

EU Overseas Trade Statistics - April 2013

Coverage:
United Kingdom

Theme:
Business and Energy

Released:
18 June 2013

Next Release:
16 July 2013

Frequency of release:
Monthly

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Summary

- For trade with EU Member States, the value of exports and imports decreased compared with March 2013 while both values increased when compared with April 2012.
- The UK's EU exports have decreased by £0.8 billion (6.0 per cent) compared to March 2013, to £12.1 billion. Compared to April 2012, exports increased by £0.5 billion (4.2 per cent).
- The UK's EU imports have decreased by £1.6 billion (8.6 per cent) compared to March 2013, to £17.3 billion. Compared to April 2012, imports have increased by £0.7 billion (4.4 per cent).
- The UK remains a net importer (imports are greater than exports). The size of difference between imports and exports is now £5.3 billion, a decrease of £0.9 billion (14.2 per cent) compared to March 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 Customer Story](#)'. You can also access the detailed data in our interactive database [here](#).

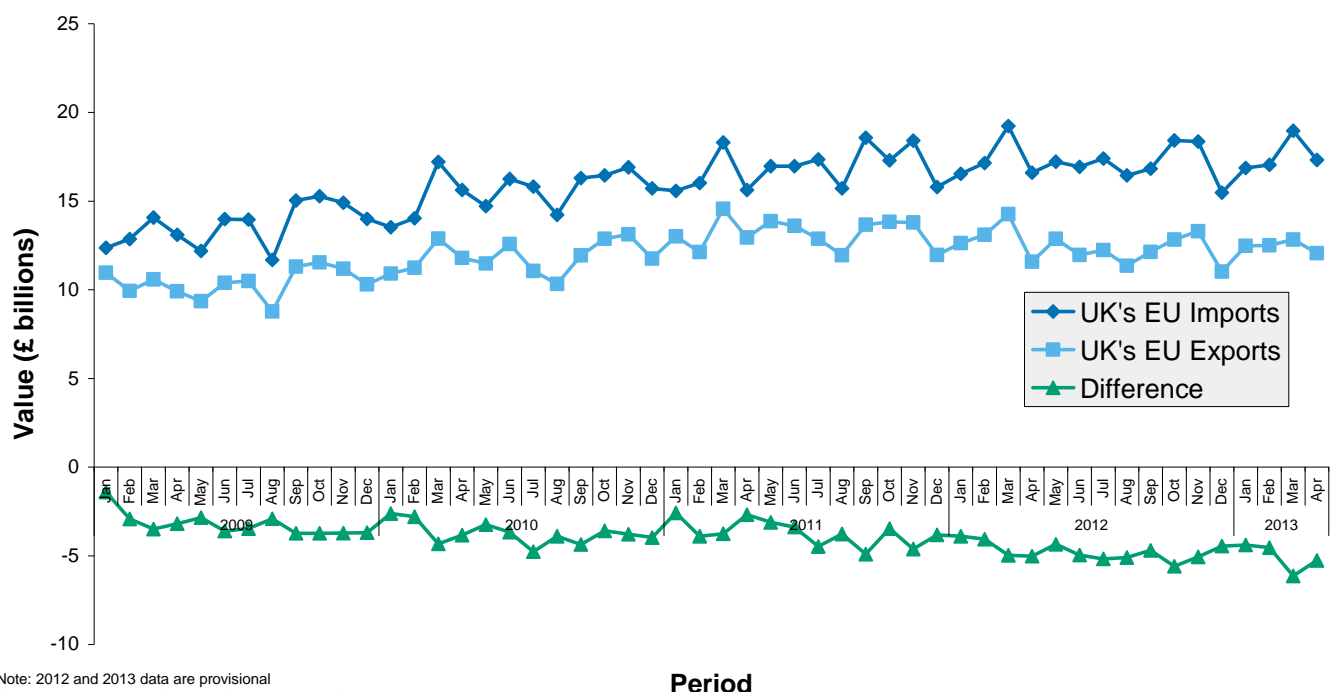
Key Points

For the month of April 2013:

The value of UK trade decreased for both EU imports and exports, with imports falling by £1.6 billion, and exports falling by £0.8 billion against March 2013 totals. This continues a pattern of both imports and exports increasing in March, and dropping back in April, which can be seen in Figure 1.

There is a decrease of 14.2 per cent in the trade gap, the difference between UK imports from the EU and exports to the EU. This difference is now £5.3 billion. This is a recovery from last month's record trade gap of £6.1 billion, but is still the third largest on record.

