



Construction Equipment Association

UK IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

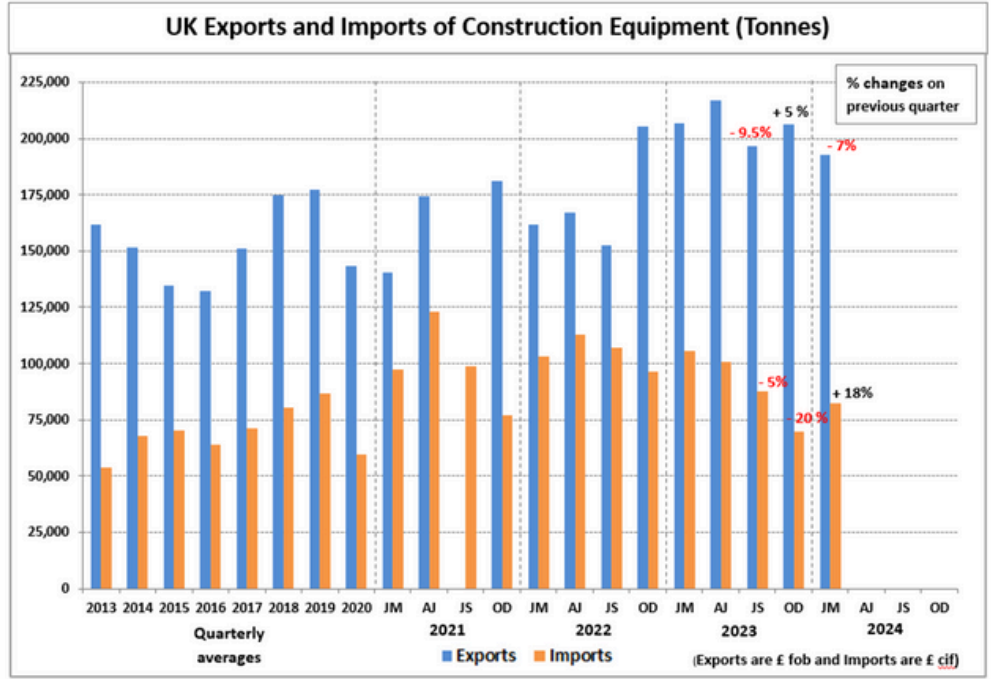
construction and earthmoving
equipment Q1 2024



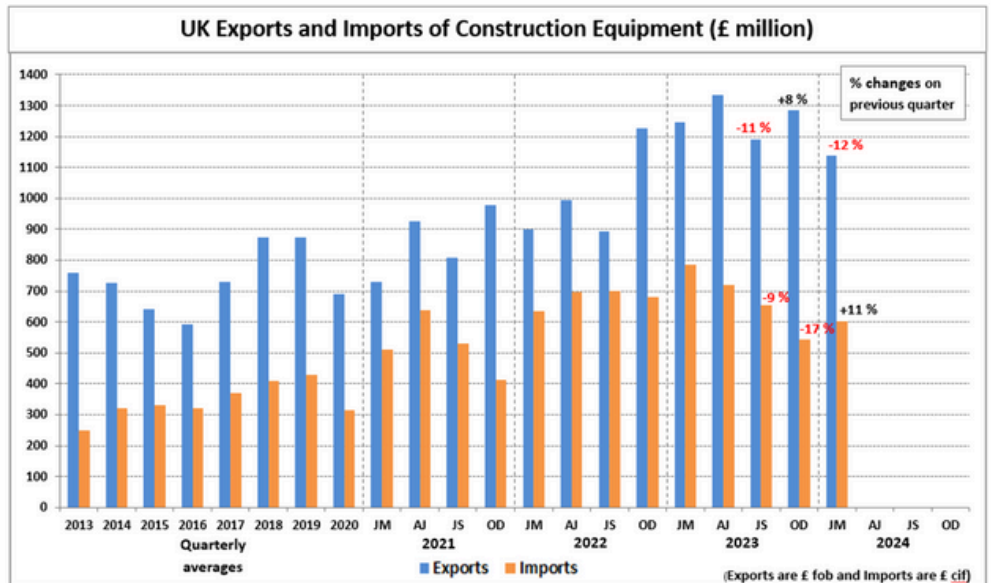
Summary

Imports and exports of construction and earthmoving equipment showed different trends in Q1 2024. After being on a steady downward trend last year, imports increased in Q1 above levels in Q4 last year. In contrast, exports of equipment declined in Q1 to lower levels than the previous four quarters. However, they were still at higher quarterly levels in Q1 than in the previous ten years from 2013 to 2022. Graphs 1 and 2 show UK imports and exports since 2013 based on weight of equipment shipped and the £ value traded.

