

Non-EU Overseas Trade Statistics - February 2013

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Summary

- UK's non-EU exports have increased by £0.4 billion (3.5 per cent) compared to January 2013, to £11.3 billion. Compared to February 2012, exports have decreased by £0.5 billion (4.0 per cent).
- UK's non-EU imports have decreased by £0.7 billion (4.4 per cent) compared to January 2013, to £15.3 billion. Compared to February 2012, imports have decreased by £0.6 billion (4.1 per cent).
- The UK remains a net importer (imports are greater than exports). The size of the difference between imports and exports has decreased by £1.1 billion (21.4 per cent) compared to January 2013, and has decreased from February 2012 by £0.2 billion (4.2 per cent).
- This is the fourth successive fall in the monthly import value, and takes it to its lowest value since February 2011.



HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) are responsible for collecting the UK's international trade in goods data, which are published as two National Statistics series - the 'Overseas Trade Statistics (OTS)' and the 'Regional Trade Statistics (RTS)'. The OTS are published monthly, providing detailed data for over 9,000 commodities and 200 partner countries. The RTS are published quarterly showing trade at summary product and country level, split by UK regions.

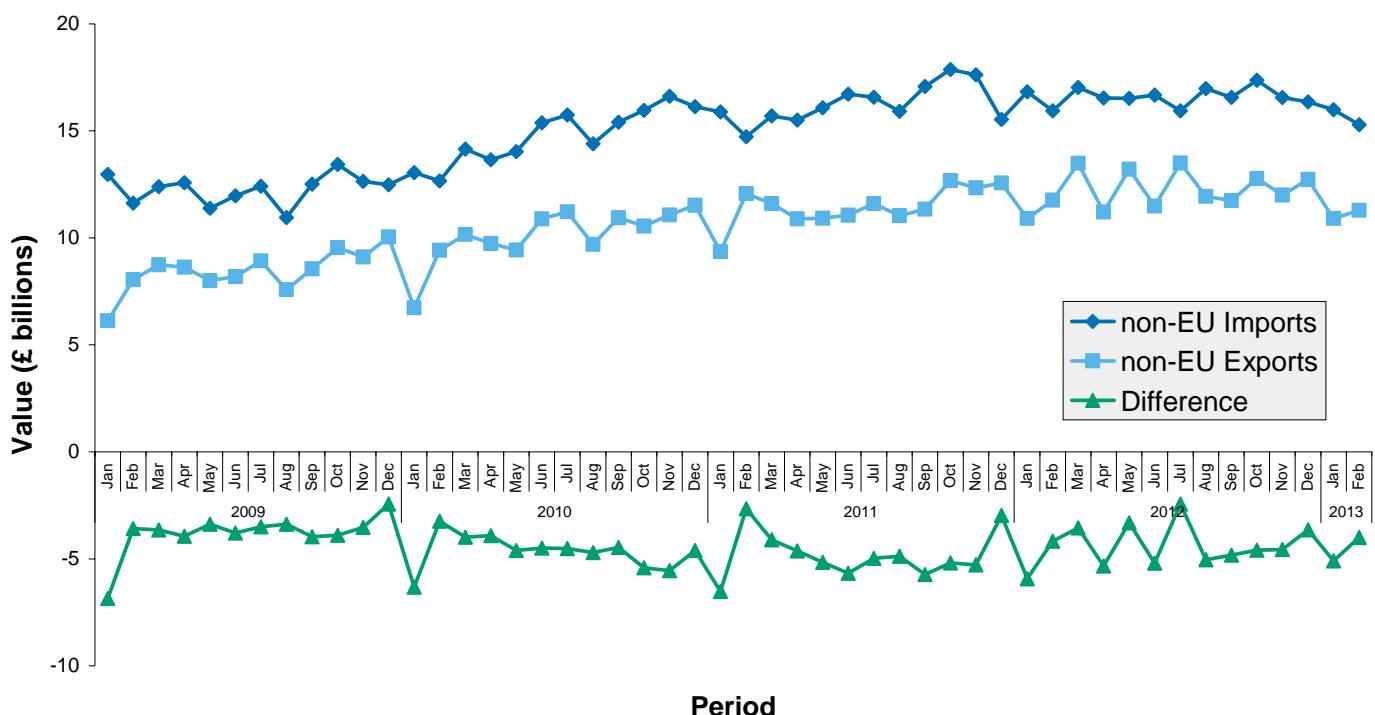
You can find details of how users interested in import and export markets for specific goods make use of the detailed OTS data in '[The Customer Story](#)'. You can also access the detailed data in our interactive database [here](#).

Key Points

For the month of February 2013:

The value of imports decreased, while exports increased in February 2013 compared with the previous month. Consequently the difference between non-EU imports and exports has decreased by 21.4 per cent. This has been the trend for February for a number of years. This is the fourth successive monthly fall in the value of imports, and takes it to its lowest value since February 2011.

