

EU - China Summit

The share of China in EU27 trade in goods continued to rise in the first six months of 2009

EU27 deficit fell in the first half of 2009

In the first half of 2009 the value of **EU27** exports to **China** fell to 37 bn euro, compared with 39 bn in the first half of 2008, and imports decreased to 103 bn from 112 bn. As a result, the **EU27** trade deficit with **China** dropped from 73 bn in the first half of 2008 to 65 bn in the same period of 2009.

The fall in **EU27** trade with **China** recorded between the first halves of 2008 and 2009 was less steep than the general downward trend in the **EU27's** total external trade, leading to an increase in the share of **China** in the **EU27's** total external trade in goods to more than 7% of exports and 17% of imports in the first half of 2009, compared with 6% and 14% respectively in the first half of 2008. **China** is the **EU27's** second most important trading partner, after the **USA**. It should be noted that between 2000 and 2008, **EU27** trade in goods with **China** had more than tripled in value, and the share of **China** in the **EU27's** total external trade in goods doubled.

On the occasion of the 12th **European Union - China** summit, which will take place on 30 November in **Nanjing**, **Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities**, issues data on trade in goods between **China** and the **EU**. Data on trade in services and investments can be found in the recent News Release¹ published for the previous **EU - China** summit.

Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom: largest trading partners of China

Among the **EU27** Member States, **Germany** (16.2 bn euro or 43% of EU exports) was by far the largest exporter to **China** in the first half of 2009, followed by **France** (3.7 bn or 10%), **Italy** (3.4 bn or 9%), the **United Kingdom** (2.5 bn or 7%) and the **Netherlands**² (2.1 bn or 6%). **Germany** (21.9 bn or 21%) was also the largest importer, followed by the **Netherlands**² (16.0 bn or 16%), the **United Kingdom** (13.9 bn or 14%), **Italy** (9.9 bn or 10%) and **France** (8.7 bn or 9%).

All Member States recorded deficits in trade with **China** in the first half of 2009, the largest being observed in the **Netherlands**² (-13.9 bn euro), the **United Kingdom** (-11.4 bn), **Italy** (-6.5 bn), **Germany** (-5.6 bn) and **France** (-5.1 bn).

Nearly 60% of **EU27** exports to **China** in the first half of 2009 were machinery and vehicles³ and one fifth were other manufactured articles³, while these two groups accounted for more than 90% of imports. At the detailed level, the main **EU27** exports to **China** included aircraft and motor cars, while the main imports included computers and parts, mobile phones and video games.

EU27 Member States' trade in goods with China
million euro

	Exports		Imports		Balance	
	Jan-Jun 2008	Jan-Jun 2009	Jan-Jun 2008	Jan-Jun 2009	Jan-Jun 2008	Jan-Jun 2009
EU27	39 495	37 418	112 215	102 735	-72 720	-65 317
Belgium ²	1 779	1 946	5 907	5 386	-4 128	-3 440
Bulgaria	43	30	329	249	-286	-219
Czech Republic	292	272	2 103	1 996	-1 812	-1 723
Denmark	718	762	1 872	1 875	-1 154	-1 113
Germany	16 810	16 223	23 395	21 860	-6 585	-5 638
Estonia	24	27	140	98	-116	-71
Ireland	845	768	764	851	81	-83
Greece	52	45	1 562	1 634	-1 511	-1 588
Spain	1 151	901	8 433	5 688	-7 282	-4 787
France	4 376	3 672	8 779	8 747	-4 403	-5 075
Italy	3 259	3 352	10 885	9 868	-7 625	-6 516
Cyprus	4	4	169	141	-164	-137
Latvia	10	8	123	74	-113	-66
Lithuania	11	10	245	170	-235	-160
Luxembourg	80	53	1 917	2 266	-1 837	-2 213
Hungary	380	398	2 788	2 354	-2 408	-1 956
Malta	9	12	49	50	-40	-37
Netherlands ²	2 150	2 142	17 557	16 026	-15 407	-13 884
Austria	922	904	1 499	1 314	-577	-410
Poland	475	449	2 881	2 636	-2 406	-2 187
Portugal	100	98	554	525	-454	-427
Romania	90	77	1 037	826	-947	-749
Slovenia	68	40	288	279	-220	-239
Slovakia	214	180	943	674	-729	-494
Finland	1 126	1 027	1 496	1 212	-369	-185
Sweden	1 370	1 487	2 283	2 042	-913	-555
United Kingdom	3 137	2 530	14 217	13 896	-11 080	-11 366
Total Extra-EU27	650 894	521 227	779 036	590 077	-128 142	-68 850
China / Total	6.1%	7.2%	14.4%	17.4%		

