



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 2019.

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

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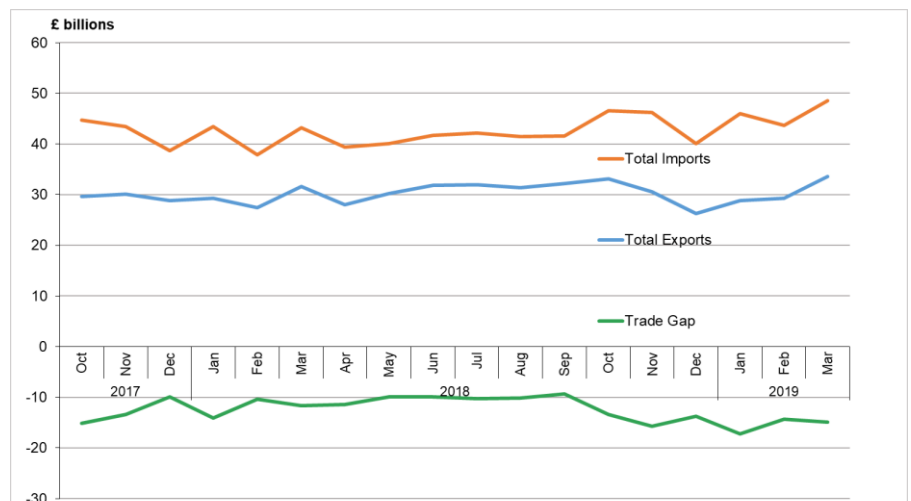
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Trade in Goods, March 2019

- Total **exports** of goods for March 2019 were £33.6 billion. This was an increase of £4.3 billion (15%) compared with last month, and an increase of £2.0 billion (6.3%) compared with March 2018.
- Total **imports** of goods for March 2019 were £48.6 billion. This was an increase of £4.9 billion (11%) compared with last month, and an increase of £5.3 billion (12%) compared with March 2018.
- The UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £15.0 billion. This was a widening of £0.6bn on last month.

Figure 1: Total UK monthly Trade in Goods



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2018 and 2019 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, reaching its highest point in Q1 2019. Exports peaked in Q2 of 2013, with a steady rise since Q2 of 2017.

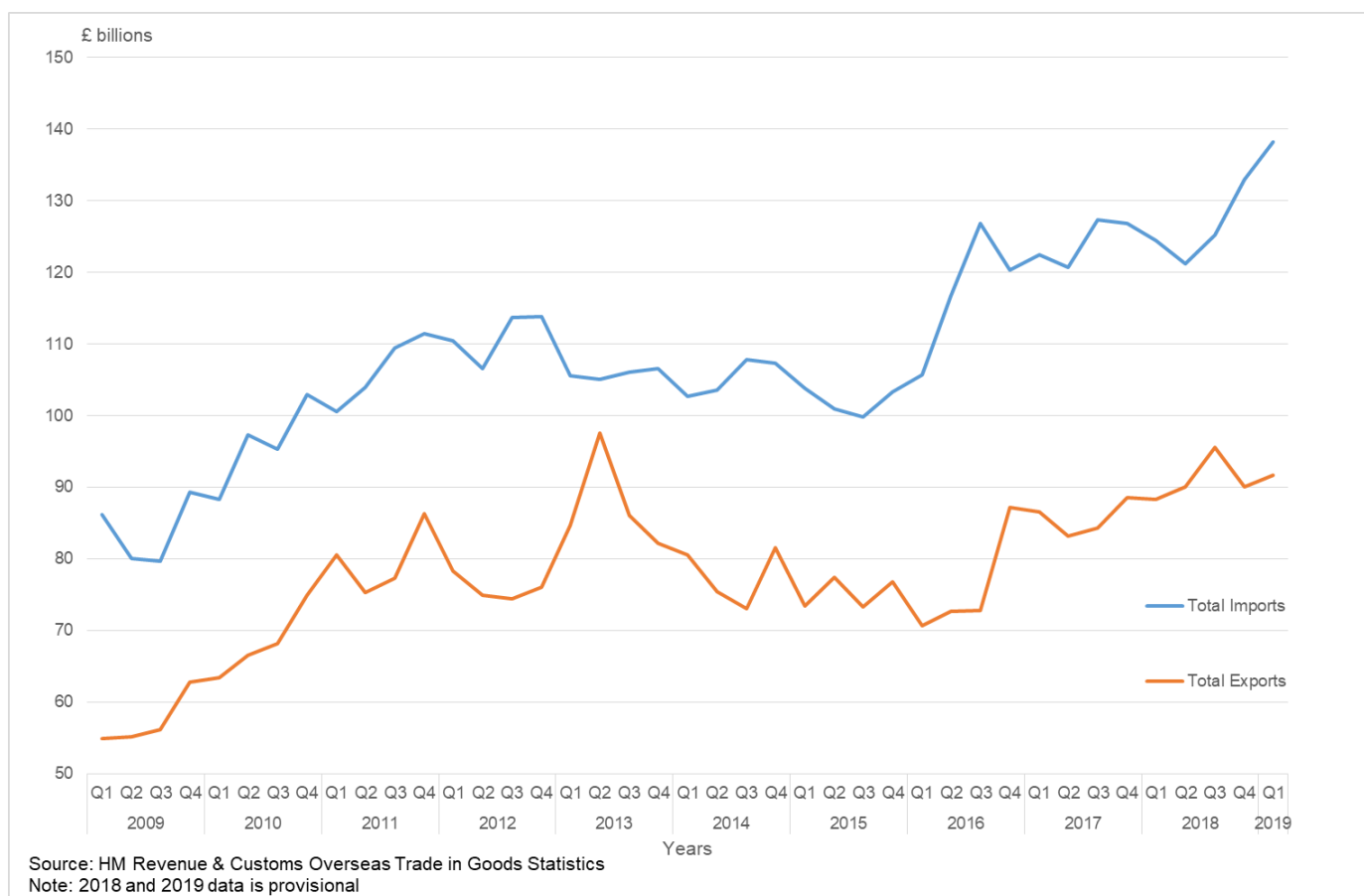
- The total **export** trade for Q1 of 2019 was £91.7 billion, which was an increase of 3.7% compared with £88.4 billion for Q1 of 2018.
- The total **import** trade for Q1 of 2019 was £138.2 billion, which was an increase of 11% compared with £124.5 billion for Q1 of 2018.
- There was a trade deficit of £46.5 billion for Q1 of 2019. This was a widening of 29% compared with Q1 of 2018.
- 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 3.7% on Q1 2018**

