



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 2019.

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

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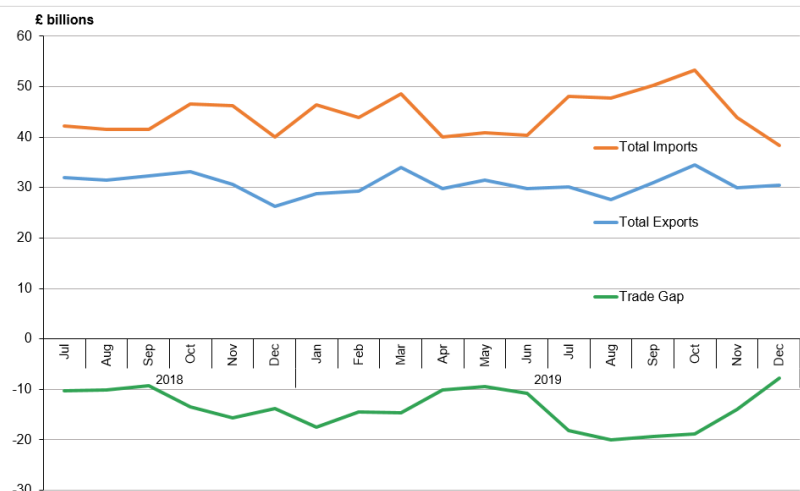
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Trade in Goods, December 2019

- Total **exports** of goods for December 2019 were £30.5 billion. This was an increase of £0.6 billion (1.9%) compared with last month, and an increase of £4.2 billion (16%) compared with December 2018.
- Total **imports** of goods for December 2019 were £38.3 billion. This was a decrease of £5.6 billion (13%) compared with last month, and a decrease of £1.8 billion (4.4%) compared with December 2018.
- The UK was a net importer this month, with **imports** exceeding **exports** by £7.8 billion, narrowing by £6.2 billion on last month.

Figure 1: Total UK monthly Trade in Goods



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 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 Q3 of 2019. Exports peaked in Q2 of 2013, with a steady rise from Q2 of 2017 to Q3 of 2018.

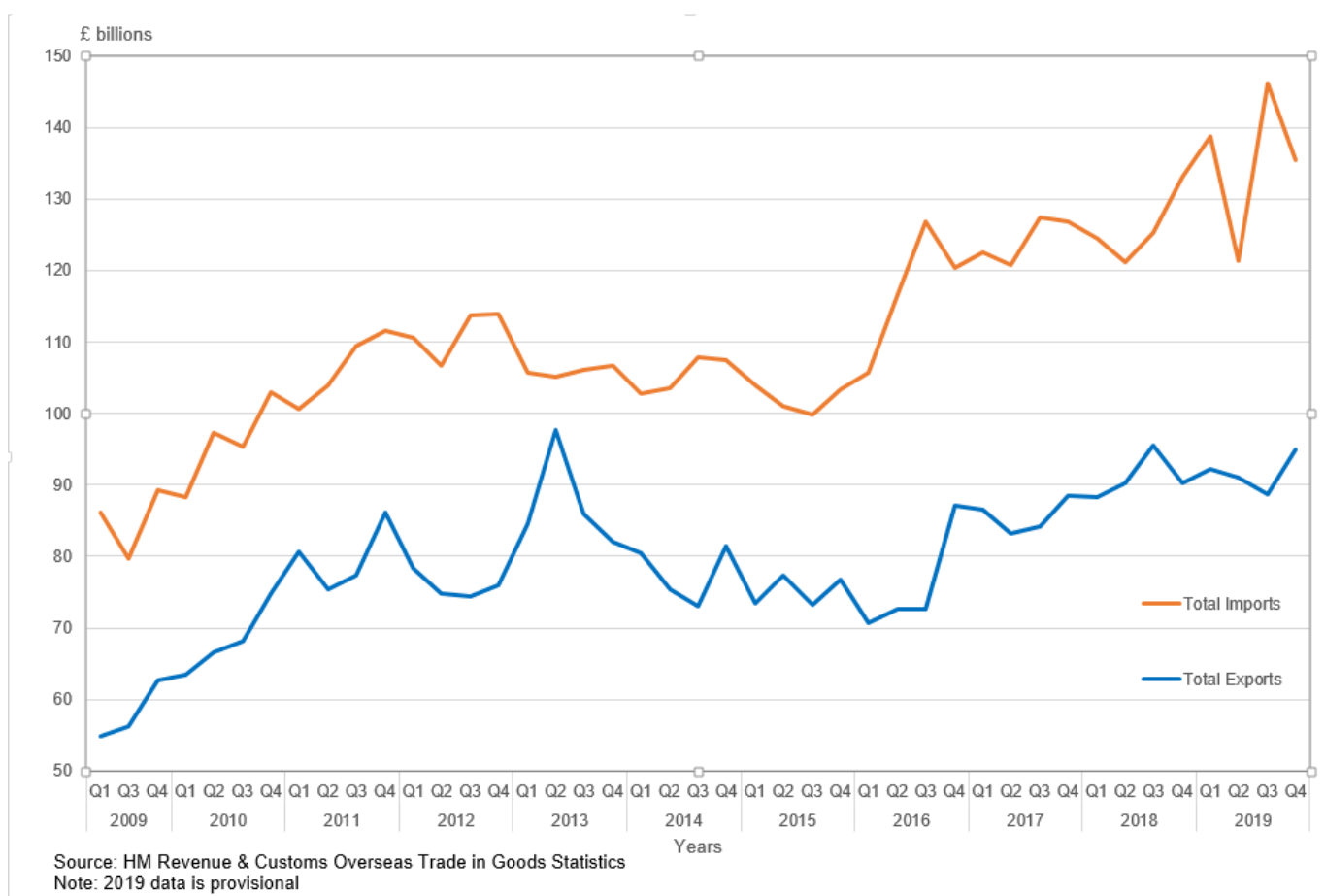
- The total **export** trade for Q4 of 2019 was £94.9 billion, which was an increase of 5.2% compared with £90.2 billion for Q4 of 2018.
- The total **import** trade for Q4 of 2019 was £136 billion, which was an increase of 1.8% compared with £133 billion for Q4 of 2018.
- There was a trade deficit of £40.6 billion for Q4 of 2019. This was a narrowing of 5.2% compared with £42.8 billion for Q4 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 5% on Q4 2018**