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



Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Exports

- The value of the UK's EU exports has decreased by £0.8 billion (6.0 per cent) compared to March 2013 to £12.1 billion. Compared with April 2012, the value of exports rose by £0.5 billion (4.2 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 April it contributed £2.0 billion, 16.5 per cent of the total value of the UK's EU export trade despite experiencing the largest value decrease from the previous month of £0.3 billion (14.2 per cent).
- The largest value increase from the previous month was in the commodity with the eighth largest export value, HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal) up £97.2 million (30.5 per cent).
- The top five EU Member States to which the UK exports are similar to the previous month. Germany remains the UK's largest EU export partner country, accounting for 20.2 per cent of the total exports despite experiencing the largest value decrease from last month of £372.3 million (13.3 per cent). The largest increase in exports from the UK compared to March 2013 was a rise of £170.5 million (16.4 per cent) to Belgium, the UK's fifth largest export partner country.
- The total 2013 year to date value of UK's trade-in-goods exported to EU Member States excluding April was £37.8 billion, which has been upwardly revised by £138.1 million. This is an increase of 0.4 per cent.

Imports

- The value of the UK's EU imports has decreased by £1.6 billion (8.6 per cent) compared to March 2013, to £17.3 billion. Last month was the second highest import value in recent years, £0.3 billion behind the highest in March 2012. There is a history of peaks in imports during March, mainly due to the new vehicle registrations on 1 April. However, the drop from last year's peak was greater than the drop this year and so there is an increase compared to April 2012.
- The top five commodities are similar to last month. All of the top five commodities have fallen in import value. The largest contributing commodity group is HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof). This contributed £3.0 billion, 17.2 per cent of the total value of UK's EU import trade.
- 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) down £820.3 million (44.1 per cent). The largest value increase from the previous month was in HS2 28 (Inorganic chemicals) with a rise of just £41.4 million, 47.3 per cent.
- The top five import partner countries are similar to March 2013, but with France rising to third place above Belgium. Germany is still the EU Member State from which the UK imports most goods by value, accounting for 26.3 per cent of total imports. The Netherlands remains in second place with a 15.4 per cent share. All of the top five countries fell in import value, with the largest decrease being a fall of £508.1 million in imports from Belgium, a decrease of 23.4 per cent. The largest increase compared to March 2013 was for imports from Denmark, up by £58.3 million (18.2 per cent).

- The total 2013 year to date value of UK's trade-in-goods imported from EU Member States excluding April was £52.9 billion, which has been upwardly revised by £84.7 million. This is an increase of 0.2 per cent.

Further Analysis: Exports

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

HS 2	Description	April 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2013	% Change from April 2012	% of Total April 2013 Exports	Rank March 2013	Rank April 2012
-	Total Exports	12,066.8	-6.0	4.2	100.0	n/a	n/a
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	1,987.1	-14.2	-15.7	16.5	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	1,322.1	-1.0	5.5	11.0	2	2
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	1,119.3	-8.3	13.4	9.3	3	3
30	Pharmaceutical products	828.9	-6.7	20.7	6.9	4	5
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	822.9	-4.9	6.3	6.8	5	4

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional

The decrease in export value of £0.8 billion (6.0 per cent) **compared to March 2013** reflects decreases in 60 per cent of all HS2 chapters. Two chapters experienced decreases over £100 million but there were no increases over this threshold.

The largest decrease of £327.5 million (14.2 per cent) for the top chapter, HS2 27 was driven by falls in exports to Germany and the Netherlands of £198.8 million and £167.4 million respectively, although this was offset by an increase in exports to France of £215.9 million. The second largest decrease was for HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock), which fell by £101.8 million (8.3 per cent). This decrease was spread across a number of export partner countries but the most significant falls were for the Netherlands down £26.2 million, Sweden down £24.6 million and the Irish Republic down £21.4 million. There were no other chapter decreases over £100 million.

There were no increases over £100 million although the largest increase was just below this level. HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal) rose by £97.2 million (30.5 per cent). This was driven by a large rise in exports to Belgium of £144.4 million, which exceeded the overall total increase for HS2 71. However, this increase was offset by two decreases of £35.5 million for Germany and £22.4 million for France.

Compared to April 2012, the overall export trade to EU Member States increased by £0.5 billion, 4.2 per cent. This overall rise is a reflection of over 60% of all HS2 chapters increasing in export trade. Four chapters saw rises of over £100 million, whereas there was only one decrease over this size.

