



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 2021.

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

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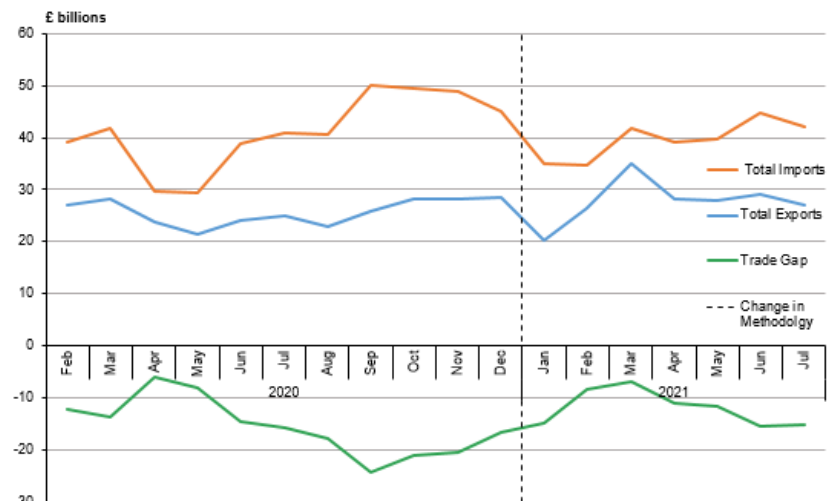
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Trade in Goods, July 2021

- Total **exports** of goods for July 2021 were £27.1 billion. This was down £2.2 billion (7.4%) compared with last month, but up £1.9 billion (7.7%) compared with July 2020.
- Total **imports** of goods for July 2021 were £42.2 billion. This was down £2.4 billion (5.5%) compared with last month, but up £1.3 billion (3.2%) compared with July 2020.
- The UK was a net importer this month, with **imports** exceeding **exports** by £15.1 billion, narrowing by £0.3 billion on last month.

Figure 1: Total UK monthly Trade in Goods



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods and Statistics
Note: 2021 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.

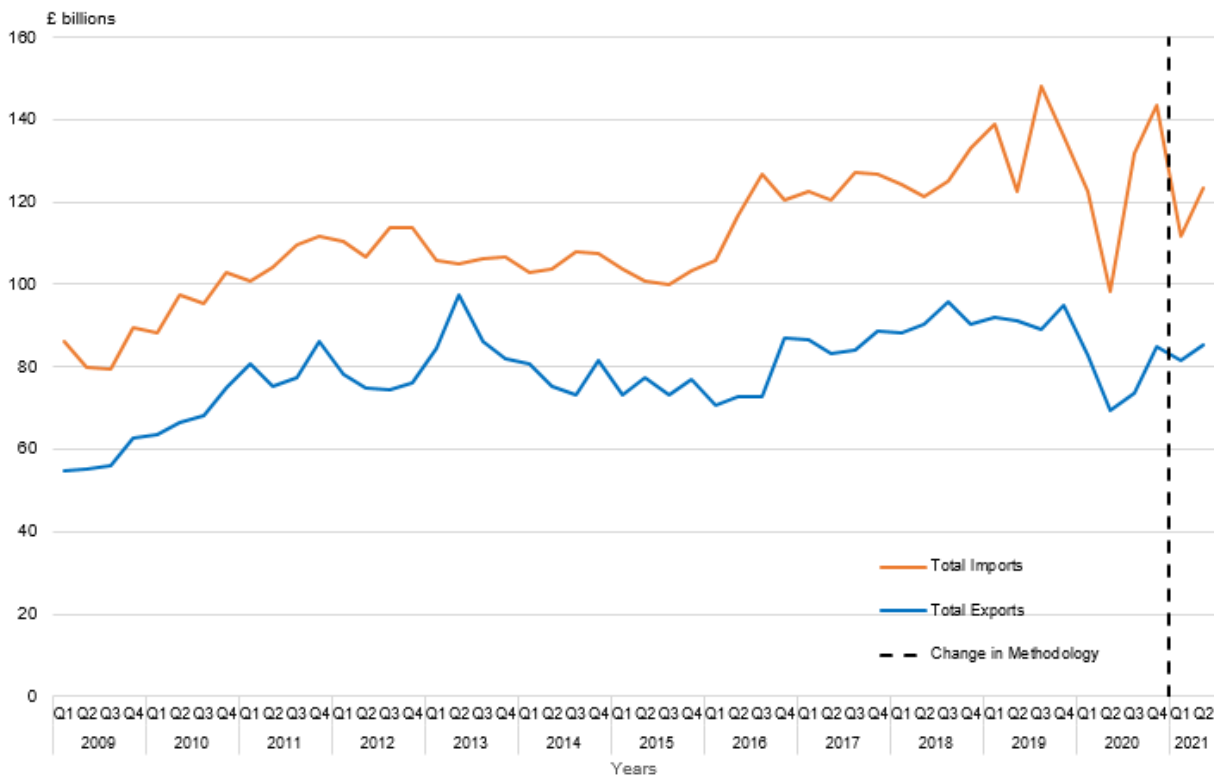
- The total **export** trade for Q2 of 2021 was £85.2 billion, which was an increase of 23% compared with £69.4 billion for Q2 of 2020.
- The total **import** trade for Q2 of 2021 was £123 billion, which was an increase of 26% compared with £98.1 billion for Q2 of 2020.
- There was a trade deficit of £38.1 billion for Q2 of 2021. This was a widening of 33% compared with £28.7 billion for Q2 of 2020.
- For many years Germany has been our largest trading import partner by value, recently surpassed by China, while the USA has been the dominant trading export partner, with occasional peaks for Switzerland.
- Mechanical appliances and Motor vehicles have generally been the largest **import** commodities by value. For **exports**, Mechanical appliances has also predominantly been the largest valued commodity, with occasional peaks for Precious metals.

↑ Exports up 23% on Q2 2020

↑ Imports up 26% on Q2 2020

↑ Trade deficit widened by 33% on Q2 2020

Figure 2: Quarterly UK Trade in Goods, 2009 – 2021



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2021 data is provisional

Non-EU & EU Trade in Goods

Non-EU Trade in Goods:

- **Non-EU exports** for July 2021 were £13.7 billion. This was an increase of £0.3 billion (2.1%) on last month, and an increase of £0.5 billion (3.7%) compared with July 2020.
- **Non-EU imports** for July 2021 were £23.2 billion. This was a decrease of £2.2 billion (8.6%) on last month, but an increase of £1.3 billion (5.9%) compared with July 2020.
- For **non-EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £9.4 billion.

