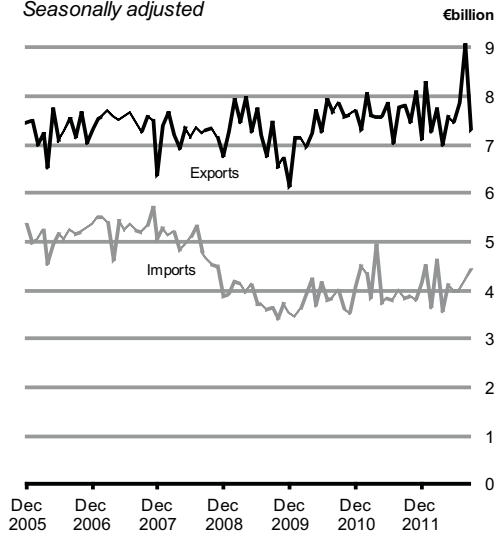




Exports and Imports
Seasonally adjusted



Goods Exports and Imports
September 2012

	<i>Seasonally adjusted</i> € million		
	Exports	Imports	Surplus
April 2012	6,993	3,572	3,421
May 2012	7,558	4,111	3,447
June 2012	7,474	3,989	3,485
July 2012	7,849	3,970	3,879
August 2012	9,074	4,190	4,884
September 2012	7,310	4,410	2,900

Seasonally adjusted trade surplus down in September

Preliminary figures for September 2012 indicate a seasonally adjusted decrease in exports of €1,764 million (or -19%) from the August high of €9,074 million. Seasonally adjusted imports increased by €220 million (or 5%) resulting in a decrease of €1,984 million in the seasonally adjusted trade surplus (*see Table 2*). The driving factors behind these changes were decreases in exports of *Chemicals and related products* accompanied with increases in imports of *Other transport equipment (including aircraft)*.

Comparing September 2012 with September 2011, the value of exports decreased by €512 million (or -6%). The main drivers were *Organic chemicals* (down €512 million) and *Medical and pharmaceutical products* (down €261 million). Exports increased for *Miscellaneous manufactured articles* (up €63 million), *Mineral fuels* (up €48 million) and *Food and live animals* (up €43 million).

On an overall basis the EU accounted for €4,210 million (or 56%) of total exports in September 2012. The USA was the main destination for exports outside the EU accounting for 21% of total exports in September 2012.

Comparing September 2012 with September 2011, imports increased by €316 million (or 8%) to €4,139 million. This was mainly due to imports of aircraft in September 2012, with *Other transport equipment* increasing by €211 million.

The EU remains the main source of imports accounting for 57% of the value of imports in September 2012, with Great Britain accounting for 31%. The USA (15%) 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	48,315	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	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	7,670	4,464	3,207	482.4	248.9	105.0	135.5	77.5
	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	7,661	4,059	3,602	478.6	229.2	105.7	133.8	79.0
	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	8,272	3,842	4,430	504.2	211.8	108.4	137.0	79.1
	September ⁴	7,476	4,139	3,337	468.2	231.5	105.4	135.1	78.0

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 September 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	8,294	4,504	3,790	514.4	250.9
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	7,558	4,111	3,447	471.6	227.1
June	7,474	3,989	3,485	457.1	226.1
July	7,849	3,970	3,879	491.2	226.4
August	9,074	4,190	4,884	556.7	229.0
September	7,310	4,410	2,900	460.3	249.3