↑ **Imports up 11% on Q1 2018**

• **Trade deficit widened by 29% on Q1 2018**

Figure 2: Quarterly UK Trade in Goods, 2009 – 2019



Non-EU & EU Trade in Goods

Non-EU Trade in Goods:

- **Non-EU Exports** for March 2019 were £16.8 billion. This was an increase of £2.4 billion (16%) on last month, and an increase of £0.2 billion (1.4%) compared with March 2018.
- **Non-EU Imports** for March 2019 were £21.3 billion. This was an increase of £1.0 billion (4.7%) on last month, and an increase of £1.7 billion (8.5%) compared with March 2018.
- For **Non-EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £4.5 billion.

↑ **Non-EU exports up 16% on last month**

EU Trade in Goods:

- **EU Exports** for March 2019 were £16.8 billion. This was an increase of £2.0 billion (13%) on last month, and an increase of £1.8 billion (12%) compared with March 2018.
- **EU Imports** for March 2019 were £27.3 billion. This was an increase of £4.0 billion (17%) on last month, and an increase of £3.6 billion (15%) compared with March 2018.
- For **EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £10.5 billion.

↑ **EU imports up 15% on March 2018**

Figure 3: Total UK Trade in Goods, with EU and Non-EU, March 2019



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Exports: Country Analysis

- The USA remained the largest export partner country, experiencing the 3rd largest value increase on last month, up £475 million (11%).
- France experienced the largest value increase on last month and March 2018, up £649 million (31%) and £587 million (27%) respectively.
- China experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month and March 2018, up £568 million (37%) and £500 million (31%) respectively.
- Qatar (32nd place) experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £407 million (74%).
- Switzerland (ranked 12th) experienced the largest value decrease on March 2018, down £962 million (60%).

↑ Exports to USA up 11% on last month

↑ Exports to France up 27% on March 2018

Table 1: UK exports of goods to top 10 partner countries, March 2019

Partner Country	Total (£ millions)	February 2019		March 2018	
		Total (£ millions)	Change from February 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change from March 2018 (%)
USA	4,702	4,227	11.2	4,420	6.4
Germany	3,454	3,236	6.7	3,181	8.6
France	2,763	2,114	30.7	2,175	27.0
Netherlands	2,144	2,070	3.6	2,107	1.8
China	2,122	1,554	36.5	1,622	30.8
Irish Republic	2,021	1,631	23.9	1,792	12.8
Belgium	1,343	1,183	13.5	1,232	9.0
Spain	993	982	1.2	947	4.9
Italy	978	873	12.0	947	3.3
Hong Kong	947	522	81.3	643	47.3
Others	12,132	10,879	11.5	12,551	-3.3
Total EU	16,776	14,809	13.3	15,020	11.7
Total Non-EU	16,823	14,462	16.3	16,598	1.4
Total Exports	33,599	29,271	14.8	31,618	6.3

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

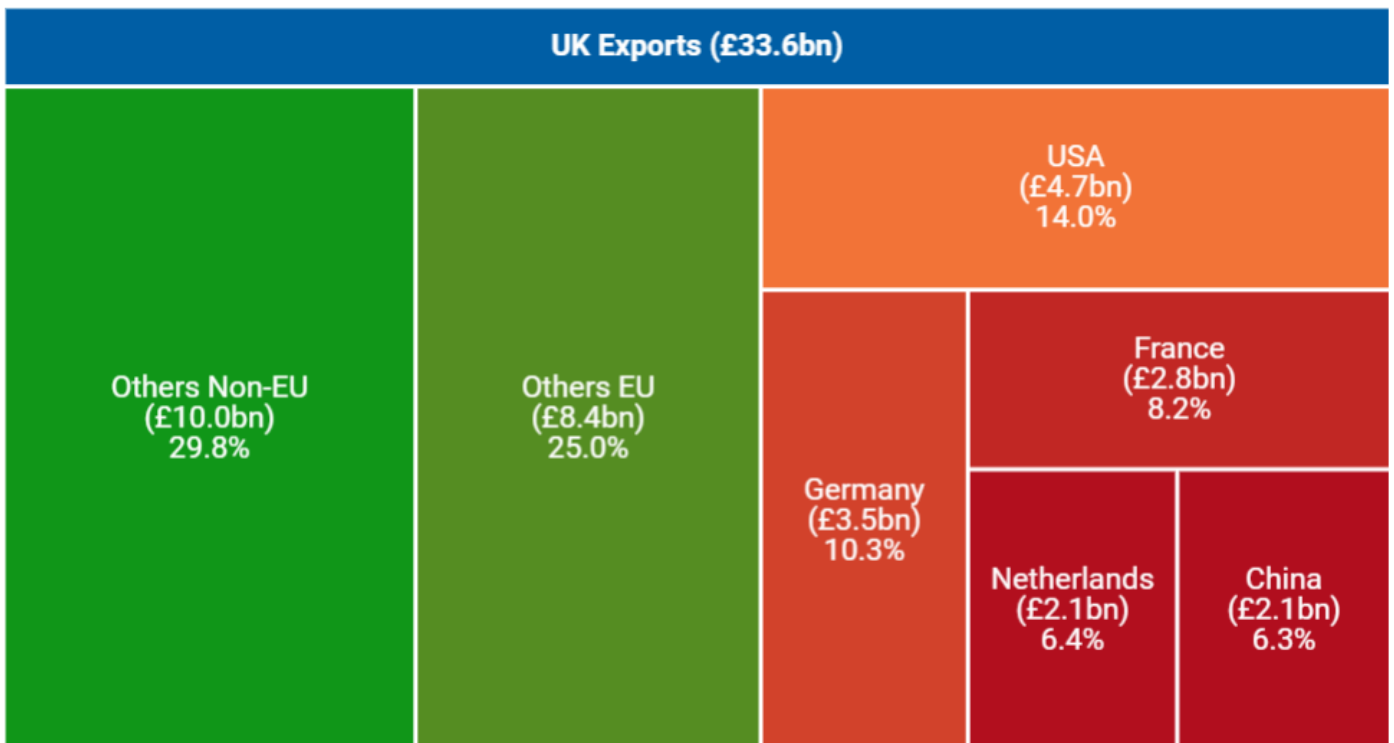
Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Exports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 export partners accounted for 45% of total exports in goods this month, which was an increase from 43% on March 2018.
- The USA accounted for 14% of the total value of goods exports from the UK, this was unchanged on March 2018.
- Germany had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 10%. This was unchanged compared with March 2018.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Hong Kong rose from 12th place to 10th, replacing Qatar who fell to 32nd place.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with March 2018. Most notably, Switzerland fell to 12th from 7th place in March 2018.

