



About this release

This release includes the 1st provisional estimates of trade-in-goods between the UK and both countries of the EU and those outside the EU for February 2019.

Supporting tables, visuals and data can be found at www.uktradeinfo.com

In this publication

- Trade trends p.2
- Non EU and EU trade p.3
- February 2019 Exports p.4

Country analysis

Commodity analysis

Combined analysis

- February 2019 Imports p.11

Country analysis

Commodity analysis

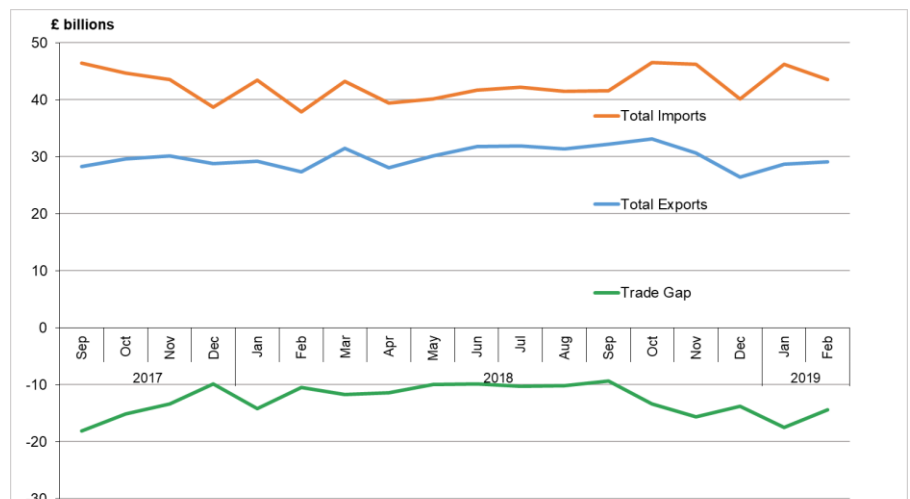
Combined analysis

- Methodology notes p.18

Trade in Goods, February 2019

- Total **exports** of goods for February 2019 were £29.1 billion. This was a slight increase of £0.2 billion (0.8%) compared with last month, and an increase of £1.7 billion (6.2%) compared with February 2018.
- Total **imports** of goods for February 2019 were £43.5 billion. This was a decrease of £2.5 billion (5.5%) compared with last month, and an increase of £5.7 billion (15%) compared with February 2018.
- The UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £14.4 billion. This was a narrowing by £2.8bn on last month.

Figure 1: Total UK monthly Trade in Goods



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional



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Trade in Goods Trends

Following the global economic crisis, UK trade in goods dropped in 2009. Both imports and exports then steadily increased until 2012. From the start of 2013, imports remained relatively flat until a very sharp increase in Q3 of 2016, while exports peaked in Q2 of 2013, with a steady rise since Q4 of 2016.

- The total **export** trade for Q4 of 2018 was £90.1 billion, which was an increase of 1.8% compared with £88.5 billion for Q4 of 2017.
- The total **import** trade for Q4 of 2018 was £132.9 billion, which was an increase of 4.8% compared with £126.9 billion for Q4 of 2017.
- There was a trade deficit of £42.8 billion for Q4 of 2018. This was a widening of 12% compared with Q4 of 2017.
- For many years Germany has been our largest trading **import** partner by value. The USA has been the dominant trading partner for **exports** for many years.
- Mechanical appliances and Motor vehicles have generally been the largest **import** commodities by value. For **exports**, Mechanical appliances has also predominantly been the largest valued commodity, with occasional peaks for Precious metals.

↑ **Exports up 1.8% on Q4 2017**

↑ **Imports up 4.8% on Q4 2017**

• **Trade deficit widened by 12% on Q4 2017**

Figure 2: Quarterly UK Trade in Goods, 2009 – 2018



Non-EU & EU Trade in Goods

Non-EU Trade in Goods:

- **Non-EU Exports** for February 2019 were £14.3 billion. This was an increase of £0.7 billion (5.3%) on last month, and an increase of £0.7 billion (4.9%) compared with February 2018.
- **Non-EU Imports** for February 2019 were £20.1 billion. This was a decrease of £3.3 billion (14%) on last month, and an increase of £3.5 billion (21%) compared with February 2018.
- For **Non-EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £5.8 billion.

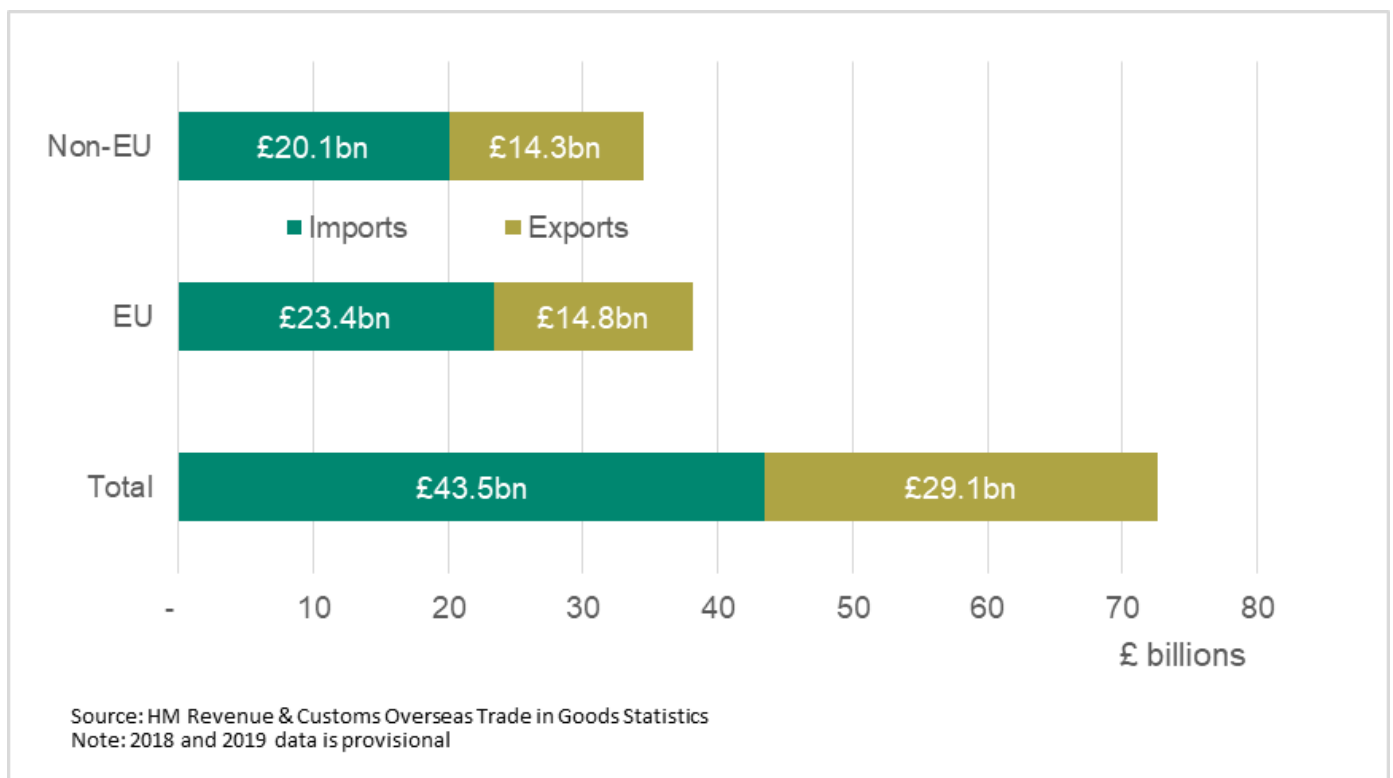
↓ **Non-EU imports down 14% on last month**

