



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 April 2020.

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
- April 2020 Exports p.4

Country analysis

Country analysis – 3 months

Commodity analysis

Commodity analysis – 3 months

Combined analysis

- April 2020 Imports p.11

Country analysis

Country analysis – 3 months

Commodity analysis

Commodity analysis – 3 months

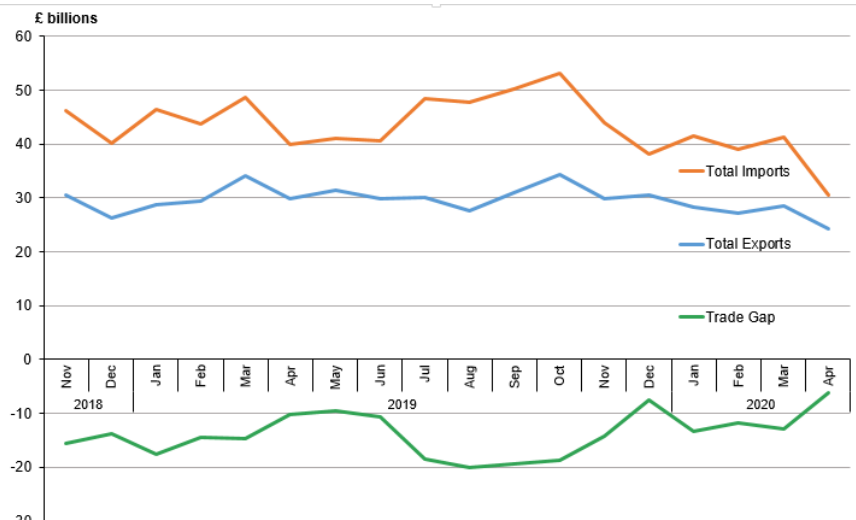
Combined analysis

- Methodology notes p.18

Trade in Goods, April 2020

- Total **exports** of goods for April 2020 were £24.3 billion. This was a decrease of £4.1 billion (14%) compared with last month, and a decrease of £5.6 billion (19%) compared with April 2019. This is the lowest exports value since August 2016.
- Total **imports** of goods for April 2020 were £30.5 billion. This was a decrease of £10.9 billion (26%) compared with last month, and a decrease of £9.5 billion (24%) compared with April 2019. This is the lowest imports value since August 2015.
- The UK was a net importer this month, with **imports** exceeding **exports** by £6.2 billion, narrowing by £6.8 billion on last month.

Figure 1: Total UK monthly Trade in Goods



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2019 and 2020 data is provisional



Coverage: United Kingdom
 Theme: Business and Energy
 Released: 12 June 2020
 Next release: 14 July 2020

Website: <https://www.uktradeinfo.com>
 Email: uktradeinfo@hmrc.gov.uk
 Statistical contact: Maxim Mastrangelo 03000 594250
 Media contact: HMRC Press Office 03000 585018

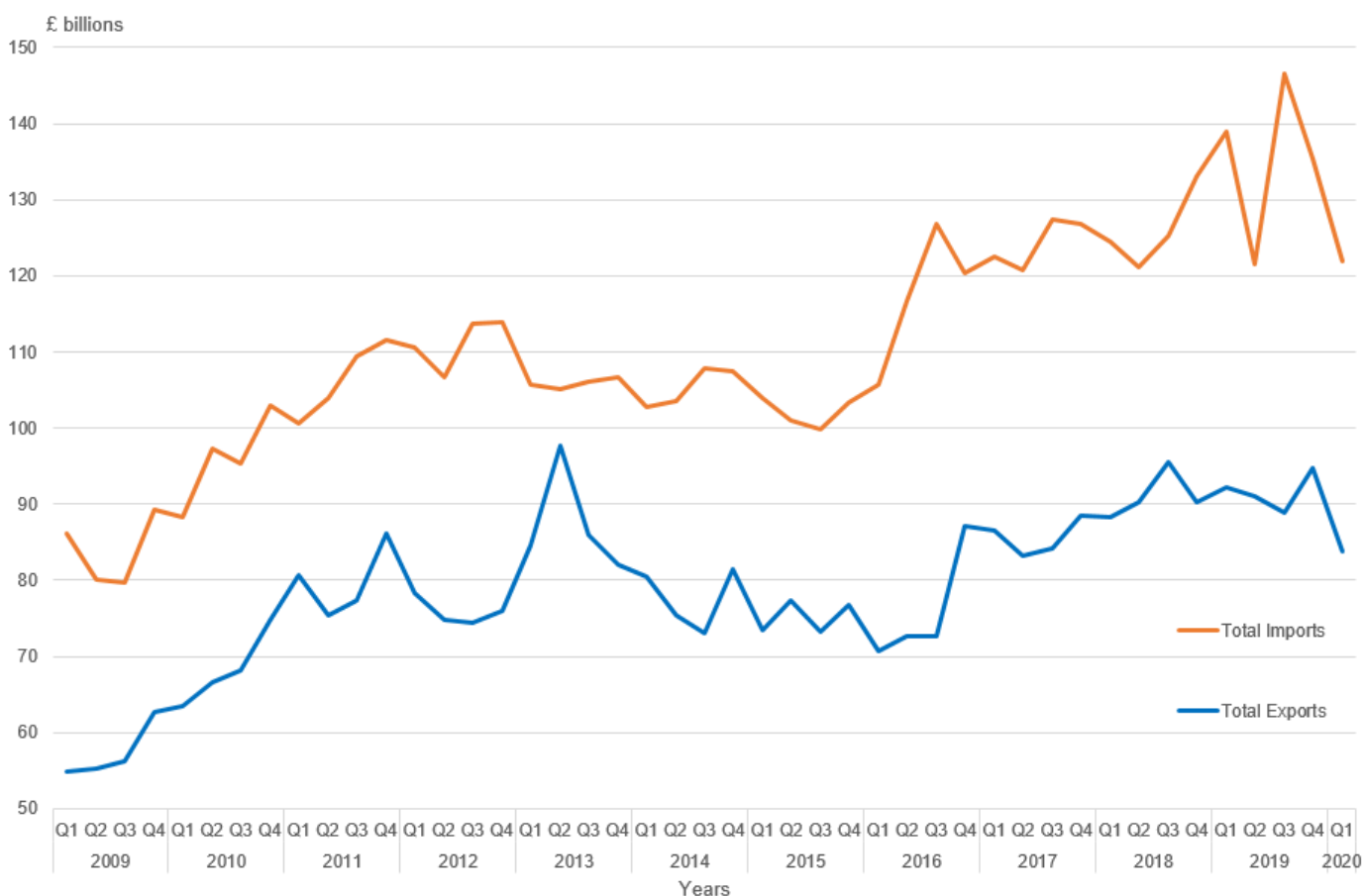
Trade in Goods Trends

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. It has experienced large quarterly fluctuations since Q1 of 2019 and reached its highest point in Q3 of 2019. Exports peaked in Q2 of 2013, with a steady rise from Q2 of 2017 to Q3 of 2018. Q1 of 2020 saw the lowest quarterly exports value since Q2 of 2017.

