

EU-25 trade in textiles 2005

Slow growth in global textile trade but fast increasing importance of China

Statistics in focus

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Contents

Highlights 1

Nearly one-third of the EU textile imports is from China ... 2

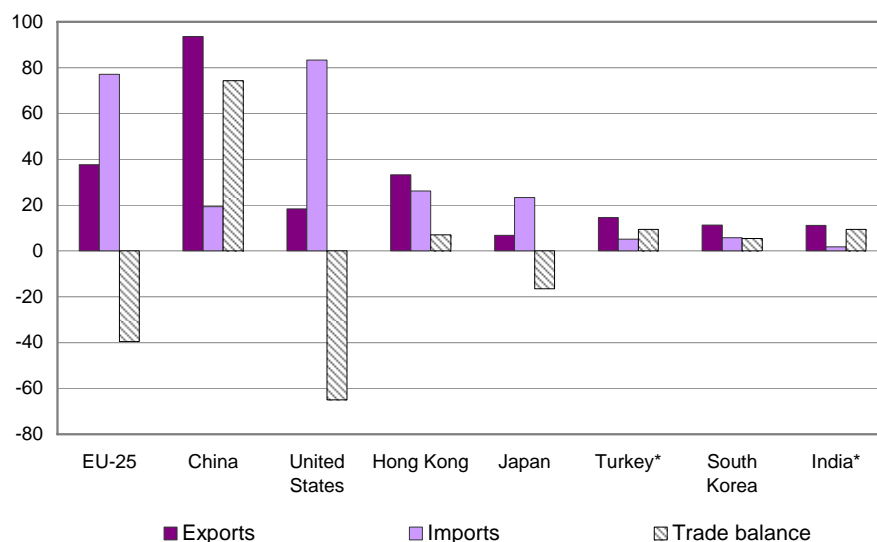
Clothing articles account for three-quarters of EU textile imports 2

Italy by far the most important exporter in extra-EU textile trade. 3

Highlights

- The EU-25 exported textile products worth EUR 38 billion in 2005. At the same time, imports amounted to roughly double that value (EUR 77 billion). The trade deficit of the EU thus amounted to EUR 39.5 billion.
- Textile products accounted for 4% of the value of all EU exports in 2005 and 7% of the value of all EU imports.
- EU exports of textile products increased by an average 1% per year between 2000 and 2005. During the same period, EU imports grew by an average 2% annually.
- 30% of all EU textile imports in 2005 came from China, followed at a considerable distance by Turkey (14%), India (7%) and Romania (5%). Chinese imports have increased fastest in recent years.
- In 2005, the USA remained the main EU partner for textile exports (share of 13% in total exports), ahead of Switzerland (10%) and Romania (8%). Since 2000, EU exports to Russia have developed particularly rapidly.
- Among the various products, only 'Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products' showed a positive trade balance. This category represented half of the EU exports in 2005.
- 43% of the textile exports and 74% of the textile imports concerned 'Articles of apparel and clothing accessories'.
- Italy was responsible for over one third (33.7%) of the total EU textile exports and was the only Member State to show a positive trade balance of noticeable size.
- The United Kingdom and Germany were the biggest importers of textile products in 2005 and together accounted for nearly 60% of the EU trade deficit in this sector.

Figure 1: EU and other major players in international textile trade in 2005 (EUR billion)



Nearly one-third of EU textile imports is from China

Table 1: EU-25 trade in textiles with top 25 trading partners (EUR million)

