

EU-27 exports of goods to the USA down 18% in 2009. Exports to China remain at the same level

EU-27 trade and foreign direct investment with the USA, China, the EFTA countries, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Canada and Australia in 2009

2009 was marked by a considerable drop in the total value of goods traded: EU-27 exports to the selected countries decreased by 16% and imports from these countries fell by 20%.

The United States of America (USA) remains the EU's most important trading partner. The value of EU imports from China (incl. Hong Kong) was more than double that of exports, resulting in a high EU trade deficit.

In terms of product category, 'Medicinal and pharmaceutical products', a less economic crisis-sensitive product category, moved up in the export rankings in 2009, often surpassing 'Machinery and transport equipment' (especially road vehicles).

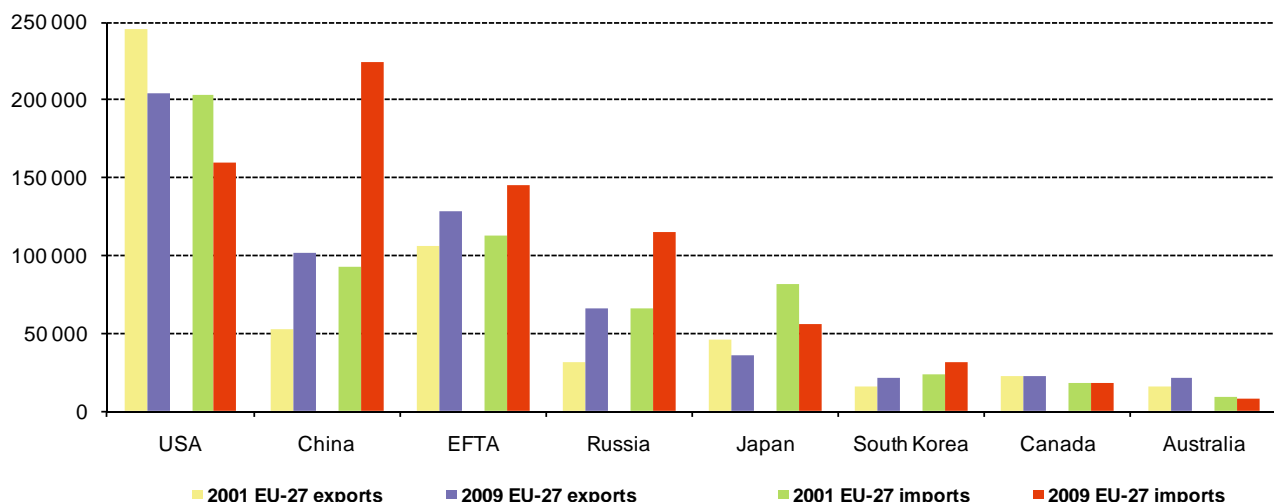
The picture is more contrasted for imports but oil and gas further dominate EU imports from the EFTA countries (especially Norway) and Russia.

Trade in services has declined in 2009. Services are mainly exchanged with the USA (compared to 2008, services exports to the USA decreased by 12% and imports by 5%), followed by the EFTA countries.

Direct investments from the USA increased substantially in 2009 while EU investments to the USA decreased, in sharp contrast with the situation in 2008.

A trade surplus was noted with the USA, Canada and Australia. The rapid increase in the import of Chinese goods made the EU's trade deficit with China jump from EUR 40.2 billion in 2001 to EUR 159.8 billion in 2008. However, the trade deficit with China fell back to EUR 122.9 billion in 2009. As the value of imports fell more sharply than that of exports, the EU's trade deficits with its other main partners also dropped between 2008 and 2009.

