

EU Overseas Trade Statistics - October 2011

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Summary

- After the relatively large increase in the value of both imports and exports seen in September, there has been very little change in the value of exports and a decrease in the value of imports. Consequently there has been a decrease in the difference between imports and exports compared with the high in September reported in last month's release.
- UK's EU exports have increased by £18.3 million (0.1 per cent) compared to September 2011, to £13.7 billion. Compared to October 2010, exports have increased by £0.9 billion (6.9 per cent).
- UK's EU imports have decreased by £1.4 billion (7.4 per cent) compared to September 2011, to £17.1 billion. Compared to October 2010 imports have increased by £0.7 billion (4.4 per cent).
- The UK remains a net importer (imports are greater than exports), though the size of difference between imports and exports has decreased compared to September 2011 by 28.8 per cent and has decreased from October 2010 by 4.6 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.

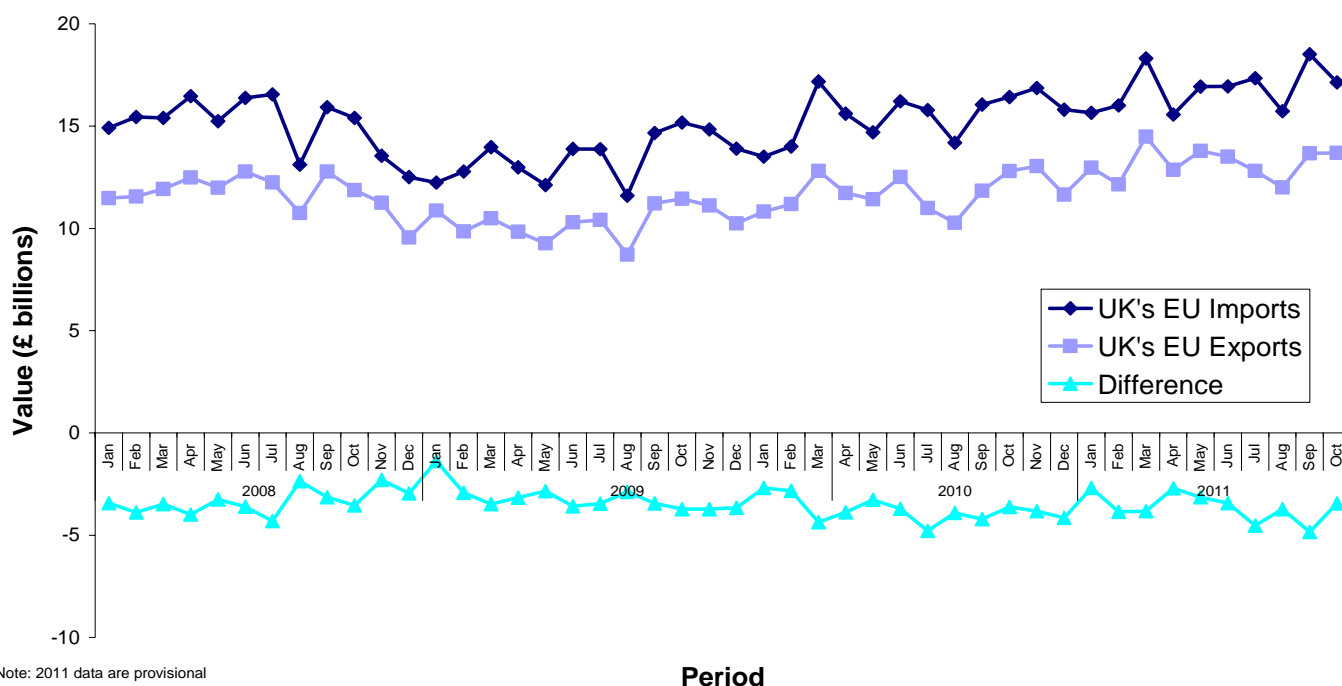
You can find details of how users interested in import and export markets for specific goods make use of the detailed OTS data in '[The Customer Story](#)'. You can also access the detailed data in our interactive database [here](#).

Key Points

For the month of October 2011:

After the relatively large increase in the value of both imports and exports seen in September there has been very little change in the value of exports and a decrease in the value of imports. Consequently there has been a decrease in the difference between imports and exports compared with the high in September reported in last month's release.

