tables 3 & 4):

Exports increased by 5% to €85,744m:

- ◆ Exports of Medical and pharmaceutical products increased by 11% or €2,566m, Organic chemicals by 8% or €1,459m, Dairy products by 26% or €340m and Meat by 15% or €316m.
- ◆ Exports of Computer equipment fell by 11% or €446m.
- ◆ Goods to the USA increased by 6% or €1,107m, to Great Britain by 4% or €480m and to France by 12% or €480m.
- ◆ In the first eleven months of 2011, the USA (23%), Belgium (15%) and Great Britain (14%) were Ireland's main export markets.

Imports increased by 6% to €44,136m:

- ◆ Imports of Petroleum increased by 25% or €940m, Medical and pharmaceutical products by 23% or €746m and Organic chemicals by 23% or €438m.
- ◆ Imports from Great Britain rose by 14% or €1,726m and from Germany by 13% or €399m.
- ◆ In the first eleven months of 2011, nearly one third (32%) of Ireland's imports came from Great Britain.

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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	63,485.7	89,226.1	25,740.5	340.9	481.8	117.3	101.9	86.9
2008	57,584.8	86,394.4	28,809.6	300.5	484.5	119.7	98.0	81.9
2009	45,061.1	84,238.9	39,177.8	249.2	468.4	113.9	98.9	86.8
2010	45,763.6	89,192.9	43,429.4	241.3	485.5	119.2	101.2	84.9
2009 January	3,939.9	6,928.1	2,988.2	250.4	450.0	118.8	101.7	85.6
February	4,101.5	6,908.7	2,807.3	260.3	453.3	118.5	101.5	85.7
March	4,485.3	8,129.4	3,644.0	286.9	507.5	118.6	102.6	86.6
April	3,652.6	7,644.5	3,991.9	240.7	504.7	115.0	101.6	88.4
May	3,877.3	6,876.7	2,999.4	255.9	461.9	113.9	100.6	88.3
June	3,709.0	7,612.3	3,903.3	246.3	501.6	113.6	99.6	87.6
July	3,550.5	7,072.9	3,522.4	235.7	469.2	113.1	97.9	86.6
August	3,108.3	5,965.3	2,856.9	209.4	389.9	111.4	98.0	88.0
September	3,572.3	7,703.2	4,130.9	234.5	510.9	111.6	96.3	86.3
October	3,546.2	6,595.5	3,049.3	240.1	451.6	110.1	95.1	86.4
November	3,833.3	6,815.9	2,982.6	257.0	456.7	110.4	94.8	85.9
December	3,684.9	5,986.4	2,301.5	245.7	401.0	111.5	96.8	86.9
2010 January	3,359.6	7,021.6	3,662.0	219.8	464.9	115.5	99.8	86.4
February	3,608.0	6,683.7	3,075.7	233.8	439.1	116.6	100.5	86.2
March	4,211.7	7,807.6	3,595.9	272.8	511.9	116.7	100.7	86.3
April	4,132.0	7,375.3	3,243.4	264.7	484.2	118.0	100.6	85.3
May	3,573.2	7,435.3	3,862.2	230.5	472.5	117.1	103.9	88.7
June	4,120.5	7,896.7	3,776.2	256.4	489.7	120.3	106.3	88.4
July	3,597.4	7,825.7	4,228.4	224.6	500.8	119.9	103.4	86.2
August	3,476.5	6,697.2	3,220.7	219.6	435.4	120.1	101.5	84.5
September	3,910.5	7,894.5	3,984.0	242.0	515.5	121.1	101.4	83.8
October	3,648.1	7,537.9	3,889.8	227.5	517.0	118.8	96.7	81.4
November	3,954.9	7,795.6	3,840.7	245.4	538.2	120.3	97.3	80.8
December	4,171.3	7,221.9	3,050.6	246.6	467.5	126.3	102.2	80.9
2011 ³ January	4,302.2	7,008.0	2,705.9	246.5	458.5	128.8	101.2	78.6
February	4,297.2	7,678.8	3,381.6	246.0	507.8	128.5	100.2	78.0
March	4,285.7	8,586.1	4,300.3	243.2	568.4	129.7	100.1	77.1
April	4,669.3	7,948.7	3,279.4	273.8	522.5	129.1	98.9	76.6
May	3,716.9	7,512.6	3,795.7	223.5	500.8	126.9	97.6	76.9
June	3,872.4	8,366.5	4,494.2	226.9	557.2	127.5	99.7	78.2
July	3,529.5	7,103.3	3,573.7	206.4	471.2	129.4	99.5	76.9
August	3,705.6	7,040.6	3,335.0	218.0	468.4	128.7	98.4	76.5
September	3,834.9	8,204.5	4,369.6	222.4	538.4	130.3	100.6	77.2
October	3,870.7	7,532.5	3,661.7	223.9	492.6	131.3	101.1	77.0
November	4,052.2	8,762.4	4,710.2	232.6	559.4	131.7	103.5	78.6
December ⁴	4,012.8	6,955.2	2,942.5

