

Trade between EU and West Africa, 2000-2010

EU-27 surplus with ECOWAS countries for both goods and services

This publication focuses on ECOWAS, the Economic Community of West African States. EU-27 exports and imports to/from ECOWAS account for around 1.5% of total extra-EU-27 exports and imports.

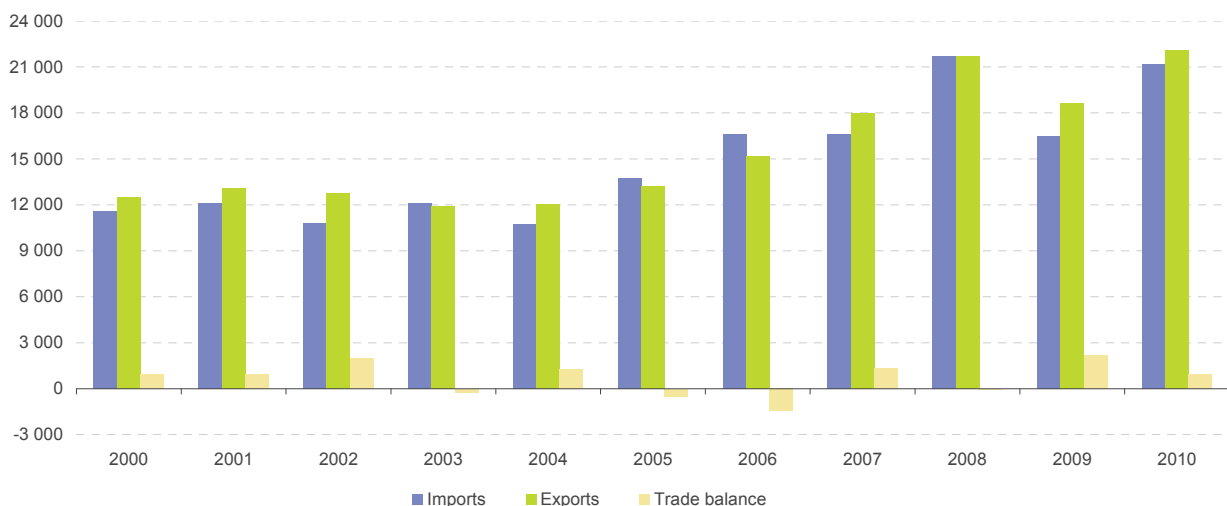
ECOWAS accounts for 18% of EU-27 exports to Africa and 16% of imports.

Nigeria is by far the EU-27's largest ECOWAS partner for imports, exports and service flows. In 2010 the EU-27 had a trade surplus with the ECOWAS countries in goods and, in 2009, in services. Imports and exports both rose strongly in 2010 recovering from the financial crisis. Mineral fuels (crude oil imports from Nigeria) made up two thirds of EU-27 imports from

ECOWAS, whilst petroleum products accounted for nearly a third of EU-27 exports. Food (mainly cocoa beans) and live animals were the next main EU-27 imports with the Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana being the major cocoa suppliers.

Machinery and transport equipment made up the second largest export category to ECOWAS. The EU-27's healthy surplus in trade in services with ECOWAS has declined since 2007, mainly because trade with Sierra Leone moved sharply into deficit, with a change of nearly EUR 1 billion between 2007 and 2009.

Figure 1: EU-27 trade in goods with ECOWAS countries (EUR million)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: [DS_018995](#))

Exports and imports continue a recovery from the international financial crisis

Table 1: EU-27 exports of goods to ECOWAS countries (EUR million)

