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Non-EU Overseas Trade Statistics October 2013

Summary

- The UK's non-EU exports for October 2013 are £13.3 billion. This is an increase of £1.4 billion (11.7 per cent) compared to September 2013. It is also an increase of £0.5 billion (4.2 per cent) compared to October 2012.
- The UK's non-EU imports for October 2013 are £16.6 billion. This is an increase of £0.2 billion compared to September 2013. However it is a decrease of £0.7 billion (4.2 per cent) compared to October 2012.
- The UK remains a net importer (imports are greater than exports). The size of the difference between imports and exports is £3.3 billion. This is a decrease of £1.2 billion (27.1 per cent) compared to September 2013. It is also a decrease of £1.3 billion (27.6 per cent) compared to October 2012.



HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) are responsible for collecting the UK's international trade in goods data, which are published as two National Statistics series - the 'Overseas Trade Statistics (OTS)' and the 'Regional Trade Statistics (RTS)'. The OTS are published monthly, providing detailed data for over 9,000 commodities and 200 partner countries. The RTS are published quarterly showing trade at summary product and country level, split by UK regions.

The OTS and RTS data series are published in HMRC's trade data website www.uktradeinfo.com. Detailed data is available within an [interactive database](#) and 'The User Story' explains how users utilise it to analyse import and export markets.

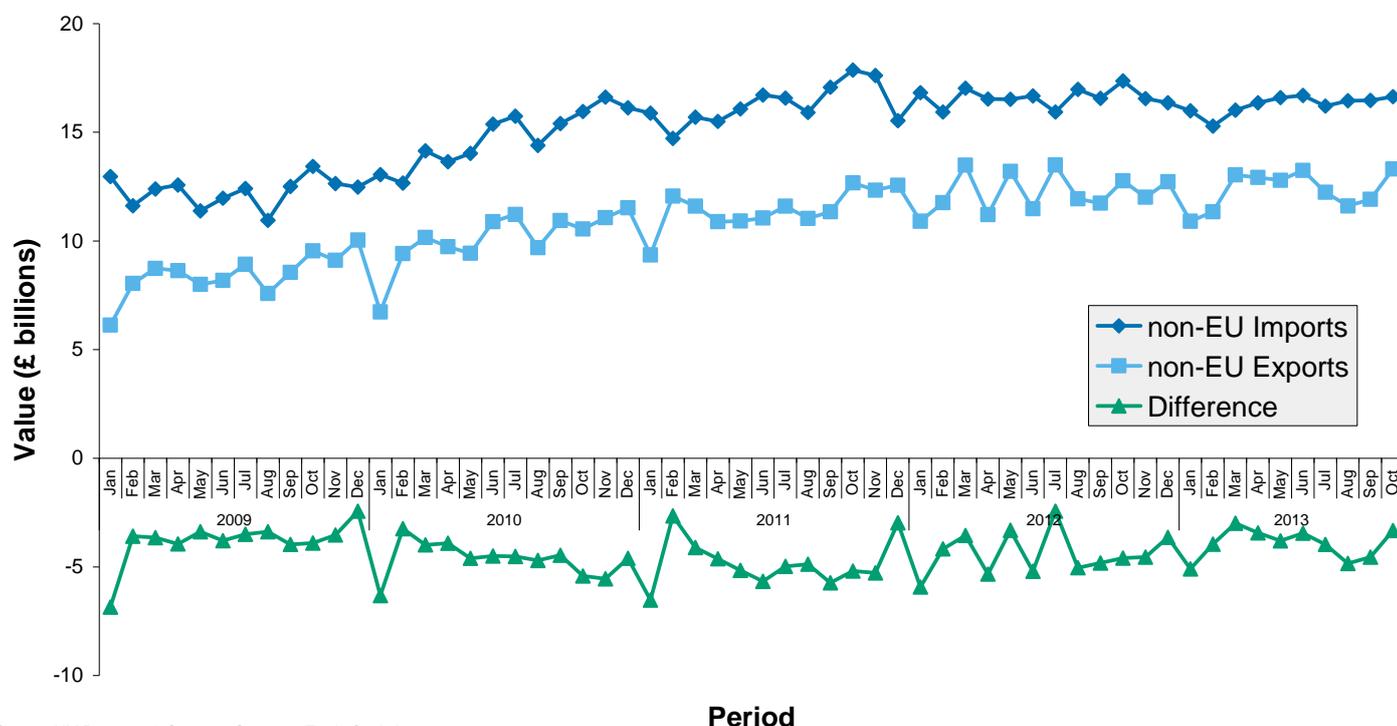
Key Points

For the month of October 2013:

The value of exports and imports both increased in October 2013 compared with the previous month, with exports rising at a faster rate. Consequently the difference between non-EU imports and exports (the trade gap) has decreased by 27.1 per cent. This is the smallest trade gap since March 2013.

The value of exports has increased to £13.3 billion. This is the highest since July 2012. The value of imports also rose, to the highest level since June 2013.

Fig. 1: Total Monthly UK Trade with non-EU Countries



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2013 data are provisional

Exports

- The UK's non-EU exports for October 2013 are £13.3 billion. This is an increase of £1.4 billion (11.7 per cent) compared to September 2013. It is also an increase of £0.5 billion (4.2 per cent) compared to October 2012.
- The top five commodities are the same as last month, although their order has changed. HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products) has risen to third place, from fifth.
- The largest contributing commodity group remains HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof). In October it contributed £2.5 billion, 18.9 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU export trade. The largest contribution to this chapter was £1.0 billion from HS4 8411 (Turbo-jets, Turbo-propellers and other gas turbines).
- There were increases in 60 per cent of all chapters, with four of the top five chapters increasing in value. The largest increase was in the second biggest chapter by value, HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof), up £502.3 million (31.8 per cent).
- The largest value decrease from the previous month was in the 46th biggest export chapter (down from 18th), HS2 93 (Arms and ammunition), which fell by £102.6 million (83.8 per cent) to £19.9 million.
- The USA remains the UK's largest non-EU export partner country, accounting for 27.6 per cent of the total value of UK's non-EU export trade. China remains in second place, with an 8.3 per cent share of exports, while Russia, South Korea and Canada have all risen to enter the top five.
- The largest decrease in exports was to the 14th placed country, Saudi Arabia, down from third. The fall of £194.0 million (36.8 per cent) follows the second highest value on record for exports to this country, to return to more usual levels.
- The total 2013 year to date value of the UK's goods exported to non-EU countries, excluding October 2013, is £110.0 billion which has been downwardly revised by £8.5 million. This is a decrease of less than 0.1 per cent.

