
News Release

For the attention of **News Desks**

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Latest UK Regional Trade Estimates

Estimates for the first quarter 2002 indicate the overall value of regional imports at £50.8 billion has fallen by £1.2bn, or 2.3%, on the results for fourth quarter 2001, and by 6.1% against the first quarter 2001. This fall is accounted for by a reduction of £1.7bn in imports from outside the EU, against an increase of £0.5bn in imports from within the EU. The Eastern region and Scotland together saw a reduction of approximately £1bn in imports overall, whereas West Midlands imports were up 16.2% over last quarter.

Total regional exports were down by £1.5bn, 3.8%, on the results for fourth quarter 2001 and by 6% against first quarter 2001. A rise of £100m in exports to EU countries was offset by a fall in £1.6 billion of exports to non-EU countries. London saw an increase of over 12% in export activity since last quarter.

Notes for editors

1. Data is taken from Customs declarations submitted for trade with countries outside the European Union, and from the Intrastat system for trade figures with countries in the EU. Trade is allocated to a region by the postcode associated with a company's VAT registration. Some adjustments have been necessary for exports to the EU, to ensure that manufacturing that takes place at branch premises is properly allocated to the region where the branch is situated. However, adjustments have not been possible for imports from the EU and therefore, in some cases, trade has been allocated to the region where the head office is situated. Exports to, and imports from, countries outside the EU already contain a regional coding.
2. Companies who trade with both EU countries and countries outside of the EU will appear more than once in the company count in tables 5 - 8 below.
3. These statistics refer to goods that have crossed the UK frontier. Customs and Excise do not receive information in respect of goods that move wholly within the UK. These figures also do not contain any information on the import or export of services such as banking or tourism.

Anyone with information about illegally imported drugs, tobacco or alcohol or about VAT fraud can speak to a Customs officer in complete confidence. Call Customs Confidential 24 hours a day on **0800**

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4. The quarterly totals of the value of Regional Trade in Goods Statistics do not equate to the totals already published as the UK-wide Overseas Trade Statistics. Certain goods, such as North Sea crude oil, ships and aircraft stores, and those not in free circulation, that are shipped to EU countries using traditional Customs declarations, are not allocated to a UK region. Imports and exports relating to overseas companies, registered for VAT in the UK, but with no place of business in the UK, have been excluded. Channel Islands and Isle of Man trade is also excluded. Trade below the Intrastat reporting threshold cannot be allocated to a region. In addition, some exports to countries outside the EU cannot be allocated to a region because the VAT registration numbers have not been properly declared. These exclusions mean that it is not possible to reconcile total figures for regional trade against figures for UK trade as published by HM Customs and Excise.
5. The creation of the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and the nine Government Offices for the Regions and Regional Development Agencies in England has led to a need for more information about the regional economies. The amount of import penetration and the level of exports achieved, in each region, are seen as important economic indicators.
6. HM Customs and Excise is ideally placed to provide this information, because it has for many years produced the Overseas Trade in Goods statistics that form part of the Balance of Payments figures. The declarations already received from importers and exporters provide the most comprehensive record of the UK's international trade. They provide an ideal source for this new regional data series.
7. The Regional Trade in Goods figures are in the scope of National Statistics. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.
8. Extensive consultations have been held with the devolved administrations and other potential users. At the same time, importers and exporters have been reassured that this new data series will not lead to an increase in the level of information that is provided by them on a regular basis.
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10. Estimates for the second quarter of 2002 will be published on 17 October 2002.

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*Information about HM Customs & Excise can be found on our website:
www.hmce.gov.uk . For this news release and other information visit
www.uktradeinfo.com for authoritative and up to date information on UK Trade.*

If using specific facts contained in this release please check the information is still current.

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Table 1. Value (£m) of UK Imports from outside the EU per Region

Region	2000	2001	Q4/00	Q1/01	Q2/01	Q3/01	Q4/01	Q1/02
Eastern	11,627	11,953	3,055	3,116	3,113	2,965	2,759	2,345
East Midlands	4,915	5,453	1,335	1,315	1,393	1,407	1,338	1,344
London	24,490	23,629	6,866	5,874	6,489	5,480	5,786	5,445
North East	2,513	2,708	711	727	722	660	599	642
North West	8,568	8,320	2,057	2,029	2,151	2,122	2,018	1,984
South East	21,320	21,793	5,645	5,297	5,808	5,264	5,424	4,775
South West	6,836	7,391	1,896	1,951	1,981	1,859	1,600	1,558
West Midlands	5,616	6,218	1,533	1,468	1,566	1,570	1,614	1,863
Yorkshire and the Humber	5,631	5,772	1,591	1,511	1,394	1,474	1,393	1,229
England	91,516	93,237	24,689	23,288	24,617	22,801	22,531	21,185
Northern Ireland	2,519	2,275	759	673	536	535	531	426
Scotland	8,902	8,698	2,648	2,628	2,178	1,971	1,921	1,738
Wales	3,741	3,781	1,011	898	1,000	936	947	894
Total	106,678	107,991	29,107	27,487	28,331	26,243	25,930	24,243

