

Non-EU Overseas Trade Statistics - January 2013

Coverage:
United Kingdom

Theme:
Business and Energy

Released:
12 March 2013

Next Release:
09 April 2013

Frequency of release:
Monthly

Media contact:
HMRC Press Office
020 7147 0798/2328

Out-of-hours: 07860 359544

Statistical contacts:
Andrew Watson
Tel: 01702 367485
andy.watson@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

ECSM Trade Statistics
HM Revenue & Customs
21 Victoria Avenue
Southend-on-Sea
SS99 1AA

Website:
<http://www.uktradeinfo.com>

Summary

- UK's non-EU exports have decreased by £1.8 billion (14.2 per cent) compared to December 2012, to £10.9 billion. Compared to January 2012, exports are almost unchanged.
- UK's non-EU imports have decreased by £0.4 billion (2.5 per cent) compared to December 2012, to £15.9 billion. Compared to January 2012, imports have decreased by £0.9 billion (5.2 per cent).
- The UK remains a net importer (imports are greater than exports). The size of the difference between imports and exports has increased by £1.4 billion (38.2 per cent) compared to December 2012, and has decreased from January 2012 by £0.9 billion (14.9 per cent).
- This is the first increase in the monthly trade deficit since August 2012, and shows a return to previous levels after four consecutive decreases.



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.

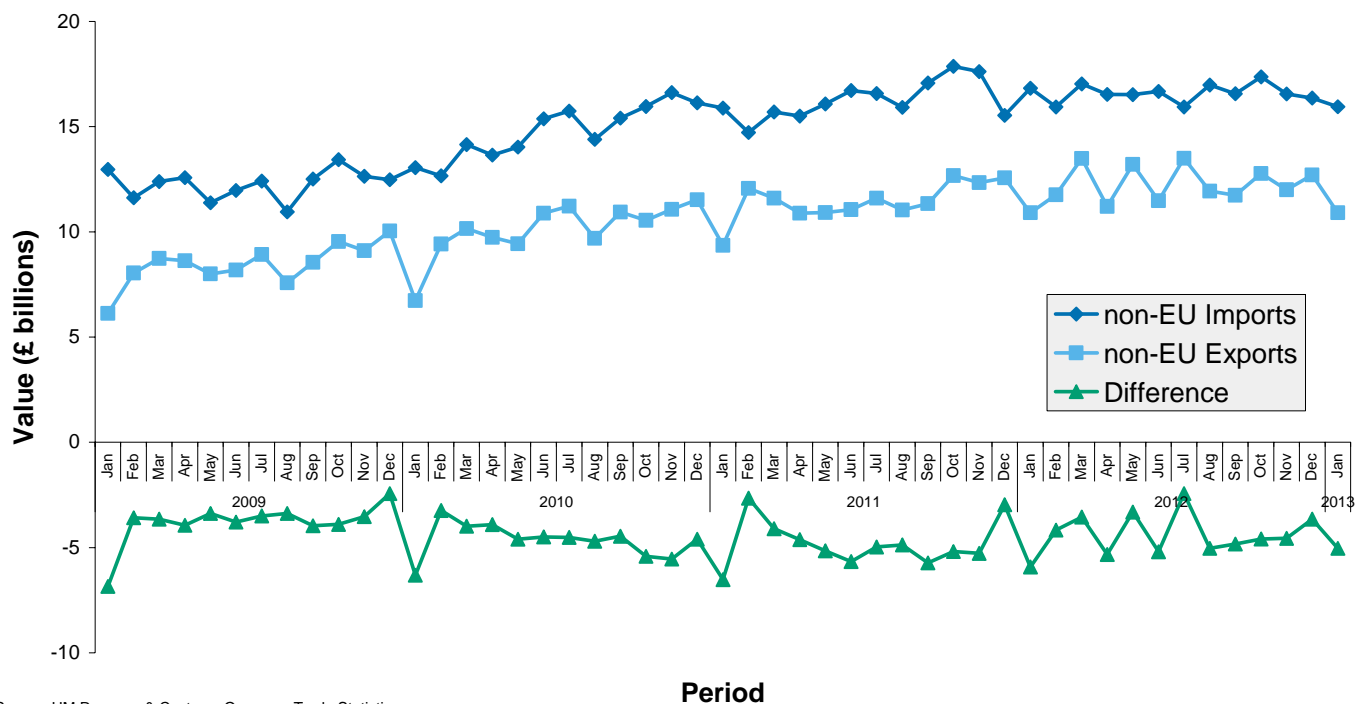
You can find details of how users interested in import and export markets for specific goods make use of the detailed OTS data in ['The Customer Story'](#). You can also access the detailed data in our interactive database [here](#).

Key Points

For the month of January 2013:

The value of imports and exports both decreased in January 2013 compared with the previous month. Exports decreased at a faster rate than imports. Consequently the difference between non-EU imports and exports has increased by 38.2 per cent. This is the first rise after four consecutive monthly falls in the trade gap, and the largest increase since August. The export value is also the lowest since January 2012.

