



Construction Equipment Association

# UK IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

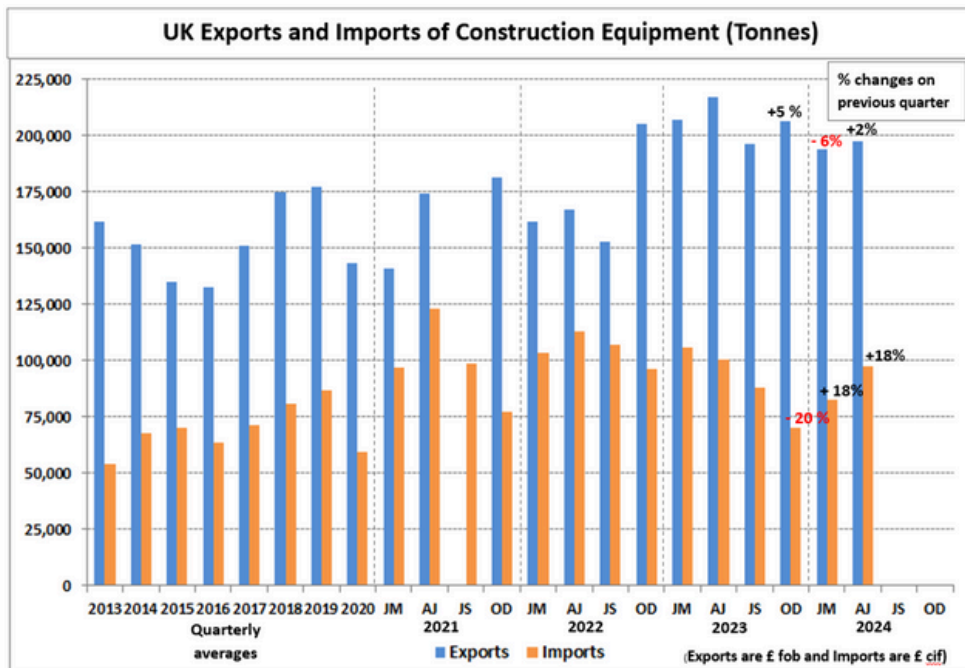
construction and earthmoving  
equipment Q2 2024



