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This release includes the 1st provisional estimates of trade-in-goods between the UK and both countries of the EU and those outside the EU for October 2020.

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

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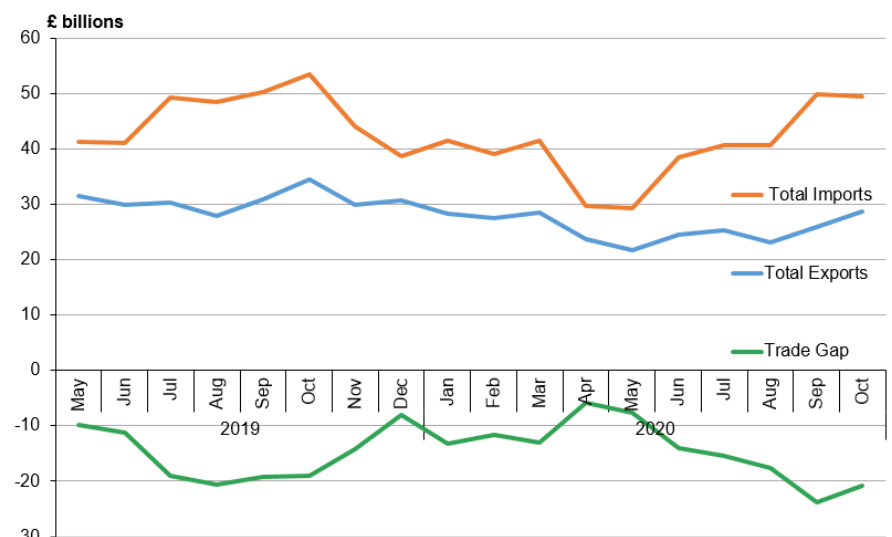
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Trade in Goods, October 2020

- Total **exports** of goods for October 2020 were £28.7 billion. This was an increase of £2.7 billion (10%) compared with last month, but a decrease of £5.8 billion (17%) compared with October 2019.
- Total **imports** of goods for October 2020 were £49.5 billion. This was a decrease of £0.3 billion (0.6%) compared with last month, and a decrease of £3.9 billion (7.3%) compared with October 2019.
- The UK was a net importer this month, with **imports** exceeding **exports** by £20.9 billion, narrowing by £3.0 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



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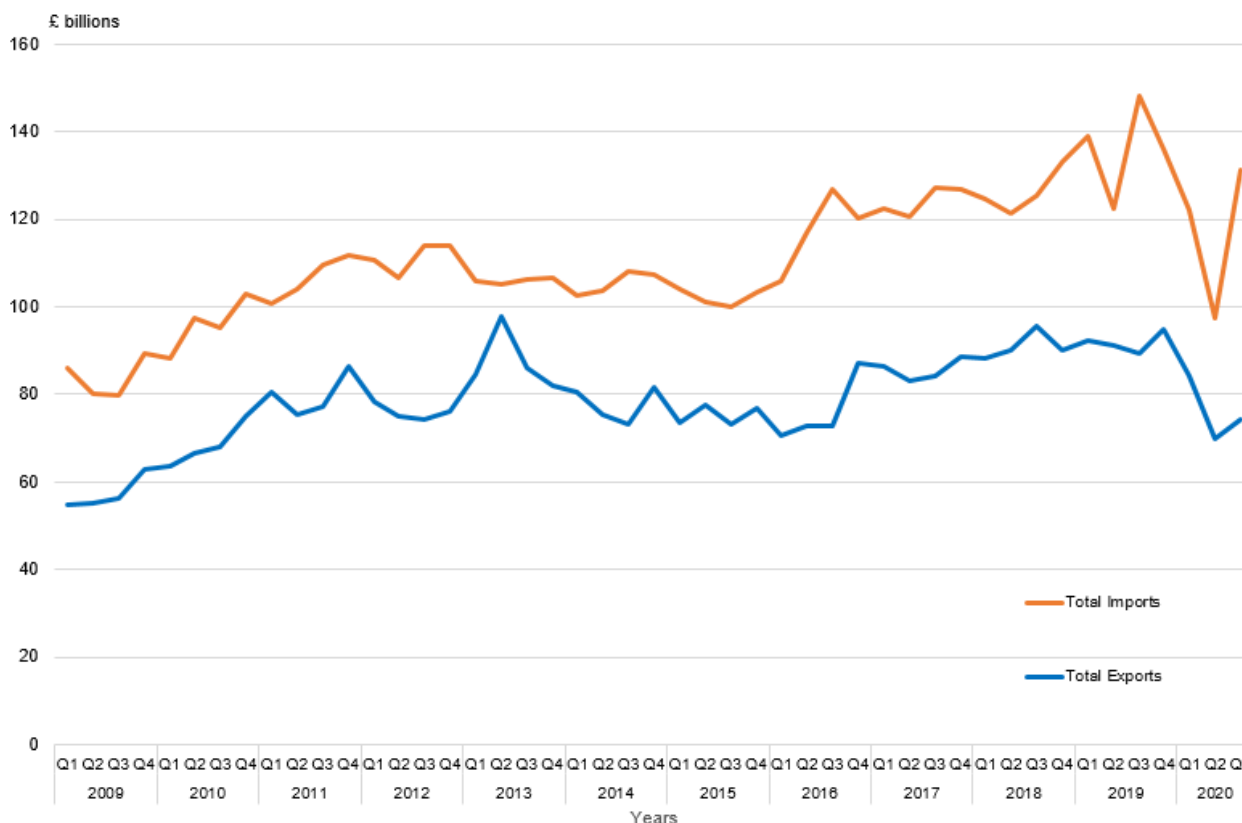
Trade in Goods Trends

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. Imports have shown a recovery in Q3, while exports have remained low.

