

93/2020 - 15 June 2020

April 2020

**Euro area international trade in goods surplus****€2.9 bn**

€0.2 bn surplus for EU

**Euro area**

In April 2020, the COVID-19 containment measures widely introduced by the Member States continued to have a significant impact on international trade in goods. The first estimate for **euro area** exports of goods to the rest of the world in April 2020 was €136.6 billion, a decrease of 29.3% compared with April 2019 (€193.3 bn). Imports from the rest of the world stood at €133.7 bn, a fall of 24.8% compared with April 2019 (€177.8 bn). As a result, the **euro area** recorded a €2.9 bn surplus in trade in goods with the rest of the world in April 2020, compared with +€15.5 bn in April 2019. **Intra-euro area** trade fell to €112.4 bn in April 2020, down by 32.2% compared with April 2019.



In January to April 2020, **euro area** exports of goods to the rest of the world fell to €703.3 bn (a decrease of 8.6% compared with January-April 2019), and imports fell to €646.3 bn (a decrease of 9.3% compared with January-April 2019). As a result the **euro area** recorded a surplus of €57.0 bn, compared with +€57.2 bn in January-April 2019. **Intra-euro area** trade fell to €595.4 bn in January-April 2020, down by 11.1% compared with January-April 2019.

**Euro area trade - non seasonally adjusted data****bn €**

Flows	Apr 19	Apr 20	Growth	Jan-Apr 19	Jan-Apr 20	Growth
Extra-EA exports	193.3	136.6	-29.3%	769.5	703.3	-8.6%
Extra-EA imports	177.8	133.7	-24.8%	712.2	646.3	-9.3%
Extra-EA trade balance	15.5	2.9		57.2	57.0	
Intra-EA trade	165.7	112.4	-32.2%	669.7	595.4	-11.1%

Source dataset: [ext\\_st\\_ea19sisc](#)

## European Union

The first estimate for **extra-EU** exports of goods in April 2020 was €125.4 billion, down by 28.2% compared with April 2019 (€174.7 bn). Imports from the rest of the world stood at €125.1 bn, down by 22.7% compared with April 2019 (€161.8 bn). As a result, the **EU** recorded a €0.2 bn surplus in trade in goods with the rest of the world in April 2020, compared with +€12.9 bn in April 2019. **Intra-EU** trade fell to €175.2 bn in April 2020, -32% compared with April 2019.



In January to April 2020, **extra-EU** exports of goods fell to €638.2 bn (a decrease of 8.3% compared with January-April 2019), and imports fell to €590.5 bn (a decrease of 9% compared with January-April 2019). As a result, the **EU** recorded a surplus of €47.7 bn, compared with +€46.9 bn in January-April 2019. **Intra-EU** trade fell to €931.7 bn in January-April 2020, -10.2% compared with January-April 2019.

### EU trade - non seasonally adjusted data

bn €

Flows	Apr 19	Apr 20	Growth	Jan-Apr 19	Jan-Apr 20	Growth
<b>Extra-EU exports</b>	174.7	125.4	-28.2%	695.9	638.2	-8.3%
<b>Extra-EU imports</b>	161.8	125.1	-22.7%	648.9	590.5	-9.0%
<b>Extra-EU trade balance</b>	12.9	0.2		46.9	47.7	
<b>Intra-EU trade</b>	257.8	175.2	-32.0%	1 037.0	931.7	-10.2%

Source dataset: [ext\\_st\\_eu27\\_2020sitc](#)