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

² Export Price Index divided by Import Price Index

³ Revised, see Background Notes

⁴ 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
2008					
January	5,291.4	7,365.0	2,073.6	326.7	478.8
February	5,099.4	7,657.8	2,558.4	323.0	508.4
March	5,202.4	7,177.7	1,975.2	332.7	505.8
April	4,814.9	6,917.7	2,102.8	306.6	493.7
May	4,942.3	7,334.0	2,391.8	316.7	518.0
June	5,091.8	7,144.7	2,052.9	321.6	501.1
July	5,317.1	7,335.7	2,018.6	329.4	498.9
August	4,762.8	7,218.3	2,455.5	293.9	490.7
September	4,652.7	7,307.1	2,654.4	278.2	488.3
October	4,528.5	7,345.9	2,817.4	266.5	472.3
November	4,502.7	7,129.9	2,627.1	269.8	441.8
December	3,889.2	6,774.4	2,885.3	241.0	440.3
2009					
January	3,901.6	7,218.6	3,317.0	249.8	469.4
February	4,168.0	7,684.0	3,516.0	264.6	500.7
March	4,126.7	7,507.2	3,380.5	263.9	469.7
April	3,930.5	7,688.6	3,758.1	259.1	501.9
May	4,085.4	6,976.7	2,891.3	270.1	460.4
June	3,715.5	7,511.1	3,795.6	248.9	495.3
July	3,722.6	7,059.5	3,337.0	246.4	469.5
August	3,586.2	6,709.4	3,123.3	243.9	439.6
September	3,633.0	7,449.4	3,816.3	236.5	497.0
October	3,410.7	6,345.1	2,934.4	231.1	440.9
November	3,697.9	6,505.0	2,807.1	247.6	444.7
December	3,536.5	6,137.1	2,600.7	232.9	413.4
2010					
January	3,455.1	7,274.9	3,819.8	225.4	488.4
February	3,606.8	7,212.1	3,605.3	234.4	467.9
March	3,906.4	7,010.0	3,103.6	248.6	462.1
April	4,221.0	7,215.3	2,994.3	269.2	465.3
May	3,669.3	7,648.7	3,979.4	236.8	477.2
June	4,129.4	7,460.9	3,331.5	254.6	460.7
July	3,785.6	7,790.6	4,005.1	235.3	494.3
August	3,848.8	7,596.1	3,747.3	243.9	494.1
September	3,979.9	7,695.5	3,715.6	247.9	505.7
October	3,597.4	7,354.9	3,757.4	226.3	510.0
November	3,532.2	7,365.2	3,833.0	222.6	519.5
December	4,064.0	7,626.2	3,562.2	241.7	494.3
2011					
January	4,494.6	7,351.8	2,857.1	257.3	481.3
February	4,321.9	8,149.9	3,827.9	245.8	530.5
March	3,820.2	7,693.4	3,873.2	216.7	515.8
April	4,919.0	7,681.5	2,762.5	282.3	490.7
May	3,696.4	7,636.0	3,939.6	221.8	499.1
June	3,823.0	7,922.0	4,099.0	222.7	532.2
July	3,816.4	7,052.9	3,236.5	223.4	466.3
August	4,006.5	7,796.2	3,789.8	234.7	519.5
September	3,838.3	8,010.4	4,172.1	226.4	526.2
October	3,921.8	7,660.3	3,738.4	228.3	497.1
November	3,707.5	8,251.9	4,544.4	214.2	536.8
December	4,019.4	7,503.4	3,484.0

