



HM Revenue
& Customs

UK Overseas Trade Statistics with non-EU April 2014

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Media contact:
HMRC Press Office
020 7147 2318

Statistical contacts:

Andrew Watson
Tel: 03000 594162
andy.watson@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

Customs Trade Statistics
HM Revenue & Customs
21 Victoria Avenue
Southend-on-Sea
SS99 1AA

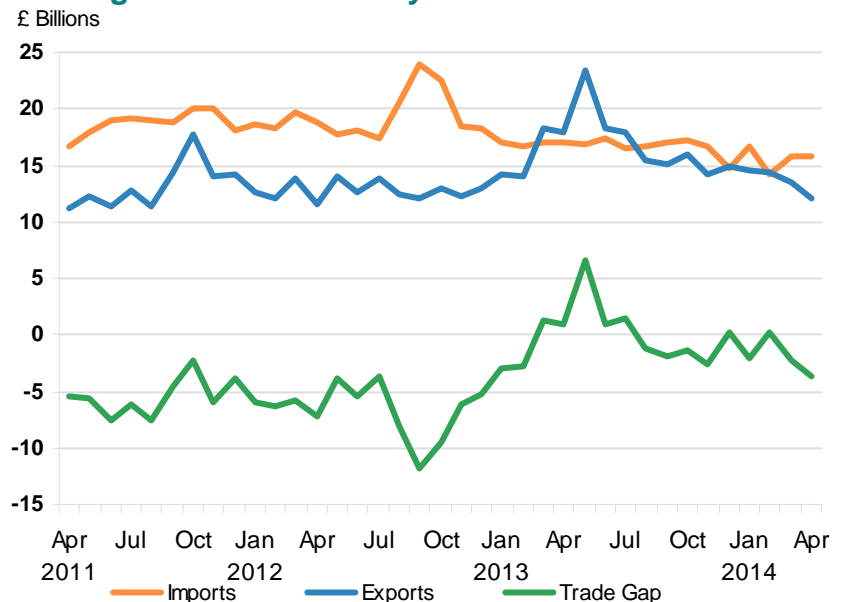
Website:
<http://www.uktradeinfo.com>



Summary

- Non-EU Exports for April 2014 are £12.0 billion. This is a decrease of £1.5 billion (10.9 per cent) compared to last month, and is the lowest total since September 2012.
- Non-EU Imports for April 2014 are £15.8 billion. This is a decrease of £0.1 billion (0.5 per cent) compared to last month.
- The UK is a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £3.8 billion. This is an increase of £1.4 billion (59.9 per cent) compared to last month.
- In April, Non-Monetary Gold (NMG) contributed £0.8 billion to exports and £0.9 billion to imports.

Figure1: Total monthly trade with Non-EU



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
Note: 2013 and 2014 data are provisional

