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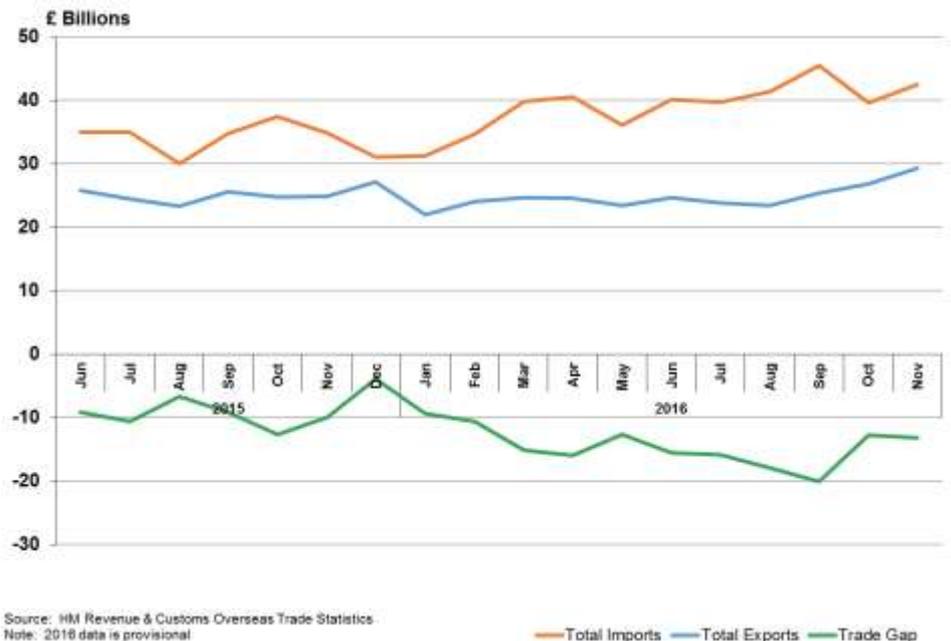


# UK Overseas Trade Statistics November 2016

## Summary

- Total trade exports for November 2016 were £29.3 billion. This was an increase of £2.5 billion (9.4 per cent) compared with last month, and an increase of £4.5 billion (18 per cent) compared with November 2015.
- Total trade imports for November 2016 were £42.5 billion. This was an increase of £2.9 billion (7.4 per cent) compared with last month, and an increase of £7.6 billion (22 per cent) compared with November 2015.
- The UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £13.2 billion.