### Main products - EU

bn €

	Extra-EU exports			Extra-EU imports			Trade balance	
	Jan-Apr 19	Jan-Apr 20	Growth	Jan-Apr 19	Jan-Apr 20	Growth	Jan-Apr 19	Jan-Apr 20
<b>Total</b>	<b>695.9</b>	<b>638.2</b>	<b>-8.3%</b>	<b>648.9</b>	<b>590.5</b>	<b>-9.0%</b>	<b>46.9</b>	<b>47.7</b>
<b>Primary goods:</b>	<b>105.7</b>	<b>97.8</b>	<b>-7.5%</b>	<b>191.1</b>	<b>157.3</b>	<b>-17.7%</b>	<b>-85.4</b>	<b>-59.4</b>
<i>Food &amp; drink</i>	52.2	55.4	6.1%	39.6	39.1	-1.3%	12.6	16.3
<i>Raw materials</i>	19.1	17.6	-7.9%	27.7	27.3	-1.4%	-8.6	-9.7
<i>Energy</i>	34.4	24.9	-27.6%	123.8	90.9	-26.6%	-89.5	-66.0
<b>Manufactured goods:</b>	<b>577.5</b>	<b>526.8</b>	<b>-8.8%</b>	<b>448.2</b>	<b>421.2</b>	<b>-6.0%</b>	<b>129.2</b>	<b>105.6</b>
<i>Chemicals</i>	134.3	145.9	8.6%	79.7	82.2	3.1%	54.6	63.7
<i>Machinery &amp; vehicles</i>	283.4	241.3	-14.9%	209.4	192.1	-8.3%	74.0	49.1
<i>Other manuf'd goods</i>	159.7	139.6	-12.6%	159.1	146.8	-7.7%	0.6	-7.2
<b>Other</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>7.1%</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>25.0%</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>1.6</b>

Source dataset: [ext\\_st\\_eu27\\_2020sitc](#)

### Main trading partners - EU

bn €

	EU exports to			EU imports from			Trade balance	
	Jan-Apr 19	Jan-Apr 20	Growth	Jan-Apr 19	Jan-Apr 20	Growth	Jan-Apr 19	Jan-Apr 20
<b>United States</b>	125.0	120.9	-3.3%	77.6	76.8	-1.0%	47.4	44.0
<b>China</b>	64.0	60.4	-5.6%	115.9	113.7	-1.9%	-51.9	-53.3
<b>United Kingdom</b>	112.6	91.1	-19.1%	66.8	58.0	-13.2%	45.8	33.1
<b>Switzerland</b>	48.8	47.3	-3.1%	35.2	37.8	7.4%	13.6	9.6
<b>Russia</b>	26.9	25.9	-3.7%	51.7	37.8	-26.9%	-24.8	-11.9
<b>Turkey</b>	21.7	22.1	1.8%	23.8	20.6	-13.4%	-2.2	1.6
<b>Japan</b>	19.8	18.9	-4.5%	21.9	19.8	-9.6%	-2.1	-0.9
<b>Norway</b>	17.2	15.6	-9.3%	19.5	15.5	-20.5%	-2.3	0.2
<b>South Korea</b>	14.2	15.2	7.0%	15.8	15.2	-3.8%	-1.6	0.0
<b>India</b>	12.5	10.1	-19.2%	14.3	12.6	-11.9%	-1.7	-2.5

Source dataset: [ext\\_st\\_eu27\\_2020sitc](#)

