

INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS

Since its creation, the OECD has sought to promote international trade, considering it an effective way of enhancing economic growth and raising living standards. Member countries benefit from increased trade as do OECD's trade partners in the rest of the world.

Definition

According to United Nations guidelines, international merchandise trade statistics record all goods which add to or subtract from the stock of material resources of a country by entering (as imports) or leaving (as exports) its economic territory. Goods being transported through a country or temporarily admitted or withdrawn (except for goods for inward or outward processing) are not included in the merchandise trade statistics.

Comparability

All OECD countries use the United Nations guidelines so far as their data sources allow. There are some, generally minor, differences across countries in the coverage of certain types of transactions such as postal trade, imports and exports of military equipment under defence agreements, sea products traded by domestic vessels on the high seas and goods entering or leaving bonded customs areas.

Exports are usually valued free on board (f.o.b.), with the exception of the United States which values exports free alongside ship (f.a.s.), which is lower than f.o.b. by the cost of loading the goods on board. Imports are valued by most countries at cost, insurance and freight (c.i.f.) i.e. the cost of the goods plus the costs of insurance and freight to bring the goods to the borders of the importing country. Canada, however, reports imports at f.o.b. values. The trade balances shown in the table are, therefore, not strictly comparable because imports are not valued in the same way by all countries.

The introduction by the European Union of the single market in 1993 resulted in some loss of accuracy for intra-EU trade because custom documents were no longer available to record all imports and exports. Note that while the OECD data mostly follow the UN recommendations, trade statistics reported by Eurostat follow Community definitions, and are not strictly comparable with those reported here.

OECD total includes Mexico from 1990, Hungary and Poland from 1992, the Czech Republic from 1993, Korea from 1994 and the Slovak Republic from 1997 onwards.

Overview

Over the ten-year period from 1998 to 2008, relative import growth (i.e. import growth in a single country divided by growth for all OECD countries) was low in Ireland, the United Kingdom and Canada while it was particularly high in the Slovak Republic, Korea, the Czech Republic and Poland. China and India continued to show high relative import growth while the relative import growth for the Russian Federation and Brazil were higher than the OECD average.

Over the same period, relative export growth was high for the Slovak Republic, Poland, the Czech Republic, Turkey and Hungary. The United Kingdom, the United States, Ireland, France, Japan and Canada were among the countries with below average growth rates.

China recorded higher growth in imports as well as exports than any country in this comparison.

The United States trade deficit has been large throughout the period and growing in most years. The United Kingdom, Spain, India and France also recorded large trade deficits. Germany had, on average, the largest trade surplus of all OECD countries, while large surpluses were also recorded by the Russian Federation and China.

Sources

- OECD (2009), *International Trade by Commodity Statistics*, OECD, Paris.
- UN Commodity Trade Statistics Database.

Further information

Analytical publications

- OECD (2005), *Trade and Structural Adjustment: Embracing Globalisation*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2006), *The Development Dimension – Aid for Trade: Making it Effective*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2006), *Trade Based Money Laundering*, OECD, Paris.

Statistical publications

- OECD (2009), *Monthly Statistics of International Trade*, OECD, Paris.

Methodological publications

- Lindner, A., et al. (2001), "Trade in Goods and Services: Statistical Trends and Measurement Challenges", *OECD Statistics Brief*, No 1, October, OECD, Paris, www.oecd.org/std/statisticsbrief.
- OECD (2004), *International Trade by Commodity Statistics – Definitions*, OECD, Paris.
- United Nations (2004), *International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Compilers Manual*, United Nations, New York, <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/methodology.htm>.

Online databases

- ITCS *International Trade by Commodity Statistics*.
- *Monthly International Trade*.



INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS

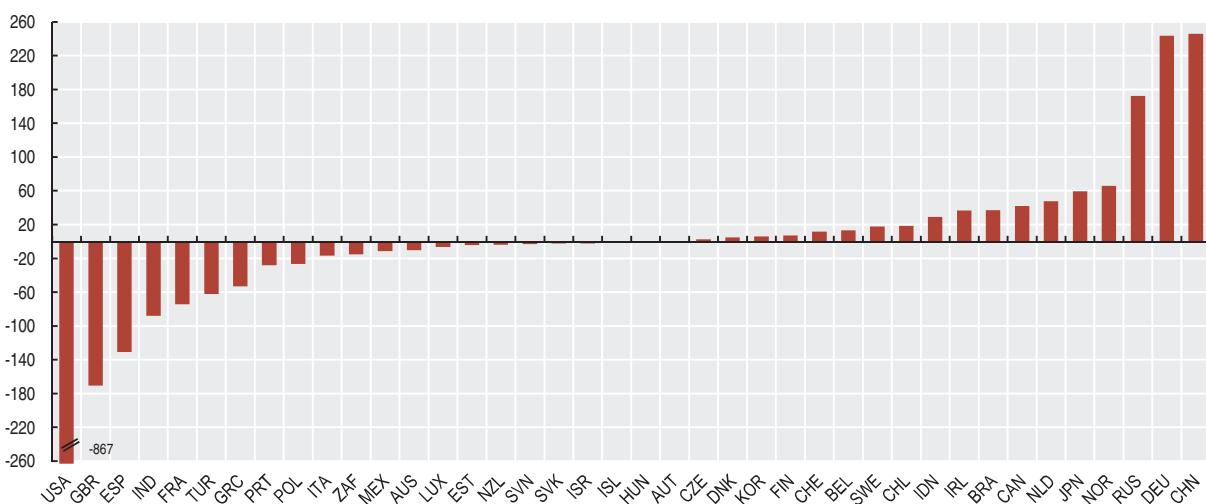
Trade balance: exports of goods minus imports of goods

