

# EU Overseas Trade Statistics - March 2013

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## **Summary**

- For trade with EU Member States, the value of exports and imports increased compared with February 2013 while both values decreased when compared with March 2012.
- The UK's EU exports have increased by £0.4 billion (3.4 per cent) compared to February 2013, to £12.9 billion. Compared to March 2012 exports decreased by £1.4 billion (9.9 per cent).
- The UK's EU imports have increased by £1.9 billion (11.1 per cent) compared to February 2013, to £18.9 billion. Compared to March 2012 imports have decreased by £0.3 billion (1.7 per cent).
- The UK remains a net importer (imports are greater than exports). The size of difference between imports and exports is now £6.1 billion, an increase of £1.5 billion (31.8 per cent) compared to February 2013.



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](#).

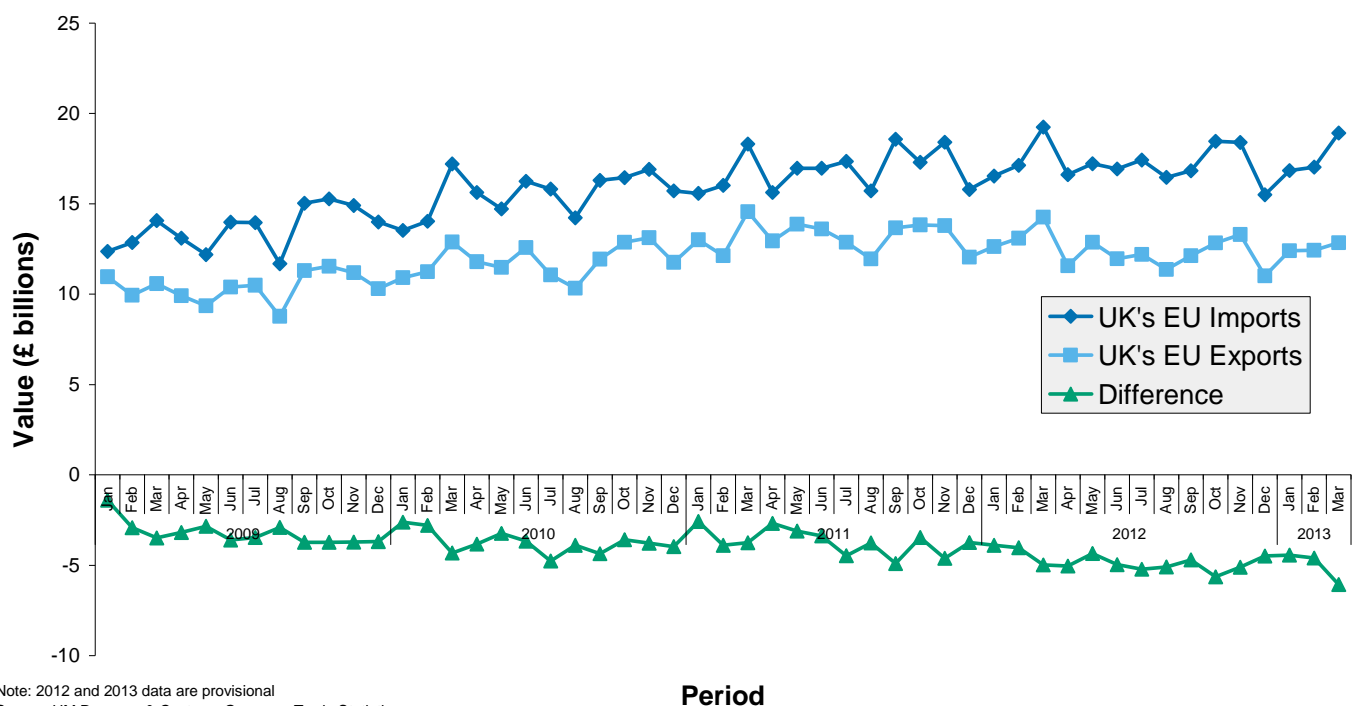
## Key Points

For the month of March 2013:

The value of UK trade increased for both EU imports and exports in March 2013, with imports rising by £1.9 billion, and exports rising by £0.4 billion against February 2013 totals. EU Imports are at their highest level since March 2012. There is a history of both imports and exports increasing in March, but this year the export figure has not risen as much as in previous years.

There is an increase of 31.8 per cent in the trade gap, the difference between UK imports from the EU and exports to the EU. This is the biggest increase in the trade gap in recent years. This difference is now £6.1 billion.

