Statistics in focus

GENERAL AND REGIONAL STATISTICS

4/2008

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Manuscript completed on: 21.01.2008
Data extracted on: 27.09.2007
ISSN 1977-0316
Catalogue number: KS-SF-08-004-EN-N
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EU-27 External Trade with the United States, EFTA countries, China, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Canada and Australia, 2006 data

Highlights

Developments in the patterns of EU external trade with the United States (USA), EFTA countries, China, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Canada and Australia over the period 1999 to 2006 reflect the wider changes in the world economy (Figure 1). In particular, there has been strong economic growth concentrated in some countries and the continuing impact of globalisation and the migration of manufacturing to low cost areas. Chinese membership of the World Trade Organisation is another factor in the accelerated pace of such developments.

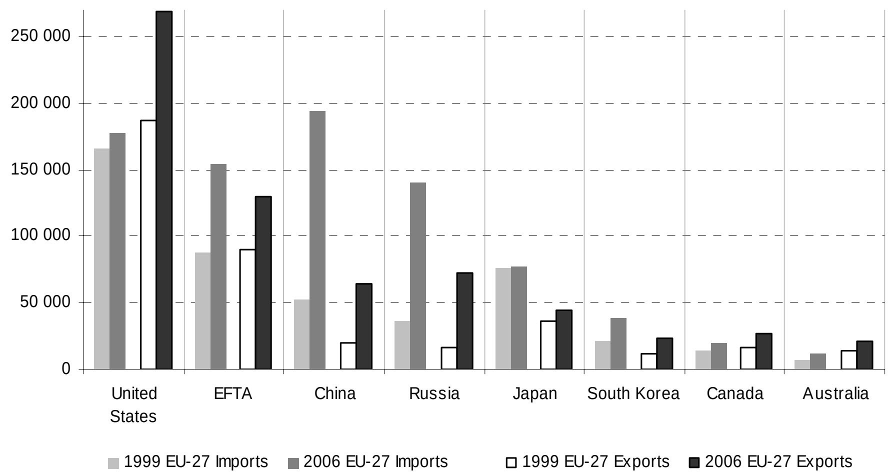
The most striking outcome of these trends is that China has replaced the USA as the main source of EU imports in 2006, after a sustained surge in imports from China since 1999. EU exports to China have also shown substantial growth on the back of the heavy investment in China's manufacturing capacity and more general economic developments.

EU exports to the USA have grown sharply between 1999 and 2006, based on the strong growth in the USA economy in that period. However, imports from the USA have shown little change, at least in euro terms, leading to a growing EU trade surplus.

Imports from the EFTA countries and Russia have also shown very strong growth on the back of the substantial rise in oil and gas prices that have taken place in recent years. Both Norway and Russia are major oil and gas suppliers to the EU. While at a lower level than imports, EU exports to the EFTA countries and Russia have also risen strongly, reflecting the economic growth these economies have recorded. The outcome of these changes has been a widening of the trade deficit with Russia and a move from a surplus with the EFTA countries to a deficit.

For the other countries, imports from Japan have remained stable while exports have risen. Even so, a major trade surplus for Japan is still observed. For South Korea, there has been a strong growth in both imports and exports, though from a relatively small base. The same is the case for Canada and Australia but here these trends have increased the EU trade surplus.

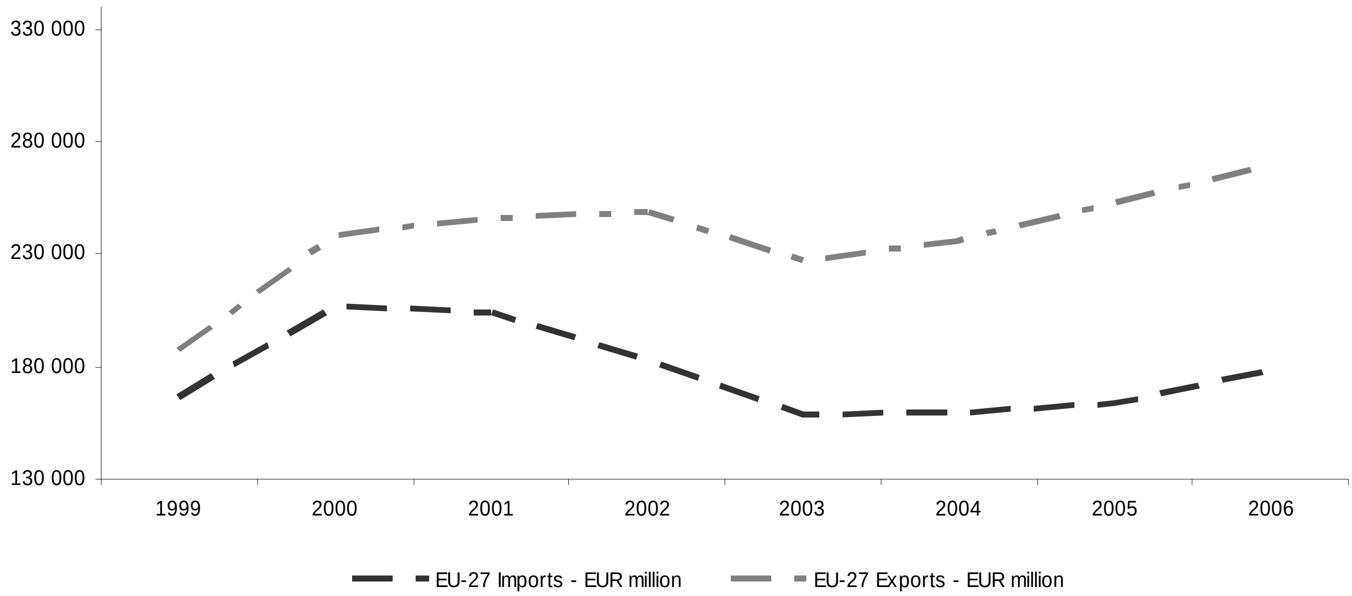
Figure 1: Evolution of EU-27 external trade with United States, EFTA countries, China, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Canada and Australia in EUR million, 1999-2006



Country Trends

United States of America

Figure 2: Evolution of EU-27 external trade with USA in EUR million, 1999-2006



Imports from and exports to the USA grew strongly in 2000. After that imports fell back and then stabilised while exports flattened and then resumed a gentle upward growth.

Tables 1 and 2 show that the annual average growth rate in imports over the period from 1999 to 2006 was 1.0% while export growth was 5.3%. Within the total, mineral products including oil and gas showed strong growth, particularly in recent years, on both sides of the account. This is a reflection of the rapid rise in oil prices. Chemical industry products including pharmaceuticals also showed a rapid import and export growth, again in part a reflection of rising oil prices but also of the strength and competitiveness of the European pharmaceutical industry.

Two other sections, machinery etc and vehicles, aircraft, vessels have shown growth in exports but a more subdued performance for imports. This reflects the success of the European aircraft and aircraft engine manufacturers and the motor vehicle industry in their exports to the key USA market. However, in medical instruments, the USA remains strong and has outperformed the European industry in 2005 and 2006, though losing ground over the longer run.