¹ Based on seasonal patterns up to December 2010. Accordingly all values in this table have been revised

.. Data not yet available

Table 3 Trade classified by Commodity¹

€ million

SITC (Rev 4)	Imports				Exports			
	Nov 2010	Nov 2011	Jan-Nov 2010	Jan-Nov 2011	Nov 2010	Nov 2011	Jan-Nov 2010	Jan-Nov 2011
0 Food and live animals	422.7	450.7	4,090.4	4,560.7	694.1	728.8	6,338.6	7,166.8
00 Live animals other than animals of Division 03	21.3	24.3	94.6	151.8	82.6	66.9	311.0	324.4
01 Meat and meat preparations	62.8	62.7	593.0	645.9	213.3	245.5	2,151.4	2,467.4
02 Dairy products and birds' eggs	33.3	38.6	395.8	432.7	145.4	159.2	1,298.2	1,637.9
03 Fish, crustaceans, molluscs and preparations thereof	15.0	17.2	153.2	173.5	34.6	39.8	325.0	371.1
04 Cereals and cereal preparations	68.2	69.3	692.1	732.1	25.3	24.9	200.9	242.9
05 Vegetables and fruit	76.7	79.7	837.2	880.3	17.7	17.7	204.7	206.2
06 Sugars, sugar preparations and honey	29.1	21.9	221.9	247.3	7.0	7.6	76.7	82.6
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and manufactures thereof	26.0	34.2	282.9	328.3	20.9	18.4	244.8	259.6
08 Feeding stuff for animals (excl unmilled cereals)	55.2	68.4	456.1	574.4	16.3	19.3	168.0	193.0
09 Miscellaneous edible products and preparations	35.2	34.3	363.4	394.4	131.0	129.6	1,358.0	1,381.8
1 Beverages and tobacco	80.7	81.8	754.9	728.6	115.1	124.9	1,118.2	1,082.7
11 Beverages	70.7	72.6	665.3	638.8	106.5	115.8	1,038.6	998.3
12 Tobacco and tobacco manufactures	10.0	9.2	89.6	89.8	8.6	9.1	79.5	84.4
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	65.9	65.2	636.8	679.8	124.7	149.7	1,322.4	1,625.4
21 Hides, skins and furskins, raw	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	9.6	12.5	89.2	112.9
22 Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits	3.3	1.7	24.4	19.0	0.1	4.1	1.2	7.8
23 Crude rubber (incl synthetic and reclaimed)	0.9	1.4	10.7	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	1.0
24 Cork and wood	12.7	13.2	117.6	102.1	8.4	8.4	97.4	100.6
25 Pulp and waste paper	3.8	6.0	39.5	49.8	3.4	4.6	55.5	50.1
26 Textile fibres and their wastes	1.2	1.1	13.3	13.1	10.9	11.4	110.7	123.3
27 Crude fertilisers and minerals (excl coal, petroleum and precious stones)	15.8	16.9	118.3	188.4	6.1	11.9	78.2	135.2
28 Metalliferous ores and metal scrap	18.9	15.0	186.2	164.0	74.7	82.1	803.7	1,007.9
29 Crude animal and vegetable materials nes	9.3	9.8	126.7	128.2	11.5	14.7	85.7	86.6
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	440.7	508.5	4,939.7	6,225.1	172.0	110.5	952.9	1,239.1
32 Coal, coke and briquettes	6.2	19.3	120.9	211.2	2.6	4.2	53.7	61.8
33 Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	314.2	370.2	3,818.4	4,758.5	169.1	106.0	879.8	1,140.3
34 Gas, natural and manufactured	117.4	118.9	976.6	1,219.2	0.4	0.4	19.4	36.9
35 Electric current	2.9	0.0	23.8	36.2	–	–	–	–
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	17.3	22.9	164.0	228.9	3.3	5.7	24.2	49.0
41 Animal oils and fats	0.8	1.3	9.0	12.3	2.9	5.0	20.8	41.8
42 Fixed vegetable fats and oils	14.7	18.5	135.3	187.9	0.3	0.5	2.4	5.9
43 Animal or vegetable fats and oils, processed; waxes	1.8	3.0	19.6	28.7	0.1	0.1	1.1	1.3
5 Chemicals and related products	845.7	871.0	8,028.9	9,582.9	4,523.5	5,424.4	48,233.1	52,558.2
51 Organic chemicals	237.2	211.6	1,917.9	2,356.3	1,830.9	1,636.8	17,433.6	18,892.9
52 Inorganic chemicals	14.0	19.6	154.6	201.8	7.6	8.7	82.2	132.4
53 Dyeing, tanning and colouring materials	12.1	13.5	144.9	162.4	9.3	6.2	154.7	135.9
54 Medical and pharmaceutical products	324.1	343.2	3,182.9	3,929.3	2,068.3	3,032.2	22,554.6	25,120.4
55 Essential oils; perfume materials; toilet and cleansing preparations	96.5	106.2	883.8	936.0	375.9	448.5	5,003.0	5,096.5
56 Fertilisers (other than those of Division 27)	39.2	34.6	338.7	399.9	0.2	0.1	1.5	1.5
57 Plastics in primary forms	54.3	60.7	605.5	701.4	21.8	24.0	245.0	288.8
58 Plastics in non-primary forms	33.8	36.9	355.8	396.3	25.6	25.6	277.0	297.1
59 Chemical materials and products nes	34.5	44.7	444.8	499.6	183.8	242.3	2,481.7	2,592.8

