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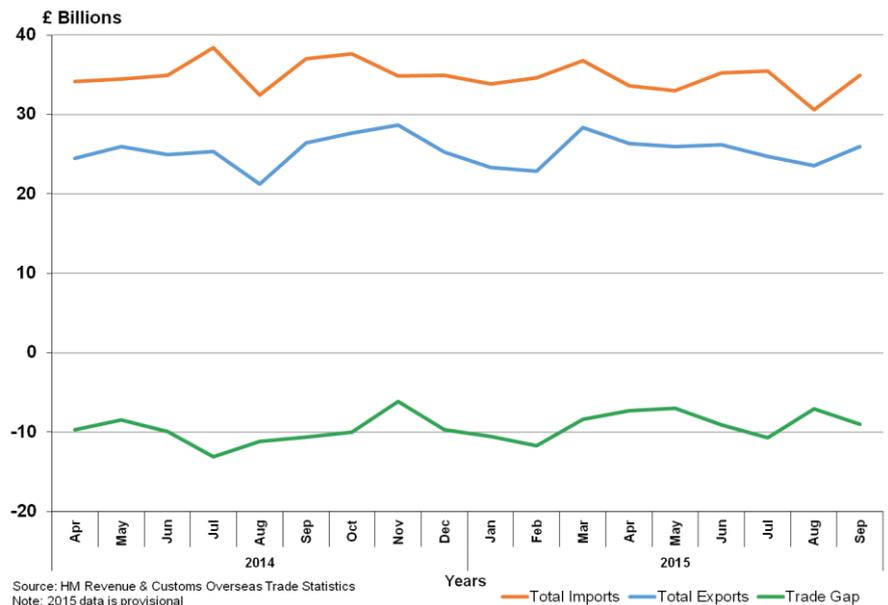


# UK Overseas Trade Statistics September 2015

## Summary

- Total trade exports for September 2015 are £25.9 billion. This is an increase of £2.4 billion (10 per cent) compared with last month and a decrease of £0.5 billion (1.8 per cent) compared with September 2014.
- Total trade imports for September 2015 are £34.9 billion. This is an increase of £4.4 billion (14 per cent) compared with last month and a decrease of £2.1 billion (5.6 per cent) compared with September 2014.
- The UK is a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £9.0 billion.

