



## UK trade statistics

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Authors: Grahame Allen

Section Economic Policy and Statistics Section

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This note looks at UK trade and provides a summary of the key statistics behind the UK's Balance of Trade.

### Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Background</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Balance of Trade</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1	UK trade in goods	2
	How does the UK rank as a goods exporter?	3
2.2	UK trade in services	3
2.3	UK trade in goods and services	4
<b>3</b>	<b>Trade by commodity</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1	Petroleum oils	6
<b>4</b>	<b>The UK's main trading partners</b>	<b>7</b>
4.1	Geographical breakdown of trade in goods and services in 2011	7
4.2	Changing markets for UK goods exports	9
	Trade in goods with the EU	9
<b>5</b>	<b>Appended tables</b>	<b>11</b>

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# 1 Background

Estimates of UK trade have been made as far back as 1355 (when the import and export of goods from the UK were in the region of £120,000 and £300,000 respectively) and for various years to 1850.<sup>1</sup> A continuous annual series for the trade in goods has been estimated from 1850 but official trade statistics (OTS) data for goods and services is available from 1946 only. This Note summarises the official Balance of Trade statistics.

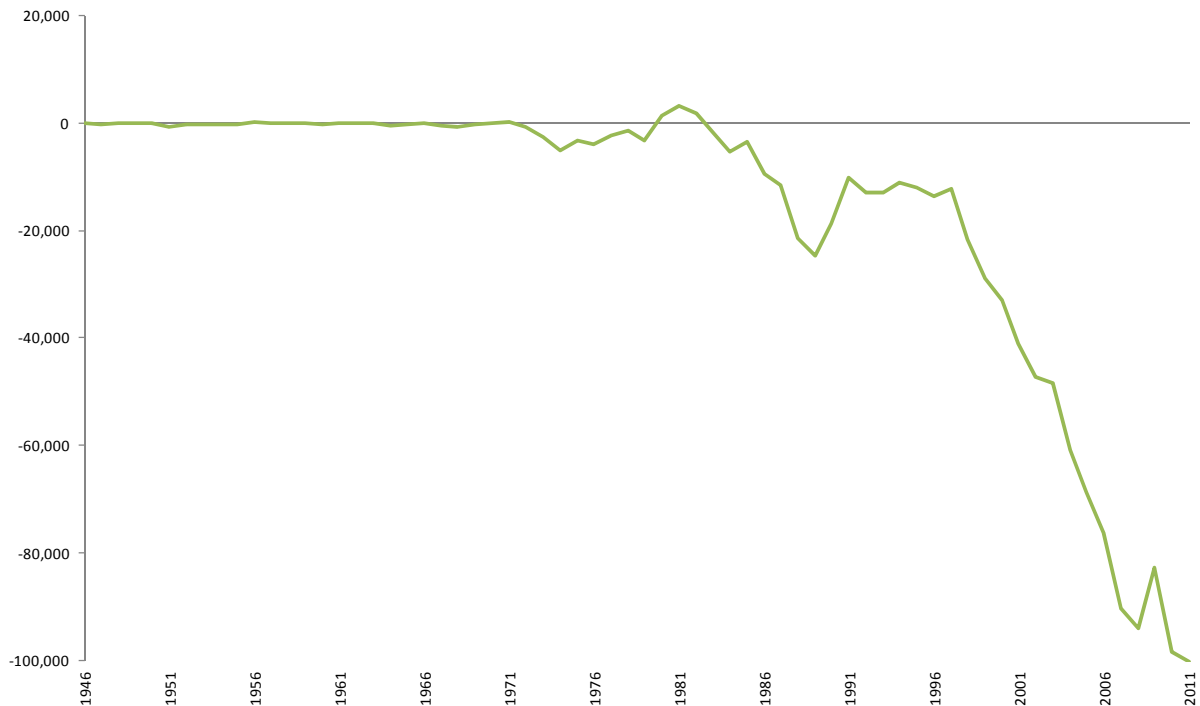
## 2 Balance of Trade

### 2.1 UK trade in goods

The appended table 1 shows imports, exports and the balance of goods trade from 1946 to 2011. While over the period both imports and exports of goods have increased by an annual average of 10% per annum, imports have recently risen at a faster rate than exports leading to an increased balance of goods trade deficit. Chart 1 below shows the UK balance of trade in goods over the period:

**Chart 1: Balance of trade in goods, 1946 -2011**

*£millions*



Two distinct periods of activity can be seen from the chart. Prior to 1970, the annual balance of trade in goods averaged around -£0.2 billion per annum. From 1970 to 2011 the annual average balance of trade was -£27 billion. Since 1970, the only years in which there was a surplus were 1971, 1980, 1981 and 1982. 2011 saw the largest annual balance of trade in goods deficit recorded of -£100 billion.

<sup>1</sup> M.G. Mulhall, *The Dictionary of Statistics*, 1898, p131

### **How does the UK rank as a goods exporter?**

The table below shows the top ten exporters in terms of the value of goods exports in 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2011:

#### **Top ten goods exporters**

1980			1990		
	\$million	% World exports		\$million	% World exports
1 United States	221,073	12%	1 Germany	409,286	12%
2 Germany	192,865	11%	2 United States	393,106	12%
3 Japan	130,510	7%	3 Japan	288,000	9%
4 France	116,030	6%	4 France	216,466	6%
5 United Kingdom	110,089	6%	5 United Kingdom	185,154	5%
6 Saudi Arabia	102,012	6%	6 Italy	170,495	5%
7 Italy	77,682	4%	7 Netherlands	130,717	4%
8 Netherlands	73,943	4%	8 Canada	126,448	4%
9 Canada	67,736	4%	9 Belgium-Luxembourg	117,477	3%
10 Belgium-Luxembourg	64,654	4%	10 Hong Kong	82,400	2%
World	1,833,390		World	3,383,220	

2000			2011		
	\$million	% World exports		\$million	% World exports
1 United States	772,280	12%	1 China	1,901,480	11%
2 Germany	548,962	9%	2 United States	1,480,730	8%
3 Japan	478,542	7%	3 Germany	1,391,940	8%
4 France	323,528	5%	4 Japan	824,415	5%
5 United Kingdom	282,873	4%	5 Netherlands	649,376	4%
6 Canada	275,184	4%	6 France	584,441	3%
7 China	249,223	4%	7 South Korea	562,462	3%
8 Italy	236,668	4%	8 Italy	515,414	3%
9 Netherlands	229,757	4%	9 Russia	495,928	3%
10 Hong Kong	202,508	3%	10 Belgium	462,773	3%
			12 United Kingdom	434,411	2%
World	6,388,300		World	17,777,000	

Source: IMF, *Direction of Trade Statistics*, via ESDS

The table shows that the proportion of World exports accounted for by the UK has fallen from 6% in 1980 to 2% in 2011 and that while the UK was the 5<sup>th</sup> largest exporter in cash terms between 1980 and 2000, in 2011 it was ranked 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **2.2 UK trade in services**

The appended table 2 shows the UK's trade in services – imports exports and the balance of trade since 1946.