Trade Trends

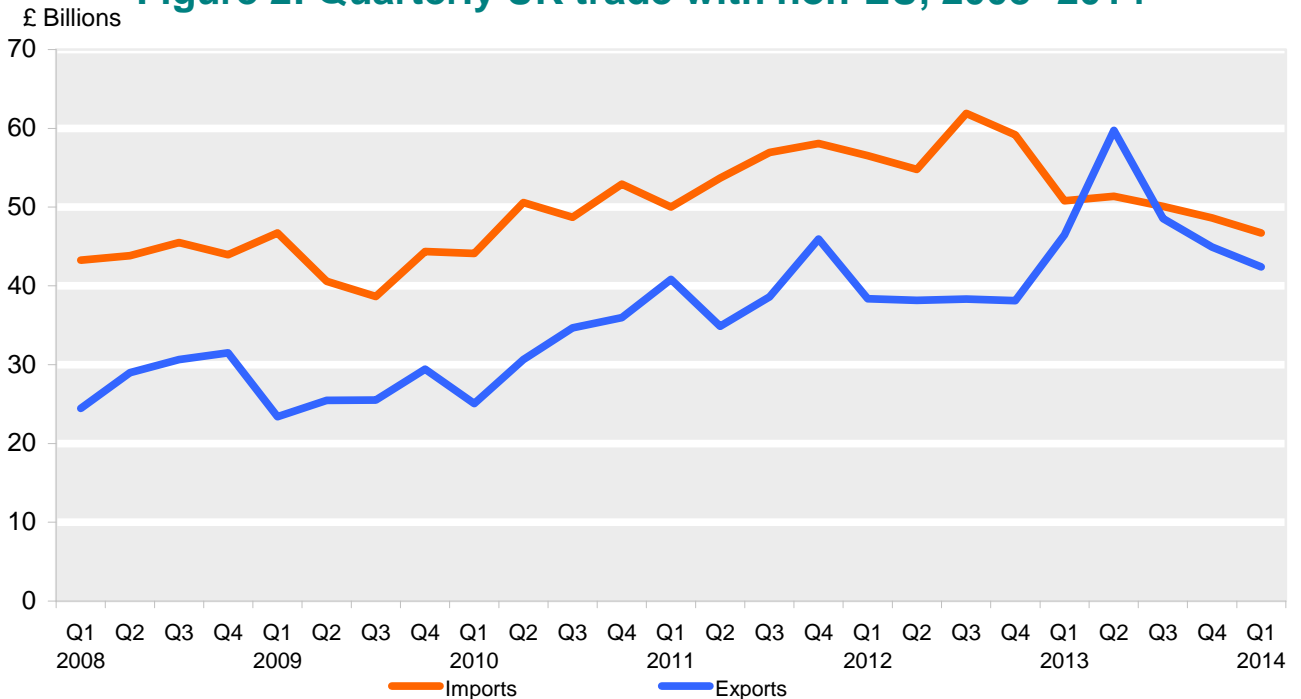
- Following the global economic crisis, UK trade dropped in 2009. Both imports and exports steadily increased until 2012; when exports became flat and imports started to decrease. However, exports sharply peaked in 2013.
- The total non-EU export trade for 2013 is £200 billion, which is substantially greater than the £153 billion in 2012 (30 per cent increase).
- The total non-EU import trade for 2013 is £201 billion, which is a reduction when compared to £232 billion in 2012 (14 per cent decrease).
- With the new inclusion of non-monetary gold in the OTS, the trade gap has reduced substantially. However, the UK remains a net non-EU importer, with the size of the annual deficit cut from £61 billion in 2008 to just £1 billion in 2013 (98 per cent decrease).
- For many years USA has been our largest trading import partner by value, but overtaken by China in 2013. For exports USA has also been dominant for many years, but occasionally surpassed by Switzerland, driven by gold exports.
- Mineral fuels has consistently been the largest import commodity by value, occasionally overtaken by Precious metals. For exports, Machinery has predominantly been the largest valued commodity, surpassed by Precious metals in 2013.

Exports up 30% in 2013 driven by Precious metals

Imports down 14% in 2013 driven by Precious metals

Trade Gap reduced by £60 billion between 2008 - 2013

Figure 2: Quarterly UK trade with non-EU, 2008 - 2014



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2013 and 2014 data are provisional

Exports

Country Analysis

Table 1: UK exports from the top 5 Non-EU countries, April 2014

Partner Country	April 2014 Exports (£ millions)	Change from March 2014 (%)	Change from April 2013 (%)	Rank March 2014	Rank April 2013
USA	3,078	-9.9	-12.8	1	2
China	1,240	18.4	28.2	3	4
Switzerland	1,028	-24.5	-76.7	2	1
Saudi Arabia	438	68.8	-21.9	14	7
United Arab Emirates	430	-24.7	-63.5	4	3
Others	5,829	-10.4	-15.0	-	-
Total Exports	12,042	-10.9	-33.0	-	-

