

Non-EU Overseas Trade Statistics - August 2012

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Summary

- UK's non-EU exports have decreased by £1.5 billion (11.5 per cent) compared to July 2012, to £11.9 billion. Compared to August 2011, exports have increased by £0.9 billion (8.2 per cent).
- UK's non-EU imports have increased by £1.1 billion (6.6 per cent) compared to July 2012, to £17.0 billion. Compared to August 2011, imports have increased by £1.1 billion (6.7 per cent).
- The monthly import figure is only £48.6 million below the highest level of the year seen in March of this year.
- The UK remains a net importer (imports are greater than exports). The size of the difference between imports and exports has more than doubled compared to July 2012, and has increased from August 2011 by 3.4 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.

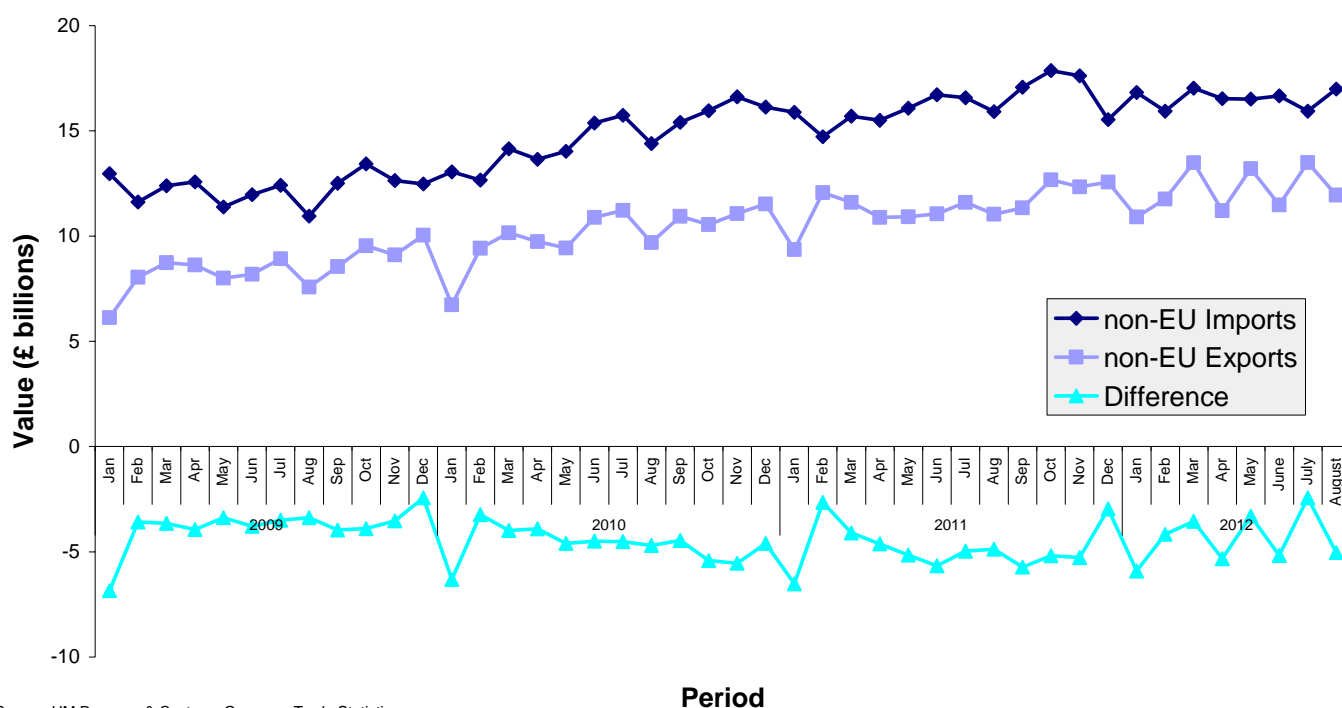
You can find details of how users interested in import and export markets for specific goods make use of the detailed OTS data in '[The Customer Story](#)'. You can also access the detailed data in our interactive database [here](#).

Key Points

For the month of August 2012:

The value of exports decreased in August 2012 compared with the previous month while the value of imports increased. Consequently the difference between non-EU imports and exports has increased. This increase in the trade gap is the largest monthly increase this year. The value of exports has continued the erratic behaviour seen since February.

