



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 2021.

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

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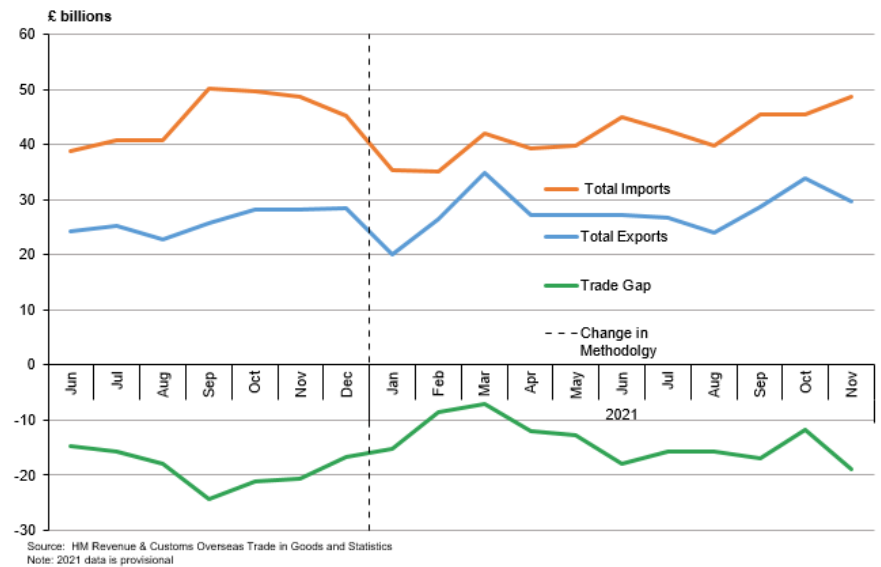
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Trade in Goods, November 2021

- Total **exports** of goods for November 2021 were £29.8 billion. This was down £4.1 billion (12%) compared with last month, but up £1.6 billion (5.6%) compared with November 2020.
- Total **imports** of goods for November 2021 were £48.6 billion. This was up £3.1 billion (6.8%) compared with last month, but down £0.2 billion (0.4%) compared with November 2020.
- The UK was a net importer this month, with **imports** exceeding **exports** by £18.8 billion, widening by £7.1 billion on last month.

Figure 1: Total UK monthly Trade in Goods



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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.

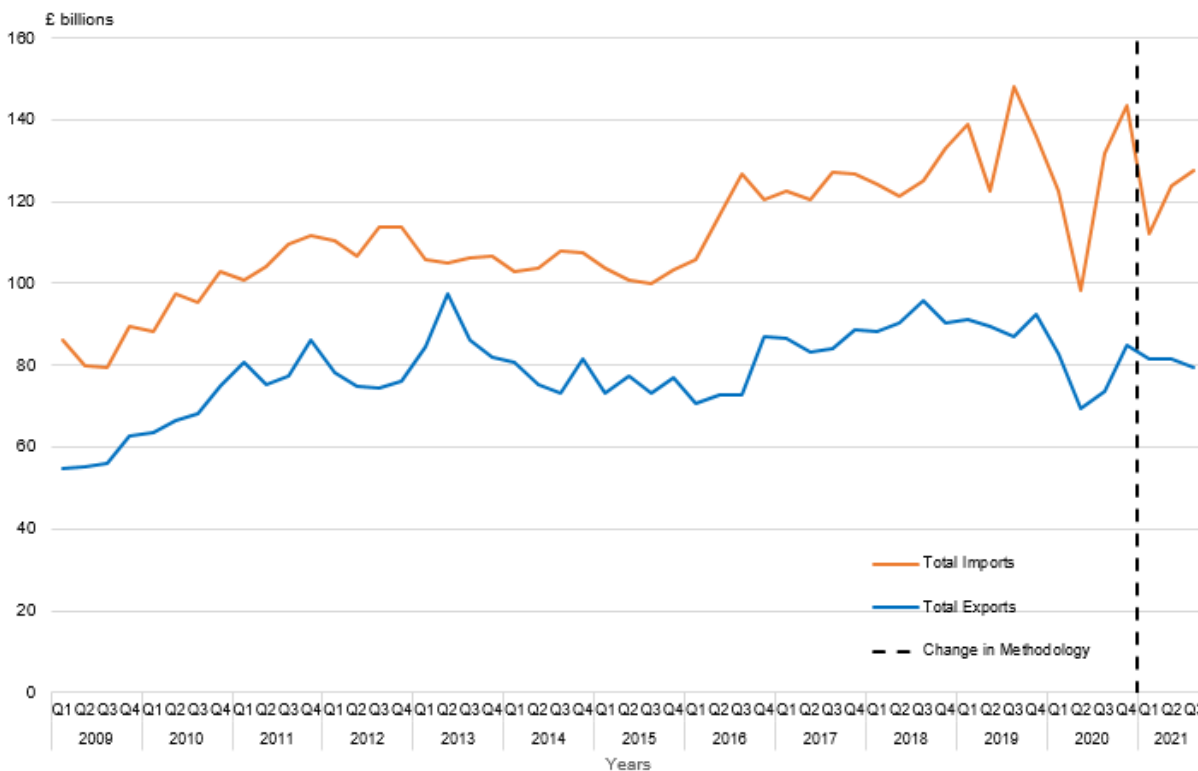
- The total **export** trade for Q3 of 2021 was £79.6 billion, which was an increase of 8.0% compared with £73.7 billion for Q3 of 2020.
- The total **import** trade for Q3 of 2021 was £128 billion, which was a decrease of 3.0% compared with £132 billion for Q3 of 2020.
- There was a trade deficit of £48.1 billion for Q3 of 2021. This was a narrowing of 17% compared with £58.0 billion for Q3 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, recently surpassed by mineral fuels. For **exports**, Mechanical appliances has also predominantly been the largest valued commodity, with occasional peaks for Precious metals.

↑ **Exports up 8.0% on Q3 2020**

↓ **Imports down 3.0% on Q3 2020**

↓ **Trade deficit narrowed by 17% on Q3 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 November 2021 were £15.1 billion. This was a decrease of £4.3 billion (22%) on last month, but an increase of £1.3 billion (9.3%) compared with November 2020.
- **Non-EU imports** for November 2021 were £27.7 billion. This was an increase of £1.8 billion (6.8%) on last month, and an increase of £2.5 billion (10%) compared with November 2020.
- For **non-EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £12.5 billion.

