



## 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 December 2022.

Supporting tables, visuals and data can be found at [www.uktradeinfo.com](http://www.uktradeinfo.com)

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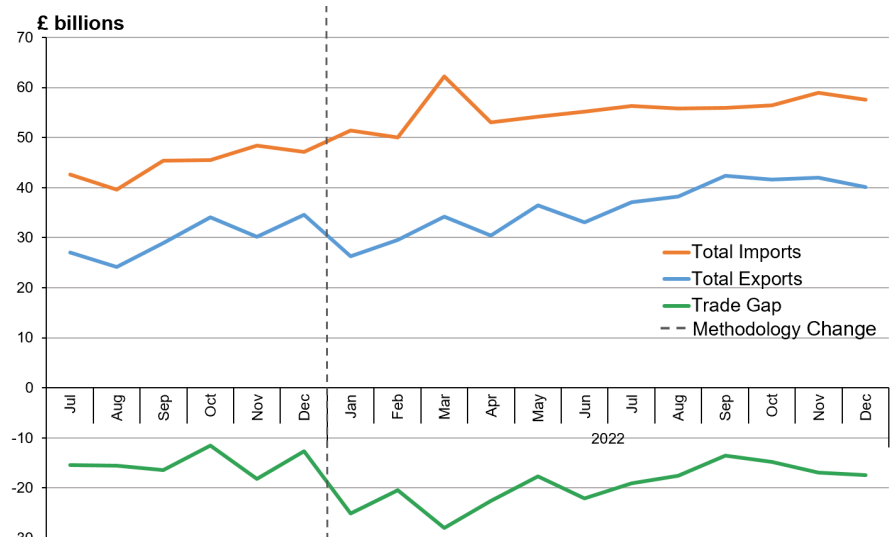
## Trade in Goods, December 2022

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 December 2022 were £40.1 billion. This was down £1.9 billion (4.5%) compared with last month, but up £5.5 billion (16%) compared with December 2021.
- Total **imports** of goods for December 2022 were £57.5 billion. This was down £1.4 billion (2.4%) compared with last month, but up £10.3 billion (22%) compared with December 2021.
- The UK was a net importer this month, with **imports** exceeding **exports** by £17.4 billion, widening by £0.5 billion on last month.

### Figure 1: Total UK monthly Trade in Goods



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

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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. Imports have experienced large quarterly fluctuations since Q1 of 2019, peaking in Q4 of 2022. Exports peaked in Q2 of 2013, in Q4 of 2021, and again in Q4 of 2022, with a steady rise from Q3 of 2017 to Q3 of 2018. Q2 of 2020 saw the lowest quarterly exports value since Q3 of 2010.

Users should note that data sources have changed for both imports and exports (see page 18 for full details), and should therefore apply caution to making comparisons across methodologies.

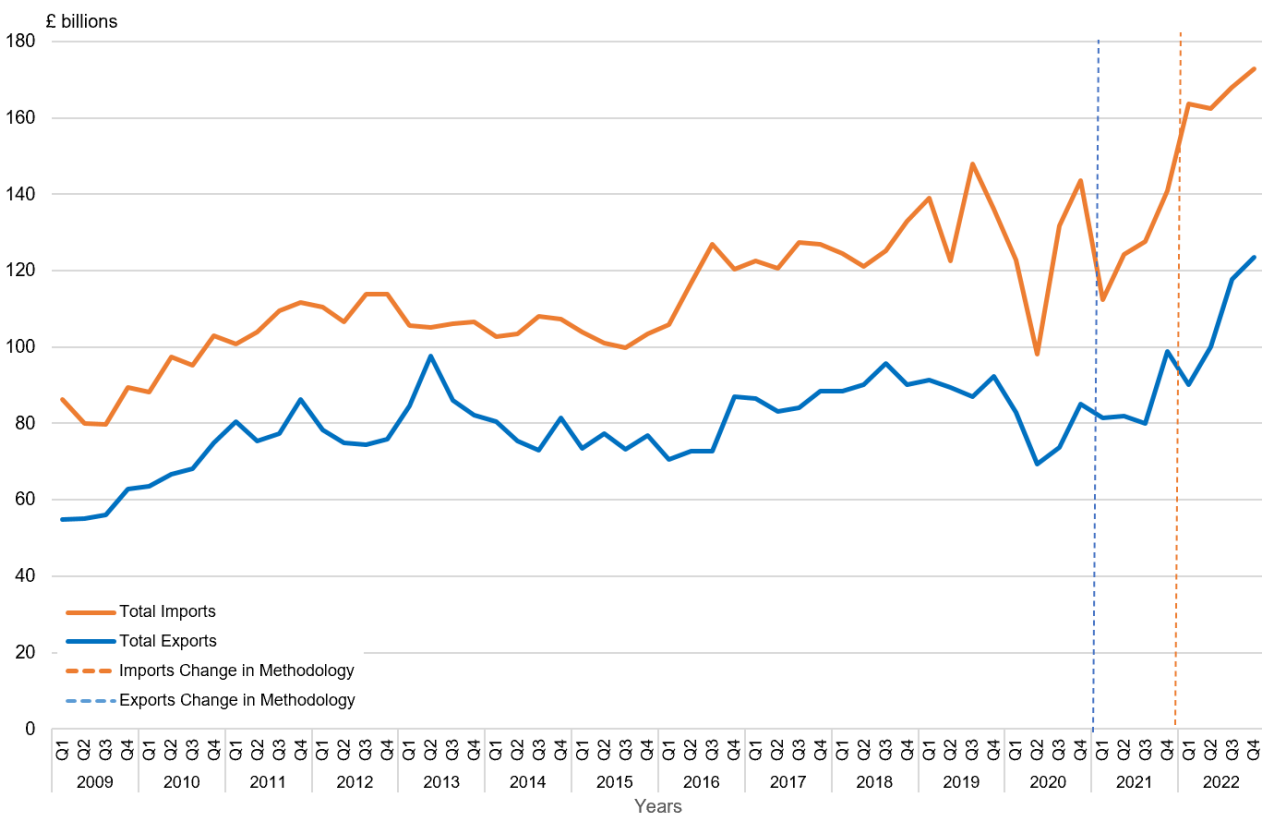
- The total **export** trade for Q4 of 2022 was £124 billion, which was an increase of 25% compared with £98.7 billion for Q4 of 2021.
- The total **import** trade for Q4 of 2022 was £173 billion, which was an increase of 23% compared with £141 billion for Q4 of 2021.
- There was a trade deficit of £49.2 billion for Q4 of 2022. This was a widening of 16% compared with £42.3 billion for Q4 of 2021.
- For many years Germany has been our largest trading import partner by value, with recent peaks from China and USA, while the USA has been the largest 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 25% on Q4 2021

↑ Imports up 23% on Q4 2021

↑ Trade deficit widened by 16% on Q4 2021

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



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

# Non-EU & EU Trade in Goods

## Non-EU Trade in Goods:

- **Non-EU exports** for December 2022 were £24.0 billion. This was a decrease of £0.4 billion (1.8%) on last month, but an increase of £4.5 billion (23%) compared with December 2021.
- **Non-EU imports** for December 2022 were £31.0 billion. This was an increase of £0.6 billion (2.0%) on last month, and an increase of £2.8 billion (9.9%) compared with December 2021.
- For **non-EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £7.1 billion.

