

Non-EU Overseas Trade Statistics - September 2012

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Summary

- UK's non-EU exports have decreased by £0.2 billion (1.7 per cent) compared to August 2012, to £11.7 billion. Compared to September 2011, exports have increased by £0.4 billion (3.5 per cent).
- UK's non-EU imports have decreased by £0.4 billion (2.4 per cent) compared to August 2012, to £16.6 billion. Compared to September 2011, imports have decreased by £0.5 billion (3.0 per cent).
- Although both the monthly import and export figures have fallen, the size of the changes are small compared to previous months, particularly for exports.
- 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 (4.3 per cent) compared to August 2012, and has decreased from September 2011 by £0.9 billion (15.8 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.

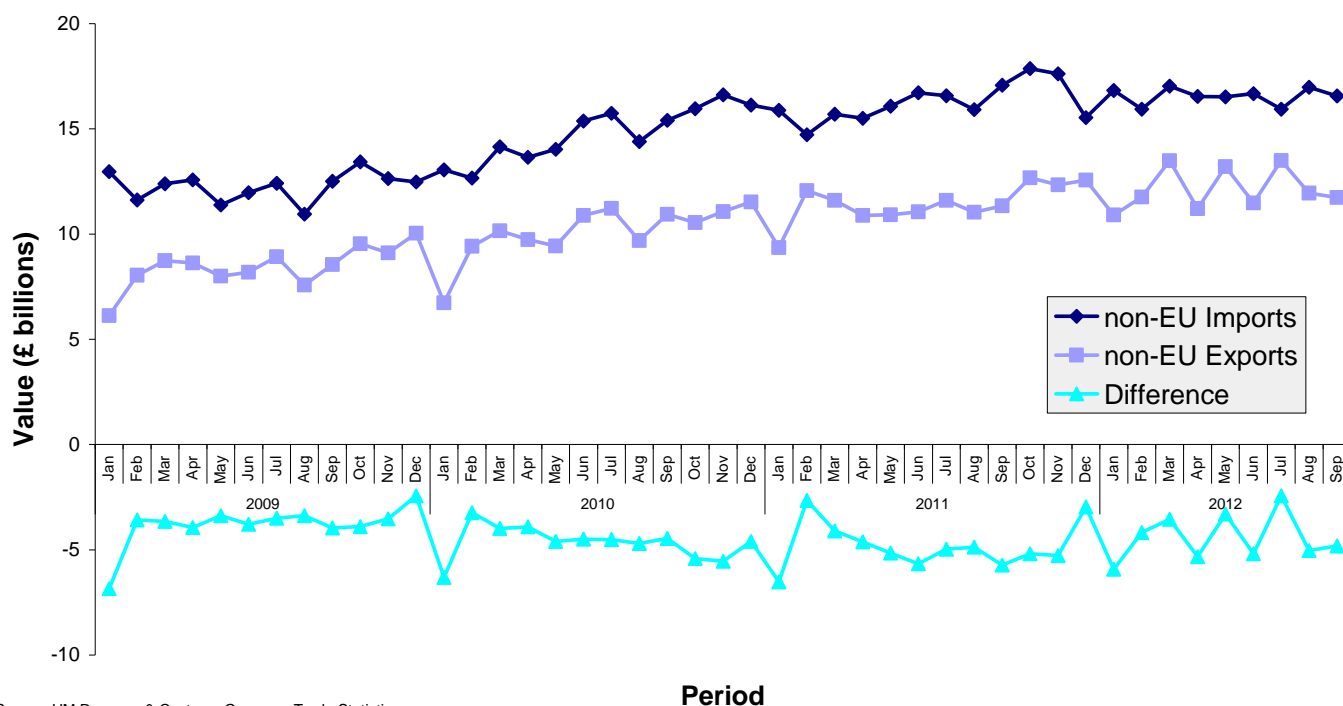
You can find details of how users interested in import and export markets for specific goods make use of the detailed OTS data in ['The Customer Story'](#). You can also access the detailed data in our interactive database [here](#).

Key Points

For the month of September 2012:

The value of exports and imports both decreased in September 2012 compared with the previous month. The import value decreased at a slightly faster rate than the export value. Consequently the difference between non-EU imports and exports has decreased. The changes this month are relatively small after a series of much larger changes, particularly for exports.