Billion US dollars

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Australia	-4.4	-1.2	1.0	-5.0	-9.5	-4.0	2.4	-4.5	-14.6	-17.3	-13.2	-9.3	-16.9	-4.7
Austria	-8.5	-10.1	-6.9	-6.2	-6.2	-5.2	-4.4	-4.4	-0.1	-2.3	-0.4	-2.2	-0.2	0.5
Belgium	15.4	11.4	12.3	14.4	14.3	13.5	11.6	17.7	20.7	21.1	13.8	15.4	17.3	6.5
Canada	16.5	19.2	18.1	13.3	23.2	37.6	39.4	30.2	31.8	43.1	45.7	38.2	39.9	47.4
Czech Republic	-3.9	-5.8	-4.4	-2.2	-2.0	-3.2	-3.1	-2.2	-2.5	0.5	1.7	1.7	4.1	2.3
Denmark	4.7	5.7	3.7	1.7	4.7	5.2	5.8	6.4	8.4	8.0	8.3	6.3	3.6	5.0
Finland	10.9	9.7	10.0	10.8	10.2	11.7	10.7	11.0	10.9	10.1	6.8	7.8	8.3	4.7
France	10.6	6.2	16.8	14.7	9.5	-8.5	-4.4	1.1	-4.5	-20.5	-41.6	-50.9	-71.8	-100.6
Germany	59.6	68.3	67.1	72.3	69.3	54.8	85.7	125.6	146.8	193.6	198.0	199.7	269.5	261.9
Greece	-15.0	-15.7	-15.8	-19.4	-18.8	-18.8	-17.9	-21.8	-31.2	-37.6	-37.4	-42.8	-52.6	-63.8
Hungary	-2.6	-3.1	-2.1	-2.7	-3.0	-4.0	-3.2	-3.3	-4.7	-4.8	-3.6	-2.9	-0.1	-0.6
Iceland	-	-0.1	-0.2	-0.6	-0.5	-0.7	-0.3	-	-0.4	-0.8	-1.9	-2.5	-1.9	-0.8
Ireland	11.5	12.4	14.4	19.9	24.0	25.6	26.4	36.0	38.7	42.0	39.7	32.2	35.3	42.8
Italy	27.2	43.9	29.9	26.5	14.7	1.8	8.1	7.7	2.0	-1.9	-17.0	-25.4	-11.6	-13.6
Japan	107.1	61.8	82.2	107.5	107.2	99.6	54.0	79.1	88.5	110.5	79.1	67.7	92.1	18.9
Korea	-10.4	-19.6	-8.5	39.0	23.9	11.8	9.3	10.4	15.0	29.4	23.2	16.1	14.6	-13.3
Luxembourg	..	..	..	..	-2.8	-2.8	-2.9	-2.9	-3.7	-4.6	-4.9	-5.5	-6.1	-7.8
Mexico	6.8	6.2	0.5	-8.0	-5.7	-5.8	-7.6	-8.7	-5.6	-8.8	-7.6	-6.1	-11.2	-17.3
Netherlands	19.6	16.5	15.5	10.9	2.7	5.4	5.6	11.9	18.3	32.8	36.9	38.7	55.6	48.1
New Zealand	-0.7	-0.6	-0.8	-0.6	-2.4	-1.2	..	-1.2	-2.0	-2.8	-4.5	-4.0	-3.9	-3.8
Norway	9.0	14.0	12.8	2.9	11.3	25.5	26.0	24.7	29.0	33.7	48.3	57.9	56.1	83.1
Poland	-6.1	-12.7	-16.5	-18.8	-18.5	-17.3	-14.2	-14.1	-14.4	-14.4	-12.2	-16.1	-25.4	-38.6
Portugal	-10.2	-10.6	-11.1	-12.8	-15.3	-15.6	-15.4	-14.2	-15.3	-19.2	-23.1	-23.3	-26.9	-34.2
Slovak Republic	..	..	-2.1	-2.4	-1.1	-0.9	-2.1	-2.2	-0.7	-1.9	-2.4	-3.1	-2.1	-2.4
Spain	-23.0	-21.0	-18.2	-25.8	-36.4	-39.5	-38.8	-40.0	-53.4	-76.5	-96.8	-115.9	-137.5	-139.5
Sweden	15.8	18.9	18.3	16.4	16.3	14.2	12.8	15.9	18.2	22.8	18.9	20.3	16.2	16.5
Switzerland	1.5	1.5	0.2	-1.2	0.4	-2.0	-2.1	4.2	4.2	6.8	4.4	6.5	10.9	17.2
Turkey	-14.1	-20.4	-22.3	-19.0	-14.1	-26.7	-10.1	-15.5	-22.1	-34.4	-43.3	-54.0	-62.8	-70.0
United Kingdom	-25.9	-28.7	-26.3	-46.9	-53.2	-56.6	-65.4	-78.8	-85.8	-119.9	-131.4	-150.1	-184.7	-176.6
United States	-187.9	-194.8	-210.5	-263.9	-366.4	-477.7	-449.1	-509.1	-581.4	-707.4	-828.0	-882.0	-854.6	-864.9
EU27 total	103.7	114.8	118.3	82.0	37.0	-15.9	28.9	77.3	68.4	45.4	-23.8	-95.1	-117.8	-270.1
OECD total	3.7	-48.7	-43.0	-85.1	-224.0	-383.7	-343.0	-336.1	-411.7	-518.9	-741.3	-885.8	-844.8	-1 000.6
Brazil	-7.2	-9.0	-12.1	-9.7	-3.7	-3.8	-0.2	10.7	23.4	31.4	42.1	46.5	40.0	24.7
Chile	1.0	-1.4	-1.4	-2.2	1.7	1.6	2.6	2.0	2.7	8.5	8.7	21.2	23.0	10.9
China	16.7	12.2	40.4	43.6	29.2	24.1	22.5	30.4	25.5	32.1	102.0	177.5	261.8	298.1
Estonia	-0.7	-1.1	-1.5	-1.5	-1.1	-1.2	-1.2	-1.5	-2.3	-2.5	-2.5	-4.6	-4.9	-3.6
India	-4.9	-5.6	-6.6	-9.2	-13.0	-6.1	-7.6	-8.6	-14.2	-28.4	-46.3	-57.0	-72.7	-133.9
Indonesia	4.8	6.9	11.8	21.5	24.7	28.6	25.4	25.9	28.5	21.5	28.0	39.7	39.6	7.8
Israel	-9.3	-9.4	-6.5	-4.2	-5.2	-4.3	-4.2	-3.6	-2.4	-2.3	-2.3	-1.0	-2.5	-3.8
Russian Federation	..	27.6	19.7	28.6	42.6	69.2	58.0	60.5	76.3	106.0	142.7	163.4	152.5	200.9
Slovenia	-1.2	-1.1	-1.0	-1.1	-1.5	-1.4	-0.9	-0.6	-1.1	-1.7	-1.7	-2.0	-2.9	-4.7
South Africa	..	..	..	..	..	-0.5	3.7	-3.1	-2.9	-7.3	-8.0	-15.9	-15.8	-13.6

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/824347818584>**Trade balance: exports of goods minus imports of goods**

