



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 June 2020.

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

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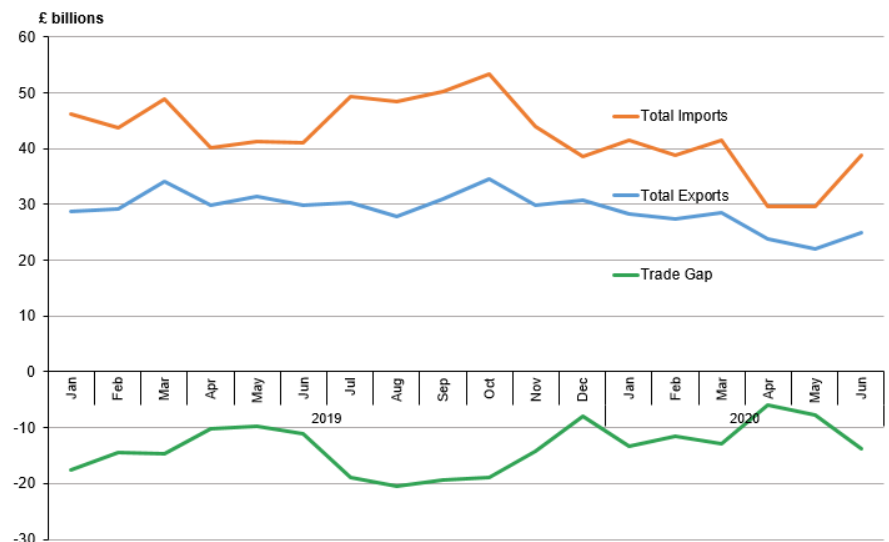
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Trade in Goods, June 2020

- Total **exports** of goods for June 2020 were £24.9 billion. This was an increase of £3.0 billion (14%) compared with last month, and a decrease of £5.0 billion (17%) compared with June 2019.
- Total **imports** of goods for June 2020 were £38.8 billion. This was an increase of £9.2 billion (31%) compared with last month, and a decrease of £2.3 billion (5.6%) compared with June 2019.
- The UK was a net importer this month, with **imports** exceeding **exports** by £13.9 billion, widening by £6.3 billion on last month.

Figure 1: Total UK monthly Trade in Goods



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



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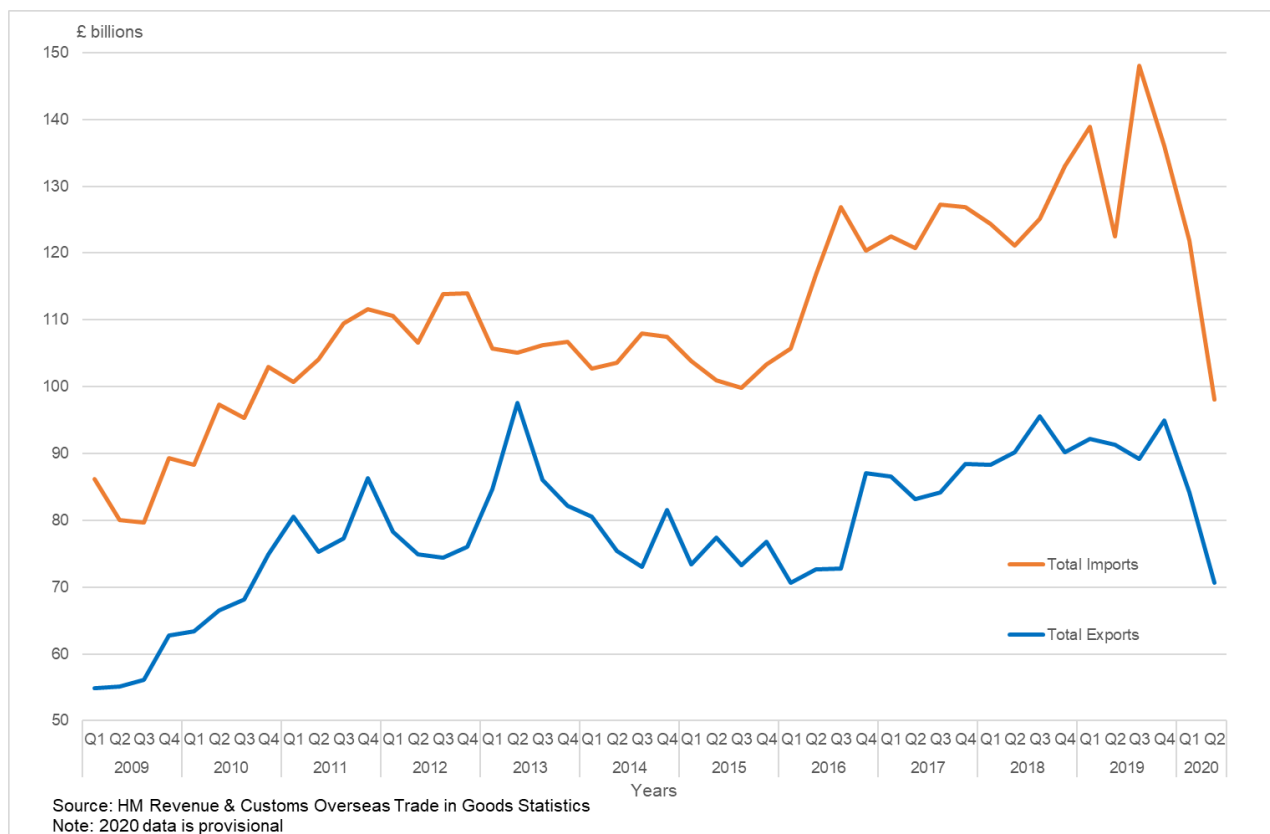
Trade in Goods Trends

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. It has experienced large quarterly fluctuations since Q1 of 2019 and Q2 of 2020 saw the lowest quarterly imports value since Q3 of 2010. Exports peaked in Q2 of 2013, with a steady rise from Q2 of 2017 to Q3 of 2018. Q2 of 2020 saw the lowest quarterly exports value since Q1 of 2016.

- ↓ **Exports down 23% on Q2 2019**
- ↓ **Imports down 20% on Q2 2019**
- **Trade deficit narrowed by 12% on Q2 2019**

- The total **export** trade for Q2 of 2020 was £70.7 billion, which was a decrease of 23% compared with £91.3 billion for Q2 of 2019.
- The total **import** trade for Q2 of 2020 was £98.1 billion, which was a decrease of 20% compared with £123 billion for Q2 of 2019.
- There was a trade deficit of £27.4 billion for Q2 of 2020. This was a narrowing of 12% compared with £31.2 billion for Q2 2019.
- 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.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, trade in recent months has seen abnormally low values, affecting our largest trade partners and commodity groups at differing magnitudes.