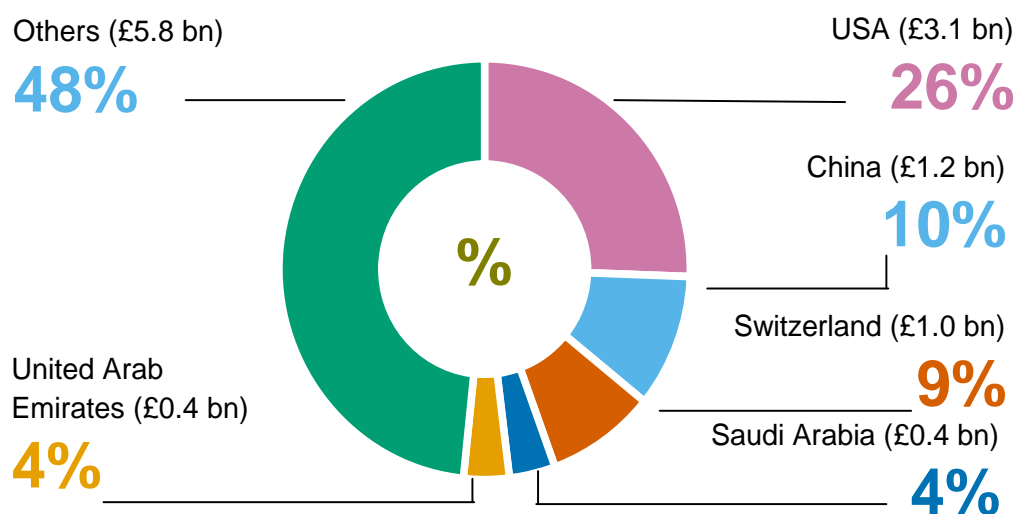
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Note: 2013 and 2014 data are provisional

- The top five non-EU export partner countries (rank by value) have changed slightly compared with both last month and April 2013. China has risen above Switzerland to become the second biggest export partner, and Saudi Arabia has risen to fourth place.
- Three of the top five export partners have experienced decreases compared with last month, with China and Saudi Arabia showing increases.
- The USA is the largest non-EU export partner country, accounting for 26 per cent of the total value of exports. However, they also showed the largest value decrease compared with last month, £338 million (9.9 per cent).
- Exports to Switzerland fell £334 million (25 per cent) compared with last month, and £337 million (77 per cent) compared with April 2013.
- China showed the largest rise in value compared with both last month (18 per cent) and April 2013 (28 per cent).
- Of the top five countries, only China showed an increase compared with April 2013.

Exports to China up 18% against last month

Exports to Switzerland down 77% against March 2014

Figure 3: UK exports to top 5 non-EU countries, April 2014

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Note: 2014 data are provisional

The top five Non-EU countries account for 52 per cent of total non-EU exports, compared to 59 per cent in April 2013.

Commodity Analysis

Table 2: UK exports to non-EU by top 5 commodities, April 2014

Commodity Description	April 2014 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2014	% Change from April 2013	Rank March 2014	Rank April 2013
Mechanical appliances	2,272	-13.0	-7.6	1	2
Motor vehicles	1,712	-0.8	14.5	3	3
Precious metals, stones and jewellery	1,325	-24.1	-78.3	2	1
Pharmaceutical products	742	-3.9	-21.1	5	4
Electronic equipment	735	-10.9	-3.1	4	6
Others	5,255	-5.8	-9.4	-	-
Total Exports	12,042	-10.9	-33.0	-	-

