

EU Overseas Trade Statistics - December 2012

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Summary

- For trade with EU Member States, the value of both imports and exports fell sharply compared to November 2012.
- The UK's EU exports have decreased by £2.4 billion (18.1 per cent) compared to November 2012, to £11.1 billion. Compared to December 2011 exports have decreased by £1.0 billion (8.3 per cent).
- The UK's EU imports have decreased by £3.0 billion (16.2 per cent) compared to November 2012, to £15.4 billion. Compared to December 2011 imports decreased by £0.4 billion (2.8 per cent).
- The UK remains a net importer (imports are greater than exports). The size of difference between imports and exports is now £4.3 billion, a decrease of £0.5 billion (11.1 per cent).
- The first estimate of total exports for 2012 is £150.3 billion compared with £158.3 billion in 2011.
- The first estimate of total imports from 2012 is £206.0 billion compared with £202.6 billion in 2011.



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](#).

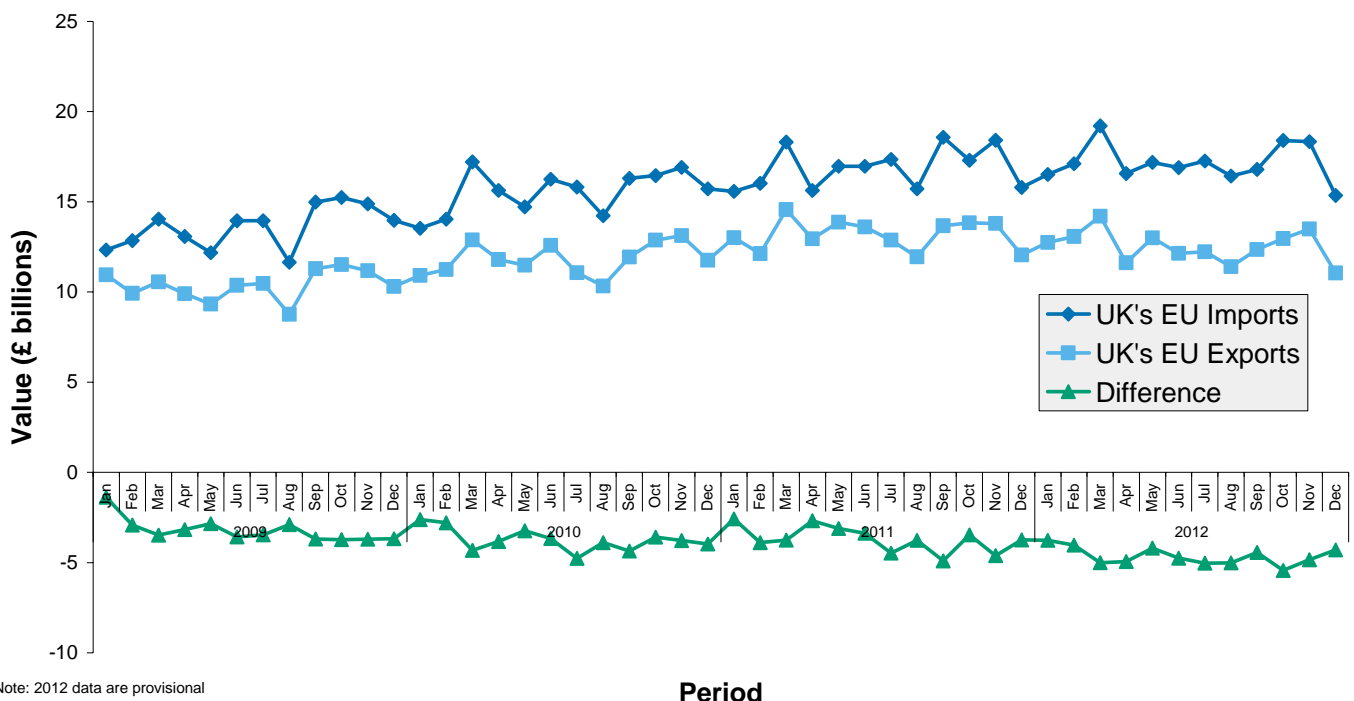
Key Points

For the month of December 2012:

The value of UK trade fell sharply for both imports and exports in December 2012, with exports falling by £2.4 billion, and imports falling by £3.0 billion. These are the lowest monthly totals since August 2010.