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 increased by £0.4 billion (3.5 per cent) compared to January 2013, to £11.3 billion. Compared to February 2012, exports have decreased by £0.5 million (4.0 per cent). Export values historically show a rise in February compared to January.
- The top five commodities are similar to last month, with the top two unchanged. The largest contributing commodity group remains HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof). In February it contributed £2.2 billion, 19.9 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).
- Increases in over 70 per cent of all chapters drove the overall increase in exports compared to January 2013. The largest increase from the previous month was £225.9 million (16.1 per cent) in the second largest export chapter, HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof).
- The largest value decrease 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 decreased by £230.0 million (30.4 per cent), moving this chapter to seventh place, from fifth last month.
- The USA remains the UK's largest non-EU export partner country, accounting for 26.3 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU export trade. This is despite exports to USA decreasing the most when comparing with January 2013 (a decrease of £175.1 million (5.6 per cent)). Exports from the UK to Russia had the largest increase in value, compared to January 2013, up by £160.2 million, 49.5 per cent, to rise to fourth place from eighth last month.
- The total value of UK exports to non-EU countries for January 2012 is £10.9 billion, which has been downwardly revised by £0.9 million. This is a decrease of less than 0.1 per cent

Imports

- The value of the UK's non-EU imports decreased by £0.7 billion (4.4 per cent) compared to January 2013, to £15.3 billion. Compared to February 2012 imports have decreased by £0.6 billion (4.1 per cent).
- The top four commodities are similar to the previous month. However, HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products) has risen from 14th place last month to fifth this month. This is due to the value of imports in this chapter having the largest chapter increase compared to January 2013, a rise of £373.4 million – a doubling of last month's value.
- The largest commodity group remains HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes). In February 2013 it contributed £3.2 billion, 20.8 per cent of the total value of non-EU imports to the UK. The largest contribution to this chapter was £1.8 billion from HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude).
- The largest value decrease from the previous month was a fall of £275.7 million (13.4 per cent) in the second biggest chapter by import value, HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof).
- The USA has overtaken China to become the UK's largest non-EU import partner country in February 2013, accounting for 16.7 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU import trade. Imports from China accounted for 15.5 per cent of

the total value of non-EU imports. Imports from the USA rose in value, but the value of imports to the UK from China decreased by £291.4 million (11.0 per cent), the largest country decrease compared to January 2013. The largest increase in imports into the UK compared to January 2013 was from Switzerland which rose by £334.8 million, 72.6 per cent.

- The total value of UK imports to non-EU countries for January 2012 is £16.0 billion, which has been upwardly revised by £45.0 million. This is an increase of 0.3 per cent

Further Analysis: Exports

Table 1 shows a comparison of the top five commodities by value exported to countries outside the EU for February 2013, January 2013 and February 2012.

Table 1: Top 5 commodities in UK's non-EU exports in February 2013 compared to January 2013 and February 2012							
HS 2	Description	February 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from January 2013	% Change from February 2012	% of Total February 2013 Exports	Rank January 2013	Rank February 2012
-	Total Exports	11,289.7	3.5	-4.0	100.0	n/a	n/a
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	2,241.5	9.2	2.8	19.9	1	1
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	1,627.9	16.1	21.0	14.4	2	2
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	838.8	-15.8	-2.7	7.4	3	5
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	728.3	13.9	-4.5	6.5	6	6
30	Pharmaceutical products	714.9	-15.3	-19.9	6.3	4	4
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional							

The overall increase in exports **compared to January 2013** reflects increases in over 70 per cent of HS2 chapters. The total export trade value has increased by £0.4 billion (3.5 per cent). Three of the top five commodity types increased in export value. There were three chapters with increases of over £100 million, and three decreases of this magnitude. The largest two increases and two of the largest three decreases were all in the top five commodity types.

The largest value increase from the previous month, of £225.9 million, was in HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof). This is an increase of 16.1 per cent compared to January 2013. The increase is driven by a rise of £171.6 million (14.6 per cent) in HS4 8703 (Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of <10 persons, incl. station wagons and racing cars), which reached its second highest export value in recent years, after May 2012's record of £138.7 million.

The second largest increase was in the top export, HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof), up by £189.7 million (9.2 per cent). This increase was spread over a number of headings within this chapter, with

exports in HS4 8481 (boiler valves) increasing by £26.0 million (22.3 per cent), and eight other increases between £10 million and £20 million, with just one decrease in this range.

The third largest increase was in HS2 22 (Beverages, spirits and vinegar), up by £103.0 million (42.9 per cent) to £343.1 million. The rise was driven by an increase of £101.1 million (52.3 per cent) in exports of HS4 2208 (Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength of < 80%; spirits, liqueurs and other spirituous beverages), driven by exports of Scotch whisky. This follows a decrease of £227.9 million in this heading last month.

There were no other increases over £100 million, although just outside this range, HS2 72 (Iron and Steel) increased by £96.8 million (45.1 per cent), to £311.4 million, the highest monthly export value since July 2012.

The largest decrease 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), down by £230.0 million, (30.4 per cent) to £527.6 million. This takes HS2 71 out of the top five for this month, down to seventh from fifth, and is the lowest export value for this chapter since October 2010. This is driven by falls of £107.8 million (42.2 per cent) in unmounted diamonds in HS4 7102, and £107.6 million (55.6 per cent) in HS4 7110 (Platinum, incl. palladium, rhodium, iridium, osmium and ruthenium).

The second largest decrease was in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes), down by £157.2 million (15.8 per cent) to £838.8 million. This was driven by a fall of £104.4 million (26.1 per cent) in crude oil in HS4 2709.

The third largest decrease was in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products), down by £129.2 million (15.3 per cent) to £714.9 million. This was driven by a fall of £134.2 million (66.7 per cent) in 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).

