



HM Revenue
& Customs

UK Overseas Trade Statistics with non-EU May 2014

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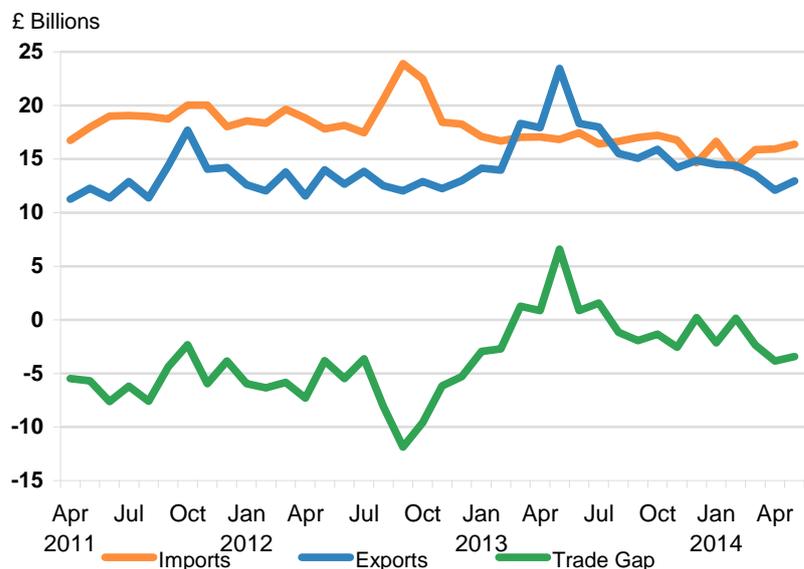
Website:
<http://www.uktradeinfo.com>



Summary

- Non-EU Exports for May 2014 are £13.0 billion. This is an increase of £0.9 billion (7.2 per cent) compared to last month.
- Non-EU Imports for May 2014 are £16.4 billion. This is an increase of £0.5 billion (2.9 per cent) compared to last month, taking imports to a four-month high.
- The UK is a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £3.4 billion. This is a decrease of £0.4 billion (10.7 per cent) compared to last month.
- In May, Non-Monetary Gold (NMG) contributed £1.3 billion to exports and £0.8 billion to imports.

Figure1: Total monthly trade with Non-EU



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
Note: 2013 and 2014 data are provisional

