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# UK Overseas Trade Statistics June 2017

## Summary

- Total trade exports for June 2017 were £28.3 billion. This was a decrease of £1.0 billion (3.5 per cent) compared with last month, but an increase of £3.6 billion (15 per cent) compared with June 2016.
- Total trade imports for June 2017 were £41.7 billion. This was an increase of £1.3 billion (3.3 per cent) compared with last month, and an increase of £1.6 billion (4.0 per cent) compared with June 2016.
- The UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £13.4 billion.

Figure 1: Total UK monthly trade



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics  
Note: 2017 data is provisional

— Total Imports — Total Exports — Trade Gap

## Trade Trends

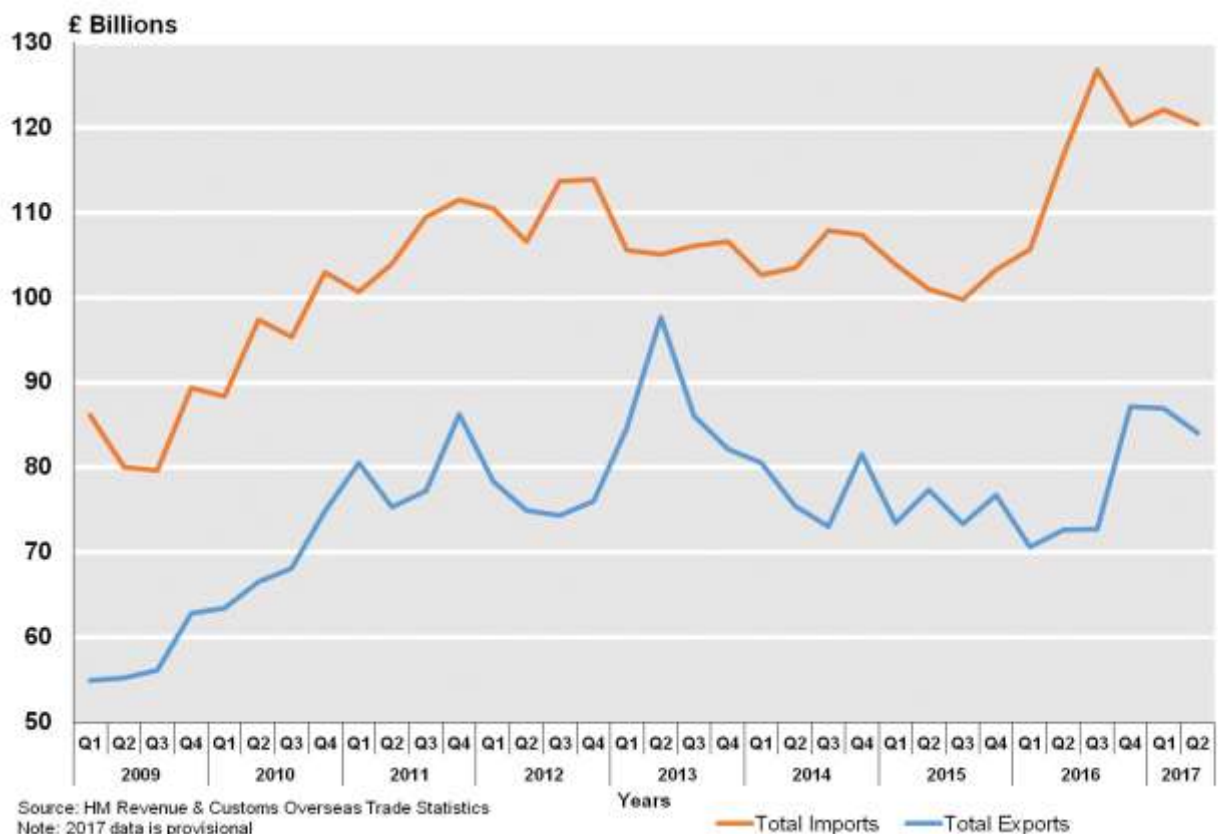
- Following the global economic crisis, UK trade dropped in 2009. Both imports and exports then steadily increased until 2012. From the start of 2013, imports remained relatively flat until a very sharp increase in Q3 of 2016, while exports peaked in Q2 of 2013, with a further peak in Q4 of 2016.
- The total **export** trade for Q2 of 2017 was £84.1 billion, which was an increase of 16 per cent compared with £72.7 billion for Q2 of 2016.
- The total **import** trade for Q2 of 2017 was £120 billion, which was an increase of 3.2 per cent compared with £117 billion for Q2 of 2016.
- There was a trade deficit of £36.3 billion for Q2 of 2017. This was a decrease of 18 per cent compared with Q2 of 2016. These values were strongly influenced by trade in non-monetary gold.
- For many years Germany has been our largest trading **import** partner by value. The USA has been the dominant trading partner for **exports** for many years.
- Mechanical appliances and Motor vehicles have generally been the largest **import** commodities by value. For **exports**, Mechanical appliances has also predominantly been the largest valued commodity, with occasional peaks for Precious metals.

