

Non-EU Overseas Trade Statistics - April 2013

Coverage:
United Kingdom

Theme:
Business and Energy

Released:
07 June 2013

Next Release:
09 July 2013

Frequency of release:
Monthly

Media contact:
HMRC Press Office
020 7147 0798/2328

Out-of-hours: 07860 359544

Statistical contacts:
Andrew Watson
Tel: 01702 367485
andy.watson@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

Customs Trade Statistics
HM Revenue & Customs
21 Victoria Avenue
Southend-on-Sea
SS99 1AA

Website:
<http://www.uktradeinfo.com>

Summary

- UK's non-EU exports have decreased by £0.1 billion (0.9 per cent) compared to March 2013, to £12.9 billion. Compared to April 2012, exports have increased by £1.7 billion (15.0 per cent).
- UK's non-EU imports have increased by £0.3 billion (2.1 per cent) compared to March 2013, to £16.4 billion. Compared to April 2012, imports have decreased by £0.2 billion (1.1 per cent).
- The UK remains a net importer (imports are greater than exports). The size of the difference between imports and exports has increased by £0.5 billion (14.9 per cent) compared to March 2013, and has decreased from April 2012 by £1.8 billion (34.9 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.

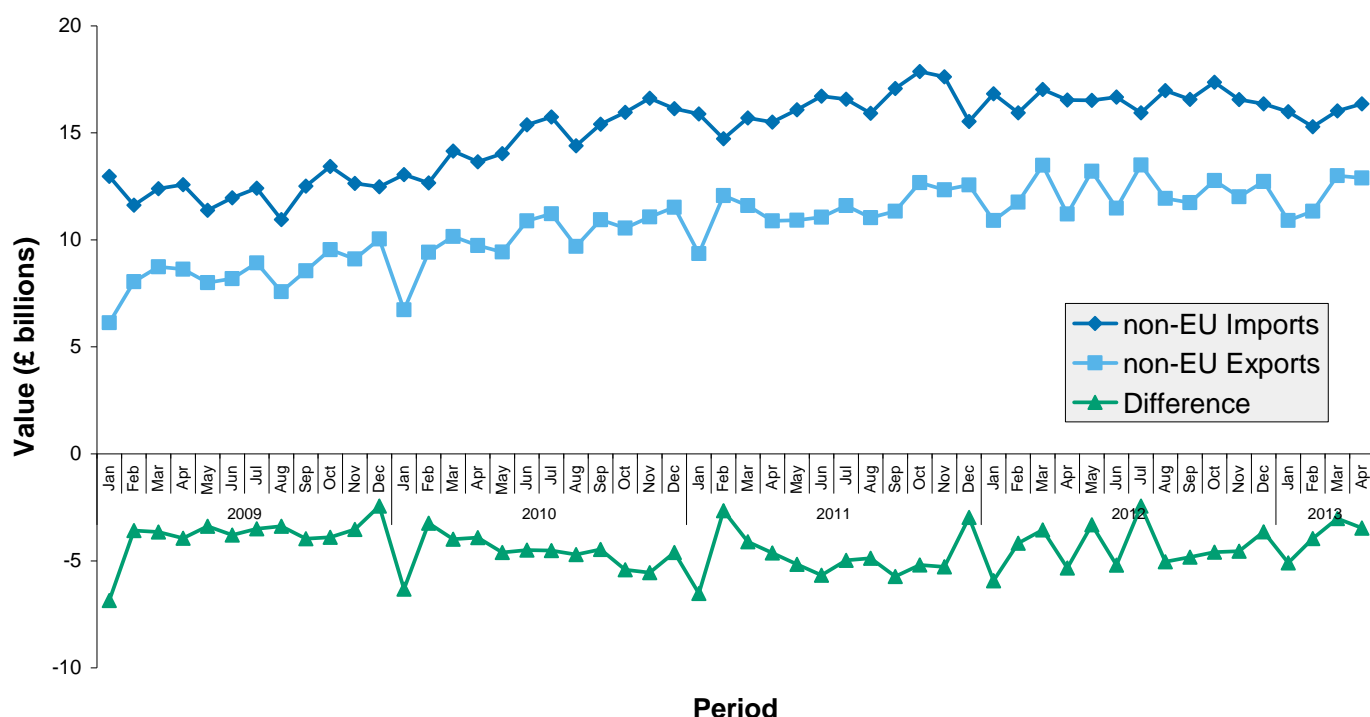
You can find details of how users interested in import and export markets for specific goods make use of the detailed OTS data in '[The Customer Story](#)'. You can also access the detailed data in our interactive database [here](#).

Key Points

For the month of April 2013:

The value of imports increased, while exports decreased in April 2013 compared with the previous month. Consequently the difference between non-EU imports and exports has increased by 14.9 per cent. Imports and exports both fell in April 2012, while this month's import values increased for the second month running, and are at the highest level since December 2012.

