



About this release

This release includes the 1st provisional estimates of trade-in-goods between the UK and both countries of the EU and those outside the EU for October 2019.

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

In this publication

- Trade trends p.2
- Non-EU and EU trade p.3
- October 2019 Exports p.4

Country analysis

Country analysis – 3 months

Commodity analysis

Commodity analysis – 3 months

Combined analysis

- October 2019 Imports p.11

Country analysis

Country analysis – 3 months

Commodity analysis

Commodity analysis – 3 months

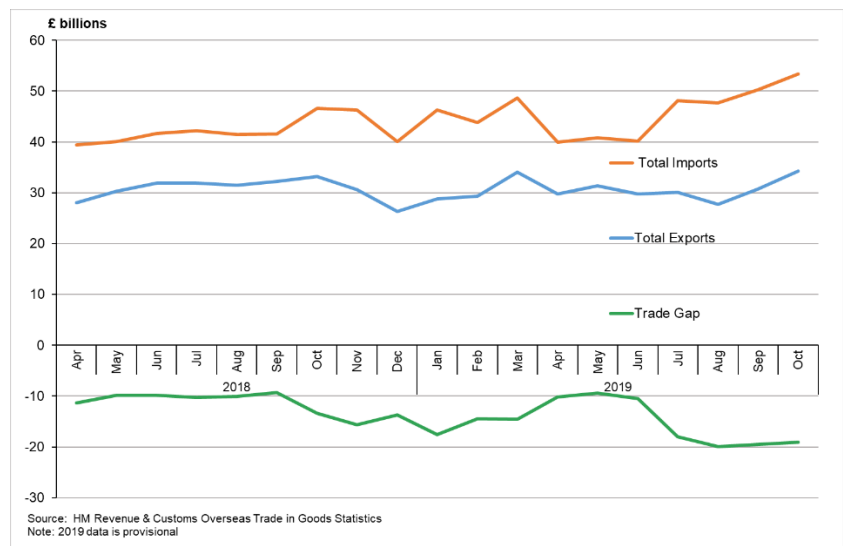
Combined analysis

- Methodology notes p.18

Trade in Goods, October 2019

- Total **exports** of goods for October 2019 were £34.3 billion. This was an increase of £3.5 billion (11%) compared with last month and an increase of £1.1 billion (3.2%) compared with October 2018.
- Total **imports** of goods for October 2019 were £53.4 billion. This was an increase of £3.1 billion (6.2%) compared with last month, and an increase of £6.7 billion (14%) compared with October 2018.
- The UK was a net importer this month, with **imports** exceeding **exports** by £19.1 billion, narrowing by £0.4 billion on last month.

Figure 1: Total UK monthly Trade in Goods



Coverage: United Kingdom
 Theme: Business and Energy
 Released: 10 December 2019
 Next release: 13 January 2020

Website: <https://www.uktradeinfo.com>
 Email: uktradeinfo@hmrc.gov.uk
 Statistical contact: Maxim Mastrangelo 03000 594250
 Media contact: HMRC Press Office 03000 585018

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 Q3 of 2019. Exports peaked in Q2 of 2013, with a steady rise since Q2 of 2017.

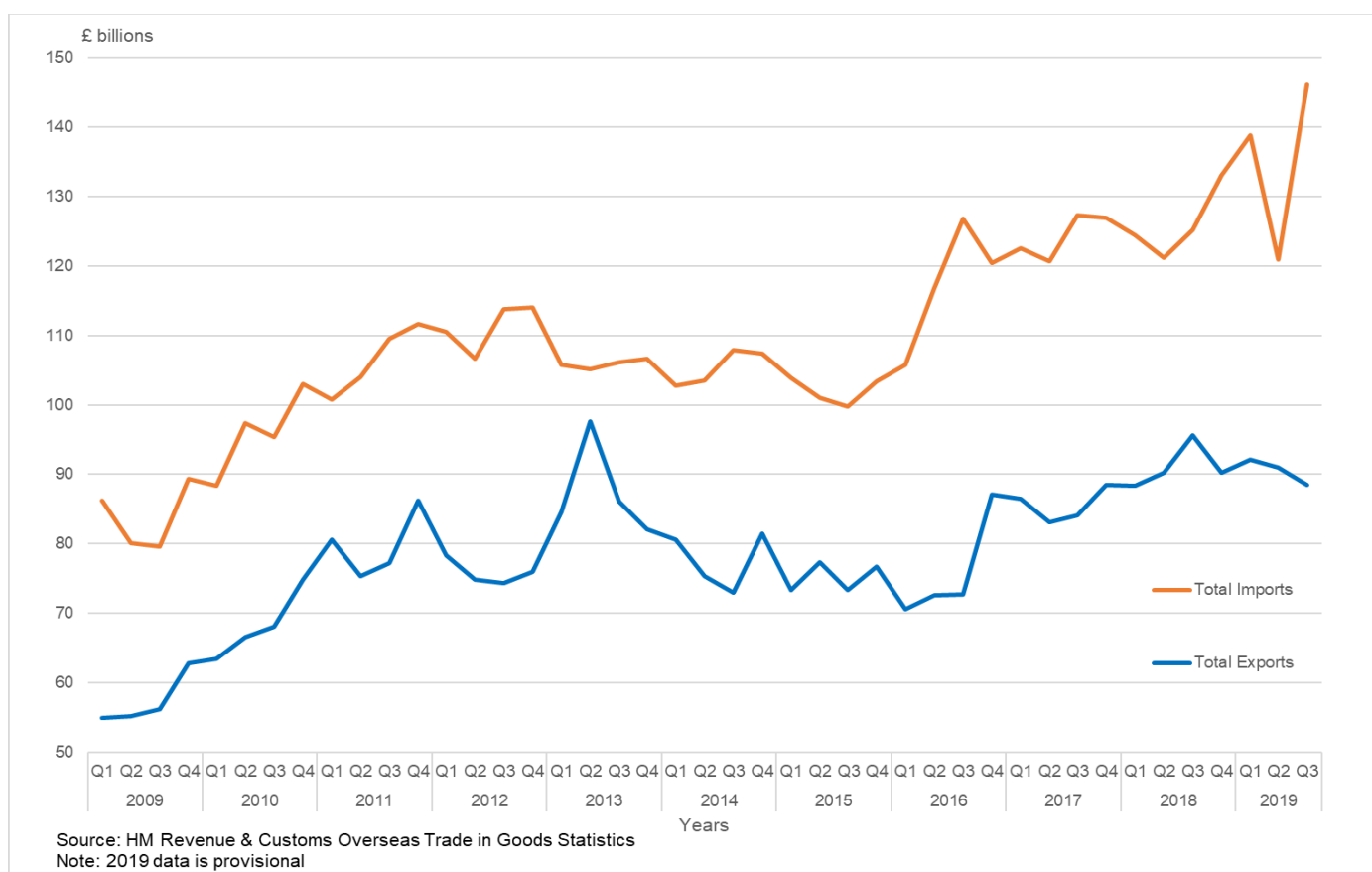
- The total **export** trade for Q3 of 2019 was £88.5 billion, which was a decrease of 7.4% compared with £95.6 billion for Q3 of 2018.
- The total **import** trade for Q3 of 2019 was £146 billion, which was an increase of 17% compared with £125 billion for Q3 of 2018.
- There was a trade deficit of £57.5 billion for Q3 of 2019. This was a widening of 94% compared with £29.6 billion for Q3 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 down 7% on Q3 2018**

