

## UK Regional Trade in Goods Statistics: 2023<sup>1</sup>; Midlands Analysis

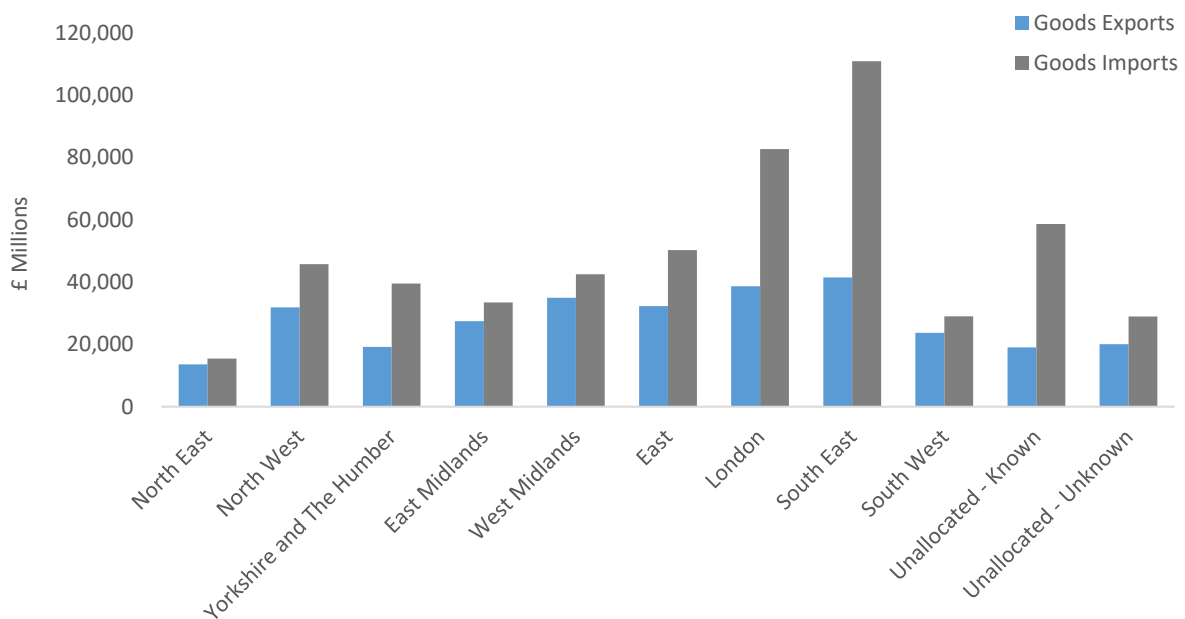
### Key Points:

- In 2023, the Midlands area exported £62.4bn worth of goods and imported £76.0bn. This represents a trade in goods deficit of £13.6bn, a decrease from the trade deficit in 2022 which was £21.4bn.
- Goods exports from the Midlands area increased by £8.2bn (+15.2%) since 2022. The UK decreased by 2.3% to £365.7bn.
- Goods imports to the Midlands area increased by £0.4bn (+0.6%) since 2022. UK-wide total imports decreased by 5.4% to £597.6bn.
- The Midlands area accounted for 23.7% of England’s exports which was above which was above the South East (15.8%) and London (14.7%).
- The largest SITC section for goods exports in the Midlands area was machinery and transport at £44.0bn – 70.5% of total; of which nearly £26.8bn (60.8%) went to non-EU locations. Since 2022, overall, this SITC section increased by £8.0bn (+22.1%).
- By country group, the highest value of goods exports from the Midlands area was to the EU at £27.7bn, accounting for 44.4% of the total. The value of goods exports to the EU has increased by £2.4bn (+9.4%) since 2022.

### In Detail:

- In 2023, the Midlands area exported £62.4bn worth of goods and imported £76.0bn. This represents a trade in goods deficit of £13.6bn, a decrease from the trade deficit in 2022 which was £21.4bn.
- In 2023, the West Midlands region exported £34.9bn worth of goods and imported £42.5bn – a trade in goods deficit of £7.6bn. The East Midlands exported £27.5bn worth of goods and imported £33.5bn – a trade in goods deficit of £6.0bn.

