**ORNAMENTAL AQUATIC TRADE ASSOCIATION LTD.**
*"The Voice of the Ornamental Fish Industry"*
1st Floor Office Suite, Wessex House
40 Station Road, Westbury, Wiltshire
United Kingdom BA13 3JN
T: +44 (0)1373 301353 F: +44 (0)1373 301236
info@ornamentalfish.org www.ornamentalfish.org

# UK Trade Statistics 2004 – 2014

## 1. Total Import Values

Trade data for 2014 shows that the value of imports for ornamental fish into the UK during 2014 decreased by 3.73% compared to the same data for the previous year, totalling £16.5 million, compared to £17.2 million in 2013 (**Fig.1**). In spite of this drop in imports, there is an increase of 3.58% between 2004 and 2014. Total import value data for 2004 – 2014 is summarised in **Table 1**.

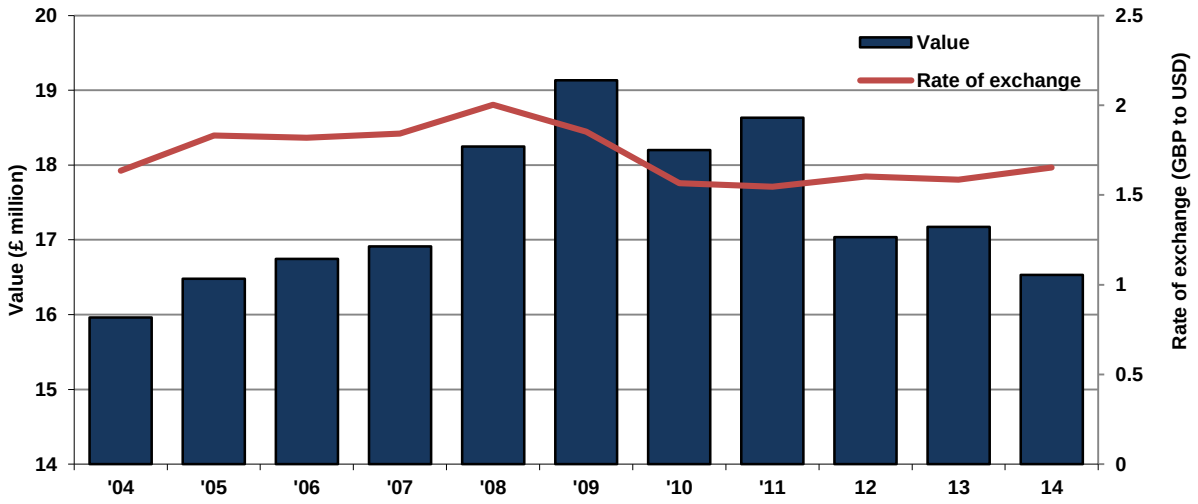


**Fig. 1. Value of ornamental fish imports into the UK (£ millions) and US$ to GBP rate of exchange for the years of 2004 – 2014**. Rate of exchange is annual average at the end of 2014, according to data from the Bank of England. http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/boeapps/iadb/Rates.asp?into=GBP&rateview=A

**Table 1. Total annual value (£ million) of ornamental fish imports into the UK (2003 – 2013)**

| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Value (£ million)** | 15.96 | 16.48 | 16.75 | 16.91 | 18.25 | 19.14 | 18.20 | 18.63 | 17.04 | 17.17 | 16.53 |

## 2. Freight Weight

Due to fluctuations in currency rates of exchange and changes in the price of fish or freight, import values are not considered a reliable indicator of the total number of fish imported into the UK.
Assuming that packaging conditions (materials used, volume of water and approximate number of specimens per container) remain fairly constant, freight weight might be a better indicator of total number of fish imported.

### Total Freight Weight

During 2014 there was a 3.9% decrease in the total freight weight of ornamental fish imported relative to 2013. This represents a total of 1,601 tonnes and is the lowest value in the past decade.

