HM Revenue & Customs

UK Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
November 2019

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 November 2019.

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

In this publication

Trade in Goods, November 2019

• Total **exports** of goods for November 2019 were £30.0 billion. This was a decrease of £4.6 billion (13%) compared with last month, and a decrease of £0.7 billion (2.1%) compared with November 2018.

• Total **imports** of goods for November 2019 were £43.9 billion. This was a decrease of £9.3 billion (17%) compared with last month, and a decrease of £2.4 billion (5.2%) compared with November 2018.

• The UK was a net importer this month, with **imports** exceeding **exports** by £13.9 billion, narrowing by £4.7 billion on last month.

Figure 1: Total UK monthly Trade in Goods
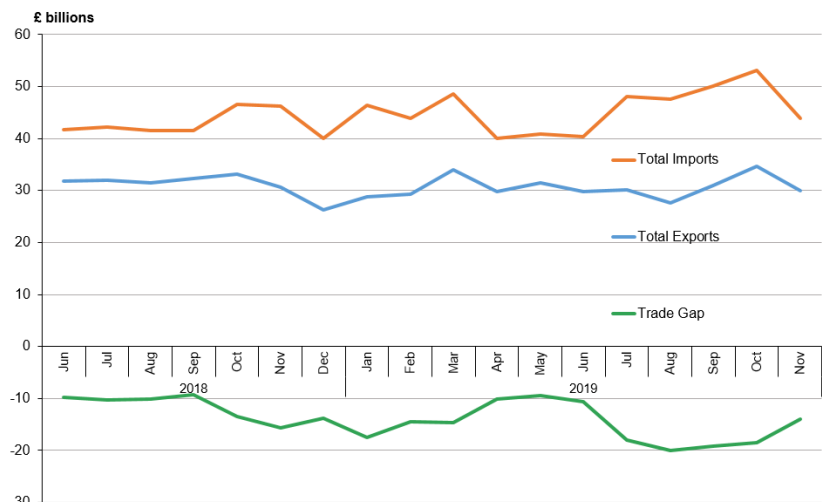
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2019 data is provisional

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, reaching its highest point in Q3 of 2019. Exports peaked in Q2 of 2013, with a steady rise from Q2 of 2017 to Q3 of 2018.
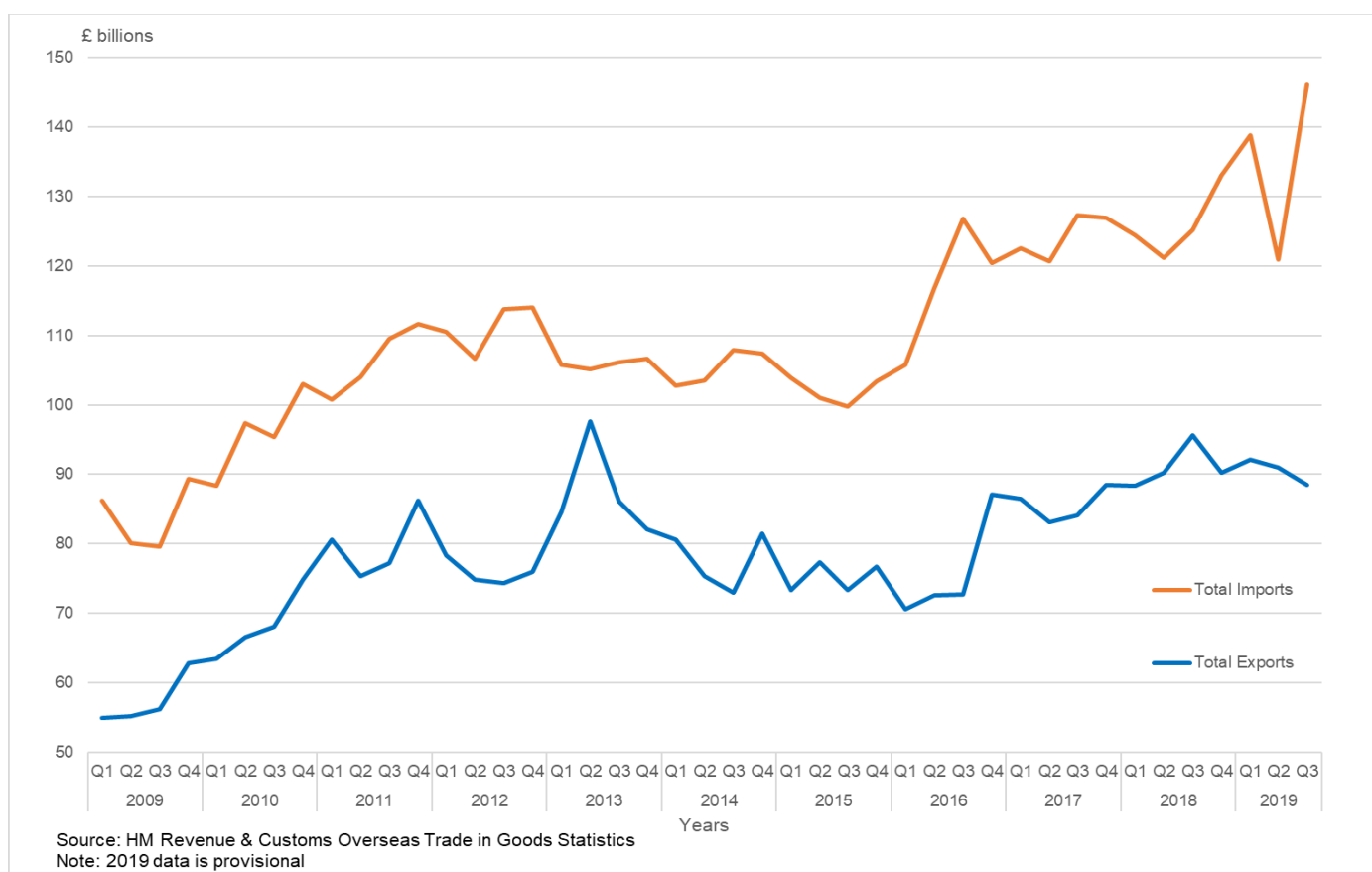
- The total **export** trade for Q3 of 2019 was £88.8 billion, which was a decrease of 7.2% compared with £95.6 billion for Q3 of 2018.

- The total **import** trade for Q3 of 2019 was £146 billion, which was an increase of 17% compared with £125 billion for Q3 of 2018.

- There was a trade deficit of £57.2 billion for Q3 of 2019. This was a widening of 93% compared with £29.6 billion for Q3 2018.

- For many years Germany has been our largest trading **import** partner by value. The USA has been the dominant trading partner for **exports** for many years.