↑ **Imports up 17% on Q3 2018**

• **Trade deficit widened by 94% on Q3 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 October 2019 were £18.7 billion. This was an increase of £2.2 billion (13%) on last month, and an increase of £0.7 billion (4.0%) compared with October 2018.
- **Non-EU imports** for October 2019 were £27.8 billion. This was an increase of £1.1 billion (4.1%) on last month, and an increase of £5.4 billion (24%) compared with October 2018.
- For **non-EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £9.1 billion.

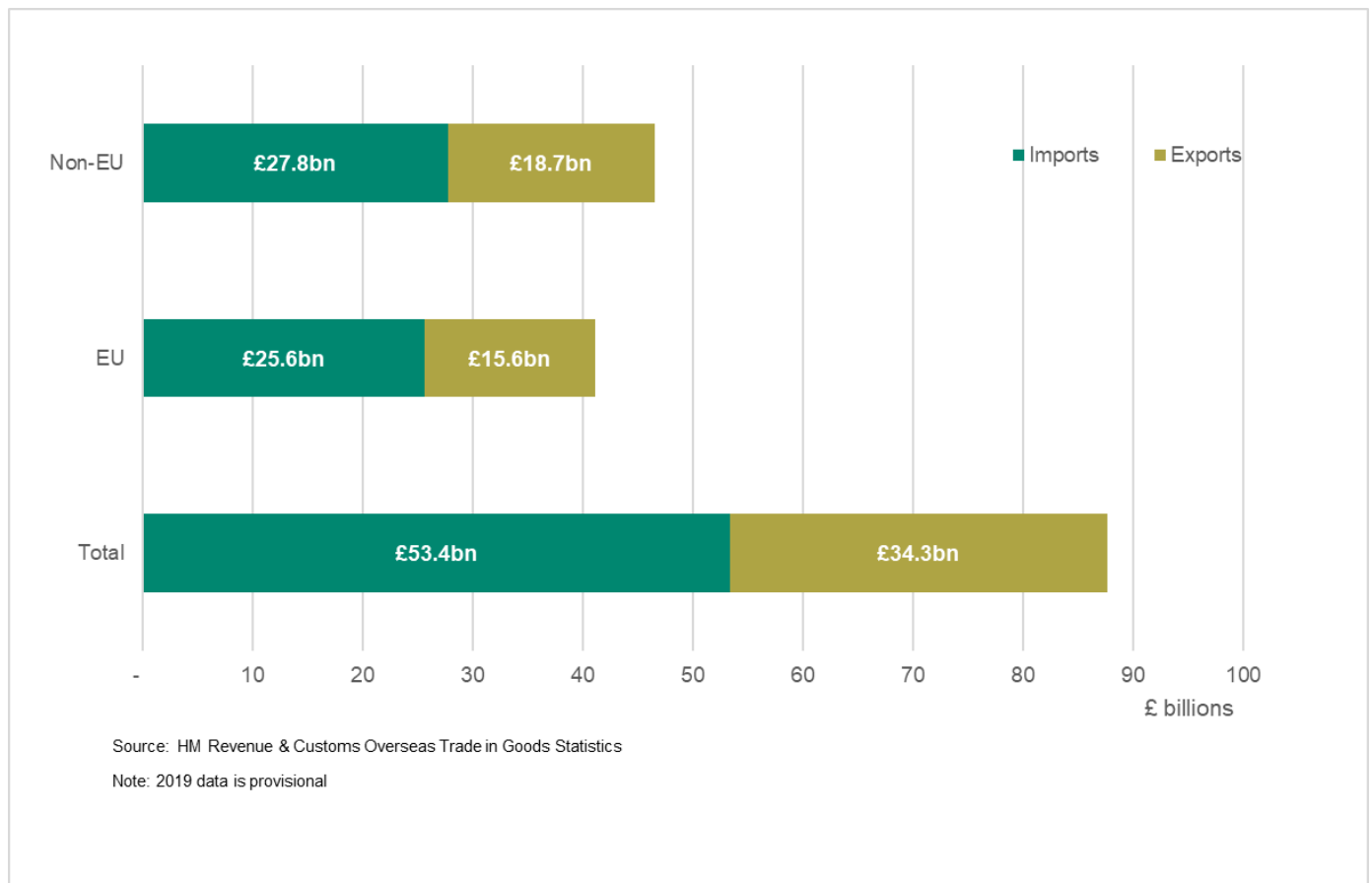
↑ **Non-EU imports up 24% on October 2018**

EU Trade in Goods:

- **EU exports** for October 2019 were £15.6 billion. This was an increase of £1.3 billion (9.2%) on last month, and an increase of £0.3 billion (2.2%) compared with October 2018.
- **EU imports** for October 2019 were £25.6 billion. This was an increase of £2.0 billion (8.6%) on last month, and an increase of £1.3 billion (5.5%) compared with October 2018.
- For **EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £10.0 billion.