Table 3 Trade classified by Commodity¹ - continued

€ million

SITC (Rev 4)	Imports				Exports			
	Nov 2010	Nov 2011	Jan-Nov 2010	Jan-Nov 2011	Nov 2010	Nov 2011	Jan-Nov 2010	Jan-Nov 2011
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	308.7	329.7	3,219.0	3,439.3	134.7	146.2	1,344.3	1,574.3
61 Leather; leather manufactures nes; dressed furskins	1.5	1.4	14.7	14.2	2.2	2.2	19.4	22.3
62 Rubber manufactures nes	21.3	22.7	219.9	239.8	4.5	5.3	46.7	51.9
63 Cork and wood manufactures (excl furniture)	16.9	14.2	159.8	148.7	16.3	15.4	184.7	188.0
64 Paper, paperboard and articles thereof	69.1	72.4	665.9	729.6	13.1	11.6	107.8	121.0
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products	27.8	29.8	302.2	309.5	14.2	13.3	145.1	157.8
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures nes	37.1	36.7	382.5	377.0	21.7	22.5	235.6	211.4
67 Iron and steel	39.4	46.0	413.6	453.7	7.0	8.3	67.7	83.8
68 Non-ferrous metals	31.9	39.1	372.2	434.7	8.9	6.8	80.1	85.3
69 Manufactures of metals nes	63.6	67.3	688.4	732.2	46.6	60.8	457.1	652.7
7 Machinery and transport equipment	941.1	987.7	11,229.5	11,344.0	879.3	901.2	9,939.5	10,041.9
71 Power generating machinery and equipment	70.0	70.1	661.6	703.3	47.2	77.2	543.4	635.6
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries	54.3	60.9	539.9	654.0	34.1	39.5	365.9	451.8
73 Metalworking machinery	8.2	12.8	56.6	67.0	2.2	2.1	25.1	23.0
74 General industrial machinery and equipment nes and parts nes	70.4	91.7	712.7	853.6	95.6	119.8	1,003.8	1,205.4
75 Office machines and automatic data processing machines	254.6	212.3	2,443.3	2,468.8	352.0	307.8	4,020.1	3,573.7
76 Telecommunications and sound equipment	117.4	118.8	1,024.1	929.2	70.4	77.6	756.0	641.0
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances nes and parts	178.9	187.4	1,967.1	1,914.5	248.6	241.5	2,846.8	2,895.7
78 Road vehicles (incl air-cushion vehicles)	166.5	163.0	1,356.2	1,486.6	12.4	15.6	167.9	178.0
79 Other transport equipment	20.8	70.6	2,467.9	2,267.1	16.8	20.2	210.4	437.7
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	575.9	555.3	5,624.5	5,460.1	947.9	1,081.6	9,542.0	9,693.0
81 Prefab buildings; plumbing and electrical fixtures and fittings	17.1	14.6	158.6	139.6	11.2	10.2	93.7	94.0
82 Furniture and parts thereof; bedding, cushions etc	28.5	25.4	300.6	265.4	10.7	7.8	87.9	88.2
83 Travel goods, handbags and similar containers	8.4	9.5	87.8	90.3	3.9	4.1	23.6	31.7
84 Articles of apparel; clothing accessories	148.2	153.4	1,512.0	1,529.6	29.7	39.3	326.9	328.2
85 Footwear	27.0	26.3	326.8	301.2	4.8	6.2	45.5	50.8
87 Professional, scientific and controlling apparatus nes	82.7	79.7	877.9	865.7	286.1	348.9	2,980.3	3,087.0
88 Photographic apparatus; optical goods; watches and clocks	19.9	17.2	209.0	202.6	99.3	98.8	1,017.4	981.8
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes	244.0	229.3	2,151.6	2,065.7	502.3	566.3	4,966.7	5,031.2
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	171.3	95.3	1,990.6	1,005.0	146.3	29.8	2,566.4	153.7
Unclassified estimates²	84.7	83.9	914.0	882.0	54.6	59.7	589.4	559.9
Total	3,954.9	4,052.1	41,592.2	44,136.3	7,795.6	8,762.4	81,971.1	85,744.0

