

# EU ITS in 2002

*EU-15 external surplus of EUR 24.3 bn*

## Statistics in focus

### ECONOMY AND FINANCE

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#### Balance of payments

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During 2002 world transactions in International Trade in Services (ITS) were subdued. The European Union continued to be the most important global player in ITS in 2002 and registered a surplus of EUR 24.3 bn. The USA remained the EU's main trading partner. The UK was, among EU Member States, the biggest contributor to extra-EU transactions.

#### World ITS transactions decreased in 2002

According to figures published by the International Monetary Fund<sup>1</sup> total world international trade in services transactions (ITS) in 2002 amounted to EUR 2 619.0 bn<sup>2</sup>. This was a -0.6% decrease compared to 2001 (EUR 2 634.6 bn) and means a change in the uninterrupted growth observed in recent years. Nevertheless, the global slowdown observed in 2002 affected other components of the current account even more severely, such as goods (-2.3%) or income (-13.5%).

Graph 1: International Trade in Goods and Services (ECU/EUR bn)  
Total world



Despite the fall observed in 2002, from a medium term perspective, ITS have shown a vigorous growth in recent years. The period 1996-2002 displayed a 62.9% increase on world ITS transactions, growing about as fast as international trade in goods (62.8%) during the same period. Consequently, over the period, ITS represented around 25% of transactions in trade in goods. (Graph 1). International Trade in Goods and Services in 2002 totalled EUR 12.967 bn, which represents roughly 1.4 times EU GDP.

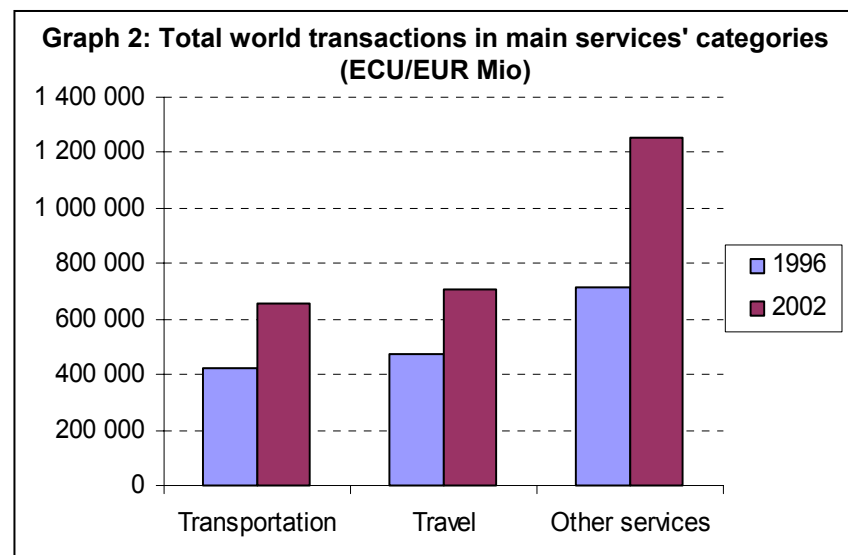
<sup>1</sup> IMF, *Balance of Payments Statistics Yearbook*, 2003.

<sup>2</sup> Excluding intra-EU-15 transactions in services.

Looking at the different categories of services for which total world figures are available (*transportation, travel and other services*<sup>3</sup>) it can be observed that the category *other services* has outperformed *transportation* and *travel* during the period 1996-2002 with transactions increasing by 75.5% compared with increases of 56.6% and 49.5%, respectively, for *transportation* and *travel*. The category *other services* was responsible for 53.3% of the growth in ITS transactions for the period 1996-2002 (Graph 2).

As a result, the share it represents in total services has grown steadily to reach 47.9% in 2002, compared to 25.2% for *transportation* and 27.0% for *travel*. Furthermore, transactions in *other services* seem to be more resilient to external factors since they grew in 2002 by 2.1% despite the decline in world trade.

