



### 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 July 2020.

Supporting tables, visuals and data can be found at [www.uktradeinfo.com](http://www.uktradeinfo.com)

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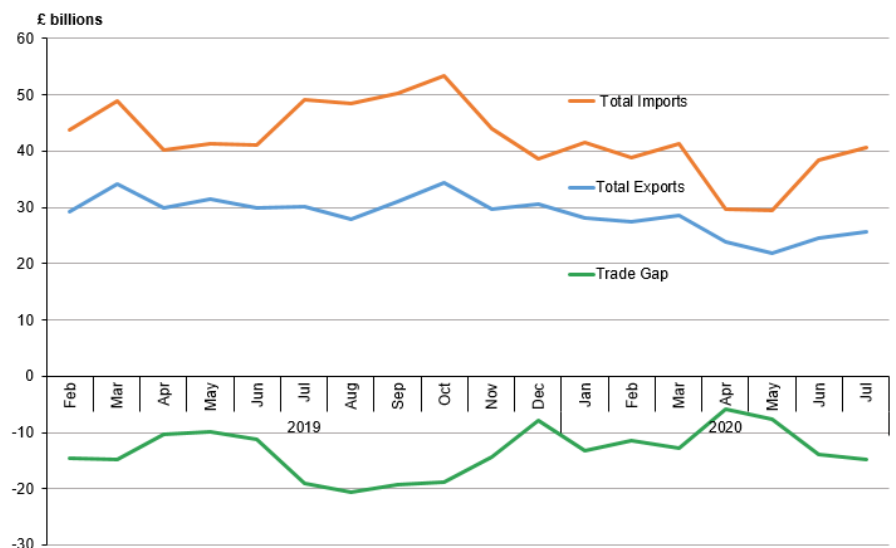
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### Trade in Goods, July 2020

- Total **exports** of goods for July 2020 were £25.7 billion. This was an increase of £1.3 billion (5.1%) compared with last month, but a decrease of £4.5 billion (15%) compared with July 2019.
- Total **imports** of goods for July 2020 were £40.6 billion. This was an increase of £2.2 billion (5.7%) compared with last month, and a decrease of £8.6 billion (17%) compared with July 2019.
- The UK was a net importer this month, with **imports** exceeding **exports** by £14.9 billion, widening by £0.9 billion on last month.

Figure 1: Total UK monthly Trade in Goods



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods and Statistics  
Note: 2020 data is provisional



Coverage: United Kingdom  
 Theme: Business and Energy  
 Released: 11 September 2020  
 Next release: 9 October 2020

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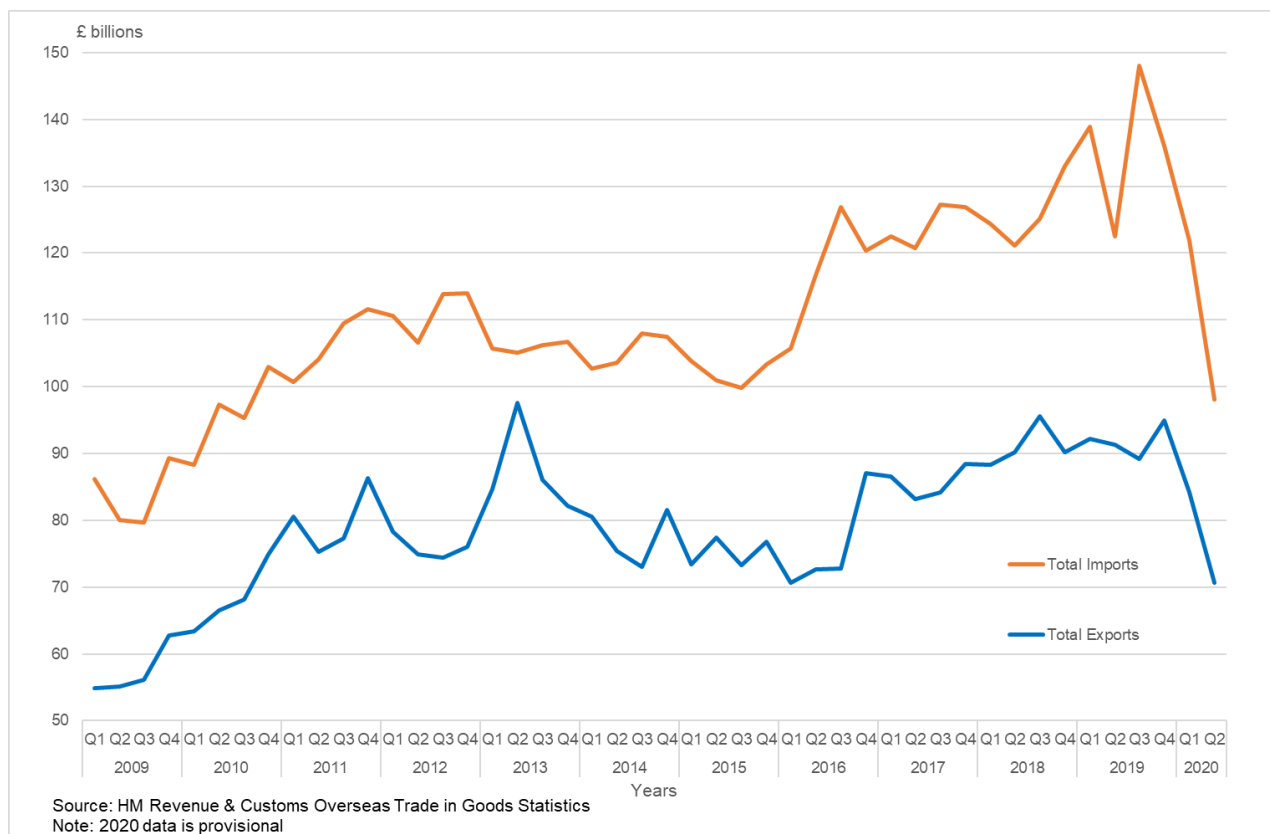
# Trade in Goods Trends

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. It has experienced large quarterly fluctuations since Q1 of 2019 and Q2 of 2020 saw the lowest quarterly imports value since Q3 of 2010. Exports peaked in Q2 of 2013, with a steady rise from Q2 of 2017 to Q3 of 2018. Q2 of 2020 also saw the lowest quarterly exports value since Q3 of 2010.

- ↓ Exports down 23% on Q2 2019
- ↓ Imports down 20% on Q2 2019
- Trade deficit narrowed by 12% on Q2 2019

- The total **export** trade for Q2 of 2020 was £70.1 billion, which was a decrease of 23% compared with £91.3 billion for Q2 of 2019.
- The total **import** trade for Q2 of 2020 was £97.6 billion, which was a decrease of 20% compared with £123 billion for Q2 of 2019.
- There was a trade deficit of £27.5 billion for Q2 of 2020. This was a narrowing of 12% compared with £31.2 billion for Q2 2019.
- 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.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, trade in recent months has seen abnormally low values, affecting our largest trade partners and commodity groups at differing magnitudes.

