

Ireland's trade with the Baltic in the 18th century

Aidan Kane
NUI Galway

ESRI
Dublin

Thursday 14th November 2019

Overview:

A tale of two sources

1. The Customs 15 ledgers of exports and imports
2. The Sound Toll Registers Online database
3. How consistent are these two source?

Some (initial and crude) comparisons of trade

- By commodity group
- By Irish port

The “Customs 15 Ledgers of Exports and Imports” at the UK National Archives

The screenshot shows the UK National Archives website interface. The main heading is "Ledgers of Imports and Exports, Ireland". The reference number is CUST 15. The title is "Ledgers of Imports and Exports, Ireland". The description states: "These ledgers of Irish imports and exports appear under the several countries importing or exporting and give the total values of the imports and exports in each year together with their mean value during the year. Until the year 1819 the returns of each Irish port are separately stated. From that year onwards the returns are given in somewhat different form, showing, under the countries of import or export as before, the official value of the goods, the gross amount of the duties received together with the bounties, drawbacks, etc., repaid thereon, and whether the goods were carried in British or foreign ships." The date range is 1698-1829. The arrangement is noted as: "From 1825 to 1829 there is a duplicate series arranged alphabetically under the articles imported or exported." Related material includes "Irish Customs Board records are in: CUST". The record is held by "The National Archives, Kew". The legal status is "Public Record". The language is "English". The physical description is "140 volume(s)". There is a section for "Context of this record" with a link to "Browse by Reference". A breadcrumb trail shows "All departments" > "CUST - Records of the Boards of Customs, Excise, and Customs and Excise, and HM Revenue and Customs". On the right side, there is an "Add a tag" section with a list of existing tags: economy, exports, imports, ireland, revenue commissioners, trade. Below this is an "Enter tag:" input field and an "Add tag" button. There is also a "Found an error?" section with a link to "let us know".

140 volumes in this set of bound, handwritten ledgers at the UKNA covering 1698-1829

(initially one volume per year: from c.1795 there are two)

Each volume has about 100 A3 pages. Later years have more.

We have digitised, transcribed, and processed data from the volumes for 1698–1784

both original images and data to go online

Joint work with Patrick Walsh, Eoin Magennis, Edward Kearns

- ✓ CUST15_V001_1698.pdf
- ✓ CUST15_V002_1699.pdf
- ✓ CUST15_V003_1700.pdf
- ✓ CUST15_V004_1701.pdf
- ✓ CUST15_V005_1702.pdf
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Size 23.3 MB

The "Customs 15" ledgers

from the UK National
Archives

64

IRELAND

An Abstract of Exportations and Importations from the
2^d day of March 1713, to the 25th day of March 1714

	Exports	Imports	National Stock		Great Increase
			Increase	Decrease	
South Brittain & Wales	563811 7 11	503350 13 6	.6046014 5		
Isles of Guernsey & Jersey					
North Brittain	23939 2 3	40847 8 1			17808 5 1
Isle-man					
Denmark & Norway	19118 1 5	58908 13 2			39790 11 8
Sweden					
Hamborough					
Holland	168702 0 9	70217 2 6	98464 18 3		
Flanders					
France	284042 9 6	186399 16 9	97642 12 8		
Spain and the Canaries	261614 13 1	156398 19 5	105215 13 8		
Portugal and Terceira					
Genoa and Tighorne					
America	101899 12 3		101899 12 3		
Totals	1422227 7 5	1016122 13 7	463703 11 5	57598 17 7	406104 13 10

Total Value of Goods Exported in the year ended

the 25th day of March 1714

	Produce of this Kingdom	Foreign Commodities	Total
South Brittain and Wales	549188	177	14622
Isles of Guernsey & Jersey	104	5638	117
North Brittain	15395	106	7643
Isle-man	119	23039	234
Denmark and Norway	16880	1610	2237
Sweden	47	19118	154
Hamborough			
To Holland	167626	158	1075
Flanders	51	168702	094
France	282738	102	1304
Spain and the Canaries	83	4549	410
Portugal and Sercera	257065	83	4549
Genoa and Siphorne			261614
America	96610	1904	5288
Total	1385506	90	36720
			1422227
			75

Exports 1714

... 18

Total Value

of Goods Exported

for the Year end 25 March 1764

	Produce of this Kingdom	Foreign Commodities	Total Value
Great Britain and Wales	1672544	1724	9651
Isles of Guernsey & Jersey	5	1082190	23
Isle Man			
Denmark and Norway	139337	1823	5496
Sweden	58	144834	3108
Hamborough			
To Holland	109174	1410	13226
Flanders	6	110497	14
France	129977	12	208516
Spain & the Canaries			132063
Portugal and Sercera	245880	742	288214
Genoa and Siphorn			248763
Plantations	266655	934	10219
			187
Total	2563570	15114	31658
			63259229
			548

Exports 1764

An abstract of Goods Exported the several Countries underwrit for 1713 to the 25th day

Denominations of Goods	South Britaine	North Britaine	Norway & East Country	Holland & Flanders	France	Spain & Portugal	Plantations	Total	A Medium of the Currant Prices	Total Value	
Apparell value <i>l. s. d.</i>		16	16					112		112	
Aquavita Gallons	78			4		381	53½	994½	At 10 ^s p Gallon	497 5 0	
Bacon Fitches	40			115	19	124	706	1004	At 10 ^s p Fitch	502	
Barrells empty Number	986	1770						2756	At 2 ^s 6 ^d Each	344 10	
Beef	Barrells Number	825½	123	2493½	9021	26005½	22493¾	48159	109120¾	At 22 ^s 6 ^d p Bar ^{ll}	122760 16 10½
	Carcasses Number	3				32			35	At 1 ^l 6 ^s p Carcass	45 10

More detail: exports by port, to Holland, 1704

Exportations from Ireland to Holland in the year Ending the 25th Day of December 1704.

Denominations of Goods	Baltimore	Belfast	Coleman	Cork	Dingle	Dunash	Droghda	Dublin	Dundalk	Galway	Killybegs	Kinsale	Limerick	Londerry	Rosco	Sligo	Srangford	Waterford	Wexford	Wicklow	Youghall	Total	Amount of Value Current in 1704	Total Value								
Barrell Empty N ^o																								At 1/2 pice								
Beef - Barrells N ^o		5		240				247 1/2	60	154		25	549 1/2	50				268	214		462	2477 1/2	At 1/4 pice	1734	1 6							
Bee - Barrells N ^o		20		111				31					154								52	374	At 1/2 pice	93	10							
Boards - Barrells 6 1/2 in																								6	At 1/2 pice	2	8					
Bread — 6 q ^{ts} C		51		50				23				64	74	4							71		17	240	4	At 1/2 pice	78	2				
Butter — 6 q ^{ts} C	15	450	226	109	37	28		150	5	89	220	3		18		1168	27	2065	37	902	14	220	97	16	At 1/2 pice	1712	8					
Candles — 6 q ^{ts} C		5	3	14				23	6	2														24	9	At 1/2 pice	349	6				
Chese — 6 q ^{ts} C		4	20		4	2								11	22									9	At 1/2 pice	4	1					
Corn - Barrells 6 q ^{ts} C																										At 2/3 pice		1				
Fish - Herring Barrells											100														100	At 1/2 pice	25					
Salmon Tuns				3																						At 1/2 pice	16	13				
Glew — 6 q ^{ts} C								60																	60	At 1/2 pice	34					
Hair - Cow 6 q ^{ts} C				8																						13	2	At 1/2 pice	18	18		
Horse 6 q ^{ts} C																										5	2	At 2/3 pice	7	14		
Hats — N ^o														12												12	At 3/4 pice	9	10			
Hogland — 6 q ^{ts} C				123	1																					123	1	At 1/2 pice	154	1		
Horns - Ox 6 q ^{ts} C																										30	1	At 1/2 pice	60	3		
Hides - Sand N ^o				276																							1983	At 1/2 pice	1308	2		
Ultrad N ^o		857		16414				12358			1887																46472	At 1/2 pice	19750	12		
Jumps - Dozen											10																10	At 1/2 pice	1	10		
Oate - Barrells																											61	At 1/2 pice	2	5		
Meat - Wheat - Barrells																											1	At 1/2 pice	10			
Oyle - Rape - Barrells																											9	At 1/2 pice	2	10		
Pork - Barrells				50							5 1/2																11	At 1/2 pice	90	10		
Rapseed - 6 q ^{ts} C															1026	4												435	At 1/2 pice	2650	3	
Calve - N ^o				204																								90	At 1/2 pice	110	2	
Fox - N ^o								332																					332	At 1/2 pice	16	12
Gate - 6 q ^{ts} C								8																					8	At 1/2 pice	48	
Skins - Lamb - 6 q ^{ts} C								48																					48	At 1/2 pice	29	
Oat - N ^o								40																					46	At 1/2 pice	29	
Rabbit 6 q ^{ts} C								82	2																				11	10		
Sheep 6 q ^{ts} C								483	26																				107	12		
Tallow — 6 q ^{ts} C		90	12		3723	1																							728	1		
Tongues - Dozen																														4 1/2	2	
Tale - bushels																														780		
Small - parcels - 100																															2	10
Soap - 6 q ^{ts} C																															2	10

