

# Non-EU Overseas Trade Statistics - November 2012

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## **Summary**

- UK's non-EU exports have decreased by £0.7 billion (5.8 per cent) compared to October 2012, to £12.0 billion. Compared to November 2011, exports have decreased by £0.3 billion (2.7 per cent).
- UK's non-EU imports have decreased by £0.8 billion (4.6 per cent) compared to October 2012, to £16.6 billion. Compared to November 2011, imports have decreased by £1.1 billion (6.0 per cent).
- The UK remains a net importer (imports are greater than exports). The size of the difference between imports and exports has decreased by £0.1 billion (1.4 per cent) compared to October 2012, and has decreased from November 2011 by £0.7 billion (13.7 per cent).



HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) are responsible for collecting the UK's international trade in goods data, which are published as two National Statistics series - the 'Overseas Trade Statistics (OTS)' and the 'Regional Trade Statistics (RTS)'. The OTS are published monthly, providing detailed data for over 9,000 commodities and 200 partner countries. The RTS are published quarterly showing trade at summary product and country level, split by UK regions.

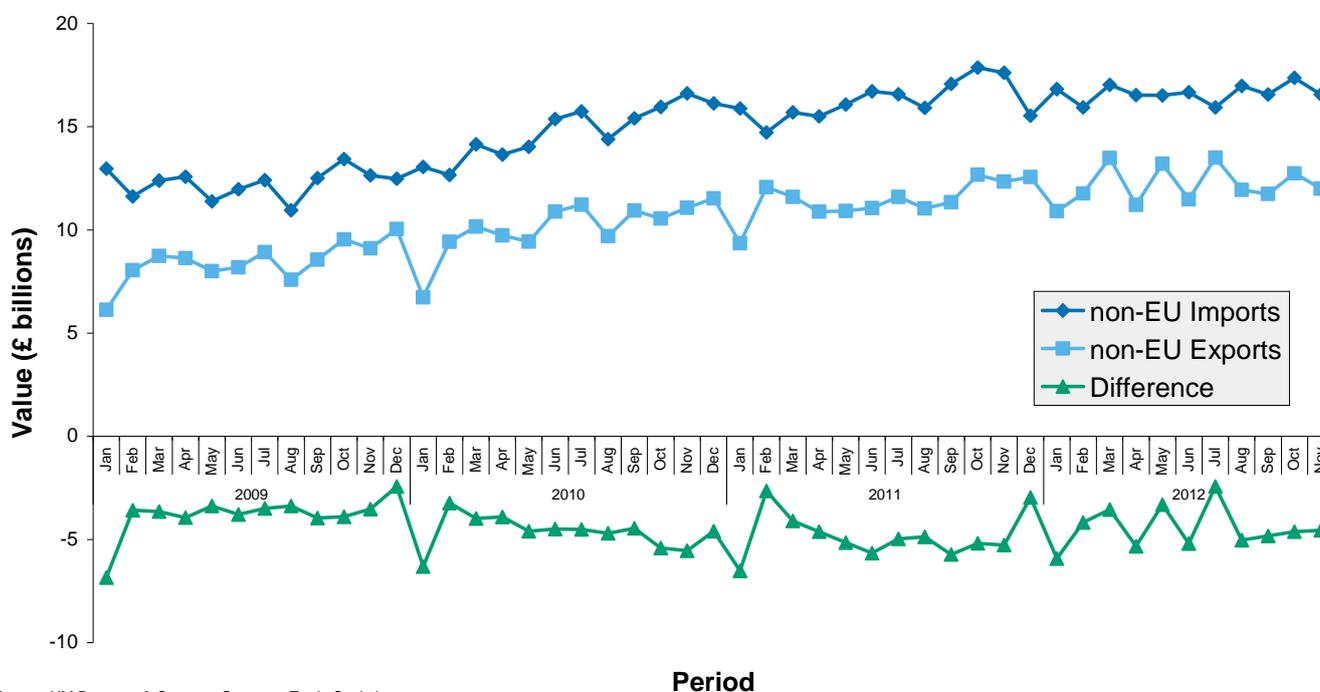
You can find details of how users interested in import and export markets for specific goods make use of the detailed OTS data in ['The Customer Story'](#). You can also access the detailed data in our interactive database [here](#).

## Key Points

For the month of November 2012:

The value of exports and imports both decreased in November 2012 compared with the previous month. The export and import values decreased at roughly the same rate. Consequently the difference between non-EU imports and exports has decreased by just 1.4 per cent.