The largest increase was for HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal), which rose by £199.2 million, almost doubling in size. This was dominated by a very large increase in exports to Belgium of £158.9 million, again almost doubling in size. The second largest increase was for HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof) which rose by £153.2 million (58.7 per cent). This was driven by a rise of £113.3 million in exports to France. The third largest increase was for HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products) which rose by £142.0 million (20.7 per cent), which was spread across a number of the UK's export partner countries. The only other increase in excess of £100 million was for HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock), which rose by £131.9 million (13.4 per cent). Similarly, this increase was spread across a number of different export partner countries.

In contrast, there was only one decrease above £100 million but the magnitude of this decrease was almost double the size of the largest increase. This fall was in the top chapter HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) down £368.8 million (15.7 per cent). This was driven by decreases in exports to the Netherlands down £288.9 million and Germany down £158.8 million.

Figure 2 shows the top five commodities for UK's EU exports in April 2013, compared to March 2013 and April 2012. All five chapters show a decrease in April 2013 compared to March 2013. In contrast, all chapters except HS2 27 show an increase in April 2013 compared to April 2012.

Fig 2: Top 5 commodities for UK's EU exports in April 2013 compared to March 2013 and April 2012

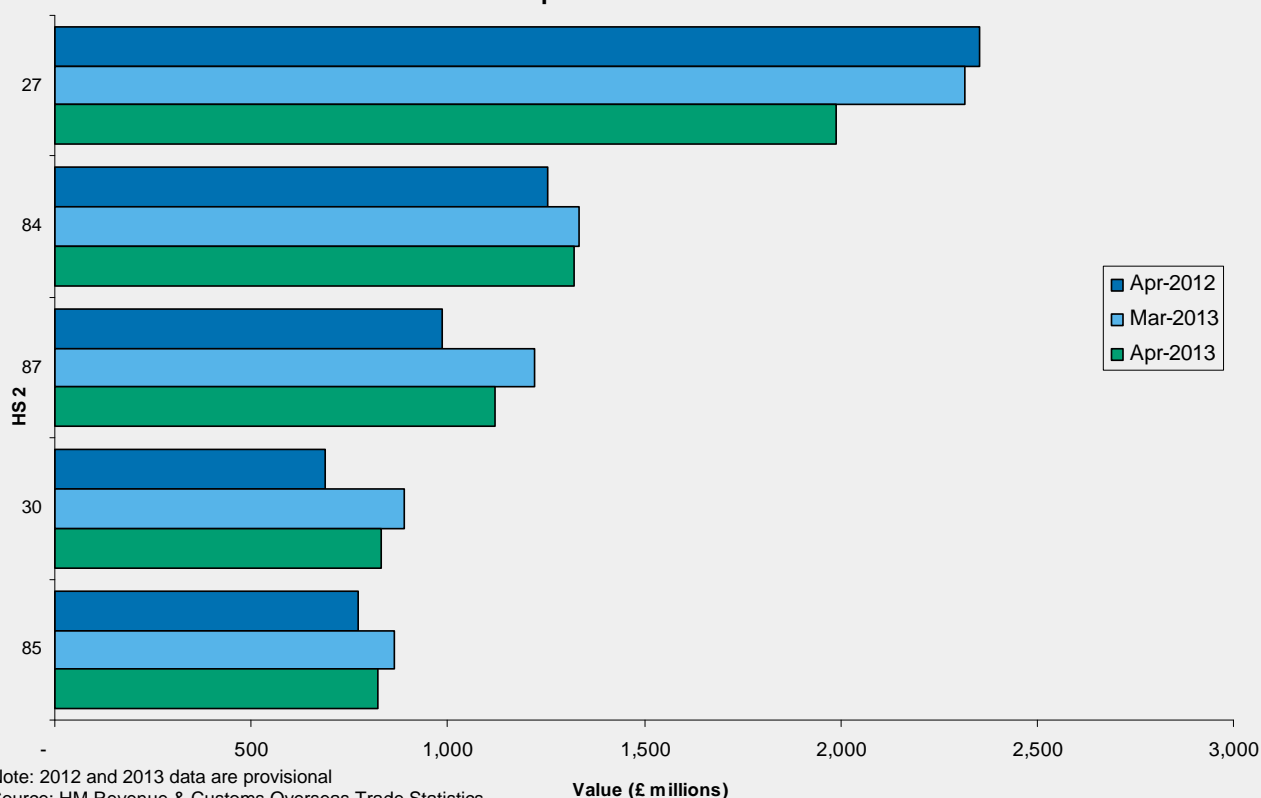


Table 2 shows comparisons of the value of UK export trade with our top five EU export trading partners for April 2013, March 2013 and April 2012.