	EXPORTS								IMPORTS						TRADE BALANCE 2005		
	2000	2003	2004	2005	Average annual increase 2000-2005	Share in total EU textile exports 2005		Share in total EU exports 2005	2000	2003	2004	2005	Average annual increase 2000-2005	Share in total EU textile imports 2005		Share in total EU imports 2005	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	% cum.		%	%	%	%	%	%			%
Extra-European Union (25)	35 082	35 765	36 953	37 584	1%	100%	100%	4%	68 769	69 899	72 883	77 105	2%	100%	100%	7%	-39 521
China	536	721	812	955	12%	3%	3%	2%	11 770	14 605	16 427	22 903	14%	30%	30%	14%	-21 947
Turkey	1 638	1 718	2 007	1 885	3%	5%	8%	5%	7 958	10 302	10 788	11 157	7%	14%	44%	33%	-9 273
Romania	2 102	2 834	2 982	2 842	6%	8%	15%	13%	2 853	4 221	4 286	4 068	7%	5%	49%	27%	-1 226
United States	6 182	5 001	5 039	4 997	-4%	13%	28%	2%	2 475	1 577	1 388	1 447	-10%	2%	51%	1%	3 550
India	188	229	216	236	5%	1%	29%	1%	4 591	4 548	4 792	5 591	4%	7%	59%	30%	-5 355
Switzerland	3 550	3 718	3 770	3 830	2%	10%	39%	5%	1 806	1 718	1 623	1 506	-4%	2%	61%	2%	2 324
Tunisia	1 928	1 924	1 865	1 706	-2%	5%	44%	22%	2 782	2 991	2 855	2 697	-1%	3%	64%	40%	-990
Morocco	1 683	1 670	1 598	1 524	-2%	4%	48%	13%	2 502	2 624	2 575	2 398	-1%	3%	67%	26%	-874
Bangladesh	17	25	23	30	12%	0%	48%	3%	2 727	3 245	3 898	3 715	6%	5%	72%	90%	-3 685
Hong Kong	1 478	1 418	1 510	1 563	1%	4%	52%	8%	3 307	2 234	2 092	1 819	-11%	2%	74%	17%	-255
Russia	1 320	1 927	2 243	2 729	16%	7%	59%	5%	347	298	271	200	-10%	0%	75%	0%	2 529
Japan	2 353	2 126	2 019	2 005	-3%	5%	65%	5%	1 086	707	676	640	-10%	1%	75%	1%	1 365
Bulgaria	668	1 036	1 075	1 043	9%	3%	67%	15%	866	1 153	1 268	1 299	8%	2%	77%	24%	-256
Pakistan	42	61	72	78	13%	0%	68%	2%	2 057	2 329	2 554	2 256	2%	3%	80%	73%	-2 178
South Korea	652	741	657	681	1%	2%	69%	3%	2 176	1 599	1 495	1 140	-12%	1%	81%	3%	-459
Indonesia	128	122	124	111	-3%	0%	70%	2%	2 542	1 877	1 801	1 621	-9%	2%	84%	15%	-1 510
Ukraine	516	737	836	921	12%	2%	72%	7%	420	483	518	515	4%	1%	84%	7%	406
Thailand	158	159	175	176	2%	0%	73%	2%	1 453	1 276	1 328	1 234	-3%	2%	86%	9%	-1 057
Norway	1 143	1 118	1 100	1 131	0%	3%	76%	3%	173	170	168	168	-1%	0%	86%	0%	963
Croatia	545	658	651	639	3%	2%	77%	6%	557	542	535	479	-3%	1%	87%	12%	159
Taiwan	388	280	299	302	-5%	1%	78%	2%	1 348	978	837	752	-11%	1%	88%	3%	-451
Sri Lanka	118	131	135	126	1%	0%	79%	12%	939	785	889	882	-1%	1%	89%	56%	-756
Viet-Nam	68	66	77	80	3%	0%	79%	4%	868	631	753	802	-2%	1%	90%	14%	-722
Egypt	155	158	185	196	5%	1%	79%	2%	698	612	651	645	-2%	1%	91%	13%	-449
Malaysia	84	69	71	78	-1%	0%	79%	1%	908	736	704	713	-5%	1%	92%	4%	-635

Source: Eurostat (Comext)

The EU balance in textile trade in 2005 shows a deficit of EUR 39.5 billion: exports worth EUR 37.6 billion stood against imports with a value of EUR 77.1 billion (see Figure 1). The United States exported textiles worth only half the EU-25 value (EUR 18.4 billion). At the same time, US imports were somewhat higher resulting in an EUR 65 billion trade deficit. As might be expected, China was the biggest net exporter with a trade surplus of EUR 74 billion.

Close to one third (30%) of EU textile imports came from China (see Table 1) noticeably ahead of Turkey (14%). Imports from Turkey have been growing at an average 7% per year between 2000 and 2005. Imports from China increased twice as fast during the same period (14% per year). Conversely, imports from the

USA, Hong Kong and South Korea decreased by an average 10 to 12% per year.