Fig. 1: Total Monthly UK Trade with non-EU Countries



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

Exports

- UK's non-EU exports have decreased by £1.5 billion (11.5 per cent) compared to July 2012, to £11.9 billion. Compared to August 2011, exports have increased by £0.9 billion (8.2 per cent). This continues the erratic behaviour of exports seen since February. There does not appear to be any consistent driver behind this pattern.
- Within the top five commodities, HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products) has risen to third from fifth place last month, while HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals) has returned to sixth from fourth place. HS2 85 (Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers) has returned to the top five commodities from sixth place.
- The largest contributing commodity group remains HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) although the export value dropped by 2.0 per cent since July. In August it contributed £2.3 billion, 19.0 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU export trade. The largest contribution to this chapter was £0.9 billion from HS4 8411 (Turbo-jets, Turbo-propellers and other gas turbines).
- There has been a decrease in export value in nearly 70 per cent of commodity chapters since last month. The largest value decrease from the previous month was £428.2 million in HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof), a decrease of 25.4 per cent.
- The largest increase from the previous month was £61.6 million in HS2 29 (Organic chemicals), an increase of 15.0 per cent.
- The USA remains the UK's largest non-EU export partner country, accounting for 27.4 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU export trade. Exports from the UK to Azerbaijan had the largest increase in value, compared to July 2012, up by £136.1 million, from £18.0 million to £154.1 million. The largest decrease in exports compared to July 2012 was to Switzerland which decreased by £288.5 million, 40.0 per cent.
- The total 2012 year to date value of UK's goods exported to non-EU countries excluding August 2012 is £85.5 billion which has been downwardly revised by £32.2 million. This is a decrease of less than 0.1 per cent.

Imports

- The value of the UK's non-EU imports increased by £1.1 billion (6.6 per cent) compared to July 2012, to £17.0 billion. Similarly, compared to August 2011 imports have increased by £1.1 billion (6.7 per cent).
- The top five commodities are unchanged from the previous month. The largest contributing commodity group remains HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes), contributing £4.3 billion in August 2012, 25.5 per cent of the total value of non-EU imports to the UK. The largest contribution to this chapter was £2.8 billion from HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude). This chapter also had the largest value increase from the previous month, of £1.1 billion, 35.0 per cent.
- The largest value decrease from the previous month was £261.9 million in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products), a decrease of 49.3 per cent.
- China has overtaken the USA to become the UK's largest non-EU import partner country, accounting for 16.0 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU import trade. The largest increase in value of imports to the UK compared to July 2012

was from Norway, a rise of £297.5 million, 21.9 per cent. The largest decrease in imports compared to July 2012 was from the USA which decreased by £279.1 million, 10.6 per cent.

- The total 2012 year to date value of UK's trade-in-goods imported from non-EU countries excluding August 2012 is £115.4 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 August 2011, July 2012 and August 2012.

HS 2	Description	August 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from July 2012	% Change from August 2011	% of Total August 2012 Exports	Rank July 2012	Rank August 2011
-	Total Exports	11,947.1	-11.5	8.2	100.0	n/a	n/a
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	2,275.0	-2.0	9.2	19.0	1	1
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	1,257.2	-25.4	43.4	10.5	2	3
30	Pharmaceutical products	960.3	3.9	-0.1	8.0	5	2
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	836.8	-21.4	12.0	7.0	3	6
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	796.1	-6.4	1.0	6.7	6	5

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

The overall decrease in exports **compared to July 2012** reflects decreases in nearly 70 per cent of HS2 chapters. The total export trade value has decreased by £1.5 billion (11.5 per cent). Four of the top five commodity types decreased in export value, which accounted for 48.9 per cent of the total net decrease in export trade.

The largest value decrease from the previous month, of £428.2 million, was in HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof). This is a 25.4 per cent decrease compared to July 2012. Within HS87 it was HS4 8703 (Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons, incl. station wagons and racing cars) which saw the largest decrease compared with July 2012 of £371.2 million, 29.3 per cent. There is usually a drop in car exports during August, due to plant shut downs.

The second largest decrease was in HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin), down by £383.7 million, a decrease of 36.5 per cent, after last month's increase of £417.8 million. This has also resulted in HS2 71 dropping

out of the top five, from the fourth biggest export by value last month, to sixth this month. Within HS71 it was HS4 7102 (Diamonds, whether or not worked, but not mounted or set) which saw the largest decrease compared with July 2012 of £312.2 million, 60.7 per cent.

There were also large decreases in HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques), down by £234.8 million (38.2 per cent) to £379.7 million; and HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) down by £227.6 million (21.4 per cent).

In comparison the largest increases since last month were £61.6 million in HS2 29 (Organic chemicals), an increase of 15.0 per cent; and £50.5 million (44.2 per cent) for HS2 28 (Inorganic chemicals). There was no other chapter for which the value of exports increased by more than £40 million.

The total export trade value has increased by £0.9 billion (8.2 per cent) **compared to August 2011**. Less than half of HS2 chapters increased, though the size of the increases was generally bigger than the decreases. There were three chapters with increases of over £100 million, and only one decrease of this magnitude. Two of the largest increases were from the top five commodities exported by value: up £380.3 million in HS2 87, up £191.2 million in HS2 84, and outside the top five, HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques) was up £118.5 million. The largest decrease of £207.2 million was in HS2 71, with no other chapter for which the value of exports decreased by more than £40 million.