Total Value of Exportations to Holland in 1704 is 58216 1/2

Exportations From Ireland to Holland in the year

Denominations of Goods	Baltimore	Belfast	Coleraine	Cork	Dingle	Donaghadee	Draghada	Dublin	Drumohilly	Gallesbury	Killybegs
Barrell Empty N ^o											
Beef - Barrells N ^o		5		240				347½	60	154	
Bacon - Barrells N ^o		20		111				31			
Boards Barrells & ¼ th											

Ending the 25th Day of December 1704. ↪

Kinnel	Linrick	Sandary	Repe	Sligo	Strangford	Waterford	Wexford	Wicklow	Younghall	Total	Balance of the Current year anno. 1704	Total Value
											At ½ p piece	- - -
25	549½	50			308	214			452	2477½	At 1/2 p boards	1734 1 6
	154				6				52	374	At ½ p barrell	93 10 -
30										6	At 1/2 p no.	2 8 -

Ports of Ireland



Port group	Member ports
East	Dublin, Wicklow
North	Ballyrain, Belfast, Coleraine, Donoghadee, Drogheda, Dundalk, Larne, Londonderry, Newry, Strangford
South	Baltimore, Cork, Kinsale, Youghal
South East	Ross, Waterford, Wexford
West	Clare, Dingle, Galway, Killybegs, Limerick, Newport, Sligo

Walnuts and other/small nuts

Wall nuts & Others

Wall nuts & small nuts

Wall Nuts & Small Nutts

Wall nutts & Other nutts

Wall nutts & Others

Wall nutts & Small nuts

Wall nutts & small nutts

Wall nutts and other nutts

Wall nutts and small nutts

Wall Nutts and Small Nutts

Wall-Nuts & Small Nutts

Wallnuts & Other nuts

Wallnuts & Others

Wallnuts and small ditto

Wallnuts and Small Nuts

Wallnutts

Wallnutts & other nuts

Wallnutts & other nutts

Wallnutts & Others

Wallnutts & Small nuts

Wallnutts & Small Nutts

Wallnutts and other nutts

Wallnutts and others

Wallnutts and small nutts

Wallnutts small nutts

Walnuts & Others

Walnuts and Others

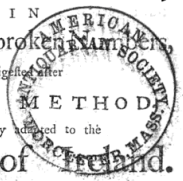
Walnuts and small nuts

Walnutts & Other nutts

Commodity list, exports 1724

Ale, Aquavitae, Bacon, Barrells Empty, Beef/Barrells, Beef/Carcasses, Beer, Books/Unbound, Bread, Butter, Bullocks, Candles, Cheese, Cordage, Copper Ore, Corn/Barley, Corn/Beans, Corn/Malt, Corn/Oats, Corn/Pease, Corn/Rye, Corn/Wheat, Drapery/New, Drapery/Old, Feathers, Fish/Codd (barrells), Fish/Codd (cwt), Fish/Dry`d, Fish/Hake, Fish/Herrings, Fish/Ling, Fish/Salmon, Flanell, Freeze, Glew, Gloves, Glovers Clippings, Graves, Haberdashery Ware, Hair/Cows, Hair/Horse, Hair/Kids, Hair Powder, Hatts, Hogslard, Horns/Ox, Horns/Tips, Horses, Hydes/Tann'd, Hydes/Untann'd, Iron, Iron Mongers Ware, Jumps, Kelp, Linen Cloth, Meal/Groats, Meal/Oat, Meal/Wheat, Mutton/Barrells, Mutton/Carcasses, Ox Bones, Ox Gutts, Oyle Train, Paper, Pork, Rape seed, Salt, Shoes, Skins/Calve, Skins/Deer, Skins/Goat, Skins/Kidd, Skins/Lamb, Skins/Rabbits, Skins/Sheep, Soap, Starch, Stockings/Linen, Stockings/Woolen, Stockings/Worsted, Tallow, Timber, Tongues, Wax, Wooden Ware, Wool, Yarn/Linen, Yarn/Woolen, Yarn/Worsted, Small Parcells

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AN
ESSAY
 ON THE
TRADE
 AND
 IMPROVEMENT
 OF
IRELAND.

By **ARTHUR DOBBS, Esq;**



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Irish-American Trade,
 1660-1783

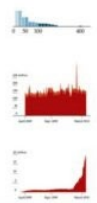
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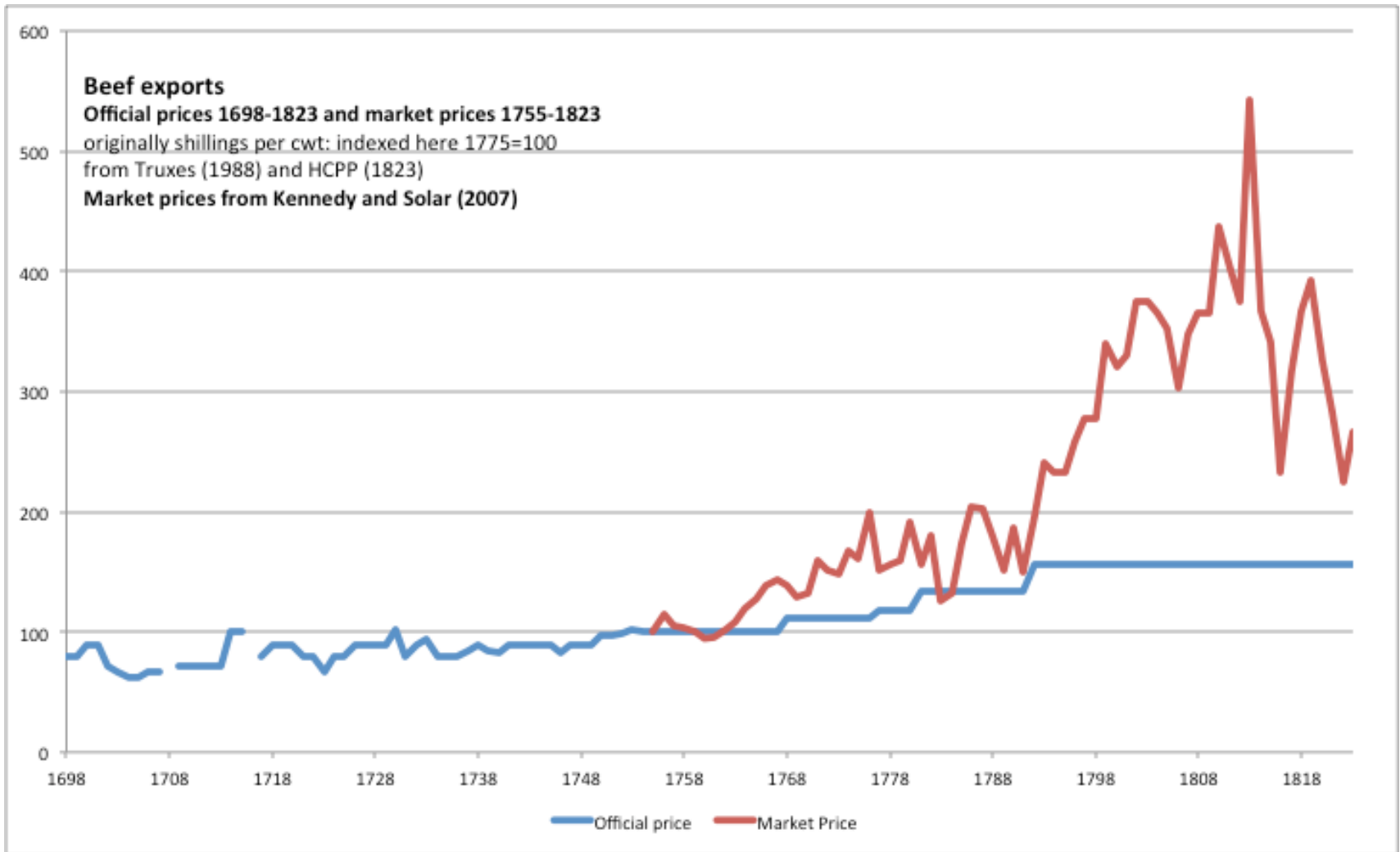
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The database