EU Trade in Goods:

- **EU Exports** for February 2019 were £14.8 billion. This was a decrease of £0.5 billion (3.2%) on last month, and an increase of £1.0 billion (7.5%) compared with February 2018.
- **EU Imports** for February 2019 were £23.4 billion. This was an increase of £0.7 billion (3.2%) on last month, and an increase of £2.2 billion (10%) compared with February 2018.
- For **EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £8.6 billion.

↑ **EU imports up 10% on February 2018**

Figure 3: Total UK Trade in Goods, with EU and Non-EU, February 2019



Exports: Country Analysis

- The USA remained the largest export partner country, experiencing a small increase on last month, up £71 million (1.7%). It experienced the largest increase on February 2018, up £648 million (18%).
- Qatar experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £408 million (almost four times in value).
- China experienced the 2nd largest value increase on February 2018, up £445 million (40%).
- Germany experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £223 million (6.4%).
- Switzerland (ranked 15th) experienced the largest value decrease on February 2018, down £320 million (42%).

↑ Exports to Qatar up almost four times on last month

↑ China up 40% on February 2018

Table 1: UK exports of goods to top 10 partner countries, February 2019

Partner Country	Total (£ millions)	January 2019		February 2018	
		Total (£ millions)	Change on January 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on February 2018 (%)
USA	4,227	4,156	1.7	3,579	18.1
Germany	3,247	3,470	-6.4	2,891	12.3
France	2,148	2,265	-5.2	1,887	13.8
Netherlands	1,994	2,165	-7.9	2,162	-7.8
Irish Republic	1,649	1,765	-6.6	1,609	2.5
China	1,553	1,396	11.3	1,109	40.1
Belgium	1,195	1,189	0.6	1,060	12.7
Spain	991	864	14.7	859	15.5
Italy	886	895	-1.1	903	-1.9
Qatar	553	145	280.7	586	-5.7
Others	10,654	10,561	0.9	10,751	-0.9
Total Non-EU	14,336	15,252	-6.0	13,726	4.4
Total EU	14,760	13,620	8.4	13,670	8.0
Total Exports	29,096	28,871	0.8	27,397	6.2

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

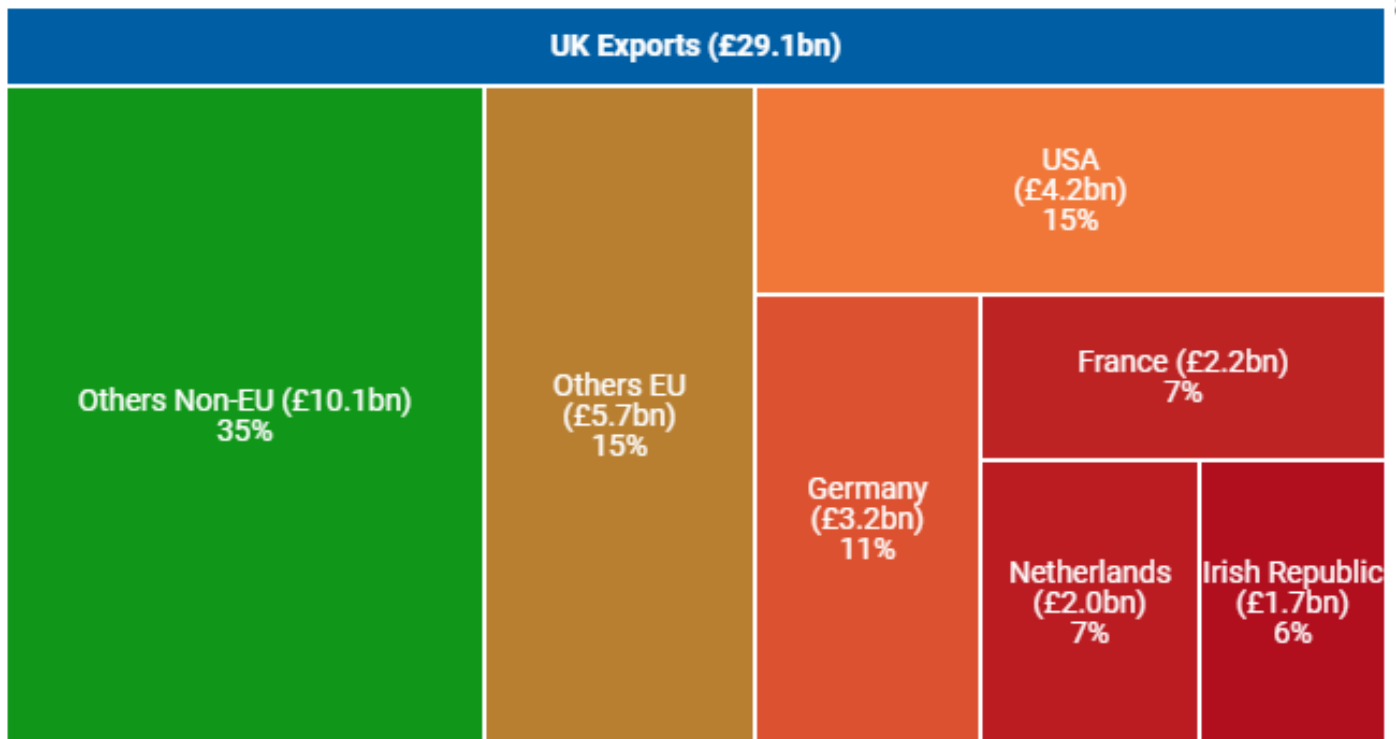
Exports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 export partners accounted for 46% of total exports in goods this month, this was an increase from 44% on February 2018.
- The USA accounted for 15% of the total value of goods exports from the UK, this was an increase from 13% on February 2018.
- Germany had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 11%. This was unchanged compared with February 2018.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Qatar rose from 30th to place to 10th, replacing Hong Kong who fell to 12th place.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with February 2018. Most notably, Switzerland fell to 15th from 10th place in February 2018.