	2000	2005	2009	2010	Growth rate 2009/2010	Annual average growth rate 2000/2010	Shares		
							in total Extra EU-27 exports (2010)	in EU-27 exports to Africa (2010)	in EU-27 exports to ECOWAS (2010)
ECOWAS	12 498	13 215	18 665	22 110	18.5%	5.9%	1.64%	17.78%	100.00%
Benin	563	420	912	1 275	39.7%	8.5%	0.09%	1.03%	5.76%
Burkina Faso	225	304	390	427	9.5%	6.6%	0.03%	0.34%	1.93%
Cape Verde	247	274	397	493	24.0%	7.1%	0.04%	0.40%	2.23%
Gambia	100	104	107	113	5.2%	1.2%	0.01%	0.09%	0.51%
Ghana	1 281	1 251	1 752	2 182	24.5%	5.5%	0.16%	1.75%	9.87%
Guinea	340	372	571	583	2.1%	5.5%	0.04%	0.47%	2.64%
Guinea-Bissau	45	83	76	72	-6.2%	4.6%	0.01%	0.06%	0.32%
Côte d'Ivoire	1 443	1 127	1 503	1 744	16.0%	1.9%	0.13%	1.40%	7.89%
Liberia	2 158	441	565	714	26.4%	-10.5%	0.05%	0.57%	3.23%
Mali	335	393	508	607	19.5%	6.1%	0.05%	0.49%	2.75%
Niger	182	228	356	382	7.2%	7.7%	0.03%	0.31%	1.73%
Nigeria	4 011	5 972	9 197	10 661	15.9%	10.3%	0.79%	8.57%	48.22%
Senegal	1 032	1 486	1 628	2 167	33.0%	7.7%	0.16%	1.74%	9.80%
Sierra Leone	210	193	125	178	42.0%	-1.7%	0.01%	0.14%	0.81%
Togo	325	567	576	513	-10.9%	4.7%	0.04%	0.41%	2.32%

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [DS_018995](#))

EU-27 exports to ECOWAS grew steadily between 2004 and 2008, before falling back in 2009 under the impact of the economic crisis (Figure 1). Exports bounced back strongly in 2010, when they amounted to EUR 22 billion, some 18% higher than in 2009 (Table 1). In the same year, Nigeria was the EU-27's largest ECOWAS export partner, accounting for nearly half the total exports to ECOWAS at nearly EUR 11 billion. Ghana and Senegal each comprised some 10% of the total, with growth rates between 2009 and 2010 of 25% and 33% respectively. Benin, which represents some 6% of EU-27 exports to ECOWAS, recorded a rise of 40% in the same period. Over the longer term, from 2000 to 2010, the annual average growth rate of EU-27 exports to the ECOWAS countries stood at 6%. For Nigeria, it was over 10%

a year whilst Benin saw growth of 8.5%. In contrast, EU-27 exports to Liberia and Sierra Leone fell by 10.5% and 1.7% per year respectively over the same period. Both these countries were badly affected by civil wars in the early part of the 21st century and are now undergoing reconstruction and recovery. However it must be kept in mind that the ECOWAS countries are relatively small trading partners for the EU-27, accounting for only 1.6% of total EU-27 exports. The largest export partner, Nigeria, accounted for less than 1% of the EU-27's total exports. On the more limited African stage, however, ECOWAS countries account for 18% of total EU-27 exports to Africa, of which Nigeria has 9%, while Ghana, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire and Benin each account for between 1 and 2% of the total.

Table 2: EU-27 imports of goods from ECOWAS countries (EUR million)

	2000	2005	2009	2010	Growth rate 2009/2010	Annual average growth rate 2000/2010	Shares		
							in total Extra EU-27 imports (2010)	in EU-27 imports from Africa (2010)	in EU-27 imports from ECOWAS (2010)
ECOWAS	11 561	13 738	16 496	21 169	28.3%	6.2%	1.41%	15.83%	100.00%
Benin	81	33	31	31	0.5%	-9.1%	0.00%	0.02%	0.15%
Burkina Faso	70	30	82	99	20.5%	3.6%	0.01%	0.07%	0.47%
Cape Verde	13	19	27	36	35.0%	11.0%	0.00%	0.03%	0.17%
Gambia	32	6	11	18	61.4%	-5.6%	0.00%	0.01%	0.09%
Ghana	1 173	978	1 097	1 458	32.9%	2.2%	0.10%	1.09%	6.89%
Guinea	523	445	384	472	22.9%	-1.0%	0.03%	0.35%	2.23%
Guinea-Bissau	5	3	2	6	143.5%	1.2%	0.00%	0.00%	0.03%
Côte d'Ivoire	2 059	1 978	3 054	3 215	5.3%	4.6%	0.21%	2.40%	15.19%
Liberia	435	926	533	341	-35.9%	-2.4%	0.02%	0.26%	1.61%
Mali	76	42	20	27	34.5%	-9.8%	0.00%	0.02%	0.13%
Niger	95	130	219	196	-10.6%	7.5%	0.01%	0.15%	0.93%
Nigeria	6 419	8 389	10 417	14 592	40.1%	8.6%	0.97%	10.91%	68.93%
Senegal	410	521	261	297	13.6%	-3.2%	0.02%	0.22%	1.40%
Sierra Leone	105	121	100	159	59.5%	4.3%	0.01%	0.12%	0.75%
Togo	65	116	258	221	-14.4%	12.9%	0.01%	0.17%	1.04%

