

UK Import Trends Monitor

An assessment of HMRC data for UK imports up to 30 September 2025

Published: 11 December 2025

Purpose

This analysis seeks to identify anomalous increases in import volume and anomalous decreases in import unit prices for goods imported into the UK. The approach is designed to highlight patterns in trade that may warrant further investigation, particularly where there is a risk of negative impacts on UK producers. The findings are intended to serve as an initial indication of commodities that may require further investigation. It does not provide a definitive assessment or conclusive evidence of grounds for a trade remedy investigation. New cases must meet legislative requirements. Further engagement with industry stakeholders and complementary qualitative evidence will help to validate and contextualise these findings.

Methodology

The analysis utilises data published by HMRC, covering UK imports of individual CN8 commodities up to the end of September 2025. For each CN8 commodity, imports during the most recent 12 months for which data are available are compared with imports during the same period in previous years. A series of quantitative criteria are evaluated to determine whether a particular CN8 commodity has exhibited an anomalous increase in import volume, or decrease in import unit price. Note that the identification of a commodity through this analysis does not necessarily confirm the existence of an unfair trading practice. It is also likely that the analysis will not identify all commodities that may require further investigation.

Criteria for detecting anomalous increases in import volume

1. Percentage Increase in Import Volume - Checks whether the import volume in the latest 12 months has increased by at least 20%, compared to the same 12 month period in the previous year.
2. Statistically Unusual Percentage Change - Evaluates whether the annual percentage change in import volume is unexpectedly large compared to typical fluctuations. This is measured using a Z-score, which describes how far a value is from the average in terms of standard deviations. In this case, the Z-score reflects deviation from the historical average percentage change in 12-month volumes, calculated using historical data since 2016. A z-score of at least 2 indicates that the latest annual percentage change is a statistically rare increase, and this criterion is met.
3. Statistically Unusual Absolute Change - Evaluates whether the absolute change in import volume between the latest 12 months and the previous 12 months is unexpectedly large compared to typical fluctuations. In this case, the Z-score reflects deviation from the historical average absolute change in 12-month volumes. A Z-score of at least 2 indicates that the latest annual absolute change is a statistically rare increase, and this criterion is met.

If all three criteria are met for a given CN8 commodity, that commodity is flagged as exhibiting an anomalous increase in import volume.

Criteria for detecting anomalous decreases in import unit price

1. Percentage Decrease in Import Unit Value - Checks whether the import unit value in the latest 12 months has increased by at least 20%, compared to the same 12-month period in the previous year.
2. Statistically Unusual Percentage Change - Evaluates whether the annual percentage change in import unit price is unexpectedly large compared to typical fluctuations. This is measured using a Z-score, which describes how far a value is from the average in terms of standard deviations. In this case, the Z-score reflects deviation from the historical average percentage change in 12-month unit prices, calculated using historical data since 2016. A z-score of at least 2 indicates that the latest annual percentage change is a statistically rare increase, and this criterion is met.
3. Statistically Unusual Absolute Change - Evaluates whether the absolute change in import volume between the latest 12 months and the previous 12 months is unexpectedly large compared to typical fluctuations. In this case, the Z-score reflects deviation from the historical average absolute change in 12-month volumes. A Z-score of 2 or higher indicates that the latest annual absolute change is a statistically rare increase, and this criterion is met.

If all three criteria are met for a given CN8 commodity, that commodity is flagged as exhibiting an anomalous increase in import unit price