**Fig. 1: Total Monthly UK Trade with non-EU Countries**



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics  
Note: 2012 data are provisional

## Exports

- UK's non-EU exports have decreased by £0.7 billion (5.8 per cent) compared to October 2012, to £12.0 billion. Compared to November 2011, exports have decreased by £0.3 billion (2.7 per cent).
- The top five commodities are unchanged from last month. The largest contributing commodity group remains HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof). In November it contributed £2.4 billion, 20.3 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU export trade. The largest contribution to this chapter was £1.0 billion from HS4 8411 (Turbo-jets, Turbo-propellers and other gas turbines).
- The overall decrease in exports compared to October 2012 is made up of decreases in nearly 60 per cent of HS2 chapters. The largest decrease from the previous month was £603.2 million in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes), a decrease of 75.4 per cent. The largest value increase from the previous month was in the top export chapter, HS2 84, a rise of £116.9 million (5.0 per cent).
- The USA remains the UK's largest non-EU export partner country, accounting for 26.3 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU export trade. Exports from the UK to the USA also had the largest decrease in value, compared to October 2012, down by £506.8 million, 13.8 per cent. The largest increase in exports compared to October 2012 was to Switzerland, up by £242.6 million, 58.1 per cent.
- The total 2012 year to date value of UK's goods exported to non-EU countries excluding November 2012 is £122.0 billion. This has been upwardly revised by £10.2 million, which is less than 0.1 per cent.

## Imports

- The value of the UK's non-EU imports decreased by £0.8 billion (4.6 per cent) compared to October 2012, to £16.6 billion. Compared to November 2011 imports have decreased by £1.1 billion (6.0 per cent).
- The top five commodities are unchanged from the previous month. The largest contributing commodity group remains HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes), contributing £3.7 billion in November 2012, 22.4 per cent of the total value of non-EU imports to the UK. The largest contribution to this chapter was £2.1 billion from HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude). This chapter also had the largest value increase from the previous month, of £532.6 million, 16.8 per cent.
- The largest value decrease from the previous month was £324.7 million in HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques), a decrease of 53.4 per cent.
- China has overtaken the USA as the UK's largest non-EU import partner country in November 2012, accounting for 15.9 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU import trade, while the USA had a 15.0 per cent share. This is due to the large decrease in the value of imports to the UK from the USA, a fall of £461.8 million, 15.6 per cent whereas the fall in China's import trade was substantially less. In contrast, the largest increase in imports into the UK compared to October 2012 was from Nigeria which increased by £195.7 million, 71.6 per cent.
- The total 2012 year to date value of UK's trade-in-goods imported from non-EU countries, excluding November 2012, is £166.4 billion. This has been upwardly revised by £0.4 million, which is less than 0.1 per cent.

## Further Analysis: Exports

Table 1 shows a comparison of the top five commodities by value exported to countries outside the EU for November 2011, October 2012 and November 2012.

HS 2	Description	November 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from October 2012	% Change from November 2011	% of Total November 2012 Exports	Rank October 2012	Rank November 2011
-	Total Exports	12,003.7	-5.8	-2.7	100.0	n/a	n/a
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	2,433.2	5.0	9.3	20.3	1	1
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	1,673.6	-3.3	9.0	13.9	2	2
30	Pharmaceutical products	912.0	3.0	-10.3	7.6	3	3
85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts and accessories of such articles	844.8	-3.7	-10.9	7.0	4	4
71	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin	688.4	-18.8	-3.9	5.7	5	6

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics  
Note: 2012 data are provisional

The overall decrease in exports **compared to October 2012** reflects decreases in nearly 60 per cent of HS2 chapters, with the size of the decreases generally larger than the increases. The total export trade value has decreased by £0.7 billion (5.8 per cent). Three of the top five commodity types decreased in export value. There were two chapters with decreases of over £100 million, and only one increase of this magnitude.

The largest value decrease from the previous month, of £603.2 million, was in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes). This is a 75.4 per cent decrease compared to October 2012 and is the lowest recorded monthly export in recent years. This decrease is driven by large decreases in HS4 2710 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals (excl. crude)) down £449.4 million, 74.1 per cent and HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and

oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude) down £152.8 million, 99.9 per cent. These changes have dropped HS2 27 from sixth place last month, to fifteenth.

The second largest decrease was in the fifth largest export, HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin), down by £159.5 million, a decrease of 18.8 per cent. Within HS71 it was HS4 7102 (Unmounted diamonds) which saw the largest decrease compared with October 2012 of £68.5 million, 23.7 per cent. Due to the nature of these products, small changes in quantity can produce large changes in value.