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [DS_018995](#))

EU-27 imports from ECOWAS grew by 28% between 2009 and 2010, a strong rebound from the sharp fall in 2009 brought about by the financial crisis (Table 2). Between 2004 and 2009 there had been a period of substantial growth so that the annual average growth rate between 2000 and 2010 was a little over 6% per annum. Within the ECOWAS total, imports from Nigeria grew by over 40% between 2009 and 2010 and those from Ghana by nearly one third. Imports also rose strongly from Guinea-Bissau, Gambia and Sierra Leone albeit from very small bases. In contrast, Liberia (-36%), Togo (-14%) and Niger (-11%), all showed year on year declines.

Over the longer run from 2000 to 2010, the big three ECOWAS import sources, Nigeria (9%), Côte d'Ivoire (5%) and Ghana (2%) showed positive annual average growth rates. Togo (13%)

and Cape Verde (11%) also recorded sizeable gains but from very small levels of trade. Two other countries recorded significant declines, Mali (-10%) and Benin (-9%).

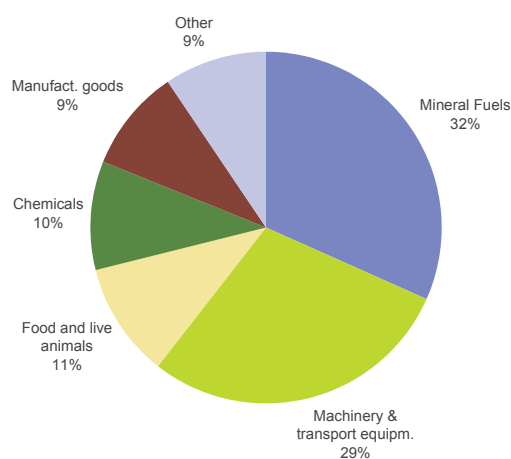
Nigeria, as a major oil supplier to the EU, dominated the import total, accounting for more than two thirds of the ECOWAS total each. The Côte d'Ivoire with 15% and Ghana with 7% were the other major sources of imports. Of the remaining countries, Guinea, Liberia, Senegal and Togo accounted for more than 1% of the ECOWAS total each.

In terms of imports from Africa, Nigeria's position as a major oil exporter is reflected in its 11% of the total, while Côte d'Ivoire had 2% and Ghana 1%.

In terms of the EU-27's total imports, Nigeria accounted for 1% of the total with the other ECOWAS countries hardly figuring.

Petroleum and petroleum products the key element in trade with ECOWAS

Figure 2: EU-27 exports of goods to ECOWAS by SITC product groups, in 2010 (%)

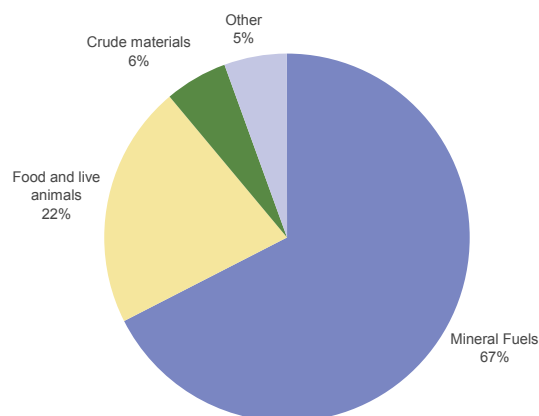


Source: Eurostat (online data code: [DS_018995](#))

Petroleum and petroleum products played a major role in both exports and imports. On the export side, this product group accounted for nearly a third of the total. Machinery and transport equipment was the second largest group with a market share of a little under 30%. Food, chemicals and manufactured goods, classified by material each had around 10% of the total. Other goods made up a further 10%.