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



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional

Exports

- UK's non-EU exports have decreased by £0.1 billion (0.9 per cent) compared to March 2013, to £12.9 billion. Compared to April 2012, exports have increased by £1.7 billion (15.0 per cent).
- The top five commodities are slightly different to last month, with the top two unchanged, but HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin) rising from eighth to third. The largest contributing commodity group remains HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof). In April it contributed £2.5 billion, 19.1 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).
- There were decreases in two thirds of all chapters, driving the overall decrease in exports compared to March 2013. The largest decrease from the previous month was £187.1 million (19.8 per cent) in HS2 85 (Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts and accessories of such articles), taking this chapter out of the top five for this month.
- The largest value increase from the previous month was in HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin), which increased by £468.5 million (78.1 per cent), moving this chapter to third place, from eighth last month.
- The USA remains the UK's largest non-EU export partner country, accounting for 27.2 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU export trade, despite having the largest decrease in exports when comparing with March 2013 (a decrease of £169.2 million (4.6 per cent)). Exports from the UK to Saudi Arabia had the largest increase in value, compared to March 2013, up by £261.4 million (87.4 per cent) rising to fourth place from fifteenth last month.
- The total 2013 year to date value of UK's goods exported to non-EU countries excluding April 2013 is £35.2 billion, which has been upwardly revised by £56.5 million. This is an increase of 0.2 per cent.

Imports

- The value of the UK's non-EU imports increased by £0.3 billion (2.1 per cent) compared to March 2013, to £16.4 billion. Compared to April 2012 imports have decreased by £0.2 billion (1.1 per cent).
- The top five commodities are similar to the previous month. However, HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof) has risen to fifth place from eighth last month, displacing HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof).
- The largest commodity group remains HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes). In April 2013 it contributed £4.1 billion, 25.1 per cent of the total value of non-EU imports to the UK. The largest contribution to this chapter was £2.0 billion from HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude). HS2 27 also had the largest value increase from the previous month, a rise of £717.3 million (21.1 per cent).
- The largest value decrease from the previous month was a fall of £364.5 million (27.8 per cent) in HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious

- The USA remains the UK's largest non-EU import partner country in April 2013, accounting for 15.8 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU import trade. China remains in second place, accounting for 12.5 per cent of the total value of non-EU imports. The value of imports to the UK from China decreased by £123.7 million (5.7 per cent), the second largest country decrease compared to March 2013 whereas the largest decrease in imports into the UK compared to March 2013 was from Switzerland which fell by £167.8 million (21.8 per cent). The largest increase was from Norway which rose by £302.8 million (21.2 per cent).
- The total 2013 year to date value of UK's goods imported from non EU countries excluding April 2013 is £47.3 billion, which has been upwardly revised by £3.2 million. This is an increase 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 April 2013, March 2013 and April 2012.

HS 2	Description	April 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2013	% Change from April 2012	% of Total April 2013 Exports	Rank March 2013	Rank April 2012
-	Total Exports	12,885.9	-0.9	15.0	100.0	n/a	n/a
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	2,458.8	-6.0	15.2	19.1	1	1
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	1,495.3	-6.6	23.7	11.6	2	2
71	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin	1,068.1	78.1	68.5	8.3	8	6
30	Pharmaceutical products	940.4	-3.0	13.0	7.3	3	4
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	875.2	5.0	-16.7	6.8	5	3

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional

The overall decrease in exports **compared to March 2013** is composed of decreases in over two thirds of HS2 chapters, offset by one major increase. The total export trade value has decreased by £0.1 billion (0.9 per cent). Three of the top five commodity types decreased in export value. There were three chapters with decreases of over £100 million, and one increase of this magnitude, though this increase was over £400 million.

The largest value decrease from the previous month, of £187.1 million, was in HS2 85 (Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts and accessories of such articles), taking this chapter out of the top five, to sixth place. This is a decrease of 19.8 per cent compared to March 2013. The decrease is driven by a fall of £69.4 million (36.9 per cent) in HS4 8517, which includes mobile phones.

The second largest decrease was in the chapter with the largest export trade, HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof), down by £158.2 million (6.0 per cent) to £2.5 billion. This is led by a fall in exports in HS4 8411 (Turbo-jets, Turbo-propellers and other gas turbines), down by £80.1 million (7.3 per cent).

The third largest decrease was in HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof), down by £105.2 million (6.6 per cent). The fall was driven by decreases of £58.4 million (32.2 per cent) in exports of HS4 8708 (Parts and accessories of vehicles), and £48.9 million (4.0 per cent) in HS4 8703 (Motor vehicles for the transport of <10 persons).

There were no other decreases over £100 million, and the next largest decrease was just £44.3 million in HS 72 (Iron and steel).

The largest increase since last month was in HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin), up by £468.5 million, (78.1 per cent). This takes HS2 71 up to third place from eighth, and is driven by a rise of £269.8 million (nearly sevenfold) in unwrought silver in HS4 7106. Within this chapter, there were increases of £327.2 million (a five-fold increase) in exports to India, and £109.5 million (from under £1 million) in exports to Saudi Arabia.

The second largest increase was £92.7 million in HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques), up by 24.0 per cent.

Compared to April 2012, the total export trade value increased by £1.7 billion (15.0 per cent). Two thirds of all HS2 chapters showed increases. There were five chapters with increases of over £100 million, and one decrease of this magnitude. The four largest increases, and the largest decrease, were all in the top five export chapters.

As with the comparison with March 2013, the largest increase was in HS2 71, up £434.3 million (68.5 per cent), led by a rise of £296.9 million in unwrought silver in HS4 7106. This is nearly a 17 fold increase.

The second largest increase was for the top chapter, HS2 84, which rose by £324.1 million (15.2 per cent). This was driven by a rise of £212.2 million (26.4 per cent) in HS4 8411 (Turbo-jets, Turbo-propellers and other gas turbines).

The third largest increase was for HS2 87 which rose by £286.9 million (23.7 per cent). This was led by a rise of £289.3 million (33.1 per cent) in HS4 8703 (Motor vehicles for the transport of <10 persons).