Table 2: Top 5 EU export partner Member States in April 2013 compared to March 2013 and April 2012						
Country	Total April 2013 £ millions	% Change from March 2013	% Change from April 2012	% of total EU exports	Rank March 2013	Rank April 2012
Total Exports	12,066.8	-6.0	4.2	100.0	n/a	n/a
Germany	2,431.5	-13.3	-1.1	20.2	1	1
France	2,022.9	8.0	23.0	16.8	3	3
Netherlands	1,700.3	-12.7	-10.8	14.1	2	2
Irish Republic	1,450.0	-6.6	7.5	12.0	4	4
Belgium	1,211.0	16.4	10.2	10.0	5	5

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional

The top five EU export partner Member States remain unchanged **compared with March 2013** albeit that there is a slight change in the order. Germany has been the largest export partner in the EU for the UK for a number of years, currently accounting for 20.2 per cent of the total value of exports. This was led by exports of £397.4 million in HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) and £253.0 million in HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock).

The decrease in value of total export trade compared to March 2013 reflects decreases in 19 of the other 26 Member States in the EU. There were four decreases over £100 million and two increases over this threshold. In the top five countries, three countries experienced decreases in export trade.

The largest decrease in the value of exports from the UK was to the top country, Germany, down £372.3 million (13.3 per cent). This drop was dominated by a decrease in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) of £198.8 million. This very large decrease for this particular country and chapter combination features in both the commodity and country analysis

The second largest decrease in the value of exports from the UK was to the Netherlands down £246.8 million (12.7 per cent). This decrease was mainly concentrated in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) down £167.4 million.

The third and fourth largest decreases were for Sweden and the Irish Republic, down £125.0 million (24.2 per cent) and £101.8 million (6.6 per cent) respectively. These falls for both countries were driven by decreases in HS2 27 of £72.7 million for Sweden and £61.3 million for the Irish Republic. There were no other decreases over £100 million.

The largest increase was for Belgium up £170.5 million (16.4 per cent). This was led by an increase in HS2 71 of £144.4 million, over double the figure for March 2013. The second largest increase was for France up £149.6 million (8.0 per cent). This was driven by an increase of £215.9 million in HS2 27. There were no other countries with increases over £100 million.

The increase in total export trade value **compared to April 2012**, noted in Table 2, was due to increases in 15 of the UK's 26 EU export partner Member States. There

were three increases over £100 million and one decrease above this value. Three of the top five countries experienced increases in export trade.

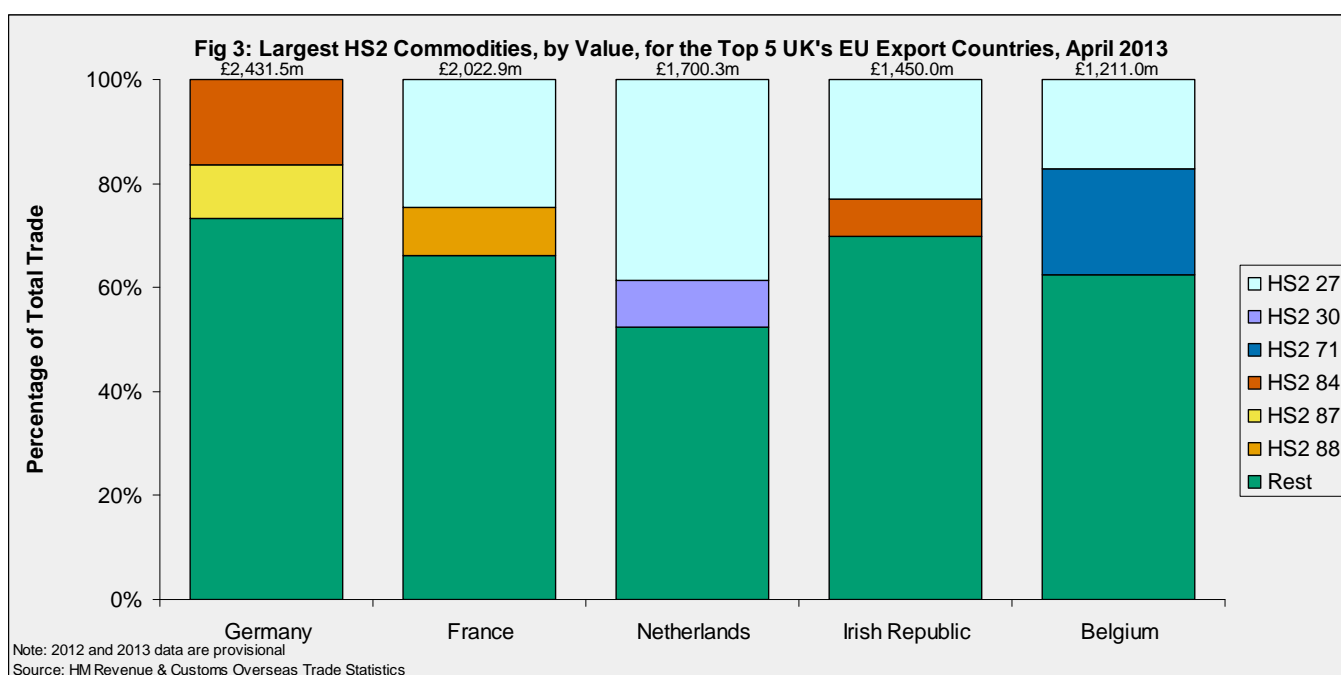
The largest increase was for France up by £378.2 million (23.0 per cent). This rise coupled with the decrease in exports to the Netherlands resulted in France overtaking the Netherlands in the top five countries. This increase was driven by rises in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation) and HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof) of £133.0 million (36.5 per cent) and £113.3 million (over double the figure for April 2012) respectively.

