

Imports

1. Defra provided us with data from EUROSTAT showing that sugar imports to the UK in 2002/03 amounted to 126,000 tonnes of sugar. This compares with total domestic demand for sugar of around 2.25 million tonnes, roughly 75 per cent of which is supplied to industrial customers.¹ The Table 1 shows the history of the volume of sugar imports to the UK over recent years.

TABLE 1 Imports into the UK from other EU countries

Year	'000 tonnes
1996/97	96
1997/98	147
1998/99	131
1999/2000	143
2000/01	133
2001/02	106
2002/03	126

Source: DEFRA.

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2. Whilst the existence of a limited volume of imports shows that it is possible to import sugar to the UK profitably, the total volume of imports has remained at a relatively low level with no discernable long-run trend.
 3. The CC conducted extensive investigations in order to identify, as far as possible, which producers from other EU countries sold sugar into the British market during 2004. Information was also sought concerning the identity of the customers that were purchasing imported sugar.
 4. European sugar producers which were found to be supplying sugar for import to Britain included Candico, CSM, Irish Sugar, Saint Louis Sucre, Sucre Union, Sucrerie Couplet, Suiker Unie, Tereos, Tirlmont, Vermandoise and W Van Oordt & Co. [X] is the largest importer of sugar (X) accounting for around one-third of all EU sugar imports into Great Britain (and around 2 per cent of total supplies of sugar in Great Britain). [X] told us that it had expanded sales from [X] in 2001 to [X] in 2004, and expected further increases of around [X] a year in 2005 and 2006. The second largest source of imports is from [X], which in 2004 supplied approximately [X] told us that it was looking to increase imports into Great Britain to [X] in 2005. [X] told us that it was looking to increase imports into Great Britain from [X] in 2004 to around [X]. [X] told us that it was doubtful whether it would be able to increase its market position in the UK from the 2003/04 figure of [X] tonnes. [X] told us that it had not exported any sugar to the UK in 2004 but hoped to export [X] in 2005.
 5. Using this and additional data obtained in the course of the CC's investigations, it was possible to identify imports of just over 80,000 tonnes of sugar into Britain from other EU countries.
 6. Imported sugar comprises around 6 per cent of sugar in the British industrial market—see Appendix H.
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¹Source: House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, *Reform of the Sugar Regime*, Twelfth Report of Session 2003–2004.