



About this release

This release includes the 1st provisional estimates of trade-in-goods between the UK and both countries of the EU and those outside the EU for October 2021.

Supporting tables, visuals and data can be found at www.uktradeinfo.com

In this publication

- Trade trends p.2
- Non-EU and EU trade p.3
- October 2021 Exports p.4

Country analysis

Country analysis – 3 months

Commodity analysis

Commodity analysis – 3 months

Combined analysis

- October 2021 Imports p.11

Country analysis

Country analysis – 3 months

Commodity analysis

Commodity analysis – 3 months

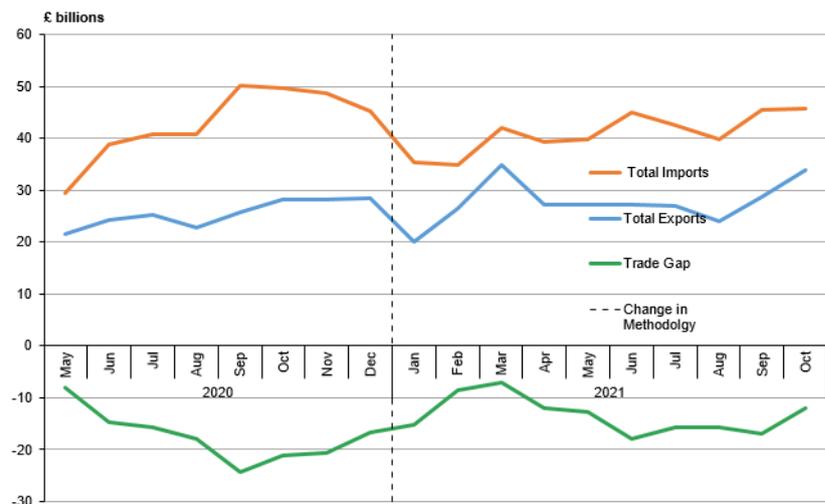
Combined analysis

- Methodology notes p.18

Trade in Goods, October 2021

- Total **exports** of goods for October 2021 were £33.8 billion. This was up £5.0 billion (18%) compared with last month, and up £5.5 billion (19%) compared with October 2020.
- Total **imports** of goods for October 2021 were £45.6 billion. This was up £0.1 billion (0.2%) compared with last month, but down £3.9 billion (7.8%) compared with October 2020.
- The UK was a net importer this month, with **imports** exceeding **exports** by £11.9 billion, narrowing by £4.9 billion on last month.

Figure 1: Total UK monthly Trade in Goods



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods and Statistics
Note: 2021 data is provisional



Coverage: United Kingdom
 Theme: Business and Energy
 Released: 10 December 2021
 Next release: 14 January 2022

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

Email: uktradeinfo@hmrc.gov.uk

Statistical contact: H. Mansfield

Media contact: HMRC Press Office news.desk@hmrc.gov.uk

Trade in Goods Trends

Following the global economic crisis, UK trade in goods dropped in 2009. Both imports and exports then steadily increased until 2012. From the start of 2013, imports remained relatively flat until a very sharp increase in Q3 of 2016. It has experienced large quarterly fluctuations since Q1 of 2019 and Q2 of 2020 saw the lowest quarterly imports value since Q3 of 2010. Exports peaked in Q2 of 2013, with a steady rise from Q2 of 2017 to Q3 of 2018. Q2 of 2020 also saw the lowest quarterly exports value since Q3 of 2010.

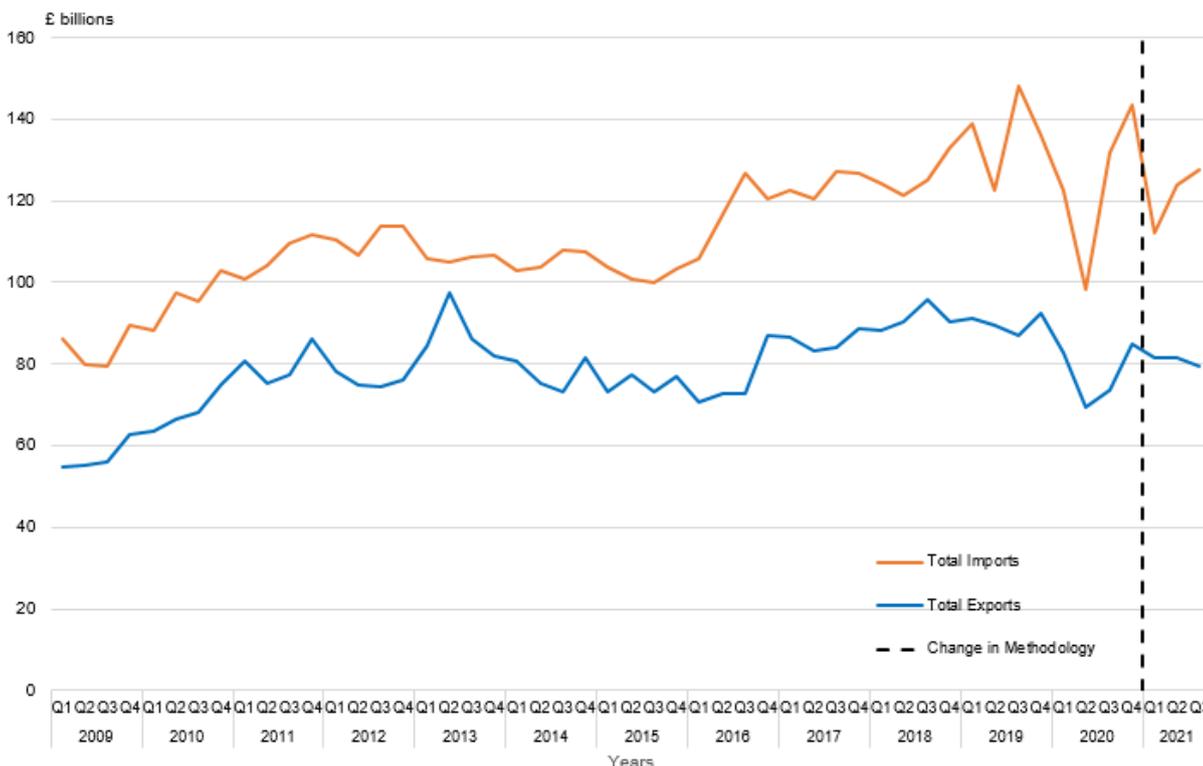
- The total **export** trade for Q3 of 2021 was £79.6 billion, which was an increase of 8.0% compared with £73.7 billion for Q3 of 2020.
- The total **import** trade for Q3 of 2021 was £128 billion, which was a decrease of 3.1% compared with £132 billion for Q3 of 2020.
- There was a trade deficit of £48.1 billion for Q3 of 2021. This was a narrowing of 17% compared with £58.0 billion for Q3 of 2020.
- For many years Germany has been our largest trading import partner by value, recently surpassed by China, while the USA has been the dominant trading export partner, with occasional peaks for Switzerland.
- Mechanical appliances and Motor vehicles have generally been the largest **import** commodities by value, recently surpassed by mineral fuels. For **exports**, Mechanical appliances has also predominantly been the largest valued commodity, with occasional peaks for Precious metals.

