

# EU external trade in 2000

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In 2000 the EU recorded an increased deficit in trade in goods. Exports grew by 23% over 1999, reaching 938 bn euro, and imports rose by 31% to 1022 bn euro, with a trade deficit of nearly 85 bn euro. The trade balance has now fallen by over 130 bn euro from its 1997 peak.

Trade flows with all the EU's major partners grew. Trade with the USA was up strongly, with exports growing faster than imports, and the trade surplus rose to nearly 36 bn euro. Exports to Japan also grew faster than imports, but the deficit still rose to over 40 bn euro in 2000 as Japan overtook Switzerland as the EU's second largest trading partner. Trade with China continued to grow strongly in both directions, with the deficit passing 44 bn euro.

Exports and imports to the candidate countries also grew strongly in 2000. The EU had a surplus of 33 bn euro with the candidates, although this was a little lower than in 1998 and 1997. Four candidates, Poland, Turkey, the Czech Republic and Hungary, rank in the top ten EU trading partners.

Changes in EU trade flows with Asian countries (which include the oil producing countries of the Middle East) were mainly responsible for the fall in the EU's trade balance over the last three years. Exports to Asia fell sharply in 1998, recovered only slightly in 1999 then grew strongly in 2000. Imports grew throughout the period, and the deficit went from 15 bn ECU in 1997 to 123 bn euro in 2000.

Imports from the CIS, in particular Russia, rose sharply in 2000, with the EU recording a deficit of 27 bn euro. Imports from OPEC also rose strongly, with the deficit reaching 32 bn euro.

Looking at EU trade by major product groups, it is clear that it was the slowdown in the growth of exports of machinery, vehicles and other manufactured articles that was mainly responsible for the fall in the EU trade balance in 1998 and 1999, while in 2000 changes in the price of oil were reflected in the greatly increased value of energy imports, and in the deficit on energy products, which rose to 116 bn euro. Excluding energy the EU recorded a surplus of 32 bn euro, although this is well down from 117 bn in 1997.

## Statistics in focus

### EXTERNAL TRADE

THEME 6 – 3/2001

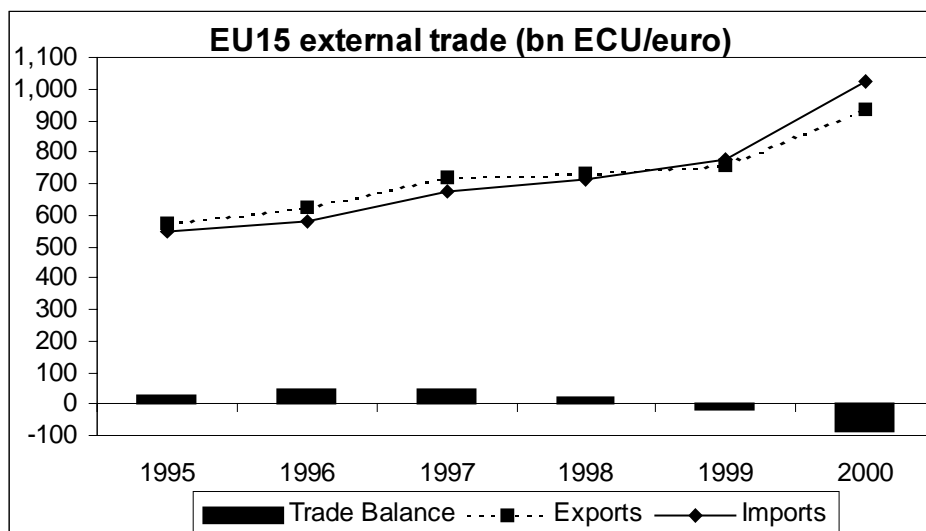
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## EU15 trade with top 15 trading partners, geographical and economic zones

