

# EU-27 trade with ASEAN countries in 2006

*Singapore and Malaysia remain the main trading partners*

## Highlights

- In 2006, the European Union's (EU-27) trade with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) registered imports with a total value of EUR 78.8 billion and exports worth EUR 48.8 billion.
- The EU-27 trade balance with ASEAN countries was constantly negative throughout the 2000–2006 period: the deficit amounted to EUR 29.9 billion in 2006, a 14% increase compared to 2005.
- Among the ASEAN group of countries, Singapore and Malaysia are the EU's main trading partners, both for imports and exports: together, they account for over 60% of EU exports to ASEAN and close to 50% of imports from ASEAN.
- Machinery (electrical, industrial) and transport equipment were by far the most important goods traded, both for imports and exports.
- Germany, France and the United Kingdom accounted for around 55% of the total value of EU exports to ASEAN countries. Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom were the biggest importers from ASEAN countries with a share of 58% of all imports.

Figure 1: Evolution of EU-27 trade with ASEAN countries between 2000 and 2006, (EUR billion)



	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Exports	41.9	44.0	40.6	39.4	43.1	45.3	48.8
Imports	75.4	71.2	68.1	66.2	69.5	71.6	78.8
Trade balance	-33.5	-27.2	-27.5	-26.8	-26.5	-26.4	-29.9

Source: Eurostat (COMEXT)

## 2006 imports from the ASEAN back to the level of 2000

Between 2000 and 2003, EU-27 trade with ASEAN countries registered a slight drop in volumes, before taking a positive turn again from 2004 onwards. The EU persistently registered a trade deficit with ASEAN countries between 2000 and 2006, with a maximum in 2000 (EUR 33.5 billion) and a minimum in 2005 (EUR 26.4 billion).

Singapore distinguished itself as the first ASEAN partner for both EU exports and imports in 2006, reaching a total value of EUR 19.8 billion for EU exports and EUR 19.5 billion for EU imports (Table 1). With these values, Singapore held a share of 40.5% in total EU exports to ASEAN countries, while Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia followed with shares of 21.0%, 14.9% and 10.3% respectively. The same ranking prevails for imports: Singapore was the origin of 24.7% of all EU imports from ASEAN countries before Malaysia (22.7%), Thailand (18.7%) and Indonesia (15.6%).

**ASEAN** or the Association of Southeast Asian Nations is an association for regional cooperation among ten Southeast Asian countries: founded in 1967 by **Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand** it was extended to **Brunei Darussalam** (1984), **Vietnam** (1995), **Lao PDR, Myanmar** (1997) and **Cambodia** (1999).

## Statistics in focus

### EXTERNAL TRADE

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## Contents

Highlights ..... 1

2006 imports from the ASEAN back to the level of 2000..... 1

Germany accounts for 29% of all EU-exports to the ASEAN..... 2

Half of the total export and import value consists of 'Machinery and transport equipment' ..... 3



Table 1: EU-27 trade with ASEAN trading partners (EUR million)

	Exports						Imports							
	2000	2004	2005	2006	Average annual increase 2000-2006	Share in total EU exports to ASEAN countries - 2006		2000	2004	2005	2006	Average annual increase 2000-2006	Share in total EU imports from ASEAN countries - 2006	
						%	% cum.						%	% cum.
<b>ASEAN</b>	<b>41 856</b>	<b>43 063</b>	<b>45 284</b>	<b>48 809</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>75 386</b>	<b>69 537</b>	<b>71 647</b>	<b>78 751</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Singapore	15 800	16 209	17 442	19 754	3.8%	40.5	40.5	17 390	16 919	18 420	19 487	1.9%	24.7	24.7
Malaysia	8 526	8 760	9 248	10 269	3.1%	21.0	61.5	18 326	15 714	16 096	17 850	-0.4%	22.7	47.4
Thailand	6 628	7 014	7 934	7 261	1.5%	14.9	76.4	13 545	12 985	13 128	14 725	1.4%	18.7	66.1
Indonesia	4 551	4 817	4 787	5 006	1.6%	10.3	86.6	11 547	10 434	10 861	12 270	1.0%	15.6	81.7
Philippines	4 509	3 595	3 620	3 731	-3.1%	7.6	94.3	9 201	6 912	6 534	6 346	-6.0%	8.1	89.7
Vietnam	1 291	2 256	1 898	2 374	10.7%	4.9	99.1	4 290	5 303	5 569	6 845	8.1%	8.7	98.4
Cambodia	117	111	126	136	2.6%	0.3	99.4	361	597	534	664	10.7%	0.8	99.3
Myanmar	118	77	84	81	-6.1%	0.2	99.6	413	461	288	306	-4.9%	0.4	99.7
Brunei Darussalam	273	161	108	170	-7.6%	0.3	99.9	174	74	73	113	-7.0%	0.1	99.8
Lao PDR	45	63	38	28	-7.5%	0.1	100.0	139	139	144	145	0.7%	0.2	100.0