- Mechanical appliances and Motor vehicles have generally been the largest **import** commodities by value. For **exports**, Mechanical appliances has also predominantly been the largest valued commodity, with occasional peaks for Precious metals.

↓ **Exports down 7% on Q3 2018**

↑ **Imports up 17% on Q3 2018**

- **Trade deficit widened by 93% on Q3 2018**

Figure 2: Quarterly UK Trade in Goods, 2009 – 2019

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2019 data is provisional

Non-EU & EU Trade in Goods

Non-EU Trade in Goods:

- **Non-EU exports** for November 2019 were £16.7 billion. This was a decrease of £2.0 billion (11%) on last month, and an increase of £1.0 billion (6.6%) compared with November 2018.

- **Non-EU imports** for November 2019 were £22.8 billion. This was a decrease of £4.9 billion (18%) on last month, and an increase of £0.5 billion (2.3%) compared with November 2018.

- For **non-EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £6.1 billion.

EU Trade in Goods:

- **EU exports** for November 2019 were £13.3 billion. This was a decrease of £2.6 billion (16%) on last month, and a decrease of £1.7 billion (11%) compared with November 2018.

- **EU imports** for November 2019 were £21.1 billion. This was a decrease of £4.4 billion (17%) on last month, and a decrease of £2.9 billion (12%) compared with November 2018.

- For **EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £7.8 billion.

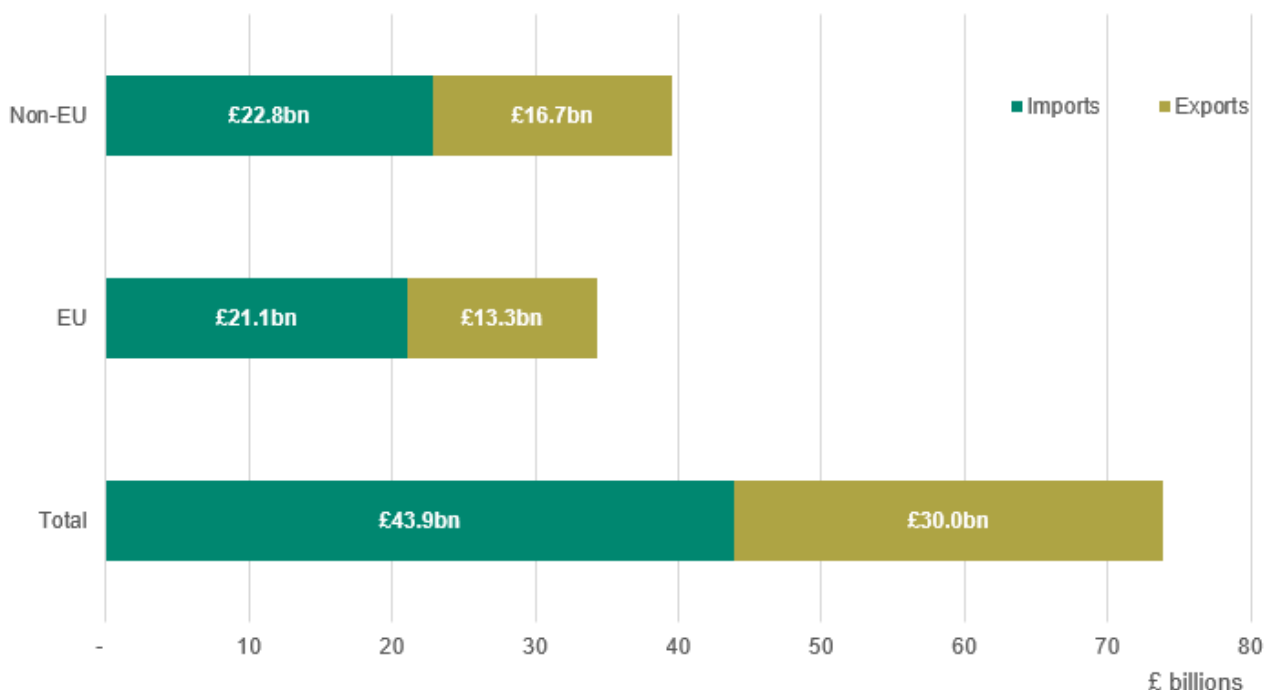↓ **Non-EU imports down 18% on last month**

↓ **EU imports down 17% on last month**

Figure 3: Total UK Trade in Goods, with EU and Non-EU, November 2019

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Exports: Country Analysis

- The USA remained the largest export partner country, despite experiencing the largest value decrease on last month, down £1,439 million (24%).

- The Netherlands experienced the 2nd largest value decrease compared with last month, down £380 million (17%).

- France experienced the largest value decrease on November 2018, down £238 million (11%).

- Belgium experienced the 4th largest value decrease on last month, and the 2nd largest value decrease on November 2018, down £349 million (28%) and £234 million (21%) respectively.

- China experienced the largest value increase on last month and November 2018, up £135 million (6.0%) and £879 million (58%) respectively. It was the only country in the top 10 to experience an increase on both periods.

↓ **Exports to the USA down 24% on last month**

↑ **Exports to China up 58% on November 2018**

Table 1: UK exports of goods to the top 10 countries, November 2019

Partner Country	November 2019 Total (£ millions)	October 2019 Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2019 (%)	November 2018 Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2018 (%)
USA	4,671	6,110	-23.6	4,680	-0.2
Germany	2,986	3,363	-11.2	3,109	-4.0
China	2,399	2,263	6.0	1,520	57.8
France	1,898	2,209	-14.1	2,136	-11.2
Netherlands	1,887	2,267	-16.8	2,093	-9.8
Irish Republic	1,794	2,122	-15.5	2,006	-10.6
Switzerland	1,155	1,327	-13.0	680	69.8
Belgium	878	1,228	-28.4	1,113	-21.1
Spain	840	1,095	-23.3	969	-13.3
Italy	791	938	-15.7	930	-15.0
Others	10,703	11,671	-8.3	11,420	-6.3
Total EU	13,253	15,851	-16.4	14,942	-11.3
Total Non-EU	16,748	18,741	-10.6	15,713	6.6
Total Exports	**30,001**	**34,592**	**-13.3**	**30,655**	**-2.1**

