

# EU Overseas Trade Statistics - November 2011

**Coverage:**  
United Kingdom

**Theme:**  
Business and Energy

**Released:**  
17 January 2012

**Next Release:**  
14 February 2012

**Frequency of release:**  
Monthly

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## **Summary**

- After the decrease in the value of imports seen in October, there has been an increase in November. The value of exports remains at about the same level as the last two months. Consequently there has been an increase in the difference between imports and exports compared with October.
- UK's EU exports have increased by £0.2 billion (1.5 per cent) compared to October 2011, to £13.9 billion. Compared to November 2010, exports have increased by £0.8 billion (6.2 per cent).
- UK's EU imports have increased by £0.7 billion (4.3 per cent) compared to October 2011, to £18.0 billion. Compared to November 2010 imports have increased by £1.2 billion (6.9 per cent).
- The UK remains a net importer (imports are greater than exports). The size of difference between imports and exports has increased compared to October 2011 by 14.7 per cent and has increased from November 2010 by 9.1 per cent.



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

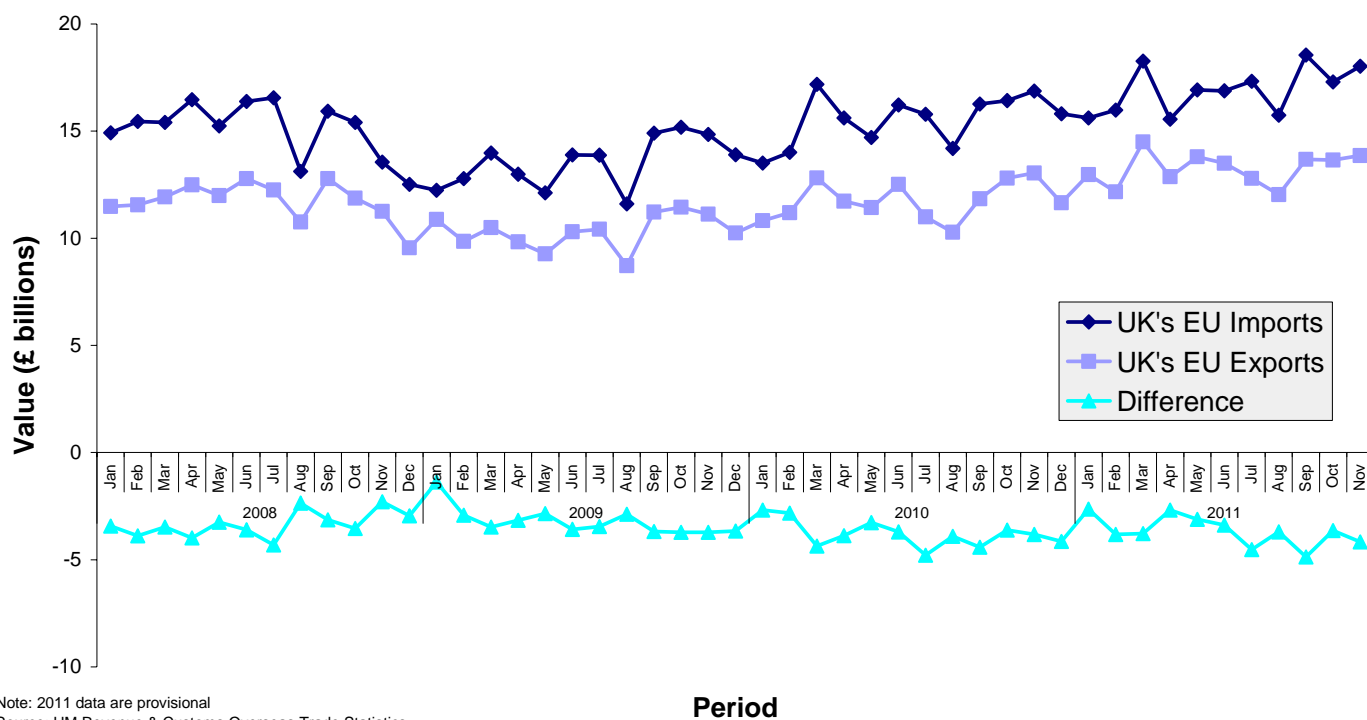
You can find details of how users interested in import and export markets for specific goods make use of the detailed OTS data in '[The Customer Story](#)'. You can also access the detailed data in our interactive database [here](#).