↑ **USA had a 15% share of total exports in February 2019**

↑ **Qatar rose to 10th largest export partner for February 2019**

Figure 4: UK exports of goods to the top 5 countries, February 2019



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Exports: Country Analysis

- The USA remained the largest export partner country. This was despite experiencing a 14% decrease on the 3 months to November 2018. It saw a 7.1% increase compared with the 3 months to February 2018.
- Germany experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to November 2018, up 4.3%.
- China experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to November 2018, down 22%. Conversely it experienced the largest increase on the 3 months to February 2018, up 16%.
- Hong Kong experienced the 2nd largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to November 2018, down 22%. It experienced a 4.1 decrease on the 3 months to February 2018.
- The Netherlands experienced percentage decreases on the 3 months to November 2018, down 7.4%, and on the 3 months to February 2018, down 4.1%.

↑ **Exports to Germany up 4.3% on 3 months to November 2018**

↓ **Exports to China down 22% on 3 months to November 2018**

Table 2: UK exports in goods to the top 10 partner countries, 3 months to February 2019

Partner Country	Total (£ millions)	3 months to Nov 2018		3 months to Feb 2018	
		Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2018 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on February 2018 (%)
USA	12,086	13,973	-13.5	11,283	7.1
Germany	9,440	9,051	4.3	8,683	8.7
France	6,269	6,047	3.7	5,839	7.4
Netherlands	6,139	6,626	-7.4	6,399	-4.1
Irish Republic	5,174	5,786	-10.6	5,048	2.5
China	4,197	5,402	-22.3	3,620	16.0
Belgium	3,295	3,579	-7.9	3,050	8.0
Spain	2,597	2,739	-5.2	2,564	1.3
Italy	2,569	2,792	-8.0	2,628	-2.3
Hong Kong	1,683	2,154	-21.9	1,754	-4.1
Others	30,865	37,777	-18.3	34,556	-10.7
Total Exports	84,313	95,928	-12.1	85,426	-1.3

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Exports: Commodity Analysis

- Mechanical appliances remained in 1st place, despite experiencing the 5th largest decrease last month, down £72 million (1.5%). It experienced the largest increase on February 2018, up £540 million (13%).
- Precious metals experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £451 million (27%). It saw the 2nd largest value increase compared with February 2018, up £297 million (17%).
- Motor vehicles experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month, up £357 million (11%). In contrast, it saw the largest decrease compared with February 2018, down £416 million (11%).
- Mineral fuels experienced the largest decrease on last month, down £607 million (21%).
- Pharmaceutical products experienced the 2nd largest decrease on February 2018, down £172 million (8.8%).

↑ **Exports of Mechanical appliances up 13% on February 2018**

↓ **Mineral fuels down 21% on last month**

Table 3: UK exports of goods by top 10 commodities, February 2019

Commodity	Total (£ millions)	January 2019		February 2018	
		Total (£ millions)	Change on January 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on February 2018 (%)
Mechanical appliances	4,642	4,714	-1.5	4,102	13.2
Motor vehicles	3,469	3,112	11.5	3,885	-10.7
Mineral fuels	2,270	2,878	-21.1	2,142	6.0
Precious metals	2,095	1,644	27.5	1,798	16.5
Electronic equipment	1,800	1,934	-6.9	1,617	11.3
Pharmaceutical products	1,784	1,777	0.4	1,955	-8.8
Aircraft	1,273	1,229	3.5	1,273	0.0
Measuring devices and gauges	1,172	1,248	-6.1	1,102	6.3
Organic chemicals	941	884	6.5	692	35.9
Plastics and plastic products	795	820	-3.0	776	2.5
Others	8,855	8,632	2.6	8,053	10.0
Total Exports	29,096	28,871	0.8	27,397	6.2

