

Non-EU Overseas Trade Statistics - March 2013

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Summary

- UK's non-EU exports have increased by £1.6 billion (14.4 per cent) compared to February 2013, to £13.0 billion. Compared to March 2012, exports have decreased by £0.5 billion (3.9 per cent).
- UK's non-EU imports have increased by £0.7 billion (4.8 per cent) compared to February 2013, to £16.0 billion. Compared to March 2012, imports have decreased by £1.0 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 £0.9 billion (22.8 per cent) compared to February 2013, and has decreased from March 2012 by £0.5 billion (13.9 per cent).
- This is the second successive large decrease in the trade gap, and takes it to its lowest value since July 2012.



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.

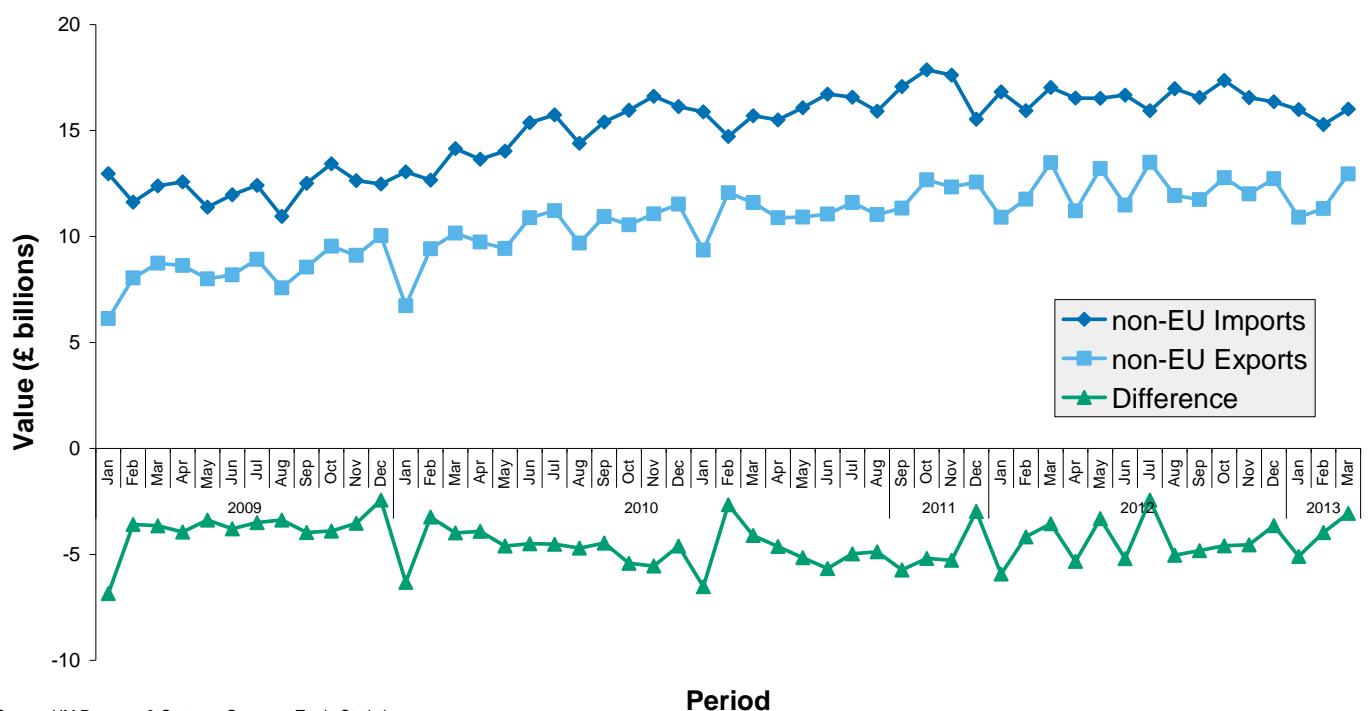
You can find details of how users interested in import and export markets for specific goods make use of the detailed OTS data in '[The Customer Story](#)'. You can also access the detailed data in our interactive database [here](#).

Key Points

For the month of March 2013:

The value of imports and exports both increased in March 2013 compared with the previous month. Exports increased more than imports, consequently the difference between non-EU imports and exports has decreased by 22.8 per cent. Imports and exports also rose in March 2012, and this month's values are lower than when compared to March 2012.

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



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional

Exports

- UK's non-EU exports have increased by £1.6 billion (14.4 per cent) compared to February 2013, to £13.0 billion. Compared to March 2012, exports have decreased by £0.5 million (3.9 per cent).
- The top five commodities are similar to last month, with the top two unchanged. The largest contributing commodity group remains HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof). In March it contributed £2.6 billion, 20.1 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU export trade. The largest contribution to this chapter was £1.1 billion from HS4 8411 (Turbo-jets, Turbo-propellers and other gas turbines).
- Increases in over 70 per cent of all chapters drove the overall increase in exports compared to February 2013. The largest increase from the previous month was £368.1 million (16.4 per cent) in the largest export chapter, HS2 84.
- The largest value decrease from the previous month was in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes), which decreased by £79.0 million (9.0 per cent), moving this chapter to fifth place, from third last month.
- The USA remains the UK's largest non-EU export partner country, accounting for 28.4 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU export trade. The USA also had the largest increase in exports when comparing with February 2013 (an increase of £710.8 million (23.9 per cent)). Exports from the UK to South Korea had the largest decrease in value, compared to February 2013, down by £89.4 million, 17.6 per cent, to fall to eighth place from third last month.
- The total 2013 year to date value of UK's goods exported to non-EU countries excluding March 2013 is £22.2 billion, which has been upwardly revised by £32.9 million. This is an increase of 0.1 per cent.

