

# EU Overseas Trade Statistics - January 2013

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## **Summary**

- For trade with EU Member States, the value of both imports and exports increased after the sharp fall in December.
- The UK's EU exports have increased by £1.5 billion (14.0 per cent) compared to December 2012, to £12.4 billion. Compared to January 2012 exports have decreased by £0.4 billion (3.1 per cent).
- The UK's EU imports have increased by £1.2 billion (8.1 per cent) compared to December 2012, to £16.6 billion. Compared to January 2012 imports increased by £0.1 billion (0.4 per cent).
- The UK remains a net importer (imports are greater than exports). The size of difference between imports and exports is now £4.2 billion, a decrease of £0.3 billion (6.1 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](#).

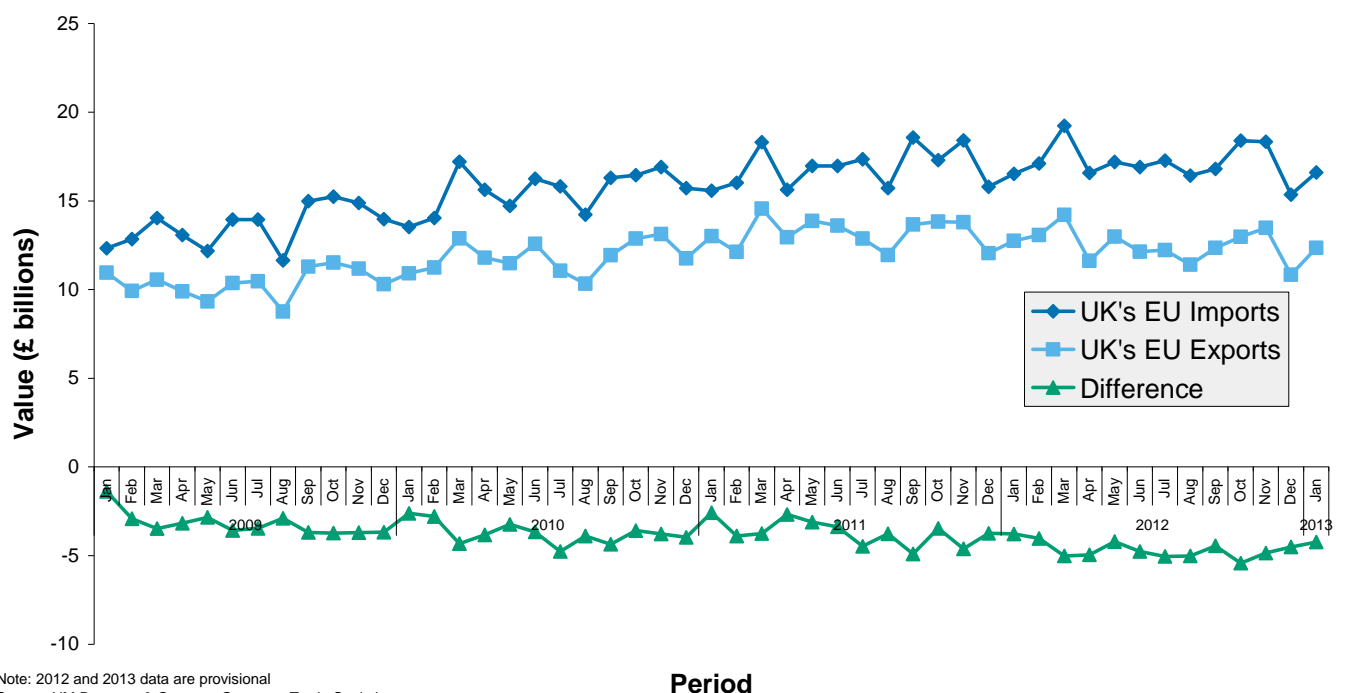
## Key Points

For the month of January 2013:

The value of UK trade increased for both imports and exports in January 2013, with exports rising by £1.5 billion, and imports rising by £1.2 billion against December 2012 totals. This comes after a sharp decrease for both imports and exports. Neither has returned to levels seen in November 2012 but they are typical of the levels seen in January in previous years.

Exports increased more than imports. This resulted in a decrease of 6.1 per cent in the difference between UK imports from the EU and exports to the EU. This is the third successive monthly decrease in the trade gap, and the difference is now £4.2 billion, the lowest since May 2012.