The second largest increase was for exports to Belgium, up £111.7 million (10.2 per cent). This increase was dominated by a rise of £159.8 million (over double the figure for April 2012) in HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal).

The third largest increase was for exports to the Irish Republic, up £101.0 million (7.5 per cent). The main cause of this increase was a rise in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation) of £32.1 million (10.7 per cent). There were no other increases over £100 million.

There was only one decrease over £100 million, which was for the Netherlands, down £206.3 million (10.8 per cent). This rise was dominated by a decrease in HS2 27 of £288.9 million (30.6 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. Four of the top five Member States have HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) as one of their two largest commodities exported from the UK by value. The trade with these five Member States accounts for 85.3 per cent of the total value of UK EU export trade under this heading. Furthermore, HS2 27 accounts for 38.6 per cent of the total UK export trade to the Netherlands. Two of the top five Member States, Germany and the Irish Republic, have HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) as one of their two largest commodities exported from the UK by value. The trade with these two Member States accounts for 38.0 per cent of the total value of UK EU export trade under this heading.



Further Analysis: Imports

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

HS 2	Description	April 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2013	% Change from April 2012	% of Total April 2013 Imports	Rank March 2013	Rank April 2012
-	Total Imports	17327.9	-8.6	4.4	100.0	n/a	n/a
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	2976.0	-5.4	19.4	17.2	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	2068.6	-6.4	3.1	11.9	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	1472.4	-5.3	7.4	8.5	4	3
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	1040.1	-44.1	-7.8	6.0	3	4
30	Pharmaceutical products	962.8	-7.0	17.1	5.6	5	5

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional

The decrease in imports **compared to March 2013** is made up of decreases in over 60 per cent of all HS2 chapters. There were three decreases of £100 million or more, and no increases of this amount. All of the top five commodities decreased in import value, which included the largest three decreases.

The largest decrease in value of imports was for the fourth biggest commodity by value, HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes), down from third last month. This fell by £820.3 million (44.1 per cent) to £1.0 billion. Last month was a record high, of £1.9 billion, and this is the largest monthly fall for this chapter on record, to take it to the lowest value since September 2012. The decrease in this chapter covers 50 per cent of the overall net decrease. Within this chapter, there were falls of £414.8 million (69.3 per cent) from Belgium; £188.7 million (29.2 per cent) from the Netherlands; and £104.1 million (52.9 per cent) from Sweden. In contrast, the largest increase in imports of HS2 27 was from Denmark, which rose by £57.2 million (a four-fold increase).

The second largest decrease in value of imports was for the biggest import by value, HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof). This fell by £171.0 million (5.4 percent) to £3.0 billion. However, this is a relatively small drop for this chapter, after three successive increases. The fall this month was led by a decrease of £94.5 million (19.1 per cent) from Belgium. Imports of vehicles in March are often high due to the new vehicle registration plates, so a fall in April is not uncommon.

The third largest decrease in the value of imports was for the second biggest import by value, HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof). This fell by £140.6 million (6.4 per cent) to £2.1 billion. This follows a large increase of £342.1 million last month.