Figure 1: Evolution of EU-27 external trade with selected countries, 2009 compared to 2001 (EUR million)



Source: Eurostat (Comext)

2009 exports to the USA and Japan at lowest level in recent years

Despite an 18% drop compared to 2008, the USA remained the main destination for EU-27 goods in 2009, accounting for 19% of total extra-EU-27 exports. EU-27 exports to its other trading partners have also decreased over the same period, from -12% (EFTA countries) to -38% (Russia), thus curbing average growth rates of exports to these countries over the past decade. The exception was

China, which recorded a slight increase, from EUR 99.5 billion to EUR 101.3 billion (+1.8%). The total value of EU-27 exports to Japan remained fairly stable between 2001 and 2008, before dropping by 14.9% in 2009, pulling the average annual increase down to -2.9%.

Together, the USA and EFTA countries accounted for more than 30% of all EU-27 exports in 2009.

Table 1: EU-27 export of goods to selected countries, 2001 to 2009 (EUR million)

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Average annual increase 2001-2009	Share in total extra-EU-27 exports 2009
USA	245 594	247 934	227 281	235 499	252 683	269 144	261 477	250 124	204 574	-2.3%	18.7%
China	52 483	55 583	59 861	67 575	72 272	85 353	92 827	99 523	101 283	8.6%	9.2%
EFTA	106 359	103 184	101 460	108 887	120 019	130 415	140 825	145 270	128 530	2.4%	11.7%
Russia	31 602	34 420	37 206	46 030	56 696	72 328	89 137	105 028	65 598	9.6%	6.0%
Japan	45 521	43 456	40 975	43 424	43 749	44 771	43 745	42 267	35 971	-2.9%	3.3%
South Korea	15 840	17 651	16 449	17 931	20 226	22 864	24 784	25 568	21 520	3.9%	2.0%
Canada	22 391	22 906	21 580	22 104	23 898	26 710	25 879	26 092	22 436	0.0%	2.0%
Australia	15 660	16 874	17 526	19 901	20 731	21 283	22 722	25 178	21 796	4.2%	2.0%

Source: Eurostat (Comext)

Imports from China continue to dominate, despite a 13.6% decrease

From 2005, the EU has imported more goods from China than from the other selected countries. Even the 13.6% drop observed between 2008 and 2009 did not change this situation. In 2009, close to 19% of all extra-EU-27 imports came from China, against 13% from the USA and 12% from the EFTA countries.

The sharp rise in global energy prices has played a

key role in driving up the value of imports from Russia, where energy products make up the lion's share. The economic crisis with falling energy prices can largely explain the 35% decrease in value of Russian imports between 2008 and 2009. To a lesser extent, this also applies to the EFTA countries (-19%), where the relative share of Norwegian oil and gas is considerable.

Table 2: EU-27 import of goods from selected countries, 2001 to 2009 (EUR million)

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Average annual increase 2001-2009	Share in total extra-EU-27 imports 2009
USA	203 298	182 621	158 125	159 374	163 511	175 547	181 739	186 772	159 705	-3.0%	13.3%
China	92 663	100 378	116 169	138 678	171 035	207 171	243 645	259 437	224 203	11.7%	18.7%
EFTA	112 714	112 497	112 795	120 079	136 622	153 954	157 359	180 124	145 691	3.3%	12.1%
Russia	65 875	64 493	70 663	83 954	112 591	140 916	144 459	177 761	115 392	7.3%	9.6%
Japan	81 134	73 651	72 391	74 695	74 064	77 510	78 446	75 074	55 849	-4.6%	4.7%
South Korea	23 265	24 563	26 003	30 671	34 451	40 814	41 369	39 564	32 027	4.1%	2.7%
Canada	18 575	16 703	15 960	16 438	17 379	19 742	23 291	23 847	17 772	-0.6%	1.5%
Australia	9 583	9 088	9 026	8 807	9 591	11 236	11 795	11 195	8 079	-2.1%	0.7%

Source: Eurostat (Comext)

'Machinery and transport equipment' still dominates, but loses ground

Tables 3 and 4 offer an overview of the ten most traded groups of goods in 2009, according to SITC 1-digit (see Methodological Notes).

