

EUROPEAN UNION TRADE WITH MEXICO

Tim Allen

Statistics in focus

EXTERNAL TRADE

THEME 6 – 12/2000

Contents

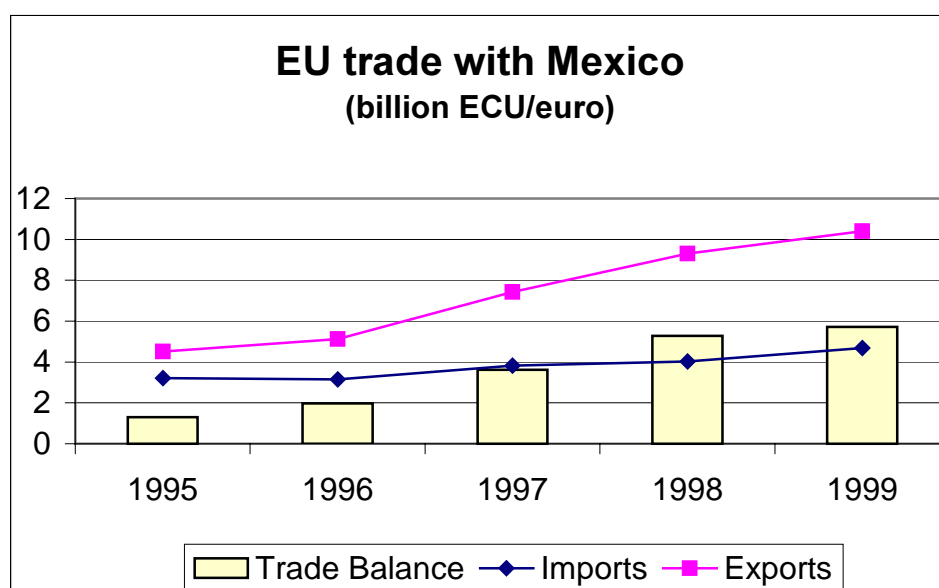
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The EU has a trade surplus with Mexico, which increased steadily during the period considered, passing from 1.3 billion ECU in 1995 to 5.7 billion euro in 1999. The value of EU exports to Mexico more than doubled, passing from 4.5 billion ECU to 10.4 billion euro, whereas the value of imports increased by 46%, from 3.2 billion ECU to 4.7 billion euro. These figures reflect a real increase in trade volumes, rather than price rises.

Mexico is the EU's second most important Latin American trading partner after Brazil, accounting for around 1% of EU trade. Mexico's external trade is dominated by the USA, which accounts for three quarters of its imports and 87% of its exports. The EU is Mexico's second largest trade partner, with 9% of its imports and 3% of its exports.

EU exports to Mexico are very concentrated in 'Machinery and vehicles' products; in 1998 almost 5.5 billion ECU of these products were exported, equal to a share of 58% of total exports to Mexico. On the imports side, the most notable feature is the importance of 'Energy' products (largely made up of 'Petroleum oils'), which are equal to 16% of total EU imports from Mexico.

Germany is the Member State with the highest share of EU trade with Mexico (39% of exports and 22% of imports). Spanish trade is also significant, especially when imports are concerned (19% of the total).



