

TRADING PARTNERS

The pattern of OECD merchandise trade – where imports come from and where exports go to – has undergone significant shifts over the last decade. These are in response to changes in the distribution of global income and to globalisation – in particular, the outsourcing of manufacturing from OECD countries to the rest of the world.

These tables refer to total OECD imports and exports and show merchandise trade both within the OECD area and with countries in the rest of the world.

Definition

NAFTA is the North American Free Trade Area and consists of Canada, Mexico and the United States.

OECD Asia and Oceania includes Australia and New Zealand as well as Japan and Korea.

Non-OECD America covers the Caribbean, South America and Central America, except Mexico.

Non-OECD Asia covers Central Asia, China, the Indian sub-continent and South East.

Middle East covers the Gulf Arabian Countries, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, the Occupied Palestinian territory and the Syrian Arab Republic.

The definitions of merchandise imports and exports are explained under “Trade in goods”.

Long-term trends

Since 1988, there has been a steady decline in the share of OECD imports and exports among OECD member countries. In 1988, imports from OECD countries accounted for 80% of total OECD imports but by 2007 this had fallen to 70%. For exports the fall in intra-OECD trade was less marked – down from 81% in 1988 to 74% in 2007.

OECD imports from Non-OECD Asia have risen from 7% to 18% over the period and exports to them from 7.5% to 11%. A large change occurred in trade between OECD and China. In 1988 China supplied a little over 1% of total OECD imports but by 2007 this had risen to 10%. China's importance as a destination for OECD countries has increased less sharply, rising from 1% in 1988 to 5% in 2007.

Comparability

OECD countries follow common definitions and procedures in compiling their merchandise trade statistics which are comparable and of good quality. The removal of customs frontiers following the creation of a common market in Europe required EU countries to adopt a system of recording trade flows through sample surveys of exporters and importers. This led to some fall in the reliability of merchandise trade statistics for trade between the EU countries. Statistics on trade between EU countries and non-EU countries, however, were not affected.

Source

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

Further information

Analytical publications

- OECD, IOM and the World Bank (eds.) (2004), *Trade and Migration: Building Bridges for Global Labour Mobility*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2004), *Agriculture, Trade and the Environment: The Dairy Sector*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2004), *The Impact of Regulations on Agro-Food Trade: The Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) Agreements*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2004), *Trade and Competitiveness in Argentina, Brazil and Chile Not as Easy as A-B-C*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2004), *Internationalisation and Trade in Higher Education: Opportunities and Challenges*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2005), *OECD Trade Policy Studies – Environmental Requirements and Market Access*, OECD, Paris.
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- 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.
- OECD (2008), *Statistics on International Trade in Services*, OECD, Paris.

Methodological publications

- UN, EC, IMF, OECD, UNCTAD and the WTO (2002), *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services*, United Nations, New York.

Online databases

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


Websites

- OECD International Trade Statistics, www.oecd.org/std/its.

