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# EU Overseas Trade Statistics November 2013

## Summary

- The UK's EU exports for November 2013 total £12.4 billion. This is a decrease of £0.5 billion (4.2 per cent) compared to October 2013. It is also a decrease of £1.0 billion (7.4 per cent) compared to November 2012.
- The UK's EU imports for November 2013 total £19.3 billion. This is a decrease of £0.6 billion (3.1 per cent) compared to October 2013. However, it is an increase of £0.9 billion (4.7 per cent) compared to November 2012.
- The UK remains a net importer (imports are greater than exports). The size of the difference between imports and exports is £6.9 billion. This is a decrease of £0.1 billion (1.2 per cent) compared to October 2013, and is the second highest EU trade gap on record after last month.



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](http://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.

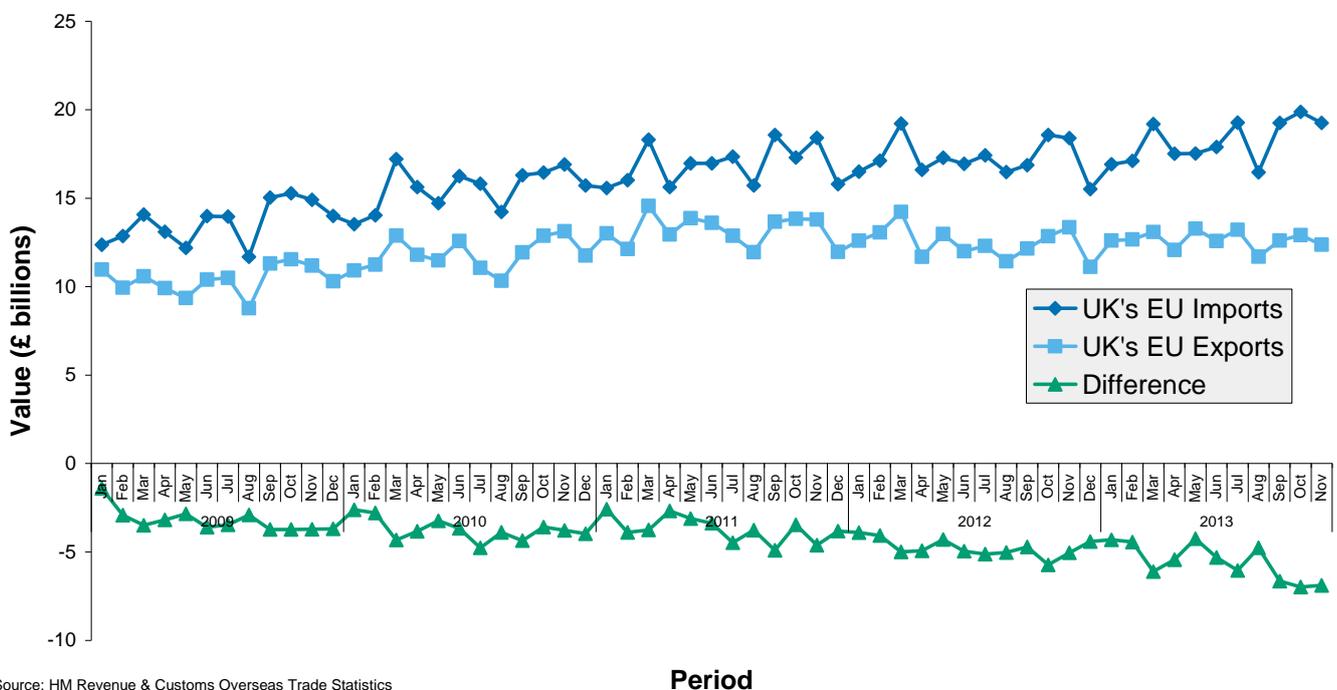
## Key Points

For the month of November 2013:

The value of UK trade decreased for both EU imports and exports, with imports falling by £0.6 billion, and exports by £0.5 billion against October 2013 totals. Compared to November 2012, imports rose by £0.9 billion and exports fell by £1.0 billion.

There is a decrease of 1.2 per cent in the trade gap (i.e. the difference between UK imports from, and exports to the EU) when compared to October 2013. This difference is now £6.9 billion. This is the second largest trade gap on record after October 2013.