↓ **Non-EU imports down 8.6% on last month**

EU Trade in Goods:

- **EU exports** for July 2021 were £13.3 billion. This was a decrease of £2.4 billion (15%) on last month, but an increase of £1.5 billion (12%) compared with July 2020.
- **EU imports** for July 2021 were £19.1 billion. This was a decrease of £0.2 billion (1.3%) on last month, but an increase of less than £0.1 billion (0.2%) compared with July 2020.
- For **EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £5.7 billion.

↑ **EU Exports up 12% on July 2020**

Figure 3: Total UK Trade in Goods, with EU and Non-EU, July 2021



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 data is provisional

Exports: Country Analysis

- The USA remained the largest export partner country. It experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £320 million (9.2%).
- Belgium experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £835 million (40%). In contrast, it showed the 2nd largest value increase on July 2020, up £350 million (38%).
- Hungary (ranked 14th) experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on last month, down £497 million (53%). In contrast, it showed the 3rd largest value increase on July 2020, up £349 million (up to more than 4.5 times the value).
- The Netherlands experienced the largest value increase on July 2020, up £381 million (24%).
- Switzerland experienced the 3rd largest value decrease on last month, and the largest value decrease on July 2020, down £437 million (37%) and £286 million (28%) respectively.
- Ireland experienced the 4th largest value decrease on last month, down £313 million (16%).

↓ **Exports to Belgium down 40% on last month**

↑ **Exports to the Netherlands up 24% on July 2020**

Table 1: UK exports of goods to the top 10 countries, July 2021

Partner Country	July 2021	June 2021		July 2020	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change from June 2021 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change from July 2020 (%)
USA	3,790	3,470	9.2	3,594	5.5
Germany	2,423	2,672	-9.3	2,513	-3.6
Netherlands	1,999	2,048	-2.4	1,617	23.6
France	1,751	1,776	-1.4	1,619	8.2
Ireland	1,705	2,018	-15.5	1,688	1.0
Belgium	1,269	2,104	-39.7	919	38.1
China	1,214	1,055	15.0	1,176	3.2
Italy	783	914	-14.3	810	-3.4
Spain	753	677	11.1	662	13.7
Switzerland	751	1,188	-36.8	1,037	-27.6
Others	10,623	11,295	-5.9	9,483	12.0
Total EU	13,339	15,780	-15.5	11,881	12.3
Total Non-EU	13,721	13,438	2.1	13,236	3.7
Total Exports	27,061	29,219	-7.4	25,117	7.7

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 data is provisional

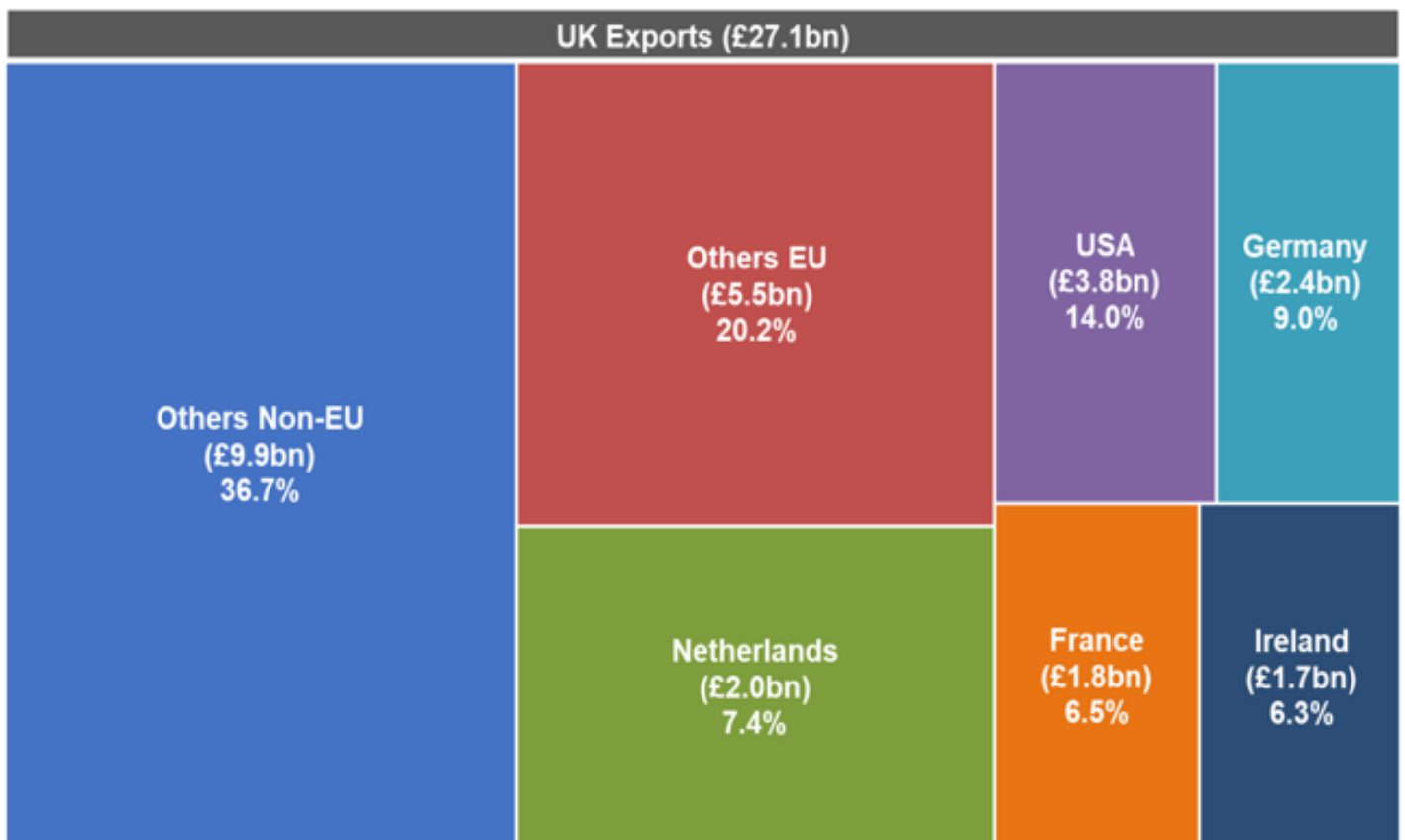
Exports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 export partners accounted for 43% of total goods exported in July 2021. This was a decrease from a 44% share in July 2020.
- The USA accounted for 14% of the total value of goods exported from the UK. This was a decrease of less than 1 percentage point on July 2020.
- Germany had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 9.0%. This was a decrease from a 10% share in July 2020.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Belgium fell to 6th place from 3rd and Hungary fell to 14th place from 9th.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed order compared with July 2020. Most notably, the Netherlands rose to 3rd place from 5th while Switzerland fell to 10th place from 7th.

