

Research Briefing

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By Matthew Ward

Statistics on UK trade with Ireland



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Contributing Authors:

Dominic Webb

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Summary

This note provides some key statistics on the UK's trade with Ireland, including details on Northern Ireland's international trade and Northern Ireland's trade with Great Britain

In 2022:

- UK exports to Ireland were worth £54.7 billion; imports from Ireland were £29.1 billion, resulting in a trade surplus of £25.6 billion.
- The UK had a surplus with Ireland in both goods and services.
- Ireland accounted for 6.7% of UK exports and 3.2% of all UK imports.
- Ireland was the UK's 4th largest export market and the 10th largest source of imports.
- Northern Ireland's trade with the Republic of Ireland was particularly pronounced – 41% of Northern Ireland's goods exports were to the Republic of Ireland (compared to 8% for the UK as a whole) while 36% of Northern Ireland's goods imports were from the Republic of Ireland (compared to 3% for the UK as a whole).

1 Key statistics, 2022

In 2022:

- UK exports of goods and services to Ireland were worth £55 billion, equal to 7% of UK exports.¹
- UK imports of goods and services from Ireland were worth £29 billion, equal to 3% of UK imports.
- Goods accounted for 55% of UK exports to Ireland and 65% of UK imports from Ireland.
- Services accounted for 45% of UK exports to Ireland and 35% of UK imports from Ireland.

UK trade with Ireland, 2022					
Goods and services					
	Exports		Imports		Balance
	£ billions	% total	£ billions	% total	£ billions
Goods	30.3	7.3%	19.0	2.9%	11.3
Services	24.4	6.1%	10.1	3.9%	14.3
Total	54.7	6.7%	29.1	3.2%	25.6

Source: ONS, [UK total trade: all countries, seasonally adjusted](#)

The UK recorded a trade surplus with Ireland of £25.6 billion, recording a surplus in goods of £11 billion and a surplus in services of £14 billion.

The UK's trade surplus with Ireland was the UK's second highest trade surplus, after the surplus with the United States. Ireland was one of 3 EU states the UK recorded a trade surplus with in 2022 – the other 2 were with Luxembourg and Denmark.

¹ All data in sections 1-5 shows UK (Great Britain and Northern Ireland) trade with the Republic of Ireland



Source: ONS, [UK total trade: all countries, seasonally adjusted](#)

In 2022, Ireland was the UK’s fourth largest export market and tenth largest source of imports.

Ireland was the UK’s third largest EU export market, accounting for 16.1% of UK exports to the EU and seventh largest sources of imports from the EU, accounting for 6.7% of UK imports from the EU.

UK top ten trading partners, 2022

Goods and services

Exports			Imports		
	£ billions	% total		£ billions	% total
USA	168.3	20.6%	USA	110.8	12.3%
Germany	55.9	6.9%	Germany	82.3	9.1%
Netherlands	55.2	6.8%	China	73.4	8.1%
Ireland	54.7	6.7%	Netherlands	64.2	7.1%
France	43.3	5.3%	France	51.2	5.7%
China	37.6	4.6%	Norway	46.5	5.2%
Switzerland	33.3	4.1%	Spain	38.7	4.3%
Belgium	25.2	3.1%	Belgium	32.9	3.6%
Hong Kong	18.2	2.2%	Italy	29.8	3.3%
Spain	18.0	2.2%	Ireland	29.1	3.2%
EU	340.1	41.7%	EU	431.9	47.9%
Non-EU	475.1	58.3%	Non-EU	469.9	52.1%
World	815.2	100.0%	World	901.8	100.0%

Source: ONS, [UK total trade: all countries, seasonally adjusted](#)

2

Trends in UK-Ireland trade

This section contains information on trends in UK trade with Ireland since 2019 and longer-term trends between 1999 and 2022.

2.1

Trade since 2019

Data on UK trade with Ireland is available in current prices (i.e., not adjusted for inflation). The lack of inflation adjustment is significant given recent high rates of inflation and should be borne in mind when interpreting the figures below.

Additionally, the way in which UK trade with EU states is recorded has changed since the end of the Brexit transition period in January 2021. Under the terms of the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA), the UK is no longer a member of the EU single market and customs union, though the provisions of the TCA do not apply to trade in goods between the EU and Northern Ireland - trade between Northern Ireland and the EU is governed by the Northern Ireland Protocol, as amended by the Windsor Framework.

While a member of the EU, data on trade in goods was collected via Intrastat – the EU’s system for collecting data on trade in goods between EU Member States. Data on exports to the EU have been collected from customs declarations since January 2021 and on imports from the EU since January 2022, though data on goods trade between Northern Ireland and EU member states is still collected via Intrastat.²

The move from Intrastat to customs declarations has led to a discontinuity in the data for trade in goods with the EU from January 2021. This coincides with the UK’s departure from the EU customs union and single market.

For these reasons, it is necessary to be cautious when interpreting data on these trade flows.

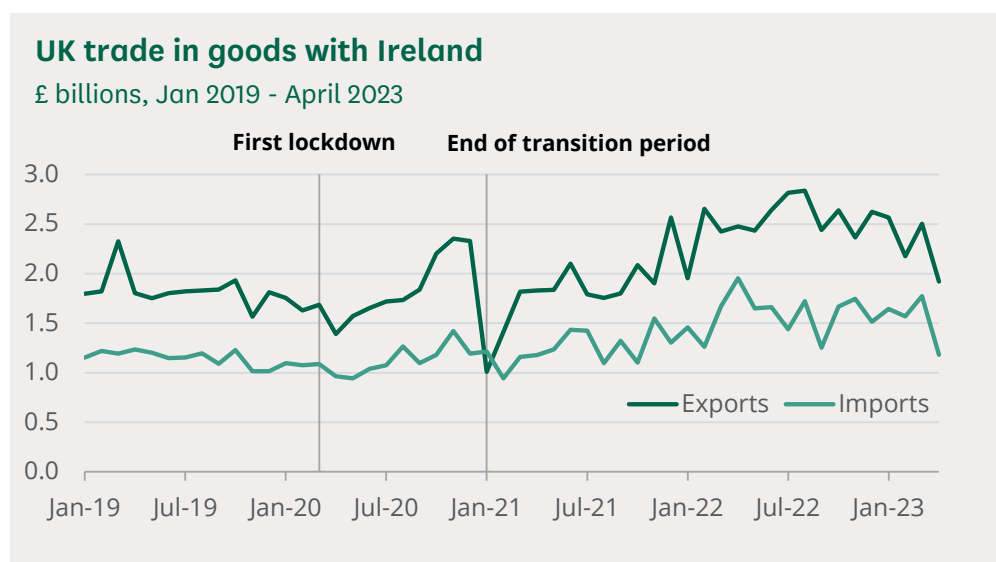
Trade in goods

The value of the UK’s trade in goods with Ireland fell notably between March and April 2020, owing to the impact of Covid-related lockdowns on

² ONS, [Trading places: How we are producing consistent estimates of trade figures following the UK’s EU exit](#), 10 February 2023

international trade and again between December 2020 and January 2021, following the end of the Brexit transition period.