- ↓ Exports down 17% on Q3 2019
- ↓ Imports down 11% on Q3 2019
- Trade deficit narrowed by 3.5% on Q3 2019

- The total **export** trade for Q3 of 2020 was £74.4 billion, which was a decrease of 17% compared with £89.1 billion for Q3 of 2019.
- The total **import** trade for Q3 of 2020 was £131 billion, which was a decrease of 11% compared with £148 billion for Q3 of 2019.
- There was a trade deficit of £56.8 billion for Q3 of 2020. This was a narrowing of 3.5% compared with £58.9 billion for Q3 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 Q2 2020 saw abnormally low values, affecting our largest trade partners and commodity groups at differing magnitudes.

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



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

Non-EU & EU Trade in Goods

Non-EU Trade in Goods:

- **Non-EU exports** for October 2020 were £14.7 billion. This was an increase of £1.4 billion (10%) on last month, but a decrease of £4.0 billion (22%) compared with October 2019.
- **Non-EU imports** for October 2020 were £27.2 billion. This was a decrease of £1.2 billion (4.2%) on last month, and a decrease of £0.5 billion (1.8%) compared with October 2019.
- For **non-EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £12.5 billion.

↓ **Non-EU exports down 22% on October 2019**

EU Trade in Goods:

- **EU exports** for October 2020 were £14.0 billion. This was an increase of £1.3 billion (11%) on last month, but a decrease of £1.8 billion (11%) compared with October 2019.
- **EU imports** for October 2020 were £22.3 billion. This was an increase of £0.9 billion (4.2%) on last month, but a decrease of £3.4 billion (13%) compared with October 2019.
- For **EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £8.4 billion.

↑ **EU exports up 11% on last month**

Figure 3: Total UK Trade in Goods, with EU and Non-EU, October 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, experiencing the largest value increase on last month, up £714 million (22%). In contrast, it experienced the largest value decrease on October 2019, down £2,117 million (35%).
- China showed the 2nd largest value decrease on October 2019, down £925 million (41%).
- Switzerland experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month, up £702 million (more than double the value).
- Germany experienced the 3rd largest value increase on last month, up £529 million (20%).
- Norway (21st place) experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £532 million (63%).
- Republic of Ireland experienced the largest value increase on October 2019, up £266 million (13%).

↑ **Exports to the USA up 22% on last month**

↓ **Exports to Norway down 63% on last month**

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

Partner Country	October 2020		September 2020		October 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change from September 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change from October 2019 (%)	
USA	3,993	3,280	21.8	6,110	-34.6	
Germany	3,150	2,620	20.2	3,302	-4.6	
Republic of Ireland	2,390	1,899	25.8	2,124	12.5	
France	1,831	1,716	6.7	2,211	-17.2	
Netherlands	1,580	1,573	0.5	2,214	-28.6	
China	1,339	1,254	6.8	2,263	-40.9	
Switzerland	1,229	527	133.1	1,327	-7.4	
Belgium	1,091	946	15.3	1,239	-11.9	
Italy	884	809	9.3	936	-5.5	
Spain	780	725	7.6	1,091	-28.5	
Others	10,385	10,601	-2.0	11,663	-11.0	
Total EU	13,980	12,650	10.5	15,759	-11.3	
Total Non-EU	14,672	13,299	10.3	18,721	-21.6	
Total Exports	28,651	25,949	10.4	34,481	-16.9	

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

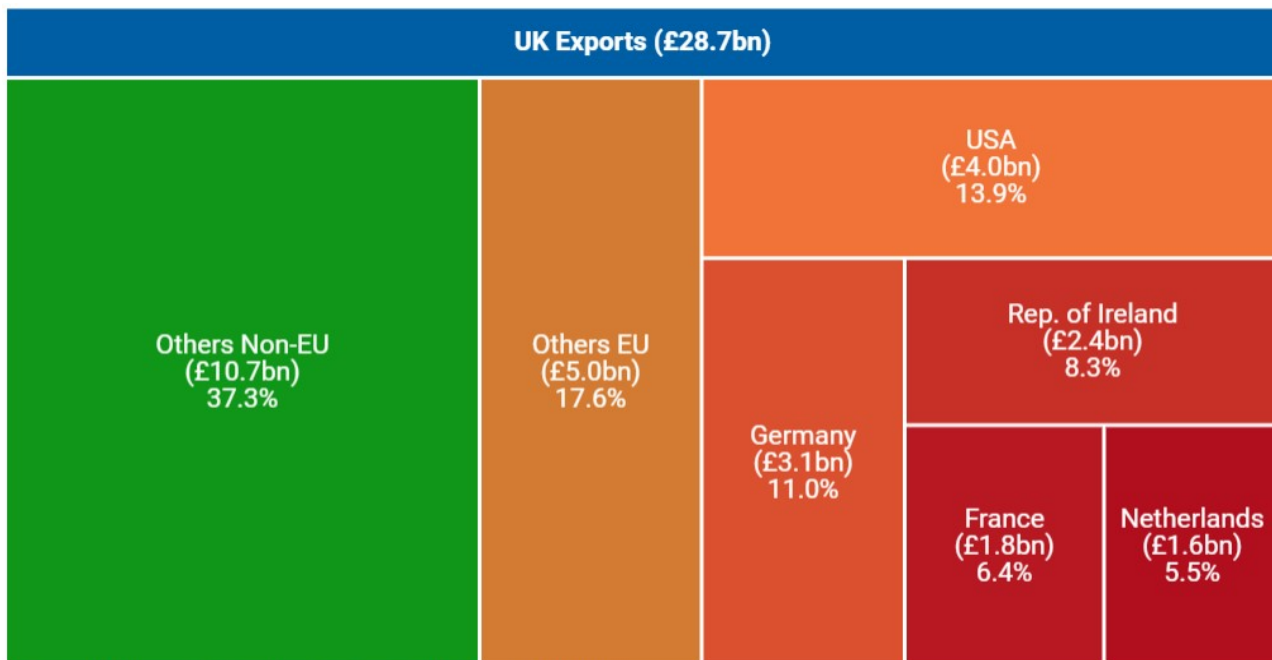
Exports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 export partners accounted for 45% of total exports in goods in October 2020. This was a decrease from a 47% share in October 2019.
- The USA accounted for 14% of the total value of exports from the UK. This was a decrease from an 18% share in October 2019.
- Germany had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 11%. This was an increase from a 9.6% share in October 2019.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Switzerland rose to 7th place from 14th while Norway fell to 21st place from 8th.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed order compared with October 2019. Most notably, the Republic of Ireland rose to 3rd place from 6th, and China fell to 6th place from 3rd.

