

## EU-27 trade with NAFTA in 2007

**Essentially due to a fall in EU exports to the USA, the EU's trade surplus decreased for the first time since the turn of the century.**

In 2007, the European Union's (EU-27) trade in goods with North-American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) countries registered exports with a total value of EUR 308.5 billion against imports worth EUR 216.4.

Although the EU's trade balance remained largely positive (EUR 92 billion), a significant decrease of 16% was registered between 2006 and 2007. This was the first decrease since 2000.

Among the three NAFTA countries, the USA remained by far the main EU partner, accounting for 85% of EU exports to, and 84 % of EU imports from, NAFTA countries.

Germany and the UK are the main EU partners for the NAFTA countries.

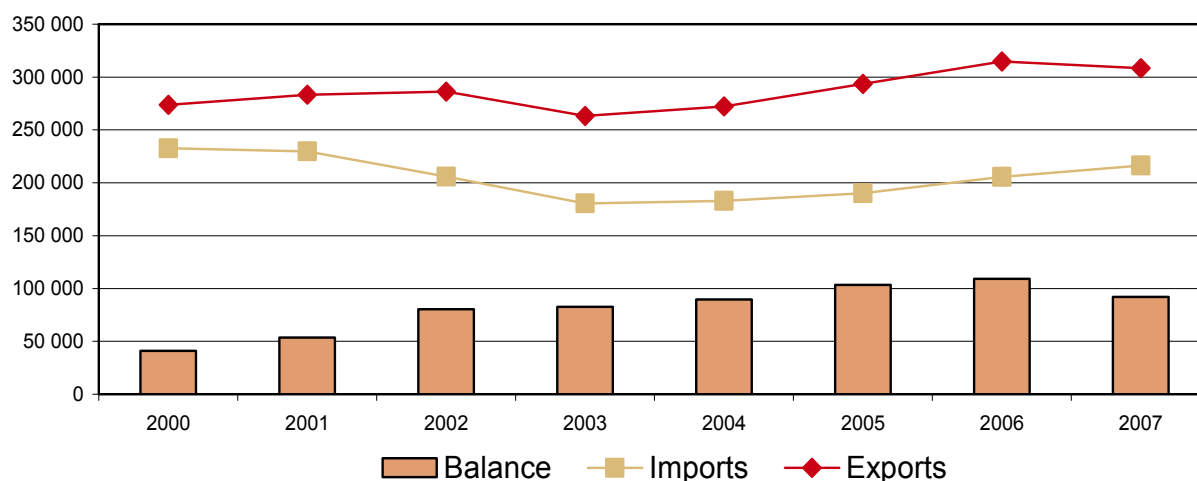
Manufactured goods were the most traded (83% of total trade), especially 'Machinery and vehicles' (42% of the total).

### 2007: continued growth of imports from NAFTA; decrease in exports

While a continuously upward trend had been registered between 2003 and 2006, EU exports decreased in 2007, the total value of goods being 2% lower compared with the previous year (see Figure 1). Imports from NAFTA countries however continued to increase in 2007 (+5%).

Unsurprisingly, the USA remains the main trade partner among the three NAFTA countries: goods worth EUR 261.7 billion were exported to the USA and imports valued EUR 181.2 billion came from the USA (see Table 1). In 2007, the USA accounted for more than 80% of the total EU trade with NAFTA countries.

Figure 1: Evolution of EU-27 trade with NAFTA countries between 2000 and 2007 (EUR million)



	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Imports	232 662	229 600	205 888	180 631	182 719	190 135	205 527	216 382
Exports	273 596	283 321	286 184	263 251	272 329	293 419	314 811	308 488
Balance	40 933	53 721	80 296	82 620	89 610	103 284	109 284	92 106

Source: Eurostat (COMEXT)