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



## Exports

- The value of the UK's EU exports has increased by £0.4 billion (3.4 per cent) compared to February 2013 to £12.9 billion. Compared with March 2012, the value of exports fell by £1.4 billion (9.9 per cent).
- The top five commodities are unchanged from 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 March it contributed £2.2 billion, 17.5 per cent of the total value of the UK's EU export trade despite experiencing the largest value decrease from the previous month of £0.2 billion (8.9 per cent).
- The largest value increase from the previous month was in the commodity with the second largest export value, HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) up £0.1 billion (10.0 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 21.7 per cent of the total EU export trade. This country also experienced the largest value increase in exports from the UK compared to last month of £241.8 million (9.5 per cent). The largest decrease in exports from the UK compared to February 2013 was a fall of £208.6 million (16.6 per cent) to Belgium.
- The total 2013 year to date value of UK's trade-in-goods exported to EU Member States excluding March was £24.8 billion, which has been upwardly revised by £3.1 million. This is an increase of less than 0.1 per cent.

## Imports

- The value of the UK's EU imports has increased by £1.9 billion (11.1 per cent) compared to February 2013, to £18.9 billion. This is the second highest import value in recent years, £0.3 billion (1.7 per cent) behind the highest in March 2012. There is a history of peaks in imports during March.
- The top five commodities are similar to last month. Four of the top five commodities have risen in import value. The largest contributing commodity group is HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof). This contributed £3.1 billion, 16.6 per cent of the total value of UK's EU import trade.
- The largest value increase from the previous month was in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) up £521.9 million (39.2 per cent). The largest value decrease from the previous month was in HS2 28 (Inorganic chemicals) with a fall of just £20.2 million, 19.2 per cent.
- The top five import partner countries are similar to February 2013, but with Belgium rising to third place above France. Germany is still the EU Member State from which the UK imports most goods by value, accounting for 24.5 per cent of total imports. The Netherlands remains in second place with a 16.3 per cent share. The largest increase was a rise of £617.7 million in imports from Belgium, an increase of 39.7 per cent. The largest decrease compared to January 2013 was for imports from Denmark, down by £115.1 million (26.7 per cent).
- The total 2013 year to date value of UK's trade-in-goods imported from EU Member States excluding March was £33.9 billion, which has been downwardly revised by £103.6 million. This is a decrease of 0.3 per cent.

## Further Analysis: Exports

<b>Table 1: Top 5 commodities in UK's EU exports in March 2013 compared to February 2013 and March 2012</b>							
HS 2	Description	March 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from February 2013	% Change from March 2012	% of Total March 2013 Exports	Rank February 2013	Rank March 2012
-	Total Exports	12,850.8	3.4	-9.9	100.0	n/a	n/a
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	2,249.8	-8.9	-17.6	17.5	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	1,357.7	10.0	-6.4	10.6	2	2
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	1,224.4	7.1	-6.9	9.5	3	3
30	Pharmaceutical products	892.5	5.7	-13.9	6.9	4	4
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	850.1	8.0	-3.8	6.6	5	5
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional							

The increase in export value **compared to February 2013** reflects increases in nearly 80 per cent of all HS2 chapters. Nevertheless, the overall increase is a relatively small £0.4 billion (3.4 per cent). This phenomenon can be explained by the existence of a very large decrease of £220.6 million in HS2 27 for which there was no matching increase. The largest increase was for HS2 84 up £123.5 million (10.0 per cent). These were the only two chapters to experience changes over £100 million.

The largest decrease of £220.6 million for the top chapter, HS2 27 was driven by falls in exports to France and Belgium of £209.3 million and £112.1 million respectively. There were no other chapter decreases over £100 million although two chapters experienced falls just below this level. HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof) and HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals) fell by £89.2 million (19.0 per cent) and £83.5 million (20.6 per cent) respectively

The largest increase was for the second largest chapter by export value, HS2 84 up £123.5 million (10.0 per cent). This was led by increases in exports to Germany and France of £44.1 million (11.6 per cent) and £22.9 million (15.8 per cent). There were no other increases over £100 million although one chapter, HS2 87 did experience a rise just below this level of £81.1 million (7.1 per cent).

**Compared to March 2012**, the overall export trade to EU Member States decreased by £1.4 billion, 9.9 per cent. This overall drop is a reflection of over 60% of all HS2 chapters decreasing in export trade. Three chapters saw falls of over £100 million, whereas there were no increases over this size.