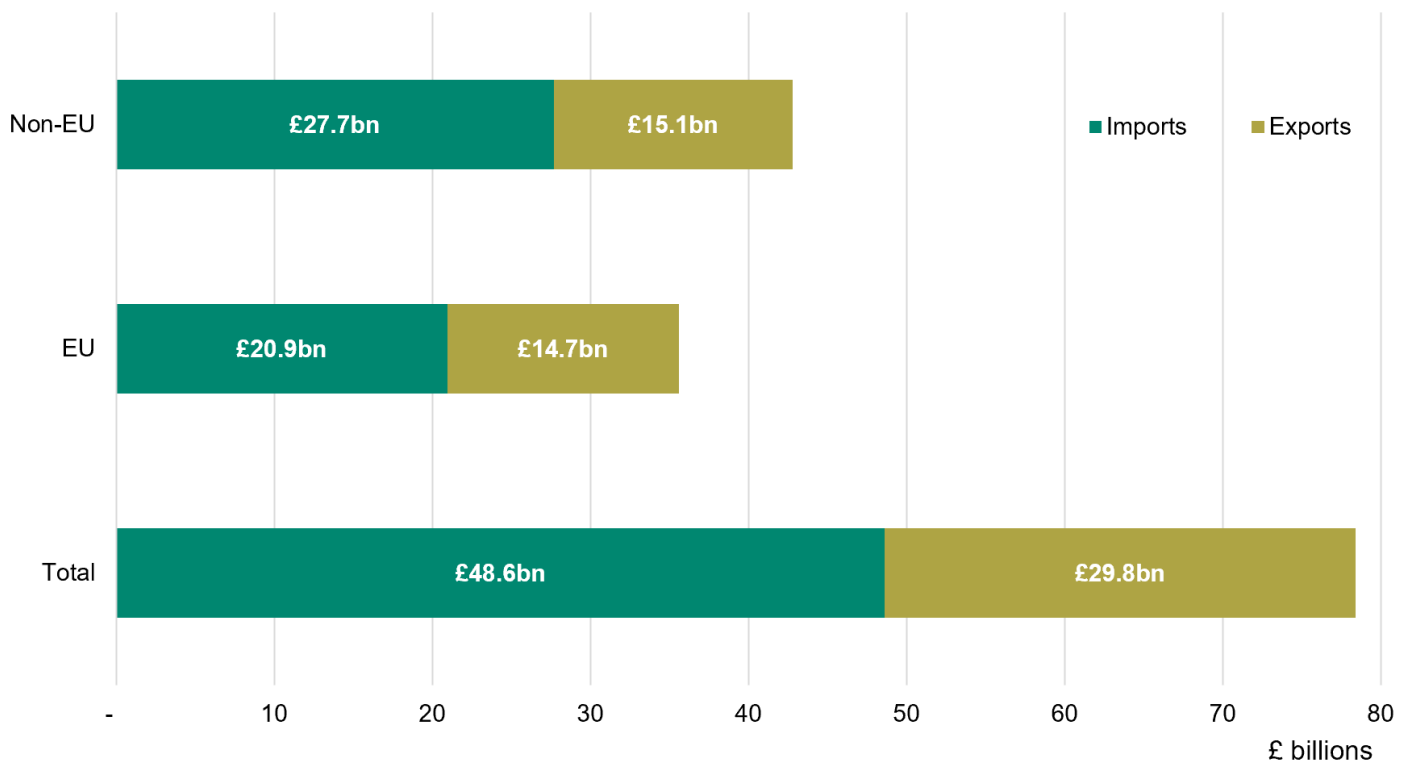
↓ **Non-EU exports down 22% on last month**

EU Trade in Goods:

- **EU exports** for November 2021 were £14.7 billion. This was an increase of £0.3 billion (1.8%) on last month, and an increase of £0.3 billion (2.0%) compared with November 2020.
- **EU imports** for November 2021 were £20.9 billion. This was an increase of £1.3 billion (6.8%) on last month, but a decrease of £2.7 billion (11%) compared with November 2020.
- For **EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £6.3 billion.

↓ **EU imports down 11% on November 2020**

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



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 data is provisional

Exports: Country Analysis

- The USA replaced Switzerland as the largest export partner country despite experiencing the 2nd largest value decrease on last month, down £267 million (6.8%).
- Switzerland experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £3,151 million (67%). In contrast, it experienced the largest value increase on November 2020, up £1,058 million (to more than 3 times the value).
- The Netherlands experienced the 2nd largest value increase on November 2020, up £639 million (34%).
- Ireland experienced the largest value decrease on November 2020, down £607 million (23%).
- Belgium experienced the 3rd largest value increase on November 2020, up £408 million (41%).
- Germany experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on November 2020, down £441 million (14%).
- Canada (ranked 14th) experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £189 million (56%).

↓ **Exports to Switzerland down 67% on last month**

↑ **Exports to the Netherlands up 34% on November 2020**

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

Partner Country	November 2021		October 2021		November 2020	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2021 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2020 (%)	
USA	3,686	3,953	-6.8	3,941	-6.5	
Germany	2,653	2,512	5.6	3,095	-14.3	
Netherlands	2,535	2,770	-8.5	1,896	33.7	
Ireland	2,001	2,089	-4.2	2,608	-23.3	
France	1,795	1,655	8.5	1,560	15.1	
Switzerland	1,531	4,682	-67.3	474	223.2	
Belgium	1,405	1,341	4.8	998	40.8	
China	1,164	1,251	-6.9	1,445	-19.4	
Italy	799	788	1.3	822	-2.8	
Spain	720	694	3.7	852	-15.5	
Others	11,492	12,103	-5.1	10,517	9.3	
Total EU	14,651	14,393	1.8	14,367	2.0	
Total Non-EU	15,131	19,445	-22.2	13,841	9.3	
Total Exports	29,782	33,838	-12.0	28,208	5.6	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 data is provisional

