

EU-27 trade in motor cars in 2007

USA and Japan, main EU partners in car trade.

The car industry remains of prime importance for the EU: new and used motor cars accounted for close to 6% of the total value of all extra-EU exports in 2007, and well over 2% of the total value of all extra-EU imports.

In 2007, the EU-27 exported motor cars worth EUR 71.1 billion. Imports in that same year amounted to roughly half that value (EUR 33.6 billion). The EU trade surplus amounted to EUR 37.5 billion.

The value of extra-EU exports of motor cars increased by an average 6% per year between 2000 and 2007. During the same period, extra-EU imports grew faster, at an average 8% per year.

Over one third (35%) of all extra-EU motor car imports in 2007 came from Japan, followed by South Korea (20%), the United States (19%) and Turkey (13%). Chinese imports, at a low level in absolute terms, have increased fastest in recent years.

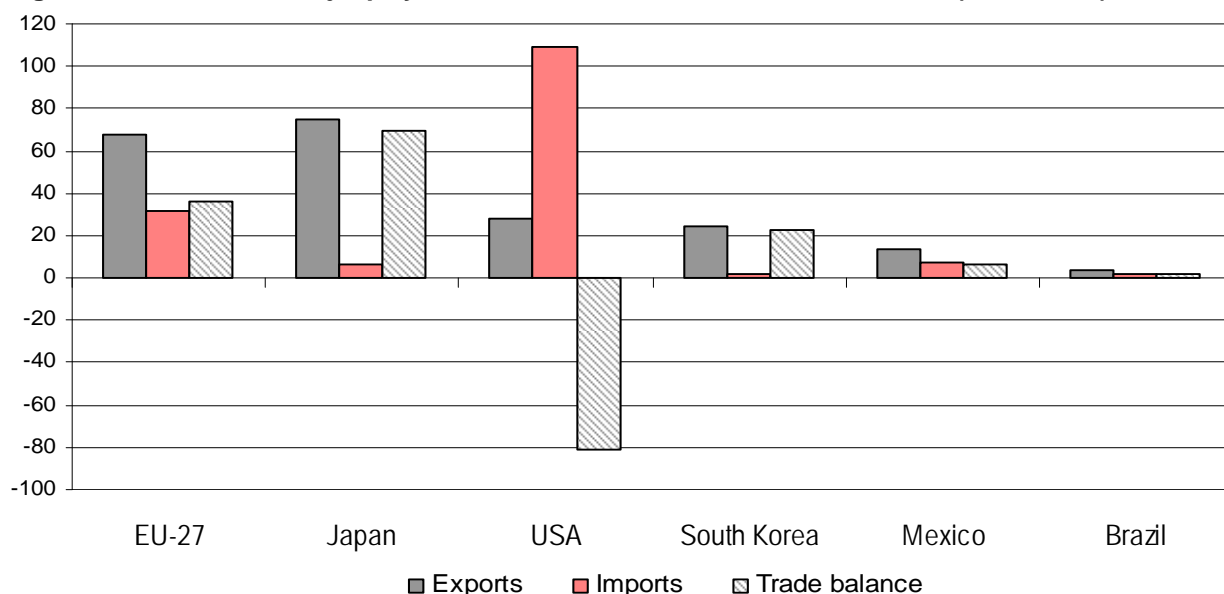
In 2007, the USA remained by a large margin the main EU partner for motor car exports (35% of the total), ahead of Russia (9%) Switzerland and Japan (both 6%). Since 2000, EU motor car exports to Russia have developed particularly rapidly.

Within the broader 'Road vehicles' category (which also includes lorries, road tractors, motorcycles, trailers and motor-vehicle parts), motor cars represented 60% of extra-EU-27 exports and 57% of extra-EU imports in 2007. Parts and accessories of motor vehicles had a share of 22% and 21% respectively.

Germany was responsible for over half (57%) of total extra-EU motor car exports and was the only Member State to show a positive trade balance of noticeable size.