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



Non-EU & EU Trade in Goods

Non-EU Trade in Goods:

- **Non-EU exports** for June 2020 were £12.5 billion. This was an increase of £0.2 billion (1.8%) on last month, and a decrease of £3.9 billion (24%) compared with June 2019.
- **Non-EU imports** for June 2020 were £20.8 billion. This was an increase of £4.7 billion (29%) on last month, and an increase of £1.2 billion (6.0%) compared with June 2019.
- For **non-EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £8.3 billion.

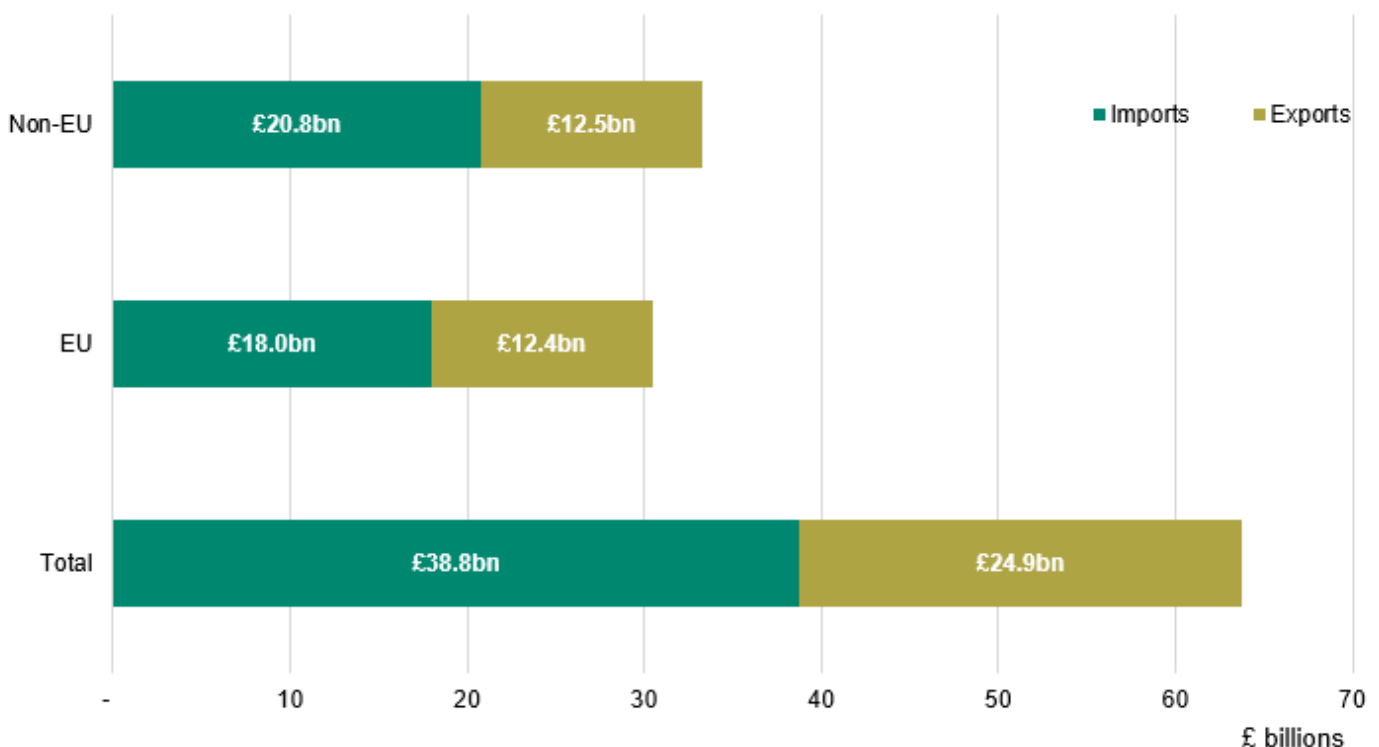
↓ **Non-EU exports down 24% on June 2019**

EU Trade in Goods:

- **EU exports** for June 2020 were £12.4 billion. This was an increase of £2.7 billion (28%) on last month, and a decrease of £1.1 billion (8.0%) compared with June 2019.
- **EU imports** for June 2020 were £18.0 billion. This was an increase of £4.6 billion (34%) on last month, and a decrease of £3.5 billion (16%) compared with June 2019.
- For **EU trade** the UK was a net importer this month, with imports exceeding exports by £5.6 billion.

↑ **EU imports up 34% on last month**

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



Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2020 data is provisional

Exports: Country Analysis

- The USA remained as the largest export partner country. It experienced the 4th largest value increase on last month, up £510 million (18%). Conversely, it experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on June 2019, down £887 million (21%).
- Germany experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £621 million (29%).
- Spain showed the 2nd largest value increases on last month and on June 2019, up £550 million (doubling in value) and £232 million (27%) respectively.
- Belarus (in 94th place) saw the largest decrease on last month, down £462 million (99%).
- Switzerland experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on last month, down £457 million (26%).
- Canada (in 11th place) experienced the largest value increase on June 2019, up £249 million (61%).
- China experienced the largest value decrease on June 2019, down £946 million (46%).

↑ **Exports to Germany up 29% on last month**

↓ **Exports to China down 46% on June 2019**

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

Partner Country	June 2020		May 2020		June 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on May 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on June 2019 (%)	
USA	3,351	2,841	18.0	4,238	-20.9	
Germany	2,732	2,111	29.4	2,784	-1.9	
France	1,689	1,177	43.4	1,947	-13.3	
Irish Republic	1,650	1,468	12.4	1,707	-3.3	
Netherlands	1,547	1,464	5.7	1,960	-21.1	
Switzerland	1,302	1,758	-26.0	1,589	-18.1	
China	1,109	822	34.9	2,055	-46.0	
Spain	1,097	547	100.4	865	26.8	
Belgium	895	712	25.8	1,068	-16.2	
Italy	703	535	31.4	850	-17.3	
Others	8,838	8,509	3.9	10,864	-18.7	
Total EU	12,435	9,691	28.3	13,512	-8.0	
Total Non-EU	12,476	12,254	1.8	16,415	-24.0	
Total Exports	24,912	21,945	13.5	29,927	-16.8	