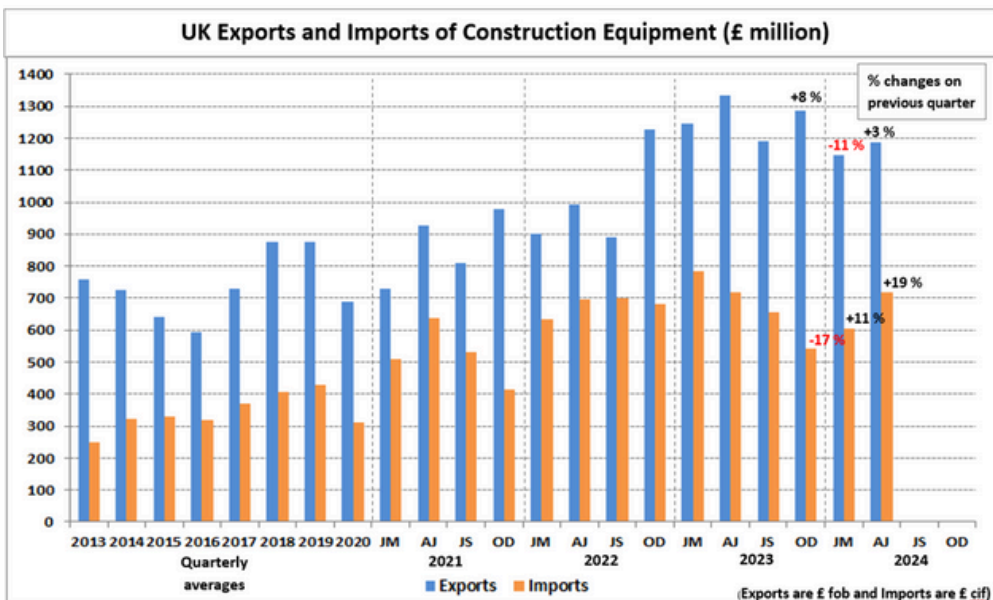
## Summary

Imports and exports of construction and earthmoving equipment both recorded increases in Q2 compared with the first quarter of the year. After being on a steady downward trend last year, imports showed an increase in Q1, and this continued in Q2. This recovery has taken levels of trade back to the high levels seen in 2022 and the first half of 2023. In contrast, exports of equipment in the second quarter were still below 2023 levels. However, they were still at very high quarterly levels in the first half of the year, well above the levels of trade seen in the previous ten years from 2013 to 2022. The graphs below show UK imports and exports since 2013 based on both the weight of equipment shipped (tonnes) and the £ value traded.

### Graph 1: UK trade by machine weight shipped



### Graph 2: UK trade by £ value



## Imports

In Q2, imports of equipment showed an 18% increase in tonnage shipped, a similar level of increase as seen in Q1. This took imports to just under 98 k tonnes in the second quarter. In value terms, trade also showed a significant increase at 19% above Q1 levels to reach £718 million. Increasing levels of imports in the first half of the year is consistent with the improving levels of UK sales of equipment this year, after being on a downward path in the second half of 2023. UK sales of equipment are taken from the UK construction equipment data exchange published by Systematics International. The EU share of UK imports is shown in the table below and is remaining just above 70% this year. This is continuing at the level seen since the second quarter of last year, which was higher than previous years.

## Exports

Exports of equipment in Q2 showed a pick-up on Q1 levels for both tonnage shipped and value of shipments. Tonnage shipped increased by 2% in Q2 to reach over 197k tonnes, while the value of exports showed a 3% increase to reach £1,185 million. As highlighted above, exports in Q2 were still below the quarterly levels seen in 2023, but were still at very high levels - well above the levels of trade seen in earlier years between 2013 to 2022. The share of export trade to EU markets is shown in the table below and indicates the continuation of a slight downward trend. The EU share of total exports of equipment remained at 40% in the first half of the year, compared with 41% last year and 44% in 2022.

Overall, the UK has remained a significant net exporter of construction and earthmoving equipment in the first half of 2024, with exports (£2,333million) 76% higher than imports (£1,32202 million). However, this is lower than the 87% level recorded in 2023.

**Table 1: EU share of UK trade**

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2023	Q1	Q2	2024
<b>Imports from EU (£ Million)</b>	989	1,104	863	1,310	1,536	513	502	455	386	1,856	430	506	937
<b>% share of total Imports</b>	61	64	69	63	57	65	70	70	71	69	71	70.5	71
<b>Exports to EU (£ Million)</b>	1,545	1,606	1,379	1,605	1,757	525	535	451	551	2,062	462	472	934
<b>% share of total Exports</b>	44.5	46	50	47	44	42	40	38	43	41	40	40	40

## Exports of equipment by country of destination

In the first half of 2024, UK exports of construction equipment were shipped to over 160 different countries. The table below shows UK rankings for the Top 20 countries based on weight of machines shipped (tonnes) during 2023 and 2024. In the first six months of 2024, the Top 20 countries accounted for close to 85% of total exports on both a value and tonnage shipped basis. The USA remained as the top destination for UK exports in the first half of 2024, recording a share of 37.5% of total exports on a £ value basis. This was well above the 32% level reached in 2023. Based on tonnage shipped, the USA share was just under 28% in the first half of the year, also ahead of 2023 levels at 26.5%.

Ireland remained in second place in the country rankings, with a 9% share on a tonnage shipped basis. This was just ahead of Poland which is continuing to show growth as an export destination in recent quarters and has reached a share of 8% of total exports in the first half of the year. The Netherlands maintained its position in fourth place in the rankings and the top four countries continued to account for over half of total exports in the first half of the year. This was just under 52% based on tonnage shipped, and 53% based on the £ value of exports.