## Key Points

For the month of November 2011:

After the decrease in the value of imports seen in October, there has been an increase in November. The value of exports remains at about the same level as the last two months. Consequently there has been an increase in the difference between imports and exports compared with October.

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



Exports

- The value of the UK's EU exports has increased by £0.2 billion (1.5 per cent) compared to October 2011, to £13.9 billion. Compared to November 2010, exports have increased by £0.8 billion (6.2 per cent).
- The top five commodities are unchanged from the previous month. HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) remains the top commodity exported by value in November despite showing the largest decrease of £159.2 million compared with October. In November it contributed £2.5 billion, 18.2 per cent of the total value of the UK's EU export trade.
- The largest value increase from the previous month, of £95.6 million, was in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products). This is one of the top five commodity types exported from the UK to EU Member States. This is an 11.3 per cent increase compared to October 2011.
- The largest value decrease from the previous month, of £159.2 million, was in HS2 27, as described above, to £2.5 billion. This is a 5.9 per cent decrease compared to October 2011. The next largest decrease is for HS2 29 (Organic Chemicals), which saw a drop of £97.9 million (down by 14.1 per cent) to £598.2 million.
- The top five EU Member States to which the UK exports remain similar to the previous month. Germany remains the EU Member State to which the UK exports most, accounting for 21.6 per cent of the total value of UK's EU export trade. This is despite Germany having the largest decrease by value compared to October in exports from the UK (down by £109.6 million) Compared to October 2011 the largest change in export trade was a £197.8 million increase in exports to the Netherlands, an increase of 10.4 per cent. This makes them our second largest EU partner for exports in November 2011, with France third.
- The total 2011 year to date value of UK's trade-in-goods exported to EU Member States excluding November 2011 was £132.0 billion, which has been upwardly revised by £6.5 million. This is an increase of less than 0.1 per cent.

## Imports

- The value of the UK's EU imports has increased by £0.7 billion (4.3 per cent) compared to October 2011, to £18.0 billion. Compared to November 2010 imports have increased by £1.2 billion (6.9 per cent).
- As with exports, the top five commodities remain the same as the previous month. The largest contributing commodity group is HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof). This contributed £2.5 billion, 14.1 per cent, of the total value of UK's EU import trade.
- The largest value increase at HS2 level from the previous month was in HS2 29 (Organic Chemicals) with an increase of £424.3 million to £846.0 million. This is twice the October figure, and makes this chapter the sixth largest import by value. In October it was ninth.
- The largest value decrease from the previous month was in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) with a £128.1 million reduction, a decrease of 10.7 per cent.
- The top five EU Member States from which the UK imports remain similar to the previous month. Germany remains the top EU Member State from which the UK imports most goods, accounting for 23.8 per cent of the total value of UK's EU import trade. The biggest value increase in imports was £516.6 million from the Irish Republic, an increase of 52.6 per cent.

- The total 2011 year to date value of UK's trade-in-goods imported from EU Member States excluding November 2011 was £ 168.1 billion, which has been downwardly revised by £16.0 million. This is a decrease of less than 0.1 per cent.

### Further Analysis: Exports

Table 1 shows a comparison of the top five commodities exported to Member States in the EU for November 2010, October 2011 and November 2011.

HS 2	Description	November 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from October 2011	% Change from November 2010	% of Total November 2011 Trade	Rank October 2011	Rank November 2010
-	Total Exports	13,855.2	1.5	6.2	100.0	n/a	n/a
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	2,520.4	-5.9	17.7	18.2	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	1,394.1	-2.0	3.4	10.1	2	2
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	1,297.0	6.4	1.8	9.4	3	3
85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts and accessories of such articles	1,109.4	-5.3	-3.9	8.0	4	4
30	Pharmaceutical products	938.7	11.3	11.6	6.8	5	5

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

The slight overall increase compared to October 2011 in exports reflects a mixture of increases and decreases in HS2 chapters. Three of the top five commodity types shown in the table above decreased by a total of £250.3 million, while the other two increased by £173.1 million.