## Member States' total trade (intra-EU + extra-EU)

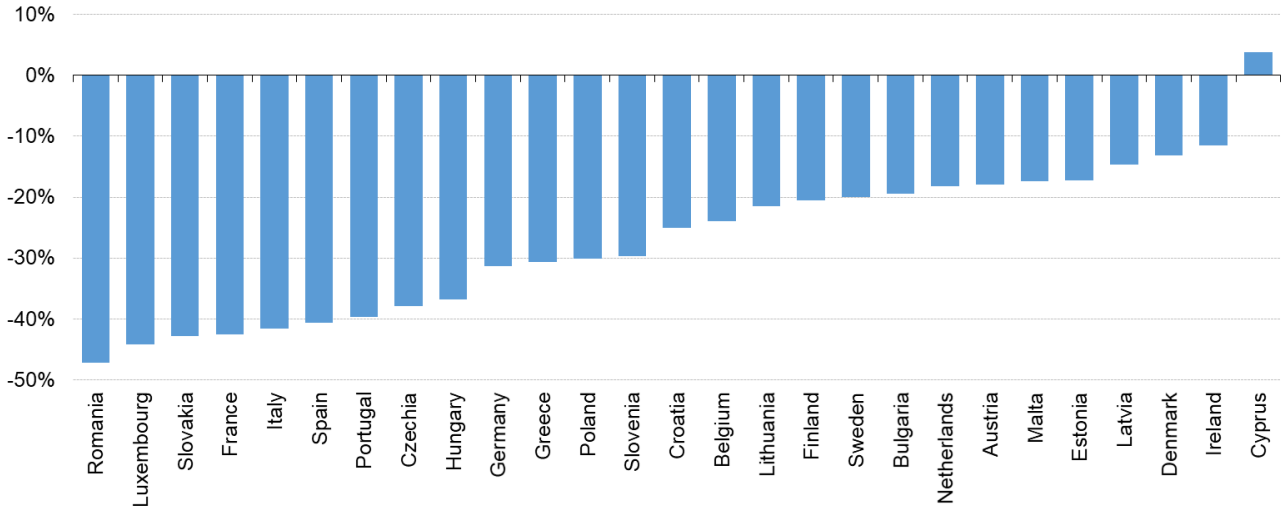
bn €

	Total exports						Total imports						Trade balance					
	Total		Intra-EU		Extra-EU		Total		Intra-EU		Extra-EU		Total		Intra-EU		Extra-EU	
	Jan-Apr 20	Growth / Jan-Apr 19	Jan-Apr 20	Growth / Jan-Apr 19	Jan-Apr 20	Growth / Jan-Apr 19	Jan-Apr 20	Growth / Jan-Apr 19	Jan-Apr 20	Growth / Jan-Apr 19	Jan-Apr 20	Growth / Jan-Apr 19	Jan-Apr 20	Jan-Apr 19	Jan-Apr 20	Jan-Apr 19	Jan-Apr 20	Jan-Apr 19
Belgium	125.7	-7%	80.9	-8%	44.8	-5%	118.0	-10%	69.7	-12%	48.2	-6%	7.7	4.0	11.2	8.4	-3.5	-4.4
Bulgaria	9.2	-4%	6.0	-5%	3.2	-3%	9.9	-9%	6.0	-9%	3.8	-8%	-0.7	-1.2	-0.1	-0.3	-0.6	-0.8
Czechia	52.2	-12%	41.4	-13%	10.8	-9%	48.2	-9%	35.2	-11%	13.1	-4%	3.9	6.3	6.2	8.0	-2.3	-1.7
Denmark	31.9	0%	16.3	-6%	15.7	7%	27.6	-4%	18.7	-1%	8.9	-10%	4.3	3.1	-2.5	-1.7	6.8	4.8
Germany	401.3	-10%	210.6	-11%	190.8	-9%	344.9	-7%	213.1	-9%	131.8	-5%	56.4	73.9	-2.5	2.9	59.0	71.0
Estonia	4.5	-6%	3.1	-6%	1.4	-7%	4.8	-9%	3.6	-8%	1.2	-10%	-0.3	-0.5	-0.6	-0.7	0.2	0.2
Ireland	53.2	6%	20.5	8%	32.7	5%	27.8	-4%	10.6	-1%	17.2	-6%	25.4	21.0	9.9	8.3	15.5	12.7
Greece	10.0	-9%	5.7	1%	4.3	-19%	16.4	-10%	8.8	-5%	7.6	-15%	-6.4	-7.2	-3.0	-3.6	-3.3	-3.6
Spain	86.6	-13%	52.0	-13%	34.6	-12%	96.1	-13%	52.5	-13%	43.6	-14%	-9.5	-11.2	-0.5	0.0	-9.0	-11.2
France	142.8	-16%	77.2	-15%	65.6	-18%	167.1	-15%	107.2	-15%	60.0	-15%	-24.3	-25.5	-29.9	-35.2	5.6	9.7
Croatia	4.6	-6%	3.1	-5%	1.5	-10%	7.6	-10%	6.0	-12%	1.6	-3%	-3.0	-3.5	-2.8	-3.5	-0.1	0.0