Table 1: EU-27 imports from United States - Top 5 products, 2006

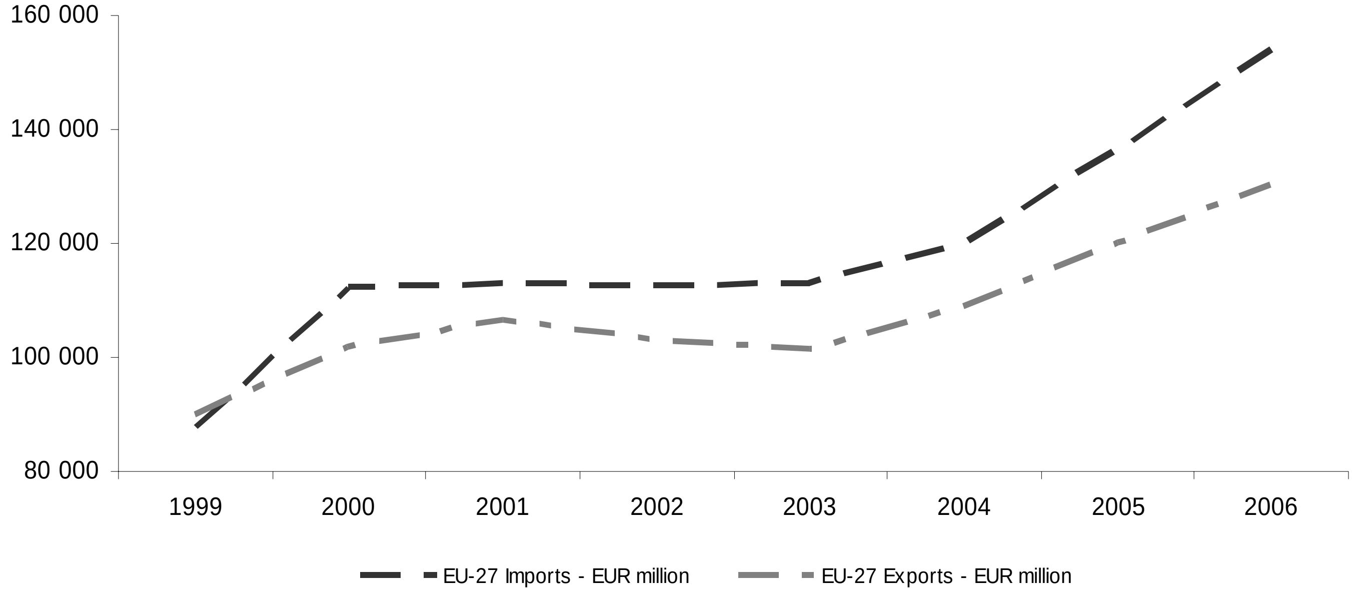
	Sections of the Harmonized System	Trade value, 2006 (in EUR million)	Growth rates (%) Annual average 1999 2006	Yearly 2004 2005	Yearly 2005 2006
XVI	Machinery; electrical equip.; image, sound	54 945	-2.4%	3.7%	5.9%
VI	Products of the chemical or allied industries	31 580	7.4%	-1.4%	10.7%
XVII	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels	30 001	0.8%	-0.7%	3.2%
XVIII	Optical, musical, medical instrum.; clocks	18 127	3.9%	4.4%	8.8%
V	Mineral products	6 510	14.4%	35.3%	31.0%
	Others	36 872	0.1%	3.9%	12.8%
	TOTAL	178 035	1.0%	2.8%	8.7%

Table 2: EU-27 exports to United States - Top 5 products, 2006

	Sections of the Harmonized System	Trade value, 2006 (in EUR million)	Growth rates (%) Annual average 1999 2006	Yearly 2004 2005	Yearly 2005 2006
XVI	Machinery; electrical equip.; image, sound	64 995	2.1%	10.8%	3.5%
VI	Products of the chemical or allied industries	52 285	10.4%	4.0%	13.0%
XVII	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels	47 929	3.7%	5.2%	2.6%
V	Mineral products	18 642	20.4%	33.3%	12.0%
XVIII	Optical, musical, medical instrum.; clocks	17 616	8.2%	3.2%	0.9%
	Others	67 412	3.7%	4.1%	7.1%
	TOTAL	268 879	5.3%	7.4%	6.3%

EFTA countries

Figure 3: Evolution of EU-27 external trade with EFTA countries in EUR million, 1999-2006



After a spurt between 1999 and 2000, EU-27 trade with the EFTA countries remained relatively stable until 2003 before resuming a strong upward trend. Between 1999 and 2006, the annual average growth rate in imports was 8.4% and in exports 5.5%. There was strong growth in imports of mineral products (oil and gas) with Norway a main EU supplier, reflecting rising oil prices. In base metal products, Switzerland is a key supplier of aluminium but a consumer of iron and steel products. A section that has seen a sustained growth in imports from EFTA countries is clocks and medical appliances, averaging some 7% per annum over the period 1999 to 2006.

Table 3: EU-27 imports from EFTA countries - Top 5 products, 2006

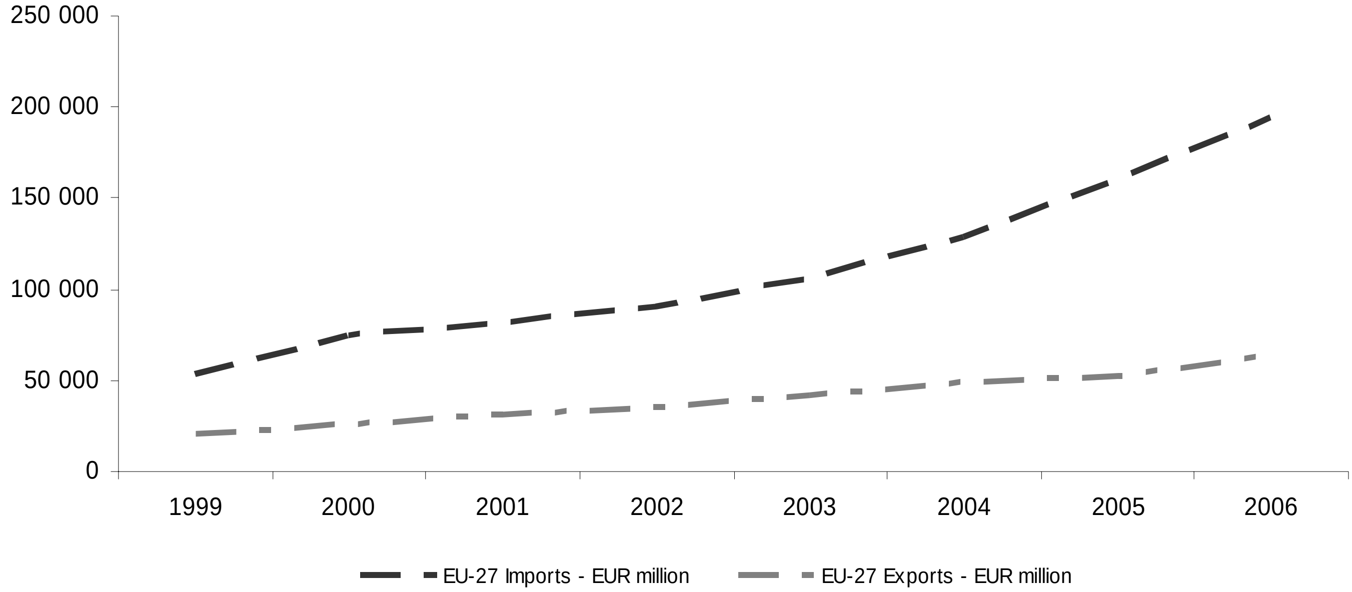
	Sections of the Harmonized System	Trade value, 2006 (in EUR million)	Growth rates (%) Annual average 1999 2006	Yearly 2004 2005	2005 2006
V	Mineral products	48 845	19.4%	26.2%	13.7%
VI	Products of the chemical or allied industries	24 649	9.0%	7.2%	13.2%
XVI	Machinery; electrical equip.; image, sound	18 724	2.0%	11.2%	2.0%
XV	Base metals and articles of base metal	12 518	7.1%	4.5%	24.9%
XVIII	Optical, musical, medical instrum.; clocks	8 625	7.0%	7.5%	9.6%
	Others	40 587	4.1%	10.3%	13.9%
	TOTAL	153 948	8.4%	13.8%	12.7%