The largest increase compared to October 2011 of £95.6 million was in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products). This is an increase of 11.3 per cent from October, and is the third successive increase. It is also an increase from November 2010 of £97.6 million, or 11.6 per cent.

The largest decrease compared to October 2011 is for HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) with a decrease of £159.2 million, or 5.9 per cent.

Outside the top five commodities listed, there was also a large increase in export trade for HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin) which has increased by £85.6 million to £324.8 million, an increase of 35.8 per cent. This follows three successive falls since the high of £487.6 million in July 2011. Because of the nature of the goods involved trade in this chapter can be very volatile.

Compared to November 2010, the overall export trade to EU member states is up by 6.2 per cent. Four of the top five HS2 chapters show an increase, with just 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) showing a decrease, of £45.2 million, 3.9 per cent.

The largest change since last November is the increase of 17.7 per cent in exports of HS2 27, up by £379.4 million. This accounts for over 46 per cent of the overall net change in exports. The next largest change was an increase of £98.3 million for HS2 29 (Organic Chemicals).

Figure 2 below shows the top five commodities for UK's EU exports in November 2011, compared to October 2011 and November 2010.

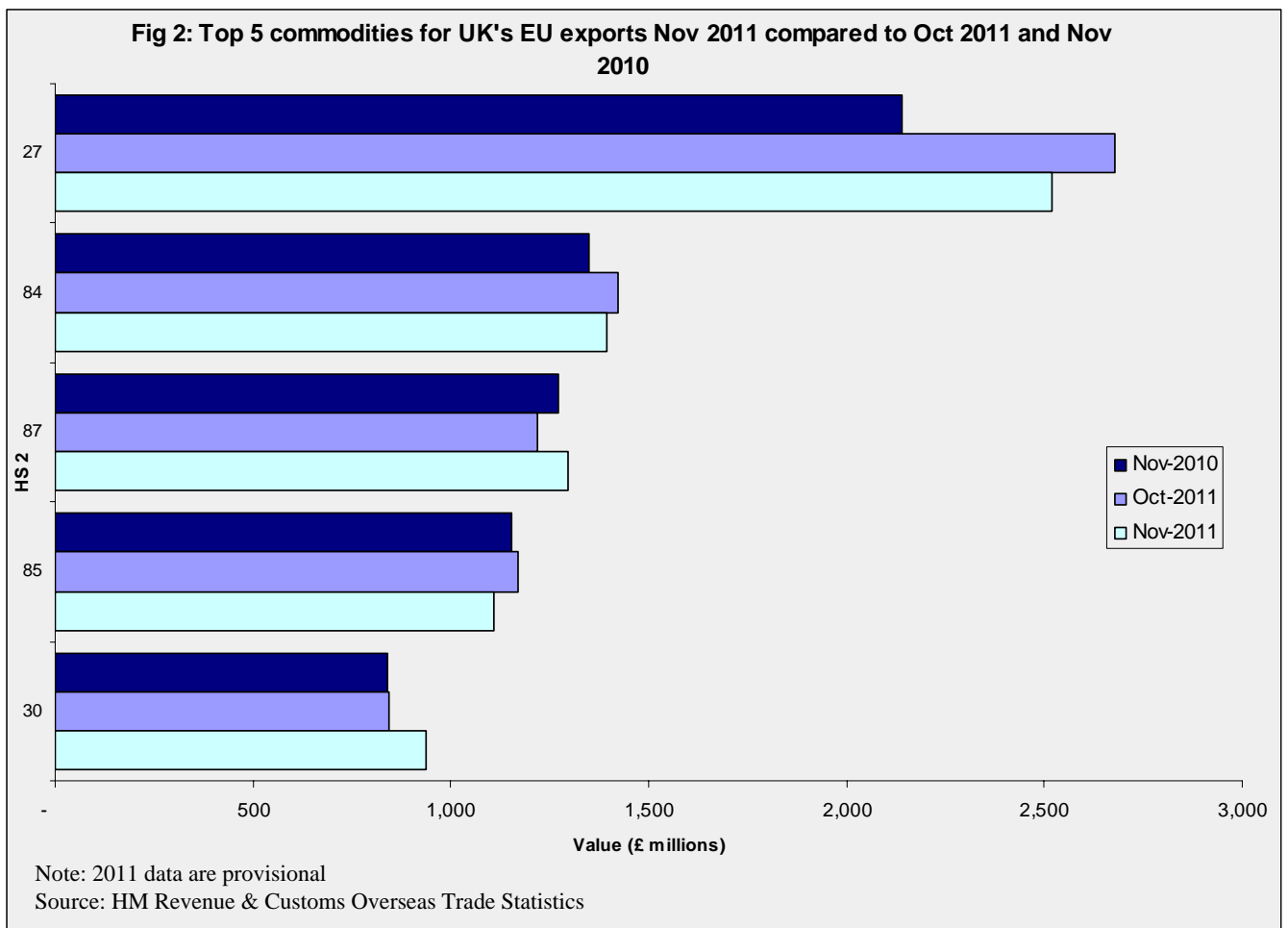


Table 2 shows a comparison of the value of UK export trade with our top five EU export trading partners for November 2011, October 2011 and November 2010.

Country	Total £ millions	% change from October 2011	% Change from November 2010	% of total EU trade
Total Exports	13,855.2	1.5	6.2	100.0
Germany	2,996.8	-3.5	13.2	21.6
Netherlands	2,101.5	10.4	13.4	15.2
France	2,088.4	-0.3	13.7	15.1