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
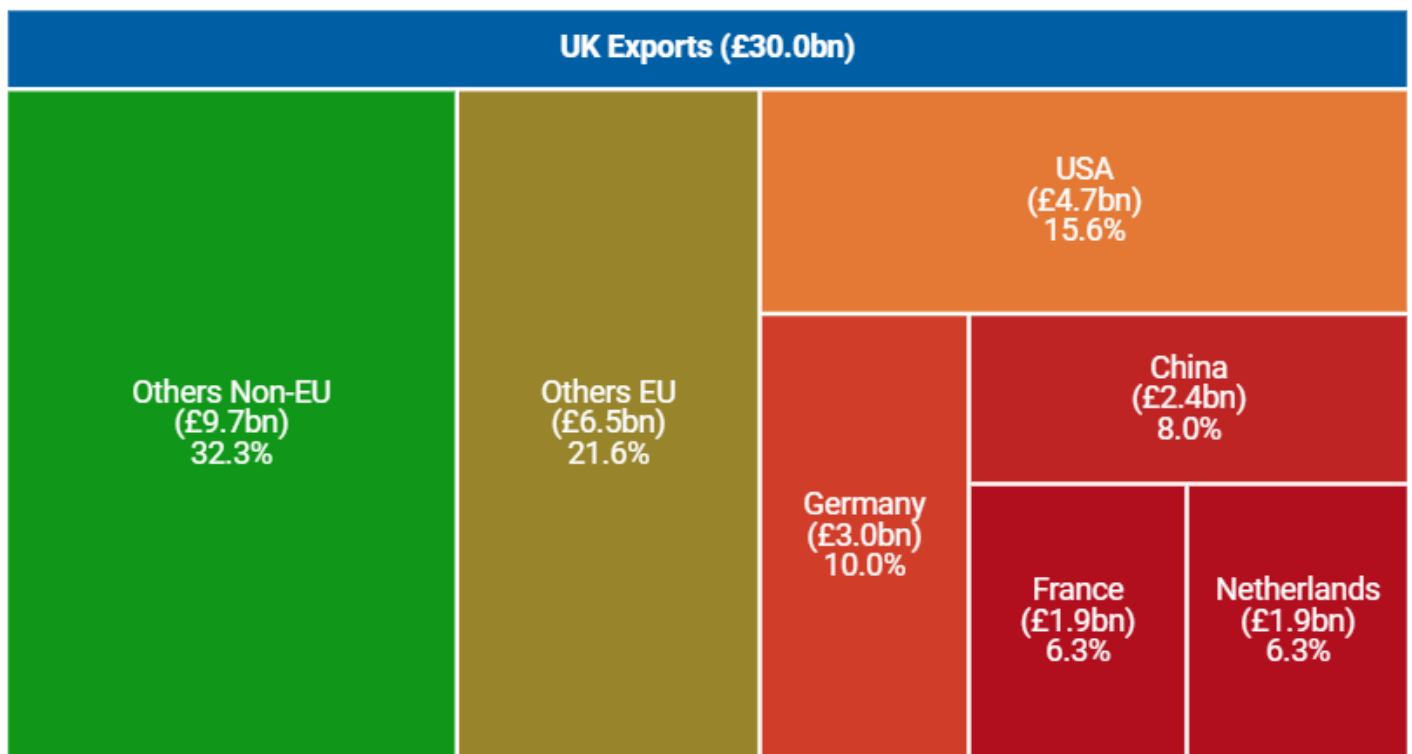
Note: 2019 data is provisional

Exports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 export partners accounted for 46% of total exports in goods in November 2019. This was an increase of less than 1 percentage point on November 2018.

- The USA accounted for 16% of the total value of exports from the UK, this was an increase from 15% for November 2018.

- China had the 3rd largest proportion, accounting for 8.0%. This was an increase from 5.0% for November 2018 when the country ranked 6th.

- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, the Netherlands fell to 5th place from 3rd.

- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with November 2018. Most notably, Switzerland rose to 7th place from 12th.

↑ **The USA had a 16% share of total exports in November 2019**

↑ **China rose to 3rd largest export partner in November 2019**

Figure 4: UK exports of goods to the top 5 countries, November 2019

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Exports: Country Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to November 2019 the USA remained the largest export partner country. Among the top 10, it experienced the 3rd largest percentage increase compared with the 3 months to August 2019, up 14%.

- Among the top 10, China experienced the largest percentage increases on the 3 months to August 2019 and the 3 months to November 2018, up 23% and 29% respectively.

- Among the top 10, Switzerland experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to November 2018, down 41%.

- All of the top 10 partner countries experienced an increase on the 3 months to August 2019.

- 5 of the top 10 partner countries experienced an increase on the 3 months to November 2018. The Netherlands, the Irish Republic, Belgium, Switzerland and Italy were the exceptions.

↑ **Exports to China up 23% on the 3 months to August 2019**

↓ **Exports to Switzerland down 41% on the 3 months to November 2018**

Table 2: UK exports of goods to the top 10 countries, 3 months to November 2019

Partner Country	3 months to Nov 2019	3 months to Aug 2019		3 months to Nov 2018	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on August 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2018 (%)
USA	15,668	13,753	13.9	14,076	11.3
Germany	9,445	8,593	9.9	9,042	4.5
China	6,958	5,645	23.2	5,402	28.8
France	6,183	5,791	6.8	6,086	1.6
Netherlands	6,053	5,650	7.1	6,693	-9.6
Irish Republic	5,768	5,090	13.3	5,779	-0.2
Belgium	3,239	3,010	7.6	3,575	-9.4
Switzerland	3,147	2,907	8.2	5,350	-41.2
Spain	2,951	2,560	15.3	2,744	7.6
Italy	2,608	2,332	11.8	2,792	-6.6
Others	33,539	32,200	4.2	34,583	-3.0
Total Exports	**95,560**	**87,531**	**9.2**	**96,121**	**-0.6**

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Exports: Commodity Analysis

- Mechanical appliances remained the largest export commodity, despite experiencing the 2nd largest value decrease on last month and November 2018, down £643 million (12%) and £322 million (6.5%) respectively.

- Art and antiques (ranked 11th) experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £955 million (57%). In contrast, it experienced the 2nd largest value increase on November 2018, up £357 million (95%).

- Pharmaceutical products experienced the 3rd largest value decrease on last month, down £616 million (27%).

- Mineral fuels experienced the largest value decrease on November 2018, down £402 million (14%).

- Precious metals experienced the largest value increase on last month and November 2018, up £220 million (7.9%) and £1,317 million (78%) respectively.