Figure 1: Total UK monthly trade



## Trade Trends

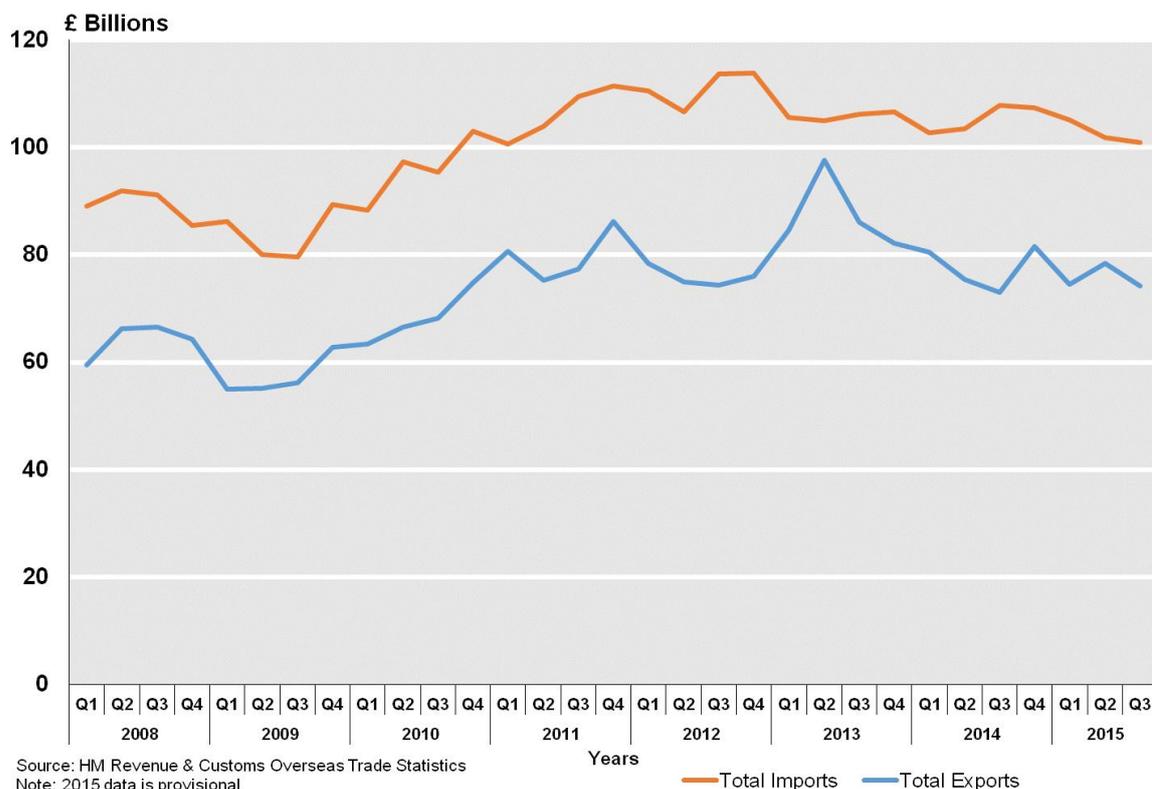
- Following the global economic crisis, UK trade dropped in 2009. Both imports and exports then steadily increased until 2012. From the start of 2013, imports have remained relatively flat, while exports peaked in Q2 of 2013.
- The total **export** trade for Q3 of 2015 is £74.2 billion, which is 1.6 per cent higher than the £73.0 billion for Q3 of 2014.
- The total **import** trade for Q3 of 2015 is £101 billion, which is a decrease of 6.4 per cent compared with £108 billion for Q3 of 2014.
- There was a trade deficit of £26.8 billion for Q3 of 2015, which is a decrease of 23 per cent on the £34.9 billion deficit for Q3 of 2014. However, this has been strongly influenced by trade in non-monetary gold.
- For many years Germany has been our largest trading **import** partner by value. The USA has been the dominant trading partner for **exports** for many years.
- Mechanical appliances and Motor vehicles have generally been the largest **import** commodities by value. For **exports**, Mechanical appliances has also predominantly been the largest valued commodity, but has been surpassed by Precious metals in recent months.

Exports up 1.6%  
for Q3 2015 on  
Q3 2014

Imports down  
6.4% for Q3 2015  
on Q3 2014

Trade deficit  
decreased by 23%  
for Q3 2015 on Q3  
2014

Figure 2: Quarterly UK trade, 2008 – 2015



## Non-EU & EU Trade

- **Non-EU Exports** for September 2015 are £14.3 billion. This is an increase of £0.7 billion (4.8 per cent) compared with last month and an increase of £0.4 billion (2.5 per cent) compared with September 2014.
- **Non-EU Imports** for September 2015 are £15.8 billion. This is an increase of £1.2 billion (8.4 per cent) compared with last month, and a decrease of £1.7 billion (9.6 per cent) compared with September 2014.
- In **Non-EU trade the UK** is a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £1.5 billion.
- **EU Exports** for September 2015 are £11.6 billion. This is an increase of £1.8 billion (18 per cent) compared with last month, and a fall of £0.8 billion (6.7 per cent) compared with September 2014.
- **EU Imports** for September 2015 are £19.1 billion. This is an increase of £3.1 billion (20 per cent) compared with last month, and a fall of £0.4 billion (2.1 per cent) compared with September 2014.
- In **EU trade** the UK is a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £7.5 billion.
- The proportion of total exports to the EU is 45 per cent in September 2015. Over the past 18 months, this has ranged from 41 per cent to 51 per cent. The proportion of total imports from the EU is 55 per cent in September 2015. Over the same period, this has ranged between 49 per cent and 55 per cent.