Imports

- The UK's non-EU imports for October 2013 are £16.6 billion. This is an increase of £163.7 million (1.0 per cent) compared to September 2013. However it is a decrease of £726.1 million (4.2 per cent) compared to October 2012.
- The top five commodities are similar to the previous month. HS2 61 (Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted) has risen to fourth place from sixth.
- The largest commodity group remains HS2 27 (Mineral fuels). In October 2013 it contributed £3.2 billion, 19.1 per cent of the total value of non-EU imports to the UK. This is up £30.5 million (1.0 per cent) from September 2013. The largest contribution to this chapter was £1.8 billion from HS4 2709 (Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude).
- The largest value increase from last month was for the second biggest import chapter, HS2 84 (Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof), up £151.1 million (7.0 per cent).
- China remains the UK's largest non-EU import partner country in October 2013 with a total import trade of £3.2 billion, accounting for 19.1 per cent of the total value of UK's import trade. The USA now accounts for 15.9 per cent of the total value of imports.

- The largest value increase in imports compared to September 2013 was from Russia, which rose by £368.1 million (65.7 per cent), to climb to fourth place from seventh. The largest decrease in imports into the UK compared to September 2013 was from Botswana which fell by £255.2 million (98.3 per cent) from £259.6 million to £4.5 million.
- The total 2013 year to date value of the UK's goods imported from non EU countries, excluding October 2013, is £146.1 billion, which is virtually unchanged since last month.

Further Analysis: Exports

Table 1 shows a comparison of the top five commodities by value exported to countries outside the EU for October 2013, September 2013 and October 2012.

HS 2	Description	October 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2013	% Change from October 2012	% of Total October 2013 Exports	Rank September 2013	Rank October 2012
-	Total Exports	13,314.6	11.7	4.3	100.0	n/a	n/a
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	2,512.1	1.9	8.4	18.9	1	1
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	2,080.2	31.8	20.2	15.6	2	2
30	Pharmaceutical products	955.6	33.2	7.9	7.2	5	3
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	852.4	-9.1	2.0	6.4	3	6
85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts and accessories of such articles	811.8	1.0	-7.5	6.1	4	4

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Note: 2013 data are provisional

Commodity Analysis: comparison with previous month

The overall rise in exports **compared to September 2013** is composed of increases in 60 per cent of HS2 chapters. The total export trade value has increased by £1.4 billion (11.7 per cent) to reach £13.3 billion, the third highest export value on record. Four of the top five commodity types increased in value. There were five chapters with increases of over £100 million, and one decrease of this magnitude.

The largest increase was £502.3 million in the second chapter in the top five, HS2 87 (Motor vehicles), up by 31.8 per cent. This was driven by a rise of £438.8 million (33.3 per cent) in HS4 8703 (Motor vehicles for the transport of <10 persons). This was led by increases of £159.2 million (74.0 per cent) in exports to the USA, and £119.9 million (30.6 per cent) to China.

The second largest increase was for the third largest chapter, up from fifth. HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products) rose by £238.0 million (33.2 per cent), led by an increase of £194.1 million (64.3 per cent) in exports to the USA.

The third largest increase was in HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof), up by £212.1 million (56.9 per cent) to £585.2 million. This was driven by a threefold rise of £146.5 million in exports of powered aircraft in HS4 8802.

The fourth largest increase was for HS2 29 (Organic chemicals), up £177.5 million (80.9 per cent). This was led by a rise in exports to Canada, of £123.9 million, from £2.4 million.

The final increase above £100 million was for the sixth biggest export chapter, HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin), up £112.8 million (18.8 per cent). This was driven by an increase in exports of £89.0 million (41.4 per cent) in diamonds in HS4 7102. This was led by an increase of £55.5 million (69.7 per cent) to Botswana.

These were the only increases over £100 million. The next largest was for HS2 28 (Inorganic chemicals), up £89.2 million.

The only decrease over £100 million was in HS2 93 (Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof), down by £102.6 million (83.8 per cent). The next largest was HS2 27 (Mineral fuels), down £85.5 million.

Commodity Analysis: Comparison against the same month in the previous year

Compared to October 2012, the total export trade value increased by £0.5 billion (4.2 per cent), with 56 per cent of all HS2 chapters showing increases and 44 per cent showing decreases. Four of the top five chapters increased in value. There were three increases of over £100 million, and two decreases of over £100 million.

The largest value increase was in the second biggest chapter, HS2 87, which rose by £350.0 million (20.2 per cent). This was dominated by a rise of £412.3 million (30.7 per cent) in HS4 8703 (motor vehicles for <10 people), led by an increase of £177.9 million (53.2 per cent) to China.

The second largest increase was in the top chapter, HS2 84 (Mechanical appliances), up by £194.8 million (8.4 per cent), with a fivefold rise of £91.8 million in HS4 8407 (Spark-ignition reciprocating or rotary internal combustion piston engines), and HS4 8411 (Turbojets, turbopropellers and other gas turbines) up £80.0 million (8.4 per cent).

The third largest increase was in HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof) which rose by £136.3 million (30.4 per cent). As with the comparison with September 2013, the increase is driven by rise in exports of powered aircraft in HS4 8802, of £102.3 million (88.3 per cent).

