

# Non-EU Overseas Trade Statistics - May 2013

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## **Summary**

- The UK's non-EU exports have decreased by £0.2 billion (1.2 per cent) compared to April 2013, to £12.8 billion. Compared to May 2012, exports have decreased by £0.4 billion (3.4 per cent).
- The UK's non-EU imports have increased by £0.2 billion (1.5 per cent) compared to April 2013, to £16.6 billion. Compared to May 2012, imports have increased by £0.1 billion (0.5 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 £0.4 billion (11.8 per cent) compared to April 2013, and has also increased from May 2012 by £0.5 billion (16.0 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.

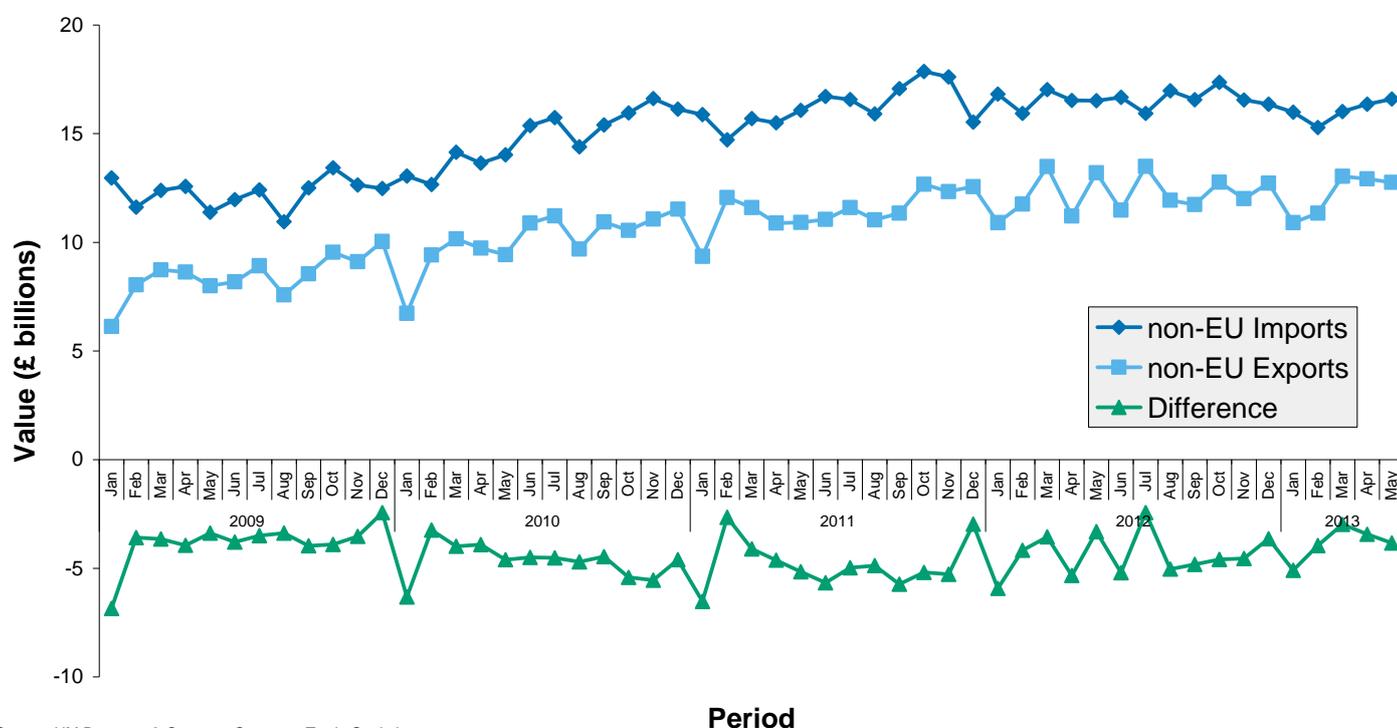
You can find details of how users interested in import and export markets for specific goods make use of the detailed OTS data in '[The Customer Story](#)'. You can also access the detailed data in our interactive database [here](#).

## Key Points

For the month of May 2013:

The value of imports increased, while exports decreased in May 2013 compared with the previous month. Consequently the difference between non-EU imports and exports has increased by 11.8 per cent. This month's import values increased for the third month running, and are now at the highest level since October 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

- The UK's non-EU exports have decreased by £0.2 billion (1.2 per cent) compared to April 2013, to £12.8 billion. Compared to May 2012, exports have decreased by £0.4 billion (3.4 per cent).
- The top five commodities are similar to last month, with the top four unchanged, but 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) rising from sixth to fifth. The largest contributing commodity group remains HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof). In May it contributed £2.7 billion, 20.8 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU export trade. The largest contribution to this chapter was £1.1 billion from HS4 8411 (Turbo-jets, Turbo-propellers and other gas turbines).
- There were decreases in 55 per cent of all chapters, which drove the overall decrease in exports compared to April 2013. The largest decrease from the previous month was £200.7 million (22.0 per cent) in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes), taking this chapter out of the top five for this month.
- The largest value increase from the previous month was in the top chapter, HS2 84, which increased by £193.1 million (7.9 per cent) to £2.7 billion. This is the highest monthly export value of this chapter, £34.8 million higher than the previous record of £2.6 billion from March 2013.
- The USA remains the UK's largest non-EU export partner country, accounting for 26.5 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU export trade, despite having the second largest decrease in exports when compared with April 2013 (a decrease of £128.0 million (3.6 per cent)). Exports from the UK to Saudi Arabia had the largest decrease in value compared to April 2013, down by £163.9 million (29.2 per cent) to fall to ninth place from fourth last month.
- The largest increase in exports was to the United Arab Emirates, up £122.7 million (28.2 per cent), which took this country to fourth place from seventh last month.
- The total 2013 year to date value of UK's goods exported to non-EU countries excluding May 2013 is £48.2 billion, which has been upwardly revised by £72.6 million. This is an increase of 0.2 per cent.

