

# Non-EU Overseas Trade Statistics - November 2011

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## **Summary**

- The value of UK trade fell slightly in November 2011 rising in October. The value of trade is greater when compared to the same period of November 2010.
- UK's Non EU exports have decreased by £0.3 billion (2.4 per cent) compared to October 2011, to £12.4 billion. Compared to November 2010, exports have increased by £1.3 billion (11.7 per cent).
- UK's Non EU imports have decreased by £0.1 billion (0.8 per cent) compared to October 2011, to £17.7 billion. Compared to November 2010 imports have increased by £1.1 billion (6.6 per cent).
- The UK remains a net importer (imports are greater than exports). The size of difference between imports and exports has increased slightly compared to October 2011 by 3.2 per cent and has decreased from November 2010 by 3.5 per cent.



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

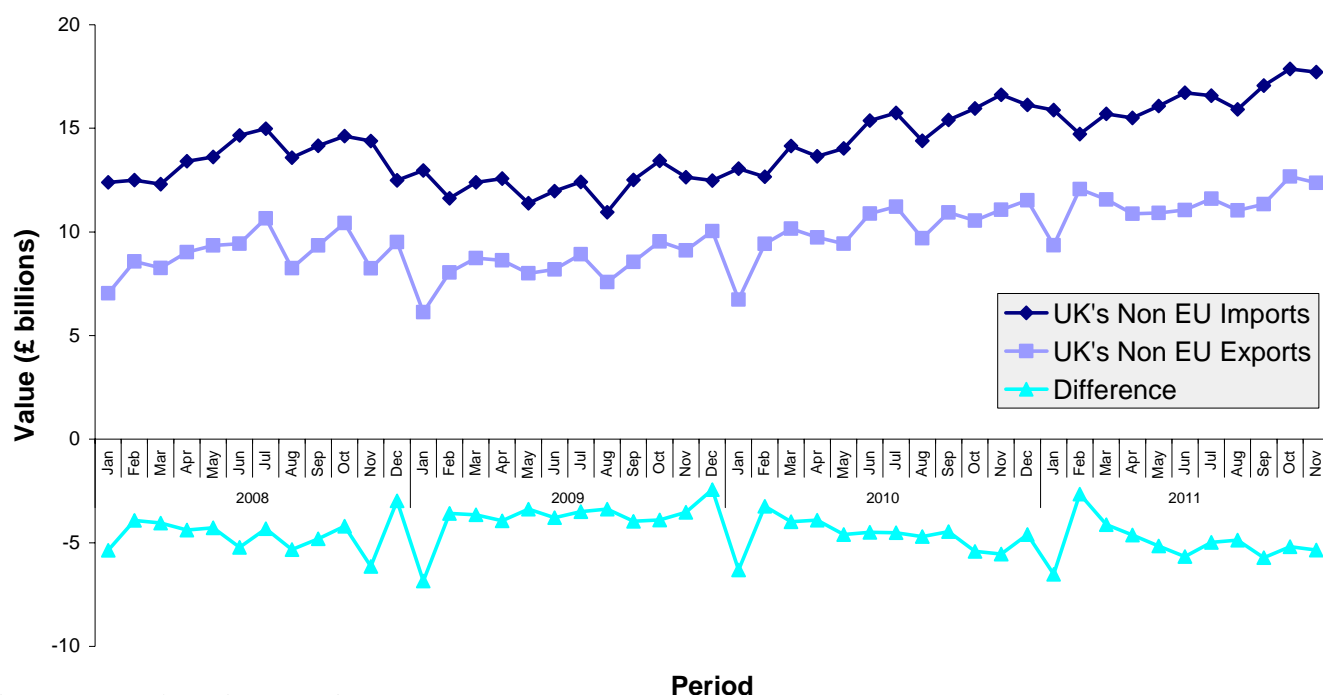
You can find details of how users interested in import and export markets for specific goods make use of the detailed OTS data in '[The Customer Story](#)'. You can also access the detailed data in our interactive database [here](#).

## Key Points

For the month of November 2011:

The value of UK trade decreased in November 2011 after rising in the previous month of October. The value of exports fell more than the value of imports, increasing the difference between Non EU imports and exports. Trade also increased when compared to November 2010 as the graph below shows.

