

# Non-EU Overseas Trade Statistics - July 2012

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## **Summary**

- UK's non-EU exports have increased by £2.0 billion (17.3 per cent) compared to June 2012, to £13.5 billion. Compared to July 2011, exports have increased by £1.9 billion (16.1 per cent).
- UK's non-EU imports have decreased by £0.7 billion (4.1 per cent) compared to June 2012, to £16.0 billion. Compared to July 2011, imports have decreased by £0.6 billion (3.8 per cent).
- The monthly export figure is the second highest value since the OTS was first published separately for non-EU countries in 1993. It is just short of the record level seen in March of this year by £21.3 million.
- The UK remains a net importer (imports are greater than exports). The size of the difference between imports and exports has decreased by 51.8 per cent compared to June 2012, and has decreased from July 2011 by 50.0 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.

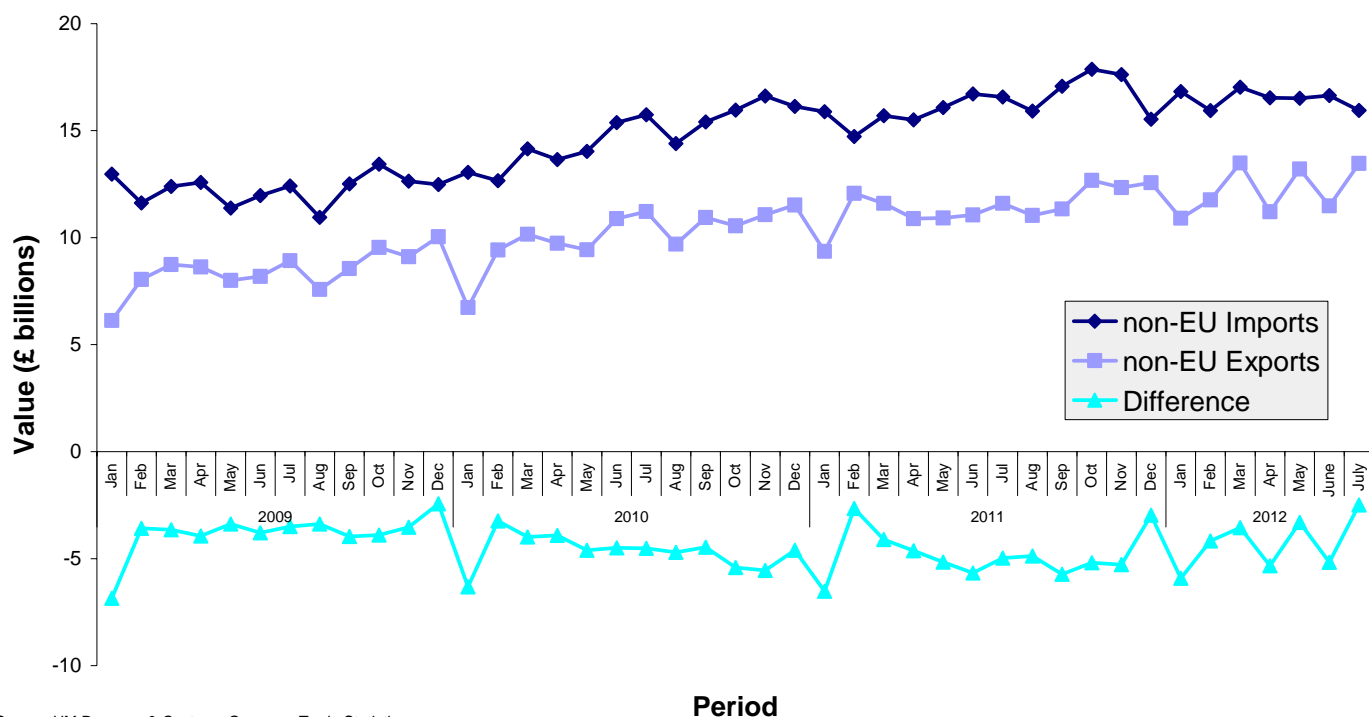
You can find details of how users interested in import and export markets for specific goods make use of the detailed OTS data in '[The Customer Story](#)'. You can also access the detailed data in our interactive database [here](#).

## Key Points

For the month of July 2012:

The value of exports increased in July 2012 compared with the previous month while the value of imports decreased. The value of exports is the second highest ever, while imports are at their lowest level since February of this year. Consequently the difference between non-EU imports and exports has decreased to its lowest value since December 2009. This decrease in the trade gap is the largest monthly decrease since February 2011.