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 decreased by £0.2 billion (1.7 per cent) compared to August 2012, to £11.7 billion. Compared to September 2011, exports have increased by £0.4 billion (3.5 per cent).
- The largest contributing commodity group remains HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof). In September it contributed £2.3 billion, 19.2 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU export trade. The largest contribution to this chapter was £0.9 billion from HS4 8411 (Turbo-jets, Turbo-propellers and other gas turbines).
- Within the top five commodities, HS2 85 (Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers) has risen to fourth from fifth place last month, while HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) has dropped to fifth from fourth place.
- The overall decrease in exports compared to August 2012 is made up of increases in nearly 60 per cent of HS2 chapters, balanced by a small number of larger decreases. The largest value decrease from the previous month was £181.3 million in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes), a decrease of 21.7 per cent.
- The largest increase from the previous month was £150.7 million in HS2 93 (Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof), an eightfold increase.
- The USA remains the UK's largest non-EU export partner country, accounting for 28.5 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU export trade. Exports from the UK to Saudi Arabia had the largest increase in value, compared to August 2012, up by £196.3 million, 78.2 per cent. The largest decrease in exports compared to August 2012 was to Azerbaijan which decreased by £117.1 million, 76.0 per cent.
- The total 2012 year to date value of UK's goods exported to non-EU countries excluding August 2012 is £97.5 billion which has been upwardly revised by £3.1 million. This is an increase of less than 0.1 per cent.

Imports

- The value of the UK's non-EU imports decreased by £0.4 billion (2.4 per cent) compared to August 2012, to £16.6 billion. Similarly, compared to September 2011 imports have decreased by £0.5 billion (3.0 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 £3.5 billion in September 2012, 21.3 per cent of the total value of non-EU imports to the UK. The largest contribution to this chapter was £2.3 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 £0.8 billion, 18.3 per cent.
- The largest value increase from the previous month was £344.4 million in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products), an increase of 128.1 per cent.
- China remains the UK's largest non-EU import partner country, accounting for 16.6 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU import trade, followed by the USA with a 15.4 per cent share. The largest increase in value of imports to the UK compared to August 2012 was from South Africa, a rise of £203.8 million, 89.1 per cent. The largest decrease in imports compared to August 2012 was from Norway which decreased by £317.1 million, 19.1 per cent.

- The total 2012 year to date value of UK's trade-in-goods imported from non-EU countries excluding August 2012 is £132.4 billion, which has been downwardly revised by £25.3 million. This is a decrease of 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 September 2011, August 2012 and September 2012.

| HS 2 | Description | September 2012 Total £ millions | % Change from August 2012 | % Change from September 2011 | % of Total September 2012 Exports | Rank August 2012 | Rank September 2011 |
|------|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| - | Total Exports | 11,743.5 | -1.7 | 3.5 | 100.0 | n/a | n/a |
| 84 | Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof | 2,255.0 | -0.9 | 8.2 | 19.2 | 1 | 1 |
| 87 | Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof | 1,306.7 | 3.9 | -5.6 | 11.1 | 2 | 2 |
| 30 | Pharmaceutical products | 928.4 | -3.3 | 4.2 | 7.9 | 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 | 858.8 | 7.9 | 6.5 | 7.3 | 5 | 4 |
| 27 | Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes | 655.5 | -21.7 | -5.5 | 5.6 | 4 | 6 |

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

The overall decrease in exports **compared to August 2012** is made up of increases in nearly 60 per cent of HS2 chapters, balanced by a small number of larger decreases. The total export trade value has decreased by £0.2 billion (1.7 per cent). Three of the top five commodity types decreased in export value, which more than covered the total net decrease in export trade.

The largest value decrease from the previous month, of £181.3 million, was in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes). This is a 21.7 per cent decrease compared to August 2012. Within HS27 there were large decreases in HS4 2710 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals (excl. crude)) down £87.7 million, 13.0 per cent, and HS4 2709

(Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude), down £83.4 million, 70.1 per cent.

The second largest decrease was in HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques), down by £88.0 million, a decrease of 23.2 per cent. Within HS97 it was HS4 9701 (Paintings and drawings executed entirely by hand) which saw the largest decrease compared with August 2012 of £74.0 million, 27.2 per cent. Due to the nature of these products, small changes in quantity can produce large changes in value.

The third largest decrease was in HS2 29 (Organic chemicals), down £84.6 million, 17.9 per cent. No other chapter decreased by more than £60 million.

The largest increase since last month was £150.7 million in HS2 93 (Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof), an increase of over 750 per cent; to £170.8 million. This is the highest monthly export value in recent years, and is more than double the previous highest value of £79.4 million in December 2009.

The second largest increase was £62.6 million (7.9 per cent) for HS2 85, the fourth biggest export chapter by value, up from fifth last month. There was no other chapter for which the value of exports increased by more than £50 million.

