

EU-27 trade in medicinal and pharmaceutical products rose by 11% in 2009 in spite of the global economic crisis

The EU-27 was by far the major world trader in medicinal and pharmaceutical products (SITC division 54) in 2009, with total trade amounting to EUR 123.3 billion. Exports made up 65% of this trade. The United States was the second largest world trader in these products, with trade of EUR 74.9 billion.

Over the period 2000-2009, the United States was the main trading partner for extra EU-27 exports of these products. Both export and import trade more than doubled over the period and, in 2009, the USA accounted for 35% of all extra EU-27 trade.

Switzerland was the main trading partner for imports, with a growth of 174% over the period 2000-2009. In 2009, Switzerland accounted for more than a fifth of all extra EU-27 trade in these products.

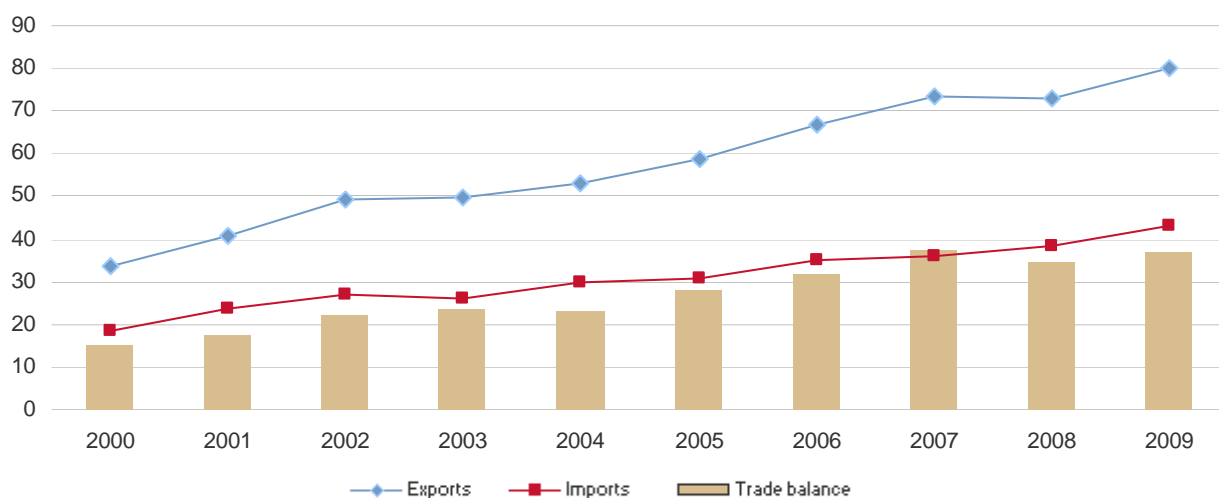
Increases in both exports and imports

In 2009, contrary to global economic trends, extra EU-27 trade in medicinal and pharmaceutical products grew for both exports and imports. Exports, which had dropped slightly in 2008, rose by 10%, while imports rose by 13%.

The total value of extra EU-27 trade in these products more than doubled over the period 2000-2009 from EUR 52.1 billion in 2000 to EUR 123.3 billion in 2009.

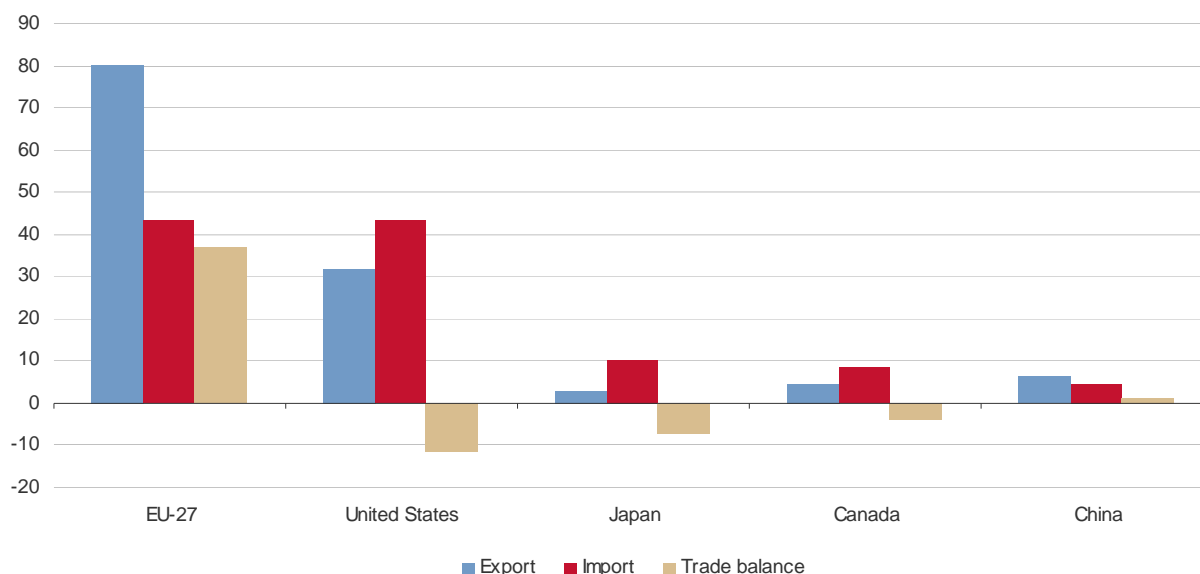
Trade was dominated by exports, which were almost the double of the value of imports for every year from 2000 to 2009. The EU-27 trade surplus in this category varied between EUR 15.3 billion in 2000 and EUR 37.3 billion in 2007.

