

## Foreign Trade

May 2012

Istat presents data on Italy's foreign trade as well as unit value and volume indices (base year 2005=100) referring to May 2012. The results of the flash estimates on extra-EU trade for May 2012 have been disseminated on June 21<sup>rd</sup>.

- Compared to the previous month, export in May increased by 1.4% reflecting a growth of 5.5% of sales to non-EU markets. Imports increased by 0.9%, with a growth of purchases by both EU markets (0.7%) and non-EU (1.2%). In the quarter (March 2012-May 2012), exports registered an economic growth of 1.2% due to an increase in sales to countries outside the EU (+4.9%). For purchases of goods there is a fall of 0.1% greater for EU markets (-1.3%).
- In May 2012, compared with the same month of the previous year, export increased by 4.8% and affects non-EU markets (14.1%). The decrease of imports (-4.5%) was due to reduced purchases by both EU countries (-7.6%) and non EU countries (-0.9%). In May, trade balance amounted to +1.008 million euros: +691 million for EU countries and +316 for non-EU countries. Net of energy products, the balance was 6.1 billion euros (Table 2).

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

	NON SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED				SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED		
	Millions of euro		Percentage changes		Millions of euro	Percentage changes	
	May 2012	Jan.- May 2012	May 12 May 11	Jan.-May 12 Jan.-May 11	May 2012	May 12 Apr.12	Mar.-May 12 Dec.11-Feb. 12
<b>TOTAL</b>							
Exports	35,108	160,761	4.8	3.9	32,792	1.4	1.2
Imports	34,100	163,369	-4.5	-5.5	32,702	0.9	-0.1
Trade balance	1,008	-2,608			90		
<b>EU COUNTRIES</b>							
Exports	18,581	89,079	-2.3	-0.1	17,267	-2.0	-1.8
Imports	17,890	84,951	-7.6	-7.6	17,058	0.7	-1.3
Trade balance	691	4,128			209		
<b>NON-EU COUNTRIES</b>							
Exports	16,527	71,683	14.1	9.3	15,525	5.5	4.9
Imports	16,210	78,418	-0.9	-3.1	15,644	1.2	1.3
Trade balance	316	-6,735			-119		

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

MIGS	EXPORTS			IMPORTS			TRADE BALANCE	
	Share (a)	Percentage changes		Share (a)	Percentage changes		Millions of euro	
		May 12 May 11	Jan.-May 12 Jan.-May 11		May 12 May 11	Jan.-May 12 Jan.-May 11	May 2012	Jan.-May 2012
Consumer goods	28.9	4.6	4.6	25.0	-1.6	-2.5	1,055	5,340
- consumer durables	5.9	0.3	0.7	3.0	-3.5	-8.4	999	4,508
- consumer non durables	23.0	5.8	5.7	22.0	-1.3	-1.7	56	832
Capital goods	32.2	6.0	2.8	20.8	-6.7	-12.4	4,673	18,747
Intermediate goods	34.3	1.8	2.4	34.5	-10.7	-12.5	361	1,380
Energy	4.7	22.4	18.3	19.7	6.7	11.8	-5,081	-28,075
Total (except energy)	95.3	4.0	3.2	80.3	-7.0	-9.5	6,089	25,467
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>-5.5</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>-2,608</b>

(a) Calculated on 2011 total foreign trade.