↓ **The USA had a 14% share of total exports in July 2021**

↓ **Germany had a 9.0% share of total exports in July 2021**

Figure 4: Share of UK exports of goods to the top 5 countries, July 2021



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2021 data is provisional

Exports: Country Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to July 2021, the USA remained the largest export partner country.
- Among the top 10, Belgium experienced the largest percentage increases on the 3 months to April 2021, and on the 3 months to July 2020, up 18% and 87% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Switzerland experienced the largest percentage decreases on the 3 months to April 2021, and on the 3 months to July 2020, down 72% and 27% respectively.
- Among the top 10, the Netherlands experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to July 2020, up 40%.
- 6 of the top 10 export partners experienced increases on the 3 months to April 2020, USA, Germany, China and Switzerland were the exceptions.
- 8 of the top 10 export partners experienced increases on the 3 months to July 2021, Switzerland and Spain were the exceptions.

↑ **Exports to Belgium up 87% on the 3 months to July 2020**

↓ **Exports to Switzerland down 72% on the 3 months to April 2021**

Table 2: UK exports of goods to the top 10 countries, 3 months to July 2021

Partner Country	3 months to Jul 2021		3 months to Apr 2021		3 months to Jul 2020	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on April 2021 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on July 2020 (%)	
USA	11,201	11,345	-1.3	9,683	15.7	
Germany	7,921	7,988	-0.8	7,204	9.9	
Netherlands	6,151	5,752	6.9	4,379	40.4	
Ireland	5,350	4,798	11.5	4,782	11.9	
France	5,265	4,739	11.1	4,424	19.0	
Belgium	4,589	3,900	17.7	2,459	86.6	
China	3,667	3,960	-7.4	3,102	18.2	
Switzerland	2,910	10,415	-72.1	4,010	-27.4	
Italy	2,531	2,340	8.2	2,055	23.2	
Spain	2,109	1,907	10.5	2,272	-7.2	
Others	32,522	32,255	0.8	26,452	22.9	
Total Exports	84,215	89,399	-5.8	70,822	18.9	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 data is provisional

Exports: Commodity Analysis

- Mechanical appliances remained the largest export commodity. It experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month, and the largest value increase on July 2020, up £386 million (9.1%) and £595 million (15%) respectively.
- Precious metals experienced the largest value decrease on last month, and the 2nd largest decrease on July 2020, down £1,845 million (46%) and £187 million (7.9%) respectively.
- Mineral fuels experienced the largest value increase on last month, and the 2nd largest value increase on July 2020, up £507 million (33%) and £569 million (39%) respectively.
- Pharmaceutical products experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on last month, down £839 million (34%).
- Organic chemicals (ranked 13th) experienced the 3rd largest value decrease on last month, and the largest decrease on July 2020, down £390 million (43%) and £286 million (36%) respectively.
- Iron and steel (ranked 12th) experienced the 3rd largest value increase on July 2020, up £234 million (67%).

↑ Exports of Mechanical appliances up 15% on July 2020

↓ Exports of Precious metals down 46% on last month

Table 3: UK exports of goods for the top 10 commodities, July 2021

Commodity Description	July 2021	June 2021		July 2020	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change from June 2021 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change from July 2020 (%)
Mechanical appliances	4,615	4,228	9.1	4,019	14.8
Motor vehicles	2,328	2,276	2.3	2,446	-4.8
Precious metals	2,185	4,030	-45.8	2,372	-7.9
Mineral fuels	2,040	1,533	33.1	1,471	38.6
Electronic equipment	1,641	1,650	-0.6	1,675	-2.1
Pharmaceutical products	1,620	2,459	-34.1	1,549	4.6
Other products	1,429	1,449	-1.4	817	74.8
Measuring devices and gauges	1,269	1,307	-2.9	1,164	9.1
Aircraft	865	829	4.3	642	34.6
Plastics and plastic products	833	909	-8.4	698	19.2
Others	8,236	8,547	-3.6	8,262	-0.3
Total Exports	27,061	29,219	-7.4	25,117	7.7

