

UK Import Trends Monitor

An assessment of HMRC data for UK imports up to 31 May 2026

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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 May 2026. 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

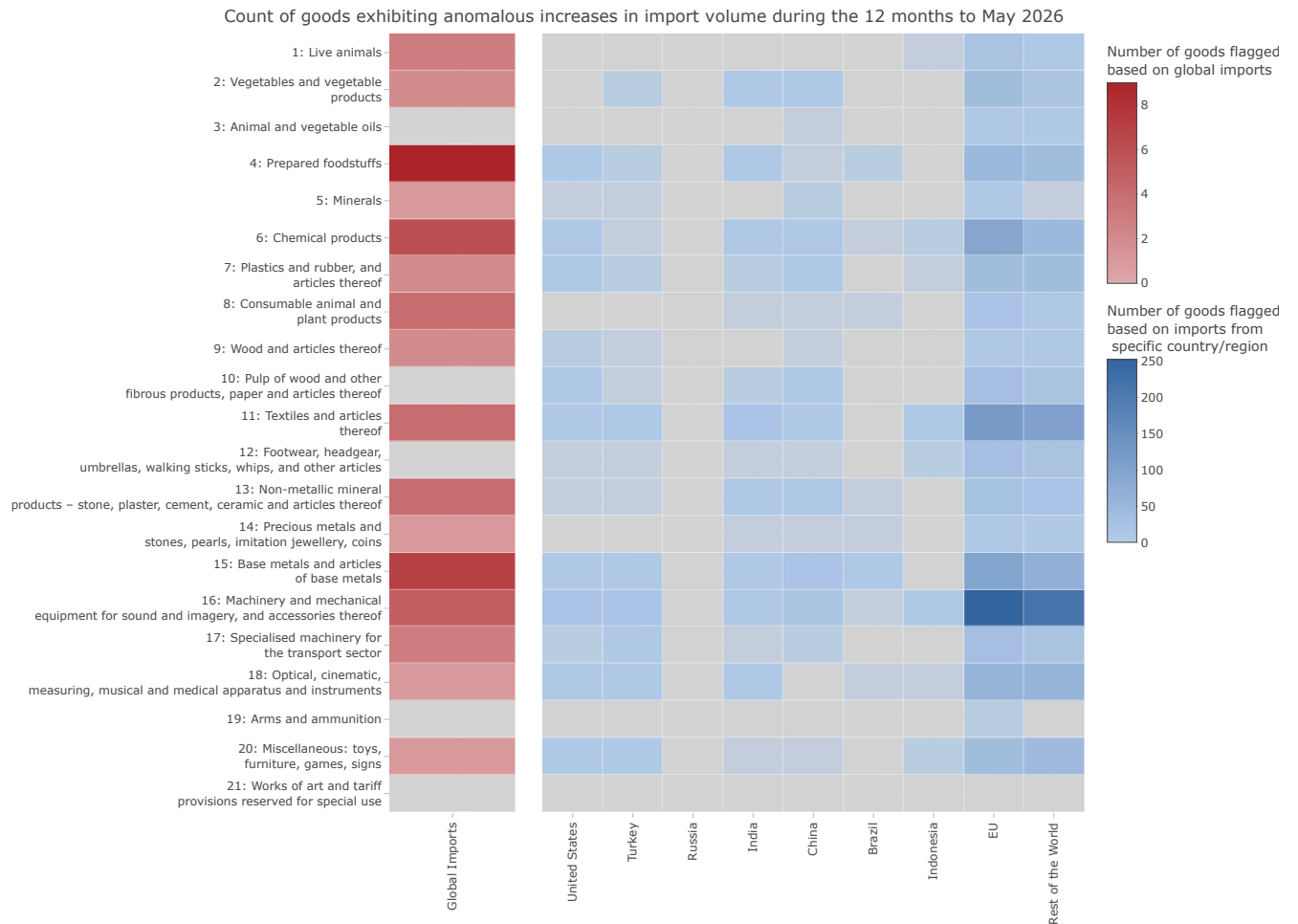
- The methodology is subject to continuous review and enhancement, and may be adjusted in future releases.
- Due to a lack of sufficiently granular production data, it is not possible to determine whether there is UK production across all CN8 commodity codes.
- Value is in current prices and has not 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 May 2026. 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 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.