The following chart shows the value of goods imported and exported by region in 2023:

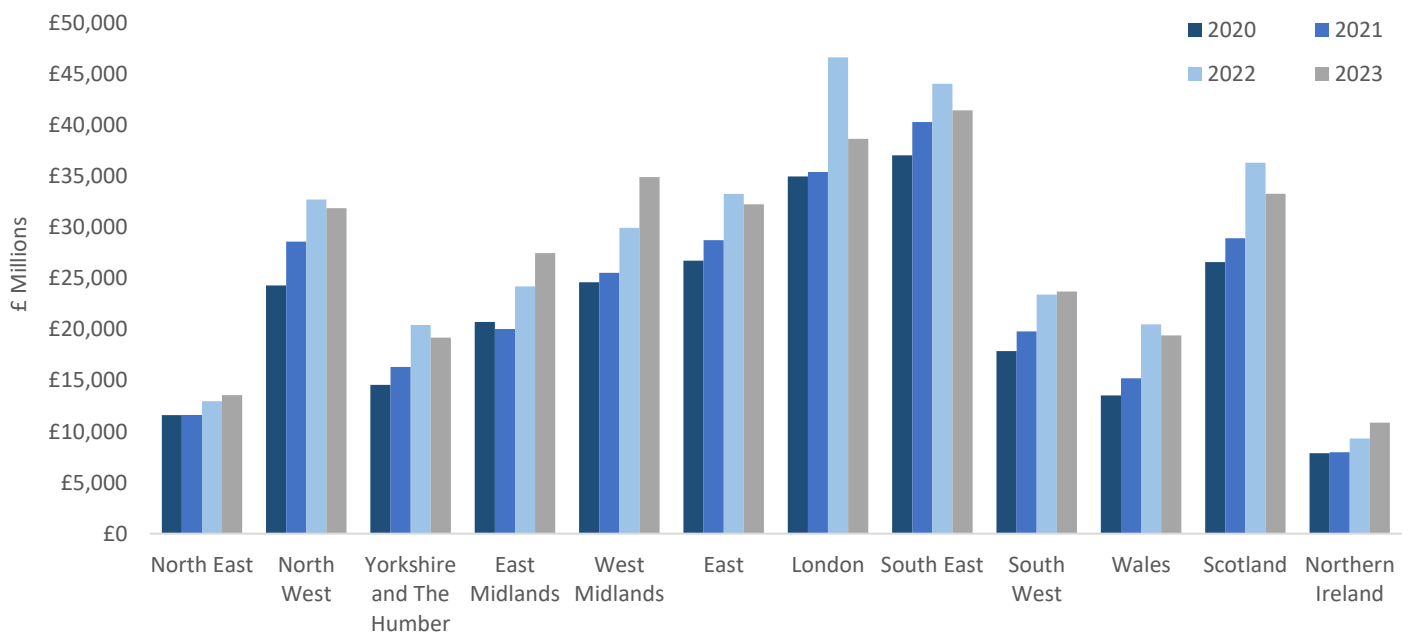


<sup>1</sup> Source: HM Revenue & Customs, UK Regional Trade in Goods Statistics Quarter 4 2023 – Released March 2024.

## Goods Exported

- In 2023, goods exports from the Midlands area were worth £62.4bn which has increased by £8.2bn (+15.2%) since 2022. In contrast, the UK decreased by 2.3% to £365.7bn.
- Since 2022, the West Midlands region goods exports increased by nearly £5.0bn (+16.6%) to £34.9bn in 2023. East Midlands goods exports increased by nearly £3.3bn (+13.4%) to £27.5bn in 2023.
- As seen in the chart below, there was a mixed picture for annual change across the regions. Notably, the West Midlands region had the joint highest annual percentage increase (with Northern Ireland), followed by the East Midlands.
- The Midlands area accounted for 23.7% of England’s exports (13.3% West Midlands and 10.4% East Midlands) which was above the South East (15.8%) and London (14.7%).