Chart 2, below, shows the UK's balance of trade in services over the same period:

**Chart 2: Balance of trade in services, 1946 - 2011**

*£millions*

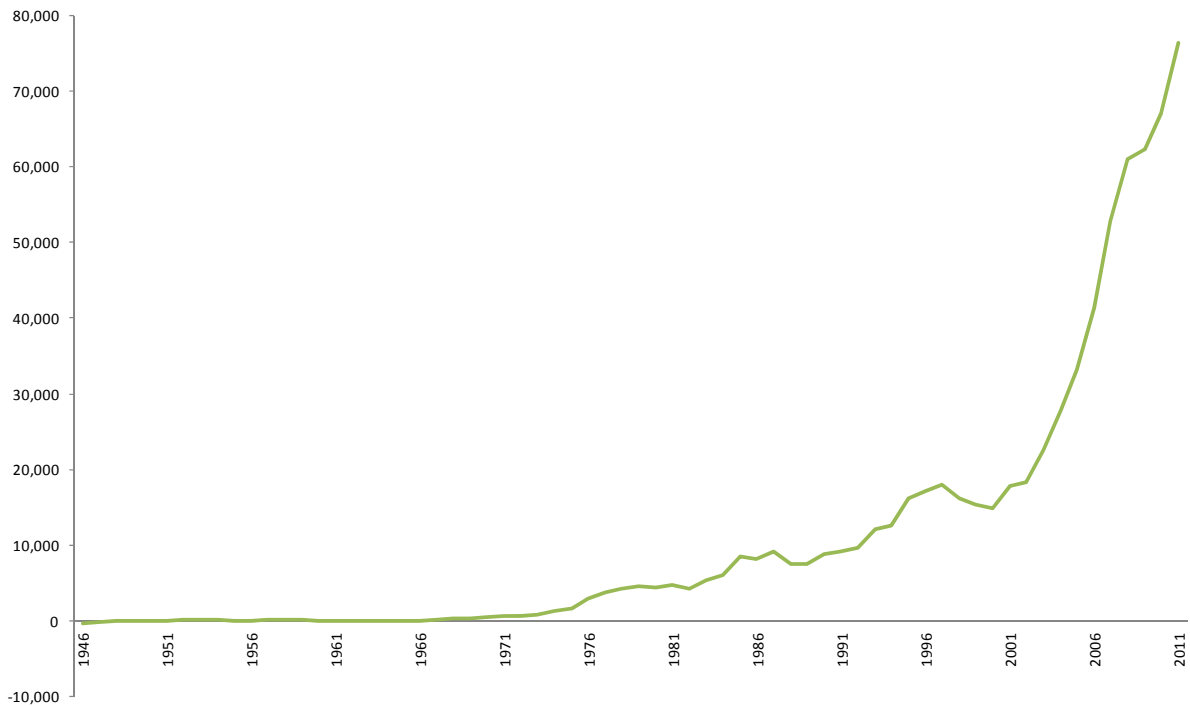


Table 2 shows that both the import and export of services, in terms of value, to and from the UK have risen over the period. However, in contrast to the trade in goods, exports of services have risen at a faster rate than imports leading to an increased balance of services surplus.

The balance of trade in services was in deficit each year between 1946 and 1950. Since 1950 the balance of trade in services has been in surplus each year (except for 1964 and 1965). In 2011, the balance of trade surplus in services was the highest over the period, standing at a record £76.4 billion. Again, two distinct periods of activity can be seen from the chart. To 1970, the average annual balance of trade in services was a surplus of £0.1 billion. From 1970, the surplus has risen to an annual average of £17.5 billion.

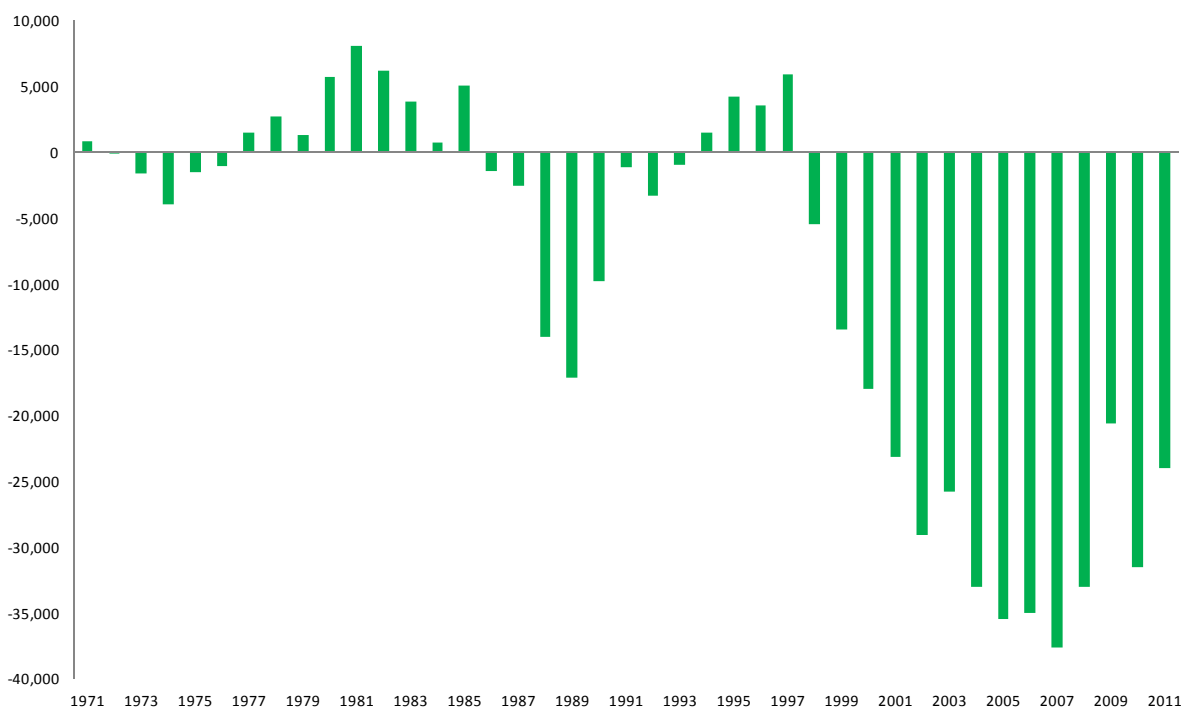
### **2.3 UK trade in goods and services**

The appended table 3 shows the UK's trade in goods and services combined from 1946 to 2011. Prior to 1970 the surplus in services trade largely offset the deficit in goods trade. Over the period 1946 to 2011, the average Balance of Trade (in goods and services) was -£11 billion. Goods exports, as a proportion of all exports, remained relatively constant, at between 70%-75%, up to the mid 1980s but has been declining steadily since then. The value of services imports as a proportion of all imports has also increased steadily from the mid 1980s.

