



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 November 2020.

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

In this publication

- Trade trends p.2
- Non-EU and EU trade p.3
- November 2020 Exports p.4

Country analysis

Country analysis – 3 months

Commodity analysis

Commodity analysis – 3 months

Combined analysis

- November 2020 Imports p.11

Country analysis

Country analysis – 3 months

Commodity analysis

Commodity analysis – 3 months

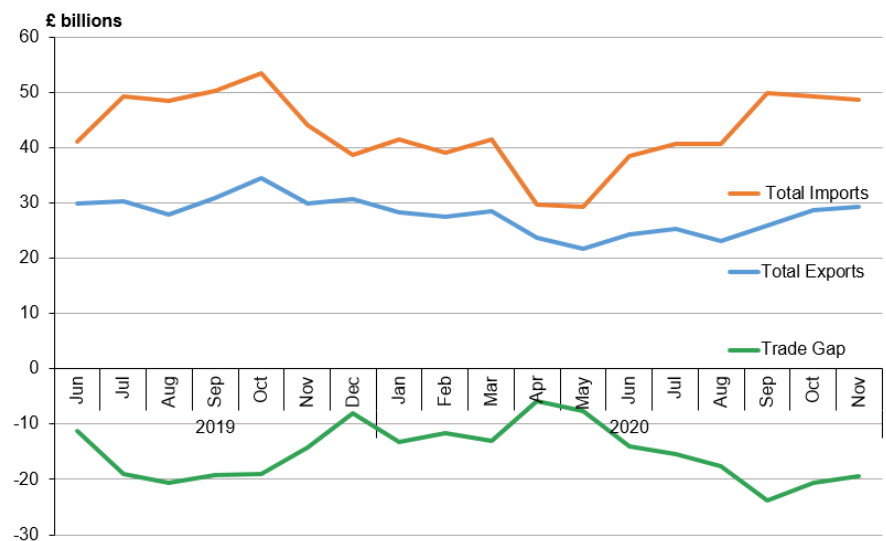
Combined analysis

- Methodology notes p.18

Trade in Goods, November 2020

- Total **exports** of goods for November 2020 were £29.2 billion. This was an increase of £0.6 billion (1.9%) compared with last month, but a decrease of £0.6 billion (1.9%) compared with November 2019.
- Total **imports** of goods for November 2020 were £48.7 billion. This was a decrease of £0.7 billion (1.4%) compared with last month, but an increase of £4.6 billion (10%) compared with November 2019.
- The UK was a net importer this month, with **imports** exceeding **exports** by £19.4 billion, narrowing by £1.2 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: 15 January 2021
 Next release: 12 February 2021