↑ **Exports up 8.0% on Q3 2020**

↓ **Imports down 3.1% on Q3 2020**

↓ **Trade deficit narrowed by 17% on Q3 2020**

Figure 2: Quarterly UK Trade in Goods, 2009 – 2021



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2021 data is provisional

Non-EU & EU Trade in Goods

Non-EU Trade in Goods:

- **Non-EU exports** for October 2021 were £19.5 billion. This was an increase of £4.2 billion (28%) on last month, and an increase of £5.3 billion (37%) compared with October 2020.
- **Non-EU imports** for October 2021 were £25.9 billion. This was an increase of £1.1 billion (4.2%) on last month, but a decrease of £1.1 billion (4.0%) compared with October 2020.
- For **non-EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £6.5 billion.

↑ **Non-EU exports up 37% on October 2020**

EU Trade in Goods:

- **EU exports** for October 2021 were £14.3 billion. This was an increase of £0.8 billion (6.0%) on last month, and an increase of £0.2 billion (1.5%) compared with October 2020.
- **EU imports** for October 2021 were £19.7 billion. This was a decrease of £0.9 billion (4.6%) on last month, and a decrease of £2.8 billion (12%) compared with October 2020.
- For **EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £5.4 billion.

↓ **EU imports down 12% on October 2020**

Figure 3: Total UK Trade in Goods, with EU and Non-EU, October 2021



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 data is provisional

Exports: Country Analysis

- Switzerland replaced the USA as the largest export partner country. It experienced the largest value increases on last month and on October 2020, up £1,745 million (59%) and £3,550 million (up to more than 4 times the value) respectively.
- The Netherlands experienced the 2nd largest value increase on October 2020, up £973 million (56%).
- The USA experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month, up £648 million (20%).
- Germany experienced the largest value decrease on October 2020, down £601 million (19%).
- Singapore experienced the 3rd largest value increases on last month and on October 2020, up £420 million and £364 million respectively (doubling in value over both periods).
- Ireland experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on October 2020, down £318 million (13%).

↑ **Exports to Switzerland up to more than 4 times the value on October 2020**

↑ **Exports to the Netherlands up 56% on October 2020**

Table 1: UK exports of goods to the top 10 countries, October 2021

Partner Country	October 2021		September 2021		October 2020	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on September 2021 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2020 (%)	
Switzerland	4,682	2,937	59.4	1,132	313.4	
USA	3,953	3,306	19.6	3,866	2.3	
Netherlands	2,716	2,416	12.4	1,743	55.8	
Germany	2,514	2,303	9.2	3,115	-19.3	
Ireland	2,082	1,832	13.6	2,399	-13.2	
France	1,608	1,553	3.5	1,808	-11.1	
Belgium	1,343	1,252	7.3	1,091	23.2	
China	1,251	1,180	6.0	1,306	-4.3	
Italy	789	908	-13.2	873	-9.6	
Singapore	735	315	133.1	371	98.0	
Others	12,090	10,728	12.7	10,592	14.1	
Total EU	14,305	13,494	6.0	14,097	1.5	
Total Non-EU	19,458	15,236	27.7	14,200	37.0	
Total Exports	33,763	28,730	17.5	28,297	19.3	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 data is provisional

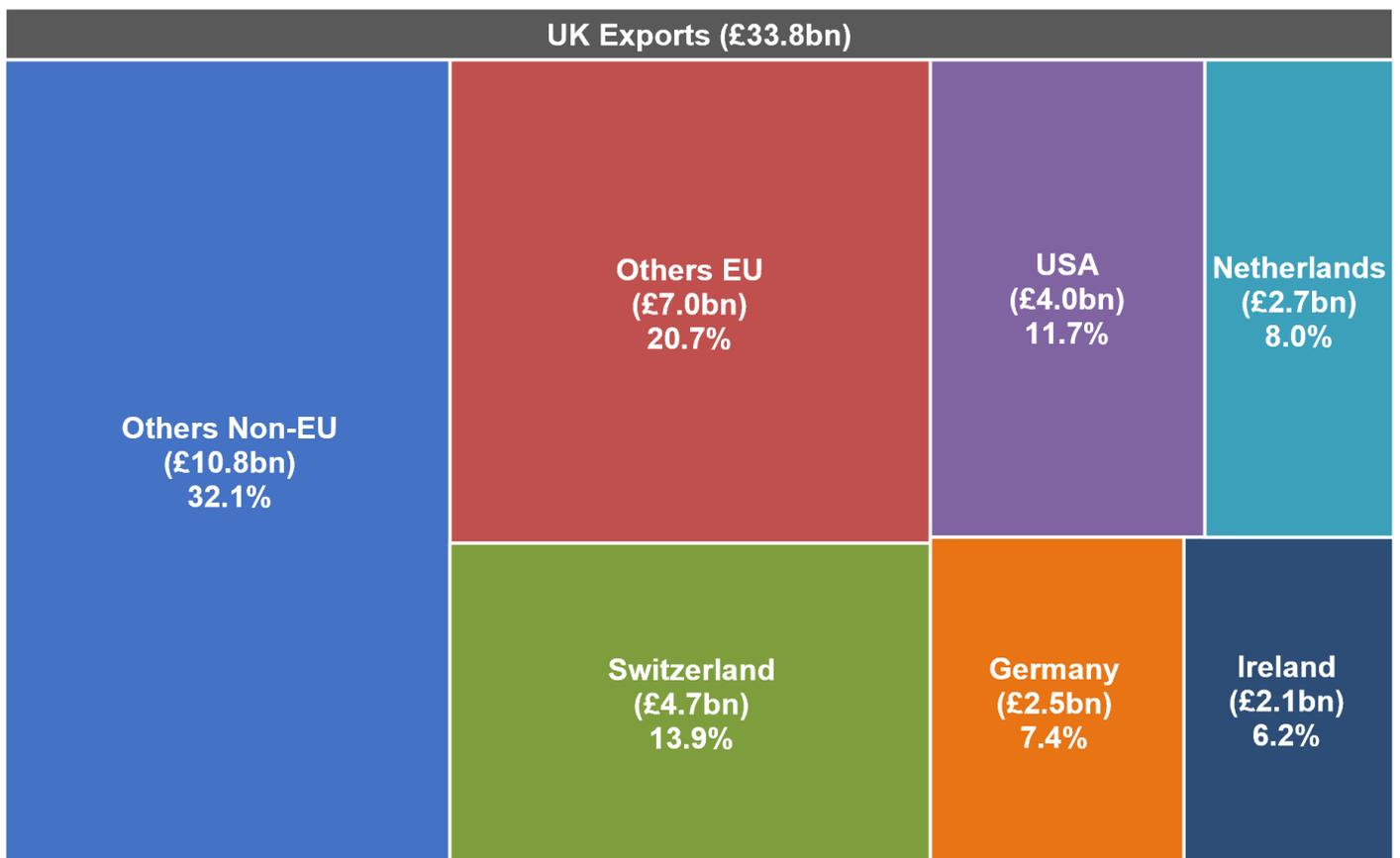
Exports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 export partners accounted for 47% of the total value of goods exported in October 2021. This was an increase from 46% in October 2020.
- Switzerland accounted for 14% of the total value of goods exported from the UK. This was an increase from a 4.0% share in October 2020.
- The USA had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 12% of the total value of goods exported from the UK. This was a decrease from a 14% share in October 2020.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Singapore rose to 10th place from 21st, while Spain fell to 12th place from 10th.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with October 2020. Most notably, Switzerland rose to 1st place from 7th and the Netherlands rose to 3rd place from 5th, while Germany fell to 4th place from 2nd.

