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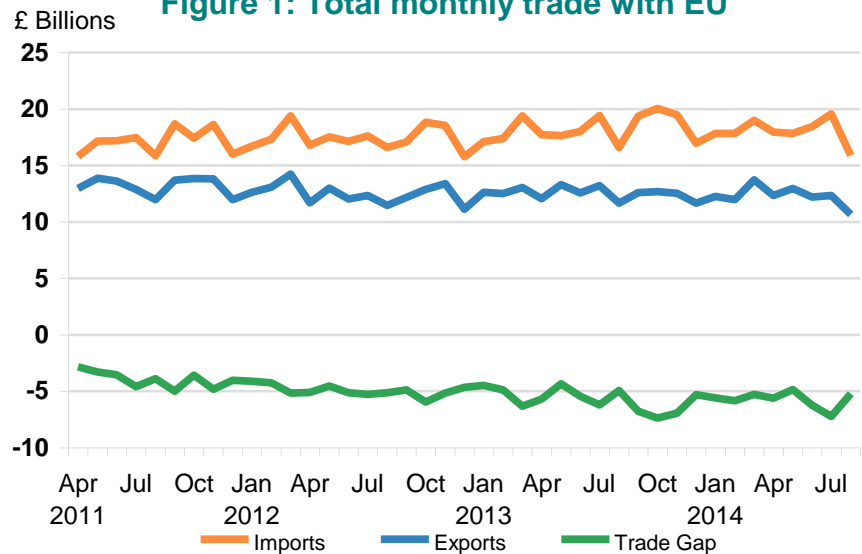
Website:
<http://www.uktradeinfo.com>

UK Overseas Trade Statistics with EU August 2014

Summary

- Exports for August 2014 are £10.7 billion. This is a decrease of £1.7 billion (13 per cent) compared to last month, and a decrease of £1.0 billion (8.3 per cent) compared to August 2013. This is the lowest export value since August 2010.
- Imports for August 2014 are £15.9 billion. This is a decrease of £3.7 billion (19 per cent) compared to last month, and a decrease of £0.7 billion (4.3 per cent) compared to August 2013. This is the lowest import value since December 2012.
- The UK remains a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £5.2 billion. This is a decrease of £2.0 billion (28 per cent) compared to last month, but an increase of £0.3 billion (5.3 per cent) compared to August 2013.

Figure 1: Total monthly trade with EU



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
Note: 2014 data are provisional