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

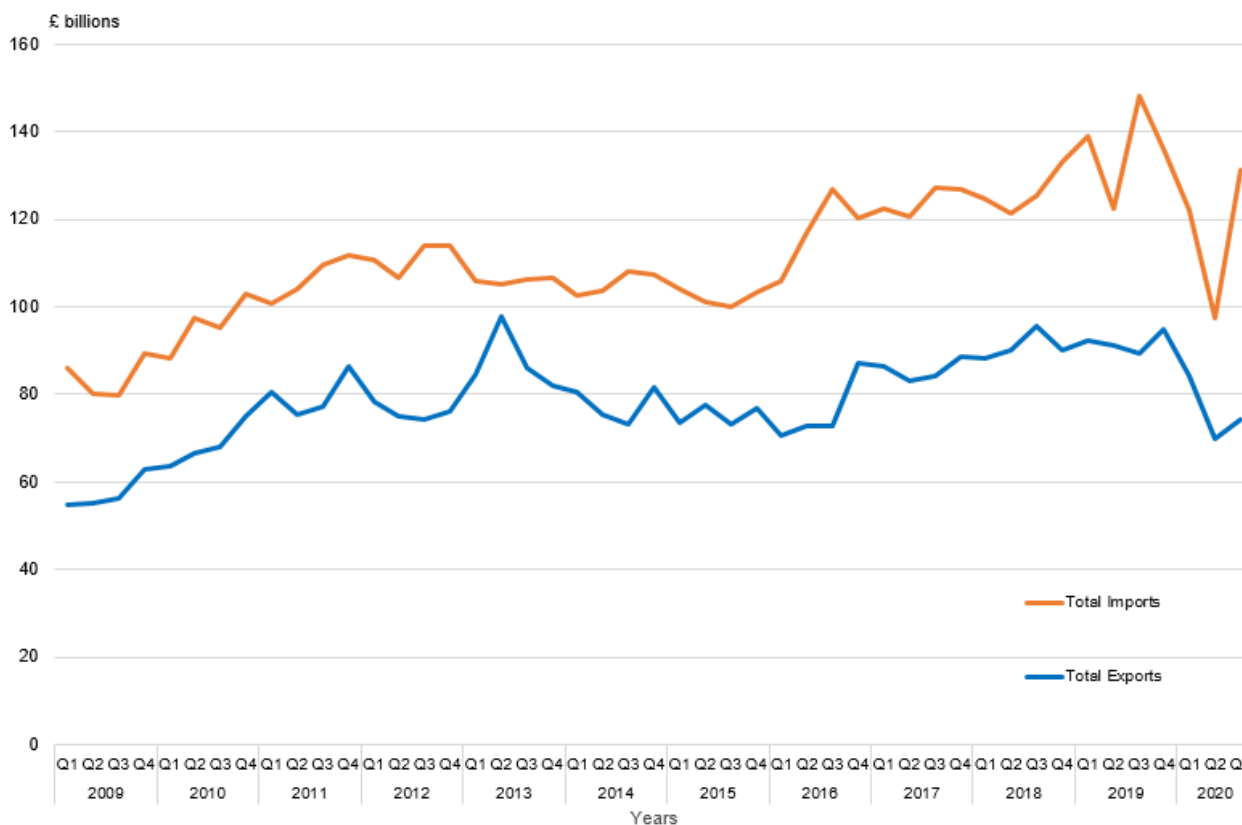
Trade in Goods Trends

Following the global economic crisis, UK trade in goods dropped in 2009. Both imports and exports then steadily increased until 2012. From the start of 2013, imports remained relatively flat until a very sharp increase in Q3 of 2016. 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 November 2020 were £14.3 billion. This was a decrease of £0.4 billion (2.5%) on last month, and a decrease of £2.5 billion (15%) compared with November 2019.
- **Non-EU imports** for November 2020 were £25.2 billion. This was a decrease of £1.8 billion (6.8%) on last month, but an increase of £2.3 billion (10%) compared with November 2019.
- For **non-EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £10.9 billion.

↓ **Non-EU exports down 15% on November 2019**

EU Trade in Goods:

- **EU exports** for November 2020 were £14.9 billion. This was an increase of £0.9 billion (6.6%) on last month, and an increase of £1.9 billion (15%) compared with November 2019.
- **EU imports** for November 2020 were £23.4 billion. This was an increase of £1.1 billion (5.1%) on last month, and an increase of £2.3 billion (11%) compared with November 2019.
- For **EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £8.5 billion.

↑ **EU exports up 6.6% on last month**

Figure 3: Total UK Trade in Goods, with EU and Non-EU, November 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 3rd largest value decrease on November 2019, down £487 million (10%).
- Switzerland (in 12th place) experienced the largest value decrease on last month, and the 2nd largest decrease on November 2019, down £722 million (59%) and £648 million (56%) respectively.
- China showed the largest value decrease on November 2019, down £965 million (40%).
- The Netherlands experienced the largest value increase on last month, and the 2nd largest increase on November 2019, up £494 million (29%) and £418 million (23%) respectively.
- Saudi Arabia (13th place) experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month, up £260 million (more than double the value).
- Republic of Ireland experienced the 3rd largest value increase on last month, and the largest value increase on November 2019, up £250 million (11%) and £855 million (48%) respectively.

↓ **Exports to China down 40% on November 2019**

↑ **Exports to the Netherlands up 29% on last month**

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

Partner Country	November 2020		October 2020		November 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change from October 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change from November 2019 (%)	
USA	4,184	3,991	4.8	4,671	-10.4	
Germany	3,265	3,115	4.8	2,951	10.6	
Republic of Ireland	2,626	2,376	10.5	1,771	48.3	
Netherlands	2,202	1,708	28.9	1,784	23.4	
France	1,578	1,809	-12.8	1,869	-15.6	
China	1,458	1,332	9.4	2,422	-39.8	
Belgium	1,003	1,087	-7.7	862	16.4	
Spain	871	767	13.6	830	5.0	
Italy	830	872	-4.9	779	6.5	
Hong Kong	729	748	-2.6	649	12.2	
Others	10,494	10,879	-3.5	11,216	-6.4	
Total EU	14,948	14,022	6.6	13,032	14.7	
Total Non-EU	14,292	14,663	-2.5	16,772	-14.8	
Total Exports	29,240	28,685	1.9	29,803	-1.9	

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

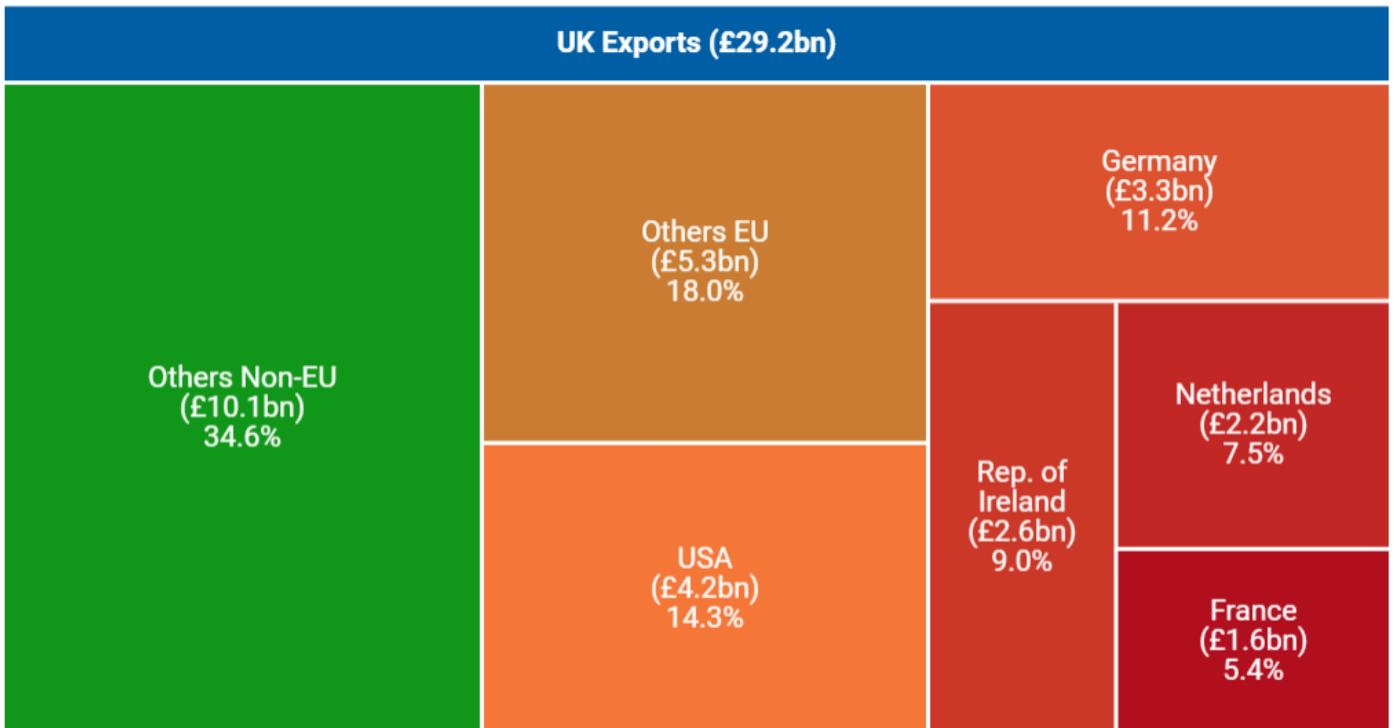
Exports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 export partners accounted for 47% of total exports in goods in November 2020. This was an increase from a 46% share in November 2019.
- The USA accounted for 14% of the total value of exports from the UK. This was a decrease from a 16% share in November 2019.
- Germany had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 11%. This was an increase from a 9.9% share in November 2019.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Spain rose to 8th place from 10th while Switzerland fell to 12th place from 7th.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed order compared with November 2019. Most notably, the Republic of Ireland rose to 3rd place from 6th, while China fell to 6th place from 3rd.