**Table 1: EU-27 trade with NAFTA trading partners (EUR million)**

EXPORTS							
	2000	2005	2006	2007	Average annual increase 2000-2007	Share in Total EU exports to NAFTA countries in 2007	
						%	% cum.
<b>NAFTA</b>	273 596	293 419	314 811	308 488	1.7%	100.0	100.0
USA	238 203	252 683	268 992	261 666	1.4%	84.8	84.8
Canada	21 112	23 898	26 692	25 895	3.0%	8.4	93.2
Mexico	14 280	16 837	19 128	20 926	5.6%	6.8	100.0
IMPORTS							
	2000	2005	2006	2007	Average annual increase 2000-2007	Share in Total EU imports from NAFTA countries in 2007	
						%	% cum.
<b>NAFTA</b>	232 662	190 135	205 527	216 382	-1.0%	100.0	100.0
USA	206 280	163 511	175 220	181 198	-1.8%	83.7	83.7
Canada	18 978	17 379	19 741	23 274	3.0%	10.8	94.5
Mexico	7 404	9 245	10 566	11 910	7.0%	5.5	100.0

Source: Eurostat (COMEXT)

This should not mask the fact that trade with Mexico has developed rapidly: EU exports increased by an average 5.6% and EU imports by 7.0% between 2000 and 2007.

Trade with Canada remained more important in absolute terms but increased less strongly over the same period (3%, both for exports and imports).

### Germany as main exporter, the United Kingdom as main importer

Focusing on the individual EU Member States' trade with the NAFTA group of countries in 2007, Germany emerges as the most important partner for exports: goods worth EUR 85.9 billion, representing 27.9% of the EU total, originated from Germany (Table 2) followed by the UK (16.7%).

The opposite is true for imports from NAFTA countries: the UK leads with a share of 22.6%, Germany follows with 18.9%. As frequently noted in trade with overseas countries and linked to the

presence of the large ports of Rotterdam and Antwerp acting as European entry points, the Netherlands and Belgium feature relatively high (but overestimated) country shares for imports: 13.9% and 8.9% respectively.

The trade balance was positive (or only slightly negative) in all countries except for the Netherlands where the deficit amounted to EUR 9.3 billion. The highest trade surplus was registered by Germany (EUR 45.1 billion).

**Table 2: EU-27 trade with NAFTA countries, by EU Member State (EUR million)**

	EXPORTS						IMPORTS						BALANCE			
	2000	2005	2006	2007	Average annual increase 2000-2007	Share in EU-27 trade 2007	2000	2005	2006	2007	Average annual increase 2000-2007	Share in EU-27 trade 2007	2000	2005	2006	2007
<b>EU-27</b>	273 596	293 419	314 811	308 488	2%	100%	232 662	190 135	205 527	216 382	-1%	100%	40 933	103 284	109 284	92 106