Partner countries and regions of OECD merchandise trade

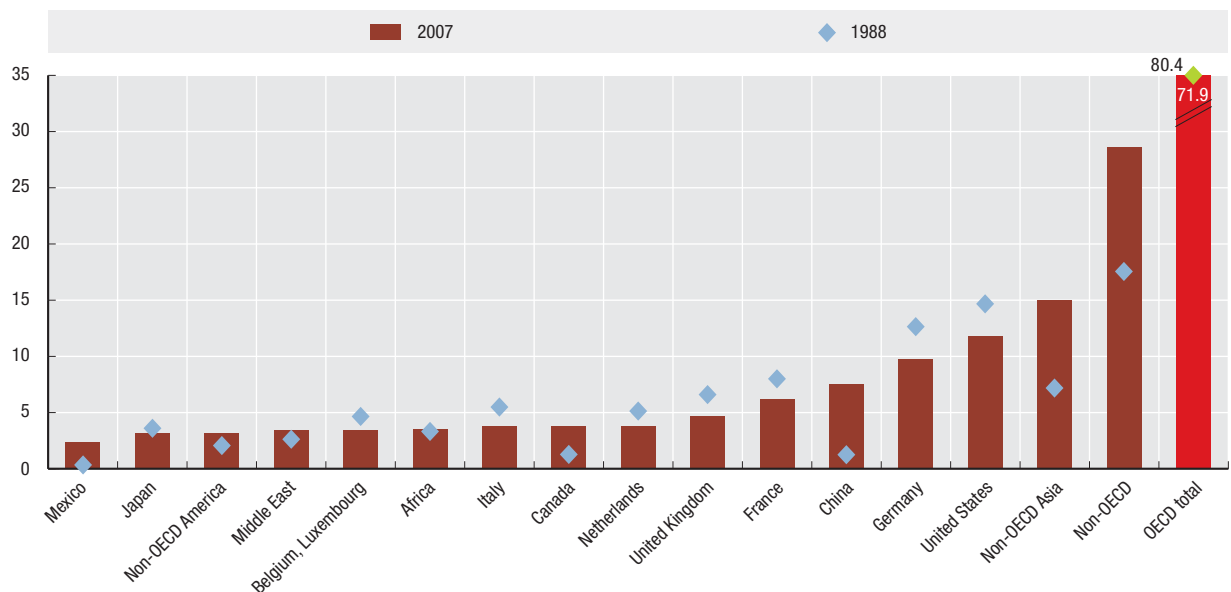

As a percentage of total OECD merchandise trade

	1988	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
OECD total	80.4	76.1	75.7	75.6	77.4	77.1	75.8	75.8	75.5	74.1	73.5	71.3	70.8	71.9
Major seven	52.3	49.7	49.0	49.1	50.1	50.4	49.2	48.8	47.8	45.0	44.9	43.0	42.1	43.2
NAFTA	16.3	19.0	19.7	21.2	21.7	22.7	23.8	23.1	22.2	18.1	18.9	18.6	18.0	18.1
Canada	1.3	4.5	4.6	4.8	4.9	5.1	5.3	5.1	4.8	4.5	4.2	4.3	4.1	3.8
Mexico	0.3	1.8	2.0	2.3	2.5	2.7	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.4
United States	14.7	12.7	13.1	14.0	14.3	14.9	15.4	14.8	14.3	10.8	12.1	11.7	11.3	11.8
OECD Asia Oceania	6.5	8.9	8.4	8.1	7.4	7.7	8.0	7.3	7.1	6.9	6.8	6.6	6.3	5.9
Japan	3.6	5.7	5.3	5.1	4.7	4.9	4.9	4.5	4.2	4.0	3.8	3.7	3.4	3.2
Korea	1.5	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.4	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7
OECD Europe	57.8	48.1	47.5	46.4	48.3	46.6	44.0	45.5	46.2	49.1	47.8	46.1	46.4	47.9
Austria	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4
Belgium-Luxembourg	4.7	3.6	3.4	3.2	3.3	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.1	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4
France	8.0	6.3	6.1	5.9	6.2	6.1	5.5	5.7	5.7	6.0	5.8	5.5	5.4	6.2
Germany	12.7	10.6	10.3	9.6	10.1	9.8	9.0	9.3	9.4	10.1	10.0	9.7	9.5	9.7
Italy	5.5	4.3	4.2	4.0	4.2	4.0	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.2	4.0	3.3	3.7	3.8
Netherlands	5.1	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8
Spain	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7
Sweden	2.2	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4
Switzerland	2.6	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.6
United Kingdom	6.6	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.0	4.8	4.7	4.7
Non-OECD	17.6	22.5	22.9	23.4	21.6	21.3	23.1	23.1	23.4	24.8	25.7	27.3	28.3	28.6
Africa	3.3	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.4	3.1	3.3	3.5
South Africa	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
America	2.1	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.2	3.2
South America	1.6	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.0	2.1	2.1	1.9	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.4
Brazil	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9
Asia	7.2	12.4	12.4	12.6	11.5	11.8	12.8	12.5	13.0	13.8	14.2	14.6	14.9	15.0
China	1.3	2.8	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.4	3.9	4.2	4.9	5.8	6.3	6.8	7.2	7.5
India	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9
Chinese Taipei	1.4	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.3
Europe	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.2	1.9	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.9	3.1	3.6	3.8	4.2
Russian Federation	0.2	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.7	2.0	2.1
Middle East	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.8	2.4	2.4	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.4	3.4	3.4