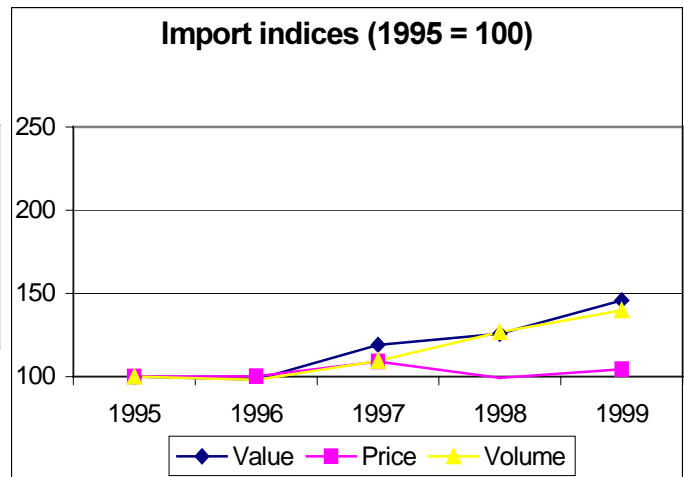
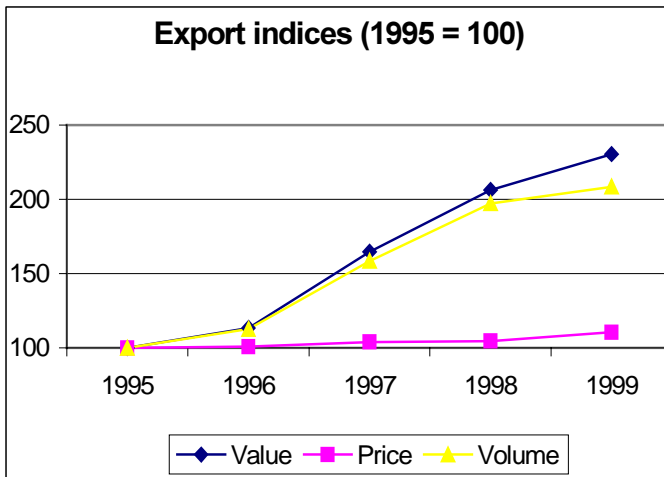
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1. EU TRADE FLOWS WITH MEXICO

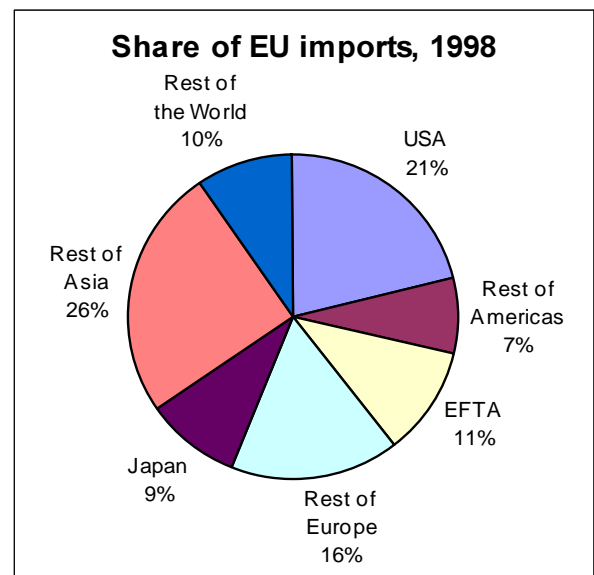
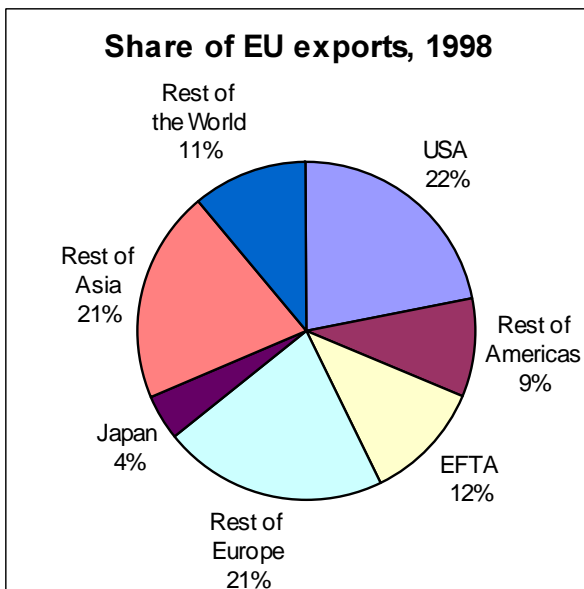


Between 1995 and 1999 the value of EU exports to Mexico more than doubled, passing from 4.5 billion ECU to 10.4 billion euro. This rise was almost entirely the result of an increase in the volume of goods exchanged, although prices also experienced a slight rise (10%).