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

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

Figure 4: Share of UK exports of goods to the top 5 countries, November 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 November 2020, the USA remained the largest export partner country. Among the top 10, it experienced the 3rd largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to November 2019, down 27%.
- Among the top 10, Republic of Ireland experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to August 2020, and the only increase on November 2019, up 41% and 20% respectively.
- Among the top 10, the Netherlands experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to August 2020, up 28%.
- Among the top 10, Switzerland experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to August 2020, down 24%. It experienced the 2nd largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to November 2019, down 28%.
- Among the top 10, China experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to November 2019, down 42%.
- 8 of the top 10 export partners experienced increases on the 3 months to August 2020. Spain and Switzerland were the exceptions.

↑ **Exports to Republic of Ireland up 41% on the 3 months to August 2020**

↓ **Exports to China down 42% on the 3 months to November 2019**

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

Partner Country	3 months to Nov 2020		3 months to Aug 2020		3 months to Nov 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on August 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2019 (%)	
USA	11,455	10,405	10.1	15,668	-26.9	
Germany	8,999	7,574	18.8	9,345	-3.7	
Irish Republic	6,904	4,882	41.4	5,744	20.2	
Netherlands	5,463	4,278	27.7	5,910	-7.6	
France	5,098	4,602	10.8	6,154	-17.2	
China	4,043	3,527	14.6	6,981	-42.1	
Belgium	3,040	2,546	19.4	3,229	-5.9	
Italy	2,509	2,125	18.1	2,593	-3.2	
Spain	2,363	2,371	-0.3	2,935	-19.5	
Switzerland	2,263	2,987	-24.3	3,147	-28.1	
Others	31,714	27,575	15.0	33,542	-5.4	
Total Exports	83,851	72,873	15.1	95,250	-12.0	

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 2nd largest decrease on November 2019, down £491 million (11%).
- Mineral fuels experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £934 million (61%).
- Arms and ammunition (20th place) experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month, and the largest on November 2019, up £215 million (4.5 times the value) and £197 million (3.5 times the value) respectively.
- Precious metals experienced the largest value decrease on last month, and on November 2019, down £197 million (7.9%) and £678 million (23%) respectively.
- Miscellaneous chemical products (13th place) experienced the 2nd largest value increase on November 2019, up £141 million (34%).
- Aircraft experienced the 3rd largest value decrease on November 2019, down £415 million (34%).

↑ **Mineral fuels up 61% on last month**

↓ **Exports of Precious metals down 23% on November 2019**

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

Commodity Description	November 2020		October 2020		November 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change from October 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change from November 2019 (%)	
Mechanical appliances	4,166	4,179	-0.3	4,658	-10.6	
Motor vehicles	3,281	3,386	-3.1	3,388	-3.2	
Mineral fuels	2,478	1,544	60.5	2,346	5.6	
Precious metals	2,297	2,494	-7.9	2,975	-22.8	
Electronic equipment	1,858	1,835	1.3	1,870	-0.7	
Pharmaceutical products	1,724	1,789	-3.6	1,644	4.9	
Measuring devices and gauges	1,269	1,246	1.9	1,313	-3.4	
Other products	866	825	5.1	808	7.2	
Aircraft	804	873	-8.0	1,218	-34.0	
Plastics and plastic products	734	745	-1.5	690	6.4	
Others	9,762	9,770	-0.1	8,893	9.8	
Total Exports	29,240	28,685	1.9	29,803	-1.9	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2020 data is provisional