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

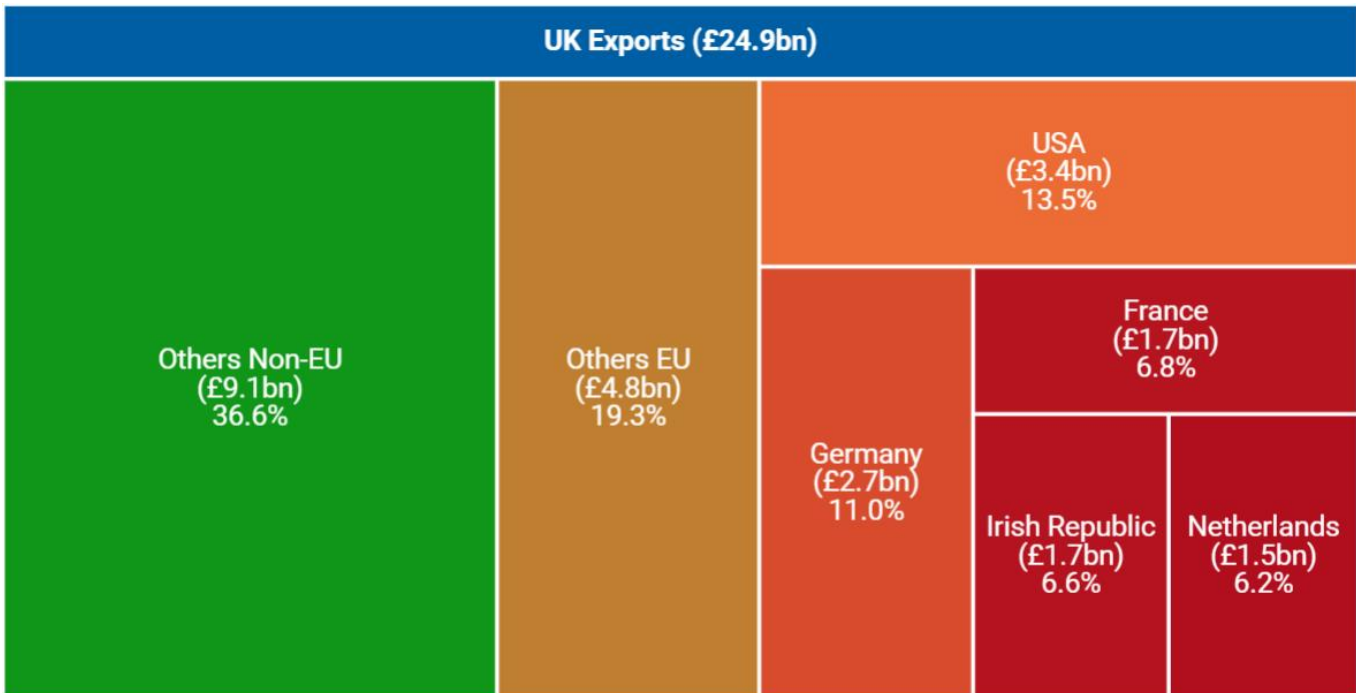
Exports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 export partners accounted for 44% of total exports in goods in June 2020. This was an increase from a 43% share in June 2019.
- The USA accounted for 13% of the total value of exports from the UK, this was a decrease from a 14% share in June 2019.
- Germany had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 11%. This was an increase from a 9.3% share in June 2019.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, France rose to 3rd place from 6th, Spain rose to 8th place from 11th, and Italy rose to 10th place from 12th.
- The top 10 export partner countries (ranked by value) changed order compared with June 2019. Most notably, the Irish Republic rose to 4th place from 6th, and China dropped to 7th place from 3rd.

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

↑ **Germany had an 11% share of total exports in June 2020**

Figure 4: Share of UK exports of goods to the top 5 countries, June 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 June 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 March 2020, down 27%, and the 4th largest decrease on the 3 months to June 2019, down 30%.
- Among the top 10, France experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to March 2020, and the 3rd largest on the 3 months to June 2019, down 29% and 31% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Belgium experienced the 3rd largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to March 2020, and the 2nd largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to June 2019, down 26% and 33% respectively.
- Among the top 10, China experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to June 2019, down 49%.
- Among the top 10, Switzerland was the only partner country to experience an increase on the 3 months to March 2020, and on the 3 months to June 2019, up more than double the value and 37% respectively.

↓ Exports to China down 49% on the 3 months to June 2019

↑ Exports to Switzerland more than double the value of the 3 months to March 2020

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

Partner Country	3 months to Jun 2020		3 months to Mar 2020		3 months to Jun 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on March 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on June 2019 (%)	
USA	9,384	12,804	-26.7	13,436	-30.2	
Germany	7,237	9,104	-20.5	8,407	-13.9	
Switzerland	6,677	2,955	125.9	4,859	37.4	
Irish Republic	4,429	4,921	-10.0	5,150	-14.0	
Netherlands	4,415	5,777	-23.6	5,776	-23.6	
France	3,872	5,455	-29.0	5,649	-31.4	
China	2,998	3,681	-18.6	5,887	-49.1	
Belgium	2,229	3,025	-26.3	3,344	-33.3	
Spain	2,151	2,356	-8.7	2,546	-15.5	
Hong Kong	2,130	2,275	-6.4	2,161	-1.4	
Others	25,151	31,832	-21.0	34,097	-26.2	
Total Exports	70,674	84,187	-16.1	91,312	-22.6	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2020 data is provisional

Exports: Commodity Analysis

- Mechanical appliances replaced Precious metals as the largest export commodity. It showed the 2nd largest value increase on last month, up £520 million (16%). In contrast, it saw the 2nd largest decrease on June 2019, down £833 million (18%).
- Motor vehicles experienced the largest value increase on last month, up £1,030 million (more than 2.5 times the value). In contrast, it saw the largest value decrease on June 2019, down £1,609 million (49%).
- Ships, boats and floating structures (in 13th place) experienced the 3rd largest value increase on last month, and the largest on June 2019, up £420 million (8 times the value) and £374 million (4.5 times the value) respectively.
- Precious metals experienced the largest value decrease on last month, and the 4th largest decrease on June 2019, down £960 million (27%) and £374 million (12%) respectively.
- Mineral fuels experienced the 4th largest value increase on last month, up £310 million (21%). In contrast, it showed the 3rd largest decrease on June 2019, down £656 million (27%).

