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# EU Overseas Trade Statistics September 2013

## Summary

- The UK's EU exports for September 2013 are £12.4 billion. This is an increase of £0.8 billion (6.5 per cent) compared to August 2013. It is also an increase of £0.2 billion (2.0 per cent) compared to September 2012.
- The UK's EU imports for September 2013 are £19.2 billion. This is an increase of £2.8 billion (16.9 per cent) compared to August 2013. It is also an increase of £2.3 billion (13.5 per cent) compared to September 2012.
- The UK remains a net importer (imports are greater than exports). The size of the difference between imports and exports is £6.8 billion. This is an increase of £2.0 billion (42.1 per cent) compared to August 2013, and is the highest trade gap on record.



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 User Story](#)'. You can also access the detailed data in our interactive database [here](#).

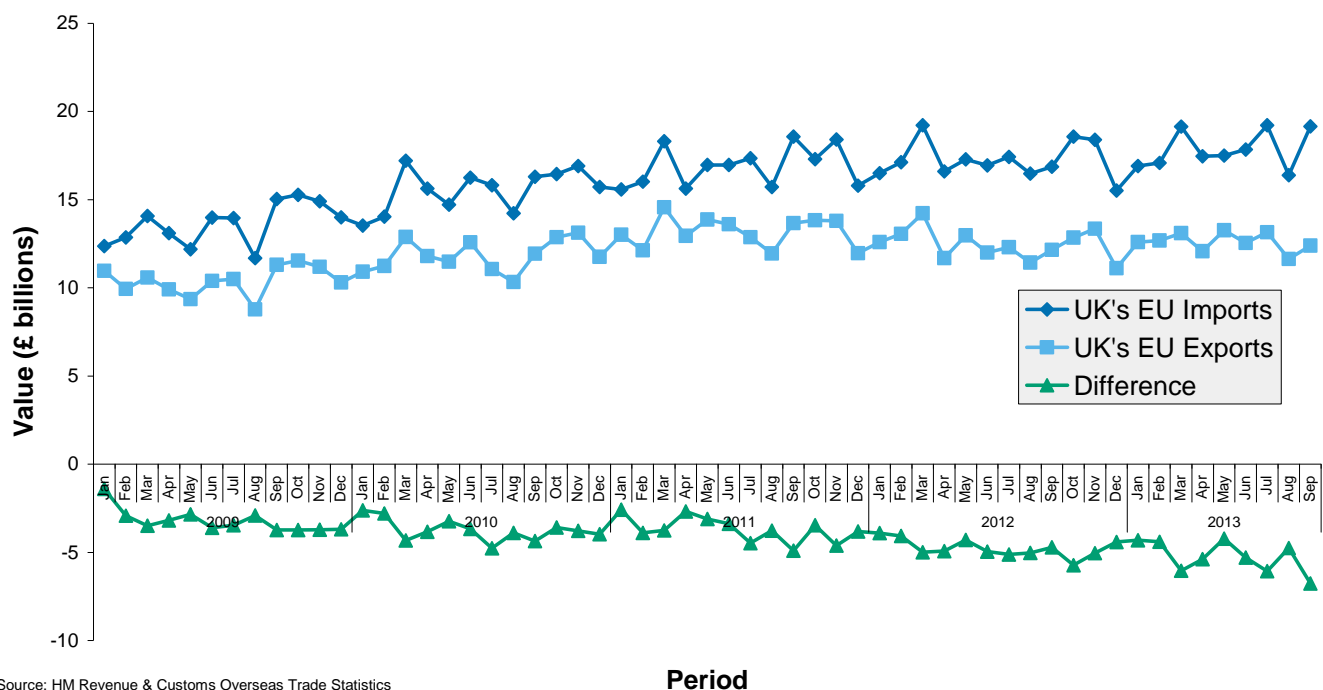
## Key Points

For the month of September 2013:

The value of UK trade increased for both EU imports and exports, with imports rising by £2.8 billion, and exports by £0.8 billion against August 2013 totals. Compared to September 2012, imports rose by £2.3 billion and exports by £0.2 billion.

There is an increase of 42.1 per cent in the trade gap (i.e. the difference between UK imports from, and exports to the EU) when compared to August 2013. This difference is now £6.8 billion. This is the largest trade gap on record.

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



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

## Exports

- The UK's EU exports for September 2013 are £12.4 billion. This is an increase of £0.8 billion (6.5 per cent) compared to August 2013. It is also an increase of £0.2 billion (2.0 per cent) compared to September 2012.
- The top five commodities are unchanged from last month, albeit in a different order. HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) remains the top commodity exported by value, despite experiencing the largest value decrease from the previous month of £0.5 billion (19.0 per cent). In September it contributed £2.0 billion, 16.5 per cent of the total value of the UK's EU export trade.
- The largest value increase from the previous month was in the commodity with the third largest export value, up from fifth. HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof) was up £425.0 million (57.6 per cent).
- The top five EU export partner countries are similar to the previous month, with France overtaking the Netherlands for second place. Germany remains the UK's largest EU export partner country, accounting for 20.6 per cent of the total exports.
- The largest decrease in exports from the UK compared to July 2013 was a fall of £211.8 million (10.7 per cent) to the Netherlands. Exports to Italy had the largest increase, of £297.2 million (59.7 per cent), to rise to sixth place from seventh.
- The total 2013 year to date value of UK's trade-in-goods exported to EU Member States excluding September is £101.1 billion, which has been upwardly revised by £182.3 million. This is an increase of 0.2 per cent.