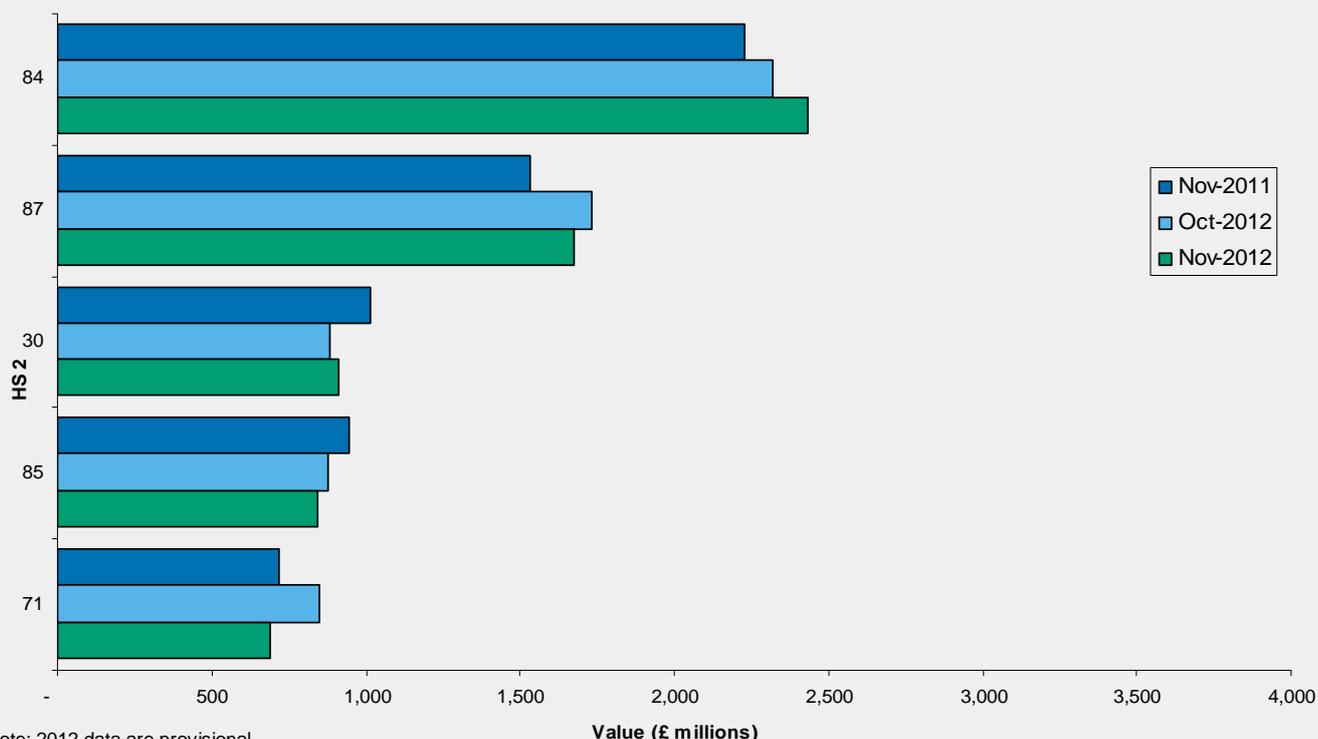
There were no other decreases greater than £100 million.

The largest increase since last month was £116.9 million in HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof), an increase of 5.0 per cent; to £2.4 billion. This was driven by an increase of £74.4 million (7.8 per cent) in HS4 8411 (Turbojets, turbopropellers and other gas turbines). There was no other chapter for which the value of exports increased by more than £100 million.

**Compared to November 2011**, the total export trade value decreased by £334.7 million (2.7 per cent). Just over half of HS2 chapters showed increases, but the size of the decreases were generally bigger than these increases. There were five chapters with decreases of over £100 million but only three increases of this magnitude.

The largest increase was in HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques), up £228.1 million (73.0 per cent). The next two biggest increases were in the top two exports by value, HS2 84 was up £206.7 million, and HS2 87 was up £138.8 million. The largest decrease of £560.6 million was in HS2 27. In the top five, HS2 30 decreased by £104.9 million, and HS2 85 by £103.0 million. Outside the top five, the other chapters for which the value of exports decreased by more than £100 million were, HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof), which fell by £189.4 million (30.4 per cent), and HS2 29 (Organic chemicals) which fell by £116.9 million (25.2 per cent).

**Fig 2: Top 5 commodities for UK's non-EU exports November 2012 compared to October 2012 and November 2011**



Note: 2012 data are provisional  
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Figure 2 shows the top five commodities for UK's non-EU exports in November 2012, compared to October 2012 and November 2011. It shows that three of the top five commodity types had decreases when compared with October 2012. Similarly, three different chapters had decreases when compared with November 2011 although the sizes of these decreases were less than the increases in the other two chapters.

Table 2 shows a comparison of the value of UK non-EU export trade with our top five trading partners for November 2011, October 2012 and November 2012.

Country	November 2012 Total £ millions	% change from October 2012	% Change from November 2011	% of total November 2012 Exports	Rank October 2012	Rank November 2011
Total Exports	12,003.7	-5.8	-2.7	100.0	n/a	n/a
USA	3,152.8	-13.8	-11.9	26.3	1	1
China	862.9	-6.6	-1.0	7.2	2	2
Switzerland	660.3	58.1	45.1	5.5	5	4
Russia	491.2	19.4	8.0	4.1	6	5
Hong Kong	459.1	-8.7	-12.6	3.8	3	3

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics  
Note: 2012 data are provisional

For all three periods, the USA was the UK's largest non-EU export partner country, with China second. For this month, these two countries account for 26.3 per cent and 7.2 per cent of the total export trade respectively.

