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Istat

March 2019

FOREIGN TRADE WITH NON-EU COUNTRIES

■ Istat presents preliminary data on Italy's foreign trade with non-EU countries in March 2019. The results of the survey on total foreign trade in March 2019 will be disseminated on coming 16 May 2019.

■ In March 2019 exports to non-EU countries decreased by 2.7% and imports decreased by 0.5% compared with the same month of the previous year.

■ The trade balance showed a surplus of 3,415 million euro compared with a 3,833 million euro surplus in the same month of 2018.

■ In March 2019, in seasonally-adjusted terms, exports decreased by 0.4% and imports increased by 0.4% compared with February 2019. Over the last three months, seasonally-adjusted data showed a 0.3% increased in outgoing flows and a 4.7% decreased in incoming flows in comparison with the previous three months.

■ In the period January-March 2019 exports to non-EU countries increased by 2.5% and imports increased by 3.5% compared with the same period of 2018.

■ The trade balance registered a surplus of 4,985 million euro compared to the surplus of 5,281 million euro in the same period of 2018. Excluding energy, the trade balance presented a surplus of 14,421 million euro (Table 2) compared with a 14,608 million euro surplus in January-March 2018.

CHART 1. TRADE FLOWS WITH NON –EU COUNTRIES AND TRADE BALANCES
January 2014 - March 2019, monthly import and export, 3 months moving average (left scale) and trade balances in billions of euros (right scale), seasonally adjusted data
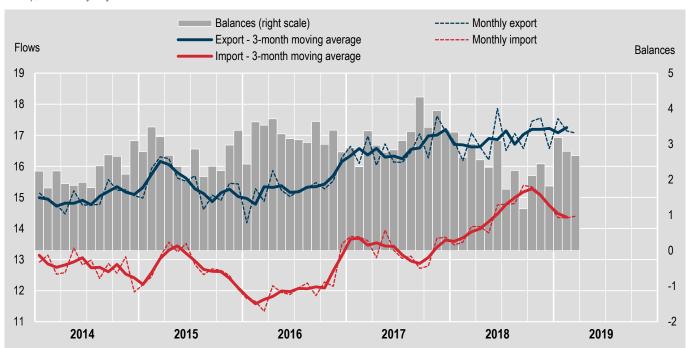
CHART 2. TRADE FLOWS WITH NON –EU COUNTRIES, MONTH ON SAME MONTH A YEAR AGO PERCENTAGE CHANGES

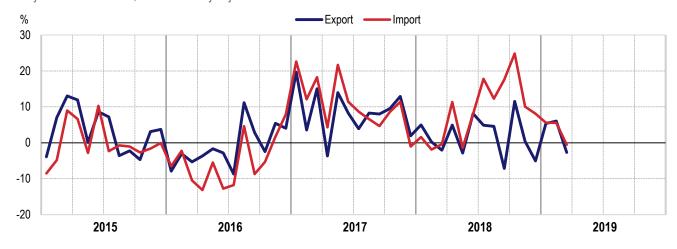January 2015 - March 2019, non- seasonaly adjusted data

TABLE 1. EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND TRADE BALANCE WITH NON-EU COUNTRIES

March 2019, months on same months a year ago and months on previous months percentage changes, trade balance in millions of euros

	SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			NON SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED			
	Millions of euros	Months on previous months		Millions of euros		Months on same months a year ago	
	Mar.2019	Mar.19 / Feb. 19	Jan-Mar.19 / Oct.-Dec.18	Mar.2019	Jan.-Mar.19	Mar.19 / Mar.18	Jan-Mar.19 / Jan.-Mar.18
Exports	+17,072	-0.4	+0.3	+17,795	+48,513	-2.7	+2.5
Imports	+14,395	+0.4	-4.7	+14,380	+43,528	-0.5	+3.5
Trade balance	+2,677			+3,415	+4,985		

TABLE 2. EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND TRADE BALANCE WITH NON-EU COUNTRIES BY MAIN INDUSTRIAL GROUPINGS

March 2019, shares, months on same months a year ago percentage changes, trade balance in millions of euros