Trade Trends

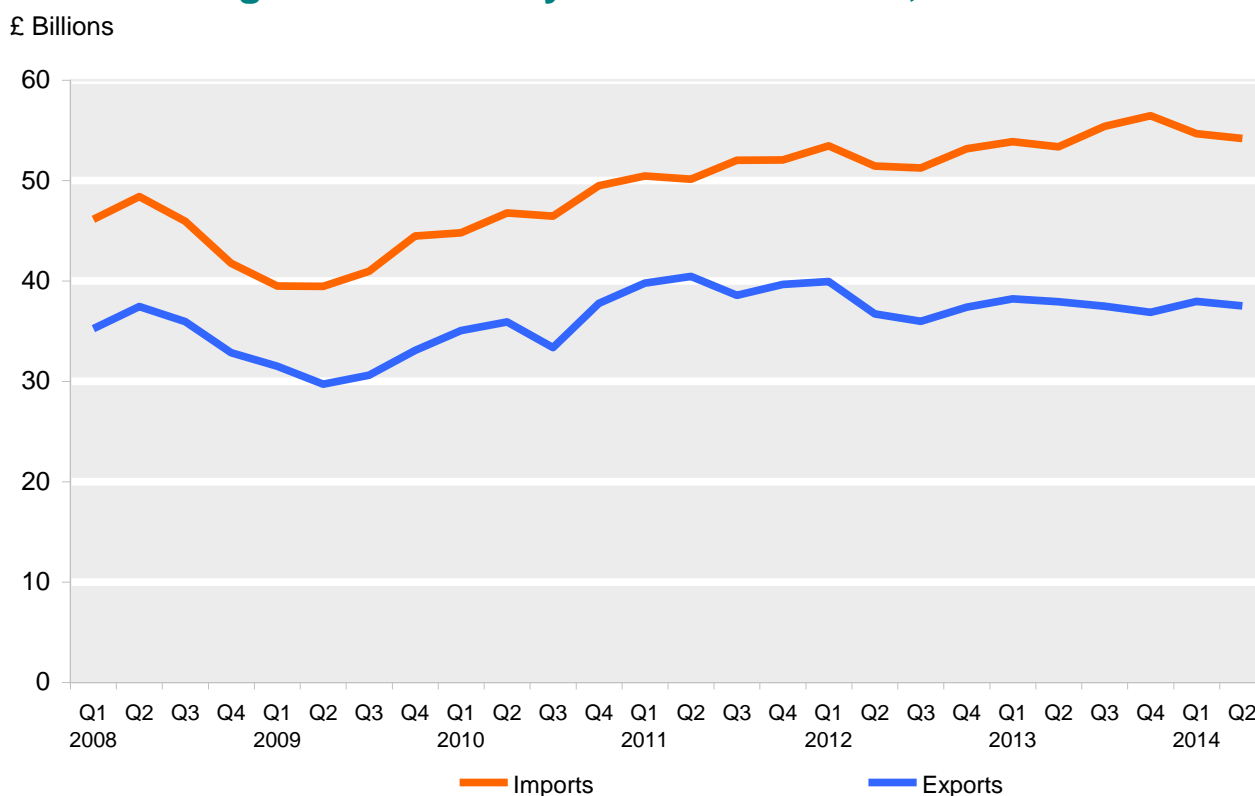
- Following the global economic crisis, UK trade started to decrease in 2008. Since the lows in early 2009, there has been a steady increase in imports through to the end of 2013, with a slight fall in 2014. Exports growth was seen until 2011, after which it fell in 2012 and has remained relatively constant since then.
- The total EU export trade for the first half of 2014 is £75.5 billion, slightly lower than the figure of £76.1 billion for the first half of 2013 (0.8 per cent decrease).
- The total EU import trade for the first half of 2014 is £109 billion, which is greater than the figure of £107 billion in the first half of 2013 (1.5 per cent increase).
- The UK is a net EU importer (imports are greater than exports). The size of the trade gap has substantially grown from £22 billion in the first half of 2008 to £33 billion in the first half of 2014 (53 per cent increase).
- For many years Germany has been both the UK's largest EU import and export trading partner by value.
- Motor vehicles has predominantly been the largest import commodity by value. For exports, Mineral fuels has consistently been the largest valued commodity.

Exports down 1%
between first half
of 2013 - 2014

Imports up 2%
between first half
of 2013 - 2014

Trade gap up
53% between
first half of
2008 - 2014

Figure 2: Quarterly UK trade with EU, 2008-2014



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
Note: 2014 data are provisional

Exports

Country Analysis

Table 1: UK exports to the top 5 EU partner countries, August 2014

Partner country	August 2014 exports (£ millions)	Change from July 2014 (%)	Change from August 2013 (%)	Rank July 2014	Rank August 2013
Germany	2,218	-21.4	-5.6	1	1
Netherlands	1,701	-12.3	-14.1	2	2
France	1,551	0.3	-8.2	3	3
Irish Republic	1,378	-4.4	-6.3	4	4
Belgium	844	-22.9	-17.5	5	5
Others	2,987	-5.1	-1.5	-	-
Total Exports	10,679	-13.4	-8.3	-	-