The total export trade value has increased by £0.4 billion (3.5 per cent) **compared to September 2011**. Just over 60 per cent of HS2 chapters increased, with the size of these increases generally bigger than the decreases. There were two chapters with increases of over £100 million, and only one decrease of this magnitude. The largest increase was in the top commodity exported by value: HS2 84 up £171.0 million, while outside the top five, HS2 93 (Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof) was up £133.7 million. The largest decrease of £180.1 million was in HS2 71, with no other chapter for which the value of exports decreased by more than £100 million.

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

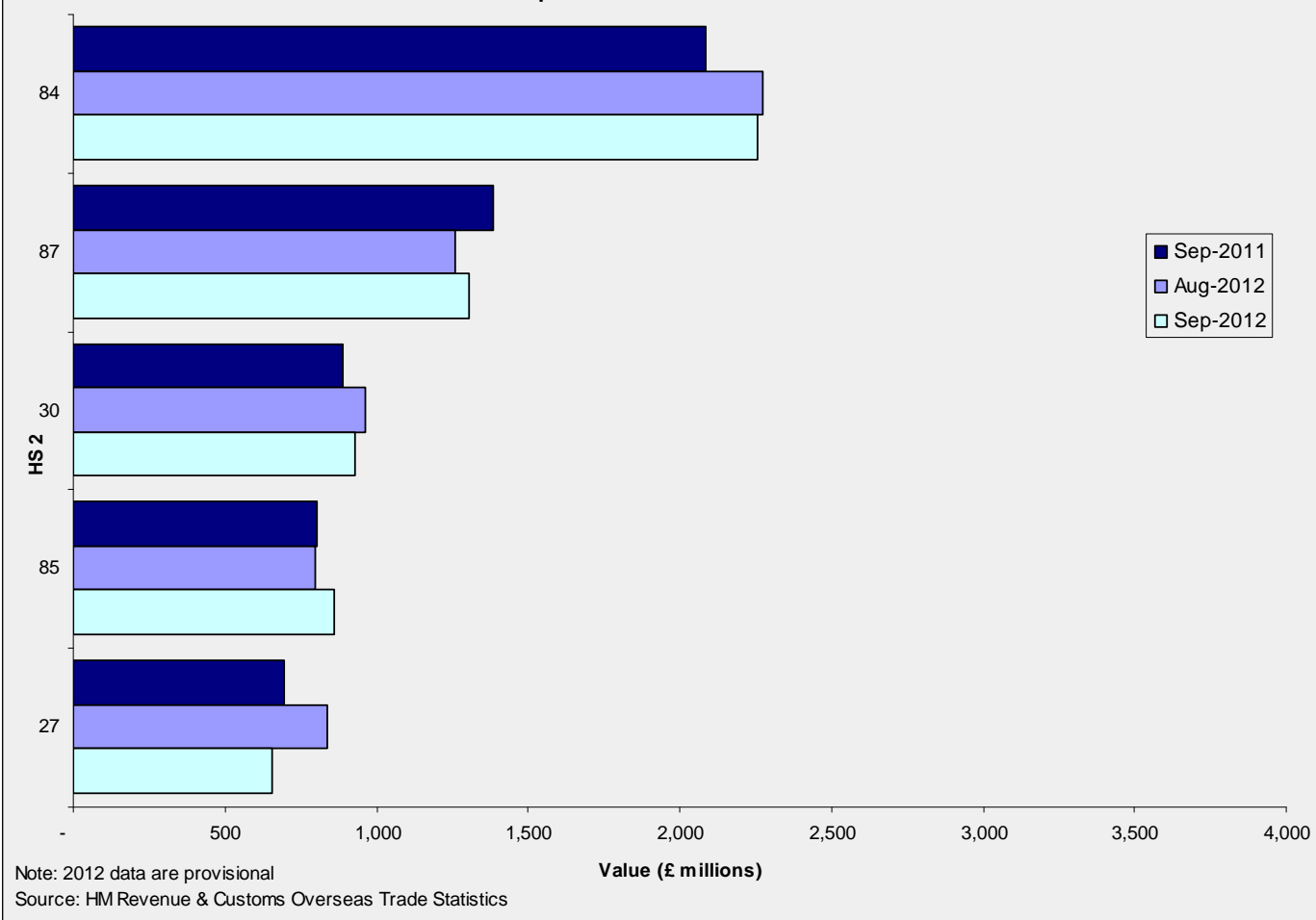


Figure 2 shows the top five commodities for UK's non-EU exports in September 2012, compared to August 2012 and September 2011. It shows that three of the top five commodity types had decreases when compared with August 2012, but three had increases when compared with September 2011.