Graph 1: UK trade by machine weight shipped



Graph 2: UK trade by £ value



Imports

In Q1 imports of equipment showed an 18% increase in tonnage shipped, reaching 82,600 tonnes, and an 11% increase in £ value, reaching £602 million. As increase in imports in Q1 2024 compared with Q4 2023 is consistent with the increase in UK sales of equipment in Q1, based on statistics in the UK Construction Equipment Data Exchange published by Systematics International. This highlighted that Q4 2023 was a low point for UK sales and Q1 2024 showed an improvement. The EU share of total imports is shown in Table 1 and is continuing to show an increasing trend. The EU share of total exports in Q1 reached 71%, following 69% in 2023 and only 57% in 2022.

Exports

Exports of equipment declined by 7% for tonnage shipped, reaching 192,700 tonnes in Q1. In £ value, exports declined by 12% reaching £1.138 million. In the last two years exports were at quarterly averages of £1.003 million in 2022 and £860 million in 2021. These were the highest years since data was collected from 2013, and illustrate that exports are still at very high levels, despite a minor dip in Q1 2024. The share of export trade to EU markets is shown in Table 1 and indicates the continuation of a slight downward trend. The EU share of total exports of equipment fell to 40% in Q1, compared with 41% last year and 44% in 2022.

Overall the UK remained a significant net exporter of construction and earthmoving equipment in Q1 2024 with exports (£1.138 million) 89% higher than imports (£602 million). This is a small increase on the 87% level achieved in 2023.

Table 1: EU share of UK trade

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2023	Q1 2024
Imports from EU (£ Million)	989	1,104	863	1,310	1,536	513	502	455	386	1,856	428
% share of total Imports	61	64	69	63	57	65	70	70	71	69	71
Exports to EU (£ Million)	1,545	1,606	1,379	1,605	1,757	525	535	451	551	2,062	452
% share of total Exports	44.5	46	50	47	44	42	40	38	43	41	40

Exports of equipment by country of destination

In Q1 2024 UK exports of construction equipment were shipped to over 150 countries. Table 2 shows rankings for the top 20 countries based on weight of machines shipped (tonnes) during 2023 and 2024. In Q1 2024 the top 20 countries accounted for 85% to 90% of total exports for both £ value and tonnage shipped. The USA remained the top destination for UK exports in Q1 2024 and increased its share of total exports to just under 39% on a £ value basis. Based on tonnage shipped the USA share was just over 29% in Q1, and it remains the dominant destination for UK equipment by a significant margin.

Ireland remained in second place in the country rankings, just ahead of Poland which is continuing to show growth as an export destination. As a result, it maintained its position in third place in the ranking ahead of the Netherlands. The top four countries accounted for 52% of total exports in Q1 based on tonnage shipped, and 54% based on the £ value of exports.

Table 2: Top 20 countries exports of equipment

2023 Rank	COUNTRY OF DESTINATION	Jan Mar		Apr Jun		Jul Sep		Oct Dec		2023		2024 Rank	COUNTRY OF DESTINATION	Jan Mar	
		Tonnes	£ M fob	Tonnes	£ M fob	Tonnes	£ M fob	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	United States	56,095	439.8
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	16,241	70.9
3	POLAND	10,325	37.6	12,473	47.3	10,917	38.8	14,753	59.9	48,467	183.6	3	Poland	16,002	63.2
4	NETHERLANDS	11,808	39.9	12,315	38.0	9,747	29.9	10,792	31.0	44,662	138.7	4	Netherlands	11,950	45.4
5	GERMANY	9,552	69.3	9,494	71.3	7,266	52.5	14,447	119.9	40,759	313.0	5	Germany	9,162	55.9
6	BELGIUM	13,672	71.6	11,194	59.3	8,072	55.3	6,790	34.0	39,728	220.3	6	Belgium	6,803	34.4
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
8	TURKEY	6,477	42.6	6,741	43.8	4,425	25.0	5,686	36.2	23,329	147.6	8	Australia	5,470	40.5
9	FRANCE	6,873	51.2	5,275	41.8	4,655	41.0	5,763	51.1	22,567	185.0	9	Spain	5,155	21.9
10	SPAIN	4,911	23.9	5,708	31.3	5,194	26.5	6,412	32.5	22,225	114.2	10	France	5,039	36.8
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
12	ROMANIA	3,150	12.6	3,993	15.4	3,294	12.9	4,131	16.2	14,567	57.0	12	Austria	3,476	23.0
13	SOUTH AFRICA	2,094	15.0	3,443	25.3	2,800	23.0	4,171	39.7	12,508	102.9	13	Italy	2,894	18.3
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
15	JAPAN	2,485	20.2	3,266	26.2	3,070	24.7	2,596	21.2	11,416	92.3	15	Ukraine	2,712	13.0
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	Utd Arab Emirates	2,466	13.8
17	CANADA	1,850	13.8	3,579	26.6	2,595	18.1	2,541	19.5	10,565	78.1	17	Iraq	2,227	4.5
18	UKRAINE	1,816	9.9	1,477	6.5	2,310	9.6	2,548	11.5	8,151	37.6	18	South Africa	1,801	13.5
19	INDONESIA	2,655	20.5	987	7.1	2,288	17.2	2,108	17.5	8,038	62.4	19	Canada	1,711	10.5
20	SAUDI ARABIA	2,072	16.4	845	6.8	1,653	13.1	2,580	18.6	7,150	54.9	20	Portugal	1,572	5.4
	OTHERS	39,471	212.4	37,880	215.9	35,394	183.2	32,481	177.5	145,225	789.0		OTHERS	28,818	147.3
	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	192,716	1,137.9