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

↑ **Germany had an 11% share of total exports in October 2020**

Figure 4: Share of UK exports of goods to the top 5 countries, October 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 October 2020, the USA remained the largest export partner country. It experienced the 2nd largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to October 2019, down 32%.
- Among the top 10, Republic of Ireland experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to July 2020, up 24%.
- Among the top 10, China experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to July 2020, up 23%. Conversely, it experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to October 2019, down 39%.
- Among the top 10, Switzerland experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to July 2020, down 44%.
- Among the top 10, Republic of Ireland experienced the only percentage increase on the 3 months to October 2019, up 2.7%.
- 8 of the top 10 export partners experienced increases on the 3 months to July 2020. Switzerland and Spain were the exceptions.

↑ **Exports to Republic of Ireland up 24% on the 3 months to July 2020**

↓ **Exports to China down 39% on the 3 months to October 2019**

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

Partner Country	3 months to Oct 2020		3 months to Jul 2020		3 months to Oct 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on July 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2019 (%)	
USA	10,633	9,886	7.6	15,617	-31.9	
Germany	8,211	7,218	13.8	9,170	-10.5	
Republic of Ireland	5,884	4,749	23.9	5,727	2.7	
France	4,881	4,421	10.4	6,097	-20.0	
Netherlands	4,499	4,292	4.8	5,948	-24.4	
China	3,833	3,109	23.3	6,259	-38.8	
Belgium	2,805	2,448	14.6	3,286	-14.6	
Switzerland	2,342	4,160	-43.7	2,721	-13.9	
Italy	2,284	2,066	10.6	2,424	-5.8	
Spain	2,130	2,270	-6.2	2,926	-27.2	
Others	30,199	26,883	12.3	33,196	-9.0	
Total Exports	77,701	71,501	8.7	93,373	-16.8	

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 experienced the 3rd largest value increase on last month, up £406 million (11%). In contrast, it showed the 2nd largest decrease on October 2019, down £1,098 million (21%).
- Art and antiques (13th place) experienced the largest value decrease on October 2019, down £1,120 million (66%).
- Mineral fuels experienced the 3rd largest value decrease on October 2019, down £1,063 million (43%).
- Precious metals experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £567 million (29%).
- Motor vehicles experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month, up £550 million (19%).
- Ships, boats and floating structures (35th place) experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £482 million (78%).
- Inorganic chemicals (20th place) experienced the largest value increase on October 2019, up £177 million (doubling in value).

↓ **Exports of Art and antiques down 66% on October 2019**

↑ **Exports of Precious metals up 29% on last month**

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

Commodity Description	October 2020	September 2020		October 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change from September 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change from October 2019 (%)
Mechanical appliances	4,198	3,792	10.7	5,297	-20.7
Motor vehicles	3,394	2,844	19.4	3,990	-14.9
Precious metals	2,509	1,942	29.2	2,783	-9.8
Electronic equipment	1,849	1,708	8.2	2,045	-9.6
Pharmaceutical products	1,791	1,432	25.0	2,268	-21.1
Mineral fuels	1,397	1,437	-2.7	2,460	-43.2
Measuring devices and gauges	1,256	1,173	7.1	1,448	-13.2
Aircraft	874	910	-4.0	1,212	-27.9
Other products	825	715	15.3	801	3.0
Organic chemicals	776	670	15.8	706	10.0
Others	9,781	9,325	4.9	11,472	-14.7
Total Exports	28,651	25,949	10.4	34,481	-16.9