Compared to February 2012, the total export trade value decreased by £0.5 billion (4.0 per cent). Although fifty five per cent of all HS2 chapters showed increases, the decreases were generally larger than the increases which accounts for the net decrease. There were three chapters with decreases of over £100 million, and one increase of this magnitude.

The largest decrease, which more than covered the overall decrease, was in HS2 71, down £475.5 million (47.4 per cent), led by falls of £229.9 million (54.5 per cent) in jewellery in HS4 7113; £129.8 million (46.8 per cent) in diamonds in HS4 7102; and £103.8 million (54.8 per cent) in platinum group metals (HS4 7110). It should be noted that February 2012's export value of £1.0 billion for HS2 71 was the fourth highest ever, while this month's exports are the lowest since October 2010, as previously mentioned.

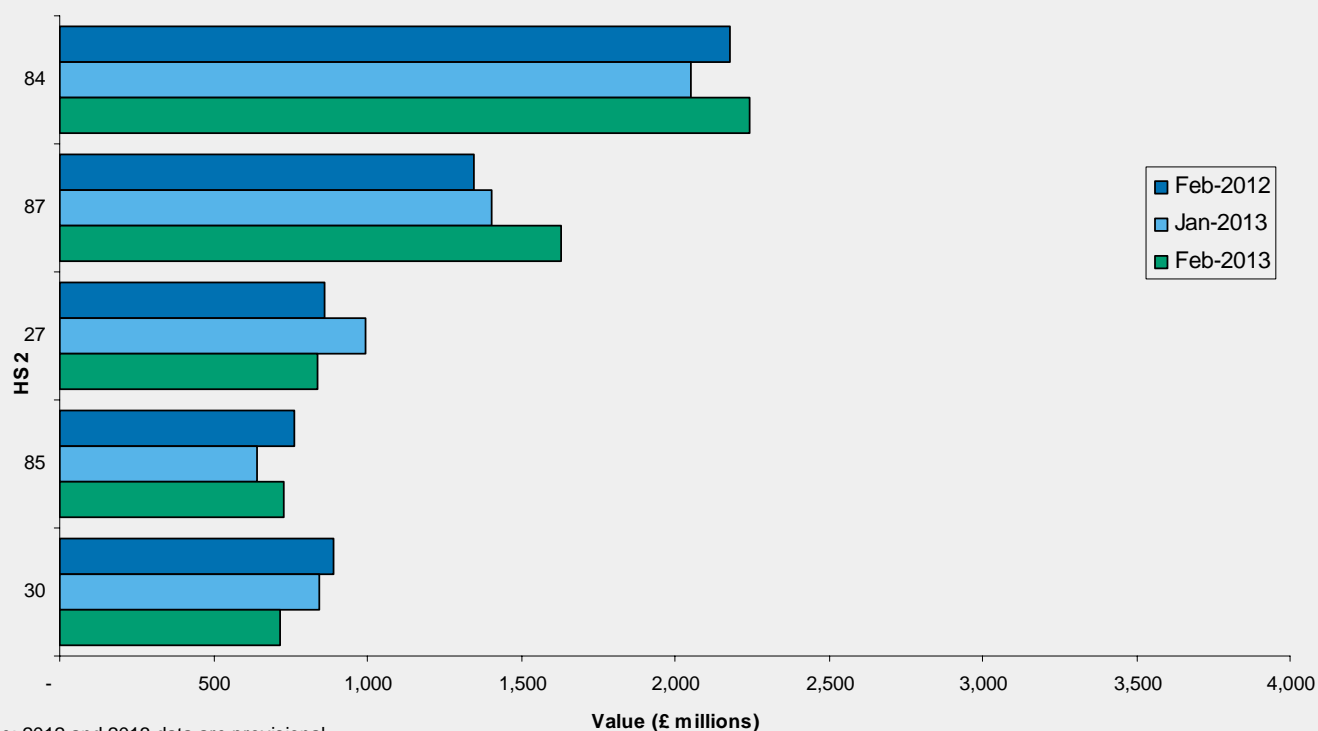
The second largest decrease was for HS2 29 (Organic chemicals) which fell by £187.9 million (45.1 per cent). This was driven by a fall of £119.1 million (73.0 per cent) in HS4 2934 (Nucleic acids and their salts, whether or not chemically defined; heterocyclic compounds).

The third largest decrease was for HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products) which fell by £177.1 million (19.9 per cent). This was dominated by a fall of £186.8 million (27.9 per cent) in HS4 3004 (Medicaments consisting of mixed or unmixed products for therapeutic or prophylactic uses, put up in measured doses).

The largest increase of £282.9 million was in HS2 87, up 21.0 per cent. This was dominated by an increase of £285.2 million (26.9 per cent) in cars in HS4 8703. This was the only increase over £100 million, the next largest was below £70 million.

Figure 2 below shows the top five commodities for UK's non-EU exports in February 2013, compared to January 2013 and February 2012. It shows that chapters 84, 87 and 85 had large increases when compared with January 2013, while chapters 27 and 30 had large decreases. Compared to February 2012, HS2 87 had a large increase, HS2 30 had a large decrease, while the other changes were much smaller.

Fig 2: Top 5 commodities for UK's non-EU exports in February 2013 compared to January 2013 and February 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 February 2012, January 2012 and February 2013.

