

169/2020 - 13 November 2020

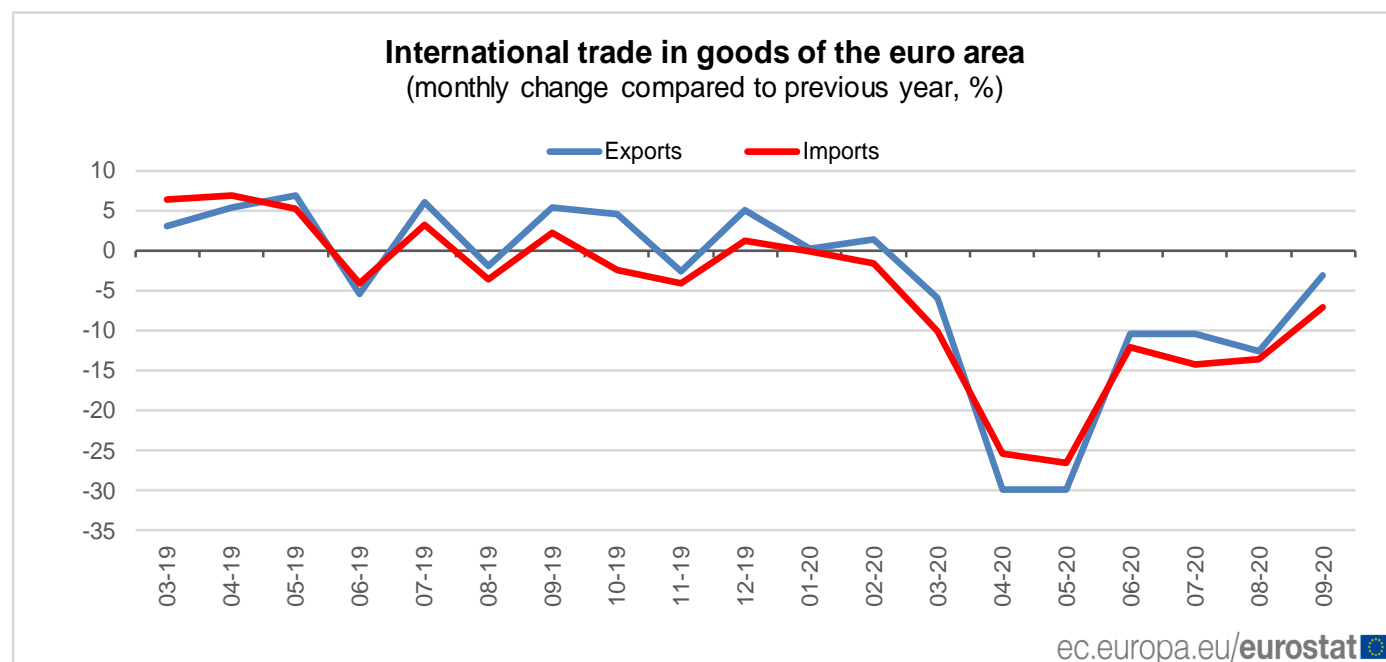
September 2020

# Euro area international trade in goods surplus €24.8 bn

€24.5 bn surplus for EU

## Euro area

The first estimate for **euro area** (EA19) exports of goods to the rest of the world in September 2020 was €190.3 billion, a decrease of 3.1% compared with September 2019 (€196.4 bn). Imports from the rest of the world stood at €165.5 bn, a fall of 7.1% compared with September 2019 (€178.1 bn). As a result, the **euro area** recorded a €24.8 bn surplus in trade in goods with the rest of the world in September 2020, compared with +€18.3 bn in September 2019. **Intra-euro area** trade fell to €164.2 bn in September 2020, down by 1.0% compared with September 2019.



In January to September 2020, **euro area** exports of goods to the rest of the world fell to €1 545.2 bn (a decrease of 11.3% compared with January-September 2019), and imports fell to €1 394.8 bn (a decrease of 12.4% compared with January-September 2019). As a result the **euro area** recorded a surplus of €150.4 bn, compared with +€151.0 bn in January-September 2019. **Intra-euro area** trade fell to €1 313.6 bn in January-September 2020, down by 11.1% compared with January-September 2019.

