



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 August 2022.

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
- August 2022 Exports p.4

Country analysis

Country analysis – 3 months

Commodity analysis

Commodity analysis – 3 months

Combined analysis

- August 2022 Imports p.11

Country analysis

Country analysis – 3 months

Commodity analysis

Commodity analysis – 3 months

Combined analysis

- Methodology notes p.18



Coverage: United Kingdom
 Theme: Business and Energy
 Released: 12 October 2022
 Next release: 11 November 2022

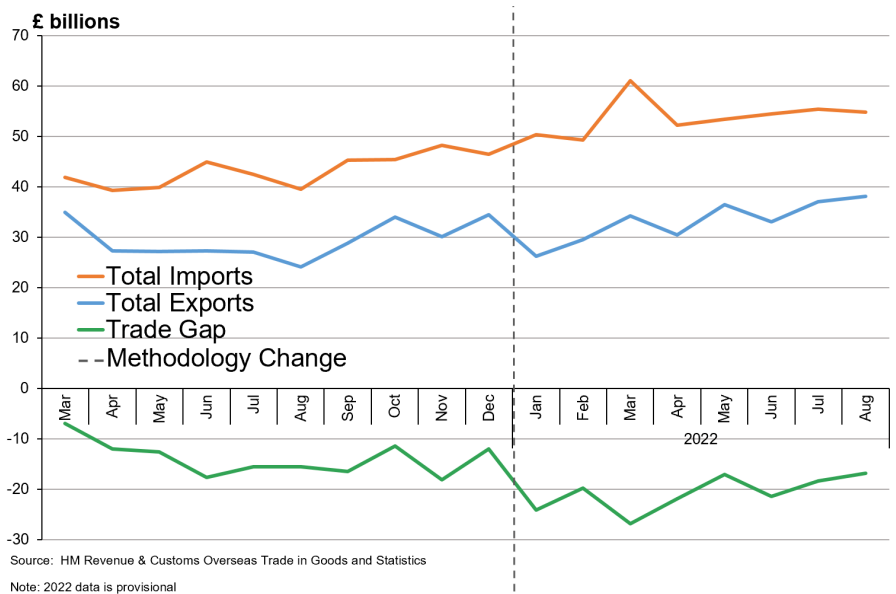
Trade in Goods, August 2022

From January 2022, the UK from EU import dataset incorporates both the GB from EU customs import declaration data and NI Intrastat import (arrival) data. This creates a break in the time series, users should take care when making comparisons with months and years prior to 2022.

A full explanation of data sources used throughout this release can be found on page 18.

- Total **exports** of goods for August 2022 were £38.1 billion. This was up £1.0 billion (2.7%) compared with last month, and up £14.0 billion (58%) compared with August 2021.
- Total **imports** of goods for August 2022 were £54.9 billion. This was down £0.5 billion (1.0%) compared with last month, but up £15.3 billion (39%) compared with August 2021.
- The UK was a net importer this month, with **imports** exceeding **exports** by £16.8 billion, narrowing by £1.5 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. Imports have experienced large quarterly fluctuations since Q1 of 2019, peaking in Q1 of 2022. Exports peaked in Q2 of 2013, in Q4 of 2021, and again in Q2 of 2022, with a steady rise from Q2 of 2017 to Q3 of 2018. Q2 of 2020 saw the lowest quarterly exports value since Q3 of 2010.

Users should note that data sources have changed for both imports and exports (see page 18 for full details), and should therefore apply caution to making comparisons across methodologies.

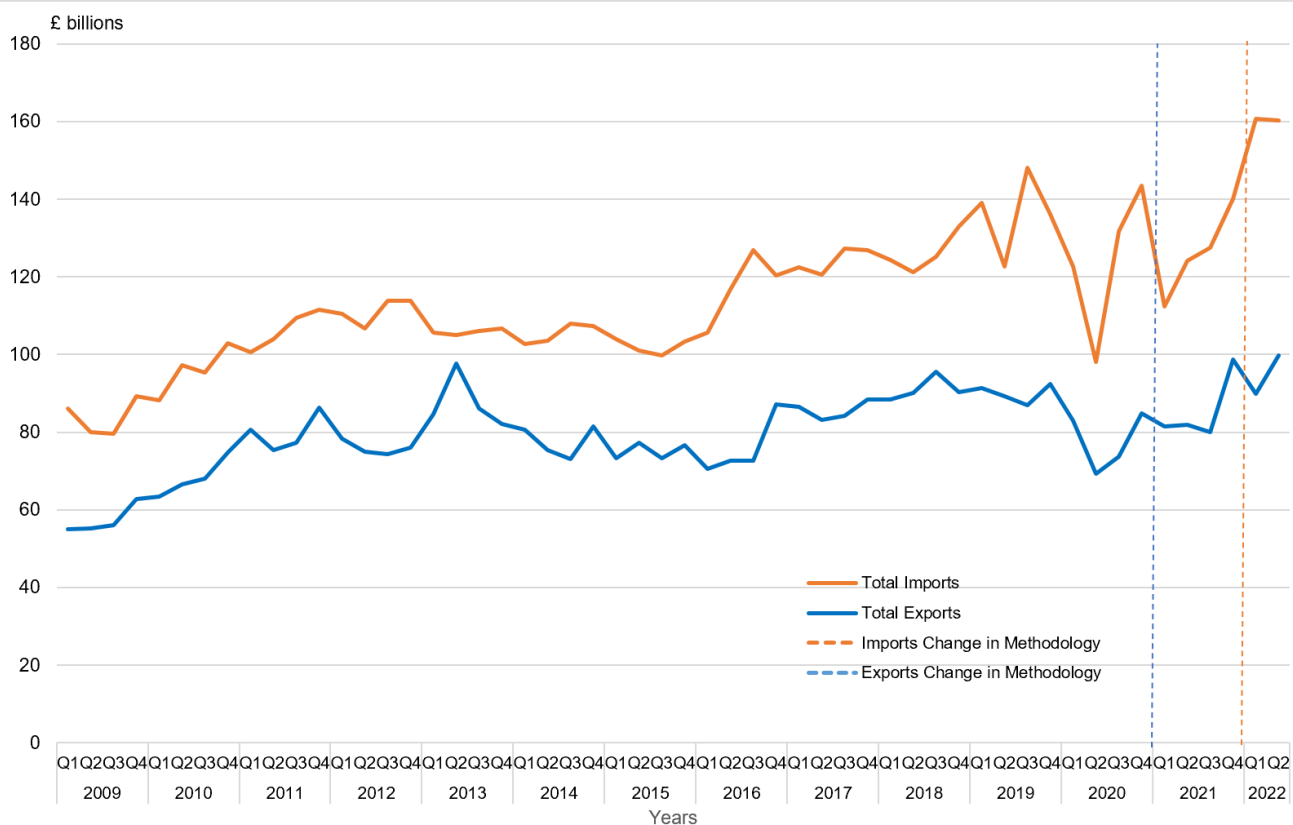
- The total **export** trade for Q2 of 2022 was £100 billion, which was an increase of 22% compared with £81.9 billion for Q2 of 2021.
- The total **import** trade for Q2 of 2022 was £160 billion, which was an increase of 29% compared with £124 billion for Q2 of 2021.
- There was a trade deficit of £60.3 billion for Q2 of 2022. This was a widening of 43% compared with £42.2 billion for Q2 of 2021.
- For many years Germany has been our largest trading import partner by value, with a recent peak from 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 generally been the largest commodity by value, with occasional peaks for Precious metals.

