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EU Overseas Trade Statistics August 2013

Summary

- The UK's EU exports for August 2013 are £11.5 billion. This is a decrease of £1.6 billion (12.4 per cent) compared to July 2013. However, it is an increase of £0.1 billion (0.6 per cent) compared to August 2012.
- The UK's EU imports for August 2013 are £16.3 billion. This is a decrease of £2.9 billion (15.0 per cent) compared to July 2013. It is also a decrease of £0.1 billion (0.9 per cent) compared to August 2012.
- Both imports and exports are at their lowest levels since December 2012.
- The UK remains a net importer (imports are greater than exports). The size of the difference between imports and exports is £4.8 billion. This is a decrease of £1.3 billion (20.7 per cent) compared to July 2013.



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 User Story](#)'. You can also access the detailed data in our interactive database [here](#).

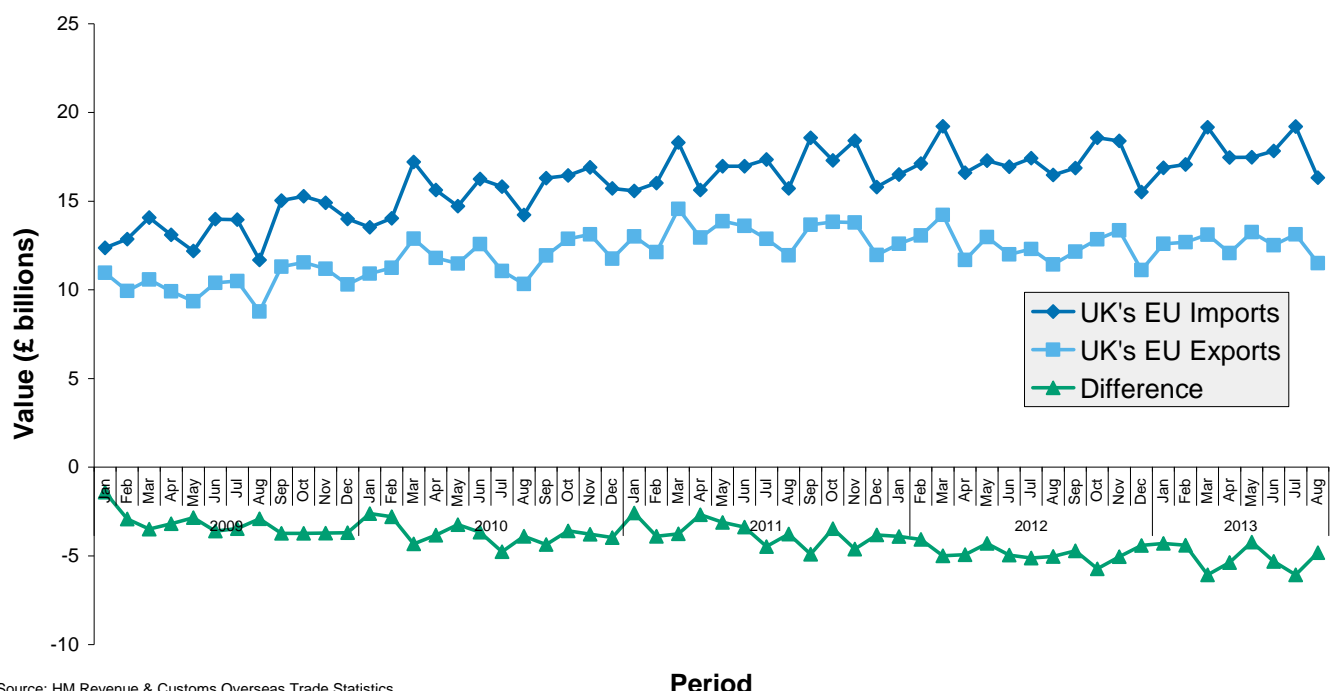
Key Points

For the month of August 2013:

The value of UK trade decreased for both EU imports and exports, with imports falling by £2.9 billion, and exports by £1.6 billion against July 2013 totals. This is a seasonal decrease, and the changes were much smaller for both flows when compared to August 2012, with imports falling by £0.1 billion and exports rising by £0.1 billion.

There is a decrease of 20.7 per cent in the trade gap. (i.e. the difference between UK imports from, and exports to the EU) when compared to July 2013. This difference is now £4.8 billion. This is the largest fall in the trade gap since October 2011.

Fig. 1: Total Monthly UK Trade with EU Member States



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

Exports

- The UK's EU exports for August 2013 are £11.5 billion. This is a decrease of £1.6 billion (12.4 per cent) compared to July 2013. However, it is an increase of £0.1 billion (0.6 per cent) compared to August 2012.
- There have been a number of changes in the top five commodities from both the previous month and year. Nevertheless, HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) consistently remains the top commodity exported by value. In August it contributed £2.3 billion, 20.4 per cent of the total value of the UK's EU export trade despite experiencing the largest value decrease from the previous month of £0.6 billion (21.5 per cent).
- The largest value increase from the previous month was in the commodity with the eighth largest export value, HS2 29 (Organic chemicals) up £73.4 million (18.5 per cent).
- The top five EU export partner countries are unchanged from the previous month. Germany remains the UK's largest EU export partner country, accounting for 19.8 per cent of the total exports.
- The largest decrease in exports from the UK compared to July 2013 was a fall of £0.5 billion (20.1 per cent) to the UK's second largest export partner country, the Netherlands. Exports to Finland had the largest increase, of £39.3 million (39.6 per cent).
- The total 2013 year to date value of UK's trade-in-goods exported to EU Member States excluding August is £89.4 billion, which has been upwardly revised by £327.9 million. This is an increase of 0.4 per cent.

