



## UK - Commonwealth trade statistics

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This short note looks at UK - Commonwealth trade statistics. It has been prepared for a Westminster Hall Private Members' Debate on Commonwealth Trade on Wednesday 12 December 2012.

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# 1 UK trade with Commonwealth

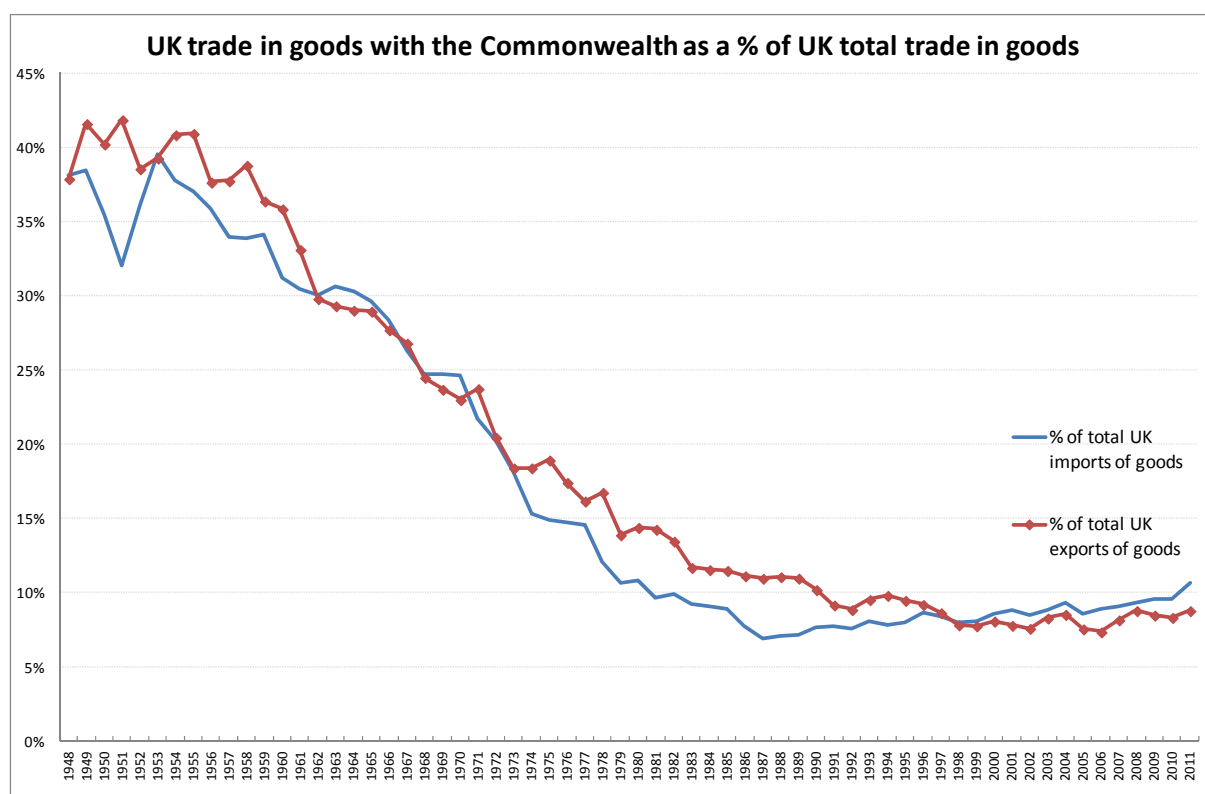
## 1.1 Introduction

Comparative time series data on the trade in goods and services between the UK and the Commonwealth are not available at an aggregate level. The size and membership of the Commonwealth has changed over time and the UK's trade with some Commonwealth countries can be small so data can be suppressed to 'protect' sensitive business. This note provides a summary of the information on the UK's trade in goods with the Commonwealth countries that is available and provides estimates of the trade in goods and services.

A list of the current (54) Commonwealth countries is given in Appendix 1 to this note.<sup>1</sup>

## 2 Trade in goods

Table 1 in Appendix 2 shows the UK's trade in goods with Commonwealth in value terms and as a percentage of the UK's total trade in goods since 1948.



The chart above shows the UK's trade in goods with the Commonwealth as a percentage of the UK's total trade in goods from 1948.<sup>2</sup> Over the period, the Commonwealth has become a relatively less important goods trading partner for the UK. Up until the UK joined the EEC (EU) in 1973, the UK usually had an annual trade in goods deficit with the Commonwealth. Following joining the EU, the UK began to have a trade in goods surplus with the Commonwealth as the proportion of goods imports accounted for by the Commonwealth fell at a faster rate than the proportion of goods exports to the Commonwealth. However, since 1987, the proportion of goods imports accounted for by the Commonwealth has been rising and since 1996 the UK has, once again, had an annual trade in goods deficit with the Commonwealth.