On the import side, crude oil from Nigeria was the dominant element, accounting for two thirds of total imports from ECOWAS. Of the remainder,

Figure 3: EU-27 imports of goods from ECOWAS by SITC product groups, in 2010 (%)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: [DS_018995](#))

food (mainly cocoa) and live animals, accounted for a further 22%, with crude materials following with 6%. Other goods represented the remaining 5%.

Compared with the previous year, the share of mineral fuels and crude materials in EU-27 imports from ECOWAS was higher as the EU-27 economy recovered from the economic crisis. In contrast, imports of food etc., less susceptible to the wider economic climate, changed little in value between the years but saw its share of imports decline.

Table 3: EU-27 exports of goods to ECOWAS countries by SITC product groups, in 2010 (EUR million)

	Benin	Burkina Faso	Cape Verde	Gambia	Ghana	Guinea	Guinea-Bissau	Côte d'Ivoire	Liberia	Mali	Niger	Nigeria	Senegal	Sierra Leone	Togo	ECOWAS	Share in total EU-27 exports	Share in EU-27 exports to Africa	Share in EU-27 exports to ECOWAS
Total	1 275	427	493	113	2 182	583	72	1 744	714	607	382	10 661	2 167	178	513	22 110	1.6%	17.8%	100.0%
0: Food and live animals	182	51	71	35	222	66	14	308	26	82	70	806	326	19	68	2 348	4.3%	23.4%	10.6%
1: Beverages and tobacco	26	20	16	2	39	15	11	85	4	4	24	98	39	5	20	411	1.9%	25.9%	1.9%
2: Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	50	7	6	4	102	11	0	22	3	8	15	44	20	6	30	329	0.9%	8.9%	1.5%
3: Mineral fuels, lubricants and related mat.	610	5	106	4	334	242	7	166	42	5	32	4 457	879	10	87	6 987	9.2%	51.7%	31.6%
4: Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	1	0	10	0	9	0	1	6	0	0	1	9	2	0	1	40	1.3%	10.5%	0.2%
5: Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.	73	100	31	8	291	54	3	267	18	124	82	852	195	27	62	2 188	0.9%	14.6%	9.9%
6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	73	34	82	14	295	36	11	205	9	125	30	900	201	14	65	2 094	1.2%	10.5%	9.5%
7: Machinery and transport equipment	193	171	123	35	714	121	17	538	594	216	108	2 945	389	84	144	6 392	1.1%	13.0%	28.9%
8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles	62	29	42	8	134	27	7	118	8	32	16	416	93	10	23	1 026	0.7%	11.9%	4.6%
9: Commodities and transactions n.e.c.	3	4	5	2	25	1	0	12	8	3	2	102	18	1	9	195	0.5%	15.8%	0.9%

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [DS_018995](#))

As Table 3 shows, Nigeria is by far the largest market for EU-27 exports. It headed the list for 8 out of the 10 product groups shown in the table. The main product groups exported to Nigeria were mineral fuels and machinery and transport equipment.

Other countries form a useful market for EU-27 exports in particular product groups: Senegal and Benin for mineral fuels, and Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Ghana for machinery and transport equipment. For ECOWAS, as a whole, mineral fuels accounted for slightly less than a third of total exports, followed by machinery and transport equipment at a little under 30%, with food and live animals next at 11%.

ECOWAS accounted for 18% of EU-27 exports to Africa as a whole, particularly concentrated in

mineral fuels, food and live animals and beverages and tobacco.

As table 4 shows, two thirds of the total ECOWAS's exports come from Nigeria. Niger is ECOWAS's largest supplier of chemicals to the EU-27 while Liberia takes that position for machinery and transport equipment. Ghana is also a large supplier of cocoa while the Côte d'Ivoire supplies some mineral fuels.

ECOWAS was responsible for 16% of imports from Africa and 1% of total imports. At the group level, 36% of food imports from Africa came from ECOWAS (6% of total extra EU-27 imports) and 18% each of mineral fuels and crude materials (4% and 2% of total EU-27 imports respectively).