**Fig. 1: Total Monthly UK Trade with EU Member States**



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

## Exports

- The UK's EU exports for November 2013 total £12.4 billion. This is a decrease of £0.5 billion (4.2 per cent) compared to October 2013. It is also a decrease of £1.0 billion (7.4 per cent) compared to November 2012.
- The top five commodities are unchanged from last month. HS2 27 (Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes) remains the top commodity exported by value, despite experiencing the largest value decrease from the previous month of £0.4 billion (17.3 per cent). In November it contributed £1.7 billion, 13.9 per cent of the total value of the UK's EU export trade.
- The largest value increase from the previous month was in the commodity with the third largest export value. HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof) was up £81.7 million (7.0 per cent).
- The top five EU export partner countries are the same as the previous month. Germany remains the UK's largest EU export partner country, accounting for 20.7 per cent of the total exports, despite experiencing the largest value decrease from the previous month of £348.1 million (12.0 per cent).
- The largest increase in exports to a partner country compared to October 2013, was a rise of £126.6 million (18.3 per cent) to Italy.
- The total 2013 year to date value of the UK's trade in goods exported to EU Member States, excluding November, is £126.7 billion. This has been downwardly revised by £0.6 billion. This is a decrease of 0.5 per cent.

## Imports

- The UK's EU imports for November 2013 total £19.3 billion. This is a decrease of £0.6 billion (3.1 per cent) compared to October 2013, which saw the highest import value on record. However, it represented an increase of £0.9 billion (4.7 per cent) compared to November 2012.
- The top five commodities are the same as last month. The largest contributing commodity group is HS2 87 (Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof). This contributed £3.0 billion, 15.6 per cent of the total value of UK's EU import trade.
- The largest value decrease from the previous month was in HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof) down £125.3 million (37.9 per cent). The largest value increase from the previous month was in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels) up £94.1 million (7.1 per cent).
- The top five EU import partner countries are unchanged from October 2013. Germany remains the EU Member State from which the UK imports most goods by value, accounting for 25.1 per cent of total EU imports. The largest decrease compared to October 2013 was from France, down by £213.1 million (9.0 per cent). The largest increase was a rise of £54.9 million (10.0 per cent) in imports from Denmark.
- The total 2013 year to date value of the UK's trade in goods imported from EU Member States, excluding November, is £181.0 billion. This has been upwardly revised by £210.8 million. This is an increase of 0.1 per cent.

## Further Analysis: Exports

**Table 1: Top 5 commodities in UK's EU exports in November 2013 compared to October 2013 and November 2012**

HS 2	Description	November 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from October 2013	% Change from November 2012	% of Total November 2013 Exports	Rank October 2013	Rank November 2012
-	Total Exports	12,370.6	-4.2	-7.4	100.0	n/a	n/a
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	1,725.3	-17.3	-28.7	13.9	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	1,303.7	-7.4	0.2	10.5	2	2
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	1,245.5	7.0	10.7	10.1	3	8
30	Pharmaceutical products	917.5	-1.7	-4.2	7.4	4	3
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	904.1	-1.8	-1.9	7.3	5	4

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

### Commodity Analysis: comparison with previous month

The decrease in export value of £0.5 billion (4.2 per cent) **compared to October 2013** is composed of decreases in 49 per cent of all HS2 chapters but with the magnitude of the decreases being higher than those of the increases. Four of the top five chapters experienced falls in trade. There were two decreases over £100 million and no increases above this level.

The largest decrease was for the top chapter, HS2 27 (Mineral fuels), down £360.2 million (17.3 per cent). This is the fourth monthly fall from the record high value of £3.0 billion in July 2013, to £1.7 billion this month, the lowest value since September 2010. This decrease was dominated by a fall of £356.5 million (71.9 per cent) in exports to Germany.

The second largest decrease was for the second placed chapter, HS2 84 (Mechanical appliances). This fell by £104.0 million (7.4 per cent) to £1.3 billion, a return to more normal levels of trade following last month, which was the highest value since March 2012. This decrease was composed of falls to most EU Member States, the largest being to Germany, down £54.3 million (12.6 per cent).

There were no other decreases over £100 million. The next highest decrease was for HS2 71 (Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin). This fell by £89.1 million (31.5 per cent) and was dominated by a fall of £100.7 million to Belgium.

There were no increases over £100 million. The largest increase was just £81.7 million, for HS2 87 (Motor Vehicles), up 7.0 per cent.

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

**Compared to November 2012**, the overall export trade to EU Member States decreased by £1.0 billion (7.4 per cent). This overall fall is composed of decreases in just 33 per cent of all HS2 chapters, but the decreases were much greater in magnitude than the increases. There were three decreases and one increase over £100 million. In the top five chapters, there were three decreases and two increases.

The largest decrease was in the top chapter HS2 27 (Mineral fuels), down £694.3 million (28.7 per cent). This fall was driven by decreases in exports to the Netherlands, down £437.9 million (41.7 per cent) and Germany down £341.8 million (71.0 per cent). However, trade within this chapter is highly volatile.

The second largest decrease was £568.2 million (59.1 per cent) for HS2 29 (Organic chemicals). This was almost entirely due to a fall in exports to Germany of £567.2 million (88.9 per cent).

The third largest decrease was £106.2 million (35.4 per cent) for HS2 71 (Precious stones, metals, pearls and jewellery). This was dominated by a fall in exports to Belgium of £124.4 million (68.4 per cent).