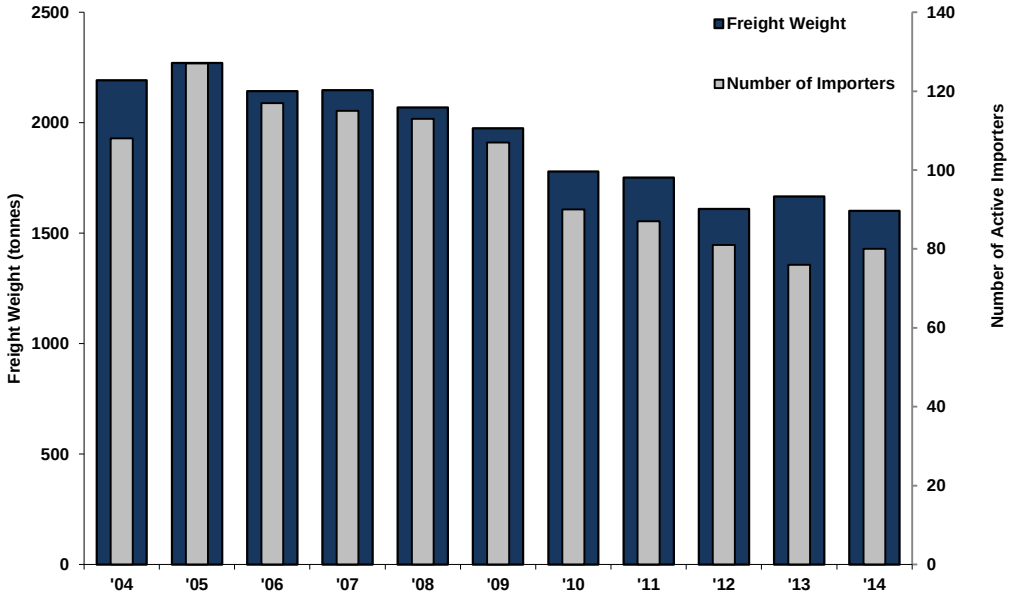


**Fig. 2. Total freight weight (tonnes) of ornamental fish imports into the UK and number of importers for 2004 - 2014**

### Freshwater vs Marine Freight Weight and Value

2014 saw a reduction of 2.2% in the freight weight of freshwater imports and 9.1% reduction in marine imports, compared to 2013 (**Fig.3**). In terms of monetary value, freshwater imports were 2.9% lower than in 2013 and marine imports were 7.0% lower relative to the same year.

Freshwater imports continue to dominate and account for over 3/4 of the total freight weight and just over 80% of the total value of imports. In the past decade, marine imports had shown a tendency to increase in both, freight weight and value, with 2013 marking an increase of 57.4% in import volumes relative to 2003.

Though import volumes of marine ornamental fish in 2014 have increased by just 12% relative to 2004, this represents an increase of 89% in value.

**Table 2** and **Figure 3** present data on freight weight and value of imports for selected years between 2004 and 2014.

**Figure 4** presents data in tonnes of freshwater fish imported by month in 2014.

**Table 2. Changes in proportions of freshwater and marine fish imports by freight weight and value[1]**

| Year | Total freight weight (tonnes) | Freshwater as proportion of total freight weight (%) | Marine proportion of total freight weight (%) | Freshwater as proportion of total value (%) | Marine as proportion of total value (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **2004** | 2323 | 85.5 | 14.5 | 89.5 | 10.5 |
| **2006** | 2143 | 80.9 | 19.1 | 88.4 | 11.6 |
| **2008** | 2069 | 78.3 | 21.7 | 85.2 | 14.8 |
| **2010** | 1779 | 78.1 | 21.9 | 83.2 | 16.8 |
| **2012** | 1611 | 75.6 | 24.4 | 81.5 | 18.5 |
| **2013** | 1666 | 75.0 | 25.0 | 79.9 | 20.1 |
| **2014** | 1601 | 76.4 | 23.6 | 80.6 | 19.4 |