↑ Exports up 22% on Q2 2021

↑ Imports up 29% on Q2 2021

↑ Trade deficit widened by 43% on Q2 2021

Figure 2: Quarterly UK Trade in Goods, 2009 – 2022



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2022 data is provisional

Non-EU & EU Trade in Goods

Non-EU Trade in Goods:

- **Non-EU exports** for August 2022 were £21.6 billion. This was an increase of £2.1 billion (11%) on last month, and an increase of £9.2 billion (75%) compared with August 2021.
- **Non-EU imports** for August 2022 were £30.0 billion. This was an increase of £1.5 billion (5.2%) on last month and an increase of £7.4 billion (33%) compared with August 2021.
- For **non-EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £8.4 billion.

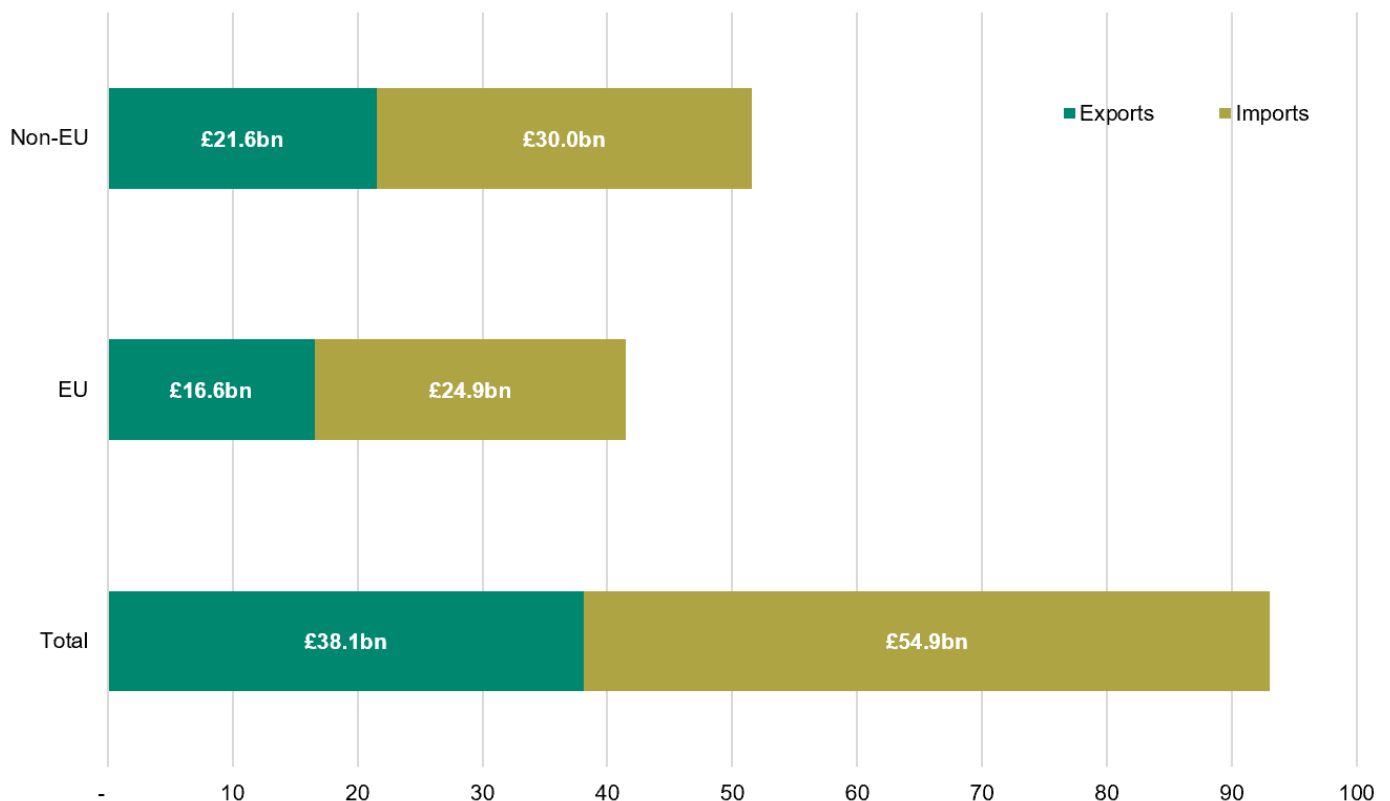
↑ **Non-EU exports up 75% on August 2021**

EU Trade in Goods:

- **EU exports** for August 2022 were £16.6 billion. This was a decrease of £1.1 billion (6.2%) on last month, but an increase of £4.8 billion (41%) compared with August 2021.
- **EU imports** for August 2022 were £24.9 billion. This was a decrease of £2.0 billion (7.5%) on last month, but an increase of £7.9 billion (47%) compared with August 2021.
- For **EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £8.4 billion.

↑ **EU imports up 47% on August 2021**

Figure 3: Total UK Trade in Goods with EU and Non-EU, August 2022



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2022 data is provisional

Exports: Country Analysis

- The USA remained the largest export partner country. It experienced the 3rd largest value increases on last month and on August 2021, up £600 million (15%) and up £1,373 million (42%) respectively.
- China experienced the largest value increases on last month and on August 2021, up £1,278 million (62%) and up £2,033 million (to 2.5 times the value) respectively.
- Switzerland experienced the 2nd largest value increases on last month and on August 2021, up £832 million (50%) and up £2,027 million (to more than 5 times the value) respectively.
- Hong Kong experienced the 3rd largest value decrease on last month, down £310 million (15%). In contrast, it experienced the 4th largest value increase on August 2021, up £1,240 million (to more than 3 times the value).
- Ireland experienced the 5th largest value increase on August 2021, up £1,128 million (71%).
- The Netherlands experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £452 million (13%). In contrast, it experienced the 6th largest value increase on August 2021, up £828 million (39%).

