

Extra EU-27 trade falls by 20 per cent in 2009

The sum of EU-27 imports and exports to countries outside the EU fell by a fifth between 2008 and 2009. Imports fell by more than exports, leading to a reduction in the overall trade deficit of over EUR 150 billion, almost 60%.

EU-27's exports of goods to the United States fell by more than the overall average, but it remained by far the most important destination. However, exports to Russia, which had become the second largest trading partner for exports in 2008, fell by over one third between 2008 and 2009, putting Russia in fourth place behind Switzerland and China. The largest percentage

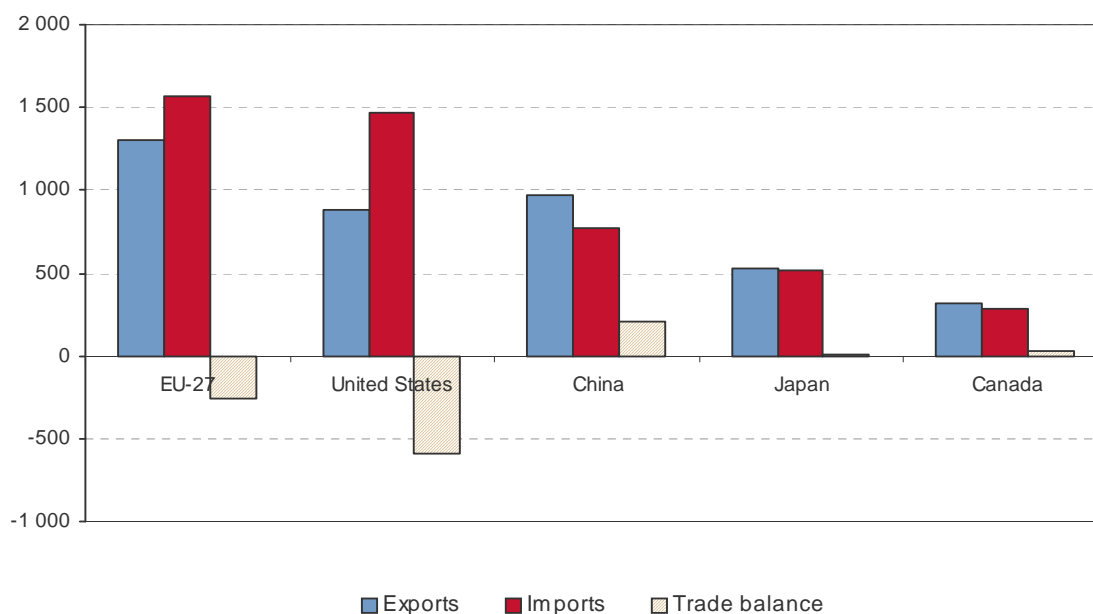
fall in exports was in energy products, chiefly petrol, which fell by almost one third.

China remained the largest source of EU-27 imports in 2009, recording a fall of 13% since 2008, much lower than the overall fall of 23%.

Imports of energy products and raw materials both fell by over one third, accounting together for more than half the overall fall in EU-27 imports.

While all member states recorded falls in both exports and imports in 2009, the reductions were particularly marked in Greece, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Romania and Finland, all of whom saw falls of over 30% in total trade.

Graph 1: The European Union and other major players in international trade, 2008 - value in billion euro



Source: Eurostat ([tet00018](#))

EU-27 continues to be leader in world trade

The European Union was the major player in world trade during 2008, the most recent year for which comparable data for other major economies is available. The sum of exports and imports reached EUR 2 871.5 billion, of which imports made up 55%. The resulting trade deficit was EUR 258.5 billion. The second largest world player was the United States, with total trade of EUR 2 355.7

billion. However, the trade deficit of the United States was substantially higher, at EUR 588.1 billion, as a result of the bigger share of imports (62% of total trade).