Imports

- The value of the UK's non-EU imports increased by £0.7 billion (4.8 per cent) compared to February 2013, to £16.0 billion. Compared to March 2012 imports have decreased by £1.0 billion (6.0 per cent).
- The top five commodities are similar to the previous month. However, HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products) has dropped to tenth place from fifth last month. This is due to the value of imports in this chapter having the second largest chapter decrease compared to February 2013, a fall of £167.0 million (26.5 per cent).
- The largest commodity group remains HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes). In March 2013 it contributed £3.4 billion, 21.2 per cent of the total value of non-EU imports to the UK. The largest contribution to this chapter was £2.0 billion from HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude).
- The largest value increase from the previous month was a rise of £321.4 million (18.0 per cent) in the second biggest chapter by import value, HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof).
- The largest value decrease from the previous month was a fall of £204.5 million (43.7 per cent) in HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques).
- The USA remains the UK's largest non-EU import partner country in March 2013, accounting for 16.5 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU import trade. China remains in second place, accounting for 13.6 per cent of the total value of non-EU imports. The value of imports to the UK from China decreased by £194.4 million (8.2 per cent), the largest country decrease compared to February 2013. The

- The total 2013 year to date value of UK's goods imported from non EU countries excluding March 2013 is £31.3 billion, which is virtually unchanged from last month.

Further Analysis: Exports

Table 1 shows a comparison of the top five commodities by value exported to countries outside the EU for March 2013, February 2013 and March 2012.

Table 1: Top 5 commodities in UK's non-EU exports in March 2013 compared to February 2013 and March 2012							
HS 2	Description	March 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from February 2013	% Change from March 2012	% of Total March 2013 Exports	Rank February 2013	Rank March 2012
-	Total Exports	12,957.8	14.4	-3.9	100.0	n/a	n/a
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	2,609.8	16.4	6.3	20.1	1	1
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	1,600.5	-1.7	1.9	12.4	2	2
30	Pharmaceutical products	969.5	35.6	-6.4	7.5	5	4
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	946.0	29.9	2.6	7.3	4	5
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	796.6	-9.0	-25.8	6.1	3	3
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional							

The overall increase in exports **compared to February 2013** reflects increases in over 70 per cent of HS2 chapters. The total export trade value has increased by £1.6 billion (14.4 per cent). Three of the top five commodity types increased in export value. There were four chapters with increases of over £100 million, and no decreases of this magnitude. Three of the largest increases and the largest decrease were all in the top five commodity types.

The largest value increase from the previous month, of £368.1 million, was in the top export chapter, HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof). This is an increase of 16.4 per cent compared to February 2013 and takes this chapter to £2.6 billion, the highest export value in recent years, beating the previous highest of £2.5 billion in March 2012. The increase is driven by a rise of £181.9 million (20.1 per cent) in HS4 8411 (Turbo-jets, Turbo-propellers and other gas turbines), which also reached its highest export value in recent years, £1.1 billion, exceeding November 2012's previous record of £1.0 billion.

The second largest increase was in the sixth biggest export, HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof), up by £256.5 million (63.7 per cent) to £659.3 million. This is the second highest export value for this chapter in recent years, after December 2012's record of £681.1 million. All headings within this chapter increased, with the largest increases in exports in HS4 8802 (Powered aircraft and spacecraft) increasing by £179.7 million (163.6 per cent), and HS4 8803 (Parts of aircraft and spacecraft) increasing by £65.0 million (22.4 per cent).

The third largest increase was in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products), up by £254.7 million (35.6 per cent). The rise was driven by increases of £165.2 million (34.2 per cent) in exports of HS4 3004 (medicaments in measured doses, or for retail sale), and £108.8 million (162.3 per cent) in HS4 3003 (medicaments consisting of two or more constituents, not in measured doses or for retail).

The fourth largest increase was in HS2 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), up by £217.7 million (29.9 per cent). The rise was driven by an increase of £65.3 million (53.2 per cent) in exports of HS4 8517 which includes mobile phones.

There were no other increases over £100 million, although just outside this range, HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques) increased by £96.1 million (33.1 per cent), to £386.6 million.

The largest decrease since last month was in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes), down by £79.0 million, (9.0 per cent). This takes HS2 27 down to fifth place from third, and is driven by a fall of £115.0 million (22.5 per cent) in refined oil in HS4 2710, offset to some extent by a rise of £47.9 million (14.4 per cent) in crude oil in HS4 2709.

The second largest decrease was just £27.4 million, and was in the second biggest chapter, HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof), down by 1.7 per cent.