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 £479.5 million (17.6 per cent). This was driven by decreases in exports to the Netherlands and Germany of £198.3 million (20.0 per cent) and £162.4 million (32.6 per cent) respectively. The second largest decrease was for HS2 29 (Organic chemicals) which dropped by £350.6 million (43.3 per cent). This was dominated by a fall of £348.2 million in exports to Germany. The third largest decrease was for HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products) which dropped by £144.4 million (13.9 per cent). Similarly, this was driven by a fall of £116.2 million (38.6 per cent) in exports to Germany. There were no other decreases over £100 million.

In contrast, there were no increases above £100 million. The largest increase was for HS2 72 (Iron and steel) up £32.7 million (11.4 per cent).

Figure 2 shows the top five commodities for UK's EU exports in March 2013, compared to February 2013 and March 2012. All five chapters show a decrease in March 2013 compared to March 2012. In contrast, all chapters except HS2 27 show an increase in March 2013 compared to February 2013.

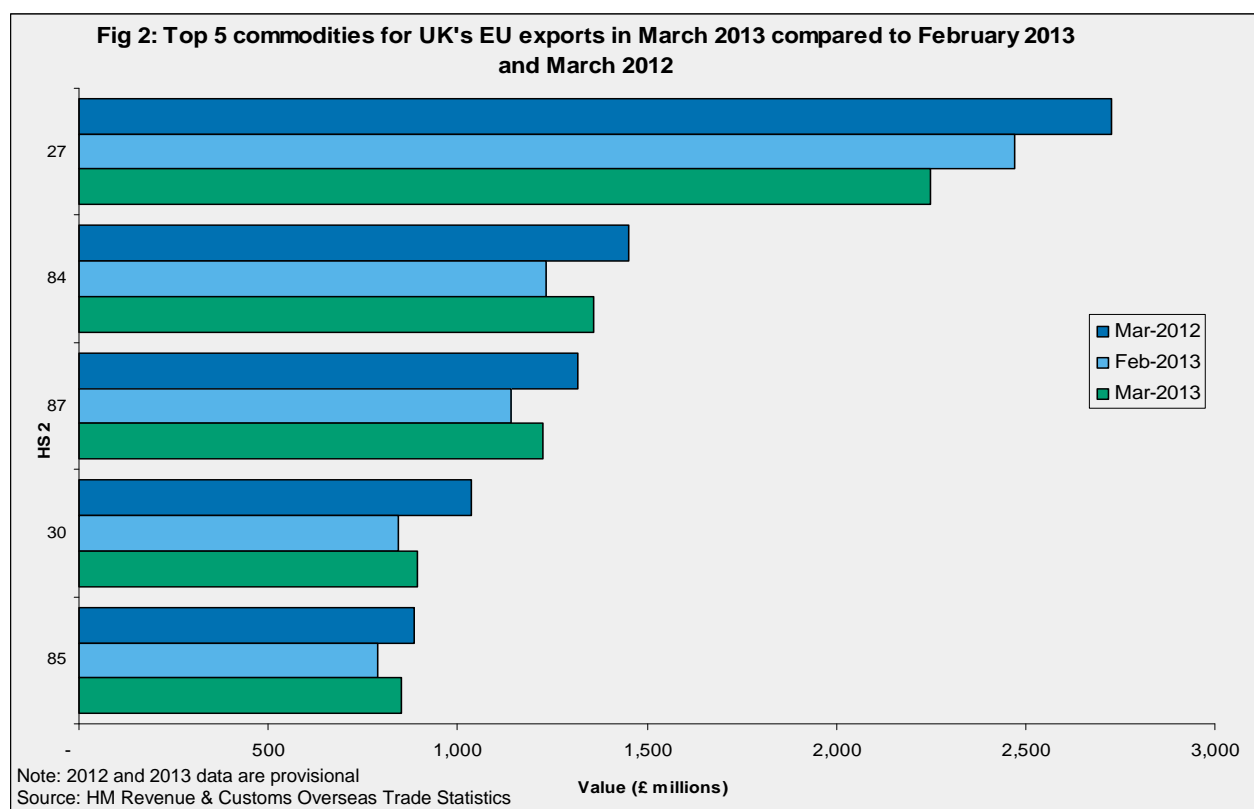


Table 2 shows comparisons of the value of UK export trade with our top five EU export trading partners for March 2013, February 2013 and March 2012.