Fig 2: Top 5 commodities for UK's non-EU exports August 2012 compared to July 2012 and August 2011

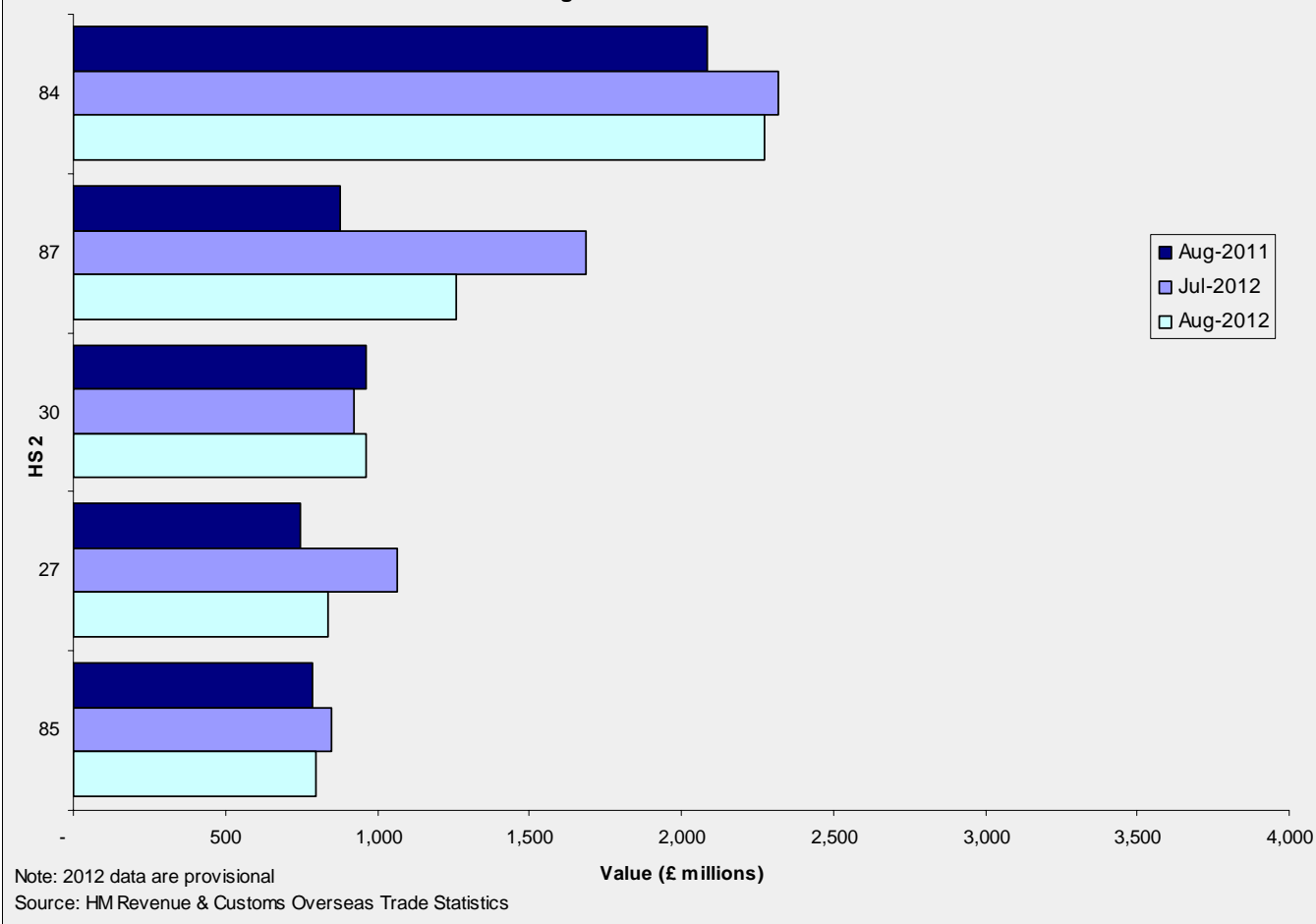


Figure 2 shows the top five commodities for UK's non-EU exports in August 2012, compared to July 2012 and August 2011. It shows that four of the top five commodity types had decreases when compared with July 2012, but three had large increases when compared with August 2011.

Table 2 shows a comparison of the value of UK non-EU export trade with our top five trading partners for August 2011, July 2012 and August 2012.

Country	August 2012 Total £ millions	% change from July 2012	% Change from August 2011	% of total August 2012 Exports	Rank July 2012	Rank August 2011
Total Exports	11,947.1	-11.5	8.2	100.0	n/a	n/a
USA	3,274.3	-6.6	4.7	27.4	1	1
China	797.5	-20.3	18.9	6.7	2	2
Russia	454.0	-11.0	20.1	3.8	5	6
Switzerland	432.5	-40.0	-11.3	3.6	3	3
Australia	416.4	7.7	49.9	3.5	12	13

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

For all three periods, the USA was the UK's largest non-EU export partner country, with China second.