Notes

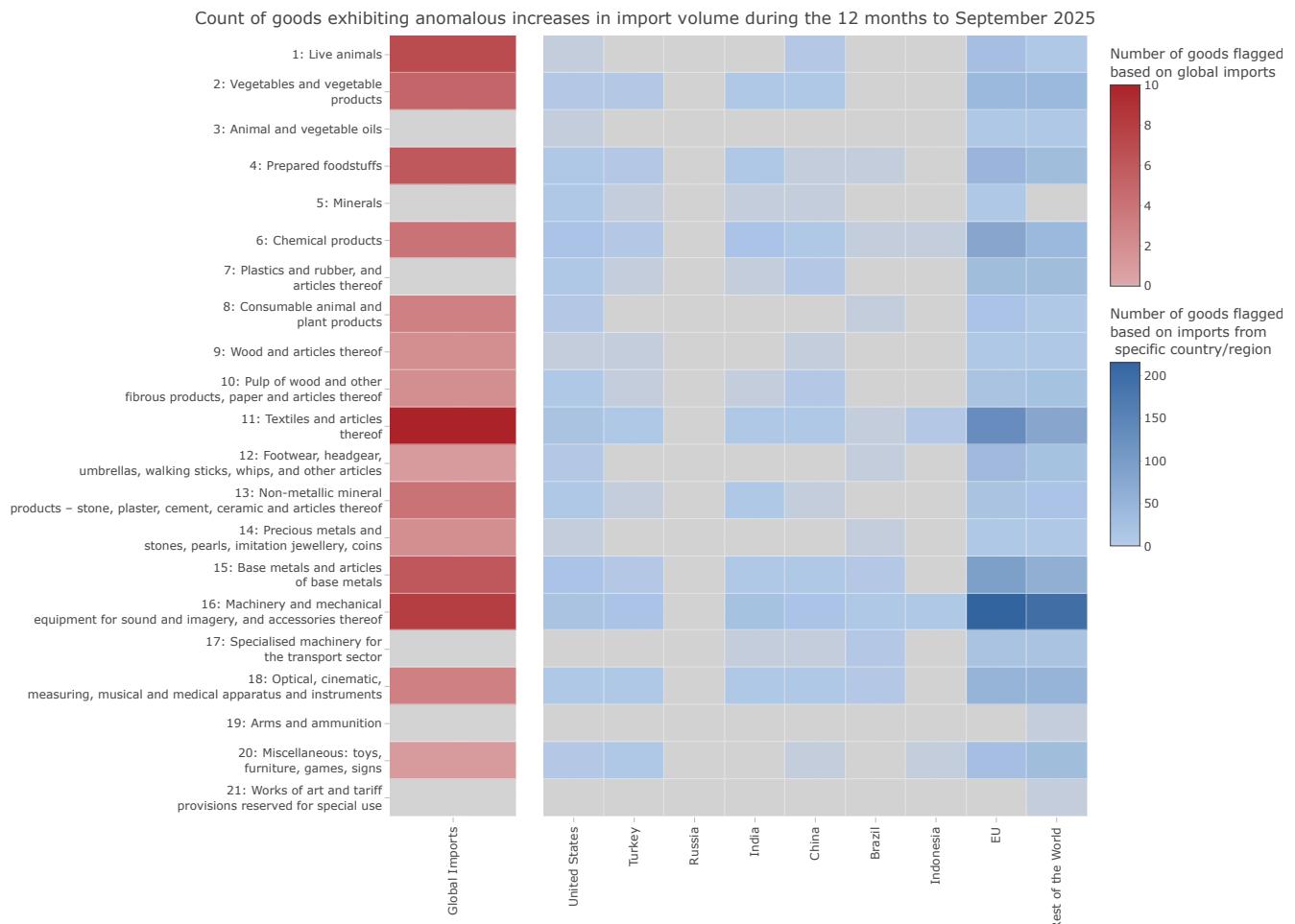
- The methodology is subject to continuous review and enhancement, and may be adjusted in future releases.
- Due to a lack of sufficiently granular production data, it is not possible to determine whether there is UK production across all CN8 commodity codes.
- Value is in current prices and has not been adjusted for inflation.
- Some commodity codes will have been changed, merged or dropped over time in line with concordance changes. These changes have not been captured.
- HMRC data is considered provisional for 18 months, whilst checks are undertaken.
- Country of origin data may be incorporated in future iterations as more data are collected. Results relating to global imports are unaffected by which country attribution is used. Active investigations assess both country of origin and country of dispatch data.
- Several factors may influence the results, including:
 - Statistical artefacts: Some commodities may be flagged as a result of baseline effects, where low import volumes or unit prices in previous years exaggerate percentage changes. These baseline effects are more likely when assessing imports dispatched from specific partner countries or regions.
 - Product heterogeneity: Variations in product quality, branding, or specification within the same commodity code can distort price comparisons. This analysis does not account for any such differences.
 - Temporary fluctuations: Short-term spikes in trade may not indicate a structural shift or diversion of trade flows.
 - Data limitations: The analysis is based on available customs data and may not capture all relevant market dynamics or supply chain changes.
 - Country attribution: Country of dispatch is used rather than country of origin, as origin data hasn't been collected on a consistent basis far enough back to support this methodology. The country of dispatch is not necessarily the same as the country of origin for a given import.