↑ **Exports of Motor vehicles up 2.5 times on last month**

↓ **Exports of Precious metals down 27% on last month**

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

Commodity Description	June 2020	May 2020		June 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on May 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on June 2019 (%)
Mechanical appliances	3,803	3,283	15.8	4,636	-18.0
Precious metals	2,659	3,619	-26.5	3,033	-12.3
Mineral fuels	1,752	1,442	21.5	2,408	-27.3
Pharmaceutical products	1,714	1,681	2.0	1,693	1.2
Motor vehicles	1,651	621	165.8	3,260	-49.4
Electronic equipment	1,621	1,389	16.7	1,813	-10.6
Measuring devices and gauges	1,128	1,005	12.2	1,299	-13.2
Aircraft	874	660	32.5	1,247	-29.9
Organic chemicals	773	807	-4.2	785	-1.6
Other products	770	706	9.0	738	4.4
Others	8,168	6,731	21.3	9,013	-9.4
Total Exports	24,912	21,945	13.5	29,927	-16.8

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

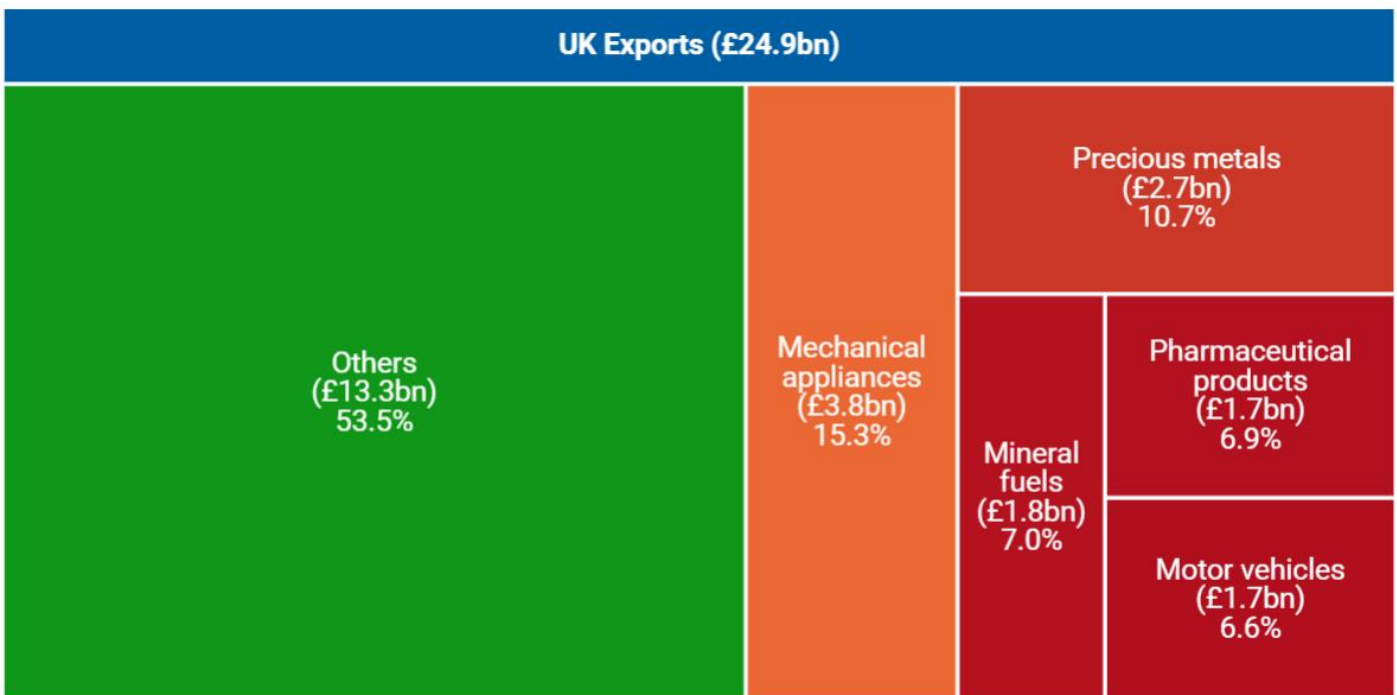
Note: 2020 data is provisional

Exports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 export commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 46% of exports in June 2020, this was a decrease from a 51% share in June 2019.
- Mechanical appliances had the largest proportion, accounting for 15% of total exports. This was a decrease of less than 1 percentage point on June 2019.
- Precious metals had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 11% of total exports. This was an increase from a 10% share in June 2019.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Motor vehicles rose to 5th place from 11th, and Aircraft rose to 8th place from 10th.
- The top 10 export commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with June 2019. Most notably, Motor vehicles fell to 5th place from 2nd, and Pharmaceutical products rose to 4th place from 6th.

- ↓ **Mechanical appliances accounted for 15% of total exports in June 2020**
- ↑ **Precious metals accounted for 11% of total exports in June 2020**

Figure 5: Share of UK exports by the top 5 commodities, June 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 June 2020, Precious metals replaced Mechanical appliances as the largest export commodity. It experienced the largest percentage increases on the 3 months to March 2020, and on the 3 months to June 2019, up 46% and 13% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Motor vehicles experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to March 2020 and on the 3 months to June 2019, down 67% in both cases.
- Among the top 10, Aircraft experienced the 2nd largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to March 2020, and the 3rd largest decrease on the 3 months to June 2019, down 39% and 44% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Mineral fuels experienced the 3rd largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to March 2020 and the 2nd largest decrease on the 3 months to June 2019, down 33% and 47% respectively.
- 8 of the top 10 commodities experienced decreases on the 3 months to March 2020. Precious metals, and Pharmaceutical products were the exceptions.
- 7 of the top 10 commodities experienced decreases on the 3 months to June 2019. Precious metals, Pharmaceutical products and Organic chemicals were the exceptions.