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



## Exports

- The value of the UK's EU exports has increased by £1.5 billion (14.0 per cent) compared to December 2012 to £12.4 billion. Compared with January 2012, the value of exports fell by £0.4 billion (3.1 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 January it contributed £2.5 billion, 20.4 per cent of the total value of the UK's EU export trade. HS2 27 had the largest value increase from the previous month, of £157.3 million (6.6 per cent).
- The largest value decrease from the previous month was in the commodity with the third largest export value, HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof) down £45.6 million (4.6 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 20.5 per cent of the total EU export trade. This country also experienced the largest value increase in the value of exports from the UK compared to last month of £374.4 million (17.4 per cent). The largest decrease in exports from the UK compared to December 2012 was a fall of £133.0 million (6.9 per cent) in the value of exports to France.
- The revised estimate of total value of exports to EU Member States for 2012 is £150.1 billion, which has been downwardly revised by £205.4 million. This is a decrease of 0.1 per cent.

## Imports

- The value of the UK's EU imports has increased by £1.2 billion (8.1 per cent) compared to December 2012, to £16.6 billion. Compared to January 2012 imports have increased by just £67.9 million (0.4 per cent).
- The top five commodities are unchanged from last month. All 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 £2.5 billion, 14.9 per cent of the total value of UK's EU import trade. HS2 87 also had the largest value increase from the previous month, of £364.9 million (17.4 per cent).
- The largest value decrease from the previous month was in HS2 22 (Beverages, spirits and vinegar) with a decrease of £127.2 million, 33.3 per cent. This was the commodity group with the twelfth largest value share of the UK's import trade.
- The top five import partner countries are unchanged from December 2012. Germany is still the EU Member State from which the UK imports most goods by value, accounting for 25.5 per cent. The Netherlands remains in second place, with a 15.9 per cent share. The largest increase was a rise of £537.6 million in imports from Germany, an increase of 14.6 per cent. The largest decrease compared to December 2012 was for imports from Estonia, down by £25.0 million (60.9 per cent).
- The revised estimate of total value of imports to EU Member States for 2012 is £206.1 billion, which has been upwardly revised by £87.7 million. This is an increase of less than 0.1 per cent.

## Further Analysis: Exports

HS 2	Description	January 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2012	% Change from January 2012	% of Total January 2013 Exports	Rank December 2012	Rank January 2012
-	Total Exports	12,360.5	14.0	-3.1	100.0	n/a	n/a
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	2,526.1	6.6	-5.2	20.4	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	1,240.0	12.9	-2.4	10.0	2	2
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	949.8	-4.6	-14.7	7.7	3	3
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	847.8	8.7	-4.1	6.9	4	4
30	Pharmaceutical products	795.1	15.3	-9.8	6.4	5	5

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

The large increase in export value **compared to December 2012** reflects increases in 85 per cent of all HS2 chapters. Five chapters experienced increases of over £100 million, while the largest decrease was below £50 million. Four of the top five chapters increased in value.

The largest increase was for the top chapter, HS2 27, up £157.3 million (6.6 per cent). This increase was composed of a mix of large increases and decreases, with exports to the Netherlands, Belgium and Denmark increasing by £199.4 million, £118.2 million and £110.7 million respectively, balanced by falls of £181.1 million to France, and £131.0 million to Sweden.

The second largest increase was for chapter HS2 39 (Plastic and plastic products), up £147.7 million (48.3 per cent), moving this chapter from ninth place last month to sixth place this month. This was followed by HS2 84 up £142.0 million (12.9 per cent), HS2 30 up £105.8 million (15.3 per cent), and HS2 72 (Iron and steel) up £103.0 million (62.1 per cent).

The largest decrease, much smaller in magnitude, was for the third largest chapter by export value, HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof) down £45.6 million, 4.6 per cent.

**Compared to January 2012**, the overall export trade to EU Member States decreased by £0.4 billion, 3.1 per cent. This overall decrease is composed of just over 50% of all HS2 chapters increasing, offset by a smaller number of larger decreases. All of the top five HS2 chapters experienced decreases. Two chapters saw falls of over £100 million and these were both in the top five chapters. In contrast, there was just one increase of over £100 million, while all other increases were below £40 million.