Billion US dollars, average 2006-2008

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/818412306552>

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS

Imports of goods

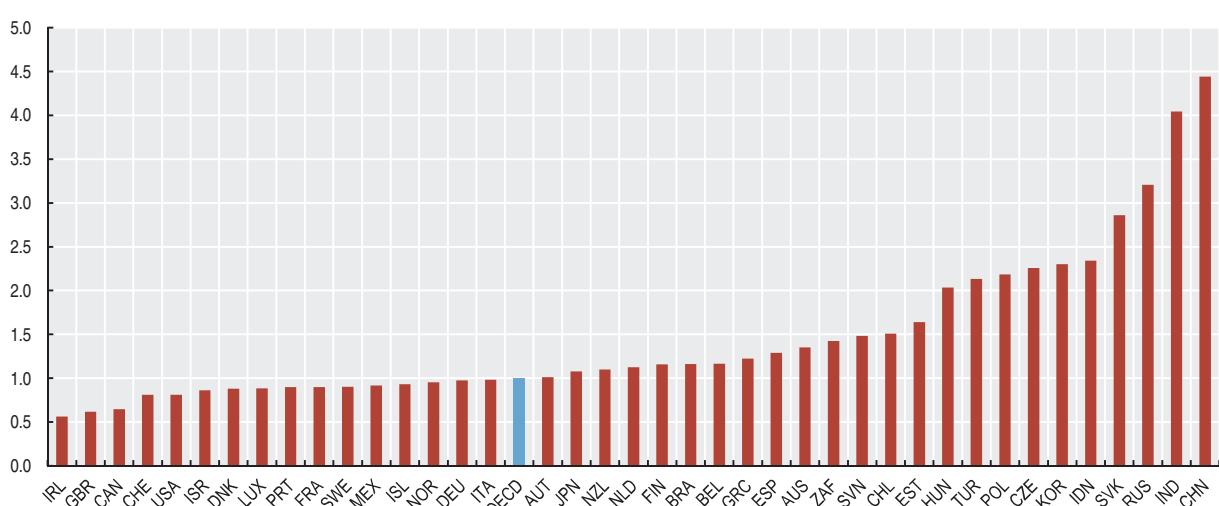
Billion US dollars

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Australia	57.4	61.4	61.8	60.8	65.5	67.8	60.9	69.5	84.8	103.8	119.0	132.7	157.8	191.6
Austria	66.3	67.1	63.6	67.1	68.7	67.4	69.0	71.4	91.5	111.3	120.0	134.3	156.1	175.4
Belgium	152.3	159.4	158.3	164.9	164.6	171.7	178.7	198.1	234.8	285.4	320.2	353.7	413.6	470.7
Canada	164.5	171.0	197.1	201.3	215.6	240.0	221.6	222.4	240.2	273.8	314.4	350.0	380.4	408.3
Czech Republic	20.8	27.4	27.2	30.5	28.8	32.2	36.5	40.7	51.2	66.7	76.5	93.4	116.8	140.3
Denmark	45.6	45.0	44.5	46.2	44.3	44.4	44.3	49.3	56.2	66.8	75.0	85.3	98.0	110.8
Finland	29.5	30.9	31.0	32.4	31.6	34.1	32.2	33.6	41.6	50.7	58.5	69.4	81.8	92.2
France	273.5	277.7	266.6	285.8	292.8	304.0	293.9	303.8	362.5	434.2	476.0	529.9	611.1	695.5
Germany	464.3	444.4	445.3	471.6	473.5	495.4	486.3	490.1	601.8	718.2	779.8	922.2	1 059.3	1 204.2
Greece	25.9	27.0	27.0	30.3	29.5	29.8	28.2	32.5	44.9	52.8	54.9	63.7	76.1	89.3
Hungary	15.5	16.2	21.2	25.7	28.0	32.1	33.7	37.6	47.7	60.2	65.9	77.0	94.7	108.8
Iceland	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.3	2.3	2.8	3.6	5.0	6.0	6.7	6.2
Ireland	32.3	35.8	39.2	44.4	46.5	50.7	51.1	52.3	54.2	62.3	70.3	76.6	86.7	84.1
Italy	204.0	208.2	208.1	215.6	220.3	238.1	236.1	246.6	297.4	355.3	384.8	442.6	511.9	553.2
Japan	336.1	349.2	338.8	280.6	309.9	379.7	348.6	337.6	383.5	455.2	515.9	579.1	622.2	762.5
Korea	137.9	144.1	144.6	93.3	119.8	160.5	141.1	152.1	178.8	224.5	261.2	309.4	356.8	435.3
Luxembourg	..	..	..	..	10.6	10.6	11.2	11.5	13.6	16.8	17.6	19.6	22.3	25.4
Mexico	72.5	89.5	109.8	125.3	142.0	171.1	165.1	168.7	170.5	196.8	221.8	256.1	283.2	308.6
Netherlands	157.7	162.5	158.3	156.8	167.9	174.7	169.9	163.4	209.0	257.7	283.2	331.5	421.3	437.5
New Zealand	13.9	14.7	14.5	12.5	14.3	13.9	13.3	15.0	18.6	23.2	26.2	26.4	30.9	34.4
Norway	33.0	35.6	35.8	37.5	34.2	34.4	33.0	34.9	39.9	48.5	55.5	64.3	80.3	94.5