- Between March and April 2020, the value of UK goods exports to Ireland fell by 17% in cash terms, while the value of goods imports from Ireland fell by 11%.
- The value of UK goods exports to Ireland fell by 57% in cash terms between December 2020 and January 2021, while the value of UK goods imports from Ireland increased by 2%.



Source: ONS, [Trade in goods: all countries, seasonally adjusted](#)

Despite these falls, the value of the UK’s trade in goods with Ireland has generally increased since 2020.

The value of UK goods exports to Ireland increased by 0.2% in cash terms between 2020 and 2021, before reaching a record high of £30 billion in 2022, an increase of 38% in cash terms compared to 2021.

Similarly, the value of UK goods imports from Ireland fell between 2019 and 2020, before reaching a record high of £19 billion in 2022, an increase of 27% in cash terms compared to 2021.

It is important to remember these figures do not adjust for inflation (which was around 9% in the UK in 2022) and high rates of growth also represent a return to more normal levels following Covid.

Trade in services

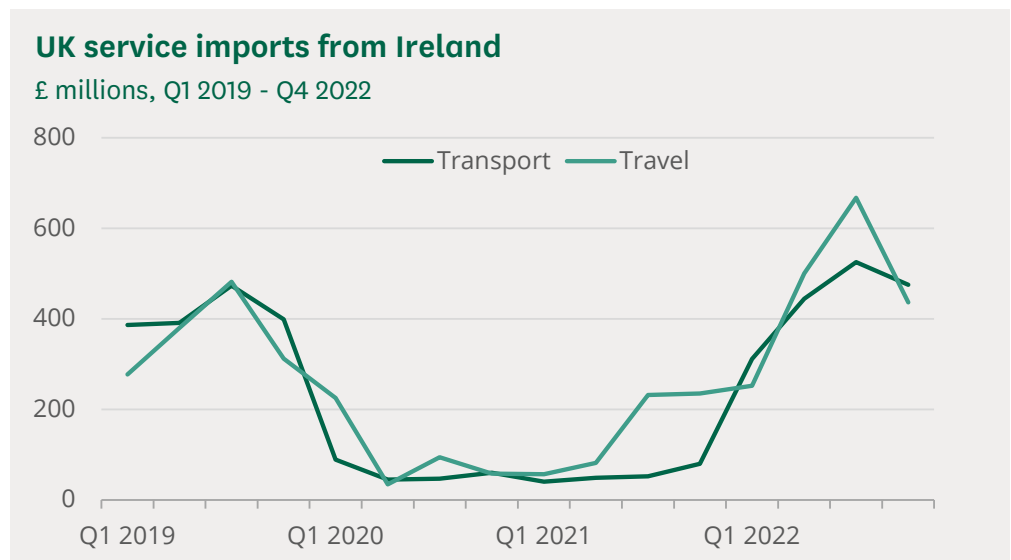
UK service exports to Ireland fell slightly between 2018 and 2019, but experienced year-on-year growth in 2020 and 2021, before reaching a record high in cash terms of £24.5 billion in 2022.

UK imports of services from Ireland fell by 29% in cash terms between 2019 and 2020, before partly recovering in 2021.

This was largely due to a contraction in the value of transport and travel service imports, owing to restrictions on movement and travel bans as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, and disruptions to freight flows between Ireland and Britain.³

Between 2019 and 2020, the value of transport service imports from Ireland fell by 85% in cash terms, while the value of travel services fell by 72%. Imports of both of these services remained below 2019 levels in 2021

Imports of both these service types surpassed 2019 levels in 2022, with the value of UK transport services imported from Ireland increasing by almost 700% in cash terms between 2021 and 2022, while imports of travel services increased by just over 200%.



Source: ONS, [UK trade in services: service type by partner country, non-seasonally adjusted](#)

The dip in UK service imports from Ireland in 2020 and 2021, combined with a general growth in the value of service exports has seen the value of the UK’s trade surplus in services with Ireland almost double in cash terms between 2019 and 2022.

³ Peter Foster and Harry Dempsey, [Britain-Ireland freight falls 29% amid post-Brexit trade friction: Irish exporters move more goods directly to EU to avoid the risk of UK border delays](#), Financial Times, 12 August 2021

2.2

Trends since 1999

In cash terms (i.e., unadjusted for inflation), the value of the UK's trade with Ireland has generally increased year-on-year since comparable records on UK-EU trade began in 1999.

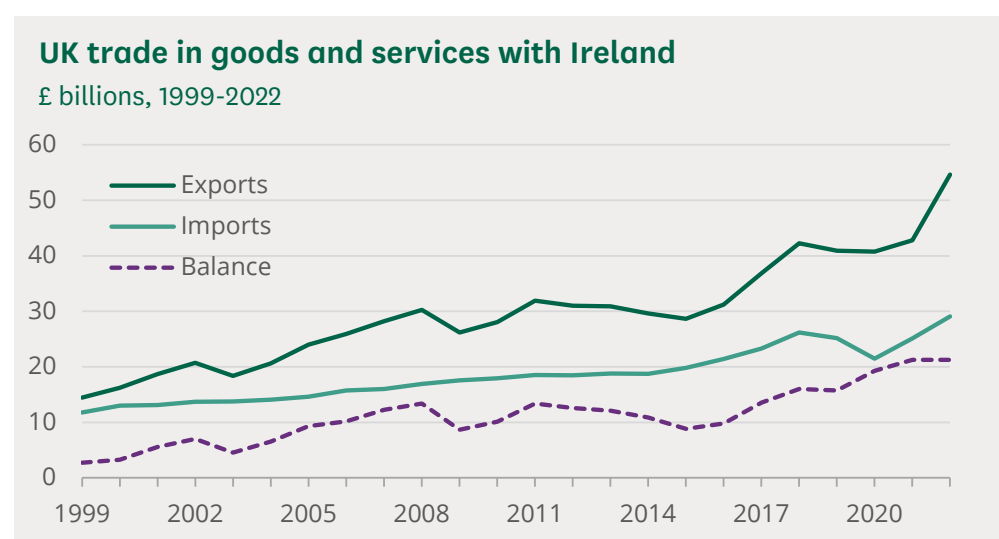
Two notable exceptions to this trend were between 2008 and 2009, when trade contracted as a result of the global financial crisis, and between 2019 and 2020, when trade contracted as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

In both cases, the value of UK trade with Ireland was less affected than the value of UK trade in general:

- Between 2008 and 2009, the value of UK exports to Ireland fell by 13% in cash terms, while the value of UK imports from Ireland increased by 4%. Over the same period, the value of all UK exports fell by 5% in cash terms, while the value of all UK imports fell by 6%.
- Between 2019 and 2020, the value of UK exports to Ireland fell by 0.4% in cash terms, while the value of UK imports from Ireland fell by 15%. Over the same period, the value of all UK exports fell by 12% in cash terms, while the value of all UK imports fell by 17%.