Chart 3 below shows the Balance of Trade in goods and services from 1971:

**Chart 3: UK Balance of Trade , 1971 -2011**

*£millions*



From 1977 to 1985 the UK balance of trade in goods and services was in surplus – the peak surplus was £8 billion in 1981. From 1985 onwards (excluding 1994 to 1997) the Balance of Trade has been in deficit. The UK reported its largest deficit of £37.6 billion in 2007 at the beginning of the global economic slowdown. Since 1985 the annual Balance of Trade in goods and services deficit has averaged just under -£15.4 billion.

### **3 Trade by commodity**

Estimates of the UK's trade in goods by sector (8-digit commodity code level) are available from HMRC's [uktradeinfo.com](http://uktradeinfo.com) from 1999. Not all data is identifiable as some data is suppressed:<sup>2</sup>

HMRC aim to publish as much of the collected, detailed trade data as possible. However, we are obliged to protect sensitive business and national interests through preventing disclosure where there is a clear requirement to do so. Consequently some sensitive information is suppressed in OTS publications, predominantly at the request of businesses with the majority of trade.

The appended tables 4a and 4b show the largest 8-digit trade sectors, by value, of UK goods trade in 2000 and 2011.

The largest sector of UK goods exports, by value, in 2000 and 2011 was “petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude” etc..<sup>3</sup> This commodity accounted for £10.5 billion or 5.6% of all UK exports of goods in 2000 rising to £16.9 billion or 5.8% of all UK exports of goods in 2011.

<sup>2</sup> [uktradeinfo.com](http://uktradeinfo.com)

<sup>3</sup> Commodity code 27090090

The largest sector of UK goods imports, by value in 2000 was “motor vehicles for the transport of persons”<sup>4</sup> accounting for £9.0 billion or 4.1% of all UK imports of goods in 2000. By 2011, “petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude” etc. were the UK’s main commodity imports, accounting for £27.8 billion or 7.1% of all UK imports of goods.

### 3.1 Petroleum oils

One commodity stands out in tables 4a and 4b – “petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude”. Between 2000 and 2011, the UK has gone from a net exporter of petroleum oils etc. to a net importer. In 2000, the UK’s balance of trade surplus in this commodity was £5.5 billion but by 2011 this had become a balance of trade deficit of -£10.9 billion.

Table 5 below shows the UK’s main (identifiable) trading partners for petroleum oils from the uktradeinfo.com data:

Table 5

#### **UK’s main trading partners, petroleum crude oils (comcode 27090090), 2011**

Imports			Exports		
	£ million	as % of total		£ million	as % of total
NORWAY	18,775	67.4%	NETHERLANDS	5,589	33.0%
RUSSIA	2,313	8.3%	GERMANY	3,750	22.1%
NIGERIA	1,866	6.7%	FRANCE	1,961	11.6%
ALGERIA	1,337	4.8%	UNITED STATES	1,901	11.2%
DENMARK	1,192	4.3%	POLAND	581	3.4%
LIBYA	330	1.2%	ITALY	580	3.4%
IRAN	330	1.2%	SWEDEN	576	3.4%
CANADA	244	0.9%	IRISH REPUBLIC	419	2.5%
VENEZUELA	243	0.9%	CHILE	371	2.2%
ANGOLA	236	0.8%	BELGIUM	278	1.6%
EQUAT GUINEA	159	0.6%	SOUTH KOREA	260	1.5%
QATAR	142	0.5%	DENMARK	217	1.3%
UKRAINE	136	0.5%	CANADA	196	1.2%
AZERBAIJAN	83	0.3%	SPAIN	85	0.5%
SAUDI ARABIA	79	0.3%	US VIRGIN IS	78	0.5%
EGYPT	76	0.3%	NORWAY	75	0.4%
IRISH REPUBLIC	62	0.2%	PORTUGAL	29	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,846</b>			<b>16,946</b>	

Source: uktradeinfo.com

As can be seen, the UK is reliant on petroleum oils imports from Norway (£19 billion or 67% of all UK imports of petroleum oils etc). It is also worth noting that, given the agreed EU embargo on Iranian oil, the UK sourced just over 1% of its petroleum oils from Iran in 2011.

<sup>4</sup> Commodity code 87032319

## 4 The UK's main trading partners

### 4.1 Geographical breakdown of trade in goods and services in 2011

Tables 6 and 7 below provide a brief summary of the UK's main trading partners in 2011:

Table 6

#### UK goods and services trading partners, exports, 2011

	£million	% UK World exports
World	492,646	
EU27	233,801	47.5%
Germany	43,901	8.9%
Netherlands	34,075	6.9%
France	32,035	6.5%
Ireland	27,409	5.6%
Belgium	19,047	3.9%
Italy	15,607	3.2%
Spain	15,283	3.1%
Sweden	9,564	1.9%
Denmark	5,935	1.2%
Poland	5,755	1.2%
Luxembourg	2,986	0.6%
Finland	2,976	0.6%
Portugal	2,584	0.5%
Czech Republic	2,505	0.5%
Austria	2,481	0.5%
Greece	2,452	0.5%
Hungary	1,726	0.4%
Cyprus	1,489	0.3%
Romania	1,331	0.3%
Slovakia	1,054	0.2%
Malta	748	0.2%
Bulgaria	526	0.1%
Lithuania	450	0.1%
Latvia	361	0.1%
Estonia	345	0.1%
Slovenia	325	0.1%
Rest of the World	258,845	52.5%
EFTA	21,408	4.3%
US	79,888	16.2%
China	12,530	2.5%
India	8,332	1.7%
Russia	7,286	1.5%
Brazil	3,695	0.8%

Source: ONS, *The Pink Book* 2012 dataset, 2012

In 2011:

- UK exports of goods and services (£493 billion) amounted to 30% of UK GDP (£1,516 billion);
- Exports to the European Union accounted for 47.5% of total goods and services exports with the Rest of the World accounting for the remaining for 52.5%;
- Exports to the 17 eurozone countries accounted for 42% of UK exports (the same as in 2010);
- The US was the UK's single largest export market accounting for 16.2% of all exports, followed by Germany (8.9%), the Netherlands (6.9%) and France (6.5%);
- Exports to the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China) together accounted for 6.5% of all exports (up from 5.6% in 2010);
- Exports to the PIGS countries (Portugal, Ireland, Greece and Spain) accounted for 7% of UK exports (down from 10.5% in 2010); and
- EFTA countries (Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) accounted for 4.3% of all exports – more than Belgium (3.9%) but less than Ireland (5.6%).