- ↓ Exports down 9% on Q1 2019
- ↓ Imports down 12% on Q1 2019
- Trade deficit narrowed by 19% on Q1 2019

- The total **export** trade for Q1 of 2020 was £83.8 billion, which was a decrease of 9.1% compared with £92.2 billion for Q1 of 2019.
- The total **import** trade for Q1 of 2020 was £122 billion, which was a decrease of 12% compared with £139 billion for Q1 of 2019.
- There was a trade deficit of £38.0 billion for Q1 of 2020. This was a narrowing of 19% compared with £46.7 billion for Q1 2019.
- For many years Germany has been our largest trading **import** partner by value, though this month it has dropped to third. 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.

Figure 2: Quarterly UK Trade in Goods, 2009 – 2020



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2019 and 2020 data is provisional

Non-EU & EU Trade in Goods

Non-EU Trade in Goods:

- **Non-EU exports** for April 2020 were £14.2 billion. This was a decrease of £1.4 billion (9.2%) on last month, and a decrease of £3.2 billion (18%) compared with April 2019.
- **Non-EU imports** for April 2020 were £16.7 billion. This was a decrease of £3.7 billion (18%) on last month, and a decrease of £3.0 billion (15%) compared with April 2019. This is the lowest monthly total since February 2018.
- For **non-EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £2.5 billion.

↓ **Non-EU exports down 18% on April 2019**

EU Trade in Goods:

- **EU exports** for April 2020 were £10.1 billion. This was a decrease of £2.6 billion (21%) on last month, and a decrease of £2.4 billion (19%) compared with April 2019. This is the lowest monthly total since August 2015.
- **EU imports** for April 2020 were £13.8 billion. This was a decrease of £7.2 billion (34%) on last month, and a decrease of £6.5 billion (32%) compared with April 2019. This is the lowest monthly total since January 2010.
- For **EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £3.7 billion.

↓ **EU imports down 34% on last month**

Figure 3: Total UK Trade in Goods, with EU and Non-EU, April 2020



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2020 data is provisional

Exports: Country Analysis

- Switzerland replaced the USA as the largest export partner country. It showed the largest value increases on both last month and on April 2019, up £1,957 million on both periods, more than doubling in value in each case.
- The USA experienced the largest value decrease on last month and on April 2019, down £916 million (22%) and £1,490 million (32%) respectively.
- France saw the 2nd largest value decrease on last month, and the 4th largest on April 2019, down £506 million (31%) and £702 million (39%) respectively.
- Germany experienced the 3rd largest value decrease on last month, down £323 million (11%).
- Canada experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month and on April 2019, up £314 million (74%), and £310 million (72%) respectively.
- China experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on April 2019, down £984 million (48%).

↑ **Exports to Switzerland more than doubled in value on last month**

↓ **Exports to the USA down 32% on April 2019**

Table 1: UK exports of goods to the top 10 countries, April 2020

Partner Country	April 2020		March 2020		April 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on March 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on April 2019 (%)	
Switzerland	3,617	1,660	117.9	1,660	117.9	
USA	3,201	4,117	-22.3	4,690	-31.8	
Germany	2,507	2,830	-11.4	2,552	-1.8	
Netherlands	1,441	1,757	-18.0	1,648	-12.5	
Irish Republic	1,378	1,682	-18.0	1,700	-18.9	
France	1,108	1,614	-31.4	1,810	-38.8	
China	1,070	1,170	-8.6	2,053	-47.9	
Hong Kong	865	1,163	-25.6	629	37.6	
Canada	740	426	73.8	430	72.0	
Belgium	668	972	-31.3	1,032	-35.3	
Others	7,740	11,038	-29.9	11,695	-33.8	
Total EU	10,088	12,735	-20.8	12,439	-18.9	
Total Non-EU	14,245	15,693	-9.2	17,460	-18.4	
Total Exports	24,333	28,428	-14.4	29,899	-18.6	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2019 and 2020 data is provisional