Compared to March 2012, the total export trade value decreased by £0.5 billion (3.9 per cent). Although 54 per cent of all HS2 chapters showed increases, the decreases were generally larger than the increases which accounts for the net decrease. There were four chapters with decreases of over £100 million, and one increase of this magnitude.

The largest decrease was in HS2 27, down £276.8 million (25.8 per cent), led by a fall of £334.4 million (45.8 per cent) in refined oil in HS4 2710; offset by a rise of £154.4 million (68.3 per cent) in crude oil in HS4 2709.

The second largest decrease was for HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin) which fell by £269.2 million (31.0 per cent). This was driven by a fall of £161.3 million (41.0 per cent) in HS4 7102 (Unmounted diamonds).

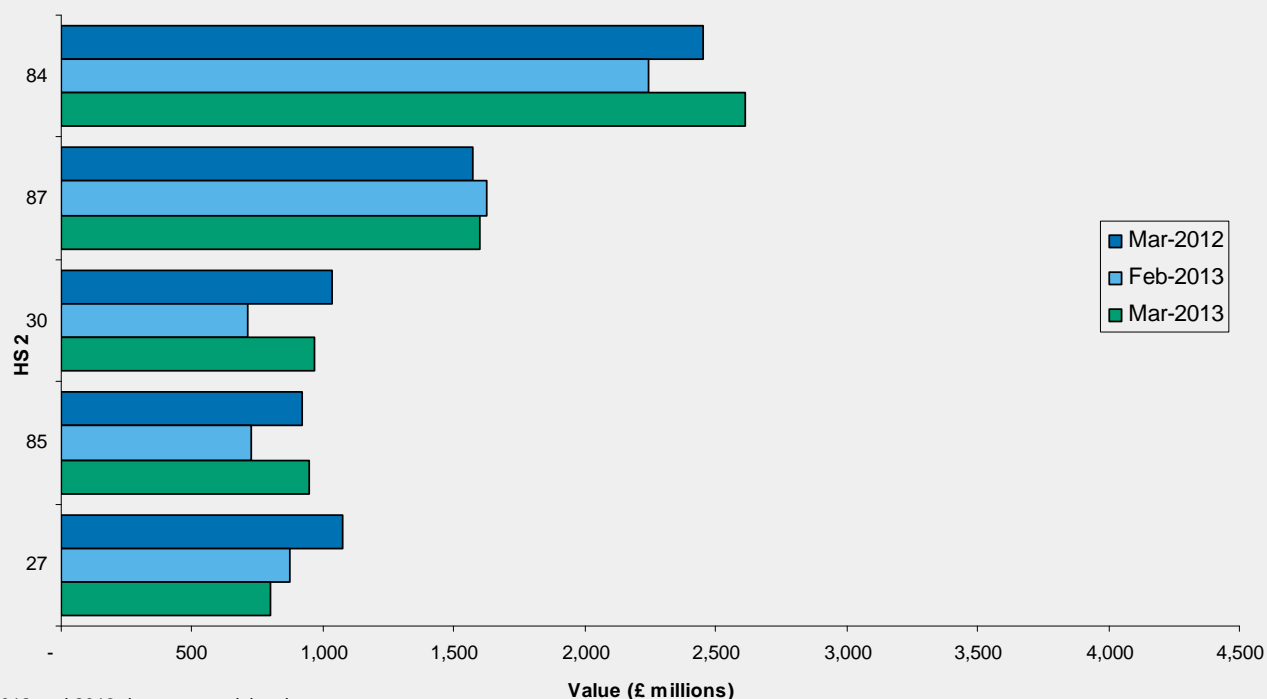
The third largest decrease was for HS2 29 (Organic chemicals) which fell by £204.1 million (39.3 per cent). This was led by a fall of £83.3 million (49.2 per cent) in HS4 2934 (Nucleic acids and their salts; heterocyclic compounds (excluding with oxygen only or with nitrogen hetero-atom[s] only)).

The fourth largest decrease was for HS2 89 (Ships, boats and floating structures) which fell by £177.8 million (86.5 per cent). This was almost entirely due to the export of a luxury yacht to the Netherlands Antilles last year which took the total export trade for that chapter and month substantially above normal levels of trade.

The largest increase of £155.7 million was in HS2 84, up 6.3 per cent. This was led by an increase of £118.0 million (12.2 per cent) in HS4 8411 (Turbo-jets, Turbo-propellers and other gas turbines). This was the only increase over £100 million, although just outside this range, HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof) increased by £96.9 million (17.2 per cent). The next largest was below £70 million.

Figure 2 below shows the top five commodities for the UK's non-EU exports in March 2013, compared to February 2013 and March 2012. It shows that chapters 84, 30 and 85 had large increases when compared with February 2013, while chapters 27 and 87 decreased, but by a smaller magnitude. Compared to March 2012, HS2 84 had a large increase, HS2 27 had a large decrease, while the other changes were much smaller.

Fig 2: Top 5 commodities for UK's non-EU exports in March 2013 compared to February 2013 and March 2012



Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Table 2 shows a comparison of the value of UK non-EU export trade with our top five export trading partners for March 2013, February 2013 and March 2012.

