



About this release

These statistics provide 1st provisional estimates for the breakdown of the flows of goods imported and exported between regions of the UK and partner countries. Supporting tables, visuals and data can be found at www.uktradeinfo.com

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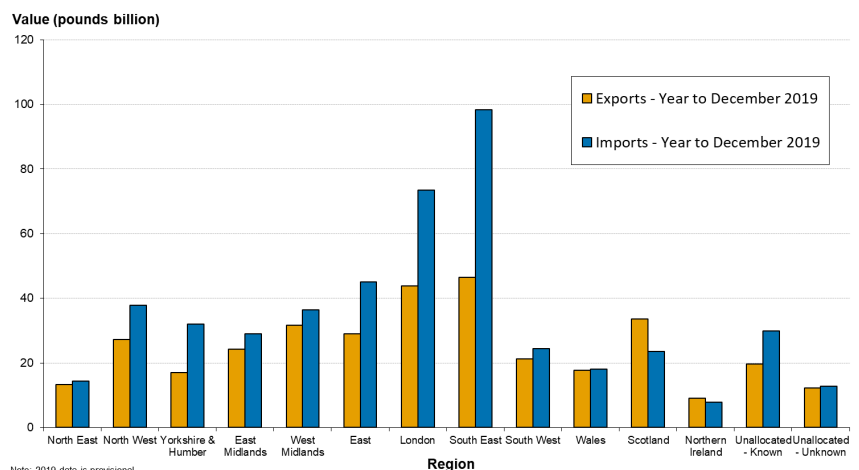
Summary

In the year to December 2019, the overall value of UK trade in goods **exports** increased by 2.1% compared with the same period last year. The overall value of **imports** increased by 0.3%.

On a regional basis:

- All UK countries experienced an increase in the value of **exports**.
- England and Northern Ireland imports experienced an increase in the value of **imports**, while Wales and Scotland experienced a decrease.
- There was an increase in annual **export** value for 4 of the 9 English regions. These were the North East, the East Midlands, the East of England, and London.
- There was an increase in annual **import** value for 5 of the 9 English regions. These were the North East, the East Midlands, London, the South East, and the South West.

Figure 1: UK Exports and Imports by Region, year to December 2019



Note: 2019 data is provisional
Source: Regional Trade in Goods Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs



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Overview Exports

The total annual value of UK exports increased by 2.1% to £346 billion in the year ending December 2019 compared with the same period the previous year.

Figure 2: UK Exports in Goods by Region, 2017 Q1 – 2019 Q4

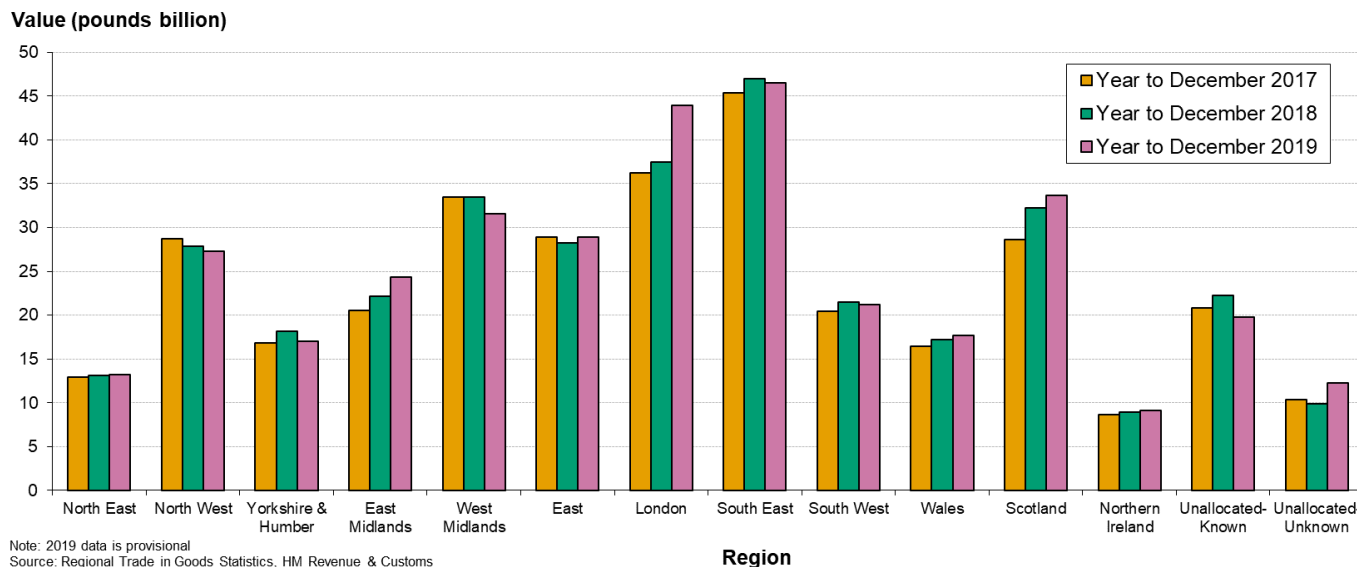


Figure 2 shows the total value of UK exports by region for the 3 annual periods ending December 2017, December 2018 and December 2019.

When comparing the annual period ending December 2019 with the annual period ending December 2018:

- The value of exports from England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland increased during the year by 2.0%, 3.0%, 4.4% and 2.2% respectively.
- There was an increase in annual export value for 4 of the 9 English regions. These were the North East, the East Midlands, the East of England, and London.

When comparing the annual period ending December 2019 with year ending December 2017, there was an increase of UK exports from £328 billion to £346 billion. This is an increase of £18.2 billion or 5.5%.

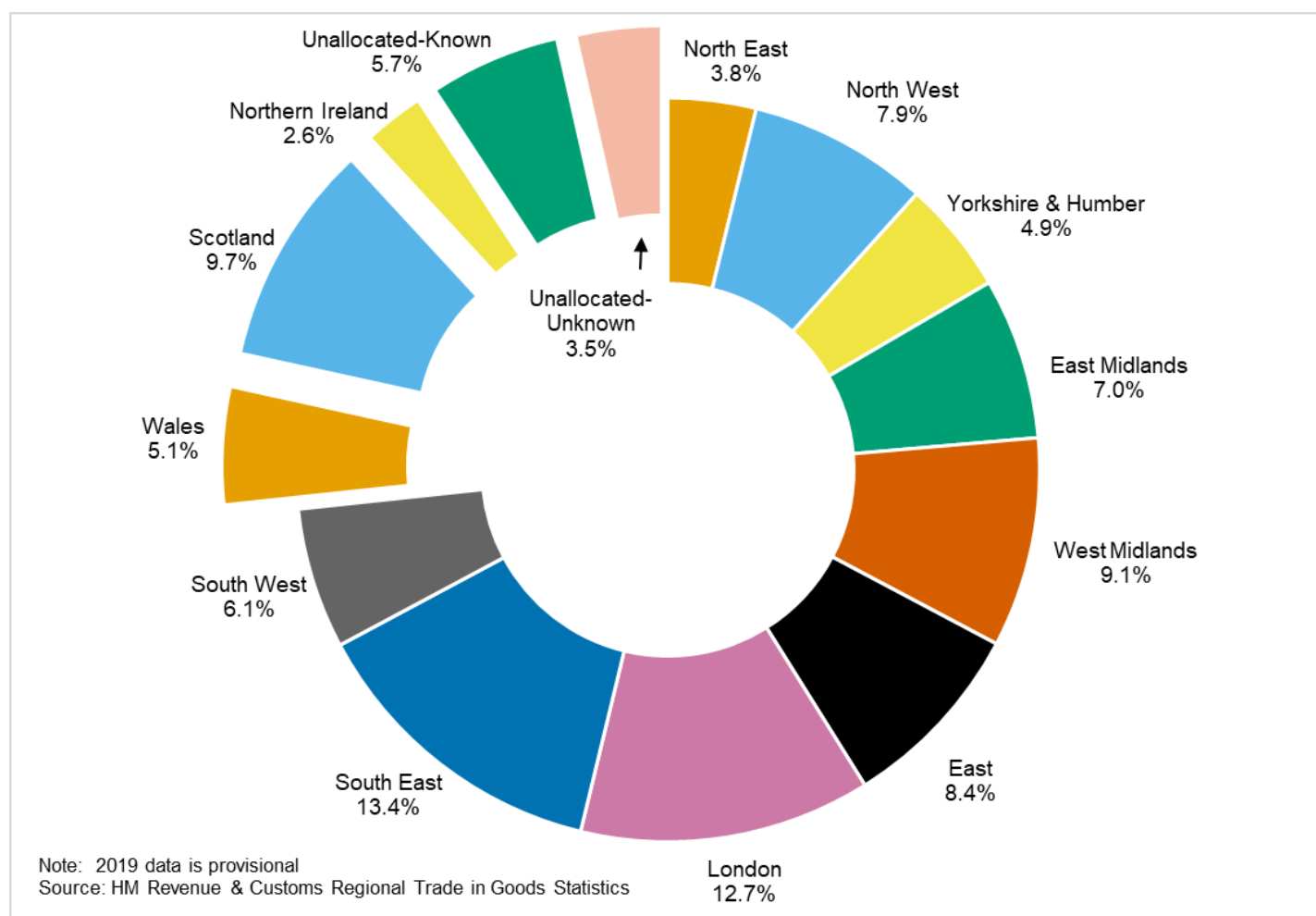
- The value of exports from England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland increased during this period by 4.4%, 7.4%, 18% and 4.6% respectively.
- The value of exports from all 9 English regions saw an increase, except for the North West and the West Midlands.