Results

Import volume

The following heatmap shows the total number of CN8 commodities, grouped by HS section, that displayed an anomalous increase in import volume during the 12 months to September 2025. Results are also provided for a selection of trading partners or trading blocs covered by existing UK trade remedy measures or live investigations. The analysis is based on a methodology (detailed in the Methodology section) applied separately at both the global level, represented in shades of red, and for a selection of individual countries and regions, represented in shades of blue. Because the methodology is applied independently for each geographical group, a commodity may be flagged as displaying an anomalous increase in import volume from a specific country or region, even if it is not flagged at the global level, or vice versa.

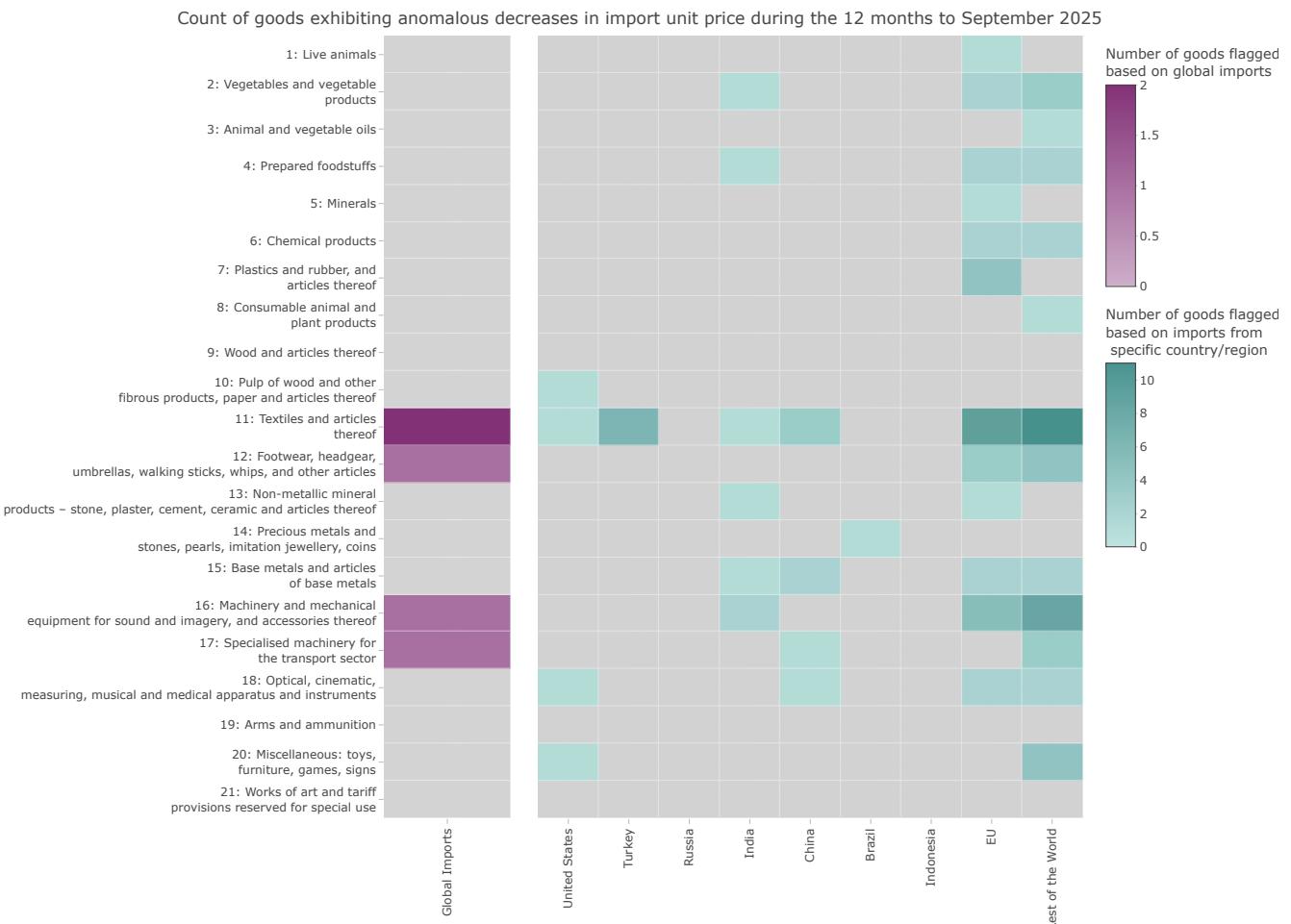
Note, the following heatmaps reflect the number of CN8 codes flagged under the applied criteria, and do not account for the total value or volume of imports. HS sections with a greater number of constituent CN8 codes may naturally exhibit a higher count of flagged goods. Partner countries/regions accounting for a greater overall number of imported CN8 codes may naturally exhibit a higher count of flagged goods.



