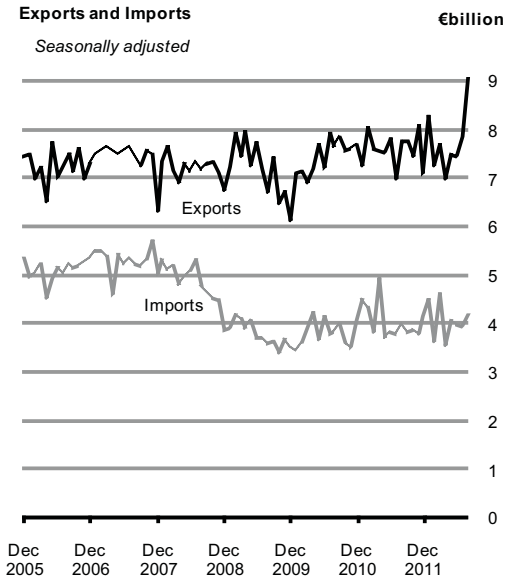




Exports and Imports
Seasonally adjusted



Goods Exports and Imports August 2012

	Seasonally adjusted € million		
	Exports	Imports	Surplus
March 2012	7,711	4,607	3,104
April 2012	6,993	3,572	3,421
May 2012	7,526	4,064	3,462
June 2012	7,474	3,989	3,485
July 2012	7,849	3,970	3,879
August 2012	9,107	4,185	4,922

Seasonally adjusted trade surplus up €1 billion

Preliminary figures for August 2012 indicate a seasonally adjusted increase in exports of €1,258 million (or 16%) compared with July. Seasonally adjusted imports increased by €215 million (or 5%) resulting in an increase of €1,043 million (or 27%) in the seasonally adjusted trade surplus (see Table 2). An increase of €478 million in unadjusted exports between July and August 2012 (usually there is a decrease between these two months) was the main reason for the seasonally adjusted increase.

Comparing August 2012 with August 2011, the value of exports increased by €1,273 million (or 18%). The main drivers were *Organic chemicals* (up €458 million), *Medical and pharmaceutical products* (up €219 million) and *Essential oils* (up €158 million).

On an overall basis the EU accounted for €4,594 million (or 55%) of total exports in August 2012 with Great Britain and Belgium accounting for 27% of total exports. The USA was the main destination for exports outside the EU accounting for 21% of total exports in August 2012.

Comparing August 2012 with August 2011, imports increased by €151 million (or 4%) to €3,837 million. This was mainly due to an increase of €81 million in the imports of *Food and live animals*.

Around 60% of imports (or €2,270 million) in August 2012 came from the EU with Great Britain accounting for 31% of the value of imports. The USA (10%) and China (6%) were the main non-EU sources of August 2012 imports.

For the first eight months of 2012 exports amounted to €62,493 million and imports to €32,591 million representing a trade surplus of €29,902 million.

For more information contact Norita Murphy at (01) 498 4295 or Damian Malone at (01) 498 4206.

Published by the Central Statistics Office, Ireland.

Ardee Road
Dublin 6
Ireland

Skehard Road
Cork
Ireland

LoCall: 1890 313 414 (ROI)
0870 876 0256 (UK/NI)

Tel: +353 1 498 4000
Fax: +353 1 498 4240

Tel: +353 21 453 5000
Fax: +353 21 453 5555

Both offices may be contacted through any of these telephone numbers.

CSO on the Web: www.cso.ie
and go to
Economy: External Trade

Director General: Pádraig Dalton

Enquiries:

Trade statistics Trade Help Desk (01) 498 4200
trade@cso.ie

General queries Information Section, ext 5021
information@cso.ie

© Central Statistics Office

The contents of this release may be quoted provided the source is given clearly and accurately. Reproduction for own or internal use is permitted.