↑ **Precious metals exports up 46% on the 3 months to March 2020**

↓ **Motor vehicles exports down 67% on the 3 months to March 2020 and June 2019**

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

Commodity Description	3 months to Jun 2020		3 months to Mar 2020		3 months to Jun 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on March 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on June 2019 (%)	
Precious metals	12,112	8,275	46.4	10,671	13.5	
Mechanical appliances	10,416	13,541	-23.1	13,817	-24.6	
Pharmaceutical products	5,174	4,625	11.9	4,766	8.6	
Mineral fuels	4,486	6,680	-32.8	8,422	-46.7	
Electronic equipment	4,327	4,985	-13.2	5,295	-18.3	
Measuring devices and gauges	3,095	3,596	-14.0	3,800	-18.6	
Motor vehicles	2,918	8,862	-67.1	8,886	-67.2	
Organic chemicals	2,576	2,914	-11.6	2,356	9.3	
Aircraft	2,083	3,405	-38.8	3,727	-44.1	
Plastics and plastic products	2,064	2,238	-7.8	2,354	-12.3	
Others	21,423	25,065	-14.5	27,217	-21.3	
Total Exports	70,674	84,187	-16.1	91,312	-22.6	

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

Exports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

Country to commodity:

- The increase in exports to the USA on last month was led by Organic chemicals, up £211 million (doubling in value). The decrease on June 2019 was led by Motor vehicles, down £386 million (64%).
- The increase in exports to Germany on last month was led by Precious metals, up £228 million (more than 2.5 times the value).
- The increase in exports to Spain compared with both periods was led by Ships, boats and floating structures, up £371 million (from £0.6 million) on last month, and up £359 million (from £13 million) on June 2019.

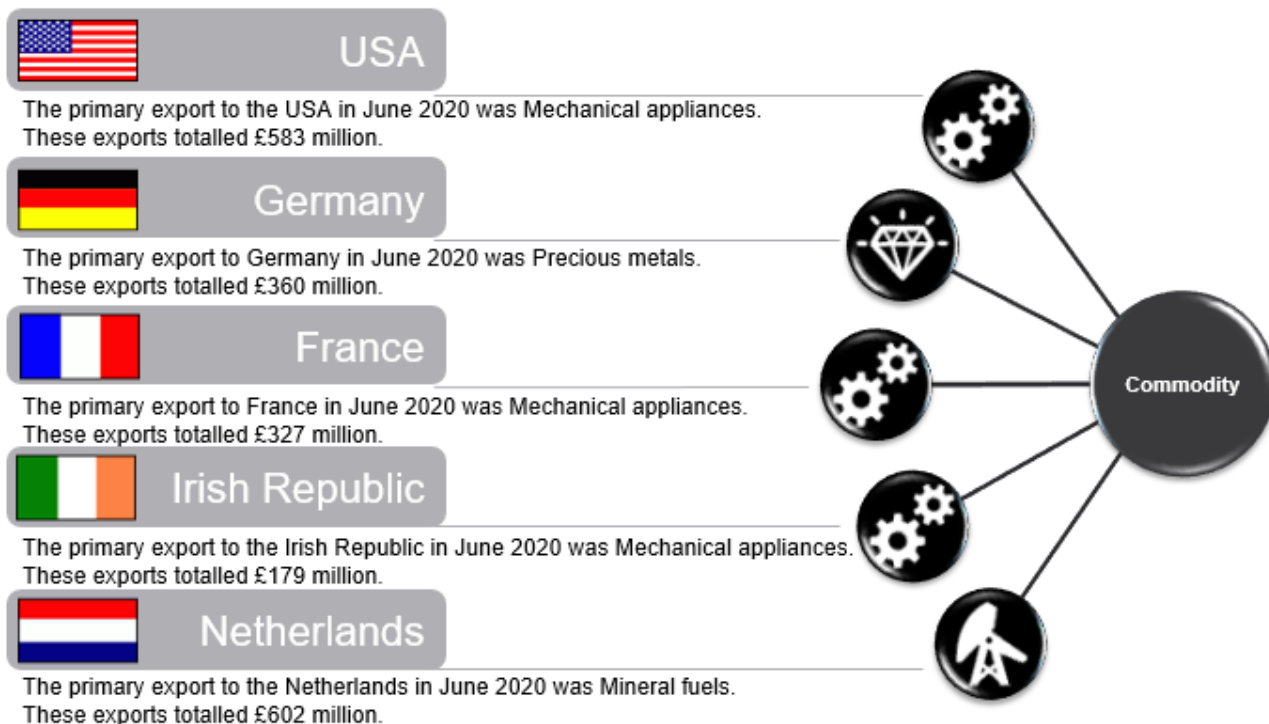
Commodity to country

- The increase in exports of Mechanical appliances compared with last month was led by France, up £133 million (69%). The decrease on June 2019 was led by the USA, down £218 million (27%).
- The increase in exports of Motor vehicles on last month was led by China and the USA, up £256 million (10 times the value) and £150 million (more than 3 times the value) respectively.
- The increase in exports of Mineral fuels on last month was led by South Korea, up £145 million (from £0.3 million). The decrease on June 2019 was led by China, down £304 million (85%).
- The decrease in exports of Precious metals on last month was led by Switzerland and Belarus, down £556 million (36%) and £463 million (to nil trade) respectively. The decrease on June 2019 was led by China, Azerbaijan, and India, down £579 million (84%), £274 million (to nil trade), and £259 million (98%) respectively.

↑ Exports of Precious metals to Germany up more than 2.5 times on last month

↓ Exports of Mineral fuels to China down 85% on last month

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

- Germany replaced China as the largest import partner country, experiencing the largest value increase on last month, up £1,341 million (47%). Conversely, it experienced the 2nd largest value decrease on June 2019, down £580 million (12%).
- Hong Kong experienced the largest value increase on June 2019, up £1,051 million (3 times the value).
- France experienced the largest value decrease on June 2019, down £705 million (29%).
- Australia (ranked 12th) experienced the 2nd largest value increase on last month and the 3rd largest value increase on June 2019, up £1,014 million (more than 8 times the value) and £538 million (87%) respectively.
- Russia experienced the 3rd largest value increase on last month and the 2nd value largest increase on June 2019, up £704 million (76%) and £987 million (more than 2.5 times the value) respectively.
- The Netherlands experienced the 3rd largest decrease on June 2019, down £506 million (15%).