MIGS	EXPORTS			IMPORTS			TRADE BALANCES	
	Share	Months on same months a year ago		Share	Months on same months a year ago		Millions of euros	
	(a)	Mar.19 / Mar.18	Jan.-Mar.19 / Jan.-Mar.18	(a)	Mar.19 / Mar.18	Jan.-Mar.19 / Jan.-Mar.18	Mar.2019	Jan.-Mar.19
Consumer goods	14.2	+6.4	+11.0	10.3	+8.5	+5.9	+2,338	+5,764
- consumer durables	2.8	-3.0	+2.9	1.5	+13.0	+8.3	+630	+1,506
- consumer non durables	11.4	+8.9	+12.9	8.8	+7.8	+5.5	+1,709	+4,258
Capital goods	16.2	-11.5	-2.2	7.1	-0.2	+5.2	+3,779	+9,325
Intermediate goods	11.4	+1.3	+2.8	11.9	+0.3	+6.8	+383	-668
Energy	1.9	-16.4	-25.5	11.7	-9.6	-3.6	-3,085	-9,436
Total (except energy)	41.8	-2.2	+3.7	29.3	+3.0	+6.1	+6,500	+14,421
Total	**43.7**	**-2.7**	**+2.5**	**41.0**	**-0.5**	**+3.5**	**+3,415**	**+4,985**

(a) Calculated on 2018 total foreign trade.

TABLE 3. EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND TRADE BALANCES WITH NON-EU COUNTRIES BY MAIN TRADE PARTNER

March 2019, shares, months on same months a year ago percentage changes for imports and exports and trade balance in millions of euros

COUNTRIES	EXPORTS			IMPORTS			TRADE BALANCE	
	Share	Months on same months a year ago		Share	Months on same months a year ago		Millions of euros	
	(a)	Mar.19 Mar.18	Jan.-Mar.19 Jan.-Mar.18	(a)	Mar.19 Mar.18	Jan.-Mar.19 Jan.-Mar.18	Mar.2019	Jan.-Mar.19
European non-EU countries	10.5	+3.7	+2.7	9.9	-5.7	+3.8	+843	+1,150
Russian Fed.	1.6	-4.8	-1.6	3.3	-12.0	+5.8	-491	-1,903
Switzerland	4.8	+17.3	+15.6	2.6	+14.2	+7.6	+1,113	+3,281
Turkey	1.9	-14.9	-22.8	2.1	-9.8	+4.0	-18	-582
North Africa	2.7	-0.4	-2.9	3.7	-20.4	-6.4	-93	-1,048
Other African countries	1.2	+5.1	+0.4	1.5	+14.8	+11.1	-164	-503
North America	10.1	-9.6	+6.7	4.1	+4.6	+13.5	+2,449	+7,055
United States	9.2	-11.0	+6.7	3.8	+11.5	+15.6	+2,199	+6,440
Central and South America	3.1	-14.3	-5.7	2.2	+2.6	+8.4	+401	+764
Middle Eastern countries	3.9	-4.3	-6.3	5.2	+6.2	-12.5	+45	-141
Other Asian countries	10.2	+0.9	+5.1	14.0	+3.6	+6.9	-690	-4,053
China	2.8	-2.9	+0.6	7.3	-1.4	+4.5	-1,196	-4,921
Japan	1.4	+6.1	+8.9	0.9	+10.0	+16.8	+236	+553
India	0.9	+0.3	+7.6	1.3	-8.5	-8.6	-117	-352
Oceania and other territories	2.0	-1.2	+4.4	0.5	-7.7	+4.8	+624	+1,761
OPEC	3.8	-4.0	-9.7	6.5	-12.5	-15.8	-446	-2,024
MERCOSUR	1.2	-18.4	-11.1	1.1	-4.2	+7.0	+72	-14
ASEAN	1.7	-2.5	+1.0	2.0	+39.3	+28.0	-115	-476
Total	**43.7**	**-2.7**	**+2.5**	**41.0**	**-0.5**	**+3.5**	**+3,415**	**+4,985**

(a) Calculated on 2018 total foreign trade.