↑ **Non-EU exports up 23% on December 2021**

## EU Trade in Goods:

- **EU exports** for December 2022 were £16.1 billion. This was a decrease of £1.4 billion (8.2%) on last month, but an increase of £1.0 billion (6.9%) compared with December 2021.
- **EU imports** for December 2022 were £26.5 billion. This was a decrease of £2.0 billion (7.0%) on last month, but an increase of £7.5 billion (40%) compared with December 2021.
- For **EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £10.4 billion.

↑ **EU imports up 40% on December 2021**

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



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2022 data is provisional

# Exports: Country Analysis

- Hong Kong became the largest export partner country, replacing the USA. It experienced the largest value increases on last month and on December 2021, up £3,583 million (to 3 times the value) and up £4,453 million (to over 5.5 times the value) respectively.
- Switzerland experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on last month, and the largest value decrease on December 2021, down £1,122 million (31%), and down £2,096 million (46%) respectively.
- China experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £1,524 million (35%). In contrast, it experienced the 2nd largest value increase on December 2021, up £1,410 million (doubling in value).
- The USA experienced the 4th largest value decrease on last month, down £685 million (13%). In contrast, it experienced the 3rd largest value increase on December 2021, up £917 million (24%).
- The Netherlands experienced the 3rd largest value decrease on last month, down £685 million (20%).
- Singapore (ranked 20th) experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on December 2021, down £470 million (50%).

↑ **Exports to Hong Kong up to over 5.5 times the value on December 2021**

↓ **Exports to China down 35% in value on last month**

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

Partner Country	December 2022		November 2022		December 2021	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2022 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on December 2021 (%)	
Hong Kong	5,413	1,831	195.7	961	463.4	
USA	4,699	5,384	-12.7	3,782	24.2	
China	2,813	4,336	-35.1	1,403	100.5	
Netherlands	2,759	3,445	-19.9	2,599	6.2	
Ireland	2,737	2,523	8.5	2,621	4.4	
Germany	2,576	2,891	-10.9	2,395	7.6	
Switzerland	2,493	3,615	-31.0	4,589	-45.7	
France	2,117	2,437	-13.1	1,773	19.4	
Belgium	1,510	1,528	-1.2	1,280	18.0	
Italy	740	834	-11.3	642	15.4	
Others	12,210	13,121	-6.9	12,520	-2.5	
<b>Total EU</b>	<b>16,104</b>	<b>17,545</b>	<b>-8.2</b>	<b>15,058</b>	<b>6.9</b>	
<b>Total Non-EU</b>	<b>23,964</b>	<b>24,399</b>	<b>-1.8</b>	<b>19,506</b>	<b>22.9</b>	
<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>40,068</b>	<b>41,945</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>34,564</b>	<b>15.9</b>	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2022 data is provisional

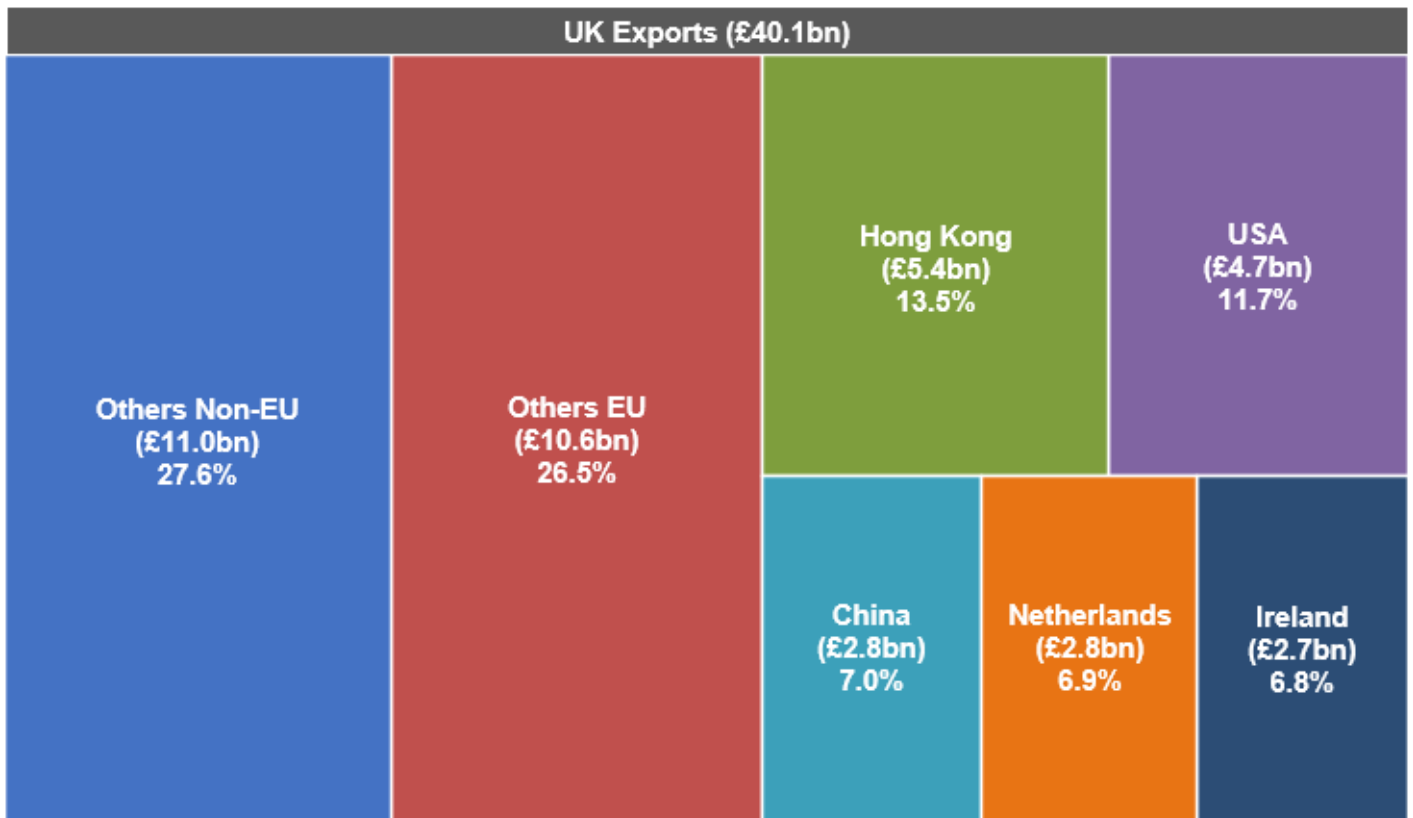
# Exports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 export partners accounted for 46% of the total value of goods exported from the UK in December 2022. This was a decrease of less than 1 percentage point on December 2021.
- Hong Kong accounted for 14% of the total value of goods exported from the UK in December 2022. This was an increase from a 2.8% share in December 2021.
- The USA had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 12% of the total value of goods exported from the UK in December 2022. This was an increase from an 11% share in December 2021.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Hong Kong rose to 1st place from 8th, and Italy rose to 10th place from 12th, while the USA fell to 2nd place from 1st, and the UAE fell to 17th place from 10th.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with December 2021. Most notably, Hong Kong rose to 1st place from 9th, and China rose to 3rd place from 7th, while Ireland fell to 5th place from 3rd, Switzerland fell to 7th place from 1st, and Singapore fell to 20th place from 10th.