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



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics  
 Note: 2011 data are provisional

## Exports

- UK's Non EU exports have decreased by £0.3 billion (2.4 per cent) compared to October 2011, to £12.4 billion. Compared to November 2010, exports have increased by £1.3 billion (11.7 per cent).

- The top five commodities are similar to those in the previous month. HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin), one of the top five exported commodities by value in October has dropped to sixth largest exported commodity by value. HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) is one of the top five exported commodities in November. In October it was the eighth largest exported commodity by value.
- The largest contributing commodity group remains HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof). It contributed £2.2 billion, 18.0 per cent of the total value of UK's Non EU export trade. The largest contribution to this chapter was £884.8 million from HS4 8411 (Turbo-jets, Turbo-propellers and other gas turbines).
- The largest value increase from the previous month, of £173.8 million, was in HS2 27 (mineral fuels and oils, as described above). This is one of the top five commodity types exported from the UK to non-EU countries. This is a 29.8 per cent increase compared to October 2011. This increase is driven by HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude) up £79.5 million, and HS4 2710 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals excluding crude) up £58.6 million in the month.
- The largest value decrease from the previous month, of £355.5 million, was in HS2 71, as described above, to £716.4 million. The largest decrease at HS4 level is for HS4 7106 (Silver), which saw a drop of £314.1 million (down by 68.8 per cent) now returned to previously seen trade levels after the large increase in October.
- USA remains the Non EU country for which the value of UK exports is largest, accounting for 29.0 per cent of the total value of UK's Non EU export trade. Compared to October 2011 the largest change in export trade was a £378.1 million decrease in exports to India, a drop of over 50 per cent. This follows an unusually high month in October, and trade is returning to previous levels. The largest increase in exports compared to October 2011 was to Australia which increased by £105.1 million, 31.4 per cent. This makes them our sixth largest Non EU partner for exports in November 2011. In October 2011 they were ranked eleventh. The main area of increase in trade with Australia is in HS2 89 (Ships, boats and floating structures), where exports rose by £82.5 million.
- The total 2011 year to date value of UK's trade-in-goods exported to non EU countries excluding November 2011 was £112.5 billion, which has been upwardly revised by £22.4 million. This is an increase of less than 0.1 per cent.

## Imports

- The value of the UK's Non EU imports has decreased by £0.1 billion (0.8 per cent) compared to October 2011, to £17.7 billion. Compared to November 2010 imports have increased by £1.1 billion (6.6 per cent).
- As with exports, the top five commodities remain similar to the previous month. HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products) is one of the top five imported commodities in November. In October it was the seventh largest exported commodity by value.
- The largest contributing commodity group remains Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes (HS2 27). This contributed £4.0 billion, 22.8 per cent, of the total value of UK's Non EU import trade. Within this chapter, HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude) contributed £2.5 billion.

- The largest value decrease from the previous month was 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) with a £217.7 million reduction, following an increase of £566.7 million in the previous month. HS4 8517 (Electrical apparatus for line telephony or line telegraphy, including such apparatus for carrier-current line systems), which includes mobile phones, was down by £176.9 million to £1.8 billion following October's increase of £378.8 million.
- The largest increases at HS2 level from the previous month were in HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof) with an increase of £175.4 million, and HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products) with an increase of £151.1 million. Within HS2 88, the largest increase over the previous month was in HS4 8802 (Powered aircraft) with a rise of £166.8 million, up by 54.6 per cent. In HS2 30, the largest increase was in HS4 3004 (Medicaments consisting of mixed or unmixed products for therapeutic or prophylactic uses, in measured doses or put up for retail sale) a rise of £78.4 million, up by 33.3 per cent.
- The top five Non EU countries from which the UK imports remain similar to the previous month. China remains the Non EU country from which the UK imports most goods by value, accounting for 15.9 per cent of the total value of UK's Non EU import trade. This is despite a decrease in total value of imports from China of £353.5 million, down by 11.1 per cent compared to last month. This was the largest decrease in imports compared to October 2011. The largest increase in imports compared to October 2011 was from Norway which rose by £213.1 million, up by 10.6 per cent. An increase in imports in HS2 27 (mineral fuels and oils, as described above) accounted for £155.0 million of the net increase in imports from Norway.
- The total 2011 year to date value of UK's trade-in-goods imported from non EU countries excluding November 2011 was £ 162.0 billion, which is almost unchanged from the previous month.