Table 4: EU-27 exports to EFTA countries - Top 5 products, 2006

	Sections of the Harmonized System	Trade value, 2006 (in EUR million)	Growth rates (%) Annual average 1999 2006	Yearly 2004 2005	2005 2006
XVI	Machinery; electrical equip.; image, sound	29 947	4.4%	14.5%	3.7%
VI	Products of the chemical or allied industries	19 121	8.4%	10.5%	8.6%
XVII	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels	14 745	1.5%	7.0%	1.1%
XV	Base metals and articles of base metal	11 505	8.3%	11.5%	21.7%
V	Mineral products	8 264	13.2%	23.9%	20.5%
	Others	46 590	4.9%	6.7%	8.9%
	TOTAL	130 172	5.5%	10.3%	8.3%

China

Figure 4: Evolution of EU-27 external trade with China in EUR million, 1999-2006



Trade with China has been growing extremely rapidly between 1999 and 2006. Imports from China grew at an annual average of 20.5% over the period and even faster in 2005 and 2006. Export growth averaged 18.3% over the same period and stood at 22.8% in 2006.
The key areas for Chinese imports are consumer electronic equipment and computers in Section XVI, clothing and footwear and toys and games. Imports from China in all these areas have been growing strongly.

Base metal product imports have also grown very strongly but the pace and sustained nature of Chinese growth has created shortages for basic products, causing China to import much scrap metal as well as some steel products to support its internal demand..

Table 5: EU-27 imports from China - Top 5 products, 2006

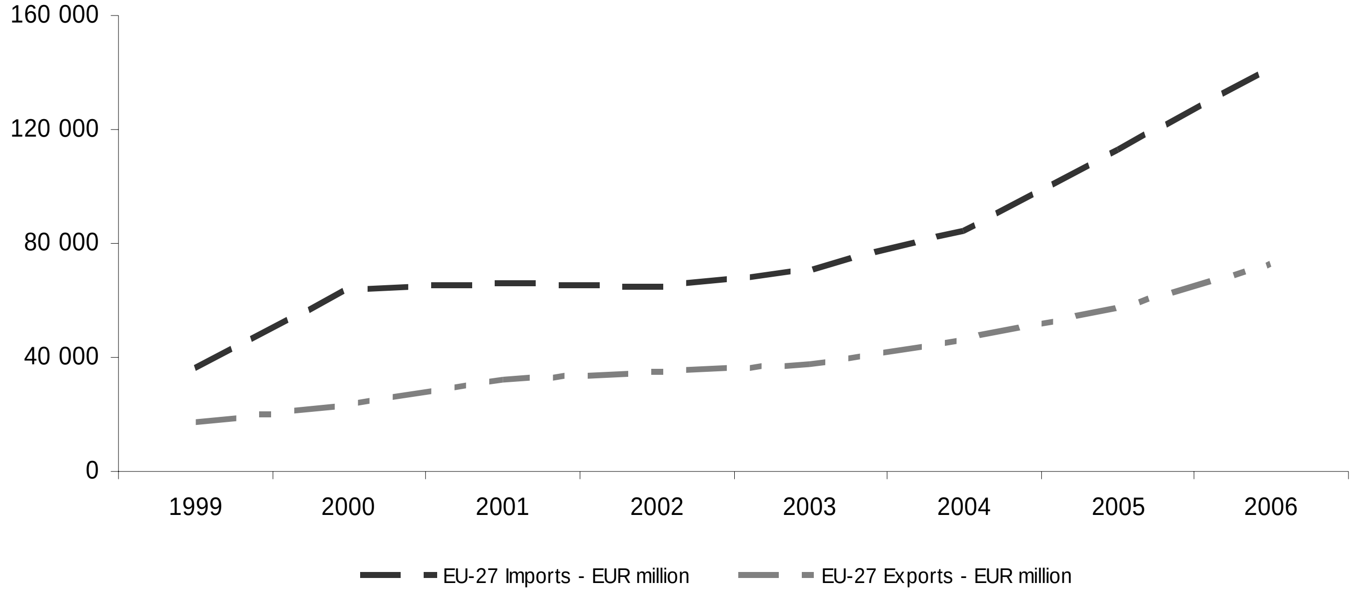
	Sections of the Harmonized System	Trade value, 2006 (in EUR million)	Growth rates (%) Annual average 1999 2006	Yearly 2004 2005	Yearly 2005 2006
XVI	Machinery; electrical equip.; image, sound	88 375	27.5%	17.9%	25.3%
XI	Textiles and textile articles	24 079	16.2%	41.9%	12.7%
XX	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	19 266	15.4%	24.2%	13.5%
XV	Base metals and articles of base metal	13 571	24.9%	28.9%	51.1%
XVIII	Optical, musical, medical instrum.; clocks	7 144	15.7%	18.4%	22.8%
	Others	41 839	15.2%	29.8%	14.0%
	TOTAL	194 273	20.5%	24.6%	21.2%

Table 6: EU-27 exports to China - Top 5 products, 2006

	Sections of the Harmonized System	Trade value, 2006 (in EUR million)	Growth rates (%) Annual average 1999 2006	Yearly 2004 2005	Yearly 2005 2006
XVI	Machinery; electrical equip.; image, sound	27 936	14.8%	-1.8%	15.1%
XVII	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels	9 905	24.6%	15.4%	46.7%
XV	Base metals and articles of base metal	7 744	30.7%	33.9%	32.0%
VI	Products of the chemical or allied industries	4 385	17.7%	14.9%	16.3%
XVIII	Optical, musical, medical instrum.; clocks	2 944	23.4%	1.6%	20.9%
	Others	10 794	16.8%	13.3%	22.9%
	TOTAL	63 707	18.3%	7.2%	22.8%

Russia

Figure 5: Evolution of EU-27 external trade with Russia in EUR million, 1999-2006



After a sharp spurt of growth between 1999 and 2000, imports flattened until 2003 when strong upward growth emerged. Exports in contrast have grown steadily year by year between 1999 and 2006. The result is that import growth averaged 21.6% over the period, while exports grew even faster at an average of 23.1%. Russia is a major supplier of raw materials to the EU with much of the growth in imports in oil and gas products. The rise in the value of such imports is closely tied to the recent rises in oil and gas prices.