Irish Republic	1,584.4	7.8	1.7	11.4
Belgium	1,296.9	4.9	7.6	9.4

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Germany has been the largest export partner for the UK for a number of years, accounting for over 20 per cent of the total value of exports. The Netherlands and France both account for over 15 per cent of exports.

The largest change in value of export trade compared with October 2011 is the increase of £197.8 million to the Netherlands, an increase of 10.4 per cent. This increase accounts for much of the overall net increase in exports of £201.4 million. The next highest increase is for the Irish Republic, with an increase of £114.3 million, or 7.8 per cent, to £1.6 billion. The increase of exports to the Netherlands is led by an increase of £99.6 million in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes), while the increase in value of exports to the Irish Republic is a general increase over most products.

The largest decrease in exports, of £109.6 million, was to Germany. This is a decrease of 3.5 per cent, but Germany remains the top Member State for UK exports. There is also a large decrease in exports to Sweden, down by £103.5 million, or 17.6 per cent to £486.1 million.

The value of total export trade has increased with 15 of the other 26 Member States in the EU compared with October 2011.

Table 3 shows the top five partner Member States for EU exports in November 2010, October 2011 and November 2011.

The increase in total export trade value compared to November 2010, noted above was in part driven by the increase in export value of goods to Germany (up by £349.0 million), France (up by £252.3 million) and the Netherlands (up by £248.7 million) shown in table 2. These increases have been offset by decreases in exports to Spain (down by £99.2 million) and Portugal (down by £93.7 million).

The value of total export trade has increased with 18 of the other 26 Member States in the EU compared with November 2010.