Exports up 16%  
for Q2 2017 on  
Q2 2016

Imports up 3.2%  
for Q2 2017 on  
Q2 2016

Trade deficit down  
18% for Q2 2017  
on Q2 2016

Figure 2: Quarterly UK trade, 2009 – 2017



## Non-EU & EU Trade

- **Non-EU Exports** for June 2017 were £13.8 billion. This was a decrease of £1.8 billion (12 per cent) on last month, but an increase of £1.1 billion (8.6 per cent) compared with June 2016.
- **Non-EU Imports** for June 2017 were £19.4 billion. This is a very slight increase compared with last month, and a decrease of £0.3 billion (1.7 per cent) compared with June 2016.
- In **Non-EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £5.6 billion.
- **EU Exports** for June 2017 were £14.5 billion. This was an increase of £0.8 billion (5.7 per cent) compared with last month, and an increase of £2.5 billion (21 per cent) compared with June 2016.
- **EU Imports** for June 2017 were £22.3 billion. This was an increase of £1.3 billion (6.3 per cent) compared with last month, and an increase of £1.9 billion (9.4 per cent) compared with June 2016.
- In **EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £7.9 billion.
- The proportion of total exports to the EU was 51 per cent in June 2017. Over the past 18 months, this has ranged from 39 per cent to 51 per cent. The proportion of total imports from the EU was 54 per cent in June 2017. Over the same period, this has ranged between 46 per cent and 56 per cent.

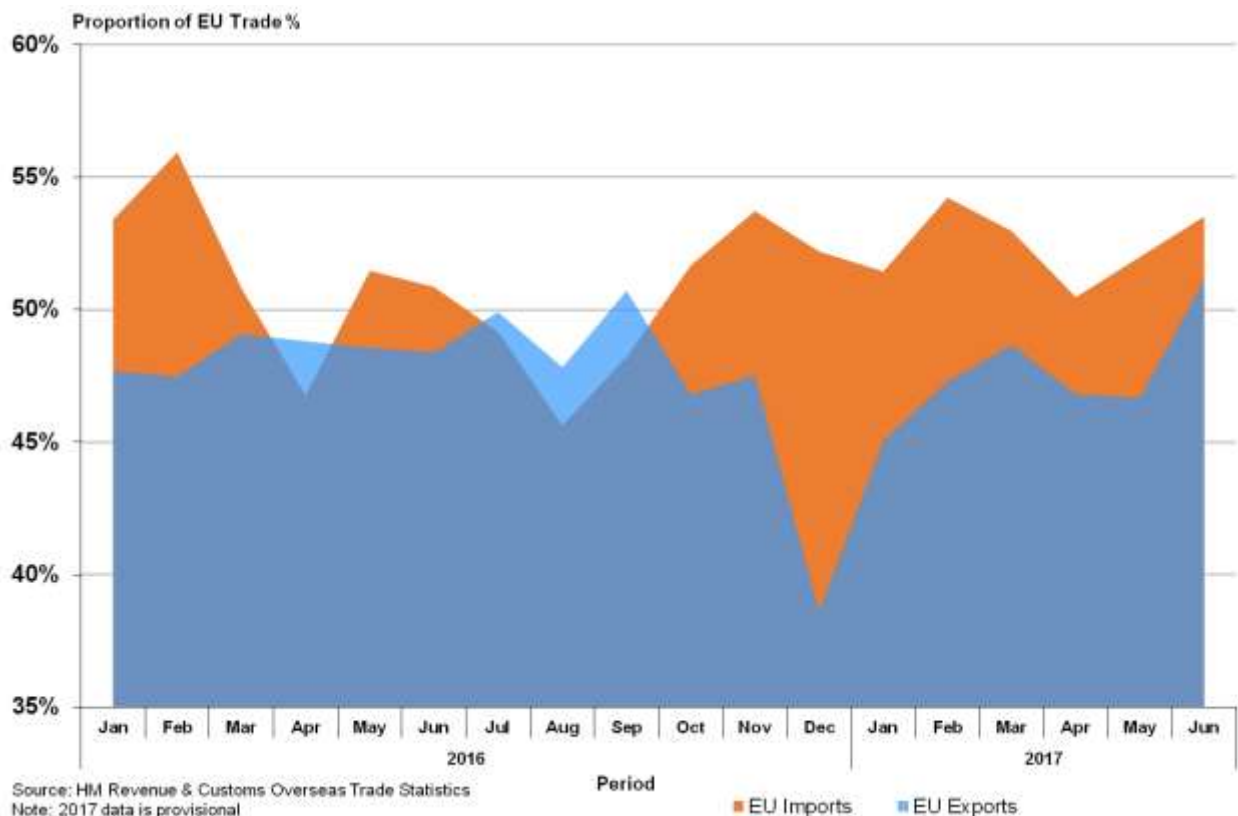
Non-EU exports  
down 12% on  
last month