- **USA had a 14% share of total exports in March 2019**
- ↑ **Hong Kong rose to 10th largest export partner for March 2019**

Figure 4: UK exports of goods to the top 5 countries, March 2019



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Exports: Country Analysis

- In the 3 months to March 2019 the USA remained the largest export partner country, despite experiencing a 3.6% decrease on the 3 months to December 2018. It saw an 8.2% increase compared with the 3 months to March 2018.
- Among the top 10, France experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to December 2018, up 19%. It experienced the 2nd largest increase on the 3 months to March 2018, up 16%.
- China experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to March 2018, up 30%.
- Irish Republic experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to December 2018, down 5.7%.
- Italy experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to March 2018, down 2.8%.

↑ **Exports to France up 19% on the 3 months to December 2018**

↓ **Exports to Irish Republic down 5.7% on the 3 months to December 2018**

Table 2: UK exports of goods to the top 10 partner countries, 3 months to March 2019

Partner Country	Total (£ millions)	3 months to Dec 2018		3 months to Mar 2018	
		Total (£ millions)	Change on December 2018 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on March 2018 (%)
USA	13,085	13,580	-3.6	12,090	8.2
Germany	10,105	8,882	13.8	9,229	9.5
France	7,151	5,987	19.4	6,193	15.5
Netherlands	6,368	6,515	-2.3	6,530	-2.5
Irish Republic	5,420	5,746	-5.7	5,079	6.7
China	5,072	4,505	12.6	3,907	29.8
Belgium	3,701	3,192	15.9	3,413	8.4
Spain	2,833	2,644	7.2	2,700	4.9
Italy	2,739	2,663	2.9	2,817	-2.8
Hong Kong	2,043	2,079	-1.7	1,787	14.3
Others	33,137	34,265	-3.3	34,607	-4.2
Total Exports	91,654	90,059	1.8	88,352	3.7

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Exports: Commodity Analysis

- Mechanical appliances remained in 1st place, experiencing the 3rd largest value increase on last month, up £684 million (15%). It experienced the largest value increase on March 2018, up £594 million (13%).
- Precious metals experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £694 million (33%). In contrast, it saw the largest value decrease compared with March 2018, down £312 million (10%).
- Art and Antiques experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month and March 2018, up £692 million (more than 3 times the value) and £384 million (65%) respectively.
- Mineral fuels experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £320 million (12%).
- Motor vehicles experienced an increase on last month, up £291 million (8.4%). Conversely, it experienced the 2nd largest decrease compared with March 2018, down £140 million (3.6%).

↑ **Exports of Mechanical appliances up 13% on March 2018**

↓ **Mineral fuels down 12% on last month**

Table 3: UK exports of goods by top 10 commodities, March 2019

Commodity Description	Total (£ millions)	February 2019		March 2018	
		Total (£ millions)	Change from February 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change from March 2018 (%)
Mechanical appliances	5,298	4,614	14.8	4,703	12.6
Motor vehicles	3,751	3,460	8.4	3,891	-3.6
Precious metals	2,787	2,093	33.2	3,099	-10.1
Mineral fuels	2,283	2,603	-12.3	2,383	-4.2
Electronic equipment	2,134	1,784	19.6	1,890	12.9
Pharmaceutical products	2,059	1,778	15.8	2,087	-1.3
Measuring devices and gauges	1,510	1,164	29.7	1,255	20.3
Aircraft	1,292	1,258	2.7	1,409	-8.3
Art and antiques	973	281	246.0	588	65.3
Plastics and plastic products	919	789	16.4	837	9.8
Others	10,593	9,447	12.1	9,475	11.8
Total Exports	33,599	29,271	14.8	31,618	6.3