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



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

Exports

- UK's non-EU exports have decreased by £1.8 billion (14.2 per cent) compared to December 2012, to £10.9 billion. Compared to January 2012, exports are almost unchanged, having increased by £0.6 million (less than 0.1 per cent). Export values historically show a fall in January.
- The top two commodities are the same as last month. The largest contributing commodity group remains HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof). In January it contributed £2.1 billion, 18.8 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU export trade. The largest contribution to this chapter was £0.9 billion from HS4 8411 (Turbo-jets, Turbo-propellers and other gas turbines).
- The overall decrease in exports compared to December 2012 is driven by decreases in 75 per cent of all chapters. The largest decrease from the previous month was £435.2 million (36.5 per cent) 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), moving this chapter back to fifth place, after rising to third last month.
- The largest value increase from the previous month was in the third largest export chapter, HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes), which increased by £89.0 million (9.8 per cent).
- The USA remains the UK's largest non-EU export partner country, accounting for 28.8 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU export trade. Exports from the UK to Switzerland had the largest decrease in value, compared to December 2012, down by £643.4 million, 56.8 per cent, to fall behind China after rising to second place last month. The largest increase in exports compared to December 2012 was to Gibraltar, up by £93.5 million, a three-fold increase.
- The revised estimate of total value of exports to non-EU countries for 2012 is £146.7 billion, which has been upwardly revised by £67.3 million. This is an increase of less than 0.1 per cent.¹

Imports

- The value of the UK's non-EU imports decreased by £0.4 billion (2.5 per cent) compared to December 2012, to £15.9 billion. Compared to January 2012 imports have decreased by £0.9 billion (5.2 per cent).
- The top five commodities are similar to the previous month. HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof) has become one of the top five imported commodities this month. In December it was the sixth largest imported commodity by value. The largest commodity group remains HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes), despite having the largest decrease since last month, a fall of £1.1 billion (24.4 per cent). In January 2013 it contributed £3.3 billion, 20.7 per cent of the total value of non-EU imports to the UK. The largest contribution to this chapter was £1.9 billion from HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude). This HS4 also had the largest value decrease from the previous month, of £689.8 million, 26.9 per cent.

¹ The final figure for total exports for 2012 will be published in August when data is finalised in line with our revisions policy.

- The largest value increase from the previous month was a rise of £260.2 million (a twofold increase) in the ninth biggest chapter by import value, HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques).
- China has overtaken the USA to become the UK's largest non-EU import partner country in January 2013, accounting for 16.7 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU import trade, while the USA had a 15.4 per cent share. Imports from both countries rose in value, but the value of imports to the UK from China increased by £326.7 million (14.0 per cent), the largest increase compared to December 2012, whereas the rise in imports from the USA was substantially less. The largest decrease in imports into the UK compared to December 2012 was from Switzerland which fell by £816.4 million, 63.9 per cent.
- The revised estimate of total value of imports to non-EU countries for 2012 is £199.3 billion, which is virtually unchanged from last month.²

² The final figure for total imports for 2012 will be published in August when data is finalised in line with our revisions policy.

Further Analysis: Exports

Table 1 shows a comparison of the top five commodities by value exported to countries outside the EU for January 2012, December 2012 and January 2013.

Table 1: Top 5 commodities in UK's non-EU exports 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 Exports	Rank December 2012	Rank January 2012
-	Total Exports	10,905.3	-14.2	0.0	100.0	n/a	n/a
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	2,051.8	-15.1	0.0	18.8	1	1
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	1,401.9	-5.2	5.9	12.9	2	2
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	996.0	9.8	-20.6	9.1	4	3
30	Pharmaceutical products	844.1	9.7	14.1	7.7	6	4
71	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin	757.5	-36.5	2.9	6.9	3	5
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics Note 2012 and 2013 data are provisional							

The overall decrease in exports **compared to December 2012** reflects decreases in over 75 per cent of HS2 chapters. The total export trade value has decreased by £1.8 billion (14.2 per cent). Three of the top five commodity types decreased in export value. There were seven chapters with decreases of over £100 million, and no increases of this magnitude.

The largest value decrease from the previous month, of £435.2 million, was 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 is a decrease of 36.5 per cent compared to December 2012 and follows last month being the highest recorded monthly export in recent years. The decrease is driven by a fall of £413.4 million (68.1 per cent) in HS4 7110 (Platinum, including palladium, rhodium, iridium, osmium and ruthenium), which also had a record export figure in December 2012. There was also a drop of £140.6 million (46.2 per cent) in HS4 7113 (Articles of jewellery), while HS4 7106 (Unwrought silver) offset this to an extent by increasing by £97.3 million (nearly a 30 fold increase). Exports of silver can vary greatly, and

December's exports were particularly low. These changes have moved HS2 71 from third place last month, to fifth.