The value of UK trade with the Ireland reached a record high in cash terms in 2022. UK exports to Ireland increased by 28% in cash terms between 2021 and 2022, while the value of imports from Ireland increased by 16%.

Again, caution is needed when interpreting these figures - they do not adjust for inflation.



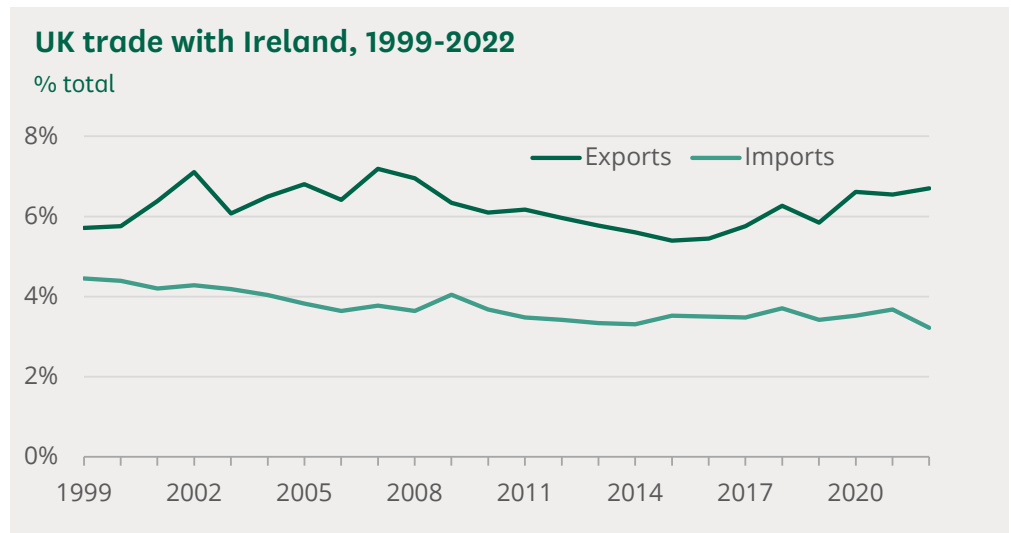
Source: ONS, [UK total trade: all countries, seasonally adjusted](#)

The UK has now recorded an overall trade surplus in both goods and services with Ireland every year since 1999 (the longest period for which comparable data is available).

Looking at UK trade with Ireland as a proportion of the UK's total trade gives a slightly different impression.

Trade with Ireland has accounted for between 5.2% and 7.2% of UK exports since 1999. Ireland's share of UK exports has increased over recent years reaching 6.7% in 2022 a 14 year high.

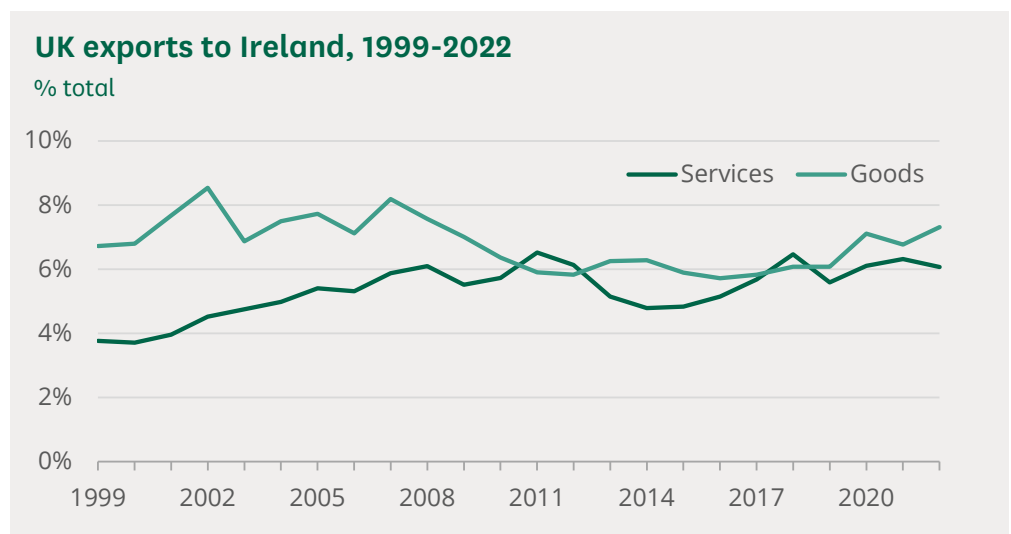
By contrast, Ireland accounted for 3.2% of UK imports of goods and services in 2022, the lowest figure since 1999.



Source: ONS, [UK total trade: all countries, seasonally adjusted](#)

The recent increase in UK exports with Ireland as a proportion of all UK exports has been more pronounced in terms of goods than services.

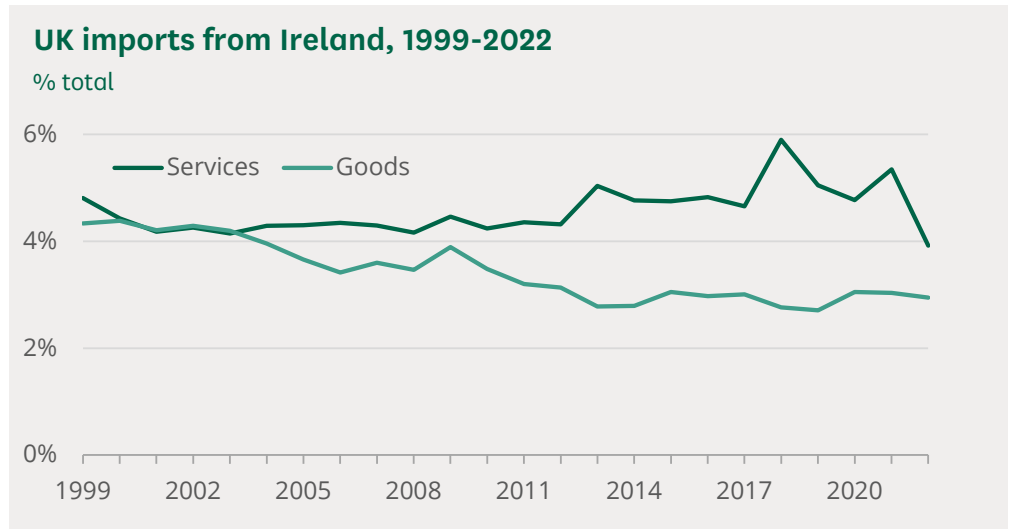
In 2022, Ireland accounted for 7.3% of the UK's goods exports, a 14 year high, and 6.1% of the UK's services exports, down slightly from 2021.