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2020 data is provisional

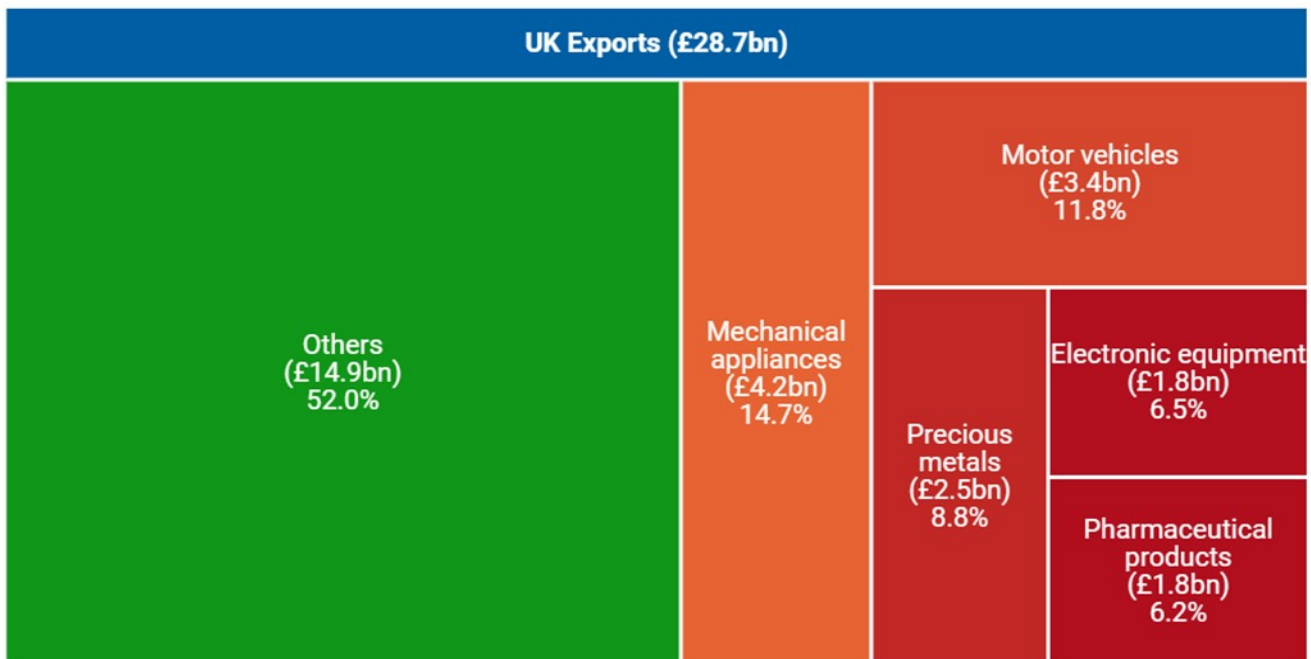
Exports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 export commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 48% of exports in October 2020, this was a decrease from a 49% share in October 2019.
- Mechanical appliances had the largest proportion, accounting for 15% of total exports. This was a decrease of less than 1 percentage point on October 2019.
- Motor vehicles had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 12% of total exports. This was an increase of less than 1 percentage point on October 2019.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Plastics and plastic products fell to 11th place from 9th.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with October 2019. Most notably, Electronic equipment rose to 4th place from 6th, Mineral fuels fell to 6th place from 4th, and Art and antiques fell to 13th place from 7th.

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

↑ **Motor vehicles accounted for 12% of total exports in October 2020**

Figure 5: Share of UK exports by the top 5 commodities, October 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 October 2020, Mechanical appliances remained the largest export commodity, experiencing an increase on the 3 months to July 2020, up 2.3%.
- Among the top 10, Motor vehicles experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to July 2020, up 67%. In contrast, it decreased on the 3 months to October 2019, down 22%.
- Among the top 10, Precious metals experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to July 2020, down 24%.
- Among the top 10, Mineral fuels experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to October 2019, down 40%.
- Among the top 10, Organic chemicals experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to October 2019, up 9.0%.
- 7 of the top 10 commodities experienced increases on the 3 months to July 2020. Precious metals, Pharmaceutical products, and Organic chemicals were the exceptions.
- 8 of the top 10 commodities experienced decreases on the 3 months to October 2019. Other products and Organic chemicals were the exceptions.

↑ **Motor vehicles exports up 67% on the 3 months to July 2020**

↓ **Mineral fuels exports down 40% on the 3 months to July 2020**

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

Commodity Description	3 months to Oct 2020		3 months to Jul 2020		3 months to Oct 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on July 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2019 (%)	
Mechanical appliances	11,357	11,098	2.3	14,852	-23.5	
Motor vehicles	8,014	4,799	67.0	10,222	-21.6	
Precious metals	6,519	8,598	-24.2	6,845	-4.8	
Electronic equipment	5,092	4,666	9.1	5,693	-10.6	
Pharmaceutical products	4,712	4,936	-4.5	5,722	-17.6	
Mineral fuels	4,571	4,221	8.3	7,614	-40.0	
Measuring devices and gauges	3,507	3,278	7.0	4,035	-13.1	
Aircraft	2,468	2,181	13.2	3,652	-32.4	
Other products	2,414	2,293	5.3	2,246	7.5	
Organic chemicals	2,159	2,373	-9.0	1,982	9.0	
Others	26,886	23,057	16.6	30,510	-11.9	
Total Exports	77,701	71,501	8.7	93,373	-16.8	

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 £271 million (54%). The decrease on October 2019 was led by Art and antiques, down £920 million (77%).
- The decrease in exports to Norway on last month was dominated by Ships, boats and floating structures, down £567 million (to less than £1.0 million).
- The increase in exports to Republic of Ireland on October 2019 was led by Organic chemicals, up £152 million (from £10.1 million) and Pharmaceutical products, up £149 million (2.5 times the value).

