



HM Revenue
& Customs

UK Overseas Trade Statistics with non-EU August 2014

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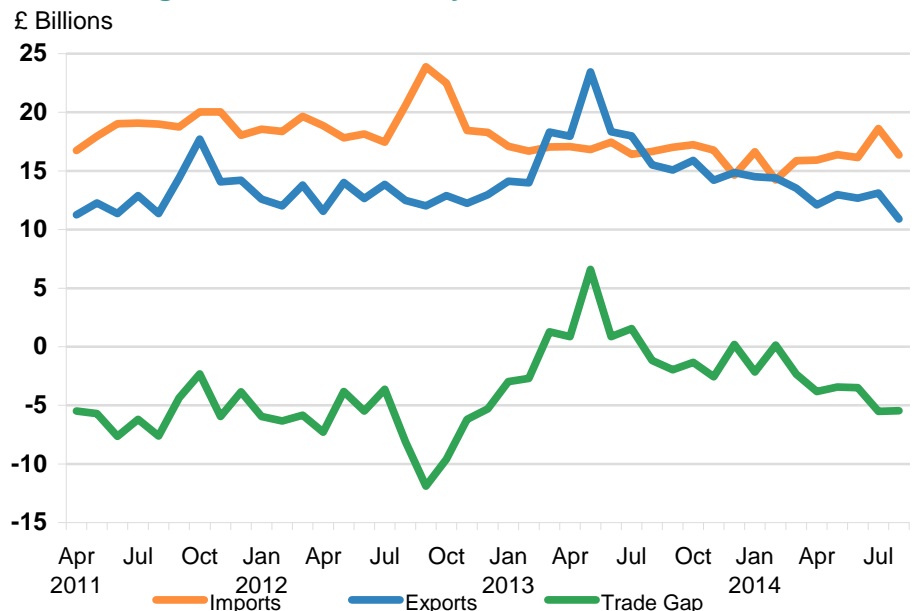
Website:
<http://www.uktradeinfo.com>



Summary

- Non-EU Exports for August 2014 are £10.9 billion. This is a decrease of £2.2 billion (16.8 per cent) compared to last month, and a decrease of £4.6 billion (29.7 per cent) compared to August 2013. This is the lowest export value since May 2010.
- Non-EU Imports for August 2014 are £16.4 billion. This is a decrease of £2.2 billion (12.1 per cent) compared to last month, and a decrease of £0.3 billion (1.8 per cent) compared to August 2013.
- The UK is a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £5.5 billion. This is a slight decrease of £43 million (0.8 per cent) compared to last month, but an increase of £4.3 billion (almost five-fold) compared to August 2013.

Figure1: Total monthly trade with Non-EU



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
Note: 2014 data are provisional