Extra-EU-27 exports of 'Machinery and transport equipment' worldwide dropped by 20% between 2008 and 2009, but this nonetheless remained the EU's primary export to all countries under review.

It accounted for 55% of all exports to China, and around 50% of exports to South Korea and Australia. 'Manufactured goods', 'Miscellaneous manufactured articles' and especially 'Chemicals and related products' were other important categories for exports to the USA, Japan, Canada and Australia.

Table 3: EU-27 export of goods to selected countries, by type of product, 2009 (EUR million)

	USA	China	EFTA	Russia	Japan	South Korea	Canada	Australia	Total extra-EU-27 exports
0: FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS	3 829	2 035	5 868	5 285	2 173	578	875	929	44 746
1: BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO	5 397	893	1 688	785	1 354	239	948	352	17 971
2: CRUDE MATERIALS, INEDIBLE, EXCEPT FUELS	1 545	6 722	2 174	807	1 022	588	232	143	25 168
3: MINERAL FUELS, LUBRICANTS AND RELATED MAT.	13 259	237	6 614	608	198	250	1 421	27	57 157
4: ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE OILS, FATS AND WAXES	534	61	297	308	135	62	76	93	2 585
5: CHEMICALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS, N.E.S.	53 603	12 660	21 559	11 359	9 550	3 885	4 889	4 646	195 613
6: MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL	17 012	12 485	19 159	7 533	2 853	2 647	2 117	2 201	139 512
7: MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	77 443	54 736	41 671	28 393	10 984	10 530	8 110	10 058	455 799
8: MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	23 060	9 273	21 743	8 815	6 373	2 231	2 198	2 513	119 006
9: COMMODITIES AND TRANSACTIONS N.E.C.	4 888	1 177	5 587	824	508	260	1 061	424	38 143

Source: Eurostat (Comext)

In 2009, 'Crude materials' and 'Mineral fuels' generally accounted for a fairly small share of EU exports to these countries, except for the USA and Canada where the categories represented 7% and 6% of total exports respectively. In 2008, these shares still exceeded 10% (data not shown). Unsurprisingly, considering their geographical

proximity, EFTA countries recorded the broadest relative distribution in the various product categories.

Within the EFTA countries (data not shown), Switzerland accounted for 69% of EU exports in 2009, followed by Norway (29%) and Iceland and Liechtenstein (both 1%).

Mineral fuels account for 74% of the value of EU imports from Russia

Despite a strong drop in imports between 2008 and 2009 (-20%) the general distribution of imported product types did not change substantially: 'Machinery and transport equipment' not only dominated imports from Japan and South Korea (around 70%) but also

those from China (48%) and the USA (40%). In 2009, the share of 'Mineral fuels' imported from Russia rose to 74% (2008: 70%), although its value decreased by 31%.

EU imports from EFTA countries, Canada and Australia were far more diversified.

Table 4: EU-27 imports of goods from selected countries, by type of product, 2009 (EUR million)

	USA	China	EFTA	Russia	Japan	South Korea	Canada	Australia	Total extra-EU-27 imports
0: FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS	3 725	3 226	6 592	575	120	104	1 270	475	67 192
1: BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO	1 051	112	563	73	16	10	33	658	6 430
2: CRUDE MATERIALS, INEDIBLE, EXCEPT FUELS	5 280	1 918	1 978	2 289	408	262	2 602	977	41 859
3: MINERAL FUELS, LUBRICANTS AND RELATED MAT.	7 759	282	39 722	85 166	437	1 150	854	2 374	290 335
4: ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE OILS, FATS AND WAXES	128	37	118	218	10	1	14	11	5 479
5: CHEMICALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS, N.E.S.	33 895	8 026	29 868	3 321	5 554	1 475	2 406	802	112 448
6: MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL	9 187	25 933	13 374	7 998	3 966	3 181	2 223	838	115 277
7: MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	62 057	107 087	19 783	1 163	37 981	22 909	4 938	803	342 237
8: MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	21 109	76 335	13 643	313	6 793	2 756	1 001	547	180 185
9: COMMODITIES AND TRANSACTIONS N.E.C.	11 001	1 014	6 417	2 262	491	163	2 293	478	38 232

Source: Eurostat (Comext)

Decreasing energy prices can also explain why 'Mineral fuels' (essentially from Norway) accounted for 27% of imports from EFTA countries in 2009,

compared to 32% in 2008. Moreover, 53% of Norway's exports to the EU consist of either oil or natural gas.