↑ **EU imports up 9% on last month**

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



Exports: Country Analysis

- The USA remained the largest export partner country, it experienced the largest value increase on last month and October 2018, up £1,248 million (26%) and £843 million (16%) respectively.
- Switzerland experienced the 2nd largest value increase compared with last month, up £663 million (doubling in value), conversely, it experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on October 2018, down £378 million (22%).
- The UAE (ranked 13th) experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £143 million (19%).
- China experienced the 2nd largest value increase on October 2018, up £526 million (30%).
- The Netherlands experienced the largest value decrease on October 2018, down £581 million (23%).

↑ **Exports to the USA up 26% on last month**

↓ **Exports to the Netherlands down 23% on October 2018**

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

Partner Country	October 2019	September 2019		October 2018	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on September 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2018 (%)
USA	6,110	4,862	25.7	5,267	16.0
Germany	3,308	3,086	7.2	3,041	8.8
China	2,263	2,296	-1.4	1,737	30.3
France	2,213	2,073	6.7	2,032	8.9
Irish Republic	2,147	1,849	16.2	1,979	8.5
Netherlands	1,930	1,738	11.1	2,511	-23.2
Switzerland	1,327	664	99.8	1,705	-22.2
Belgium	1,272	1,132	12.3	1,168	8.9
Spain	1,078	1,015	6.2	933	15.6
Italy	953	878	8.6	948	0.6
Others	11,688	11,161	4.7	11,902	-1.8
Total EU	15,566	14,253	9.2	15,228	2.2
Total Non-EU	18,723	16,501	13.5	17,995	4.0
Total Exports	34,289	30,753	11.5	33,223	3.2

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

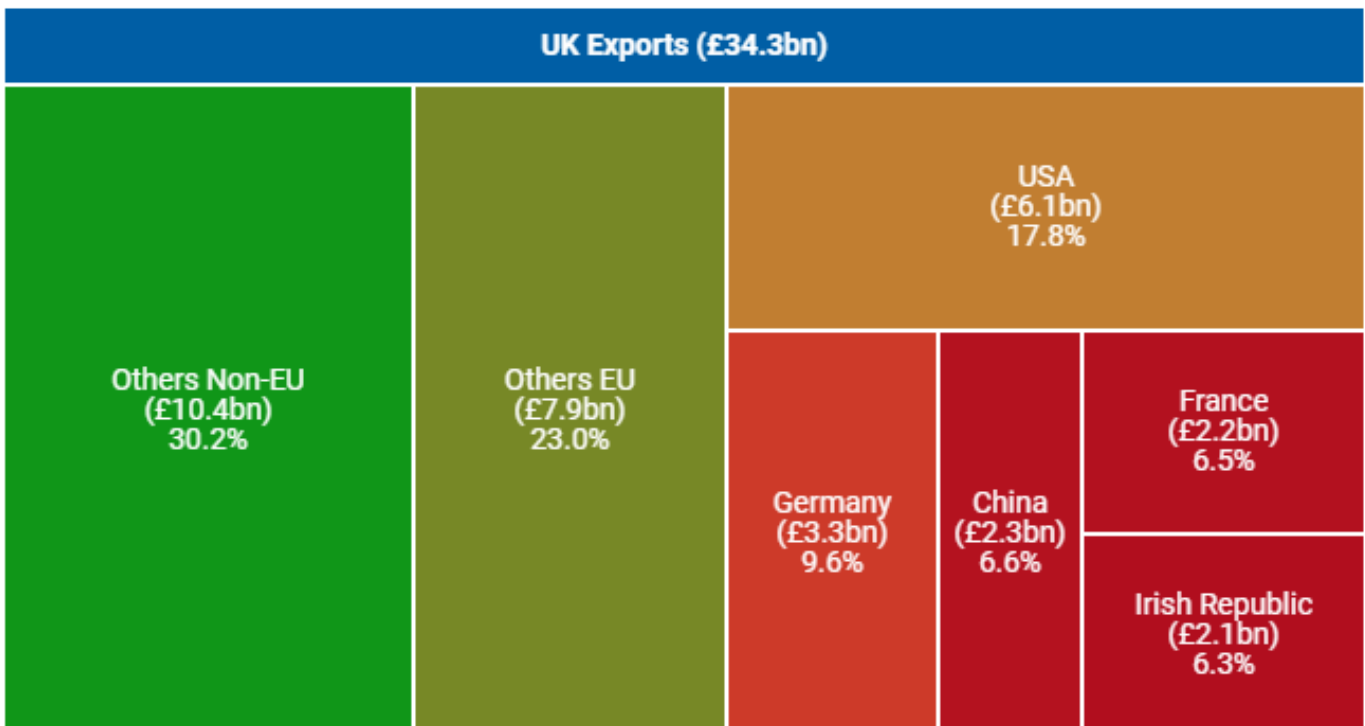
Exports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 export partners accounted for 47% of total exports in goods in October 2019. This was an increase from 45% for October 2018.
- The USA accounted for 18% of the total value of exports from the UK, this was an increase from 16% for October 2018.
- Germany had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 9.6%. This was an increase from 9.2% for October 2018.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Switzerland rose to 7th place from 12th.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with September 2018. Most notably, China rose to 3rd place from 6th.

↑ **The USA had a 18% share of total exports in October 2019**

↑ **Switzerland rose to 7th largest export partner in October 2019**

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



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Exports: Country Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to October 2019 the USA remained the largest export partner country. Among the top 10, it experienced the largest percentage increase compared with the 3 months to July 2019, up 14%.
- Among the top 10, Switzerland experienced the largest percentage decreases on the 3 months to July 2019 and the 3 months to October 2018, down 28% and 65% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Hong Kong experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to October 2018, up 19%.
- 7 of top 10 partner countries experienced an increase on the 3 months to July 2019, the Netherlands, Belgium and Switzerland being the exceptions.
- 7 of the top 10 partner countries experienced an increase on the 3 months to October 2018, the Netherlands, Belgium and Switzerland being the exceptions.