China followed, with total trade of EUR billion 1 742.8 and a trade surplus of EUR billion 202.7. Japan and Canada showed smaller trade surpluses of EUR billion 12.8 and 32.8 respectively.

Sharp fall in EU-27 imports and exports in the second half of 2008

The steady increase in EU-27 imports and exports between 2003 and 2008 was sharply reversed in 2009, as EU-27's total trade fell by EUR billion 577.4 to EUR billion 2 294.1. Exports fell by 16% to EUR billion 1 094.4, while imports fell much

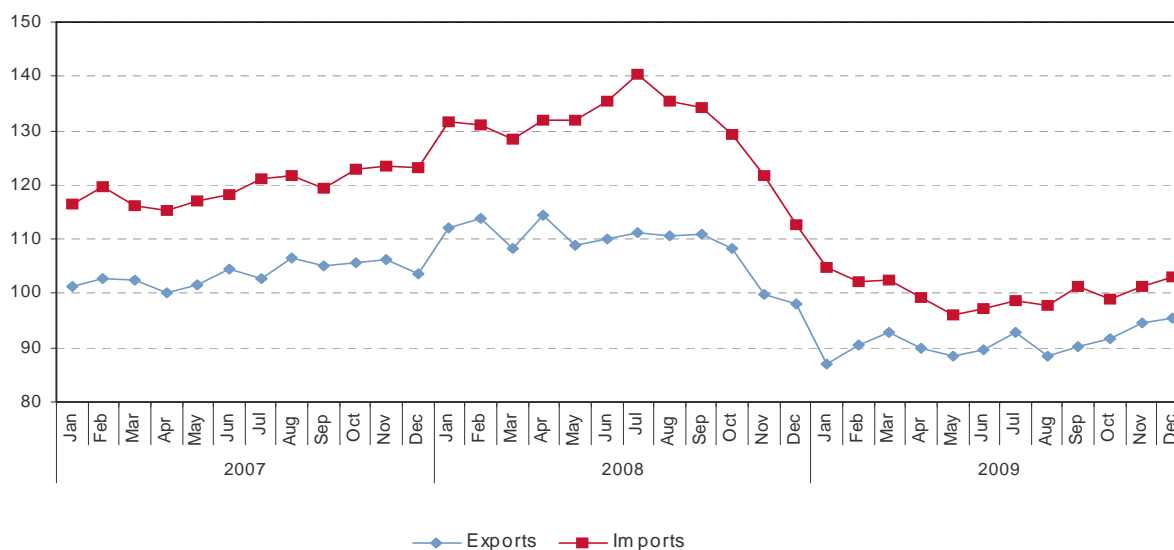
more sharply by 23% to EUR billion 1 199.7. These changes resulted in a large reduction in the EU-27 trade deficit to EUR billion 105.3, less than half that recorded in 2008 and the lowest since 2004.

Graph 2: Evolution of extra EU-27 trade, 2000-2009 - value in billion euro



Source: Eurostat ([tet00018](#))

Graph 3: Evolution of seasonally adjusted extra EU-27 trade - value in billion euro



Source: Eurostat ([ext_st_eu27sitc](#))

The marked decrease in EU-27 imports and exports gathered momentum during the second half of 2008. Seasonally adjusted exports peaked at EUR billion 114.5 in April 2008 and fell by 24% to EUR billion 86.9 in January 2009. The fall in imports

started three months later, in July 2008, and they reached their lowest value in May 2009, having fallen 32%, from EUR 140.5 billion to EUR billion 96.0. After those low points both imports and exports followed a slow upward trend.

EU-27 exports to China rise in 2009 despite downturn

The sharp fall in EU-27 exports in 2009 was distributed unevenly across trading partners. The United States remained by far the largest destination for goods from EU-27, despite an 18% fall in exports. However, Russia, which had been the second largest destination for EU-27 exports in 2008, dropped to fourth place, behind Switzerland and China, as a result of EU-27 exports to Russia falling by 38% in 2009 after rising more than four-fold between 2000 and 2008. Exports from Sweden and the United Kingdom to Russia both fell by over 50%.