Norwegian oil and Swiss pharmaceuticals comprise the majority of imports from the EFTA countries

Table 5 lists the five most traded products with the selected countries in 2009 according to the SITC 2-digit classification (codes appear in brackets). In 2008, 'Road vehicles' were still the main EU exports to five of its eight main trading partners. In 2009 however, 'Medicinal and pharmaceutical products' became the EU's main exports to five of these countries. Indeed, pharmaceutical products are far more 'economic crisis-resistant' and their value has changed little compared to 2008. Conversely,

EU exports of 'Road vehicles' have dropped markedly over the same period in Russia (-70%), the USA (-30%) and Australia (-40%). Only China registered an increase in this respect (+15%).

In 2009, the EU's primary import product from Russia was petroleum (EUR 68 billion) followed by two other energy commodities: gas and coal. EU-27 imports from Japan continue to be dominated by 'Road vehicles' (EUR 12.2 million), despite a 28% drop in value in relation to 2008.

Table 5: Top 5 exported and imported products from selected countries, 2009 (EUR million)

Rank	EU-27 EXPORTS		EU-27 IMPORTS	
	Product category	Value	Product category	Value
United States of America				
1	Medicinal and pharmaceutical products (54)	26 537	Medicinal and pharmaceutical products (54)	16 417
2	Road vehicles (78)	17 262	Power generating machinery and equipment (71)	15 251
3	Organic chemicals (51)	15 415	Other transport equipment (79)	13 996
4	Power generating machinery and equipm.(71)	13 735	Professional, scient. & controlling instruments (87)	10 924
5	Petroleum, petroleum prod. & related mat. (33)	13 189	Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances (77)	8 919
China				
1	Electrical mach., apparatus & appliances (77)	10 277	Office & autom. data-processing machines (75)	31 924
2	General industrial machinery & equipment (74)	10 071	Telecommunic. & sound recording equipm. (76)	31 501
3	Road vehicles (78)	8 748	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories (84)	27 734
4	Machinery specialized for particular industr.(72)	7 192	Electrical mach., apparatus & appliances (77)	25 093
5	Power generating machinery and equipm.(71)	5 865	Miscellaneous manufactured articles (89)	23 977
EFTA countries				
1	Medicinal and pharmaceutical products (54)	9 512	Petroleum, petroleum products & related mat. (33)	28 714
2	Road vehicles (78)	8 990	Medicinal and pharmaceutical products (54)	18 098
3	Miscellaneous manufactured articles (89)	8 387	Gas, natural and manufactured (34)	7 939
4	General industrial machinery & equipment (74)	6 622	Miscellaneous manufactured articles (89)	5 467
5	Electrical mach., apparatus & appliances (77)	6 223	Non-ferrous metals (68)	4 982
Russia				
1	General industrial machinery & equipment (74)	5 390	Petroleum, petroleum products & related mat. (33)	68 046
2	Road vehicles (78)	4 878	Gas, natural and manufactured (34)	13 044
3	Medicinal and pharmaceutical products (54)	4 376	Coal, coke and briquettes (32)	3 677
4	Machinery specialized for particular industr.(72)	4 144	Non-ferrous metals (68)	3 052
5	Electrical mach., apparatus & appliances (77)	3 951	Iron and steel (67)	2 998
Japan				
1	Medicinal and pharmaceutical products (54)	4 435	Road vehicles (78)	12 227
2	Road vehicles (78)	3 749	Electrical mach., apparatus & appliances (77)	6 756
3	Organic chemicals (51)	2 343	Telecommunic. & sound recording equipm. (76)	4 389
4	Professional, scient. & controlling instruments (87)	1 798	Office & automatic data-processing machines (75)	4 337
5	Electrical mach., apparatus & appliances (77)	1 740	General industrial machinery & equipment (74)	3 969
South Korea				
1	General industrial machinery & equipment (74)	2 777	Telecommunic. & sound recording equipm. (76)	7 284
2	Electrical mach., apparatus & appliances (77)	1 653	Other transport equipment (79)	4 941
3	Machinery specialized for particular industr.(72)	1 523	Electrical mach., apparatus & appliances (77)	3 862
4	Road vehicles (78)	1 383	Road vehicles (78)	3 331
5	Power generating machinery and equipm.(71)	1 276	Professional, scient. & controlling instruments (87)	1 628
Canada				
1	Medicinal and pharmaceutical products (54)	3 503	Metalliferous ores and metal scrap (28)	1 546
2	Road vehicles (78)	2 120	Other transport equipment (79)	1 543
3	Power generating machinery and equipm.(71)	1 911	Power generating machinery and equipment (71)	1 214
4	Petroleum, petroleum prod. & related mat. (33)	1 394	Non-metallic mineral manufactures (66)	1 170
5	General industrial machinery & equipment (74)	1 168	Inorganic chemicals (52)	980
Australia				
1	Medicinal and pharmaceutical products (54)	2 934	Coal, coke and briquettes (32)	2 320
2	Road vehicles (78)	2 481	Beverages (11)	652
3	General industrial machinery & equipment (74)	1 806	Metalliferous ores and metal scrap (28)	540
4	Machinery specialized for particular industr.(72)	1 472	Medicinal and pharmaceutical products (54)	435
5	Other transport equipment (79)	1 334	Non-ferrous metals (68)	373