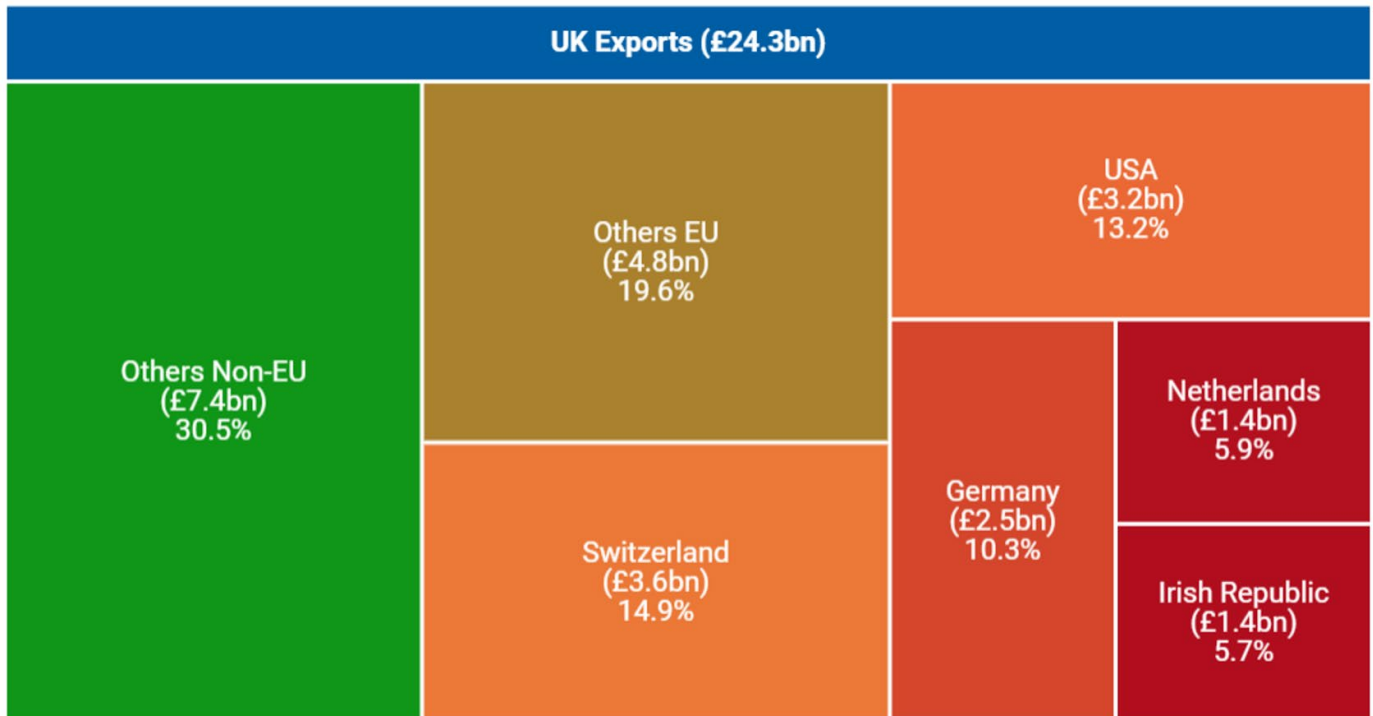
Exports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 export partners accounted for 50% of total exports in goods in April 2020. This was an increase from a 43% share in April 2019.
- Switzerland accounted for 15% of the total value of exports from the UK, this was an increase from a 5.6% share in April 2019.
- The USA had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 13%. This was a decrease from a 16% share in April 2019.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Switzerland rose to 1st place from 5th and Canada rose to 9th place from 16th.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with April 2019. Most notably, Switzerland rose to 1st place from 6th, China fell to 7th from 3rd, and Hong Kong rose to 8th from 13th.

↑ **Switzerland had a 15% share of total exports in April 2020**

↓ **The USA had a 13% share of total exports in April 2020**

Figure 4: Share of UK exports of goods to the top 5 countries, April 2020



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2020 data is provisional

Exports: Country Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to April 2020, the USA remained the largest export partner country. Among the top 10, it experienced the 2nd largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to January 2020, down 26%, and decreased on the 3 months to April 2019, down 19%.
- Among the top 10, China experienced the largest percentage decreases on the 3 months to January 2020, and on the 3 months to April 2019, down 46% and 44% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Switzerland experienced the largest percentage increases on the 3 months to January 2020, and on the 3 months to April 2019, up 92% and more than double respectively.
- Among the top 10, Hong Kong experienced the 2nd largest percentage increases on the 3 months to January 2020, and on the 3 months to April 2019, up 29% and 22% respectively.
- 8 of the top 10 partner countries experienced a decrease on the 3 months to January 2020 and on the 3 months to April 2019. Switzerland and Hong Kong were the exceptions in each case.

↓ **Exports to China down 46% on the 3 months to January 2020**

↑ **Exports to Switzerland more than doubled in value on the 3 months to April 2019**

Table 2: UK exports of goods to the top 10 countries, 3 months to April 2020

Partner Country	3 months to Apr 2020		3 months to Jan 2020		3 months to Apr 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on January 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on April 2019 (%)	
USA	11,034	14,982	-26.4	13,673	-19.3	
Germany	8,545	8,778	-2.6	9,228	-7.4	
Switzerland	5,925	3,081	92.3	2,745	115.8	
Netherlands	5,265	5,695	-7.5	5,992	-12.1	
Irish Republic	4,608	5,314	-13.3	5,682	-18.9	
France	4,552	5,708	-20.2	6,727	-32.3	
China	3,227	6,030	-46.5	5,733	-43.7	
Belgium	2,632	2,783	-5.4	3,559	-26.0	
Hong Kong	2,558	1,986	28.8	2,098	21.9	
Italy	2,092	2,243	-6.7	2,659	-21.3	
Others	29,500	32,016	-7.9	35,196	-16.2	
Total Exports	79,939	88,614	-9.8	93,292	-14.3	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 and 2020 data is provisional

Exports: Commodity Analysis

- Precious metals replaced Mechanical appliances as the largest export commodity. It experienced the largest value increase on last month and on April 2019, up £2,266 million (63%) and £1,639 million (39%) respectively.
- Motor vehicles experienced the largest value decrease on last month and on April 2019, down £2,341 million (77%) and £1,869 million (73%) respectively.
- Mechanical appliances experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on last month and the 3rd largest on April 2019, down £920 million (21%) and £829 million (20%) respectively.
- Mineral fuels experienced the 3rd largest value decrease on last month, and the 2nd largest on April 2019, down £402 million (24%) and £1,316 million (51%) respectively.
- Electronic equipment experienced the 4th largest value decrease on last month, down £365 million (21%).
- Pharmaceutical products experienced the 2nd largest value increase on April 2019, up £189 million (12%).

↑ **Exports of Precious metals up 63% on last month**

↓ **Exports of Motor vehicles down 77% on last month**

Table 3: UK exports of goods for the top 10 commodities, April 2020

Commodity Description	April 2020		March 2020		April 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on March 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on April 2019 (%)	
Precious metals	5,851	3,585	63.2	4,212	38.9	
Mechanical appliances	3,402	4,322	-21.3	4,232	-19.6	
Pharmaceutical products	1,787	1,779	0.4	1,598	11.9	
Electronic equipment	1,357	1,722	-21.2	1,705	-20.4	
Mineral fuels	1,257	1,659	-24.2	2,574	-51.1	
Organic chemicals	1,005	887	13.2	992	1.3	
Measuring devices and gauges	998	1,246	-19.9	1,205	-17.2	
Plastics and plastic products	722	793	-9.0	756	-4.5	
Motor vehicles	698	3,040	-77.0	2,567	-72.8	
Aircraft	588	869	-32.4	1,244	-52.8	
Others	6,668	8,524	-21.8	8,815	-24.4	
Total Exports	24,333	28,428	-14.4	29,899	-18.6	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 and 2020 data is provisional