¹ From January 2011 Shannon Free Zone data collected at detailed transaction level (see Background notes)

² Estimates for which a commodity classification is not available

Table 4 Trade by Country¹

€ million

Country	Imports				Exports			
	Nov 2010	Nov 2011	Jan-Nov 2010	Jan-Nov 2011	Nov 2010	Nov 2011	Jan-Nov 2010	Jan-Nov 2011
Great Britain	1,342.2	1,414.2	12,455.5	14,181.7	1,288.5	1,356.2	11,474.1	11,954.5
Northern Ireland	87.5	89.6	903.6	954.3	124.2	128.9	1,211.6	1,299.0
Austria	19.6	18.8	144.1	173.6	25.9	31.2	284.5	279.2
Belgium	104.1	69.0	962.9	1,093.2	997.3	1,232.0	12,517.4	12,716.0
Bulgaria	1.6	0.7	10.0	9.9	8.2	5.4	43.6	53.6
Cyprus	0.2	0.1	3.3	1.9	1.8	1.7	29.6	22.7
Czech Republic	19.5	21.8	169.4	221.6	40.3	30.3	396.3	416.3
Denmark	52.1	33.4	676.9	571.3	37.9	39.8	375.7	418.9
Estonia	0.2	0.3	3.1	5.4	1.8	2.2	19.5	20.0
Finland	10.7	9.4	181.2	114.0	23.2	31.5	260.1	279.4
France	161.9	160.8	1,676.9	1,812.4	400.1	386.5	4,067.5	4,547.7
Germany	331.0	368.7	3,024.0	3,423.0	574.3	644.8	5,854.4	5,931.9
Greece	3.5	2.8	26.2	30.5	32.0	25.2	283.7	291.4
Italy	64.9	64.8	725.5	706.0	235.7	261.6	2,508.8	2,828.0
Latvia	1.1	7.2	24.9	32.7	2.5	8.0	32.6	54.8
Lithuania	3.0	4.8	37.5	56.1	4.9	2.7	29.3	28.8
Luxembourg	2.1	10.1	24.5	60.8	4.8	4.5	70.7	54.7
Hungary	16.3	9.0	192.7	100.5	12.7	15.5	147.9	197.5
Malta	0.9	1.0	10.7	9.7	12.9	1.8	28.5	22.0
Netherlands	171.2	211.8	2,015.0	2,252.2	256.6	291.8	2,825.7	2,897.0
Poland	22.6	24.4	291.3	260.7	57.2	49.5	554.4	581.1
Portugal	8.6	17.5	89.0	115.3	35.2	38.8	394.3	416.8
Romania	13.1	8.1	82.5	114.9	18.7	34.8	234.4	314.7
Slovakia	5.4	4.7	41.3	47.4	5.3	5.9	53.3	54.9
Slovenia	1.2	0.6	11.7	11.1	2.3	2.4	43.6	24.0
Spain	57.2	63.1	591.1	608.4	303.9	297.8	3,136.2	2,899.5
Sweden	22.3	29.9	301.9	425.4	63.9	73.6	613.7	828.2
EU Country not specified	22.4	47.1	319.0	296.3	4.4	0.4	53.2	9.0