The category *other services* comprises a variety of services of very



different nature. Unfortunately, more disaggregated figures for world transactions do not exist. Using as a proxy the figures available for OECD<sup>4</sup> countries, it is observed that the more dynamic components within *other services* for the period 1996-2001 were *computer and information services* (+12.4% average annual growth), *financial services* (+6.9%), *other business services* (+5.6%) and *royalties and license fees* (+5.1%).

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### The EU is the world leading services trader<sup>5</sup>

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The global trends analysed in the previous section mask diverging patterns for different economic zones. In this section we will see that broad changes occurred within the 15 most important trading areas (by size of their ITS transactions in 2002).

In 2002, these 15 traders accounted for 75.9% of total world transactions in services, up from 75.4% in 1996. The EU was the most important single trader, its share in 2002 being 24.7%. The EU was followed by USA (20.8%) and, at a considerable distance, by Japan (7.0%), China (3.5%) and Canada (3.2%).

The difference in total ITS transactions between the EU-15 and USA narrows considerably if we look only at their shares in world exports (EU-15: 25.6% and USA: 23.3%) while it widens for the shares of world imports (EU-15: 23.8% and USA: 18.3%).

If we compare the 1996 ranking with that of 2002, the growing importance in the world economy of China (from 7<sup>th</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>) and India (from the bottom of this group in 1996 to 9<sup>th</sup> in 2002) are clearly visible. On the other hand Australia, Thailand and Malaysia each fell 3 positions.

The group as a whole recorded a surplus of EUR 30.1 bn in 2002. Again this total amount masks different patterns for individual countries. The US registered the highest surplus during the period (EUR 73.7 bn on average). Other countries that persistently ran surpluses were the EU (EUR 13.2 bn), Switzerland (EUR 11.4 bn), Singapore (EUR 3.6 bn), and Norway (EUR 1.8 bn). Meanwhile, Japan recorded the highest deficit (EUR -48.1 bn on average). China and Russia also recorded deficits that have increased constantly over the period. India was the only country in which, for this period, the balance changed from deficit to surplus.

<sup>3</sup> *Other services* comprise: communication services, construction services, insurance services, financial services, computer and information services, royalties and license fees, other business services, personal, cultural and recreational services and government services.

<sup>4</sup> OECD-Eurostat, *OECD Statistics on International Trade in Services 1992-2001, 2003*.

<sup>5</sup> Individual EU-15 Member States are excluded from this analysis since the EU-15 aggregate is included.

The following table summarises some selected indicators for this group of countries:

