

Trade Data Brief

Cut-flower Imports to the United Kingdom 1995-2017

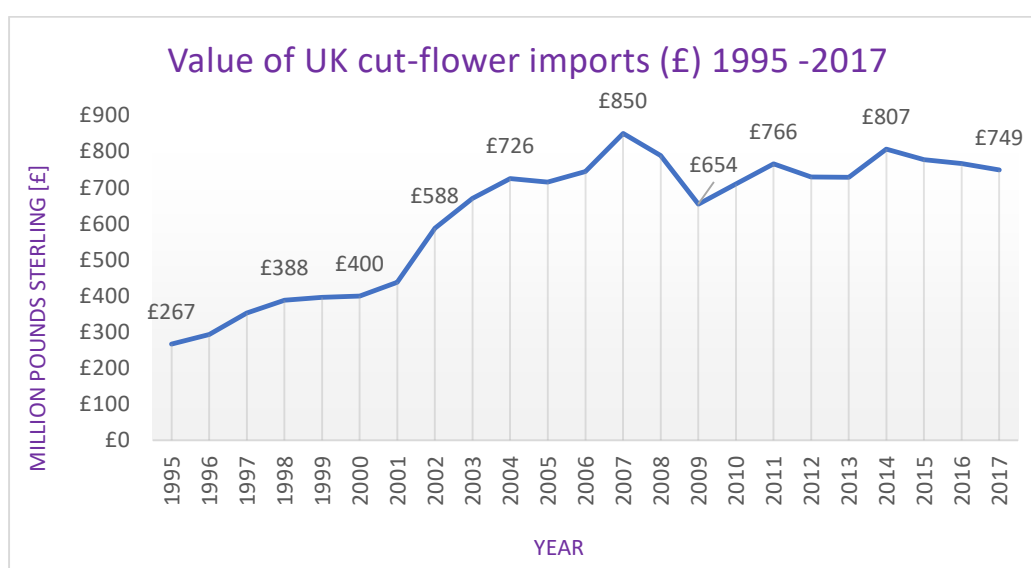


This trade data brief reviews and analyses the value of cut-flower imports to the United Kingdom from 1995 to 2017. The data is based on the HS92 Data Set, based on the BACI International Trade Database¹, accessed via The Observatory of Economic Complexity by Alexander Simoes (<https://oec.world>). The database is built from data directly reported by each country to the United Nations Statistical Division ([Comtrade](#)).

Import values are reported CIF (cost, insurance and freight) and refer to the purchase that transfers ownership from a non-resident to a resident business, individual, or government. The values refer to the purchase that transfers ownership from a resident to a non-resident business, individual, or government. The figures presented here therefore, do not represent (i) the final retail price of the cut-flowers; (ii) the final destination of the cut-flowers, as they may be exported again before final sale.