## Imports

- The UK's EU imports for September 2013 are £19.2 billion. This is an increase of £2.8 billion (16.9 per cent) compared to August 2013. It is also an increase of £2.3 billion (13.5 per cent) compared to September 2012.
- The top five commodities are the same as last month. The largest contributing commodity group is HS2 87 (Motor vehicles). This contributed £3.5 billion, 18.3 per cent of the total value of UK's EU import trade. The chapter also experienced the largest value increase from the previous month, up £1.1 billion (43.2 per cent).
- The largest value decrease from the previous month was in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels) down £60.1 million (5.5 per cent). This takes imports in HS2 27 down to fifth place, below HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products).
- The top five EU import partner countries are unchanged from August 2013, with all five rising in value. Germany remains the EU Member State from which the UK imports most goods by value, accounting for 25.4 per cent of total EU imports. The largest increase compared to August 2013 was from France, up by £574.1 million (33.1 per cent). The largest decrease was a fall of £34.0 million in imports from Cyprus, a fall of 77.6 per cent.
- The total 2013 year to date value of UK's trade-in-goods imported from EU Member States excluding September is £141.5 billion, which has been upwardly revised by £114.0 million. This is an increase of less than 0.1 per cent.

## Further Analysis: Exports

**Table 1: Top 5 commodities in UK's EU exports in September 2013 compared to August 2013 and September 2012**

| HS 2 | Description   | September 2013 Total<br>£ millions | % Change<br>from<br>August<br>2013 | % Change<br>from<br>September<br>2012 | % of Total<br>September<br>2013<br>Exports | Rank<br>August<br>2013 | Rank<br>September<br>2012 |
|------|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------|---------------------------|
| -    | Total Exports   | 12,397.8                           | 6.5                                | 2.0                                   | 100.0                                      | n/a                    | n/a                       |
| 27   | Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes  | 2,041.4                            | -19.0                              | -13.2                                 | 16.5                                       | 1                      | 1                         |
| 84   | Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof   | 1,322.0                            | 18.9                               | 11.5                                  | 10.7                                       | 2                      | 2                         |
| 87   | Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof   | 1,162.6                            | 57.6                               | 24.4                                  | 9.4  | 5                      | 3                         |
| 30   | Pharmaceutical products   | 871.2                              | 13.2                               | 9.2                                   | 7.0  | 4                      | 5                         |
| 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 | 861.9                              | 11.1                               | 5.6                                   | 7.0  | 3                      | 4                         |

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Note: 2013 data are provisional

### Commodity Analysis: comparison with previous month

The increase in export value of £0.8 billion (6.5 per cent) **compared to August 2013** is composed of increases in 83 per cent of all HS2 chapters. Four of the top five chapters experienced rises in trade. There were three increases over £100 million and one decrease above this level.

The largest increase was for the third placed chapter, HS2 87 (Motor vehicles), up from fifth. This rose by £425.0 million (57.6 per cent) to £1.2 billion, the highest value since March. This increase was composed of rises to most EU member states, the largest being to Belgium, up £85.6 million (70.5 per cent).

The second largest increase was for the second largest chapter HS2 84 (Mechanical appliances), which rose by £210.4 million (18.9 per cent). This was also spread across a number of different countries, the largest of which was for Germany, up £56.8 million (16.1 per cent).

The next largest increase was for HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products), the fourth largest chapter. This rose by £101.5 million (13.2 per cent). The largest country increase for this chapter was Germany, up £37.1 million (24.1 per cent).

There were no other increases over £100 million. The next highest, HS2 85 (Electronic equipment), rose by £86.0 million (11.1 per cent). Despite this increase, the chapter still fell from third to fifth place, due to the higher rise for chapters 30 and 87.

The largest decrease was for the top chapter, HS2 27 (Mineral fuels), down £480.1 million (19.0 per cent). This is the second monthly fall from the record high value of £3.0 billion in July, to £2.0 billion this month, the lowest value since February 2011.

This decrease was driven by falls of £331.7 million (33.1 per cent) in exports to the Netherlands, and £122.6 million (32.1 per cent) to France.

There were no other decreases over £100 million, but just below this level, HS2 29 (Organic chemicals) fell by £97.4 million (20.8 per cent).

### **Commodity Analysis: Comparison against the same month in the previous year**

**Compared to September 2012**, the overall export trade to EU Member States increased by £0.2 billion, 2.0 per cent. This overall rise is composed of increases in 68 per cent of all HS2 chapters. There were two increases and two decreases over £100 million. In the top five chapters, there were four increases and one decrease.

The largest increase was for HS2 87 (Motor vehicles), which rose by £228.0 million (24.4 per cent). This was led by an increase to Belgium of £66.7 million (47.6 per cent).

The second largest increase was for HS2 84 (Mechanical appliances), which rose by £136.4 million (11.5 per cent). This was led by an increase in exports to Germany of £48.9 million (13.6 per cent).

There were no other increases over £100 million. The next largest increase was for HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products), up from fifth to fourth place. This rose by £73.1 million (9.2 per cent). This was driven by an increase of £76.0 million (67.8 per cent) to the Netherlands.