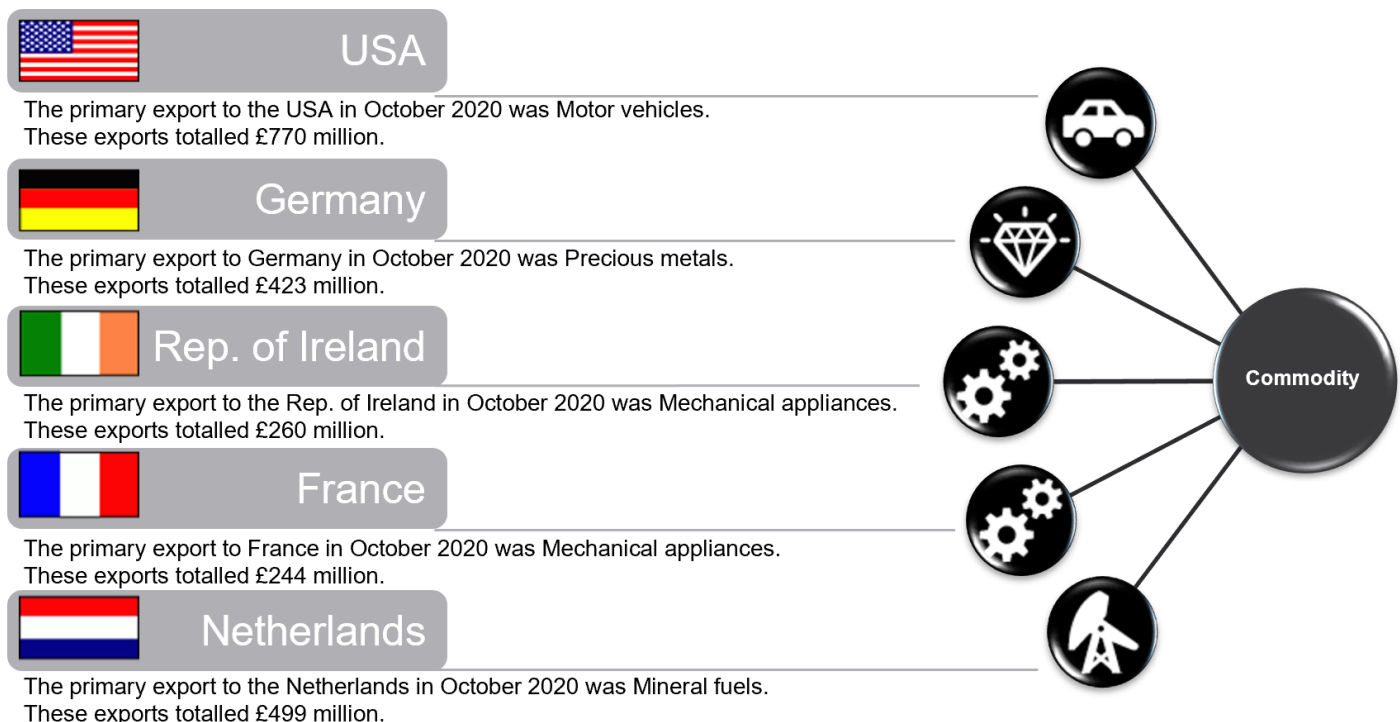
↑ Exports of Motor vehicles to USA up 54% on last month

Commodity to country

- The increase in exports of Precious metals on last month was led by Switzerland and Germany, up £443 million (more than 3 times the value) and £363 million (7 times the value) respectively.
- The increase in exports of Mechanical appliances compared with last month was led by Qatar, up £72.2 million (nearly 3 times the value). The decrease on October 2019 was driven by the USA and the UAE, down £281 million (31%) and £214 million (70%) respectively.
- The increase in exports of Inorganic Chemicals on last month was led by South Korea, up £105 million (from £1.0 million).
- The decrease in exports of Mineral fuels on October 2019 was led by the Netherlands, and Germany, down £342 million (41%), and £229 million (81%) respectively.

↑ Exports of Precious metals to Switzerland up more than 3 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

- China remained the largest import partner, experiencing the largest value increases on last month and October 2019, up £703 million (12%) and £1,316 million (25%) respectively.
- Switzerland (ranked 14th) experienced the largest value decreases on last month and October 2019, down £1,714 million (60%) and £1,423 million (55%) respectively.
- Hong Kong experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on last month, down £915 million (32%). Conversely, it experienced the 2nd largest value increase on October 2019, up £991 million (doubling in value).
- The Netherlands experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on October 2019, down £1,117 million (26%).
- Russia experienced the 3rd largest value decrease on last month, down £846 million (27%). Conversely, it experienced the 3rd largest value increase on October 2019, up £867 million (63%).

↑ Imports from China up 25% on October 2019

↓ Imports from Switzerland down 60% on last month

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

Partner Country	October 2020		September 2020		October 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on September 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2019 (%)	
China	6,585	5,881	12.0	5,269	25.0	
Germany	5,687	5,722	-0.6	6,157	-7.6	
USA	3,931	3,875	1.4	4,788	-17.9	
Netherlands	3,247	2,978	9.0	4,364	-25.6	
France	2,296	2,187	5.0	2,791	-17.7	
Russia	2,233	3,079	-27.5	1,366	63.4	
Belgium	2,173	2,227	-2.4	2,440	-10.9	
Hong Kong	1,959	2,874	-31.8	967	102.5	
Italy	1,720	1,577	9.1	1,979	-13.1	
Spain	1,451	1,236	17.4	1,562	-7.1	
Others	18,232	18,170	0.3	21,718	-16.3	
Total EU	22,343	21,433	4.2	25,719	-13.1	
Total Non-EU	27,170	28,373	-4.2	27,681	-1.8	
Total Imports	49,514	49,805	-0.6	53,401	-7.3	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2020 data is provisional