Other raw materials from Russia are base metals, diamonds and forest products, all growing rapidly, particularly in 2006 for metals.

On the other side of the account, Russia continues to be a major growth area for EU exports. Strong growth rates were recorded for motor vehicles (with a rise of 51.1% recorded for the broader vehicle category in 2006), computers and consumer electronic apparatus. The result of these developments is a large and growing EU-27 trade deficit with Russia.

Table 7: EU-27 imports from Russia - Top 5 products, 2006

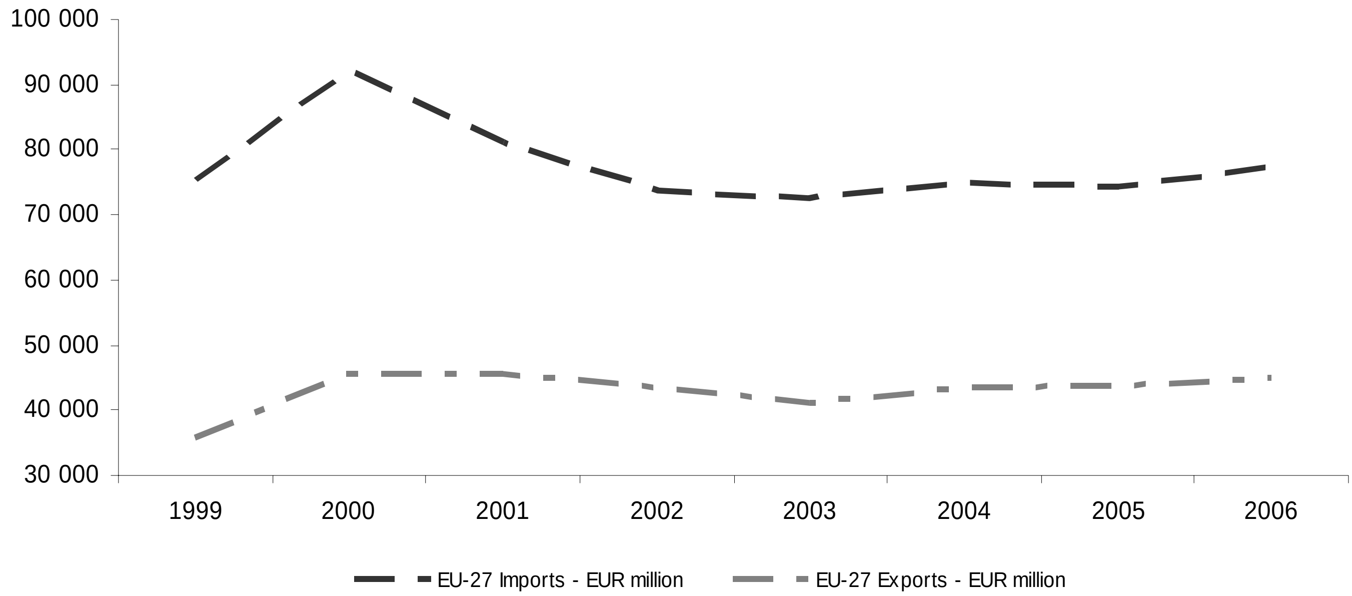
	Sections of the Harmonized System	Trade value, 2006 (in EUR million)	Growth rates (%) Annual average 1999 2006	Yearly 2004 2005	Yearly 2005 2006
V	Mineral products	95 338	26.2%	48.4%	21.5%
XV	Base metals and articles of base metal	12 317	13.5%	3.7%	27.1%
VI	Products of the chemical or allied industries	3 888	12.3%	17.2%	7.9%
XIV	Pearls; precious stones and metals; coin	2 786	12.7%	16.9%	10.7%
IX	Wood; wood charcoal; cork; art. of straw	2 122	8.4%	12.9%	6.1%
	Others	24 313	17.3%	10.8%	48.9%
	TOTAL	140 763	21.6%	34.1%	25.0%

Table 8: EU-27 exports to Russia - Top 5 products, 2006

	Sections of the Harmonized System	Trade value, 2006 (in EUR million)	Growth rates (%) Annual average 1999 2006	Yearly 2004 2005	Yearly 2005 2006
XVI	Machinery; electrical equip.; image, sound	25 050	27.3%	28.3%	16.9%
VI	Products of the chemical or allied industries	8 814	24.9%	27.3%	30.2%
XVII	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels	8 758	32.6%	22.4%	51.1%
XV	Base metals and articles of base metal	4 093	23.3%	29.3%	37.0%
VII	Plastics and rubber	3 792	26.5%	26.2%	32.2%
	Others	21 731	16.4%	15.9%	27.6%
	TOTAL	72 238	23.1%	23.6%	27.0%

Japan

Figure 6: Evolution of EU-27 external trade with Japan in EUR million, 1999-2006



Japan was one of the earliest exponents of high quality and cost competitive manufacturing. EU imports from Japan grew by 0.3% per year on average between 1999 and 2006. EU exports to Japan, while stagnating between 2000 and 2004 showed enough growth in the other years to show an average annual growth over the whole period of 3.3%. Even so, the deficit with Japan remains substantial.

Table 9: EU-27 imports from Japan - Top 5 products, 2006

Sections of the Harmonized System		Trade value, 2006 (in EUR million)	Growth rates (%) Annual average 1999 2006	Yearly 2004 2005	Yearly 2005 2006
XVI	Machinery; electrical equip.; image, sound	36 672	0.0%	0.6%	2.2%
XVII	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels	19 672	0.5%	-6.5%	9.3%
XVIII	Optical, musical, medical instrum.; clocks	5 921	-1.0%	-4.5%	3.8%
VI	Products of the chemical or allied industries	5 802	2.9%	2.6%	1.9%
VII	Plastics and rubber	2 924	3.4%	2.9%	7.9%
	Others	6 209	-0.3%	8.3%	2.5%
	TOTAL	77 200	0.3%	-0.9%	4.2%