Trade Trends

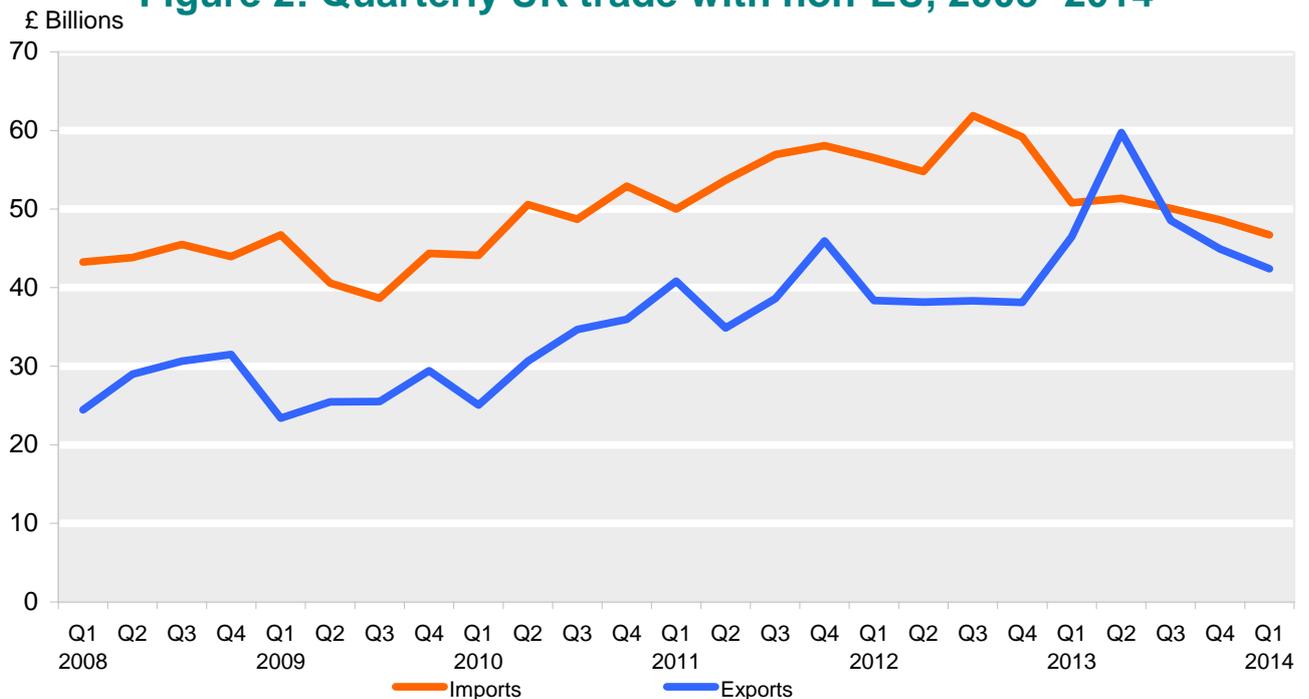
- Following the global economic crisis, UK trade dropped in 2009. Both imports and exports steadily increased until 2012; when exports became flat and imports started to decrease. However, exports sharply peaked in 2013.
- The total non-EU export trade for 2013 is £200 billion, which is substantially greater than the £153 billion in 2012 (30 per cent increase).
- The total non-EU import trade for 2013 is £201 billion, which is a reduction when compared to £232 billion in 2012 (14 per cent decrease).
- With the new inclusion of non-monetary gold in the OTS, the trade gap has reduced substantially. However, the UK remains a net non-EU importer, with the size of the annual deficit cut from £61 billion in 2008 to just £1 billion in 2013 (98 per cent decrease).
- For many years USA has been our largest trading import partner by value, but overtaken by China in 2013. For exports USA has also been dominant for many years, but occasionally surpassed by Switzerland, driven by gold exports.
- Mineral fuels has consistently been the largest import commodity by value, occasionally overtaken by Precious metals. For exports, Machinery has predominantly been the largest valued commodity, surpassed by Precious metals in 2013.

Exports up 30% in 2013 driven by Precious metals

Imports down 14% in 2013 driven by Precious metals

Trade Gap reduced by £60 billion between 2008 - 2013

Figure 2: Quarterly UK trade with non-EU, 2008 - 2014



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2013 and 2014 data are provisional

Exports

Country Analysis

Table 1: UK exports from the top 5 Non-EU countries, May 2014

Partner Country	May 2014 Exports (£ millions)	Change from April 2014 (%)	Change from May 2013 (%)	Rank April 2014	Rank May 2013
USA	3,329	7.0	-2.0	1	2
China	1,426	15.0	44.8	2	5
Switzerland	1,253	21.9	-83.8	3	1
Hong Kong	561	47.0	-65.5	6	4
United Arab Emirates	547	27.3	-73.6	5	3
Others	5,845	-0.6	-17.8	-	-
Total Exports	12,961	7.2	-44.7	-	-