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 May 2026. 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 from a specific country or region, even if it is not flagged at the global level, or vice versa.

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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.

Commodity		Import Volume (tonnes)		Import Unit Price (£/Kg)		
HS Section	CN8 code	Increase in volume or decrease in price	Current 12-month window	% Change from previous 12-month window	Current 12-month window	% Change from previous 12-month window
▼ 1: Live animals (3)						
	01051300: Live domestic ducks, weighing <= 185 g	Increase in import volume	6t	▲ 1005%	98.97£/Kg	▼ -86%
	03078300: Frozen, even in shell, abalone Haliotis spp.	Increase in import volume	60t	▲ 1052%	25.43£/Kg	▼ -6%
	04049029: Products consisting of natural milk constituents, not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter, of a fat content, by weight, of > 27%, n.e.s.	Increase in import volume	644t	▲ 751%	2.32£/Kg	▼ -63%
▼ 2: Vegetables and vegetable products (2)						
	07119050: Onions provisionally preserved, e.g. by sulphur dioxide gas, in brine, in sulphur water or in other preservative solutions, but unsuitable in that state for immediate consumption	Increase in import volume	9,043t	▲ 166%	0.47£/Kg	▼ -47%
	11032040: Maize pellets	Increase in import volume	240t	▲ 27954%	0.60£/Kg	▼ -57%
▼ 4: Prepared foodstuffs (9)						
	16056300: Jellyfish, prepared or preserved (excl. smoked)	Increase in import volume	3t	▲ 541%	6.32£/Kg	▼ -3%
	19022010: Pasta, stuffed with meat or other substances, whether or not cooked or otherwise prepared, containing > 20% by weight of fish, crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates	Increase in import volume	3,528t	▲ 102%	4.52£/Kg	▼ -38%
	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 and decrease in import unit price	1,127t	▲ 1681307%	1.12£/Kg	▼ -89%
	20089393: Cranberries Vaccinium macrocarpon, Vaccinium oxycoccos, Vaccinium vitis-idaea, prepared or preserved, not containing added spirit but containing added sugar, in immediate packings of <= 1 kg (excl. preserved with sugar but not laid in syrup, jams, jellies, marmalades, pur e and pastes, obtained by cooking)	Increase in import volume	229t	▲ 4254%	2.69£/Kg	▼ -67%
	20094192: Pineapple juice, unfermented, Brix value <= 20 at 20 C, containing added sugar (excl. containing spirit)	Increase in import volume	2,035t	▲ 381%	1.09£/Kg	▲ 8%
	20098997: Juice of guavas, mangoes, mangosteens, papaws papayas, tamarinds, cashew apples, lychees, jackfruit, sapodillo plums, passion fruit, carambola or pitahaya, unfermented, Brix value <= 67 at 20 C (excl. mixtures, and containing added sugar or containing spirit)	Increase in import volume	4,276t	▲ 67%	1.58£/Kg	▼ -21%
	22042222: Wines produced in Bordeaux, in containers holding > 2 l but <= 10 l and of an actual alcoholic strength of <= 15% vol, with PDO (other than sparkling wine and semi-sparkling wine)	Increase in import volume	237t	▲ 590%	34.47£/Kg	▼ -83%
	22042928: Wines produced in Val de Loire Loire Valley, in containers holding > 10 l and of an actual alcoholic strength of <= 15% vol, with PDO (other than sparkling wine and semi-sparkling wine)	Increase in import volume	19t	▲ 608%	2.81£/Kg	▼ -9%
	23099070: Preparations, incl. premixes, for animal food, containing no starch, glucose, maltodextrine or maltodextrine syrup, but containing milk products (excl. dog or cat food put up for retail sale)	Increase in import volume	25,123t	▲ 131%	1.89£/Kg	▼ -4%
▼ 5: Minerals						