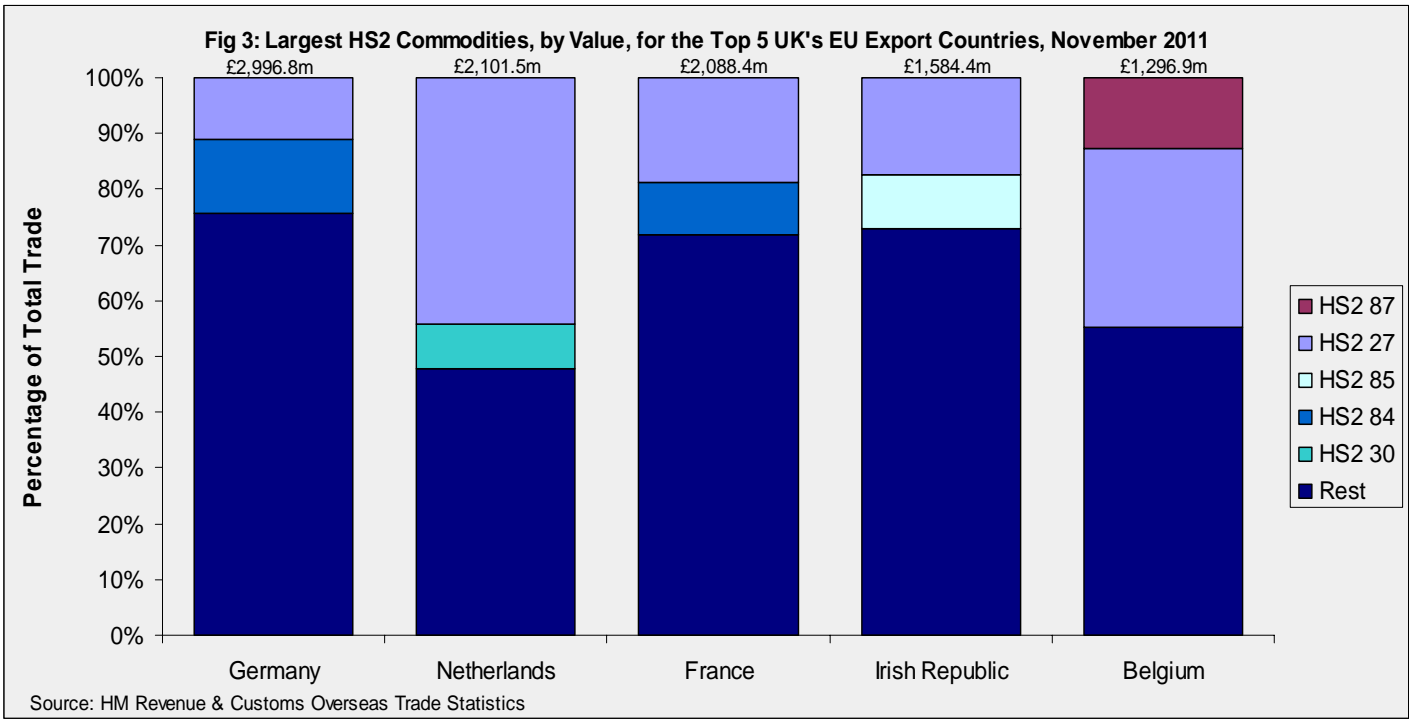
Table 3: Top 5 EU export partner Member States in November 2010, October 2011 and November 2011

Rank	November 2011	October 2011	November 2010
1	Germany	Germany	Germany
2	Netherlands	France	Netherlands
3	France	Netherlands	France
4	Irish Republic	Irish Republic	Irish Republic
5	Belgium	Belgium	Belgium

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

For all three periods, Germany was the UK's largest EU export partner country.

Figure 3 below shows the two largest commodities by value for each of the top five EU Member States that the UK exports to. Four of the top five Member States have HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) as the largest commodity by value exported to them from the UK. The trade with the top five Member States accounts for 93.0 per cent of the total value of UK EU export trade under this heading. Over 44 per cent of the UK's exports to the Netherlands were in chapter 27.



## Further Analysis: Imports

Table 4 shows a comparison of the top five commodities imported from Member States in the EU for November 2010, October 2011 and November 2011.