↑ **Exports to the USA up 14% on the 3 months to July 2019**

↓ **Exports to Switzerland down 65% on the 3 months to October 2018**

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

Partner Country	3 months to Oct 2019		3 months to Jul 2019		3 months to Oct 2018	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on July 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2018 (%)	
USA	15,591	13,640	14.3	13,312	17.1	
Germany	9,149	8,923	2.5	8,697	5.2	
China	6,259	5,723	9.4	6,077	3.0	
France	6,085	5,876	3.6	5,964	2.0	
Irish Republic	5,667	5,138	10.3	5,546	2.2	
Netherlands	5,452	6,030	-9.6	6,486	-16.0	
Belgium	3,325	3,331	-0.2	3,821	-13.0	
Spain	2,907	2,653	9.6	2,591	12.2	
Switzerland	2,721	3,787	-28.2	7,756	-64.9	
Hong Kong	2,446	2,243	9.1	2,055	19.0	
Others	33,149	33,905	-2.2	34,587	-4.2	
Total Exports	92,749	91,248	1.6	96,892	-4.3	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Exports: Commodity Analysis

- Mechanical appliances remained the largest export commodity. It experienced the 2nd largest value increase on October 2018, up £329 million (6.6%).
- Art and antiques experienced the largest value increase on last month and October 2018, up £874 million (more than double in value) and £952 million (more than double in value) respectively.
- Mineral fuels experienced the largest value decrease on last month and October 2018, down £421 million (17%) and £1,366 million (40%) respectively.
- Motor vehicles experienced the 3rd largest increase on October 2018, up £271 million (7.3%).
- Organic chemicals (ranked 13th) experienced the 2nd largest decrease on October 2018, down £268 million (27%).

↑ **Exports of Art and antiques more than double in value on last month**

↓ **Exports of Mineral fuels down 40% on October 2018**

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

Commodity Description	October 2019		September 2019		October 2018	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on September 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2018 (%)	
Mechanical appliances	5,328	4,961	7.4	4,999	6.6	
Motor vehicles	3,997	3,559	12.3	3,725	7.3	
Precious metals	2,813	2,188	28.6	2,698	4.3	
Pharmaceutical products	2,289	1,761	30.0	2,178	5.1	
Mineral fuels	2,089	2,511	-16.8	3,455	-39.5	
Electronic equipment	2,082	1,919	8.5	1,973	5.5	
Art and antiques	1,688	814	107.4	735	129.5	
Measuring devices and gauges	1,457	1,336	9.0	1,317	10.7	
Aircraft	1,210	1,277	-5.2	1,173	3.2	
Plastics and plastic products	861	767	12.2	828	4.0	
Others	10,474	9,661	8.4	10,142	3.3	
Total Exports	34,289	30,753	11.5	33,223	3.2	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

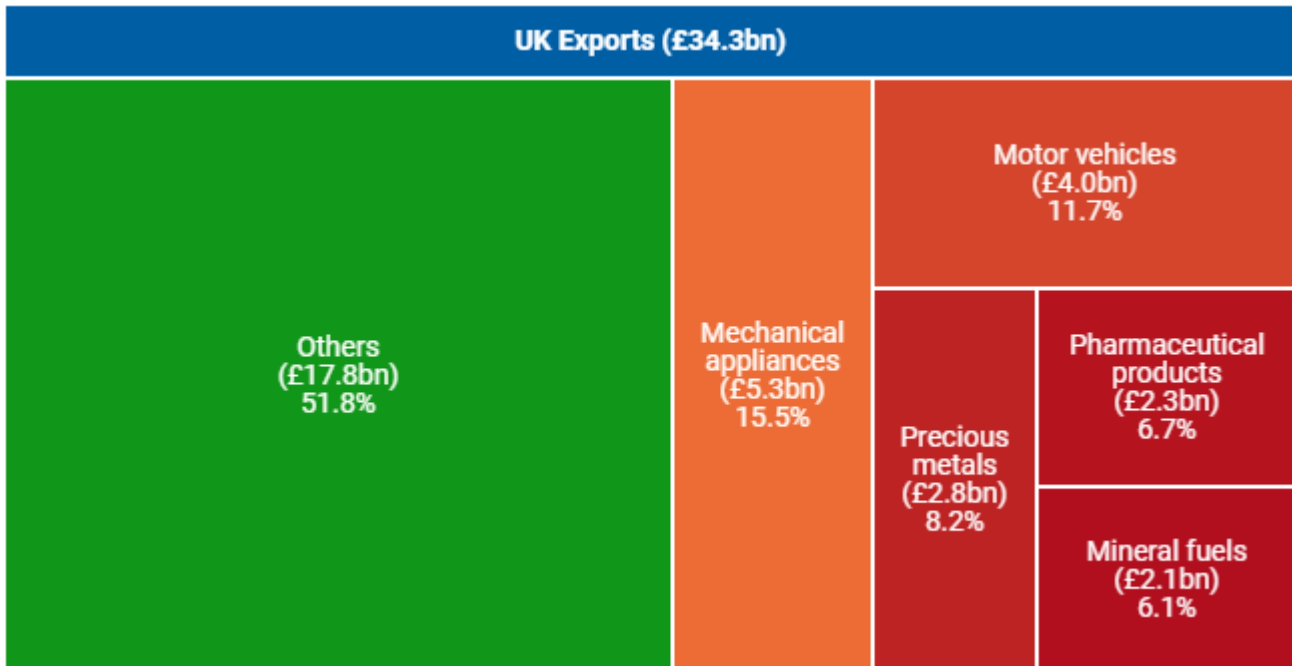
Exports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 export commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 48% of exports in October 2019, this was a decrease from 51% for October 2018.
- Mechanical appliances accounted for 16% of the total value of exports from the UK, this was an increase from 15% for October 2018.
- Motor vehicles had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 12%, this was an increase from 11% for October 2018.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) change compared with last month. Most notably, Pharmaceutical products rose to 4th place from 6th, while Mineral fuels fell to 5th place from 3rd.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with October 2018. Most notably, Art and antiques rose to 7th place from 12th.

↑ **Mechanical appliances had a 16% share of total exports in October 2019**

↑ **Motor vehicles accounted for 12% of total exports in October 2019**

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



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Exports: Commodity Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to October 2019, Mechanical appliances remained the largest export commodity. It experienced an increase of 3.0% on the 3 months to July 2019 and an increase of 5.8% on the 3 months to October 2018.
- Among the top 10, Art and antiques experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to July 2019 and the 3 months to October 2018, up 45% and more than double the value respectively.
- Among the top 10, Mineral fuels experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to July 2019, down 18%.
- Among the top 10, Precious metals experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to October 2018, down 43%.
- 8 of the top 10 commodities experienced increases on the 3 months to July 2019, Mineral fuels and Precious metals were the exceptions.
- 8 of the top 10 commodities experienced increases on the 3 months to October 2018, Mineral fuels and Precious metals were the exceptions.

