

# Non-EU Overseas Trade Statistics - June 2012

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## **Summary**

- UK's non-EU exports have decreased by £1.7 billion (13.1 per cent) compared to May 2012, to £11.5 billion. Compared to June 2011, exports have increased by £0.4 billion (3.8 per cent).
- UK's non-EU imports have increased by £0.1 billion (0.8 per cent) compared to May 2012, to £16.6 billion. Compared to June 2011, imports have decreased by £0.1 billion (0.5 per cent).
- The monthly export figures return to levels seen at the start of this year. The May 2012 figure was the second highest value since the OTS was first published separately for non-EU countries in 1993.
- The UK remains a net importer (imports are greater than exports). The size of the difference between imports and exports has increased by 56.2 per cent compared to May 2012, and has decreased from June 2011 by 8.9 per cent.
- The final estimate of total exports for 2011 is £137.4 billion compared with £121.4 billion in 2010. This is an increase of 13.2 per cent.
- The final estimate of total imports from 2011 is £195.2 billion compared with £177.1 billion in 2010. This is an increase of 10.2 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.

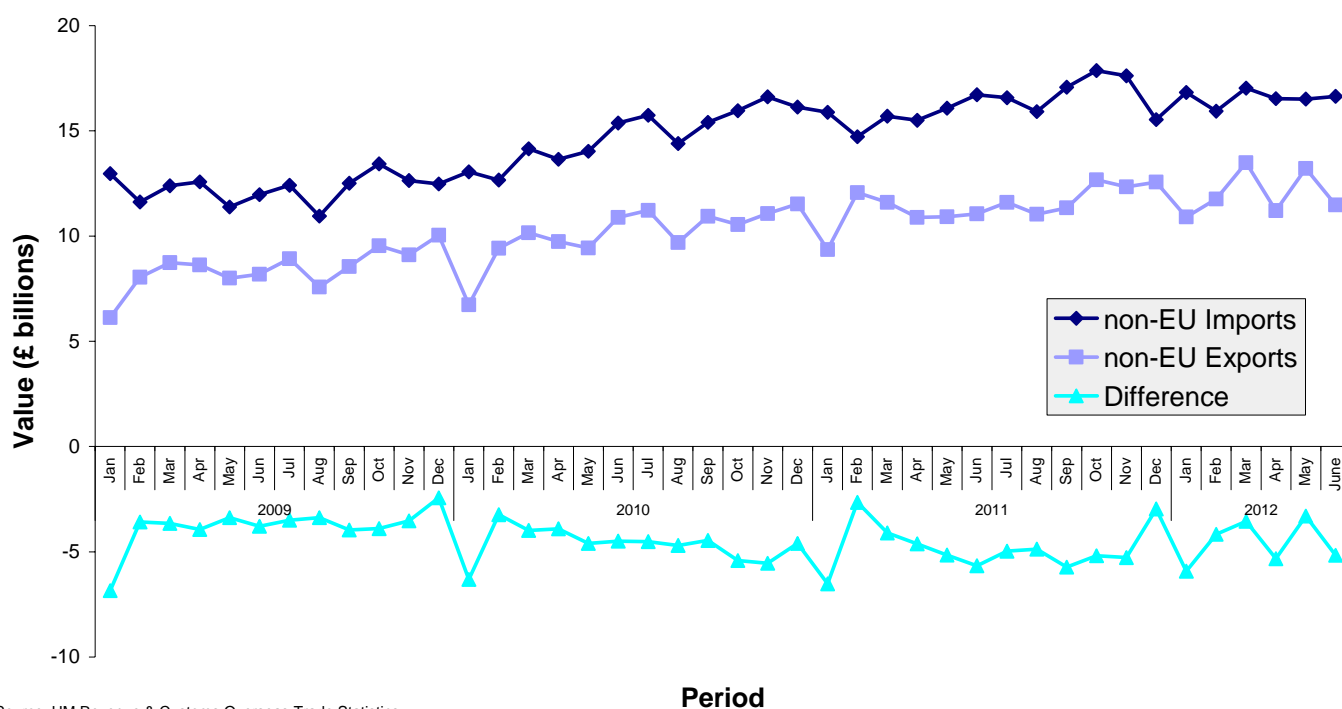
You can find details of how users interested in import and export markets for specific goods make use of the detailed OTS data in '[The Customer Story](#)'. You can also access the detailed data in our interactive database [here](#).

## Key Points

For the month of June 2012:

The value of exports decreased in June 2012 compared with the previous month while the value of imports saw very little change, for the second month running. The value of exports has returned to the level seen in April of this year. Consequently the difference between non-EU imports and exports has increased to a similar value seen in April. The increase in the trade gap is the largest monthly increase this year, and follows the large decrease in the trade gap last month.