Non-EU imports  
down 1.7% on  
June 2016

EU exports  
up 21% on  
June 2016

EU imports up  
9.4% on  
June 2016

**Figure 3: Proportion of Total UK Trade with the EU, June 2017**



# Exports

## Country Analysis

**Table 1: UK exports to top 10 partner countries, June 2017**

Partner Country	June 2017 Total (£ millions)	Change from May 2017 (%)	Change from June 2016 (%)	Rank May 2017	Rank June 2016
USA	3,565	-19.1	-13.3	1	1
Germany	3,171	9.3	20.7	2	2
France	2,406	6.4	45.0	3	3
Netherlands	1,841	15.3	19.9	5	4
Irish Republic	1,682	0.7	21.4	4	5
China	1,261	-18.8	5.9	6	6
Belgium	1,117	-8.2	22.9	8	7
Italy	990	20.7	13.0	10	8
Spain	939	5.1	19.6	9	9
Switzerland	847	-33.1	37.4	7	10
Others	10,444	-2.3	16.9	-	-
<b>Total Non-EU</b>	<b>13,810</b>	<b>-11.5</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total EU</b>	<b>14,454</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>28,264</b>	<b>-3.5</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Note: 2017 data is provisional

- The order of the top ten export partner countries (ranked by value) has changed compared with last month, but is unchanged compared with June 2016.
- Six of the top ten countries have experienced increases in value compared with last month, while nine countries saw increases compared with June 2016, with the USA having the only decrease.
- The USA was the largest export partner country, although it had the largest decrease compared with both periods. It fell £840 million (19 per cent) compared with last month, and fell £547 million (13 per cent) compared with June 2016.
- Germany experienced the largest value increase compared with last month, up £269 million (9.3 per cent). It also had the second largest increase on June 2016, up £544 million (21 per cent).