**Table 2: Top 5 EU export partner Member States in March 2013 compared to February 2013 and March 2012**

Country	Total March 2013 £ millions	% Change from February 2013	% Change from March 2012	% of total EU exports	Rank February 2013	Rank March 2012
Total Exports	12,850.8	3.4	-9.9	100.0	n/a	n/a
Germany	2,791.5	9.5	-18.4	21.7	1	1
Netherlands	1,929.8	4.5	-10.7	15.0	3	2
France	1,891.6	-4.9	-4.1	14.7	2	3
Irish Republic	1,562.4	6.9	2.3	12.2	4	4
Belgium	1,049.4	-16.6	-20.9	8.2	5	5

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

The top five EU export partner Member States remain unchanged **compared with February 2013** 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 21.7 per cent of the total value of exports. This was led by exports of £423.1 million in HS2 84 and £335.7 million in HS2 27.

The increase in value of total export trade compared to February 2013 reflects increases in 17 of the other 26 Member States in the EU. There were two increases over £100 million and one decrease over £100 million. In the top five countries, three countries experienced increases in export trade.

The largest increase in the value of exports from the UK was to the top country, Germany, up £241.8 million (9.5 per cent). This rise was spread across a number of different chapters but the largest increase was in HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals) up £72.6 million.

The second largest increase in the value of exports from the UK was to the Irish Republic, up £100.9 million (6.9 per cent). This increase was mainly concentrated in HS2 29 (Organic chemicals) up £23.2 million.

There were no other increases over £100 million, although Sweden saw a rise just below this level of £90.2 million (21.0 per cent).

The largest decrease was for Belgium down £208.6 million (16.6 per cent). This was led by decreases in HS2 71 and HS2 27 of £153.4 million (59.8 per cent) and £112.1 million (40.6 per cent) respectively.

There were no other countries with decreases over £100 million although France experienced a fall just below this level of £98.3 million (4.9 per cent).

The decrease in total export trade value **compared to March 2012**, noted in Table 2, was due to decreases in 20 of the UK's 26 EU export partner Member States. Furthermore, the decreases were considerably larger in size than the increases. There were three decreases over £100 million but no increases above this value. Four of the top five countries experienced decreases in export trade.

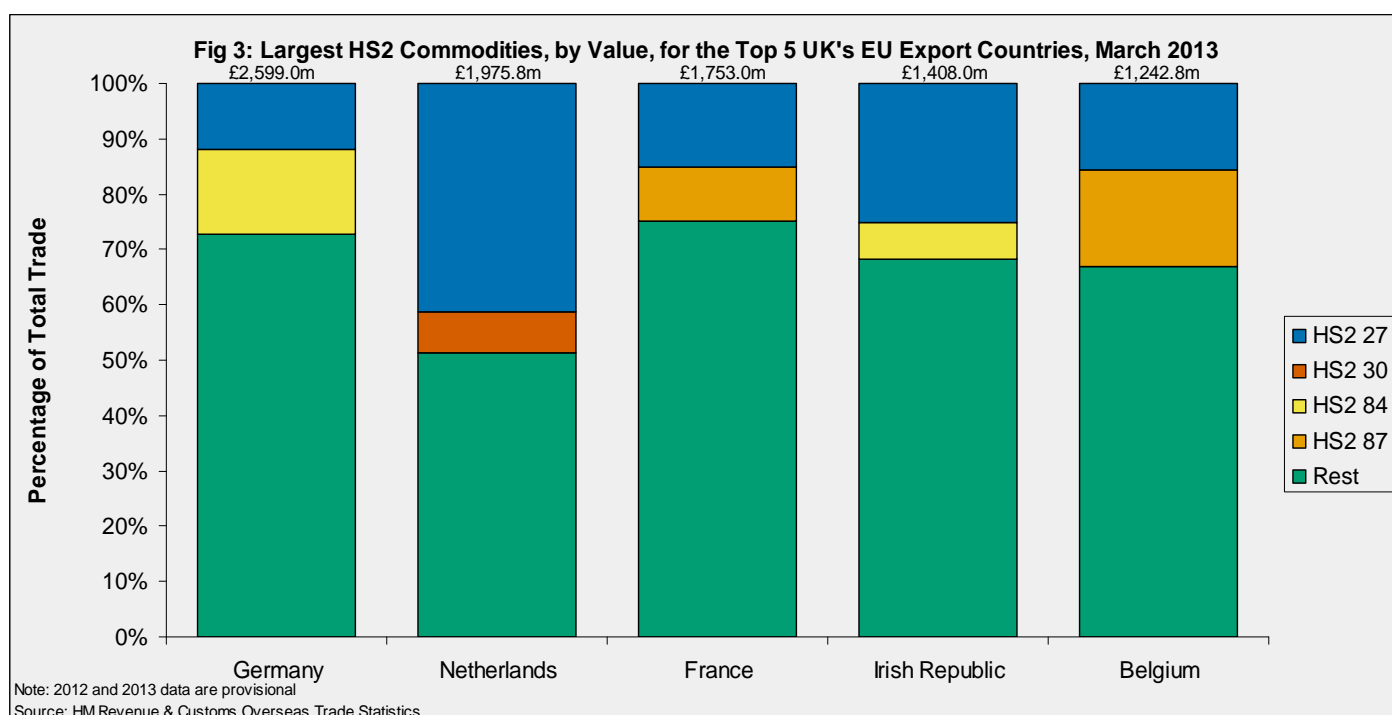
The largest decrease was for the top export country, Germany, down by £629.9 million (18.4 per cent). This was driven by falls in HS2 29 (Organic chemicals), HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation) and HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products) of £348.2 million (85.5 per cent), £162.4 million (32.6 per cent) and £116.2 million (38.6 per cent) respectively.