Trade Trends

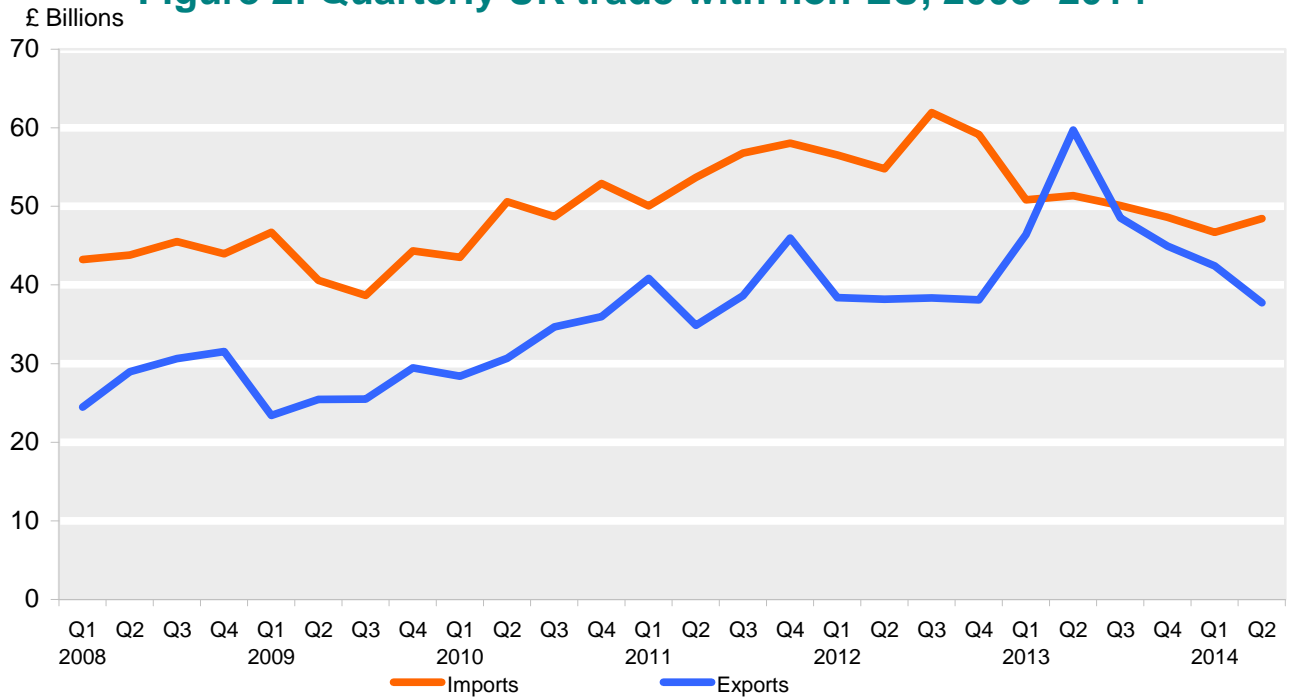
- Following the global economic crisis, UK trade dropped in 2009. Both imports and exports steadily increased until 2012; when exports became flat and imports started to decrease. Exports subsequently peaked in 2013, but have decreased since then.
- The total non-EU export trade for 2013 is £200 billion, which is substantially greater than the £153 billion in 2012 (30 per cent increase).
- The total non-EU import trade for 2013 is £201 billion, which is a reduction when compared to £232 billion in 2012 (14 per cent decrease).
- With the inclusion of non-monetary gold in the OTS, the trade gap has reduced substantially. However, the UK remains a net non-EU importer, with a deficit of £15 billion in the first half of 2014, down from £34 billion in the first half of 2008 (55 per cent decrease).
- For many years USA has been our largest trading import partner by value, but was overtaken by China in 2013. For exports USA has also been dominant for many years, but occasionally surpassed by Switzerland, driven by precious metals exports.
- Mineral fuels has consistently been the largest import commodity by value, occasionally overtaken by Precious metals. For exports, Machinery has predominantly been the largest valued commodity, surpassed by Precious metals in 2013.

Exports up 30% in 2013 driven by Precious metals

Imports down 14% in 2013 driven by Precious metals

Trade Gap reduced by 55% between first half of 2008 - 2014

Figure 2: Quarterly UK trade with non-EU, 2008 - 2014



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2014 data are provisional

Exports

Country Analysis

Table 1: UK exports to the top 5 Non-EU countries, August 2014

Partner Country	August 2014 Exports (£ millions)	Change from August 2014 (%)	Change from August 2013 (%)	Rank July 2014	Rank August 2013
USA	2,848	-18.3	-8.3	1	2
China	1,056	-39.8	34.9	2	3
Switzerland	590	-23.4	-83.0	3	1
Hong Kong	439	18.2	-42.2	7	4
Saudi Arabia	407	30.4	82.9	11	17
Others	5,561	-8.5	-16.1	-	-
Total Exports	10,901	-16.8	-29.7	-	-