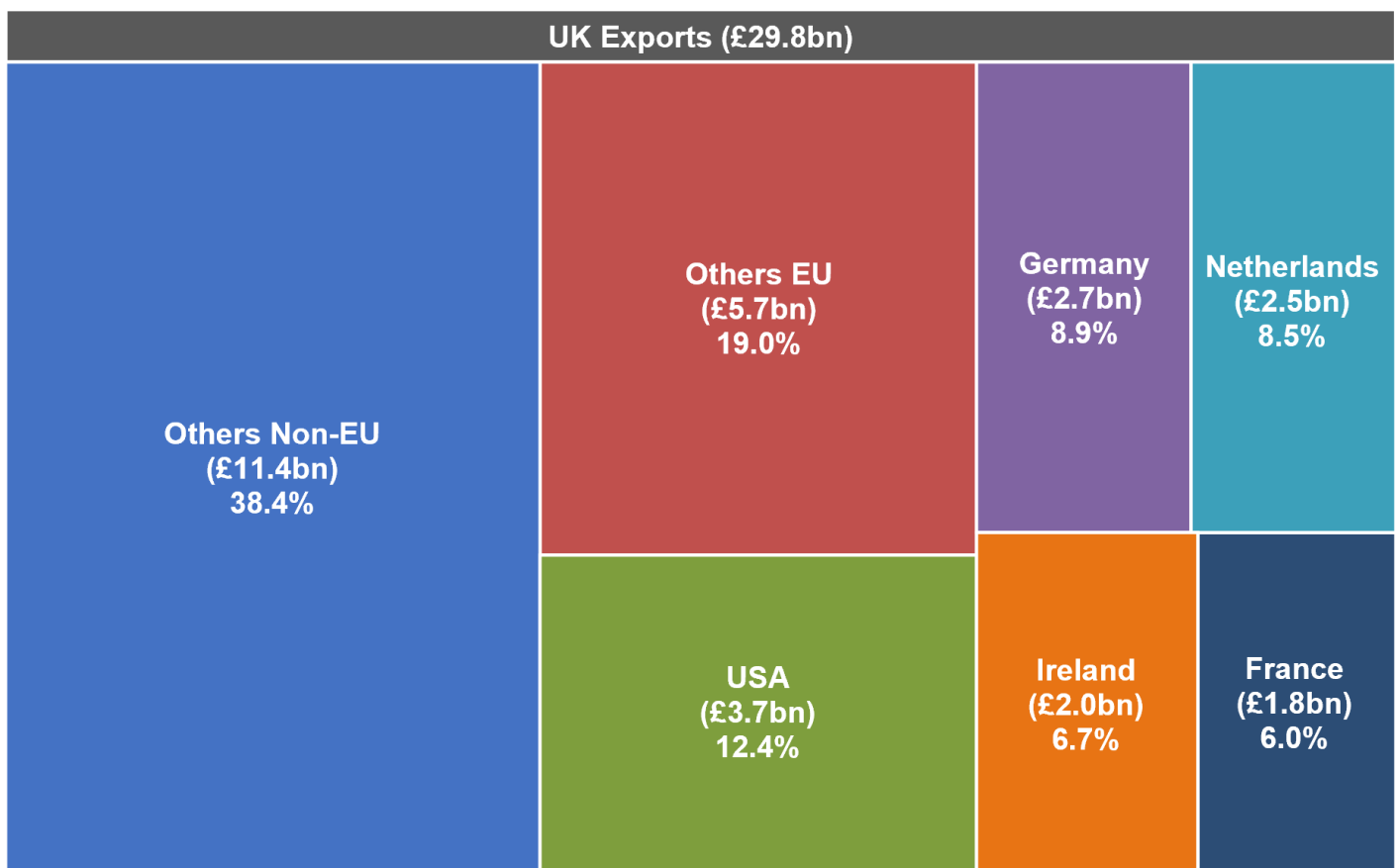
Exports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 export partners accounted for 43% of the total value of goods exported in November 2021. This was a decrease from 46% in November 2020.
- The USA accounted for 12% of the total value of goods exported from the UK. This was a decrease from a 14% share in November 2020.
- Germany had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 8.9% of the total value of goods exported from the UK. This was a decrease from an 11% share in November 2020.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Switzerland fell to 6th place from 1st, while Germany rose to 2nd place from 4th and Spain rose to 10th place from 12th.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with November 2020. Most notably, Switzerland rose to 6th place from 13th, while China fell to 8th place from 6th and Spain fell to 10th place from 8th.

↓ **The USA had a 12% share of total exports in November 2021**

↓ **Germany had an 8.9% share of total exports in November 2021**

Figure 4: Share of UK exports of goods to the top 5 countries, November 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 November 2021, the USA remained the largest export partner country.
- Among the top 10, Switzerland experienced the largest percentage increases on the 3 months to August 2021 and on the 3 months to November 2020, up to almost 4 times the value and up to 4.5 times the value respectively.
- Among the top 10, the Netherlands experienced the 2nd largest percentage increases on the 3 months to August 2021 and on the 3 months to November 2020, up 24% and 46% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Belgium experienced the 3rd largest percentage increases on the 3 months to August 2021 and on the 3 months to November 2020, up 13% and 32% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Germany experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to November 2020, down 15%.
- All of the top 10 export partners experienced an increase on the 3 months to August 2021.
- 7 of the top 10 export partners experienced a decrease on the 3 months to November 2020. Switzerland, the Netherlands, and Belgium were the exceptions.

↑ **Exports to Switzerland up to almost 4 times the value on the 3 months to August 2021**

↑ **Exports to the Netherlands up 46% on the 3 months to November 2020**

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

Partner Country	3 months to Nov 2021		3 months to Aug 2021		3 months to Nov 2020	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on August 2021 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2020 (%)	
USA	10,944	10,500	4.2	10,992	-0.4	
Switzerland	9,151	2,422	277.8	2,071	341.9	
Netherlands	7,721	6,229	24.0	5,274	46.4	
Germany	7,468	7,317	2.1	8,837	-15.5	
Ireland	5,923	5,315	11.5	6,940	-14.6	
France	5,003	4,909	1.9	5,091	-1.7	
Belgium	3,998	3,537	13.1	3,036	31.7	
China	3,595	3,573	0.6	4,004	-10.2	
Italy	2,494	2,226	12.0	2,506	-0.5	
Spain	2,264	2,034	11.3	2,343	-3.4	
Others	33,779	29,969	12.7	31,189	8.3	
Total Exports	92,339	78,029	18.3	82,283	12.2	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 data is provisional

Exports: Commodity Analysis

- Mechanical appliances replaced Precious metals as the largest export commodity. It experienced the 2nd largest value increase on November 2020, up £507 million (12%).
- Precious metals experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £3,677 million (57%). In contrast, it experienced the 3rd largest increase on November 2020, up £483 million (21%).
- Mineral fuels experienced the 3rd largest value decrease on last month, down £284 million (9.5%). Conversely, it experienced the largest value increase on November 2020, up £811 million (43%).
- Motor vehicles experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £392 million (17%). In contrast, it experienced, the largest value decrease on November 2020, down £556 million (17%).
- Organic chemicals (ranked 16th) experienced the 2nd largest value decreases on last month and on November 2020, down £439 million (53%) and £296 million (43%) respectively.
- Pharmaceutical products experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month, and the 4th largest increase on November 2020, up £237 million (14%) and £240 million (14%) respectively.