Figure 1: Total UK monthly trade



## Trade Trends

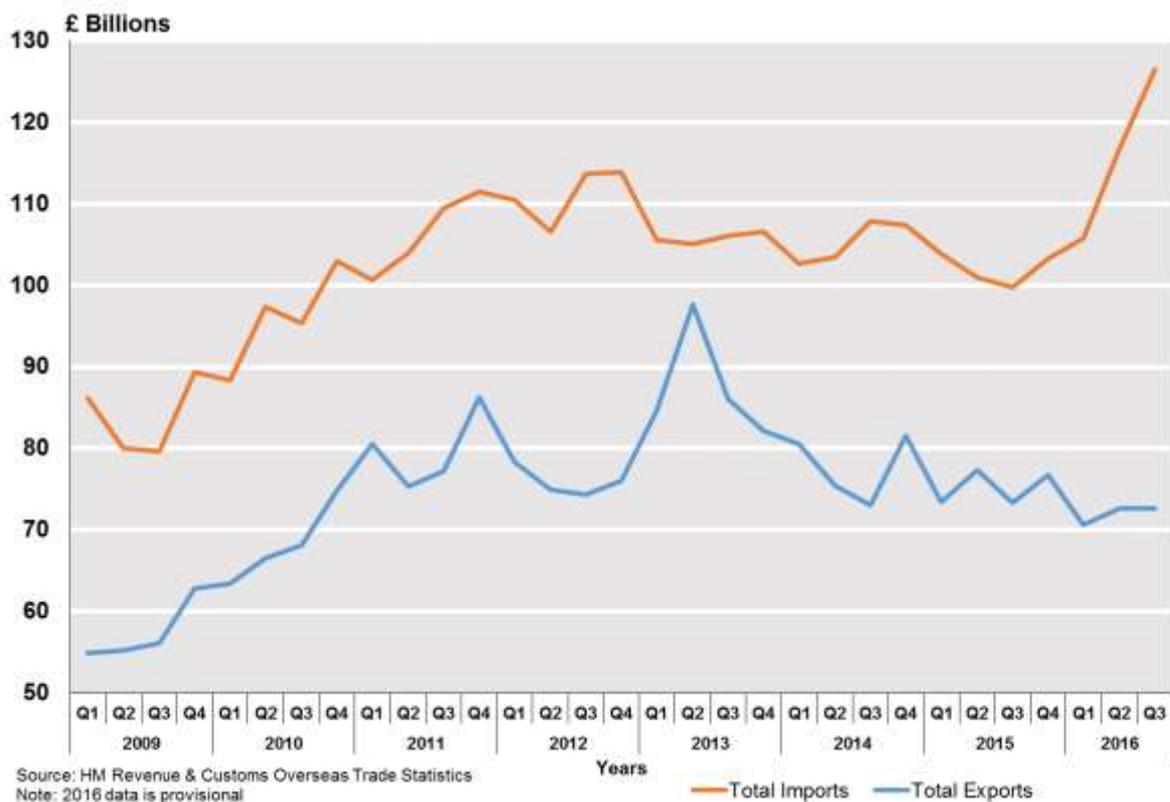
- Following the global economic crisis, UK trade dropped in 2009. Both imports and exports then steadily increased until 2012. From the start of 2013, imports remained relatively flat until a very sharp increase in Q3 of 2016, while exports peaked in Q2 of 2013.
- The total **export** trade for Q3 of 2016 was £72.7 billion, which was a decrease of 0.9 per cent compared with £73.3 billion for Q3 of 2015.
- The total **import** trade for Q3 of 2016 was £127 billion, which was an increase of 27 per cent compared with £99.8 billion for Q3 of 2015.
- There was a trade deficit of £53.9 billion for Q3 of 2016. This doubled on the £26.5 billion deficit for Q3 of 2015. These values were strongly influenced by trade in non-monetary gold.
- For many years Germany has been our largest trading **import** partner by value. The USA has been the dominant trading partner for **exports** for many years.
- Mechanical appliances and Motor vehicles have generally been the largest **import** commodities by value. For **exports**, Mechanical appliances has also predominantly been the largest valued commodity, with occasional peaks for Precious metals.

Exports down  
0.9% for Q3 2016  
on Q3 2015

Imports up 27%  
for Q3 2016 on  
Q3 2015

Trade deficit  
doubled for Q3  
2016 on Q3 2015

Figure 2: Quarterly UK trade, 2009 – 2016



## Non-EU & EU Trade

- **Non-EU Exports** for November 2016 were £15.2 billion. This was an increase of £1.0 billion (6.8 per cent) on last month, and an increase of £1.7 billion (12 per cent) compared with November 2015.
- **Non-EU Imports** for November 2016 were £19.7 billion. This was an increase of £0.5 billion (2.6 per cent) compared with last month, and an increase of £4.0 billion (26 per cent) compared with November 2015.
- In **Non-EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £4.5 billion.
- **EU Exports** for November 2016 were £14.1 billion. This was an increase of £1.6 billion (12 per cent) compared with last month, and an increase of £2.8 billion (25 per cent) compared with November 2015.
- **EU Imports** for November 2016 were £22.8 billion. This was an increase of £2.4 billion (12 per cent) compared with last month, and an increase of £3.6 billion (19 per cent) compared with November 2015.
- In **EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £8.7 billion.
- The proportion of total exports to the EU was 48 per cent in November 2016. Over the past 18 months, this has ranged from 38 per cent to 51 per cent. The proportion of total imports from the EU was 54 per cent in November 2016. Over the same period, this has ranged between 45 per cent and 56 per cent.

