



## UK-Italy trade statistics

Standard Note: SNEP 6427

Last updated: 20 September 2012

Author: Grahame Allen

Section Economic Policy and Statistics Section

---

This short note looks at UK/Italy trade statistics.

### Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>UK trade with Italy</b>	<b>2</b>
1.1	Trade in goods and services	2
1.2	UK sector (goods) trade with Italy	3
<b>2</b>	<b>Italy's trade with the World</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1	Main trading partners	4
2.2	Trade in goods and services	4
<b>3</b>	<b>Further information:</b>	<b>5</b>

This information is provided to Members of Parliament in support of their parliamentary duties and is not intended to address the specific circumstances of any particular individual. It should not be relied upon as being up to date; the law or policies may have changed since it was last updated; and it should not be relied upon as legal or professional advice or as a substitute for it. A suitably qualified professional should be consulted if specific advice or information is required.

This information is provided subject to [our general terms and conditions](#) which are available online or may be provided on request in hard copy. Authors are available to discuss the content of this briefing with Members and their staff, but not with the general public.

# 1 UK trade with Italy

The appended table 1 shows the UK's trade in goods with Italy in value terms and as a percentage of the UK's total trade in goods from 1948.



The chart above shows that, over the whole period, Italy has become a relatively more important goods trading partner for the UK.<sup>1</sup> However, since the beginning of the 1990s (and particularly following the UK's exit from the ERM) Italy has become a relatively less important goods trading partner for the UK.

## 1.1 Trade in goods and services

From the countries which can be identified from the *Pink Book*, in 2011, Italy was the 7<sup>th</sup> most important destination for UK goods (£10 billion or 3.4% of all UK goods exports) and the 8<sup>th</sup> most important destination for UK services (£5.6 billion or 2.9% of all UK services exports).

Italy was the 8<sup>th</sup> most important source of goods for the UK (£14.1 billion or 3.5% of all UK goods imports) and the 6<sup>th</sup> most important source of services (£4.4 billion or 3.7% of all UK services imports).

The UK had a trade deficit of £4.1 billion in goods with Italy and a trade surplus of £1.2 billion in services.<sup>2</sup>

Tables 2a and 2b below show that, between 2001 and 2011, UK goods and services imports from Italy rose by just over 40% while exports to Italy rose by just under 40%:

<sup>1</sup> Source: IMF, DOTS via ESDS 20 September 2012

<sup>2</sup> ONS, *The Pink Book* 2012, 2012

Table 2a  
**UK trade with Italy**

£millions

	Exports			Imports			Balance	
	2001	2011	% change 2001 to 2011	2001	2011	% change 2001 to 2011	2001	2011
Goods	8,416	10,022	19%	9,869	14,095	43%	-1,453	-4,073
Services	2,948	5,585	89%	3,039	4,370	44%	-91	1,215
Goods and services	11,364	15,607	37%	12,908	18,465	43%	-1,544	-2,858

Table 2b  
**UK trade with Italy**

% of total UK trade

	Exports			Imports		
	2001	2011	Percentage point change 2001 to 2011	2001	2011	Percentage point change 2001 to 2011
Goods	4.5%	3.4%	-1.1%	4.3%	3.5%	-0.8%
Services	3.3%	2.9%	-0.4%	4.3%	3.7%	-0.5%
Goods and services	4.1%	3.2%	-0.9%	4.3%	3.6%	-0.7%

Source: NS, *The Pink Book 2012*, 2012

Over the period, Italy has become a relatively less important trading partner for the UK:

- UK exports of goods and services to Italy in 2011 accounted for 0.9 of a percentage point less of total UK exports of goods and services than in 2001;
- UK imports of goods and services from Italy in 2011 accounted for 0.7 of a percentage point less of total UK imports of goods and services than in 2001

## 1.2 UK sector (goods) trade with Italy

Estimates of the UK's trade in goods by sector are available from HMRC's [uktradeinfo.com](http://uktradeinfo.com) from 1999. Not all data is identifiable as some data is suppressed:<sup>3</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.