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2014 data are provisional

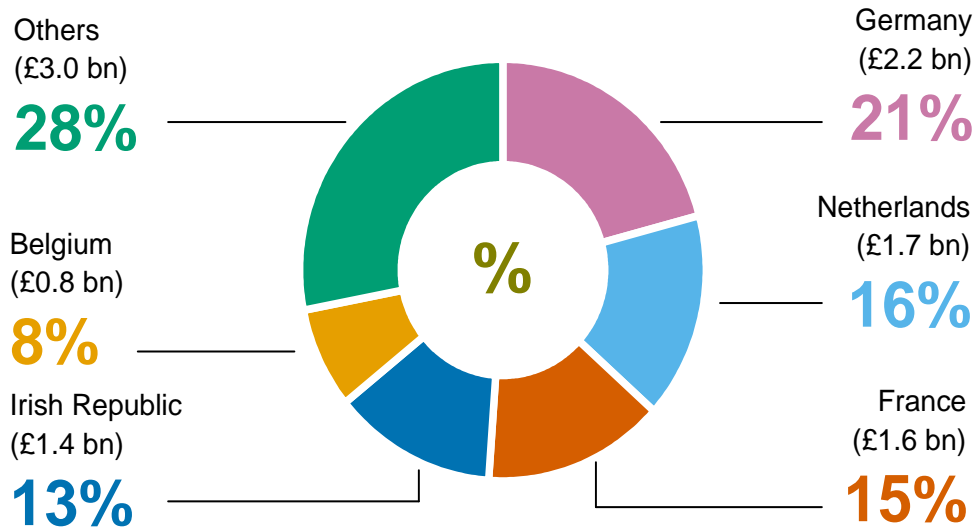
- The top five EU export partner Member States (rank by value) are unchanged compared to both last month and August 2013.
- Four of the top five Member States have decreased trade values compared to last month, with just France showing an increase. All of the top five export partners showed decreases compared to August 2013.
- Germany is the largest EU export partner country, accounting for 21 per cent of the total value of exports. Trade to Germany had the largest fall in value from last month, down £602 million (21 per cent), and also had a large fall in value compared to August 2013, down £132 million (5.6 per cent). This is the lowest export value to Germany since December 2013.
- Trade with the Netherlands fell by £238 million (12 per cent) compared to last month, and by £280 million (14 per cent) against August 2013, the largest value fall.
- Belgium had the largest percentage decrease in the top five, compared to both periods, down £251 million (23 per cent) compared to last month, and down £179 million (17 per cent) on August 2013.
- Bulgaria (in 18th place) had the largest increase compared to last month, up £36 million (more than double). Spain (in sixth place) had the largest increase compared to August 2013, up £141 million (26 per cent).

Exports to Germany down 21% on last month

Exports to the Netherlands down 14% on August 2013

Exports to Belgium down 23% on last month

Figure 3: UK exports to the top 5 EU partner countries, August 2014



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2014 data are provisional

The top five EU Member States account for 72 per cent of total EU exports, compared to 73 per cent for August 2013.

Commodity Analysis

Table 2: UK exports to EU by top 5 commodities, August 2014

Commodity Description	August 2014 Exports (£ millions)	Change from July 2014 (%)	Change from August 2013 (%)	Rank July 2014	Rank August 2013
Mineral fuels	1,864	-18.8	-26.4	1	1
Mechanical appliances	1,079	-18.2	-2.3	2	2
Pharmaceutical products	834	-13.8	8.1	4	4
Electronic equipment	801	0.3	2.2	5	3
Motor vehicles	653	-43.5	-11.9	3	5
Others	5,448	-3.5	-2.7	-	-
Total Exports	10,679	-13.4	-8.3	-	-