**Compared to October 2012**, the overall decrease in exports reflects a decrease in the value of exports to over 50 per cent of our export partners. There were two countries with decreases of £100 million or more, and one with an increase of this magnitude. The largest decrease was for the top export country, the USA, while the largest increase moved Switzerland from fifth place last month to third place this month.

The largest decrease in exports was to the USA, down by £506.8 million, 13.9 per cent. However, last month's value was the fifth highest export value to the USA in recent years and therefore this decrease represents a return to more normal levels of trade seen this year. This decrease was driven by two falls of £267.6 million (72.3 per cent) in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) and £131.4 million (34.9 per cent) in HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques).

The second largest decrease in exports was to South Korea, down by £136.7 million, (38.3 per cent). This fall has moved South Korea from tenth place in October 2012 to sixteenth place this month. This decrease is led by a fall of £147.1 million in HS2 27 from £147.3 million in October 2012 to relatively negligible trade (£0.1 million) this month. Although export trade to this country under this chapter has seen a significant increase since the start of 2012, trade is still very volatile.

There were no other decreases over £100 million although Azerbaijan experienced a fall in exports of £984.1 million (79.9 per cent). Last month's export trade to this country was very high and this drop represented a return to more normal levels of trade. This decrease was led by a fall of £105.3 million from £105.3 million last month to under £100,000 this month in HS 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal). Exports to this country for this commodity are very volatile.

The largest increase in exports was to Switzerland, where exports increased by £242.6 million, (58.1 per cent) which moved this country from fifth place to third. This month's

exports to Switzerland were the second highest value seen in recent years (£660.3 million), after July 2012's export value of £721.0 million. This is mainly due to a large increase in HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques) of £152.1 million, a five-fold increase.

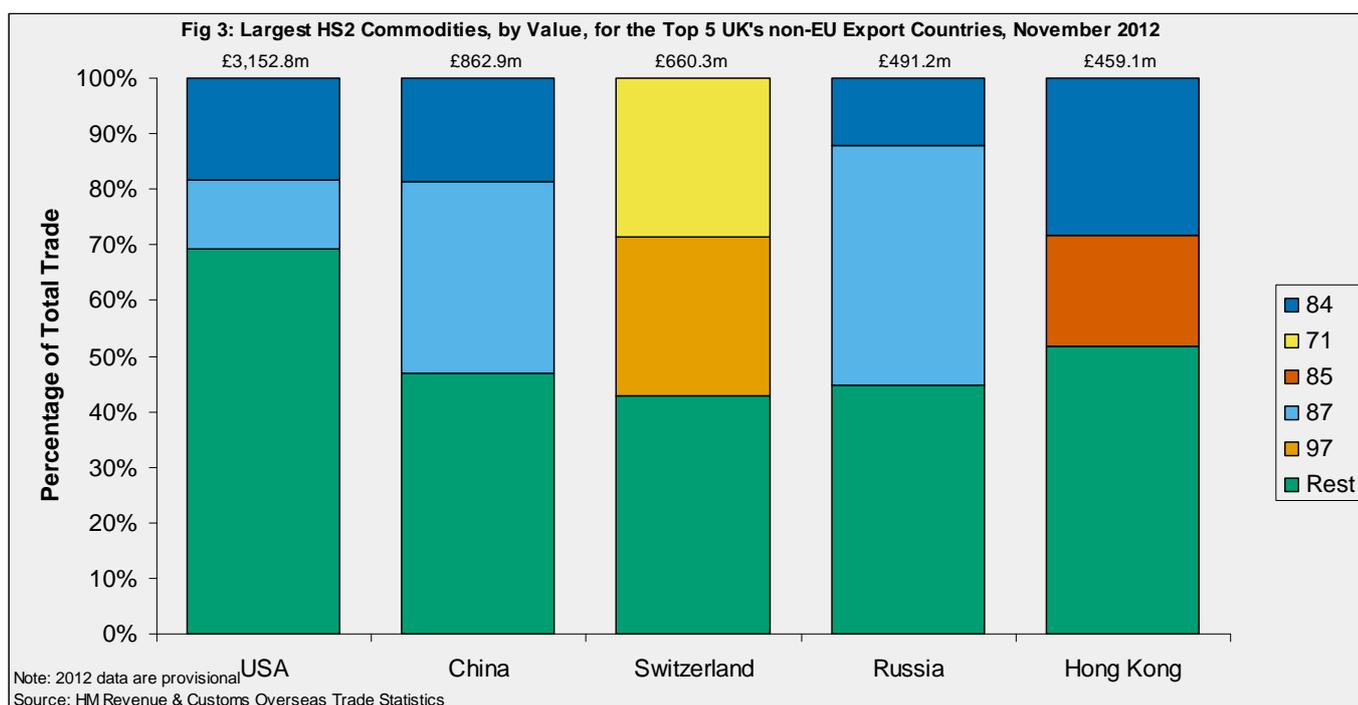
There were no other increases over £100 million.

