

EMBARGO: Wednesday 16 December 2020 – 11:00 CET

183/2020 - 16 December 2020

October 2020

# Euro area international trade in goods surplus €30.0 bn

## €28.1 bn surplus for EU

### Euro area

The first estimate for **euro area** exports of goods to the rest of the world in October 2020 was €199.3 billion, a decrease of 9.0% compared with October 2019 (€219.0 bn). Imports from the rest of the world stood at €169.3 bn, a fall of 11.7% compared with October 2019 (€191.8 bn). As a result, the **euro area** recorded a €30.0 bn surplus in trade in goods with the rest of the world in October 2020, compared with +€27.2 bn in October 2019. **Intra-euro area** trade fell to €166.1 bn in October 2020, down by 6.8% compared with October 2019.



In January to October 2020, **euro area** exports of goods to the rest of the world fell to €1 744.0 bn (a decrease of 11.1% compared with January-October 2019), and imports fell to €1 564.0 bn (a decrease of 12.4% compared with January-October 2019). As a result the **euro area** recorded a surplus of €180.1 bn, compared with +€178.2 bn in January-October 2019. **Intra-euro area** trade fell to €1 478.4 bn in January-October 2020, down by 10.8% compared with January-October 2019.

### EA trade - non seasonally adjusted data

bn €

Flows	Oct 19	Oct 20	Growth	Jan-Oct 19	Jan-Oct 20	Growth
Extra-EA exports	219.0	199.3	-9.0%	1 962.8	1 744.0	-11.1%
Extra-EA imports	191.8	169.3	-11.7%	1 784.5	1 564.0	-12.4%
Extra-EA trade balance	27.2	30.0		178.2	180.1	
Intra-EA trade	178.3	166.1	-6.8%	1 657.7	1 478.4	-10.8%

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

## European Union

The first estimate for **extra-EU** exports of goods in October 2020 was €178.9 billion, down by 10.3% compared with October 2019 (€199.4 bn). Imports from the rest of the world stood at €150.8 bn, down by 14.3% compared with October 2019 (€175.9 bn). As a result, the **EU** recorded a €28.1 bn surplus in trade in goods with the rest of the world in October 2020, compared with +€23.5 bn in October 2019. **Intra-EU** trade fell to €266.6 bn in October 2020, -4.5% compared with October 2019.



In January to October 2020, **extra-EU** exports of goods fell to €1 579.4 bn (a decrease of 11.3% compared with January-October 2019), and imports fell to €1 417.2 bn (a decrease of 13.0% compared with January-October 2019). As a result, the **EU** recorded a surplus of €162.2 bn, compared with +€151.4 bn in January-October 2019. **Intra-EU** trade fell to €2 334.4 bn in January-October 2020, -9.5% compared with January-October 2019.

### EU trade - non seasonally adjusted data

bn €

Flows	Oct 19	Oct 20	Growth	Jan-Oct 19	Jan-Oct 20	Growth
Extra-EU exports	199.4	178.9	-10.3%	1 780.1	1 579.4	-11.3%
Extra-EU imports	175.9	150.8	-14.3%	1 628.7	1 417.2	-13.0%
Extra-EU trade balance	23.5	28.1		151.4	162.2	
Intra-EU trade	279.3	266.6	-4.5%	2 580.4	2 334.4	-9.5%

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

The degree to which the year-on-year development of exports and imports was affected depended however on the type of products. Energy recorded by far the largest drop, followed by Machinery & Vehicles and Other manufactured products, while Food & Drink and Chemicals were the only product groups with levels close to those observed in 2019.