Source: Eurostat (COMEXT)

### Germany accounts for 29% of all EU-exports to the ASEAN

Considering the individual EU Member States' trade with ASEAN countries in 2006, Germany is by far the most important partner for exports to the ASEAN with goods valued at EUR 13.9 billion. This corresponds to a share of 28.6% of the total EU trade (Table 2). France, the United Kingdom and Italy followed with proportions of 13.8%, 13.4% and 9.1 % respectively. Although fairly limited in absolute terms, Lithuania's and Bulgaria's exports to the ASEAN developed particularly fast between 2000 and 2006 (average annual increase of 77.8% and 44.0% respectively).

Considering imports, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Germany were the most important trade

partners for the ASEAN in 2006, absorbing shares of respectively 20.5%, 19.4% and 18.6% of the total EU-27 imports from the ASEAN in 2006. Noticeable is a 4-fold increase of the value of Luxembourg's imports from ASEAN countries between 2000 and 2006, whereas exports remained stable at a low level.

The large majority of the EU-27 Member States displayed trade deficits, the highest being registered for the Netherlands (-12.3 billion EUR – influenced by the port of Rotterdam as an EU entry point) and the United Kingdom (-8.8 billion EUR). Six EU countries displayed a trade surplus, among which that of Sweden was the highest (EUR 754 million).

Table 2: EU-27 trade with ASEAN countries, by EU Member State (EUR million)

	EXPORTS						IMPORTS						TRADE BALANCE			
	2000	2004	2005	2006	Average annual increase 2000-2006	Share in EU-27 trade 2006	2000	2004	2005	2006	Average annual increase 2000-2006	Share in EU-27 trade 2006	2000	2004	2005	2006
<b>EU-27</b>	<b>41 856</b>	<b>43 063</b>	<b>45 284</b>	<b>48 809</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>75 386</b>	<b>69 537</b>	<b>71 647</b>	<b>78 751</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-33 530</b>	<b>-26 474</b>	<b>-26 363</b>	<b>-29 942</b>
Belgium	1 986	1 855	1 946	2 101	0.9%	4.3%	4 201	3 569	3 968	4 439	0.9%	5.6%	-2 215	-1 714	-2 022	-2 338
Bulgaria	34	109	183	301	44.0%	0.6%	60	111	152	152	16.7%	0.2%	-27	-2	31	149
Czech Republic	251	248	272	318	4.0%	0.7%	521	884	499	688	4.8%	0.9%	-269	-636	-227	-370
Denmark	652	610	747	765	2.7%	1.6%	815	865	1 012	1 117	5.4%	1.4%	-163	-255	-265	-353
Germany	10 675	12 938	12 570	13 937	4.5%	28.6%	14 530	13 767	13 073	14 681	0.2%	18.6%	-3 855	-829	-503	-744
Estonia	8	8	14	21	17.4%	0.0%	42	76	68	58	5.4%	0.1%	-34	-68	-54	-37
Ireland	2 173	1 776	1 914	2 287	0.9%	4.7%	2 502	1 682	1 899	2 409	-0.6%	3.1%	-329	95	14	-122
Greece	91	122	183	145	8.1%	0.3%	463	565	502	492	1.0%	0.6%	-373	-442	-320	-347
Spain	1 206	1 038	1 063	1 215	0.1%	2.5%	3 081	3 085	3 473	4 253	5.5%	5.4%	-1 875	-2 047	-2 410	-3 038
France	5 506	5 714	7 183	6 736	3.4%	13.8%	7 342	5 911	7 141	7 000	-0.8%	8.9%	-1 835	-197	41	-264
Italy	4 117	4 281	3 998	4 457	1.3%	9.1%	3 864	3 940	4 022	4 788	3.6%	6.1%	253	340	-24	-331
Cyprus	9	11	12	12	4.2%	0.0%	86	91	92	88	0.3%	0.1%	-76	-80	-80	-75
Latvia	2	4	6	9	32.6%	0.0%	6	12	16	25	26.2%	0.0%	-4	-8	-10	-15
Lithuania	9	26	278	273	77.8%	0.6%	37	54	59	79	13.5%	0.1%	-28	-28	219	194
Luxembourg	37	36	40	40	1.3%	0.1%	75	202	399	383	31.2%	0.5%	-38	-166	-359	-344
Hungary	340	138	183	241	-5.6%	0.5%	1 549	1 588	1 311	1 399	-1.7%	1.8%	-1 209	-1 450	-1 128	-1 159
Malta	438	324	244	300	-6.1%	0.6%	587	234	187	319	-9.6%	0.4%	-149	89	57	-20
Netherlands	3 139	3 402	3 287	3 818	3.3%	7.8%	16 331	15 070	15 573	16 110	-0.2%	20.5%	-13 192	-11 667	-12 286	-12 292
Austria	719	915	1 026	1 023	6.1%	2.1%	417	661	799	867	13.0%	1.1%	302	254	226	156
Poland	269	281	296	387	6.3%	0.8%	1 013	876	586	1 021	0.1%	1.3%	-744	-595	-291	-635
Portugal	142	412	502	830	34.3%	1.7%	349	337	313	380	1.4%	0.5%	-207	75	188	450
Romania	45	73	89	85	11.2%	0.2%	129	321	358	461	23.6%	0.6%	-84	-248	-269	-375
Slovenia	20	23	29	34	9.5%	0.1%	102	65	80	98	-0.7%	0.1%	-82	-42	-52	-64
Slovakia	55	46	71	80	6.5%	0.2%	142	216	193	272	11.4%	0.3%	-88	-170	-121	-192
Finland	1 241	859	802	914	-5.0%	1.9%	569	528	641	676	2.9%	0.9%	672	331	161	238
Sweden	2 016	1 606	1 627	1 956	-0.5%	4.0%	1 247	858	962	1 202	-0.6%	1.5%	769	748	665	754
United Kingdom	6 676	6 206	6 721	6 525	-0.4%	13.4%	15 326	13 968	14 265	15 292	0.0%	19.4%	-8 650	-7 762	-7 544	-8 767