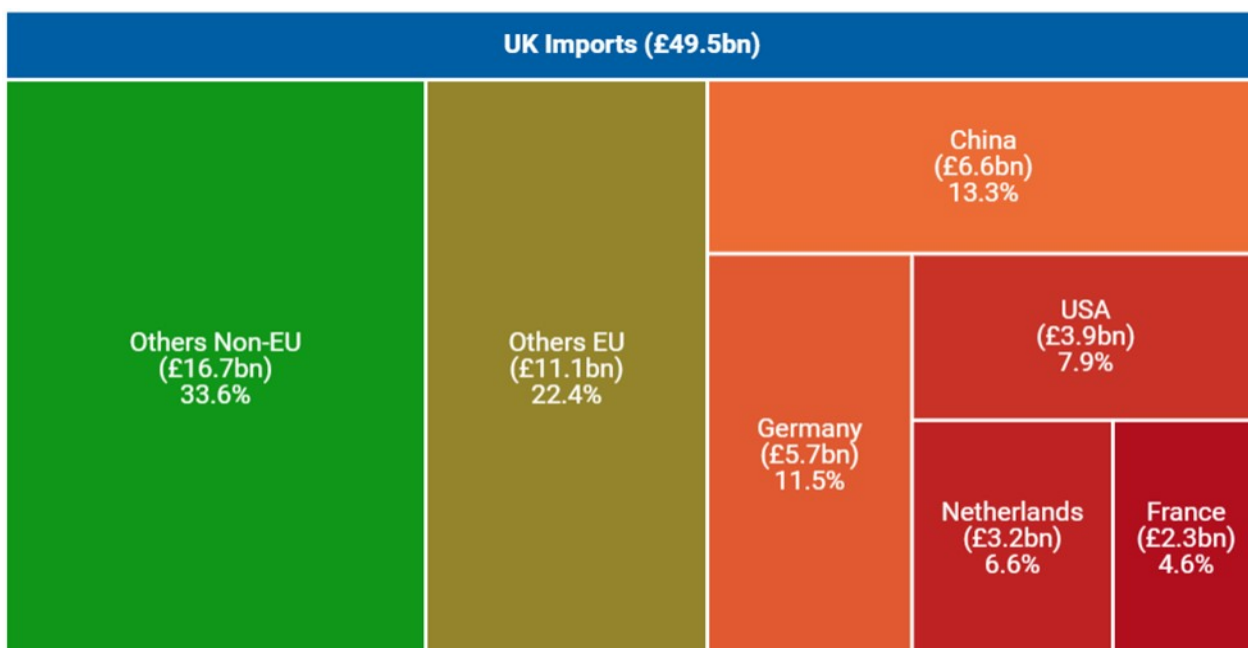
Imports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 import partners accounted for 44% of the total value of goods imported in October 2020. This as an increase of less than one percentage point on October 2019.
- China accounted for 13% of the total value of goods imported to the UK. This was an increase from a 9.9% share in October 2019.
- Germany had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 11%. This was a decrease from a 12% share in October 2019.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) have changed compared with last month. Most notably, France rose to 5th place from 9th, while Hong Kong fell to 8th place from 6th, and Switzerland fell to 14th place from 7th.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) have changed compared with October 2019. Most notably, Russia rose to 6th place from 11th and Hong Kong rose to 8th place from 16th.

↑ **The top 5 partners accounted for 44% of total imports in October 2020**

↑ **China accounted for 13% of total imports in October 2020**

Figure 7: Share of UK imports of goods from the top 5 countries, October 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 October 2020, China remained the largest import partner country, experiencing an increase on the 3 months to July 2020, up 35%.
- Among the top 10, Switzerland experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to July 2020, up more than 2.5 times the value. Conversely, it experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to October 2019, down 51%.
- Among the top 10, Hong Kong experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to October 2019, up 2.5 times the value.
- Among the top 10, Russia experienced the 2nd largest percentage increases on the 3 months to July 2020 and on the 3 months to October 2019, up 75% and doubling in value respectively.
- All of the top 10 countries experienced an increase on the 3 months to July 2020.
- 7 of the top 10 countries experienced a decrease on the 3 months to October 2019. The exceptions were China, Hong Kong, and Russia.

↑ Imports from Switzerland up more than 2.5 times the value on the 3 months to July 2020

↑ Imports from Hong Kong up 2.5 times the value on the 3 months to October 2019

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

Partner Country	3 months to Oct 2020		3 months to Jul 2020		3 months to Oct 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on July 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2019 (%)	
China	16,901	12,482	35.4	13,355	26.6	
Germany	15,814	11,956	32.3	17,275	-8.5	
USA	10,962	9,594	14.3	13,977	-21.6	
Netherlands	8,778	8,266	6.2	11,194	-21.6	
Hong Kong	7,296	4,537	60.8	2,865	154.7	
Russia	6,895	3,936	75.2	3,316	107.9	
Belgium	6,149	4,281	43.6	7,020	-12.4	
France	6,016	4,865	23.6	7,606	-20.9	
Switzerland	5,278	1,980	166.6	10,729	-50.8	
Italy	4,582	4,116	11.3	5,111	-10.4	
Others	51,287	42,486	20.7	59,726	-14.1	
Total Imports	139,958	108,499	29.0	152,174	-8.0	

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, down £2,816 million (23%). Conversely, it experienced the largest value increase on October 2019, up £1,220 million (15%).
- Clothes (not knitted) experienced the largest value increase on last month and the 3rd largest increase on October 2019, up £416 million (35%) and £696 million (78%) respectively.
- Mineral fuels experienced the largest value decrease on October 2019, down £1,693 million (43%).
- Pharmaceutical products experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month, up £329 million (21%).
- Other textile goods (ranked 11th) experienced the 2nd largest value increase on October 2019, up £799 million (more than 5 times the value).
- Electronic equipment experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on October 2019, down £1,319 million (24%).

↑ **Imports of Clothes (not knitted) up 35% on last month**

↓ **Imports of Mineral fuels down 43% on October 2019**

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

Commodity Description	October 2020	September 2020		October 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on September 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2019 (%)
Precious metals	9,177	11,993	-23.5	7,957	15.3
Motor vehicles	4,994	4,701	6.2	5,516	-9.5
Mechanical appliances	4,770	4,523	5.5	6,026	-20.8
Electronic equipment	4,110	3,894	5.5	5,429	-24.3
Mineral fuels	2,206	2,038	8.2	3,899	-43.4
Pharmaceutical products	1,930	1,602	20.5	2,205	-12.4
Clothes (not knitted)	1,591	1,175	35.4	895	77.8
Measuring devices and gauges	1,529	1,383	10.6	1,392	9.9
Plastics and plastic products	1,416	1,475	-4.0	1,419	-0.2
Knitwear	1,109	969	14.5	1,141	-2.8
Others	16,682	16,052	3.9	17,521	-4.8
Total Imports	49,514	49,805	-0.6	53,401	-7.3