Source: ONS, [UK total trade: all countries, seasonally adjusted](#)

The proportion of the UK’s service imports coming from Ireland fell sharply between 2021 and 2022, from 5.3% of UK exports in 2021 to 3.9% in 2022. This was Ireland’s lowest share of UK service imports in the period 1999-2022, the longest period for which comparable data are available.

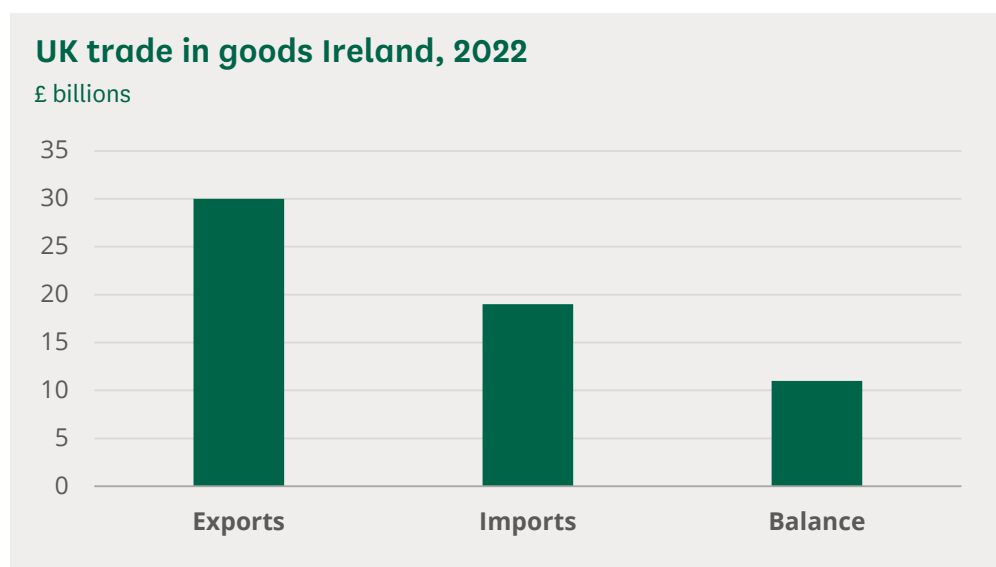
Ireland has accounted for around 3% of UK goods imports for the last decade, though this share has fallen from over 4% in the early 2000s.



Source: ONS, [UK total trade: all countries, seasonally adjusted](#)

3 Trade in goods

In 2022, the UK exported £30 billion of goods to Ireland and imported £19 billion, resulting in a trade surplus of £11 billion.



Source: ONS, [UK total trade: all countries, seasonally adjusted](#)

3.1 Exports

In 2022, the UK's single largest export to Ireland was petroleum and petroleum products, valued at £3.8 billion; this represented 13% of all UK goods exports to Ireland.

The value of UK oil exports to Ireland increased by over 200% between 2021 and 2022, driven in part by increases in the wholesale price of oil following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which disrupted world trade in oil throughout 2022.⁴

Other British goods exports to Ireland included organic chemicals valued at £3.2 billion (11% of goods exports), as well as gas valued at £3.2 billion (11% of all goods exports). Combined, these three products accounted for just over a third of UK goods exports to Ireland.

⁴ ONS, [UK trade in goods, year in review: 2022](#), 17 February 2023

Top 10 UK goods exports to Ireland, 2022

	£ billions	% total
Petroleum, petroleum products	3.8	12.8%
Organic chemicals	3.2	10.9%
Gas, natural & manufactured	3.2	10.6%
Medicinal & pharmaceutical products	1.6	5.4%
Miscellaneous manufactured articles n.e.s.	1.3	4.2%
Electrical machinery & appliances	0.9	2.9%
Office machines & adp machines	0.8	2.8%
Road vehicles	0.8	2.6%
Telecoms & sound recording eqp.	0.8	2.6%
Essential oils & perfume materials; toilet preps	0.7	2.5%

Source: HMRC, [UK Trade Info](#)

3.2 Imports

In 2022, the UK's single largest import from Ireland was organic chemicals, valued at £3.4 billion, representing 18% of all UK goods imports from Ireland.

Other imports from Ireland included meat, valued at £1.6 billion (9% of goods imports) and medicinal and pharmaceutical products, valued at £1.4 billion (8% of goods imports).

Combined these three products accounted for 35% of the UK's goods imports from Ireland.

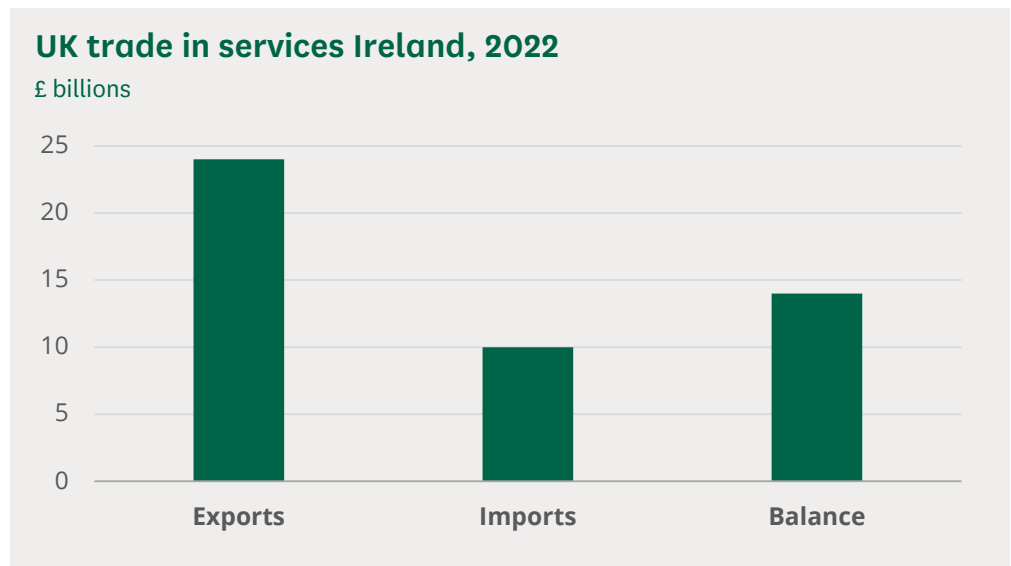
Top 10 UK goods imports from Ireland, 2022

	£ billions	% total
Organic chemicals	3.4	18.0%
Meat & meat preparations	1.6	8.6%
Medicinal & pharmaceutical products	1.4	7.7%
Miscellaneous manufactured articles n.e.s.	0.9	4.6%
Dairy products & birds' eggs	0.7	4.0%
Essential oils & perfume materials; toilet preps	0.6	3.3%
Live animals	0.6	3.1%
Electrical machinery & appliances	0.6	3.1%
Office machines & adp machines	0.6	3.0%
Power generating machinery & equipment	0.5	2.8%

Source: HMRC, [UK Trade Info](#)

4 Trade in services

The UK exported £24 billion of services to Ireland in 2022 and imported £10 billion, resulting in a trade surplus of £14 billion.