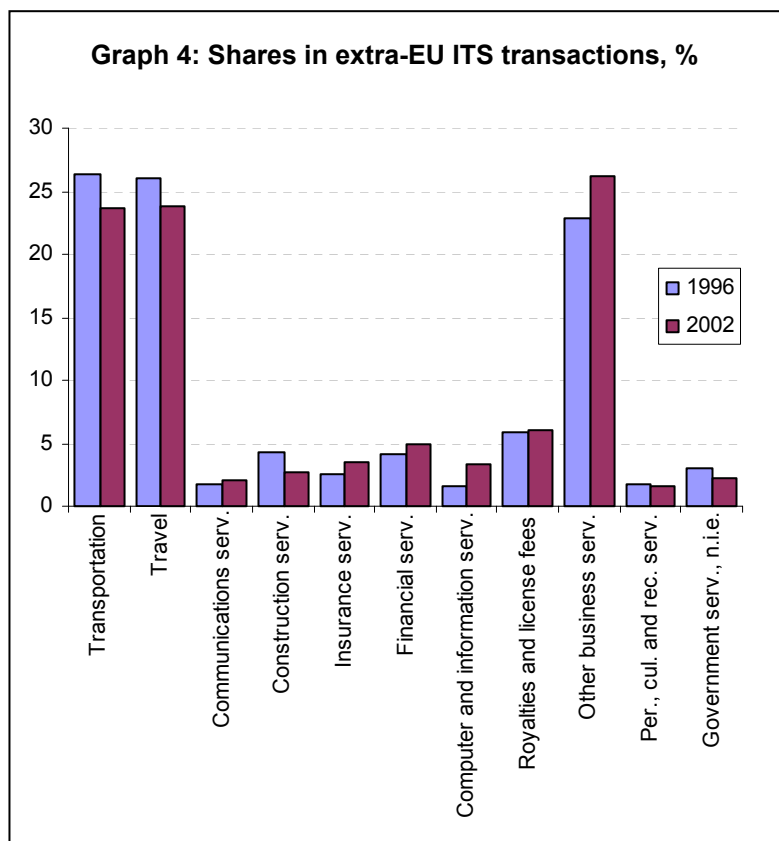
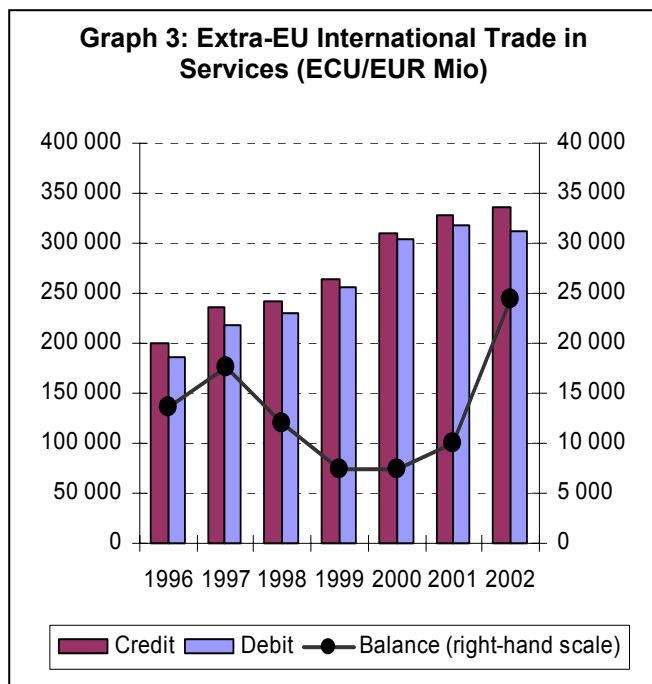
**Table 1: Selected indicators for main ITS trading countries**

ECU/EUR Mio	1996			2002			Share of World (%)	Share of World (%)	Rank	Rank
	Credit	Debit	Net	Credit	Debit	Net	1996	2002	1996	2002
EU-15	200.296	186.751	13.545	336.273	311.923	24.350	24,1	24,7	1	1
United States of America	186.564	118.629	67.935	305.340	240.468	64.873	19,0	20,8	2	2
Japan	53.327	102.373	-49.046	69.494	114.153	-44.658	9,7	7,0	3	3
China	16.224	17.787	-1.563	42.032	49.206	-7.174	2,1	3,5	7	4
Canada	23.030	28.278	-5.248	39.336	44.926	-5.590	3,2	3,2	4	5
Korea, Republic of (South Korea)	18.439	23.305	-4.867	29.762	37.652	-7.890	2,6	2,6	5	6
Singapore	23.983	17.406	6.577	31.411	28.869	2.542	2,6	2,3	6	7
Switzerland	20.673	12.358	8.315	31.069	18.090	12.979	2,1	1,9	8	8
India	5.701	8.798	-3.097	26.290	19.767	6.523	0,9	1,8	15	9
Norway	11.671	10.581	1.090	20.405	17.553	2.852	1,4	1,4	13	10
Russia	10.461	14.700	-4.239	13.792	23.384	-9.592	1,6	1,4	12	11
Australia	14.594	14.654	-60	18.161	18.881	-720	1,8	1,4	9	12
Thailand	13.394	15.424	-2.030	16.201	17.684	-1.483	1,8	1,3	10	13
Malaysia	11.920	13.839	-1.919	15.734	17.395	-1.660	1,6	1,3	11	14
Mexico	8.445	8.519	-74	13.473	18.676	-5.203	1,1	1,2	14	15

Source: IMF, Eurostat and Eurostat's own calculations

### The EU registered a surplus of EUR 24.3 bn in 2002

Extra-EU transactions in ITS grew by 67.5% in the period 1996-2002 reaching EUR 648.2 bn in 2002. The year 2002 was a year of weak growth in ITS transactions, which increased by just 0.5% compared to 2001. They reached 7.1% of EU-15 GDP, up from 5.6% in 1996. It is also worth noting that they represented 34.1% of transactions in International Trade in Goods, a much higher share than the one observed in world figures. The EU has run surpluses throughout the period. The surplus has been rising from 1999, reaching EUR 24.3 bn in 2002.