Table 2: Top 5 non-EU export countries in March 2013 compared to February 2013 and March 2012

Country	March 2013 Total £ millions	% change from February 2013	% Change from March 2012	% of total March 2013 Exports	Rank February 2013	Rank March 2012
Total Exports	12,957.8	14.4	-3.9	100.0	n/a	n/a
USA	3,681.3	23.9	-3.9	28.4	1	1
China	930.5	4.2	14.4	7.2	2	2
United Arab Emirates	537.7	23.7	12.0	4.1	5	5
Switzerland	485.8	15.3	-7.6	3.7	6	4
Hong Kong	441.5	19.1	3.3	3.4	7	8

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional

For all three periods, the USA was the UK's largest non-EU export partner country, and China second, while this month has seen large increases for the United Arab Emirates, to move up to third, and Switzerland and Hong Kong to return to the top five,

ahead of Russia and South Korea. Compared to last month, there were increased exports to all of the top five export partner countries.

Compared to February 2013, the overall increase in exports is composed of increased trade to 56 per cent of our export partners. There were three countries to which exports increased by £100 million or more, and no decreases of this magnitude.

The largest increase in exports was to the top export country, the USA, where exports rose by £710.8 million (23.9 per cent). Last months' exports to the USA were the lowest values since January 2011. This month, the export value of £3.7 billion is close to the level seen in October 2012, and is the fourth highest in recent years. The increase is driven by increases of £164.7 million (47.2 per cent) in exports of HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) and £134.4 million (67.5 per cent) in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products). This is the highest export value for HS2 27 since May 2012. The increase in exports of HS2 30 however, is a recovery from the lowest value in nearly five years last month.

The second largest increase was in exports to India, up by £138.0 million (47.6 per cent) to £428.0 million, with increases in the top two chapters, HS2 84 and HS2 87. There was a rise of £44.2 million (a seven-fold increase) in HS2 87, almost entirely due to an increase of £43.1 million in exports of parts and accessories of vehicles in HS4 8708, from £2.6 million last month. The increase in HS2 84 was £43.2 million, almost double last month's export value, and was led by a fourfold increase in HS4 8411 (Turbojets, turbopropellers and other gas turbines).

The third largest increase was to the United Arab Emirates, up by £103.0 million (23.7 per cent) to rise to the UK's third largest trading partner, from fifth. This was led by a rise of £59.0 million (37.4 per cent) in HS2 84, also driven by a rise in HS4 8411 (Turbojets, turbopropellers and other gas turbines) of £53.0 million (46.9 per cent).

There were no other increases over £100 million although the fourth largest increase of £99.9 million (33.3 per cent) in exports to Australia was only just outside this range. This increase was spread over a number of chapters, with four increases between £10 million and £22 million, while the largest decrease was under £5 million.

The largest decrease in exports was to South Korea, down by £89.4 million (17.6 per cent), to fall to eighth from third. This decrease was driven by a fall of £143.0 million (48.3 per cent) in HS2 27. Since November 2011, export trade to South Korea has been driven by exports in HS2 27, which is rather erratic. This month's figure is lower than the past three months, but higher than the previous four months.

The second biggest decrease was to Russia, falling £62.2 million (12.9 per cent) to drop to seventh from fourth. This was led by a fall of £89.2 million (42.0 per cent) in exports of cars in HS4 8703.

Compared to March 2012, there was a decrease of £0.5 billion (3.9 per cent) in exports. Half of the UK's export partner countries had increases, and half had decreases, although these were generally greater in size than the increases. There were four decreases in excess of £100 million and one increase above this value.

This largest decrease was for exports to the former Netherlands Antilles, down from £199.1 million to £1.8 million. This is mainly due to one large export of a luxury yacht last year, causing a large decrease in HS2 89 (Ships, boats and floating structures) as previously mentioned.

The second largest decrease was for exports to Russia, down £176.7 million (29.5 per cent), which was driven by a fall of £130.7 million (51.5 per cent) in cars in HS4 8703. The March 2012 export figure had been a record for exports to Russia within the chapter HS2 87, which is almost entirely driven by HS4 8703.

The third largest decrease was for exports to the USA, down by £148.0 million (3.9 per cent). This was driven by falls in HS2 29 (Organic chemicals) of £163.2 million (54.1

