



EU Exit Trade Glossary

Definition	
<u>Broad Economic Category (BEC)</u>	An international product classification that categorises goods by end-use category – capital, intermediate and consumption goods
Capital Goods	Inputs into the production process that are not used up during the course of production
Consumption Goods	Final goods which are consumed
Exports	All sales made outside the UK
External Sales	All sales made outside NI, that is, sales to GB, ROI, REU, RoW.
GB	Great Britain (England, Scotland, Wales)
Goods	Specific, tangible products
HMRC Intrastat Reporting Thresholds	A UK business is only required to submit detailed “Intrastat” product information to HMRC if the total value of exports to the EU is worth more than £250k per year. Similarly, businesses only provide detailed “Intrastat” product information to HMRC if the total value of their imports from the EU as a whole is worth more than £1.5m per year. These are known as “Intrastat reporting thresholds”. Otherwise businesses report the total value of exports and imports by destination and origin to HMRC (but without detailed product information).
IE	Ireland
Imports	Purchases of goods and services outside the UK
Intermediate Goods	Goods that themselves are produced and are used to produce other goods
Large business	250+ employees
Medium business	50 – 249 employees
Micro business	0 – 9 employees
NI	Northern Ireland



Definition	
NI Sales	Sales made by NI businesses within NI
Purchases	The value of all goods, materials and services purchased during the year
REU	Rest of the European Union (composed of the following countries: Germany; France; Belgium; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Italy; Denmark; Portugal; Spain; Greece; Austria; Sweden; Finland; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Estonia; Hungary; Latvia; Lithuania; Malta; Poland; Romania; Bulgaria; Croatia; Slovakia and Slovenia)
RoW	Rest of the World (all destinations outside the EU)
Services	Intangible products
Small business	10 – 49 employees
<u>Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)</u>	Used to classify businesses according to the economic activity they are engaged in. It is divided into 21 sections, each denoted by a single letter from A to U. The letters of the sections can then be broken into 88 divisions denoted by two digits, 272 groups (three digits), 615 classes (four digits) and 191 subclasses (five digits).
<u>Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)</u>	A United Nations commodity classification system based on a five digit numeric code. SITC is published at five different levels: 1 digit – Section, 2 digit – Division, 3 digit – Group, 4 digit – Sub-group, 5 digit – Item.
Total Sales	The sum of sales to NI, GB, ROI, REU and RoW. Total sales include all taxes and duties on goods invoiced with the exception of VAT which is excluded from total sales.
UK	United Kingdom



Sources of Northern Ireland Trade Data

[NISRA's Broad Economy Sales and Exports Statistics \(BESES\)](#)

An experimental annual measure of local businesses' sales to markets outside NI and is gathered through the NI Annual Business Inquiry (ABI). The ABI surveys all businesses with 50 or more employees; all multi-site businesses with 20-49 employees; all manufacturing businesses with more than 5 employees; and a representative sample of other smaller businesses. In all, the ABI samples about 20% of the eligible business population each year. The BESES provides estimates of the value of both goods and services.

[Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Regional Trade Statistics \(HMRC RTS\)](#)

Records the movement of goods between the UK and both EU and non-EU countries. Data is collected from the EU-wide Intrastat survey and from Customs import and export entries, both administered by HMRC. There is a legal requirement for all VAT-registered businesses to supply this data, although for trade with the EU this only applies to businesses trading above the Intrastat threshold. The RTS methodology allocates trade to a region based on the location of the business exporting or importing the goods. For multi-branch businesses, it allocates trade to a region based on the proportional distribution of employees of that business across the regions of the UK.

[Central Statistics Office \(CSO\) Goods Exports and Imports](#)

Provides estimates on the movement of goods between Ireland and other countries. The collection of the trade data is the responsibility of VIMA (a branch of Revenue) and the CSO is responsible for processing and disseminating the data. The statistics use a combination of Customs-based non-EU trade statistics and data from the Intrastat Survey of Irish traders involved in trade with other EU member states.



Sources of Northern Ireland Trade Data

[DFE and NISRA Cross-Border Supply Chain Survey \(SCS\)](#)

The SCS was issued as a one-off survey in mid-July 2017 to all businesses who indicated that they traded with Ireland in the 2015 ABI (c. 2,300 businesses). The survey gathered information on what businesses export to or import from IE and the number, nature, transport method and value of export and import transactions. Results from the SCS were supplemented with data from the HMRC RTS and from the BESES where appropriate.

[Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(DAERA\)](#)

Provides statistics on the destinations and values of Northern Ireland food and drinks processing subsector sales. The data is presented in the Statistical Review of Northern Ireland Agriculture which is published annually. Data is sourced from farm surveys, including the Agricultural Census and the Farm Business Survey, as well as surveys of food processors and agricultural input supply firms.

[ONS Regionalised Estimates of UK Service Exports](#)

This is the only source available for financial services. NI figures are modelled.

[NI Supply-Use Tables \(SUTs\)](#)

The NI SUTs draw upon the above data sources to estimate an overall NI economy level estimate of imports and exports split by products and destination/origin. Experimental tables are available for 2012-2015.