

Almost complete recovery for EU-27 trade in 2010

The sum of EU-27 imports and exports to countries outside the EU rose by almost one quarter between 2009 and 2010. Exports recovered to a higher level than seen in 2008, while imports rose by more than exports, leading to an increase in the overall trade deficit of over EUR billion 43. EU-27 remained the largest player in the world in trade in goods in 2009, the latest year for which comparable data are available.

EU-27's exports of goods to the United States rose by less than the overall average, but this nevertheless remained by far the most important destination. However, exports to China rose by over one third between 2009 and 2010, making this the second largest trading partner for EU-27 exports for the first time.

China remained the largest source of EU-27 imports in 2010, recording a rise of 32 % since

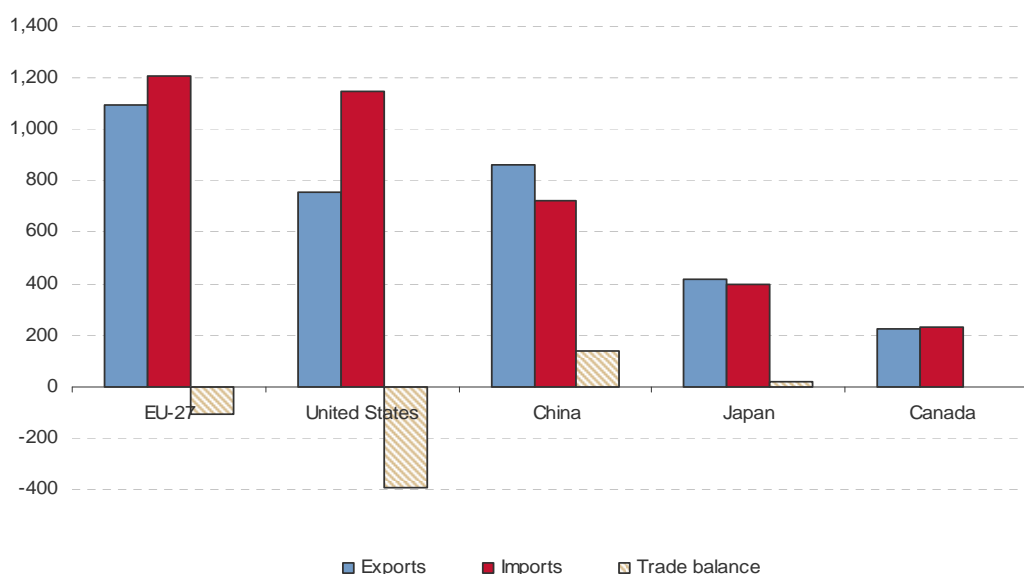
2009. In contrast, EU-27 imports from the United States rose by only 6 %, though this still remained the second largest source of EU-27 imports.

EU-27 exports of machinery and vehicles rose by a quarter in 2010, making up 42 % of exports. The largest percentage rises in exports were in raw materials and energy products, both of which rose by well over 30 %.

Imports to the EU-27 of machinery and vehicles and of energy products both rose by over a quarter, accounting together for more than 60 % of the overall rise in EU27 imports.

While most member states recorded increases in total trade in 2010, Ireland and Luxembourg both recorded falls in imports.

Figure 1: The European Union and other major players in international trade, 2009 - value in billion euro



Source: Eurostat (online data code: [tet00018](#))