The largest decrease was in the third largest chapter, HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof), which fell by £164.0 million (14.7 per cent). The second largest decrease was for the top chapter, HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) which fell by £139.5 million (5.2 per cent). There were no other decreases over £100 million.

The largest increase was for HS2 28 (Inorganic chemicals) up £102.7 million, more than double January 2012's export value. This can be explained by the figure for this month being the highest since May 2012, while the January 2012 figure is the lowest since December 2008.

Figure 2 shows the top five commodities for UK's EU exports in January 2013, compared to December 2012 and January 2012.

The graph shows that four of the top five chapters have increased in comparison with December 2012, while all experienced a decrease between January 2012 and January 2013.

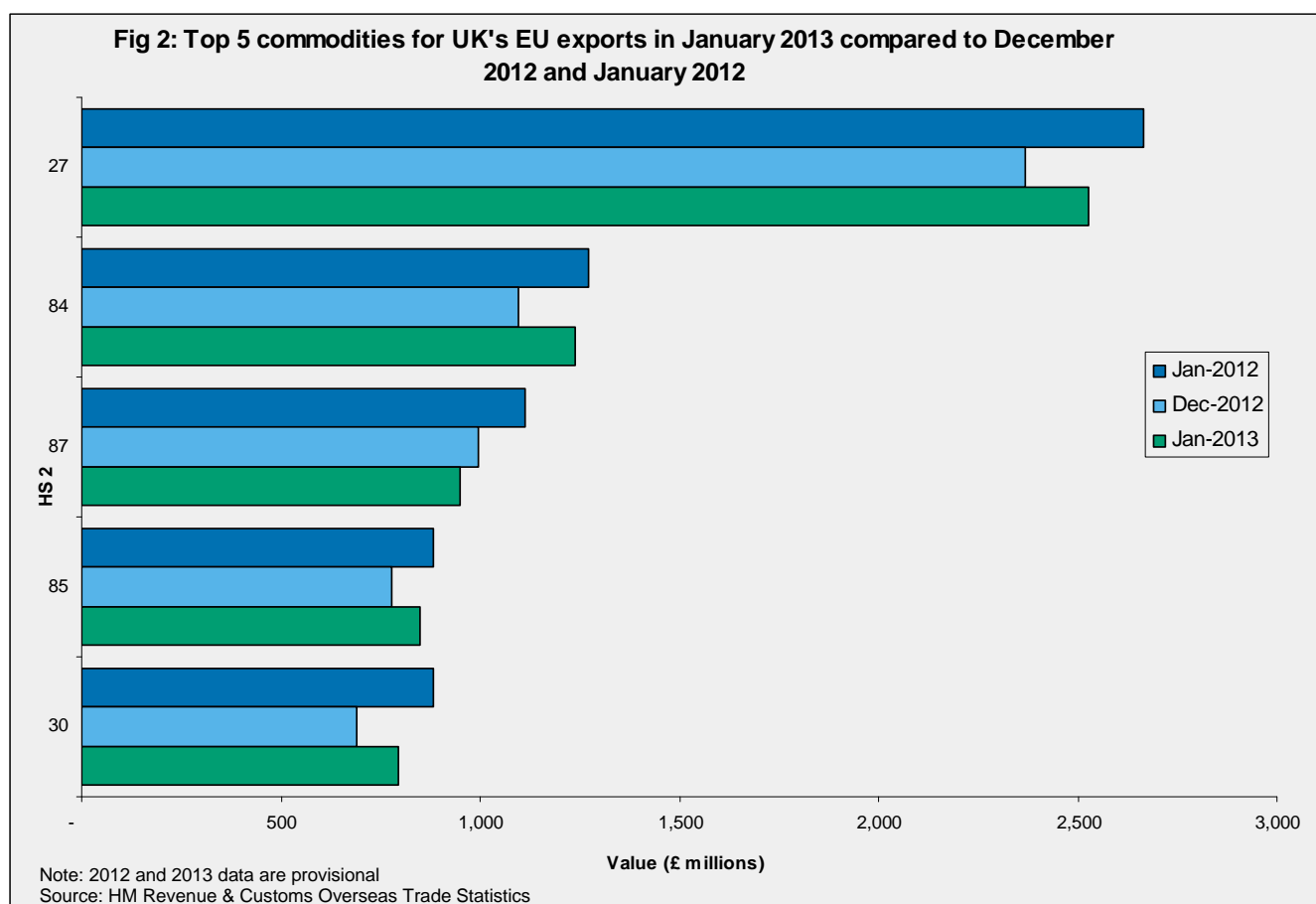


Table 2 shows comparisons of the value of UK export trade with our top five EU export trading partners for January 2013, December 2012 and January 2012.

