

# STATISTICS IN FOCUS

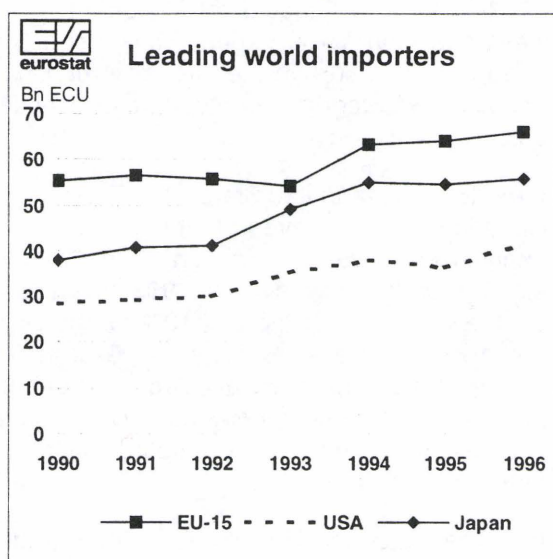
## External trade

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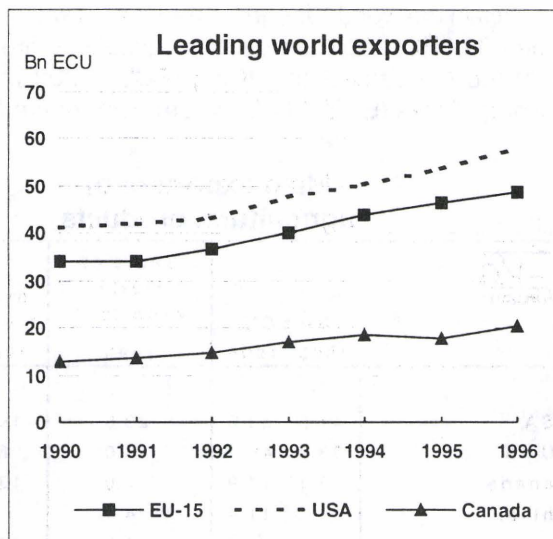
### European Union\* trade in agricultural products



#### I: Summary

I. For several years the European Union has been the world's leading importer of agricultural products and second in the world behind the United States for exports of such products. In 1996 EU imports of agricultural products totalled ECU 66 200 million and exports came to ECU 48 900 million, producing a deficit of ECU 17 200 million (second only to Japan, with a deficit of ECU 52 700 million). The Union's trade deficit in agricultural products continued to fall in 1996, when it was down by ECU 600 million compared with 1995. The reason for this was the fairly steady rise in exports (+5.4%) in conjunction with slacker imports (+3% in 1996).

II. The first half of 1997 saw agricultural exports moving even farther ahead, up by 10.6% compared with the same period in 1996 and earning ECU 25 900 million. Imports of agricultural products totalled ECU 34 600 million, barely 2.1% up on the figure for the first half of 1996. The trade deficit in the first six months of 1997 fell substantially by ECU 1 800 million, to end at ECU 8 700 million. The EU deficit with the United States, the Union's main trading partner for agricultural products, was down by ECU 700 million at ECU 1 600 million. The surplus in agricultural trade with Japan was stable at ECU 2 100 million and thus remained the highest, followed by Russia where the EU surplus amounted to ECU 1 700 million (up by ECU 400 million).



III. Trade in agricultural products represented a greater proportion of total intra-Community trade than with non-member countries, accounting for 12.3% of intra-EU trade compared with 9.6% of extra-EU trade. Trade in agricultural products between Member States of the Union alone amounted to ECU 62 800 million in the first six months of 1997.

Source: EUROSTAT for the EU-15 and Member States (imports CIF, exports FOB) and Comtrade for other declarants.

\*The data in this publication refer to trade by the European Union of fifteen Member States including the years prior to the enlargement. However, the three new Member States (Austria, Finland and Sweden) did not use the Community methodology when producing the pre 1995 data.

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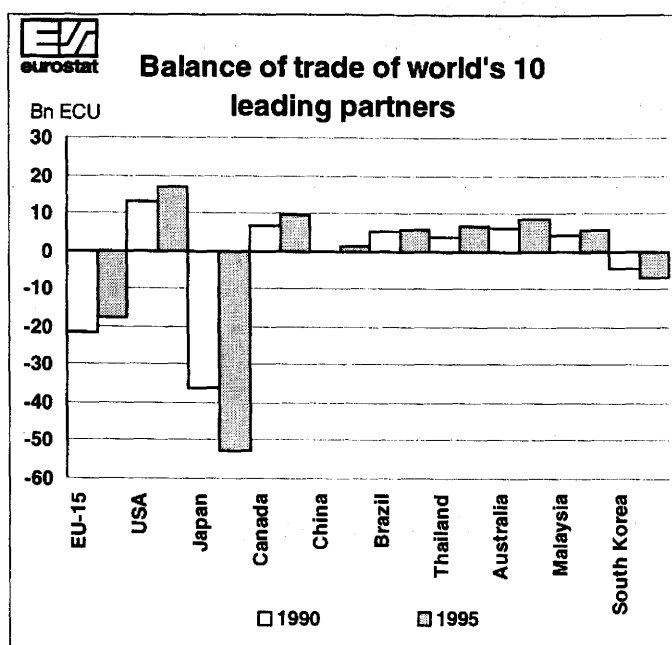
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## II: European Union and world trade in agricultural products