↓ Exports of Precious metals down 57% on last month

↑ Exports of Mineral fuels up 43% on November 2020

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

Commodity Description	November 2021	October 2021		November 2020	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2021 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2020 (%)
Mechanical appliances	4,666	4,751	-1.8	4,159	12.2
Precious metals	2,757	6,434	-57.1	2,274	21.2
Mineral fuels	2,713	2,997	-9.5	1,902	42.7
Motor vehicles	2,707	2,314	17.0	3,263	-17.0
Pharmaceutical products	1,960	1,723	13.7	1,720	13.9
Electronic equipment	1,792	1,792	0.0	1,850	-3.1
Other products	1,564	1,857	-15.8	869	80.0
Measuring devices and gauges	1,312	1,329	-1.3	1,255	4.5
Aircraft	854	831	2.7	758	12.7
Plastics and plastic products	822	829	-0.8	741	11.0
Others	8,635	8,980	-3.8	9,418	-8.3
Total Exports	29,782	33,838	-12.0	28,208	5.6

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 data is provisional

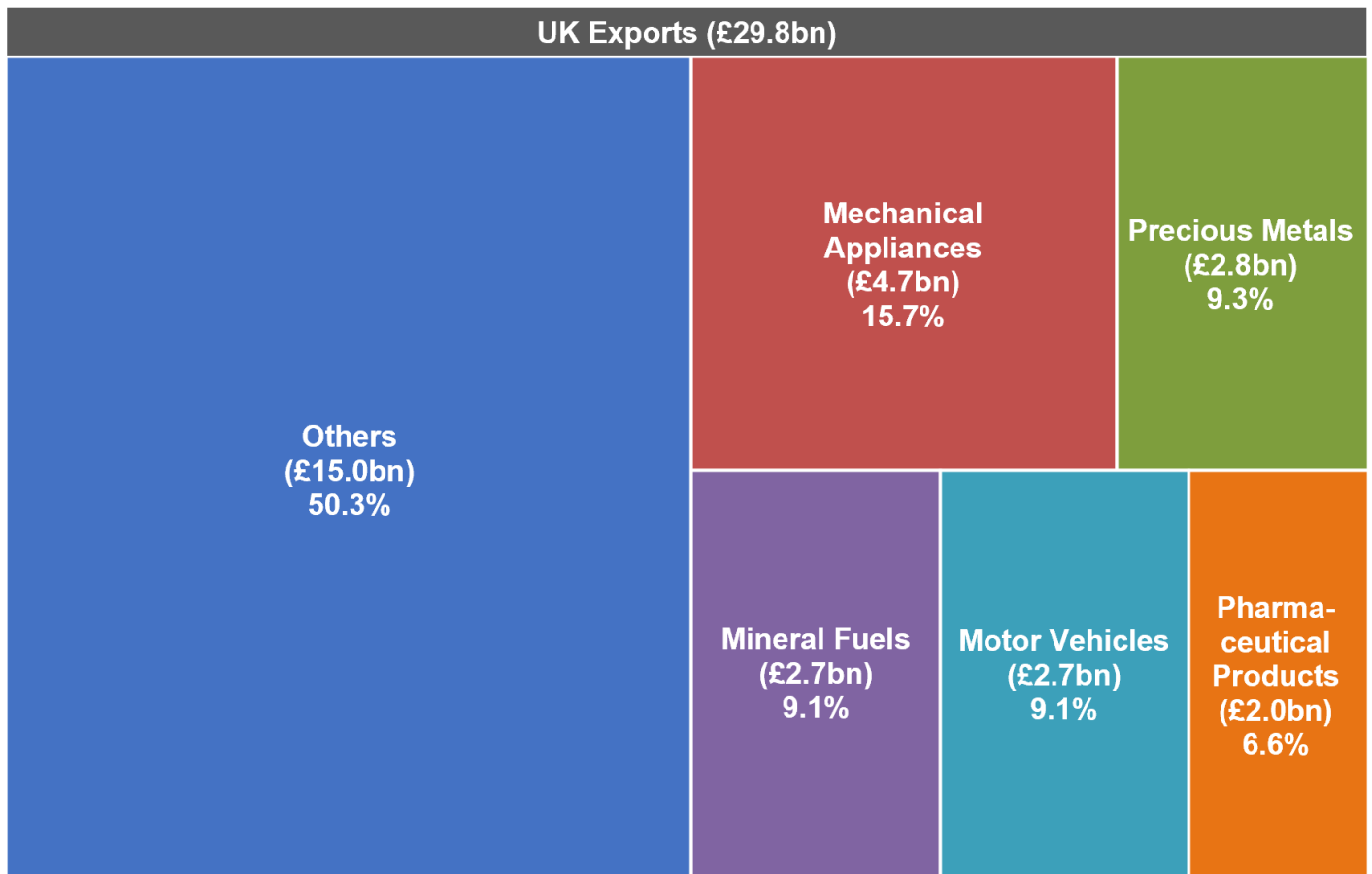
Exports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 export commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 50% of the total value of goods exported in November 2021. This was an increase from a 48% share in November 2020.
- Mechanical appliances accounted for 16% of the total value of goods exported from the UK. This was an increase from a 15% share in November 2020.
- Precious metals had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 9.3% of total exports. This was an increase from an 8.1% share in November 2020.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed order compared with last month. Most notably, Mechanical appliances rose to 1st from 2nd, and Pharmaceutical products rose to 5th place from 7th.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed order compared with November 2020. Most notably, Motor vehicles fell to 4th place from 2nd.

↑ **Mechanical appliances accounted for 16% of total exports in November 2021**

↑ **Precious metals accounted for 9.3% of total exports in November 2021**

Figure 5: Share of UK exports by the top 5 commodities, November 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 November 2021, Mechanical appliances remained as the largest export commodity. It experienced the 3rd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to November 2020, up 15%.
- Among the top 10, Precious metals experienced the largest percentage increases on the 3 months to August 2021 and on the 3 months to November 2020, up 87% and 99% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Mineral fuels experienced the 2nd largest percentage increases on the 3 months to August 2021 and on the 3 months to November 2020, up 38% and 64% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Motor vehicles experienced the 3rd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to August 2021, up 19%. In contrast, it experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to November 2020, down 22%.
- 9 of the top 10 export commodities experienced an increase on the 3 months to August 2021. The exception was Plastics and plastic products.
- 7 of the top 10 export commodities experienced an increase on the 3 months to November 2020. The exceptions were Motor vehicles, Electronic equipment, and Aircraft.