Table 7

**UK goods and services trading partners, imports, 2011**

	£million	% UK World imports
World	516,609	
EU27	261,378	50.6%
Germany	59,563	11.5%
France	33,170	6.4%
Netherlands	32,774	6.3%
Belgium	21,521	4.2%
Spain	21,435	4.1%
Italy	18,465	3.6%
Ireland	17,297	3.3%
Sweden	9,672	1.9%
Poland	8,610	1.7%
Denmark	7,394	1.4%
Czech Republic	4,694	0.9%
Austria	3,804	0.7%
Hungary	3,586	0.7%
Portugal	3,556	0.7%
Finland	2,942	0.6%
Luxembourg	2,747	0.5%
Greece	2,694	0.5%
Slovakia	1,633	0.3%
Romania	1,536	0.3%
Cyprus	1,097	0.2%
Lithuania	746	0.1%
Bulgaria	577	0.1%
Malta	557	0.1%
Latvia	531	0.1%
Slovenia	407	0.1%
Estonia	266	0.1%
Rest of the World	255,231	49.4%
EFTA	37,357	7.2%
US	48,639	9.4%
China	32,775	6.3%
India	8,544	1.7%
Russia	8,520	1.6%
Brazil	3,106	0.6%

Source: ONS, *The Pink Book* 2012 dataset, 2012

In 2011:

- Imports from the European Union accounted for 51% of total goods and services imports, with the Rest of the World accounting for the remaining for 49%;
- Imports from the 17 eurozone countries accounted for 43% of UK imports;
- Germany was the UK's single largest source of imports accounting for 11.5% of all imports, followed by the US (9.4%), France (6.4%) and China (6.3%);
- Imports from the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China) together accounted for 10% of all imports;
- Imports from the PIGS countries (Portugal, Ireland, Greece and Spain) accounted for 9% of UK imports; and
- EFTA countries (Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) accounted for 7% of all UK imports, with Norway and Switzerland accounting for 5.1% and 2% of UK imports respectively.



## 4.2 Changing markets for UK goods exports

The changing geographical pattern of UK goods exports since 1960 is shown in table 8 below (the appended table 9 shows the UK's main import partners over the same period):

Table 8

**UK, main goods trading partners, Exports, 1960**

	\$million	% World exports
1 United States	1,059	10%
2 Australia	735	7%
3 Canada	616	6%
4 Germany	508	5%
5 South Africa	463	4%
6 India	429	4%
7 Sweden	376	4%
8 Netherlands	353	3%
9 New Zealand	340	3%
10 Ireland	333	3%
World	10,341	

**UK, main goods trading partners, Exports, 1970**

	\$million	% World exports
1 United States	2,265	12%
2 Germany	1,207	6%
3 Ireland	915	5%
4 Netherlands	907	5%
5 Sweden	874	5%
6 Australia	831	4%
7 France	814	4%
8 South Africa	804	4%
9 Belgium-Luxembourg	706	4%
10 Canada	692	4%
World	19,350	

**UK, main goods trading partners, Exports, 1980**

	\$million	% World exports
1 Germany	11,797	11%
2 United States	10,593	10%
3 Netherlands	8,937	8%
4 France	8,342	8%
5 Ireland	6,182	6%
6 Belgium-Luxembourg	6,098	6%
7 Italy	4,414	4%
8 Sweden	3,773	3%
9 Switzerland	2,906	3%
10 Nigeria	2,799	3%
World	110,078	

**UK, main goods trading partners, Exports, 1990**

	\$million	% World exports
1 Germany	23,582	13%
2 United States	23,280	13%
3 France	19,451	11%
4 Netherlands	13,403	7%
5 Belgium-Luxembourg	10,066	5%
6 Italy	10,035	5%
7 Ireland	9,554	5%
8 Spain	6,876	4%
9 Sweden	4,789	3%
10 Japan	4,709	3%
World	185,154	

**UK, main goods trading partners, Exports, 2000**

	\$million	% World exports
1 United States	44,751	16%
2 Germany	33,720	12%
3 France	27,545	10%
4 Netherlands	22,221	8%
5 Ireland	19,096	7%
6 Belgium	14,873	5%
7 Italy	12,758	5%
8 Spain	12,285	4%
9 Sweden	6,267	2%
10 Japan	5,552	2%
World	282,873	

**UK, main goods trading partners, Exports, 2011**

	\$million	% World exports
1 Germany	50,542	11%
2 United States	45,890	10%
3 Netherlands	36,605	8%
4 France	34,140	7%
5 Switzerland	32,789	7%
6 Ireland	27,791	6%
7 Belgium	24,827	5%
8 Italy	15,570	3%
9 Spain	15,138	3%
10 Sweden	9,738	2%
World	463,879	

Source: IMF, *Direction of Trade Statistics*, via ESDS

Please note that these figures are from a different source than tables 6 & 7. Over the period, the US and Germany have remained the UK's main export market for goods. However, the tables also show how the UK's main export markets have shifted away from the Commonwealth countries to the EU Member States. In 1960, Australia, Canada, South Africa, India and New Zealand were all 'top ten' markets for UK goods, accounting for one quarter of all UK exports of goods. By 1980, not one of these countries was a top ten export market and in 2011, India (the highest ranked Commonwealth country and ranked 13<sup>th</sup>) accounted for less than 2% of UK goods exports. Eight of the top ten goods export markets for the UK in 2011 were members of the EU. The EU as a single 'market' accounted for 53% of all UK goods exports.

### Trade in goods with the EU

The Library is often asked the value and proportion of trade of countries that have different trading relationships with the EU.

The appended tables 10a and 10b (and the two charts below) show the value and proportion of exports and imports for Norway (a member of the European Free Trade Association and the European Economic Area), Switzerland (a member of the European Free Trade Association), Turkey (Custom Union with the EU) and the UK with the EU26 (EU27 less UK):



The importance of the EU to Norway, the UK and Switzerland as an export market has remained relatively constant since the beginning of the 1990s. The EU had become a relatively more important market for Turkey until the economic slowdown in 2008.

## 5 Appended tables

Table 1  
UK Trade in Goods, 1946 - 2011

£millions

	Imports	Exports	Balance		Imports	Exports	Balance
1946	1,079	978	-101	1979	44,175	40,849	-3,326
1947	1,558	1,200	-358	1980	46,164	47,493	1,329
1948	1,815	1,663	-152	1981	47,796	51,034	3,238
1949	2,028	1,891	-137	1982	53,778	55,657	1,879
1950	2,347	2,293	-54	1983	62,602	60,984	-1,618
1951	3,471	2,779	-692	1984	75,974	70,565	-5,409
1952	3,089	2,817	-272	1985	81,707	78,291	-3,416
1953	2,973	2,729	-244	1986	82,614	72,997	-9,617
1954	3,039	2,829	-210	1987	91,229	79,531	-11,698
1955	3,442	3,127	-315	1988	102,264	80,711	-21,553
1956	3,389	3,439	50	1989	117,335	92,611	-24,724
1957	3,602	3,573	-29	1990	121,020	102,313	-18,707
1958	3,436	3,470	34	1991	114,162	103,939	-10,223
1959	3,703	3,587	-116	1992	120,913	107,863	-13,050
1960	4,205	3,801	-404	1993	135,295	122,229	-13,066
1961	4,111	3,967	-144	1994	146,269	135,143	-11,126
1962	4,169	4,065	-104	1995	165,600	153,577	-12,023
1963	4,518	4,395	-123	1996	180,918	167,196	-13,722
1964	5,183	4,632	-551	1997	184,135	171,966	-12,169
1965	5,246	4,983	-263	1998	185,657	164,025	-21,632
1966	5,459	5,348	-111	1999	194,998	166,109	-28,889
1967	5,930	5,329	-601	2000	220,801	187,898	-32,903
1968	7,245	6,537	-708	2001	230,043	189,067	-40,976
1969	7,587	7,373	-214	2002	233,934	186,574	-47,360
1970	8,284	8,266	-18	2003	236,620	188,287	-48,333
1971	8,985	9,190	205	2004	251,663	190,863	-60,800
1972	10,323	9,587	-736	2005	280,292	211,606	-68,686
1973	14,664	12,091	-2,573	2006	320,148	243,745	-76,403
1974	21,787	16,546	-5,241	2007	311,003	220,525	-90,478
1975	22,696	19,451	-3,245	2008	346,239	252,157	-94,082
1976	29,334	25,404	-3,930	2009	310,976	228,135	-82,841
1977	34,312	32,041	-2,271	2010	364,217	265,708	-98,509
1978	36,865	35,331	-1,534	2011	399,330	298,987	-100,343

