



Goods Exports and Imports May 2013

	Seasonally adjusted € million		
	Exports	Imports	Surplus
December 2012	6,734	3,774	2,959
January 2013	6,849	3,982	2,867
February 2013	7,015	3,881	3,134
March 2013	7,330	3,787	3,543
April 2013	7,366	4,052	3,314
May 2013	7,052	3,983	3,069

Seasonally adjusted trade surplus down 7% in May

Preliminary figures for May 2013 indicate a decrease in seasonally adjusted exports of €314 million (-4%) to €7,052 million from April 2013. Seasonally adjusted imports decreased by €69 million (-2%) to €3,983 million resulting in a 7% decrease in the seasonally adjusted trade surplus to €3,069 million (see Table 2).

Comparing May 2013 with May 2012, the value of exports decreased by €448 million (-6%) to €7,183 million. The main drivers were a decrease of €579 million (-26%) in the exports of *Medical and pharmaceutical products* and €132 million (-72%) in the exports of *Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials*. The exports of *Organic chemicals* increased by €157 million (+11%).

On an overall basis the EU accounted for €4,048 million (56%) of total exports in May 2013. The USA was the main non-EU destination accounting for 19% (€1,377 million) of total exports in May 2013.

Comparing May 2013 with May 2012, the value of imports decreased by €159 million (-4%) to €3,907 million. The largest decrease was €274 million (-93%) in the imports of *Other transport equipment (including aircraft)*.

The EU was the source of 65% of the value of imports in May 2013, with 32% coming from Great Britain. The USA (10%) and China (6%) were the main non-EU sources of imports.

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Table 1 Goods Exports and Imports summary analysis

Period	Value			Volume index ¹		Unit value index ¹		Terms of Trade ²
	Exports	Imports	Trade Surplus	Base year 1990=100				
				Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	
€m	€m	€m						
1990	18,204	15,832	2,372	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1991	19,070	16,317	2,753	105.6	100.8	99.3	102.3	97.0
1992	21,260	16,754	4,506	121.1	105.6	96.6	100.2	96.4
1993	25,178	18,900	6,279	133.4	113.0	103.9	105.4	98.6
1994	28,891	21,945	6,946	153.2	127.9	103.8	108.1	96.0
1995	35,330	26,181	9,149	184.0	146.3	105.7	112.7	93.7
1996	38,609	28,480	10,130	202.2	160.9	105.1	111.4	94.3
1997	44,868	32,864	12,004	232.4	184.8	106.3	112.0	94.9
1998	57,322	39,715	17,607	289.2	218.3	109.1	114.6	95.2
1999	66,956	44,327	22,629	336.5	236.5	109.5	118.0	92.8
2000	83,889	55,909	27,980	401.4	275.2	115.0	128.0	89.9
2001	92,690	57,384	35,306	422.0	274.2	120.9	131.8	91.7
2002	93,675	55,628	38,047	435.1	276.6	118.5	126.7	93.5
2003	82,076	47,865	34,212	418.4	259.7	108.0	116.1	93.0
2004	84,410	51,105	33,304	446.5	283.6	104.0	113.5	91.7
2005	86,732	57,465	29,267	456.7	316.3	104.5	114.4	91.3
2006	86,772	60,857	25,915	458.0	325.2	104.4	117.7	88.7
2007	89,226	63,486	25,740	481.8	340.9	101.9	117.3	86.9
2008	86,394	57,585	28,810	484.5	300.5	98.0	119.7	81.9
2009	85,804	45,061	40,742	468.4	249.2	98.9	113.9	86.8
2010	89,703	45,764	43,940	485.5	241.3	101.2	119.2	84.9
2011	91,228	48,302	42,925	507.9	240.8	99.7	126.4	78.8
2012	91,981	49,090	42,891	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 ³ 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	7,569	4,372	3,197	471.4	245.6	106.0	134.3	78.9
November	8,339	3,963	4,376	524.5	224.0	105.2	133.6	78.8
December	5,950	3,691	2,259	372.3	211.5	106.8	132.2	80.8
2013 ³ January	6,787	4,447	2,340	423.0	251.7	106.0	133.5	79.4
February	6,656	3,896	2,760	425.1	219.7	103.4	134.0	77.2
March	7,994	4,117	3,877	503.4	234.9	104.9	132.4	79.2
April	7,488	4,228	3,260	466.1	238.6	106.1	133.9	79.2
May ⁴	7,183	3,907	3,276	451.1	224.7	105.2	131.4	80.0