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

^ Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

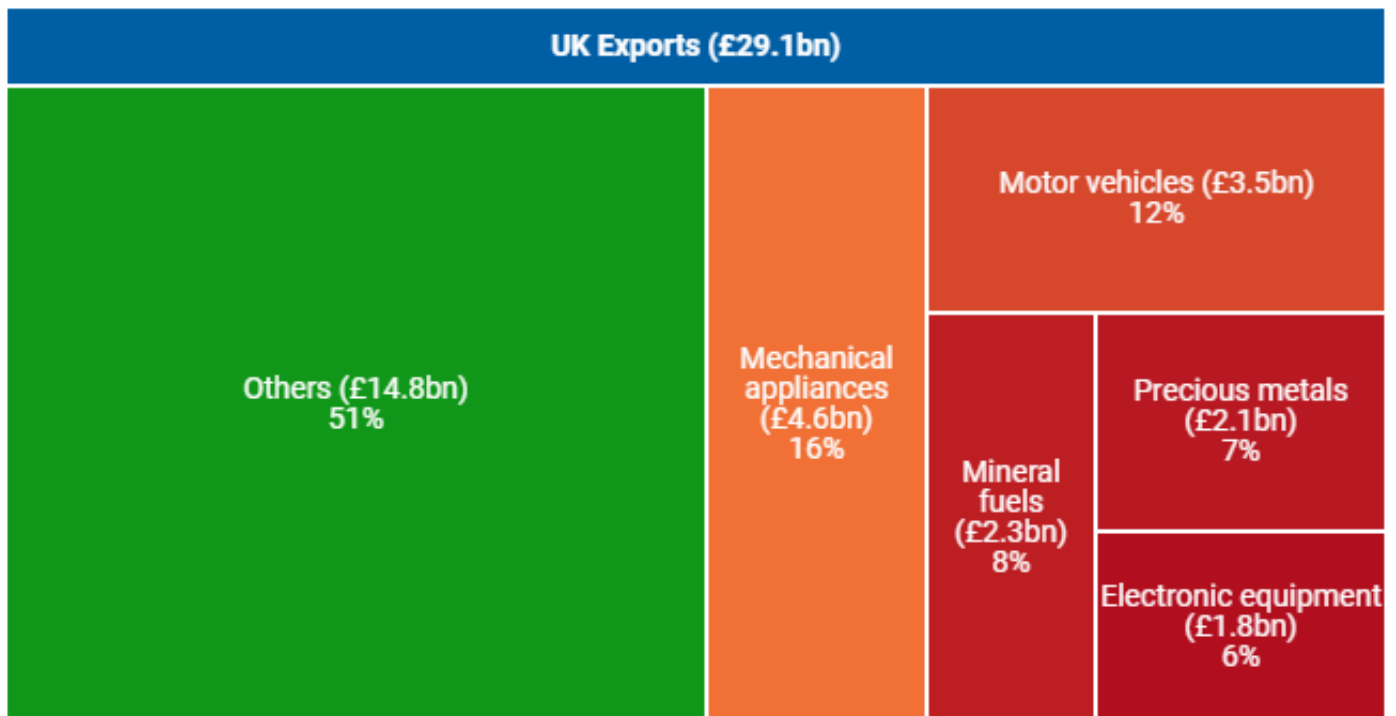
Exports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 export commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 49% this month, this decreased from 51% on February 2018.
- Mechanical appliances accounted for 16% of the total value of exports from the UK, this was an increase from 15% on February 2018.
- Motor vehicles had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 12%, this was a decrease from 14% on February 2018.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Precious metals rose to 4th place from 6th.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with February 2018. Most notably, Pharmaceutical products fell to 6th place from 4th.

↑ **Mechanical appliances had a 16% share of total exports**

↓ **Pharmaceutical products fell to 6th place on February 2018**

Figure 5: UK exports by top 5 commodities, February 2019



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Exports: Commodity Analysis

- Mechanical appliances remained the largest export commodity for the 3 months to February 2019. It decreased on the 3 months to November 2018, down 5.4%. It increased on the 3 months to February 2018, up 8.1%.
- Among the top 10, Aircraft experienced a small percentage increase on the 3 months to November 2018, up 0.4%. All other commodities experienced a decrease.
- Precious metals experienced the largest percentage decreases on the 3 months to November 2018, and to February 2018, down 45% and 37% respectively.
- Mineral fuels experienced the largest percentage increase compared with the 3 months to February 2018, up 11%.
- Pharmaceutical products experienced a percentage decrease compared with the 3 months to February 2018, down 17%.

↓ **Precious metals down 45% on the 3 months to November 2018**

↑ **Mineral fuels up 11% on the months to February 2018**

Table 4: UK exports of goods by top 10 commodities for the 3 months to February 2019

Commodity	Total (£ millions)	3 months to Nov 2018		3 months to Feb 2018	
		Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2018 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on February 2018 (%)
Mechanical appliances	13,874	14,662	-5.4	12,829	8.1
Motor vehicles	9,525	11,090	-14.1	10,481	-9.1
Mineral fuels	7,742	9,269	-16.5	6,973	11.0
Electronic equipment	5,595	5,916	-5.4	5,193	7.7
Pharmaceutical products	4,996	5,666	-11.8	6,013	-16.9
Precious metals	4,852	8,769	-44.7	7,726	-37.2
Measuring devices and gauges	3,654	3,871	-5.6	3,424	6.7
Aircraft	3,640	3,627	0.4	3,676	-1.0
Organic chemicals	2,460	2,470	-0.4	2,268	8.5
Plastics and plastic products	2,271	2,410	-5.8	2,270	0.0
Others	25,705	28,179	-8.8	24,573	4.6
Total Exports	84,313	95,928	-12.1	85,426	-1.3

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Exports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

Country to commodity:

- The increase in exports to the USA compared with February 2018 was led by increases in Organic chemicals, up £199 million (82%), Aircraft, up £127 million (almost double), and Mechanical appliances, up £125 million (22%).
- The increase in exports to Qatar on last month was dominated by Precious metals, up £387 million (from £2.9 million).
- The increase in exports to China on February 2018 was led by Precious metals, up £488 million (from £9.1 million).
- The decrease in exports to Switzerland on February 2018 was dominated by Precious metals, down £265 million (71%).

