



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 March 2022.

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

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Coverage: United Kingdom
 Theme: Business and Energy
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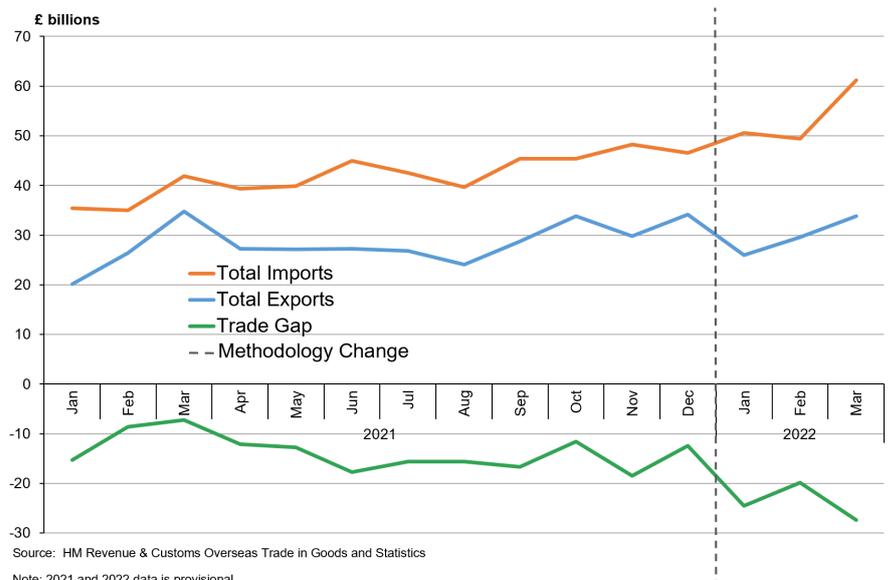
Trade in Goods, March 2022

From January 2022, the UK from EU import dataset incorporates both the GB from EU customs import declaration data and NI Intrastat import (arrival) data. This creates a break in the time series, users should take care when making comparisons with months and years prior to 2022.

A full explanation of data sources used throughout this release can be found on page 18.

- Total **exports** of goods for March 2022 were £33.8 billion. This was up £4.2 billion (14%) compared with last month, but down £1.0 billion (2.8%) compared with March 2021.
- Total **imports** of goods for March 2022 were £61.2 billion. This was up £11.7 billion (24%) compared with last month and up £19.3 billion (46%) compared with March 2021.
- The UK was a net importer this month, with **imports** exceeding **exports** by £27.4 billion, widening by £7.5 billion on last month.

Figure 1: Total UK monthly Trade in Goods



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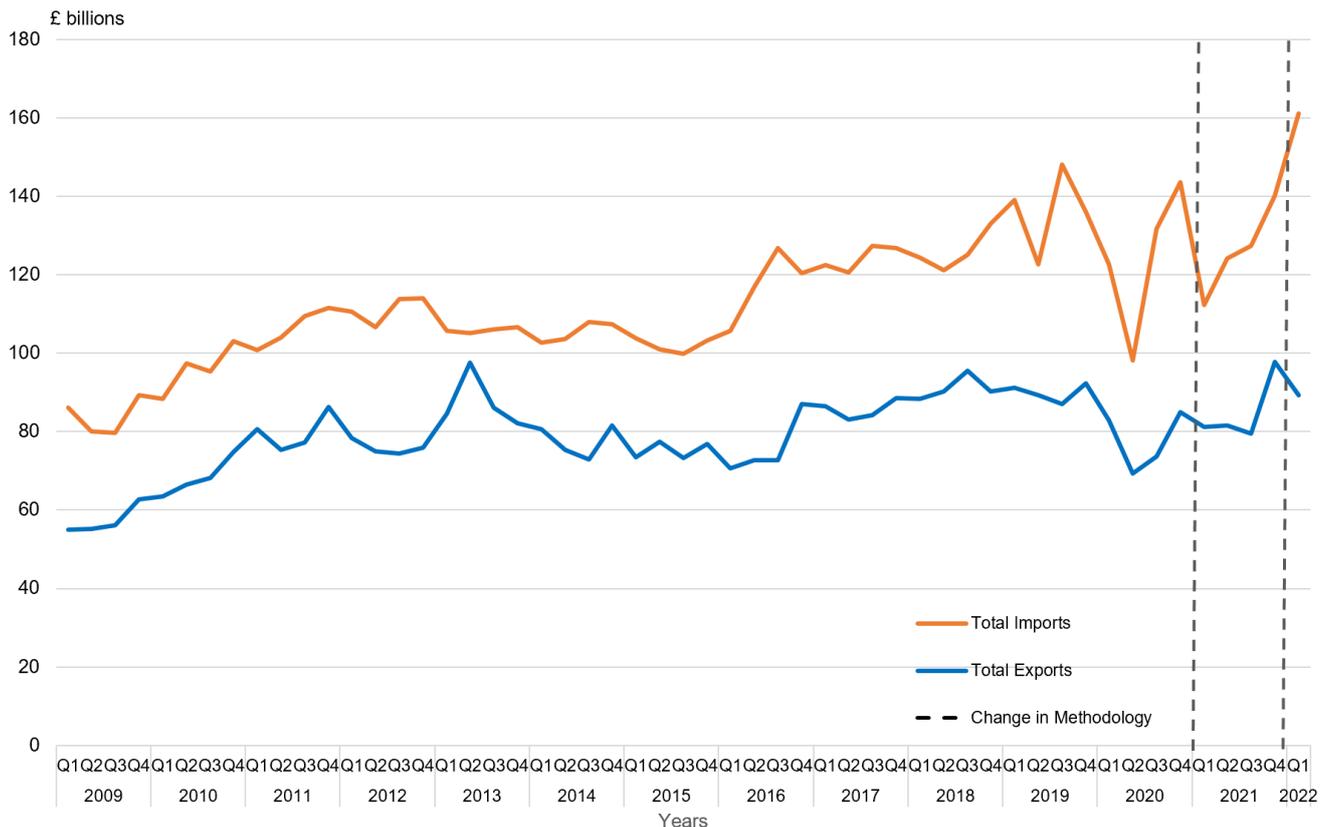
Trade in Goods Trends

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, including a sharp increase to £161bn in Q1 of 2022. Exports peaked in Q2 of 2013, and again in Q4 of 2021, with a steady rise from Q2 of 2017 to Q3 of 2018. Q2 of 2020 saw the lowest quarterly exports value since Q3 of 2010.