Headline Trends

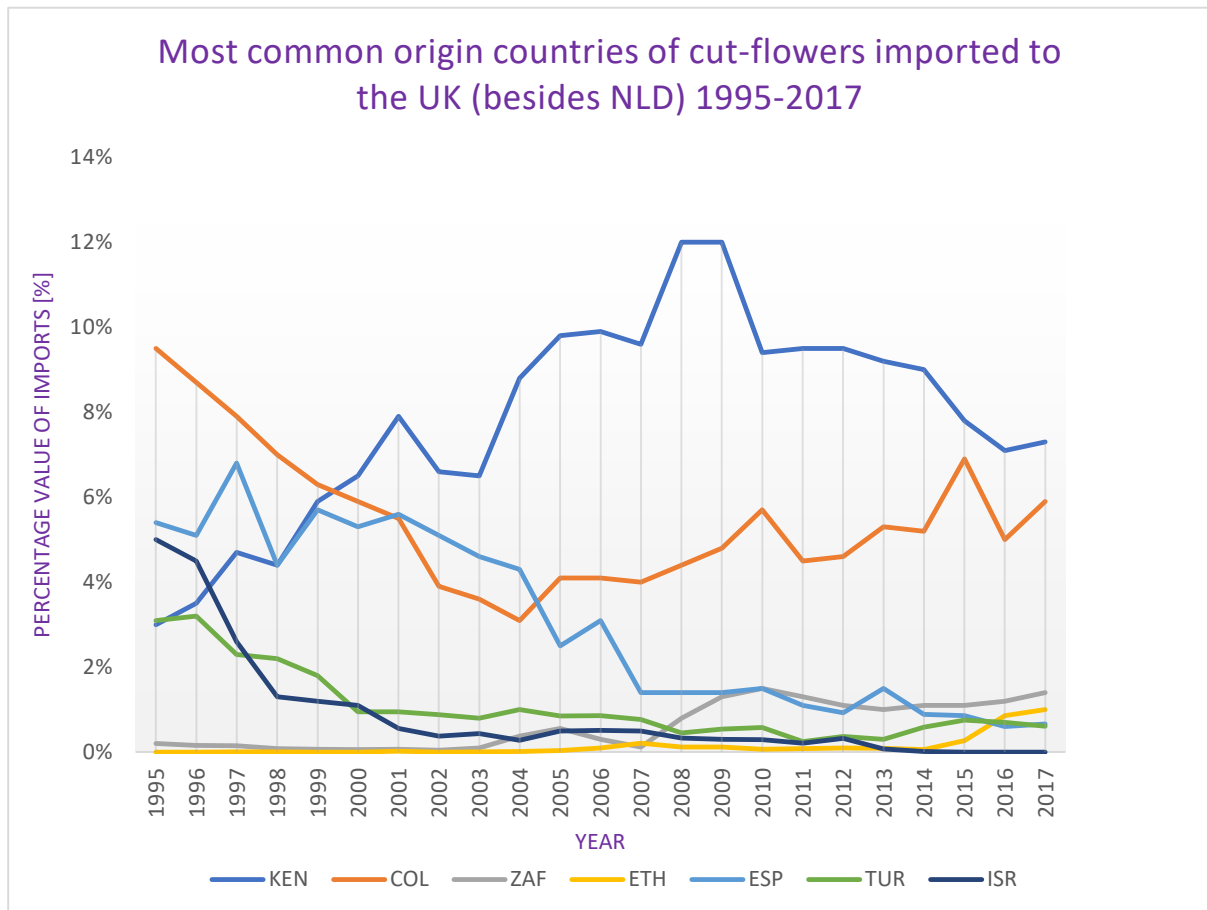
- The UK cut-flower market is worth £2 billion with over 7,000 florists.
- In 2017, the UK cut-flower imports added up to a value of £749 Million.
- Between 1995 and 2017, the value of UK cut-flower imports increased by 281%
- The all-time high of UK cut-flower imports was in 2007 when imports were worth £850 million.
- Shortly thereafter the financial crisis hit, and UK import of cut-flowers dropped. In 2017 the value of imports is still 88% lower than it was in 2007 in terms of value.
- A large chunk of the cut-flowers imported to the UK come from the Netherlands.



¹ BACI: International Trade Database at the Product-Level. The 1994-2007 Version CEPII Working Paper, N°2010-23, Octobre 2010 Guillaume Gaulier, Soledad Zignago - See more [here](#).

Data Source: HS92 Data Set, based on the BACI International Trade Database, accessed via The Observatory of Economic Complexity by Alexander Simoes. Conversion rate USD to GBP: 1 USD = 0.77 GBP from xe.com on 23/12/2019.

- In 1995, 65% of the value of imported cut-flowers came from the Netherlands, this has increased to 80% in 2017.
- Many of these cut-flowers are traded through the Dutch Flower Auction houses.
- The Dutch Auction houses import cut-flowers from all over the world, so the figures will include flowers grown elsewhere which are then traded at the Dutch Flower Auction houses.
- In 2017, most of these cut-flowers came from Kenya or Colombia, where ideal growing conditions have facilitated the expansion of the floriculture industry.
- While Colombia was important at the beginning of our timeline (9.5%), Kenya has proven to be a rising star in the floriculture trade, with almost a 700% increase in the value of cut-flowers imported to the UK.
- In the 1990s, production sites closer to home were more important, such as Spain, Turkey, and Israel. They now make up less than 1% of the value of imported cut-flowers to the UK.
- South Africa and Ethiopia are new suppliers of cut-flowers to the UK and becoming increasingly important.



See our project website for more resources, references to sources, links to articles and project updates at: www.sustainableflowers.coventry.domains

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