The value of EU imports from Mexico increased by 46% between 1995 and 1999, passing from 3.2 billion ECU to 4.7 billion euro. Here again this rise was the reflection of an increase in the quantities exchanged; import prices remained stable on the whole, registering an increase of around 4% in 1999.

It is interesting to compare the increase in EU trade with Mexico between 1995 and 1999, with the rise in total extra-EU trade in the same period, as this highlights the significance of the expansion in exports to Mexico. In fact, total extra-EU exports increased by around 30% and imports by 40%.

The EU's trade surplus with Mexico increased steadily during the period considered, passing from 1.3 billion ECU in 1995 to 5.7 billion euro in 1999.



Main EU trading partners, 1998

(million ECU)

	Exports		Imports		Trade Balance
		(%)		(%)	
USA	160 993	22.0	151 751	21.3	9 242
Switzerland	57 143	7.8	49 378	6.9	7 766
Japan	31 529	4.3	65 913	9.2	-34 385
China	17 380	2.4	41 824	5.9	-24 444
Norway	25 071	3.4	29 138	4.1	-4 067
Poland	28 153	3.8	16 167	2.3	11 986
Russia	21 045	2.9	23 237	3.3	-2 192
Turkey	22 121	3.0	13 614	1.9	8 508
Czech Rep.	17 196	2.3	14 659	2.1	2 536
Hungary	16 850	2.3	14 613	2.0	2 238
Taiwan	12 051	1.6	18 214	2.6	-6 163
Brazil	15 564	2.1	13 212	1.9	2 352
Canada	14 869	2.0	12 733	1.8	2 136
Hong Kong	17 296	2.4	9 707	1.4	7 589
South Korea	9 099	1.2	15 817	2.2	-6 718
Singapore	10 905	1.5	12 484	1.8	-1 579
Australia	12 967	1.8	7 530	1.1	5 437
South Africa	10 459	1.4	9 715	1.4	744
Saudi Arabia	11 998	1.6	7 797	1.1	4 201
India	9 562	1.3	9 788	1.4	-226
Israel	10 867	1.5	6 914	1.0	3 953
Malaysia	5 455	0.7	12 255	1.7	-6 799
Thailand	5 211	0.7	9 288	1.3	-4 078
Mexico	9 313	1.3	4 032	0.6	5 281
Indonesia	3 860	0.5	8 945	1.3	-5 084

Main Mexican trading partners, 1998

(million ECU)

	Exports		Imports		Trade Balance
		(%)		(%)	
USA	89 879	86.9	82 216	74.5	7 663
EU	3 433	3.3	10 330	9.4	-6 897
Japan	490	0.5	4 015	3.6	-3 525
Canada	1 514	1.5	1 991	1.8	-478
Korea Rp.	120	0.1	1 608	1.5	-1 487
China	170	0.2	1 425	1.3	-1 256
Brazil	651	0.6	915	0.8	-264
Oth. Asia	98	0.1	1 346	1.2	-1 248
Chile	645	0.6	487	0.4	158
Venezuela	578	0.6	268	0.2	311
Singapore	406	0.4	435	0.4	-28
Malaysia	33	0.0	743	0.7	-711
Argentina	421	0.4	232	0.2	188
Guatemala	546	0.5	72	0.1	475
Switzerland	93	0.1	524	0.5	-431
Colombia	465	0.4	133	0.1	331
Areas nes	423	0.4	139	0.1	284
Thailand	84	0.1	358	0.3	-274
Hong Kong	171	0.2	191	0.2	-19
Australia	132	0.1	216	0.2	-83
Costa Rica	255	0.2	77	0.1	177
Perù	200	0.2	126	0.1	74
Indonesia	31	0.0	290	0.3	-259
Philippines	26	0.0	287	0.3	-261
Dominican Rp.	293	0.3	12	0.0	281

