

EU Overseas Trade Statistics - September 2011

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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

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

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

Summary

- The value of UK trade increased in September 2011 after a fall in the previous month of August. The value of trade is also greater when compared to September 2010.
- UK's EU exports have increased by £1.6 billion (13.4 per cent) compared to August 2011, to £13.6 billion. Compared to September 2010, exports have increased by £1.7 billion (14.8 per cent).
- UK's EU imports have increased by £2.7 billion (17.1 per cent) compared to August 2011, to £18.4 billion. Compared to September 2010 imports have increased by £2.3 billion (14.6 per cent).
- The UK remains a net importer (imports are greater than exports). The size of difference between imports and exports has increased compared to August 2011 by 28.9 per cent and has increased from September 2010 by 14.2 per cent. This is the largest monthly difference during the period January 2008 to date although the July 2011 difference was close - £4.5 billion compared to the current value of £4.8 billion.

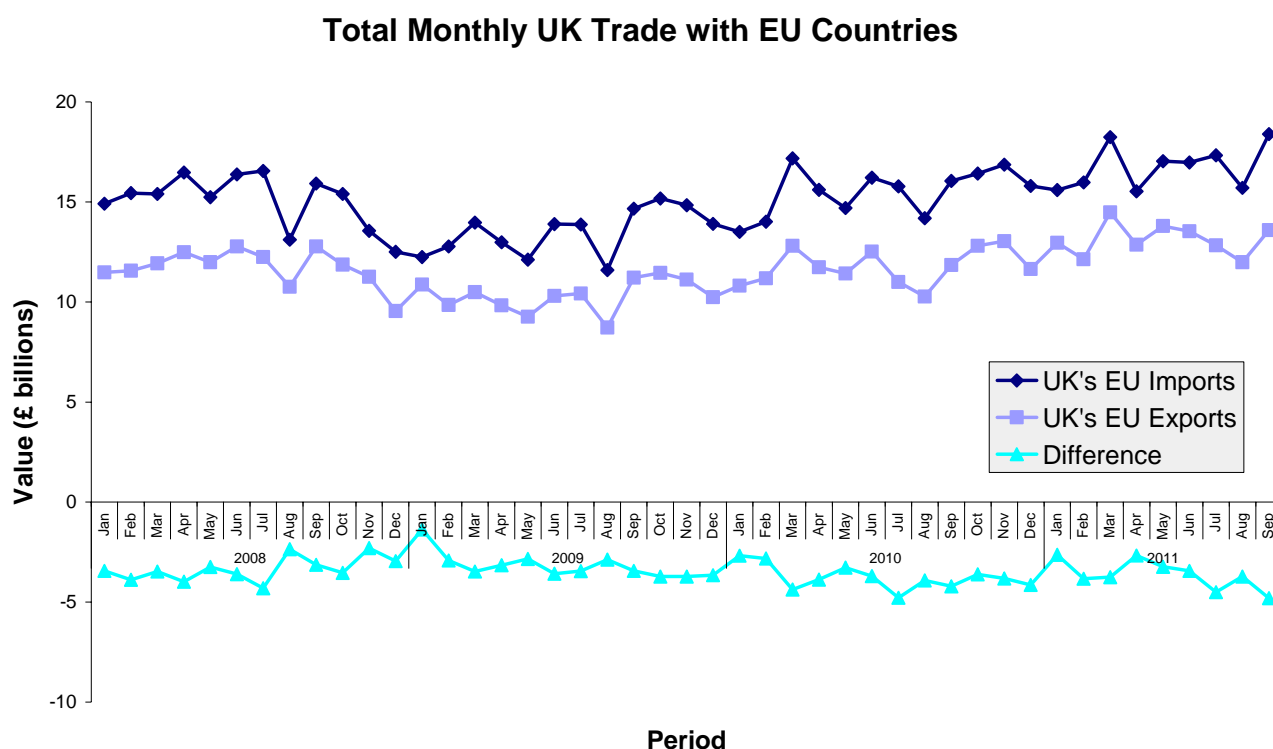
HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) are responsible for collecting the UK's international trade in goods data, which are published as two National Statistics series - the 'Overseas Trade Statistics (OTS) of the UK' and the 'UK Regional Trade Statistics (RTS)'. The OTS are published monthly, providing detailed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