Imports fell more than exports. This resulted in a decrease of 11.1 per cent in the difference between UK imports from the EU and exports to the EU. This difference is now £4.3 billion, the lowest since May 2012.

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



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

Exports

- The value of the UK's EU exports has decreased by £2.4 billion (18.1 per cent) compared to November 2012 to £11.1 billion. Furthermore, compared with December 2011, the value of exports fell by £1.0 billion (8.3 per cent). This makes this month's UK exports to the EU the lowest since August 2010.
- The top five commodities are similar to 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 December it contributed £2.3 billion, 20.9 per cent of the total value of the UK's EU export trade. This is despite HS2 27 having the second largest value decrease from the previous month, of £248.6 million (9.7 per cent).
- The largest value decrease from the previous month was in HS2 29 (Organic chemicals) down £583.2 million (60.6 per cent). In contrast, the largest value increase from the previous month was considerably smaller in magnitude. HS2 1 (Live animals) was up by £29.6 million, over double the November figure.
- 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 20.1 per cent of the total EU export trade. This country also experienced the largest value decrease in export trade compared to last month of £1.2 billion (34.3 per cent). The largest increase in exports from the UK compared to November 2012 was relatively small in magnitude - a rise of £18.1 million (0.9 per cent) in the value of exports to France.
- The first estimate of total exports for 2012 is £150.3 billion¹. This is a decrease of £8.0 billion (5.1 per cent) compared with 2011. This is the first year that the value of exports has decreased since the fall in 2009.
- The total of the UK's EU export trade from January to November 2012 was £139.2 billion, which has been upwardly revised by £565.9 million. This is an increase of 0.4 per cent.

Imports

- The value of the UK's EU imports has decreased by £3.0 billion (16.2 per cent) compared to November 2012, to £15.4 billion. Compared to December 2011 imports have decreased by £0.4 billion (2.8 per cent).
- The top five commodities are unchanged from 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 £2.1 billion, 13.6 per cent of the total value of UK's EU import trade.
- The largest value decrease from the previous month was in the commodity with the third largest import value, 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 decrease of £509.4 million, 25.7 per cent.
- The largest value increase from the previous month was in HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin) with an increase of £53.2 million, (16.9 per cent). This was the commodity group with the tenth largest value share of the UK's import trade.

¹ The final figure for total exports for 2012 will be published in August when data is finalised in line with our revisions policy.

- The top five import partner countries are unchanged from November 2012. Germany is still the EU Member State from which the UK imports most goods by value, accounting for 24.1 per cent. The Netherlands remains in second place, with a 17.2 per cent share.
- The largest decrease was a fall of £857.0 million in imports from Germany, a decrease of 18.8 per cent. The largest increase compared to November 2012 was for imports from Estonia, up by £24.5 million (147.0 per cent).
- The first estimate of total imports for 2012 is £206.0 billion². This is an increase of £3.4 billion (1.7 per cent) compared with 2011. This is the third year that the value of imports has increased since the fall in 2009, although this year's increase is not as big as the increases in 2010 and 2011.
- The total of the UK's EU import trade from January to November 2012 was £190.7 billion, which has been upwardly revised by £327.5 million. This is an increase of 0.2 per cent.

² The final figure for total imports for 2012 will be published in August when data is finalised in line with our revisions policy.

Further Analysis: Exports

Table 1: Top 5 commodities in UK's EU exports in December 2012 compared to November 2012 and December 2011

HS 2	Description	December 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from November 2012	% Change from December 2011	% of Total December 2012 Exports	Rank November 2012	Rank December 2011
-	Total Exports	11,056.4	-18.1	-8.3	100.0	n/a	n/a
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	2,307.0	-9.7	-10.4	20.9	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	1,149.5	-12.5	-5.6	10.4	2	2
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	1,002.9	-11.0	-6.1	9.1	3	3
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	799.8	-12.3	-13.0	7.2	6	4
30	Pharmaceutical products	765.4	-20.1	-9.0	6.9	5	5

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Note: 2012 data are provisional

The large decrease in export value **compared to November 2012** reflects decreases in over 80 per cent of all HS2 chapters. Eight chapters experienced decreases of over £100 million with the largest being over £500 million. This was for HS2 29 (Organic chemicals) down £583.2 million (60.6 per cent), moving this chapter down from fourth place last month to sixth place this month. This decrease was driven by a fall of £582.4 million to Germany. However, last month this chapter experienced the largest increase seen in recent years and this fall represents a return to typical levels of trade. All of the top five chapters were in the eight that saw decreases over £100 million. In contrast, there were no increases in excess of £100 million.

