



About this release

This release includes the 1st provisional estimates of trade-in-goods between the UK and both countries of the EU and those outside the EU for April 2019.

Supporting tables, visuals and data can be found at www.uktradeinfo.com

In this publication

- Trade trends p.2
- Non-EU and EU trade p.3
- April 2019 Exports p.4

Country analysis

Country analysis – 3 months

Commodity analysis

Commodity analysis – 3 months

Combined analysis

- April 2019 Imports p.11

Country analysis

Country analysis – 3 months

Commodity analysis

Commodity analysis – 3 months

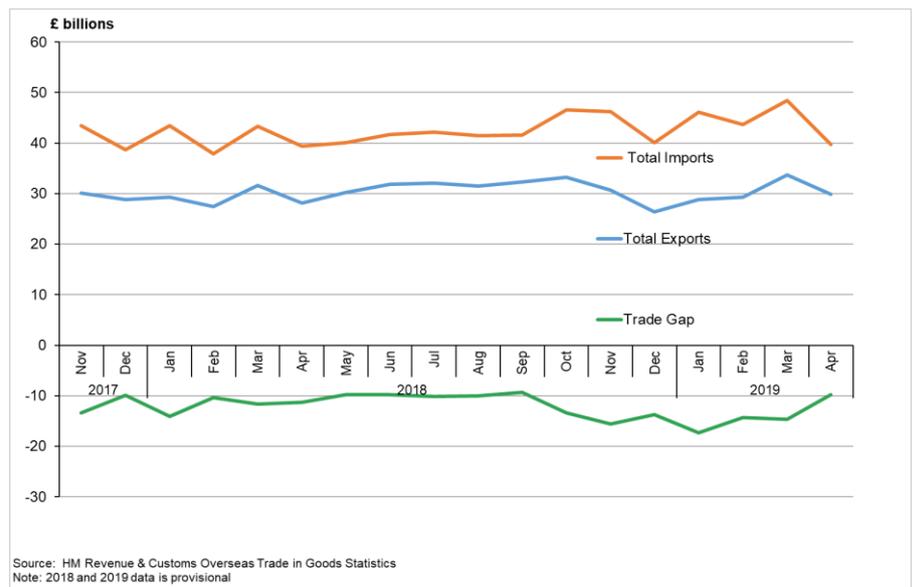
Combined analysis

- Methodology notes p.18

Trade in Goods, April 2019

- Total **exports** of goods for April 2019 were £29.9 billion. This was a decrease of £3.8 billion (11%) compared with last month, and an increase of £1.8 billion (6.5%) compared with April 2018.
- Total **imports** of goods for April 2019 were £39.8 billion. This was a decrease of £8.6 billion (18%) compared with last month, and an increase of £0.3 billion (0.9%) compared with April 2018.
- The UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £9.9 billion. This was a narrowing of £4.8bn on last month.

Figure 1: Total UK monthly Trade in Goods



Coverage: United Kingdom
 Theme: Business and Energy
 Released: 10th June 2019
 Next release: 10th July 2019

Website: <https://www.uktradeinfo.com>
 Email: uktradeinfo@hmrc.gov.uk
 Statistical contact: Maxim Mastrangelo 03000 579274
 Media contact: HMRC Press Office 03000 585018

Trade in Goods Trends

Following the global economic crisis, UK trade in goods dropped in 2009. Both imports and exports then steadily increased until 2012. From the start of 2013, imports remained relatively flat until a very sharp increase in Q3 of 2016, reaching its highest point in Q1 2019. Exports peaked in Q2 of 2013, with a steady rise since Q2 of 2017.

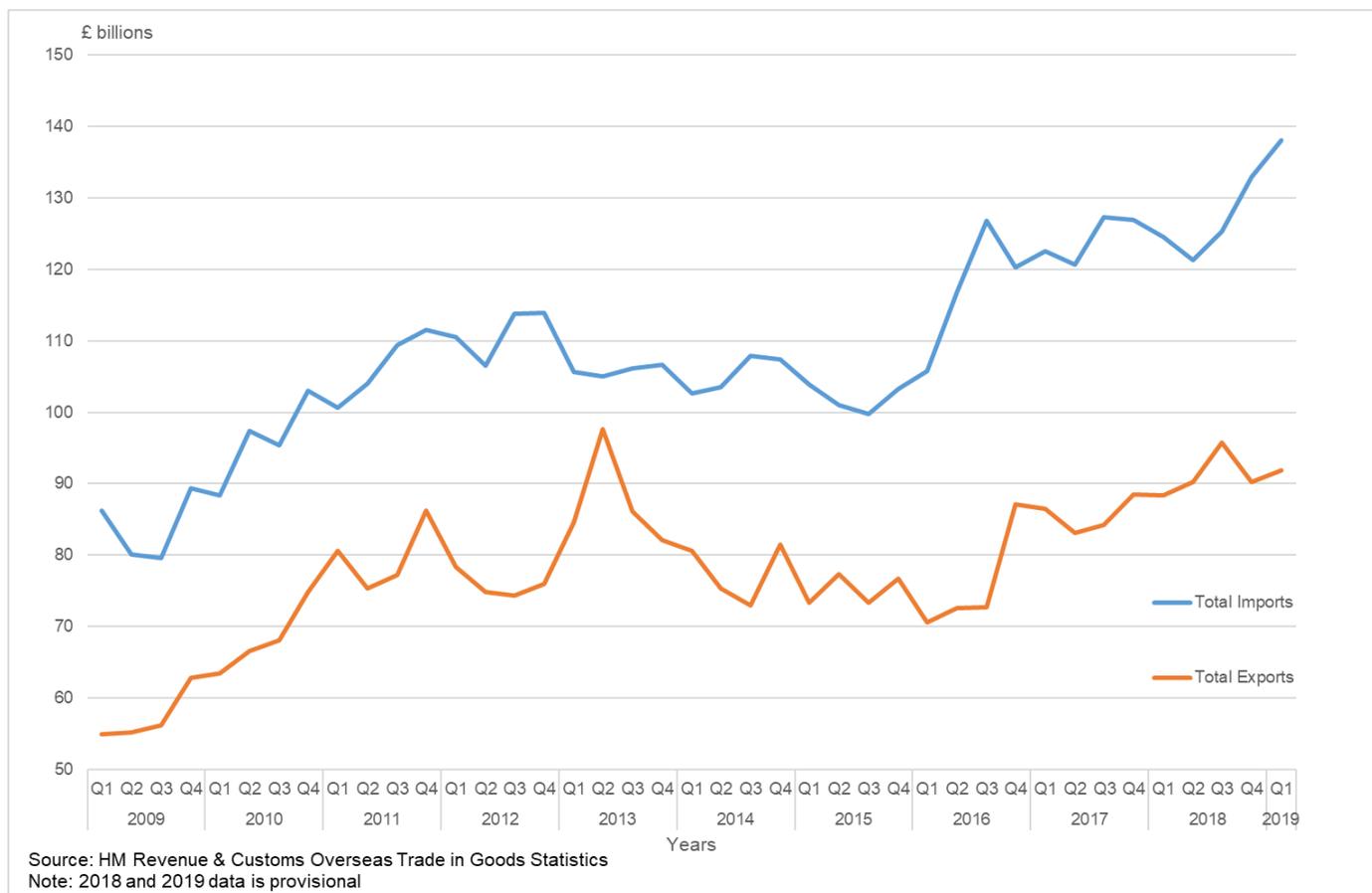
- The total **export** trade for Q1 of 2019 was £91.8 billion, which was an increase of 3.9% compared with £88.4 billion for Q1 of 2018.
- The total **import** trade for Q1 of 2019 was £138.1 billion, which was an increase of 11% compared with £124.5 billion for Q1 of 2018.
- There was a trade deficit of £46.3 billion for Q1 of 2019. This was a widening of 28% compared with Q1 of 2018.
- For many years Germany has been our largest trading **import** partner by value. The USA has been the dominant trading partner for **exports** for many years.
- Mechanical appliances and Motor vehicles have generally been the largest **import** commodities by value. For **exports**, Mechanical appliances has also predominantly been the largest valued commodity, with occasional peaks for Precious metals.