Figure 2: Quarterly UK Trade in Goods, 2009 – 2020



# Non-EU & EU Trade in Goods

## Non-EU Trade in Goods:

- **Non-EU exports** for July 2020 were £13.5 billion. This was an increase of £1.0 billion (8.3%) on last month, and a decrease of £2.7 billion (17%) compared with July 2019.
- **Non-EU imports** for July 2020 were £21.9 billion. This was an increase of £1.1 billion (5.2%) on last month, and a decrease of £4.5 billion (17%) compared with July 2019.
- For **non-EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £8.4 billion.

↓ **Non-EU exports down 17% on July 2019**

## EU Trade in Goods:

- **EU exports** for July 2020 were £12.2 billion. This was an increase of £0.2 billion (1.9%) on last month, and a decrease of £1.8 billion (13%) compared with July 2019.
- **EU imports** for July 2020 were £18.8 billion. This was an increase of £1.1 billion (6.3%) on last month, and a decrease of £4.1 billion (18%) compared with July 2019.
- For **EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £6.6 billion.

↓ **EU imports down 18% on July 2019**

**Figure 3: Total UK Trade in Goods, with EU and Non-EU, July 2020**



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2020 data is provisional

## Exports: Country Analysis

- The USA remained as the largest export partner country. It experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £342 million (10%). Conversely, it showed the largest value decrease on July 2019, down £1,203 million (25%).
- The Netherlands experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month, up £295 million (21%).
- Spain showed the largest value decrease on last month, down £394 million (36%).
- Switzerland experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on last month, down £202 million (15%). Conversely, it showed the largest value increase on July 2019, up £511 million (87%).
- China experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on July 2019, down £712 million (38%).
- Germany experienced the 3rd largest value decrease on July 2019, down £497 million (16%).

↑ Exports to the USA up 10% on last month

↓ Exports to Spain down 36% on last month

**Table 1: UK exports of goods to the top 10 countries, July 2020**

| Partner Country      | July 2020          |                    | June 2020               |                    | July 2019               |  |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--|
|                      | Total (£ millions) | Total (£ millions) | Change on June 2020 (%) | Total (£ millions) | Change on July 2019 (%) |  |
| USA                  | 3,693              | 3,351              | 10.2                    | 4,896              | -24.6                   |  |
| Germany              | 2,602              | 2,614              | -0.5                    | 3,099              | -16.0                   |  |
| Irish Republic       | 1,691              | 1,608              | 5.1                     | 1,789              | -5.5                    |  |
| Netherlands          | 1,680              | 1,386              | 21.3                    | 1,961              | -14.3                   |  |
| France               | 1,678              | 1,655              | 1.4                     | 2,086              | -19.6                   |  |
| China                | 1,178              | 1,109              | 6.2                     | 1,889              | -37.7                   |  |
| Switzerland          | 1,100              | 1,302              | -15.5                   | 589                | 86.7                    |  |
| Belgium              | 953                | 855                | 11.4                    | 1,029              | -7.4                    |  |
| Italy                | 828                | 729                | 13.5                    | 899                | -7.9                    |  |
| Spain                | 692                | 1,086              | -36.3                   | 897                | -22.9                   |  |
| Others               | 9,641              | 8,783              | 9.8                     | 11,121             | -13.3                   |  |
| <b>Total EU</b>      | <b>12,223</b>      | <b>12,000</b>      | <b>1.9</b>              | <b>14,030</b>      | <b>-12.9</b>            |  |
| <b>Total Non-EU</b>  | <b>13,511</b>      | <b>12,476</b>      | <b>8.3</b>              | <b>16,224</b>      | <b>-16.7</b>            |  |
| <b>Total Exports</b> | <b>25,734</b>      | <b>24,477</b>      | <b>5.1</b>              | <b>30,254</b>      | <b>-14.9</b>            |  |

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics  
Note: 2020 data is provisional

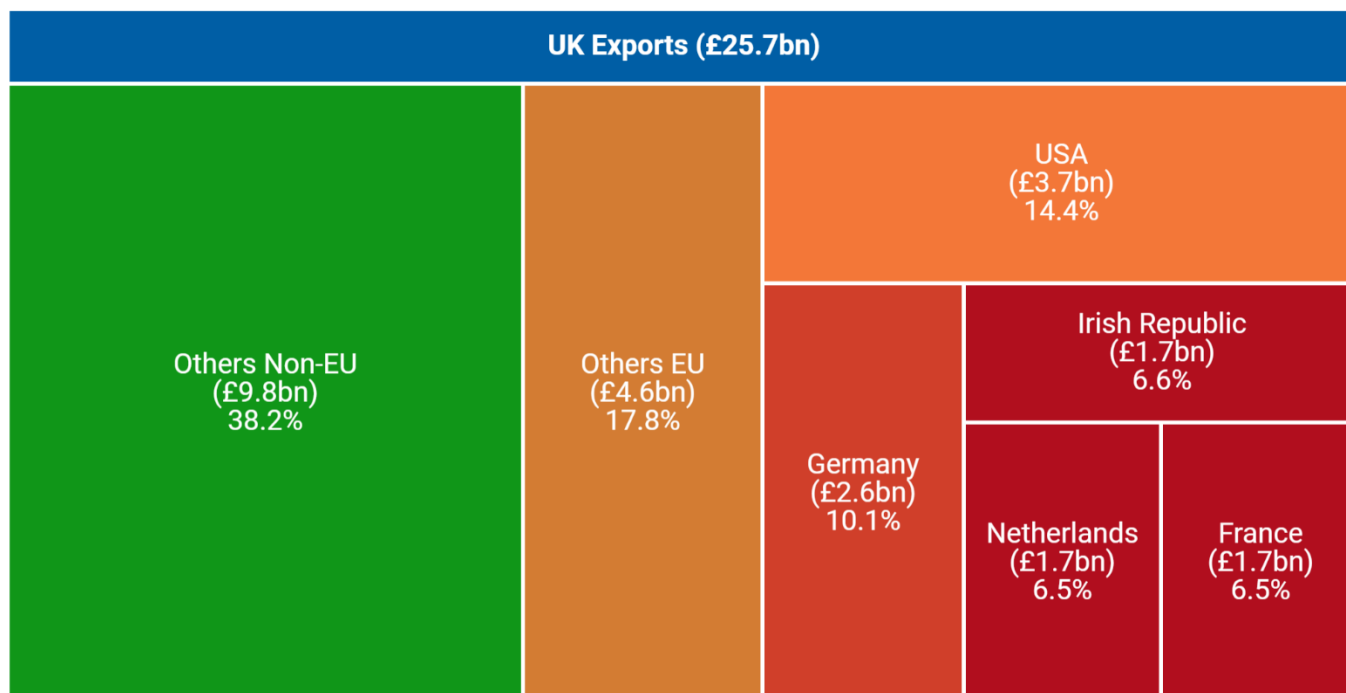
# Exports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 export partners accounted for 44% of total exports in goods in July 2020. This was a decrease from a 46% share in July 2019.
- The USA accounted for 14% of the total value of exports from the UK. This was a decrease from a 16% share in July 2019.
- Germany had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 10%. This was a decrease of less than 1 percentage point on July 2019.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) remained the same but changed order compared with last month. Most notably, France fell to 5th place from 3rd, and Spain fell to 10th place from 8th.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with July 2019. Most notably, the Irish Republic rose to 3rd place from 6th, and Switzerland rose to 7th place from 12th.