Source: Eurostat (COMEXT)

## Half of the total export and import value consists of 'Machinery and transport equipment'

EU exports to ASEAN countries continued to be dominated by manufactured goods (total value of EUR 43.1 billion in 2006, representing 88% of all exports - see Table 3). 'Machinery and transport equipment' was the most important category as it represented more than half (55%) of all EU-exports. This category was also the most important for imports from ASEAN countries

(47%). Imported energy products showed an average annual increase of 30% between 2000 and 2006. The EU trade balance by main product group showed an EU-27 deficit of EUR 22.3 billion for manufactured goods and a deficit of EUR 8.7 billion for primary products. For the latter, 'crude materials' was mainly responsible.

Table 3: EU-27 trade with ASEAN countries, by main product group (EUR million)

	EXPORTS						IMPORTS						TRADE BALANCE			
	2000	2004	2005	2006	Average annual increase 2000-2006	Share in total trade 2006	2000	2004	2005	2006	Average annual increase 2000-2006	Share in total trade 2006	2000	2004	2005	2006
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41 856</b>	<b>43 063</b>	<b>45 284</b>	<b>48 809</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>75 386</b>	<b>69 537</b>	<b>71 647</b>	<b>78 751</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-33 530</b>	<b>-26 474</b>	<b>-26 363</b>	<b>-29 942</b>
<b>Primary products</b>	<b>3 119</b>	<b>3 395</b>	<b>3 665</b>	<b>4 235</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>8 443</b>	<b>9 052</b>	<b>10 566</b>	<b>12 945</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>-5 324</b>	<b>-5 657</b>	<b>-6 901</b>	<b>-8 710</b>
Food products	2 184	1 960	2 086	2 197	0%	5%	3 829	3 554	3 875	4 643	3%	6%	-1 645	-1 594	-1 789	-2 446
Crude materials	680	920	801	967	6%	2%	4 189	4 537	5 197	6 281	7%	8%	-3 509	-3 618	-4 397	-5 314
Energy	255	516	778	1 071	27%	2%	425	961	1 494	2 021	30%	3%	-170	-445	-716	-950
<b>Manufactured goods</b>	<b>37 100</b>	<b>38 774</b>	<b>40 022</b>	<b>43 070</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>60 752</b>	<b>60 194</b>	<b>60 733</b>	<b>65 387</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>-23 652</b>	<b>-21 420</b>	<b>-20 711</b>	<b>-22 317</b>
Chemicals	5 031	6 077	6 270	6 592	5%	14%	2 550	5 341	6 854	7 288	19%	9%	2 481	736	-584	-696
Machinery and transport equipment	24 288	24 325	24 837	26 696	2%	55%	38 057	35 691	35 276	36 887	-1%	47%	-13 770	-11 367	-10 438	-10 191
Other manufactured articles	7 781	8 372	8 915	9 782	4%	20%	20 144	19 162	18 604	21 212	1%	27%	-12 363	-10 790	-9 689	-11 430
<b>Others</b>	<b>1 637</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>1 598</b>	<b>1 504</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>6 191</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>-36%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>-4 554</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>1 249</b>	<b>1 084</b>

Source: Eurostat (COMEXT)

Looking at the trade by individual products, 'Office machines' and 'Electrical machinery' represented together a share of 32% of the total EU-27 imports from ASEAN countries (Table 4a). The value of both products decreased between 2000 and 2006. 'Telecommunications' and 'Articles of apparel and clothing accessories', for which values remained fairly constant, followed with shares of 8.3% and 6.9% respectively.