Top export country, USA, down 19% on last month

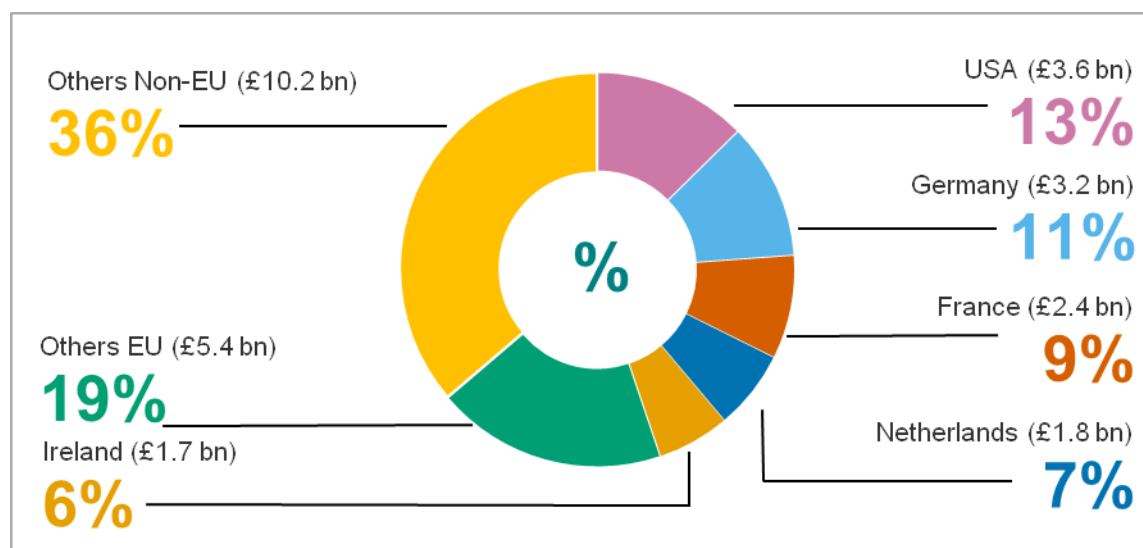
Exports to Germany up 21% on June 2016

- Oman, in 23<sup>rd</sup> place, experienced the second largest value increase compared with last month, up £251 million (a sixfold increase), and the sixth largest increase compared with June 2016, up £262 million (an eightfold increase).
- The Netherlands experienced the third largest increase on last month, up £244 million (15 per cent), and up £305 million (20 per cent) compared with June 2016, the fourth largest increase.
- France increased by £144 million (6.4 per cent) compared with last month. It showed the biggest increase on June 2016, up £747 million (45 per cent).
- Switzerland experienced the second largest decrease compared with last month, down £420 million (33 per cent). However, it saw an increase compared with June 2016, up £230 million (37 per cent).
- Turkey (11<sup>th</sup> place) rose £197 million (32 per cent) on last month, and £463 million (more than double) on June 2016, the third largest increase.
- Iceland (64<sup>th</sup> place) experienced the second largest decrease compared with June 2016, down £152 million (82 per cent).

Exports to France up 45% on June 2016

Exports to Switzerland down 33% on last month

**Figure 4: UK exports to top 5 countries, June 2017**



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics  
Note: 2017 data is provisional

- The USA accounted for 13 per cent of the total value of exports from the UK, compared with 17 per cent in June 2016.
- Germany had the second largest proportion of total exports, accounting for 11 per cent, a slight increase from June 2016.
- The top five export partners accounted for 45 per cent of total exports this month, compared with 46 per cent in June 2016.

The USA accounted for 13% of total UK exports

## Commodity Analysis

**Table 2: UK exports by top 5 commodities, June 2017**

Commodity Description	June 2017 Total (£ millions)	Change from May 2017 (%)	Change from June 2016 (%)	Rank May 2017	Rank June 2016
Mechanical appliances	4,491	1.7	15.5	1	1
Motor vehicles	3,361	-4.6	2.8	2	2
Pharmaceutical products	2,465	6.6	14.6	4	3
Mineral fuels	1,930	-28.6	48.6	3	6
Electronic equipment	1,848	5.3	12.5	6	5
Others	14,171	-2.8	14.4	-	-
<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>28,264</b>	<b>-3.5</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Note: 2017 data is provisional

- The top five export commodities (ranked by value) has changed compared with last month and June 2016, although the top two are unchanged.
- The top commodity, Mechanical appliances, saw an increase compared with both last month, up £76 million (1.7 per cent), and June 2016, up £602 million (15 per cent), the third largest increase.
- Aircraft, in sixth place, experienced the largest value increase compared with last month, up £386 million (30 per cent). It also rose slightly compared with June 2016, up £8 million (0.5 per cent).
- Pharmaceutical products saw the second largest value increase compared with last month, up £152 million (6.6 per cent). It also rose against June 2016, up £314 million (15 per cent).
- Precious metals saw the largest decrease compared with last month, down £831 million (39 per cent). It dropped from fifth to seventh place. However, it saw the largest value increase compared with June 2016, up £635 million (98 per cent).
- Mineral fuels experienced the second largest decrease compared with last month, down £773 million (29 per cent). However it had the second largest increase on June 2016, up £631 million (49 per cent).
- Art and antiques (12<sup>th</sup> place) showed the largest decrease compared with June 2016, down £130 million (20 per cent).
- The top five export commodities accounted for 50 per cent of total UK trade exports this month compared with 51 per cent in June 2016.