## Imports

- The value of the UK's non-EU imports increased by £0.2 billion (1.5 per cent) compared to April 2013, to £16.6 billion. Compared to May 2012 imports have increased by £0.1 billion (0.5 per cent).
- The top five commodities are unchanged from the previous month. 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 £4.2 billion, 25.3 per cent of the total value of non-EU imports to the UK. The largest contribution to this chapter was £2.3 billion from HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude).
- The largest value increase from the previous month was a rise of £148.8 million (10.4 per cent) in the third place chapter, 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 largest value decrease from the previous month was a fall of £145.1 million (15.3 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).
- The USA remains the UK's largest non-EU import partner country in May 2013, accounting for 16.1 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU import trade. China remains in second place, accounting for 14.5 per cent of the total value of non-EU imports. The value of imports from China increased by £364.8 million (17.8 per cent), the second largest country increase compared to April 2013. The largest increase in imports into the UK compared to April 2013 was from Russia which rose by £406.4 million (87.4 per cent). The largest decrease was from Algeria which fell by £317.4 million (68.4 per cent).
- The total 2013 year to date value of UK's goods imported from non EU countries excluding May 2013 is £63.7 billion, which is unchanged from last month.

## Further Analysis: Exports

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

HS 2	Description	May 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from April 2013	% Change from May 2012	% of Total May 2013 Exports	Rank April 2013	Rank May 2012
-	Total Exports	12,759.6	-1.2	-3.4	100.0	n/a	n/a
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	2,651.9	7.9	13.1	20.8	1	1
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	1,658.9	10.9	-6.9	13.0	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	975.7	-8.7	26.1	7.6	3	6
30	Pharmaceutical products	860.1	-8.5	-0.3	6.7	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	809.7	6.7	-3.0	6.3	6	5

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

The overall decrease in exports **compared to April 2013** is composed of decreases in 55 per cent of HS2 chapters. The total export trade value has decreased by £0.2 billion (1.2 per cent). Three of the top five commodity types increased in export value, though the largest decrease took HS2 27 out of the top five. There were three chapters with decreases of over £100 million, and four increases of this magnitude.

The largest value decrease from the previous month, of £200.7 million, was in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes), taking this chapter out of the top five, to sixth place. This is a decrease of 22.0 per cent compared to April 2013. The decrease is driven by a fall of £223.0 million (52.5 per cent) in crude oil in HS4 2709. The decrease for this chapter is spread over several export partners, with the greatest decrease being to Chile, down £69.2 million (48.7 per cent).

The second largest decrease was in HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof), down by £145.9 million (22.7 per cent) to £496.4 million. This is dominated by a fall in exports in HS4 8802 (Powered aircraft and spacecraft), down by £205.8 million (57.6 per cent), with a fall in exports to Saudi Arabia from £161.8 million to zero. However, this decrease was offset by an increase of £50.8 million in HS4 8803 (Parts of aircraft and spacecraft of heading 8801 or 8802, not elsewhere specified).

The third largest decrease was in HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques), down by £141.7 million (29.7 per cent). The fall was driven by a decrease of

£121.0 million (35.6 per cent) in exports of HS4 9701 (Paintings and drawings executed entirely by hand), more than covered by exports to the USA dropping by £188.9 million (70.8 per cent).

There were no other decreases over £100 million, but just outside this level, the next largest decrease was £92.5 million in the third largest chapter, HS 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin).

The largest increase since last month was in the top chapter, HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof), up by £193.1 million, (7.9 per cent). This is driven by a rise of £113.1 million (11.1 per cent) in HS4 8411 (Turbojets, turbopropellers and other gas turbines). Within this heading, there were increases of £111.2 million (a two-fold increase) in exports to the United Arab Emirates, and £52.0 million (68.0 per cent) in exports to Hong Kong. This was offset by a fall of £74.5 million (66.5 per cent) in exports to Japan.

The second largest increase was £163.6 million in the second chapter in the top five, HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof), up by 10.9 per cent. This is driven by a rise of £168.9 million (14.5 per cent) in HS4 8703 (Motor vehicles for the transport of <10 persons). Within this chapter, there was an increase of £110.1 million (33.8 per cent) in exports to China.

Outside the top five, the next largest two increases were for HS2 93 (Arms and ammunition) up £151.5 million (an eightfold rise), and HS2 29 (Organic chemicals) up £106.4 million (38.3 per cent). There were no other increases over £100 million.