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	
2010	January	6,880	3,360	3,520	464.9	219.8	99.8	115.5	86.4
	February	6,633	3,608	3,025	439.1	233.8	100.5	116.6	86.2
	March	7,728	4,212	3,516	511.9	272.8	100.7	116.7	86.3
	April	7,375	4,132	3,243	484.2	264.7	100.6	118.0	85.3
	May	7,480	3,573	3,907	472.5	230.5	103.9	117.1	88.7
	June	7,675	4,120	3,555	489.7	256.4	106.3	120.3	88.4
	July	7,974	3,597	4,376	500.8	224.6	103.4	119.9	86.2
	August	6,752	3,476	3,275	435.4	219.6	101.5	120.1	84.5
	September	8,066	3,910	4,156	515.5	242.0	101.4	121.1	83.8
	October	7,769	3,648	4,121	517.0	227.5	96.7	118.8	81.4
	November	8,074	3,955	4,119	538.2	245.4	97.3	120.3	80.8
	December	7,298	4,171	3,127	467.5	246.6	102.2	126.3	80.9
2011 ³	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	7,653	4,447	3,207	482.5	254.3	104.8	132.1	79.3
	February	7,384	3,873	3,512	466.3	217.9	104.6	134.3	77.9
	March	8,596	4,970	3,626	542.6	282.2	104.6	133.1	78.6
	April	7,037	3,729	3,308	442.3	207.3	105.1	135.0	77.9
	May	7,629	4,013	3,616	473.5	228.0	106.4	133.0	80.0
	June	8,068	3,957	4,111	490.1	222.9	108.7	134.2	81.0
	July	7,824	3,767	4,057	487.4	214.2	107.1	134.0	79.9
	August ⁴	8,302	3,837	4,465	518.3	212.5	105.8	136.4	77.5

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

² Export unit value index divided by Import unit value index

³ Revised, see Background notes

⁴ August 2012 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
2009					
January	7,247	3,902	3,345	469.4	249.8
February	7,925	4,168	3,756	500.7	264.6
March	7,454	4,127	3,328	469.7	263.9
April	7,979	3,930	4,049	501.9	259.1
May	7,261	4,085	3,176	460.4	270.1
June	7,747	3,716	4,032	495.3	248.9
July	7,185	3,723	3,462	469.5	246.4
August	6,751	3,586	3,164	439.6	243.9
September	7,444	3,633	3,811	497.0	236.5
October	6,506	3,411	3,095	440.9	231.1
November	6,730	3,698	3,032	444.7	247.6
December	6,148	3,536	2,611	413.4	232.9
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	8,276	4,487	3,788	514.5	256.4
February	7,269	3,651	3,618	458.1	208.1
March	7,711	4,607	3,104	493.5	257.0
April	6,993	3,572	3,421	436.0	199.3
May	7,526	4,064	3,462	466.5	225.9
June	7,474	3,989	3,485	457.1	226.1
July	7,849	3,970	3,879	491.2	226.4
August	9,107	4,185	4,922	572.3	229.7