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

Key Points

For the month of September 2011:

The value of UK trade increased in September 2011 after a fall in the previous month of August. The value of imports rose more than the value of exports, resulting in an increase in the difference between EU imports and exports. Trade also increased when compared to September 2010 as the graph below shows.



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Exports

- UK's EU exports have increased by £1.6 billion (13.4 per cent) compared to August 2011, to £13.6 billion. Compared to September 2010, exports have increased by £1.7 billion (14.8 per cent).

- The top five commodities remain the same as the previous month. The largest contributing commodity group is HS 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes). It contributed £2.4 billion, 17.4 per cent of the total value of UK's EU export trade. Within this chapter, HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude) accounted for £1.1 billion, almost 50 per cent.
- The largest value increase from the previous month, of £526.3 million, was in HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof). This is one of the top 5 commodity types exported from the UK to EU Member States. This is a 69.4 per cent increase compared to August 2011. Within this chapter, HS4 8703 (Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons, incl. station wagons and racing cars excluding motor vehicles of heading 8702) accounted for £410.7 million of this increase, almost 80 per cent.
- The largest value decrease from the previous month, of £87.0 million, 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) to £353.0 million. The largest decrease at HS4 level is for HS4 7102 (Diamonds, whether or not worked, but not mounted or set), which saw a drop of £96.0 million, a fall of 30.6 per cent. This has driven the decrease at the HS2 level.
- Germany remains the EU Member State which the UK exports most to, accounting for 21.8 per cent of the total value of UK's EU export trade value. Trade with Netherlands increased by 21.1 per cent from August 2011, the largest increase in the top five Member States. Much of the increase in export trade with the Netherlands is due to a large increase in trade under HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes).
- The total 2011 year to date value of UK's trade-in-goods exported excluding September 2011 was £104.6 billion, which has been upwardly revised by £157.5 million. This is an increase of 0.2 per cent.

Imports

- The value of the UK's EU imports have increased by £2.7 billion (17.1 per cent) compared to August 2011, to £18.4 billion. Compared to September 2010 imports have increased by £2.3 billion (14.6 per cent).
- As with exports, the top five commodities remain the same as the previous month. The largest contributing commodity group is Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof (HS2 87). This contributed £3.1 billion, 16.9 per cent, of the total value of UK's EU import trade. Within this chapter, HS4 8703 (Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons, incl. station wagons and racing cars excluding motor vehicles of heading 8702) accounted for £ 1.9 billion, over 60 per cent.
- The largest increase at HS2 level from the previous month was also in HS2 87 with an increase of £968.3 million. This is an increase of 45.1 per cent on the previous month. Within this chapter, the largest increase over the previous month is also in HS4 8703 with an increase of £559.9 million. This has driven the increase at the HS2 level.
- By contrast the largest value decrease from the previous month was only £9.0 million in HS2 01 (Live animals) to £20.4 million. The largest decrease at HS4 level is for HS4 0102 (Live bovine animals), which saw a drop of £5.8 million, a fall of nearly 40 per cent.

- The top 5 EU Member States from which the UK imports remain similar to the previous month. Germany remains the top EU Member State from which the UK imports most goods, accounting for 24.8 per cent of the total value of UK's EU import trade. The largest increase in value of import trade from Germany is in HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof).
- The total 2011 year to date value of UK's trade-in-goods imported excluding September 2011 was £132.4 billion, which has been upwardly revised by £155.1 million. This is an increase of 0.1 per cent.

Further Analysis: Exports

Table 1 shows a comparison of the top five commodities exported to Member States outside the EU for September 2010, August 2011 and September 2011.