Figure 1: Evolution of Extra EU-27 trade in medicinal and pharmaceutical products, 2000-2009 (billion euro)



Source: Eurostat (Online data code: [DS_018995](#))

Figure 2: EU and other major players in world-wide trade in medicinal and pharmaceutical products, 2009 (billion euro)



Source: Eurostat. (Online data code: [DS_018995](#)), COMTRADE

Increased trade with the United States and Switzerland in 2009

The United States stands out as the EU-27's main trading partner every year over the period 2000-2009. The value of EU-27 exports to the United States increased by almost 150% between 2000 and 2007, before dropping slightly in 2008. In 2009, values increased by 10%.

Switzerland was the second largest EU-27 export partner in 2009, albeit at only about a third of the level of exports to the United States.

In 2009, EU-27 exports of medicines (SITC 542), including veterinary medicines, amounted to EUR 59.6 billion and accounted for 74% of all EU-27 exports of medicinal and pharmaceutical products. This was made up by a wide variety of medicaments. Exports of medicinal and pharmaceutical products other than medicaments (SITC 541) amounted to EUR 20.5 billion; the

largest single product group was antisera, blood fractions, modified immunological products and vaccines (SITC 54163), with 13% of total exports.

Switzerland and the United States were the largest EU-27 trade partners also on the import side, together accounting for 79% of the imports of these products in 2009. EU-27 imports from Switzerland increased by 174% over the period from 2000 to 2009; by 2007 Switzerland had overtaken the United States as the leading import partner.

With 58%, medicines made up a larger share of imports than other medicinal and pharmaceutical products. However, also for imports the largest single product group was antisera, blood fractions, modified immunological products and vaccines, making up almost 24% of the imports of these products.

Table 1: Extra EU-27 trade in medicinal and pharmaceutical products, top 10 trading partners (million euro)

	EXPORTS							IMPORTS						
	2000	2007	2008	2009	Average annual growth rate 2000-2009	Share in EU-27 medicinal & pharmaceutical exports 2009	Share in total EU-27 exports with that country 2009	2000	2007	2008	2009	Average annual growth rate 2000-2009	Share in EU-27 medicinal & pharmaceutical imports 2009	Share in total EU-27 imports with that country 2009
EU-27	33,675	73,407	72,944	80,060	10.1%	100.0%	7.3%	18,415	36,131	38,156	43,281	10.0%	100.0%	3.6%
United States	10,403	25,838	24,447	26,786	11.1%	33.5%	13.1%	8,375	14,231	14,474	16,417	7.8%	37.9%	10.3%
Switzerland	4,021	9,960	8,450	8,520	8.7%	10.6%	9.7%	6,411	15,130	15,830	17,577	11.9%	40.6%	23.8%
Japan	2,377	3,087	3,323	4,435	7.2%	5.5%	12.3%	978	1,127	1,082	1,328	3.5%	1.1%	2.4%
Russia	935	3,682	4,530	4,375	18.7%	5.5%	6.7%	15	9	10	12	-3.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Canada	1,125	3,440	3,312	3,503	13.4%	4.4%	15.6%	193	696	864	875	18.3%	2.0%	4.9%
China	402	1,160	1,751	2,188	20.7%	2.7%	2.7%	527	1,090	1,498	1,747	14.2%	4.0%	0.8%
Australia	1,326	2,518	2,493	2,934	9.2%	3.7%	13.5%	407	431	368	435	0.7%	1.0%	5.4%
Turkey	844	1,977	2,321	2,460	12.6%	3.1%	5.6%	61	135	180	221	15.4%	0.5%	0.6%
Brazil	789	1,177	1,311	1,681	8.8%	2.1%	7.8%	42	111	166	282	23.6%	0.7%	1.1%
Singapore	275	702	695	754	11.9%	0.9%	3.7%	121	885	1,219	1,072	27.4%	2.5%	7.3%

