

EU Overseas Trade Statistics - November 2012

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Summary

- For trade with EU Member States, the value of both imports and exports remained relatively unchanged compared to October 2012.
- The UK's EU exports have increased by £0.1 billion (1.0 per cent) compared to October 2012, to £13.1 billion. Compared to November 2011 exports have decreased by £0.7 billion (4.8 per cent).
- The UK's EU imports have decreased by £0.1 billion (0.6 per cent) compared to October 2012, to £18.2 billion. Compared to November 2011 imports decreased by £0.2 billion (1.1 per cent).
- The UK remains a net importer (imports are greater than exports). The size of difference between imports and exports is now £5.1 billion, a decrease of £0.2 billion (4.3 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](#).

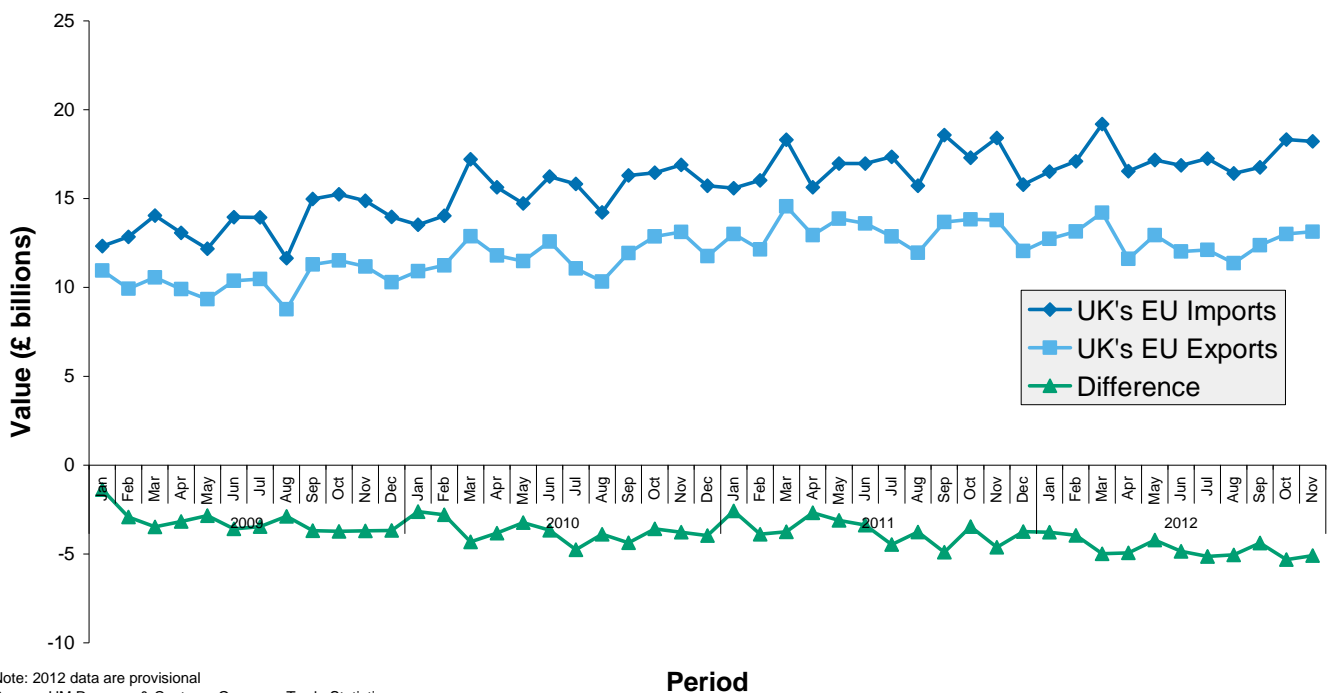
Key Points

For the month of November 2012:

The value of UK trade remained relatively unchanged for both imports and exports in November 2012, with exports rising by £0.1 billion, and imports falling by £0.1 billion.

This resulted in a decrease of 4.3 per cent in the difference between UK imports from the EU and exports to the EU. This difference is now £5.1 billion, the third highest in recent years, behind July and October 2012.

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



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

Exports

- The value of the UK's EU exports has increased by £0.1 billion (1.0 per cent) compared to October 2012 to £13.1 billion. However, compared with November 2011, the value of exports decreased by £0.7 billion (4.8 per cent).
- The top five commodities are similar to the previous month. HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) remains the top commodity exported by value. In November it contributed £2.2 billion, 16.5 per cent of the total value of the UK's EU export trade. This is despite HS2 27 having the second largest value decrease from the previous month, of £94.5 million (4.2 per cent).
- The largest value increase from the previous month was in HS2 29 (Organic chemicals) up £324.4 million (50.6 per cent). The largest value decrease from the previous month was for HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals) down £124.0 million (29.1 per cent).
- The top five EU Member States to which the UK exports are similar to the previous month. Germany remains the UK's largest EU export partner country, accounting for 24.9 per cent of the total EU export trade. The largest value increase in export trade was also to Germany up £323.6 million (11.0 per cent). The largest decrease in exports from the UK compared to October 2012 was a £105.6 million (13.4 per cent) fall in the value of exports to Spain.
- The total 2012 year to date value of UK's trade-in-goods exported to EU Member States excluding November 2012 was £125.5 billion, which has been upwardly revised by £363.1 million. This is an increase of 0.3 per cent.