### Main products - EU

bn €

	Extra-EU exports			Extra-EU imports			Trade balance	
	Jan-Oct 19	Jan-Oct 20	Growth	Jan-Oct 19	Jan-Oct 20	Growth	Jan-Oct 19	Jan-Oct 20
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 780.1</b>	<b>1 579.4</b>	<b>-11.3%</b>	<b>1 628.7</b>	<b>1 417.2</b>	<b>-13.0%</b>	<b>151.4</b>	<b>162.2</b>
<b>Primary goods:</b>	<b>267.6</b>	<b>232.7</b>	<b>-13.0%</b>	<b>470.8</b>	<b>345.9</b>	<b>-26.5%</b>	<b>-203.2</b>	<b>-113.2</b>
<i>Food &amp; drink</i>	135.0	136.5	1.1%	98.4	94.4	-4.1%	36.7	42.1
<i>Raw materials</i>	45.9	43.5	-5.2%	68.5	65.6	-4.2%	-22.6	-22.1
<i>Energy</i>	86.7	52.7	-39.2%	303.9	185.8	-38.9%	-217.3	-133.1
<b>Manufactured goods:</b>	<b>1 473.7</b>	<b>1 309.7</b>	<b>-11.1%</b>	<b>1 132.5</b>	<b>1 040.7</b>	<b>-8.1%</b>	<b>341.2</b>	<b>268.9</b>
<i>Chemicals</i>	342.5	343.9	0.4%	198.8	194.8	-2.0%	143.6	149.1
<i>Machinery &amp; vehicles</i>	724.3	613.0	-15.4%	529.8	474.1	-10.5%	194.5	138.9
<i>Other manuf'd goods</i>	406.9	352.7	-13.3%	403.8	371.8	-7.9%	3.1	-19.0
<b>Other</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>-4.4%</b>	<b>25.4</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>20.5%</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>6.4</b>

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

In the first ten months of 2020, China was the main partner for the **EU**. This result was due to an increase of imports (+3.4%) while exports remained almost unchanged. At the same time trade with the United States recorded a significant drop in both imports (-13.0%) and exports (-10.2%).

### Main trading partners - EU

bn €

	EU exports to			EU imports from			Trade balance	
	Jan-Oct 19	Jan-Oct 20	Growth	Jan-Oct 19	Jan-Oct 20	Growth	Jan-Oct 19	Jan-Oct 20
<b>China</b>	163.4	163.3	-0.1%	304.2	314.4	3.4%	-140.9	-151.1
<b>United States</b>	324.0	291.0	-10.2%	195.0	169.7	-13.0%	129.0	121.3
<b>United Kingdom</b>	272.3	224.6	-17.5%	162.6	136.7	-15.9%	109.7	87.9
<b>Switzerland</b>	123.2	118.6	-3.7%	91.4	90.8	-0.7%	31.7	27.8
<b>Russia</b>	73.3	65.4	-10.8%	122.2	78.4	-35.8%	-48.9	-13.0
<b>Turkey</b>	56.0	56.8	1.4%	58.4	51.4	-12.0%	-2.4	5.4
<b>Japan</b>	51.6	44.9	-13.0%	53.3	45.2	-15.2%	-1.7	-0.3
<b>Norway</b>	43.4	40.3	-7.1%	44.7	35.0	-21.7%	-1.3	5.3
<b>South Korea</b>	36.1	37.0	2.5%	39.8	35.8	-10.1%	-3.7	1.1
<b>India</b>	31.0	25.4	-18.1%	33.9	27.7	-18.3%	-3.0	-2.4