Compared to July 2012, the overall decrease in exports reflects decreases in the value of exports to over 55 per cent of our export partners. In addition the decreases for countries were generally larger than the increases. There were six countries with decreases of £100 million or more, and just one with increases of this magnitude. The decreases for these six export partners accounted for 86 per cent of the total net decrease. Fourteen of the top fifteen export partner countries had a decrease, with just Australia increasing by £29.6 million. This has moved Australia into the top five for this month.

The largest decrease in exports was to Switzerland, down by £288.5 million, 40.0 per cent. This is mostly due to decreases of £250.5 million (72.1 per cent) in HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques).

The decrease in HS2 97, is mainly due to falls of £114.1 million in HS4 9705 (Collections and collector's pieces), a decrease of 93.0 per cent, and £92.2 million in HS4 9701 (Paintings and drawings executed entirely by hand), a fall of 61.3 per cent. Due to the nature of these products, small changes in quantity can have a large change in value.

The second largest decrease in exports was to South Africa, down by £233.4 million from last month's record high of £555.5 million to £322.1 million, a fall of 42.0 per cent. This takes the export value back into the usual range, being slightly lower than the previous high of £341.9 million from September 2011.

This decrease was driven by a fall of £247.8 million in HS2 71, driven by a fall of £243.5 million in HS4 7102 (Diamonds). This follows last month's record export of diamonds, which took South Africa into the top five export value partner countries. This month they are twelfth.

There were also relatively large decreases for exports to the USA (down £231.5 million, 6.6 per cent), South Korea (down £216.6 million, 44.2 per cent), China (down £203.1 million, 20.3 per cent) and India (down 165.0 million, 33.4 per cent).

The decreases in exports to the USA and China were driven by decreases in HS4 8703 (motor vehicles), with the USA decreasing by £112.7 million (45.5 per cent) and China by £113.7 million (31.9 per cent). The decrease to South Korea was almost

entirely due to a decrease of £196.8 million (71.5 per cent) in HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude). The decrease in exports to India was driven by a decrease of £150.3 million (67.3 per cent) in HS2 71, mostly covered by falls of £92.8 million (65.8 per cent) in HS4 7106 (Silver, incl. silver plated with gold or platinum, unwrought or in semi-manufactured forms, or in powder form) and £51.8 million (75.9 per cent) in HS4 7102 (Diamonds). The corresponding decrease in quantity suggests the decrease is due to a fall in the volume of export trade rather than price changes.

The only country where exports rose by £100 million or more was Azerbaijan, where exports increased by £136.1 million, a seven-fold increase. This increase was driven by an increase of £130.8 million in HS4 7113 (Articles of jewellery and parts thereof, of precious metal or of metal clad with precious metal (excl. articles > 100 years old)) from just £2.8 million last month.

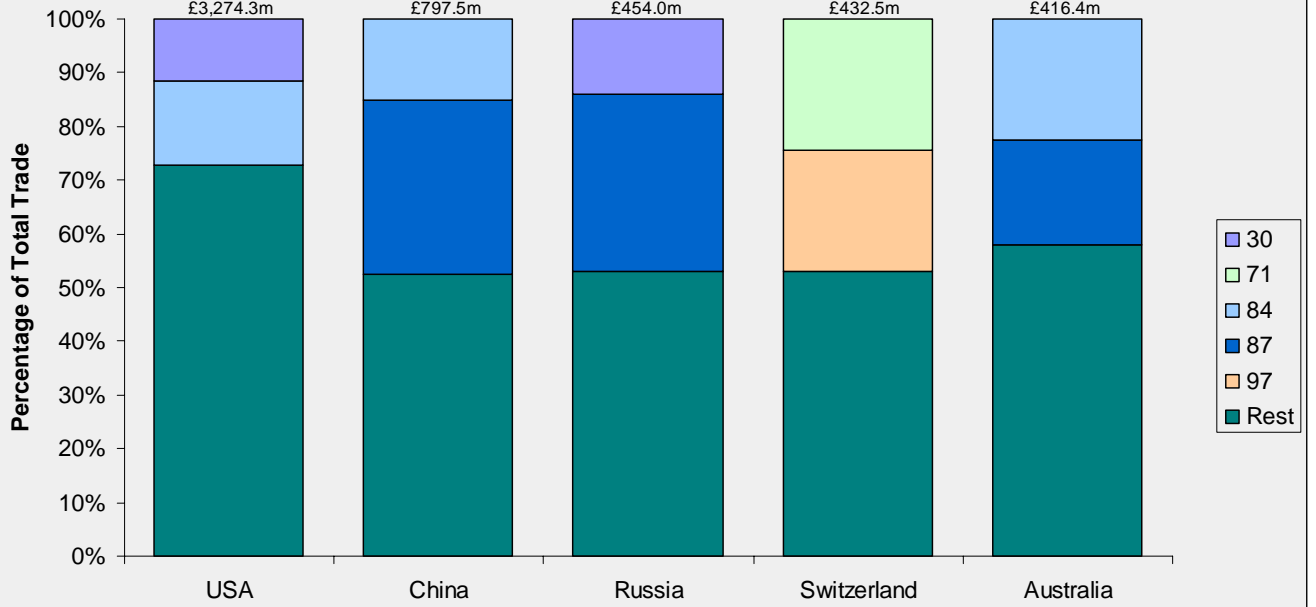
Compared to August 2011, there were increases in the value of exports to just over 55 per cent of our export partner countries. There were increases in excess of £100 million for exports to three countries, and no decreases of this magnitude. Four of the top five export partners had an increase.