The United States share of EU-27 exports remained steady at around a fifth of the total between 2008 and 2009, while China's share rose from 6% to 7.5% to become the third largest destination for EU-27 exports after the USA and Switzerland. China was the only destination to which EU-27 exports rose between 2008 and 2009, though by only a third of the annual rate seen over the period from 2000 to 2009 as a whole. Not all member states saw a rise in exports to China: exports from Germany to China rose by EUR billion 2.4, the highest rise in value, while those from France fell by EUR 1.1 billion.

Imports into EU-27 reduced from all main providers between 2008 and 2009. Imports from

China, by far the largest source, fell by EUR billion 33.2, while those from the United States and Russia, the second and third largest sources, fell by EUR billion 26.8 and 62.5 respectively. This fall in imports from Russia was the greatest seen in the imports from any major trading partner both in absolute and percentage terms – a decrease of over a third. Russian exports to Germany fell by EUR billion 12.0, the largest absolute fall, while those to Greece recorded the largest percentage decrease – about 80%.

As a result of the fall in imports outstripping the fall in exports, EU-27's trade deficit with major trading partners decreased between 2008 and 2009. In particular, the deficit with China reduced by EUR billion 36.4, while the deficits with Russia and Norway both fell by over EUR billion 20.

It is worth noting that the greatest percentage falls in both imports and exports were not experienced by EU-27's largest traders. As far as exports are concerned, Bulgaria, Finland and Lithuania all recorded reductions between 2008 and 2009 of around one third, while Greece, Lithuania and Romania all saw falls of about 40% in their imports.

Table 1: Extra EU-27 trade by main partners, 2000-2009 - value in billion euro

	EXPORTS					IMPORTS					TRADE BALANCE		
	2000	2008	2009	Growth 2008-2009	Share of extra-EU-27 exports 2009	2000	2008	2009	Growth 2008-2009	Share of extra-EU-27 imports 2009	2000	2008	2009
Extra EU-27	849.7	1 306.5	1 094.4	-16.2%	100.0%	992.7	1 565.0	1 199.7	-23.3%	100.0%	-143.0	-258.5	-105.3
United States	238.2	249.9	204.5	-18.2%	18.7%	206.3	186.8	160.0	-14.3%	13.3%	31.9	63.2	44.5
China	25.9	78.4	81.6	4.1%	7.5%	74.6	247.9	214.7	-13.4%	17.9%	-48.8	-169.5	-133.1
Russia	22.7	105.2	65.7	-37.6%	6.0%	63.8	177.9	115.4	-35.1%	9.6%	-41.0	-72.7	-49.7
Switzerland	72.5	97.7	88.6	-9.3%	8.1%	62.6	80.3	73.8	-8.2%	6.1%	10.0	17.3	14.8
Norway	26.4	43.7	37.6	-14.0%	3.4%	47.2	95.9	68.7	-28.3%	5.7%	-20.8	-52.2	-31.1
Japan	45.5	42.4	36.0	-15.1%	3.3%	92.1	75.2	55.8	-25.7%	4.7%	-46.6	-32.8	-19.8
Turkey	31.9	54.3	43.9	-19.2%	4.0%	18.7	46.0	36.1	-21.5%	3.0%	13.2	8.3	7.8
South Korea	16.7	25.6	21.5	-15.8%	2.0%	27.0	39.6	32.0	-19.0%	2.7%	-10.2	-14.0	-10.5
India	13.7	31.5	27.5	-12.7%	2.5%	12.8	29.5	25.4	-13.9%	2.1%	0.8	2.0	2.1
Brazil	16.9	26.3	21.6	-18.0%	2.0%	18.7	35.9	25.6	-28.6%	2.1%	-1.8	-9.5	-4.0
Others	339.3	551.6	466.0	-15.5%	42.6%	369.0	550.2	392.2	-28.7%	32.7%	-29.6	1.4	73.8