Database table	N data points
data_port_tables	269,150
data_port_totals	74,912
data_abstracts_tables	85,417
data_abstracts_totals	35,409
data_tonnage	6,432
data_shipping	1,913
data_revenue_totals	1,040
TOTAL	474,273
Images with data	
images_in_abstracts_totals	690
images_in_port_totals	2,871
TOTAL	3,561

Key fields in Customs 15

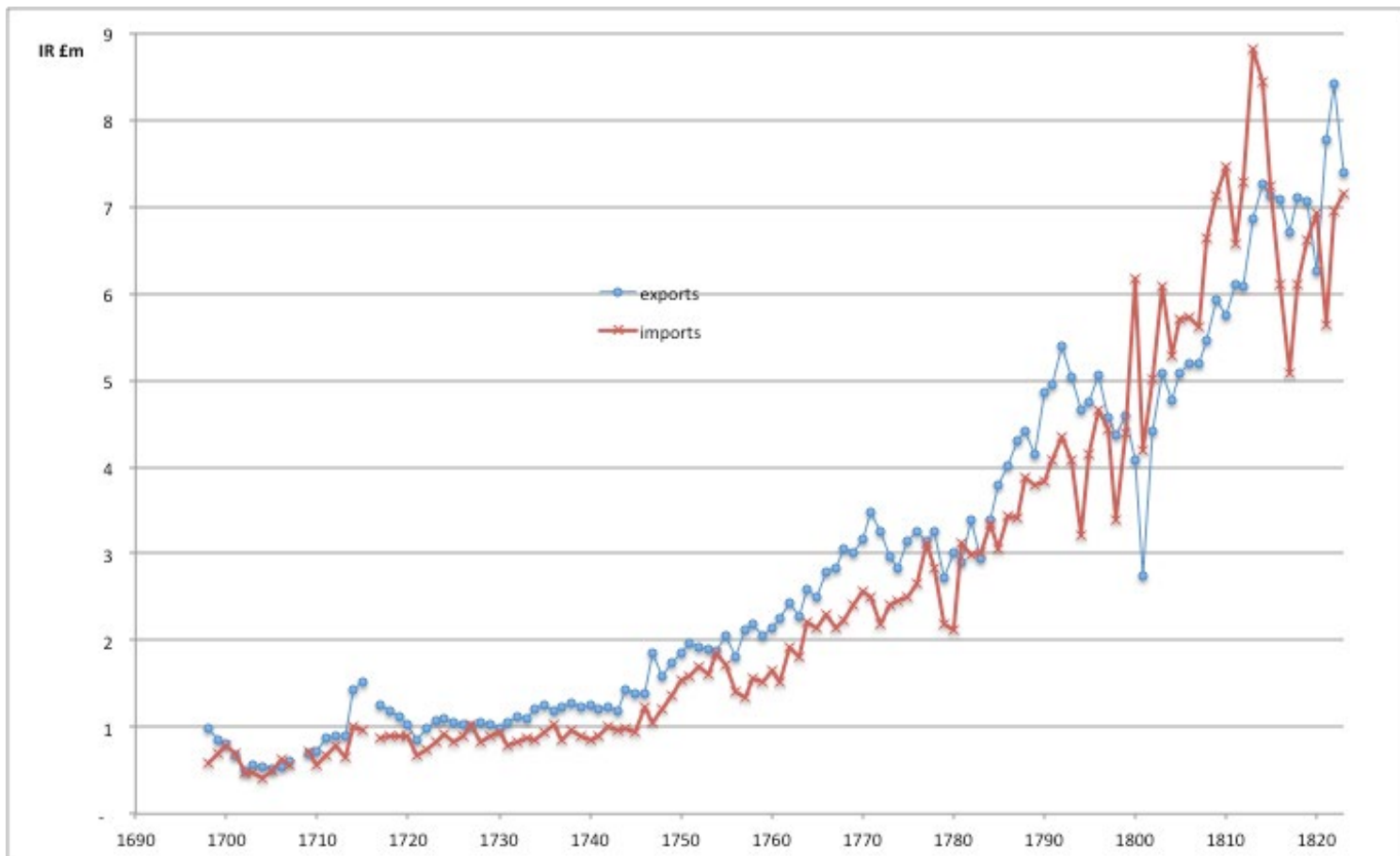
- year
- transaction type (exports/import)
- trade partner (usually 6 up to 1783 -- then c.40)
- Irish port
- Commodity (500 distinct)
- quantity
- quantity denomination/measurement units
 - e.g., lbs, quarters/bushels, cwt qtrs lbs (50+ variants: we standardised over time)
- official price of commodity in that year (derived from total value data)
 - We calculate volume series at 1750 prices



(Index of market prices of beef based on Appendix A.12 pp. 172-175 of Liam Kennedy and Peter Solar *Irish agriculture: a price history from the mid-eighteenth century to the even of the First World War* Royal Irish Academy: Dublin 2007)

Ireland: Total exports and imports 1698-1823 (IR£ millions)

Sources: Customs 15, UK National Archives, as summarised in Truxes (1988) and HCPP (1823)