- The total **export** trade for Q1 of 2022 was £89.3 billion, which was an increase of 10% compared with £81.2 billion for Q1 of 2021.
- The total **import** trade for Q1 of 2022 was £161 billion, which was an increase of 43% compared with £112 billion for Q1 of 2021.
- There was a trade deficit of £71.8 billion for Q1 of 2022. This was a widening to more than double the value compared with £31.1 billion for Q1 of 2021.
- For many years Germany has been our largest trading import partner by value, with a recent peak from 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 generally been the largest commodity by value, with occasional peaks for Precious metals.

- ↑ Exports up 10% on Q1 2021
- ↑ Imports up 43% on Q1 2021
- ↑ Trade deficit widened to more than double the value of Q1 2021

Figure 2: Quarterly UK Trade in Goods, 2009 – 2022



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2021 and 2022 data is provisional

Non-EU & EU Trade in Goods

Non-EU Trade in Goods:

- **Non-EU exports** for March 2022 were £16.1 billion. This was an increase of £1.6 billion (11%) on last month, but a decrease of £4.3 billion (21%) compared with March 2021.
- **Non-EU imports** for March 2022 were £32.1 billion. This was an increase of £6.3 billion (24%) on last month and an increase of £10.5 billion (48%) compared with March 2021.
- For **non-EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £16.0 billion.

↑ **Non-EU imports up 48% on March 2021**

EU Trade in Goods:

- **EU exports** for March 2022 were £17.7 billion. This was an increase of £2.6 billion (18%) on last month and an increase of £3.3 billion (23%) compared with March 2021.
- **EU imports** for March 2022 were £29.1 billion. This was an increase of £5.5 billion (23%) on last month and an increase of £8.8 billion (43%) compared with March 2021.
- For **EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £11.4 billion.

↑ **EU exports up 18% on last month**

Figure 3: Total UK Trade in Goods, with EU and Non-EU, March 2022



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2022 data is provisional

Exports: Country Analysis

- The USA remained the largest export partner country. It experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month, up £833 million (24%).
- Switzerland experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on last month and the largest value decrease on March 2021, down £202 million (11%) and £4,133 million (73%) respectively.
- Germany experienced the largest value increases on last month and on March 2021, up £1,195 million (46%) and £875 million (30%) respectively.
- The Netherlands experienced the 3rd largest value increase on last month and 2nd largest value increase on March 2021, up £412 million (18%) and £769 million (39%) respectively.
- Ireland experienced the 3rd largest value increase on March 2021, up £651 million (35%).
- China experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on March 2021, down £367 million (23%).

↓ Exports to Switzerland down 73% on March 2021

↑ Exports to Germany up 46% on last month

Table 1: UK exports of goods to the top 10 countries, March 2022

Partner Country	March 2022	February 2022		March 2021	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on February 2022 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on March 2021 (%)
USA	4,249	3,416	24.4	4,275	-0.6
Germany	3,799	2,605	45.9	2,925	29.9
Netherlands	2,746	2,334	17.7	1,977	38.9
Ireland	2,505	2,432	3.0	1,854	35.1
France	2,091	1,926	8.6	1,798	16.3
Belgium	1,623	1,483	9.5	1,486	9.2
Switzerland	1,556	1,758	-11.5	5,689	-72.6
China	1,257	1,122	12.1	1,624	-22.6
Italy	928	802	15.7	857	8.3
Spain	919	773	18.9	712	29.0
Others	12,110	10,897	11.1	11,544	4.9
Total EU	17,713	15,063	17.6	14,392	23.1
Total Non-EU	16,071	14,484	11.0	20,351	-21.0
Total Exports	33,784	29,547	14.3	34,743	-2.8

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 and 2022 data is provisional

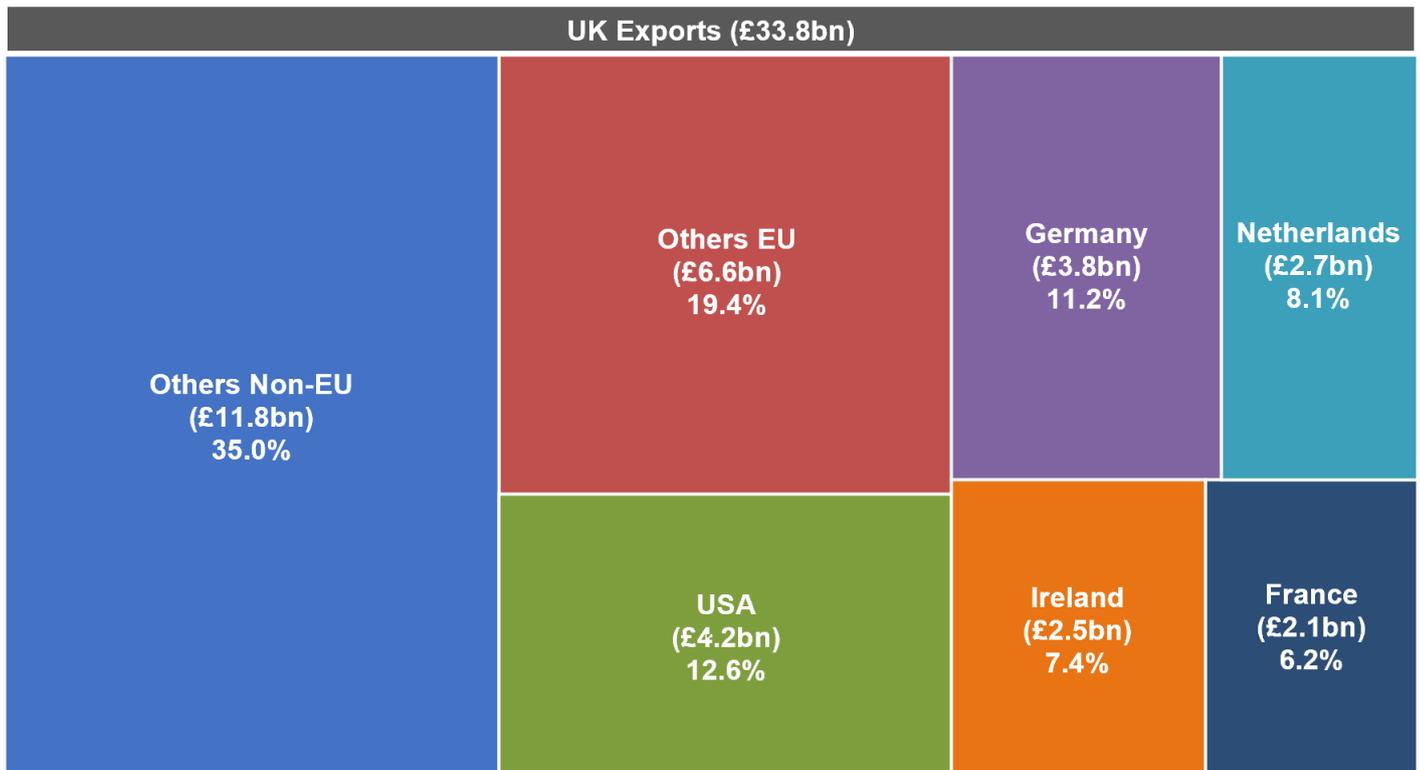
Exports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 export partners accounted for 46% of the total value of goods exported in March 2022. This was a decrease from a 48% share in March 2021.
- The USA accounted for 13% of the total value of goods exported from the UK. This was an increase from 12% in March 2021.
- Germany had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 11% of the total value of goods exported from the UK. This was an increase from an 8.4% share in March 2021.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed order compared with last month. Most notably, the Netherlands rose to 3rd place from 4th, while Ireland fell to 4th place from 3rd.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed order compared with March 2021. Most notably, Belgium rose to 6th place from 8th, while Switzerland fell to 7th place from 1st.