Contrary to world level, for the EU-15 enough data is available to make a more detailed analysis by different items included in services. The services that registered the highest increases were *computer and information services*, *insurance services*, *financial services* and *other business services*. Consequently, these services have increased their shares in ITS transactions while other items such as *transportation* and *travel* decreased.

### **Surpluses in Transportation and Other Services, deficit in Travel**

We have seen that the EU-15 has run a surplus in ITS during the period 1996-2002. In this section we look at the balances and the evolutions of individual categories of services.

**Table 2: Extra EU Balances**

<i>EUR Mio</i>	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
<b>Services</b>	13,545	17,637	11,905	7,413	7,415	10,044	24,350
<b>Transportation</b>	-393	1,665	3,801	4,418	8,115	6,550	5,838
<i>Sea transport</i>	-3,318	-4,419	-1,934	-1,894	2,471	3,238	3,371
<i>Air transport</i>	3,721	5,398	4,961	6,772	6,736	4,966	3,981
<i>Other transport</i>	-796	685	773	-460	-1,092	-1,655	-1,514
<b>Travel</b>	249	1,120	-1,783	-9,062	-7,889	-12,388	-11,957
<b>Other services</b>	13,427	14,759	9,952	12,053	7,187	15,386	30,409
<i>Communications services</i>	-207	-573	-1,098	-1,027	-787	-581	-1,066
Postal and courier services	:	:	-175	-53	-69	41	-16
Telecommunication services	:	:	-921	-974	-721	-620	-1,050
<i>Construction services</i>	4,271	4,914	5,412	4,071	3,847	3,700	3,685
Construction abroad	:	:	5,959	4,320	4,189	4,153	4,101
Construction in the compiling economy	:	:	-546	-248	-343	-455	-418
<i>Insurance services</i>	3,951	3,681	2,389	5,028	4,435	5,788	12,676
<i>Financial services</i>	4,485	6,048	6,433	9,538	11,965	10,653	12,007
<i>Computer and information services</i>	433	1,150	1,564	2,973	3,716	4,795	5,874
Computer services	:	:	631	1,711	2,219	3,592	4,052
Information services	:	:	933	1,263	1,498	1,207	1,822
<i>Royalties and license fees</i>	-6,221	-6,187	-8,356	-8,727	-7,847	-9,235	-8,720
<i>Other business services</i>	7,108	6,795	4,541	3,200	-4,774	3,682	4,959
Merchandising and other trade-related services	967	-71	80	600	-5,375	2,170	2,608
Operational leasing services	-217	-392	-537	-52	-870	-578	-603
Misc. bus., prof. and tech. services	6,360	7,261	5,001	2,652	1,473	2,096	2,959
<i>Personal, cultural and recreational services</i>	-2,558	-2,898	-2,779	-3,816	-3,811	-3,948	-2,008
Audio-visual and related services	-2,273	-2,409	-2,411	-3,416	-3,348	-3,663	-1,976
Other pers., cul. and rec. services	-282	-489	-369	-399	-461	-284	-36
<i>Government services, n.i.e.</i>	2,162	1,832	1,849	813	443	528	3,003
<i>Services not allocated</i>	261	93	-65	4	2	497	61

*Transportation services* show a continuous surplus from 1997. Within transportation, *air transport* registered surpluses during all the period while for *other transport* deficits were recorded. For *sea transport*, the deficit experienced in the period 1996-1999 turned into a surplus in 2000-2002.

*Travel* was in surplus during 1996-1997, then changed to an increasing deficit, that stabilised in 2002 around EUR -12 bn.

*Other services* were in surplus during all the period. Nevertheless, within *other services* we can distinguish very different broad patterns:

- Permanent and rising surpluses were registered in the components: *financial services*, *insurance services* and *computer and information services*.
- Permanent and stable surpluses were recorded in *construction services* and *government services n.i.e.*
- Permanent and stable deficits were observed in *communication services*, *royalties and license fees* and *personal, cultural and recreational services*.