↑ **Precious metals exports up 99% on the 3 months to November 2020**

↑ **Mineral fuels exports up 64% on the 3 months to November 2020**

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

Commodity Description	3 months to Nov 2021		3 months to Aug 2021		3 months to Nov 2020	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on August 2021 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2020 (%)	
Mechanical appliances	13,922	12,260	13.6	12,122	14.9	
Precious metals	13,145	7,031	87.0	6,619	98.6	
Mineral fuels	8,105	5,857	38.4	4,931	64.4	
Motor vehicles	7,355	6,155	19.5	9,485	-22.5	
Electronic equipment	5,289	4,825	9.6	5,385	-1.8	
Pharmaceutical products	5,169	4,773	8.3	4,946	4.5	
Other products	4,820	4,087	17.9	2,409	100.1	
Measuring devices and gauges	3,907	3,756	4.0	3,671	6.4	
Aircraft	2,455	2,275	7.9	2,534	-3.1	
Plastics and plastic products	2,418	2,482	-2.6	2,214	9.2	
Others	25,754	24,527	5.0	27,967	-7.9	
Total Exports	92,339	78,029	18.3	82,283	12.2	

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 Switzerland on last month was driven by Precious metals, down £3,094 million (73%). The increase on November 2020 was also led by Precious metals, up £1,045 million (to more than 9 times the value).
- The decrease in exports to Ireland on November 2020 was led by Mechanical appliances and Pharmaceutical products, down £244 million (51%) and £199 million (60%) respectively.
- The decrease in exports to Germany on November 2020 was led by Precious metals, down £184 million (59%).

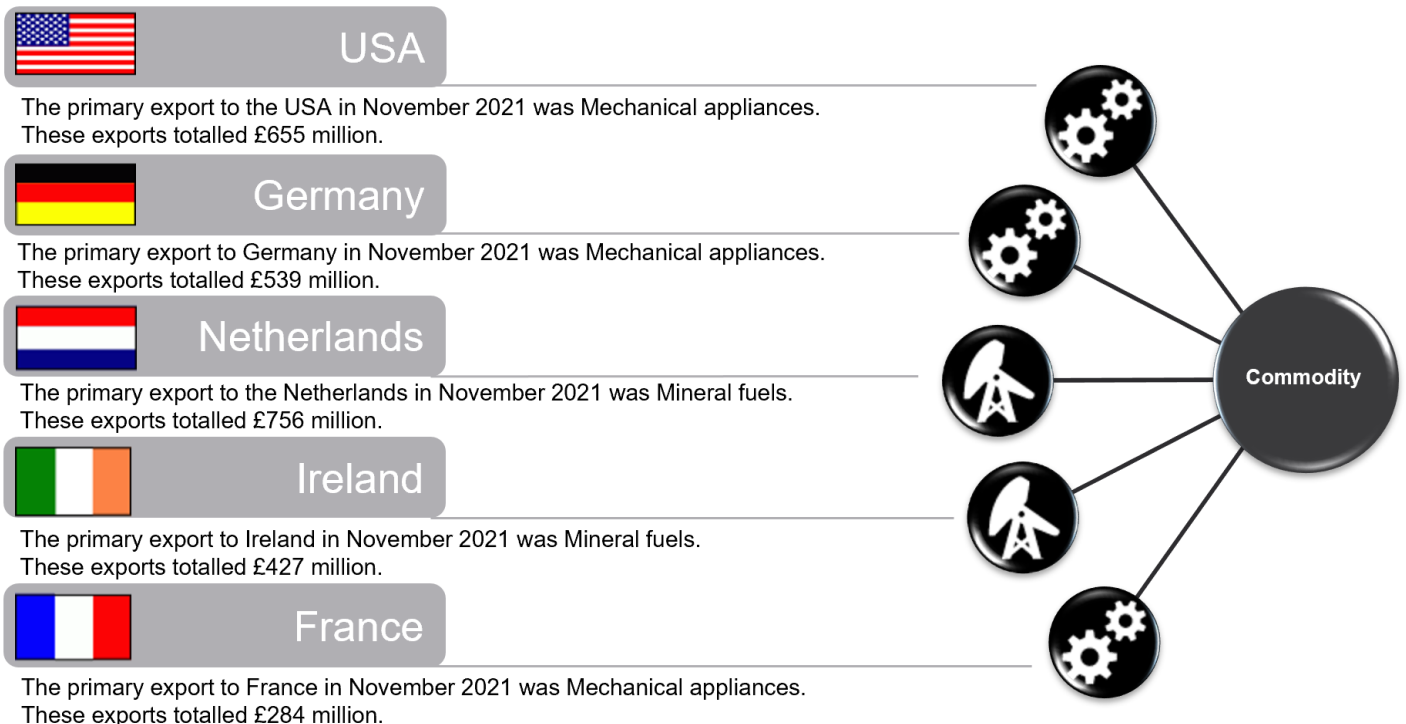
Commodity to country

- The increase in exports of Mechanical appliances on November 2020 was led by Singapore and Germany, up £167 million (to 3.5 times the value) and £166 million (45%) respectively.
- The decrease in exports of Mineral fuels on last month was led by the Netherlands, down £434 million (36%). The increase on November 2020 was led by Ireland and Belgium, up £293 million (to more than 3 times the value), and £266 million (to almost 4 times the value) respectively.
- The increase in exports of Motor vehicles on last month was led by Germany and France, up £61 million (29%) and £51 million (37%) respectively. The decrease on November 2020 was led by the USA, down £205 million (29%).
- The decreases in exports of Organic chemicals on last month and on November 2020 was led by the USA, down £289 million (85%) and £235 million (82%) respectively.

↓ Exports of Precious metals to Switzerland down 73% on last month

↑ Exports of Mineral fuels to Ireland up to more than 3 times the value on November 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, experiencing the largest value increase on last month and the 3rd largest value increase on November 2020, up £1,231 million (23%) and £364 million (5.8%).
- Norway had the largest value increase on November 2020, up £2,599 million (to more than 3 times the value).
- Germany had the largest value decrease on November 2020, down £948 million (16%).
- Australia (ranked 40th) had the 2nd largest value decrease on November 2020, down £833 million (82%).
- The USA had the largest value decrease on last month and the 3rd largest value decrease on November 2020, down £320 million (8.4%) and £630 million (15%) respectively.
- Ireland had the 2nd largest value increase on last month, up £546 million (51%).

