



HM Revenue  
& Customs

Coverage:  
United Kingdom

Theme:  
Business and Energy

Released:  
8 January 2016

Next Release:  
9 February 2016

Frequency of release:  
Monthly

Media contact:  
HMRC Press Office  
020 7147 2318

Statistical contacts:

Nicola Jobson  
Tel: 03000 593294  
[uktradeinfo@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:uktradeinfo@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk)

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

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

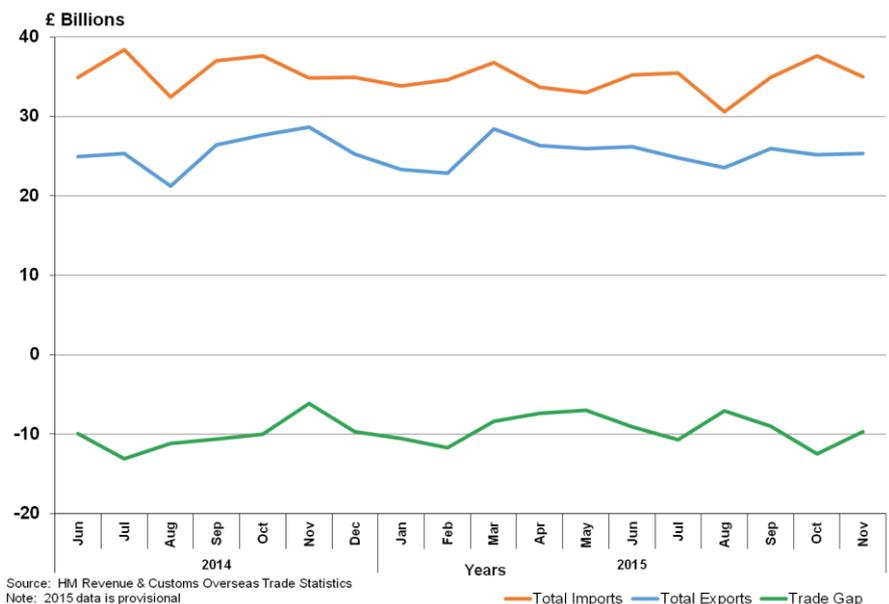


# UK Overseas Trade Statistics November 2015

## Summary

- Total trade exports for November 2015 are £25.3 billion. This is an increase of £0.2 billion (0.8 per cent) compared with last month and a decrease of £3.3 billion (11.5 per cent) compared with November 2014.
- Total trade imports for November 2015 are £35.0 billion. This is a decrease of £2.6 billion (6.9 per cent) compared with last month and a decrease of £0.1 billion (0.3 per cent) compared with November 2014.
- The UK is a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £9.7 billion.