The fourth largest increase was for HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products) which rose by £108.4 million (13.0 per cent), driven by a rise of £84.2 million (86.0 per cent) in HS4 3002 (blood products and serums).

The fifth largest increase was outside the top five, as HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof) rose by £105.9 million (19.7 per cent). This was composed of an increase of £193.5 million (a twofold increase) in HS4 8802 (powered aircraft and spacecraft), offset by a fall of £89.1 million (24.2 per cent) in HS4 8803 (parts of aircraft and spacecraft).

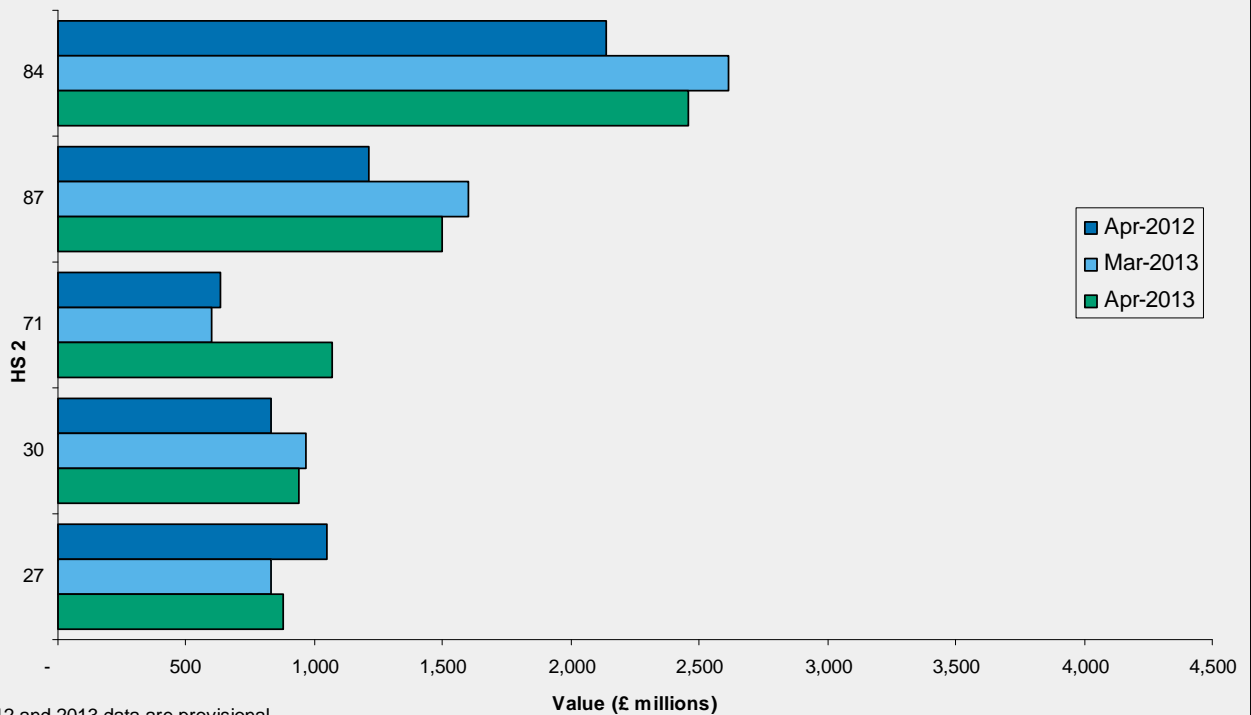
There were also 15 chapters with increases between £10 million and £86 million.

The only decrease over £100 million was HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) which fell by £175.7 million (16.7 per cent). HS4 2710 (refined oil) fell by £94.2 million (17.0 per cent) and HS4 2709 (crude oil) fell by 40.8 million (9.5 per cent). HS4 2710 showed a similar fall for quantity (net mass) exported, indicating the fall was volume driven, while HS4 2709 appears to be a combination of price and volume.

There were only two other decreases over £10 million, with the largest being £20.2 million.

Figure 2 below shows the top five commodities for the UK's non-EU exports in April 2013, compared to March 2013 and April 2012. It shows how the increase for chapter 71 has propelled it into third place this month, while the top two chapters had large decreases when compared with March 2013. Compared to April 2012, all the top four chapters had large increases, while HS2 27 had a large decrease.

Fig 2: Top 5 commodities for UK's non-EU exports in April 2013 compared to March 2013 and April 2012



Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Table 2 shows a comparison of the value of UK non-EU export trade with our top five export trading partners for April 2013, March 2013 and April 2012.

Country	April 2013 Total £ millions	% change from March 2013	% Change from April 2012	% of total April 2013 Exports	Rank March 2013	Rank April 2012
Total Exports	12,885.9	-0.9	15.0	100.0	n/a	n/a
USA	3,510.0	-4.6	9.4	27.2	1	1
China	967.1	3.9	46.5	7.5	2	2
India	627.8	46.8	78.6	4.9	6	10
Saudi Arabia	560.6	87.4	83.4	4.4	15	13
Switzerland	526.5	8.4	22.6	4.1	4	5

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional

For all three periods, the USA was the UK's largest non-EU export partner country, and China second, while this month has seen large increases for India, moving up to third from sixth place, and Saudi Arabia, moving up to fourth from fifteenth place, while the United Arab Emirates and Hong Kong have dropped to seventh and eighth place respectively. Compared to last month, despite the slight decrease in total exports, there were increased exports to four of the top five partner countries, with just exports to the USA falling.