↑ Imports from Germany up 47% on last month

↑ Imports from Hong Kong up 3 times the value on June 2019

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

Partner Country	June 2020	May 2020		June 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on May 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on June 2019 (%)
Germany	4,211	2,870	46.7	4,790	-12.1
China	4,060	3,717	9.2	3,530	15.0
USA	3,367	3,220	4.6	3,854	-12.6
Netherlands	2,917	2,525	15.5	3,423	-14.8
France	1,750	1,330	31.5	2,454	-28.7
Belgium	1,659	1,155	43.6	1,909	-13.1
Russia	1,625	921	76.5	637	155.0
Hong Kong	1,563	1,158	34.9	511	205.6
Italy	1,403	1,169	20.0	1,738	-19.3
Canada	1,205	617	95.3	915	31.7
Others	15,034	10,878	38.2	17,325	-13.2
Total EU	18,002	13,452	33.8	21,480	-16.2
Total Non-EU	20,791	16,108	29.1	19,607	6.0
Total Imports	38,793	29,560	31.2	41,087	-5.6

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2020 data is provisional

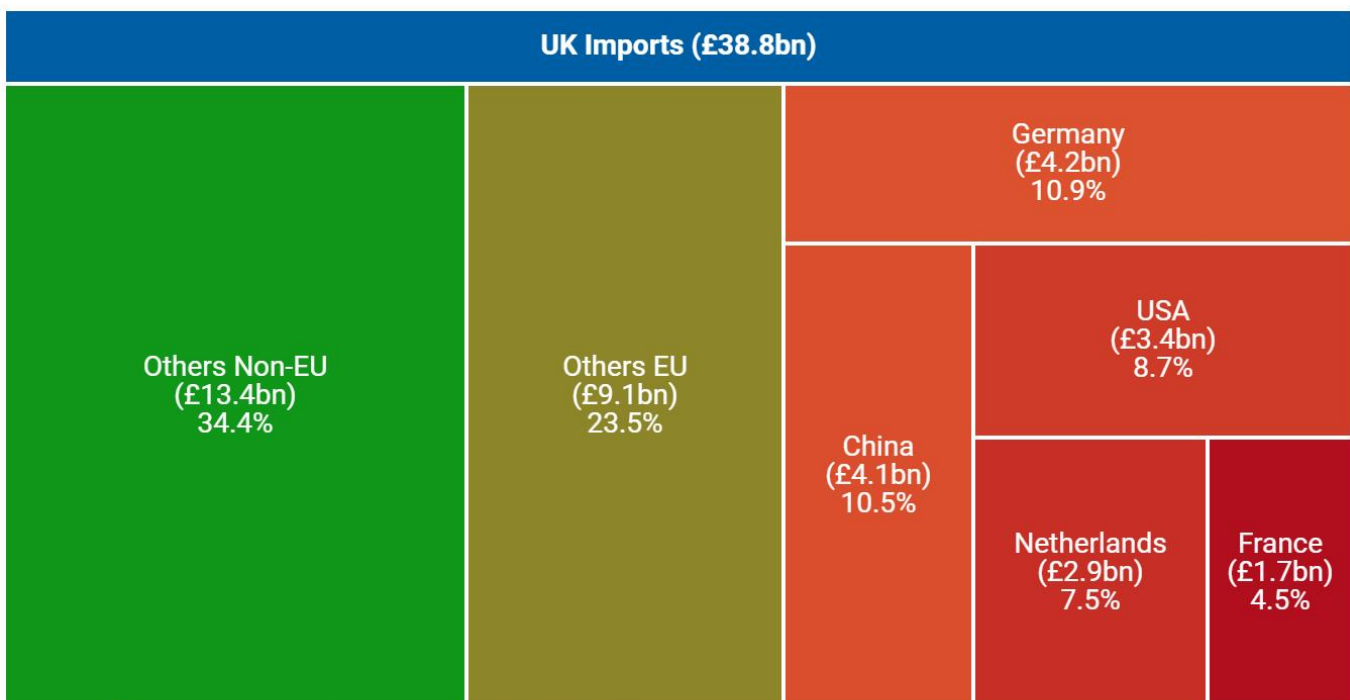
Imports: Country Analysis

- The top 5 import partners accounted for 42% of the total value of goods imported in June 2020. This was a decrease from a 44% share in June 2019.
- Germany accounted for 11% of the total value of goods imported to the UK. This was a decrease from a 12% share in June 2019.
- China had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for a 10% share. This was an increase from an 8.6% share in June 2019.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) have changed compared with last month. Most notably, Germany rose to 1st place from 3rd, Italy fell to 9th place from 6th, and Canada rose to 10th place from 14th.
- The top 10 import partner countries (ranked by value) have changed compared with June 2019. Most notably, Russia rose to 7th place from 16th and Hong Kong rose to 8th place from 22nd.

↓ **The top 5 partners accounted for 42% of total imports in June 2020**

↓ **Germany accounted for 11% of total imports in June 2020**

Figure 7: Share of UK imports of goods from the top 5 countries, June 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 June 2020, China replaced Germany as the largest import partner country, experiencing the 3rd largest percentage increase among the top 10 on the 3 months to March 2020, up 17%.
- Among the top 10, Hong Kong experienced the largest percentage increases on the 3 months to March 2020 and on the 3 months to June 2019, up 62% and more than double the value respectively.
- Among the top 10, Germany experienced the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to March 2020 and the 2nd largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to June 2019, down 34% and 36% respectively.
- Among the top 10, France experienced the 3rd largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to March 2020 and the largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to June 2020, down 30% and 38% respectively.
- 7 of the top 10 countries experienced a decrease on the 3 months to March 2020 and on the 3 months to June 2019. The exceptions in both cases were China, Russia, and Hong Kong.

↑ Imports from Hong Kong up more than double the value on June 2019

↓ Imports from France down 38% on the 3 months to June 2019

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

Partner Country	3 months to Jun 2020		3 months to Mar 2020		3 months to Jun 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on March 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on June 2019 (%)	
China	10,958	9,365	17.0	10,437	5.0	
USA	10,365	13,265	-21.9	11,582	-10.5	
Germany	9,933	15,160	-34.5	15,639	-36.5	
Netherlands	7,904	9,276	-14.8	9,373	-15.7	
Russia	4,327	2,849	51.9	2,091	107.0	
France	4,242	6,060	-30.0	6,884	-38.4	
Belgium	4,069	5,901	-31.0	5,576	-27.0	
Italy	3,516	4,448	-21.0	5,003	-29.7	
Hong Kong	3,185	1,964	62.2	1,508	111.1	
Irish Republic	2,827	3,177	-11.0	3,444	-17.9	
Others	36,767	50,371	-27.0	51,013	-27.9	
Total Imports	98,092	121,835	-19.5	122,551	-20.0	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2020 data is provisional

Imports: Commodity Analysis

- Precious metals remained the largest import commodity, experiencing the largest value increases on last month and on June 2019, up £2,956 million (61%) and £3,665 million (88%) respectively.
- Other textile goods (ranked 14th) experienced the largest value decrease on last month, down £85 million (14%). Conversely, it experienced the 2nd largest value increase on June 2019, up £374 million (more than 3 times the value).
- Mineral fuels experienced the largest value decrease on June 2019, down £1,764 million (52%).
- Motor vehicles experienced the 2nd largest value increase on the last month, up £2,022 million (more than 2.5 times the value). Conversely, it experienced the 2nd largest decrease on June 2019, down £1,144 million (26%).
- Mechanical appliances experienced the 3rd largest increase on last month, up £833 million (24%). Conversely, it experienced the 3rd largest value decrease on June 2019, down £917 million (17%).