The second largest decrease was for the top chapter HS2 27 down £248.6 million (9.7 per cent). This was followed by HS2 30 down £193.0 million (20.1 per cent), HS2 84

down £163.7 million (12.5 per cent), HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof) down £136.1 million (30.4 per cent), HS2 39 (Plastics and plastic products) down £126.6 million (28.7 per cent), HS2 87 down £123.4 million (11.0 per cent) and HS2 85 down £112.3 million (12.3 per cent).

The largest increase, much smaller in magnitude, was for HS2 1 (Live animals) up £29.6 million, which is double the figure for November. The next largest increase was under £10 million.

Compared to December 2011, the overall export trade to EU Member States decreased by £1.0 billion, 8.3 per cent. This overall decrease is reflected in over 70% of all HS2 chapters decreasing. All of the top five HS2 chapters experienced decreases. Two chapters saw falls of over £100 million and these were both in the top five chapters. In contrast, there were no increases over £100 million.

The largest decrease was in the top chapter HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) which fell by £267.8 million (10.4 per cent). The second largest decrease was for HS2 85 (Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof) which dropped by £119.3 million (13.0 per cent). There were no other decreases over £100 million.

The largest increase, which was well under £100 million, was for the chapter that experienced the largest decrease in comparison with November 2012 - HS2 29 up £64.1 million (20.3 per cent). This can be explained by the figure for November being the highest in recent years and the December 2011 figures being the second lowest in recent years. However, the scale of this increase was relatively small compared with the decrease from last month by a factor of nearly ten.

Figure 2 shows the top five commodities for UK's EU exports in December 2012, compared to November 2012 and December 2011.

The graph shows that all top five chapters have decreased in comparison with both November 2012 and December 2011. HS2 27 and HS2 85 also experienced a decrease between December 2011 and November 2012.

Fig 2: Top 5 commodities for UK's EU exports in December 2012 compared to November 2012 and December 2011