## Further Analysis: Exports

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

HS 2	Description	November 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from October 2011	% Change from November 2010	% of Total November Trade	Rank October 2011	Rank November 2010
-	Total Exports	12,367.4	-2.4	11.7	100.0	n/a	n/a
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	2,226.5	-1.7	10.0	18.0	1	1
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	1,534.9	5.8	12.2	12.4	2	2
30	Pharmaceutical products	1,016.9	-2.2	26.8	8.2	4	4
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	947.8	5.9	20.8	7.7	5	5
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	756.9	29.8	-15.5	6.1	8	3

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

The slight overall decrease compared to October 2011 in exports reflects a mixture of increases and decreases in HS2 chapters. Three of the top five commodity types shown in the table above increased by £309.8 million, while HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin) decreased by £355.5 million.

The largest change since last month is in HS71 mentioned above. The largest decrease in this chapter at HS4 level is for HS4 7106 (Silver), which saw a drop of £314.1 million, a fall of 68.8 per cent. A similar decrease in volume exported suggests that the change is mostly due to the decrease in volume of the commodity being exported.

The largest increase compared to October 2011 of £173.8 million was in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes). Within this chapter, the largest increase is in HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude) which has increased by £79.5 million, a value increase of 59.9 per cent. The volume increase is 21.3 per cent, suggesting that the change is partly due to increases in price. HS4 2710 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals excluding crude) also increased, by £58.6 million, an increase of 14.0 per cent by value, 15.6 per cent by mass. This suggests that the increase is mostly due to the increase in volume of the commodity being exported.

In addition to the increases in the top five commodity types mentioned above there were also large increases in HS 29 (Organic chemicals), £89.9 million, and HS 89 (Ships, Boats and floating structures), £80.6 million. The HS 29 increase is led by a rise of £64.2 million in HS4 2934 (Nucleic acids and their salts, whether or not chemically defined; other heterocyclic compounds). The HS 89 increase is driven by an increase of £81.1million in HS4 8906 (Other vessels, including warships and lifeboats other than rowing boats).

The increase in total export trade value compared to November 2010, noted above was in driven by the increase in export value of goods in chapters 30 (up by £215.2 million), 84 (up by £202.1 million), 87 (up by £166.9 million) and 85 (up by £162.9 million) shown in table 1. Outside the top five chapters, there was also a large increase in HS2 88 (Aircraft, Spacecraft and parts thereof) of £208.3 million.

These increases have been offset by a decrease of £138.6 million in HS2 27, the only decrease in the top five exported commodity types compared to November 2010.