↑ **Imports up 2% on Q4 2018**

- **Trade deficit narrowed by 5% on Q4 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 December 2019 were £17.8 billion. This was an increase of £1.1 billion (6.4%) on last month, and an increase of £4.3 billion (32%) compared with December 2018.
- **Non-EU imports** for December 2019 were £19.8 billion. This was a decrease of £3.0 billion (13%) on last month, and an increase of £0.4 billion (2.1%) compared with December 2018.
- For **non-EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £2.0 billion.

↑ **Non-EU exports up 32% on December 2018**

EU Trade in Goods:

- **EU exports** for December 2019 were £12.7 billion. This was a decrease of £0.5 billion (3.8%) on last month, and a decrease of £0.1 billion (1.1%) compared with December 2018.
- **EU imports** for December 2019 were £18.5 billion. This was a decrease of £2.6 billion (12%) on last month, and a decrease of £2.2 billion (11%) compared with December 2018.
- For **EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £5.8 billion.

↓ **EU imports down 12% on last month**

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



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Exports: Country Analysis

- The USA remained the largest export partner country. It experienced the largest value increases on last month and on December 2018, up £950 million (20%) and £1,886 million (50%) respectively.
- Turkey (in 12th place) experienced the 2nd largest value increase compared with last month, up £149 million (29%).
- Switzerland experienced the 4th largest value increase on last month, and the 3rd largest value increase on December 2018, up £123 million (11%) and £563 million (79%) respectively.
- China experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £322 million (13%). In contrast, it experienced the 2nd largest value increase on December 2018, up £828 million (66%).
- The Netherlands experienced the 3rd largest value decrease on last month and the largest decrease on December 2018, down £116 million (6.1%) and £163 million (8.4%) respectively.

↑ **Exports to the USA up 50% on December 2018**

↑ **Exports to Turkey up 29% on last month**

Table 1: UK exports of goods to the top 10 countries, December 2019

Partner Country	December 2019		November 2019		December 2018	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on December 2018 (%)	
USA	5,621	4,671	20.4	3,736	50.5	
Germany	2,788	2,985	-6.6	2,735	2.0	
China	2,076	2,399	-13.4	1,248	66.4	
France	1,885	1,871	0.7	1,853	1.7	
Irish Republic	1,867	1,772	5.3	1,758	6.2	
Netherlands	1,784	1,900	-6.1	1,947	-8.4	
Switzerland	1,279	1,155	10.7	716	78.6	
Belgium	893	871	2.5	909	-1.8	
Spain	773	828	-6.6	743	4.0	
Hong Kong	759	649	17.0	587	29.4	
Others	10,781	10,828	-0.4	10,120	6.5	
Total EU	12,686	13,182	-3.8	12,824	-1.1	
Total Non-EU	17,820	16,748	6.4	13,527	31.7	
Total Exports	30,506	29,930	1.9	26,351	15.8	

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

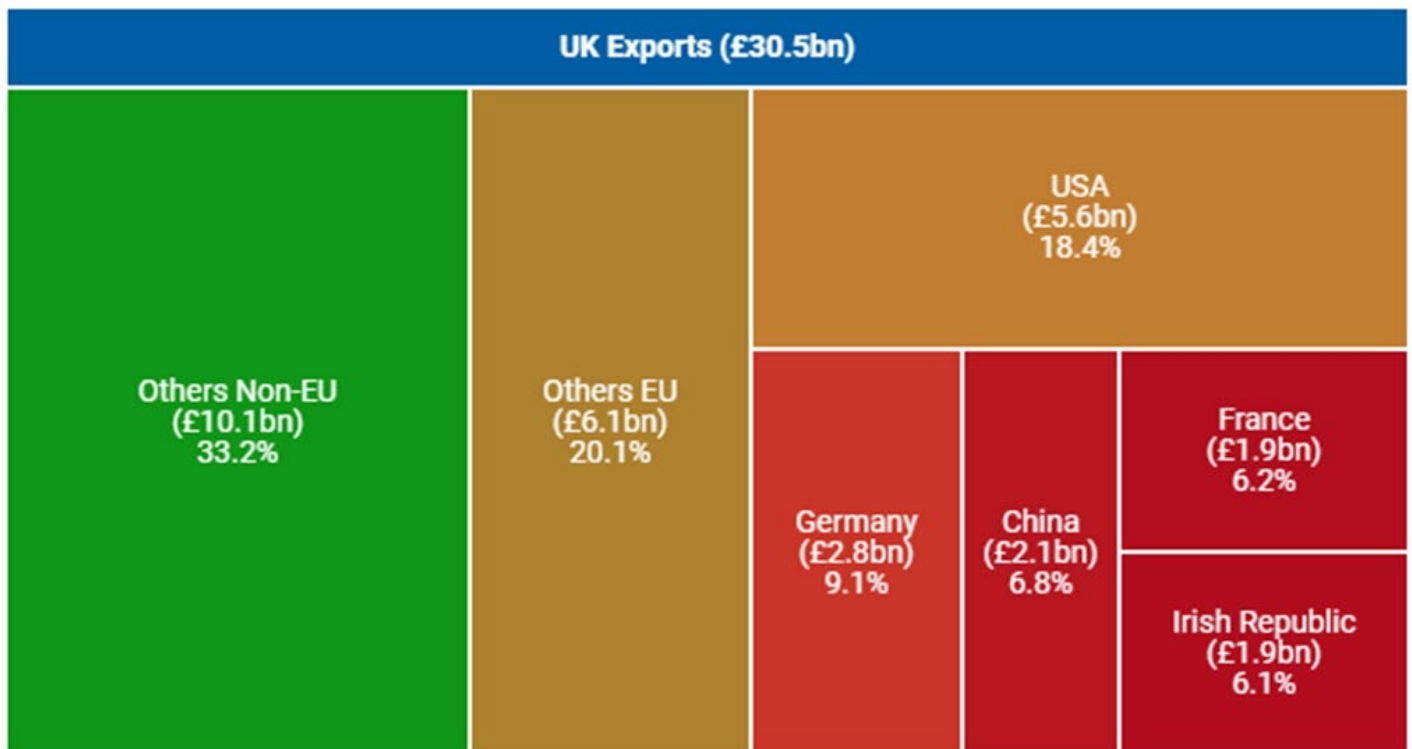
Exports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 export partners accounted for 47% of total exports in goods in December 2019. This was an increase from 46% for December 2018.
- The USA accounted for 18% of the total value of exports from the UK, this was an increase from 14% for December 2018.
- Germany had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 9.1%. This was a decrease from 10% for December 2018.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Hong Kong rose to 10th place from 13th.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with December 2018. Most notably, China rose to 3rd place from 6th, while the Netherlands fell to 6th place from 3rd.