Imports

- The UK's EU imports for August 2013 are £16.3 billion. This is a decrease of £2.9 billion (15.0 per cent) compared to July 2013. It is also a decrease of £0.1 billion (0.9 per cent) compared to August 2012.
- The top five commodities are the same as last month. The largest contributing commodity group is HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof). This contributed £2.4 billion, 14.9 per cent of the total value of UK's EU import trade. The chapter also experienced the largest value decrease from the previous month, down £1.1 billion (30.4 per cent).
- The largest value increase from the previous month was in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) up £119.0 million (12.9 per cent). This takes imports in HS2 27 to fourth place, above HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products).
- The top five EU import partner countries are unchanged from July 2013, although all five fell in value. Germany is still the EU Member State from which the UK imports most goods by value, accounting for 26.6 per cent of total imports. This country also saw the largest decrease compared to July 2013, down by £756.8 million (14.8 per cent). The Netherlands remains the UK's second largest EU import partner country with a 16.4 per cent share of total trade. The largest increase was a rise of £16.0 million in imports from Cyprus, an increase of 58.4 per cent.
- The total 2013 year to date value of UK's trade-in-goods imported from EU Member States excluding August is £125.1 billion, which has been upwardly revised by £27.1 million. This is an increase of less than 0.1 per cent.

Further Analysis: Exports

Table 1: Top 5 commodities in UK's EU exports in August 2013 compared to July 2013 and August 2012

HS 2	Description	August 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from July 2013	% Change from August 2012	% of Total August 2013 Exports	Rank July 2013	Rank August 2012
-	Total Exports	11,507.9	-12.4	0.6	100.0	n/a	n/a
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	2,345.2	-21.5	-14.0	20.4	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	1,121.0	-13.8	0.2	9.7	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	802.0	-6.9	9.1	7.0	5	4
30	Pharmaceutical products	772.1	-6.1	-1.3	6.7	3	3
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	740.9	-34.3	19.4	6.4	4	5

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Note: 2013 data are provisional

Commodity Analysis: comparison with previous month

The decrease in export value of £1.6 billion (12.4 per cent) **compared to July 2013** is composed of decreases in 70 per cent of all HS2 chapters. All of the top five chapters experienced falls in trade. There were three very large decreases over £100 million but no increases above this level.

The largest decrease was for the top chapter, HS2 27, down £641.3 million (21.5 per cent) from last month's record high value of £3.0 billion to £2.3 billion this month. This decrease was driven by falls of £421.3 million (30.0 per cent) in exports to the Netherlands, £117.6 million (91.1 per cent) to Spain and £105.0 million (35.4 per cent) to Belgium.

The second largest decrease was for the fifth largest chapter HS2 87, which fell by £386.4 million (34.3 per cent). This decrease was spread across a number of different countries, the largest of which was for Belgium down £93.7 million (43.4 per cent).

The next largest decrease was for HS2 84, the second largest chapter, down £179.7 million (13.8 per cent). This was spread across a number of countries, the largest of

which was for Germany down £43.3 million (10.9 per cent). There were no other decreases over £100 million.

There were no increases over £100 million, the largest being £73.4 million (18.5 per cent) for HS2 29 (Organic chemicals).

Commodity Analysis: Comparison against the same month in the previous year

Compared to August 2012, the overall export trade to EU Member States marginally increased by £0.1 billion, 0.6 per cent. This overall rise is a reflection of over 60 per cent of all HS2 chapters increasing in export trade with three of these increases being over £100 million although these rises were moderated by a very large decrease in one chapter. In the top five chapters, there were three increases and two decreases.

The largest increase was for HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof), which rose by £122.4 million (48.4 per cent). This was driven by increases to France and Germany of £80.8 million (78.5 per cent) and £33.7 million (28.1 per cent) respectively.

The second largest increase was for HS2 87 (Motor vehicles), which rose by £120.6 million (19.4 per cent). This was spread over several export partners, led by an increase in exports to Belgium of £44.7 million (57.9 per cent).

The third largest increase was £101.9 million (27.7 per cent) for HS2 29 (Organic chemicals). This rise was spread across a number of countries, the most significant of which being an increase in exports to France of £44.7 million, more than doubling in size. There were no other increases over £100 million.