Fig. 1: Total Monthly UK Trade with EU Member States



Exports

- The value of the UK's EU exports of £13.7 billion was virtually unchanged compared to September 2011 having increased by only £18.3 million (0.1 per

cent). Compared to October 2010, exports have increased by £0.9 billion (6.9 per cent).

- The top five commodities remain the same as the previous month. The largest contributing commodity group is HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes). It contributed £2.7 billion, 19.5 per cent of the total value of UK's EU export trade.
- The largest value increase from the previous month, of £219.1 million, was in HS2 85 (Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts and accessories of such articles) to £1.2 billion. This is a 22.5 per cent increase compared to September 2011. This is one of the top five commodity types exported from the UK to EU Member States.
- The largest value decrease from the previous month, of £111.0 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 £241.4 million. This is a 31.5 per cent increase compared to September 2011.
- The top five EU Member States to which the UK exports remain similar to the previous month. Germany remains the EU Member State to which the UK exports most, accounting for 22.9 per cent of the total value of UK's EU export trade value. The largest change compared to September 2011 was an increase in exports to France which rose by £264.0 million, 14.8 per cent. This makes them our second largest EU partner for exports in October 2011, with the Netherlands now third. France accounted for 15.0 per cent of the UK's total EU export trade in October.
- The total 2011 year to date value of UK's trade-in-goods exported to EU Member States excluding October 2011 was £118.3 billion, which has been upwardly revised by £56.6 million. This is an increase of less than 0.1 per cent.

Imports

- The value of the UK's EU imports has decreased by £1.4 billion (7.4 per cent) compared to September 2011, to £17.1 billion. Compared to October 2010 imports have increased by £0.7 billion (4.4 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 £2.7 billion, 15.6 per cent, of the total value of UK's EU import trade.
- The largest value decrease from the previous month was in HS2 87, above, with a £443.0 million reduction, (14.2 per cent) which followed an increase of £526.3 million in the previous month.
- The largest increase at HS2 level from the previous month was in HS2 22 (Beverages, spirits and vinegar) with an increase of £57.4 million to £375.0 million.
- The top five 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 24.2 per cent of the total value of UK's EU import trade value, despite imports from there falling by 10.1 per cent. This decrease was the largest change in imports from an individual Member State compared to September 2011.

- The total 2011 year to date value of UK's trade-in-goods imported from EU Member States excluding October 2011 was £151.1 billion, which has been upwardly revised by £193.0 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 in the EU for October 2010, September 2011 and October 2011.

HS 2	Description	October 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2011	% Change from October 2010	% of Total October 2011 Trade	Rank September 2011	Rank October 2010
-	Total Exports	13,694.1	0.1	6.9	100.0	n/a	n/a
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	2,670.7	6.9	12.9	19.5	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	1,454.0	-2.7	12.6	10.6	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	1,195.0	22.5	21.1	8.7	4	4
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	1,192.5	-6.9	2.0	8.7	3	3
30	Pharmaceutical products	846.9	5.1	1.2	6.2	5	5

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

The slight overall increase in total value of exports compared to September 2011 comprises decreases in about two thirds of the HS2 chapters, balanced by a smaller number of relatively larger increases in other HS2 chapters including two of the top five commodities by value in table 1. The five biggest increases for commodity types show a rise of £634.8 million, while the total for all chapters with decreasing export value was £696.1 million. In total the value of exports of the top five commodity types listed above increased by £303.9 million.

The largest increase compared to September 2011 in the top five commodities of £219.1 million was in HS2 85 (Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts and accessories of such articles). Exports to EU Member States in HS2 85 were £1.2 billion for October 2011. This is the highest monthly value for exports of goods in this chapter in recent years.

In addition to the increases in the top five commodity types mentioned above there were also large increases in HS 29 (Organic Chemicals), £173.8 million to £699.2 million in October 2011. This is the highest monthly value for exports of goods in this chapter in recent years. It is over £100 million more than the next largest monthly value.