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 data is provisional

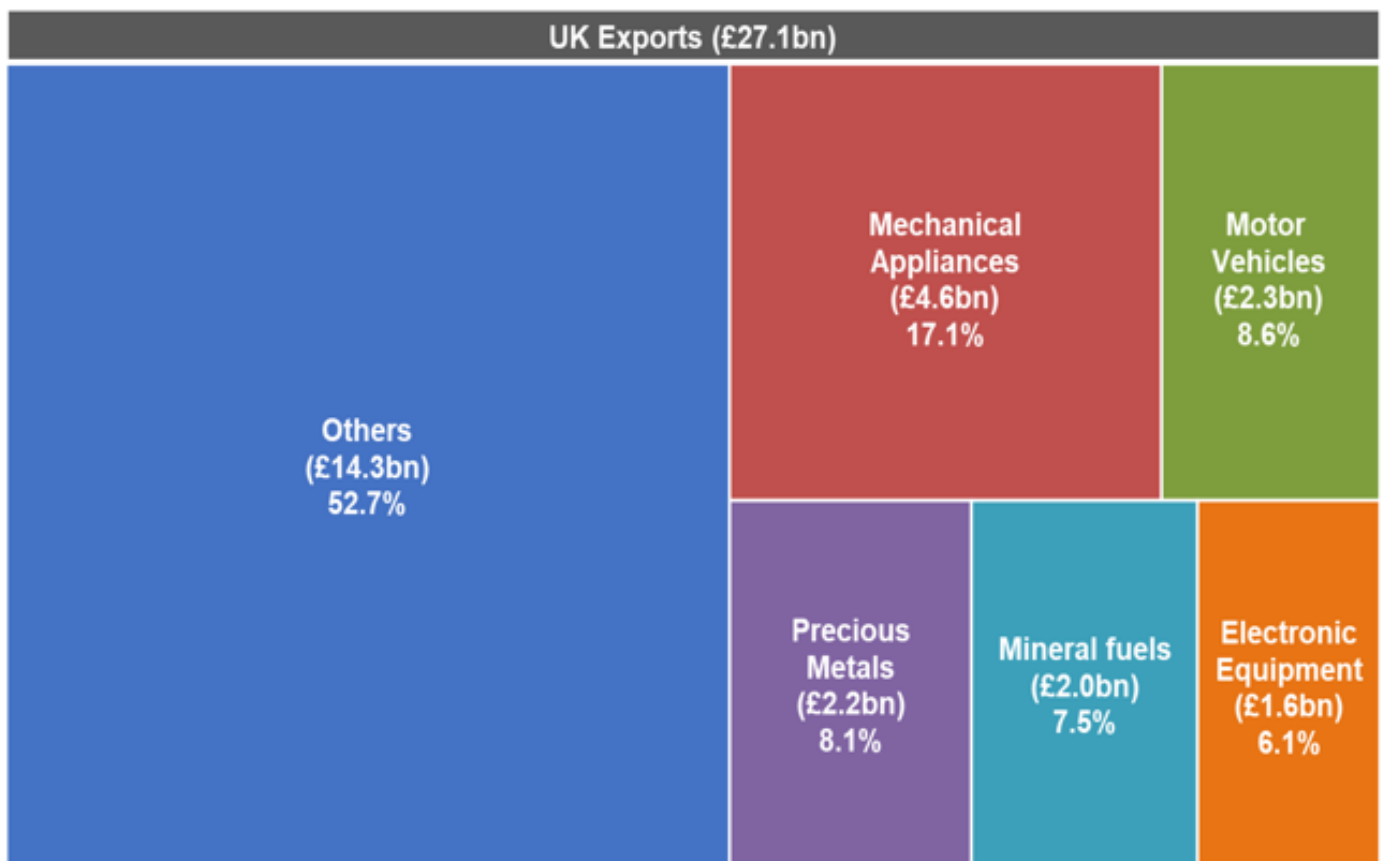
Exports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 export commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 47% of exports in July 2021, this was a decrease from a 48% share in July 2020.
- Mechanical appliances accounted for 17% of the total value of goods exported from the UK. This was an increase from a 16% share in July 2020.
- Motor vehicles had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 8.6% of total exports. This was a decrease from an 9.7% share in July 2020.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed when compared with last month. Most notably, Motor vehicles rose to 2nd place from 4th, while Pharmaceutical products fell to 6th place from 3rd and Organic chemicals fell to 13th place from 10th.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with July 2020. Most notably, Mineral fuels rose to 4th place from 6th, and Aircraft rose to 9th place from 11th.

↑ **Mechanical appliances accounted for 17% of total exports in July 2021**

↓ **Motor vehicles accounted for 8.6% of total exports in July 2021**

Figure 5: Share of UK exports by the top 5 commodities, July 2021



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2021 data is provisional

Exports: Commodity Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to July 2021, Mechanical appliances replaced Precious metals as the largest export commodity.
- Among the top 10, Precious metals experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to April 2021, down 44%.
- Among the top 10, Motor vehicles experienced the 2nd largest percentage decrease on April 2021, down 25%. In contrast, it experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to July 2020, up 44%.
- Among the top 10, Mineral fuels experienced the 2nd largest percentage increases on the 3 months to April 2021, and on the 3 months to July 2020, up 12% and 34% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Pharmaceutical products experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to April 2021, up 24%.
- Among the top 10, Aircraft experienced the 3rd largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to April 2021, down 24%.
- 7 of the top 10 export commodities experienced increases on the 3 months to April 2021. Precious metals, Motor vehicles, and Aircraft were the exceptions.
- All of the top 10 export commodities experienced increases on the 3 months to July 2020.

↓ **Precious metals exports down 44% on the 3 months to April 2021**

↑ **Motor vehicles exports up 44% on the 3 months to July 2020**

Table 4: UK exports of goods for the top 10 commodities, 3 months to July 2021

Commodity Description	3 months to Jul 2021		3 months to Apr 2021		3 months to Jul 2020	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on April 2021 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on July 2020 (%)	
Mechanical appliances	13,093	11,882	10.2	11,062	18.4	
Precious metals	9,418	16,721	-43.7	8,529	10.4	
Motor vehicles	6,878	9,125	-24.6	4,780	43.9	
Pharmaceutical products	5,847	4,701	24.4	4,940	18.4	
Mineral fuels	5,588	4,981	12.2	4,179	33.7	
Electronic equipment	4,961	4,699	5.6	4,655	6.6	
Other products	4,390	4,152	5.7	2,293	91.4	
Measuring devices and gauges	3,867	3,794	1.9	3,274	18.1	
Plastics and plastic products	2,609	2,341	11.5	2,058	26.8	
Aircraft	2,371	3,120	-24.0	2,089	13.5	
Others	25,192	23,883	5.5	22,962	9.7	
Total Exports	84,215	89,399	-5.8	70,822	18.9	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2021 data is provisional

Exports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

Country to commodity:

- The decrease in exports to Belgium on last month was dominated by Pharmaceutical products, down £843 million (77%). The increase on July 2020 was led by Mineral fuels and Pharmaceutical products, up £135 million (up to 2.5 times the value) and £109 million (76%) respectively.
- The decrease in exports to Hungary on last month was led by Precious metals, down £537 million (62%). The increase on July 2020 was also driven by Precious metals, up £321 million (from £0.7 million).
- The decreases in exports to Switzerland on last month and on July 2020 were led by Precious metals, down £457 million (55%) and £362 million (48%) respectively.