↑ **Hong Kong had a 14% share of total exports in December 2022**

↑ **The USA had a 12% share of total exports in December 2022**

**Figure 4: Share of UK exports of goods to the top 5 countries, December 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 December 2022, the USA remained the largest export partner country.
- Among the top 10, Hong Kong had the largest percentage increases on the 3 months to September 2022, and on the 3 months to December 2021, up 59% and up to more than 3.5 times the value respectively.
- Among the top 10, China experienced the 2nd largest percentage increases on the 3 months to September 2022, and on the 3 months to December 2021, up 34% and up to more than 3 times the value respectively.
- Among the top 10, the UAE had the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to September 2022, down 22%. In contrast, it had the 3rd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to December 2021, doubling in value.
- Among the top 10, Switzerland experienced the 3rd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to September 2022, up 16%. In contrast, it had the only percentage decrease on December 2021, down 6.6%.
- 5 of the top 10 export partners experienced increases on the 3 months to September 2022, and 5 experienced decreases.

↑ **Exports to Hong Kong up 59% on the 3 months to September 2022**

↑ **Exports to China up to more than 3 times the value on the 3 months to December 2021**

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

Partner Country	3 months to Dec 2022		3 months to Sep 2022		3 months to Dec 2021	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on September 2022 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on December 2021 (%)	
USA	14,875	13,545	9.8	11,423	30.2	
China	12,061	8,969	34.5	3,818	215.9	
Switzerland	10,094	8,711	15.9	10,802	-6.6	
Netherlands	9,251	9,707	-4.7	8,270	11.9	
Germany	8,447	8,624	-2.0	7,671	10.1	
Hong Kong	8,114	5,093	59.3	2,206	267.8	
Ireland	8,030	7,983	0.6	6,736	19.2	
France	6,690	6,852	-2.4	5,240	27.7	
Belgium	4,516	4,808	-6.1	4,025	12.2	
UAE	2,986	3,844	-22.3	1,440	107.4	
Others	38,542	39,501	-2.4	37,118	3.8	
<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>123,607</b>	<b>117,637</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>98,748</b>	<b>25.2</b>	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2022 data is provisional

# Exports: Commodity Analysis

- Precious metals remained the largest export commodity, experiencing the largest value increases on last month and on December 2021, up £799 million (8.8%) and up £3,195 million (48%) respectively.
- Motor vehicles experienced the 2nd largest value increase on December 2021, up £953 million (37%).
- Mechanical appliances experienced the 3rd largest value increase on December 2021, up £800 million (17%).
- Mineral fuels experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on last month, down £301 million (7.4%). In contrast, it experienced the 4th largest value increase on December 2021, up £641 million (21%).
- Organic chemicals (ranked 12th) experienced the 3rd largest value decrease on last month, and the largest value decrease on December 2021, down £292 million (30%) and down £552 million (45%) respectively.
- Aircraft experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £494 million (35%).
- Pharmaceutical products experienced the 4th largest value decrease on last month, down £212 million (9.4%). In contrast, it had the 5th largest value increase on December 2021, up £424 million (26%).

↑ Exports of Precious metals up 48% on December 2021

↓ Exports of Aircraft down 35% on last month

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

Commodity Description	December 2022		November 2022		December 2021	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2022 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on December 2021 (%)	
Precious metals	9,849	9,050	8.8	6,654	48.0	
Mechanical appliances	5,604	5,733	-2.3	4,804	16.6	
Mineral fuels	3,743	4,044	-7.4	3,102	20.6	
Motor vehicles	3,525	3,619	-2.6	2,571	37.1	
Pharmaceutical products	2,045	2,258	-9.4	1,622	26.1	
Electronic equipment	1,982	2,098	-5.6	1,817	9.1	
Measuring devices and gauges	1,491	1,490	0.0	1,332	12.0	
Other products	1,102	1,111	-0.9	1,744	-36.8	
Aircraft	913	1,407	-35.1	845	8.1	
Beverages	832	892	-6.7	635	31.0	
Others	8,982	10,242	-12.3	9,438	-4.8	
<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>40,068</b>	<b>41,945</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>34,564</b>	<b>15.9</b>	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2022 data is provisional