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

| Country | September 2012 Total £ millions | % Change from August 2012 | % Change from September 2011 | % of total September 2012 Exports | Rank August 2012 | Rank September 2011 |
|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Total Exports | 11,743.5 | -1.7 | 3.5 | 100.0 | n/a | n/a |
| USA | 3,343.0 | 2.1 | 6.1 | 28.5 | 1 | 1 |
| China | 699.3 | -12.3 | -10.5 | 6.0 | 2 | 2 |
| Russia | 468.5 | 4.2 | 2.0 | 4.0 | 3 | 3 |
| Hong Kong | 455.6 | 27.8 | 1.3 | 3.9 | 8 | 4 |
| Saudi Arabia | 447.2 | 78.3 | 119.3 | 3.8 | 16 | 16 |

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, and Russia third.

Compared to August 2012, the overall decrease in exports reflects a mix of increases and decreases in the value of exports to our export partners. There were two countries with increases of £90 million or more, and three with decreases of this magnitude. These increases and decreases have involved three of the top five countries, moving Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia into the top five for this month.

The largest decrease in exports was to Azerbaijan, down by £117.1 million, 76.0 per cent. This is a return to normal levels after an unusually high export of jewellery in HS4 7113 in August.

The second largest decrease in exports was to China, down by £98.2 million, 12.3 per cent, to £699.3 million. This is the second successive fall after July's record high of £1.0 billion, and takes the export value to the lowest level since April.

This decrease was driven by a fall of £70.3 million in HS2 87, led by a fall of £72.9 million (30.1 per cent) in HS4 8703 (motor vehicles) to £169.6 million. This is the second successive drop since July, and takes the export value for this heading to its lowest value since April.

The third largest decrease for exports was to Thailand, down £93.2 million, 43.4 per cent. This was driven by a decrease of £77.7 million (73.9 per cent) in HS2 72 (Iron and steel), with HS4 7207 (Semi-finished products of iron or non-alloy steel) decreasing by £78.5 million (74.9 per cent). The corresponding decrease in quantity suggests the decrease is due to a fall in the volume of export trade rather than price changes.

The largest increase in exports was to Saudi Arabia, where exports increased by £196.3 million, 78.2 per cent. This increase was driven by an increase of £153.2 million in HS2 93 (Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof) from just £0.2 million last month. This puts Saudi Arabia into fifth place in export value from 16th last month.

The second largest increase in exports is to Hong Kong, up £99.2 million (27.8 per cent) to £455.6 million. This makes Hong Kong the fourth largest non-EU export partner in September, from eighth last month. This increase is led by a rise of £70.0 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). This is led by an increase of £38.6 million (572.2 per cent) in HS4 7110 (Platinum, incl. palladium, rhodium, iridium, osmium and ruthenium, unwrought or in semi-manufactured forms, or in powder form). The quantity (net mass) exported has only increased by 319.1 per cent, suggesting that the increase is partly due to price rises.

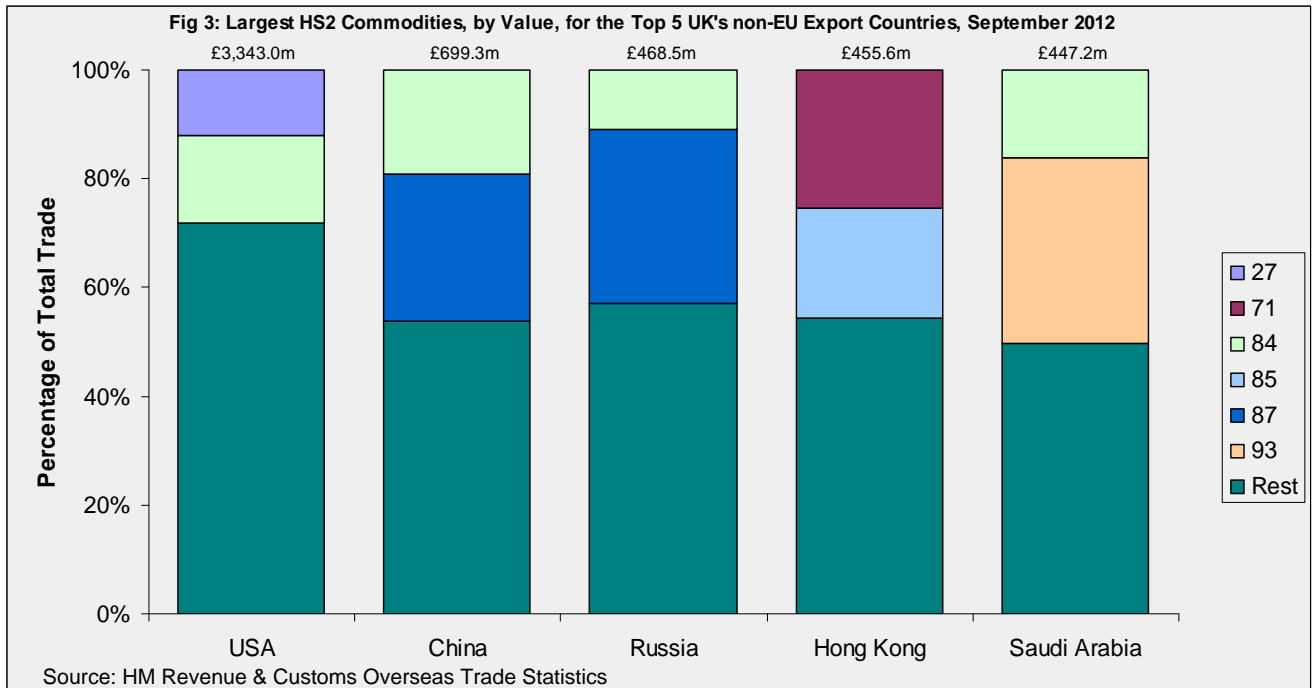
Compared to September 2011, the overall increase of £0.4 billion in exports reflects a mix of increases and decreases in the value of exports to our export partners. There were increases in excess of £100 million for exports to three countries, and one decrease of this magnitude. Four of the top five export partners showed an increase.