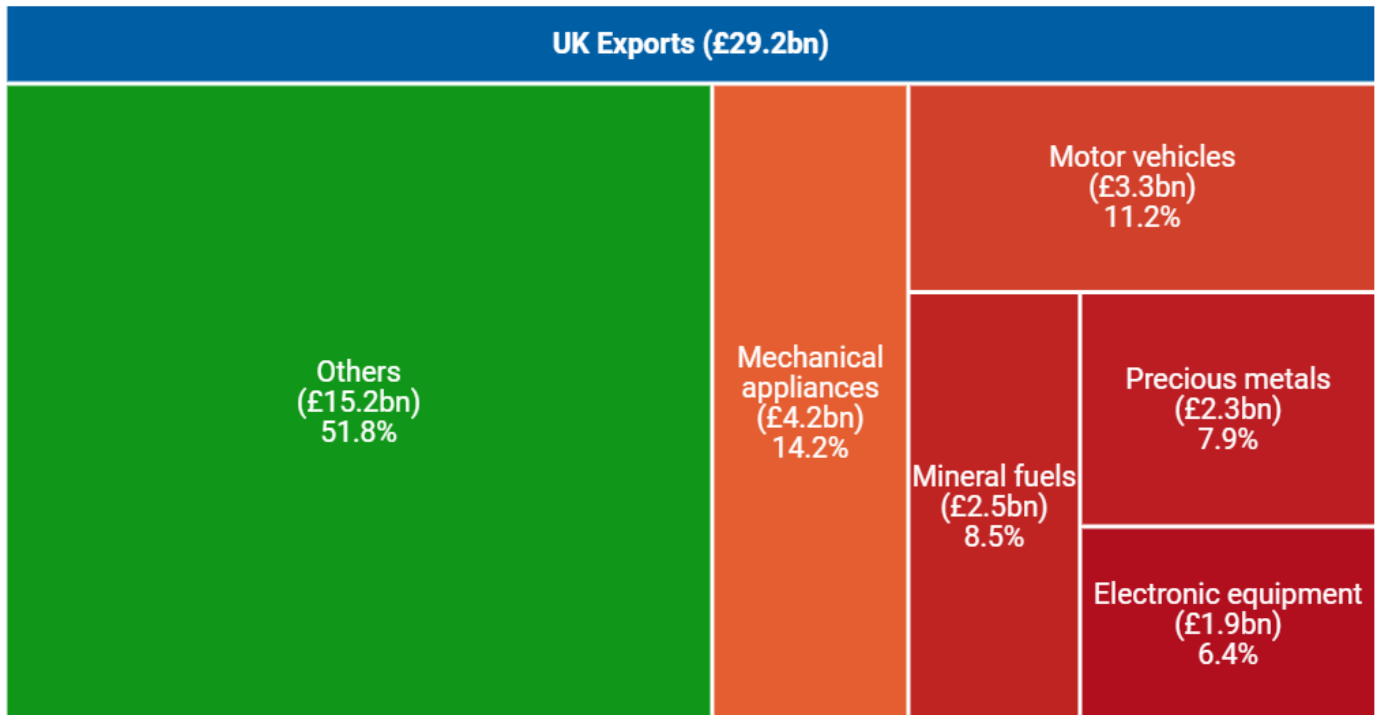
Exports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 export commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 48% of exports in November 2020, this was a decrease from a 51% share in November 2019.
- Mechanical appliances had the largest proportion, accounting for 14% of total exports. This was a decrease from a 16% share in November 2019.
- Motor vehicles had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 11% of total exports. This was a decrease of less than 1 percentage point on November 2019.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Mineral fuels rose to 3rd place from 6th.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with November 2019. Most notably, Plastic and plastic products rose to 10th place from 12th.

↓ **Mechanical appliances accounted for 14% of total exports in November 2020**

↓ **Motor vehicles accounted for 11% of total exports in November 2020**

Figure 5: Share of UK exports by the top 5 commodities, November 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 November 2020, Mechanical appliances remained the largest export commodity, experiencing an increase on the 3 months to August 2020, up 8.5%.
- Among the top 10, Motor vehicles experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to August 2020, up 59%.
- Among the top 10, Precious metals experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to August 2020, down 4.9%.
- Among the top 10, Aircraft experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to November 2019, down 30%.
- Among the top 10, Mineral fuels experienced the 2nd largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to November 2019, down 28%.
- Among the top 10, Other products experienced the only percentage increase on the 3 months to November 2019, up 2.8%.
- 8 of the top 10 commodities experienced increases on the 3 months to August 2020. Precious metals and Other products were the exceptions.

↑ **Motor vehicles exports up 59% on the 3 months to August 2020**

↓ **Aircraft exports down 30% on the 3 months to November 2019**

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

Commodity Description	3 months to Nov 2020		3 months to Aug 2020		3 months to Nov 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on August 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2019 (%)	
Mechanical appliances	12,138	11,184	8.5	14,916	-18.6	
Motor vehicles	9,502	5,959	59.5	10,935	-13.1	
Precious metals	6,734	7,078	-4.9	7,945	-15.2	
Mineral fuels	5,437	4,626	17.5	7,500	-27.5	
Electronic equipment	5,403	4,816	12.2	5,834	-7.4	
Pharmaceutical products	4,946	4,746	4.2	5,688	-13.0	
Measuring devices and gauges	3,688	3,357	9.8	4,096	-10.0	
Aircraft	2,584	2,230	15.9	3,706	-30.3	
Other products	2,407	2,461	-2.2	2,342	2.8	
Plastics and plastic products	2,204	2,017	9.3	2,327	-5.3	
Others	28,808	24,400	18.1	29,959	-3.8	
Total Exports	83,851	72,873	15.1	95,250	-12.0	

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 Republic of Ireland on last month was led by Mechanical appliances, up £218 million (83%). The increase on November 2019 was led by Mechanical appliances and Pharmaceutical products, up £278 million (more than double the value) and £277 million (6 times the value) respectively.
- The increase in exports to the Netherlands on last month and on November 2019 was led by Mineral fuels, up £301 million (48%) and £311 million (50%) respectively.
- The decrease in exports to the USA compared with November 2019 was led by Mechanical appliances, down £254 million (30%).