**Compared to May 2012**, the total export trade value decreased by £0.4 billion (3.4 per cent). Half of all HS2 chapters showed decreases, and half showed increases. There were three chapters with increases of over £100 million, and three decreases of this magnitude, but these were dominated by one major decrease.

As with the comparison with March 2013, the largest decrease was in HS2 27, down £840.2 million (54.1 per cent), driven by falls of £533.6 million (52.7 per cent) in refined oil in HS4 2710, and £256.2 million (56.0 per cent) in crude oil in HS4 2709. The decrease in this chapter is almost double the overall decrease, and takes this chapter out of the top five from third place in May 2012.

The second largest decrease was for HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof), which fell by £160.2 million (24.4 per cent). This was driven by a fall of £167.3 million (52.5 per cent) in HS4 8802 (Powered aircraft and spacecraft).

The third largest decrease was for HS2 87 which fell by £122.8 million (6.9 per cent). This was led by falls of £54.9 million (45.5 per cent) in HS4 8704 (Motor vehicles for the transport of goods) and £54.4 million (3.9 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 for HS2 28 (Inorganic chemicals), down £61.6 million.

The largest increase was in the top chapter, HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof), up by £306.7 million (13.1 per cent). HS4 8411 (Turbojets, turbopropellers and other gas turbines) rose by £237.0 million (26.6 per cent), driven by the increases to the United Arab Emirates and Hong Kong, up £111.6 million and £69.6 million respectively, both more than double the May 2012 export value.

The second largest increase was for 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 £202.2 million (26.1 per cent). This was dominated by a six-fold increase in exports of unwrought silver in HS4 7106, up £281.8 million. This is mainly due to exports to India, which rose by £281.2 million.

The third largest increase was for HS2 93 (Arms and ammunition), up by £129.0 million, a near four-fold rise. This is mainly due to exports to Saudi Arabia, which rose by £150.8 million.

The next largest increase was under £100 million and was for HS2 29 (Organic chemicals), up £81.6 million.

Figure 2 below shows the top five commodities for the UK's non-EU exports in May 2013, compared to April 2013 and May 2012. It shows how chapter 84 has increased when compared with both periods, while HS2 87 had a large increase when compared with April 2013, but had a large decrease when compared with May 2012. HS2 71 is up on last year but down on last month, while the other two chapters have relatively small changes.