Data is available at an 8-digit commodity code level but it is not yet possible to download the entire 8-digit data set from [uktradeinfo.com](http://uktradeinfo.com) - only for a single country at a 4-digit level.

The appended tables 3a and 3b show the largest trade sectors (4-digit level) by value, of goods between Italy and the UK in 2011. The largest sector of UK goods exports, by value, to Italy in 2011 was "motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons" (£1.3 billion or 13% of all UK exports of goods to Italy in 2011). The largest sector of imports by value from Italy was "medicaments" (£605 million or 4% of all UK goods imports from Italy).<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> [uktradeinfo.com](http://uktradeinfo.com)

<sup>4</sup> [uktradeinfo.com](http://uktradeinfo.com)

## 2 Italy's trade with the World

### 2.1 Main trading partners

Table 4a below shows that in 2001, Italy's main trading partner for imports and exports of goods was Germany (accounting for 15% of Italy's total exports and 18% of Italy's total imports):

Table 4a

#### Italy, main goods trading partners, Exports, 2001

*\$million at current prices*

		As % total exports
1 Germany	35,093	15%
2 France	29,524	12%
3 United States	23,467	10%
<b>4 United Kingdom</b>	<b>16,163</b>	<b>7%</b>
5 Spain	14,895	6%
6 Switzerland	8,860	4%
7 Belgium	7,313	3%
8 Netherlands	6,388	3%
9 Austria	5,183	2%
10 Greece	4,689	2%
World	240,828	

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

#### Italy, main goods trading partners, Imports, 2001

*\$million at current prices*

		As % total imports
1 Germany	41,313	18%
2 France	25,954	11%
3 Netherlands	14,355	6%
<b>4 United Kingdom</b>	<b>11,823</b>	<b>5%</b>
5 United States	11,465	5%
6 Belgium	10,146	4%
7 Spain	9,763	4%
8 Switzerland	8,648	4%
9 Russian Federation	7,646	3%
10 China, P.R.: Mainland	6,699	3%
World	232,743	

The UK was the 4<sup>th</sup> most important destination for Italy's exports and the 4<sup>th</sup> most important source of imports.

Between 2001 and 2011 the UK has become a relatively less important source, and less important market, for Italian goods:

Table 4b

#### Italy, main goods trading partners, Exports, 2011

*\$million at current prices*

		As % total exports
1 Germany	68,736	13%
2 France	60,842	12%
3 United States	30,398	6%
4 Spain	27,689	5%
5 Switzerland	27,676	5%
<b>6 United Kingdom</b>	<b>24,381</b>	<b>5%</b>
7 China	13,768	3%
8 Belgium	13,568	3%
9 Poland	13,105	3%
10 Turkey	12,944	3%
World	515,414	

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

#### Italy, main goods trading partners, Imports, 2011

*\$million at current prices*

		As % total imports
1 Germany	86,861	17%
2 France	46,475	9%
3 China	40,592	8%
4 Netherlands	29,031	6%
5 Spain	24,862	5%
6 Belgium	20,345	4%
7 United States	16,116	3%
<b>8 United Kingdom</b>	<b>14,992</b>	<b>3%</b>
9 Switzerland	13,926	3%
10 Russia	13,406	3%
World	525,013	

Table 4b shows that in 2011, Italy's main trading partner for imports and exports of goods remained Germany (accounting for 13% of Italy's total exports and 17% of Italy's total imports). The UK was now the 6<sup>th</sup> most important destination for Italy's exports and the 8<sup>th</sup> most important source of imports.

The table also shows that while the value of UK imports into Italy increased by almost 80% between 2001 and 2011, Italy's total imports of goods increased by just over 40%.

