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|  | *xWH EU Exit Data Strategy* | | | | | | | |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  | **Title** | Importers details | | | |  |
|  |  | **Producer** | HMRC | | | |  |
|  |  | **Category** | Trade | | | |  |
|  | [**LINK TO SOURCE**](https://www.uktradeinfo.com/TradeTools/ImportersDetails/Pages/AboutImportersDetails.aspx) | |  | **Frequency** *(+lag)* | Monthly – One month lag | | | |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |
|  | **Description** | | |  | |  | **Key Info** |  |  |
|  | HMRC releases monthly information about UK importers.  Publishing accurate, reliable information about UK importers and their products has a number of benefits, including:   * Providing greater visibility of UK importers to potential customers in the global market place * Enabling those who are part of the import supply chain, such as logistics or transportation companies, to identify potential customers more easily * Improving the effectiveness of marketing, market research and product development for the benefit of industry and consumers by encouraging entrepreneurial activities and enabling businesses to penetrate specific markets – providing or developing UK products as an alternative to imports * Allowing home manufacturers to identify and target importers of products that might be better sourced from the UK.   The information published consists of a list of traders (9-digit VRN) who carry out non-EU imports plus their address and CN8 commodity codes they trade in. It also includes the month and year in which the goods were imported. | | | | |  | Access | Open |  |
|  |  | Group | Goods |  |
|  |  | Aggregation | Trader / CN8 |  |
|  |  | Classification | CN8 |  |
|  |  | Reporting Unit | VRN |  |
|  |  | Source | Admin |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Recommended Usage** | | |  |  |  | **Contacts** |  |  |
|  | The database is updated each month with information taken from Customs declarations. It allows users to view and download the information (subject to capacity limitations) and can be searched by name, commodity code, goods description, postcode and county.  The law that requires HMRC to publish this information is the Finance Act 1988.  Although this facility is designed to assist UK businesses, importers’ confidentiality is protected and no details of markets, customers and market share are given or can be deduced. In particular:  • No trade figures are included with the importer information  • Where only a few companies have been engaged in importing the same types of goods during the same month, the details of those companies are not shown against those goods, but are reintroduced at a higher level of classification  • Information on importers of certain sensitive goods is withheld to protect both those companies and the national interest  The database is updated each month with information taken from Customs declarations. It allows users to view and download the information (subject to capacity limitations) and can be searched by name, commodity code, goods description, postcode and count.  We withhold some information in order to protect trader confidentiality, who can opt out from the register. Importers Details are not part of our National Statistics datasets so the Overseas Trade Statistics (OTS): Policy on Suppression does not cover Importers Details. Consequently, suppression of OTS data for commercial reasons will not automatically suppress Importers Details publication.  The suppression policy for importers data is outlined below:  <https://www.uktradeinfo.com/Statistics/OverseasTradeStatistics/AboutOverseastradeStatistics/Documents/Suppressions-Importers%20details%20published%20policy.pdf>  Bulk datasets, accessible in open format, are available from this link: <https://www.uktradeinfo.com/Statistics/Pages/DataDownloads.aspx> | | | | |  | Key department | HMRC |  |
|  |  | Key individuals | **James Durnford**  [James.durnford@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:James.durnford@hmrc.gov.uk)  [uktradeinfo@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:uktradeinfo@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk) |  |
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|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Quality Indicators** | | |  |  |  | **Related Datasets** |  |  |
|  | **Status** | Published monthly | | | |  | HMRC [Overseas Trade Statistics](https://www.uktradeinfo.com/Statistics/OverseasTradeStatistics/Pages/OTS.aspx)  HMRC [HMRC Regional Trade Statistics](https://www.uktradeinfo.com/Statistics/RTS/Pages/default.aspx) | |  |
|  | **Strengths +** | * Gives indication of who is participating in Non EU trade. * Postcode information, indicator of location of business. | | | |  |  |
|  | **Weaknesses -** | * There are no values of trade * Non-EU trade only * No Partner Country details * Is often misinterpreted as a business count but some businesses are not included due to the opt-out option and due to other suppression procedures * Not complete (see opt-out and suppression above) * Postcode and location data will not align with RTS due to RTS methodology using IDBR and employee allocation. | | | |  |  |
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