Imports

- The value of the UK's EU imports has decreased by £0.1 billion (0.6 per cent) compared to October 2012, to £18.2 billion. Compared to November 2011 imports have decreased by £0.2 billion (1.1 per cent).
- The top five commodities are unchanged from last month. The largest contributing commodity group is HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof). This contributed £2.5 billion, 13.6 per cent of the total value of UK's EU import trade.
- The largest value increase from the previous month was in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products). This was also the commodity group with the fifth largest value share of the UK's import trade with an increase of £207.3 million, (21.3 per cent).
- The largest value decrease from the previous month was in the commodity with the largest import value, HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof) with a decrease of £331.5 million, 11.8 per cent.
- The top five import partner countries are unchanged from October 2012. Germany is still the EU Member State from which the UK imports most goods by value, accounting for 25.1 per cent. The Netherlands remains in second place, with a 17.1 per cent share.
- The largest increase compared to October 2012 was for imports from the Netherlands, up by £274.7 million (9.7 per cent). The largest decrease was a fall of £291.3 million in imports from France, a decrease of 12.5 per cent.
- The total 2012 year to date value of UK's trade-in-goods imported from EU Member States excluding November 2012 was £172.1 billion, which has been downwardly revised by £18.4 million. This is a decrease of less than 0.1 per cent.

Further Analysis: Exports

Table 1: Top 5 commodities in UK's EU exports in November 2012 compared to October 2012 and November 2011

| HS 2 | Description | November 2012 Total £ millions | % Change from October 2012 | % Change from November 2011 | % of Total November 2012 Exports | Rank October 2012 | Rank November 2011 |
|------|--|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| - | Total Exports | 13,131.8 | 1.0 | -4.8 | 100.0 | n/a | n/a |
| 27 | Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes | 2,160.7 | -4.2 | -11.7 | 16.5 | 1 | 1 |
| 84 | Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof | 1,294.2 | -1.7 | -10.5 | 9.9 | 2 | 2 |
| 87 | Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof | 1,128.1 | 6.3 | -14.5 | 8.6 | 3 | 3 |
| 30 | Pharmaceutical products | 966.9 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 7.4 | 4 | 5 |
| 29 | Organic chemicals | 965.5 | 50.6 | 61.9 | 7.4 | 6 | 6 |

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

The marginal increase in export value **compared to October 2012** reflects an increase in only 45 per cent of all HS2 chapters but with one exceptionally large increase in HS2 29, the fifth largest chapter, of £324.4 million (50.6 per cent). This increase exceeded the overall increase in exports of £127.7 million and it was the only increase to exceed £100 million. Similarly, there was only one decrease in excess of £100 million - HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals) down £124.0 million (29.1 per cent). The second largest decrease, however, was only just below £100 million. This was in the top chapter, HS2 27, which experienced a fall of £94.5 million (4.2 per cent).

Of the three remaining top chapters, HS2 84 saw a decrease of £22.2 million (1.7 per cent), HS2 87 experienced a rise of £67.1 million (6.3 per cent) and HS2 30 increased by £20.2 million (2.1 per cent).

The very large increase in HS29 has led to the total export trade for this commodity group being the highest in recent years. The second highest recorded value was £809.7 million in March 2012 and the third largest was £692.0 million in October 2011. This increase had had the effect of moving this chapter from sixth place in both October 2012 and November 2011 to fifth place this month. Furthermore, because of the relatively small change in total export trade compared to October 2012, this large increase has led to a marginal increase in total exports rather than a decrease. If export trade under HS 29 is excluded from the total trade figures, the total exports for November and October 2012 reduce to £12.2 and £12.4 billion. This would mean a decrease of £196.7 million (1.6 per cent) compared to last month rather than an increase of £127.7 million (1.0 per cent).

Compared to November 2011, the overall export trade to EU Member States decreased by £0.7 billion, 4.8 per cent. This overall decrease is reflected in around 60% of all HS2 chapters decreasing. Three of the top five HS2 chapters experienced decreases and these were all in excess of £100 million. Again HS2 29 (Organic chemicals), the fifth largest chapter saw a large increase of £369.1 million (61.9 per cent). This was the only increase over £100 million.

