

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 (imports) or leaving (exports) its economic territory. Goods simply being transported through a country or goods temporarily admitted or withdrawn (except for goods for inward or outward processing) are not included in the international merchandise trade statistics.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.

Long-term trends

Over the ten-year period from 1997 to 2007, relative import growth (i.e. growth in a single country divided by growth for all OECD countries) was low in Japan, Canada, the United Kingdom and Luxembourg while relative import growth in some new member countries – the Slovak Republic, Hungary and the Czech Republic – was particularly high. Concerning BRICS countries, China and India continued to show high relative import growth while growth for the Russian Federation was about the OECD average and Brazil's relative import growth was very low.

Over the same period, relative growth rates of exports of goods were high for the Slovak Republic, Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary. The United Kingdom, the United States, Japan, France, Canada and New Zealand were among the countries with below average growth rates. As for imports, China had the highest relative annual growth of exports of all countries in this comparison.

The United States' negative trade balance has been large throughout the period and growing in most years. The United Kingdom, Spain, India and France also recorded high negative trade balances for goods, while Germany usually had, on average, the largest trade surplus of all OECD countries. The Russian Federation and China had significant trade surpluses, similar to Germany. China's average trade balance over the last three years even more than tripled in comparison to its average trade balance over the whole period.

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 customs 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 the Community definitions. As a result, OECD trade statistics for European Union countries are not strictly comparable with those reported by Eurostat.

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.

Sources

- UN Commodity Trade Statistics Database.
- OECD (2008), *International Trade by Commodity Statistics*, OECD, Paris.

Further information

Analytical publications

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

Statistical publications

- OECD (2008), *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.
- United Nations (1998), *International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Compilers Manual*, United Nations, New York, <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/methodology.htm>.
- OECD (2004), *International Trade by Commodity Statistics – Definitions*, OECD, Paris.