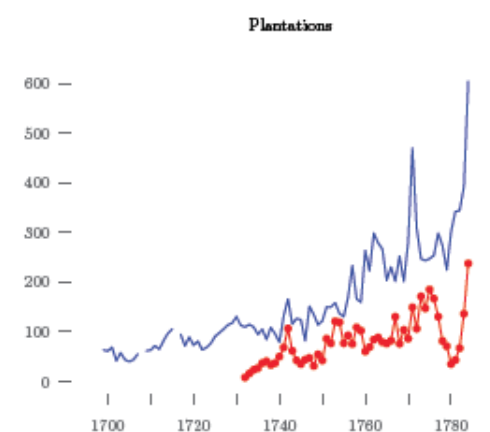
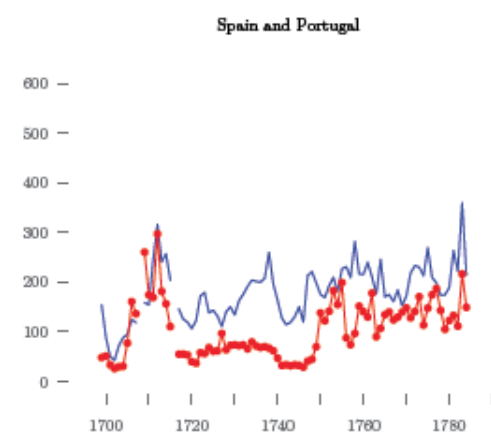
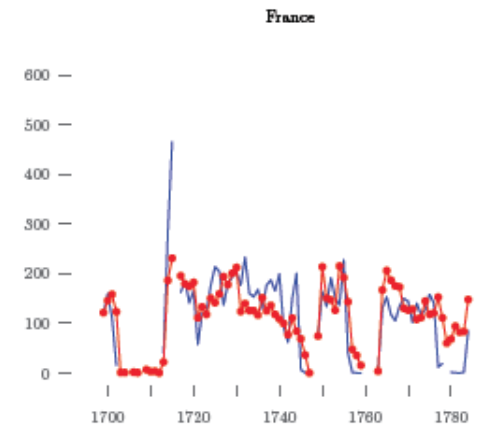
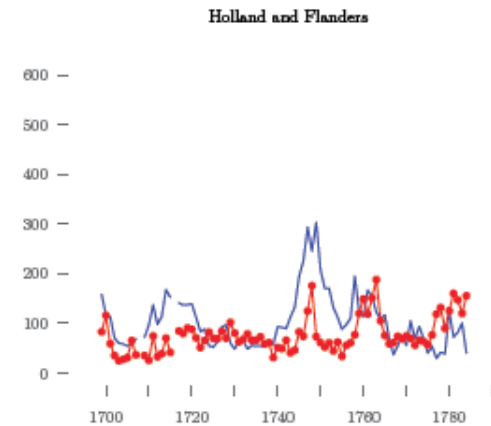
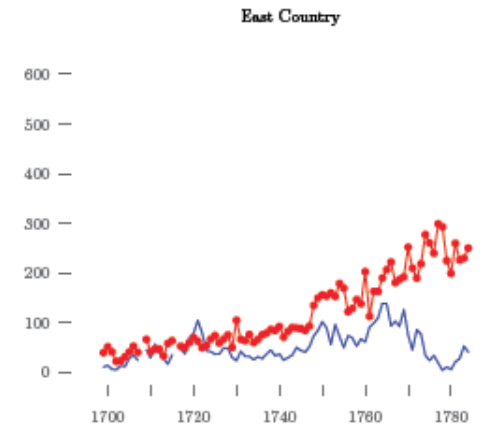
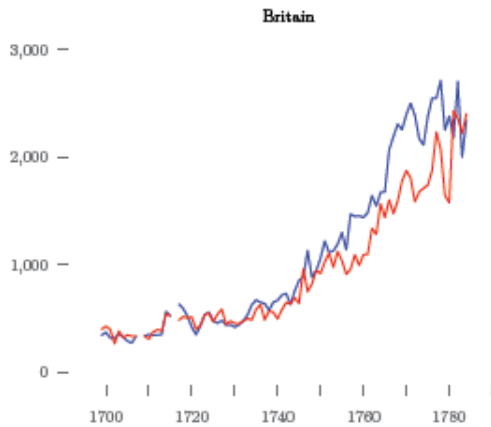


Trade by partner
1698-1784
IR£ 000s

Blue: exports
Red: imports

East Country is Baltic Region

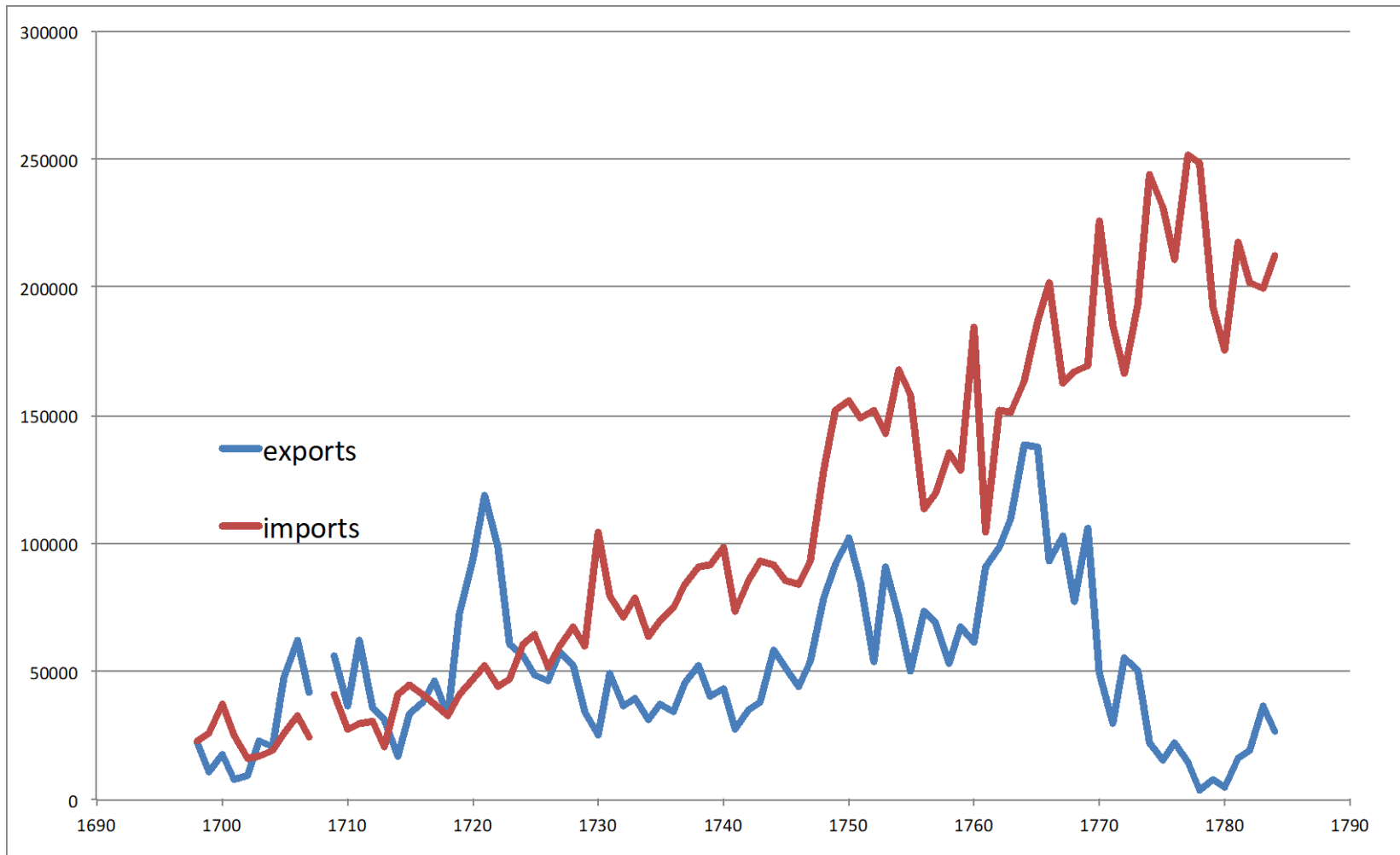
“Plantations” refers to British
North America



Ireland's trade with the Baltic

from Customs 15 1698-1784

IR£s at 1750 prices



Some basic problems/caveats

- Official and market prices may diverge
- (Legally) unenumerated goods
- Mis-reporting/evasion/smuggling
- How to assess reliability?
 - Internal consistency
 - External consistency – check against another source



SOUNDTOLL REGISTERS ONLINE



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Sonttol vrijwilligersdag, 21 april...