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

Country	Total January 2013 £ millions	% Change from December 2012	% Change from January 2012	% of total January 2013 exports	Rank December 2012	Rank January 2012
Total Exports	12,360.5	14.0	-3.1	100.0	n/a	n/a
Germany	2,529.3	17.4	-5.0	20.5	1	1
Netherlands	1,945.8	20.4	-15.5	15.7	3	2
France	1,791.8	-6.9	-0.3	14.5	2	3
Irish Republic	1,500.6	3.0	10.3	12.1	4	4
Belgium	1,202.9	37.3	-5.1	9.7	5	5

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional

The top five EU export partner Member States remain unchanged **compared with December 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 20.5 per cent of the total value of exports. This was led by exports of £422.3 million in HS2 27 and £365.8 million in HS2 84.

The increase in value of total export trade compared to December 2012 reflects increases in 21 of the other 26 Member States in the EU. There were 5 increases over £100 million and one decrease over £100 million. In the top five countries, four experienced increases in export trade with only France seeing a decrease.

The largest increase in the value of exports from the UK was to the top EU export partner country, Germany, up £374.4 million (17.4 per cent). This is a slight recovery after a very large decrease last month, which put exports to Germany at the lowest figure seen since January 2010; but this month's figure is still only 75 per cent of November's export value.

This increase for Germany was led by a rise of £80.8 million (28.4 per cent) in HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) and £62.4 million (53.4 per cent) in HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof).

The second largest increase in the value of exports from the UK was to the second largest EU export partner country, the Netherlands, up £330.1 million (20.4 per cent). This increase was led by a rise of £199.5 million (27.7 per cent) in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes).

The third largest increase was for Belgium, up £326.7 million (37.3 per cent). This was led by increases of £118.2 million in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes), over twice the value for December 2012, and £96.9 million (69.8 per cent) in HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals).

The fourth largest increase was for Italy up £203.2 million (37.5 per cent) and this was followed by Denmark up £128.0 million (74.5 per cent) taking exports to Denmark to £299.7 million. The January 2013 figure for Denmark was the second highest level in recent years, behind March 2012's record of £310.8 million, while the December 2012 figure was the lowest since August 2009. There were no other increases over £100 million, though Poland was close behind this level, up £94.4 million (44.1 per cent).

The largest decrease was for France, down £133.0 million (6.9 per cent). This was more than accounted for by a decrease of £181.1 million (35.3 per cent) in HS2 27. This decrease for France coupled with the increase for the Netherlands has led to

France moving back to third place in the top five countries this month, and the Netherlands returning to second place.

There were no other countries with decreases above £20 million.