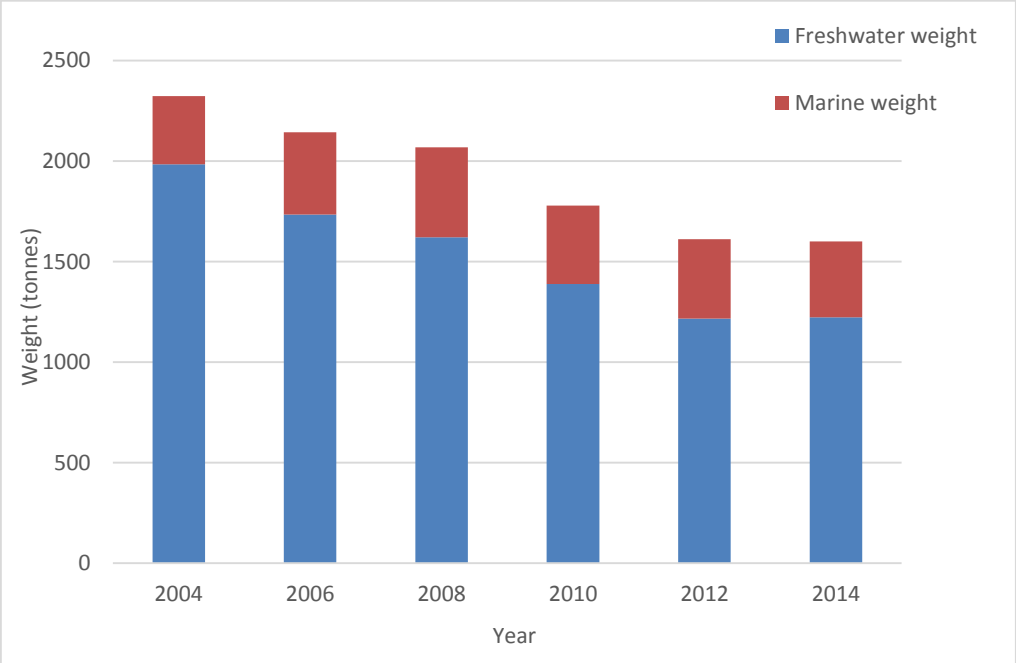


**Figure 3. Changes in freight weight of freshwater and marine fish imports between 2004 and 2014**

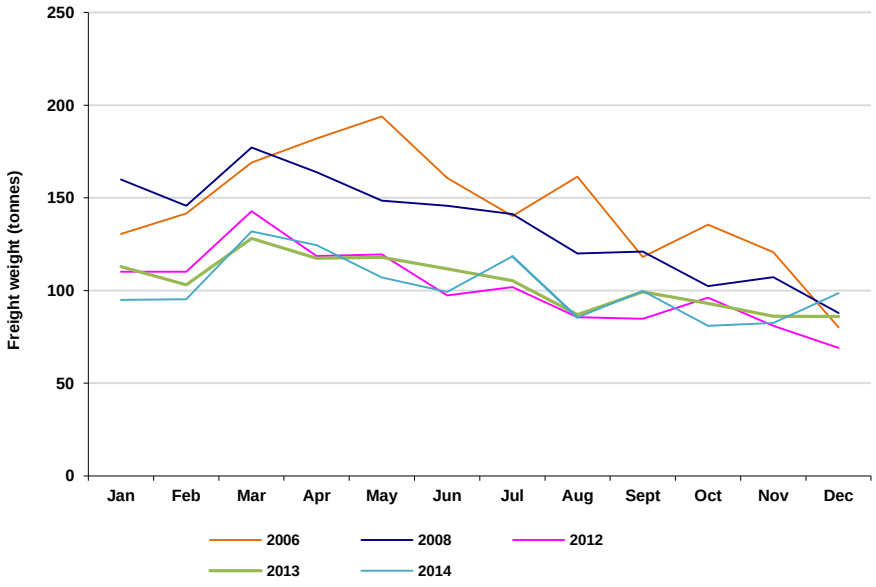


**Figure 4. Freight weight (tonnes) of freshwater fish imported by month**

[1] Refer to Table 1 for total annual value (£ million) of ornamental fish imports into the UK (2004 – 2014)

### 3. Top sources of UK ornamental fish imports

In 2014, the UK imported ornamental fish from a total of 38 countries outside the European Union (compared to 43 countries in 2013). Of these, the top 10 countries are responsible for 81.4% of the value of all ornamental fish imports into the UK, compared to 83% in 2013 (**Fig. 5**). Top 10 countries of origin relative to previous years are listed in **Table 3**.