<sup>1</sup> Includes Fiji which was suspended from membership of the Commonwealth on 1 September 2009

<sup>2</sup> Source: IMF, DOTS via ESDS 19 October 2012

The appended tables 1a and 1b show the value of goods imports and exports respectively from 1988. Tables 1c and 1d below show the UK's main trading partners within the Commonwealth:

Table 1c

**UK trade in goods with the Commonwealth, Imports**

*% of estimated total trade with the Commonwealth*

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Canada	19%	19%	18%	18%	17%	18%	21%	21%	20%	23%	27%
India	10%	10%	10%	10%	11%	10%	13%	13%	13%	13%	12%
South Africa	15%	15%	14%	14%	15%	16%	17%	21%	23%	17%	12%
Australia	9%	9%	9%	8%	9%	11%	11%	13%	11%	12%	11%
Malaysia	10%	9%	9%	9%	7%	7%	6%	5%	5%	9%	7%
Singapore	11%	11%	13%	15%	15%	12%	12%	9%	8%	7%	6%
Botswana	5%	5%	5%	5%	6%	4%	2%	1%	1%	2%	6%
Nigeria	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	5%
Bangladesh	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
New Zealand	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Pakistan	2%	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%

Table 1d

**UK trade in goods with the Commonwealth, Exports**

*% of estimated total trade with the Commonwealth*

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
India	12%	13%	15%	14%	17%	14%	15%	17%	14%	17%	19%
Canada	22%	22%	21%	21%	17%	19%	16%	14%	18%	19%	17%
South Africa	11%	12%	11%	12%	12%	12%	11%	13%	11%	12%	13%
Australia	16%	15%	15%	15%	16%	15%	18%	18%	15%	13%	13%
Singapore	11%	10%	10%	11%	12%	12%	13%	12%	14%	13%	12%
Nigeria	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	6%	6%	6%	6%	5%
Malaysia	7%	6%	7%	6%	5%	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%
Cyprus	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	6%	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%
Malta	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
New Zealand	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Pakistan	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Ghana	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%

Source: Based on IMF, *DOTS* via ESDS

The tables show that India, Canada, South Africa and Australia are the four main Commonwealth trading partners for the UK, in terms of the trade in goods, between them accounting for 62% and 63% of the UK's imports and exports of goods respectively from the Commonwealth in 2011.

## 2.1 UK sector (goods) trade with the Commonwealth

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 for us to download the entire 8-digit data set from [uktradeinfo.com](http://uktradeinfo.com) for a single country - only at a 4-digit level.

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

The appended tables 3a and 3b show the largest trade sectors (4-digit level) by value, of goods between the UK and the Commonwealth in 2001.

The largest sector of UK goods exports, by value, to the Commonwealth in 2001 was “Parts of aircraft and spacecraft etc” (£779 million or 5.5% of all UK exports of goods to the Commonwealth countries in 2001). The largest sector of imports by value from the Commonwealth countries was “Electronic integrated circuits; parts thereof” (£871 million or 4.5% of all UK goods imports from the Commonwealth countries).<sup>4</sup>

The appended tables 3c and 3d show the largest trade sectors (4-digit level) by estimated value, of goods between the UK and the Commonwealth in 2011.

By 2011, the largest sector of UK goods exports and imports, by value, to and from the Commonwealth was “Turbojets, turbopropellers and other gas turbines” (£2.6 billion or 9.1% of all UK exports of goods to the Commonwealth countries and £1.5 billion or 4.2% of all UK goods imports from the Commonwealth countries in 2001).<sup>5</sup>

## 2.2 Changing markets for UK goods exports

The changing geographical pattern of UK goods exports since 1960 is shown in table 4 below (the appended table 5 shows the UK’s main import partners over the same period):

Table 4

UK, main goods trading partners, Exports, 1960			UK, main goods trading partners, Exports, 1970			UK, main goods trading partners, Exports, 1980		
	\$million	% World exports		\$million	% World exports		\$million	% World exports
1 United States	1,059	10%	1 United States	2,265	12%	1 Germany	11,797	11%
2 Australia	735	7%	2 Germany	1,207	6%	2 United States	10,593	10%
3 Canada	616	6%	3 Ireland	915	5%	3 Netherlands	8,937	8%
4 Germany	508	5%	4 Netherlands	907	5%	4 France	8,342	8%
5 South Africa	463	4%	5 Sweden	874	5%	5 Ireland	6,182	6%
6 India	429	4%	6 Australia	831	4%	6 Belgium-Luxembourg	6,098	6%
7 Sweden	376	4%	7 France	814	4%	7 Italy	4,414	4%
8 Netherlands	353	3%	8 South Africa	804	4%	8 Sweden	3,773	3%
9 New Zealand	340	3%	9 Belgium-Luxembourg	706	4%	9 Switzerland	2,906	3%
10 Ireland	333	3%	10 Canada	692	4%	10 Nigeria	2,799	3%
World	10,341		World	19,350		World	110,078	