↑ **Exports up 4% on Q1 2018**

↑ **Imports up 11% on Q1 2018**

• **Trade deficit widened by 28% on Q1 2018**

Figure 2: Quarterly UK Trade in Goods, 2009 – 2019



Non-EU & EU Trade in Goods

Non-EU Trade in Goods:

- **Non-EU exports** for April 2019 were £17.4 billion. This was an increase of £0.6 billion (3.3%) on last month, and an increase of £3.0 billion (21%) compared with April 2018.
- **Non-EU imports** for April 2019 were £19.9 billion. This was a decrease of £1.4 billion (6.7%) on last month, and an increase of £1.8 billion (9.9%) compared with April 2018.
- For **non-EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £2.4 billion.

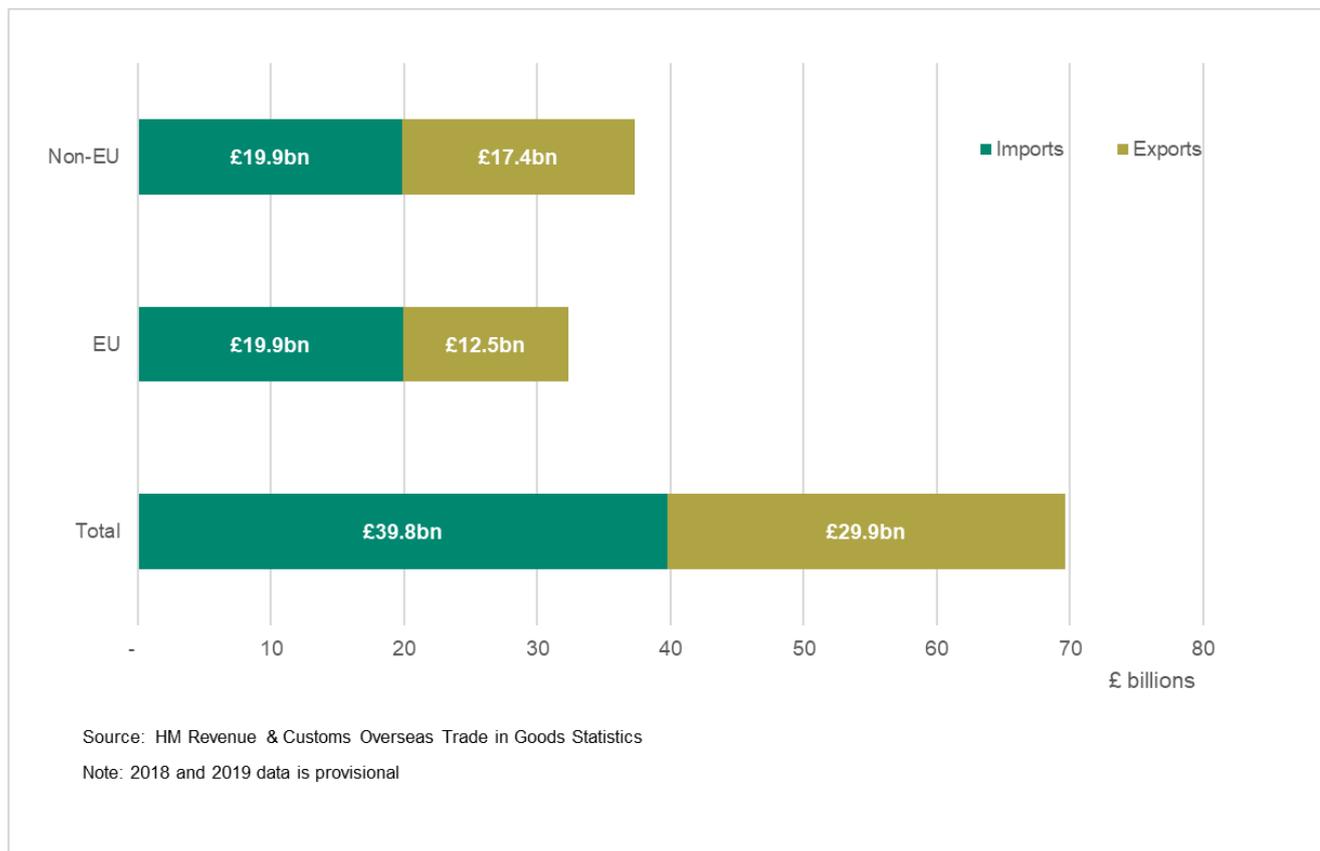
↑ **Non-EU exports up 21% on April 2018**

EU Trade in Goods:

- **EU exports** for April 2019 were £12.5 billion. This was a decrease of £4.4 billion (26%) on last month, and a decrease of £1.2 billion (8.6%) compared with April 2018.
- **EU imports** for April 2019 were £19.9 billion. This was a decrease of £7.2 billion (27%) on last month, and a decrease of £1.4 billion (6.8%) compared with April 2018.
- For **EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £7.4 billion.