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2020 data is provisional

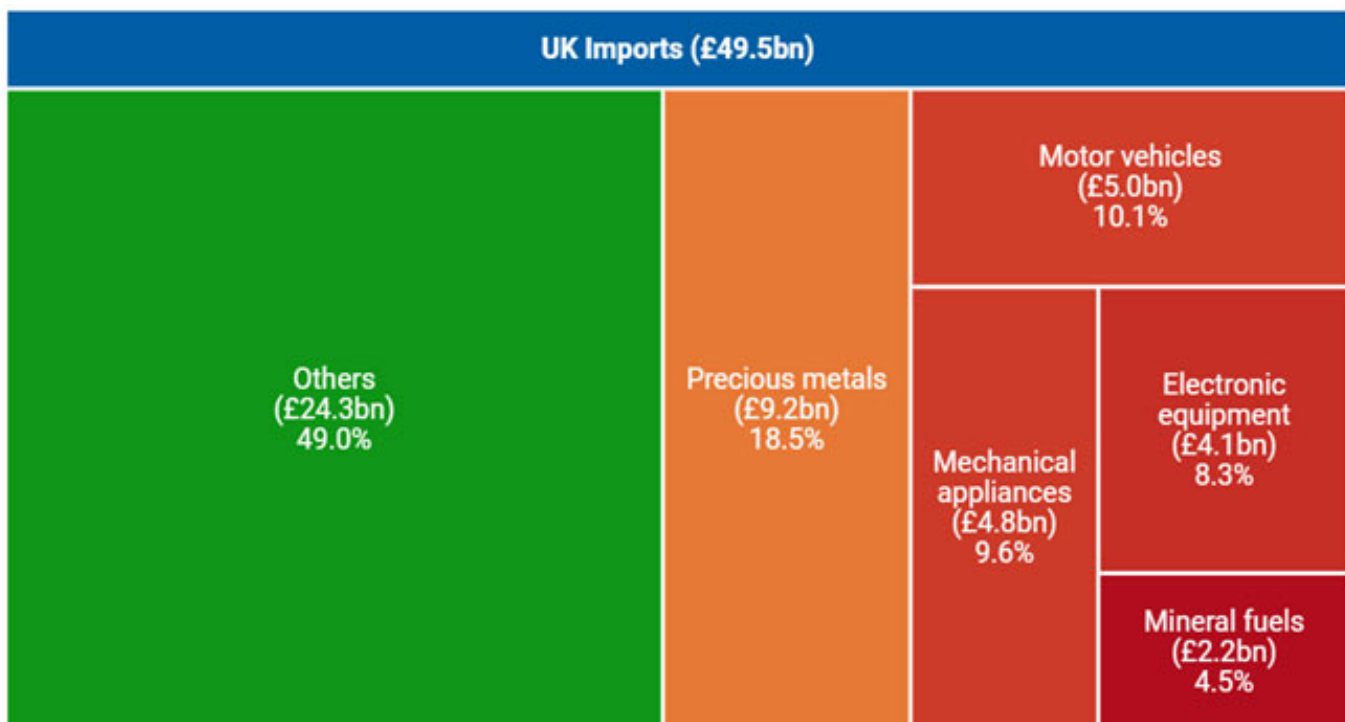
Imports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 import commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 51% of the total value of goods imported in October 2020. This was a decrease from a 54% share in October 2019.
- Precious metals accounted for 19% of the total value of goods imported to the UK. This was an increase from a 15% share in October 2019.
- Motor vehicles had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for a 10% share. This is a decrease of less than one percentage point on October 2019.
- The top 10 commodities (ranked by value) changed order compared with last month. The top 6 were unchanged, but Clothes (not knitted) rose to 7th place from 9th and Plastics and plastic products fell to 9th place from 7th.
- The top 10 commodities (ranked by value) changed order compared with October 2019. Most notably, Motor vehicles rose to 2nd place from 3rd and Clothes (not knitted) rose to 7th place from 10th.

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

↑ **Precious metals accounted for 19% of total imports in October 2020**

Figure 8: Share of UK imports for the top 5 commodities, October 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 October 2020, Precious metals remained the largest import commodity, experiencing an increase on the 3 months to July 2020, up 57%.
- Among the top 10, Clothes (not knitted) experienced the largest percentage increases on the 3 months to July 2020 and the 3 months to October 2019, doubling in value and up 39% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Mineral fuels experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to October 2019, down 43%.
- Among the top 10, Knitwear experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to July 2020, doubling in value.
- 9 of the top 10 commodities experienced an increase on the 3 months to July 2020. The exception was Pharmaceutical products.
- 6 of the top 10 commodities experienced a decrease on the 3 months to October 2019. The exceptions were Precious metals, Plastics and plastic products, Measuring devices and gauges, and Clothes (not knitted).

↑ Imports of Clothes (not knitted) doubled in value on the 3 months to July 2020

↓ Imports of Mineral fuels down 43% on the 3 months to October 2019

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

Commodity Description	3 months to Oct 2020		3 months to Jul 2020		3 months to Oct 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on July 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2019 (%)	
Precious metals	31,224	19,941	56.6	27,864	12.1	
Mechanical appliances	13,136	12,266	7.1	16,757	-21.6	
Motor vehicles	12,789	8,137	57.2	15,155	-15.6	
Electronic equipment	11,256	9,703	16.0	13,425	-16.2	
Mineral fuels	5,972	4,226	41.3	10,477	-43.0	
Pharmaceutical products	4,848	4,860	-0.3	5,624	-13.8	
Plastics and plastic products	4,077	3,296	23.7	3,896	4.6	
Measuring devices and gauges	3,973	3,405	16.7	3,883	2.3	
Clothes (not knitted)	3,589	1,732	107.2	2,576	39.3	
Knitwear	2,922	1,469	98.9	3,106	-5.9	
Others	46,174	39,463	17.0	49,412	-6.6	
Total Imports	139,958	108,499	29.0	152,174	-8.0	

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 China on last month was driven by Clothes (not knitted), up £382 million (85%). The increase on October 2019 was driven by Other textile goods and Clothes (not knitted), up £738 million (from £64.3 million) and £646 million (4.5 times the value) respectively.
- The decrease in imports from the Netherlands on October 2019 was driven by Mechanical appliances and Electronic equipment, down £223 million (40%) and £220 million (33%) respectively.