The largest value decrease from the previous month, of £111.0 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 £241.4 million. This is the third monthly fall since the high of £487.6 million in July 2011. Because of the nature of the goods involved trade in this chapter can be very volatile

The largest value decrease in the top five commodity types in table 1 from the previous month, of £88.7 million, was in HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof) to £1.2billion.

The increase in total export trade value compared to October 2010, noted above was in part driven by the increase in export value of goods in chapters 27 (£305.7 million), 84 (£162.8 million) and 85 (£208.4 million) shown in table 1. However the largest increase, of £322.9 million, has been in chapter 29 (Organic Chemicals). As mentioned above the October 2011 figure is the highest monthly value for exports of goods in this chapter in recent years.

These increases have been offset by a decrease of £327.4 million in HS2 89 (Ships, Boats, and Floating Structures). The October 2010 figure of £355.8 million was the highest monthly value for exports of goods in this chapter in recent years. It was over twice the size of the next largest monthly value in June 2010.

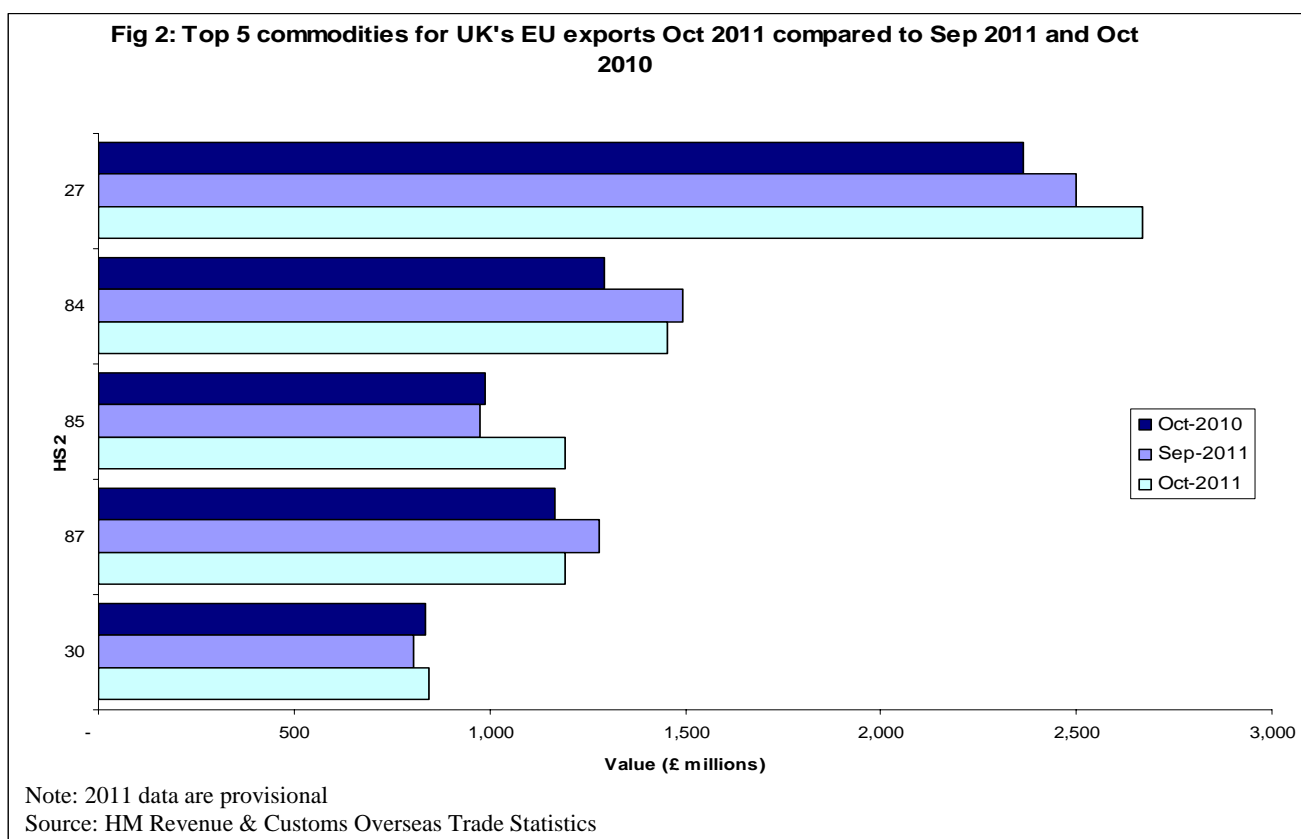


Figure 2 shows the top five commodities for UK's EU exports in October 2011, compared to September 2011 and October 2010. All of the top five commodity codes showed an increase over the October 2010 figure.