Italy	135.0	-12%	70.9	-11%	64.2	-13%	123.9	-13%	70.6	-12%	53.2	-14%	11.2	11.0	0.2	-0.6	10.9	11.6
Cyprus	1.0	-16%	0.3	-58%	0.7	39%	2.5	-4%	1.4	-5%	1.1	-2%	-1.5	-1.4	-1.1	-0.8	-0.4	-0.6
Latvia	4.4	-1%	2.8	-2%	1.6	0%	4.9	-9%	3.8	-5%	1.1	-20%	-0.5	-0.9	-1.0	-1.1	0.5	0.2
Lithuania	9.0	-6%	5.0	-5%	3.9	-7%	9.3	-10%	6.3	-7%	3.0	-15%	-0.3	-0.7	-1.2	-1.5	0.9	0.7
Luxembourg	4.0	-34%	3.2	-33%	0.8	-35%	5.7	-29%	5.0	-17%	0.7	-65%	-1.8	-2.1	-1.8	-1.3	0.1	-0.8
Hungary	33.5	-10%	26.2	-12%	7.3	-5%	32.6	-8%	23.6	-8%	9.0	-10%	0.8	1.7	2.6	4.0	-1.7	-2.4
Malta	0.8	-3%	0.4	-8%	0.4	4%	1.6	-31%	0.9	-3%	0.7	-50%	-0.8	-1.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.3	-1.1
Netherlands	198.2	-5%	129.7	-6%	68.5	-4%	175.1	-7%	71.5	-7%	103.7	-7%	23.1	21.0	58.2	60.8	-35.1	-39.7
Austria	49.9	-8%	34.7	-7%	15.2	-10%	51.7	-9%	39.5	-8%	12.2	-11%	-1.8	-2.4	-4.8	-5.7	3.0	3.3
Poland	73.5	-7%	53.8	-8%	19.7	-1%	72.7	-7%	48.2	-8%	24.5	-5%	0.8	0.4	5.6	6.2	-4.8	-5.9
Portugal	17.6	-12%	12.4	-13%	5.2	-10%	23.3	-13%	16.7	-16%	6.7	-5%	-5.8	-6.8	-4.3	-5.5	-1.5	-1.3
Romania	19.9	-13%	14.4	-15%	5.5	-8%	26.0	-8%	19.0	-7%	7.0	-8%	-6.2	-5.2	-4.7	-3.6	-1.5	-1.6
Slovenia	12.9	-3%	8.6	-14%	4.3	27%	11.8	-9%	6.9	-16%	5.0	2%	1.1	0.3	1.7	1.8	-0.6	-1.5
Slovakia	22.8	-16%	18.3	-16%	4.5	-18%	23.9	-11%	18.8	-12%	5.2	-10%	-1.1	0.2	-0.5	0.3	-0.6	-0.2
Finland	18.9	-15%	10.4	-15%	8.5	-15%	19.9	-9%	14.1	-7%	5.9	-15%	-1.0	0.2	-3.7	-2.9	2.6	3.1
Sweden	46.4	-5%	23.8	-9%	22.6	0%	42.9	-10%	28.4	-10%	14.5	-11%	3.5	1.0	-4.6	-5.3	8.1	6.3