The largest increases in total export trade value compared to September 2011 are to Saudi Arabia, up by £243.3 million; the USA, up by £192.0 million; and South Korea, up by £108.1 million. Saudi Arabia's increase was driven by an increase in exports in HS2 93 up £152.4 million. The USA's increase was over several chapters. The increase in exports to South Korea was driven by rises of £45.2 million in HS2 84 and £42.5 million in HS2 30.

The largest decrease in total export trade value compared to September 2011 is to India, down by £110.6 million (27.5 per cent), mostly due to a fall of £107.6 million (62.9 per cent) in HS2 71.

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 September 2012 four of the top five countries have HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) and two have HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof) in their top two largest

commodities exported from the UK. The trade with these countries accounts for 35.0 per cent of the total value of UK non-EU export trade for HS2 84, and 25.9 per cent for HS2 87. Additionally, the trade in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) to the USA accounts for 61.5 per cent of the export value of this chapter.



Further Analysis: Imports

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

| HS 2 | Description | September 2012 Total £ millions | % Change from August 2012 | % Change from September 2011 | % of Total September 2012 Imports | Rank August 2012 | Rank September 2011 |
|------|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| - | Total Imports | 16,565.4 | -2.4 | -3.0 | 100.0 | n/a | n/a |
| 27 | Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes | 3,532.3 | -18.3 | -8.0 | 21.3 | 1 | 1 |
| 84 | Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof | 1,939.1 | -5.7 | -2.0 | 11.7 | 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 | 1,568.9 | 12.2 | 7.3 | 9.5 | 3 | 3 |
| 71 | Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin | 1,069.9 | 6.2 | -3.9 | 6.5 | 4 | 4 |
| 61 | Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted | 642.4 | 6.1 | -1.0 | 3.9 | 5 | 5 |

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

The value of imports decreased by £0.4 billion **compared to August 2012**. This represents a decrease in nearly 60 per cent of the HS2 commodity chapters. There were two decreases of over £100 million, and two increases of this magnitude. The largest decrease more than covers the total overall net decrease.

The largest decrease was in imports of the UK's biggest import commodity type by value, HS2 27, which fell by £0.8 billion to £3.5 billion. This comes after last month's record high in recent years, of £4.3 billion. The decrease is led by a decrease of £557.4 million in HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude), a fall of 19.8 per cent. The quantity imported has also decreased by a similar percentage suggesting the increase is mainly due to a fall in the volume of import trade rather than price decreases. Also in HS2 27, imports of HS4 2711 (Petroleum gas and

other gaseous hydrocarbons) decreased by £288.9 million (53.1 per cent), while imports of HS2 2710 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals (excl. crude)) increased by £184.2 million (27.4 per cent).

The second largest value decrease from the previous month, of £116.4 million (5.7 per cent), was in imports of the UK's second biggest import by value, HS2 84. This decrease was throughout most of the HS4 headings in this commodity type but was led by decreases in HS4 8408 (Compression-ignition internal combustion piston engine "diesel or semi-diesel engine") down by £24.8 million, 29.2 per cent. No other HS2 chapter decreased by more than £75 million.

The largest value increase from the previous month, of £344.4 million (128.1 per cent), was in imports of the UK's sixth biggest import by value, HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products). This increase was driven by HS4 3004 (Medicaments consisting of mixed or unmixed products for therapeutic or prophylactic uses, put up in measured doses "incl. those in the form of transdermal administration" or in forms or packings for retail sale) up by £146.7 million (77.0 per cent) and HS4 3003 (Medicaments consisting of two or more constituents mixed together for therapeutic or prophylactic uses, not in measured doses or put up for retail sale (excl. goods of heading 3002, 3005 or 3006)), up by £134.4 million, from £9.0 million in August to £143.4 million in September. This takes the import value for HS2 30 from the lowest value for three years last month to the highest value for this year this month.