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	October 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2011	% Change from October 2010	% of total EU trade
Total Exports	13,694.1	0.1	6.9	100.0
Germany	3,133.8	2.3	19.3	22.9
France	2,050.2	14.8	12.6	15.0
Netherlands	1,918.8	-1.8	11.3	14.0
Irish Republic	1,475.4	-4.6	1.8	10.8
Belgium	1,241.8	-5.7	-4.0	9.1

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 value of exports.

France accounted for 15.0 per cent of the UK's total EU export trade in October.

The total increase in export value of £264.0 million for France and £69.0 million for Germany balances the decreases in the value of exports to other EU Member States. The largest decreases were £75.2 million to Belgium and £71.0 million to Irish Republic.

The value of total export trade has increased with 9 of the other 26 Member States in the EU compared with September 2011

The increase in total export trade value compared to October 2010, noted above was in part driven by the increase in export value of goods to Germany (£506.1 million), France (£228.5 million) and the Netherlands (£194.4 million) shown in table 2. These increases have been offset by a decrease of £126.4 million in exports to Poland

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

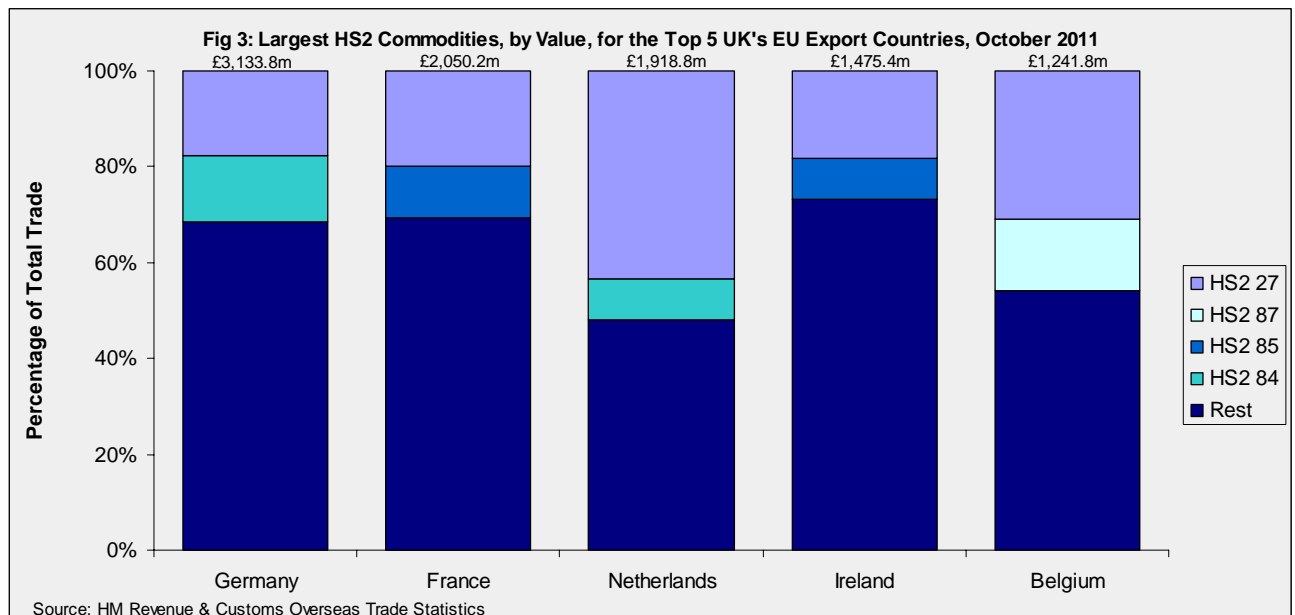
Table 3 shows the top five EU Member States by value of exports from the UK in October 2010, September 2011 and October 2011.