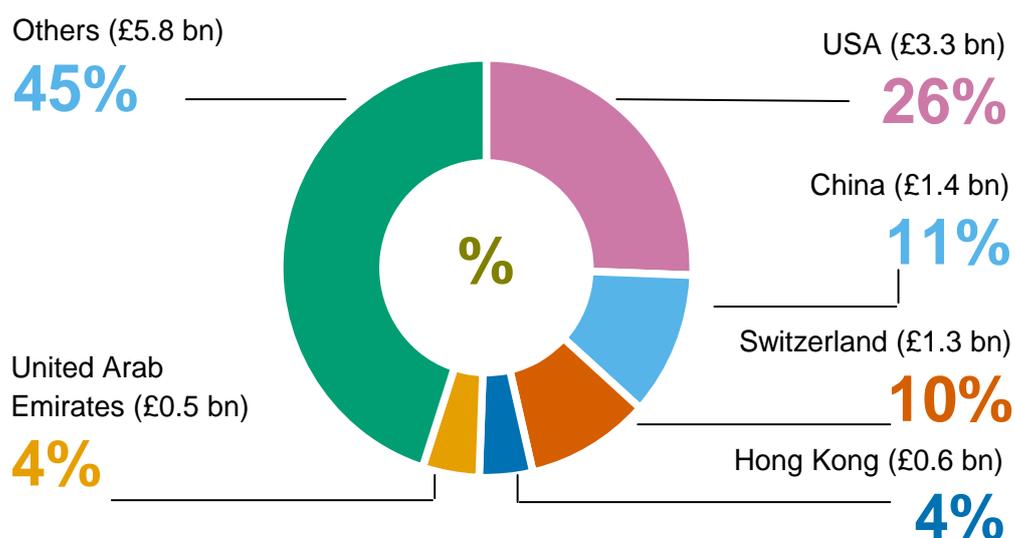
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Note: 2013 and 2014 data are provisional

- The top five non-EU export partner countries (rank by value) have changed slightly compared with last month. Hong Kong has risen above the United Arab Emirates to become the fourth biggest export partner, and Saudi Arabia has fallen from fourth place to seventh.
- All of the top five export partners have experienced increases compared with last month, while all but China showed decreases compared to May 2013.
- The USA is the largest non-EU export partner country, accounting for 26 per cent of the total value of exports. They also showed the second largest value increase compared with last month, £217 million (7.0 per cent).
- Exports to Switzerland experienced the largest rise of £225 million (22 per cent) compared with last month, but saw the largest fall of 6.5 billion (84 per cent) compared with May 2013, which had a record high export of gold.
- In the top five countries, Hong Kong showed the largest percentage increase on last month, up 47 per cent. In contrast, China showed the largest rise in value compared with May 2013 (45 per cent) overall.

Exports to Hong Kong up 47% against last month

Exports to Switzerland down 84% against May 2013

Figure 3: UK exports to top 5 non-EU countries, May 2014

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Note: 2014 data are provisional

The top five Non-EU countries account for 55 per cent of total non-EU exports, compared to 67 per cent in May 2013.

Commodity Analysis

Table 2: UK exports to non-EU by top 5 commodities, May 2014

Commodity Description	May 2014 Total (£ millions)	Change from April 2014 (%)	Change from May 2013 (%)	Rank April 2014	Rank May 2013
Mechanical appliances	2,333	2.6	-12.1	1	2
Precious metals, stones and jewellery	1,834	38.4	-84.2	3	1
Motor vehicles	1,710	-0.1	3.1	2	3
Pharmaceutical products	774	4.3	-10.0	4	4
Electronic equipment	769	4.6	-5.1	5	5
Others	5,540	2.4	-3.0	-	-
Total Exports	12,961	7.2	-44.7	-	-