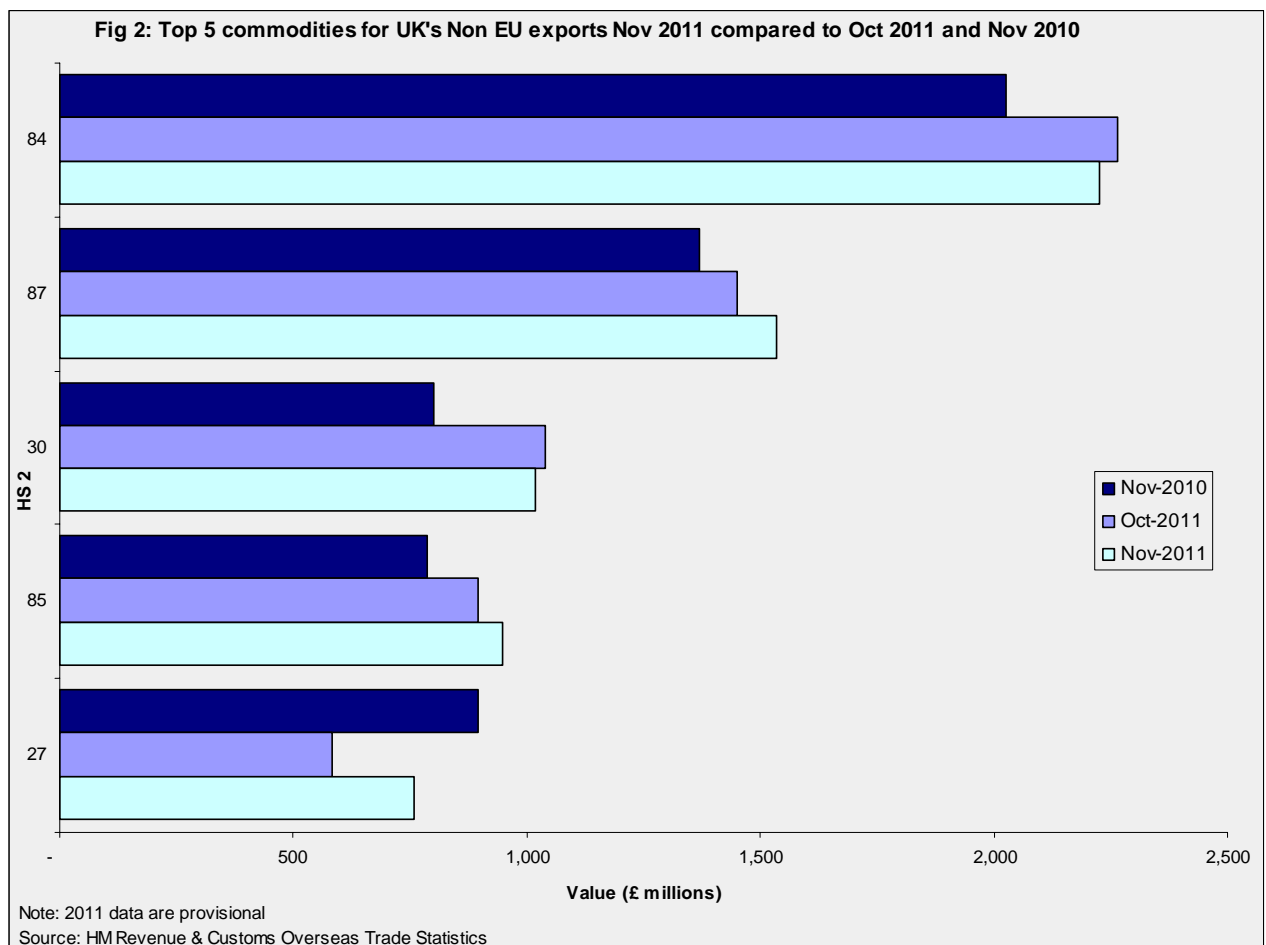


Figure 2 above shows the top five commodities for UK's Non EU exports in November 2011, compared to October 2011 and November 2010. The largest increase in commodities in the top five from the previous month was in HS2 27 with an increase of £173.8 million, though it is down on November 2010's value of £895.5 million.

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

Country	Total £ millions	% change from October 2011	% Change from November 2010	% of total Non EU trade
Total Exports	12,367.4	-2.4	11.7	100.0
USA	3,587.5	2.4	10.8	29.0
China	871.4	7.3	19.5	7.0
Hong Kong	525.1	4.3	41.2	4.2
Switzerland	455.2	-4.2	-10.6	3.7
Russia	454.9	-8.1	12.5	3.7

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

The USA has been the largest export partner for the UK for a number of years, accounting for between a quarter and a third of the total exports. China remains in second place.

The largest change in value of export trade compared with October 2011 is the decrease of £378.1 million to India, a fall of 50.5 per cent to £370.5 million. This decrease is driven by a decrease of £328.4 million in exports of HS4 7106 (Silver) now returned to previously seen trade levels after the large increase in October. The decrease of £378.1 million accounts for much of the overall net decrease in exports of £307.2 million.

The largest increase was for the value of exports to Australia of £105.1 million to £439.9 million. The biggest increase was in HS2 89 (Ships, boats and floating structures) in particular an increase of £80.2 million in HS4 8906 (Other vessels, including warships and lifeboats other than rowing boats) The Australian Navy recently purchased a 16,000 tonne ship, the HMAS Choules, from Britain. The following news story has more details.