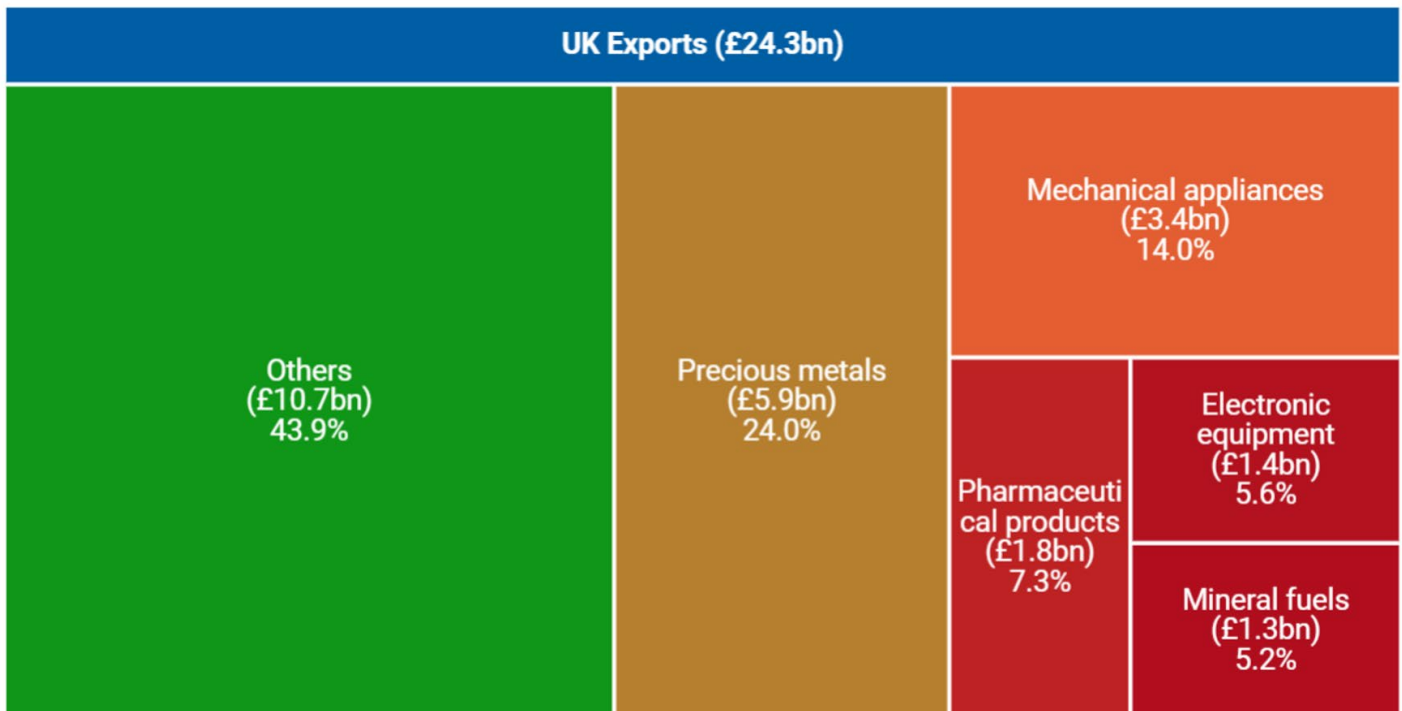
Exports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 export commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 56% of exports in April 2020, this was an increase from 51% in April 2019.
- Precious metals rose to the largest proportion, accounting for 24% of total exports. This was an increase from 14% in April 2019.
- Mechanical appliances fell to the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 14% of total exports. This was a decrease of less than 1 percentage point on April 2019.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Motor vehicles fell to 9th place from 3rd.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with April 2019. Most notably, Pharmaceutical products rose to 3rd place from 6th, and Organic chemicals rose to 6th from 9th.

↑ **Precious metals accounted for 24% of total exports in April 2020**

↓ **Mechanical appliances accounted for 14% of total exports in April 2020**

Figure 5: Share of UK exports by the top 5 commodities, April 2020



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2020 data is provisional

Exports: Commodity Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to April 2020, Mechanical appliances remained the largest export commodity. This was despite experiencing decreases of 12% on the 3 months to January 2020, and 15% on the 3 months to April 2019.
- Among the top 10, Precious metals experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to January 2020 and the only increase on the 3 months to April 2019, up 28% and 29% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Mineral fuels experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to January 2020 and on the 3 months to April 2019, down 33% and 32% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Motor vehicles experienced the 2nd largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to January 2020 and on the 3 months to April 2019, down 30% and 32% respectively.
- 7 of the top 10 commodities experienced decreases on the 3 months to January 2020. Precious metals, Pharmaceutical products, and Plastics and plastic products were the exceptions.

↑ **Precious metals exports up 29% on the 3 months to April 2019**

↓ **Mineral fuels exports down 33% on the 3 months to January 2020**

Table 4: UK exports of goods for the top 10 commodities, 3 months to April 2020

Commodity Description	3 months to Apr 2020		3 months to Jan 2020		3 months to Apr 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on January 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on April 2019 (%)	
Mechanical appliances	12,120	13,777	-12.0	14,185	-14.6	
Precious metals	11,881	9,317	27.5	9,182	29.4	
Motor vehicles	6,674	9,543	-30.1	9,767	-31.7	
Mineral fuels	5,193	7,705	-32.6	7,618	-31.8	
Pharmaceutical products	5,100	4,425	15.2	5,727	-11.0	
Electronic equipment	4,742	5,264	-9.9	5,619	-15.6	
Measuring devices and gauges	3,440	3,759	-8.5	3,857	-10.8	
Aircraft	2,702	3,586	-24.7	3,793	-28.8	
Organic chemicals	2,596	3,184	-18.4	2,756	-5.8	
Plastics and plastic products	2,211	2,033	8.7	2,475	-10.7	
Others	23,281	26,021	-10.5	28,312	-17.8	
Total Exports	79,939	88,614	-9.8	93,292	-14.3	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
Note: 2019 and 2020 data is provisional

Exports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

Country to commodity:

- The decrease in exports to the USA compared with last month was led by Motor vehicles, down £570 million (85%). The decrease on April 2019 was led by Art and antiques, and Motor vehicles, down £479 million (96%) and £422 million (81%) respectively.
- The decrease in exports to Germany on last month was led by Motor vehicles, down £170 million (71%).
- The decrease in exports to France on last month was led by Aircraft and Motor vehicles, down £162 million (66%) and £101 million (75%) respectively.
- The decrease in exports to China compared with April 2019 was led by Precious metals and Mineral fuels, down £581 million (89%) and £463 million (79%) respectively.