Rank	Oct 2011	Sep 2011	Oct 2010
1	Germany	Germany	Germany
2	France	Netherlands	France
3	Netherlands	France	Netherlands
4	Irish Republic	Irish Republic	Irish Republic
5	Belgium	Belgium	Belgium

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

For all three periods, Germany was the UK's largest EU export partner country. In October 2011, France became the UK's second largest exporting country having previously been in third position in September 2011 as described above.

Figure 3 below shows the largest commodities for the top five EU Member States that the UK exports to. All of the top five Member States have HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) as the largest commodity by value exported to them from the UK. The trade with these five Member States accounts for 91.6 per cent of the total value of UK EU export trade under this heading. The graph also shows that of the UK's exports to The Netherlands, 43.5 per cent was under chapter 27.



Further Analysis: Imports

Table 4 shows a comparison of the top five commodities imported to Member States in the EU for October 2010, September 2011 and October 2011.

HS 2	Description	October 2011 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2011	% Change from October 2010	% of Total October 2011 Trade	Rank September 2011	Rank October 2010
-	Total Imports	17,140.3	-7.4	4.4	100.0	n/a	n/a
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	2,670.6	-14.2	12.0	15.6	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	2,040.3	-6.3	4.0	11.9	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	1,538.2	-4.6	-6.8	9.0	3	3
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	1,105.5	2.4	73.7	6.4	4	6
30	Pharmaceutical products	822.2	-4.9	6.3	4.8	5	4

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

The overall decrease in total value of imports compared to September 2011 reflects decreases in about two thirds of the HS2 chapters. Table 4 shows decreases in the top 3 commodity types by value which account for a decrease of £653.3 million compared to the overall net decrease of £1.4 billion. There were also large decreases in HS2 29 (Organic Chemicals) and HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin) of £257.4 million and £179.7 million respectively.

The largest value decrease from the previous month was in HS2 87, above with a £443.0 million reduction, (14.2 per cent), to £2.7 billion. This followed an increase of

£526.3 million in the previous month. The September 2011 figure of £3.1 billion was the highest monthly value for imports of goods in this chapter in recent years.

The largest value increase for all HS2 commodities from the previous month of £57.4 million was in HS2 22 (Beverages, spirits and vinegar) to £375.0 million. This accounts for around a fifth of the £264.9 million increase for those HS2 chapters where there was a rise in the value of imports compared with last month. The value of imports in this chapter for October 2011 is the highest this year.

The only increase in the top five commodity types in table 4 from the previous month, of £25.9 million, was in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) to £1.1 billion.

The increase in total import trade value compared to October 2010, noted above, reflects increases in about two thirds of the HS2 chapters. Forty-seven per cent of the increase in these chapters was accounted for by the large rises in HS2 27 (£469.0 million) and HS2 87 (286.9 million) that can be seen in table 4.

These increases have been offset by a decrease of £392.7 million in HS2 89 (Ships, Boats and floating structures). The value of imports for October 2010 in this commodity group was one of the highest monthly totals in recent years and over a hundred times the value for October 2011. Because of the nature of the goods involved trade in this chapter is very volatile and just a few items of trade can have a major impact on the statistics.

There has also been a relatively large decrease since last October in the value of imports for HS2 29 (Organic Chemicals) which decreased by £189.7 million.