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

↑ **China rose to 3rd largest export partner in December 2019**

Figure 4: Share of UK exports of goods to the top 5 countries, December 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 December 2019, the USA remained the largest export partner country. Among the top 10, it experienced the 3rd largest percentage increases compared with the 3 months to September 2019 and December 2018, up 14% and 20% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Switzerland experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to September 2019, and the 2nd largest on December 2018, up 90% and 21% respectively.
- Among the top 10, China experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to September 2019, and the largest on December 2018, up 14% and 50% respectively.
- Among the top 10, the Netherlands experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to December 2018, down 10%.
- 8 of the top 10 partner countries experienced an increase on the 3 months to September 2019, Belgium and Spain were the exceptions.
- 6 of the top 10 partner countries experienced an increase on the 3 months to December 2018. France, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Italy were the exceptions.

↑ **Exports to Switzerland up 90% on the 3 months to September 2019**

↑ **Exports to China up 50% on the 3 months to December 2018**

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

Partner Country	3 months to Dec 2019		3 months to Sep 2019		3 months to Dec 2018	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on September 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on December 2018 (%)	
USA	16,402	14,402	13.9	13,683	19.9	
Germany	9,100	8,924	2.0	8,884	2.4	
China	6,738	5,886	14.5	4,505	49.6	
France	5,965	5,941	0.4	6,021	-0.9	
Netherlands	5,893	5,622	4.8	6,551	-10.0	
Irish Republic	5,760	5,267	9.4	5,743	0.3	
Switzerland	3,761	1,982	89.7	3,102	21.3	
Belgium	2,998	3,084	-2.8	3,190	-6.0	
Spain	2,695	2,718	-0.8	2,645	1.9	
Italy	2,424	2,372	2.2	2,664	-9.0	
Others	33,184	32,547	2.0	33,242	-0.2	
Total Exports	94,920	88,745	7.0	90,229	5.2	

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 a slight decrease on last month, down £21.2 million (0.5%).
- Precious metals experienced the largest value increase on last month and December 2018, up £1,207 million (41%) and £3,068 million (more than 3.5 times the value) respectively.
- Organic chemicals experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month, and the 3rd largest value increase on December 2018, up £391 million (53%) and £493 million (78%) respectively.
- Art and antiques (in 11th place) experienced the 2nd largest value increase on December 2018, up £541 million (more than 2.5 times the value).
- Pharmaceutical products experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £207 million (13%).
- Mineral fuels experienced the largest value decrease on December 2018, down £194 million (7.5%).

↑ **Exports of Precious metals up 41% on last month**

↓ **Exports of Mineral fuels down 7% on December 2018**

Table 3: UK exports of goods for the top 10 commodities, December 2019

Commodity Description	December 2019	November 2019		December 2018	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on December 2018 (%)
Mechanical appliances	4,606	4,627	-0.5	4,517	2.0
Precious metals	4,181	2,974	40.6	1,113	275.6
Motor vehicles	3,281	3,390	-3.2	2,949	11.2
Mineral fuels	2,402	2,503	-4.0	2,596	-7.5
Electronic equipment	1,809	1,869	-3.2	1,862	-2.8
Pharmaceutical products	1,433	1,640	-12.6	1,441	-0.6
Measuring devices and gauges	1,296	1,314	-1.4	1,234	5.1
Organic chemicals	1,128	738	53.0	635	77.6
Aircraft	1,077	1,218	-11.6	1,136	-5.2
Other products	863	808	6.8	674	28.1
Others	8,432	8,849	-4.7	8,196	2.9
Total Exports	30,506	29,930	1.9	26,351	15.8