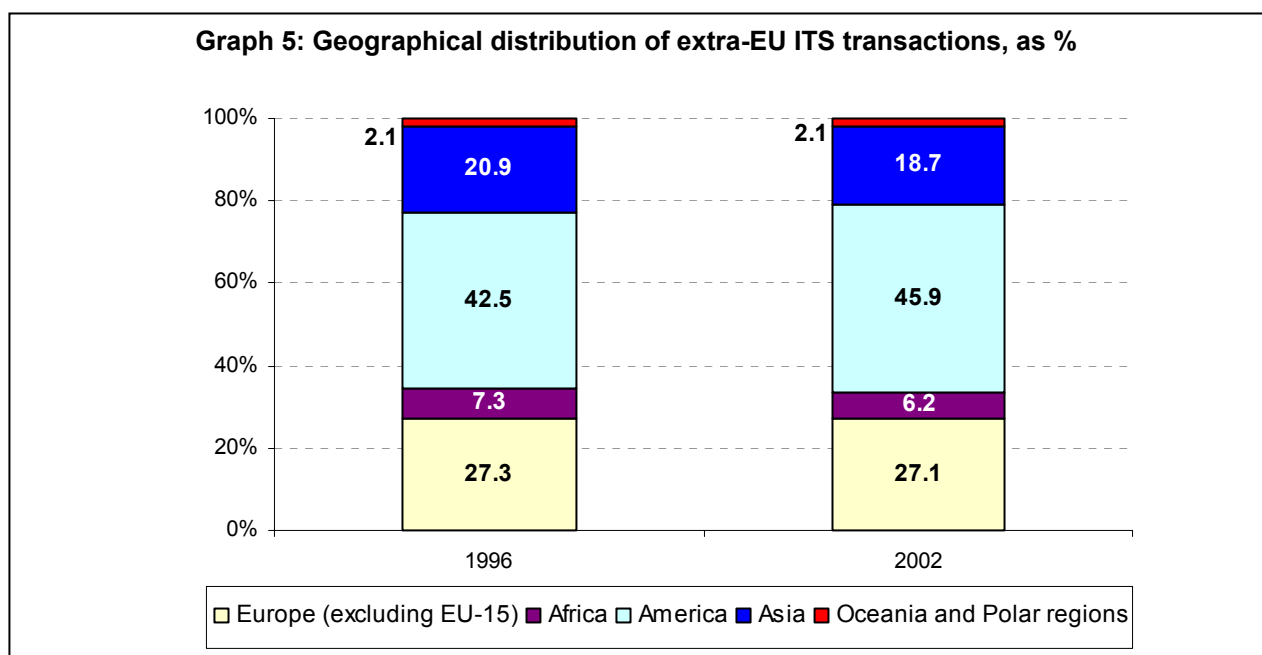
A clear pattern cannot be discerned for *other business services*, mainly due to the inherent volatility of the item *merchandising and other trade related services* but decreasing surpluses for *miscellaneous, business, professional and technical services* and small deficits for *operational leasing services* can be discerned.

### The EU recorded surpluses with most of its partners

ITS takes mostly place between EU-15 Member States. In 2002 Intra-EU-15 ITS transactions corresponded to 56% of total ITS transactions. Nevertheless, our main interest is the composition and evolution of extra-EU transactions.

America is the continent with which the EU-15 records the highest ITS transactions (EUR 281.4 bn in 2002 and 45.9% of total extra-EU transactions), which is expected as the USA is our main trading partner with EUR 229.9 bn in 2002. Second comes Europe (excluding EU-15) with EUR 166.3 bn. In Europe, EU-15 main partners are Switzerland (second EU-15 partner), Norway and Turkey. Asia was the origin or destination of 18.7% of EU-15 ITS transactions abroad, with Japan, Hong Kong and China the EU's main trading partners. Africa (6.2%) and Oceania and Polar Regions (2.1%) were less significant.

