



HM Revenue & Customs

About this release

This release includes the 1st provisional estimates of trade-in-goods between the UK and both countries of the EU and those outside the EU for May 2022.

Supporting tables, visuals and data can be found at www.uktradeinfo.com

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UK Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

May 2022

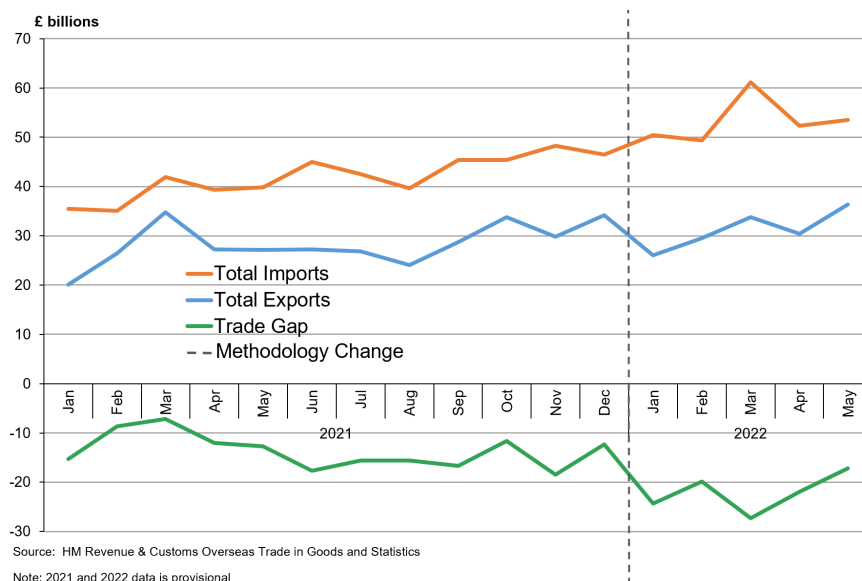
Trade in Goods, May 2022

From January 2022, the UK from EU import dataset incorporates both the GB from EU customs import declaration data and NI Intrastat import (arrival) data. This creates a break in the time series, users should take care when making comparisons with months and years prior to 2022.

A full explanation of data sources used throughout this release can be found on page 18.

- Total **exports** of goods for May 2022 were £36.4 billion. This was up £6.0 billion (20%) compared with last month, and up £9.3 billion (34%) compared with May 2021.
- Total **imports** of goods for May 2022 were £53.6 billion. This was up £1.2 billion (2.3%) compared with last month, and up £13.7 billion (34%) compared with May 2021.
- The UK was a net importer this month, with **imports** exceeding **exports** by £17.2 billion, narrowing by £4.8 billion on last month.

Figure 1: Total UK monthly Trade in Goods



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods and Statistics

Note: 2021 and 2022 data is provisional

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Trade in Goods Trends

Following the global economic crisis, UK trade in goods dropped in 2009. Both imports and exports then steadily increased until 2012. From the start of 2013, imports remained relatively flat until a very sharp increase in Q3 of 2016. It has experienced large quarterly fluctuations since Q1 of 2019. Exports peaked in Q2 of 2013, and again in Q4 of 2021, with a steady rise from Q2 of 2017 to Q3 of 2018. Q2 of 2020 saw the lowest quarterly exports value since Q3 of 2010.

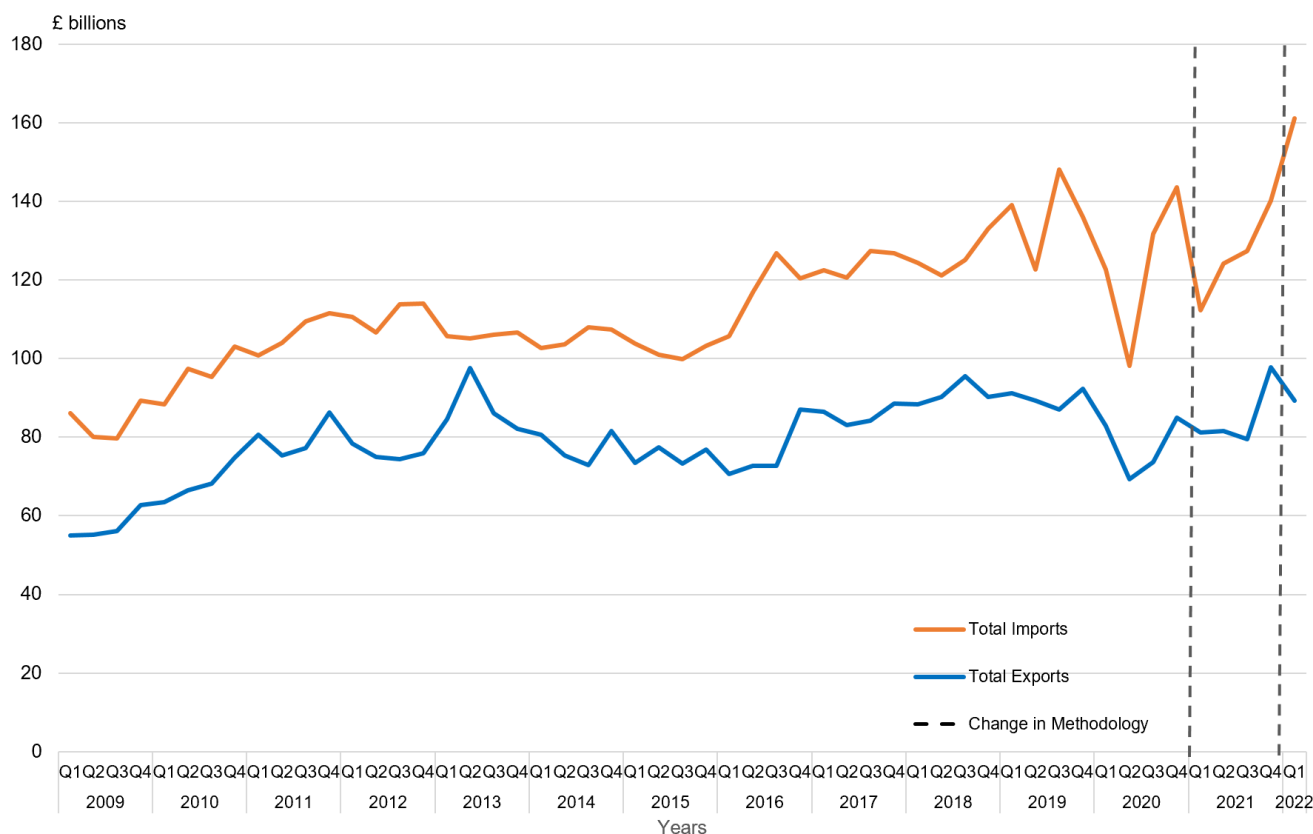
- The total **export** trade for Q1 of 2022 was £89.4 billion, which was an increase of 10% compared with £81.2 billion for Q1 of 2021.
- The total **import** trade for Q1 of 2022 was £161 billion, which was an increase of 43% compared with £112 billion for Q1 of 2021.
- There was a trade deficit of £71.5 billion for Q1 of 2022. This was a widening to almost 2.5 times the value compared with £31.2 billion for Q1 of 2021.
- For many years Germany has been our largest trading import partner by value, with a recent peak from China, while the USA has been the dominant trading export partner, with occasional peaks for Switzerland.
- Mechanical appliances and Motor vehicles have generally been the largest **import** commodities by value, recently surpassed by Mineral fuels. For **exports**, Mechanical appliances has generally been the largest commodity by value, with occasional peaks for Precious metals.