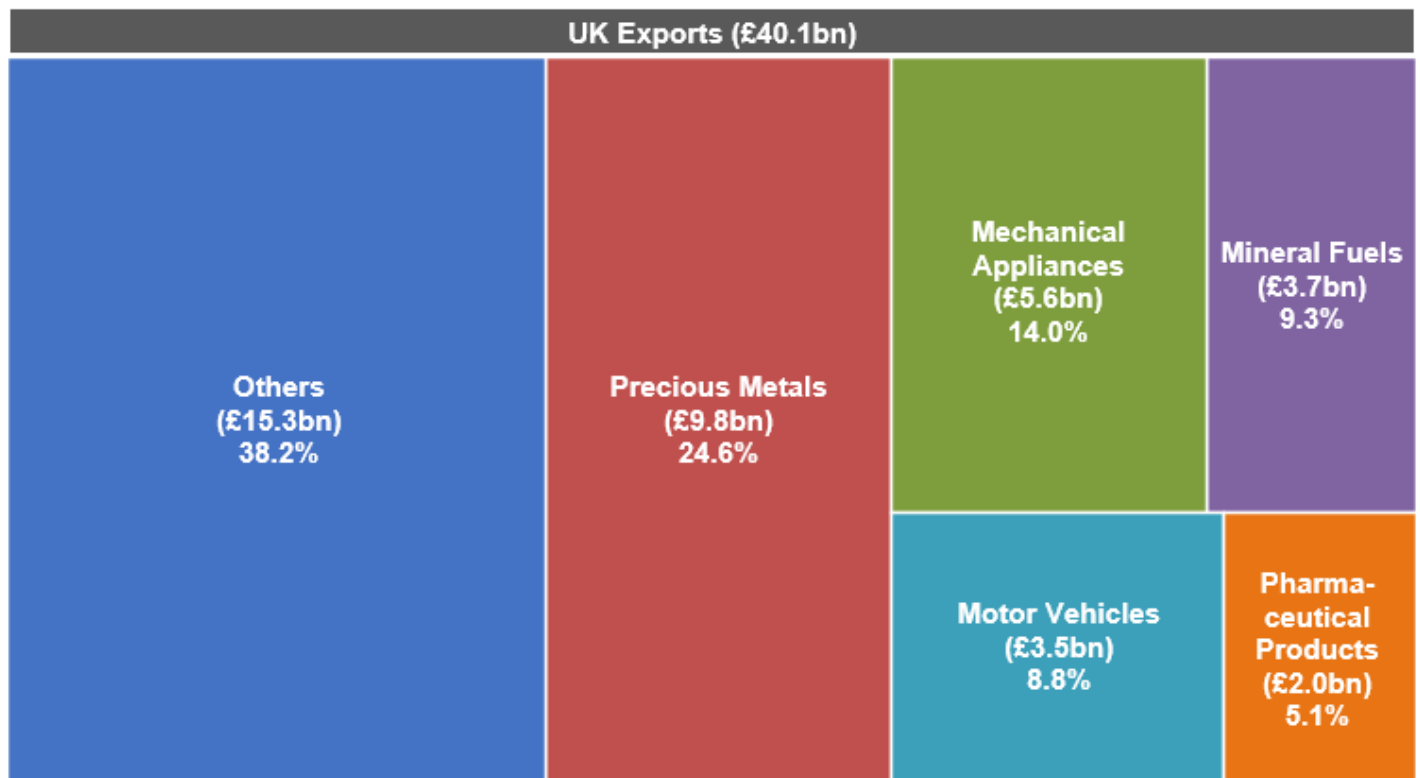
# Exports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 export commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 62% of the total value of goods exported from the UK in December 2022. This was an increase from a 55% share in December 2021.
- Precious metals accounted for 25% of the total value of goods exported from the UK in December 2022. This was an increase from a 19% share in December 2021.
- Mechanical appliances had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 14% of the total value of goods exported from the UK in December 2022. This was an increase of less than 1 percentage point on December 2021.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with last month, although the top 7 were unchanged. Most notably, Beverages rose to 10th place from 12th, while Aircraft fell to 9th place from 8th.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with December 2021. Most notably, Pharmaceutical products rose to 5th place from 7th, while Organic chemicals fell to 12th place from 9th.

↑ **Top 5 export commodities accounted for 62% of total exports in December 2022**

↑ **Precious metals accounted for 25% of total exports in December 2022**

**Figure 5: Share of UK exports by the top 5 commodities, December 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 December 2022, Precious Metals remained the largest export commodity. Among the top 10, it experienced the 3rd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to September 2022, and the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to December 2021, up 12% and up 82% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Motor vehicles had the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to September 2022, and the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to December 2021, up 23% and up 35% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Mineral fuels experienced the only decrease on the 3 months to September 2022, down 16%. In contrast, it experienced the 3rd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to December 2021, up 31%.
- Among the top 10, Beverages experienced the 4th largest percentage increase on December 2021, up 30%.
- Among the top 10, Aircraft experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on last month, and the 5th largest percentage increase on the 3 months to December 2021, up 22% and up 26% respectively.

↑ **Exports of Precious metals up 82% on the 3 months to December 2021**

↑ **Exports of Motor vehicles up 23% on the 3 months to September 2022**

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

Commodity Description	3 months to Dec 2022		3 months to Sep 2022		3 months to Dec 2021	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on September 2022 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on December 2021 (%)	
Precious metals	28,878	25,802	11.9	15,843	82.3	
Mechanical appliances	16,902	15,915	6.2	14,232	18.8	
Mineral fuels	12,281	14,690	-16.4	9,361	31.2	
Motor vehicles	10,264	8,313	23.5	7,592	35.2	
Pharmaceutical products	6,229	6,195	0.5	5,303	17.5	
Electronic equipment	6,171	5,875	5.0	5,397	14.4	
Measuring devices and gauges	4,472	4,162	7.5	3,973	12.6	
Other products	3,230	2,654	21.7	5,166	-37.5	
Aircraft	3,198	2,615	22.3	2,536	26.1	
Beverages	2,646	2,594	2.0	2,030	30.4	
Others	29,333	28,821	1.8	27,317	7.4	
<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>123,607</b>	<b>117,637</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>98,748</b>	<b>25.2</b>	

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

# Exports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

## Country to commodity:

- The decreases in exports to Switzerland on last month and on December 2021 were driven by Precious metals, down £1,088 million (33%) and down £2,045 million (48%) respectively.
- The decrease in exports to China on last month was driven by Precious metals, down £1,037 million (38%).
- The decrease in exports to the USA on last month was led by Organic chemicals, down £250 million (56%). The increase on December 2021 was led by Motor vehicles, Pharmaceutical products, and Mechanical appliances, up £448 million (89%), £229 million (68%), and £167 million (25%) respectively.