↓ **The USA had a 14% share of total exports in July 2020**

↓ **Germany had an 10% share of total exports in July 2020**

**Figure 4: Share of UK exports of goods to the top 5 countries, July 2020**



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics  
 Note: 2020 data is provisional

## Exports: Country Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to July 2020, the USA remained the largest export partner country. Among the top 10, it experienced the 4th largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to April 2020, down 12%, and the 2nd largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to July 2019, down 28%.
- Among the top 10, Switzerland experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to April 2020, down 30%. Conversely, it experienced the only increase on the 3 months to July 2019, 9.8%.
- Among the top 10, the Netherlands experienced the 2nd largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to April 2020, and the 3rd largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to July 2019, down 15% and 27% respectively.
- Among the top 10, China experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to July 2019, down 46%.
- 6 of the top 10 export partners experienced decreases on the 3 months to April 2020. The Irish Republic, France, Spain and Italy were the exceptions.

↓ Exports to Switzerland down 30% on the 3 months to April 2020

↓ Exports to China down 46% on the 3 months to July 2019

**Table 2: UK exports of goods to the top 10 countries, 3 months to July 2020**

| Partner Country      | 3 months to Jul 2020 |                    | 3 months to Apr 2020     |                    | 3 months to Jul 2019    |  |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--|
|                      | Total (£ millions)   | Total (£ millions) | Change on April 2020 (%) | Total (£ millions) | Change on July 2019 (%) |  |
| USA                  | 9,885                | 11,294             | -12.5                    | 13,641             | -27.5                   |  |
| Germany              | 7,344                | 8,418              | -12.8                    | 8,949              | -17.9                   |  |
| Irish Republic       | 4,764                | 4,533              | 5.1                      | 5,232              | -8.9                    |  |
| France               | 4,489                | 4,476              | 0.3                      | 5,920              | -24.2                   |  |
| Netherlands          | 4,443                | 5,204              | -14.6                    | 6,086              | -27.0                   |  |
| Switzerland          | 4,160                | 5,925              | -29.8                    | 3,787              | 9.8                     |  |
| China                | 3,109                | 3,217              | -3.4                     | 5,723              | -45.7                   |  |
| Belgium              | 2,515                | 2,616              | -3.9                     | 3,339              | -24.7                   |  |
| Spain                | 2,303                | 2,028              | 13.5                     | 2,671              | -13.8                   |  |
| Italy                | 2,090                | 2,073              | 0.8                      | 2,588              | -19.2                   |  |
| Others               | 26,954               | 29,936             | -10.0                    | 33,694             | -20.0                   |  |
| <b>Total Exports</b> | <b>72,056</b>        | <b>79,720</b>      | <b>-9.6</b>              | <b>91,630</b>      | <b>-21.4</b>            |  |

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2020 data is provisional

## Exports: Commodity Analysis

- Mechanical appliances remained as the largest export commodity. It showed the 2nd largest value increase on last month, up £271 million (7.2%). In contrast, it saw the 3rd largest decrease on July 2019, down £862 million (18%).
- Motor vehicles experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £731 million (42%). In contrast, it saw the largest value decrease on July 2019, down £1,140 million (32%).
- Mineral fuels experienced the 3rd largest value increase on last month, up £208 million (14%). In contrast, it showed the 2nd largest decrease on July 2019, down £1,093 million (39%).
- Ships, boats and floating structures (47th place) experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £420 million (88%).
- Aircraft (in 11th place) showed the 2nd largest value decrease on last month, down £217 million (25%).
- Precious metals experienced the 3rd largest value decrease on last month, down £164 million (6.3%). In contrast, it showed the largest increase on July 2019, up £636 million (35%).

↑ **Exports of Motor vehicles up 42% on last month**

↓ **Exports of Ships, boats and floating structures down 88% on last month**

**Table 3: UK exports of goods for the top 10 commodities, July 2020**

| Commodity Description         | July 2020          | June 2020          |                         | July 2019          |                         |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
|                               | Total (£ millions) | Total (£ millions) | Change on June 2020 (%) | Total (£ millions) | Change on July 2019 (%) |
| Mechanical appliances         | 4,046              | 3,775              | 7.2                     | 4,908              | -17.6                   |
| Motor vehicles                | 2,458              | 1,727              | 42.3                    | 3,599              | -31.7                   |
| Precious metals               | 2,451              | 2,615              | -6.3                    | 1,815              | 35.1                    |
| Electronic equipment          | 1,703              | 1,606              | 6.1                     | 1,873              | -9.1                    |
| Mineral fuels                 | 1,683              | 1,475              | 14.1                    | 2,776              | -39.4                   |
| Pharmaceutical products       | 1,576              | 1,706              | -7.7                    | 1,754              | -10.2                   |
| Measuring devices and gauges  | 1,169              | 1,110              | 5.3                     | 1,303              | -10.3                   |
| Other products                | 818                | 769                | 6.3                     | 732                | 11.7                    |
| Organic chemicals             | 799                | 770                | 3.8                     | 1,077              | -25.8                   |
| Plastics and plastic products | 707                | 695                | 1.7                     | 801                | -11.8                   |
| Others                        | 8,324              | 8,228              | 1.2                     | 9,617              | -13.4                   |
| <b>Total Exports</b>          | <b>25,734</b>      | <b>24,477</b>      | <b>5.1</b>              | <b>30,254</b>      | <b>-14.9</b>            |