**Table 2: Top 20 countries exports of equipment**

		Jan Mar		Apr Jun		Jul Sep		Oct Dec		2023				Jan Mar		Apr Jun		2024	
2023 Rank	COUNTRY OF DESTINATION	Tonnes	£ M fob	Tonnes	£ M fob	Tonnes	£ M fob	Tonnes	£ M fob	Tonnes	£ M fob	2024 Rank	COUNTRY OF DESTINATION	Tonnes	£ M fob	Tonnes	£ M fob	Tonnes	£ M fob
1	U.S.A.	51,153	367.8	59,421	444.4	55,266	401.8	53,126	396.2	218,966	1610.2	1	USA	56,095	439.8	52,938	434.1	109,034	873.9
2	IRISH REPUBLIC	17,895	87.2	19,664	94.1	18,902	85.5	18,163	81.2	74,624	347.9	2	IRELAND	17,311	79.6	17,313	66.7	34,624	146.3
3	POLAND	10,325	37.6	12,473	47.3	10,917	38.8	14,753	59.9	48,467	183.6	3	POLAND	16,010	63.2	16,740	67.1	32,751	130.3
4	NETHERLANDS	11,808	39.9	12,315	38.0	9,747	29.9	10,792	31.0	44,662	138.7	4	NETHERLANDS	11,924	45.4	13,869	47.8	25,793	93.2
5	GERMANY	9,552	69.3	9,494	71.3	7,266	52.5	14,447	119.9	40,759	313.0	5	GERMANY	9,138	56.4	8,093	53.7	17,232	110.1
6	BELGIUM	13,672	71.6	11,194	59.3	8,072	55.3	6,790	34.0	39,728	220.3	6	BELGIUM	6,804	34.4	7,315	42.5	14,119	77.0
7	AUSTRALIA	9,836	76.4	9,220	70.4	10,244	75.5	7,918	64.4	37,218	286.8	7	TURKEY	5,549	38.9	6,308	39.5	11,857	78.4
8	TURKEY	6,477	42.6	6,741	43.8	4,425	25.0	5,686	36.2	23,329	147.6	8	SPAIN	5,155	21.9	5,488	25.3	10,643	47.2
9	FRANCE	6,873	51.2	5,275	41.8	4,655	41.0	5,763	51.1	22,567	185.0	9	FRANCE	5,040	36.8	5,267	33.6	10,307	70.4
10	SPAIN	4,911	23.9	5,708	31.3	5,194	26.5	6,412	32.5	22,225	114.2	10	AUSTRALIA	5,470	40.5	4,712	37.9	10,181	78.3
11	ITALY	3,648	23.7	3,994	26.3	2,707	18.7	4,330	28.3	14,680	97.0	11	ROMANIA	4,831	18.5	4,668	18.8	9,499	37.3
12	ROMANIA	3,150	12.6	3,993	15.4	3,294	12.9	4,131	16.2	14,567	57.0	12	ITALY	2,894	18.3	3,253	20.2	6,147	38.6
13	SOUTH AFRICA	2,094	15.0	3,443	25.3	2,800	23.0	4,171	39.7	12,508	102.9	13	AUSTRIA	3,476	23.0	3,084	21.2	6,560	44.2
14	AUSTRIA	2,719	18.0	3,373	21.9	2,777	19.8	2,644	20.0	11,513	79.7	14	JAPAN	2,742	22.3	2,959	23.3	5,702	45.6
15	JAPAN	2,485	20.2	3,266	26.2	3,070	24.7	2,596	21.2	11,416	92.3	15	UTD ARAB EMIRATES	2,466	13.8	2,897	16.2	5,363	29.9
16	UTD ARAB EMIRATES	2,572	16.8	2,853	13.4	2,901	17.8	2,436	10.0	10,762	58.1	16	UKRAINE	2,712	13.0	2,894	13.8	5,606	26.8
17	CANADA	1,850	13.8	3,579	26.6	2,595	18.1	2,541	19.5	10,565	78.1	17	CZECH	1,272	6.0	1,895	10.8	3,168	16.8
18	UKRAINE	1,816	9.9	1,477	6.5	2,310	9.6	2,548	11.5	8,151	37.6	18	CANADA	1,711	10.5	1,847	13.0	3,558	23.5
19	INDONESIA	2,655	20.5	987	7.1	2,288	17.2	2,108	17.5	8,038	62.4	19	IRAQ	2,227	4.5	1,791	3.7	4,018	8.2
20	SAUDI ARABIA	2,072	16.4	845	6.8	1,653	13.1	2,580	18.6	7,150	54.9	20	MEXICO	824	4.8	1,760	14.5	2,584	19.3
	OTHERS	39,471	212.4	37,880	215.9	35,394	183.2	32,481	177.5	145,225	789.0		OTHERS	30,275	154.6	32,483	181.9	62,758	337.5
	TOTAL	207,032	1,246.8	217,197	1,333.1	196,477	1,190.1	206,416	1,286.4	827,121	5,056.3		TOTAL	193,926	1,146.2	197,574	1,185.6	391,504	2,332.8