The second largest decrease was for exports to Belgium, down £277.6 million (20.9 per cent). This decrease was led by a fall of £147.3 million (58.8 per cent) in HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal).

The third largest decrease was for exports to the Netherlands, down £231.2 million (10.7 per cent). The main cause of this decrease was a fall in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation) of £198.3 million (20.0 per cent).

There were no increases over £100 million. The largest increase was for Ireland, up £35.0 million (2.3 per cent). This rise was driven by increases in HS2 27 and HS2 29 (Organic chemicals) of £43.8 million (12.5 per cent) and £26.9 million (an increase by a factor of four) respectively. .

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, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) as one of their two largest commodities exported from the UK by value. The trade with these five Member States accounts for 87.7 per cent of the total value of UK EU export trade under this heading. HS2 27 accounts for 41.2 per cent of the total UK export trade to the Netherlands. Two of the top five Member States, Germany and the Irish Republic, have HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) as one of their two largest commodities exported from the UK by value. The trade with these two Member States accounts for 38.7 per cent of the total value of UK EU export trade under this heading.



## Further Analysis: Imports

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

HS 2	Description	March 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from February 2013	% Change from March 2012	% of Total March 2013 Imports	Rank February 2013	Rank March 2012
-	Total Imports	18,916.1	11.1	-1.7	100.0	n/a	n/a
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	3,142.0	1.4	-2.0	16.6	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	2,205.1	17.9	-5.3	11.7	2	2
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	1,853.1	39.2	32.9	9.8	4	4
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	1,552.2	10.1	3.0	8.2	3	3
30	Pharmaceutical products	1,032.7	-0.2	15.2	5.5	5	5

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional

The increase in imports **compared to February 2013** is made up of increases in over 70 per cent of all HS2 chapters. There were five increases of £100 million or more, and no decreases of this amount. Four of the top five commodities increased in import value, which included the largest three increases.

The largest increase in value of imports was for the third biggest commodity by value, HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes). This rose by £521.9 million (39.2 per cent) to £1.9 billion. This puts this chapter in third place, above HS2 85, and is the highest import value for this chapter in recent years, £414.8 million higher than the previous record of £1.4 billion from November 2012. The increase in this chapter covers 27.7 per cent of the overall net increase. There was an increase of £393.4 million (nearly three times last month's import value) from Belgium, and £205.0 million from the Netherlands (up 46.7 per cent). In contrast, imports of HS2 27 from Denmark fell by £128.3 million (89.5 per cent).

The second largest increase in value of imports was for the second biggest import by value, HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof). This rose by £334.1 million (17.9 percent) to £2.2 billion. This takes this chapter to its highest level since the record high in March 2012 of £2.3 billion. This chapter has a history of peaks in imports in March. This rise was led by increases of



£104.9 million (18.0 per cent) from Germany, and £98.2 million (36.1 per cent) from the Netherlands.

The third largest increase in the value of imports was for the fourth 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). This rose by £142.4 million (10.1 per cent) to £1.6 billion. This is £435.0 million behind the record high in November 2012 of £2.0 billion.

The remaining chapters with increases of over £100 million were both outside the top five. HS2 90 (Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus; parts and accessories thereof) increased by £124.7 million (27.1 per cent) to £583.9 million, and HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques) increased by £100.6 million (a four-fold rise) to £132.9 million.