EU-27 retains its leading role in international trade

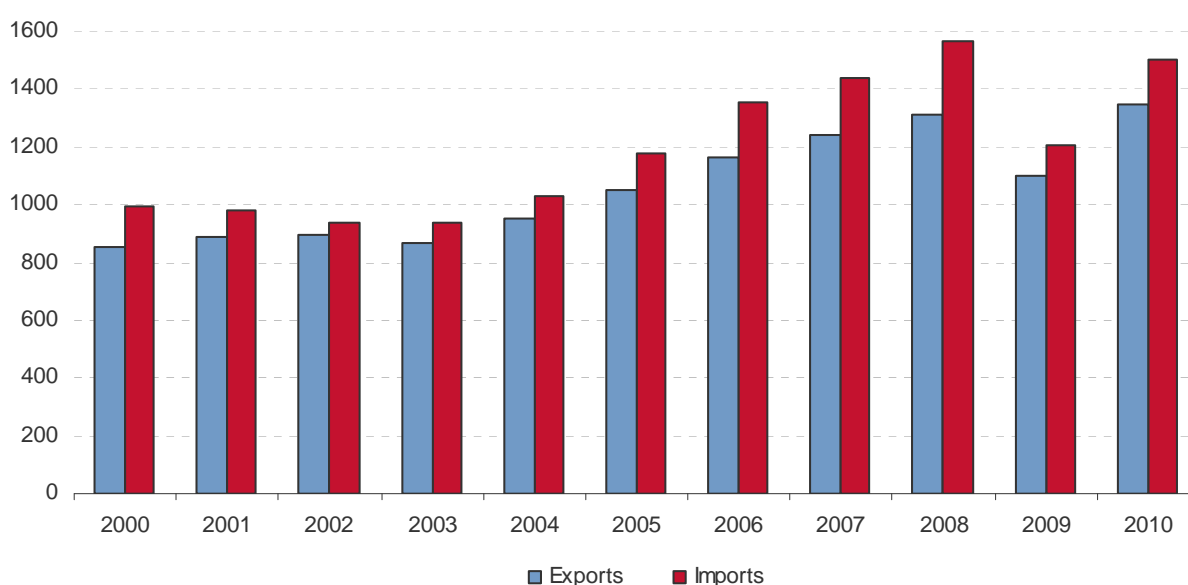
Although the European Union's total trade was lower in 2009 than in 2008, due to the continuing effect of the world recession, it remained the major world player in international trade in 2009, the most recent year for which comparable data for other major economies are available. The sum of extra EU-27 exports and imports was EUR 2 303.6 billion, of which exports made up 48 % and imports 52 %. The resulting trade deficit was EUR 109.3 billion, the lowest recorded since 2004. The second largest world player was the United States,

with total trade of EUR 1 906.1 billion. However, the United States' trade deficit was substantially higher than that of EU-27, at EUR 390.9 billion; this was a result of the wide gap between exports (40 % of trade) and imports (60 %).

China, Japan and Canada followed, all with considerably lower levels of total trade. However, China showed a substantial trade surplus (EUR 140.6 billion) while in both Japan and Canada imports and exports were virtually equal.

Extra EU-27 exports reach record level in 2010

Figure 2: Evolution of extra EU-27 trade, 2000-2010 - value in billion euro



Source: Eurostat (online data code: [tet00018](#))

Total EU-27 trade with the rest of the world in 2010 returned almost to the record level of 2008, to stand at EUR billion 2 851, an increase of EUR 547 billion from 2009.

After experiencing a sharp fall in both exports and imports in 2009, the EU-27 saw exports rise to a record level of EUR 1 349 billion in 2010, an increase of 23 %. This was largely driven by rises in exports of machinery and vehicles and other manufactured goods. Imports rose by 24 % to EUR

1 502 billion, with the largest rises being seen in imports of machinery and vehicles and energy products.

Every year between 2000 and 2010, the value of EU imports was higher than the value of exports, due mainly to the deficit in energy products, which reached EUR 306 billion in 2010. The EU-27 trade deficit increased to EUR 153 billion in 2010, though this was well below the EUR 256 billion seen in 2008.

China became the EU-27's second largest export market for the first time

Table 1: Extra EU-27 trade by main partners, 2008-2010 - value in billion euro

	Exports					Imports					Trade balance		
	2008	2009	2010	Growth 2009-2010	Share of extra-EU-27 exports 2010	2008	2009	2010	Growth 2009-2010	Share of extra-EU-27 imports 2010	2008	2009	2010
Extra EU-27	1 310	1 097	1 349	22.9%	100.0%	1 566	1 206	1 502	24.5%	100.0%	-256	-109	-153
United States	250	206	242	17.8%	17.9%	187	159	169	6.4%	11.3%	63	46	73
China	78	82	113	37.2%	8.4%	248	214	282	31.7%	18.8%	-170	-132	-169
Russia	105	66	87	31.8%	6.4%	178	118	158	34.5%	10.5%	-73	-52	-72
Switzerland	98	89	105	19.1%	7.8%	80	74	84	13.9%	5.6%	18	15	21
Norway	44	38	42	11.5%	3.1%	96	69	79	14.9%	5.3%	-52	-31	-37
Japan	42	36	44	21.3%	3.2%	75	57	65	14.4%	4.3%	-33	-21	-21
Turkey	54	44	61	38.7%	4.5%	46	36	42	16.4%	2.8%	8	8	19
India	32	28	35	26.1%	2.6%	30	25	33	30.3%	2.2%	2	2	2
South Korea	26	22	28	29.3%	2.1%	40	32	39	19.7%	2.6%	-14	-11	-11
Brazil	26	22	31	44.6%	2.3%	36	26	32	25.6%	2.2%	-10	-4	-1
Others	555	466	561	20.2%	41.6%	551	396	517	30.6%	34.5%	4	70	43