<http://www.skynews.com.au/topstories/article.aspx?id=699128&vld=>

The increase in total export trade value compared to November 2010, noted above was in part driven by the increase in export value of goods to USA (£349.2 million), Hong Kong (£153.2 million) and China (£142.3 million) shown in table 2. There was also a large increase in value of exports to Australia of £151.7 million, primarily driven by the export of ships, shown above.

Table 3 shows the top five partner countries for non-EU exports in November 2010, October 2011 and November 2011.

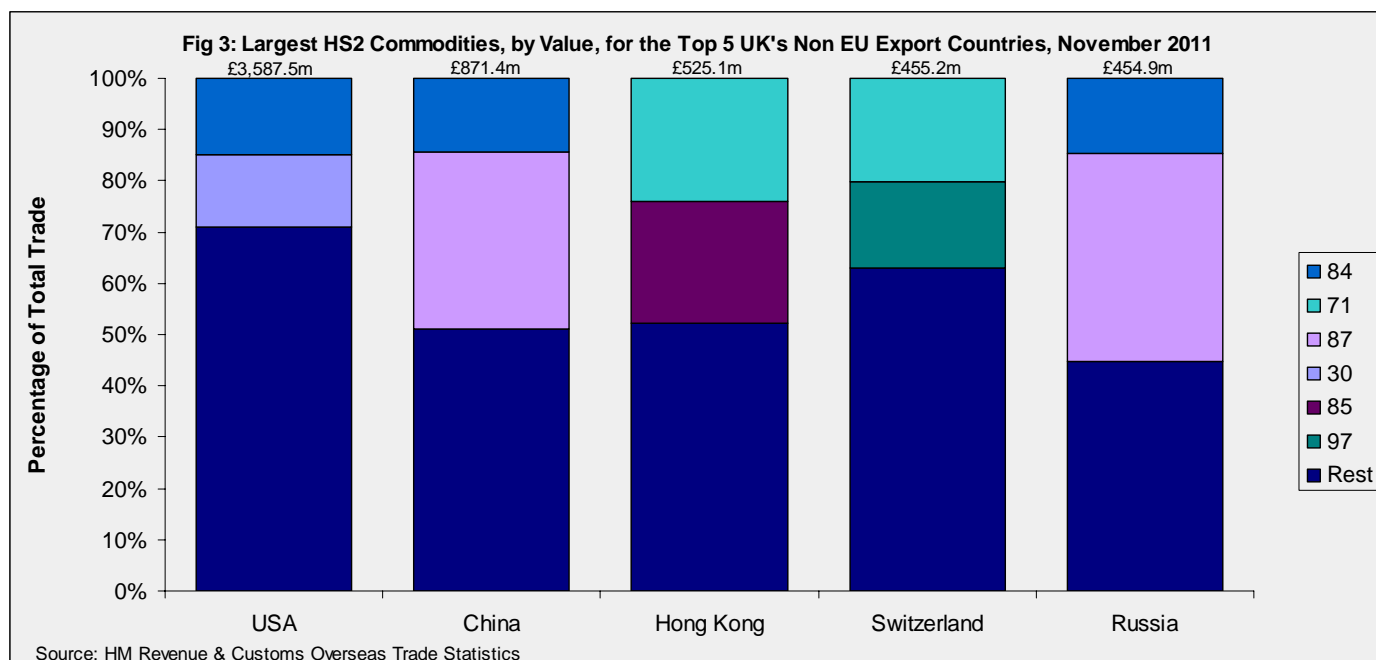
Rank	November 2011	October 2011	November 2010
1	USA	USA	USA
2	China	China	China
3	Hong Kong	India	Switzerland
4	Switzerland	Hong Kong	Canada
5	Russia	Russia	UAE

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

For all three periods, the United States was the UK's largest Non EU exporting partner country and China was the second largest.

Although there was a small decrease in the value of exports to Switzerland (down by £19.8 million) it entered the top five export partners because of comparatively larger decrease for India, mentioned above, and Russia.

Figure 3 below shows the largest commodities by value for the top five Non EU countries that the UK exports to. Three of the top five countries 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 32.6 per cent of the total value of UK Non EU export trade under this heading. Also the USA accounts for almost 50% of the total export trade under HS2 30.