The largest decrease was in the top chapter HS2 27 (Mineral fuels), down £309.1 million (13.2 per cent). This drop was driven by decreases in exports to the Netherlands, France, and Germany, of £215.2 million (24.3 per cent), £151.6 million (36.9 per cent) and £108.5 million (28.6 per cent) respectively. Trade within this chapter is often very volatile which explains the large fluctuations.

The second largest decrease was £219.5 million (37.7 per cent) for HS2 29 (Organic chemicals). This was dominated by a fall in exports to Germany of £232.8 million (80.3 per cent).

There were no other decreases over £100 million. The next largest decrease was for HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof) down £50.8 million (10.8 per cent).

Figure 2 shows the top five commodities for the UK's EU exports in September 2013, compared to August 2013 and September 2012. It clearly shows that all chapters except HS2 27 increased compared with both periods.

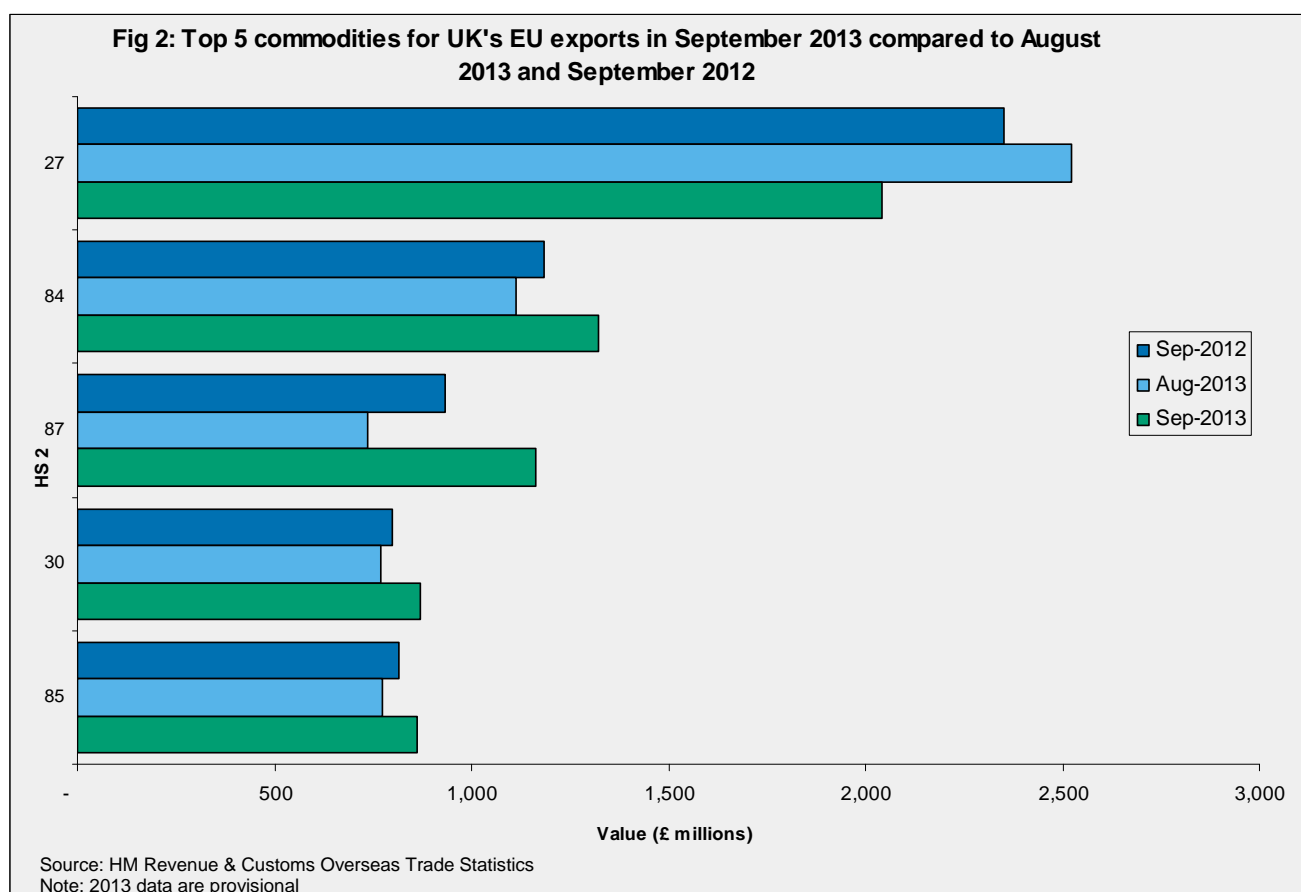


Table 2 shows comparisons of the value of UK export trade with our top five EU export trading partners for September 2013, August 2013 and September 2012.

| Country       | Total September 2013<br>£ millions | % Change from August 2013 | % Change from September 2012 | % of total EU exports | Rank August 2013 | Rank September 2012 |
|---------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Total Exports | 12,397.76                          | 6.6                       | 2.0                          | 100.0                 | n/a              | n/a                 |
| Germany       | 2,550.51                           | 8.4                       | -5.7                         | 20.6                  | 1                | 1                   |
| France        | 1,804.46                           | 7.3                       | -2.9                         | 14.6                  | 3                | 2                   |
| Netherlands   | 1,771.34                           | -10.7                     | -3.2                         | 14.3                  | 2                | 3                   |
| Ireland       | 1,532.19                           | 5.2                       | 2.6                          | 12.4                  | 4                | 4                   |
| Belgium       | 1,127.59                           | 9.7                       | 12.9                         | 9.1                   | 5                | 5                   |

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

### Country Analysis: comparison with previous month

The top five EU export partner Member States remain virtually unchanged **compared with August 2013**, with France passing the Netherlands for second place. Germany has been the UK's largest export partner in the EU for a number of years, currently accounting for 20.6 per cent of the total value of exports. This was led by exports of £408.8 million in HS2 84 (Mechanical appliances), with five other chapters with exports of over £100 million.