Overview Exports: Regional Breakdown

Figure 3 shows the percentage share by region of the value of UK exports for the year ending December 2019.

- UK exports were dominated by those from England, which accounted for 73% of the total value.
- Within the English regions; the South East, London, and the West Midlands accounted for the greatest shares, accounting for 13%, 13%, and 9.1% of UK exports respectively.
- The North East had the smallest share in the English regions, accounting for 3.8% of exports.
- Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland accounted for 5.1%, 9.7% and 2.6% of exports respectively.

Figure 3: Percentage share of the value of UK Exports by region, year ending December 2019



Overview Exports: Exporter Business Count

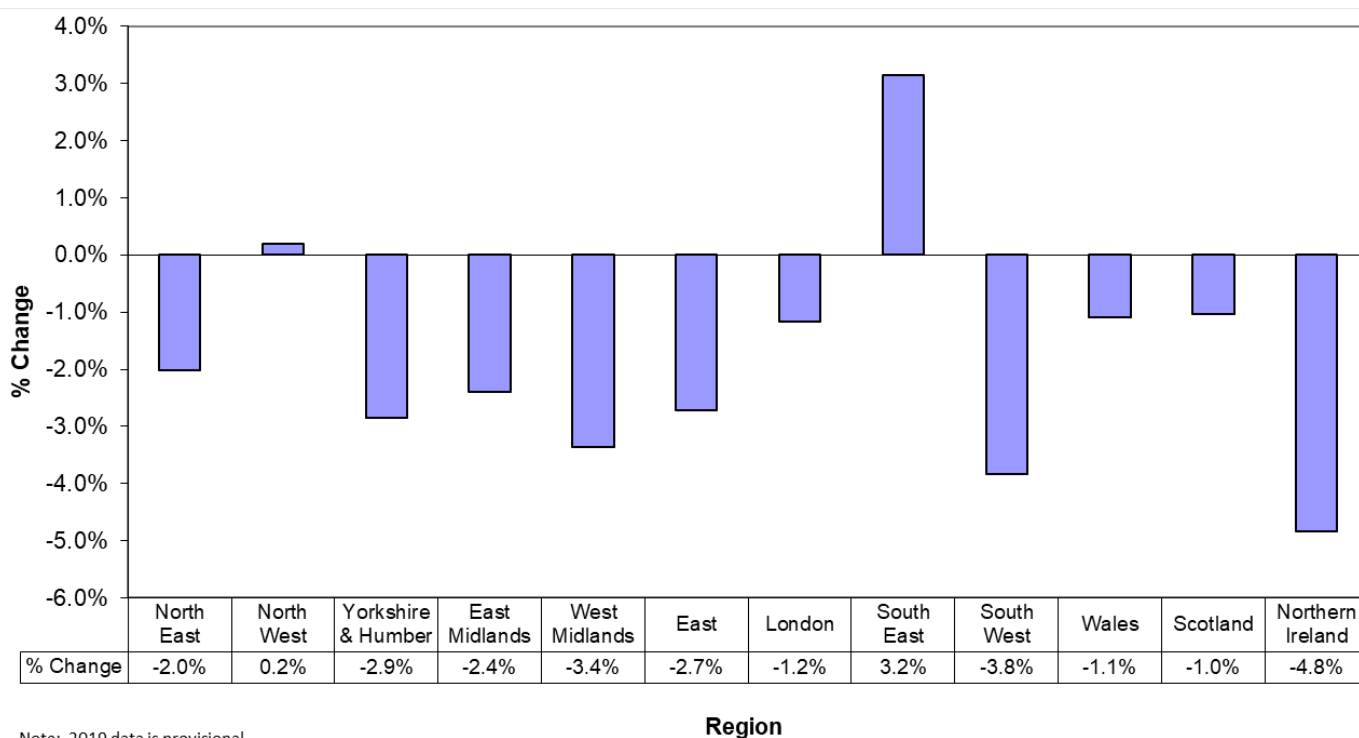
The business count is derived from trade declarations and is a count of all VAT Registered businesses importing and exporting. Where businesses have branches in multiple regions, there are 2 ways of deriving the count:

- **Whole Number Method:** A business will be counted as one in every region they have employees. This represents the actual count of businesses in any region. However, it will mean the sum of the business count for each region will be greater than that for the UK.
- **Proportion Method:** A business will be counted as a fraction in each region they trade based on the proportion of their employees in each region. An individual business counts as one business in the UK. The sum of businesses (whole and fractions) gives the total business count for a region.

We analyse results from both methods in this commentary. A quarter-on-quarter comparison enables us to measure seasonal changes of business counts.

For the UK, the number of exporting businesses decreased by 1.3% between Q4 2018 and Q4 2019, from 111,000 to 109,500.

Figure 4: Percentage Change in Number of Exporters between Q4 2018 and Q4 2019 - Whole Number Method



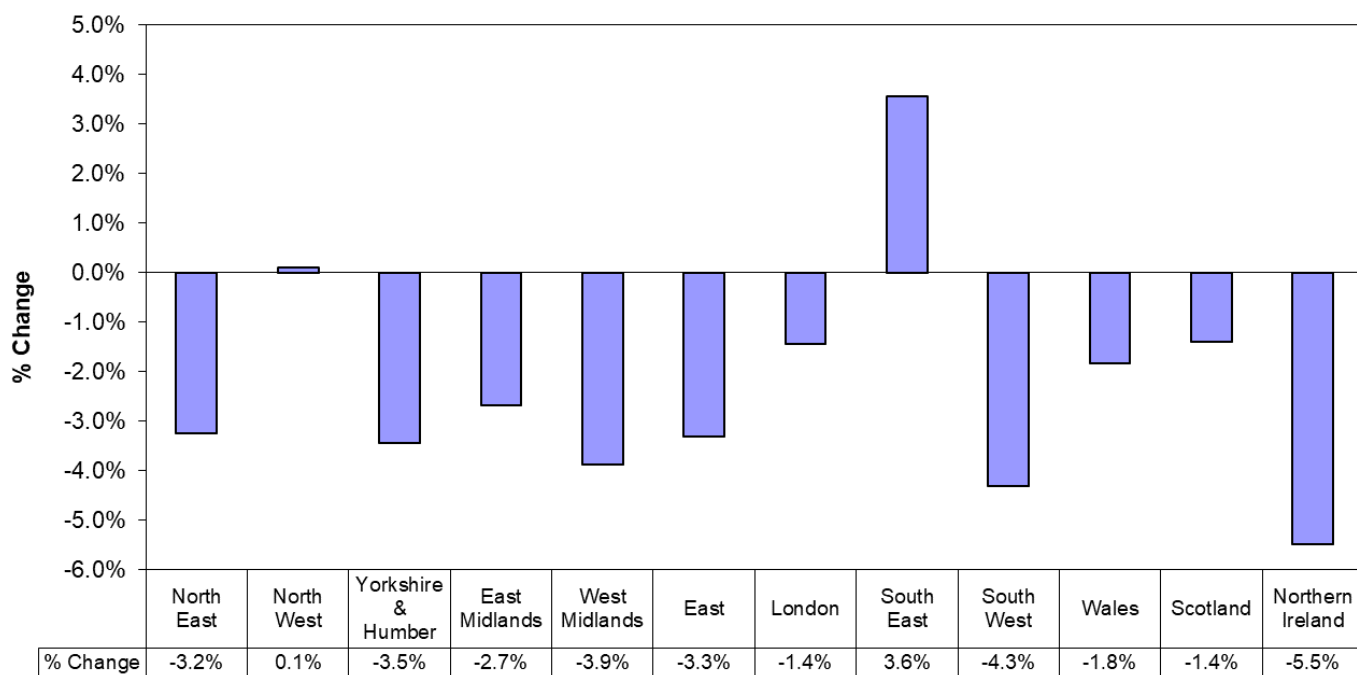
Note: 2019 data is provisional
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade in Goods Statistics

Figure 4 shows that under the whole number method:

- The number of exporters decreased for all UK countries and the English regions, except for the North West and the South East.
- The South East experienced the largest percentage increase in exporting businesses, up 3.2%.
- Northern Ireland saw the largest percentage decrease, down 4.8%.

Overview Exports: Exporter Business Count

Figure 5: Percentage Change in Number of Exporters between Q4 2018 and Q4 2019 - Proportion Method



Note: 2019 data is provisional
 Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade in Goods Statistics

Region

Figure 5 shows that under the proportion method:

- The number of exporters decreased for all UK countries and English regions except for the North West and the South East.
- The South East experienced the largest percentage increase in exporting businesses, up 3.6%.
- Northern Ireland saw the largest percentage decrease, down 5.5%.

Overview Imports

The total annual value of UK imports increased by 0.3% to £483 billion in the year ending December 2019 compared with the same period the previous year.