Source: ONS database series LQAD, LQBL and LQCT

Table 2  
**UK Trade in Services, 1946 - 2011**

*£millions*

	Imports	Exports	Balance		Imports	Exports	Balance
1946	721	447	-274	1979	10,040	14,613	4,573
1947	644	447	-197	1980	11,381	15,795	4,414
1948	592	528	-64	1981	12,570	17,346	4,776
1949	641	598	-43	1982	13,999	18,260	4,261
1950	699	695	-4	1983	15,003	20,409	5,406
1951	828	860	32	1984	16,796	22,897	6,101
1952	810	933	123	1985	17,228	25,727	8,499
1953	825	948	123	1986	18,527	26,709	8,182
1954	883	998	115	1987	20,568	29,731	9,163
1955	997	1,039	42	1988	22,805	30,311	7,506
1956	1,121	1,147	26	1989	25,826	33,369	7,543
1957	1,129	1,250	121	1990	27,827	36,706	8,879
1958	1,099	1,218	119	1991	28,662	37,768	9,106
1959	1,131	1,249	118	1992	31,565	41,271	9,706
1960	1,294	1,333	39	1993	35,782	47,868	12,086
1961	1,348	1,399	51	1994	40,312	52,944	12,632
1962	1,385	1,435	50	1995	42,856	59,051	16,195
1963	1,453	1,457	4	1996	47,685	64,934	17,249
1964	1,585	1,551	-34	1997	49,582	67,630	18,048
1965	1,679	1,613	-66	1998	54,655	70,849	16,194
1966	1,756	1,800	44	1999	61,461	76,864	15,403
1967	1,884	2,041	157	2000	67,435	82,386	14,951
1968	2,084	2,425	341	2001	71,411	89,208	17,797
1969	2,299	2,691	392	2002	75,799	94,053	18,254
1970	2,768	3,223	455	2003	82,878	105,434	22,556
1971	3,110	3,727	617	2004	87,607	115,415	27,808
1972	3,335	4,057	722	2005	95,570	128,818	33,248
1973	4,176	5,083	907	2006	103,043	144,462	41,419
1974	5,220	6,512	1,292	2007	106,733	159,591	52,858
1975	5,960	7,668	1,708	2008	116,385	177,413	61,028
1976	7,169	10,041	2,872	2009	113,787	176,026	62,239
1977	7,977	11,681	3,704	2010	115,170	182,177	67,007
1978	8,400	12,615	4,215	2011	117,279	193,659	76,380

Source: ONS database series KTMQ, KTMR AND KTMS

Table 3

**UK Trade in Goods and Services, 1946 - 2011***£millions*

	Imports	Exports	Balance	As % of total imports		As % of total exports	
				Goods	Services	Goods	Services
1946	1,800	1,425	-375	60%	40%	69%	31%
1947	2,202	1,647	-555	71%	29%	73%	27%
1948	2,407	2,191	-216	75%	25%	76%	24%
1949	2,669	2,489	-180	76%	24%	76%	24%
1950	3,046	2,988	-58	77%	23%	77%	23%
1951	4,299	3,639	-660	81%	19%	76%	24%
1952	3,899	3,750	-149	79%	21%	75%	25%
1953	3,798	3,677	-121	78%	22%	74%	26%
1954	3,922	3,827	-95	77%	23%	74%	26%
1955	4,439	4,166	-273	78%	22%	75%	25%
1956	4,510	4,586	76	75%	25%	75%	25%
1957	4,731	4,823	92	76%	24%	74%	26%
1958	4,535	4,688	153	76%	24%	74%	26%
1959	4,834	4,836	2	77%	23%	74%	26%
1960	5,499	5,134	-365	76%	24%	74%	26%
1961	5,459	5,366	-93	75%	25%	74%	26%
1962	5,554	5,500	-54	75%	25%	74%	26%
1963	5,971	5,852	-119	76%	24%	75%	25%
1964	6,768	6,183	-585	77%	23%	75%	25%
1965	6,925	6,596	-329	76%	24%	76%	24%
1966	7,215	7,148	-67	76%	24%	75%	25%
1967	7,814	7,370	-444	76%	24%	72%	28%
1968	9,329	8,962	-367	78%	22%	73%	27%
1969	9,886	10,064	178	77%	23%	73%	27%
1970	11,052	11,489	437	75%	25%	72%	28%
1971	12,095	12,917	822	74%	26%	71%	29%
1972	13,658	13,644	-14	76%	24%	70%	30%
1973	18,840	17,174	-1,666	78%	22%	70%	30%
1974	27,007	23,058	-3,949	81%	19%	72%	28%
1975	28,656	27,119	-1,537	79%	21%	72%	28%
1976	36,503	35,445	-1,058	80%	20%	72%	28%
1977	42,289	43,722	1,433	81%	19%	73%	27%
1978	45,265	47,946	2,681	81%	19%	74%	26%

Table 3 cont.