Source: Eurostat (Comext)

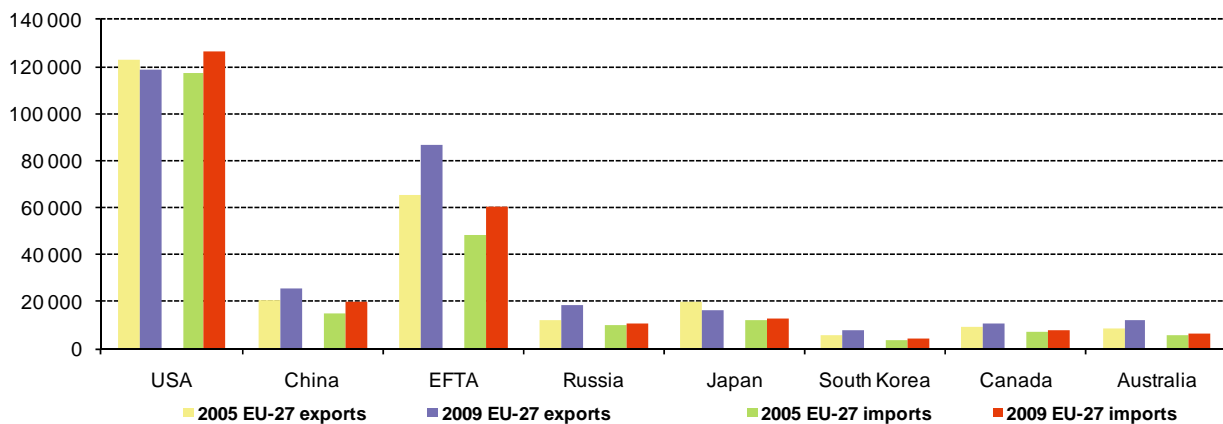
'Freight transport at sea' services remain substantial for China and South Korea