The second largest decrease was in the top export, HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof), down by £363.8 million (15.1 per cent). This fall was spread over a number of headings within this chapter, and takes HS2 84 to its lowest value since January 2012. There were similar occurrences of this chapter falling in January in previous years.

The third largest decrease was in HS2 22 (Beverages, spirits and vinegar), down by £233.4 million (49.3 per cent) to £240.0 million from last month's record high of £473.4 million. This is also the lowest export figure since January 2012, and follows the same pattern of decreases each January. The fall was driven by a decrease of £227.9 million (54.1 per cent) in exports of Scotch whisky in HS4 2208 (Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength of < 80%; spirits, liqueurs and other spirituous beverages).

The fourth largest decrease was in HS2 85 (Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts and accessories of such articles), which fell by £219.2 million (25.5 per cent). This decrease was in most headings within HS2 85, the largest being HS4 8517, which includes mobile phones, which was down £68.8 million (42.8 per cent).

The other large decreases were in HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof), down £133.9 million (21.4 per cent); HS2 90 (Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus; parts and accessories thereof), down £128.4 million (20.0 per cent), and HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques), which fell by £117.4 million (28.9 per cent).

The largest increase since last month was in the third largest export by value, HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes), up by £89.0 million, a rise of 9.8 per cent; to £996.0 million. This is more than covered by an increase of £118.6 million (26.1 per cent) in refined oil in HS4 2710 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals (excl. crude)).

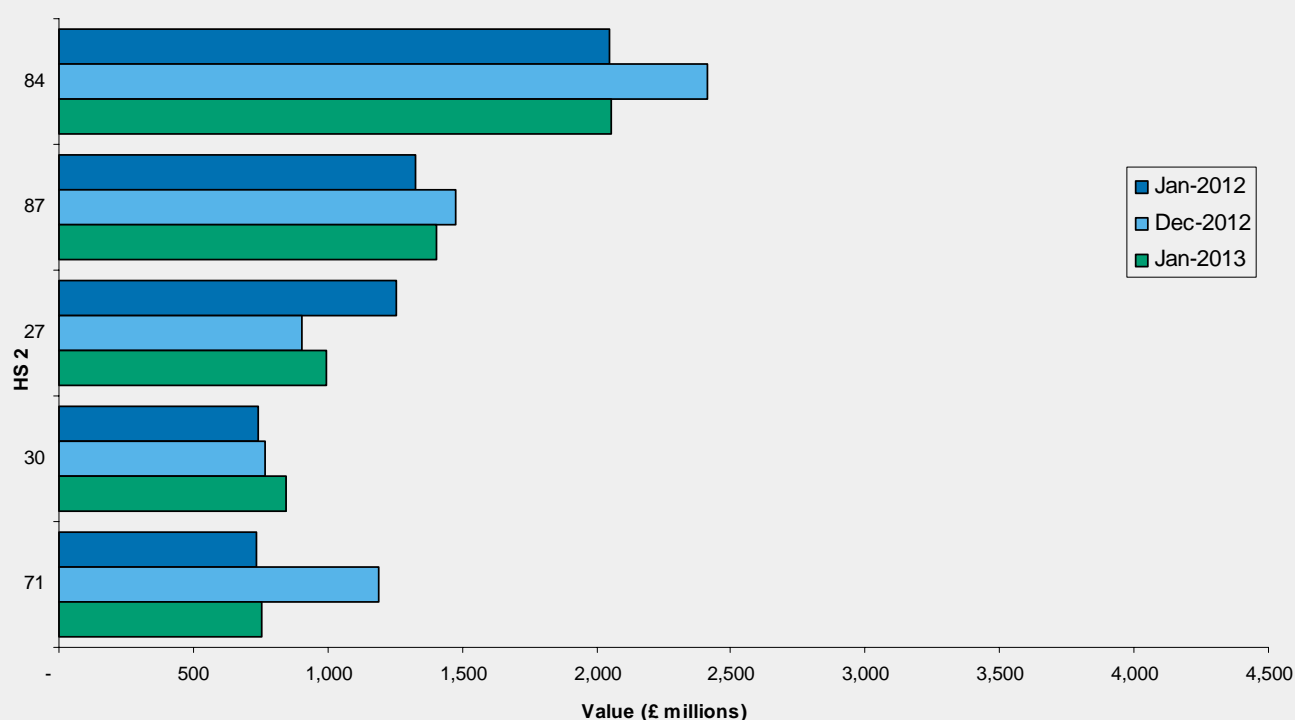
Compared to January 2012, the total export trade value was almost unchanged, increasing by just £0.6 million (less than 0.1 per cent). Half of all HS2 chapters showed increases, and half showed decreases. Generally the increases were larger than the decreases although there were two chapters with decreases of over £100 million, and one increases of this magnitude.

The largest decrease was in HS2 27, down £258.3 million, 20.6 per cent; led by a fall of £190.0 million (24.9 per cent) in HS4 2710 (refined oil). However, January 2012's export value of £1.3 billion was the third highest ever for chapter 27.