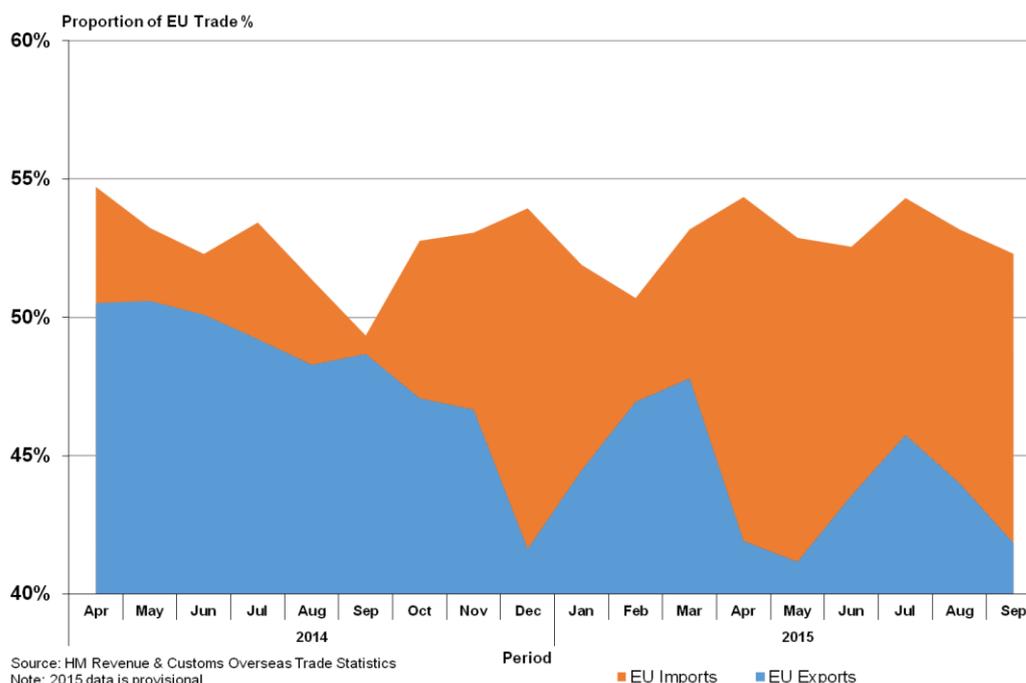
Non-EU exports increased 4.8% on last month

Non-EU imports down 9.6% on September 2014

EU exports up 18% on last month

EU imports up 20% on last month

**Figure 3: Proportion of Total UK Trade with the EU, September 2015**



# Exports

## Country Analysis

**Table 1: UK exports to top 10 partner countries, September 2015**

Partner Country	September 2015 Total (£ millions)	Change from August 2015 (%)	Change from September 2014 (%)	Rank August 2015	Rank September 2014
USA	4,142	26.1	25.9	1	1
Germany	2,567	12.7	1.1	3	2
Switzerland	1,611	-30.1	-14.5	2	4
France	1,572	34.4	-8.1	7	5
China	1,552	8.2	13.0	5	7
Irish Republic	1,513	18.9	1.2	6	6
Netherlands	1,431	-2.4	-24.6	4	3
Belgium	1,081	19.4	-3.2	8	8
Spain	752	21.0	17.4	10	11
Italy	737	38.9	-2.1	12	9
Others	8,985	8.9	-7.5	-	-
<b>Total Non-EU</b>	<b>14,338</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total EU</b>	<b>11,606</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>-6.7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>25,943</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>-1.8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics  
Note: 2015 data is provisional

- The ordering of the top ten export partner countries (ranked by value) has changed compared with both last month and last year. Most notably, France has risen to fourth place and the Netherlands has fallen to seventh place compared with last month.
- Eight of the top ten countries have experienced increases in value compared with last month, five countries have shown an increase compared with September 2014.
- The USA remains the largest export partner country. It saw the largest value increase compared with both last month and September 2014, rising by £856 million (26 per cent) and £851 million (26 per cent) respectively.