Comparing the 1996 and 2002 geographical distributions of EU-15 ITS transactions, two main features can be highlighted: first, the decreasing importance of Africa as a EU-15 partner and, second, a relatively small decline for Asia. This latest fact is surprising having seen in the first section the emergence of China and India as very important key players in world ITS transactions. Part of the explanation resides in the low growth of transactions between EU-15 and Japan, but nevertheless EU ITS transactions with India grew less than expected<sup>6</sup>.



It is also an interesting exercise to analyse with which countries the EU-15 registers a surplus and with which a deficit.

For the 48 individual countries for which data is available, in 2002 the EU registered surpluses with 28 and deficits with 20. The EU-15 recorded surpluses with its 5 main partners: USA: (EUR 8.7 bn), Switzerland (EUR 5.0 bn), Japan (EUR 8.5 bn), Norway (EUR 3.8 bn) and Canada: (EUR 0.7 bn). The highest deficits were registered with Turkey (EUR -4.5 bn), Thailand (EUR -1.4 bn) and Egypt (-1.3 bn) which were mainly due to the negative balance recorded in the item *travel*.

<sup>6</sup> Indian ITS transactions during the period 1996-2002 grew by 217.6% while EU-15 ITS with India only grew by 46.5%.

**Table 3: EU-15 ITS partners: Exports, Imports and Balance**

Rank*	Country	Exports	Imports	Balance
1	United States of America	119 355	110 582	8 773
3	Japan	17 471	8 994	8 476
2	Switzerland	38 119	33 082	5 038
4	Norway	11 907	8 133	3 774
16	Korea, Republic of (South Korea)	4 073	2 163	1 910
18	Mexico	3 486	2 355	1 131
8	Australia	5 609	4 597	1 012
5	Canada	7 809	7 107	701
9	China	5 262	4 596	666
13	Republic of South Africa	3 598	2 937	661
32	Iran	1 213	575	638
21	Israel	2 534	2 014	519
35	Venezuela	990	552	438
27	Slovenia	1 492	1 149	343
19	India	2 737	2 414	322
36	Chile	887	605	281
23	Taiwan	2 000	1 725	274
14	Brazil	3 350	3 109	242
26	Malaysia	1 657	1 434	222
30	Argentina	1 009	813	196
33	Slovak Republic	968	801	167
31	New Zealand	990	829	160
29	Indonesia	1 162	1 034	128
38	Ukraine	628	523	105
44	Colombia	382	307	75
48	Belarus	129	80	49
11	Singapore	4 553	4 521	32
43	Lithuania	379	364	15
45	Iceland	326	333	-7
10	Russia	4 747	4 777	-29
46	Latvia	241	312	-71
37	Philippines	573	661	-88
42	Liechtenstein	291	452	-161
47	Uruguay	48	224	-176
41	Albania	305	538	-233
34	Bulgaria	669	952	-283
39	Estonia	388	685	-297
40	Yugoslavia	340	691	-351
28	Romania	945	1 344	-400
7	Hong Kong	4 830	5 400	-570
17	Hungary	2 749	3 321	-571
12	Poland	4 079	4 733	-655
24	Croatia	1 368	2 224	-856
15	Czech Republic	2 669	3 573	-903
25	Morocco	1 298	2 234	-936
20	Egypt	1 709	3 038	-1 329
22	Thailand	1 360	2 728	-1 367
6	Turkey	3 005	7 512	-4 507

\* Sorted by the amount of 2002 ITS transactions with EU-15

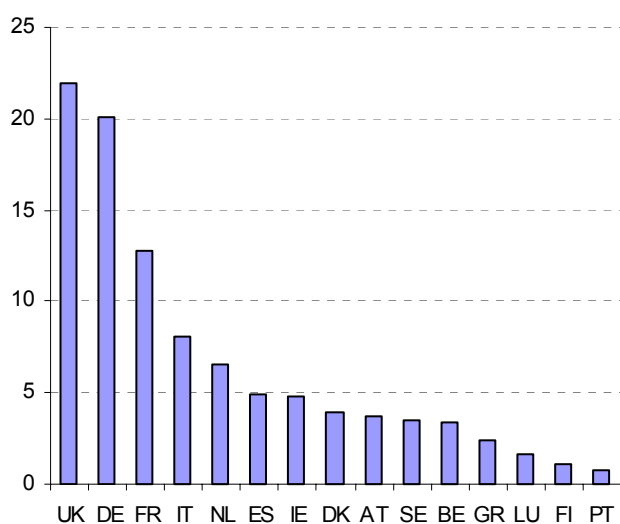
## The UK plays a major role in EU ITS transactions

Although Eurostat's main responsibility is the calculation of EU-15 data, in this section some differences for individual EU Member States are presented.