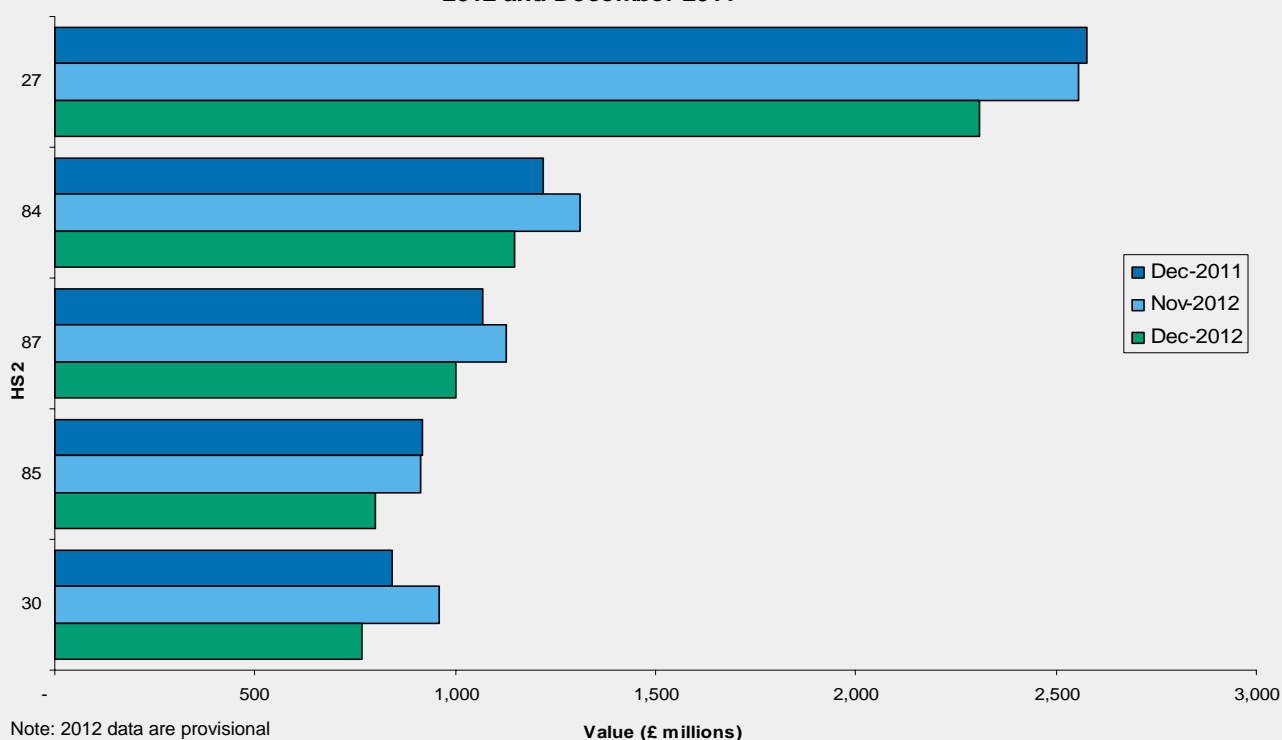


Table 2 shows comparisons of the value of UK export trade with our top five EU export trading partners for December 2012, November 2012 and December 2011.

Table 2: Top 5 EU export partner Member States in December 2012 compared to November 2012 and December 2011

Country	Total December 2012 £ millions	% Change from November 2012	% Change from December 2011	% of total EU exports	Rank November 2012	Rank December 2011
Total Exports	11,056.4	-18.1	-8.3	100.0	n/a	n/a
Germany	2,221.2	-34.3	-2.2	20.1	1	1
France	1,968.5	0.9	-5.8	17.8	3	2
Netherlands	1,625.0	-23.8	-9.8	14.7	2	3
Irish Republic	1,486.2	-0.5	-6.5	13.4	4	4
Belgium	893.6	-16.3	-20.2	8.1	5	5

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

The top five EU export partner Member States remain unchanged **compared with November 2012** 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 20.1 per cent of the total value of exports. This was led in December 2012 by exports of £457.5 million in HS2 27 and £299.0 million in HS2 84.

The substantial decrease in value of total export trade compared to November 2012 reflects decreases in 22 of the other 26 Member States in the EU. There were 5 decreases over £100 million. In contrast, there were no increases over £100 million. In

the top five countries, four experienced decreases in export trade with only France seeing a marginal increase.

The largest decrease in the value of exports from the UK was to the top EU export partner country, Germany, down £1.2 billion (34.3 per cent). This very large decrease means that the total export trade to Germany is the lowest figure seen since August 2010.

This decrease for Germany was dominated by a fall of £582.4 million HS 29 (Organic chemicals), only just over a tenth of the value last month. In the commodity analysis, it was demonstrated that the large decrease in trade for this chapter was a result of trade returning to typical levels after a very large increase last month. This commodity type is having an influential effect on the net decrease in export trade to Germany this month.

The second largest decrease in the value of exports from the UK was to the third largest EU export partner country, the Netherlands, down £508.1 million (23.8 per cent). This makes the total export trade to the Netherlands the lowest figure seen since December 2010. This decrease was dominated by a fall of £469.2 million (40.1 per cent) in HS 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes).

The third largest decrease was for Belgium, down £173.5 million (16.3 per cent). This was followed by Italy down £149.2 million (20.9 per cent) and then Sweden down £133.8 million (25.7 per cent). There were no other decreases over £100 million.

The size of the increases was much smaller. The largest increase was for France, a modest £18.1 million (0.9 per cent). This marginal increase for France coupled with the substantial decrease for the Netherlands has led to France moving from third into second place in the top five countries this month and the Netherlands being displaced from second to third place.

The decrease in total export trade value **compared to December 2011**, noted in Table 2, was due to decreases in 21 of the UK's 26 EU export partner Member States, with the size of the decreases being substantially larger than those for the increases. There were four decreases over £100 million and no increases above this value.