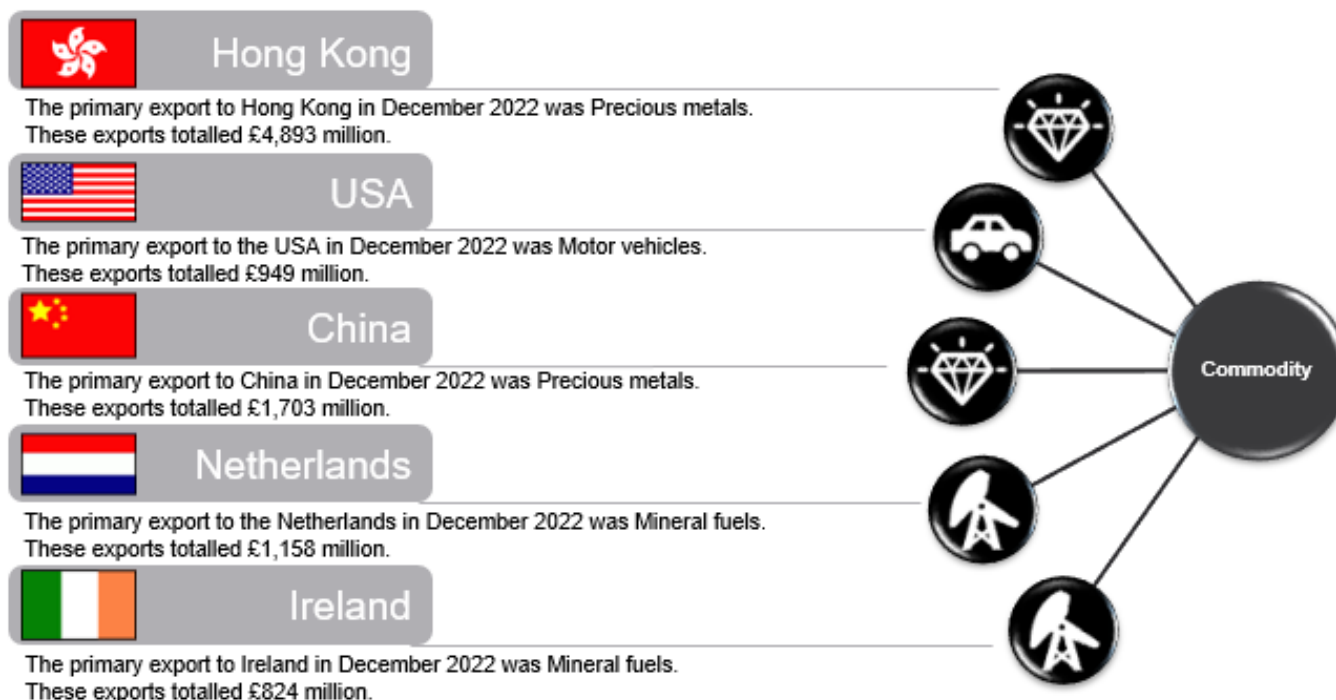
## Commodity to country:

- The increase in exports of Precious metals on last month was driven by Hong Kong, up £3,594 million (to almost 4 times the value). The increase on December 2021 was led by Hong Kong and China, up £4,438 million (from £455 million), and up £1,646 million (from £57 million) respectively.
- The decrease in exports of Mineral fuels on last month was led by the Netherlands and China, down £453 million (28%) and £331 million (92%) respectively. The increase on December 2021 was led by Ireland, France, and Poland, up £339 million (70%), £221 million (to almost 2.5 times the value) and up £206 million (to almost 6.5 times the value) respectively.
- The decrease in exports of Organic chemicals on December 2021 was led by Ireland, down £458 million (76%).
- The decrease in exports of Aircraft on last month was led by Qatar and France, down £356 million (98%) and £215 million (62%) respectively.
- The decrease in exports of Pharmaceutical products on last month was led by Germany, down £157 million (49%).

↓ Exports of Precious metals to China down 38% on last month

↑ Exports of Precious metals to Hong Kong up £4,438m from £455m in December 2021

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

- The USA replaced China as the largest import partner country. It experienced the 3rd largest value increase on last month, and the largest value increase on December 2021, up £214 million (3.1%) and £2,487 million (55%) respectively.
- Norway experienced the largest value increase on last month, and the 5th largest value increase on December 2021, up £2,793 million (to double the value) and £592 million (12%) respectively.
- Russia (ranked 78th) experienced the largest value decrease on December 2021, down £2,148 million (to £23 million).
- The Netherlands experienced the 2nd largest value increase on December 2021, up £1,724 million (58%).
- Germany experienced the 3rd largest value increase on December 2021, up £1,520 million (35%).
- China experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £1,416 million (21%).

↑ **Imports from the USA up 55% on December 2021**

↓ **Imports from China down 21% on last month**

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

Partner Country	December 2022		November 2022		December 2021	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2022 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on December 2021 (%)	
USA	7,037	6,823	3.1	4,550	54.6	
Germany	5,819	6,119	-4.9	4,299	35.4	
China	5,448	6,864	-20.6	5,760	-5.4	
Norway	5,420	2,627	106.3	4,829	12.3	
Netherlands	4,716	5,082	-7.2	2,992	57.6	
France	3,015	3,078	-2.0	1,813	66.2	
Belgium	2,312	2,674	-13.5	2,075	11.4	
Italy	1,880	2,326	-19.2	1,564	20.2	
Spain	1,550	1,525	1.7	1,153	34.4	
Ireland	1,468	1,958	-25.0	1,296	13.2	
Others	18,846	19,825	-4.9	16,841	11.9	
<b>Total EU</b>	<b>26,469</b>	<b>28,474</b>	<b>-7.0</b>	<b>18,921</b>	<b>39.9</b>	
<b>Total Non-EU</b>	<b>31,042</b>	<b>30,426</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>28,252</b>	<b>9.9</b>	
<b>Total Imports</b>	<b>57,511</b>	<b>58,900</b>	<b>-2.4</b>	<b>47,172</b>	<b>21.9</b>	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2022 data is provisional