Poland	28.9	37.1	42.3	47.0	45.9	48.8	50.2	55.1	68.0	88.2	101.5	125.6	164.2	210.5
Portugal	33.6	35.2	35.1	37.0	39.8	39.9	39.5	40.0	47.1	54.9	61.2	66.7	78.2	90.1
Slovak Republic	..	..	11.7	13.1	11.1	12.7	14.7	16.6	22.6	29.5	34.2	44.8	60.2	72.6
Spain	116.5	123.6	124.4	137.2	147.9	152.9	155.0	165.9	209.7	259.3	289.6	330.0	391.2	418.7
Sweden	61.6	64.0	63.2	68.6	68.5	73.1	63.5	67.1	84.2	100.5	111.4	127.1	152.8	167.3
Switzerland	80.2	78.2	75.9	80.1	79.9	82.5	84.2	83.7	96.4	110.0	126.6	141.4	161.2	183.6
Turkey	35.7	43.6	48.6	45.9	40.7	54.5	41.4	51.3	69.3	97.5	116.8	139.6	170.1	202.0
United Kingdom	268.2	287.6	307.5	320.3	323.8	339.4	338.0	359.4	393.5	468.1	515.8	598.4	624.7	636.0
United States	770.8	817.6	898.0	944.4	1 059.2	1 258.1	1 180.1	1 202.3	1 305.1	1 525.3	1 732.3	1 919.0	2 017.1	2 164.8
EU27 total	..	..	..	..	..	2 402.9	2 386.6	2 496.5	3 011.1	3 642.1	4 020.4	4 645.4	5 420.3	6 033.3
OECD total	3 700.2	3 856.2	4 001.4	4 078.5	4 327.7	4 817.1	4 623.4	4 774.9	5 521.5	6 601.0	7 391.0	8 415.7	9 487.5	10 574.2
Brazil	53.7	56.7	65.1	60.8	51.7	55.9	55.6	47.2	48.3	62.8	73.6	91.3	120.6	173.2
Chile	14.9	16.8	18.1	17.1	13.9	16.6	16.1	15.4	17.4	22.4	29.9	34.7	42.7	58.2
China	132.1	138.8	142.4	140.2	165.7	225.1	243.6	295.2	412.8	561.2	660.0	791.5	956.0	1 132.6
Estonia	2.5	3.2	4.4	4.8	4.1	5.1	5.2	5.9	7.9	9.1	11.0	14.6	16.7	17.3
India	36.6	39.1	41.4	42.4	50.0	52.9	50.7	57.5	72.4	99.0	140.9	178.2	218.6	315.7
Indonesia	40.6	42.9	41.7	27.3	24.0	33.5	31.0	31.3	32.6	46.5	57.7	61.1	74.5	129.2
Israel	28.3	29.9	29.0	27.5	31.1	35.7	33.3	33.1	34.2	41.0	45.0	47.8	56.6	65.2
Russian Federation	..	61.1	67.6	43.7	30.3	33.9	41.9	46.2	57.3	75.6	98.7	137.8	199.7	267.1
Slovenia	9.5	9.4	9.4	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.9	13.9	17.6	19.6	23.0	29.4	34.0
South Africa	..	..	..	..	..	26.8	25.6	26.2	34.5	47.6	55.0	68.5	79.9	87.6

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/824364441318>

Relative annual growth of imports of goods

Growth over the period 1998-2008, OECD total = 1.0



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INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS