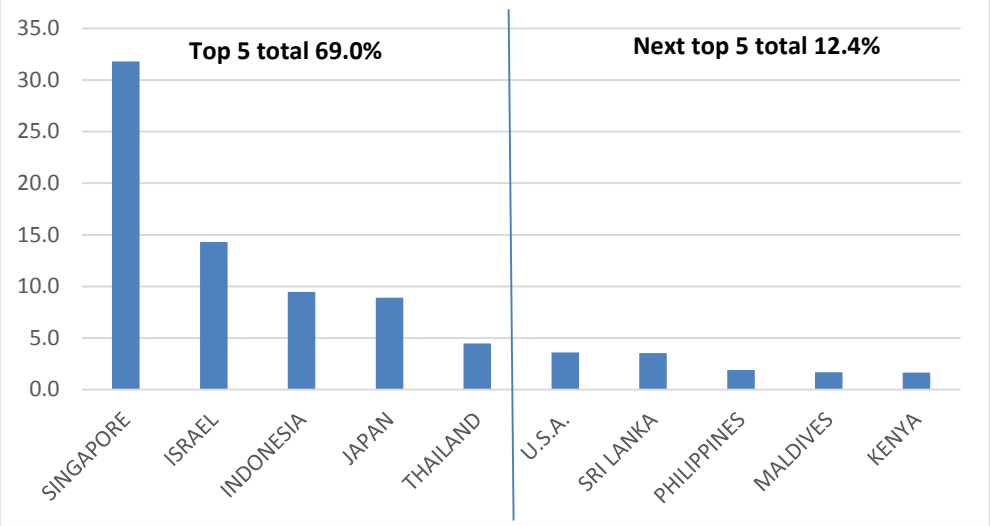


**Figure 5. Top 10 countries of origin of ornamental fish as a percentage of the total value of imports to the UK for 2013**

**Table 3. Top 10 countries of origin of ornamental fish imports into the UK by year**

| Rank | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1st** | Singapore | Singapore | Singapore |
| **2nd** | Israel | Israel | Israel |
| **3rd** | Indonesia | Indonesia | Indonesia |
| **4th** | Japan | Japan | Japan |
| **5th** | Thailand | Thailand | Thailand |
| **6th** | U.S.A. | Sri Lanka | Sri Lanka |
| **7th** | Sri Lanka | U.S.A. | U.S.A. |
| **8th** | Philippines | China & Hong Kong | China & Hong Kong |
| **9th** | Maldives | Maldives | Malaysia |
| **10th** | Kenya | Malaysia | Maldives |

With regards to imports of freshwater fish, the UK imported from 25 different countries outside the EU. The top 5 countries of origin account for nearly 82% of the total value for freshwater fish imports. Similarly, during 2014, the UK imported marine fish from 27 different countries. However, the top 5 countries of origin account only for 67% of the total value of imports. This may be indicative of the efficacy of regulations and conservation measures in place in countries of origin. Compared to freshwater fish (which are mostly captive-bred), marine imports constitute only a small fraction of the total number of ornamental fish imported into the UK, and this is more evenly distributed among a slightly greater number of source countries. **Table 4** lists the top 5 countries of origin for freshwater and marine fish for 2014.

**Table 4. Top 5 countries of origin for freshwater and marine ornamental fish imports into the UK in 2014**

| Rank | Freshwater exporters | Marine exporters |
|---|---|---|
| 1st | Singapore | Indonesia |
| 2nd | Israel | United States of America |
| 3rd | Japan | Philippines |
| 4th | Indonesia | Maldives |
| 5th | Thailand | Kenya |

### 4. Value per Kilogram of ornamental fish imports

The graph below illustrates the direct link between the value (cost) of fish arriving in the UK and the strength of the £. A weakening £ means that anything paid for in $ usually costs more.