## Further Analysis: Imports

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

HS 2	Description	November 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from October 2011	% Change from November 2010	% of Total November 2011 Trade	Rank October 2011	Rank November 2010
-	Total Imports	17,717.5	-0.8	6.6	100.0	n/a	n/a
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	4,045.4	2.0	28.8	22.8	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	2,069.3	4.4	7.9	11.7	3	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	1,810.8	-10.7	7.7	10.2	2	3
71	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin	986.6	-3.7	-11.8	5.6	4	5
30	Pharmaceutical products	677.6	28.7	108.4	3.8	7	12

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

The slight decrease compared to October 2011 in imports also reflects a mixture of increases and decreases in HS2 chapters. Table 4 shows three of the top five commodities are higher than October accounting for an increase of £318.0 million. However it was in the top five commodity types, where there was the largest decrease compared to last month in HS2 85, a fall of £217.7 million (10.7 per cent). This followed an increase of £566.7 million in October. HS4 8517 (Electrical apparatus for line telephony or line telegraphy, including such apparatus for carrier-current line systems), which includes mobile phones, was down by £176.9 million after an increase of £378.8 million in October 2011, that month's highest increase.

In addition to the increases in the top five commodity types mentioned above there was also large increases in HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof), up £175.4 million to £659.5 million in November 2011. Within HS2 88, the largest increase over the previous month is in HS4 8802 (Powered aircraft) with an increase of £166.8

million, up by 54.6 per cent. This is almost entirely covered by an increase in imports of this type of commodity from USA of £151.5 million.

In addition to the decreases in the top five commodity types mentioned above there were large decreases in imports in HS2 61 (articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted) and HS2 62 (articles of apparel and clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted) decreasing by £140.9 million and £108.5 million respectively. For both chapters, the decreases in value are across most of the HS4 level commodities. Generally the corresponding changes in volume are of a similar order. This indicates the change in value is due to an overall decrease in quantity of clothing imported, rather than changes in price.

The increase in total import trade value compared to November 2010, noted above was in driven by the increase in import value of goods in chapter 27 (up by £905.4 million) and chapter 30 (up by £352.5 million) shown in table 4.

The main driver for the increase in HS2 27 was the rise of £585.3 million in HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude). The relatively small increase in volume of this commodity imported suggests that much of the increase in value of imports in this commodity type is due to price increase.

The main driver for the increase in HS2 30 was the rise of £206.8 million in HS4 3003 (Medicaments consisting of two or more constituents which have been mixed together for therapeutic or prophylactic uses, not put up in measured doses or in forms or packings for retail sale).

Table 4 also shows increases in the value of imports in two of the other top five commodities compared to November 2010. HS2 84 has increased by £151.9 million and HS2 85 is up by £129.5 million. There was also a large increase in HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock, and parts and accessories thereof) of £128.1 million.

These increases have been offset by a large decrease of £719.0 million in HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof). Within HS2 88, the largest decrease compared with November 2010 is in HS4 8802 (Powered aircraft) with a decrease of £719.2 million, a decrease of 60.4 per cent over the previous month. This is despite the increase in this particular commodity type since last month noted above. Because of the nature of the goods involved trade in this chapter is very volatile and just a few items of trade can have a major impact on the statistics.

The second largest decrease was of £132.0 million in HS2 71 shown in table 4.