UK, main goods trading partners, Exports, 1990			UK, main goods trading partners, Exports, 2000			UK, main goods trading partners, Exports, 2011		
	\$million	% World exports		\$million	% World exports		\$million	% World exports
1 Germany	23,582	13%	1 United States	44,751	16%	1 Germany	50,542	11%
2 United States	23,280	13%	2 Germany	33,720	12%	2 United States	45,890	10%
3 France	19,451	11%	3 France	27,545	10%	3 Netherlands	36,605	8%
4 Netherlands	13,403	7%	4 Netherlands	22,221	8%	4 France	34,140	7%
5 Belgium-Luxembourg	10,066	5%	5 Ireland	19,096	7%	5 Switzerland	32,789	7%
6 Italy	10,035	5%	6 Belgium	14,873	5%	6 Ireland	27,791	6%
7 Ireland	9,554	5%	7 Italy	12,758	5%	7 Belgium	24,827	5%
8 Spain	6,876	4%	8 Spain	12,285	4%	8 Italy	15,570	3%
9 Sweden	4,789	3%	9 Sweden	6,267	2%	9 Spain	15,138	3%
10 Japan	4,709	3%	10 Japan	5,552	2%	10 Sweden	9,738	2%
World	185,154		World	282,873		World	463,879	

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

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,

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

<sup>5</sup> [uktradeinfo.com](http://uktradeinfo.com)

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.

### 3 Trade in goods and services

Although it is difficult to estimate the trade in services between the Commonwealth countries, if we assume that the UK's four main Commonwealth trading partners in goods are also the UK's main Commonwealth trading partners in services (and that proportionately they account for the same amount of imports and exports of services as they do for goods) then tables 2a and 2b below show estimates of the UK's trade in goods and services with the Commonwealth in 2001<sup>6</sup> and 2011:

Table 2a

#### Estimated UK trade with the Commonwealth

£millions

	Exports			Imports			Balance	
	2001	2011	% change 2001 to 2011	2001	2011	% change 2001 to 2011	2001	2011
	Goods	14,389	29,110	102%	18,940	28,420	50%	-4,551
Services	9,017	22,424	149%	7,372	12,239	66%	1,645	10,185
Goods and services	23,406	51,533	120%	26,312	40,659	55%	-2,906	10,874

Table 2b

#### Estimated UK trade with the Commonwealth

% of total UK trade

	Exports			Imports		
	2001	2011	Percentage point change 2001 to 2011	2001	2011	Percentage point change 2001 to 2011
	Goods	7.6%	9.7%	2.1%	8.2%	7.1%
Services	10.1%	11.6%	1.5%	10.3%	10.4%	0.1%
Goods and services	8.4%	10.5%	2.0%	8.7%	7.9%	-0.9%

Source: Based on ONS, *The Pink Book 2012*, 2012

The tables show that, in 2011, the Commonwealth accounted for an estimated £29 billion or 10% of all UK goods exports and £22 billion or 12% of all UK services exports. As a source of imports for the UK, the Commonwealth accounted for an estimated £28 billion or 7% of all UK goods imports and £12 billion or 10% of all UK services imports. The UK had an estimated trade surplus of £0.7 billion in goods with the Commonwealth and a trade surplus of £10 billion in services.<sup>7</sup>

The tables also show that, over the period, the Commonwealth has become a relatively more important export market for the UK but a less important source of imports:

- UK goods and services imports from Commonwealth rose by just over 50% while exports to Commonwealth rose by 120%;

<sup>6</sup> India, Canada, South Africa and Australia accounted for 61% and 53% of the UK's imports and exports of goods respectively from the Commonwealth in 2001

<sup>7</sup> ONS, *The Pink Book 2012*, 2012

- UK exports of goods and services to Commonwealth in 2011 accounted for 2.0 percentage points more of total UK exports of goods and services than in 2001; and
- UK imports of goods and services from Commonwealth in 2011 accounted for 0.9 of a percentage point less of total UK imports of goods and services than in 2001.

#### **4 Further information:**

FCO Commonwealth web pages: [www.fco.gov.uk/en/global-issues/commonwealth/](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/global-issues/commonwealth/)

The Commonwealth Secretariat website: [www.thecommonwealth.org](http://www.thecommonwealth.org)

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

UKTI's website: [www.ukti.gov.uk/home.html?guid=none](http://www.ukti.gov.uk/home.html?guid=none)

**Appendix 1: List of current Commonwealth countries**

Antigua and Barbuda		Jamaica		St Lucia	
Australia		Kenya		St Vincent and the Grenadines	
The Bahamas		Kiribati		Samoa	
Bangladesh		Lesotho		Seychelles	
Barbados		Malawi		Sierra Leone	
Belize		Malaysia		Singapore	
Botswana		Maldives		Solomon Islands	
Brunei Darussalam		Malta		South Africa	
Cameroon		Mauritius		Sri Lanka	
Canada		Mozambique		Swaziland	
Cyprus		Namibia		Tonga	
Dominica		Nauru		Trinidad and Tobago	
Fiji*		New Zealand		Tuvalu	
The Gambia		Nigeria		Uganda	
Ghana		Pakistan		United Kingdom	
Grenada		Papua New Guinea		United Republic of Tanzania	
Guyana		Rwanda		Vanuatu	
India		St Kitts and Nevis		Zambia	

\*Following the decisions taken by the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group on 31 July 2009, Fiji was suspended from membership of the Commonwealth on 1 September 2009

Source: [The Commonwealth Secretariat website](http://www.commonwealthsecretariat.org)