I. The European Union recorded a figure of ECU 110 600 million for extra-EU trade in agricultural products in 1995, placing it ahead of the United States (ECU 90 100 million), Japan (ECU 56 500 million), Canada (ECU 26 400 million) and China (ECU 21 600 million) for international trade in such products.

II. With regard to imports, the European Union was the world's leading importer of agricultural products in 1995, with EU imports valued at ECU 64 200 million accounting for over a fifth of the world's total agricultural imports (23.2%). Japan was in second place with imports valued at ECU 54 600 million, followed by the United States (ECU 36 600 million) and China (ECU 10 200 million). While agricultural products accounted for less than 12% of total EU and Chinese imports, and even less in the case of the United States (6.2%), the figure for Japan was over 21%. It is the scale of its imports (ECU 54 600 million) that places Japan third in the world for trade in ag-

ricultural products, since its exports of such products are very low (ECU 1 900 million).

Between 1990 and 1995 the average annual increase in the European Union's imports of agricultural products was only 3.2%, a fairly modest rate in comparison with the more vigorous growth posted by the United States and Japan, which in the last five years recorded average annual rates of 5.4% and 7.8% respectively.

III. As for exports, the European Union ranked second in the world in 1995 with exports totalling ECU 46 400 million. It was behind the United States (ECU 53 600 million) but ahead of Canada (ECU 17 900 million) and China (ECU 11 400 million). US exports in 1995 thus accounted for more than 20% of total world exports of agricultural products, with the EU not far behind at 18%. As a percentage of total exports, agricultural products accounted for a fairly modest proportion of the top four trading powers' exports in 1995, ranging from 8.1% for the EU to 12.8% in the case of the United States. The figure was close to 30% of all exports from Australia and Brazil, and more than 50% in the case of Argentina and New Zealand, two other major exporters of agricultural products.

Exports from the United States, the European Union and Canada grew at an average annual rate of 5-7% in the period 1990-1995. The reason for this was the healthy export recovery, especially in 1993, when the rate of increase was 9.4% for the EU, 10% for the United States and 16.7% for Canada. However, exports from China, Brazil, Thailand, Malaysia and Argentina performed even better over the same period, with an average annual rise of between 8% and 12%. The figure for China was 9.3% between 1993 and 1995.

IV. The European Union's agricultural trade deficit of ECU 17 800 million in 1995 gave it the second highest deficit in the world. Japan topped the list with a whopping deficit of ECU 52 700 million in agricultural products. After the EU came Hong Kong (ECU 9 200 million) and South Korea (ECU 7 000 million). Unlike the EU deficit,

### Main importers of agricultural products

	Bn ECU		Share of world imports **	% of declarants' total imports	
	1990	1995		1990	1995
EU-15	55.4	64.2	23.2	12.6	11.8
Japan	37.8	54.6	19.7	20.5	21.2
USA	28.4	36.6	13.2	7.0	6.2
China	:	10.2	3.7	:	10.1
Hong Kong	:	9.9	3.6	:	6.6
South Korea	6.4	9.5	3.4	11.6	9.2
Canada	6.6	8.5	3.1	7.3	6.7
Brazil	2.0	5.2	1.9	11.2	12.6
Singapore	3.6	5.1	1.8	7.6	5.3
Switzerland	4.3	4.8	1.7	7.9	7.8

### Main exporters of agricultural products

	Bn ECU		Share of world exports **	% of declarants' total exports	
	1990	1995		1990	1995
USA	41.2	53.6	20.8	14.0	12.8
EU-15	33.9	46.4	18.0	8.7	8.1
Canada	13.1	17.9	7.0	13.1	12.2
China	:	11.4	4.4	:	10.0
Australia	8.3	11.2	4.3	27.4	28.9
Brazil	7.2	10.7	4.2	29.1	30.2
Thailand	6.1	10.4	4.0	33.5	24.2
Malaysia	5.9	8.8	3.4	25.3	15.6
Argentina	:	8.6	3.3	:	53.4
New Zealand	4.5	6.1	2.4	62.8	59.9

Source: Eurostat (EU-15) and Comtrade (UN). (: ) Data unavailable.

\*\*The world total was calculated by adding the total of non-EU member countries available for 1995 in the UN database Comtrade to the extra EU-15 total.

which went down by ECU 3 700 million over five years, the deficit in Japan shot up by ECU 16 000 million between 1990 and 1995. The biggest trade surpluses in agricultural products were recorded by the United States and Canada, with figures of ECU 17 000 million and ECU 9 500 million respectively - up by more than ECU 3 000 million compared with 1990. They were followed by Australia (ECU 8 500 million) and Argentina (ECU 7 500 million).