↑ **The USA had a 13% share of total exports in March 2022**

↑ **Germany had an 11% share of total exports in March 2022**

Figure 4: Share of UK exports of goods to the top 5 countries, March 2022



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2022 data is provisional

Exports: Country Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to March 2022, the USA remained the largest export partner country.
- Among the top 10, Ireland experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to March 2021, up 67%.
- Among the top 10, Switzerland experienced the largest percentage decreases on the 3 months to December 2021 and on the 3 months to March 2021, down 47%, and 43% respectively.
- Among the top 10, the Netherlands experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to March 2021, up 40%.
- Among the top 10, China experienced the 2nd largest percentage decreases on the 3 months to December 2021 and on the 3 months to March 2021, down 11% and 13% respectively.
- 6 of the top 10 export partners experienced a decrease on the 3 months to December 2021. Germany, France, Belgium, and Spain were the exceptions.
- 8 of the top 10 export partners experienced an increase on the 3 months to March 2021. Switzerland and China were the exceptions.

↓ Exports to the Switzerland down 47% on the 3 months to December 2021

↑ Exports to Ireland up 67% on the 3 months to March 2021

Table 2: UK exports of goods to the top 10 countries, 3 months to March 2022

Partner Country	3 months to Mar 2022		3 months to Dec 2021		3 months to Mar 2021	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on December 2021 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on March 2021 (%)	
USA	10,909	11,396	-4.3	10,767	1.3	
Germany	8,299	7,555	9.9	6,825	21.6	
Netherlands	7,446	7,586	-1.9	5,310	40.2	
Ireland	6,671	6,721	-0.7	3,999	66.8	
Switzerland	5,710	10,802	-47.1	10,022	-43.0	
France	5,254	5,206	0.9	4,088	28.5	
Belgium	4,166	4,025	3.5	3,392	22.8	
China	3,398	3,818	-11.0	3,898	-12.8	
Spain	2,269	2,195	3.4	1,730	31.1	
Italy	2,217	2,226	-0.4	1,936	14.5	
Others	33,009	36,242	-8.9	29,274	12.8	
Total Exports	89,349	97,772	-8.6	81,241	10.0	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 and 2022 data is provisional

Exports: Commodity Analysis

- Mechanical appliances remained the largest export commodity. It experienced the 2nd largest value increases on last month and on March 2021, up £551 million (12%) and £450 million (9.9%) respectively.
- Mineral fuels experienced the largest value increases on last month and on March 2021, up £1,721 million (72%) and £2,332 million (more than doubling in value) respectively.
- Precious metals experienced the 5th largest value increase on last month, up £294 million (8.9%). In contrast, it experienced the largest value decrease on March 2021, down £4,024 million (53%).
- Motor vehicles experienced the 3rd largest value increase on last month, up £440 million (18%). In contrast, it experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on March 2021, down £723 million (20%).
- Pharmaceutical products experienced the 4th largest value increase on last month and the 3rd largest increase on March 2021, up £305 million (18%) and £282 million (16%) respectively.
- Iron and steel (ranked 12th) experienced the 4th largest value increase on March 2021, up £216 million (39%).

↑ **Exports of Mineral fuels up 72% on last month**

↓ **Exports of Precious metals down 53% on March 2021**

Table 3: UK exports of goods for the top 10 commodities, March 2022

Commodity Description	March 2022	February 2022		March 2021	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on February 2022 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on March 2021 (%)
Mechanical appliances	4,976	4,425	12.4	4,526	9.9
Mineral fuels	4,119	2,398	71.8	1,787	130.6
Precious metals	3,601	3,306	8.9	7,625	-52.8
Motor vehicles	2,863	2,423	18.2	3,586	-20.2
Pharmaceutical products	2,031	1,726	17.7	1,749	16.1
Electronic equipment	1,857	1,682	10.4	1,773	4.7
Measuring devices and gauges	1,449	1,291	12.2	1,454	-0.4
Plastics and plastic products	1,018	943	7.9	865	17.6
Other products	996	1,287	-22.6	1,467	-32.1
Organic chemicals	902	761	18.6	1,025	-12.0
Others	9,973	9,305	7.2	8,887	12.2
Total Exports	33,784	29,547	14.3	34,743	-2.8

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 and 2022 data is provisional