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Farewell Conference in honour of Jan
Willem Veluwenkamp
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Veluwenkamp, Jan Willem and Scheltjens, Werner: *Early modern shipping and trade: novel approaches using the Sound Toll Registers Online*. Vol. 5 of Brill's Study in Maritime History. Brill: Leiden, Boston 2018

The Sound



The Sound Toll Registers as records

- Toll levied by Danish King on cargoes of all ships passing through the Sound
- 700 volumes
- 60 linear feet of shelf space
- 300 of 360 years between 1497 and 1857
 - Almost unbroken 1597 and 1857
- 1.8 million ship passages
- Originals + published extracts (since 1906) used by researchers
- Digitisation project 2017 as www.soundtoll.nl
- Challenges of transcription/translation (most in Danish)
- Some concerns over completeness of cargoes (esp. under-declarations)

Sound Toll Registers

Key fields 1634-1857

- **For each passage through the Sound**
 - Date
 - Captain name, home port
- Then for each ship: **for each cargo**
 - Port from
 - Port to
 - Commodity name
 - Measurement units
 - Qty
 - Taxes

Coded by project: place names + many commodities



Commodities from the
www.soundtoll.nl
project

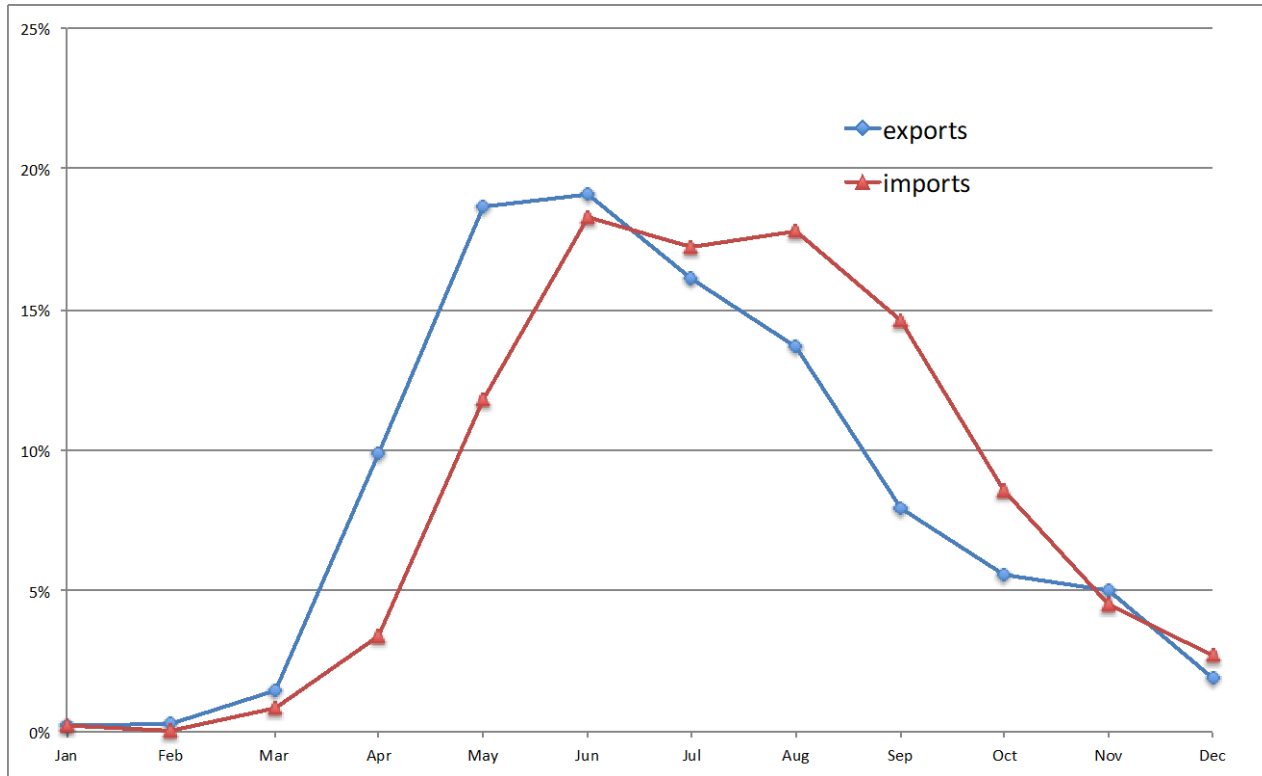
1,800 similarly
identified in STRO

(c.1,800 in Irish data
c.1600 identified
1690-1780)

List of products (7-11-2016)				
Danish	English	Dutch	French	Frisian
Aal	Eel	Paling	Anguilles	Iel
Aarer	Oars	Roeispanen	Rames	Riemen
Abler	Apples	Appels	Pommes	Apels
Absiebsel	Grit	Gruis	Grit	Grús
Æblemost	Apple juice	Appelsap	Jus de pomme	Apelsop
Æbler	Apples	Appels	Pommes	Apels
Ærter	Peas	Erwten	Pois	
Affald	Waste	Afval	Rebut	Õffal
Agurker	Cucumbers	Augurken	Concombres	
Akvavit	Gin	Aquavit	Eau de vie	
Ål	Eels	Aal	Anguilles	
Alicante	Spanish wine	Spaanse wijn	Vin d'Alicante	Wynsoarte
Allehånde	Pimento	Piment	Quatre-épices/toute-épice	
Allun	Alum	Aluin	Alum	
Allunlæder	Alum leather	Aluinleer (geel)	Cuir d'alun (jaune)	Alúnlear
Almagero	Jarosite	Ijzeraluin	Alun de fer	Izeralún
Almagros, krap	Madder	Krap	Garancine	
Almagros, unberoofde	Madder	Krap	Garancine sans racine	
Almanacker	Almanacs	Almanakken	Almanachs	
Aloe	Aloe	Aloe	Aloès	
Ambdam	Starch	Stijfsel	Amidon	Stisel
Ambolte	Iron anvils	Aambeelden	Emclumes	
Ameklæde	Table cloths	Tafellakens	Nappes	Tafellekken
Amidam	Starch	Stijfsel	Amidon	Stisel
Ammunition	Ammunition	Kogels / munitie	Munitions	
Anchiovis	Anchovy	Ansjovis	Anchois	Ansjofisk
Anis	Anise	Anijs	Anis	Anis
Ankere	Anchor	Ankers	Angres	Ankers