**Fig. 1: Total Monthly UK Trade with non-EU Countries**



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

## Exports

- UK's non-EU exports have decreased by £1.7 billion (13.1 per cent) compared to May 2012, to £11.5 billion. Compared to June 2011, exports have increased by £0.4 billion (3.8 per cent). This follows May having the second highest export value since the OTS was first published separately for non-EU countries in 1993.
- The top five commodities are similar to last month. There has been a decrease in export value in over 70 per cent of commodity chapters since last month.
- The largest contributing commodity group remains HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof). In June it contributed £2.3 billion, 20.5 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU export trade. The largest contribution to this chapter was £1.0 billion from HS4 8411 (Turbo-jets, Turbo-propellers and other gas turbines).
- The largest value decrease from the previous month was £773.6 million in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes), a decrease of 49.8 per cent. In comparison, the largest increase from the previous month was just £64.0 million in HS2 29 (Organic chemicals), an increase of 21.1 per cent.
- The USA remains the UK's largest non-EU export partner country, accounting for 26.4 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU export trade. Exports from the UK to the USA also had the largest decrease in value, compared to May 2012, down by £608.8 million, 16.7 per cent. The largest increase in exports compared to May 2012 was to Switzerland which increased by £93.9 million, 21.5 per cent.
- The final 2011 value of UK's trade-in-goods exported to non EU countries was £137.4 billion, which has been upwardly revised by £72.2 million from when it was first published in February 2012. This is an increase of less than 0.1 per cent.<sup>1</sup>
- The total 2012 year to date value of UK's goods exported to non-EU countries excluding June 2012 is £60.6 billion which has been upwardly revised by £3.4 million. This is an increase of less than 0.1 per cent.

## Imports

- The value of the UK's non-EU imports increased slightly, by £0.1 billion (0.8 per cent) compared to May 2012, to £16.6 billion. Compared to June 2011 imports have decreased by £0.1 billion (0.5 per cent).
- The top five commodities remain similar to the previous month apart from HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques) replacing HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof) in June 2012. This was as a result of the HS2 97 having the largest increase at HS2 level from last month, up by £487.4 million. This is over two and a half times the figure for May.
- The largest contributing commodity group remains HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes), contributing in June 2012 £3.4 billion, 20.3 per cent of the total value of non-EU imports to the UK. The largest contribution to this chapter was £2.3 billion

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<sup>1</sup> The total export values for 2010 and 2011 as published in the December 2011 commentary document, released in February 2012, were incorrectly reported as £118.6 billion and £134.3 billion respectively. The incorrect figures were only published in the commentary document, with all other publications of the final 2010 and provisional 2011 export totals appearing in February correctly reported as £121.4 billion and £137.4 billion respectively.

from HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude).

- HS2 27 had the largest value decrease from the previous month of £304.9 million, a fall of 8.3 per cent.
- The USA remains the UK's largest non-EU import partner country, accounting for 15.9 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU import trade. The largest increase in value of imports to the UK compared to May 2012 was from Switzerland, a rise of £423.7 million, 78.7 per cent. The largest decrease in imports compared to May 2012 was from Nigeria which decreased by £247.6 million, 63.7 per cent.
- The final 2011 value of UK's trade-in-goods imported from non-EU countries was £195.2 billion, which has been downwardly revised by 0.4 million from when it was first published in February 2012. This is a decrease of less than 0.1 per cent.
- The total 2012 year to date value of UK's trade-in-goods imported from non-EU countries excluding June 2012 is £82.9 billion, which has been upwardly revised by £11.7 million. This is an increase of less than 0.1 per cent.

## Further Analysis: Exports

Table 1 shows a comparison of the top five commodities by value exported to countries outside the EU for June 2011, May 2012 and June 2012.

HS 2	Description	June 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from May 2012	% Change from June 2011	% of Total June 2012 Exports	Rank May 2012	Rank June 2011
-	Total Exports	11,479.5	-13.1	3.8	100.0	n/a	n/a
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	2,349.4	0.2	7.9	20.5	1	1
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	1,280.1	-28.2	7.3	11.2	2	2
30	Pharmaceutical products	828.6	-4.0	-8.7	7.2	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	804.9	-3.7	6.2	7.0	5	5
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	778.6	-49.8	29.7	6.8	3	6

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

The overall decrease in exports **compared to May 2012** reflects decreases in over 70 per cent of HS2 chapters. The two largest changes in export value were in the top five commodity types which accounted for over two thirds of the total net decrease in export trade.

The largest value decrease from the previous month, of £773.6 million, was in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes). This is a 49.8 per cent decrease compared to May 2012, which was the highest monthly export value in recent years. Within HS27 it was HS4 2710 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals (excl. crude); preparations containing  $\geq$  70% by weight of petroleum oils or of oils obtained from bituminous minerals) which saw the largest decrease compared with May 2012 of £672.5 million, 66.5 per cent. This also had a corresponding decrease in quantity suggesting that the decrease is due to a drop in the volume of export trade rather than unit cost price.

