



About this release

This release includes the 1st provisional estimates of trade-in-goods between the UK and both countries of the EU and those outside the EU for January 2020.

Supporting tables, visuals and data can be found at www.uktradeinfo.com

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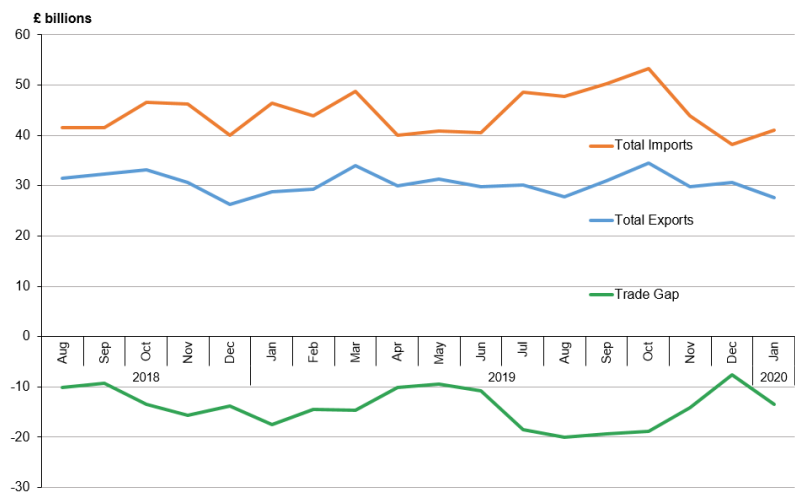
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Trade in Goods, January 2020

- Total **exports** of goods for January 2020 were £28.1 billion. This was a decrease of £2.5 billion (8.1%) compared with last month, and a decrease of £0.7 billion (2.4%) compared with January 2019.
- Total **imports** of goods for January 2020 were £41.6 billion. This was an increase of £3.3 billion (8.7%) compared with last month, and a decrease of £4.8 billion (10%) compared with January 2019.
- The UK was a net importer this month, with **imports** exceeding **exports** by £13.5 billion, widening by £5.8 billion on last month.

Figure 1: Total UK monthly Trade in Goods



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2019 and 2020 data is provisional



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Trade in Goods Trends

Following the global economic crisis, UK trade in goods dropped in 2009. Both imports and exports then steadily increased until 2012. From the start of 2013, imports remained relatively flat until a very sharp increase in Q3 of 2016, reaching its highest point in Q3 of 2019. Exports peaked in Q2 of 2013, with a steady rise from Q2 of 2017 to Q3 of 2018.

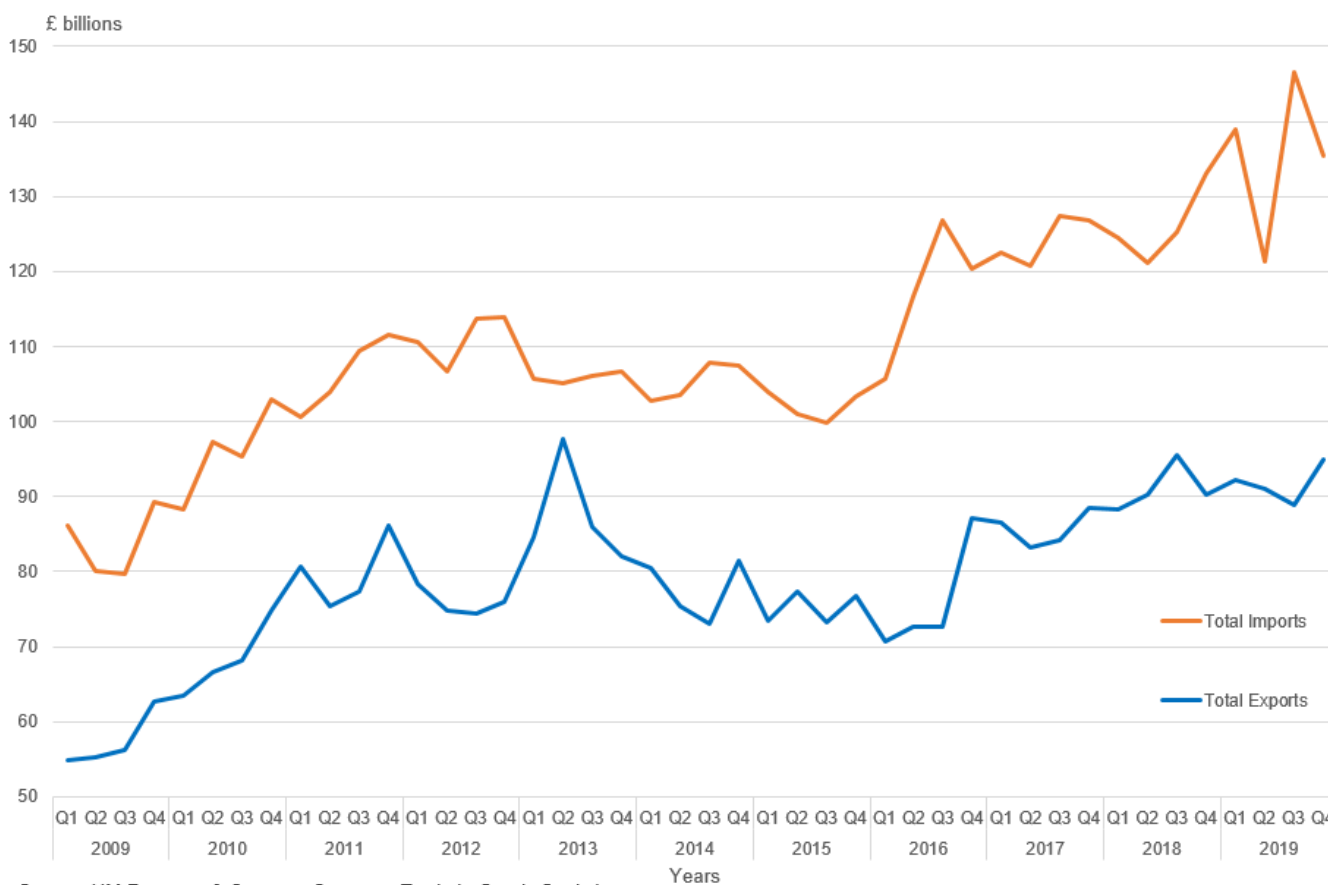
- The total **export** trade for Q4 of 2019 was £94.9 billion, which was an increase of 5.1% compared with £90.2 billion for Q4 of 2018.
- The total **import** trade for Q4 of 2019 was £135 billion, which was an increase of 1.8% compared with £133 billion for Q4 of 2018.
- There was a trade deficit of £40.6 billion for Q4 of 2019. This was a narrowing of 5.2% compared with £42.8 billion for Q4 2018.
- 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, with occasional peaks for Precious metals.