↑ Imports from China up 23% on last month

↓ Imports from Germany down 16% on November 2020

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

Partner Country	November 2021		October 2021		November 2020	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2021 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2020 (%)	
China	6,599	5,368	22.9	6,235	5.8	
Germany	4,853	4,774	1.6	5,801	-16.3	
Norway	3,715	3,597	3.3	1,116	232.9	
USA	3,472	3,793	-8.4	4,103	-15.4	
Netherlands	3,265	2,878	13.5	3,652	-10.6	
Belgium	2,163	2,130	1.5	2,344	-7.7	
France	1,939	2,060	-5.9	2,298	-15.6	
Russia	1,873	1,820	2.9	2,062	-9.2	
Ireland	1,622	1,075	50.8	1,544	5.1	
Italy	1,602	1,597	0.3	1,792	-10.6	
Others	17,508	16,437	6.5	17,838	-1.9	
Total EU	20,946	19,617	6.8	23,659	-11.5	
Total Non-EU	27,664	25,912	6.8	25,126	10.1	
Total Imports	48,610	45,529	6.8	48,785	-0.4	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 data is provisional

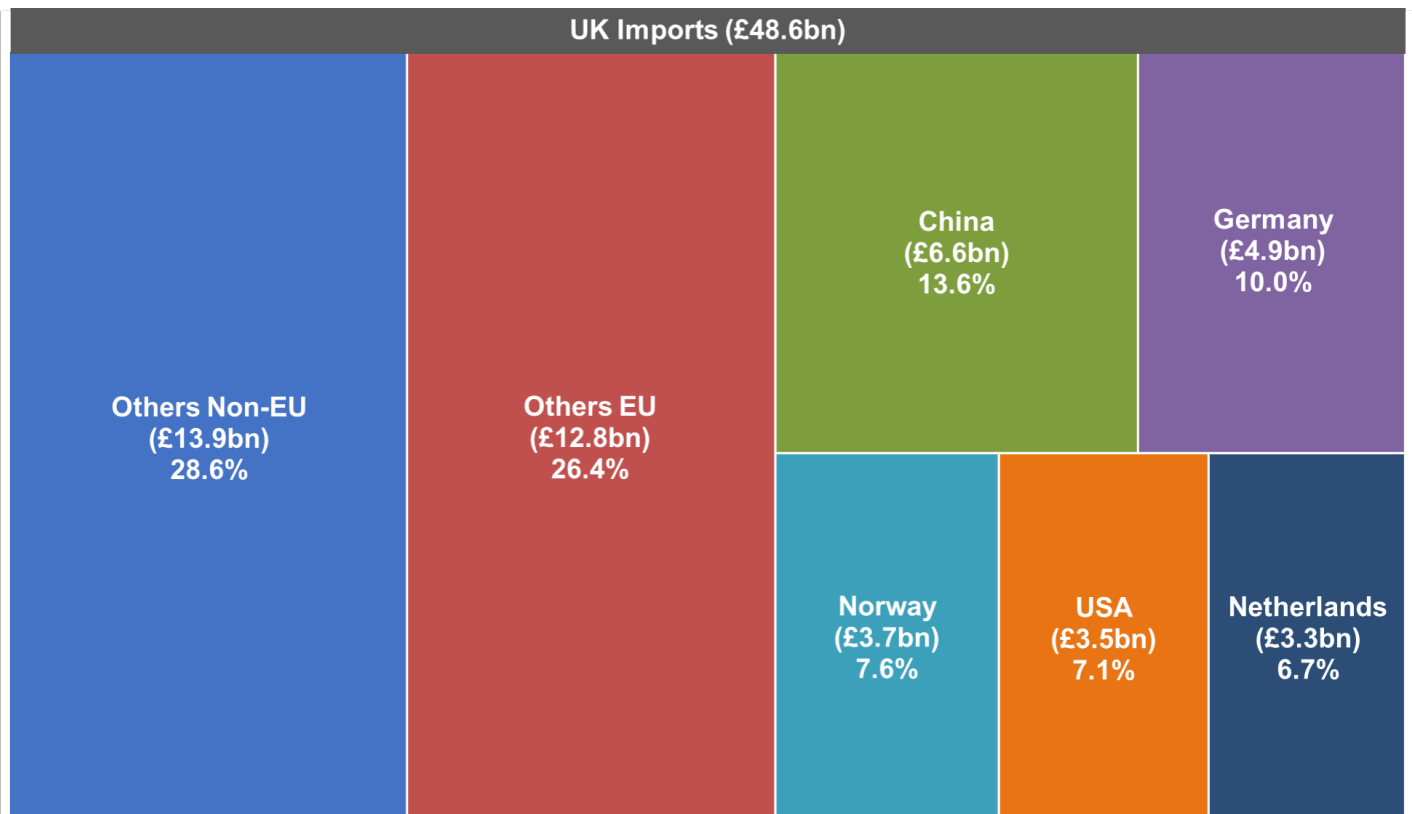
Imports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 import partners accounted for 45% of the total value of goods imported in November 2021. This was a decrease of less than 1 percentage point on November 2020.
- China accounted for 14% of the total value of goods imported to the UK. This was an increase from a 13% share in November 2020.
- Germany had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 10%. This was a decrease from a 12% share in November 2020.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Ireland rose to 9th place from 12th, while Turkey fell to 12th place from 10th.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with November 2020. Most notably, Norway rose to 3rd place from 13th, while Canada fell to 13th place from 9th and Italy fell to 10th place from 8th.

↓ **The top 5 partners accounted for 45% of total imports in November 2021**

↑ **China accounted for 14% of total imports in November 2021**

Figure 7: Share of UK imports of goods from the top 5 countries, November 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 November 2021, China remained the largest import partner country. Among the top 10, it experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to August 2021, up 22%.
- Among the top 10, Norway experienced the largest percentage increases on the 3 months to August 2021 and on the 3 months to November 2020, up 92% and up to more than 3 times the value respectively.
- Among the top 10, Russia experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to November 2020, down 32%.
- Among the top 10, Germany experienced the 2nd largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to November 2020, down 17%.
- 9 of the top 10 countries experienced an increase on the 3 months to August 2021. The exception was the USA.
- 9 of the top 10 countries experienced a decrease on the 3 months to November 2020. The exception was Norway.