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

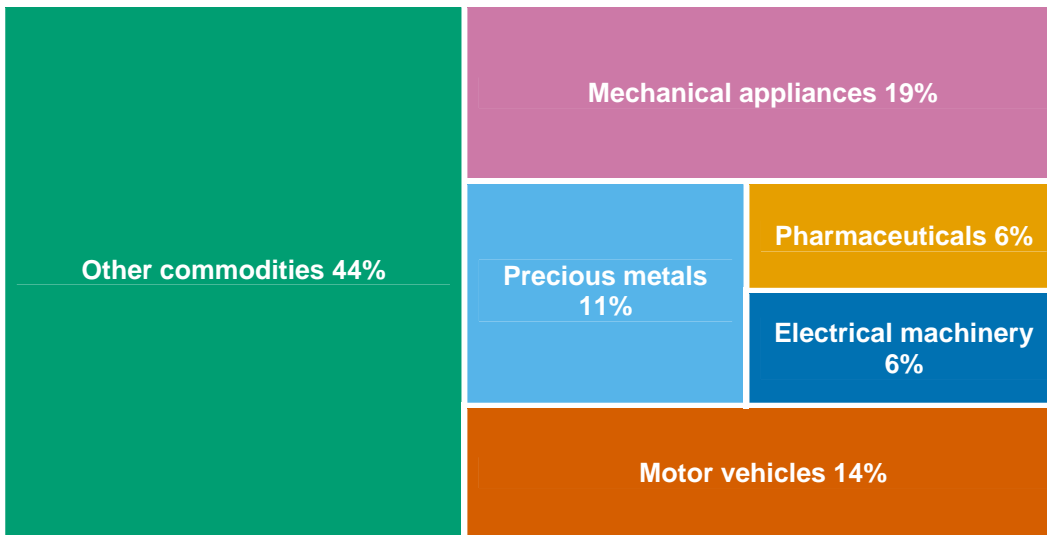
Note: 2013 and 2014 data are provisional

- Mechanical appliances remains the top commodity exported by value, despite falling £0.3 billion (13 per cent) since last month. This commodity contributed £2.3 billion, 19 per cent of the total value of the UK's non-EU export trade.
- Precious metals saw the largest decrease of £0.4 billion (24 per cent) compared with last month, and also fell £4.8 billion (78 per cent) on April 2013. This is the lowest export value since November 2012, and is dominated by a reduction of trade in Gold.
- Art and antiques had the largest value rise on last month, up £100 million (34 per cent); Motor vehicles had the highest increase on April 2013, up £217 million (15 per cent).

Mechanical appliances exports down 13% on last month

Precious metals exports down 78% on April 2013

Figure 4: UK exports to non-EU by top five commodities, April 2014



Total value of exports to non-EU partner countries £12.0 billion

Source: HM Revenue and Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2014 data are provisional

Combined Commodity and Country Analysis

- The fall in value of Precious metals exported compared to both periods was dominated by trade in Gold to Switzerland. This decreased £0.3 billion (32 per cent) on last month, and £3.2 billion (84 per cent) on April 2013. There were also falls in Gold exports to the United Arab Emirates (£0.7 billion) and Hong Kong (£0.2 billion) compared to April 2013.
- The decrease in Mechanical appliances compared to last month was spread over a majority of export partners.
- The increase in Motor vehicles compared to April 2013 was dominated by a rise of £246 million (76 per cent) to China.

Gold exports to Switzerland down 84% on April 2013

Motor vehicles exports to China up 76% on April 2013

Imports

Country Analysis

Table 3: UK imports from top 5 non-EU countries, April 2014

Partner Country	April 2014 Total £ millions	Change from March 2014 (%)	Change from April 2013 (%)	Rank March 2014	Rank April 2013
USA	2,546	-7.5	-1.7	1	1
China	2,240	-4.8	9.4	2	2
Norway	1,128	-28.6	-35.2	3	3
Russia	800	51.2	68.3	9	10
Switzerland	665	-5.0	-12.5	5	5
Others	8,402	4.6	-10.6	-	-
Total Imports	15,782	-0.5	-7.6	-	-