Figure 1: Total UK monthly trade



## Trade Trends

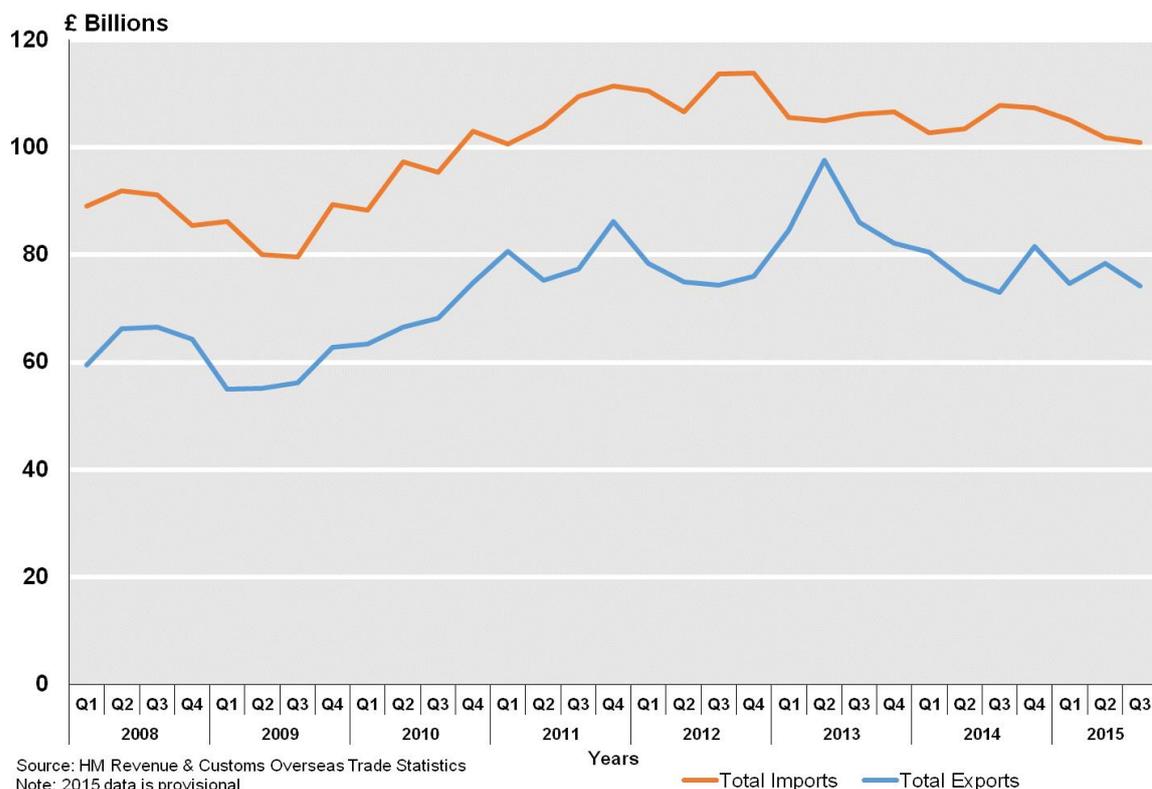
- Following the global economic crisis, UK trade dropped in 2009. Both imports and exports then steadily increased until 2012. From the start of 2013, imports have remained relatively flat, while exports peaked in Q2 of 2013.
- The total **export** trade for Q3 of 2015 is £74.2 billion, which is 1.6 per cent higher than the £73.0 billion for Q3 of 2014.
- The total **import** trade for Q3 of 2015 is £101 billion, which is a decrease of 6.4 per cent compared with £108 billion for Q3 of 2014.
- There was a trade deficit of £26.8 billion for Q3 of 2015, which is a decrease of 23 per cent on the £34.9 billion deficit for Q3 of 2014. However, this has been strongly influenced by trade in non-monetary gold.
- For many years Germany has been our largest trading **import** partner by value. The USA has been the dominant trading partner for **exports** for many years.
- Mechanical appliances and Motor vehicles have generally been the largest **import** commodities by value. For **exports**, Mechanical appliances has also predominantly been the largest valued commodity, but has been surpassed by Precious metals in recent months.

Exports up 1.6%  
for Q3 2015 on  
Q3 2014

Imports down  
6.4% for Q3 2015  
on Q3 2014

Trade deficit  
decreased by 23%  
for Q3 2015 on Q3  
2014

Figure 2: Quarterly UK trade, 2008 – 2015



## Non-EU & EU Trade

- **Non-EU Exports** for November 2015 are £13.9 billion. This is an increase of £0.6 billion (4.5 per cent) compared with last month and a decrease of £2.8 billion (17 per cent) compared with November 2014.
- **Non-EU Imports** for November 2015 are £15.7 billion. This is a decrease of £2.4 billion (13 per cent) compared with last month, and a decrease of £0.3 billion (2.0 per cent) compared with November 2014.
- In **Non-EU trade** the UK is a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £1.8 billion.
- **EU Exports** for November 2015 are £11.4 billion. This is a decrease of £0.4 billion (3.7 per cent) compared with last month, and a fall of £0.6 billion (4.7 per cent) compared with November 2014.
- **EU Imports** for November 2015 are £19.2 billion. This is a decrease of £0.3 billion (1.4 per cent) compared with last month, and a rise of £0.5 billion (2.5 per cent) compared with November 2014.
- In **EU trade** the UK is a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £7.9 billion.
- The proportion of total exports to the EU is 45 per cent in November 2015. Over the past 18 months, this has ranged from 41 per cent to 49 per cent. The proportion of total imports from the EU is 55 per cent in November 2015. Over the same period, this has ranged between 49 per cent and 55 per cent.