There were no other decreases over £100 million. The next largest decrease was for HS2 28 (Inorganic chemicals) down £62.2 million (44.4 per cent).

The largest increase was for HS2 87 (Motor vehicles), which rose by £120.5 million (10.7 per cent). This increase was spread across a number of EU export partners, led by increases in exports to the Netherlands of £32.2 million (45.4 per cent) and Sweden of £31.8 (58.1 per cent).

This was the only increase over £100 million. The next largest increase was for HS2 72 (Iron and steel) up 57.1 million (23.9 per cent).

Figure 2 shows the top five commodities for the UK's EU exports in November 2013, compared to October 2013 and November 2012. It shows that HS2 27 has substantially decreased in comparison with both October 2013 and November 2012 where as both HS2 30 and HS2 85 have remained relatively static over the three periods. HS2 87 shows a small but steady increase compared to both October 2013 and November 2012. Finally, HS2 84 shows a decrease in comparison with October 2013 but a very marginal increase in comparison with November 2012.

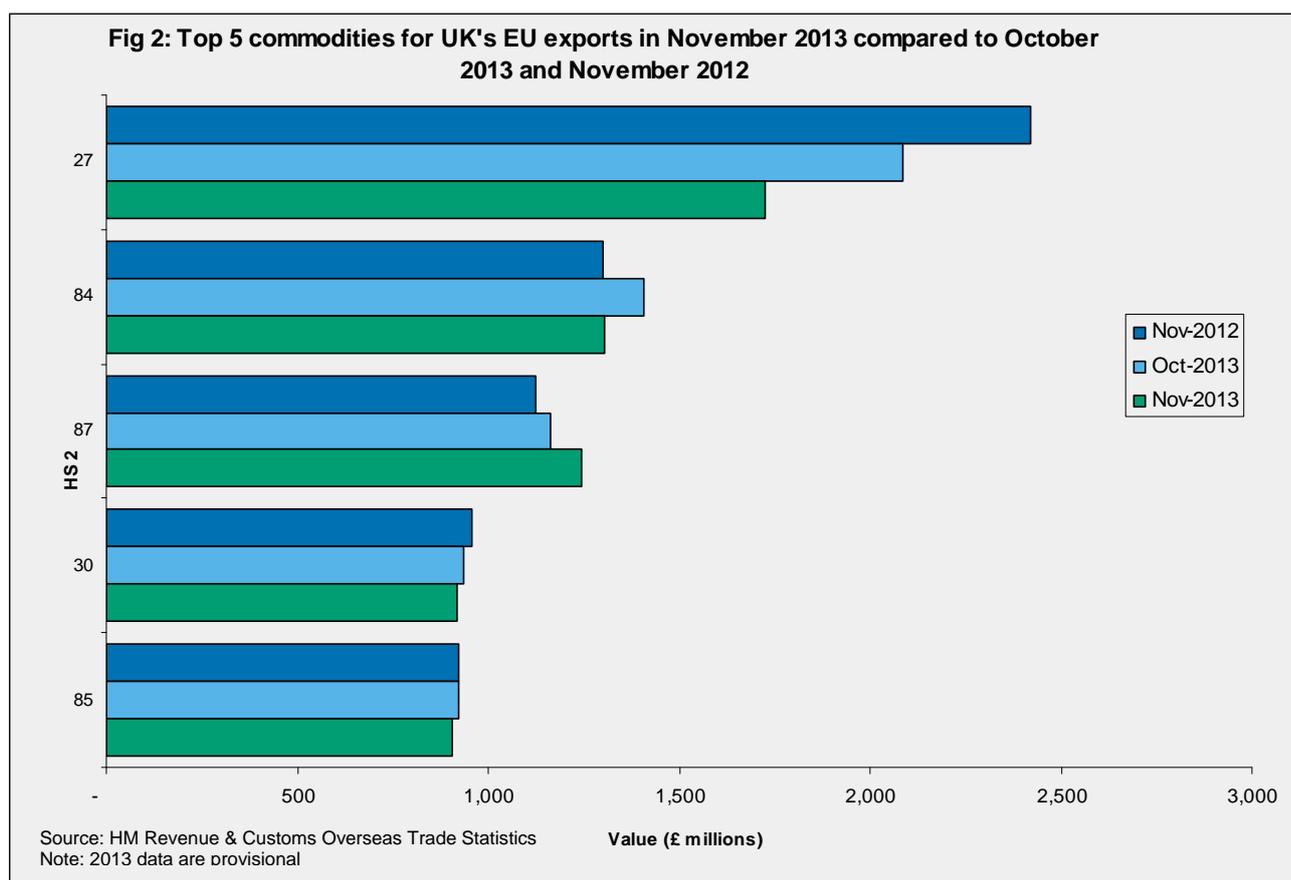


Table 2 shows comparisons of the value of UK export trade with our top five EU export trading partners for November 2013, October 2013 and November 2012.