The following chart shows UK exports by region from 2020 to 2023:

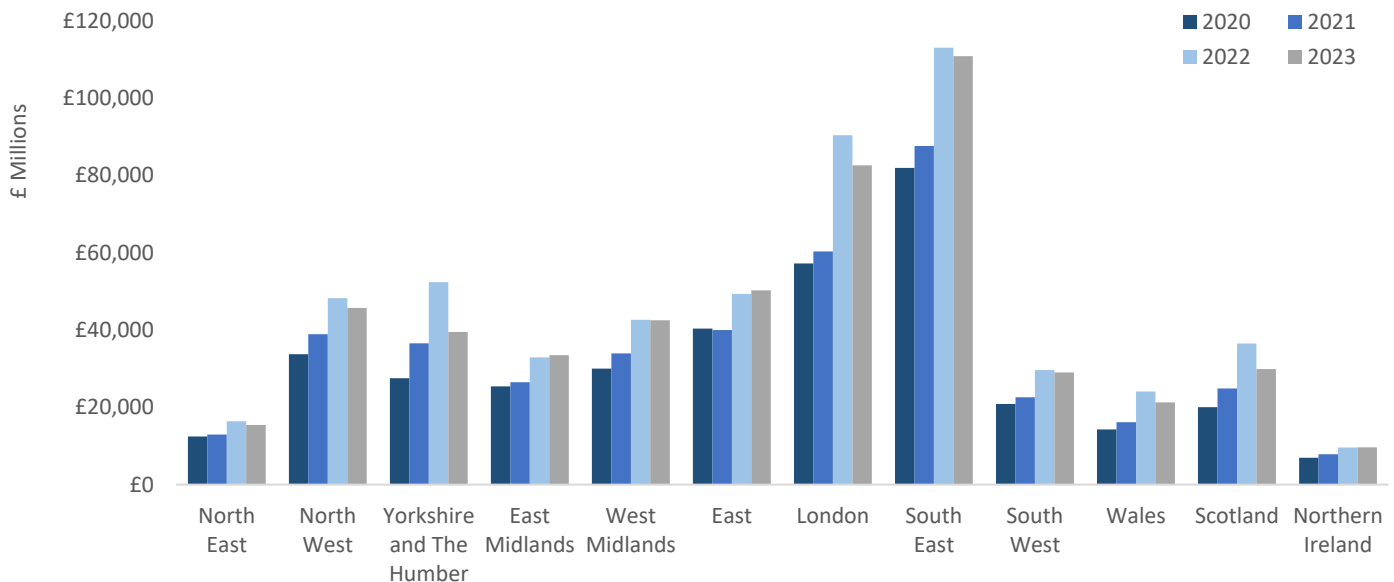


- Quarterly analysis shows that when comparing Q4 2023 to Q3 2023, total goods exports from the Midlands increased by nearly £1.8bn (+11.7%, UK +5.9%) to £16.7bn. The West Midlands increased by £1.2bn (+15.1%) and the East Midlands increased by £516m (+7.6%).
  - EU exports from the Midlands increased by £839m (+12.8%, UK +3.6%); the West Midlands increased by 536m (+15.1%) and the East Midlands increased by £303m (+10.1%).
  - Non-EU exports from the Midlands increased by £910m (+10.9%, UK +8.3%); the West Midlands increased by £697m (+15.1%) and the East Midlands increased by £213m (+5.7%).
- Quarterly analysis shows that when comparing Q4 2023 to Q4 2022, total exports from the Midlands increased by nearly £1.4bn (+8.8%, UK -6.3%); the West Midlands increased by £753m (+8.7%) and the East Midlands increased by £598m (+8.9%).
  - EU exports from the Midlands increased by £834m (+12.7%, UK -8.7%). The West Midlands increased by £634m (+18.3%); the East Midlands increased by £200m (+6.4%).
  - Non-EU exports from the Midlands increased by £516m (+5.9%, UK -3.9%) as the West Midlands increased by £118m (+2.3%) and the East Midlands increased by £398m (+11.1%).

## Goods Imported

- In 2023, goods imports to the Midlands area were worth £76.0bn, an increase of £418m (+0.6%) 2022. UK-wide total imports decreased by 5.4% to £597.6bn.
- Since 2022, the value of West Midlands region goods imports decreased by £131m (-0.3%) to £42.5bn in 2023. East Midlands imports increased by £549m (+1.7%) to £33.5bn in 2023.