The largest decrease was in the top chapter HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) which fell by £285.1 million (11.7 per cent). The second largest decrease was for the third largest chapter, HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof) which dropped by £190.7 million (14.5 per cent). The third largest decrease was outside the top five chapters. HS2 85 (Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof) fell by £165.0 million (15.3 per cent). The fourth largest decrease and the only remaining one in excess of £100 million was for the second largest chapter, HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) down £152.3 million (10.5 per cent).

The large increase observed in HS2 29 was the only one in excess of £100 million. As in the comparison with October 2012, this large increase compared to November 2011 has had an impact on the total export figures. If export trade under HS 29 is excluded from the total trade figures, the total exports for November 2012 and November 2011 reduce to £12.2 and £13.2 billion respectively. This leads to a much larger decrease of £1.0 billion (7.8 per cent) rather than the unadjusted decrease of £0.7 billion (4.8 per cent).

Figure 2 shows the top five commodities for UK's EU exports in November 2012, compared to October 2012 and November 2011.

The graph shows that HS2 27 and HS2 84 have decreased in comparison with both October 2012 and November 2011. HS2 87 shows a marginal increase over last month but a larger decrease from last year. HS2 30 has remained virtually static over all three periods and HS2 29 has increased considerably in comparison with both last month and last year.

Fig 2: Top 5 commodities for UK's EU exports November 2012 compared to October 2012 and November 2011

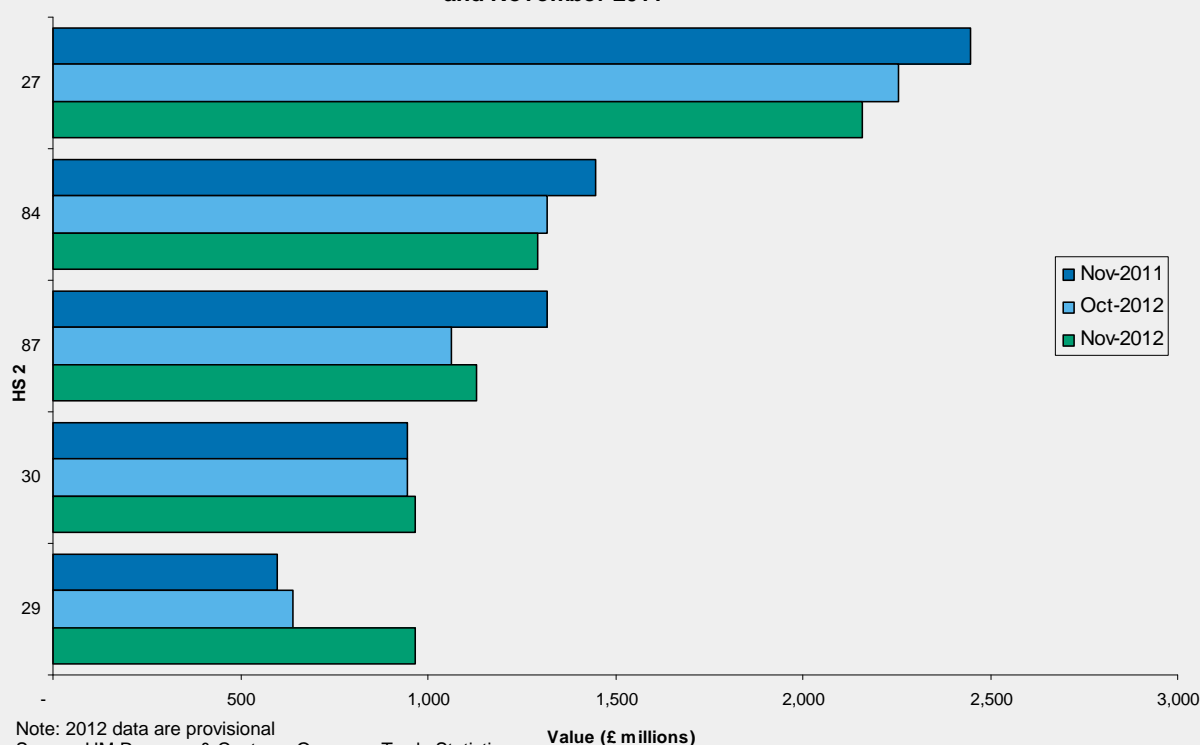


Table 2 shows comparisons of the value of UK export trade with our top five EU export trading partners for November 2012, October 2012 and November 2011.