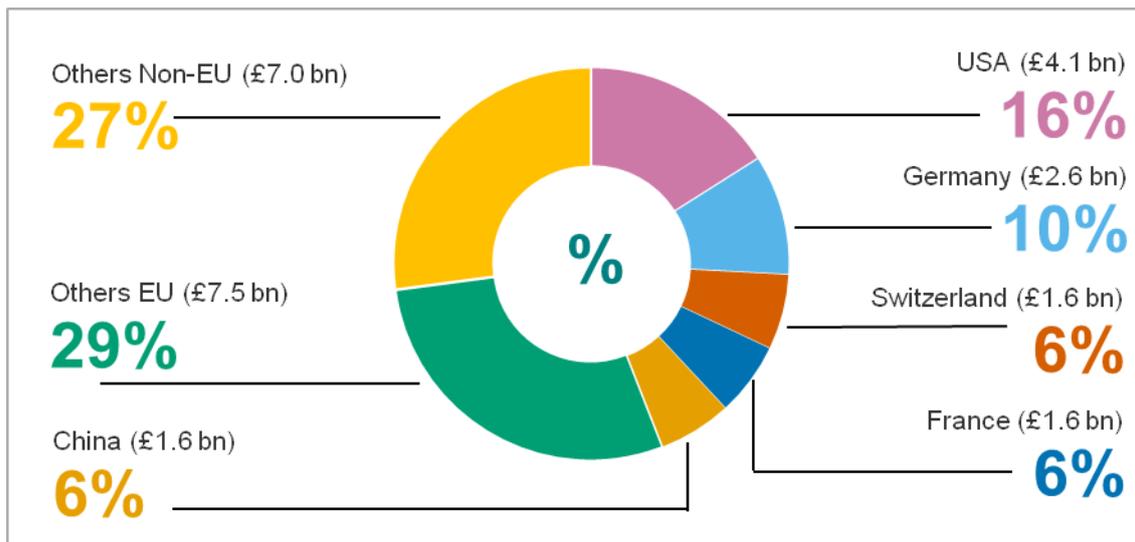
Top export country, USA, up 26% on last month

- Switzerland saw the largest value decrease compared with last month, down by £693 million (30 per cent). It also saw the second largest decrease compared with September 2014, falling by £274 million (15 per cent).
- France experienced the second largest value increase compared with last month, rising by £402 million (34 per cent).
- Germany saw the third largest value increase, up £289 million (13 per cent) compared with last month.
- The Netherlands saw the largest decrease compared with September 2014, down by £466 million (25 per cent).
- Hong Kong moved out of the top ten with value decreases compared with both last month and September 2014, falling by £184 million (28 per cent) and £234 million (33 per cent) respectively.

Switzerland exports down 30% on last month

France exports up 34% on last month

**Figure 4: UK exports to top 5 countries, September 2015**



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade  
Note: 2015 data is provisional

- The USA accounted for 16 per cent of the total value of exports from the UK compared with 12 per cent in September 2014.
- Germany has the second largest proportion of total exports, accounting for 10 per cent, which is consistent with previous months.
- The top five export partners account for 44 per cent of total exports for September 2015 compared with 43 per cent in September 2014.

USA accounts for 16% of total UK exports

## Commodity Analysis

**Table 2: UK exports by top 5 commodities, September 2015**

Commodity Description	September 2015 Total (£ millions)	Change from August 2015 (%)	Change from September 2014 (%)	Rank August 2015	Rank September 2014
Mechanical appliances	3,562	18.2	1.5	2	1
Precious metals, stones & jewellery	2,978	-21.5	3.2	1	2
Motor vehicles	2,829	40.6	4.1	4	4
Pharmaceutical products	2,145	-0.5	20.0	3	5
Electronic equipment	1,631	14.2	-0.3	6	6
Others	12,798	15.1	-7.8	-	-
<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>25,943</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>-1.8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics  
Note: 2015 data is provisional

- The ordering of the top five export commodities (ranked by value) has changed compared with both last month and last year.
- Mechanical appliances is the largest export commodity by value, accounting for 14 per cent of the total value of exports. The commodity experienced the third largest value increase compared with last month, rising by £549 million (18 per cent).
- Motor vehicles saw the largest value increase compared with last month, up £816 million (41 per cent).
- Organic chemicals saw the second largest increase compared with last month and the largest increase compared with September 2014, up £677 million and £586 million (twofold increases) respectively.
- Precious metals saw the largest decrease compared with last month, down £814 million (21 per cent).
- The largest drop compared to September 2014 is attributed to Mineral fuels, down £1,303 million (47 per cent). The commodity also experienced the second largest decrease compared with last month, down £180 million (11 per cent).
- Pharmaceutical products experienced the second largest rise compared with September 2014, up £358 million (20 per cent).
- The top five export commodities account for 51 per cent of total UK trade exports compared with 47 per cent in September 2014.