There were no other increases over £100 million, with the next biggest being £70.0 million for HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products).

The largest decrease was for HS2 97 (Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques), down by £144.6 million, (29.9 per cent). This was dominated by a fall of £131.6 million (37.3 per cent) in HS4 9701 (Paintings and drawings executed entirely by hand).

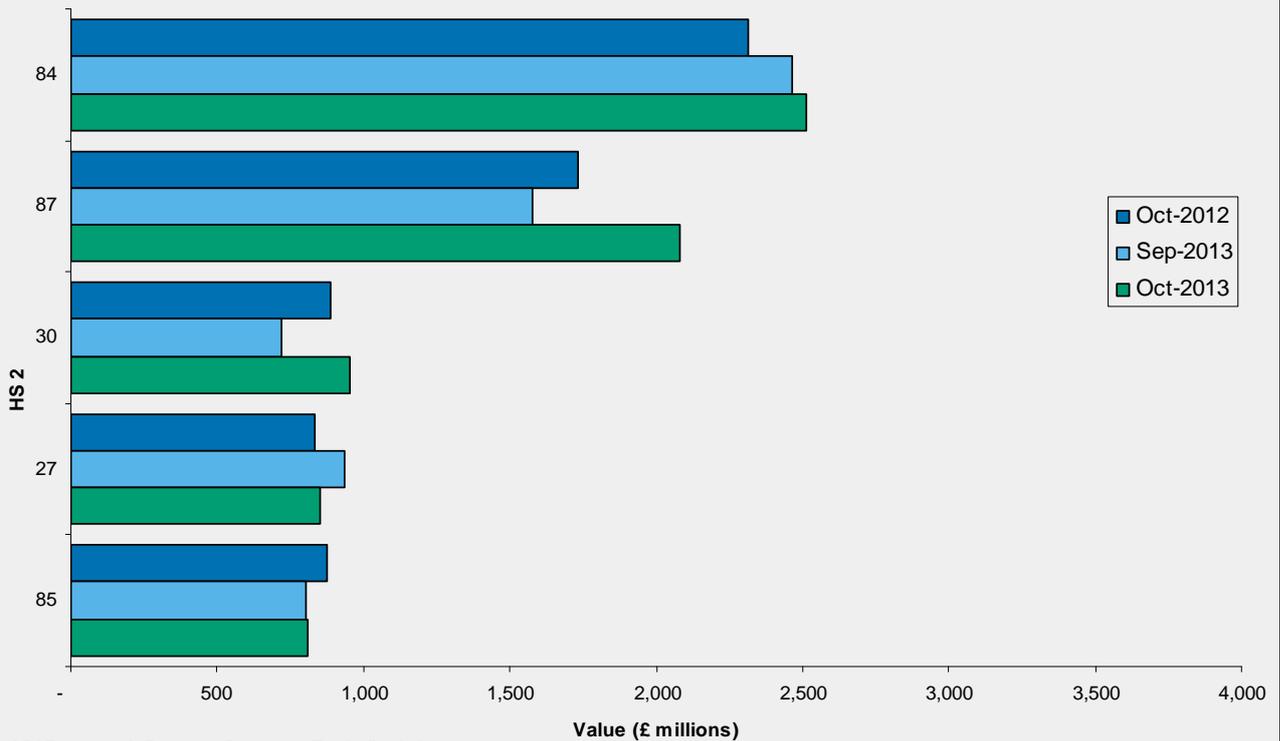
The second largest decrease took HS2 71 (Precious stones, metals, pearls and jewellery) from fifth to sixth place. This was a decrease of £136.7 million (16.1 per cent) compared to October 2012, and is driven by a fall of £113.2 million (37.2 per cent) in jewellery (HS4 7113).

There were no other decreases over £100 million. The next biggest fall was £65.8 million for HS2 85 (Electronic equipment).

Figure 2 below shows the top five commodities for the UK's non-EU exports in October 2013, compared to September 2013 and October 2012. It shows how the increases in chapters 87 and 30, when compared to September 2013, are substantially greater than all the other changes, leading to the total rise in exports for October 2013.

Compared to October 2012, the top two chapters had large increases, while the other three changes were much smaller in comparison.

Fig 2: Top 5 commodities for UK's non-EU exports in October 2013 compared to September 2013 and October 2012



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2013 data are provisional

Table 2 shows a comparison of the value of UK non-EU export trade with our top five export trading partners for October 2013, September 2013 and October 2012.

Table 2: Top 5 non-EU export countries in October 2013 compared to September 2013 and October 2012

Country	October 2013 Total £ millions	% change from September 2013	% Change from October 2012	% of total October 2013 Exports	Rank September 2013	Rank October 2012
Total Exports	13,314.6	11.7	4.3	100.0	n/a	n/a
USA	3,681.4	16.8	-0.4	27.6	1	1
China	1,100.7	3.6	19.2	8.3	2	2
Russia	510.4	25.3	24.0	3.8	6	6
South Korea	506.5	104.0	41.7	3.8	15	10
Canada	489.4	73.1	39.2	3.7	12	11

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2013 data are provisional

For all three periods the USA was the UK's largest non-EU export partner country, with China second. This month has seen Russia return to third from sixth place, while South Korea has climbed from 15th to fourth place, and Canada from twelfth to fifth. Compared to last month there were increased exports to all of the top five partner countries, while compared to October 2012, only the USA decreased in export value.

Country Analysis: comparison with previous month

Compared to September 2013, there was increased trade to 54 per cent of our export partners. There were four countries to which exports rose by £100 million or more, and one decrease above this level. The four largest increases were all within the top five countries.

The largest increase in exports was to the UK's largest export partner, the USA, experiencing a rise of £528.1 million (16.7 per cent). This covers 37.8 per cent of the total net increase. This is the highest export value since March 2013, and is led by increases of £194.1 million (64.3 per cent) in exports for HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products), £171.8 million (59.9 per cent) in HS2 87 (Motor vehicles) and £109.8 million (more than double) in HS2 97 (Art and sculpture). These increases were partially offset by a fall of £274.8 million (44.3 per cent) in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels).