↑ **Switzerland had a 14% share of total exports in October 2021**

↓ **The USA had a 12% share of total exports in October 2021**

Figure 4: Share of UK exports of goods to the top 5 countries, October 2021



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2021 data is provisional

Exports: Country Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to October 2021, the USA remained the largest export partner country.
- Among the top 10, Switzerland experienced the largest percentage increases on the 3 months to July 2021 and on the 3 months to October 2020, up to almost 3 times the value and up to 3.5 times the value respectively.
- Among the top 10, the Netherlands experienced the 2nd largest percentage increases on the 3 months to July 2021 and on the 3 months to October 2020, up 16% and 52% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Germany experienced the 2nd largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to July 2021, and the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to October 2020, down 12% and 14% respectively.
- Among the top 10, France experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to July 2021, down 13%.
- 6 of the top 10 export partners experienced an increase on the 3 months to July 2021. The exceptions were the USA, Germany, France, and Italy.
- 5 of the top 10 export partners experienced an increase on the 3 months to October 2020 and 5 experienced a decrease.

↑ Exports to Switzerland up to almost 3 times the value on the 3 months to July 2021

↑ Exports to the Netherlands up 52% on the 3 months to October 2020

Table 2: UK exports of goods to the top 10 countries, 3 months to October 2021

Partner Country	3 months to Oct 2021		3 months to Jul 2021		3 months to Oct 2020	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on July 2021 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2020 (%)	
USA	10,499	11,019	-4.7	10,271	2.2	
Switzerland	8,102	2,910	178.4	2,144	277.9	
Netherlands	7,227	6,237	15.9	4,744	52.3	
Germany	7,022	7,936	-11.5	8,207	-14.4	
Ireland	5,506	5,352	2.9	5,936	-7.2	
France	4,553	5,253	-13.3	4,863	-6.4	
China	3,734	3,667	1.8	3,783	-1.3	
Belgium	3,710	3,637	2.0	2,810	32.0	
Italy	2,240	2,517	-11.0	2,274	-1.5	
Spain	2,160	2,105	2.6	2,116	2.1	
Others	31,792	30,463	4.4	29,767	6.8	
Total Exports	86,545	81,098	6.7	76,914	12.5	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 data is provisional

Exports: Commodity Analysis

- Precious metals replaced Mechanical appliances as the largest export commodity. It experienced the largest value increases on last month and on October 2020, up £2,480 million (63%) and £3,998 million (up to 2.5 times the value) respectively.
- Mineral fuels experienced the 2nd largest value increases on last month and on October 2020, up £451 million (19%) and £1,298 million (84%) respectively.
- Motor vehicles experienced the largest value decrease on October 2020, down £1,069 million (32%).
- Mechanical appliances experienced the 3rd largest value increases on last month and on October 2020, up £247 million (5.5%) and £597 million (14%) respectively.
- Pharmaceutical products experienced the 4th largest value increase on last month, up £237 million (16%).
- Knitwear (ranked 32nd) experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on October 2020, down £223 million (62%).

↑ Exports of Precious metals up to 2.5 times the value on October 2020

↓ Exports of Motor vehicles down 32% on October 2020

Table 3: UK exports of goods for the top 10 commodities, October 2021

Commodity Description	October 2021	September 2021		October 2020	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on September 2021 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2020 (%)
Precious metals	6,434	3,954	62.7	2,436	164.2
Mechanical appliances	4,752	4,505	5.5	4,155	14.4
Mineral fuels	2,846	2,395	18.8	1,548	83.8
Motor vehicles	2,317	2,334	-0.7	3,386	-31.6
Other products	1,857	1,399	32.8	825	125.2
Electronic equipment	1,793	1,705	5.1	1,823	-1.7
Pharmaceutical products	1,723	1,486	16.0	1,791	-3.8
Measuring devices and gauges	1,330	1,266	5.0	1,242	7.0
Aircraft	899	770	16.8	871	3.2
Plastics and plastic products	830	767	8.2	746	11.2
Others	8,982	8,149	10.2	9,474	-5.2
Total Exports	33,763	28,730	17.5	28,297	19.3

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 data is provisional

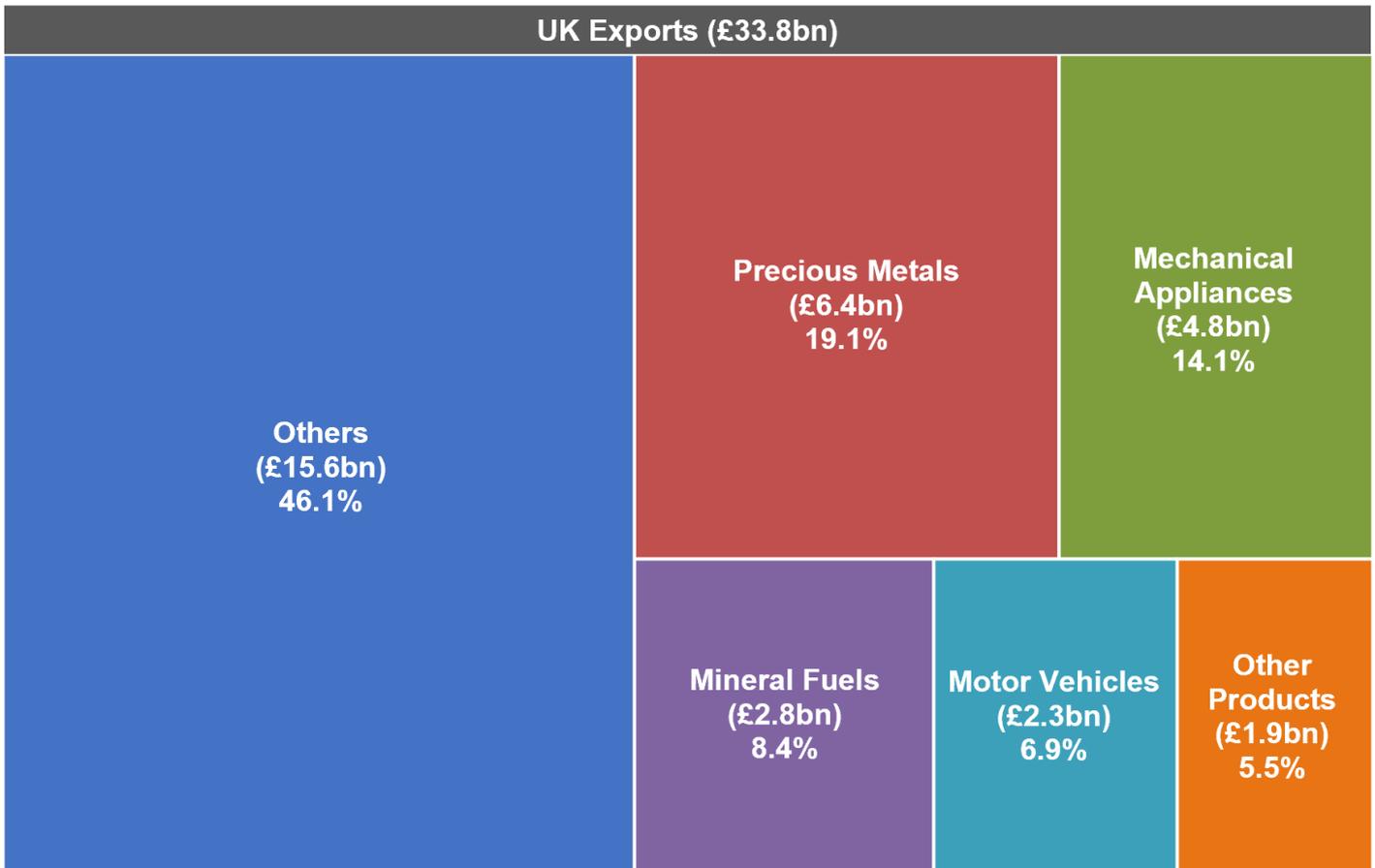
Exports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 export commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 54% of the total value of goods exported in October 2021. This was an increase from a 48% share in October 2020.
- Precious metals accounted for 19% of the total value of goods exported from the UK. This was an increase from an 8.6% share in October 2020.
- Mechanical appliances had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 14% of total exports. This was a decrease from a 15% share in October 2020.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed order compared with last month. Most notably, Precious metals rose to 1st place from 2nd.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with October 2020. Most notably, Mineral fuels rose to 3rd place from 6th, while Motor vehicles fell to 4th place from 2nd.

