

# Non-EU Overseas Trade Statistics - October 2012

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## **Summary**

- UK's non-EU exports have increased by £1.0 billion (8.5 per cent) compared to September 2012, to £12.7 billion. Compared to October 2011, exports have increased by less than £0.1 billion (0.5 per cent).
- UK's non-EU imports have increased by £0.8 billion (4.8 per cent) compared to September 2012, to £17.4 billion. Compared to October 2011, imports have decreased by £0.5 billion (2.8 per cent).
- Despite the large increase in both imports and exports from last month, the levels of trade in comparison with October 2011 are relatively unchanged.
- The UK remains a net importer (imports are greater than exports). The size of the difference between imports and exports has decreased by £0.2 billion (4.2 per cent) compared to September 2012, and has decreased from October 2011 by £0.6 billion (10.9 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](#).

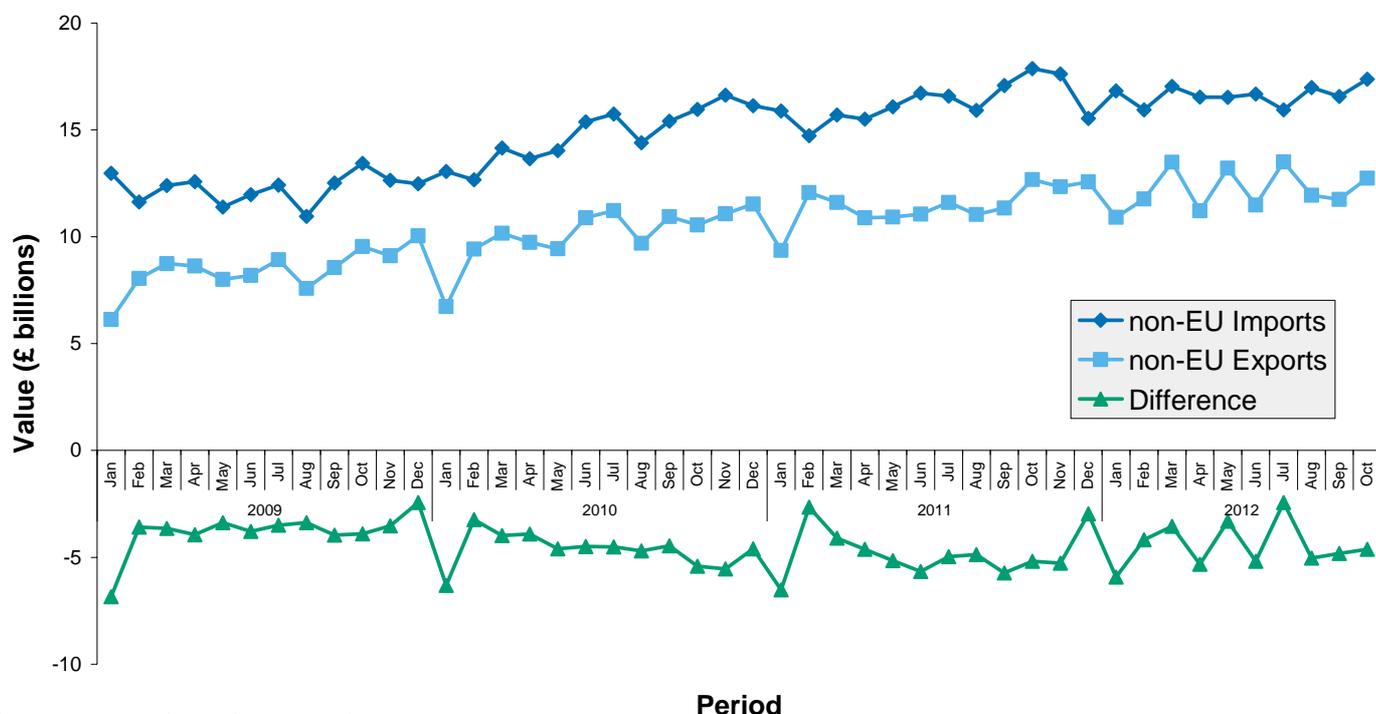
## Key Points

For the month of October 2012:

The value of exports and imports both increased in October 2012 compared with the previous month. The export value increased at a slightly faster rate than the import value. Consequently the difference between non-EU imports and exports has decreased.

The monthly import value is the highest since November 2011.