The following chart shows UK goods imports by region from 2020 to 2023:



- Quarterly analysis shows that when comparing Q4 2023 to Q3 2023, total imports to the Midlands increased by £1.0bn (+5.6%, UK +7.4%). The West Midlands increased by £458m (+4.5%) and the East Midlands increased by £550m (+7.0%).
  - EU imports to the Midlands increased by £891m (+8.5%, UK +6.2%). The West Midlands increased by £479m (+7.8%) and the East Midlands increased by £412m (+9.5%).
  - Non-EU imports to the Midlands increased by £117m (+1.6%, UK +8.8%). The West Midlands decreased by £21m (-0.5%) and the East Midlands increased by £138m (+3.9%).
- Quarterly analysis shows that when comparing Q4 2023 to Q4 2022, total imports to the Midlands decreased by £176m (-0.9%, UK -8.7%). The West Midlands decreased by £192m (-1.8%) whereas the East Midlands increased by £16m (+0.2%).
  - EU imports to the Midlands increased by £695m (+6.5%, UK +1.3%). The West Midlands increased by £526m (+8.6%) and the East Midlands increased by £169m (+3.7%).
  - Non-EU imports to the Midlands decreased by £870m (-10.3%, UK -18.2%). The West Midlands decreased by £718m (-15.5%) and the East Midlands decreased by £152m (-4.0%).

## Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)

- The total value of goods exports in five of the ten SITC sections increased for the Midlands since 2022. The sections that increased were food & live animals, manufactured goods, machinery & transport, miscellaneous manufactures and other commodities nes.

- The largest SITC section for goods exports in the Midlands area was machinery and transport at £44.0bn – 70.5% of total; of which nearly £26.8bn (60.8%) went to non-EU locations. Since 2022, overall, this SITC section increased by £8.0bn (+22.1%).
- 9.3% (£5.8bn) of goods exported from the Midlands area were manufactured goods, (of which 59.9% of the section total, or £3.5bn went to the EU). This was followed by 8.6% (£5.3bn) for miscellaneous manufactures (of which 52.0% or £2.8bn went to EU locations).
- The total value of imports in seven of the ten SITC sections decreased for the Midlands when compared to 2022. The three SITC sections that increased were food & live animals, machinery & transport and other commodities nes.
- The largest SITC section for goods imports to the Midlands area was machinery & transport at £39.0bn, which is 51.4% of total imports (of which 60.5% or £23.6bn of imports for this section was from the EU). This section overall has increased since 2022 by £4.7bn (+13.7%).
- 15.8% (£12.0bn) of goods imported to the Midlands area were manufactured goods in 2023, a decrease of just over £1.0bn (-8.0%) since 2022.

The following table shows a breakdown of goods exported and imported by SITC section and the percentage change between 2022 and 2023:

Figures in £m	Midlands			UK		
Total Exports by SITC Section	2022	2023	% Change	2022	2023	% Change
0 Food and Live Animals	£1,903	£1,949	2.4%	£15,585	£15,851	1.7%
1 Beverages and Tobacco	£104	£93	-10.6%	£9,222	£8,492	-7.9%
2 Crude Materials	£1,872	£1,602	-14.4%	£10,265	£8,601	-16.2%
3 Mineral Fuels	£381	£308	-19.2%	£50,063	£34,112	-31.9%
4 Animal and Vegetable Oils	£62	£46	-25.8%	£778	£613	-21.2%
5 Chemicals	£3,322	£3,227	-2.9%	£61,284	£58,833	-4.0%
6 Manufactured Goods	£5,681	£5,790	1.9%	£41,758	£34,087	-18.4%
7 Machinery and Transport	£36,028	£44,002	22.1%	£129,442	£147,248	13.8%
8 Miscellaneous Manufactures	£4,796	£5,348	11.5%	£41,560	£41,992	1.0%
9 Other commodities nes	£9	£13	44.4%	£14,479	£15,876	9.6%
<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>£54,156</b>	<b>£62,376</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>£374,435</b>	<b>£365,705</b>	<b>-2.3%</b>
Total Imports by SITC Section						
0 Food and Live Animals	£6,381	£6,723	5.4%	£47,646	£50,810	6.6%
1 Beverages and Tobacco	£601	£547	-9.0%	£7,920	£8,108	2.4%
2 Crude Materials	£1,771	£1,514	-14.5%	£15,358	£12,890	-16.1%
3 Mineral Fuels	£2,553	£1,266	-50.4%	£111,450	£74,326	-33.3%
4 Animal and Vegetable Oils	£229	£190	-17.0%	£2,478	£2,200	-11.2%
5 Chemicals	£5,857	£5,088	-13.1%	£76,122	£66,172	-13.1%
6 Manufactured Goods	£13,026	£11,979	-8.0%	£67,072	£60,714	-9.5%
7 Machinery and Transport	£34,337	£39,032	13.7%	£201,504	£224,461	11.4%
8 Miscellaneous Manufactures	£10,799	£9,633	-10.8%	£83,569	£76,637	-8.3%
9 Other commodities nes	£3	£4	33.3%	£18,905	£21,311	12.7%
<b>Total Imports</b>	<b>£75,556</b>	<b>£75,974</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>£632,024</b>	<b>£597,630</b>	<b>-5.4%</b>