The second largest decrease was in HS2 87, down by £501.8 million, a decrease of 28.2 per cent, after last month's record high of £1.8 billion. This was driven by a

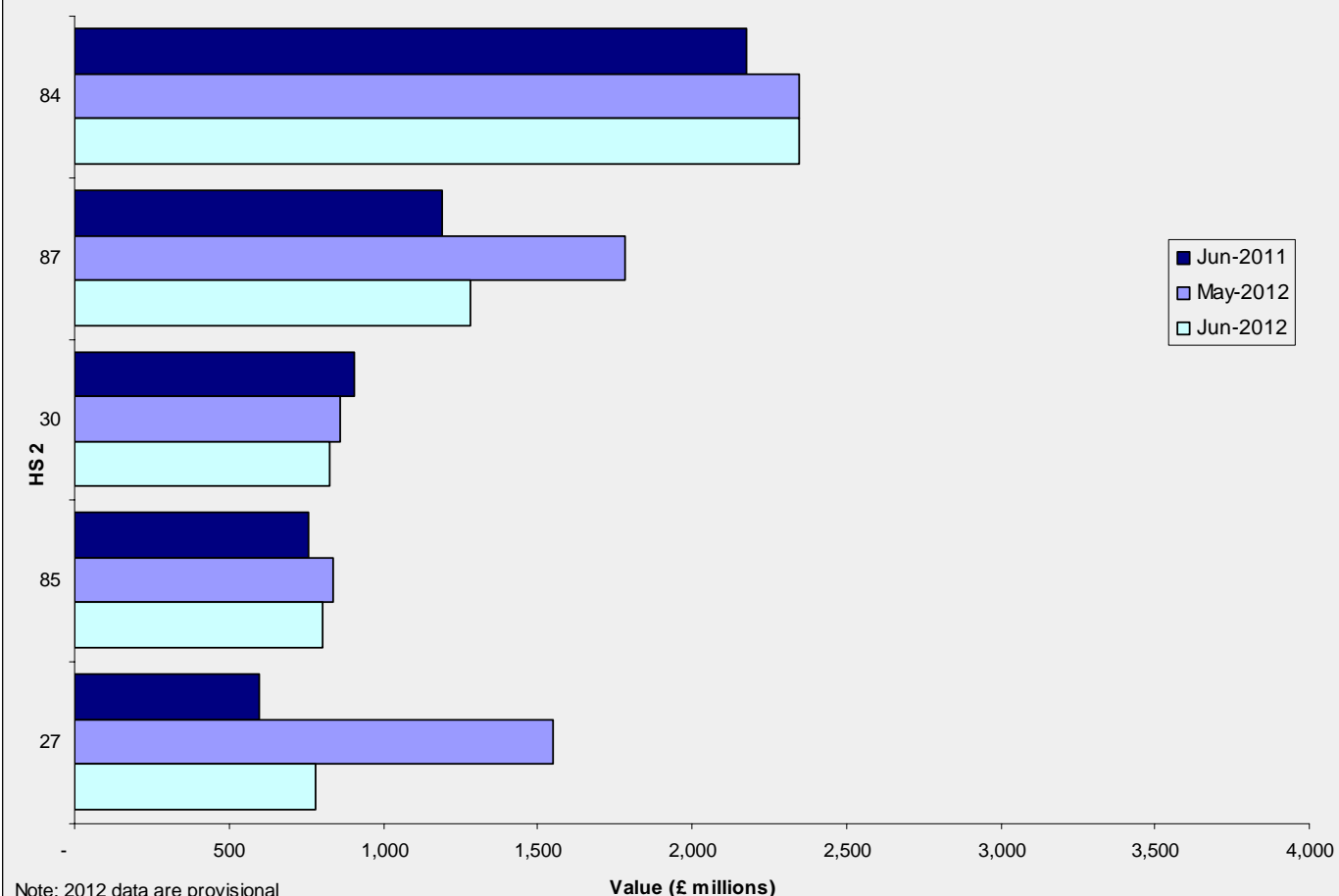
decrease of £427.5 million, 30.8 per cent in HS4 8703 (Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons, incl. station wagons and racing cars). The corresponding decrease in quantity suggests the decrease is due to a fall in the volume of export trade rather than unit cost price.

There was also a large decrease 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), down by £140.8 million (18.2 per cent) to £632.7 million. This is driven by decreases of £76.0 million (44.7 per cent) in HS4 7110 (Platinum, incl. palladium, rhodium, iridium, osmium and ruthenium, unwrought or in semi-manufactured forms, or in powder form), £69.1 million (26.1 per cent) in HS4 7113 (Articles of jewellery and parts thereof, of precious metal or of metal clad with precious metal (excl. articles > 100 years old), and £31.7 million (58.8 per cent) in HS4 7106 (Silver, incl. silver plated with gold or platinum, unwrought or in semi-manufactured forms, or in powder form).