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [tet00040](#))

The United States has remained by far the most important destination for goods from EU-27 in 2010, though the share of EU-27 exports going to that country fell from 28 % to 18 % between 2000 and 2010. The most important type of EU export to the United States in 2010 was machinery and vehicles, as it was to China, which became the EU-27's second largest export destination for the first time.

China remained the most important trading partner for EU-27 imports during 2010, with an increase of 32 % between 2009 and 2010. Imports from Russia grew at a similar rate, dominated by a rise of 35 % in energy products.

While the total EU-27 trade balance was similar in both 2000 and 2010, the deficit with China grew from EUR 49 billion to EUR 169 billion over the period, while the surplus with the USA grew from EUR 32 billion to EUR 73 billion.

Between 2009 and 2010 the EU-27's exports with all major trading partners increased. Exports to Switzerland, the EU-27's third largest market in 2010, were less badly affected than most by the downturn of 2009 and rose to a new record level in 2010, largely on account of exports of machinery

and vehicles and chemicals. In contrast, EU-27 exports to Russia, which fell by almost 40 % between 2008 and 2009, did not recover fully in 2010, despite growing by over EUR 20 billion. The highest growth rate for EU-27 exports between 2009 and 2010, 45 %, was recorded for Brazil, due largely to the strong growth in exports of machinery and vehicles, which reached a record level.

On the import side, the EU-27 saw an increase from all major trading partners between 2009 and 2010. The large rise in imports from China was dominated by machinery and vehicles, which made up over half of all the EU-27 imports from China in 2010. Imports of energy products represented just under three quarters of all EU-27 imports from Russia in 2010, though both total imports and energy imports from Russia were still lower than the level recorded in 2008.

Among the EU-27's major trading partners only Japan recorded a reduction in trade between 2000 and 2010. While exports to Japan fell by only EUR 2 billion over this period, imports fell from EUR 92 billion to EUR 65 billion, a fall of 30 %.

Strong recovery in extra EU-27 exports and imports for most major product groups

Table 2: Extra EU-27 trade by SITC product groups, 2010 - value in billion euro

	EXPORTS					IMPORTS					TRADE BALANCE		
	2008	2009	2010	Growth 2009-2010	Share in total exports, 2010 (%)	2008	2009	2010	Growth 2009-2010	Share in total imports, 2010 (%)	2008	2009	2010
Extra EU-27	1 310	1 097	1 349	22.9%	100.0%	1 566	1 206	1 502	24.5%	100.0%	-256	-109	-153
Food and drink	68	63	76	21.6%	5.7%	81	74	81	9.3%	5.4%	-12	-11	-4
Raw materials	32	28	38	36.4%	2.8%	76	48	70	48.1%	4.7%	-43	-20	-32
Energy products	84	56	76	34.3%	5.6%	458	298	382	28.2%	25.4%	-374	-241	-306
Chemicals	199	196	236	20.2%	17.5%	124	112	137	22.1%	9.1%	74	84	98
Machinery and vehicles	569	457	572	25.3%	42.4%	416	341	442	29.6%	29.5%	154	115	130
Other manufactured goods	317	259	310	19.7%	23.0%	375	296	360	21.9%	24.0%	-58	-36	-50
Other	41	38	41	7.2%	3.0%	37	38	29	-23.8%	1.9%	3	0	12

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [tet00061](#))

All major product groups showed sharply increased exports outside the EU-27 in 2010 after the falls recorded across the board the previous year. The two largest groups, machinery and vehicles and other manufactured goods, rose back close to the level recorded in 2008. However, the third largest group, chemicals, remained stable between 2008 and 2009, before rising 20 % in the most recent year. The highest growth rate was recorded for exports of raw materials, which more than regained the losses seen the previous year, while the high rise in exports of energy products still left the total for this category about 10 % below the 2008 value.