The second largest increase was in exports to South Korea, up by £258.2 million (more than double). This was dominated by a rise of £284.4 million in exports of HS2 27 (Mineral fuels), from less than £1 million. Export trade with South Korea has been driven by the fuel trade for the past two years, and both chapter and total export value are at their highest value since February 2013.

The third largest increase was in exports to Canada, up by £206.6 million (73.0 per cent) to climb from twelfth to fifth place. This was driven by a rise of £123.9 million in HS2 29 (Organic chemicals), from £2.4 million. The total export value of £489.4 million to Canada is the second highest on record, just behind the record of £511.9 million from June 2011.

The fourth largest increase was in exports to Russia, up by £103.0 million (25.3 per cent) to climb from sixth to third place, and is the highest export value to Russia since June 2012. This was led by a rise of £42.0 million (25.3 per cent) in HS2 87 (Motor vehicles).

These were the only increases over £100 million. The next highest was £81.2 million (31.9 per cent) to India.

The only decrease in exports over £100 million was to Saudi Arabia, which fell by £194.0 million (36.8 per cent) to £333.2 million. This decrease was led by falls of £103.5 million in HS2 93 (Arms and ammunition) and £77.7 million (52.2 per cent) in HS2 84 (mechanical appliances), both following high exports last month.

This was the only decrease over £100 million. The next biggest decrease was to Nigeria, down by £65.7 million (36.5 per cent).

Country Analysis: comparison against the same month in the previous year

Compared to September 2012, there was an increase of £0.5 billion (4.2 per cent) in total exports. Half of the UK's export partner countries experienced increases in export value, and half decreased, but the size of the increases was generally greater than the decreases. There were three increases in excess of £100 million, and no decreases above this level.

The largest increase was for China, which rose by £177.3 million (19.2 per cent). This was driven by an increase of £173.0 million (49.0 per cent) in motor vehicles (HS2 87).

The second largest increase was in exports to South Korea, up by £149.2 million (41.7). As with the comparison with last month, this was driven by a rise of £137.9 million (93.7 per cent) in exports of HS2 27 (Mineral fuels).

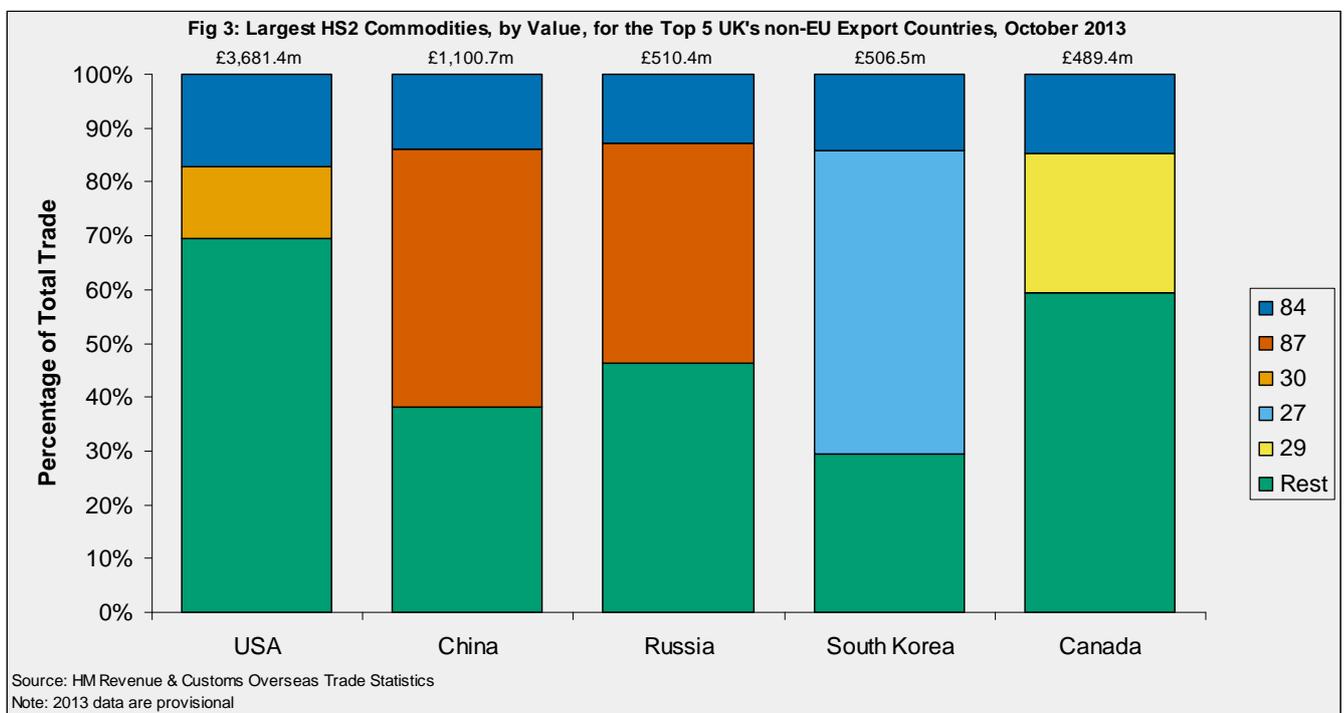
The third largest increase was to Canada, up by £137.9 million (39.2 per cent). This was driven by a rise of £123.6 million in HS2 29 (Organic chemicals), from £2.7 million.

Just below the £100 million level, the next two largest increases were for Saudi Arabia, which rose by £99.7 million (42.7 per cent), and Russia, up by £98.9 million (24.0 per cent).

There were no decreases over £100 million. The largest decrease was for exports to Azerbaijan, down £98.3 million (79.8 per cent). This was dominated by a fall of £102.6 million (97.4 per cent) in HS2 71 (Precious stones, metals, pearls and jewellery), following a large export of jewellery in HS4 7113 in October 2012.