EU27 trade in goods with China by product
million euro

	Exports		Imports		Balance	
	Jan-Jun 2008	Jan-Jun 2009	Jan-Jun 2008	Jan-Jun 2009	Jan-Jun 2008	Jan-Jun 2009
Total	39 495	37 418	112 215	102 735	-72 720	-65 317
Primary goods:	3 724	3 368	3 690	2 887	34	481
<i>Food & drink</i>	598	658	1 721	1 675	-1 123	-1 016
<i>Raw materials</i>	3 009	2 602	1 532	1 011	1 476	1 591
<i>Energy</i>	118	108	437	202	-319	-94
Manufactured goods:	34 697	33 134	108 031	99 368	-73 334	-66 233
<i>Chemicals</i>	4 464	4 651	4 287	3 962	177	688
<i>Machinery & vehicles³</i>	22 923	21 678	52 759	47 502	-29 836	-25 823
<i>Other manuf'd goods³</i>	7 311	6 805	50 985	47 903	-43 674	-41 098
Other	1 073	915	493	480	579	435

EU27 trade in goods with China
million euro

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
China									
Exports	25 863	30 665	35 099	41 473	48 371	51 825	63 794	71 928	78 430
Imports	74 632	82 000	90 148	106 220	128 590	160 327	194 932	232 620	247 916
Balance	-48 768	-51 335	-55 049	-64 747	-80 219	-108 502	-131 138	-160 692	-169 487
Total Extra-EU27									
Exports	849 739	884 707	891 898	869 236	952 723	1 052 719	1 160 100	1 241 498	1 306 549
Imports	992 698	979 145	936 972	935 245	1 026 709	1 179 569	1 352 787	1 434 009	1 565 034
Balance	-142 959	-94 438	-45 073	-66 010	-73 986	-126 849	-192 686	-192 512	-258 485
China / Total									
Exports	3.0%	3.5%	3.9%	4.8%	5.1%	4.9%	5.5%	5.8%	6.0%
Imports	7.5%	8.4%	9.6%	11.4%	12.5%	13.6%	14.4%	16.2%	15.8%

1. See News Release 72/2009 of 18 May 2009: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/6-18052009-BP/EN/6-18052009-BP-EN.PDF
2. Dutch imports, and therefore the trade deficit, are over-estimated because of the "Rotterdam effect", where goods destined for the rest of the EU arrive and are recorded in harmonised EU external trade statistics in Dutch ports. This then has a positive effect on the external trade balances with China of those Member States to which the goods are re-exported, as these shipments would be recorded as intra-EU trade with the Netherlands, rather than extra-EU trade with China. To a lesser extent, Belgian trade figures are similarly over-estimated.
3. **Machinery and vehicles** includes power generating and industrial machinery, computers, electric and electronic parts and equipment, road vehicles and parts, ships, airplanes and railway equipment.
Other manufactured goods include leather, rubber, wood, paper, textiles, metals, building fixtures and fittings, furniture, clothes, shoes and accessories, scientific instruments, clocks, watches and cameras.

Published by: **Eurostat Press Office**

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