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Partner countries and regions of OECD merchandise trade

As a percentage of total OECD merchandise trade

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Partner countries and regions of OECD merchandise imports

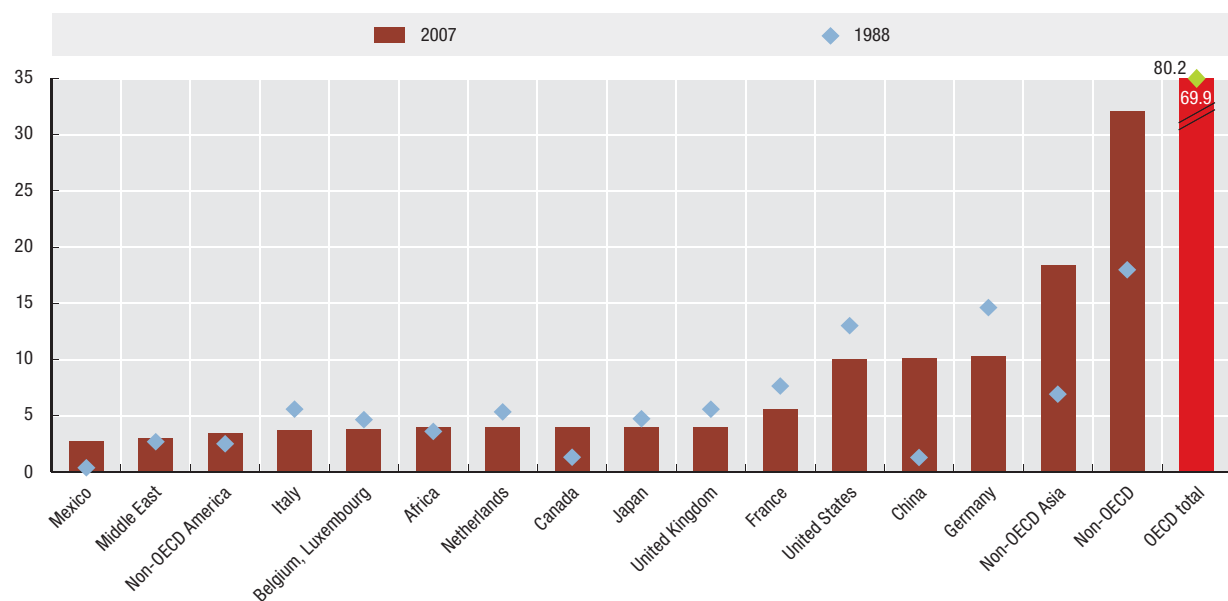
As a percentage of total OECD merchandise imports