**UK Trade in Goods and Services, 1946 - 2011***£millions*

	Imports	Exports	Balance	As % of total imports		As % of total exports	
				Goods	Services	Goods	Services
1979	54,215	55,462	1,247	81%	19%	74%	26%
1980	57,545	63,288	5,743	80%	20%	75%	25%
1981	60,366	68,380	8,014	79%	21%	75%	25%
1982	67,777	73,917	6,140	79%	21%	75%	25%
1983	77,605	81,393	3,788	81%	19%	75%	25%
1984	92,770	93,462	692	82%	18%	76%	24%
1985	98,935	104,018	5,083	83%	17%	75%	25%
1986	101,141	99,706	-1,435	82%	18%	73%	27%
1987	111,797	109,262	-2,535	82%	18%	73%	27%
1988	125,069	111,022	-14,047	82%	18%	73%	27%
1989	143,161	125,980	-17,181	82%	18%	74%	26%
1990	148,847	139,019	-9,828	81%	19%	74%	26%
1991	142,824	141,707	-1,117	80%	20%	73%	27%
1992	152,478	149,134	-3,344	79%	21%	72%	28%
1993	171,077	170,097	-980	79%	21%	72%	28%
1994	186,581	188,087	1,506	78%	22%	72%	28%
1995	208,456	212,628	4,172	79%	21%	72%	28%
1996	228,603	232,130	3,527	79%	21%	72%	28%
1997	233,717	239,596	5,879	79%	21%	72%	28%
1998	240,312	234,874	-5,438	77%	23%	70%	30%
1999	256,459	242,973	-13,486	76%	24%	68%	32%
2000	288,236	270,284	-17,952	77%	23%	70%	30%
2001	301,454	278,275	-23,179	76%	24%	68%	32%
2002	309,733	280,627	-29,106	76%	24%	66%	34%
2003	319,498	293,721	-25,777	74%	26%	64%	36%
2004	339,270	306,278	-32,992	74%	26%	62%	38%
2005	375,862	340,424	-35,438	75%	25%	62%	38%
2006	423,191	388,207	-34,984	76%	24%	63%	37%
2007	417,736	380,116	-37,620	74%	26%	58%	42%
2008	462,624	429,570	-33,054	75%	25%	59%	41%
2009	424,763	404,161	-20,602	73%	27%	56%	44%
2010	479,387	447,885	-31,502	76%	24%	59%	41%
2011	516,609	492,646	-23,963	77%	23%	61%	39%

Source: ONS database series KTMW, KTMX AND KTMV

Table 4a

**UK top ten goods imports**

£ million

	2000		2011	
		As % of all UK goods imports		As % of all UK goods imports
87032319:MOTOR CARS AND OTHER MOTOR VEHICLES PRINCIPALLY DESIGNED FOR THE TRANSPORT OF PERSONS (OTHER THAN THOSE OF HEADING NR. 87.02), INCLUDING STATION WAGONS AND RACING CARS, WITH SPARK-IGNITION INTERNAL COMBUSTION R	8,995	4.1%	27090090:Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude:Other petroleum oils - crude	27,846 7.1%
84733010:ELECTRONIC ASSEMBLIES FOR AUTOMATIC DATA-PROCESSING MACHINES OR FOR OTHER MACHINES OF HEADING 8471, N.E.S.	5,335	2.4%	87033219:Motor vehicles for the transport of persons, nes:New ass & unass diesel mv with engines exd 1500cc but ne 2500cc inc estate cars & station wagons	10,220 2.6%
27090090:PETROLEUM OILS AND OILS OBTAINED FROM BITUMINOUS MINERALS, CRUDE (EXCL. NATURAL GAS CONDENSATES)	5,032	2.3%	30049000:Medicaments, in measured doses or packages for retail sale:Medicaments cst of mixed/unmixed pdts for therapeutic/proph lactic pps.measured in forms for retail sale	8,383 2.1%
71023100:NON-INDUSTRIAL DIAMONDS UNWORKED OR SIMPLY SAWN, CLEAVED OR BRUTED (EXCL. INDUSTRIAL DIAMONDS)	4,163	1.9%	85171200:Telephone sets, including telephones for cellularnetworks or for other wireless networks:Telephones for cellular networks 'mobile telephones' or for other wireless networks	5,675 1.4%
87089998:PARTS AND ACCESSORIES OF MOTOR VEHICLES OF 8701.10-10 TO 8705.90-90, (EXCL. 8708.10-10 TO 8708.99-92)	3,344	1.5%	27101941:Oils frm bituminous mins o/t crude; & preps nes, containing by wgt nlt 70% of these oils, o/t waste oils:Gas oils with a sulphur content not exceeding 0.05% by weight	5,492 1.4%
85252091:TRANSMISSION APPARATUS, INCORPORATING RECEPTION APPARATUS, FOR CELLULAR NETWORKS 'MOBILE TELEPHONES' (EXCL. THAT FOR RADIO-TELEPHONY AND RADIO-TELEGRAPHY FOR CIVIL AIRCRAFT OF SUBHEADING NO 8525.20-10)	2,351	1.1%	27111100:Natural gas, liquefied:Natural gas - liquefied	5,060 1.3%
84733090:PARTS AND ACCESSORIES FOR AUTOMATIC DATA-PROCESSING MACHINES OR FOR OTHER MACHINES OF HEADING 8471, N.E.S. (EXCL. ELECTRONIC ASSEMBLIES)	1,970	0.9%	27101921:Oils frm bituminous mins o/t crude; & preps nes, containing by wgt nlt 70% of these oils, o/t waste oils:Kerosene jet fuel	4,227 1.1%
84717053:HARD DISK STORAGE DRIVES FOR DIGITAL AUTOMATIC DATA-PROCESSING MACHINES, NEITHER OPTICAL NOR MAGNETO-OPTICAL (EXCL. FOR USE IN CIVIL AIRCRAFT OF SUBHEADING NO 8471.70-10 AND CENTRAL STORAGE UNITS)	1,954	0.9%	27112100:Natural gas, in the gaseous state:Natural gas in a gaseous state	3,992 1.0%
84715090:Processing units for automatic data-processing machines, digital, whether or not containing in the same housing one or two of the following types of unit: storage units, input units, output units (excl. for use	1,927	0.9%	84119100:Parts for turbo-jets or turbo-propellers:Other engines & motors ; parts ;other;of reaction engines orof turbo-propellers	3,974 1.0%
87032210:Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons, incl. station wagons and racing cars, with spark-ignition internal combustion reciprocating piston engine, of a cylinder ca	1,667	0.8%	87032319:Motor vehicles for the transport of persons, nes:New mv ass & unass o/t m/caravans, with si/ic eng exd 1500ccbut ne 3000cc inc station wagons & estate cars	3,747 1.0%
Total	221,665		Total	393,047