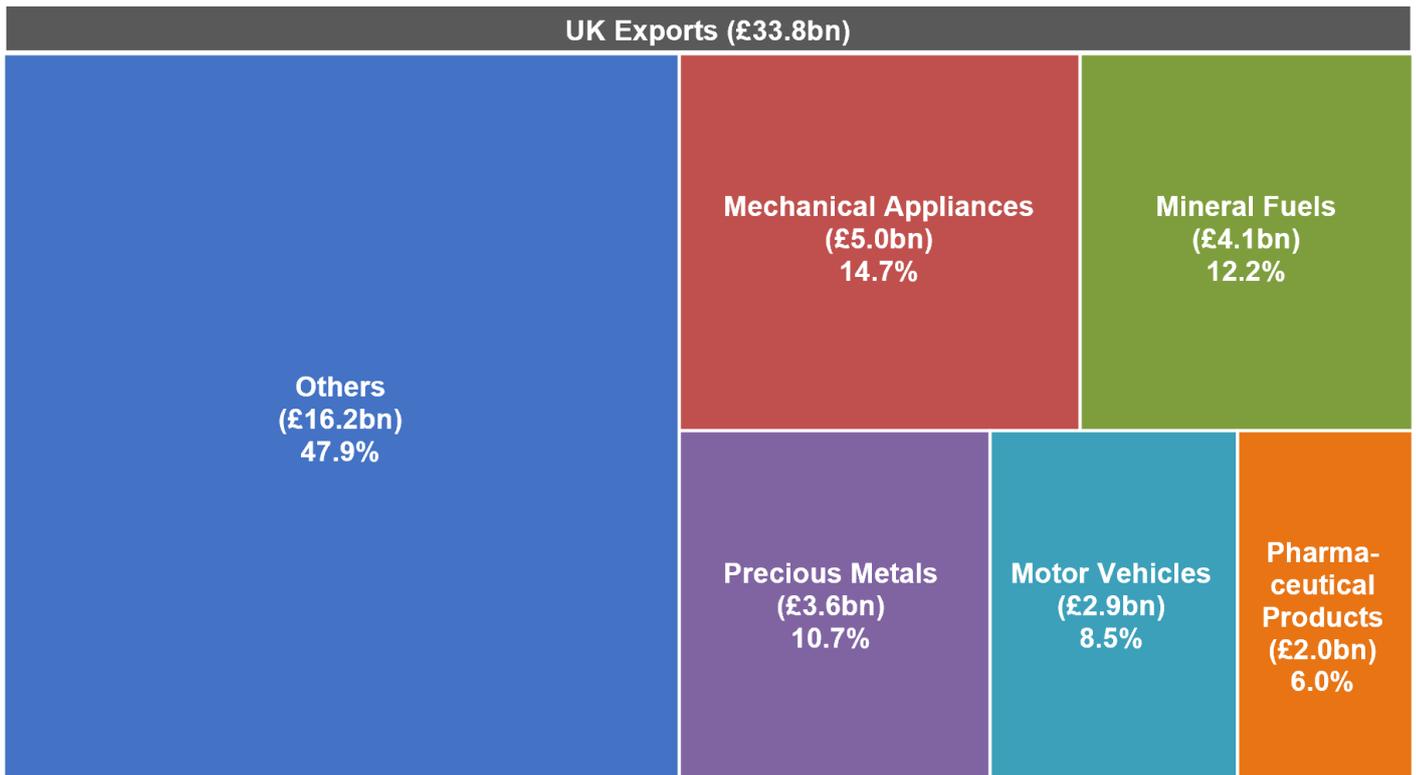
Exports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 export commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 52% of the total value of goods exported in March 2022. This was a decrease from a 56% share in March 2021.
- Mechanical appliances accounted for 15% of the total value of goods exported from the UK. This was an increase from a 13% share in March 2021.
- Mineral fuels had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 12% of total exports. This was an increase from a 5.1% share in March 2021.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Mineral fuels rose to 2nd place from 4th.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with March 2021. Most notably, Precious metals fell to 3rd place from 1st, while Plastics & plastic products rose to 8th place from 11th.

↑ **Mechanical appliances accounted for 15% of total exports in March 2022**

↑ **Mineral fuels accounted for 12% of total exports in March 2022**

Figure 5: Share of UK exports by the top 5 commodities, March 2022



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2022 data is provisional

Exports: Commodity Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to March 2022, Mechanical appliances replaced Precious metals as the largest export commodity. Among the top 10, it experienced the 3rd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to March 2021, up 21%.
- Among the top 10, Mineral fuels experienced the largest percentage increases on the 3 months to December 2021 and on the 3 months to March 2021, up 14% and 84% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Precious metals experienced the largest percentage decreases on the 3 months to December 2021 and on the 3 months to March 2021, down 31% and 25% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Plastics & plastic products experienced the 2nd largest percentage increases on the 3 months to December 2021 and on the 3 months to March 2021, up 7.6% and 27% respectively.
- 8 of the top 10 export commodities experienced a decrease on the 3 months to December 2021. The exceptions were Mineral fuels and Plastic & plastic products.
- 6 of the top 10 export commodities experienced an increase on the 3 months to March 2021. The exceptions were Precious metals, Motor vehicles, Other products, and Aircraft.

↑ **Mineral fuels exports up 84% on the 3 months to March 2021**

↓ **Precious metals exports down 31% on the 3 months to December 2021**

Table 4: UK exports of goods for the top 10 commodities, 3 months to March 2022

Commodity Description	3 months to Mar 2022		3 months to Dec 2021		3 months to Mar 2021	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on December 2021 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on March 2021 (%)	
Mechanical appliances	13,301	14,234	-6.6	10,996	21.0	
Precious metals	10,913	15,843	-31.1	14,625	-25.4	
Mineral fuels	9,538	8,401	13.5	5,182	84.1	
Motor vehicles	7,252	7,592	-4.5	8,487	-14.6	
Pharmaceutical products	4,931	5,301	-7.0	4,271	15.5	
Electronic equipment	4,890	5,394	-9.4	4,276	14.4	
Measuring devices and gauges	3,769	3,973	-5.1	3,450	9.3	
Other products	3,534	5,166	-31.6	4,090	-13.6	
Plastics and plastic products	2,625	2,441	7.6	2,074	26.6	
Aircraft	2,444	2,536	-3.6	2,594	-5.8	
Others	26,152	26,893	-2.8	21,197	23.4	
Total Exports	89,349	97,772	-8.6	81,241	10.0	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2021 and 2022 data is provisional

Exports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

Country to commodity:

- The increase in exports to the USA on last month was driven by Organic chemicals, up £185 million (to almost 3 times the value) and Precious metals, up £135 million (to more than double the value).
- The increase in exports to Germany on last month was led by Precious metals and Pharmaceutical products, up £502 million (to 3 times the value) and £317 million (to more than 4.5 times the value) respectively. The increase on March 2021 was also led by Precious metals and Pharmaceutical products, up £423 million (to more than double the value) and £316 million (to more than 4.5 times the value) respectively.
- The decreases in exports to Switzerland on last month and on March 2021 were dominated by Precious metals, down £196 million (14%) and £4,137 million (77%) respectively.