Source: Eurostat ([tet00040](#))

EU-27 exports of machinery and vehicles fall by one fifth

The overall reduction of EU-27's exports of goods between 2008 and 2009 was also not distributed evenly across the major product groups. The overall fall of EUR billion 212.1 in exports was overwhelmingly due to reductions in the two largest product groups, machinery and vehicles and other manufactured goods, which fell by EUR billion 113.3 and 58.0 respectively. In contrast, exports of the next largest product group, chemicals, fell by only EUR billion 3.4.

Germany recorded the largest fall in extra EU-27 exports of machinery and vehicles, by almost EUR billion 40, over a fifth of the 2008 figure. The fall was particularly marked in exports of cars, which decreased between 2008 and 2009 by EUR billion 10.3, almost half the total EU-27 fall in car exports. France and Italy also recorded big falls – over EUR billion 10 – in exports of machinery and vehicles. In the case of France, the largest fall was seen in exports of aircraft and associated equipment, while in Italy's case, the category recording the largest fall was 'other machinery and equipment specialized for particular industries'. In percentage terms, Estonia, Finland and Lithuania were hardest hit by reductions in exports of machinery and vehicles, all experiencing falls of over one third between 2008 and 2009. In particular, Finland recorded a fall of well over one half (EUR billion 2.4) in its exports of telecommunications equipment.

Germany and Italy also experienced the sharpest falls in exports of other manufactured goods, with reductions of over EUR billion 10 each. However, the UK's decrease in this product group of EUR billion 8.6 was much larger in percentage terms, representing as it did a fall of over a quarter between 2008 and 2009 – the main contributor to this fall was a drop of EUR billion 3.9 in exports of precious stones and metals (silver, platinum).

Germany also recorded the largest absolute fall in imports of machinery and transport goods, over EUR billion 17, though this equalled the EU-27 average of -18%. In contrast, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland and Lithuania saw imports of this product group fall by over 40% between 2008 and 2009.

Imports of energy products fell by EUR billion 166.2, over one third, with 22 of the member states recording falls of 30% or more. Energy products accounted for around 45% of the overall fall in EU-27 imports, with absolute falls of just over EUR billion 24 for both Germany and Italy.

Of the main product groups, raw materials experienced the largest fall in imports in relative terms. Around one fifth of this was caused by imports of iron ore and concentrates falling by half from 2008 to 2009, to EUR billion 5.2.

The United States was the major destination for almost all the product groups exported by EU-27. The only exception was in exports of raw materials, of which over one fifth went to China. However, by far the largest product group exported to China in terms of value was machinery and transport equipment, which accounted for over half of EU-27's total exports to China.