Table 2: Top 5 EU export partner Member States in November 2012 compared to October 2012 and November 2011

| Country | Total November 2012 £ millions | % Change from October 2012 | % Change from November 2011 | % of total EU exports | Rank October 2012 | Rank November 2011 |
|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Total Exports | 13,131.8 | 1.0 | -4.8 | 100.0 | n/a | n/a |
| Germany | 3,273.6 | 11.0 | 5.4 | 24.9 | 1 | 1 |
| Netherlands | 1,916.3 | 3.2 | -2.6 | 14.6 | 3 | 3 |
| France | 1,880.5 | -4.8 | -7.3 | 14.3 | 2 | 2 |
| Irish Republic | 1,503.8 | 2.3 | -4.5 | 11.5 | 4 | 4 |
| Belgium | 1,070.0 | -6.9 | -16.0 | 8.1 | 5 | 5 |

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

The top five EU export partner Member States remain unchanged **compared with October 2012** albeit that there is a slight change in the order. Germany has been the largest export partner in the EU for the UK for a number of years, currently accounting for 24.9 per cent of the total value of exports. This is mainly led by exports of £639.8 million in HS2 29; £414.6 million in HS2 27; and £378.7 million in HS2 84. The total export trade to Germany is the second highest figure seen in recent years, the highest being £3.4 billion in March 2012.

The marginal increase in value of total export trade compared to October 2012 reflects increases in exactly half (13) of the other 26 Member States in the EU. Generally, the

sizes of the decreases were larger than those of the increases but this was counterbalanced by a very large increase for one partner country, Germany. In the top five countries, three experienced increases in export trade where as only two saw decreases.

The largest increase in the value of exports from the UK was to the top EU export partner country, Germany, up £323.6 million (11.0 per cent). This increase exceeded the overall increase in exports of £127.7 million and it was the only increase to exceed £100 million.

The increase for Germany was led by a rise of £332.3 million, a two-fold increase, in HS 29 (Organic chemicals). In the commodity analysis, it was demonstrated that the large increase in trade for this chapter was having an impact on the total export trade figures. As 66.3 per cent of exports of the commodity were sent to Germany, this commodity type is also having an influential effect on the total export figure for Germany. If export trade under HS 29 is excluded from the total exports to Germany, the total exports to this country for November and October 2012 both reduce to £2.6 billion. This leads to a small decrease of £8.7 million (0.3 per cent) compared to last month rather than an increase of £323.6 million (11.0 per cent).

Similarly, there was only one decrease that exceeded £100 million, which was for Spain, down £105.6 million (13.4 per cent). This was led by falls of £68.8 million (43.7 per cent) in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products) and £53.2 million (82.7 per cent) in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation). Although there were no other decrease above £100 million, the second largest decrease was just below that level; exports to France fell by £94.8 million (4.8 per cent). This net decrease was dominated by a fall of £187.7 million (43.2 per cent) in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation).

The decrease in total export trade value **compared to November 2011**, noted in Table 2, was due to decreases in 19 of the UK's 26 EU export partner Member States, with the size of the decreases being larger than those for the increases. There were three decreases over £100 million but only one increase above this value.

The largest decrease was for Belgium, down by £203.7 million (16.0 per cent), followed by France, down £149.0 million (7.3 per cent) and then Italy down £138.2 million (16.1 per cent). These were the only decreases above £100 million.

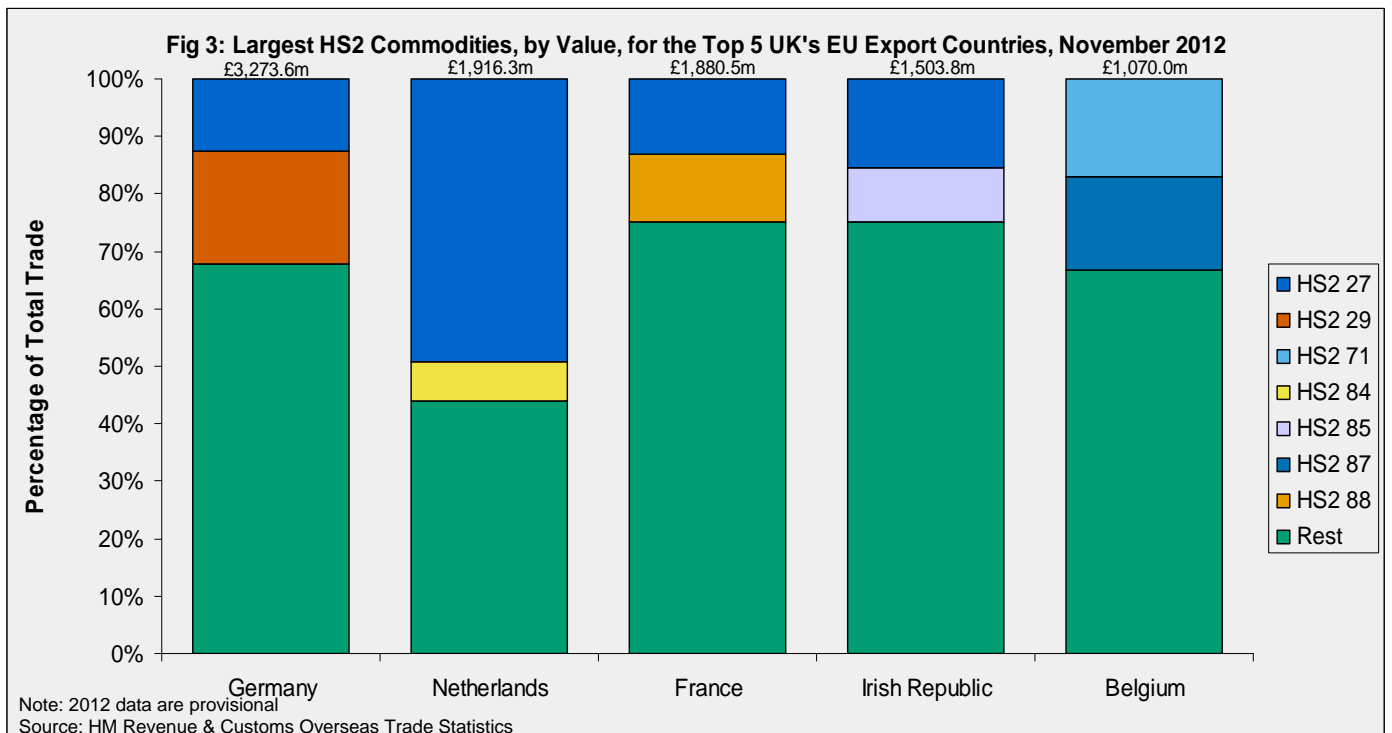
The decreases in the value of exports to Belgium and France were driven by falls in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation) of £214.2 million (57.4 per cent) and £101.7 million (29.2 per cent) respectively. The decreases for Italy, however, were spread across a number of chapters.