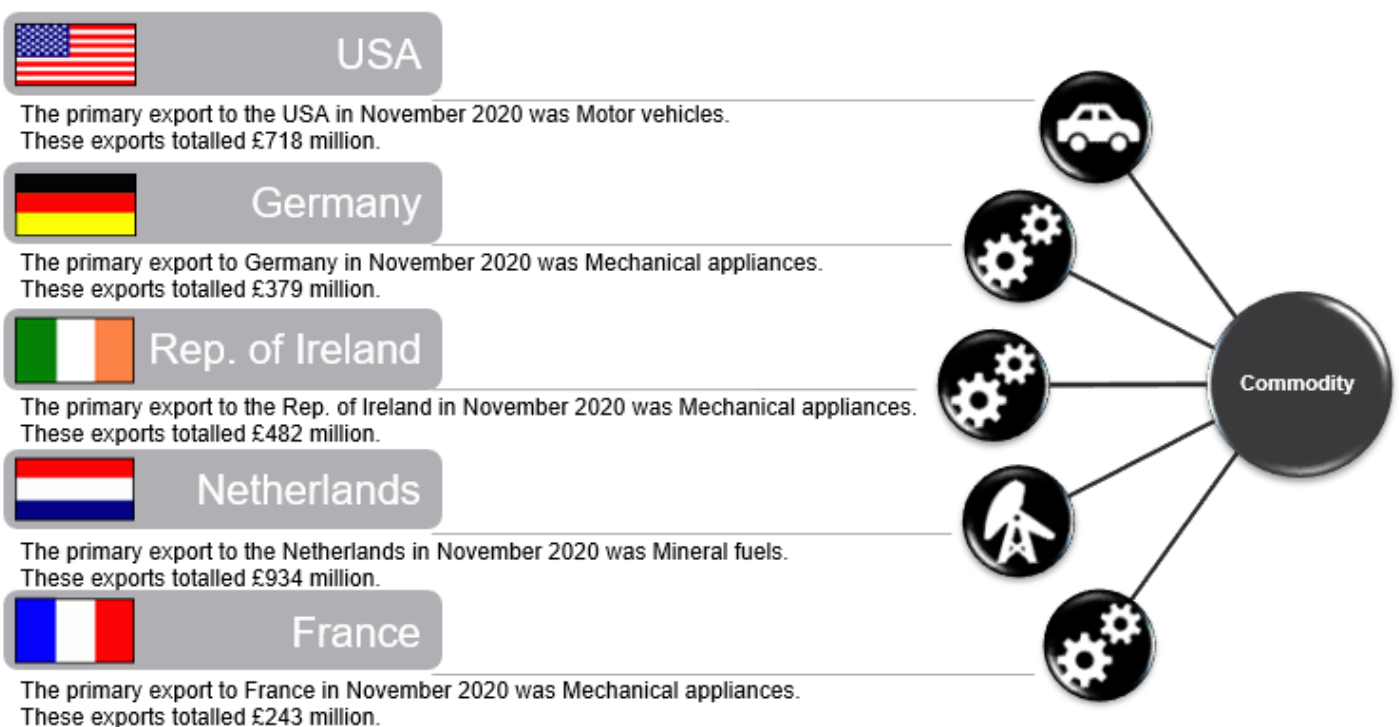
↑ Exports of Mechanical appliances to Republic of Ireland up 83% on last month

Commodity to country

- The decrease in exports of Precious metals on last month was dominated by Switzerland, down £501 million (79%). The decrease on November 2019 was led by China and Switzerland, down £693 million (82%) and £586 million (81%) respectively.
- The increase in exports of Arms and ammunition on last month and on November 2019 was led by Saudi Arabia, up £219 million (from £2.9 million) and £222 million (from less than £1.0 million) respectively.
- The decrease in exports of Aircraft on November 2019 was led by France and Germany, down £226 million (67%), and £140 million (43%) respectively.
- The increase in exports of Miscellaneous chemical products on November 2019 was led by Germany and France, up £45.1 million (double the value) and £20.3 million (63%) respectively.

↓ Exports of Precious metals to China down 82% on November 2019

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, despite experiencing the 3rd largest decrease on last month, down £348 million (5.3%). In contrast, it experienced the largest value increase on November 2019, up £2,245 million (56%).
- Canada experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £501 million (46%).
- Hong Kong (14th place) experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £859 million (44%).
- Switzerland experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on last month and the largest value decrease on November 2019, down £579 million (50%) and £459 million (44%) respectively.
- Russia experienced the 2nd largest value increase on November 2019, up £671 million (48%).
- Germany experienced the 3rd largest value increase on November 2019, up £581 million (11%).

↑ Imports from China up 56% on November 2019

↓ Imports from Hong Kong down 44% on last month

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

Partner Country	November 2020		October 2020		November 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2019 (%)	
China	6,237	6,585	-5.3	3,992	56.2	
Germany	5,767	5,671	1.7	5,186	11.2	
USA	4,103	3,931	4.4	4,300	-4.6	
Netherlands	3,597	3,259	10.4	3,406	5.6	
Belgium	2,336	2,159	8.2	1,793	30.2	
France	2,250	2,290	-1.7	2,303	-2.3	
Russia	2,062	2,233	-7.7	1,391	48.3	
Italy	1,762	1,719	2.6	1,664	5.9	
Canada	1,585	1,083	46.3	1,270	24.8	
Rep. of Ireland	1,546	1,286	20.3	1,100	40.5	
Others	17,411	19,131	-9.0	17,651	8.4	
Total EU	23,443	22,304	5.1	21,180	10.7	
Total Non-EU	25,213	27,041	-6.8	22,877	10.2	
Total Imports	48,656	49,345	-1.4	44,057	10.4	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2020 data is provisional