Figure 3 shows the two largest commodities by value exported from the UK to each of its top five non-EU export partner countries. This month, all of the top five countries had HS2 84 (Mechanical appliances) in their top two chapters, accounting for 39.5 per cent of the total value of UK non-EU export trade for this chapter.

Two of the top five countries had HS2 87 (Motor vehicles) as one of the top two largest exported commodities accounting for 35.3 per cent of the UK's total exports in this chapter. Also, the export of HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products) to the USA accounts for 51.9 per cent of the UK's total exports in this chapter.



Further Analysis: Imports

Table 3 shows a comparison of the top five commodities imported from countries outside the EU for October 2013, September 2013 and October 2012.

Table 3: Top 5 commodities in UK's non-EU imports in October 2013 compared to September 2013 and October 2012

HS 2	Description	October 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from September 2013	% Change from October 2012	% of Total October 2013 Imports	Rank September 2013	Rank October 2012
-	Total Imports	16,635.1	1.0	-4.2	100.0	n/a	n/a
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	3,169.2	1.0	0.0	19.1	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	2,309.1	7.0	6.3	13.9	2	2
85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts and accessories of such articles	1,622.0	-2.7	5.1	9.8	3	3
61	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted	686.0	-0.3	8.6	4.1	6	5
88	Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof	666.5	-12.9	43.3	4.0	5	10

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
Note: 2013 data are provisional

Commodity Analysis: comparison with previous month

The value of imports increased by £163.7 million (1.0 per cent) **compared to September 2013**. There were increases in 68 per cent of the HS2 commodity chapters, but offset by one large decrease. There was one increase over £100 million and one decrease, but this was over £400 million. Three of the top five import chapters decreased on last month.

The largest value increase from the previous month was for the second biggest chapter HS2 84 (Mechanical appliances), up £151.1 million (7.0 per cent). The increase was driven by a rise of £151.9 million (40.0 per cent) in imports of computers in HS4 8471. This is dominated by an increase of £160.4 million (96.5 per cent) in imports from China.

Although this was the only increase over £100 million, there were also three increases between £90 million and £100 million. The next largest value increase from the previous month was £97.6 million (90.4 per cent) for HS2 28 (Inorganic chemicals), led

by a £93.0 million increase from Russia. There were also increases of £96.4 million (nearly three-fold) in imports of HS2 89 (Ships, boats, and floating structures), and £91.2 million (18.9 per cent) in HS2 87 (Motor vehicles).

The only decrease over £100 million took HS2 71 (Precious stones, metals, pearls and jewellery) out of the top five, from fourth to sixth. It fell by £407.7 million (41.1 per cent). Platinum group metals (HS4 7110) fell by £310.8 million (83.1 per cent); and unmounted diamonds (HS4 7102) fell by £218.6 million (62.0 per cent). The fall in platinum imports is driven by a fall of £299.0 million (99.9 per cent) from Switzerland, and the fall in diamond imports is dominated by a £254.4 million (99.0 per cent) decrease from Botswana.

The next largest decrease was for HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts), down by £98.7 million (12.9 per cent). The decrease was driven by a fall of £94.8 million (16.7 per cent) in imports of HS4 8802 (powered aircraft and spacecraft).

Commodity Analysis: comparison with the same month in the previous year

When **compared to October 2012**, total import value decreased by £726.1 million (4.1 per cent). Only 41 per cent of the HS2 commodity chapters decreased in value, but these decreases were dominated by one decrease which was greater than the overall net fall. There were four chapters with decreases of over £100 million and three with increases over this value.

The biggest decrease was a fall of £783.8 million (57.2 per cent) in the sixth biggest import chapter, HS2 71, down from fourth. This was driven by decreases of £355.4 million (84.9 per cent) in HS4 7110 (Platinum group metals); £281.5 million (67.8 per cent) in HS4 7102 (diamonds); and £161.4 million (53.8 per cent) in HS4 7106 (silver).

The decrease in platinum was dominated by a fall of £345.0 million (99.9 per cent) from Switzerland. The decrease in diamonds was composed of falls of £124.4 million (98.1 per cent) from Botswana and £113.6 million (100 per cent) from South Africa. The fall in silver imports was spread over several countries, led by Taiwan, down £48.7 million (84.9 per cent).

The second biggest decrease was £361.0 million (59.3 per cent) for HS2 97 (Art and antiques). This was driven by a fall of £266.7 million (65.0 per cent) in HS4 9701 (paintings and drawings), primarily from the USA, which fell £234.4 million (76.3 per cent).

The third biggest decrease was a fall of £278.1 million (44.2 per cent) in HS2 30 (Pharmaceutical products). This was dominated by a fall of £325.2 million (98.9 per cent) in imports from Israel.

The fourth biggest decrease was for HS2 29 (Organic chemicals), down by £225.3 million (55.7 per cent). This was driven by a fall of £190.8 million (92.8 per cent) in imports from Singapore.

These were the only decreases over £100 million. The next biggest decrease was £51.5 million for HS2 12 (Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medical plants; straw and fodder).

The largest value increase from October 2012 was for HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof), up £201.5 million (43.3 per cent). This was driven by a rise of £196.6 million (71.4 per cent) in imports of HS4 8802, (powered aircraft).

The second biggest increase was a rise of £137.4 million (6.3 per cent) in the second biggest import chapter, HS2 84 (Mechanical appliances). This was spread over a number of headings within this chapter, led by an increase of £43.1 million (5.9 per cent) in HS4 8411 (Turbojets, turbopropellers and other gas turbines).

The third biggest increase was for HS2 89 (Ships, boats and floating structures) up £133.9 from £18.3 million to £152.2 million. This was led by a rise of £141.3 million in

HS4 8905 (Light-vessels, fire-floats, dredgers, floating cranes, drilling or production platforms), almost entirely due to imports from Singapore.