↓ **EU imports down 27% on last month**

Figure 3: Total UK Trade in Goods, with EU and Non-EU, April 2019



Exports: Country Analysis

- The USA remained the largest export partner country. It experienced a value decrease on last month, down £36 million (0.8%), but the largest value increase on April 2018, up £1,162 million (33%).
- Switzerland experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £1,019 million (2.5 times the value), and the 2nd largest value increase on April 2018, up £1,091 million (nearly 3 times the value).
- UAE experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month, up £224 million (30%), and the 3rd largest increase on April 2018, up £475 million (doubling in value).
- France experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £922 million (33%).
- The Netherlands experienced the 3rd largest value decrease on last month, down £696 million (31%), and the largest value decrease on April 2018, down £439 million (22%).

↑ **Exports to USA up 33% on April 2018**

↓ **Exports to France down 33% on last month**

Table 1: UK exports of goods to top 10 partner countries, April 2019

Partner Country	Total (£ millions)	March 2019		April 2018	
		Total (£ millions)	Change from March 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change from April 2018 (%)
USA	4,665	4,701	-0.8	3,503	33.2
Germany	2,636	3,384	-22.1	2,873	-8.2
China	2,053	2,126	-3.4	1,808	13.6
France	1,862	2,784	-33.1	2,008	-7.3
Irish Republic	1,663	2,003	-17.0	1,590	4.6
Switzerland	1,660	641	159.0	570	191.5
Netherlands	1,575	2,271	-30.6	2,014	-21.8
Belgium	1,054	1,339	-21.3	1,158	-9.0
UAE	970	746	30.0	495	95.9
Italy	801	968	-17.2	855	-6.3
Others	10,972	12,748	-13.9	11,214	-2.2
Total EU	12,478	16,834	-25.9	13,656	-8.6
Total Non-EU	17,435	16,877	3.3	14,432	20.8
Total Exports	29,913	33,711	-11.3	28,088	6.5

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

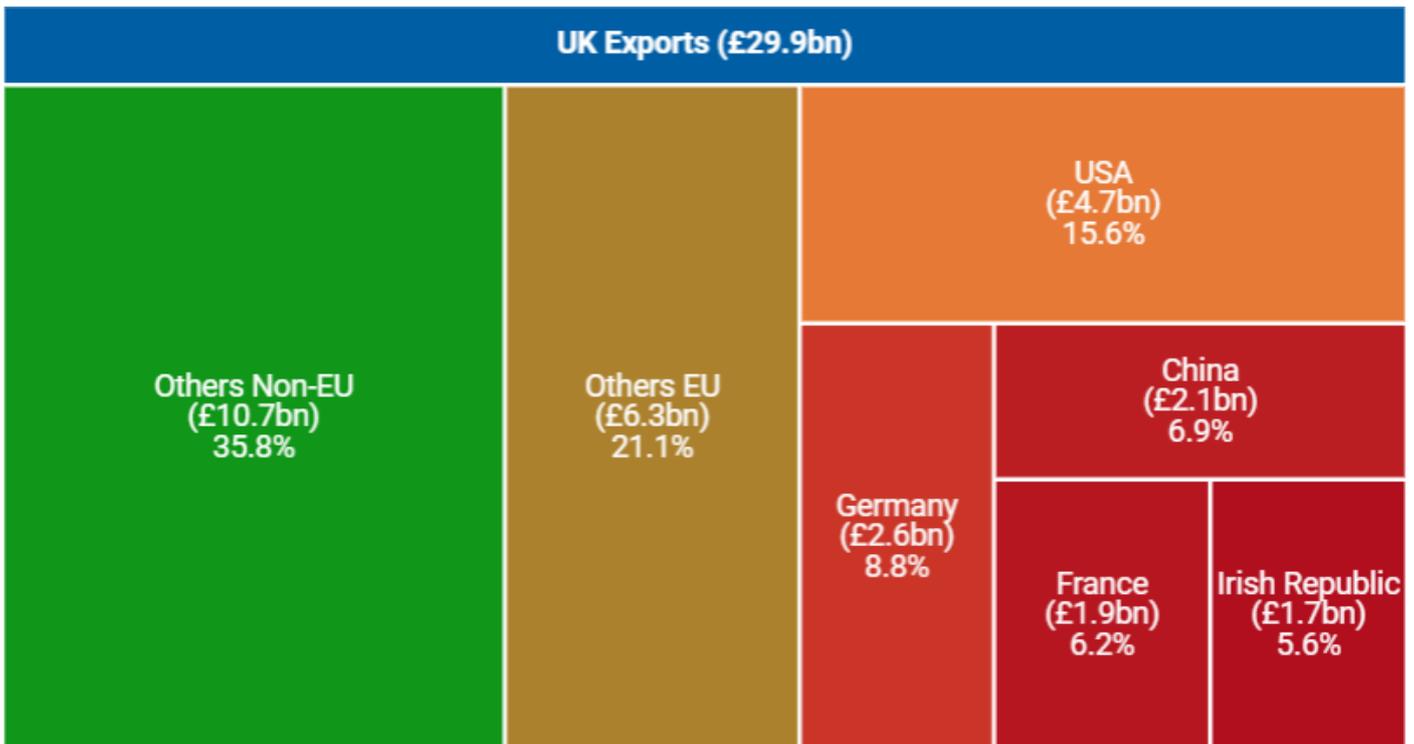
Exports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 export partners accounted for 43% of total exports in goods this month, this was a slight decrease of less than 1 percentage point on April 2018.
- The USA accounted for 16% of the total value of goods exports from the UK, this was an increase from 12% for April 2018.
- Germany had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 8.8%. This was a decrease from 10% for April 2018.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Switzerland rose to 6th place from 12th.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with April 2018. Most notably, Netherlands fell to 7th place from 3rd, while UAE rose to 9th place from 14th.

↑ **USA had a 16% share of total exports in April 2019**

↑ **Switzerland rose to 6th largest export partner for April 2019**

Figure 4: UK exports of goods to the top 5 countries, April 2019



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Exports: Country Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to April 2019 the USA remained the largest export partner country, experiencing an 8.3% increase on the 3 months to January 2019. It saw an 18% increase compared with the 3 months to April 2018.
- Among the top 10, Switzerland experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to January 2019, up 54%. In contrast, it saw the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to April 2018, down 6.5%.
- China experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to January 2019, up 38%, and the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to April 2018, up 26%.
- The Netherlands experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to January 2019, down 4.9%.
- 8 of the top 10 partner countries experienced an increase on the 3 months to January 2019, the Netherlands and Irish Republic being the exceptions. 7 of the top 10 increased on the 3 months to April 2018, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Italy being the exceptions.