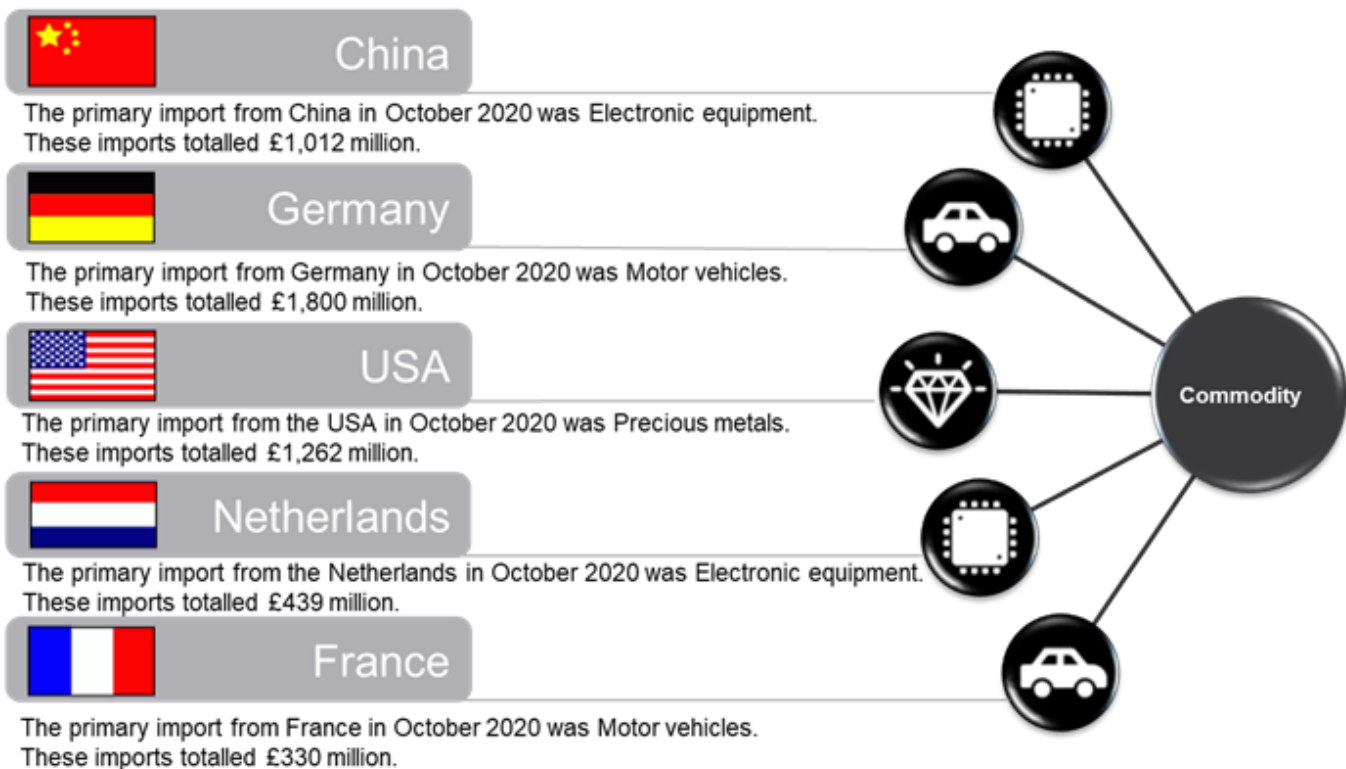
Commodity to country:

- The decrease in imports of Precious metals on last month was dominated by Switzerland, Hong Kong, and Russia, down £1,762 million (70%), £894 million (42%), and £850 million (31%) respectively. The increase on October 2019 was driven by Russia and Hong Kong, up £939 million (95%) and £899 million (nearly 4 times the value) respectively.
- The decrease in imports of Mineral fuels on October 2019 was driven by the USA, down £551 million (78%).
- The increase in Pharmaceutical products on last month was driven by the Netherlands, up £243 million (more than double the value).
- The decrease in Electronic equipment on October 2019 was driven by China, down £612 million (38%).

↑ Imports of Clothes (not knitted) from China up 4.5 times the value on October 2019

↓ Imports of Precious metals from Switzerland down 70% 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: 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](#).

Data sources

The **EU figures** provided in this publication of the October 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 in the OTS methodology paper [here](#).

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

The **Non-EU figures** provided in this publication of the October 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 in the OTS methodology paper [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](#), where you can find their 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.

The aggregate estimates here will differ from the Eurostat publication [Euro area external trade](#). The OTS was published up until the May 2016 month of account as 'general trade' based upon goods recorded as they enter or leave the UK. This will include goods imported into and exported from a freezone or customs warehouse, regardless of their future use. The Eurostat EU external trade data are published as 'special trade' where goods are recorded as trade only when they enter free circulation or are declared to specific Customs regimes such as Inward Processing (IP) or Processing under Customs Control (PCC). Imports from a free zone or customs warehouse are similarly recorded in 'special trade'.

National Statistics Publication

HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with countries on 10 December 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 October 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
November 2020	15 January 2021
December 2020	12 February 2021
January 2021	12 March 2021

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 [here](#).

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.