These were the only increases over £100 million. The next biggest increase was £79.8 million (16.2 per cent) for HS2 87 (Motor vehicles).

Figure 4 below shows the top five commodities for the UK's non-EU imports in October 2013, compared to September 2013 and October 2012. It shows how the decrease in chapters 88 and 85, and increase in chapter 84 were the main changes compared to September 2013. When compared to last year there were four increases, but for HS2 27 it was relatively minor.

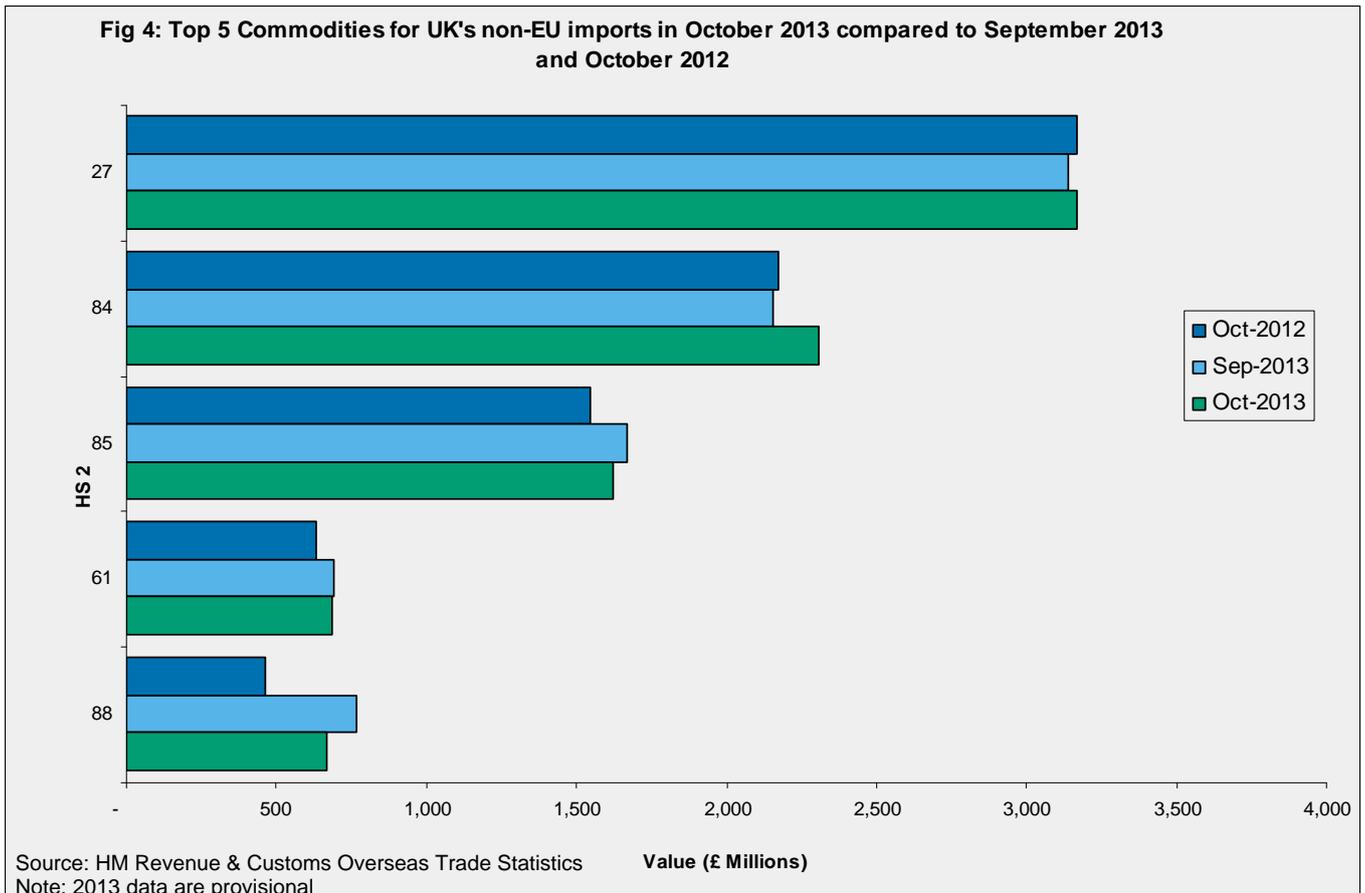


Table 4 shows comparisons of the value of UK non-EU import trade from our top five import trading partners for October 2013, September 2013, and October 2012. Imports from all of the top five trading partners have increased in October 2013 compared to the previous month. Norway and the USA experienced a decrease when compared to October 2012.

Table 4: Top 5 Non-EU import partner countries in October 2013 compared to September 2013 and October 2012

Country	October 2013 Total £ millions	% change from September 2013	% Change from October 2012	% of Total October 2013 Imports	Rank September 2013	Rank October 2012
Total Imports	16,635.1	1.0	-4.2	100.0	n/a	n/a
China	3,183.4	3.4	9.8	19.1	1	2
USA	2,648.2	0.1	-10.3	15.9	2	1
Norway	1,287.0	8.3	-16.3	7.7	3	3
Russia	928.6	65.7	36.7	5.6	7	5
Hong Kong	755.3	15.3	16.5	4.5	5	6

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2013 data are provisional

The top three countries are unchanged from last month, with China remaining ahead of the USA for a fourth month. Russia rose to fourth from seventh place, while Switzerland dropped from fourth to eighth. China, the USA, and Norway have been the UK's largest import partners for a number of years, collectively accounting for 42.8 per cent of the UK's import trade.

Country Analysis: comparison with previous month

Compared to September 2013, the small increase in the value of imports is composed of increases in just over half (50.3 per cent) of the UK's import partner countries. Four countries had increases of £100 million or more, while three had decreases of this magnitude.