↑ **Art & antiques exports up 45% on the 3 months to July 2019**

↓ **Mineral fuels exports down 18% on the 3 months to July 2019**

Table 4: UK exports of goods by top 10 commodities, 3 months to October 2019

Commodity Description	3 months to Oct 2019		3 months to Jul 2019		3 months to Oct 2018	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on July 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2018 (%)	
Mechanical appliances	14,851	14,422	3.0	14,043	5.8	
Motor vehicles	10,222	9,895	3.3	10,005	2.2	
Mineral fuels	7,060	8,657	-18.4	10,373	-31.9	
Precious metals	6,875	8,270	-16.9	11,994	-42.7	
Electronic equipment	5,712	5,422	5.3	5,710	0.0	
Pharmaceutical products	5,703	4,884	16.8	5,580	2.2	
Measuring devices and gauges	4,036	3,875	4.1	3,748	7.7	
Aircraft	3,651	3,465	5.4	3,410	7.1	
Art and antiques	3,371	2,320	45.3	1,423	137.0	
Beverages	2,426	1,912	26.9	2,252	7.7	
Others	28,842	28,126	2.5	28,355	1.7	
Total Exports	92,749	91,248	1.6	96,892	-4.3	

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

Exports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

Country to commodity:

- The increase in exports to the USA compared with last month and October 2018 was dominated by Art and antiques, up £846 million (nearly 3.5 times the value) and £654 million (more than double) respectively.
- The increase in exports to Switzerland on last month was largely due to increases in Precious metals, up £602 million (5.5 times the value). Precious metals was also the leading contributor to the decrease in exports to Switzerland on October 2018, down £645 million (47%).
- The decrease in exports to the UAE was on last month was led by Precious metals, down £215 million (86%).
- The decrease in exports to the Netherlands compared with October 2018 was dominated by Mineral fuels, down £607 million (52%).

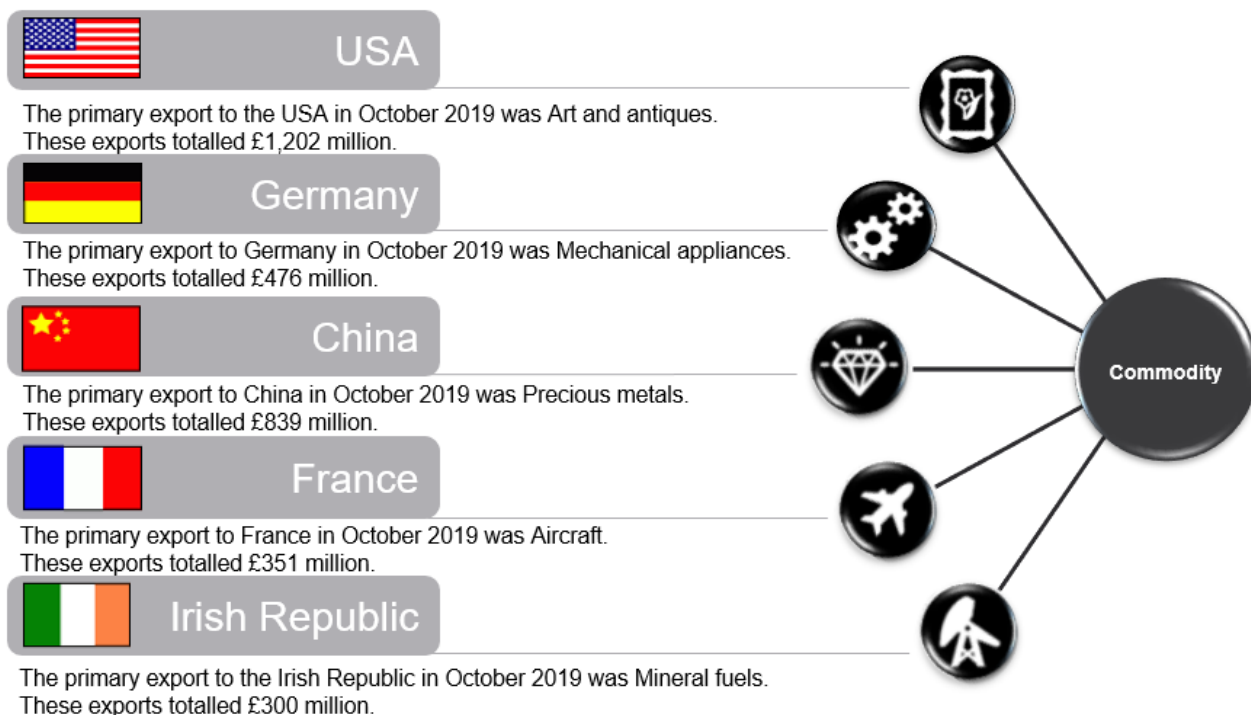
↑ Exports of Art and antiques to the USA increase nearly 3.5 times on last month

Commodity to country:

- The increase in exports of Mechanical appliances compared with October 2018 was led by the USA, up £116 million (15%), and Hong Kong, up £95.4 million (56%).
- The increase in exports of Art and antiques on October 2018 was led by the USA, up £654 million (more than double), followed by Switzerland, up £237 million (from £25.3 million).
- The increase in exports of Motor vehicles on October 2018 was led by USA, up £153 million (17%).
- The decrease in exports of Organic chemicals on October 2018 was led by USA, down £81.6 million (22%), followed by Belgium, down £61.5 million (57%).

↑ Exports of Mechanical appliances to Hong Kong up 56% on October 2018

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



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

Imports: Country Analysis

- Germany remained the largest import partner country. It increased in value on last month, up £70.1 million (1.2%).
- China experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £1,145 million (28%). It also saw a large increase on October 2018, up £565 million (12%).
- Switzerland experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £771 million (23%), conversely it experienced the largest value increase on October 2018, up £2,061 million (almost 5 times the value).
- Norway (ranked 12th) experienced the largest value decrease on October 2018, down £523 million (28%).
- The Netherlands experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month, up £867 million (25%).