Source: ONS, [UK total trade: all countries, seasonally adjusted](#)

4.1 Exports

In 2022, the UK’s single largest service export to Ireland was “other business services”, valued at £15.1 billion; this represented 62% of all UK service exports to Ireland. This category includes legal, accounting, advertising, research and development, architectural, engineering and other professional and technical services.

Ireland was the UK’s second largest export market for other business services (after the USA), with Ireland accounting for 10% of all UK exports of other business services and 27% of UK exports of other business services to the EU.

UK service exports to Ireland, 2022

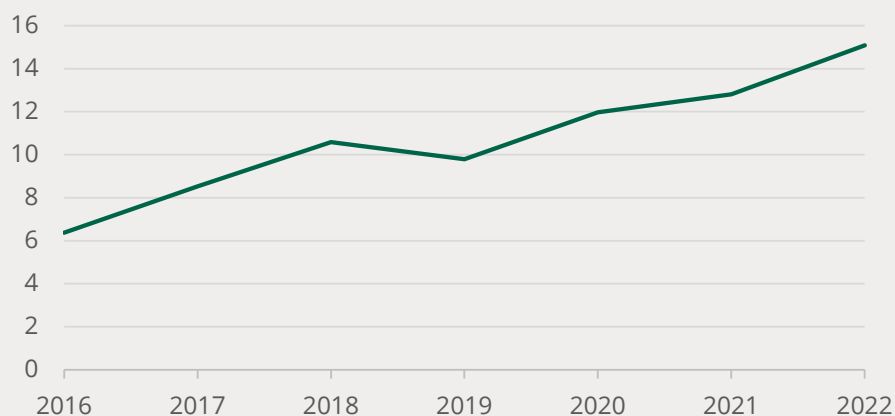
	£ billions	% total
Other Business Services	15.1	61.9%
Financial	3.6	14.9%
Travel	2.1	8.7%
Telecom, computer & info services	1.2	5.0%
Transportation	1.2	4.8%
Insurance and Pension	0.4	1.7%
Intellectual property	0.3	1.2%
Personal, Cultural and Recreational	0.2	0.6%
Manufacturing	0.1	0.4%
Maintenance and Repair	0.1	0.4%
Construction	0.1	0.2%
Government	0.01	0.04%

Source: ONS, [UK trade in services: service type by partner country, non-seasonally adjusted](#)

UK exports of other business services to Ireland have generally grown strongly in recent years, with the exception of 2019, as shown in the chart below.

UK exports of other business services to Ireland

£ billions, 2016-21



Source: ONS, [UK trade in services: service type by partner country, non-seasonally adjusted](#)

4.2

Imports

In 2022, the UK's single largest service import from Ireland was also other business services, which made up 40% of UK service imports from Ireland.

Ireland was the UK's sixth largest source of imports of other business services (after the USA, Switzerland, India, France and Germany), with Ireland

accounting for 4% of all UK imports of other business services and 12% of UK imports of other business services from the EU.

UK service imports from Ireland, 2022		
	£ billions	% total
Other Business Services	4.0	39.9%
Travel	1.9	18.4%
Transportation	1.8	17.4%
Telecommunications, computer and information services	1.1	10.6%
Intellectual property	0.5	5.3%
Financial	0.4	3.8%
Insurance and Pension	0.3	2.6%
Personal, Cultural and Recreational	0.1	0.9%
Maintenance and Repair	0.04	0.4%
Construction	0.03	0.3%
Manufacturing	0.03	0.3%
Government	0.01	0.1%

Source: ONS, [UK trade in services: service type by partner country, non-seasonally adjusted](#)

5 Regional trade

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) publish data on trade for Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the English regions. These figures are for trade in goods only – they do not include services.

The Scotland accounted for 13% of UK goods exports to Ireland in 2022. Gas made up 78% of Scotland’s goods exports to Ireland, with the value of Scottish gas exports to Ireland doubling between 2021 and 2022. This increase was likely due to increases in the price of gas, rather than increase in the volume of gas exports.⁵

Northern Ireland accounted for just under 13% of all UK goods exports to Ireland in 2022. Food and live animals accounted for around a third of Northern Ireland’s goods exports to the Republic of Ireland.

The South-East of England and Wales also had relatively high shares of the UK’s goods exports to Ireland.

UK goods exports to Ireland by area, 2022

	£ billions	% UK total
Scotland	4.0	13.3%
Northern Ireland	3.8	12.8%
South East	3.5	11.6%
Wales	2.9	9.9%
London	2.7	9.0%
North West	2.2	7.4%
West Midlands	1.7	5.8%
East	1.5	4.9%
East Midlands	1.3	4.3%
Yorkshire and The Humber	1.3	4.2%
South West	1.0	3.2%
North East	0.5	1.6%
Unallocated	3.6	12.0%

Source: HMRC, [UK Trade Info](#)

⁵ Scottish Government, [Scotland’s International Goods Trade: Quarter 3 2022](#), 27 January 2023

Northern Ireland accounted for just under a fifth of UK goods imports from the Republic of Ireland. Food and live animals accounted for just over a third of Northern Ireland's goods imports from the Republic of Ireland.

London also had a relatively high share of the UK's goods imports from Ireland – medicinal and pharmaceutical products accounted for 20% of London's goods imports from Ireland.

UK goods imports from Ireland by area, 2022

	£ billions	% UK total
Northern Ireland	3.5	18.6%
London	2.0	10.5%
South East	1.4	7.7%
West Midlands	1.2	6.4%
East	1.1	6.1%
North West	0.8	4.3%
Scotland	0.8	4.2%
Yorkshire and The Humber	0.8	4.1%
Wales	0.7	3.6%
South West	0.6	3.1%
East Midlands	0.4	2.3%
North East	0.2	0.9%
Unallocated	5.3	28.2%

Source: HMRC, [UK Trade Info](#)

6 Northern Ireland

Data published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) indicates that in 2021 (the most recent year for which data are available), the total value of Northern Ireland’s ‘external sales’ – i.e., sales of goods and services to the rest of the UK plus exports of goods and services was £24.9 billion, up from 21.8 billion in 2020.⁶

Of this:

- £12.8 billion (51.2%) were sales to the rest of the UK
- £12.2 billion (48.8%) were exports (i.e., sales to countries outside the UK)

Between 2011 and 2016, Northern Ireland’s sales to the rest of the UK significantly exceeded its exports. The gap has narrowed in recent years with exports exceeding sales to the rest of the UK in 2018 and 2019. Sales to the rest of the UK were greater than exports in 2020 and 2021.