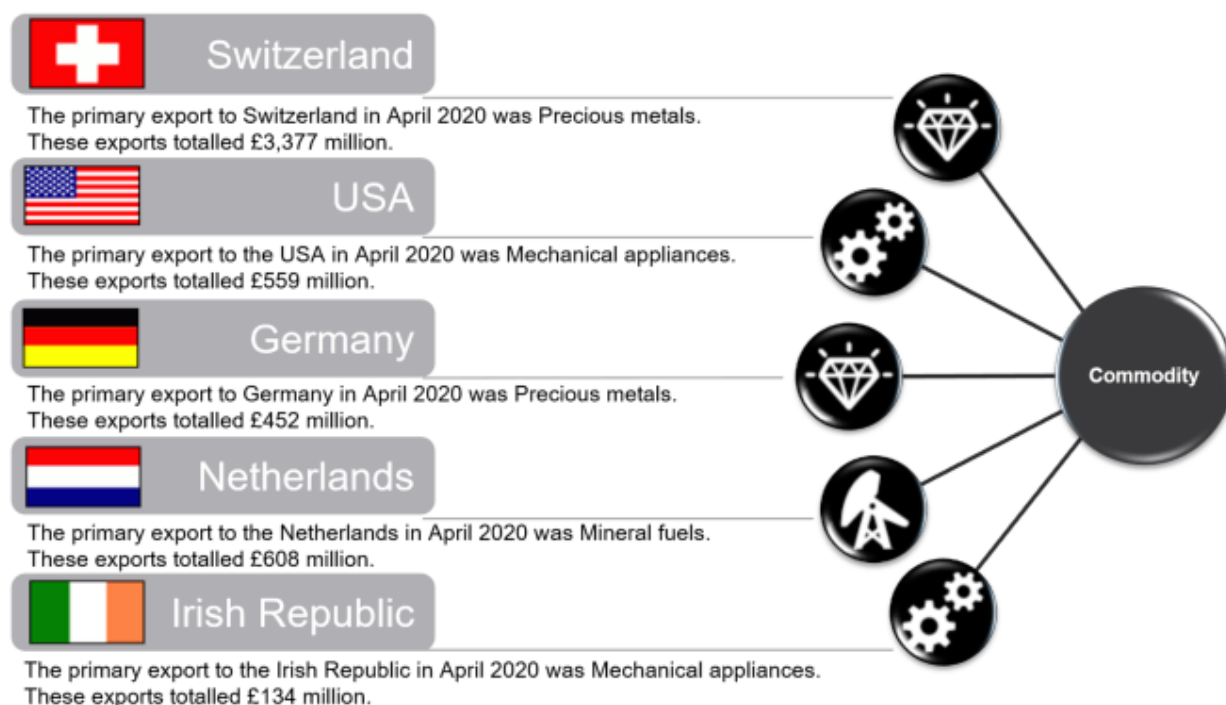
↓ Exports of Motor vehicles to the USA down 85% on last month

Commodity to country

- The increase in exports of Precious metals on last month was led by Switzerland and Canada, up £2,108 million (more than 2.5 times in value) and £441 million (from £10.7 million) respectively. The same countries also led the increase on April 2019, up £2,329 million (more than 3 times the value) and £445 million (from £7.4 million) respectively.
- The decrease in exports of Mineral fuels compared with last month was led by the Irish Republic, down £101 million (58%). The decrease on April 2019 was led by China and the USA, down £463 million (79%) and £278 million (96%) respectively.
- The decrease in exports of Mechanical appliances on last month was led by the USA and the UAE, down £180 million (24%) and £101 million (55%) respectively. The decrease on April 2019 was led by the USA and Turkey, down £219 million (28%) and £104 million (70%) respectively.

↑ Exports of Precious metals to Switzerland up more than 3 times on April 2019

Figure 6: The UK's top commodity exports to the top 5 countries



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2020 data is provisional

Imports: Country Analysis

- The USA replaced Germany as the largest import partner country despite experiencing the 4th largest value decrease on last month, down £875 million (19%).
- China experienced the largest value increase on last month up £881 million (38%).
- Germany experienced the largest value decrease on last month and on April 2019, down £2,321 million (43%) and £2,318 million (43%) respectively.
- Russia experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month and the largest value increase on April 2019, up £859 million (93%) and £928 million (more than double the value) respectively.
- Belgium experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on last month, down £911 million (40%).
- France experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on April 2019, down £916 million (43%).

↑ **Imports from China up 38% on last month**

↓ **Imports from Germany down 43% on April 2019**

Table 5: UK imports of goods from the top 10 countries, April 2020

Partner Country	April 2020	March 2020		April 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on March 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on April 2019 (%)
USA	3,779	4,654	-18.8	3,799	-0.5
China	3,181	2,300	38.3	3,224	-1.3
Germany	3,104	5,425	-42.8	5,422	-42.8
Netherlands	2,547	3,446	-26.1	2,927	-13.0
Russia	1,781	922	93.2	853	108.8
Belgium	1,349	2,261	-40.3	1,843	-26.8
France	1,234	1,953	-36.8	2,150	-42.6
Italy	994	1,426	-30.3	1,524	-34.8
Irish Republic	940	1,087	-13.5	1,166	-19.4
Spain	820	1,359	-39.7	1,256	-34.8
Others	10,782	16,562	-34.9	15,832	-31.9
Total EU	13,774	20,976	-34.3	20,256	-32.0
Total Non-EU	16,737	20,419	-18.0	19,741	-15.2
Total Imports	30,511	41,395	-26.3	39,997	-23.7

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 and 2020 data is provisional