The largest decrease was in the top chapter HS2 27 (Mineral fuels), down £383.3 million (14.0 per cent). This was a very substantial decrease but the only one above £100 million. Furthermore, the magnitude of this change for this chapter has had an influential effect on the overall change in EU export trade in that it has moderated the size of the net increase. This drop was driven by decreases in exports to Germany of £255.6 million (53.9 per cent) and Belgium of £226.4 million (54.1 per cent) although offset by an increase to the Netherlands of £102 million (11.6 per cent). Trade within this chapter is very volatile which explains the large fluctuations.

There were no other decreases over £100 million. The next largest decrease was for HS2 12 (Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits) down £70.3 million (75.6 per cent).

Figure 2 shows the top five commodities for the UK's EU exports in August 2013, compared to July 2013 and August 2012. It clearly shows that all chapters decreased compared with July 2013, and for HS2 27 there was a substantial decrease in comparison with both July 2013 and August 2012.

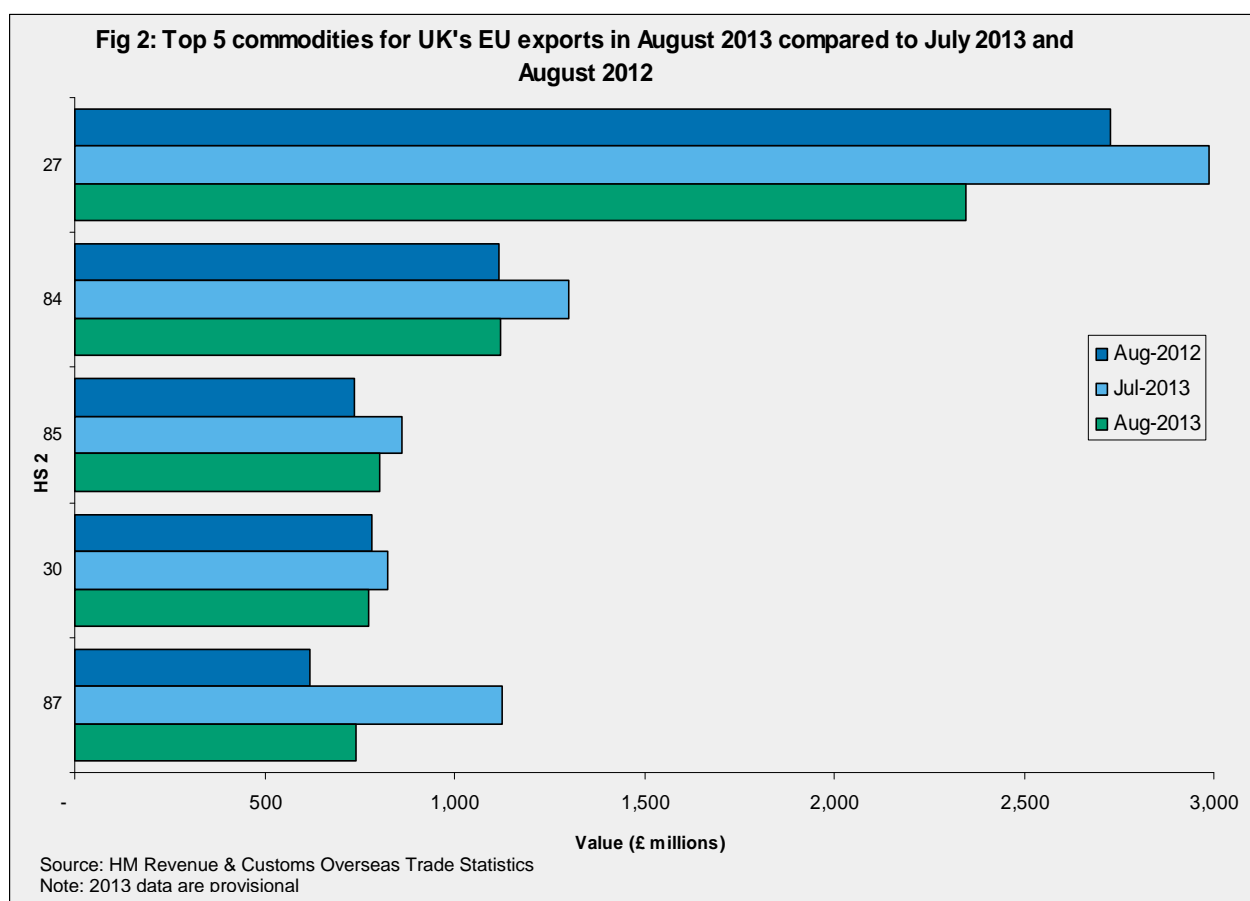


Table 2 shows comparisons of the value of UK export trade with our top five EU export trading partners for August 2013, July 2013 and August 2012.