## Appendix 2: Tables

Table 1

### UK trade in goods with the Commonwealth

\$million

	Imports	Exports	Balance	As % of UK total		Imports	Exports	Balance	As % of UK total		
				Imports	Exports				Imports	Exports	
1948	3,104	2,397	-707	38.1%	37.9%	1980	12,506	15,856	3,350	10.8%	14.4%
1949	3,174	2,714	-460	38.4%	41.6%	1981	9,908	14,605	4,698	9.7%	14.3%
1950	2,502	2,434	-69	35.4%	40.2%	1982	9,833	13,075	3,241	9.9%	13.5%
1951	3,339	3,016	-323	32.1%	41.9%	1983	9,222	10,733	1,511	9.2%	11.7%
1952	3,384	2,789	-595	36.1%	38.6%	1984	9,470	10,857	1,387	9.0%	11.6%
1953	3,597	2,815	-783	39.6%	39.3%	1985	9,679	11,651	1,971	8.9%	11.5%
1954	3,375	2,976	-399	37.7%	40.8%	1986	9,788	11,942	2,154	7.7%	11.2%
1955	3,781	3,245	-536	37.0%	40.9%	1987	10,719	14,412	3,693	6.9%	11.0%
1956	3,669	3,281	-388	35.9%	37.7%	1988	13,474	16,205	2,731	7.1%	11.1%
1957	3,676	3,440	-236	33.9%	37.7%	1989	14,294	16,978	2,685	7.2%	11.0%
1958	3,506	3,565	59	33.9%	38.8%	1990	17,067	18,915	1,847	7.7%	10.2%
1959	3,756	3,510	-247	34.1%	36.4%	1991	16,186	16,990	804	7.7%	9.2%
1960	3,916	3,707	-209	31.2%	35.9%	1992	16,843	16,865	22	7.6%	8.9%
1961	3,738	3,576	-162	30.4%	33.1%	1993	16,534	17,199	665	8.0%	9.5%
1962	3,765	3,305	-461	30.0%	29.8%	1994	17,766	20,049	2,284	7.9%	9.8%
1963	4,140	3,501	-639	30.6%	29.3%	1995	20,887	22,730	1,844	8.0%	9.5%
1964	4,770	3,633	-1,137	30.3%	29.0%	1996	24,489	23,806	-682	8.6%	9.2%
1965	4,730	3,886	-845	29.7%	29.0%	1997	25,414	24,233	-1,181	8.4%	8.7%
1966	4,719	4,052	-667	28.4%	27.7%	1998	24,794	21,041	-3,754	8.0%	7.8%
1967	4,654	3,847	-807	26.3%	26.8%	1999	25,857	20,969	-4,888	8.1%	7.8%
1968	4,690	3,760	-930	24.7%	24.5%	2000	28,611	22,914	-5,697	8.5%	8.1%
1969	4,932	4,152	-780	24.7%	23.7%	2001	28,410	20,985	-7,425	8.8%	7.8%
1970	5,351	4,453	-899	24.6%	23.0%	2002	28,620	20,988	-7,632	8.5%	7.6%
1971	5,287	5,374	87	21.8%	23.7%	2003	33,969	25,417	-8,552	8.9%	8.3%
1972	5,701	5,063	-638	20.2%	20.5%	2004	42,387	29,247	-13,140	9.4%	8.6%
1973	7,131	5,712	-1,419	18.1%	18.4%	2005	44,635	29,942	-14,693	8.6%	7.6%
1974	8,432	7,254	-1,179	15.3%	18.4%	2006	54,587	33,456	-21,131	8.9%	7.4%
1975	8,071	8,437	366	14.9%	18.9%	2007	58,246	36,328	-21,918	9.1%	8.2%
1976	8,251	7,930	-321	14.8%	17.4%	2008	61,315	41,644	-19,672	9.3%	8.8%
1977	9,223	9,039	-184	14.6%	16.2%	2009	49,707	30,218	-19,490	9.6%	8.5%
1978	9,155	11,377	2,222	12.1%	16.8%	2010	54,581	32,036	-22,544	9.6%	8.3%
1979	10,650	12,013	1,362	10.7%	13.9%	2011	68,089	40,797	-27,292	10.6%	8.8%