↑ **Exports to Switzerland up 54% on the 3 months to January 2019**

↑ **Exports to China up 26% on the 3 months to April 2018**

Table 2: UK exports of goods to the top 10 partner countries, 3 months to April 2019

Partner Country	Total (£ millions)	3 months to Jan 2019		3 months to Apr 2018	
		Total (£ millions)	Change on January 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on April 2018 (%)
USA	13,628	12,586	8.3	11,531	18.2
Germany	9,258	9,252	0.1	8,952	3.4
France	6,760	6,252	8.1	6,073	11.3
Netherlands	5,917	6,223	-4.9	6,314	-6.3
China	5,733	4,164	37.7	4,539	26.3
Irish Republic	5,300	5,524	-4.1	4,992	6.2
Belgium	3,575	3,194	11.9	3,451	3.6
Spain	2,771	2,565	8.0	2,647	4.7
Switzerland	2,745	1,783	53.9	2,937	-6.5
Italy	2,637	2,596	1.6	2,697	-2.2
Others	34,607	31,637	9.4	33,045	4.7
Total Exports	92,932	85,776	8.3	87,178	6.6

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Exports: Commodity Analysis

- Mechanical appliances remained the largest export commodity for April 2019, despite experiencing the 2nd largest value decrease on last month, down £992 million (19%). It experienced a value increase on April 2018, up £156 million (3.8%).
- Precious metals experienced the largest value increase on last month and April 2018, up £1,439 million (52%) and £1,602 million (61%) respectively.
- Motor vehicles experienced the largest value decrease on last month and April 2018, down £1,134 million (30%) and £687 million (21%) respectively.
- Organic chemicals experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month and April 2018, up £170 million (21%) and £288 million (41%) respectively.
- Mineral fuels experienced a decrease on last month, down £209 million (8.2%), and the 2nd largest value decrease compared with April 2018, down £187 million (7.4%).

↓ **Exports of Mechanical appliances down 19% on last month**

↓ **Exports of Motor vehicles down 30% on last month**

Table 3: UK exports of goods by top 10 commodities, April 2019

Commodity Description	Total (£ millions)	March 2019		April 2018	
		Total (£ millions)	Change from March 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change from April 2018 (%)
Mechanical appliances	4,281	5,273	-18.8	4,126	3.8
Precious metals	4,222	2,782	51.7	2,620	61.1
Motor vehicles	2,609	3,743	-30.3	3,296	-20.8
Mineral fuels	2,350	2,558	-8.2	2,536	-7.4
Electronic equipment	1,732	2,124	-18.5	1,636	5.8
Pharmaceutical products	1,656	2,026	-18.2	1,663	-0.4
Measuring devices and gauges	1,213	1,490	-18.6	1,094	10.8
Aircraft	1,153	1,291	-10.7	1,010	14.1
Organic chemicals	997	827	20.6	709	40.7
Art and antiques	843	973	-13.4	655	28.6
Others	8,857	10,624	-16.6	8,741	1.3
Total Exports	29,913	33,711	-11.3	28,088	6.5

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

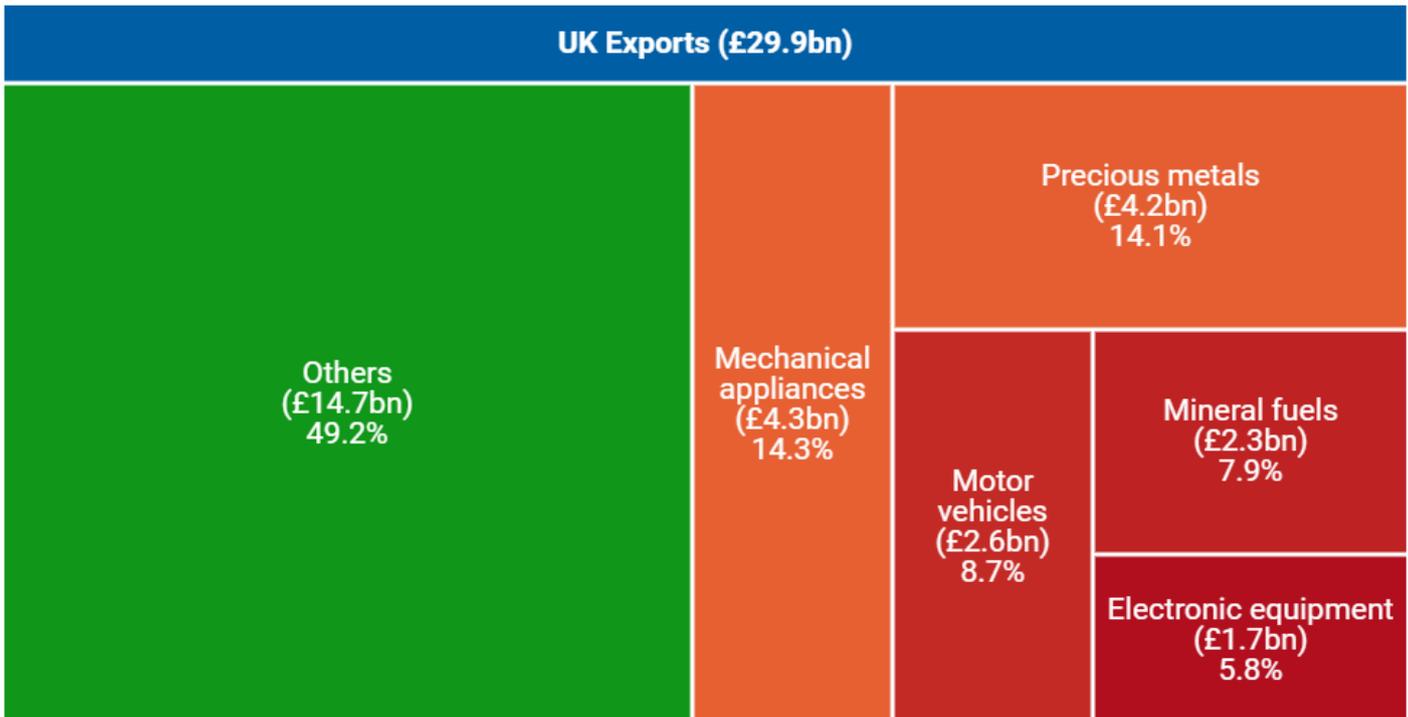
Exports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 export commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 51% of exports this month, this was a slight increase of less than 1 percentage point on April 2018.
- Mechanical appliances accounted for 14% of the total value of exports from the UK, this was a decrease from 15% in April 2018.
- Precious metals had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 14%, this was an increase from 9.3% in April 2018.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Precious metals rose 1 place to 2nd, replacing Motor vehicles which fell to 3rd.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with April 2018. Most notably, Electronic equipment rose 1 place to 5th, replacing Pharmaceutical products which fell to 6th.