At the same time, Germany was also the biggest importer of motor cars in 2007: about one quarter of the total value of extra-EU-27 imports can be ascribed to Germany, well ahead of Belgium, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Figure 1: EU and other major players in international motor cars trade in 2006 (EUR billion)



Source: Eurostat (COMEXT and Comtrade)

Russia cruises past Switzerland and Japan to second place on the export market

Table 1: Extra-EU-27 trade in motor cars with top 20 trading partners (EUR million)

	EXPORTS							IMPORTS								
	2000	2005	2006	2007	Average Annual Increase 2000-2007	Share in EU-27 motor cars exports 2007		Share in total EU-27 exports 2007	2000	2005	2006	2007	Average Annual Increase 2000-2007	Share in EU-27 motor cars imports 2007		Share in total EU-27 imports 2007
						%	% cum.							%	%	
EU-27	47 994	63 229	68 050	71 109	5.8%	100%	100%	5.7%	19 810	26 811	31 930	33 576	7.8%	100%	100%	2.4%
USA	20 691	27 018	27 069	24 755	2.6%	35%	35%	9.5%	2 165	3 819	5 533	6 395	16.7%	19%	19%	3.5%
Japan	5 503	4 745	4 222	4 179	-3.9%	6%	41%	9.6%	11 515	11 247	12 224	11 841	0.4%	35%	54%	15.2%
South Korea	119	662	1 018	983	35.2%	1%	42%	4.0%	3 437	6 299	7 264	6 698	10.0%	20%	74%	17.0%
Turkey	3 211	3 147	2 908	2 830	-1.8%	4%	46%	5.4%	559	2 563	3 393	4 204	33.4%	13%	87%	9.0%
Russia	859	2 394	4 318	6 659	34.0%	9%	55%	7.5%	70	47	43	36	-9.1%	0%	87%	0.0%
Switzerland	3 776	3 931	4 002	4 329	2.0%	6%	62%	4.7%	95	142	143	195	10.8%	1%	87%	0.3%
China	234	1 410	2 252	3 346	46.2%	5%	66%	4.7%	5	161	313	509	93.6%	2%	89%	0.2%
Mexico	609	888	990	923	6.1%	1%	68%	4.4%	526	782	1 334	1 978	20.8%	6%	95%	16.6%
Norway	1 410	1 924	2 274	2 703	9.7%	4%	71%	6.2%	11	26	34	29	14.9%	0%	95%	0.0%
Canada	866	1 671	2 104	2 093	13.4%	3%	74%	8.1%	106	108	111	108	0.3%	0%	95%	0.5%
Australia	1 110	1 738	1 831	2 101	9.5%	3%	77%	9.3%	14	22	6	11	-3.4%	0%	95%	0.1%
South Africa	694	1 714	1 828	1 608	12.8%	2%	79%	7.9%	473	404	366	70	-23.9%	0%	96%	0.3%
Ukraine	209	601	945	1 190	28.2%	2%	81%	5.3%	1	1	1	3	17.0%	0%	96%	0.0%
U.A.Emirates	472	987	1 074	1 133	13.3%	2%	83%	4.2%	11	12	13	19	8.1%	0%	96%	0.3%
Croatia	378	755	842	917	13.5%	1%	84%	6.9%	1	2	1	1	0.0%	0%	96%	0.0%
Brazil	237	425	518	567	13.2%	1%	85%	1.7%	279	251	346	303	1.2%	1%	96%	1.4%
Taiwan	528	564	565	510	-0.5%	1%	86%	3.8%	6	171	119	158	59.6%	0%	97%	0.6%
Algeria	361	794	566	627	8.2%	1%	86%	5.6%	1	0	0	0	-100.0%	0%	97%	0.0%
Israel	889	540	468	614	-5.1%	1%	87%	4.3%	2	1	2	2	0.0%	0%	97%	0.0%
Hong Kong	371	422	434	521	5.0%	1%	88%	2.5%	2	2	3	4	10.4%	0%	97%	0.0%

Source: Eurostat (COMEXT)

In 2006 (the latest year currently available for the countries listed), the value of motor car exports from the United States was EUR 28.2 bn while US imports were nearly four times that value, resulting in a EUR 81.3 bn trade deficit. Conversely, Japan was the biggest net exporter with a trade surplus of EUR 69.2 bn. The EU balance in motor cars trade in 2006 showed a surplus of EUR 36.1 bn: exports worth EUR 68.1 bn stood against imports valued EUR 31.9 bn (see Figure 1).

