

Contents

EU's second trade partner.....	1
Slowdown in 1999	2
Recovery in 2000	2
Poland and Turkey: the main partners	2
Germany: the dominant partner in the EU	3
Mainly manufactured goods	3



The 13 candidate countries' trade with the EU in 2000

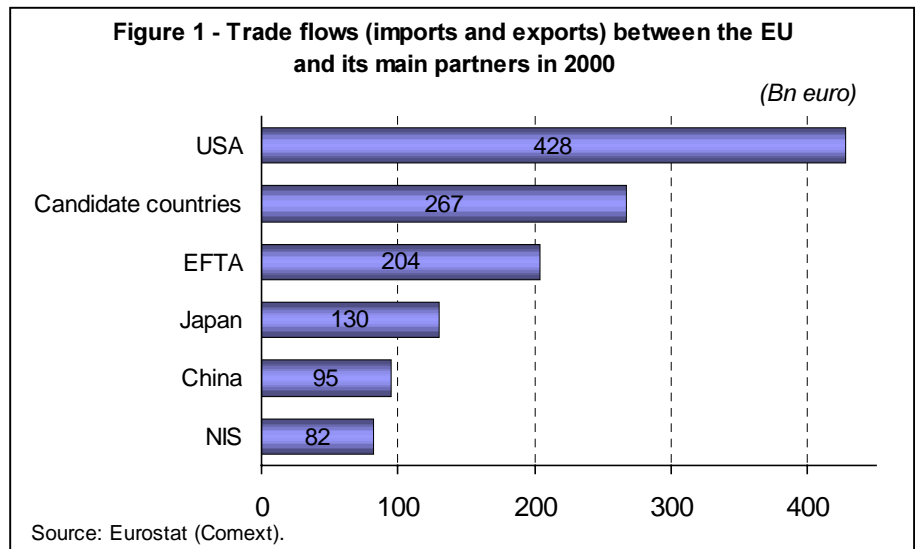
Tim Allen

In 2000 the group of the 13 candidate countries (CC-13) was the European Union's second biggest trading partner, after the United States. For the candidate countries, the European Union was their major partner, accounting for 65% of their trade in 1999.

After a definite slowdown in 1999, trade between CC-13 and EU-15 picked up noticeably in 2000 (+26.5%).

Poland and Turkey were the Union's leading partners among the CC-13 countries. Germany was easily the candidate countries' main partner among the Member States, and has been for many years.

Trade was generally dominated by manufactured goods, especially machinery and vehicles and other manufactured articles.



EU's second trade partner

All the candidate countries recorded positive economic growth in 2000 (+5.0%), following negative growth (-0.2%) the previous year. By way of comparison, the 13 candidate countries have a total population of 170 million, i.e. about half the EU total. GDP per capita (expressed in PPS) was 7 900 in 2000, about three times less than in the European Union.

Trade between CC-13 and EU-15 increased considerably in 2000 (+26.5%). CC-13 imports from the European Union amounted to EUR 150.3 billion, while exports totalled 117 billion euro. Between 1995 and 2000 trade between CC-13 and EU-15 rose by a factor of 2.2 (see figure 2). The European Union is now the candidate countries' leading trade partner, accounting for 65% of total trade (intra and extra) in 1999.

For the Union, the candidate countries' share of its total trade was 14% in 2000. When both trade flows (imports and exports) are considered in value terms, the candidate countries emerge as the Union's second biggest trade partner, after the United States (see figure 1). The trade flows between CC-13 and EU-15 were twice as much as between Japan and the EU and three times as much as between the Union and the NIS (see figure 1). Poland, Turkey, Hungary and the Czech Republic were all ranked among the Union's top ten trade partners in 2000.

Slowdown in 1999

In 1999, primarily as a result of the external effects of the crisis in Russia, the conflict in Kosovo and a slowdown in demand from the EU, the candidate countries' total trade increased only slightly: +2% overall and +6% with the EU. There was virtually no change in imports from the EU, which explains the reduction in the CC-13 countries' trade deficit with the European Union in 1999.

The quarterly figures show that growth in trade between CC-13 and EU-15 picked up noticeably from the end of 1999.

Recovery in 2000

The main feature of 2000 was the dramatic recovery of growth in trade between the candidate countries and the Union. Total trade (imports and exports) rose by 27%, way ahead of the figures recorded before 1999 (for example, +14% in 1998 and +20% in 1997). Every candidate country increased its trade with the EU in comparison with 1999. Cyprus and Estonia stood out with the highest growth rates in trade (around +50%), followed by Romania and Turkey (about +30%). The exceptional economic growth enjoyed by the European Union in 2000 resulted in a 26% increase in CC-13 exports to the Union in comparison with 1999. In terms of value, CC-13 imports from the EU went up by virtually the same amount (+27%). The CC-13 trade deficit with the EU advanced in 2000 to attain a level close to the 1998 figure. The deficit declined slightly in the case of the three Baltic republics, Bulgaria and Poland. On the other hand, Turkey's deficit with the EU increased from 5.5 bn to 12.3 bn euro.