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



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

## Exports

- UK's non-EU exports have increased by £1.0 billion (8.5 per cent) compared to September 2012, to £12.7 billion. Compared to October 2011, exports have increased by less than £0.1 billion (0.5 per cent).
- The largest contributing commodity group remains HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof). In October it contributed £2.3 billion, 18.2 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU export trade. The largest contribution to this chapter was £1.0 billion from HS4 8411 (Turbo-jets, Turbo-propellers and other gas turbines).
- Within the top five commodities, HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin) has risen to fifth from sixth place last month. HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) has dropped to sixth.
- The overall increase in exports compared to September 2012 is made up of increases in over 60 per cent of HS2 chapters. The largest value increase from the previous month was £423.3 million in HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof), an increase of 32.4 per cent.
- The largest decrease from the previous month was £151.8 million in HS2 93 (Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof), a decrease of 88.9 per cent.
- The USA remains the UK's largest non-EU export partner country, accounting for 28.7 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU export trade. Exports from the UK to the USA also had the largest increase in value, compared to September 2012, up by £314.5 million, 9.4 per cent. The largest decrease in exports compared to September 2012 was to Saudi Arabia, down by £213.7 million, 47.8 per cent.
- The total 2012 year to date value of UK's goods exported to non-EU countries excluding October 2012 is £109.2 billion. This has been upwardly revised by £6.1 million, which is less than 0.1 per cent.

## Imports

- The value of the UK's non-EU imports increased by £0.8 billion (4.8 per cent) compared to September 2012, to £17.4 billion. Compared to October 2011 imports have decreased by £0.5 billion (2.8 per cent).
- The top five commodities are unchanged from the previous month. The largest contributing commodity group remains HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes), contributing £3.2 billion in October 2012, 18.3 per cent of the total value of non-EU imports to the UK. The largest contribution to this chapter was £1.9 billion from HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude). This chapter also had the largest value decrease from the previous month, of £362.9 million, 10.3 per cent.
- The largest value increase from the previous month was £299.2 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), an increase of 28.0 per cent.
- The USA has overtaken China as the UK's largest non-EU import partner country in October 2012, accounting for 17.0 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU import trade, while China had a 16.7 per cent share. This feature is due to the largest increase in the value of imports to the UK compared to September

2012 being from the USA, a rise of £400.3 million, 15.7 per cent. In contrast, the largest decrease in imports into the UK compared to September 2012 was from Nigeria which decreased by £190.1 million, 41.0 per cent.

- The total 2012 year to date value of UK's trade-in-goods imported from non-EU countries, excluding October 2012, is £149.0 billion. This has been upwardly revised by £2.4 million, which is less than 0.1 per cent.

## Further Analysis: Exports

Table 1 shows a comparison of the top five commodities by value exported to countries outside the EU for October 2011, September 2012 and October 2012.

HS 2	Description	October 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2012	% Change from October 2011	% of Total October 2012 Exports	Rank September 2012	Rank October 2011
-	Total Exports	12,741.8	8.5	0.5	100.0	n/a	n/a
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	2,316.4	2.7	2.2	18.2	1	1
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	1,729.9	32.4	19.3	13.6	2	2
30	Pharmaceutical products	885.7	-4.6	-14.8	7.0	3	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	877.6	2.2	-2.0	6.9	4	5
71	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin	848.0	38.4	-20.9	6.7	6	3

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

The overall increase in exports **compared to September 2012** reflects increases in over 60 per cent of HS2 chapters, with the size of the increases generally larger than the decreases. The total export trade value has increased by £1.0 billion (8.5 per cent). Four of the top five commodity types increased in export value, accounting for 74.1 per cent of the total net increase in export trade. There were four chapters with increases of over £100 million, and only one decrease of this magnitude.

The largest value increase from the previous month, of £423.3 million, was in the second biggest export by value, HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof). This is a 32.4 per cent increase compared to September 2012. This increase is driven by a large increase in HS4 8703 (Motor vehicles) up £441.8 million, 49.1 per cent. For both chapter and heading, these are the second highest export values ever, after May 2012's export values of £178.2 million for HS2 87, and £138.7 million for HS4 8703.

The second largest increase was in the fifth largest export, 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 by £235.3 million, an increase of 38.4 per cent. Within HS71 it was HS4 7113 (Articles of jewellery and parts thereof, of precious metal or of metal clad with precious metal (excl. articles > 100 years old))

which saw the largest increase compared with September 2012 of £169.9 million, 126.4 per cent. Due to the nature of these products, small changes in quantity can produce large changes in value.

The third largest increase was in HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques), up £193.7 million, 66.6 per cent, driven by a rise of £154.3 million (77.8 per cent) in HS4 9701 (Paintings, e.g. oil paintings, watercolours and pastels, and drawings executed entirely by hand).