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2020 data is provisional

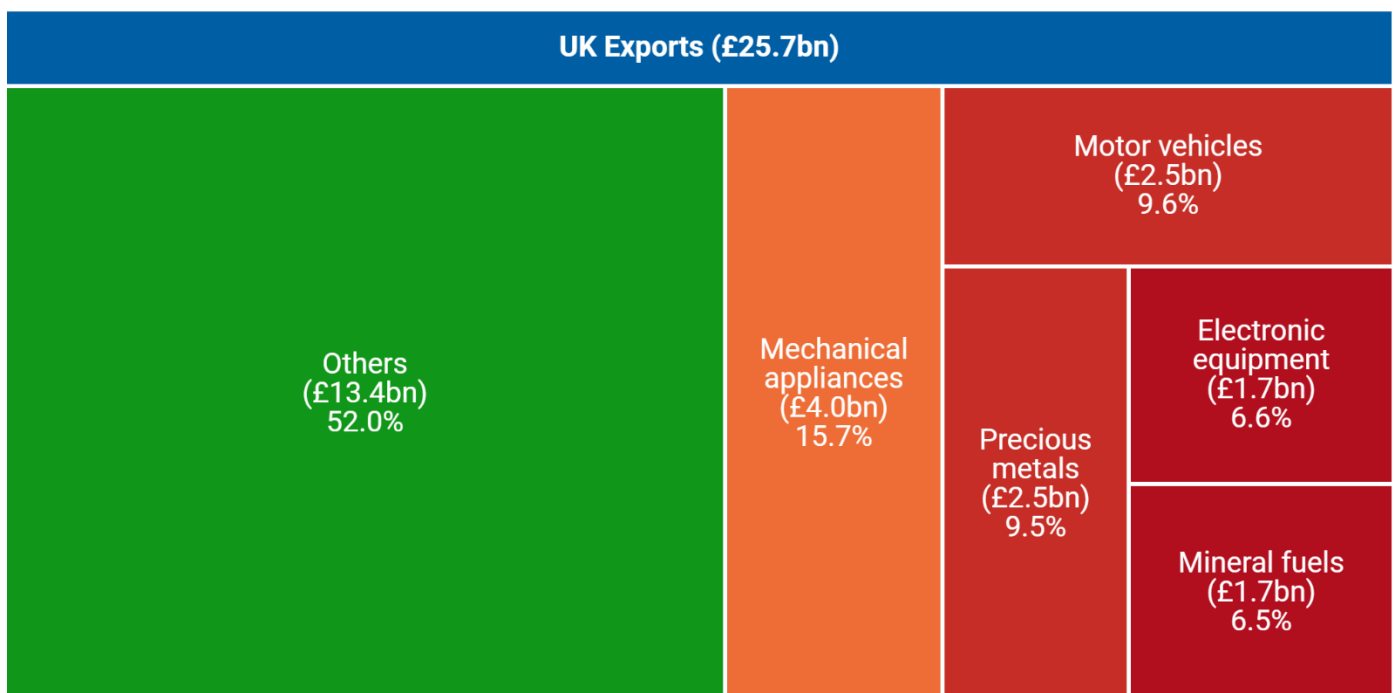
# Exports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 export commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 48% of exports in July 2020, this was a decrease from a 49% share in July 2019.
- Mechanical appliances had the largest proportion, accounting for 16% of total exports. This was a decrease of less than 1 percentage point on July 2019.
- Motor vehicles had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 9.6% of total exports. This was a decrease from a 12% share in July 2019.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Pharmaceutical products fell to 6th place from 4th, and Aircraft fell to 11th place from 8th.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with July 2019. Most notably, Precious metals rose to 3rd place from 5th, and Mineral fuels fell to 5th place from 3rd.

↓ **Mechanical appliances accounted for 15% of total exports in July 2020**

↓ **Motor vehicles accounted for 9.6% of total exports in July 2020**

**Figure 5: Share of UK exports by the top 5 commodities, July 2020**



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics  
 Note: 2020 data is provisional



## Exports: Commodity Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to July 2020, Mechanical appliances remained the largest export commodity. It experienced decreases on the 3 months to April 2020, and on the 3 months to July 2019, down 9.8% and 23% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Motor vehicles experienced the largest percentage decreases on the 3 months to April 2020 and on the 3 months to July 2019, down 27% and 52% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Precious metals experienced the 2nd largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to April 2020, down 27%. In contrast it showed the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to July 2019, up 5.0%.
- Among the top 10, Aircraft experienced the 3rd largest percentage decreases on the 3 months to April 2020 and on the 3 months to July 2019, down 18% and 37% respectively.
- 9 of the top 10 commodities experienced decreases on the 3 months to April 2020. Other products was the exception.
- 7 of the top 10 commodities experienced decreases on the 3 months to July 2019. Precious metals, Pharmaceutical products and Other products were the exceptions.

↓ **Motor vehicles exports down 52% on the 3 months to July 2019**

↓ **Precious metals exports down 27% on the 3 months to April 2020**

**Table 4: UK exports of goods for the top 10 commodities, 3 months to July 2020**

| Commodity Description        | 3 months to Jul 2020 |                    | 3 months to Apr 2020     |                    | 3 months to Jul 2019    |  |
|------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--|
|                              | Total (£ millions)   | Total (£ millions) | Change on April 2020 (%) | Total (£ millions) | Change on July 2019 (%) |  |
| Mechanical appliances        | 11,102               | 12,310             | -9.8                     | 14,487             | -23.4                   |  |
| Precious metals              | 8,684                | 11,926             | -27.2                    | 8,273              | 5.0                     |  |
| Pharmaceutical products      | 4,962                | 5,090              | -2.5                     | 4,921              | 0.8                     |  |
| Motor vehicles               | 4,804                | 6,618              | -27.4                    | 9,916              | -51.6                   |  |
| Electronic equipment         | 4,696                | 4,697              | -0.0                     | 5,460              | -14.0                   |  |
| Mineral fuels                | 4,519                | 5,231              | -13.6                    | 8,623              | -47.6                   |  |
| Measuring devices and gauges | 3,283                | 3,403              | -3.5                     | 3,895              | -15.7                   |  |
| Organic chemicals            | 2,376                | 2,589              | -8.2                     | 2,441              | -2.7                    |  |
| Other products               | 2,293                | 1,954              | 17.4                     | 2,217              | 3.5                     |  |
| Aircraft                     | 2,182                | 2,662              | -18.0                    | 3,478              | -37.3                   |  |
| Others                       | 23,155               | 23,240             | -0.4                     | 27,919             | -17.1                   |  |
| <b>Total Exports</b>         | <b>72,056</b>        | <b>79,720</b>      | <b>-9.6</b>              | <b>91,630</b>      | <b>-21.4</b>            |  |

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics  
Note: 2020 data is provisional

# Exports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

## Country to commodity:

- The increase in exports to the USA on last month was led by Motor vehicles, up £121 million (57%). The decrease on July 2019 was also led by Motor vehicles, down £613 million (65%).
- The decrease in exports to Switzerland on last month was led by Precious metals, down £231 million (23%). Precious metals also led the increase on July 2019, up £614 million (more than 5 times the value).
- The decrease in exports to Germany compared with July 2019 was led by Mineral fuels, Organic chemicals, and Aircraft, down £161 million (37%), £115 million (72%) and £111 million (49%) respectively.