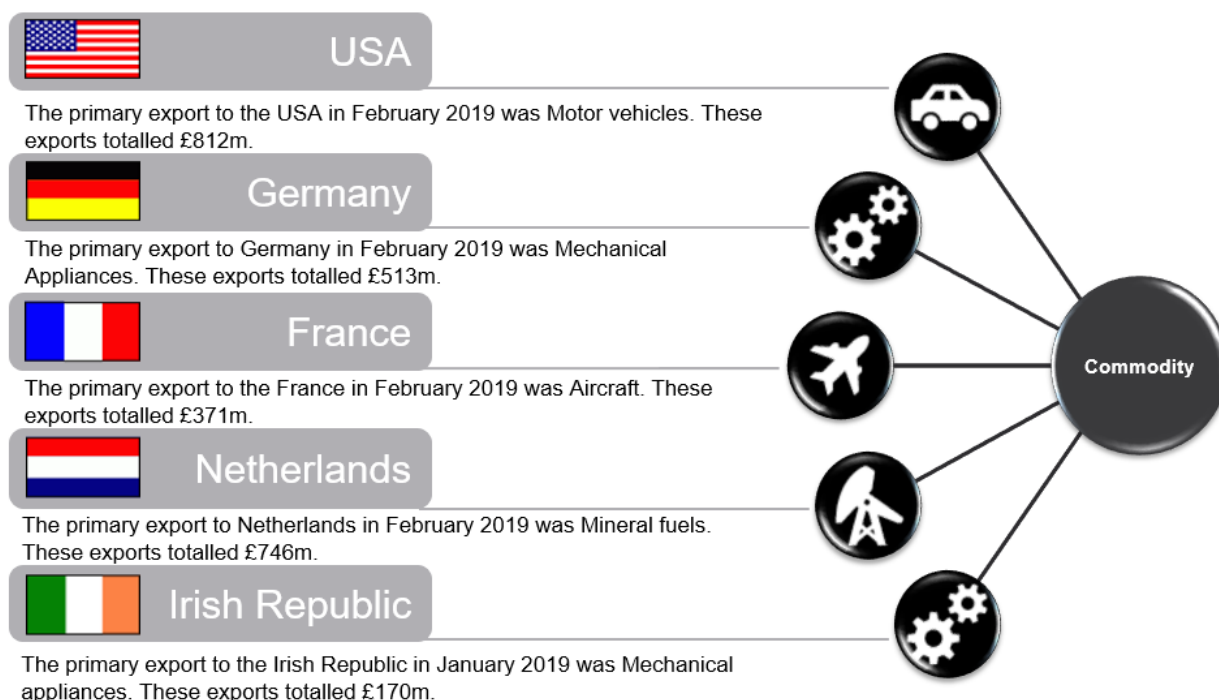
↑ Exports of Organic chemicals to USA up 82% on February 2018

Commodity to country:

- The decrease in exports of Mechanical appliances on last month was led by UAE, down £98 million (33%). While the increase on February 2018 was led by increases to USA, up £125 million (22%), and Germany, up £112 million (28%).
- The increase in exports of Motor vehicles on last month was led by increases to USA, up £83 million (11%), and Belgium, up £67 million (34%).
- The decrease in exports of Mineral fuels on last month, was led by Netherlands, down £199 million (21%).
- The decrease in exports of Pharmaceutical products on February 2018 was largely due to a decrease in Germany, down £127 million (33%).

↓ Exports of Pharmaceutical products to Germany down 33%

Figure 6: The UK's top commodity exports to the top 5 EU & Non-EU countries



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Imports: Country Analysis

- Germany remained the top import partner country, experiencing the 5th largest increase on last month, up £151 million (2.6%).
- Russia (ranked 16th) experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £235 million (48%).
- USA experienced the largest value increase on February 2018, up £1,015 million (33%).
- China experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £1,007 million (23%). It experienced the 2nd largest increase on February 2018, up £555 million (19%).
- South Africa (ranked 28th) experienced the largest value decrease on February 2018, down £168 million (40%).

↑ Imports from Russia up 48% on last month

↓ Imports to South Africa down 40% on February 2018

Table 5: UK imports of goods from the top 10 partner countries, February 2019

Partner Country	Total (£ millions)	January 2019		February 2018	
		Total (£ millions)	Change on January 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on February 2018 (%)
Germany	5,900	5,749	2.6	5,765	2.3
USA	4,072	4,551	-10.5	3,057	33.2
Netherlands	3,731	3,753	-0.6	3,215	16.0
China	3,443	4,450	-22.6	2,888	19.2
France	2,620	2,499	4.8	2,172	20.7
Belgium	2,335	2,189	6.7	2,119	10.2
Italy	1,655	1,560	6.1	1,554	6.5
Spain	1,503	1,333	12.8	1,327	13.2
Norway	1,318	1,716	-23.2	1,410	-6.5
Switzerland	1,220	1,055	15.7	801	52.3
Others	15,715	17,205	-8.7	13,512	16.3
Total non-EU	20,105	23,371	-14.0	16,628	20.9
Total EU	23,406	22,688	3.2	21,193	10.4
Total Imports	43,512	46,059	-5.5	37,820	15.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