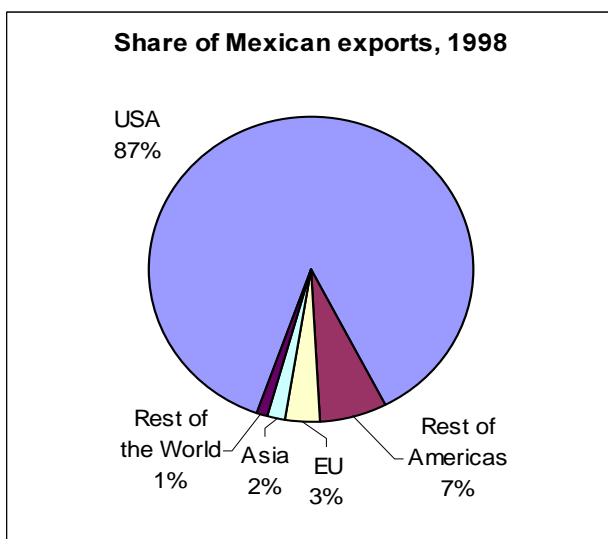
Source: UN.

Mexico is the EU's second most important Latin American trading partner after Brazil, accounting for around 1% of EU trade. In particular, the importance of Mexico as a country of destination of EU products has increased since 1995, when it represented around 0.8% of total extra-EU exports, reaching 1.3% in 1998.

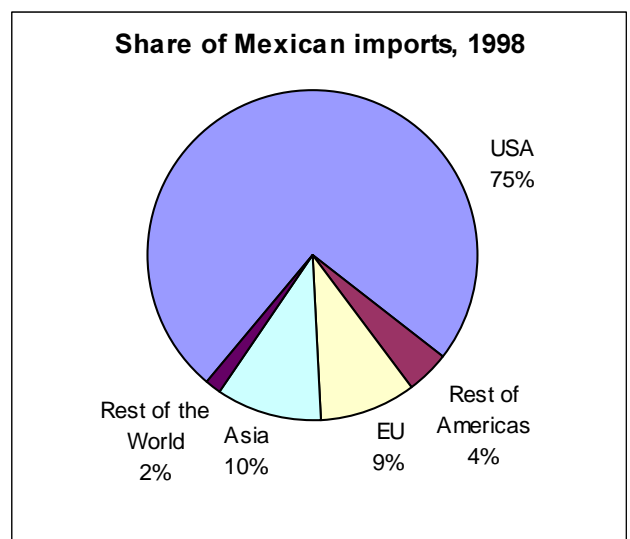
Mexico's external trade is dominated by the USA, which accounts for three quarters of its imports and 87% of its exports in 1998. The EU is Mexico's second largest trading partner, with 9% of its imports and 3% of its

exports. Imports from Asia also represent an important share of Mexican imports (10%). Mexico's main Latin American trading partners are Brazil, Chile and Venezuela, although together they total less than 2% of its external trade.

Mexico has an overall external trade deficit. It is interesting, however, that it had a trade surplus of almost 8 billion ECU with the USA for 1998. Conversely, it registered a trade deficit with its next seven largest trading partners.



Source: UN.



Source: UN.