(1)

27073000: Xylol xylenes containing > 50% of xylenes (excl. chemically defined)	Increase in import volume	155,740t	▲ 621%	0.76£/Kg	▲ 11%
▼ 6: Chemical products (7)					
28142000: Ammonia in aqueous solution	Increase in import volume	4,324t	▲ 296%	0.36£/Kg	▼ -46%
28362000: Disodium carbonate	Increase in import volume	494,245t	▲ 43%	0.20£/Kg	▼ -11%
29215950: m-Phenylenebis(methylamine); 2,2'-dichloro-4,4'-methylenedianiline; 4,4'-bi-o-toluidine; 1,8-naphthylenediamine	Decrease in import unit price	914t	▼ -13%	3.24£/Kg	▼ -25%
29335310: Phenobarbital INN, barbital INN, and salts thereof	Increase in import volume	5t	▲ 707%	102.67£/Kg	▼ -74%
29336910: Atrazine ISO; propazine ISO; simazine ISO; hexahydro-1,3,5-trinitro-1,3,5-triazine hexogen, trimethylenetrinitramine	Increase in import volume	353t	▲ 1383%	0.94£/Kg	▼ -76%
29389090: Glycosides, natural or reproduced by synthesis, and their salts, ethers, esters and other derivatives (excl. rutoside rutin and its derivatives, digitalis glycosides, glycyrrhizic acid and glycyrrhizates)	Increase in import volume and decrease in import unit price	2,724t	▲ 275%	6.70£/Kg	▼ -77%
38159010: Catalysts consisting of ethyltriphenylphosphonium acetate in the form of a solution in methanol (excl. supported catalysts)	Increase in import volume	397t	▲ 1869%	1.34£/Kg	▼ -94%
▼ 7: Plastics and rubber, and articles thereof (3)					
39100000: Silicones in primary forms	Increase in import volume and decrease in import unit price	90,336t	▲ 186%	2.14£/Kg	▼ -68%
39259010: Fittings and mountings intended for permanent installation in or on doors, windows, staircases, walls or other parts of buildings, of plastics	Decrease in import unit price	38,023t	▲ 56%	2.23£/Kg	▼ -28%
40159000: Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, for all purposes, of vulcanised rubber (excl. hard rubber and footwear and headgear and parts thereof, and gloves, mittens and mitts)	Increase in import volume	3,653t	▲ 380%	5.36£/Kg	▼ -64%
▼ 8: Consumable animal and plant products (4)					
41012080: Whole raw hides and skins of bovine incl. buffalo or equine animals, whether or not dehaired, unsplit, of a weight per skin <= 16 kg, limed, pickled or otherwise preserved (excl. fresh or wet-salted, simply dried or dry-salted, tanned, parchment-dressed or further prepared)	Increase in import volume	19t	▲ 7597%	6.10£/Kg	▼ -94%
41131000: Leather further prepared after tanning or crusting incl. parchment-dressed leather, of goats or kids, without wool or hair on, whether or not split (excl. chamois leather, patent leather and patent laminated leather, and metallised leather)	Increase in import volume	24t	▲ 231%	22.16£/Kg	▼ -56%
42029219: Insulated food or beverage bags, shopping bags, map-cases, tool bags, jewellery boxes, cutlery cases, binocular cases, camera cases, gun cases, holsters and similar containers, with outer surface of plastic sheeting (excl. travelling-cases, briefcases, satchels and similar containers, bag or handbag articles, travelling-bags, toilet bags, sports bags, rucksacks and musical instrument cases)	Increase in import volume and decrease in import unit price	25,594t	▲ 69%	3.39£/Kg	▼ -40%
43040000: Artificial fur and articles thereof (excl. gloves made of leather and artificial fur, footwear and headgear and parts thereof, and goods of chapter 95, e.g. toys, games and sports equipment)	Increase in import volume	781t	▲ 992%	7.47£/Kg	▼ -63%
▼ 9: Wood and articles thereof					