↑ **Precious metals accounted for 19% of total exports in October 2021**

↓ **Mechanical appliances accounted for 14% of total exports in October 2021**

Figure 5: Share of UK exports by the top 5 commodities, October 2021



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2021 data is provisional

Exports: Commodity Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to October 2021, Mechanical appliances remained as the largest export commodity. It experienced the 3rd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to October 2020, up 12%
- Among the top 10, Precious metals experienced the largest percentage increases on the 3 months to July 2021 and on the 3 months to October 2020, up 72% and 97% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Mineral fuels experienced the 2nd largest percentage increases on the 3 months to July 2021 and on the 3 months to October 2020, up 33% and 54% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Motor vehicles experienced the 2nd largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to July 2021 and the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to October 2020, down 9.7% and 22% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Plastics and plastic products experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to July 2021, down 10%.
- 6 of the top 10 export commodities experienced a decrease on the 3 months to July 2021. The exceptions were Precious metals, Mineral fuels, Electronic equipment, and Other products.
- 7 of the top 10 export commodities experienced an increase on the 3 months to October 2020. The exceptions were Motor vehicles, Electronic equipment, and Aircraft.

↑ **Precious metals exports up 97% on the 3 months to October 2020**

↑ **Mineral fuels exports up 54% on the 3 months to October 2020**

Table 4: UK exports of goods for the top 10 commodities, 3 months to October 2021

Commodity Description	3 months to Oct 2021		3 months to Jul 2021		3 months to Oct 2020	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on July 2021 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2020 (%)	
Mechanical appliances	12,684	13,083	-3.1	11,309	12.2	
Precious metals	12,632	7,358	71.7	6,400	97.4	
Mineral fuels	7,372	5,560	32.6	4,774	54.4	
Motor vehicles	6,208	6,873	-9.7	7,993	-22.3	
Electronic equipment	5,039	4,952	1.8	5,061	-0.4	
Pharmaceutical products	4,851	4,898	-1.0	4,716	2.9	
Other products	4,465	4,390	1.7	2,414	85.0	
Measuring devices and gauges	3,785	3,858	-1.9	3,489	8.5	
Plastics and plastic products	2,344	2,605	-10.0	2,096	11.8	
Aircraft	2,252	2,369	-5.0	2,482	-9.3	
Others	24,914	25,152	-0.9	26,179	-4.8	
Total Exports	86,545	81,098	6.7	76,914	12.5	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 data is provisional

Exports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

Country to commodity:

- The increase in exports to the USA on last month was led by Motor vehicles, up £153 million (47%).
- The decrease in exports to Germany on October 2020 was led by Precious metals, down £187 million (45%).
- The decrease in exports to Ireland on October 2020 was led by Organic chemicals, down £154 million (95%).