The second largest decrease was for HS2 29 (Organic chemicals) which fell by £154.3 million (38.4 per cent). This was driven by a fall of £130.3 million (68.9 per cent) in HS4 2934 (Nucleic acids and their salts, whether or not chemically defined; heterocyclic compounds).

The largest increase of £104.3 million was in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products), up 14.1 per cent. This was more than covered by an increase of £135.1 million (a threefold increase) in HS4 3003 (Medicaments consisting of two or more constituents mixed together for therapeutic or prophylactic uses, not in measured doses or put up for retail sale).

Fig 2: Top 5 commodities for UK's non-EU exports in January 2013 compared to December 2012 and January 2012



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

Figure 2 shows the top five commodities for UK's non-EU exports in January 2013, compared to December 2012 and January 2012. It shows the large decreases for HS2 84 and 71 when compared with December 2012, while they are almost unchanged when compared to January 2012. HS2 27 is up on last month but down on last year, while for HS2 30 there were increases in both periods.

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

Table 2: Top 5 non-EU export partner countries in January 2013 compared to December 2012 and January 2012

Country	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	10,905.3	-14.2	0.0	100.0	n/a	n/a
USA	3,144.9	-2.1	1.7	28.8	1	1
China	788.3	-11.0	5.2	7.2	3	2
Switzerland	489.9	-56.8	53.8	4.5	2	10
South Korea	442.5	-23.3	8.9	4.1	4	5
United Arab Emirates	381.0	-15.6	-10.5	3.5	6	4

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

For all three periods, the USA was the UK's largest non-EU export partner country, while this month has seen a record decrease for Switzerland, to move behind China again. India has also seen a large decrease in exports which moves them out of the top five, to ninth. All the top five countries had decreases compared to last month.

Compared to December 2012, the overall decrease in exports is composed of decreases in the value of exports to over 65 per cent of our export partners. There were three countries with a decrease of £100 million or more, and none with increases of this magnitude. The largest decreases moved India out of the top five export countries, from fifth to ninth, and moved Switzerland from second place last month to third place this month.

The largest decrease in exports was to Switzerland, where exports fell by £643.4 million, (56.8 per cent). Last month's exports to Switzerland were the highest value seen in recent years (£1.1 billion), while this month the export value of £489.9 million is back within the range of values previously seen. This is driven by a decrease of £515.8 million in HS2 71, a fall of 71.0 per cent, after last month's record increase of £537.5 million. The decrease in HS2 71 is driven by a fall of £379.3 million (81.2 per cent) in exports of platinum and palladium in HS4 7110, and £125.5 million (56.7 per cent) in jewellery in HS4 7113. Both of these falls are reversing large increases in December.

The second largest decrease in exports was to India, down by £148.6 million, (31.9 per cent). The decrease is driven by a fall of £113.2 million (90.4 per cent) in aircraft in HS2 88, with exports of powered aircraft in HS4 8802 falling from £97.5 million in December to zero this month.

The third largest decrease in exports was to South Korea, down by £134.2 million, (23.3 per cent). This increase is driven by a fall of £136.1 million (38.4 per cent) in crude oil in HS4 2709

There were also three other decreases between £90 million and £100 million.

The largest increase in exports was to Gibraltar, up by £93.5 million, a three-fold increase. This increase was almost entirely due to a rise of £93.5 million (a near five-fold increase) in refined oil in HS4 2710.

There were no other increases over £50 million.

Compared to January 2012, the minor increase of £0.6 million (less than 0.1 per cent) in exports reflects an approximately even mix of increases and decreases in the value of exports to our partner countries. There were two increases in excess of £100 million and two decreases above this value.