Table 2: Top 5 non-EU export countries in February 2013 compared to January 2013 and February 2012

Country	February 2013 Total £ millions	% change from January 2013	% Change from February 2012	% of total February 2013 Exports	Rank January 2013	Rank February 2012
Total Exports	11,289.7	3.5	-4.0	100.0	n/a	n/a
USA	2,968.9	-5.6	-11.1	26.3	1	1
China	892.8	13.3	16.5	7.9	2	2
South Korea	507.4	14.7	102.8	4.5	4	17
Russia	483.6	49.5	17.6	4.3	8	6
United Arab Emirates	434.7	14.1	10.9	3.8	5	8

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, while this month has seen a large increase for Russia, to move up to fourth place, from eighth. Exports to Switzerland decreased and moved Switzerland out of the top five

export partner countries, to sixth position, from third last month. Compared to last month, there were increased exports to four of the top five export partner countries.

Compared to January 2013, the overall increase in exports is composed of increased exports to 68 per cent of our export partners. There were two countries to which exports increased by £100 million or more, and one to which there was a decrease of this magnitude. All were within the top five countries.

The largest increase in exports was to Russia, where exports rose by £160.2 million (49.3 per cent). The last two months' exports to Russia were the lowest values since January 2011. This month, the export value of £483.6 million is close to the level seen in November 2012. The increase is driven by an increase of £97.6 million (77.3 per cent) in exports of HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof). This is the highest export value for this chapter since March 2012. The increase in exports of HS2 87 is driven by a rise of £95.2 million (81.3 per cent) in exports of cars in HS4 8703.

The second largest increase was in exports to China of £104.5 million (13.3 per cent), with a rise of £52.1 million (16.8 per cent) in HS2 87, with exports of cars in HS4 8703 up by £44.8 million (14.8 per cent).

There were no other increases over £100 million although the third largest increase of £64.9 million (14.7 per cent) in exports was to South Korea. This increase moved this country to third place from fourth last month and was led by a rise of £77.3 million (35.4 per cent) in HS2 27.

The largest decrease in exports was to the top export partner, the USA, down by £175.1 million (5.6 per cent). This decrease was composed of falls of £212.2 million (51.6 per cent) in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products); £130.4 million (50.9 per cent) in HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof); £115.0 million (24.9 per cent) in HS2 27, balanced by a rise of £156.2 million (31.3 per cent) in HS2 84.

There were no other increases over £100 million.

Compared to February 2012, there was a decrease of £0.5 billion (4.0 per cent) in exports. Decreases in Exports were seen for less than half the UK's export partner countries, although these were generally greater in size than the increases. There were three decreases in excess of £100 million and two increases above this value.

This largest decrease was for exports to the USA, down by £371.3 million (11.1 per cent). This covers 78 per cent of the overall decrease. There were falls in HS2 29 (Organic chemicals) of £176.8 million (63.6 per cent) and £153.7 million (43.6 per cent) in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products).

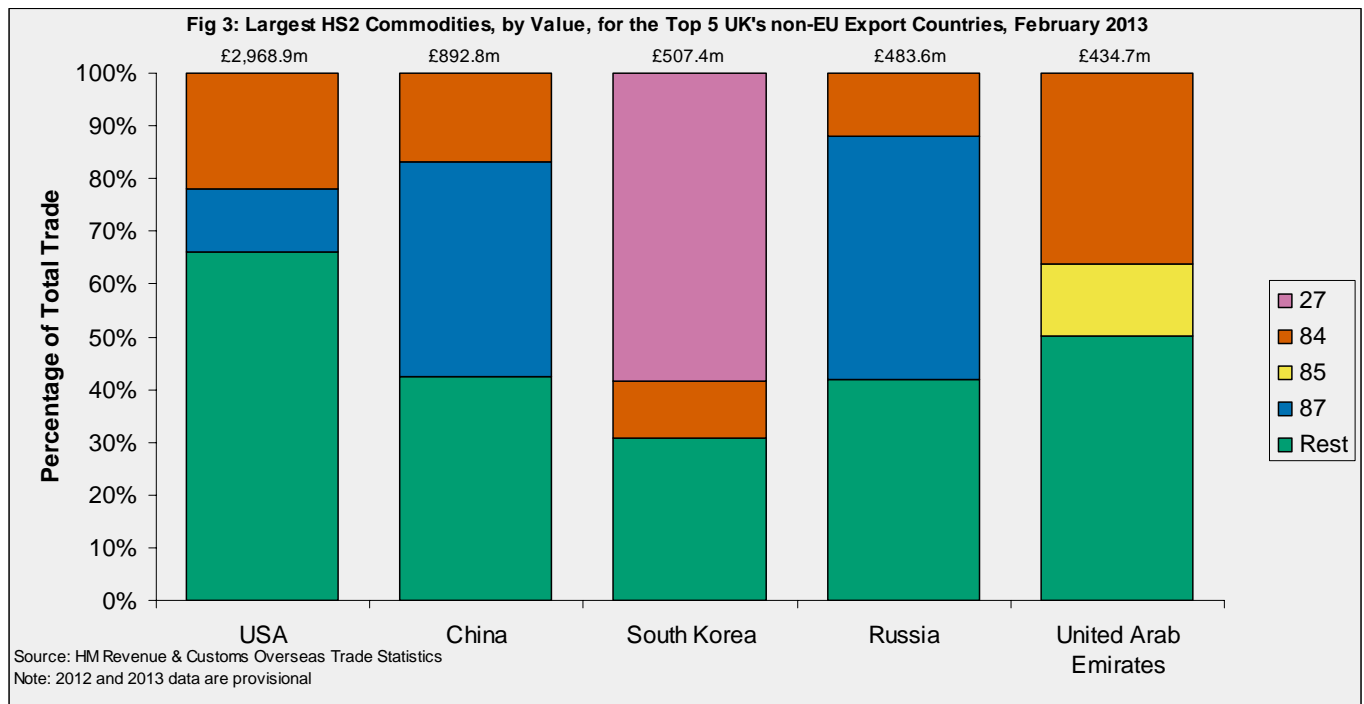
The second largest decrease was for exports to Qatar, down £161.2 million (54.7 per cent), which was more than covered by a fall of £186.3 million (83.4 per cent) in jewellery in HS4 7113. The February 2012 export figure had been a record for exports to Qatar within the chapter HS2 71, which is almost entirely driven by HS4 7113.