Compared to March 2013, the overall fall in exports is composed of decreased trade to 57 per cent of our export partners. There were three countries to which exports decreased by £100 million or more, and four increases above this threshold. Furthermore, the magnitudes of these increases were greater than the size of the

decreases above this level. The reason why there is an overall decrease in exports is due to a much larger number of smaller decreases.

The largest decrease in exports was to the top export country, the USA, where exports fell by £169.2 million (4.6 per cent), dropping back slightly after an increase of over £700 million last month. The decrease is composed of falls of £123.3 million (30.3 per cent) in exports of HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof) plus five other decreases over £20 million. This is offset by an increase of £172.8 million (a twofold rise) in HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques) and just one other increase over £20 million.

The second largest decrease was in exports to South Korea, down by £148.5 million (35.5 per cent) to £269.5 million. This is the second successive large decrease for South Korea, both times it has been driven by a fall in exports for HS2 27 which this month have become almost negligible and are below £1 million for the first time since November 2012.

The third largest decrease was to the United Arab Emirates, down by £102.9 million (19.1 per cent) to drop from the UK's third largest trading partner to seventh. This was led by a fall of £68.4 million (31.6 per cent) in HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof), which in turn was led by a fall in HS4 8411 (Turbojets, turbopropellers and other gas turbines) of £63.8 million (38.4 per cent), reversing a similar increase last month.

There were no other decreases over £100 million.

The largest increase in exports was to Saudi Arabia, which climbs from fifteenth to fourth. Exports are up by £261.4 million (87.4 per cent) to £560.6 million, a record high, beating the previous record of £447.2 million in September 2012. This increase was driven by increases of £118.9 million (a threefold increase) in HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof) and £109.5 million in HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin), up to £110.4 million from less than £1 million last month. The increase in HS2 88 was driven by a rise of £141.8 million (an eightfold increase) in HS4 8802 (Aircraft and spacecraft), while the increase in HS2 71 was almost entirely due to HS4 7113 (Articles of jewellery of precious metal).

The second biggest increase was to India, up by £200.1 million (46.8 per cent) to climb to third from sixth. This was more than covered by a rise of £327.2 million (a five-fold increase) in HS2 71, driven by exports of unwrought silver in HS4 7106.

The third biggest increase in exports was to Chile, up by £134.9 million to £170.1 million, a four-fold increase. This takes exports to Chile to their second highest level ever, just behind April 2011's record export of £177.1 million. The increase was driven by an export of £141.9 million of crude oil in HS4 2709, from zero last month. Historically, the export trade to Chile is driven by the oil trade, which is also at its highest level since April 2011.

There was one other export value over £100 million, as exports to Nigeria increased by £101.7 million (93.3 per cent), to £210.7 million. This increase was spread over several chapters.

Compared to April 2012, there was an increase of £1.7 billion (15.0 per cent) in exports. Two thirds of the UK's export partner countries had increases in export value. There were seven increases in excess of £100 million and one decrease above this value. The top four countries all had increases over £250 million.

This largest increase was for exports to China, up £306.7 million (46.4 per cent). This is led by a twofold increase in HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof) up £162.1 million, led by a rise of £158.9 million in HS4 8703 (motor vehicles for the transport of <10 persons).

The second largest increase was for exports to the USA, up £301.9 million (9.4 per cent), which was driven by increases of £145.8 million (45.8 per cent) in HS2 27, and £110.6 million (46.8 per cent) in HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques).

The third largest increase was for exports to India, up by £276.2 million (78.5 per cent). As with the comparison with last month, this was driven by a five-fold increase in HS2 71, which exceeds the total net increase, and is driven by exports of silver in HS4 7106 of £302.3 million, up from under £1 million in April 2012.

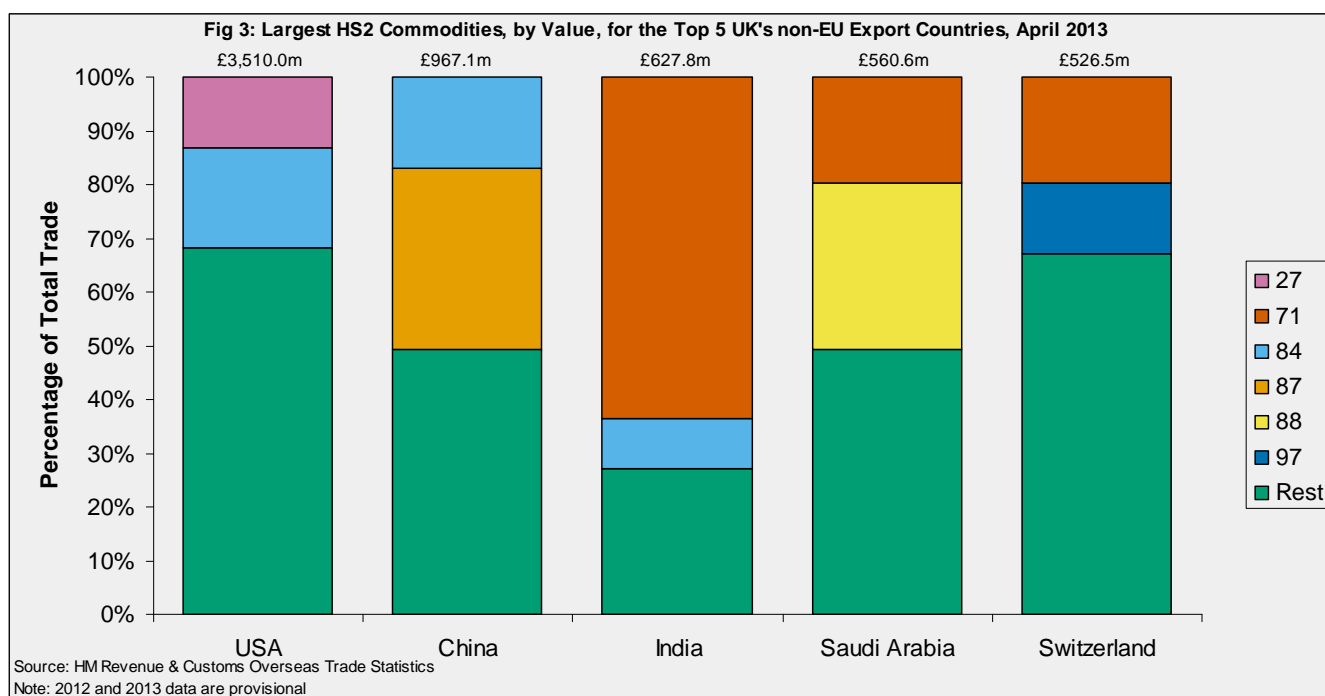
The fourth largest increase was for exports to Saudi Arabia, up by £255.0 million (83.4 per cent). As with the comparison with last month, this increase was driven by increases of £116.0 million (a threefold increase) in HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof) and £84.2 million (a four-fold increase) in HS2 71. The increase in HS2 88 was driven by a rise of £161.8 million in HS4 8802 (Aircraft and spacecraft), up from zero in April 2012, while the increase in HS2 71 was due to a four-fold increase in HS4 7113 (Articles of jewellery of precious metal).