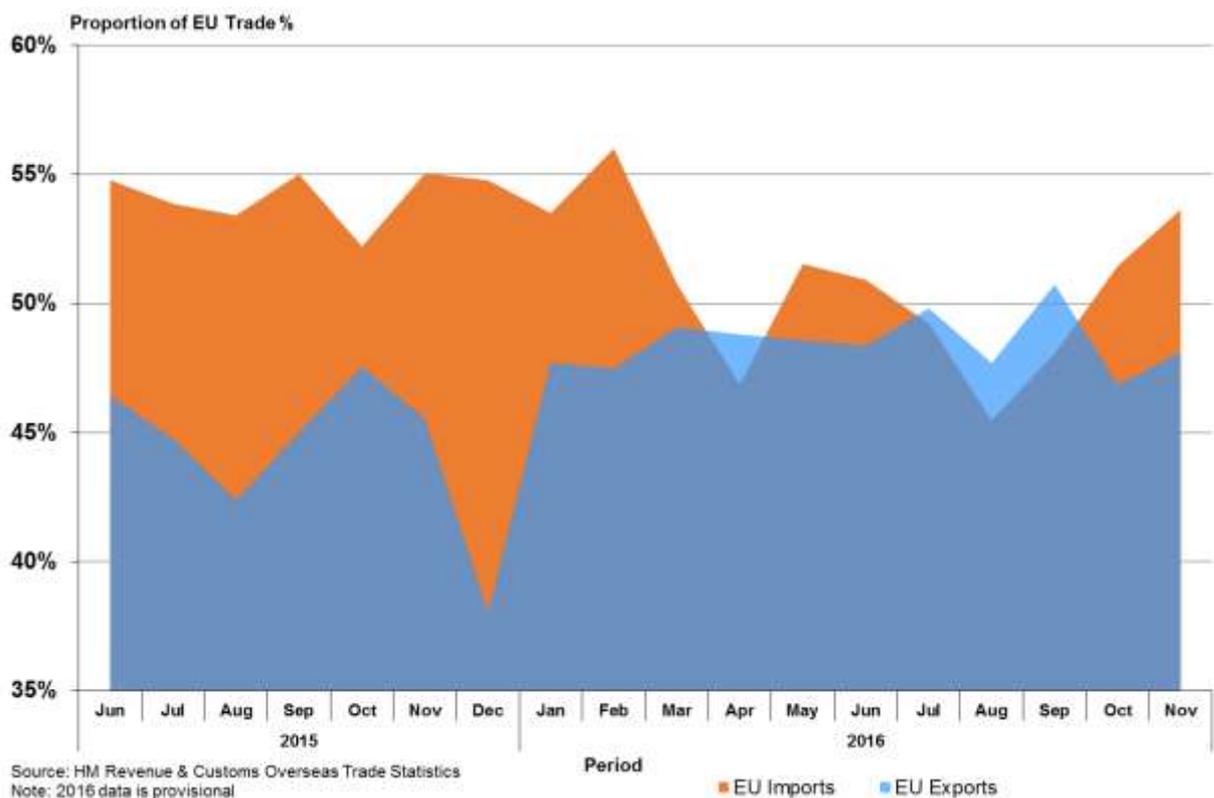
Non-EU exports  
up 6.8%  
on last month

Non-EU  
imports up 2.6%  
on last month

EU exports  
up 25% on  
November 2015

EU imports up  
19% on November  
2015

**Figure 3: Proportion of Total UK Trade with the EU, November 2016**



# Exports

## Country Analysis

**Table 1: UK exports to top 10 partner countries, November 2016**

Partner Country	November 2016 Total (£ millions)	Change from October 2016 (%)	Change from November 2015 (%)	Rank October 2016	Rank November 2015
USA	4,381	7.5	28.8	1	1
Germany	3,245	16.5	16.8	2	2
Netherlands	1,890	11.9	47.7	3	7
Switzerland	1,851	114.4	-4.1	8	3
France	1,840	9.8	27.2	4	6
Irish Republic	1,767	11.7	20.8	5	5
Belgium	1,141	10.3	21.7	7	8
China	1,091	-7.1	-26.2	6	4
Spain	955	18.8	27.3	9	9
Italy	943	17.7	26.8	10	10
Others	10,226	-0.9	18.4	-	-
<b>Total Non-EU</b>	<b>15,216</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total EU</b>	<b>14,114</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>29,330</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Note: 2016 data is provisional

- The order of the top ten export partner countries (ranked by value) has changed compared with last month, with Switzerland rising to fourth and China falling to eighth. The top 2 partners have not changed compared with both periods.
- Nine of the top 10 countries have experienced increases in value compared with last month, while eight countries showed an increase compared with November 2015.
- The USA was the largest export partner country and saw an increase compared with last month, up £304 million (7.5 per cent). It experienced the largest value increase compared with November 2015, up £981 million (29 per cent).