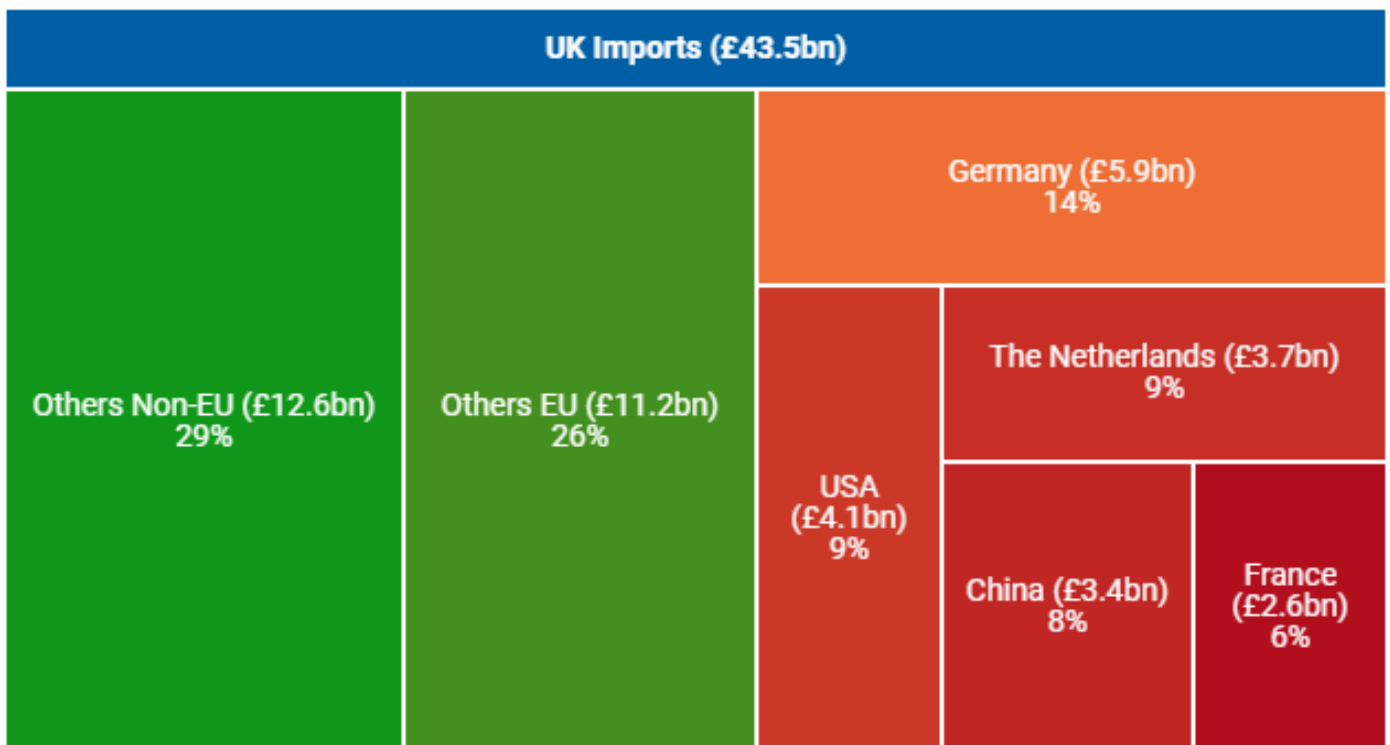
Imports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 import partners accounted for 45% of total imports of goods this month, this was unchanged on February 2018.
- Germany accounted for 14% of the total value of goods imports from the UK. This was a decrease from 15% on February 2018.
- USA had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 9.4%, this was an increase from 8.5% on February 2018.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with last month, most notably, Switzerland rose to 10th place from 12th place, replacing Canada who fell to 14th place from 9th.
- The top 10 import partner countries changed compared with February 2018, most notably, Irish Republic fell to 11th place from 10th.

• **Top 5 import partners accounted for a 45% share of total UK imports**

↓ **Germany accounted for a 14% share of total UK imports**

Figure 7: UK imports of goods from the top 5 countries, February 2019



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Imports: Country Analysis

- Germany remained the largest import partner country. It experienced a percentage decrease on the 3 months to November 2018, down 4.9%. It experienced a small percentage increase on the 3 months to February 2018, up 0.8%.
- Spain experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to November 2018, up 14%.
- USA experienced the largest percentage increase on 3 months to February 2018, up 25%.
- 8 of the top 10 countries experienced a percentage decrease on the 3 months to November 2018. China experienced the largest decrease, down 15%.
- 8 of the top 10 countries experienced a percentage increase, while Norway experienced the largest decrease on the 3 months to February 2018, down 11%.

↑ Imports from Spain up 14% on the 3 months to November 2018

↓ Imports from China down 15% on the 3 months to November 2018

Table 6: UK imports of goods from the top 10 partner countries, 3 months to February 2019

Partner Country	Total (£ millions)	3 months to Nov 2018		3 months to Feb 2018	
		Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2018 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on February 2018 (%)
Germany	16,501	17,358	-4.9	16,377	0.8
USA	12,493	11,518	8.5	10,017	24.7
China	11,361	13,310	-14.6	9,756	16.4
Netherlands	10,627	11,142	-4.6	10,277	3.4
France	7,420	7,576	-2.0	6,485	14.4
Belgium	6,470	6,811	-5.0	6,274	3.1
Italy	4,798	5,295	-9.4	4,547	5.5
Norway	4,778	4,839	-1.3	5,365	-10.9
Spain	4,307	3,785	13.8	3,689	16.8
Irish Republic	3,363	3,700	-9.1	3,454	-2.6
Others	47,516	49,016	-3.1	43,666	8.8
Total Imports	129,635	134,349	-3.5	119,908	8.1

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Imports: Commodity Analysis

- Motor vehicles rose to 1st place, experiencing the largest increase on last month, up £770 million (15%). It saw the 2nd largest increase on February 2018, up £908 million (19%).
- Precious metals experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month, up £90 million (2.2%). It saw the largest increase on February 2018, up £1,916 million (84%).
- Mechanical appliances fell to 2nd place, experiencing the 3rd largest decrease on last month, down £478 million (8.2%). In contrast, it had the 3rd largest increase on February 2018, up £600 million (13%).
- Mineral fuels experienced the largest decrease on last month, down £1,072 million (24%). It also saw the largest decrease on February 2018, down £173 million (4.8%).
- Ships boats and floating structures (ranked 86th) experienced the 2nd largest decrease on February 2018, down £99 million (88%).

↑ Imports of Motor vehicles up 15% on last month, and 19% on February 2018

↓ Imports of Mechanical appliances down 8.2% on last month

Table 7: UK imports of goods by top 10 commodities, February 2019

Commodity	Total (£ millions)	January 2019		February 2018	
		Total (£ millions)	Change on January 2019 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on February 2018 (%)
Motor vehicles	5,791	5,020	15.3	4,883	18.6
Mechanical appliances	5,351	5,829	-8.2	4,751	12.6
Precious metals	4,203	4,113	2.2	2,286	83.8
Electronic equipment	3,630	4,299	-15.6	3,203	13.3
Mineral fuels	3,444	4,516	-23.7	3,617	-4.8
Pharmaceutical products	2,197	2,166	1.4	2,024	8.5
Plastics	1,296	1,336	-3.0	1,136	14.0
Measuring devices and gauges	1,215	1,269	-4.2	1,111	9.4
Furniture and light fittings	787	831	-5.3	701	12.3
Organic chemicals	744	905	-17.7	657	13.3
Others	14,855	15,776	-5.8	13,450	10.4
Total Imports	43,512	46,059	-5.5	37,820	15.0