In 2005, the US remained the number one partner for EU exports with a share of 13% (close to EUR 5 billion), despite an average drop of 4% in trade between 2000 and 2005. With goods and articles worth 3.8 billion, Switzerland comes second (share of 10%).

In relative terms, EU exports to Russia increased particularly rapidly (16% per year on average between 2000 and 2005) to reach more than EUR 2.7 billion in 2005. This made Russia the fourth most important trade partner for EU exports (share of 7%), just after Romania (share of 8%).

Clothing articles account for three-quarters of EU textile imports

'Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products' was the only category that didn't register a deficit at EU level (trade surplus of EUR 1.7 billion in 2005). At the same time, this category accounted for 50% of EU exports, ahead of 'Articles of apparel and clothing accessories' (43%). 'Textile fibres and their wastes', although gaining momentum, remained of lesser importance in exports.

Turning to 2005 imports, nearly three quarters of the total value consisted of 'Articles of apparel and clothing accessories' (74%). 'Textile yarn and fabrics' accounted for a 22% share and 'Textile fibres and their wastes', persistently declining in importance, only took a 3% share.

Table 2: Extra-EU trade in textile industry, by product (EUR billion)

	2000	2003	2004	2005	Average annual increase 2000-2005	Share in total EU textile trade 2005	Share in total EU trade 2005
Exports	35.1	35.8	37.0	37.6	1.4%	100%	3.5%
26 Textile fibres and their wastes	1.7	1.9	2.0	2.5	7.7%	7%	0.2%
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products	18.7	18.7	19.6	19.0	0.3%	50%	1.8%
84 Art. of apparel and clothing access.	14.7	15.2	15.4	16.1	1.9%	43%	1.5%
Imports	68.8	69.9	72.9	77.1	2.3%	100%	6.5%
26 Textile fibres and their wastes	4.3	3.2	2.9	2.7	-9.2%	3%	0.2%
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products	17.6	16.2	16.9	17.2	-0.4%	22%	1.5%
84 Art. of apparel and clothing access.	46.9	50.5	53.0	57.2	4.1%	74%	4.8%
Trade balance	-33.7	-34.1	-35.9	-39.5			
26 Textile fibres and their wastes	-2.6	-1.3	-1.0	-0.2			
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products	1.1	2.5	2.7	1.7			
84 Art. of apparel and clothing access.	-32.2	-35.3	-37.6	-41.1			

Source: Eurostat (Comext)

Italy by far the most important exporter in extra-EU textile trade

Table 3: Extra-EU trade in textile industry, by Member State (EUR million)