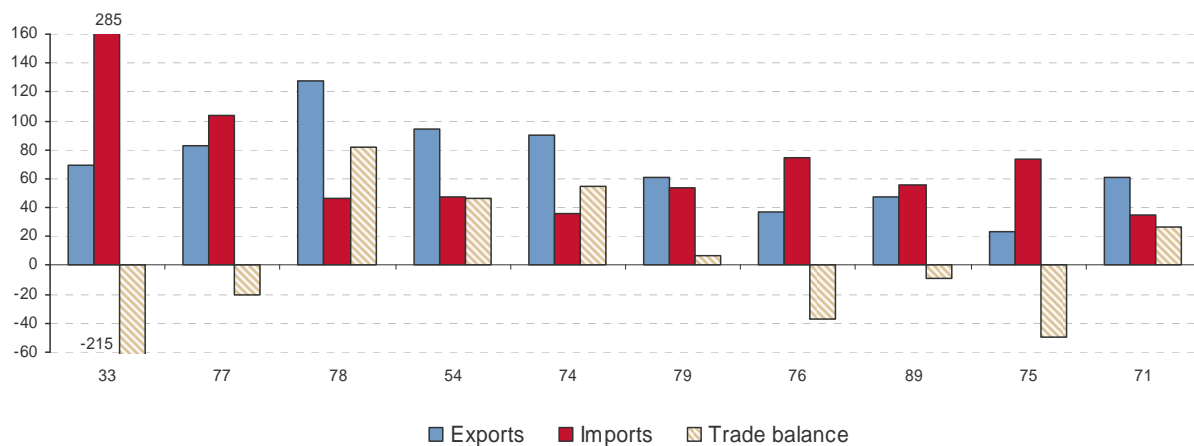
The recovery in 2010 of the EU-27 exports of machinery and vehicles was due to a large increase in this category of exports from Germany (with a rise to 6 % more than the 2008 total) and the UK (with a rise to 15 % over the 2008 total). The overall rise in this category was driven by an increase of just over 50 % in EU-27 exports of road vehicles between 2009 and 2010.

Imports of all major product groups also rose between 2009 and 2010, but the growth was more varied across product groups than it was for the

exports. The largest category imported by the EU-27, machinery and vehicles, experienced a growth rate of 30 %, taking it to the highest figure recorded. The largest contributor to the rise in this category was imports of electrical machinery, which grew by 45 % between 2009 and 2010. Meanwhile the next largest category of imports, energy products, also grew strongly by 28 %, driven by a rise of 35 % in the value of petroleum products imported. However, the total value of energy products imported in 2010 was still around 17 % below the record high of 2008. Just over 30 % of the EU-27's energy product imports in 2010 came from Russia, followed by Norway (12 %) and Libya (7 %).

The EU-27's trade deficit of EUR 153 billion in 2010 was driven by the deficit on petroleum products, which stood at EUR 215 billion. This was offset by surpluses of EUR 82 billion on road vehicles, and EUR 119 billion on industrial machinery. The 2010 surplus of EUR 98 billion on chemical products was largely due to the surplus of EUR 47 billion on pharmaceutical products.

Figure 3: Extra EU-27 trade: 10 most traded products at SITC-2 level, 2010 - value in billion euro



Source: Eurostat (online data code: [DS_018995](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?code=DS_018995))

33 - Petroleum products	79 - Other transport equipment
77 - Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances	76 - Telecommunication, sound and video apparatus and equipment
78 - Road vehicles	89 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles
54 - Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	75 - Office machines and automatic data-processing machines
74 - General industrial machinery and equipment, machine parts	71 - Power-generating machinery and equipment

Exports rise from all member states in 2010

Table 3: Extra EU-27 trade by declaring Member State, 2008-2010 - value in million euro

