

《英国经济颓势尽显，贸易逆差再创新高》

导读:英国一季度达到自2008年以来最大贸易逆差。



The gap between imports and exports for the first three months of 2016 stands at 13.3bn pounds, up from 12.2bn pounds in the fourth quarter of 2015, says the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

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Analysts said this was more evidence of the weight of global economic weakness on the UK. One described the figures as "truly horrible"

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UK economic growth has already slowed to 0.4% in the first quarter.

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The ONS said the UK trade gap widened over the quarter because of a ?1.9bn rise in imports such as mechanical machinery, cars, clothing, jewellery and footwear.

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Meanwhile, exports increased by just 500m pounds, led by chemical products.

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"A truly horrible first-quarter trade performance that clearly weighed down on GDP growth," said Howard Archer from IHS Global Insight.

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He added that UK exports had been hampered by moderate global demand as well as sterling's strength in 2015, particularly against the euro.

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"The hope has to be that UK exporters will increasingly be helped by the overall marked weakening of the pound in 2016, although the pound has climbed off its April lows," he continued.

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Unacceptably large'

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Within this period, there was a slight improvement in March's numbers, with the deficit narrowing by ?0.5bn to ?3.8bn.

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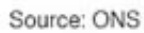
But the British Chambers of Commerce, a business group, said this was little cause for comfort.

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"In spite of the small improvement seen in March, the UK's trade deficit worsened over the quarter and remains unacceptably large," the group said.

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