Exports of Mechanical appliances up 15% on June 2016

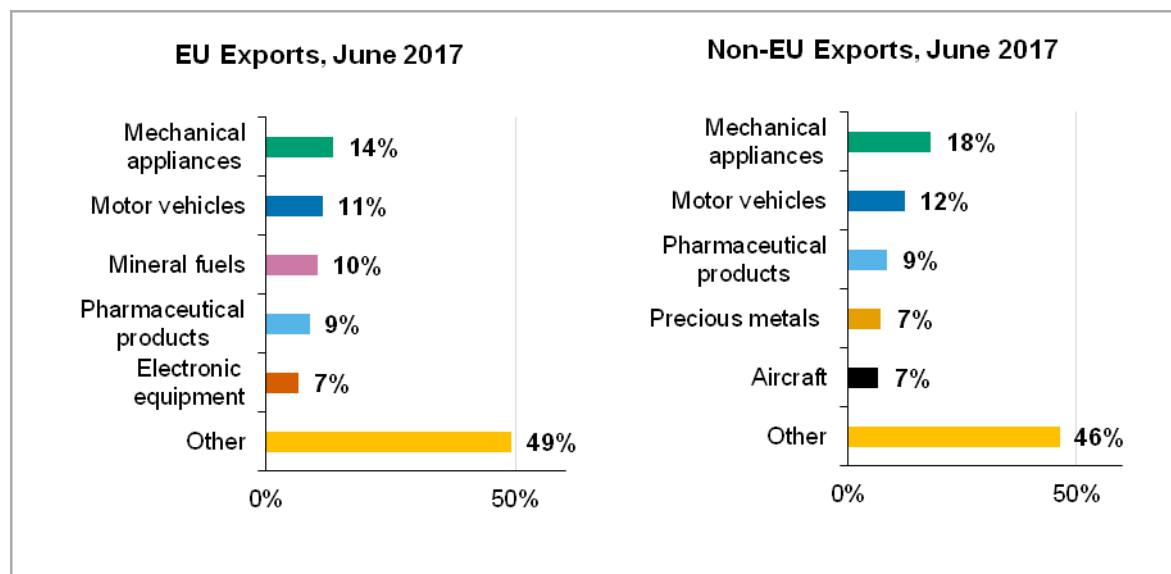
Exports of Aircraft up 30% on last month

Exports of Precious metals down 39% on last month

Exports of Mineral fuels down 29% on last month

## Combined Commodity and Country Analysis

Figure 5: UK exports to EU & Non-EU by top 5 commodities, June 2017



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics  
 Note: 2017 data is provisional

- Mechanical appliances, Motor vehicles, and Pharmaceutical products were in the top five export commodities for both EU and non-EU countries.
- The increase in exports of Mechanical appliances was led by France, up £78 million (15 per cent) on last month, and up £432 million (a near fourfold increase) compared with June 2016.
- The rise in exports of Aircraft was led by increases to Oman, up £242 million (from £5 million) compared to last month, and up £245 million (from £1 million) on June 2016. However, this was offset by a fall in exports to the USA, down £169 million (51 per cent), and Iceland, down £168 million to under £1 million.
- The increase in exports of Pharmaceutical products compared with both periods was led by an increase to Germany, up £164 million (63 per cent) on last month, and £157 million (59 per cent) on June 2016.
- The decrease in exports of Mineral fuels compared with last month was led by South Korea, down £298 million (79 per cent); and China, down £202 million (68 per cent). In contrast, exports of mineral fuels increased compared with June 2016, as the Netherlands and Germany saw increases of £259 million (70 per cent) and £163 million (more than double) respectively.
- The rise in exports to Turkey was led by an increase in Precious metals, up £176 million (85 per cent) on last month, and up £384 million (from under £1 million) on June 2016. In contrast, exports of this commodity to Switzerland fell £603 million (67 per cent) on last month, but rose compared with June 2016, up £152 million, doubling in value.

Exports of Mechanical appliances to France up fourfold on June 2016

Exports of Aircraft to Oman up fifty-fold on last month

Exports of Mineral fuels to South Korea down 79% on last month

# Imports

## Country Analysis

**Table 3: UK imports from top 10 countries, June 2017**

Partner Country	June 2017 Total (£ millions)	Change from May 2017 (%)	Change from June 2016 (%)	Rank May 2017	Rank June 2016
Germany	5,989	6.9	6.5	1	1
USA	3,619	1.2	14.9	2	2
Netherlands	3,341	-0.3	12.8	3	4
China	3,282	-0.5	10.8	4	3
France	2,595	21.8	14.3	5	6
Belgium	2,124	8.9	10.4	6	7
Italy	1,664	5.2	5.9	7	8
Spain	1,349	5.8	2.6	10	10
Norway	1,302	-15.0	-6.6	8	9
Canada	1,118	-19.0	73.0	9	17
Others	15,330	4.3	-6.0	-	-
<b>Total non-EU</b>	<b>19,390</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total EU</b>	<b>22,323</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Imports</b>	<b>41,713</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics  
Note: 2017 data is provisional