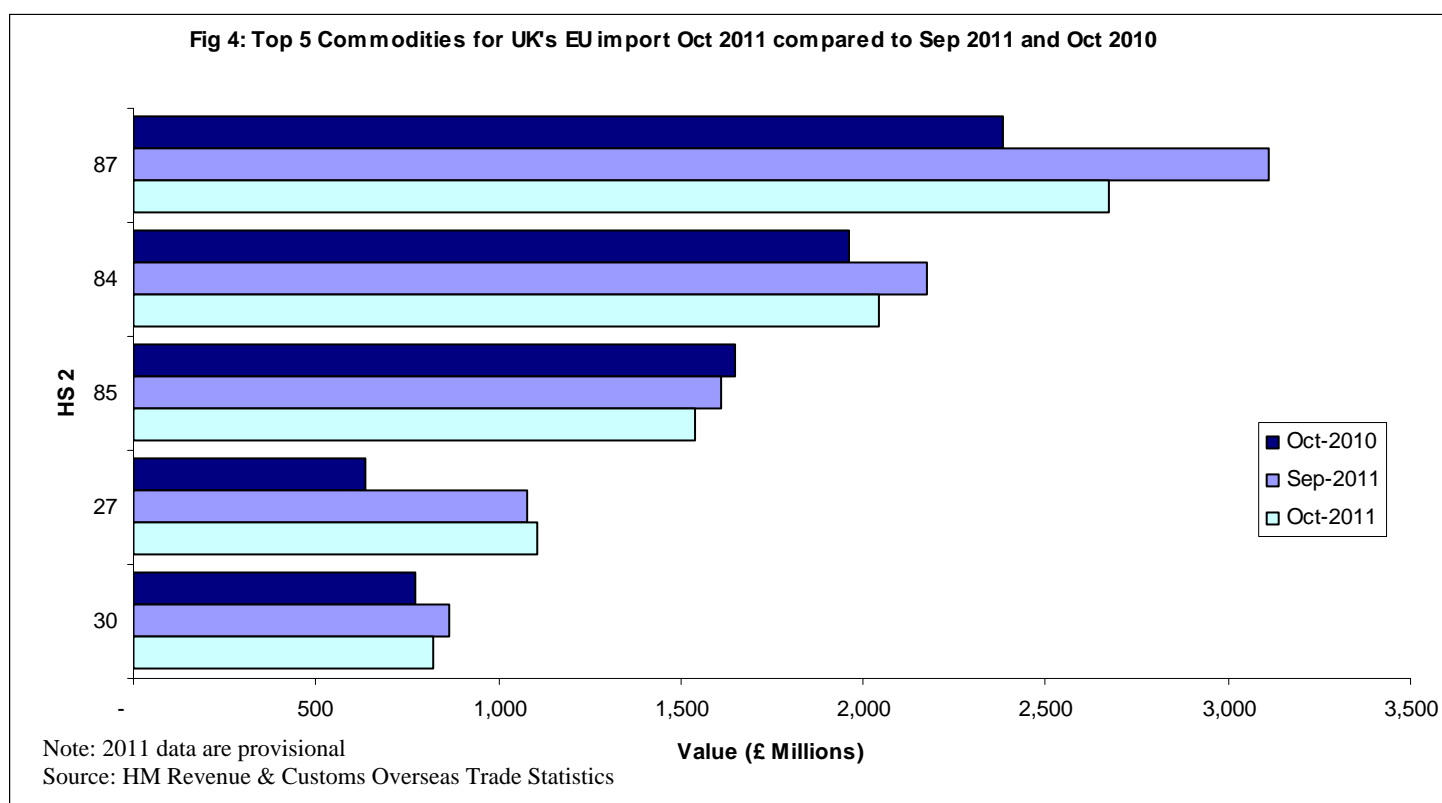


Figure 4 shows the top 5 HS2 commodity groups for UK's EU imports in October 2011, compared to September 2011 and October 2010. In comparison with September 2011, there was a slight increase in import trade for HS2 27, but the other 4 of these top 5 commodities groups all showed decreases. However, in comparison to October 2010, only HS2 85 showed a decrease, the other 4 all increased.

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

Germany and The Netherlands have been the largest EU import partners for the UK for a number of years accounting for between 30 and 40 per cent of the total imports from the EU.

The largest decrease in value of imports is £467.1 million from Germany have reduced by 10.1 per cent since September 2011. There was also a relatively large decrease in the value of imports from Irish Republic of £297.2 million.

The largest increase in imports compared to September 2011 was from the Netherlands of £63.1 million, as shown in table 5 an increase of 2.6 per cent. This was the only increase for our top five import partners.

The value of total import trade has increased with 6 of the other 26 Member States in the EU compared with September 2011

Compared to October 2010 there is an increase of £719.7 million (4.4 per cent). Imports from Germany have increased by £253.7 million, and imports from the Netherlands have increased by £337.5 million. These have been offset by decreases in the value of imports from Italy and Irish Republic, £392.9 million and £204.2 million respectively.