↑ Exports of Organic chemicals to the USA up to almost 3 times the value on last month

↓ Exports of Precious metals to Switzerland down 77% on March 2021

Commodity to country

- The increase in exports of Mechanical appliances on last month was led by the USA, up £116 million (18%). The increase on March 2021 was over many countries with no overall driver.
- The increase in exports of Mineral fuels on last month was led by the Netherlands and Ireland, up £327 million (50%) and £239 million (62%) respectively. The increase on March 2021 was also led by the Netherlands and Ireland, up £548 million (to more than double the value) and £435 million (to more than 3 times the value) respectively.
- The increase in exports of Motor vehicles on last month was led by Peru, up £83.9 million from £0.2 million. The decrease on March 2021 was led by the USA and China, down £225 million (30%) and £130 million (34%) respectively.

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



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2022 data is provisional

Imports: Country Analysis

- Germany remained the largest import partner country. It experienced the 4th largest value increases on last month and on March 2021, up £939 million (16%) and £1,269 million (23%) respectively.
- Norway experienced the largest value increases on both last month and on March 2021, up £1,808 million (55%) and £3,784 million (to almost 4 times the value) respectively.
- The USA experienced the 2nd largest value increases on both last month and on March 2021, up £1,384 million (30%) and £2,370 million (66%) respectively.
- The Netherlands experienced the 3rd largest value increases on last month and on March 2021, up £1,132 million (31%) and £2,262 million (89%) respectively.
- Russia (ranked 24th) experienced the largest value decreases on both last month and on March 2021, down £1,234 million (72%) and £812 million (63%) respectively.
- France experienced the 5th largest value increase on March 2021, up £1,133 million (58%).

↑ Imports from Germany up 16% on last month.

↑ Imports from Norway up to almost 4 times the value on March 2021.

Table 5: UK imports of goods from the top 10 countries, March 2022

Partner Country	March 2022		February 2022		March 2021	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on February 2022 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on March 2021 (%)	
Germany	6,776	5,837	16.1	5,508	23.0	
USA	5,950	4,566	30.3	3,580	66.2	
China	5,357	4,790	11.8	5,442	-1.6	
Norway	5,118	3,310	54.6	1,334	283.6	
Netherlands	4,806	3,675	30.8	2,544	88.9	
France	3,091	2,550	21.2	1,959	57.8	
Belgium	2,429	2,088	16.3	1,880	29.2	
Italy	2,400	1,745	37.5	1,668	43.9	
Spain	1,998	1,647	21.3	1,409	41.8	
Switzerland	1,752	889	97.1	911	92.3	
Others	21,508	18,347	17.2	15,693	37.1	
Total EU	29,084	23,609	23.2	20,285	43.4	
Total Non-EU	32,102	25,834	24.3	21,642	48.3	
Total Imports	61,186	49,443	23.7	41,927	45.9	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 and 2022 data are provisional

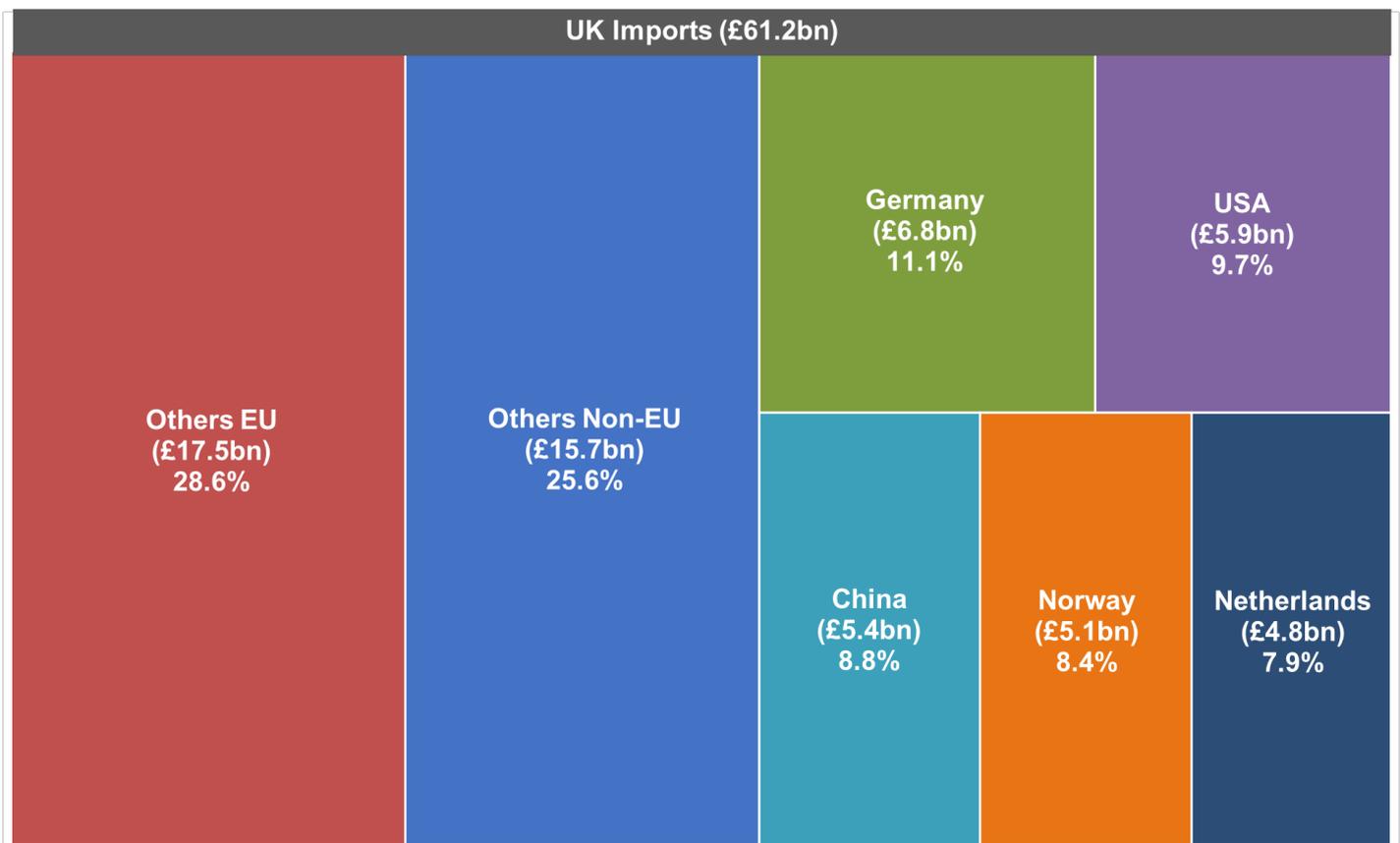
Imports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 import partners accounted for 46% of the total value of goods imported in March 2022. This was an increase from a 45% share in March 2021.
- Germany accounted for 11% of the total value of goods imported to the UK. This was a decrease from a 13% share in March 2021.
- The USA had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 9.7%. This was an increase from an 8.5% share in March 2021.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, the USA rose to 2nd place from 3rd, while Russia fell to 24th place from 9th.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with March 2021. Most notably, Norway rose to 4th place from 9th and Switzerland rose to 10th place from 14th.