In comparison the largest increase since last month was only £64.0 million in HS2 29 (Organic chemicals), an increase of 21.1 per cent. There was no other chapter for which the value of exports increased by more than £50 million.

The total export trade value has increased by £0.4 billion (3.8 per cent) **compared to June 2011**. Just under half of HS2 chapters increased, with the size of the increases generally being bigger than the decreases. The largest increases were £201.1 million in HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof), £178.1 million in HS2 27, £172.0 million in HS2 84, and £127.2 million in HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques). These were offset by a decrease of £347.6 million in HS2 71

**Fig 2: Top 5 commodities for UK's non-EU exports June 2012 compared to May 2012 and June 2011**



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

Figure 2 shows the top five commodities for UK's non-EU exports in June 2012, compared to May 2012 and June 2011. It shows that four of the top five commodity types had decreases when compared with May 2012, but four had increases when compared with June 2011. It also highlights the record highs for chapters 87 and 27 last month.

Table 2 shows a comparison of the value of UK non-EU export trade with our top five trading partners for June 2011, May 2012 and June 2012.

Country	June 2012 Total £millions	% change from May 2012	% Change from June 2011	% of total June 2012 Exports	Rank May 2012	Rank June 2011
Total Exports	11,479.5	-13.1	3.8	100.0	n/a	n/a
USA	3,035.8	-16.7	1.1	26.4	1	1
China	739.4	-25.6	9.2	6.4	2	2
Switzerland	530.9	21.5	6.2	4.6	6	4
Russia	524.8	5.6	45.0	4.6	3	10
United Arab Emirates	467.5	3.8	14.5	4.1	4	6

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

For all three periods, the United States was the UK's largest non-EU exporting partner country, with China second.

**Compared to May 2012**, the overall decrease in exports reflects decreases in the value of exports to over 65 per cent of our export partners. In addition the decreases for countries were generally larger than the increases. There were five countries with decreases of £100 million or more, while none had increases of this magnitude. The decreases for these five export partners accounted for nearly 70 per cent of the total net decrease.

The largest decrease in exports was to the USA, down by £608.8 million, 16.7 per cent. This is mostly due to decreases of £375.9 million in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes), £101.3 million 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), and £87.5 million in HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof).

The decrease in HS2 27 was driven by decreases of £140.9 million (76.8 per cent) in HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude) and £225.1 million (55.7 per cent) in HS4 2710 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals (excl. crude); preparations containing >= 70% by weight of petroleum oils or of oils obtained from bituminous minerals). Similar decreases in value and mass indicate that the decrease is due to a fall in quantities exported.

The decrease in HS2 71 is driven by a decrease of £56.0 million (60.2 per cent) in HS4 7110 (Platinum, incl. palladium, rhodium, iridium, osmium and ruthenium, unwrought or in semi-manufactured forms, or in powder form). However, the volume (net mass) exported only fell by 29 per cent, indicating that the decrease is a combination of price decreases and quantity of exports. The global platinum price has generally been falling since February 2012. See <http://platinumprice.org/platinum-price-history.html> for details.

The second largest decrease in exports was to China, down by £254.9 million (25.6 per cent) from last month's high of £994.3 million to £739.4 million.

This decrease was driven by a fall of £239.6 million (52.8 per cent) in HS2 87, more than covered by a fall of £240.2 million in HS4 8703 (Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons, incl. station wagons and racing cars), from last month's record high of £435.0 million, to £194.9 million.

There were also relatively large decreases for exports to Australia (down £102.5 million, 23.7 per cent), Saudi Arabia (down £114.0 million, 32.4 per cent) and Senegal (down £129.4 million, 98.3 per cent). This dramatic drop in exports to Senegal is due to high exports of oils in HS4 2709 and 2710 during May, and none in June.

In contrast the largest increase in exports was to Switzerland, up by £93.9 million (21.5 per cent) to become our third biggest export partner. In May they were sixth. This increase is more than covered by exports of paintings and sculptures in HS4 9701 (Paintings, drawings and pastels, executed entirely by hand, other than drawings of heading 4906 and other than hand-painted or hand-decorated manufactured articles; collages and similar decorative plaques) up by £74.3 million, a threefold increase; and HS4 9703 (Original sculptures and statuary, in any material) up by £38.9 million, a sevenfold increase.

**Compared to June 2011**, there were increases in the value of exports to just over half of our export partner countries. There were changes in excess of £100 million for exports to four countries.