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			
	Sep 2011	Sep 2012	Jan-Sep 2011	Jan-Sep 2012	Sep 2011	Sep 2012	Jan-Sep 2011	Jan-Sep 2012
0 Food and live animals	696	739	5,786	5,824	430	455	3,690	3,965
00 Live animals other than animals of Division 03	34	18	229	171	8	4	107	86
01 Meat and meat preparations	267	284	1,981	2,132	54	69	527	562
02 Dairy products and birds' eggs	168	158	1,332	1,214	41	42	358	413
03 Fish, crustaceans, molluscs and preparations thereof	31	32	299	355	13	12	139	158
04 Cereals and cereal preparations	24	28	180	195	67	77	593	650
05 Vegetables and fruit	20	19	171	172	76	72	727	750
06 Sugars, sugar preparations and honey	8	9	68	81	27	30	200	235
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and manufactures thereof	17	59	230	247	40	37	258	278
08 Feeding stuff for animals (excl unmilled cereals)	18	21	150	160	62	71	452	524
09 Miscellaneous edible products and preparations	108	111	1,146	1,096	42	41	329	310
1 Beverages and tobacco	127	127	848	850	72	69	579	584
11 Beverages	121	120	778	788	64	62	508	520
12 Tobacco and tobacco manufactures	6	7	69	62	8	7	71	65
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	155	143	1,346	1,310	62	50	554	521
21 Hides, skins and furskins, raw	12	9	89	80	0	0	0	0
22 Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits	1	1	3	5	1	4	16	15
23 Crude rubber (incl synthetic and reclaimed)	0	0	1	0	4	3	12	20
24 Cork and wood	9	9	84	89	8	7	81	74
25 Pulp and waste paper	6	4	41	36	5	3	40	40
26 Textile fibres and their wastes	14	13	99	107	1	1	11	10
27 Crude fertilisers and minerals (excl coal, petroleum and precious stones)	13	12	112	109	15	10	149	93
28 Metalliferous ores and metal scrap	93	84	852	804	17	10	137	145
29 Crude animal and vegetable materials nes	6	10	65	78	11	12	109	123
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	92	140	1,054	1,465	565	651	5,117	5,241
32 Coal, coke and briquettes	3	4	53	52	20	21	171	157
33 Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	87	133	965	1,384	447	510	3,922	4,044
34 Gas, natural and manufactured	1	3	36	29	97	115	988	1,018
35 Electric current	–	0	–	0	1	5	36	21
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	6	2	38	38	21	18	187	190
41 Animal oils and fats	5	2	32	32	1	1	10	10
42 Fixed vegetable fats and oils	1	1	5	5	18	15	155	158
43 Animal or vegetable fats and oils, processed; waxes	0	0	1	1	2	3	23	22
5 Chemicals and related products	4,917	4,180	42,697	42,421	832	843	7,884	7,790
51 Organic chemicals	1,882	1,370	15,347	15,451	183	190	1,951	1,912
52 Inorganic chemicals	11	19	113	151	19	17	162	149
53 Dyeing, tanning and colouring materials	7	13	124	123	15	14	136	138
54 Medical and pharmaceutical products	2,255	1,994	19,983	18,989	354	367	3,240	3,161
55 Essential oils; perfume materials; toilet and cleansing preparations	461	485	4,401	4,777	91	91	752	751
56 Fertilisers (other than those of Division 27)	0	0	1	2	19	17	345	316
57 Plastics in primary forms	29	27	225	234	64	55	567	558
58 Plastics in non-primary forms	27	27	246	244	37	38	324	331
59 Chemical materials and products nes	244	245	2,256	2,450	50	53	408	475

Table 3 Goods Exports and Imports classified by commodity¹ - continued

€ million

SITC (Rev 4)	Exports				Imports			
	Sep 2011	Sep 2012	Jan-Sep 2011	Jan-Sep 2012	Sep 2011	Sep 2012	Jan-Sep 2011	Jan-Sep 2012
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	152	141	1,261	1,253	325	303	2,798	2,769
61 Leather; leather manufactures nes; dressed furskins	5	5	17	20	2	1	11	11
62 Rubber manufactures nes	6	6	41	46	21	23	193	208
63 Cork and wood manufactures (excl furniture)	17	19	152	165	15	13	121	116
64 Paper, paperboard and articles thereof	12	12	98	98	70	68	587	625
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products	15	12	130	112	29	27	251	241
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures nes	20	22	168	205	37	32	305	281
67 Iron and steel	8	8	70	84	45	44	371	394
68 Non-ferrous metals	8	6	72	56	42	35	365	340
69 Manufactures of metals nes	61	52	514	469	65	60	594	552
7 Machinery and transport equipment	922	914	7,711	7,761	803	987	9,514	9,625
71 Power generating machinery and equipment	43	77	518	550	75	63	576	622
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries	39	31	380	354	50	63	530	585
73 Metalworking machinery	3	2	19	19	5	5	50	47
74 General industrial machinery and equipment nes and parts nes	134	122	961	1,020	83	70	682	719
75 Office machines and automatic data processing machines	327	319	2,635	2,553	202	209	2,001	1,897
76 Telecommunications and sound equipment	80	86	471	714	89	100	725	827
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances nes and parts	261	242	2,181	2,045	188	159	1,555	1,409
78 Road vehicles (incl air-cushion vehicles)	18	15	149	165	77	72	1,237	1,173
79 Other transport equipment	17	21	397	341	34	245	2,157	2,346
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	881	944	7,437	8,114	571	530	4,384	4,416
81 Prefab buildings; plumbing and electrical fixtures and fittings	9	9	72	68	14	11	113	107
82 Furniture and parts thereof; bedding, cushions etc	8	7	73	70	25	22	218	214
83 Travel goods, handbags and similar containers	2	3	25	23	9	8	72	84
84 Articles of apparel; clothing accessories	34	23	255	275	172	154	1,223	1,212
85 Footwear	5	3	37	41	35	30	252	248
87 Professional, scientific and controlling apparatus nes	274	313	2,465	2,710	77	78	713	750
88 Photographic apparatus; optical goods; watches and clocks	90	87	792	835	17	18	171	146
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes	460	498	3,716	4,093	223	209	1,623	1,654
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	15	54	111	360	88	88	817	775
Unclassified estimates²	26	92	414	592	54	145	686	922
Total	7,988	7,476	68,702	69,988	3,823	4,139	36,210	36,798