The increase in value of total export trade compared to August 2013 reflects increases in 19 of the other 27 Member States in the EU. There were five increases over £100 million and one decrease over this level. Furthermore, four of the top five countries experienced increases in export trade.

The largest increase in the value of exports from the UK was outside the top five, as Italy rose by £297.2 million (59.7 per cent) to climb from seventh to sixth place. This increase was spread over several chapters, led by a fourteen-fold rise in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels) of £49.8 million.

The second largest increase in the values of exports from the UK was to Germany, up £198.4 million (8.4 per cent). This was led by a rise of £64.7 million (40.7 per cent) in exports in HS2 87 (Motor vehicles).

The third largest increase was for Spain, up £133.1 million (23.7 per cent). This increase was also led by a rise in HS2 87, up £54.6 million to double in value.

The next largest increase was for France, up £121.9 million (7.3 per cent). This rise was spread across a number of chapters, the largest of which was HS2 87, up £67.5 million (86.8 per cent), although the increases were offset by a large fall in exports of HS2 27 (mineral fuels), of £122.6 million (32.1 per cent).

The fifth largest increase was for Belgium, up £100.1 million (9.7 per cent). This was driven by a rise of £85.6 million (70.5 per cent) in HS2 87 (Motor vehicles).

There were no other increases over £100 million. The next largest was Ireland, up £75.2 million (5.2 per cent).

The largest decrease was for the Netherlands, putting it in third place, behind France this month. The fall of £211.8 million (10.7 per cent) was dominated by a reduction in exports of mineral fuels (HS2 27) of £331.7 million (33.1 per cent).

This was the only decrease of over £100 million. The next largest was below £30 million.

### **Country Analysis: comparison against the same month in the previous year**

The increase in total export trade value **compared to September 2012** was due to there being 15 increases and 11 decreases in the UK's 26 EU export partner Member States. This excludes Croatia as although it joined the EU on 1 July, it was not a member in September 2012. There were two increases over £100 million and one decrease above this value. Three of the top five export partner countries experienced decreases in export trade.

The largest increase was for Italy, up £139.5 million (21.3 per cent). This rise was led by an increase in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels) up £51.1 million, from £2.3 million.

The next largest increase was for Belgium, up £128.4 million (12.9 per cent). This was driven by a rise in HS2 87 (motor vehicles), up £66.7 million (47.6 per cent).

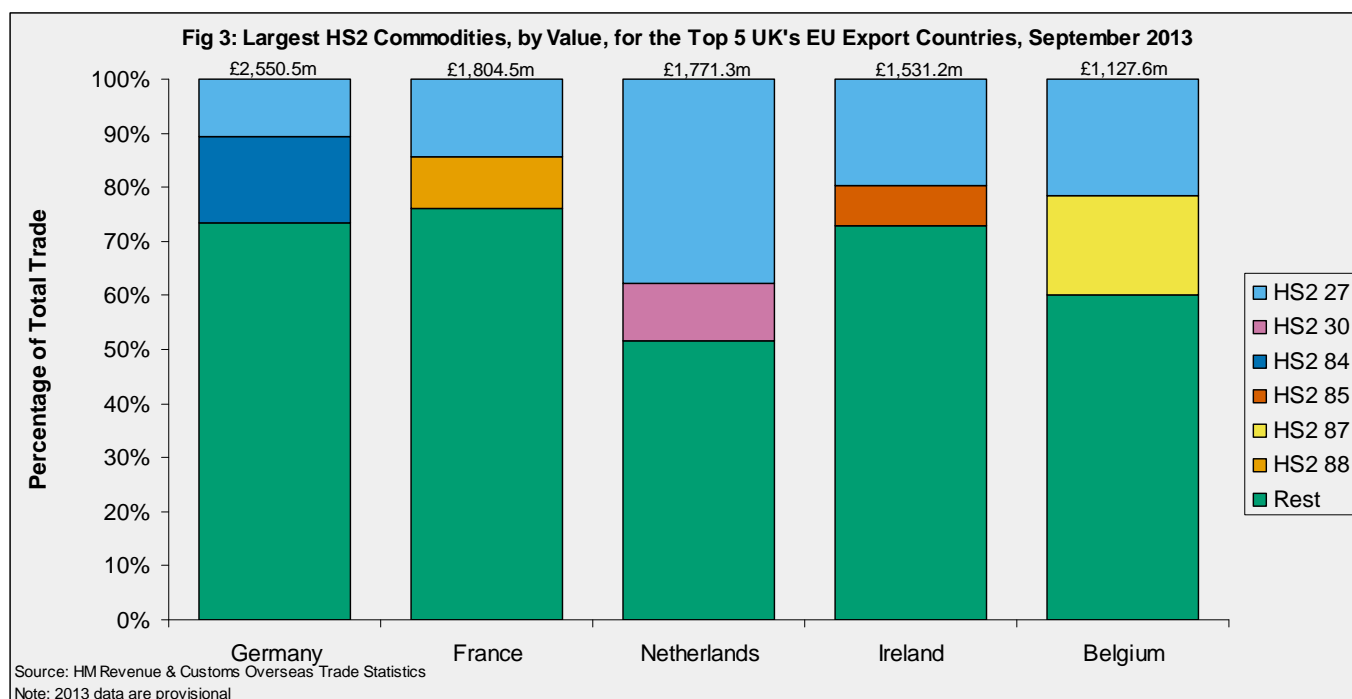
These were the only increases above £100 million. The next largest was Spain, up £61.3 million (9.7 per cent).