The third largest decrease was for exports to Canada, down by £150.7 million (34.3 per cent). This was covered by falls in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) of £67.3 million (89.7 per cent) and £60.5 million (98.3 per cent) in HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals).

The largest increase in total export trade value compared to February 2012 was in exports to South Korea, up by £257.2 million (a twofold increase). As with the comparison with last month, this change is driven by the trade in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes). There was only one other increase over £100 million. Exports to China were up by £126.3 million (16.5 per cent) with an increase of £81.5 million (30.7 per cent) in cars in HS4 8703.

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 February 2013 all of the top five countries had HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) as the top two largest commodities exported to them, and three had HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof). The trade with these countries accounts for 48.1 per cent of the total value of UK non-EU export trade for HS2 84, and 57.6 per cent of UK's exports in HS2 87.

Additionally, HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) accounts for 58.3 per cent of the UK's exports to South Korea.



Further Analysis: Imports

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

Table 3: Top 5 commodities in UK's non-EU imports in February 2013 compared to January 2013 and February 2012							
HS 2	Description	February 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from January 2013	% Change from February 2012	% of Total February 2013 Imports	Rank January 2013	Rank February 2012
-	Total Imports	15,286.7	-4.4	-4.1	100.0	n/a	n/a
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	3,172.6	-5.2	-13.5	20.8	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	1,784.1	-13.4	-0.4	11.7	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	1,240.4	19.8	9.6	8.1	4	4
85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts and accessories of such articles	1,223.2	-18.0	-5.5	8.0	3	3
30	Pharmaceutical products	629.8	145.6	37.5	4.1	14	9
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional							

The value of imports decreased by £0.7 billion (4.4 per cent) **compared to January 2013**. This decrease is composed of decreases in over 75 per cent of the HS2 commodity chapters. There were four decreases of over £100 million and two increases of this magnitude.

The largest value decrease from the previous month, of £275.7 million (13.4 per cent), was in the UK's second biggest import by value, HS2 84. This is the lowest value since May 2011. This decrease was led by decreases of £142.8 million (30.3 per cent) in computers and tablets in HS4 8471, and £67.2 million (10.1 per cent) in HS4 8411 (Turbojets, turbopropellers and other gas turbines).

The second largest decrease in imports was for 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), which fell by £267.9 million (18.0 per cent) to become the UK's fourth biggest import by value, after rising to third last month. This decrease was driven by a fall of £181.2 million (38.8 per cent) in imports of mobile phones in HS4 8517.

The third largest decrease in imports was outside the top five, as HS2 29 (Organic Chemicals) fell by £184.3 million (51.9 per cent) to become the UK's seventeenth biggest import by value, from eleventh last month. This decrease was driven by falls of £92.9 million (92.6 per cent) in imports of HS4 2922 (Oxygen-function amino-compounds) and £66.0 million (96.1 per cent) in HS4 2930 (Organo-sulphur compounds).

The only other HS2 chapter to fall by more than £100 million was the top chapter, HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes). This fell by £173.3 million (5.2 per cent), after a record fall of over £1 billion last month, to reach its lowest value since November 2010.

The chapter with the largest increase was in this month's fifth largest import chapter by value, HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products), up £373.4 million, more than double last month's import value. This was driven by increases in HS4 3003 (Medicaments consisting of two or more constituents mixed together for therapeutic or prophylactic uses, not in measured doses) up £326.3 million, a forty-fold increase. This takes HS2 30 from its lowest value in recent years to the highest since November 2011.

The second largest value increase from the previous month, of £205.0 million (19.8 per cent), 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), from fourth last month. This was led by an increase of £165.8 million in HS4 7110 (platinum group metals).

These were the only increases above £100 million, in fact the third largest increase was only £30.4 million.

When **compared to February 2012**, total import value decreased by £0.6 billion (4.1 per cent). This fall is composed of decreases in 60 per cent of the HS2 commodity chapters. There were three chapters with decreases of over £100 million and two increases over £100 million.

The overall decrease was led by a decrease in HS2 27 of £496.8 million (13.5 per cent). This makes up 76.5 per cent of the overall decrease. This fall was more than covered by a drop of £542.5 million (22.9 per cent) in crude oil in HS4 2709, although this was offset by an increase of £131.6 million (27.1 per cent) in refined oil in HS4 2710.