**Table 2: Top 5 EU export partner Member States in November 2013 compared to October 2013 and November 2012**

Country	Total November 2013 £ millions	% Change from October 2013	% Change from November 2012	% of total EU exports	Rank October 2013	Rank November 2012
Total Exports	12,370.6	-4.2	-7.4	100.0	n/a	n/a
Germany	2,557.7	-12.0	-23.0	20.7	1	1
France	1,975.0	4.1	0.0	16.0	2	3
Netherlands	1,765.7	4.6	-12.5	14.3	3	2
Ireland	1,654.0	3.7	11.7	13.4	4	4
Belgium	910.0	-20.5	-14.9	7.4	5	5

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

### Country Analysis: comparison with previous month

The top five EU export partner Member States remain unchanged **compared with October 2013**. Germany has been the UK's largest export partner in the EU for a number of years, currently accounting for 20.7 per cent of the total value of exports. This was led by exports of £377.1 million in HS2 84 (Mechanical appliances), with five other chapters having exports of over £100 million.

The decrease in value of total export trade compared to October 2013 reflects falls in 16 of the other 27 Member States in the EU. There were three decreases and one

increase over £100 million. In contrast, decreases in export trade occurred with only two of the top five partner countries.

The largest decrease in the value of exports was for the UK's top export partner, as Germany fell by £348.1 million (12.0 per cent). This follows last month's increase, which took the export trade to its highest value since November 2012. This decrease was dominated by a fall in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels) of £356.5 million (71.9 per cent).

The second largest decrease in the value of exports from the UK was to Belgium, down £234.0 million (20.5 per cent). This reflects falls of £103.1 million (57.8 per cent) again in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels) and £100.7 million (63.7 per cent) in HS2 71 (Precious stones, metals, pearls and jewellery).

The third largest decrease in the value of exports from the UK was to Sweden, down £160.5 million (26.5 per cent). Similarly, this fall was dominated by a decrease in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels) of £159.5 million (85.9 per cent).

There were no other decreases over £100 million. The next largest decrease was exports to Poland, down £36.3 million (11.4 per cent).

The largest increase was a rise of £126.6 million (18.3 per cent) to Italy. This was greatly influenced by changes in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels), which grew by £90.5 million to £94.1 million from £3.6 million last month.

This was the only increase over £100 million. The next largest increase was to the Netherlands, up £77.2 million (4.6 per cent). Again, this was dominated by a rise in exports of HS2 27 (Mineral fuels), of £97.3 million (18.9 per cent).

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

The decrease in total export trade value **compared to November 2012** was composed of 14 decreases and 12 increases in the UK's 26 EU export partner Member States. This excludes Croatia as although it joined the EU on 1 July 2013, it was not a member in November 2012. There were three decreases over £100 million and two increases above this value. Trade with three of the top five export partner countries decreased.

The largest decrease was for Germany, down by £765.4 million (23.0 per cent). This is greater than the total net export decrease. This decrease was driven by falls of £567.2 million (88.9 per cent) in HS2 29 (Organic chemicals) and £341.8 million (71.0 per cent) in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels).

The second largest decrease was for the Netherlands, down by £251.6 million (12.5 per cent). This was driven by a substantial fall of £437.9 million (41.7 per cent) in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels).

The third largest decrease was for Belgium, down £159.0 million (14.9 per cent). This was driven by a fall of £124.4 million (68.4 per cent) in HS2 71 (Precious stones, metals, pearls and jewellery).

There were no other decreases over £100 million. The next largest decrease was for Sweden down £74.2 million (14.3 per cent).