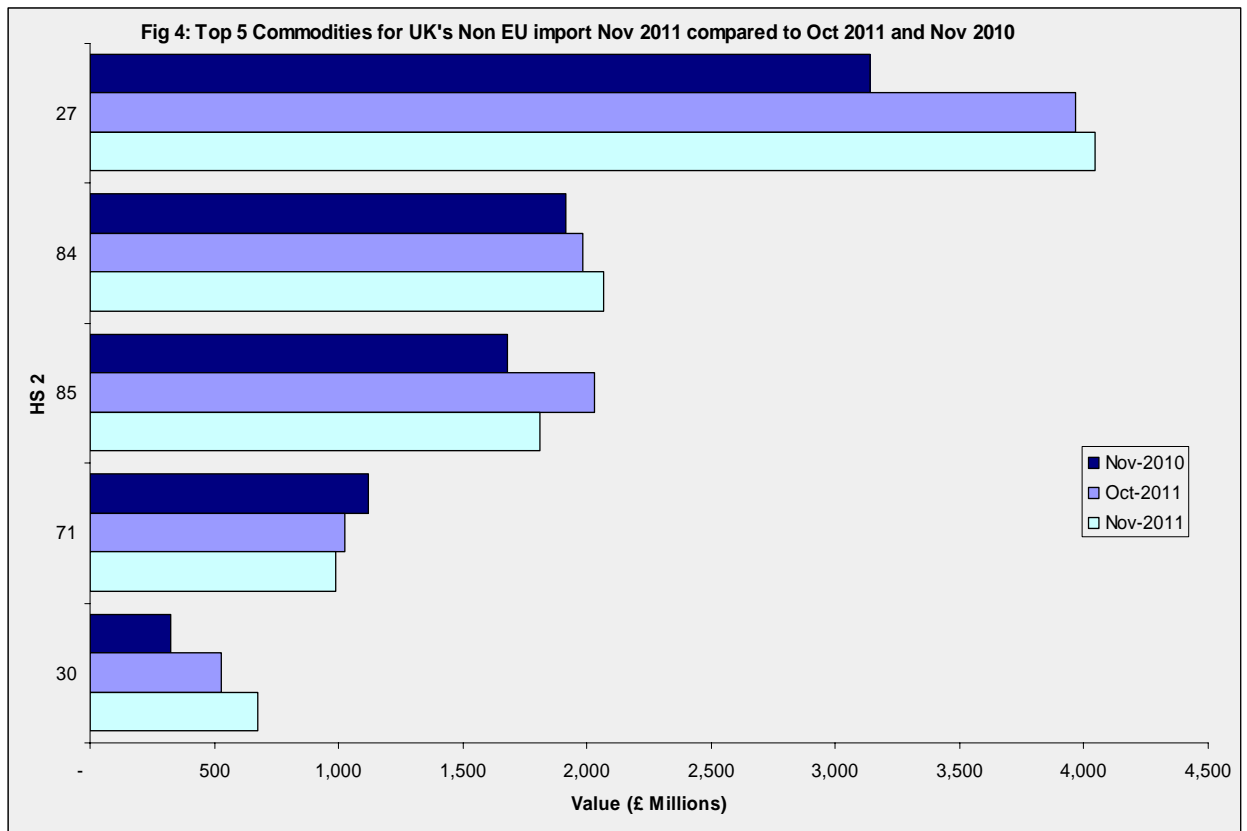


Figure 4 shows the top five HS2 commodity groups for UK's Non EU imports in November 2011, compared to October 2011 and November 2010. In comparison with October 2011, there was a slight increase in import trade for three of these top five commodities, but compared to November 2010, four of these groups showed increases as described above.

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

China and the USA have been the largest import partners for the UK for a number of years accounting for between a quarter and a third of the total imports.

The largest change in value of import trade compared with October 2011 is the decrease of £353.5 million from China. This is a result of larger decreases in a small number of HS2 chapters compared to other changes. The largest decrease was in HS2 85 which fell by £145.4 million, accounting for over two-thirds the overall net decrease in imports of this commodity type. HS4 8517, which includes mobile phones, was down by £162.6 million, 43.8 per cent.

The decrease in imports from China were offset by large increases in imports from Norway (up by £213.1 million) and Switzerland (up by £208.3 million), as shown in table 5.

The largest increase in imports from Norway was in HS2 27, up by £155.0 million to £1.9 billion. HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous materials, crude) was up by £68.3 million (4.3 per cent) and HS4 2711 (Petroleum gas and other gaseous hydrocarbons) was up by £93.8 million (62.8 per cent).

The largest increase in imports from Switzerland was £107.2 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), driven mainly by an increase of £100.4 million from HS4 7110 (Platinum, including Palladium, Rhodium, Iridium, Osmium, and Ruthenium). The increase in volume of this commodity

relative to the value increase suggests that some of the increase in value of imports is due to price increase in this commodity type.