### 2.2 Trade in goods and services

Tables 5a and 5b below show that "manufactures" were Italy's main goods imports in 2011, particularly "machinery and transport equipment" accounting for 62% and 25% of all Italy's

goods imports respectively. Manufactures were also Italy's main goods exports in 2011 accounting for 82% and 35% of its goods exports respectively:

Table 5a

**Italy, goods imports 2011**

*\$million at current prices*

Agricultural products	65,261
Food	51,737
Fuels and mining products	139,616
Fuels	110,526
Manufactures	343,520
Iron and steel	24,076
Chemicals	78,204
Pharmaceuticals	25,091
Machinery and transport equipment	139,631
Office and telecom equipment	33,632
Electronic data processing and office equipment	9,260
Telecommunications equipment	12,047
Integrated circuits and electronic components	12,325
Automotive products	43,474
Textiles	9,950
Clothing	18,575
<b>Total</b>	<b>557,468</b>

Source: WTO statistics database

Table 5b

**Italy, goods exports 2011**

*\$million at current prices*

Agricultural products	44,006
Food	40,053
Fuels and mining products	38,594
Fuels	26,746
Manufactures	425,231
Iron and steel	25,062
Chemicals	59,513
Pharmaceuticals	20,426
Machinery and transport equipment	184,590
Office and telecom equipment	10,908
Electronic data processing and office equipment	3,368
Telecommunications equipment	4,849
Integrated circuits and electronic components	2,691
Automotive products	34,559
Textiles	14,702
Clothing	23,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>523,183</b>

Source: WTO statistics database

Tables 6a and 6b below show Italy's services imports and exports for 2011:

Table 6a

**Italy, commercial services imports 2011**

*\$million at current prices*

Commercial services (Services excl. government services)	113,987
Transportation	26,742
Travel	28,790
Other commercial services (Commercial services - Travel & Transport)	58,456
Communications services	6,508
Telecommunication services	6,435
Construction	75
Insurance services	3,722
Financial services	5,349
Computer and information services	4,641
Computer services	4,531
Royalties and license fees	7,596
Other business services	29,985
Personal, cultural and recreational services	579
Government services, not included elsewhere	1,990
<b>Services</b>	<b>115,977</b>

Source: WTO statistics database

Table 6b

**Italy, commercial services exports 2011**

*\$million at current prices*

Commercial services (Services excl. government services)	105,184
Transportation	15,202
Travel	42,925
Other commercial services (Commercial services - Travel & Transport)	47,057
Communications services	6,839
Telecommunication services	6,599
Construction	231
Insurance services	2,520
Financial services	2,593
Computer and information services	2,377
Computer services	2,343
Royalties and license fees	3,637
Other business services	28,556
Personal, cultural and recreational services	303
Government services, not included elsewhere	1,430
<b>Services</b>	<b>106,614</b>

Source: WTO statistics database

### 3 Further information:

Italy has a common external trade policy with the other Member States of the European Union. A "Trade Policy Review" on the European Union was carried out by the WTO in July 2011. The full report is available for downloading on the WTO website: [www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/tpr\\_e/s248\\_e.zip](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/s248_e.zip)

The European Union's response is also available at: [www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/tpr\\_e/g248\\_e.doc](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/g248_e.doc)

More information on trade with Greece is available on UKTI's website: [www.ukti.gov.uk/export/countries/europe/southerneurope/italy.html](http://www.ukti.gov.uk/export/countries/europe/southerneurope/italy.html)

The BIS Trade policy pages: [www.bis.gov.uk/policies/trade-policy-unit](http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/trade-policy-unit)

ICE-Italian Trade Promotion Agency English website: [www.italtrade.com/index.htm](http://www.italtrade.com/index.htm)