Figure 6: UK Imports in Goods by Region, 2017 Q1 – 2019 Q4

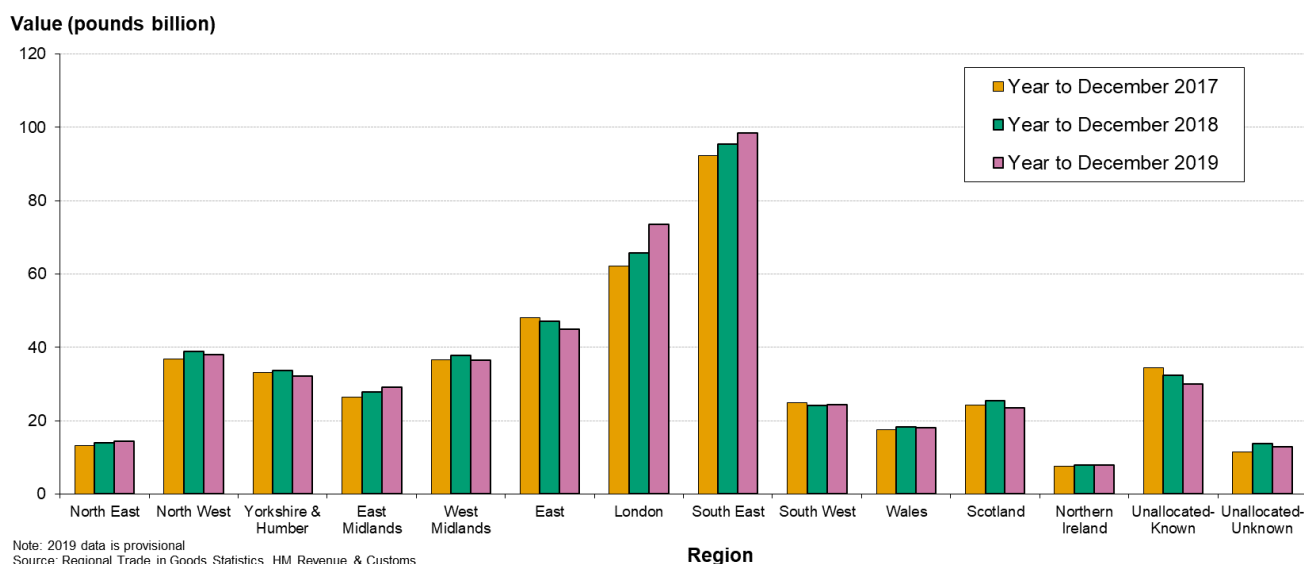


Figure 6 shows the total value of UK imports by region for the 3 annual periods ending December 2017, December 2018 and December 2019.

When comparing the annual period ending December 2019 with the annual period ending December 2018

- There was a rise in import value during the year for England (up 1.7%) and Northern Ireland (up 1.1%), while Wales (down 1.3%) and Scotland (down 7.4%) experienced decreases.
- Among the English regions, there were increases in imports for 5 of the 9 English regions. These were the North East, the East Midlands, London, the South East, and the South West.

When comparing the annual period ending December 2019 with year ending December 2017, there was an increase of UK imports from £468 billion to £483 billion. This was an increase of £14.8 billion (3.2%).

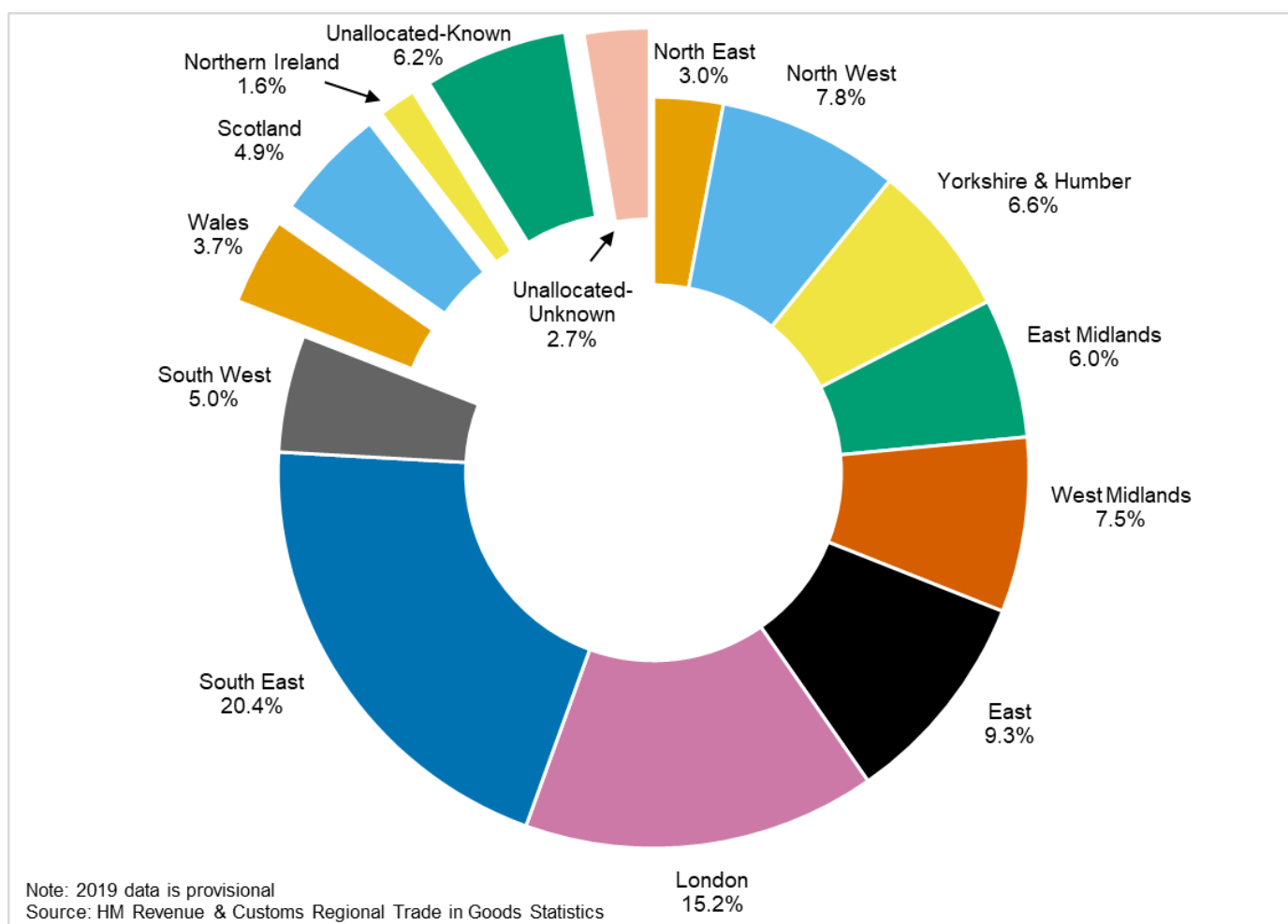
- Imports into England, Wales, and Northern Ireland increased during this period by 4.8%, 2.9%, and 6.0% respectively. Scotland experienced a decrease, down 3.0%.
- Among the English regions, there were increases in imports for 5 of the 9 English regions. These were the North East, the North West, the East Midlands, London, and the South East.

Overview Imports: Regional Breakdown

Figure 7 shows the breakdown by region of UK imports for the 12-month period ending December 2019.

- UK imports were dominated by those to England, which accounted for 81% of the total value.
- Within the English regions; the South East, London, and the East of England accounted for the greatest shares with 20%, 15%, and 9.3% of UK imports respectively.
- The North East had the smallest share of the English regions, accounting for 3.0% of imports.
- Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland accounted for 3.7%, 4.9%, and 1.6% of imports respectively.

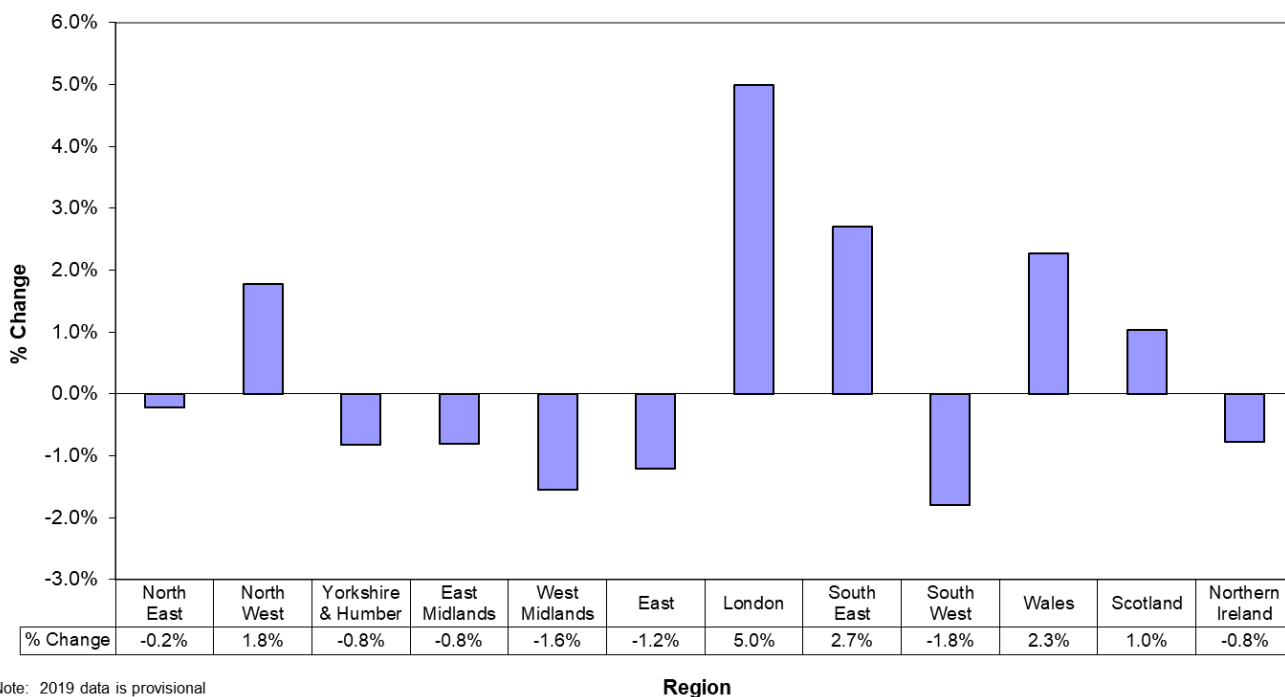
Figure 7: Percentage share of the value of UK Imports by region, year ending December 2019



Overview Imports: Importer Business Count

For the UK, the number of importing businesses increased by 1.4% between Q4 2018 and Q4 2019, from 172,900 to 175,300.