## EA trade - non seasonally adjusted data

bn €

Flows	Sep 19	Sep 20	Growth	Jan-Sep 19	Jan-Sep 20	Growth
Extra-EA exports	196.4	190.3	-3.1%	1 742.8	1 545.2	-11.3%
Extra-EA imports	178.1	165.5	-7.1%	1 591.8	1 394.8	-12.4%
Extra-EA trade balance	18.3	24.8		151.0	150.4	
Intra-EA trade	165.8	164.2	-1.0%	1 476.9	1 313.6	-11.1%

Source dataset: [ext\\_st\\_ea19sitt](#)

## European Union

The first estimate for **extra-EU** exports of goods in September 2020 was €171.0 billion, down by 3.8% compared with September 2019 (€177.8 bn). Imports from the rest of the world stood at €146.5 bn, down by 8.9% compared with September 2019 (€160.8 bn). As a result, the **EU** recorded a €24.5 bn surplus in trade in goods with the rest of the world in September 2020, compared with +€17.0 bn in September 2019. **Intra-EU** trade remained almost unchanged at €260.7 bn in September 2020.



In January to September 2020, **extra-EU** exports of goods fell to €1 400.6 bn (a decrease of 11.4% compared with January-September 2019), and imports fell to €1 266.1 bn (a decrease of 12.8% compared with January-September 2019). As a result, the **EU** recorded a surplus of €134.5 bn, compared with +€127.8 bn in January-September 2019. **Intra-EU** trade fell to €2 068.5 bn in January-September 2020, -9.9% compared with January-September 2019.

### EU trade - non seasonally adjusted data

bn €

Flows	Sep 19	Sep 20	Growth	Jan-Sep 19	Jan-Sep 20	Growth
Extra-EU exports	177.8	171.0	-3.8%	1 580.4	1 400.6	-11.4%
Extra-EU imports	160.8	146.5	-8.9%	1 452.6	1 266.1	-12.8%
Extra-EU trade balance	17.0	24.5		127.8	134.5	
Intra-EU trade	260.6	260.7	0.0%	2 296.6	2 068.5	-9.9%

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

### Main products - EU

bn €

	Extra-EU exports			Extra-EU imports			Trade balance	
	Jan-Sep 19	Jan-Sep 20	Growth	Jan-Sep 19	Jan-Sep 20	Growth	Jan-Sep 19	Jan-Sep 20
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 580.4</b>	<b>1 400.6</b>	<b>-11.4%</b>	<b>1 452.6</b>	<b>1 266.1</b>	<b>-12.8%</b>	<b>127.8</b>	<b>134.5</b>
<b>Primary goods:</b>	<b>237.8</b>	<b>206.9</b>	<b>-13.0%</b>	<b>423.3</b>	<b>311.3</b>	<b>-26.5%</b>	<b>-185.5</b>	<b>-104.4</b>
<i>Food &amp; drink</i>	118.7	121.0	1.9%	87.5	84.6	-3.3%	31.2	36.4
<i>Raw materials</i>	41.3	38.6	-6.5%	61.0	58.3	-4.4%	-19.7	-19.6
<i>Energy</i>	77.7	47.3	-39.1%	274.8	168.4	-38.7%	-197.0	-121.2
<b>Manufactured goods:</b>	<b>1 308.9</b>	<b>1 161.1</b>	<b>-11.3%</b>	<b>1 007.0</b>	<b>928.0</b>	<b>-7.8%</b>	<b>301.9</b>	<b>233.1</b>
<i>Chemicals</i>	304.3	310.2	1.9%	177.7	175.3	-1.4%	126.6	134.9
<i>Machinery &amp; vehicles</i>	642.4	539.4	-16.0%	468.4	421.1	-10.1%	174.0	118.3
<i>Other manuf'd goods</i>	362.2	311.5	-14.0%	361.0	331.6	-8.1%	1.3	-20.1
<b>Other</b>	<b>33.7</b>	<b>32.6</b>	<b>-3.3%</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>20.1%</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>5.8</b>

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

In the first nine months of 2020, China was the main partner for the **EU**. This result was due to an increase of imports (+4.5%) while exports remained unchanged. At the same time trade with the United States recorded a significant drop in both imports (-11.4%) and exports (-10.0%).