↑ **Exports up 5% on Q4 2018**

↑ **Imports up 2% on Q4 2018**

- **Trade deficit narrowed by 5% on Q4 2018**

Figure 2: Quarterly UK Trade in Goods, 2009 – 2019



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2019 data is provisional

Non-EU & EU Trade in Goods

Non-EU Trade in Goods:

- **Non-EU exports** for January 2020 were £14.5 billion. This was a decrease of £3.3 billion (18%) on last month, and an increase of £0.9 billion (6.6%) compared with January 2019.
- **Non-EU imports** for January 2020 were £22.2 billion. This was an increase of £2.3 billion (12%) on last month, and a decrease of £1.2 billion (5.2%) compared with January 2019.
- For **non-EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £7.6 billion.

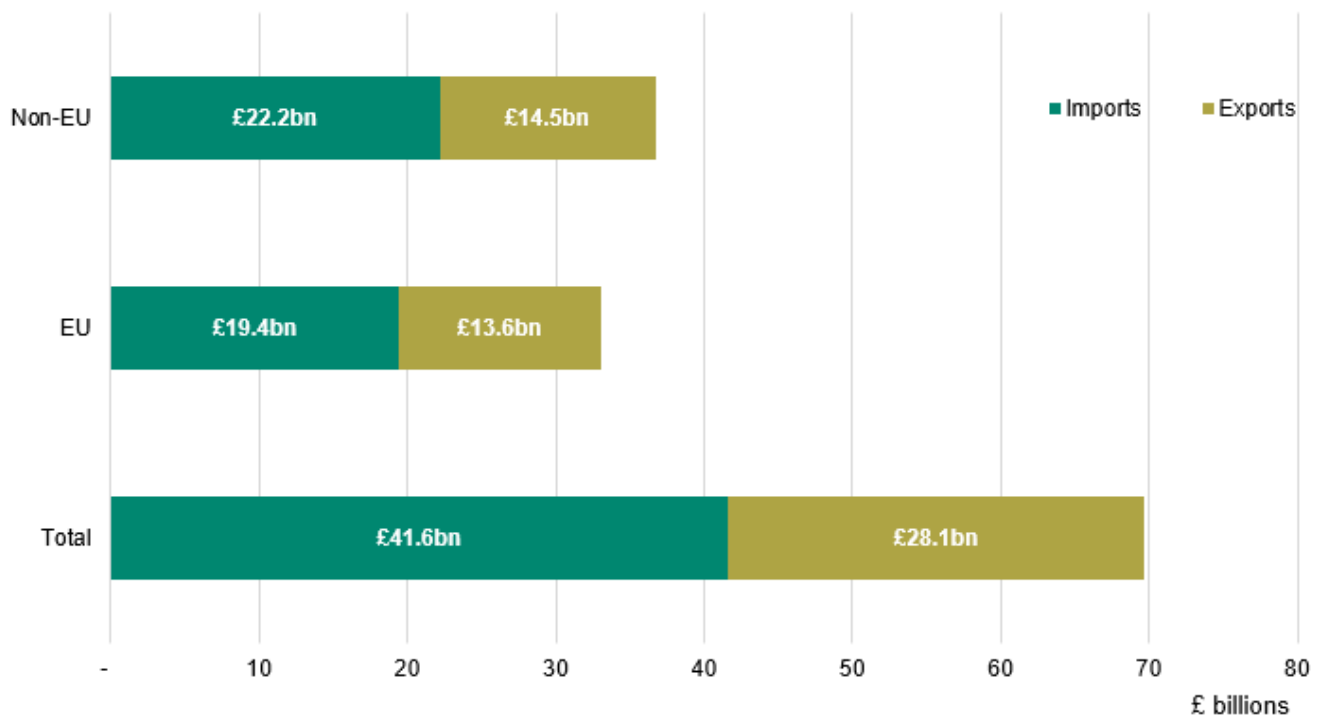
↓ **Non-EU exports down 18% on last month**

EU Trade in Goods:

- **EU exports** for January 2020 were £13.6 billion. This was an increase of £0.8 billion (6.3%) on last month, and a decrease of £1.6 billion (11%) compared with January 2019.
- **EU imports** for January 2020 were £19.4 billion. This was an increase of £1.0 billion (5.7%) on last month, and a decrease of £3.5 billion (15%) compared with January 2019.
- For **EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £5.9 billion.

↑ **EU imports up 15% on January 2019**

Figure 3: Total UK Trade in Goods, with EU and Non-EU, January 2020



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2020 data is provisional

Exports: Country Analysis

- The USA remained the largest export partner country. It experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £930 million (17%). In contrast, it showed the largest value increase on January 2019, up £520 million (12%).
- Switzerland experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on last month, down £632 million (49%). In contrast, it experienced the 3rd largest value increase on January 2019, up £260 million (67%).
- China experienced the 3rd largest value decrease on last month, down £545 million (26%).
- Germany experienced the largest value increase compared with last month, up £368 million (13%). In contrast it showed the 2nd largest value decrease on January 2019, down £287 million (8.4%).
- The Netherlands experienced the 4th largest value decrease on last month and the largest value decrease on January 2019, down £257 million (13%) and £449 million (21%) respectively.

↓ **Exports to the USA down 17% on last month**

↑ **Exports to Germany up 13% on last month**

Table 1: UK exports of goods to the top 10 countries, January 2020

Partner Country	January 2020	December 2019		January 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on December 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on January 2019 (%)
USA	4,690	5,621	-16.6	4,170	12.5
Germany	3,128	2,761	13.3	3,415	-8.4
France	2,014	1,865	7.9	2,272	-11.4
Irish Republic	1,741	1,841	-5.4	1,757	-1.0
Netherlands	1,706	1,963	-13.1	2,156	-20.8
China	1,531	2,076	-26.3	1,396	9.7
Belgium	1,029	885	16.3	1,200	-14.3
Spain	852	771	10.4	854	-0.3
Italy	766	710	8.0	884	-13.3
Switzerland	647	1,279	-49.4	387	67.2
Others	10,001	10,818	-7.6	10,307	-3.0
Total EU	13,572	12,770	6.3	15,165	-10.5
Total Non-EU	14,533	17,820	-18.4	13,634	6.6
Total Exports	28,105	30,590	-8.1	28,799	-2.4

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2019 and 2020 data is provisional