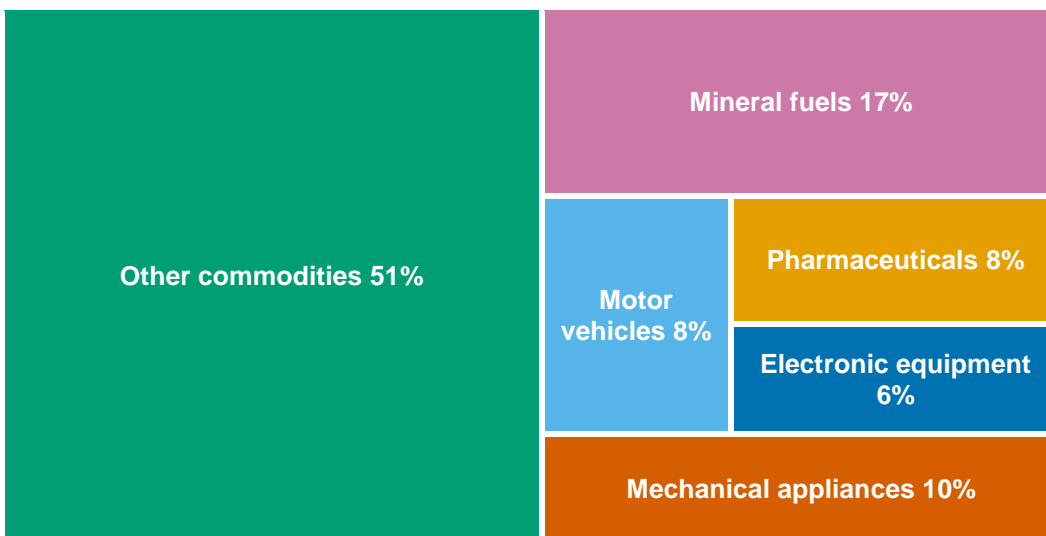
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2014 data are provisional

- Mineral fuels remains the top commodity exported, contributing 17 per cent of the total value of EU exports. However, it showed the largest decrease compared to August 2013, down £669 million (26 per cent), and the second biggest fall compared to last month, £432 million (19 per cent). This is the lowest value for mineral fuel exports since February 2011.
- Motor vehicles had the largest value decrease compared to last month, down £503 million (44 per cent), and also fell £88 million (12 per cent) compared to August 2013. Exports of this commodity generally decrease in August, possibly due to factory closedowns for the summer.
- Precious metals had the largest rise compared to last month, up £49 million (22 per cent). Pharmaceuticals had the largest rise against August 2013, up £62 million (8.1 per cent).

Mineral fuels exports down 26% on last month

Motor vehicles exports down 44% on last month

Figure 4: UK exports to EU by top five commodities, August 2014



Total value of exports to EU partner countries £10.7 billion

Source: HM Revenue and Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2014 data are provisional

Combined Commodity and Country Analysis

- The substantial decrease in Mineral fuels compared to both periods was led by falls in exports to Germany and the Netherlands. Germany fell by £380 million (72 per cent) compared to last month and £156 million (51 per cent) compared to August 2013, while the Netherlands fell £124 million (15 per cent) compared to last month, and £286 million (29 per cent) compared to August 2013.
- The decrease in Motor vehicles compared to last month was led by falls to Belgium and Germany. Belgium imports fell £132 million (59 per cent), while Germany fell by £85 million (35 per cent).
- The rise in Precious metals compared to last month was led by exports to Spain, up £93 million, from £5.4 million to £98.8 million.

Mineral fuels to Germany down 72% from last month

Precious metals to Spain up £93m from last month

Imports

Country Analysis

Table 3: UK imports from top 5 EU countries, August 2014

Partner Country	August 2014 imports (£ millions)	Change from July 2014 (%)	Change from August 2013 (%)	Rank July 2014	Rank August 2013
Germany	4,409	-19.2	-0.2	1	1
Netherlands	2,323	-10.3	-13.7	2	2
France	1,619	-28.2	-7.5	3	3
Belgium	1,585	-11.3	4.5	4	4
Italy	1,210	-28.3	7.9	5	5
Others	4,737	-10.6	-3.6	-	-
Total Imports	15,883	-18.8	-4.3	-	-

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Note: 2014 data are provisional