Source: uktradeinfo.com

Table 4b

**UK top ten goods exports**

£ million

	2000		2011	
		as % of all UK goods exports		as % of all UK goods exports
27090090:PETROLEUM OILS AND OILS OBTAINED FROM BITUMINOUS MINERALS, CRUDE (EXCL. NATURAL GAS CONDENSATES)	10,525	5.6%	27090090:Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude:Other petroleum oils - crude	16,946 5.8%
85252091:TRANSMISSION APPARATUS, INCORPORATING RECEPTION APPARATUS, FOR CELLULAR NETWORKS 'MOBILE TELEPHONES' (EXCL. THAT FOR RADIO-TELEPHONY AND RADIO-TELEGRAPHY FOR CIVIL AIRCRAFT OF SUBHEADING NO 8525.20-10)	3,816	2.0%	30049000:Medicaments, in measured doses or packages for retail sale:Medicaments cst of mixed/unmixed pdts for therapeutic/proph lactic pps.measured in forms for retail sale	11,503 3.9%
71023100:NON-INDUSTRIAL DIAMONDS UNWORKED OR SIMPLY SAWN, CLEAVED OR BRUTED (EXCL. INDUSTRIAL DIAMONDS)	3,552	1.9%	87032319:Motor vehicles for the transport of persons, nes:New mv ass & unass o/t m/caravans, with si/ic eng exd 1500ccbut ne 3000cc inc station wagons & estate cars	5,865 2.0%
87032319:MOTOR CARS AND OTHER MOTOR VEHICLES PRINCIPALLY DESIGNED FOR THE TRANSPORT OF PERSONS (OTHER THAN THOSE OF HEADING NR. 87.02), INCLUDING STATION WAGONS AND RACING CARS, WITH SPARK-IGNITION INTERNAL COMBUSTION R	3,472	1.9%	87032410:Motor vehicles for the transport of persons, nes:New mv ass & unass with si/ic eng exd 3000cc inc station wagons & estate cars	5,616 1.9%
30049019:MEDICAMENTS CONSISTING OF MIXED OR UNMIXED PRODUCTS FOR THERAPEUTIC OR PROPHYLACTIC PURPOSES, PUT UP FOR RETAIL SALE (EXCL. ANTIBIOTICS CONTAINING HORMONES OR STEROIDS USED AS HORMONES, BUT NOT CONTAINING ANTIB	3,460	1.8%	84119100:Parts for turbo-jets or turbo-propellers:Other engines & motors ; parts :other;of reaction engines orof turbo-propellers	5,440 1.8%
84733010:ELECTRONIC ASSEMBLIES FOR AUTOMATIC DATA-PROCESSING MACHINES OR FOR OTHER MACHINES OF HEADING 8471, N.E.S.	2,647	1.4%	71023100:Diamonds, sorted (other than industrial diamonds),unworked or simply sawn, cleaved or bruted:Non-industrial diamonds unworked or simply sawn,cleaved or bruted	4,337 1.5%
84715090:Processing units for automatic data-processing machines, digital, whether or not containing in the same housing one or two of the following types of unit: storage units, input units, output units (excl. for use	2,538	1.4%	27101141:Oils frm bituminous mins o/t crude; & preps nes, containing by wgt nlt 70% of these oils, o/t waste oils:Motor sp o/t aviation sp with a lead content n/e 0.013g per ltr and with an octane no (ron) of l/t 95	3,922 1.3%
87032410:MOTOR CARS AND OTHER MOTOR VEHICLES PRINCIPALLY DESIGNED FOR THE TRANSPORT OF PERSONS, INCLUDING STATION WAGONS AND RACING CARS, WITH SPARK-IGNITION INTERNAL COMBUSTION RECIPROCATING PISTON ENGINE OF A CYLINDER	2,499	1.3%	84111280:Turbo-jets:Turbo-jets of a thrust exceeding 132kn	3,691 1.3%
87089998:PARTS AND ACCESSORIES OF MOTOR VEHICLES OF 8701.10-10 TO 8705.90-90, (EXCL. 8708.10-10 TO 8708.99-92)	2,314	1.2%	87033219:Motor vehicles for the transport of persons, nes:New ass & unass diesel mv with engines exd 1500cc but ne 2500cc inc estate cars & station wagons	3,262 1.1%
84111219:TURBO-JETS OF A THRUST > 132 KN, FOR CIVIL AIRCRAFT	1,942	1.0%	22083071:Whiskies:Scotch whisky, in ctrs holding <=2l. (o/t single malt,blendedmalt,single grain & blended grain whisky)	3,224 1.1%
Total	187,157		Total	294,501

Source: uktradeinfo.com



Table 9

**UK, main goods trading partners, Imports, 1960**

	\$million	% World exports
1 United States	1,605	13%
2 Canada	1,060	8%
3 Australia	556	4%
4 New Zealand	521	4%
5 Germany	516	4%
6 Netherlands	509	4%
7 Sweden	460	4%
8 Kuwait	449	4%
9 India	420	3%
10 Denmark	408	3%
World	12,559	

**UK, main goods trading partners, Imports, 1970**

	\$million	% World exports
1 United States	2,818	13%
2 Canada	1,639	8%
3 Germany	1,317	6%
4 Netherlands	1,102	5%
5 Sweden	891	4%
6 France	884	4%
7 Ireland	819	4%
8 South Africa	682	3%
9 Denmark	660	3%
10 Australia	624	3%
World	21,727	

**UK, main goods trading partners, Imports, 1980**

	\$million	% World exports
1 Germany	11,797	11%
2 United States	10,593	10%
3 Netherlands	8,937	8%
4 France	8,342	8%
5 Ireland	6,182	6%
6 Belgium-Luxembourg	6,098	6%
7 Italy	4,414	4%
8 Sweden	3,773	3%
9 Switzerland	2,906	3%
10 Germany	2,799	3%
World	110,078	

**UK, main goods trading partners, Imports, 1990**

	\$million	% World exports
1 Germany	35,571	16%
2 United States	25,036	11%
3 France	20,771	9%
4 Netherlands	18,700	8%
5 Japan	12,064	5%
6 Italy	11,863	5%
7 Belgium-Luxembourg	10,204	5%
8 Ireland	8,129	4%
9 Switzerland	7,501	3%
10 Norway	7,166	3%
World	223,055	

**UK, main goods trading partners, Imports, 2000**

	\$million	% World exports
1 United States	44,997	13%
2 Germany	42,230	13%
3 France	26,929	8%
4 Netherlands	22,970	7%
5 Japan	15,907	5%
6 Belgium	15,246	5%
7 Italy	14,671	4%
8 Ireland	14,453	4%
9 Hong Kong	9,259	3%
10 Spain	9,134	3%
World	334,974	

**UK, main goods trading partners, Imports, 2011**

	\$million	% World exports
1 Germany	80,362	13%
2 China	52,329	8%
3 Netherlands	45,378	7%
4 United States	44,741	7%
5 France	36,410	6%
6 Belgium	30,427	5%
7 Norway	30,184	5%
8 Italy	22,471	4%
9 Ireland	20,823	3%
10 Canada	18,258	3%
World	640,157	