HS 2	Description	September 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from August 2011	% Change from September 2010	% of Total September 2011 Trade	Rank August 2011	Rank September 2010
-	Total Exports	13,593.2	13.4	14.8	100.0	n/a	n/a
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	2,359.1	11.9	43.6	17.4	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	1,506.1	20.2	13.1	11.1	2	2
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	1,284.0	69.4	27.2	9.4	5	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	1,001.3	18.7	-2.3	7.4	3	3
30	Pharmaceutical products	808.2	3.0	-1.1	5.9	4	5

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

The largest increase in value of exports from August 2011 is for HS2 87. This followed a fall in the previous month. This decrease and subsequent increase is probably a result of the summer shutdown in car manufactures. Within this chapter, HS4 8703 (Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons, incl. station wagons and racing cars excluding motor vehicles of heading 8702) accounted for £410.7 million of this increase, almost 80 per cent. Trade under HS4 8703 doubled in comparison with August 2011 both in value of trade and net mass suggesting that this increase represents a resumption to normal levels following the summer shutdown rather than a price increase.

Over three quarters of the overall increase in exports noted above is as a result of increases in four out of the top 5 commodity types shown in the table above. In total the value of exports of the top 5 commodity types increased by £1.2 billion. There

have been relatively few HS2 commodity types where there has been a decrease in export value since last month amounting to just over £254.4 million.

There has been a large increase, 43.6 per cent, since last September in exports in HS27, accounting for over a third of the total increase in exports since September 2010. Within this chapter, HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude) accounted for £465.7 million, over half of the total increase of 716.3 million. The increase at HS4 2709 is 68.8% by value but by net mass it is only 21.8%, suggesting that much of this increase is due to price increases rather than growth in trade.