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

^Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

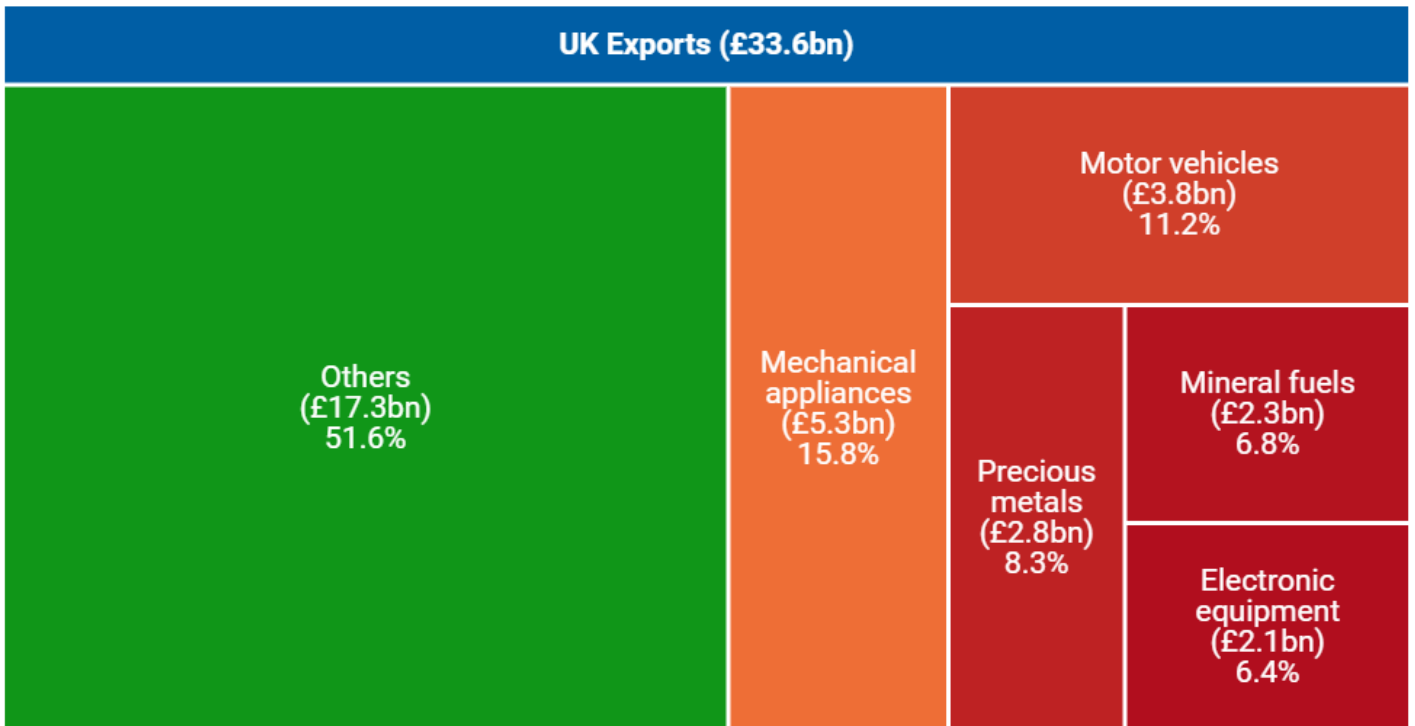
Exports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 export commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 48% of exports this month, which is a decrease from 51% on March 2018.
- Mechanical appliances accounted for 16% of the total value of exports from the UK, this was an increase from 15% on March 2018.
- Motor vehicles had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 11%, this was a decrease from 12% on March 2018.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Art and antiques rose to 9th place from 18th.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with March 2018. Most notably, Organic chemicals fell out of the top 10, from 9th place to 11th.

↑ **Mechanical appliances had a 16% share of total exports**

↑ **Art and Antiques rose to 9th largest commodity export in March 2019**

Figure 5: UK exports by top 5 commodities, March 2019



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Exports: Commodity Analysis

- In the 3 months to March 2019, Mechanical appliances remained the largest export commodity, experiencing an increase on the 3 months to December 2018, up 1.0%. It experienced an increase on the 3 months to March 2018, up 11%.
- Among the top 10, Precious metals experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to December 2018, up 19%. In contrast it experienced the largest decrease on the 3 months to March 2018, down 12%.
- Measuring devices and gauges experienced the largest percentage increase compared with the 3 months to March 2018, up 13%.
- Pharmaceutical products experienced a percentage decrease compared with the 3 months to March 2018, down 10%.
- 8 of the top 10 commodities saw increases on the 3 months to December 2018, while 6 experienced increases on the 3 months to March 2018.

↑ **Precious metals up 19% on the 3 months to December 2018**

↓ **Pharmaceutical products fell 10% on the 3 months to March 2018**

Table 4: UK exports of goods by top 10 commodities for the 3 months to March 2019

Commodity	Total (£ millions)	3 months to Dec 2018		3 months to Mar 2018	
		Total (£ millions)	Change on December 2018 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on March 2018 (%)
Mechanical appliances	14,642	14,495	1.0	13,214	10.8
Motor vehicles	10,292	10,353	-0.6	11,145	-7.7
Mineral fuels	7,702	8,688	-11.3	7,283	5.8
Precious metals	6,523	5,497	18.7	7,433	-12.2
Electronic equipment	5,865	5,861	0.1	5,220	12.3
Pharmaceutical products	5,613	5,515	1.8	6,235	-10.0
Measuring devices and gauges	3,918	3,842	2.0	3,470	12.9
Aircraft	3,780	3,584	5.5	4,001	-5.5
Organic chemicals	2,654	2,416	9.9	2,443	8.7
Plastics and plastic products	2,528	2,286	10.6	2,428	4.1
Others	28,136	27,521	2.2	25,479	10.4
Total Exports	91,654	90,059	1.8	88,352	3.7

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Exports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

Country to commodity:

- The increase in exports to the USA compared with last month was led by increases in Mechanical appliances, up £280 million (40%) and Art and Antiques, up £230 million (more than double).
- The increase in exports to France on last month and March 2018 was dominated by Precious metals, up £402 million (from £77 million) and £440 million (from £39 million).
- The increase in exports to China on last month was led by Precious metals, up £216 million (43%). The increase on March 2018 was led by Mineral fuels, up £387 million (nearly 5 times the value).
- The decrease in exports to Switzerland on March 2018 was dominated by Precious metals, down £994 million (86%).