Seasonality of voyages from/to Irish ports

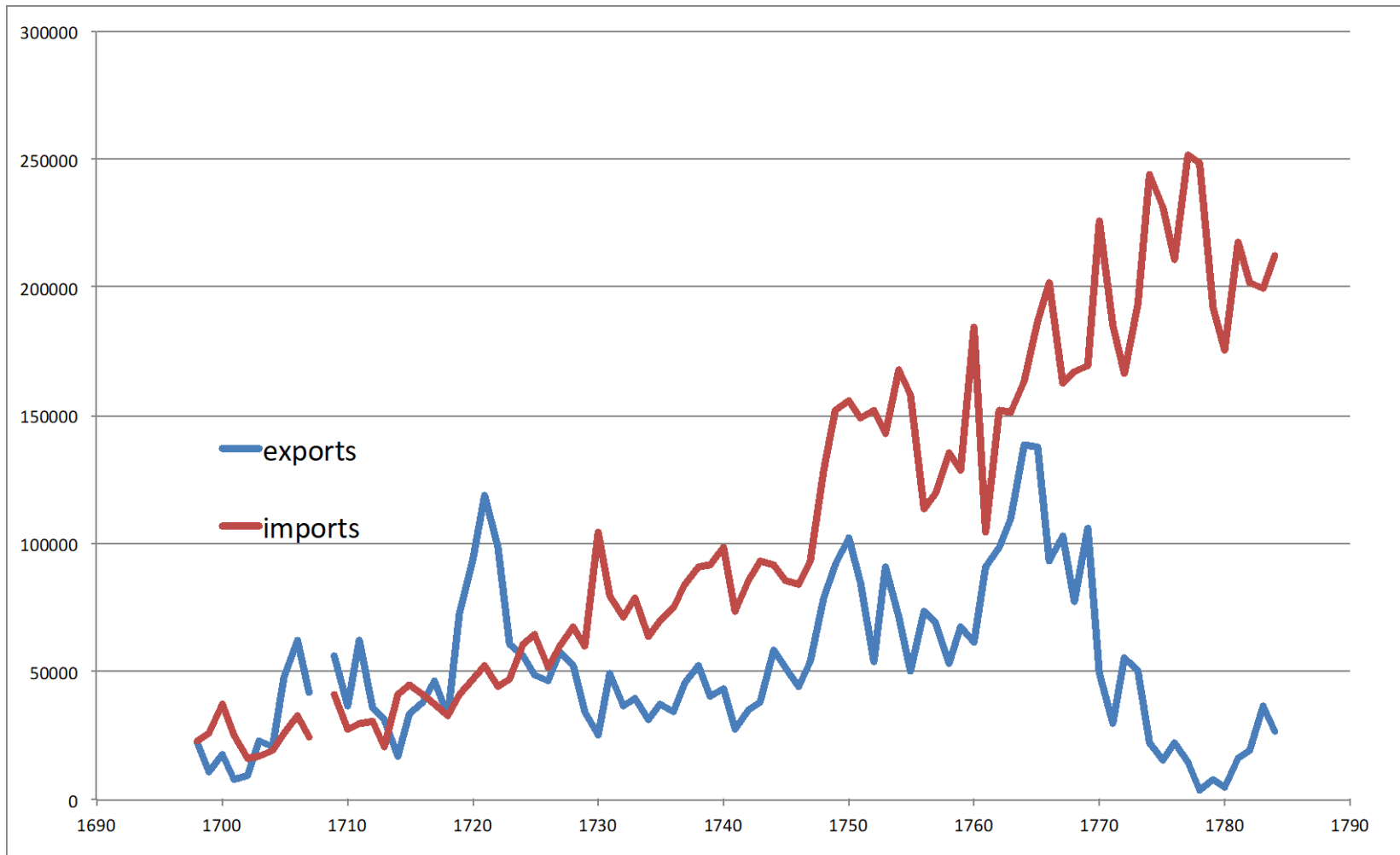
from Sound Toll Registers 1690-1790



Ireland's trade with the Baltic

from Customs 15 1698-1784

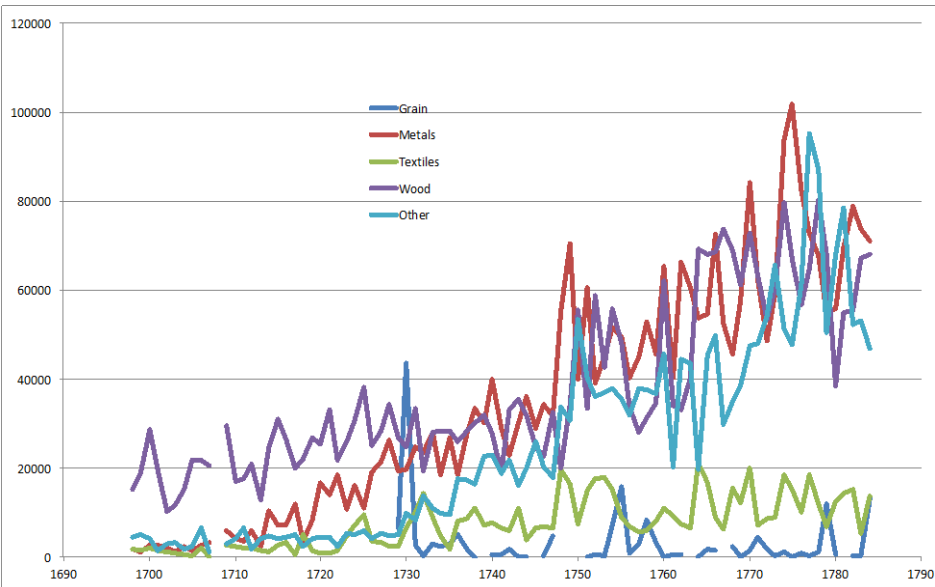
IR£s at 1750 prices



Ireland's Imports from the Baltic by commodity group

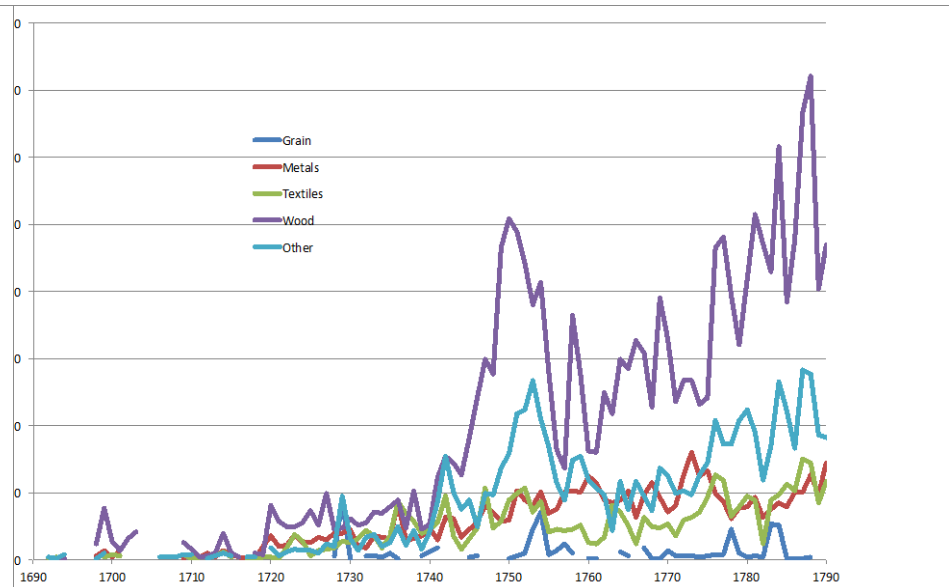
Customs 15

IR£s at 1750 prices



Sound Toll Registers

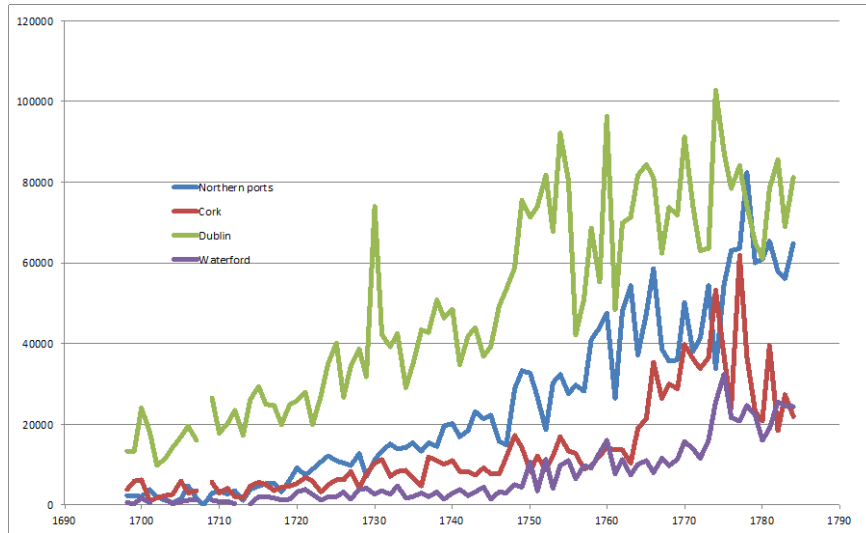
No. of cargoes