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



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

## Exports

- UK's non-EU exports have increased by £2.0 billion (17.3 per cent) compared to June 2012, to £13.5 billion. Compared to July 2011, exports have increased by £1.9 billion (16.1 per cent). This is the second highest export value since the OTS was first published separately for non-EU countries in 1993.
- The top five commodities are similar to the previous month apart from HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals) moving from sixth to third place and displacing HS2 85 (Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers) from the top five commodities into sixth place.
- The largest contributing commodity group remains HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) although the export value dropped by 1.2 per cent since June. In July it contributed £2.3 billion, 17.2 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU export trade. The largest contribution to this chapter was £0.9 billion from HS4 8411 (Turbo-jets, Turbo-propellers and other gas turbines).
- There has been an increase in export value in over 80 per cent of commodity chapters since last month. The largest value increase from the previous month was £417.8 million in HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin), an increase of 66.0 per cent. This increase has brought this chapter back into the top five exported commodities for July 2012.
- The largest decrease from the previous month was £123.5 million in HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof), a decrease of 21.4 per cent.
- The USA remains the UK's largest non-EU export partner country, accounting for 25.8 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU export trade. Exports from the UK to the USA also had the largest increase in value, compared to June 2012, up by £437.7 million, 14.4 per cent. The largest decrease in exports compared to June 2012 was to the United Arab Emirates which decreased by £62.7 million, 13.4 per cent.
- The total 2012 year to date value of UK's goods exported to non-EU countries excluding July 2012 is £72.0 billion which has been downwardly revised by £0.1 million. This is a decrease of less than 0.1 per cent.

## Imports

- The value of the UK's non-EU imports decreased by £0.7 billion (4.1 per cent) compared to June 2012, to £16.0 billion. Compared to July 2011 imports have decreased by £0.6 billion (3.8 per cent).
- The top five commodities remain similar to the previous month apart from HS2 61 (Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted) replacing HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques) in July 2012.
- The largest contributing commodity group remains HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes), contributing £3.2 billion in July 2012, 20.2 per cent of the total value of non-EU imports to the UK. The largest contribution to this chapter was £2.1 billion from HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude).
- The largest value increase from the previous month was £172.3 million in HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof), an increase of 9.2 per cent.

- The largest decrease from the previous month was £427.9 million in HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin), a decrease of 35.4 per cent.
- The USA remains the UK's largest non-EU import partner country, accounting for 15.9 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU import trade. The largest increase in value of imports to the UK compared to June 2012 was from Nigeria, a rise of £129.9 million, 91.9 per cent. The largest decrease in imports compared to June 2012 was from Norway which decreased by £418.8 million, 23.5 per cent.
- The total 2012 year to date value of UK's trade-in-goods imported from non-EU countries excluding July 2012 is £99.5 billion, which has been upwardly revised by £2.1 million. This is an increase of less than 0.1 per cent.

## Further Analysis: Exports

Table 1 shows a comparison of the top five commodities by value exported to countries outside the EU for July 2011, June 2012 and July 2012.

HS 2	Description	July 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from June 2012	% Change from July 2011	% of Total July 2012 Exports	Rank June 2012	Rank July 2011
-	Total Exports	13,462.9	17.3	16.1	100.0	n/a	n/a
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	2,321.9	-1.2	8.7	17.2	1	1
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	1,685.4	31.7	26.2	12.5	2	2
71	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin	1,050.5	66.0	15.3	7.8	6	3
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	1,032.0	32.5	49.0	7.7	5	6
30	Pharmaceutical products	924.8	11.6	20.0	6.9	3	5

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

The overall increase in exports **compared to June 2012** reflects increases in over 80 per cent of HS2 chapters. The total export trade value has increased by £2.0 billion (17.3 per cent). The two largest rises in export value were in the top five commodity types which accounted for over 40 per cent of the total net increase in export trade.

The largest value increase from the previous month, of £417.8 million, was in HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin). This is a 66.0 per cent increase compared to June 2012, contributing to July 2012 being the second highest monthly export value in recent years. This has also resulted in HS2 71 becoming the third biggest export by value, from sixth last month. Within HS71 it was HS4 7102 (Diamonds, whether or not worked, but not mounted or set) which saw the largest increase compared with June 2012 of £232.9 million, 82.8 per cent.

The second largest increase was in HS2 87, up by £405.3 million, an increase of 31.7 per cent, after last month's decrease of £501.8 million. This was driven by an increase of £308.7 million, 32.2 per cent in HS4 8703 (Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons, incl. station wagons and racing cars).

The corresponding increase in quantity suggests the increase is due to a rise in the volume of export trade rather than unit cost price.

There were also large increases in HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques), up by £261.9 million (74.3 per cent) to £614.4 million; HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) up by £253.4 million (32.5 per cent); and HS2 72 (Iron and steel) up £109.5 million (52.6 per cent) to £317.4 million.