↓ **Mechanical appliances had a 14% share of total exports in April 2019**

↑ **Precious metals rose to 2nd largest commodity export in April 2019**

Figure 5: UK exports by top 5 commodities, April 2019



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Exports: Commodity Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to April 2019 Mechanical appliances remained the largest export commodity, experiencing a small percentage decrease on the 3 months to January 2019. The commodity experienced an increase on the 3 months to April 2018, up 9.8%.
- Among the top 10, Precious metals experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to January 2019, doubling in value; and on the 3 months to April 2018, up 21%.
- Mineral fuels experienced the largest percentage decrease compared with the 3 months to January 2019, down 9.0%.
- Motor vehicles experienced the largest percentage decrease compared with the 3 months to April 2018, down 11%.
- 7 of the top 10 commodities experienced increases on the 3 months to January 2019, with Mechanical appliances, Mineral fuels and Electronic equipment being the exceptions.
- 8 of the top 10 commodities experienced increases on the 3 months to April 2018, with Motor vehicles and Pharmaceutical products being the exceptions.

↑ **Precious metals exports doubled on the 3 months to January 2019**

↓ **Mineral fuels exports down 9.0% on the 3 months to January 2019**

Table 4: UK exports of goods by top 10 commodities for the 3 months to April 2019

Commodity Description	Total (£ millions)	3 months to Jan 2019		3 months to Apr 2018	
		Total (£ millions)	Change on January 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on April 2018 (%)
Mechanical appliances	14,205	14,216	-0.1	12,937	9.8
Motor vehicles	9,814	9,699	1.2	11,079	-11.4
Precious metals	9,097	4,442	104.8	7,517	21.0
Mineral fuels	7,511	8,254	-9.0	7,119	5.5
Electronic equipment	5,641	5,814	-3.0	5,144	9.7
Pharmaceutical products	5,460	5,116	6.7	5,696	-4.1
Measuring devices and gauges	3,866	3,765	2.7	3,452	12.0
Aircraft	3,702	3,641	1.7	3,692	0.3
Organic chemicals	2,764	2,320	19.1	2,302	20.1
Plastics and plastic products	2,464	2,280	8.1	2,413	2.1
Others	28,408	26,230	8.3	25,828	10.0
Total Exports	92,932	85,776	8.3	87,178	6.6

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Exports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

Country to commodity:

- The increase in exports to the USA compared with April 2018 was led by increases of Organic chemicals, up £352 million (nearly trebling in value) and Pharmaceutical products, up £228 million (nearly doubling in value).
- The increase in exports to Switzerland on last month and April 2018 was dominated by Precious metals, up £887 million (from £162 million) and £817 million (from £232 million) respectively.
- The increase in exports to UAE compared with last month and April 2018 was dominated by Precious metals, up £447 million (more than trebling in value) and £608 million (from £33 million) respectively.
- The decrease in exports to the Netherlands on last month and April 2018 was led by Mineral fuels, down £377 million (44%) and £354 million (43%) respectively.

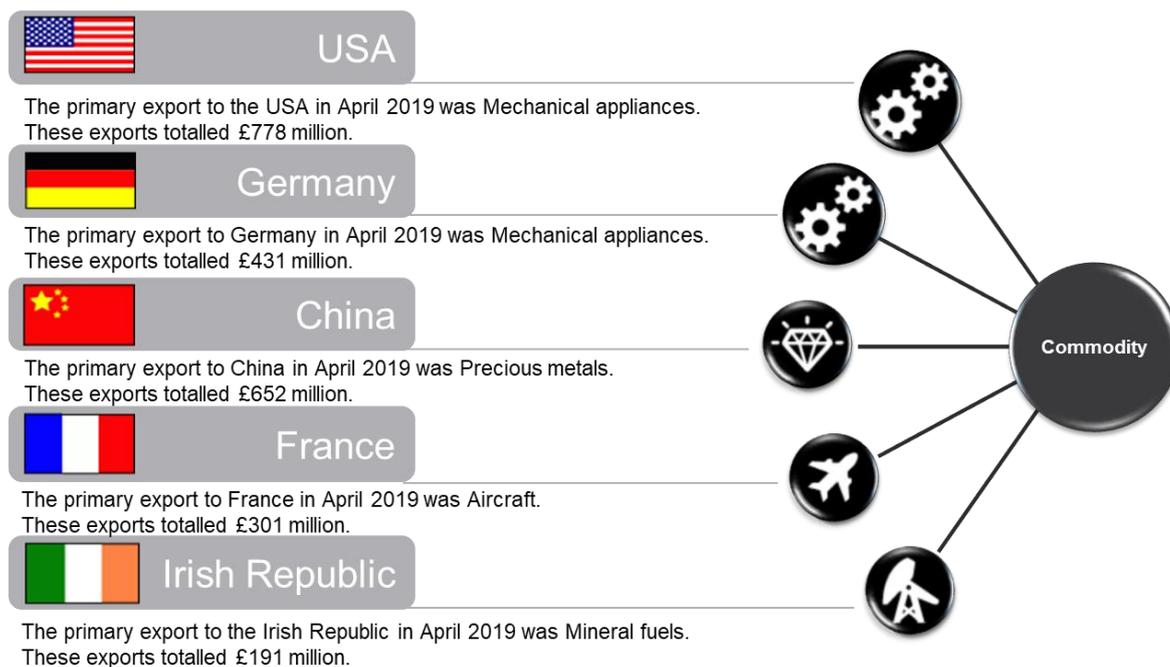
↓ Exports of Mineral fuels to the Netherlands down 44% on last month

Commodity to country:

- The decrease in exports of Mechanical appliances on last month was led by decreases to the USA and UAE, down £206 million (21%) and £165 million (60%) respectively.
- The reduction in exports of Motor vehicles on last month was due to decreases to several partner countries, namely: Belgium, down £165 million (49%); the USA, down £153 million (23%); and Germany, down £134 million (38%). The decrease in exports of Motor vehicles on April 2018 was led by China, down £130 million (45%).
- The increase in exports of Organic chemicals on last month and April 2018 was largely due to the USA, up £303 million (more than double) and £352 million (more than 2.5 times the value) respectively.

↓ Exports of Motor vehicles to Belgium down 49% on last month

Figure 6: The UK's top commodity exports to the top 5 EU & Non-EU countries



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Imports: Country Analysis

- Germany remained the top import partner country despite experiencing the 2nd largest value decrease on last month, down £1,387 million (21%). It experienced the largest value decrease on April 2018, down £545 million (9.3%).
- Uzbekistan (ranked 26th) saw the largest value increase on last month and the 2nd largest increase on April 2018, up £314 million (from less than £1.0 million) on both periods.
- The Netherlands experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £1,884 million (40%). It experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on April 2018, down £414 million (13%).
- China experienced the largest value increase on April 2018, up £563 million (21%).
- France experienced the 3rd largest value decrease on last month, down £1,227 million (36%).