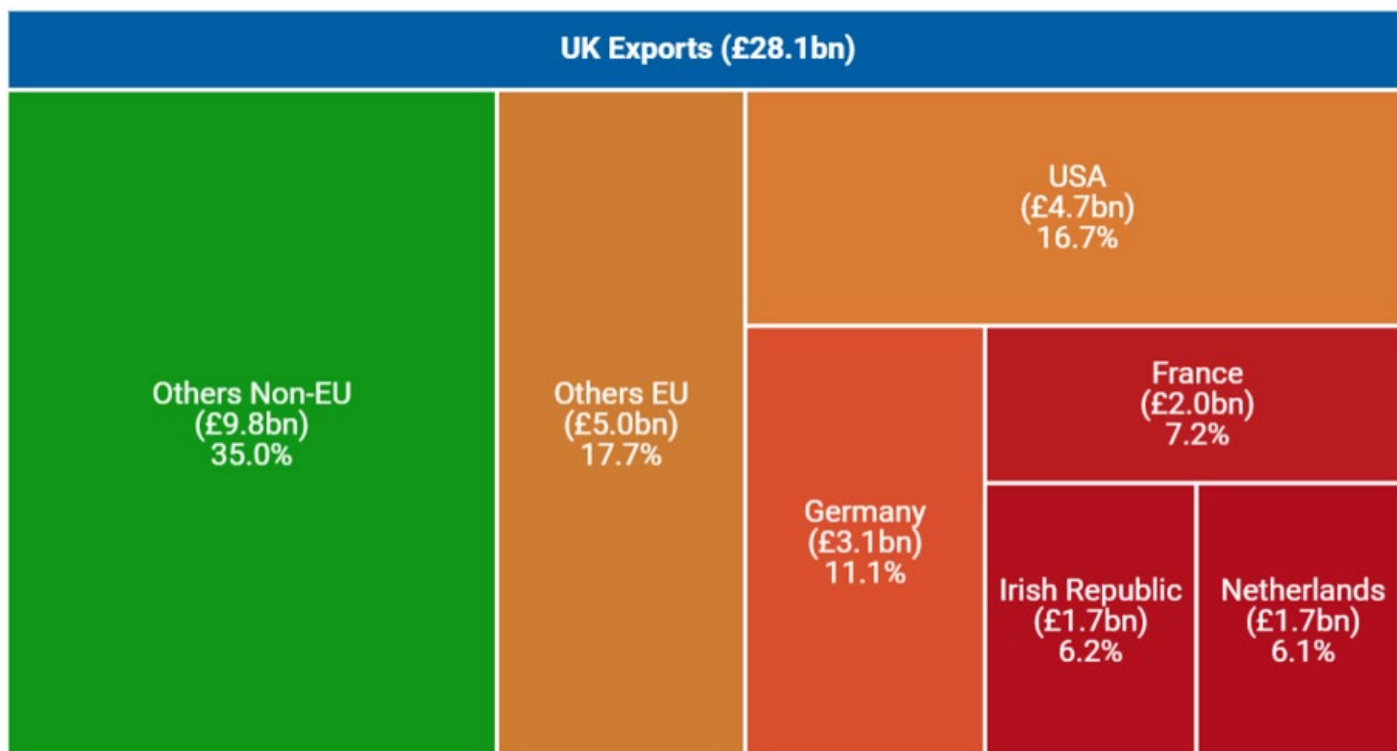
Exports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 export partners accounted for 47% of total exports in goods in January 2020. This was a decrease from a 48% share in January 2019.
- The USA accounted for 17% of the total value of exports from the UK, this was an increase from a 14% share in January 2019.
- Germany had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 11%. This was a decrease from a 12% share in January 2019.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, China fell to 6th place from 3rd, while Italy rose to 9th place from 11th.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with January 2019. Most notably, Switzerland rose to 10th place from 17th.

↑ **The USA had a 17% share of total exports in January 2020**

↑ **Germany had an 11% share of total exports in January 2020**

Figure 4: Share of UK exports of goods to the top 5 countries, January 2020



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2020 data is provisional

Exports: Country Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to January 2020, the USA remained the largest export partner country. Among the top 10, it experienced the 3rd largest percentage increase compared with the 3 months to January 2019, up 19%.
- Among the top 10, Switzerland experienced the only increase on the 3 months to October 2019, and the largest percentage increase on January 2019, up 13% and 73% respectively.
- Among the top 10, China experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to January 2019, up 44%.
- Among the top 10, Spain experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to October 2019, down 16%.
- 9 of the top 10 partner countries experienced a decrease on the 3 months to September 2019, Switzerland was the exception.
- 7 of the top 10 partner countries experienced a decrease on the 3 months to January 2019. The USA, China and Switzerland were the exceptions.

↑ **Exports to Switzerland up 73% on the 3 months to January 2019**

↑ **Exports to China up 44% on the 3 months to January 2019**

Table 2: UK exports of goods to the top 10 countries, 3 months to January 2020

Partner Country	3 months to Jan 2020		3 months to Oct 2019		3 months to Jan 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on January 2019 (%)	
USA	14,982	15,617	-4.1	12,586	19.0	
Germany	8,840	9,141	-3.3	9,259	-4.5	
China	6,006	6,259	-4.0	4,164	44.2	
France	5,748	6,080	-5.5	6,261	-8.2	
Netherlands	5,478	5,936	-7.7	6,195	-11.6	
Irish Republic	5,351	5,683	-5.9	5,521	-3.1	
Switzerland	3,081	2,721	13.2	1,783	72.8	
Belgium	2,780	3,287	-15.4	3,222	-13.7	
Spain	2,452	2,919	-16.0	2,566	-4.4	
Italy	2,255	2,417	-6.7	2,600	-13.3	
Others	31,522	33,136	-4.9	31,647	-0.4	
Total Exports	88,496	93,195	-5.0	85,805	3.1	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 and 2020 data is provisional

Exports: Commodity Analysis

- Mechanical appliances remained the largest export commodity. It experienced a decrease on last month and on January 2019, down £18.8 million (0.4%) and £163 million (3.4%) respectively.
- Precious metals experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £1,979 million (48%). In contrast, it had the largest value increase on January 2019, up £542 million (33%).
- Motor vehicles experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on last month, down £373 million (11%).
- Aircraft experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £255 million (24%).
- Pharmaceutical products experienced the largest value decrease on January 2019, down £472 million (26%).
- Mineral fuels experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on January 2019, down £442 million (16%).