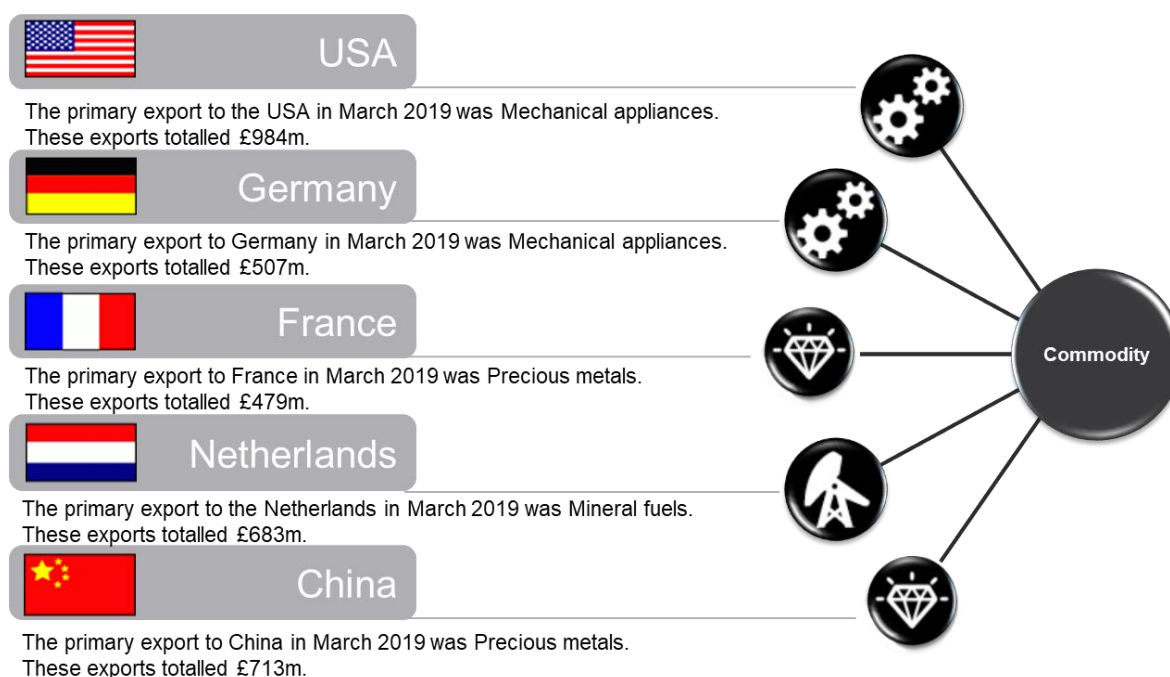
↑ Exports of Mechanical appliances to the USA up 40% on last month

Commodity to country:

- The increase in exports of Mechanical appliances on last month and March 2018 was led by the USA, up £280 million (40%) and £222 million (29%) respectively.
- The increase in exports of Art and Antiques on last month and March 2018 was led by Hong Kong, up £284 million (from £34 million) and £211 million (tripling in value).
- The decrease in exports of Mineral fuels on last month was led by the Netherlands, down £149 million (18%) and South Korea, down £102 million (to £0.3 million).
- The decrease in exports of Motor vehicles on March 2018 was largely due to a decrease to China, down £134 million (46%).

↑ Exports of Art and Antiques to Hong Kong triple on March 2018

Figure 6: The UK's top commodity exports to the top 5 EU & Non-EU countries



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Imports: Country Analysis

- Germany remained the top import partner country, experiencing the 2nd largest value increase on last month, up £840 million (14%). It experienced the 4th largest value increase on March 2018, up £524 million (8.5%).
- The Netherlands experienced the largest value increase on last month and March 2018, up £1,078 million (29%) and £1,181 million (33%) respectively.
- France saw the 3rd largest value increase on last month, up £769 million (30%). It experienced the 2nd largest value increase on March 2018, up £1,032 million (44%).
- Switzerland (ranked 19th) experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £591 million (48%).
- Norway experienced the largest value decrease on March 2018, down £1,071 million (45%).

↑ Imports from the Netherlands up 29% on last month

↓ Imports from Norway down 45% on March 2018

Table 5: UK imports of goods from the top 10 partner countries, March 2019

Partner Country	Total (£ millions)	February 2019		March 2018	
		Total (£ millions)	Change from February 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change from March 2018 (%)
Germany	6,705	5,865	14.3	6,182	8.5
Netherlands	4,784	3,706	29.1	3,603	32.8
USA	4,362	4,072	7.1	3,581	21.8
China	3,536	3,443	2.7	3,028	16.8
France	3,369	2,600	29.6	2,337	44.1
Belgium	2,709	2,323	16.6	2,553	6.1
Italy	1,861	1,653	12.6	1,682	10.6
Spain	1,620	1,493	8.5	1,412	14.8
Norway	1,314	1,557	-15.6	2,386	-44.9
Canada	1,203	815	47.7	985	22.2
Others	17,091	16,092	6.2	15,512	10.2
Total EU	27,258	23,274	17.1	23,631	15.3
Total Non-EU	21,298	20,344	4.7	19,628	8.5
Total Imports	48,556	43,617	11.3	43,259	12.2