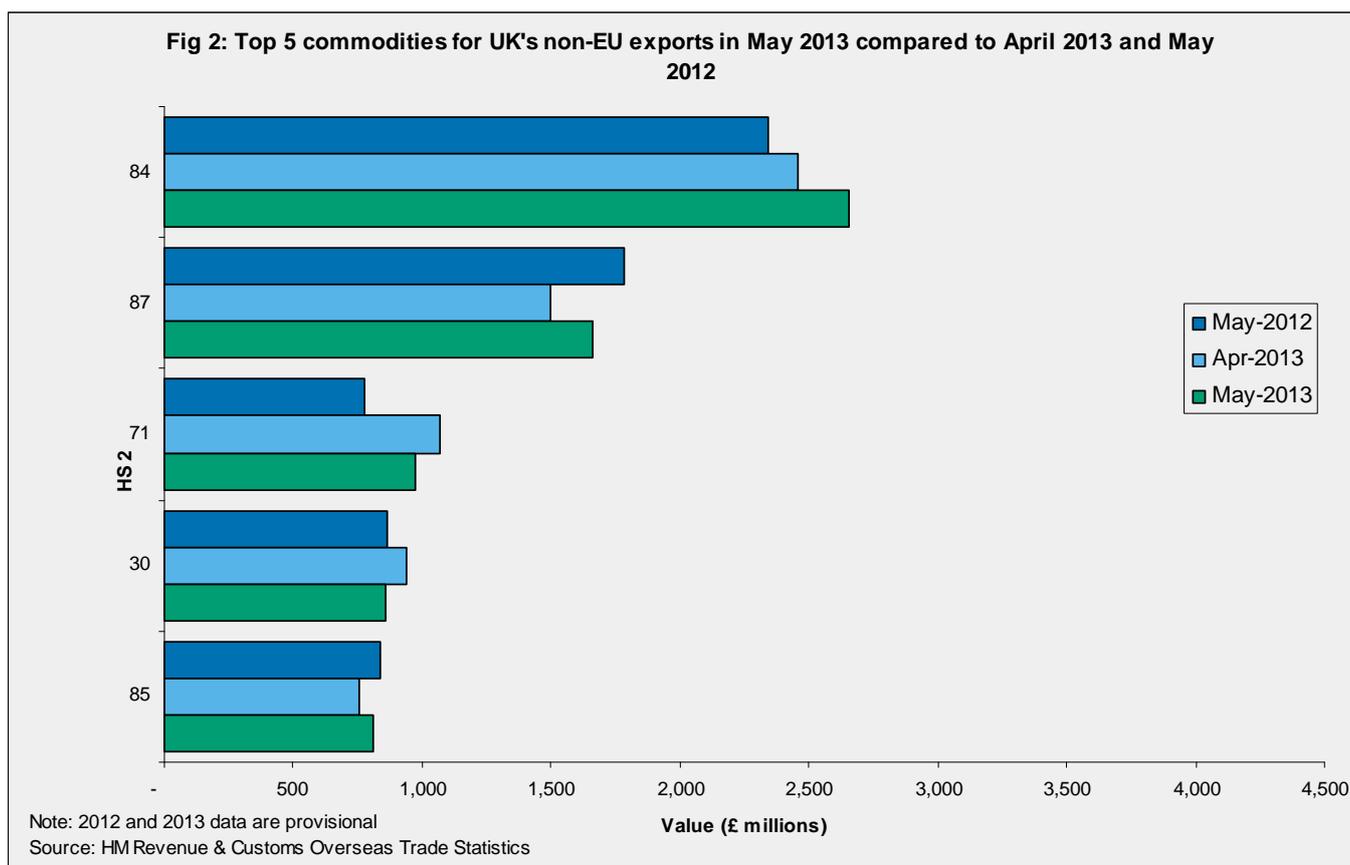


Table 2 shows a comparison of the value of UK non-EU export trade with our top five export trading partners for May 2013, April 2013 and May 2012.

Country	May 2013 Total £ millions	% change from April 2013	% Change from May 2012	% of total May 2013 Exports	Rank April 2013	Rank May 2012
Total Exports	12,759.6	-1.3	-3.4	100.0	n/a	n/a
USA	3,381.9	-3.6	-7.2	26.5	1	1
China	985.2	1.9	-0.9	7.7	2	2
India	695.7	10.8	84.1	5.5	3	11
United Arab Emirates	557.4	28.2	23.7	4.4	7	4
Hong Kong	508.3	21.0	14.1	4.0	8	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, with China second, while this month has seen the United Arab Emirates and Hong Kong return to the top five. Compared to last month, despite the slight decrease in total exports, there were increased exports for four of the top five partner countries, with just exports to the USA falling.

**Compared to April 2013**, there is decreased trade to just under half of our export partners, but the magnitude of the decreases is generally greater than for the increases. There were two countries to which exports decreased by £100 million or more, and one increase above this threshold.

The largest decrease in exports was to Saudi Arabia, where exports fell by £163.9 million (29.2 per cent), dropping back from last month's record high which took it to fourth place. The decrease is composed of falls of £160.0 million (92.2 per cent) in exports of HS2 88 (Aircraft and spacecraft and parts thereof) and £109.2 million (99.0 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 is offset by an increase of £153.5 million, in HS2 93 (Arms and ammunition), from less than £1 million.

The second largest decrease was in exports to the USA, down by £128.0 million (3.6 per cent) to £3.4 billion. This was dominated by a fall of £220.4 million (63.6 per cent) in exports for HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques). This month's export value for this chapter is the lowest since February 2012, while last month's was the second highest on record. The fall was offset slightly by an increase of £123.7 million in HS2 29 (Organic Chemicals).

The third largest decrease was for South Korea, down by £77.3 million (28.7 per cent) to drop to its lowest export value since November 2011.

The largest increase in exports was to the United Arab Emirates, which climbs from seventh to fourth. Exports are up by £122.7 million (28.2 per cent) to £557.4 million, a record high, beating the previous record of £537.7 million in March 2013. This increase was driven by an increase of £108.8 million (73.3 per cent) in HS2 84, as previously explained.

The second biggest increase was to Hong Kong, up by £88.2 million (21.0 per cent) to climb to fifth from eighth. This was also driven by the rise in HS2 84, increasing by £54.4 million (55.9 per cent).

**Compared to May 2012**, there was a decrease of £0.4 billion (3.4 per cent) in total exports. Again less than half of the UK's export partner countries had decreases in export value, but the size of these decreases was generally greater 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 £262.6 million (7.2 per cent). This is led by a decrease of £176.2 million (29.5 per cent) in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes).

The fall in HS2 27 also led the second and third largest decreases, as exports to South Korea fell by £209.8 million (52.2 per cent), with a fall of £219.6 million (almost 100 per cent) in HS2 27, and exports to Senegal fell by £122.0 million (92.7 per cent), with a £124.0 million (96.2 per cent) fall in HS2 27.