The value of total import trade has increased with 15 of the other 26 Member States in the EU compared with October 2010

Country	Total £ millions	% change from September 2011	% Change from October 2010	% of total EU trade
Total Imports	17,140.3	-7.4	4.4	100.0
Germany	4,156.2	-10.1	6.5	24.2
Netherlands	2,464.9	2.6	15.9	14.4
France	2,041.3	-3.3	1.6	11.9
Belgium	1,604.1	-4.8	12.6	9.4
Italy	1,210.2	-4.1	-24.5	7.1

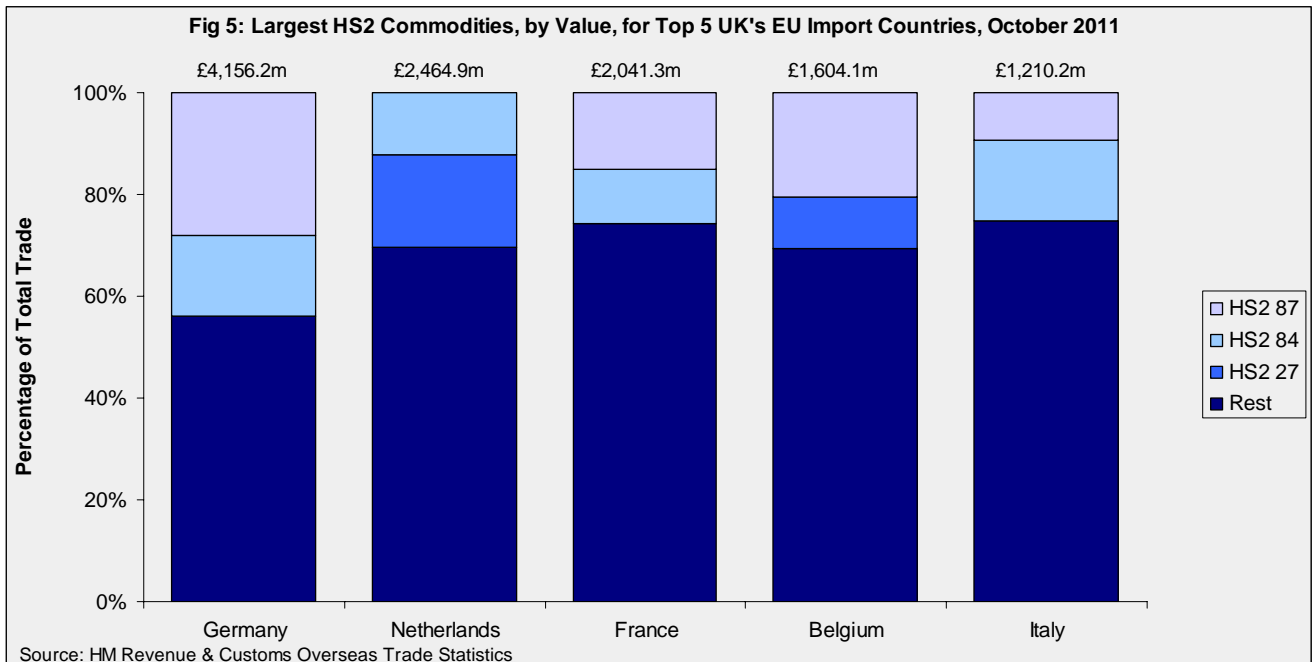
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Rank	Oct 2011	Sep 2011	Oct 2010
1	Germany	Germany	Germany
2	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands
3	France	France	France
4	Belgium	Belgium	Italy
5	Italy	Irish Republic	Belgium

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

For all three periods, Germany was the UK's largest EU import partner country. Indeed the top 3 import partner Member States have been the same.

Figure 5 shows the largest import commodities for the top five EU Member States from whom the UK imports. Four of the top five Member States have HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) in their top two largest commodities exported to the UK and four have HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof). The trade in HS2 87 from these Member States accounts for 71.6 per cent of the total EU import trade under this heading, and the trade in HS2 84 accounts for 67.1 per cent of the EU total in these commodities.



Notes:

1. HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with Member States of the European Union (EU) on 13 December 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 October 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 October 2011 EU Overseas 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 October.
 - 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.

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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 this release 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 Non EU equivalent, to allow for additional processing of the Intrastat survey.

Next release: 17 January 2012 9:30am

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