Table 2: Top 5 EU export partner Member States in August 2013 compared to July 2013 and August 2012

Country	Total August 2013 £ millions	% Change from July 2013	% Change from August 2012	% of total EU exports	Rank July 2013	Rank August 2012
Total Exports	11,507.9	-12.4	0.6	100.0	n/a	n/a
Germany	2,274.6	-10.1	-4.9	19.8	1	1
Netherlands	1,970.2	-20.1	6.6	17.1	2	2
France	1,693.9	-11.0	1.0	14.7	3	3
Ireland	1,461.1	1.7	5.8	12.7	4	4
Belgium	1,018.9	-22.5	-17.8	8.9	5	5

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

Country Analysis: comparison with previous month

The top five EU export partner Member States remain unchanged **compared with July 2013**. Germany has been the UK's largest export partner in the EU for a number of years, currently accounting for 19.8 per cent of the total value of exports. This was led by exports of £354.1 million in HS2 84 (Mechanical appliances), with five other chapters with exports of over £100 million.

The decrease in value of total export trade compared to July 2013 reflects decreases in 21 of the other 27 Member States in the EU. There were six decreases over £100 million and no increases over this level. Furthermore, four of the top five countries experienced decreases in export trade.

The largest decrease in the value of exports from the UK was to the Netherlands down £495.7 million (20.1 per cent). This decrease was dominated by a fall in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels) of £421.3 million (30.0 per cent).

The second largest decrease in the values of exports from the UK was to Belgium, down £295.5 million (22.5 per cent). This was driven by falls of £105.0 million (35.4 per cent) and £93.7 million (43.4 per cent) in exports in HS2 27 and HS2 87 (Motor vehicles) respectively. The third largest decrease was for Germany, down £254.2 million (10.1 per cent). This decrease was spread over a number of chapters, the largest being HS2 87 down £67.2 million (29.6 per cent). The next largest decrease was for France down £208.5 million (11.0 per cent). This fall was spread across a number of chapters, the largest of which was HS2 87, down £54.3 million (40.1 per cent).

These four largest decreases were all within the top five countries. The next two decreases were for countries outside the top five. Exports to Spain fell by £202.1 million (26.2 per cent). This decrease was driven by a fall of £117.6 million (91.1 per cent) in HS2 27. The sixth largest decrease, and the only remaining one over £100 million, was for exports to Italy, down £159.7 million (24.0 per cent). This fall was spread across various chapters, the largest of which was for HS2 87 down £41.1 million (40.4 per cent).

There were no other decreases over £100 million.

Country Analysis: comparison against the same month in the previous year

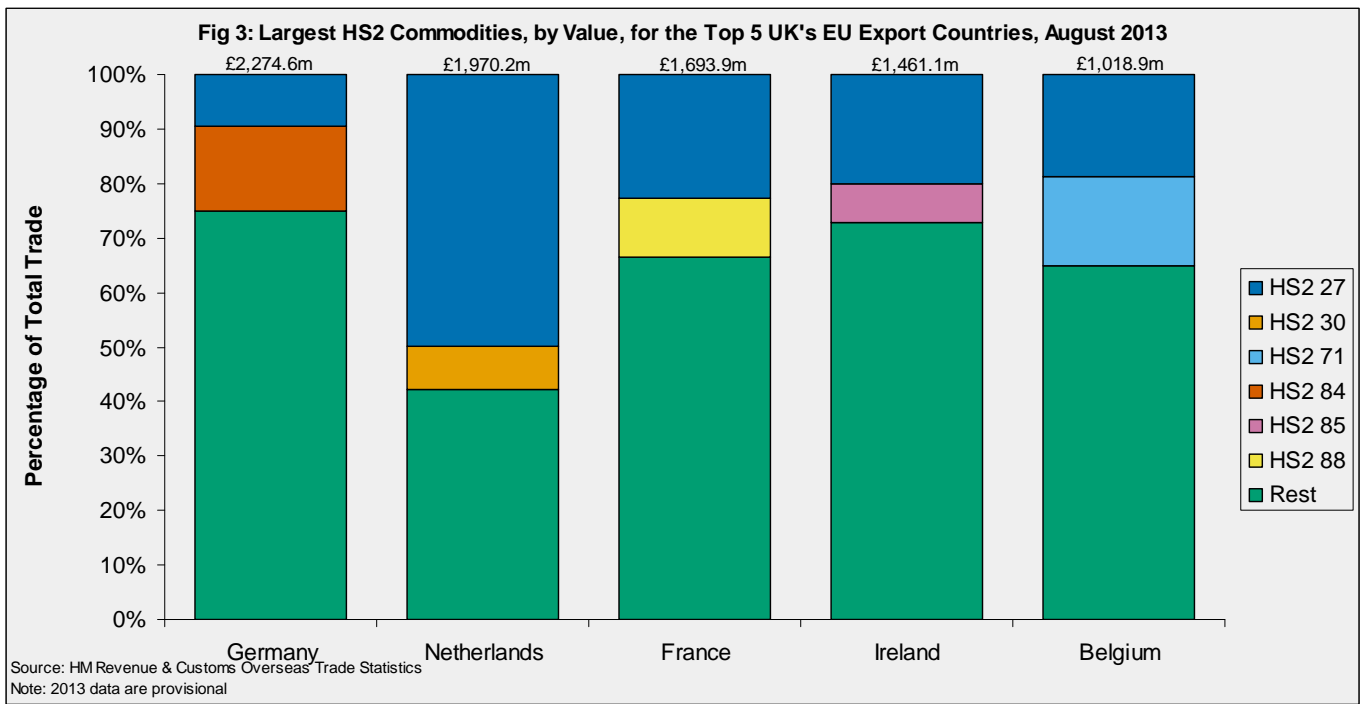
The marginal increase in total export trade value **compared to August 2012** was due to there being 14 increases and 12 decreases in the UK's 26 EU export partner Member States. This excludes Croatia as although it joined the EU on 1 July, it was not a member in August 2012. There was one increase over £100 million and two decreases above this value. Three of the top five export partner countries experienced increases in export trade.

