



Exports and Imports
Seasonally adjusted



Goods Exports and Imports
September 2013

	<i>Seasonally adjusted</i> € million		
	Exports	Imports	Surplus
April 2013	7,353	4,060	3,293
May 2013	7,092	4,025	3,067
June 2013	7,147	4,183	2,964
July 2013	7,328	4,122	3,206
August 2013	7,674	4,391	3,283
September 2013	7,310	4,117	3,193

Seasonally adjusted surplus down 3% in September

Preliminary figures for September 2013 indicate a decrease in seasonally adjusted exports of €364 million (-5%) to €7,310 million from August 2013. Seasonally adjusted imports decreased by €274 million (-6%) to €4,117 million resulting in a 3% decrease in the seasonally adjusted trade surplus to €3,193 million (see Table 2).

Comparing September 2013 with September 2012, the value of exports decreased by €118 million (-2%) to €7,346 million. The main drivers were a decrease of €332 million (-17%) in the exports of *Medical and pharmaceutical products* and €70 million (-69%) in the exports of *Petroleum and related products*. The exports of *Organic chemicals* increased by €327 million (+25%).

On an overall basis the EU accounted for €4,146 million (56%) of total exports in September 2013. The USA was the main non-EU destination accounting for 23% (€1,697m) of total exports in September 2013.

Comparing September 2013 with September 2012, the value of imports decreased by €165 million (-4%) to €4,039 million. Imports of *Other transport equipment* decreased by €189 million and *Petroleum and related products* decreased by €170 million.

The EU was the source of 67% of the value of imports in September 2013, with 34% coming from Great Britain. The USA (9%) and China (7%) 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	48,302	42,925	507.9	240.8	99.7	126.4	78.8
2012	91,688	49,151	42,538	479.1	231.9	105.8	133.7	79.2
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	4,122	2,471	437.6	237.4	105.5	129.2	81.6
2012 January	7,678	4,466	3,212	483.9	251.4	104.7	134.2	78.0
February	7,402	3,957	3,445	470.5	224.9	103.9	133.0	78.1
March	8,628	4,987	3,640	548.1	286.5	103.9	131.7	78.9
April	7,073	3,741	3,332	449.8	210.5	103.8	134.3	77.3
May	7,631	4,066	3,564	479.3	231.8	105.2	132.5	79.4
June	8,065	3,980	4,085	492.8	225.1	107.8	133.0	81.0
July	7,808	3,799	4,009	482.2	212.9	107.1	134.5	79.7
August	8,376	3,865	4,511	508.3	214.6	108.8	135.7	80.1
September	7,464	4,204	3,260	465.4	242.5	106.8	134.9	79.2
October	7,470	4,328	3,142	471.4	245.6	106.0	134.3	78.9
November	8,317	4,042	4,275	524.5	224.0	105.2	133.6	78.8
December	5,778	3,717	2,061	372.3	211.5	106.8	132.2	80.8
2013 ³ January	6,729	4,442	2,287	419.9	251.3	105.8	133.6	79.2
February	6,605	3,906	2,698	422.2	221.9	103.3	133.1	77.7
March	8,091	4,148	3,943	506.8	237.4	105.4	132.0	79.9
April	7,475	4,236	3,239	462.6	238.9	106.7	134.0	79.6
May	7,223	3,948	3,276	450.9	225.5	105.4	131.5	80.1
June	7,359	3,992	3,367	459.5	226.3	105.8	133.3	79.3
July	7,595	3,904	3,692	480.6	219.4	104.4	134.5	77.6
August	6,983	3,896	3,086	439.5	225.4	104.9	130.6	80.3
September ⁴	7,346	4,039	3,307	465.2	224.9	104.3	135.7	76.8