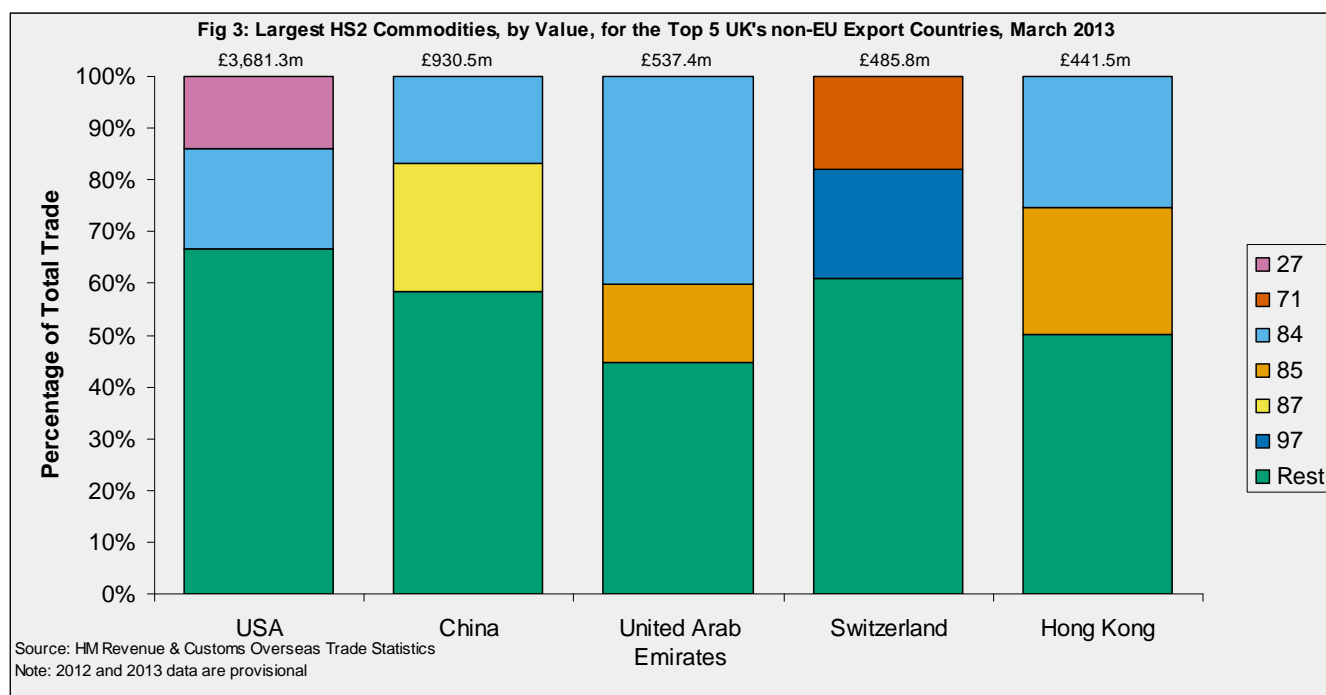
per cent), which exceeds the total net increase, and £111.3 million (25.0 per cent) in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products).

The only other decrease above £100 million was for exports to Senegal, down by £142.6 million (90.9 per cent). The export trade with Senegal is driven by HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes), which is down £143.5 million (93.3 per cent) compared to March 2012. The export value of £153.9 million in March 2012 was the highest in recent years.

The only increase of over £100 million in total export trade value compared to March 2012 was in exports to China, up by £117.2 million (14.4). This was split over several chapters, with five chapters increasing by between £10 million and £38 million, and only two decreases in this range.

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 March 2013 four of the top five countries had HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) as the top two largest commodities exported to them, and two had HS2 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). The trade with these countries accounts for 45.8 per cent of the total value of UK non-EU export trade for HS2 84 and 20.0 per cent of UK's exports in HS2 85.

Additionally, 64.5 per cent of the UK's export of HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) was to the USA.



Further Analysis: Imports

Table 3 shows a comparison of the top five commodities imported from countries outside the EU for March 2013, February 2013 and March 2012.

Table 3: Top 5 commodities in UK's non-EU imports in March 2013 compared to February 2013 and March 2012							
HS 2	Description	March 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from February 2013	% Change from March 2012	% of Total March 2013 Imports	Rank February 2013	Rank March 2012
-	Total Imports	16,016.6	4.8	-6.0	100.0	n/a	n/a
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	3,391.7	6.9	-19.4	21.2	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	2,105.5	18.0	-6.7	13.1	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	1,343.4	9.8	-6.1	8.4	4	3
71	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin	1,311.3	5.7	18.0	8.2	3	4
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	535.5	3.5	-4.7	3.3	6	6
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional							

The value of imports increased by £0.7 billion (4.8 per cent) **compared to February 2013**. This increase is composed of increases in almost 65 per cent of the HS2 commodity chapters. There were three increases of over £100 million and two decreases of this magnitude. The three large increases were in the top three import chapters.

The largest value increase from the previous month of £321.4 million (18.0 per cent) was in the UK's second biggest import chapter by value, HS2 84. This follows a large fall last month, taking imports in HS2 84 to the lowest value since May 2011. The increase this month was led by increases of £118.9 million (19.9 per cent) in HS4 8411 (Turbojets, turbopropellers and other gas turbines), and £96.0 million (29.2 per cent) in computers and tablets in HS4 8471.

The second largest increase in imports was for the top chapter, HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes). This rose by £219.1 million (6.9 per cent) following a two-year low last month.

However, this month's import value of £3.4 billion is still almost £1 billion behind the record high from December 2012.

The third largest increase in imports was for HS2 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), which rose by £120.1 million (9.8 per cent) to recover to third place, after falling to fourth last month. This increase was driven by a rise of £113.3 million (39.6 per cent) in imports of mobile phones in HS4 8517.