The largest decrease was only £20.2 million in HS2 28 (Inorganic chemicals: organic or inorganic compounds of precious metals, of rare-earth metals, of radioactive elements or of isotopes) which fell by 19.2 per cent to £85.0 million.

**Compared with March 2012**, there was a decrease of £330.4 million (1.7 per cent) in the value of imports as a result of 57 per cent of all chapters falling in value. There were four chapters with decreases of over £100 million, and two increases of this magnitude.

The largest three decreases were all outside the top five products. The biggest decrease was in the 34th biggest import by value, HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof), which decreased by £170.3 million (60.0 per cent). The second largest decrease was in the fourteenth largest chapter, as HS2 72 (Iron and steel) decreased by £125.3 million (32.6 per cent), while the 57th largest chapter, HS2 24 (Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes), fell by £123.3 million (74.6 per cent). The only other decrease over £100 million was for the second biggest chapter, HS2 84, down £122.6 million (5.3 per cent) from the record high in March 2012.

The chapter with the largest increase in comparison with March 2012 was the third biggest import by value, HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes), up £458.6 million (32.9 per cent).

The second largest increase was in the chapter with the fifth biggest import value, HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products), up £136.2 million (15.2 per cent).

Figure 4 shows the top five HS2 commodity groups for the UK's EU imports in March 2013, compared to February 2013 and March 2012. The graph demonstrates how the large increase for HS2 27 has put it into third place this month despite HS2 85 also increasing in value. The top two chapters had increases when compared to February 2013, but decreased compared to March 2012.

**Fig 4: Top 5 Commodities for UK's EU imports in March 2013 compared to February 2013 and March 2012**

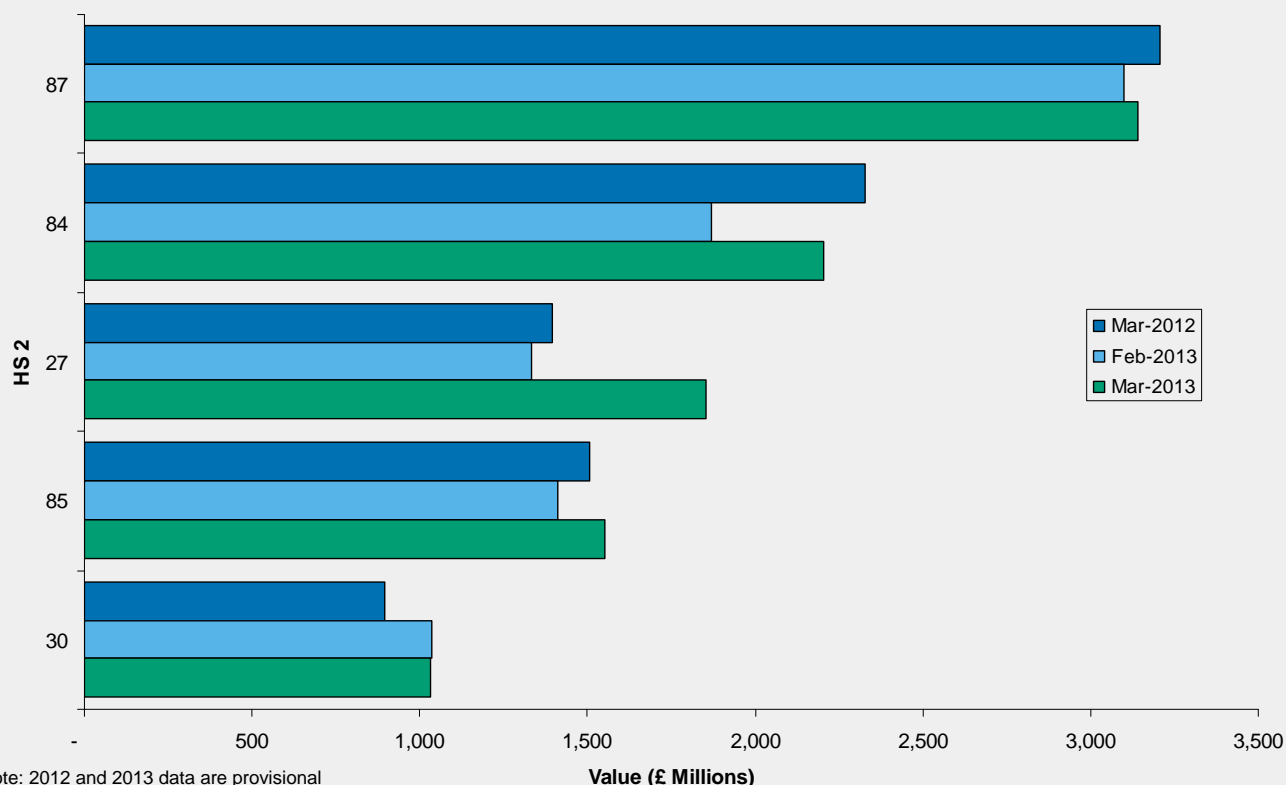


Table 4 shows comparisons of the value of UK import trade with our top five EU import trading partners for March 2013, February 2013 and March 2012.