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

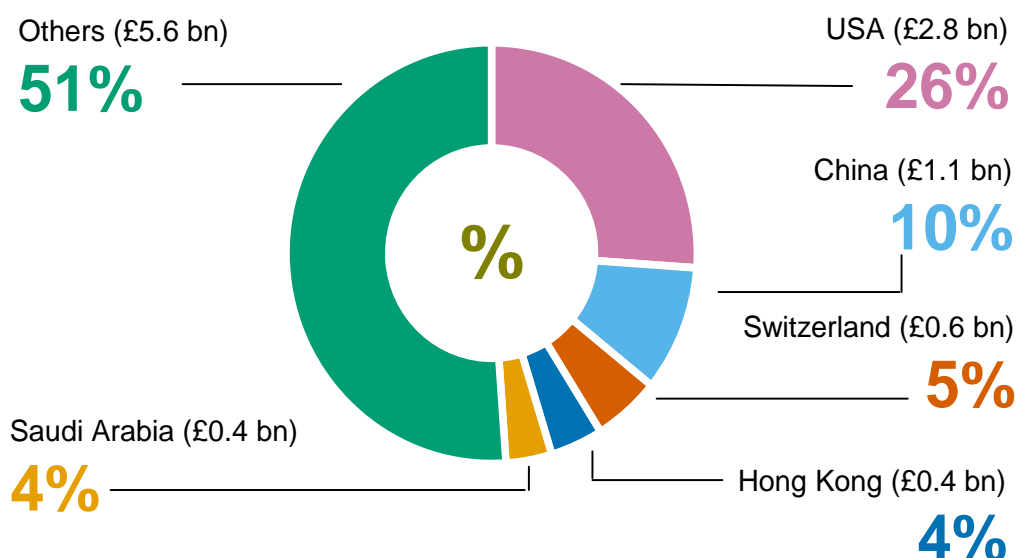
Note: 2014 data are provisional

- The top five non-EU export partner countries (rank by value) have changed compared with last month. Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia have risen from seventh and eleventh place respectively to fourth and fifth place.
- Three of the top five export partners have experienced decreases compared with last month, with Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia increasing. Compared with August 2013, only China and Saudi Arabia showed increases.
- The USA is the largest non-EU export partner country, accounting for 26 per cent of the total value of exports. However it showed the second largest value decrease compared with last month, £0.6 billion (18 per cent).
- Exports to China experienced the largest fall against last month, down £0.7 billion (40 per cent), but the largest rise compared with August 2013, £0.3 billion (35 per cent).
- Saudi Arabia showed the largest value increase on last month, up £95 million (30 per cent) and the second largest rise compared with August 2013, £185 million (83 per cent).
- Exports to Switzerland experienced the largest fall compared with August 2013, down £2.9 billion (83 per cent).

Exports to Saudi Arabia up 30% against last month

Exports to China down 40% against last month

Exports to Switzerland down 83% against Aug 2013

Figure 3: UK exports to top 5 non-EU countries, August 2014

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
Note: 2014 data are provisional

The top five Non-EU countries account for 49 per cent of total non-EU exports, compared to 57 per cent in August 2013.

Commodity Analysis

Table 2: UK exports to non-EU by top 5 commodities, August 2014

Commodity Description	August 2014 Total (£ millions)	Change from July 2014 (%)	Change from August 2013 (%)	Rank July 2014	Rank August 2013
Mechanical appliances	2,054	-12.8	-17.2	1	2
Precious metals, stones and jewellery	1,250	12.3	-71.8	3	1
Motor vehicles	1,204	-32.7	5.0	2	3
Electronic equipment	732	-9.4	-12.0	6	4
Pharmaceutical products	670	-38.3	-6.8	4	5
Others	4,992	-9.6	-9.0	-	-
Total Exports	10,901	-16.8	-29.7	-	-