Compared to 2005, both the EU's export and import of services have increased; except for EU exports to the USA and Japan (see Figure 2). This exception is caused by recent developments. Indeed, the USA continues to be the biggest trading partner of the EU in terms of volume of exchanges. Total exports to the USA decreased by 12% and imports by 5% and reached EUR 118.9 billion and EUR 126.7 billion respectively. Between 2007 and 2009, the balance of the EU's trade in services with the USA turned from a surplus of EUR 9.1 billion to a deficit of EUR 7.8 billion. The highest contribution to this development were from the following sectors (data

not shown): 'Transportation' (exports to USA -21% in 2009), 'Travel' (exports -12% in 2008 and -10% in 2009), 'Financial services' (exports -11% both in 2008 and 2009) and 'Other business services' (exports in 2009 -12%, imports +6% in 2008 and +1% in 2009).

The second most important partner of the EU is the EFTA countries, followed by China, Russia and Japan. Preliminary results for 2009 show that the total trade in services of the EU with the selected countries diminished considerably as a consequence of the global economic turbulences.

Figure 2: Evolution of EU-27 external trade in services with selected countries, 2005 vs. 2009* (EUR million)



* EFTA, South Korea and Australia: 2008 data instead of 2009.

Source: Eurostat (Balance of Payments; [bop_q_eu](#) (2009 data) and [bop_its_det](#) (2005 and 2008 data))

Table 6 shows that 'Other services' comprised the most important category of services supplied ('Credit'), with relative shares of 60-70% for the USA, EFTA countries and Japan, and of 45-55% for all others countries. Within this category, 'Miscellaneous business, professional and technical services' generally accounted for the highest shares (data not shown).

'Transportation' (such as cargo handling and storage, warehousing, customs clearance and port services) generally accounted for between 20% and 30% of services supplied by the EU, except in South Korea (2008) and China (2009), where they amounted to 45% and 35% respectively (essentially 'freight transport at sea' services). In Canada and Australia, 'Travel' accounted for around one quarter of all services provided by the EU.

Table 6: EU trade in services with selected countries, 2009* (EUR million)

	United States of America			China			EFTA			Russia		
	Credit	Debit	Net	Credit	Debit	Net	Credit	Debit	Net	Credit	Debit	Net
Services	118 850	126 683	-7 833	25 904	19 711	6 193	86 631	60 670	25 961	18 439	10 961	7 478
Transportation	26 226	17 142	9 085	9 170	8 695	475	16 787	11 530	5 257	3 626	4 507	-881
Travel	14 051	15 510	-1 459	2 504	2 286	218	18 664	10 725	7 939	4 248	1 753	2 496
Other services	78 498	91 410	-12 913	14 191	8 688	5 503	51 162	35 881	15 281	10 552	4 676	5 876
Services not allocated	74	2 621	-2 546	39	42	-3	15	123	-108	12	25	-12
	Japan			South Korea			Canada			Australia		
	Credit	Debit	Net	Credit	Debit	Net	Credit	Debit	Net	Credit	Debit	Net
Services	16 662	12 651	3 971	7 860	4 392	3 468	10 597	8 143	2 454	12 317	6 374	5 943
Transportation	4 356	3 890	466	3 565	2 375	1 191	2 816	1 916	900	3 181	1 242	1 939
Travel	1 906	868	1 038	569	181	388	2 948	2 301	647	3 117	2 485	632
Other services	10 344	7 856	2 488	3 712	1 828	1 884	4 820	3 906	915	6 010	2 642	3 368
Services not allocated	16	36	-20	14	5	9	13	20	-7	4	6	-2

* Data for EFTA, South Korea and Australia refer to 2008.

Source: Eurostat (Balance of Payments; [bop_q_eu](#) (2009 data) and [bop_its_det](#) (2008 data))

Considering services provided to the EU ('Debit'), 'Transportation' accounted for about half of exports from South Korea (in 2008) and around 40-45% for China and Russia (in 2009). Within this category, the bulk goes to the account of services linked to maritime freight transport (data not shown).