## Country Group

- The highest value of goods exports from the Midlands area was to the EU at £27.7bn, accounting for 44.4% of the total. The value of goods exports to the EU has increased by £2.4bn (+9.4%) since 2022.
- The highest value of imports to the Midlands area was from the EU at £44.9bn, which accounted for 59.0% of the total. Goods imports from the EU increased by £2.8bn (+6.6%) when compared to 2022.
- There was only one Country Group where goods exports from the Midlands slightly declined from 2022, this was from an undefined Country Group. While there were declines in imports to the Midlands from six Country Groups: Asia & Oceania, Eastern Europe (excl. EU), Middle East & North Africa (excl. EU), North America, Sub-Saharan Africa and Western Europe (excl. EU).

The following table shows a breakdown of goods exported and imported by Country Group and the percentage change between 2022 and 2023 (figures in £m):

Exports by Country Group	Midlands			UK		
	2022	2023	% Change	2022	2023	% Change
Asia & Oceania	£11,111	£14,084	26.8%	£59,161	£57,377	-3.0%
Eastern Europe (excl EU)	£603	£656	8.8%	£4,342	£3,881	-10.6%
European Union	£25,347	£27,726	9.4%	£194,415	£184,392	-5.2%
Latin America and Caribbean	£826	£832	0.7%	£6,250	£5,804	-7.1%
Middle East and North Africa (excl EU)	£3,229	£3,770	16.8%	£19,939	£21,746	9.1%
North America	£10,456	£12,474	19.3%	£59,600	£63,129	5.9%
Sub-Saharan Africa	£726	£735	1.2%	£6,067	£5,821	-4.1%
Western Europe (excl. EU)	£1,852	£2,094	13.1%	£15,923	£14,961	-6.0%
Undefined Country Group	£7	£6	-14.3%	£8,739	£8,595	-1.6%
<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>£54,156</b>	<b>£62,376</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>£374,435</b>	<b>£365,705</b>	<b>-2.3%</b>
Imports by Country Group						
Asia & Oceania	£19,816	£18,400	-7.1%	£129,826	£118,787	-8.5%
Eastern Europe (excl EU)	£490	£251	-48.8%	£5,173	£1,774	-65.7%
European Union	£42,069	£44,858	6.6%	£308,772	£320,045	3.7%
Latin America and Caribbean	£1,292	£1,309	1.3%	£10,420	£8,222	-21.1%
Middle East and North Africa (excl EU)	£1,749	£1,691	-3.3%	£26,829	£19,124	-28.7%
North America	£5,624	£5,168	-8.1%	£65,691	£63,329	-3.6%
Sub-Saharan Africa	£940	£848	-9.8%	£11,006	£9,256	-15.9%
Western Europe (excl. EU)	£3,573	£3,449	-3.5%	£67,335	£48,504	-28.0%
Undefined Country Group	-	-	-	£6,970	£8,588	23.2%
<b>Total Imports</b>	<b>£75,556</b>	<b>£75,974</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>£632,024</b>	<b>£597,630</b>	<b>-5.4%</b>