## Imports of equipment by country of origin

In the first half of 2024, UK imports of construction and earthmoving equipment arrived from over 60 different countries. The table below shows rankings for the Top 20 countries based on weight shipped (tonnes) during 2023 and 2024. In the first half of this year, the Top 20 countries accounted for between 96% to 97% of total imports in both weight and value terms.

Imports from China continued to show significant growth in Q2 compared with last year and it remains ahead of the Netherlands as the leading source, after being in fourth place last year. This is on a tonnage shipped basis and has reached 17% of total imports on this basis. Based on the value of equipment imported, Germany remained as the leading source in the first half of the year, ahead of the Netherlands and Belgium, with China in fourth place. Imports from Japan are remaining at lower levels this year and it stayed in sixth place in the rankings after six months, based on tonnage shipped, after being in second place in 2023.

**Table 3: Top 20 countries imports of equipment**

		Jan Mar		Apr Jun		Jul Sep		Oct Dec		2023				Jan Mar		Apr Jun		2024			
2023	Rank	COUNTRY OF DESPATCH	Tonnes	£ Mill cif	Tonnes	£ Mill cif	Tonnes	£ Mill cif	Tonnes	£ Mill cif	Tonnes	£ Mill cif	2024	Rank	COUNTRY OF DESPATCH	Tonnes	£ Mill cif	Tonnes	£ Mill cif	Tonnes	£ Mill cif
1		NETHERLANDS	17,213	115.5	14,080	98.2	11,497	77.0	8,051	54.1	50,840	344.8	1	China	14,219	67.9	17,257	86.4	31,475	154.3	
2		JAPAN	10,895	70.5	11,033	64.0	13,139	84.0	9,237	55.4	44,303	273.8	2	Netherlands	12,187	76.8	12,711	85.6	24,897	162.4	
3		GERMANY	11,650	107.5	9,465	97.6	10,094	103.6	7,719	80.3	38,929	389.1	3	Belgium	8,624	73.8	10,801	85.4	19,425	159.3	
4		CHINA	11,091	54.7	11,726	64.0	6,893	37.6	5,295	28.9	35,005	185.2	4	Germany	8,675	90.9	7,621	78.7	16,296	169.7	
5		FRANCE	10,459	67.0	9,855	62.0	7,452	46.6	6,865	47.1	34,632	222.6	5	France	7,133	53.6	6,499	47.6	13,631	101.2	
6		BELGIUM	7,311	56.7	8,642	68.1	8,267	69.8	7,206	60.3	31,425	255.0	6	Japan	5,658	37.0	6,718	39.4	12,376	76.4	
7		SWEDEN	5,564	54.7	7,476	59.2	4,147	37.2	3,420	33.4	20,607	184.5	7	Ireland	3,134	20.1	5,694	33.9	8,828	54.0	
8		SOUTH KOREA	6,080	30.9	5,890	30.3	4,620	23.9	3,272	18.5	19,861	103.5	8	Sweden	3,574	36.9	4,750	47.3	8,323	84.2	
9		ITALY	2,821	24.4	3,083	26.8	4,513	34.7	3,948	28.3	14,365	114.3	9	Italy	4,180	30.2	4,054	31.7	8,234	61.9	