These were the only increases above £100 million. The next largest increase was for the fourth biggest import, HS2 71, which increased by £70.9 million (5.7 per cent). Despite this increase, it fell from third place last month to fourth.

The largest decrease in imports was for HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques), down £204.5 million (43.7 per cent) to £263.2 million. Within this chapter, there was a decrease of £251.0 million (68.2 per cent) in HS4 9701 (paintings and drawings), while there was an increase of £54.1 million (more than double) in sculptures and statues in HS4 9703.

The second largest value decrease from the previous month of £167.0 million (26.5 per cent) was in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products), which fell to tenth from fifth last month. This was led by a fall of £227.5 million (68.0 per cent) in HS4 3003 (medicaments, not in measured doses or for retail).

These were the only decreases above £100 million; in fact the third largest increase was only £31.5 million.

When **compared to March 2012**, total import value decreased by £1.0 billion (6.0 per cent). Half of the HS2 commodity chapters decreased, and half increased, but the decreases were generally bigger. There were three chapters with decreases of over £100 million and one increase over £100 million.

The overall decrease was led by a decrease in HS2 27 of £813.8 million (19.4 per cent). This makes up 80.0 per cent of the overall net decrease. This was driven by a fall of £713.9 million (26.0 per cent) in crude oil in HS4 2709.

The second biggest decrease was a fall of £152.1 million (6.7 per cent) in the second biggest import chapter, HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof). This was split over several headings in this chapter, with five decreases between £26 million and £43 million.

The third biggest decrease was in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products), down £145.6 million (23.9 per cent). As with the comparison with February 2012, HS2 30 dropped from fifth to tenth, although in this case the fall was spread over several headings.

The only chapter with an increase of over £100 million is HS2 71 (pearls, precious stones and precious metals), up £199.9 million (18.0 per cent), with unwrought silver up £193.1 million (137.7 per cent). The next biggest increase was below £60 million.

Figure 4 below shows the top five commodities for UK's non-EU imports in March 2013, compared to February 2013 and March 2012. It shows the top three chapters all increased when compared to last month, but decreased when compared to March last year. Chapter 71 increased when compared to both periods, and chapter 87 is relatively unchanged.

Fig 4: Top 5 Commodities for UK's non-EU imports in March 2013 compared to February 2013 and March 2012