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 May 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	7,591	4,259	3,332	465.4	238.1
November	8,054	3,776	4,279	498.6	216.0
December	6,734	3,774	2,959	430.2	218.5
2013					
January	6,849	3,982	2,867	426.5	236.9
February	7,015	3,881	3,134	445.1	220.1
March	7,330	3,787	3,543	457.5	215.4
April	7,366	4,052	3,314	460.7	230.0
May	7,052	3,983	3,069	445.0	226.2

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			
	May 2012	May 2013	Jan-May 2012	Jan-May 2013	May 2012	May 2013	Jan-May 2012	Jan-May 2013
0 Food and live animals	670	751	3,166	3,381	460	527	2,179	2,496
00 Live animals other than animals of Division 03	14	14	67	77	7	8	53	42
01 Meat and meat preparations	224	248	1,138	1,188	72	67	309	322
02 Dairy products and birds' eggs	152	175	610	658	43	47	231	242
03 Fish, crustaceans, molluscs and preparations thereof	37	38	234	235	17	19	99	91
04 Cereals and cereal preparations	23	25	116	123	85	101	344	438
05 Vegetables and fruit	20	18	95	96	93	88	414	425
06 Sugars, sugar preparations and honey	10	11	46	53	24	44	124	170
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and manufactures thereof	36	41	143	170	34	30	157	157
08 Feeding stuff for animals (excl unmilled cereals)	19	21	90	110	51	85	274	436
09 Miscellaneous edible products and preparations	135	159	627	670	34	39	175	173
1 Beverages and tobacco	85	91	421	437	69	66	311	291
11 Beverages	76	84	384	404	61	60	274	255
12 Tobacco and tobacco manufactures	9	7	36	33	8	7	36	36
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	166	145	749	722	65	62	311	287
21 Hides, skins and furskins, raw	9	11	45	53	0	0	0	0
22 Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits	0	0	4	1	1	2	8	12
23 Crude rubber (incl synthetic and reclaimed)	0	0	0	1	4	2	12	7
24 Cork and wood	11	12	50	51	7	6	42	37
25 Pulp and waste paper	6	4	23	22	5	4	23	21
26 Textile fibres and their wastes	12	12	57	59	1	1	6	8
27 Crude fertilisers and minerals (excl coal, petroleum and precious stones)	13	11	61	57	12	13	54	50
28 Metalliferous ores and metal scrap	100	87	463	432	20	15	87	76
29 Crude animal and vegetable materials nes	13	9	48	44	15	17	77	76
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	196	56	1,032	321	507	556	3,066	2,930
32 Coal, coke and briquettes	8	4	38	35	21	25	94	102
33 Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	183	51	978	279	362	395	2,367	2,112
34 Gas, natural and manufactured	5	1	14	5	122	128	597	705
35 Electric current	0	0	1	3	3	7	8	11
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	4	4	25	24	23	21	110	102
41 Animal oils and fats	3	4	21	20	1	1	5	5
42 Fixed vegetable fats and oils	1	1	3	3	19	18	91	86
43 Animal or vegetable fats and oils, processed; waxes	0	0	1	1	3	2	13	11
5 Chemicals and related products	4,520	4,203	23,178	21,561	856	864	4,334	4,641
51 Organic chemicals	1,395	1,552	8,725	7,965	187	188	1,012	1,096
52 Inorganic chemicals	17	16	83	88	16	19	82	91
53 Dyeing, tanning and colouring materials	18	17	66	84	16	18	78	80
54 Medical and pharmaceutical products	2,194	1,615	10,156	8,972	354	350	1,750	1,895
55 Essential oils; perfume materials; toilet and cleansing preparations	545	634	2,569	2,794	83	89	396	423
56 Fertilisers (other than those of Division 27)	0	0	1	1	41	49	244	256
57 Plastics in primary forms	27	23	122	135	66	68	316	337
58 Plastics in non-primary forms	30	33	134	154	39	41	181	181
59 Chemical materials and products nes	293	314	1,321	1,369	55	42	275	282