These are the only chapters with decreases of over £100 million, but just outside this level, HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin) fell by £91.3 million (28.0 per cent) to £234.9 million, and HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques) fell by £89.3 million (67.1 per cent) to £43.7 million.

The largest increase was only £41.4 million in HS2 28 (Inorganic chemicals: organic or inorganic compounds of precious metals, of rare-earth metals, of radioactive elements or of isotopes) which rose by 47.3 per cent to £129.0 million.

Compared with April 2012, there was an increase of £729.7 million (4.4 per cent) in the value of imports as a result of two thirds of all chapters rising in value. There were three chapters with increases of over £100 million, and two decreases of this magnitude.

The largest three increases were all within the top five products. The biggest increase was in the biggest import by value, HS2 87, which increased by £484.2 million (19.4 per cent). The second largest increase was in the fifth largest chapter, as HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products) increased by £140.4 million (17.1 per cent), while the third largest chapter, HS2 85, rose by £100.9 million (7.4 per cent).

The chapter with the largest decrease in comparison with April 2012 was the seventh biggest import by value, HS2 29 (Organic chemicals), down £215.2 million (29.1 per cent) from £740.5 million in April 2012. This was the second highest import value on record for this chapter, albeit still £100 million behind the record of £842.2 million in November 2011.

The second largest decrease was in the 27th biggest import by value, HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof), down £174.2 million (54.5 per cent) from April 2012's record high of £319.6 million.

Figure 4 shows the top five HS2 commodity groups for the UK's EU imports in April 2013, compared to March 2013 and April 2012. The graph demonstrates how all the top five chapters decreased when compared to March 2013, but all except HS2 27 increased when compared to April 2012.

Fig 4: Top 5 Commodities for UK's EU imports in April 2013 compared to March 2013 and April 2012