Figure 8: Percentage Change in Number of Importers between Q4 2018 and Q4 2019 – Whole Number Method



Note: 2019 data is provisional
 Source: HM Revenue & Customs Regional Trade in Goods Statistics

Figure 8 shows that under the whole number method:

- The number of importers increased in England, Wales, and Scotland, while Northern Ireland saw a decrease.
- The number of importers increased in 3 of the 9 English regions. These were the North West, London, and the South East.
- London saw the largest percentage increase, up 5.0%.
- The South West experienced the largest percentage decrease, down 1.8%.

Overview Imports: Importer Business Count

Figure 9: Percentage Change in Number of Importers between Q4 2018 and Q4 2019 – Proportion Method

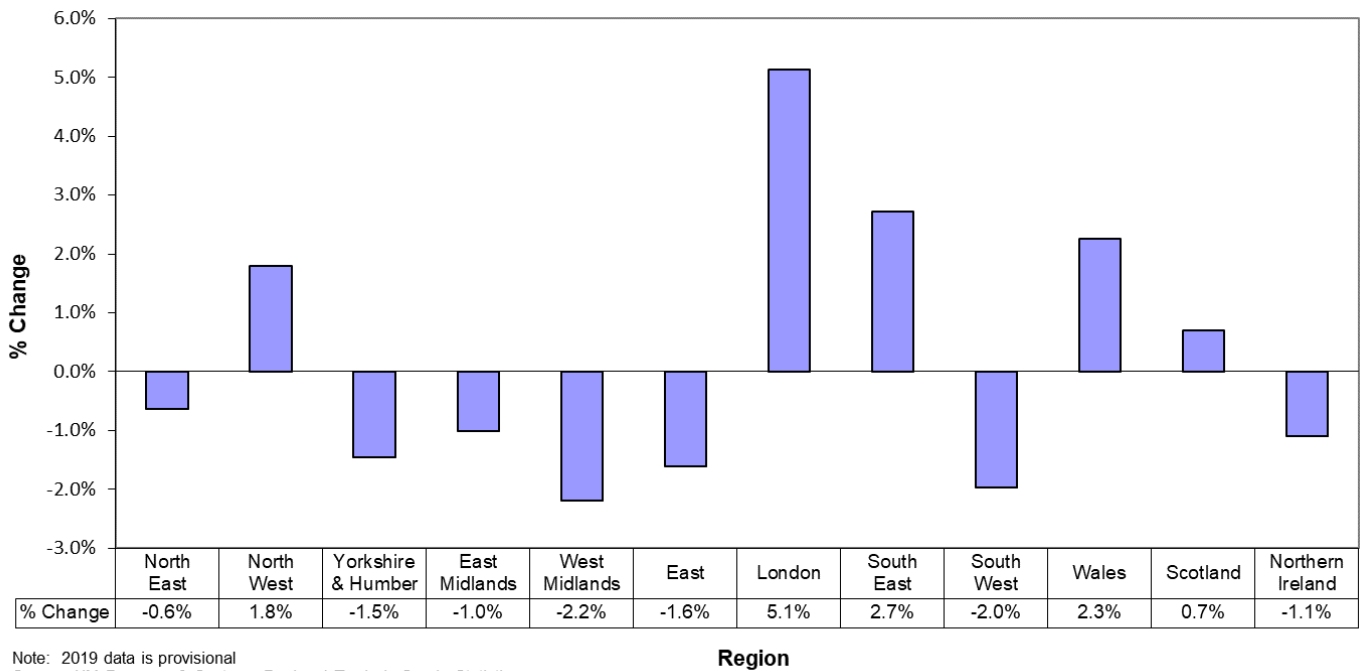


Figure 9 shows that under the proportion method:

- The number of importers increased in England, Wales, and Scotland, while Northern Ireland saw a decrease.
- The number of importers increased in 3 of the 9 English regions. These were the North West, London, and the South East.
- London saw the largest percentage increase, up 5.1%.
- The West Midlands experienced the largest percentage decrease, down 2.2%.

Exports from England - Partner country analysis

Table 1: England - Top 5 export partners, year ending December 2019

Partner Country	Year ending December 2019	Year ending December 2018		Year ending December 2019
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change from year ending Dec 2019 (%)	% Share of Total Exports
USA	42,643	36,461	17.0	16.8
Germany	26,730	25,662	4.2	10.5
France	17,863	17,160	4.1	7.0
Netherlands	15,331	16,393	-6.5	6.0
Irish Republic	13,731	13,469	1.9	5.4
Others	137,737	139,866	-1.5	54.2
Total EU	122,973	122,882	0.1	48.4
Total Non-EU	131,061	126,129	3.9	51.6
Total Exports	254,034	249,011	2.0	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Table 1 shows:

- The value of exports from England increased by 2.0% during the year ending December 2019 compared with the previous year, while there was an increase of 2.1% for the UK as a whole.
- England's exports to the EU increased by 0.1% during the year, while exports to non-EU countries increased by 3.9%. The market share for EU exports was 48%, a decrease from a 49% share for the previous year.
- 4 of England's top 5 export partners saw an increase in value over the last 12 months, the Netherlands was the exception.
- The largest value increase in export trade was to USA (up £6.2 billion, 17%), followed by Switzerland (ranked 11th - up £1.4 billion, 31%), and Germany (up £1.1 billion, 4.2%).
- The largest value decrease in exports was to China (ranked 6th - down £2.4 billion, 18%), followed by South Korea (ranked 22nd - down £1.5 billion, 36%), and the Netherlands (down £1.1 billion, 6.5%).

Exports from England - Commodity analysis

Table 2: England - Top 5 SITC sections exported, year ending December 2019

SITC section and description	Year ending December 2019		Year ending December 2018		Year ending December 2019
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change from year ending Dec 2019 (%)	% Share of Total Exports	
7: Machinery & transport equipment	111,736	110,854	0.8	44.0	
8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles	45,837	39,032	17.4	18.0	
5: Chemicals & related products	38,993	37,854	3.0	15.3	
6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	25,333	24,611	2.9	10.0	
3: Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	13,144	17,645	-25.5	5.2	
Other SITCs	18,991	19,016	-0.1	7.5	
Total Exports	254,034	249,011	2.0	100.0	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Table 2 shows:

- The value of exports increased during the year for 4 of England's top 5 SITC sections, 'Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials' was the exception.
- 'Machinery and transport equipment' continued to dominate exports from England, accounting for 44% of England's exports.
- 7 of the 10 SITC sections increased. The largest value increases were in 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (up £6.8 billion, 17%), and 'Chemicals and related products' (up £1.1 billion, 3.0%).
- The largest decrease was in 'Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials' (down £4.5 billion, 26%).

At the more detailed commodity classification (SITC 2- division):

- 34 of the 66 SITC divisions exported from England increased in value during the year.
- The largest increases were in divisions 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles n.e.s.' (up £5.5 billion, 30%) and 'Medicinal and pharmaceutical products' (up £2.0 billion, 14%).
- The largest decrease was in 'Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials' (down £4.1 billion, 26%).

Imports into England - Partner country analysis

Table 3: England - Top 5 import partners, year ending December 2019

Partner Country	Year ending December 2019	Year ending December 2018		Year ending December 2019
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change from year ending Dec 2019 (%)	% Share of Total Imports
Germany	58,050	59,960	-3.2	14.8
China	39,423	35,524	11.0	10.1
Netherlands	35,716	35,618	0.3	9.1
USA	31,263	28,729	8.8	8.0
France	24,573	22,871	7.4	6.3
Others	202,038	201,680	0.2	51.7
Total EU	220,490	219,070	0.6	56.4
Total Non-EU	170,573	165,312	3.2	43.6
Total Imports	391,063	384,383	1.7	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Imports into England increased by 1.7% during the year ending December 2019 compared with the previous year, while there was a 0.3% increase in imports to the UK as a whole.

Table 3 shows:

- EU partner countries accounted for 56% of England's imports during the year; a decrease from a 57% share for the previous year.
- Germany remained the top import partner for England by a wide margin, despite experiencing a value decrease on the previous year (down 3.2%). For the latest annual period it accounted for 15% of all imports into England, a decrease from a 16% share for the previous year.
- Imports from the other top 5 import partners increased compared with the previous year.
- The largest value increase in imports were from China (up £3.9 billion, 11%), followed by the USA (up £2.5 billion, 8.8%).
- The largest value decrease in imports were from Norway (ranked 9th - down £2.7 billion, 23%), followed by Germany (down £1.9 billion, 3.2%).