↑ **The top 5 partners accounted for 46% of total imports in March 2022**

↓ **Germany accounted for 11% of total imports in March 2022**

Figure 7: Share of UK imports of goods from the top 5 countries, March 2022



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2022 data is provisional

Imports: Country Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to March 2022, Germany replaced China as the largest import partner country.
- Among the top 10, Norway experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to March 2021, up to almost 3 times the value.
- Among the top 10, the Netherlands experienced the 3rd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to December 2021 and the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to March 2021, up 40% and 76% respectively.
- Among the top 10, France experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to December 2021 and the 3rd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to March 2021, up 41% and 64% respectively.
- Among the top 10, the USA experienced the 4th largest percentage increases on the 3 months to December 2021 and on the 3 months to March 2021, up 33% and 60% respectively.
- 8 of the top 10 countries experienced an increase on the 3 months to December 2021. The exceptions were China and Norway.
- All top 10 countries experienced an increase on the 3 months to March 2021.

↑ Imports from Germany up 27% on the 3 months to December 2021

↑ Imports from Norway up to almost 3 times the value on the 3 months to March 2021

Table 6: UK imports of goods from the top 10 countries, 3 months to March 2022

Partner Country	3 months to Mar 2022		3 months to Dec 2021		3 months to Mar 2021	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on December 2021 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on March 2021 (%)	
Germany	17,640	13,875	27.1	13,420	31.5	
USA	15,761	11,814	33.4	9,832	60.3	
China	15,722	17,194	-8.6	15,210	3.4	
Netherlands	12,384	8,823	40.4	7,032	76.0	
Norway	12,022	12,056	-0.3	4,145	190.1	
France	8,139	5,755	41.4	4,977	63.5	
Belgium	6,571	6,353	3.4	4,822	36.0	
Italy	5,664	4,779	18.5	4,000	41.6	
Spain	5,114	3,633	40.8	3,722	37.4	
Ireland	4,147	3,965	5.0	3,019	37.4	
Others	58,007	52,026	11.5	42,204	37.4	
Total Imports	161,169	140,274	14.9	112,383	43.4	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 and 2022 data are provisional

Imports: Commodity Analysis

- Mineral fuels remained the largest import commodity. It experienced the largest value increases on both last month and on March 2021, up £3,068 million (40%) and £8,140 (to over 4 times the value) respectively.
- Motor vehicles experienced the 3rd largest value increase last month and the 2nd largest value increase on March 2021, up £1,156 million (21%) and £2,049 million (44%) respectively.
- Mechanical appliances experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month, up £1,186 million (24%).
- Electronic equipment experienced the 4th largest value increases on both last month and on March 2021, up £928 million (26%) and £721 million (19%) respectively.
- Precious metals experienced the 5th largest value increase on last month, up £809 million (19%).
- Pharmaceutical products experienced the 3rd largest value increase on March 2021, up £776 million (48%).

↑ Imports of Mineral fuels up 40% on last month

↑ Imports of Motor vehicles up 44% on March 2021

Table 7: UK imports of goods for the top 10 commodities, March 2022

Commodity Description	March 2022	February 2022		March 2021	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on February 2022 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on March 2021 (%)
Mineral fuels	10,752	7,685	39.9	2,612	311.6
Motor vehicles	6,673	5,517	21.0	4,625	44.3
Mechanical appliances	6,182	4,996	23.7	5,528	11.8
Precious metals	4,999	4,190	19.3	4,360	14.6
Electronic equipment	4,522	3,593	25.8	3,800	19.0
Pharmaceutical products	2,408	1,927	25.0	1,632	47.5
Measuring devices and gauges	1,881	1,373	37.0	1,347	39.6
Plastics and plastic products	1,693	1,459	16.1	1,306	29.7
Other products	1,601	1,417	13.0	564	183.6
Furniture and light fittings	1,197	973	23.0	895	33.7
Others	19,277	16,313	18.2	15,256	26.4
Total Imports	61,186	49,443	23.7	41,927	45.9

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 and 2022 data are provisional