In contrast, there was only one increase above £100 million, which was for Germany up £166.5 million (5.4 per cent). This was again dominated by HS2 29, up £342.1 million over twice the November 2011 figure. As in the comparison with October 2012, this large increase compared to November 2011 has had an influential effect on the total export figure for Germany. If export trade under HS 29 is excluded from the total exports to Germany, the total exports to this country for November 2012 and November 2011 both reduce to £2.6 and £2.8 billion. This leads to a decrease of £175.6 million (6.3 per cent) compared to last year rather than an increase of £166.5 million (5.4 per cent).

Exports of HS2 29 to Germany are the highest seen in recent years and exceed the second highest value of £406.4 million seen in March 2012 by £233.3 million (57.4 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. Four of the top five Member States have HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) as one of their two largest commodities imported from the UK by value. The trade with these five Member States accounts for 85.0 per cent of the total value of UK EU export trade under this heading. For the Netherlands, export

trade under HS2 27 accounts for 49.2 per cent of the total export trade to this country. No other commodity group appears more than once in the top five partner countries. Commodity group HS2 29, which has been seen to be influential on this month's export statistics is now Germany's top chapter accounting for 19.5 per cent of the total exports to this partner country.



Further Analysis: Imports

| HS 2 | Description | November 2012 Total £ millions | % Change from October 2012 | % Change from November 2011 | % of Total November 2012 Imports | Rank October 2012 | Rank November 2011 |
|------|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| - | Total EU Imports | 18,215.9 | -0.6 | -1.1 | 100.0 | n/a | n/a |
| 87 | Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof | 2,484.0 | -11.8 | -3.8 | 13.6 | 1 | 1 |
| 84 | Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof | 2,030.1 | -1.3 | -5.0 | 11.1 | 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 | 1,982.1 | 10.3 | 5.6 | 10.9 | 3 | 3 |
| 27 | Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes | 1,390.5 | 8.3 | 15.6 | 7.6 | 5 | 4 |
| 30 | Pharmaceutical products | 1,179.7 | 21.3 | 24.0 | 6.5 | 4 | 5 |

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

The small decrease in imports **compared to October 2012** is composed of several large increases, offset by decreases in almost 65 per cent of the HS2 chapters. There were three increases of £100 million or more, and two decreases of this amount. These three increases and the largest decrease were in the top five commodities.

The largest decrease in value of imports was for the biggest import by value, HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof). This fell by £331.5 million (11.8 percent) to £2.5 billion. This is well within normal fluctuations in this chapter.

The second largest decrease in value of imports was for the eleventh biggest import by value, 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 £100.3 million (24.8 per cent) to £305.0 million.

There were also 16 chapters with decreases between £10 million and £60 million.

The largest increase was in the fifth biggest import by value, HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products), up £207.3 million (21.3 per cent) to £1.2 billion. This is the highest value for this chapter in recent years, slightly ahead of September's import value by £27.7 million.

The second largest increase in value of imports was for the third biggest import by value, HS2 85 (Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders

and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts and accessories of such articles), up by £184.8 million (10.3 per cent) to £2.0 billion. This is the second successive rise for this chapter, and takes it to a new high, beating November 2011's peak of £1.9 billion. There is a trend of increases in this chapter in the months before Christmas

The third largest increase in value of imports was for the fourth biggest import by value, HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes), up by £106.4 million (8.3 per cent) to £1.4 billion. This is the second highest import value in recent years, only just below March's record high.