Online databases

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

Trade balance: exports of goods minus imports of goods

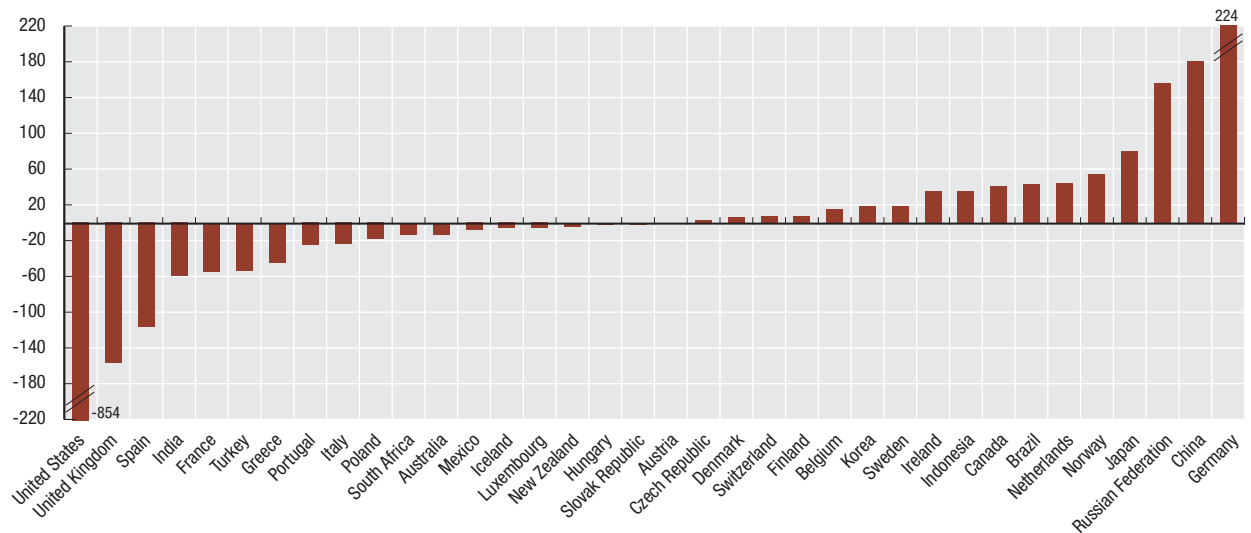
Billion US dollars

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Australia	-2.7	-4.4	-1.2	1.0	-5.0	-9.5	-4.0	2.4	-4.5	-14.6	-17.3	-13.2	-9.3	-16.8
Austria	-10.2	-8.5	-10.1	-6.9	-6.2	-6.2	-5.2	-4.4	-0.1	-2.3	-0.4	-2.2	-0.3	0.5
Belgium	13.3	15.4	11.4	12.3	14.4	14.3	13.5	11.6	17.7	20.7	21.1	13.8	15.5	17.5
Canada	7.7	16.5	19.2	18.1	13.3	23.2	37.6	39.4	30.2	31.8	43.1	45.7	38.1	39.9
Czech Republic	-0.9	-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
Denmark	5.8	4.7	5.7	3.7	1.7	4.7	5.2	5.8	6.4	8.4	8.0	8.3	5.6	3.0
Finland	6.4	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
France	5.0	10.6	6.2	16.8	14.7	9.5	-8.5	-4.4	1.1	-4.5	-20.5	-41.6	-50.8	-71.8
Germany	45.6	59.6	68.3	67.1	72.3	69.3	54.8	85.7	125.6	146.8	193.6	198.0	203.6	269.5
Greece	-11.7	-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
Hungary	-4.2	-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
Iceland	-1.5	-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
Ireland	8.2	11.5	12.4	14.4	19.9	24.0	25.6	26.4	36.0	38.7	42.0	39.7	32.3	35.1
Italy	22.1	27.2	43.9	29.9	26.5	14.7	1.8	8.1	7.7	2.0	-1.9	-17.0	-41.9	-12.5
Japan	121.6	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
Korea	-6.5	-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
Luxembourg	..	..	..	..	..	-2.8	-2.8	-2.9	-2.9	-3.7	-4.6	-4.9	-6.1	-6.1
Mexico	-18.7	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
Netherlands	15.3	19.6	16.5	15.5	10.9	2.7	5.4	5.6	11.9	18.3	32.8	36.9	38.8	55.5
New Zealand	-0.1	-0.7	-0.6	-0.8	-0.6	-2.4	-1.2	-	-1.2	-2.0	-2.8	-4.5	-4.0	-4.0
Norway	7.3	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
Poland	-4.4	-6.1	-12.7	-16.5	-18.8	-18.5	-17.3	-14.2	-14.1	-14.4	-14.4	-12.2	-16.3	-25.4
Portugal	-9.1	-10.2	-10.6	-11.1	-12.8	-15.3	-15.6	-15.4	-14.2	-15.3	-19.2	-23.1	-24.6	-26.9
Slovak Republic	..	..	..	-2.1	-2.4	-1.1	-0.9	-2.1	-2.2	-0.7	-1.9	-2.4	-2.7	-0.9
Spain	-19.0	-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
Sweden	9.4	15.8	18.9	18.3	16.4	16.3	14.2	12.8	15.9	18.2	22.8	18.9	20.3	17.8
Switzerland	2.4	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
Turkey	-5.2	-14.1	-20.4	-22.3	-19.0	-14.1	-26.7	-10.1	-15.5	-22.1	-34.4	-43.3	-54.3	-62.8
United Kingdom	-31.3	-25.9	-28.7	-26.3	-46.9	-53.2	-56.6	-65.4	-78.8	-85.8	-119.9	-131.4	-154.0	-184.6
United States	-176.7	-187.9	-194.8	-210.5	-263.9	-366.4	-477.7	-449.1	-509.1	-581.4	-707.4	-828.0	-882.0	-854.7
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
OECD total	-30.4	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
Brazil	8.0	-7.2	-9.0	-12.1	-9.7	-3.7	-3.8	-0.2	10.7	23.4	31.4	42.1	46.4	40.0
China	5.4	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
India	-2.3	-4.9	-5.6	-6.6	-9.2	-13.0	-6.1	-7.6	-8.6	-14.2	-28.4	-46.3	-59.3	-72.7
Indonesia	8.1	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
Russian Federation	27.6	19.7	28.6	42.6	69.2	58.0	60.5	76.3	106.0	142.7	163.8	161.3
South Africa	-0.5	3.7	-3.1	-2.9	-7.3	-8.0	-15.9	-15.8

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Trade balance: exports of goods minus imports of goods