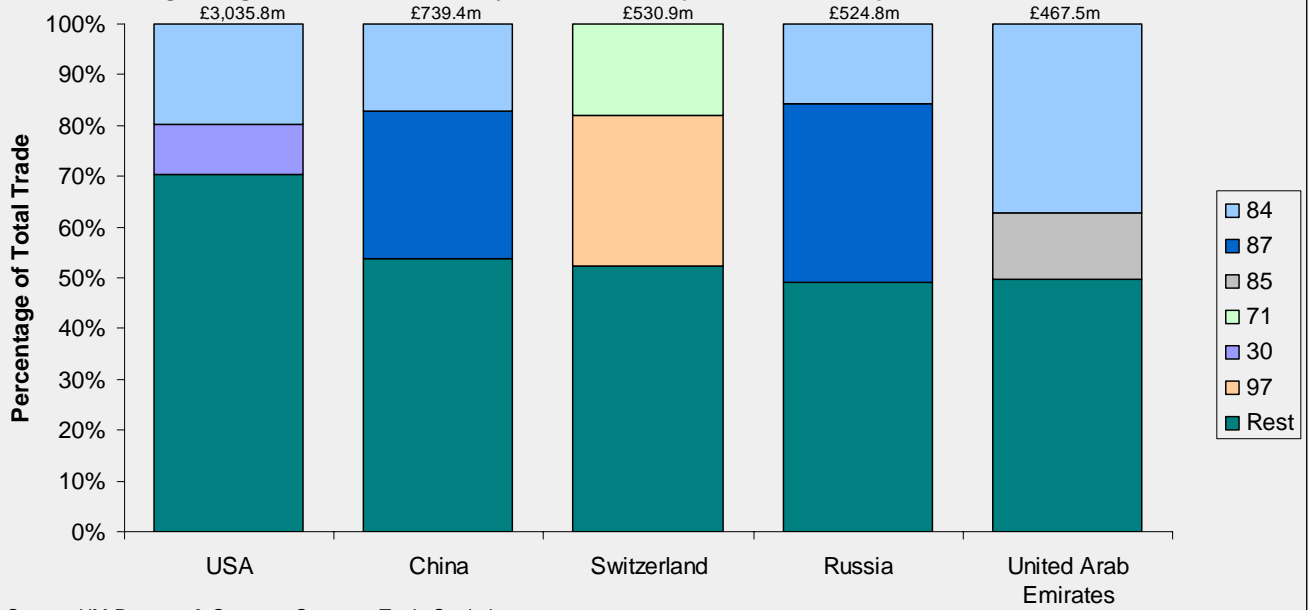
The largest increases in total export trade value compared to June 2011 are to South Korea (up by £287.2 million) and Russia (up by £162.8 million). South Korea's increase was driven by an increase of £244.0 million in HS2 27, while Russia's increase was led by increases of £71.0 million in HS2 87 and £52.8 million in HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof).

The largest decreases in total export trade value compared to June 2011 are to Canada (down by £150.9 million) and Turkey (down by £115.7 million). Canada's decrease was driven by a decrease of £68.1 million in HS2 27, while Turkey's decrease was spread over a number of chapters.

Figure 3 shows the two largest commodities by value exported from the UK to its top five non-EU export partner countries. In June 2012 four of the top five countries have HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) in their top two largest commodities exported from the UK. The trade with these countries accounts for 41.9 per cent of the total value of UK non-EU export trade under this heading.



**Fig 3: Largest HS2 Commodities, by Value, for the Top 5 UK's non-EU Export Countries, June 2012**



## Further Analysis: Imports

Table 3 shows a comparison of the top five commodities imported from countries outside the EU for June 2011, May 2012 and June 2012.

HS 2	Description	June 2012 Total £ millions	% Change from May 2012	% Change from June 2011	% of Total June 2012 Imports	Rank May 2012	Rank June 2011
-	Total Imports	16,641.2	0.8	-0.5	100.0	n/a	n/a
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	3,374.3	-8.3	-9.3	20.3	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	1,878.1	-5.7	3.1	11.3	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	1,494.7	9.0	4.7	9.0	3	3
71	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin	1,208.3	-3.4	18.2	7.3	4	4
97	Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques	759.7	179.0	-15.7	4.6	14	5

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

The small increase of £0.1 billion in the value of imports **compared to May 2012** comprises decreases in over 60 per cent of HS2 commodities chapters, balanced by a smaller number of larger increases. The two largest increases, and the two largest decreases, were all in the top five commodities.

The overall increase was dominated by the rise in imports in HS2 97, up by £487.4 million (179.0 per cent). This increase was primarily due to high value paintings in HS4 9701, up by £372.7 million to £554.1 million, a threefold increase over last month's import value. The increase in these commodities covers 76.5 per cent of the overall net increase in this chapter. Because of the UK's position as one of the centres of the global art market and the nature of the goods trade figures in these goods can be volatile. This month's is the second highest monthly total for goods in HS4 9701 in recent years, after June 2011's import value of £687.0 million.

The second largest value increase from the previous month, of £123.1 million (9.0 per cent), was in HS2 85. This increase was led by a rise of £101.7 million (30.6 per cent)

in HS4 8517 (Telephone sets, incl. telephones for cellular networks or for other wireless networks; other apparatus for the transmission or reception of voice, images or other data) following a fall of £118.0 million in the previous month.