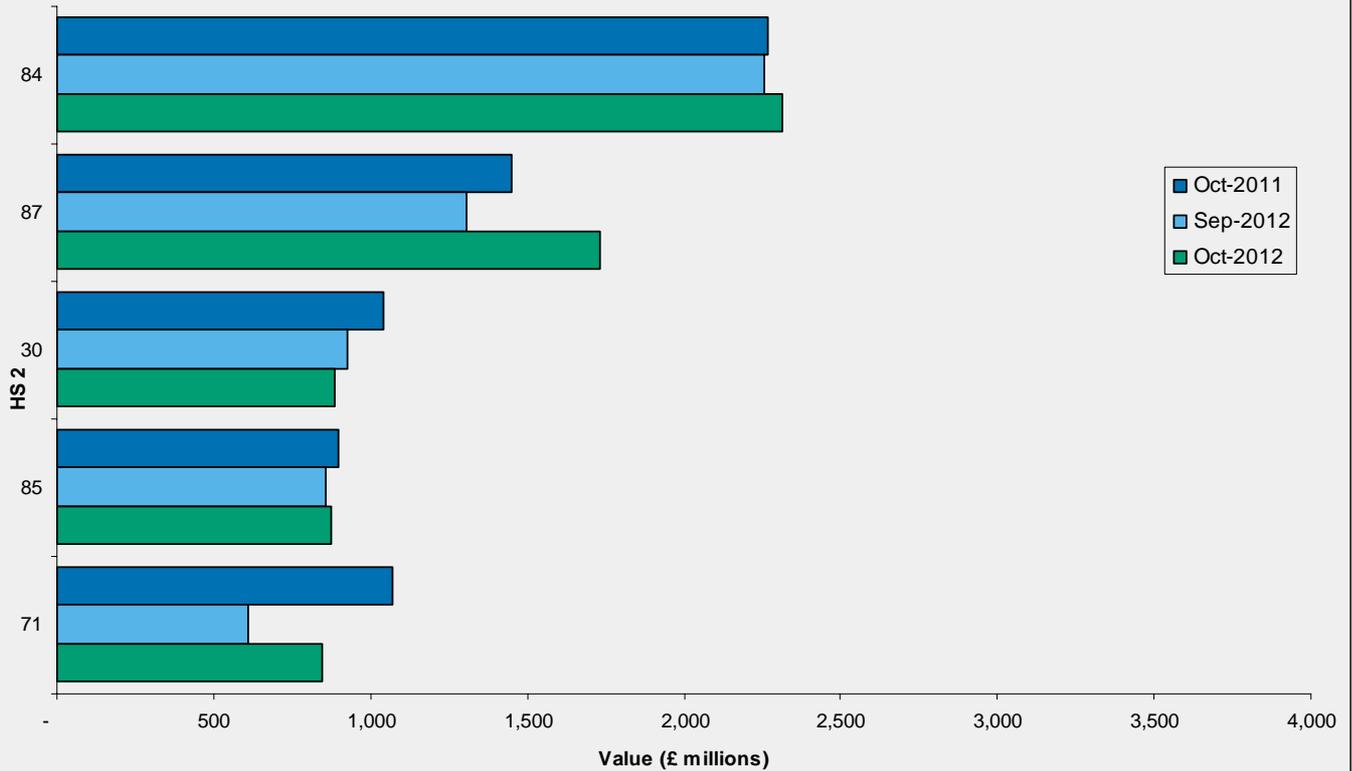
The only other chapter to increase by more than £100 million was HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) up £144.1 million (22.0 per cent) to £799.6 million. This was driven by a rise of £117.4 million (a fourfold increase) in HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude). Despite this increase, HS27 has dropped from fifth largest export by value last month, to sixth this month.

The largest decrease since last month was £151.8 million in HS2 93 (Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof), a decrease of 88.9 per cent; to £19.0 million. This is due to an exceptionally high export value last month.

There was no other chapter for which the value of exports decreased by more than £50 million.

The total export trade value remained almost unchanged, increasing by just £68.5 million (0.5 per cent) **compared to October 2011**. Just under half of HS2 chapters showed increases, but the size of these increases were generally bigger than the decreases, which explains the very marginal overall increase of 0.5 per cent. There were three chapters with increases of over £100 million, and three decreases of this magnitude. The largest increase was in the second biggest commodity exported by value: HS2 87 up £279.6 million, while outside the top five, HS2 27 was up £216.4 million, and HS2 97 was up £116.4 million. The largest decrease of £224.0 million was in HS2 71. This is because October 2011 showed a record export value of £1.1 billion. Also in the top five, HS2 30 decreased by £154.1 million. The only other chapter for which the value of exports decreased by more than £100 million was outside the top five, HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof) fell by £175.3 million (28.1 per cent).