The largest increase was for the Netherlands, up £122.3 million (6.6 per cent). This rise was driven by an increase in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels) up £102.0 million (11.6 per cent). This was the only increase above £100 million. The next largest increase was for the Irish Republic, up £79.7 million (5.8 per cent).

The largest decrease was for Belgium, down by £221.3 million (17.8 per cent). This was driven by a substantial decrease of £226.4 million (54.1 per cent) in HS2 27, which had a major influence in the overall fall in exports to Belgium. The second largest decrease was for Germany, down £118.1 million (4.9 per cent). Similarly, the drop in exports to this country was greatly influenced by a substantial decrease in HS2 27 of £255.6 million (53.9 per cent).

Figure 3 shows the two largest commodities by value exported from the UK to each of the UK's top five EU export trading partners. All of the top five Member States have HS2 27 (Mineral fuels) as one of their two largest commodities exported from the UK by value. The trade with these five Member States accounts for 88.1 per cent of the total value of UK EU export trade under this chapter. Furthermore, HS2 27 accounts for 49.8 per cent of the total UK export trade to the Netherlands.

However, none of the other chapters feature in more than one of the top five Member States' two largest commodities.



Further Analysis: Imports

Table 3: Top 5 commodities in UK's EU imports in August 2013 compared to July 2013 and August 2012

HS 2	Description	August 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from July 2013	% Change from August 2012	% of Total August 2013 Imports	Rank July 2013	Rank August 2012
-	Total Imports	16,325.9	-15.0	-0.9	100.0	n/a	n/a
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	2,437.7	-30.4	7.8	14.9	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	1,764.8	-23.0	-2.9	10.8	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	1,499.7	-8.5	2.2	9.2	3	3
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	1,044.5	12.9	-17.5	6.4	4	5
30	Pharmaceutical products	1,004.7	-17.0	-11.6	6.2	5	4

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

Commodity Analysis: comparison with previous month

The decrease in imports **compared to July 2013** is made up of decreases in 71 per cent of all HS2 chapters. There were five decreases over £100 million and one increase above this level. Four of the top five commodities decreased in import value. Both the largest increase and decrease were in the top five chapters.

The largest decrease in value of imports was for the biggest commodity by value, HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof). This fell by £1.1 billion (30.4 per cent) to £2.4 billion. This is down from the highest import value on record for this chapter, £3.5 billion, to the lowest since December 2012. The decrease in this chapter was led by a falls in imports from Germany, Spain and France, of £415.8 million (24.8 per cent), £208.8 million (57.1 per cent) and £207.0 million (56.0 per cent) respectively.

The next biggest decrease was in the second biggest import chapter, HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof), which fell by £528.2 million (23.0 per cent) to £1.8 billion. This is the lowest import value since August 2011 (£1.7 billion). There is a history of decreases each August due to summer shutdowns. The decrease this month is led by falls of £139.5 million (19.5 per cent) from Germany; £93.1 million (39.0 per cent) from Italy; and £89.9 million (35.1 per cent) from France.

The third largest decrease was for HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products), which fell by £206.1 million (17.0 per cent) to fall from fourth to fifth place. This fall is spread across several countries.

The fourth largest decrease was outside the top five, as HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft and parts thereof) fell by £203.2 million (50.8 per cent) to £196.6 million, to fall from tenth to 18th biggest chapter by value. Last month was the biggest import value on record for this chapter, while this month has seen it return to more typical values. The fall this month is led by a decrease of £177.2 million (88.8 per cent) from France.

The only other decrease over £100 million was in the third biggest import chapter, 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 fell by £140.0 million (8.5 per cent) to £1.5 billion. This is not a particularly large change for this chapter, and the decrease is spread over several countries.

There were no other decreases over £100 million, but just below this level, the next largest was £91.7 million (22.1 per cent) for HS2 22 (Beverages, spirits and vinegar).

The largest increase in the value of imports was for the fourth biggest commodity by value, up from fifth, HS2 27 (Mineral fuels). This rose by £119.0 million (12.9 per cent) to £1.0 billion. Last month was the lowest import value for this chapter since August 2011, while this month is just reversing that fall. The increase in HS2 27 was led by a rise of £89.1 million (more than double) from Belgium.

There were no other increases over £100 million, the next largest was £63.2 million (14.6 per cent) for HS2 29 (Organic chemicals).