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

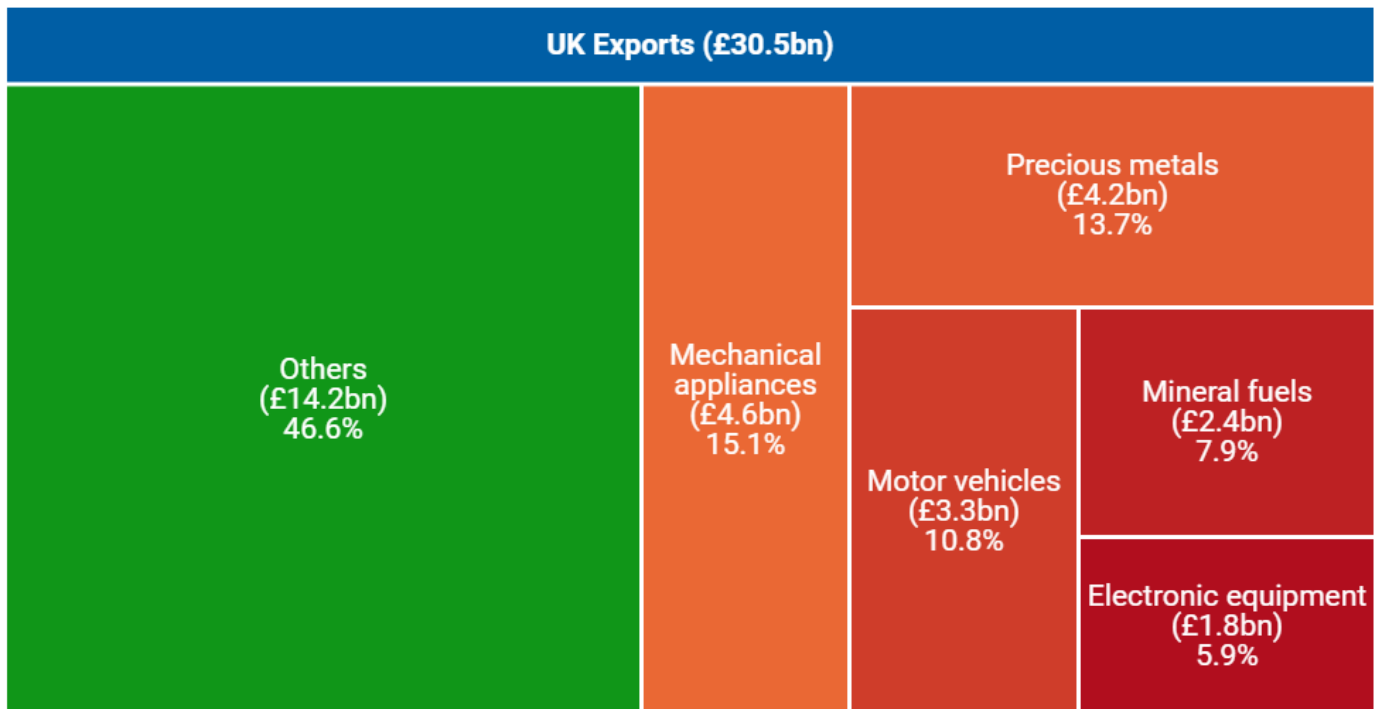
Exports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 export commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 53% of exports in December 2019, this was an increase from 51% for December 2018.
- Mechanical appliances accounted for 15% of the total value of exports from the UK. This was a decrease from 17% for December 2018.
- Precious metals had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 14% of total exports. This was an increase from 4.2% for December 2018.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Organic chemicals rose to 8th place from 10th.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with December 2018. Most notably, Precious metals rose to 2nd place from 8th, and Organic chemicals rose to 8th place from 12th.

↓ **Mechanical appliances accounted for 15% of total exports in December 2019**

↑ **Precious metals accounted for 14% of total exports in December 2019**

Figure 5: Share of UK exports by the top 5 commodities, December 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 December 2019, Mechanical appliances remained the largest export commodity, experiencing increases of less than 1% on both periods.
- Among the top 10, Precious metals experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to September 2019 and the 2nd largest on the 3 months to December 2018, up 69% and 81% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Art and antiques experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to September 2019, and the largest on the 3 months to December 2018, up 35%, and more than double respectively.
- Among the top 10, Mineral fuels experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to December 2018, down 16%.
- 9 of the top 10 commodities experienced increases on the 3 months to September 2019, Mineral fuels being the exception, down 6.8%.
- 6 of the top 10 commodities experienced increases on the 3 months to December 2018. Mineral fuels, Electronic equipment, Pharmaceutical products and Aircraft were the exceptions.

↑ **Precious metals exports up 81% on the 3 months to December 2018**

↑ **Art & antiques exports up more than double on the 3 months to December 2018**

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

Commodity Description	3 months to Dec 2019		3 months to Sep 2019		3 months to Dec 2018	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on September 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on December 2018 (%)	
Mechanical appliances	14,527	14,399	0.9	14,492	0.2	
Motor vehicles	10,660	9,811	8.7	10,352	3.0	
Precious metals	9,936	5,874	69.2	5,496	80.8	
Mineral fuels	7,398	7,938	-6.8	8,858	-16.5	
Electronic equipment	5,723	5,487	4.3	5,857	-2.3	
Pharmaceutical products	5,340	5,165	3.4	5,531	-3.5	
Measuring devices and gauges	4,053	3,871	4.7	3,839	5.6	
Aircraft	3,504	3,427	2.3	3,583	-2.2	
Art and antiques	3,250	2,410	34.8	1,400	132.2	
Organic chemicals	2,571	2,327	10.5	2,416	6.4	
Others	27,958	28,036	-0.3	28,405	-1.6	
Total Exports	94,920	88,745	7.0	90,229	5.2	

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

Exports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

Country to commodity:

- The decrease in exports to China compared with last month was led by Precious metals and Mineral fuels, down £251 million (30%) and £214 million (49%) respectively.
- The increase in exports to Switzerland on last month and on December 2018 was led by Art and antiques, up £275 million (3 times the value) and £340 million (6 times the value) respectively.
- The decrease in exports to the Netherlands on December 2018 was led by Mineral fuels, down £108 million (13%).
- The increase in exports to Turkey on last month was led by an increase in Precious metals, up £119 million (66%).