Billion US dollars, average 2005-2007


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TRADE IN GOODS

Imports of goods

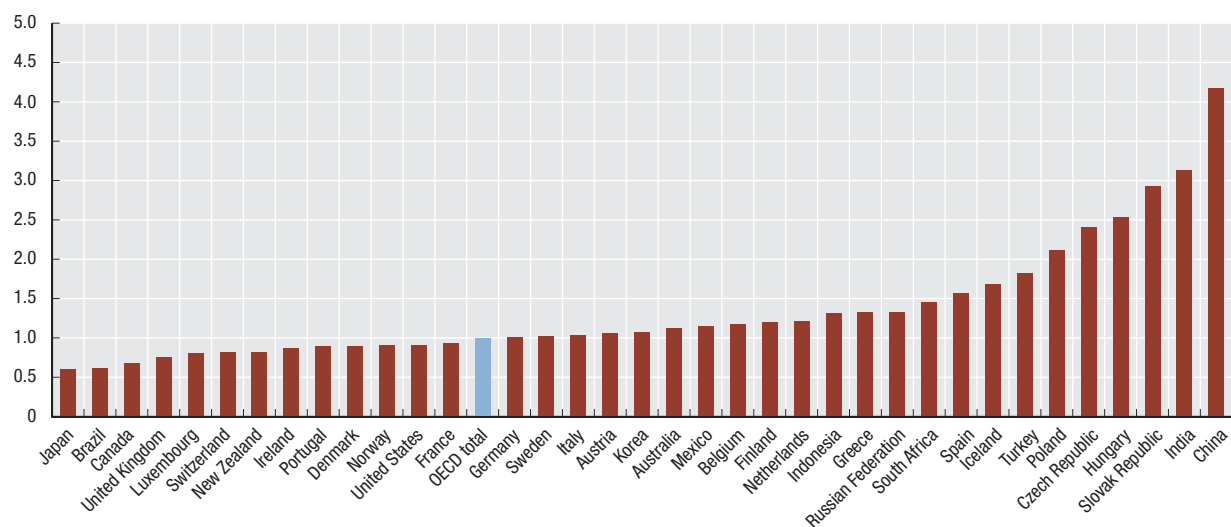
Billion US dollars

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Australia	49.9	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
Austria	55.2	66.3	67.1	63.6	67.1	68.7	67.4	69.0	71.4	91.5	111.3	120.0	134.3	156.0
Belgium	127.6	152.3	159.4	158.3	164.9	164.6	171.7	178.7	198.1	234.8	285.4	320.2	353.7	413.4
Canada	148.4	164.5	171.0	197.1	201.3	215.6	240.0	221.6	222.4	240.2	273.8	314.4	349.9	380.0
Czech Republic	14.9	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
Denmark	36.5	45.6	45.0	44.5	46.2	44.3	44.4	44.3	49.3	56.2	66.8	75.0	84.5	99.3
Finland	23.3	29.5	30.9	31.0	32.4	31.6	34.1	32.2	33.6	41.6	50.7	58.5	69.4	81.7
France	228.3	273.5	277.7	266.6	285.8	292.8	304.0	304.2	303.8	362.4	434.4	476.0	529.9	611.1
Germany	381.7	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
Greece	20.9	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
Hungary	14.9	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
Iceland	1.5	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
Ireland	25.9	32.3	35.8	39.2	44.4	46.5	50.7	51.1	52.3	54.2	62.3	70.3	76.6	85.7
Italy	167.9	204.0	208.2	208.1	215.6	220.3	237.3	236.1	246.6	297.4	351.1	384.8	442.6	504.6
Japan	276.1	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
Korea	103.1	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
Luxembourg	..	..	..	..	..	10.6	10.6	11.2	11.5	13.6	16.8	17.6	19.6	22.3
Mexico	79.3	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
Netherlands	130.5	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
New Zealand	11.9	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
Norway	27.4	33.0	35.6	35.8	37.5	34.2	34.4	33.0	34.9	41.2	48.5	55.5	64.3	80.3
Poland	21.6	28.9	37.1	42.3	47.0	45.9	48.9	50.2	55.1	68.0	88.2	101.5	125.6	164.2
Portugal	27.1	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
Slovak Republic	..	..	..	11.7	13.1	11.1	12.7	14.7	16.6	22.6	29.5	34.2	44.4	58.7
Spain	91.0	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
Sweden	52.0	61.6	64.0	63.2	68.6	68.5	73.1	63.5	67.1	84.2	100.5	111.4	127.1	151.4
Switzerland	67.9	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
Turkey	23.3	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
United Kingdom	234.0	268.2	287.6	307.5	320.3	323.8	339.4	338.0	359.4	393.5	468.1	515.8	598.4	624.6
United States	689.0	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
EU27 total	..	2 041.1	2 090.6	2 088.7	2 207.1	2 247.9	2 375.0	2 348.2	2 447.1	2 944.3	3 555.7	3 917.5	4 523.4	5 247.9
OECD total	3 130.9	3 700.2	3 856.2	4 001.4	4 078.5	4 327.7	4 816.4	4 633.7	4 774.9	5 522.8	6 596.8	7 391.0	8 414.4	9 477.1
Brazil	35.5	53.7	56.7	65.1	60.8	51.7	58.9	58.5	49.7	49.8	65.3	76.4	91.4	120.6
China	115.6	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
India	28.7	36.6	39.1	41.4	42.4	49.7	51.4	51.9	61.1	77.2	108.2	149.7	185.4	218.6
Indonesia	32.0	40.6	42.9	41.7	27.3	24.0	33.5	31.0	31.3	32.6	42.9	57.7	61.1	74.5
Russian Federation	61.1	67.6	43.7	30.3	33.9	41.9	46.2	57.3	75.6	98.7	137.7	191.0
South Africa	26.8	24.2	26.2	34.5	47.6	55.0	68.5	79.9