Source dataset: ext\_st\_27\_2020msbec

### Exports by Member States - April 2020

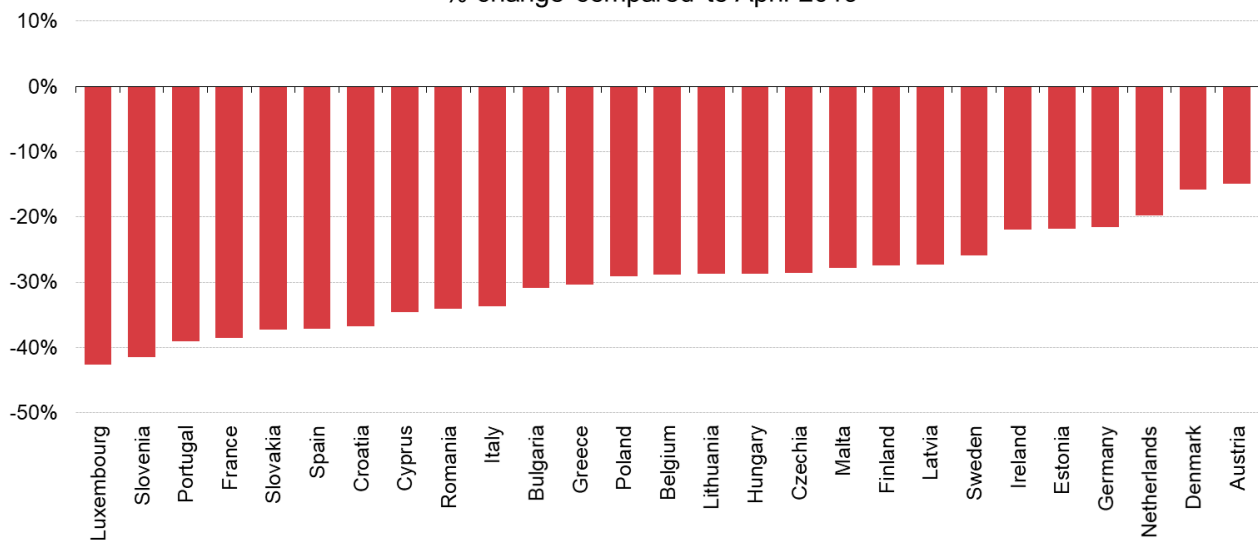
% change compared to April 2019



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

### Imports by Member States - April 2020

% change compared to April 2019



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

## Geographical information

The **euro area** (EA19) includes Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland.

The **European Union** (EU27) includes Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland and Sweden.

As of 1 February 2020, the United Kingdom is no longer part of the European Union. Information on dissemination of European statistics after Brexit can be found on the [Eurostat website](#).

## Methods and definitions

Since the introduction of Intrastat for intra-EU trade on 1 January 1993, the value of intra-EU exports has been consistently higher than that of intra-EU imports. In theory, as exports are declared FOB and imports CIF, the value of corresponding imports should be slightly higher than that of exports. Eurostat uses intra-EU exports as the more reliable measure of total intra-EU trade as, at aggregated levels, total intra-EU exports has better coverage than total intra-EU imports. Due to this divergence in intra-EU trade, and to the difficulties of interpreting figures in absolute terms at the level of individual Member States, trade balances for individual Member States must be interpreted with caution. The same caution applies to the trade balance of the euro area, which includes some intra-EU trade.

Dutch trade flows are over-estimated because of the so-called 'Rotterdam effect' (or quasi-transit trade): that is goods bound for other EU countries arrive in Dutch ports and, according to EU rules, are recorded as extra-EU imports by the Netherlands (the country where goods are released for free circulation). This in turn increases the intra-EU flows from the Netherlands to those Member States to which the goods are re-exported. Although to a lesser extent, trade figures of other Member States like Belgium or Luxembourg may also be overestimated due to quasi-transit.

The EU data reflect the political change in the EU composition so the United Kingdom (UK) is considered as an extra-EU partner country for the EU for the entire period, although the UK was part of the internal market during this period, meaning that data on trade with the UK were based on statistical concepts applicable to trade between the EU Member States. Consequently, while imports from any other extra-EU trade partner are grouped by country of origin, the UK data reflect country of consignment. In practice this means that the goods imported by the EU from the UK were physically transported from the UK, but part of these goods could have been of other origin than the UK. For this reason, data on trade with the UK are not fully comparable with data on trade with other extra-EU27 trade partners like China.

National concepts may differ from the harmonised methodology used by Eurostat, leading to differences between figures in this release and those published nationally, both for raw data and for seasonally adjusted series.

Products are classified according to the [Standard international trade classification](#) (SITC), Revision 4.

Data collection for international trade in goods has in many countries been affected by the COVID-19 crisis. The data in this release are, for several Member States, based on fewer statistical observations than usual. For missing data, imputation and estimation methods were applied. Information on the compilation of international trade in goods statistics during the COVID-19 crisis can be found [here](#).

## Revisions and timetable

This News Release is based on data available on 10 June 2020. These are provisional figures based on information provided by Member States. They are subject to frequent revision for up to two years after the month in question.

## For more information

Eurostat [website section](#) on international trade in goods

Eurostat [database section](#) on international trade in goods

Eurostat [Statistics Explained article](#) on international trade in goods statistics

Eurostat €-indicators [release calendar](#)

European Statistics [Code of Practice](#)

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## Annex - Seasonally adjusted data

In April 2020 compared with March 2020, **euro area** seasonally adjusted exports decreased by 24.5%, while imports decreased by 13.0%. For both flows, it was the largest decline with respect to the overall period (1999-2020 for the euro area). The seasonally adjusted balance fell from +€25.5 bn in March to +€1.2 bn in April. This was the lowest level since October 2011.