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

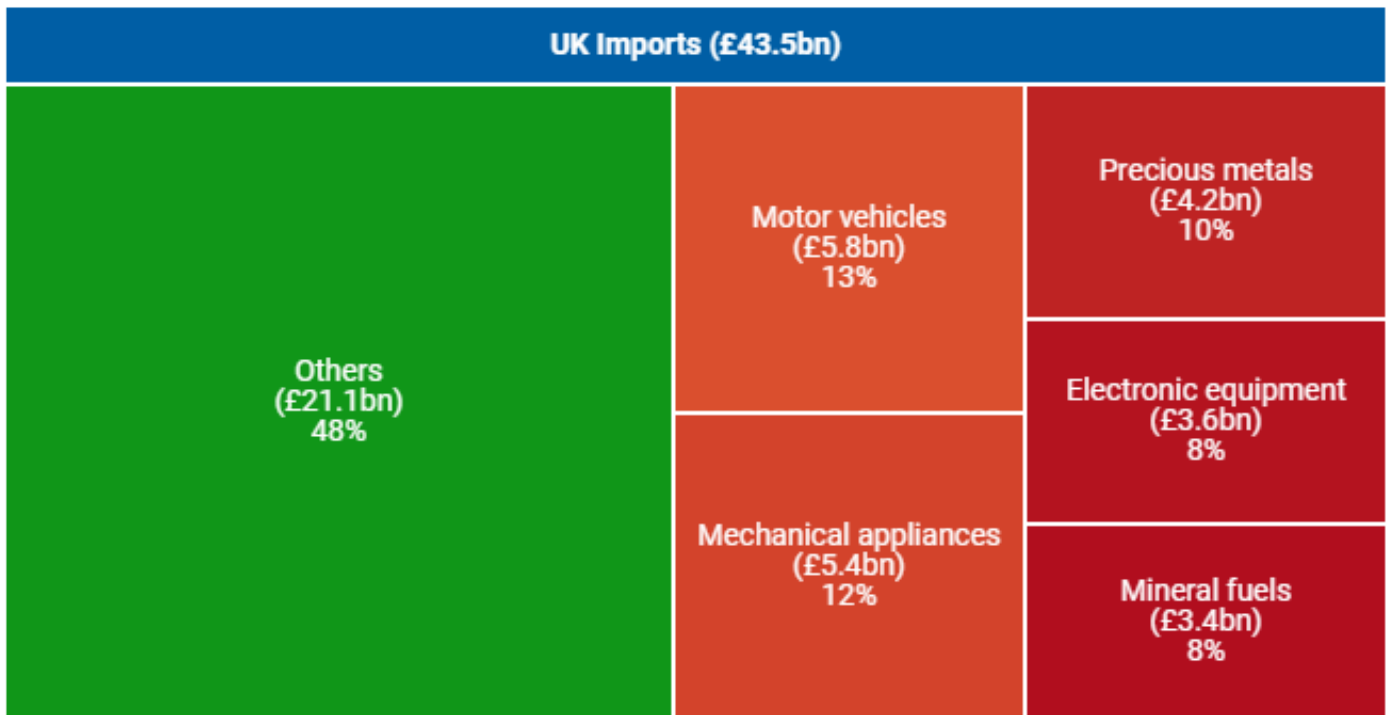
Imports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 import commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 52% this month, this was an increase from 50% on February 2018.
- Motor vehicles accounted for 13% of the total value of goods imports from the UK, this was unchanged compared with February 2018.
- Mechanical appliances had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 12%. This was a decrease from 13% on February 2018.
- The top 10 import commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Motor vehicles replaced Mechanical appliances as the UK's largest import.
- The top 10 import commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with February 2018. Most notably, Precious metals rose to 3rd from 5th place, while Mineral fuels fell from 3rd to 5th place.

• **Top 5 import commodities accounted for a 52% share of total imports**

↑ **Motor vehicles rose to 1st place replacing Mechanical appliances**

Figure 8: UK imports by top 5 commodities, February 2019



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Imports: Commodity Analysis

- Mechanical appliances remained the largest import commodity. It experienced a decrease on the 3 months to November 2018, down 8.0%, and an increase on the 3 months to February 2018, up 9.3%.
- Precious metals experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to November 2018, up 48%. It also experienced the largest percentage increase on 3 months to February 2018, up 24%
- Motor vehicles experienced the 2nd largest percentage increase on the 3 months to February 2018, up 12%.
- Knitwear experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to November 2018, down 21%.
- All commodities within the top 10 experienced an increase on the 3 months to February 2018.

↑ **Precious metals up 24% on the 3 months to February 2018**

↓ **Knitwear down 21% on the 3 months to November 2018**

Table 8: UK imports of goods by top 10 commodities for the 3 months to February 2019

Commodity	Total (£ millions)	3 months to Nov 2018		3 months to Feb 2018	
		Total (£ millions)	Change on November 2018 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on February 2018 (%)
Mechanical appliances	16,224	17,633	-8.0	14,842	9.3
Motor vehicles	14,853	14,680	1.2	13,327	11.5
Mineral fuels	12,230	13,151	-7.0	12,230	0.0
Electronic equipment	12,008	14,344	-16.3	11,112	8.1
Precious metals	11,129	7,537	47.7	8,949	24.4
Pharmaceutical products	5,970	5,834	2.3	5,966	0.1
Plastics and plastic products	3,670	3,830	-4.2	3,369	8.9
Measuring devices and gauges	3,601	3,629	-0.7	3,366	7.0
Knitwear	2,350	2,984	-21.2	2,236	5.1
Furniture and light fittings	2,316	2,326	-0.4	2,126	8.9
Others	45,283	48,402	-6.4	42,386	6.8
Total Imports	129,635	134,349	-3.5	119,908	8.1

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Imports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

Country to commodity:

- The increase in imports from Germany on last month was led by Motor vehicles, up £220 million (13%).
- The increase in imports from Russia on last month was led by Mineral fuels, up £117 million (32%).
- The increase in imports from the USA on February 2018 was led by Precious metals, up £383 million (65%).
- The decrease in imports from South Africa on February 2018 was led by Precious metals, down £177 million (56%).