**Compared to November 2011**, the minor decrease of £334.7 million (2.7 per cent) in exports reflects an approximately even mix of increases and decreases in the value of exports to our partner countries. Although there were two increases in excess of £100 and only one decrease above this value, this single decrease was substantially larger than the combination of the two increases and even exceeds the total net decrease of £334.7 million.

This largest decrease was for the USA, down by £425.6 million (11.9 per cent). This was driven by falls in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes), 29 (Organic chemicals) and 30 (Pharmaceutical products) of £285.3 million (73.5 per cent), £176.3 million (54.3 per cent) and £118.2 million (23.4 per cent).

The largest increase in total export trade value compared to November 2011 was to Switzerland, up by £205.2 million (45.1 per cent), mostly due to rises of £113.0 million (148.9 per cent) in HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques) and £96.6 million (104.6 per cent) in HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals). The second largest increase was for Singapore up £102.8 million (31.1 per cent), which was driven by rises of £59.8 million (41.6 per cent) in HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) and £59.5 million (an eighteen-fold increase) in HS2 29 (Organic chemicals).

Figure 3 shows the two largest commodities by value exported from the UK to each of its top five non-EU export partner countries. In November 2012 four of the top five countries had HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) in their top two largest commodities exported from the UK and three had HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof)., The trade with these countries accounts for 38.1 per cent of the total value of UK non-EU export trade for HS2 84 and 54.0 per cent for HS2 87.



## Further Analysis: Imports

Table 3 shows a comparison of the top five commodities imported from countries outside the EU for November 2011, October 2012 and November 2012.

HS 2	Description	November 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from October 2012	% Change from November 2011	% of Total November 2012 Imports	Rank October 2012	Rank November 2011
-	Total Imports	16,559.2	-4.6	-6.0	100.0	n/a	n/a
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	3,702.0	16.8	-8.5	22.4	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	2,250.3	3.6	8.7	13.6	2	2
85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts and accessories of such articles	1,496.8	-3.0	-17.3	9.0	3	3
71	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin	1,280.6	-6.5	29.8	7.7	4	4
61	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted	561.1	-11.2	9.0	3.4	5	8

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics  
Note: 2012 data are provisional

The value of imports decreased by £0.8 billion **compared to October 2012**. This represents a decrease in 75 per cent of the HS2 commodity chapters. There were four decreases of over £100 million but only one increase of this magnitude. None of these four decreases were in the top five chapters but the largest increase and the only one in excess of £100 million relates to the top chapter HS2 27.

The chapter with the largest decrease was HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques) down £324.7 million (53.4 per cent), which was led by a fall in HS4 9701 (Paintings, e.g. oil paintings, watercolours and pastels, and drawings executed entirely by hand) of £210.5 million (51.3 per cent). For both chapter and heading, last month's values were the third highest in recent years, and these drops represent a return to normal values.

The second largest value decrease from the previous month, of £278.7 million (44.3 per cent), was in this month's tenth largest import chapter by value, HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products). Last month's import value had been the second highest in recent years. This decrease was more than covered by a decrease of £287.1 million (87.5 per cent) in HS4 3003 (Medicaments consisting of two or more constituents mixed together for therapeutic or prophylactic uses).

The third and fourth biggest decreases are also in the chemical industry, with Inorganic chemicals, HS2 28 falling by £114.6 million (50.3 per cent) and Organic chemicals, HS2 29, falling by £102.7 million (25.4 per cent). In both cases, this follows large increases last month.

The largest value increase from the previous month, of £532.6 million (16.8 per cent), was in imports of the UK's biggest import by value, HS2 27. This follows last month having the lowest import value since November 2010. This increase was led by increases of £287.6 million (145.8 per cent) in Petroleum gas in HS4 2711, and £172.1 million (9.0 per cent) in Crude oil in HS4 2709. In both cases, similar increases in the quantity imported suggest that this is an increase in volume rather than price increases. No other HS2 chapter increased by more than £100 million.

