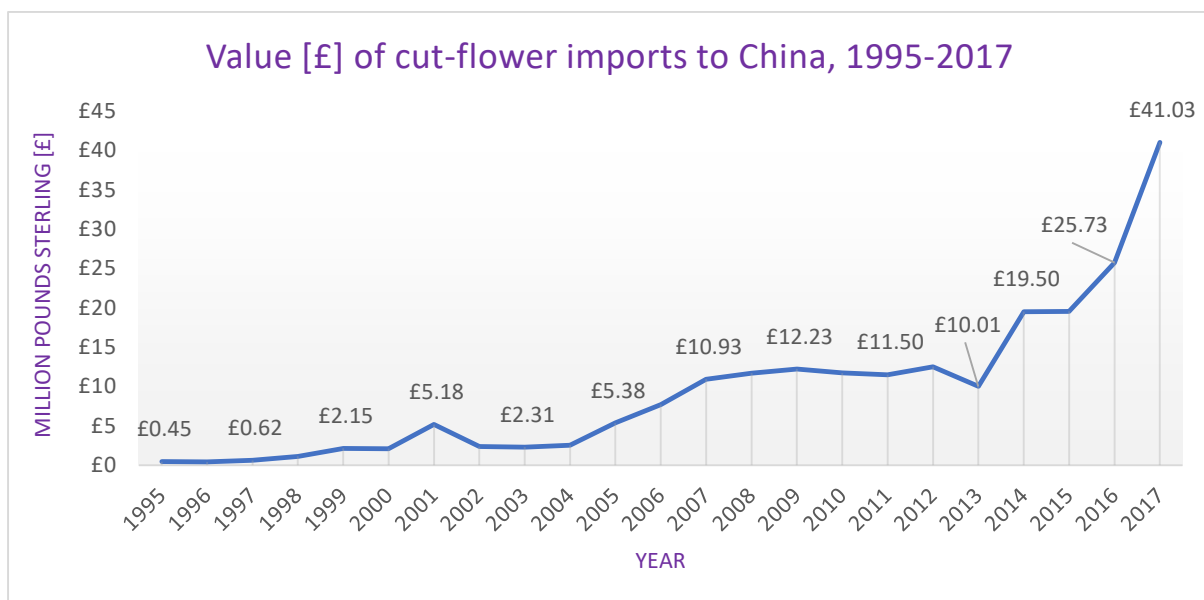


# Trade Data Brief

## Cut-flower Imports to China 1995-2017



This trade data brief reviews and analyses the value of cut-flower imports to China from 1995 to 2017. The data is based on the HS92 Data Set, based on the BACI International Trade Database<sup>1</sup>, 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 as CIF (cost, insurance and freight) and export values are reported FOB (Free on Board). 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.