The largest increases in total export trade value compared to August 2011 are to the USA, up by £146.2 million; Australia, up by £138.5 million; and China, up by £126.8 million. The USA's increase was led by HS2 97 up £98.2 million and HS2 87, up by £81.0 million. Australia's increase was over several chapters. Exports to China were driven by an increase of £171.5 million in HS2 87, nearly three times the value from August 2011.

The largest decrease in total export trade value compared to August 2011 is to Canada, down by £75.3 million, mostly due to falls of over £32 million both in HS2 27 and HS2 84. In August 2011, Canada was the UK's fourth largest export partner by value whereas they are currently ninth.

Figure 3 shows the two largest commodities by value exported from the UK to each of its top five non-EU export partner countries. In August 2012 three of the top five countries have HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof) and three have HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) in their top two largest commodities exported from the UK. The trade with these countries accounts for 38.9 per cent of the total value of UK non-EU export trade for HS2 87, and 31.7 per cent for HS2 84. Additionally, the trade in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products) to the USA and Russia accounts for 46.1 per cent of the total export value of this chapter.

Fig 3: Largest HS2 Commodities, by Value, for the Top 5 UK's non-EU Export Countries, August 2012



Further Analysis: Imports

Table 3 shows a comparison of the top five commodities imported from countries outside the EU for August 2011, July 2012 and August 2012.

HS 2	Description	August 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from July 2012	% Change from August 2011	% of Total August 2012 Imports	Rank July 2012	Rank August 2011
-	Total Imports	16,982.2	6.6	6.7	100.0	n/a	n/a
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	4,322.1	35.0	18.6	25.5	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	2,057.2	0.3	14.5	12.1	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	1,398.5	-0.8	-0.8	8.2	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	1,007.5	29.1	3.2	5.9	4	4
61	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted	605.5	12.9	6.1	3.6	5	5

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

The value of imports increased by £1.1 billion **compared to July 2012**. Half of the HS2 commodity chapters increased, and half decreased. There were two increases of over £100 million, and two decreases of this magnitude. The largest increase more than covers the total overall net increase.

The largest increase was in imports of the UK's biggest import by value, HS2 27, which rose by £1.1 billion to £4.3 billion. This is the highest value in recent years, and comes after four monthly decreases in a row. The increase is throughout most of the HS4 headings in this chapter, led by an increase of £693.3 million in HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude), a rise of 32.8 per cent. The quantity imported has also increased by a similar percentage suggesting the increase is mainly due to a rise in the volume of import trade rather than price increases.

The second largest value increase from the previous month, of £227.2 million (29.1 per cent), was in HS2 71. This increase was primarily due to increases in HS4 7102

(Diamonds) up by £185.6 million, 88.1 per cent. Due to the nature of these goods, their trade figures can be volatile.

The largest value decrease from the previous month, of £261.9 million (49.3 per cent), was in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products). This decrease was led by HS4 3002 (Human blood; animal blood prepared for therapeutic, prophylactic or diagnostic uses; antisera, other blood fractions and immunological products; vaccines, toxins, cultures of micro-organisms (excluding yeasts) and similar products) down by £108.1 million (65.5 per cent) and HS4 3004 (Medicaments consisting of mixed or unmixed products for therapeutic or prophylactic uses, put up in measured doses in forms or packings for retail sale), down by £104.7 million (35.5 per cent). This month's import value for HS2 30 is the lowest since August 2009.

The next biggest decrease is HS2 29 (Organic chemicals) which fell by £146.9 million (34.0 per cent). The decrease was mainly driven by falls of £59.3 million (69.8 per cent) in HS4 2930 (Organo-sulphur compounds) and £43.4 million (46.0 per cent) in HS4 2922 (Oxygen-function amino-compounds). Trade in both these products can be variable.