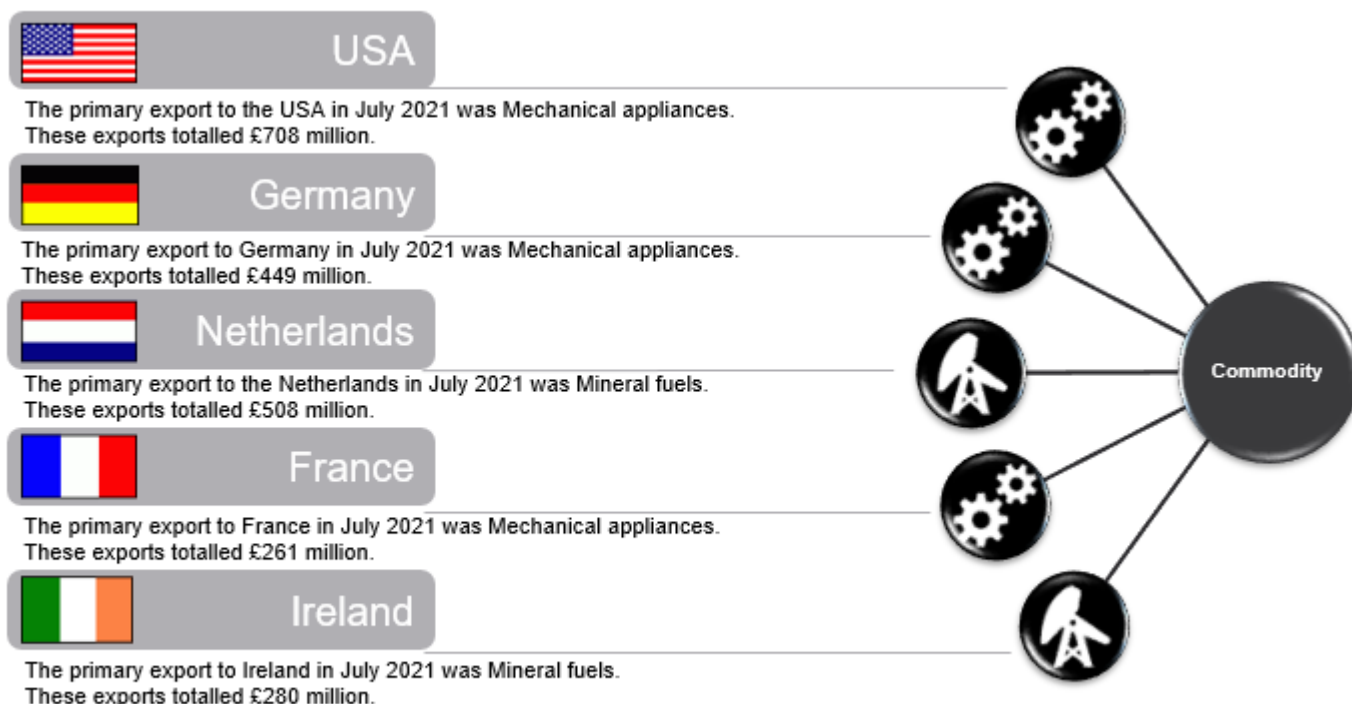
↓ Exports of Pharmaceutical products to Belgium down 77% on last month

Commodity to country

- The increase in exports of Mechanical appliances on last month was led by the USA and Hong Kong, up £120 million (20%) and £101 million (81%) respectively. The increase on July 2020 was led by the Netherlands, the USA, and Germany, up £165 million (more than doubling in value), £116 million (20%) and £115 million (34%) respectively.
- The increase in exports of Mineral fuels on last month was led by China and the USA, up £196 million (from £3.1 million) and £145 million (88%) respectively. The increase on July 2020 was led by the USA, China and Ireland, up £276 million (to 9 times the value), £198 million (from £0.9 million), and £185 million (to 3 times the value) respectively.
- The decrease in exports of Organic chemicals on last month was dominated by Ireland, down £373 million (97%). The decrease on July 2020 was driven by the USA, down £232 million (55%).

↑ Exports of Mineral fuels to the USA up to 9 times the value in July 2020

Figure 6: The UK's top commodity exports to the top 5 countries



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2021 data is provisional

Imports: Country Analysis

- China remained the largest import partner country.
- Norway experienced the largest value increases on last month and on July 2020, up £681 million (52%) and £1,274 million (to almost 3 times the value) respectively.
- Switzerland (ranked 14th) experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £1,393 million (61%).
- Hong Kong (ranked 20th) experienced the largest value decrease on July 2020, down £1,258 million (69%).
- Australia (ranked 33rd) experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on July 2020, down £1,111 million (86%).
- The USA experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on last month, down £622 million (15%). In contrast, it experienced the 2nd largest value increase on July 2020, up £499 million (17%).

↑ Imports from Norway up to almost 3 times the value on July 2020

↓ Imports from Switzerland down 61% on last month

Table 5: UK imports of goods from the top 10 countries, July 2021

Partner Country	July 2021		June 2021		July 2020	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on June 2021 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on July 2020 (%)	
China	4,797	4,999	-4.0	4,705	2.0	
Germany	4,678	4,863	-3.8	4,983	-6.1	
USA	3,506	4,128	-15.1	3,007	16.6	
Netherlands	2,562	2,734	-6.3	2,928	-12.5	
Norway	1,988	1,307	52.1	714	178.4	
Belgium	1,955	2,000	-2.2	1,604	21.8	
France	1,798	1,913	-6.0	1,850	-2.8	
Russia	1,648	1,775	-7.2	1,391	18.4	
Italy	1,559	1,576	-1.1	1,586	-1.7	
Ireland	1,341	1,354	-1.0	1,117	20.0	
Others	16,379	17,997	-9.0	16,998	-3.6	
Total EU	19,054	19,302	-1.3	19,017	0.2	
Total Non-EU	23,157	25,344	-8.6	21,865	5.9	
Total Imports	42,210	44,646	-5.5	40,883	3.2	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 data is provisional