Table 4: EU-27 imports of goods from ECOWAS countries by SITC product groups, in 2010 (EUR million)

	Benin	Burkina Faso	Cape Verde	Gambia	Ghana	Guinea	Guinea-Bissau	Côte d'Ivoire	Liberia	Mali	Niger	Nigeria	Senegal	Sierra Leone	Togo	ECOWAS	Share in Extra EU-27 imports	Share in EU-27 imports to Africa	Share in EU-27 imports to ECOWAS
Total	31	99	36	18	1 458	472	6	3 215	341	27	196	14 592	297	159	221	21 169	1.4%	15.8%	100.0%
0: Food and live animals	6	9	27	5	1 269	24	0	2 189	14	4	1	570	204	28	208	4 558	6.2%	36.0%	21.5%
1: Beverages and tobacco	0	0	0	0	0	0	:	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	4	0.1%	0.5%	0.0%
2: Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	19	8	0	4	94	326	5	422	45	12	0	166	37	52	9	1 198	1.9%	17.7%	5.7%
3: Mineral fuels, lubricants and related mat.	0	:	0	:	24	68	:	490	117	0	0	13 566	0	0	0	14 265	3.7%	18.3%	67.4%
4: Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	0	1	:	8	19	0	0	49	0	0	:	0	28	0	0	105	1.6%	33.0%	0.5%
5: Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	193	1	0	0	0	198	0.1%	6.0%	0.9%
6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	0	4	0	0	25	14	0	52	10	3	0	181	6	67	0	363	0.2%	2.9%	1.7%
7: Machinery and transport equipment	0	1	2	0	14	3	0	4	151	3	1	49	7	6	1	242	0.1%	2.7%	1.1%
8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles	0	1	7	0	3	0	0	2	0	1	1	6	5	1	2	29	0.0%	0.4%	0.1%
9: Commodities and transactions n.e.c.	5	76	0	1	9	37	:	5	2	3	0	9	10	5	0	162	0.6%	9.6%	0.8%

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [DS_018995](#))

Table 5: EU-27 exports and imports to/from ECOWAS countries: main products by country, in 2010

	EXPORTS			IMPORTS		
	Main products	Value (EUR million)	Share in EU-27 exports to the country	Main products	Value (EUR million)	Share in EU-27 imports from the country
ECOWAS	33 - Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	6 921	31.3%	33 - Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	10 917	51.6%
	78 - Road vehicles (including air-cushion vehicles)	1 075	4.9%	07 - Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, and manufactures thereof	3 708	17.5%
Benin	33 - Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	610	47.8%	28 - Metalliferous ores and metal scrap	9	30.2%
	01 - Meat and meat preparations	128	10.1%	26 - Textile fibres (other than wool tops and other combed wool) and their wastes (not manufactured into yarn or fabric)	5	16.4%
Burkina Faso	54 - Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	78	18.2%	97 - Gold, non-monetary (excluding gold, ores and concentrates)	62	62.9%
	72 - Machinery specialized for particular industries	34	8.0%	99 - Confidential trade	13	13.0%
Cape Verde	33 - Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	106	21.5%	03 - Fish (not marine mammals), crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates, and preparations thereof	26	73.1%
	77 - Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, n.e.s., and electrical parts thereof	39	7.9%	84 - Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	4	10.0%
Gambia	09 - Miscellaneous edible products and preparations	12	11.0%	42 - Fixed vegetable fats and oils, crude, refined or fractionated	8	42.6%
	78 - Road vehicles (including air-cushion vehicles)	10	9.0%	03 - Fish (not marine mammals), crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates, and preparations thereof	4	21.4%
Ghana	33 - Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	330	15.1%	07 - Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, and manufactures thereof	1 052	72.1%
	72 - Machinery specialized for particular industries	156	7.2%	03 - Fish (not marine mammals), crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates, and preparations thereof	111	7.6%
Guinea	33 - Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	242	41.6%	28 - Metalliferous ores and metal scrap	306	64.9%
	78 - Road vehicles (including air-cushion vehicles)	30	5.1%	33 - Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	68	14.3%
Guinea-Bissau	11 - Beverages	9	12.7%	23 - Crude rubber (including synthetic and reclaimed)	5	85.5%
	33 - Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	7	9.1%	07 - Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, and manufactures thereof	0	4.8%
Côte d'Ivoire	33 - Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	166	9.5%	07 - Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, and manufactures thereof	1 882	58.5%
	04 - Cereals and cereal preparations	117	6.7%	33 - Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	490	15.2%
Liberia	79 - Other transport equipment	553	77.5%	79 - Other transport equipment	150	44.0%
	33 - Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	42	5.9%	33 - Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	117	34.3%
Mali	54 - Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	96	15.8%	26 - Textile fibres (other than wool tops and other combed wool) and their wastes (not manufactured into yarn or fabric)	9	33.0%
	65 - Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s., and related products	87	14.3%	05 - Vegetables and fruit	4	14.6%
Niger	54 - Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	66	17.2%	52 - Inorganic chemicals	193	98.5%
	09 - Miscellaneous edible products and preparations	44	11.4%	05 - Vegetables and fruit	1	0.5%
Nigeria	33 - Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	4 457	41.8%	33 - Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	10 219	70.0%
	74 - General industrial machinery and equipment, n.e.s., and machine parts, n.e.s.	584	5.5%	34 - Gas, natural and manufactured	3 347	22.9%
Senegal	33 - Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	820	37.8%	03 - Fish (not marine mammals), crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates, and preparations thereof	149	50.2%
	54 - Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	92	4.3%	05 - Vegetables and fruit	38	12.8%
Sierra Leone	78 - Road vehicles (including air-cushion vehicles)	27	15.3%	66 - Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s.	67	41.9%
	72 - Machinery specialized for particular industries	22	12.6%	28 - Metalliferous ores and metal scrap	51	32.2%
Togo	33 - Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	87	16.9%	07 - Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, and manufactures thereof	204	92.2%
	78 - Road vehicles (including air-cushion vehicles)	48	9.3%	28 - Metalliferous ores and metal scrap	5	2.2%