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

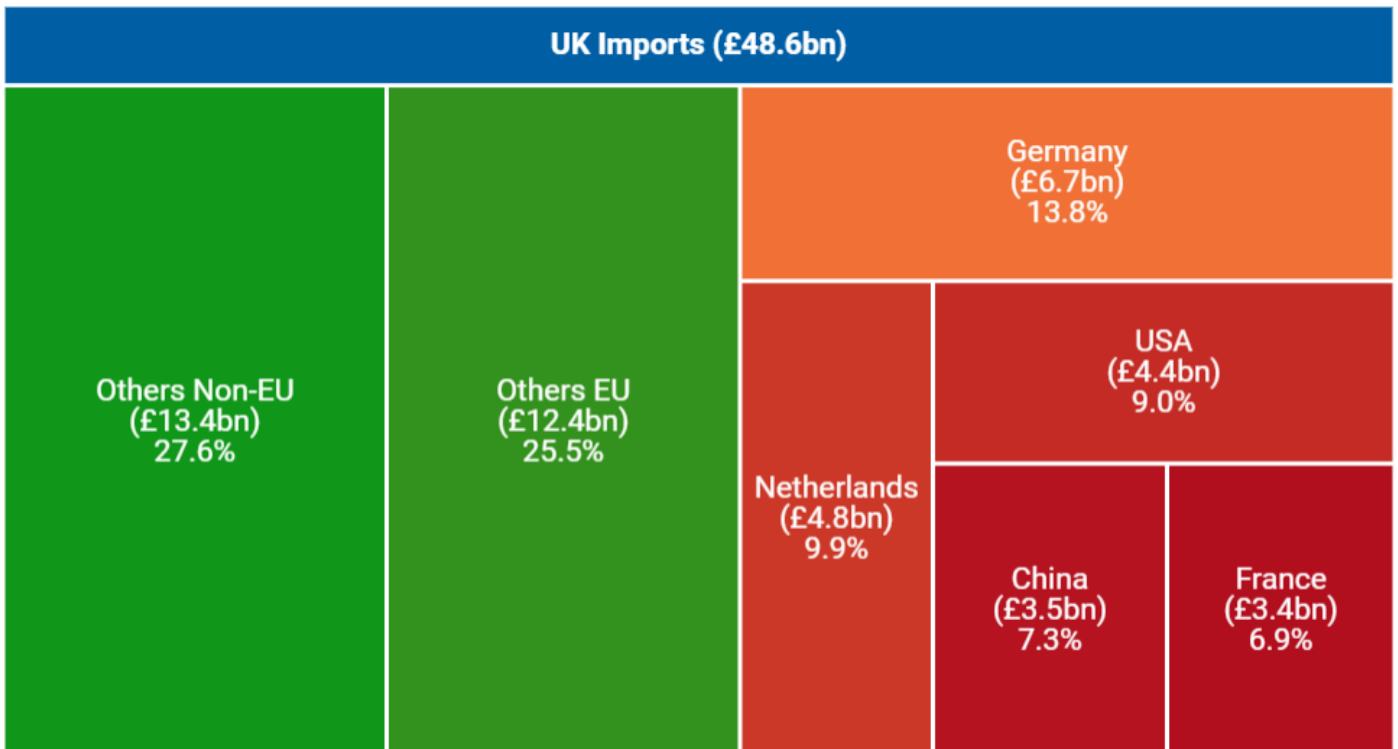
Imports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 import partners accounted for 47% of total imports of goods this month, this was an increase from 44% on March 2018.
- Germany accounted for 14% of the total value of goods imports from the UK. This was unchanged on March 2018.
- The Netherlands had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 9.9%. This was an increase from 8.3% on March 2018.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with last month, most notably, Canada rose to 10th place from 14th, while Switzerland fell from 10th place to 19th.
- The top 10 import partner countries changed compared with March 2018, most notably, France rose to 5th place from 7th, while Norway fell to 9th place from 6th.

↑ **The Netherlands accounted for 9.9% of total imports in March 2019**

↑ **Canada rose to 10th largest import partner for March 2019**

Figure 7: UK imports of goods from the top 5 countries, March 2019



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Imports: Country Analysis

- In the 3 months to March 2019, Germany remained the largest import partner country, experiencing an increase on the 3 months to December 2018, up 8.6%.
- Among the top 10, the Netherlands and France experienced the largest percentage increases on the 3 months to December 2018, up 13%.
- The USA experienced the largest percentage increase on 3 months to March 2018, up 28%.
- Norway experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to December 2018, down 12%, and on the 3 months to March 2018, down 22%.
- 7 of the top 10 countries experienced a percentage increase on the 3 months to December 2018, with China, Italy and Norway being the exceptions.
- 9 of the top 10 countries experienced a percentage increase on the 3 months to March 2018, Norway being the exception.

↑ Imports from the Netherlands and France up 13% on the 3 months to December 2018

↓ Imports from Norway down 22% on the 3 months to March 2018

Table 6: UK imports of goods from the top 10 partner countries, 3 months to March 2019

Partner Country	Total (£ millions)	3 months to Dec 2018		3 months to Mar 2018	
		Total (£ millions)	Change on December 2018 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on March 2018 (%)
Germany	18,284	16,830	8.6	17,658	3.5
USA	12,985	12,129	7.1	10,182	27.5
Netherlands	12,238	10,876	12.5	10,401	17.7
China	11,429	12,735	-10.3	9,508	20.2
France	8,454	7,516	12.5	6,765	25.0
Belgium	7,221	6,540	10.4	6,760	6.8
Italy	5,077	5,289	-4.0	4,733	7.3
Norway	4,587	5,190	-11.6	5,906	-22.3
Spain	4,439	4,066	9.2	4,026	10.2
Canada	3,389	3,064	10.6	3,109	9.0
Others	50,098	48,704	2.9	45,427	10.3
Total Imports	138,200	132,939	4.0	124,475	11.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Imports: Commodity Analysis

- Motor vehicles remained the largest import commodity, experiencing the 4th largest value increase on last month, up £500 million (8.6%). It had the 3rd largest value increase on March 2018, up £735 million (13%).
- Pharmaceutical products experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £954 million (44%). It had the 2nd largest value increase on March 2018, up £1,320 million (74%).
- Precious metals experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £128 million (3.1%). In contrast, it had the largest value increase on March 2018, up £1,430 million (54%).
- Mineral fuels experienced the largest value decrease on March 2018, down £786 million (17%).
- Electronic equipment had the 2nd largest value increase on last month, up £943 million (26%). It experienced the 4th largest value increase on March 2018 up £675 million (17%).