The other chapters with a decrease of over £100 million were HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof), down £200.8 million (30.2 per cent); and HS2 29, down £144.1 million (45.7 per cent). HS2 88 was down from fifth to eighth, and HS2 29 from twelfth to seventeenth in import value.

As with the comparison with January 2012, the chapters with increases of over £100 million are HS2 30, up £171.8 million (37.5 per cent); and HS2 71, up £108.3 million (9.6 per cent).

Figure 4 below shows the top five commodities for UK's non-EU imports in February 2013, compared to January 2013 and February 2012. It shows decreases in imports for three chapters, and increases in imports for two, when compared with both February 2012 and January 2013. There are large decreases in chapters 27, 84 and 85, and large increases in chapters 30 and 71 when compared to January 2013. When compared to February 2012 the changes are smaller, except for chapter 27.

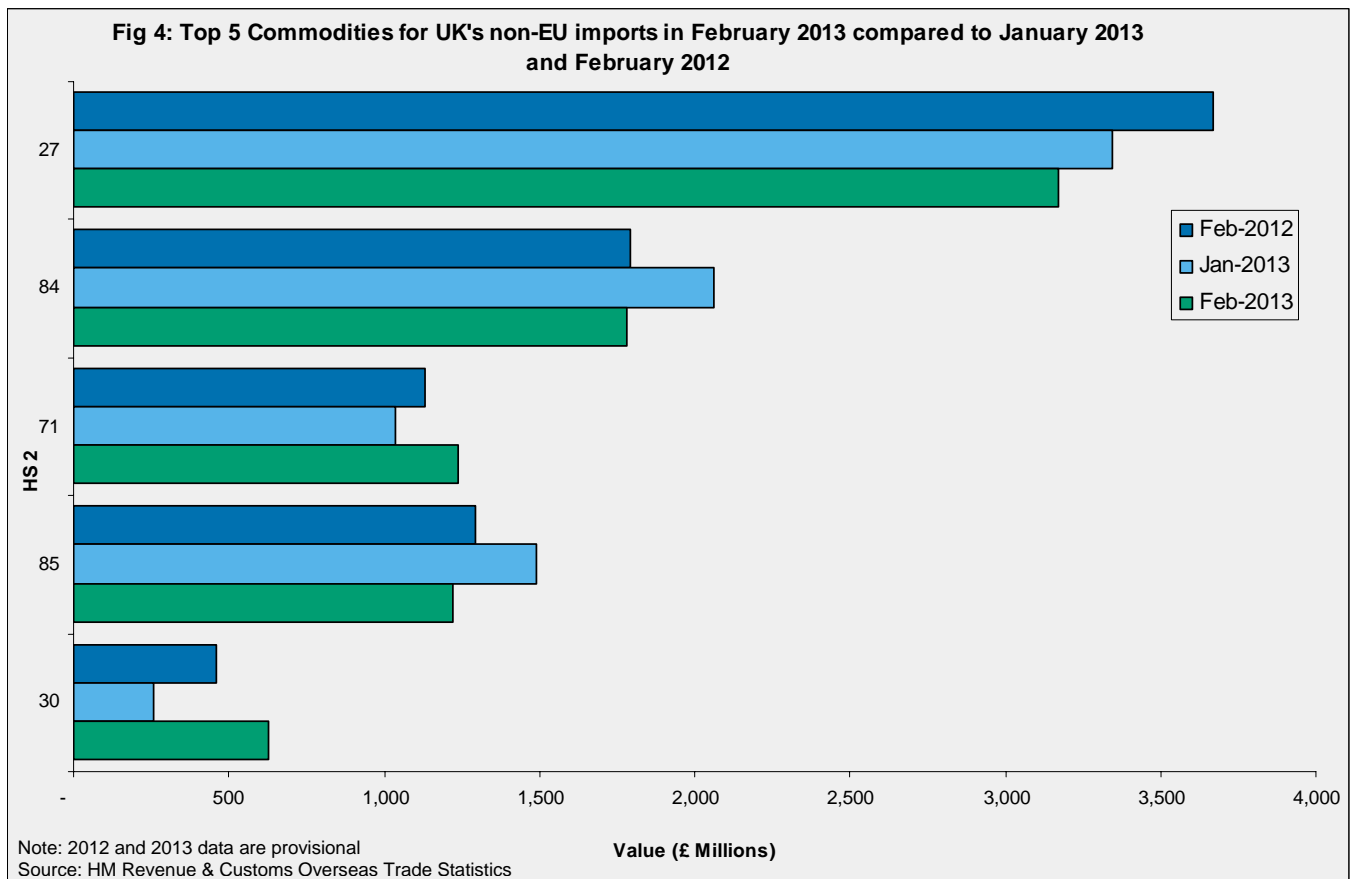


Table 4 shows comparisons of the value of UK non-EU import trade from our top five import trading partners for February 2013, January 2013, and February 2012. Imports from three of the top five trading partners have decreased in February compared to the previous month, and another three have decreased when compared to February 2012.