- The order of the top ten import partners (ranked by value) has changed compared with last month, though the top seven remain unchanged. There were several country ranking changes compared with June 2016, most notably, Canada rose to tenth place from 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Six of the top ten import partners increased in value compared with last month, while only one, Norway, decreased when compared with June 2016.
- Germany remained the top import partner country. It showed the second largest increase in value compared with last month, up £387 million (6.9 per cent). It also increased when compared with June 2016, up £366 million (6.5 per cent).
- France experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £465 million (22 per cent), and saw an increase on June 2016, up £324 million (14 per cent).

Top import country Germany up 6.9% on last month

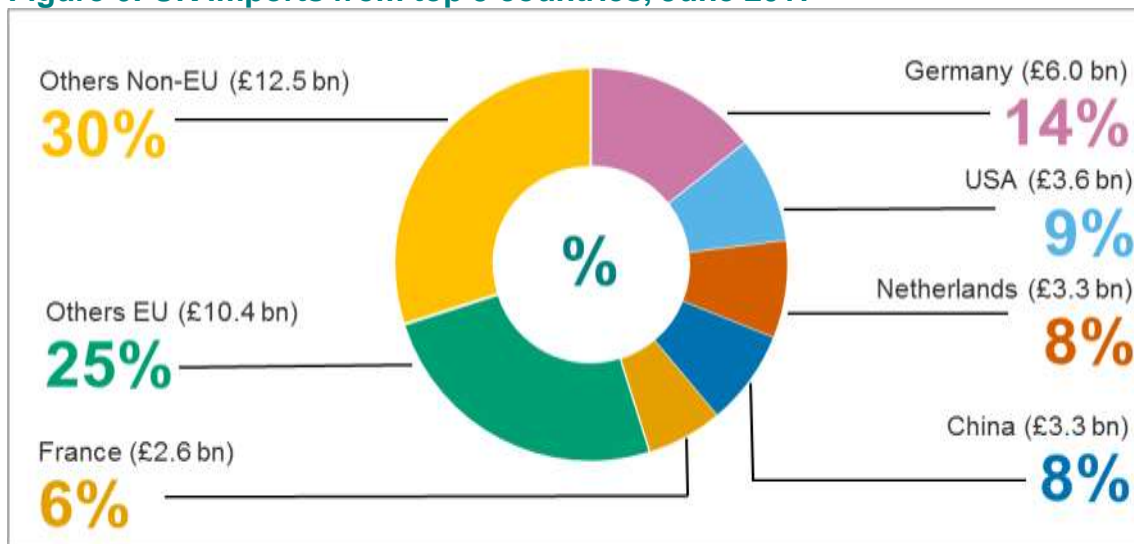


- Imports from the Canada saw the largest decrease compared with last month, down £262 million (19 per cent). In contrast, it saw the largest increase on June 2016, up £472 million (73 per cent).
- Switzerland saw an increase on last month, up £145 million (21 per cent). Conversely, it showed the largest decrease compared with June 2016, down £1,786 million (68 per cent), falling from fifth to 14<sup>th</sup> place.
- South Africa (19<sup>th</sup> place) experienced the third largest value increase compared with last month, up £296 million (more than double). In contrast, it saw the second largest value decrease on June 2016, down £494 million (47 per cent).
- Norway saw the second largest decrease compared with last month, down £231 million (15 per cent).
- The United States saw the second largest increase compared with June 2016, up £468 million (15 per cent).

Imports from  
Canada down  
19% on last month

Imports from  
Switzerland  
down 68% on  
June 2016

**Figure 6: UK imports from top 5 countries, June 2017**



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics  
Note: 2017 data is provisional

- Germany accounted for 14 per cent of the total value of imports to the UK, a slight increase on June 2016.
- The USA accounted for 8.7 per cent of total imports, an increase compared with 7.9 per cent in June 2016.
- The top five partner countries accounted for 45 per cent of total UK import value this month, compared with 43 per cent for June 2016.