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Relative annual growth of imports of goods


Growth over the period 1997-2007, OECD total = 1

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Exports of goods

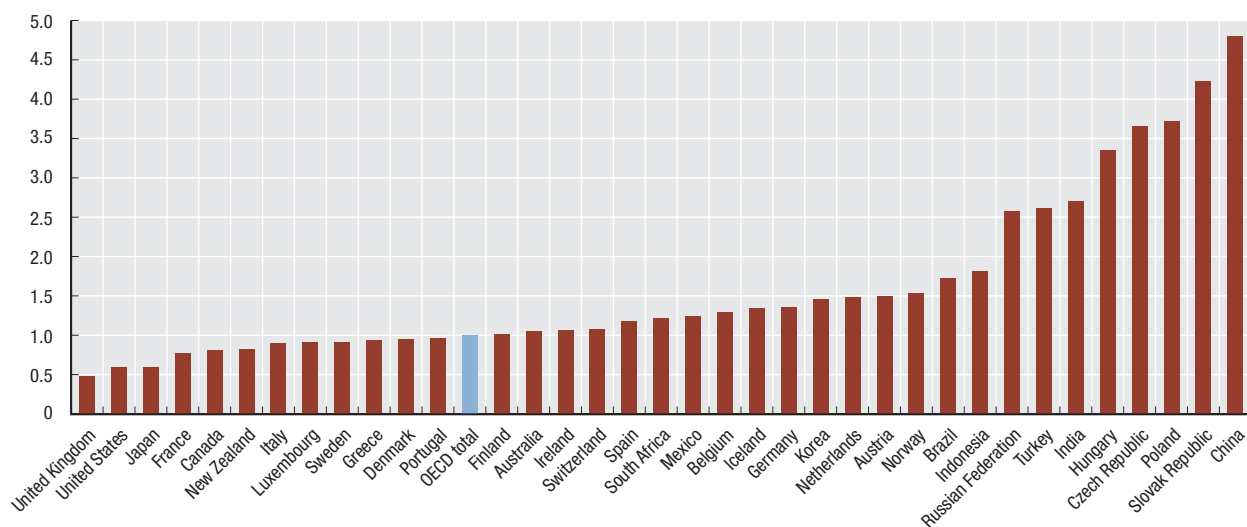
Billion US dollars

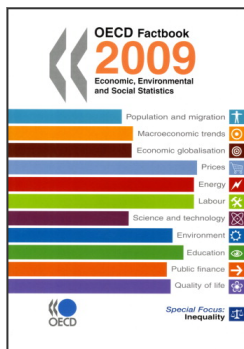
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Australia	47.3	53.0	60.2	62.8	55.8	56.0	63.8	63.3	65.0	70.2	86.4	105.8	123.3	141.0
Austria	45.0	57.8	57.1	56.7	60.9	62.4	62.3	64.7	71.3	89.2	110.8	117.7	134.1	156.6
Belgium	140.9	167.7	170.8	170.7	179.3	178.9	185.2	190.3	215.8	255.5	306.5	334.0	369.2	430.9
Canada	156.1	181.0	190.2	215.1	214.6	238.9	277.6	261.1	252.6	272.1	316.9	360.1	388.0	419.9
Czech Republic	14.0	16.8	21.7	22.7	28.3	26.8	29.1	33.4	38.5	48.7	67.2	78.2	95.1	120.9
Denmark	42.3	50.3	50.7	48.2	47.9	49.0	49.6	50.1	55.7	64.6	74.8	83.3	90.1	102.3
Finland	29.8	40.4	40.6	41.0	43.2	41.8	45.8	42.8	44.7	52.5	60.8	65.2	77.3	90.1
France	233.3	284.1	283.9	283.4	300.5	302.3	295.6	299.8	304.9	357.9	413.9	434.4	479.0	539.3
Germany	427.3	523.9	512.7	512.4	543.8	542.8	550.2	572.0	615.6	748.5	911.8	977.8	1 125.8	1 328.8
Greece	9.2	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
Hungary	10.7	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
Iceland	1.6	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
Ireland	34.1	43.8	48.2	53.6	64.2	70.5	76.3	77.4	88.3	92.9	104.3	110.0	108.9	120.8
Italy	190.0	231.3	252.1	238.0	242.1	235.1	239.1	244.2	254.3	299.4	349.1	367.9	400.6	492.1
Japan	397.7	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
Korea	96.6	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
Luxembourg	..	..	..	..	..	7.8	7.9	8.3	8.6	10.0	12.2	12.7	13.6	16.2
Mexico	60.6	79.3	95.7	110.2	117.3	136.3	165.3	157.5	160.0	164.9	188.0	214.2	250.0	272.0
Netherlands	145.8	177.4	179.0	173.8	167.6	170.5	180.1	175.5	175.3	227.3	290.5	320.1	370.3	476.8