Imports into England - Commodity analysis

Table 4: England - Top 5 SITC sections imported, year ending December 2019

SITC section and description	Year ending December 2019	Year ending December 2018		Year ending December 2019
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change from year ending Dec 2019 (%)	% Share of Total Imports
7: Machinery & transport equipment	155,654	150,033	3.7	39.8
8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles	65,300	61,815	5.6	16.7
6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	45,687	44,583	2.5	11.7
5: Chemicals & related products	44,978	44,256	1.6	11.5
0: Food & live animals	32,231	31,527	2.2	8.2
Other SITCs	47,213	52,169	-9.5	12.1
Total Imports	391,063	384,383	1.7	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Table 4 shows:

- The value of imports increased during the year for all of England's top 5 SITC sections.
- 'Machinery and transport equipment' continued to dominate England's imports, accounting for 40% of total import value, an increase from a 39% share for the previous year.
- The largest value increases at SITC section level were in 'Machinery and transport equipment' (up £5.6 billion, 3.7%) and 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (up £3.5 billion, 5.6%).
- The largest value decrease at SITC section level was in 'Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials' (down £4.9 billion, 13%).

At the more detailed commodity classification (SITC 2- division):

- 37 of the 66 SITC divisions imported into England increased in value during the year.
- The largest increase was in 'Road vehicles' (up £3.0 billion, 6.0%), followed by and 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (up £1.6 billion, 8.5%).
- The largest decrease was in 'Gas, natural and manufactured' (down £2.7 billion, 38%), followed by 'Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials' (down £1.5 billion, 5.4%).

Exports from Wales - Partner country analysis

Table 5: Wales - Top 5 export partners, year ending December 2019

Year ending December 2019		Year ending December 2018		Year ending December 2019
Partner Country	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change from year ending Dec 2019 (%)	% Share of Total Exports
Germany	2,875	3,120	-7.8	16.2
France	2,811	2,684	4.7	15.9
USA	2,743	2,445	12.2	15.5
Irish Republic	1,687	1,517	11.2	9.5
Netherlands	969	746	29.8	5.5
Others	6,620	6,677	-0.9	37.4
Total EU	10,693	10,534	1.5	60.4
Total Non-EU	7,013	6,656	5.4	39.6
Total Exports	17,706	17,190	3.0	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Table 5 shows:

- The value of exports from Wales increased by 3.0% during the year ending December 2019.
- Exports from Wales to EU countries increased by 1.5% in value during the last year, while exports to non-EU countries increased by 5.4%.
- EU partner countries accounted for 60% of Wales' total exports. This was a decrease from a 61% share the previous year.
- Germany was the top export partner, accounting for 16% of total exports from Wales. This was a decrease from an 18% share for the previous year.
- Of the top 5 export partners, only the top ranked Germany saw a decrease in value for the year ending December 2019.
- The partner countries with the largest value increases were the USA (up £298 million, 12%), and the Netherlands (up £223 million, 30%).
- The partner countries with the largest value decreases in exports were Germany (down £245 million, 7.8%), and Canada (ranked 14th - down £112 million, 32%).

Exports from Wales - Commodity analysis

Table 6: Wales - Top 5 SITC sections exported, year ending December 2019

SITC section and description	Year ending December 2019	Year ending December 2018		Year ending December 2019
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change from year ending Dec 2019 (%)	% Share of Total Exports
Machinery & transport equipment	8,841	8,517	3.8	49.9
Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	2,461	2,310	6.6	13.9
Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,066	2,163	-4.5	11.7
Chemicals & related products	2,047	1,953	4.8	11.6
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,419	1,361	4.3	8.0
Other SITCs	871	887	-1.8	4.9
Total Exports	17,706	17,190	3.0	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Table 6 shows:

- The value of exports from Wales increased during the year for 4 of the top 5 SITC sections, 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' was the exception.
- Exports from Wales continued to be dominated by 'Machinery and transport equipment' which accounted for 50% of Wales' exports trade, an increase of less than 1 percentage point on the previous year.
- The SITC sections with the largest value increases were 'Machinery and transport equipment' (up £324 million, 3.8%) and 'Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials' (up £152 million, 6.6%).
- The largest value decrease was for 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' (down £96.9 million, 4.5%).

At the more detailed commodity classification (SITC 2- division):

- 31 of the 66 SITC divisions exported from Wales increased in value during the year.
- The largest increases were in divisions 'Power generating machinery and equipment' (up £311 million, 16%) and 'Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials' (up £151 million, 6.8%).
- The largest decreases were in 'Plastics in primary forms' (down £63.5 million, 27%) and in 'Iron and steel' (down £55.5 million, 5.7%).

Imports into Wales - Partner country analysis

Table 7: Wales - Top 5 import partners, year ending December 2019

Year ending December 2019		Year ending December 2018		Year ending December 2019
Partner Country	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change from year ending Dec 2019 (%)	% Share of Total Imports
USA	3,185	2,971	7.2	17.6
Germany	1,848	1,921	-3.8	10.2
China	1,152	1,142	0.9	6.4
Netherlands	985	1,053	-6.5	5.4
France	752	810	-7.2	4.1
Others	10,200	10,457	-2.5	56.3
Total EU	6,810	7,182	-5.2	37.6
Total Non-EU	11,312	11,172	1.2	62.4
Total Imports	18,121	18,354	-1.3	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Table 7 shows:

- Imports to Wales decreased in value by 1.3% in the year ending December 2019.
- Of the top 5 imports partners, 2 saw an increase in value compared with the previous year, the USA and China.
- The USA was the largest import partner for Wales. It accounted for 18% of imports into Wales, up from a 16% share for the previous year.
- The largest increases in imports were from Norway (ranked 7th - up £259 million, 70%), and the USA (up £214 million, 7.2%).
- The largest decrease in imports was from Algeria (ranked 12th - down £311 million, 41%).

Imports into Wales - Commodity analysis

Table 8: Wales - Top 5 SITC sections imported, year ending December 2019

SITC section and description	Year ending December 2019	Year ending December 2018		Year ending December 2019
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change from year ending Dec 2019 (%)	% Share of Total Imports
7: Machinery & transport equipment	6,777	6,517	4.0	37.4
3: Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	4,126	4,550	-9.3	22.8
6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,057	2,161	-4.8	11.4
8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,757	1,705	3.0	9.7
5: Chemicals & related products	1,606	1,767	-9.1	8.9
Other SITCs	1,799	1,653	8.8	9.9
Total Imports	18,121	18,354	-1.3	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Table 8 shows:

- The value of imports to Wales decreased during the year for 3 of the top 5 SITC sections.
- 'Machinery and transport equipment' remained the largest SITC section accounting for 37% of all imports into Wales, an increase from 36% for the previous year.
- The largest value increases were for 'Machinery and transport equipment' (up £260 million, 4.0%) followed by 'Crude materials, inedible, except fuels' (up £164 million, 20%).
- The largest value decreases at SITC section level were for 'Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials' (down £425 million, 9.3%) and 'Chemicals and related products, nes' (down £161 million, 9.1%).

At the more detailed commodity classification (SITC 2- division):

- 34 of the 66 SITC divisions imported into Wales increased in value during the year.
- The largest increases were in divisions 'Metalliferous ores and metal scrap' (up £199 million, 36%) and 'Power generating machinery and equipment' (up £184 million, 9.5%).
- The largest decreases were in divisions 'Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials' (down £367 million, 8.7%), and 'Iron and steel' (down £170 million, 32%).

Exports from Scotland - Partner country analysis

Table 9: Scotland - Top 5 export partners, year ending December 2019

Partner Country	Year ending December 2019	Year ending December 2018		Year ending December 2019
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change from year ending Dec 2019 (%)	% Share of Total Exports
Netherlands	5,752	6,913	-16.8	17.1
China	4,531	1,457	211.0	13.5
USA	3,978	4,251	-6.4	11.8
Germany	3,495	2,737	27.7	10.4
France	1,826	1,612	13.3	5.4
Others	14,054	15,263	-7.9	41.8
Total EU	16,506	17,255	-4.3	49.1
Total Non-EU	17,130	14,978	14.4	50.9
Total Exports	33,636	32,233	4.4	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Table 9 shows:

- Exports from Scotland increased in value by 4.4% during the year ending December 2019.
- Scotland's exports to the EU decreased by 4.3% during the last year, while exports to non-EU countries increased by 14%. EU partner countries accounted for 49% of all exports, a decrease from 54% the previous year.
- The Netherlands was Scotland's largest export partner, accounting for 17% of Scotland's exports.
- Exports to 3 of Scotland's top 5 partners increased in value during the year, the Netherlands and the USA were the exceptions.
- The largest value increases in exports were to China (up £3.1 billion, more than tripling in value), and Germany (up £0.8 billion, 28%).
- The largest value decrease in exports were to the Netherlands (down £1.2 billion, 17%).