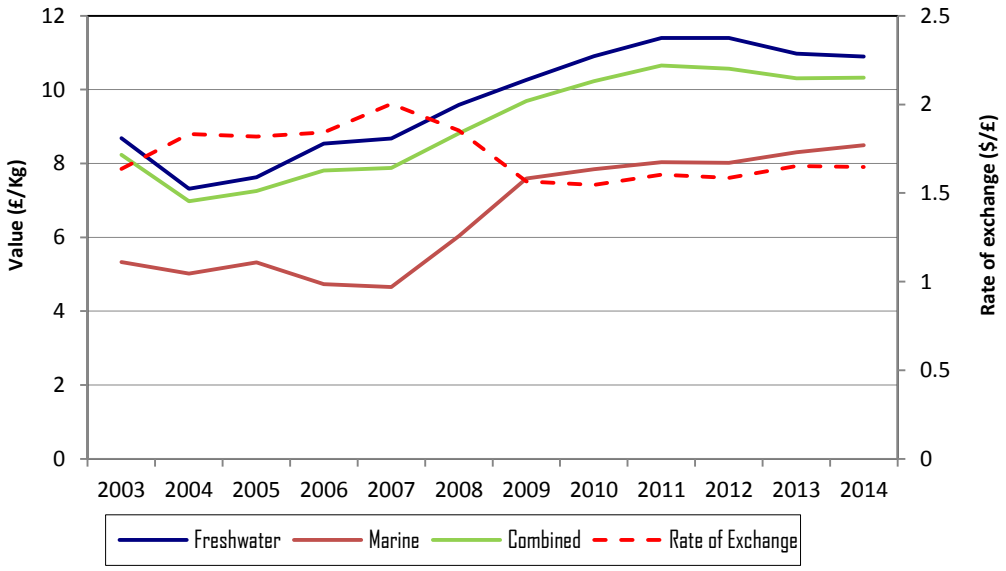


**Figure 6. Value per kilo of freshwater and marine fish freight over the last 10 years**

### 5. Main ports for ornamental fish imports

Heathrow remains the principal airport for imports. **Table 5** shows the percentage of total freight weight through Heathrow, Manchester and Gatwick airports in 2004 and 2014. **Figure 7** shows total freight in tonnes through each of these ports for different years between 2004 and 2014.

**Table 5. % of total freight weight of ornamental fish imports received through different airports in 2004 and 2014**

| | 2004 | 2014 |
|---|---|---|
| **London Heathrow** | 65% | 72% |
| **Manchester** | 31% | 19% |
| **Gatwick** | 4% | 2% |

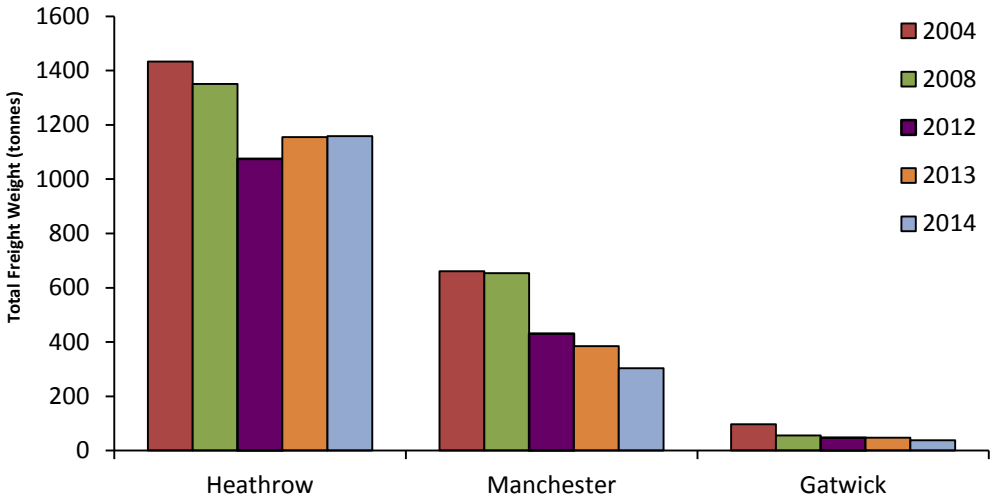


**Figure 7. Total freight weight of ornamental fish received by ports in the UK between 2004 and 2014**