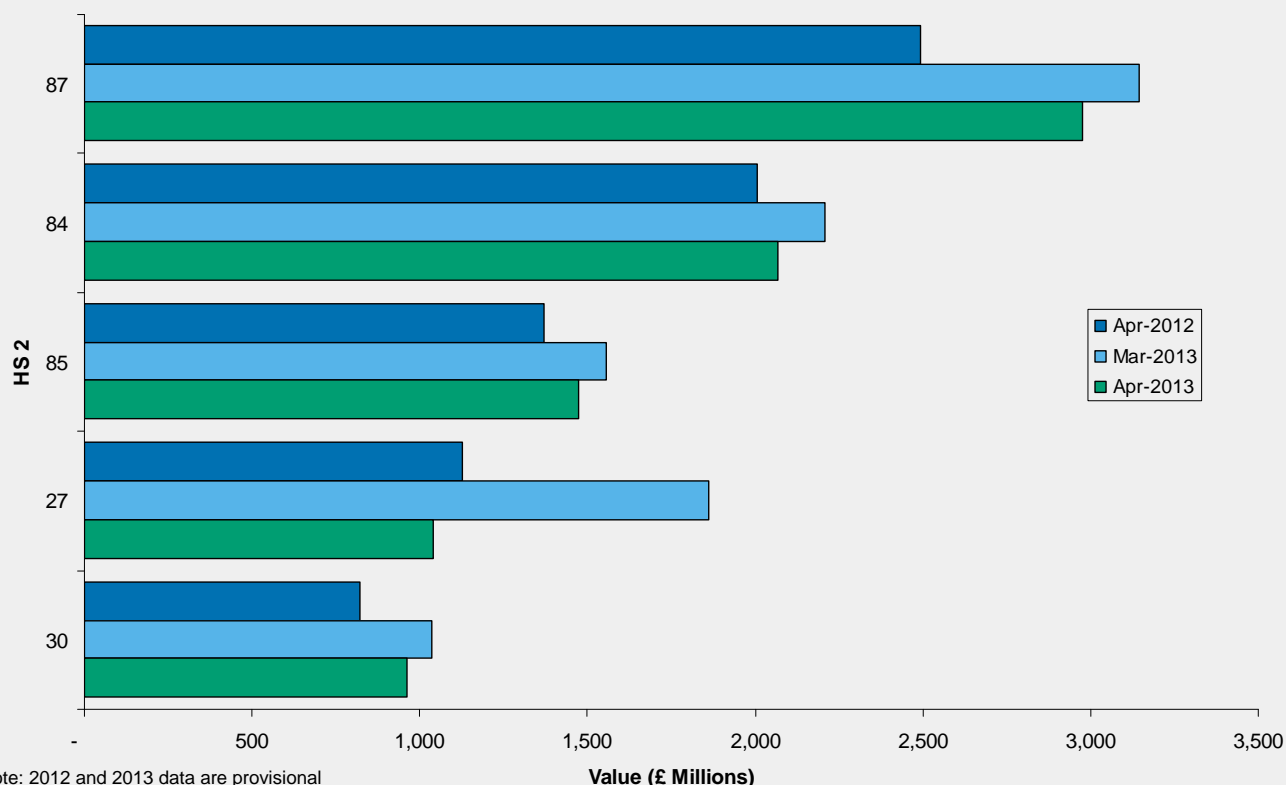


Table 4 shows comparisons of the value of UK import trade with our top five EU import trading partners for April 2013, March 2013 and April 2012.

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

Country	April 2013 Total £ millions	% change from March 2013	% Change from April 2012	% of total April 2013 Imports	Rank March 2013	Rank April 2012
Total Imports	17,327.9	-8.6	4.4	100.0	n/a	n/a
Germany	4,557.1	-2.0	5.4	26.3	1	1
Netherlands	2,672.1	-13.6	16.9	15.4	2	2
France	2,010.8	-3.2	9.1	11.6	4	3
Belgium	1,665.7	-23.4	23.4	9.6	3	4
Italy	1,123.7	-8.5	0.5	6.5	5	6

Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

The UK imports most goods from Germany, which account for 26.3 per cent of the total imports to the UK from the EU. This is led by imports of £1.5 billion in HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof), accounting for 32.2 percent of the total imports from Germany. The next largest chapter is HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof), with £0.7 billion of imports to the UK.

The value of total import trade into the UK decreased for all of the top five countries compared to last month. For all other 26 Member States, 11 saw increases and 15 saw

decreases compared with March 2013. Imports for four member states decreased by over £100 million while there were no increases of this magnitude.

The largest decrease in value of import trade **compared with March 2013** was a fall of £508.1 million (23.4 per cent) from Belgium. This takes the import value to £1.7 billion, down from last month's record high of £2.2 billion, and puts imports from Belgium back below France for this month. The decrease is led by a fall in chapter HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) of £414.8 million (69.3 per cent). There was also a large decrease in HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof) of £94.5 million (19.1 per cent).

The second largest decrease was from the Netherlands, down £421.5 million (13.6 per cent). This decrease is led by a fall in HS2 27, down £188.7 million (29.2 per cent); HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques), down £100.4 million (85.9 per cent); and 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), down £100.1 million (22.5 per cent).

The third largest decrease was outside the top five, as exports to Sweden fell by £130.0 million (19.6 per cent). This was driven by a decrease of £104.1 million (52.9 per cent) in HS2 27, already mentioned.

The fourth largest decrease in imports was for Italy, down by £105.0 million (8.5 per cent). This was spread over several chapters, with the largest being a fall of £21.8 million (95.9 per cent) in HS2 27.

There were also large decreases in imports from Spain, down £92.2 million (9.0 per cent) and Germany, down £91.2 million (2.0 per cent).

The largest increase was from Denmark, up £58.3 million (18.2 per cent). Last month was the lowest level since May 2010, and this is a slight recovery. The increase is led by a rise of £57.2 million (a four-fold increase) in HS2 27.

There was an increase of £729.7 million (4.4 per cent) in total import trade value **compared to April 2012**, which is composed of 17 increases and 9 decreases from the other 26 Member States in the EU. There were four increases over £100 million, all from the top four member states, while there were three decreases over this amount.

The largest increase was £385.7 million (16.9 per cent) from the Netherlands. This is led by a rise of £95.1 million (38.3 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).

The second largest increase was for Belgium, up £315.5 million (23.4 per cent). This was driven by HS2 27, which rose by £142.4 million (a four-fold rise).

The third largest increase was for Germany, which rose by £234.0 million (5.4 per cent). This was composed of a £315.3 million (27.3 per cent) increase in HS2 87 (road vehicles), offset by a £183.2 million (73.4 per cent) drop in HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof).