↑ **Exports to China up 62% on last month**

↑ **Exports to Switzerland up to more than 5 times the value on August 2021**

Table 1: UK exports of goods to the top 10 countries, August 2022

Partner Country	August 2022		July 2022		August 2021	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on July 2022 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on August 2021 (%)	
USA	4,613	4,013	14.9	3,240	42.4	
China	3,337	2,059	62.1	1,304	155.9	
Netherlands	2,971	3,423	-13.2	2,143	38.6	
Ireland	2,725	2,688	1.4	1,597	70.6	
Germany	2,664	2,772	-3.9	2,203	20.9	
Switzerland	2,511	1,679	49.6	483	419.7	
France	2,066	2,430	-15.0	1,392	48.5	
Hong Kong	1,822	2,132	-14.5	582	213.1	
Belgium	1,678	1,559	7.7	1,115	50.5	
India	872	902	-3.4	307	184.3	
Others	12,883	13,472	-4.4	9,772	31.8	
Total EU	16,567	17,663	-6.2	11,779	40.7	
Total Non-EU	21,575	19,467	10.8	12,358	74.6	
Total Exports	38,142	37,129	2.7	24,137	58.0	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2022 data is provisional

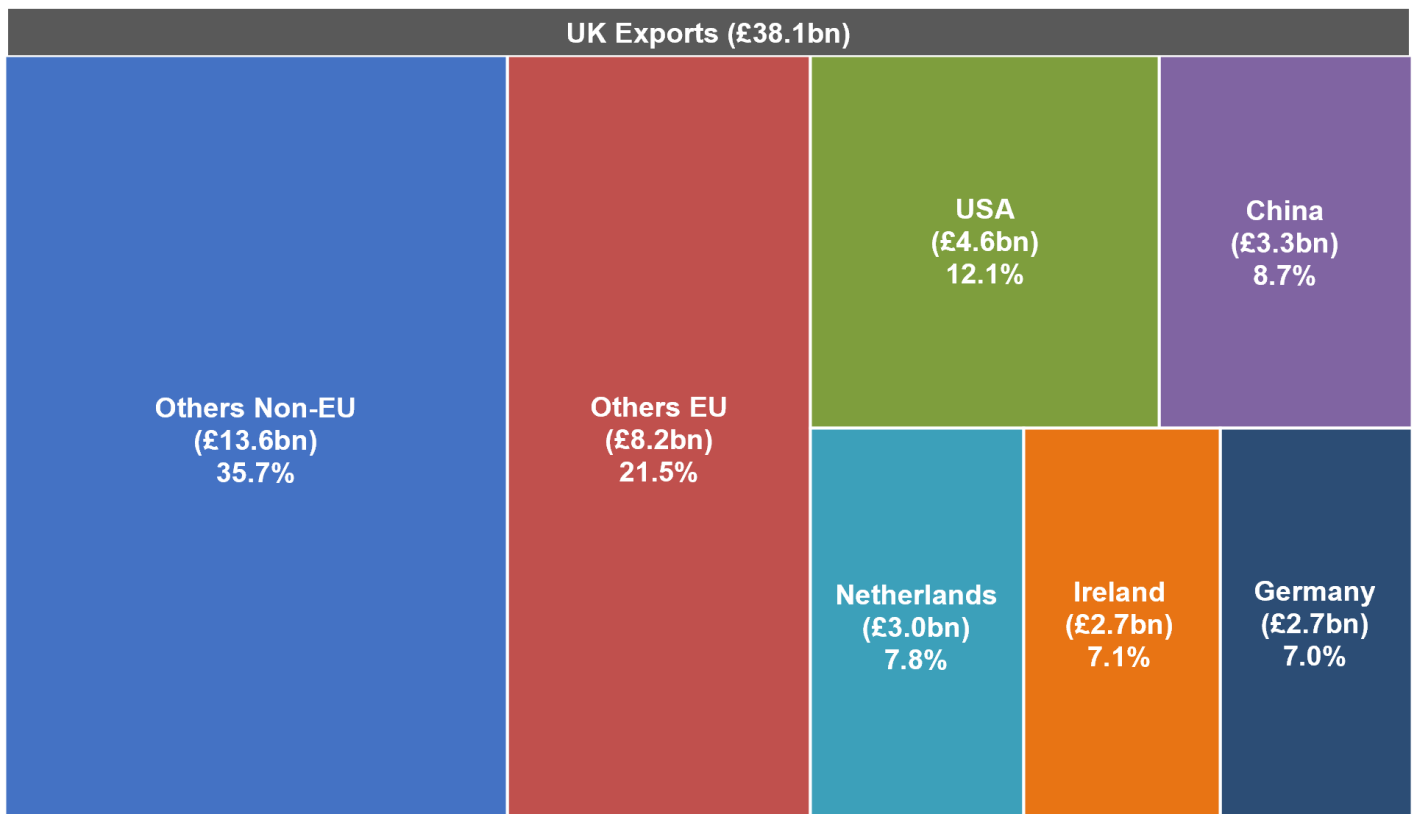
Exports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 export partners accounted for 43% of the total value of goods exported from the UK in August 2022. This was a decrease from 44% in August 2021.
- The USA accounted for 12% of the total value of goods exported from the UK in August 2022. This was a decrease from a 13% share in August 2021.
- China had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 8.7% of the total value of goods exported from the UK in August 2022. This was an increase from a 5.4% share in August 2021.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, China rose to 2nd place from 7th, while Hong Kong fell to 8th place from 6th.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with August 2021. Most notably, Switzerland rose to 6th place from 12th, and India rose to 10th place from 18th, while Germany fell to 5th place from 2nd, and the UAE fell to 11th place from 8th.

↓ **The USA had a 12% share of total exports in August 2022**

↑ **China had an 8.7% share of total exports in August 2022**

Figure 4: Share of UK exports of goods to the top 5 countries, August 2022



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2022 data is provisional

Exports: Country Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to August 2022, the USA remained the largest export partner country.
- Among the top 10, Hong Kong experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to May 2022 and the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to August 2021, up 57% and to 3 times the value respectively.
- Among the top 10, India experienced the 3rd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to May 2022 and the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to August 2021, up 49% and up to 3 times the value respectively.
- Among the top 10, Switzerland experienced the 3rd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to August 2021, more than doubling in value.
- Among the top 10, China experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to May 2022, doubling in value.
- 8 of the top 10 export commodities experienced an increase on the 3 months to May 2022. The USA and Germany were the exceptions.
- All of the top 10 export partners experienced an increase on the 3 months to August 2021.