Exports from Scotland - Commodity analysis

Table 10: Scotland - Top 5 SITC sections exported, year ending December 2019

SITC section and description	Year ending December 2019	Year ending December 2018		Year ending December 2019
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change from year ending Dec 2019 (%)	% Share of Total Exports
3: Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	13,694	12,107	13.1	40.7
7: Machinery & transport equipment	6,791	7,190	-5.6	20.2
1: Beverages & tobacco	4,476	4,282	4.5	13.3
5: Chemicals & related products	2,468	2,524	-2.2	7.3
6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2,116	2,031	4.2	6.3
Other SITCs	4,091	4,098	-0.2	12.2
Total Exports	33,636	32,233	4.4	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Table 10 shows:

- The value of exports from Scotland increased during the year for 3 of the top 5 SITC sections.
- 'Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials' accounted for 41% of total exports from Scotland, an increase from a 38% share for the previous year.
- The largest value increases at SITC section level were for 'Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials' (up £1.6 billion, 13%) and 'Beverages and tobacco' (up £0.2 billion, 4.5%).
- The largest decrease at SITC section level were in 'Machinery and transport equipment' (down £0.4 billion, 5.6%).

At the more detailed commodity classification (SITC 2- division):

- 29 of the 65 SITC divisions exported from Scotland increased in export value during the year.
- The largest increases were in divisions 'Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials' (up £1.7 billion, 15%) and 'Beverages' (up £0.2 billion, 4.5%).
- The largest decrease was in 'Other transport equipment' (down £0.1 billion, 17%).

Imports into Scotland - Partner country analysis

Table 11: Scotland - Top 5 import partners, year ending December 2019

Partner Country	Year ending December 2019	Year ending December 2018		Year ending December 2019
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change from year ending Dec 2019 (%)	% Share of Total Imports
USA	2,911	2,805	3.8	12.4
China	2,846	2,890	-1.5	12.1
Norway	2,420	4,042	-40.1	10.3
Netherlands	2,119	1,943	9.1	9.0
Germany	1,863	2,002	-6.9	7.9
Others	11,341	11,688	-3.0	48.3
Total EU	9,833	10,177	-3.4	41.8
Total Non-EU	13,666	15,194	-10.1	58.2
Total Imports	23,499	25,370	-7.4	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Table 11 shows:

- Imports to Scotland decreased in value by 7.4% during the year.
- Scotland's imports from EU countries decreased by 3.4% in value during the year, compared with a decrease of 10% in imports from non-EU countries. As a result, non-EU partners accounted for 58% of Scotland's imports by value, a decrease from a 60% share for the previous year.
- There was a decrease in import value for 3 of the top 5 import partners, though imports from the USA and the Netherlands increased.
- The USA became Scotland's largest import partner. It accounted for 12% of all imports into Scotland, an increase from 11% for the previous year.
- The largest value increases were from the Netherlands (up £0.2 billion, 9.1%), and Singapore (ranked 15th - up £0.1 billion, 59%).
- The largest decreases were from Norway (down £1.6 billion, 40%), and Spain (ranked 11th - down £0.4 billion, 50%).

Imports into Scotland - Commodity analysis

Table 12: Scotland - Top 5 SITC sections imported, year ending December 2019

SITC section and description	Year ending December 2019	Year ending December 2018		Year ending December 2019
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change from year ending Dec 2019 (%)	% Share of Total Imports
7: Machinery & transport equipment	9,640	9,956	-3.2	41.0
8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles	3,045	3,105	-1.9	13.0
6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	3,024	2,800	8.0	12.9
3: Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	2,840	4,707	-39.7	12.1
5: Chemicals & related products	1,959	1,936	1.2	8.3
Other SITCs	2,991	2,866	4.3	12.7
Total Imports	23,499	25,370	-7.4	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Table 12 shows:

- The value of imports into Scotland decreased during the year for 3 of the top 5 SITC sections.
- 'Machinery and transport equipment' continued to dominate imports into Scotland. It represented 41% of total import value, an increase from a 39% share the previous year.
- The largest increases at SITC section level were in 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' (up £0.2 billion, 8.0%) and 'Food and live animals' (up £0.1 billion, 7.3%).
- The largest decreases at SITC section level were in 'Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials' (down £1.9 billion, 40%) and 'Machinery and transport equipment' (down £0.3 billion, 3.2%).

At the more detailed commodity classification (SITC 2- division):

- 31 of the 66 SITC divisions imported into Scotland experienced decreases in value during the year.
- The largest increases were in divisions 'Office machines and advanced data processing machines' (up £0.2 billion, 6.0%) and 'Non-ferrous metals' (up £0.2 billion, 34%).
- The largest decreases were in divisions 'Gas, natural and manufactured' (down £1.9 billion, 55%) and 'Other transport equipment' (down £0.5 billion, 35%).

Exports from Northern Ireland - Partner country analysis

Table 13: Northern Ireland - Top 5 export partners, year ending December 2019

Year ending December 2019		Year ending December 2018		Year ending December 2019
Partner Country	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change from year ending Dec 2019 (%)	% Share of Total Exports
Irish Republic	3,165	3,205	-1.2	34.8
USA	1,169	1,079	8.4	12.9
Canada	598	518	15.5	6.6
Germany	468	457	2.5	5.1
France	401	398	0.6	4.4
Others	3,293	3,239	1.7	36.2
Total EU	5,338	5,392	-1.0	58.7
Total Non-EU	3,756	3,503	7.2	41.3
Total Exports	9,094	8,895	2.2	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Table 13 shows:

- Exports from Northern Ireland increased in value by 2.2% during the year ending December 2019.
- The majority (59%) of Northern Ireland's exports were to the EU. This was a decrease from a 61% share for the previous year. Exports to EU partners decreased in value by 1.0% compared with the previous year, whilst exports to non-EU partners increased by 7.2%.
- There were increases in exports to 4 of the top 5 partner countries during the year. The exception was the Irish Republic, which decreased by 1.2% in value.
- The Irish Republic continued to dominate Northern Ireland's export market, accounting for 35% of total exports. This was a decrease from a 36% share for the previous year.
- The largest value increases were to the USA (up £90.2 million, 8.4%), and Canada (up £80.2 million, 16%).
- The largest value decreases were to the Irish Republic (down £39.7 million, 1.2%), and Russia (ranked 23rd - down £19.9 million, 25%).

Exports from Northern Ireland - Commodity analysis

Table 14: Northern Ireland - Top 5 SITC sections exported, year ending December 2019

SITC section and description	Year ending December 2019	Year ending December 2018		Year ending December 2019
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change from year ending Dec 2019 (%)	% Share of Total Exports
7: Machinery & transport equipment	3,352	3,193	5.0	36.9
0: Food & live animals	1,472	1,510	-2.5	16.2
8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,413	1,232	14.7	15.5
5: Chemicals & related products	1,138	1,150	-1.0	12.5
6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	800	797	0.3	8.8
Other SITCs	919	1,012	-9.2	10.1
Total Exports	9,094	8,895	2.2	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Table 14 shows:

- The value of exports from Northern Ireland increased during the year for 3 of the top 5 SITC sections.
- Northern Ireland's exports were dominated by goods in 'Machinery and transport equipment'. It accounted for 37% of Northern Ireland exports, increasing from a 36% share for the previous year.
- At SITC section level, 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' experienced the largest increase in exports (up £181 million, 15%), followed by 'Machinery and transport equipment' (up £159 million, 5.0%).
- The largest decrease was for 'Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials' (down £69.3 million, 22%).

At the more detailed commodity classification (SITC 2- division):

- 32 of the 66 exported SITC divisions increased in export value during the year.
- The largest increases were in divisions 'Furniture and parts thereof; bedding, mattresses etc.' (up £159 million, 32%) and 'Other transport equipment' (up £91.0 million, 11%).
- The largest decreases were 'Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials' (down £75.6 million, 43%) and in 'Rubber manufactures n.e.s.' (down £60.5 million, 46%).

Imports into Northern Ireland - Partner country analysis

Table 15: Northern Ireland - Top 5 import partners, year ending December 2019

Year ending December 2019		Year ending December 2018		Year ending December 2019
Partner Country	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change from year ending Dec 2019 (%)	% Share of Total Imports
Irish Republic	2,343	2,201	6.4	29.7
USA	786	806	-2.5	10.0
China	725	683	6.2	9.2
Netherlands	657	658	-0.1	8.3
Germany	530	534	-0.7	6.7
Others	2,842	2,918	-2.6	36.1
Total EU	5,191	5,060	2.6	65.9
Total Non-EU	2,691	2,738	-1.7	34.1
Total Imports	7,882	7,798	1.1	100.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Table 15 shows:

- Northern Ireland experienced a 1.1% increase in the value of its imports during the year.
- The majority of imports into Northern Ireland came from EU partners, which accounted for 66%. This was an increase from 65% for the previous year.
- The Irish Republic remained Northern Ireland's largest import partner, accounting for 30% of Northern Ireland's total imports. This was an increase from a 28% share for the previous year.
- 2 of the top 5 import partners saw an increase in trade during the year. The exceptions were the USA, the Netherlands, and Germany.
- The largest value increases were in goods from the Irish Republic (up £142 million, 6.4%) and Belgium (ranked 6th - up £81.2 million, 32%).
- The largest value decreases were from Argentina (ranked 39th - down £76.8 million, 81%) and France (ranked 7th - down £61.2 million, 16%).