(2)

	44039900: Wood in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared (excl. rough-cut wood for walking sticks, umbrellas, tool shafts and the like; wood cut into boards or beams, etc.; wood treated with paint, stains, creosote or other preservatives, coniferous and tropical wood, oak, beech, birch, poplar, aspen and eucalyptus)	Increase in import volume	218,095t	▲ 2229%	0.01£/Kg	▼ -96%
	44089015: Sheets for veneering, incl. those obtained by slicing laminated wood, for plywood or for other similar laminated wood and other wood, sawn lengthwise, sliced or peeled, of a thickness of <= 6 mm, planed, sanded or end-jointed (excl. tropical and coniferous wood)	Increase in import volume	2,270t	▲ 1083%	1.35£/Kg	▼ -90%
▼ 11: Textiles and articles thereof (4)						
	52042000: Cotton sewing thread, put up for retail sale	Increase in import volume	177t	▲ 91%	5.60£/Kg	▼ -44%
	52064400: Multiple folded or cabled cotton yarn containing predominantly, but < 85% cotton by weight, of combed fibres and with a linear density of 125 decitex to < 192,31 decitex > MN 52 to MN 80 per single yarn (excl. sewing thread and yarn put up for retail sale)	Increase in import volume	5t	▲ 1732%	7.93£/Kg	▼ -53%
	61101190: Women's or girls' jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles, of wool, knitted or crocheted (excl. jerseys and pullovers containing >= 50% by weight of wool and weighing >= 600 g/article, and wadded waistcoats)	Increase in import volume	4,235t	▲ 156%	23.08£/Kg	▼ -56%
	62113231: Men's or boys' lined tracksuits, of cotton, with an outer shell of a single identical fabric (not knitted or crocheted)	Increase in import volume	148t	▲ 216%	9.12£/Kg	▼ -26%
▼ 13: Non-metallic mineral products – stone, plaster, cement, ceramic and articles thereof (4)						
	68042230: Millstones, grindstones, grinding wheels and the like, without frameworks, for sharpening, polishing, trueing or cutting, of artificial abrasives, with binder of ceramics or silicates (excl. of agglomerated synthetic or natural diamond, hand sharpening or polishing stones, perfumed pumice stones, and grinding wheels etc. specifically for dental drill engines)	Increase in import volume and decrease in import unit price	2,127t	▲ 136%	3.80£/Kg	▼ -54%
	68043000: Hand sharpening or polishing stones	Increase in import volume	994t	▲ 204%	3.59£/Kg	▼ -68%
	70140000: Signalling glassware and optical elements of glass, not optically worked (excl. clock or watch glasses, glasses for non-corrective or corrective spectacles, incl. hollow glass spheres and their segments, for the manufacture of such glasses, microspheres, loose, lighting fittings and parts thereof)	Increase in import volume	811t	▲ 776%	8.59£/Kg	▼ -91%
	70181059: Imitation precious and semi-precious stones of glass (excl. beads, cut and mechanically polished, and articles thereof)	Increase in import volume	44t	▲ 3199%	5.83£/Kg	▼ -82%
▼ 14: Precious metals and stones, pearls, imitation jewellery, coins (1)						
	71123000: Ash containing precious metal or precious-metal compounds	Increase in import volume	1,478t	▲ 298%	203.45£/Kg	▼ -82%
▼ 15: Base metals and articles of base metals (8)						