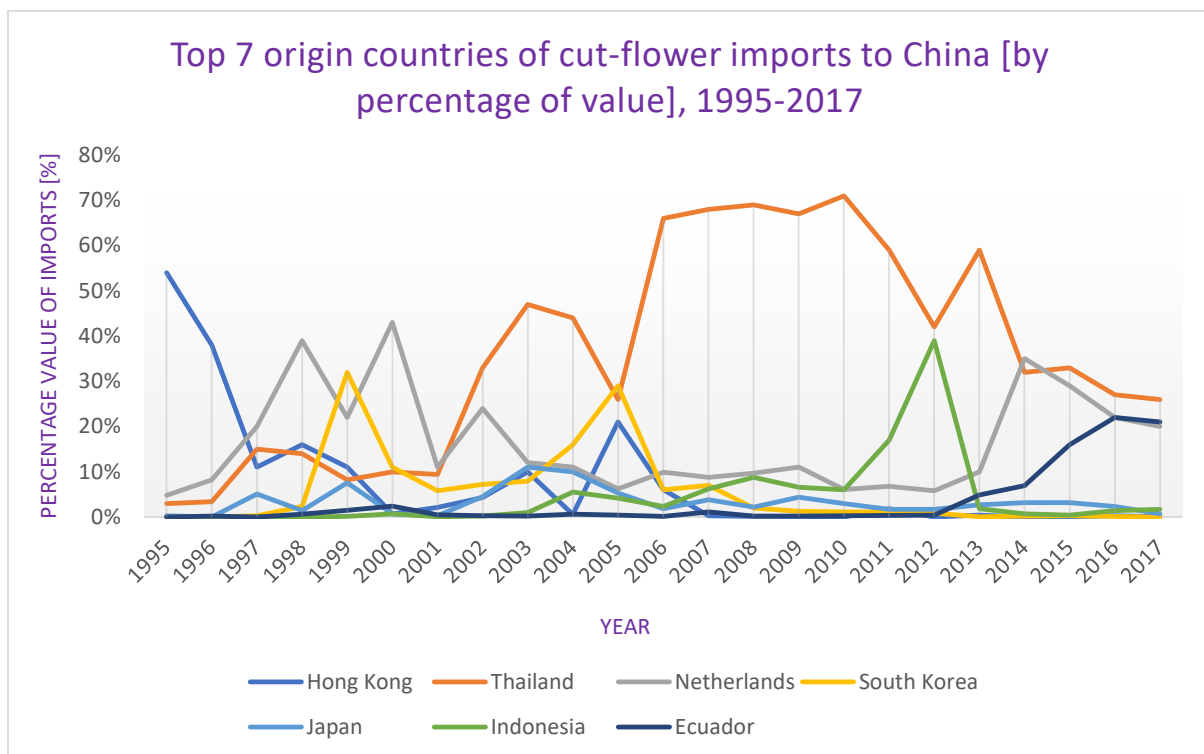
Data Source: HS92 Data Set, based on the BACI International Trade Database, accessed via The Observatory of Economic Complexity by Alexander Simoes. Conversion rate USD to GBP: 1 USD = 0.77 GBP from [xe.com](http://xe.com) on 23/12/2019.

- In 2017, cut-flower imports to China were worth around £41 Million.
- From 1995 to 2017, the value of Chinese cut-flower imports increased from just under half a Million Pounds Sterling to over £41 Million.
- 2017 also marks the highest value of cut-flower imports to China.
- The highest growth year was 2001, when the value of cut-flower imports increased by 247% compared to 2000.

<sup>1</sup> 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](#).

## Origin Countries of Cut-flowers imported to China

- China imports cut-flowers from a range of countries, mostly from within the Asian continent.
- Thailand is one of the most important suppliers of cut-flowers to China, in terms of percentage value of imports and has been so throughout the years.
- The Netherlands is China's most important supplier of cut-flowers in Europe, in line with the Netherlands' role as a trade hub for cut-flowers through the auction houses.
- In the Americas, Ecuador has risen to become a major supplier in terms of percentage value of cut-flower imports, particularly so since 2013.
- Overall, there is an "erraticness" to Chinese cut-flower imports as certain suppliers become very important for a very short time. For example,
  - In 2001, 64% of percentage value of cut-flower imports came from Vietnam. This dropped to 14% in 2002, after which they disappear almost completely.
  - Similarly, from 2010 to 2014, China imported 5.3% of its cut-flowers from Nigeria. Before 2010, the country does not appear in the data and also disappears again after 2014.
  - Finally, at the beginning of our data series, Hong Kong is a major supplier of cut-flowers to China (54% of value), this figure gradually drops to almost zero in 2000, only for the country to surge up as a supplier again in intermittently.



Data Source: HS92 Data Set, based on the BACI International Trade Database, accessed via The Observatory of Economic Complexity by Alexander Simoes.

See our project website for more resources, references to sources, links to articles and project updates at: [www.sustainableflowers.coventry.domains](http://www.sustainableflowers.coventry.domains)

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