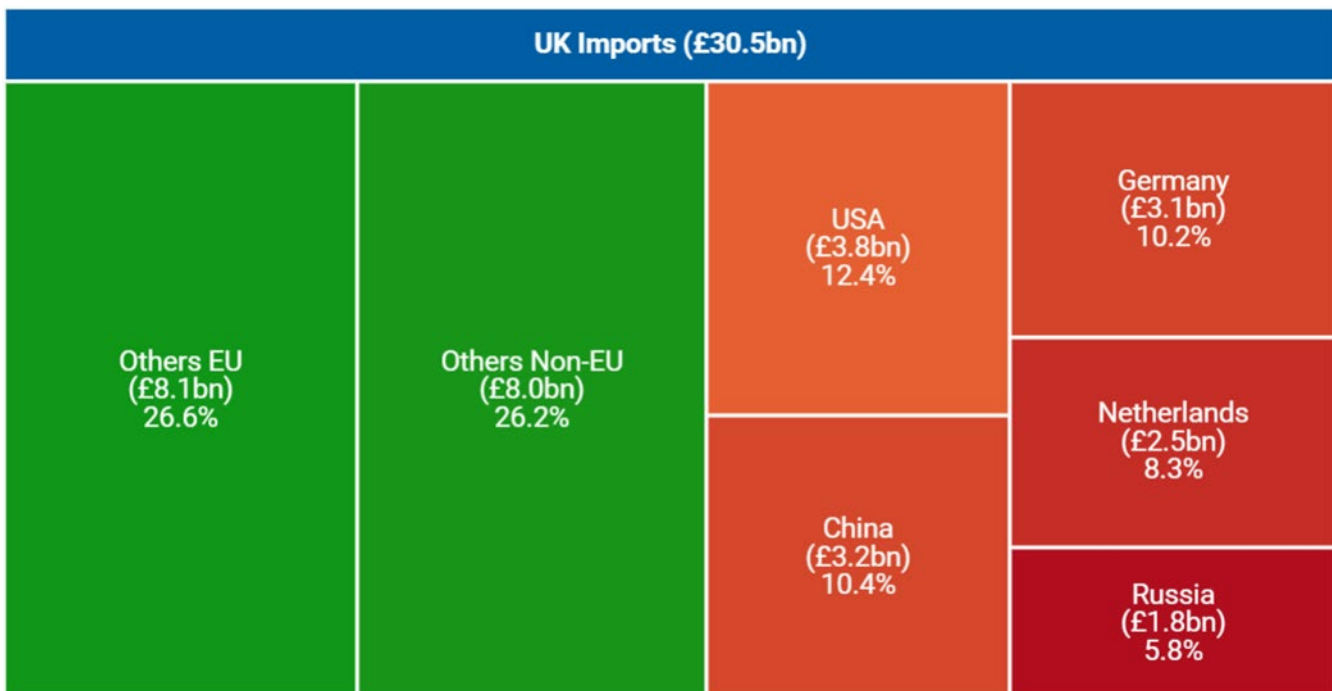
Imports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 import partners accounted for 47% of the total value of goods imported in April 2020. This was an increase from a 44% share in April 2019.
- The USA accounted for 12% of the total value of goods imported to the UK. This was an increase from a 9.5% share in April 2019.
- China had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 10%. This was an increase from an 8.1% share in April 2019.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) have changed compared with last month. Most notably, Germany fell to 3rd place from 1st.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) have changed compared with April 2019. Most notably, Russia rose to 5th place from 12th.

↑ **The top 5 partners accounted for 47% of total imports in April 2020**

↑ **The USA accounted for 12% of total imports in April 2020**

Figure 7: Share of UK imports of goods from the top 5 countries, April 2020



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2020 data is provisional

Imports: Country Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to April 2020 Germany remained the largest import partner country, despite experiencing the 2nd largest decrease on the 3 months to April 2019, down 26%.
- Among the top 10, the USA experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to January 2020, up 3.5%.
- Among the top 10, China experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to January 2020, down 26%.
- Among the top 10, Russia experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to April 2019, up 59%.
- Among the top 10, France experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to April 2019, down 35%.
- 8 of the top 10 countries experienced a decrease on the 3 months to January 2020, the USA and Belgium were the exceptions.
- 8 of the top 10 countries experienced a decrease on the 3 months to April 2019, the USA and Russia were the exceptions.

↓ Imports from China down 26% on the 3 months to January 2020

↑ Imports from Russia up 59% on the 3 months to April 2019

Table 6: UK imports of goods from the top 10 countries, 3 months to April 2020

Partner Country	3 months to Apr 2020		3 months to Jan 2020		3 months to Apr 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on January 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on April 2019 (%)	
Germany	13,491	14,595	-7.6	18,175	-25.8	
USA	12,781	12,350	3.5	12,233	4.5	
Netherlands	8,791	9,288	-5.4	11,355	-22.6	
China	8,398	11,299	-25.7	10,203	-17.7	
Belgium	5,419	5,297	2.3	6,803	-20.3	
France	5,327	6,174	-13.7	8,214	-35.2	
Italy	3,928	4,640	-15.4	5,110	-23.1	
Russia	3,699	3,986	-7.2	2,333	58.6	
Spain	3,544	3,661	-3.2	4,445	-20.3	
Irish Republic	3,037	3,229	-5.9	3,487	-12.9	
Others	42,458	49,137	-13.6	50,202	-15.4	
Total Imports	110,873	123,656	-10.3	132,561	-16.4	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 and 2020 data is provisional

Imports: Commodity Analysis

- Precious metals remained the largest import commodity, despite experiencing the 4th largest value decrease on last month, down £1,191 million (21%). Conversely, it experienced the largest increase on April 2019, up £851 million (24%).
- Other textile goods (ranked 30th) experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £100 million (68%).
- Motor vehicles experienced the largest value decrease on last month and on April 2019, down £3,658 million (76%) and £3,338 million (74%) respectively.
- Mineral fuels experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on last month and on April 2019, down £1,417 million (49%) and £1,873 million (55%) respectively.
- Mechanical appliances experienced the 3rd largest value decrease on last month and on April 2019, down £1,230 million (23%) and £1,315 million (25%) respectively.