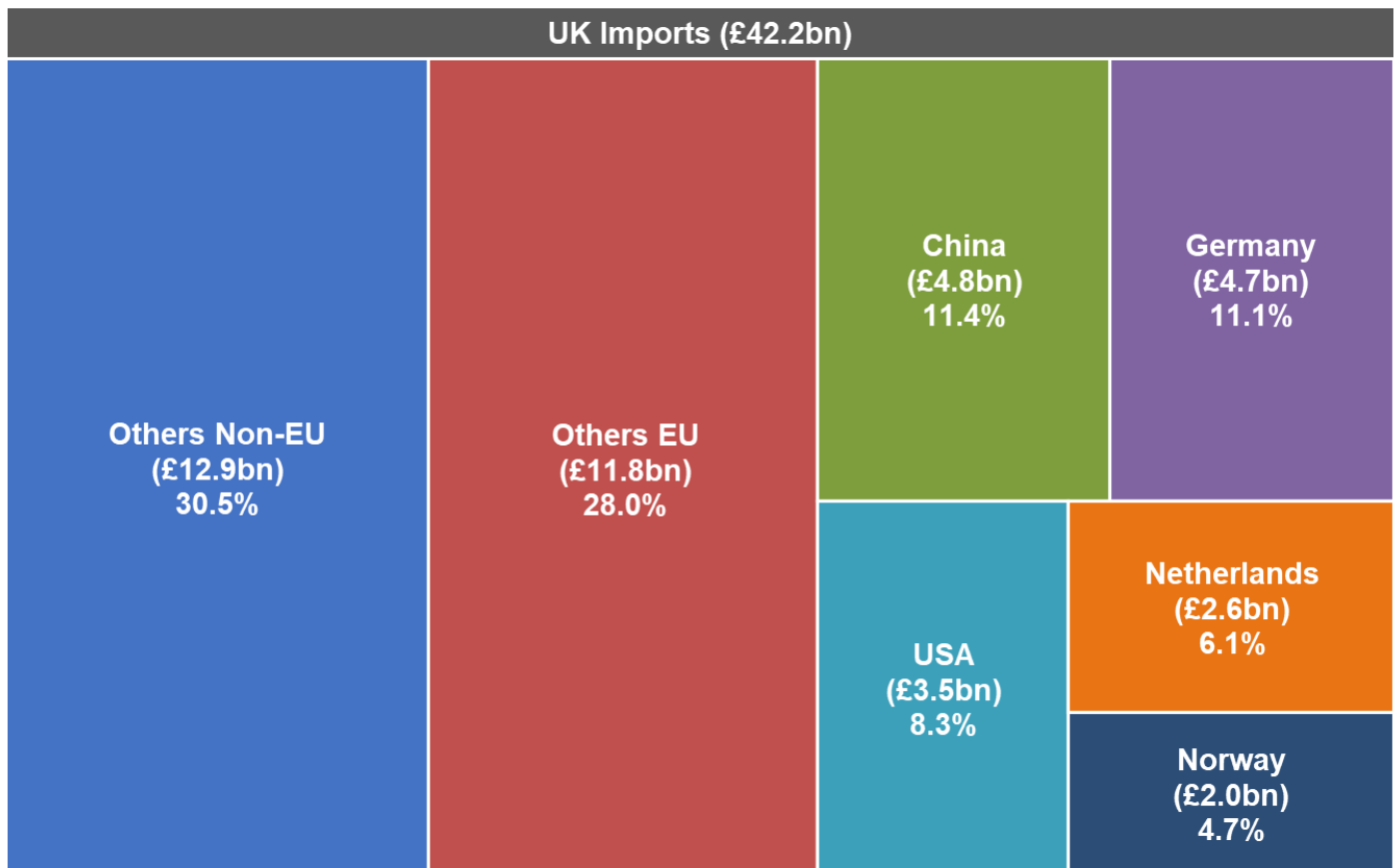
Imports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 import partners accounted for 42% of the total value of goods imported in July 2021. This was a decrease from a 43% share in July 2020.
- China accounted for 11% of the total value of goods imported to the UK. This was a decrease from a 12% share in July 2020.
- Germany had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 11%. This was a decrease from a 12% share in July 2020.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Norway rose to 5th place from 11th while Switzerland fell to 14th place from 5th.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with June 2020. Most notably, Hong Kong fell to 20th place from 6th and Australia fell to 33rd place from 10th.

↓ **The top 5 partners accounted for 42% of total imports in July 2021**

↓ **China accounted for 11% of total imports in July 2021**

Figure 7: Share of UK imports of goods from the top 5 countries, July 2021



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2021 data is provisional

Imports: Country Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to July 2021, China remained the largest import partner country. Among the top 10, it experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to April 2021, down 5.5%.
- Among the top 10, Switzerland experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to April 2021 and the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to July 2020, up 97% and up to almost 2.5 times the value respectively.
- Among the top 10, Norway experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to April 2021 and the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to July 2020, up 18% and up to more than 2.5 times the value respectively.
- Among the top 10, Belgium experienced the 3rd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to July 2020, up 29%.
- Among the top 10, the Netherlands experienced the only percentage decrease on the 3 months to July 2020, down 9.3%.
- 8 of the top 10 countries experienced an increase on the 3 months to April 2021. The exceptions were China and Germany.

↑ Imports from Switzerland up 97% on the 3 months to April 2021

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

Table 6: UK imports of goods from the top 10 countries, 3 months to July 2021

Partner Country	3 months to Jul 2021		3 months to Apr 2021		3 months to Jul 2020	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on April 2021 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on July 2020 (%)	
China	14,329	15,170	-5.5	12,482	14.8	
Germany	13,882	14,109	-1.6	12,101	14.7	
USA	11,306	10,315	9.6	9,594	17.8	
Netherlands	7,603	7,077	7.4	8,381	-9.3	
Belgium	5,597	5,163	8.4	4,331	29.2	
France	5,316	5,171	2.8	4,926	7.9	
Norway	4,719	3,989	18.3	1,809	160.9	
Switzerland	4,712	2,392	97.0	1,980	138.0	
Italy	4,650	4,457	4.3	4,205	10.6	
Russia	4,478	3,802	17.8	3,936	13.8	
Others	49,928	43,956	13.6	45,437	9.9	
Total Imports	126,519	115,600	9.4	109,180	15.9	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 data is provisional

Imports: Commodity Analysis

- Precious metals remained the largest import commodity. It experienced the largest value decreases on last month and on July 2020, down £3,134 million (38%) and £2,213 million (30%) respectively.
- Mineral fuels experienced the largest value increases on last month and on July 2020, up £824 million (26%) and £2,513 million (to more than 2.5 times the value) respectively.
- Miscellaneous chemical products (ranked 11th) experienced the 2nd largest value increase on July 2020, up £402 million (93%).
- Mechanical appliances experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on last month, down £402 million (7.7%). Conversely, it experienced the 3rd largest value increase on July 2020, up £291 million (6.4%).
- Motor vehicles experienced the 3rd largest value decrease on last month, down £332 million (8.3%).
- Other textile goods (ranked 37th) experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on July 2020, down £315 million (62%).