↑ **Exports up 10% on Q1 2021**

↑ **Imports up 43% on Q1 2021**

↑ **Trade deficit widened to almost 2.5 times the value of Q1 2021**

Figure 2: Quarterly UK Trade in Goods, 2009 – 2022



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2021 and 2022 data is provisional

Non-EU & EU Trade in Goods

Non-EU Trade in Goods:

- **Non-EU exports** for May 2022 were £19.5 billion. This was an increase of £5.1 billion (36%) on last month and an increase of £5.9 billion (43%) compared with May 2021.
- **Non-EU imports** for May 2022 were £26.0 billion. This was a decrease of £0.8 billion (3.1%) on last month, but an increase of £3.4 billion (15%) compared with May 2021.
- For **non-EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £6.4 billion.

↑ **Non-EU exports up 36% on last month**

EU Trade in Goods:

- **EU exports** for May 2022 were £16.8 billion. This was an increase of £0.8 billion (5.3%) on last month and an increase of £3.4 billion (25%) compared with May 2021.
- **EU imports** for May 2022 were £27.6 billion. This was an increase of £2.0 billion (8.0%) on last month and an increase of £10.3 billion (59%) compared with May 2021.
- For **EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £10.8 billion.

↑ **EU imports up 59% on May 2021**

Figure 3: Total UK Trade in Goods, with EU and Non-EU, May 2022



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2022 data is provisional

Exports: Country Analysis

- The USA remained the largest export partner country. It experienced the 3rd largest value increase on last month and the 4th largest value increase on May 2021, up £483 million (12%) and £816 million (22%) respectively.
- Switzerland experienced the largest value increases on last month and on May 2021, up £1,554 million (to more than 3.5 times the value) and £1,173 million (to more than double the value) respectively.
- The Netherlands experienced the 2nd largest value increase on May 2021, up £1,083 million (51%).
- Hong Kong experienced the 4th largest value increase on last month and the 3rd largest value increase on May 2021, up £448 million (38%) and £1,036 million (to more than 2.5 times the value) respectively.
- France experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month, up £498 million (27%).
- Russia (ranked 49th) experienced the largest value decrease on May 2021, down £156 million (74%).

↑ **Exports to Switzerland up to more than 3.5 times the value on last month**

↑ **Exports to the Netherlands up 51% on May 2021**

Table 1: UK exports of goods to the top 10 countries, May 2022

Partner Country	May 2022	April 2022		May 2021	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on April 2022 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on May 2021 (%)
USA	4,575	4,092	11.8	3,760	21.7
Netherlands	3,186	3,058	4.2	2,103	51.5
Germany	2,955	2,752	7.4	2,821	4.7
France	2,325	1,827	27.2	1,735	33.9
Ireland	2,249	2,273	-1.1	1,631	37.8
Switzerland	2,144	590	263.4	971	120.8
Hong Kong	1,637	1,189	37.7	601	172.5
Belgium	1,419	1,438	-1.3	1,215	16.8
China	1,343	988	35.9	1,397	-3.9
UAE	947	546	73.5	322	194.3
Others	13,590	11,626	16.9	10,557	28.7
Total EU	16,846	15,996	5.3	13,451	25.2
Total Non-EU	19,524	14,381	35.8	13,663	42.9
Total Exports	36,370	30,377	19.7	27,114	34.1

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 and 2022 data is provisional

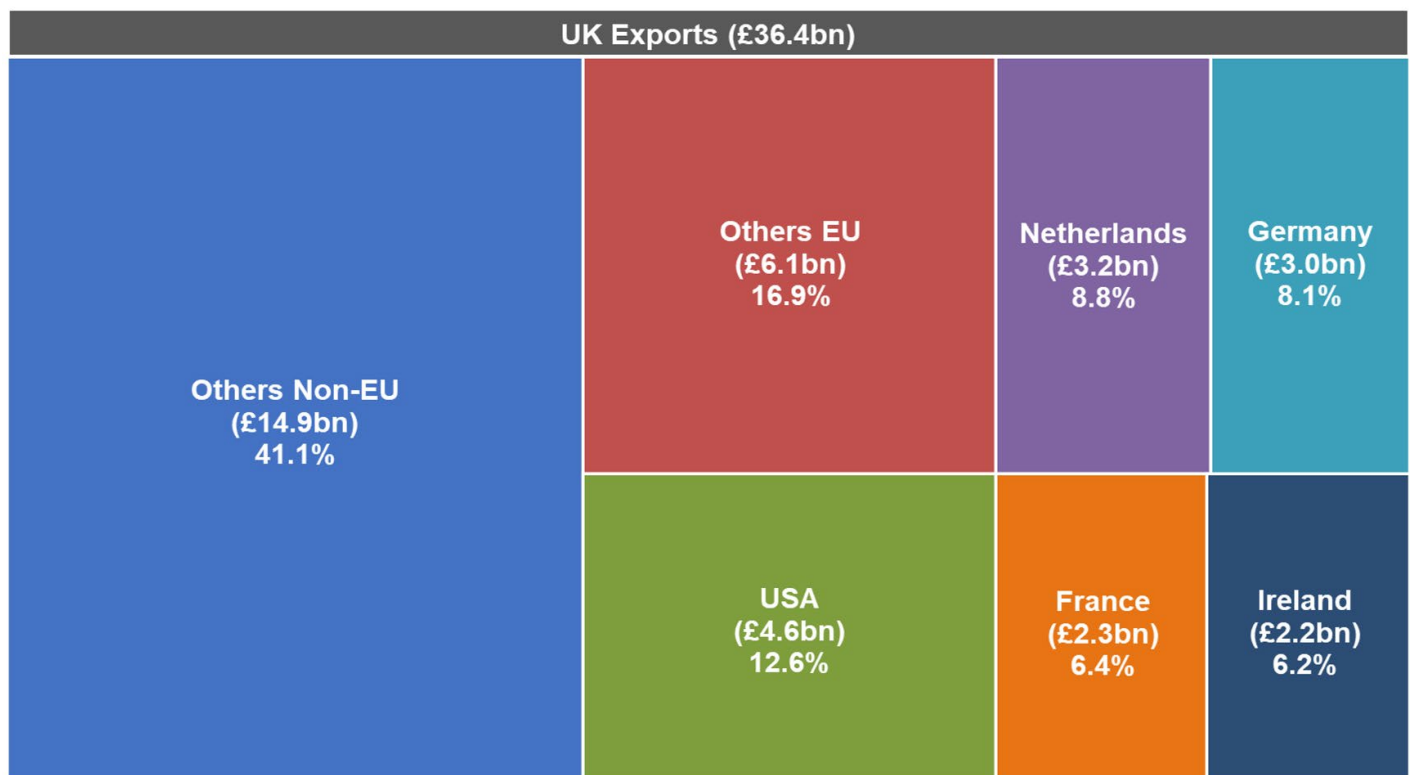
Exports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 export partners accounted for 42% of the total value of goods exported from the UK in May 2022. This was a decrease from a 44% share in May 2021.
- The USA accounted for 13% of the total value of goods exported from the UK in May 2022. This was a decrease from a 14% share in May 2021.
- The Netherlands had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 8.8% of the total value of goods exported from the UK in May 2022. This was an increase from a 7.8% share in May 2021.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Switzerland rose to 6th place from 12th, while Spain fell to 14th place from 9th.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with May 2021. Most notably, Hong Kong rose to 7th place from 11th and the UAE rose to 10th place from 18th, while Italy fell to 12th place from 9th.