The other increases of over £100 million in total export trade value compared to April 2012 were in exports to Chile, up by £148.6 million (nearly eight-fold) and Nigeria (more than double), mirroring the increases with last month, and for Japan, up £140.7 million (45.3 per cent), led by a twofold increase of £81.2 million in HS2 84.

The only decrease over £100 million was for South Korea, which fell by £220.2 million (45.0 per cent), due to the drop in oil exports this month, previously explained.

Figure 3 shows the two largest commodities by value exported from the UK to each of its top five non-EU export partner countries. It demonstrates how the exports in HS2 71 has influenced the top five countries, as in April 2013 three of the top five countries had this chapter as one of the top two largest commodities exported to them, accounting for 57.4 per cent of the UK's total exports in this chapter. Three countries had HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof), accounting for 35.6 per cent of the total value of UK non-EU export trade for HS2 84.

Additionally, 53.0 per cent of the UK's export of HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) was to the USA.



Further Analysis: Imports

Table 3 shows a comparison of the top five commodities imported from countries outside the EU for April 2013, March 2013 and April 2012.

HS 2	Description	April 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from March 2013	% Change from April 2012	% of Total April 2013 Imports	Rank March 2013	Rank April 2012
-	Total Imports	16,353.6	2.1	-1.1	100.0	n/a	n/a
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	4,109.0	21.1	0.6	25.1	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	2,162.5	2.6	11.1	13.2	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	1,426.9	6.2	-0.3	8.7	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	946.8	-27.8	-15.4	5.8	4	4
88	Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof	562.8	14.3	10.0	3.4	8	6

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional

The value of imports increased by £0.3 billion (2.1 per cent) **compared to March 2013**. There were increases in just over half of the HS2 commodity chapters (53 per cent). There was one increase of over £100 million and one decrease of this magnitude. Four of the top five import chapters showed increases.

The largest value increase from the previous month of £717.3 million (21.1 per cent) was in the UK's biggest import chapter by value, HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes). This takes imports in HS2 27 to their highest value since the record high of £4.4 billion in December 2012. The increase was driven by rises of £294.1 million (24.1 per cent) in imports from Norway, and £291.4 million (nearly nine-fold) from Qatar.

The second and third largest increases in imports were both within the top five also. The third biggest chapter, HS2 85, rose by £83.4 million (6.2 per cent), led by a rise of £52.8 million (13.2 per cent) in HS4 8517, which includes mobile phones. HS2 88 rose by £70.5 million (14.3 per cent), to climb to fifth place from eighth last month. This was driven by a £76.1 million (25.8 per cent) increase in imports of HS4 8804 (Aircraft and spacecraft).

The largest decrease in imports was for the fourth biggest import chapter, HS2 71, down £364.5 million (27.8 per cent) to £946.8 million. Within this chapter, there were decreases of £133.6 million (23.9 per cent) in HS4 7102 (unmounted diamonds), and £117.9 million (71.4 per cent) in platinum group metals in HS4 7110. This is the lowest import value for this chapter since July 2012 (£78.0 million).

The second largest value decrease from the previous month was just £67.8 million, and was for HS2 62 (Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted), which fell 13.5 per cent.

When **compared to April 2012**, total import value decreased by £0.2 billion (1.1 per cent). Although only 43.3 per cent of the HS2 commodity chapters decreased in value, the sizes of these decreases were generally bigger than those for the increases. These two factors explained the overall marginal decrease. There were two chapters with decreases of over £100 million and one increase over £100 million.

The overall decrease was led by a decrease in HS2 71 of £172.6 million (15.4 per cent). This makes up 94.1 per cent of the overall net decrease. This was driven by falls of £132.9 million (32.3 per cent) in unwrought silver in HS4 7106, and £57.9 million (37.3 per cent) in jewellery in HS4 7113.