Poland and Turkey: the main partners

Poland was the EU's leading trade partner among the candidate countries in 2000, ranking ahead of Turkey, Hungary and the Czech Re-

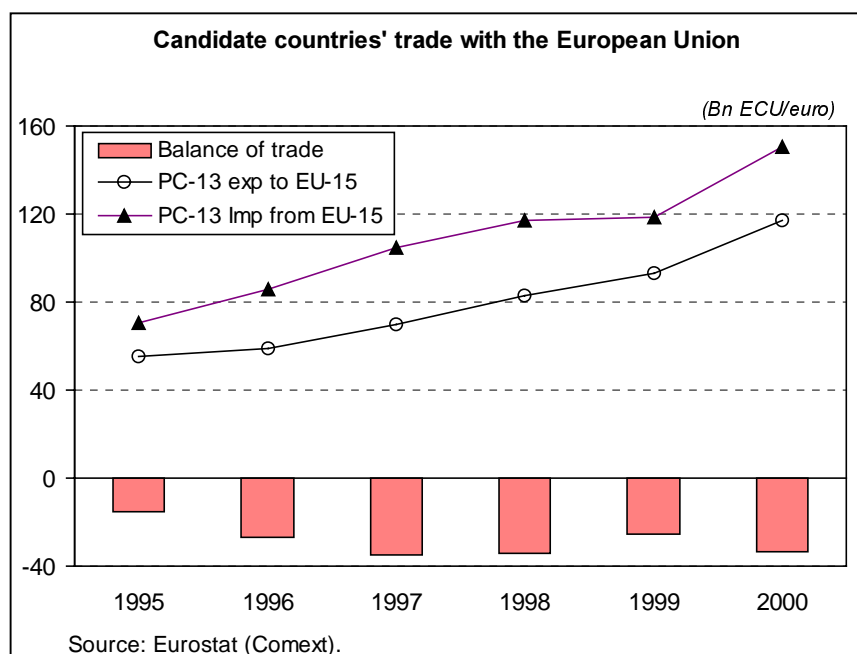


Table 1 - Trade between CC-13 and EU-15: quarterly figures (Bn euro)

	1998				1999				2000				2001
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Exports	19.6	20.3	20.7	22.1	21.4	22.6	23.0	25.8	27.1	28.6	29.1	32.2	33.0
Imports	27.8	30.1	29	29.9	26.3	29.1	29.2	33.9	33.1	37.4	37.8	42.1	37.0

Source: Eurostat. Data reported by EU Member States.

Table 2 - Trade of the 13 candidate countries with the EU, 2000

	Value			Var. 00/99		Var. 99/98		Var. 00/95	
	Exports	Imports	Balance	Exp.	Imp.	Exp.	Imp.	Exp.	Imp.
	(Bn euro)			(%)					
CC-13	117.0	150.3	-33.3	26	27	12	1	111	113
Bulgaria	3.1	3.2	-0.1	36	19	0	11	67	56
Cyprus	1.0	3.1	-2.1	66	31	38	11	35	54
Estonia	3.2	3.3	-0.1	67	35	15	7	255	141
Hungary	21.9	23.0	-1.1	24	25	13	-11	188	163
Latvia	1.9	2.0	-0.1	34	21	20	9	68	113
Lithuania	2.2	2.6	-0.4	33	22	5	-9	122	151
Malta	1.0	2.8	-1.8	18	34	14	-12	-7	38
Poland	23.1	33.6	-10.5	31	16	11	5	89	120
Czech Rep.	21.4	23.8	-2.3	27	29	9	3	138	104
Romania	7.6	8.7	-1.1	32	37	12	0	124	128
Slovakia	7.0	6.5	0.4	17	18	11	-5	126	105
Slovenia	6.3	8.1	-1.8	18	17	1	2	47	56
Turkey	17.5	29.7	-12.3	16	44	11	-7	89	122

Source: Eurostat. Data reported by EU Member States.

public. These four countries alone accounted for nearly three quarters of total CC-13 trade with the EU. Slovakia, which ranked seventh after Slovenia and Romania, was

the only candidate country to post a positive trade balance with the EU in 2000 as well as in 1999.

Germany: the dominant partner in the EU

Germany, among the 15 Member States, was easily the top trading partner for the candidate countries - and has been for many years. On its own, Germany accounted for more than a third of total EU trade with CC-13. Second and third places were taken by Italy and France. Every Member State, apart from Portugal, recorded a surplus in the trade balance with the candidate countries.