¹ September 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			
	Sep 2011	Sep 2012	Jan-Sep 2011	Jan-Sep 2012	Sep 2011	Sep 2012	Jan-Sep 2011	Jan-Sep 2012
Great Britain	1,130	1,021	9,376	10,459	1,401	1,296	11,493	11,207
Northern Ireland	114	124	1,041	1,066	91	78	780	755
Austria	24	18	219	230	16	13	141	159
Belgium	1,250	686	10,234	10,327	93	74	874	681
Bulgaria	5	5	45	51	1	1	9	9
Cyprus	2	2	19	24	0	0	2	3
Czech Republic	34	28	364	248	18	17	178	204
Denmark	44	41	349	390	38	30	502	352
Estonia	4	2	14	16	0	5	5	8
Finland	27	33	221	268	9	10	93	90
France	433	344	3,816	3,443	138	172	1,510	1,422
Germany	509	908	4,775	5,833	294	250	2,790	2,510
Greece	25	15	247	200	3	2	25	16
Italy	251	246	2,280	2,098	67	62	579	563
Latvia	5	11	40	61	1	2	25	28
Lithuania	2	6	25	43	3	5	50	36
Luxembourg	5	4	42	48	3	3	47	35
Hungary	21	21	156	203	8	7	83	71
Malta	2	2	20	19	1	1	8	6
Netherlands	277	279	2,388	2,480	161	198	1,822	1,695
Poland	55	53	474	526	23	26	213	242
Portugal	35	36	339	297	8	9	88	88
Romania	30	29	253	263	8	8	95	96
Slovakia	5	6	45	47	3	6	38	48
Slovenia	1	3	18	17	1	1	9	6
Spain	317	229	2,375	2,132	53	45	497	473
Sweden	101	60	697	544	46	26	356	268
EU Country not specified	0	0	7	3	29	31	210	244
Total EU	4,711	4,210	39,880	41,336	2,519	2,376	22,522	21,319
<i>of which Euro-Zone²</i>	3,165	2,809	27,043	27,462	880	876	8,734	8,042
Australia	67	57	573	566	8	8	79	70
Brazil	27	34	203	201	18	12	139	474
Canada	52	56	472	576	13	15	215	168
China	214	181	1,712	1,724	242	250	1,967	2,089
India	15	19	156	171	30	28	285	294
Japan	146	228	1,301	1,588	62	65	577	556
Malaysia	26	19	280	184	19	16	183	170
Mexico	51	52	413	512	24	19	177	202
Norway	17	22	318	231	92	70	968	723
Philippines	6	11	69	59	3	3	24	22
Russia	46	59	394	460	8	2	85	82
Saudi Arabia	57	31	390	475	0	0	5	4
Singapore	57	41	414	406	25	22	247	214
South Africa	32	24	224	226	11	6	102	101
South Korea	24	38	224	270	42	18	277	251
Switzerland	369	439	2,678	3,709	73	50	576	790
Taiwan	20	9	148	95	12	27	125	185
Thailand	10	10	96	110	19	20	185	227
Turkey	32	41	367	349	19	23	212	224
USA	1,699	1,547	16,104	13,817	364	626	4,848	5,282
Other countries	304	337	2,247	2,838	112	340	1,044	2,176
Country unknown ³	7	2	32	34	42	57	734	448
Unclassified estimates ⁴	0	9	7	51	67	84	634	729
Total	7,988	7,476	68,702	69,988	3,823	4,139	36,210	36,798