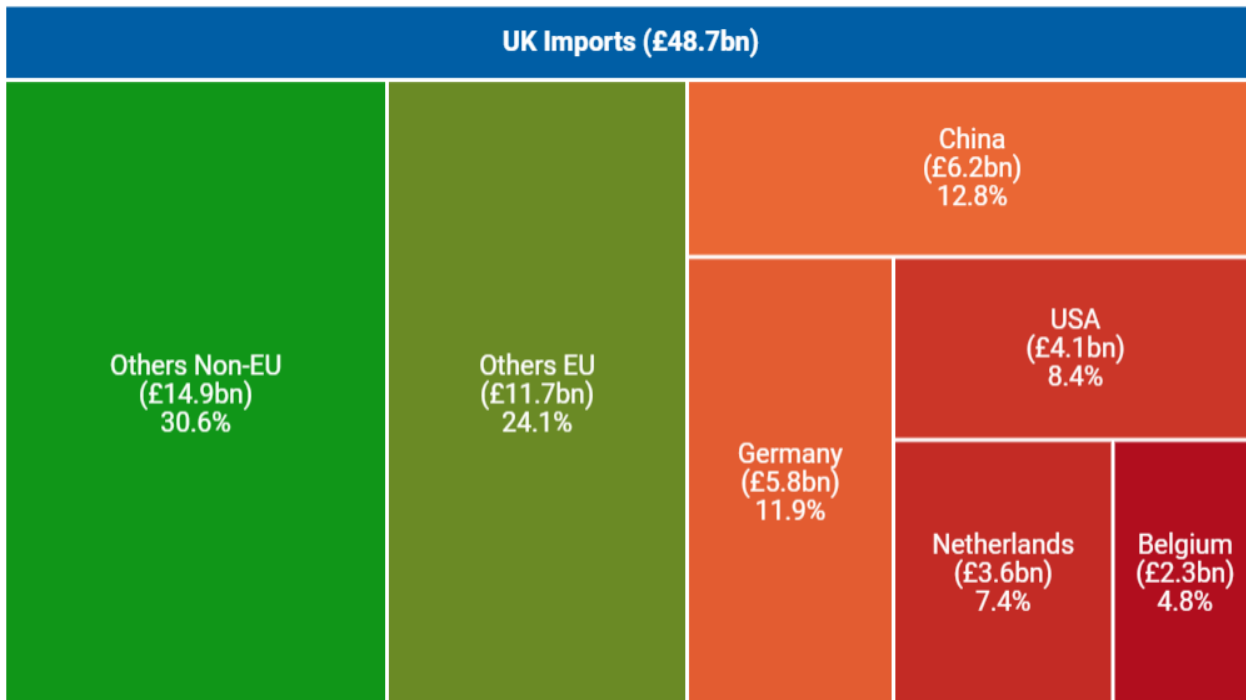
Imports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 import partners accounted for 45% of the total value of goods imported in November 2020. This is an increase from 44% in November 2019.
- China accounted for 13% of the total value of goods imported to the UK. This was an increase from a 9.1% share in November 2019.
- Germany had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 12%. This was an increase of less than one percentage point from November 2019.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) have changed compared with last month. Most notably, Belgium rose to 5th place from 7th and Canada rose to 9th place from 16th.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) have changed compared with November 2019. Most notably, China rose to 1st place from 3rd, Canada rose to 9th place from 11th, and the Republic of Ireland rose to 10th place from 12th.

↑ **The top 5 partners accounted for 45% of total imports in November 2020**

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

Figure 7: Share of UK imports of goods from the top 5 countries, November 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 November 2020, China replaced Germany as the largest import partner country. Among the top 10, it experienced the 3rd largest percentage increases on the 3 months to August 2020 and the 3 months to November 2019, up 42% and 40% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Russia experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to August 2020 and the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to November 2019, up 60% and 95% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Hong Kong experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to November 2019, more than doubling in value.
- Among the top 10, Switzerland experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to August 2020, up 58%. Conversely, it experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to November 2019, down 34%.
- All of the top 10 countries experienced an increase on the 3 months to August 2020.
- 6 of the top 10 countries experienced a decrease on the 3 months to November 2019. The exceptions were China, Russia, Belgium, and Hong Kong.

↑ **Imports from Russia up 60% on the 3 months to August 2020**

↓ **Imports from Switzerland down 34% on the 3 months to November 2019**

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

Partner Country	3 months to Nov 2020		3 months to Aug 2020		3 months to Nov 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on August 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2019 (%)	
China	18,703	13,200	41.7	13,384	39.7	
Germany	17,158	13,546	26.7	17,370	-1.2	
USA	11,909	9,530	25.0	13,458	-11.5	
Netherlands	9,849	8,341	18.1	11,271	-12.6	
Russia	7,373	4,599	60.3	3,786	94.7	
France	6,725	5,081	32.4	7,637	-11.9	
Belgium	6,718	4,900	37.1	6,612	1.6	
Hong Kong	5,932	5,842	1.5	2,595	128.5	
Italy	5,061	4,250	19.1	5,380	-5.9	
Switzerland	4,607	2,907	58.5	6,968	-33.9	
Others	53,779	47,617	12.9	59,266	-9.3	
Total Imports	147,814	119,814	23.4	147,728	0.1	

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 £1,914 million (21%). Conversely, it experienced the largest value increase on November 2019, up £1,272 million (21%).
- Electronic equipment experienced the largest value increase on last month and the 2nd largest value increase on November 2019, up £1,081 million (26%) and £785 million (18%) respectively.
- Mineral fuels experienced the largest value decrease on November 2019, down £1,250 (36%).
- Clothes (not knitted) (11th place) experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on last month, down £766 million (48%).
- Mechanical appliances experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month, up £677 million (14%).
- Motor vehicles experienced the 3rd largest value increase on November 2019, up £649 million (15%).

