



UK Trade in Goods Statistics

Announcement of Change in Methodology

Inclusion of Non-Monetary Gold in OTS

Published: 18 March 2014

uktradeinfo Customer Services: 03000 594250
e-mail: uktradeinfo@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk
website: www.uktradeinfo.com

HMRC Press Office: 03000 585 018
(Out-of-hours: 07860 359 544)

1. WHO SHOULD READ THIS?

Users of Overseas Trade Statistics (OTS) and related data outputs.

2. INTRODUCTION

Monetary Gold (MG) and Non-Monetary Gold (NMG) data has previously been excluded from all Overseas Trade Statistics (OTS) products. From January 2014 data, Non-Monetary Gold is included in these data series. This change applies to the EU publication released today and the Non-EU publication released on 12 March.

The affected commodity codes which comprise NMG and are therefore included from January 2014 are:

Commodity Code	Description
7108 1100	Gold, (inc gold plated with platinum) in powder form
7108 1200	Gold, (inc gold plated with platinum) in other unwrought forms
7108 1310	Gold, (inc gold plated with platinum) in semi-manufactured forms
7108 1380	Gold, (inc gold plated with platinum) in semi-manufactured other
7109 0000	Base metals or silver, clad with gold, not further worked
7112 3000	Ash containing precious metal or precious metal compounds
7112 9100	Waste and scrap... of gold including metal clad with gold but excluding sweepings

Monetary Gold will remain excluded from the OTS dataset.

3. Why are we doing this?

International convention is for NMG to be included in trade in goods statistics, and there is an EU legal requirement formalising this. The trade data we send to Eurostat, which they publish on their COMEXT website, includes NMG for the UK. We have been working with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to introduce this change to UK-published data. We are doing this so the OTS is consistent with the data we send to Eurostat, and other international trade in goods standards.

4. How is this being treated in OTS releases from January 2014 onwards?

OTS releases from January 2014 data (published March 2014) onwards will include all trade declared in NMG. We will also publish comparison data tables to highlight the impact of the change. This was requested by users responding to a consultation exercise in March/April 2013.

5. Will the time series be backcast to accommodate this change in methodology?

The OTS data series is being amended back to 2005 to include NMG. These are being published today, at the time of the January 2014 release. Details are included in Appendix 1 of the document.

6. How will this affect the Regional Trade Statistics

After a consultation with the key RTS users, a decision was reached not to include non-monetary gold trade in the RTS as the vast majority of this trade, which is of high value, would be allocated to London and this would lead to a distortion in the distribution of trade amongst the regions. However, starting in 2014, an additional table will be included in the RTS commentary report, which will reconcile the differences between the RTS and the OTS by referencing trade that is excluded from RTS (i.e. trade in non-monetary gold, late response estimates and MTIC estimates).

7. Will this change affect UK trade data on Eurostat's Comext Database

No, the UK trade data published on Eurostat's Comext database already includes data on NMG.

8. Will this change affect data published by the ONS in UK Trade and Balance of Payments releases?

The ONS will update the treatment of gold as part of the implementation of broader International standards to BoP in 2014.

When trade in gold is incorporated into the BoP trade statistics, this will be based on the balance of payments concept of 'change of ownership' rather than the OTS basis of 'physical movement'. For this reason, there is likely to be a divergence in the trade statistics published within the UK by HMRC and ONS. ONS is currently working with the Bank of England and the London Bullion Market to obtain data on trade in gold based on 'change of ownership'.

9. Further Information

For further information please contact **uktradeinfo Customer Services**

email: uktradeinfo@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone: +44 (0) 3000 594250

HM Revenue & Customs - Trade Statistics
3rd Floor Central
Alexander House
21 Victoria Avenue
Southend on Sea
Essex.
SS99 1AA

Media contact:

HMRC Press Office
03000 585018

(Out-of-hours: 07860 359 544)

Trade Statistics – UK trade in Goods Statistics Methodology Statement

10. Appendix 1: Effect of including NMG in the OTS

Imports from EU

Commodity Code	Methodology	<i>pounds million</i>								
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
7108 1100	Old	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	New	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	3.3
	Difference	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	3.3
7108 1200	Old	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	New	21.2	43.9	28.4	23.6	150.6	516.8	733.1	956.2	634.2
	Difference	21.2	43.9	28.4	23.6	150.6	516.8	733.1	956.2	634.2
7108 1310	Old	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	New	343.2	512.1	14.9	56.3	691.6	585.5	1,098.7	1,196.5	690.9
	Difference	343.2	512.1	14.9	56.3	691.6	585.5	1,098.7	1,196.5	690.9
7108 1380	Old	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	New	9.7	15.4	24.8	18.3	18.7	35.6	75.8	78.7	24.3
	Difference	9.7	15.4	24.8	18.3	18.7	35.6	75.8	78.7	24.3
7109 0000	Old	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	New	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	19.1	0.2
	Difference	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	19.1	0.2
7112 3000	Old	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	New	8.1	8.4	7.4	17.7	16.0	18.3	24.3	6.2	6.8
	Difference	8.1	8.4	7.4	17.7	16.0	18.3	24.3	6.2	6.8
7112 9100	Old	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	New	4.8	5.2	1.0	1.7	9.7	61.5	62.0	57.7	68.0
	Difference	4.8	5.2	1.0	1.7	9.7	61.5	62.0	57.7	68.0