Import unit price

The following heatmap shows the total number of CN8 commodities, grouped by HS section, that displayed an anomalous decrease in import unit price during the 12 months to September 2025. Results are also provided for a selection of trading partners or trading blocs covered by existing UK trade remedy measures or live investigations. The analysis is based on a methodology (detailed in the Methodology section) applied separately at both the aggregate level, represented in shades of purple, and for a selection of individual countries and regions, represented in shades of teal. Because the methodology is applied independently for each geographical group, a commodity may be flagged as displaying an anomalous decrease in import unit price from a specific country or region, even if it is not flagged at the global level, or vice versa.

Note, the heatmap only reflects the number of CN8 codes flagged under the applied criteria. It does not account for the total value or volume of imports. HS sections with a greater number of constituent CN8 codes may naturally exhibit a higher count of flagged goods. Partner countries/regions accounting for a greater overall number of imported CN8 codes may naturally exhibit a higher count of flagged goods.



Goods flagged based on trends in import volumes and per unit price

The following table reports additional information on the specific commodities that were flagged based on global imports, including the volume and average unit price for imports during the latest 12 months, and percentage changes in those metrics since the previous 12-month period. It also shows whether a commodity was flagged on the basis of an anomalous increase in import volume, an anomalous decrease in import unit price, or both.

HS Section	CN8 code	Commodity	Import Volume (tonnes)		Import Unit Price (£/Kg)	
			Increase in volume or decrease in price	Current 12-month window	% Change from previous 12-month window	Current 12-month window
▼ 1: Live animals (7)						
	03019985: Live saltwater fish (excl. ornamental fish, trout [Salmo trutta], Oncorhynchus mykiss, Oncorhynchus clarki, Oncorhynchus aguabonita, Oncorhynchus gilae, Oncorhynchus apache and Oncorhynchus chryosgaster], eels [Anguilla spp.], Atlantic and Pacific bluefin tunas [Thunnus thynnus, Thunnus orientalis] and southern bluefin tunas [Thunnus maccoyii])	Increase in import volume	126t	▲ 4284%	2.01£/Kg	▼ -98%
	03061410: Frozen crabs Paralithodes camchaticus, Chionoecetes spp. and Callinectes sapidus, even smoked, whether in shell or not, incl. crabs in shell, cooked by steaming or by boiling in water	Increase in import volume	134t	▲ 263%	23.91£/Kg	▼ -37%
	03074920: Cuttle fish Sepia officinalis, Rossia macrosoma, Sepiola spp., smoked, dried, salted or in brine, with or without shell	Increase in import volume	58t	▲ 9436%	9.17£/Kg	▲ 27%
	04059010: Fats and oils derived from milk, of a fat content, by weight, of >= 99,3% and of a water content, by weight, of <= 0,5%	Increase in import volume	5,539t	▲ 90%	6.90£/Kg	▲ 11%
	04072990: Fresh birds' eggs, in shell (excl. of poultry, and fertilised for incubation)	Increase in import volume	50t	▲ 651%	4.52£/Kg	▼ -31%
	05111000: Bovine semen	Increase in import volume	31t	▲ 719%	878.05£/Kg	▼ -85%
	05119931: Raw natural sponges of animal origin	Increase in import volume	147t	▲ 5040%	0.39£/Kg	▼ -99%
▼ 2: Vegetables and vegetable products (5)						
	07139000: Dried, shelled leguminous vegetables, whether or not skinned or split (excl. peas, chickpeas, beans, lentils, broad beans, horse beans and pigeon peas)	Increase in import volume	15,138t	▲ 505%	0.86£/Kg	▼ -28%
	09082200: Mace, crushed or ground	Increase in import volume	184t	▲ 56%	11.53£/Kg	▼ -6%
	09109939: Crushed or ground thyme	Increase in import volume	412t	▲ 57%	3.62£/Kg	▼ -10%
	11071019: Wheat malt (excl. flour and roasted)	Increase in import volume	2,700t	▲ 370%	0.54£/Kg	▼ -36%
	12129995: Fruit stones and kernels and other vegetable products, of a kind used primarily for human consumption, n.e.s.	Increase in import volume	6,463t	▲ 190%	1.44£/Kg	▼ -61%
▼ 4: Prepared foodstuffs (6)						
	17022010: Maple sugar, in solid form, flavoured or coloured	Increase in import volume	338t	▲ 266%	5.30£/Kg	▼ -8%
	20088011: Strawberries, prepared or preserved, containing added spirit, with sugar content of > 9% and actual alcoholic strength of <= 11,85% mas	Increase in import volume	174t	▲ 259581%	1.26£/Kg	▼ -87%
	20093995: Single citrus fruit juice, unfermented, Brix value > 20 but <= 67 at 20 C, value of <= 30 per 100 kg, containing <= 30% added sugar (excl. containing spirit, mixtures, lemon, orange and grapefruit juice)	Increase in import volume	90t	▲ 299340%	0.33£/Kg	▼ -33%
	22042168: Wines produced in Veneto, in containers holding <= 2 l and of an actual alcoholic strength of <= 15% vol, with PDO (other than sparkling wine, semi-sparkling wine and white wine)	Increase in import volume	6,476t	▲ 33%	3.65£/Kg	▼ -17%
	22060059: Mead and other fermented beverages and mixtures of fermented beverages and mixtures	Increase in import volume	58,863t	▲ 98%	1.40£/Kg	▼ -18%

