

# Sources of Northern Ireland Trade Data – HMRC RTS and BESES comparison

	HMRC	BESES
<b>UK COVERAGE</b>	Consistent data across all UK regions	Provides NI estimates only
<b>UK INTER-REGIONAL TRADE</b>	No inter-regional trade	NI trade with GB provided
<b>DATA SOURCE</b>	Administrative data source – it is a legal requirement for all VAT registered businesses to supply this data	Survey-based data source – associated drawbacks include respondent bias, error, gaps in survey coverage, sampling error etc.
<b>THRESHOLDS</b>	Businesses included must have EU exports and imports above the Intrastat threshold (exports >£250k, imports > £1.5m). Detailed information on smaller traders is not available	Businesses surveyed must have turnover above the VAT threshold (£82k in 2015/16). Information on smaller businesses is therefore available from BESES
<b>GOODS AND SERVICES DATA COLLECTED</b>	Trade in goods only	Trade in goods and services
<b>CLASSIFICATION OF DATA COLLECTED</b>	Estimates provided at product level using the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) and so only broadly comparable with BESES	Estimates provided at industry level using the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC 2007) and so only broadly comparable with HMRC
<b>TIMELINESS</b>	New up-to-date data published quarterly	Previous year data published annually. 2017 data to be published on the 12 <sup>th</sup> December