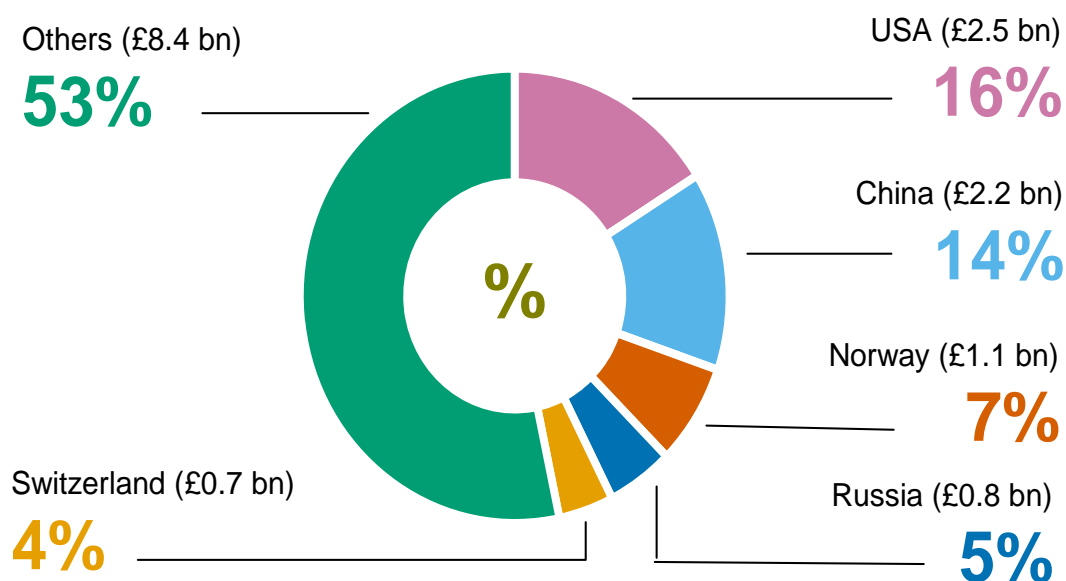
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Note: 2013 and 2014 data are provisional

- The top three non-EU import partners (rank by value) are unchanged compared with both periods, with Russia up to fourth place and Canada falling to sixth.
- Four of the top five import partners fell in value compared with last month, with Russia showing an increase. Both Russia and China increased compared to April 2013.
- The USA is the largest non-EU import partner country, accounting for 16 per cent of the total non-EU import trade.
- Norway showed the largest value decrease compared to both periods, down 29 per cent on last month, and 35 per cent on April 2013.
- South Africa, which is outside the top five, showed the largest increase on both periods, to climb to seventh place. Imports from South Africa rose by £289 million (more than double) on last month, and £366 million (more than triple) on April 2013.

Imports from
Russia up 51%
on last month

Imports from
Norway down
35% on April
2013

Figure 5: UK imports from top 5 non-EU countries, April 2014

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2014 data are provisional

The top five non-EU countries account for 47 per cent of total non-EU imports, compared to 45 per cent in April 2013.

Commodity Analysis

Table 4: UK Imports from non-EU by top 5 commodities, April 2014

Commodity Description	April 2014 Imports (£ millions)	Change from March 2014 (%)	Change from April 2013 (%)	Rank March 2014	Rank April 2013
Mineral fuels	2,955	-3.1	-28.3	1	1
Mechanical appliances	2,092	3.4	-3.3	2	2
Electronic equipment	1,413	-7.3	-1.0	3	4
Precious metals, stones and jewellery	1,367	28.5	-18.4	4	3
Aircraft	560	-17.7	-0.5	5	5
Others	7,395	-1.3	2.7	-	-
Total Exports	15,782	-0.5	-7.6	-	-