Country	February 2013 Total £ millions	% change from January 2013	% Change from February 2012	% of Total February 2013 Imports	Rank January 2013	Rank February 2012
Total Imports	15,286.7	-4.4	-4.1	100.0	n/a	n/a
USA	2,549.8	3.7	-9.3	16.7	2	1
China	2,365.7	-11.0	0.8	15.5	1	2
Norway	1,441.0	-6.3	-29.6	9.4	3	3
Switzerland	796.3	72.6	16.9	5.2	9	4
Japan	575.6	-16.2	-14.3	3.8	4	5

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

The USA has moved ahead of China after being behind for one month, and Switzerland has moved back up to fourth, from ninth. Hong Kong has dropped from fifth to tenth. The USA, China, and Norway have been the UK's largest import partners for a number of years.

Compared to January 2013, of the total decrease in the value of imports is composed of decreases from around 55 per cent of our import partners. Six countries had decreases of over £100 million, while two had increases of this magnitude.

The largest decrease in value of imports was from China, down by £291.4 million, a decrease of 11.0 per cent. Imports from China can vary, and this is within the usual range of fluctuations. This decrease is led by a fall of £105.5 million (20.3 per cent) in HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) and £86.2 million (18.6 per cent) in HS2 85 (Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts and accessories of such articles). The fall in HS2 84 was driven by a fall of £94.5 million (31.9 per cent) in imports of computers and tablets in HS4 8471, while the fall in HS2 85 was led by a falloff £47.1 million (34.4 per cent) in mobile phones in HS4 8517.

The second largest decrease in value of imports was from Singapore, down by £216.1 million (58.4 per cent) to £154.1 million. This is the lowest monthly import value for Singapore in recent years, and was led by a decrease of £166.2 million (94.1 per cent) in HS2 29 (Organic chemicals).

The third and fourth biggest decreases, which were for Taiwan and Japan, were both driven by decreases in Chapter 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin), specifically, Silver in HS4 7106. Taiwan decreased by £124.9 million (31.8 per cent), with a £58.1 million (40.8 per cent) decrease in HS4 7106; while imports from Japan decreased by £111.2 million (16.2 per cent), with a £62.6 million (82.2 per cent) fall in HS4 7106. In both cases, there were large increases last month, and this is a return to normal levels.

The other decreases over £100 million were for Hong Kong and Qatar, Imports from Hong Kong fell by £106.3 million (18.8 per cent), spread over several chapters; and imports from Qatar fell by £103.0 million (48.8 per cent); more than covered by a fall of £116.6 million (57.8 per cent) in imports of gas in HS4 2711.

The biggest increase in value of imports was from Switzerland, up by £334.8 million, an increase of 72.6 per cent. This increase is driven by a four-fold rise of £273.5 million in HS2 84, with a £233.7 million increase in HS4 7110 (Platinum), up from £4.9 million to £238.6 million.

The second biggest increase in value of imports was from Israel, up by £309.7 million, a three-fold increase. This increase is more than covered by a rise of £330.5 million, in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products), up from £3.0 million last month to £333.5 million. There were no other increases over £100 million.

Compared to February 2012 there was a decrease of £0.6 billion, 4.1 per cent in the total value of imports, with imports from nearly 55 per cent of our import partner countries decreasing in value. There were decreases in excess of £100 million for imports from five countries, and four increases of this magnitude. Three of the UK's top five import trading partners for February 2013 have decreased when compared to February 2012, and two have increased.

The largest decrease in total import trade value is from Norway, down by £607.1 million (29.6 per cent). This is driven by a decrease of £576.8 million (31.4 per cent) in HS2 27, which is led by a £552.8 million (40.6 per cent) decrease in HS4 2709 (crude oil).

The second largest decrease was in imports from the USA, which fell £261.3 million (9.3 per cent), driven by a fall of £219.7 million (43.1 per cent) in HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof). The February 2012 import value of £510.0 million for this chapter is the highest since December 2010. Before this date, the value regularly exceeded £500 million, but since then it has usually been between £100 million and £300 million,

There were also large decreases from Nigeria (down £200.4 million, 43.3 per cent) and Russia (down £116.3 million, 17.9 per cent), both driven by the fall in imports of HS2 27, while imports from Singapore fell by £171.1 million (52.6 per cent), driven by a fall of £130.8 million (92.6 per cent) in HS2 29 (Organic Chemicals).