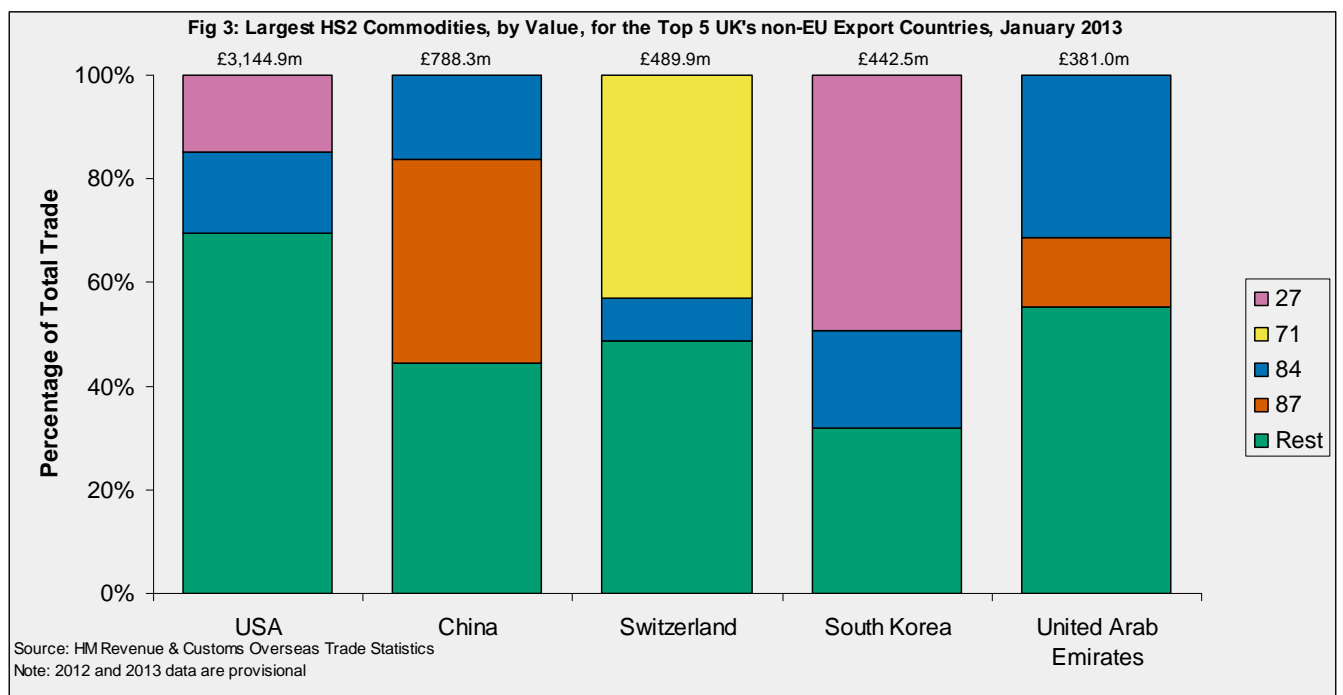
This largest decrease was for India, down by £144.0 million (31.2 per cent). This was driven by falls in HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin) of £142.0 million (54.5 per cent). Within this chapter, HS4 7106 (unwrought silver) was down £149.5 million (71.7 per cent).

The second largest decrease was for Senegal, down £125.0 million (84.5 per cent), which was driven by falls of £124.9 million (86.2 per cent) in refined oil in HS4 2710. The January 2012 export figure had been a record for exports to Senegal and was surpassed only by March 2012. As the export trade with Senegal is dominated by the oil trade, exports can be rather erratic.

The largest increase in total export trade value compared to January 2012 was to Switzerland, up by £171.3 million (53.8 per cent). As with the comparison with December 2012, this change is driven by the trade in HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals), but in this case it is an increase of £154.1 million (over a threefold increase), with a £87.8 million rise in platinum group metals in HS4 7110 and £61.1 million in HS4 7113 (jewellery). There was only one other increase over £100 million. Exports to Gibraltar were up by £101.4 million, a fourfold increase.

Figure 3 shows the two largest commodities by value exported from the UK to each of its top five non-EU export partner countries. In January 2013 all of the top five countries had HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical

appliances; parts thereof) in their top two largest commodities exported from the UK, two had HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof), and two had HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes). The trade with these countries accounts for 42.4 per cent of the total value of UK non-EU export trade for HS2 84. Additionally, China and the United Arab Emirates account for 25.8 per cent of UK's exports in HS2 87 and South Korea and the USA account for 68.4 per cent of the UK's exports in HS2 27. HS2 71 accounts for 43.0 per cent of the UK's exports to Switzerland, which is down from 64.1 per cent last month.



Further Analysis: Imports

Table 3 shows a comparison of the top five commodities imported from countries outside the EU for January 2012, December 2012 and January 2013.

Table 3: Top 5 commodities in UK's non-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	15,946.3	-2.5	-5.2	100.0	n/a	n/a
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	3,300.9	-24.4	-23.2	20.7	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	2,059.8	2.5	-4.9	12.9	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	1,491.1	4.6	-3.6	9.4	4	3
71	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin	1,035.4	-35.2	42.0	6.5	3	4
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	556.1	18.2	1.7	3.5	6	5
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional							

The value of imports decreased by £0.4 billion **compared to December 2012**. This relatively small decrease is composed of increases in over 75 per cent of the HS2 commodity chapters, balanced by a smaller number of much larger decreases. There were two increases of over £100 million and two decreases of this magnitude, but both of these decreases were over £500 million, while the increases were all below half this figure.

The largest value decrease from the previous month, of £1.1 billion (24.4 per cent), was in the UK's biggest import by value, HS2 27. Last month was a record high, but this month's decrease is a record fall for this chapter, with the previous biggest monthly fall being £887.6 million in August 2008. This decrease was led by decreases of £689.8 million (26.9 per cent) in Crude oil in HS4 2709, and £430.4 million (44.1 per

cent) in refined oil in HS4 2710. In both cases, similar decreases in the quantity imported suggest that this is a decrease in volume rather than price decreases.