¹ Based on seasonal patterns up to December 2011. 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			
	Aug 2011	Aug 2012	Jan-Aug 2011	Jan-Aug 2012	Aug 2011	Aug 2012	Jan-Aug 2011	Jan-Aug 2012
0 Food and live animals	607	658	5,091	5,064	384	465	3,260	3,488
00 Live animals other than animals of Division 03	27	12	195	147	6	9	99	80
01 Meat and meat preparations	215	249	1,714	1,843	62	63	472	490
02 Dairy products and birds' eggs	149	144	1,165	1,055	32	46	316	370
03 Fish, crustaceans, molluscs and preparations thereof	34	31	268	320	14	15	126	144
04 Cereals and cereal preparations	21	18	156	166	58	79	526	568
05 Vegetables and fruit	17	20	150	152	77	88	652	677
06 Sugars, sugar preparations and honey	10	9	59	71	25	26	174	204
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and manufactures thereof	17	27	213	186	31	33	218	234
08 Feeding stuff for animals (excl unmilled cereals)	15	18	132	139	46	73	390	452
09 Miscellaneous edible products and preparations	101	129	1,038	985	33	33	287	269
1 Beverages and tobacco	112	115	721	724	71	76	507	519
11 Beverages	104	110	657	669	62	68	445	461
12 Tobacco and tobacco manufactures	7	6	64	55	9	8	63	57
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	152	145	1,190	1,165	63	57	492	471
21 Hides, skins and furskins, raw	10	9	77	72	0	0	0	0
22 Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits	0	0	1	4	2	1	14	12
23 Crude rubber (incl synthetic and reclaimed)	0	0	1	0	1	1	8	16
24 Cork and wood	9	10	75	79	10	10	73	68
25 Pulp and waste paper	4	3	36	31	7	5	35	37
26 Textile fibres and their wastes	10	11	84	93	1	1	10	9
27 Crude fertilisers and minerals (excl coal, petroleum and precious stones)	12	12	99	98	15	9	133	82
28 Metalliferous ores and metal scrap	98	93	759	719	16	17	120	135
29 Crude animal and vegetable materials nes	8	6	58	68	11	11	98	111
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	71	76	963	1,324	528	476	4,552	4,513
32 Coal, coke and briquettes	3	4	50	48	7	16	151	137
33 Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	60	65	878	1,250	418	366	3,475	3,497
34 Gas, natural and manufactured	9	7	34	25	101	91	891	863
35 Electric current	–	0	–	0	3	3	35	16
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	4	3	32	35	23	21	166	172
41 Animal oils and fats	4	2	27	29	1	1	9	9
42 Fixed vegetable fats and oils	0	1	4	5	19	17	137	143
43 Animal or vegetable fats and oils, processed; waxes	0	0	1	1	2	2	20	20
5 Chemicals and related products	4,300	5,206	37,780	38,216	844	842	7,052	6,928
51 Organic chemicals	1,688	2,146	13,466	14,158	250	202	1,768	1,721
52 Inorganic chemicals	10	13	102	131	20	17	143	132
53 Dyeing, tanning and colouring materials	8	13	117	110	14	15	121	123
54 Medical and pharmaceutical products	1,912	2,131	17,728	16,907	337	359	2,887	2,798
55 Essential oils; perfume materials; toilet and cleansing preparations	416	574	3,940	4,293	80	95	661	657
56 Fertilisers (other than those of Division 27)	0	0	1	2	20	19	326	291
57 Plastics in primary forms	29	25	196	206	51	56	503	501
58 Plastics in non-primary forms	26	26	219	217	36	38	287	291
59 Chemical materials and products nes	212	278	2,011	2,193	36	41	357	415

Table 3 Goods Exports and Imports classified by commodity¹ - continued

€ million

SITC (Rev 4)	Exports				Imports			
	Aug 2011	Aug 2012	Jan-Aug 2011	Jan-Aug 2012	Aug 2011	Aug 2012	Jan-Aug 2011	Jan-Aug 2012
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	131	142	1,109	1,103	293	315	2,473	2,462
61 Leather; leather manufactures nes; dressed furskins	3	2	13	15	1	2	10	10
62 Rubber manufactures nes	4	5	35	39	20	24	172	186
63 Cork and wood manufactures (excl furniture)	15	18	134	145	12	12	106	104
64 Paper, paperboard and articles thereof	9	13	86	86	66	84	517	557
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products	12	11	115	99	24	26	222	214
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures nes	19	26	148	179	35	34	268	248
67 Iron and steel	7	10	62	75	37	38	327	349
68 Non-ferrous metals	8	6	64	47	38	34	323	305
69 Manufactures of metals nes	54	52	453	417	59	61	529	490
7 Machinery and transport equipment	814	902	6,789	6,848	808	817	8,711	8,650
71 Power generating machinery and equipment	62	65	476	464	47	98	501	587
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries	46	42	341	324	53	53	481	518
73 Metalworking machinery	3	2	16	16	4	6	45	42
74 General industrial machinery and equipment nes and parts nes	95	100	827	898	84	76	599	650
75 Office machines and automatic data processing machines	245	304	2,308	2,233	201	187	1,800	1,689
76 Telecommunications and sound equipment	44	74	391	631	79	100	637	724
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances nes and parts	232	223	1,920	1,798	193	161	1,367	1,244
78 Road vehicles (incl air-cushion vehicles)	15	16	131	149	67	60	1,160	1,095
79 Other transport equipment	72	76	380	335	81	76	2,123	2,101
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	774	893	6,556	7,176	506	535	3,813	3,880
81 Prefab buildings; plumbing and electrical fixtures and fittings	7	8	63	59	12	11	98	95
82 Furniture and parts thereof; bedding, cushions etc	7	7	65	63	23	23	192	191
83 Travel goods, handbags and similar containers	2	2	23	19	9	9	64	76
84 Articles of apparel; clothing accessories	31	27	221	251	155	152	1,050	1,056
85 Footwear	4	4	33	38	31	30	217	217
87 Professional, scientific and controlling apparatus nes	244	325	2,192	2,401	79	87	636	670
88 Photographic apparatus; optical goods; watches and clocks	89	90	702	748	14	15	154	129
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes	389	430	3,257	3,597	184	208	1,400	1,447
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	15	76	96	310	85	86	729	688
Unclassified estimates²	49	86	388	527	82	147	632	821
Total	7,029	8,302	60,714	62,493	3,686	3,837	32,387	32,591