### Main trading partners - EU

bn €

	EU exports to			EU imports from			Trade balance	
	Jan-Sep 19	Jan-Sep 20	Growth	Jan-Sep 19	Jan-Sep 20	Growth	Jan-Sep 19	Jan-Sep 20
<b>China</b>	144.8	144.8	0.0%	268.6	280.7	4.5%	-123.9	-135.9
<b>United States</b>	288.0	259.3	-10.0%	173.0	153.2	-11.4%	115.1	106.1
<b>United Kingdom</b>	241.3	198.1	-17.9%	144.8	121.6	-16.0%	96.5	76.5
<b>Switzerland</b>	109.0	105.6	-3.1%	81.4	80.8	-0.7%	27.6	24.8
<b>Russia</b>	64.0	57.8	-9.7%	110.1	70.8	-35.7%	-46.1	-13.0
<b>Turkey</b>	49.7	49.3	-0.8%	52.1	45.0	-13.6%	-2.4	4.3
<b>Japan</b>	45.9	40.1	-12.6%	47.7	40.3	-15.5%	-1.8	-0.2
<b>Norway</b>	38.8	35.7	-8.0%	40.3	31.5	-21.8%	-1.5	4.2
<b>South Korea</b>	32.4	33.1	2.2%	35.6	31.9	-10.4%	-3.2	1.2
<b>India</b>	27.8	22.1	-20.5%	30.4	24.7	-18.8%	-2.6	-2.6