**Fig 2: Top 5 commodities for UK's non-EU exports October 2012 compared to September 2012 and October 2011**



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

Figure 2 shows the top five commodities for UK's non-EU exports in October 2012, compared to September 2012 and October 2011. It shows that four of the top five commodity types had increases when compared with September 2012, but three had decreases when compared with October 2011.

Table 2 shows a comparison of the value of UK non-EU export trade with our top five trading partners for October 2011, September 2012 and October 2012.

**Table 2: Top 5 non-EU export partner countries in October 2012 compared to September 2012 and October 2011**

Country	October 2012 Total £ millions	% change from September 2012	% Change from October 2011	% of total October 2012 Exports	Rank September 2012	Rank October 2011
Total Exports	12,741.8	8.5	0.5	100.0	n/a	n/a
USA	3,659.7	9.4	4.5	28.7	1	1
China	923.4	32.1	13.7	7.2	2	2
Hong Kong	503.1	10.4	0.0	3.9	4	4
United Arab Emirates	433.9	1.3	4.3	3.4	7	9
Switzerland	417.8	-4.4	-12.0	3.3	6	6

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

For all three periods, the USA was the UK's largest non-EU export partner country, with China second.

**Compared to September 2012**, the overall increase in exports reflects an increase in the value of exports to over 60 per cent of our export partners. There were three

countries with increases of £100 million or more, and one with a decrease of this magnitude. Two of the increases involved the top five countries, while the decrease moved Saudi Arabia out of the top five for this month.

The largest increase in exports was to the USA, up by £314.5 million, 9.4 per cent. This is the highest export value to the USA since March 2012, which was the highest value recorded in recent years. This increase is driven by a rise of £235.4 million in HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques).

The second largest increase in exports was to China, up by £224.1 million, 32.1 per cent, to £923.4 million. This follows two successive monthly falls in the previous two months, and takes China's export value to the third highest ever, just behind July's record high of £1.0 billion. This increase is led by a rise of £164.8 million (97.2 per cent) in motor vehicles in HS4 8703.

The third largest increase was outside the top five, as exports to Thailand increased by £102.0 million, 83.9 per cent to a value of £223.7 million. This is a new record for exports to Thailand, beating August 2012's export value of £214.9 million. This was driven by a threefold increase of £62.2 million in HS2 72 (Iron and steel), with HS4 7207 (Semi-finished products of iron or non-alloy steel) increasing by £61.9 million (235.1 per cent). The corresponding increase in quantity suggests the increase is due to a rise in the volume of export trade rather than price changes.

The largest decrease in exports was to Saudi Arabia, where exports decreased by £213.7 million, 47.8 per cent, returning to more usual levels seen. This is mainly due to a large increase in HS2 93 (Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof) last month. This puts Saudi Arabia back into sixteenth place, from fifth place in export value last month.

The second largest decrease in exports is to Russia, down £56.9 million (12.1 per cent) to £411.6 million. This takes Russia out of the top five this month to sixth place.

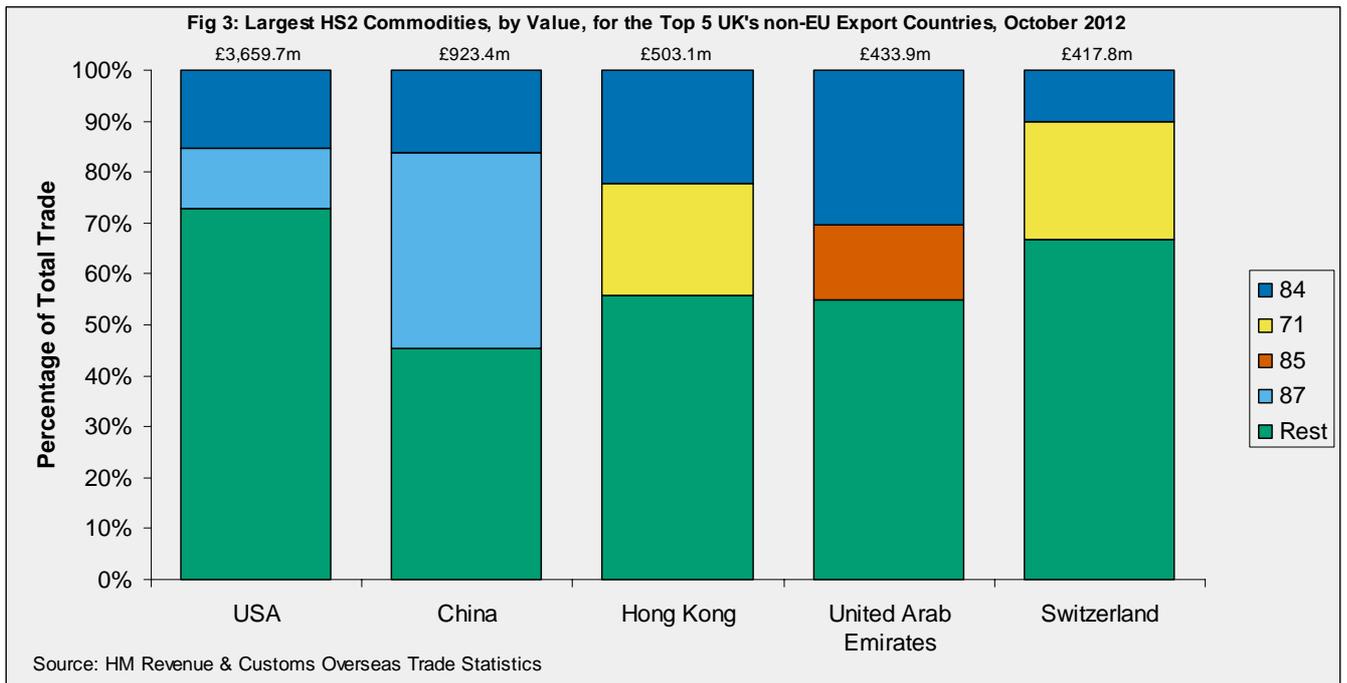
**Compared to October 2011**, the overall small increase of £68.5 million in exports reflects a mix of increases and decreases in the value of exports to our partner countries. There were increases in excess of £100 million for exports to five countries, and three decreases of this magnitude. Three of the top five export partners showed an increase.