↓ Imports of Clothes (not knitted) down 48% on last month

↑ Imports of Precious metals up 21% on November 2019

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

Commodity Description	November 2020		October 2020		November 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2019 (%)	
Precious metals	7,263	9,176	-20.9	5,991	21.2	
Mechanical appliances	5,441	4,764	14.2	5,434	0.1	
Electronic equipment	5,190	4,109	26.3	4,405	17.8	
Motor vehicles	4,949	4,992	-0.9	4,299	15.1	
Mineral fuels	2,213	2,077	6.5	3,463	-36.1	
Pharmaceutical products	2,109	1,926	9.5	1,604	31.5	
Measuring devices and gauges	1,467	1,529	-4.1	1,183	24.0	
Plastics and plastic products	1,372	1,409	-2.6	1,131	21.3	
Knitwear	879	1,107	-20.6	936	-6.1	
Organic chemicals	865	534	62.1	526	64.3	
Others	16,908	17,722	-4.6	15,083	12.1	
Total Imports	48,656	49,345	-1.4	44,057	10.4	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2020 data is provisional

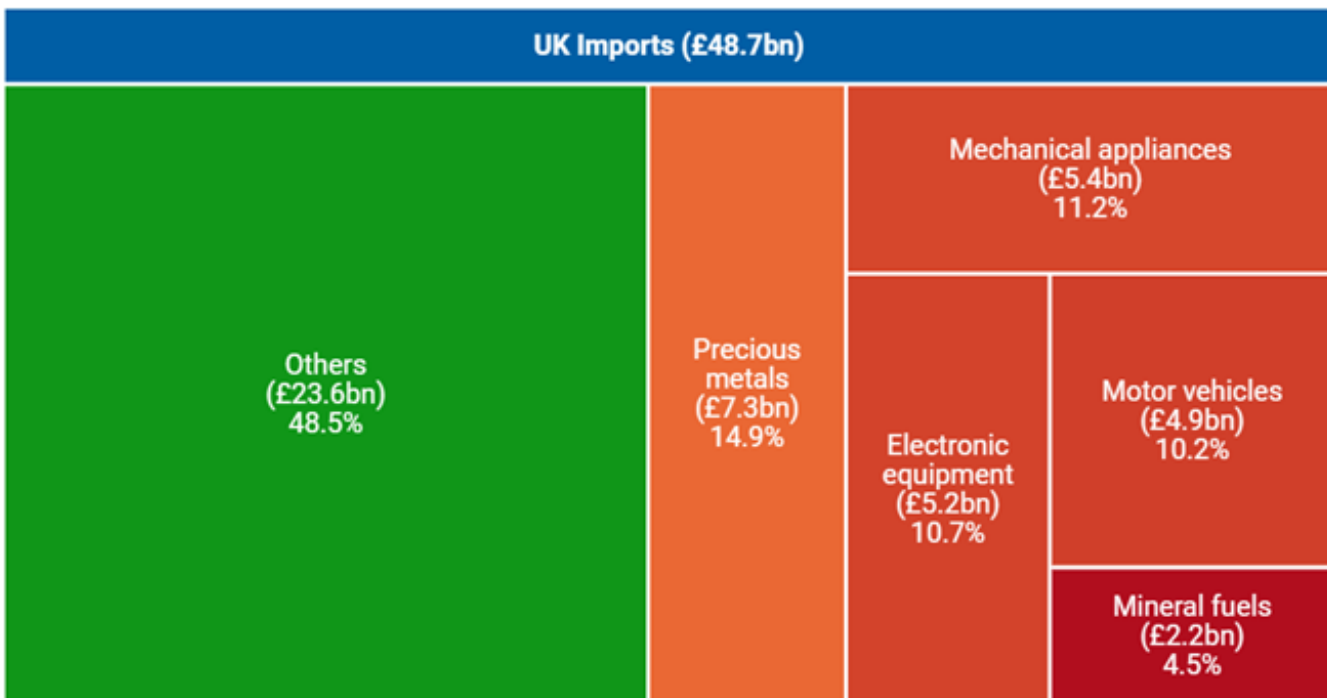
Imports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 import commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 51% of the total value of goods imported in November 2020. This was a decrease from a 54% share in November 2019.
- Precious metals accounted for 15% of the total value of goods imported to the UK. This was an increase from a 14% share in November 2019.
- Mechanical appliances had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for an 11% share. This is a decrease from a 12% share in November 2019.
- The top 10 commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Motor vehicles fell to 4th place from 2nd and Organic chemicals rose to 10th place from 19th.
- The top 10 commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with November 2019. The top 9 were unchanged but Organic chemicals rose to 10th place from 16th.

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

↑ **Precious metals accounted for 15% of total imports in November 2020**

Figure 8: Share of UK imports for the top 5 commodities, November 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 November 2020, Precious metals remained the largest import commodity. Among the top 10, it experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to November 2019, up 21%.
- Among the top 10, Clothes (not knitted) experienced the largest percentage increases on the 3 months to August 2020 and the 3 months to November 2019, up 66% and 46% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Mineral fuels experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to November 2019, down 41%.
- Among the top 10, Knitwear experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to August 2020, up 48%.
- All of the top 10 commodities experienced an increase on the 3 months to August 2020.
- 5 of the top 10 commodities experienced increases on the 3 months to November 2019, and 5 experienced decreases.