↑ **Imports of Motor vehicles up 13% on March 2018**

↑ **Imports of Pharmaceutical products up 44% on last month**

Table 7: UK imports of goods by top 10 commodities, March 2019

Commodity Description	Total (£ millions)	February 2019		March 2018	
		Total (£ millions)	Change from February 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change from March 2018 (%)
Motor vehicles	6,294	5,794	8.6	5,558	13.2
Mechanical appliances	6,003	5,350	12.2	5,473	9.7
Electronic equipment	4,538	3,595	26.2	3,862	17.5
Precious metals	4,068	4,197	-3.1	2,639	54.2
Mineral fuels	3,969	3,680	7.8	4,755	-16.5
Pharmaceutical products	3,114	2,160	44.2	1,794	73.6
Plastics	1,459	1,297	12.5	1,228	18.8
Measuring devices and gauges	1,454	1,213	19.8	1,250	16.3
Articles of iron or steel	825	661	24.8	831	-0.8
Clothes, not knitted	787	696	13.0	749	5.0
Others	16,047	14,976	7.1	15,120	6.1
Total Imports	48,556	43,617	11.3	43,259	12.2

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

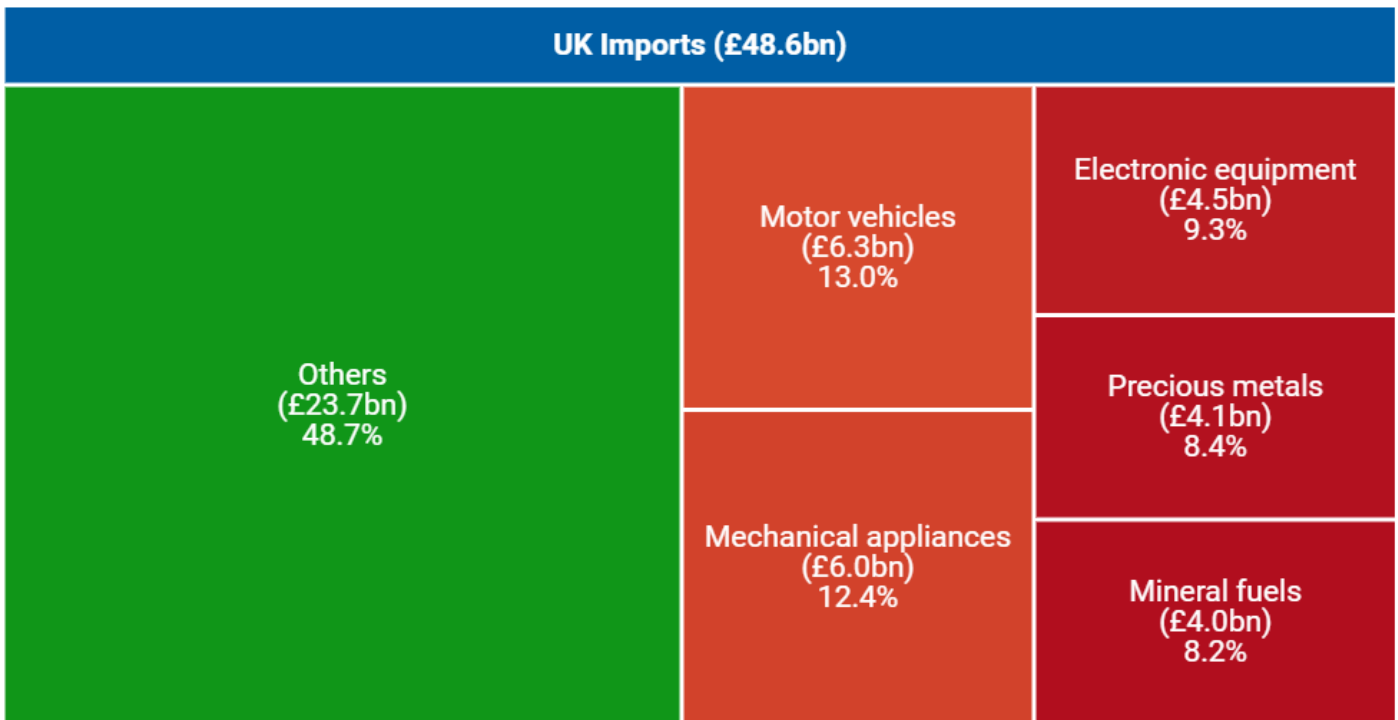
Imports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 import commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 51% this month, this was a decrease from 52% on March 2018.
- Motor vehicles accounted for 13% of the total value of goods imports, this was unchanged compared with March 2018.
- Mechanical appliances had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 12%. This was a decrease from 13% on March 2018.
- The top 10 import commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Electronic equipment rose to 3rd place from 5th.
- The top 10 import commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with March 2018. Most notably, Mineral fuels fell from 3rd to 5th place.

- **Motor vehicles accounted for 13% of total imports in March 2019**

↑ **Electronic equipment rose to 3rd largest import commodity for March 2019**

Figure 8: UK imports by top 5 commodities, March 2019



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Imports: Commodity Analysis

- In the 3 months to March 2019, Mechanical appliances remained the largest import commodity, despite experiencing a decrease on the 3 months to December 2018, down 1.0%. It experienced an increase on the 3 months to March 2018, up 11%.
- Among the top 10, Precious metals experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to December 2018, up 55%. It also experienced the largest percentage increase on 3 months to March 2018, up 44%.
- Electronic equipment experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to December 2018, down 12%.
- 7 of the top 10 commodities experienced an increase on the 3 months to December 2018, Mechanical appliances, Electronic equipment and Mineral fuels being the exceptions.
- 9 of the top 10 commodities experienced an increase on the 3 months to March 2018, Mineral fuels (down 4.2%) being the exception.