↓ Imports of Motor vehicles down 76% on last month

↓ Imports of Mineral fuels down 55% on April 2019

Table 7: UK imports of goods for the top 10 commodities, April 2020

Commodity Description	April 2020		March 2020		April 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on March 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on April 2019 (%)	
Precious metals	4,415	5,606	-21.3	3,564	23.9	
Mechanical appliances	4,021	5,251	-23.4	5,336	-24.6	
Electronic equipment	2,841	3,386	-16.1	3,412	-16.7	
Pharmaceutical products	1,698	1,753	-3.2	1,333	27.4	
Mineral fuels	1,505	2,922	-48.5	3,378	-55.5	
Motor vehicles	1,167	4,825	-75.8	4,505	-74.1	
Plastics and plastic products	1,040	1,102	-5.7	1,264	-17.7	
Measuring devices and gauges	992	1,286	-22.9	1,196	-17.1	
Organic chemicals	654	672	-2.6	585	11.9	
Furniture and light fittings	492	590	-16.7	727	-32.4	
Others	11,687	14,001	-16.5	14,697	-20.5	
Total Imports	30,511	41,395	-26.3	39,997	-23.7	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 and 2020 data is provisional

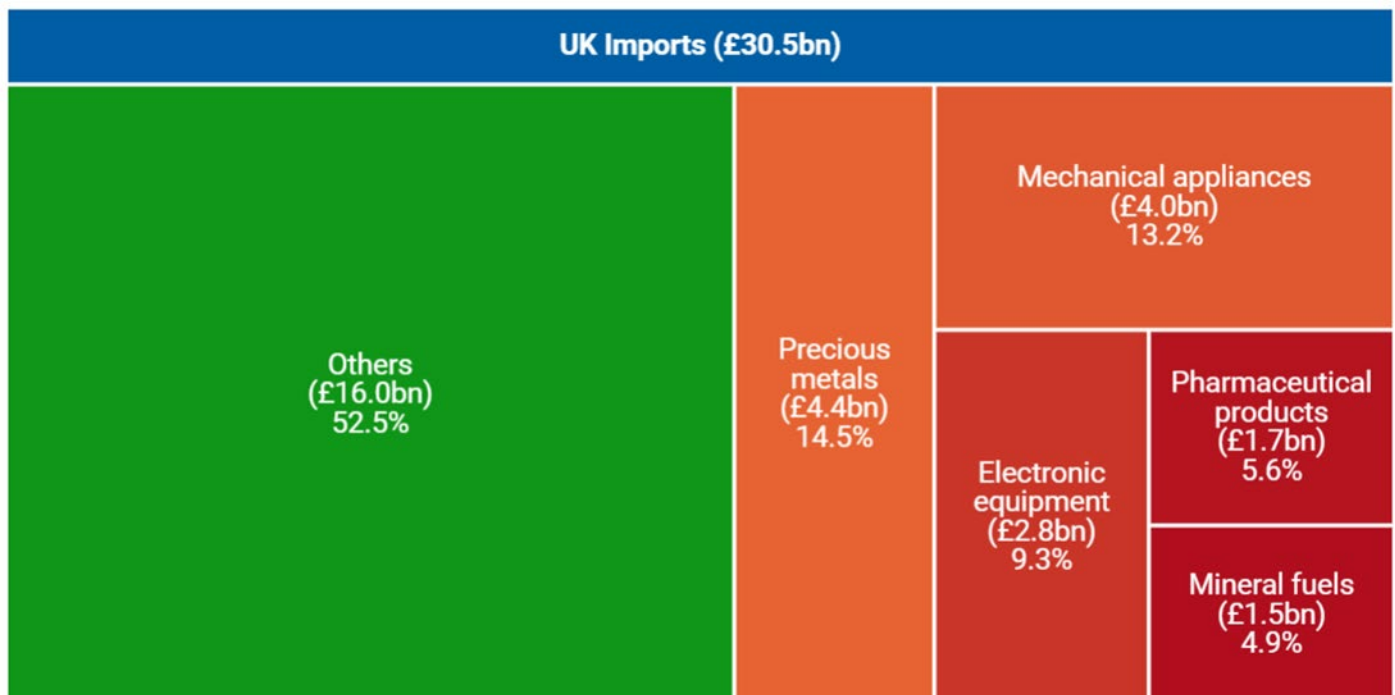
Imports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 import commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 47% of the total value of goods imported in April 2020. This was a decrease from a 50% share in April 2019.
- Precious metals accounted for 14% of the total value of goods imported to the UK. This was an increase from an 8.9% share in April 2019.
- Mechanical appliances accounted for 13% of the total value of goods imported to the UK. This was a decrease of less than one percentage point on April 2019.
- The top 10 import commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Motor vehicles fell to 6th place from 3rd.
- The top 10 import commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with April 2019. Most notably, Precious metals rose to 1st place from 3rd and Organic chemicals rose to 9th place from 15th.

↓ **The top 5 import commodities accounted for 47% of total imports in April 2020**

↑ **Precious metals accounted for 14% of total imports in April 2020**

Figure 8: Share of UK imports for the top 5 commodities, April 2020



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2020 data is provisional

Imports: Commodity Analysis – 3 Months

- In the 3 months to April 2020, Precious metals replaced Mechanical appliances as the largest import commodity. It experienced a decrease on the 3 months to January 2020, down 3.2%, and among the top 10, the only increase on the 3 months to April 2019, up 26%.
- Among the top 10, Organic chemicals experienced the largest percentage increase on the 3 months to January 2020, up 11%.
- Among the top 10, Knitwear experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to January 2020, down 31%.
- Among the top 10, Motor vehicles experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to April 2019, down 36%.
- Among the top 10, Mineral fuels experienced the 2nd largest percentage decreases on the 3 months to January 2020 and on the 3 months to April 2019, down 29% and 30% respectively.
- 7 of the top 10 commodities experienced a decrease on the 3 months to January 2020, Pharmaceutical products, Plastic and plastic products, and Organic chemicals were the exceptions.