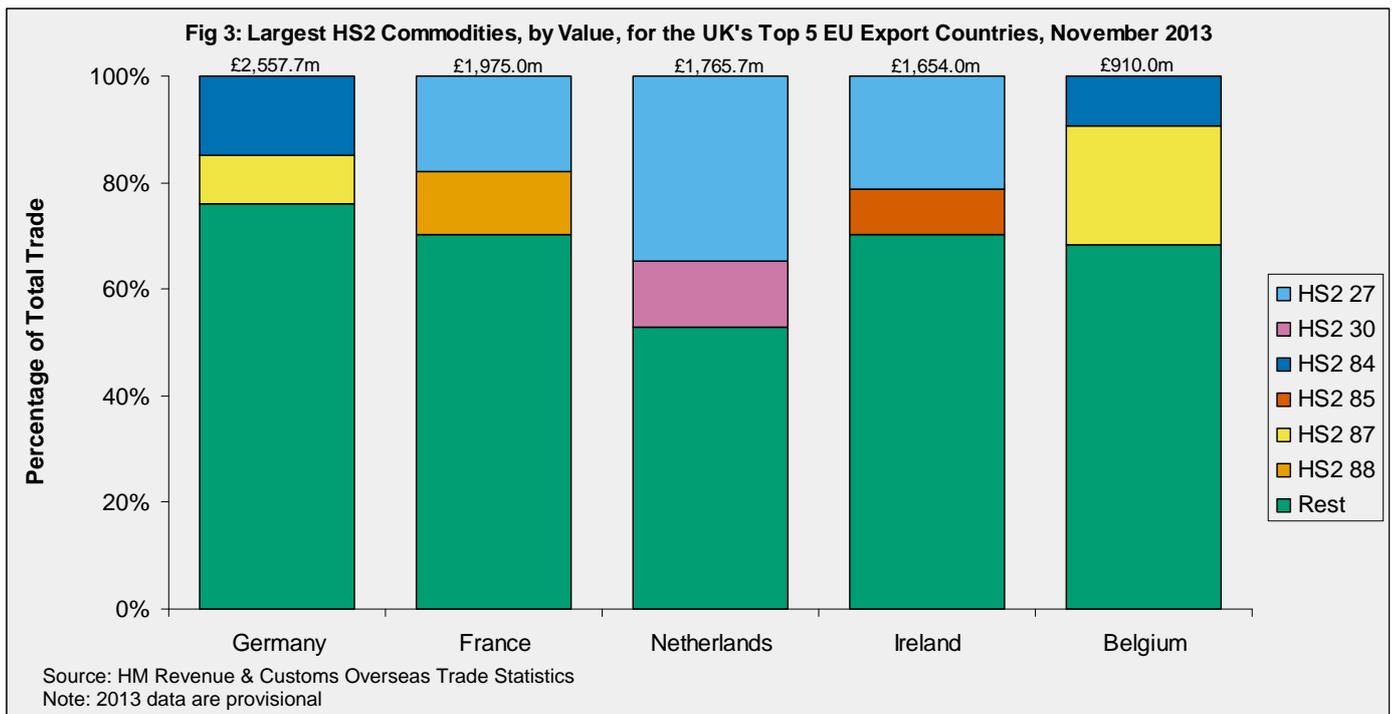
The largest increase was for the Irish Republic, up £172.6 million (11.7 per cent). This was driven by a rise in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels), up £115.6 million (48.8 per cent).

The second largest increase was for Italy up £107.2 million (15.0 per cent). Again, this was driven by a rise in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels), up £92.2 million to £94.1 million from £1.8 million in November 2012.

There were no other increases above £100 million. The next largest was for Spain, up £45.1 million (6.7 per cent).

Figure 3 shows the two largest commodities by value exported from the UK to each of the UK's top five EU export trading partners. Three of the top five Member States have HS2 27 (Mineral fuels) as one of their two largest commodities exported from the UK by value. The trade with these three Member States accounts for 76.4 per cent of the total value of UK EU export trade under this chapter. Furthermore, HS2 27 accounts for 34.6 per cent of the total UK export trade to the Netherlands.

Chapters HS2 84 and HS2 87 are the top two chapters for both Germany and Belgium. None of the other chapters feature in more than one of the top five Member States' two largest commodities.



## Further Analysis: Imports

**Table 3: Top 5 commodities in UK's EU imports in November 2013 compared to October 2013 and November 2012**

HS 2	Description	November 2013 Total £ millions	% Change from October 2013	% Change from November 2012	% of Total November 2013 Imports	Rank October 2013	Rank November 2012
-	Total Imports	19,257.0	-3.1	4.7	100.0	n/a	n/a
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling-stock, and parts and accessories thereof	3,012.8	-0.1	21.5	15.6	1	1
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	2,232.1	-4.8	9.6	11.6	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	1,971.6	-1.6	-0.8	10.2	3	3
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	1,427.9	7.1	-0.8	7.4	4	4
30	Pharmaceutical products	1,184.0	1.9	-2.7	6.1	5	5

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Note: 2013 data are provisional

### Commodity Analysis: comparison with previous month

The decrease of £0.6 billion in imports **compared to October 2013** is made up of decreases in 67 per cent of all HS2 chapters. There were three decreases over £100 million and no increases above this level. Three of the top five commodities fell in import value.

The largest decrease was for HS2 88 (Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof). This fell by £125.3 million (37.9 per cent). Last month was the second highest import value on record for this chapter. The decrease this month is dominated by a fall of £170.0 million (85.0 per cent) from France.

The second largest decrease was for HS2 71 (Precious stones, metals, pearls and jewellery), which fell by £112.5 million (37.2 per cent) to £190.3 million. The decrease was led by a fall in imports from France, of £87.4 million (73.9 per cent).

The third biggest decrease was for the second biggest import chapter, HS2 84 (Mechanical appliances), which fell by £112.3 million (4.8 per cent) to £2.2 billion. Last month was a new high for this chapter. This decrease is spread over several countries, led by falls from Germany, France, and Poland, of £29.4 million (4.0 per cent); £28.1 million (11.0 per cent); and £26.8 million (18.6 per cent) respectively.