Germany  
accounted for 14%  
of total UK imports

## Commodity Analysis

**Table 4: UK imports by top 5 commodities, June 2017**

Commodity Description	June 2017 Total (£ millions)	Change from May 2017 (%)	Change from June 2016 (%)	Rank May 2017	Rank June 2016
Motor vehicles	5,140	4.3	7.7	2	2
Mechanical appliances	5,135	1.5	10.7	1	3
Electronic equipment	3,694	3.6	7.6	3	4
Precious metals	3,342	20.2	-35.6	5	1
Mineral fuels	2,747	-4.5	8.0	4	5
Others	21,655	2.3	10.8	-	-
<b>Total Imports</b>	<b>41,713</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Note: 2017 data is provisional

- The ordering of the top five commodity groups has changed compared with last month, with Motor vehicles rising to first, replacing Mechanical appliances. Compared with June 2016, Precious metals dropped from first to fourth place.
- Motor vehicles was the top import commodity by value, accounting for a 12 per cent share of the total imports. It showed the third largest increase compared with last month, up £211 million (4.3 per cent). It had the second largest increase on June 2016, up £366 million (7.7 per cent).
- Precious metals imports showed the largest increase on last month, up £561 million (20 per cent). In contrast, it saw the largest decrease compared with June 2016, down £1,848 million (36 per cent).
- Mechanical appliances saw an increase on last month, up £74 million (1.5 per cent). It showed the highest increase on June 2016, up £496 million (11 per cent).
- Mineral fuels showed the largest decrease on last month, down £131 million (4.5 per cent). Conversely, it saw an increase compared with June 2016, up £203 million (8.0 per cent).
- Imports of Aircraft (in seventh place) experienced the second largest increase compared with last month, up £276 million (27 per cent).
- The top five import commodities accounted for 48 per cent of total UK trade imports for this month, down from 51 per cent in June 2016.

Imports of Motor vehicles up 4.3% on last month

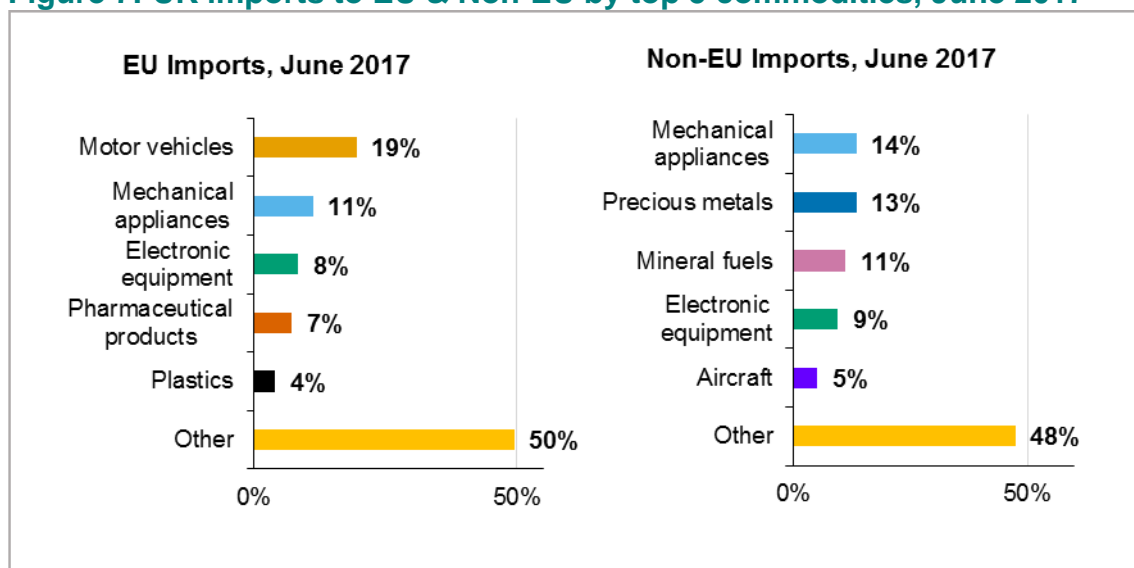
Precious metals imports down 36% on June 2016

Mechanical appliances up 11% on June 2016

Imports of Mineral fuels down 4.5% on last month

## Combined Commodity and Country Analysis

Figure 7: UK imports to EU & Non-EU by top 5 commodities, June 2017



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade  
 Statistics Note: 2017 data is provisional