Imports into Northern Ireland - Commodity analysis

Table 16: Northern Ireland - Top 5 SITC sections imported, year ending December 2019

SITC section and description	Year ending December 2019		Year ending December 2018		Year ending December 2019
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change from year ending Dec 2019 (%)	% Share of Total Imports	
7: Machinery & transport equipment	1,982	1,976	0.3	25.2	
0: Food & live animals	1,413	1,532	-7.8	17.9	
6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1,303	1,390	-6.3	16.5	
8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,298	1,254	3.5	16.5	
5: Chemicals & related products	1,135	841	34.9	14.4	
Other SITCs	751	805	-6.7	9.5	
Total Imports	7,882	7,798	1.1	100.0	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Table 16 shows:

- The value of imports increased during the year in 3 of Northern Ireland's top 5 SITC sections.
- 'Machinery and transport equipment' was Northern Ireland's top import SITC section by value. It accounted for 25% of Northern Ireland's total imports, a decrease of less than 1 percentage point from the previous year.
- The largest value increases of imports were in 'Chemicals and related products' (up £294 million, 35%) and 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' (up £44.0 million, 3.5%).
- The largest decreases were in 'Food and live animals' (down £119 million, 7.8%) and 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by materials' (down £86.9 million, 6.3%).

At the more detailed commodity classification (SITC 2- division):

- 28 of the 66 SITC divisions imported into Northern Ireland increased in value during the year.
- The largest increases were in divisions 'Medicinal and pharmaceutical products' (up £196 million, more than 2.5 times the value), and 'Plastics in primary forms' (up £117 million, 56%).
- The largest decreases were in divisions 'Rubber manufactures n.e.s.' (down £104 million, 49%) and 'Feeding stuff for animals' (down £79.9 million, 38%).

Exports from English Regions - Partner country analysis

Table 17: Top 5 export partners by value for the English regions, year ending December 2019

Region	Top 5 Export Partners				
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
North East	Netherlands	USA	Germany	Spain	Belgium
North West	USA	Germany	Netherlands	France	Irish Republic
Yorkshire & the Humber	Netherlands	USA	Germany	France	Irish Republic
East Midlands	USA	Germany	France	Hong Kong	Singapore
West Midlands	USA	Germany	China	France	Irish Republic
East	USA	Germany	China	Netherlands	France
London	USA	Germany	France	Hong Kong	Switzerland
South East	USA	Germany	Netherlands	France	Irish Republic
South West	USA	Germany	France	UAE	Irish Republic

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Table 17 shows the top 5 export trading partners by value for each of the English regions for the year ending December 2019.

- The USA was the top export partner for 7 of the 9 English regions, while the Netherlands was top for the North East, and Yorkshire and the Humber.
- Germany was the 2nd largest export partner for 7 English regions, and 3rd for the 2 other regions.
- France featured in the top 5 for 8 English regions, while the Netherlands and the Irish Republic were present in 5.
- Across all English regions, 12 unique countries featured in the top 5 export partners.

Exports from English Regions - Commodity analysis

Table 18: Top 5 SITC sections by value for exports from English regions, year ending December 2019

Exports - Top 5 SITC Sections					
Region	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
North East	7: Machinery & transport equipment	5: Chemicals & related products	6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles	0: Food & live animals
North West	7: Machinery & transport equipment	5: Chemicals & related products	8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	0: Food & live animals
Yorkshire & the Humber	7: Machinery & transport equipment	6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	5: Chemicals & related products	3: Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles
East Midlands	7: Machinery & transport equipment	8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	5: Chemicals & related products	0: Food & live animals
West Midlands	7: Machinery & transport equipment	6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles	5: Chemicals & related products	2: Crude materials, inedible, except fuels
East	7: Machinery & transport equipment	5: Chemicals & related products	8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	0: Food & live animals
London	8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles	7: Machinery & transport equipment	3: Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	5: Chemicals & related products
South East	7: Machinery & transport equipment	5: Chemicals & related products	8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles	3: Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material
South West	7: Machinery & transport equipment	8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	5: Chemicals & related products	0: Food & live animals

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Table 18 shows the top 5 export SITC sections by value for the English regions, for the year ending December 2019.

- 'Machinery and transport equipment' was the top SITC section in 8 regions, London was the exception.
- The following SITC sections were in the top 5 exports for all regions:
 - 'Machinery and transport equipment'
 - 'Chemicals and related products'
 - 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material'
 - 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles'.

Imports into English Regions - Partner country analysis

Table 19: Top 5 import partners by value for the English regions, year ending December 2019

Region	Top 5 Import Partners				
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
North East	Germany	France	China	USA	Netherlands
North West	Germany	China	Netherlands	USA	France
Yorkshire & the Humber	Netherlands	Norway	China	Germany	USA
East Midlands	Germany	China	USA	Netherlands	Belgium
West Midlands	Germany	China	Netherlands	France	USA
East	Germany	Netherlands	China	USA	Belgium
London	China	France	Germany	Netherlands	USA
South East	Germany	USA	Netherlands	China	Belgium
South West	USA	Germany	China	Netherlands	France

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Table 19 shows the top 5 partner countries by value for imports to the English regions for the year ending December 2019.

- Germany was in the top 5 for all English regions and was the top import partner in 6.
- China was in the top 5 for all regions and was the top import partner for London.
- The Netherlands was in the top 5 for all English regions and was the top import partner for Yorkshire and the Humber.
- The USA featured in the top 5 for all English regions and was the top import partner for the South West.
- Across all English regions, 7 unique countries featured in the top 5 import partners.

Imports into English Regions - Commodity analysis

Table 20: Top 5 SITC sections by value for imports to English regions, year ending December 2019

Imports - Top 5 SITC Sections					
Region	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
North East	7: Machinery & transport equipment	5: Chemicals & related products	6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles	0: Food & live animals
North West	7: Machinery & transport equipment	8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles	5: Chemicals & related products	6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	0: Food & live animals
Yorkshire & the Humber	3: Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	5: Chemicals & related products	7: Machinery & transport equipment	6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles
East Midlands	7: Machinery & transport equipment	8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	0: Food & live animals	5: Chemicals & related products
West Midlands	7: Machinery & transport equipment	6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles	0: Food & live animals	5: Chemicals & related products
East	7: Machinery & transport equipment	5: Chemicals & related products	8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles	0: Food & live animals	6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material
London	7: Machinery & transport equipment	8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles	3: Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	0: Food & live animals
South East	7: Machinery & transport equipment	8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles	5: Chemicals & related products	3: Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material
South West	7: Machinery & transport equipment	8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	0: Food & live animals	5: Chemicals & related products

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

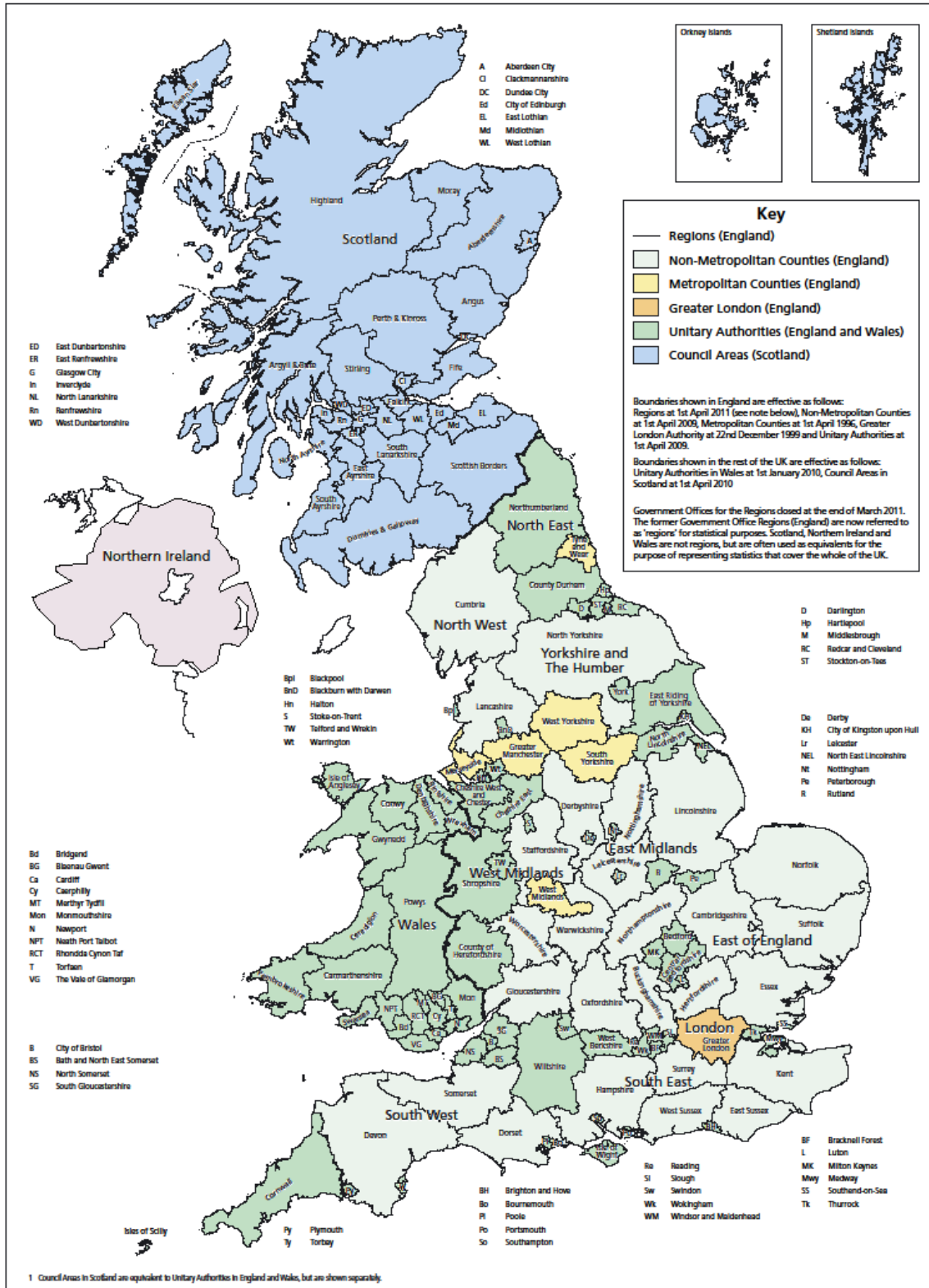
Note: 2019 data is provisional

Table 20 shows the top 5 import SITC sections by value for the English regions, for the year ending December 2019.