	1988	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
OECD total	80.2	76.3	75.6	75.4	76.8	75.4	73.0	73.2	72.8	71.2	70.3	67.2	66.4	69.9
Major seven	52.5	50.8	50.2	50.0	50.5	49.8	47.5	47.0	45.9	43.1	42.7	40.2	39.1	41.8
NAFTA	14.7	18.9	19.7	20.8	20.7	21.1	21.7	21.1	19.9	16.1	16.5	16.0	15.5	16.8
Canada	1.3	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.2	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.3	4.0
Mexico	0.4	2.0	2.2	2.5	2.6	2.9	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.7
United States	13.0	11.9	12.4	13.1	12.9	12.8	12.8	12.2	11.5	8.3	9.2	8.7	8.5	10.0
OECD Asia Oceania	7.8	10.2	9.2	9.2	9.0	9.3	9.4	8.5	8.2	7.9	7.9	7.5	7.2	6.9
Japan	4.7	7.2	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.4	6.3	5.6	5.4	5.1	4.9	4.6	4.3	4.0
Korea	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.0
OECD Europe	58.0	47.3	46.7	45.5	47.1	45.6	42.0	43.6	44.5	47.6	45.9	43.5	43.6	46.2
Austria	1.5	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3
Belgium-Luxembourg	4.6	3.4	3.2	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.6	2.8	2.9	3.1	3.1	2.6	3.0	3.8
France	7.6	6.1	5.9	5.8	6.1	5.8	5.1	5.3	5.3	5.6	5.3	4.9	4.7	5.6
Germany	14.6	10.9	10.6	10.0	10.5	10.2	9.2	9.6	10.0	10.8	10.7	10.2	10.0	10.3
Italy	5.6	4.6	4.6	4.3	4.5	4.2	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.1	3.9	3.1	3.6	3.7
Netherlands	5.3	4.0	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	4.0
Spain	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2
Sweden	2.3	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4
Switzerland	2.3	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.1	1.4	1.4
United Kingdom	5.6	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.1	4.9	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.1	4.0	3.8	4.0
Non-OECD	18.0	22.6	23.3	23.9	22.4	23.2	26.0	25.7	25.9	27.6	28.9	31.3	32.5	32.1
Africa	3.6	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.5	2.3	2.6	2.7	3.5	3.9	4.0
South Africa	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
America	2.5	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.8	3.0	2.9	3.0	2.9	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.4
South America	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.5	2.7	2.8	2.7
Brazil	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Asia	6.9	12.4	12.8	13.2	13.2	13.7	14.6	14.5	15.2	16.0	16.6	17.2	17.8	18.4
China	1.3	3.7	4.0	4.4	4.5	4.9	5.5	5.9	6.8	7.7	8.5	9.3	9.8	10.1
India	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9
Chinese Taipei	1.5	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.1	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.6
Europe	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.8	3.1	3.7	3.9	4.0
Russian Federation	0.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.8	2.1	2.4	2.4
Middle East	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.9	2.2	2.5	3.5	3.3	2.9	3.2	3.3	3.9	4.1	3.0

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Partners countries and regions of OECD merchandise imports


As a percentage of total OECD merchandise imports

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Partner countries and regions of OECD merchandise exports