↑ Exports to Hong Kong up to 3 times the value on the 3 months to August 2021

↑ Exports to China doubled in value on the 3 months to May 2022

Table 2: UK exports of goods to the top 10 countries, 3 months to August 2022

Partner Country	3 months to Aug 2022		3 months to May 2022		3 months to Aug 2021	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on May 2022 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on August 2021 (%)	
USA	12,722	12,947	-1.7	10,500	21.2	
Netherlands	9,429	9,375	0.6	6,523	44.6	
Germany	8,127	9,619	-15.5	7,375	10.2	
Ireland	8,016	7,065	13.5	5,336	50.2	
China	7,319	3,589	103.9	3,573	104.8	
France	6,686	6,258	6.8	4,975	34.4	
Hong Kong	5,434	3,457	57.2	1,753	210.0	
Switzerland	5,298	4,290	23.5	2,422	118.7	
Belgium	4,757	4,480	6.2	3,537	34.5	
India	2,538	1,699	49.4	862	194.6	
Others	38,020	38,380	-0.9	31,667	20.1	
Total Exports	108,346	101,159	7.1	78,523	38.0	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2022 data is provisional

Exports: Commodity Analysis

- Precious metals remained as the largest export commodity. It experienced the largest value increases on last month and on August 2021, up £1,448 million (22%) and up £5,769 million (to 3.5 times the value) respectively.
- Mineral fuels experienced the 2nd largest value increase on August 2021, up £2,733 million (more than doubling in value).
- Mechanical appliances experienced the 3rd largest value increase on August 2021, up £1,777 million (52%).
- Motor vehicles experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £258 million (9.0%). In contrast, it experienced the 4th largest value increase on August 2021, up £1,042 million (67%).
- Pharmaceutical products experienced the 5th largest value increase on August 2021, up £476 million (29%).
- Art and antiques (ranked 13th) experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month, up £273 million (doubling in value).

↑ **Exports of Precious metals up 22% on last month**

↑ **Exports of Mineral fuels more than doubled in value on August 2021**

Table 3: UK exports of goods for the top 10 commodities, August 2022

Commodity Description	August 2022	July 2022		August 2021	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on July 2022 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on August 2021 (%)
Precious metals	8,013	6,564	22.1	2,244	257.0
Mechanical appliances	5,203	5,192	0.2	3,426	51.9
Mineral fuels	4,947	4,873	1.5	2,214	123.4
Motor vehicles	2,597	2,856	-9.0	1,556	67.0
Pharmaceutical products	2,118	2,041	3.8	1,642	29.0
Electronic equipment	1,873	1,991	-5.9	1,543	21.5
Measuring devices and gauges	1,363	1,397	-2.4	1,189	14.7
Aircraft	1,002	811	23.6	582	72.1
Beverages	913	789	15.7	652	39.9
Plastics and plastic products	854	963	-11.4	747	14.3
Others	9,259	9,653	-4.1	8,342	11.0
Total Exports	38,142	37,129	2.7	24,137	58.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2022 data is provisional

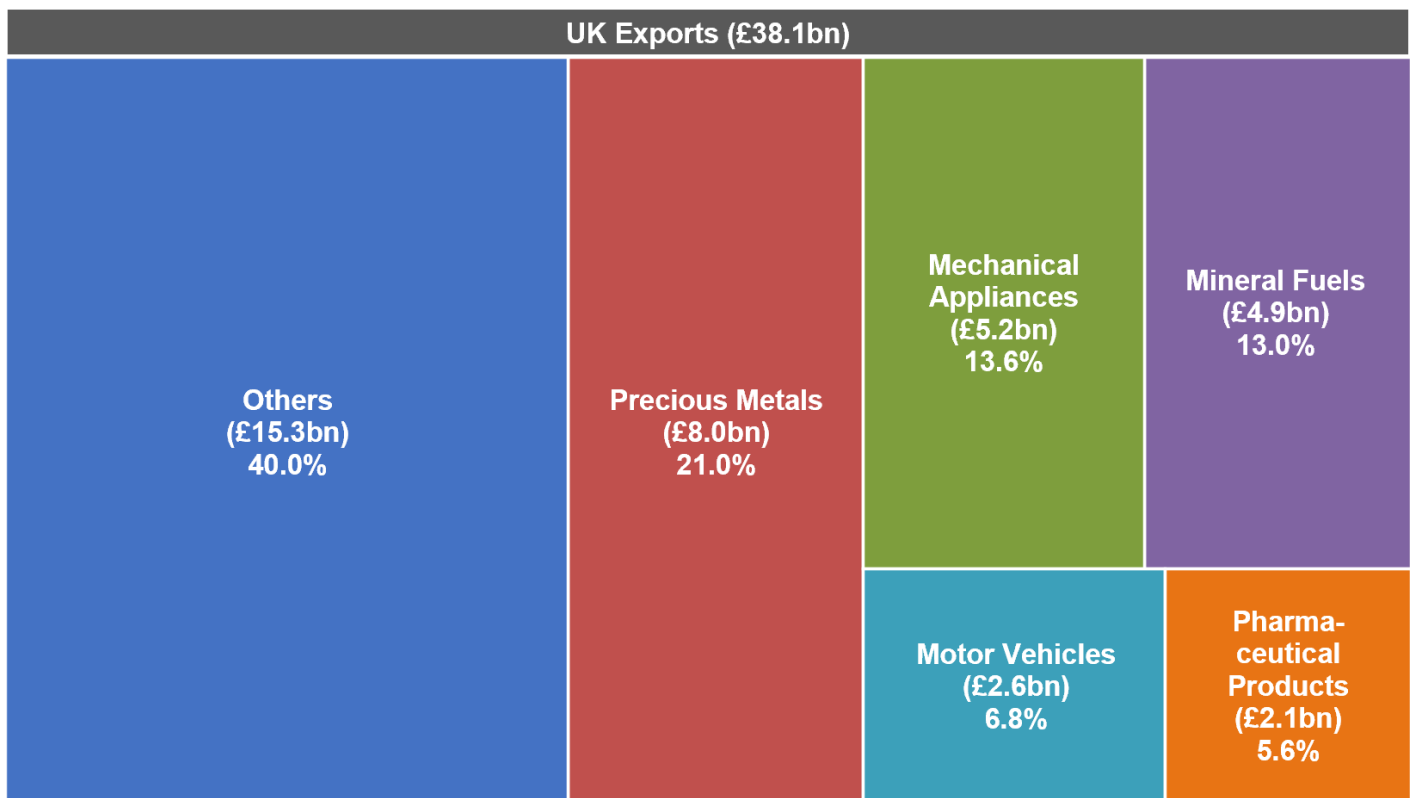
Exports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 export commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 60% of the total value of goods exported from the UK in August 2022. This was an increase from a 46% share in August 2021.
- Precious metals accounted for 21% of the total value of goods exported from the UK in August 2022. This was an increase from a 9.3% share in August 2021.
- Mechanical appliances had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 14% of the total value of goods exported from the UK in August 2022. This was a decrease of less than 1 percentage point on August 2021.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with last month, although the top 7 were unchanged. Most notably, Beverages rose to 9th place from 12th, while Organic chemicals fell to 12th place from 9th.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with August 2021. Most notably, Precious metals rose to 1st place from 2nd, and Aircraft rose to 8th place from 11th.