↓ **The USA had a 13% share of total exports in May 2022**

↑ **The Netherlands had an 8.8% share of total exports in May 2022**

Figure 4: Share of UK exports of goods to the top 5 countries, May 2022



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2022 data is provisional

Exports: Country Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to May 2022, the USA remained the largest export partner country.
- Among the top 10, Hong Kong experienced the largest percentage increases on the 3 months to February 2022 and on the 3 months to May 2021, up 78% and up to double the value respectively.
- Among the top 10, Switzerland experienced the only decrease on the 3 months to February 2022 and the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to May 2021, down 51% and 48% respectively.
- Among the top 10, the Netherlands experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to May 2021, up 49%.
- Among the top 10, Germany experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to February 2022, up 38%.
- Among the top 10, Ireland experienced the 3rd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to May 2021, up 36%.
- 8 of the top 10 export partners experienced an increase on the 3 months to May 2021. Switzerland and China were the exceptions.

↓ **Exports to Switzerland down 51% on the 3 months to February 2022**

↑ **Exports to Hong Kong double in value on the 3 months to May 2021**

Table 2: UK exports of goods to the top 10 countries, 3 months to May 2022

Partner Country	3 months to May 2022		3 months to Feb 2022		3 months to May 2021	
	Total (£ millions)		Total (£ millions)	Change on February 2022 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on May 2021 (%)
USA	12,917		10,416	24.0	11,821	9.3
Germany	9,538		6,898	38.3	8,409	13.4
Netherlands	8,948		6,992	28.0	6,001	49.1
Ireland	7,040		6,802	3.5	5,160	36.4
France	6,242		4,915	27.0	5,028	24.1
Belgium	4,484		3,823	17.3	3,806	17.8
Switzerland	4,290		8,743	-50.9	8,320	-48.4
China	3,589		3,544	1.3	4,343	-17.4
Hong Kong	3,457		1,937	78.4	1,713	101.8
Italy	2,528		1,930	31.0	2,419	4.5
Others	37,493		33,750	11.1	32,108	16.8
Total Exports	100,526		89,750	12.0	89,127	12.8

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 and 2022 data is provisional

Exports: Commodity Analysis

- Precious metals replaced Mechanical appliances as the largest export commodity. It experienced the largest value increases on last month and on May 2021, up £3,705 million (to more than double the value) and up £4,194 million (to more than 2.5 times the value) respectively.
- Mineral fuels experienced the 2nd largest value increases on last month and on May 2021, up £630 million (17%) and up £2,464 million (more than doubling in value) respectively.
- Pharmaceutical products experienced the 3rd largest value increase on last month, up £471 million (33%).
- Mechanical appliances experienced the 4th largest value increase on last month, and the 3rd largest value increase on May 2021, up £351 million (7.5%) and £780 million (18%) respectively.
- Organic chemicals experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £154 million (13%). In contrast, it experienced the 4th largest value increase on May 2021, up £507 million (doubling in value).

↑ **Exports of Precious metals up to more than 2.5 times the value on May 2021**

↑ **Exports of Mineral fuels up 17% on last month**

Table 3: UK exports of goods for the top 10 commodities, May 2022

May 2022		April 2022		May 2021	
Commodity Description	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on April 2022 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on May 2021 (%)
Precious metals	6,765	3,060	121.0	2,571	163.1
Mechanical appliances	5,028	4,677	7.5	4,248	18.4
Mineral fuels	4,298	3,667	17.2	1,834	134.3
Motor vehicles	2,530	2,377	6.4	2,274	11.2
Pharmaceutical products	1,888	1,417	33.2	1,767	6.8
Electronic equipment	1,767	1,759	0.5	1,667	6.0
Measuring devices and gauges	1,344	1,270	5.9	1,290	4.2
Organic chemicals	1,012	1,166	-13.2	505	100.3
Other products	971	971	-0.1	1,512	-35.8
Plastics and plastic products	946	907	4.3	867	9.1
Others	9,821	9,106	7.9	8,578	14.5
Total Exports	36,370	30,377	19.7	27,114	34.1

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 and 2022 data is provisional