↓ **Exports of Art and antiques down 57% on last month**

↑ **Exports of Precious metals up 78% on November 2018**

Table 3: UK exports of goods for the top 10 commodities, November 2019

	November 2019	October 2019		November 2018	
Commodity Description	**Total (£ millions)**	**Total (£ millions)**	**Change on October 2019 (%)**	**Total (£ millions)**	**Change on November 2018 (%)**
Mechanical appliances	4,654	5,298	-12.1	4,976	-6.5
Motor vehicles	3,396	3,989	-14.9	3,678	-7.7
Precious metals	3,002	2,782	7.9	1,685	78.2
Mineral fuels	2,405	2,602	-7.6	2,807	-14.3
Electronic equipment	1,887	2,047	-7.8	2,022	-6.7
Pharmaceutical products	1,654	2,269	-27.1	1,912	-13.5
Measuring devices and gauges	1,324	1,444	-8.3	1,289	2.8
Aircraft	1,216	1,208	0.7	1,275	-4.6
Other products	809	801	1.0	771	5.0
Organic chemicals	741	705	5.1	800	-7.4
Others	8,912	11,448	-22.2	9,440	-5.6
Total Exports	**30,001**	**34,592**	**-13.3**	**30,655**	**-2.1**

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
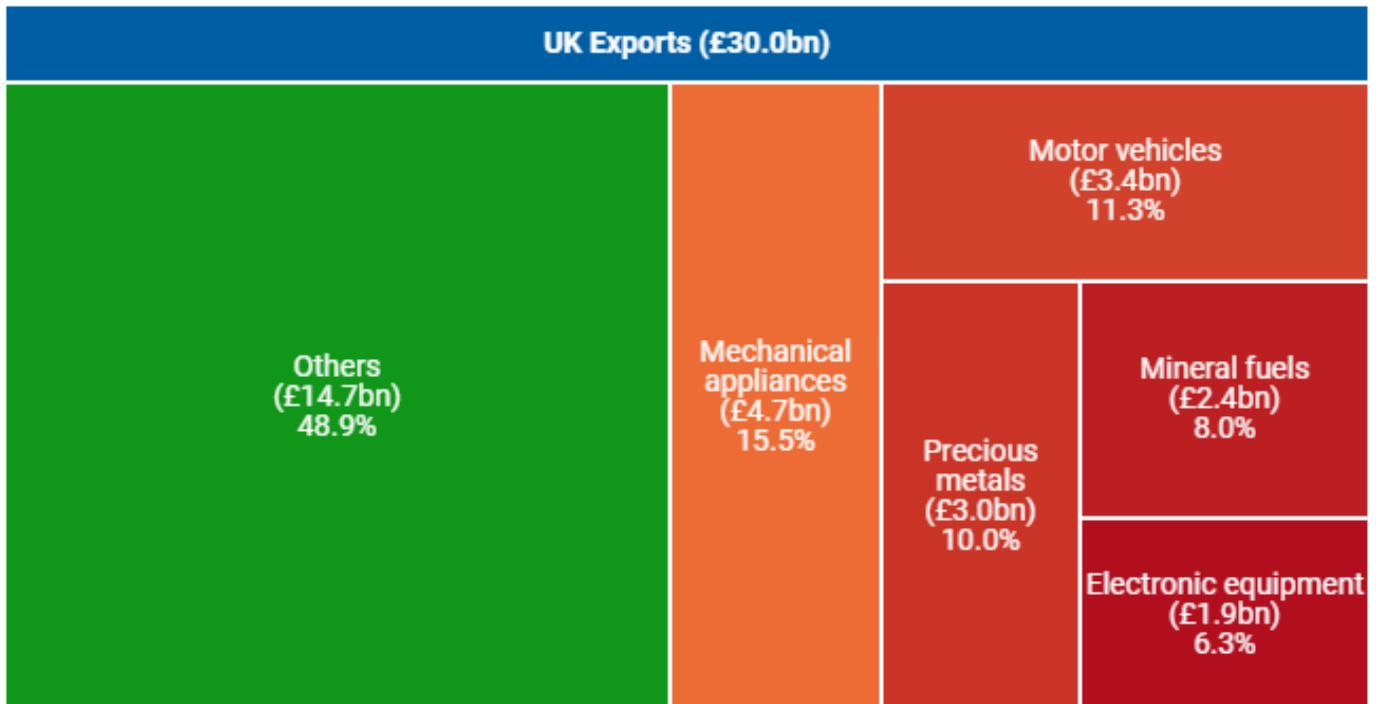
Note: 2019 data is provisional

Exports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 export commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 51% of exports in November 2019, this was an increase from 50% for November 2018.

- Mechanical appliances accounted for 16% of the total value of exports from the UK. This was a decrease of less than 1 percentage point on November 2018.

- Motor vehicles had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 11%, this was a decrease from 12% for November 2018.

- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Art and antiques dropped to 11th place from 7th, while Other products rose to 9th place from 12th.

- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with November 2018. Most notably, Precious metals rose to 3rd place from 6th.

↓ **Mechanical appliances had a 16% share of total exports in November 2019**

↓ **Motor vehicles accounted for 11% of total exports in November 2019**

Figure 5: UK exports by the top 5 commodities, November 2019

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Exports: Commodity Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to November 2019, Mechanical appliances remained the largest export commodity. It experienced an increase of 6.2% on the 3 months to August 2019 and an increase of 1.7% on the 3 months to November 2018.

- Among the top 10, Art and antiques experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to August 2019 and the 3 months to November 2018, up 39% and more than double the value respectively.

- Among the top 10, Mineral fuels experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to November 2018, down 18%.

- Among the top 10, Precious metals experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to August 2019, up 19%.

- All of the top 10 commodities experienced increases on the 3 months to August 2019.

- 5 of the top 10 commodities experienced increases on the 3 months to November 2018. Motor vehicles, Precious metals, Mineral fuels, Electronic equipment and Pharmaceutical products were the exceptions.

↑ **Art & antiques exports up 39% on the 3 months to August 2019**

↑ **Precious metals exports up 19% on the 3 months to August 2019**

Table 4: UK exports of goods for the top 10 commodities, 3 months to November 2019

Commodity Description	3 months to Nov 2019	3 months to Aug 2019		3 months to Nov 2018	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on August 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2018 (%)
Mechanical appliances	14,919	14,050	6.2	14,665	1.7
Motor vehicles	10,942	9,506	15.1	11,105	-1.5
Precious metals	7,971	6,718	18.7	8,766	-9.1
Mineral fuels	7,712	7,645	0.9	9,437	-18.3
Electronic equipment	5,852	5,368	9.0	5,907	-0.9
Pharmaceutical products	5,683	5,065	12.2	5,692	-0.2
Measuring devices and gauges	4,104	3,827	7.2	3,868	6.1
Aircraft	3,702	3,395	9.0	3,627	2.1
Art and antiques	3,232	2,323	39.1	1,457	121.8
Other products	2,343	2,182	7.4	2,225	5.3
Others	29,099	27,450	6.0	29,371	-0.9
Total Exports	**95,560**	**87,531**	**9.2**	**96,121**	**-0.6**

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2019 data is provisional

Exports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

Country to commodity:

- The decrease in exports to the USA compared with last month was dominated by Art and antiques, down £725 million (60%).

- The decrease in exports to the Netherlands on last month was largely due to a decrease in Mineral fuels, down £188 million (21%).

- The decrease in exports to France on November 2018 was composed of a number of decreases, led by Pharmaceutical products, down £27.6 million (33%) and Aircraft, down £27.1 million (7.4%).