The largest increases in total export trade value compared to September 2011 are to the USA, up by £156.7 million; South Korea, up by £152.2 million; China, up £111.0 million; Thailand, up £109.4 million; and Azerbaijan, up £104.3 million. The USA's increase was driven by rises of £143.6 million in HS2 87 and £116.5 million in HS2 97, balanced by a decrease of £144.7 million in HS2 30. The increase in exports to South Korea was driven by a rise of £147.1 million in HS2 27. China's increase was driven by a rise of £115.9 million in HS2 87. Thailand was led by a rise of £87.1 million in HS2 72. Azerbaijan was led by an increase of £105.3 million in HS2 71.

The largest decreases in total export trade value compared to October 2011 are to India, down by £377.7 million (50.5 per cent), mostly due to a fall of £353.0 million (75.3 per cent) in HS2 71; Saudi Arabia, down £131.7 million, with HS2 88 down £133.6 million (88.9 per cent); and Canada, down £120.0 million, with a £73.7 million fall in HS2 27 (almost 100 per cent).

Figure 3 shows the two largest commodities by value exported from the UK to each of its top five non-EU export partner countries. In October 2012 all of the top five countries had HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) in their top two largest commodities exported from the UK, two had HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof), and two had HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin). The trade with these countries accounts for 43.2 per

cent of the total value of UK non-EU export trade for HS2 84; 45.4 per cent for HS2 87; and 24.4 per cent for HS2 71.



## Further Analysis: Imports

Table 3 shows a comparison of the top five commodities imported from countries outside the EU for October 2011, September 2012 and October 2012.

HS 2	Description	October 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2012	% Change from October 2011	% of Total October 2012 Imports	Rank September 2012	Rank October 2011
-	Total Imports	17,361.2	4.8	-2.8	100.0	n/a	n/a
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	3,169.3	-10.3	-20.1	18.3	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	2,171.7	12.0	9.5	12.5	2	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	1,543.3	-1.6	-23.9	8.9	3	2
71	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin	1,369.1	28.0	33.7	7.9	4	4
61	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted	631.6	-1.7	-3.7	3.6	5	5

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

The value of imports increased by £0.8 billion **compared to September 2012**. This represents an increase in nearly 75 per cent of the HS2 commodity chapters. There were five increases of over £100 million, and one decrease of this magnitude. The largest decrease, and two of the largest increases, are in the top five imports.

The largest decrease was in imports of the UK's biggest import commodity type by value, HS2 27, which fell by £0.4 billion to £3.2 billion. This is the second monthly drop after August's record high in recent years, of £4.3 billion, and takes HS2 27 to its lowest value since November 2010. The decrease is led by a fall of £335.1 million in HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude), a fall of 14.9 per cent. As the quantity imported decreased by only 12.3 per cent, this suggests that the decrease is mainly due to a fall in the volume imported, but with an element due to price decreases also. No other HS2 chapter decreased by over £100 million.

The largest value increase from the previous month, of £299.2 million (28.0 per cent), was in imports of the UK's fourth biggest import by value, HS2 71. This is the highest

import value of this chapter in recent years, beating May 2012's previous high of £1.3 billion. This increase was due to an increase of £356.9 million in platinum in HS4 7110, balanced by a decrease of £143.6 million (25.7 per cent) in unmounted diamonds in HS4 7102.