Imports from EU (cont)

										<i>pounds million</i>
Commodity	Methodology	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total Non-Monetary Gold	Old	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	New	387.1	585.1	76.7	117.8	886.6	1,217.8	1,994.1	2,314.5	1,427.6
	Difference	387.1	585.1	76.7	117.8	886.6	1,217.8	1,994.1	2,314.5	1,427.6
Total HS2 71	Old	817.2	993.2	1,282.4	1,630.4	1,824.8	2,230.5	3,430.8	3,795.2	3,091.3
	New	1,204.4	1,578.3	1,359.1	1,748.2	2,711.3	3,448.3	5,424.9	6,109.7	4,518.9
	Difference	387.1	585.1	76.7	117.8	886.6	1,217.8	1,994.1	2,314.5	1,427.6
Total OTS Trade	Old	158,699.5	185,918.0	171,216.9	182,101.4	163,472.1	186,791.4	202,647.0	206,968.4	216,936.3
	New	159,086.6	186,503.1	171,293.6	182,219.2	164,358.7	188,009.3	204,641.1	209,282.8	218,364.0
	Difference	387.1	585.1	76.7	117.8	886.6	1,217.8	1,994.1	2,314.5	1,427.6

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Notes:

- 1) Trade is presented on a General Trade Basis
- 2) Chapter 71 is 'Natural or cultured pearls and precious and semi-precious stones
- 3) 2013 figures are provisional and subject to update

Exports to EU

pounds million

Commodity Code	Methodology	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
7108 1100	Old	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	New	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.2	13.3	0.2
	Difference	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.2	13.3	0.2
7108 1200	Old	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	New	32.2	26.5	55.9	6.1	2.4	3.7	32.6	9.5	1.7
	Difference	32.2	26.5	55.9	6.1	2.4	3.7	32.6	9.5	1.7
7108 1310	Old	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	New	317.9	88.6	67.6	150.7	46.2	77.2	136.3	167.6	77.0
	Difference	317.9	88.6	67.6	150.7	46.2	77.2	136.3	167.6	77.0
7108 1380	Old	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	New	7.6	7.0	5.1	3.6	4.4	8.1	11.1	12.6	9.2
	Difference	7.6	7.0	5.1	3.6	4.4	8.1	11.1	12.6	9.2
7109 0000	Old	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	New	1.4	1.6	0.9	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.2
	Difference	1.4	1.6	0.9	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.2
7112 3000	Old	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	New	2.3	4.5	3.9	5.1	4.3	4.4	7.4	10.3	12.7
	Difference	2.3	4.5	3.9	5.1	4.3	4.4	7.4	10.3	12.7
7112 9100	Old	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	New	3.6	6.5	3.7	2.7	52.7	5.3	10.4	21.4	14.5
	Difference	3.6	6.5	3.7	2.7	52.7	5.3	10.4	21.4	14.5

Exports to EU (cont)

<i>pounds million</i>										
Commodity	Methodology	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total Non-Monetary Gold	Old	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	New	365.5	135.3	137.5	169.3	110.4	99.1	198.1	235.4	115.4
	Difference	365.5	135.3	137.5	169.3	110.4	99.1	198.1	235.4	115.4
Total HS2 71	Old	2,939.3	2,921.4	2,874.0	3,152.1	2,954.2	3,560.2	4,357.3	3,941.3	3,739.0
	New	3,304.8	3,056.7	3,011.5	3,321.5	3,064.5	3,659.2	4,555.4	4,176.8	3,854.4
	Difference	365.5	135.3	137.5	169.3	110.4	99.1	198.1	235.4	115.4
Total OTS Trade	Old	120,399.3	152,711.5	127,464.9	141,282.5	124,808.1	141,979.8	158,223.8	149,770.0	151,005.6
	New	120,764.8	152,846.9	127,602.4	141,451.9	124,918.4	142,078.8	158,422.0	150,005.5	151,121.0
	Difference	365.5	135.3	137.5	169.3	110.4	99.1	198.1	235.4	115.4

Source: HM Revenue & Customs Overseas Trade Statistics

Notes:

- 1) Trade is presented on a General Trade Basis
- 2) Chapter 71 is 'Natural or cultured pearls and precious and semi-precious stones
- 3) 2013 figures are provisional and subject to update