The aim of this article is to provide an overview of the main characteristics of the extra-euro area trade in goods. All the series have been recalculated to include all the 19 members of the euro area (EA-19).

This article is part of an online publication providing recent statistics on international trade in goods, covering information on the EU’s main partners, main products traded, specific characteristics of trade as well as background information.

Increase in extra-euro area trade

Between 2009 and 2019 there was an increase in both extra-euro area (EA-19) imports of goods (from EUR 1 275 billion to EUR 2 120 billion) and exports of goods (from EUR 1 287 billion to EUR 2 346 billion) (Figure 1). This development increased the trade in goods balance from EUR 11 billion in 2009 to EUR 226 billion in 2019.

Total extra-euro area trade in goods (imports plus exports) increased from EUR 2 562 billion in 2009 to EUR 4 466 billion in 2019, corresponding to an average annual growth of 5.7 %. EA-19 imports over this period had an average annual growth of 5.2 % and exports grew by 6.2 % annually.

![Euro area trade, 2009-2019](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statisticsexplained/) Source: Eurostat (TET00066)
USA main extra euro area trading partner

In 2019, the United States was the leading partner for extra EA-19 trade exports of goods (Figure 2) with a share of 15 %. It was followed by the United Kingdom with 12 % and China with 8 % (see remark in data sources section about comparability). The same three countries were also the three largest partners for extra-EA-19 imports of goods. Here China (14 %) was the largest, followed by the United States (10 %) and the United Kingdom (8 %). These top 3 partners combined account for around one third of all extra EA-19 exports and imports.

![Euro area main partners share in trade of goods, 2019](source: Eurostat (TET00066))

**Figure 2: Euro area main partners share in trade of goods, 2019**

Source: Eurostat (TET00066)

Exports from the euro area (Figure 3) increased by EUR 152 billion between 2017 and 2019. The United States had the largest increase (EUR 52 billion), followed by China (EUR 18 billion), Poland (EUR 14 billion) and Switzerland (EUR 13 billion). Among the top 10 partners, exports decreased only for the United Kingdom (EUR -2 billion) and Turkey (EUR -7 billion). However, the United Kingdom remains the second largest export destination in extra EA-19 trade behind the United States.
Imports of goods to the euro area (Figure 4) increased by EUR 168 billion between 2017 and 2019. China (EUR 26 billion) and the United States (EUR 25 billion) had the largest increases. Imports from Poland (EUR 17 billion) and Switzerland (EUR 11 billion) were the only other top 10 partners where imports increased by more than EUR 10 billion).
The trade in goods surplus of the euro area decreased by EUR 16 billion Euro from 2017 to 2019. Among the top ten trading partners there were trade deficits with China, Russia, Czechia and Hungary and trade surpluses with the United States, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Sweden and Poland. The trade surplus with Turkey fell from EUR 13 billion to just below zero. The trade deficit with China increased the most, from EUR 110 billion to EUR 119 billion while the trade surplus with the United States increased the most, from EUR 107 billion to EUR 134 billion.
Machinery and vehicles dominate extra-euro area trade

By far the largest trade group for both extra EA-19 imports and exports was ‘machinery and vehicles’, with a trade value in 2019 of EUR 1 711 billion. Of this, EUR 965 billion were exports, representing 41% of the value of all extra EA-19 exports in 2019. Imports of ‘machinery and vehicles’ amounted to EUR 746 billion which was 35% of total EA-19 imports. Compared with 2017, exports of ‘machinery and vehicles’ were up EUR 40 billion and imports EUR 75 billion. Consequently, the trade surplus for ‘machinery and vehicles’ fell by EUR 35 billion, reaching EUR 219 billion in 2019.

In 2019, the second largest trading group for extra EA-19 trade was ‘other manufactured goods’, with total trade amounting to EUR 1 094 billion. From this, EUR 559 billion were exports, representing 24% of all extra EA-19 exports. Imports of ‘other manufactured goods’ stood at EUR 535 billion in 2019 which was 25% of all extra EA-19 imports. Compared with 2017, exports were up EUR 35 billion and imports EUR 29 billion. Consequently, the trade surplus for ‘other manufactured goods’ increased by EUR 6 billion reaching EUR 24 billion in 2019.

The only other product group with a share of more than 10% of trade was ‘chemicals’ with a value of EUR 690 billion. From this, EUR 437 billion of those were exports, which was 19% of all exports. Imports of ‘chemicals’ amounted to 253 billion representing 12% of all imports in this product group. Compared with 2017, exports were up EUR 52 billion and imports were up 22 billion. Thus, the trade balance for ‘chemicals’ rose by EUR 30 billion to 184 EUR billion in 2019.

The euro area also has trade surpluses in ‘food and drink’ (EUR 37 billion) and ‘other goods’ (EUR 16 billion). It has a small trade deficit in ‘raw materials’ (EUR 32 billion) and a much larger deficit in ‘energy’ (222 billion).
Data sources

Euro area data come from Eurostat’s COMEXT database. COMEXT is the Eurostat reference database for international trade. It provides access not only to both recent and historical data from the EU Member States but also to statistics of a significant number of third countries. International trade aggregated and detailed statistics disseminated from Eurostat website are compiled from COMEXT data according to a monthly process. Because COMEXT is updated on a daily basis, data published on the website may differ from data stored in COMEXT in case of recent revisions.

Euro area data are compiled according to community guidelines and may, therefore, differ from national data published by Member States. Statistics on extra euro area trade are calculated as the sum of trade of each of the nineteen members with countries outside the euro area. In other words, the euro area is considered as a single trading entity and trade flows are measured into and out of the area, but not among euro area members.

Among the euro area partners in this article there are countries belonging to the EU in the years mentioned (Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Sweden and the United Kingdom) and partners outside the EU (United States, China, Switzerland, Russia and Turkey). The statistical concepts applicable to these two group of partners is different. Imports from non-EU trade partners are grouped by country of origin where imports from EU partners reflect the country of consignment. In practice this means that the goods imported from EU partners were physically transported from those countries, but part of these goods could have been of another origin. For this reason data on trade for these two groups are not fully comparable.

Unit of measure Trade values are expressed in billions (109) of euros. They correspond to the statistical value, i.e. to the amount which would be invoiced in case of sale or purchase at the national border of the reporting country. It is called a FOB value (free on board) for exports and a CIF value (cost, insurance, freight) for imports.

Source data for tables and graphs

Extra-euro area trade figures
Context
The euro area is a large and open trading bloc. This makes doing business in euro an attractive proposition for other trading nations, which can access a large market using one currency. Euro area companies also benefit because they can export and import in the global economy while paying, and being paid, in euro, reducing the risk of losses caused by global currency fluctuations.

Other articles
• International trade in goods

Main tables
• International trade in goods, see:

  International trade data (t_ext)
    International trade long-term indicators (t_ext_lti)
    International trade short-term indicators (t_ext_sti)

Database
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Dedicated section
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Data visualisations
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• My Country in a bubble

Methodology
• International trade in goods statistics - background
• International trade in goods (ESMS metadata file —ext_go_agg_esms)
• User guide on European statistics on international trade in goods
Legislation
Legal background
- Regulation (EC) No 471/2009 of 6 May 2009 on Community statistics relating to external trade with non-member countries
- Summaries of EU Legislation: Extrastat: statistics relating to trade with non-EU countries

External links
External links
- European Commission - Trade
- The euro - An international currency