Source: Based on IMF, *DOTS* via ESDS



Table 1a

## UK trade in goods with the Commonwealth, Imports

Million

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Antigua and Barbuda	19	6	5	10	4	4	3	2	5	6	2	3	4	5	3	16	58	7	26	10	30	4	1	0
Australia	1,320	1,415	1,709	1,530	1,892	1,499	1,631	1,753	2,022	2,254	2,366	2,266	2,391	2,646	2,665	2,985	3,473	4,102	6,100	6,673	8,006	5,646	6,422	7,699
The Bahamas	42	29	29	64	69	40	53	52	98	93	104	107	72	10	31	8	9	95	77	10	11	10	4	7
Bangladesh	89	86	129	142	165	210	239	365	437	402	419	441	574	655	726	935	1,163	1,172	1,460	1,541	1,623	1,605	1,530	1,956
Barbados	35	36	43	23	41	38	24	40	100	51	47	35	37	58	37	34	36	40	35	40	38	20	16	17
Belize	40	40	41	36	56	56	65	74	74	59	56	70	60	50	48	68	82	87	66	70	98	105	89	87
Botswana	12	21	34	39	50	39	30	85	74	175	129	402	511	1,552	1,548	1,815	2,118	2,900	2,196	1,051	458	358	886	3,879
Brunei Darussalam	253	303	288	260	229	455	458	200	453	547	305	123	153	50	54	93	123	36	63	88	13	29	6	6
Cameroon	29	19	16	11	11	27	83	49	67	69	70	69	72	58	98	160	387	172	175	124	145	174	162	82
Canada	3,632	3,741	3,984	3,384	3,337	2,786	2,881	3,757	3,873	4,185	4,315	5,054	6,243	5,455	5,544	6,205	7,827	7,677	9,805	12,457	12,924	10,158	12,537	18,258
Cyprus	217	237	272	249	262	204	186	248	247	201	280	308	324	360	378	417	338	431	2,340	292	249	116	135	199
Dominica	58	39	42	53	39	35	29	24	30	33	25	25	21	17	24	14	18	24	19	10	10	32	6	7
Fiji*	116	114	111	145	139	131	112	129	140	99	109	108	101	74	72	107	120	117	138	125	150	124	49	87
The Gambia	5	4	6	5	5	8	7	5	5	5	5	7	5	11	6	4	6	6	7	4	3	5	6	8
Ghana	189	151	186	138	147	108	212	259	295	222	256	249	152	192	181	234	250	257	253	322	375	295	353	442
Grenada	11	10	8	7	6	6	4	5	3	2	1	2	2	1	2	3	1	4	2	0	8	0	1	0
Guyana	79	89	96	89	133	112	111	115	144	134	119	120	98	88	78	85	78	80	65	81	137	115	52	75
India	1,007	1,148	1,427	1,374	1,513	1,635	1,974	2,266	2,514	2,660	2,408	2,405	2,594	2,714	2,809	3,509	4,284	5,051	5,624	7,295	7,686	6,368	7,157	8,347
Jamaica	156	156	238	216	226	183	206	236	233	229	193	182	191	169	157	194	172	182	249	245	233	141	73	90
Kenya	262	252	264	250	245	259	257	253	298	323	355	327	288	305	324	354	404	389	464	496	570	557	498	524
Kiribati	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lesotho	2	1	2	5	7	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	1	0	2	2	2	3	3	2	2
Malawi	55	46	44	45	39	33	39	26	25	22	17	18	17	22	19	19	36	35	29	30	37	35	42	47
Malaysia	934	1,105	1,387	1,635	1,934	2,097	1,845	2,347	3,708	3,368	3,305	3,310	3,589	2,898	2,702	3,134	3,783	3,183	3,788	3,559	3,338	2,410	5,168	4,756
Maldives	3	9	12	14	14	13	11	14	12	16	18	9	10	9	11	11	19	23	28	31	29	16	14	22
Malta	71	69	89	72	90	97	115	126	148	140	142	211	198	213	258	306	323	298	278	350	245	163	255	258
Mauritius	356	354	424	444	473	422	450	544	540	561	546	499	436	487	508	532	629	642	673	685	661	477	356	387
Mozambique	10	24	18	4	5	2	6	3	3	5	6	4	8	11	6	14	5	131	243	220	137	73	108	122
Namibia	19	7	1	34	29	36	41	42	39	29	45	127	88	455	270	172	406	585	909	376	52	184	429	753
Nauru	1	1	0	1	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	-
New Zealand	788	715	853	693	757	747	824	912	985	947	898	954	849	807	820	923	1,080	1,102	1,083	1,318	1,311	1,159	1,147	1,246
Nigeria	228	212	502	457	300	168	190	285	462	201	232	209	143	99	144	145	211	261	366	661	1,529	981	1,212	3,597
Pakistan	312	341	423	462	477	486	550	573	611	621	592	539	570	630	735	870	1,034	876	908	985	1,063	992	1,004	1,147
Papua New Guinea	79	78	61	57	72	80	87	154	167	153	89	106	85	60	74	99	112	108	70	78	117	84	87	205
Rwanda	15	5	4	4	5	3	3	3	4	2	1	1	0	1	2	0	1	2	2	3	3	7	7	4
Samoa	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Seychelles	2	2	15	16	5	11	14	16	14	7	33	57	58	69	93	88	112	104	97	86	87	101	70	82
Sierra Leone	26	26	12	10	17	24	30	8	9	7	6	5	2	4	4	7	4	2	9	6	8	18	13	22
Singapore	1,031	1,477	1,837	1,992	2,092	2,429	2,905	3,479	4,012	4,445	4,082	3,965	3,743	3,094	3,054	4,460	6,333	6,558	6,421	7,245	5,548	4,043	4,024	4,214
Solomon Islands	9	10	11	12	10	4	4	14	10	15	15	20	8	1	0	0	0	0	1	7	1	1	2	4
South Africa	1,425	1,447	1,915	1,696	1,427	1,498	1,487	1,751	1,902	2,279	2,354	2,651	3,971	4,241	4,208	4,918	6,119	6,732	8,982	10,127	12,664	11,399	9,088	7,961
Sri Lanka	103	105	113	131	163	214	285	325	363	437	490	563	645	577	633	670	855	798	912	1,037	1,138	1,041	973	1,011
St Kitts and Nevis	8	10	8	11	13	14	10	14	5	15	10	10	11	10	6	12	5	5	1	1	0	0	1	1
St Lucia	104	80	99	79	95	81	63	73	81	56	63	56	51	24	35	26	37	26	32	28	34	30	21	7
St Vincent and the Gre	53	52	67	52	47	39	22	35	33	25	33	33	28	20	22	16	22	14	15	13	8	7	4	1
Swaziland	57	51	60	70	72	63	65	63	62	46	-	49	51	48	53	52	61	65	68	63	78	24	20	22
Tonga	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Trinidad and Tobago	64	61	78	74	63	67	72	69	82	104	65	86	75	77	85	122	131	127	338	246	335	518	458	333
Tuvalu	-	-	-	0	-	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0
Uganda	54	34	21	12	17	11	24	18	23	34	27	18	14	12	16	15	24	21	15	18	19	15	18	22
United Republic of Tar	48	37	46	37	37	38	34	43	45	54	48	30	46	51	58	56	68	70	71	58	51	28	34	39
Vanuatu	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1
Zambia	44	35	34	41	13	18	20	31	28	77	110	25	19	17	16	57	30	33	82	74	52	34	39	50
Commonwealth total	13,474	14,294	17,067	16,186	16,843	16,534	17,766	20,887	24,489	25,414	24,794	25,857	28,611	28,410	28,620	33,969	42,387	44,635	54,587	58,246	61,315	49,707	54,581	68,089
World total	189,763	199,425	223,055	209,939	221,578	205,397	226,012	262,511	283,611	302,839	309,793	321,085	334,974	322,849	335,347	383,642	453,197	519,814	613,230	639,701	659,927	518,883	568,338	639,775