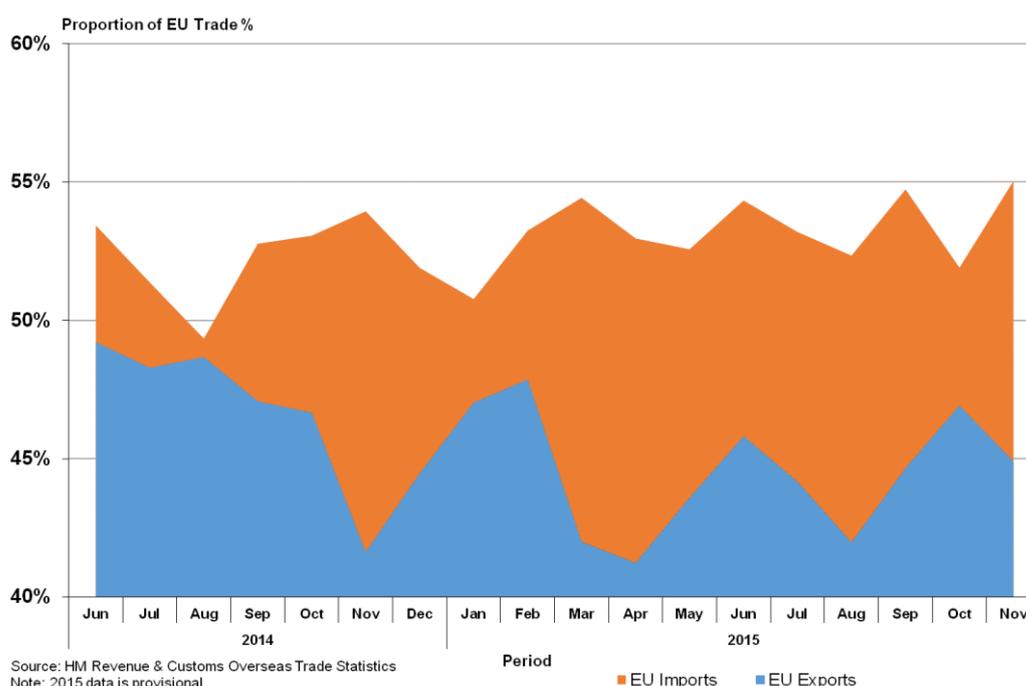
Non-EU exports decreased 17% on November 2014

Non-EU imports down 13% on last month

EU exports down 4.7% on November 2014

EU imports up 2.5% on November 2014

**Figure 3: Proportion of Total UK Trade with the EU, November 2015**



# Exports

## Country Analysis

**Table 1: UK exports to top 10 partner countries, November 2015**

Partner Country	November 2015 Total (£ millions)	Change from October 2015 (%)	Change from November 2014 (%)	Rank October 2015	Rank November 2014
USA	3,514	-14.5	4.4	1	1
Germany	2,739	10.5	7.4	2	3
Switzerland	2,027	288.2	-37.8	10	2
China	1,484	0.6	-20.3	6	4
Irish Republic	1,476	-2.5	-0.2	4	7
France	1,468	-15.1	-12.5	3	6
Netherlands	1,306	-12.4	-25.3	5	5
Belgium	938	-12.1	-0.8	7	8
Spain	755	-3.6	-2.0	8	10
Italy	751	1.4	3.2	9	11
Others	8,840	-4.2	-13.8	-	-
<b>Total Non-EU</b>	<b>13,937</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>-16.6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total EU</b>	<b>11,359</b>	<b>-3.7</b>	<b>-4.7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>25,296</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>-11.7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics  
Note: 2015 data is provisional

- The ordering of the top ten export partner countries (ranked by value) has changed compared with both last month and November 2014. Most notably, Switzerland has risen to third place.
- Six of the top ten countries have experienced decreases in value compared with last month, seven countries have shown a decrease compared with November 2014.
- The USA remains the largest export partner country, despite experiencing the largest value decrease compared with last month, falling by £595 million (14 per cent).
- Switzerland saw the largest value increase compared with last month, up by £1,505 million (a threefold increase). It also saw the largest decrease compared with November 2014, down by £1,232 million (38 per cent).