The second largest value increase from the previous month, of £235.1 million (63.0 per cent), was in imports of the UK's seventh biggest import by value in October 2012, HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques). This increase was driven by an increase of £174.6 million (74.1 per cent) in paintings in HS4 9701

The third biggest increase is in imports of the UK's second biggest import by value, HS2 84 which rose by £232.6 million (12.0 per cent). The increase was mainly driven by a rise of £195.0 million (60.5 per cent) in HS4 8471 (Automatic data-processing machines and units thereof; magnetic or optical readers, machines for transcribing data onto data media in coded form and machines for processing such data) which includes tablet computers, laptops and e-readers. This is likely to be stock imported for Christmas trade.

The other two large increases in imports are in HS2 28 (Inorganic chemicals) up by £112.2 million, 97.0 per cent; and HS2 29 (Organic chemicals) up £103.1 million, 34.2 per cent.

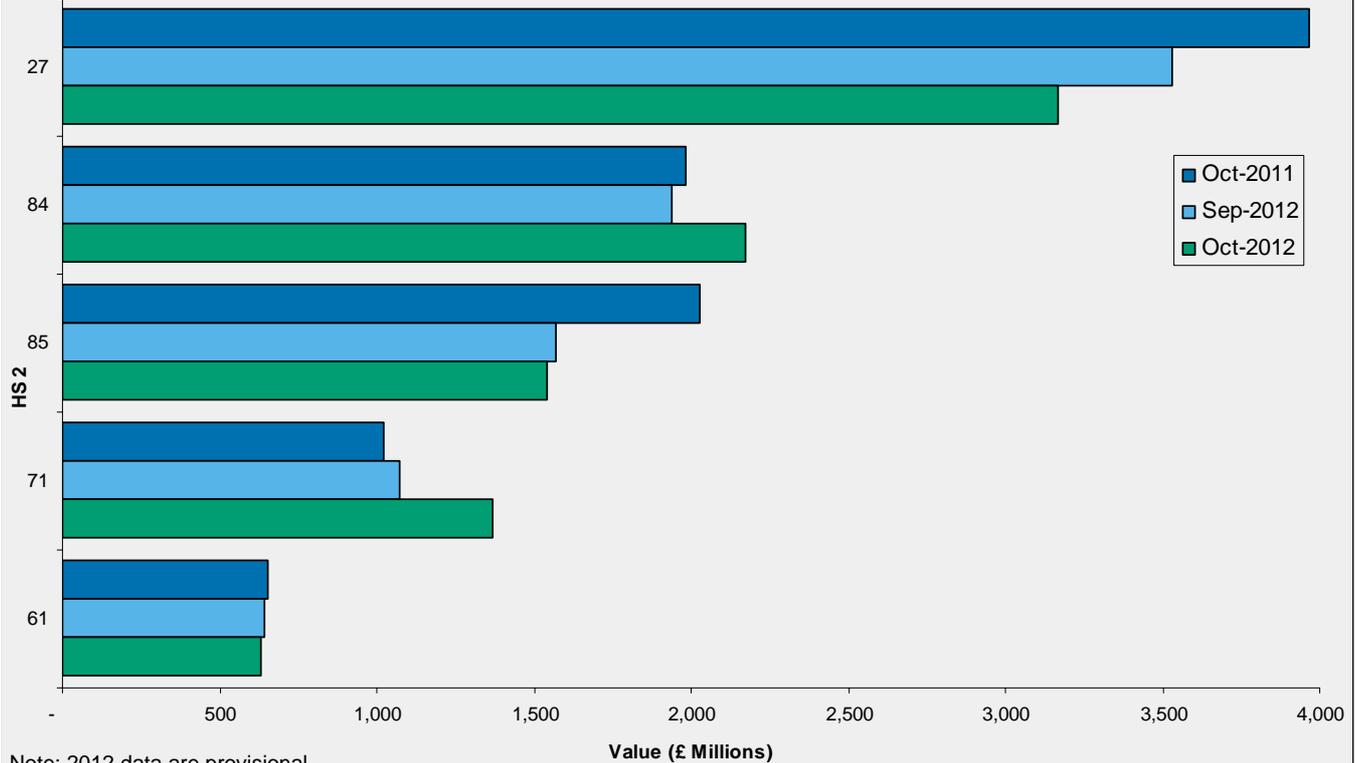
In contrast, when **compared to October 2011**, total import value decreased by £0.5 billion (2.8 per cent). This decrease reflects a mix of increases and decreases in the value of imports of all HS2 chapters, but dominated by two large falls. There were five chapters with increases of over £100 million (but all under £400 million) and two decreases over £100 million, both of which were over £400 million.