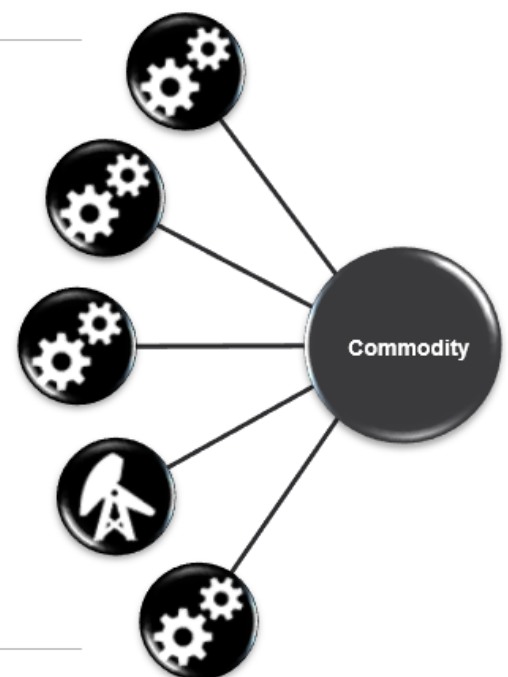
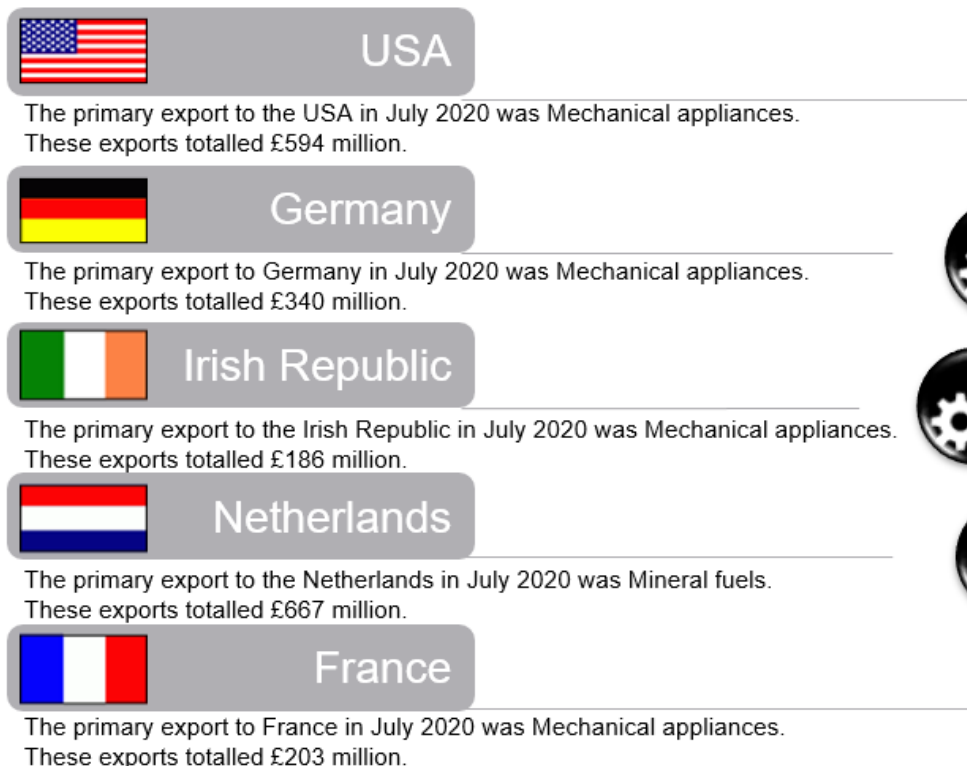
↑ Exports of Motor vehicles to the USA up 57% on last month

## Commodity to country

- The increase in exports of Mineral fuels on last month was led by the Netherlands, up £218 million (49%). The decrease on July 2019 was led by China, down £499 million to less than £1 million.
- The increase in exports of Mechanical appliances compared with last month was led by Qatar, up £105 million (2.5 times the value). The decrease on July 2019 was led by the USA, down £197 million (25%).
- The decrease in exports of Ships, boats and floating structures on last month was led by Spain, down £363 million (98%).
- The decrease in exports of Aircraft on last month was led by France, Norway, and Germany, down £74 million (39%), £74 million (95%), and £58 million (34%) respectively.

↑ Exports of Mechanical appliances to Qatar up 2.5 times the value 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: 2020 data is provisional

## Imports: Country Analysis

- Germany remained the largest import partner country, experiencing the largest value increase on last month, up £763 million (18%). Conversely, it showed the 3rd largest value decrease on July 2019, down £753 million (13%).
- Hong Kong experienced the largest value increase on July 2019, up £1,075 million (2.5 times the value).
- Denmark (in 27th place) experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £544 million (64%).
- Switzerland experienced the largest value decrease on July 2019, down £2,706 million (72%).
- China experienced the 2nd largest value increases on last month and July 2019, up £645 million (16%) and £703 million (18%) respectively.
- The USA experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on July 2019, down £1,428 million (32%).

↑ Imports from Germany up 18% on last month

↓ Imports from Switzerland down 72% on July 2019

**Table 5: UK imports of goods from the top 10 countries, July 2020**

| Partner Country      | July 2020          | June 2020          |                         | July 2019          |                         |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
|                      | Total (£ millions) | Total (£ millions) | Change on June 2020 (%) | Total (£ millions) | Change on July 2019 (%) |
| Germany              | 4,943              | 4,180              | 18.3                    | 5,696              | -13.2                   |
| China                | 4,705              | 4,060              | 15.9                    | 4,003              | 17.6                    |
| USA                  | 3,007              | 3,367              | -10.7                   | 4,435              | -32.2                   |
| Netherlands          | 2,904              | 2,868              | 1.3                     | 3,536              | -17.9                   |
| France               | 1,830              | 1,727              | 6.0                     | 2,411              | -24.1                   |
| Hong Kong            | 1,816              | 1,563              | 16.2                    | 740                | 145.3                   |
| Belgium              | 1,613              | 1,558              | 3.5                     | 2,118              | -23.8                   |
| Italy                | 1,542              | 1,396              | 10.5                    | 1,852              | -16.7                   |
| Russia               | 1,391              | 1,625              | -14.4                   | 735                | 89.3                    |
| Australia            | 1,293              | 1,155              | 11.9                    | 1,132              | 14.3                    |
| Others               | 15,603             | 14,963             | 4.3                     | 22,590             | -30.9                   |
| <b>Total EU</b>      | <b>18,781</b>      | <b>17,670</b>      | <b>6.3</b>              | <b>22,867</b>      | <b>-17.9</b>            |
| <b>Total Non-EU</b>  | <b>21,865</b>      | <b>20,792</b>      | <b>5.2</b>              | <b>26,380</b>      | <b>-17.1</b>            |
| <b>Total Imports</b> | <b>40,647</b>      | <b>38,462</b>      | <b>5.7</b>              | <b>49,247</b>      | <b>-17.5</b>            |