48045990: Kraft paper and paperboard, uncoated, in rolls of a width > 36 cm or in square or rectangular sheets with one side > 36 cm and the other side > 15 cm in the unfolded state, weighing >= 225 g/m (excl. unbleached or bleached uniformly in the mass and containing > 95% chemically prepared wood fibre or >= 80% coniferous wood sulphate or soda pulp by weight in relation to the total fibre content)	Increase in import volume	2,395t	▲ 1938%	0.78£/Kg	▼ -77%
48090000: Transfer papers, incl. coated or impregnated paper for duplicator stencils or offset plates, whether or not printed, in rolls of a width > 36 cm or in square or rectangular sheets with one side > 36 cm and the other side > 15 cm in the unfolded state (excl. self-copy paper)	Increase in import volume	5,647t	▲ 430%	1.38£/Kg	▼ -60%
▼ 11: Textiles and articles thereof (11)					
51081010: Carded yarn of fine animal hair, unbleached (excl. that of wool or that put up for retail sale)	Increase in import volume	10t	▲ 392%	114.82£/Kg	▼ -2%
55081010: Sewing thread of synthetic staple fibres (excl. that put up for retail sale)	Increase in import volume	590t	▲ 309%	1.92£/Kg	▼ -69%
55142300: Woven fabrics containing predominantly, but < 85% polyester staple fibres by weight, mixed principally or solely with cotton and weighing > 170 g/m ² , dyed (excl. those in three-thread or four-thread twill, incl. cross twill, and plain woven fabrics)	Increase in import volume	223t	▲ 215%	5.99£/Kg	▼ -21%
55159130: Woven fabrics containing predominantly, but < 85% synthetic staple fibres, mixed principally or solely with man-made filament, printed (excl. those of acrylic, modacrylic or polyester staple fibres)	Decrease in import unit price	54t	▲ 147%	1.27£/Kg	▼ -81%
55163200: Woven fabrics containing predominantly, but < 85% artificial staple fibres by weight, mixed principally or solely with wool or fine animal hair, dyed	Increase in import volume	46t	▲ 1075%	10.28£/Kg	▼ -59%
59050050: Wallcoverings of jute (excl. those consisting of parallel yarns, fixed on a backing of any material)	Increase in import volume	14t	▲ 1311%	6.79£/Kg	▼ -80%
61083200: Women's or girls' nightdresses and pyjamas of man-made fibres, knitted or crocheted (excl. T-shirts, vests and negligees)	Increase in import volume	14,970t	▲ 77%	10.09£/Kg	▼ -8%
61123190: Men's or boys' swimwear of synthetic fibres, knitted or crocheted (excl. containing >= 5% by weight of rubber thread)	Increase in import volume	2,128t	▲ 241%	3.73£/Kg	▼ -67%
61123910: Men's or boys' swimwear of textile materials, knitted or crocheted, containing >= 5% by weight of rubber thread (excl. synthetic fibres)	Increase in import volume	22t	▲ 8409%	6.52£/Kg	▼ -95%
61124190: Women's or girls' swimwear of synthetic fibres, knitted or crocheted (excl. containing >= 5% by weight of rubber thread)	Increase in import volume and decrease in import unit price	8,094t	▲ 122%	11.18£/Kg	▼ -55%
62032210: Men's or boys' industrial and occupational ensembles of cotton (excl. knitted or crocheted)	Increase in import volume	211t	▲ 401%	14.15£/Kg	▼ -27%
▼ 12: Footwear, headgear, umbrellas, walking sticks, whips, and other articles (1)					
64039998: Footwear with outer soles of rubber, plastics or composition leather and uppers of leather, with in-soles of a length of >= 24 cm, for women (excl. footwear covering the ankle; with a protective metal toecap; with a main sole of wood, without insole; footwear with a vamp made of straps or which has one or more pieces cut out; indoor, sports or orthopaedic footwear; footwear which cannot be identified as men's or women's)	Increase in import volume and decrease in import unit price	21,940t	▲ 188%	10.74£/Kg	▼ -67%