There were no other decreases over £100 million. The next largest was £60.4 million (7.7 per cent) for HS2 39 (Plastics and plastic products).

There were no increases over £100 million. The largest increase was for the fourth biggest chapter by value, HS2 27 (Mineral fuels), which rose by £94.1 million (7.1 per cent) to £1.4 billion. This is the highest import value for this chapter since the record high of £1.9 billion in March 2013. The increase included rises in imports from France, of £110.0 million (more than double), and Belgium, of £84.3 million (91.6 per cent), partially offset by a fall of £108.1 million (74.3 per cent) from Finland.

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

**Compared with November 2012**, there was an increase of £0.9 billion (4.7 per cent) in the value of imports from EU Member States. There were increases in 68 per cent of all chapters. There were two chapters with increases of over £100 million, and one decrease above this level. Two of the top five commodities increased in import value.

The chapter with the largest increase in comparison with November 2012 was the top import chapter, HS2 87 (Motor vehicles), which rose by £532.4 million (21.5 per cent). This increase was led by a rise of £317.9 million (27.2 per cent) from Germany.

The second largest increase was for the second biggest import commodity by value, HS2 84 (Mechanical appliances), which rose by £194.6 million (9.6 per cent). This was spread over a number of countries, led by an increase of £66.1 million (10.3 per cent) in imports from Germany.

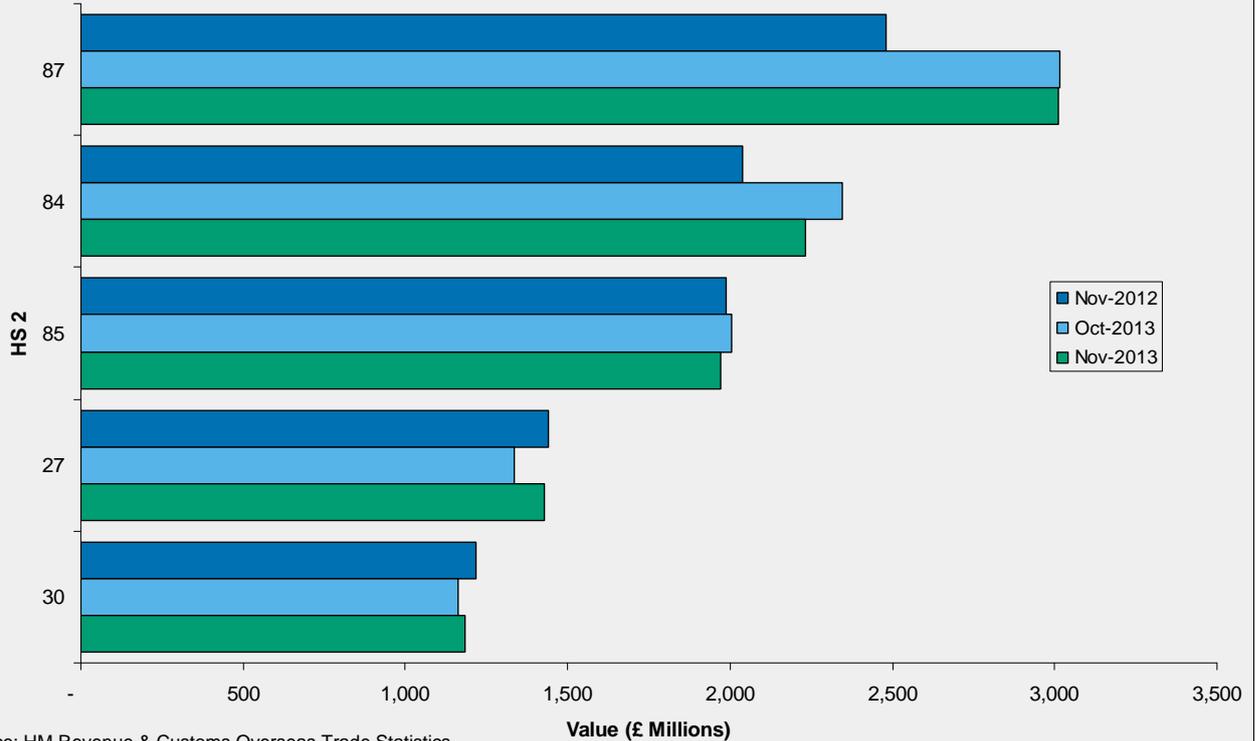
There were no other increases over £100 million. The next largest was a rise of £55.0 million (8.2 per cent) for HS2 39 (Plastics and plastic products).

The only decrease over £100 million was for HS2 71 (Precious stones, metals, pearls and jewellery), which fell from eleventh to twenty-first place. This fell by £123.9 million (39.4 per cent) to £190.3 million, led by a fall in imports from Germany of £90.6 million (74.7 per cent).