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

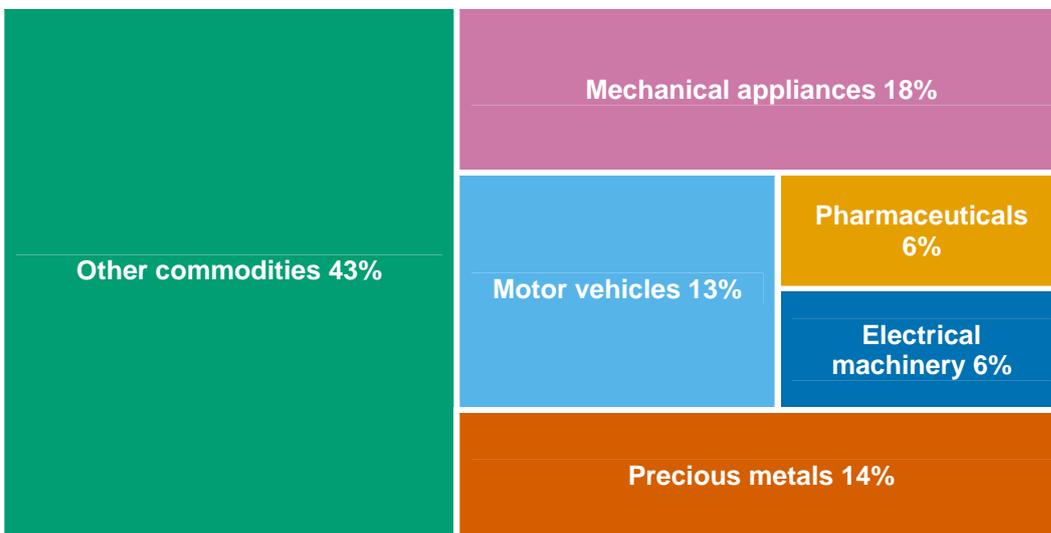
Note: 2013 and 2014 data are provisional

- Mechanical appliances remains the top commodity exported by value, contributing £2.3 billion, 18 per cent of the total value of the UK's non-EU export trade. It also showed the second largest value decrease compared with May 2013, £322 million (12 per cent).
- Precious metals saw the largest increase of £0.5 billion (38 per cent) compared with last month. However, it fell £9.8 billion (84 per cent) on May 2013, which was the highest export value on record, and was dominated by exports of Gold.
- Mineral fuels had the largest fall on last month, down £178 million (26 per cent).

Mechanical appliances exports down 12% on May 2013

Precious metals exports down 84% on May 2013

Figure 4: UK exports to non-EU by top five commodities, May 2014



Total value of exports to non-EU partner countries £13.0 billion

Source: HM Revenue and Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2014 data are provisional

Combined Commodity and Country Analysis

- The rise in value of Precious metals exports compared to last month was led by trade to Switzerland up £255 million (38 per cent) and Hong Kong, up £179 million (almost three-fold) on last month. The fall compared to May 2013 was led by decreases to Switzerland (down £6.4 billion), the United Arab Emirates (£1.5 billion) and Hong Kong (£0.9 billion).
- The decrease in Mechanical appliances compared to May 2013 was spread over a majority of export partners, led by a fall of £78 million (51 per cent) to Hong Kong.
- The fall in Mineral fuels compared to last month was driven by an almost total decrease of £131 million to South Korea.

Gold exports to Switzerland down 89% on May 2013

Mechanical appliances to Hong Kong down 51% on May 2013

Imports

Country Analysis

Table 3: UK imports from top 5 Non-EU countries, May 2014

Partner Country	May 2014 Total (£ millions)	Change from April 2014 (%)	Change from May 2013 (%)	Rank April 2014	Rank May 2013
USA	2,885	13.3	7.7	1	1
China	2,652	18.4	9.9	2	2
Norway	1,265	-0.8	-12.0	3	3
Switzerland	694	4.3	15.5	5	8
Canada	651	8.7	-11.5	6	5
Others	8,241	-3.6	-7.3	-	-
Total Imports	16,387	2.9	-2.7	-	-