72189911: Semi-finished products of stainless steel, of square cross-section, rolled or obtained by continuous casting	Increase in import volume	1,714t	▲ 747%	1.88£/Kg	▼ -67%
73066199: Tubes and pipes and hollow profiles, welded, of square or rectangular cross-section, of iron or steel other than stainless steel, with a wall thickness of > 2 mm	Increase in import volume	190,924t	▲ 34%	0.60£/Kg	▼ -11%
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	1,140t	▲ 1299%	0.92£/Kg	▼ -92%
75052200: Wire of nickel alloys (excl. electrically insulated products)	Decrease in import unit price	2,061t	▲ 78%	11.63£/Kg	▼ -57%
75089000: Articles of nickel, n.e.s.	Increase in import volume	1,515t	▲ 76%	193.26£/Kg	▼ -38%
81129295: Unwrought germanium; germanium powders	Increase in import volume	8t	▲ 1570%	885.18£/Kg	▼ -28%
83012000: Locks used for motor vehicles, of base metal	Increase in import volume and decrease in import unit price	16,979t	▲ 97%	5.81£/Kg	▼ -56%
83119000: Wire, rods, tubes, plates, electrodes and the like, of base metal or of metal carbides, coated or cored with flux material, for soldering, brazing, welding or deposition of metal or metal carbides, n.e.s., and wire and rods of agglomerated base metal powder, for metal spraying, n.e.s.	Increase in import volume	6,272t	▲ 189%	1.11£/Kg	▼ -60%
▼ 16: Machinery and mechanical equipment for sound and imagery, and accessories thereof (7)					
84011000: Nuclear reactors [Euratom]	Increase in import volume	1,064t	▲ 452873%	101.63£/Kg	▲ 35%
84137051: Radial flow centrifugal pumps with a discharge outlet diameter > 15 mm, single-stage, with single entry impeller, monobloc (excl. pumps of subheading 8413.11 and 8413.19, fuel, lubricating or cooling medium pumps for internal combustion piston engine, concrete pumps, submersible pumps and impeller pumps for heating systems and warm water supply)	Increase in import volume	10,507t	▲ 388%	3.44£/Kg	▼ -79%
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	9,520t	▲ 545%	4.08£/Kg	▼ -76%
84401020: Collating machines and gathering machines for bookbinding	Decrease in import unit price	23t	▲ 29%	13.54£/Kg	▼ -41%
84433100: Machines which perform two or more of the functions of printing, copying or facsimile transmission, capable of connecting to an automatic data-processing machine or to a network	Decrease in import unit price	60,855t	▲ 127%	5.00£/Kg	▼ -64%
84522100: Automatic sewing machines, industrial type	Increase in import volume	119t	▲ 113%	28.41£/Kg	▼ -25%
84805000: Moulds for glass (excl. moulds of graphite or other carbons and ceramic moulds)	Increase in import volume and decrease in import unit price	7,947t	▲ 518%	2.77£/Kg	▼ -88%
▼ 17: Specialised machinery for the transport sector (3)					
87033390: Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of <10 persons, incl. station wagons and racing cars, with only diesel engine of a cylinder capacity > 2.500 cm ³ , used	Increase in import volume	890t	▲ 80%	8.70£/Kg	▲ 14%

(excl. vehicles for travelling on snow and other specially designed vehicles of subheading 8703.10)

87043199: Motor vehicles for the transport of goods, with only spark-ignition internal combustion piston engine, of a gross vehicle weight <= 5 t, of a cylinder capacity <= 2.800 cm ³ , used (excl. dumpers for off-highway use of subheading 8704.10, special purpose motor vehicles of heading 8705 and special motor vehicles for the transport of highly radioactive materials)	Increase in import volume	456t	▲ 1583%	11.02£/Kg	▲ 61%
87091110: Electrical vehicles, not fitted with lifting or handling equipment, for the transport of highly radioactive materials [Euratom]	Increase in import volume	226t	▲ 10291%	7.98£/Kg	▼ -49%
▼ 18: Optical, cinematic, measuring, musical and medical apparatus and instruments (1)					
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	1,333t	▲ 2665%	3.90£/Kg	▼ -95%
▼ 20: Miscellaneous: toys, furniture, games, signs (1)					
95064000: Articles and equipment for table-tennis	Increase in import volume and decrease in import unit price	8,460t	▲ 281%	1.18£/Kg	▼ -68%

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>)