There were no other decreases over £100 million. The next largest was £57.1 million (27.4 per cent) for HS2 99 (Other products).

Figure 4 shows the top five HS2 commodity groups for the UK's EU imports in November 2013, compared to October 2013 and November 2012. The graph demonstrates how the increase in chapters 87 and 84 compared to last year, dominates the other chapters' smaller decreases. Compared to last month, there were three decreases and two increases, but the changes were much smaller.

**Fig 4: Top 5 Commodities for UK's EU imports in November 2013 compared to October 2013 and November 2012**



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

Table 4 shows comparisons of the value of UK import trade with our top five EU import trading partners for November 2013, October 2013 and November 2012.

**Table 4: Top 5 EU import partner Member States in November 2013 compared to October 2013 and November 2012**

Country	November 2013 Total £ millions	% change from October 2013	% change from November 2012	% of total November 2013 Imports	Rank October 2013	Rank November 2012
Total				100.0	n/a	n/a
Germany	4,824.5	-0.2	5.7	25.1	1	1
Netherlands	3,109.4	-4.9	-0.9	16.1	2	2
France	2,156.0	-9.0	4.7	11.2	3	3
Belgium	1,754.7	2.7	9.1	9.1	4	4
Italy	1,379.7	-3.3	12.1	7.2	5	5

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

The UK imports most goods from Germany, which account for 25.1 per cent of the total imports to the UK from the EU. This is led by imports of £1.5 billion in HS2 87 (Motor vehicles), accounting for 30.8 percent of the total imports from Germany. The next largest chapter is HS2 84 (Mechanical appliances), with £0.7 billion, 14.7 per cent of the UK's imports from Germany.

## Country Analysis: comparison with previous month

**Compared with October 2013**, the value of total import trade into the UK decreased for nineteen of the other EU Member States, and increased for eight. Imports for two Member States decreased by over £100 million, while there were no increases above this level.

The largest decrease was a fall of £213.1 million (9.0 per cent) from France, to £2.2 billion. Last month was the second highest value on record for imports from France. The decrease this month is led by a falls of £170.0 million (85.0 per cent) in chapter HS2 88 (Aircraft) and £87.4 million (73.9 per cent) in HS2 71 (Precious metals, stones, pearls and jewellery), partially offset by a rise of £110.0 (more than double) in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels).

The second largest decrease in import value was from the Netherlands, down £160.4 million (4.9 per cent) from last month's record high of £3.3 billion. This was spread over several chapters, led by a fall of £58.9 million (8.2 per cent) in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels), which was also a record high last month. This month's import value of £664.2 million is the second highest on record for this chapter.

The third largest decrease was from Finland, down by £99.3 million (32.0 per cent). This was dominated by a fall of £108.1 million (74.3 per cent) in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels).

There were no increases over £100 million. The largest increase was for imports from Denmark, up by £54.9 million (10.0 per cent) to £604.6 million. This is the fourth consecutive rise in imports from Denmark, and is the highest import value since the record of £618.8 million in March 2012. The rise this month is led by an increase of £43.7 million (80.1 per cent) in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels).

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

There was an increase of £0.9 billion (4.7 per cent) in total import trade value **compared to November 2012**, which is composed of sixteen increases and ten decreases from the other EU Member States (excluding Croatia). Four of the top five Member States increased in import value. There were five increases and one decrease over £100 million.

The largest increase was from the UK's biggest import partner. Imports from Germany rose by £261.2 million (5.7 per cent), led by an increase of £317.9 million (27.2 per cent) in HS2 87 (Motor vehicles).

The second largest increase was for the sixth biggest import country, up from seventh. Imports from Spain were up £195.3 million (22.0 per cent). This was also led by a rise of £65.6 million (29.0 per cent) in HS2 87 (Motor vehicles)

The third largest increase was for imports from Denmark, up £178.3 million (41.8 per cent). This was led by a rise of £122.3 million (more than seven-fold) in HS2 85 (Electronic equipment).

The fourth largest increase was for imports from Italy, up £149.3 million (12.1 per cent). This was spread over several chapters, led by a five-fold increase of £53.9 million in HS2 29 (Organic chemicals).

The fifth largest increase was for Belgium, up £147.0 million (9.1 per cent). This was led by a rise of £80.4 million (28.4 per cent) in HS2 87 (Motor vehicles).