2. TRADE BY PRODUCT

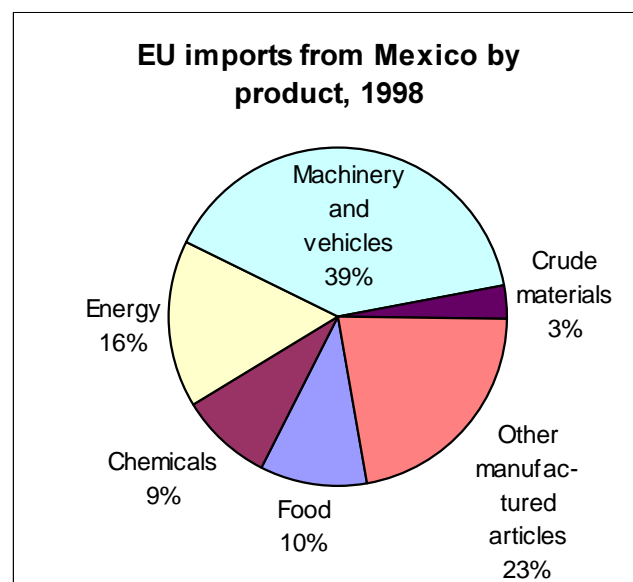
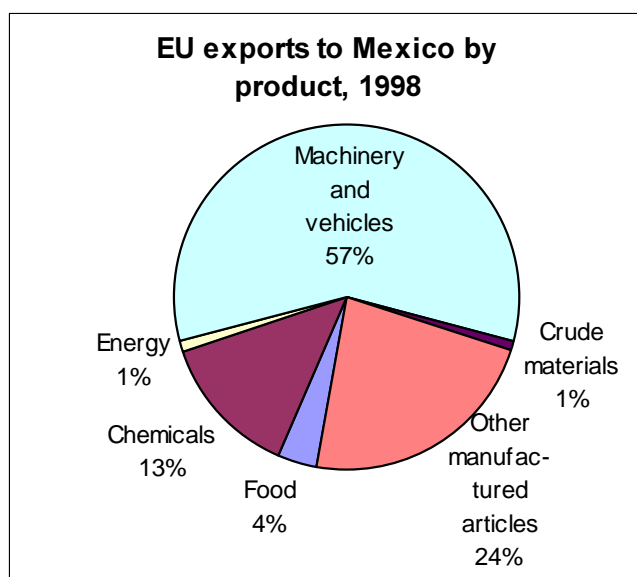
(million ECU)

SITC Rev.3, 1-digit	Exports				Imports				Trade balance		Cover Ratio	
	Mexico			Extra-EU 1998	Mexico			Extra-EU 1998	Mexico 1998	Extra-EU 1998	Mexico 1998	Extra-EU 1998
	1998	95-98 ann. growth rate	share (%)		1998	1998	95-98 ann. growth rate					
Total	9 313	27.3	100.0	731 851	4 032	7.9	100.0	713 074	5 281	18 776	231	103
0 Food and live animals	226	7.1	2.4	31 720	326	4.1	8.1	45 383	-100	-13 663	69	70
1 Beverages and tobacco	101	28.6	1.1	12 032	73	9.6	1.8	4 466	28	7 565	138	269
2 Crude materials	68	34.2	0.7	11 643	123	-3.1	3.0	39 363	-54	-27 720	56	30
3 Energy	93	120.1	1.0	13 972	626	5.8	15.5	65 231	-533	-51 259	15	21
4 Animal, vegetable oil, fat	11	17.9	0.1	2 841	5	-12.1	0.1	2 983	7	-142	243	95
5 Chemicals	1 228	22.3	13.2	95 738	351	0.3	8.7	55 470	877	40 268	350	173
6 Basic manufactures	1 334	26.2	14.3	113 127	465	-12.0	11.5	94 916	869	18 211	287	119
7 Machinery and vehicles	5 359	29.4	57.5	344 681	1 563	22.9	38.8	266 530	3 796	78 151	343	129
8 Misc. manufactured goods	674	24.8	7.2	89 225	356	16.1	8.8	116 276	318	-27 051	189	77
9 Articles not classified	219	39.2	2.4	16 871	144	16.0	3.6	22 456	75	-5 584	152	75

EU exports to Mexico are very concentrated in 'Machinery and vehicles' products; in 1998, in fact, almost 5.5 billion ECU of these products were exported, equal to a share of 58% of total exports to Mexico, whereas the share of this same product group in total extra-EU trade was 47%. Almost three quarters of the EU's trade surplus with Mexico is made up by the surplus for these products. The main 'Machinery and vehicles' products exported to Mexico are 'Parts and accessories of motor vehicles' (11%) and 'Machinery specialised for particular industries' (12%), such as 'Textile and leather machinery'.