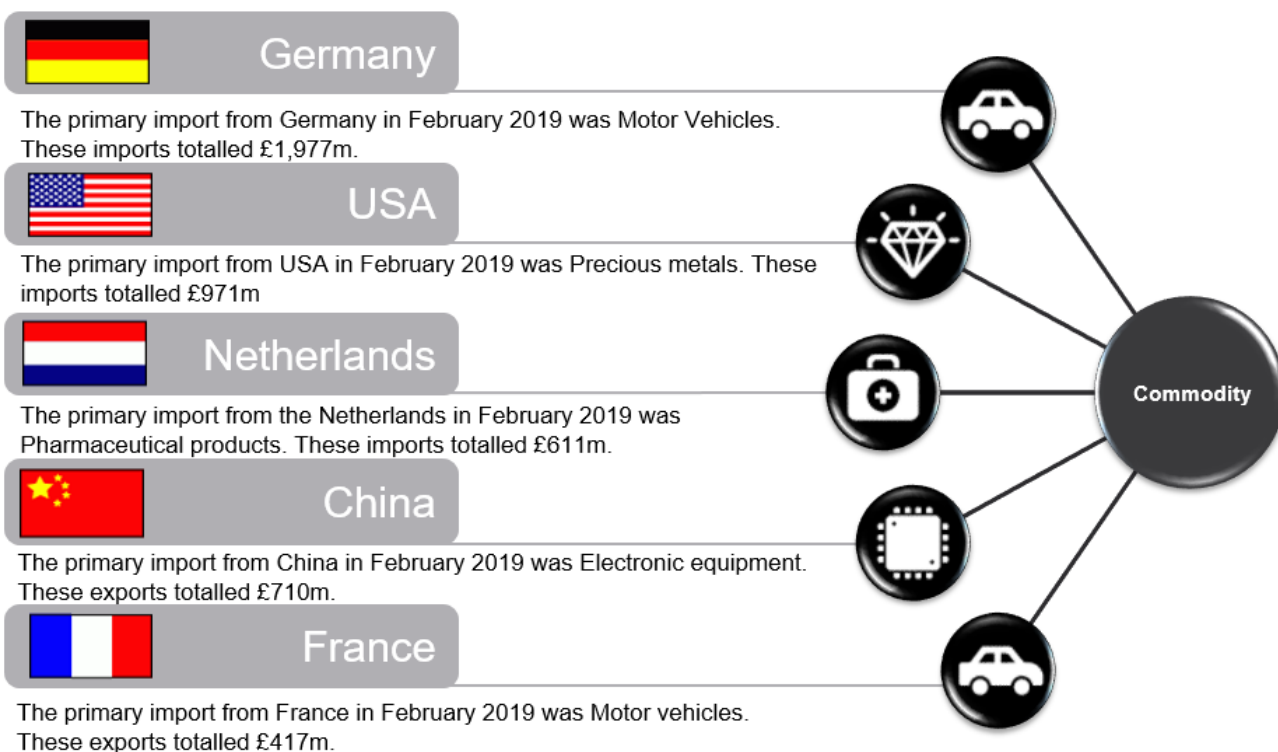
↑ Imports of Precious metals from USA up 65% on February 2018

Commodity to country:

- The increase in imports of Motor vehicles on last month was led by Germany, up £220 million (13%), Belgium, up £174 million (31%), while the increase on February 2018 was led by Belgium, up £259 million (54%), and Spain, up £116 million (26%).
- The increase in imports of Precious metals on last month was led by Australia, up £243 million (79%), while the increase on February 2018 was led by Switzerland, up £711 million (almost 7 times the value).
- The decrease in imports of Mechanical appliances on last month was led by China, down £254 million (31%).
- The decrease in imports of mineral fuels on last month was led by Norway, down £380 million (25%).

↑ Imports of Motor vehicles from Belgium up 54% on February 2018

Figure 9: The UK's top commodity imports from the top 5 EU & Non-EU countries



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2018 and 2019 data is provisional

Methodology Notes

Metadata

All 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](#).

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](#)'.

Data sources

The **EU figures** provided in this publication of the February 2019 Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics are collected from the Intrastat survey. They will include:

- Estimates for businesses who have yet to submit detailed data on the trade they had with other EU Member States this month.
- Estimates for businesses who do not have to submit detailed data on the trade they have with other EU Member States.
- An adjustment for trade associated with Missing Trader Intra Community fraud. More details of this can be found [here](#).

Estimates are included in all high level totals including commodity (HS2) and country totals.

The **Non-EU figures** provided in this publication of the February 2019 Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics are presented by customs declarations and collected by the CHIEF (Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight) system.

Detailed trade information is presented according to the [Harmonised System \(HS\)](#) nomenclature.

Methodology

This methodology paper covers all aspects of the Overseas Trade Statistics methodology – data sources, classifications and definitions, quality assurance, publications and governance. It is a useful companion to the trade data, providing the definitions and methodologies on which the data are based. The Overseas Trade Statistics Methodology paper (July 2017) is available [here](#).

From the May 2016 month of account, there was a methodological change to the way our trade-in-goods statistics are compiled. Following a change in legislation, trade-in-goods statistics switched from the 'general trade' system of compilation to the 'special trade' system. More information can be found [here](#).

Non-Monetary Gold (NMG) can form a substantial part of the non-EU Overseas Trade Statistics (OTS). For further information, see [Inclusion of Non-Monetary Gold in OTS](#). Data relating to monthly non-EU and 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](#).

Relationship with other statistical publications

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 2 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](#).

The aggregate estimates here will differ from the Eurostat publication [Euro area external trade](#). The OTS was published up until the May 2016 month of account 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'.

National Statistics Publication

HM Revenue & Customs released these latest statistics on Overseas Trade with countries on 10 October 2018 under arrangements set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#). The 1st release is published on HMRC's trade data website www.uktradeinfo.com.

This release includes the 1st provisional estimates of trade-in-goods between the UK and both countries of the EU and those outside the EU for February 2019. At the same time revisions for all previously published non-EU and EU data for 2018 and 2019 are also being released in line with the [HM Revenue & Customs Policy on Revisions](#).

The next three publications are due for release on the following days:

Month of account	First release date
March 2019	May 10th 2019
April 2019	June 10th 2019
May 2019	July 10th 2019

The OTS has been reviewed as part of an assessment made of Overseas Trade in Goods 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>.

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.