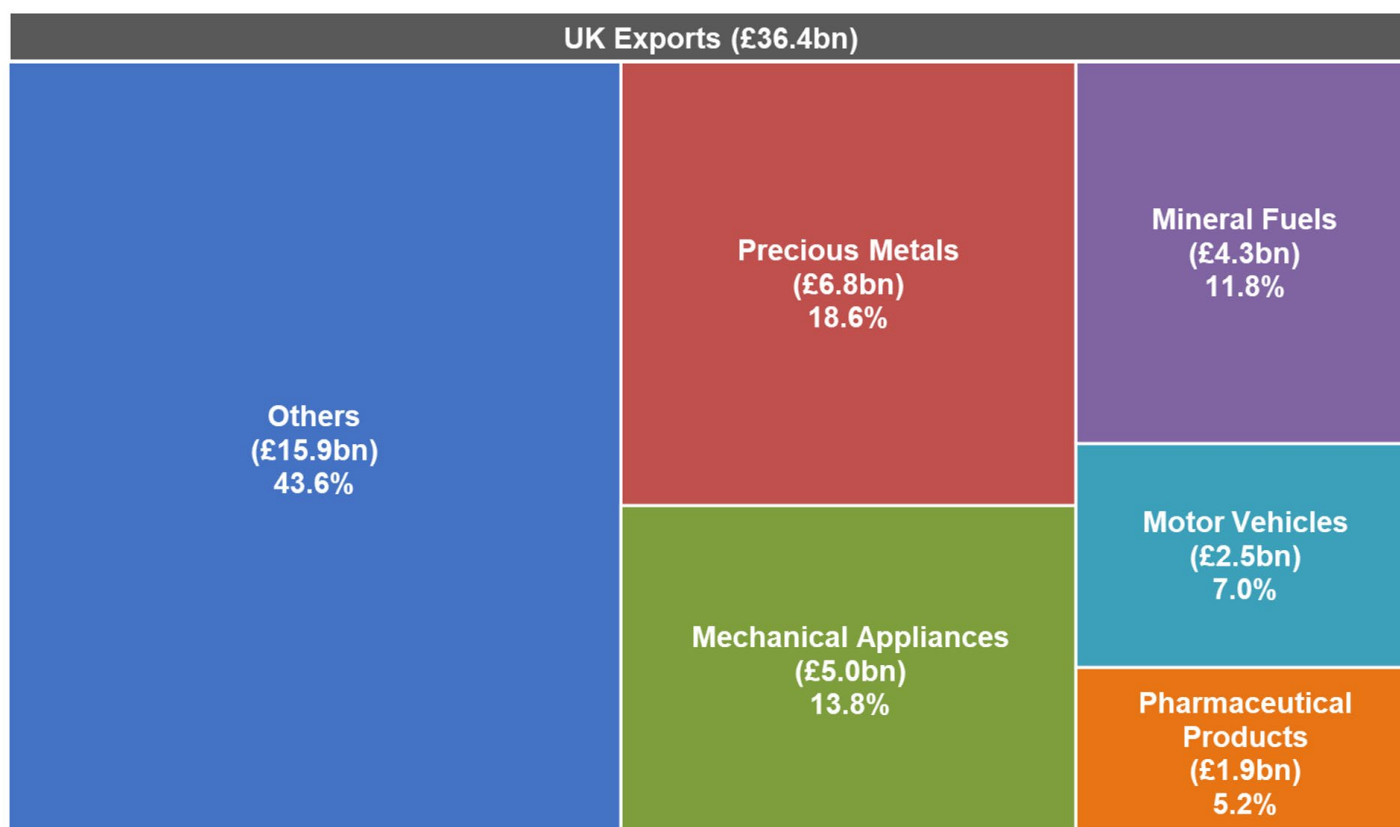
Exports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 export commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 56% of the total value of goods exported from the UK in May 2022. This was an increase from a 47% share in May 2021.
- Precious metals accounted for 19% of the total value of goods exported from the UK in May 2022. This was an increase from a 9.5% share in May 2021.
- Mechanical appliances had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 14% of the total value of goods exported from the UK in May 2022. This was a decrease from a 16% share in May 2021.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed order compared with last month. Most notably, Precious metals rose to 1st place from 3rd, while Mechanical appliances fell to 2nd place from 1st.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with May 2021. Most notably, Organic chemicals rose to 8th place from 14th.

↑ **Precious metals accounted for 19% of total exports in May 2022**

↓ **Mechanical appliances accounted for 14% of total exports in May 2022**

Figure 5: Share of UK exports by the top 5 commodities, May 2022



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2022 data is provisional

Exports: Commodity Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to May 2022, Mechanical appliances replaced Precious metals as the largest export commodity. It experienced the 3rd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to May 2021, up 17%.
- Among the top 10, Mineral fuels experienced the largest percentage increases on the 3 months to February 2022 and on the 3 months to May 2021, up 49% and to almost 2.5 times the value respectively.
- Among the top 10, Organic chemicals experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to May 2021, up 24%.
- Among the top 10, Plastics & plastic products experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to February 2022, up 20%.
- Among the top 10, Pharmaceutical products experienced the 3rd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to February 2022, up 18%.
- 8 of the top 10 export commodities experienced an increase on the 3 months to February 2022. The exceptions were Precious metals and Other products.
- 7 of the top 10 export commodities experienced an increase on the 3 months to May 2021. The exceptions were Precious metals, Motor vehicles, and Other products.

↑ **Mineral fuels exports up to almost 2.5 times the value on the 3 months to May 2021**

↑ **Plastics & plastic products exports up 20% on the 3 months to February 2022**

Table 4: UK exports of goods for the top 10 commodities, 3 months to May 2022

3 months to May 2022		3 months to Feb 2022		3 months to May 2021	
Commodity Description	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on February 2022 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on May 2021 (%)
Mechanical appliances	14,682	13,130	11.8	12,593	16.6
Precious metals	13,426	13,967	-3.9	14,008	-4.2
Mineral fuels	12,112	8,115	49.3	5,331	127.2
Motor vehicles	7,769	6,961	11.6	8,496	-8.6
Electronic equipment	5,383	4,851	11.0	4,981	8.1
Pharmaceutical products	5,336	4,522	18.0	4,874	9.5
Measuring devices and gauges	4,019	3,652	10.1	3,967	1.3
Organic chemicals	3,081	2,723	13.1	2,490	23.7
Other products	2,939	4,282	-31.4	4,359	-32.6
Plastics and plastic products	2,871	2,398	19.7	2,482	15.7
Others	28,909	25,150	14.9	25,546	13.2
Total Exports	100,526	89,750	12.0	89,127	12.8

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2021 and 2022 data is provisional

Exports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

Country to commodity:

- The increases in exports to Switzerland on last month and on May 2021 were dominated by Precious metals, up £1,511 million (to almost 6.5 times the value) and £1,142 million (to almost 3 times the value) respectively.
- The increase in exports to Hong Kong on last month and on May 2021 were also dominated by Precious metals, up £473 million (62%) and £986 million (to 5 times the value) respectively.
- The decrease in exports to Russia on May 2021 was spread over several commodities, led by Mechanical appliances, down £42.8 million (93%).