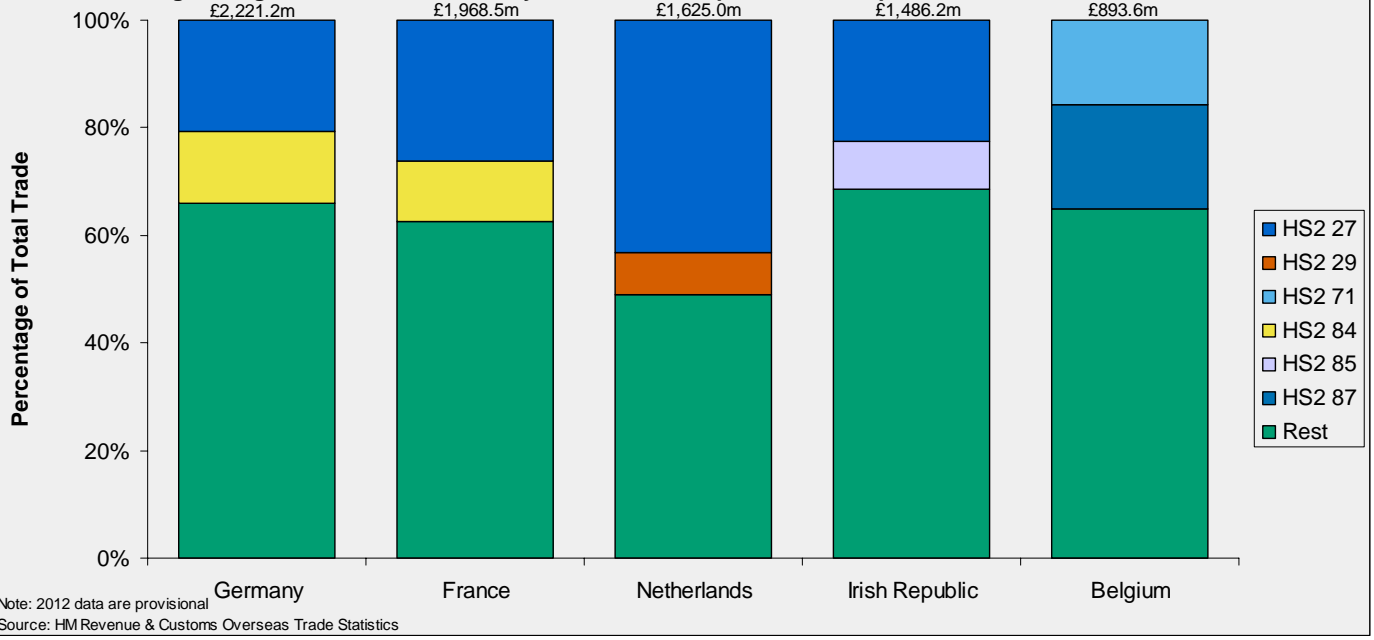
The largest decrease was for Belgium, down by £225.9 million (20.2 per cent), followed by the Netherlands down £176.3 million (9.8 per cent), France down £121.5 million (5.8 per cent) and then the Irish Republic down £103.8 million (6.5 per cent).

The decreases in the value of exports to Belgium and the Netherlands were driven by falls in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation) of £209.0 million (65.8 per cent) and £150.5 million (17.7 per cent) respectively. The decreases for France and Ireland, however, were spread across a number of chapters.

In contrast, there were no increases above £100 million. The largest increase was well below this level and was for Lithuania up £18.8 million (73.3 per cent). The next largest increase was under £4 million.

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 four Member States accounts for 87.0 per cent of the total value of UK EU export trade under this heading. For the Netherlands trade under HS2 27 accounts for 43.1 per cent of the total UK export trade to this country. Two of the top five Member States 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 45.2 per cent of the total value of UK EU export trade under this heading.

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



Further Analysis: Imports

Table 3: Top 5 commodities in UK's EU imports in December 2012 compared to November 2012 and December 2011

HS 2	Description	December 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from November 2012	% Change from December 2011	% of Total December 2012 Imports	Rank November 2012	Rank December 2011
-	Total Imports	15,355.1	-16.2	-2.8	100.0	n/a	n/a
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	2,085.8	-16.1	-4.9	13.6	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	1,856.0	-8.7	-7.3	12.1	2	2
85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts and accessories of such articles	1,472.0	-25.7	-4.5	9.6	3	3
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	1,311.5	-8.5	20.4	8.5	4	4
30	Pharmaceutical products	768.4	-36.1	-6.1	5.0	5	5

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

The large decrease in imports **compared to November 2012** reflects the fact that over 80 per cent of all HS2 chapters decreased in import value. There were eight decreases of £100 million or more, and no increases of this amount. All of the top five commodities decreased in import value.

The largest decrease in value of imports was for the third biggest import by value, 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). This fell by £509.4 million (25.7 percent) to £1.5 billion. This follows two large increases in this chapter, to take it back to pre-October 2012 levels. There is a history of this chapter increasing in import value during October or November for the Christmas trade, and then dropping off again in December.

The second largest decrease in value of imports was for the fifth biggest import by value, HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products). This fell by £434.6 million (36.1 percent) to £768.4 million. This takes this chapter from its highest ever import value last month, to its lowest since February 2012.