	EXPORTS				IMPORTS				TRADE BALANCE		
	2008	2009	2010	Share in total exports, 2010 (%)	2008	2009	2010	Share in total imports, 2010 (%)	2008	2009	2010
Extra EU-27	1 309 884	1 097 142	1 348 778	100.0%	1 566 308	1 206 475	1 501 761	100.0%	-256 424	-109 333	-152 983
Belgium	74 210	63 945	83 543	6.2%	95 458	73 026	88 282	5.9%	-21 248	-9 081	-4 739
Bulgaria	6 086	4 104	6 095	0.5%	10 866	6 757	7 915	0.5%	-4 780	-2 653	-1 820
Czech Republic	15 041	12 340	16 045	1.2%	22 311	16 525	23 956	1.6%	-7 271	-4 185	-7 911
Denmark	24 047	21 792	25 074	1.9%	21 091	17 924	18 846	1.3%	2 956	3 868	6 228
Germany	360 591	302 313	378 876	28.1%	292 962	235 244	292 403	19.5%	67 629	67 069	86 473
Estonia	2 536	1 978	2 752	0.2%	2 203	1 427	1 875	0.1%	333	551	878
Ireland	31 782	32 264	36 840	2.7%	17 186	15 508	14 850	1.0%	14 596	16 756	21 990
Greece	6 234	5 373	6 095	0.5%	28 679	21 678	23 393	1.6%	-22 445	-16 305	-17 298
Spain	58 233	49 181	59 656	4.4%	116 509	79 162	100 519	6.7%	-58 276	-29 981	-40 863
France	152 470	130 606	153 778	11.4%	155 081	123 789	144 861	9.6%	-2 610	6 817	8 917
Italy	151 805	123 669	144 333	10.7%	173 267	126 740	164 560	11.0%	-21 461	-3 072	-20 227
Cyprus	341	298	360	0.0%	2 322	1 563	1 943	0.1%	-1 981	-1 265	-1 582
Latvia	2 167	1 786	2 357	0.2%	2 691	1 721	2 110	0.1%	-524	65	247
Lithuania	6 383	4 213	6 116	0.5%	8 975	5 369	7 664	0.5%	-2 593	-1 156	-1 547
Luxembourg	1 930	1 888	2 367	0.2%	5 456	4 944	3 354	0.2%	-3 526	-3 056	-987
Hungary	16 100	12 666	16 480	1.2%	23 547	17 486	21 476	1.4%	-7 448	-4 821	-4 995
Malta	1 081	866	1 108	0.1%	850	805	1 133	0.1%	231	60	-25
Netherlands ⁽¹⁾	91 372	80 736	99 448	7.4%	204 947	161 881	207 990	13.8%	-113 575	-81 145	-108 542
Austria	34 235	27 838	33 102	2.5%	27 540	22 689	27 040	1.8%	6 695	5 149	6 062
Poland	25 717	19 950	25 164	1.9%	39 961	29 405	39 164	2.6%	-14 244	-9 455	-14 000
Portugal	9 943	7 804	9 187	0.7%	16 187	11 003	13 849	0.9%	-6 244	-3 198	-4 661
Romania	9 921	7 496	10 355	0.8%	17 321	10 491	12 846	0.9%	-7 400	-2 996	-2 491
Slovenia	7 405	5 770	6 363	0.5%	7 238	5 529	7 296	0.5%	167	241	-933
Slovakia	7 085	5 686	7 615	0.6%	13 529	10 020	13 750	0.9%	-6 444	-4 334	-6 135
Finland	28 913	20 011	23 485	1.7%	23 692	15 262	18 489	1.2%	5 220	4 749	4 996
Sweden	49 786	39 049	51 047	3.8%	35 349	27 521	36 926	2.5%	14 437	11 527	14 121
United Kingdom	134 471	113 521	141 136	10.5%	201 091	163 006	205 273	13.7%	-66 619	-49 485	-64 137

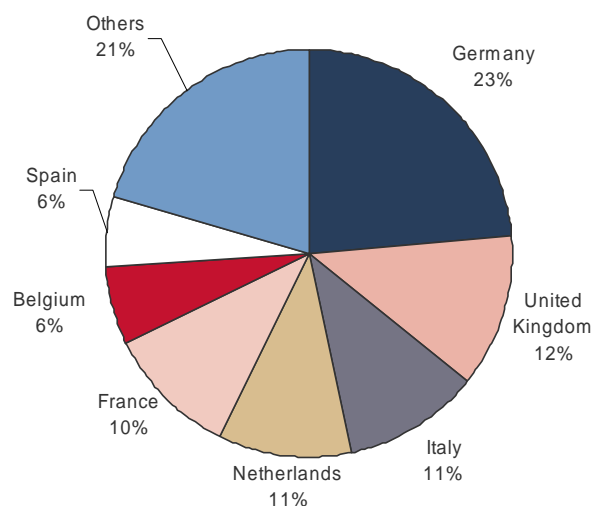
⁽¹⁾ Figures for Dutch trade are biased by the so-called "Rotterdam effect" (see the Methodological notes for more details)

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [tet00038](#))

Germany remained by far the largest player in the extra EU-27 trade in 2010, responsible for 28 % of exports and almost 20 % of imports. The next three largest exporters remained the same, France, Italy and the UK, while the Netherlands¹ and the UK again reported the second and third highest imports.