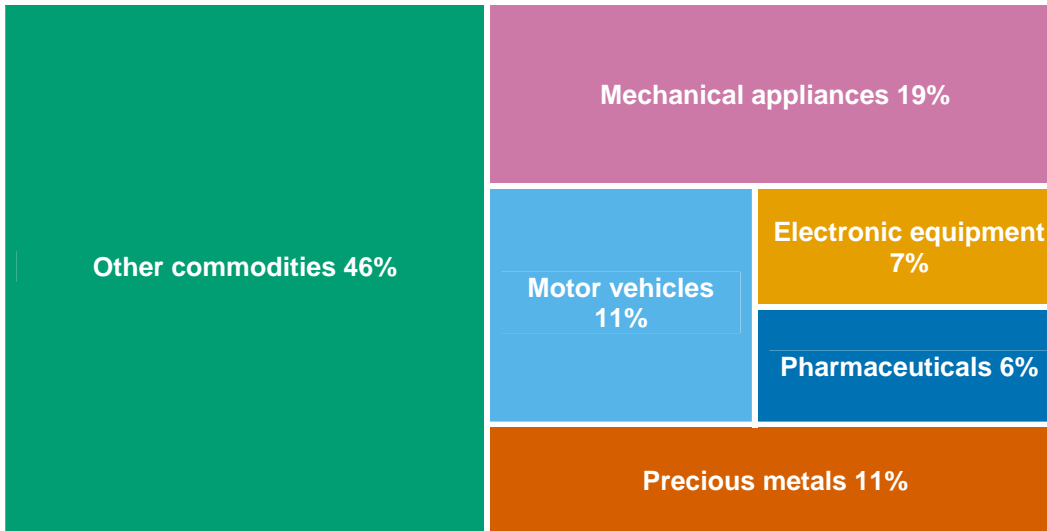
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
Note: 2014 data are provisional

- Mechanical appliances remains the top commodity exported by value, contributing £2.1 billion, 19 per cent of the total value of the UK's non-EU export trade. However, it showed the second largest value decrease compared with August 2013, £0.4 billion (17 per cent).
- Precious metals increased the most compared to last month, up £137 million (12 per cent), but had the largest fall against August 2013, down £3.2 billion (72 per cent), dominated by a drop in exports of Gold.
- Motor vehicles had the largest rise on August 2013, up £58 million (5.0 per cent), but fell £585 million (33 per cent) on last month.

Motor vehicles exports down 33% on last month

Precious metals exports down 72% on Aug 2013

Figure 4: UK exports to non-EU by top five commodities, August 2014



Total value of exports to non-EU partner countries £10.9 billion

Source: HM Revenue and Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2014 data are provisional

Combined Commodity and Country Analysis

- The rise in value of Precious metals exports compared to last month was composed of rises in trade to Hong Kong, up £64 million (74 per cent) and Azerbaijan, up £74 million, from £0.2 million, balanced by a fall of £118 million (31 per cent) to China. The fall compared to August 2013 was dominated by exports to Switzerland, down £2.8 billion (89 per cent).
- The fall in Mechanical appliances compared to August 2013 was led by a reduction of £161 million (24 per cent) to the USA.
- The fall in Motor vehicles compared to last month was led by China, down £216 million (42 per cent) and the USA, down £193 million (also 42 per cent).
- Mineral fuels fell to tenth from fifth place last month, down £624 million (70 per cent), led by a drop in exports to China, of £260 million (from £262 million to £0.9 million).

Precious metals exports to Switzerland down 89% on Aug 2013

Motor vehicles exports to China down 42% on last month

Imports

Country Analysis

Table 3: UK imports from top 5 Non-EU countries, August 2014

Partner Country	August 2014 Total (£ millions)	Change from July 2014 (%)	Change from August 2013 (%)	Rank July 2014	Rank August 2013
China	2,898	1.7	-0.1	2	1
USA	2,838	-14.8	12.0	1	2
Switzerland	1,134	14.1	85.7	6	5
Canada	852	-20.3	80.0	5	11
Norway	832	-26.9	-39.7	4	3
Others	7,806	-14.2	-9.5	-	-
Total Imports	16,361	-12.1	-1.8	-	-