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-Oct 20	Growth/ Jan-Oct 19	Jan-Oct 20	Growth/ Jan-Oct 19	Jan-Oct 20	Growth/ Jan-Oct 19	Jan-Oct 20	Growth/ Jan-Oct 19	Jan-Oct 20	Growth/ Jan-Oct 19	Jan-Oct 20	Growth/ Jan-Oct 19	Jan-Oct 20	Jan-Oct 19	Jan-Oct 20	Jan-Oct 19	Jan-Oct 20	Jan-Oct 19
Belgium	300.2	-11%	193.0	-12%	107.1	-9%	283.7	-12%	171.6	-11%	112.1	-13%	16.5	14.5	21.5	26.1	-5.0	-11.6
Bulgaria	23.1	-7%	15.3	-5%	7.8	-11%	24.9	-11%	15.3	-11%	9.6	-11%	-1.8	-3.0	0.0	-1.0	-1.8	-2.0
Czechia	135.5	-9%	107.7	-9%	27.8	-9%	120.8	-9%	88.2	-11%	32.6	-6%	14.7	15.7	19.4	19.8	-4.8	-4.1
Denmark	79.2	-4%	41.1	-6%	38.1	-2%	70.0	-4%	47.8	-1%	22.2	-10%	9.2	9.7	-6.7	-4.4	15.9	14.1
Germany	993.9	-11%	523.4	-11%	470.5	-11%	843.1	-9%	530.4	-9%	312.7	-8%	150.7	194.1	-7.1	5.1	157.8	189.0
Estonia	11.6	-4%	7.8	-7%	3.9	3%	12.3	-9%	9.3	-9%	3.0	-7%	-0.7	-1.4	-1.5	-1.9	0.8	0.5
Ireland	130.5	3%	52.6	10%	77.9	-2%	68.8	-7%	25.7	-7%	43.1	-7%	61.7	53.2	26.8	20.0	34.8	33.2
Greece	25.0	-11%	14.4	-2%	10.6	-21%	40.1	-15%	22.8	-4%	17.3	-25%	-15.1	-18.7	-8.3	-9.0	-6.7	-9.7
Spain	219.5	-12%	134.6	-10%	85.0	-15%	232.9	-16%	130.6	-13%	102.3	-20%	-13.4	-29.4	3.9	-1.6	-17.3	-27.8
France	348.4	-18%	188.3	-15%	160.1	-22%	420.8	-14%	275.9	-12%	144.9	-19%	-72.4	-64.3	-87.6	-91.4	15.2	27.2
Croatia	12.2	-5%	8.2	-3%	4.0	-9%	19.2	-10%	14.8	-12%	4.4	-3%	-7.0	-8.4	-6.6	-8.3	-0.4	-0.1
Italy	353.8	-12%	182.8	-12%	171.0	-12%	303.8	-15%	175.3	-13%	128.6	-17%	50.0	45.9	7.5	5.7	42.5	40.1
Cyprus	2.4	-9%	0.8	-27%	1.6	3%	6.2	-9%	3.6	-10%	2.6	-6%	-3.9	-4.2	-2.8	-3.0	-1.0	-1.2
Latvia	11.5	-1%	7.2	-1%	4.3	-2%	13.0	-8%	10.0	-6%	3.0	-14%	-1.5	-2.4	-2.7	-3.3	1.2	0.8
Lithuania	23.4	-5%	13.2	-4%	10.2	-7%	23.7	-11%	16.5	-7%	7.2	-20%	-0.3	-2.0	-3.3	-4.0	3.0	1.9
Luxembourg	10.1	-21%	8.1	-20%	2.0	-23%	14.9	-18%	13.3	-12%	1.7	-47%	-4.9	-5.4	-5.2	-4.9	0.3	-0.6
Hungary	86.1	-8%	67.5	-8%	18.7	-7%	82.8	-9%	58.7	-10%	24.1	-6%	3.3	2.8	8.8	8.4	-5.4	-5.6
Malta	1.8	-16%	0.9	-23%	0.9	-6%	3.9	-29%	2.2	-22%	1.7	-37%	-2.0	-3.3	-1.2	-1.6	-0.8	-1.8
Netherlands	483.1	-8%	317.5	-8%	165.6	-9%	427.2	-9%	177.3	-7%	249.9	-11%	55.9	54.2	140.2	152.8	-84.3	-98.6
Austria	122.7	-9%	84.5	-8%	38.2	-11%	124.9	-10%	95.6	-10%	29.3	-13%	-2.2	-4.6	-11.0	-14.0	8.8	9.4
Poland	192.8	-3%	142.2	-4%	50.7	-2%	183.3	-8%	123.4	-7%	59.9	-9%	9.6	0.8	18.8	15.1	-9.3	-14.3
Portugal	44.3	-12%	31.7	-10%	12.6	-14%	56.0	-16%	41.4	-16%	14.6	-18%	-11.7	-16.9	-9.7	-13.8	-2.0	-3.1
Romania	50.8	-12%	37.7	-11%	13.1	-15%	65.8	-9%	48.3	-8%	17.5	-11%	-15.1	-14.3	-10.7	-10.0	-4.4	-4.3
Slovenia	32.5	-4%	21.8	-11%	10.8	15%	29.8	-9%	17.7	-14%	12.1	-1%	2.7	1.0	4.1	3.9	-1.4	-2.9
Slovakia	61.0	-9%	48.3	-9%	12.7	-6%	59.8	-11%	48.1	-9%	11.7	-17%	1.2	-0.4	0.2	0.2	1.0	-0.6
Finland	46.6	-15%	25.6	-14%	21.0	-16%	49.1	-11%	34.9	-8%	14.1	-18%	-2.5	-0.6	-9.3	-8.4	6.8	7.9
Sweden	111.8	-7%	58.2	-8%	53.6	-6%	106.6	-10%	71.6	-7%	35.0	-15%	5.2	1.4	-13.5	-14.3	18.6	15.7