↓ Exports of Precious metals down 48% on last month

↓ Exports of Pharmaceutical products down 26% on January 2019

Table 3: UK exports of goods for the top 10 commodities, January 2020

Commodity Description	January 2020	December 2019		January 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on December 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on January 2019 (%)
Mechanical appliances	4,561	4,579	-0.4	4,723	-3.4
Motor vehicles	2,899	3,271	-11.4	3,071	-5.6
Mineral fuels	2,407	2,629	-8.5	2,848	-15.5
Precious metals	2,185	4,164	-47.5	1,643	33.0
Electronic equipment	1,636	1,783	-8.2	1,934	-15.4
Aircraft	1,333	1,078	23.6	1,230	8.3
Organic chemicals	1,323	1,126	17.5	884	49.6
Pharmaceutical products	1,316	1,464	-10.1	1,788	-26.4
Measuring devices and gauges	1,166	1,290	-9.7	1,247	-6.5
Plastics and plastic products	753	588	27.9	821	-8.3
Others	8,528	8,616	-1.0	8,608	-0.9
Total Exports	28,105	30,590	-8.1	28,799	-2.4

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 and 2020 data is provisional

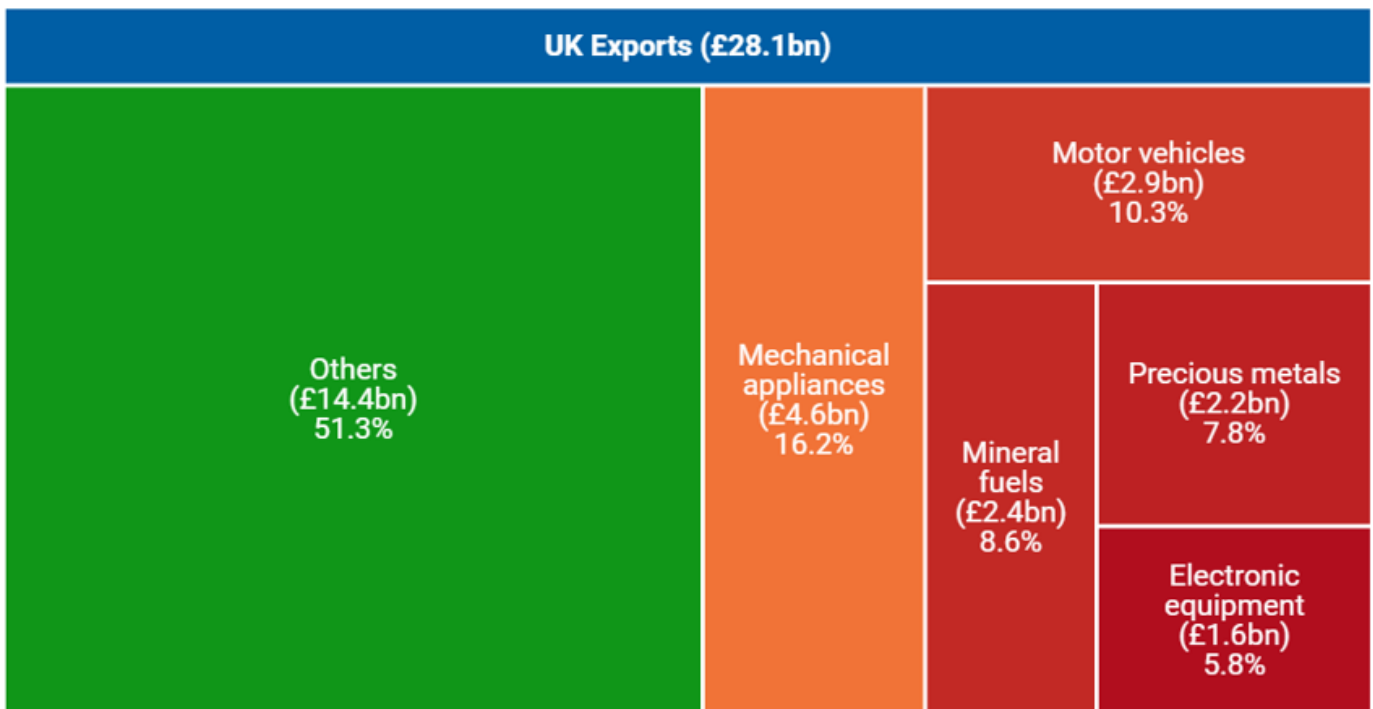
Exports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 export commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 49% of exports in January 2020, this was a decrease from a 50% share in January 2019.
- Mechanical appliances accounted for 16% of the total value of exports from the UK. This was a decrease of less than 1 percentage point on January 2019.
- Motor vehicles had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 10% of total exports. This was a decrease from an 11% share in January 2019.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Aircraft rose to 6th place from 9th, and Plastics and plastic products rose to 10th place from 13th.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with January 2019. Most notably, Pharmaceutical products fell to 8th place from 5th.

↓ **Mechanical appliances accounted for 16% of total exports in January 2020**

↓ **Motor vehicles accounted for 10% of total exports in January 2020**

Figure 5: Share of UK exports by the top 5 commodities, January 2020



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note 2020 data is provisional

Exports: Commodity Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to January 2020, Mechanical appliances remained the largest export commodity. This was despite experiencing decreases of 7.0% on the 3 months to October 2019, and 3.1% on the 3 months to January 2019.
- Among the top 10, Organic chemicals experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to October 2019 and the 2nd largest on the 3 months to January 2019, up 61% and 37% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Precious metals experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to October 2019, and the largest on the 3 months to January 2019, up 36%, and more than double in value respectively.
- Among the top 10, Pharmaceutical products experienced the largest percentage decreases on the 3 months to October 2019 and January 2019, down 23% and 14% respectively.
- 7 of the top 10 commodities experienced decreases on the 3 months to October 2019 and the 3 months to January 2019. Precious metals, Organic chemicals, and Other products were the exceptions for both periods.

↑ **Organic chemicals exports up 61% on the 3 months to October 2019**

↑ **Precious metals exports more than double in value on the 3 months to January 2019**

Table 4: UK exports of goods for the top 10 commodities, 3 months to January 2020

Commodity Description	3 months to Jan 2020		3 months to Oct 2019		3 months to Jan 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on January 2019 (%)	
Mechanical appliances	13,771	14,813	-7.0	14,216	-3.1	
Motor vehicles	9,559	10,211	-6.4	9,698	-1.4	
Precious metals	9,322	6,842	36.3	4,441	109.9	
Mineral fuels	7,411	7,627	-2.8	8,251	-10.2	
Electronic equipment	5,291	5,677	-6.8	5,818	-9.1	
Pharmaceutical products	4,424	5,717	-22.6	5,141	-13.9	
Measuring devices and gauges	3,769	4,021	-6.3	3,770	0.0	
Aircraft	3,629	3,653	-0.6	3,641	-0.3	
Organic chemicals	3,186	1,982	60.7	2,320	37.4	
Other products	2,401	2,246	6.9	2,141	12.2	
Others	25,732	30,406	-15.4	26,369	-2.4	
Total Exports	88,496	93,195	-5.0	85,805	3.1	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2019 and 2020 data is provisional

Exports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

Country to commodity:

- The decrease in exports to the USA compared with last month was led by Precious metals, down £1,416 million (86%). The increase on January 2019 was led by Organic chemicals, up £374 million (more than double in value).
- The decrease in exports to Switzerland on last month was led by Art and antiques, and Precious metals, down £312 million (76%) and £290 million (49%) respectively.
- The decrease in exports to the Netherlands on both periods was led by Mineral fuels, down £293 million (32%) and £311 million (33%) respectively.
- The increase in exports to Germany on last month was led by Mechanical appliances and Aircraft, up £120 million (38%) and £115 million (55%) respectively.