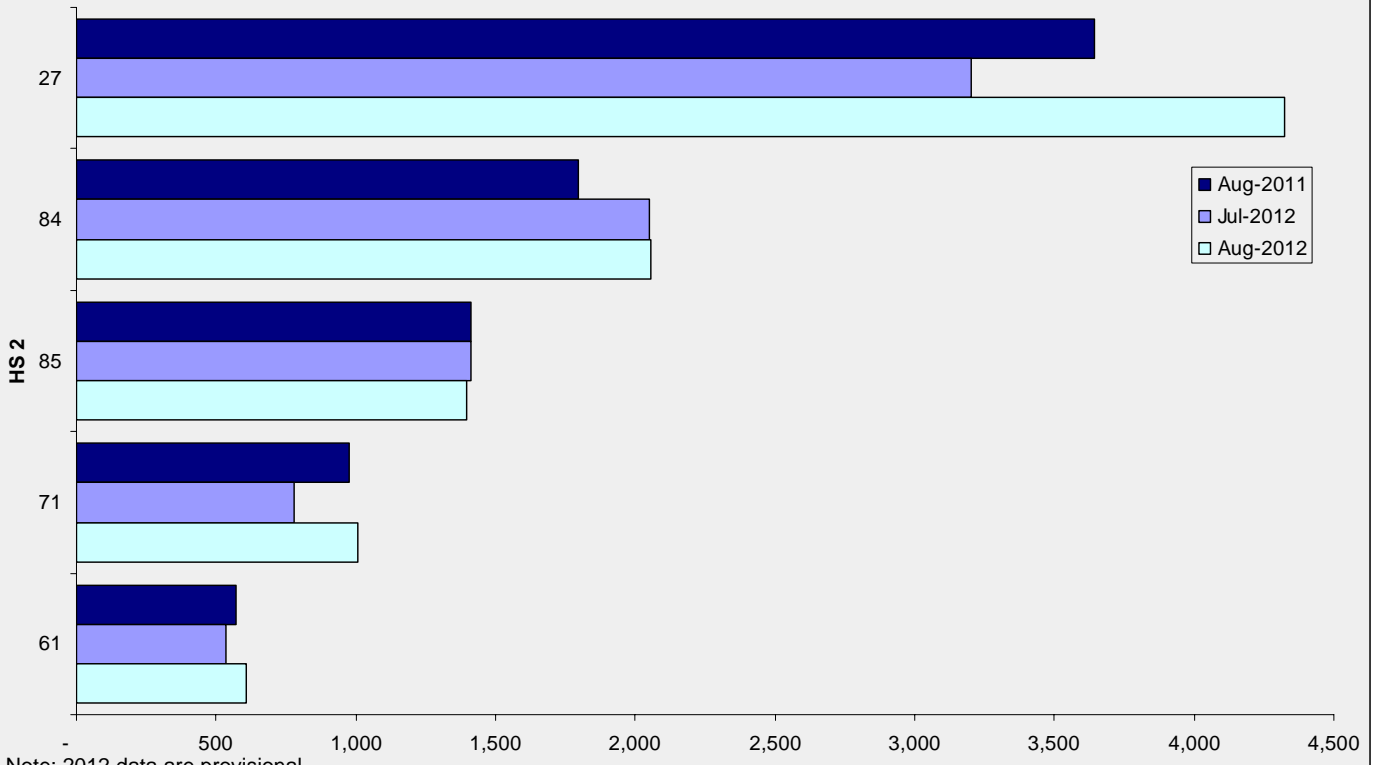
Similarly, when **compared to August 2011**, the increase in the total import trade value is due to half of HS2 commodities chapters increasing in value, and half decreasing, but the increases are generally greater in magnitude. There were three chapters with increases of over £100 million, and one decrease of this size.

The three chapters with increases of over £100 million are HS2 27 (up £678.0 million, 18.6 per cent), HS2 84 (up £260.2 million, 14.5 per cent) and HS2 97 (up £149.1 million, 107.3 per cent). These increases more than cover the total net increase.

The chapter with a decrease of over £100 million was HS2 30, down £184.7 million, 40.7 per cent.

Within the top five chapters shown in Figure 4, four of the chapters show increases when compared with both July 2012 and August 2011. The graph demonstrates the size of the increase in HS2 27.

Fig 4: Top 5 Commodities for UK's non-EU import August 2012 compared to July 2012 and August 2011



Note: 2012 data are provisional

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Value (£ Millions)

Table 4: Top 5 Non-EU import partner countries in August 2012 compared to July 2012 and August 2011

Country	August 2012 Total £ millions	% change from July 2012	% Change from August 2011	% of Total August 2012 Imports	Rank July 2012	Rank August 2011
Total Imports	16,982.2	6.6	6.7	100.0	n/a	n/a
China	2,715.6	6.8	5.1	16.0	2	1
USA	2,360.6	-10.6	-2.7	13.9	1	2
Norway	1,658.3	21.9	-15.1	9.8	3	3
Russia	784.1	11.6	24.8	4.6	5	7
Japan	677.6	4.3	0.9	4.0	6	4

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Table 4 shows comparisons of the value of UK non-EU import trade from our top five import trading partners for August 2011, July 2012, and August 2012. Imports from four of the top five trading partners have increased in August compared to the previous month, while three have increased when compared to August 2011.