- The increase in exports to China compared with last month was led by Mineral fuels, up £215 million (98%). The increase on November 2018 was dominated by Precious metals, up £814 million (from £35.6 million).
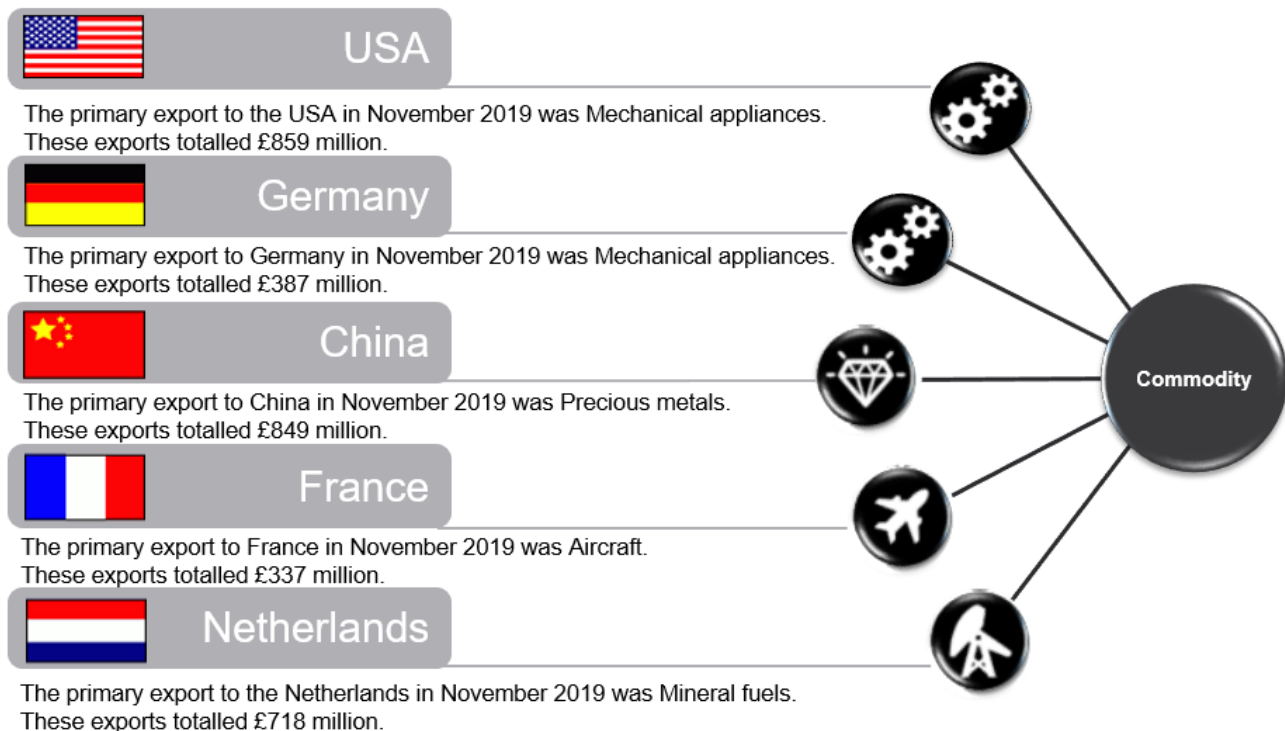
Commodity to country:

- The decrease in exports of Mechanical appliances compared with last month was led by the UAE, down £200 million (65%). The decrease on November 2018 was led by the USA, down £106 million (11%), and the UAE, down £104 million (49%).

- The increase in exports of Art and antiques on November 2018 was led by the USA, up £257 million (more than double).

- The decrease in exports of Mineral fuels on November 2018 was led by South Korea, down £167 million (to £0.1 million).

- The increase in exports of Precious metals on last month was led by the UAE, up £273 million (from £34.4 million). The increase on November 2018 was led by China, up £814 million (from £35.6 million).

↓ **Exports of Art and antiques to the USA decreased 60% on last month**

↓ **Exports of Mechanical appliances to the UAE down 65% on last month**

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

USA
The primary export to the USA in November 2019 was Mechanical appliances. These exports totalled £859 million.

Germany
The primary export to Germany in November 2019 was Mechanical appliances. These exports totalled £387 million.

China
The primary export to China in November 2019 was Precious metals. These exports totalled £849 million.

France
The primary export to France in November 2019 was Aircraft. These exports totalled £337 million.

Netherlands
The primary export to the Netherlands in November 2019 was Mineral fuels. These exports totalled £718 million.

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2019 data is provisional

Imports: Country Analysis

- Germany remained the largest import partner country, despite experiencing the 4th largest value decrease on last month, and the largest decrease on November 2018, down £886 million (15%) and £746 million (13%) respectively.

- Denmark (ranked 19th) experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £172 million (38%).

- Switzerland (ranked 13th) experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £1,543 million (60%). Conversely, it experienced the 3rd largest value increase on November 2018, up £548 million (more than double).

- Russia experienced the largest value increase on November 2018, up £818 million (nearly 2.5 times the value).

- China experienced the 2nd largest value decreases on last month and November 2018, down £1,277 million (24%) and £572 million (13%) respectively.

↓ **Imports from Switzerland down 60% on last month**

↑ **Imports from Russia up nearly 2.5 times on November 2018**

Table 5: UK imports of goods from the top 10 countries, November 2019

Partner Country	November 2019 Total (£ millions)	October 2019 Total (£ millions)	October 2019 Change from October 2019 (%)	November 2018 Total (£ millions)	November 2018 Change from November 2018 (%)
Germany	5,188	6,075	-14.6	5,935	-12.6
USA	4,300	4,788	-10.2	4,182	2.8
China	3,992	5,269	-24.2	4,564	-12.5
Netherlands	3,358	4,322	-22.3	3,899	-13.9
France	2,304	2,781	-17.1	2,584	-10.8
Belgium	1,776	2,431	-27.0	2,319	-23.4
Italy	1,649	1,960	-15.9	1,790	-7.9
Russia	1,391	1,366	1.8	572	143.0
Spain	1,352	1,557	-13.2	1,293	4.6
Norway	1,290	1,210	6.6	1,609	-19.8
Others	17,288	21,404	-19.2	17,564	-1.6
Total EU	**21,057**	**25,481**	**-17.4**	**24,001**	**-12.3**
Total Non-EU	**22,831**	**27,681**	**-17.5**	**22,308**	**2.3**
Total Imports	**43,889**	**53,163**	**-17.4**	**46,310**	**-5.2**