Bn ECU/euro

	Exports					Imports					Trade Balance				
	1997	1998	1999	2000	00/99	1997	1998	1999	2000	00/99	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
<b>Total</b>	<b>721.1</b>	<b>733.4</b>	<b>760.1</b>	<b>937.5</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>672.6</b>	<b>710.5</b>	<b>779.2</b>	<b>1 022.2</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>43.1</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>-19.1</b>	<b>-84.8</b>
<b>USA</b>	141.4	161.5	183.0	232.7	27%	137.8	152.0	160.6	197.0	23%	1.5	3.5	9.5	22.4	35.7
<b>Japan</b>	36.1	31.6	35.4	44.6	26%	59.9	66.0	71.7	84.7	18%	-16.8	-23.8	-34.5	-36.4	-40.1
<b>Switzerland</b>	53.0	57.2	62.6	70.2	12%	45.1	49.5	52.9	58.2	10%	8.7	7.9	7.7	9.7	12.0
<b>China</b>	16.5	17.4	19.4	25.3	31%	37.5	42.0	49.6	69.7	40%	-15.3	-21.0	-24.6	-30.3	-44.4
<b>Norway</b>	23.4	25.1	23.2	25.4	9%	33.7	28.1	29.6	45.4	53%	-8.0	-10.4	-3.0	-6.4	-20.0
<b>Russia</b>	25.5	21.2	14.7	19.7	34%	27.0	23.2	25.9	45.0	73%	-4.2	-1.5	-2.0	-11.2	-25.2
<b>Poland</b>	25.1	28.2	29.0	33.8	17%	14.2	16.2	17.6	23.1	31%	7.7	10.9	12.0	11.4	10.6
<b>Turkey</b>	22.4	22.2	20.6	29.7	44%	11.9	13.6	15.1	17.5	16%	8.1	10.5	8.6	5.5	12.3
<b>Czech Rep.</b>	15.9	17.2	18.4	23.8	29%	11.8	14.7	16.8	21.4	27%	4.2	4.2	2.5	1.6	2.3
<b>Hungary</b>	13.6	16.9	18.4	23.0	25%	11.7	14.7	17.6	21.9	24%	1.2	1.9	2.2	0.8	1.1
<b>Taiwan</b>	12.7	12.1	11.8	14.8	25%	15.7	18.1	20.0	26.5	32%	-3.3	-3.0	-6.0	-8.2	-11.7
<b>South Korea</b>	14.5	9.1	11.5	16.4	43%	13.1	16.0	18.1	24.3	34%	3.3	1.4	-6.9	-6.6	-7.9
<b>Canada</b>	14.1	14.9	16.6	20.6	24%	12.5	12.7	13.5	18.3	36%	-0.8	1.6	2.1	3.1	2.3
<b>Brazil</b>	14.9	15.7	14.2	16.5	16%	12.6	13.2	13.3	17.5	31%	1.3	2.3	2.4	0.9	-1.0
<b>Hong Kong</b>	20.4	17.3	15.7	20.2	29%	8.4	9.7	10.7	11.7	10%	10.2	12.1	7.6	5.0	8.5
<b>Asia</b>	214.3	182.9	190.3	240.5	26%	229.3	246.6	276.3	363.4	32%	-2.0	-15.0	-63.7	-86.0	-122.9
<b>America</b>	205.8	231.0	251.6	315.5	25%	189.4	204.0	215.6	269.2	25%	7.5	16.3	27.0	36.0	46.3
<b>Rest of Europe</b>	224.2	237.4	235.0	285.5	21%	184.0	192.6	210.3	277.0	32%	30.9	40.2	44.8	24.8	8.5
<b>Africa</b>	52.1	58.7	56.9	65.7	15%	56.8	53.1	57.0	83.2	46%	0.0	-4.7	5.6	-0.1	-17.5
<b>Oceania</b>	16.4	15.9	17.2	19.3	12%	9.1	10.5	9.9	11.9	20%	6.7	7.3	5.4	7.3	7.4
<b>NAFTA</b>	162.9	185.8	210.0	267.1	27%	154.2	168.8	178.8	222.3	24%	2.7	8.7	17.0	31.3	44.8
<b>Candidates</b>	105.0	116.8	118.5	150.4	27%	69.9	82.7	92.8	117.0	26%	27.2	35.1	34.1	25.7	33.4
<b>EFTA</b>	78.1	84.2	87.8	98.1	12%	80.5	79.5	84.5	106.1	25%	0.7	-2.4	4.8	3.3	-8.0
<b>Med. Basin</b>	83.8	87.2	88.2	108.8	23%	57.3	57.4	63.2	88.1	39%	23.5	26.5	29.8	25.0	20.7
<b>DAE</b>	77.7	60.1	62.0	81.1	31%	68.1	77.9	85.0	108.0	27%	12.1	9.5	-17.8	-23.0	-27.0
<b>OPEC</b>	51.1	47.1	43.9	53.7	22%	51.3	40.5	48.3	85.2	76%	-1.8	-0.2	6.6	-4.4	-31.5
<b>CIS</b>	33.5	29.1	21.0	27.6	32%	31.8	28.0	31.9	54.2	70%	-1.7	1.7	1.1	-11.0	-26.7
<b>ACP</b>	30.2	32.7	31.5	38.0	21%	32.1	31.2	32.5	42.9	32%	-2.7	-1.9	1.5	-1.0	-4.9

