

## EU-27 imports of telecom products increased by 61% over 2000 – 2008

The total value of extra EU-27 trade in telecommunication, sound and video equipment (SITC division 76) rose by 33% over the period 2000-2008. There were minor fluctuations for exports but imports increased by 61%, peaking in 2007. The EU-27 recorded trade deficits for these products every year.

China was the major world trader in these products in 2008, followed by the United States. The United States and Russia were the most important trading partners for extra EU-27 exports in this category from 2000-2008 and together accounted for 24% of exports in 2008. China was by far the largest trading partner for extra EU-27 imports in 2008.

In 2008, the EU-27's most traded product group for both exports and imports was mobile telephones. The imports of mobile phones

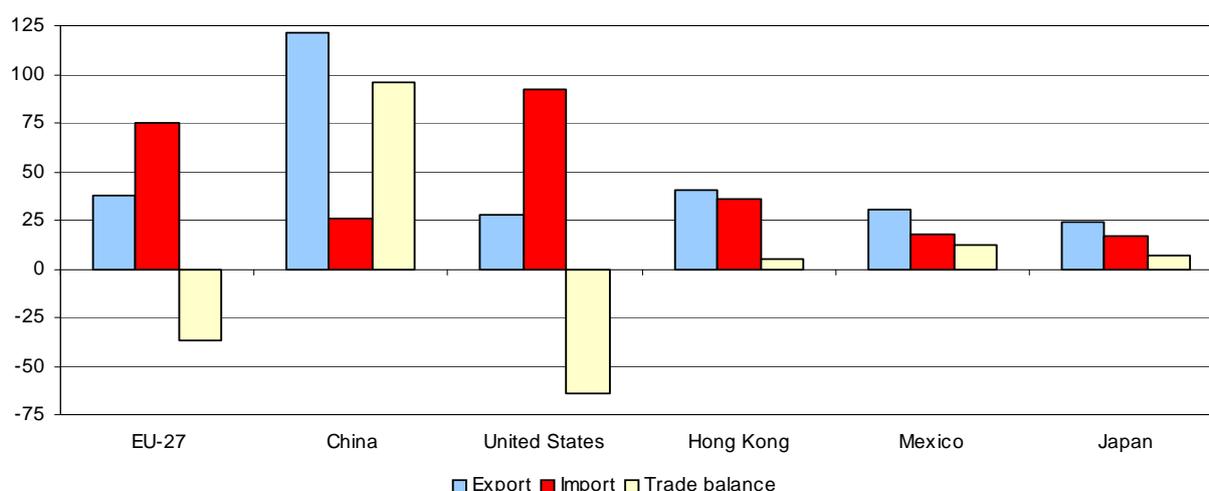
amounted to EUR 15.2 billion and the exports to EUR 9.3 billion.

The largest EU-27 exporters of telecommunication, sound and video equipment in 2008 were Germany, Sweden, Hungary and Finland. The Netherlands <sup>(1)</sup> was the largest importer.

### China has huge trade surplus for trade in telecommunication, sound and video equipment

In 2008, the sum of China's exports and imports was EUR 148 billion of which EUR 122 billion were exports. By contrast, the second largest player, the United States, had trade amounting to EUR 120 billion, of which imports accounted for EUR 92 billion, leading to a trade deficit of EUR 64 billion. EU-27 had trade totalling EUR 113 billion, with a trade deficit of EUR 37 billion.

Graph 1: EU and other major players in worldwide trade in telecommunication, sound and video equipment, 2008 (EUR billion)



Source: Eurostat ([DS\\_018995](#)) and United Nations (COMTRADE database)

<sup>1</sup> Figures for Dutch trade are biased by the so called 'Rotterdam effect' (see the Methodological notes for more details)