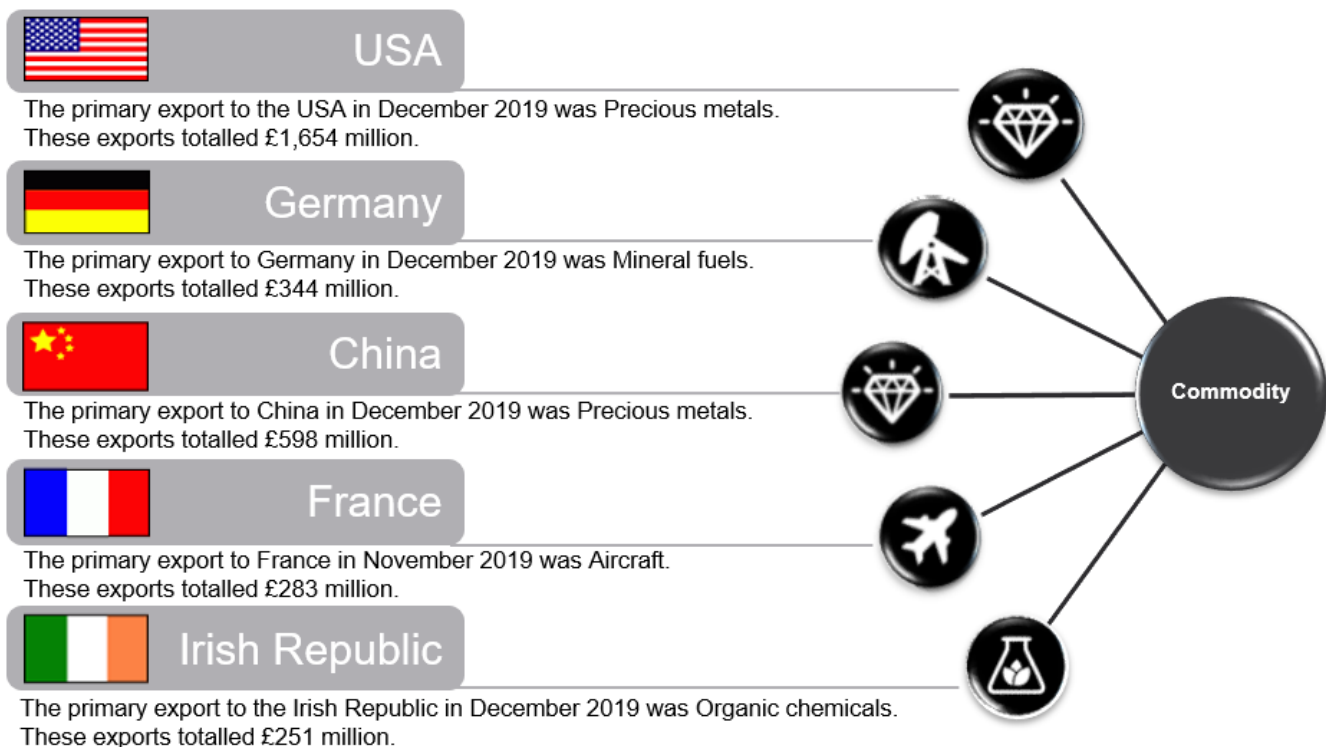
Commodity to country

- The increase in exports of Precious metals on last month and on December 2018 was dominated by the USA, up £1,508 million (from £146 million) and £1,595 million (from £59.2 million) respectively.
- The increase in exports of Organic chemicals compared with last month and on December 2018 was led by the Irish Republic, up £245 million (from £5.8 million) and £244 million (from £7.4 million) respectively.
- The decrease in exports of Pharmaceutical products on last month was led by the USA, down £53.1 million (16%).
- The decrease in exports of Mineral fuels on December 2018 was led by the Netherlands and China, down £108 million (13%) and £101 million (31%) respectively.

↑ Exports of Art and antiques to Switzerland up 6 times the value on December 2018

↑ Exports of Precious metals to the USA up £1,508m on last month

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, despite experiencing decreases on last month and on December 2018, down £511 million (9.9%) and £194 million (4.0%) respectively.
- Uzbekistan (ranked 24th) experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £371 million (from £0.1 million).
- China experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £833 million (21%). It experienced the 3rd largest value decrease on December 2018, down £308 million (8.9%).
- Russia experienced the largest value increase on December 2018, up £1,080 million (more than 2.5 times the value).
- Spain experienced the largest value decrease on December 2018, down £339 million (23%).

↓ Imports from China down 21% on last month

↑ Imports from Russia up more than 2.5 times on December 2018

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

Partner Country	December 2019		November 2019		December 2018	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change from November 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change from December 2018 (%)	
Germany	4,663	5,174	-9.9	4,856	-4.0	
USA	3,787	4,300	-11.9	3,870	-2.1	
China	3,159	3,992	-20.9	3,467	-8.9	
Netherlands	2,852	3,379	-15.6	3,142	-9.2	
France	2,093	2,299	-9.0	2,302	-9.1	
Belgium	1,716	1,790	-4.1	1,949	-11.9	
Russia	1,664	1,391	19.7	585	184.7	
Italy	1,475	1,649	-10.6	1,586	-7.0	
Norway	1,412	1,335	5.8	1,744	-19.0	
Spain	1,136	1,343	-15.4	1,475	-23.0	
Others	14,361	17,311	-17.0	15,118	-5.0	
Total EU	18,474	21,085	-12.4	20,653	-10.6	
Total Non-EU	19,844	22,877	-13.3	19,441	2.1	
Total Imports	38,318	43,962	-12.8	40,094	-4.4	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