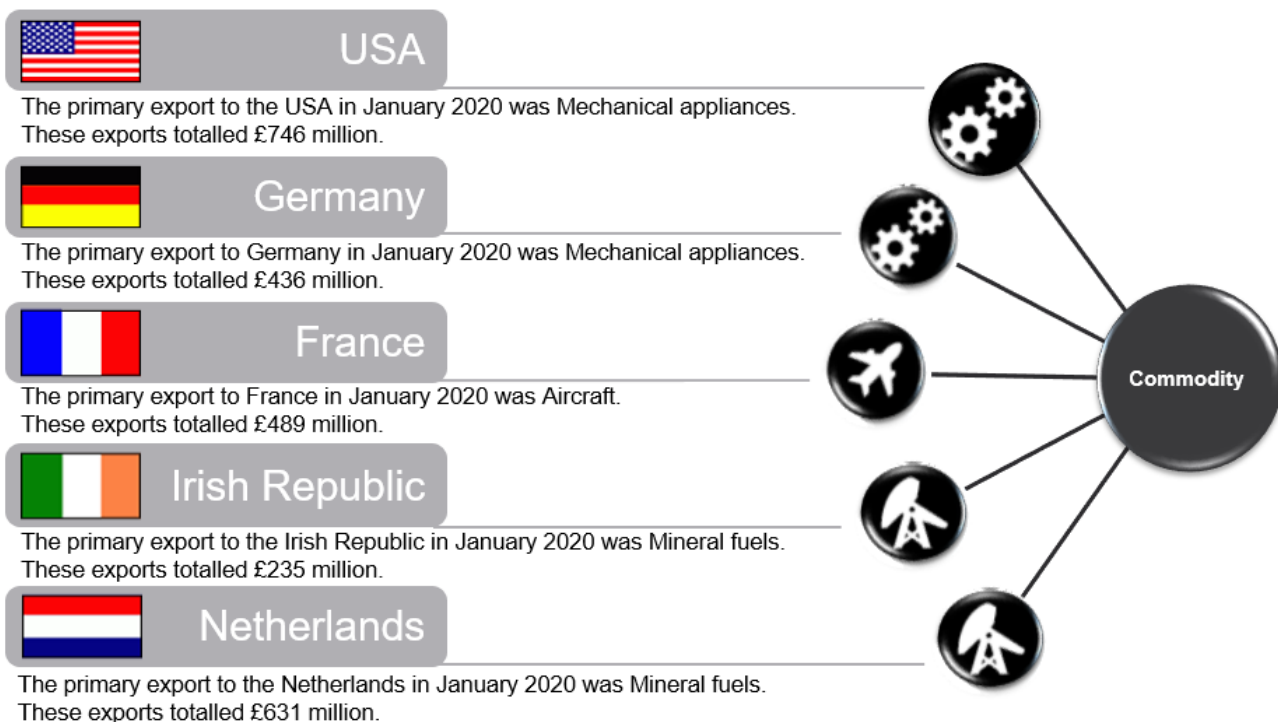
↓ Exports of Precious metals to the USA down 86% on last month

Commodity to country

- The decrease in exports of Motor vehicles compared with last month was led by China, down £140 million (42%).
- The increase in exports of Aircraft on last month was led by France, up £205 million (73%).
- The decrease in exports of Pharmaceutical products on January 2019 was led by Germany, down £161 million (60%).
- The increase in exports of Precious metals on January 2019 was led by Turkey and Switzerland, up £245 million (from £0.5 million) and £219 million (over 3.5 times) respectively.

↓ Exports of Motor vehicles to China down 42% on last month

Figure 6: The UK's top commodity exports to the top 5 countries



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2020 data is provisional

Imports: Country Analysis

- Germany remained the largest import partner country, experiencing a value increase on last month of £221 million (4.8%). Conversely, it experienced the largest value decrease on January 2019, down £921 million (16%).
- China experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £989 million (31%).
- Russia (ranked 13th) experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £734 million (44%). In contrast, it experienced the largest value increase on January 2019, up £437 million (89%).
- Norway experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on last month and the 4th largest value decrease on January 2019, down £299 million (21%) and £591 million (34%) respectively.
- The USA experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month, up £475 million (13%).

↑ Imports from China up 31% on last month

↑ Imports from Russia up 89% on January 2019

Table 5: UK imports of goods from the top 10 countries, January 2020

Partner Country	January 2020		December 2019		January 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on December 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on January 2019 (%)	
Germany	4,842	4,621	4.8	5,763	-16.0	
USA	4,263	3,787	12.6	4,551	-6.3	
China	4,148	3,159	31.3	4,450	-6.8	
Netherlands	3,108	2,844	9.3	3,798	-18.2	
France	1,840	2,083	-11.7	2,547	-27.8	
Belgium	1,834	1,699	8.0	2,190	-16.2	
Italy	1,533	1,474	4.0	1,570	-2.4	
Spain	1,212	1,132	7.1	1,352	-10.3	
Canada	1,196	991	20.7	1,371	-12.8	
Norway	1,124	1,423	-21.0	1,716	-34.5	
Others	16,486	15,029	9.7	17,037	-3.2	
Total EU	19,427	18,386	5.7	22,973	-15.4	
Total Non-EU	22,158	19,855	11.6	23,371	-5.2	
Total Imports	41,586	38,242	8.7	46,345	-10.3	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 and 2020 data is provisional