**Table 1: Extra EU-27 trade in telecommunication, sound and video equipment, top 10 trading partners (EUR million)**

	EXPORTS						IMPORTS					
	2000	2007	2008	Average annual growth rate 2000-2008	Share in EU-27 telecom. equipment exports 2008	Share in total EU-27 exports to that country 2008	2000	2007	2008	Average annual growth rate 2000-2008	Share in EU-27 telecom. equipment imports 2008	Share in total EU-27 imports from that country 2008
EU-27	38 720	39 087	38 058	-0.2%	100.0%	2.9%	46 502	79 731	74 881	6.1%	100.0%	4.8%
China	3 730	1 835	1 473	-11.0%	3.9%	1.9%	6 853	33 205	32 306	21.4%	43.1%	13.0%
Republic of Korea	489	485	626	3.1%	1.6%	2.4%	3 159	10 813	10 337	16.0%	13.8%	26.2%
United States	5 471	3 861	3 852	-4.3%	10.1%	1.5%	12 807	8 997	6 644	-7.9%	8.9%	3.6%
Japan	1 274	462	459	-12.0%	1.2%	1.1%	8 586	6 293	5 838	-4.7%	7.8%	7.8%
Russia	985	4 653	5 134	22.9%	13.5%	4.9%	27	57	45	6.6%	0.1%	0.0%
Taiwan	1 234	213	246	-18.2%	0.6%	2.1%	1 746	5 123	4 402	12.2%	5.9%	18.3%
Malaysia	708	387	398	-6.9%	1.0%	3.4%	2 429	2 848	2 875	2.1%	3.8%	16.4%
Hong Kong	1 793	981	974	-7.3%	2.6%	4.6%	658	1 373	2 260	16.7%	3.0%	19.6%
Turkey	2 665	1 783	1 728	-5.3%	4.5%	3.2%	940	1 867	1 424	5.3%	1.9%	3.1%
Switzerland	2 068	1 909	2 102	0.2%	5.5%	2.1%	829	426	426	-8.0%	0.6%	0.5%

Source: Eurostat ([DS\\_018995](#))

### Russia has overtaken United States as leading partner for EU-27 exports. China leads for imports

Over the whole period 2000-2008, the United States was the main trading partner for extra EU-27 exports of telecommunication, sound and video equipment with total exports valued at EUR 42 billion. In terms of annual results, values of exports to the United States fell between 2005 and 2008, resulting in a negative growth rate of -4.3% for the whole period.

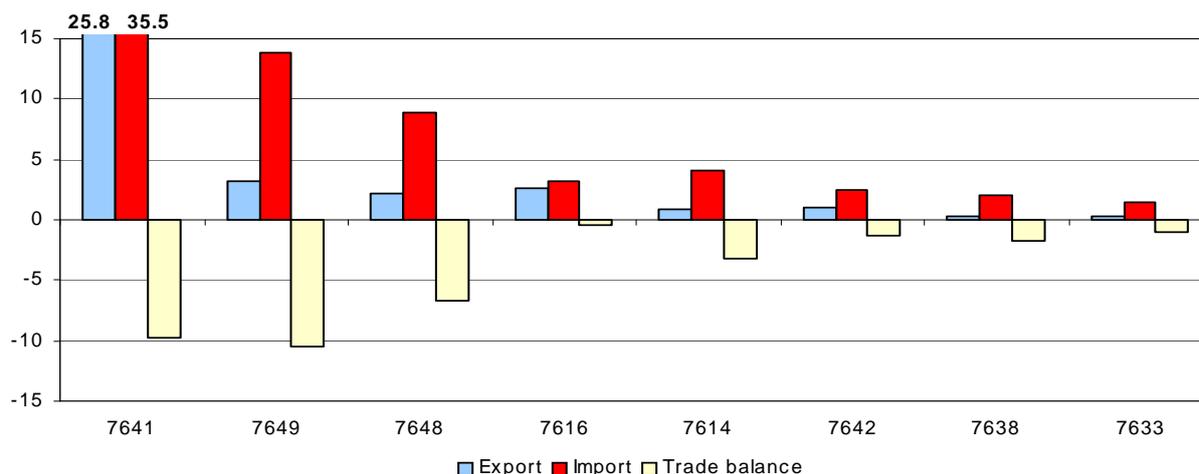
Russia was the second largest trading partner for exports over the period, with about 9% of the total extra EU-27 exports. Trade with Russia grew by almost 23% over the period with increases every year except for a small drop in 2006. In terms of annual results, Russia overtook the United States in

2006 and remained the leading trading partner until 2008, with the United States in second place.

On the import side, China stands out as the major trading partner for extra EU-27 imports of these products. In 2008, imports from China accounted for more than 43% of all extra EU-27 imports of these products.