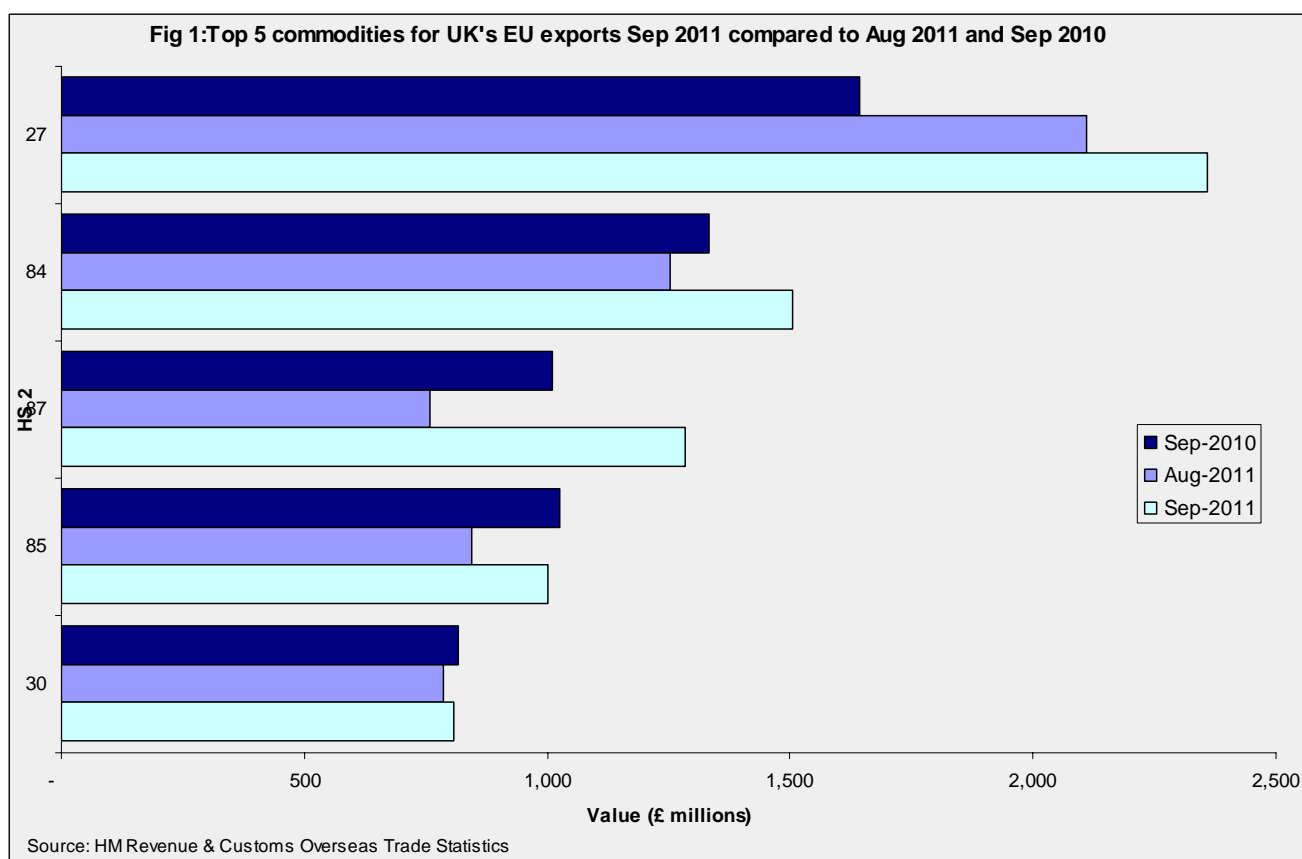


Figure 1 shows the top 5 commodities for UK's EU exports in September 2011, compared to August 2011 and September 2010. It shows the large changes for four out of the top five export commodity types mentioned above.

Table 2 shows a comparison of the value of UK export trade with our top five EU trading partners for this month against last month and this month last year.

Country	Total £ millions	% change from August 2011	% Change from September 2010	% of total EU trade
Total Exports	13,593.2	13.4	14.8	100.0
Germany	2,960.3	12.1	18.6	21.8
Netherlands	1,956.7	21.1	38.7	14.4
France	1,791.3	15.8	2.2	13.2
Ireland	1,555.8	16.6	8.1	11.4
Belgium	1,324.3	-10.7	24.2	9.7

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Germany has been the largest export partner for the UK for a number of years, accounting for over 20 per cent of the total exports. The largest increase in exports since August 2011 of £340.6 million, a rise of 21.1 per cent is to the Netherlands. Much of the increase in export trade with the Netherlands is due to a large increase in trade under HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes)

There is also an increase in the value of exports of over £300 million to Germany compared to August 2011. Almost half of this increase is in HS87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof).

The only top 5 export partner Member State where there has been a decrease in total value of exports compared to August 2011 is Belgium. Most of this decrease is driven by falls in HS27 and HS71. These were offset to an extent by increases in other HS chapters, the largest of which was for HS87.

The value of total export trade has increased with 21 of the other 26 Member States in the EU compared with August 2011

The largest increases in exports compared with September 2010 are also to the Netherlands and Germany, £546.0 million and £463.5 million respectively.

The vast majority of the increase in value of exports to the Netherlands results from an increase in products in HS27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes), £411.4 million.

The increase for Germany is spread across a number of chapters the largest of which are HS87 and HS27.

The value of total export trade has increased with 17 of the other 26 Member States in the EU compared with September 2010.

Table 3 shows the top five Member States for EU exports in September 2010, August 2011 and September 2011.