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

COUNTRIES	EXPORTS			IMPORTS			TRADE BALANCE	
	Share (a)	Percentage changes		Share (a)	Percentage changes		Millions of euro	
		May 12 May 11	Jan.-May 12 Jan.-May 11		May 12 May 11	Jan.-May 12 Jan.-May 11	May 2012	Jan.-May 2012
<b>EU countries</b>	<b>56.0</b>	<b>-2.3</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>53.3</b>	<b>-7.6</b>	<b>-7.6</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>4,128</b>
EMU17:	42.7	-3.7	-1.2	43.2	-8.5	-7.4	-549	-1,214
<i>Austria</i>	2.3	-1.9	-1.9	2.2	-8.5	-1.9	8	-121
<i>Belgium</i>	2.6	-2.6	1.7	3.6	-22.7	-7.6	-298	-1,817
<i>France</i>	11.6	-5.1	-0.6	8.3	-8.3	-5.5	944	4,764
<i>Germany</i>	13.1	-2.1	2.1	15.6	-9.1	-10.0	-750	-2,632
<i>Netherlands</i>	2.4	-9.2	0.5	5.2	-2.9	-6.5	-972	-4,517
<i>Spain</i>	5.3	-9.7	-9.4	4.5	-4.1	-8.7	71	905
Poland	2.5	-5.2	-3.3	1.9	-8.3	-7.1	218	815
United Kingdom	4.7	11.5	9.5	2.7	0.7	-13.0	731	3,586
Czech Republic	1.1	-1.9	3.2	1.2	-3.4	-4.4	-29	-290
Romania	1.6	-4.3	-0.8	1.3	-1.3	-5.6	141	472
<b>Non-EU countries</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>-3.1</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>-6,735</b>
European non-EU countries	13.3	8.6	11.6	11.1	-8.7	-5.5	1,094	3,562
<i>Russian Federation</i>	2.5	13.1	8.4	4.5	-5.1	3.5	-649	-3,978
<i>Switzerland</i>	5.5	7.2	18.6	2.8	-7.1	-4.9	995	4,734
<i>Turkey</i>	2.6	17.1	4.3	1.5	-22.9	-20.1	572	1,975
North Africa	2.9	31.8	15.9	4.5	116.3	27.4	-1,321	-6,582
Other African countries	1.4	19.0	15.6	2.4	-14.0	-0.5	-65	-1,562
North America	6.8	38.2	14.1	3.7	5.8	6.5	1,925	5,636
<i>United States</i>	6.1	40.3	15.1	3.3	2.8	4.9	1,858	5,273
Central and South America	3.8	0.1	7.1	3.0	-13.8	-12.4	321	1,216
Middle Eastern countries	4.9	9.2	4.2	7.3	-20.0	-2.2	-557	-3,534
Other Asian countries	9.3	4.8	2.5	14.1	-8.1	-14.0	-1,496	-7,261
<i>China</i>	2.7	-15.4	-11.8	7.3	-2.1	-18.5	-1,602	-6,789
<i>Japan</i>	1.3	21.2	19.8	1.1	0.6	-18.3	71	458
<i>India</i>	1.0	8.6	-4.1	1.2	-17.4	-16.9	14	-291
Oceania and other territories	1.7	19.8	11.6	0.6	-3.9	-3.9	415	1,788
OPEC	4.7	37.1	22.1	8.6	50.7	25.2	-1,736	-9,775
MERCOSUR	1.6	-0.7	4.2	1.5	-4.5	-11.1	40	325
DAE	3.2	15.7	9.1	2.0	-7.5	-22.2	426	2,062
ASEAN	1.5	16.9	8.0	1.7	-7.6	-6.4	-22	-217
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>-5.5</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>-2,608</b>

(a) Calculated on 2011 total foreign trade.

Table 4 - Index unit values and volume – May 2012

	INDEXES		PERCENTAGE CHANGES			
	Unit value indexes	Volume indexes	Unit value indexes		Volume indexes	
	May 2012	May 2012	<u>May 12</u> <u>May 11</u>	<u>Jan.-May 12</u> <u>Jan.-May 11</u>	<u>May 12</u> <u>May 11</u>	<u>Jan.-May 12</u> <u>Jan.-May 11</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>						
Exports	134.9	104.1	4.9	4.8	-0.1	-0.9
Imports	140.8	94.0	4.1	5.3	-8.3	-10.2
<b>EU COUNTRIES</b>						
Exports	131.7	92.2	2.7	3.1	-4.9	-3.1
Imports	121.2	96.3	0.3	1.1	-7.9	-8.6
<b>NON-EU COUNTRIES</b>						
Exports	140.0	121.8	7.8	7.0	5.8	2.1
Imports	165.6	93.6	8.1	9.7	-8.3	-11.7

**For more detailed information please refer to the Italian version**Date of previous release: June 15<sup>th</sup> 2012Date of next release: August 9<sup>th</sup> 2012

Further information and detailed data related to external trade statistics are available on line at [www.coeweb.istat.it](http://www.coeweb.istat.it)

*Contact persons:*

Foreign trade and enterprise international activity

ISTAT – Italian National Institute of Statistics

Via C. Balbo, 16 - 00184 Rome - Italy

**Laura Esposito**

phone +39 06 46732559

e-mail: [laesposi@istat.it](mailto:laesposi@istat.it)