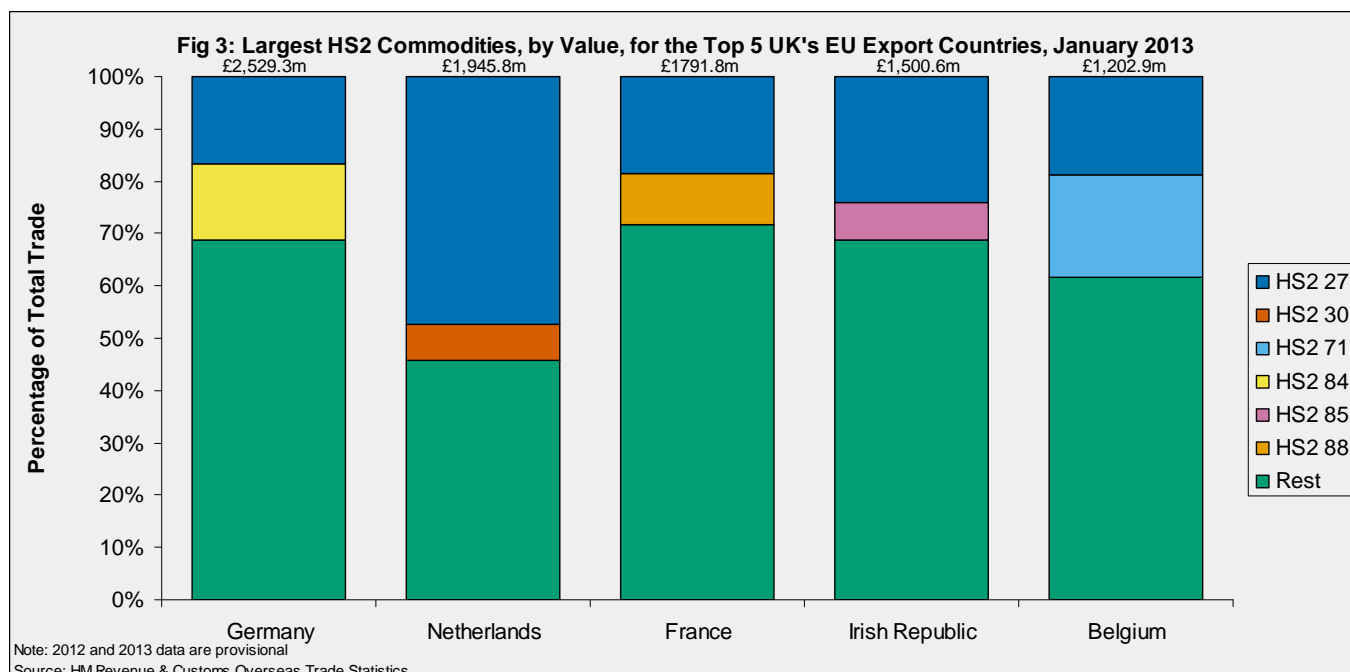
In contrast, the decrease in total export trade value **compared to January 2012**, noted in Table 2, was due to decreases in 16 of the UK's 26 EU export partner Member States. There were two decreases over £100 million and one increase above this value, all within the top five export partners. Of the top five countries, four experienced decreases in export trade with only the Irish Republic seeing an increase.

The largest decrease was for the Netherlands, down by £355.6 million (15.5 per cent). This was driven by a fall in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation) of £343.9 million (27.2 per cent)

The second largest decrease was for exports to Germany, down £133.0 million (5.0 per cent). This decrease was led by falls of £98.3 million (43.7 per cent) in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products) and £67.3 million (30.5 per cent) in vehicles in HS2 87.

The largest increase was for the Republic of Ireland, up £139.7 million (10.3 per cent). This was led by an increase of £66.2 million (22.6 per cent) in HS2 27.

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 89.5 per cent of the total value of UK EU export trade under this heading. For the Netherlands trade under HS2 27 accounts for 47.3 per cent of the total UK export trade to this country. The exports of HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals) to Belgium accounts for 64.9 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 January 2013 compared to December 2012 and January 2012**

HS 2	Description	January 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from December 2012	% Change from January 2012	% of Total January 2013 Imports	Rank December 2012	Rank January 2012
-	Total Imports	16,600.6	8.1	0.4	100.0	n/a	n/a
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	2,467.0	17.4	-6.4	14.9	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	1,915.6	4.2	-5.2	11.5	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	1,480.9	0.0	2.0	8.9	3	3
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	1,389.0	5.9	16.5	8.4	4	4
30	Pharmaceutical products	996.8	29.5	20.5	6.0	5	5

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

The increase in imports **compared to December 2012** reflects the fact that over 70 per cent of all HS2 chapters increased in import value. There were three increases of £100 million or more, and one decrease of this amount. All of the top five commodities increased in import value.

The largest increase 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 rose by £364.9 million (17.4 per cent) to £2.5 billion. This follows a large decrease in this chapter, which took it to the lowest level since December 2010. In previous years this chapter has also decreased in import value during December, and then recovered again in January.

The second largest increase in value of imports was for the fifth biggest import by value, HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products). This rose by £226.8 million (29.5 percent) to £996.8 million. This follows a fall of £433.0 million in December 2012 from a record high of £1.2 billion in November 2012.