In comparison the largest decrease since last month was £123.5 million in HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof), a decrease of 21.4 per cent. There was no other chapter for which the value of exports decreased by more than £30 million.

The total export trade value has increased by £1.9 billion (16.1 per cent) **compared to July 2011**. Just over 60 per cent of HS2 chapters increased, with the size of the increases generally being bigger than the decreases. There were six chapters with increases of over £100 million, while the largest decrease was only £51.6 million. The largest increases were mostly from the top five commodities exported by value: up £349.5 million in HS2 87, up £339.3 million in HS2 27, up £185.5 million in HS2 84, up £154.3 million in HS2 30, and up £139.3 million in HS2 71. There was also a large increase in the value of exports in HS2 97, up by £277.3 million. The largest decrease of £51.6 million was in HS2 88.

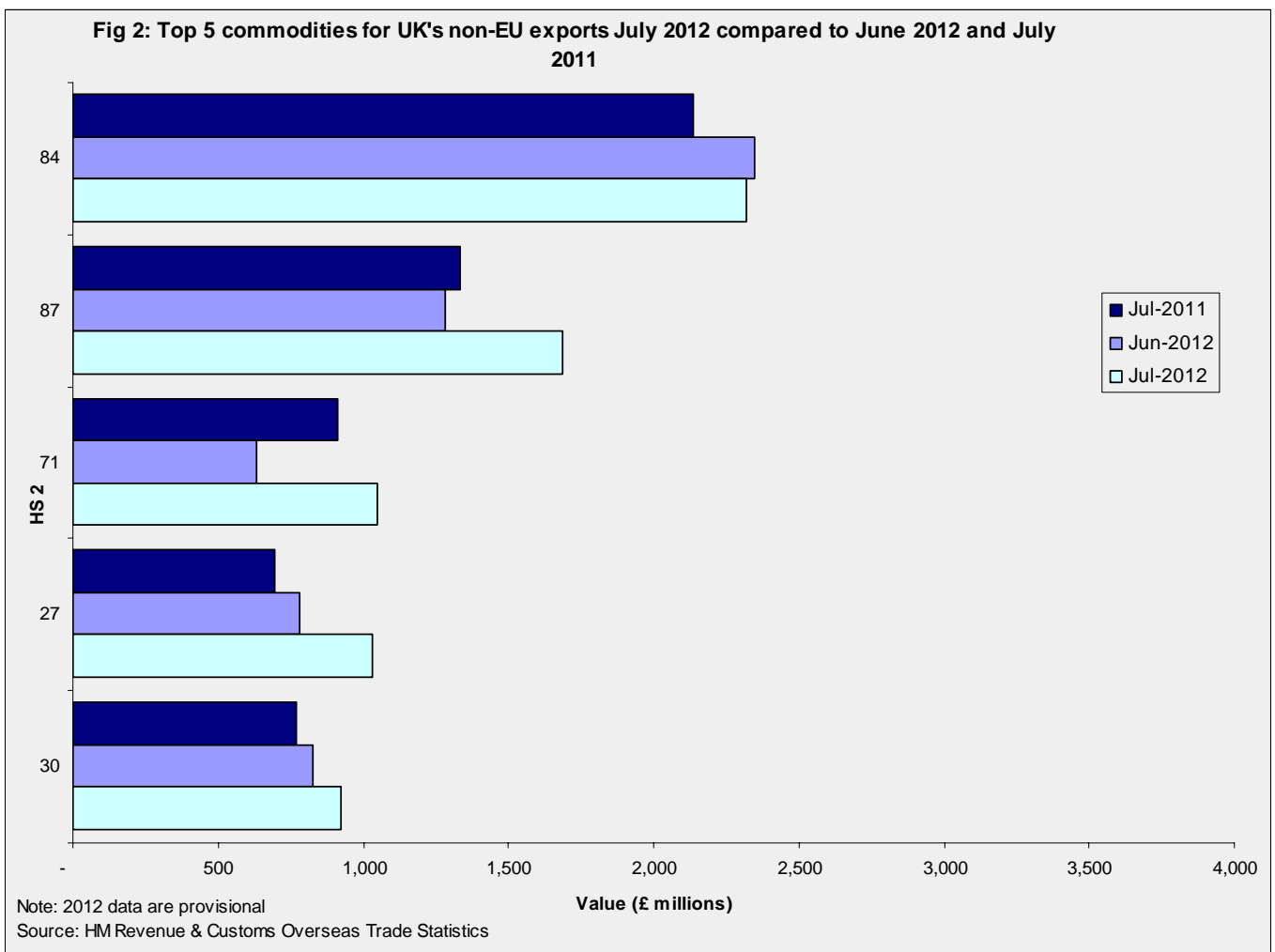


Figure 2 shows the top five commodities for UK's non-EU exports in July 2012, compared to June 2012 and July 2011. It shows that four of the top five commodity

types had increases when compared with June 2012, but all five had increases when compared with July 2011.