The only other chapter whose imports increased in value by over £100 million is the UK's sixth biggest import by value, HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof) which increased by £101.0 million to £607.8 million. This is led by an increase of £80.0 million in HS4 8703 (Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons, incl. station wagons and racing cars (excl. motor vehicles of heading 8702)), a rise of 56.8 per cent.

The largest value decrease from the previous month, of £304.9 million (8.3 per cent), was in HS2 27. This decrease was led by a fall of £234.6 million (9.3 per cent) in HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude). This is the lowest value import since August 2011. Also in this chapter, HS4 2711 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) fell by £136.0 million, 27.9 per cent. This is the lowest import value since October 2010, and the lowest quantity (net mass) imported since July 2009.

The only other chapter whose imports decreased in value by over £100 million is HS2 84 which fell by £113.5 million to £1.9 billion. This is led by a decrease of £93.2 million (14.6 per cent) in HS4 8411 (Turbojets, turbopropellers and other gas turbines).

The slight decrease in total import trade value **compared to June 2011** is made up of decreases in just over half of all chapters. Two chapters had decreases of over £100 million - HS2 27 (down £347.3 million, 9.3 per cent) and HS2 97 (down £142.0 million, 15.7 per cent). As previously mentioned June 2011's import value was the highest in recent years for HS2 97. There were also two chapters with increases of over £100 million - HS2 71 (up £186.3 million, 18.2 per cent), and HS2 87 (up £190.7 million, 45.7 per cent).

Within the top five chapters shown in Figure 4, three of the chapters show decreases compared with May 2012 as explained previously. Three of the five chapters show increases compared with June 2011, while HS 97 is down from the record high of June 2011, but nearly three times higher than last month.