↑ **Precious metals** accounted for **21% of total exports in August 2022**

↓ **Mechanical appliances** accounted for **14% of total exports in August 2022**

Figure 5: Share of UK exports by the top 5 commodities, August 2022



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2022 data is provisional

Exports: Commodity Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to August 2022, Precious Metals replaced Mechanical appliances as the largest export commodity. It experienced the largest percentage increases on the 3 months to May 2022 and on the 3 months to August 2021, up 39% and up to more than 2.5 times the value respectively.
- Among the top 10, Mineral fuels experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to August 2021, up to more than double the value.
- Among the top 10, Organic chemicals experienced the largest percentage decrease on the three months to May 2022, down 7.8%. In contrast, it experienced the 3rd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to August 2021, up 43%.
- Among the top 10, Pharmaceutical products experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to May 2022, up 14%.
- 8 of the top 10 export commodities experienced an increase on the 3 months to May 2022. The exceptions were Organic chemicals and Plastics & plastic products.
- All of the top 10 export commodities experienced an increase on the 3 months to August 2021.

↑ **Exports of Precious metals up 39% on the 3 months to May 2022**

↑ **Exports of Mineral fuels up to more than double the value on the 3 months to August 2021**

Table 4: UK exports of goods for the top 10 commodities, 3 months to August 2022

Commodity Description	3 months to Aug 2022		3 months to May 2022		3 months to Aug 2021	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on May 2022 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on August 2021 (%)	
Precious metals	18,682	13,426	39.1	7,031	165.7	
Mechanical appliances	15,486	14,708	5.3	12,272	26.2	
Mineral fuels	13,955	12,708	9.8	6,324	120.7	
Motor vehicles	7,889	7,771	1.5	6,155	28.2	
Pharmaceutical products	6,093	5,335	14.2	4,773	27.7	
Electronic equipment	5,704	5,384	5.9	4,831	18.1	
Measuring devices and gauges	4,141	4,017	3.1	3,757	10.2	
Organic chemicals	2,841	3,080	-7.8	1,993	42.6	
Plastics and plastic products	2,739	2,870	-4.6	2,484	10.3	
Aircraft	2,592	2,337	10.9	2,274	14.0	
Others	28,224	29,522	-4.4	26,630	6.0	
Total Exports	108,346	101,159	7.1	78,523	38.0	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2022 data is provisional

Exports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

Country to commodity:

- The increase in exports to the USA on last month was led by Mineral fuels and Art & antiques, up £159 million (to almost 3 times the value) and £152 million (to 2.5 times the value) respectively. The increase on August 2021 was led by Mechanical appliances and Motor vehicles, up £353 million (62%) and up £282 million (77%) respectively.
- The decrease in exports to Hong Kong on last month was led by Precious metals, down £318 million (19%).
- The decrease in exports to the Netherlands on last month was led by Mineral fuels, down £331 million (19%).

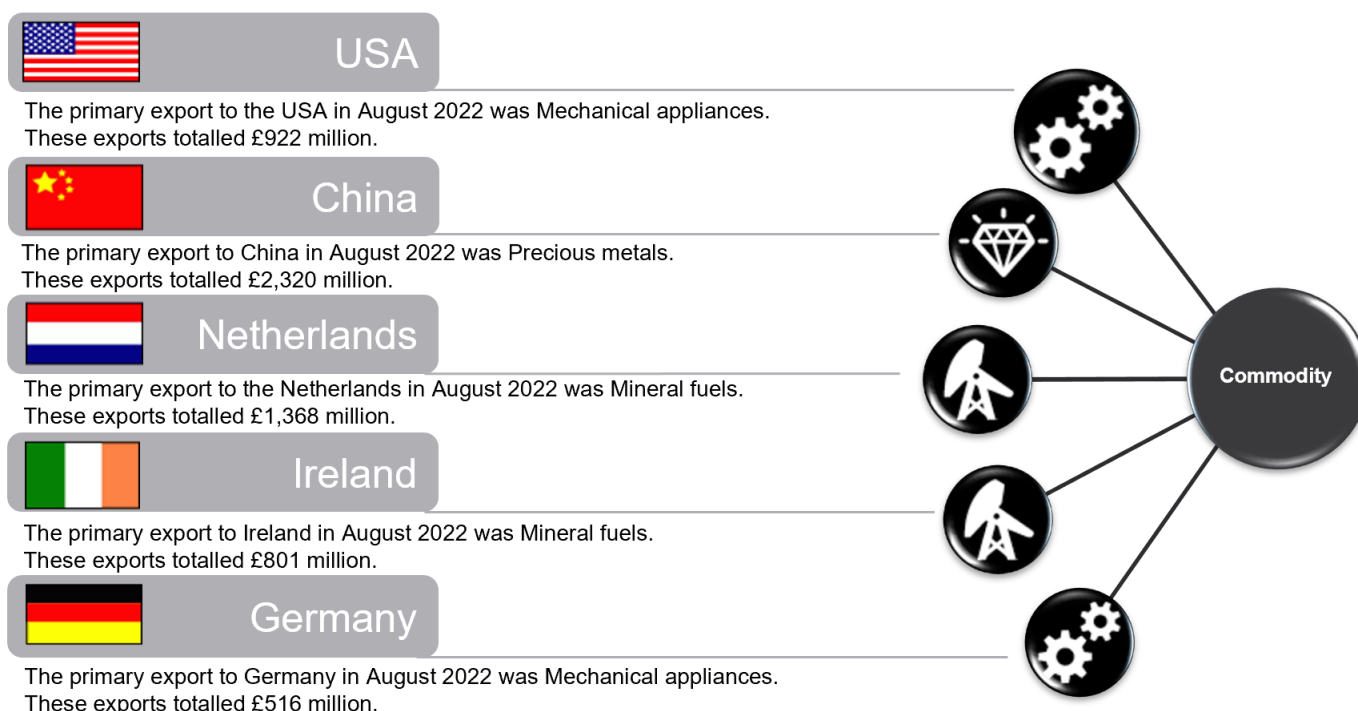
Commodity to country:

- The increase in exports of Precious metals on last month was led by China and Switzerland, up £1,541 million (to 3 times the value), and £823 million (61%) respectively. The increase on August 2021 was led by China, Switzerland and Hong Kong, up £2,178 million (from £142 million), £1,929 million (to more than 8.5 times the value), and £1,061 million (to almost 5 times the value) respectively.
- The increase in exports of Mineral fuels on August 2021 was driven by Ireland, the Netherlands, and France, up £581 million (to more than 3.5 times the value), £556 million (69%), and £409 million (to 5 times the value) respectively.
- The increase in exports of Mechanical appliances on August 2021 was led by the USA, up £353 million (62%).
- The increase in exports of Pharmaceutical products on August 2021 was led by Germany, up £228 million (to more than 3 times the value).
- The increase in exports of Art and antiques on last month was led by the USA, up £152 million (to 2.5 times the value).

↑ Exports of Precious metals to China up to 3 times the value on last month

↑ Exports of Mineral fuels to Ireland up to more than 3.5 times the value on August 2021

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



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2022 data is provisional

Imports: Country Analysis

- Germany remained the largest import partner country. It experienced the 3rd largest value increase on August 2021, up £1,219 million (30%).
- Norway experienced the largest value increases on last month and also on August 2021, up £1,167 million (30%) and £3,268 million (to almost 3 times the value) respectively.
- The Netherlands experienced the 2nd largest value increase on August 2021, up £2,468 million (to double the value).
- Russia (ranked 78th) experienced the largest value decrease on August 2021, down £1,545 million (to £16 million).
- France experienced the 4th largest value increase on August 2021, up £1,200 million (67%).
- The Philippines (ranked 63rd) experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £892 million (94%).