- Mechanical appliances and Electronic equipment were in the top five import commodities from both EU and non-EU countries.
- The rise in imports of Motor vehicles compared with both last month and June 2016 was led by increases from Germany, up £107 million (5.9 per cent), and £113 million (6.3 per cent) respectively.
- The increase in Precious metals compared with last month was led by Hong Kong, South Africa, and France, up £296 million (trebling in value), £268 million (trebling in value), and £193 million (more than treble) respectively. The fall on June 2016 was led by Switzerland, down £1,895 million (94 per cent), and South Africa, down £531 million (57 per cent).
- The rise in imports from the USA on last month was led by increases of Aircraft, up £224 million (93 per cent). While increases of Precious metals, up £241 million (more than double), and Mechanical appliances, up £222 million (35 per cent), led the rises on June 2016.
- The decrease in imports of Mineral fuels compared with last month was led by imports from Norway, down £233 million (19 per cent). The rise in the commodity compared with June 2016 was led by an increase from Algeria, up £178 million (from £13.1 million).
- The fall in imports from Canada on last month was led by decreases in Aircraft, down £166 million (75 per cent), and Precious metals, down £139 million (15 per cent). In contrast, Precious metals led the increases from Canada when compared with June 2016, up £443 million (more than double).

Imports of Motor vehicles from Germany up 5.9% on last month

Imports of Precious metals from Switzerland down 94% on June 2016

Imports of Mechanical appliances from the USA up 35% on June 2016

## Annex I – Metadata

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

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

## Annex II – Methodological Notes

1. HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with countries on 10 August 2017 under arrangements set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#). The first release is published on HMRC's trade data website [www.uktradeinfo.com](#).
2. This release includes the first provisional estimates of trade-in-goods between the UK and both countries of the EU and those outside the EU for June 2017. At the same time revisions for all previously published non-EU and EU data for 2016 and 2017 are also being released in line with the [HM Revenue & Customs Policy on Revisions](#).
3. The **EU figures** provided in this publication of the June 2017 Overseas Trade Statistics are collected from the Intrastat survey. They will include:
  - a. Estimates for businesses who have yet to submit detailed data on the trade they had with other EU Member States this month.
  - b. Estimates for businesses who do not have to submit detailed data on the trade they have with other EU Member States
  - c. An adjustment for trade associated with Missing Trader Intra Community fraud. More details of this can be found [here](#).

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

4. The **Non-EU figures** provided in this publication of the June 2017 Overseas Trade Statistics are presented by customs declarations and collected by the CHIEF (Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight) system.
5. Detailed trade information is presented according to the [Harmonised System \(HS\)](#) nomenclature.
6. The aggregate estimates here will differ slightly from those that are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as part of the Balance of Payments (BoP), as the two sets of data are compiled to different sets of rules. The ONS web site provides an overview of BoP at the [Guide to UK Trade](#) as well as the detailed monthly [UK Trade Releases](#). The BoP publication shows a high level picture of UK trade-in-goods, whereas the OTS publication shows a detailed picture of the UK's trade-in-goods by commodity and partner country. [uktradeinfo.com](#) provides more detail about the [differences between BoP and OTS publications](#).
7. The aggregate estimates here will differ from the Eurostat publication [Euro area external trade](#). The OTS was published up until the May 2016 month of account

as 'general trade' based upon goods recorded as they enter or leave the UK. This will include goods imported into and exported from a freezone or customs warehouse, regardless of their future use. The Eurostat EU external trade data are published as 'special trade' where goods are recorded as trade only when they enter free circulation or are declared to specific Customs regimes such as Inward Processing (IP) or Processing under Customs Control (PCC). Imports from a free zone or customs warehouse are similarly recorded in 'special trade'.

8. HMRC publishes [additional information](#) to help support users of non-EU data. Information to help support users of the EU Overseas Trade Statistics can be found [here](#). This includes links to our policies on revision and suppression of data, descriptions of the methodology used to compile the OTS and information on the quality of the data published.
9. 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. More information can be found [here](#).
10. The OTS has been reviewed as part of an assessment made of Overseas Trade Statistics by the [UK Statistics Authority](#). The report of that assessment can be found at <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-93---uk-trade-in-goods.pdf>.
11. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:
  - meet identified user needs;
  - are well explained and readily accessible;
  - are produced according to sound methods; and
  - are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

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