Table 2 shows a comparison of the value of UK non-EU export trade with our top five trading partners for July 2011, June 2012 and July 2012.

Country	July 2012 Total £ millions	% change from June 2012	% Change from July 2011	% of total July 2012 Exports	Rank June 2012	Rank July 2011
Total Exports	13,462.9	17.3	16.1	100.0	n/a	n/a
USA	3,473.7	14.4	8.4	25.8	1	1
China	1,000.6	35.3	23.4	7.4	2	2
Switzerland	721.0	35.8	66.6	5.4	3	5
South Africa	555.5	141.9	97.9	4.1	16	15
Russia	509.9	-2.8	28.4	3.8	4	7

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

For all three periods, the USA was the UK's largest non-EU export partner country, with China second.

**Compared to June 2012**, the overall increase in exports reflects increases in the value of exports to over 65 per cent of our export partners. In addition the decreases for countries were generally larger than the increases. There were five countries with increases of £100 million or more, while none had decreases of this magnitude. The increases for these five export partners accounted for 70 per cent of the total net increase.

The largest increase in exports was to the USA, up by £437.7 million, 14.4 per cent. This is mostly due to increases of £125.4 million (46.0 per cent) in HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof) and £115.9 million (52.1 per cent) in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes)

The increase in HS2 87, is led by a rise of £80.3 million in HS4 8703 (Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons, incl. station wagons and racing cars), an increase of 48.0 per cent.

The increase in HS2 27 is led by an increase of £125.1 million (69.7 per cent) in HS4 2710 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals (excl. crude); preparations containing >= 70% by weight of petroleum oils or of oils obtained from bituminous minerals). The volume (net mass) exported increased by 96 per cent, suggesting that a greater quantity was exported although the unit price fell.

The second largest increase in exports was to South Africa, up by £325.9 million to £555.5 million, a record high. This is more than double last month's export figure, and 62.5 per cent higher than the previous high of £341.9 million in September 2011.

This increase was driven by a rise of £279.6 million in HS2 71, is driven by a rise of £282.8 million in HS4 7102 (Diamonds).

There were also relatively large increases for exports to China (up £261.3 million, 35.3 per cent), Switzerland (up £190.2 million, 35.8 per cent) and India (up £172.5 million, 53.7 per cent).

The increase in exports to China was driven by an increase of £161.4 million (82.8 per cent) in HS4 8703 (motor vehicles). The increase to Switzerland was almost entirely due to an increase of £189.6 million (120.2 per cent) in HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques) for the second month in succession. This month the

increase was in HS4 9705 (Collections and collector's pieces of zoological, botanical, mineralogical, anatomical, historical, archaeological, palaeontological, ethnographic or numismatic interest) up by £122.4 million from £0.3 million last month. The increase to India was led by a rise of £121.0 million in HS4 7106 (Silver), a seven-fold increase on last month's export value. The corresponding increase in quantity suggests the increase is due to a rise in the volume of export trade rather than price changes.

There were no countries where exports fell by £100 million or more. The largest decrease was for the United Arab Emirates, where exports fell by £62.7 million, 13.4 per cent. This decrease was more than covered by falls of £47.1 million (27.0 per cent) in HS2 84, and £33.9 million (65.4 per cent) in HS2 71.

There is a similar picture when **compared to July 2011**, where there were increases in the value of exports to just under 60 per cent of our export partner countries. There were increases in excess of £100 million for exports to six countries, and no decreases of this magnitude.