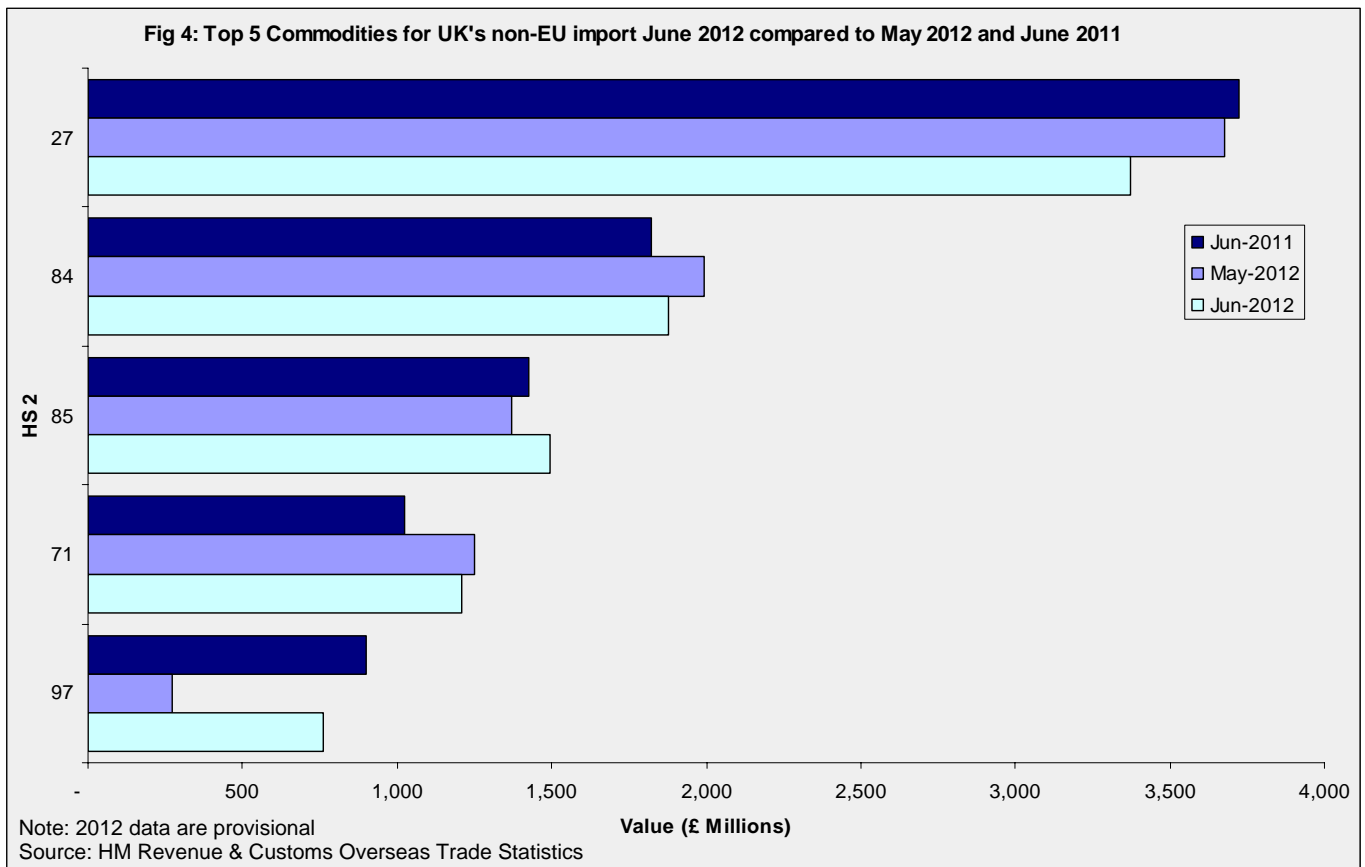


Table 4 shows comparisons of the value of UK non-EU import trade from our top five import trading partners for June 2011, May 2012, and June 2012. Imports from three of the top five trading partners have increased in June compared to the previous month, and three also increased when compared to June 2011.

**Table 4: Top 5 non-EU import partner countries in June 2012 compared to May 2012 and June 2011**

Country	June 2012 Total £ millions	% change from May 2012	% Change from June 2011	% of Total June 2012 Imports	Rank May 2012	Rank June 2011
Total Imports	16,641.2	0.8	-0.5	100.0	n/a	n/a
USA	2,639.0	0.4	1.8	15.9	1	1
China	2,459.4	-1.2	5.2	14.8	2	2
Norway	1,774.4	-7.4	-11.6	10.7	3	3
Switzerland	962.3	78.7	25.2	5.8	6	5
Russia	747.3	11.8	-20.4	4.5	5	4

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

These changes have moved Switzerland into fourth place, ahead of Russia, while Japan has dropped to sixth. China, the USA and Norway have been the UK's largest import partners for a number of years.

The small increase in total imports **compared to May 2012** reflects a mix of increases and decreases over all the UK's import partners. Two countries had increases of over £100 million, while four had decreases of this magnitude.

The largest increase in value of imports was from Switzerland, up by £423.7 million, an increase of 78.7 per cent, to £962.3 million. This is the highest value of imports from

Switzerland since March 2010's record import value of £1.1 billion. This increase is driven by a rise of £230.3 million in HS2 97. This makes the June 2012 value over seven times the May import value. Most of the increase in HS2 97 is from imports of paintings in HS4 9701 which rose by £169.1 million. There was also an increase of £183.3 million (182.1 per cent) in HS2 71 which is driven by a tenfold increase in HS4 7110 (Platinum, incl. palladium, rhodium, iridium, osmium and ruthenium, unwrought or in semi-manufactured forms, or in powder form).

The second largest increase in imports was from Botswana, which increased by £138.3 million, 164.4 per cent. This increase is almost entirely due to the import of diamonds in HS4 7102, which is up £138.3 million, 164.6 per cent. Due to the nature of the goods this trade can be very variable.

The largest decrease in the value of imports was from Nigeria, down by £247.6 million, 63.7 per cent, from £389.0 million to £141.4 million. This was mainly due to the trade in oil in HS2 2709, (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude), down £187.7 million, 58.0 per cent from £323.4 million in May 2012 to £135.7 million this month.

The second largest decrease in value of imports was from South Africa, down by £219.5 million, 51.6 per cent. This decrease is driven by a fall of £200.4 million in HS2 71, a fall of 72.9 per cent. Most of this decrease is from imports of diamonds in HS4 7102 which fell by £201.0 million, 90.4 per cent, after last month's rise of £197.8 million.

There were also large decreases in the value of imports from Qatar and Norway, with decreases of £165.2 million and £141.9 million respectively. Both are due to decreases in HS2 27. Qatar's decrease in imports was led by a fall of £162.3 million (49.4 per cent) in HS4 2711 (Petroleum gases and other gaseous hydrocarbons), while Norway's was led by a fall of £198.7 million (12.9 per cent) in HS2 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude). The latter may have been affected by a strike by Norwegian offshore oil and gas workers, which began on 24 June – see <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-18767000>.