The next biggest increase is in imports of the UK's third biggest import by value, HS2 85 which rose by £170.5 million (12.2 per cent). The increase was mainly driven by a rise of £132.5 million (34.7 per cent) in HS4 8517 (Telephone sets, incl. telephones for cellular networks or for other wireless networks; other apparatus for the transmission or reception of voice, images or other data) which tends to increase whenever mobile phone manufacturers introduce new models.

Similarly, when **compared to September 2011**, the decrease in the total import trade value is due to a fall in nearly 65 per cent of HS2 commodities chapters. There were three chapters with increases of over £100 million and two decreases over £100 million.

The three chapters with increases of over £100 million are HS2 30 (up £140.7 million, 29.8 per cent), HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof) up £109.4 million (30.0 per cent) and HS2 85 (up £107.2 million, 7.3 per cent).

The chapters with a decrease of over £100 million were HS2 27, down £305.5 million, 8.0 per cent, and HS2 29 (Organic chemicals), down £172.3 million, 36.4 per cent.

Within the top five chapters shown in Figure 4, two of the chapters show decreases when compared with August 2012, but the graph demonstrates the size of the HS2 27 decrease dominates picture. When compared to September 2011, four of the top five chapters show decreases.

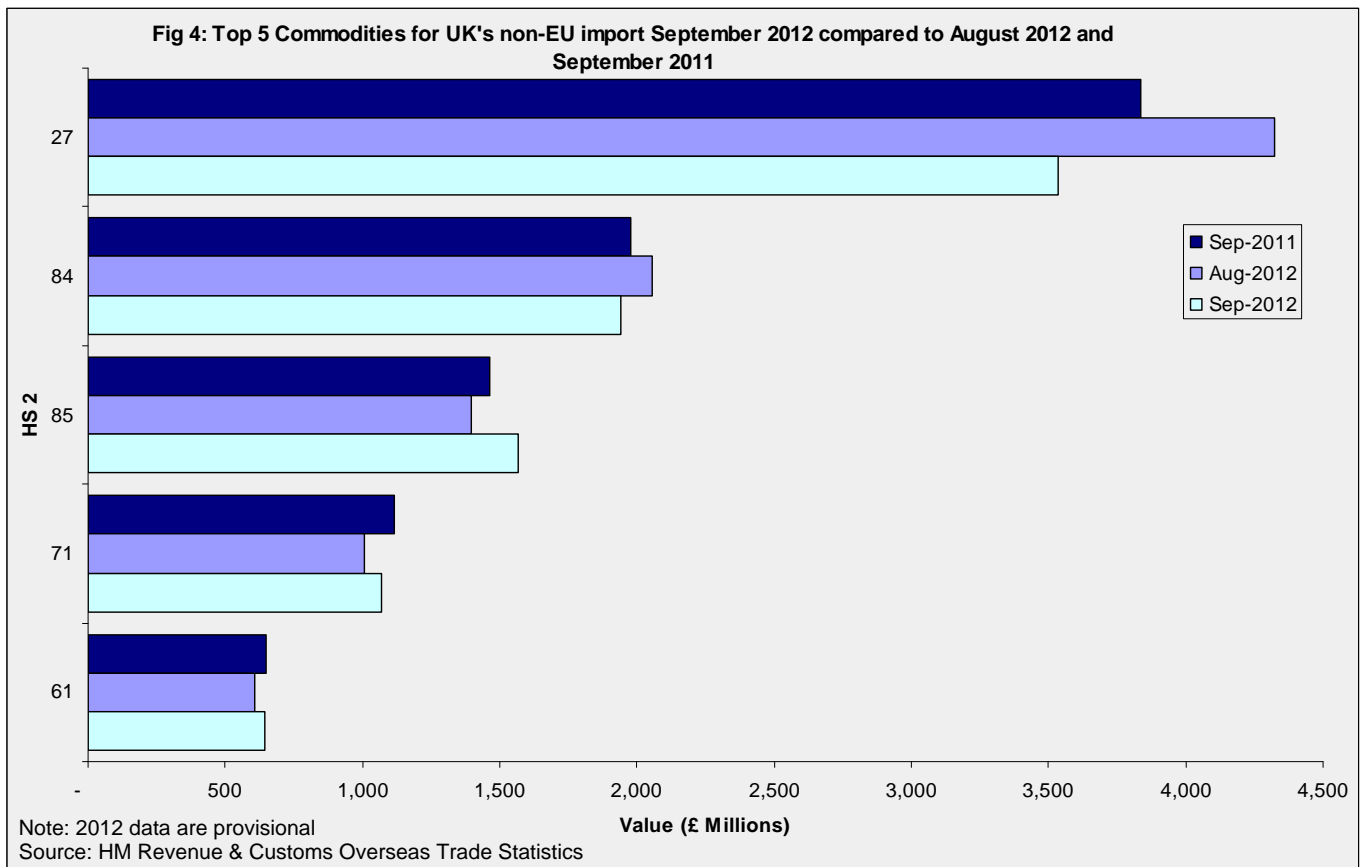


Table 4: Top 5 Non-EU import countries in September 2012 compared to August 2012 and September 2011

| Country | September 2012 Total £ millions | % Change from August 2012 | % Change from September 2011 | % of Total September 2012 Imports | Rank August 2012 | Rank September 2011 |
|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Total Imports | 16,565.4 | -2.4 | -3.0 | 100.0 | n/a | n/a |
| China | 2,749.7 | 1.3 | -10.7 | 16.6 | 1 | 1 |
| USA | 2,552.7 | 8.1 | 8.0 | 15.4 | 2 | 2 |
| Norway | 1,341.2 | -19.1 | -38.3 | 8.1 | 3 | 3 |
| Switzerland | 735.0 | 35.1 | 38.1 | 4.4 | 8 | 6 |
| Hong Kong | 708.6 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 4.3 | 6 | 5 |

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 September 2011, August 2012, and September 2012. Imports from four of the top five trading partners have increased in September compared to the previous month.

These changes have moved Switzerland to fourth in September 2012 from eighth last month, and Hong Kong into fifth from sixth, ahead of Russia and Japan. China, the USA and Norway have been the UK's largest import partners for a number of years.

The decrease in total imports **compared to August 2012** is made up of decreases in under half of the UK's import partners, but the size of the decreases is greater than the increases. Five countries had decreases of over £100 million, while four had an increase of this magnitude.