Exports of goods

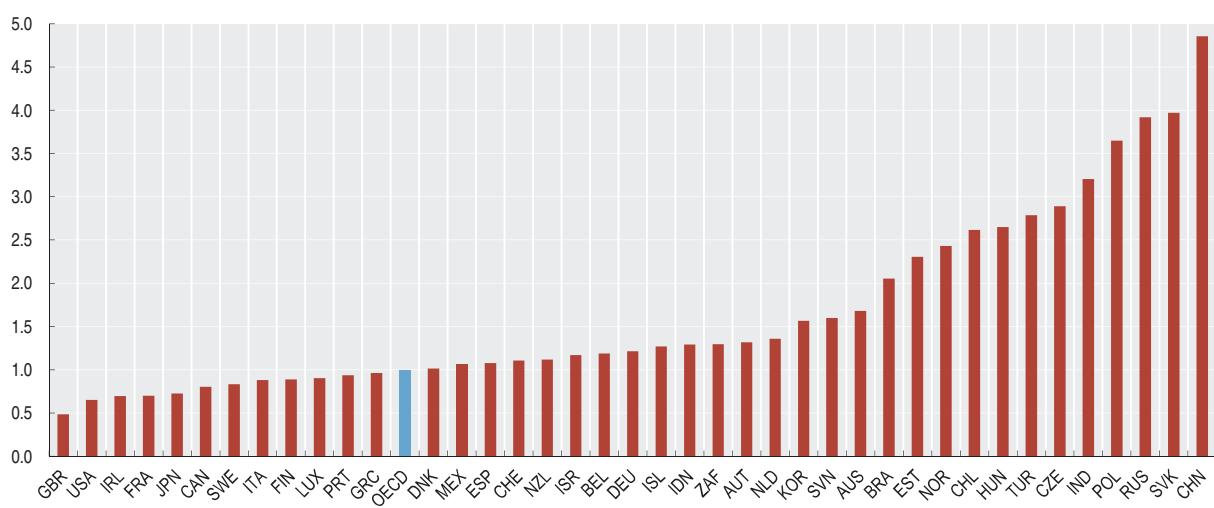
Billion US dollars

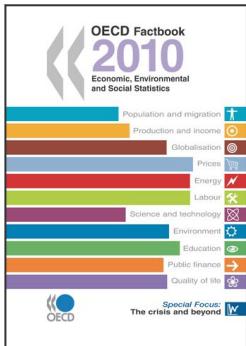
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Australia	53.0	60.2	62.8	55.8	56.0	63.8	63.3	65.0	70.2	86.4	106.0	123.3	140.9	186.9
Austria	57.8	57.1	56.7	60.9	62.4	62.3	64.7	71.3	89.2	110.8	117.7	134.2	156.6	172.8
Belgium	167.7	170.8	170.7	179.3	178.9	185.2	190.3	215.8	255.5	306.4	334.0	369.1	430.9	477.2
Canada	181.0	190.2	215.1	214.6	238.9	277.6	261.1	252.6	272.1	317.2	360.6	388.2	420.2	455.7
Czech Republic	16.8	21.7	22.7	28.3	26.8	29.1	33.4	38.5	48.7	65.8	78.2	95.1	120.9	142.6
Denmark	50.3	50.7	48.2	47.9	49.0	49.6	50.1	55.7	64.6	74.7	83.3	91.6	101.6	115.8
Finland	40.4	40.6	41.0	43.2	41.8	45.8	42.8	44.7	52.5	60.9	65.2	77.3	90.1	96.9
France	284.1	283.9	283.4	300.5	302.3	295.6	289.6	304.9	358.1	413.7	434.4	479.0	539.4	594.9
Germany	523.9	512.7	512.4	543.8	542.8	550.2	572.0	615.6	748.5	911.8	977.1	1 122.0	1 328.8	1 466.1
Greece	11.0	11.3	11.2	10.9	10.7	11.0	10.3	10.8	13.7	15.2	17.5	20.9	23.5	25.5
Hungary	12.9	13.1	19.1	23.0	25.0	28.1	30.5	34.3	43.0	55.5	62.3	74.1	94.6	108.2
Iceland	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.4	2.8	3.1	3.5	4.8	5.4
Ireland	43.8	48.2	53.6	64.2	70.5	76.3	77.4	88.3	92.9	104.3	110.0	108.8	122.0	126.9
Italy	231.3	252.1	238.0	242.1	235.1	239.9	244.3	254.2	299.5	353.5	373.0	417.2	500.2	539.6
Japan	443.3	410.9	421.0	388.1	417.1	479.2	402.6	416.7	472.0	565.7	594.9	646.7	714.3	781.4
Korea	127.5	124.5	136.2	132.3	143.7	172.3	150.4	162.5	193.8	253.8	284.4	325.5	371.5	422.0
Luxembourg	..	..	..	..	7.8	7.9	8.3	8.6	10.0	12.2	12.7	14.2	16.2	17.7
Mexico	79.3	95.7	110.2	117.3	136.3	165.3	157.5	160.8	164.9	188.0	214.2	250.0	272.0	291.3
Netherlands	177.4	179.0	173.8	167.6	170.5	180.1	175.5	175.3	227.3	290.5	320.1	370.2	476.8	485.6
New Zealand	13.3	14.2	13.7	11.9	11.9	12.7	13.3	13.8	16.5	20.3	21.7	22.4	26.9	30.6
Norway	42.0	49.6	48.5	40.4	45.5	59.9	59.0	59.6	67.9	82.5	103.8	122.2	136.4	177.6
Poland	22.9	24.4	25.7	28.2	27.4	31.6	36.1	41.0	53.5	73.8	89.4	109.6	138.8	171.9