Commodity Analysis: comparison with the same month in the previous year

Compared with August 2012, there was a much smaller decrease of £148.4 million (0.9 per cent) in the value of imports. There were increases in 60 per cent of all chapters, but offset by a smaller number of larger decreases. There were four chapters with decreases of over £100 million, and one increase above this level. Three of the top five commodities decreased in import value. Both the largest increase and decrease were in the top five chapters.

The chapter with the largest decrease in comparison with August 2012 was the fourth biggest import by value, HS2 27 (Mineral fuels). This fell by £221.4 million (17.5 per cent) to £1.0 billion. This decrease was dominated by a drop of £249.8 million (68.2 per cent) in imports from Sweden. This was offset slightly by a threefold rise of £99.1 million in imports from Belgium.

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), down £154.9 million (44.3 per cent) to £194.5 million. This was led by a fall of £103.8 million (70.4 per cent) from Germany.

The third largest decrease was for HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products), which fell by £131.9 million (11.6 per cent). This reduction is led by a drop of £136.4 million (31.9 per cent) from Germany.

The final decrease over £100 million was in the seventh biggest import chapter, HS2 29 (Organic chemicals), which fell by £103.1 million (17.2 per cent) to £494.9 million. This decrease is dominated by a drop of £171.3 million (75.3 per cent) from the Irish Republic.

There were no other decreases over £100 million. The next largest was £52.7 million (2.9 per cent) for the second biggest import chapter, HS2 84.

The only increase of over £100 million was in the biggest import commodity by value, HS2 87, which rose by £176.5 million (7.8 per cent). This was led by increases in

imports from Germany and the Netherlands, of £55.1 million (4.6 per cent) and £41.1 million (59.8 per cent) respectively.

The second largest increase was for the sixth largest chapter, HS2 39 (Plastics and plastic products), which rose by £51.5 million (8.0 per cent).

Figure 4 shows the top five HS2 commodity groups for the UK's EU imports in August 2013, compared to July 2013 and August 2012. The graph shows that the decrease in the top two chapters, HS2 87 and HS2 84 dominated the other changes over last month. In contrast, the changes were much smaller when compared to last year.

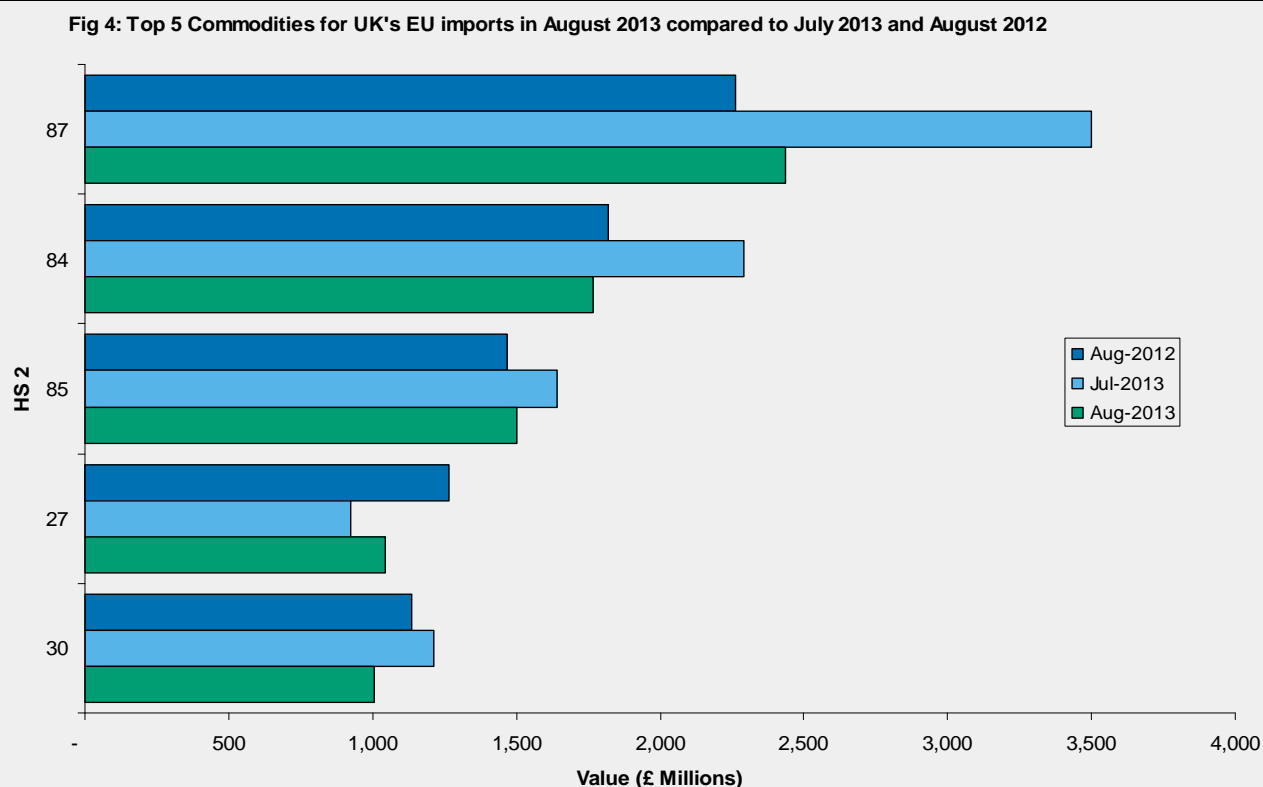


Table 4 shows comparisons of the value of UK import trade with our top five EU import trading partners for August 2013, July 2013 and August 2012.