↑ Imports from Norway up 92% on the 3 months to August 2021

↓ Imports from Russia down 32% on the 3 months to November 2020

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

Partner Country	3 months to Nov 2021		3 months to Aug 2021		3 months to Nov 2020	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on August 2021 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2020 (%)	
China	18,143	14,907	21.7	18,702	-3.0	
Germany	14,387	13,615	5.7	17,287	-16.8	
USA	11,014	11,172	-1.4	11,909	-7.5	
Norway	9,930	5,172	92.0	3,072	223.2	
Netherlands	9,146	7,796	17.3	9,966	-8.2	
Belgium	6,416	5,886	9.0	6,753	-5.0	
France	6,066	5,598	8.4	6,826	-11.1	
Russia	5,043	4,984	1.2	7,373	-31.6	
Italy	4,773	4,463	6.9	5,173	-7.7	
Ireland	3,982	3,675	8.3	4,000	-0.4	
Others	50,785	49,927	1.7	57,407	-11.5	
Total_Imports	139,684	127,195	9.8	148,467	-5.9	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 data is provisional

Imports: Commodity Analysis

- Mineral fuels remained the largest import commodity. It experienced the largest value increase on November 2020, up £4,363 million (to 3 times the value).
- Precious metals experienced the largest value decrease on November 2020, down £2,967 million (41%).
- Electronic equipment experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month, up £425 million (10%). Conversely, it experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on November 2020, down £693 million (13%).
- Motor vehicles experienced the 3rd largest value increase on last month, up £312 million (7.5%). In contrast, it experienced the 3rd largest value decrease on November 2020, down £554 million (11%).
- Organic chemicals experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £442 million (78%).
- Mechanical appliances experienced the largest value decrease on last month and the 4th largest value decrease on November 2020, down £111 million (2.2%) and £473 million (8.7%) respectively.

↓ Imports of Precious metals down 41% on November 2020

↑ Imports of Organic chemicals up 78% on last month

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

Commodity Description	November 2021	October 2021		November 2020	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on October 2021 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2020 (%)
Mineral fuels	6,473	6,187	4.6	2,110	206.8
Mechanical appliances	4,975	5,086	-2.2	5,448	-8.7
Electronic equipment	4,499	4,074	10.4	5,192	-13.3
Motor vehicles	4,484	4,172	7.5	5,038	-11.0
Precious metals	4,296	4,226	1.7	7,263	-40.9
Pharmaceutical products	1,899	1,833	3.6	2,117	-10.3
Plastics and plastic products	1,429	1,349	5.9	1,385	3.2
Measuring devices and gauges	1,189	1,097	8.4	1,471	-19.2
Knitwear	1,013	899	12.7	878	15.3
Organic chemicals	1,012	570	77.6	871	16.2
Others	17,342	16,037	8.1	17,012	1.9
Total Imports	48,610	45,529	6.8	48,785	-0.4

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 data is provisional

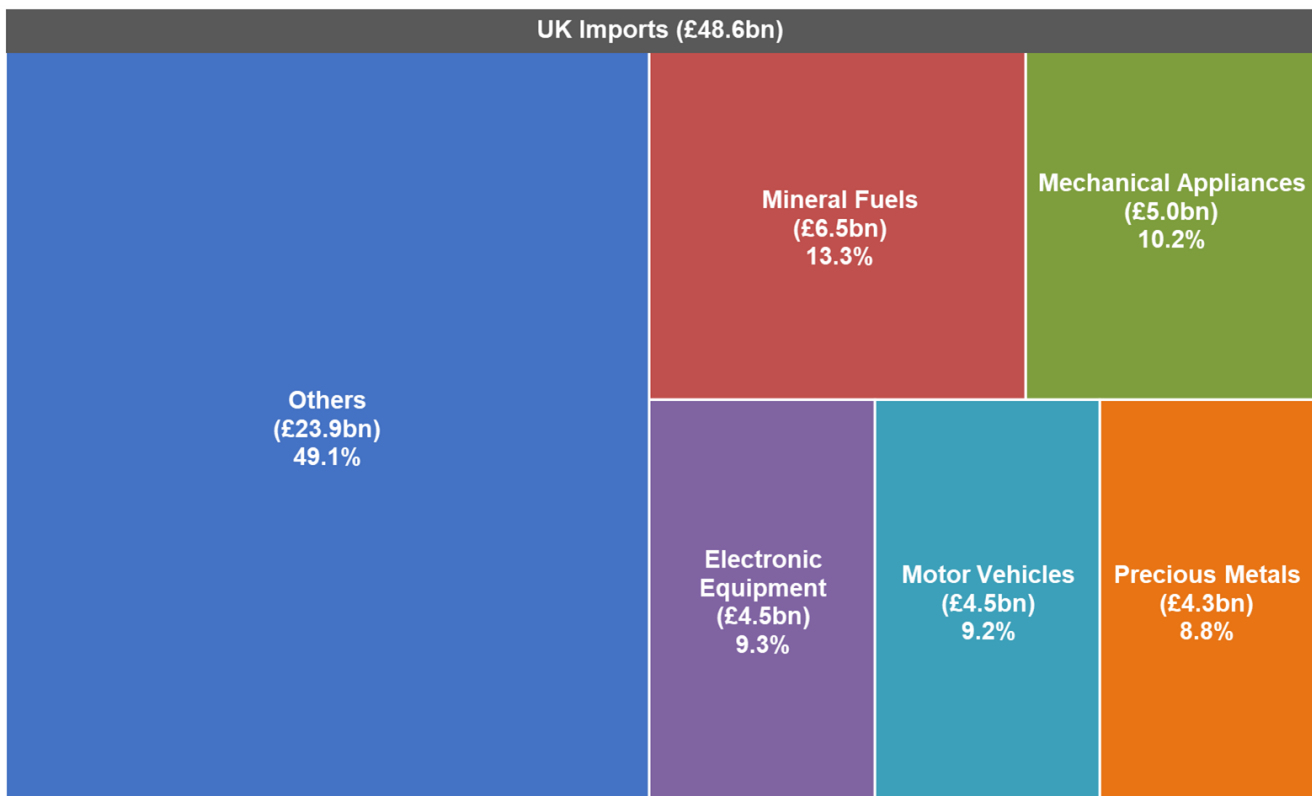
Imports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 import commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 51% of the total value of goods imported in November 2021. This was a decrease of less than 1 percentage point on November 2020.
- Mineral fuels accounted for 13% of the total value of goods imported to the UK. This was an increase from a 4.3% share in November 2020.
- Mechanical appliances had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for a 10% share. This was a decrease from an 11% share in November 2020.
- The top 10 commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Electronic equipment rose to 3rd place from 5th and Organic chemicals rose to 10th place from 19th.
- The top 10 commodities (ranked by value) changed order compared with November 2020. Most notably, Mineral fuels rose to 1st place from 6th, while Precious metals fell to 5th place from 1st.

↓ **The top 5 import commodities accounted for 51% of total imports in November 2021**

↑ **Mineral fuels accounted for 13% of total imports in November 2021**

Figure 8: Share of UK imports for the top 5 commodities, November 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 November 2021, Mineral fuels replaced as Precious metals as the largest import commodity. Among the top 10, it experienced the largest percentage increases on the 3 months to August 2021 and on the 3 months to November 2020, up 65% and up to more than 2.5 times the value respectively.
- Among the top 10, Precious metals experienced the largest percentage decreases on the 3 months to August 2021 and on the 3 months to November 2020, down 31% and 54% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Knitwear experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to August 2021, up 34%.
- Among the top 10, Measuring devices and gauges experienced the 2nd largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to November 2020, down 21%.
- 8 of the top 10 commodities experienced an increase on the 3 months to August 2021. The exceptions were Precious metals and Furniture and light fittings.
- 6 of the top 10 commodities experienced decreases on the 3 months to November 2020. The exceptions were Mineral fuels, Mechanical appliances, Pharmaceutical products, and Furniture and light fittings.