The largest decrease, and only one above £100 million, was for Germany, down by £154.4 million (5.7 per cent). This was driven by a substantial decrease of £232.8 million (80.2 per cent) in HS2 29 (Organic chemicals), which had a major influence in the overall fall in exports in this chapter. There was also a fall of £108.5 million (28.6 per cent) in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels). These two falls were offset by increases in the majority of the other chapters.

The second largest decrease was for the Netherlands, down £59.3 million (3.2 per cent).

Figure 3 shows the two largest commodities by value exported from the UK to each of the UK's top five EU export trading partners. All of the top five Member States have HS2 27 (Mineral fuels) as one of their two largest commodities exported from the UK by value. The trade with these five Member States accounts for 85.6 per cent of the total value of UK EU export trade under this chapter. Furthermore, HS2 27 accounts for 37.9 per cent of the total UK export trade to the Netherlands.

However, none of the other chapters feature in more than one of the top five Member States' two largest commodities.





## Further Analysis: Imports

**Table 3: Top 5 commodities in UK's EU imports in September 2013 compared to August 2013 and September 2012**

| HS 2 | Description   | September 2013 Total : millions | % Change from August 2013 | % Change from September 2012 | % of Total September 2013 Imports | Rank August 2013 | Rank September 2012 |
|------|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| -    | Total Imports   | 19,156.1                        | 16.9                      | 13.5                         | 100.0                             | n/a              | n/a                 |
| 87   | Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof   | 3,505.9                         | 43.2                      | 29.6                         | 18.3                              | 1                | 1                   |
| 84   | Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof   | 2,146.8                         | 21.5                      | 9.5                          | 11.2                              | 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 | 1,884.4                         | 26.5                      | 32.4                         | 9.8                               | 3                | 3                   |
| 30   | Pharmaceutical products   | 1,256.0                         | 27.0                      | 7.6                          | 6.6                               | 5                | 4                   |
| 27   | Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes  | 1,035.1                         | -5.5                      | 4.8                          | 5.4                               | 4                | 5                   |

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

### Commodity Analysis: comparison with previous month

The increase of £2.8 billion in imports **compared to August 2013** is made up of increases in 75 per cent of all HS2 chapters. There were six increases over £100 million and no decreases above this level. Four of the top five commodities increased in import value, with increases of over £250 million.

The largest increase in value of imports was for the biggest commodity by value, HS2 87 (Motor vehicles). This rose by £1.1 billion (43.2 per cent) to £3.5 billion. This is the highest import value on record for this chapter. The increase was led by rises in imports from Germany, Belgium and France, of £407.9 million (32.3 per cent), £219.9 million (73.3 per cent) and £132.5 million (78.6 per cent) respectively.

The next biggest increase was in the third biggest import chapter, HS2 85 (Electronic equipment), which rose by £395.0 million (26.5 per cent) to £1.9 billion. This is the highest import value for this chapter since November 2012. The increase is led by a rise of £126.4 million (31.9 per cent) from the Netherlands.

The third biggest increase was for the second biggest import chapter, HS2 84 (Mechanical appliances), which rose by £380.5 million (21.5 per cent) to £2.1 billion. This is a return to normal following the decrease in August due to summer shutdowns.

This increase is spread over several countries, with imports from 23 of the other 27 EU member states increasing in value.

The fourth largest increase was for HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products), which rose by £267.4 million (27.0 per cent) to return to fourth from fifth place. This rise is led by increases from Belgium and the Irish Republic, of £74.7 million (50.4 per cent) and £69.4 million (69.7 per cent) respectively.

The next two largest increases were outside the top five, as HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft and parts thereof) rose by £123.4 million (63.1 per cent) to £319.1 million, to climb from 19<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> biggest chapter by value. The increase this month is dominated by a nine-fold rise of £170.5 million from France.

The only other increase over £100 million was HS2 73 (Articles of iron or steel), up by £101.7 million (42.2 per cent) to £342.5 million. This is driven by a fourfold rise of £73.6 million from Denmark.

There were no other increases over £100 million. The next largest was £82.1 million (18.9 per cent) for HS2 90 (Optical, photographic, cinematographic, or surgical instruments).