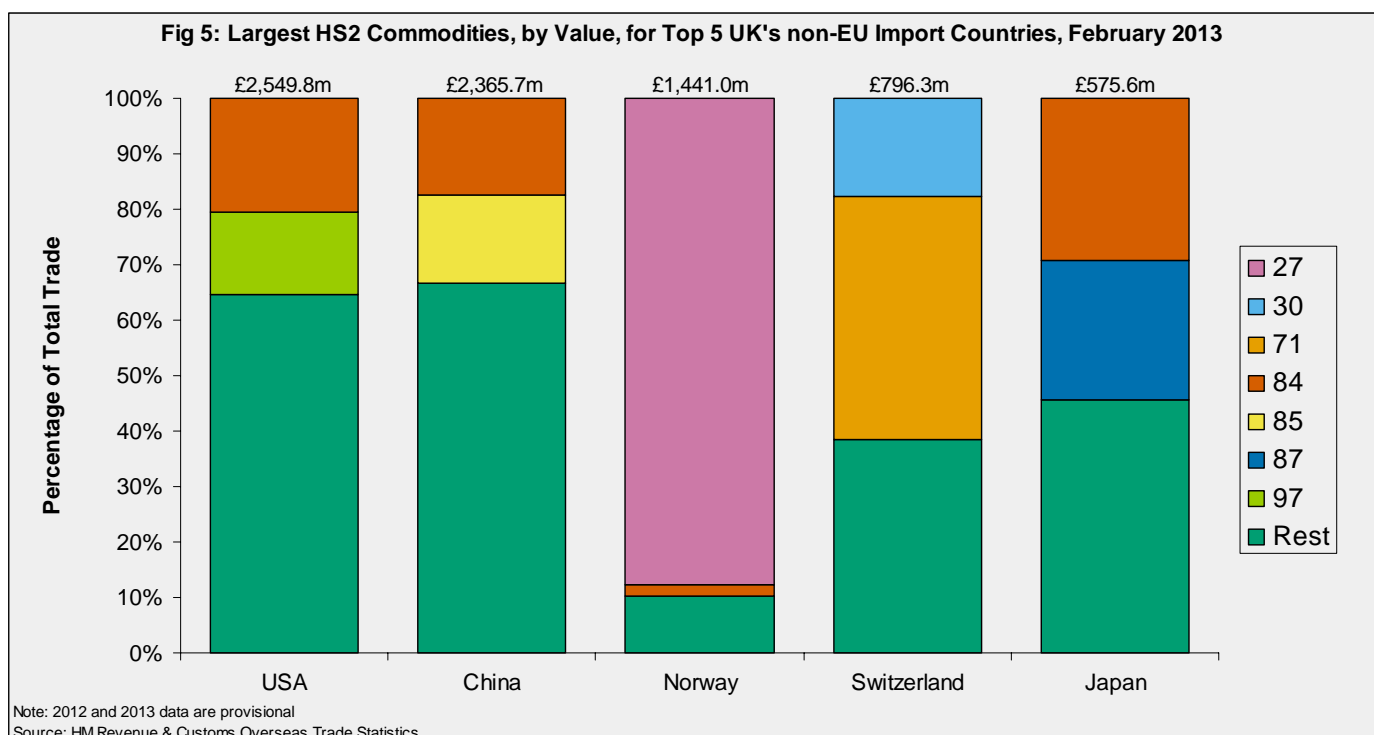
In contrast, it was a rise in HS2 27 which drove two of the largest increases in value of imports, Algeria, up by £322.1 million (a rise by a factor of four), with a £327.1 million increase in HS2 27; and Saudi Arabia, up £127.6 million (also a increase by a factor of four) with led by a rise of £91.4 million in the imports of HS2 27.

The second largest increase in import trade was for Israel, up £317.5 million, four times the value for February 2012. This increase was covered by increases in Pharmaceutical products (HS2 30).

The fourth largest increase in imports was from Switzerland, up £115.3 million (16.9 per cent). This was composed of a £250.1 million (251.6 per cent) increase in HS2 71, driven by a £194.8 million increase in imports of platinum (HS4 7110), balanced by a decrease of £102.2 million (42.1 per cent) in Pharmaceutical products (HS2 30).

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 to the UK, accounting for 63.6 per cent of the total import value in HS2 84. This month, the second biggest import commodity from the USA is HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques), accounting for 80.6 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 39.8 per cent of the UK's import value for this chapter.



Notes:

1. HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with countries outside the European Union (EU) on 09 April 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 February 2013. At the same time revisions for all previously published non-EU data for 2012 are also being released in line with the [Overseas Trade Statistics Policy on Revisions](#).
3. Detailed trade information is presented according to the [Harmonised System \(HS\)](#) nomenclature.
4. The aggregate estimates here will differ slightly from those that are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as part of the Balance of Payments (BoP), as the two sets of data are compiled to different sets of rules. The ONS web site provides an overview of BoP at the [Guide to UK Trade](#) as well as the detailed monthly [UK Trade Releases](#). The BoP publication shows a high level picture of UK trade-in-goods, whereas the OTS publication shows a detailed picture of the UK's trade-in-goods by commodity and partner country. More detail about the differences between the BoP and OTS publications can be found [here](#).
5. The aggregate estimates here will differ from the Eurostat publication [Euro area external trade](#). The OTS is published as 'general trade' based upon goods recorded as they enter or leave the UK. This will include goods imported into and exported from a freezone or customs warehouse, regardless of their future use. The Eurostat EU external trade data are published as 'special trade' where goods are recorded as trade only when they enter free circulation or are declared to specific Customs regimes such as Inward Processing (IP) or Processing under Customs Control (PCC). Imports from a free zone or customs warehouse are similarly recorded in 'special trade'.
6. Information to help support users of the non-EU Overseas Trade Statistics can be found [here](#). This includes links to our policies on revision and suppression of data, descriptions of the methodology used to compile the Overseas Trade Statistics and information on the quality of the data published.
7. The OTS has been reviewed as part of an assessment made of Overseas Trade Statistics by the [UK Statistics Authority](#). The report of that assessment can be found at

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-93---uk-trade-in-goods.pdf>

8. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

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

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

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

Please note: there may be a delay between the availability of the aggregated data tables downloadable here and the detailed data in our interactive database. This is because of the time required to upload such a large dataset. Subscribers to our email [Alert Service](#) will be sent an alert when the interactive database has been updated. The OTS Non-EU publication occurs one week prior to the publication of the OTS EU equivalent, to allow for additional processing of the Intrastat survey.

Next release: 10 May 2013 9:30am

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