Table 3 Goods Exports and Imports classified by commodity¹ - continued

€ million

SITC (Rev 4)	Exports				Imports			
	May 2012	May 2013	Jan-May 2012	Jan-May 2013	May 2012	May 2013	Jan-May 2012	Jan-May 2013
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	147	142	699	662	332	329	1,556	1,545
61 Leather; leather manufactures nes; dressed furskins	2	1	10	10	1	1	6	6
62 Rubber manufactures nes	6	6	26	28	24	25	117	119
63 Cork and wood manufactures (excl furniture)	17	22	91	97	14	14	66	64
64 Paper, paperboard and articles thereof	11	11	53	59	76	66	335	324
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products	14	13	62	57	29	29	135	135
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures nes	24	23	113	105	33	32	153	154
67 Iron and steel	11	9	46	49	50	41	228	208
68 Non-ferrous metals	7	6	36	27	41	58	194	226
69 Manufactures of metals nes	56	50	263	230	64	63	321	309
7 Machinery and transport equipment	824	824	4,271	4,208	1,101	835	6,066	5,089
71 Power generating machinery and equipment	63	73	320	330	78	73	294	338
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries	41	41	205	213	70	70	334	401
73 Metalworking machinery	2	2	12	9	4	4	25	25
74 General industrial machinery and equipment nes and parts nes	128	150	595	561	86	90	413	433
75 Office machines and automatic data processing machines	225	261	1,350	1,541	208	198	1,093	1,165
76 Telecommunications and sound equipment	66	55	388	303	93	95	440	406
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances nes and parts	239	187	1,142	982	155	159	788	768
78 Road vehicles (incl air-cushion vehicles)	21	22	95	101	114	126	853	863
79 Other transport equipment	40	33	166	167	294	20	1,827	688
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	936	882	4,480	4,315	479	461	2,384	2,275
81 Prefab buildings; plumbing and electrical fixtures and fittings	7	9	36	45	11	11	61	56
82 Furniture and parts thereof; bedding, cushions etc	9	9	42	46	27	27	123	124
83 Travel goods, handbags and similar containers	3	1	13	6	10	8	44	40
84 Articles of apparel; clothing accessories	31	20	153	82	120	108	648	572
85 Footwear	5	3	23	12	24	21	132	118
87 Professional, scientific and controlling apparatus nes	312	327	1,462	1,469	87	95	421	443
88 Photographic apparatus; optical goods; watches and clocks	97	98	470	442	16	17	81	84
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes	472	416	2,280	2,214	184	175	874	837
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	30	23	124	193	86	85	441	440
Unclassified estimates²	53	60	266	284	88	101	460	497
Total	7,631	7,183	38,411	36,108	4,066	3,907	21,217	20,594

¹ May 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			
	May 2012	May 2013	Jan-May 2012	Jan-May 2013	May 2012	May 2013	Jan-May 2012	Jan-May 2013
Great Britain	1,222	948	6,209	4,995	1,172	1,241	6,372	6,387
Northern Ireland	128	122	593	585	74	80	421	401
Austria	24	22	131	125	13	18	105	78
Belgium	911	931	5,966	4,481	98	87	386	464
Bulgaria	6	8	25	27	1	1	4	5
Cyprus	4	2	13	13	0	0	3	1
Czech Republic	27	33	145	172	19	21	137	127
Denmark	43	49	218	230	31	30	225	263
Estonia	3	2	8	8	0	0	2	5
Finland	31	28	148	159	9	10	45	42
France	356	366	2,000	1,721	151	173	805	910
Germany	669	448	2,937	3,012	280	334	1,476	1,709
Greece	22	23	115	121	2	1	9	10
Italy	199	209	1,164	1,046	72	67	331	345
Latvia	3	7	31	20	7	4	20	11
Lithuania	5	3	15	14	2	9	24	37
Luxembourg	7	5	27	24	7	7	21	20
Hungary	20	23	90	117	8	14	42	50
Malta	2	3	11	11	1	1	4	6
Netherlands	297	322	1,309	1,539	203	196	897	1,113
Poland	72	71	288	319	24	25	126	142
Portugal	31	31	150	151	12	12	53	57
Romania	31	38	146	160	9	8	59	44
Slovakia	5	5	26	28	5	5	30	23
Slovenia	2	4	9	13	1	0	3	4
Spain	217	274	1,134	1,150	48	54	284	320
Sweden	66	60	296	317	27	30	172	164
EU Country not specified ²	2	8	7	43	103	114	499	560
Total EU	4,407	4,048	23,214	20,602	2,379	2,543	12,558	13,299
<i>of which Euro-Zone³</i>	2,779	2,676	15,141	13,594	930	989	4,568	5,212
Australia	55	58	283	285	9	7	37	33
Brazil	21	19	113	115	22	13	213	112
Canada	84	55	327	323	30	20	88	120
China	160	177	918	835	244	226	1,110	1,144
India	16	18	97	101	29	38	184	176
Japan	149	168	765	720	74	59	321	372
Malaysia	19	16	102	91	21	20	94	90
Mexico	58	65	278	302	25	25	113	121
Norway	22	49	134	171	100	134	398	543
Russia	57	78	246	293	13	10	53	63
Saudi Arabia	45	105	255	330	1	0	2	27
Singapore	54	38	234	224	29	20	115	157
South Africa	24	17	138	102	11	7	56	33
South Korea	26	34	139	134	31	42	136	189
Switzerland	295	471	2,067	1,487	79	57	377	392
Taiwan	14	8	60	47	18	19	93	79
Thailand	16	10	64	48	26	29	126	146
Turkey	57	41	198	196	24	20	133	115
USA	1,738	1,377	7,243	8,089	647	375	3,533	2,369
Other countries	313	328	1,519	1,601	218	189	1,204	786
Country unknown ⁴	2	1	17	11	36	53	272	228
Total	7,631	7,183	38,411	36,108	4,066	3,907	21,217	20,594