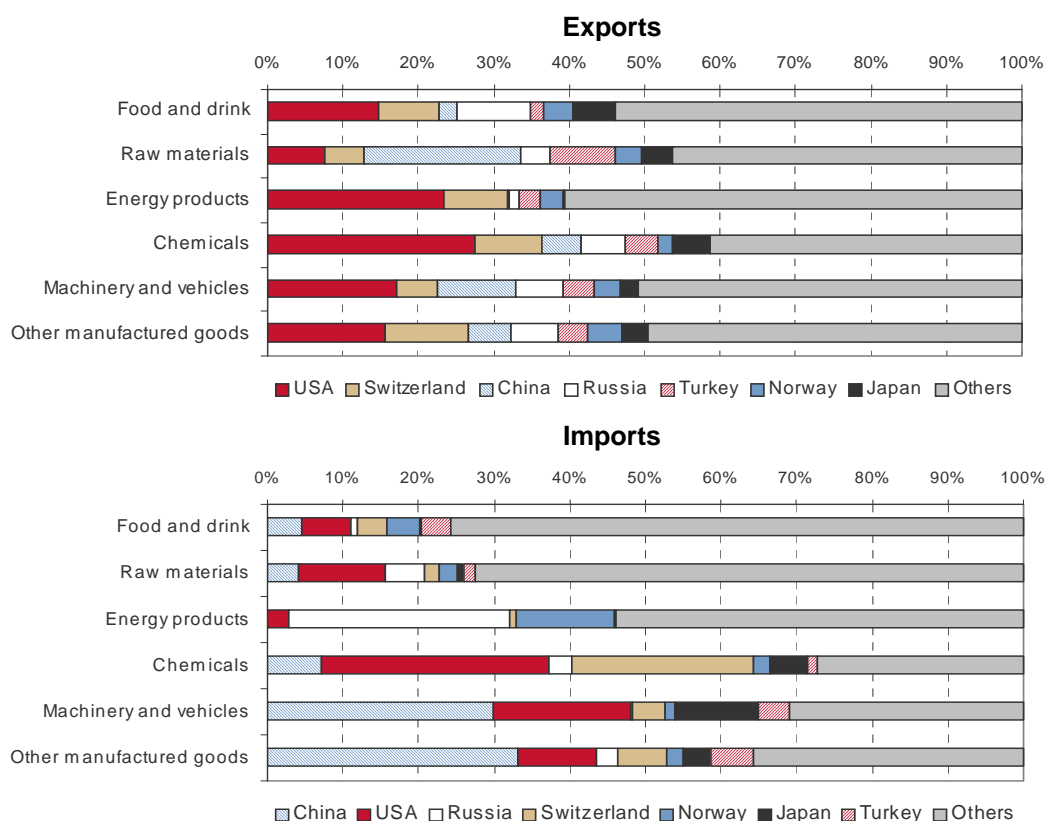
The United States was the major source of EU-27's imports for three product groups, chemicals, raw materials and food and drink, which together represent only one fifth of total imports. EU-27 imports of chemicals came chiefly from the United States (EUR billion 33.9) and Switzerland (EUR billion 27.1), while energy imports came mainly from Russia (EUR billion 85.2) and Norway (EUR billion 37.3). China was the main source for EU-27 imports of machinery and vehicles (EUR billion 102.1) and other manufactured goods (EUR billion 98.1), the two largest groups representing more than half of total imports.

Table 2: Extra EU-27 trade by SITC product groups, 2009 - value in billion euro

	EXPORTS					IMPORTS					TRADE BALANCE		
	2000	2008	2009	Grow th 2008-2009	Share in total exports, 2009 (%)	2000	2008	2009	Grow th 2008-2009	Share in total imports, 2009 (%)	2000	2008	2009
Extra EU-27	850	1 307	1094	-16.2%	100.0%	993	1 565	1 200	-23.3%	100.0%	-143	-258	-105
Food and drink	48	68	63	-8.4%	5.7%	55	81	74	-9.0%	6.1%	-7	-12	-11
Raw materials	18	32	28	-13.5%	2.5%	49	76	47	-37.5%	3.9%	-31	-44	-19
Energy products	29	81	56	-30.6%	5.2%	161	456	290	-36.4%	24.2%	-132	-375	-234
Chemicals	119	199	195	-1.7%	17.9%	70	124	112	-9.6%	9.4%	48	74	83
Machinery and vehicles	393	569	456	-19.9%	41.6%	372	415	342	-17.7%	28.5%	22	153	114
Other manufactured goods	224	317	259	-18.3%	23.6%	251	375	295	-21.2%	24.6%	-26	-58	-37
Other	19	40	38	-6.2%	3.5%	35	37	39	3.2%	3.2%	-16	3	-1

Source: Eurostat ([tet00061](#))

Graph 4: Extra EU-27 trade by SITC group, share by main partners, 2009



Source: Eurostat ([DS_018995](#))

Countries with Russia as one of the main export destinations record largest falls

Table 3: Extra EU-27 trade by declaring Member State, 2008-2009 - value in million euro