Source: NISRA, [Broad Economy Sales & Exports Statistics](#)

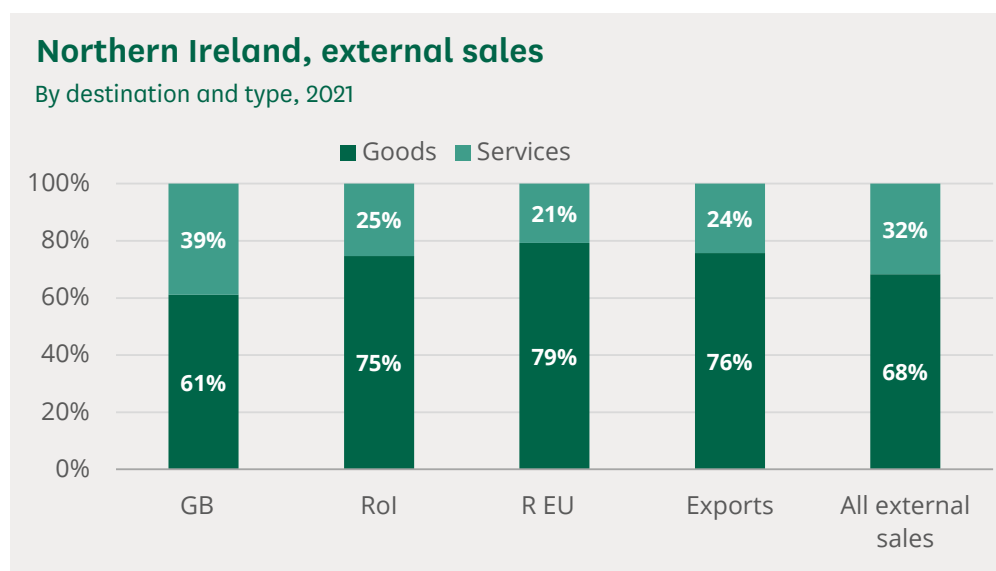
Of Northern Ireland’s exports:

- £5.2 billion (42.5%) were to the Republic of Ireland, making it Northern Ireland’s largest export market (though sales to Great Britain were around 2.5 times greater)

⁶ All data in this section is taken from NISRA, [Broad Economy Sales and Export Statistics](#), 14 December 2022, unless stated

- £2.6 billion (21.4%) were to the rest of the EU (i.e., excluding the Republic of Ireland)
- £4.4 billion (36.1%) were to the rest of the world.

Northern Ireland’s exports were skewed toward goods exports rather than services, with goods accounting for 76% of Northern Ireland’s total exports. The trend was slightly different for sales to Great Britain – goods accounted for 61% of Northern Ireland’s sales to Great Britain, while services accounted for 39%.



Source: NISRA, [Broad Economy Sales & Exports Statistics](#)

In 2021 the value of Northern Ireland’s total external purchases – i.e., purchases of goods and services from the rest of the UK plus imports of goods and services, was £22.2 billion, up from £20.3 billion in 2020.

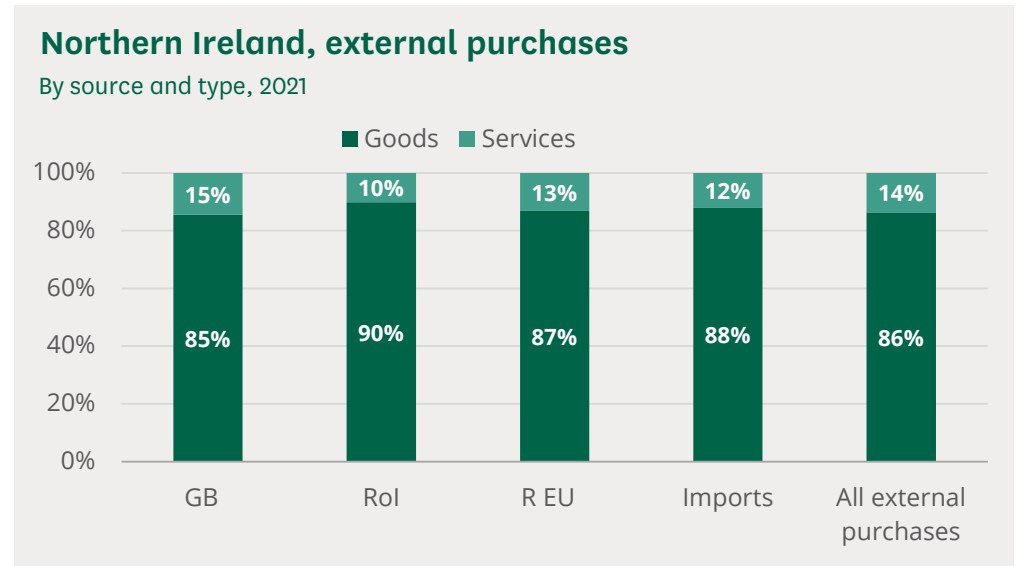
Of this total:

- £14.5 billion (65.2%) were purchases from Great Britain
- £7.7 billion (34.8%) were imports.

Of Northern Ireland’s imports:

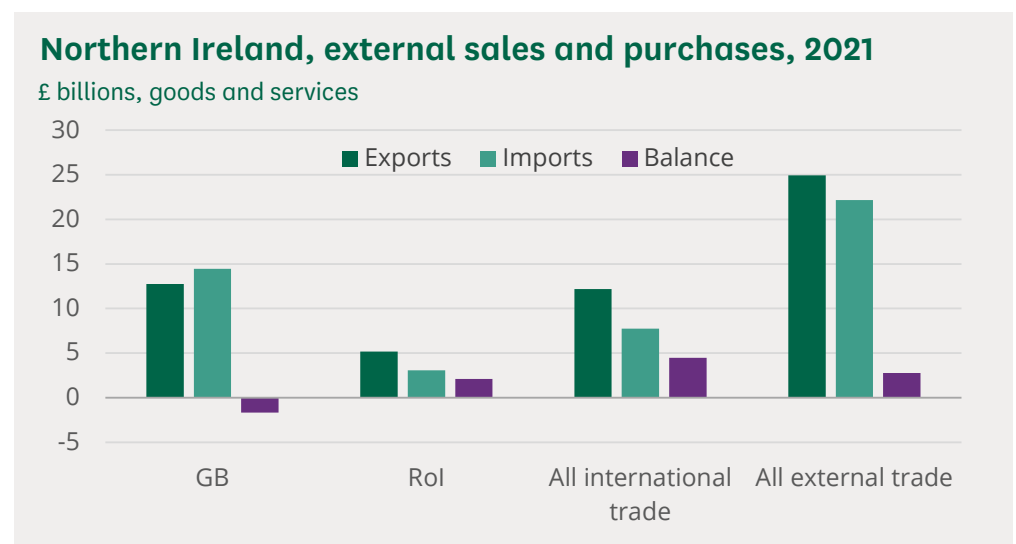
- £3.1 billion (39.8%) were imported from the Republic of Ireland – making it Northern Ireland’s single largest source of imports (though the value of purchases from Great Britain was over 4.5 times greater).
- £2.5 billion (32.8%) were from the rest of the EU (i.e., excluding the Republic of Ireland)
- £2.1 billion (27.3%) were from the rest of the world.