Ireland's imports from the Baltic by Irish port

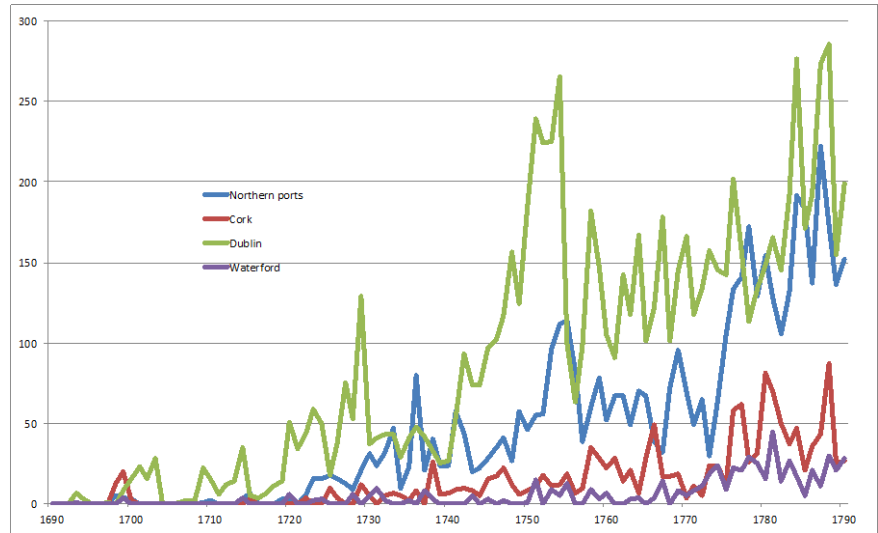
Customs 15

IR£s at 1750 prices



Sound Toll Registers

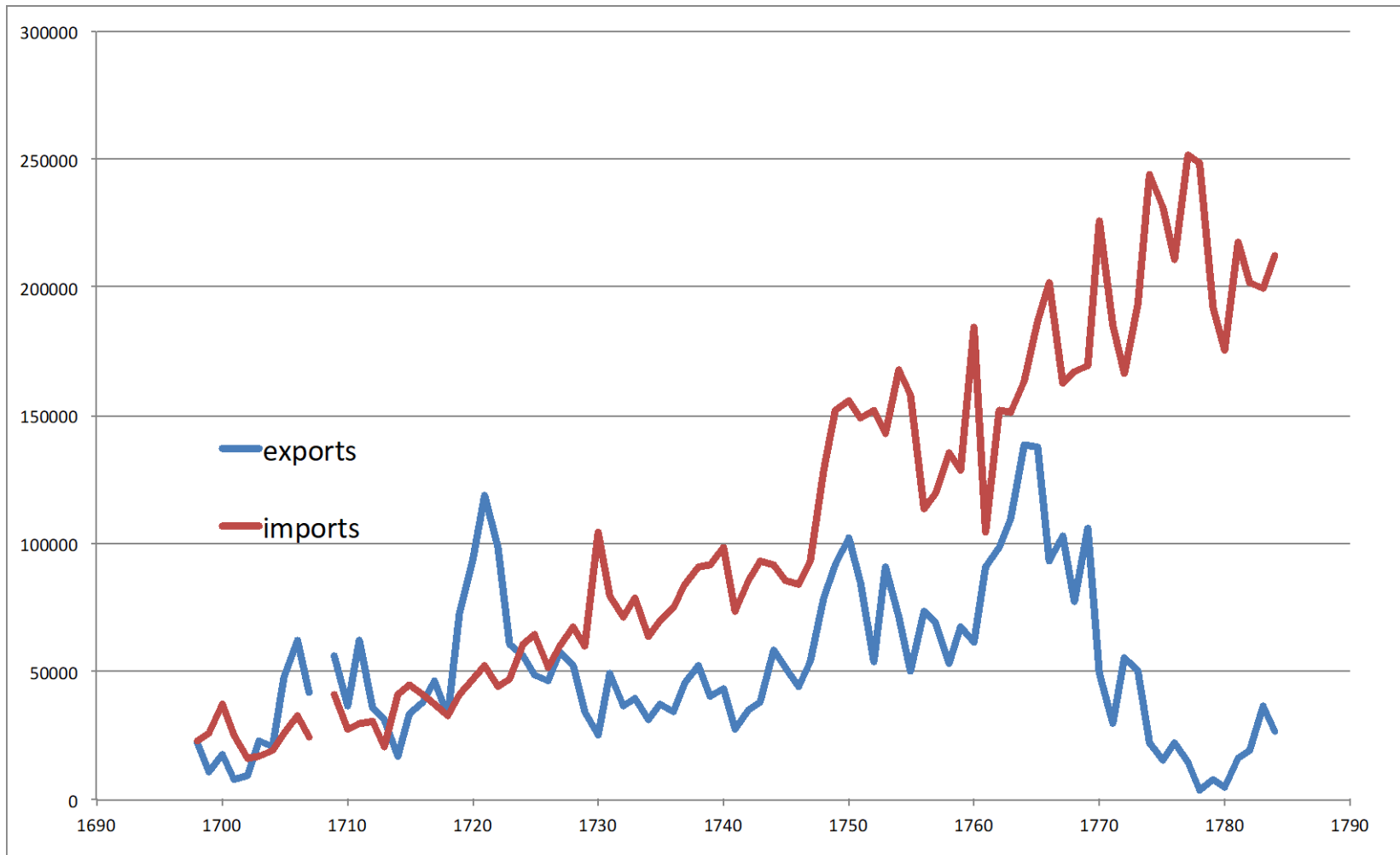
No. of cargoes



Ireland's trade with the Baltic

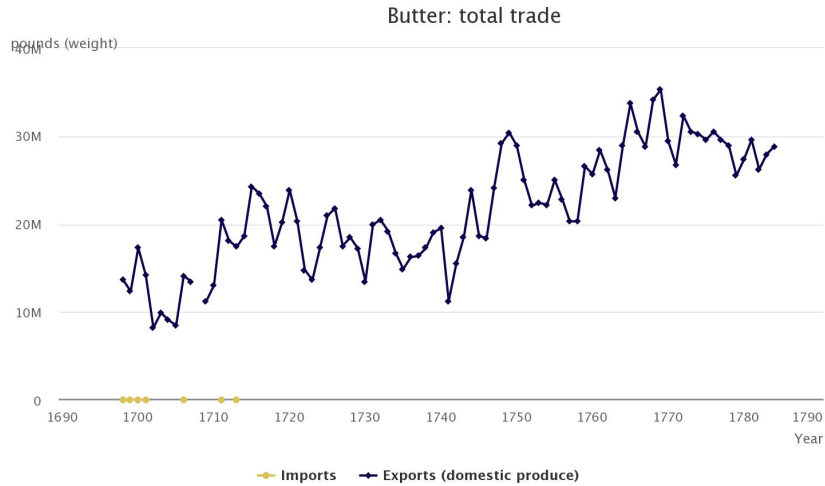
from Customs 15 1698-1784

IR£s at 1750 prices

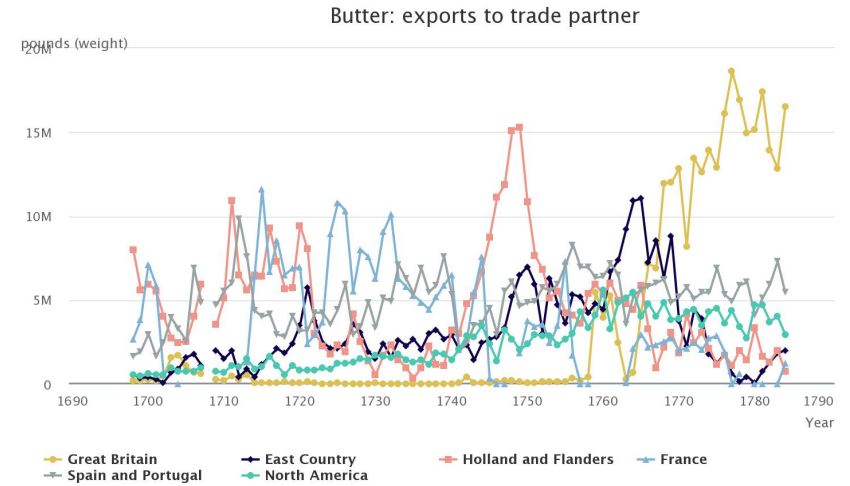


Exports

NB butter accounts for much of the fall in exports to the Baltic:
some context from Customs 15