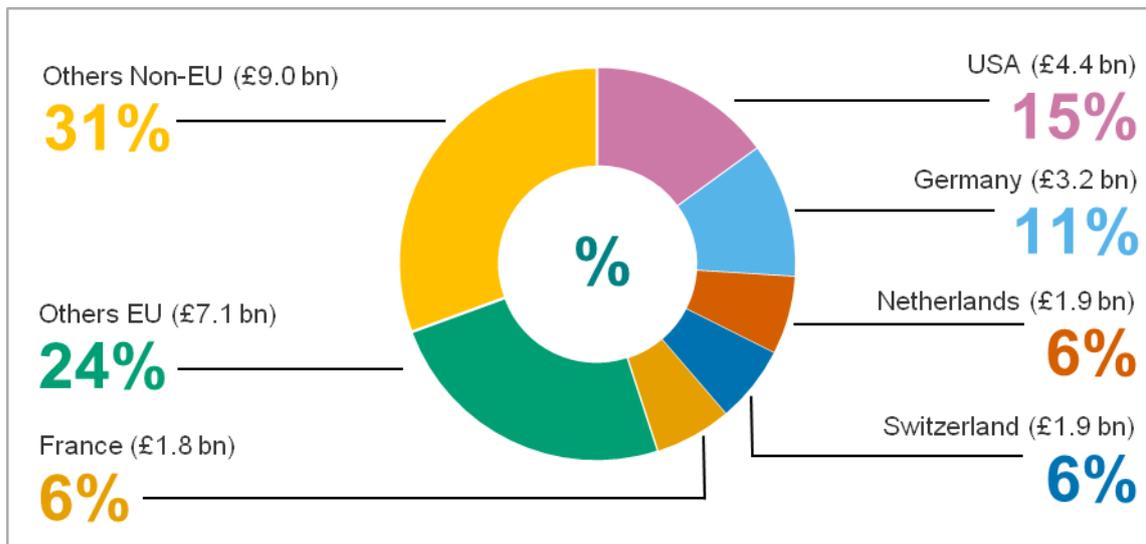
Top export country, USA, up 7.5% on last month

- Switzerland experienced the largest value increase compared with last month, up £988 million (more than double), but had the second largest value decrease compared with November 2015, down £79 million (4.1 per cent).
- Germany experienced the second largest value increase compared with last month, up £459 million (16 per cent). It also rose compared with November 2015, up £466 million (17 per cent).
- The Netherlands experienced the second largest value increase compared with November 2015, up £610 million (48 per cent).
- The largest value decrease compared with last month was outside the top ten, as Hong Kong fell by £160 million (26 per cent).
- China experienced a large value decrease compared with last month, falling by £83 million (7.1 per cent) and the largest value decrease compared with November 2015, down £387 million (26 per cent).
- Outside the top ten, Japan saw the second largest value decrease compared with last month, down £119 million (23 per cent).

Exports to Switzerland up more than double on last month

Exports to China down 26% on November 2015

Figure 4: UK exports to top 5 countries, November 2016



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics  
 Note: 2016 data is provisional

- The USA accounted for 15 per cent of the total value of exports from the UK, compared with 14 per cent in November 2015.
- Germany has the second largest proportion of total exports, accounting for 11 per cent, a slight increase in market share compared with last month.
- The top five export partners accounted for 45 per cent of total exports this month compared with 44 per cent in November 2015.

The USA accounted for 15% of total UK exports

## Commodity Analysis

**Table 2: UK exports by top 5 commodities, November 2016**

Commodity Description	November 2016 Total (£ millions)	Change from October 2016 (%)	Change from November 2015 (%)	Rank October 2016	Rank November 2015
Mechanical appliances	4,124	-0.3	22.7	1	1
Motor vehicles	3,910	11.6	35.0	2	2
Electronic equipment	2,352	24.9	46.2	4	6
Pharmaceutical products	2,229	1.6	15.9	3	4
Precious metals	2,223	73.3	-17.4	6	3
Others	14,493	5.0	17.2	-	-
<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>29,330</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Note: 2016 data is provisional