EU DG Trade: <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/>

Table 1

**UK trade in goods with Italy***Smillion*

	Imports	Exports	Balance	As % of UK total		Imports	Exports	Balance	As % of UK total		
				Imports	Exports				Imports	Exports	
1948	122	62	-60	1.5%	1.0%	1980	5,357	4,414	-943	4.6%	4.0%
1949	138	76	-63	1.7%	1.2%	1981	4,680	3,520	-1,159	4.6%	3.4%
1950	143	89	-54	2.0%	1.5%	1982	4,840	3,546	-1,294	4.9%	3.7%
1951	233	101	-132	2.2%	1.4%	1983	4,834	3,475	-1,359	4.8%	3.8%
1952	127	153	26	1.4%	2.1%	1984	5,078	3,815	-1,263	4.8%	4.1%
1953	120	185	65	1.3%	2.6%	1985	5,570	4,469	-1,101	5.1%	4.4%
1954	147	177	31	1.6%	2.4%	1986	6,839	5,069	-1,770	5.4%	4.7%
1955	155	175	20	1.5%	2.2%	1987	8,576	6,802	-1,774	5.6%	5.2%
1956	161	180	19	1.6%	2.1%	1988	10,348	7,305	-3,043	5.5%	5.0%
1957	176	213	38	1.6%	2.3%	1989	10,975	7,578	-3,396	5.5%	4.9%
1958	216	198	-18	2.1%	2.2%	1990	11,863	10,035	-1,828	5.3%	5.4%
1959	262	216	-46	2.4%	2.2%	1991	11,260	10,896	-364	5.4%	5.9%
1960	279	261	-17	2.2%	2.5%	1992	11,928	10,783	-1,145	5.4%	5.7%
1961	289	344	55	2.4%	3.2%	1993	9,064	8,291	-772	4.4%	4.6%
1962	318	415	97	2.5%	3.7%	1994	10,136	9,649	-487	4.5%	4.7%
1963	310	491	181	2.3%	4.1%	1995	11,628	11,403	-225	4.4%	4.8%
1964	371	392	21	2.4%	3.1%	1996	13,197	11,466	-1,731	4.7%	4.4%
1965	406	345	-61	2.5%	2.6%	1997	13,897	12,230	-1,667	4.6%	4.4%
1966	465	414	-51	2.8%	2.8%	1998	14,098	13,008	-1,090	4.6%	4.9%
1967	539	436	-103	3.0%	3.0%	1999	15,752	12,829	-2,923	4.9%	4.8%
1968	567	426	-141	3.0%	2.8%	2000	14,671	12,758	-1,913	4.4%	4.5%
1969	535	503	-32	2.7%	2.9%	2001	13,008	11,364	-1,644	4.0%	4.2%
1970	598	575	-23	2.8%	3.0%	2002	14,783	12,062	-2,720	4.4%	4.4%
1971	690	607	-83	2.8%	2.7%	2003	17,927	13,352	-4,575	4.7%	4.4%
1972	884	709	-175	3.1%	2.9%	2004	19,411	14,207	-5,204	4.3%	4.2%
1973	1,237	947	-290	3.1%	3.1%	2005	21,384	15,503	-5,881	4.1%	3.9%
1974	1,693	1,195	-498	3.1%	3.0%	2006	22,897	17,020	-5,877	3.7%	3.8%
1975	1,791	1,248	-543	3.3%	2.8%	2007	26,088	17,778	-8,310	4.1%	4.0%
1976	1,992	1,493	-499	3.6%	3.3%	2008	25,817	17,016	-8,801	3.9%	3.6%
1977	2,680	1,714	-966	4.2%	3.1%	2009	19,040	12,648	-6,392	3.7%	3.6%
1978	3,721	2,154	-1,567	4.9%	3.2%	2010	21,321	13,237	-8,083	3.8%	3.4%
1979	5,259	3,104	-2,155	5.3%	3.6%	2011	22,471	15,570	-6,902	3.5%	3.4%