Table 2. Value (£m) of UK Imports from the EU per Region

Region	2000	2001	Q4/00	Q1/01	Q2/01	Q3/01	Q4/01	Q1/02
Eastern	16,710	18,521	4,252	4,247	4,541	4,633	5,100	4,787
East Midlands	4,471	4,912	1,111	1,157	1,411	1,125	1,219	1,213
London	16,472	14,991	4,264	4,204	3,977	3,404	3,406	3,776
North East	2,077	1,959	505	510	466	498	485	481
North West	5,877	6,495	1,535	1,588	1,561	1,568	1,778	1,658
South East	29,603	31,753	7,851	8,478	7,695	7,903	7,677	7,855
South West	3,707	3,946	917	973	981	946	1,046	1,123
West Midlands	8,803	9,349	2,149	2,365	2,397	2,303	2,284	2,590
Yorkshire and the Humber	5,295	4,633	1,430	1,171	1,148	1,146	1,168	1,150
England	93,015	96,559	24,014	24,693	24,177	23,526	24,163	24,633
Northern Ireland	1,398	1,625	369	388	442	386	409	392
Scotland	4,574	4,218	1,223	1,057	1,064	1,022	1,075	1,018
Wales	1,856	1,968	481	484	531	484	469	540
Total	100,843	104,370	26,087	26,622	26,214	25,418	26,116	26,583

Table 3. Value (£m) of UK Exports outside the EU per Region

Region	2000	2001	Q4/00	Q1/01	Q2/01	Q3/01	Q4/01	Q1/02
Eastern	8,445	9,136	2,358	2,131	2,226	2,150	2,629	2,078
East Midlands	5,105	5,237	1,302	1,186	1,233	1,455	1,363	1,150
London	13,500	13,516	3,862	3,627	3,570	3,130	3,189	3,136
North East	1,624	1,471	422	357	375	367	372	353
North West	4,674	5,067	1,215	1,174	1,299	1,272	1,322	1,253
South East	12,203	11,699	3,363	3,136	3,075	2,683	2,805	2,413
South West	2,822	2,806	797	702	735	667	702	704
West Midlands	5,392	5,000	1,419	1,279	1,182	1,205	1,334	1,296
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,206	3,234	832	852	800	797	785	706
England	56,971	57,166	15,570	14,444	14,495	13,726	14,501	13,089
Northern Ireland	1,375	1,308	417	361	332	305	310	258
Scotland	5,664	5,798	1,686	1,584	1,384	1,337	1,493	1,365
Wales	1,846	1,947	519	494	512	502	439	379
Total	65,856	66,219	18,192	16,883	16,723	15,870	16,743	15,091

Table 4. Value (£m) of UK Exports to the EU per Region

Region	2000	2001	Q4/00	Q1/01	Q2/01	Q3/01	Q4/01	Q1/02
Eastern	10,052	10,271	2,768	2,634	2,593	2,475	2,569	2,265
East Midlands	5,379	5,697	1,470	1,311	1,459	1,345	1,582	1,593
London	10,168	10,034	2,610	2,450	2,457	2,579	2,548	3,299
North East	5,173	5,142	1,422	1,353	1,340	1,200	1,249	1,326
North West	7,900	8,670	2,030	2,307	2,148	2,063	2,152	2,206
South East	15,514	16,337	4,091	4,318	3,958	3,895	4,166	4,095
South West	6,801	6,067	1,874	1,734	1,512	1,275	1,546	1,457
West Midlands	7,465	7,320	1,878	1,914	2,020	1,564	1,822	2,031
Yorkshire and the Humber	5,508	5,514	1,396	1,607	1,331	1,306	1,270	1,418
England	73,960	75,052	19,539	19,628	18,818	17,702	18,904	19,690
Northern Ireland	1,940	1,977	534	529	493	476	479	456
Scotland	12,557	13,168	3,715	3,293	3,396	3,136	3,343	2,726
Wales	4,570	4,736	1,164	1,214	1,274	1,136	1,112	1,077
Total	93,027	94,933	24,952	24,664	23,981	22,450	23,838	23,949

Table 5. Number of Companies Importing from outside the EU

Region	Q1/00	Q2/00	Q3/00	Q4/00	Q1/01	Q2/01	Q3/01	Q4/01	Q1/02
Eastern	6,896	7,211	7,020	6,572	7,613	8,787	8,415	7,881	6,232
East Midlands	3,448	3,601	3,544	3,347	3,725	3,846	3,838	3,791	4,158
London	12,007	12,401	12,079	11,354	12,061	12,413	12,118	12,215	12,605
North East	1,156	1,149	1,192	1,252	1,368	1,366	1,455	1,328	1,195
North West	5,626	5,786	5,602	5,171	5,493	5,747	5,864	5,842	5,596
South East	10,789	11,104	10,652	10,067	10,766	11,201	10,880	10,788	10,691
South West	3,757	3,918	3,816	3,583	3,895	4,098	4,053	4,017	3,997
West Midlands	4,901	5,032	4,999	4,704	5,042	5,216	5,138	5,180	5,662
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,918	3,996	3,877	3,694	3,942	4,096	4,150	4,098	3,914
England	52,498	54,198	52,781	49,744	53,905	56,770	55,911	55,140	54,050
Northern Ireland	865	883	842	806	874	952	946	963	973
Scotland	2,862	2,943	2,933	2,717	2,904	3,063	3,034	3,130	3,090
Wales	1,327	1,387	1,341	1,252	1,307	1,390	1,377	1,393	1,359
Total	57,552	59,411	57,897	54,519	58,990	62,175	61,268	60,626	59,472