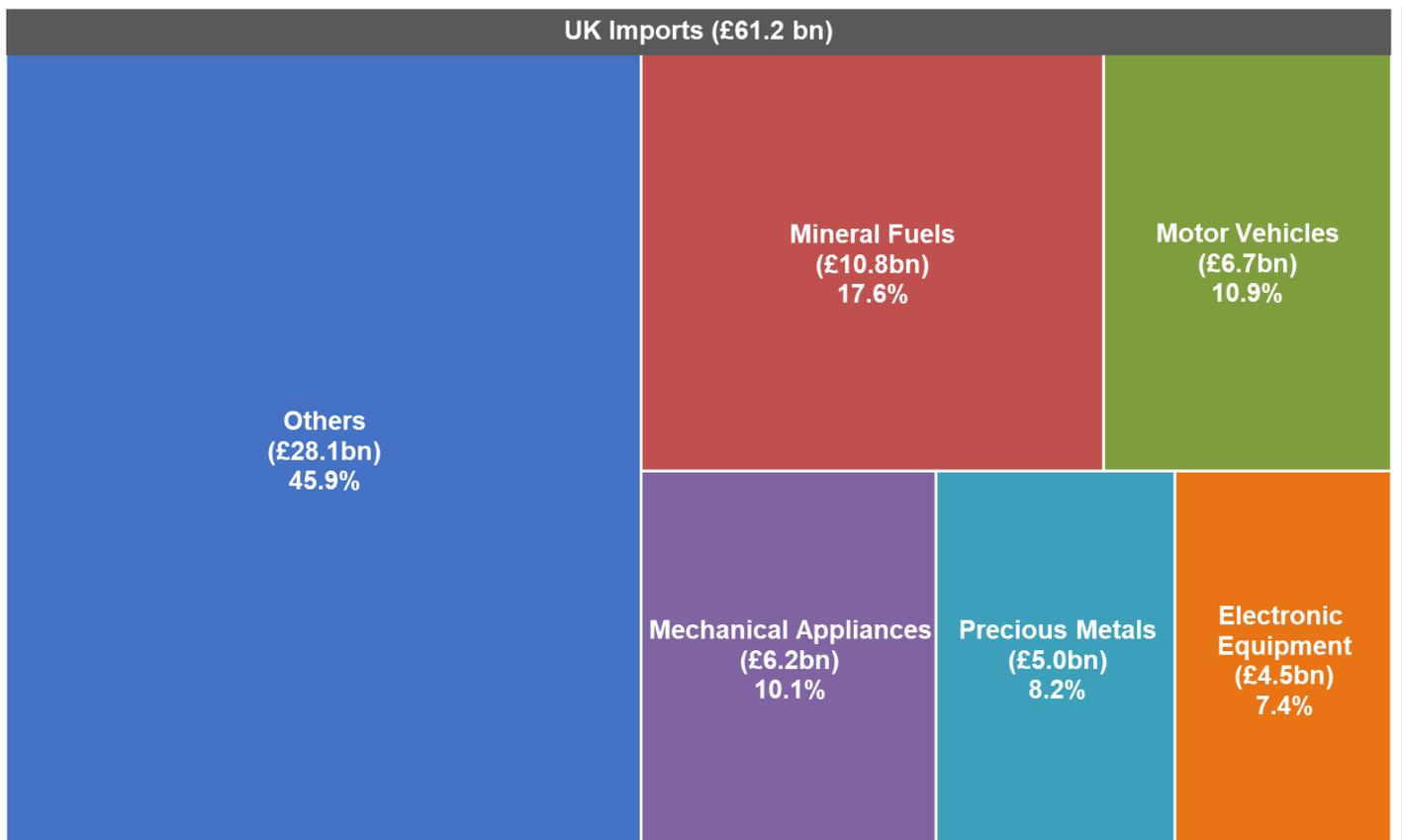
Imports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 import commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 54% of the total value of goods imported in March 2022. This was an increase from 50% in March 2021.
- Mineral fuels accounted for 18% of the total value of goods imported to the UK. This was an increase from a 6.2% share in March 2021.
- Motor vehicles had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for an 11% share. This was a decrease of less than 1 percentage point on March 2021.
- The top 10 commodities (ranked by value) changed order with last month, although the top 6 remained unchanged. Most notably, Measuring devices and gauges rose to 7th place from 9th.
- The top 10 commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with March 2021. Most notably, Mineral fuels rose to 1st place from 5th, while Mechanical appliances fell to 3rd place from 1st.

↑ **The top 5 import commodities accounted for 54% of total imports in March 2022**

↑ **Mineral fuels accounted for 18% of total imports in March 2022**

Figure 8: Share of UK imports for the top 5 commodities, March 2022



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2022 data is provisional

Imports: Commodity Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to March 2022, Mineral fuels remained the largest import commodity. Among the top 10, it experienced the 3rd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to December 2021 and the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to March 2021, up 30% and to 3.5 times the value respectively.
- Among the top 10, Motor vehicles experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to December 2021 and the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to March 2021, up 34% and up 48% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Pharmaceutical products experienced the 3rd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to March 2021, up 44%.
- 8 of the top 10 commodities experienced an increase on the 3 months to December 2021. The exceptions were Precious metals and Electronic equipment.
- 9 of the top 10 commodities experienced increases on the 3 months to March 2021. The exception was Precious metals.

↑ Imports of Mineral fuels up 30% on the 3 months to December 2021

↑ Imports of Motor vehicles up 48% on the 3 months to March 2021

Table 8: UK imports of goods for the top 10 commodities, 3 months to March 2022

Commodity Description	3 months to Mar 2022		3 months to Dec 2021		3 months to Mar 2021	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on December 2021 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on March 2021 (%)	
Mineral fuels	28,013	21,576	29.8	8,033	248.7	
Mechanical appliances	16,585	14,824	11.9	14,261	16.3	
Motor vehicles	16,346	12,212	33.8	11,053	47.9	
Precious metals	12,373	12,784	-3.2	13,024	-5.0	
Electronic equipment	12,055	12,513	-3.7	10,766	12.0	
Pharmaceutical products	6,044	5,725	5.6	4,194	44.1	
Plastics and plastic products	4,635	3,927	18.0	3,568	29.9	
Measuring devices and gauges	4,584	3,478	31.8	3,320	38.0	
Other products	4,450	2,060	116.0	1,437	209.5	
Furniture and light fittings	3,250	2,629	23.6	2,393	35.8	
Others	52,836	48,546	8.8	40,334	31.0	
Total Imports	161,169	140,274	14.9	112,383	43.4	

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 increases in imports from Germany on last month and March 2021 were led by Motor vehicles and Mechanical appliances, up £298 million (13%) and £170 million (21%) respectively on last month, and up £820 million (48%) and £90 million (10%) respectively on March 2021.
- The decreases in imports from Russia on last month and on March 2021 were dominated by Precious metals, down £1,042 million (97%) and £828 million (97%) respectively.
- The increase in imports from France on March 2021 was driven by Mechanical appliances, Motor vehicles, and Electrical equipment, up £203 million (doubling in value), £137 million (42%), and £132 million (more than doubling in value) respectively.