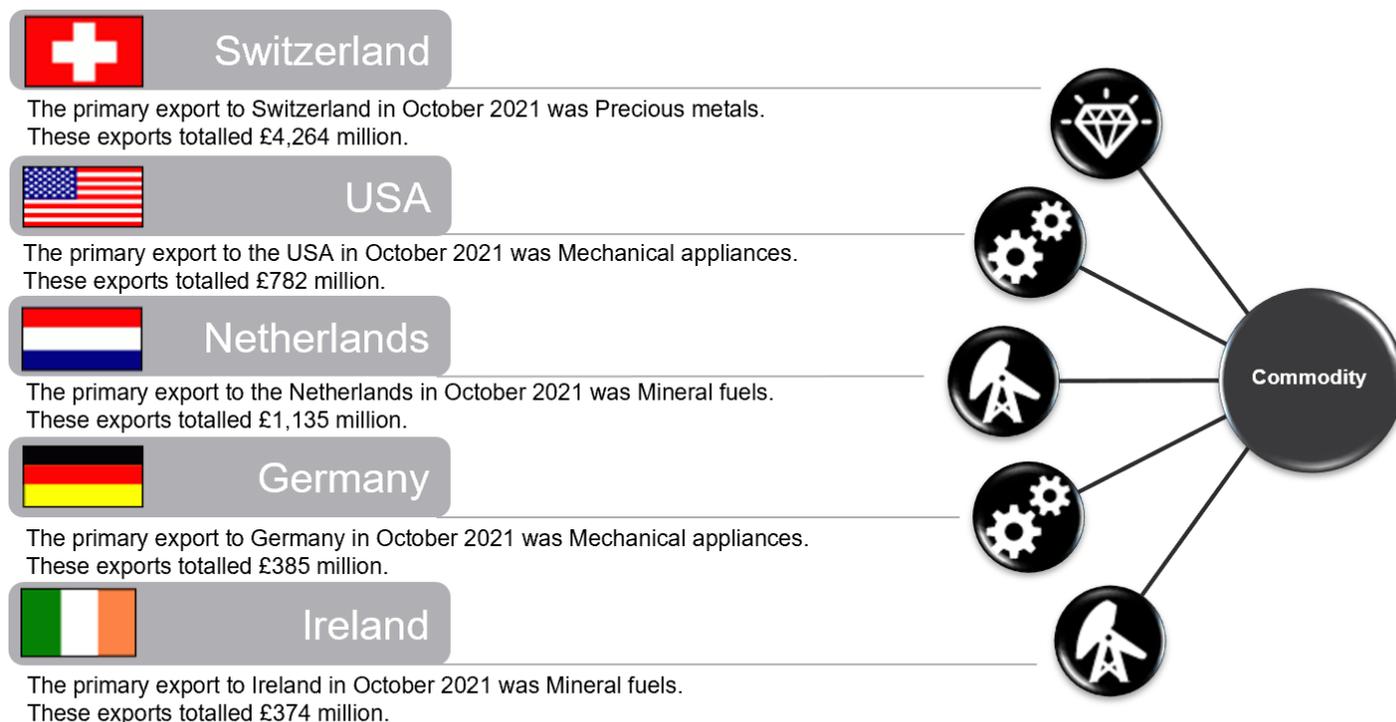
Commodity to country

- The increase in exports of Precious metals on last month was driven by Switzerland and Singapore, up £1,684 million (65%) and £398 million (from £16.7 million) respectively. The increase on October 2020 was also led by Switzerland and Singapore, up £3,643 million (to almost 7 times the value) and £401 million (from £13.1 million) respectively.
- The decrease in exports of Motor vehicles on October 2020 was led by the USA, down £293 million (38%).
- The increases in exports of Mineral fuels on last month and on October 2020 were led by the Netherlands, up £236 million (26%) and £487 million (75%) respectively.
- The increase in exports of Mechanical appliances on last month was led by the USA, up £131 million (20%). The increase on October 2020 was led by the Netherlands and the USA, up £173 million (doubling in value) and £170 million (28%) respectively.
- The increase in exports of Pharmaceutical products on last month was led by Germany and Ireland, up £170 million (to 3.5 times the value) and £160 million (to 4.5 times the value) respectively.

↑ Exports of Motor vehicles to the USA up 47% on last month

↑ Exports of Precious metals to Switzerland up to almost 7 times the value on October 2020

Figure 6: The UK's top commodity exports to the top 5 countries



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2021 data is provisional

Imports: Country Analysis

- China remained the largest import partner country, despite experiencing the largest value decrease on last month and the 2nd largest value decrease on October 2020, down £809 million (13%) and £1,217 million (18%) respectively.
- Norway experienced the largest value increases on last month and on October 2020, up £1,013 million (39%) and £2,531 million (more than tripling in value) respectively.
- Hong Kong (ranked 17th) experienced the largest value decrease on October 2020, down £1,274 million (65%).
- Germany experienced the 3rd largest value decrease on October 2020, down £902 million (16%).
- Australia (ranked 41st) experienced the 4th largest value decrease on October 2020, down £677 million (81%).
- Russia experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month, up £469 million (35%).

↓ Imports from Hong Kong down 65% on October 2020

↑ Imports from Norway up 39% on last month

Table 5: UK imports of goods from the top 10 countries, October 2021

Partner Country	October 2021	September 2021		October 2020	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on September 2021 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2020 (%)
China	5,368	6,177	-13.1	6,585	-18.5
Germany	4,805	4,770	0.7	5,707	-15.8
USA	3,794	3,749	1.2	3,931	-3.5
Norway	3,631	2,618	38.7	1,100	230.0
Netherlands	2,880	3,002	-4.1	3,278	-12.1
Belgium	2,141	2,124	0.8	2,168	-1.2
France	2,059	2,069	-0.5	2,311	-10.9
Russia	1,820	1,351	34.7	2,233	-18.5
Italy	1,578	1,563	1.0	1,751	-9.9
Turkey	1,272	1,030	23.4	1,159	9.7
Others	16,302	17,090	-4.6	19,313	-15.6
Total EU	19,702	20,650	-4.6	22,494	-12.4
Total Non-EU	25,947	24,893	4.2	27,041	-4.0
Total Imports	45,649	45,543	0.2	49,535	-7.8

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 data is provisional

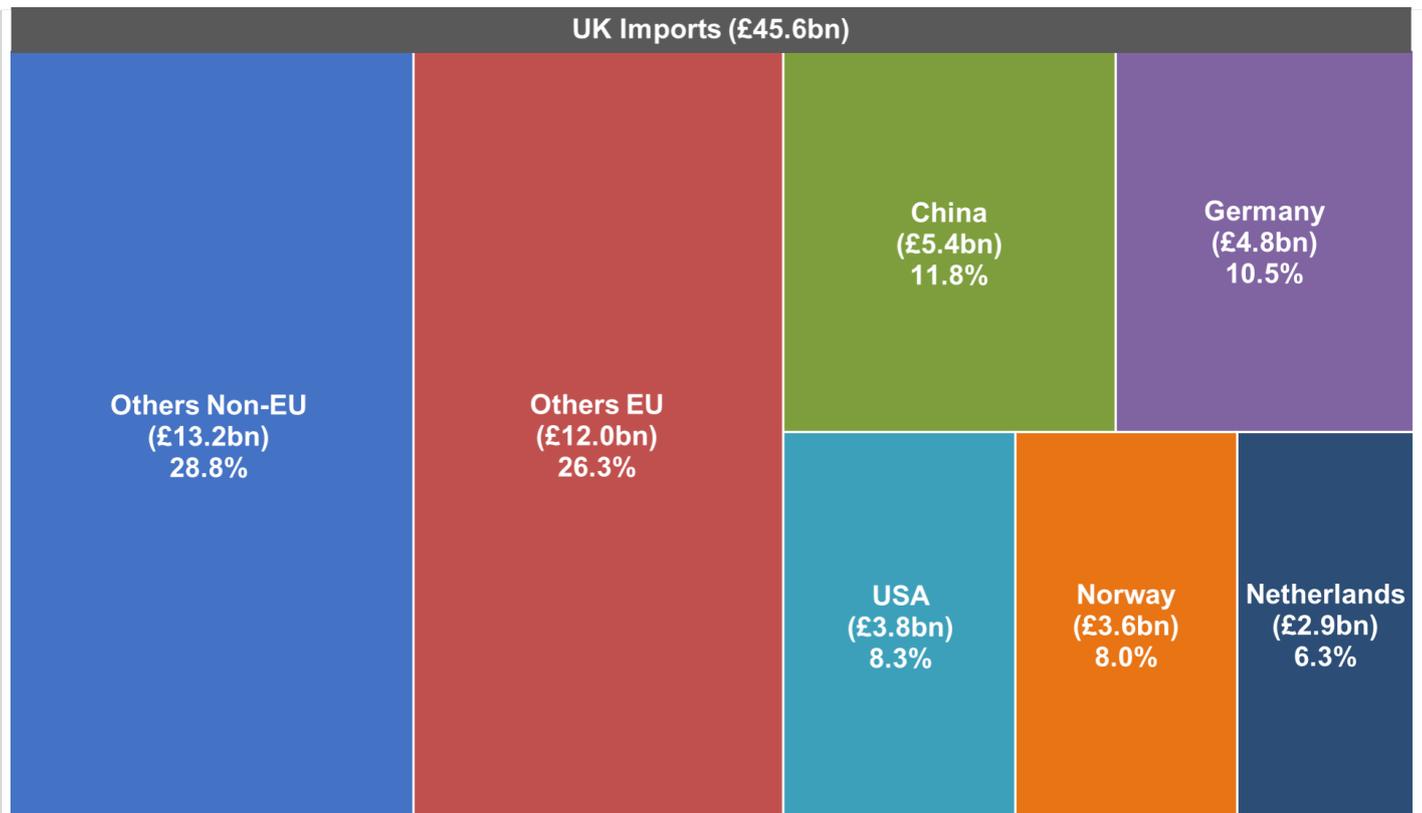
Imports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 import partners accounted for 45% of the total value of goods imported in October 2021. This was an increase from a 44% share in October 2020.
- China accounted for 12% of the total value of goods imported to the UK. This was a decrease from a 13% share in October 2020.
- Germany had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 11%. This was a decrease from a 12% share in October 2020.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Norway rose to 4th place from 5th and Turkey rose to 10th place from 12th.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with October 2020. Most notably, Norway rose to 4th place from 15th, while France fell to 7th place from 5th and Hong Kong fell to 17th place from 8th.