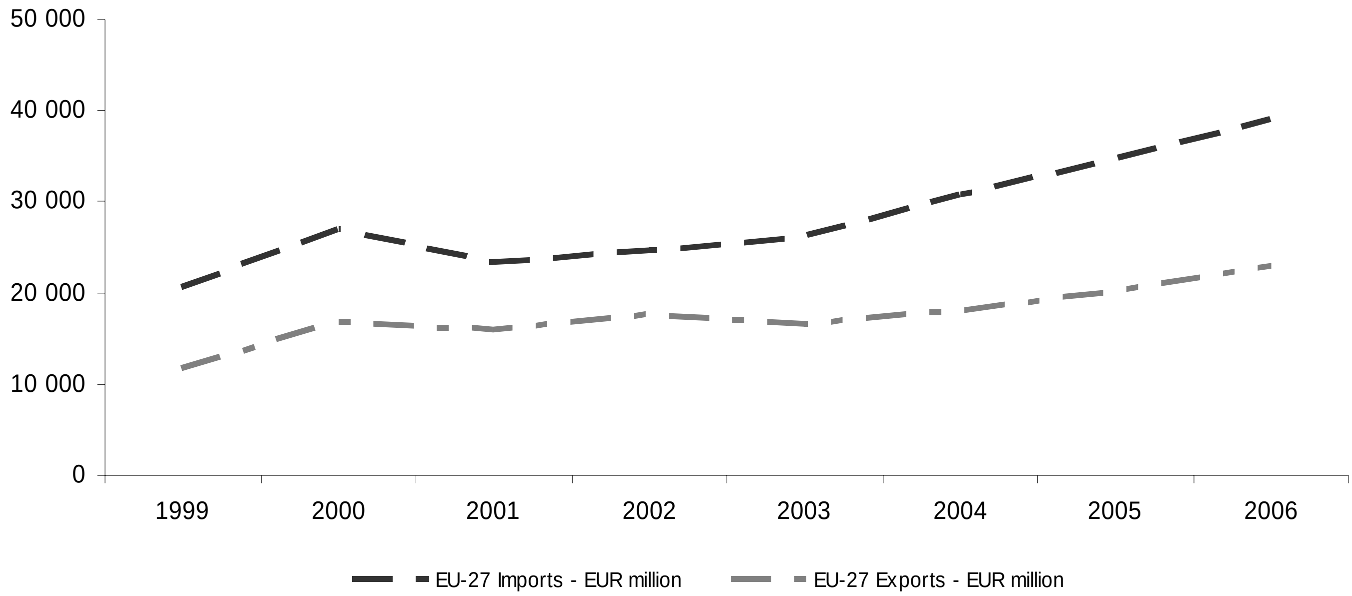
Table 10: EU-27 exports to Japan - Top 5 products, 2006

Sections of the Harmonized System		Trade value, 2006 (in EUR million)	Growth rates (%) Annual average 1999 2006	Yearly 2004 2005	Yearly 2005 2006
XVI	Machinery; electrical equip.; image, sound	8 922	2.9%	2.0%	3.7%
VI	Products of the chemical or allied industries	8 660	4.1%	2.3%	2.1%
XVII	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels	6 537	1.8%	-2.1%	-3.3%
XVIII	Optical, musical, medical instrum.; clocks	4 569	9.5%	7.6%	2.0%
IV	Foodstuffs; beverages, spirits; tobacco	2 011	1.5%	2.1%	6.9%
	Others	14 063	2.4%	-1.8%	4.1%
	TOTAL	44 761	3.3%	0.7%	2.4%

Among Japan's strongest areas in 2006 were motor vehicles and consumer electronics with motor vehicles showing a 9.3% growth in that year. Medical instruments were one of the fastest growing sectors in the EU's exports to Japan, rising by an annual average of 9.5% between 1999 and 2006, though the growth has been slower in recent years. Products of the chemical industries also displayed above average export growth, recording an annual average of 4.1% over the same period, with organic chemicals and pharmaceutical products mainly responsible.

South Korea

Figure 7: Evolution of EU-27 external trade with South Korea in EUR million, 1999-2006



While imports from South Korea stagnated between 2000 and 2003, they have since grown strongly, rising by 12.3% in 2005 and 13.5% in 2006. Overall, there was an annual average growth rate between 1999 and 2006 of 9.7%. The same picture emerges for EU exports to the South Korea with an annual average growth rate of 10.1% and figures of 12.8% and 13.1% in 2005 and 2006 respectively.

Table 11: EU-27 imports from South Korea - Top 5 products, 2006

Sections of the Harmonized System		Trade value, 2006 (in EUR million)	Growth rates (%) Annual average 1999 2006	Yearly 2004 2005	Yearly 2005 2006
XVI	Machinery; electrical equip.; image, sound	20 201	10.7%	13.9%	5.8%
XVII	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels	10 977	11.6%	10.1%	22.1%
XVIII	Optical, musical, medical instrum.; clocks	1 655	23.0%	59.8%	60.6%
VII	Plastics and rubber	1 588	6.1%	8.1%	10.4%
XV	Base metals and articles of base metal	1 579	10.0%	14.1%	58.5%
	Others	3 087	-0.8%	0.1%	6.5%
	TOTAL	39 087	9.7%	12.3%	13.5%

Table 12: EU-27 exports to South Korea - Top 5 products, 2006

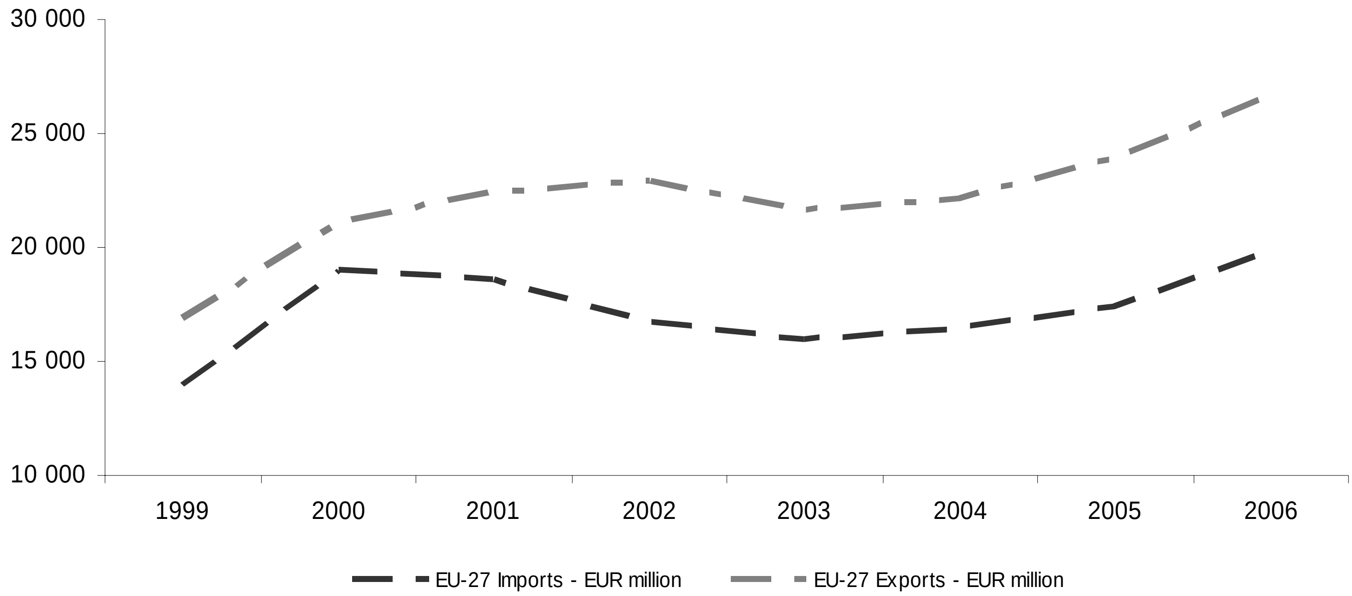
Sections of the Harmonized System		Trade value, 2006 (in EUR million)	Growth rates (%) Annual average 1999 2006	Yearly 2004 2005	Yearly 2005 2006
XVI	Machinery; electrical equip.; image, sound	7 817	10.6%	4.7%	11.6%
VI	Products of the chemical or allied industries	3 403	10.9%	13.3%	18.5%
XVIII	Optical, musical, medical instrum.; clocks	2 761	16.4%	42.3%	12.3%
XVII	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels	2 296	12.5%	18.5%	25.1%
XV	Base metals and articles of base metal	1 857	14.8%	33.2%	6.4%
	Others	4 733	4.5%	4.7%	9.8%
	TOTAL	22 868	10.1%	12.8%	13.1%

For imports from South Korea, the fastest growing sectors are optical and medical equipment, vehicles and consumer electronics and computer components rising at an annual average growth rate of 23.0%, 11.6% and 10.7% respectively. The optical equipment heading includes liquid crystal displays where South Korea has become a major producer and the growth in this part of the section has accelerated in 2005 and 2006. The growth rate in 2006 for the whole section was 60.6%. The vehicles category includes maritime vessels, an area where South Korea's ship yards are major competitors on the world market. Consumer electronics and computer components are other products where South Korea has established a strong position.