Source: IMF, DOTS via ESDS

Table 1b  
UK trade in goods with the Commonwealth, Exports

Million	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Antigua and Barbuda	37	39	32	35	29	27	37	37	57	71	51	53	38	25	27	29	21	22	55	45	22	38	16	21
Australia	2,450	2,800	2,957	2,387	2,424	2,399	2,947	3,312	3,866	4,019	3,719	3,488	4,057	3,345	3,194	3,755	4,407	4,730	5,039	6,590	7,582	4,433	4,082	5,396
The Bahamas	37	37	40	35	42	64	46	48	29	31	71	51	38	22	54	45	71	58	108	37	76	28	46	25
Bangladesh	114	128	127	70	69	81	84	142	112	132	145	103	113	98	99	92	125	144	136	109	114	105	161	207
Barbados	57	62	64	59	37	42	48	160	56	61	70	70	77	80	59	86	77	100	86	97	70	63	58	58
Belize	21	19	22	27	19	25	19	23	16	22	19	19	17	20	21	28	17	16	15	22	24	10	11	14
Botswana	48	57	43	64	35	31	34	41	37	34	33	35	30	35	25	22	29	23	21	37	25	17	16	24
Brunei Darussalam	305	433	410	379	380	450	541	403	877	913	425	213	148	86	91	210	124	59	90	126	108	91	195	201
Cameroon	36	41	37	42	34	25	35	40	53	50	62	39	36	52	54	54	49	47	42	47	55	46	57	75
Canada	3,626	3,548	3,381	2,996	2,781	2,764	2,929	2,857	3,074	3,532	3,605	4,138	5,302	4,647	4,705	5,339	6,109	5,196	6,224	5,851	5,850	5,376	5,998	6,956
Cyprus	284	283	363	371	391	354	375	485	454	436	431	420	478	419	410	515	561	640	1,909	800	966	946	844	1,082
Dominica	15	14	17	32	15	15	12	15	16	19	18	21	14	14	14	10	15	11	11	9	12	9	9	9
Fiji*	11	17	13	15	14	12	9	11	11	17	11	12	6	5	5	8	12	8	9	11	9	7	6	6
The Gambia	34	27	32	34	35	35	25	21	26	31	24	27	22	27	25	31	29	29	26	28	30	24	24	29
Ghana	224	198	289	299	306	323	293	378	471	452	368	284	254	208	211	249	314	277	349	424	483	404	521	639
Grenada	13	15	14	14	10	10	11	12	12	11	14	12	14	10	8	12	12	18	13	12	12	8	8	8
Guyana	19	22	27	35	35	51	41	54	53	42	39	35	30	33	28	38	30	33	37	49	39	39	42	47
India	1,979	2,264	2,237	1,805	1,668	1,695	2,009	2,655	2,659	2,584	2,080	2,350	3,110	2,568	2,648	3,741	4,121	5,084	4,775	5,502	7,083	4,338	5,444	7,850
Jamaica	87	100	105	97	76	84	87	113	106	98	113	149	91	101	123	100	98	106	131	125	99	72	99	86
Kenya	359	341	395	368	246	228	301	387	377	375	371	319	251	249	238	281	343	342	362	421	350	404	357	523
Kiribati	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
Lesotho	2	1	1	6	5	1	1	2	3	8	2	1	0	3	2	0	0	1	2	1	2	3	2	3
Malawi	49	50	59	56	42	27	30	22	32	30	22	28	16	12	20	17	22	21	19	27	31	37	26	29
Malaysia	552	722	1,081	1,028	1,120	1,447	2,000	1,888	1,811	1,975	1,130	1,525	1,375	1,492	1,326	1,698	1,827	1,473	1,485	1,810	1,951	1,524	1,466	1,689
Maldives	3	6	6	5	8	7	4	6	9	12	8	8	8	7	5	10	14	16	11	14	15	10	9	13
Malta	216	216	252	286	289	309	310	450	380	406	318	318	324	313	341	422	446	411	561	719	816	610	588	696
Mauritius	69	71	94	92	105	110	115	113	115	108	114	88	83	75	85	77	80	85	81	102	95	82	73	94
Mozambique	43	33	47	33	30	33	55	21	23	23	18	18	28	18	21	26	19	20	21	18	20	24	48	55