### Euro area trade - seasonally adjusted data

bn €

Flows	May 19	Jun 19	Jul 19	Aug 19	Sep 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20
Extra-EA exports	195.1	194.7	194.7	195.2	196.3	200.2	194.6	196.5	196.8	198.1	182.0	137.3
Extra-EA imports	177.7	176.8	177.5	175.9	177.3	176.2	175.7	174.0	177.9	172.8	156.5	136.1
Extra-EA trade balance	17.4	17.8	17.2	19.2	19.1	24.0	18.9	22.6	18.8	25.3	25.5	1.2
Intra-EA trade	165.9	163.8	163.2	162.3	163.1	164.3	163.3	163.1	164.8	163.9	143.9	112.7

Source dataset: [ext\\_st\\_ea19sitc](#)

In April 2020 compared with March 2020, **EU** seasonally adjusted exports decreased by 23.1%, while imports decreased by 9.9%. For both flows, it was the largest decline with respect to the overall period (2002-2020 for the EU). The seasonally adjusted balance fell from +€22.7 bn in March to -€1.3 bn in April. This was the lowest level since October 2011.

### EU trade - seasonally adjusted data

bn €

Flows	May 19	Jun 19	Jul 19	Aug 19	Sep 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20
Extra-EU exports	177.5	176.3	177.2	177.2	178.4	182.9	176.7	179.3	179.3	179.7	164.9	126.7
Extra-EU imports	161.9	160.7	162.8	160.1	161.3	161.5	159.8	158.5	162.0	156.8	142.2	128.1
Extra-EU trade balance	15.6	15.5	14.4	17.2	17.1	21.4	16.9	20.8	17.3	22.9	22.7	-1.3
Intra-EU trade	283.1	280.0	280.6	280.3	281.0	283.2	280.1	278.5	283.7	282.6	251.2	202.9

Source dataset: [ext\\_st\\_eu27\\_2020sitc](#)

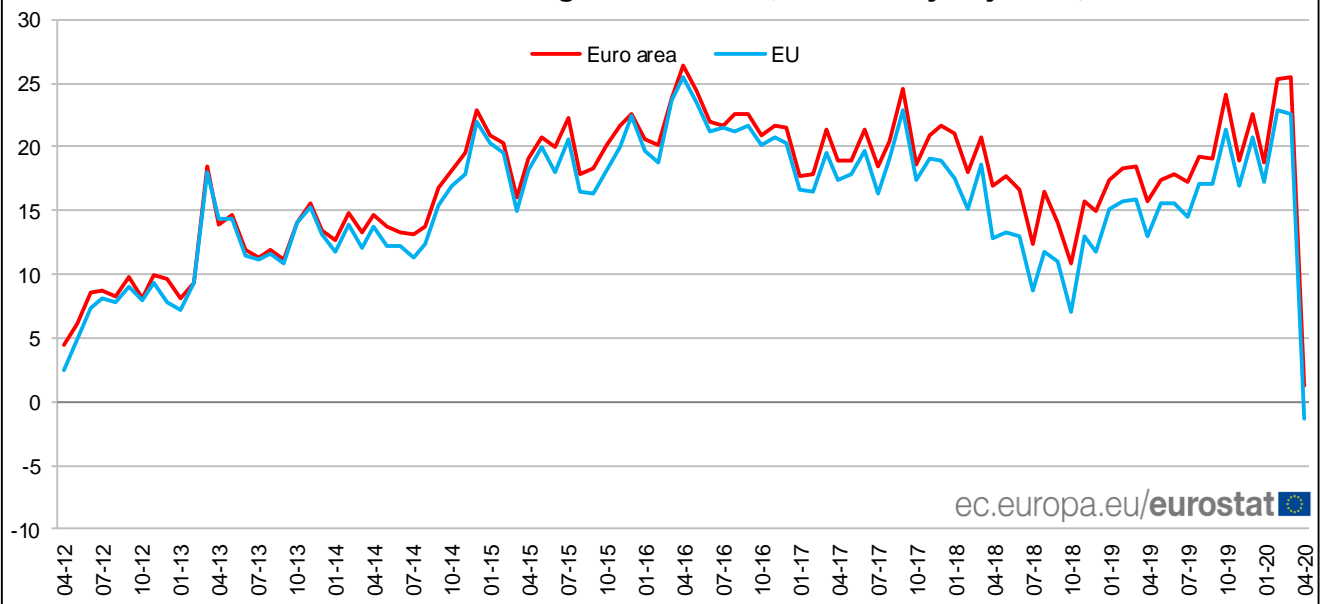
### Contribution of EU Member States to extra-EU trade - seasonally adjusted data