'Other services' accounted for the majority of services supplied to the EU by the USA (72% of total services in 2009) and the EFTA countries

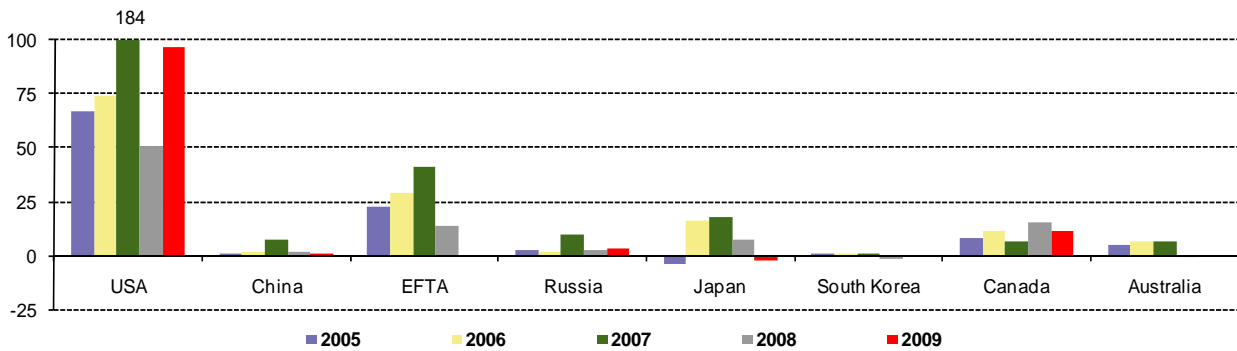
(59% in 2008). Such services mostly included 'Miscellaneous business, professional and technical services'. For Japan and the USA, 'Royalties and license fees' play a notable role (25% and 23% of 'Other services' respectively— data not shown). For Russia, the sub category 'Construction services' is worth mentioning (valued EUR 726 million), representing 7% of total services supplied by Russia to the EU-27 in 2009 and making up 16% of 'Other services' — data not shown).

Partial recovery of foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows from the USA in 2009

Inward FDI flows to the EU quantify the interest that foreign investors take in the EU economy,

through a lasting investment in EU enterprises. Negative values indicate a disinvestment.

Figure 3: EU-27 FDI inflows from selected countries, 2005 to 2009 (EUR billion)



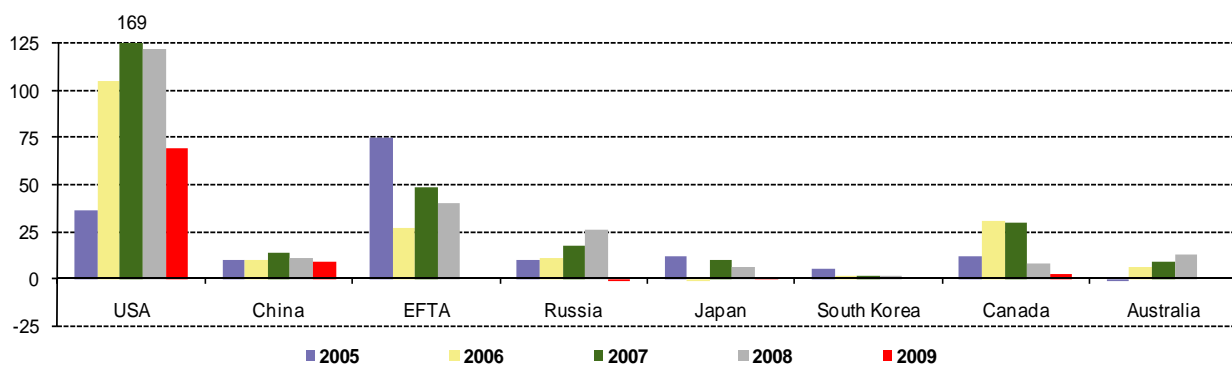
Source: Eurostat (Balance of Payments; [bop_fdi_main](#))

FDI into the EU has increased steadily between 2004 and 2007, before declining abruptly in 2008. Among the countries reviewed, the USA remains the most important extra-EU investor into the EU. The considerable decline in US investments in the EU economy between 2007 and 2008 (-73 %) was followed by a substantial recovery, with investments nearly doubling between 2008 and 2009 to reach EUR 97 billion. Japanese

investments in EU enterprises have fallen from 2007 onwards, with a disinvestment of EUR 2.3 billion in 2009.

