

Foreign Trade

March 2012

Istat presents data on Italy's foreign trade as well as unit value and volume indices (base year 2005=100) referring to March 2012. The results of the flash estimates on extra-EU trade for March 2012 have been disseminated on April 23rd.

- Compared to the previous month, export in March increased by 1,7% reflecting a growth of 4.1% of sales to markets outside the EU. Imports decreased by 1,9%, with a reduction of purchases by both EU markets (-2.2%) and non-EU (-1.6%). In the first quarter of 2012, exports registered an economic growth of 0.8% due to an increase in sales to countries outside the EU (+2.4%). For purchases of goods there is a fall of 1, 6% greater for the EU markets (-3.7%).
- In March 2012, compared with the same month of the previous year, export growth was 4.9% and affects non-EU markets (+12.4%). The decrease of 10.9% of imports was due to reduced purchases by both the EU countries (-11.4%) and non EU countries (-10.3%). In March, the trade balance is in surplus and amounted to 2.1 billion euros (value is the highest since July 2009): 1.6 billion for the EU countries and 0.5 for non-EU countries. Net of energy products, the balance was 7.6 billion euros (Table 2).

Table 1 – Exports, imports and trade balance. March 2012

	NON SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED				SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED		
	Millions of euro		Percentage changes		Millions of euro	Percentage changes	
	Mar.2012	Jan.-Mar. 2012	Mar.12 Mar.11	Jan.-Mar.12 Jan.-Mar.11	Mar.2012	Mar.12 Feb.12	Jan.-Mar.12 Oct.-Dec. 11
TOTAL							
Exports	36,107	95,131	4.9	5.5	32,370	1.7	0.8
Imports	34,042	98,550	-10.9	-4.6	31,652	-1.9	-1.6
Trade balance	2,064	-3,418			718		
EU COUNTRIES							
Exports	19,967	53,876	-0.5	2.3	17,533	-0.2	-0.5
Imports	18,412	51,147	-11.4	-6.7	16,554	-2.2	-3.7
Trade balance	1,554	2,729			979		
NON-EU COUNTRIES							
Exports	16,140	41,255	12.4	10.0	14,837	4.1	2.4
Imports	15,630	47,403	-10.3	-2.2	15,098	-1.6	0.8
Trade balance	510	-6,148			-261		

Table 2 – Exports, imports and trade balance by Main Industrial Groupings. March 2012

MIGS	EXPORTS			IMPORTS			TRADE BALANCE	
	Share (a)	Percentage changes		Share (a)	Percentage changes		Millions of euro	
		Mar.12 Mar.11	Jan.-Mar.12 Jan.-Mar.11		Mar.12 Mar.11	Jan.-Mar.12 Jan.-Mar.11	Mar.2012	Jan.- Mar.2012
Consumer goods	28.9	5.4	6.3	25.0	-8.4	-2.0	2,076	3,483
- consumer durables	5.9	2.1	1.7	3.0	-17.0	-9.9	1,214	2,642
- consumer non durables	23.0	6.4	7.5	22.0	-7.2	-0.8	862	842
Capital goods	32.2	4.2	3.4	20.8	-20.7	-11.7	4,461	9,622
Intermediate goods	34.3	3.0	4.5	34.5	-16.3	-13.1	1,034	916
Energy	4.7	20.7	21.5	19.7	8.8	16.0	-5,507	-17,441
Total (except energy)	95.3	4.1	4.7	80.3	-15.2	-9.4	7,571	14,022
Total	100.0	4.9	5.5	100.0	-10.9	-4.6	2,064	-3,418

(a) Calculated on 2011 total foreign trade.