While almost all member states saw a rise in both exports and imports between 2009 and 2010, some experienced large differences in these rises. Bulgaria, for example, saw exports increase by almost 50 %, while imports rose by only 17 %. Slovenia, meanwhile, saw exports increase by 10 % while imports increased by 32 %.

Figure 4: Extra EU-27 trade by main declaring Member State - % of total value, 2010



Source: Eurostat (online data code: [tet00038](#))

¹ See footnote of table 3

General rise in imports in 2010 with the exceptions of Greece and Luxembourg

Figure 5: Annual change in extra EU-27 exports 2009-2010, by Member State (% change on previous year)

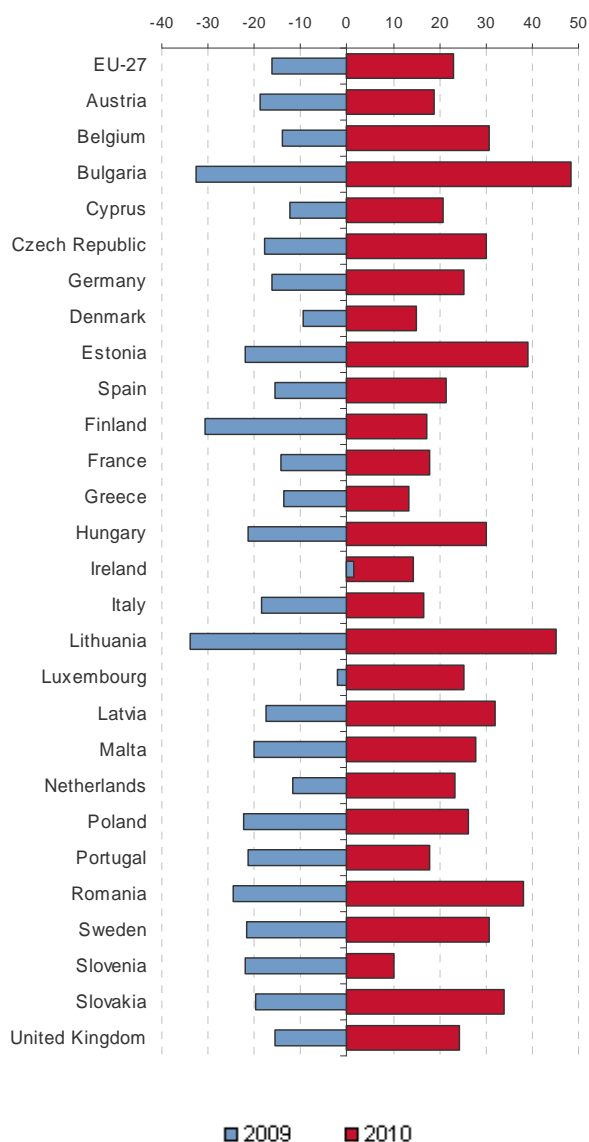
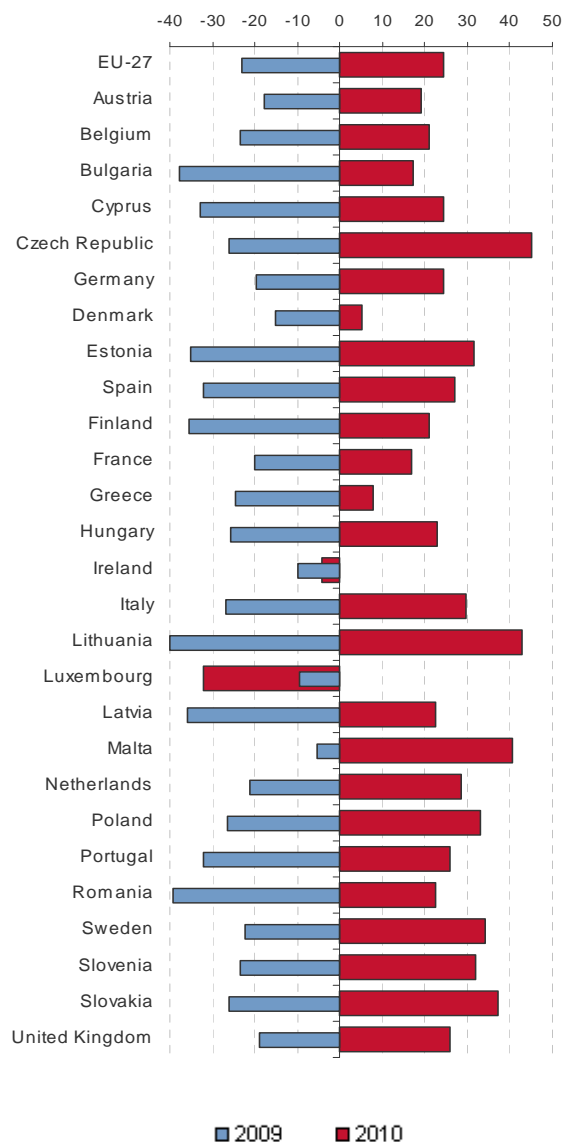