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

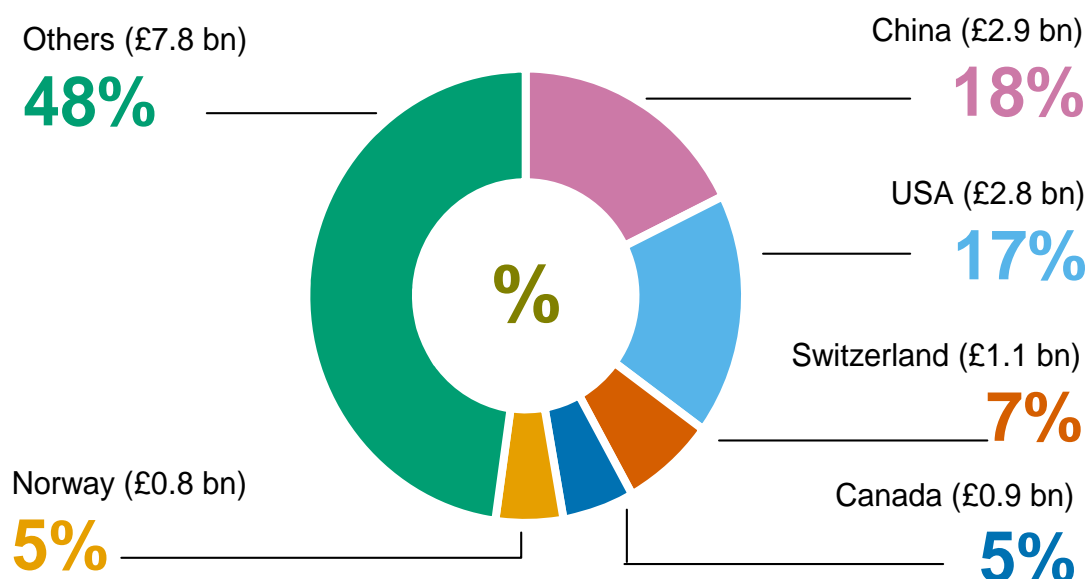
Note: 2014 data are provisional

- The top five non-EU import partners (rank by value) have changed compared with both periods. China has overtaken the USA to become the largest import partner, with Switzerland rising to third place.
- Three of the top five import partners fell in value compared with last month, with China and Switzerland increasing. The USA, Switzerland and Canada all rose compared to August 2013.
- The USA had the second largest fall against last month, of £493 million (15 per cent), to fall behind China as the largest non-EU import partner country.
- Switzerland showed the largest increase on both periods, up £140 million (14 per cent) on last month, and £523 million (86 per cent) on August 2013. This is the highest import value for Switzerland since December 2012.
- Norway showed the largest decrease on August 2013, down £548 million (40 per cent). Norway also fell £306 million (27 per cent) on last month.
- South Africa had the largest fall on last month, down £723 million (62 per cent). Canada rose by £379 million (80 per cent) against August 2013.

Imports from Switzerland up 86% on Aug 2013

Imports from Canada up 80% from Aug 2013

Imports from Norway down 40% on Aug 2013

Figure 5: UK imports from top 5 non-EU countries, August 2014

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Note: 2014 data are provisional

The top five non-EU countries account for 52 per cent of total non-EU imports, compared to 48 per cent in August 2013.

Commodity Analysis

Table 4: UK Imports from non-EU by top 5 commodities, August 2014

Commodity Description	August 2014 Imports (£ millions)	Change from July 2014 (%)	Change from August 2013 (%)	Rank July 2014	Rank August 2013
Precious metals, stones and jewellery	2,626	-12.6	166.0	2	4
Mineral fuels	2,446	-25.6	-32.6	1	1
Mechanical appliances	1,953	-3.5	-9.5	3	2
Electronic equipment	1,318	-7.4	-10.5	4	3
Motor vehicles	713	24.4	12.2	7	7
Others	7,305	-9.9	-4.7	-	-
Total Exports	16,361	-12.1	-1.8	-	-