Table 3 – Exports, imports and trade balance by countries. March 2012

COUNTRIES	EXPORTS			IMPORTS			TRADE BALANCE	
	Share (a)	Percentage changes		Share (a)	Percentage changes		Millions of euro	
		Mar.12 Mar.11	Jan.-Mar.12 Jan.-Mar.11		Mar.12 Mar.11	Jan.-Mar.12 Jan.-Mar.11	Mar.2012	Jan.- Mar.2012
EU countries	56.0	-0.5	2.3	53.3	-11.4	-6.7	1,554	2,729
EMU17:	42.7	-1.8	1.3	43.2	-11.5	-6.3	216	-346
<i>Austria</i>	2.3	-2.9	-1.2	2.2	-3.5	0.5	21	-97
<i>Belgium</i>	2.6	-7.5	3.7	3.6	-0.5	-2.9	-453	-1,139
<i>France</i>	11.6	0.2	3.2	8.3	-9.0	-4.9	1,173	2,972
<i>Germany</i>	13.1	2.9	5.8	15.6	-17.1	-9.5	-491	-1,361
<i>Netherlands</i>	2.4	-0.5	2.2	5.2	-12.4	-5.1	-914	-2,813
<i>Spain</i>	5.3	-10.3	-7.5	4.5	-12.6	-8.5	271	741
Poland	2.5	-4.6	-0.6	1.9	-10.3	-6.0	199	471
United Kingdom	4.7	12.4	10.5	2.7	-12.1	-11.3	836	2,141
Czech Republic	1.1	1.7	4.9	1.2	-10.8	-4.4	-65	-212
Romania	1.6	-2.4	1.5	1.3	-4.4	-5.0	105	179
Non-EU countries	44.0	12.4	10.0	46.7	-10.3	-2.2	510	-6,148
European non-EU countries	13.3	11.5	16.0	11.1	-7.1	-0.9	1,165	1,863
<i>Russian Federation</i>	2.5	5.6	7.6	4.5	13.6	15.5	-770	-2,663
<i>Switzerland</i>	5.5	12.0	25.6	2.8	-11.2	-3.0	1,060	2,886
<i>Turkey</i>	2.6	6.4	2.0	1.5	-16.3	-19.9	451	1,037
North Africa	2.9	36.3	11.7	4.5	26.1	1.2	-1,196	-4,002
Other African countries	1.4	28.1	15.9	2.4	-29.5	15.4	-176	-1,427
North America	6.8	20.2	7.5	3.7	5.9	9.6	1,182	2,385
<i>United States</i>	6.1	23.5	8.1	3.3	7.0	9.7	1,043	2,135
Central and South America	3.8	23.5	15.3	3.0	-24.7	-15.4	436	708
Middle Eastern countries	4.9	4.2	4.8	7.3	-11.8	7.1	-525	-2,017
Other Asian countries	9.3	0.0	3.1	14.1	-23.5	-11.6	-824	-4,665
<i>China</i>	2.7	-12.3	-9.6	7.3	-33.3	-20.2	-902	-4,111
<i>Japan</i>	1.3	12.4	15.7	1.1	-31.5	-20.2	112	291
<i>India</i>	1.0	-2.8	-6.7	1.2	-30.4	-14.5	-3	-219
Oceania and other territories	1.7	12.4	10.1	0.6	11.3	-5.9	449	1,006
OPEC	4.7	32.0	16.9	8.6	5.5	11.4	-1,690	-6,162
MERCOSUR	1.6	29.6	13.2	1.5	-16.7	-11.9	176	219
DAE	3.2	14.4	11.5	2.0	-28.9	-21.4	518	1,199
ASEAN	1.5	11.4	9.2	1.7	-6.4	-5.8	-11	-219
Total	100.0	4.9	5.5	100.0	-10.9	-4.6	2,064	-3,418

(a) Calculated on 2011 total foreign trade.

Table 4 - Index unit values and volume – March 2012

	INDEXES		PERCENTAGE CHANGES			
	Unit value indexes	Volume indexes	Unit value indexes		Volume indexes	
	Mar.2012	Mar.2012	<u>Mar.12</u> Mar.11	<u>Jan.Mar.12</u> Jan.Mar.11	<u>Mar.12</u> Mar.11	<u>Jan.Mar.12</u> Jan.Mar.11
TOTAL						
Exports	135.6	106.5	4.3	5.3	0.6	0.2
Imports	142.8	92.5	5.2	6.1	-15.3	-10.0
EU COUNTRIES						
Exports	132.5	98.5	2.9	3.6	-3.2	-1.3
Imports	121.7	98.8	1.1	1.4	-12.3	-8.0
NON-EU COUNTRIES						
Exports	140.5	118.6	6.4	7.7	5.6	2.1
Imports	169.9	88.0	9.6	11.0	-18.1	-11.9

For more detailed information please refer to the Italian versionDate of previous release: April 16th 2012Date of next release: June 15th 2012

Further information and detailed data related to external trade statistics are available on line at www.coeweb.istat.it

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