- The ordering of the top five export commodities (ranked by value) has changed compared with last month and November 2015.
- Mechanical appliances remained the largest export commodity by value, accounting for 14 per cent of total exports. This commodity decreased compared with last month, down £12 million (0.3 per cent). By contrast, it experienced the second largest value increase compared with November 2015, up £762 million (23 per cent).
- Precious metals experienced the largest value increase compared with last month, up £940 million (73 per cent). Conversely, the commodity saw the largest decrease compared with November 2015, down £468 million (17 per cent).
- Motor vehicles rose £407 million (12 per cent) on last month, and saw the largest value increase compared with November 2015, up £1,013 million (35 per cent).
- Art and antiques saw the largest value decrease compared with last month, down £111 million (20 per cent).
- Electronic equipment experienced the second largest increase compared with last month, rising £469 million (25 per cent). It also saw a large increase compared with November 2015, up £743 million (46 per cent).
- Articles of iron or steel experienced the second largest value decrease compared with last month, down £55 million (15 per cent).
- The top five export commodities accounted for 51 per cent of total UK trade exports month compared with 50 per cent in November 2015.

Exports of Mechanical appliances up 23% on November 2015

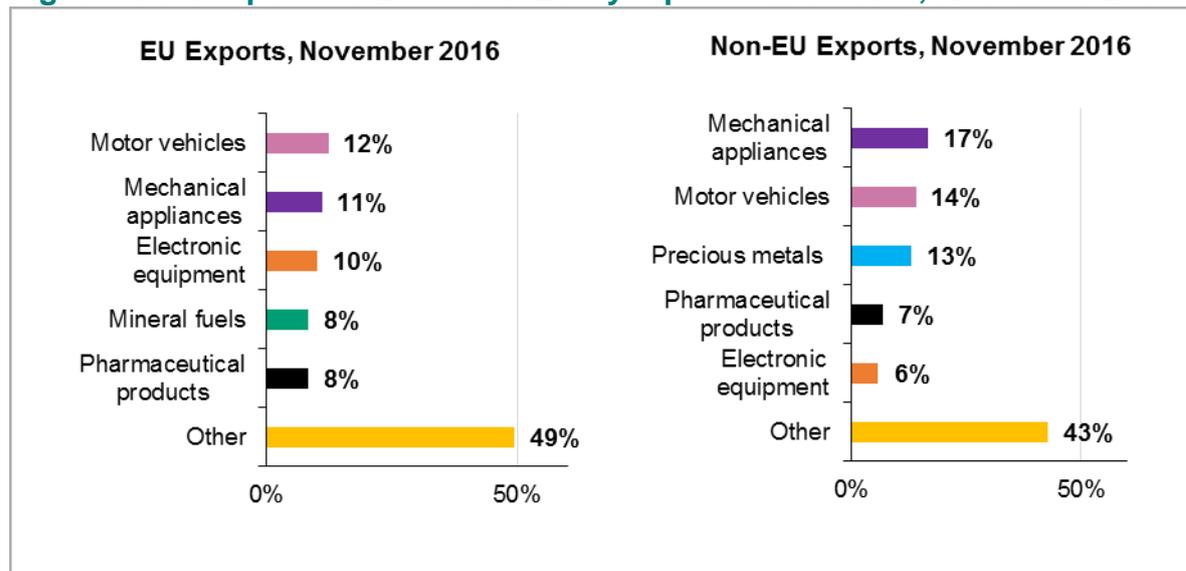
Exports of Precious metals up 73% on last month

Exports of Motor vehicles up 35% on November 2015

Exports of Electronic equipment up 25% on last month

## Combined Commodity and Country Analysis

Figure 5: UK exports to EU & Non-EU by top 5 commodities, November 2016



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics  
 Note: 2016 data is provisional

- Mechanical appliances, Motor vehicles, Electronic Equipment and Pharmaceutical products are in the top five export commodities for both EU and non-EU countries.
- The increase in exports of Mechanical appliances compared with November 2015 was led by an increase to the United Arab Emirates, up £128 million (81 per cent), and the USA, up £110 million (21 per cent).
- The increase in exports of Motor vehicles compared with both periods was led by a large increase to the USA, up by £259 million (37 per cent) on last month, and £510 million (more than double) on November 2015.
- The rise in exports of Electronic equipment was led by an increase to the Netherlands, up £155 million (nearly trebling in value) compared with last month, and £168 million (more than trebling in value) compared with November 2015. Germany also saw an increase in exports of the commodity for both periods, up £97 million (46 per cent), and £126 million (70 per cent) respectively.
- The increase in exports of Precious metals compared with last month was dominated by an increase to Switzerland, up £999 million, trebling in value. Conversely, exports of the commodity to China fell by £519 million compared with November 2015 (down 98 per cent).
- The decrease in exports of Art and Antiques compared with last month was dominated by a decrease to the USA, down £180 million (41 per cent).