↑ Imports from China up 28% on last month

↓ Imports from Norway down 28% on October 2018

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

Partner Country	October 2019	September 2019		October 2018	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on September 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2018 (%)
Germany	6,097	6,027	1.2	6,095	0.0
China	5,269	4,123	27.8	4,703	12.0
USA	4,788	4,370	9.6	4,078	17.4
Netherlands	4,356	3,489	24.9	3,825	13.9
France	2,805	2,549	10.0	2,634	6.5
Switzerland	2,580	3,351	-23.0	519	397.2
Belgium	2,455	2,372	3.5	2,271	8.1
Italy	1,932	1,729	11.7	1,918	0.7
Spain	1,567	1,462	7.2	1,301	20.4
Irish Republic	1,389	1,136	22.2	1,247	11.4
Others	20,135	19,646	2.5	18,066	11.4
Total EU	25,586	23,565	8.6	24,249	5.5
Total Non-EU	27,786	26,689	4.1	22,409	24.0
Total Imports	53,372	50,255	6.2	46,658	14.4

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

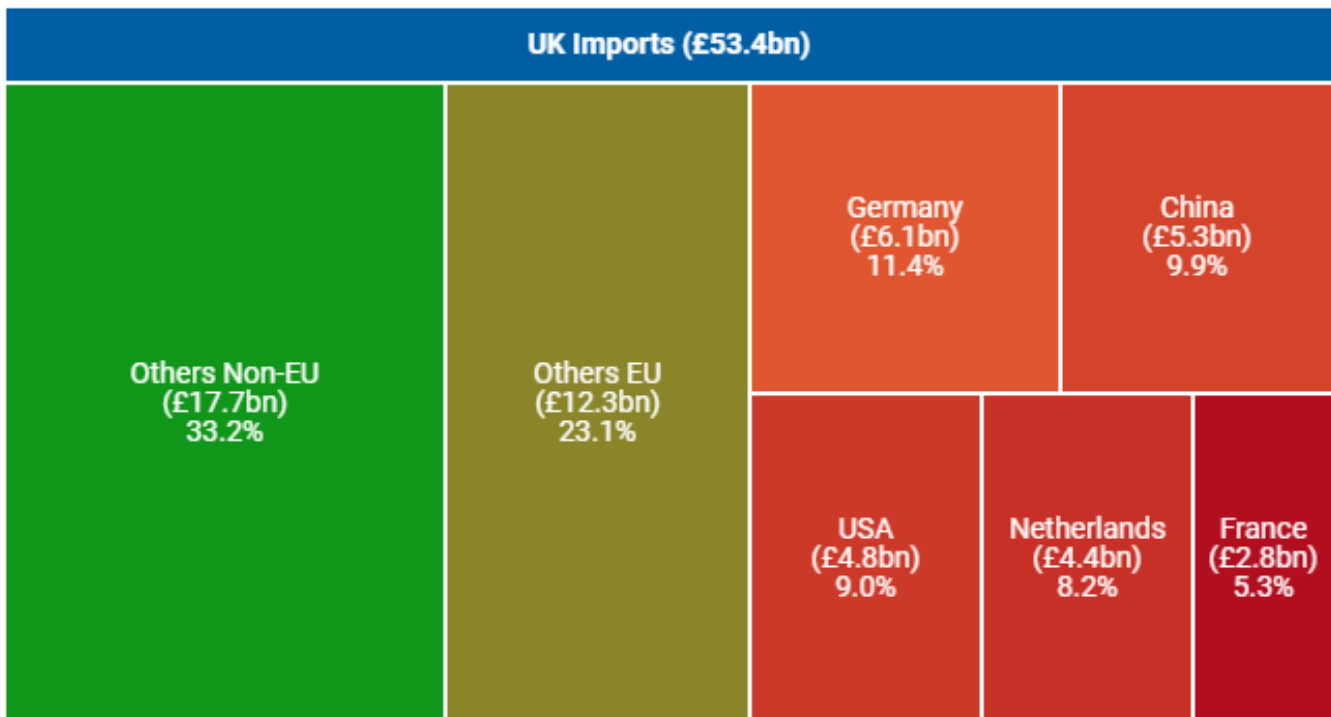
Imports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 import partners accounted for 44% of the total value of goods imported in October 2019, this was a decrease from 46% for October 2018.
- Germany accounted for 11% of the total value of goods imports from the UK. This was a decrease from 13% for October 2018.
- China had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 9.9%. This was a slight decrease of less than 1 percentage point from October 2018.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) have changed compared with last month. Most notably, the Irish Republic rose to 10th place from 12th.
- The top 10 import partner countries changed compared with October 2018. Most notably, Switzerland rose to 6th place from 21st.

↓ **The top 5 partners accounted for 44% of total imports in October 2019**

↓ **Germany accounted for 11% of total imports in October 2019**

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



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Imports: Country Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to October 2019, Germany remained the largest import partner country. It experienced an increase of 13% on the 3 months to July 2019, and an increase of 2.5% on the 3 months to October 2018.
- Among the top 10, Switzerland experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to July 2019 and on the 3 months to October 2018, up more than 2 times and nearly 7.5 times the value respectively.
- Among the top 10, Italy experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to July 2019, down 2.8%.
- 8 of the top 10 countries experienced an increase on the 3 months to July 2019, Italy and Spain were the exceptions.
- All of the top 10 countries experienced an increase on the 3 months to October 2018.

↑ Imports from Germany up 13% on the 3 months to July 2019

↑ Imports from Switzerland up nearly 7.5 times the value on the 3 months to October 2018

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

Partner Country	3 months to Oct 2019		3 months to Jul 2019		3 months to Oct 2018	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on July 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2018 (%)	
Germany	17,012	15,099	12.7	16,599	2.5	
USA	13,977	12,218	14.4	11,504	21.5	
China	13,355	11,216	19.1	12,592	6.1	
Netherlands	11,072	9,721	13.9	10,846	2.1	
Switzerland	10,729	4,901	118.9	1,450	640.1	
France	7,559	6,745	12.1	7,069	6.9	
Belgium	6,975	5,713	22.1	6,567	6.2	
Italy	4,957	5,099	-2.8	4,904	1.1	
Spain	4,108	4,212	-2.5	3,507	17.1	
Irish Republic	3,608	3,328	8.4	3,541	1.9	
Others	57,960	50,880	13.9	51,079	13.5	
Total Imports	151,312	129,132	17.2	129,658	16.7	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Imports: Commodity Analysis

- Precious metals remained the largest import commodity, despite experiencing the largest value decrease on last month, down £1,574 million (17%). Conversely, it experienced the largest value increase on October 2018, up £5,615 million (nearly 3.5 times the value).
- Electronic equipment experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £1,255 million (30%). It experienced the 2nd largest value increase on October 2018, up £545 million (11%).
- Mineral fuels experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month, up £657 million (20%). In contrast, it experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on October 2018, down £333 million (7.7%).
- Mechanical appliances experienced the 3rd largest value increase on last month, up £527 million (9.6%). However, it showed the largest value decrease on October 2018, down £351 million (5.5%).