Between 2008 and 2009, foreign direct investment from Russia increased by 32% (reaching EUR 3.1 billion), whereas FDI from Canada fell by 26% (to EUR 11.4 billion). Data for 2009 are not yet available for EFTA countries, South Korea and Australia.

Figure 4: EU-27 FDI outflows to selected countries, 2005 to 2009 (EUR billion)



Source: Eurostat (Balance of Payments; [bop_fdi_main](#))

Despite a sizeable decrease between 2008 and 2009 (-43%), the USA remains the main recipient of EU FDI, and this by a wide margin since 2006. In 2009, the EU-27 invested EUR 69 billion in the US economy, compared with EUR 121 billion in 2008 and EUR 169 billion in 2007. The EFTA countries have also attracted a significant share of EU FDI (12% of EU FDI

worldwide, in 2008). Switzerland accounted for 85% (EUR 34 billion) of EU FDI to the EFTA countries.

Even though EU FDI flows to Russia have progressed steadily in recent years (from EUR 6 billion in 2004 to EUR 25 billion in 2008), the EU disinvested EUR 1 billion from Russia in 2009.

➤ METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

This publication focuses on some of the large trading partners of the European Union:

- United States of America
- The group of EFTA countries, consisting of:
 - Iceland
 - Liechtenstein
 - Norway
 - Switzerland
- China, **including Hong Kong**
- Russia
- Japan
- South Korea
- Canada
- Australia

EU-27: The European Union is 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 contents of this 'Statistics in focus' are based on data available at Eurostat.

Data on the trade of goods are available in Eurostat's Comext database. 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.

Data on the trade of services are based on balance of payments statistics compiled by Eurostat. 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).

In Figure 2, the most recent data have been compared with reference year 2005, the first year for which aggregated EU-27 data are available.

Data on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is based on the methodological framework of the OECD:

Benchmark Definition of Foreign Direct Investment Third Edition, a detailed operational definition fully consistent with the IMF Balance of Payments Manual, Fifth Edition, BPM5. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is the category of international investment made by an entity resident in one economy (*direct investor*) to acquire a lasting interest in an enterprise operating in another economy (*direct investment enterprise*). The lasting interest is deemed to exist if the direct investor acquires at least 10% of the voting power of the direct investment enterprise. Through outward FDI flows, an investor country builds up FDI assets abroad (outward FDI stocks). Correspondingly, inward FDI flows cumulate into liabilities towards foreign investors (inward FDI stocks).

The current publication looks only at FDI flows. 2009 data published by Eurostat on 15 June 2010 come from the first FDI results for 2009.

SITC classification (Tables 3, 4 and 5)

Information on commodities exported and imported are presented according to the SITC classification (Standard International Trade Classification) at a more general level (1-digit – Tables 3 and 4) and a more detailed level (2-digits – Table 5). A full description is available via Eurostat's classification server RAMON, accessible through:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/nomenclatures/>

Comext data (trade of goods)

Please note that the sums of the individual SITC product categories, as shown in Tables 3 and 4 (for 2008) are less than the totals as displayed in Tables 1 and 2 respectively, due to confidentiality reasons.

In this publication: 1 billion = 1 000 million

Further information

Data: [Eurostat Website: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat)

Data on "External Trade Statistics"

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

and Data on "Balance of payment statistics"

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

More information about "External Trade Statistics"

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

More information about "Balance of payment statistics"

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

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