Belgium	13 364	19 783	20 864	20 948	6.6%	6.8%	16 396	15 495	17 111	19 201	2.3%	8.9%	-3 032	4 288	3 753	1 747
Bulgaria	255	352	407	379	5.9%	0.1%	231	423	446	268	2.1%	0.1%	24	-71	-40	112
Czech Rep.	983	1 908	2 060	1 982	10.5%	0.6%	1 563	1 082	1 276	1 309	-2.5%	0.6%	-580	826	784	673
Denmark	3 816	5 145	5 441	5 468	5.3%	1.8%	2 491	1 930	2 295	2 752	1.4%	1.3%	1 325	3 214	3 146	2 716
Germany	71 090	80 130	88 648	85 920	2.7%	27.9%	43 285	35 946	39 258	40 835	-0.8%	18.9%	27 805	44 184	49 389	45 085
Estonia	59	239	559	406	31.8%	0.1%	110	138	138	155	4.9%	0.1%	-52	101	421	252
Ireland	14 790	17 110	17 147	16 778	1.8%	5.4%	9 551	7 999	7 162	7 306	-3.8%	3.4%	5 239	9 111	9 985	9 472
Greece	804	838	831	811	0.1%	0.3%	1 295	1 626	1 016	1 458	1.7%	0.7%	-491	-788	-185	-647
Spain	8 141	9 645	11 206	11 188	4.6%	3.6%	9 676	9 712	10 428	11 837	2.9%	5.5%	-1 536	-67	778	-650
France	34 833	30 819	30 421	29 298	-2.4%	9.5%	29 382	23 005	22 154	22 404	-3.8%	10.4%	5 451	7 814	8 267	6 893
Italy	30 830	28 562	29 797	30 608	-0.1%	9.9%	15 785	12 387	12 346	13 223	-2.5%	6.1%	15 045	16 175	17 451	17 385
Cyprus	15	20	9	9	-6.7%	0.0%	222	87	94	88	-12.3%	0.0%	-207	-68	-85	-80
Latvia	98	131	113	100	0.3%	0.0%	77	91	103	150	9.9%	0.1%	20	40	11	-50
Lithuania	211	723	723	382	8.9%	0.1%	158	258	267	414	14.7%	0.2%	52	466	457	-32
Luxembourg	436	410	481	418	-0.6%	0.1%	456	617	670	912	10.4%	0.4%	-20	-207	-190	-493
Hungary	1 712	1 734	1 895	1 948	1.9%	0.6%	1 587	1 043	1 059	1 158	-4.4%	0.5%	124	691	837	790
Malta	756	281	289	257	-14.3%	0.1%	406	169	192	134	-14.6%	0.1%	350	112	97	123
Netherlands	12 486	15 708	18 960	20 706	7.5%	6.7%	25 988	24 591	28 857	30 005	2.1%	13.9%	-13 502	-8 883	-9 897	-9 299
Austria	4 356	6 997	7 608	7 144	7.3%	2.3%	3 765	2 739	2 850	3 119	-2.7%	1.4%	591	4 258	4 758	4 026
Poland	1 340	1 946	2 129	2 002	5.9%	0.6%	2 632	1 205	1 580	1 814	-5.2%	0.8%	-1 293	741	549	188
Portugal	1 714	1 880	2 398	2 049	2.6%	0.7%	1 592	1 430	1 134	1 287	-3.0%	0.6%	122	450	1 265	762
Romania	471	959	753	657	4.9%	0.2%	493	1 120	1 259	847	8.1%	0.4%	-22	-161	-506	-191
Slovenia	324	348	470	414	3.6%	0.1%	405	201	241	353	-1.9%	0.2%	-81	147	228	61
Slovakia	219	889	1 193	1 199	27.5%	0.4%	313	242	263	466	5.8%	0.2%	-95	647	930	733
Finland	4 335	3 804	4 720	4 898	1.8%	1.6%	1 980	1 604	1 777	1 993	0.1%	0.9%	2 356	2 200	2 943	2 905
Sweden	11 173	12 780	12 687	11 071	-0.1%	3.6%	5 932	3 608	3 973	3 916	-5.8%	1.8%	5 241	9 172	8 714	7 155
United Kingd.	54 988	50 281	53 001	51 446	-0.9%	16.7%	56 890	41 387	47 575	48 977	-2.1%	22.6%	-1 902	8 893	5 425	2 469