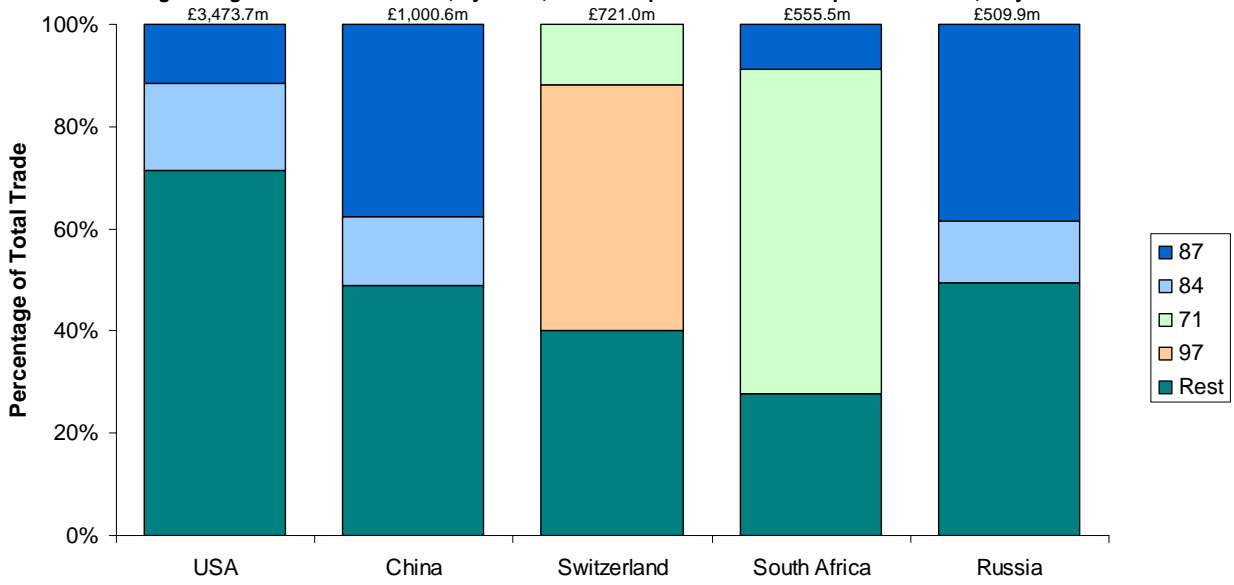
The largest increases in total export trade value compared to July 2011 are to South Korea and Switzerland, up by £288.3 million and £288.1 million respectively. South Korea's increase was led by HS2 27 up £275.4 million, while Switzerland's was in HS2 97 up £253.9 million. Exports to South Africa were up £274.8 million, with HS2 71 up £263.7 million. Exports to the USA were up £269.2 million, with HS2 87 and HS2 84 both up over £90 million. Other large increases were in exports to China, up £190.0 million and to Russia up £112.7 million.

The largest decrease in total export trade value compared to July 2011 is to Saudi Arabia, down by £92.8 million, mostly due to a drop of £84.5 million in HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof).

Figure 3 shows the two largest commodities by value exported from the UK to each of its top five non-EU export partner countries. In July 2012 four of the top five countries have HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof) and three have HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) in their top two largest commodities exported from the UK. The trade with these countries accounts for 60.4 per cent of the total value of UK non-EU export trade for HS2 87, and 34.2 per cent for HS2 84. Additionally, the trade in HS2 71 (including diamonds) makes up 63.5 per cent of the UK's exports to South Africa.



**Fig 3: Largest HS2 Commodities, by Value, for the Top 5 UK's non-EU Export Countries, July 2012**



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

## Further Analysis: Imports

Table 3 shows a comparison of the top five commodities imported from countries outside the EU for July 2011, June 2012 and July 2012.

HS 2	Description	July 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from June 2012	% Change from July 2011	% of Total July 2012 Imports	Rank June 2012	Rank July 2011
-	Total Imports	15,951.0	-4.1	-3.8	100.0	n/a	n/a
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	3,223.2	-4.5	-9.7	20.2	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	2,050.4	9.2	3.6	12.9	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	1,409.5	-5.7	-3.8	8.8	3	3
71	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin	780.4	-35.4	-30.9	4.9	4	4
61	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted	536.4	20.9	-12.3	3.4	9	5

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

The decrease of £0.7 billion in the value of imports **compared to June 2012** comprises a small number of large decreases balanced by relatively smaller increases in nearly 60 per cent of HS2 commodities chapters. The three largest decreases more than cover the total decrease.

The largest decrease was in imports in HS2 71, down by £427.9 million (35.4 per cent). This decrease was primarily due to decreases in HS4 7102 (diamonds) and HS4 7110 (Platinum), both down by just under £232 million. The decrease in HS2 71 covers 62.0 per cent of the total decrease. Because of the nature of the goods trade figures in these goods can be volatile.

The second largest value decrease from the previous month, of £386.0 million (50.8 per cent), was in HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques). This decrease takes this chapter out of the top five, and it is now the twelfth largest import by value.

The decrease was led by a fall of £312.9 million (56.5 per cent) in paintings in HS4 9701, following a rise of £372.7 million in the previous month.

The only other chapter whose imports decreased in value by over £100 million is the UK's biggest import by value, HS2 27 which decreased by £150.6 million to £3.2 billion. This is the fourth monthly decrease in a row, and takes the chapter to its lowest monthly import value since November 2010. This is led by a decrease of £163.6 million in HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude), a fall of 7.2 per cent.