¹ Monthly data have been rescaled to make their average equal to the annual² Export unit value index divided by Import unit value index³ Revised, see Background notes⁴ September 2013 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	
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	4,129	2,984	488.7	239.5
2012	January	8,302	4,506	3,796	516.1	253.4
	February	7,286	3,730	3,556	462.3	214.8
	March	7,739	4,623	3,116	498.5	260.9
	April	7,029	3,584	3,445	443.4	202.3
	May	7,528	4,119	3,409	472.2	229.7
	June	7,471	4,012	3,459	459.5	228.3
	July	7,833	4,003	3,829	485.9	225.1
	August	9,188	4,215	4,973	561.3	232.0
	September	7,299	4,479	2,820	457.5	261.2
	October	7,492	4,216	3,276	465.4	238.1
	November	8,033	3,851	4,182	498.6	216.0
	December	6,539	3,801	2,738	430.2	218.5
2013	January	6,791	3,978	2,813	423.4	236.5
	February	6,961	3,892	3,069	442.0	222.3
	March	7,419	3,815	3,604	460.6	217.7
	April	7,353	4,060	3,293	457.2	230.3
	May	7,092	4,025	3,067	444.8	227.0
	June	7,147	4,183	2,964	449.8	235.7
	July	7,328	4,122	3,206	467.7	228.9
	August	7,674	4,391	3,283	485.3	248.8
	September	7,310	4,117	3,193	464.4	231.1

¹ Based on seasonal patterns up to December 2012. 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 2012	Sep 2013	Jan-Sep 2012	Jan-Sep 2013	Sep 2012	Sep 2013	Jan-Sep 2012	Jan-Sep 2013
0 Food and live animals	726	766	5,925	6,389	485	457	4,020	4,398
00 Live animals other than animals of Division 03	26	32	185	225	12	10	96	78
01 Meat and meat preparations	287	271	2,146	2,188	69	67	568	590
02 Dairy products and birds' eggs	159	182	1,223	1,419	43	54	413	459
03 Fish, crustaceans, molluscs and preparations thereof	36	28	372	353	15	15	163	157
04 Cereals and cereal preparations	24	25	207	215	86	70	661	746
05 Vegetables and fruit	21	21	175	179	83	77	763	778
06 Sugars, sugar preparations and honey	9	9	83	90	30	34	235	295
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and manufactures thereof	29	31	277	290	39	44	285	296
08 Feeding stuff for animals (excl unmilled cereals)	21	19	165	189	73	51	528	692
09 Miscellaneous edible products and preparations	112	149	1,092	1,241	35	34	307	308
1 Beverages and tobacco	130	124	856	841	80	84	601	579
11 Beverages	123	115	793	777	73	74	537	511
12 Tobacco and tobacco manufactures	7	9	62	64	7	10	65	69
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	142	155	1,314	1,292	59	62	537	513
21 Hides, skins and furskins, raw	9	12	81	99	0	0	0	0
22 Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits	1	0	6	3	4	4	16	23
23 Crude rubber (incl synthetic and reclaimed)	0	0	0	1	2	2	18	11
24 Cork and wood	9	11	89	93	7	10	77	76
25 Pulp and waste paper	4	4	40	39	3	5	41	35
26 Textile fibres and their wastes	13	13	106	105	1	2	11	15
27 Crude fertilisers and minerals (excl coal, petroleum and precious stones)	12	12	108	106	12	9	97	89
28 Metalliferous ores and metal scrap	84	95	807	767	18	18	155	139
29 Crude animal and vegetable materials nes	9	8	78	79	12	13	123	125
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	108	39	1,404	654	681	502	5,367	5,194
32 Coal, coke and briquettes	4	5	55	64	22	9	156	171
33 Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	101	31	1,322	571	540	370	4,152	3,820
34 Gas, natural and manufactured	3	2	25	15	115	115	1,036	1,157
35 Electric current	0	0	2	5	5	7	23	46
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	4	4	40	37	19	21	192	181
41 Animal oils and fats	4	3	34	30	1	2	10	9
42 Fixed vegetable fats and oils	1	1	5	6	15	18	159	153
43 Animal or vegetable fats and oils, processed; waxes	0	0	1	2	3	2	22	18
5 Chemicals and related products	4,154	4,092	42,432	38,569	858	899	7,848	8,225
51 Organic chemicals	1,325	1,652	15,353	13,902	191	297	1,911	1,948
52 Inorganic chemicals	19	19	151	155	17	15	148	161
53 Dyeing, tanning and colouring materials	13	9	124	128	14	13	140	139
54 Medical and pharmaceutical products	2,010	1,678	19,087	16,528	371	330	3,185	3,404
55 Essential oils; perfume materials; toilet and cleansing preparations	486	425	4,761	4,851	97	95	762	788
56 Fertilisers (other than those of Division 27)	0	0	2	3	17	6	331	389
57 Plastics in primary forms	27	29	235	238	57	64	559	597
58 Plastics in non-primary forms	28	33	246	287	39	38	335	340
59 Chemical materials and products nes	246	247	2,474	2,477	53	41	477	459