The third 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 £400.7 million (16.1 percent) to £2.1 billion. This is in the second consecutive large decrease in this chapter, taking it to its lowest value since December 2010. As with HS2 85, this chapter often decreases in December.

There were also 5 other chapters with decreases of over £100 million. HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) fell by £176.9 million (8.7 per cent) to £1.9 billion. HS2 29 (Organic chemicals) fell £133.4 million (25.4 per cent) to £391.7 million. HS2 39 (Plastics and plastic products) fell £128.0 million (19.1 per cent) to £543.7 million. HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) fell £121.8 million (8.5 per cent) to £1.3 billion, and HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft and parts thereof) fell £102.1 million (52.2 per cent) to £93.6 million.

In contrast, the largest increase was just £53.2 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), up 16.9 per cent) to £367.6 million. This follows a decrease of £90.4 million in the previous month.

There were only three other HS2 chapters with an increase of over £10 million.

Compared with December 2011, there was a decrease of 2.8 per cent in the value of imports. Sixty-six per cent of all chapters decreased in value. There were two chapters with decreases of over £100 million, and one increase of this magnitude, all in the top five.

The chapter with the largest decrease in comparison with December 2011 was the second biggest import by value, HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof), down £146.2 million (7.3 per cent).

The second largest decrease was in chapter with the biggest import by value, HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof), down £107.5 million (4.9 per cent).

The largest increase was for the fourth biggest import by value, HS2 27, up £222.2 million (20.4 per cent). There was one more increase close to £100 million, as the tenth biggest chapter, HS2 71, increased by £99.2 million (37.0 per cent) to £367.6 million.

Figure 4 shows the top five HS2 commodity groups for UK's EU imports in December 2012, compared to November 2012 and December 2011.

The graph shows that all of the top five chapters had big decreases when compared to November 2012, while the decreases were much smaller when compared to December 2011. For chapter HS 27, there was an increase when compared to December 2011 but a decrease when compared to November 2012.

Fig 4: Top 5 Commodities for UK's EU imports in December 2012 compared to November 2012 and December 2011