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [DS_018995](#))

Table 5 shows the main two products exported to and imported from ECOWAS and individual ECOWAS countries by the EU-27 in 2010. At the ECOWAS level, petroleum and road vehicles were the main products exported. Many ECOWAS countries also saw either petroleum or road vehicles as the major imports from the

EU-27. Medicinal products also featured for a number of countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal) as did machinery specialised for particular industries (Burkina Faso, Ghana and Sierra Leone).

On the import side, there was a great deal more variation, reflecting the economies of the

countries concerned. At the individual country level, the main products imported by the EU-27 were metal ores (Benin, Guinea), gold (Burkina Faso), fish (Cape Verde, Senegal), vegetable fats (Gambia), cocoa (Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo), crude rubber (Guinea-Bissau), other transport equipment (Liberia), textile fibres (Mali),

inorganic chemicals-uranium oxide-(Niger), petroleum (Nigeria) and non-metallic mineral manufactures (diamonds) (Sierra Leone). This all gives an indication of a very varied group of countries with widely differing natural resources and differing degrees of ability to exploit them.

Continued but reduced surplus in trade in services

Table 6: EU-27 trade in services with ECOWAS countries (EUR million)

	2007			2008			2009		
	Credit	Debit	Net	Credit	Debit	Net	Credit	Debit	Net
ECOWAS	7 783	4 655	3 128	7 802	5 053	2 749	6 893	4 933	1 960
Benin	164	122	42	198	133	65	176	127	49
Burkina Faso	135	132	4	163	139	23	206	138	68
Cape Verde	117	147	-30	132	193	-62	116	142	-27
Gambia	55	63	-8	49	83	-33	30	66	-35
Ghana	498	403	96	622	396	228	671	447	225
Guinea	165	89	77	215	86	129	176	90	85
Guinea-Bissau	28	16	12	29	26	3	18	17	1
Côte d'Ivoire	593	281	311	791	353	437	607	333	276
Liberia	417	769	-352	416	782	-367	307	588	-281
Mali	236	205	31	266	111	155	413	146	268
Niger	239	60	180	206	75	131	167	93	73
Nigeria	4 267	1 706	2 560	4 633	1 911	2 722	4 073	1 994	2 079
Senegal	671	542	128	727	602	124	624	570	54
Sierra Leone	78	45	33	-792	61	-853	-830	80	-910
Togo	120	75	47	147	102	44	139	102	37

Note: Credits are payments made to the EU-27, debits are payments made by the EU-27

Source: Eurostat (Balance of payments; online data code: [bop_its_tot](#))

In 2009, the EU-27 earned a surplus of EUR 2 billion on its trade in services with ECOWAS (Table 6). This was a substantial decline compared with the EUR 3.1 billion in 2007 and EUR 2.7 billion in 2008. This was the result of a sharp decline in EU-27 credits from EUR 7.8 billion in both 2007 and 2008 to EUR 6.9 billion in 2009 with debits rising from EUR 4.7 billion in 2007 to EUR 4.9 billion in 2009. Much of the decline arises from a swing of about EUR 1 billion from a small positive value for Sierra Leone's credit in 2007 to a substantial negative in 2008, a position maintained in 2009.