Table 3 Goods Exports and Imports classified by commodity¹ - continued

€ million

SITC (Rev 4)	Exports				Imports			
	Sep 2012	Sep 2013	Jan-Sep 2012	Jan-Sep 2013	Sep 2012	Sep 2013	Jan-Sep 2012	Jan-Sep 2013
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	146	161	1,278	1,249	309	324	2,798	2,846
61 Leather; leather manufactures nes; dressed furskins	5	5	20	20	1	2	11	13
62 Rubber manufactures nes	6	5	49	48	22	24	208	209
63 Cork and wood manufactures (excl furniture)	19	22	164	180	13	13	119	117
64 Paper, paperboard and articles thereof	13	15	101	109	72	68	630	591
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products	13	12	116	102	28	28	246	242
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures nes	24	26	214	210	33	34	286	284
67 Iron and steel	9	19	81	101	44	42	398	373
68 Non-ferrous metals	5	5	60	48	34	42	341	425
69 Manufactures of metals nes	53	52	472	432	62	70	558	593
7 Machinery and transport equipment	990	951	7,826	7,587	1,017	942	9,662	8,614
71 Power generating machinery and equipment	77	90	554	609	68	60	611	580
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries	30	39	355	382	63	87	591	724
73 Metalworking machinery	2	2	21	15	6	6	49	50
74 General industrial machinery and equipment nes and parts nes	122	122	1,019	1,023	72	110	726	850
75 Office machines and automatic data processing machines	386	361	2,611	2,831	221	240	1,908	2,049
76 Telecommunications and sound equipment	90	54	718	470	102	90	837	767
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances nes and parts	248	233	2,064	1,765	165	170	1,426	1,418
78 Road vehicles (incl air-cushion vehicles)	15	17	167	174	75	122	1,167	1,320
79 Other transport equipment	20	32	316	319	246	57	2,348	857
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	966	927	8,225	7,882	549	552	4,467	4,309
81 Prefab buildings; plumbing and electrical fixtures and fittings	9	11	68	83	11	14	109	107
82 Furniture and parts thereof; bedding, cushions etc	7	8	70	82	24	27	222	229
83 Travel goods, handbags and similar containers	3	2	24	11	9	8	86	76
84 Articles of apparel; clothing accessories	25	22	277	156	158	149	1,224	1,090
85 Footwear	3	3	41	20	32	28	252	230
87 Professional, scientific and controlling apparatus nes	322	289	2,790	2,624	79	118	757	903
88 Photographic apparatus; optical goods; watches and clocks	87	87	837	786	17	16	146	155
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes	510	505	4,117	4,119	220	193	1,670	1,518
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	53	60	352	417	88	88	776	785
Unclassified estimates²	43	68	472	490	59	108	795	867
Total	7,464	7,346	70,123	65,406	4,204	4,039	37,064	36,511