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

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

bn €

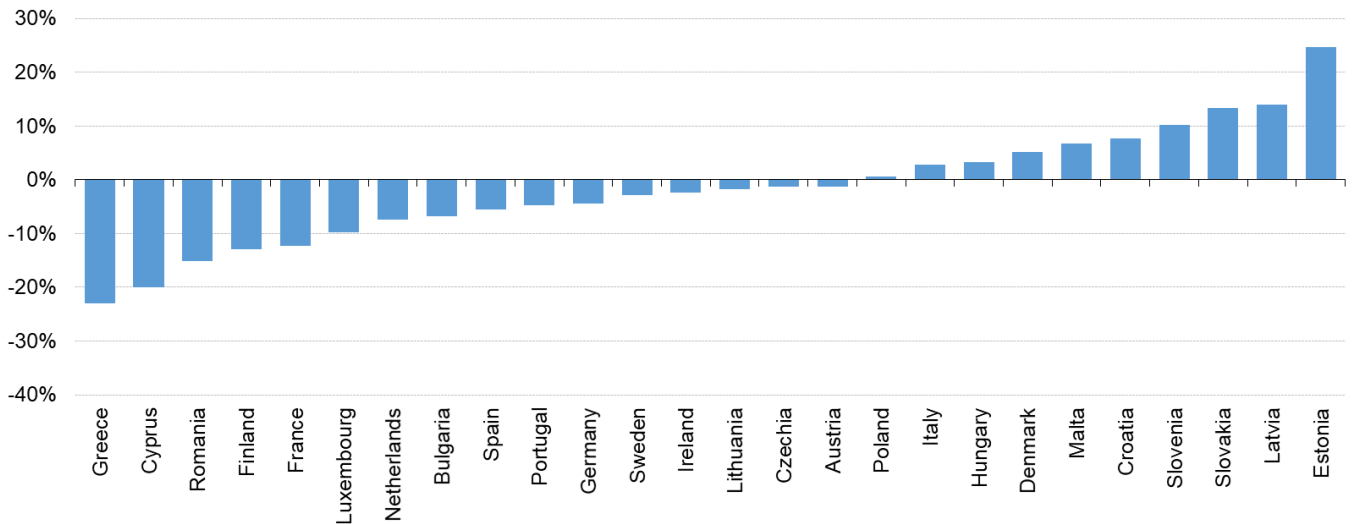
	Total exports						Total imports						Trade balance					
	Total		Intra-EU		Extra-EU		Total		Intra-EU		Extra-EU		Total		Intra-EU		Extra-EU	
	Jan-Sep 20	Growth / Jan-Sep 19	Jan-Sep 20	Growth / Jan-Sep 19	Jan-Sep 20	Growth / Jan-Sep 19	Jan-Sep 20	Growth / Jan-Sep 19	Jan-Sep 20	Growth / Jan-Sep 19	Jan-Sep 20	Growth / Jan-Sep 19	Jan-Sep 20	Jan-Sep 19	Jan-Sep 20	Jan-Sep 19	Jan-Sep 20	Jan-Sep 19
Belgium	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	12.4	:	23.3	:	-10.9
Bulgaria	20.5	-7%	13.6	-5%	6.9	-11%	22.0	-11%	13.6	-11%	8.4	-11%	-1.5	-2.5	0.0	-0.8	-1.5	-1.7
Czechia	119.0	-10%	94.6	-10%	24.4	-9%	106.9	-10%	78.3	-11%	28.6	-6%	12.2	14.1	16.3	17.5	-4.2	-3.4
Denmark	71.1	-3%	36.7	-7%	34.4	0%	62.4	-4%	42.5	-1%	20.0	-9%	8.7	8.7	-5.8	-3.7	14.5	12.4
Germany	881.4	-12%	463.7	-12%	417.7	-12%	750.3	-9%	470.6	-10%	279.7	-8%	131.1	172.2	-6.9	3.6	138.0	168.7
Estonia	10.2	-5%	6.9	-8%	3.3	-1%	10.9	-9%	8.2	-10%	2.7	-7%	-0.7	-1.2	-1.3	-1.6	0.6	0.5
Ireland	118.9	5%	48.0	14%	71.0	0%	61.7	-5%	23.2	-2%	38.5	-7%	57.2	48.0	24.8	18.4	32.5	29.7
Greece	22.3	-12%	12.9	-2%	9.4	-22%	35.9	-14%	20.2	-4%	15.6	-25%	-13.5	-16.6	-7.3	-7.9	-6.2	-8.7
Spain	194.0	-13%	118.8	-11%	75.2	-16%	206.8	-17%	115.3	-14%	91.5	-20%	-12.8	-26.7	3.4	-1.4	-16.3	-25.3
France	307.1	-19%	166.4	-16%	140.7	-23%	373.5	-15%	243.4	-12%	130.1	-19%	-66.4	-58.4	-77.0	-80.5	10.7	22.1
Croatia	10.7	-6%	7.2	-4%	3.5	-11%	17.1	-10%	13.2	-12%	3.9	-3%	-6.4	-7.6	-6.0	-7.5	-0.4	-0.1
Italy	311.4	-12%	161.6	-11%	149.9	-13%	269.0	-15%	154.3	-13%	114.6	-18%	42.5	35.0	7.2	2.7	35.2	32.3
Cyprus	2.1	-12%	0.6	-37%	1.4	8%	5.4	-12%	3.3	-9%	2.1	-15%	-3.3	-3.8	-2.6	-2.6	-0.7	-1.2
Latvia	10.1	-2%	6.4	-2%	3.7	-3%	11.5	-9%	8.8	-6%	2.7	-16%	-1.4	-2.3	-2.4	-2.9	1.0	0.6
Lithuania	20.6	-6%	11.7	-4%	8.9	-8%	21.0	-12%	14.6	-8%	6.4	-21%	-0.4	-1.9	-2.9	-3.5	2.5	1.6
Luxembourg	9.0	-22%	7.2	-22%	1.7	-25%	13.2	-19%	11.7	-13%	1.5	-48%	-4.2	-4.8	-4.4	-4.2	0.2	-0.6
Hungary	75.9	-9%	59.5	-9%	16.5	-7%	73.3	-9%	51.9	-10%	21.3	-6%	2.7	2.6	7.5	7.6	-4.9	-5.1
Malta	1.6	-17%	0.8	-23%	0.8	-9%	3.5	-28%	2.0	-22%	1.6	-35%	-1.9	-3.0	-1.1	-1.4	-0.8	-1.5
Netherlands	430.1	-8%	282.4	-8%	147.7	-8%	382.0	-9%	158.0	-7%	224.0	-10%	48.1	47.8	124.4	135.7	-76.3	-87.9
Austria	109.3	-8%	75.3	-8%	34.0	-10%	110.9	-11%	84.8	-10%	26.1	-13%	-1.6	-5.0	-9.5	-12.5	7.9	7.6
Poland	169.0	-4%	124.3	-4%	44.7	-2%	161.5	-8%	108.3	-7%	53.2	-9%	7.5	0.6	16.0	13.5	-8.5	-12.8
Portugal	38.9	-13%	27.9	-12%	11.0	-15%	49.5	-17%	36.4	-17%	13.1	-18%	-10.6	-15.2	-8.5	-12.3	-2.0	-3.0
Romania	44.5	-14%	32.9	-13%	11.6	-16%	57.8	-10%	42.4	-9%	15.4	-12%	-13.3	-12.3	-9.5	-8.7	-3.8	-3.6
Slovenia	28.7	-4%	19.2	-12%	9.5	15%	26.4	-9%	15.7	-15%	10.7	0%	2.4	1.0	3.6	3.4	-1.2	-2.5
Slovakia	53.1	-10%	42.2	-11%	10.9	-9%	52.5	-12%	42.3	-10%	10.2	-18%	0.6	-0.5	-0.1	0.0	0.7	-0.5
Finland	41.4	-15%	22.7	-15%	18.7	-17%	43.9	-11%	31.2	-9%	12.7	-18%	-2.5	-0.6	-8.5	-7.5	6.0	6.9
Sweden	99.5	-7%	51.6	-9%	47.8	-6%	94.9	-10%	63.6	-8%	31.3	-14%	4.5	2.0	-12.0	-12.3	16.5	14.3