On the export side, the largest section is electrical machinery with the EU exporting photographic and cinematographic equipment to South Korea. Another major section is chemical products, including pharmaceuticals and organic chemicals, which achieved a growth rate of 18.5% in 2006, above the average of 10.9% for recent years. While small compared to South Korea's imports into the EU, exports of vehicles grew by 25.1% in 2006, well above the average of 12.5% in recent years, the main contributors being motor cars and aircraft.

Canada

Figure 8: Evolution of EU-27 external trade with Canada in EUR million, 1999-2006



Canadian imports into the EU grew at an annual average rate of 5.1% over the years 1999 to 2000 but accelerated to 14.2% in 2006. Machinery and electrical equipment is Canada's largest contribution to EU imports but it grew at a below average rate over the whole period. In contrast, vehicles, aircraft and vessels, averaged growth rates of 8.1% but recorded a growth of 38.4% in 2006. The recent performance of the Chemical and allied industries sector has been significant – an average annual growth rate of 19.4% but reaching 41.6% in 2006 as Canada has exploited access to uranium and other radioactive elements. Base metal products have also shown very strong growth rates, with annual average growth of 10.3% and rises of over 30% in both 2005 and 2006. This is an area which has experienced rapid growth in prices, the result of very high Chinese demand for such materials.

Table 13: EU-27 imports from Canada - Top 5 products, 2006

Sections of the Harmonized System		Trade value, 2006 (in EUR million)	Growth rates (%) Annual average 1999 2006	Yearly 2004 2005	Yearly 2005 2006
XVI	Machinery; electrical equip.; image, sound	4 462	2.3%	14.6%	5.3%
XVII	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels	2 769	8.1%	10.7%	38.4%
VI	Products of the chemical or allied industries	2 099	19.4%	17.8%	41.6%
V	Mineral products	2 079	6.3%	13.3%	7.9%
XV	Base metals and articles of base metal	1 561	10.3%	0.6%	33.2%
	Others	6 870	2.3%	-3.7%	4.8%
	TOTAL	19 840	5.1%	5.7%	14.2%

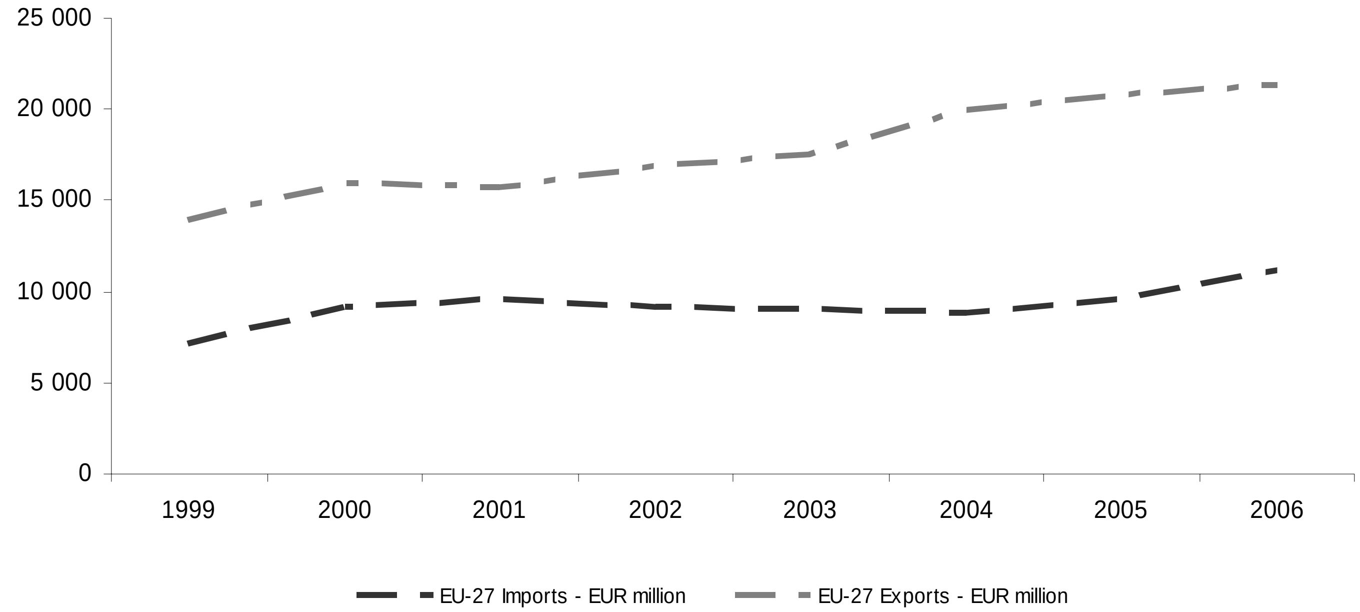
Table 14: EU-27 exports to Canada - Top 5 products, 2006

Sections of the Harmonized System		Trade value, 2006 (in EUR million)	Growth rates (%) Annual average 1999 2006	Yearly 2004 2005	Yearly 2005 2006
XVI	Machinery; electrical equip.; image, sound	6 495	2.3%	5.4%	5.7%
VI	Products of the chemical or allied industries	4 706	12.1%	10.5%	15.7%
XVII	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels	3 939	5.6%	3.7%	7.2%
V	Mineral products	2 274	33.8%	22.0%	49.8%
XV	Base metals and articles of base metal	1 932	6.7%	18.9%	3.8%
	Others	7 281	5.5%	6.2%	9.9%
	TOTAL	26 626	6.7%	8.1%	11.4%

EU exports to Canada have outpaced imports, growing at an annual average rate of 6.7% over the period 1999 to 2000. The fastest growing sector has been oil products, where the EU remains an important supplier of Canada's energy needs. Average growth was 33.8% but reached 49.8% in 2006 in response to the recent rises in oil prices. Chemical products, largely pharmaceuticals, also showed above average growth of 12.1% per annum. Other important export segments were gas turbines for aircraft and motor vehicles. The EU's trade balance with Canada showed a surplus throughout the period.

Australia

Figure 9: Evolution of EU-27 external trade with Australia in EUR million, 1999-2006



EU imports from Australia averaged annual growth rates of 6.6% over the period 1999 to 2006. There were strong growth rates in mineral products, largely coal and zinc, of 12.6%, and base metals, nickel and lead, of 13.2% with an acceleration in both cases in 2006, to 31.2% and 43.5% respectively, as prices were dragged up by the increase in demand from China. EU exports to Australia recorded an annual average growth rate of 6.4%, with above average rates for vehicles, particularly motor cars, and medical instruments of 11.0% and 10.8% respectively. 2006 saw a high growth rate of 14.3% for medical instruments. Overall growth of exports has been subdued in both 2005 and 2006. The EU trade balance with Australia showed a surplus throughout the period.