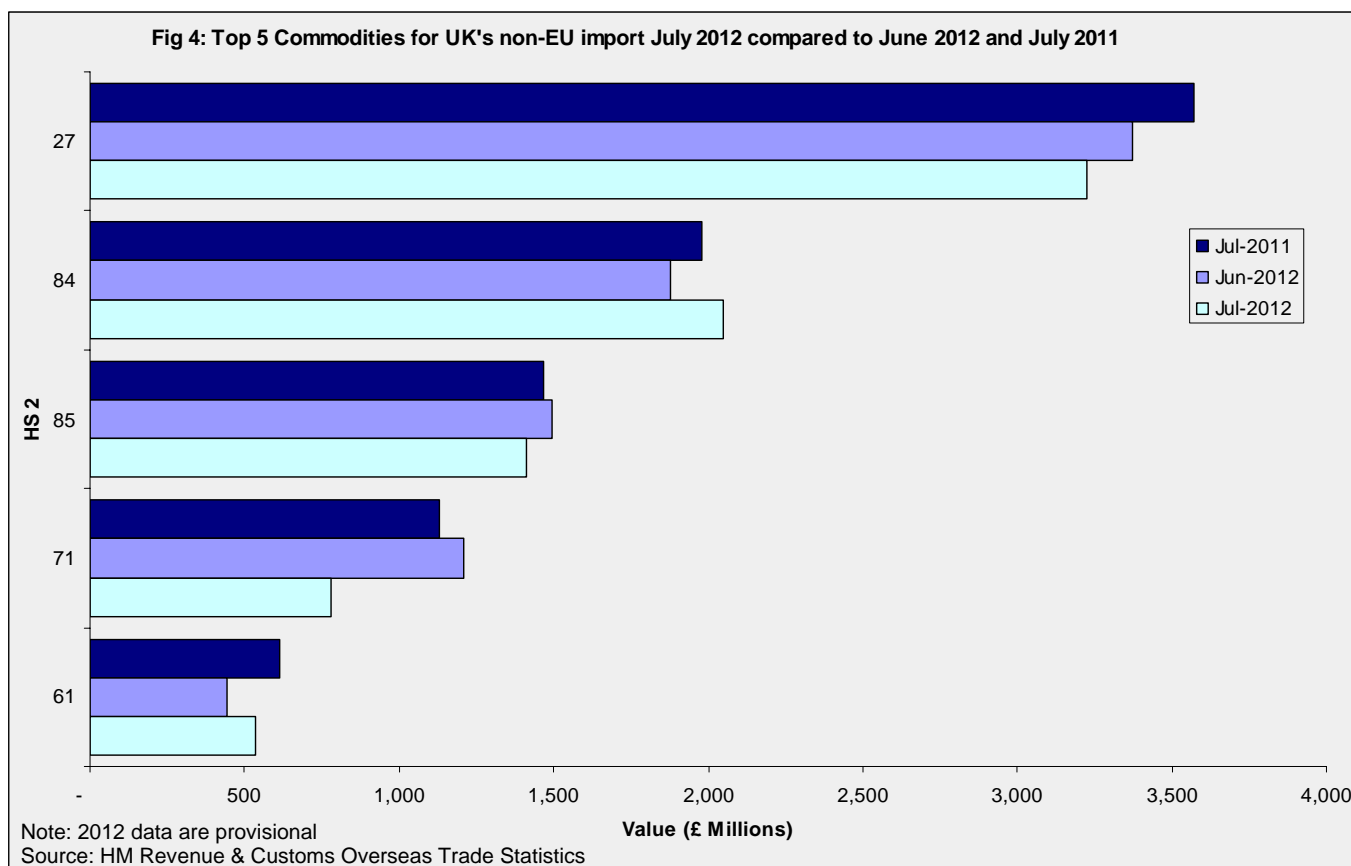
The largest value increase from the previous month, of £172.3 million (9.2 per cent), was in HS2 84. This increase was led by a rise of £107.6 million (19.7 per cent) in HS4 8411 (Turbojets, turbopropellers and other gas turbines). This is the highest value import since March 2012.

The next biggest increase is HS2 61 which rose by £92.6 million (20.9 per cent) to become the fifth biggest import value, from ninth last month. This is a seasonal increase, and has happened in July for the last five years, hence the decrease when compared to last year.

Similarly, when **compared to July 2011**, the decrease in the total import trade value comprises increases in nearly 60 per cent of HS2 commodities chapters, balanced by a smaller number of larger decreases. There were two chapters with decreases of over £100 million, and these decreases more than cover the total decrease.

The two chapters with decreases of over £100 million are HS2 71 (down £349.0 million, 30.9 per cent) and HS2 27 (down £347.5 million, 9.7 per cent). There was also one chapter with an increase of over £100 million - HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof), up £108.1 million, 30.9 per cent.

Within the top five chapters shown in Figure 4, three of the chapters show decreases compared with June 2012 while four of the five chapters show decreases compared with July 2011.