↑ Imports of Electronic equipment up 30% on last month

↓ Imports of Mechanical appliances down 5.5% on October 2018

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

Commodity Description	October 2019	September 2019		October 2018	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on September 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2018 (%)
Precious metals	7,958	9,532	-16.5	2,343	239.6
Mechanical appliances	5,985	5,459	9.6	6,337	-5.5
Motor vehicles	5,515	5,509	0.1	5,147	7.1
Electronic equipment	5,423	4,168	30.1	4,878	11.2
Mineral fuels	4,008	3,351	19.6	4,341	-7.7
Pharmaceutical products	2,182	1,716	27.2	1,921	13.6
Plastics and plastic products	1,404	1,257	11.7	1,327	5.8
Measuring devices and gauges	1,377	1,304	5.6	1,238	11.2
Knitwear	1,136	1,038	9.4	1,085	4.7
Clothes, not knitted	891	861	3.5	844	5.6
Others	17,491	16,060	8.9	17,197	1.7
Total Imports	53,372	50,255	6.2	46,658	14.4

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

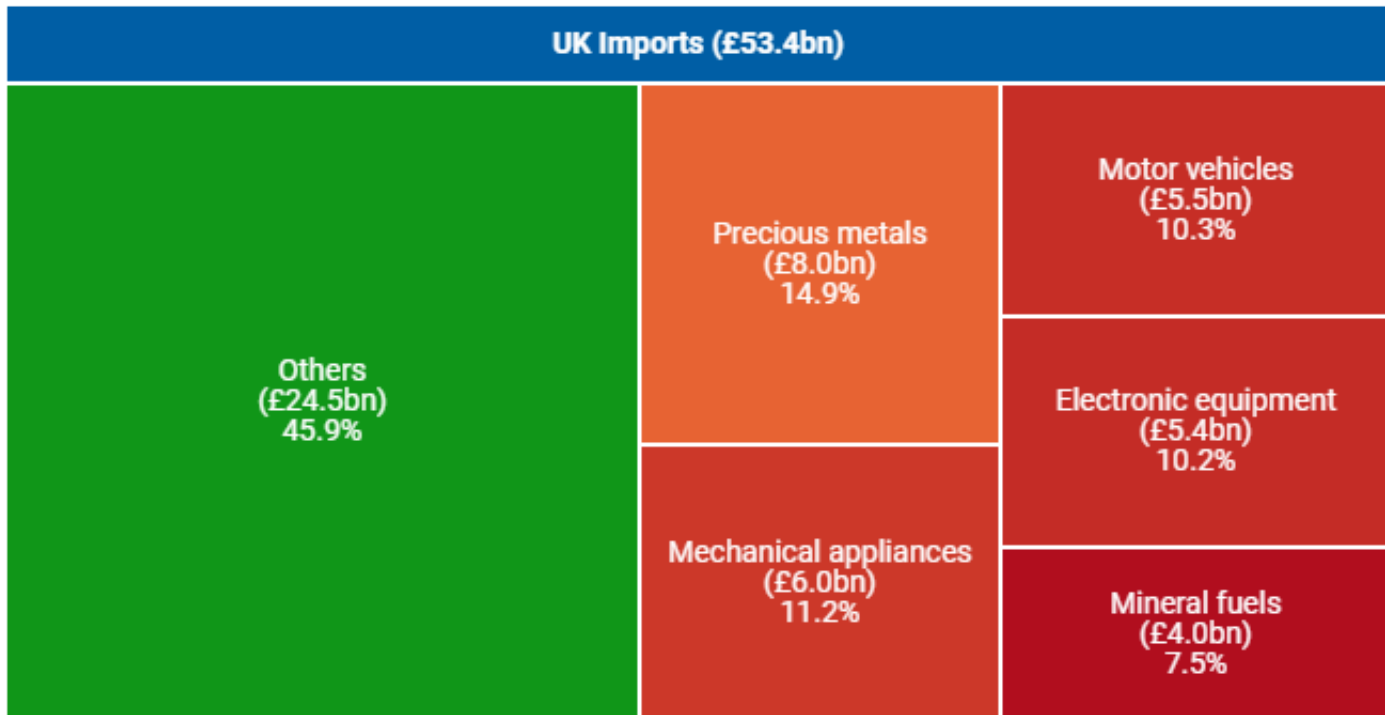
Imports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 import commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 54% in October 2019, this was an increase from 49% for October 2018.
- Precious metals accounted for 15% of the total value of goods imported to the UK. This was an increase from 5.0% for October 2018.
- Mechanical appliances had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 11%. This was a decrease from 14% for October 2018.
- The top 10 import commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with last month, with Mechanical appliances rising to 2nd place from 3rd and Plastics and plastic products rising to 7th from 8th.
- The top 10 import commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with October 2018. Most notably, Precious metals rose to 1st place from 5th.

↑ **Precious metals accounted for 15% of total imports in October 2019**

↓ **Mechanical appliances accounted for 11% of total imports in October 2019**

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



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Imports: Commodity Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to October 2019, Precious metals became the largest import commodity. It experienced the largest increase on the 3 months to July 2019 and the months to October 2018, up 88% and 4 times in value respectively.
- Among the top 10, Aircraft experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to July 2019, up 48%.
- Among the top 10, Mineral fuels was the only decrease on the 3 months to July 2019, and the largest decrease on the 3 months to October 2018, down 4.5% and 19% respectively.
- 7 of the top 10 commodities experienced an increase on the 3 months to October 2018, Mechanical appliances, Mineral fuels, and Pharmaceutical products were the exception.