▼ 13: Non-metallic mineral products – stone, plaster, cement, ceramic and articles thereof (4)

68041000: Millstones and grindstones, without frameworks, for milling, grinding or pulping	Increase in import volume	739t	▲ 205%	2.75£/Kg	▼ -71%
69060000: Ceramic pipes, conduits, guttering and pipe fittings (excl. siliceous fossil meals or similar siliceous earths, refractory ceramic goods, chimney liners, pipes specifically manufactured for laboratories, insulating tubing and fittings and other piping for electrotechnical purposes)	Increase in import volume	369t	▲ 368%	1.97£/Kg	▼ -38%
70109079: Bottles, flasks, phials and other containers, of glass, of a kind used for the commercial conveyance or packing of pharmaceutical products, of a nominal capacity of <= 0.055 l (excl. ampoules, containers made from tubing, glass inners for containers, with vacuum insulation)	Increase in import volume	9,697t	▲ 213%	1.66£/Kg	▼ -70%
70181059: Imitation precious and semi-precious stones of glass (excl. beads, cut and mechanically polished, and articles thereof)	Increase in import volume	44t	▲ 936%	3.42£/Kg	▼ -88%

▼ 14: Precious metals and stones, pearls, imitation jewellery, coins (2)

71039900: Precious and semi-precious stones, worked, whether or not graded, but not strung, mounted or set, precious and semi-precious stones, worked, ungraded, temporarily strung for convenience of transport (excl. precious and semi-precious stones, simply sawn or roughly shaped, diamonds, rubies, sapphires and emeralds, imitation precious stones and semi-precious stones)	Increase in import volume	1,090t	▲ 325%	25.78£/Kg	▼ -72%
71104900: Iridium, osmium and ruthenium, in semi-manufactured forms	Increase in import volume	27t	▲ 3147%	1178.73£/Kg	▼ -92%

▼ 15: Base metals and articles of base metals (6)