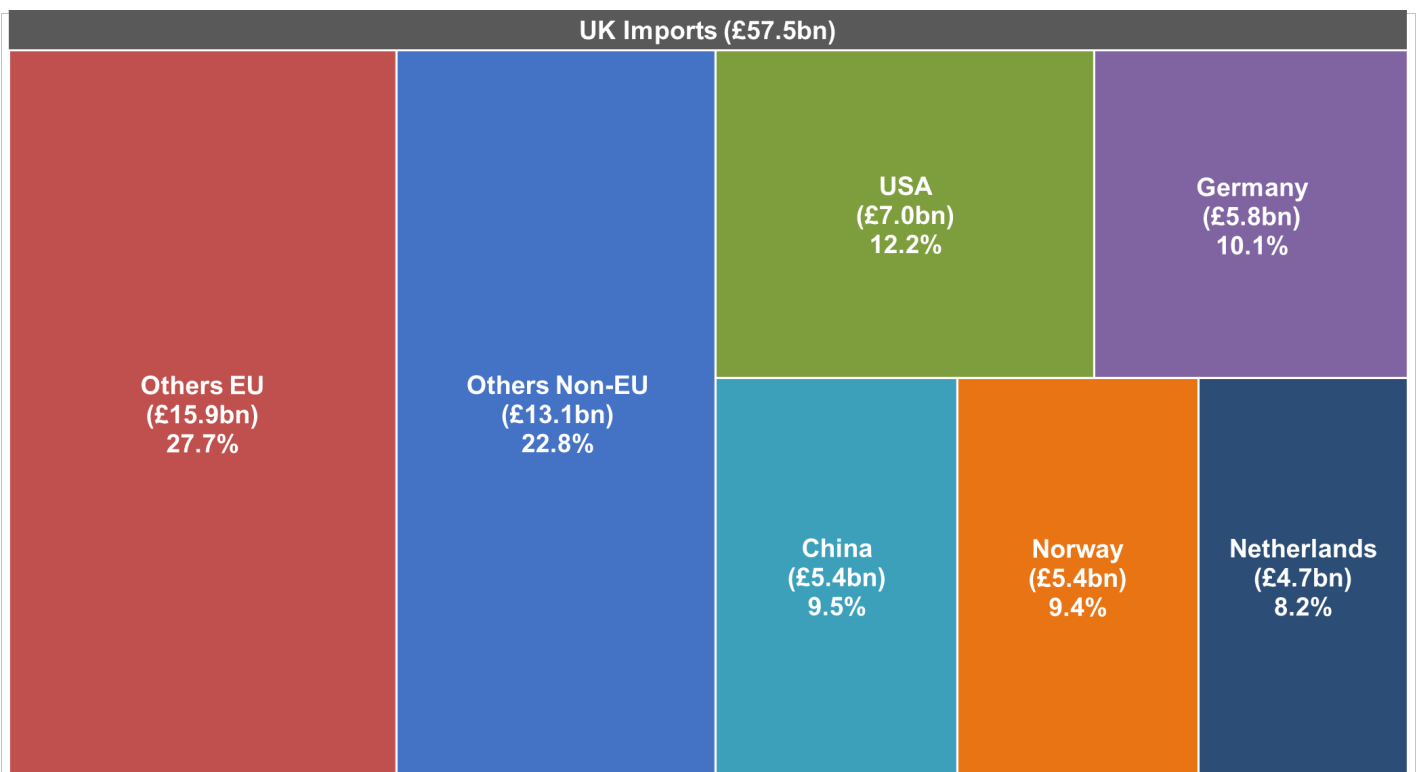
# Imports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 import partners accounted for 49% of the total value of goods imported to the UK in December 2022. This was an increase from a 48% share in December 2021.
- The USA accounted for 12% of the total value of goods imported to the UK in December 2022. This was an increase from a 9.6% share in December 2021.
- Germany had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 10% of the total value of goods imported to the UK in December 2022. This was an increase from a 9.1% share in December 2021.
- China had the 3rd largest proportion, accounting for 9.5% of the total value of goods imported to the UK in December 2022. This was a decrease from a 12% share in December 2021.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) changed order compared with last month. Most notably, the USA rose to 1st place from 2nd and Norway rose to 4th place from 7th, while China fell to 3rd place from 1st.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with December 2021. Most notably, Germany rose to 2nd place from 4th, France rose to 6th place from 8th, and Spain rose to 9th place from 11th, while Russia fell to 78th place from 6th.

↑ **The top 5 partners accounted for 49% of total imports in December 2022**

↑ **The USA accounted for 12% of total imports in December 2022**

**Figure 7: Share of UK imports of goods from the top 5 countries, December 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 December 2022, the USA replaced China as the largest import partner country. Among the top 10, it experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to September 2022 and the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to December 2021, up 32% and 68% respectively.
- Among the top 10, the Netherlands experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to December 2021, up 69%.
- Among the top 10, France experienced the 3rd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to December 2021, up 56%.
- Among the top 10, Germany experienced the 4th largest percentage increase on the 3 months to December 2021, up 29%.
- Among the top 10, Ireland experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to September 2022 and the 5th largest percentage increase on the 3 months to December 2021, up 18% and 29% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Norway experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to September 2022 and the only decrease on the 3 months to December 2021, down 10% and 11% respectively.
- 8 of the top 10 countries experienced an increase on the 3 months to September 2022. The exceptions were Norway and France.

↑ Imports from the USA up 32% on the 3 months to September 2022

↑ Imports from the Netherlands up 69% on the 3 months to December 2021

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

Partner Country	3 months to Dec 2022		3 months to Sep 2022		3 months to Dec 2021	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on September 2022 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on December 2021 (%)	
USA	19,849	15,085	31.6	11,817	68.0	
China	18,413	17,600	4.6	17,727	3.9	
Germany	17,928	16,456	8.9	13,852	29.4	
Netherlands	14,864	14,002	6.2	8,805	68.8	
Norway	10,916	12,155	-10.2	12,321	-11.4	
France	8,899	9,198	-3.3	5,722	55.5	
Belgium	7,490	7,269	3.0	6,339	18.0	
Italy	6,077	5,435	11.8	4,783	27.1	
Ireland	5,118	4,323	18.4	3,970	28.9	
Spain	4,445	4,001	11.0	3,625	22.6	
Others	58,850	62,408	-5.7	52,070	13.0	
<b>Total Imports</b>	<b>172,847</b>	<b>167,934</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>141,032</b>	<b>22.6</b>	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2022 data is provisional

## Imports: Commodity Analysis

- Mineral fuels remained the largest import commodity. It experienced the largest value increases on last month and on December 2021, up £4,603 million (59%) and £3,446 million (38%) respectively.
- Motor vehicles experienced the 2nd largest value increases on last month and on December 2021, up £356 million (6.8%) and £1,810 million (48%) respectively.
- Mechanical appliances experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on last month, down £785 million (11%). In contrast, it experienced the 3rd largest value increase on December 2021, up £1,332 million (27%).
- Precious metals experienced the 4th largest value decrease on last month and the largest value decrease on December 2021, down £613 million (16%) and £1,002 million (23%) respectively.
- Electronic equipment experienced the 3rd largest value decrease on last month, down £658 million (11%). In contrast, it experienced the 4th largest value increase on December 2021, up £972 million (23%).
- Pharmaceutical products experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £807 million (28%).