Top export country, USA, down 14% on last month

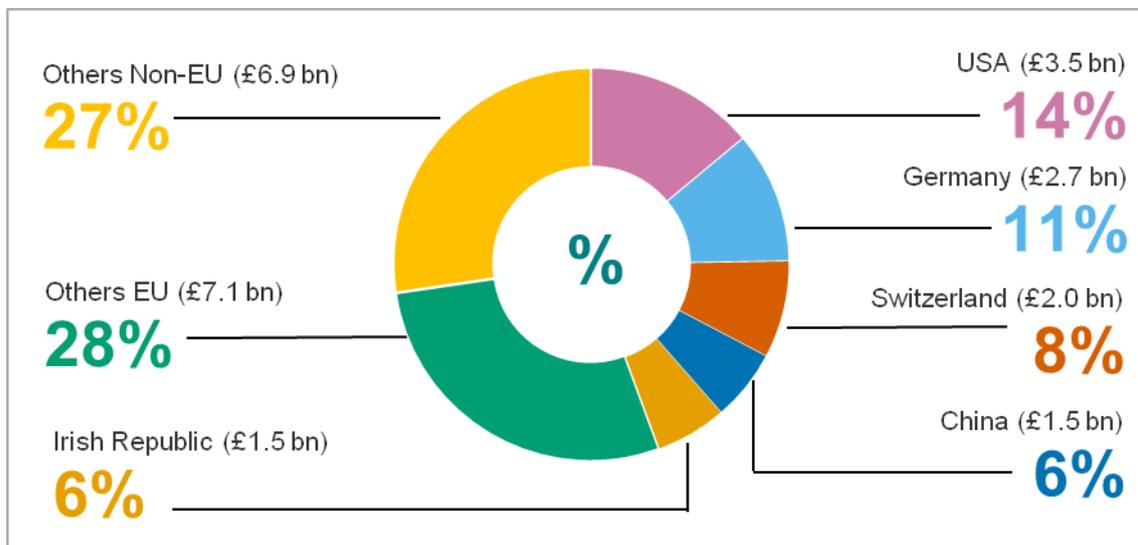
Switzerland exports up threefold on last month

- Germany experienced the second largest value increase compared with both last month and November 2015, rising by £260 million (11 per cent) and £188 million (7.4 per cent) respectively.
- Saudi Arabia experienced the largest increase compared with November 2014, up by £222 million (68 per cent).
- The Netherlands saw the second largest decrease compared with November 2014, down by £441 million (25 per cent).

Germany exports up 11% on last month

Netherlands exports down 25% on November 2014

Figure 4: UK exports to top 5 countries, November 2015



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade  
 Note: 2015 data is provisional

- The USA accounted for 14 per cent of the total value of exports from the UK compared with 12 per cent in November 2014.
- Germany has the second largest proportion of total exports, accounting for 11 per cent, which is consistent with previous months.
- The top five export partners account for 44 per cent of total exports this month compared with 45 per cent in November 2014.

USA accounts for 14% of total UK exports

## Commodity Analysis

**Table 2: UK exports by top 5 commodities, November 2015**

Commodity Description	November 2015 Total (£ millions)	Change from October 2015 (%)	Change from November 2014 (%)	Rank October 2015	Rank November 2014
Mechanical appliances	3,388	-5.1	-11.0	1	2
Motor vehicles	2,939	-4.2	-5.2	2	3
Precious metals	2,771	53.1	-49.4	4	1
Pharmaceutical products	1,938	0.4	17.6	3	6
Electronic equipment	1,633	-6.0	-6.9	5	5
Others	12,628	-3.0	-1.8	-	-
<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>25,296</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>-11.7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics  
Note: 2015 data is provisional

- The ordering of the top five export commodities (ranked by value) has changed slightly compared with both last month and November 2014.
- Mechanical appliances is the largest export commodity by value, accounting for 13 per cent of the total value of exports. The commodity experienced the largest value decrease, down by £181 million (5.1 per cent) compared with last month.
- Precious metals saw the largest value increase compared with last month, a rise of £961 million (53 per cent). It also saw the largest value decrease compared with November 2014, down £2,705 million (49 per cent).
- Aircraft experienced the largest increase compared with November 2014, rising by £416 million (46 per cent).
- Pharmaceutical products saw the second largest value increase compared with November 2014, up £291 million (18 per cent).
- Mineral fuels saw the second largest decrease compared with November 2014, falling by £612 million (28 per cent).
- The top five export commodities account for 50 per cent of total UK trade exports compared with 55 per cent in November 2014.