Namibia	6	7	8	7	12	9	7	10	11	7	27	26	19	18	13	17	32	25	23	31	36	25	56	56
Nauru	1	1	2	2	0	1	2	1	2	2	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
New Zealand	534	653	781	460	466	499	631	687	735	670	573	524	460	448	470	577	751	714	648	676	657	501	514	687
Nigeria	695	636	888	962	1,098	951	700	681	683	701	776	747	801	984	1,078	1,228	1,430	1,459	1,513	2,002	2,578	1,890	1,814	2,089
Pakistan	468	382	448	481	549	495	545	538	539	440	383	353	311	330	366	481	635	801	840	787	808	686	570	658
Papua New Guinea	37	26	16	28	11	16	14	17	12	19	11	12	8	6	19	13	10	8	9	15	13	22	22	28
Rwanda	3	3	3	4	3	5	4	8	7	8	5	3	6	7	5	5	8	8	7	13	14	14	9	11
Samoa	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	7	2	1	0	1	0	1	2	1	2	1
Seychelles	19	18	26	19	22	27	31	30	26	35	32	23	21	19	20	22	23	19	26	26	24	25	26	28
Sierra Leone	25	33	39	32	27	30	31	41	51	49	36	65	117	89	49	53	44	46	34	36	50	32	59	100
Singapore	1,125	1,266	1,860	1,803	2,022	2,144	2,815	3,263	3,351	3,245	2,672	2,594	2,464	2,307	2,185	2,598	3,148	3,599	4,071	4,739	5,118	4,270	4,238	4,869
Solomon Islands	5	2	1	2	1	3	2	2	3	1	2	4	1	0	1	0	1	2	3	3	4	5	1	1
South Africa	1,912	1,699	1,983	1,807	1,752	1,686	2,170	2,893	2,932	2,694	2,542	2,078	2,125	2,228	2,416	2,909	3,452	3,573	3,906	4,137	5,552	3,273	3,851	5,456
Sri Lanka	165	154	159	228	181	189	235	248	232	345	227	222	251	205	191	200	254	202	188	185	221	184	180	227
St Kitts and Nevis	17	13	15	15	12	15	13	17	19	25	30	13	25	12	12	15	23	14	15	24	18	13	9	10
St Lucia	35	32	31	33	35	29	65	113	28	25	23	28	21	25	18	25	30	31	49	29	28	23	23	24
St Vincent and the Gre	14	18	17	14	17	12	12	11	12	13	12	13	9	13	10	15	16	13	16	16	14	16	14	14
Swaziland	3	2	5	8	6	4	5	5	3	2	-	4	7	6	4	3	7	11	10	10	9	10	7	5
Tonga	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	5	6	8	2	2	3	2	1	2	1	4	6	2	1	1	1	1
Trinidad and Tobago	71	74	91	110	104	106	111	163	131	155	159	226	115	132	122	170	177	183	185	236	210	161	143	172
Tuvalu	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Uganda	63	64	70	63	47	45	63	78	79	85	76	60	57	50	51	60	67	67	72	93	91	77	80	88
United Republic of Tar	158	152	151	129	138	163	126	145	128	128	106	103	85	95	92	92	123	127	150	169	171	149	169	331
Vanuatu	2	1	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	1	8	2	1
Zambia	153	195	166	111	115	110	68	79	81	79	65	39	42	34	29	35	43	54	64	71	81	64	68	105
Commonwealth total	16,205	16,978	18,915	16,990	16,865	17,199	20,049	22,730	23,806	24,233	21,041	20,969	22,914	20,985	20,988	25,417	29,247	29,942	33,456	36,328	41,644	30,218	32,036	40,797
World total	146,167	154,493	185,154	185,037	190,077	180,235	203,976	239,435	258,342	279,600	268,197	269,511	282,873	268,599	275,832	306,002	341,987	395,209	453,636	443,897	473,002	355,345	383,823	463,277