Rank	September 2011	August 2011	September 2010
1	Germany	Germany	Germany
2	Netherlands	Netherlands	France
3	France	France	Ireland
4	Ireland	Belgium	Netherlands
5	Belgium	Ireland	Belgium

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

For all three periods, Germany was the UK's largest EU exporting partner country. The Netherlands is the second largest having been fourth in September 2010, the increases leading to this change are described above. Despite the change in order within the top five, all top five Member States are the same for the three comparison periods

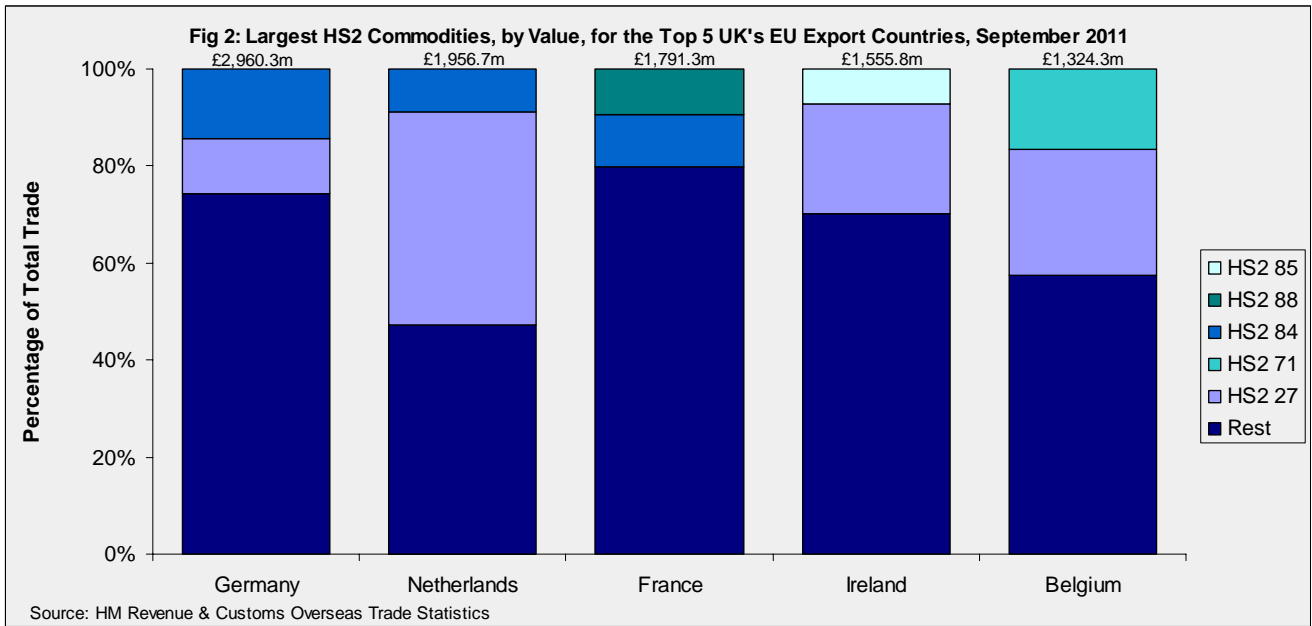


Figure 2 shows the largest commodities for the top 5 EU Member States that the UK exports to. Four of the top five Member States have HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) in their top two largest commodities exported from the UK. It is the largest traded commodity by value for three of these. The trade with these four Member States accounts for 80 per cent of the total value of UK EU export trade under this heading.

Further Analysis: Imports

Table 4 shows this comparison for the top five commodities imported from EU Member States.

HS 2	Description	September 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from August 2011	% Change from September 2010	% of Total September 2011 Trade	Rank August 2011	Rank September 2010
-	Total Imports	18,397.6	17.1	14.6	100.0	n/a	n/a
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	3,113.6	45.1	11.1	16.9	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	2,106.1	20.0	12.3	11.4	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	1,595.0	4.8	-5.1	8.7	3	3
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	1,076.4	21.2	57.7	5.9	4	5
30	Pharmaceutical products	867.2	4.7	18.3	4.7	5	4

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Over half of the overall increase in imports noted above is as a result in increases in three out of the top 5 commodity types shown in the table above. In total the value of imports of the top 5 commodity types increased by £1.6 billion. As with exports there have been relatively few HS2 commodity types where there has been a decrease in import value since last month. The total decrease in those HS2 commodity types that did fall compared to last month amount to £69.4 million.