Source: Eurostat (Online data code: [DS_018995](#))

Table 2: Extra EU-27 trade in medicinal and pharmaceutical products, by Member State (million euro)

	Exports					Imports					Trade balance		
	2000	2008	2009	Average annual growth rate 2000-2009 (%)	Share in medicinal & pharmaceutical exports 2009 (%)	2000	2008	2009	Average annual growth rate 2000-2009 (%)	Share in medicinal & pharmaceutical imports 2009 (%)	2000	2008	2009
EU-27	33,675	72,944	80,060	10.1%	100.0%	18,415	38,156	43,281	10.0%	100.0%	15,259	34,789	36,778
Belgium	2,646	10,781	12,335	18.7%	15.4%	1,699	3,875	5,357	13.6%	12.4%	947	6,906	6,979
Bulgaria	79	183	228	12.6%	0.3%	39	84	97	10.8%	0.2%	40	99	131
Czech Republic	73	180	201	11.9%	0.3%	156	316	315	8.2%	0.7%	-83	-136	-115
Denmark	1,492	2,791	3,126	8.6%	3.9%	125	361	427	14.7%	1.0%	1,368	2,430	2,699
Germany	8,004	15,581	16,498	8.4%	20.6%	3,942	7,057	7,642	7.6%	17.7%	4,062	8,524	8,857
Estonia	1	5	3	11.0%	0.0%	10	3	3	-11.6%	0.0%	-9	1	0
Ireland	2,308	5,475	6,008	11.2%	7.5%	521	819	846	5.5%	2.0%	1,787	4,656	5,162
Greece	37	77	109	12.8%	0.1%	289	691	775	11.6%	1.8%	-252	-614	-666
Spain	547	2,941	3,128	21.4%	3.9%	870	2,767	3,396	16.3%	7.8%	-323	174	-268
France	4,665	10,382	11,844	10.9%	14.8%	2,875	4,528	4,857	6.0%	11.2%	1,790	5,854	6,987
Italy	2,937	4,550	4,791	5.6%	6.0%	2,081	4,450	5,010	10.3%	11.6%	856	100	-218
Cyprus	35	96	91	11.2%	0.1%	28	41	39	3.6%	0.1%	7	54	52
Latvia	20	100	91	18.7%	0.1%	38	99	120	13.7%	0.3%	-18	0	-28
Lithuania	26	29	37	4.2%	0.0%	33	17	14	-8.9%	0.0%	-7	12	23
Luxembourg	0	0	0	-5.5%	0.0%	3	4	22	25.3%	0.1%	-3	-3	-22
Hungary	225	1,023	1,030	18.4%	1.3%	132	384	357	11.7%	0.8%	-130	639	673
Malta	2	51	36	39.7%	0.0%	11	18	19	6.1%	0.0%	1,631	33	18
Netherlands	1,642	1,794	2,238	3.5%	2.8%	1,724	4,228	4,395	11.0%	10.2%	-691	-2,435	-2,158
Austria	1,033	2,621	3,043	12.8%	3.8%	568	1,166	1,828	13.9%	4.2%	465	1,455	1,215
Poland	97	301	301	13.4%	0.4%	348	565	494	4.0%	1.1%	-251	-264	-193
Portugal	108	125	132	2.3%	0.2%	156	263	211	3.4%	0.5%	-49	-139	-78
Romania	9	108	103	31.7%	0.1%	67	305	347	20.1%	0.8%	-58	-197	-244
Slovenia	237	882	790	14.3%	1.0%	72	123	146	8.1%	0.3%	165	759	645
Slovakia	11	90	94	26.6%	0.1%	74	161	183	10.5%	0.4%	-63	-71	-88
Finland	116	557	616	20.3%	0.8%	104	115	108	0.5%	0.3%	12	443	508
Sweden	1,831	2,631	2,626	4.1%	3.3%	348	534	740	8.7%	1.7%	1,483	2,097	1,887
United Kingdom	5,495	9,591	10,556	7.5%	13.2%	2,104	5,181	5,535	11.3%	12.8%	3,391	4,411	5,022