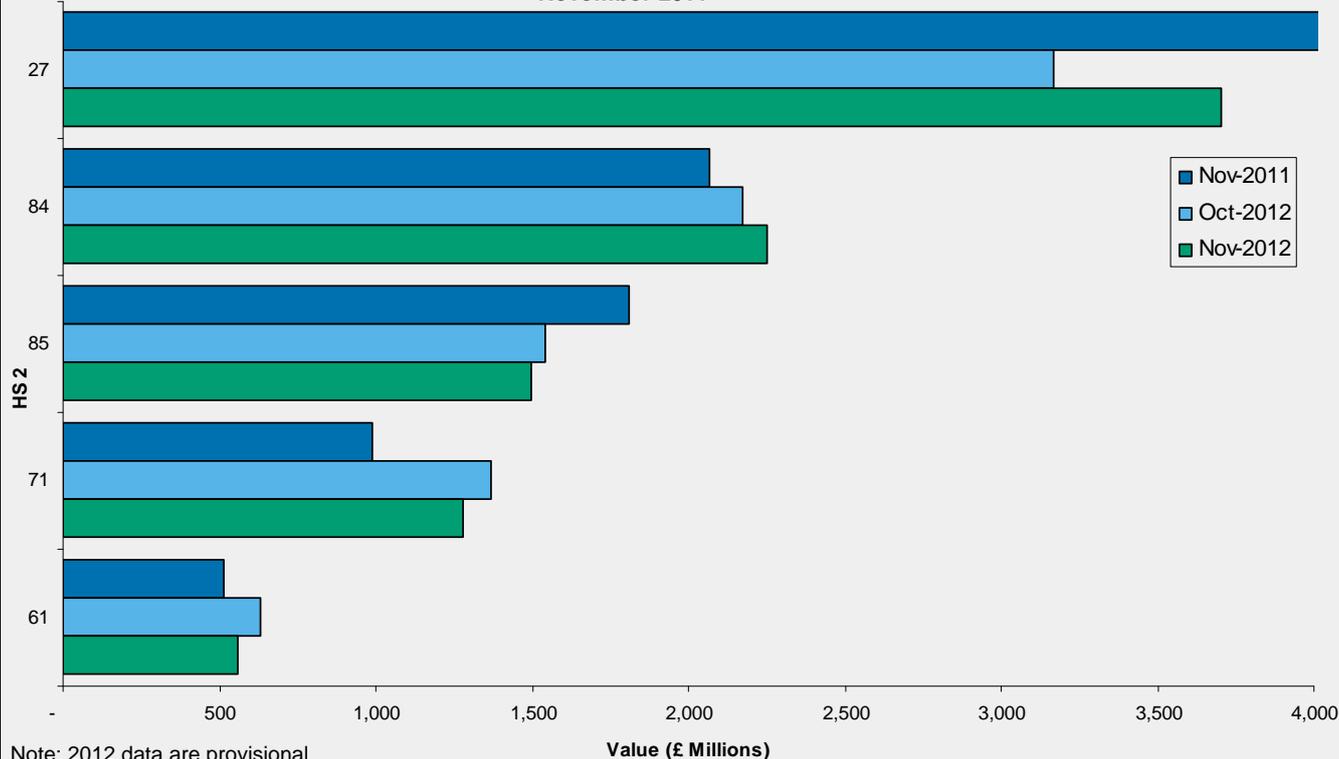
When **compared to November 2011**, total import value decreased by £1.1 billion (6.0 per cent). Although this is a bigger decrease than when compared with last month, it represents fewer HS2 chapters falling (less than two thirds), but dominated by three large falls. There were four chapters with decreases of over £100 million (three of which were over £300 million) and two increases over £100 million.

The chapters with a decrease of over £100 million were HS2 27, down £343.4 million, 8.5 per cent; HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products), down £326.5 million, 48.2 per cent; HS2 85, down £314.0 million, 17.3 per cent; and HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof) down £194.9 million, 29.5 per cent.

The chapters with increases of over £100 million are HS2 71 (up £294.0 million, 29.8 per cent); and HS2 84 (up £180.7 million, 8.7 per cent). Both of these chapters are in the top five.

Within the top five chapters shown in Figure 4, three of the chapters show decreases and two show increases, when compared with October 2012, but the increase in chapter 27 dominates all other changes. When compared to November 2011, the large decreases in chapters 27 and 85 are greater than the increases in the other three chapters.

**Fig 4: Top 5 Commodities for UK's non-EU import November 2012 compared to October 2012 and November 2011**



Note: 2012 data are provisional  
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

**Table 4: Top 5 Non-EU import partner countries in November 2012 compared to October 2012 and November 2011**

Country	November 2012 Total £ millions	% change from October 2012	% Change from November 2011	% of Total November 2012 Imports	Rank October 2012	Rank November 2011
Total Imports	16,559.2	-4.6	-6.0	100.0	n/a	n/a
China	2,626.7	-9.4	-6.9	15.9	2	1
USA	2,491.2	-15.6	-8.1	15.0	1	2
Norway	1,537.3	-0.1	-27.5	9.3	3	3
Switzerland	893.8	-8.7	26.6	5.4	4	5
Japan	722.1	24.0	-11.1	4.4	7	4

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics  
Note: 2012 data are provisional

Table 4 shows comparisons of the value of UK non-EU import trade from our top five import trading partners for November 2011, October 2012, and November 2012. Imports from four of the top five trading partners have decreased in November compared to the previous month, and another four have decreased when compared to November 2011.

These changes have moved China ahead of the USA after being behind for one month, and Japan into fifth from seventh, ahead of Russia and Hong Kong. The USA, China, and Norway have been the UK's largest import partners for a number of years.

The decrease in total imports **compared to October 2012** reflects decreases in the value of imports from over 60 per cent of our import partners. Four countries had decreases of over £100 million, while five had an increase of this magnitude. However,

the sizes of these increases were smaller than those of the decreases with three of the decreases being over £200 million while none of the increases were above this threshold.