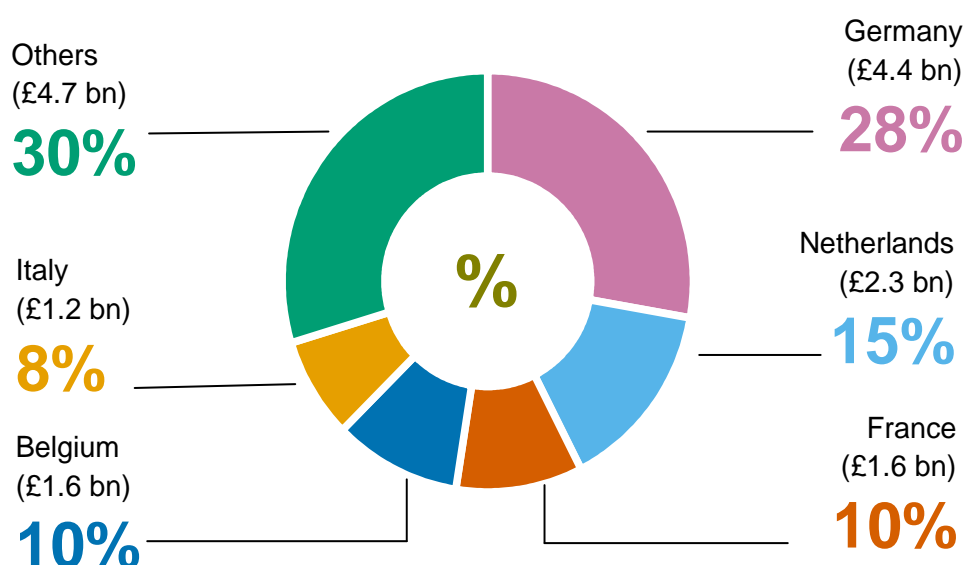
- The top five EU import partner Member States (ranked by value) remain unchanged compared with both last month and August 2013.
- Imports from all of these Member States have decreased compared with last month. All but Belgium and Italy fell compared to August 2013.
- The UK imports most goods from Germany, which accounts for 28 per cent of total value of EU imports. Germany showed the largest value fall against last month, down by £1.0 billion (19 per cent). Last month was the highest import value from Germany on record, while this month is the lowest since December 2013.
- Imports from the Netherlands had the largest value fall compared to August 2013, down £370 million (14 per cent). They also fell £267 million (10 per cent) compared to last month, and are the lowest since April 2012.
- Imports from France had the second largest decrease compared to both periods, down £635 million (28 per cent) compared to last month, and £131 million (7.5 per cent) compared to August 2013. This is the lowest import value for France since December 2012.
- Lithuania (in 18th place) had the largest value increase on last month, up £29 million (44 per cent). Italy had the largest increase compared to August 2013, up £88 million (7.9 per cent).

Imports from Germany down 19% on last month

Imports from the Netherlands down 14% on August 2013

Imports from France down 28% on last month

Figure 5: UK imports from top 5 EU partner countries, August 2014



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2014 data are provisional

The top five EU Member States account for 70 per cent of total EU imports, compared to 69 per cent from August 2013.

Commodity Analysis

Table 4: UK imports from EU by top 5 commodities, August 2014

Commodity Description	August 2014 Exports (£ millions)	Change from July 2014 (%)	Change from August 2013 (%)	Rank July 2014	Rank August 2013
Motor vehicles	2,480	-34.0	1.1	1	1
Mechanical appliances	1,783	-25.3	0.1	2	2
Electronic equipment	1,268	-15.9	-16.2	3	3
Pharmaceutical products	1,136	-23.0	15.0	4	5
Mineral fuels	854	-1.1	-22.3	5	4
Others	8,360	-12.2	-3.9	-	-
Total Imports	15,883	-18.8	-4.3	-	-