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
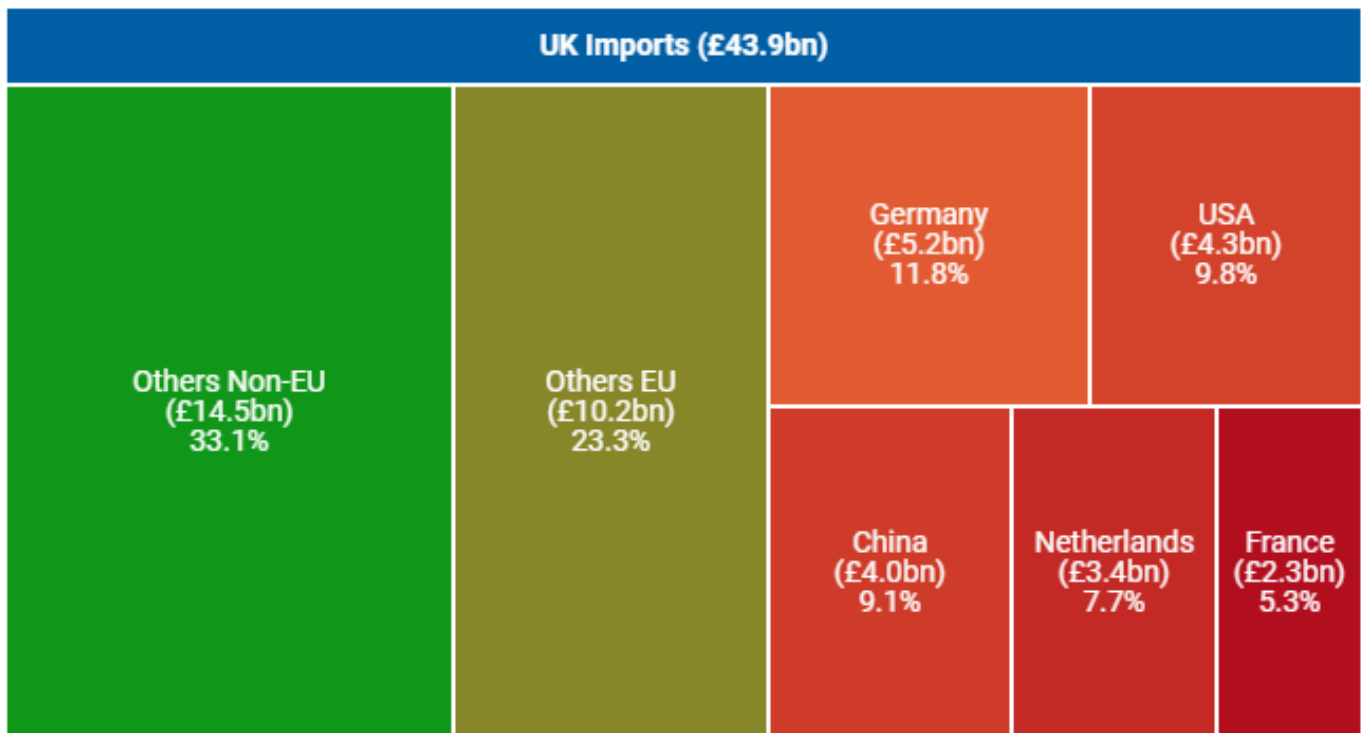
Note: 2019 data is provisional

Imports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 import partners accounted for 44% of the total value of goods imported in November 2019, this was a decrease from 46% for November 2018.

- Germany accounted for 12% of the total value of goods imported to the UK. This was a decrease from 13% for November 2018.

- The USA had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 9.8%. This was an increase from 9.0% for November 2018.

- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) have changed compared with last month. Most notably, Switzerland dropped to 13th place from 6th.

- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) have changed compared with November 2018. Most notably, Russia rose to 8th place from 19th.

↓ **The top 5 partners accounted for 44% of total imports in November 2019**

↓ **Germany accounted for 12% of total imports in November 2019**

Figure 7: UK imports of goods from the top 5 countries, November 2019

UK Imports (£43.9bn)

Others Non-EU (£14.5bn) 33.1%

Others EU (£10.2bn) 23.3%

Germany (£5.2bn) 11.8%

USA (£4.3bn) 9.8%

China (£4.0bn) 9.1%

Netherlands (£3.4bn) 7.7%

France (£2.3bn) 5.3%

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Imports: Country Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to November 2019, Germany remained the largest import partner country. It experienced an increase of 17% on the 3 months to August 2019, and a decrease of 0.8% on the 3 months to November 2018.

- Among the top 10, Canada experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to August 2019, up 38%.

- Among the top 10, Switzerland was the only country to experience a decrease on the 3 months to August 2019, down 25%. Conversely, it experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to November 2018, up more than 4.5 times the value.

- 8 of the top 10 countries experienced an increase on the 3 months to November 2018, Germany and Belgium were the exceptions.

↑ **Imports from Germany up 17% on the 3 months to August 2019**

↑ **Imports from Switzerland up more than 4.5 times the value on the 3 months to November 2018**

Table 6: UK imports of goods from the top 10 countries, 3 months to November 2019

| Partner Country | 3 months to Nov 2019 | 3 months to Aug 2019 | | 3 months to Nov 2018 | |
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on August 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2018 (%)
Germany	17,274	14,723	17.3	17,411	-0.8
USA	13,458	13,108	2.7	11,518	16.8
China	13,384	11,495	16.4	13,310	0.6
Netherlands	11,137	9,983	11.6	11,120	0.1
France	7,625	6,957	9.6	7,584	0.5
Switzerland	6,968	9,277	-24.9	1,448	381.3
Belgium	6,576	6,064	8.4	6,810	-3.4
Italy	5,336	4,709	13.3	5,299	0.7
Spain	4,370	3,897	12.1	3,780	15.6
Canada	3,858	2,797	37.9	2,966	30.1
Others	57,232	53,163	7.7	53,233	7.5
Total Imports	**147,218**	**136,174**	**8.1**	**134,480**	**9.5**

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Imports: Commodity Analysis

- Precious metals remained the largest import commodity, despite experiencing the largest value decrease on last month, down £1,958 million (25%). Conversely, it experienced the largest value increase on November 2018, up £3,169 million (more than double).

- Motor vehicles experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on last month, down £1,212 million (22%).

- Electronic equipment experienced the 3rd largest value decrease on last month, down £1,010 million (19%). It experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on November 2018, down £695 million (14%).

- Pharmaceutical products experienced the 4th largest value decrease on last month and November 2018, down £575 million (26%) and £527 million (25%) respectively.

- Mineral fuels experienced the largest value decrease on November 2018, down £1,330 million (28%).