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

Country	March 2013 Total £ millions	% change from February 2013	% Change from March 2012	% of total March 2013 Imports	Rank February 2013	Rank March 2012
Total Imports	18,916.1	11.1	-1.7	100.0	n/a	n/a
Germany	4,627.8	4.6	-2.7	24.5	1	1
Netherlands	3,088.3	21.6	8.7	16.3	2	2
Belgium	2,173.1	39.7	22.9	11.5	4	4
France	2,076.1	8.0	-6.7	11.0	3	3
Italy	1,224.8	8.6	-5.7	6.5	5	5

Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional  
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

The UK imports most goods from Germany, which account for 24.5 per cent of the total imports to the UK from the EU. This is led by imports of £1.4 billion in HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof), accounting for 30.8 percent of the total imports from Germany. The next largest chapter is HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof), with £0.7 billion of imports to the UK.

The value of total import trade into the UK increased for all of the top five countries compared to last month. For all other 26 Member States, 18 saw increases and 8 saw

decreases compared with February 2013. Imports for five member states increased by over £100 million while there was one decrease of this magnitude.

The largest increase in value of import trade **compared with February 2013** was a rise of £617.7 million (39.7 per cent) from Belgium. This takes the import value to £2.2 billion, a new record for imports from Belgium, beating the previous high of £1.8 billion from March 2011, and puts imports from Belgium above France for this month. There is a history of large increases in March. The increase is led by an increase in chapter HS2 27 of £393.4 million (nearly a threefold rise). There was also an increase in HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof) of £161.1 million (48.5 per cent).

The second largest increase was from the Netherlands, up £547.7 million (21.6 per cent). This increase is led by a rise in HS2 27, up £205.0 million (46.7 per cent), while HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques) also climbed by £103.2 million (an eight fold rise). This was partially offset by a decrease of £146.1 million (62.0 per cent) in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products).

The third largest increase was from Germany, up £202.6 million (4.6 per cent). This was driven by an increase of £143.9 million (52.1 per cent) in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products), and £104.9 million (18.0 per cent) in HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof).

The other large increases in imports were for the Irish Republic and France. Imports from the Irish Republic increased by £185.2 million (21.8 per cent), led by a £90.1 million increase in HS2 29 (Organic chemicals); while France rose by £154.4 million (8.0 per cent), spread over several chapters.

The largest decrease was from Denmark, down £115.1 million (26.7 per cent). This takes imports from Denmark to their lowest level since May 2010. The decrease is led by a fall of £128.3 million (89.5 per cent) in HS2 27. Imports from Denmark within this chapter are fairly erratic, but this is the lowest import value since April 2010.

There was a decrease of £330.4 million (1.7 per cent) in total import trade value **compared to March 2012**, which is composed of 16 decreases and 10 increases from the other 26 Member States in the EU. Imports for five member states decreased by over £100 million, while three increased by more than this amount.

The decrease was dominated by a fall of £304.1 million (49.1 per cent) from Denmark. This covered 92 per cent of the overall decrease, and is led by a fall of £234.7 million (94.0 per cent) in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes).

The second largest decrease was for Sweden, down £157.0 million (19.2 per cent). This was also driven by HS2 27, which fell £110.6 million (36.2 per cent).