There were no decreases over £100 million. The largest decrease in the value of imports was for the fifth biggest commodity by value, down from fourth, HS2 27 (Mineral fuels). This fell by £60.1 million (5.5 per cent) to £1.0 billion. This is not a particularly large change for this chapter. The decrease in HS2 27 was composed of falls from Denmark and Sweden of £53.2 million (58.7 per cent) and £42.5 million (36.6 per cent) respectively, offset slightly by a rise of £54.5 million (13.4 per cent) from the Netherlands.

### **Commodity Analysis: comparison with the same month in the previous year**

**Compared with September 2012**, there was an increase of £2.3 billion (13.5 per cent) in the value of imports. There were increases in 78 per cent of all chapters. There were four chapters with increases of over £100 million, and one decrease above this level. All of the top five commodities increased in import value.

The chapter with the largest increase in comparison with September 2012 was the biggest import commodity by value, HS2 87 (motor vehicles), which rose by £800.3 million (29.6 per cent). This was led by increases in imports from Germany and France, of £437.8 million (35.5 per cent) and £112.1 million (59.3 per cent) respectively.

The second largest increase was for HS2 85 (Electronic equipment), up £461.1 million (32.4 per cent). As with the comparison with last month, this was driven by a rise of £191.6 million (57.9 per cent) from the Netherlands.

The third biggest increase was for the second biggest import chapter, HS2 84 (Mechanical appliances), which rose by £185.4 million (9.5 per cent). This increase is spread over several countries.

The final increase of over £100 million was for HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft and parts thereof), which rose by £172.9 million (118.3 per cent) to climb from 27<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> biggest chapter by value. Again, this mirrors the comparison with last month, as the increase is dominated by a six-fold rise of £163.6 million from France.

There were no other increases over £100 million, but just below this level was a rise of £91.8 million (36.6 per cent) for HS2 73 (Articles of iron or steel).

The chapter with the largest decrease in comparison with September 2012 was HS2 71 (Precious stones, metals, pearls and jewellery), falling from seventh to 16<sup>th</sup> place. This fell by £176.0 million (39.6 per cent) to £268.6 million. The import value of £444.6

million from September 2012 was the second highest on record, and the decrease was driven by a fall in imports from Germany, of £84.5 million (57.1 per cent).

There were no other decreases over £100 million. The next largest was £53.1 million (73.7 per cent) for HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques).

Figure 4 shows the top five HS2 commodity groups for the UK's EU imports in September 2013, compared to August 2013 and September 2012. The graph demonstrates the size of the increases in the top four chapters compared to last month, while all five increased when compared to last year.

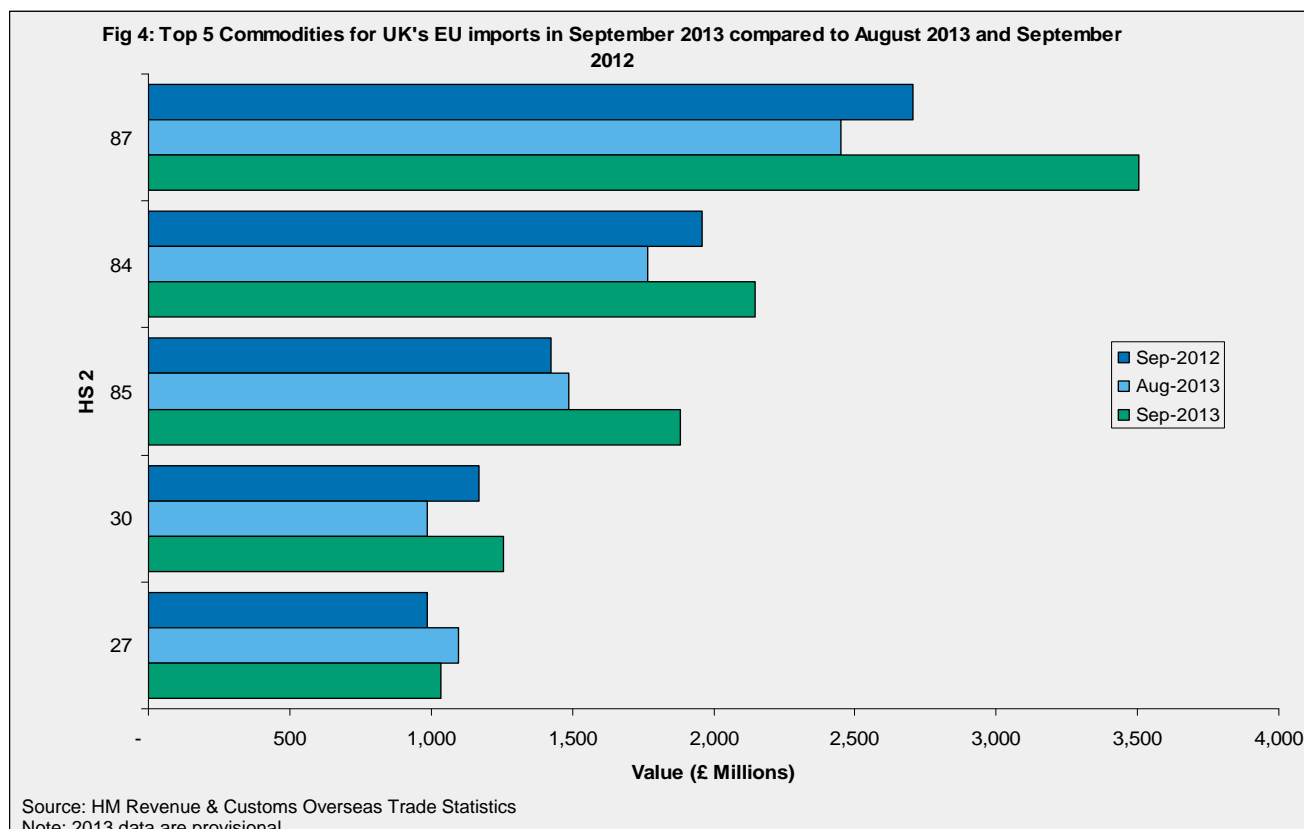


Table 4 shows comparisons of the value of UK import trade with our top five EU import trading partners for September 2013, August 2013 and September 2012.