↓ Imports from Germany down 21% on last month

↓ Imports from the Netherlands down 40% on last month

Table 5: UK imports of goods from the top 10 partner countries, April 2019

Partner Country	Total (£ millions)	March 2019		April 2018	
		Total (£ millions)	Change from March 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change from April 2018 (%)
Germany	5,320	6,706	-20.7	5,864	-9.3
USA	3,799	4,362	-12.9	3,614	5.1
China	3,224	3,536	-8.8	2,661	21.2
Netherlands	2,849	4,733	-39.8	3,263	-12.7
France	2,136	3,364	-36.5	2,175	-1.8
Belgium	1,855	2,630	-29.5	1,943	-4.6
Italy	1,511	1,894	-20.2	1,528	-1.2
Norway	1,449	1,319	9.8	1,468	-1.3
Canada	1,188	1,203	-1.3	937	26.8
Spain	1,187	1,614	-26.5	1,287	-7.8
Others	15,247	17,018	-10.4	14,674	3.9
Total EU	19,899	27,078	-26.5	21,346	-6.8
Total Non-EU	19,865	21,302	-6.7	18,070	9.9
Total Imports	39,764	48,380	-17.8	39,416	0.9

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

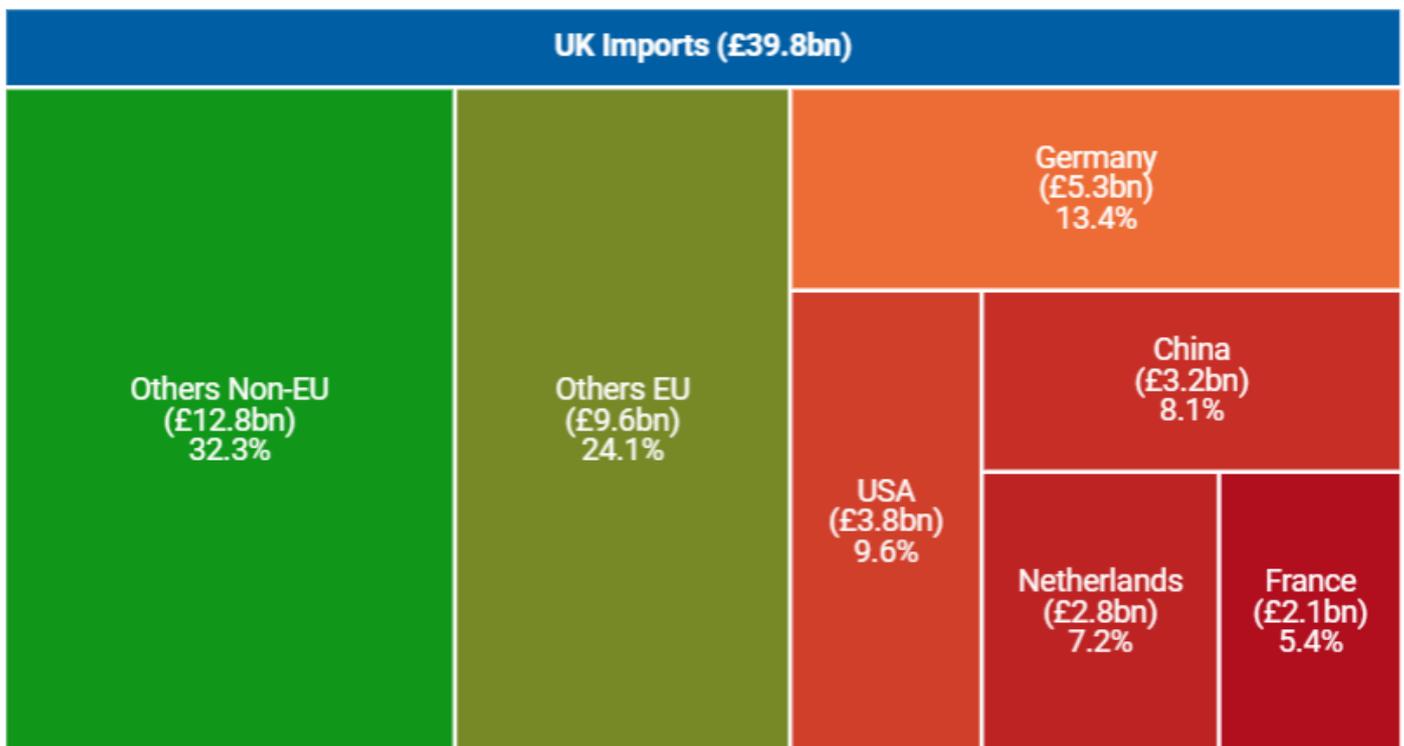
Imports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 import partners accounted for 44% of total imports of goods this month, this was a decrease from 45% on April 2018.
- Germany accounted for 13% of the total value of goods imports from the UK. This was a decrease from 15% for April 2018.
- The USA had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 9.6%. This was an increase from 9.2% for April 2018.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with last month, most notably, the Netherlands fell to 4th place from 2nd.
- The top 10 import partner countries changed compared with April 2018, most notably, Canada rose to 9th place from 12th. Outside the top 10, Uzbekistan rose to 26th place from 173rd.

↓ **Germany accounted for 13% of total imports in April 2019**

↑ **Canada rose to 9th largest import partner for April 2019**

Figure 7: UK imports of goods from the top 5 countries, April 2019



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Imports: Country Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to April 2019, Germany remained the largest import partner country, experiencing the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to January 2019, up 8.5%.
- Among the top 10, France experienced the largest percentage increase; on the 3 months to January 2019, up 10%, and on the 3 months to April 2018, up 21%.
- China experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to January 2019, down 18%.
- Norway experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to April 2018, down 18%.
- 6 of the top 10 countries experienced a percentage increase on the 3 months to January 2019, with the USA, China, Norway and Irish Republic being the exceptions.
- 9 of the top 10 countries experienced a percentage increase on the 3 months to April 2018, Norway being the exception.