↑ Imports from Norway up to almost 3 times the value on August 2021

↓ Imports from the Philippines down 94% on last month

Table 5: UK imports of goods from the top 10 countries, August 2022

Partner Country	August 2022		July 2022		August 2021	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on July 2022 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on August 2021 (%)	
Germany	5,301	5,683	-6.7	4,082	29.9	
Norway	5,092	3,925	29.7	1,824	179.2	
China	5,032	4,280	17.6	5,111	-1.5	
Netherlands	4,819	4,713	2.2	2,351	105.0	
USA	4,725	4,351	8.6	3,538	33.5	
France	2,983	3,675	-18.8	1,783	67.3	
Belgium	2,287	2,516	-9.1	1,886	21.3	
Italy	1,693	2,055	-17.6	1,349	25.5	
Ireland	1,649	1,361	21.1	987	67.1	
Kazakhstan	1,464	1,813	-19.3	652	124.5	
Others	19,875	21,081	-5.7	16,049	23.8	
Total EU	24,946	26,967	-7.5	17,011	46.6	
Total Non-EU	29,975	28,486	5.2	22,603	32.6	
Total Imports	54,921	55,453	-1.0	39,613	38.6	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2022 data is provisional

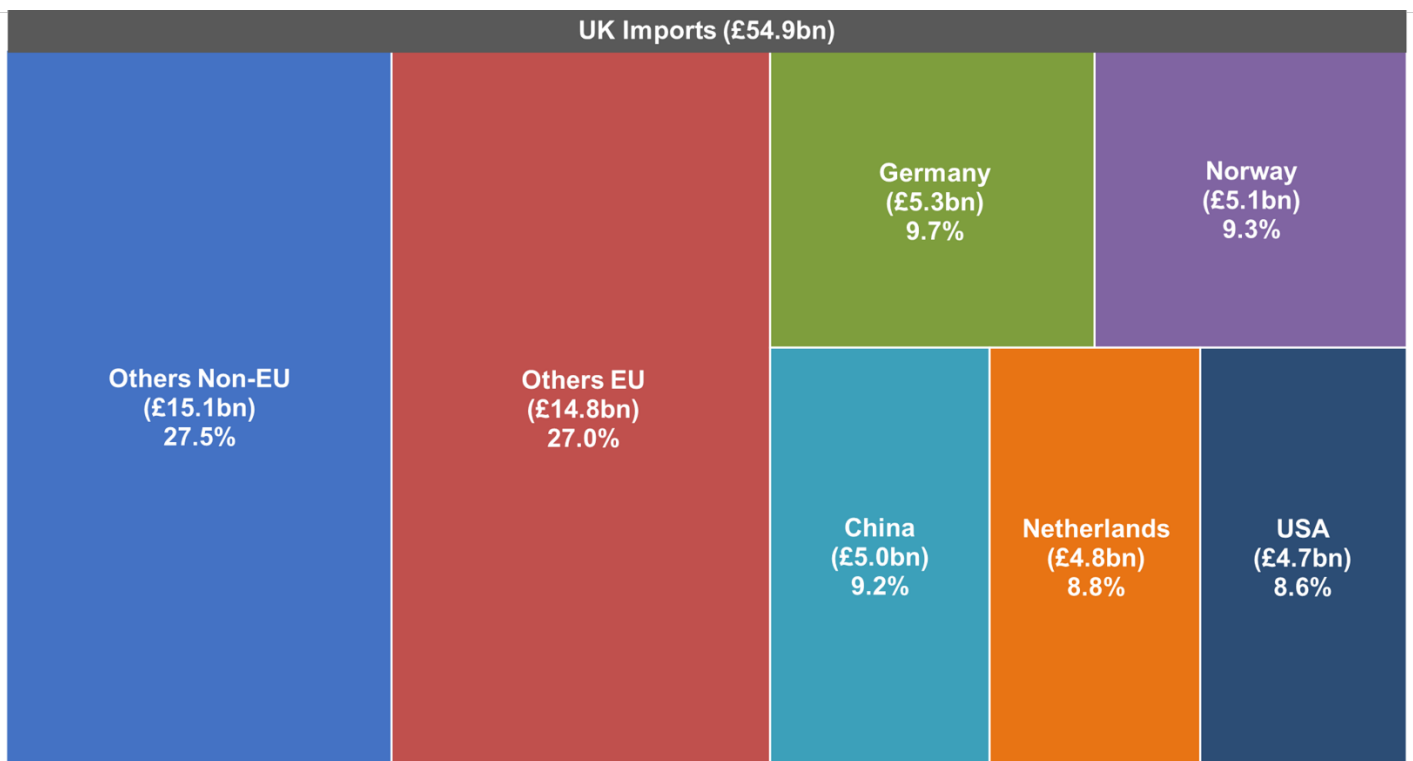
Imports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 import partners accounted for 45% of the total value of goods imported to the UK in August 2022. This was an increase from a 43% share in August 2021.
- Germany accounted for 9.7% of the total value of goods imported to the UK in August 2022. This was a decrease of less than one percentage point from August 2021.
- Norway had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 9.3% of the total value of goods imported to the UK in August 2022. This was an increase from a 4.6% share in August 2021.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Norway rose to 2nd place from 5th and Ireland rose to 9th place from 11th, while the Netherlands fell to 4th place from 2nd, and the USA fell to 5th place from 3rd.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with August 2021. Most notably, Germany rose to 1st place from 2nd, and Kazakhstan rose to 10th place from 17th, while China fell to 3rd place from 1st.

↑ **The top 5 partners accounted for 45% of total imports in August 2022**

↓ **Germany accounted for 9.7% of total imports in August 2022**

Figure 7: Share of UK imports of goods from the top 5 countries, August 2022



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2022 data is provisional

Imports: Country Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to August 2022, Germany remained the largest import partner country.
- Among the top 10, Norway had the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to May 2022 and the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to August 2021, up 8.0% and to almost 2.5 times the value respectively.
- Among the top 10, the Netherlands experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to August 2021, up 87%.
- Among the top 10, France experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to May 2022, up 14%, and the 3rd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to August 2021, up 78%.
- Among the top 10, Spain experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to May 2022, down 20%.
- Among the top 10, the USA experienced the 2nd largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to May 2022, down 15%.
- 5 of the top 10 countries experienced an increase on the 3 months to May 2022, and 5 experienced a decrease.
- 9 of top 10 countries experienced an increase on the 3 months to August 2021. The exception was China.

↑ Imports from Norway up to almost 2.5 times the value on the 3 months to August 2021

↓ Imports from Spain down 20% on the 3 months to May 2022.