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2020 data is provisional

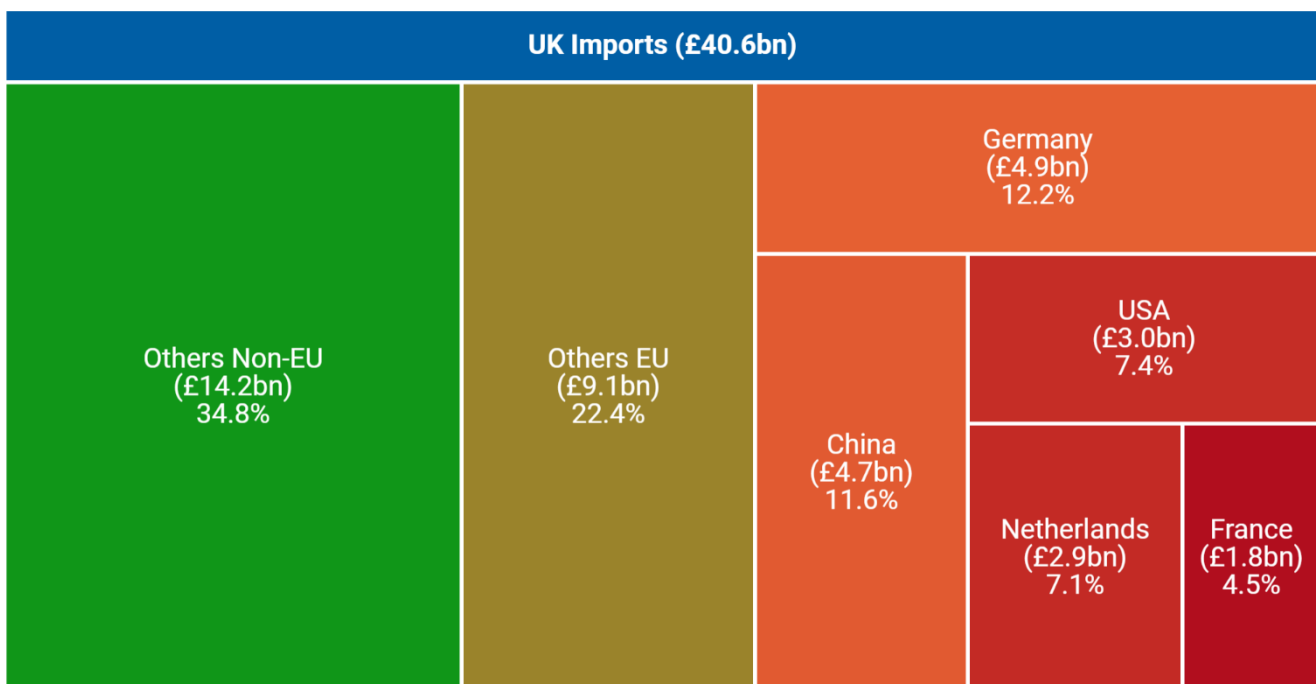
# Imports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 import partners accounted for 43% of the total value of goods imported in July 2020. This was a decrease from a 44% share in July 2019.
- Germany accounted for 12% of the total value of goods imported to the UK. This was an increase of less than one percentage point on July 2019.
- China had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for a 12% share. This was an increase from an 8.1% share in July 2019.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) have changed compared with last month. Most notably, Russia fell to 9th place from 6th and Canada fell to 15th place from 10th.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) have changed compared with July 2019. Most notably, Hong Kong rose to 6th place from 18th and Russia rose to 9th place from 19th.

↓ **The top 5 partners accounted for 43% of total imports in July 2020**

↑ **Germany accounted for 12% of total imports in July 2020**

**Figure 7: Share of UK imports of goods from the top 5 countries, July 2020**



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics  
 Note: 2020 data is provisional

## Imports: Country Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to July 2020, China replaced Germany as the largest import partner country, experiencing the 2nd largest percentage increase among the top 10 on the 3 months to April 2020, up 49%.
- Among the top 10, Hong Kong experienced the largest percentage increases on the 3 months to April 2020 and on the 3 months to July 2019, up more than 2.5 times the value in both cases.
- Among the top 10, the USA experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to April 2020, down 25%.
- Among the top 10, France experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to July 2019, down 31%.
- 6 of the top 10 countries experienced a decrease on the 3 months to April 2020. The exceptions were China, Hong Kong, Italy, and Russia.
- 7 of the top 10 countries experienced a decrease on the 3 months to July 2019. The exceptions were China, Hong Kong, and Russia.

↑ Imports from Hong Kong up more than 2.5 times the value on the 3 months to April 2020

↓ Imports from France down 31% on the 3 months to July 2019

**Table 6: UK imports of goods from the top 10 countries, 3 months to July 2020**

| Partner Country      | 3 months to Jul 2020 |                    | 3 months to Apr 2020     |                    | 3 months to Jul 2019    |  |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--|
|                      | Total (£ millions)   | Total (£ millions) | Change on April 2020 (%) | Total (£ millions) | Change on July 2019 (%) |  |
| China                | 12,482               | 8,398              | 48.6                     | 11,216             | 11.3                    |  |
| Germany              | 11,972               | 13,209             | -9.4                     | 15,870             | -24.6                   |  |
| USA                  | 9,594                | 12,781             | -24.9                    | 12,218             | -21.5                   |  |
| Netherlands          | 8,289                | 8,667              | -4.4                     | 9,957              | -16.8                   |  |
| France               | 4,883                | 5,407              | -9.7                     | 7,121              | -31.4                   |  |
| Hong Kong            | 4,537                | 1,619              | 180.3                    | 1,750              | 159.3                   |  |
| Belgium              | 4,319                | 5,329              | -18.9                    | 5,838              | -26.0                   |  |
| Italy                | 4,105                | 3,866              | 6.2                      | 5,305              | -22.6                   |  |
| Russia               | 3,936                | 3,699              | 6.4                      | 1,972              | 99.6                    |  |
| Spain                | 3,201                | 3,478              | -8.0                     | 4,332              | -26.1                   |  |
| Others               | 41,257               | 43,537             | -5.2                     | 56,009             | -26.3                   |  |
| <b>Total Imports</b> | <b>108,573</b>       | <b>109,989</b>     | <b>-1.3</b>              | <b>131,587</b>     | <b>-17.5</b>            |  |

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2020 data is provisional

## Imports: Commodity Analysis

- Precious metals remained the largest import commodity, despite experiencing the largest value decrease on last month and the 3rd largest value decrease on July 2019, down £511 million (6.5%) and £1,282 million (15%) respectively.
- Motor vehicles experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £670 million (21%). Conversely, it experienced the 4th largest value decrease on July 2019, down £951 million (20%).
- Other textile goods (ranked 16th) experienced the largest value increase on July 2019, up £317 million (more than 2.5 times the value).
- Mineral fuels experienced the largest value decrease on July 2019, down £2,140 million (58%).
- Electronic equipment experienced the 2nd largest increase on last month, up £277 million (8.3%).
- Mechanical appliances experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on July 2019, down £1,487 million (25%).