↓ Imports of Precious metals down 38% on last month

↑ Imports of Mineral fuels up to more than 2.5 times the value compared with July 2020

Table 7: UK imports of goods for the top 10 commodities, July 2021

Commodity Description	July 2021		June 2021		July 2020	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on June 2021 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on July 2020 (%)	
Precious metals	5,078	8,212	-38.2	7,291	-30.3	
Mechanical appliances	4,816	5,218	-7.7	4,524	6.4	
Mineral fuels	4,018	3,194	25.8	1,505	167.0	
Motor vehicles	3,644	3,976	-8.3	3,835	-5.0	
Electronic equipment	3,615	3,624	-0.3	3,631	-0.4	
Pharmaceutical products	1,679	1,524	10.1	1,583	6.0	
Plastics and plastic products	1,374	1,407	-2.3	1,265	8.6	
Measuring devices and gauges	1,123	1,243	-9.6	1,196	-6.0	
Furniture and light fittings	926	904	2.4	714	29.6	
Organic chemicals	878	815	7.6	690	27.1	
Others	15,060	14,528	3.7	14,648	2.8	
Total Imports	42,210	44,646	-5.5	40,883	3.2	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 data is provisional

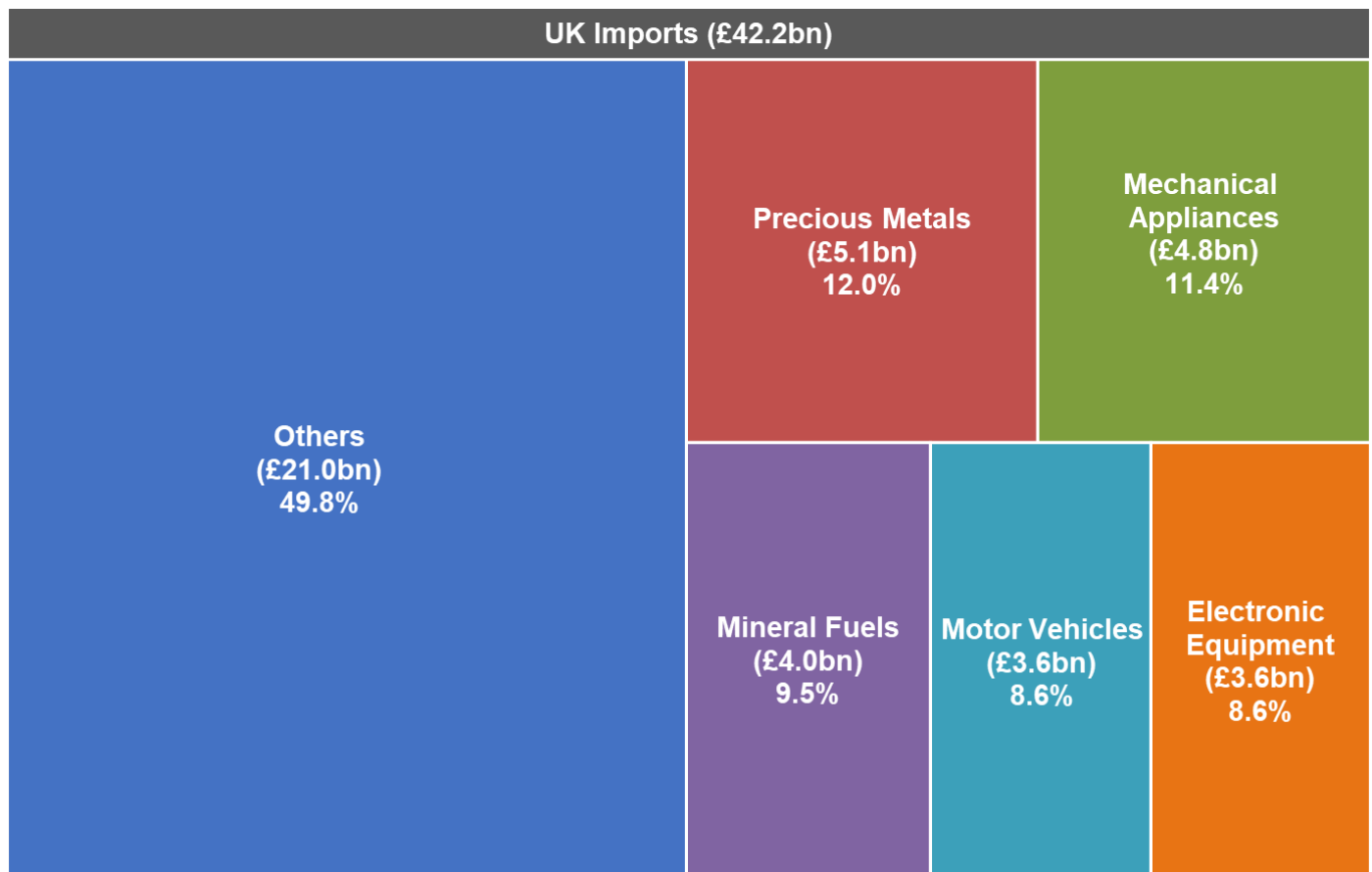
Imports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 import commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 50% of the total value of goods imported in July 2021. This was a decrease from a 51% share in July 2020.
- Precious metals accounted for 12% of the total value of goods imported to the UK. This was a decrease from an 18% share in July 2020.
- Mechanical appliances had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for an 11% share. This was an increase of less than one percentage point on July 2020.
- The top 10 commodities (ranked by value) changed order compared with last month. Most notably, Mineral fuels rose to 3rd place from 5th.
- The top 10 commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with July 2020. Most notably, Organic chemicals rose to 10th place from 12th while Clothes (not knitted) fell to 17th place from 9th.

↓ **The top 5 import commodities accounted for 50% of total imports in July 2021**

↓ **Precious metals accounted for 12% of total imports in July 2021**

Figure 8: Share of UK imports for the top 5 commodities, July 2021



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2021 data is provisional

Imports: Commodity Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to July 2021, Precious metals replaced Mechanical appliances as the largest import commodity. Among the top 10, it experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to April 2021, up 53%.
- Among the top 10, Mineral fuels experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to April 2021 and the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to July 2020, up 30% and up to almost 2.5 times the value respectively.
- Among the top 10, Miscellaneous chemical products experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to April 2021, down 7.6%. Conversely, it experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to July 2020, up to more than double the value.
- 6 of the top 10 commodities experienced an increase on the 3 months to April 2021. The exceptions were Mechanical appliances, Motor vehicles, Electronic equipment, and Miscellaneous chemical products.
- 8 of the top 10 commodities experienced an increase on the 3 months to July 2020. The exceptions were Precious metals and Pharmaceutical products.