The other large decrease in imports was for HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin), which fell by £563.2 million, 35.2 per cent, to become the UK's fourth biggest import by value, after rising to third last month. This increase was composed of falls of £573.9 million (82.3 per cent) in imports of platinum and palladium in HS4 7110, and £127.9 million (29.9 per cent) in unwrought silver in HS4 7106. This was partially offset by an increase of £165.7 million (59.1 per cent) in unmounted diamonds (HS4 7102).

No other HS2 chapter decreased by more than £100 million, though HS2 28 (inorganic chemicals) fell by £91.5 million, 54.6 per cent.

The chapter with the largest increase was in this month's ninth largest import chapter by value, HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques), up £260.2 million, more than double last month's import value. This was driven by increases in HS4 9701 (Paintings and drawings executed entirely by hand) up £193.5 million (134.1 per cent) and £62.2 million (a five-fold increase) in sculptures in HS4 9703.

The second largest value increase from the previous month, of £149.2 million (72.4 per cent), was in HS2 29 (Organic chemicals), from eleventh last month. Last month's import value of £206.1 million had been the lowest since June 2006.

No other chapter increased by more than £100 million.

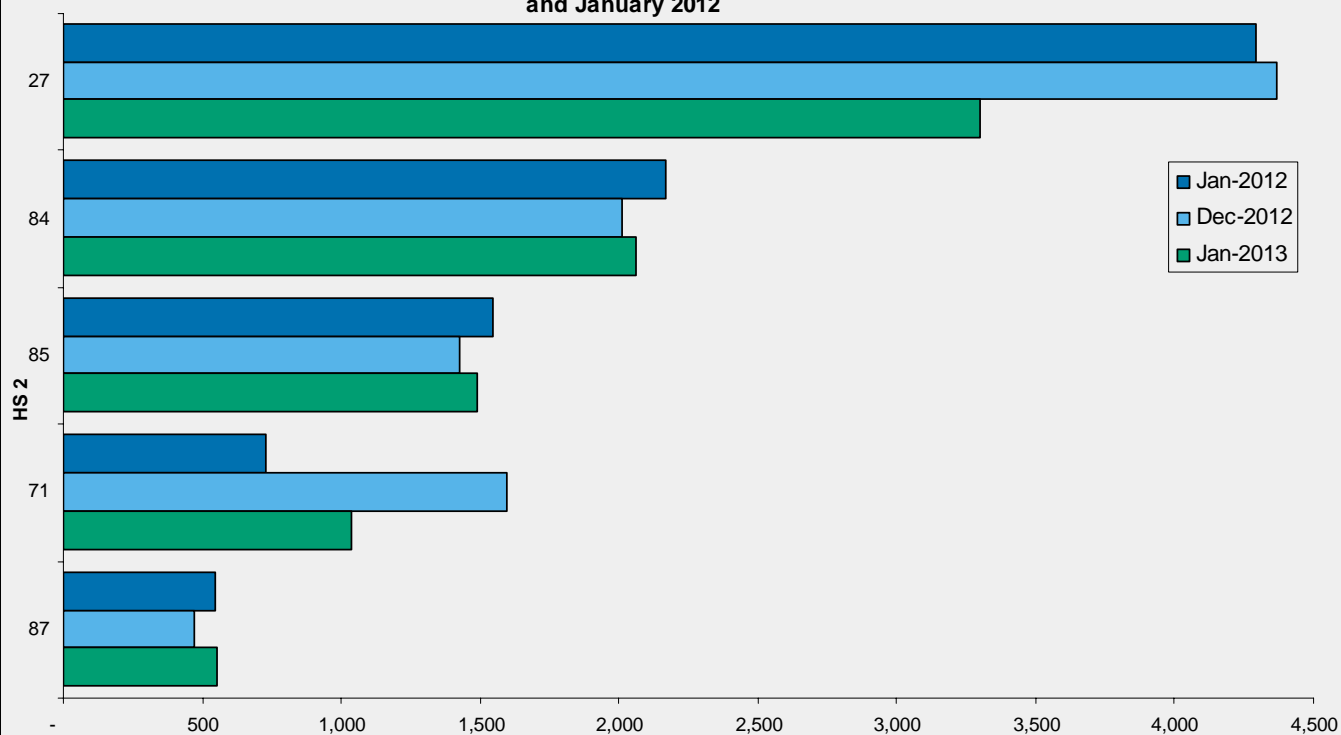
When **compared to January 2012**, total import value decreased by £0.9 billion (5.2 per cent). This fall is composed of decreases in nearly 60 per cent of the HS2 commodity chapters. There were three chapters with decreases of over £100 million (the highest being nearly £1 billion) and two increases over £100 million.

The overall decrease was dominated by a decrease in HS2 27 of £994.5 million, 23.2 per cent. The other chapters with a decrease of over £100 million were HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products), down £174.3 million, 40.5 per cent; and HS2 84, down £105.8 million, 4.9 per cent. HS2 27 and HS2 84 are the top two chapters in import value.

The chapters with increases of over £100 million are HS2 71, up £306.2 million, 42.0 per cent and HS2 97, up £236.4 million, double the January 2012 figure.