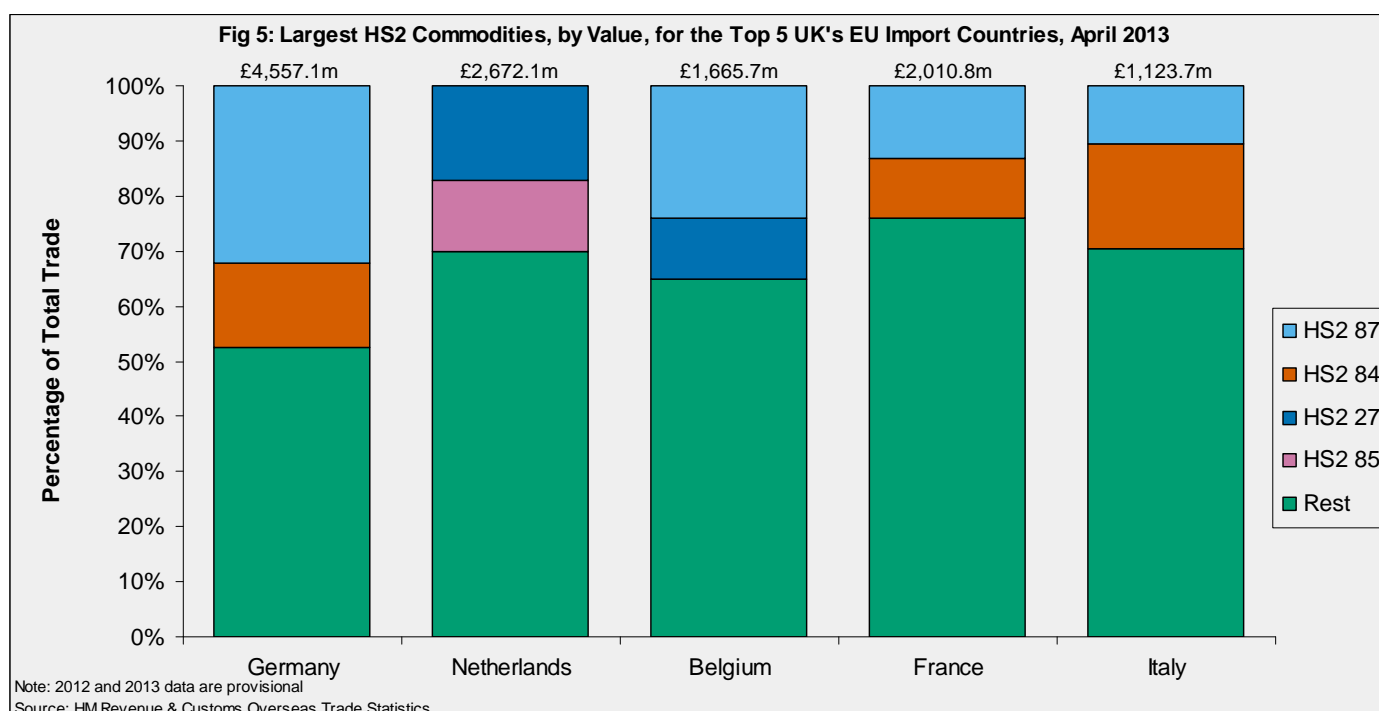
The only other increase of £100 million or more was from France, which rose by £167.5 million (9.1 per cent), spread over several chapters.

Two of the largest decreases in the value of imports into the UK were driven by the decrease in HS2 27. Sweden was down £220.1 million (29.3 per cent), with a £194.9 million (67.8) drop in HS2 27; and Denmark was down £144.2 million (27.6 per cent), with a £98.4 million (57.4 per cent) fall in HS2 27.

The other large decrease was from the Republic of Ireland, which fell £185.7 million (16.2 per cent) and was more than covered by a £243.9 million (71.4 per cent) fall in HS2 29 (Organic Chemicals).

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 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof) in their top two largest commodities imported to the UK. The trade in HS2 87 from these Member States accounts for 75.7 per cent of the total import trade to the UK under this heading. It also makes up 32.2 per cent of the UK's total imports from Germany.

Three of these Member States, Germany, France and Italy, have HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) in their top two largest commodities imported by the UK, accounting for 54.4 per cent of the total import value in these commodities; and two Member States, the Netherlands and Belgium, have HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes), accounting for 61.7 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 18 June 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 April 2013. At the same time revisions for all previously published EU data for 2012 are also being released in line with the [HM Revenue & Customs Policy on Revisions](#).
3. The figures provided in this publication of the April 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 April.
 - 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. Following on from recent Quality Assurance work on oils, there is an additional downward revision of £82.4 million to oil in HS2 27 for December 2011 EU Export data.
6. Detailed trade information is presented according to the [Harmonised System \(HS\)](#) nomenclature.
7. 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](#).
8. 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'.
9. 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.
10. 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>

11. 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.
12. 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: 16 July 2013 9:30am

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If using specific facts contained in this release please check the information is still current.