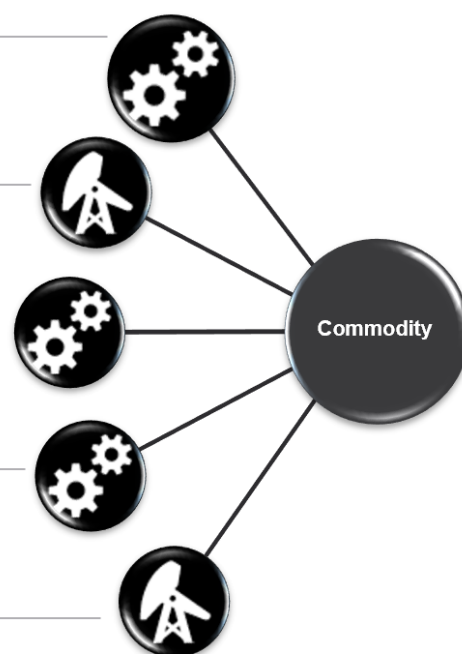
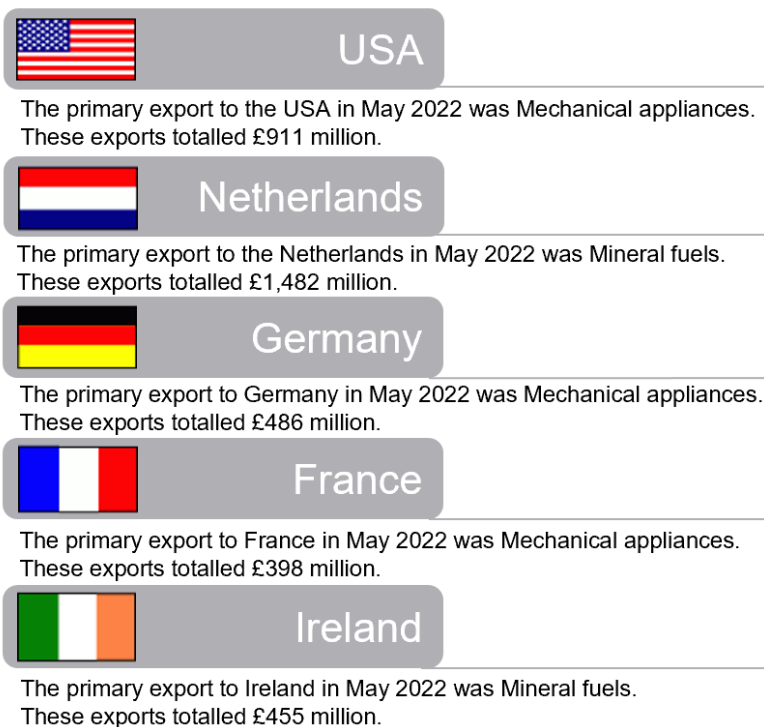
↑ Exports of Precious metals to Switzerland up to almost 6.5 times the value on last month

Commodity to country

- The increase in exports of Mineral fuels on last month was led by the USA, Sweden, and France, up £183 million (79%), £180 million (from £7.7 million), and £162 million (89%). The increase on May 2021 was driven by the Netherlands, up £836 million (to almost 2.5 times the value).
- The increase in exports of Mechanical appliances on last month was led by the USA, up £268 million (42%). The increase on May 2021 was led by the USA and Singapore, up £278 million (44%) and £106 million (96%) respectively.
- The decrease in exports of Organic chemicals on last month was led by the USA, down £278 million (47%). The increase on May 2021 was led by Ireland, up £258 million (from £9.0 million).
- The increase in exports of Pharmaceutical products on last month was led by Japan and China, up £144 million (to 6.5 times the value) and £117 million (to 3.5 times the value) respectively.

↑ Exports of Mineral fuels to the Netherlands up to almost 2.5 times the value on May 2021

Figure 6: The UK's top commodity exports to the top 5 countries



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2022 data is provisional

Imports: Country Analysis

- Germany remained the largest import partner country. It experienced the 2nd largest value increase on May 2021, up £1,637 million (37%).
- The Netherlands experienced the 3rd largest value increase on last month, and the largest value increase on May 2021, up £490 million (12%) and up £2,350 million (to double the value) respectively.
- Norway experienced the second largest value decrease on last month, down £400 million (13%). In contrast, it experienced the 3rd largest value increase on May 2021, up £1,304 million (92%).
- The USA experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £898 million (16%).
- Canada (ranked 11th) experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £674 million (93%).
- China experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month, up £566 million (15%).

↑ Imports from Canada up 93% on last month

↑ Imports from the Netherlands up to double the value on May 2021

Table 5: UK imports of goods from the top 10 countries, May 2022

May 2022		April 2022		May 2021	
Partner Country	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on April 2022 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on May 2021 (%)
Germany	6,023	6,328	-4.8	4,385	37.3
USA	4,618	5,516	-16.3	3,672	25.7
Netherlands	4,586	4,096	12.0	2,237	105.0
China	4,366	3,800	14.9	4,532	-3.7
France	2,913	2,601	12.0	1,626	79.2
Norway	2,728	3,127	-12.8	1,424	91.6
Belgium	2,668	2,197	21.4	1,685	58.3
Italy	2,189	1,959	11.7	1,524	43.7
Spain	1,875	1,497	25.2	1,268	47.8
Ireland	1,525	1,730	-11.8	1,075	41.9
Others	20,075	19,499	3.0	16,451	22.0
Total EU	27,598	25,553	8.0	17,339	59.2
Total Non-EU	25,966	26,796	-3.1	22,541	15.2
Total Imports	53,564	52,349	2.3	39,880	34.3

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 and 2022 data are provisional

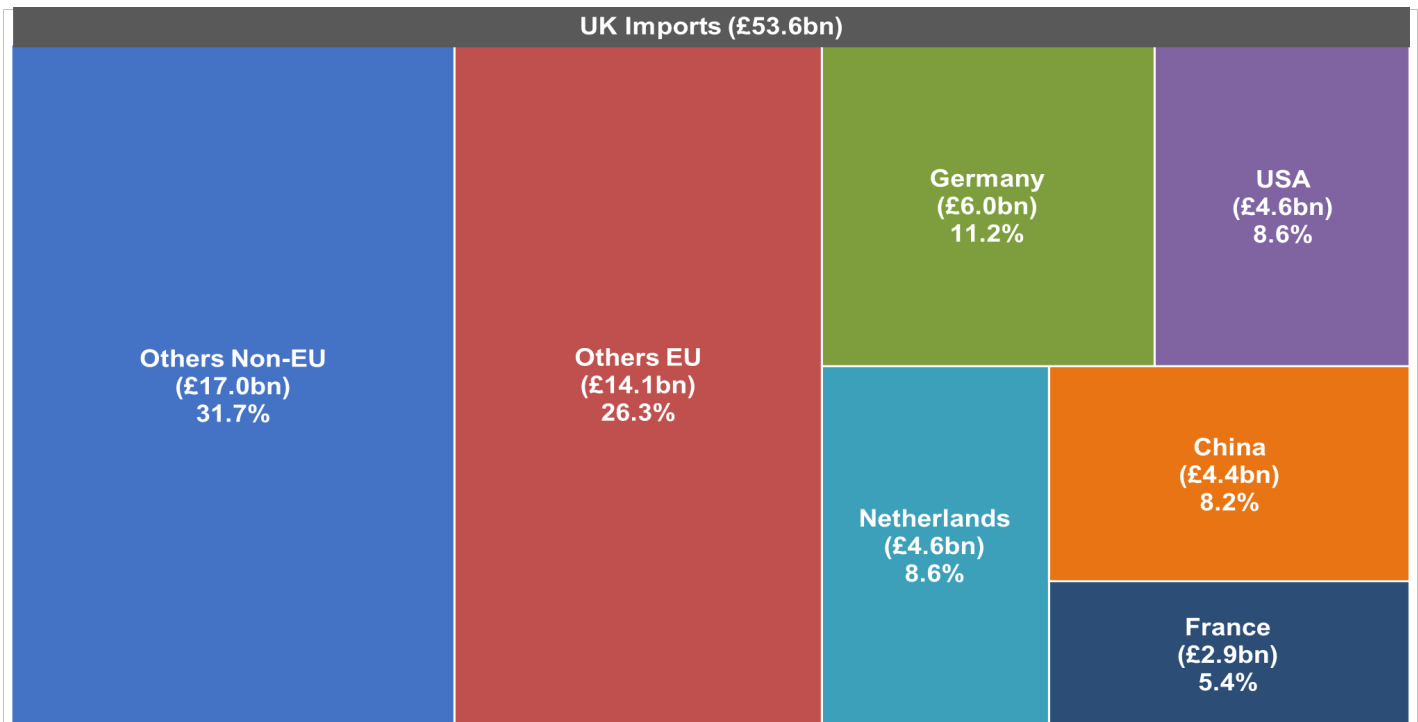
Imports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 import partners accounted for 42% of the total value of goods imported to the UK in May 2022. This was an increase from a 41% share in May 2021.
- Germany accounted for 11% of the total value of goods imported to the UK in May 2022. This was an increase of less than one percentage point on May 2021.
- The USA had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 8.6% of the total value of goods imported to the UK in May 2022. This was a decrease from a 9.2% share in May 2021.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) changed order compared with last month. Most notably, France rose to 5th place from 6th and Spain rose to 9th from 10th, while Norway fell to 6th place from 5th.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with May 2021. Most notably, Norway rose to 6th place from 9th, while China fell to 4th place from 1st and Switzerland fell to 12th place from 7th.