↑ **Precious metals up 4 times in value on the 3 months to October 2018**

↓ **Mineral fuels down 19% on the 3 months to October 2018**

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

Commodity Description	3 months to Oct 2019		3 months to Jul 2019		3 months to Oct 2018	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on July 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2018 (%)	
Precious metals	27,857	14,853	87.5	6,871	305.4	
Mechanical appliances	16,600	16,438	1.0	16,953	-2.1	
Motor vehicles	15,120	13,870	9.0	13,335	13.4	
Electronic equipment	13,354	11,126	20.0	13,004	2.7	
Mineral fuels	10,569	11,070	-4.5	13,012	-18.8	
Pharmaceutical products	5,563	4,572	21.7	5,813	-4.3	
Measuring devices and gauges	3,832	3,615	6.0	3,503	9.4	
Plastics and plastic products	3,826	3,566	7.3	3,767	1.6	
Knitwear	3,097	2,404	28.8	2,891	7.1	
Aircraft	2,770	1,867	48.4	2,397	15.6	
Others	48,724	45,750	6.5	48,113	1.3	
Total Imports	151,312	129,132	17.2	129,658	16.7	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Imports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

Country to commodity:

- The increase in imports from China on last month and October 2018 was led by Electronic equipment, up £832 million (doubling in value) and £481 million (42%) respectively. This was followed by increases on both periods for Mechanical appliances, up £239 million (36%), and £120 million (15%) respectively.
- The increase in imports from the Netherlands on last month was led by Pharmaceutical products, Electronic equipment, and Mineral fuels, up £230 million (89%), £165 million (33%), and £161 million (doubling in value) respectively.
- The increase in imports from the USA on October 2018 was led by Precious metals, up £609 million (nearly 2.5 times the value), followed by an increase in Mineral fuels, up £266 million (61%).

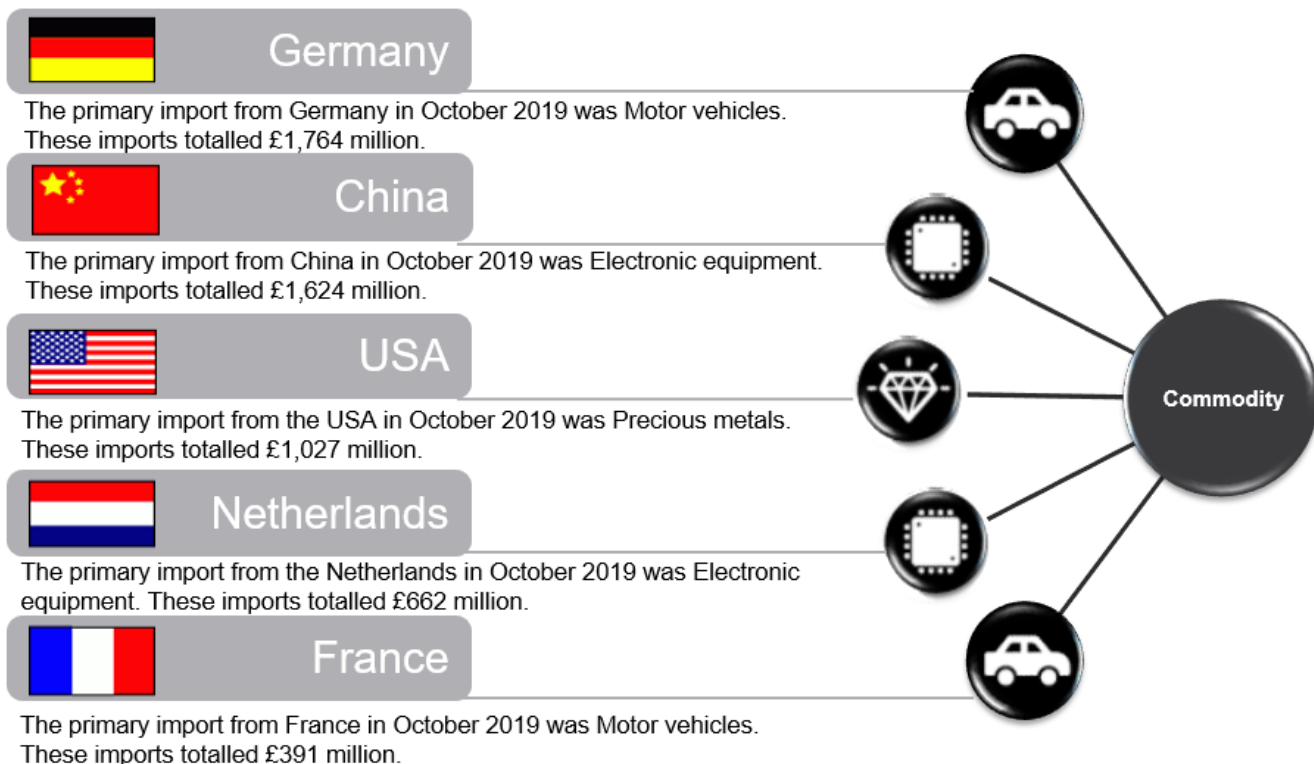
↑ Imports of Electronic equipment from China doubled in value on last month

Commodity to country:

- The decrease in imports of Precious metals on last month was driven by Switzerland, down £842 million (29%). In contrast, Switzerland led the increase on October 2018, up £2,014 million (from £70.7 million).
- The increase in imports of Mineral fuels on last month was led by Norway and the USA, up £395 million (56%) and £212 million (43%) respectively. In contrast, Norway led the decrease on October 2018, down £524 million (32%).
- The decrease in imports of Mechanical appliances on October 2018 was led by the United Arab Emirates, down £162 million (73%).

↓ Imports of Precious metals from Switzerland down 29% on last month

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



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 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 October 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 October 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 December 2019 under arrangements set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#). The 1st release is published on HMRC's trade data website www.uktradeinfo.com.

This release includes the 1st provisional estimates of trade-in-goods between the UK and both countries of the EU and those outside the EU for October 2019. At the same time revisions for all previously published non-EU and EU data for 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
November 2019	13 January 2019
December 2019	11 February 2020
January 2020	11 March 2020

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.

In line with GSS purdah policy Pre-Release Access was not provided for this release.