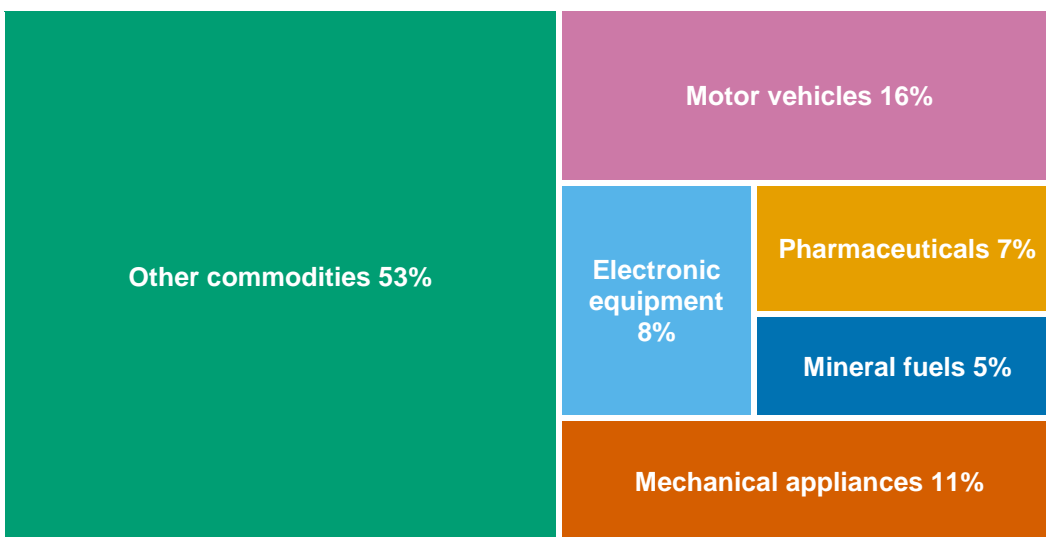
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2014 data are provisional

- Motor vehicles remains the top commodity imported, contributing £2.5 billion, 16 per cent of the total value of EU import trade. However, it had the largest value decrease compared to last month, down £1.3 billion (34 per cent), although it is slightly up on August 2013.
- Mechanical appliances had the second largest fall compared to last month, down £603 million (25 per cent). This commodity has a history of decreasing each August.
- Mineral fuels had the largest fall compared to August 2013, down £245 million (22 per cent).
- Pharmaceuticals had the largest increase on August 2013, up 148 million (15 per cent). It has risen to fourth place, from fifth in August 2013.

Motor vehicles imports down 34% on last month

Mineral fuels imports down 22% on August 2013

Figure 6: UK imports from EU by top five commodities, August 2014



Total value of imports from EU partner countries £15.9 billion

Source: HM Revenue and Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2014 data are provisional

Combined Commodity and Country Analysis

- The decrease in imports of Motor vehicles compared to last month was led by Germany, down £502 million (29 per cent) and Spain, down £285 million (65 per cent).
- The decrease in Mechanical appliances compared to last month was led by falls of £204 million (26 per cent) from Germany, and £99 million (41 per cent) from France.
- The fall in Mineral fuels against August 2013 was led by decreases from the Netherlands, down £171 million (42 per cent), France, down £606 million (47 per cent), and Finland, down £559 million (74 per cent).
- The rise in Pharmaceuticals compared to August 2013 was spread over a number of import partners, led by an increase of £43 million (29 per cent) from Belgium.

Motor vehicles from Spain down 65% on last month

Mineral fuels from the Netherlands down 42% on August 2013

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](#). This is based on the Harmonised System (HS).
- Aggregate OTS data is available in [pre-prepared Excel tables](#).
- Data relating to monthly 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 Member States of the European Union (EU) on 10 October under arrangements set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#).
2. This release includes the first provisional estimates of trade-in-goods between the UK and Member States of the EU for August 2014. At the same time revisions for all previously published EU data for 2014 are also being released in line with the [HM Revenue & Customs Policy on Revisions](#).
3. The figures provided in this publication of the August 2014 EU 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 in August.
 - 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](#).
4. Estimates are included in all high level totals including HS2 and country totals.
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. More detail about the differences between the BoP and OTS publications can be found [here](#).
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. Information to help support users of the EU Overseas Trade Statistics can be found [here](#). This includes links to our policies on revision and suppression of data, descriptions of the methodology used to compile the Overseas Trade Statistics and information on the quality of the data published.
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. 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.
11. 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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