The second biggest decrease was a fall of £121.6 million (36.8 per cent) in HS2 29 (Organic chemicals). This was led by a fall of £68.6 million (89.3 per cent) in HS4 2922 (Oxygen function amino compounds).

These were the only decreases over £100 million, but just below this level, HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques) fell by £94.9 million (28.4 per cent). Within this chapter, HS4 9706 (Antiques) fell by £54.8 million (54.8 per cent), and HS4 9701 (Paintings and drawings) fell by £34.7 million (19.0 per cent).

The only chapter with an increase of over £100 million is the second biggest import chapter, HS2 84, up £215.2 million (11.1 per cent), with HS4 8411 (Turbojets, turbopropellers and other gas turbines) up £226.2 million (37.9 per cent).

The next biggest increase was for HS2 26 (Ores, slag and ash) up £81.2 million (80.6 per cent).

Figure 4 below shows the top five commodities for UK's non-EU imports in April 2013, compared to March 2013 and April 2012. It shows how both HS2 27 and HS2 85 increased when compared to last month, but are relatively unchanged when compared to April last year. Chapters 84 and 88 increased when compared to both periods, and chapter 71 decreased when compared to both periods.

Fig 4: Top 5 Commodities for UK's non-EU imports in April 2013 compared to March 2013 and April 2012

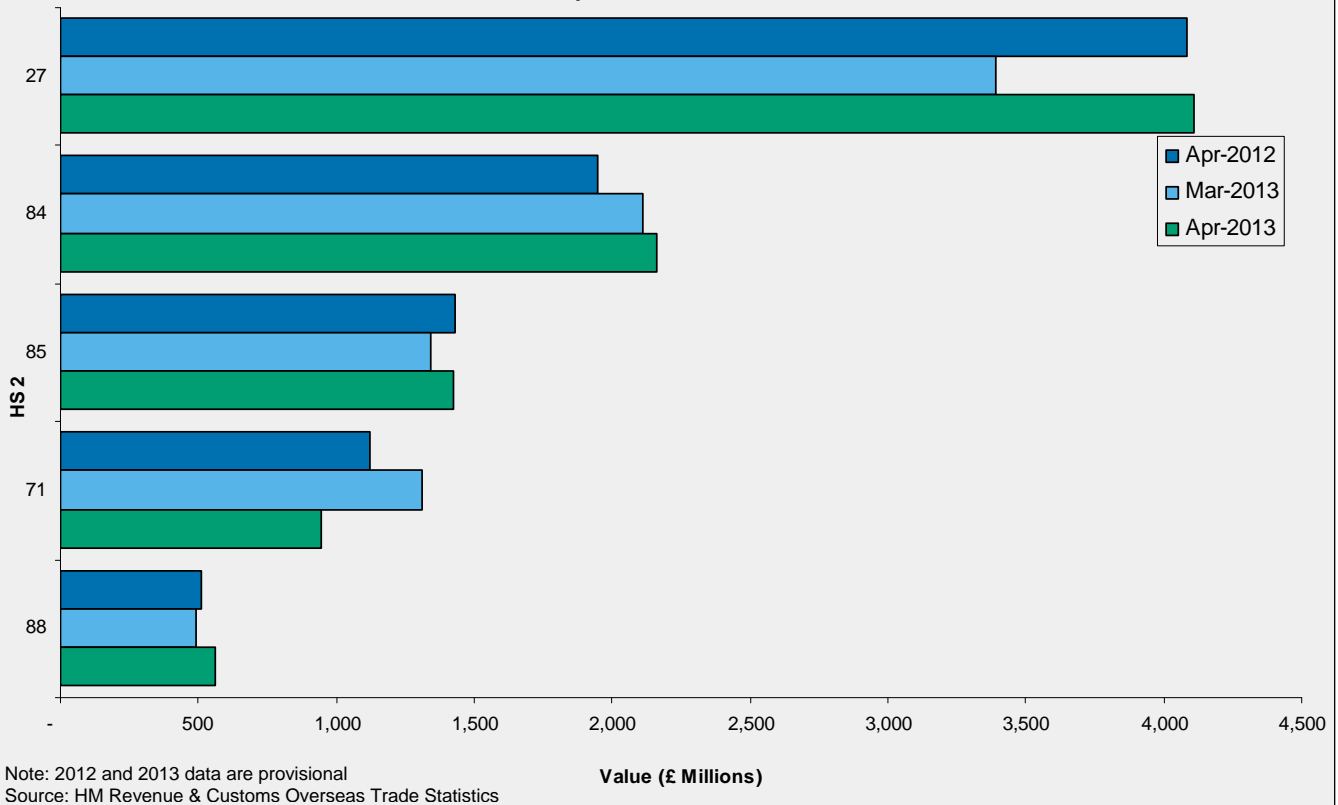


Table 4 shows comparisons of the value of UK non-EU import trade from our top five import trading partners for April 2013, March 2013, and April 2012. Imports from three of the top five trading partners have decreased in April 2013 compared to the previous month (USA, China, and Switzerland), and four have decreased when compared to April 2012 (USA, China, Norway and Japan).