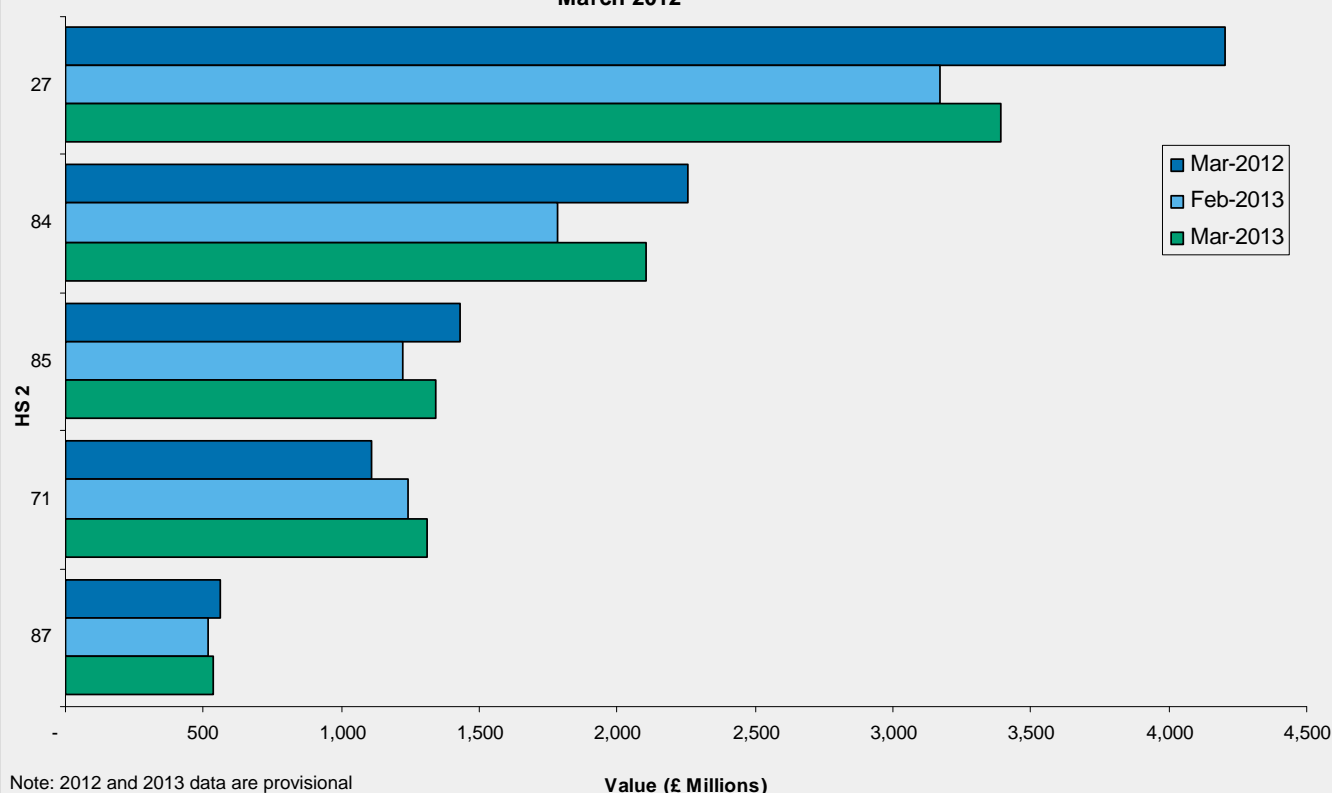


Table 4 shows comparisons of the value of UK non-EU import trade from our top five import trading partners for March 2013, February 2013, and March 2012. Imports from three of the top five trading partners have decreased in March 2013 compared to the previous month (China, Norway and Switzerland), and three have also decreased when compared to March 2012 (USA, Norway and Japan).

Table 4: Top 5 Non-EU import partner countries in March 2013 compared to February 2013 and March 2012

Country	March 2013 Total £ millions	% change from February 2013	% Change from March 2012	% of Total March 2013 Imports	Rank February 2013	Rank March 2012
Total Imports	16,016.6	4.8	-6.0	100.0	n/a	n/a
USA	2,643.1	3.7	-8.3	16.5	1	1
China	2,171.3	-8.2	13.6	13.6	2	3
Norway	1,427.1	-1.0	-37.0	8.9	3	2
Switzerland	770.9	-3.2	26.4	4.8	4	6
Japan	608.3	5.7	-26.8	3.8	5	4

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional

The order is totally unchanged from last month, with relatively small changes within the top five. Compared to last year, Norway moved ahead of China for one month, and Russia was fifth whereas it is currently eighth. The USA, China, and Norway have been the UK's largest import partners for a number of years, collectively accounting for nearly 40 per cent of the UK's import trade.

Compared to February 2013, the total increase in the value of imports is composed of increases from over 60 per cent of our import partner countries. Three countries had increases of over £100 million, while two had decreases of this magnitude.

The biggest increase in value of imports was from Angola, up to £147.3 million from less than £1 million. This increase is driven by an import of £145.6 million in crude oil in HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude), from zero last month. The import trade with Angola is dominated by crude oil, albeit very erratically. Both the value of total imports from Angola and the imports under HS4 2709 are record highs and are marginally ahead of corresponding figures for April 2012 of £145.9 million and £144.8 million respectively.

The second biggest increase in value of imports was from Canada, up by £120.1 million (25.4 per cent) to £593.2 million. This increase is spread over a number of products, and puts Canada in sixth place this month, up from eighth.

The only other increase over £100 million in value of imports was from India, up by £102.9 million (21.6 per cent) to £579.3 million. This was led by an increase of £41.3 million (170.6 per cent) in HS2 84, with a £26.0 million increase in HS4 8411 (Turbojets, turbopropellers and other gas turbines) from £1.2 million last month.

There were no other increases over £100 million, although there were also two increases over £90 million (USA and Kazakhstan).

The largest decrease in value of imports was from China, down by £194.4 million (8.2 per cent) to £2.2 billion, the lowest import value since March 2012. Imports from China have a history of falling in or around March. This decrease is spread over several chapters, led by a fall of £51.6 million (13.6 per cent) in HS2 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). This fall was across most HS4 headings in this chapter.

The second largest decrease in value of imports was from Israel, down by £174.0 million (41.1 per cent) to £249.3 million. Last month's import had been the second highest on record, led by a large import of £330.5 million of pharmaceutical products (HS2 30). This has dropped off with a £241.2 million (72.3 per cent) decrease in HS2 30.

There were no other decreases over £100 million, but just outside this range, Albania fell by £96.1 million (22.7 per cent), almost entirely due to a fall in imports of oil.

Compared to March 2012 there was a decrease of £1.0 billion (6.0 per cent) in the total value of imports. Half of the UK's import partner countries increased, and half decreased in value, but the decreases were generally bigger, with one dominant decrease of £0.8 billion. There were decreases in excess of £100 million for imports from six countries, and four increases of this magnitude. Three of the UK's top five import trading partners for March 2013 have decreased when compared to March 2012, and two have increased.

The largest decrease in total import trade value is from Norway, down by £838.6 million (37.0 per cent). This is led by a decrease of £736.6 million (37.6 per cent) in HS2 27, which in turn is driven by a £797.4 million (53.9 per cent) decrease in HS4 2709 (crude oil). Total imports from Norway were at a near record high in March 2012, at £2.3 billion, while this month's imports of crude oil from Norway are the lowest value since May 2009. This month is the first time since February 2009 that crude oil has formed less than half of the UK's imports from Norway.