Country	Total £ millions	% change from October 2011	% Change from November 2010	% of total Non EU trade
Total Imports	17,717.5	-0.8	6.6	100.0
China	2,820.6	-11.1	8.9	15.9
USA	2,711.1	-3.4	-7.1	15.3
Norway	2,219.5	10.6	16.6	12.5
Japan	812.4	0.3	20.4	4.6
Switzerland	706.3	41.8	20.9	4.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Rank	Nov 2011	Oct 2011	Nov 2010
1	China	China	USA
2	USA	USA	China
3	Norway	Norway	Norway
4	Japan	Japan	Hong Kong
5	Switzerland	Hong Kong	Canada

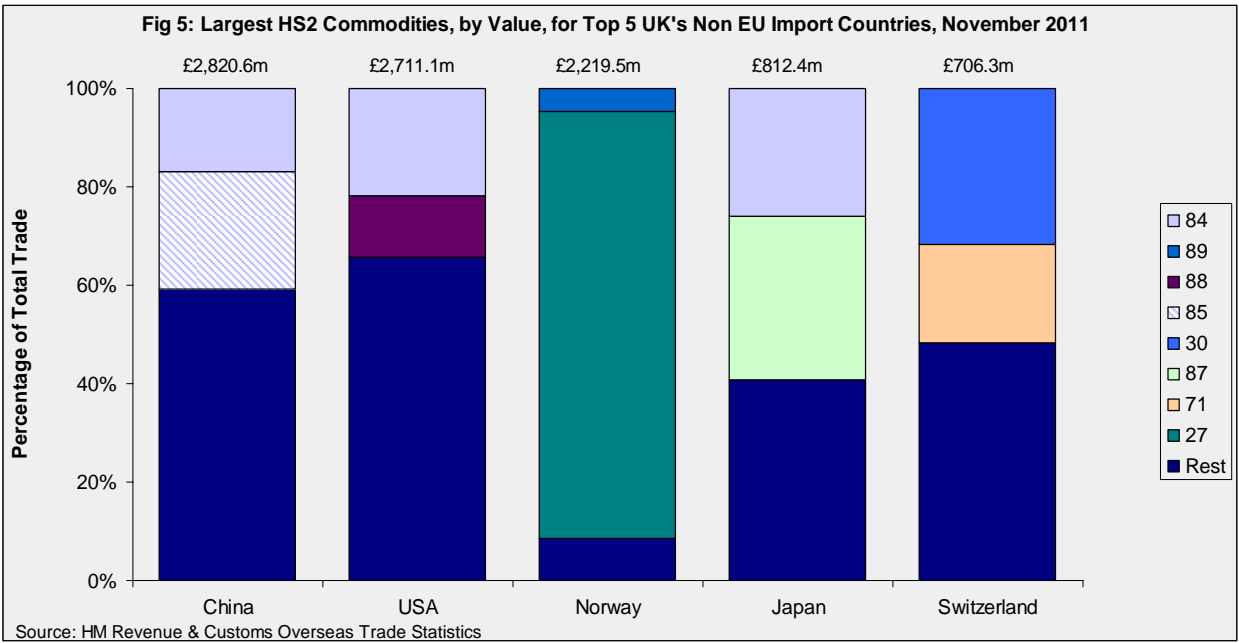
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

China and USA continue to be is the UK's biggest import partners by value of trade.

The increase in the value of imports from Switzerland mentioned above and the decrease in imports from Hong Kong (down by £78.1 million) compared to last month has resulted in Switzerland entering the top five import partners.

Figure 5 shows the largest commodities for the top five Non EU countries from the UK imports. Three of the top five non-EU import trading partners have HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) in their top two largest commodities exported to the UK. The trade with these countries accounts for 61.9 per cent of the total value of UK Non EU export trade under this commodity heading.

The trade in HS27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) from Norway, specifically the Continental Shelf: Norwegian Sector, accounts for 86.9 per cent of the total imports from Norway, and 47.7 per cent of the total Non EU import trade under this heading.



Notes:

1. HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with countries outside the European Union (EU) on 11 January 2012 under arrangements set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#).
2. This release includes the first provisional estimates of trade-in-goods between the UK and countries outside the EU for November 2011. At the same time revisions for all previously published Non EU data for 2011 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>

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Next release: 9 February 2012 9:30am

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