Table 4: Top 5 EU import partner Member States in August 2013 compared to July 2013 and August 2012

Country	August 2013 Total £ millions	% change from July 2013	% Change from August 2012	% of total August 2013 Imports	Rank July 2013	Rank August 2012
Total Imports	16,325.9	-15.0	-0.9	100.0	n/a	n/a
Germany	4,347.9	-14.8	-0.3	26.6	1	1
Netherlands	2,670.2	-1.2	5.2	16.4	2	2
France	1,730.0	-28.6	-2.2	10.6	3	3
Belgium	1,504.3	-6.8	5.9	9.2	4	4
Italy	1,108.3	-24.5	5.4	6.8	5	5

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

The UK imports most goods from Germany, which account for 26.6 per cent of the total imports to the UK from the EU. This is led by imports of £1.3 billion in HS2 87 (motor vehicles), accounting for 29.0 percent of the total imports from Germany. The next largest chapter is HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof), with £0.6 billion, 13.3 per cent of the UK's imports from Germany.

The value of total import trade into the UK decreased for 22 of the other 27 Member States, and increased for five compared with July 2013. Imports for seven member states decreased by over £100 million while there were no increases above this level.

Country Analysis: comparison with previous month

The largest decrease in value of import trade **compared with July 2013** was a fall of £756.8 million (14.8 per cent) from Germany, to £4.3 billion. This is down from the highest value on record for imports from Germany, to the lowest since December 2012 (£3.7 billion). The decrease is driven by falls of £415.8 million (24.8 per cent) in chapter HS2 87 (Motor vehicles), and £139.5 million (19.5 per cent) in HS2 84 (Mechanical appliances).

The second largest decrease was from France, down £694.2 million (28.6 per cent). This is also down from a record high to the lowest value since December 2012. The decrease is led by falls of £207.0 million (56.0 per cent) in chapter HS2 87 (motor vehicles), and £177.2 million (88.8 per cent) in HS2 88 (Aircraft).

The third largest decrease was from Spain, which fell by £392.3 million (34.7 per cent). This was also dominated by a fall of £208.8 million (57.1 per cent) in HS2 87 (motor vehicles).

The next two decreases were both driven by changes in the top chapter, HS2 84 (mechanical appliances). Imports from Italy and Poland fell by £360.4 million (24.5 per cent) and £112.0 million (16.1 per cent), with falls of £93.1 million (39.0 per cent) and £62.7 million (40.4 per cent) in HS2 84 respectively.

The final two decreases of over £100 million were for Belgium and the Irish Republic, which fell by £110.6 million (6.8 per cent) and £101.3 million (10.5 per cent) respectively. The fall from Belgium was composed of falls of £81.9 million (21.4 per cent) in cars (HS2 87) and £64.5 million (29.9 per cent) in pharmaceuticals (HS2 30), partially offset by a rise of £89.1 million (more than double) in mineral fuels (HS2 27). The Irish Republic's fall was dominated by a decrease of £73.1 million (41.9 per cent) in HS2 30 (Pharmaceuticals).

These were the only decreases over £100 million although just below this level was a fall of £93.3 million (22.1 per cent) in imports from the Czech Republic.

The largest increase was for imports from Cyprus, which rose by £16.0 million (58.4 per cent) to £43.3 million. This is the highest value on record for imports from Cyprus, and was dominated by a rise of £23.3 million (nearly threefold) in HS2 88 (Aircraft).

Country Analysis: comparison with the same month in the previous year

There was a decrease of £148.4 million (0.9 per cent) in total import trade value **compared to August 2012**, which is composed of 13 increases and 13 decreases from the other 26 Member States in the EU (excluding Croatia as it joined the EU on 1 July, and was not a member last year). Three of the top five member states increased and two decreased in import value. There were three decreases over £100 million and one increase over this amount.

Two of the largest decreases were led by falls in HS2 27 (mineral fuels). Total trade from Sweden and Denmark fell by £229.4 million (29.7 per cent) and £101.7 million (19.0 per cent), with falls of £249.8 million (68.2 per cent) and £56.1 million (55.8 per cent) in HS2 27 respectively.

The second largest decrease was for the Irish Republic, down £172.0 million (16.6 per cent). This is dominated by a fall of £171.3 million (75.3 per cent) in HS2 29 (Organic Chemicals).