	EXPORTS						IMPORTS						TRADE BALANCE			
	2000	2003	2004	2005	Average annual increase 2000-2005	Share in textile trade 2005	2000	2003	2004	2005	Average annual increase 2000-2005	Share in textile trade 2005	2000	2003	2004	2005
EU-25	35 082	35 765	36 953	37 584	1.4%	100%	68 769	69 899	72 883	77 105	2.3%	100%	-33 686	-34 134	-35 929	-39 521
Belgium	1 764	1 607	1 599	1 530	-2.8%	4.1%	4 193	4 150	4 414	4 624	2.0%	6.0%	-2 429	-2 543	-2 815	-3 094
Czech Republic	251	245	258	325	5.3%	0.9%	591	701	514	438	-5.8%	0.6%	-340	-456	-256	-113
Denmark	498	525	502	537	1.5%	1.4%	1 401	1 485	1 617	1 833	5.5%	2.4%	-903	-960	-1 115	-1 295
Germany	5 843	5 785	6 033	6 395	1.8%	17.0%	17 093	16 139	16 765	17 527	0.5%	22.7%	-11 250	-10 354	-10 731	-11 132
Estonia	42	48	60	77	13.0%	0.2%	104	152	120	86	-3.7%	0.1%	-62	-104	-60	-8
Ireland	182	176	222	230	4.8%	0.6%	450	368	350	464	0.6%	0.6%	-268	-192	-128	-234
Greece	819	1 036	1 028	937	2.7%	2.5%	796	707	798	823	0.7%	1.1%	23	329	229	114
Spain	1 805	1 950	2 006	2 064	2.7%	5.5%	3 246	4 192	4 778	5 547	11.3%	7.2%	-1 441	-2 242	-2 772	-3 483
France	4 793	4 652	4 568	4 547	-1.0%	12.1%	8 477	8 471	8 673	9 291	1.9%	12.0%	-3 684	-3 820	-4 105	-4 743
Italy	11 411	12 145	12 464	12 650	2.1%	33.7%	8 884	9 966	10 522	11 207	4.8%	14.5%	2 526	2 179	1 942	1 442
Cyprus	8	7	6	4	-11.9%	0.0%	97	99	72	55	-10.6%	0.1%	-89	-92	-65	-51
Latvia	37	51	71	96	21.1%	0.3%	41	58	56	56	6.3%	0.1%	-4	-7	15	40
Lithuania	76	79	103	144	13.6%	0.4%	116	173	123	132	2.6%	0.2%	-40	-94	-21	13
Luxembourg	104	84	75	93	-2.3%	0.2%	139	72	75	60	-15.4%	0.1%	-35	13	0	32
Hungary	232	281	314	342	8.0%	0.9%	448	650	539	437	-0.5%	0.6%	-216	-369	-225	-95
Malta	18	20	19	27	8.5%	0.1%	60	64	49	37	-9.3%	0.0%	-42	-43	-30	-10
Netherlands	995	1 091	1 428	1 355	6.4%	3.6%	4 687	4 281	4 531	4 656	-0.1%	6.0%	-3 693	-3 190	-3 103	-3 300
Austria	766	887	961	1 081	7.1%	2.9%	907	988	1 117	1 324	7.9%	1.7%	-141	-101	-156	-243
Poland	265	304	360	456	11.4%	1.2%	892	1 306	1 060	976	1.8%	1.3%	-626	-1 001	-701	-521
Portugal	802	684	655	620	-5.0%	1.6%	684	536	555	523	-5.2%	0.7%	118	148	100	97
Slovenia	135	162	225	290	16.6%	0.8%	166	200	120	131	-4.7%	0.2%	-31	-38	105	160
Slovakia	65	60	74	98	8.5%	0.3%	130	253	160	135	0.7%	0.2%	-65	-193	-85	-37
Finland	163	170	166	182	2.2%	0.5%	390	326	357	417	1.3%	0.5%	-227	-155	-192	-235
Sweden	434	472	438	447	0.6%	1.2%	1 486	1 424	1 452	1 607	1.6%	2.1%	-1 052	-952	-1 015	-1 160
United Kingdom	3 577	3 245	3 318	3 056	-3.1%	8.1%	13 294	13 142	14 063	14 721	2.1%	19.1%	-9 717	-9 897	-10 745	-11 665

Source: Eurostat (Comext)

Looking at the 2005 exports of textile products among the individual Member States, Italy alone was responsible for over one third (33.7%) of the EU total and the only country to show a positive trade balance of noticeable size (EUR 1 442 million – see last column of Table 3). As the second country, Germany, registered only half the Italian export value and had a share of 17%, clearly ahead of France (12%) and the United Kingdom (8%).

Between 2000 and 2005, the development of extra-EU exports has been especially fast in the Baltic States and Slovenia, although values remain of lesser importance in absolute terms (shares of less than 1% in the EU total). Conversely, significant decreases were noted for Belgium, Portugal and the United Kingdom.

Turning to the globally more important imports, Germany and the United Kingdom were the biggest importers, with a share of 23% and 19% respectively, followed by Italy (15%) and France (12%). Looking at the development between 2000 and 2005, Spain stands out as the Member State where imports have experienced the most notable increase (11% per year on average).

Apart from Italy, six other Member States had trade surpluses, even if none of these six were major actors in the textile business. Large deficits prevail, especially those of Germany and the United Kingdom, accounting for 28% and 30% of the total EU trade deficit respectively.

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Statistical sources (data extracted on: 02/11/2006)

- EU data: Eurostat (Comext)
- Non-EU data: United Nations (Comtrade database)

EU: European Union, including the 25 Member States (EU-25): Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Bulgaria and Romania joined in 2007 and are therefore not covered in this report.

Definition of the textile sector

Products of the textile sector are defined according to the 'Third revision of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)'. They include divisions 26

(Textile fibres (other than wool tops and other combed wool) and their wastes (not manufactured into yarn or fabric)); 65 (Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products) as well as 84 (Articles of apparel and clothing accessories).

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"](#)

Further information:

Data: [EUROSTAT Website/Home page/External trade/Data](#)

External Trade

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