Source: IMF, DOTS via ESDS

Table 3a

**Trade in goods with the Commonwealth, Exports 2001***Ten largest sectors*

	£	as % of all UK goods exports to the Commonwealth
8803 - Parts of aircraft and spacecraft of heading 8801 or 8802, n.e.s.	778,852,872	5.5%
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	653,138,200	4.6%
8411 - Turbojets, turbopropellers and other gas turbines	631,020,868	4.5%
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, incl. apparatus for communication etc	462,331,600	3.3%
2709 - Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude	451,367,639	3.2%
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)	430,597,272	3.1%
8542 - Electronic integrated circuits; parts thereof	273,348,594	1.9%
8473 - Parts and accessories (other than covers, carrying cases and the like) suitable for use solely or principally with machines of heading 8469 to 8472, n.e.s.	255,653,771	1.8%
2208 - Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength of < 80%; spirits, liqueurs and other spirituous beverages (excl. compound alcoholic preparations of a kind used for the manufacture of beverages)	252,251,465	1.8%
8471 - Automatic data-processing machines and units thereof; magnetic or optical readers, machines for transcribing data onto data media in coded form and machines for processing such data, n.e.s.	236,319,943	1.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,082,503,696</b>	

Source: uktradeinfo.com

Table 3b

**Trade in goods with the Commonwealth, Imports 2001***Ten largest sectors*

	£	as % of all UK goods imports from the Commonwealth
8542 - Electronic integrated circuits; parts thereof	870,660,325	4.5%
8471 - Automatic data-processing machines and units thereof; magnetic or optical readers, machines for transcribing data onto data media in coded form and machines for processing such data, n.e.s.	636,380,135	3.3%
2701 - Coal; briquettes, ovoids and similar solid fuels manufactured from coal	633,271,042	3.3%
8473 - Parts and accessories (other than covers, carrying cases and the like) suitable for use solely or principally with machines of heading 8469 to 8472, n.e.s.	632,707,106	3.3%
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	473,020,340	2.4%
8411 - Turbojets, turbopropellers and other gas turbines	465,686,700	2.4%
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, incl. apparatus for communication etc	460,636,316	2.4%
8802 - Powered aircraft "e.g. helicopters and aeroplanes"; spacecraft, incl. satellites, and suborbital and spacecraft launch vehicles	416,892,091	2.2%
1701 - Cane or beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose, in solid form	388,491,352	2.0%
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)	257,419,139	1.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,335,132,859</b>	

Source: uktradeinfo.com

Table 3c

**Trade in goods with the Commonwealth, Exports 2011***Ten largest sectors*

	£	as % of all UK goods exports to the Commonwealth
8411 - Turbojets, turbopropellers and other gas turbines	2,614,541,418	9.1%
7106 - Silver, incl. silver plated with gold or platinum, unwrought or in semi-manufactured forms, or in powder form	2,031,676,273	7.1%
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)	1,810,078,412	6.3%
7102 - Diamonds, whether or not worked, but not mounted or set (excl. unmounted stones for pick-up styluses, worked stones, suitable for use as parts of meters, measuring instruments or other articles of chapter 90)	1,624,694,879	5.7%
2710 - Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals (excl. crude); preparations containing >= 70% by weight of petroleum oils or of oils obtained from bituminous minerals, these oils being the basic constituents etc	1,485,868,030	5.2%
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	1,024,823,313	3.6%
2208 - Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength of < 80%; spirits, liqueurs and other spirituous beverages (excl. compound alcoholic preparations of a kind used for the manufacture of beverages)	832,511,056	2.9%
8803 - Parts of aircraft and spacecraft of heading 8801 or 8802, n.e.s.	826,182,388	2.9%
7204 - Ferrous waste and scrap; remelting scrap ingots of iron or steel (excl. slag, scale and other waste from the production of iron or steel; radioactive waste and scrap; fragments of pigs, blocks etc	493,095,241	1.7%
4901 - Printed books, brochures and similar printed matter, whether or not in single sheets (excl. periodicals and publications which are essentially devoted to advertising)	371,420,228	1.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,743,042,575</b>	

Source: uktradeinfo.com

Table 3d

**Trade in goods with the Commonwealth, Imports 2011***Ten largest sectors*

	£	as % of all UK goods imports from the Commonwealth
8411 - Turbojets, turbopropellers and other gas turbines	1,453,343,224	4.2%
2710 - Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals (excl. crude); preparations containing >= 70% by weight of petroleum oils or of oils obtained from bituminous minerals, etc	865,487,719	2.5%
6109 - T-shirts, singlets and other vests, knitted or crocheted	599,215,091	1.7%
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	579,892,526	1.7%
2922 - Oxygen-function amino-compounds	571,266,659	1.7%
6204 - Women's or girls' suits, ensembles, jackets, blazers, dresses, skirts, divided skirts, trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts (excl. knitted or crocheted, wind-jackets and similar articles, slips, pettic...	565,963,235	1.6%
7112 - Waste and scrap of precious metal or of metal clad with precious metal; other waste and scrap containing precious metal or precious-metal compounds, of a kind used principally for the recovery of precious metal etc	455,040,880	1.3%
8803 - Parts of aircraft and spacecraft of heading 8801 or 8802, n.e.s.	402,944,845	1.2%
6203 - Men's or boys' suits, ensembles, jackets, blazers, trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts (excl. knitted or crocheted, wind-jackets and similar articles, separate waistcoats, tracksuits, ski suits etc	401,842,970	1.2%
6110 - Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles, knitted or crocheted (excl. wadded waistcoats)	385,838,918	1.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,429,794,961</b>	

Source: uktradeinfo.com

Table 5

**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