Within the top five chapters shown in Figure 4, three of the chapters show increases and two show decreases, when compared with December 2012, but the decreases in chapters 27 and 71 dominate the increases. When compared to January 2012, chapter 71 is the largest increase, but the decrease for chapter 27 is still the dominant factor.

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



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional

Value (£ Millions)

Table 4: Top 5 Non-EU import partner countries in January 2013 compared to December 2012 and January 2012

Country	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	15,946.3	-2.5	-5.2	100.0	n/a	n/a
China	2,657.1	14.0	-0.7	16.7	2	1
USA	2,460.0	3.4	1.7	15.4	1	2
Norway	1,538.5	-9.7	-31.9	9.6	3	3
Japan	686.8	20.8	-8.6	4.3	6	4
Hong Kong	564.2	3.2	-2.3	3.5	7	6

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Note: 2012 and 2013 data are provisional

Table 4 shows comparisons of the value of UK non-EU import trade from our top five import trading partners for January 2012, December 2012, and January 2013. Imports from four of the top five trading partners have increased in January compared to the previous month, while four have decreased when compared to January 2012.

These changes have moved China ahead of the USA after being behind for one month; Russia down to sixth from fifth, behind Japan and Hong Kong, and Switzerland down to ninth, from fourth. The USA, China, and Norway have been the UK's largest import partners for a number of years.

The decrease in total imports **compared to December 2012** is composed of increases in the value of imports from around 55 per cent of our import partners, offset by a

smaller number of larger decreases. Five countries had increases of over £100 million, while four had a decrease of this magnitude.

The largest decrease in value of imports was from Switzerland, down by £816.4 million, a decrease of 63.9 per cent, to £461.5 million. Last month's import value was a record high, while this month's is the lowest since December 2011. This decrease is led by a fall of £749.5 million (90.8 per cent) 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), which in turn was driven by a fall of £650.6 million in imports of platinum group metals in HS4 7110, from £655.5 million last month, to under £5 million this month.

The second largest decrease in value of imports was from Russia, down by £226.4 million, 31.5 per cent, to £491.5 million. This was led by decreases of £119.0 million (24.3 per cent) in HS2 27 and £63.9 million (92.4 per cent) in HS2 28 (Inorganic chemicals). The decrease in HS2 27 was driven by falls of £77.6 million (35.2 per cent) in refined oil (HS4 2710), and £67.8 million (35.3 per cent) in crude oil (HS4 2709).

Decreases in Chapter 27 also drove the third and fourth biggest decreases. Norway decreased by £165.3 million (9.7 per cent), with a £256.4 million decrease in HS2 27 (16.5 per cent). This comprised a £294.9 million decrease in HS4 2709 (25.9 per cent), plus an increase of £34.6 million (9.1 per cent) in gas (HS4 2711). This was offset by an increase of £57.9 million in HS2 88 (Aircraft), almost twenty times last month's import value.

Imports from Azerbaijan decreased by £115.0 million (98.7 per cent), with a 100 per cent fall in HS4 2709, from £114.6 million last month, to zero this month.

The biggest increase in value of imports was from China, up by £326.7 million, an increase of 14.0 per cent. This increase is spread over a number of chapters, with the biggest being a rise of £47.6 million (10.1 per cent) in HS2 84, while eleven other chapters all increased by over £10 million. Only two chapters fell by more than £10 million with the largest being a decrease of £41.1 million in HS2 71.

The second biggest increase in value of imports was from Singapore, up by £172.5 million, an increase of 87.2 per cent. This increase is driven by a rise of £150.2 million, in HS2 29 (Organic chemicals), almost six times December 2012's import value.

Imports of silver in HS4 7106 drove the third and fourth biggest increases in value of imports. Taiwan increased by £139.7 million (55.2 per cent), with an increase of £80.8 million (131.3 per cent) in silver, and Japan increased by £118.1 million (20.8 per cent), with an increase of £51.5 million (208.3 per cent) in silver. In both cases, similar increases in the quantity imported suggest that this is an increase in volume rather than price rises.

The fifth largest increase in value of imports was from Saudi Arabia, up by £100.2 million (71.0 per cent). This increase is driven by a rise of £70.1 million in crude oil (HS4 2709), from zero in December 2012.

Compared to January 2012 there was a decrease of £0.9 billion, 5.2 per cent in the total value of imports, with imports from nearly 55 per cent of our import partner countries decreasing in value. There were decreases in excess of £100 million for imports from five countries, and three increases of this magnitude. Four of the UK's top five import trading partners for January 2013 have decreased when compared to January 2012.

The largest decrease in total import trade value is from Norway, down by £722.1 million (31.9 per cent), which is 81.9 per cent of the overall net decrease. This is more than covered by a decrease of £748.7 million (36.6 per cent) in HS2 27, which is led by a £778.6 million (48.0 per cent) decrease in HS4 2709 (crude oil).