↑ **The top 5 partners accounted for 45% of total imports in October 2021**

↓ **China accounted for 12% of total imports in October 2021**

Figure 7: Share of UK imports of goods from the top 5 countries, October 2021



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2021 data is provisional

Imports: Country Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to October 2021, China remained the largest import partner country. Among the top 10, it experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to July 2021, up 16%.
- Among the top 10, Norway experienced the largest percentage increases on the 3 months to July 2021 and on the 3 months to October 2020, up 69% and up to 3 times the value respectively.
- Among the top 10, Russia experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to October 2020, down 31%.
- Among the top 10, Germany experienced the 2nd largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to October 2020, down 14%.
- 6 of the top 10 countries experienced an increase on the 3 months to July 2021. The exceptions were Germany, the USA, Italy, and Spain.
- 8 of the top 10 countries experienced a decrease on the 3 months to October 2020. The exceptions were the USA and Norway.

↑ Imports from Norway up 69% on the 3 months to July 2021

↓ Imports from Russia down 31% on the 3 months to October 2020

Table 6: UK imports of goods from the top 10 countries, 3 months to October 2021

Partner Country	3 months to Oct 2021		3 months to Jul 2021		3 months to Oct 2020	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on July 2021 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2020 (%)	
China	16,656	14,329	16.2	16,901	-1.5	
Germany	13,668	13,869	-1.4	15,894	-14.0	
USA	11,081	11,306	-2.0	10,962	1.1	
Netherlands	8,352	7,615	9.7	8,889	-6.0	
Norway	8,073	4,772	69.2	2,734	195.3	
Belgium	6,156	5,682	8.3	6,166	-0.2	
France	5,947	5,372	10.7	6,064	-1.9	
Russia	4,731	4,478	5.7	6,895	-31.4	
Italy	4,474	4,639	-3.6	4,681	-4.4	
Spain	3,540	3,705	-4.5	3,564	-0.7	
Others	48,264	51,431	-6.2	57,650	-16.3	
Total Imports	130,943	127,197	2.9	140,402	-6.7	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 data is provisional

Imports: Commodity Analysis

- Mineral fuels replaced Mechanical appliances as the largest import commodity. It experienced the largest value increases on last month and on October 2020, up £1,200 million (24%) and £4,129 million (up to 3 times the value) respectively.
- Precious metals experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on last month and the largest value decrease on October 2020, down £243 million (5.4%) and £4,945 million (54%) respectively.
- Clothes (not knitted) (ranked 16th) experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on October 2020, down £946 million (60%).
- Motor vehicles experienced the 3rd largest value decrease on October 2020, down £838 million (17%).
- Other textile goods (ranked 38th) experienced the 4th largest value decrease on October 2020, down £786 million (80%).
- Mechanical appliances experienced the 2nd largest value increase on October 2020, up £329 million (6.9%).
- Electronic equipment experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £261 million (6.0%).

↑ Imports of Mineral fuels up 24% on last month

↓ Imports of Precious metals down 54% on October 2020

Table 7: UK imports of goods for the top 10 commodities, October 2021

Commodity Description	October 2021	September 2021		October 2020	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on September 2021 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2020 (%)
Mineral fuels	6,211	5,011	24.0	2,083	198.2
Mechanical appliances	5,121	5,241	-2.3	4,792	6.9
Precious metals	4,228	4,471	-5.4	9,173	-53.9
Motor vehicles	4,168	4,272	-2.4	5,006	-16.7
Electronic equipment	4,086	4,348	-6.0	4,124	-0.9
Pharmaceutical products	1,829	1,958	-6.6	1,926	-5.0
Plastics and plastic products	1,343	1,430	-6.1	1,423	-5.6
Measuring devices and gauges	1,105	1,190	-7.2	1,537	-28.1
Knitwear	896	895	0.1	1,109	-19.2
Furniture and light fittings	849	934	-9.0	828	2.6
Others	15,811	15,793	0.1	17,534	-9.8
Total Imports	45,649	45,543	0.2	49,535	-7.8