Mainly manufactured goods

Manufactured goods (SITC 5-8) were the main items of trade in 2000, covering about 90% of all trade (imports and exports). Among these, the main product group was machinery and vehicles (SITC 7), which accounted for half of all trade with the EU in manufactured goods. This group has also shown the most vigorous growth in trade (imports and exports) with the EU since 1995. Lastly, and again with reference to 2000, this group recorded the biggest CC-13 trade deficit with the European Union, primarily because of strong imports of road vehicles (SITC 78). The CC-13 countries achieved a surplus in trade with the EU in miscellaneous manufactured articles (SITC 6+8), mainly thanks to trade in clothing and furniture (SITC 84 and 82).

Trade in energy products (SITC 3) rose by more than 50% in value terms because of the increase in the price of oil. In volume terms, there was virtually no change in the amount of trade. Since energy products account for only minor part of trade between CC-13 and EU-15, there was a relatively little impact on overall trade figures in value terms.

Table 3 - Trade of EU Member States with CC-13, 2000

Reporter	Value			Var. 00/99		Var. 99/98		Var. 00/95	
	Imports	Exports	Balance	Imp.	Exp.	Imp.	Exp.	Imp.	Exp.
	(Bn euro)			(%)					
EU-15	117.0	150.3	33.3	26	27	12	1	111	113
B	4.6	6.5	1.8	28	27	-	-	-	-
DK	2.2	2.2	0.0	19	8	12	-2	106	70
D	50.6	57.4	6.8	20	23	12	-1	95	101
EL	1.8	2.5	0.7	46	54	-2	2	101	116
E	3.0	5.4	2.4	34	57	17	-1	139	234
F	9.7	14.9	5.2	31	25	14	9	116	145
IRL	0.8	1.7	0.9	30	59	69	30	379	292
I	13.3	20.4	7.1	27	32	11	-3	91	88
L	0.2	0.3	0.1	93	31	-	-	-	-
NL	6.1	8.5	2.4	18	29	12	4	104	123
A	9.4	10.1	0.7	34	16	12	7	167	94
P	0.8	0.5	-0.3	61	55	23	6	241	186
FIN	2.0	4.4	2.4	61	25	2	1	142	137
S	3.6	5.3	1.7	43	17	11	18	155	165
UK	9.0	10.3	1.3	33	39	13	-5	141	116

Source: Eurostat (Comext).

Table 4 - Trade of CC-13 with EU by product group, 2000

Product group (SITC-Rev. 3)	Value			Var. 00/99		Var. 00/95	
	Exports	Imports	Balance	Exp.	Imp.	Exp.	Imp.
	(Bn euro)			(%)			
Total	117.0	150.3	-33.3	26	27	111	113
Primary products	13.9	12.3	1.6	19	29	37	43
Food	5.2	5.6	-0.4	7	18	30	25
Crude materials	5.2	3.2	2.0	16	27	45	23
Energy	3.5	3.5	0.0	50	54	38	132
Manufactured goods	101.7	133.3	-31.7	27	26	127	122
Chemical products	5.0	18.1	-13.1	37	21	48	105
Machinery and vehicles	46.7	71.5	-24.8	32	32	263	150
Other manufactured articles	50.0	43.8	6.2	21	21	75	92
Articles not classified	1.1	1.4	-0.3	79	24	78	-9

Source: Eurostat. Data reported by EU Member States.

Table 5 - Trade balance of CC-13 with EU, by main products

Product group SITC-Rev. 3	1995	1999	2000
	(Bn ECU/euro)		
Highest deficits			
78 Road vehicles	-3.60	-2.88	-6.55
74 General industrial machinery & equipment	-3.36	-4.76	-5.19
72 Machinery special. for particular industries	-3.62	-4.07	-4.83
Highest surpluses			
84 Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	7.45	10.16	11.45
82 Furniture	1.41	2.57	3.25
24 Cork and wood	1.15	1.83	2.03

Source: Eurostat. Data reported by EU Member States in relation to CC-13 countries.

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Groups of countries: EU: EU-15. NIS: countries of the former USSR. EFTA: Countries of the European Free trade agreement.

CC-13: There are thirteen applicant countries: Bulgaria (BG), Cyprus (CY), Czech Republic (CZ), Estonia (EE), Hungary (HU), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Malta (MT), Poland (PL), Romania (RO), Slovakia (SK), Slovenia (SI) and Turkey (TR).

Data source: Custom data reported by the EU Member states and stored in Eurostat Comext database. **System:** Special trade. **Statistical values:** CIF for imports and FOB for exports. In this report, 1 Bn euro= 1000 million euro

Further information:

➤ Reference publications

Title External and intra-EU trade - monthly statistics
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➤ Databases

Comext, Domain EC Special Trade

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