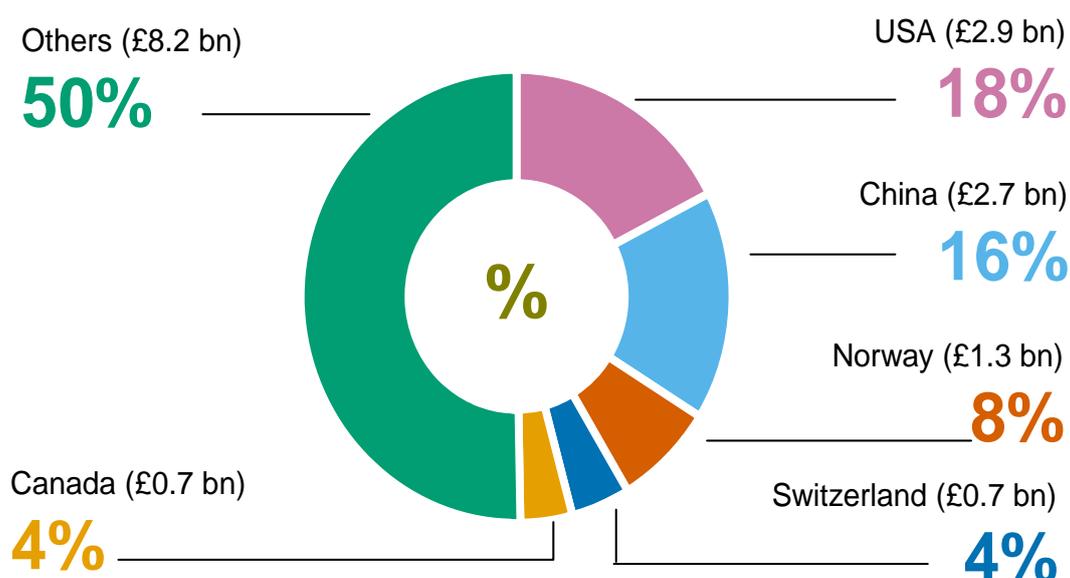
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Note: 2013 and 2014 data are provisional

- The top three non-EU import partners (rank by value) are unchanged compared with both periods, with Switzerland and Canada climbing ahead of Russia, which fell from fourth to eleventh.
- Four of the top five import partners rose in value compared with last month, with only Norway showing a decrease. Both Norway and Canada decreased compared to May 2013.
- The USA is the largest non-EU import partner country, accounting for 18 per cent of the total non-EU import trade.
- China showed the largest value increase compared to last month, up 18 per cent, and the second largest increase on May 2013, up 9.9 per cent.
- Russia showed the largest decrease on both periods, down £391 million (49 per cent) on last month, and £463 million (53 per cent) on May 2013.
- Algeria showed the largest value increase on May 2013, up £242 million (more than double).

Imports from China up 18% on last month

Imports from Russia down 49% on last month

Figure 5: UK imports from top 5 non-EU countries, May 2014

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2014 data are provisional

The top five non-EU countries account for 50 per cent of total non-EU imports, compared to 47 per cent in May 2013.

Commodity Analysis

Table 4: UK Imports from non-EU by top 5 commodities, May 2014

Commodity Description	May 2014 Imports (£ millions)	Change from April 2014 (%)	Change from May 2013 (%)	Rank April 2014	Rank May 2013
Mineral fuels	3,234	4.3	-23.0	1	1
Mechanical appliances	1,977	-5.5	-2.9	2	2
Electronic equipment	1,489	5.4	-5.5	3	3
Precious metals, stones and jewellery	1,257	-8.1	17.1	4	4
Aircraft	880	57.0	58.8	5	5
Others	7,550	1.6	1.6	-	-
Total Exports	16,387	2.9	-2.7	-	-