**Table 4: Top 5 EU import partner Member States in September 2013 compared to August 2013 and September 2012**

| Country       | September 2013 Total £ millions | % change from August 2013 | % change from September 2012 | % of total September 2013 Imports | Rank August 2013 | Rank September 2012 |
|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Total Imports | 19,156.1                        | 16.9                      | 13.5                         | 100.0                             | n/a              | n/a                 |
| Germany       | 4,861.8                         | 11.3                      | 9.5                          | 25.4                              | 1                | 1                   |
| Netherlands   | 3,012.6                         | 13.1                      | 19.6                         | 15.7                              | 2                | 2                   |
| France        | 2,307.1                         | 33.1                      | 26.5                         | 12.0                              | 3                | 3                   |
| Belgium       | 1,854.2                         | 24.1                      | 13.2                         | 9.7                               | 4                | 4                   |
| Italy         | 1,318.9                         | 19.3                      | 9.6                          | 6.9                               | 5                | 5                   |

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

The UK imports most goods from Germany, which account for 25.4 per cent of the total imports to the UK from the EU. This is led by imports of £1.7 billion in HS2 87 (Motor

vehicles), accounting for 34.4 percent of the total imports from Germany. The next largest chapter is HS2 84 (Mechanical appliances), with £0.6 billion, 13.3 per cent of the UK's imports from Germany.

### **Country Analysis: comparison with previous month**

**Compared with August 2013**, the value of total import trade into the UK increased for 24 of the other 27 Member States, and decreased for three. Imports for eight member states increased by over £100 million while there were no decreases above this level.

The largest increase in value of import trade was from France, up £574.1 million (33.1 per cent). This reverses a large decrease last month. The increase this month is led by rises of £170.5 million (nearly nine-fold) in HS2 88 (Aircraft) and £132.5 million (78.6 per cent) in chapter HS2 87 (Motor vehicles).

The second largest increase was a rise of £493.3 million (11.3 per cent) from Germany, to £4.9 billion. This is the second highest value on record for imports from Germany. The increase is dominated by a rise of £407.9 million (32.3 per cent) in chapter HS2 87 (Motor vehicles).

The third largest increase was from Belgium, up by £359.9 million (24.1 per cent). This was also dominated by a rise of £219.9 million (73.3 per cent) in HS2 87 (Motor vehicles).

The next largest increase was for the Netherlands, up £349.5 million (13.1 per cent), driven by a rise of £126.4 million (31.9 per cent) in HS2 85 (Electronic equipment).

Imports from Italy rose by £213.5 million (19.3 per cent), with increases across several chapters. These five largest increases were all from the top five import countries.

The next three largest increases in imports were for the countries in sixth, seventh and eighth place. Spain (seventh) was up by £205.1 million (27.4 per cent), led by HS2 87 (Motor vehicles), up £95.7 million (60.6 per cent). The Irish Republic (sixth) increased by £127.1 million (14.6 per cent), led by a rise of £69.4 million (69.7 per cent) in HS2 30 (Pharmaceuticals). Finally Poland (eighth) increased by £121.3 million, spread across most chapters.

These were the only increases over £100 million although just below this level was a rise of £84.9 million (25.9 per cent) in imports from the Czech Republic.

The largest decrease was for imports from Cyprus, which fell by £34.0 million (77.6 per cent) to £9.8 million. Last month was the highest value on record for imports from Cyprus, due to a large increase for in HS2 88 (Aircraft). The decrease of £34.9 million in this chapter to virtually zero this month has taken imports from Cyprus back to more normal levels.

### **Country Analysis: comparison with the same month in the previous year**

There was an increase of £2.3 billion (13.5 per cent) in total import trade value **compared to September 2012**, which is composed of 21 increases and five decreases from the other 26 Member States in the EU (excluding Croatia). All of the top five member states increased in import value. There were six increases over £100 million and no decreases over this amount.

The four largest increases were from our four biggest import partners. Imports from the Netherlands rose by £493.6 million (19.6 per cent), with increases of £191.6 million (57.9 per cent) in HS2 85 (Electronic equipment) and £124.8 million (37.0 per cent) in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels).

The second largest increase was for France, up £483.6 million (26.5 per cent). This is led by rises of £163.6 million (over six-fold) in HS2 88 (Aircraft), and £112.1 million (59.3 per cent) in HS2 87 (Motor vehicles).

The third largest increase was for the top import country, Germany, up £422.6 million (9.5 per cent). This is also led by a rise of £437.8 million (35.5 per cent) in Motor vehicles, offset slightly by a fall of £119.4 million (28.2 per cent) in HS2 30 (Pharmaceuticals).