Total EU	2,546.6	2,693.9	24,995.7	27,690.3	4,576.4	5,004.7	47,544.6	49,441.5
<i>of which Euro-Zone²</i>	964.5	1,050.7	9,839.7	10,760.8	2,912.3	3,259.7	32,364.5	33,290.5
Australia	10.9	8.3	109.2	97.9	66.1	53.3	734.3	689.0
Brazil	12.7	15.6	152.3	169.6	20.9	31.6	247.4	287.5
Canada	15.9	15.1	217.9	239.0	46.6	46.4	533.0	561.9
China	274.7	251.1	2,523.4	2,460.7	204.0	225.3	2,313.1	2,251.1
India	24.8	28.9	278.5	344.8	12.4	15.6	147.8	203.2
Japan	90.2	81.0	725.5	719.9	144.7	176.3	1,612.8	1,660.2
Malaysia	17.5	16.5	188.8	213.7	42.7	38.2	656.7	427.3
Mexico	19.6	26.3	217.2	227.0	43.3	52.6	430.1	491.5
Norway	129.7	71.9	1,193.2	1,112.1	31.5	29.0	386.3	366.0
Philippines	2.3	2.6	28.7	29.5	17.5	6.6	190.2	171.8
Russia	28.4	11.2	146.2	104.7	31.6	39.7	348.8	474.4
Saudi Arabia	6.2	0.2	10.8	5.3	37.0	37.4	457.1	480.5
Singapore	32.5	17.1	486.2	352.2	44.9	41.5	502.3	542.9
South Africa	7.2	12.0	74.2	122.3	22.9	20.9	256.7	288.8
South Korea	20.9	32.3	219.5	328.5	32.5	26.6	320.4	320.6
Switzerland	49.7	81.1	800.2	711.2	376.3	205.0	3,186.0	3,371.1
Taiwan	12.3	20.3	150.3	162.1	14.1	10.6	177.9	188.0
Thailand	20.3	21.0	218.7	230.3	9.6	14.7	136.9	132.2
Turkey	21.1	30.5	235.1	266.6	37.7	29.1	394.1	428.0
USA	381.9	357.7	6,055.3	5,545.5	1,778.8	2,360.0	18,968.2	20,074.7
Other countries	99.7	118.5	1,423.6	1,345.9	197.1	278.9	2,303.7	2,804.6
Country unknown ³	60.6	62.5	405.6	839.4	6.4	13.3	113.2	49.4
Unclassified estimates ⁴	69.2	76.5	736.1	817.5	0.7	5.0	9.4	37.6
Total	3,954.9	4,052.1	41,592.2	44,136.3	7,795.6	8,762.4	81,971.1	85,744.0

¹ From January 2011 Shannon Free Zone data collected at detailed transaction level (see Background notes)

² 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

³ Trade for which the country of origin or country of final destination is unknown