Also important are exports of 'Iron and steel', within the 'Basic manufactures' products, corresponding to a share of 5%, and 'Organic chemicals' and 'Medical and pharmaceutical products', with a share of 4% each, within the 'Chemical' products exported to Mexico.

Conversely, 'Food' and 'Crude materials', together with 'Miscellaneous manufactured goods', represent a smaller share of exports to Mexico than of extra-EU exports as a whole.



Share of EU exports by main products, 1998

SITC, Rev.3 2-digit of which:	Description	Share of exports to Mexico (%)		Share of total EU exports (%)
78	Road vehicles (including air-cushion vehicles)	13.3		9.3
784	Parts and accessories of motor vehicles		11.2	2.6
72	Machinery specialized for particular industries	11.5		6.0
728	Other mach. and equip. for partic.industries		5.0	2.2
724	Textile and leather mach. and parts thereof,n.e.s.		3.5	1.0
74	General ind. mach. and equip., n.e.s., etc.	8.2		6.5
745	Other non-electrical machinery,..., n.e.s.		2.0	1.0
741	Heating and cooling equipment and parts, n.e.s.		1.4	1.2
743	Pumps, air or other gas compressors and fans		1.2	1.0
77	Elec. machinery, app. and appl., n.e.s. etc.	7.5		7.3
67	Iron and steel	4.9		2.4
76	Telecommunications and sound recording etc.	4.2		3.8
51	Organic chemicals	4.1		2.8
71	Power-generating machinery and equipment	4.1		4.1
54	Medical and pharmaceutical products	4.0		3.7
73	Metal working machinery	3.6		1.2

On the imports side, the most notable feature is the importance of 'Energy' products, which are equal to 16% of total imports from Mexico, whereas these products correspond to 9% of total extra-EU imports. These consist almost entirely of 'Petroleum and petroleum products', in particular 'Petroleum oils'. The EU correspondingly registered a trade deficit of 0.5 billion ECU in 1998 for this product group.

Imports of 'Miscellaneous manufactured goods' (9% of total imports), like the corresponding exports, on the contrary, appear to be lower than the EU's average imports of these products (16%). Imports of 'Food' from Mexico, conversely, are higher than average, and in particular 'Vegetables and fruit' (3% of imports). The same can be said for 'Organic chemicals', with a share of 5% compared to 2% of total extra-EU imports.

EU imports by main products, 1998

SITC, Rev.3 2-digit of which:	Description	Share of imports from Mexico (%)		Share of total EU imports (%)
33	Petroleum, petr. prod. and rel. materials	14.6		6.6
333	Petroleum oils etc.		13.9	5.5
77	Elec. machinery, app. and appl., n.e.s. etc.	9.2		7.6
776	Thermionic, ... valves and tubes etc.		1.9	2.8
778	Elec. machinery and apparatus n.e.s.		1.7	1.7
772	Elec. app. for making electrical circuits, etc.		1.6	1.2
78	Road vehicles (including air-cushion vehicles)	8.1		5.2
781	Motor cars		5.5	3.0
71	Power-generating machinery and equipment	7.4		3.3
713	Internal combustion piston engines, etc.		6.4	1.0
75	Office machines and autom. data-proc. machines	6.2		7.6
51	Organic chemicals	4.8		2.2
76	Telecommunications and sound recording etc.	3.5		3.7
68	Non-ferrous metals	3.3		2.5
05	Vegetables and fruit	2.9		1.8
89	Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s.	2.6		4.2

3. TRADE BY MEMBER STATE

(million ECU)