HS 2	Description	November 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from October 2011	% Change from November 2010	% of Total November 2011 Trade	Rank October 2011	Rank November 2010
-	Total Imports	18,024.7	4.3	6.9	100.0	n/a	n/a
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	2,547.5	-3.5	8.2	14.1	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	2,113.5	1.8	1.4	11.7	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	1,845.2	18.1	-0.5	10.2	3	3
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	1,073.5	-10.7	6.8	6.0	4	4
30	Pharmaceutical products	944.9	10.3	14.7	5.2	5	5

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

The overall increase compared to October 2011 in imports reflects a mixture of increases and decreases across all HS2 chapters. Table 4 shows the value of import trade for three of the top five commodities are higher than October accounting for an increase of £407.8 million. However the largest increase in value of imports was outside the top five. HS2 29 (Organic Chemicals) showed an increase of £424.3 million to £846.0 million. This follows a decrease of £189.7 million in October, and is the highest monthly value of imports in recent years.

The two decreases in the top five imported commodity types, for chapters 27 and 87, account for a total decrease of £220.4 million. In addition to these decreases there was also a large decrease in imports in HS2 24 (Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes) decreasing by £97.7 million, 76.8 per cent. The value of imports in this commodity type for October 2011 was the largest seen since June 2010.

The increase in total import trade value compared to November 2010 of £1.2 billion, noted above, reflects increases in about two thirds of the HS2 chapters. The largest increase was in HS2 29 up by £312.8 million, 58.7 per cent as a result of the large monthly figure for November 2011 mentioned above.

There were also large increases in HS2 87 (up by £192.0 million) and HS2 30 (up by £120.8 million).



The largest decrease was for HS2 24 of £44.1 million, down by 59.9 per cent.