In 2007, over one third (35%) of the extra-EU motor car imports came from Japan (see Table 1), well ahead of South Korea (20%) and the USA (19%). Imports from USA and South Korea have been growing at an average 17% and 10% per year respectively between

2000 and 2007. Imports from Turkey increased much faster during the same period (+33% per year on average). The strongest relative growth was registered for imports from China (+94% per year between 2000 and 2007) but absolute values remained low.

In 2007, the USA remained the number one partner for extra-EU exports with a share of 35% (close to EUR 25 billion). At 6.7 bn, Russia overtook Switzerland and Japan and became the second export market for the EU (9% share) due to a particularly strong growth (+34% per year on average between 2000 and 2007). Starting from a low level in absolute terms, exports to China displayed an impressive average growth rate between 2000 and 2007 of 46% per year.

'Motor cars' represents around 60% of total road vehicles

'Road vehicles' represented 10.3% (EUR 119.1 bn) of total extra-EU exports and 4.4% (EUR 59.5 bn) of total extra-EU imports in 2007 (see Table 2). All subcategories of 'Road vehicles' generated trade surpluses except 'Motor cycles and cycles' with a deficit of EUR 4.4 bn. 'Motor cars and other motor vehicles' is the main category within 'Road vehicles' with a share of around 60% in exports and 57% in imports. 'Parts and accessories of motor vehicles' follows with shares of around 20%. In relative terms, two sectors are noteworthy: 'Motor cycles and cycles' are mainly imported (10% of road vehicles' imports) whereas 'Road vehicles, not elsewhere specified' such as road tractors are mainly exported (4% of road vehicles exports).

Table 2: Extra-EU-27 trade in total road vehicles (EUR billion)

SITC division	2000	2005	2006	2007	Average annual increase 2000-2007	Share in total road vehicles trade 2007	Share in total EU trade 2007
EXPORTS	74.8	101.5	110.9	119.1	6.9%	100.0%	10.3%
781 Motor Cars and other motor vehicles (transport of persons)	48.0	63.2	68.1	71.1	5.8%	59.7%	6.1%
782 Motor vehicles (transport of goods) and special-purpose motor vehicles	5.1	8.9	10.4	12.2	13.4%	10.2%	1.1%
783 Road vehicles, NES (tractors, etc)	2.2	3.8	3.9	5.0	12.7%	4.2%	0.4%
784 Parts and accessories of motor vehicles	17.4	22.3	24.7	26.2	6.0%	22.0%	2.3%
785 Motor cycles and cycles, motorized and non-motorized; invalid carriages	1.2	1.6	1.8	1.8	5.5%	1.5%	0.2%
786 Trailers and semi-trailers	0.9	1.7	2.1	2.7	16.5%	2.3%	0.2%
IMPORTS	38.1	47.4	54.8	59.5	6.6%	100.0%	4.4%
781 Motor Cars and other motor vehicles (transport of persons)	19.8	26.8	31.9	33.6	7.8%	56.5%	2.5%
782 Motor vehicles (transport of goods) and special-purpose motor vehicles	2.9	4.0	4.5	5.1	8.6%	8.6%	0.4%
783 Road vehicles, NES (tractors, etc)	0.3	0.7	0.8	1.1	19.0%	1.8%	0.1%
784 Parts and accessories of motor vehicles	8.8	9.6	11.0	12.6	5.3%	21.2%	0.9%
785 Motor cycles and cycles, motorized and non-motorized; invalid carriages	5.5	5.8	6.0	6.2	1.5%	10.4%	0.5%
786 Trailers and semi-trailers	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.9	2.3%	1.5%	0.1%
TRADE BALANCE	36.8	54.0	56.1	59.6			
781 Motor Cars and other motor vehicles (transport of persons)	28.2	36.4	36.1	37.5			
782 Motor vehicles (transport of goods) and special-purpose motor vehicles	2.2	4.9	5.9	7.1			
783 Road vehicles, NES (tractors, etc)	1.8	3.1	3.1	3.9			
784 Parts and accessories of motor vehicles	8.7	12.6	13.7	13.6			
785 Motor cycles and cycles, motorized and non-motorized; invalid carriages	-4.3	-4.2	-4.2	-4.4			
786 Trailers and semi-trailers	0.2	1.2	1.5	1.8			