New Zealand	11.8	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
Norway	34.8	42.0	49.6	48.5	40.4	45.5	59.9	59.0	59.6	70.3	82.2	103.8	122.2	136.4
Poland	17.2	22.9	24.4	25.7	28.2	27.4	31.6	36.1	41.0	53.5	73.8	89.4	109.3	138.8
Portugal	18.0	23.4	24.6	24.0	24.2	24.5	24.4	24.1	25.8	31.8	35.7	38.1	42.1	51.3
Slovak Republic	..	..	..	9.6	10.7	10.1	11.8	12.6	14.5	22.0	27.6	31.9	41.7	57.8
Spain	71.9	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
Sweden	61.3	77.4	82.9	81.5	85.0	84.8	87.4	76.3	82.9	102.4	123.2	130.3	147.4	169.3
Switzerland	70.3	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
Turkey	18.1	21.6	23.2	26.2	27.0	26.6	27.8	31.3	35.8	47.3	63.1	73.5	85.3	107.2
United Kingdom	202.7	242.2	258.9	281.2	273.4	270.7	282.9	272.6	280.6	307.7	348.2	384.4	444.4	440.0
United States	512.3	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	1 162.4
EU27 total	..	2 144.8	2 205.4	2 207.0	2 289.1	2 284.9	2 359.0	2 377.1	2 524.4	3 012.6	3 601.1	3 893.7	4 428.3	5 130.1
OECD total	3 100.5	3 703.9	3 807.5	3 958.4	3 993.4	4 103.7	4 432.7	4 290.7	4 438.8	5 111.1	6 077.9	6 649.7	7 528.6	8 632.3
Brazil	43.6	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
China	121.0	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
India	26.3	31.7	33.5	34.8	33.2	36.7	45.2	44.3	52.5	63.0	79.8	103.4	126.1	145.9
Indonesia	40.1	45.4	49.8	53.4	48.8	48.7	62.1	56.3	57.2	61.1	64.5	85.7	100.8	114.1
Russian Federation	..	..	88.7	87.4	72.3	72.9	103.1	99.9	106.7	133.7	181.6	241.5	301.6	352.3
South Africa	..	..	..	..	..	..	26.3	27.9	23.1	31.6	40.3	47.0	52.6	64.0

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/541505433837>

Relative annual growth of exports of goods

Growth over the period 1997-2007, OECD total = 1

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/535585384034>



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