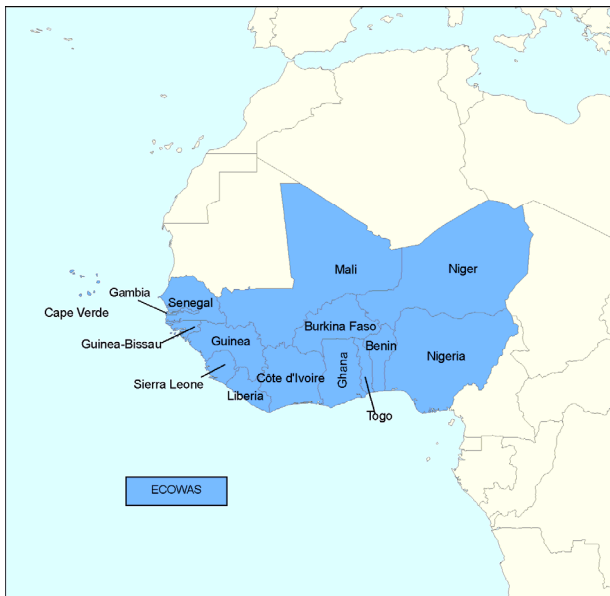
At the individual country level, the EU-27 recorded substantial surplus with Nigeria, reaching a high of EUR 2.7 billion in 2008 before falling back to EUR 2.1 billion in 2009, with credits of EUR 4.1 billion and debits of EUR 2 billion. At the same time, there have been consistent deficits with Liberia, Gambia and Cape Verde. The Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Ghana have all shown consistent EU-27 surpluses over the three years, reaching EUR 0.3 billion for Côte d'Ivoire and Mali and EUR 0.2 billion for Ghana in 2009.

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

This publication focuses on the **ECOWAS**, the Economic Community Of West African States. Its mission is to promote economic integration in "all fields of economic activity, particularly industry, transport, telecommunications, energy, agriculture, natural resources, commerce, monetary and financial questions, social and cultural matters ..."

The 15 countries members of the ECOWAS are:

- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Cape Verde
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Liberia
- Mali
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- Togo



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

Data sources:

The figures presented in this publication have been extracted from Eurostat's free dissemination database and reflect the state of data availability in October 2011.

Data on the trade of goods are also available in Eurostat's Comext database. In the methodology applied for the statistics on the trading of goods between Member States and non-member countries (extra-EU trade), statistics do not record exchanges involving goods in transit, placed in a customs warehouse or given temporary admission (for trade fairs, temporary exhibitions, tests, etc.). This is known as "special trade". So the partner will be the country of final destination of the goods.

Data on the trade of services are based on balance of payments statistics. The balance of payments records all economic transactions between a country (i.e. its residents) and foreign countries or international organisations (i.e. the non-residents of that country) during a given period. As part of the balance of payments, the current account records real resources and is subdivided into four basic components: goods, services, income and current transfers. The methodological framework used is that of the fifth edition of the International Monetary Fund Balance of Payments Manual (BPM5). The EU balance of payments is compiled by Eurostat in accordance with a methodology agreed with the European Central Bank (ECB).

SITC classification (Figures 2 and 3; Tables 3, 4 and 5)

Information on commodities exported and imported is presented according to the SITC classification (Standard International Trade Classification) at a general level. A full description is available through Eurostat's classification server RAMON, accessible through <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/>

COMEXT data (trade of goods)

Please note that the sums of the individual SITC product categories are less than the totals due to confidentiality reasons.

In this publication:
1 billion = 1 000 million
: not available

This publication was prepared with the assistance of Richard Butchart, Marianne Doul and Manuel Da Silva

Further information

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

Data on 'External trade statistics'

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

Further information about 'External trade statistics'

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

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