

Foreign Trade

August 2012

Istat presents data on Italy's foreign trade as well as unit value and volume indices (base year 2005=100) referring to August 2012. The results of the flash estimates on extra-EU trade for August 2012 were disseminated on September 24th.

- Compared to the previous month, export in August increased by 3.9% reflecting sales growth for both European (+4,7%) and non-European (+2.9%) markets. The rise in imports (+4.4%) is due to the increase in purchases by European countries (+3.9%) and non-European countries (+4.9%). In the quarter (June-August 2012), exports growth (+1.5%) is mainly due to an increase in sales to EU (+1.6%). The decline in import (-0.3%) is the result of a fall of purchases of goods from non-EU (-1.3%) and an increase of purchases of goods from EU (+0.6%).
- In August 2012, compared with the same month of the previous year, export increased by 8.4% and affects non-EU markets (14.0%). The decrease of imports (-1.1%) was due to reduced purchases by EU countries (-3.0%). In August, trade balance amounted to -598 million euros: +374 million for EU countries and -972 for non-EU countries. Net of energy products, the balance was 5.2 billion euros (Table 2).

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

	NON SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED				SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED		
	Millions of euro		Percentage changes		Millions of euro	Percentage changes	
	Aug. 2012	Jan.-Aug. 2012	Aug. 12 Aug. 11	Jan.-Aug.12 Jan.-Aug. 11	Aug. 2012	Aug. 12 Jul. 12	Jun.-Aug.12 Mar.-May 12
TOTAL							
Exports	26,199	258,136	8.4	4.6	33,962	3.9	1.5
Imports	26,797	254,311	-1.1	-5.1	33,375	4.4	-0.3
Trade balance	-598	3,825			587		
EU COUNTRIES							
Exports	12,912	139,634	3.1	0.3	18,442	4.7	1.6
Imports	12,538	131,458	-3.0	-6.6	17,628	3.9	0.6
Trade balance	374	8,176			814		
NON-EU COUNTRIES							
Exports	13,287	118,502	14.0	10.3	15,520	2.9	1.3
Imports	14,259	122,853	0.7	-3.4	15,747	4.9	-1.3
Trade balance	-972	-4,351			-227		

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

MIGS	EXPORTS			IMPORTS			TRADE BALANCE	
	Share (a)	Percentage changes		Share (a)	Percentage changes		Millions of euro	
		Aug. 12 Aug. 11	Jan.-Aug.12 Jan.-Aug. 11		Aug. 12 Aug. 11	Jan.-Aug.12 Jan.-Aug. 11	Aug. 2012	Jan.-Aug. 2012
Consumer goods	28.9	9.2	5.9	25.0	-3.2	-2.6	745	10,426
- consumer durables	5.9	13.9	2.5	3.0	3.5	-6.2	589	7,432
- consumer non durables	23.0	8.3	6.8	22.0	-3.9	-2.1	156	2,994
Capital goods	32.2	6.8	3.1	20.8	-11.9	-11.5	3,808	32,763
Intermediate goods	34.3	8.4	3.3	34.5	-7.5	-11.3	610	3,920
Energy	4.7	12.0	17.0	19.7	17.6	9.7	-5,761	-43,284
Total (except energy)	95.3	8.1	4.0	80.3	-6.9	-8.7	5,163	47,109
Total	100.0	8.4	4.6	100.0	-1.1	-5.1	-598	3,825

(a) Calculated on 2011 total foreign trade.