Data Sources and legal framework

The survey on international trade of goods with non-EU countries is carried out according to the following EU legislation. Regulation (EU) n.1724/2016 and Regulation n. 2119/2016, amending Regulation (EC) of the European Parliament and of the Council n. 471/2009; Regulation (EU) n. 1253/2016, amending Commission Regulation (EU) n. 92/2010; Regulation (EU) n. 2119/2016 amending Regulation no. 113/2010.

The extrastat monthly survey is carried out processing fiscal-administrative data (Single Administrative Document - SAD) according to statistical definitions and classifications.

Since 2000, in accordance with the EU legislation, exports and imports below the exclusion thresholds (commercial transactions values less than 1,000 Euros, starting since 2010) are monthly included as aggregate data.

Since September 2011, a new approach for the compilation of external trade statistics on natural gas in gaseous state and electricity has been implemented. Data on physical quantities are monthly collected from reliable sources, while for the other variables required by EU regulations (total trade in values and breakdown of volumes and values by partner countries) new estimation procedures have been developed.

Data population and classifications system

In compliance with the EU Regulations,the main classifications used in foreign trade statistics are based on the elementary information concerning the type of goods, the statistical partner country and the province of origin or destination of the goods.

Trade of goods with non-EU countries is classified by country of origin for imports and country of destination for exports.

 Geographical and the geo-economic areas are defined according to the Nomenclature of countries and territories for the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States, known as Geonomenclature.

The Combined Nomenclature (CN) is the primary nomenclature for traded goods used by the EU Member States, defined by the European Union and annually updated.

Since January 2009, products aggregations are defined according to the classification of the economic activities Ateco 2007, adapted to foreign trade (CPA). Ateco 2007 is the national version of the European nomenclature NACE rev.2 published in the Official Journal on 2 December 2006 (Regulation (EC) No. 1893/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20/12/2006). Ateco 2007 corresponds to Nace rev.2 up to the fourth digit. Data are released according to a timely intermediate breakdown of the sections.

In 2003, Istat adopted the classification for economic destination "Main Industrial Groupings (MIGS)", defined by Commission Regulation n.586/2001 (Official Journal of the European Communities of 27/03/2001), amended by Regulation (EC) no. 656/2007 of 14/06/2007 following the entry into force of Nace Rev. 2.

The Main Industrial Groupings (MIGS) are:

1. Consumer durables;
2. Consumer non-durables;
3. Capital goods;
4. Intermediate goods;
5. Energy.

As for Ateco 2007, the MIGS classification has been adapted to the statistics on foreign trade.

Data processing

Both raw and seasonally adjusted trade values are published. TRAMO-SEATS procedure for Linux (February 2010 version) provides seasonally adjusted data.

Since 2012, some substantial process and product innovations have been introduced in the seasonal adjustment procedures, aimed to improving the accuracy of the estimates and providing users with a wider detail of the statistical indicators at main industrial groupings level for the short-term analysis of foreign trade.

Seasonally adjusted data are monthly revised. The models are annually reviewed in November, with the final revision of raw data. The TRAMO-SEATS procedure's specifications used by Istat are available to users under request.

Output

Data monthly released include monetary values, year-on-year and month-on-month variations of international trade in goods. Collected or estimated monetary statistical values (Cif, Fob) in current prices are reported.

Provisional data are released at approximately 25 days after the end of the reference month.

Confidentiality

Since 2000, Istat has defined new procedures for processing and dissemination of confidential data related to foreign trade in goods statistics, according to the current national regulatory framework (Law No. 675/96, Legislative Decrees N. 322/89, 281/99 and 196/03).

In particular, the new procedures bring to a significant reduction of the risk of identification, indirect and accidental, of confidential data and, at the same time, limiting the loss of information available for external users.

In addition to the protection of confidential information according to the principle of passive confidentiality, Istat provides a specific dissemination plan for international trade of goods at national and territorial level, designed in such a way to reduce the risk of indirect identification of confidential trade. Further information on the protection of privacy is available at the following link https://www.coeweb.istat.it/.