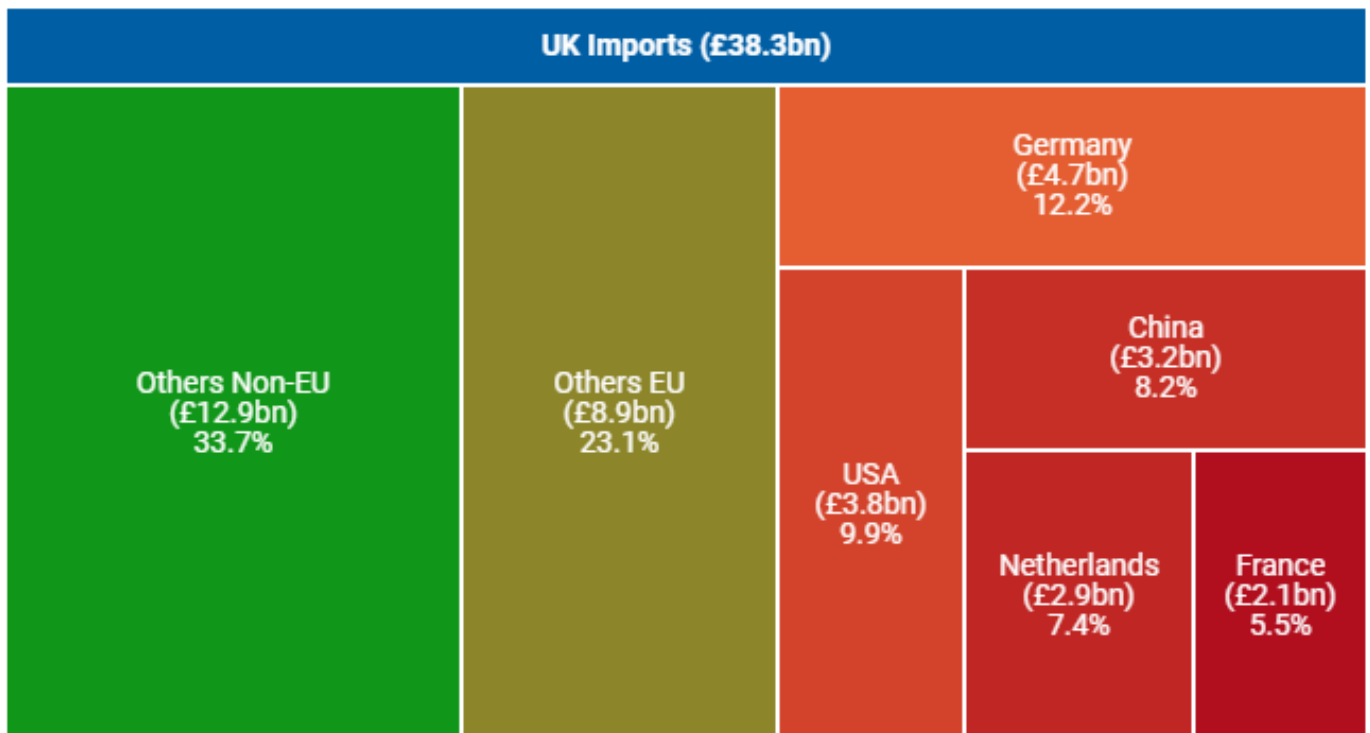
Imports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 import partners accounted for 43% of the total value of goods imported in December 2019, this was a decrease from 44% for December 2018.
- Germany accounted for 12% of the total value of goods imported to the UK. This was an increase of less than 1 percentage point on December 2018.
- The USA had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 9.9%. This was an increase from 9.7% for December 2018.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) have changed compared with last month. However, the top 6 countries remained the same.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) have changed compared with December 2018. Most notably, Russia rose to 7th place from 16th.

↓ **The top 5 partners accounted for 43% of total imports in December 2019**

↑ **Germany accounted for 12% of total imports in December 2019**

Figure 7: Share of UK imports of goods from the top 5 countries, December 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 December 2019, Germany remained the largest import partner country. It experienced a decrease of 1.0% on the 3 months to September 2019, and a decrease of 5.6% on the 3 months to December 2018.
- Among the top 10, Russia experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to September 2019, up 65%.
- Among the top 10, Switzerland experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to September 2019, down 66%. Conversely, it experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to December 2018, up more than 2.5 times the value.
- 6 of the top 10 countries experienced an increase on the 3 months to September 2019, Germany, the USA, Belgium, and Switzerland were the exceptions.
- 7 of the top 10 countries experienced a decrease on the 3 months to December 2018, the USA, Russia, and Switzerland were the exceptions.

↓ Imports from Germany down 6% on the 3 months to December 2018

↑ Imports from Switzerland up more than 2.5 times the value on the 3 months to December 2018

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

Partner Country	3 months to Sep 2019		3 months to Dec 2018	
	Total (£ millions)	Change on September 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on December 2018 (%)
Germany	15,945	-1.0	16,886	-5.6
USA	12,875	-5.5	12,129	6.1
China	12,420	2.7	12,735	-2.5
Netherlands	10,565	4.1	10,866	-2.8
France	7,170	0.8	7,519	-4.6
Belgium	5,934	-9.8	6,539	-9.2
Italy	5,083	6.2	5,294	-4.0
Russia	4,421	64.7	1,770	149.8
Switzerland	4,056	-66.0	1,441	181.5
Spain	4,034	0.8	4,069	-0.9
Others	53,012	-7.1	53,813	-1.5
Total Imports	135,515	-7.3	133,061	1.8

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

Imports: Commodity Analysis

- Mechanical appliances replaced Precious metals as the largest import commodity, despite experiencing the 4th largest decrease on last month, down £560 million (10%).
- Mineral fuels experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £71.0 million (2.1%). Conversely, it experienced the largest value decrease on December 2018, down £753 million (18%).
- Precious metals experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £1,157 million (19%). Conversely, it experienced the largest value increase on December 2018, up £2,022 million (72%).
- Aircraft (ranked 12th) experienced the 2nd largest value increase on December 2018, up £141 million (27%).
- Electronic equipment experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on December 2018, down £493 million (12%).