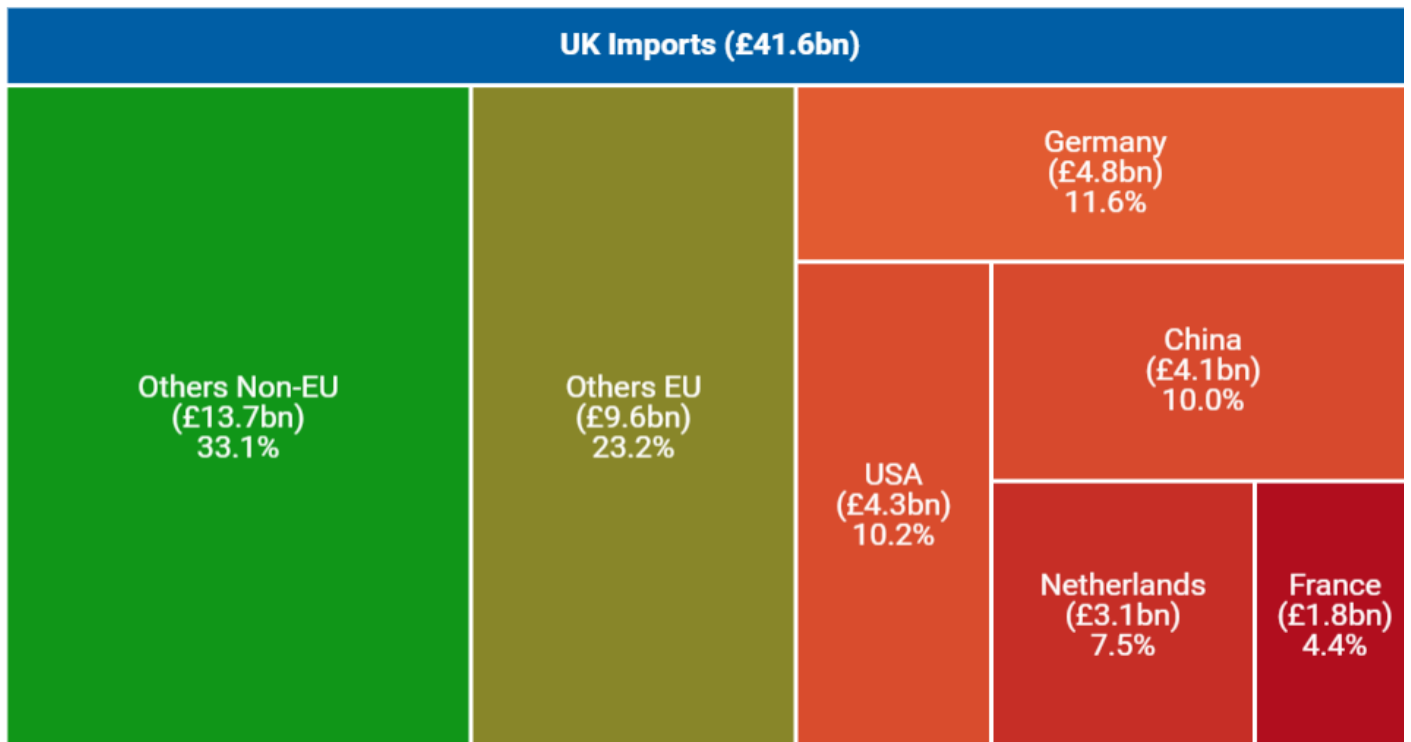
Imports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 import partners accounted for 44% of the total value of goods imported in January 2020, this was a decrease from a 46% share in January 2019.
- Germany accounted for 12% of the total value of goods imported to the UK. This was a decrease of less than 1 percentage point on January 2019.
- The USA had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 10%. This was an increase of less than 1 percentage point on January 2019.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) have changed compared with last month (though the top 6 countries remained the same). Most notably, Canada rose to 9th place from 12th.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) have changed compared with January 2019 (though the top 6 countries remained the same). Most notably, Norway fell to 10th place from 7th.

↓ **The top 5 partners accounted for 44% of total imports in January 2020**

↓ **Germany accounted for 12% of total imports in January 2020**

Figure 7: Share of UK imports of goods from the top 5 countries, January 2020



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2020 data is provisional

Imports: Country Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to January 2020, Germany remained the largest import partner country. It experienced a decrease of 14% on the 3 months to October 2019, and a decrease of 12% on the 3 months to January 2019.
- Among the top 10, Russia experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to October 2019 and the 3 months to January 2019, up 20% and almost 2.5 times the value respectively.
- Among the top 10, Belgium experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to October 2019 and the 2nd largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to January 2019, down 24% and 18% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Norway experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to October 2019, up 14%. In contrast, it experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to January 2019, down 23%.
- 8 of the top 10 countries experienced a decrease on the 3 months to October 2019, Russia and Norway were the exceptions.
- 9 of the top 10 countries experienced a decrease on the 3 months to January 2019, Russia was the exception.

↓ Imports from Germany down 14% on the 3 months to October 2019

↑ Imports from Russia up almost 2.5 times the value on the 3 months to January 2019

Table 6: UK imports of goods from the top 10 countries, 3 months to January 2020

Partner Country	3 months to Jan 2020		3 months to Oct 2019		3 months to Jan 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on January 2019 (%)	
Germany	14,627	17,049	-14.2	16,553	-11.6	
USA	12,350	13,977	-11.6	12,602	-2.0	
China	11,299	13,355	-15.4	12,482	-9.5	
Netherlands	9,336	11,061	-15.6	10,839	-13.9	
France	6,219	7,531	-17.4	7,433	-16.3	
Belgium	5,322	6,957	-23.5	6,457	-17.6	
Italy	4,656	4,984	-6.6	4,946	-5.9	
Russia	3,986	3,316	20.2	1,650	141.5	
Norway	3,883	3,409	13.9	5,068	-23.4	
Spain	3,689	4,096	-9.9	4,120	-10.5	
Others	48,413	65,526	-26.1	50,596	-4.3	
Total Imports	123,780	151,259	-18.2	132,748	-6.8	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 and 2020 data is provisional

Imports: Commodity Analysis

- Mechanical appliances replaced Precious metals as the largest import commodity, experiencing the 3rd largest value increase on last month, up £438 million (9.1%). Conversely, it experienced the 4th largest value decrease on January 2019, down £571 million (9.8%).
- Pharmaceutical products experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £609 million (52%).
- Precious metals experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £182 million (3.8%). In contrast, it experienced the largest value increase on January 2019, up £543 million (13%).
- Motor vehicles experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month, up £540 million (15%). Conversely, it experienced the largest value decrease on January 2019, down £876 million (17%).
- Mineral fuels experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on January 2019, down £822 million (18%).