¹ September 2013 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 2012	Sep 2013	Jan-Sep 2012	Jan-Sep 2013	Sep 2012	Sep 2013	Jan-Sep 2012	Jan-Sep 2013
Great Britain	986	947	10,542	9,198	1,319	1,357	11,301	11,363
Northern Ireland	118	132	1,069	1,086	81	82	767	751
Austria	19	49	230	355	15	21	164	146
Belgium	695	1,049	10,351	8,549	73	89	689	780
Bulgaria	6	5	52	54	1	1	9	10
Croatia ²	–	2	–	8	–	0	–	0
Cyprus	2	1	25	25	0	0	3	2
Czech Republic	30	42	253	321	18	27	208	222
Denmark	43	48	400	391	29	29	350	535
Estonia	3	2	17	15	4	2	7	8
Finland	39	25	277	261	9	8	88	80
France	349	355	3,436	3,021	176	198	1,437	1,601
Germany	920	447	5,852	5,118	260	324	2,534	2,989
Greece	15	21	198	209	2	2	16	22
Italy	228	213	2,064	1,768	65	77	584	645
Latvia	11	5	61	40	2	1	29	19
Lithuania	6	2	44	24	6	3	36	62
Luxembourg	4	5	48	41	3	3	36	35
Hungary	23	18	205	202	16	19	80	92
Malta	2	2	19	18	1	1	6	9
Netherlands	282	309	2,526	2,698	200	208	1,719	1,969
Poland	55	76	508	600	28	32	247	272
Portugal	39	29	300	248	10	11	93	102
Romania	29	30	264	294	9	7	96	80
Slovakia	6	6	47	46	4	5	47	43
Slovenia	3	5	23	27	1	1	7	8
Spain	232	260	2,135	2,102	46	47	481	548
Sweden	65	56	556	560	27	25	274	278
EU Country not specified ³	1	9	19	58	101	122	887	990
Total EU	4,207	4,146	41,519	37,334	2,504	2,703	22,193	23,660
<i>of which Euro-Zone⁴</i>	2,833	2,774	27,529	24,485	890	1,025	8,118	9,208
Australia	57	58	566	563	10	9	73	67
Brazil	34	41	201	207	11	12	473	172
Canada	56	62	576	573	15	47	169	214
China	181	146	1,722	1,472	255	294	2,102	2,196
India	19	24	170	188	28	33	294	306
Japan	228	167	1,586	1,282	65	66	554	633
Malaysia	19	13	184	158	16	16	170	162
Mexico	52	58	512	543	19	25	202	222
Norway	22	23	231	278	70	23	723	924
Russia	59	52	459	485	2	3	82	112
Saudi Arabia	31	33	475	520	0	0	4	73
Singapore	41	53	407	415	22	79	214	331
South Africa	24	23	226	187	7	7	101	64
South Korea	38	18	270	244	21	18	253	305
Switzerland	439	365	3,709	3,366	50	69	790	607
Taiwan	9	13	95	94	27	19	185	152
Thailand	10	11	110	104	19	29	226	256
Turkey	42	30	358	345	23	26	225	207
USA	1,547	1,697	13,817	14,130	617	350	5,253	3,965
Other countries	348	312	2,897	2,896	363	182	2,329	1,559
Country unknown ⁵	2	2	34	19	57	30	447	325
Total	7,464	7,346	70,123	65,406	4,204	4,039	37,064	36,511

¹ September 2013 is based on current Intrastat response levels, see Background notes

² Croatia joined the EU on 1 July 2013

³ Includes estimates for traders below the Intrastat threshold and transactions where the EU country was not specified

⁴ 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

⁵ Trade for which the country of origin or country of final destination is unknown

Table 5 Goods Exports and Imports classified by commodity and principal countries¹