↑ **The top 5 partners accounted for 42% of total imports in May 2022**

↑ **Germany accounted for 11% of total imports in May 2022**

Figure 7: Share of UK imports of goods from the top 5 countries, May 2022



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2022 data is provisional

Imports: Country Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to May 2022, Germany replaced China as the largest import partner country, experiencing the 4th largest percentage increase on the 3 months to February 2022, up 26%.
- Among the top 10, Norway experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to May 2021, up to over 2.5 times the value.
- Among the top 10, the Netherlands experienced the 3rd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to February 2022 and the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to May 2021, up 28% and 94% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Italy experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to February 2022, up 36%.
- Among the top 10, Ireland experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to February 2022, up 35%.
- 8 of the top 10 countries experienced an increase on the 3 months to February 2022. The exceptions were China and Norway.
- 9 of top 10 countries experienced an increase on the 3 months to May 2021. The exception was China.

↑ Imports from Italy up 36% on the 3 months to February 2022

↑ Imports from Norway up to over 2.5 times the value on the 3 months to May 2021

Table 6: UK imports of goods from the top 10 countries, 3 months to May 2022

3 months to May 2022		3 months to Feb 2022		3 months to May 2021	
Partner Country	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on February 2022 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on May 2021 (%)
Germany	19,121	15,126	26.4	14,355	33.2
USA	16,084	14,360	12.0	10,828	48.5
China	13,523	15,592	-13.3	14,715	-8.1
Netherlands	13,464	10,515	28.0	6,944	94.0
Norway	10,947	11,632	-5.9	4,160	163.1
France	8,605	6,853	25.6	5,293	62.6
Belgium	7,293	6,203	17.6	5,352	36.0
Italy	6,539	4,824	35.6	4,703	39.0
Spain	5,363	4,264	25.8	3,801	41.1
Ireland	4,997	3,707	35.0	3,283	52.2
Others	61,080	53,213	14.8	47,716	28.0
Total Imports	167,015	146,290	14.2	121,149	37.9

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 and 2022 data are provisional

Imports: Commodity Analysis

- Mineral fuels remained the largest import commodity despite experiencing the largest value decrease on last month, down £1,588 million (17%). In contrast, it experienced the largest value increase on May 2021, up £4,803 million (to over 2.5 times the value).
- Precious metals experienced the largest value decrease on May 2021, down £2,882 million (47%).
- Mechanical appliances experienced the largest value increase on last month and the 2nd largest value increase on May 2021, up £531 million (9.7%) and up £1,397 million (30%) respectively.
- Motor vehicles experienced the 3rd largest value increase on May 2021, up £1,314 million (36%).
- Pharmaceutical products experienced the 4th largest value increase on May 2021, up £1,127 million (75%).
- Miscellaneous chemical products (ranked 18th) experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on May 2021, down £391 million (38%).

↑ Imports of Mechanical appliances up 9.7% on last month

↑ Imports of Mineral fuels up to more than 2.5 times the value on May 2021

Table 7: UK imports of goods for the top 10 commodities, May 2022

May 2022		April 2022		May 2021	
Commodity Description	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on April 2022 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on May 2021 (%)
Mineral fuels	7,703	9,292	-17.1	2,901	165.6
Mechanical appliances	5,996	5,464	9.7	4,598	30.4
Motor vehicles	4,936	5,122	-3.6	3,622	36.3
Electronic equipment	4,192	4,107	2.1	3,279	27.9
Precious metals	3,216	3,210	0.2	6,098	-47.3
Pharmaceutical products	2,631	2,434	8.1	1,504	74.9
Plastics and plastic products	1,668	1,521	9.7	1,229	35.7
Other products	1,650	1,428	15.5	567	191.0
Measuring devices and gauges	1,461	1,420	2.8	1,092	33.7
Furniture and light fittings	1,133	938	20.9	846	33.9
Others	18,978	17,413	9.0	14,143	34.2
Total Imports	53,564	52,349	2.3	39,880	34.3

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 and 2022 data are provisional