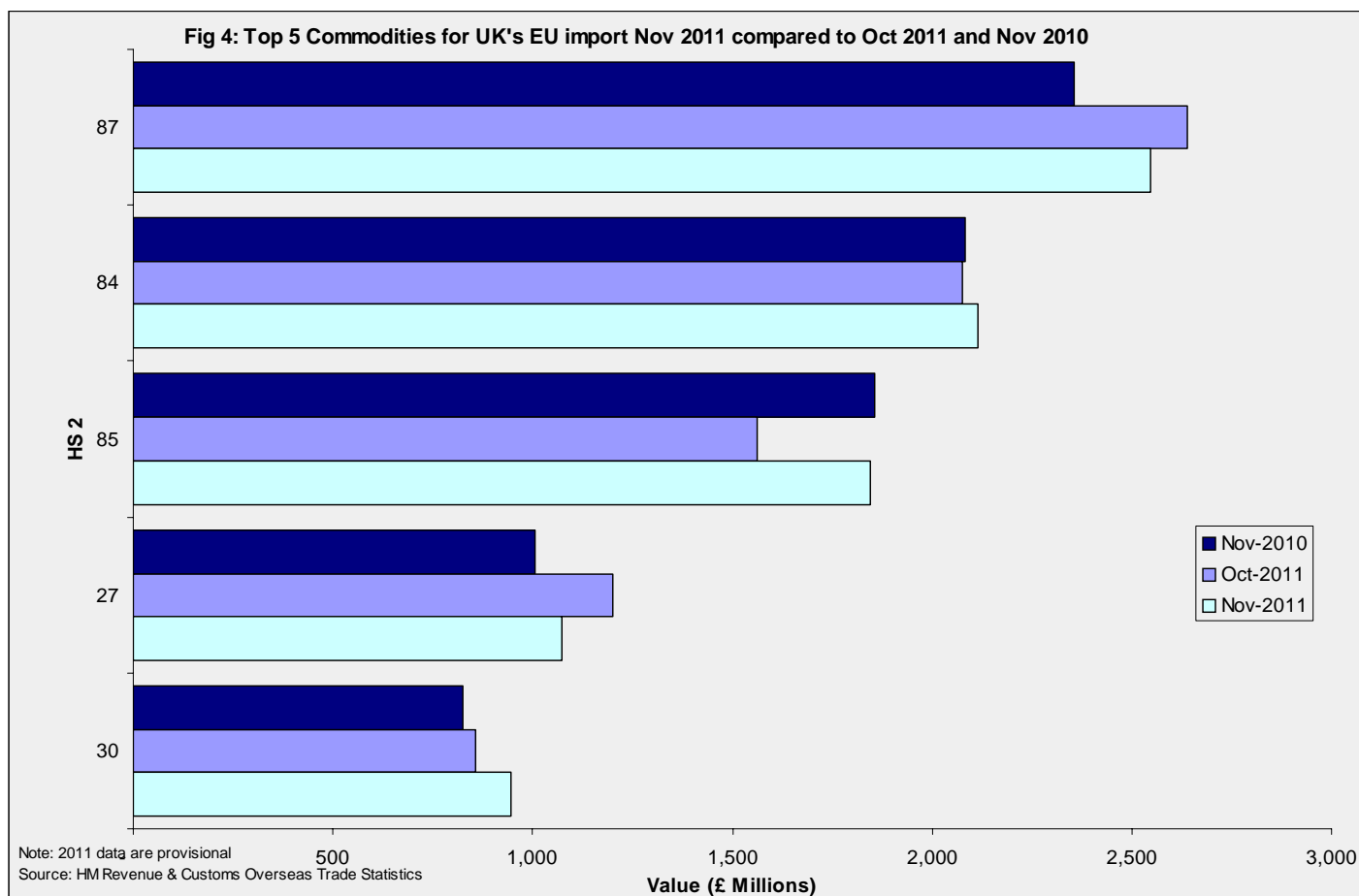


Figure 4 shows the top five HS2 commodity groups for UK's EU imports in November 2011, compared to October 2011 and November 2010.

In comparison with October 2011, there were increases in import trade for three of these top five commodities, but compared to November 2010, four of these groups showed increases as described above.

Tables 5 and 6 show comparisons of the value of UK import trade with our top five EU import trading partners for November 2011, October 2011 and November 2010.

Germany and The Netherlands have been the largest EU import partners for the UK for a number of years accounting for between 30 and 40 per cent of the total imports from the EU.

The largest change in value of import trade compared with October 2011 is the increase of £516.6 million from the Irish Republic. This is an increase of 52.6 per cent. It is led by an increase of £430.2 million in HS2 29 (Organic Chemicals), a tenfold increase over October 2011, and takes the monthly import value for the Irish Republic to a record high.

The only decrease in imports from the top five Member States was for Belgium, with a decrease of £52.5 million, or 3.2 per cent. However, the largest decrease was for Denmark, with a decrease of £203.3 million, or 35.9 per cent.

The value of total import trade has increased with 18 of the other 26 Member States in the EU compared with October 2011.

The increase in total import trade value compared to November 2010, noted above, is driven by increases in imports for four of the top five EU Member States the UK imports from. There were increase for France (up by £296.7 million), the Irish Republic (up by £263.4 million), Germany (up by £244.0 million) and the Netherlands (up by £239.0 million).

The value of total import trade has increased with 18 of the other 26 Member States in the EU compared with November 2010.

Table 5: Top 5 EU import partner Member States

Country	Total £ millions	% change from October 2011	% Change from November 2010	% of total EU trade
Total Imports	18,024.7	4.3	6.9	100.0
Germany	4,288.5	2.7	6.0	23.8
Netherlands	2,696.5	8.3	9.7	15.0
France	2,132.6	3.7	16.2	11.8
Belgium	1,574.7	-3.2	6.2	8.7
Irish Republic	1,498.7	52.6	21.3	8.3

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Table 6: Top 5 EU import partner Member States in November 2010, October 2011 and November 2011