↑ **Precious metals up 26% on the 3 months to April 2019**

↓ **Motor vehicles down 36% on the 3 months to April 2019**

Table 8: UK imports of goods for the top 10 commodities, 3 months to April 2020

Commodity Description	3 months to Apr 2020		3 months to Jan 2020		3 months to Apr 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on January 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on April 2019 (%)	
Precious metals	14,979	15,466	-3.2	11,912	25.7	
Mechanical appliances	14,120	15,523	-9.0	16,729	-15.6	
Motor vehicles	10,714	12,045	-11.0	16,682	-35.8	
Electronic equipment	9,427	11,723	-19.6	11,590	-18.7	
Mineral fuels	7,590	10,710	-29.1	10,809	-29.8	
Pharmaceutical products	4,824	4,530	6.5	6,713	-28.1	
Measuring devices and gauges	3,366	3,504	-3.9	3,905	-13.8	
Plastics and plastic products	3,207	3,165	1.3	4,025	-20.3	
Organic chemicals	1,895	1,703	11.2	1,966	-3.6	
Knitwear	1,801	2,604	-30.8	2,096	-14.1	
Others	38,950	42,682	-8.7	46,134	-15.6	
Total Imports	110,873	123,656	-10.3	132,561	-16.4	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2019 and 2020 data is provisional

Imports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

Country to commodity:

- The decreases in imports from Germany on last month and on April 2019 were dominated by Motor vehicles, down £1,300 million (79%) and £1,435 million (81%) respectively.
- The increase in imports from China on last month was led by Mechanical appliances, up £238 million (44%).
- The decreases in imports from the USA on last month and on April 2019 were led by Mechanical appliances, down £300 million (32%) and £234 million (27%) respectively.
- The decreases in imports from Belgium on last month and on April 2019 were dominated by Motor vehicles, down £623 million (78%) and £282 million (62%) respectively.

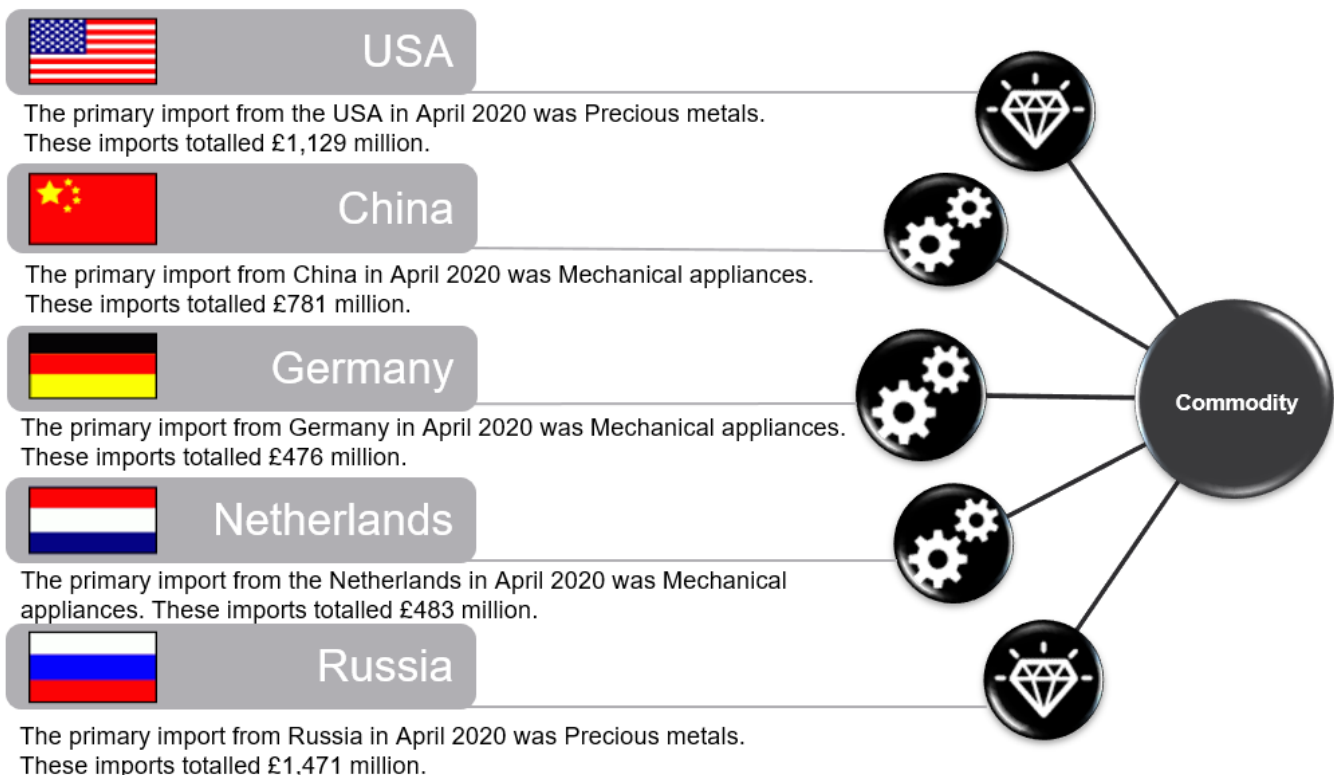
↓ Imports of Motor vehicles from Germany down 79% on last month

Commodity to country:

- The decrease in imports of Precious metals on last month was driven by Australia, down £783 million (95%). Its increase on April 2019 was dominated by Russia, up £1,290 million (over 8 times the value).
- The decreases in imports of Mineral fuels on last month and on April 2019 were driven by Norway, down £317 million (46%) and £755 million (67%) respectively.
- The decreases in imports of Mechanical appliances on last month and on April 2019 were led by the USA, down £300 million (32%) and £234 million (27%) respectively, and Germany, down £240 million (34%) and £276 million (37%) respectively.

↑ Imports of Precious metals from Russia up 8 times the value on April 2019

Figure 9: The UK's top commodity imports from the top 5 countries



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics
 Note: 2020 data is provisional

Methodology Notes

Metadata

Data behind this bulletin is available 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 April 2020 Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics are collected from the Intrastat survey. They 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 April 2020 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 (October 2019) 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 12 June 2020 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 April 2020. At the same time revisions for all previously published non-EU and EU data for 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
May 2020	14 July 2020
June 2020	12 August 2020
July 2020	11 September 2020

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-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.

As the UK leaves the EU, it is important that our statistics continue to be of high quality and are internationally comparable. During the transition period, those UK statistics that align with EU practice and rules will continue to do so in the same way as before 31 January 2020. After the transition period, we will continue to produce statistics in line with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Statistics and in accordance with internationally agreed statistical guidance and standards.