Table 15: EU-27 imports from Australia - Top 5 products, 2006

	Sections of the Harmonized System	Trade value, 2006 (in EUR million)	Growth rates (%) Annual average 1999 2006	Yearly 2004 2005	Yearly 2005 2006
V	Mineral products	4 705	12.6%	20.0%	31.2%
XV	Base metals and articles of base metal	1 216	13.2%	0.3%	43.5%
IV	Foodstuffs; beverages, spirits; tobacco	925	8.1%	-6.3%	3.0%
XVI	Machinery; electrical equip.; image, sound	830	2.3%	7.7%	-4.0%
VI	Products of the chemical or allied industries	659	9.6%	13.1%	0.5%
	Others	2 798	-0.8%	3.8%	2.5%
	TOTAL	11 135	6.6%	8.8%	16.2%

Table 16: EU-27 exports to Australia - Top 5 products, 2006

	Sections of the Harmonized System	Trade value, 2006 (in EUR million)	Growth rates (%) Annual average 1999 2006	Yearly 2004 2005	Yearly 2005 2006
XVI	Machinery; electrical equip.; image, sound	6 544	5.6%	11.4%	5.3%
VI	Products of the chemical or allied industries	3 801	5.9%	3.5%	-2.5%
XVII	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels	3 729	11.0%	-0.9%	-6.6%
XVIII	Optical, musical, medical instrum.; clocks	1 241	10.8%	7.9%	14.3%
XV	Base metals and articles of base metal	1 036	7.3%	12.8%	7.9%
	Others	4 966	3.9%	-2.0%	8.4%
	TOTAL	21 317	6.4%	4.2%	2.8%

Import/Export Shares by Section and Country

As the world's largest economy, the USA is a major partner in both EU imports and exports (Table 17 and Table 18). This is particularly true for exports where the USA has the highest share of all the countries included in this analysis for 16 out of the 22 product groups identified. The exceptions are:

- Section I. Live animals: animal products where Russia takes the highest share at 16.9% followed by Japan with 11.4% with the USA third with 9.9%.
- Section II. Vegetable products where the EFTA countries' share is 16.4% and Russia's 13.4% as against 11.8% for the USA.
- Section IX. Wood; charcoal; cork; articles of straw where the EFTA countries account for 21.6%, compared with 19.4% for the USA.
- Section X. Pulp of wood: paper and paperboard where the EFTA countries account for 16.2%, compared with 13.1% for the USA.
- Section XI. Textiles and textile articles with the EFTA countries' share at 14.5% compared to the USA share of 13.5%.
- Section XX. Miscellaneous manufactured articles with the EFTA countries' share 23.8% compared to 19.0% for the USA.

At the level of total exports, the USA accounts for nearly a quarter with a share of 23.2% followed by the EFTA countries at 11.2%, Russia at 6.2%, China at 5.5% and Japan at 3.9%.

Considering each country in turn, the USA's highest ratio in individual section headings was in works of art. For the EFTA countries, the highest ratio came in miscellaneous manufactures, largely furniture, while China's highest ratio was in base metals including scrap. For Russia, the key section was animal products, particularly meat, while for Japan it was travel goods and other cases.

South Korea's highest entry was photographic and cinematographic equipment. For Australia, the key export was olive oil and for Canada alcoholic beverages.

For imports, the position is more fluid. For total imports, China emerges as the largest source of imports in value terms, accounting for 14.4% of the total compared to 13.2% for the USA, 11.4% for the EFTA countries and 10.4% for Russia. At product level, the USA and China are the major sources of imports for 11 and 7 categories respectively, with two categories for the EFTA countries (live animals: animal products; precious stones) and two for Russia (sections of mineral products and wood). Imports from China were concentrated in manufactured products, particularly plastics, textiles, footwear, glass and ceramics and miscellaneous manufactures, including furniture. For the USA, manufactured items also featured with pharmaceuticals, precision and medical instruments, arms and ammunition and works of art prominent. However, in addition, there were imports from the USA in more basic products such as soya beans, alcoholic beverages, animal feed etc. and plastics and rubber products and pulp and paper products.

Looking at imports by country, the highest share recorded by the USA at section level was 43.5% in arms and ammunition. The EFTA countries achieved their highest penetration in imports of pharmaceuticals and organic chemicals, while China recorded over 60% of toys, soft furnishings etc. Imports from Russia took more than a quarter of mineral products, mainly oil and gas and Japan's highest ratio was 20% in vehicles where South Korea had 11%. Canada recorded its highest ratio in pulp and paper products and Australia in wine.

Table 17: EU-27 Exports - Share of United States, EFTA countries, China, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Canada and Australia in the extra-EU-27 trade by product, 2006

Sections of the Harmonized System	Total extra EU-27 Exports (in EUR million)	Shares on total extra-EU (%) per section							
		United States	EFTA	China	Russia	Japan	South Korea	Canada	Australia
I Live animals; animal products	12 282	9,9%	7,2%	3,5%	16,9%	11,4%	3,3%	1,3%	1,5%
II Vegetable products	11 931	11,8%	16,4%	1,3%	13,4%	3,9%	0,5%	2,0%	1,0%
III Animal or vegetable fats, oils and waxes	2 609	28,8%	10,0%	1,3%	7,2%	5,6%	3,5%	3,7%	5,2%
IV Foodstuffs; beverages, spirits; tobacco	40 584	23,3%	10,2%	1,2%	6,9%	5,0%	1,4%	3,8%	2,1%
V Mineral products	62 231	30,0%	13,3%	0,7%	0,8%	0,6%	0,1%	3,7%	0,1%
VI Products of the chemical or allied industries	163 869	31,9%	11,7%	2,7%	5,4%	5,3%	2,1%	2,9%	2,3%
VII Plastics and rubber	45 062	14,5%	13,6%	6,3%	8,4%	3,0%	1,8%	1,5%	1,8%
VIII Leather, furskins; saddlery; handbags	9 618	14,6%	11,0%	5,9%	6,1%	12,2%	3,5%	1,6%	0,5%
IX Wood; wood charcoal; cork; art. of straw	9 379	19,4%	21,6%	2,8%	5,5%	11,4%	1,1%	2,5%	1,4%
X Pulp of wood; paper and paperboard	26 364	13,1%	16,2%	5,7%	9,5%	2,2%	1,1%	1,9%	3,0%
XI Textiles and textile articles	35 202	13,5%	14,5%	3,1%	9,2%	5,2%	2,0%	1,8%	1,1%
XII Footwear, headgear, umbrellas, sticks	5 707	23,9%	17,1%	0,8%	13,0%	6,7%	1,3%	3,0%	1,4%
XIII Art. of stone, plaster, cement, ceramic; glass	16 350	25,7%	12,7%	2,6%	7,6%	3,4%	2,0%	2,2%	1,9%
XIV Pearls; precious stones and metals; coin	29 119	20,1%	13,8%	4,2%	1,0%	4,2%	0,7%	1,0%	0,6%
XV Base metals and articles of base metal	84 799	16,7%	13,6%	9,1%	4,8%	1,9%	2,2%	2,3%	1,2%
XVI Machinery; electrical equip.; image, sound	345 443	18,8%	8,7%	8,1%	7,3%	2,6%	2,3%	1,9%	1,9%
XVII Vehicles, aircraft, vessels	163 921	29,2%	9,0%	6,0%	5,3%	4,0%	1,4%	2,4%	2,3%
XVIII Optical, musical, medical instrum.; clocks	55 562	31,7%	8,7%	5,3%	4,1%	8,2%	5,0%	2,1%	2,2%
XIX Arms and ammunition	1 611	33,2%	8,6%	0,4%	2,3%	1,0%	0,5%	1,1%	1,6%
XX Miscellaneous manufactured articles	19 530	19,0%	23,8%	1,6%	10,8%	4,2%	1,2%	2,4%	1,9%
XXI Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques	4 723	64,8%	19,7%	1,1%	2,2%	1,1%	0,7%	1,8%	1,5%
Goods not elsewhere specified	12 119	8,9%	6,7%	2,2%	1,7%	2,0%	0,7%	0,9%	1,0%
TOTAL	1 157 782	23,2%	11,2%	5,5%	6,2%	3,9%	2,0%	2,3%	1,8%