The largest decrease in value of imports was from Norway, down by £317.1 million, a decrease of 19.1 per cent, to £1.3 billion, the lowest value since October 2010. The decrease was more than covered by falls of £234.6 million (18.8 per cent) in HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude) and £124.4 million (67.0 per cent) in HS4 2711 (Petroleum gas and other gaseous hydrocarbons).

The second largest decrease in value of imports was from Qatar, down by £239.7 million, 57.6 per cent, to £176.6 million. This was mainly due to the fall in trade in natural gas in HS4 2711, (Petroleum gas and other gaseous hydrocarbons), down by £186.6 million, 53.0 per cent to £165.7 million this month.

Decreases within HS2 27 also drove the fall in imports from India (down £180.2 million, with a £92.1 million fall in HS27); Algeria (down £153.5 million, with £154.3 million in HS27); and Russia (down £115.0 million, with £100.9 million in HS27).

The biggest increase in imports was from South Africa, up by £203.8 million, an increase of 89.1 per cent. This increase is due to a fourfold increase of £219.9 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). This is almost entirely due to an increase of £219.1 million in Diamonds in HS4 7102.

The second biggest increase was from the USA, up by £192.1 million, an increase of 8.1 per cent. This increase is led by a rise of £90.7 million (71.5 per cent) in HS2 27 and £70.7 million (73.3 per cent) in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products).

The import of Pharmaceuticals in HS2 30 also drove the rise for third and fourth largest increases in imports. The third was from Switzerland, which increased by £191.0 million, 35.1 per cent, with a £145.6 million, 132.3 per cent rise in HS2 30; and the fourth largest increase was from Israel, up £137.3 million, 158.5 per cent, with a £136.3 million increase in HS2 30.

Similarly, there was a decrease of just 3.0 per cent in the total value of imports **compared to September 2011**, with imports from approximately half of our import partner countries increasing in value, and the other half decreasing. There were increases in excess of £100 million for imports from eight countries, and seven decrease of this magnitude. Three of the UK's top five import trading partners for September 2012 have increased when compared to September 2011.

The largest decrease in total import trade value is from Norway, down by £831.9 million, more than covering the overall decrease. This is almost entirely due to decreases of £666.5 million in HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude) and £210.9 million in HS4 2711 (Petroleum gas and other gaseous hydrocarbons). The second biggest decrease is from China (down by £329.8 million, 10.7 per cent), driven by decreases of £109.3 million in imports of HS2 84 and £96.4 million in HS2 85. There were also large decreases from Qatar (down £192.5 million, 52.2 per cent); Japan (down £153.8 million, 20.3 per cent); Brazil (down £140.2 million, 43.1 per cent); Botswana (£127.6 million, 44.6 per cent), and Singapore (£116.1 million, 28.3 per cent).