The largest value increase in the top 5 commodities from the previous month of £968.3 million was in HS2 87 (Vehicles, as above). Over half of the increase was in HS8703 (Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons, including station wagons and racing cars), £559.9 million. This HS4 accounts for 60 per cent of the total value import trade for the chapter. The increase in the net mass of imports of this product suggests that the change is due to increase in volume rather than price.

There was also a relatively large increase in HS8708 (Parts and accessories of the motor vehicles), £220.1 million. This is over a quarter of the overall increase in HS87.

This decrease and subsequent increase is probably a result of the summer shutdown in car manufactures. September is also a month when cars with new registration numbers are sold in the UK, which may have contributed to the increase in imports of this commodity. Details on car registration numbers can be found [here](#)

There is also a relatively large increase largest increase, £227.0 million, compared to August 2011 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). Around half of the increase, £133.0 million, was in HS7206 (Silver (including silver plated with gold or platinum), unwrought or in semi-manufactured forms, or in powder form). The increase in the net mass of exports of this product suggests that the change is due to decrease in volume rather than price.

There have been large increases since last September in imports in HS27, HS87 and HS71, £393.6 million, £310.8 million and £300.2 million respectively.

For HS27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) it is HS2710 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, other than crude) and HS2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude) that contributed most to the increase in the chapter, £178.0 million and £156.5 million respectively.

For HS87 and HS71 the goods contributing the largest value to the increases compared to September 2010 are those from the HS4 groups mentioned above as the largest increases compared with last month.