The third largest increase in value of imports was for the sixth biggest import by value, HS2 39 (Plastics and plastic products). This rose by £117.0 million (21.6 percent) to £659.4 million. As with the other chapters, this comes after a large decrease in this chapter, which took it to its lowest value since December 2010. As with HS2 87, this chapter often decreases in December and recovers in January.



There were no other chapters with increases of over £100 million.

The largest decrease was in HS2 22 (Beverages, spirits and vinegar), down £127.2 million (33.3 per cent) to £255.2 million. This is the second successive large decrease in this chapter, since the record high of £469.7 million in November 2012. In previous years this chapter has had high imports in November, possibly in preparation for the Christmas period, followed by sharp falls in December and January.

There were no other HS2 chapters with a decrease of over £100 million.

**Compared with January 2012**, there was a much smaller increase of 0.4 per cent in the value of imports. Fifty-seven per cent of all chapters increased in value. There were two chapters with increases of over £100 million, and three decreases of this magnitude.

The chapter with the largest increase in comparison with January 2012 was the fourth biggest import by value, HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes), up £196.6 million (16.5 per cent).

The second largest increase was in the chapter with the fifth biggest import by value, HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products), up £169.8 million (20.5 per cent).

The largest decrease was outside the top five products, as the seventh biggest import by value, HS2 29 (Organic chemicals) decreased by £206.9 million (30.8 per cent).

The other large decreases were in the top two chapters, as HS2 87 decreased by £167.4 million (6.4 per cent) and HS2 84 fell by £106.0 million (5.2 per cent).

Figure 4 shows the top five HS2 commodity groups for UK's EU imports in January 2013, compared to December 2012 and January 2012.

The graph shows that four of the top five chapters had increases when compared to December 2012, while the top two chapters decreased when compared to January 2012 and the other three all increased in value.