Mechanical appliances up 18% on last month

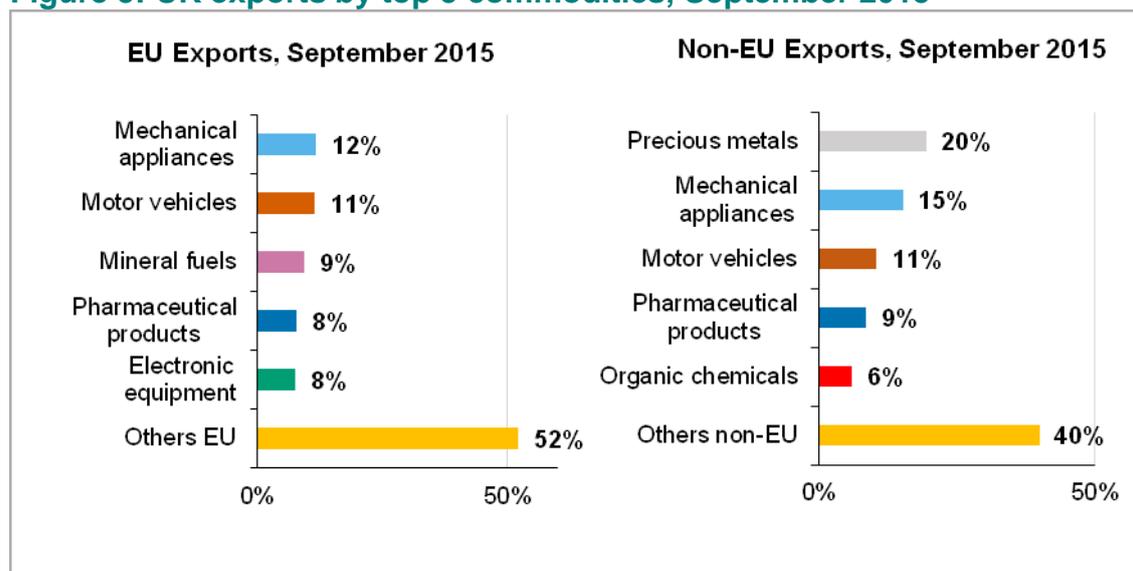
Motor vehicles up 41% on last month

Precious metals down 21% on last month

Mineral fuels down 47% on September 2014

## Combined Commodity and Country Analysis

Figure 5: UK exports by top 5 commodities, September 2015



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics  
 Note: 2015 data is provisional

- Mechanical appliances, Motor vehicles and Pharmaceutical products are in the top five commodities for both EU and non-EU countries.
- The rise in exports of Motor vehicles compared with both last month and September 2014 was led by increases in trade to the USA of £160 million (45 per cent) and £190 million (59 per cent) respectively.
- Exports to the USA of Organic chemicals increased compared with both last month and September 2014, by £620 million and £612 million (sixfold increases) respectively.
- The increase in exports to Germany compared with last month was led by a rise in both Aircraft and Mechanical appliances, up by £134 million (64 per cent) and £110 million (43 per cent) respectively.
- Exports of Precious metals fell compared with both last month and September 2014. This was led by decreases in exports to Switzerland, down £817 million (41 per cent) and £417 million (26 per cent) respectively.
- The fall in exports of Mineral fuels compared with last month was led by decreases to the Netherlands and Germany of £204 million (35 per cent) and £158 million (65 per cent) respectively. The largest decrease to the commodity compared with September 2014 was led by a drop in exports to the Netherlands, down £450 million (54 per cent).