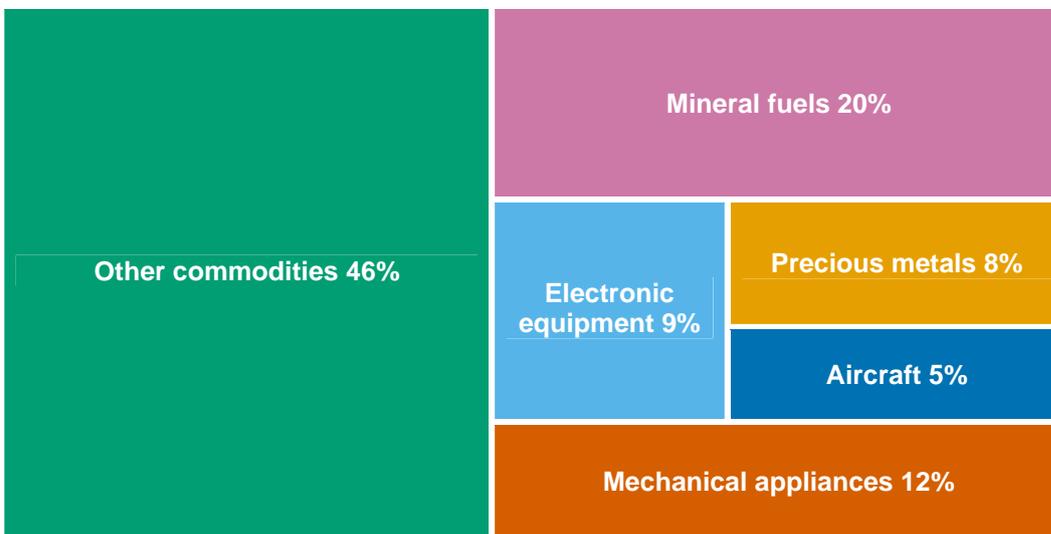
Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2013 and 2014 data are provisional

- Mineral fuels remains the largest valued import commodity, contributing £3.0 billion (20 per cent of total non-EU import trade). This commodity rose by 4.3 per cent compared to last month, but had the largest value fall compared to May 2013, down £1.0 billion (23 per cent).
- Aircraft saw the largest increase against both periods, up £319 million (57 per cent) against last month, and £326 million (59 per cent) against May 2013.
- Outside the top five, Ships and boats had the largest fall against last month, down £147 million (59 per cent), after a large increase last month.

Mineral fuels imports down 23% on May 2013

Aircraft imports up 57% on last month

Figure 6: UK imports from non-EU by top five commodities, May 2014



Total value of imports from non-EU partner countries £16.4 billion

Source: HM Revenue and Customs Overseas Trade Statistics
 Note: 2014 data are provisional

Combined Commodity and Country Analysis

- The increase in imports of Aircraft compared to both periods was led by a rise from the USA, up £444 million (more than three-fold) on last month, and £225 million (55 per cent) on May 2013.
- The decrease in Mineral fuels compared to May 2013 was led by falls from Russia, down £420 million (56 per cent), Libya, down £186 million (89 per cent), and Nigeria, down £170 million (53 per cent). However Algeria increased by £248 million (more than double).
- The decrease in Ships and boats compared to last month was dominated by a £218 million fall from Gibraltar, following a large increase last month.

Aircraft from the USA up over 200% on last month

Mineral fuels from Russia down 56% on May 2013

Annex I – Metadata

You can access the data behind this bulletin through our [uktradeinfo web site](#).

- Detailed Trade Statistics data at 8-digit commodity code level is available in our [interactive database](#).
- Aggregate OTS data is available in [pre-prepared Excel tables](#).
- Non-Monetary Gold (NMG) is now included in the non-EU Overseas Trade Statistics (OTS). For further information, See [Inclusion of Non-Monetary Gold in OTS](#). Data relating to monthly non-EU import and export totals for January 2008 onwards with a breakdown of non-monetary gold and other trade is available in an [OTS time series spreadsheet](#).
- You can find details of how users interested in import and export markets for specific goods make use of the detailed OTS data in '[The User Story](#)'.

Annex II – Methodological Notes

1. HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with countries outside the European Union (EU) on 10 July 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](#).
2. This release includes the first provisional estimates of trade-in-goods between the UK and countries outside the EU for May 2014. At the same time revisions for all previously published non EU data for 2013 onwards 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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