↑ Imports of Precious metals up 53% on the 3 months to April 2021

↑ Imports of Mineral fuels up to almost 2.5 times the value compared with the 3 months to July 2020

Table 8: UK imports of goods for the top 10 commodities, 3 months to July 2021

Commodity Description	3 months to Jul 2021		3 months to Apr 2021		3 months to Jul 2020	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on April 2021 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on July 2020 (%)	
Precious metals	19,388	12,695	52.7	19,944	-2.8	
Mechanical appliances	14,591	14,918	-2.2	12,356	18.1	
Motor vehicles	11,246	11,724	-4.1	8,163	37.8	
Electronic equipment	10,448	10,666	-2.0	9,744	7.2	
Mineral fuels	10,112	7,790	29.8	4,203	140.6	
Pharmaceutical products	4,706	4,542	3.6	4,893	-3.8	
Plastics and plastic products	4,002	3,631	10.2	3,343	19.7	
Measuring devices and gauges	3,456	3,402	1.6	3,431	0.7	
Furniture and light fittings	2,665	2,464	8.2	1,770	50.6	
Miscellaneous chemical products	2,610	2,825	-7.6	1,223	113.3	
Others	43,294	40,944	5.7	40,110	7.9	
Total Imports	126,519	115,600	9.4	109,180	15.9	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 data is provisional

Imports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

Country to commodity:

- The increases in imports from Norway on last month and on July 2020 were dominated by Mineral fuels, up £677 million (67%) and £1,159 million (to more than 3 times the value) respectively.
- The decrease in imports from the USA on last month was driven by Precious metals and Mineral fuels, down £321 million (34%) and £211 million (31%). The increase on July 2020 was dominated by Mineral fuels, up £289 million (to 2.5 times the value).

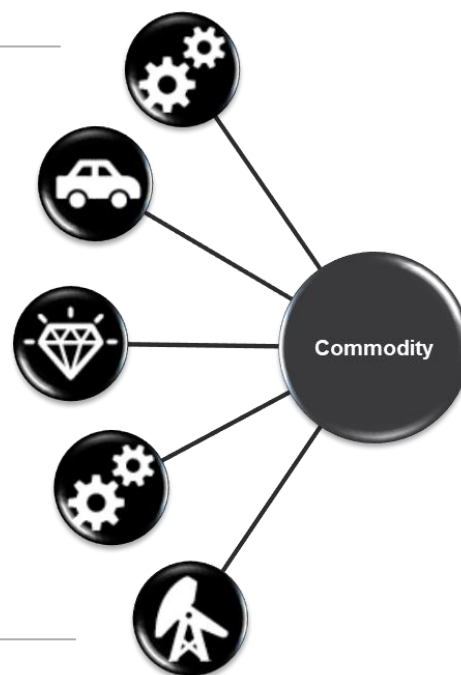
↑ Imports of Mineral fuels from Norway up 67% on last month

Commodity to country:

- The decrease in imports of Precious metals on last month was driven by Switzerland, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan, down £1,384 million (87%), £443 million (to nil trade), and £426 million (65%) respectively. The decrease on July 2020 was driven by Hong Kong, Australia, and Uzbekistan, down £1,127 million (91%), £1,111 million (97%), and £501 million (to nil trade) respectively.
- The increase in imports of Miscellaneous chemical products on July 2020 was driven by China, up £259 million (to almost 5 times the value).
- The decrease in imports of Mechanical appliances on last month was led by the Netherlands and Germany, down £80 million (18%) and £77 million (9.6%) respectively. The increase on July 2020 was driven by Japan, up £102 million (to double the value).
- The decrease in imports of Motor vehicles on last month was driven by China, the Netherlands, and Germany, down £176 million (60%), £172 million (53%) and £115 million (8.2%) respectively.
- The decrease in imports of Other textile goods on July 2020 was dominated by China, down £280 million (77%).

↓ Imports of Precious metals from Hong Kong down 91% on July 2020

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



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2021 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

UK to EU exports

Up to 31 December 2020, UK to EU export statistics were collected via the Intrastat statistical survey, which required traders to declare the value and volume of commodities exported to EU Member States within the relevant month of physical goods movement.

For goods moving from 1 January 2021, GB to EU export statistics are compiled direct from customs export declarations made according to the requirements of the Taxation (Cross Border Trade) Act. The customs declaration requirements are more complex than the single monthly aggregated Intrastat return, and can result in differences between dates of declaration and actual movement of the goods out of the country.

The TIGS compilation methodology relies upon the acceptance date of the customs export declaration for its inclusion within the relevant month of account, rather than the declared physical movement date used from the Intrastat survey.

Intrastat survey returns continue to be collected for goods exported from Northern Ireland to the EU, under the terms of the [Northern Ireland Protocol](#).

Both the GB to EU customs export declaration data and NI Intrastat export (dispatch) data are incorporated into the overall UK to EU export dataset.

As a result of the changes and differences outlined above, there is a break in the timeseries for published UK to EU export statistics from January 2021. These will not be directly comparable to UK to EU export statistics published for previous months and years.

UK imports from EU

UK imports from EU statistics is not impacted by any change in 2021. The Intrastat survey continues to operate for all UK (GB and NI) imports (arrivals) from the EU, to mitigate the effects of staging customs controls, and to comply with the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Figures derived from Intrastat 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 July 2021 Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics are presented by customs declarations and collected by the CHIEF (Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight) system. Declarations collected via the Customs Declarations Service (CDS) are included: for imports from August 2020 month of account; and for exports from December 2020 month of account onwards.

Detailed trade information is presented according to the [Harmonised System \(HS\)](#) nomenclature.

Methodology

The Overseas Trade Statistics Methodology paper (March 2021) is available [here](#). It 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.

From 31 December 2020, the free movement of people and goods and services between the UK and the EU ended. This changed the way HMRC collects trade in goods statistics. The overall UK to EU export dataset will incorporate both GB to EU customs export declaration data and NI Intrastat export (dispatch) data. As a result, there will be a break in the timeseries for published UK to EU export statistics from January 2021. Users should take care when comparing previous months and years.

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.

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 website 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.

National Statistics Publication

HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with countries on 10 September 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 July 2021. 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 2021	13 October 2021
September 2021	11 November 2021
October 2021	10 December 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.

Now that the UK has left the EU, it is important that our statistics continue to be of high quality and are internationally comparable. All releases continue to be produced in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Statistics as well as internationally agreed statistical guidance and standards.