↑ **Imports of Precious metals up more than double on November 2018**

↓ **Imports of Mineral fuels down 28% on November 2018**

Table 7: UK imports of goods for the top 10 commodities, November 2019

Commodity Description	November 2019 Total (£ millions)	October 2019 Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2019 (%)	November 2018 Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2018 (%)
Precious metals	5,995	7,953	-24.6	2,826	112.1
Mechanical appliances	5,418	5,980	-9.4	6,001	-9.7
Electronic equipment	4,411	5,421	-18.6	5,106	-13.6
Motor vehicles	4,297	5,509	-22.0	4,819	-10.8
Mineral fuels	3,364	3,899	-13.7	4,694	-28.3
Pharmaceutical products	1,622	2,197	-26.2	2,149	-24.5
Measuring devices and gauges	1,177	1,383	-14.9	1,278	-7.9
Plastics and plastic products	1,101	1,404	-21.6	1,300	-15.3
Knitwear	933	1,137	-18.0	986	-5.4
Aircraft	799	751	6.5	651	22.8
Others	14,772	17,528	-15.7	16,500	-10.5
Total Imports	**43,889**	**53,163**	**-17.4**	**46,310**	**-5.2**

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
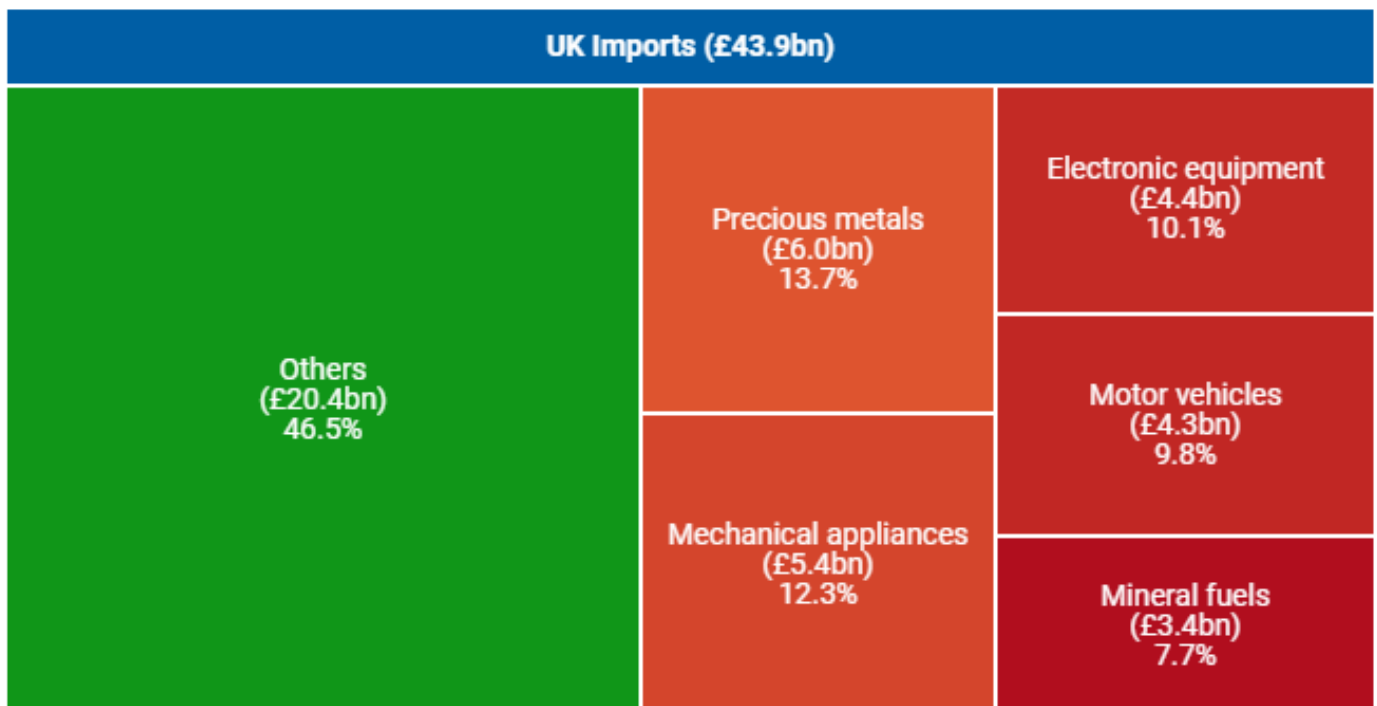
Note: 2019 data is provisional

Imports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 import commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 54% in November 2019, this was an increase from 51% for November 2018.

- Precious metals accounted for 14% of the total value of goods imported to the UK. This was an increase from 6.1% for November 2018.

- Mechanical appliances had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 12%. This was a decrease from 13% for November 2018.

- The top 10 import commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Aircraft rose to 10th place from 13th.

- The top 10 import commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with November 2018. Most notably, Precious metals rose to 1st place from 5th, and Aircraft rose to 10th place from 16th.

↑ **Precious metals accounted for 14% of total imports in November 2019**

↓ **Mechanical appliances accounted for 12% of total imports in November 2019**

Figure 8: UK imports for the top 5 commodities, November 2019

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Imports: Commodity Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to November 2019, Precious metals remained the largest import commodity. It experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to November 2018, up more than 3 times in value.

- Among the top 10, Electronic equipment experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to August 2019, up 24%.

- Among the top 10, Mineral fuels experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to November 2018, down 19%.

- All of the top 10 commodities experienced an increase on the 3 months to August 2019.

- 5 of the top 10 commodities experienced an increase on the 3 months to November 2018, Mechanical appliances, Electronic equipment, Mineral fuels, Pharmaceutical products, and Plastics and plastic products were the exceptions.

↑ **Precious metals up more than 3 times the value on the 3 months to November 2018**

↓ **Mineral fuels down 19% on the 3 months to November 2018**

Table 8: UK imports of goods for the top 10 commodities, 3 months to November 2019

Commodity Description	3 months to Nov 2019	3 months to Aug 2019		3 months to Nov 2018	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on August 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2018 (%)
Precious metals	23,479	23,084	1.7	7,534	211.7
Mechanical appliances	16,851	16,181	4.1	17,657	-4.6
Motor vehicles	15,313	13,168	16.3	14,692	4.2
Electronic equipment	13,999	11,285	24.1	14,349	-2.4
Mineral fuels	10,613	10,204	4.0	13,159	-19.3
Pharmaceutical products	5,531	4,850	14.0	5,812	-4.8
Measuring devices and gauges	3,862	3,561	8.5	3,636	6.2
Plastics and plastic products	3,759	3,523	6.7	3,827	-1.8
Knitwear	3,098	2,547	21.6	2,987	3.7
Clothes, not knitted	2,445	2,343	4.4	2,401	1.8
Others	48,267	45,429	6.2	48,427	-0.3
Total Imports	**147,218**	**136,174**	**8.1**	**134,480**	**9.5**

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Imports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

Country to commodity:

- The increase in imports from Denmark on last month and October 2018 was led by Ships, boats and floating structures, up £93.6 million (from £0.1 million).