Sources: IMF, *DOTS* via *ESDS*

Table 3a

**Trade in goods with Italy, Imports 2011***Ten largest sectors*

	£	as % of all UK goods imports from Italy
3004 - Medicaments consisting of mixed or unmixed products for therapeutic or prophylactic uses, put up in measured doses "incl. those in the form of transdermal administration" or in forms or packings for retail sale	604,596,031	4.3%
8708 - Parts and accessories for tractors, motor vehicles for the transport of ten or more persons, motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons, motor vehicles for the transport of goods etc	557,102,692	3.9%
8703 - Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons, incl. station wagons and racing cars (excl. motor vehicles of heading 8702)	475,984,151	3.4%
2204 - Wine of fresh grapes, incl. fortified wines; grape must, partly fermented and of an actual alcoholic strength of > 0,5% vol or grape must with added alcohol of an actual alcoholic strength of > 0,5% vol	448,168,130	3.2%
9403 - Furniture and parts thereof, n.e.s. (excl. seats and medical, surgical, dental or veterinary furniture)	326,034,950	2.3%
6403 - Footwear with outer soles of rubber, plastics, leather or composition leather and uppers of leather (excl. orthopaedic footwear, skating boots with ice or roller skates attached, and toy footwear)	251,636,482	1.8%
8481 - Taps, cocks, valves and similar appliances for pipes, boiler shells, tanks, vats or the like, incl. pressure-reducing valves and thermostatically controlled valves; parts thereof	238,706,383	1.7%
1902 - Pasta, whether or not cooked or stuffed with meat or other substances or otherwise prepared, such as spaghetti, macaroni, noodles, lasagne, gnocchi, ravioli, cannelloni; couscous, whether or not prepared	217,438,140	1.5%
2002 - Tomatoes, prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid	167,184,342	1.2%
4202 - Trunks, suitcases, vanity cases, executive-cases, briefcases, school satchels, spectacle cases, binocular cases, camera cases, musical instrument cases, gun cases, holsters and similar containers; travelling-bags, etc	159,987,386	1.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,206,138,498</b>	

Source: uktradeinfo.com

Table 3b

**Trade in goods with Italy, Exports 2011***Ten largest sectors*

	£	as % of all UK goods exports to Italy
8703 - Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons, incl. station wagons and racing cars (excl. motor vehicles of heading 8702)	1,298,798,367	13.1%
3004 - Medicaments consisting of mixed or unmixed products for therapeutic or prophylactic uses, put up in measured doses "incl. those in the form of transdermal administration" or in forms or packings for retail sale etc	696,743,026	7.0%
2709 - Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude	559,552,348	5.6%
8408 - Compression-ignition internal combustion piston engine "diesel or semi-diesel engine"	296,234,236	3.0%
3002 - Human blood; animal blood prepared for therapeutic, prophylactic or diagnostic uses; antisera and other blood fractions and modified immunological products, whether or not obtained by means of biotechnological processes etc	241,396,860	2.4%
8541 - Diodes, transistors and similar semiconductor devices; photosensitive semiconductor devices, incl. photovoltaic cells whether or not assembled in modules or made up into panels (excl. photovoltaic generators); etc	127,062,225	1.3%
8517 - Telephone sets, incl. telephones for cellular networks or for other wireless networks; other apparatus for the transmission or reception of voice, images or other data, etc	119,170,177	1.2%
8541 - Diodes, transistors and similar semiconductor devices; photosensitive semiconductor devices, incl. photovoltaic cells whether or not assembled in modules or made up into panels (excl. photovoltaic generators); etc	127,062,225	1.3%
8517 - Telephone sets, incl. telephones for cellular networks or for other wireless networks; other apparatus for the transmission or reception of voice, images or other data, etc	119,170,177	1.2%
8708 - Parts and accessories for tractors, motor vehicles for the transport of ten or more persons, motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons, motor vehicles for the transport of goods etc	114,267,699	1.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,926,263,445</b>	

Source: uktradeinfo.com