↑ Imports of Motor vehicles up 21% on last month

↓ Imports of Mineral fuels down 58% on July 2019

**Table 7: UK imports of goods for the top 10 commodities, July 2020**

| Commodity Description         | July 2020          | June 2020          |                         | July 2019          |                         |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
|                               | Total (£ millions) | Total (£ millions) | Change on June 2020 (%) | Total (£ millions) | Change on July 2019 (%) |
| Precious metals               | 7,294              | 7,805              | -6.5                    | 8,577              | -14.9                   |
| Mechanical appliances         | 4,490              | 4,308              | 4.2                     | 5,977              | -24.9                   |
| Motor vehicles                | 3,797              | 3,128              | 21.4                    | 4,748              | -20.0                   |
| Electronic equipment          | 3,602              | 3,325              | 8.3                     | 3,901              | -7.7                    |
| Pharmaceutical products       | 1,564              | 1,720              | -9.1                    | 1,778              | -12.0                   |
| Mineral fuels                 | 1,523              | 1,568              | -2.9                    | 3,663              | -58.4                   |
| Plastics and plastic products | 1,252              | 1,077              | 16.2                    | 1,271              | -1.5                    |
| Measuring devices and gauges  | 1,186              | 1,226              | -3.2                    | 1,272              | -6.7                    |
| Clothes, not knitted          | 786                | 548                | 43.3                    | 859                | -8.6                    |
| Knitwear                      | 703                | 457                | 54.0                    | 925                | -24.0                   |
| Others                        | 14,448             | 13,299             | 8.6                     | 16,276             | -11.2                   |
| <b>Total Imports</b>          | <b>40,647</b>      | <b>38,462</b>      | <b>5.7</b>              | <b>49,247</b>      | <b>-17.5</b>            |

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2020 data is provisional

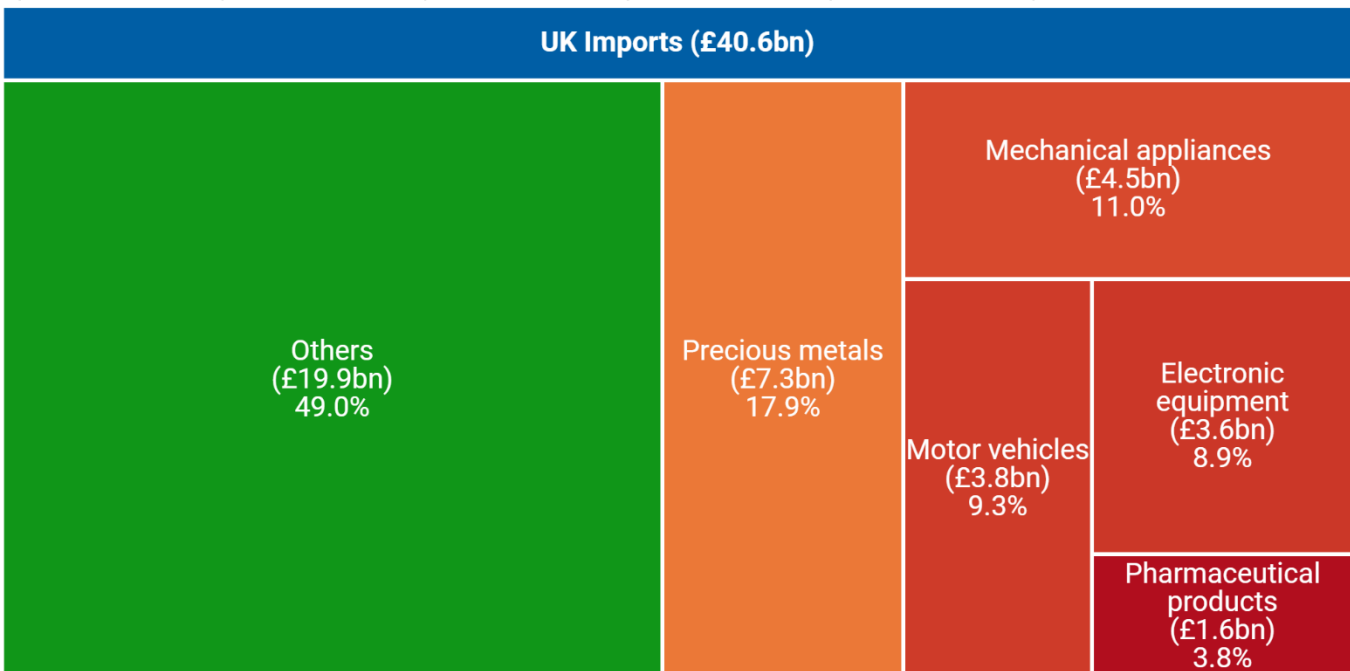
# Imports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 import commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 51% of the total value of goods imported in July 2020. This was a decrease from a 55% share in July 2019.
- Precious metals accounted for 18% of the total value of goods imported to the UK. This was an increase from a 17% share in July 2019.
- Mechanical appliances had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 11%. This was a decrease from a 12% share in July 2019.
- The top 10 commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Knitwear rose to 10th place from 17th and Articles of iron or steel fell to 15th place from 9th.
- The top 10 commodities (ranked by value) remained the same but changed order compared with July 2019. Most notably, Pharmaceutical products rose to 5th place from 6th.

↓ **The top 5 import commodities accounted for 51% of total imports in July 2020**

↑ **Precious metals accounted for 18% of total imports in July 2020**

**Figure 8: Share of UK imports for the top 5 commodities, July 2020**



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics  
 Note: 2020 data is provisional

## Imports: Commodity Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to July 2020, Precious metals remained the largest import commodity. Among the top 10, it experienced the largest percentage increases on the 3 months to April 2020 and on the 3 months to July 2019, up 32% and 33% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Mineral fuels experienced the largest percentage decreases on the 3 months to April 2020 and on the 3 months to July 2019, down 44% and 62% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Articles of iron or steel experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to April 2020, up 29%.
- Among the top 10, Motor vehicles experienced the 2nd largest decreases on the 3 months to April 2020 and on the 3 months to July 2019, down 22% and 42% respectively.
- 6 of the top 10 commodities experienced an increase on the 3 months to April 2020. The exceptions were Mechanical appliances, Motor vehicles, Mineral fuels, and Organic chemicals.
- 8 of the top 10 commodities experienced a decrease on the 3 months to July 2019. The exceptions were Precious metals and Pharmaceutical products.