From 2003 to 2006, the United Arab Emirates were among the top five trading partners for extra EU trade in this category and were the leading export destination in 2005, but trade decreased in subsequent years. The key product for both exports to and imports from the United Arab Emirates was mobile telephones.

**Graph 2: Extra EU-27 most traded telecommunication, sound and video equipment, 2008 (EUR bn)**



SITC subgroups			
7641	Telephones (incl. mobile), LAN&WLAN equipment	7614	Monitors (other than cathode-ray tube monitors)
7649	Parts and accessories	7642	Microphones, loudspeakers, headphones, amplifiers
7648	Radar/navigation apparatus; TV-, digital- & video-cameras	7638	Video-recording or -reproducing apparatus
7616	Television sets	7633	Sound-recording or -reproducing apparatus

Source: Eurostat ([DS\\_018995](#))

## Strong growth for EU-27 exports and imports of telephones, parts and accessories

For both exports and imports, values of trade in 'telephones, LAN and WLAN equipment' decreased from 2000 until 2006, but showed strong increases in 2007 and 2008. In 2008, this category accounted for 68% of EU-27 exports of telecommunication, sound and video equipment and 47% of imports. The largest part of this

product group was made up of mobile telephones, followed by LAN, WLAN and other voice/image/data transfer equipment. Trade in 'parts and accessories' also increased significantly in 2007 and 2008. In 2008, they represented 18% of EU-27 imports of telecommunication, sound and video equipment.

**Table 2: Extra-EU trade in telecommunication, sound and video equipment, total (EUR million)**

	Exports					Imports					Trade balance		
	2000	2007	2008	Average annual growth rate 2000-2008	Share in telecom equipment exports 2008	2000	2007	2008	Average annual growth rate 2000-2008	Share in telecom equipment imports 2008	2000	2007	2008
EU-27	38 720	39 087	38 058	-0.2%	100.0%	46 502	79 731	74 881	6.1%	100.0%	-7 782	-40 645	-36 824
Belgium	1 425	822	859	-6.1%	2.3%	1 810	2 269	2 062	1.6%	2.8%	-385	-1 447	-1 202
Bulgaria	4	35	41	33.3%	0.1%	37	102	112	14.7%	0.1%	-33	-67	-71
Czech Republic	61	414	656	34.5%	1.7%	265	2 100	2 487	32.3%	3.3%	-204	-1 686	-1 831
Denmark	506	485	456	-1.3%	1.2%	508	792	560	1.2%	0.7%	-2	-307	-105
Germany	5 571	8 359	6 271	1.5%	16.5%	8 670	13 681	10 974	3.0%	14.7%	-3 098	-5 322	-4 703
Estonia	15	60	46	15.2%	0.1%	197	80	73	-11.6%	0.1%	-182	-20	-27
Ireland	848	480	520	-5.9%	1.4%	1 478	485	564	-11.3%	0.8%	-630	-5	-44
Greece	100	88	125	2.8%	0.3%	191	386	392	9.4%	0.5%	-91	-298	-268
Spain	738	602	678	-1.1%	1.8%	1 794	3 925	3 359	8.2%	4.5%	-1 055	-3 324	-2 681
France	5 101	3 249	3 008	-6.4%	7.9%	5 226	5 437	5 008	-0.5%	6.7%	-125	-2 188	-2 000
Italy	1 648	1 918	1 650	0.0%	4.3%	2 303	3 203	2 903	2.9%	3.9%	-655	-1 285	-1 253
Cyprus	0	4	3	34.5%	0.0%	40	49	46	1.6%	0.1%	-40	-45	-43
Latvia	2	31	30	37.4%	0.1%	24	64	70	14.3%	0.1%	-22	-33	-41
Lithuania	9	105	191	46.3%	0.5%	47	134	111	11.3%	0.1%	-38	-29	81
Luxembourg	22	76	220	33.3%	0.6%	257	223	110	-10.0%	0.1%	-235	-147	109
Hungary	249	3 997	4 500	43.6%	11.8%	980	5 058	5 304	23.5%	7.1%	-731	-1 061	-804
Malta	4	15	17	19.6%	0.0%	21	15	13	-6.5%	0.0%	-17	0	5
Netherlands	1 309	3 204	3 460	12.9%	9.1%	6 883	19 000	18 449	13.1%	24.6%	-5 574	-15 796	-14 990
Austria	620	477	600	-0.4%	1.6%	580	1 537	1 609	13.6%	2.1%	40	-1 060	-1 009
Poland	88	307	605	27.3%	1.6%	854	1 728	1 810	9.8%	2.4%	-766	-1 422	-1 205
Portugal	98	137	148	5.3%	0.4%	425	366	371	-1.7%	0.5%	-327	-229	-223
Romania	9	59	217	48.0%	0.6%	160	584	703	20.3%	0.9%	-151	-526	-486
Slovenia	85	138	120	4.4%	0.3%	63	66	104	6.5%	0.1%	22	72	16
Slovakia	10	360	724	71.6%	1.9%	80	2 888	3 028	57.4%	4.0%	-71	-2 528	-2 305
Finland	4 146	5 102	4 105	-0.1%	10.8%	1 234	2 730	3 135	12.4%	4.2%	2 912	2 372	970
Sweden	8 570	5 450	5 907	-4.5%	15.5%	1 551	1 975	1 736	1.4%	2.3%	7 019	3 475	4 171
United Kingdom	7 481	3 115	2 902	-11.2%	7.6%	10 823	10 854	9 788	-1.2%	13.1%	-3 342	-7 738	-6 886

