UK trade dynamics decline for both air and ocean trade, but growth predictions remain slightly positive

Key findings:
- Index for the UK declines by -2 points to 61 in March, together with China being the lowest value of all GTB countries surveyed.
- UK air and ocean trade predicted to grow further, although slower than in previous months.
- Air trade declined significantly, which is foremost attributable to declining growth in various exports.
- Growth in ocean trade declined more slowly and was mainly due to a negative outlook for exports of Basic Raw Materials.

The deceleration of UK trade is mainly due to the expected slowdown in air trade, dropping -4 points compared to the previous month. The slowdown in air trade growth is mostly visible on the export side, where Temperature or Climate Controlled Goods continue to contract, and growth in air exports of High Technology has come to a standstill. Positive developments, however, are seen in air exports for Basic Raw Materials, which are picking up growth. Air imports in the UK have a more positive outlook, mainly fueled by accelerated growth of Personal & Consumer Goods, Basic Raw Materials and Machinery Parts. On the watch list, however, is the air imports of Temperature or Climate Controlled Goods, which – similar to the air exports – has a negative outlook for the next three months.

The ocean trade outlook has been adjusted downwards slightly (-1), however still indicating a solid growth perspective for the next three months, especially for ocean exports.

Ocean export of Industrial Raw Materials and Land Vehicle & Parts are expected to continue to drive and further accelerate British ocean export growth. However, ocean exports of Basic Raw Materials are given a negative growth outlook. On the ocean import side, Basic Raw Materials do play a vital part in the positive growth outlook, as well as ocean imports of Machinery Parts. As with air imports, the ocean imports of Temperature or Climate Controlled Goods is also expected to contract in the next three months.

The DHL Global Trade Barometer continues to predict a mild growth for British trade. However, the index declined by -2 points compared to February. It now scores 61, which is – together with China – the lowest value of all GTB countries surveyed.

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About the DHL Global Trade Barometer:

The DHL Global Trade Barometer an early indicator for the current state and future development of global trade. It is based on import and export data for a number of intermediates and early-cycle commodities that serve as the basis for further industrial production. Sources for the index are aggregated market data from air and containerized ocean freight from seven countries (China, South Korea, Germany, India, Japan, UK, USA), which account for more than 75 percent of world trade. These data are evaluated using artificial intelligence and various statistical methods and compressed to a single index value that represents the weighted average of the current growth and the upcoming two months of trade. The index, which was designed in cooperation with Accenture, is published four times a year by DHL on a global scale as well as for each of the seven countries surveyed.

About DHL:

Being the world’s leading logistics provider, DHL is ideally equipped to derive a global trade outlook from logistics data. DHL has both, a deep understanding of the driving forces behind global trade volumes and the industry expertise to analyze and interpret occurring market data. With its family of divisions, DHL offers an unrivalled portfolio of logistics services ranging from national and international parcel delivery, e-commerce shipping and fulfillment solutions, international express, road, air and ocean transport to industrial supply chain management. DHL employs about 350,000 people in more than 220 countries and territories worldwide, reliably enabling global trade flows. With specialized solutions for growth markets and industries including technology, life sciences and healthcare, energy, automotive and retail, a proven commitment to corporate responsibility and an unrivalled presence in developing markets, DHL is decisively positioned as “The logistics company for the world”.

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