The largest decrease in value of imports was from the USA, down by £461.8 million, a decrease of 15.6 per cent, to £2.5 billion. This fall is driven by a decrease of £304.1 million (68.8 per cent) in HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques) following a large increase last month.

The second largest decrease in value of imports was from Israel, down by £289.9 million, 67.0 per cent, to £142.7 million. This was almost entirely due to a decrease of £289.3 million (88.0 per cent) in pharmaceuticals in HS2 30. This decrease moves Israel down to twenty-sixth place from eleventh last month.

The third largest decrease in value of imports was from China, down by £272.3 million, 9.4 per cent, to £2.6 billion, the lowest import value since July. This fall was spread over a number of chapters, with ten having decreases over £10 million, and only one increase of this magnitude. There was a combined decrease of over £87 million in commodities from the clothing commodity types HS2 61 and HS2 62.

The fourth largest decrease was from Kuwait, down £149.0 million, more than covered by HS4 2710 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals excluding crude) decreasing by £149.7 million (79.1 per cent).

Four of the five largest increases in imports were driven by the rise in Chapter 27. Nigeria increased by £195.7 million, 71.6 per cent, with HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude) up £196.3 million, 75.0 per cent. The United Arab Emirates increased by £176.4 million, 112.1 per cent, with a £114.5 rise in HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals excluding crude). Qatar increased by £129.4 million, 130.0 per cent, with a £118.0 million rise in HS4 2711 (Petroleum gas and other gaseous hydrocarbons). Algeria increased by £127.3 million (almost a four-fold increase) with a £118.4 million rise in HS4 2709.

The third biggest increase in value of imports was from Japan, up by £139.8 million, an increase of 24.0 per cent. This increase is driven by rises of £52.1 million (a four-fold increase) in chapter 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin) and £51.1 million (35.2 per cent) in HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof).

In contrast, there was a larger decrease of £1.1 billion, 6.0 per cent in the total value of imports **compared to November 2011**, with imports from approximately half of our import partner countries increasing in value, and the other half decreasing, but the decreases being larger than the increases. There were decreases in excess of £100 million for imports from eight countries, and four increases of this magnitude. Four of the UK's top five import trading partners for November 2012 have decreased when compared to November 2011.

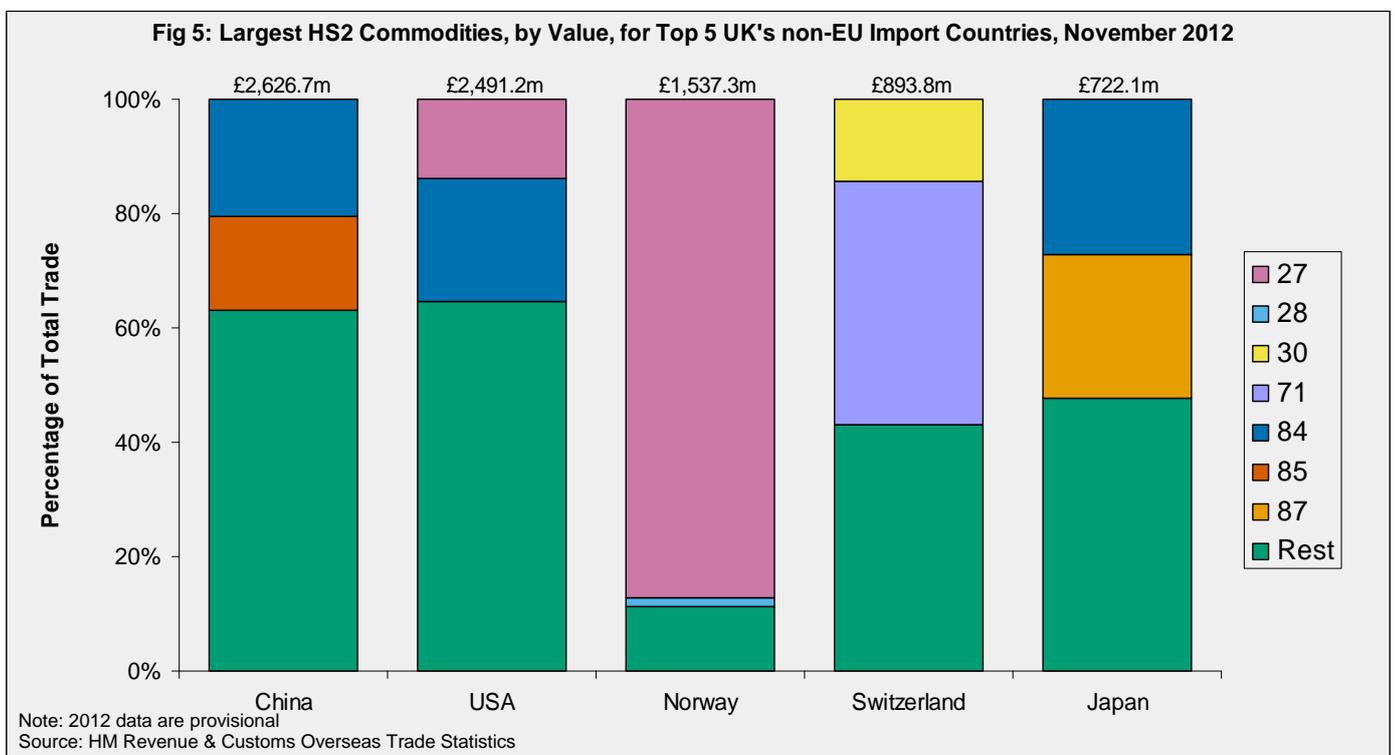
The largest decrease in total import trade value is from Norway, down by £582.0 million, which is 55.0 per cent of the overall net decrease. This is more than covered by decreases of £650.5 million in HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude). The second biggest decrease is from the USA (down by £220.3 million, 8.1 per cent), composed of a decrease of £100.3 million in imports of HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof) and nine other chapters with decreases over £10 million offset to an extent by an increase in HS2 27 of £227.2 million.