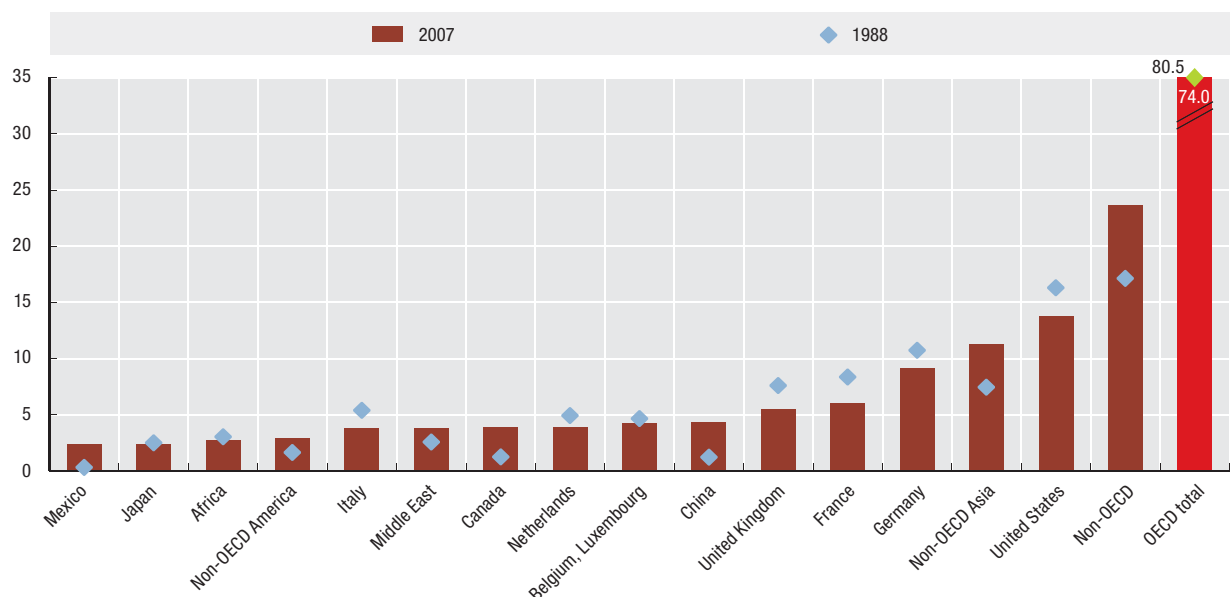

As a percentage of total OECD merchandise exports

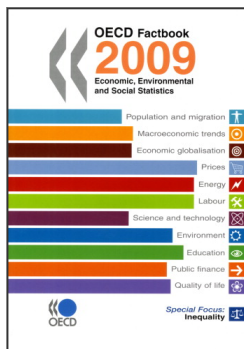
	1988	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
OECD total	80.5	75.9	75.7	75.8	77.9	79.6	79.0	78.8	78.5	77.4	77.0	75.4	75.6	74.0
Major seven	52.2	48.6	47.9	48.2	49.7	51.1	51.0	50.8	49.9	47.1	47.4	46.1	45.5	44.7
NAFTA	17.9	19.2	19.7	21.6	22.6	24.5	26.1	25.2	24.6	20.2	21.4	21.5	20.8	19.5
Canada	1.3	4.1	4.2	4.5	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.2	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.6
Mexico	0.3	1.6	1.8	2.2	2.4	2.6	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.1
United States	16.3	13.5	13.7	14.8	15.6	17.1	18.3	17.6	17.4	13.5	15.2	15.1	14.5	13.8
OECD Asia Oceania	5.3	7.6	7.6	7.0	5.7	6.1	6.5	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.6	5.4	5.3	4.9
Japan	2.5	4.1	4.1	3.8	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.2	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.2
Korea	1.4	2.2	2.2	1.9	1.2	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.3
OECD Europe	57.5	49.0	48.4	47.2	49.6	49.0	46.4	47.6	47.9	51.4	50.0	48.5	49.6	49.7
Austria	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.6
Belgium-Luxembourg	4.7	3.8	3.6	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.8	3.8	3.2	3.7	4.2
France	8.4	6.6	6.2	5.9	6.3	6.3	6.0	6.2	6.1	6.5	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.8
Germany	10.7	10.3	9.9	9.3	9.7	9.4	8.8	9.0	8.8	9.5	9.2	9.0	9.1	9.0
Italy	5.4	4.0	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.3	4.1	3.5	3.9	3.9
Netherlands	4.9	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.8	4.0	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.7
Spain	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.8	3.0	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3
Sweden	2.1	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5
Switzerland	2.9	2.0	2.0	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.4	1.7	1.8
United Kingdom	7.6	5.9	6.0	6.2	6.4	6.3	6.1	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.0	5.7	5.6	5.5
Non-OECD	17.2	22.5	22.4	23.0	20.8	19.3	20.1	20.4	20.6	21.7	22.1	22.7	23.5	24.9
Africa	3.1	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.6	2.7	3.0
South Africa	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
America	1.7	3.3	3.3	3.7	3.7	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.7	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.8	2.9
South America	1.1	2.3	2.3	2.6	2.6	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.7	2.0
Brazil	0.3	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8
Asia	7.5	12.4	12.0	12.0	9.8	9.9	10.9	10.3	10.7	11.5	11.7	11.7	11.8	11.3
China	1.2	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.2	2.4	2.9	3.6	3.9	4.0	4.4	4.7
India	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9
Chinese Taipei	1.4	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.7	2.0	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.0
Europe	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.5	2.4	1.9	1.9	2.4	2.6	3.0	3.1	3.4	3.8	4.3
Russian Federation	0.2	0.8	0.9	1.1	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.7
Middle East	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.7	3.8

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Partner countries and regions of OECD merchandise exports

As a percentage of total OECD merchandise exports

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