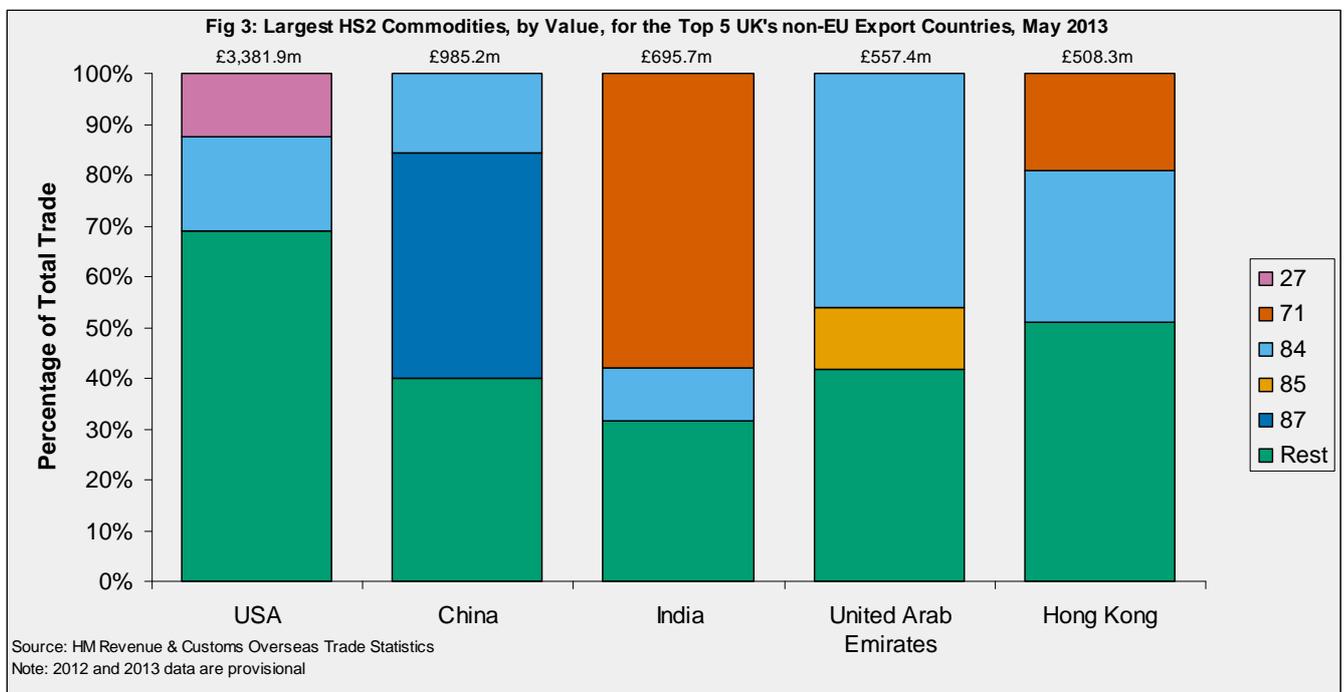
Just below £100 million, there were decreases of £92.3 million (18.6 per cent) in exports to Russia; £91.6 million (72.5 per cent) in exports to Gibraltar; and £90.8 million (97.8 per cent) in exports to Togo.

The largest increase in total export trade value compared to May 2012 was in exports to India, up by £317.8 million (84.1 per cent), led by a sevenfold increase of £281.2 million in unwrought silver in HS4 7106.

The only other increase over £100 million was for the United Arab Emirates, which rose by £106.9 million (23.7 per cent), with a £114.0 million (79.7 per cent) increase in HS2 84, 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. This month, all five countries had HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof), accounting for 47.7 per cent of the total value of UK non-EU export trade for HS2 84. Two of the top five countries had exports in HS2 71 as one of the top two largest commodities exported to them, accounting for 51.3 per cent of the UK's total exports in this chapter. The export of this chapter to India made up 57.9 per cent of the total UK exports to India.

Additionally, 59.3 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 May 2013, April 2013 and May 2012.

HS 2	Description	May 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from April 2013	% Change from May 2012	% of Total May 2013 Imports	Rank April 2013	Rank May 2012
-	Total Imports	16,597.0	1.5	0.5	100.0	n/a	n/a
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	4,191.7	2.0	13.9	25.3	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	2,036.8	-5.8	2.3	12.3	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	1,575.7	10.4	14.9	9.5	3	3
71	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin	801.7	-15.3	-35.9	4.8	4	4
88	Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof	553.8	-1.6	12.0	3.3	5	6

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

The value of imports increased by £0.2 billion (1.5 per cent) **compared to April 2013**. There were increases in over half of the HS2 commodity chapters (58 per cent) including one over £100 million. There were three decreases of over £100 million. Three of the top five import chapters showed decreases.

The largest value increase from the previous month of £148.8 million (10.4 per cent) was in the UK's third biggest import chapter by value, 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). This takes imports in HS2 85 to their highest value since December 2011. The increase was driven by a rise of £91.0 million (20.2 per cent) in imports of HS4 8517, which includes mobile phones. This in turn is driven by an increase of £74.7 million (77.0 per cent) in imports from Hong Kong.

Although this was the only increase over £100 million, the second and third largest increases in imports were just below this level. HS2 44 (Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal), rose by £87.6 million (77.3 per cent), led by an increase of £93.5 million (a ten-fold rise) in HS4 4401 (Fuel wood, wood in chips or particles; sawdust

and wood waste and scrap, whether or not agglomerated in logs, briquettes, pellets or similar forms) from the USA and Canada. The top import chapter, HS2 27, rose by £82.7 million (2.0 per cent), composed of a £356.3 million (71.6 per cent) increase in imports of refined oil in HS4 2710, balanced by a fall of £243.4 million (9.5 per cent) in crude oil (HS4 2709).

There were also four chapters with increases between £40 million and £75 million.

The largest decrease in imports was for the fourth biggest import chapter, HS2 71, down £145.1 million (15.3 per cent) to £801.7 million. Within this chapter, there were decreases of £117.0 million (27.6 per cent) in HS4 7102 (unmounted diamonds), and £114.0 million (41.0 per cent) in unwrought silver in HS4 7106. This is the second successive fall for this chapter, and is the lowest import value for this chapter since July 2012 (£780.3 million).