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

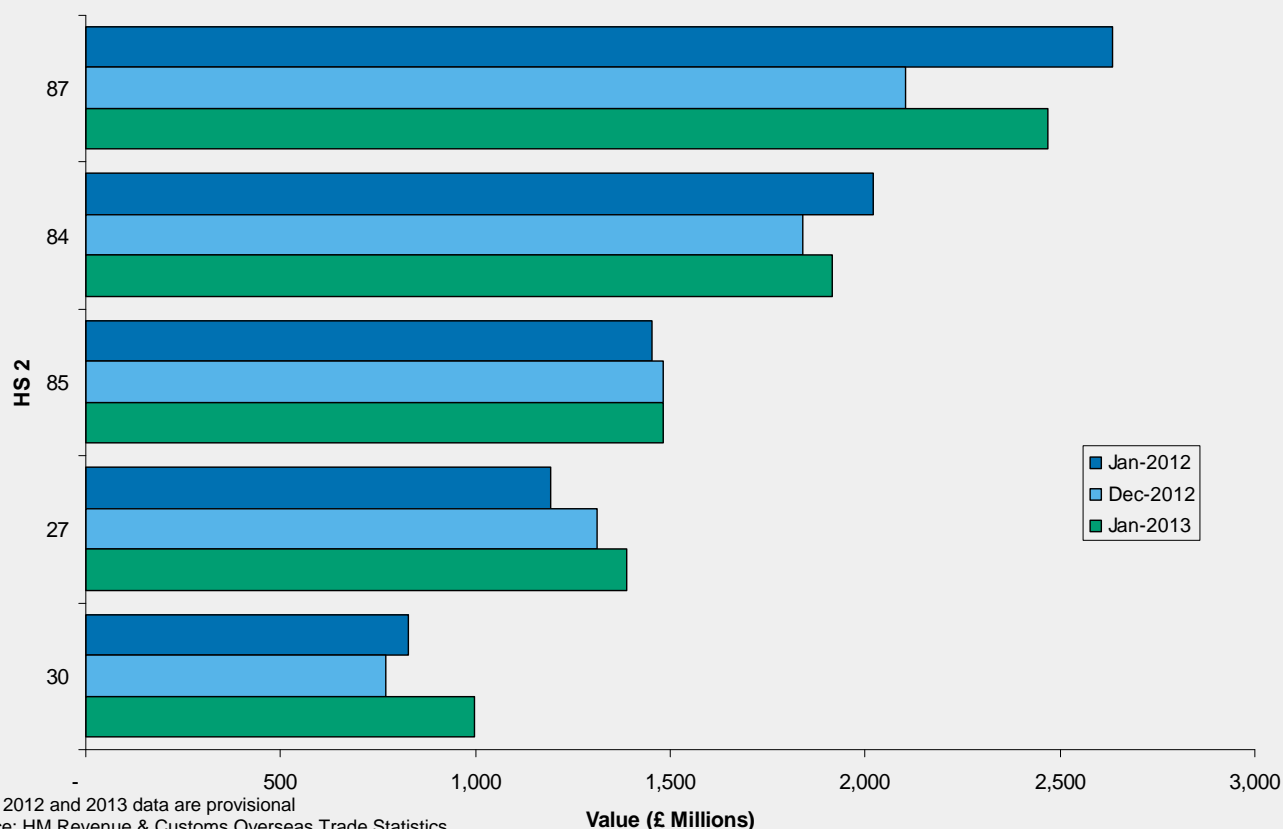


Table 4 shows comparisons of the value of UK import trade with our top five EU import trading partners for January 2013, December 2012 and January 2012.

<b>Table 4: Top 5 EU import partner Member States in January 2013 compared to December 2012 and January 2012</b>						
<b>Country</b>	<b>January 2013 Total £ millions</b>	<b>% change from December 2012</b>	<b>% Change from January 2012</b>	<b>% of total January 2013 Imports</b>	<b>Rank December 2012</b>	<b>Rank January 2012</b>
Total Imports	16,600.6	8.1	0.4	100.0	n/a	n/a
Germany	4,225.6	14.6	3.2	25.5	1	1
Netherlands	2,634.5	-0.2	14.2	15.9	2	2
France	1,864.7	17.3	-3.4	11.2	3	3
Belgium	1,486.1	3.2	4.8	9.0	4	4
Italy	1,077.1	-0.2	0.2	6.5	5	6
Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics						

Germany remains the Member State from which the UK imports most, accounting for 25.5 per cent of the total imports to the UK from the EU. This is led by imports of £1.2 billion in HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof), accounting for 28.9 percent of the total imports from Germany. The next largest chapter is HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof), with £0.6 billion of imports to the UK. Germany also saw the largest increase in imports compared to December 2012.

The value of total import trade into the UK increased for three of the top five countries with the other two countries experiencing marginal decreases compared with December 2012. For all other 26 Member States, only eight saw decreases compared with December 2012. Imports for three member states increased by over £100 million, while the biggest decrease was £25.0 million.

The largest increase in value of import trade **compared with December 2012** is the rise of £537.6 million (14.6 per cent) from Germany, led by an increase in the top chapter HS2 87 of £177.3 million (17.0 per cent). This follows a large decrease in this chapter last month.

Indeed the large increase in HS2 87 noted in the commodity analysis above is reflected in the other large changes in the partner country analysis.

The second largest increase was from the third largest import partner country, France, up £275.5 million (17.3 per cent). This increase is spread across a number of chapters, the largest of which is HS2 87, up £78.6 million (46.9 per cent).

The third largest increase was from Spain, up £122.3 million (14.7 per cent). This was again led by an increase in HS2 87 of £93.4 million (58.4 per cent).

There were no other increases of over £100 million although there was an increase just below this level of £92.4 million for Sweden (up 15.2 per cent). This increase was led by a rise of £52.5 million (21.3 per cent) in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes)

The largest decrease was from Estonia, down £25.0 million (60.9 per cent). This follows a rise of a similar magnitude last month. This decrease is dominated by a fall of £31.6 million in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) to £41.4 thousand in January 2013 reversing last month's increase of almost exactly the same size.

There was a very marginal increase of £67.9 million (0.4 per cent) in total import trade value **compared to January 2012**, which is composed of 13 increases and 13 decreases from the other 26 Member States in the EU. Imports for three member states increased by over £100 million, while one decreased by this amount.

The largest increase in the value of imports into the UK was from the Netherlands, up by £328.2 million (14.2 per cent). This increase is led by two chapters, with the largest increases being £104.6 million (40.0 per cent) in HS2 85 (Electrical machinery) and £102.1 million (27.3 per cent) in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes).

The second largest increase is £131.0 million (3.2 per cent) for imports from Germany, which was led by increases of £79.9 million (44.3 per cent) in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products) and £63.1 million (a threefold increase) in HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin). This was offset to an extent by a decrease of £43.1 million in HS2 87.