: Data not available Source dataset: [ext\\_st\\_27\\_2020msbec](#)

## Annual comparison by Member State

In September 2020, compared with September 2019, exports of goods decreased for sixteen Member States, with the largest decreases registered in **Greece** (-23.0%) and **Cyprus** (-20.0%). In ten Member States exports showed an increase compared with September 2019. The largest increases were registered in **Estonia** (+24.7%), **Latvia** (+13.9%), **Slovakia** (+13.3%) and **Slovenia** (+10.2%).

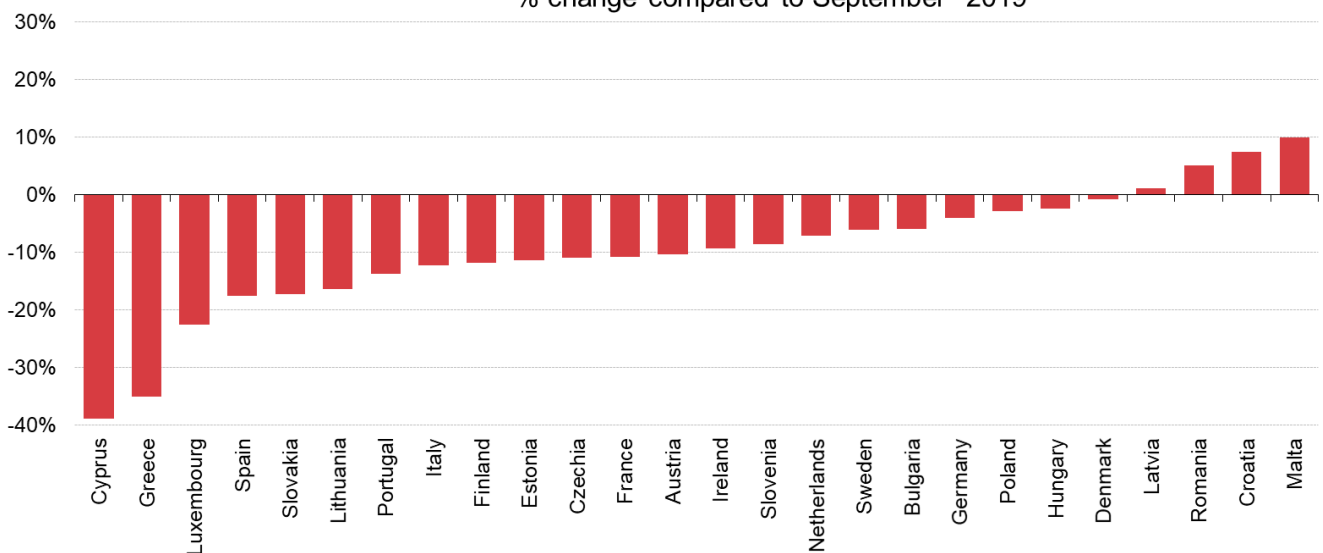
**Extra-EU exports by Member State - September 2020**  
% change compared to September 2019



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

With regard to imports, the picture is slightly different. In September 2020 compared to September 2019, all Member States recorded drops, with the exception of **Latvia** (+1.2%), **Romania** (+5.1%), **Croatia** (+7.5%) and **Malta** (+9.9%). The highest overall falls were observed in **Cyprus** (-38.3%) and **Greece** (-35.0%).