Northern Ireland’s imports were heavily skewed toward imported goods rather than services, with goods accounting for 88% of Northern Ireland’s total imports. The trend was slightly different for purchases from Great Britain – goods accounted for 85% of Northern Ireland’s purchases from Great Britain, while services accounted for 15%.



Source: NISRA, [Broad Economy Sales & Exports Statistics](#)

Northern Ireland recorded a “trade deficit” with Great Britain in 2021 of £1.7 billion, though recorded trade surpluses with the Republic of Ireland and an overall trade surplus in all its international trade and all of its external trade (i.e., international trade plus trade with Great Britain).



Source: NISRA, [Broad Economy Sales & Exports Statistics](#)

6.1

Trade in goods

Data on trade in goods by type of good between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland are available for 2022.

Exports

Northern Ireland's goods exports to the Republic of Ireland by type of good are shown in the table below.

Top 10 NI goods exports to RoI, 2022		
	£ millions	% total
Dairy products & birds' eggs	494.1	13.0%
Petroleum, petroleum products	199.6	5.2%
Beverages	197.6	5.2%
Road vehicles	190.5	5.0%
Meat & meat preparations	179.6	4.7%
Machinery specialized for particular industries	175.6	4.6%
Feeding stuff for animals	172.6	4.5%
Cereals & cereal preparations	172.0	4.5%
Miscellaneous manufactured articles n.e.s.	159.1	4.2%
Manufactures of metal n.e.s.	135.3	3.5%

Source: HMRC, [UK Trade Info](#)

Overall, food and live animals made up 33% of all Northern Ireland's goods exports to the Republic of Ireland.

41% of Northern Ireland's total goods exports were to the Republic of Ireland (compared to 8% for the UK as a whole).

Imports

Food and live animals made up 34% of all Northern Ireland's goods imports from the Republic of Ireland; medicinal and pharmaceutical products accounted for 13%.

36% of Northern Ireland's total goods imports were from the Republic of Ireland (compared to 3% for the UK as a whole).

Top 10 NI goods imports from RoI, 2022

	£ millions	% total
Medicinal & pharmaceutical products	439.3	12.6%
Meat & meat preparations	330.3	9.5%
Dairy products & birds' eggs	306.3	8.8%
Vegetables & fruit	176.7	5.1%
Non-metallic mineral manufactures n.e.s.	170.8	4.9%
Cereals & cereal preparations	120.1	3.5%
Articles of apparel & clothing accessories	118.3	3.4%
Feeding stuff for animals	97.0	2.8%
Miscellaneous manufactured articles n.e.s.	90.3	2.6%
Machinery specialized for particular industries	89.5	2.6%

Source: HMRC, [UK Trade Info](#)

7

Republic of Ireland's trade with the UK

In 2022, the UK was Ireland's third largest export market for goods (behind the USA and Germany), accounting for 11% of goods exports. Taken as separate entities, Great Britain was Ireland's fourth largest export market for goods, accounting for 8% of Ireland's goods exports, while Northern Ireland was Ireland's eighth largest goods export market, accounting for 2% of its goods exports.

The UK was Ireland's largest source of imported goods in 2022, accounting for just over a fifth of Ireland's total goods imports. Taken as separate entities, Great Britain was the UK's largest source of imported goods, accounting for 17% of Ireland's goods imports, while Northern Ireland was Ireland's seventh largest source of imported goods, accounting for 4% of its goods imports.

In 2021 (the most recent year for which data are available), the UK was Ireland's second largest export market for services (after the USA), accounting for 14% of service exports and second largest source of imported services (after the USA) accounting for 8% of service imports.⁷

While the UK remains one of Ireland's most important trading partners, Ireland's trade with the UK as a proportion of its total trade has gradually declined over time – in 1953, 91% of Ireland's goods exports were to the UK; by 2022, this had fallen to 11%.⁸

The graph below shows the Ireland's trade in goods with the UK as a percentage of its total trade in goods since 1973.

Over this period:

- Irish goods exports to the UK fell from a high of 56% of all goods exports in 1974 to 11% in 2022.
- Goods imports from the UK fell from a high of 51% of total goods imports in 1979 to 16% in 2022.

⁷ Figures taken from the [Irish Central Statistics Office statistical database](#)

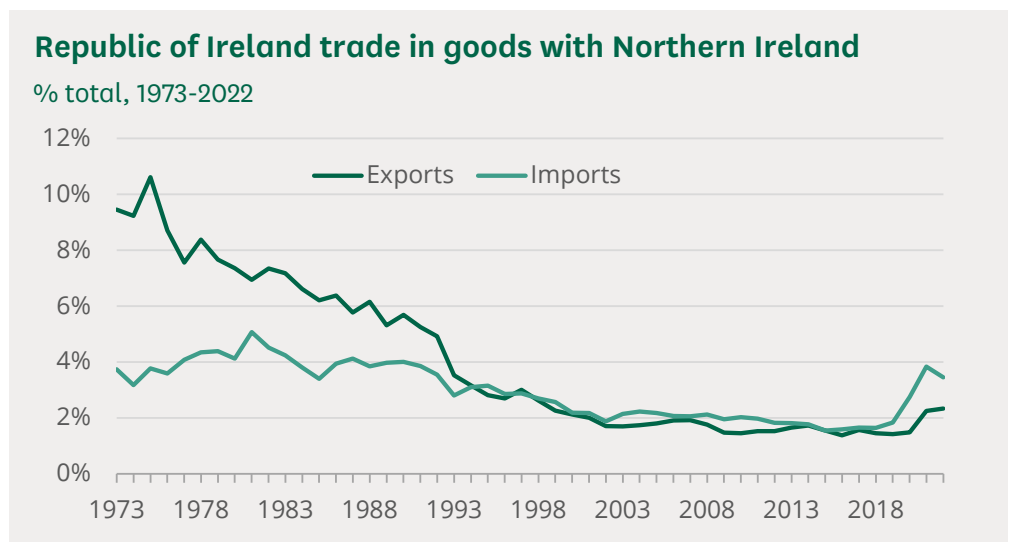
⁸ Data from IMF, Direction of Trade Statistics



Source: [Irish Central Statistics Office](#)

The importance of the Republic of Ireland’s trade with Northern Ireland also generally declined over this period, though has generally increased since 2020:

- In 1975, 11% of the Republic of Ireland’s goods exports were to Northern Ireland; this fell to under 1.5% in 2020, though increased to 2.3% in 2021 and 2022.
- The proportion of the Republic of Ireland’s goods imports coming from Northern Ireland was 3.8% in 2021, its highest level since 1991, falling slightly to 3.5% in 2022.