The chapters with a decrease of over £100 million were HS2 27, down £795.7 million, 20.1 per cent, and HS2 85, down £485.1 million, 23.9 per cent. Both of these chapters are in the top five.

The chapters with increases of over £100 million are HS2 71 (up £344.8 million, 33.7 per cent); HS2 97 up £283.4 million (87.2 per cent); HS2 84 (up £189.0 million, 9.5 per cent); HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products) up £103.2 million, 19.6 per cent; and HS2 29 (Organic chemicals) up £103.0 million, 34.2 per cent.

Within the top five chapters shown in Figure 4, three of the chapters show decreases and two show increases, when compared with both September 2012 and October 2011. The graph demonstrates the magnitude of the HS2 27 and HS2 85 decreases are much greater when compared to October 2011.

**Fig 4: Top 5 Commodities for UK's non-EU import October 2012 compared to September 2012 and October 2011**



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

**Table 4: Top 5 Non-EU import partner countries in October 2012 compared to September 2012 and October 2011**

Country	October 2012 Total £ millions	% change from September 2012	% Change from October 2011	% of Total October 2012 Imports	Rank September 2012	Rank October 2011
Total Imports	17,361.2	4.8	-2.8	100.0	n/a	n/a
USA	2,953.0	15.7	5.3	17.0	2	2
China	2,898.9	5.4	-8.7	16.7	1	1
Norway	1,538.3	14.7	-23.3	8.9	3	3
Switzerland	979.1	33.2	96.6	5.6	4	9
Russia	679.3	1.5	24.2	3.9	6	6

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Table 4 shows comparisons of the value of UK non-EU import trade from our top five import trading partners for October 2011, September 2012, and October 2012. Imports from all of the top five trading partners have increased in October compared to the previous month, but two have decreased when compared to October 2011.

These changes have moved the USA ahead of China for the first time since July, and Russia into fifth from sixth, ahead of Hong Kong. The USA, China, and Norway have been the UK's largest import partners for a number of years.

The increase in total imports **compared to September 2012** reflects a mix of increases and decreases in the value of imports from our import partners, but the size

of the increases is generally greater than the decreases. Six countries had increases of over £100 million, while three had a decrease of this magnitude.

The largest increase in value of imports was from the USA, up by £400.3 million, an increase of 15.7 per cent, to £3.0 billion, the highest value since July 2010. This rise is driven by increases of £221.2 million (100.3 per cent) in HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques) and £119.0 million (54.7 per cent) in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes).

The second largest increase in value of imports was from Switzerland, up by £244.1 million, 33.2 per cent, to £979.1 million, the second highest import value in recent years, after March 2010's record high of £1.1 billion. This was driven by the combination of a rise of £344.8 million in imports of platinum in HS4 7110, an increase of nearly 60 times, offset by a fall of £126.2 million (49.4 per cent), in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products).

The third largest increase in value of imports was from Israel, up by £208.7 million, 93.2 per cent, to £432.6 million. This was driven by an increase of £187.8 million (133.1 per cent) in pharmaceuticals in HS2 30.

The other large increases were from Norway, up £197.2 million, more than covered by HS2 27 increasing by £199.5 million (17.6 per cent); Taiwan, up £171.0 million, with a £100.5 million increase in HS2 84; and China, up £149.2 million, with increases of £79.4 million in HS2 84 and £57.7 million in HS2 85.

The two biggest decreases in imports were from Nigeria, down by £190.1 million, 41.0 per cent, and Libya, down £126.2 million, 58.7 per cent. Both of these decreases are primarily due to decreases in the imports of HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude), with Nigeria down £189.5 million (42.0 per cent), and Libya down £129.3 million, 60.2 per cent.

The third biggest decrease in value of imports was from Zaire, down by £109.1 million, a decrease of 25.2 per cent. This decrease is driven by a fall of £110.6 million (49.4 per cent) of unmounted diamonds in HS4 7102.

In contrast, there was a decrease of 2.8 per cent in the total value of imports **compared to October 2011**, with imports from approximately half of our import partner countries increasing in value, and the other half decreasing, but the decreases being slightly larger than the increases. There were decreases in excess of £100 million for imports from five countries, and four increases of this magnitude. Three of the UK's top five import trading partners for October 2012 have increased when compared to October 2011.