	Exports				Imports				Trade balance		Cover Ratio	
	Mexico			Extra-EU 1998	Mexico			Extra-EU 1998	Mexico 1998	Extra-EU 1998	Mexico 1998	Extra-EU 1998
	1998	95-98 ann. growth rate	share (%)		1998	95-98 ann. growth rate	share (%)					
EU-15	9 313	27.3	100.0	731 851	4 032	7.9	100.0	713 074	5 281	18 776	231.0	102.6
BLEU	355	34.9	3.8	38 538	238	-13.3	5.9	43 563	117	-5 024	149.3	88.5
DK	82	24.3	0.9	14 668	46	20.5	1.2	12 396	36	2 272	177.2	118.3
D	3 594	25.3	38.6	210 913	894	28.0	22.2	172 418	2 700	38 495	401.8	122.3
EL	4	-6.7	0.0	4 460	18	-18.8	0.5	8 903	-14	-4 443	21.9	50.1
E	1 040	34.1	11.2	27 501	774	4.4	19.2	35 153	266	-7 653	134.3	78.2
F	1 224	15.7	13.1	107 615	546	9.0	13.5	89 062	677	18 552	224.0	120.8
IRL	164	19.9	1.8	17 605	56	12.4	1.4	14 782	108	2 822	291.7	119.1
I	1 197	36.6	12.9	94 445	194	-10.2	4.8	73 969	1 003	20 476	617.9	127.7
NL	341	29.0	3.7	40 204	339	2.1	8.4	76 618	2	-36 414	100.5	52.5
A	159	42.2	1.7	20 477	34	14.1	0.8	16 321	125	4 156	474.0	125.5
P	27	36.8	0.3	3 980	105	8.4	2.6	7 498	-78	-3 518	25.9	53.1
FIN	94	35.6	1.0	17 137	17	12.5	0.4	10 080	77	7 057	564.7	170.0
S	238	30.1	2.6	31 798	51	18.2	1.3	18 777	187	13 021	464.3	169.3
UK	793	33.5	8.5	102 509	718	14.3	17.8	133 532	75	-31 023	110.4	76.8
EUR-11	8 195	26.8	88.0	578 416	3 197	6.7	79.3	539 466	4 998	38 950	256.3	107.2

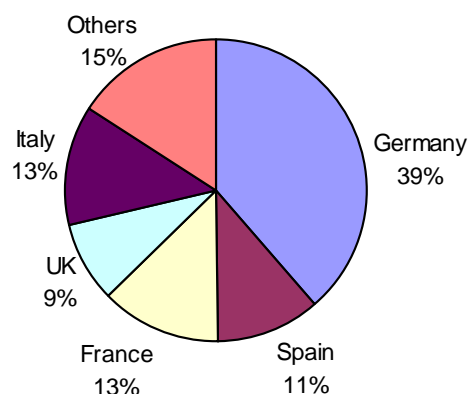
Germany is the Member State with the highest share of EU trade with Mexico. It is also the country accounting for around half the EU's trade surplus with Mexico. In fact German imports make up a slightly lower share of total EU imports from Mexico than for total extra-EU imports. German exports, however, at over 3.5 billion ECU in 1998, represented a share of 39% of total EU exports to Mexico, whereas Germany's share of total extra-EU exports was only 29%. This is due to a large extent to German exports of 'Vehicles and machinery', equal to over 2 billion ECU (44% of total EU exports of these products to Mexico).

It is interesting however that trade in these products takes place in both directions, as Germany also records a high share of imports from Mexico of the same product group (32% in 1998).

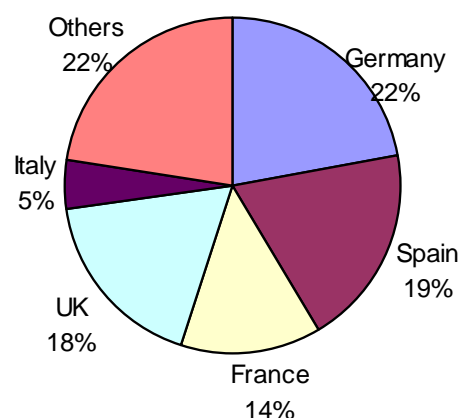
A major contribution to the positive EU trade balance with Mexico is also made by Italy, with exports exceeding imports by 1 billion ECU in 1998.