	EXPORTS				IMPORTS				TRADE BALANCE	
	2008	2009	Grow th 2008-2009	Share in total exports, 2009 (%)	2008	2009	Grow th 2008-2009	Share in total imports, 2009 (%)	2008	2009
Extra EU-27	1 306 528	1 094 417	-16.2%	100.0%	1 564 992	1 199 669	-23.3%	100.0%	-258 464	-105 251
Belgium	74 210	63 945	-13.8%	5.8%	95 458	73 026	-23.5%	6.1%	-21 248	-9 081
Bulgaria	6 086	4 202	-31.0%	0.4%	10 866	6 644	-38.9%	0.6%	-4 780	-2 442
Czech Republic	15 041	12 475	-17.1%	1.1%	22 311	16 621	-25.5%	1.4%	-7 271	-4 146
Denmark	23 982	21 730	-9.4%	2.0%	21 067	17 903	-15.0%	1.5%	2 914	3 826
Germany	360 591	299 041	-17.1%	27.3%	292 962	234 805	-19.9%	19.6%	67 629	64 237
Estonia	2 536	1 979	-22.0%	0.2%	2 203	1 482	-32.7%	0.1%	333	497
Ireland	31 782	31 606	-0.6%	2.9%	17 186	15 493	-9.9%	1.3%	14 596	16 113
Greece	6 233	5 366	-13.9%	0.5%	27 340	15 304	-44.0%	1.3%	-21 107	-9 938
Spain	58 233	48 892	-16.0%	4.5%	116 509	79 426	-31.8%	6.6%	-58 276	-30 534
France	149 207	130 351	-12.6%	11.9%	155 148	123 721	-20.3%	10.3%	-5 941	6 630
Italy	151 805	124 332	-18.1%	11.4%	173 267	126 650	-26.9%	10.6%	-21 461	-2 318
Cyprus	341	299	-12.4%	0.0%	2 322	1 560	-32.8%	0.1%	-1 981	-1 262
Latvia	2 167	1 788	-17.5%	0.2%	2 691	1 731	-35.7%	0.1%	-524	57
Lithuania	6 383	4 213	-34.0%	0.4%	8 975	5 387	-40.0%	0.4%	-2 593	-1 174
Luxembourg	1 930	1 888	-2.2%	0.2%	5 456	4 944	-9.4%	0.4%	-3 526	-3 056
Hungary	16 100	12 691	-21.2%	1.2%	23 547	17 473	-25.8%	1.5%	-7 448	-4 781
Malta	1 081	866	-20.0%	0.1%	850	805	-5.3%	0.1%	231	60
Netherlands ⁽¹⁾	91 372	81 744	-10.5%	7.5%	204 947	162 212	-20.9%	13.5%	-113 575	-80 468
Austria	34 235	27 834	-18.7%	2.5%	27 540	22 641	-17.8%	1.9%	6 695	5 192
Poland	25 717	19 968	-22.4%	1.8%	39 961	29 391	-26.5%	2.4%	-14 244	-9 423
Portugal	9 943	7 814	-21.4%	0.7%	16 187	11 001	-32.0%	0.9%	-6 244	-3 188
Romania	9 921	7 486	-24.5%	0.7%	17 321	10 381	-40.1%	0.9%	-7 400	-2 895
Slovenia	7 405	5 771	-22.1%	0.5%	7 238	5 529	-23.6%	0.5%	167	243
Slovakia	7 085	5 690	-19.7%	0.5%	13 529	10 028	-25.9%	0.8%	-6 444	-4 338
Finland	28 913	19 951	-31.0%	1.8%	23 692	15 195	-35.9%	1.3%	5 220	4 755
Sweden	49 759	39 013	-21.6%	3.6%	35 327	27 195	-23.0%	2.3%	14 432	11 818
United Kingdom	134 471	113 484	-15.6%	10.4%	201 091	163 121	-18.9%	13.6%	-66 619	-49 637