Note: Figures for Dutch trade are biased by the so-called "Rotterdam effect"(see the Methodological notes for more details)

Source: Eurostat (Online data code: [DS_018995](#))

Strong growth for Belgium for both exports and imports

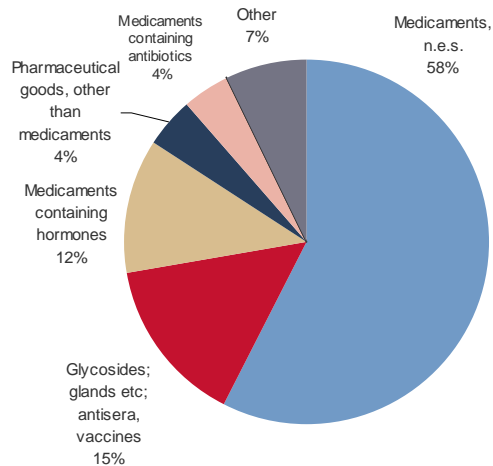
Amongst the EU-27 Member States, the five largest exporters of medicinal and pharmaceutical products together accounted for 72% of these exports in 2009. The leaders were Germany and Belgium who together accounted for 36%.

The United States was the most important export partner for all of these five leading Member States in 2009; together, they accounted for 87% of all extra EU-27 exports of medicinal and pharmaceutical products to the United States.

For imports, the picture was more differentiated. The six largest EU-27 importers together accounted for three quarters of the extra EU-27 imports of these products in 2009. Germany was the leading importer among the Member States.

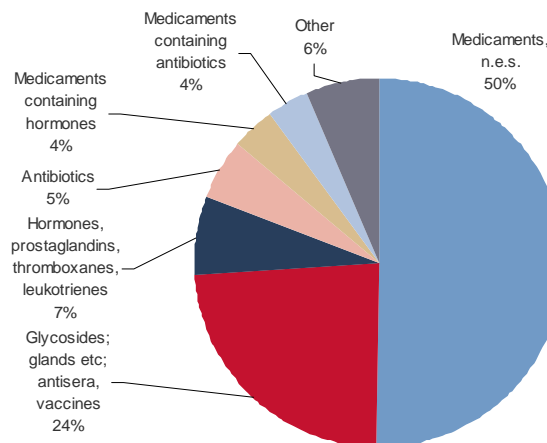
Switzerland was the most important import partner for Germany, France and Italy, while the United States was the most important import partner for Belgium, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

Figure 3: Extra EU-27 exports of medicinal and pharmaceutical products, by SITC subgroup, 2009 (% of value)



Source: Eurostat (Online data code: [DS_018995](#))

Figure 4: Extra EU-27 imports of medicinal and pharmaceutical products, by SITC subgroup, 2009 (% of value)



Source: Eurostat (Online data code: [DS_018995](#))

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Data source: Eurostat's free dissemination database; for non EU-data (Graph 2) 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 Euro SDMX Metadata Structure (ESMS):

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/product_details/metadata?p_product_code=EXT_ESMS

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

The "Rotterdam effect": Extra-EU imports of some Member States (e.g. Netherlands), and therefore their trade deficit, are overvalued because of the so-called 'Rotterdam effect'. Goods destined for the rest of the EU arrive in their ports and, according to Community rules, are declared as imports by the Member State where these goods are released for free circulation. This in turn reduces the extra-EU imports to those Member States to which the goods are re-exported, as these shipments are recorded, for Community statistics, as arrivals from the Member State where these goods are released for free circulation, rather than imports from an extra-EU partner.

Commodities classification:

Division 54 'Medicinal and pharmaceutical products' of the Standard International Trade Classification revision 4 (SITC Rev. 4), is made up of the sub-groups: 5411 'Provitamins and vitamins (not put up as medicaments)'; 5413 'Antibiotics (not put up as medicaments)'; 5414 'Vegetable alkaloids (not put up as medicaments)'; 5415 'Hormones, prostaglandins, thromboxanes and leukotrienes'; 5416 'Glycosides; glands or other organs; antisera, vaccines'; 5419 'Pharmaceutical goods, other than medicaments'; 5421 'Medicaments containing antibiotics'; 5422 'Medicaments containing hormones, etc., but not antibiotics'; 5423 'Medicaments containing alkaloids, but not containing hormones etc. or antibiotics'; 5429 'Medicaments not elsewhere specified'.

Further information

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

Data on external trade:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/external_trade/data/database

More information about external trade:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/external_trade/introduction

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