Exports of Mechanical appliances to UAE up 81% on November 2015

Exports of Motor vehicles to USA up 37% on last month

Exports of Electronic equipment to the Netherlands treble on last month

Exports of Precious metals to Switzerland treble on last month

# Imports

## Country Analysis

**Table 3: UK imports from top 10 countries, November 2016**

Partner Country	November 2016 Total (£ millions)	Change from October 2016 (%)	Change from November 2015 (%)	Rank October 2016	Rank November 2015
Germany	6,097	15.1	17.4	1	1
China	3,792	-2.0	19.8	2	2
USA	3,406	1.8	17.9	3	3
Netherlands	3,220	4.9	28.6	4	4
Belgium	2,294	13.0	24.7	5	6
France	2,283	14.0	3.6	6	5
Italy	1,616	5.3	19.1	7	7
Irish Republic	1,600	35.5	39.1	10	9
Norway	1,592	17.7	46.4	8	10
Spain	1,456	16.8	16.1	9	8
Others	15,144	3.4	23.9	-	-
<b>Total Non-EU</b>	<b>19,704</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>25.7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total EU</b>	<b>22,796</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Imports</b>	<b>42,501</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Note: 2016 data is provisional

- The ordering of the top ten import partners (ranked by value) has changed compared with last month, with Irish Republic climbing to eighth place. Spain dropped two places compared with November 2015, and Belgium overtook France.
- Nine of the top ten import partners increased in value compared with last month, with only China decreasing. All ten increased in value compared with November 2015.
- Germany remained the top import partner country with increases of £799 million (15 per cent) compared with last month, and £902 million (17 per cent) compared with November 2015, the largest value increases against both periods.

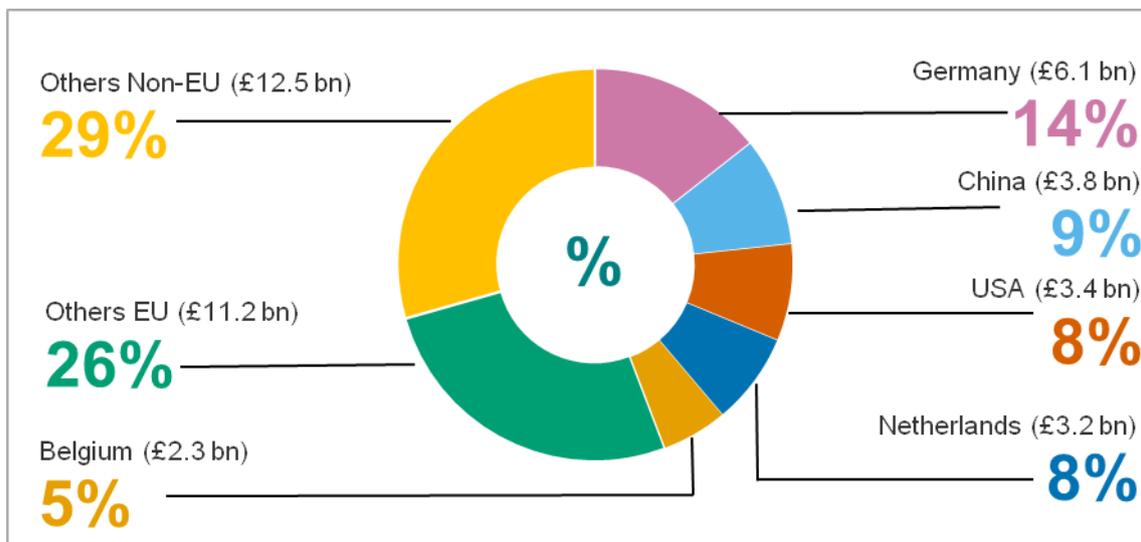
Top import country Germany up 15% on last month

- Irish Republic saw the second largest value increase compared with last month, up £420 million (36 per cent). It also saw a large value increase compared with November 2015, up £450 million (39 per cent).
- Hong Kong (11<sup>th</sup> place) saw the largest value decrease compared with last month, down £77 million (7.6 per cent).
- Netherlands experienced the second largest value increase compared with November 2015, up £717 million (29 per cent).
- China saw the second largest decrease on last month, down £76 million (2.0 per cent). However, it saw the third largest increase compared to November 2015, up £627 million (20 per cent).
- Qatar saw the largest value decrease compared with November 2015, down by £102 million (41 per cent).