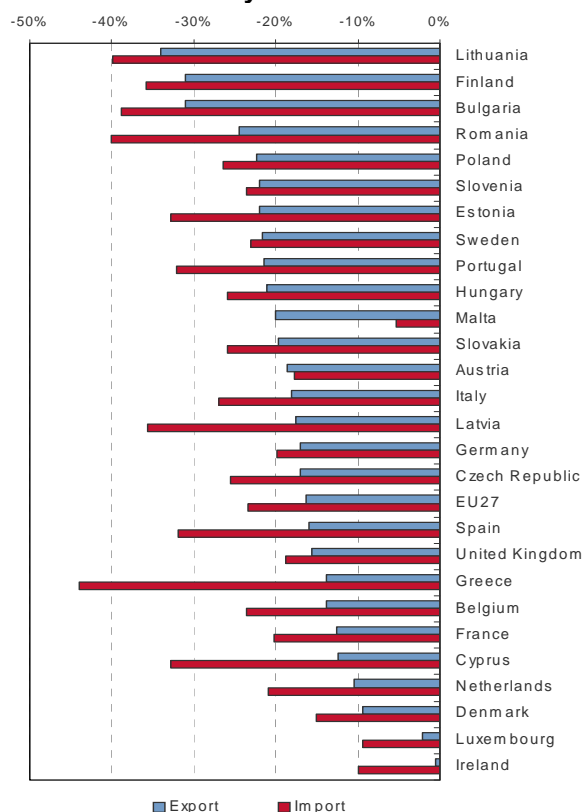
Source: Eurostat ([tet00038](#))

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

All EU-27 member states recorded falls in both exports and imports in 2009. The six countries recording the largest falls in exports, Lithuania, Finland, Bulgaria, Romania, Poland and Slovenia, all had Russia as one of their top three trading partners. The picture for imports was similar, with the exception of Greece, which recorded the biggest fall of 44%, mainly from Russia (EUR billion -3.5).

Four member states, Belgium, France, Ireland and the United Kingdom, reported the USA as their main trading partner for both trade flows in 2009; this pattern was most marked for Ireland, where nearly half of both imports and exports were traded with the United States. Russia was the main partner for both imports and exports of six member states: Poland, Slovakia, Finland and the Baltic States. All EU countries, with the only exception of Bulgaria, reported China as one the top three partners for Extra-EU imports.

Graph 5: Growth 2008-2009 in extra EU-27 trade declared by Member State



Source: Eurostat ([tet00038](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?code=et00038))

Table 4: Extra EU-27 trade by declaring Member State, main partners for exports/imports, 2009 - % on total flow