There were also large decreases from Qatar (down £214.2 million, 50.4 per cent); Nigeria (down £120.2 million, 31.9 per cent); Bahrain (down £106.1 million, 98.1 per

cent); and Russia (down £101.7 million, 17.1 per cent). All these decreases were driven by the fall in imports of HS2 27.

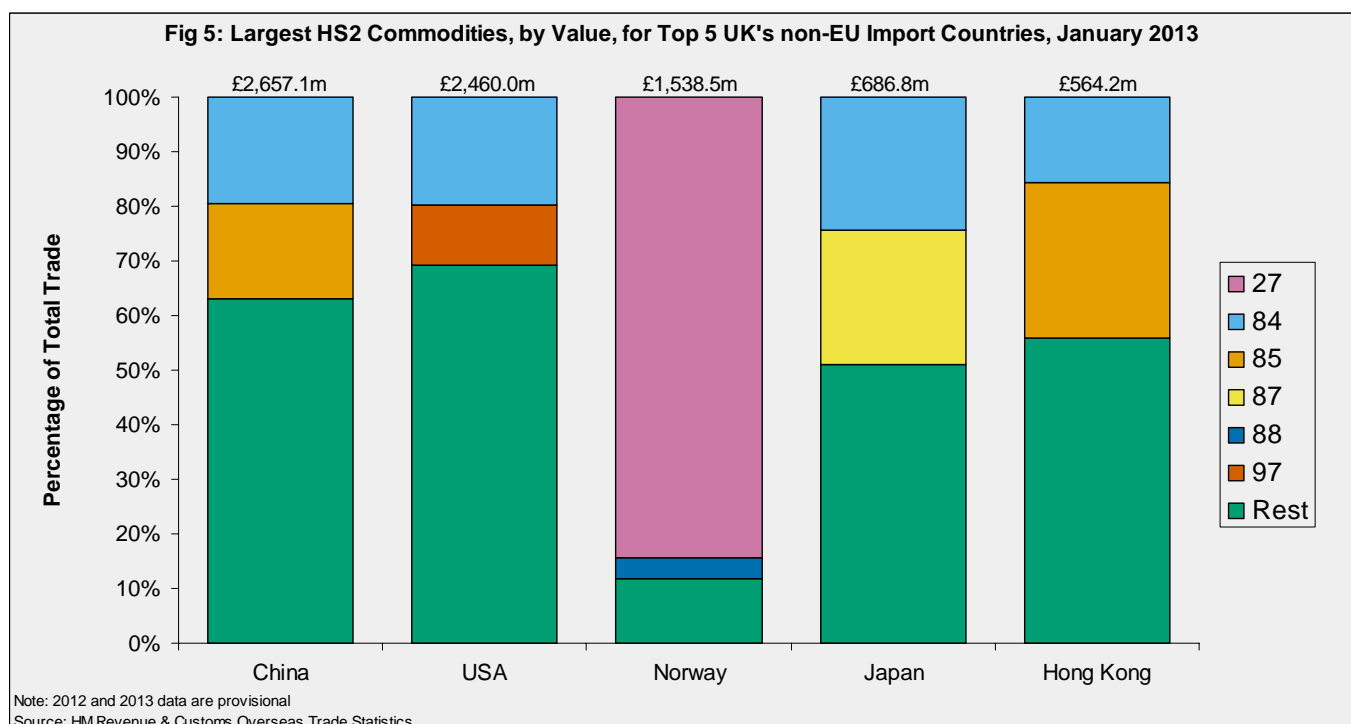
In contrast, it was a rise in HS2 27 which drove the second largest increase in value of imports, Algeria, up by £180.9 million (135.6 per cent), with a £182.7 million increase in HS2 27.

The biggest increase in import trade was for Botswana, up £211.6 million, nearly four times the value for January 2012. This increase was entirely covered by increases in unmounted diamonds (HS4 7102).

The third largest increase in imports was from Vietnam, up £123.5 million (80.4 per cent), with a £101.6 million increase in electronics in HS2 85. This was driven by a £101.4 million increase in imports of HS4 8517, which includes mobile phones.

Figure 5 shows the two largest commodities by value imported from each of the top five non-EU import partner countries. This month, four 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, accounting for 61.0 per cent of the total import value in HS2 84. Also, two of the top five import partners have 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) in their top two largest commodities imported to the UK. The trade with these countries accounts for 41.9 per cent of the total value of UK non-EU import trade in this chapter.

The import trade in HS2 27 from Norway, specifically the Norwegian Continental Shelf, accounts for 84.3 per cent of the total imports to the UK from Norway, down from 91.2 per cent last month.



Notes:

1. HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with countries outside the European Union (EU) on 12 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 countries outside the EU for January 2013. At the same time revisions for all previously published non-EU data for 2012 are also being released in line with the [Overseas Trade Statistics Policy on Revisions](#).
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 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'.
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 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.

Statistical contact:

Andrew Watson 01702 367485
e-mail uktradeinfo@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

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: 9 April 2013 9:30am

© **Crown copyright 2013.**

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