Imports from Irish Republic up 36% on last month

Imports from Qatar down 41% on November 2015

**Figure 6: UK imports from top 5 countries, November 2016**



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics  
Note: 2016 data is provisional

- Germany accounted for 14 per cent of the total value of imports to the UK, compared with 15 per cent in November 2015.
- China accounted for 9 per cent of total imports, a slight decrease in market share compared with November 2015.
- The top five partner countries accounted for 44 per cent of total UK import value this month, compared with 46 per cent for November 2015.

Germany accounted for 14% of total UK imports

## Commodity Analysis

**Table 4: UK imports by top 5 commodities, November 2016**

Commodity Description	November 2016 Total (£ millions)	Change from October 2016 (%)	Change from November 2015 (%)	Rank October 2016	Rank November 2015
Mechanical appliances	5,202	6.6	20.0	1	2
Motor vehicles	4,807	5.6	10.4	2	1
Electronic equipment	4,340	6.7	18.1	3	3
Mineral fuels	3,302	14.6	37.1	5	4
Precious metals	2,877	-8.0	106.2	4	6
Others	21,974	9.5	17.5	-	-
<b>Total Imports</b>	<b>42,501</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics  
Note: 2016 data is provisional

- The ordering of the top five commodity groups has changed compared with both last month and November 2015. Most notably, Precious metals rose to fifth from sixth place in November 2015.
- Mechanical appliances was the top import commodity by value, accounting for a 12 per cent share of the total imports. The commodity experienced increases of £323 million (6.6 per cent) compared with last month, and £866 million (20 per cent) compared with November 2015.
- Pharmaceutical products (in sixth place) experienced the largest value increase compared with last month, up £621 million (34 per cent). The commodity also rose compared with November 2015, up £451 million (23 per cent).
- Precious metals experienced the largest value decrease compared with last month, down £250 million (8.0 per cent) compared with last month. By contrast, it saw the largest value increase compared with November 2015, doubling in value to £1,481 million.
- Aircraft increased compared with last month, up £338 million (48 per cent). However, the commodity experienced the largest decrease by value compared with November 2015, down £104 million (9.1 per cent).
- The top five import commodities accounted for 48 per cent of total UK trade imports for this month, which is unchanged compared with November 2015.

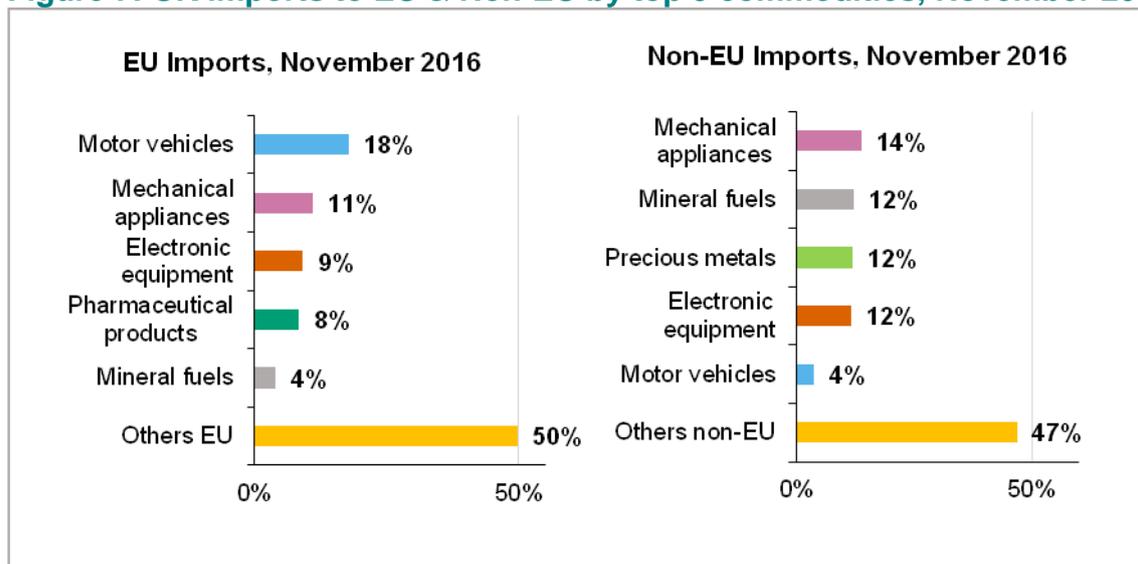
Top import commodity, Mechanical appliances, up 20% on November 2015