The biggest increase in the value of imports was from Russia, up £368.1 million (65.7 per cent) to £928.6 million. This is the second highest import value on record, just behind June 2011's record of £938.2 million. The increase is dominated by an increase of £230.8 million (52.0 per cent) in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels), driven by rises of £135.6 million (68.5 per cent) in refined oil (HS4 2710) and £84.2 million (53.5 per cent) in crude oil (HS4 2709). This has brought Russia from seventh to fourth place.

The second biggest increase in the value of imports was from the seventh biggest import country, India, up £120.7 million (25.2 per cent) to £600.2 million. The increase is spread over several chapters, with the largest increases being in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels), up £48.8 million (250 per cent). This is the third highest import value on record, the highest being £637.0 million in August 2012.

The third biggest increase in the value of imports was from the top import country, China, up £104.6 million (3.4 per cent) to £3.2 billion. This is a new high for imports from China. The increase is dominated by a rise of £181.4 million (44.8 per cent) in HS2 84 (Mechanical appliances). This was led by a rise of £160.4 million (almost double) in HS4 8471, which includes computers, laptops, and tablets.

The fourth biggest increase was from the fifth biggest import country, Hong Kong, up £100.0 million (15.3 per cent) to £755.3 million. This is a three year high for imports from Hong Kong, which traditionally rise each October and November. The increase is led by increases of £56.0 million (more than double) in HS2 95 (Toys, games and video consoles) and £45.7 million (50.4 per cent) in HS2 84 (Mechanical appliances).

Just outside the £100 million level, there were also large increases in the value of imports from Norway, up by £98.1 million (8.3 per cent); Turkey, up £96.7 million (19.9 per cent) and Qatar, up £93.5 million (69.7 per cent).

The largest decrease in imports was from Botswana, down by £255.2 million (98.3 per cent) to £4.5 million this month. This is dominated by imports of diamonds (HS4 7102), down £254.4 million (99.0 per cent) after a large import value last month.

The second biggest decrease in the value of imports was from Switzerland, down £242.1 million (28.8 per cent) to £597.4 million. The fall is dominated by HS2 71 (Precious stones, metals, pearls and jewellery), down £284.7 million (72.9 per cent), dominated by a fall of £299.0 million in platinum (HS4 7110).

The third biggest decrease in the value of imports was from Saudi Arabia, down £103.0 million (40.4 per cent) to £151.8 million, with falls of £95.6 million (99.9 per cent) in refined oil (HS4 2710), and £17.1 million (20.8 per cent) in crude oil (HS4 2709).

Just outside the £100 million level, the fourth largest fall was from Angola, down by £92.6 million (98.8 per cent). This was led by a decrease of £91.8 million in HS4 2709 (Crude oil).

Although there was a fall of £237.3 million in aircraft from the USA already mentioned, this was balanced by several increases, so overall there was a very small net increase for total imports from the USA.

Country Analysis: comparison with the same month in the previous year

Compared to October 2012 there was a decrease of £726.1 million (4.2 per cent) in the total value of imports. This was composed of 48 per cent of the UK's import partner countries decreasing in value, but the decreases being generally larger in value than the increases. There were five increases and eight decreases in excess of £100 million. Three of the UK's top five import trading partners for October 2013 have increased when compared to October 2012, and two have decreased.

The largest decrease in the value of imports was for Switzerland, down by £381.7 million (39.0 per cent). This is dominated by a fall of £345.0 million (99.9 per cent) in HS4 7110 (Platinum group metals).

The second largest decrease was from Israel, which fell by £332.7 million (76.9 per cent), dominated by a £325.2 million (98.9 per cent) fall in pharmaceutical products (HS2 30).

The third largest fall was from the USA, down by £304.8 million (10.3 per cent), with falls of £304.3 million (68.9 per cent) in art and sculpture (HS2 97) and £137.9 million (41.0 per cent) in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels), offset by a rise of £185.3 million (92.2 per cent) in aircraft (HS2 88).

The fourth largest decrease in the value of imports was from Norway, down £251.4 million (16.3 per cent), with a fall of £249.1 million (18.7 per cent) in HS2 27. This was led by a fall of £168.2 million (14.9 per cent) in crude oil (HS2 2709) and £59.3 million (70.9 per cent) in refined oil (HS4 2710).

South Africa and Botswana both had decreases in import value driven by the diamond trade. South Africa was down by £146.8 million (45.4 per cent), with a fall of £113.6 million (100 per cent) in diamonds (HS4 7102); and Botswana fell by £122.5 million (96.5 per cent), with a £124.4 million (98.1 per cent) decrease in diamonds.

Imports from Canada decreased by £139.0 million (25.3 per cent), with falls of £62.3 million (45.5 per cent) in HS2 71 (Precious stones, metals, pearls and jewellery) and £60.1 million (74.9 per cent) in HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts).

The final fall of over £100 million was from Nigeria, down by £133.6 million (48.9 per cent). This was dominated by a fall of £132.0 million (50.4 per cent) in crude oil (HS4 2709).

Just outside the £100 million level, there was also a decrease of £98.8 million (25.4 per cent) in imports from Taiwan, led by a fall of £80.9 million (57.4 per cent) in HS2 84 (Mechanical appliances).

The largest increase in the value of imports was from China, up by £284.4 million (9.8 per cent). As with the comparison with last month, this was led by a rise of £104.7 million (21.8 per cent) in HS2 84 (Mechanical appliances). This in turn was led by an increase of £66.8 million (25.7 per cent) in HS4 8471, which includes computers, laptops and tablets.

The next three largest partner country increases were driven by imports of oil and gas in HS2 27. These were Russia, up £249.3 million (36.7 per cent); Algeria, up by £187.8 million (a five-fold rise); and Qatar, up by £128.1 million (more than double). These were driven by rises of £213.1 million (nearly three-fold) in refined oil (HS4 2710) for Russia; £168.7 million (five-fold) in crude oil (HS4 2709) for Algeria; and £106.5 million (more than double) in petroleum gas (HS4 2711) for Qatar.