↑ Imports of
Pharmaceutical
products up
52% on
last month

↓ Imports of
Motor vehicles
down 17% on
January 2019

Table 7: UK imports of goods for the top 10 commodities, January 2020

Commodity Description	January 2020	December 2019		January 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on December 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on January 2019 (%)
Mechanical appliances	5,268	4,830	9.1	5,838	-9.8
Precious metals	4,650	4,832	-3.8	4,107	13.2
Motor vehicles	4,144	3,605	15.0	5,021	-17.5
Electronic equipment	3,745	3,588	4.4	4,325	-13.4
Mineral fuels	3,702	3,544	4.5	4,523	-18.2
Pharmaceutical products	1,776	1,167	52.1	2,201	-19.3
Measuring devices and gauges	1,193	1,134	5.2	1,277	-6.6
Plastics and plastic products	1,144	908	26.0	1,340	-14.6
Knitwear	850	819	3.8	856	-0.8
Furniture and light fittings	813	620	31.1	836	-2.7
Others	14,300	13,194	8.4	16,020	-10.7
Total Imports	41,586	38,242	8.7	46,345	-10.3

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 and 2020 data is provisional

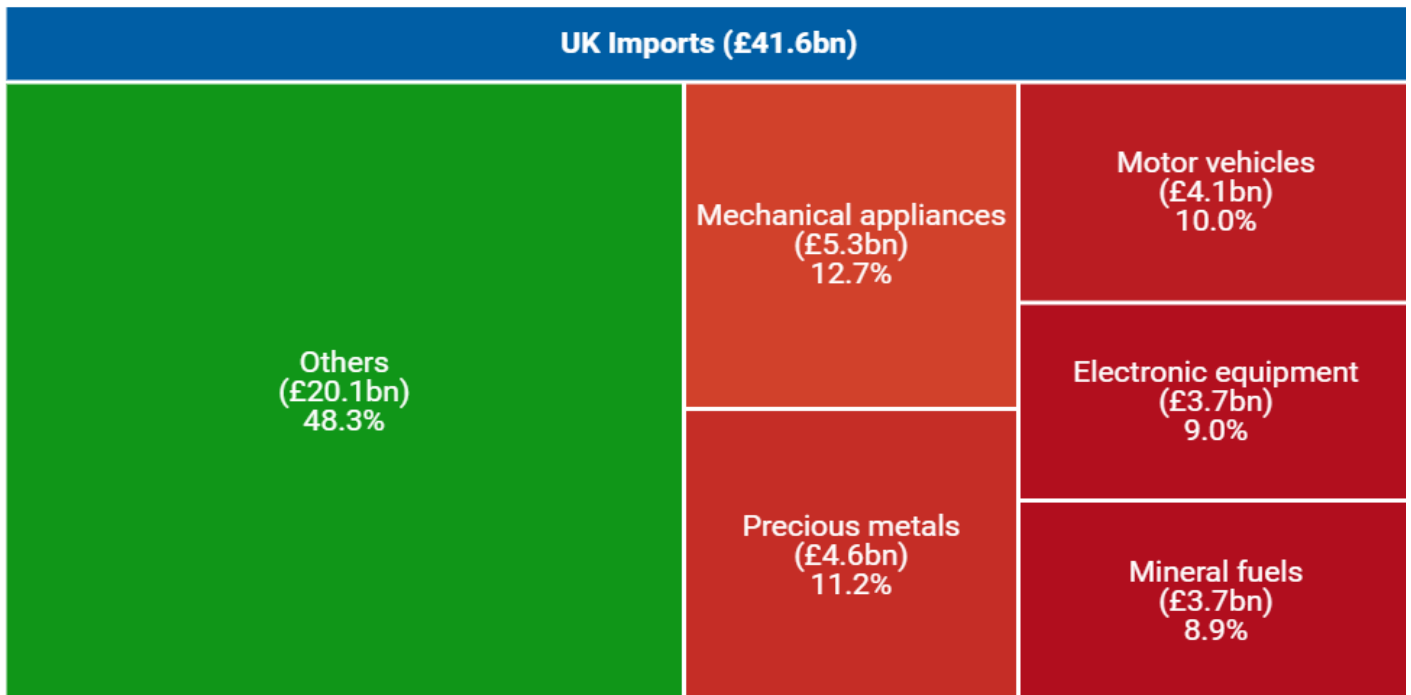
Imports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 import commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 52% in January 2020, this was an increase from a 51% share in January 2019.
- Mechanical appliances accounted for 13% of the total of value of goods imported to the UK. This was an increase of less than 1 percentage point on January 2019.
- Precious metals had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 11%. This was an increase from an 8.9% share in January 2019.
- The top 10 import commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Furniture and light fittings rose to 10th place from 13th.
- The top 10 import commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with January 2019. Most notably, Precious metals rose to 2nd place from 5th.

↑ **Mechanical appliances accounted for 13% of total imports in January 2020**

↑ **Precious metals accounted for 11% of total imports in January 2020**

Figure 8: Share of UK imports for the top 5 commodities, January 2020



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2020 data is provisional

Imports: Commodity Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to January 2020, Mechanical appliances replaced Precious metals as the largest import commodity, despite experiencing a decrease on the 3 months to October 2019 and the 3 months to January 2019, down 6.6% and 8.2% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Mineral fuels experienced the only percentage increase on the 3 months to October 2019, up 2.3%. Conversely, it experienced the 2nd largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to January 2019, down 21%.
- Among the top 10, Precious metals experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to October 2019, down 44%. In contrast, it experienced the only percentage increase on the 3 months to January 2019, up 59%.
- 9 of the top 10 commodities experienced a decrease on the 3 months to October 2019, Mineral fuels was the exception.
- 9 of the top 10 commodities experienced a decrease on the 3 months to January 2019, Precious metals was the exception.

↑ **Mineral fuels up 2.3% on the 3 months to October 2019**

↑ **Precious metals up 59% on the 3 months to January 2019**

Table 8: UK imports of goods for the top 10 commodities, 3 months to January 2020

Commodity Description	3 months to Jan 2020	3 months to Oct 2019		3 months to Jan 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on January 2019 (%)
Mechanical appliances	15,498	16,597	-6.6	16,882	-8.2
Precious metals	15,473	27,848	-44.4	9,745	58.8
Motor vehicles	12,043	15,118	-20.3	13,888	-13.3
Electronic equipment	11,738	13,370	-12.2	13,517	-13.2
Mineral fuels	10,708	10,472	2.3	13,495	-20.7
Pharmaceutical products	4,547	5,621	-19.1	5,953	-23.6
Measuring devices and gauges	3,506	3,846	-8.8	3,675	-4.6
Plastics and plastic products	3,177	3,824	-16.9	3,680	-13.7
Knitwear	2,603	3,094	-15.9	2,646	-1.6
Furniture and light fittings	2,191	2,393	-8.5	2,321	-5.6
Others	42,298	49,075	-13.8	46,947	-9.9
Total Imports	123,780	151,259	-18.2	132,748	-6.8

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 and 2020 data is provisional

Imports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

Country to commodity:

- The increase in imports from China on last month was led by Mechanical appliances and Electronic equipment, up £137 million (22%) and £127 million (16%) respectively.
- The increase in imports from Russia on January 2019 was led by Mineral fuels and Precious metals, up £223 million (60%) and £220 million (more than 9 times the value) respectively.
- The decrease in imports from Germany on January 2019 was led by Motor vehicles, down £354 million (20%).
- The decrease in imports from Norway on last month and January 2019 was dominated by Mineral fuels, down £370 million (30%) and £639 million (43%) respectively.