¹ August 2012 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			
	Aug 2011	Aug 2012	Jan-Aug 2011	Jan-Aug 2012	Aug 2011	Aug 2012	Jan-Aug 2011	Jan-Aug 2012
Great Britain	1,141	1,050	8,246	9,409	1,225	1,207	10,092	9,852
Northern Ireland	122	127	926	947	83	101	689	679
Austria	16	27	195	213	13	13	126	144
Belgium	896	1,190	8,984	9,642	106	78	782	612
Bulgaria	11	7	40	46	1	2	8	8
Cyprus	2	3	17	22	0	0	2	4
Czech Republic	28	27	329	222	23	16	160	187
Denmark	38	45	305	352	38	34	465	326
Estonia	1	2	10	13	0	0	4	3
Finland	25	35	194	235	8	8	84	80
France	391	359	3,383	3,115	133	155	1,372	1,254
Germany	468	768	4,265	4,929	303	245	2,496	2,242
Greece	22	18	222	184	2	2	22	14
Italy	194	158	2,029	1,826	51	53	512	502
Latvia	5	10	35	50	2	1	24	26
Lithuania	2	17	24	37	2	2	46	31
Luxembourg	5	6	37	44	4	4	44	32
Hungary	20	31	135	176	6	6	75	65
Malta	2	2	18	18	1	0	7	5
Netherlands	242	242	2,111	2,196	202	202	1,661	1,495
Poland	62	70	419	486	23	35	190	214
Portugal	38	30	304	262	10	7	79	79
Romania	20	28	224	234	9	8	87	88
Slovakia	6	5	40	42	3	5	35	42
Slovenia	3	2	17	14	1	0	8	5
Spain	235	261	2,058	1,905	40	39	443	422
Sweden	63	74	597	485	32	19	310	241
EU Country not specified	0	1	7	3	26	27	181	219
Total EU	4,058	4,594	35,169	37,108	2,347	2,270	20,004	18,873
<i>of which Euro-Zone²</i>	2,545	3,106	23,888	24,648	903	839	7,858	7,153
Australia	46	59	506	510	11	9	71	62
Brazil	21	18	177	167	15	64	122	462
Canada	43	63	420	521	11	17	202	153
China	174	211	1,498	1,543	235	249	1,725	1,836
India	14	21	140	152	32	27	255	266
Japan	153	184	1,155	1,361	48	46	515	491
Malaysia	26	21	254	165	20	20	165	153
Mexico	42	69	362	460	22	24	152	182
Norway	23	24	301	209	96	143	876	653
Philippines	6	6	63	48	3	3	21	19
Russia	35	60	348	401	7	7	77	80
Saudi Arabia	39	64	332	443	1	0	4	4
Singapore	38	50	356	365	34	27	222	192
South Africa	21	23	193	202	9	11	91	95
South Korea	23	32	200	232	50	45	235	232
Switzerland	267	653	2,309	3,271	61	78	503	740
Taiwan	23	9	128	86	18	24	112	158
Thailand	9	11	86	100	16	22	167	207
Turkey	31	35	335	308	23	23	193	201
USA	1,694	1,733	14,405	12,270	317	399	4,484	4,658
Other countries	238	356	1,943	2,502	143	187	932	1,829
Country unknown ³	4	4	24	31	103	58	692	390
Unclassified estimates ⁴	2	4	7	38	65	85	567	657
Total	7,029	8,302	60,714	62,493	3,686	3,837	32,387	32,591

¹ August 2012 is based on current Intrastat response levels, 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 Goods Exports and Imports classified by commodity and principal countries¹