The last increase over £100 million was from Hong Kong, up by £106.9 million (16.5 per cent), with rises of £57.0 million (71.9 per cent) in HS2 84 (Mechanical equipment) and £52.9 million (more than double) in HS2 95 (Toys, games and video consoles).

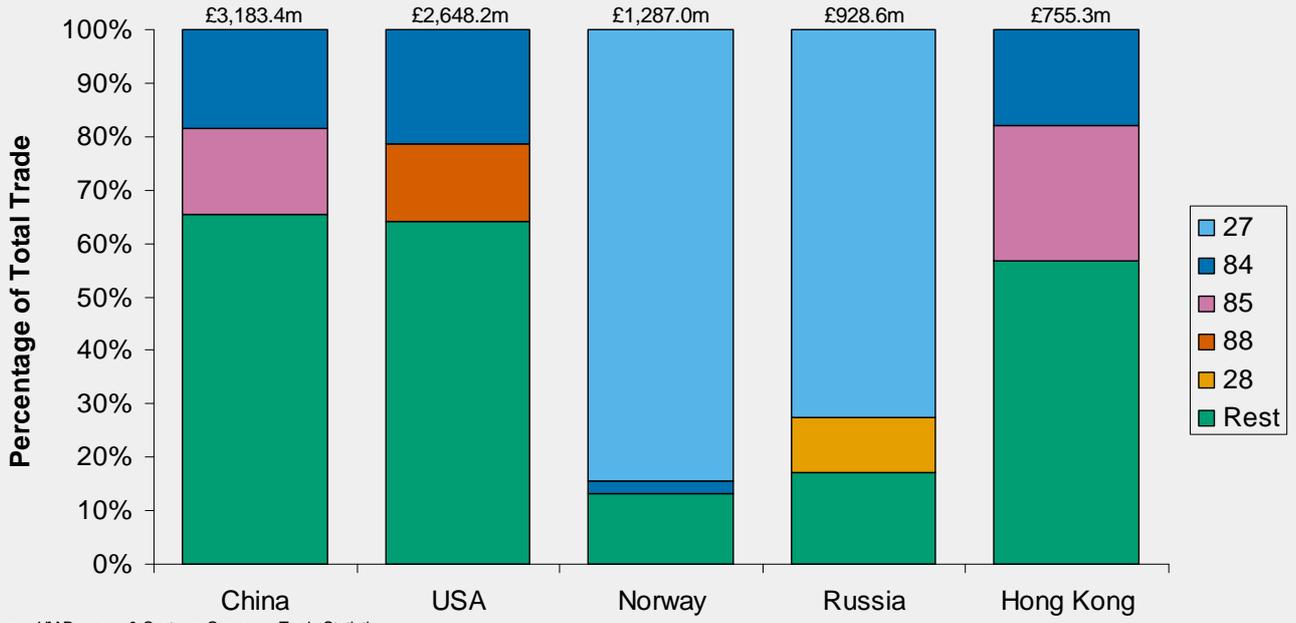
Just outside the £100 million level, the sixth largest increase in the value of imports was from India, up by £97.5 million (19.4 per cent). This spread over several chapters.

Figure 5 shows the two largest commodities by value imported from each of the top five non-EU import partner countries. This month, HS2 84 (Mechanical appliances) is in the top two chapters of four of the top five importing countries, with the trade with China, the USA, Norway and Hong Kong accounting for 57.1 per cent of the total import value in this chapter.

Two countries, China and Hong Kong, both have HS2 85 (Electronic equipment) in their top two largest imported commodities, accounting for 43.2 per cent of the total import value for this chapter.

The trade in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels) accounts for 84.3 per cent of the total imports from Norway, specifically the Norwegian Continental Shelf, and 72.6 per cent from Russia. Together, these two countries provide 55.5 per cent of the UK's total imports for this chapter.

Fig 5: Largest HS2 Commodities, by Value, for Top 5 UK's non-EU Import Countries, October 2013



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2013 data are provisional

Notes:

1. HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with countries outside the European Union (EU) on 10 December 2013 under arrangements set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#). The first release is published in HMRC's trade data website www.uktradeinfo.com.
2. This release includes the first provisional estimates of trade-in-goods between the UK and countries outside the EU for October 2013. At the same time revisions for all previously published non-EU data for 2013 are also being released in line with the [HM Revenue & Customs Policy on Revisions](#).
3. Detailed trade information is presented according to the [Harmonised System \(HS\)](#) nomenclature.
4. 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 two sets of data are compiled to different sets of rules. The ONS web site provides an overview of BoP at the [Guide to UK Trade](#) as well as the 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. uktradeinfo.com provides more detail about the [differences between BoP and OTS publications](#).
5. The aggregate estimates here will differ from the Eurostat publication [Euro area external trade](#). The OTS is published as 'general trade' based upon goods recorded as they enter or leave the UK. This will include goods imported into and exported from a freezone or customs warehouse, regardless of their future use. The Eurostat EU external trade data are published as 'special trade' where goods are recorded as trade only when they enter free circulation or are declared to specific Customs regimes such as Inward Processing (IP) or Processing under Customs Control (PCC). Imports from a free zone or customs warehouse are similarly recorded in 'special trade'.
6. HMRC publishes [additional information](#) to help support users of this data. This includes links to our policies on revision and suppression of data, descriptions of the methodology used to compile the OTS and information on the quality of the data published.
7. The OTS has been reviewed as part of an assessment made of Overseas Trade Statistics by the [UK Statistics Authority](#). The report of that assessment can be found at
<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-93---uk-trade-in-goods.pdf>
8. 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.

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The OTS and RTS data series are published in HMRC's trade data website www.uktradeinfo.com. Detailed data is available within an [interactive database](#) and ['The User Story'](#) explains how users utilise it to analyse import and export markets.

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