↑ Imports of Motor vehicles up more than 2.5 times the value on last month

↑ Imports of Other textile goods up more than 3 times on June 2019

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

Commodity Description	June 2020	May 2020		June 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on May 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on June 2019 (%)
Precious metals	7,811	4,855	60.9	4,145	88.4
Mechanical appliances	4,326	3,493	23.9	5,243	-17.5
Electronic equipment	3,337	2,771	20.5	3,744	-10.9
Motor vehicles	3,223	1,201	168.3	4,367	-26.2
Pharmaceutical products	1,720	1,568	9.7	1,478	16.3
Mineral fuels	1,601	1,139	40.6	3,365	-52.4
Measuring devices and gauges	1,228	990	24.0	1,204	2.0
Plastics and plastic products	1,081	970	11.5	1,183	-8.6
Articles of iron or steel	836	404	107.1	927	-9.8
Organic chemicals	598	610	-2.0	682	-12.4
Others	13,033	11,562	12.7	14,747	-11.6
Total Imports	38,793	29,560	31.2	41,087	-5.6

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2020 data is provisional

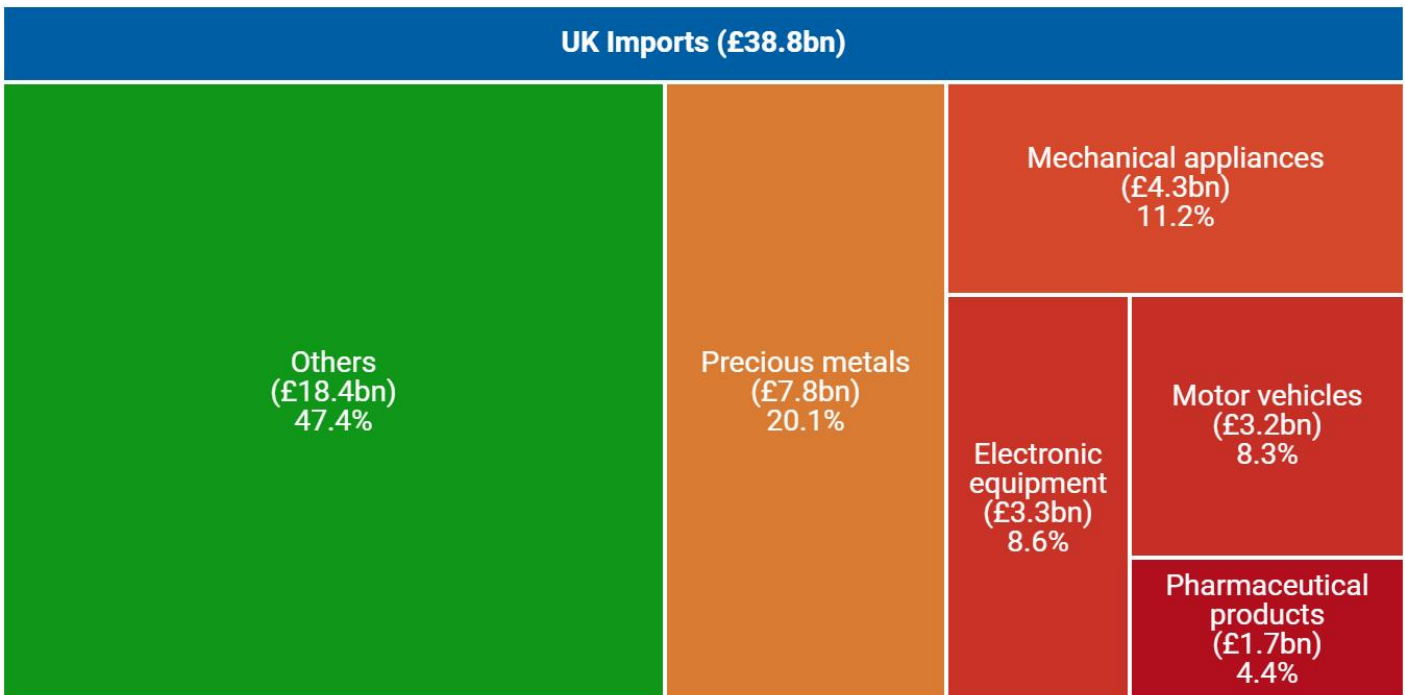
Imports: Commodity Analysis

- The top 5 import commodities (ranked by value) accounted for 53% of the total value of goods imported in June 2020. This was an increase from a 51% share in June 2019.
- Precious metals accounted for 20% of the total value of goods imported to the UK. This was an increase from a 10% share in June 2019.
- Mechanical appliances had the 2nd largest proportion, accounting for 11%. This was a decrease from a 13% share in June 2019.
- The top 10 import commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with last month. Most notably, Articles of iron or steel rose to 9th place from 17th.
- The top 10 import commodities (ranked by value) changed compared with June 2019. Most notably, Precious metals rose to 1st place from 3rd, and Organic chemicals rose to 10th place from 13th.

↑ **The top 5 import commodities accounted for 53% of total imports in June 2020**

↑ **Precious metals accounted for 20% of total imports in June 2020**

Figure 8: Share of UK imports for the top 5 commodities, June 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 June 2020, Precious metals remained the largest import commodity. Among the top 10, it experienced the largest increase on the 3 months to March 2020 and on the 3 months to June 2019, up 11% and 70% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Motor vehicles experienced the largest percentage decreases on the 3 months to March 2020 and on the 3 months to June 2019, down 62% and 61% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Mineral fuels experienced the 2nd largest percentage decreases on the 3 months to March 2020 and on the 3 months to June 2019, down 57% and 61% respectively.
- Among the top 10, Articles of iron and steel experienced the 3rd largest percentage decrease on the 3 months to June 2019, down 40%.
- 6 of the top 10 commodities experienced a decrease on the 3 months to March 2020. The exceptions were Precious metals, Pharmaceutical products, Organic chemicals, and Articles of iron and steel.
- 8 of the top 10 commodities experienced a decrease on the 3 months to June 2019. The exceptions were Precious metals and Pharmaceutical products.