Exports of Motor vehicles to the USA up 59% on September 2014

Exports to Germany of Aircraft up 64% on last month

Exports of Precious metals to Switzerland down 41% on last month

# Imports

## Country Analysis

**Table 3: UK imports from top 10 countries, September 2015**

Partner Country	September 2015 Total (£ millions)	Change from August 2015 (%)	Change from September 2014 (%)	Rank August 2015	Rank September 2014
Germany	5,306	18.3	-2.8	1	1
China	3,404	11.3	4.9	2	2
USA	2,952	18.7	7.1	3	3
Netherlands	2,483	9.1	-8.6	4	4
France	2,100	28.8	-6.5	5	5
Belgium	1,898	17.7	-2.0	6	6
Italy	1,370	30.9	-0.1	7	8
Spain	1,224	34.7	9.6	9	9
Irish Republic	1,171	32.0	14.6	10	11
Norway	1,038	5.7	-27.1	8	7
Others	11,993	7.0	-12.6	-	-
<b>Total Non-EU</b>	<b>15,815</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>-9.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total EU</b>	<b>19,125</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>-2.1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Imports</b>	<b>34,940</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>-5.6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics  
Note: 2015 data is provisional

- The ordering of the top ten import partners (ranked by value) has remained relatively stable compared with both last month and September 2014.
- All of the top ten import partners increased in value compared with last month. Four of the top ten increased in value compared with September 2014.
- Germany experienced the largest value increase compared with last month, rising by £821 million (18 per cent).
- France saw the second largest increases compared with last month, rising by £469 million (29 per cent).

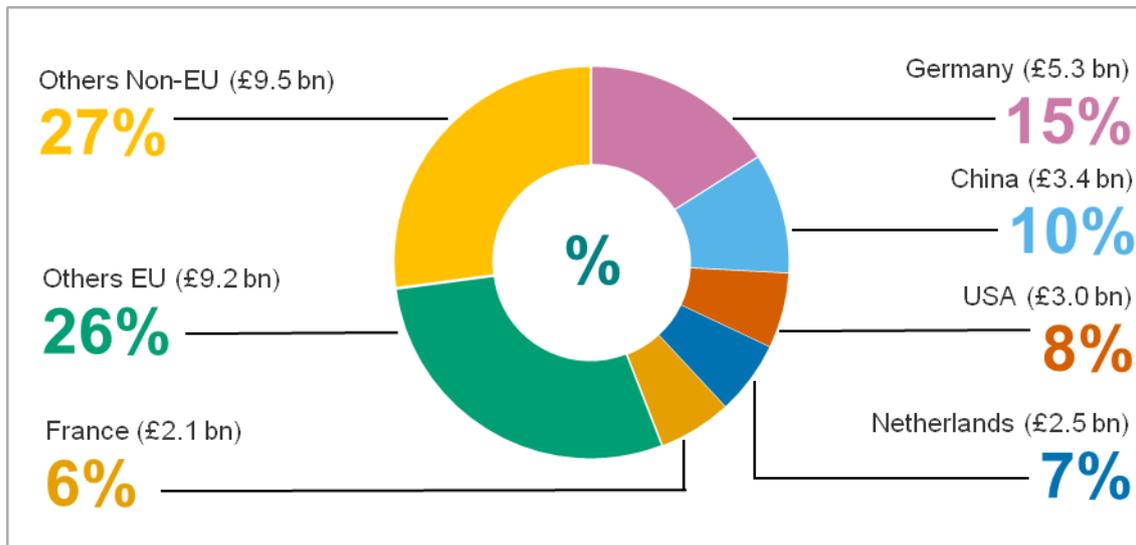
Top import partner Germany up 18% on last month

Imports from France up 29% on last month

- Imports from the USA experienced the largest value increase compared with September 2014, rising by £197 million (7.1 per cent). It also saw the third largest increase compared with last month, up £465 million (19 per cent).
- Switzerland experienced the largest value decrease compared with last month, down £267 million (33 per cent).
- Norway saw the largest value decrease compared with September 2014, falling by £387 million (27 per cent).