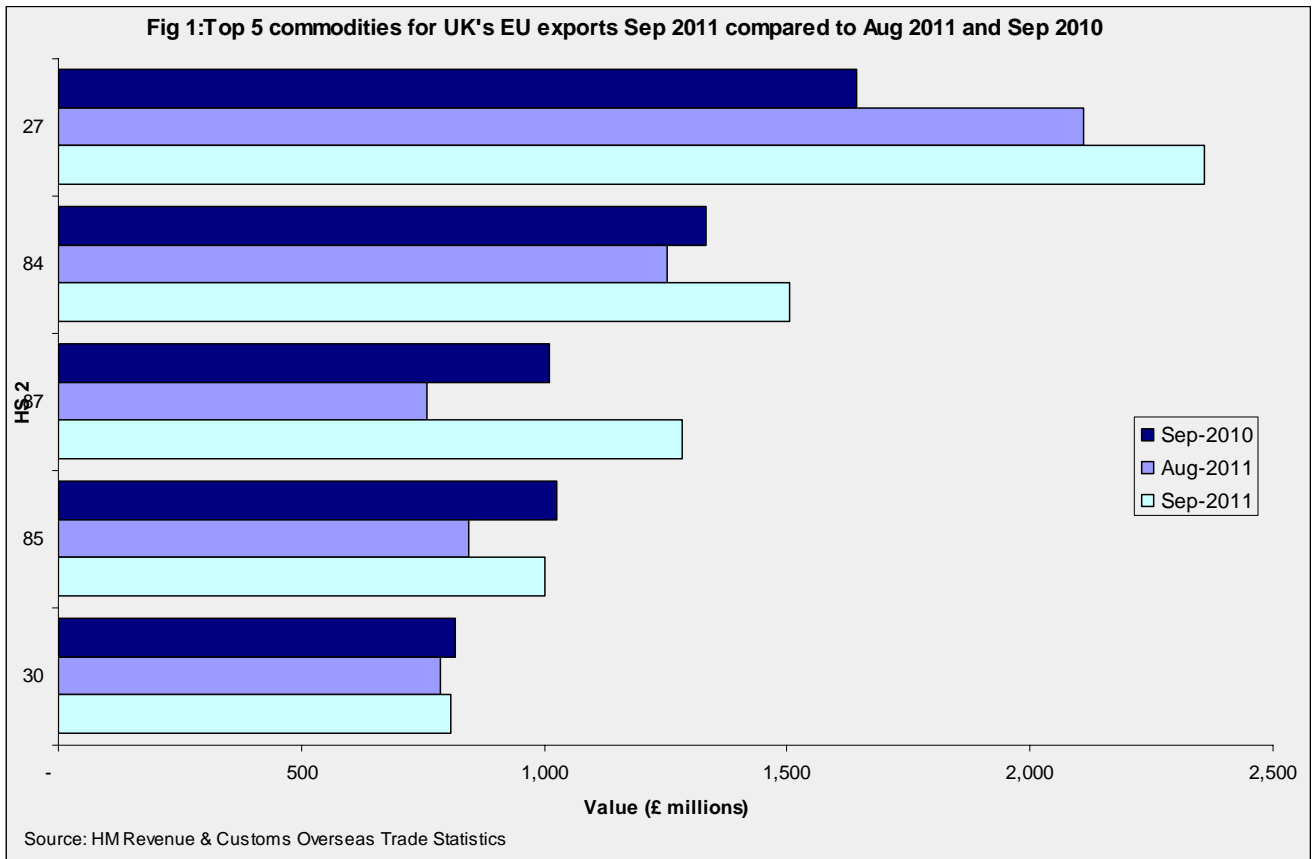


Figure 3 shows the top 5 HS2 commodity groups for UK's EU imports in September 2011, compared to August 2011 and September 2010. All of these top 5 commodities groups showed increases compared to August 2011. Only one, HS2 85 (Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts and accessories of such articles) showed a slight decrease over the corresponding period in 2010.

Tables 5 and 6 show comparisons of the value of UK import trade with our top five EU trading partners for this month against last month and this month last year.

Germany, Netherlands and France have been the largest import partners for the UK for a number of years with Germany accounting for between a quarter and a third of the total imports.

Table 5: Top 5 EU import partner Member States

Country	Total £ millions	% change from August 2011	% Change from September 2010	% of total Non EU trade
Total Imports	18,397.6	17.1	14.6	100.0
Germany	4,571.7	14.1	8.6	24.8
Netherlands	2,372.1	1.6	7.6	12.9
France	2,114.2	22.2	6.9	11.5
Belgium	1,681.7	12.1	8.1	9.1
Italy	1,259.1	27.7	10.5	6.8

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Germany has also seen the largest increase in value of imports to the UK of £565.0 million in comparison with August 2011. Nearly two thirds of the net increase in the value of imports from Germany are accounted for by the increases for goods in HS87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof) and HS84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof).

The value of total import trade has increased with 25 of the other 26 Member States in the EU compared with August 2011

The largest increase in imports since September 2010 is also from Germany of £361.4 million. As with the comparison against last month it is goods in the HS87 and HS84 groups that make the largest contribution to the increase