↓ **Motor vehicles down 62% on the 3 months to March 2020**

↑ **Precious metals up 70% on the 3 months to June 2019**

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

Commodity Description	3 months to Jun 2020		3 months to Mar 2020		3 months to Jun 2019	
	Total (£ millions)	Total (£ millions)	Change on March 2020 (%)	Total (£ millions)	Change on June 2019 (%)	
Precious metals	17,068	15,361	11.1	10,022	70.3	
Mechanical appliances	11,778	15,351	-23.3	16,102	-26.9	
Electronic equipment	8,905	10,207	-12.8	10,809	-17.6	
Motor vehicles	5,269	13,703	-61.5	13,686	-61.5	
Pharmaceutical products	4,978	4,887	1.9	4,244	17.3	
Mineral fuels	4,234	9,813	-56.9	10,875	-61.1	
Measuring devices and gauges	3,194	3,560	-10.3	3,630	-12.0	
Plastics and plastic products	3,063	3,291	-6.9	3,683	-16.8	
Organic chemicals	1,857	1,841	0.9	1,859	-0.1	
Articles of iron or steel	1,628	1,619	0.5	2,692	-39.5	
Others	36,117	42,202	-14.4	44,949	-19.6	
Total Imports	98,092	121,835	-19.5	122,551	-20.0	

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade in Goods Statistics

Note: 2020 data is provisional

Imports: Combined Commodity & Country Analysis

Country to commodity:

- The increase in imports from Germany on last month and the decrease on June 2019 were both dominated by Motor vehicles, up £777 million (almost 4.5 times the value) and down £392 million (28%) respectively.
- The decrease in imports from France on June 2019 was driven by Precious metals, down £264 million (87%).
- The decrease in imports from the Netherlands on June 2019 was driven by Mineral fuels and Motor vehicles, down £210 million (60%) and £105 million (39%) respectively.

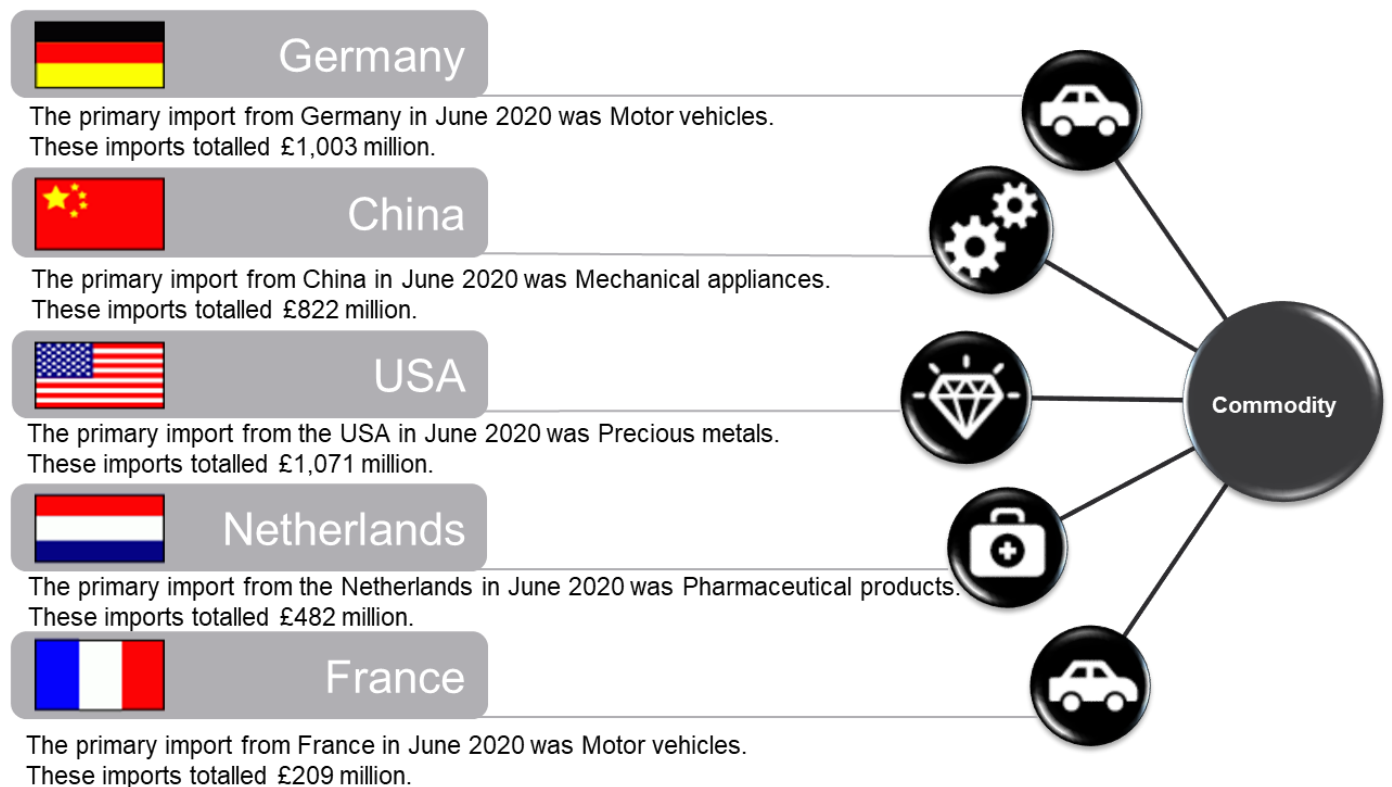
↑ Imports of Motor vehicles from Germany up almost 4.5 times the value on last month

Commodity to country:

- The increase in imports of Precious metals on last month was driven by Australia and Russia, up £1,018 million (from less than £0.1 million) and £678 million (92%) respectively. Russia and Hong Kong led the increase on June 2019, up £1,155 million (more than 5 times the value) and £1,032 million (from £67 million) respectively.
- The decrease in Mineral fuels on June 2019 was driven by Norway, down £447 million (51%).
- The increase in imports of Mechanical appliances on last month was led by Germany, up £144 million (31%). The decrease on June 2019 was driven by the USA, down £402 million (42%).
- The decrease in imports of Other textile goods on last month was driven by China, down £103 million (20%). The increase on June 2019 was also driven by China, up £348 million (more than 6.5 times the value).

↑ Imports of Precious metals from Russia up more than 5 times the value on June 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 June 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 June 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 August 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 June 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
July 2020	11 September 2020
August 2020	09 October 2020
September 2020	12 November 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/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.