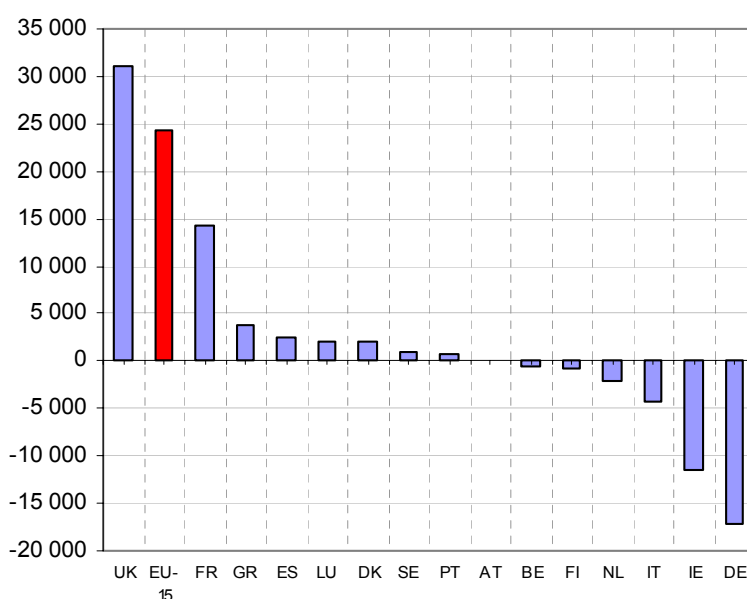
A starting point is to look at the different propensities to trade with other EU and non-EU countries. The only Member State for which extra-EU transactions were larger than the intra-EU transactions in 2002 was the United Kingdom, where extra-EU transactions accounted for 57% of total transactions. In the cases of Greece, France and Germany extra-EU transactions were a little below 50%. On the other hand, Belgium (26.3%), Portugal (28.3%) and Luxembourg (29.0%) tended to trade more intensively with other EU Member States.

Another fact worth noting is that the UK is the most important contributor to the extra EU-15 ITS transactions, representing 21.9% of total extra EU-15 ITS transactions in 2002, followed by Germany (20.1%) and France (12.8%). These three Member States represent 54.9% of extra EU-15 ITS transactions.

**Graph 6: Member States' shares in extra-EU ITS transactions, 2002**



**Graph 7: Extra-EU services balance, 2002**



Finally, looking at the balances, it is observed that the EU-15 aggregate balance in 2002 was determined mainly by the surplus registered by the UK and France which more than offset the deficits registered by Germany, Ireland and, to a lesser extent, Italy.

### ➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

**International Trade in Services (ITS)** analysed in this publication refer to those registered in the Balance of Payments Statistics. Trade in Services between affiliated companies are not registered in Balance of Payments Statistics.

The standard classification used for ITS transactions is the one presented in the 1993 Fifth Edition of the Balance of Payments of the International Monetary Fund (BPM5). Eurostat compiles a more disaggregated classification which is compatible with the one set up in the BPM5 with one minor exception, the treatment of *construction services*, which can also affect *other business services*. Eurostat compiles ITS transactions with a level of detail close to the new Extended Balance of Payments (EBOPS) Classification put forward by the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services (MSITS) jointly produced by European Commission (Eurostat), International Monetary Fund, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and World Trade Organisation. The MSITS is available free of charge at: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/Public/datashop/print-catalogue/EN?catalogue=Eurostat&collection=05-Methodologies-Nomenclatures&product=manual-EN>



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