Source: Eurostat (COMEXT)

Expectedly, Germany leads in exports

Table 3: Extra-EU-27 trade in total motor cars (EUR million)

	EXPORTS						IMPORTS						TRADE BALANCE			
	2000	2005	2006	2007	Average annual increase 2000-2007	Share in motor cars trade 2007	2000	2005	2006	2007	Average annual increase 2000-2007	Share in motor cars trade 2007	2000	2005	2006	2007
EU-27	47 994	63 229	68 050	71 109	5.8%	100%	19 810	26 811	31 930	33 576	7.8%	100%	28 184	36 418	36 120	37 533
Belgium	2 968	3 009	3 221	2 894	-0.4%	4.1%	1 370	2 807	3 634	4 162	17.2%	12.4%	1 598	202	-413	-1 268
Bulgaria	1	1	1	3	17.0%	0.0%	34	138	190	98	16.3%	0.3%	-33	-137	-189	-95
Czech Republic	326	544	691	865	15.0%	1.2%	121	178	131	80	-5.7%	0.2%	205	366	560	785
Denmark	58	76	73	76	3.9%	0.1%	201	380	335	272	4.4%	0.8%	-143	-304	-262	-196
Germany	28 717	34 651	38 841	40 314	5.0%	56.7%	5 445	5 499	7 949	8 277	6.2%	24.7%	23 272	29 152	30 892	32 037
Estonia	2	6	9	14	32.0%	0.0%	41	14	29	69	7.7%	0.2%	-39	-8	-20	-55
Ireland	85	2	2	1	-47.0%	0.0%	572	212	169	331	-7.5%	1.0%	-487	-210	-167	-330
Greece	13	3	4	4	-15.5%	0.0%	658	674	656	730	1.5%	2.2%	-645	-671	-652	-726
Spain	2 038	2 288	2 021	2 515	3.0%	3.5%	1 569	3 170	3 628	4 016	14.4%	12.0%	469	-882	-1 607	-1 501
France	3 008	4 301	3 710	3 433	1.9%	4.8%	1 311	1 970	2 448	2 420	9.2%	7.2%	1 697	2 331	1 262	1 013
Italy	1 114	1 365	1 640	1 925	8.1%	2.7%	2 291	2 631	3 067	2 895	3.4%	8.6%	-1 177	-1 266	-1 427	-970
Cyprus	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	67	122	110	156	12.8%	0.5%	-67	-122	-110	-156
Latvia	1	6	7	9	36.9%	0.0%	13	32	44	52	21.9%	0.2%	-12	-26	-37	-43
Lithuania	58	258	411	508	36.3%	0.7%	53	97	132	220	22.5%	0.7%	5	161	279	288
Luxembourg	2	2	2	4	10.4%	0.0%	3	10	8	10	18.8%	0.0%	-1	-8	-6	-6
Hungary	72	245	322	505	32.1%	0.7%	111	164	132	74	-5.6%	0.0%	-39	81	190	431
Malta	4	2	1	1	-18.0%	0.0%	26	41	38	31	2.5%	0.1%	-22	-39	-37	-30
Netherlands	1 097	304	316	281	-17.7%	0.4%	1 007	1 480	1 567	1 615	7.0%	4.8%	90	-1 176	-1 251	-1 334
Austria	817	2 190	2 343	1 750	11.5%	2.5%	348	625	672	621	8.6%	1.8%	469	1 565	1 671	1 129
Poland	60	707	751	832	45.6%	1.2%	203	237	604	753	20.6%	2.2%	-143	470	147	79
Portugal	13	61	63	42	18.2%	0.1%	463	164	168	194	-11.7%	0.6%	-450	-103	-105	-152
Romania	33	133	191	213	30.5%	0.3%	34	405	535	587	50.2%	1.7%	-1	-272	-344	-374
Slovenia	42	205	247	274	30.7%	0.4%	72	221	288	950	44.6%	2.8%	-30	-16	-41	-676
Slovakia	171	921	1 545	1 896	41.0%	2.7%	31	39	39	37	2.6%	0.1%	140	882	1 506	1 859
Finland	262	432	810	895	19.2%	1.3%	206	547	480	415	10.5%	1.2%	56	-115	330	480
Sweden	2 170	3 197	3 097	3 396	6.6%	4.8%	456	750	1 007	929	10.7%	2.8%	1 714	2 447	2 090	2 467
United Kingdom	4 863	8 323	7 732	8 459	8.2%	11.9%	3 102	4 201	3 869	3 581	2.1%	10.7%	1 761	4 122	3 863	4 878

