

## **EU agricultural trade in 2010**

This report highlights the most important developments in agri-food trade of the European Union as regards export destinations, import origins and most traded products. It provides information about trade with third countries for the period 2001 - 2010 (EU-27) and for Candidate Countries for the years 2000-2009. Data sources used in the report are Comext (Eurostat) for the EU Member States and Comtrade (United Nations) for the Candidate Countries.

In 2010, agricultural trade represented around 6% of all trade of the EU-27. Compared to the previous year, EU agricultural exports (+22%) increased at a faster rate than imports (+10%). As a result, a trade surplus of around €6 billion was recorded in 2010 after three consecutive years of trade deficit.<sup>1</sup> The EU was net importer of agricultural commodities and intermediate products and net exporter of final products (consumer oriented products).

- **EU agricultural trade by chapter (WTO definition)**

The EU was net exporter in half of the 24 agricultural products as defined by WTO, among which the most important were the live animals, meat, dairy products, cereals, products of milling industry and preparation of cereals and beverages chapters. Remarkable increases were recorded in the export of commodities (+31% compared to the previous year), intermediate products (+24%) and final products (+21%). Most traded products were "Edible fruits and nuts" which represented 15% of total agricultural imports and "Beverages" which accounted for 20% of total agricultural exports.

Main partners in agricultural trade were Brazil, Argentina and the USA altogether accounting for 30% of total EU 27 agricultural import value; Brazil was the major origin for imports of oilseeds, preparation of meats, fruits and vegetables, sugar, coffee and tobacco, and the USA for import of live animals, edible fruits, cereals and products of milling industry and beverages.

On the export side, Russia, the USA and Switzerland represented 32% of total EU agricultural exports: Russia was the main destination for live animals and meats, dairy products, as well as fruits and vegetables. The USA was the main destination for exports of coffee, products of milling industry, animal and vegetable fats, sugar, cocoa, preparations of cereals, fruits and vegetables. Switzerland was the most important export destination for preparations of meats.

- **EU agricultural trade by product aggregate**

The report also provides tables and graphs on trade in 22 selected groups of agricultural products<sup>2</sup>, both in value and quantity terms. The selected product groups represent agricultural markets of major interest for the EU.

Out of the 22 product groups, the EU 27 was net exporter in 11 of them in value terms and in 14 in volume terms among which the most important were the "cereals", "wine", "dairy

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<sup>1</sup> The up-dated statistics presented here confirm the detailed analysis of global and EU agricultural based on data available until May 2011  
[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/publi/map/01\\_11\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/publi/map/01_11_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> See annex 3 for the definition of agricultural products and the aggregation of commodities used.

products" and "pork meat". The product group with highest import values and volumes was "animal feed".

Total "**Animal feed**" imports expressed in values reached €15.4 billion (about 50 mio t) with Brazil and Argentina as the main origins accounting for 58% of total import value and volume. The EU-27 exported a total of almost €5.7 billion (30 mio t), with Algeria (€642 mio) and Egypt (€545 mio) as the most important destinations.

"**Cereals**" total imports stood at €1.7 billion (8.6 mio t) of which Canada, USA and Brazil represented the main import origins with about 60% of total value imported from these countries. On the export side, from a total of €5.8 billion (32 mio t) exported by the EU-27, Algeria remained, as in the previous years, the most important destination, with €707 mio and absorbing 4.5 mio t. Together with Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Egypt it accounted for 30% of total EU 27 cereals exports.

As regards "**Fruits and vegetables**", the EU 27 imported €9.8 billion in 2010 with Morocco as main origin in vegetables (€552 mio) and South Africa in fruits (€1.2 billion). Exports stood at a total of €3.9 billion with Russia as the most important export destination in fruits and vegetables. It is worth mentioning that in 2010, in value terms, the EU-27 imported more than three times more fruits than it exported.

More than half of imports in "**Preparations of fruits and vegetables**" (€2.8 billion) originated from the two main partners, China and Turkey. On the export side, the situation is more scattered with Russia and the USA as first two destinations, both accounting for 20% of the total of almost €2 billion.

Total imports in "**Milk and dairy products**"<sup>3</sup> increased in value terms by 9%. The most important component "**cheese and curd**" amounted to €409 mio (or 83 000 t) of which 77% in value and 58% in volume came from Switzerland. The main origin for "**butter**" imports (€104 mio or 40 000 t) remained New Zealand with a share exceeding 80%. Milk and dairy products exports totalling €7.2 billion (+38% more than a year ago) were mainly destined to Russia for butter (23% of a total of €0.6 billion) and cheese (25% of a total of about €3 billion), and Algeria for SMP (25% of value and volume).

In value terms, the EU-27 "**wine**" exports accounted for almost three times as much as imports. Imports reached an amount of €2.4 billion against €6.7 billion of exports. Most important origins of import were Chile and Australia (about €0.6 billion each), while the USA were the most important export destination (29% of the value of wine exports).

In 2010, EU exports of **meat**<sup>4</sup> increased at a higher pace than imports (+29% as opposed to +4%). Main partners in trade with **beef meat** were Argentina and Brazil (55% of total import value or 172 000 t both together) and Russia and Turkey (50% of total export value or 182 000 t). Chile was the main origin for **pork meat** imports (45% of total value or 11 000 t) while Russia and Japan were the main export destinations (with 50% of total pork meat export value or 965 000 t). New Zealand kept its traditional position as the main country of origin for **sheep and goat meat** imports (accounting for 84% of total import value or 195 000 t). On the export side, Switzerland was the main destination in value terms (26%), while Jordan and Turkey in terms of export quantities (8 000 t). EU was net exporter in **poultry meat** with Russia as main export destination (17% of value or 228 000 t) and Brazil as the largest import source (50% of value or 291 000 t).

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<sup>3</sup> Milk and milk products, butter, cheese and SMP

<sup>4</sup> Beef, pork, poultry, sheep and goat categories, live animals and meat, in carcass weight. Offals and salted poultry meat are excluded.

- **Candidate Countries agricultural trade**

In 2009, Turkey preserved its position as net exporter in agricultural trade: its imports declined by -21% compared to the previous year while exports increased by 3%. Turkey was net exporter in final products.

Croatia and F.Y.R. Macedonia kept their position as net importers in agricultural products (by €912 mio and €166 mio respectively). Croatian agricultural imports declined by -10% while exports slightly increased by 1%.