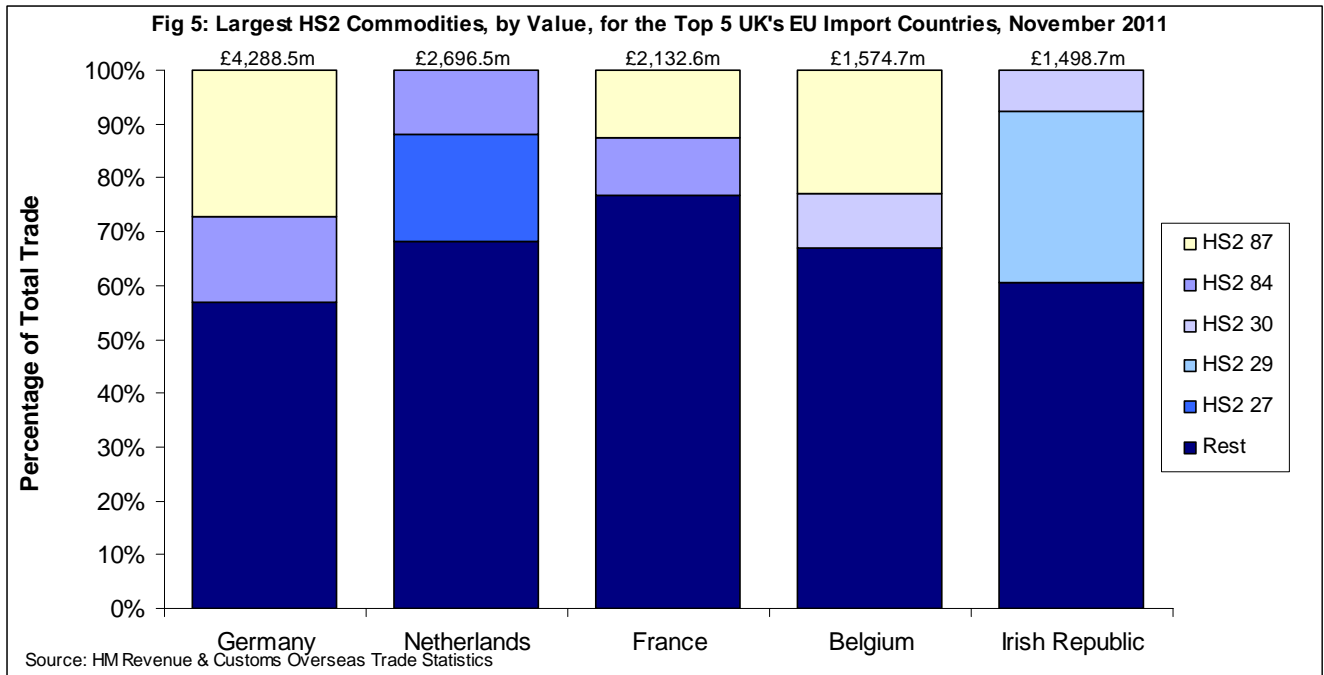
Rank	November 2011	October 2011	November 2010
1	Germany	Germany	Germany
2	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands
3	France	France	France
4	Belgium	Belgium	Belgium
5	Irish Republic	Italy	Irish Republic

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Table 6 shows that for all three periods, Germany was the UK's largest EU import partner country. The top 4 import partner Member States have remained the same.

Figure 5 shows the two largest import commodities by value for each of the top five EU Member States from whom the UK imports. Three of the top five Member States have HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) in their top two largest commodities exported to the UK and three have HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof). The trade in HS2 87 from these Member States accounts for 70.6 per cent of the total EU import trade under this heading, and the trade in HS2 84 accounts for 58.5 per cent of the EU total in these commodities. The trade with the Irish Republic in HS2

29 (Organic Chemicals) accounts for 56.3 per cent of the total EU import trade under this heading in November 2011.



Notes:

1. HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with Member States of the European Union (EU) on 17 January 2012 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 November 2011. At the same time revisions for all previously published EU data for 2011 are also being released in line with the [Overseas Trade Statistics Policy on Revisions](#).
3. The figures provided in this publication of the November 2011 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 November.
  - 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](#).

Estimates are included in all high level totals including HS2 and country totals but not for aggregated totals below this level.

Not all of these estimates are included in the lower level aggregations of data found in our interactive database. Therefore it is possible that some of the data in this publication will differ slightly from high level aggregates produced using the interactive database.

4. Detailed trade information is presented according to the [Harmonised System \(HS\)](#) nomenclature.
5. 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](#).
6. 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 accepted into [Inwards Processing Relief](#) (IPR).
7. 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.
8. The OTS has recently 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>

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To access the detailed 8-digit data in our interactive database please log in [here](#). If you have not yet registered for this **free** area click [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: 14 February 2012 9:30am

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