Portugal	23.4	24.6	24.0	24.2	24.5	24.4	24.1	25.8	31.8	35.7	38.1	43.4	51.3	55.9
Slovak Republic	..	..	9.6	10.7	10.1	11.8	12.6	14.5	22.0	27.9	31.9	41.7	58.0	70.2
Spain	93.5	102.6	106.2	111.4	111.5	113.3	116.1	125.9	156.3	182.7	192.8	214.1	253.8	279.2
Sweden	77.4	82.9	81.5	85.0	84.8	87.4	76.3	82.9	102.4	123.2	130.3	147.4	169.1	183.9
Switzerland	81.6	79.7	76.2	78.9	80.3	80.5	82.1	87.9	100.7	116.8	130.9	147.9	172.1	200.8
Turkey	21.6	23.2	26.2	27.0	26.6	27.8	31.3	35.8	47.3	63.1	73.5	85.5	107.3	132.0
United Kingdom	242.2	258.9	281.2	273.4	270.7	282.9	272.6	280.6	307.7	349.0	384.4	448.4	440.0	459.3
United States	583.0	622.8	687.5	680.4	692.8	780.3	731.0	693.2	723.7	817.9	904.3	1 037.0	1 162.5	1 299.9
EU27 total	..	..	..	..	2 349.1	2 366.1	2 533.8	3 034.3	3 641.0	3 939.3	4 479.3	5 239.4	5 763.2	
OECD total	3 703.9	3 807.5	3 958.4	3 993.4	4 103.7	4 433.5	4 280.5	4 438.7	5 108.9	6 082.4	6 649.8	7 530.1	8 641.5	9 573.6
Brazil	46.5	47.7	53.0	51.1	48.0	55.1	58.3	60.4	73.2	96.7	118.5	137.8	160.6	197.9
Chile	15.9	15.4	16.7	14.8	15.6	18.2	18.7	17.4	20.1	30.9	38.6	55.9	65.7	69.1
China	148.8	151.0	182.8	183.8	194.9	249.2	266.1	325.6	438.2	593.3	762.0	968.9	1 217.8	1 430.7
Estonia	1.8	2.1	2.9	3.2	3.0	3.8	4.0	4.3	5.6	6.5	8.2	10.0	11.7	13.7
India	31.7	33.5	34.8	33.2	36.9	42.4	43.9	50.1	59.3	75.9	100.4	121.2	145.9	181.9
Indonesia	45.4	49.8	53.4	48.8	48.7	62.1	56.3	57.2	61.1	71.6	85.7	100.8	114.1	137.0
Israel	19.0	20.5	22.5	23.3	25.8	31.4	29.1	29.5	31.8	38.6	42.8	46.8	54.1	61.3
Russian Federation	..	88.7	87.4	72.3	72.9	103.1	99.9	106.7	133.7	181.6	241.5	301.2	352.3	468.0
Slovenia	8.3	8.3	8.4	9.1	8.5	8.7	9.3	10.4	12.8	15.9	17.9	21.0	26.5	29.3
South Africa	..	..	..	..	..	26.3	26.0	23.1	31.6	40.3	47.0	52.6	64.0	74.0

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/824370122572>

Relative annual growth of exports of goods

Growth over the period 1998–2008, OECD total = 1.0

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/818444001112>



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