	EXPORTS			IMPORTS		
	Partner 1	Partner 2	Partner 3	Partner 1	Partner 2	Partner 3
EU-27	United States 19%	Sw itzerland 8%	China 8%	China 18%	United States 13%	Russia 10%
Belgium	United States 22%	India 7%	China 7%	United States 20%	China 14%	Japan 9%
Bulgaria	Turkey 20%	Serbia 9%	Russia 7%	Russia 33%	Turkey 14%	Ukraine 12%
Czech Republic	Russia 15%	Sw itzerland 11%	United States 10%	China 26%	Russia 22%	Japan 8%
Denmark	United States 19%	Norw ay 18%	China 7%	Norw ay 23%	China 21%	United States 11%
Germany	United States 18%	China 12%	Sw itzerland 12%	China 20%	United States 12%	Sw itzerland 11%
Estonia	Russia 30%	United States 14%	Norw ay 10%	Russia 43%	China 12%	Belarus 9%
Ireland	United States 53%	Sw itzerland 8%	Japan 5%	United States 49%	China 11%	Norw ay 5%
Greece	United States 13%	Turkey 11%	fYRoM ⁽¹⁾ 7%	China 20%	South Korea 16%	United States 9%
Spain	United States 12%	Morocco 6%	Sw itzerland 5%	China 15%	United States 9%	Russia 6%
France	United States 15%	Sw itzerland 8%	China 6%	United States 15%	China 14%	Sw itzerland 9%
Italy	United States 14%	Sw itzerland 11%	China 5%	China 15%	Russia 10%	Sw itzerland 8%
Cyprus ⁽²⁾	Egypt 8%	Lebanon 6%	Israel 5%	Israel 25%	China 20%	Japan 8%
Latvia	Russia 40%	Belarus 8%	Norw ay 8%	Russia 43%	Belarus 14%	China 8%
Lithuania	Russia 37%	Belarus 13%	Ukraine 8%	Russia 73%	China 6%	Belarus 4%
Luxembourg	Sw itzerland 17%	United States 16%	Turkey 8%	China 67%	Hong Kong 13%	United States 8%
Hungary	Russia 17%	United States 11%	Ukraine 7%	China 27%	Russia 23%	South Korea 8%
Malta	Singapore 22%	United States 17%	Hong Kong 12%	China 15%	Singapore 13%	Sw itzerland 13%
Netherlands	United States 17%	Sw itzerland 7%	China 6%	China 23%	United States 15%	Russia 9%
Austria	Sw itzerland 16%	United States 14%	Russia 8%	Sw itzerland 29%	China 11%	United States 7%
Poland	Russia 18%	Ukraine 12%	Norw ay 9%	Russia 31%	China 19%	South Korea 9%
Portugal	Angola 29%	United States 13%	Brazil 4%	Nigeria 11%	China 10%	Brazil 8%
Romania	Turkey 19%	Russia 7%	Serbia 5%	China 18%	Russia 14%	Turkey 14%
Slovenia	Croatia 25%	Russia 12%	Serbia 12%	Croatia 15%	Turkey 12%	China 10%
Slovakia	Russia 25%	Turkey 12%	China 10%	Russia 35%	South Korea 24%	China 14%
Finland	Russia 20%	United States 17%	China 9%	Russia 46%	China 15%	United States 6%
Sw eden	Norw ay 25%	United States 15%	China 8%	Norw ay 27%	China 15%	United States 12%
United Kingdom	United States 33%	China 5%	Sw itzerland 4%	United States 21%	China 19%	Norw ay 10%

Source: Eurostat ([DS_018995](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?code=ds_018995))

⁽¹⁾ Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, ⁽²⁾ 12 % of Cyprus' extra-EU-27 exports in 2009 were for "stores and provisions"

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Data source

EU-27 data: Eurostat's dissemination database EUROBASE;

Non EU-data (Graph 1): United Nations' COMTRADE database.

Data were extracted on 23.03.2010.

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"

Dutch extra-EU imports, and therefore the trade deficit, are over-estimated because of the so-called 'Rotterdam effect'. Goods destined for the rest of the EU arrive in Dutch ports and, according to Community rules, are declared as imports by the Netherlands (the country 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 Netherlands, rather than imports from an extra-EU partner. To a lesser extent, Belgian extra-EU import figures are similarly over-estimated.

Seasonally adjusted value

Seasonally adjusted figures are calculated by Eurostat with a common methodology and computer programs: raw data by country are first adjusted by the number of working days on the basis of each national calendar. The results by country are then aggregated to provide the data on the EU and euro area totals. The seasonal adjustment is based on statistical ARIMA models that are re-defined every year whereas the parameters are re-estimated every month.

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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The Eurostat data code

The Eurostat data code, which can be found under most graphs and tables in Eurostat's publications (ex. TET00018), allows the reader to access the most recent data to which the table or graph refers. To access the data, click on the hyperlink or enter the code into the search field of the Home page of the Eurostat website. Among the search results you will find the title of the corresponding table.

Further information

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

Data on EU-27 trade with non-member countries:

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

More information about Eurostat's external trade statistics:

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

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