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 data is provisional

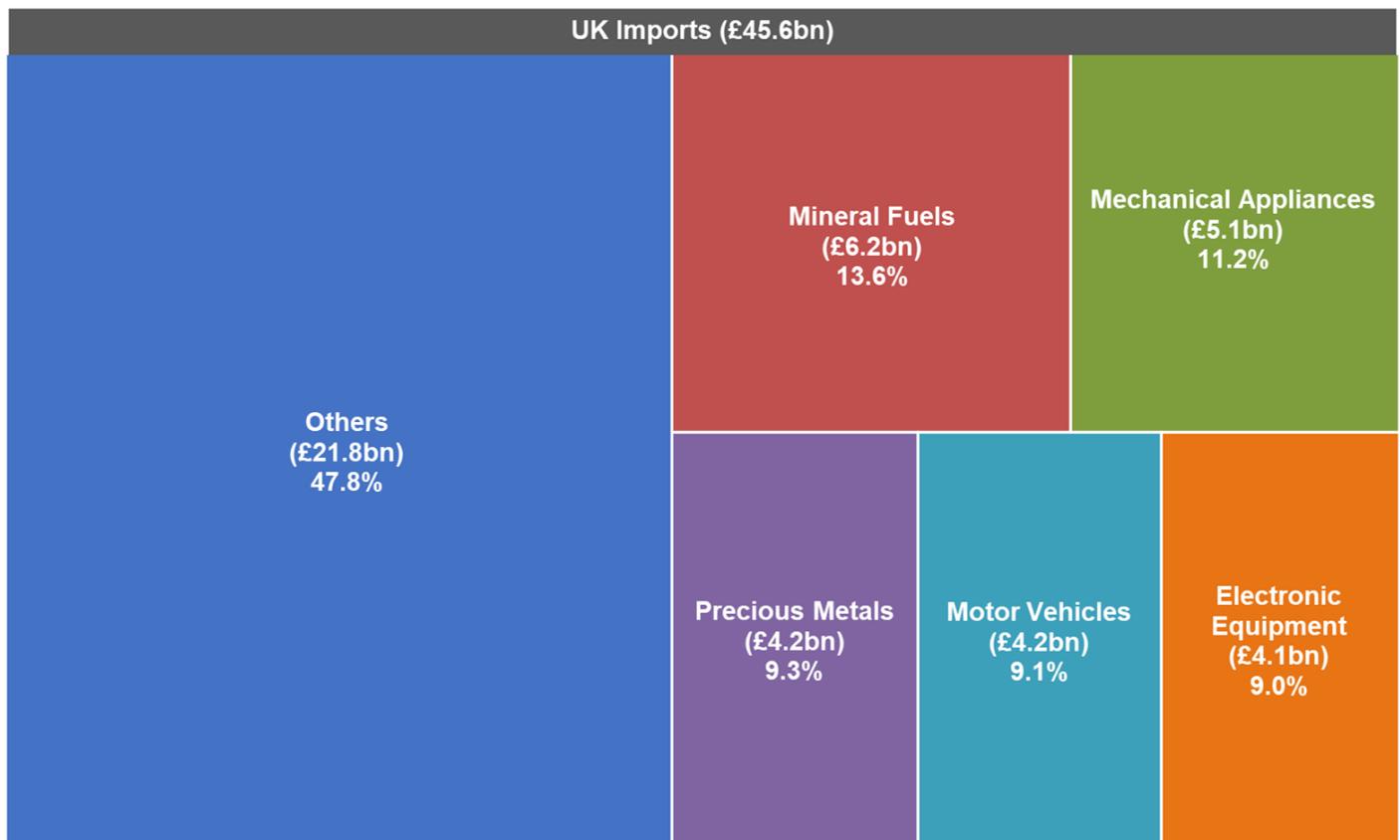
Imports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 import commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 52% of the total value of goods imported in October 2021. This was an increase from a 51% share in October 2020.
- Mineral fuels accounted for 14% of the total value of goods imported to the UK. This was an increase from a 4.2% share in October 2020.
- Mechanical appliances had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for an 11% share. This was an increase from a 9.7% share in October 2020.
- The top 10 commodities (ranked by value) changed order compared with last month. Most notably, Mineral fuels rose to 1st place from 2nd, while Mechanical appliances fell to 2nd place from 1st.
- The top 10 commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with October 2020. Most notably, Mineral fuels rose to 1st place from 5th, while Precious metals fell to 3rd place from 1st and Clothes (not knitted) fell to 16th place from 7th.

↑ **The top 5 import commodities accounted for 52% of total imports in October 2021**

↑ **Mineral fuels accounted for 14% of total imports in October 2021**

Figure 8: Share of UK imports for the top 5 commodities, October 2021



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2021 data is provisional

Imports: Commodity Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to October 2021, Mineral fuels replaced as Precious metals as the largest import commodity. Among the top 10, it experienced the largest percentage increases on the 3 months to July 2021 and on the 3 months to October 2020, up 45% and up to 2.5 times the value respectively.
- Among the top 10, Precious metals experienced the largest percentage decreases on the 3 months to July 2021 and on the 3 months to October 2020, down 26% and 54% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Knitwear experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to July 2021, up 29%.
- Among the top 10, Pharmaceutical appliances experienced the 3rd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to July 2021, up 16%.
- 7 of the top 10 commodities experienced an increase on the 3 months to July 2021. The exceptions were Precious metals, Measuring devices and gauges, and Furniture and light fittings.
- 5 of the top 10 commodities experienced increases on the 3 months to October 2020 and 5 experienced decreases.

↑ Imports of Mineral fuels up 45% on the 3 months to July 2021

↓ Imports of Precious metals down 54% on the 3 months to October 2020

Table 8: UK imports of goods for the top 10 commodities, 3 months to October 2021

Commodity Description	3 months to Oct 2021		3 months to Jul 2021		3 months to Oct 2020	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on July 2021 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2020 (%)	
Mineral fuels	14,713	10,121	45.4	5,838	152.0	
Mechanical appliances	14,680	14,605	0.5	13,229	11.0	
Precious metals	14,254	19,384	-26.5	31,207	-54.3	
Electronic equipment	11,685	10,632	9.9	11,289	3.5	
Motor vehicles	11,650	11,513	1.2	12,817	-9.1	
Pharmaceutical products	5,444	4,708	15.6	4,853	12.2	
Plastics and plastic products	4,093	4,014	2.0	4,114	-0.5	
Measuring devices and gauges	3,399	3,453	-1.6	3,998	-15.0	
Furniture and light fittings	2,658	2,668	-0.4	2,314	14.9	
Knitwear	2,529	1,958	29.2	2,931	-13.7	
Others	45,839	44,140	3.9	47,812	-4.1	
Total Imports	130,943	127,197	2.9	140,402	-6.7	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2020 and 2021 data is provisional

Imports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

Country to commodity:

- The decrease in imports from China on last month was driven by Precious metals and Motor vehicles, down £239 million (87%) and £187 million (53%) respectively. The decrease on October 2020 was driven by Other textile goods and Clothes (not knitted), down £717 million (89%) and £674 million (81%).
- The increases in imports from Norway on last month and on October 2020 were dominated by Mineral fuels, up £1,019 million (43%) and £2,480 million (to almost 4 times the value) respectively.
- The increase in imports from Russia on last month was dominated by Precious metals, up £399 million (41%).