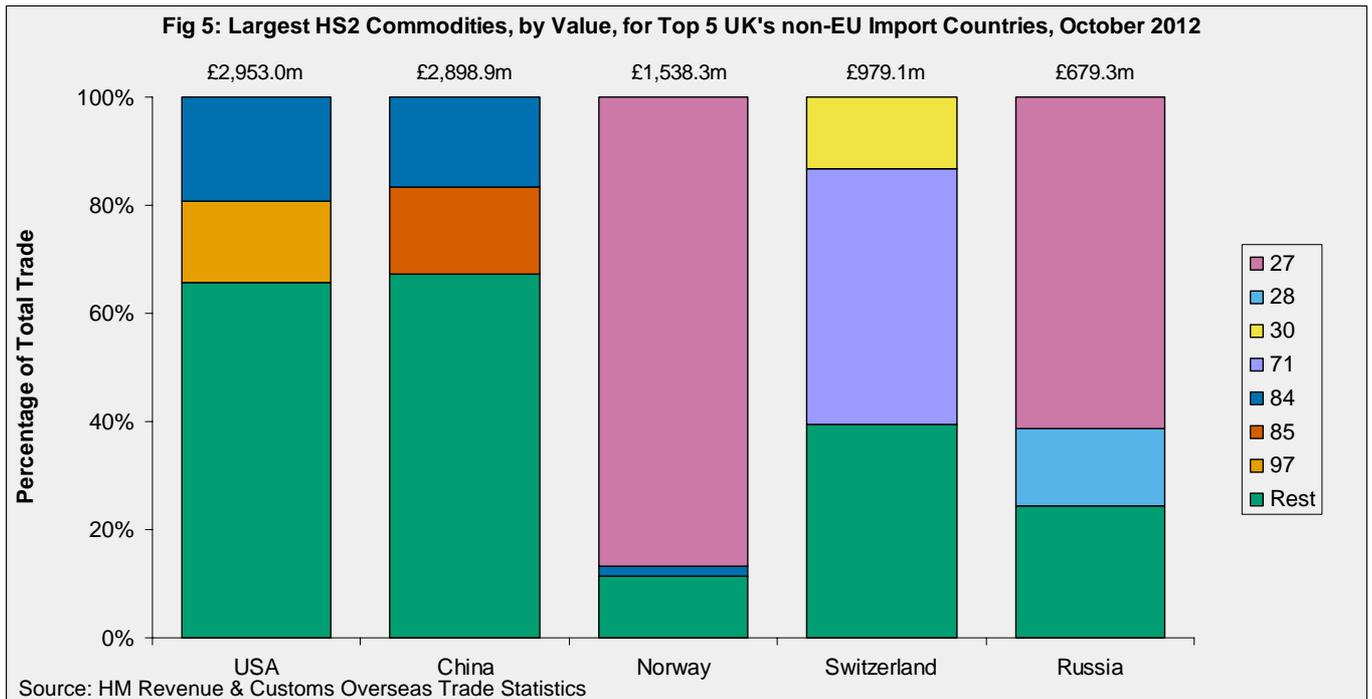
The largest decrease in total import trade value is from Norway, down by £468.1 million, 93.7 per cent of the overall net decrease. This is almost entirely due to decreases of £458.5 million in HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude). The second biggest decrease is from Qatar (down by £330.2 million, 76.8 per cent), driven by a decrease of £319.6 million in imports of HS4 2711 (Petroleum gas and other gaseous hydrocarbons). There were also large decreases from China (down £275.1 million, 8.7 per cent); Japan (down £227.8 million, 28.1 per cent); and Algeria (down £172.7 million, 79.9 per cent).

The largest increase in value of imports was from Switzerland, up by £481.1 million, 96.6 per cent. This was driven by a rise of £429.9 million in HS2 71. The second largest increase was from Israel, up £184.1 million, 74.1 per cent, with a £163.3 million increase in HS2 30. The other large increases are from the USA (up £147.6 million, 5.3 per cent); and Russia (up £132.2 million, 24.2 per cent).

Figure 5 shows the two largest commodities by value imported from each of the top five non-EU import partner countries. This month, three of the top five trading partners

have HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) in their top two largest commodities imported to the UK, accounting for 49.9 per cent of the total trade in HS2 84. Also, two of the top five import partners have HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) in their top two largest commodities imported to the UK. The trade with these countries accounts for 55.2 per cent of the total value of UK non-EU import trade in HS2 27.

The import trade in HS2 27 from Norway, specifically the Norwegian Continental Shelf, accounts for 86.7 per cent of the total imports to the UK from Norway, and accounts for 61.2 per cent of the total import trade from Russia.



## Notes:

1. HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with countries outside the European Union (EU) on 6 December 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 October 2012. At the same time revisions for all previously published non-EU data for 2012 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 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. 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 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.

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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 the aggregated data tables downloadable here 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: 9 January 2013 9:30am

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