Table 6: UK imports of goods from the top 10 countries, 3 months to August 2022

Partner Country	3 months to Aug 2022		3 months to May 2022		3 months to Aug 2021	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on May 2022 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on August 2021 (%)	
Germany	16,773	19,071	-12.0	13,644	22.9	
China	14,554	13,522	7.6	14,907	-2.4	
Netherlands	14,060	13,457	4.5	7,531	86.7	
USA	13,744	16,081	-14.5	11,172	23.0	
Norway	11,819	10,947	8.0	5,172	128.5	
France	9,797	8,598	13.9	5,510	77.8	
Belgium	7,558	7,289	3.7	5,890	28.0	
Italy	5,783	6,518	-11.3	4,496	28.6	
Ireland	4,658	5,021	-7.2	3,689	26.3	
Spain	4,286	5,349	-20.0	3,498	22.5	
Others	61,816	61,038	1.3	51,593	19.8	
Total Imports	164,848	166,891	-1.2	127,101	29.7	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2022 data is provisional

Imports: Commodity Analysis

- Mineral fuels remained the largest import commodity. It experienced the largest value increases on last month and on August 2021, up £1,750 million (20%) and up £6,958 million (to 3 times the value) respectively.
- Precious metals experienced the largest value decreases on last month and on August 2021, down £1,951 million (30%) and £914 million (16%) respectively.
- Mechanical appliances experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on last month, down £275 million (4.5%). In contrast, it experienced the 2nd largest value increase on August 2021, up £1,557 million (36%).
- Electronic equipment experienced the 4th largest value increase on last month and the 3rd largest value increase on August 2021, up £190 million (4.6%) and £1,048 million (32%) respectively.
- Motor vehicles experienced the 3rd largest value decrease on last month, down £195 million (4.6%). In contrast, it experienced the 4th largest value increase on August 2021, up £921 million (30%).
- Pharmaceutical products experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month and the 5th largest value increase on August 2021, up £280 million (14%) and £673 million (41%) respectively.

↑ Imports of Mineral fuels up to 3 times the value on August 2021

↓ Imports of Precious metals down 30% on last month

Table 7: UK imports of goods for the top 10 commodities, August 2022

Commodity Description	August 2022		July 2022		August 2021	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on July 2022 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on August 2021 (%)	
Mineral fuels	10,449	8,699	20.1	3,491	199.3	
Mechanical appliances	5,881	6,157	-4.5	4,325	36.0	
Precious metals	4,640	6,590	-29.6	5,553	-16.5	
Electronic equipment	4,306	4,116	4.6	3,257	32.2	
Motor vehicles	4,025	4,219	-4.6	3,103	29.7	
Pharmaceutical products	2,329	2,049	13.6	1,656	40.6	
Plastics and plastic products	1,507	1,553	-3.0	1,321	14.1	
Measuring devices and gauges	1,481	1,472	0.7	1,102	34.4	
Other products	1,304	1,527	-14.7	535	143.8	
Organic chemicals	1,064	842	26.4	590	80.3	
Others	17,936	18,229	-1.6	14,680	22.2	
Total Imports	54,921	55,453	-1.0	39,613	38.6	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2022 data are provisional

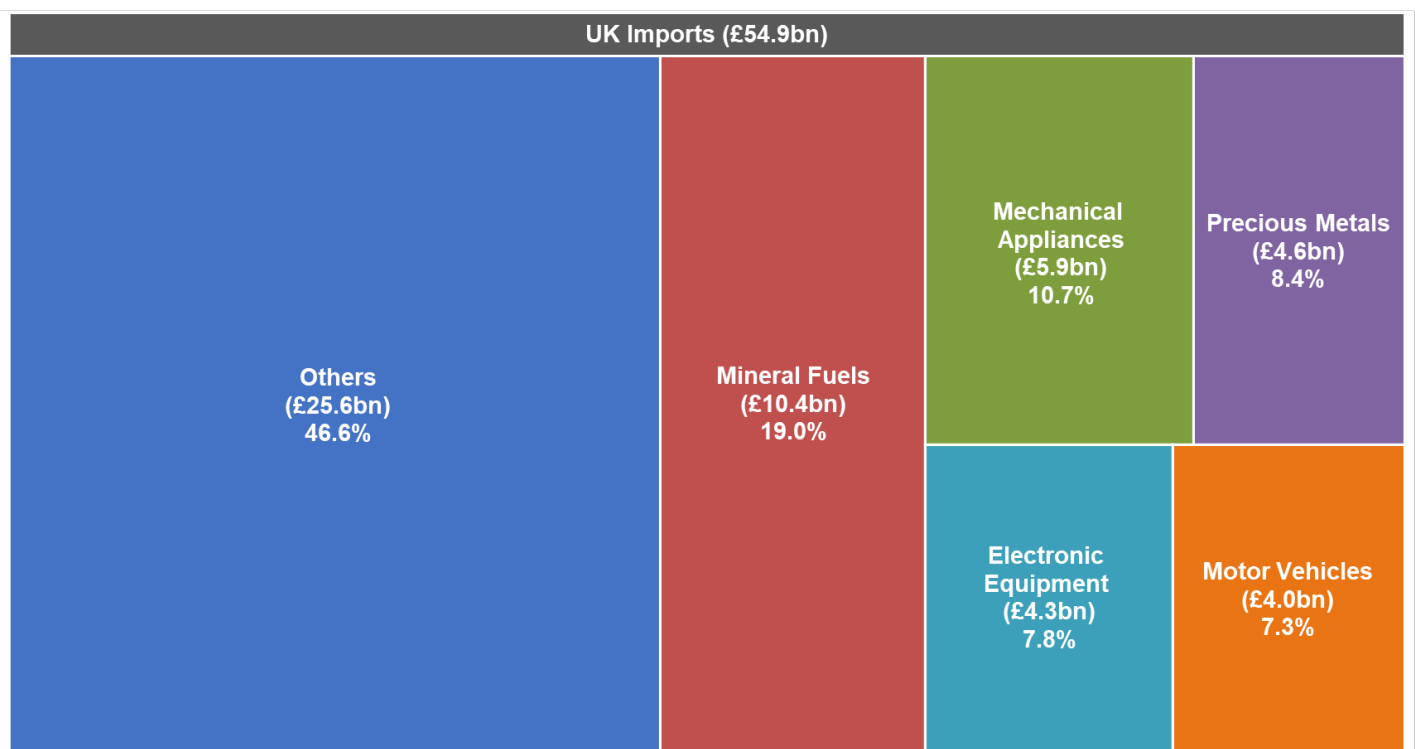
Imports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 import commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 53% of the total value of goods imported to the UK in August 2022. This was an increase from a 50% share in August 2021.
- Mineral fuels accounted for 19% of the total value of goods imported to the UK in August 2022. This was an increase from an 8.8% share in August 2021.
- Mechanical appliances had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 11% of the total value of goods imported to the UK in August 2022. This was a decrease of less than one percentage point on August 2021.
- The top 10 commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Mechanical appliances rose to 2nd place from 3rd, and Organic chemicals rose to 10th from 12th, while Furniture and light fittings fell to 12th place from 10th.
- The top 10 commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with August 2021. Most notably, Mineral fuels rose to 1st place from 3rd, while Precious metals fell to 3rd place from 1st.