As far as EU-27 exports to ASEAN countries are concerned, 'Electrical machinery' accounted for more than a fifth of total EU-27 exports to the ASEAN in 2006 (Table 4b). 'General industrial machinery and equipment' and 'Machinery for particular industries' followed at a considerable distance, with shares of 7.7% and 5.7% respectively. The remaining products of the 'top-10' list are more evenly distributed and display shares between 4.4% and 3.0%.

Table 4a: Main EU-27 imports from ASEAN countries, by product

SITC division	Value (EUR million)				Share in total extra-EU trade of this division (%)				Share in total EU imports from ASEAN	
	2000	2004	2005	2006	2000	2004	2005	2006	%	% cum.
									2006	2006
<b>Total</b>	<b>75 386</b>	<b>69 537</b>	<b>71 647</b>	<b>78 751</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
75 Office machines	15 311	11 775	12 099	13 446	21.2	17.8	17.0	16.8	17.1	17.1
77 Electrical machinery	12 750	13 219	12 329	11 676	14.0	17.9	17.0	14.8	14.8	31.9
76 Telecommunications	6 063	6 022	5 727	6 516	13.0	11.2	8.7	9.3	8.3	40.2
84 Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	5 686	5 062	4 542	5 418	13.1	10.5	8.6	9.2	6.9	47.1
51 Organic chemicals	1 692	4 248	5 049	5 154	8.7	17.8	18.5	17.3	6.5	53.6
85 Footwear	2 992	3 233	2 965	3 099	38.2	34.4	27.4	25.8	3.9	57.5
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	2 488	2 574	2 652	2 958	6.4	6.3	5.9	5.9	3.8	61.3
82 Furniture	1 799	1 995	2 093	2 156	27.4	22.2	20.2	18.4	2.7	64.0
42 Fixed vegetables fats and oils	1 239	1 763	1 835	1 947	58.5	54.5	50.4	42.0	2.5	66.5
23 Crude rubber	896	1 197	1 217	1 787	43.3	47.4	44.7	49.2	2.3	68.8

Table 4b: Main EU-27 exports to ASEAN countries, by product

SITC division	Value (EUR million)				Share in total extra-EU trade of this division (%)				Share in total EU exports to ASEAN	
	2000	2004	2005	2006	2000	2004	2005	2006	%	% cum.
									2006	2006
<b>Total</b>	<b>41 856</b>	<b>43 063</b>	<b>45 284</b>	<b>48 809</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
77 Electrical machinery	9 854	9 080	8 920	10 387	14.9	13.4	12.7	13.2	21.3	21.3
74 General industrial machinery and equipm.	2 619	3 090	3 182	3 761	5.7	5.2	4.9	5.0	7.7	29.0
72 Machinery for particular industries	2 577	2 473	2 500	2 779	5.8	4.7	4.5	4.4	5.7	34.7
71 Power-generating machinery	1 551	1 967	2 192	2 166	4.3	5.2	5.2	4.7	4.4	39.1
76 Telecommunications	2 754	1 805	1 877	2 014	7.1	5.2	4.1	4.9	4.1	43.2
79 Transport equipment (other than road)	1 178	2 247	2 564	1 963	2.4	5.0	5.4	4.6	4.0	47.3
54 Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	985	1 287	1 514	1 750	2.9	2.4	2.6	2.6	3.6	50.8
87 Professional, scientific and controlling instruments	1 166	1 353	1 426	1 692	5.2	4.7	4.6	5.1	3.5	54.3
78 Road vehicles	1 610	1 567	1 550	1 578	2.2	1.6	1.5	1.4	3.2	57.5
75 Office machines	1 680	1 479	1 636	1 482	6.0	6.0	5.7	5.1	3.0	60.6

Source: Eurostat (COMEXT)

## METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Statistical sources (data extracted on: 26/03/2007)

➤ EU data: Eurostat (Comext)

The EU-27 includes: 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.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) include: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

### Classification of products (Table 3)

Third revision of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC). Food products = sections 0+1, Crude materials = sections 2+4, Energy = section 3, Chemicals = section 5, Machinery and transport equipment = section 7 and Other manufactured articles = sections 6+8.

### Concepts and definitions

EU data are compiled according to Community guidelines and may therefore differ from the national data published by the Member States. For further information, please refer to the following documents:

- [Statistics on the trading of goods – User guide](#)
- [Metadata available for the theme "External trade"](#)

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