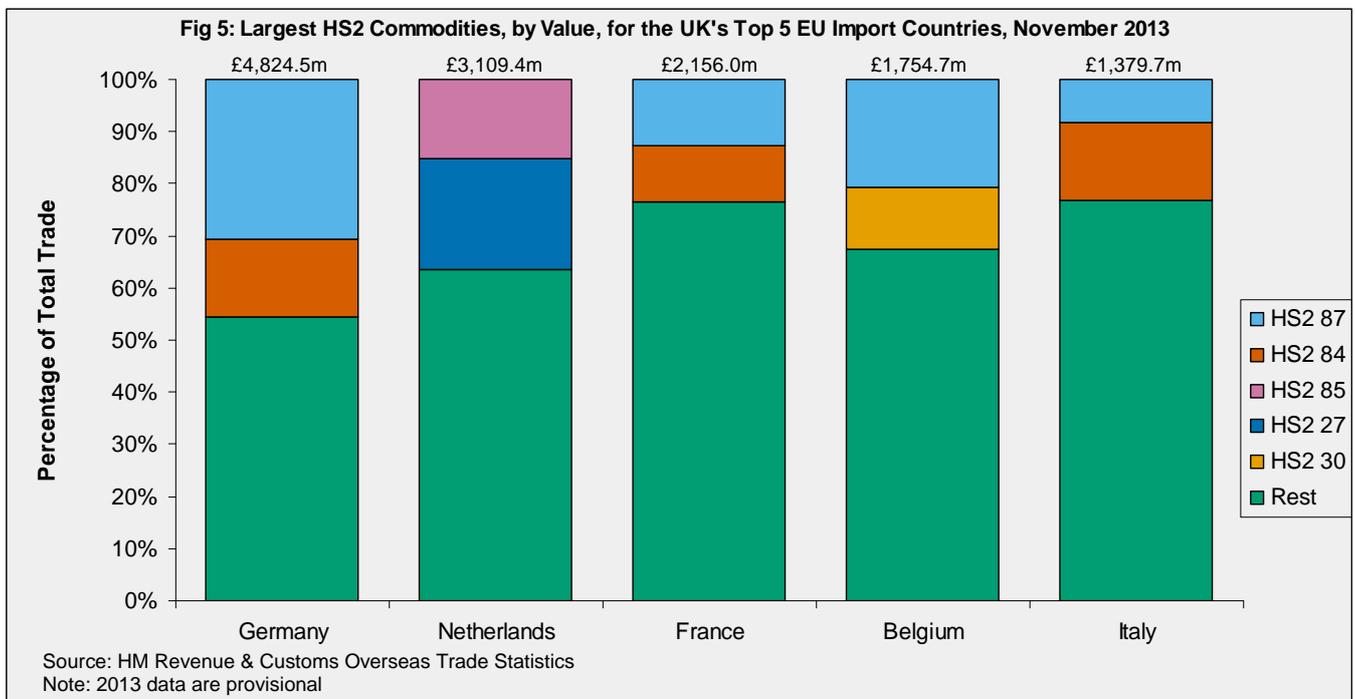
Just outside the £100 million level, the next largest increase was for France, rising by £97.2 million (4.7 per cent). This was led by HS2 27 (Mineral fuels), up £82.0 million (78.5 per cent).

The only decrease over £100 million was for Sweden, down £211.7 million (28.2 per cent). This was dominated by a fall of £214.9 million (70.8 per cent) in HS2 27 (Mineral fuels).

The next largest decrease was for the Irish Republic, down £53.9 million (4.9 per cent).

Figure 5 shows the two largest commodities imported into the UK by value from each of the UK's top five import partner EU Member States. Apart from the Netherlands, all of the top five Member States have HS2 87 (Motor vehicles) in their top two largest commodities. The trade in HS2 87 from these Member States accounts for 74.3 per cent of the total import trade to the UK under this chapter. It also makes up 30.8 per cent of the UK's total imports from Germany.

Three Member States (Germany, France and Italy) have HS2 84 (Mechanical appliances) in their top two largest commodities imported by the UK, accounting for 51.3 per cent of the total UK import value in these commodities. Imports from the Netherlands within HS2 27 (Mineral fuels) account for 46.5 per cent of the UK's imports from the EU in this chapter.



Notes:

1. HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with Member States of the European Union (EU) on 14 January 2014 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/](http://www.uktradeinfo.com/).
2. This release includes the first provisional estimates of trade-in-goods between the UK and Member States of the EU for November 2013. At the same time revisions for all previously published EU data for 2013 are also being released in line with the [HM Revenue & Customs Policy on Revisions](#).
3. The figures provided in this publication of the November 2013 EU Overseas Trade Statistics will include
  - a. Estimates for businesses who have yet to submit detailed data on the trade they had with other EU Member States in November.
  - b. Estimates for businesses who do not have to submit detailed data on the trade they have with other EU Member States
  - c. An adjustment for trade associated with [Missing Trader Intra Community fraud](#).
4. Estimates are included in all high level totals including HS2 and country totals but not for aggregated totals below this level.
5. Detailed trade information is presented according to the [Harmonised System \(HS\)](#) nomenclature.
6. 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](http://uktradeinfo.com) provides more detail about the [differences between BoP and OTS publications](#).
7. 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'.
8. 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.
9. 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>

10. 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.

11. 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](http://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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