↑ **The top 5 import commodities accounted for 53% of total imports in August 2022**

↑ **Mineral fuels accounted for 19% of total imports in August 2022**

Figure 8: Share of UK imports for the top 5 commodities, August 2022



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2022 data is provisional

Imports: Commodity Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to August 2022, Mineral fuels remained the largest import commodity. Among the top 10, it experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to August 2021, up to 2.5 times the value.
- Among the top 10, Precious metals experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to May 2022, up 33%. In contrast, it experienced the only percentage decrease on the 3 months to August 2021, down 19%.
- Among the top 10, Pharmaceutical products experienced the 2nd largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to May 2022, down 13%. In contrast, it experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to August 2021, up 33%.
- Among the top 10, Organic chemicals experienced the 3rd largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to May 2022, down 11%. In contrast, it experienced the 3rd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to August 2021, up 28%.
- Among the top 10, Motor vehicles experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to May 2022, down 20%.
- 8 of the top 10 commodities experienced a decrease on the 3 months to May 2022. Mechanical appliances and Precious metals were the exceptions.

↑ Imports of Mineral fuels up to 2.5 times the value on the 3 months to August 2021

↓ Imports of Motor vehicles down 20% on the 3 months to May 2022

Table 8: UK imports of goods for the top 10 commodities, 3 months to August 2022

Commodity Description	3 months to Aug 2022		3 months to May 2022		3 months to Aug 2021	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on May 2022 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on August 2021 (%)	
Mineral fuels	27,214	27,718	-1.8	10,710	154.1	
Mechanical appliances	18,215	17,624	3.4	14,428	26.2	
Precious metals	15,215	11,403	33.4	18,842	-19.3	
Motor vehicles	13,379	16,726	-20.0	10,735	24.6	
Electronic equipment	12,649	12,813	-1.3	10,763	17.5	
Pharmaceutical products	6,482	7,472	-13.2	4,860	33.4	
Plastics and plastic products	4,723	4,876	-3.1	4,123	14.6	
Measuring devices and gauges	4,439	4,736	-6.3	3,467	28.0	
Other products	4,377	4,660	-6.1	1,762	148.5	
Organic chemicals	2,933	3,294	-11.0	2,286	28.3	
Others	55,224	55,570	-0.6	45,125	22.4	
Total Imports	164,848	166,891	-1.2	127,101	29.7	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2022 data is provisional

Imports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

Country to commodity:

- The increase in imports from Norway on last month and on August 2021 was dominated by Mineral fuels, up £1,165 million (32%), and £3,207 million (to 3 times the value) respectively.
- The increase in imports from the Netherlands on August 2021 was led by Mineral fuels and Pharmaceutical products, up £404 million (to 2.5 times the value) and £378 million (to 4 times the value) respectively.
- The decrease in imports from Russia on August 2021 was dominated by Precious metals, down to zero from £1,238 million.
- The decrease in imports from the Philippines on last month was dominated by Precious metals, down £901 million (to £0.2 million).

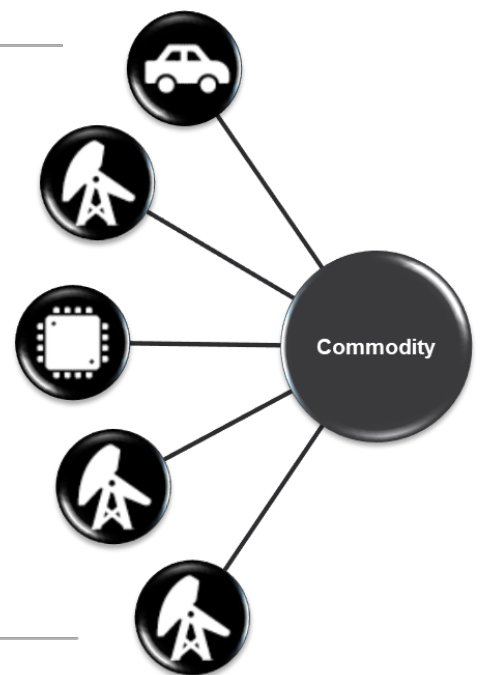
↑ Imports of Mineral fuels from Norway up to 3 times the value on August 2021

Commodity to country:

- The decrease in imports of Mechanical appliances on last month was led by Germany and Italy, down £199 million (20%) and £116 million (33%) respectively. The increase on August 2021 was led by the Netherlands and the USA, up £317 million (to more than double the value) and £217 million (34%) respectively.
- The increase in imports of Electronic equipment on last month was led by China and the USA, up £172 million (24%) and £123 million (35%) respectively. The increase on August 2021 was led by the Netherlands and USA, up £283 million (to more than double the value) and £204 million (76%) respectively.
- The decrease in imports of Motor vehicles on last month was led by Germany and France, down £324 million (20%) and £139 million (38%) respectively. The increase on August 2021 was led by Germany and China, up £317 million (33%) and £239 million (90%) respectively.

↓ Imports of Precious metals from the Philippines down on last month to £0.2 million.

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



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2022 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

From 31 December 2020, the free movement of people and goods and services between the UK and the European Union (EU) ended. This meant the way HMRC had been collecting trade in goods statistics was revised.

UK to EU exports

For goods moving from 1 January 2021, GB to EU export statistics have been compiled directly from customs export declarations made according to the requirements of the Taxation (Cross Border Trade) Act. Intrastat survey returns, however, continued 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 were incorporated into the overall UK to EU export dataset.

As a result of the changes and differences outlined above, there was a break in the timeseries for published UK to EU export statistics from January 2021.

UK imports from EU

UK imports from EU statistics were not impacted by any change in 2021. The Intrastat survey continued 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.

However, from 1 January 2022, Intrastat only applied for movements of goods between Northern Ireland and the EU. Statistics on movements to GB from the EU have been compiled directly from customs import declarations.

Both the EU to GB customs import declaration data and NI Intrastat import (arrivals) data were incorporated into the overall EU to UK import dataset.

As a result of the changes and differences outlined above, there was a break in the timeseries for published EU to UK import statistics from January 2022.

Northern Ireland Trade

Figures derived from Intrastat include the following:

- 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.

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

Non-EU trade

Non-EU trade are compiled from customs declarations 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 (July 2022) 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.

The most recent changes in the OTS methodology are covered in this paper.

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 12 October 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 August 2022. At the same time revisions for all previously published non-EU and EU data for 2022 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
September 2022	11 November 2022
October 2022	12 December 2022
November 2022	13 January 2023

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 stand