Table 18: EU-27 Imports - Share of United States, EFTA countries, China, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Canada and Australia in the extra-EU-27 trade by product, 2006

Sections of the Harmonized System	Total extra EU-27 Imports (in EUR million)	Shares on total extra-EU (%) per section							
		United States	EFTA	China	Russia	Japan	South Korea	Canada	Australia
I Live animals; animal products	19 159	6,0%	21,2%	7,8%	2,3%	0,2%	0,3%	2,2%	1,6%
II Vegetable products	29 021	10,5%	0,7%	4,1%	1,0%	0,1%	0,0%	3,1%	0,9%
III Animal or vegetable fats, oils and waxes	5 079	4,0%	2,1%	1,8%	2,1%	0,3%	0,0%	3,1%	0,2%
IV Foodstuffs; beverages, spirits; tobacco	27 513	8,9%	8,0%	3,4%	0,5%	0,2%	0,1%	1,1%	3,4%
V Mineral products	363 008	1,8%	13,5%	0,5%	26,3%	0,1%	0,1%	0,6%	1,3%
VI Products of the chemical or allied industries	97 791	32,3%	25,2%	6,2%	4,0%	5,9%	0,6%	2,1%	0,7%
VII Plastics and rubber	34 228	19,0%	11,6%	15,2%	1,5%	8,5%	4,6%	0,9%	0,2%
VIII Leather, furskins; saddlery; handbags	11 169	3,5%	4,3%	46,7%	1,8%	0,3%	0,2%	0,8%	1,2%
IX Wood; wood charcoal; cork; art. of straw	12 122	8,4%	6,9%	16,8%	17,5%	0,0%	0,0%	3,5%	0,2%
X Pulp of wood; paper and paperboard	14 376	24,1%	21,3%	10,2%	4,0%	1,6%	0,6%	8,7%	0,3%
XI Textiles and textile articles	76 832	1,8%	2,1%	31,3%	0,2%	0,8%	1,4%	0,2%	0,5%
XII Footwear, headgear, umbrellas, sticks	13 950	0,6%	1,3%	49,8%	0,1%	0,4%	0,4%	0,2%	0,1%
XIII Art. of stone, plaster, cement, ceramic; glass	9 192	15,0%	7,5%	35,8%	0,9%	5,6%	1,9%	0,9%	0,2%
XIV Pearls; precious stones and metals; coin	32 565	9,7%	12,7%	6,5%	8,6%	1,3%	0,5%	4,7%	1,6%
XV Base metals and articles of base metal	96 506	6,3%	13,0%	14,1%	12,8%	2,4%	1,6%	1,6%	1,3%
XVI Machinery; electrical equip.; image, sound	313 078	17,6%	6,0%	28,2%	0,3%	11,7%	6,5%	1,4%	0,3%
XVII Vehicles, aircraft, vessels	96 366	31,1%	4,1%	3,6%	0,5%	20,4%	11,4%	2,9%	0,2%
XVIII Optical, musical, medical instrum.; clocks	50 420	36,0%	17,1%	14,2%	0,2%	11,7%	3,3%	1,4%	0,9%
XIX Arms and ammunition	711	43,5%	7,2%	2,5%	1,4%	2,3%	0,3%	1,1%	0,4%
XX Miscellaneous manufactured articles	30 957	5,5%	4,2%	62,2%	0,5%	2,8%	0,5%	0,6%	0,2%
XXI Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques	3 041	61,1%	23,1%	1,5%	0,8%	0,9%	0,3%	1,1%	0,7%
Goods not elsewhere specified	13 469	14,2%	8,0%	2,3%	12,0%	3,2%	0,8%	1,3%	0,9%
TOTAL	1 350 505	13,2%	11,4%	14,4%	10,4%	5,7%	2,9%	1,5%	0,8%

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Data sources:

The contents of this "Statistics in focus" are based on data available in Eurostat's Comext database (source Eurostat).

Methodology for external trade statistics:

In the methodology applied for the statistics on the trading of goods, extra-EU trade (trade between Member States and non-member countries) 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.

Composition and definition of the different groups of countries and organisations:

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.

EFTA (European Free Trade Association) countries are composed of four Member States: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

Commodities classification:

For the purposes of this publication, products are presented according to Sections of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) of the Customs Cooperation Council. For practical reasons, the titles of these sections have been shortened in the tables. More extensive section headings are given below

For more information on Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System follow the link: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nomenclatures

Then click on "Classifications" and "Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, 2007".

Sections headings of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS)	
Section number	Section Label
I	Live animals; animal products
II	Vegetable products
III	Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes
IV	Prepared foodstuffs; beverages, spirits and vinegar; tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes
V	Mineral products
VI	Products of the chemical or allied industries
VII	Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof
VIII	Raw hides/skins, leather, furskins, articles thereof; saddlery/harness; travel goods/handbags/similar cont.; animal gut articles (excl. silkworm gut)
IX	Wood/articles of wood; wood charcoal; cork/articles of cork; manufactures of straw, esparto or other plaiting materials; basketware/wickerwork
X	Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard; paper and paperboard and articles thereof
XI	Textiles and textile articles
XII	Footwear/headgear/umbrellas/walking-/seat-sticks/whips/riding-crops, parts; prepared feathers/articles; artificial flowers; articles of human hair
XIII	Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica or similar materials; ceramic products; glass and glassware
XIV	Natural/cultured pearls, precious/semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin
XV	Base metals and articles of base metal
XVI	Machinery/mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; parts; sound recorders/reproducers, tv image, sound recorders/reproducers, parts/accessories
XVII	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels and associated transport equipment
XVIII	Optical/photo-/cinematographic/measuring/checking/precision/medical/surgical instrum./appar.; clocks/watches; musical instruments; parts/accessories
XIX	Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof
XX	Miscellaneous manufactured articles
XXI	Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques
	Not elsewhere specified goods (chapter 99 of the Combined Nomenclature)

Further information:

Data: EUROSTAT Website/Home page/General and regional statistics/Data

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European Statistical Data Support:
Eurostat set up with the members of the 'European statistical system' a network of support centres, which will exist in nearly all Member States as well as in some EFTA COUNTRIES countries.

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