The second largest value decrease from the previous month was for the second biggest import chapter, HS2 84, which fell £125.7 million (5.8 per cent). This was driven by a fall of £118.8 million (14.4 per cent) in imports of HS4 8411 (Turbojets, turbopropellers and other gas turbines). Within this heading, imports from the United Arab Emirates fell by £61.6 million (29.9 per cent).

The third largest decrease was for HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products), which fell by £116.3 million (24.9 per cent). This is driven by a fall of £211.6 million (97.9 per cent) in imports from Israel.

These were the only decreases above £100 million; the next largest decrease was less than £40 million.

When **compared to May 2012**, total import value increased by just £81.2 million (0.5 per cent). Although only 44.3 per cent of the HS2 commodity chapters increased in value, the sizes of these increases were generally bigger than those for the decreases. These two factors explained the overall marginal increase. There were two chapters with increases of over £100 million and a further two with decreases over this value.

The largest increase was for the top import chapter, HS2 27, which rose by £510.6 million (13.9 per cent). This was made up of increases of £400.0 million (88.1 per cent) in refined oil in HS4 2710, and £242.3 million (49.7 per cent) in HS4 2711 (Petroleum gas and other gaseous hydrocarbons), balanced by a fall of £188.7 million (7.5 per cent) in crude oil in HS4 2709.

The second biggest increase was a rise of £204.2 million (14.9 per cent) in the third biggest import chapter, HS2 85. As with the comparison with last month, this was led by an increase of £210.2 million (63.2 per cent) in HS4 8517 which includes mobile phones.

These were the only increases over £100 million, but just below this level, HS2 44 (Wood and charcoal) rose by £86.8 million (76.1 per cent). Within this chapter, HS4 4401 rose by £99.4 million, a twenty-fold increase.

The chapter with the largest decrease is the fourth biggest import chapter, HS2 71, down £449.1 million (35.9 per cent), with HS4 7106 (unwrought silver) down £213.8 million (56.6 per cent) and HS4 7102 (unmounted diamonds) down 178.5 million.

The next biggest decrease was for HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products), down £120.9 million (25.6 per cent), with a £105.7 million (48.2 per cent) decrease in imports from the USA.

There were also decreases in the chemical industry, as HS2 28 (Inorganic Chemicals) fell by £75.2 million (42.7 per cent) and HS2 29 (Organic chemicals) fell £72.1 million (25.0 per cent).

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

but decreased compared to last month, and chapter 71 decreased when compared to both periods.