72191410: Flat-rolled products of stainless steel, of a width of >= 600 mm, not further worked than hot-rolled, in coils, of a thickness of < 3 mm, containing by weight >= 2,5 nickel	Increase in import volume	1,865t	▲ 351%	1.61£/Kg	▼ -21%
72249090: Semi-finished products of alloy steel, other than stainless steel, forged (excl. of tool steel and products of square or rectangular, circular or polygamol cross-section)	Increase in import volume	5,455t	▲ 298%	1.16£/Kg	▼ -78%
74102200: Copper alloy foil, backed, of a thickness excl. any backing of <= 0,15 mm (excl. stamping foils of heading 3212, metal yarns and metallised yarns and foil made up as christmas tree decorating material)	Increase in import volume	1,191t	▲ 2217%	1.24£/Kg	▼ -91%
76141000: Stranded wire, cables, plaited bands and the like, of aluminium, with steel core (excl. such products electrically insulated)	Increase in import volume	2,493t	▲ 861%	4.79£/Kg	▼ -43%
82152090: Sets consisting of one or more knives of heading 8211 and at least an equal number of spoons, forks or other articles of heading 8215, of base metals other than stainless steel, containing no articles plated with precious metal	Increase in import volume	834t	▲ 199%	2.78£/Kg	▼ -60%
83012000: Locks used for motor vehicles, of base metal	Increase in import volume	17,547t	▲ 96%	5.94£/Kg	▼ -55%

▼ 16: Machinery and mechanical equipment for sound and

imagery, and
accessories
thereof (8)

84128010: Steam or other vapour power engines (excl. steam or other vapour generating boilers and turbines)	Increase in import volume	18t	▲ 520%	4.17£/Kg	▼ -92%
84289071: Loaders specially designed for attachment to agricultural tractors	Increase in import volume and decrease in import unit price	12,282t	▲ 197%	1.85£/Kg	▼ -66%
84335985: Harvesting machinery for agricultural produce (excl. mowers, haymaking machinery, straw and fodder balers, incl. pick-up balers, combine harvester-threshers and other threshing machinery, root or tuber harvesting machines, forage harvesters)	Increase in import volume	3,956t	▲ 226%	6.92£/Kg	▼ -59%
84472020: Warp knitting machines, incl. Raschel type, and stitch-bonding machines	Increase in import volume	257t	▲ 2615%	5.94£/Kg	▼ -72%
84799070: Parts of machines and mechanical appliances having individual functions, n.e.s. (excl. of cast iron or cast steel)	Increase in import volume	41,435t	▲ 141%	13.53£/Kg	▼ -55%
85269180: Radio navigational aid apparatus (excl. receivers and radar apparatus)	Increase in import volume	618t	▲ 71%	474.75£/Kg	▼ -39%
85367000: Connectors for optical fibres, optical fibre bundles or cables	Increase in import volume	2,009t	▲ 124%	45.34£/Kg	▼ -30%
85437030: Aerial amplifiers	Increase in import volume	2,219t	▲ 907%	3.31£/Kg	▼ -91%

▼ 17:
Specialised
machinery for
the transport
sector (1)

87089591: Safety airbags with inflator system and parts thereof, of closed-die forged steel, for tractors, motor vehicles for the transport of ten or more persons, motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons, motor vehicles for the transport of goods and special purpose motor vehicles, n.e.s. (excl. those for the industrial assembly of certain motor vehicles of subheading 8708.95.10)	Decrease in import unit price	22t	▼ -53%	12.47£/Kg	▼ -51%
--	-------------------------------	-----	--------	-----------	--------

▼ 18: Optical,
cinematic,
measuring,
musical and
medical
apparatus and
instruments (3)

90222100: Apparatus based on the use of alpha, beta, gamma or other ionising radiation, for medical, surgical, dental or veterinary uses	Increase in import volume	1,036t	▲ 1473%	4.13£/Kg	▼ -94%
90318080: Non-optical instruments, appliances and machines for measuring or checking, n.e.s. in Ch 90	Increase in import volume	17,261t	▲ 165%	39.72£/Kg	▼ -57%
92079010: Guitars, the sound of which is produced, or must be amplified, electrically	Increase in import volume	2,832t	▲ 62%	25.47£/Kg	▼ -35%

▼ 20:
Miscellaneous:
toys, furniture,
games, signs
(1)

95051090: Christmas articles (excl. of glass, candles and electric lighting sets, natural Christmas trees and Christmas tree stands)	Increase in import volume	70,676t	▲ 97%	3.76£/Kg	▼ -23%
--	---------------------------	---------	-------	----------	--------

Data Source

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC): Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics (OTS) (<https://www.uktradeinfo.com/>)

Accessibility

Some visualisations, such as the heatmaps, may not be fully accessible for users relying on assistive technologies like screen readers. If you require the information in an alternative format or need assistance, please contact us at statistics@traderemedies.gov.uk (<mailto:statistics@traderemedies.gov.uk>)