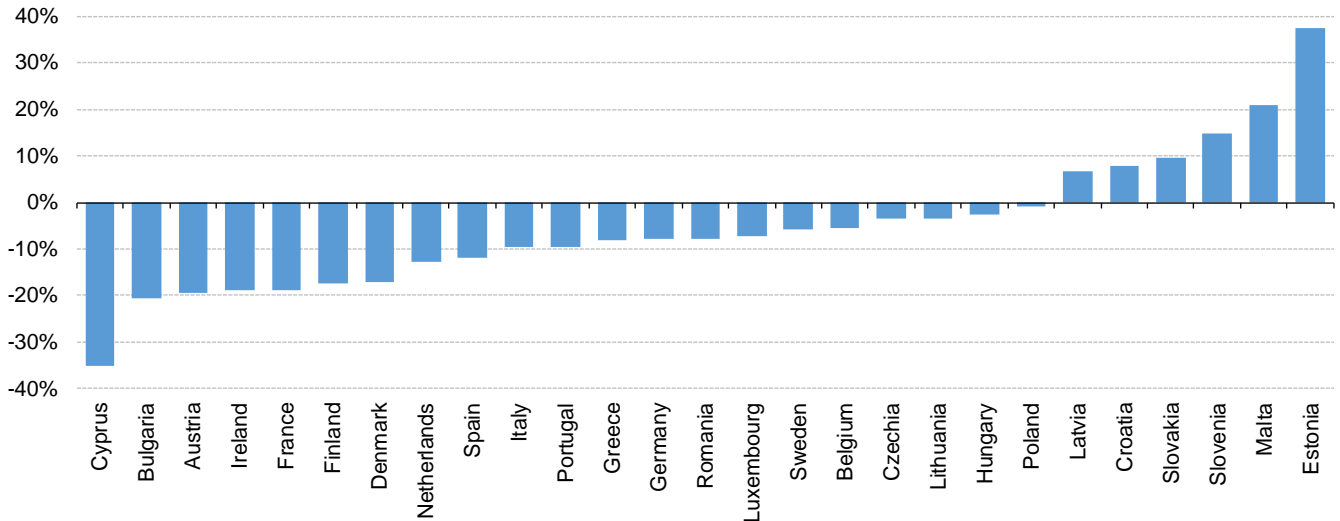
Source dataset: [ext\\_st\\_27\\_2020msbec](#)

## Annual comparison by Member State

In **October** 2020, compared with October 2019, exports of goods decreased for all Member States, except **Latvia** (+6.6%), **Croatia** (+7.7%), **Slovakia** (+9.6%), **Slovenia** (+14.9%), **Malta** (+20.9%) and **Estonia** (+37.5%). The largest decrease was registered in **Cyprus** (-35.2%).