Country	July 2012 Total £ millions	% change from June 2012	% Change from July 2011	% of Total July 2012 Imports	Rank June 2012	Rank July 2011
Total Imports	15,951.0	-4.2	-3.8	100.0	n/a	n/a
USA	2,651.1	0.5	10.8	15.9	1	2
China	2,542.2	3.4	-0.1	14.8	2	1
Norway	1,360.8	-23.5	-28.1	10.7	3	3
Russia	711.5	-4.8	4.1	4.5	5	6
Switzerland	708.1	-26.4	-16.4	5.8	4	4

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Table 4 shows comparisons of the value of UK non-EU import trade from our top five import trading partners for July 2011, June 2012, and July 2012. Imports from three of the top five trading partners have decreased in July compared to the previous month, while four have decreased when compared to July 2011.

These changes have moved Russia up to fourth place, ahead of, Switzerland, while Japan remain sixth. China, the USA and Norway have been the UK's largest import partners for a number of years.

The decrease in total imports **compared to June 2012** reflects increases in nearly 60 per cent of the UK's import partners, balanced by a smaller number of larger decreases. Three countries had decreases of over £100 million, while just one had an increase of this magnitude.

The largest decrease in value of imports was from Norway, down by £418.8 million, a decrease of 23.5 per cent, to £1.4 billion. This is the fourth consecutive monthly decrease since March 2012, and is the lowest value since October 2010. This decrease was led by a fall of £332.4 million (24.8 per cent) in HS2 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude). This may have been affected by a strike by Norwegian offshore oil and gas workers, which began on 24 June 2012.

The second largest decrease in value of imports was from Switzerland, down by £254.2 million, a decrease of 26.4 per cent. This decrease is driven by a decrease of £180.0 million (63.4 per cent) in HS2 71 which is driven by a 99 per cent decrease in HS4 7110 (Platinum, incl. palladium, rhodium, iridium, osmium and ruthenium, unwrought or in semi-manufactured forms, or in powder form) following last month's tenfold increase. There was also a fall of £117.6 million in HS2 97, which was split over several HS4 headings.

The third largest decrease in imports was from Botswana, which decreased by £215.9 million, 97 per cent. This decrease is almost entirely due to the import of diamonds in HS4 7102, which is down by £216.0 million, 97 per cent. Due to the nature of the goods involved trade in this commodity type can be very variable.

The largest increase in the value of imports was from Nigeria, up by £129.9 million, 91.9 per cent, from £141.4 million to £271.3 million. This follows a large decrease last month. This was mainly due to the trade in oil in HS2 2709, (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude), up by £98.1 million, 72.3 per cent from £135.7 million in June 2012 to £233.8 million this month.

There was a decrease of 3.8 per cent in the total value of imports **compared to July 2011**, with imports from 45 per cent of our import partner countries decreasing in value. Although there was a larger proportion of partner countries where the value of imports increases, these increases were comparatively smaller than the decreases.

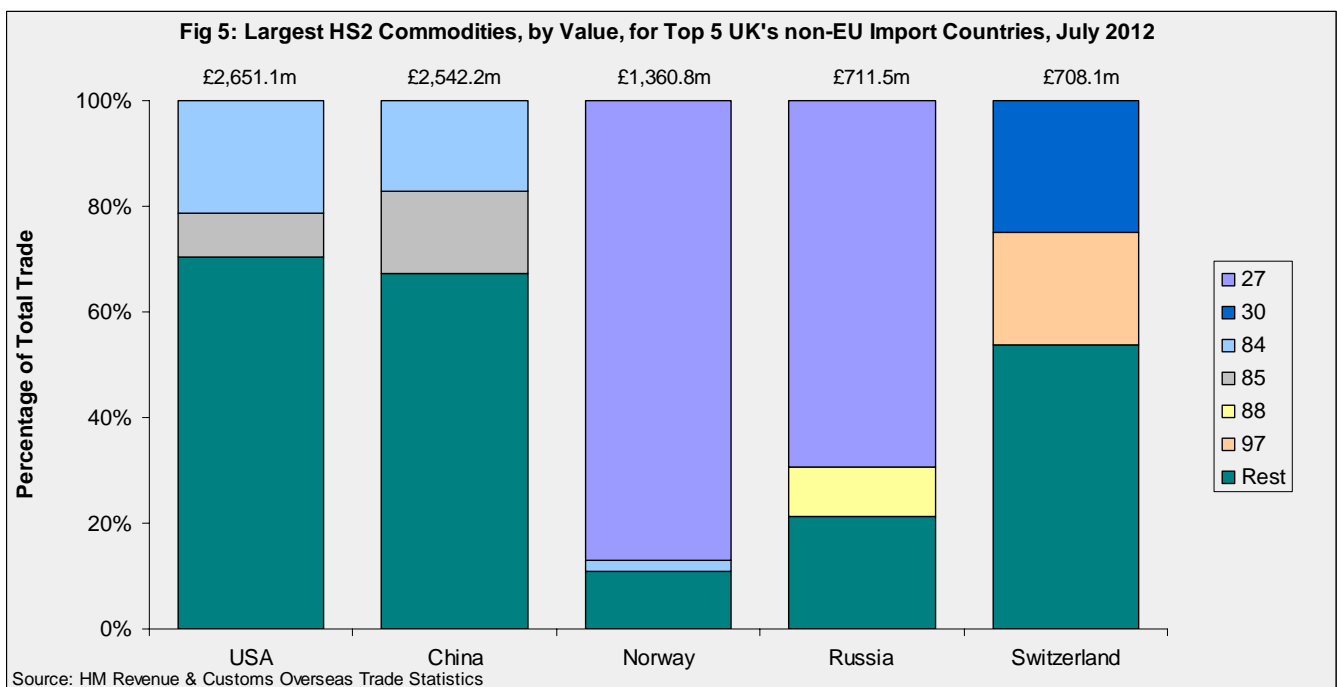
There were changes in excess of £100 million for imports to eight countries, with three increasing and five decreasing in value.