The trade in oil and gas also drove the second, fourth, and sixth largest decreases in imports, plus two of the large increases. Russia had a decrease of £260.3 million (32.7 per cent), driven by a fall of £271.6 million (40.6 per cent) in HS2 27; Qatar was down £226.2 million (77.1 per cent) with a £240.5 million (86.7 per cent) fall in HS2 27; and Libya was down by £148.0 million (48.3 per cent) with HS2 27 down £148.1 million

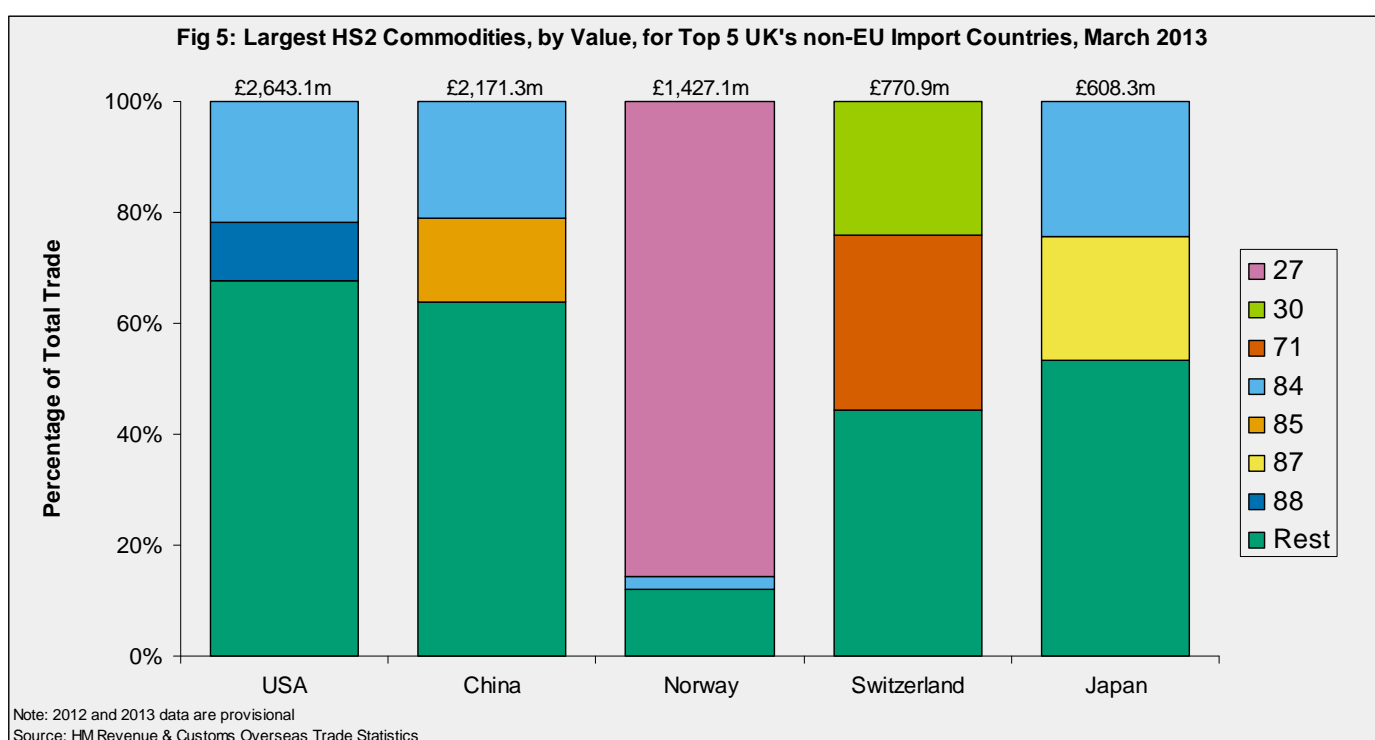
(48.3 per cent). In contrast, Nigeria increased by £157.7 million (almost twofold) with a £153.3 million increase in HS2 27, and India increased by £113.8 million (24.5 per cent) with a £52.7 million increase in HS2 27, from £0.1 million in March 2012.

The other large decreases were from the USA and Japan. The USA was down £239.7 million (8.3 per cent), driven by falls of £130.5 million (18.5 per cent) in imports of HS2 84, and £117.0 million (47.7 per cent) in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products). Imports from Japan fell by £222.8 million (26.8 per cent), with falls of £121.2 million (47.4 per cent) in HS2 87 (Road vehicles and accessories), and £92.5 million (38.3 per cent) in HS2 84.

The largest increase in value of imports was from China, up by £259.3 million (13.6 per cent) with over 70 per cent of all chapters increasing. Switzerland had the second biggest increase, up £161.1 million (26.4 per cent) led by a rise of £146.9 million in the imports of HS2 71, mainly in platinum and silver.

Figure 5 shows the two largest commodities by value imported from each of the top five non-EU import partner countries. This month, four 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 into the UK, accounting for 57.6 per cent of the total import value in HS2 84. This month, the second biggest import commodity from the USA is HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof), accounting for 57.3 per cent of the UK's import value for this chapter.

The import trade in HS2 27 from Norway, specifically the Norwegian Continental Shelf, accounts for 85.6 per cent of the total imports to the UK from Norway, and accounts for 36.0 per cent (39.8 per cent last month) of the UK's import value for this chapter,.



Notes:

1. HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with countries outside the European Union (EU) on 10 May 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 March 2013. 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.

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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: 07 June 2013 9:30am

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