↑ Imports of Mineral fuels up 65% on the 3 months to August 2021

↓ Imports of Precious metals down 54% on the 3 months to November 2020

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

Commodity Description	3 months to Nov 2021		3 months to Aug 2021		3 months to Nov 2020	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on August 2021 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2020 (%)	
Mineral fuels	17,671	10,711	65.0	6,220	184.1	
Mechanical appliances	15,296	14,363	6.5	14,822	3.2	
Precious metals	12,993	18,840	-31.0	28,417	-54.3	
Motor vehicles	12,933	11,008	17.5	14,757	-12.4	
Electronic equipment	12,918	10,669	21.1	13,232	-2.4	
Pharmaceutical products	5,697	4,862	17.2	5,651	0.8	
Plastics and plastic products	4,209	4,113	2.3	4,311	-2.4	
Measuring devices and gauges	3,474	3,465	0.2	4,406	-21.2	
Knitwear	2,807	2,092	34.2	2,963	-5.3	
Furniture and light fittings	2,739	2,751	-0.4	2,455	11.6	
Others	48,949	44,321	10.4	51,232	-4.5	
Total Imports	139,684	127,195	9.8	148,467	-5.9	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2021 data is provisional

Imports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

Country to commodity:

- The increase in imports from China on last month was driven by Electronic equipment, up £348 million (32%). The increase on November 2020 was driven by Motor vehicles, up £304 million (to more than 3.5 times the value).
- The increase in imports from Ireland on last month was dominated by Organic chemicals, up £420 million (from £35.6 million).
- The decrease in imports from the USA on last month was driven by Precious metals and Mechanical appliances, down £152 million (20%) and £139 million (21%) respectively. The decrease on November 2020 was driven by the same commodities, down £387 million (38%) and £332 million (39%) respectively.

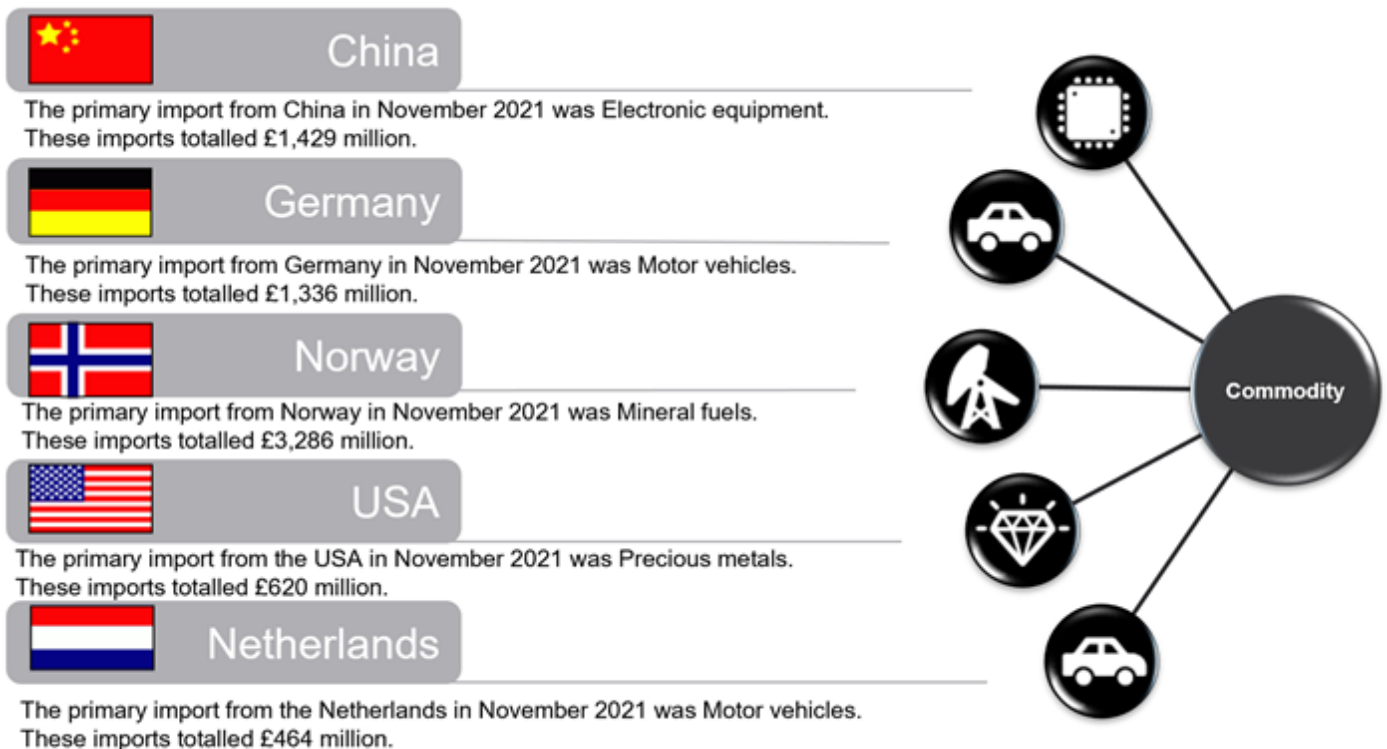
↑ Imports of Organic chemicals from Ireland up £420 million from £35.6 million last month

Commodity to country:

- The decrease in imports of Precious metals on November 2020 was driven by Australia, Canada, and Hong Kong, down £837 million (to £2.6 million), £685 million (53%) and £457 million (89%) respectively.
- The increase in imports of Mineral fuels on November 2020 was dominated by Norway, up £2,383 million (to more than 3.5 times the value).
- The increase in imports of Motor vehicles on last month was driven by the Netherlands and China, up £245 million (more than doubling in value) and £244 million (to 2.5 times the value) respectively. The decrease on November 2020 was driven by Germany and Belgium, down £402 million (23%) and £362 million (53%) respectively.

↑ Imports of Mineral fuels from Norway up to more than 3.5 times the value on November 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 Trade in Goods Statistics (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 November 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 14 January 2022 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 2021. At the same time revisions for all previously published non-EU and EU data for 2021 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 2021	11 February 2022
January 2022	11 March 2022
February 2022	11 April 2022

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.