### Extra-EU exports by Member State - October 2020

% change compared to October 2019

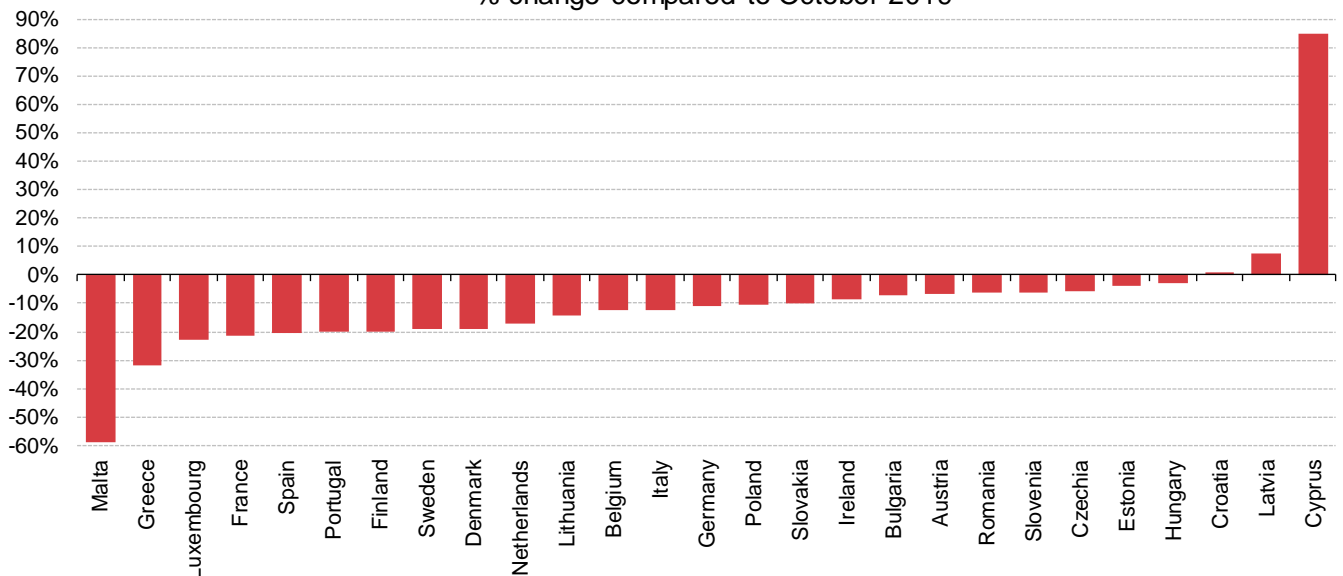


ec.europa.eu/eurostat

With regard to imports, in October 2020, compared to October 2019, all Member States recorded significant drops, with the only exception of **Croatia** (+1.1%), **Latvia** (+7.7%) and **Cyprus** (+84.9%). The highest overall fall was observed in **Malta** (-58.6%). The large peak observed for Cyprus was due to imports of vessels ships and boats in October 2020. For Malta, there were large imports of ships and boats in October 2019, which explains the drop observed in October 2020.

### Extra-EU imports by Member State - October 2020

% change compared to October 2019



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-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 December 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](#)

European Statistics [Code of Practice](#)

### Eurostat Press Office


Romina BRONDINO  
Tel: +352-4301-33 408  
[eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu)

### For further information on data:

Michele MAROTTA  
Tel: +352-4301-32 493  
[estat-etfree@ec.europa.eu](mailto:estat-etfree@ec.europa.eu)

 **Media requests:** [eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu) / Tel: +352-4301-33 408

 [@EU\\_Eurostat](#)

 [@EurostatStatistics](#)

 [@EU\\_Eurostat](#)

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

## Annex - Seasonally adjusted data

Seasonally adjusted figures for exports and imports continue to stay below the pre-crisis level in both the euro area and in the EU. In October 2020 compared with September 2020, **euro area** seasonally adjusted exports increased by 2.1%, while imports increased by 1.0%. In the last six months exports recovered more quickly than imports so that the trade balance returned to the pre-crisis levels. However, compared to the month before restrictions were imposed (February 2020), both flows were down respectively by 6.2% and 7.4%.