Only two countries, Portugal and Greece, record a slight trade deficit with Mexico; these two countries, however, also register a trade deficit for their total extra-EU trade.

EU exports to Mexico by Member State, 1998



EU imports from Mexico by Member State, 1998



	Exports						Imports					
	Food	Crude mat.	Energy	Chem.	Machin. & vehic.	Other	Food	Crude mat.	Energy	Chem.	Machin. & vehic.	Other
EU-15	327	79	93	1 228	5 359	2 227	399	127	626	351	1 563	965
BLEU	20	1	0	106	157	71	20	33	10	65	41	69
DK	9	0	0	10	30	33	19	0		2	3	22
D	36	15	5	326	2 362	850	57	33	0	52	506	246
EL	1	1	0	1	0	1	10	0	0	2	0	6
E	49	13	0	114	418	446	83	11	427	45	149	60
F	50	15	1	195	765	198	51	3	19	20	368	85
IRL	19	3	0	96	37	9	2	1	0	4	26	23
I	10	5	1	86	764	332	38	17	5	33	59	42
NL	50	13	0	102	111	65	39	18	26	71	62	122
A	1	0	0	12	106	39	1	4		1	23	5
P	1	1		1	18	6	7	0	77	3	7	10
FIN	9	1		6	47	31	4	3		0	5	4
S	3	2	0	19	166	48	7	1	0	4	31	8
UK	68	11	85	155	376	99	61	3	64	48	281	262
EUR-11	246	66	7	1 044	4 786	2 046	303	123	562	294	1 248	667

The most interesting feature of EU trade with Mexico is, however, the importance of Spanish trade. In fact, with a value of exports of just over 1 billion ECU in 1998, Spain recorded 11% of the EU's total exports to Mexico, whereas its share of total extra-EU exports is not quite 4%. Furthermore, Spanish imports from Mexico accounted for 19% of the EU total, compared to 5% of total extra-EU imports. This is due to a large extent to Spanish imports of 'Energy products' (68% of the EU's total imports of these products from Mexico in 1998).

It is interesting that EU imports of these products from

Mexico are concentrated among three countries: Spain (68%), Portugal (12%), and the UK (10%). This is a particularly high share for Portugal, which registers an average share of Mexican imports equal to less than 3%, and an average extra-EU share of imports equal to 1%.

EU exports of these same products to Mexico are even more concentrated than imports; the UK, in fact exports to Mexico 85 million ECU out of a total of 93 million (92%).

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Data sources: Customs sources, Eurostat Comext database; for Mexican data: the UN' Comtrade database. Divergences between the two sources on figures concerning bilateral trade can be partly explained by the use of different methodologies and concepts.

System: Special trade.

Goods classification: Third revision of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC).

Statistical values: CIF values for imports and FOB

values for exports.

Indices: Changes over time in the value of trade are influenced by changes in prices and the quantities marketed. Eurostat calculates Fisher's annual chain indices to measure these two effects. Price indices are approximated by unit value indices.

EFTA: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland.

BLEU: Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union.

In this report, 1 Bn ECU= 1000 million ECU.

Please consult www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat for further information.

Further information:

➤ Reference publications

Title External and intra-EU trade – Monthly Statistics
 Catalogue No CA-AR-00-003-EN-S Price EUR 20

➤ Databases

Comext: EC special trade, Comtrade

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For information on methodology

Tim ALLEN, Eurostat/C4, L-2920 Luxembourg, Tel. (352) 4301 35098, Fax (352) 4301 34339, E-mail: timothy.allen@cec.eu.int

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