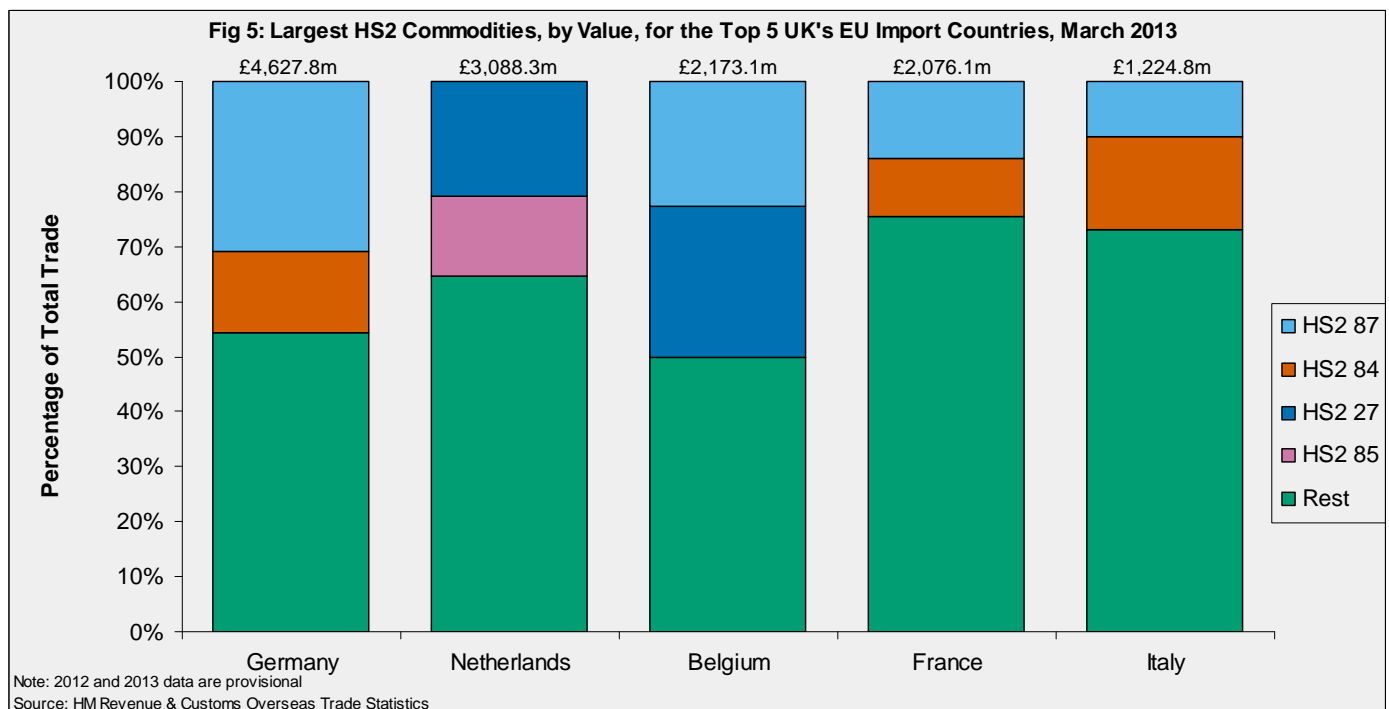
The other large decreases were more varied. France fell by £148.1 million (6.7 per cent), with a £138.5 million (83.9 per cent) drop in HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof); the Irish Republic fell by £134.2 million (11.5 per cent), with HS2 29 (Organic chemicals) down £84.5 million (36.0 per cent); and Germany was down £126.6 million (2.7 per cent), spread over several chapters.

The largest increases in the value of imports into the UK were all driven by the increase in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes). Belgium was up £404.8 million (22.9 per cent) with a £503.6 million (six-fold) rise in HS2 27; the Netherlands was up by £247.0 million (8.7 per cent), with a £193.4 million (42.9 per cent) increase in HS2 27; and Lithuania was up £116.5 million (a three-fold rise), with a £116.2 million (seventeen-fold) rise 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. Apart from the Netherlands, all 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 imported to the UK. The trade in HS2 87 from these Member States accounts for 74.1 per cent of the total import trade to the UK under this heading. It also makes up 30.8 per cent of the UK's total imports from Germany.

Three of these Member States, Germany, France and Italy, have HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) in their top two largest commodities imported by the UK, accounting for 50.6 per cent of the total import value in these commodities; and two Member States, the Netherlands and Belgium, have HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes), accounting for 67.0 per cent of the UK's imports from the EU in this chapter.



Notes:

1. HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with Member States of the European Union (EU) on 14 May 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 March 2013. 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 March 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 March.
  - 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. In this release, a significant downward revision of £1.6 billion has been made to oil in HS2 27 for 2012 EU Export data. This is due to the discovery of duplicated trade which has now been corrected in line with our revision policy to provisional data.
6. Detailed trade information is presented according to the [Harmonised System \(HS\)](#) nomenclature.
7. 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](#).
8. 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'.
9. 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.
10. 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>

11. 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.
12. 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: 18 June 2013 9:30am

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