⁴ Estimates not allocated by country

Table 5 Trade classified by Commodity and Principal Countries ¹

million

Country by Section level of SITC (data for the latest month is preliminary)	Imports		Exports	
	Dec 2010	Dec 2011	Dec 2010	Dec 2011
Great Britain & Northern Ireland				
0 Food and live animals	280	232	305	302
1 Beverages and tobacco	26	26	34	30
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	13	13	31	33
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	377	433	10	69
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	5	6	1	2
5 Chemicals and related products	165	175	314	271
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	111	127	46	49
7 Machinery and transport equipment	205	223	136	137
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	201	197	136	234
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	69	59	53	40
Other EU				
0 Food and live animals	126	143	236	226
1 Beverages and tobacco	26	27	18	23
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	10	11	69	72
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	125	19	32	26
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	8	7	2	3
5 Chemicals and related products	337	345	1,695	1,543
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	101	82	41	44
7 Machinery and transport equipment	509	364	454	366
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	80	83	333	605
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	90	33	92	28
USA				
0 Food and live animals	32	27	8	13
1 Beverages and tobacco	1	1	20	25
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	4	4	1	2
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	0	16	19	0
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0	0	0	0
5 Chemicals and related products	106	103	1,290	948
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	22	18	13	10
7 Machinery and transport equipment	128	102	97	69
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	67	53	312	376
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	12	4	32	2
China ²				
0 Food and live animals	3	2	7	16
1 Beverages and tobacco	0	0	0	0
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	1	1	6	8
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	8	11	57	55
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	23	23	1	1
7 Machinery and transport equipment	93	112	90	106
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	100	84	17	16
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	4	2	2	0
Japan				
0 Food and live animals	0	0	5	5
1 Beverages and tobacco	0	0	0	1
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	0	0	0	1
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	0	0	0	0
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0	0	-	-
5 Chemicals and related products	29	21	41	36
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1	1	0	1
7 Machinery and transport equipment	37	50	38	17
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	3	4	54	51
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	1	1	2	0
Switzerland				
0 Food and live animals	1	1	2	4
1 Beverages and tobacco	2	1	1	1
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	0	0	-
5 Chemicals and related products	29	35	351	296
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1	1	0	1
7 Machinery and transport equipment	5	7	8	10
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	4	3	7	5
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	4	0	2	0
Rest of World				
0 Food and live animals	46	29	80	94
1 Beverages and tobacco	12	12	14	14
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	13	25	14	18
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	159	96	14	19
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	3	3	0	0
5 Chemicals and related products	55	194	245	297
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	20	18	6	9
7 Machinery and transport equipment	117	190	238	223
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	72	74	70	76
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	84	81	16	28
Total	4,171	4,013	7,222	6,955

¹ From January 2011 Shannon Free Zone data collected at detailed transaction level (see Background notes)² 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** Trade figures are subject to revision on the incorporation of late Intrastat and VAT returns, corrections made by traders to Intrastat returns already submitted and CSO consistency adjustments. In general when the preliminary results for a month are published, the results for months -1 (November 2011 in this publication), -4 (August 2011) and -8 (April 2011) are revised.
- As part of an ongoing detailed examination of returns from enterprises to the various statistical inquiries, the value of international trade in goods exports and indices are revised on a quarterly basis. These adjustments are incorporated into the published National Accounts and Balance of Payments statistics.
- New processing arrangements** Prior to 2011, responsibility for the editing of low-value trade transactions (under €20,000) was primarily undertaken by VIMA (the VIMA Office is the branch of Revenue responsible for the collection of trade data). From January 2011, the CSO took over responsibility for examining these transactions and adjusting the quantity data for unusual unit values. The methodology being used by the CSO is broadly consistent with that previously used by VIMA. Hence while this change may result in small differences at detailed commodity level unit prices, the Trade volume indices should remain consistent with previous years.
- 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 6,700 while about 1,900 must make a detailed export return. The response rate in terms of number of traders in November 2011 was 79%, covering an estimated 96% of the total value of intra-EU trade. For December 2011 the respective response rates were 75% 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.
- 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.
- Shannon Free Zone** Prior to 2011, data for traders operating in the Shannon Free Zone were collected by traders submitting summary monthly returns to the CSO. These CSO Shannon survey data were classified under Section 9 'Commodities and Transactions not classified elsewhere' (SITC code 931.01).
- Shannon data for 2011 are being collected by VIMA as part of the Intrastat survey and customs documentation for Extrastat data. Therefore, Shannon data are now incorporated into the detailed CN and partner country transaction level. Hence Shannon data are no longer classified under SITC code 931.01 'Commodities and Transactions not classified elsewhere' and are also now attributed to the actual partner country as set out in Tables 3, 4 and 5.
- 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. As part of an ongoing detailed examination of returns from enterprises to the various statistical inquiries, the value of international trade in goods exports is revised on a quarterly basis, which may result in a revision to the indices.
- When the annual price index is compiled, the monthly price indices are rescaled to make their average equal to the annual index.