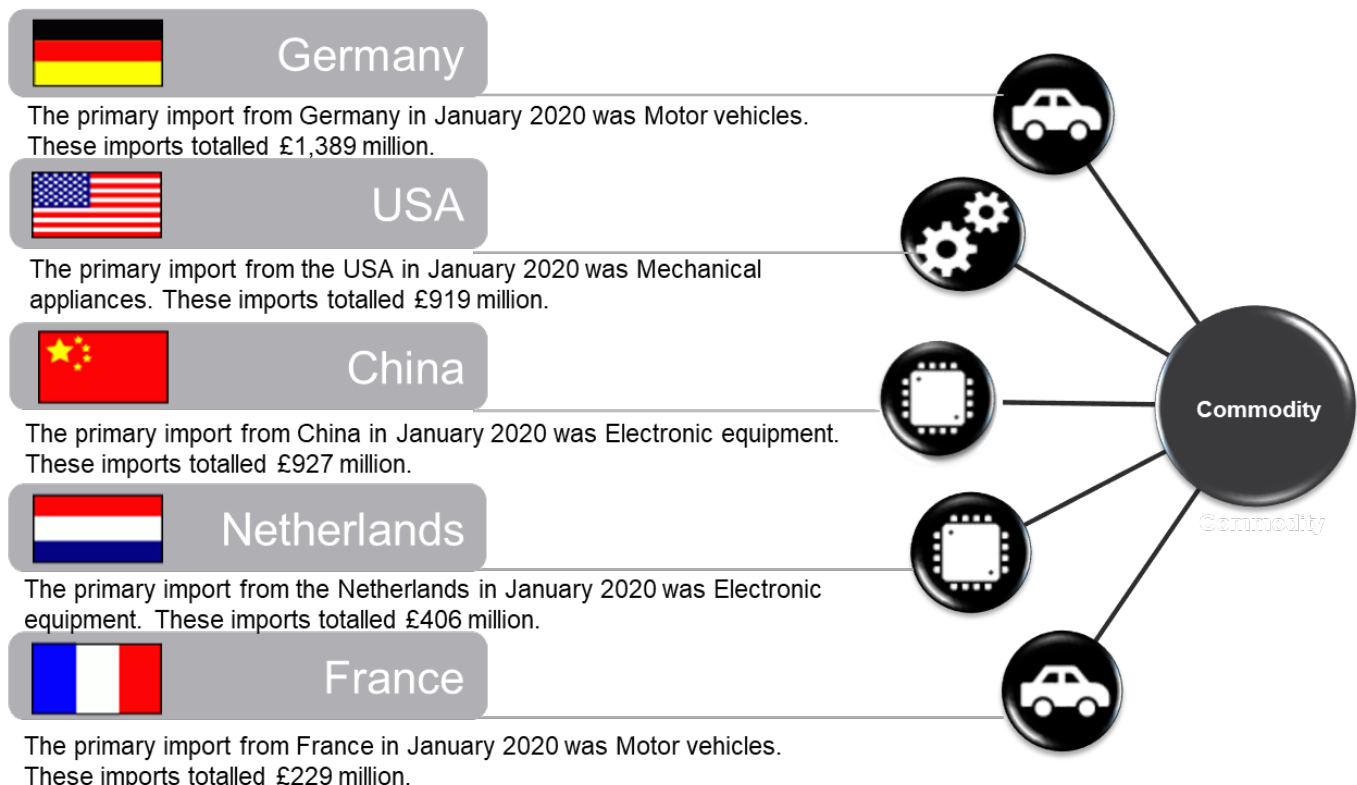
↑ Imports of Precious metals from Russia up 60% on January 2019

Commodity to country:

- The increase in imports of Pharmaceutical products on last month was led by the Netherlands, up £227 million (tripling in value).
- The decrease in imports of Precious metals on last month was dominated by Russia, down £823 million (77%). The increase on January 2019 was led by Uzbekistan, up £381 million (from less than £0.1 million).
- The decrease in imports of Aircraft on last month was dominated by France, down £174 million (81%).
- The increase in imports of Motor vehicles on last month was led by Japan, up £104 million (85%).

↑ Imports of Pharmaceutical products from the Netherlands up 3 times in value on last month

Figure 9: The UK's top commodity imports from the top 5 countries



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2020 data is provisional

Methodology Notes

Metadata

Data behind this bulletin is available 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](#).

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](#)'.

Data sources

The **EU figures** provided in this publication of the January 2020 Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics are collected from the Intrastat survey. They include:

- Estimates for businesses who have yet to submit detailed data on the trade they had with other EU Member States this month.
- Estimates for businesses who do not have to submit detailed data on the trade they have with other EU Member States.
- 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 commodity (HS2) and country totals.

The **Non-EU figures** provided in this publication of the January 2020 Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics are presented by customs declarations and collected by the CHIEF (Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight) system.

Detailed trade information is presented according to the [Harmonised System \(HS\)](#) nomenclature.

Methodology

This methodology paper covers all aspects of the Overseas Trade Statistics methodology – data sources, classifications and definitions, quality assurance, publications and governance. It is a useful companion to the trade data, providing the definitions and methodologies on which the data are based. The Overseas Trade Statistics Methodology paper (October 2019) is available [here](#).

From the May 2016 month of account, there was a methodological change to the way our trade-in-goods statistics are compiled. Following a change in legislation, trade-in-goods statistics switched from the 'general trade' system of compilation to the 'special trade' system. More information can be found [here](#).

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](#).

Relationship with other statistical publications

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 2 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](#).

The aggregate estimates here will differ from the Eurostat publication [Euro area external trade](#). The OTS was published up until the May 2016 month of account 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'.

National Statistics Publication

HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with countries on 11 March 2020 under arrangements set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#). The 1st release is published on HMRC's trade data website www.uktradeinfo.com.

This release includes the 1st provisional estimates of trade-in-goods between the UK and both countries of the EU and those outside the EU for January 2020. At the same time revisions for all previously published non-EU and EU data for 2019 are also being released in line with the [HM Revenue & Customs Policy on Revisions](#).

The next three publications are due for release on the following days:

Month of account	First release date
February 2020	9 April 2020
March 2020	12 May 2020
April 2020	10 June 2020

The OTS has been reviewed as part of an assessment made of Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics by the [UK Statistics Authority](#). The report of that assessment can be found at <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-93---uk-trade-in-goods.pdf>.

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.

As the UK leaves the EU, it is important that our statistics continue to be of high quality and are internationally comparable. During the transition period, those UK statistics that align with EU practice and rules will continue to do so in the same way as before 31 January 2020. After the transition period, we will continue to produce statistics in line with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Statistics and in accordance with internationally agreed statistical guidance and standards.