The third largest increase is £106.3 million (12.6 per cent) for imports from Spain, was led by increases of £43.9 million (a sevenfold increase) in HS2 27 and £39.6 million (18.5 per cent) in HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof).

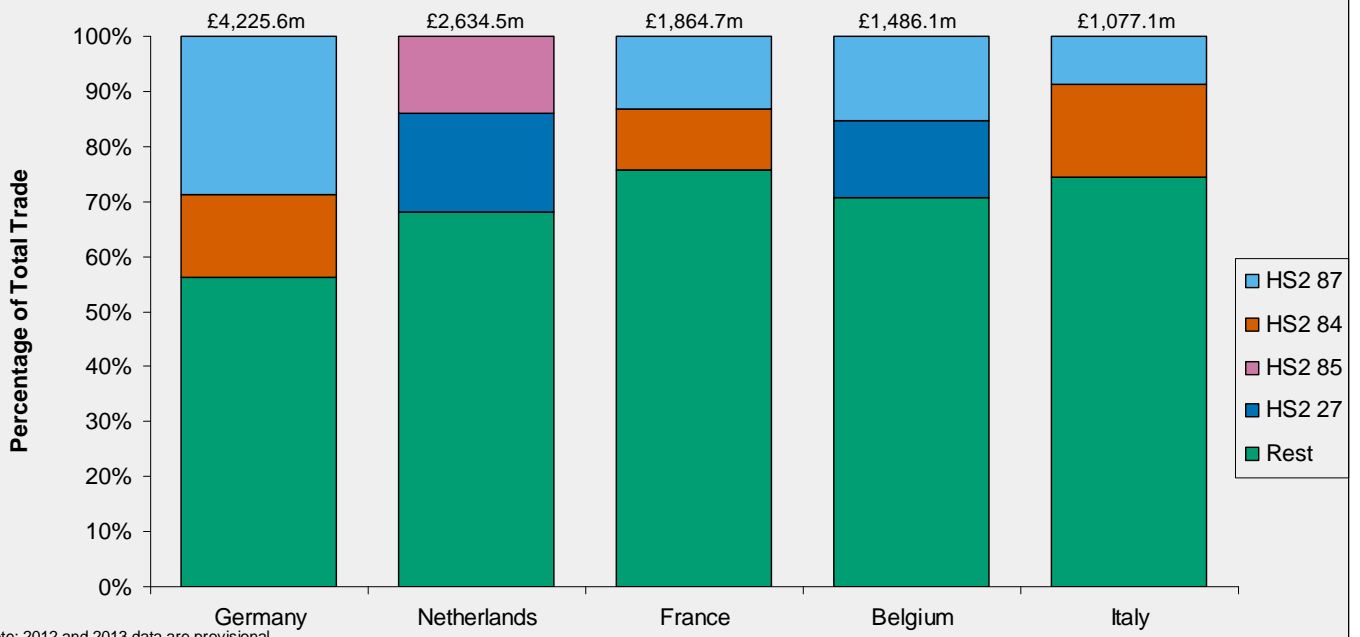
The partner country from which the largest decrease in value of imports was seen was the Irish Republic, down £229.2 million (20.3 per cent). This was dominated by a fall of £253.8 million (80.2 per cent) in HS2 29 (Organic chemicals).

There were no other decreases over £100 million although there was one just below this level. Luxembourg had a decrease of £98.0 million (76.7 per cent). This was led by a decrease in HS2 85 (Electrical machinery) of £91.6 million. This drop was from £95.8 million in January 2012 to £4.2 million this month. In May 2012, there was a substantial fall from values that had typically been in the region of £100 million to around £40 million. Since then, imports from this member state have remained at this level.

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 imported to the UK. The trade in HS2 87 from these Member States accounts for 72.4 per cent of the total import trade to the UK under this heading. It also makes up 28.9 per cent of the UK's total 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 imported to the UK. The UK's trade in HS2 84 with these three Member States accounts for 53.0 per cent of its EU total imports in these commodities.

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



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

Notes:

1. HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with Member States of the European Union (EU) on 14 March 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 January 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 January 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 January.
  - 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: 11 April 2013 9:30am

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