Imports from Norway down 27% on September 2014

Figure 6: UK imports from top 5 countries, September 2015



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade  
 Note: 2015 data is provisional

- Germany accounts for 15 per cent of the total value of imports to the UK. This share of the market was the same for last month.
- China accounts for 10 per cent, an increase in market share from 8.8 per cent compared with September 2014.
- The top five partner countries account for 47 per cent of total UK import value this month, compared with 44 per cent for September 2014.

Germany accounts for 15% of total UK imports for this month

## Commodity Analysis

**Table 4: UK imports by top 5 commodities, September 2015**

Commodity Description	September 2015 Imports (£ millions)	Change from August 2015 (%)	Change from September 2014 (%)	Rank August 2015	Rank September 2014
Motor vehicles	4,641	28.1	13.1	2	3
Mechanical appliances	4,249	12.9	-5.4	1	2
Electronic equipment	3,420	21.5	1.7	3	4
Mineral fuels	2,527	0.4	-44.5	4	1
Pharmaceutical products	1,736	-3.6	1.9	5	6
Others	18,368	14.3	-2.4	-	-
<b>Total Imports</b>	<b>34,940</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>-5.6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics  
Note: 2015 data is provisional

- Four of the top five commodity groups increased in import value compared with last month. The top five import commodities (ranked by value) have changed slightly compared with both last month and September 2014.
- Motor vehicles is the top import commodity by value, accounting for a 13 per cent share of the total. The commodity experienced the largest increase compared with both last month and September 2014, up by £1,019 million (28 per cent) and £538 million (13 per cent) respectively.
- Electronic equipment experienced the second largest increase compared with last month, up by £606 million (22 per cent).
- Mineral fuels saw the largest decrease of £2,023 million (44 per cent) compared with September 2014.
- Aircraft saw the second largest increase compared with September 2014, a rise of £261 million (37 per cent).
- Pharmaceutical products decreased the most by value compared with last month, falling by £65 million (3.6 per cent).
- The top five import commodities account for 47 per cent of total UK trade imports for this month, compared with 50 per cent for September 2014.

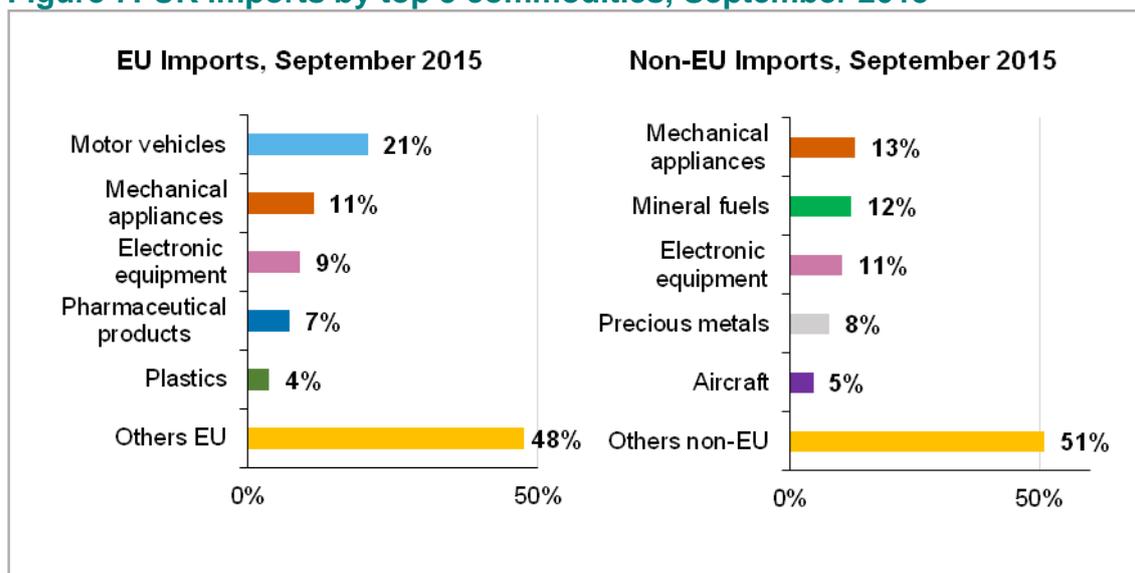
Top import commodity Motor vehicles up 28% on last month