¹ September 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			
	Sep 2011	Sep 2012	Jan-Sep 2011	Jan-Sep 2012	Sep 2011	Sep 2012	Jan-Sep 2011	Jan-Sep 2012
Great Britain	1,130	1,021	9,376	10,459	1,401	1,296	11,493	11,207
0 Food and live animals	270	329	2,160	2,257	199	202	1,634	1,687
1 Beverages and tobacco	24	23	220	186	16	22	129	180
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	38	29	338	272	16	12	131	114
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	61	89	431	874	434	330	3,438	3,126
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	1	1	9	15	3	4	31	28
5 Chemicals and related products	424	245	3,619	4,254	170	158	1,502	1,452
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	55	53	464	481	136	134	1,115	1,121
7 Machinery and transport equipment	118	129	1,014	1,171	198	177	1,673	1,671
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	124	90	908	699	191	168	1,403	1,346
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	16	34	212	250	38	91	437	482
Other EU	3,580	3,189	30,504	30,877	1,118	1,080	11,029	10,111
0 Food and live animals	287	278	2,404	2,215	158	187	1,453	1,634
1 Beverages and tobacco	36	38	265	266	44	35	347	301
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	78	79	695	723	19	19	178	168
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	30	51	333	425	38	26	493	262
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	4	1	26	20	13	11	115	124
5 Chemicals and related products	2,315	1,989	19,799	20,508	346	344	3,260	3,099
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	71	62	595	550	118	103	1,034	992
7 Machinery and transport equipment	393	323	3,248	2,965	247	220	2,970	2,351
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	347	311	2,866	2,867	106	90	834	806
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	20	56	274	338	30	44	344	373
USA	1,699	1,547	16,104	13,817	364	626	4,848	5,282
0 Food and live animals	8	9	57	79	21	15	143	106
1 Beverages and tobacco	42	45	217	248	1	1	8	9
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	2	2	19	23	3	4	35	33
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	0	0	165	163	22	18	134	118
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2
5 Chemicals and related products	1,299	1,054	12,442	9,659	115	150	1,125	1,353
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	12	12	84	89	21	19	197	189
7 Machinery and transport equipment	77	81	750	746	110	345	2,582	2,855
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	257	343	2,358	2,793	67	72	590	585
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	2	1	11	16	3	4	31	31
China²	214	181	1,712	1,724	242	250	1,967	2,089
0 Food and live animals	14	18	133	196	3	3	23	21
1 Beverages and tobacco	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	12	7	73	70	1	2	16	12
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	85	31	595	478	14	18	130	141
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2	2	18	16	26	25	210	228
7 Machinery and transport equipment	88	97	749	778	79	91	786	857
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	13	24	138	181	118	108	782	805
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	0	0	0	0	1	4	19	24
Rest of World	1,365	1,537	11,006	13,111	698	886	6,873	8,109
0 Food and live animals	117	104	1,033	1,076	49	48	437	516
1 Beverages and tobacco	24	21	143	148	11	11	95	94
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	27	25	221	222	23	13	193	194
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	0	0	125	3	71	277	1,052	1,733
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0	0	1	1	4	4	37	37
5 Chemicals and related products	794	861	6,242	7,522	187	173	1,866	1,745
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	12	12	100	118	24	22	242	240
7 Machinery and transport equipment	247	283	1,949	2,100	169	155	1,503	1,891
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	140	176	1,166	1,573	90	93	775	873
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	3	54	26	347	71	91	672	786
Total	7,988	7,476	68,702	69,988	3,823	4,139	36,210	36,798

¹ September 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. When the preliminary results for a month are published, the results for months -1 (August 2012 in this publication), -4 (May 2012) and -8 (January 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 September 2012 was 73%, covering an estimated 86% 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.

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

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.