- The decrease in imports from Switzerland on last month was dominated by Precious metals, down £1,380 million (66%). The increase in imports on November 2018 was also dominated by Precious metals, up £633 million (from £71.2 million).

- The increase in imports from Russia on November 2018 was dominated by Precious metals, up £833 million (from £52.8 million).

- The decrease in imports from China on last month and on November 2018 was led by Electronic equipment, down £599 million (37%) and £216 million (17%) respectively.
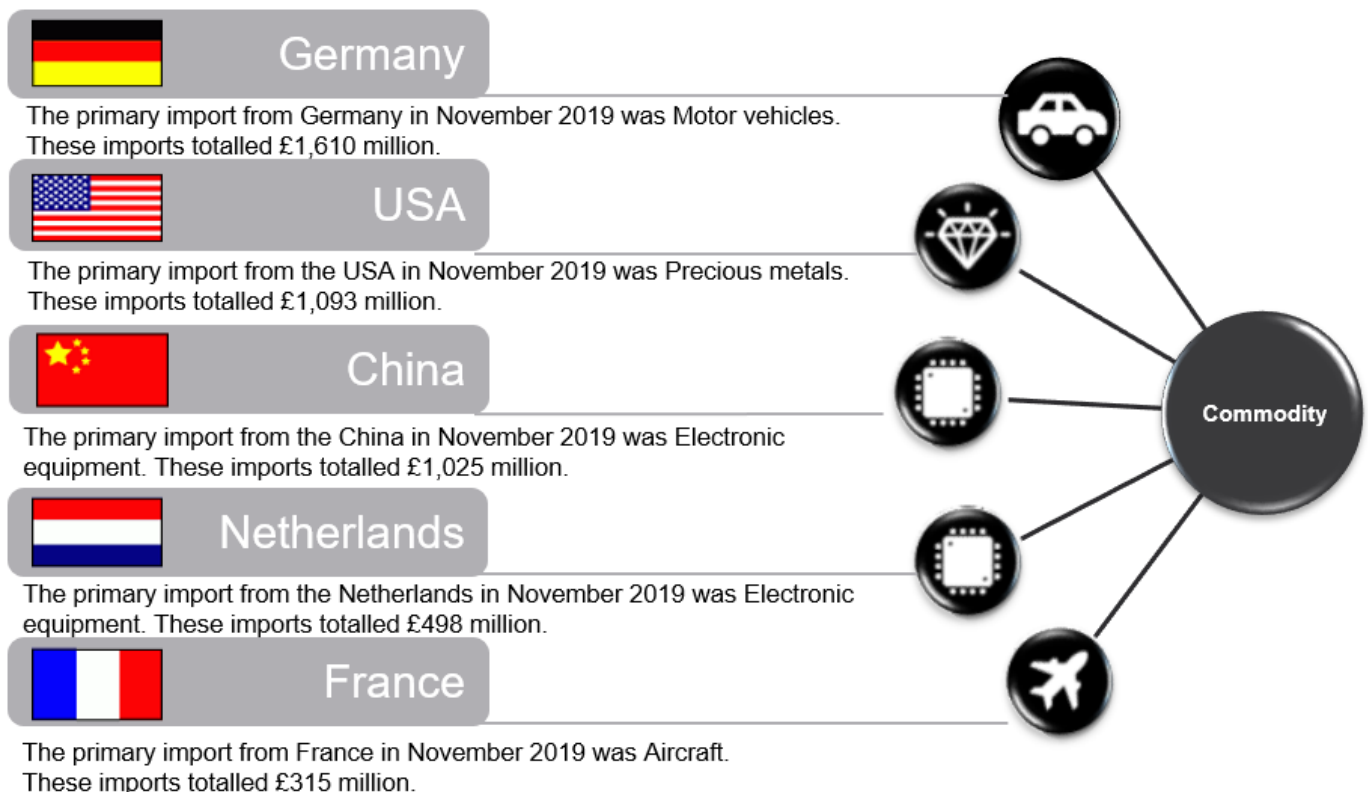
↓ **Imports of Electronic equipment from China down 37% on last month**

Commodity to country:

- The decrease in imports of Motor vehicles on last month was led by Belgium, down £212 million (32%), followed by decreases to Spain and the Netherlands, down £165 million (34%) and £157 million (41%) respectively.

- The decrease in imports of Electronic equipment on last month and November 2018 was led by China, down £599 million (37%) and £216 million (17%) respectively. This was followed by decreases on both periods from the Netherlands, down £161 million (24%) and £207 million (29%) respectively.

- The decrease in imports of Mineral fuels on November 2018 was led by Algeria, down £325 million (87%). This was followed by decreases to Norway and Nigeria, down £292 million (21%) and £258 million (85%) respectively.

↓ **Imports of Motor vehicles from Belgium down 32% on last month**

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

Germany
The primary import from Germany in November 2019 was Motor vehicles. These imports totalled £1,610 million.

USA
The primary import from the USA in November 2019 was Precious metals. These imports totalled £1,093 million.

China
The primary import from the China in November 2019 was Electronic equipment. These imports totalled £1,025 million.

Netherlands
The primary import from the Netherlands in November 2019 was Electronic equipment. These imports totalled £498 million.

France
The primary import from France in November 2019 was Aircraft. These imports totalled £315 million.

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2019 data is provisional

Methodology Notes

Metadata

All data behind this bulletin 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.

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'.

Data sources

The **EU figures** provided in this publication of the November 2019 Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics are collected from the Intrastat survey. They will include:

- 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.

- An adjustment for trade associated with Missing Trader Intra Community fraud. More details of this can be found here.

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

The **Non-EU figures** provided in this publication of the November 2019 Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics are presented by customs declarations and collected by the CHIEF (Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight) system.

Detailed trade information is presented according to the Harmonised System (HS) nomenclature.

Methodology

This methodology paper 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 Overseas Trade Statistics Methodology paper (July 2017) is available here.

From the May 2016 month of account, there was a methodological change to the way our trade-in-goods statistics are compiled. Following a change in legislation, trade-in-goods statistics switched from the 'general trade' system of compilation to the 'special trade' system. More information can be found here.

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 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. uktradeinfo.com provides more detail about the differences between BoP and OTS publications.

The aggregate estimates here will differ from the Eurostat publication [Euro area external trade](#). The OTS was published up until the May 2016 month of account 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'.

National Statistics Publication

HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with countries on 13 January 2020 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 November 2019. At the same time revisions for all previously published non-EU and EU data for 2019 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
December 2019	11 February 2020
January 2020	11 March 2020
February 2020	9 April 2020

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

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.