Table 4: Top 5 Non-EU import partner countries in April 2013 compared to March 2013 and April 2012

Country	April 2013 Total £ millions	% change from March 2013	% Change from April 2012	% of Total April 2013 Imports	Rank March 2013	Rank April 2012
Total Imports	16,353.6	2.1	-1.1	100.0	n/a	n/a
USA	2,589.3	-2.0	-3.7	15.8	1	1
China	2,047.6	-5.7	-10.0	12.5	2	2
Norway	1,729.9	21.2	-19.4	10.6	3	3
Japan	612.0	0.6	-7.7	3.7	5	5
Switzerland	603.1	-21.8	9.8	3.7	4	7

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional

The countries are unchanged from last month, with one change in the order. Compared to last year, Switzerland was seventh, behind Hong Kong, and Russia was fourth whereas it is currently tenth. The USA, China, and Norway have been the UK's largest import partners for a number of years, collectively accounting for nearly 40 per cent of the UK's import trade.

Compared to March 2013, the total increase in the value of imports is composed of an almost equal mix of increases and decreases from our import partner countries. The increases were of a higher magnitude than the decreases, which has resulted in marginal increase in total imports. Five countries had increases of over £100 million, while three had decreases of this magnitude.

The biggest increase in value of imports was from Norway, up to £302.8 million (21.2 per cent) to £1.7 billion, the highest import value since June 2012. This is driven by an increase of £366.8 million in crude oil in HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude), up 53.8 per cent from last month. This was offset slightly by a decrease of £69.2 million (79.7 per cent) in refined oil (HS4 2710).

The increase in HS2 27 imports also drove the next three biggest increases. Imports from Qatar were up by £299.0 million (a five-fold increase) with a £263.5 million increase in HS4 2711 (Petroleum gas and other gaseous hydrocarbons); Libya increased by £139.0 million (87.8 per cent), with a £157.1 million increase in crude oil (HS4 2709); and Algeria was up £136.7 million (41.8 per cent) with a £125.5 million increase also in crude oil.

The only other increase over £100 million in value of imports was from the United Arab Emirates, up by £116.7 million (63.4 per cent) to £300.6 million, their second highest monthly import value, after November 2012's record of £333.8 million. This month's increase was led by a rise of £83.0 million (62.6 per cent) in HS2 84, with an £83.7 million (68.6 per cent) increase in HS4 8411 (Turbojets, turbopropellers and other gas turbines).

There were no other increases over £100 million, although there was also one increase over £90 million (South Africa).

The largest decrease in value of imports was from Switzerland, down by £167.8 million (21.8 per cent) to drop behind Japan for this month. This decrease is spread over several chapters, led by a fall of £63.2 million (25.9 per cent) 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 fall driven by a 99 per cent drop in imports of platinum group metals (HS4 7110), from £73.2 million to less than £1 million.

The second largest decrease in value of imports was from China, down by £123.7 million (5.7 per cent). As reported last month, imports from China have a history of falling in the spring, and this is part of the trend this year. This takes imports from China to their lowest level since March 2012 (£1.9 billion) and is spread over several chapters.

The third largest decrease in value of imports was from Canada, down by £107.2 million (18.1 per cent), led by a fall of £53.4 million (49.5 per cent) in oil in HS2.27

There were no other decreases over £100 million, but just outside this range, Kazakhstan fell by £96.5 million (79.4 per cent), with a fall of £76.1 million in imports of oil.

Compared to April 2012 there was a decrease of £0.2 billion (1.1 per cent) in the total value of imports. More than half (53 per cent) of the UK's import partner countries increased in value, but the decreases were generally bigger. There were both five decreases and five increases in excess of £100 million, but perhaps more tellingly, there was only one increase over £200 million, but three decreases of this size. Four of the UK's top five import trading partners for April 2013 have decreased when compared to April 2012, and one has increased.

The largest decrease in total import trade value is from Norway, down by £417.4 million (19.4 per cent). This is led by a decrease of £419.9 million (21.7 per cent) in HS2 27, which in turn is driven by a £476.0 million (31.2 per cent) decrease in HS4

2709 (crude oil). Total imports from Norway went through a period of relatively high values from November 2010 through to May 2012, and have all been lower since then.

The second largest decrease in imports was from Russia, down £243.5 million (34.4 per cent). This was spread over several chapters, led by a fall of £90.9 million (20.3 per cent) in HS2 27, but with two other decreases over £50 million.

The third largest decrease in imports was from China, down £227.7 million (10.0 per cent). This was also spread over several chapters, with seven decreasing by between £11 million and £53 million, while the biggest increase was below £7 million.

The other large decreases were from Singapore, down £141.3 million (46.4 per cent), with a £115.9 million (89.0 per cent) fall in HS2 29 (Organic chemicals), and Azerbaijan, down £100.3 million (98.5 per cent), with crude oil imports (HS4 2709) falling from £101.1 million to zero.

There were also decreases of over £95 million for Taiwan and the USA.

The largest two increases in value of imports were both due to imports of crude oil (HS4 2709). Algeria increased by £300.4 million (nearly a three-fold rise) with a £282.0 million (176.9 per cent) increase in crude oil, and. Libya was up by £179.0 million (151.3 per cent) almost entirely due to a rise of £179.0 million (151.6 per cent) in crude oil.

The third largest increase was from Botswana, up £168.9 million (155.8 per cent), almost entirely due to imports of diamonds in HS4 7102 increasing by £168.5 million).