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

COUNTRIES	EXPORTS			IMPORTS			TRADE BALANCE	
	Share (a)	Percentage changes		Share	Percentage changes		Millions of euro	
		Aug. 12 Aug. 11	Jan.-Aug.12 Jan.-Aug. 11		Aug. 12 Aug. 11	Jan.-Aug.12 Jan.-Aug. 11	Aug. 2012	Jan.-Aug. 2012
EU countries	56.0	3.1	0.3	53.3	-3.0	-6.6	374	8,176
EMU17:	42.7	0.1	-1.0	43.2	-3.5	-6.3	-674	-1,375
<i>Austria</i>	2.3	6.5	-0.4	2.2	-2.8	-0.8	-8	-85
<i>Belgium</i>	2.6	3.4	2.2	3.6	5.4	-7.8	-288	-2,538
<i>France</i>	11.6	3.7	0.4	8.3	-4.2	-4.5	637	7,926
<i>Germany</i>	13.1	-3.7	0.5	15.6	-12.4	-10.7	-449	-3,600
<i>Netherlands</i>	2.4	-5.1	2.9	5.2	4.6	-2.1	-832	-7,256
<i>Spain</i>	5.3	-1.7	-8.0	4.5	10.9	-5.7	-26	1,136
Poland	2.5	3.8	-1.8	1.9	7.8	-7.1	140	1,466
United Kingdom	4.7	11.9	10.5	2.7	-2.9	-12.8	683	6,300
Czech Republic	1.1	6.0	2.7	1.2	-11.2	-6.9	14	-223
Romania	1.6	-6.7	-2.2	1.3	-12.0	-7.6	29	725
Non-EU countries	44.0	14.0	10.3	46.7	0.7	-3.4	-972	-4,351
European non-EU countries	13.3	16.0	11.5	11.1	16.0	-4.6	534	7,128
<i>Russian Federation</i>	2.5	12.0	7.3	4.5	36.8	4.0	-968	-5,638
<i>Switzerland</i>	5.5	9.6	16.5	2.8	2.5	-2.6	799	7,550
<i>Turkey</i>	2.6	51.0	12.2	1.5	-3.3	-17.8	530	3,714
North Africa	2.9	48.3	23.0	4.5	115.7	45.7	-1,145	-9,581
Other African countries	1.4	-3.6	12.9	2.4	-27.0	-5.8	-280	-2,266
North America	6.8	16.8	17.5	3.7	4.4	4.6	1,003	9,712
<i>United States</i>	6.1	18.0	18.7	3.3	6.6	3.7	902	8,973
Central and South America	3.8	14.2	6.3	3.0	-28.6	-16.1	560	2,889
Middle Eastern countries	4.9	-1.4	2.5	7.3	-23.0	-12.4	-667	-4,630
Other Asian countries	9.3	9.2	3.6	14.1	-9.1	-12.5	-1,414	-10,820
<i>China</i>	2.7	-2.5	-11.4	7.3	-21.9	-16.2	-1,345	-11,378
<i>Japan</i>	1.3	18.6	22.2	1.1	-29.5	-19.8	234	1,311
<i>India</i>	1.0	-5.0	-10.1	1.2	-12.2	-21.5	-26	-299
Oceania and other territories	1.7	24.1	15.1	0.6	-16.9	-11.3	437	3,217
OPEC	4.7	29.6	24.2	8.6	13.6	23.6	-1,478	-14,150
MERCOSUR	1.6	2.6	3.3	1.5	-33.2	-18.8	145	720
DAE	3.2	25.7	11.4	2.0	-5.7	-20.1	620	4,004
ASEAN	1.5	37.2	15.1	1.7	8.0	-5.9	-93	-193
Total	100.0	8.4	4.6	100.0	-1.1	-5.1	-598	3,825

(a) Calculated on 2011 total foreign trade.

Table 4 - Index unit values and volume – August 2012

	INDEXES		PERCENTAGE CHANGES			
	Unit value indexes	Volume indexes	Unit value indexes		Volume indexes	
	Aug. 2012	Aug. 2012	<u>Aug. 12</u> <u>Aug. 11</u>	<u>Jan.-Aug.12</u> <u>Jan.-Aug. 11</u>	<u>Aug. 12</u> <u>Aug. 11</u>	<u>Jan.-Aug.12</u> <u>Jan.-Aug. 11</u>
TOTAL						
Exports	137.0	76.5	5.3	4.6	2.8	0.0
Imports	144.7	71.9	5.5	4.8	-6.1	-9.5
EU COUNTRIES						
Exports	132.8	63.5	2.9	3.0	0.2	-2.7
Imports	123.2	66.4	1.8	1.1	-4.7	-7.6
NON-EU COUNTRIES						
Exports	143.1	95.8	7.8	6.6	5.9	3.4
Imports	171.4	79.6	9.6	8.8	-8.1	-11.2

For more detailed information please refer to the Italian version

Date of previous release: September 17 2012

Date of next release: November 16 2012

Further information and detailed data related to external trade statistics are available on line at 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