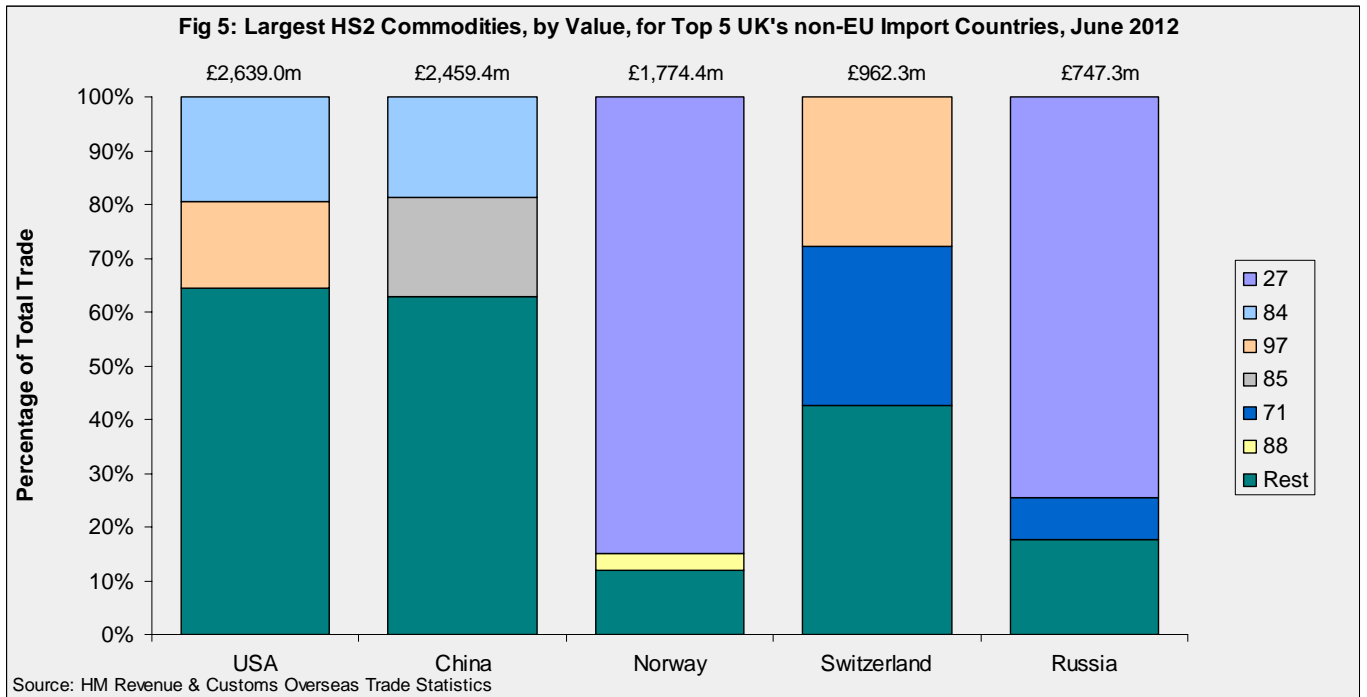
There was a small decrease of less than half a per cent in the value of imports **compared to June 2011**, with half of our import partner countries increasing, and half decreasing in import value. There were changes in excess of £100 million for imports to ten countries, with five increasing and five decreasing in value.

The largest increases in total import trade value compared to June 2011 are from Switzerland (up by £193.8 million) and South Korea (up by £124.6 million). Switzerland's increase was driven by an increase of £120.2 million in HS2 71, while South Korea's increase was driven by an increase of £92.6 million in HS2 27. There were also large increases from China, up £121.7 million; Canada, up £106.9 million; and Vietnam, up £103.6 million.

The largest decreases in value of imports were from Qatar, down by £269.9 million to £171.6 million; and Norway, down by £231.7 million to £1.8 billion. The decrease from Qatar was due to falls in imports of HS2 27, down by £271.0 million (61.9 per cent); and the decrease from Norway was due to a fall of £326.8 million (17.8 per cent) also in HS2 27, which may have been caused by the strike by offshore oil and gas workers as previously mentioned. There were also large decreases from Russia, down £190.9 million; Georgia, down £183.6 million; and Botswana, down £123.3 million.

Figure 5 shows the two largest commodities by value imported from the top five non-EU partner countries. This month, only two of the top five trading partners have HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof) in their top two largest commodities imported to the UK, whereas last month there were four. As mentioned above HS2 84 saw one of the largest chapter level decreases in value of imports compared to May. The trade with USA and China accounts for 51.6 per cent of the total value of UK non-EU import trade under this commodity heading.

The import trade in HS2 27 from Norway, specifically the Norwegian Continental Shelf, accounts for 84.8 per cent of the total imports to the UK from Norway. Russia also has HS2 27 in its top two largest commodity types, with 74.7 per cent of Russian imports being in this category. Together, these two countries account for 61.1 per cent of the total non-EU import trade to the UK under this heading.



Notes:

1. HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with countries outside the European Union (EU) on 9 August 2012 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 countries outside the EU for June 2012. At the same time revisions for all previously published non-EU data for 2011 and 2012 are also being released in line with the [Overseas Trade Statistics Policy on Revisions](#). The revised data for 2011 are the final estimates for 2011 overseas trade.
3. Detailed trade information is presented according to the [Harmonised System \(HS\)](#) nomenclature.
4. 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](#).
5. 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 accepted into [Inwards Processing Relief](#) (IPR).
6. Information to help support users of the non-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.
7. The OTS has recently 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>

8. 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 the aggregated data tables downloadable here 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 September 2012 9:30am

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