Imports of Precious metals down 8.0% on last month

Aircraft imports down 9.1% on November 2015

## Combined Commodity and Country Analysis

Figure 7: UK imports to EU & Non-EU by top 5 commodities, November 2016



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade  
 Statistics Note: 2016 data is provisional

- Mechanical appliances, Electronic equipment, Motor vehicles and Mineral fuels were in the top five import commodities from both EU and non-EU countries.
- The rise in imports of Mechanical appliances compared with last month was led by increases from Germany, up £74 million (10 per cent), and China, up £73 million (13 per cent). The rise compared to November 2015 was led by the USA, up £197 million (33 per cent); Germany, up £127 million (19 per cent); and the Netherlands, up £126 million (43 per cent).
- The increase in imports of Pharmaceutical products compared with both periods was due to near threefold increases from the Irish Republic, up £376 million on last month, and £371 million on November 2015.
- The decreases in imports of Precious metals compared with last month were led by falls from Switzerland, Turkey and Hong Kong, down £175 million (82 per cent), £123 million (56 per cent) and £113 million (23 per cent) respectively. By contrast the rise in imports of the commodity when compared with November 2015 was largely due to increases of £338 million from Hong Kong (up from £36 million) and £210 million from the USA (doubling in value).
- The fall in imports of Aircraft compared with November 2015 was led by decreases of £164 million (85 per cent) from France, and £150 million (28 per cent) from the USA. The increase on last month was largely due to rises from Germany, up £148 million (from £20 million), and Spain, up £109 million (from £7 million).
- Increases in imports from China compared with November 2015 were largely due to a rise in Electronic equipment, up £313 million (48 per cent).

Imports of Mechanical appliances from USA up 33% on November 2015

Imports of Pharmaceuticals from Ireland treble in value on last month and November 2015

Imports of Precious metals from Switzerland down 82% on last month

## 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) can form a substantial part of the non-EU Overseas Trade Statistics (OTS). For further information, see [Inclusion of Non-Monetary Gold in OTS](#). Data relating to monthly non-EU and EU import and export totals for January 2008 onwards with a breakdown of non-monetary gold and other trade is available in an [OTS time series spreadsheet](#).
- 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 on 11 January 2017 under arrangements set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#). The first release is published on HMRC's trade data website [www.uktradeinfo.com](http://www.uktradeinfo.com).
2. This release includes the first provisional estimates of trade-in-goods between the UK and both countries of the EU and those outside the EU for November 2016. At the same time revisions for all previously published non-EU and EU data for 2016 are also being released in line with the [HM Revenue & Customs Policy on Revisions](#).
3. The **EU figures** provided in this publication of the November 2016 Overseas Trade Statistics are collected from the Intrastat survey. They will include:
  - a. Estimates for businesses who have yet to submit detailed data on the trade they had with other EU Member States this month.
  - 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 details of this can be found [here](#).

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

4. The **Non-EU figures** provided in this publication of the November 2016 Overseas Trade Statistics are presented by customs declarations and collected by the CHIEF (Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight) system.
5. Detailed trade information is presented according to the [Harmonised System \(HS\)](#) nomenclature.
6. 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](#).

7. The aggregate estimates here will differ from the Eurostat publication [Euro area external trade](#). The OTS was published up until the May 2016 month of account as 'general trade' based upon goods recorded as they enter or leave the UK. This will include goods imported into and exported from a freezone or customs warehouse, regardless of their future use. The Eurostat EU external trade data are published as 'Special Trade' where goods are recorded as trade only when they enter free circulation or are declared to specific Customs regimes such as Inward Processing (IP) or Processing under Customs Control (PCC). Imports from a free zone or customs warehouse are similarly recorded in 'Special Trade'.
8. HMRC publishes [additional information](#) to help support users of non-EU data. 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 OTS and information on the quality of the data published.
9. From the May 2016 month of account, there was a methodological change to the way our trade-in-goods statistics are compiled. Following a change in legislation, trade-in-goods statistics switched from the 'general trade' system of compilation to the 'special trade' system. More information can be found [here](#).
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.

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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