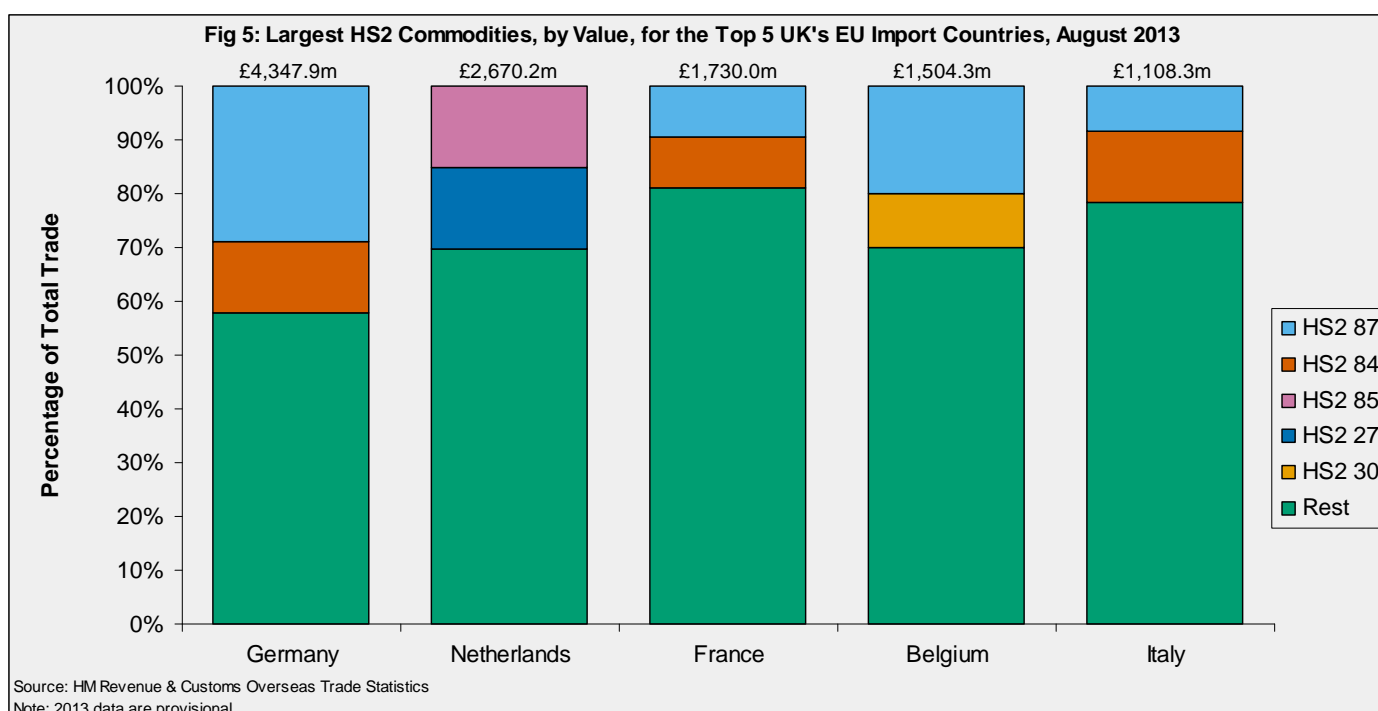
There were no other decreases over £100 million. The next largest decrease was for Latvia, which fell by £48.3 million (65.3 per cent).

The only increase over £100 million was for the Netherlands, up £131.1 million (5.2 per cent). This rise was spread over several chapters, led by a rise of £41.1 million (59.8 per cent) in HS2 87 (motor vehicles).

There were no other increases over £100 million. The next largest increase in imports was for Belgium, which rose by £84.1 million (5.9 per cent). This increase was dominated by a rise of £99.1 million (more than threefold) in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels).

Figure 5 shows the two largest commodities imported into the UK by value from each of the UK's top five import partner EU Member States. Apart from the Netherlands, all of the top five Member States have HS2 87 (Motor vehicles) in their top two largest commodities. The trade in HS2 87 from these Member States accounts for 74.5 per cent of the total import trade to the UK under this chapter. It also makes up 29.0 per cent of the UK's total imports from Germany.

Three Member States (Germany, France and Italy) have HS2 84 (Mechanical appliances) in their top two largest commodities imported by the UK, accounting for 50.4 per cent of the total UK import value in these commodities. Imports from the Netherlands within HS2 27 (Mineral fuels) account for 39.0 per cent of the UK's imports from the EU in this chapter.



Notes:

1. HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with Member States of the European Union (EU) on 15 October 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 Member States of the EU for August 2013. At the same time revisions for all previously published EU data for 2013 are also being released in line with the [HM Revenue & Customs Policy on Revisions](#).
3. The figures provided in this publication of the August 2013 EU Overseas Trade Statistics will include
 - a. Estimates for businesses who have yet to submit detailed data on the trade they had with other EU Member States in August.
 - b. Estimates for businesses who do not have to submit detailed data on the trade they have with other EU Member States
 - c. An adjustment for trade associated with Missing Trader Intra Community fraud. More detail of this can be found [here](#).
4. Estimates are included in all high level totals including HS2 and country totals but not for aggregated totals below this level.
5. Detailed trade information is presented according to the [Harmonised System \(HS\)](#) nomenclature.
6. 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](#).
7. 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'.
8. Information to help support users of the 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.
9. 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>
10. 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.

11. 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 this release 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: 12 November 2013 9:30am

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