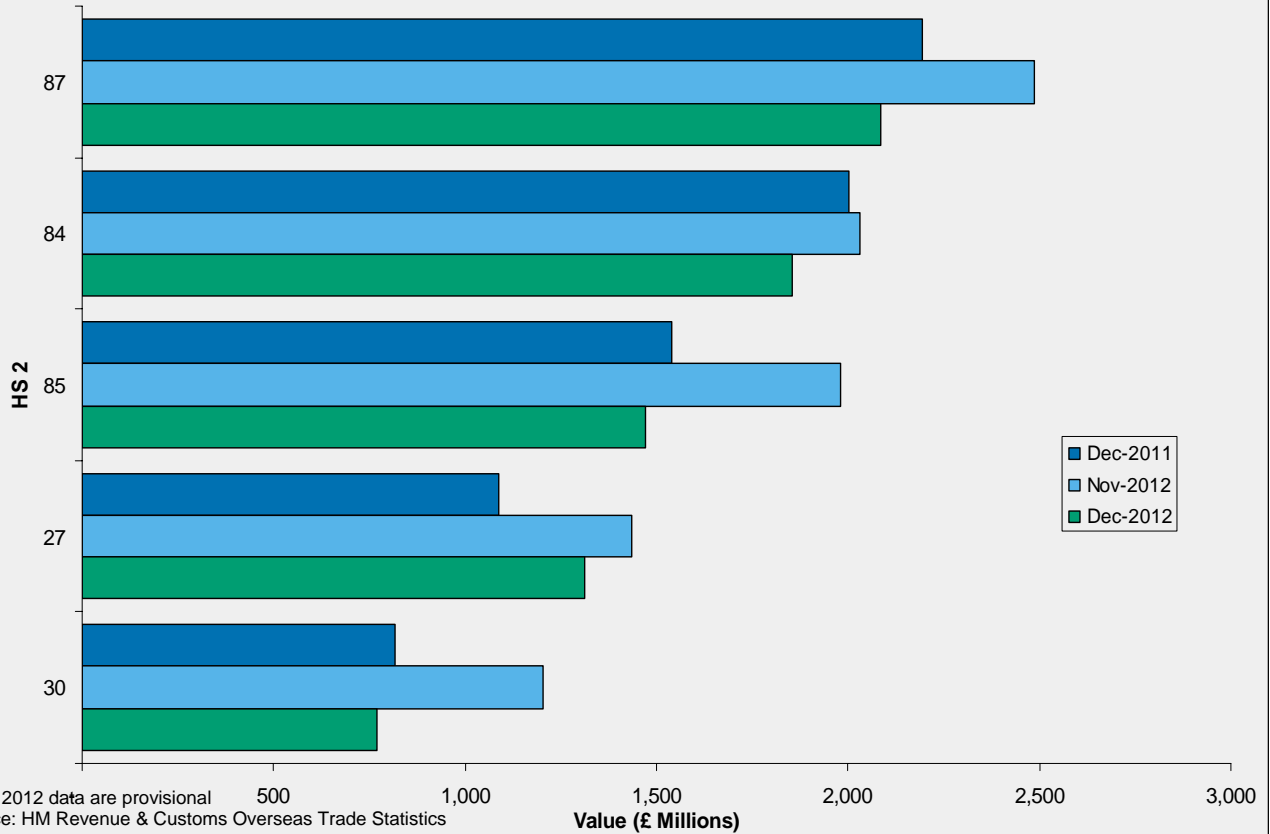


Table 4 shows comparisons of the value of UK import trade with our top five EU import trading partners for December 2012, November 2012 and December 2011.

Table 4: Top 5 EU import partner Member States in December 2012 compared to November 2012 and December 2011

Country	December 2012 Total £ millions	% change from November 2012	% Change from December 2011	% of total December 2012 Imports	Rank November 2012	Rank December 2011
Total EU Imports	15,355.1	-16.2	-2.8	100.0	n/a	n/a
Germany	3,694.8	-18.8	-3.6	24.1	1	1
Netherlands	2,636.8	-15.8	11.8	17.2	2	2
France	1,591.3	-22.3	-11.9	10.4	3	3
Belgium	1,425.5	-11.3	6.5	9.3	4	4
Italy	1,078.4	-11.4	-5.8	7.0	5	5

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

Germany remains the Member State from which the UK imports most, accounting for 24.1 per cent of the total imports to the UK from the EU. This is led by imports of £1.0 billion in HS2 87 despite this chapter experiencing the second largest decrease for Germany. Compared to November 2012 imports from this chapter fell by £125.6 million, 10.7 per cent. The next largest chapter is HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof), with £0.6 billion of imports to the UK.

The value of total import trade into the UK increased for just three of the other 26 Member States in the EU compared with November 2012 and decreased for 23. Imports for eight member states decreased by over £100 million, while the biggest increase was just £24.5 million.

The largest decrease in value of import trade **compared with November 2012** is the fall of £857.0 million (18.8 per cent) from Germany, led by decreases in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products), down £249.8 million (55.6 per cent). This follows a large increase in this chapter last month. There was also a large decrease in HS2 87, as mentioned above.

The second largest decrease was from the Netherlands, down £493.3 million (15.8 per cent), led by a fall of £226.3 million (34.5 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 third largest decrease was from France, down £455.6 million (22.3 per cent). This was spread across several chapters, with the largest decrease being in HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof), down £70.0 million (77.3 per cent).

The other decreases of over £100 million were from Belgium, down £182.4 million (11.3 per cent); from the Irish Republic, down £181.4 million (16.5 per cent) to £917.1 million; Sweden, down £141.6 million (18.9 per cent) to £609.5 million; Italy, down £138.1 million (11.4 per cent); and Poland, down £129.1 million (18.9 per cent), to £554.5 million. Nine of the top ten of the UK's import partners decreased, with the only increase being Denmark, the tenth biggest import partner, which increased by £19.1 million (4.4 per cent).

The largest increase was from Estonia, up £24.5 million (147.0 per cent) to £41.2 million. This increase is more than covered by a rise of £31.6 million in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes), from under £20 thousand in November 2012.

There was a decrease of £0.4 billion (2.8 per cent) in total import trade value **compared to December 2011**, which is composed of decreases from 18 of the other 26 Member States in the EU, and increases in eight. Imports for two member states decreased by over £100 million, while one increased by this amount.