There was also a large increase in HS2 29 (Organic chemicals), up £92.0 million (£21.3 per cent) to £523.5 million, but just seven other increases between £10 million and £36 million.

Compared with November 2011, there was a decrease of 1.1 per cent in the value of imports. Fifty-six per cent of all chapters decreased in value. There were three chapters with increases of over £100 million, all in the top five, and two decreases of this magnitude.

The chapter with the largest decrease in comparison with November 2011 was HS2 29 (Organic chemicals), down £318.7 million (37.8 per cent). This more than covers the overall decrease. However, November 2011 was a record high of £842.2 million.

The second largest decrease was in the second biggest import by value, HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof), down £107.2 million (5.0 per cent). The third largest decrease was in the biggest import by value, HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof), down £98.0 million (3.8 per cent).

The largest increases were for HS2 30, up £228.2 million (24.0 per cent); HS2 27, up £187.7 million (15.6 per cent); and HS2 85, up £104.7 million (5.6 per cent). This reflects the record, or near record, figures for these chapters this month, as mentioned above.

Figure 4 shows the top five HS2 commodity groups for UK's EU imports in November 2012, compared to October 2012 and November 2011.

The graph shows that for three of the top five chapters there are big increases compared to both October 2012 and November 2011, while the top two chapters had decreases when compared to both periods. For chapter HS 87, there was a much larger decrease when compared to October 2012 than when compared to November 2011.

Fig 4: Top 5 Commodities for UK's EU import November 2012 compared to October 2012 and November 2011

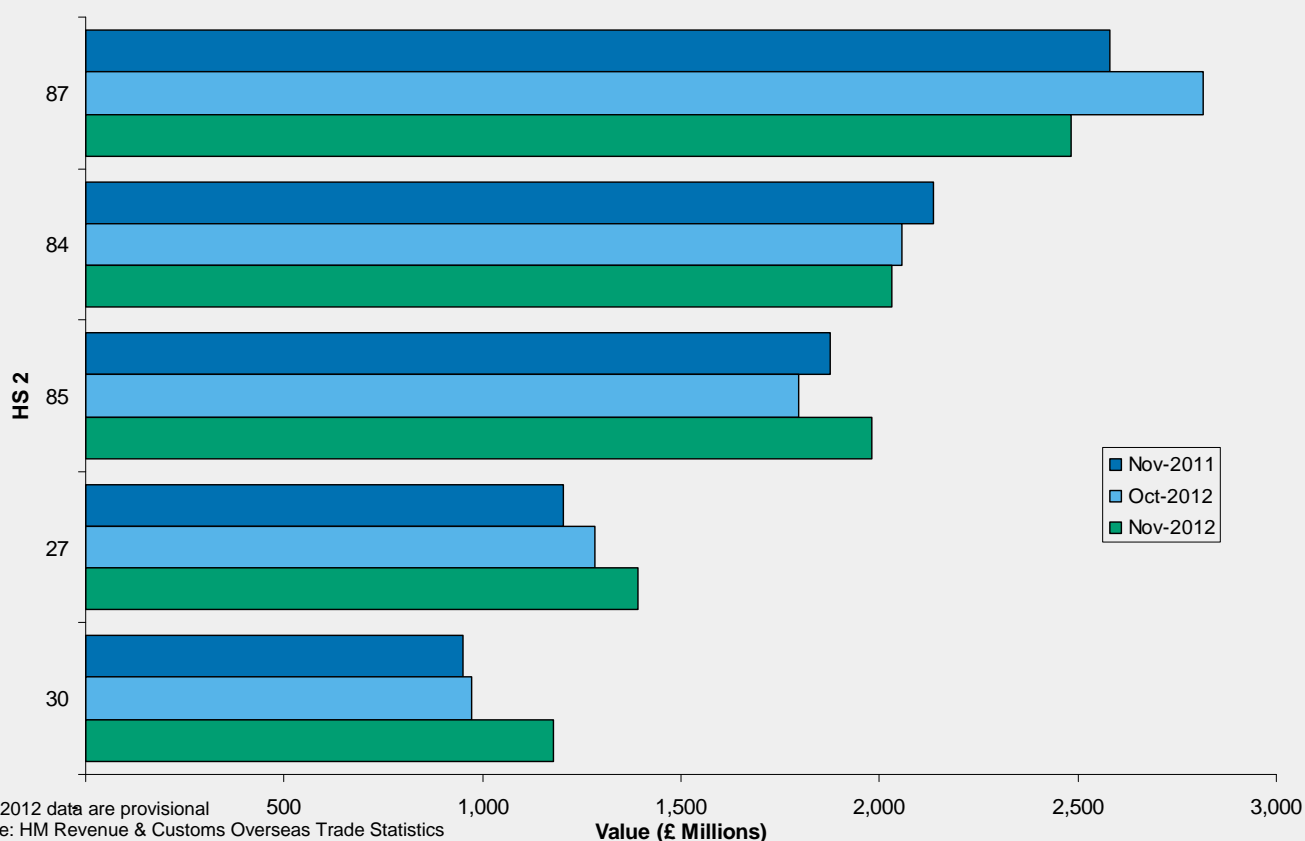


Table 4 shows comparisons of the value of UK import trade with our top five EU import trading partners for November 2012, October 2012 and November 2011.