### EA trade - seasonally adjusted data

bn €

Flows	Nov 19	Dec 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20
Extra-EA exports	194.9	197.4	197.0	198.6	183.0	135.5	147.8	163.5	173.0	175.8	182.4	186.2
Extra-EA imports	175.9	174.3	178.1	173.1	156.6	135.5	139.6	147.9	154.3	154.8	158.7	160.3
Extra-EA trade balance	19.0	23.1	18.9	25.5	26.4	0.0	8.2	15.6	18.7	21.0	23.7	25.9
Intra-EA trade	163.8	163.6	165.9	164.7	143.9	111.2	125.6	141.2	148.2	154.5	156.2	158.3

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

In October 2020 compared with September 2020, **EU** seasonally adjusted exports increased by 1.9%, while imports increased by 0.7%. Similarly to the euro area, in the last six months, exports of the **EU** recovered more quickly than imports. The seasonally adjusted balance was +€24.8 bn, an increase compared with September 2020 (+€22.7 bn).

### EU trade - seasonally adjusted data

bn €

Flows	Nov 19	Dec 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20
Extra-EU exports	176.9	179.4	179.1	180.0	165.6	125.6	135.0	148.5	156.5	157.4	164.7	167.7
Extra-EU imports	159.9	158.8	161.9	156.7	142.0	127.9	128.8	133.8	139.1	138.1	141.9	142.9
Extra-EU trade balance	17.0	20.6	17.3	23.3	23.6	-2.3	6.2	14.7	17.4	19.3	22.7	24.8
Intra-EU trade	256.6	255.6	260.3	259.5	228.1	173.3	197.7	222.4	234.4	244.4	247.0	251.4

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

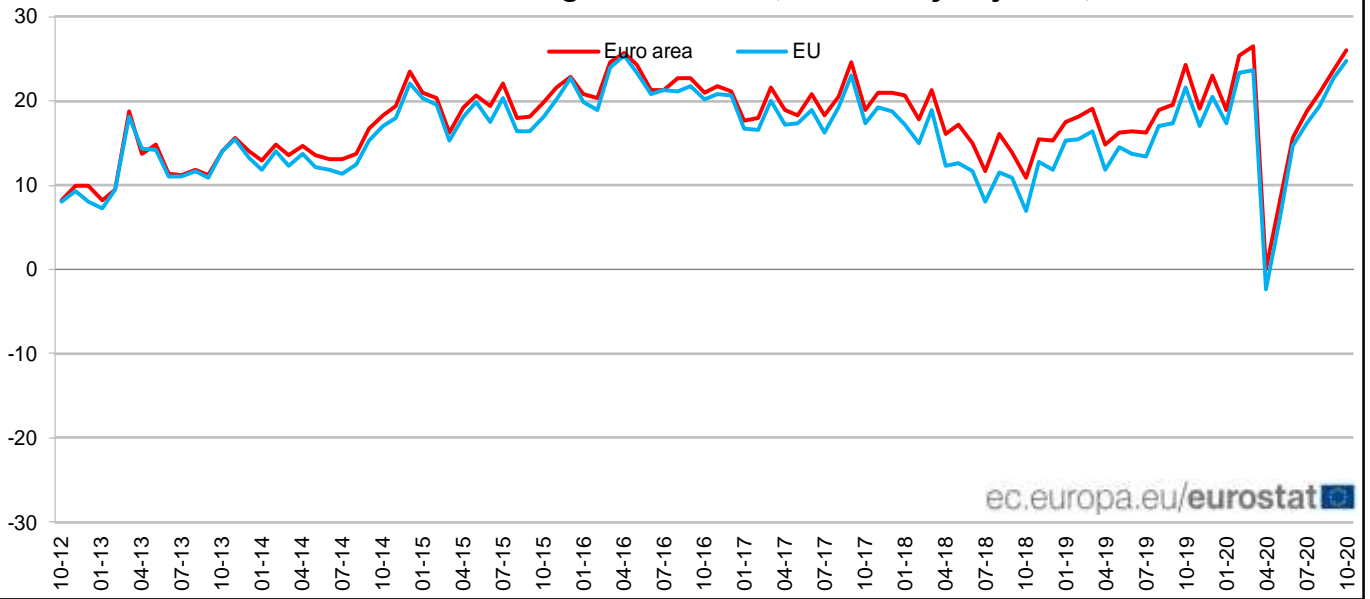
### Contribution of EU Member States to extra-EU trade - seasonally adjusted data