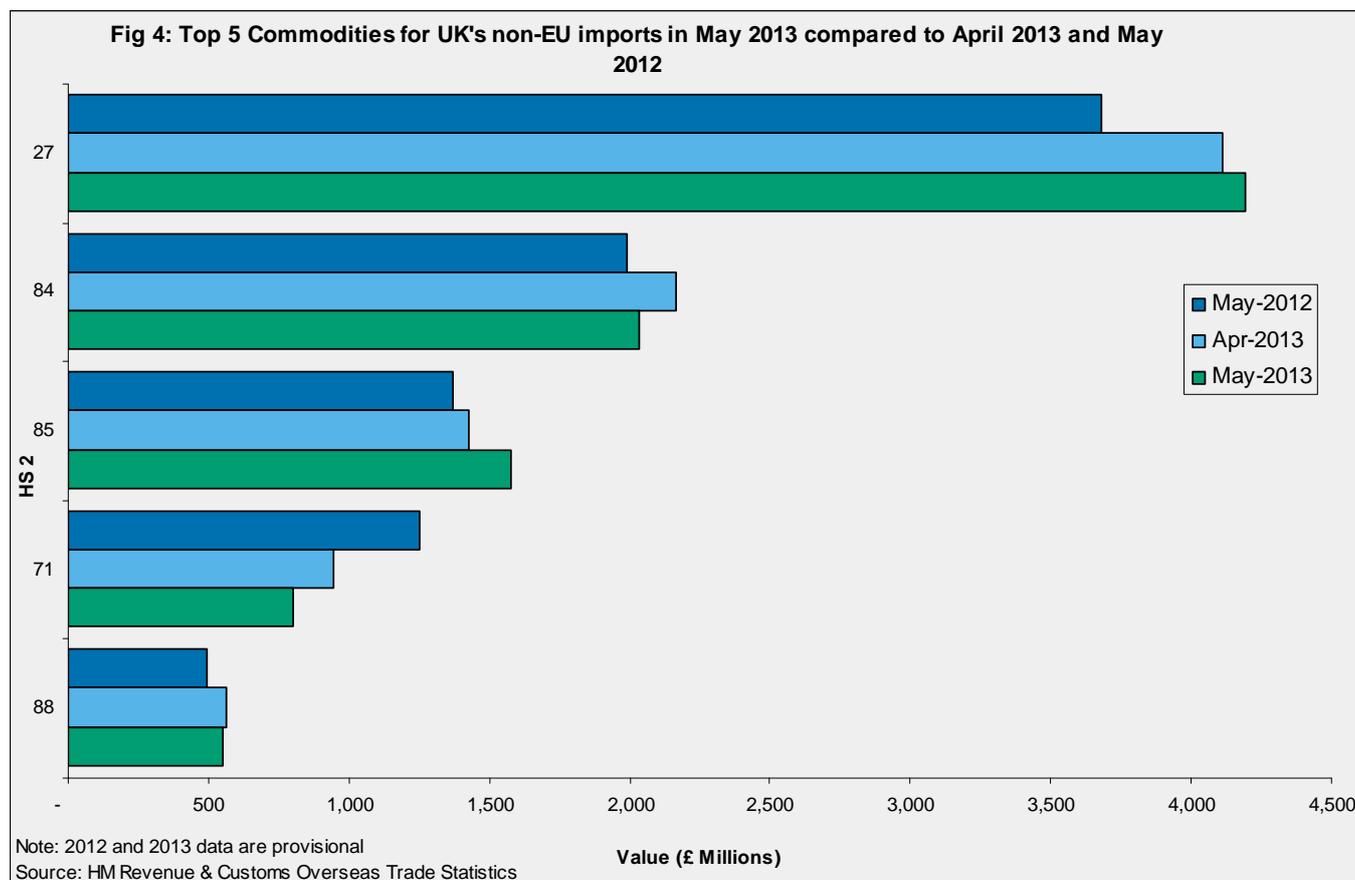


Table 4 shows comparisons of the value of UK non-EU import trade from our top five import trading partners for May 2013, April 2013, and May 2012. Imports from four of the top five trading partners have increased in May 2013 compared to the previous month (USA, China, Russia and India), and three have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

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

Country	May 2013 Total £ millions	% change from April 2013	% Change from May 2012	% of Total May 2013 Imports	Rank April 2013	Rank May 2012
Total Imports	16,597.0	1.5	0.5	100.0	n/a	n/a
USA	2,672.6	3.2	1.7	16.1	1	1
China	2,412.4	17.8	-3.1	14.5	2	2
Norway	1,430.4	-17.3	-25.4	8.6	3	3
Russia	871.2	87.4	30.4	5.2	10	5
India	607.2	14.1	15.3	3.7	7	7

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

The top three countries are unchanged from last month, with Russia climbing to fourth from tenth (fifth in May 2012), and India rising to fifth from seventh in both previous

periods. 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 April 2013**, the total increase in the value of imports is composed of decreases from 57 per cent of our import partner countries, with a smaller number of increases of a higher magnitude. Three countries had increases of over £100 million, while four had decreases of this magnitude.

The biggest increase in the value of imports was from Russia, up £406.4 million (87.4 per cent) to £871.1 million, the second highest import value on record, behind June 2011's record of £938.2 million. This is driven by a two-fold increase of £389.4 million in HS2 27, composed of a £256.8 million increase in crude oil in HS4 2709, a three-fold increase from last month, plus an increase of £115.4 million (88.0 per cent) in refined oil (HS4 2710).

The next biggest increase in value of imports was from China, up £364.8 million (17.8 per cent) to £2.4 billion. This is spread over several chapters, led by an increase of £75.5 million (19.3 per cent) in electrical equipment HS2 85.

The changes within HS2 27 also drove the next two biggest increases. Imports from Saudi Arabia were up by £185.1 million (a two-fold increase) with a £155.0 million increase in HS2 27, split between HS4 2709 (Crude oil) up £77.9 million, and HS4 2710 (Refined oil) up 77.0 million; Angola increased by £93.2 million (131.5 per cent), with a £77.2 million increase in crude oil (HS4 2709).

There were also six increases between £60 million and £90 million.

The changes in HS2 27 were also the driving force for three of the five largest decreases. The largest decrease in the value of imports was from Algeria, down by £317.4 million (68.4 per cent) to drop from last month's record high of £464.0 million to £146.6 million this month. This decrease is driven by a fall of £310.7 million (70.4 per cent) in crude oil in HS4 2709.

The second largest decrease in the value of imports was from Norway, down by £299.5 million (17.3 per cent). This was almost entirely due to a fall of £299.8 million (19.8 per cent) in HS2 27, and is split between Crude oil (HS4 2709) falling £269.6 million (25.7 per cent) and HS4 2711 (Petroleum gas and other gaseous hydrocarbons) falling £47.0 million (10.4 per cent).

The third largest decrease in the value of imports was from Israel, down by £208.1 million (65.7 per cent), led by a fall of £211.6 million (97.9 per cent) in HS2.30 (Pharmaceutical products).

The fourth largest decrease was from Botswana, down £161.8 million (58.3 per cent). This was almost entirely due to a fall in imports of diamonds in HS4 7102, down £162.4 million (58.7 per cent).

There were no other decreases over £100 million, but just outside this range, Libya fell by £89.9 million (30.2 per cent), with a fall of £90.4 million (30.4 per cent) in imports of crude oil (HS4 2709). There were no other decreases over £50 million.

**Compared to May 2012** there was a small increase of £0.1 billion (0.5 per cent) in the total value of imports, with just over half (51 per cent) of the UK's import partner countries increasing in value. There were five increases and three decreases in excess of £100 million. Three of the UK's top five import trading partners for May 2013 have increased when compared to May 2012, and two have decreased.

The largest increase in the value of imports was to the United Arab Emirates, which rose by £211.2 million (almost three-fold). This was led by a three-fold increase of £99.9 million in HS4 8411 (Turbojets, turbopropellers and other gas turbines), and a £94.3 million rise in imports of refined oil (HS4 2710), up from less than £1 million in May 2012.