**Extra-EU imports by Member State - September 2020**  
% change compared to September 2019



[ec.europa.eu/eurostat](https://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](#).

Data for September 2020 for Belgium were not available. EU and euro area aggregates include Eurostat estimates for missing data.

## 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-EU 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 November 2020. These are provisional figures based on information provided by Member States.

## 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](#)

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## Annex - Seasonally adjusted data

Seasonally adjusted figures for exports and imports continue to stay below the pre-crisis level in the **euro area** and in the **EU**. In September 2020 compared with August 2020, **euro area** seasonally adjusted exports increased by 4.1%, while imports increased by 2.7%. In the last five months exports recovered more quickly than imports so that the trade balance returned to the pre-crisis levels in September 2020. However, compared to the month before restrictions were imposed (February 2020), both flows were down respectively by 7.9% and 8.1%.

### EA trade - seasonally adjusted data

bn €

Flows	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sep 20
Extra-EA exports	200.3	194.9	197.4	197.0	198.5	182.9	135.5	147.7	163.5	173.0	175.8	182.9
Extra-EA imports	176.0	175.8	174.2	178.1	173.1	156.5	135.5	139.5	147.9	154.3	154.8	159.0
Extra-EA trade balance	24.3	19.1	23.2	18.9	25.4	26.4	0.1	8.2	15.6	18.7	21.0	24.0
Intra-EA trade	164.5	163.5	163.3	165.6	164.7	144.3	111.4	125.8	141.4	148.4	154.9	157.4

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

In September 2020 compared with August 2020, **EU** seasonally adjusted exports increased by 4.8%, while imports increased by 2.7%. Similarly to the euro area, in the last five months, exports of the **EU** recovered more quickly than import. The seasonally adjusted balance was +€23.0 bn, an increase compared with August (+€19.3 bn).

### EU trade - seasonally adjusted data

bn €

Flows	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sep 20
Extra-EU exports	182.9	176.9	179.4	179.2	180.0	165.6	125.6	134.9	148.5	156.3	157.3	164.8
Extra-EU imports	161.3	159.8	158.6	161.9	156.8	141.9	127.8	128.8	133.8	139.0	138.0	141.7
Extra-EU trade balance	21.6	17.0	20.8	17.3	23.2	23.7	-2.2	6.2	14.7	17.4	19.3	23.0
Intra-EU trade	255.8	256.1	254.5	259.9	259.3	228.4	173.5	197.8	222.7	234.7	244.8	245.1