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

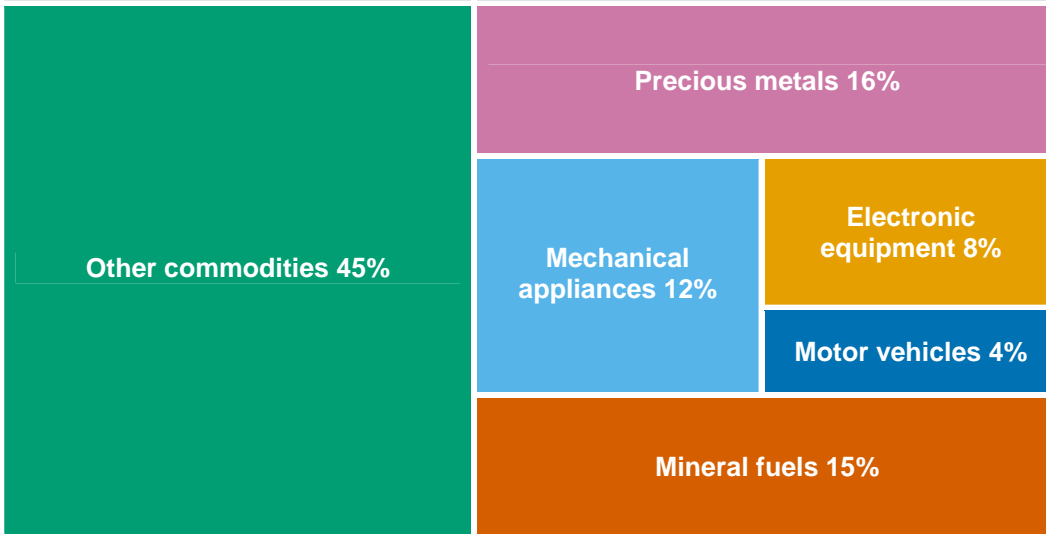
Note: 2014 data are provisional

- Mineral fuels has fallen behind Precious metals as the largest valued import commodity, with a fall of £840 million (26 per cent) on last month, and £1.2 billion (33 per cent) on August 2013. This is the lowest monthly import value for Mineral fuels since October 2010.
- Precious metals also fell against last month, down £379 million (13 per cent), but rose £1.6 billion (almost three-fold) against August 2013.
- Motor vehicles had the largest value increase against both periods, up £140 million (24 per cent) on last month, and £78 million (12 per cent) on August 2013.

Mineral fuels imports down 26% on last month

Precious metals imports tripled on Aug 2013

Figure 6: UK imports from non-EU by top five commodities, August 2014



Total value of imports from non-EU partner countries £16.4 billion

Source: HM Revenue and Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2014 data are provisional

Combined Commodity and Country Analysis

- The decrease in Mineral fuels compared with last month was led by Russia, down £333 million (57 per cent) and Norway, down £266 million (28 per cent). Compared to August 2013, imports from Norway fell £525 million (44 per cent) Russia fell £278 million (53 per cent) and Nigeria fell £353 million (70 per cent).
- The drop in imports of Precious metals compared to last month was dominated by a fall from South Africa, down £694 million (68 per cent). The increase compared to August 2013 was led by a ten-fold rise of £618 million from Switzerland, and a seven-fold rise of £418 million from the USA.
- The increase in Motor vehicles compared to both periods was spread over several import partners, with the largest rises from Japan, South Korea, and Turkey.
- Imports of Aircraft fell by £558 million (55 per cent) on last month, dominated by a fall of £423 million (57 per cent) from the USA. Trade in this sector is erratic.

Mineral fuels from Russia down over 50% on both periods

Precious metals from Switzerland up ten-fold on Aug 2013

Annex I – Metadata

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

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

Annex II – Methodological Notes

1. HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with countries outside the European Union (EU) on 10 October 2014 under arrangements set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#). The first release is published on HMRC's trade data website www.uktradeinfo.com.
2. This release includes the first provisional estimates of trade-in-goods 0Hbetween the UK and countries outside the EU for August 2014. At the same time revisions for all previously published non EU data for 2014 are also being released in line with the [HM Revenue & Customs Policy on Revisions](#).
3. Detailed trade information is presented according to the [Harmonised System \(HS\)](#) nomenclature.
4. The aggregate estimates here will differ slightly from those that are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as part of the Balance of Payments (BoP), as the two sets of data are compiled to different sets of rules. The ONS web site provides an overview of BoP at the [Guide to UK Trade](#) as well as the detailed monthly [UK Trade Releases](#). The BoP publication shows a high level picture of UK trade-in-goods, whereas the OTS publication shows a detailed picture of the UK's trade-in-goods by commodity and partner country. [uktradeinfo.com](#) provides more detail about the [differences between BoP and OTS publications](#).
5. The aggregate estimates here will differ from the Eurostat publication [Euro area external trade](#). The OTS is published 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'.

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

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

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