Source: Eurostat ([DS\\_018995](#))

## Strong growth for Hungary for both exports and imports

The four largest EU-27 exporters of telecommunication, sound and video equipment in 2008 were Germany, Sweden, Hungary and Finland, together accounting for 55% of extra EU-27 trade in that category. In 2000, Sweden was the largest exporter, but from 2001 to 2004 and 2006 to 2008, Germany was the leader.

The strongest growth rates for extra EU-27 exports of these products over the period were recorded for Member States who joined in 2004 and 2007.

Hungary, in particular, increased its share from less than 1% in 2000 to almost 12% in 2008.

Hungary's most important export product was, by far, mobile telephones.

For extra EU-27 imports, the Netherlands<sup>1</sup> was by far the largest importer in 2008 with 25% of all EU-27 imports. Germany, the second largest importer in 2008, was consistently the largest importer from 2002 to 2006. UK imports in 2008 fell below EUR 10 billion but remained nearly stable in comparison with 2000, while Hungary, the fourth highest importer in 2008, showed an average growth rate of 23.5% for the 2000-2008 period.

<sup>1</sup> Figures for Dutch trade are biased by the so called 'Rotterdam effect' (see the Methodological notes for more details)

## METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

**Data source:** Eurostat's free dissemination database; for non EU-data (Graph 1) United Nations' COMTRADE database.

A code (such as 'DS\_018995') is inserted as part of the source. This hyperlinked code allows the reader to easily access the most recent data on the Eurostat website. The data on the website is frequently updated and may also be more detailed or have a different measurement unit.

**Reporting countries:**

**EU-27:** 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.

**Concepts and definitions:** EU data are compiled according to community guidelines and may therefore differ from national data published by Member States. For further information, please refer to the following documents:

External trade statistics - Metadata in SDDS format:

[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY\\_SDDS/EN/ext\\_base.htm](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_SDDS/EN/ext_base.htm)

Statistics on the trading of goods - User guide:

[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY\\_OFFPUB/KS-BM-06-001/EN/KS-BM-06-001-EN.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-BM-06-001/EN/KS-BM-06-001-EN.PDF)

**The "Rotterdam effect":** Dutch extra-EU imports are overestimated due to the 'Rotterdam effect': Goods destined for the EU arrive in Dutch ports and are declared as imports by the Netherlands. This reduces the extra-EU imports to the Member States to which the goods are re-exported, as these are recorded as arrivals from the Netherlands, rather than from an extra-EU partner. To a lesser extent, Belgian extra-EU imports are similarly overestimated.

**Commodities classification:**

Under the Standard International Trade Classification revision 4 (SITC Rev. 4), Division 76 'Telecommunications and sound-recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment' is made up of the Groups: 761 Monitors, projectors and television sets; 762 Radio broadcasting receivers; 763 Sound and video recording and reproducing apparatus; 764 Telecommunications equipment, parts and accessories of Division 76 n.e.s.

## Further information

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

Data on "External Trade Statistics"

[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/external\\_trade/data/database](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/external_trade/data/database)

More information about "External Trade Statistics"

[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/external\\_trade/introduction](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/external_trade/introduction)

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