The largest decrease in total import trade value is from Norway (down by £531.8 million, 28.1 per cent). This is almost entirely due to a decrease of £521.9 million in HS4 2709, as previously explained in the comparison with June 2012. The second biggest decrease is from Botswana (down by £315.7 million, 98 per cent), entirely due to the decrease in imports of diamonds already mentioned. There were also large decreases from Qatar (down £220.1 million); Canada (down £158.6 million) and Switzerland (down by £138.4 million).

The largest increases in value of imports were from the USA, up by £258.9 million, 10.8 per cent; Algeria, up by £177.0 million, 165.6 per cent; and Vietnam, up by £114.1 million, 76.9 per cent. The increase from the USA was led by a rise in imports of HS2 71, up by £130.2 million (194.1 per cent); the increase from Algeria was due to a rise of £176.2 million (165.6 per cent) in HS2 27; and the increase from Vietnam was due to a rise of £107.4 million (368.2 per cent) in HS2 85 (Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts and accessories of such articles).

Figure 5 shows the two largest commodities by value imported from each of the top five non-EU partner countries. This month, three of the top five trading partners have HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) in their top two largest commodities imported to the UK, whereas last month there were two. The trade with USA, China and Norway accounts for 50.4 per cent of the total value of UK non-EU import trade under this commodity heading.

The import trade in HS2 27 from Norway, specifically the Norwegian Continental Shelf, accounts for 87.1 per cent of the total imports to the UK from Norway. Russia also has HS2 27 in its top two largest commodity types, with 69.5 per cent of Russian imports being in this category. Together, these two countries account for 52.1 per cent of the total non-EU import trade to the UK under this heading.



## Notes:

1. HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with countries outside the European Union (EU) on 11 September 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 countries outside the EU for July 2012. At the same time revisions for all previously published non-EU data for 2012 are also being released in line with the [Overseas Trade Statistics Policy on Revisions](#).
3. Detailed trade information is presented according to the [Harmonised System \(HS\)](#) nomenclature.
4. The aggregate estimates here will differ slightly from those that are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as part of the Balance of Payments (BoP), as the two sets of data are compiled to different sets of rules. The ONS web site provides an overview of BoP at the [Guide to UK Trade](#) as well as the detailed monthly [UK Trade Releases](#). The BoP publication shows a high level picture of UK trade-in-goods, whereas the OTS publication shows a detailed picture of the UK's trade-in-goods by commodity and partner country. More detail about the differences between the BoP and OTS publications can be found [here](#).
5. The aggregate estimates here will differ from the Eurostat publication [Euro area external trade](#). The OTS is published as 'general trade' based upon goods recorded as they enter or leave the UK. This will include goods imported into and exported from a freezone or customs warehouse, regardless of their future use. The Eurostat EU external trade data are published as 'special trade' where goods are recorded as trade only when they enter free circulation or are accepted into [Inwards Processing Relief](#) (IPR).
6. Information to help support users of the non-EU Overseas Trade Statistics can be found [here](#). This includes links to our policies on revision and suppression of data, descriptions of the methodology used to compile the Overseas Trade Statistics and information on the quality of the data published.
7. The OTS has 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>

8. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

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To access the detailed 8-digit data in our interactive database please log in [here](#).

Please note: there may be a delay between the availability of the aggregated data tables downloadable here and the detailed data in our interactive database. This is because of the time required to upload such a large dataset. Subscribers to our email [Alert Service](#) will be sent an alert when the interactive database has been updated. The OTS Non-EU publication occurs one week prior to the publication of the OTS EU equivalent, to allow for additional processing of the Intrastat survey.

Next release: 9 October 2012 9:30am

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