## EU15 trade by main product groups

Bn ECU/euro

	Exports					Imports					Trade Balance				
	1997	1998	1999	2000	00/99	1997	1998	1999	2000	00/99	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
<b>Total</b>	<b>721.1</b>	<b>733.4</b>	<b>760.1</b>	<b>937.5</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>672.6</b>	<b>710.5</b>	<b>779.2</b>	<b>1,022.2</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>43.1</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>-19.1</b>	<b>-84.8</b>
<b>Total excluding energy</b>	<b>704.0</b>	<b>719.4</b>	<b>743.5</b>	<b>907.4</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>587.4</b>	<b>648.8</b>	<b>701.0</b>	<b>876.0</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>105.5</b>	<b>116.6</b>	<b>70.6</b>	<b>42.5</b>	<b>31.5</b>
<b>Primary Products</b>	<b>79.3</b>	<b>73.0</b>	<b>76.1</b>	<b>98.8</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>176.9</b>	<b>154.4</b>	<b>169.1</b>	<b>251.1</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>-90.8</b>	<b>-97.6</b>	<b>-81.4</b>	<b>-93.0</b>	<b>-152.3</b>
Food	46.4	44.4	44.2	50.3	14%	48.9	50.4	50.6	55.0	9%	-4.5	-2.5	-6.0	-6.4	-4.7
Crude materials	15.7	14.6	15.4	18.5	20%	42.8	42.4	40.3	49.8	24%	-23.9	-27.1	-27.8	-24.9	-31.3
Energy	17.1	14.0	16.6	30.0	81%	85.2	61.7	78.2	146.3	87%	-62.4	-68.1	-47.7	-61.6	-116.3
<b>Manufactured Goods</b>	<b>628.6</b>	<b>644.2</b>	<b>664.6</b>	<b>815.9</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>478.3</b>	<b>534.1</b>	<b>588.4</b>	<b>736.6</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>139.0</b>	<b>150.3</b>	<b>110.1</b>	<b>76.1</b>	<b>79.3</b>
Chemicals	93.3	95.9	106.6	129.7	22%	51.6	55.6	58.9	70.6	20%	34.3	41.7	40.4	47.7	59.1
Machinery and vehicles	331.4	345.5	351.8	435.4	24%	230.0	267.2	305.5	388.8	27%	93.2	101.5	78.3	46.3	46.6
Other manufactured articles	203.9	202.7	206.1	250.8	22%	196.8	211.4	224.0	277.2	24%	11.5	7.1	-8.7	-17.9	-26.4
<b>Other</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>34.6</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>-5.2</b>	<b>-4.1</b>	<b>-5.7</b>	<b>-2.3</b>	<b>-11.8</b>

### ➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

**Data sources:** Customs sources: Eurostat Comext database

**System:** Special trade

**Goods classification:** Third revision of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC).  
Food = sections 0+1, Crude Materials = sections 2+4, Energy = section 3, Chemicals = section 5, Machinery and vehicles = section 7, Other manufactured articles = sections 6+8

**Statistical values:** CIF values for imports and FOB values for exports

**NAFTA – North American Free Trade Agreement:** Canada, Mexico, USA

**Candidates:** Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey

**EFTA – European Free Trade Association:** Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland

**Mediterranean Basin:** Ceuta, Melilla, Gibraltar, Malta, Turkey, Albania, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Cyprus, Lebanon, Syria, Israel, West Bank/Gaza Strip, Jordan

**DAE – Dynamic Asian Economies:** Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong

**OPEC – Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries:** Algeria, Libya, Nigeria, Venezuela, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Indonesia

**ACP:** 71 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries

**CIS – Commonwealth of Independent States:** Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan

In this report, 1 Bn = 1000 million

# Further information:

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