There were also large decreases from China (down £193.9 million, 6.9 per cent); Israel (down £180.9 million, 55.9 per cent); Kuwait (down £165.5 million, 78.9 per cent); Qatar (down £134.2 million, 37.0 per cent); Algeria (down £117.0 million, 40.7 per cent) and Equatorial Guinea (down from the record high of £103.8 million in November 2011 to £1.5 million, a fall of 98.5 per cent).

The largest increase in value of imports was from Nigeria, up by £352.9 million, a four-fold rise. This was driven by a rise of £363.5 million in HS2 27. The second largest increase was from Russia, up £266.7 million, 65.6 per cent, with a £235.4 million increase in HS2 27. The other large increases are from Switzerland (up £187.5 million, 26.5 per cent); and Taiwan (up £170.7 million, 64.0 per cent).

Figure 5 shows the two largest commodities by value imported from each of the top five non-EU import partner countries. This month, three of the top five trading partners have HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) in their top two largest commodities imported to the UK, accounting for 56.3 per cent of the total import value in HS2 84. Also, two of the top five import partners have HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) in their top two largest commodities imported to the UK. The trade with these countries accounts for 45.5 per cent of the total value of UK non-EU import trade in this chapter.

The import trade in HS2 27 from Norway, specifically the Norwegian Continental Shelf, accounts for 87.2 per cent of the total imports to the UK from Norway.



Notes:

1. HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with countries outside the European Union (EU) on 9 January 2013 under arrangements set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#).
2. This release includes the first provisional estimates of trade-in-goods between the UK and countries outside the EU for November 2012. At the same time revisions for all previously published non-EU data for 2012 are also being released in line with the [Overseas Trade Statistics Policy on Revisions](#).
3. Detailed trade information is presented according to the [Harmonised System \(HS\)](#) nomenclature.
4. The aggregate estimates here will differ slightly from those that are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as part of the Balance of Payments (BoP), as the two sets of data are compiled to different sets of rules. The ONS web site provides an overview of BoP at the [Guide to UK Trade](#) as well as the detailed monthly [UK Trade Releases](#). The BoP publication shows a high level picture of UK trade-in-goods, whereas the OTS publication shows a detailed picture of the UK's trade-in-goods by commodity and partner country. More detail about the differences between the BoP and OTS publications can be found [here](#).
5. The aggregate estimates here will differ from the Eurostat publication [Euro area external trade](#). The OTS is published as 'general trade' based upon goods recorded as they enter or leave the UK. This will include goods imported into and exported from a freezone or customs warehouse, regardless of their future use. The Eurostat EU external trade data are published as 'special trade' where goods are recorded as trade only when they enter free circulation or are declared to specific Customs regimes such as Inward Processing (IP) or Processing under Customs Control (PCC). Imports from a free zone or customs warehouse are similarly recorded in 'special trade'.
6. Information to help support users of the non-EU Overseas Trade Statistics can be found [here](#). This includes links to our policies on revision and suppression of data, descriptions of the methodology used to compile the Overseas Trade Statistics and information on the quality of the data published.
7. The OTS has been reviewed as part of an assessment made of Overseas Trade Statistics by the [UK Statistics Authority](#). The report of that assessment can be found at

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-93---uk-trade-in-goods.pdf>

8. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

Statistical contact:

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To access the detailed 8-digit data in our interactive database please log in [here](#).

Please note: there may be a delay between the availability of the aggregated data tables downloadable here and the detailed data in our interactive database. This is because of the time required to upload such a large dataset. Subscribers to our email [Alert Service](#) will be sent an alert when the interactive database has been updated. The OTS Non-EU publication occurs one week prior to the publication of the OTS EU equivalent, to allow for additional processing of the Intrastat survey.

Next release: 7 February 2013 9:30am

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If using specific facts contained in this release please check the information is still current.