The second largest increase in imports was from Russia, up £203.0 million (30.4 per cent). This was driven by a rise of £184.0 million (32.7 per cent) in HS2 27, led by an increase of £152.9 million (163 per cent) in refined oil (HS4 2710).

Three of the next four largest increases were all due to imports of crude oil (HS4 2709). Angola increased by £162.8 million, from £1.3 million, with a £144.4 million increase in crude oil, from zero; Saudi Arabia increased by £140.0 million (74.8 per cent) with a £143.4 million increase in crude oil, from zero; and Libya was up by £99.5 million (92.1 per cent) almost entirely due to a rise of £99.0 million (92.0 per cent) in crude oil.

The other large increase was from Hong Kong, up £101.0 million (20.2 per cent), which was driven by imports of telephone and mobile phone equipment in HS4 8517 increasing by £116.4 million, a three-fold rise.

The largest decrease in total import trade value is from Norway, down by £488.1 million (25.4 per cent). This is led by a decrease of £502.3 million (29.2 per cent) in HS2 27, which in turn is driven by a £759.4 million (49.4 per cent) decrease in HS4 2709 (crude oil), partially offset by an increase of £270.4 million (a three-fold rise) in petroleum gas in HS4 2711.

The second largest decrease in imports was from Singapore, down £151.5 million (50.6 per cent). This was led by a fall of £107.8 million (88.4 per cent) in HS2 29 (Organic Chemicals).

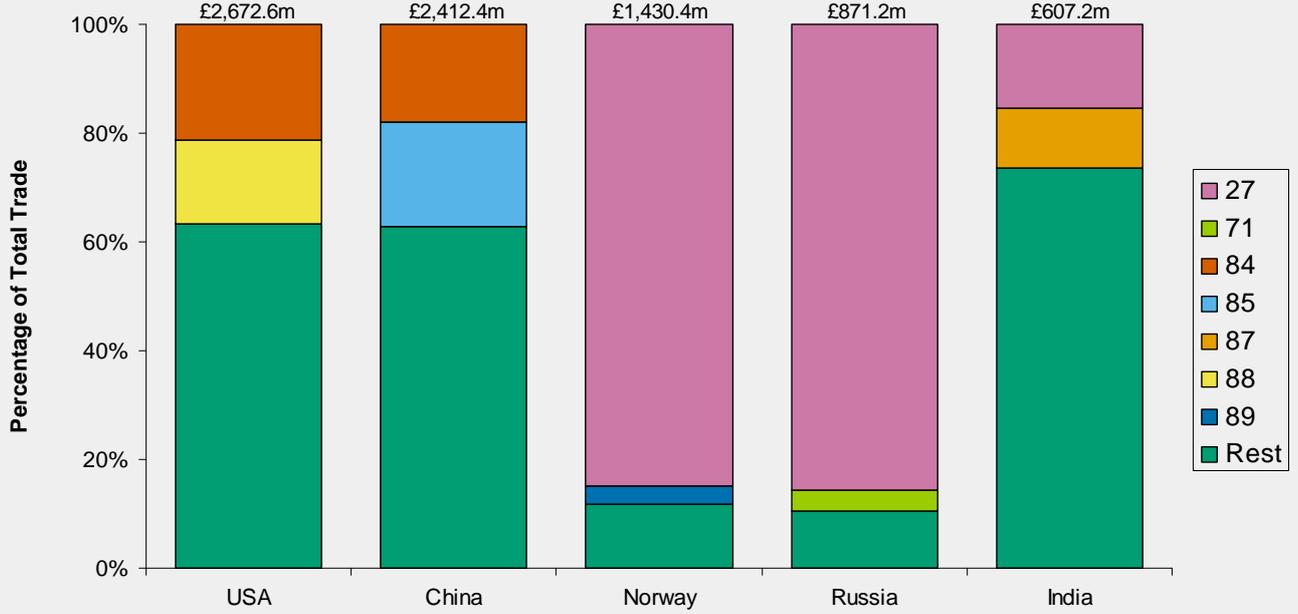
The third largest decrease in imports was from Japan, down £142.4 million (19.2 per cent). This was spread over several chapters, with three decreasing by between £30 million and £60 million.

There were also decreases of over £95 million for Taiwan and South Africa.

Figure 5 shows the two largest commodities by value imported from each of the top five non-EU import partner countries. It demonstrates the influence of HS2 27, as this month, three of the top five trading partners have HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) in their top two largest commodities imported into the UK, accounting for 49.0 per cent of the total import value in HS2 27. HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) is in the top two chapters of the top two importing countries, with the trade with the USA and China accounting for 49.2 per cent of the total import value. This month, the second biggest import commodity from the USA is HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof), accounting for 73.7 per cent of the UK's import value for this chapter.

The import trade in HS2 27 accounts for 85.0 per cent of the total imports from Norway, specifically the Norwegian Continental Shelf, and also accounts for 85.7 per cent of the UK's import value from Russia.

**Fig 5: Largest HS2 Commodities, by Value, for Top 5 UK's non-EU Import Countries, May 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 09 July 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 May 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. 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: 09 August 2013 9:30am

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