Source: Eurostat (COMEXT)

## Machinery and vehicles as main EU traded products

EU trade with NAFTA countries is mainly based on exchanges of manufactured goods (representing 85% of the exports and 81% of the imports – see Table 3). ‘Machinery and vehicles’ continued to be the most important category in 2007 with a share of 42% in both total exports and imports. Primary products accounted for 13% to 14% of the total EU trade with NAFTA countries. Due to the fast

increasing world prices, the import of ‘Energy’ (essentially petroleum and petroleum products) is the fastest increasing category.

Looking at the trade balance, ‘Crude materials’ was the product group which persistently registered a trade deficit (EUR 10 billion in 2007). The category labeled ‘Others’ (typically confidential products) also saw its deficit rise constantly.

**Table 3: EU-27 trade with NAFTA countries, by main product group (EUR million)**

	EXPORTS					IMPORTS					BALANCE		
	2000	2006	2007	Average annual increase 2000-2007	Share in EU-27 trade 2007	2000	2006	2007	Average annual increase 2000-2007	Share in EU-27 trade 2007	2000	2006	2007
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>273 596</b>	<b>314 811</b>	<b>308 488</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>232 662</b>	<b>205 527</b>	<b>216 382</b>	<b>-1.0%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>40 933</b>	<b>109 284</b>	<b>92 106</b>
<b>Primary products</b>	<b>25 741</b>	<b>40 239</b>	<b>40 168</b>	<b>6.6%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>24 593</b>	<b>26 599</b>	<b>29 629</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>1 147</b>	<b>13 640</b>	<b>10 538</b>
Food products	11 220	13 721	13 627	2.8%	4%	7 874	7 328	7 885	0.0%	4%	3 346	6 393	5 742
Crude materials	2 849	4 338	3 940	4.7%	1%	12 369	11 710	13 915	1.7%	6%	-9 520	-7 371	-9 975
Energy	11 672	22 180	22 601	9.9%	7%	4 350	7 562	7 829	8.8%	4%	7 322	14 618	14 772
<b>Manufactured goods</b>	<b>242 847</b>	<b>265 729</b>	<b>260 234</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>201 160</b>	<b>167 010</b>	<b>174 186</b>	<b>-2.0%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>41 687</b>	<b>98 718</b>	<b>86 048</b>
Chemicals	39 754	63 047	64 301	7.1%	21%	27 988	37 530	39 836	5.2%	18%	11 766	25 517	24 465
Other manufact. art.	69 237	71 906	69 189	0.0%	23%	45 509	42 706	44 473	-0.3%	21%	23 728	29 201	24 716
Machinery & vehicles	133 857	130 776	126 744	-0.8%	42%	127 663	86 775	89 876	-4.9%	42%	6 194	44 001	36 868
<b>Others</b>	<b>2 106</b>	<b>5 486</b>	<b>4 843</b>	<b>12.6%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>4 307</b>	<b>10 914</b>	<b>11 735</b>	<b>15.4%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>-2 200</b>	<b>-5 428</b>	<b>-6 891</b>

Source: Eurostat (COMEXT)

Looking at the statistics according to individual products, in 2007 ‘road vehicles’ accounted for 11.8% of total EU exports to NAFTA countries (EUR 36.5 billion – see Table 4a). The value of exports of petroleum products nearly doubled between 2000 and 2007 (+48%).

**Table 4a: Main EU-27 exports to NAFTA countries, by product**

SITC division	Value (EUR million)			Share in total extra-EU exports of this division (%)			Share in total EU exports to NAFTA countries	
	2000	2006	2007	2000	2006	2007	%	% cum.
							2007	2007
<b>Total</b>	<b>273 596</b>	<b>314 811</b>	<b>308 488</b>	<b>32.2%</b>	<b>27.2%</b>	<b>24.9%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
78 Road vehicles	30 237	39 352	36 513	40.4%	35.5%	30.7%	11.8%	11.8%
54 Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	12 080	27 894	30 647	35.9%	41.6%	41.7%	9.9%	21.8%
33 Petroleum, petroleum products	11 553	22 063	22 256	43.9%	40.9%	38.6%	7.2%	29.0%
71 Power-generating machinery and equipm.	18 460	17 577	19 352	50.9%	38.4%	37.0%	6.3%	35.3%
74 General industrial machinery and equipm.	13 351	17 100	17 291	29.2%	22.5%	20.0%	5.6%	40.9%

‘Power-generating machinery & equipment’ came first in value for imports in 2007 (EUR 16.2 billion – see Table 4b), closely followed by ‘Medicinal and pharmaceutical products’ and ‘Other transport equipment’ (EUR 14.9 and EUR 14.8 billion respectively).

**Table 4b: Main EU-27 imports from NAFTA countries, by product**

SITC division	Value (EUR million)			Share in total extra-EU imports of this division (%)			Share in total EU imports from NAFTA countries	
	2000	2006	2007	2000	2006	2007	%	% cum.
							2007	2007
<b>Total</b>	<b>232 662</b>	<b>205 527</b>	<b>216 382</b>	<b>23.4%</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
71 Power-generating machinery & equipm.	20 538	15 327	16 228	67.2%	53.1%	50.6%	7.5%	7.5%
54 Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	8 635	16 117	14 885	46.9%	45.8%	41.5%	6.9%	14.4%
79 Other transport equipment	25 872	12 973	14 806	59.8%	41.7%	52.6%	6.8%	21.2%
87 Professional, scientific & controlling instrum.	13 720	13 693	13 058	59.6%	50.3%	49.3%	6.0%	27.3%
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances	23 055	13 552	12 388	25.4%	17.1%	15.6%	5.7%	33.0%

Source: Eurostat (COMEXT)

### METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Statistical source (data extracted on: 23/07/2008)

➤ 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, Slovakia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

The **North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)** is an agreement between the United States of America (USA), Canada and Mexico.

#### Classification of products (Table 3)

Fourth revision of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC). Food products = sections 0+1, Crude materials = sections 2+4, Energy = section 3, Chemicals = section 5, Machinery and transport equipment = section 7, and Other manufactured articles = sections 6+8.

#### 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:

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

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