10		CZECH REPUBLIC	3,691	28.4	2,595	31.2	2,774	23.2	1,270	12.4	10,330	95.2	10	South Korea	4,149	21.4	3,755	20.1	7,904	41.5	
11		IRISH REPUBLIC	2,707	11.1	2,623	12.0	2,349	14.2	2,046	11.6	9,725	48.9	11	Austria	1,825	16.8	2,731	21.1	4,557	37.9	
12		AUSTRIA	2,425	23.0	2,532	25.3	1,614	16.5	997	11.0	7,568	75.8	12	Finland	673	6.6	3,780	46.2	4,453	52.8	
13		U.S.A.	1,026	11.3	1,542	18.0	1,080	14.2	1,229	16.6	4,877	60.1	13	India	1,442	5.9	2,587	11.6	4,029	17.5	
14		INDIA	1,327	5.6	1,331	5.8	1,165	6.5	847	4.9	4,670	22.8	14	United States	1,109	14.4	1,670	20.9	2,779	35.3	
15		FINLAND	1,055	9.3	1,307	10.9	1,182	10.7	1,024	11.8	4,568	42.6	15	Czech Republic	988	9.5	1,015	11.0	2,004	20.5	
16		SWITZERLAND	446	3.7	950	7.8	1,863	15.5	1,104	10.2	4,363	37.1	16	Spain	719	3.9	870	5.2	1,589	9.1	
17		BRAZIL	2,573	64.8	869	8.5	258	2.4	216	1.9	3,916	77.6	17	Denmark	487	6.0	835	7.7	1,322	13.7	
18		SPAIN	1,477	8.9	618	3.5	980	14.8	525	3.4	3,600	30.6	18	Hong Kong	437	2.2	731	2.9	1,168	5.1	
19		SEYCHELLES	444	0.7	1,425	2.2	580	0.9	245	0.7	2,693	4.4	19	Switzerland	703	6.2	292	2.9	995	9.2	
20		THAILAND	1,953	9.4	134	0.7	433	2.1	119	0.6	2,639	12.8	20	Turkey	241	1.2	565	2.8	806	4.0	
		OTHERS	3,646	26.5	3,554	22.3	2,960	19.0	5,284	52.2	15,444	120.0		OTHERS	2,493	22.6	2,848	29.4	5,340	52.0	
		TOTAL	105,852	784.6	100,730	718.4	87,860	654.4	69,921	543.5	364,362	2,700.9		TOTAL	82,649	603.9	97,782	718.0	180,431	1,321.9	

## Definition of equipment included in analysis of import and export statistics

The data used in this report is taken from HMRC official trade statistics, covering construction and earthmoving equipment (excluding separate trade data for components and parts). Trade data has been used from nine different HS codes, consisting of the following at the four digit level:

- 8413 - concrete pumps
- 8426 - cranes
- 8474 - crushing and screening equipment, and concrete, mortar and other types of mixers
- 8479 - machinery for public works
- 8701 - track-laying tractors
- 8704 - dump trucks for off-highway use
- 8705 - concrete mixer lorries and pumping vehicles
- 8429 - construction and earthmoving equipment including bulldozers, graders, scrapers, loaders, excavators, shovels, tamping machines and road rollers
- 8430 - pile driving and pile extracting equipment, tamping and compacting machinery.



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