↓ Imports of Mineral fuels down 18% on December 2018

↑ Imports of Precious metals up 72% on December 2018

Table 7: UK imports of goods for the top 10 commodities, December 2019

Commodity Description	December 2019	November 2019		December 2018	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on December 2018 (%)
Mechanical appliances	4,847	5,407	-10.4	5,043	-3.9
Precious metals	4,834	5,992	-19.3	2,812	71.9
Motor vehicles	3,627	4,295	-15.5	4,047	-10.4
Electronic equipment	3,594	4,402	-18.4	4,086	-12.1
Mineral fuels	3,525	3,454	2.1	4,278	-17.6
Pharmaceutical products	1,175	1,606	-26.8	1,603	-26.7
Measuring devices and gauges	1,135	1,180	-3.8	1,120	1.4
Plastics	911	1,124	-18.9	1,040	-12.4
Knitwear	818	934	-12.4	803	1.9
Other products	738	716	3.1	702	5.1
Others	13,114	14,853	-11.7	14,560	-9.9
Total Imports	38,318	43,962	-12.8	40,094	-4.4

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 data is provisional

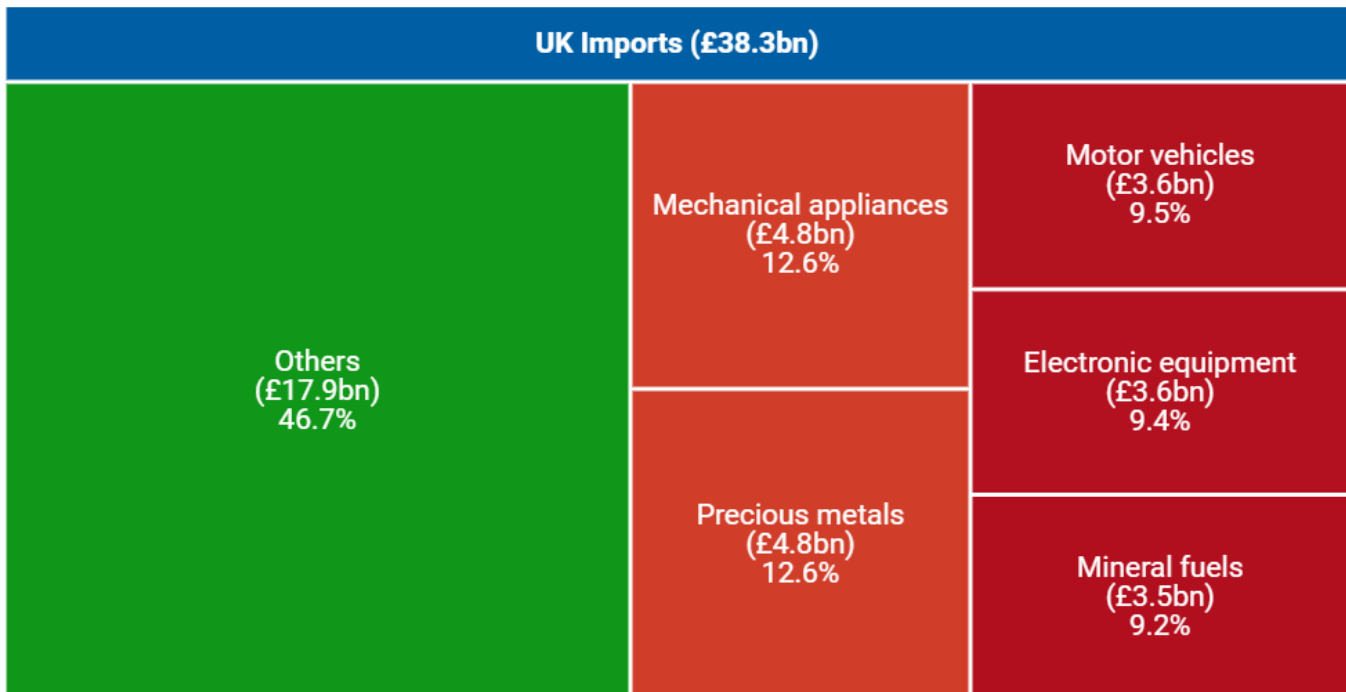
Imports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 import commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 53% in December 2019, this was an increase from 51% for December 2018.
- Mechanical appliances accounted for 13% of the total of value of goods imported to the UK. This was an increase of less than 1 percentage point on December 2018.
- Precious metals had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 13%. This was an increase from 7.0% for December 2018.
- The top 10 import commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Mechanical appliances rose to 1st place from 2nd, and Motor vehicles rose to 3rd place from 4th.
- The top 10 import commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with December 2018. Most notably, Precious metals rose to 2nd place from 5th.

↑ **Mechanical appliances accounted for 13% of total imports in December 2019**

↑ **Precious metals accounted for 13% of total imports in December 2019**

Figure 8: Share of UK imports for the top 5 commodities, December 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 December 2019, Precious metals remained the largest import commodity, despite experiencing the largest percentage decrease (among the top 10) on the 3 months to September 2019, down 34%. Conversely, it experienced the largest percentage increase (among the top 10) on the 3 months to December 2018, up more than 2 times the value.
- Among the top 10, Electronic equipment experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to September 2019, up 14%.
- Among the top 10, Mineral fuels experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to December 2018, down 18%.
- 7 of the top 10 commodities experienced a decrease on the 3 months to September 2019, Electronic equipment, Mineral fuels, and Knitwear were the exceptions.
- 7 of the top 10 commodities experienced a decrease on the 3 months to December 2018, Precious metals, Measuring devices and gauges, and Knitwear were the exceptions.