↑ Imports from France up 21% on the 3 months to April 2018

↓ Imports from China down 18% on the 3 months to January 2019

Table 6: UK imports of goods from the top 10 partner countries, 3 months to April 2019

Partner Country	Total (£ millions)	3 months to Jan 2019		3 months to Apr 2018	
		Total (£ millions)	Change on January 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on April 2018 (%)
Germany	17,906	16,497	8.5	17,814	0.5
USA	12,233	12,602	-2.9	10,252	19.3
Netherlands	11,290	10,804	4.5	10,085	11.9
China	10,203	12,482	-18.3	8,577	19.0
France	8,114	7,372	10.1	6,689	21.3
Belgium	6,809	6,455	5.5	6,615	2.9
Italy	5,060	4,928	2.7	4,769	6.1
Norway	4,324	5,068	-14.7	5,264	-17.9
Spain	4,294	4,091	5.0	4,025	6.7
Irish Republic	3,232	3,513	-8.0	3,224	0.3
Others	48,319	48,605	-0.6	43,203	11.8
Total Imports	131,785	132,418	-0.5	120,516	9.4

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Imports: Commodity Analysis

- Mechanical appliances became the largest import commodity, despite experiencing the 4th largest value decrease on last month, down £645 million (11%). In contrast, it saw the 2nd largest value increase on April 2018, up £379 million (7.6%).
- Pharmaceutical products experienced the largest value decrease on last month and April 2018, down £1,843 million (58%) and £558 million (30%) respectively.
- Motor vehicles experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on last month and April 2018, down £1,800 million (29%) and £530 million (11%) respectively.
- Articles of iron or steel experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £41 million (5.5%).
- Precious metals experienced the largest value increase on April 2018, up £1,053 million (42%).

↓ Imports of Mechanical appliances down 11% on last month

↓ Imports of Pharmaceutical products down 58% on last month

Table 7: UK imports of goods by top 10 commodities, April 2019

Commodity Description	Total (£ millions)	March 2019		April 2018	
		Total (£ millions)	Change from March 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change from April 2018 (%)
Mechanical appliances	5,347	5,992	-10.8	4,968	7.6
Motor vehicles	4,499	6,298	-28.6	5,029	-10.5
Precious metals	3,568	4,076	-12.5	2,514	41.9
Mineral fuels	3,489	3,819	-8.6	3,813	-8.5
Electronic equipment	3,386	4,537	-25.4	3,536	-4.2
Pharmaceutical products	1,316	3,160	-58.3	1,875	-29.8
Plastics	1,265	1,461	-13.4	1,171	8.0
Measuring devices and gauges	1,188	1,455	-18.4	1,086	9.4
Articles of iron or steel	785	744	5.5	770	2.0
Clothes, not knitted	747	786	-5.0	707	5.7
Others	14,173	16,052	-11.7	13,946	1.6
Total Imports	39,764	48,380	-17.8	39,416	0.9

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

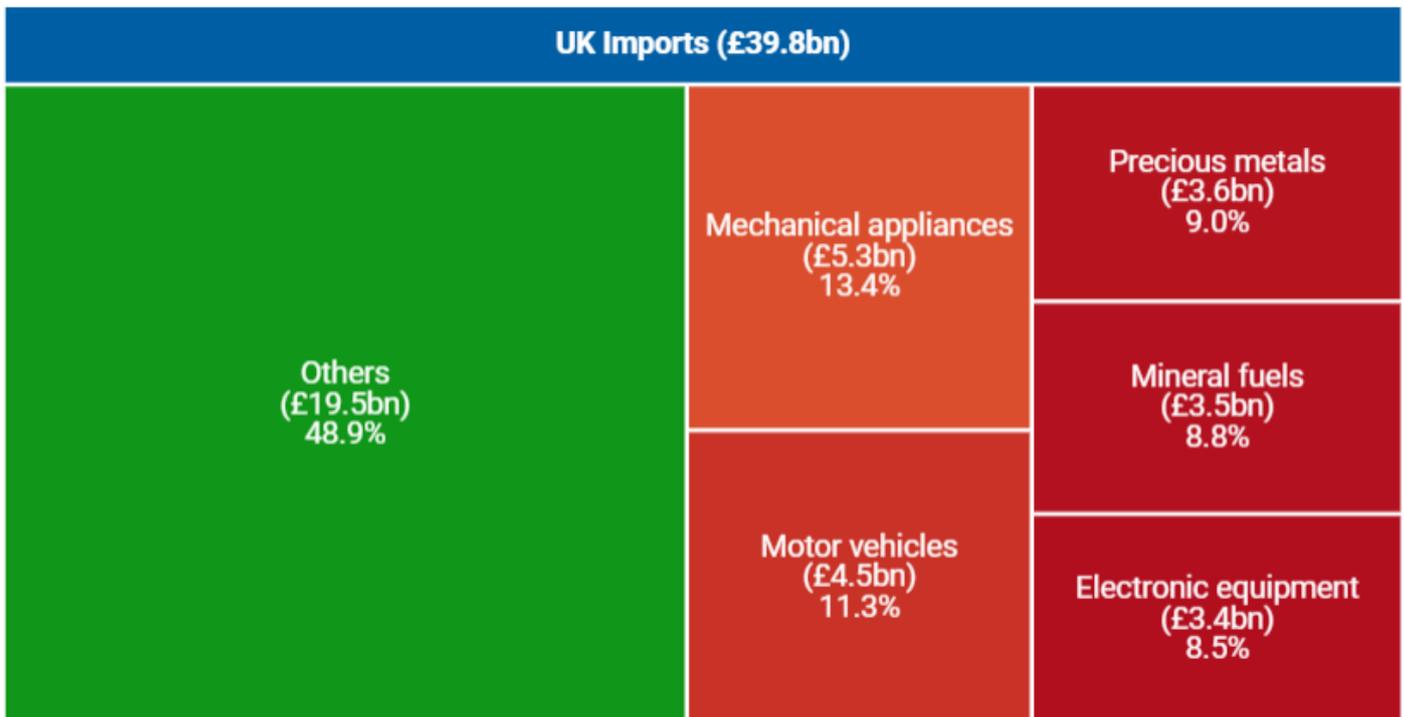
Imports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 import commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 51% this month, this was an increase from 50% on April 2018.
- Mechanical appliances accounted for 13% of the total value of goods imports, this was an increase of less than 1 percentage point on April 2018.
- Motor vehicles had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 11%. This was a decrease from 13% in April 2018.
- The top 10 import commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Mechanical appliances rose to 1st place from 2nd, replacing Motor vehicles.
- The top 10 import commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with April 2018. Most notably, Precious metals rose to 3rd from 5th place.

↑ **Mechanical appliances accounted for 13% of total imports in April 2019**

↑ **Precious metals rose to 3rd largest import commodity for April 2019**

Figure 8: UK imports by top 5 commodities, April 2019



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Imports: Commodity Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to April 2019, Mechanical appliances remained the largest import commodity, despite experiencing a decrease on the 3 months to January 2019, down 1.0%. It experienced an increase on the 3 months to April 2018, up 9.8%.
- Among the top 10, Precious metals experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to January 2019, up 21%. It also experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to April 2018, up 59%.
- Mineral fuels experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to January 2019, down 18%. It also had the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to April 2018, down 9.8%.
- 6 of the top 10 commodities experienced an increase on the 3 months to January 2019, Mechanical appliances, Electronic equipment, Mineral fuels and Furniture and light fittings being the exceptions.
- 9 of the top 10 commodities experienced an increase on the 3 months to April 2018, Mineral fuels being the exception.