bn €

	Total exports			Total imports			Trade balance	
	Sep 20	Oct 20	Growth	Sep 20	Oct 20	Growth	Sep 20	Oct 20
<b>EU</b>	<b>164.7</b>	<b>167.7</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>141.9</b>	<b>142.9</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>24.8</b>
Belgium	11.3	11.6	2.7%	11.2	11.5	2.7%	0.1	0.1
Bulgaria	0.8	0.7	-8.4%	1.0	1.0	-1.5%	-0.2	-0.3
Czechia	3.0	3.1	3.4%	3.1	3.4	8.7%	-0.1	-0.3
Denmark	3.9	3.5	-9.7%	2.3	2.1	-9.1%	1.6	1.5
Germany	48.4	49.5	2.2%	31.0	30.6	-1.3%	17.5	18.9
Estonia	0.4	0.5	17.6%	0.3	0.3	14.0%	0.1	0.2
Ireland	7.8	7.0	-10.4%	4.1	4.5	8.4%	3.7	2.5
Greece	1.0	1.1	12.7%	1.6	1.6	0.6%	-0.6	-0.5
Spain	9.1	9.3	2.5%	10.2	10.4	1.6%	-1.1	-1.1
France	16.9	17.5	3.5%	14.7	14.6	-0.5%	2.3	3.0
Croatia	0.4	0.4	-0.5%	0.4	0.5	11.3%	0.0	0.0
Italy	19.4	19.3	-0.6%	13.3	13.6	2.5%	6.1	5.7
Cyprus	0.1	0.1	7.8%	0.2	0.5	170.9%	-0.1	-0.3
Latvia	0.5	0.5	2.0%	0.3	0.3	-0.3%	0.2	0.2
Lithuania	1.1	1.1	2.7%	0.7	0.8	16.9%	0.4	0.3
Luxembourg	0.2	0.2	3.7%	0.1	0.1	-12.4%	0.1	0.1
Hungary	2.0	2.1	4.0%	2.4	2.5	2.0%	-0.4	-0.4
Malta	0.1	0.1	6.7%	0.2	0.1	-28.3%	-0.1	0.0
Netherlands	16.6	17.5	5.3%	25.4	24.5	-3.4%	-8.8	-7.1
Austria	3.9	4.0	1.4%	2.8	3.0	10.4%	1.1	0.9
Poland	5.1	5.5	6.6%	6.0	6.2	3.4%	-0.9	-0.7
Portugal	1.4	1.4	3.0%	1.5	1.4	-1.3%	-0.1	0.0
Romania	1.3	1.4	5.4%	1.9	2.0	3.7%	-0.6	-0.6
Slovenia	1.1	1.1	6.6%	1.1	1.3	12.5%	-0.1	-0.2
Slovakia	1.5	1.5	4.3%	1.2	1.3	5.6%	0.3	0.2
Finland	2.1	2.1	1.0%	1.4	1.3	-5.0%	0.7	0.7
Sweden	5.2	5.5	4.7%	3.5	3.5	-1.9%	1.7	2.0

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

International trade in goods balance, seasonally adjusted, € bn



ec.europa.eu/eurostat