Mechanical appliances exports down 5.1% on last month

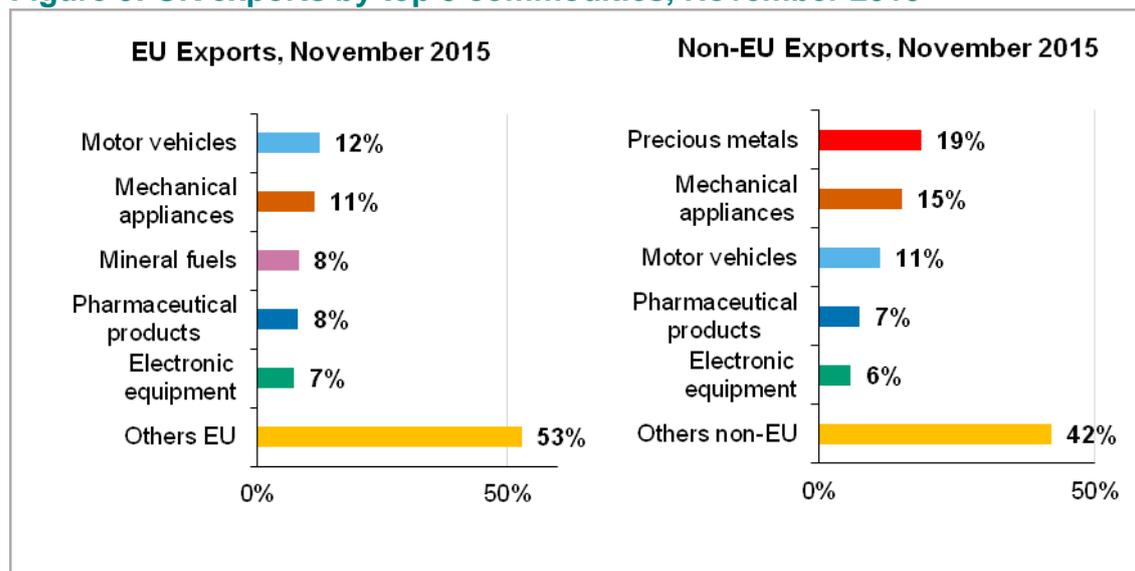
Precious metals exports up 53% on last month

Exports of Aircraft up 46% on November 2014

Mineral fuels exports down 28% on November 2014

## Combined Commodity and Country Analysis

Figure 5: UK exports by top 5 commodities, November 2015



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics  
 Note: 2015 data is provisional

- Mechanical appliances, Motor vehicles, Electronic equipment and Pharmaceutical products are in the top five commodities for both EU and non-EU countries.
- The fall in exports of Mechanical appliances compared with both last month and November 2014 was led by decreases in trade to the USA of £84 million (14 per cent) and £109 million (17 per cent) respectively.
- The increase in exports of Precious metals compared with last month was led by an increase in exports to Switzerland, up £1,327 million (a sevenfold increase). In contrast, the large decrease in the commodity compared to November 2014 can be attributed to Switzerland, down £1,362 million (47 per cent).
- The rise in exports to Germany compared with last month was led by increases of Pharmaceutical products, up by £110 million (57 per cent). Germany also experienced increases in exports of Aircraft compared with November 2014, up £202 million (a twofold increase).
- The decrease in exports to the USA compared with last month was led by falls in Art & antiques and Motor vehicles, down £209 million (40 per cent) and £137 million (23 per cent) respectively.
- Mineral fuels experienced decreases compared with both last month and November 2014. This was led by a drop in exports to the Netherlands down £164 million (35 per cent) and £403 million (57 per cent) respectively.