Table 6. Number of "Intrastat" Companies Importing from the EU

Region	Q1/00	Q2/00	Q3/00	Q4/00	Q1/01	Q2/01	Q3/01	Q4/01	Q1/02
Eastern	2,027	2,087	2,096	2,156	2,116	2,119	2,109	2,180	1,828
East Midlands	1,362	1,381	1,388	1,428	1,330	1,321	1,343	1,390	1,524
London	2,320	2,406	2,377	2,369	2,285	2,278	2,236	2,275	2,545
North East	380	384	393	404	406	396	402	413	0,370
North West	1,814	1,841	1,927	1,946	1,871	1,836	1,873	1,893	1,887
South East	3,046	3,160	3,141	3,238	3,127	3,151	3,196	3,244	3,161
South West	1,071	1,110	1,101	1,140	1,099	1,088	1,088	1,109	1,119
West Midlands	1,814	1,868	1,897	1,938	1,878	1,876	1,906	1,937	2,069
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,441	1,451	1,458	1,501	1,454	1,468	1,470	1,522	1,395
England	15,275	15,688	15,778	16,120	15,566	15,533	15,623	15,963	15,898
Northern Ireland	624	642	666	696	687	687	710	740	813
Scotland	808	830	852	886	865	888	882	890	878
Wales	476	487	479	498	478	477	481	485	469
Total	17,183	17,647	17,775	18,200	17,596	17,585	17,696	18,078	18,058

Table 7. Number of Companies Exporting outside the EU

Region	Q1/00	Q2/00	Q3/00	Q4/00	Q1/01	Q2/01	Q3/01	Q4/01	Q1/02
Eastern	4,878	4,972	4,883	4,872	4,927	4,916	4,927	5,108	4,323
East Midlands	2,721	2,776	2,728	2,749	2,789	2,765	2,804	2,851	3,044
London	7,756	7,747	7,752	7,715	7,581	7,451	7,369	7,824	7,741
North East	908	917	921	867	902	927	924	917	843
North West	3,998	4,072	3,953	3,884	3,963	3,988	3,979	4,107	3,719
South East	7,514	7,629	7,479	7,307	7,553	7,454	7,422	7,623	7,105
South West	2,802	2,904	2,830	2,861	2,850	2,896	2,795	2,888	2,793
West Midlands	3,910	3,994	3,939	3,916	4,026	3,972	3,970	4,098	4,282
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,175	3,261	3,219	3,151	3,233	3,198	3,201	3,269	3,002
England	37,662	38,272	37,704	37,322	37,824	37,567	37,391	38,685	36,852
Northern Ireland	328	334	318	333	325	324	345	335	334
Scotland	2,023	2,032	2,021	2,065	2,076	2,112	2,140	2,169	2,046
Wales	1,051	1,042	1,003	1,000	1,025	1,026	1,045	1,041	957
Total	41,064	41,680	41,046	40,720	41,250	41,029	40,921	42,230	40,189

Table 8. Number of "Intrastat" Companies Exporting to the EU

Region	Q1/00	Q2/00	Q3/00	Q4/00	Q1/01	Q2/01	Q3/01	Q4/01	Q1/02
Eastern	1,636	1,677	1,676	1,741	1,657	1,676	1,662	1,698	1,433
East Midlands	1,014	1,019	1,027	1,060	995	1,015	1,012	1,021	1126
London	1,559	1,654	1,626	1,601	1,521	1,534	1,519	1,588	1,697
North East	376	404	379	394	391	387	380	387	365
North West	1,450	1,470	1,503	1,563	1,498	1,489	1,481	1,526	1,481
South East	2,387	2,491	2,495	2,531	2,427	2,431	2,441	2,488	2,436
South West	930	974	986	1,036	987	980	967	983	960
West Midlands	1,400	1,470	1,458	1,510	1,412	1,403	1,413	1,432	1,541
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,171	1,199	1,177	1,239	1,186	1,165	1,170	1,199	1,109
England	11,923	12,358	12,327	12,675	12,074	12,080	12,045	12,322	12,148
Northern Ireland	636	634	656	675	680	663	670	685	745
Scotland	784	815	828	850	810	829	811	818	809
Wales	489	495	485	499	489	471	470	480	471
Total	13,832	14,302	14,296	14,699	14,053	14,043	13,996	14,305	14,173