↑ Imports of Clothes (not knitted) up 66% on the 3 months to August 2020

↓ Imports of Mineral fuels down 41% on the 3 months to November 2019

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

Commodity Description	3 months to Nov 2020		3 months to Aug 2020		3 months to Nov 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on August 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2019 (%)	
Precious metals	28,445	25,186	12.9	23,479	21.1	
Mechanical appliances	14,729	12,642	16.5	16,910	-12.9	
Motor vehicles	14,641	10,045	45.8	15,325	-4.5	
Electronic equipment	13,186	10,183	29.5	14,001	-5.8	
Mineral fuels	6,327	4,815	31.4	10,718	-41.0	
Pharmaceutical products	5,641	4,615	22.2	5,519	2.2	
Measuring devices and gauges	4,378	3,476	25.9	3,881	12.8	
Plastics and plastic products	4,258	3,513	21.2	3,806	11.9	
Clothes, not knitted	3,579	2,155	66.1	2,454	45.9	
Knitwear	2,956	2,003	47.6	3,113	-5.0	
Others	49,672	41,180	20.6	48,521	2.4	
Total Imports	147,814	119,814	23.4	147,728	0.1	

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 November 2019 was driven by Electronic equipment, up £718 million (70%).
- The increase in imports from Canada on last month was driven by Precious metals, up £488 million (61%).
- The increase in imports from Germany on November 2019 was driven by Motor vehicles, up £129 million (8.0%).

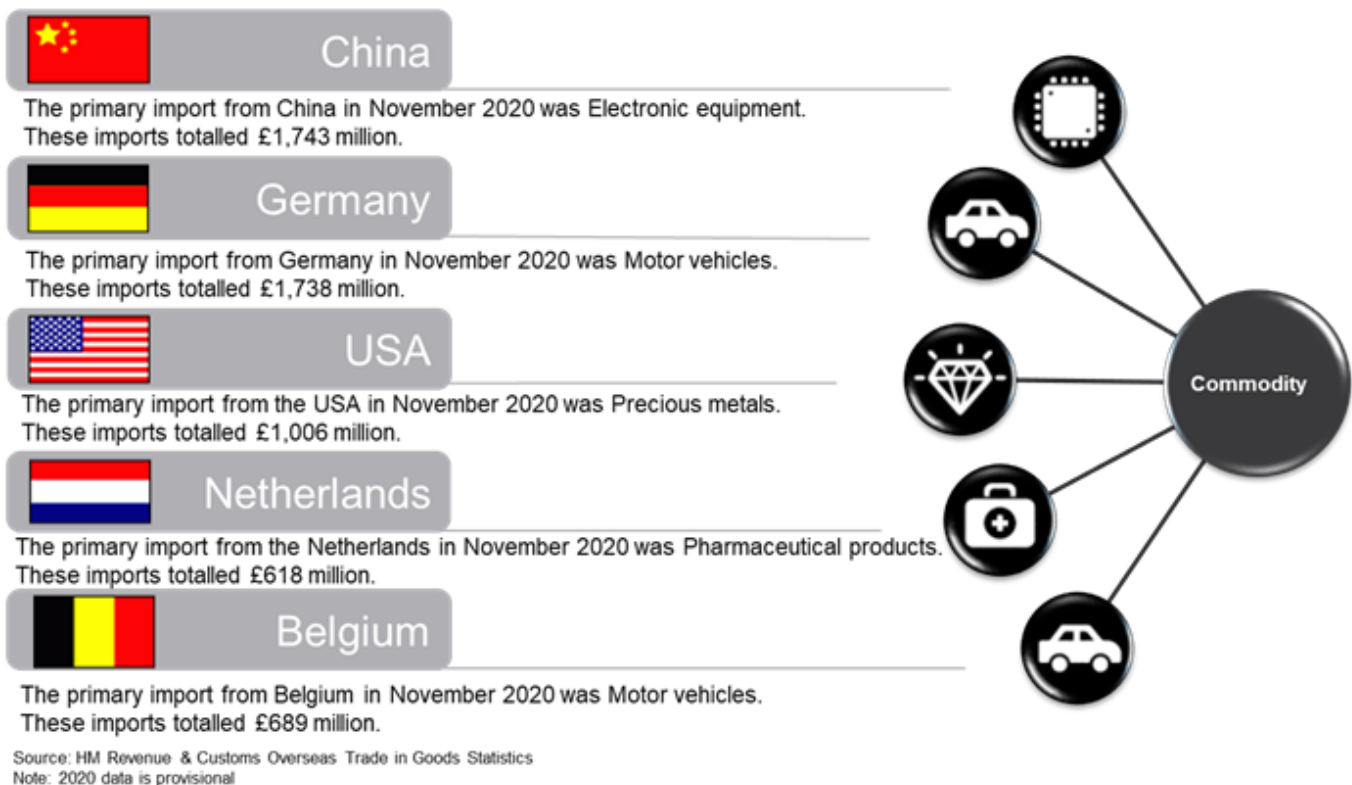
↑ Imports of Electronic equipment from China up 70% on November 2019

Commodity to country:

- The decrease in imports of Precious metals on last month was dominated by Hong Kong and Switzerland, down £698 million (58%) and £640 million (84%). The increase on November 2019 was driven by Russia and Hong Kong, up £859 million (97%) and £402 million (more than 4.5 times the value) respectively.
- The decrease in imports of Mineral fuels on November 2019 was driven by the USA, down £258 million (55%).
- The decrease in imports of Clothes (not knitted) on last month was dominated by China, down £528 million (63%).
- The increase in imports of Mechanical appliances on last month was driven by China and the USA, up £268 million (32%) and £241 million (39%) respectively.

↓ Imports of Precious metals from Switzerland down 84% on last month

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



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 November 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 November 2020 Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics are presented by customs declarations and collected by the CHIEF (Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight) system.

These data sources remain unchanged as trade conducted in November 2020 was within the Transition Period.

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 15 January 2021 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 November 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
December 2020	12 February 2021
January 2021	12 March 2021
February 2021	13 April 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. As this release relates to November 2020 UK trade in goods, which is before the end of Transition Period, 31 December 2020, these statistics have been compiled in line with EU practices and rules.