Exports of Precious metals to Switzerland up sevenfold on last month

Germany exports of Pharmaceutical products up 57% on last month

Exports of Motor vehicles to the USA down 23% on last month

# Imports

## Country Analysis

**Table 3: UK imports from top 10 countries, November 2015**

Partner Country	November 2015 Total (£ millions)	Change from October 2015 (%)	Change from November 2014 (%)	Rank October 2015	Rank November 2014
Germany	5,179	-4.0	1.9	1	1
China	3,122	-19.8	-1.3	2	2
USA	3,002	-7.6	16.5	3	4
Netherlands	2,482	-8.6	-4.0	4	3
France	2,340	12.1	13.7	5	5
Belgium	1,845	3.8	1.1	6	6
Italy	1,361	-0.4	-5.2	7	7
Spain	1,245	-0.4	7.8	8	9
Irish Republic	1,144	0.3	14.0	10	10
Norway	1,047	-14.3	-23.2	9	8
Others	12,200	-9.7	-3.0	-	-
<b>Total Non-EU</b>	<b>15,720</b>	<b>-13.1</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total EU</b>	<b>19,246</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Imports</b>	<b>34,966</b>	<b>-7.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics  
Note: 2015 data is provisional

- The ordering of the top ten import partners (ranked by value) has remained relatively stable compared with both last month and November 2014.
- Seven of the top ten import partners decreased in value compared with last month. Six of the top ten increased in value compared with November 2014.
- France experienced the largest value increase compared with last month, rising by £253 million (12 per cent). It also saw the second largest increase compared with November 2014, up £282 million (14 per cent).

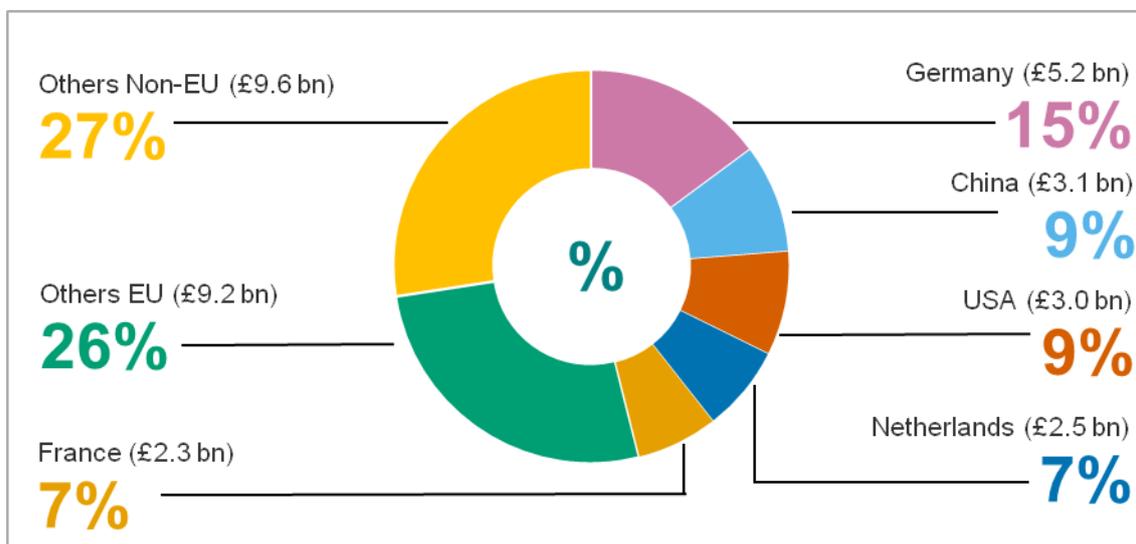
Imports from France up 12% on last month

- Imports from the USA experienced the largest value increase compared with November 2014, rising by £425 million (16 per cent).
- China experienced the largest value decrease compared with last month, down £771 million (20 per cent).
- Norway saw the largest value decrease compared with November 2014, falling by £315 million (23 per cent).