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

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

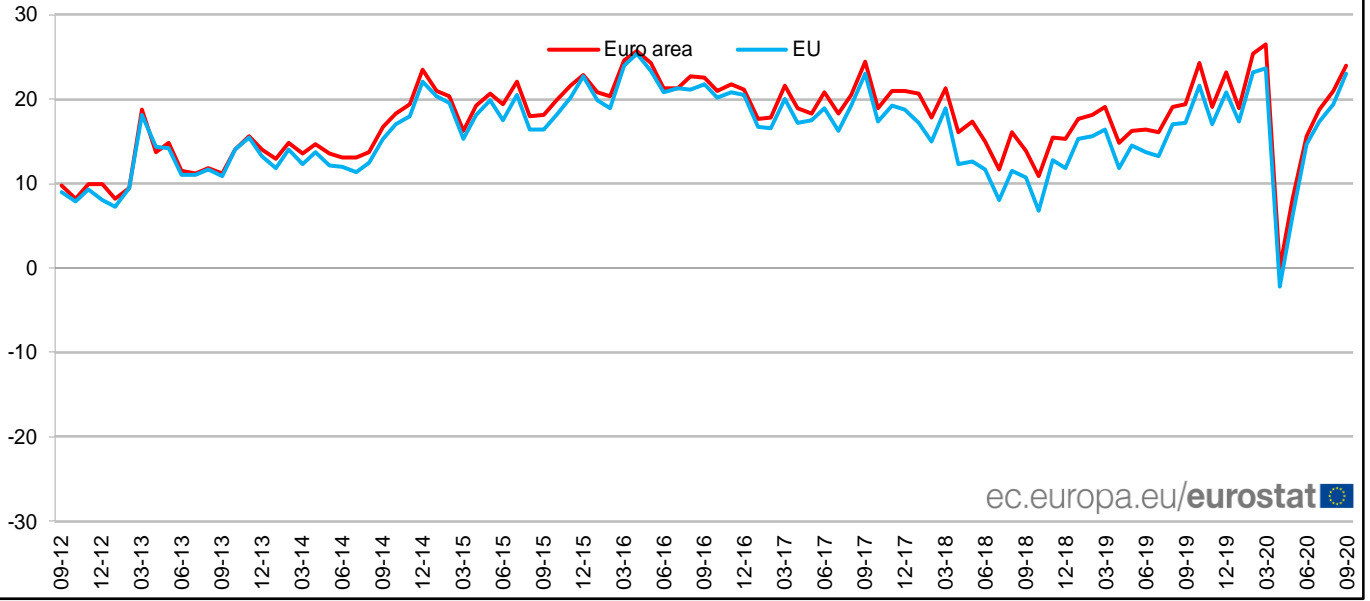
bn €

	Total exports			Total imports			Trade balance	
	Aug 20	Sep 20	Growth	Aug 20	Sep 20	Growth	Aug 20	Sep 20
<b>EU</b>	<b>157.3</b>	<b>164.8</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>138.0</b>	<b>141.7</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>23.0</b>
Belgium	10.3	:	:	10.5	:	:	-0.2	:
Bulgaria	0.7	0.8	14.1%	0.9	1.0	15.5%	-0.2	-0.2
Czechia	2.8	3.0	5.4%	3.2	3.1	-1.6%	-0.3	-0.1
Denmark	3.5	3.9	11.6%	2.4	2.3	-3.3%	1.2	1.6
Germany	46.5	48.4	4.2%	30.3	31.0	2.3%	16.2	17.5
Estonia	0.4	0.4	12.3%	0.3	0.3	-8.5%	0.1	0.1
Ireland	8.1	7.8	-3.8%	4.1	4.1	1.2%	4.1	3.7
Greece	1.0	1.0	-2.9%	1.8	1.5	-17.9%	-0.8	-0.5
Spain	8.6	9.1	6.4%	9.7	10.2	5.0%	-1.1	-1.1
France	16.1	16.9	4.9%	14.5	14.7	1.5%	1.6	2.2
Croatia	0.4	0.4	18.2%	0.4	0.4	-7.4%	-0.1	0.0
Italy	18.1	19.4	7.1%	12.8	13.2	3.0%	5.3	6.2
Cyprus	0.1	0.1	-14.1%	0.2	0.2	-5.5%	0.0	0.0
Latvia	0.4	0.5	14.9%	0.3	0.3	6.9%	0.1	0.2
Lithuania	1.1	1.1	0.7%	0.8	0.7	-8.8%	0.3	0.4
Luxembourg	0.2	0.2	9.2%	0.2	0.2	-14.8%	0.0	0.1
Hungary	2.0	2.0	-1.1%	2.4	2.4	0.5%	-0.4	-0.4
Malta	0.1	0.1	6.9%	0.2	0.2	0.4%	-0.1	-0.1
Netherlands	15.5	16.6	7.3%	23.9	25.5	6.5%	-8.4	-8.9
Austria	3.7	3.9	5.0%	3.0	2.7	-9.5%	0.7	1.2
Poland	5.1	5.1	0.9%	6.0	6.0	-0.5%	-1.0	-0.9
Portugal	1.3	1.3	4.5%	1.4	1.5	5.4%	-0.1	-0.1
Romania	1.3	1.3	5.0%	1.7	1.9	13.8%	-0.4	-0.6
Slovenia	1.0	1.0	2.9%	1.3	1.1	-11.2%	-0.3	-0.1
Slovakia	1.4	1.5	1.7%	1.1	1.2	11.0%	0.4	0.3
Finland	2.1	2.1	-2.8%	1.4	1.4	3.8%	0.8	0.6
Sweden	5.4	5.2	-3.1%	3.4	3.5	4.8%	2.0	1.7

: Data not available, the EU aggregate includes Eurostat estimates

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

International trade in goods balance, seasonally adjusted, € bn



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