bn €

	Total exports			Total imports			Trade balance	
	Mar 20	Apr 20	Growth	Mar 20	Apr 20	Growth	Mar 20	Apr 20
<b>EU</b>	<b>164.9</b>	<b>126.7</b>	<b>-23.1%</b>	<b>142.2</b>	<b>128.1</b>	<b>-9.9%</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>-1.3</b>
Belgium	11.2	8.9	-20.7%	11.4	10.4	-8.5%	-0.2	-1.5
Bulgaria	0.8	0.7	-12.5%	1.0	0.8	-20.2%	-0.2	-0.1
Czechia	2.6	2.1	-21.6%	3.2	3.3	2.6%	-0.5	-1.2
Denmark	3.7	3.8	0.5%	2.1	1.9	-10.2%	1.7	1.9
Germany	49.5	37.5	-24.2%	32.6	31.1	-4.6%	16.9	6.4
Estonia	0.4	0.4	-4.9%	0.3	0.3	-17.8%	0.0	0.1
Ireland	9.5	6.9	-27.2%	4.6	3.7	-18.4%	5.0	3.2
Greece	1.0	0.9	-10.0%	1.6	1.6	2.9%	-0.6	-0.8
Spain	8.5	6.3	-26.3%	9.9	8.6	-12.9%	-1.4	-2.3
France	18.0	11.6	-35.4%	14.2	10.9	-23.0%	3.8	0.7
Croatia	0.4	0.3	-11.9%	0.4	0.4	-6.6%	0.0	0.0
Italy	16.3	10.5	-35.2%	11.7	10.5	-10.3%	4.6	0.1
Cyprus	0.2	0.2	-16.0%	0.3	0.1	-50.0%	-0.1	0.0
Latvia	0.4	0.4	-16.4%	0.3	0.3	-5.4%	0.2	0.1
Lithuania	1.2	0.9	-23.4%	0.8	0.6	-29.5%	0.3	0.3
Luxembourg	0.2	0.2	-7.7%	0.1	0.2	39.2%	0.0	0.0
Hungary	1.8	1.6	-10.7%	2.2	2.1	-2.7%	-0.4	-0.5
Malta	0.1	0.1	-5.1%	0.2	0.1	-39.6%	-0.1	0.0
Netherlands	17.1	15.5	-9.7%	25.3	23.7	-6.5%	-8.2	-8.2
Austria	3.9	3.2	-17.0%	3.3	2.9	-11.2%	0.6	0.3
Poland	5.2	3.9	-23.8%	6.1	5.3	-12.8%	-0.9	-1.3
Portugal	1.4	1.0	-26.7%	1.7	1.2	-26.8%	-0.3	-0.2
Romania	1.6	0.9	-42.2%	1.8	1.5	-18.0%	-0.2	-0.5
Slovenia	1.1	1.0	-13.0%	1.2	1.0	-19.5%	-0.1	0.0
Slovakia	1.1	0.8	-33.7%	1.3	1.1	-11.0%	-0.1	-0.4
Finland	2.1	2.1	-0.9%	1.3	1.2	-7.5%	0.8	0.9
Sweden	5.5	5.1	-6.4%	3.6	3.3	-6.9%	1.9	1.8

Source dataset: [ext\\_st\\_27\\_2020\\_msbec](#)

International trade in goods balance, seasonally adjusted, € bn



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