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

² Includes estimates for traders below the Intrastat threshold and transactions where the EU country was not specified

³ 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

⁴ 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			
	May 2012	May 2013	Jan-May 2012	Jan-May 2013	May 2012	May 2013	Jan-May 2012	Jan-May 2013
Great Britain	1,222	948	6,209	4,995	1,172	1,241	6,372	6,387
0 Food and live animals	258	284	1,236	1,313	200	206	925	941
1 Beverages and tobacco	17	25	97	106	19	22	96	97
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	37	28	164	145	19	13	72	59
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	85	20	589	205	279	335	1,865	1,945
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	1	1	10	8	3	3	16	17
5 Chemicals and related products	532	302	2,662	1,811	165	175	819	810
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	59	54	268	258	133	124	618	608
7 Machinery and transport equipment	130	137	670	660	162	175	975	953
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	79	70	390	372	145	142	738	729
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	24	25	124	117	47	47	248	229
Other EU²	3,185	3,100	17,004	15,607	1,208	1,302	6,186	6,913
0 Food and live animals	257	278	1,187	1,285	184	219	877	1,072
1 Beverages and tobacco	31	29	135	132	36	32	163	145
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	99	76	417	389	17	21	99	99
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	47	9	278	59	45	38	195	278
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	2	3	12	13	15	14	72	66
5 Chemicals and related products	2,040	1,957	11,233	9,905	328	377	1,699	1,998
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	63	60	311	289	126	131	568	591
7 Machinery and transport equipment	298	335	1,659	1,735	256	256	1,470	1,568
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	315	312	1,613	1,612	86	88	453	452
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	32	40	161	188	115	125	591	644
USA	1,738	1,377	7,243	8,089	647	375	3,533	2,369
0 Food and live animals	7	9	41	41	12	24	64	155
1 Beverages and tobacco	21	24	116	123	1	1	4	4
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	2	2	11	11	4	5	19	19
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	64	0	163	28	14	9	72	33
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
5 Chemicals and related products	1,189	939	4,904	5,989	144	129	793	785
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	8	11	47	45	20	26	109	117
7 Machinery and transport equipment	96	80	398	382	382	111	2,138	940
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	349	310	1,555	1,457	66	65	315	298
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	2	1	9	14	3	3	17	18
China³	160	177	918	835	244	226	1,110	1,144
0 Food and live animals	28	33	120	142	3	2	11	10
1 Beverages and tobacco	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	7	8	38	39	1	4	6	11
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
5 Chemicals and related products	36	44	289	194	18	17	75	75
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	2	2	8	8	27	23	126	109
7 Machinery and transport equipment	63	69	372	357	110	108	480	568
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	23	21	88	92	83	69	399	355
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	0	0	0	0	2	3	13	15
Rest of World	1,326	1,580	7,036	6,582	797	763	4,016	3,783
0 Food and live animals	120	147	582	600	60	75	301	317
1 Beverages and tobacco	16	13	72	74	13	11	47	46
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	21	31	120	139	24	20	114	98
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	0	27	2	29	170	173	933	674
4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0	0	1	2	5	4	21	19
5 Chemicals and related products	723	960	4,091	3,662	201	166	949	974
6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	15	15	65	61	26	25	135	121
7 Machinery and transport equipment	237	202	1,173	1,074	192	185	1,003	1,061
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	169	169	835	783	99	96	479	441
9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere	24	17	96	158	6	7	32	31
Total	7,631	7,183	38,411	36,108	4,066	3,907	21,217	20,594

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

² Includes estimates for traders below the Intrastat threshold and transactions where the EU country was not specified

³ 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 (April 2013 in this publication), -4 (January 2013) and -8 (September 2012) are revised.

Intrastat System The Intrastat system has two components. Firstly, the Intrastat survey (conducted by the Revenue Commissioners), in which traders, above the Intrastat survey trade thresholds, make detailed monthly returns giving information on the quantity and value of all exports to or imports from EU countries.

The total number of traders required to make a detailed import return is around 6,700 while around 1,900 must make a detailed export return. The response rate in terms of number of traders in May 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 May).

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.