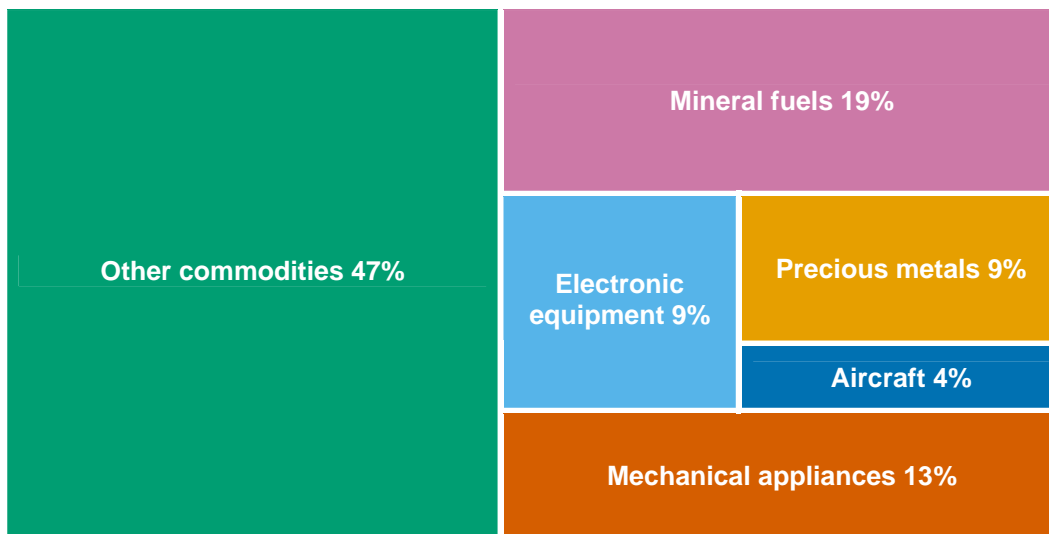
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
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- Mineral fuels remains the largest valued import commodity, contributing £3.0 billion (19 per cent of total non-EU import trade). However this commodity fell by £1.2 billion (28 per cent) compared to April 2013.
- Precious metals saw the largest increase against last month, £0.3 billion (28 per cent), but fell against April 2013 by £0.3 billion (18 per cent).
- Motor vehicles had the largest fall against last month, down £146 million (22 per cent). In contrast, Ships and boats rose £238 million on April 2013.

Mineral fuels imports down 28% on April 2013

Precious metals imports up 28% on last month

Figure 6: UK imports from non-EU by top five commodities, April 2014



Total value of imports from non-EU partner countries £15.8 billion

Source: HM Revenue and Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2014 data are provisional

Combined Commodity and Country Analysis

- The increase in imports of Precious metals compared to last month was led specifically by a rise in Gold from South Africa of £321 million, a seven fold increase, offset by a fall of £215 million (56 per cent) from Canada. The decrease compared to April 2013 was led by falls from Canada and Botswana of £358 million (62 per cent) and £277 million to almost zero trade respectively.
- The decrease in Mineral fuels compared to April 2013 was led by falls from Norway, down £567 million (37 per cent), Algeria, down £330 million (71 per cent) and Libya, down £257 million (86 per cent). However Russia increased by £246 million (69 per cent).
- The decrease in Motor vehicles compared to last month was spread over several import partners, while the increase in Ships was led by a £217 million rise from Gibraltar.

Gold imports from South Africa up over 700% on last month

Mineral fuels from Norway down 37 per cent on April 2013

Annex I – Metadata

You can access the 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](#).
- Non-Monetary Gold (NMG) is now included in the non-EU Overseas Trade Statistics (OTS). For further information, See [Inclusion of Non-Monetary Gold in OTS](#). Data relating to monthly non-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](#).
- You can find details of how users interested in import and export markets for specific goods make use of the detailed OTS data in '[The User Story](#)'.

Annex II – Methodological Notes

1. HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with countries outside the European Union (EU) on 6 June 2014 under arrangements set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#). The first release is published in HMRC's trade data website www.uktradeinfo.com.
2. This release includes the first provisional estimates of trade-in-goods between the UK and countries outside the EU for April 2014. At the same time revisions for all previously published non EU data for 2013 onwards are also being released in line with the [HM Revenue & Customs 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. [uktradeinfo.com](#) provides more detail about the [differences between BoP and OTS publications](#).
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 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'.

6. HMRC publishes [additional information](#) to help support users of this data. This includes links to our policies on revision and suppression of data, descriptions of the methodology used to compile the OTS and information on the quality of the data published.
7. 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>
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.

Statistical contact:

Andrew Watson 03000 594162
e-mail uktradeinfo@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

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