↑ Imports of Mineral fuels up 38% on December 2021

↓ Imports of Pharmaceutical products down 28% on last month

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

Commodity Description	December 2022	November 2022		December 2021	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2022 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on December 2021 (%)
Mineral fuels	12,451	7,848	58.7	9,005	38.3
Mechanical appliances	6,329	7,113	-11.0	4,997	26.6
Motor vehicles	5,610	5,254	6.8	3,800	47.6
Electronic equipment	5,224	5,882	-11.2	4,252	22.9
Precious metals	3,263	3,877	-15.8	4,266	-23.5
Pharmaceutical products	2,027	2,834	-28.5	2,002	1.2
Other products	1,975	1,856	6.4	709	178.8
Measuring devices and gauges	1,484	1,498	-0.9	1,185	25.3
Plastics and plastic products	1,236	1,520	-18.7	1,162	6.4
Organic chemicals	935	1,151	-18.8	805	16.1
Others	16,978	20,068	-15.4	14,990	13.3
<b>Total Imports</b>	<b>57,511</b>	<b>58,900</b>	<b>-2.4</b>	<b>47,172</b>	<b>21.9</b>

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2022 data are provisional

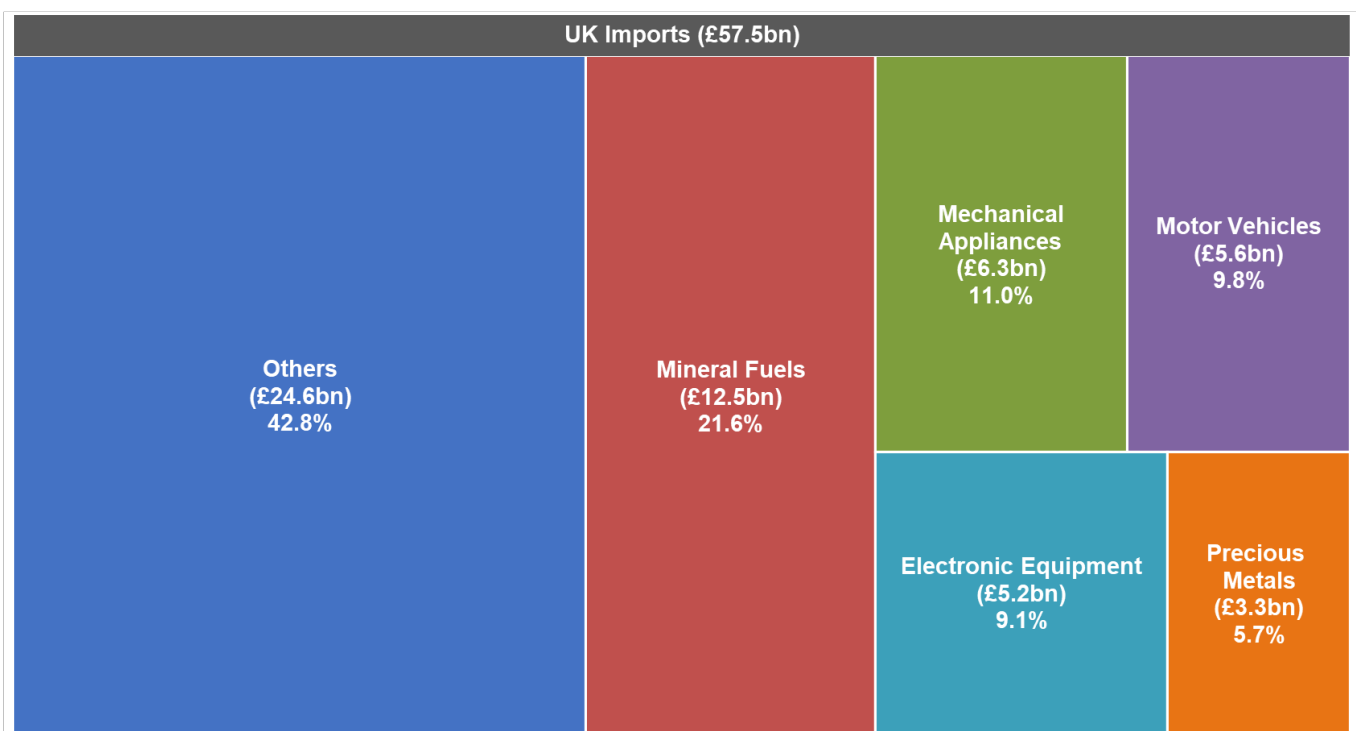
# Imports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 import commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 57% of the total value of goods imported to the UK in December 2022. This was an increase from a 56% share in December 2021.
- Mineral fuels accounted for 22% of the total value of goods imported to the UK in December 2022. This was an increase from a 19% share in December 2021.
- Mechanical appliances had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 11% of the total value of goods imported to the UK in December 2022. This was an increase of less than 1 percentage point on December 2021.
- The top 10 commodities (ranked by value) changed order compared with last month. Most notably, Motor vehicles rose to 3rd place from 4th, while Electronic equipment fell to 4th place from 3rd.
- The top 10 commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with December 2021. Most notably, Motor vehicles rose to 3rd place from 5th, while Precious metals fell to 5th place from 3rd.