Table 4: Top 5 EU import partner Member States in November 2012 compared to October 2012 and November 2011

| Country | November 2012 Total £ millions | % change from October 2012 | % Change from November 2011 | % of total November 2012 Imports | Rank October 2012 | Rank November 2011 |
|---------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Total Imports | 18,215.9 | -0.6 | -1.1 | 100.0 | n/a | n/a |
| Germany | 4,563.1 | 3.9 | 4.7 | 25.1 | 1 | 1 |
| Netherlands | 3,112.6 | 9.7 | 14.4 | 17.1 | 2 | 2 |
| France | 2,047.1 | -12.5 | -4.8 | 11.2 | 3 | 3 |
| Belgium | 1,587.3 | -6.2 | -0.3 | 8.7 | 4 | 4 |
| Italy | 1,201.7 | -10.0 | -6.5 | 6.6 | 5 | 6 |

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Germany remains the top Member State from which the UK imports, accounting for 25.1 per cent of the total imports to the UK from the EU. This is led by imports of £1.2 billion in HS2 87. Compared to October 2012 imports from this chapter fell by £78.7 million, 6.3 per cent. The next largest chapter is HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof), with £0.6 billion of imports to the UK.

The value of total import trade into the UK increased for 12 of the other 26 Member States in the EU compared with October 2012 and decreased for 14. Imports for three member states increased by over £100 million, while three decreased by this amount.

The largest decrease in value of import trade **compared with October 2012** is the fall of £291.3 million (12.5 per cent) from France, led by decreases in HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof), down £131.8 million (37.2 per cent). This follows a large increase in this chapter last month.

The second largest decrease was from Italy, down £133.5 million (10.0 per cent). This was spread across several chapters, with the largest decrease also being in HS2 87 down £36.7 million (27.1 per cent).

The third largest decrease was from Belgium, down £104.0 million (6.2 per cent). This was also spread across several chapters, with the largest decrease being in HS2 87, down £38.4 million (11.9 per cent).

The largest increase was from the Netherlands, up £274.7 million (9.7 per cent), led by a rise of £161.0 million (33.1 per cent) in HS2 85 (Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts and accessories of such articles). This is likely to be trade imported for Christmas sales.

The second largest increase was from the UK's top import partner, Germany; up £170.5 million (3.9 per cent). This increase is more than covered by a rise of £245.3 million in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products), more than double October's import value.

The third largest increase was from the Irish Republic, up £102.3 million, 10.3 per cent to £109.3 million. This increase is led by a rise of £65.2 million (155.9 per cent) in HS2 29 (Organic chemicals).

There was a decrease of £0.2 billion (1.1 per cent) in total import trade value **compared to November 2011**, which is composed of decreases from 17 of the other 26 Member States in the EU, and increases in nine. Imports for three member states increased by over £100 million, while two decreased by this amount.

The partner country from which the largest decrease in the value of imports was seen was the Irish Republic, down by £415.5 million (27.5 per cent), and is more than double the overall net decrease. In November 2011, the Irish Republic was the UK's fifth largest import partner, above Italy, whereas this decrease puts Italy as the UK's fifth largest import partner. This decrease is led by a fall of £366.3 million (77.4 per cent) in HS2 29 (Organic chemicals).

The second largest decrease is £102.9 million (4.8 per cent) for imports from France, spread over a number of chapters, with the largest decreases being £48.6 million in HS2 28 (Inorganic chemicals) and £44.9 million in HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof).

There was also a large decrease in imports from Denmark, down £98.8 million, (20.0 per cent), with a fall of £75.2 million in HS2 27.

The partner country from which the largest increase in value of imports was seen was the Netherlands, up £392.6 million (14.4 per cent). This was driven by a rise of £350.2 million (117.9 per cent) in HS2 85.