These changes have moved China up to first place, ahead of the USA, while Switzerland has moved to eighth from fourth last month. China, the USA and Norway have been the UK's largest import partners for a number of years.

The increase in total imports **compared to July 2012** reflects decreases in nearly 60 per cent of the UK's import partners, balanced by a smaller number of larger increases. Nine countries had increases of over £100 million, while three had a decrease of this magnitude.

The largest increase in value of imports was from Norway, up by £297.5 million, an increase of 21.9 per cent, to £1.7 billion. This follows four consecutive monthly decreases since March 2012, and reflects Norway returning to full production after a strike by Norwegian offshore oil and gas workers, which began on 24 June 2012. The increase was led by a rise of £243.4 million (24.2 per cent) in HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude).

The second largest increase in value of imports was from Qatar, up by £264.9 million, 175.1 per cent, from £151.3 million to £416.2 million. This was mainly due to the trade in natural gas in HS4 2711, (Petroleum gas and other gaseous hydrocarbons), up by £243.6 million, 224.4 per cent from £108.6 million in July 2012 to £352.2 million this month.

Increases within HS2 27 also drove the rise in imports from Libya (up £170.2 million, with a £170.5 million rise in HS27); India (up £123.3 million, with £78.4 million in HS27); Azerbaijan (up £118.8 million, with £115.2 million in HS27); Kazakhstan (up £107.8 million, £73.9 million from HS27); and Saudi Arabia (up £106.1 million, £55.6 million from HS27).

There were also large increases for Botswana, up £247.1 million, almost entirely due to an increase in imports of Diamonds in HS2 7102; and China, up £173.5 million, with a £45.4 million increase in HS2 95 (Toys, games and sports requisites; parts and accessories thereof) and £44.8 million in HS2 61 (Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted).

The biggest decrease in imports was from the USA, down by £279.1 million, a decrease of 10.6 per cent. This decrease is across several chapters, the largest being a decrease of £119.1 million (55.3 per cent) in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products).

The second biggest decrease was from Switzerland, down by £164.1 million, a decrease of 23.2 per cent. This decrease is driven by a fall of £101.6 million in HS2 97

(Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques). This was driven by a decrease of £92.6 million, 71.7 per cent, in HS4 9701 (Paintings, e.g. oil paintings, watercolours and pastels, and drawings executed entirely by hand).

The third largest decrease in imports was from Singapore, which decreased by £115.8 million, 30.5 per cent. This decrease is almost entirely due to the import of organic chemicals in HS2 29, which is down by £125.1 million, 60.6 per cent. Due to the nature of these goods, their trade figures can be volatile.

There was an increase of 6.7 per cent in the total value of imports **compared to August 2011**, with imports from just over half of our import partner countries increasing in value, with these increases being comparatively larger than the decreases. There were increases in excess of £100 million for imports from ten countries, and just one decrease of this magnitude.