Imports of equipment by country of origin

In Q1 2024 UK imports of construction and earthmoving equipment arrived from over 50 different countries. Table 3 shows rankings for the top 20 countries based on weight shipped (tonnes) during 2023 and 2024. In Q1 2024 the top 20 countries accounted for 96% to 97% of total imports in both weight and value terms. Imports from China showed significant growth in Q1 compared with 2023, overtaking the Netherlands to become the leading source on a tonnage shipped basis, after reaching fourth place last year. Germany remains the leading source for imports based on value of equipment. A notable change in Q1 was the reduction in imports from Japan, falling to sixth place 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		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
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		
2	JAPAN	10,895	70.5	11,033	64.0	13,139	84.0	9,237	55.4	44,303	273.8	2	Netherlands	12,132	76.5		
3	GERMANY	11,650	107.5	9,465	97.6	10,094	103.6	7,719	80.3	38,929	389.1	3	Germany	8,661	90.7		
4	CHINA	11,091	54.7	11,726	64.0	6,893	37.6	5,295	28.9	35,005	185.2	4	Belgium	8,624	73.8		
5	FRANCE	10,459	67.0	9,855	62.0	7,452	46.6	6,865	47.1	34,632	222.6	5	France	7,132	53.0		
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		
7	SWEDEN	5,564	54.7	7,476	59.2	4,147	37.2	3,420	33.4	20,607	184.5	7	Italy	4,189	30.2		
8	SOUTH KOREA	6,080	30.9	5,890	30.3	4,620	23.9	3,272	18.5	19,861	103.5	8	South Korea	4,149	21.4		
9	ITALY	2,821	24.4	3,083	26.8	4,513	34.7	3,948	28.3	14,365	114.3	9	Sweden	3,574	36.9		
10	CZECH REPUBLIC	3,691	28.4	2,595	31.2	2,774	23.2	1,270	12.4	10,330	95.2	10	Ireland	3,211	20.0		
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		
12	AUSTRIA	2,425	23.0	2,532	25.3	1,614	16.5	997	11.0	7,568	75.8	12	India	1,442	5.9		
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	United States	1,109	14.4		
14	INDIA	1,327	5.6	1,331	5.8	1,165	6.5	847	4.9	4,670	22.8	14	Czech Republic	989	9.5		
15	FINLAND	1,055	9.3	1,307	10.9	1,182	10.7	1,024	11.8	4,568	42.6	15	Spain	719	3.9		
16	SWITZERLAND	446	3.7	950	7.8	1,863	15.5	1,104	10.2	4,363	37.1	16	Switzerland	703	6.2		
17	BRAZIL	2,573	64.8	869	8.5	258	2.4	216	1.9	3,916	77.6	17	Finland	673	6.6		
18	SPAIN	1,477	8.9	618	3.5	980	14.8	525	3.4	3,600	30.6	18	Utd Arab Emirates	510	1.1		
19	SEYCHELLES	444	0.7	1,425	2.2	580	0.9	245	0.7	2,693	4.4	19	Denmark	443	5.6		
20	THAILAND	1,953	9.4	134	0.7	433	2.1	119	0.6	2,639	12.8	20	Hong Kong	437	2.2		
	OTHERS	3,646	26.5	3,554	22.3	2,960	19.0	5,284	52.2	15,444	120.0		OTHERS	2,194	22.5		
	TOTAL	105,852	784.6	100,730	718.4	87,860	654.4	69,921	543.5	364,362	2,700.9		TOTAL	82,592	602.0		

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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