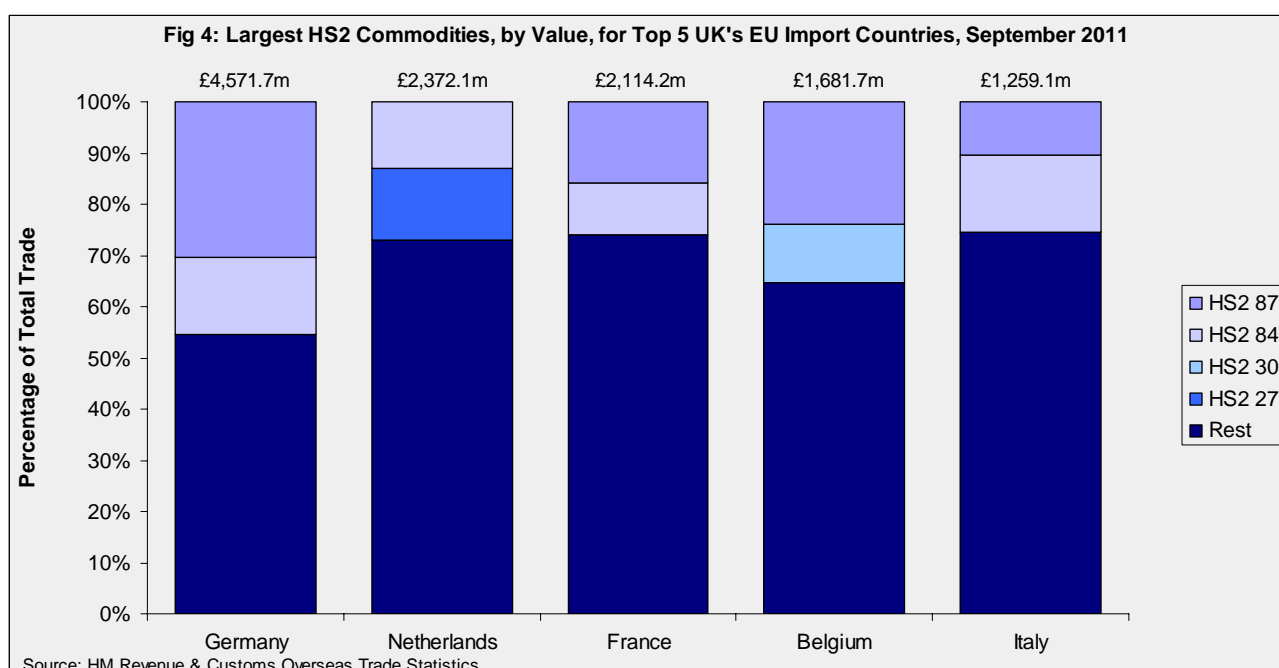
The value of total import trade has increased with 19 of the other 26 Member States in the EU compared with September 2010.

Table 6 shows the top five partner Member States for EU imports in September 2010, August 2011 and September 2011.

Rank	Sep 2011	Aug 2011	Sep 2010
1	Germany	Germany	Germany
2	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands
3	France	France	France
4	Belgium	Belgium	Belgium
5	Italy	Ireland	Italy

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

The top four partner Member States for EU imports in September 2010, August 2011 and September 2011 were all the same – Germany, Netherlands, France and Belgium. Figure 4 shows the largest commodities for the top 5 EU Member States the UK imports from.



Four of the top five Member States have HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof) in their top two largest commodities exported to the UK. It is the largest traded commodity by value for three of these. HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) is also in the top two largest commodities exported to the UK for four of these five Member States. Trade under HS2 87 by these five Member States accounted for 72.6 percent of the total trade under this heading and trade under HS2 84 by these five Member States accounted for 66.1 per cent of the total trade under this heading.

Notes:

1. HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with Member States of the European Union (EU) on 15 November 2011 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 Member States of the EU for September 2011. At the same time revisions for all previously published EU data for 2011 are also being released in line with the [Overseas Trade Statistics Policy on Revisions](#).
3. The figures provided in this publication of the September 2011 EU Trade Statistics will include
 - a. Estimates for businesses who have yet to submit detailed data on the trade they had with other EU Member States in September.
 - b. Estimates for businesses who do not have to submit detailed data on the trade they have with other EU Member State
 - c. An adjustment for trade associated with Missing Trader Intra Community fraud. More detail of this can be found [here](#).

Estimates are included in all high level totals including HS2 and country totals but not for aggregated totals below this level.

Not all of these estimates are included in the lower level aggregations of data found in our interactive database. Therefore it is possible that some of the data in this publication will differ slightly from high level aggregates produced using the interactive database.

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 accepted into [Inwards Processing Relief](#) (IPR).
7. Information to help support users of the 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.

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](#). If you have not yet registered for this **free** area click [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 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: 13 December 2011 9:30am

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