↑ Imports of Precious metals up 32% on the 3 months to April 2020

↓ Imports of Mineral fuels down 62% on the 3 months to July 2019

**Table 8: UK imports of goods for the top 10 commodities, 3 months to July 2020**

| Commodity Description         | 3 months to Jul 2020 |                    | 3 months to Apr 2020     |                    | 3 months to Jul 2019    |  |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--|
|                               | Total (£ millions)   | Total (£ millions) | Change on April 2020 (%) | Total (£ millions) | Change on July 2019 (%) |  |
| Precious metals               | 19,952               | 15,119             | 32.0                     | 15,032             | 32.7                    |  |
| Mechanical appliances         | 12,276               | 14,013             | -12.4                    | 16,709             | -26.5                   |  |
| Electronic equipment          | 9,678                | 9,290              | 4.2                      | 11,284             | -14.2                   |  |
| Motor vehicles                | 8,123                | 10,407             | -21.9                    | 13,922             | -41.7                   |  |
| Pharmaceutical products       | 4,862                | 4,815              | 1.0                      | 4,688              | 3.7                     |  |
| Mineral fuels                 | 4,229                | 7,601              | -44.4                    | 11,141             | -62.0                   |  |
| Measuring devices and gauges  | 3,398                | 3,341              | 1.7                      | 3,696              | -8.1                    |  |
| Plastics and plastic products | 3,297                | 3,164              | 4.2                      | 3,675              | -10.3                   |  |
| Organic chemicals             | 1,890                | 1,891              | -0.1                     | 1,977              | -4.4                    |  |
| Articles of iron or steel     | 1,820                | 1,408              | 29.2                     | 2,680              | -32.1                   |  |
| Others                        | 39,049               | 38,941             | 0.3                      | 46,784             | -16.5                   |  |
| <b>Total Imports</b>          | <b>108,573</b>       | <b>109,989</b>     | <b>-1.3</b>              | <b>131,587</b>     | <b>-17.5</b>            |  |

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2020 data is provisional



# Imports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

## Country to commodity:

- The increase in imports from Germany on last month was driven by Motor vehicles, up £398 million (40%). The decrease on July 2019 was driven by Ships, boats, and floating structures, down £377 million (99%).
- The increase in imports from Hong Kong on July 2019 was dominated by Precious metals, up £1,037 million (over 6 times the value).
- The decrease in imports from Denmark on last month was driven by Articles of iron and steel, down £349 million (95%).

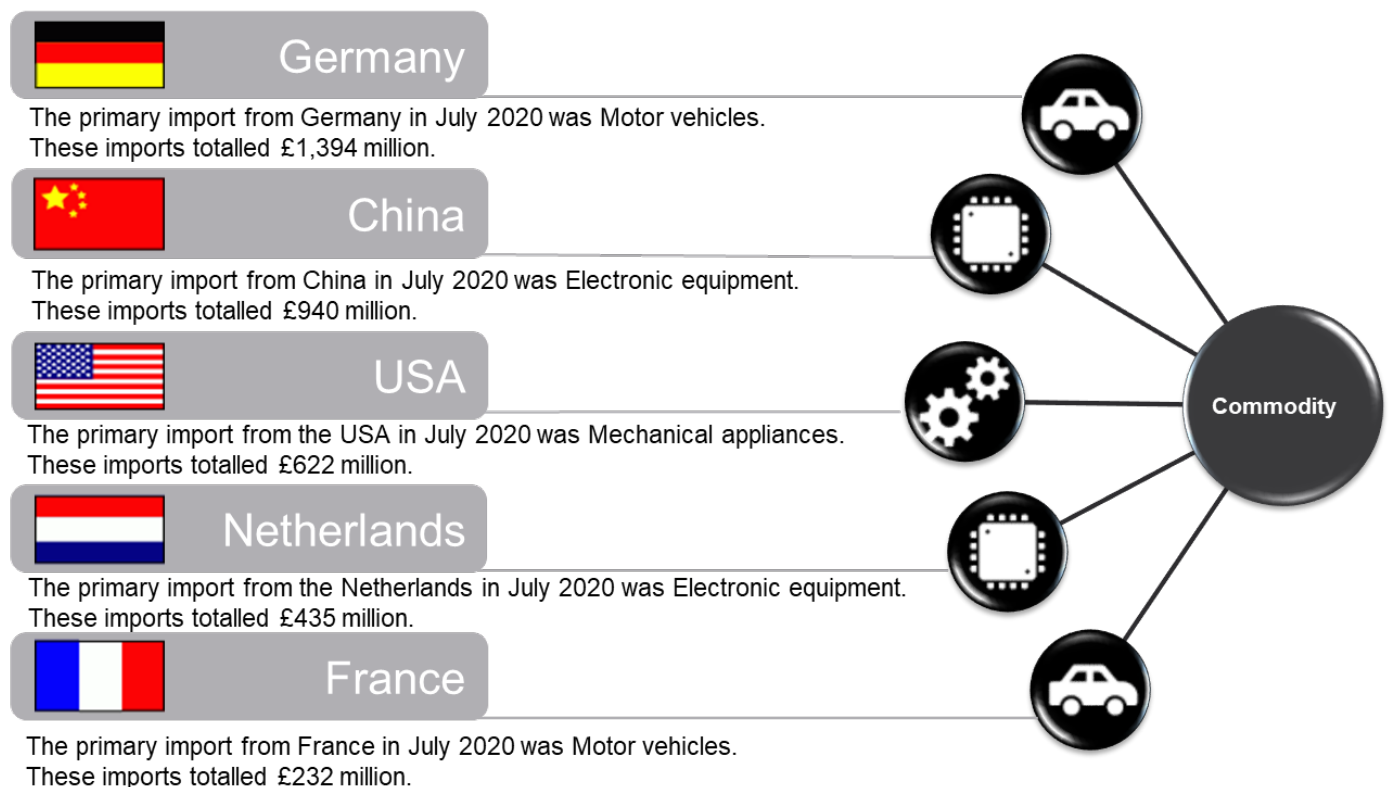
↑ Imports of Motor vehicles from Germany up 40% on last month

## Commodity to country:

- The decrease in Precious metals on last month was driven by the USA and Singapore, down £490 million (46%) and £444 million (99%) respectively. The decrease on July 2019 was dominated by Switzerland, down £2,706 million (80%).
- The decrease in Mineral fuels on July 2019 was driven by Norway and the USA, down £563 million (51%) and £344 million (65%) respectively.
- The increase in Other textile goods on July 2019 was dominated by China, up £300 million (more than 5.5 times the value).
- The increase in Electronic equipment on last month was driven by China, up £171 million (22%).

↓ Imports of Precious metals from Switzerland down 80% on July 2019

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



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics  
 Note: 2020 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 July 2020 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 July 2020 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 September 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](http://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 June 2020. At the same time revisions for all previously published non-EU and EU data for 2020 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 |
|------------------|--------------------|
| August 2020      | 09 October 2020    |
| September 2020   | 12 November 2020   |
| October 2020     | 10 December 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-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.

As the UK leaves the EU, it is important that our statistics continue to be of high quality and are internationally comparable. During the transition period, those UK statistics that align with EU practice and rules will continue to do so in the same way as before 31 January 2020. After the transition period, we will continue to produce statistics in line with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Statistics and in accordance with internationally agreed statistical guidance and standards.