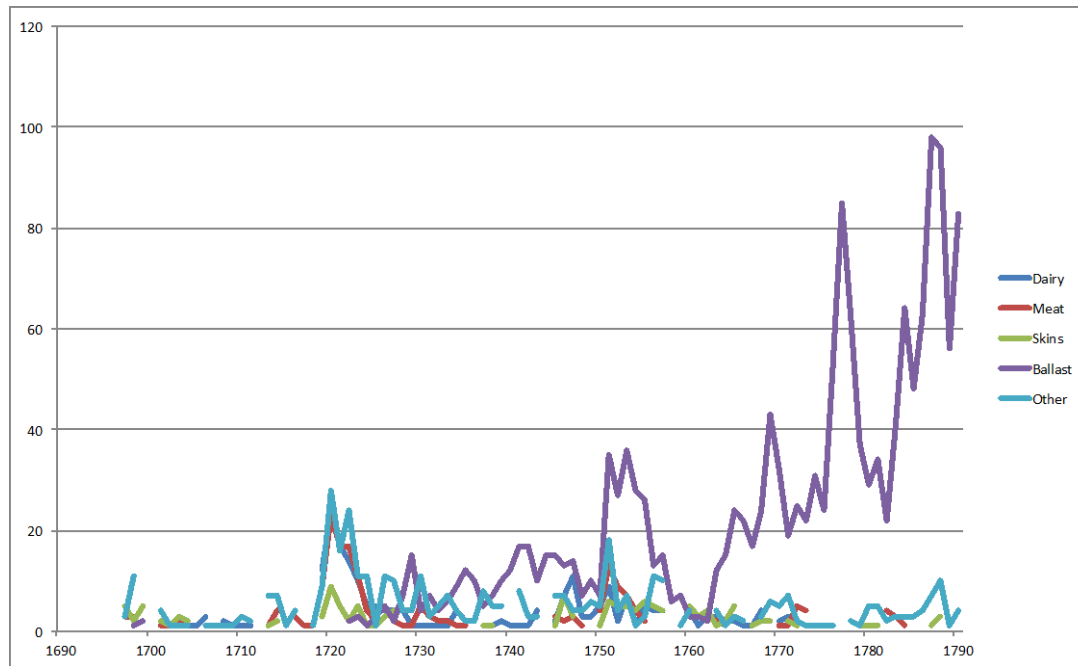


www.duanaire.ie NUI Galway



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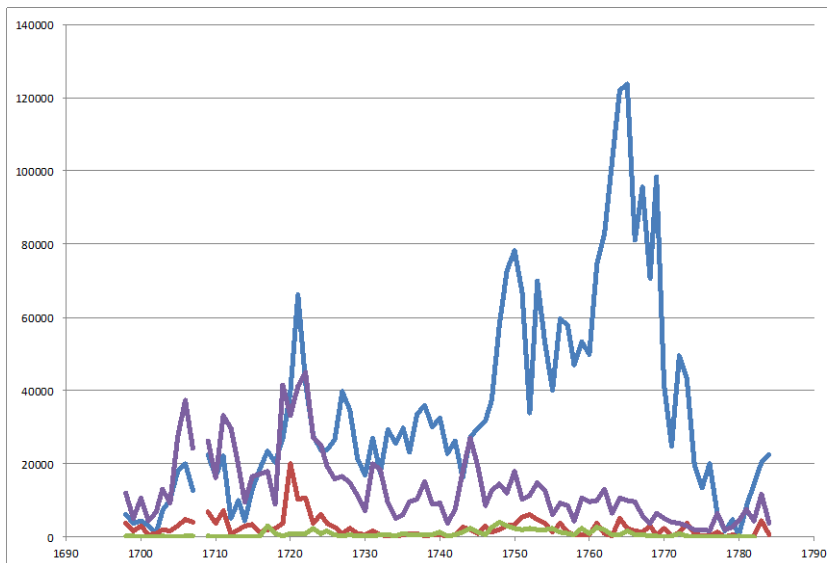
Exports: Irish cargoes to the Baltic from Sound Toll Registers



Ireland's exports to the Baltic by commodity group

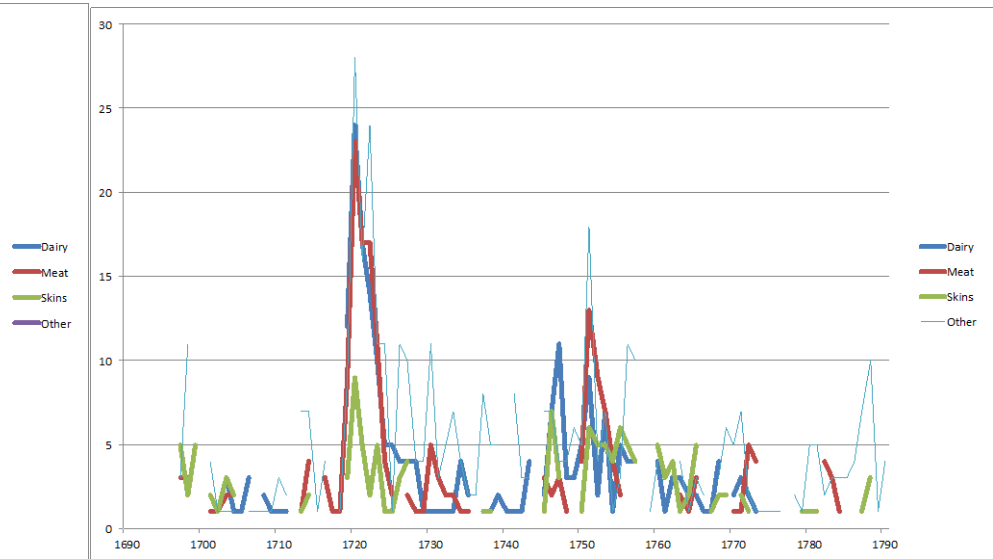
Customs 15

IR£s at 1750 prices



Sound Toll Registers

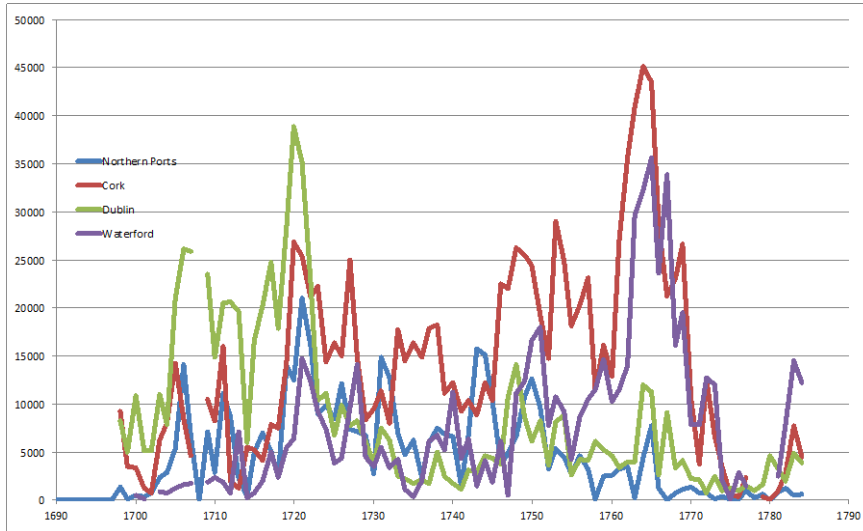
No. of cargoes



Ireland's exports to the Baltic by Irish port

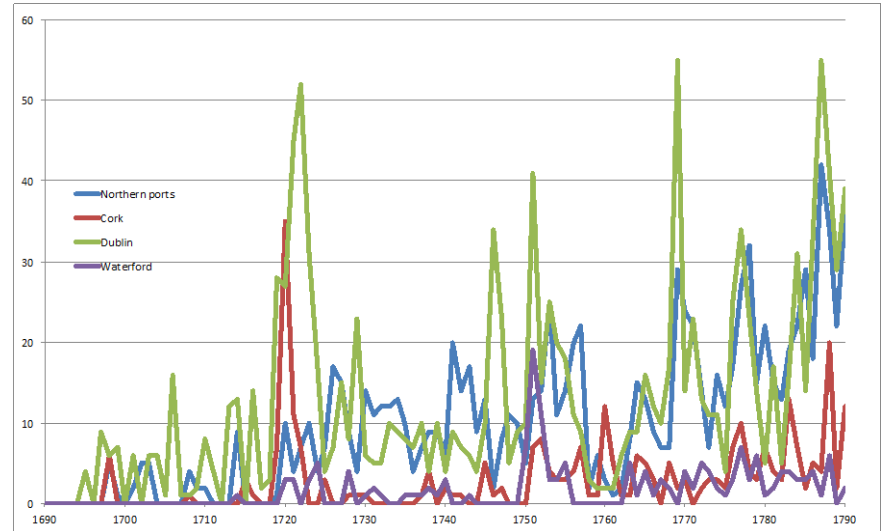
Customs 15

IR£s at 1750 prices



Sound Toll Registers

No. of cargoes



Next steps

- For more meaningful comparisons:
 - Complete classification of commodities for Irish Sound Toll trade
 - More precise matching, rather than groups
 - Work on quantities/measurement units
- Other
 - Track journeys? (via captain names) => speed
 - Extend forward in time