Figure 6: Annual change in extra EU-27 imports 2009-2010, by Member State (% change on previous year)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: [tet00038](#))

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [tet00038](#))

All EU-27 member states recorded increases in exports in 2010, most seeing total exports more than recover from the decreases experienced in 2009. Over 30 % of the total rise in the EU-27 exports was due to the rise of EUR 77 billion in exports from Germany, followed by the rise of EUR 28 billion in UK exports. Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovakia all recorded rises in exports of over one third between 2009 and 2010. Finland and Slovenia, despite rises in exports between 2009 and 2010, recorded total exports of less than 90 % of the 2008 value in 2010. Ten of the EU-27's member states had the USA as their main destination for exports, for a further six it was the second most important destination.

With the exceptions of Ireland and Luxembourg, all member states also saw their imports rise between 2009 and 2010, Germany, Italy and the UK all recording rises of around one quarter. However, only the Czech Republic, Malta, the Netherlands, Sweden, Slovenia, Slovakia and the UK recorded levels in 2010 above those seen in 2008. For thirteen of the EU-27 member states, China was the main source of imports in 2010, and only Bulgaria and Slovakia did not count China as one of their top three sources of imports. Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Finland all recorded Russia as their main source for imports.

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Data source

EU-27 data: Eurostat's dissemination database [Eurobase](#); Non EU-data (Figure 1): United Nations' [COMTRADE](#) database.
Data were extracted on 23.05.2011.

Reporting countries

EU-27: Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Concepts and definitions

EU data are compiled according to community guidelines and may therefore differ from national data published by Member States.

For further information, please refer to the following documents:

External trade statistics - Metadata in Euro SDMX Metadata Structure (ESMS):

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_SDDS/en/ext_esms.htm

Statistics on the trading of goods - User guide:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-BM-06-001/EN/KS-BM-06-001-EN.PDF

Commodities classification

Fourth revision of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC Rev. 4):

- Food and drink = sections 0+1
- Raw materials = sections 2+4
- Energy products = section 3
- Chemicals = section 5
- Machinery and vehicles = section 7
- Other manufactured goods = sections 6+8
- Other = section 9

For detailed information on the SITC classification, please refer to 'Ramon', Eurostat's Classification Server (<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon>).

The "Rotterdam effect"

Extra-EU imports of some Member States (e.g. Netherlands), and therefore their trade deficit, are overvalued because of the so-called 'Rotterdam effect'. Goods destined for the rest of the EU arrive in their ports and, according to Community rules, are declared

as imports by the Member State where these goods are released for free circulation. This in turn reduces the extra-EU imports to those Member States to which the goods are re-exported, as these shipments are recorded, for Community statistics, as arrivals from the Member State where these goods are released for free circulation, rather than imports from an extra-EU partner.

Extra-European Union trade

From 1 January 2010 on, statistics on the European Union's trade with non-member countries are based on [Regulation \(EC\) No 471/2009](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 May 2009 on Community statistics relating to external trade with non-member countries. Regulation (EC) No 471/2009 replaces Council Regulation (EC) No. 1172/95 of 22 May 1995 and its implementing and amending regulations, which formed the legal basis for the trade statistics up to 31 December 2009.

Two features of the statistics on the European Union's trade with non-member countries deserve special mention:

- The subject of extra-EU trade statistics and the information which they contain are defined with reference to the legislation and customs procedures;
- The collection of data is based mainly on the Single Administrative Document (SAD), which is filled in by customs and transferred to the statistical authority.

Use of Eurostat trade data

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Further information

Eurostat Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>

Data on 'EU external trade'

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/external_trade/data/database

Further information about 'EU external trade'

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/external_trade/introduction

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