↑ **Mineral fuels accounted for 22% of total imports in December 2022**

↑ **Mechanical appliances accounted for 11% of total imports in December 2022**

**Figure 8: Share of UK imports for the top 5 commodities, December 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 December 2022, Mineral fuels remained the largest import commodity. Among the top 10, it experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to December 2021, up 33%.
- Among the top 10, Mechanical appliances experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to December 2021, up 32%.
- Among the top 10, Electronic equipment experienced the 3rd largest percentage increases on the 3 months to September 2022 and the 3 months to December 2021, up 11% and 28% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Measuring devices and gauges experienced the 4th largest percentage increase on the 3 months to December 2021, up 26%.
- Among the top 10, Knitwear experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to September 2022 and the 5th largest percentage increase on the 3 months to December 2021, up 15% and 25% respectively.
- 8 of the top 10 commodities experienced an increase on the 3 months to September 2022. The exceptions were Precious metals, and Plastics and plastic products.
- 9 of the top 10 commodities experienced an increase on the 3 months to December 2021. The exception was Precious metals.

↑ Imports of Mineral fuels up 33% on the 3 months to December 2021

↑ Imports of Knitwear up 15% on the 3 months to September 2022

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

Commodity Description	3 months to Dec 2022		3 months to Sep 2022		3 months to Dec 2021	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on September 2022 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on December 2021 (%)	
Mineral fuels	29,066	28,875	0.7	21,841	33.1	
Mechanical appliances	19,891	19,200	3.6	15,078	31.9	
Electronic equipment	16,396	14,834	10.5	12,786	28.2	
Motor vehicles	15,044	13,079	15.0	12,208	23.2	
Precious metals	11,415	14,882	-23.3	12,782	-10.7	
Pharmaceutical products	6,931	6,581	5.3	5,721	21.2	
Other products	5,517	4,325	27.5	2,061	167.7	
Measuring devices and gauges	4,381	4,336	1.1	3,476	26.1	
Plastics and plastic products	4,283	4,574	-6.4	3,930	9.0	
Knitwear	3,363	2,918	15.2	2,689	25.1	
Others	56,560	54,331	4.1	48,461	16.7	
<b>Total Imports</b>	<b>172,847</b>	<b>167,934</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>141,032</b>	<b>22.6</b>	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2022 data is provisional



# Imports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

## Country to commodity:

- The decrease in imports from China on last month was driven by Mechanical appliances, Electronic equipment, Toys, games & consoles, and Knitwear, down by £274 million (26%), £202 million (12%), £196 million (45%), and £128 million (48%) respectively.
- The increase in imports from the Netherlands on December 2021 was driven by Electronic equipment, Mechanical appliances, Mineral fuels and Pharmaceutical products, up £358 million (to more than double the value), £293 million (to double the value), £223 million (37%), and £157 million (to double the value) respectively.
- The decrease in imports from Russia on December 2021 was dominated by Precious metals, down from £1,270 million to zero.

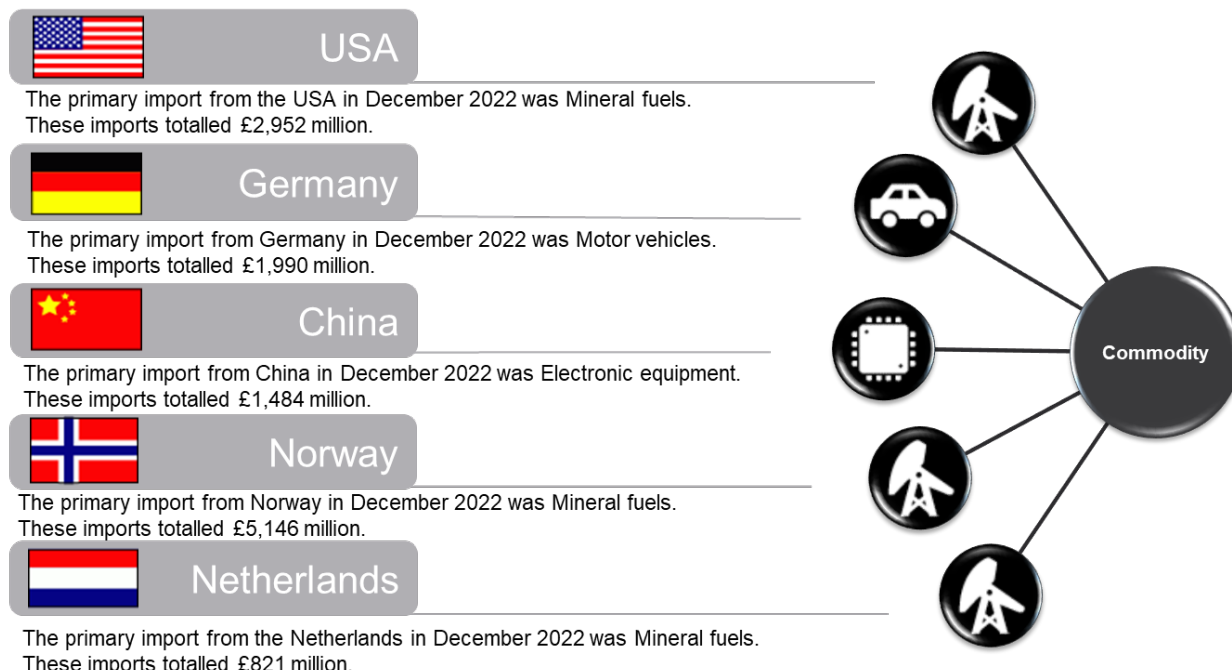
↓ Imports of Mechanical appliances from China down 26% on last month

## Commodity to country:

- The increase in imports of Mineral fuels on last month was dominated by Norway, up £2,944 million (to almost 2.5 times the value). The increase on December 2021 was driven by the USA and Norway, up £1,860 million (to over 2.5 times the value) and up £579 million (13%) respectively.
- The increase in imports of Motor vehicles on last month was driven by Belgium, Germany, and Spain, up £180 million (to over double the value), £109 million (5.8%), and £101 million (50%) respectively. The increase on December 2021 was led by Germany and China, up £730 million (58%) and £454 million (to 2.5 times the value) respectively.
- The increase in imports of Mechanical appliances on December 2021 was driven by the Netherlands, the USA, and Germany, up £293 million (to double the value), £226 million (38%), and £223 million (35%) respectively.
- The decrease in imports of Pharmaceutical products on last month was led by Belgium and Italy, down £383 million (62%) and £345 million (81%) respectively.

↑ Imports of Mineral fuels from the USA up to over 2.5 times the value on December 2021

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 (December 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 10 February 2023 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](http://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 December 2022. At the same time revisions for all previously published non-EU and EU data for 2022 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
January 2023	10 March 2023
February 2023	13 April 2023
March 2023	12 May 2023

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 stand