€ million

Country by Section level of SITC	Exports				Imports			
	Sep 2012	Sep 2013	Jan-Sep 2012	Jan-Sep 2013	Sep 2012	Sep 2013	Jan-Sep 2012	Jan-Sep 2013
Great Britain	986	947	10,542	9,198	1,319	1,357	11,301	11,363
0 Food and live animals	301	290	2,310	2,433	222	207	1,725	1,733
1 Beverages and tobacco	24	29	190	210	22	30	184	201
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	27	32	275	257	13	13	114	102
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	71	31	844	391	368	411	3,185	3,307
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	1	1	16	11	4	4	28	31
5 Chemicals and related products	250	260	4,279	3,329	164	160	1,467	1,453
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	57	60	497	492	136	128	1,130	1,110
7 Machinery and transport equipment	141	134	1,199	1,166	177	189	1,660	1,673
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	95	83	713	690	180	167	1,377	1,326
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	19	27	220	219	34	49	431	427
Other EU^{2,3}	3,221	3,199	30,977	28,136	1,186	1,346	10,893	12,297
0 Food and live animals	293	307	2,263	2,460	197	197	1,647	1,896
1 Beverages and tobacco	40	30	267	241	40	38	308	279
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	80	79	725	693	20	20	174	175
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	37	7	394	86	19	38	255	549
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	3	3	21	21	12	13	125	114
5 Chemicals and related products	1,958	1,899	20,486	17,753	351	404	3,140	3,630
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	62	76	558	544	107	120	1,010	1,076
7 Machinery and transport equipment	387	421	3,004	3,154	243	271	2,387	2,603
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	329	331	2,965	2,868	93	112	818	870
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	30	47	293	316	103	133	1,030	1,103
USA	1,547	1,697	13,817	14,130	617	350	5,253	3,965
0 Food and live animals	9	11	79	83	15	12	107	212
1 Beverages and tobacco	45	46	248	244	2	1	9	8
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	2	3	23	18	4	2	33	32
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	0	0	163	144	6	1	85	33
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
5 Chemicals and related products	1,054	1,170	9,659	10,028	151	121	1,353	1,423
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	12	10	89	87	19	25	189	218
7 Machinery and transport equipment	81	111	747	762	345	121	2,858	1,440
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	342	339	2,793	2,729	72	62	586	563
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	1	7	16	33	3	4	31	34
China⁴	181	146	1,722	1,472	255	294	2,102	2,196
0 Food and live animals	18	35	196	274	3	2	21	19
1 Beverages and tobacco	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	7	8	70	71	2	2	12	21
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	31	29	477	329	18	15	141	136
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2	1	16	15	25	27	228	218
7 Machinery and transport equipment	97	52	775	602	94	138	863	1,060
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	24	21	181	177	112	105	812	712
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	0	0	0	0	2	4	24	29
Rest of World	1,529	1,357	13,065	12,471	828	693	7,516	6,691
0 Food and live animals	104	123	1,077	1,139	47	40	521	537
1 Beverages and tobacco	21	19	148	143	16	15	100	90
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	25	34	221	253	20	24	203	183
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	0	1	3	33	288	52	1,843	1,304
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0	0	1	2	4	4	37	34
5 Chemicals and related products	861	733	7,529	7,129	174	200	1,747	1,583
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	12	14	118	112	23	23	241	224
7 Machinery and transport equipment	283	232	2,100	1,903	158	223	1,894	1,839
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	176	153	1,572	1,418	93	105	873	838
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	46	47	296	339	6	7	56	58
Total	7,464	7,346	70,123	65,406	4,204	4,039	37,064	36,511

¹ September 2013 is based on current Intrastat response levels, see Background notes

² Croatia joined the EU on 1 July 2013

³ Includes estimates for traders below the Intrastat threshold and transactions where the EU country was not specified

⁴ 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 2013 in this publication), -4 (May 2013) and -8 (January 2013) 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 2013 was 62%, covering an estimated 85% of the total value of intra-EU trade (these response rates will have increased by the next time we publish data for September).

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.

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.

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