The fourth largest increase was for Belgium, up £216.4 million (13.2 per cent). This was led by rises of £71.5 million (more than double) in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels) and £63.6 million (13.9 per cent) in HS2 87 (Motor vehicles).

The next largest increase in imports was for Spain, rising by £164.5 million (20.9 per cent). This was spread across several chapters, led by HS2 87 (Motor vehicles), up £54.3 million (27.3 per cent).

The final increase of over £100 million was for Italy, up by £115.8 million (9.6 per cent). This was spread across most chapters.

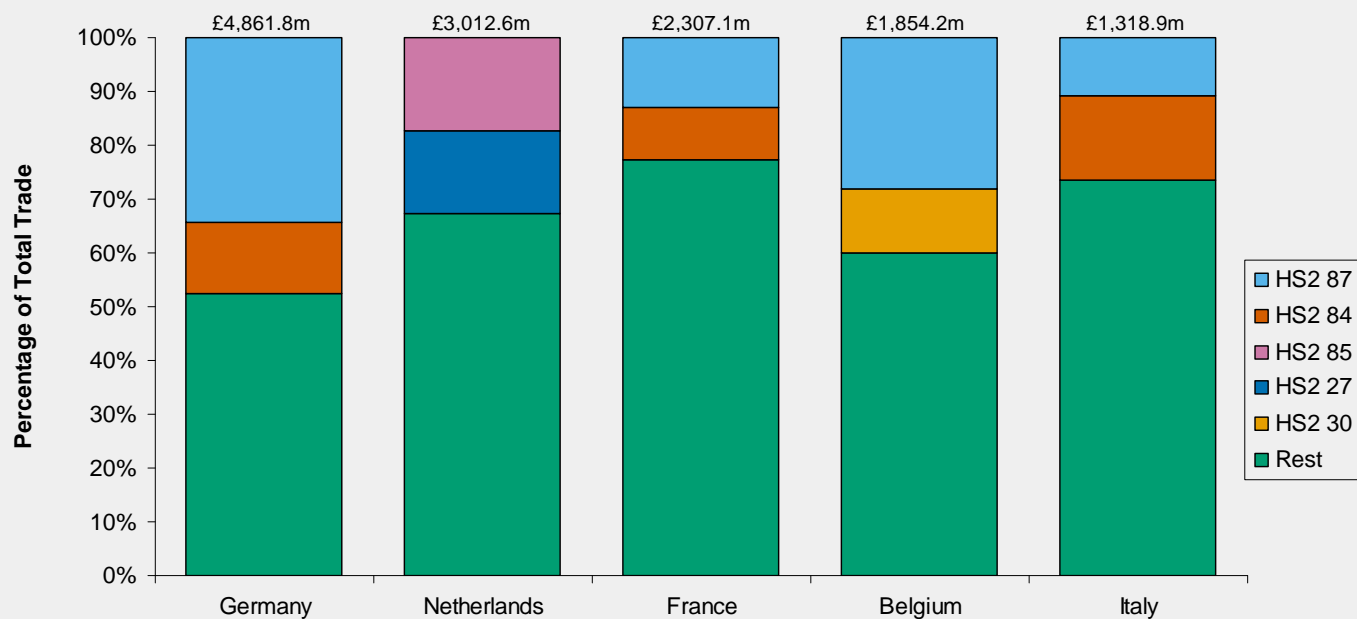
There were no other increases over £100 million. The next largest increase was for Finland, which rose by £86.3 million (51.0 per cent).

There were no decreases over £100 million. The largest was for Sweden, down £87.5 million (12.4 per cent). This was more than covered by a fall of £183.2 million (71.3 per cent) in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels).

Figure 5 shows the two largest commodities imported into the UK by value from each of the UK's top five import partner EU Member States. Apart from the Netherlands, all of the top five Member States have HS2 87 (Motor vehicles) in their top two largest commodities. The trade in HS2 87 from these Member States accounts for 75.2 per cent of the total import trade to the UK under this chapter. It also makes up 34.4 per cent of the UK's total imports from Germany.

Three Member States (Germany, France and Italy) have HS2 84 (Mechanical appliances) in their top two largest commodities imported by the UK, accounting for 50.0 per cent of the total UK import value in these commodities. Imports from the Netherlands within HS2 27 (Mineral fuels) account for 44.6 per cent of the UK's imports from the EU in this chapter.

**Fig 5: Largest HS2 Commodities, by Value, for the Top 5 UK's EU Import Countries, September 2013**



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Note: 2013 data are provisional

Notes:

1. HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with Member States of the European Union (EU) on 12 November 2013 under arrangements set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#).
2. This release includes the first provisional estimates of trade-in-goods between the UK and Member States of the EU for September 2013. At the same time revisions for all previously published EU data for 2013 are also being released in line with the [HM Revenue & Customs Policy on Revisions](#).
3. The figures provided in this publication of the September 2013 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 September.
  - 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 detail of this can be found [here](#).
4. Estimates are included in all high level totals including HS2 and country totals but not for aggregated totals below this level.
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. More detail about the differences between the BoP and OTS publications can be found [here](#).
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. 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.
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.

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

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To access the detailed 8-digit data in our interactive database please log in [here](#).

Please note: there may be a delay between the availability of 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 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: 12 December 2013 9:30am

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