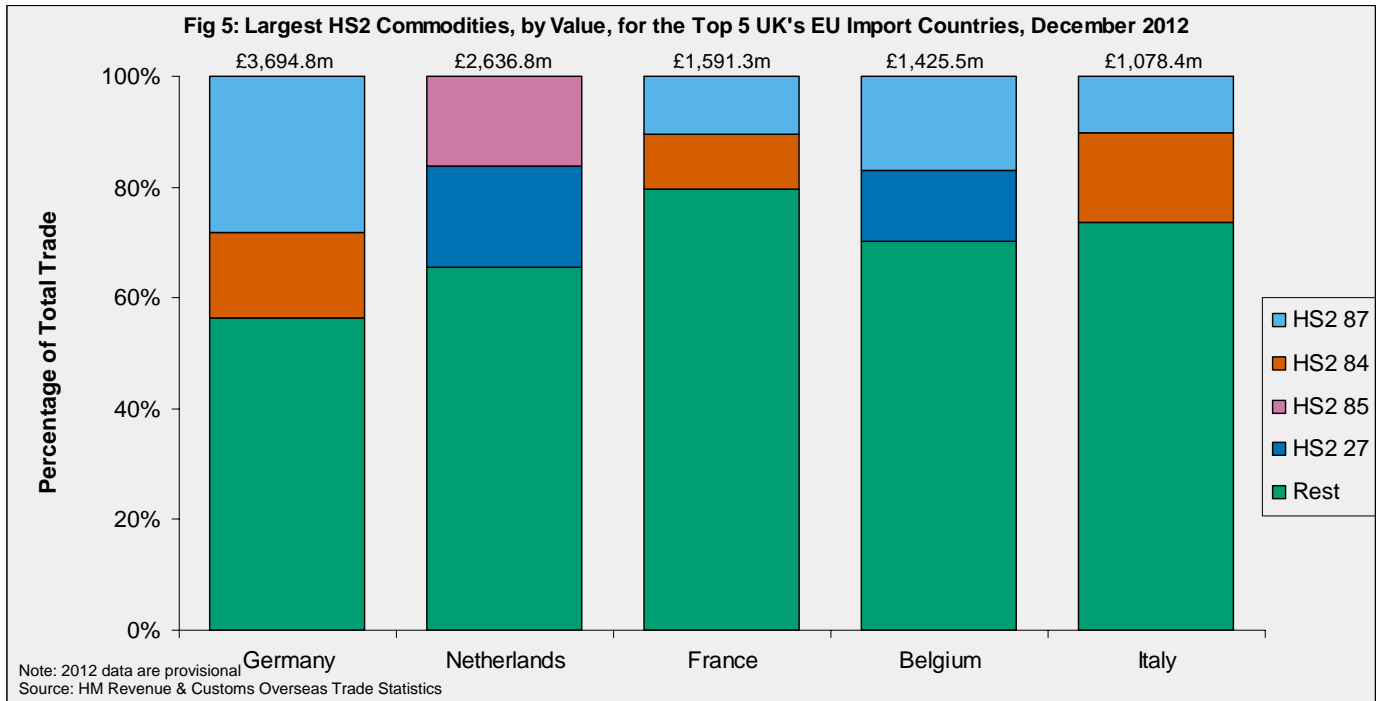
The partner country from which the largest decrease in the value of imports was seen was France, down by £214.9 million (11.9 per cent), and is nearly half of the overall net decrease. This decrease is spread over a number of chapters, with the largest decreases being £47.7 million in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) and £47.6 million in HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof).

The second largest decrease is £137.0 million (3.6 per cent) for imports from Germany, also spread over a number of chapters, with the largest decreases being £49.3 million in HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof).

The partner country from which the largest increase in value of imports was seen was the Netherlands, up £277.7 million (11.8 per cent). This was driven by a rise of £124.8 million (40.8 per cent) in HS2 85.

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. Four 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 75.0 per cent of the total import trade to the UK under this heading. It also makes up 28.3 per cent of the UK's total imports from Germany.

Another three of these Member States have HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) in their top two largest commodities imported to the UK. The UK's trade in HS2 84 with these three Member States accounts for 48.7 per cent of its EU total imports in these commodities.



Notes:

1. HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with Member States of the European Union (EU) on 19 February 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 December 2012. At the same time revisions for all previously published EU data for 2012 are also being released in line with the [Overseas Trade Statistics Policy on Revisions](#).
3. The figures provided in this publication of the December 2012 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 December.
 - 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](#).

Estimates are included in all high level totals including HS2 and country totals but not for aggregated totals below this level.

4. Detailed trade information is presented according to the [Harmonised System \(HS\)](#) nomenclature.
5. 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](#).
6. 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'.
7. 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.
8. 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>

9. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

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

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

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

Please note: there may be a delay between the availability of 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: 14 March 2013 9:30am

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