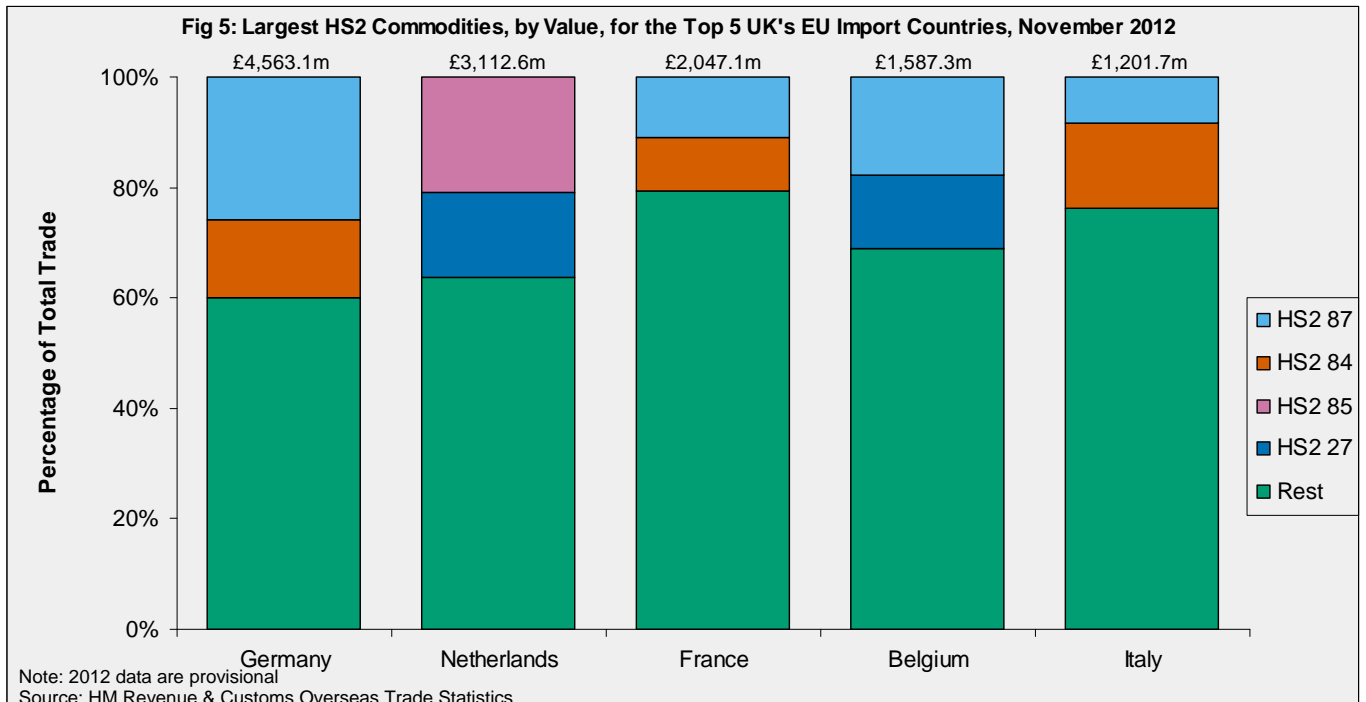
The second largest increase is £206.4 million (4.7 per cent) for imports from Germany, more than covered by an increase of £293.2 million in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products), nearly three times the November 2011 import value.

The third largest increase is £114.5 million (18.0 per cent) for imports from Sweden, more than covered by an increase of £131.3 million (76.2 per cent) in HS2 27.

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. Four of the top five Member

States have HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof) in their top two largest commodities exported to the UK. The trade in HS2 87 from these Member States accounts for 71.7 per cent of the total EU import trade under this heading. It also makes up 25.8 per cent of the UK's imports from Germany.

Another three of these Member States have HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) in their top two largest commodities exported to the UK. The UK's trade in HS2 84 with these three Member States accounts for 50.6 per cent of its EU total imports in these commodities.



Notes:

1. HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with Member States of the European Union (EU) on 15 January 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 November 2012. At the same time revisions for all previously published EU data for 2012 are also being released in line with the [Overseas Trade Statistics Policy on Revisions](#).
3. The figures provided in this publication of the November 2012 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 November.
 - 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](#).

Estimates are included in all high level totals including HS2 and country totals but not for aggregated totals below this level.

4. Detailed trade information is presented according to the [Harmonised System \(HS\)](#) nomenclature.
5. The aggregate estimates here will differ slightly from those that are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as part of the Balance of Payments (BoP), as the two sets of data are compiled to different sets of rules. The ONS web site provides an overview of BoP at the [Guide to UK Trade](#) as well as the detailed monthly [UK Trade Releases](#). The BoP publication shows a high level picture of UK trade-in-goods, whereas the OTS publication shows a detailed picture of the UK's trade-in-goods by commodity and partner country. More detail about the differences between the BoP and OTS publications can be found [here](#).
6. The aggregate estimates here will differ from the Eurostat publication [Euro area external trade](#). The OTS is published as 'general trade' based upon goods recorded as they enter or leave the UK. This will include goods imported into and exported from a freezone or customs warehouse, regardless of their future use. The Eurostat EU external trade data are published as 'special trade' where goods are recorded as trade only when they enter free circulation or are 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'.
7. Information to help support users of the EU Overseas Trade Statistics can be found [here](#). This includes links to our policies on revision and suppression of data, descriptions of the methodology used to compile the Overseas Trade Statistics and information on the quality of the data published.
8. 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>

9. 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.

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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: 19 February 2013 9:30am

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