↑ **Precious metals up 55% on the 3 months to December 2018**

↓ **Electronic equipment down 12% on the 3 months to December 2018**

Table 8: UK imports of goods by top 10 commodities for the 3 months to March 2019

Commodity	Total (£ millions)	3 months to Dec 2018		3 months to Mar 2018	
		Total (£ millions)	Change on December 2018 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on March 2018 (%)
Mechanical appliances	17,173	17,353	-1.0	15,463	11.1
Motor vehicles	17,078	14,000	22.0	15,365	11.1
Electronic equipment	12,428	14,059	-11.6	10,994	13.0
Precious metals	12,377	7,982	55.1	8,600	43.9
Mineral fuels	12,164	13,302	-8.6	12,696	-4.2
Pharmaceutical products	7,432	5,669	31.1	5,914	25.7
Plastics and plastic products	4,090	3,669	11.5	3,595	13.8
Measuring devices and gauges	3,935	3,628	8.5	3,546	10.9
Furniture and light fittings	2,372	2,292	3.5	2,245	5.7
Clothes, not knitted	2,286	2,263	1.0	2,179	4.9
Others	46,866	48,723	-3.8	43,877	6.8
Total Imports	138,200	132,939	4.0	124,475	11.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Imports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

Country to commodity:

- The increase in imports from Germany on last month was led by Motor vehicles, up £122 million (6.2%), while the increase on March 2018 was led by Pharmaceutical products, up £115 million (52%).
- The increase in imports from the Netherlands on last month and March 2018 was dominated by Pharmaceutical products, up £748 million (more than double) and £982 million (nearly 4 times the value) respectively.
- The increase in imports from France on last month and March 2018 was led by Precious metals, up £518 million (from £86 million) and £532 million (from £72 million) respectively.
- The decrease in imports from Switzerland on last month was dominated by Precious metals, down £716 million (86%).

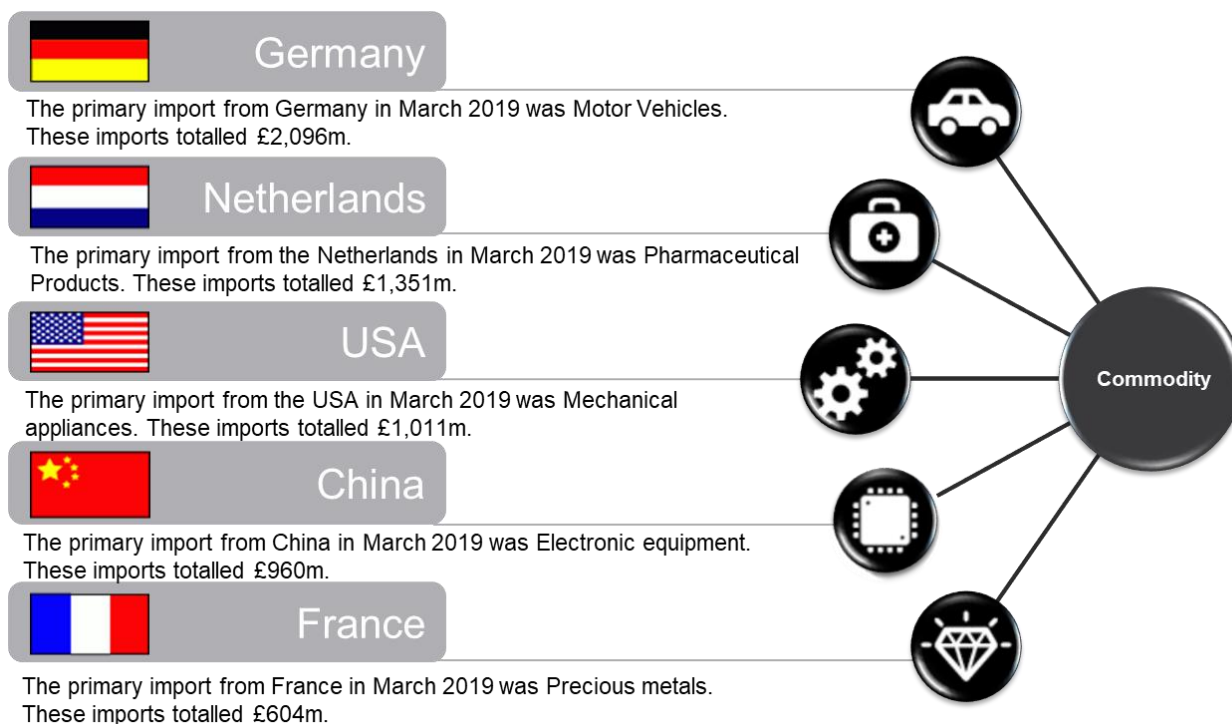
↑ Imports of Pharmaceutical products from Germany up 52% on March 2018

Commodity to country:

- The increase in imports of Motor vehicles on March 2018 was led by France, up £199 million (67%), and the Netherlands, up £107 million (59%).
- The decrease in imports of Precious metals on last month was led by Switzerland, down £716 million (86%), and Australia, £414 million (75%).
- The decrease in imports of Mineral fuels on March 2018 was led by Norway, down £1,083 million (50%).
- The increase in imports of Electronic equipment on last month was led by China, up £250 million (35%), and Vietnam, up £114 million (doubling in value). The increase on March 2018 was led by China, up £396 million (70%).

↑ Imports of Electronic equipment from China up 70% on March 2018

Figure 9: The UK's top commodity imports from the top 5 EU & Non-EU countries



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Methodology Notes

Metadata

All 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](#).

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’](#).

Data sources

The **EU figures** provided in this publication of the March 2019 Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics are collected from the Intrastat survey. They will include:

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

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

The **Non-EU figures** provided in this publication of the March 2019 Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics are presented by customs declarations and collected by the CHIEF (Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight) system.

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

Methodology

This methodology paper 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 Overseas Trade Statistics Methodology paper (July 2017) is available [here](#).

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](#).

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 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](#).

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'.

National Statistics Publication

HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with countries on 10 October 2018 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 2019. At the same time revisions for all previously published non-EU and EU data for 2018 and 2019 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 2019	June 10th 2019
May 2019	July 10th 2019
June 2019	August 9th 2019

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 at <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-93---uk-trade-in-goods.pdf>.

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.