Imports from the USA up 16% on November 2014

Imports from China down 20% on last month

**Figure 6: UK imports from top 5 countries, November 2015**



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade  
 Note: 2015 data is provisional

- Germany accounts for 15 per cent of the total value of imports to the UK. This share of the market was the same for last month.
- China accounts for 8.9 per cent, a small decrease in market share compared with November 2014.
- The top five partner countries account for 46 per cent of total UK import value this month, compared with 44 per cent for November 2014.

China accounts for 8.9% of total UK imports for this month

## Commodity Analysis

**Table 4: UK imports by top 5 commodities, November 2015**

Commodity Description	November 2015 Total (£ millions)	Change from October 2015 (%)	Change from November 2014 (%)	Rank October 2015	Rank November 2014
Motor vehicles	4,414	-4.1	19.7	1	2
Mechanical appliances	4,313	-6.1	-4.8	2	1
Electronic equipment	3,649	-6.0	2.1	3	3
Mineral fuels	2,333	-23.9	-31.7	4	4
Pharmaceutical products	1,975	-3.0	6.4	5	5
Others	18,282	-5.9	2.9	-	-
<b>Total Imports</b>	<b>34,966</b>	<b>-7.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics  
Note: 2015 data is provisional

- All of the top five commodity groups decreased in import value compared with last month. The top five import commodities (ranked by value) remain unchanged compared with last month.
- Motor vehicles is the top import commodity by value, accounting for a 13 per cent share of the total. The commodity experienced the largest increase compared with November 2014, up by £728 million (20 per cent).
- Aircraft saw the largest increase compared with last month, a rise of £46 million (4.2 per cent). The commodity saw the second largest value increase compared with November 2014, up by £426 million (59 per cent).
- Mineral fuels experienced the largest decrease by value compared with both last month and November 2014, down by £731 million (24 per cent) and £1,082 million (32 per cent) respectively.
- Mechanical appliances saw the second largest decreases compared with both last month and November 2014, down by £281 million (6.1 per cent) and £218 million (4.8 per cent) respectively.
- The top five import commodities account for 48 per cent of total UK trade imports for this month, compared with 49 per cent for November 2014.

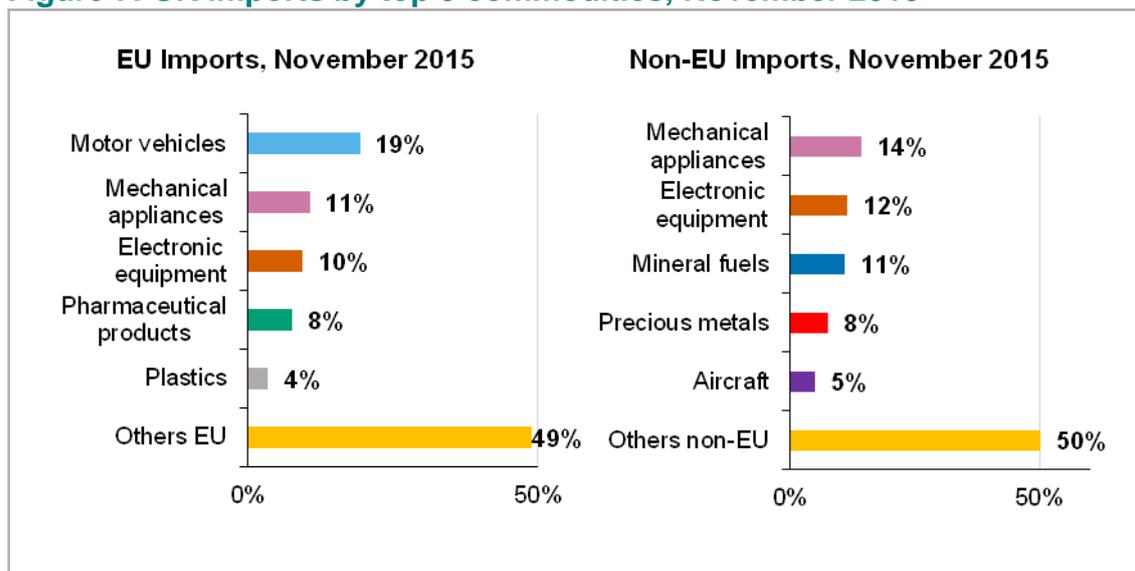
Top  
import commodity  
Motor vehicles  
up 20% on  
November 2014