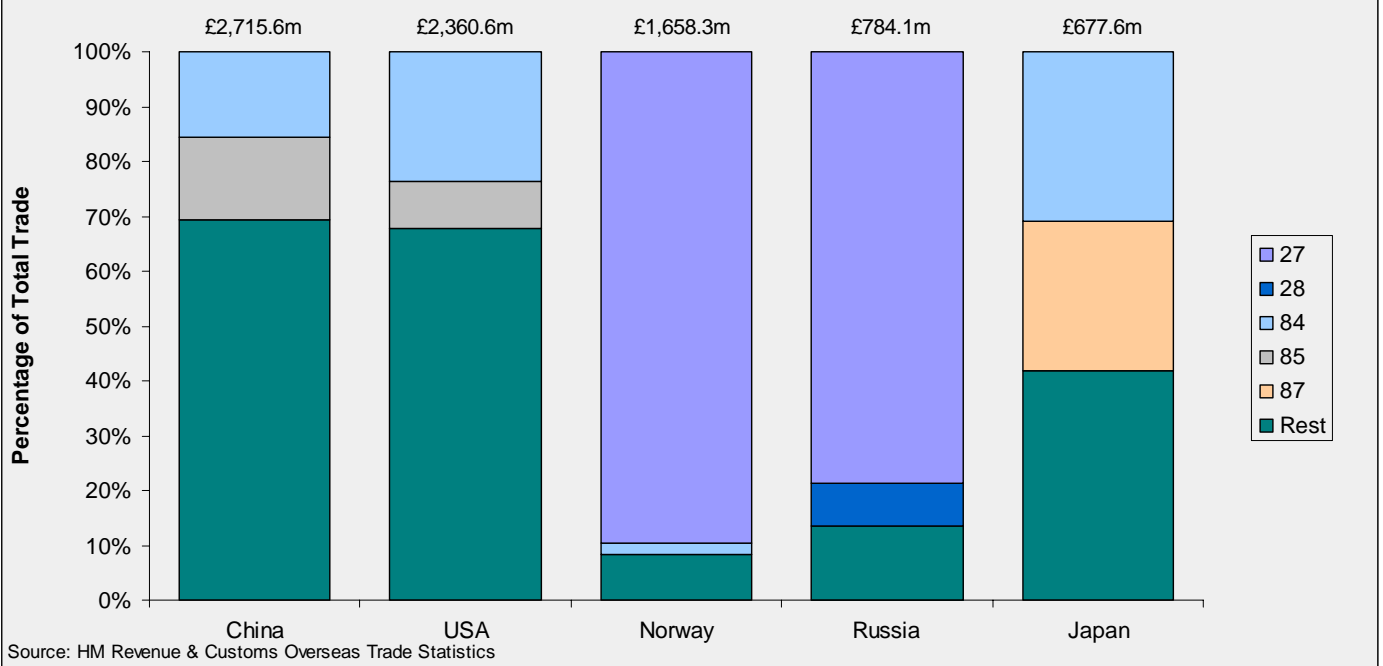
The largest increase in total import trade value is from Libya up by £252.3 million. This is almost entirely due to an increase of £252.1 million in HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude), as previously explained in the comparison with July 2012. The second biggest increase is from India (up by £159.4 million, 33.4 per cent), primarily due to the increase in imports of HS4 2710 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals (excl. crude)) already mentioned. There were also large increases from Russia (up £155.6 million, 24.8 per cent); Botswana (up £154.9 million, 157.1 per cent); Saudi Arabia (up £139.3 million, 242.6 per cent) China (£132.1 million, 5.1 per cent), Vietnam (£131.5 million, 96.5 per cent), Nigeria (£124.0 million, 51.7 per cent), Azerbaijan (£122.7 million, 5479.0 per cent) and Kazakhstan (£119.1 million, 1263.7 per cent).

The largest decrease in value of imports was from Norway, down by £294.1 million, 15.1 per cent. This was led by a fall in imports of HS2 27, down by £293.7 million (16.5 per cent). This was comprised of a fall of £317.4 million (20.2 per cent) in HS4 2709.

Figure 5 shows the two largest commodities by value imported from each of the top five non-EU partner countries. This month, four of the top five trading partners have HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) in their top two largest commodities imported to the UK, whereas last month there were three. The trade with China, USA, Norway and Japan accounts for 59.4 per cent of the total value of UK non-EU import trade under this commodity heading.

The import trade in HS2 27 from Norway, specifically the Norwegian Continental Shelf, accounts for 89.5 per cent of the total imports to the UK from Norway. Russia also has HS2 27 in its top two largest commodity types, with 78.8 per cent of imports from Russia being in this category. Together, these two countries account for 48.6 per cent of the total non-EU import trade to the UK under this heading.

Fig 5: Largest HS2 Commodities, by Value, for Top 5 UK's non-EU Import Countries, August 2012



Notes:

1. HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with countries outside the European Union (EU) on 9 October 2012 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 August 2012. At the same time revisions for all previously published non-EU data for 2012 are also being released in line with the [Overseas Trade Statistics Policy on Revisions](#).
3. Detailed trade information is presented according to the [Harmonised System \(HS\)](#) nomenclature.
4. The aggregate estimates here will differ slightly from those that are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as part of the Balance of Payments (BoP), as the two sets of data are compiled to different sets of rules. The ONS web site provides an overview of BoP at the [Guide to UK Trade](#) as well as the detailed monthly [UK Trade Releases](#). The BoP publication shows a high level picture of UK trade-in-goods, whereas the OTS publication shows a detailed picture of the UK's trade-in-goods by commodity and partner country. More detail about the differences between the BoP and OTS publications can be found [here](#).
5. The aggregate estimates here will differ from the Eurostat publication [Euro area external trade](#). The OTS is published as 'general trade' based upon goods recorded as they enter or leave the UK. This will include goods imported into and exported from a freezone or customs warehouse, regardless of their future use. The Eurostat EU external trade data are published as 'special trade' where goods are recorded as trade only when they enter free circulation or are declared to specific Customs regimes such as Inward Processing (IP) or Processing under Customs Control (PCC). Imports from a free zone or customs warehouse are similarly recorded in 'special trade'.
6. Information to help support users of the non-EU Overseas Trade Statistics can be found [here](#). This includes links to our policies on revision and suppression of data, descriptions of the methodology used to compile the Overseas Trade Statistics and information on the quality of the data published.
7. The OTS has recently 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.

Statistical contact:

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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: 9 November 2012 9:30am

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