Source: Eurostat (COMEXT)

Looking at the 2007 exports of motor cars by the individual Member States, Germany alone was responsible for well over half (57%) of the EU-27 total and was the only country to show a highly positive trade balance (EUR 32 bn – see last column of Table 3). The United Kingdom, ranking second, registered only one fifth of the German export value with a share of 12%. It should be noted that in relative terms (i.e. compared to the total trade), exports of motor cars from countries such as Slovakia, Austria and the Czech Republic are fairly important.

Between 2000 and 2007, extra-EU exports have developed particularly fast in Poland and Slovakia, although the shares remain of lesser importance (share of 1.2% and 2.7% respectively in the EU-27 total). Conversely, the value of car exports from the Netherlands dropped sharply over the period to

reach EUR 281 million, less than one third of what it was in 2000 (EUR 1 097 million).

With a value of EUR 8.3 bn, Germany's share in total EU car imports was the most significant (25% of the EU total), followed by Belgium and Spain, with shares of around 12%. Looking at the development between 2000 and 2007, German imports displayed a continuous increase (6% on average) with a sharp rise between 2005 and 2006. Romania stands out as the Member State where imports have experienced the most noticeable relative increase (50% per year on average), followed by Slovenia (45%).

Apart from Germany, ten other Member States featured trade surpluses in 2007. Conversely, Spain, the Netherlands, and Belgium registered large deficits with values ranging between EUR 1.5 bn and EUR 1.3 bn.

➤ METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Statistical sources (data extracted on: 02/06/2008)

➤ EU data: Eurostat (Comext)

The **EU-27** includes: Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Definition of road vehicles sector

Products of the road vehicles sector are defined according to the 'Fourth revision of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)'. They include divisions 781 Motor Cars and other motor vehicles (transport of persons); 782 Motor

vehicles (transport of goods) and special-purpose motor vehicles; 783 Road vehicles, not elsewhere specified (tractors, etc); 784 Parts and accessories of motor vehicles; 785 Motor cycles and cycles, motorized and non-motorized; invalid carriages as well as 786 Trailers and semi-trailers.

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: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat)

Select your theme on the left side of the homepage and then 'Data' from the menu.

External Trade

 [External trade detailed data](#) (Comext)

Journalists can contact the media support service:

Bech Building Office A4/125 L - 2920 Luxembourg

Tel. (352) 4301 33408 Fax (352) 4301 35349

E-mail: eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu

European Statistical Data Support:

Eurostat set up with the members of the 'European statistical system' a network of support centres, which will exist in nearly all Member States as well as in some EFTA countries.

Their mission is to provide help and guidance to Internet users of European statistical data.

Contact details for this support network can be found on our Internet site:

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

A list of worldwide sales outlets is available at the:

Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.

2, rue Mercier

L - 2985 Luxembourg

URL: <http://publications.europa.eu>

E-mail: info@publications.europa.eu

Manuscript completed on: 01.09.2008

Data extracted on: 02.06.2008

ISSN 1977-0316

Catalogue number: KS-SF-08-079-EN-C

© European Communities, 2008