Source: [Irish Central Statistics Office](#)

7.1

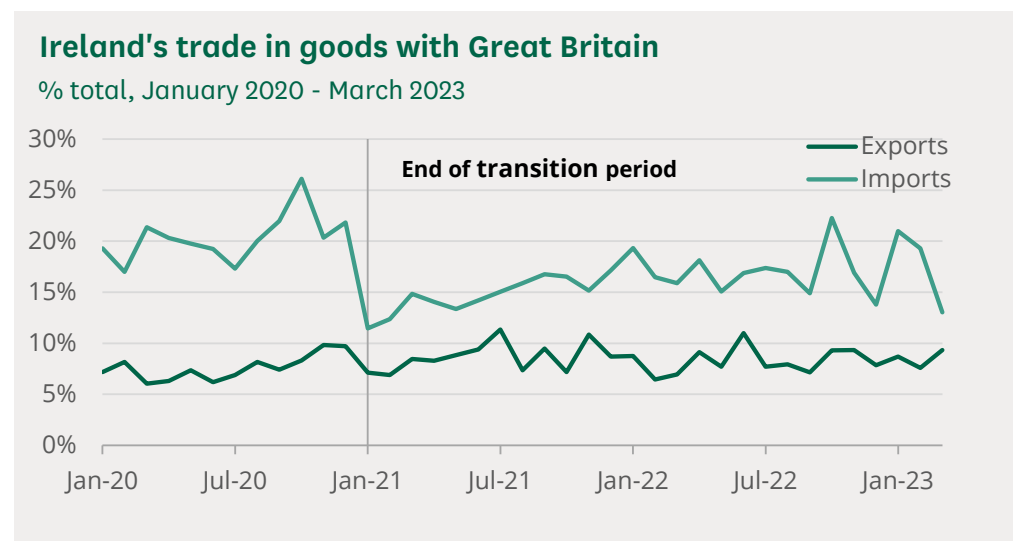
End of the Brexit Transition Period

Great Britain accounted for 22% of the Republic of Ireland’s goods imports in December 2020, before falling to 11% in January 2021.

Although monthly data can be very erratic and this figure has climbed since January 2021, it remains below typical levels.

In 2019, Great Britain accounted for 13.3% of Ireland’s goods imports. This proportion has fallen for three consecutive years, reaching 10.6% in 2022.

Great Britain’s share of Ireland’s goods exports has also fallen over this period, from 8.9% in 2019 to 8.3% in 2022.

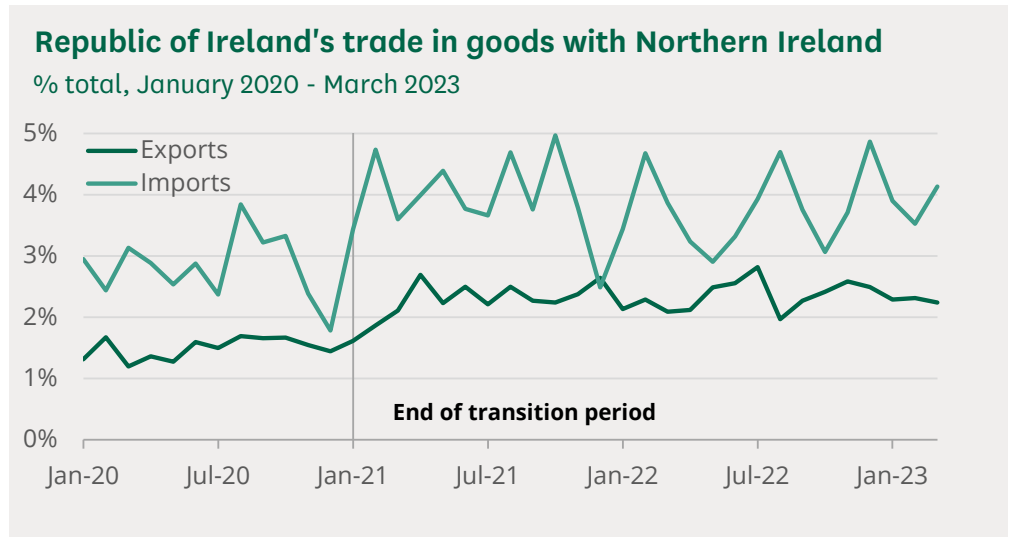


Source: [Irish Central Statistics Office](#)

By contrast, the proportion of the Republic of Ireland’s trade in goods with Northern Ireland has generally increased since January 2021 – Northern Ireland accounted for 5% of the Republic of Ireland’s goods imports in February 2021, more than double the equivalent figure for December 2020.

In 2019, Northern Ireland accounted for 1.1% of the Republic of Ireland’s goods imports, increasing to 2.4% in 2021, falling slightly to 2.3% in 2022.

Northern Ireland accounted for 1.8% of the Republic of Ireland’s goods exports in 2019, increasing to 3.8% in 2021, falling slightly to 3.5% in 2022.



Source: [Irish Central Statistics Office](#)

8 Appendix: UK-Ireland trade, 1999-2022

UK trade with Ireland, 1999-2022					
Goods and services					
	Exports		Imports		Balance
	£ billions	% total	£ billions	% total	£ billions
1999	14.5	5.7%	11.8	4.4%	2.7
2000	16.2	5.8%	13.0	4.4%	3.3
2001	18.7	6.4%	13.1	4.2%	5.5
2002	20.7	7.1%	13.7	4.3%	7.0
2003	18.3	6.1%	13.8	4.2%	4.6
2004	20.6	6.5%	14.1	4.0%	6.5
2005	24.0	6.8%	14.6	3.8%	9.3
2006	25.9	6.4%	15.7	3.6%	10.2
2007	28.2	7.2%	16.0	3.8%	12.2
2008	30.3	7.0%	16.9	3.6%	13.4
2009	26.2	6.3%	17.6	4.0%	8.6
2010	28.1	6.1%	17.9	3.7%	10.1
2011	31.9	6.2%	18.6	3.5%	13.4
2012	31.0	6.0%	18.5	3.4%	12.6
2013	30.9	5.8%	18.8	3.3%	12.1
2014	29.6	5.6%	18.8	3.3%	10.9
2015	28.6	5.4%	19.8	3.5%	8.8
2016	31.2	5.4%	21.4	3.5%	9.8
2017	36.8	5.8%	23.3	3.5%	13.5
2018	42.2	6.3%	26.2	3.7%	16.0
2019	40.9	5.8%	25.2	3.4%	15.8
2020	40.8	6.6%	21.5	3.5%	19.3
2021	42.8	6.5%	25.1	3.7%	17.7
2022	54.7	6.7%	29.1	3.2%	25.6

Source: ONS, [UK total trade: all countries, seasonally adjusted](#)

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