Source: IMF, *Direction of Trade Statistics*, via ESDS

**Table 10a: Trade in goods**

Exports, \$million

	Norway			Switzerland			Turkey			United Kingdom		
	EU 26 Exports	World Exports	EU 26 as % World	EU 26 Exports	World Exports	EU 26 as % World	EU 26 Exports	World Exports	EU 26 as % World	EU 26 Exports	World Exports	EU 26 as % World
1980	7,943	18,561	43%	16,717	29,648	56%	1,491	2,914	51%	58,734	110,089	53%
1981	7,778	18,218	43%	14,561	27,043	54%	1,646	4,696	35%	51,051	102,279	50%
1982	8,377	17,539	48%	13,964	26,017	54%	1,876	5,747	33%	48,513	96,996	50%
1983	8,788	17,978	49%	13,895	25,591	54%	2,073	5,732	36%	48,328	91,654	53%
1984	8,790	18,940	46%	13,751	25,852	53%	2,861	7,133	40%	50,229	93,904	53%
1985	9,069	20,032	45%	14,492	27,450	53%	3,022	7,958	38%	55,545	101,259	55%
1986	9,249	18,459	50%	20,660	37,464	55%	3,275	7,456	44%	57,413	107,100	54%
1987	11,308	21,703	52%	25,556	45,513	56%	4,791	10,238	47%	71,975	131,264	55%
1988	12,144	22,412	54%	28,194	50,646	56%	5,049	11,753	43%	80,550	146,167	55%
1989	14,571	26,952	54%	28,758	51,569	56%	5,372	11,823	45%	85,470	154,493	55%
1990	18,453	33,908	54%	36,903	63,822	58%	6,852	13,385	51%	107,925	185,154	58%
1991	18,534	33,426	55%	36,377	61,409	59%	7,205	13,723	53%	113,661	185,037	61%
1992	19,846	35,117	57%	38,923	65,567	59%	7,731	14,601	53%	115,983	190,077	61%
1993	17,249	30,798	56%	35,838	62,761	57%	7,594	15,346	49%	96,788	180,235	54%
1994	20,221	34,323	59%	40,507	70,505	57%	8,660	18,414	47%	111,985	203,976	55%
1995	24,342	41,069	59%	47,367	81,406	58%	11,274	21,650	52%	133,826	239,435	56%
1996	28,549	48,663	59%	44,896	79,434	57%	11,256	23,101	49%	142,031	258,342	55%
1997	27,680	47,669	58%	42,711	75,966	56%	11,931	26,246	45%	148,192	279,600	53%
1998	24,504	39,548	62%	46,657	78,856	59%	13,316	27,184	49%	148,180	268,197	55%
1999	26,064	44,696	58%	47,000	80,251	59%	13,592	26,587	51%	163,344	269,511	61%
2000	32,856	57,592	57%	45,091	80,546	56%	13,628	27,775	49%	167,527	282,873	59%
2001	33,912	57,640	59%	47,184	82,076	57%	15,371	31,338	49%	152,804	268,599	57%
2002	34,886	60,576	58%	52,454	91,711	57%	17,392	36,070	48%	161,417	275,832	59%
2003	38,332	68,488	56%	61,054	104,818	58%	23,728	47,266	50%	173,296	306,002	57%
2004	46,044	82,402	56%	71,084	122,834	58%	30,984	63,083	49%	188,868	341,987	55%
2005	57,836	103,785	56%	75,201	130,890	57%	35,448	73,592	48%	214,556	395,209	54%
2006	60,696	122,159	50%	83,813	147,678	57%	41,117	85,512	48%	272,997	453,636	60%
2007	74,353	136,431	54%	97,707	171,790	57%	51,780	107,373	48%	247,823	443,897	56%
2008	96,937	171,811	56%	111,894	200,089	56%	55,236	132,313	42%	256,066	473,002	54%
2009	65,782	116,778	56%	94,465	172,476	55%	41,065	102,242	40%	189,570	355,345	53%
2010	70,861	131,400	54%	103,069	195,347	53%	45,454	113,966	40%	213,214	383,823	56%
2011	85,303	158,725	54%	122,387	234,690	52%	54,202	135,052	40%	247,012	463,879	53%

Source: IMF DOTS via ESDS

**Table 10b: Trade in goods**

Imports, \$million

	Norway			Switzerland			Turkey			United Kingdom		
	EU 26	World	EU 26 as	EU 26	World	EU 26 as	EU 26	World	EU 26 as	EU 26	World	EU 26 as
	Exports	Exports	% World	Exports	Exports	% World	Exports	Exports	% World	Exports	Exports	% World
1980	9,685	16,926	57%	24,373	36,356	67%	2,763	7,668	36%	57,714	115,749	50%
1981	8,873	15,637	57%	20,988	30,688	68%	2,950	8,931	33%	52,123	102,635	51%
1982	9,022	15,466	58%	19,755	28,675	69%	2,578	8,800	29%	52,404	99,568	53%
1983	8,132	13,481	60%	19,888	29,190	68%	2,979	9,187	32%	54,095	100,034	54%
1984	8,404	13,883	61%	20,207	29,515	68%	3,507	10,671	33%	56,630	104,721	54%
1985	9,754	15,559	63%	21,580	30,698	70%	3,991	11,275	35%	60,232	108,956	55%
1986	13,202	20,280	65%	29,867	41,049	73%	4,659	11,027	42%	73,463	126,329	58%
1987	14,895	22,625	66%	37,036	50,650	73%	5,766	14,655	39%	91,284	154,393	59%
1988	14,332	22,996	62%	41,163	56,549	73%	5,954	14,695	41%	111,455	189,763	59%
1989	13,364	23,267	57%	42,055	58,208	72%	6,197	15,934	39%	116,310	199,425	58%
1990	15,729	26,748	59%	51,146	69,705	73%	9,479	23,147	41%	130,042	223,055	58%
1991	15,243	24,697	62%	47,340	66,258	71%	9,361	21,132	44%	119,600	209,939	57%
1992	15,645	25,872	60%	48,136	65,733	73%	10,130	24,375	42%	127,606	221,578	58%
1993	13,785	22,685	61%	43,849	60,702	72%	12,725	29,355	43%	105,062	205,397	51%
1994	16,156	27,041	60%	50,094	68,044	74%	10,484	23,502	45%	120,472	226,012	53%
1995	20,706	32,525	64%	60,165	80,051	75%	16,210	35,766	45%	138,596	262,511	53%
1996	21,616	33,936	64%	57,592	78,178	74%	21,046	42,466	50%	145,394	283,611	51%
1997	21,919	35,393	62%	54,269	75,653	72%	23,314	48,656	48%	150,680	302,839	50%
1998	22,311	35,638	63%	57,524	80,269	72%	22,251	45,933	48%	155,313	309,793	50%
1999	20,712	33,328	62%	58,751	79,841	74%	20,340	40,672	50%	175,957	321,085	55%
2000	19,417	31,644	61%	58,026	82,544	70%	25,779	54,503	47%	173,172	334,974	52%
2001	20,002	31,953	63%	60,683	84,078	72%	17,910	41,405	43%	159,667	322,849	49%
2002	22,204	34,156	65%	64,886	87,189	74%	23,251	51,566	45%	175,887	335,347	52%
2003	25,700	40,052	64%	76,995	100,238	77%	31,640	69,352	46%	209,182	383,642	55%
2004	31,294	48,441	65%	88,967	115,813	77%	43,760	97,343	45%	236,798	453,197	52%
2005	34,555	55,481	62%	95,862	126,523	76%	47,940	116,579	41%	264,596	519,814	51%
2006	40,321	64,299	63%	105,579	141,284	75%	54,204	139,465	39%	295,752	613,230	48%
2007	49,754	80,284	62%	121,221	160,964	75%	63,119	169,991	37%	332,329	639,701	52%
2008	55,385	90,301	61%	137,635	183,004	75%	69,479	201,964	34%	329,653	659,927	50%
2009	41,157	68,287	60%	115,665	155,552	74%	53,115	140,932	38%	251,025	518,883	48%
2010	44,385	77,270	57%	129,798	176,165	74%	67,565	185,545	36%	283,653	568,338	50%
2011	51,984	90,737	57%	155,195	208,015	75%	85,291	240,844	35%	320,761	640,157	50%

Source: IMF DOTS via ESDS