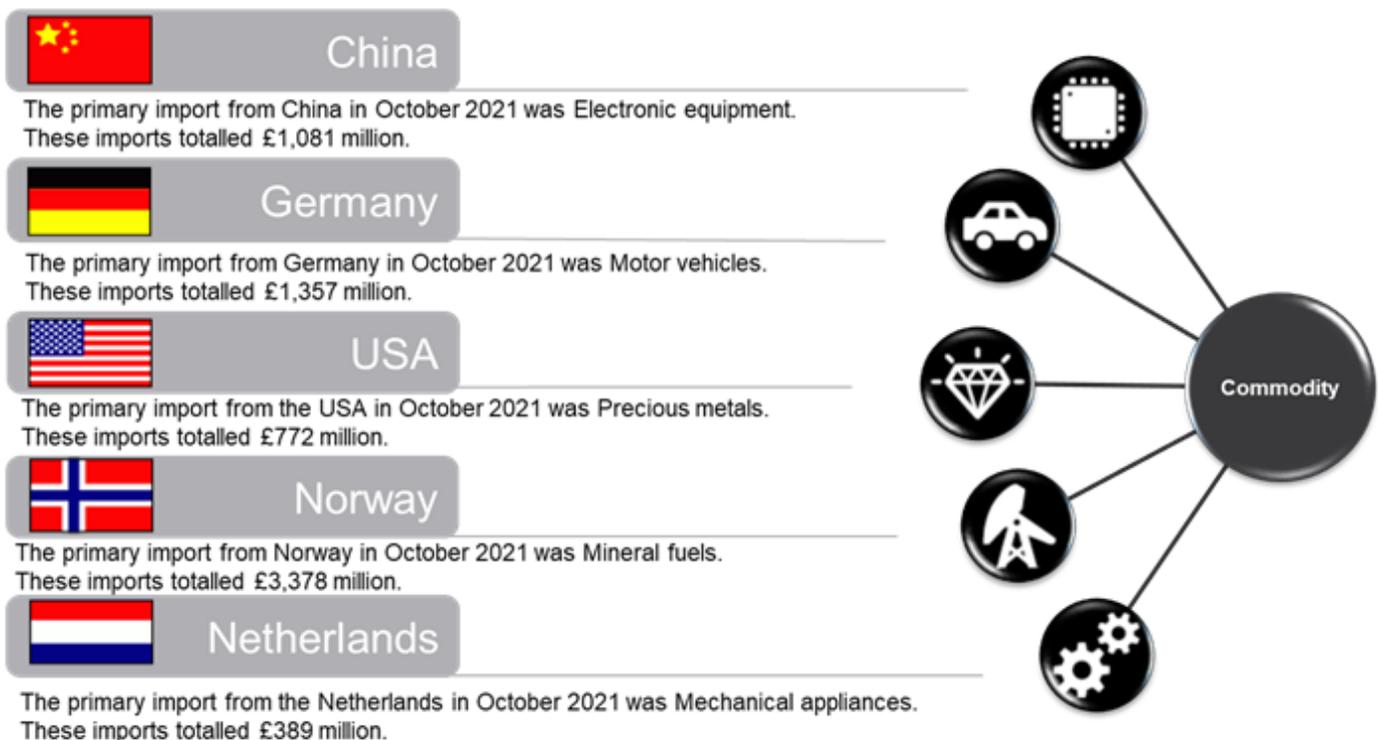
↑ Imports of Mineral fuels from Norway up 43% on last month

↓ Imports of Precious metals from Hong Kong down 97% on October 2020

Commodity to country:

- The decrease in imports of Precious metals on last month was driven by South Africa, China, and Kazakhstan, down £307 million (53%), £239 million (87%), and £229 million (50%) respectively. The decrease on October 2020 was driven by Hong Kong, Australia, and Switzerland, down £1,176 million (97%), £713 million (to £2.9 million), and £673 million (88%) respectively.
- The decrease in imports of Motor vehicles on October 2020 was driven by Germany and Belgium, down £443 million (25%) and £218 million (37%) respectively.
- The increase in imports of Mechanical appliances on October 2020 was driven by China, up £178 million (21%).
- The decrease in imports of Electronic equipment on last month was driven by China and the Czech Republic, down £159 million (13%) and £96.5 million (61%) respectively.

Figure 9: The UK's top commodity imports from the top 5 countries



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2021 data is provisional

Methodology Notes

Metadata

Data behind this bulletin is available 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](#).

Data sources

UK to EU exports

Up to 31 December 2020, UK to EU export statistics were collected via the Intrastat statistical survey, which required traders to declare the value and volume of commodities exported to EU Member States within the relevant month of physical goods movement.

For goods moving from 1 January 2021, GB to EU export statistics are compiled direct from customs export declarations made according to the requirements of the Taxation (Cross Border Trade) Act. The customs declaration requirements are more complex than the single monthly aggregated Intrastat return, and can result in differences between dates of declaration and actual movement of the goods out of the country.

The TIGS compilation methodology relies upon the acceptance date of the customs export declaration for its inclusion within the relevant month of account, rather than the declared physical movement date used from the Intrastat survey.

Intrastat survey returns continue to be collected for goods exported from Northern Ireland to the EU, under the terms of the [Northern Ireland Protocol](#).

Both the GB to EU customs export declaration data and NI Intrastat export (dispatch) data are incorporated into the overall UK to EU export dataset.

As a result of the changes and differences outlined above, there is a break in the timeseries for published UK to EU export statistics from January 2021. These will not be directly comparable to UK to EU export statistics published for previous months and years.

UK imports from EU

UK imports from EU statistics is not impacted by any change in 2021. The Intrastat survey continues to operate for all UK (GB and NI) imports (arrivals) from the EU, to mitigate the effects of staging customs controls, and to comply with the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Figures derived from Intrastat include:

- Estimates for businesses who have yet to submit detailed data on the trade they had with other EU Member States this month.
- Estimates for businesses who do not have to submit detailed data on the trade they have with other EU Member States.
- An adjustment for trade associated with Missing Trader Intra Community fraud. More details of this can be found in the OTS methodology paper [here](#).

Estimates are included in all high-level totals including commodity (HS2) and country totals.

The **Non-EU figures** provided in this publication of the October 2021 Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics are presented by customs declarations and collected by the CHIEF (Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight) system. Declarations collected via the Customs Declarations Service (CDS) are included: for imports from August 2020 month of account; and for exports from December 2020 month of account onwards.

Detailed trade information is presented according to the [Harmonised System \(HS\)](#) nomenclature.

Methodology

The Overseas Trade Statistics Methodology paper (March 2021) is available [here](#). It covers all aspects of the Overseas Trade Statistics methodology – data sources, classifications and definitions, quality assurance,

publications and governance. It is a useful companion to the trade data, providing the definitions and methodologies on which the data are based.

From 31 December 2020, the free movement of people and goods and services between the UK and the EU ended. This changed the way HMRC collects trade in goods statistics. The overall UK to EU export dataset will incorporate both GB to EU customs export declaration data and NI Intrastat export (dispatch) data. As a result, there will be a break in the timeseries for published UK to EU export statistics from January 2021. Users should take care when comparing previous months and years.

From the May 2016 month of account, there was a methodological change to the way our trade-in-goods statistics are compiled. Following a change in legislation, trade-in-goods statistics switched from the 'general trade' system of compilation to the 'special trade' system.

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](#).

Relationship with other statistical publications

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 2 sets of data are compiled to different sets of rules. The ONS website provides an overview of [BoP](#), where you can find their 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.

National Statistics Publication

HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with countries on 11 November 2021 under arrangements set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#). The 1st release is published on HMRC's trade data website www.uktradeinfo.com.

This release includes the 1st provisional estimates of trade-in-goods between the UK and both countries of the EU and those outside the EU for October 2021. At the same time revisions for all previously published non-EU and EU data for 2021 are also being released in line with the [HM Revenue & Customs Policy on Revisions](#).

The next three publications are due for release on the following days:

Month of account	First release date
November 2021	14 January 2022
December 2021	11 February 2022
January 2022	March 2022

The OTS has been reviewed as part of an assessment made of Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics by the [UK Statistics Authority](#). The report of that assessment can be found [here](#).

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.

Now that the UK has left the EU, it is important that our statistics continue to be of high quality and are internationally comparable. All releases continue to be produced in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Statistics as well as internationally agreed statistical guidance and standards.