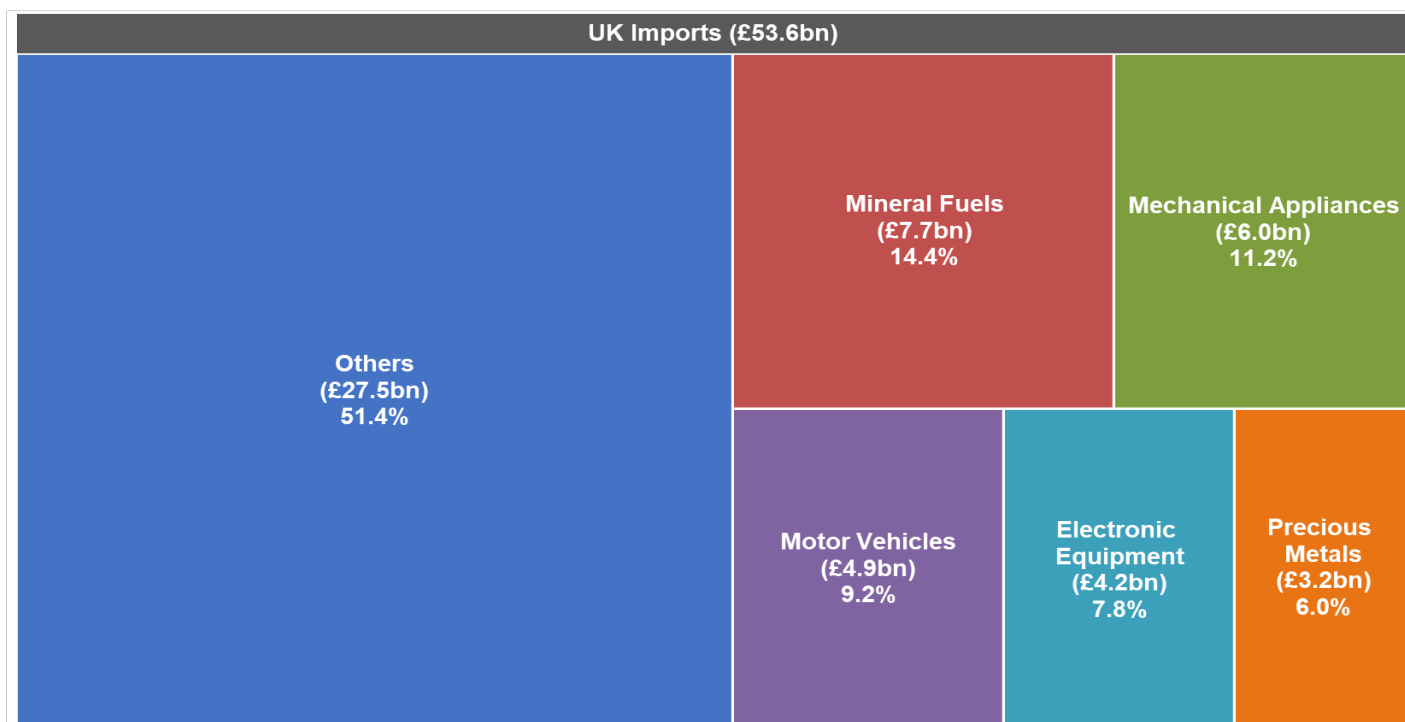
Imports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 import commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 49% of the total value of goods imported to the UK in May 2022. This was a decrease from 51% in May 2021.
- Mineral fuels accounted for 14% of the total value of goods imported to the UK in May 2022. This was an increase from a 7.3% share in May 2021.
- Mechanical appliances had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 11% of the total value of goods imported to the UK in May 2022. This was a decrease from 12% in May 2021.
- The top 10 commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with last month, albeit with only one ranking swap; Organic chemicals fell to 11th place from 10th, while Furniture and light fittings rose to 10th place from 11th.
- The top 10 commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with May 2021. Most notably, Mineral fuels rose to 1st place from 5th, while Precious metals fell to 5th place from 1st and Miscellaneous chemical products fell to 18th place from 9th.

↓ **The top 5 import commodities accounted for 49% of total imports in May 2022**

↑ **Mineral fuels accounted for 14% of total imports in May 2022**

Figure 8: Share of UK imports for the top 5 commodities, May 2022



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2022 data is provisional

Imports: Commodity Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to May 2022, Mineral fuels remained the largest import commodity. Among the top 10, it experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to May 2021, up to almost 3.5 times the value.
- Among the top 10, Pharmaceutical products experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to February 2022 and the 3rd largest on the 3 months to May 2021, up 33% and 65% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Organic chemicals experienced the 2nd largest percentage increases on the 3 months to February 2022 and on the 3 months to May 2021, up 27% and 65% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Motor vehicles experienced the 3rd largest percentage increase on February 2022 and the 4th largest percentage increase on May 2021, up 24% and 39% respectively.
- 9 of the top 10 commodities experienced an increase on the 3 months to February 2022 and on the 3 months to May 2021. Precious metals was the exception in both instances.

↑ Imports of Pharmaceutical products up 33% on the 3 months to February 2022

↑ Imports of Mineral fuels up to almost 3.5 times the value on the 3 months to May 2021

Table 8: UK imports of goods for the top 10 commodities, 3 months to May 2022

3 months to May 2022		3 months to Feb 2022		3 months to May 2021	
Commodity Description	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on February 2022 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on May 2021 (%)
Mineral fuels	27,720	26,161	6.0	8,379	230.8
Mechanical appliances	17,630	15,131	16.5	15,087	16.9
Motor vehicles	16,727	13,453	24.3	12,019	39.2
Electronic equipment	12,817	11,479	11.6	10,758	19.1
Precious metals	11,424	11,640	-1.8	15,195	-24.8
Pharmaceutical products	7,473	5,601	33.4	4,536	64.8
Plastics and plastic products	4,879	4,095	19.1	3,749	30.1
Measuring devices and gauges	4,743	3,861	22.9	3,501	35.5
Other products	4,679	3,558	31.5	1,662	181.6
Organic chemicals	3,294	2,591	27.1	1,997	64.9
Others	55,629	48,720	14.2	44,267	25.7
Total Imports	167,015	146,290	14.2	121,149	37.9

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 and 2022 data is provisional

Imports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

Country to commodity:

- The increase in imports from Germany on May 2021 was driven by Motor vehicles, Mechanical appliances, and Pharmaceutical products, up £625 million (50%), £273 million (42%) and £155 million (66%) respectively.
- The increase in imports from the Netherlands on last month and on May 2021 was led by Pharmaceutical products, up £201 million (86%) and up £303 million (to almost 3.5 times the value) respectively.
- The increase in imports from Canada on last month was driven by Precious metals and Mineral fuels, up £394 million (97%) and £238 million (from £22.6 million).
- The increase in imports from China on last month was led by Electronic equipment, up £108 million (17%).