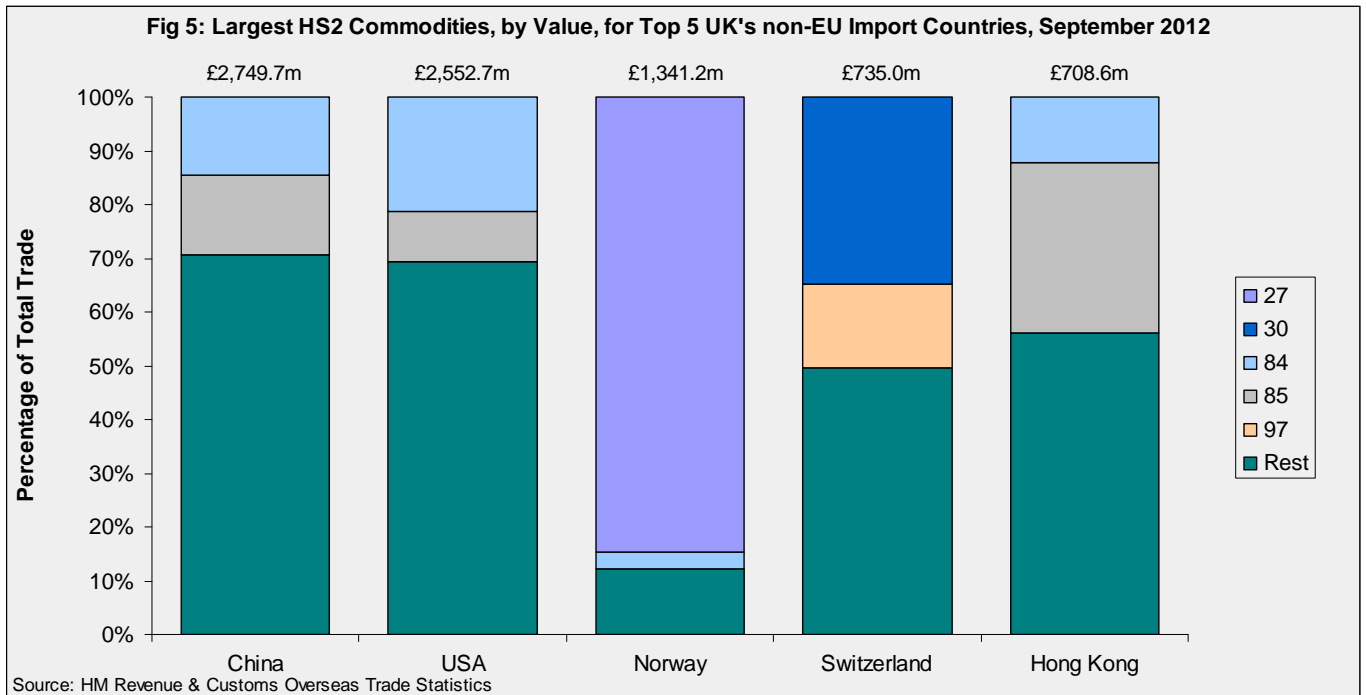
The largest increase in value of imports was from Libya, up by £215.1 million, from just £63 thousand during the conflict in 2011. This was almost entirely due to imports of HS4 2709, up by £215.0 million from zero. The second largest increase is from Switzerland (up £202.8 million, 38.1 per cent), driven by a rise of £113.7 million (80.1 per cent) in HS2 30. The other large increases are from the USA (up £188.4 million, 8.0 per cent); Russia (up £176.5 million, 35.8 per cent); South Africa (up £157.7 million, 57.4 per cent); South Korea (up 143.2 million, 78.6 per cent); Azerbaijan (up £137.6 million, from £4.3 million); and Angola (up £115.7 million, a sevenfold increase).

Figure 5 shows the two largest commodities by value imported from each of the top five non-EU partner countries. This month, four 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, and three have 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 trade with these countries accounts for 55.4 per cent of the total value of UK non-EU import trade in both HS2 84 and HS2 85.

The import trade in HS2 27 from Norway, specifically the Norwegian Continental Shelf, accounts for 84.6 per cent of the total imports to the UK from Norway, and accounts for 32.1 per cent of the total non-EU import trade to the UK under this chapter.

The import trade in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products) from Switzerland accounts for 41.7 per cent of the UK's non-EU imports in this chapter.



Notes:

1. HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with countries outside the European Union (EU) on 9 November 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 September 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 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>

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: 6 December 2012 9:30am

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