€ million

Country by Section level of SITC	Exports				Imports			
	Aug 2011	Aug 2012	Jan-Aug 2011	Jan-Aug 2012	Aug 2011	Aug 2012	Jan-Aug 2011	Jan-Aug 2012
Great Britain	1,141	1,050	8,246	9,409	1,225	1,207	10,092	9,852
0 Food and live animals	234	244	1,889	1,919	172	194	1,435	1,476
1 Beverages and tobacco	25	22	196	164	15	24	112	160
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	37	28	301	243	15	10	115	102
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	33	54	370	785	367	267	3,004	2,719
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	1	1	7	14	4	3	28	24
5 Chemicals and related products	506	422	3,195	4,000	155	159	1,333	1,285
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	51	55	409	422	118	125	979	985
7 Machinery and transport equipment	117	111	896	1,030	171	180	1,475	1,499
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	113	80	785	607	158	156	1,212	1,176
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	25	33	197	225	51	89	400	425
Other EU	2,917	3,544	26,924	27,699	1,122	1,063	9,911	9,021
0 Food and live animals	254	256	2,117	1,924	153	195	1,295	1,442
1 Beverages and tobacco	33	31	229	228	42	38	304	268
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	81	71	617	642	19	18	159	148
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	38	21	303	373	46	9	455	236
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	3	2	22	18	14	14	102	113
5 Chemicals and related products	1,795	2,399	17,484	18,501	338	341	2,915	2,745
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	56	60	524	485	105	112	916	887
7 Machinery and transport equipment	346	360	2,855	2,655	267	196	2,723	2,140
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	278	288	2,519	2,565	97	94	728	713
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	32	55	254	309	41	46	315	330
USA	1,694	1,733	14,405	12,270	317	399	4,484	4,658
0 Food and live animals	5	10	49	70	15	4	122	92
1 Beverages and tobacco	32	38	175	203	1	1	7	8
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	2	3	17	21	4	5	32	29
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	0	0	165	163	0	12	111	101
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2
5 Chemicals and related products	1,319	1,255	11,143	8,605	114	158	1,010	1,204
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	9	12	72	77	20	22	176	169
7 Machinery and transport equipment	81	98	673	665	96	123	2,471	2,512
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	243	315	2,101	2,450	63	70	523	514
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	2	2	10	14	4	4	28	28
China²	174	211	1,498	1,543	235	249	1,725	1,836
0 Food and live animals	14	23	119	178	3	2	20	18
1 Beverages and tobacco	0	1	2	3	0	0	0	0
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	10	8	61	63	1	1	15	11
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	60	38	510	446	22	13	116	123
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2	2	16	14	25	27	184	203
7 Machinery and transport equipment	72	113	662	680	81	90	707	764
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	16	25	125	157	101	113	664	697
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	0	0	0	0	2	3	17	20
Rest of World	1,103	1,765	9,641	11,572	788	919	6,175	7,224
0 Food and live animals	100	124	916	973	42	71	388	461
1 Beverages and tobacco	22	24	119	127	13	12	85	83
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	22	34	195	197	24	23	170	180
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	0	1	124	3	115	188	981	1,456
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0	0	0	1	5	4	33	33
5 Chemicals and related products	621	1,092	5,448	6,663	215	171	1,679	1,571
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	12	13	88	106	25	29	218	218
7 Machinery and transport equipment	198	220	1,702	1,817	192	228	1,334	1,735
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	124	186	1,026	1,397	88	102	685	780
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	5	72	23	288	70	91	601	707
Total	7,029	8,302	60,714	62,493	3,686	3,837	32,387	32,591

¹ August 2012 is based on current Intrastat response levels, see Background notes

² 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 to Intrastat returns. When the preliminary results for a month are published, the results for months -1 (July 2012 in this publication), -4 (April 2012) and -8 (December 2011) 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 about 6,700 while about 1,900 must make a detailed export return. The response rate in terms of number of traders in August 2012 was 75%, covering an estimated 85% 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.

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.

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 may result 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. As part of an ongoing detailed examination of returns from enterprises to the various statistical inquiries, the value of goods exports is revised on a quarterly basis, which may result in a revision to the indices.

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

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