↑ **Precious metals up 59% on the 3 months to April 2018**

↓ **Mineral fuels down 18% on the 3 months to January 2019**

Table 8: UK imports of goods by top 10 commodities for the 3 months to April 2019

Commodity Description	Total (£ millions)	3 months to Jan 2019		3 months to Apr 2018	
		Total (£ millions)	Change on January 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on April 2018 (%)
Mechanical appliances	16,692	16,858	-1.0	15,200	9.8
Motor vehicles	16,591	13,833	19.9	15,471	7.2
Precious metals	11,839	9,749	21.4	7,440	59.1
Electronic equipment	11,517	13,473	-14.5	10,603	8.6
Mineral fuels	10,993	13,476	-18.4	12,185	-9.8
Pharmaceutical products	6,646	5,916	12.4	5,688	16.9
Plastics and plastic products	4,024	3,682	9.3	3,538	13.7
Measuring devices and gauges	3,855	3,660	5.3	3,447	11.8
Furniture and light fittings	2,264	2,313	-2.1	2,145	5.5
Clothes, not knitted	2,230	2,222	0.3	2,136	4.4
Others	45,134	47,235	-4.4	42,664	5.8
Total Imports	131,785	132,418	-0.5	120,516	9.4

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Imports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

Country to commodity:

- The decrease in imports from Germany on last month and April 2018 was led by Motor vehicles, down £326 million (16%) and £296 million (14%) respectively.
- The increase in imports from Uzbekistan on last month and April 2018 was dominated by Precious metals, up £314 million (from nil trade) on both periods.
- The decrease in imports from the Netherlands on last month and April 2018 was led by Pharmaceutical products, down £1,243 million (92%) and £311 million (74%) respectively.
- The decrease in imports from France on last month was led by Precious metals, down £443 million (72%).

↓ Imports of Pharmaceutical products from the Netherlands down 92% on last month

Commodity to country:

- The decrease in imports of Mechanical appliances on last month was led by Germany and the USA, down £197 million (20%) and £134 million (13%) respectively. The increase on April 2018 was led by China, up £170 million (30%), and the USA, up £155 million (21%).
- The fall in imports of Motor vehicles on last month was due to decreases from several partner countries, including; Belgium, down £384 million (45%); Germany, down £326 million (16%); and France, down £233 million (47%). The decrease in imports of Motor vehicles on April 2018 was led by Germany and Belgium, down £296 million (14%) and £114 million (19%) respectively.
- The increase in imports of Precious metals on April 2018 was led by; Canada, up £321 million (56%); Uzbekistan, up £314 million (from nil trade); and Australia, up £308 million (up from £20 million).

↓ Imports of Motor vehicles from Germany down 14% on April 2018

Figure 9: The UK's top commodity imports from the top 5 EU & Non-EU countries



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Methodology Notes

Metadata

All data behind this bulletin through our [uktradeinfo web site](#):

- Detailed Trade Statistics data at 8-digit commodity code level is available in our [interactive database](#).
- Aggregate OTS data is available in [pre-prepared Excel tables](#).

Find details of how users interested in import and export markets for specific goods make use of the detailed OTS data in [‘The User Story’](#).

Data sources

The **EU figures** provided in this publication of the April 2019 Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics are collected from the Intrastat survey. They will include:

- Estimates for businesses who have yet to submit detailed data on the trade they had with other EU Member States this month.
- Estimates for businesses who do not have to submit detailed data on the trade they have with other EU Member States.
- An adjustment for trade associated with Missing Trader Intra Community fraud. More details of this can be found [here](#).

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

The **Non-EU figures** provided in this publication of the April 2019 Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics are presented by customs declarations and collected by the CHIEF (Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight) system.

Detailed trade information is presented according to the [Harmonised System \(HS\)](#) nomenclature.

Methodology

This methodology paper covers all aspects of the Overseas Trade Statistics methodology – data sources, classifications and definitions, quality assurance, publications and governance. It is a useful companion to the trade data, providing the definitions and methodologies on which the data are based. The Overseas Trade Statistics Methodology paper (July 2017) is available [here](#).

From the May 2016 month of account, there was a methodological change to the way our trade-in-goods statistics are compiled. Following a change in legislation, trade-in-goods statistics switched from the ‘general trade’ system of compilation to the ‘special trade’ system. More information can be found [here](#).

Non-Monetary Gold (NMG) can form a substantial part of the non-EU Overseas Trade Statistics (OTS). For further information, see [Inclusion of Non-Monetary Gold in OTS](#). Data relating to monthly non-EU and EU import and export totals for January 2008 onwards with a breakdown of non-monetary gold and other trade is available in an [OTS time series spreadsheet](#).

Relationship with other statistical publications

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 2 sets of data are compiled to different sets of rules. The ONS web site provides an overview of BoP at the [Guide to UK Trade](#) as well as the detailed monthly [UK Trade Releases](#). The BoP publication shows a high-level picture of UK trade-in-goods, whereas the OTS publication shows a detailed picture of the UK’s trade-in-goods by commodity and partner country. [uktradeinfo.com](#) provides more detail about the [differences between BoP and OTS publications](#).

The aggregate estimates here will differ from the Eurostat publication [Euro area external trade](#). The OTS was published up until the May 2016 month of account as 'general trade' based upon goods recorded as they enter or leave the UK. This will include goods imported into and exported from a freezone or customs warehouse, regardless of their future use. The Eurostat EU external trade data are published as 'special trade' where goods are recorded as trade only when they enter free circulation or are declared to specific Customs regimes such as Inward Processing (IP) or Processing under Customs Control (PCC). Imports from a free zone or customs warehouse are similarly recorded in 'special trade'.

National Statistics Publication

HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with countries on 10 June 2019 under arrangements set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#). The 1st release is published on HMRC's trade data website www.uktradeinfo.com.

This release includes the 1st provisional estimates of trade-in-goods between the UK and both countries of the EU and those outside the EU for April 2019. At the same time revisions for all previously published non-EU and EU data for 2018 and 2019 are also being released in line with the [HM Revenue & Customs Policy on Revisions](#).

The next three publications are due for release on the following days:

Month of account	First release date
May 2019	July 10 th 2019
June 2019	August 9 th 2019
July 2019	September 9 th 2019

The OTS has been reviewed as part of an assessment made of Overseas Trade in Goods 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>.

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.