Mineral fuels  
imports down 24%  
on last month

Mechanical  
appliances imports  
down 6.1% on last  
month

## Combined Commodity and Country Analysis

Figure 7: UK imports by top 5 commodities, November 2015



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade  
 Statistics Note: 2015 data is provisional

- Mechanical appliances and Electronic equipment are in the top five commodities for both EU and non-EU countries.
- Norway experienced the largest decrease in imports of Mineral fuels compared with both last month and November 2014, down by £218 million (21 per cent) and £334 million (29 per cent) respectively.
- The decrease in imports from China compared with last month was led by falls in Electronic equipment and Knitwear, falls of £188 million (22 per cent) and £101 million (35 per cent) respectively.
- The increase in imports from France compared with last month, was led by Aircraft and Arts & antiques, rises of £130 million (a threefold increase) and £125 million (a tenfold increase) respectively.
- The increase in imports of Aircraft compared with November 2014 was led by rises from the USA, up £346 million (a twofold increase) and France up £164 million (a sixfold increase).
- The decrease in imports of Mechanical appliances compared with both last month and November 2014, was led by falls from Germany, down £93 million (12 per cent) and £68 million (9.1 per cent) respectively.
- The increase in imports of Motor vehicles compared with November 2014 was led by a rise from Germany, up £191 million (13 per cent).
- The decrease in imports of Precious metals compared with last month was led by a fall from the USA, dropping by £114 million (37 per cent).

Mineral fuels imports from Norway down 21% on last month

Electronic equipment imports from China down 22% on last month

Imports of Aircraft from France up sixfold on November 2014

Imports of Precious metals from the USA down 37% on last month

## Annex I – Metadata

You can access the data behind this bulletin through our [uktradeinfo web site](#).

- Detailed Trade Statistics data at 8-digit commodity code level is available in our [interactive database](#).
- Aggregate OTS data is available in [pre-prepared Excel tables](#).
- Non-Monetary Gold (NMG) can form a substantial part of the non-EU Overseas Trade Statistics (OTS). For further information, see [Inclusion of Non-Monetary Gold in OTS](#). Data relating to monthly non-EU and EU import and export totals for January 2008 onwards with a breakdown of non-monetary gold and other trade is available in an [OTS time series spreadsheet](#).
- 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 User Story](#)'.

## Annex II – Methodological Notes

1. HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with countries on 8 January 2016 under arrangements set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#). The first release is published on HMRC's trade data website [www.uktradeinfo.com](#).
2. This release includes the first provisional estimates of trade-in-goods between the UK and both countries of the EU and those outside the EU for November 2015. At the same time revisions for all previously published non-EU and EU data for 2015 are also being released in line with the [HM Revenue & Customs Policy on Revisions](#).
3. The **EU figures** provided in this publication of the November 2015 Overseas Trade Statistics are collected from the Intrastat survey. They will include:
  - a. Estimates for businesses who have yet to submit detailed data on the trade they had with other EU Member States this month.
  - b. Estimates for businesses who do not have to submit detailed data on the trade they have with other EU Member States
  - c. An adjustment for trade associated with Missing Trader Intra Community fraud. More details of this can be found [here](#).

Estimates are included in all high level totals including HS2 and country totals.

4. The **Non-EU figures** provided in this publication of the November 2015 Overseas Trade Statistics are presented by customs declarations and collected by the CHIEF (Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight) system.
5. Detailed trade information is presented according to the [Harmonised System \(HS\)](#) nomenclature.
6. 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. Uktradeinfo.com provides more detail about the [differences between BoP and OTS publications](#).

7. 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'.
8. HMRC publishes [additional information](#) to help support users of non-EU data. 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 OTS and information on the quality of the data published.
9. 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>.
10. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:
  - meet identified user needs;
  - are well explained and readily accessible;
  - are produced according to sound methods; and
  - are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

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

Statistical contact:

Nicola Jobson 03000 593294

E-mail [uktradeinfo@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:uktradeinfo@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk)

Next release: 9 February 2016 9:30am

© **Crown copyright 2016.**

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