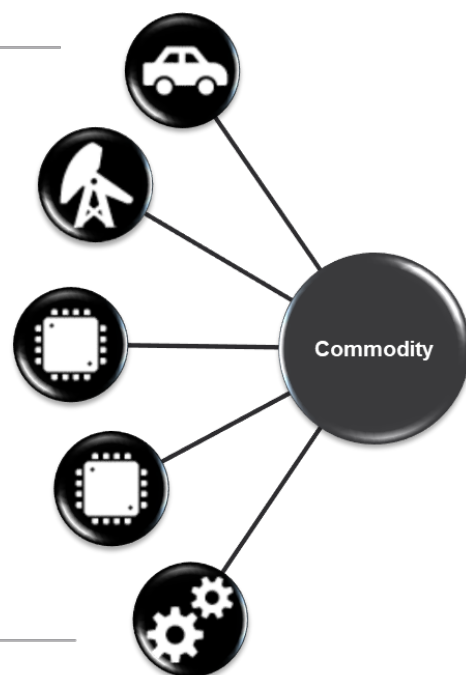
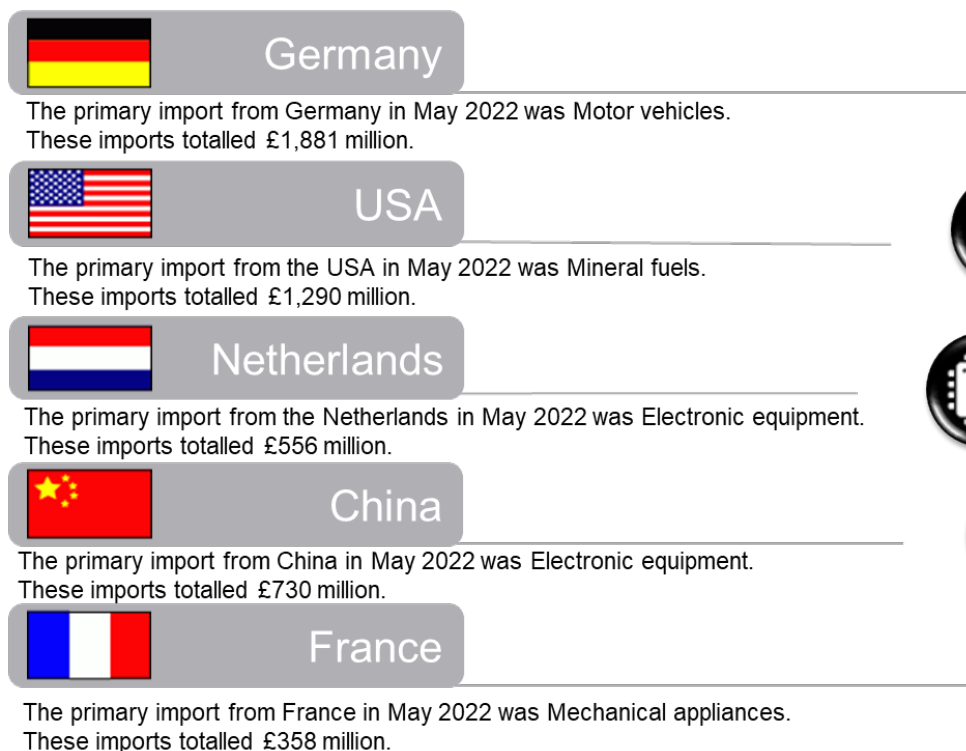
↑ Imports of Motor vehicles from Germany up 50% on May 2021

↑ Imports of Precious metals from Canada up 97% on last month

Commodity to country:

- The decrease in imports of Mineral fuels on last month was driven by the USA, Norway, and Algeria, down £677 million (34%), £363 million (13%), and £321 million (70%) respectively. The increase on May 2021 was dominated by Norway, up £1,295 million (to over double the value).
- The increase in imports of Mechanical appliances on last month was led by Italy and Japan, up £116 million (44%), and £111 million (68%) respectively. The increase on May 2021 was led by Germany, the Netherlands, and France, up £273 million (42%), £221 million (87%) and £207 million (to almost 2.5 times the value).
- The decrease in imports of Motor vehicles on last month was driven by Germany and the Czech Republic, down £245 million (12%) and £120 million (79%) respectively.

Figure 9: The UK's top commodity imports from the top 5 countries



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2022 data is provisional

Methodology Notes

Metadata

Data behind this bulletin is available through our [uktradeinfo](#) web site:

- Detailed Trade Statistics data at 8-digit commodity code level is available in our [interactive database](#).
- Aggregate OTS data is available in [pre-prepared Excel tables](#).

Data sources

From 31 December 2020, the free movement of people and goods and services between the UK and the European Union (EU) ended. This meant the way HMRC had been collecting trade in goods statistics was revised.

UK to EU exports

For goods moving from 1 January 2021, GB to EU export statistics have been compiled directly from customs export declarations made according to the requirements of the Taxation (Cross Border Trade) Act. Intrastat survey returns, however, continued to be collected for goods exported from Northern Ireland to the EU, under the terms of the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Both the GB to EU customs export declaration data and NI Intrastat export (dispatch) data were incorporated into the overall UK to EU export dataset.

As a result of the changes and differences outlined above, there was a break in the timeseries for published UK to EU export statistics from January 2021.

UK imports from EU

UK imports from EU statistics were not impacted by any change in 2021. The Intrastat survey continued to operate for all UK (GB and NI) imports (arrivals) from the EU, to mitigate the effects of staging customs controls, and to comply with the Northern Ireland Protocol.

However, from 1 January 2022, Intrastat only applied for movements of goods between Northern Ireland and the EU. Statistics on movements to GB from the EU have been compiled directly from customs import declarations.

Both the EU to GB customs import declaration data and NI Intrastat import (arrivals) data were incorporated into the overall EU to UK import dataset.

As a result of the changes and differences outlined above, there was a break in the timeseries for published EU to UK import statistics from January 2022.

Northern Ireland Trade

Figures derived from Intrastat include the following:

- Estimates for businesses who have yet to submit detailed data on the trade they had with other EU Member States this month.
- Estimates for businesses who do not have to submit detailed data on the trade they have with other EU Member States.

Estimates are included in all high-level totals including commodity (HS2) and country totals.

Non-EU trade

Non-EU trade are compiled from customs declarations collected by the CHIEF (Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight) system. Declarations collected via the Customs Declarations Service (CDS) are included: for imports from August 2020 month of account; and for exports from December 2020 month of account onwards.

Detailed trade information is presented according to the [Harmonised System \(HS\)](#) nomenclature.

Methodology

The Overseas Trade Statistics Methodology paper (March 2022) is available [here](#). It covers all aspects of the Overseas Trade Statistics methodology – data sources, classifications and definitions, quality assurance, publications and governance. It is a useful companion to the trade data, providing the definitions and methodologies on which the data are based.

The most recent changes in the OTS methodology are covered in this paper.

Non-Monetary Gold (NMG) can form a substantial part of the non-EU Overseas Trade Statistics (OTS). For further information, see [Inclusion of Non-Monetary Gold in OTS](#). Data relating to monthly non-EU and EU import and export totals for January 2008 onwards with a breakdown of non-monetary gold and other trade is available in an [OTS time series spreadsheet](#).

Relationship with other statistical publications

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 2 sets of data are compiled to different sets of rules. The ONS website provides an overview of [BoP](#), where you can find their 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.

National Statistics Publication

HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with countries on 13 July 2022 under arrangements set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#). The 1st release is published on HMRC's trade data website www.uktradeinfo.com.

This release includes the 1st provisional estimates of trade-in-goods between the UK and both countries of the EU and those outside the EU for May 2022. At the same time revisions for all previously published non-EU and EU data for 2021 are also being released in line with the [HM Revenue & Customs Policy on Revisions](#).

The next three publications are due for release on the following days:

Month of account	First release date
June 2022	12 August 2022
July 2022	12 September 2022
August 2022	12 October 2022

The OTS has been reviewed as part of an assessment made of Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics by the [UK Statistics Authority](#). The report of that assessment can be found [here](#).

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.

Now that the UK has left the EU, it is important that our statistics continue to be of high quality and are internationally comparable. All releases continue to be produced in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Statistics as well as internationally agreed statistical guidance and standards.