↑ **Precious metals up more than 2 times the value on the 3 months to December 2018**

↓ **Mineral fuels down 18% on the 3 months to December 2018**

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

Commodity Description	3 months to Dec 2019		3 months to Sep 2019		3 months to Dec 2018	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on September 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on December 2018 (%)	
Precious metals	18,778	28,479	-34.1	7,981	135.3	
Mechanical appliances	16,240	16,485	-1.5	17,381	-6.6	
Motor vehicles	13,434	14,328	-6.2	14,014	-4.1	
Electronic equipment	13,420	11,773	14.0	14,070	-4.6	
Mineral fuels	10,875	10,205	6.6	13,313	-18.3	
Pharmaceutical products	4,992	5,168	-3.4	5,673	-12.0	
Measuring devices and gauges	3,702	3,707	-0.1	3,636	1.8	
Plastics and plastic products	3,443	3,638	-5.4	3,667	-6.1	
Knitwear	2,889	2,872	0.6	2,874	0.5	
Clothes, not knitted	2,260	2,513	-10.0	2,263	-0.1	
Others	45,482	46,961	-3.1	48,190	-5.6	
Total Imports	135,515	146,129	-7.3	133,061	1.8	

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 Uzbekistan on last month was driven by Precious metals, up £363 million (from nil trade).
- The decrease in imports from China on last month was led by Electronic equipment, and Mechanical appliances, down £226 million (22%), and £212 million (25%) respectively.
- The increase in imports from Russia on December 2018 was dominated by Precious metals, up £1,019 million (from £51.1 million).
- The decrease in imports from Spain on December 2018 was dominated by Ships, boats and floating structures, down £440 million (a near total decrease).

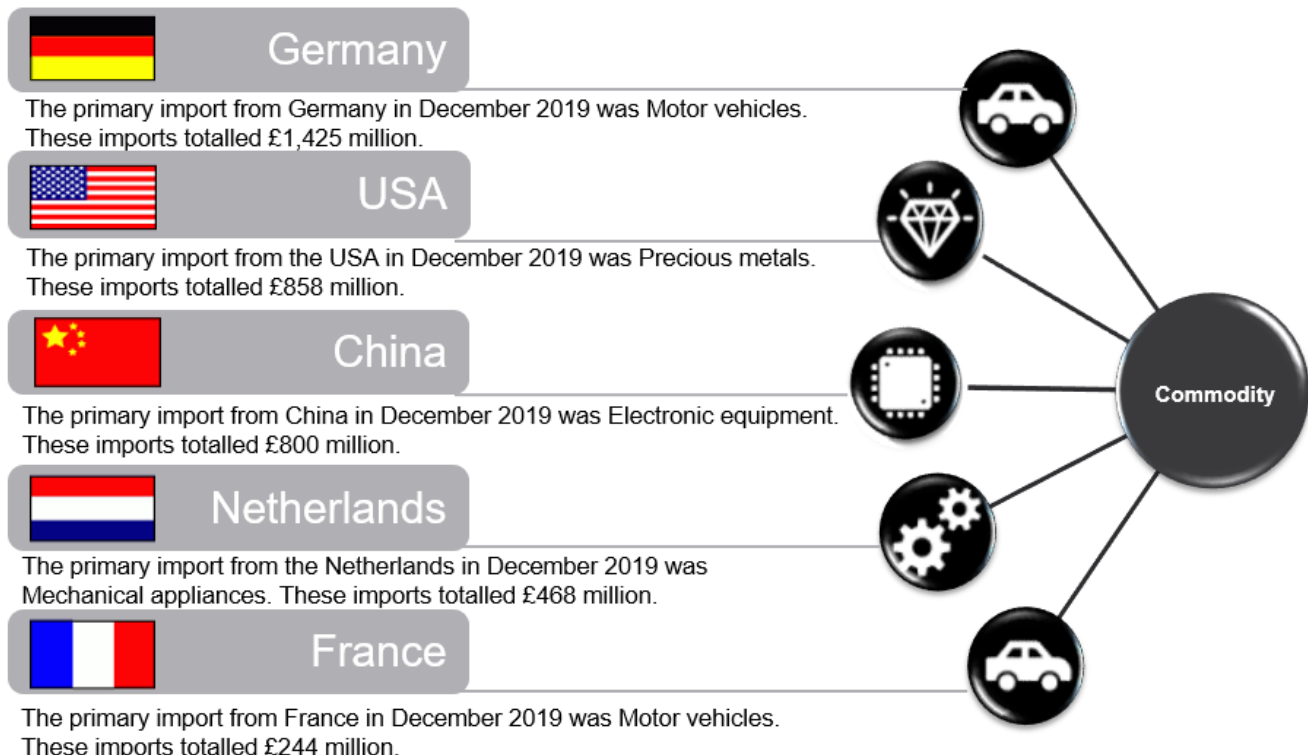
↑ Imports of Precious metals from Uzbekistan up £363 million on last month

Commodity to country:

- The decrease in imports of Mineral fuels on December 2018 was led by Norway, down £322 million (21%).
- The decrease in imports of Precious metals on last month was led by Switzerland and Australia, down £618 million (88%) and £516 million (71%) respectively.
- The increase in imports of Aircraft on December 2018 was led by France, up £135 million (more than 2.5 times the value).
- The decrease in imports of Electronic equipment on December 2018 was led by China and the Netherlands, down £150 million (16%) and £128 million (24%) respectively.

↓ Imports of Precious metals from Switzerland down 88% 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

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](#).

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 December 2019 Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics are collected from the Intrastat survey. They 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 December 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 (October 2019) 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 11 February 2020 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 December 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
January 2020	11 March 2020
February 2020	9 April 2020
March 2020	12 May 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.