- 'Machinery and transport equipment' was the top SITC section for all English regions except Yorkshire and the Humber.
- 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' and 'Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material' were in the top 5 imported SITC sections of all English regions.
- 'Chemicals and related products' featured in the top 5 for all English regions except London.
- 'Food and live animals' was present in the top 5 of all English regions except Yorkshire and the Humber and the South East.

Map of UK Regions

United Kingdom: Regions, Counties and Unitary Authorities,¹ 2011



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2015
Source of boundary for Northern Ireland: UNEP (2014): UNEP Environmental Data Explorer: United Nations Environment Programme. <http://geodata.grid.unep.ch>

Explanatory Notes

Introduction

1. HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) is responsible for collecting the UK's international trade in goods data, which are published as 2 National Statistics series - the 'Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics (OTS)' and the 'Regional Trade in Goods Statistics (RTS)'. The RTS is published quarterly showing trade at summary product and country level, split by UK regions and devolved administrations.
2. The latest statistics on Regional Trade in Goods were released on 17 March 2019 by HM Revenue & Customs under arrangements set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#). This release includes the first provisional estimates of trade-in-goods for Q4 2019. At the same time revisions for all previously published regional data from 2019 are also being released.
3. Aggregated tables are produced to allow time series analysis; these tables are provided in a separate document released in conjunction with this release.
4. The following tables can be found in the 'Accompanying Tables' document.
 - Table 1 Value of Exports (EU / Non-EU) by Region
 - Table 2 Value of Imports (EU / Non-EU) by Region
 - Table 3 Count of Exporters (EU / Non-EU) by Region
 - Table 4 Count of Importers (EU / Non-EU) by Region
 - Table 5 Value of Trade by SITC Section and Country Group (separate tables for each region)

Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

5. Data is taken primarily from Customs systems (for non-EU trade) and the Intrastat survey (for EU trade). HMRC does not receive information in respect of goods that move wholly within the UK, nor in intangibles and services such as banking or tourism.
6. The Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics (OTS) were published on a Special Trade basis from May 2016 account onwards, as described on [uktradeinfo](#). This change has been reflected in the RTS from 2016 Q2 release onwards. All data in this release has been compiled on a Special Trade basis to allow comparisons across periods to be made.
7. Trade in non-monetary gold (NMG) is now included in OTS data, however this trade will continue to be excluded from RTS data. This is because the majority of NMG trade would be assigned to the London region and this would distort the RTS figures. The following reconciliation table shows the differences at total trade level between OTS and RTS by quantifying the elements of OTS that are excluded from RTS:

Table A: RTS/OTS Reconciliation Table Quarter 4, 2019

	EU Exports £ millions	Non-EU Exports £ millions	EU Imports £ millions	Non-EU Imports £ millions
OTS total value	41,629.0	53,293.2	65,112.8	70,402.5
RTS total value	40,618.8	47,031.2	63,824.5	55,349.5
Allocated to a region	37,878.3	41,282.0	59,284.2	50,177.5
Unallocated region	2,740.5	5,749.2	4,540.3	5,172.0
Late response estimates	762.2	-	1,011.1	
Non-monetary gold	248.0	6,262.00	277.2	15,053.0
RTS total plus exclusions	41,629.0	53,293.2	65,112.8	70,402.5

Note 1: There may be rounding differences between the total shown and the sum of its components.

Note 2: Late Response estimates are for EU trade only. This will reduce over time. They are excluded from RTS trade

Note 3: Non-Monetary Gold is excluded from RTS trade

Note 4: 2019 data is provisional and subject to update.

Source: Regional Trade in Goods Statistics and Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs

Balance of Payments

8. The Balance of Payments (BoP) figures published by the ONS are calculated on a different basis to the OTS. Therefore, adjustments are made when producing BoP which means that the RTS and BoP are not comparable. Further details on the link between OTS and BoP can be found on the [Related Data](#) page on [uktradeinfo](#).

Methodology

9. Following an informal public consultation on Regional Trade in Goods Statistics (RTS), releases from the 2016 Q3 release incorporates changes to the methodology and presentation that resulted from this consultation. The main changes were:
- Allocating a business' trade to a region based on their proportion of employees in that region rather than where the location of the Head Office of the business is.
 - Dividing trade that cannot be allocated to a region into 'Known' and 'Unknown'.
 - For specific energy goods using data received by HMRC direct from interconnector and rig operators rather than the business doing the trade.
 - The number of businesses now includes all VAT Registered traders rather than just those who are required to make full declarations to HMRC for their EU trade.
 - Shorter commentary for publications relating to Quarters 1, 2 and 3; followed by fuller report for Quarter 4.
10. RTS data is compiled by merging trade data collected by HMRC with employment data from the Interdepartmental Business Register (IDBR). A business' trade is allocated to a region based on the proportion of its employees employed in that region. Where a trader is not matched with the IDBR, its trade is matched with Office for National Statistics postcode data to obtain the region in which the Head Office of the VAT registered business (importer or exporter) is based.

11. Not all trade can be assigned to 1 of the 9 English Regions, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Where appropriate, this is referred to in the tables as the 'Unallocated Trade'. Unallocated Trade is split into:
- i. 'Unallocated – Known': where we have virtually full details of the trade but it is not appropriate to allocate it to a region. This covers:
 - Trade going into or out of the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man;
 - Trade carried out by the UK Government;
 - Trade carried out by overseas based traders who have a VAT presence in the UK; and
 - Parcel post trade that is dealt with centrally (trade with non-EU countries only).
 - ii. 'Unallocated – Unknown': This includes:
 - Trade where business details submitted are invalid
 - Un-registered businesses (Non-EU only)
 - Private Individuals (non-EU only); and
 - Low Value Trade (non-EU only).
12. For specific energy goods only, trade is allocated to the region where the goods enter or leave the UK rather than the location / employment of the business doing the trade. This is because HMRC receives details of the trade in these goods directly from grid operators rather than the business. The goods concerned are Electrical energy, Natural Gas in a gaseous state and Crude Oil exported directly from offshore oil rigs. Crude Oil imported to the UK and exported from terminals is still allocated to the region of the business.
13. The business count is derived from trade declarations and is a count of all VAT Registered businesses importing and exporting.
- Where businesses have branches in multiple regions, there are 2 ways of deriving the count:
- **Whole Number Method:** A business will be counted as 1 in every region they have employees. This represents the actual count of businesses in any region. However, it will mean the sum of the trader count for each region will be greater than that for the UK.
 - **Proportion Method:** A business will be counted as a fraction in each region they trade based on the proportion of their employees in each region. An individual business counts as 1 business in the UK. The sum of businesses (whole and fractions) gives the total business count for a region.
- We show results from both methods in the table 3 of the accompanying data tables
14. RTS data is categorised by partner country and [Standard International Trade Classification, Rev.4](#). (SITC) at division level (2-digit). The SITC is a relatively broad classification of goods and is not as detailed as the commodity classification available in the OTS. In this release RTS data is analysed at partner country and SITC section (1-digit) level, with references to SITC divisions where appropriate.
15. More information can be found in the [RTS methodology document](#).

16. Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) publish the Broad Economic Sales and Exports Statistics (BESES). These are an experimental measure, based on an annual survey of local businesses' sales to markets outside Northern Ireland. Due to methodological differences, the BESES and the RTS are not directly comparable. Statisticians in NISRA and HMRC are working together to understand the differences.

Governance

17. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

18. The Regional Trade in Goods figures undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs. These reviews are published as a [Government Statistical Service Quality report](#).
19. The RTS has been reviewed as part of an [assessment](#) made of the OTS by the [UK Statistics Authority](#).
20. There is a limited service to provide RTS outputs directly from HMRC Trade Statistics where the data cannot be obtained from other sources. This service is subject to HMRC standard disclosure rules applied to previously un-published data. Further details can be found on the [User Support](#) page of [uktradeinfo](#).
21. Updates to the 2019 figures as published in the OTS release on 11th March 2020 have not been applied to this 2019 Q4 RTS release due to production lead in times. However, these updates were negligible.
22. As the UK leaves the EU, it is important that our statistics continue to be of high quality and are internationally comparable. During the transition period, those UK statistics that align with EU practice and rules will continue to do so in the same way as before 31 January 2020. After the transition period, we will continue to produce statistics in line with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Statistics and in accordance with internationally agreed statistical guidance and standards.

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The OTS and RTS data series are published in HMRC's trade data website www.uktradeinfo.com. Detailed data is available within an [interactive database](#) and '[The Customer Story](#)' explains how users utilise it to analyse import and export markets.

Next release: 11 June 2020 at 9:30am

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