Electronic equipment imports up 22% on last month

Imports of Mineral fuels down 44% on September 2014

## Combined Commodity and Country Analysis

Figure 7: UK imports by top 5 commodities, September 2015



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade  
 Statistics Note: 2015 data is provisional

- Mechanical appliances and Electronic equipment are in the top five commodities for both EU and non-EU countries.
- The increase in imports from Germany compared with last month was led by rises in Motor vehicles and Mechanical appliances, up £312 million (21 per cent) and £153 million (27 per cent) respectively.
- The increase in imports of Electronic equipment compared with both last month and September 2014, was led by rises from China, up £229 million (49 per cent) and £111 million (19 per cent) respectively.
- Imports from the USA increased compared with both last month and September 2014. This was led by a rise in Aircraft of £470 million (a fourfold increase) and £456 million (a threefold increase) respectively.
- The decrease in imports of Pharmaceutical products was led by a drop from Switzerland compared with last month, by £244 million (64 per cent).
- The decrease in imports of Precious metals was led by a drop from the USA compared with September 2014, by £201 million (48 per cent).
- Imports of Mineral fuels decreased compared with September 2014. This was led by falls from Norway, Nigeria, Russia and Algeria, down £433 million (35 per cent), £298 million (72 per cent), £227 million (53 per cent) and £185 million (61 per cent) respectively.
- The increase in imports of Motor vehicles compared with last month was led by a rise in imports from Germany, Belgium, France and Spain up £312 million (21 per cent), £173 million (39 per cent), £159 million (82 per cent) and £132 million (53 per cent) respectively.

Electronic equipment imports from China up 49% on last month

Pharmaceutical products imports from Switzerland down 64% on last month

Imports of Aircraft from the USA up fourfold on last month

Imports of Mineral fuels from Norway down 35% on September 2014

## Annex I – Metadata

You can access the data behind this bulletin through our [uktradeinfo web site](#).

- Detailed Trade Statistics data at 8-digit commodity code level is available in our [interactive database](#).
- Aggregate OTS data is available in [pre-prepared Excel tables](#).
- Non-Monetary Gold (NMG) can form a substantial part of the non-EU Overseas Trade Statistics (OTS). For further information, see [Inclusion of Non-Monetary Gold in OTS](#). Data relating to monthly non-EU and EU import and export totals for January 2008 onwards with a breakdown of non-monetary gold and other trade is available in an [OTS time series spreadsheet](#).
- 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 User Story’](#).

## Annex II – Methodological Notes

1. HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with countries on 6 November 2015 under arrangements set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#). The first release is published on HMRC’s trade data website [www.uktradeinfo.com](http://www.uktradeinfo.com).
2. This release includes the first provisional estimates of trade-in-goods between the UK and both countries of the EU and those outside the EU for September 2015. At the same time revisions for all previously published non-EU and EU data for 2015 are also being released in line with the [HM Revenue & Customs Policy on Revisions](#).
3. The **EU figures** provided in this publication of the September 2015 Overseas Trade Statistics are collected from the Intrastat survey. They will include:
  - a. Estimates for businesses who have yet to submit detailed data on the trade they had with other EU Member States this month.
  - 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 details of this can be found [here](#).

Estimates are included in all high level totals including HS2 and country totals.

4. The **Non-EU figures** provided in this publication of the September 2015 Overseas Trade Statistics are presented by customs declarations and collected by the CHIEF (Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight) system.
5. Detailed trade information is presented according to the [Harmonised System \(HS\)](#) nomenclature.
6. 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. Uktradeinfo.com provides more detail about the [differences between BoP and OTS publications](#).
7. 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'.

8. HMRC publishes [additional information](#) to help support users of non-EU data. 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 OTS and information on the quality of the data published.
9. 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>.
10. A consultation was run from 17 December 2014 to 31 January 2015. The results of this consultation showed support for a single combined commentary release, joining the separate EU and non-EU documents. This is the sixth release to be published in this format.
11. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:
  - meet identified user needs;
  - are well explained and readily accessible;
  - are produced according to sound methods; and
  - are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

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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