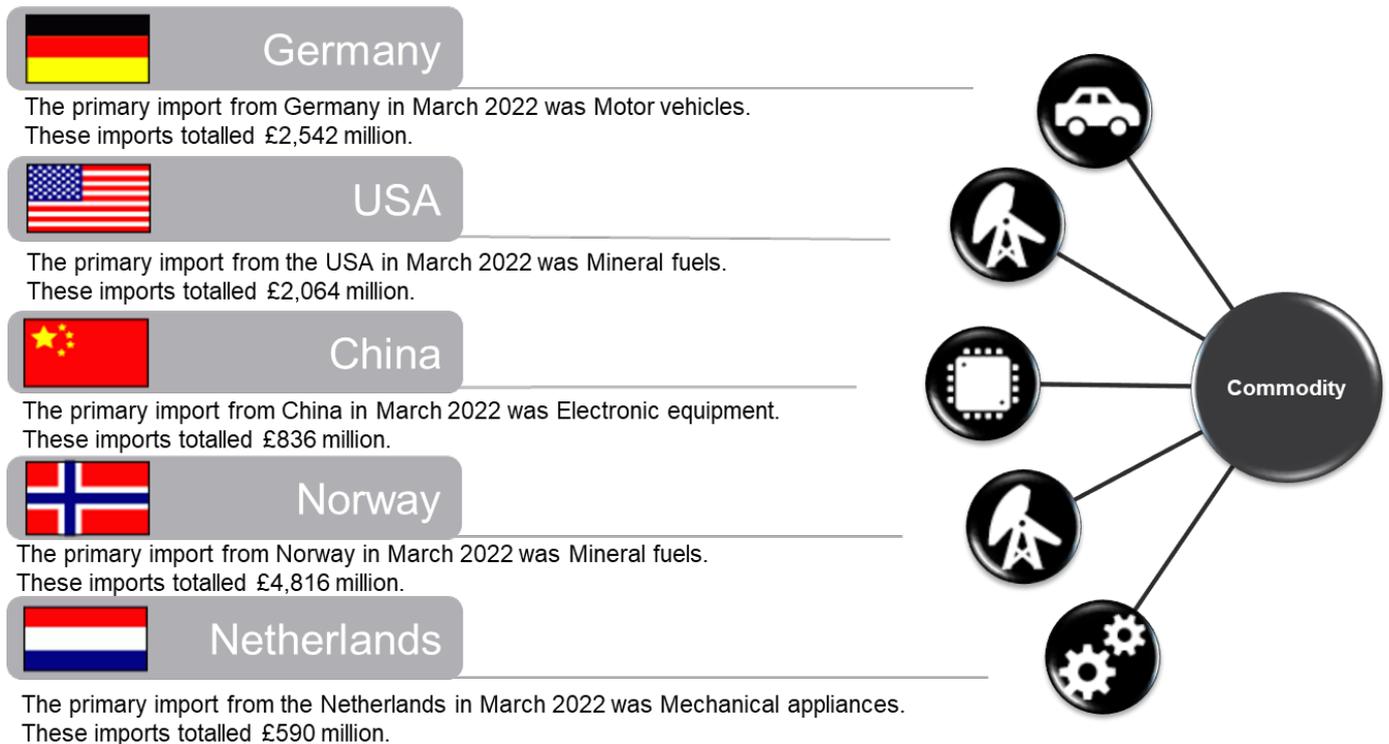
↑ Imports of Motor vehicles from Germany up £820 million (48%) on March 2021

↑ Imports of Mineral fuels from Norway up 59% on last month

Commodity to country:

- The increases in imports of Mineral fuels on last month and on March 2021 were driven by Norway, the USA, Peru, and the Netherlands, up £1,790 million (59%), £513 million (33%), £386 million (to 6 times the value), and £350 million (to over 2.5 times the value) respectively on last month. The increases on March 2021 were £3,791 million (to over 4.5 times the value), £1,757 million (to more than 6.5 times the value), £463 million (from nil trade), and £461 million (to over 5 times the value) respectively.
- The increase in imports of Electronic equipment on last month was led by China and the Netherlands, up £158 million (23%) and £131 million (33%) respectively. The increase on March 2021 was led by the Netherlands and France, up £187 million (54%) and £132 million (more than doubling in value) respectively.

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



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2022 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

From 31 December 2020, the free movement of people and goods and services between the UK and the European Union (EU) ended. This meant the way HMRC had been collecting trade in goods statistics was revised.

UK to EU exports

For goods moving from 1 January 2021, GB to EU export statistics have been compiled directly from customs export declarations made according to the requirements of the Taxation (Cross Border Trade) Act. Intrastat survey returns, however, continued 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 were incorporated into the overall UK to EU export dataset.

As a result of the changes and differences outlined above, there was a break in the timeseries for published UK to EU export statistics from January 2021.

UK imports from EU

UK imports from EU statistics were not impacted by any change in 2021. The Intrastat survey continued 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.

However, from 1 January 2022, Intrastat only applied for movements of goods between Northern Ireland and the EU. Statistics on movements to GB from the EU have been compiled directly from customs import declarations.

Both the EU to GB customs import declaration data and NI Intrastat import (arrivals) data were incorporated into the overall EU to UK import dataset.

As a result of the changes and differences outlined above, there was a break in the timeseries for published EU to UK import statistics from January 2022.

Northern Ireland Trade

Figures derived from Intrastat include the following:

- 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.

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

Non-EU trade

Non-EU trade are compiled from customs declarations 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 2022) 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.

The most recent changes in the OTS methodology are covered in this paper.

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 12 May 2022 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 March 2022. 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
April 2022	13 June 2022
May 2022	12 July 2022
June 2022	12 August 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.