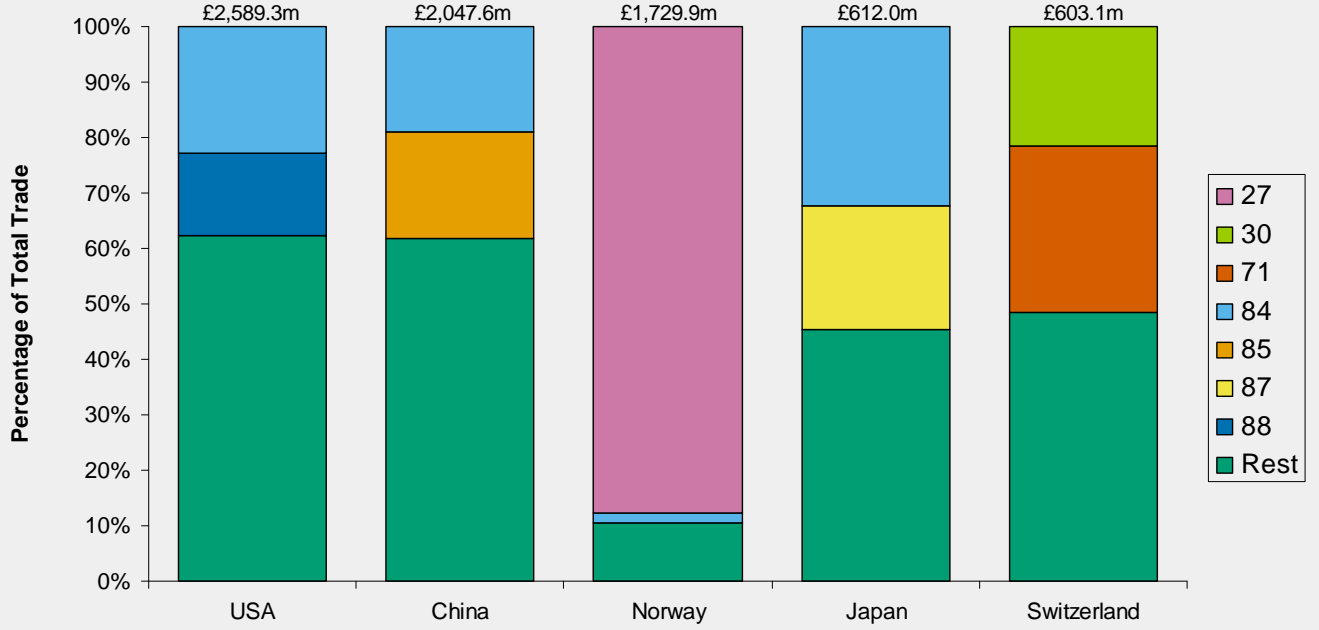
The United Arab Emirates increased by £139.2 million (86.2 per cent), more than covered by a four-fold increase of £157.7 million in HS4 8411 (Turbojets, turbopropellers and other gas turbines).

The only other increase over £100 million was from India, which rose by £118.2 million (28.6 per cent), led by imports of refined oil (HS4 2710) of £55.6 million, up from less than £1 million in April 2010.

Figure 5 shows the two largest commodities by value imported from each of the top five non-EU import 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 into the UK, accounting for 55.9 per cent of the total import value in HS2 84. This month, the second biggest import commodity from the USA is HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof), accounting for 68.8 per cent of the UK's import value for this chapter.

The import trade in HS2 27 from Norway, specifically the Norwegian Continental Shelf, accounts for 87.6 per cent of the total imports to the UK from Norway, and accounts for 36.9 per cent of the UK's import value for this chapter,.

Fig 5: Largest HS2 Commodities, by Value, for Top 5 UK's non-EU Import Countries, April 2013



Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional
 Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Notes:

1. HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with countries outside the European Union (EU) on 07 June 2013 under arrangements set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#).
2. This release includes the first provisional estimates of trade-in-goods between the UK and countries outside the EU for April 2013. At the same time revisions for all previously published non-EU data for 2012 are also being released in line with the [HM Revenue & Customs Policy on Revisions](#).
3. In this release, significant amendments have been made to the export of diamonds in HS2 71, with values totalling £877.5 million for all of 2012, and £114.6 million for January and February 2013. This is because some of the export trade under this HS2 heading had been allocated to the incorrect partner country. This revision predominantly reallocates UK export trade that was to South Africa, to Botswana.
4. Detailed trade information is presented according to the [Harmonised System \(HS\)](#) nomenclature.
5. The aggregate estimates here will differ slightly from those that are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as part of the Balance of Payments (BoP), as the two sets of data are compiled to different sets of rules. The ONS web site provides an overview of BoP at the [Guide to UK Trade](#) as well as the detailed monthly [UK Trade Releases](#). The BoP publication shows a high level picture of UK trade-in-goods, whereas the OTS publication shows a detailed picture of the UK's trade-in-goods by commodity and partner country. More detail about the differences between the BoP and OTS publications can be found [here](#).
6. The aggregate estimates here will differ from the Eurostat publication [Euro area external trade](#). The OTS is published as 'general trade' based upon goods recorded as they enter or leave the UK. This will include goods imported into and exported from a freezone or customs warehouse, regardless of their future use. The Eurostat EU external trade data are published as 'special trade' where goods are recorded as trade only when they enter free circulation or are declared to specific Customs regimes such as Inward Processing (IP) or Processing under Customs Control (PCC). Imports from a free zone or customs warehouse are similarly recorded in 'special trade'.
7. Information to help support users of the 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.
8. The OTS has been reviewed as part of an assessment made of Overseas Trade Statistics by the [UK Statistics Authority](#). The report of that assessment can be found at

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-93---uk-trade-in-goods.pdf>
9. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and

- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

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

Statistical contact:

Andrew Watson 01702 367485

e-mail uktradeinfo@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

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: 09 July 2013 9:30am

© **Crown copyright 2013.**

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