### III: Leading world importers of agricultural products

I. The European Union imported only 13.6% of its agricultural products from the United States, but the latter country was the main source for Asia's leading importers. US products accounted for nearly 40% of South Korea's agricultural imports, and the figure was 31.1% for Japan and 26.3% in the case of China. In contrast with the United States and the countries of Asia, the European Union's agricultural imports came from many different parts of the world. The EU's neighbours in Europe provided at least 15% of its agricultural imports when the totals for the EFTA countries, Russia and the CEEC countries<sup>1</sup> are combined. The figure for the ACP countries was 13.6%. Imports from Mercosur<sup>2</sup> also took a significant share (12.7%) of total EU agricultural imports in 1995. By way of comparison, products from the Mercosur countries accounted for only 4.6% of US agricultural imports, even though these South American countries are closer to the United States.

II. As an exporter of agricultural products, the European Union is the United States' second most important trading partner, providing 15.8% of US imports. However, this is way behind the Canadian figure (27.4%). EU exports also accounted for a remarkable 16% of Hong Kong's agricultural imports in 1995, compared with a figure of less than 10% in the case of other leading importers in Asia, which rely much more on products from the United States and southeast Asia<sup>3</sup>.

III. Food and live animals (SITC 00-09) represented the bulk - more than 60% - of agricultural imports for both the European Union and the United States. The EU was the world's leading importer of vegetables and fruit (SITC 05) in 1995, with imports totalling ECU 12 100 million, ahead of the United States (ECU 5 800 million), Japan (ECU 4 900 million) and Hong Kong (ECU 1 200 million). It was also the leading importer of coffee, tea, cocoa and spices (SITC 07), with imports in 1995 valued at ECU 8 000 million, of which more than 40% came from the ACP countries. Fish (SITC 03) was one of the top two agricultural products imported by Japan (ECU 13 300 million) and the United States (ECU 5 400 million). In the case of China, the top import was cereals (SITC 04), valued at ECU 2 800 million. As for non-food agricultural products, cork and wood (SITC 24) were a major import for Japan (ECU 9 400 million), as were oils and fats (SITC 4) for China (ECU 2 000 million).



Structure of world imports in 1995 (% of total)

SITC rev.3	Total Bn ECU	EU-15	USA	Canada	Japan	EFTA (1)	Russia	CEEC (1)	ACP (1)	China	ASE7 (1)	Mercosur (1)	Rest of world
<b>EU-15</b>	<b>64.2</b>	-	13.6	2.9	0.2	6.3	2.2	7.2	13.6	2.2	8.2	12.7	30.9
05 Vegetables and fruit	12.1	-	10.2	2.0	0.0	0.5	0.4	7.4	7.0	2.6	4.5	8.6	56.7
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices	8.0	-	0.4	0.0	0.1	2.3	0.0	0.6	40.3	0.9	5.4	12.7	37.5
<b>Japan</b>	<b>54.6</b>	7.9	31.1	7.2	-	1.1	3.0	0.2	2.0	8.1	13.3	2.0	24.0
03 Fish	13.3	3.0	13.6	4.7	-	3.7	7.6	0.1	2.5	11.6	20.2	1.1	31.9
24 Cork and Wood	9.4	3.3	31.9	19.4	-	0.1	6.3	0.0	4.4	3.3	16.0	0.5	14.7
<b>USA</b>	<b>36.6</b>	15.8	-	27.4	0.9	1.1	0.4	0.5	2.8	1.8	11.7	4.6	33.0
05 Vegetables and fruit	5.8	9.9	-	6.4	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.7	1.6	2.4	6.7	5.6	65.7
03 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices	5.4	2.5	-	16.0	1.9	4.6	2.1	0.0	2.2	4.7	23.8	3.0	39.2
<b>China</b>	<b>10.2</b>	9.7	26.3	8.6	2.0	0.1	1.9	0.0	2.3	-	19.3	7.7	22.1
04 Cereals	2.8	14.4	41.1	26.5	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	-	9.2	1.9	6.6
4 Oils and Fats	2.0	13.5	17.8	3.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	34.6	24.1	6.7

Source: Eurostat (EU-15) and Comtrade (UN)

(1) The aggregates EFTA, CEED (Central and Eastern European countries), ACP (some of the African Caribbean and Pacific Countries) ASE7 (seven industrial countries of east and southeast Asia) and Mercosur are described at the end of this publication. The areas represented in the aggregates in this table do not overlap.

#### IV: Leading world exporters of agricultural products

I. Although the United States (11.2%) is an important market for the European Union's agricultural exports, the bulk of its export trade goes to the rest of Europe, where the CEEC countries (11.3%), EFTA (9.8%) and Russia (7.8%) together account for about 30% of the EU's extra-Community exports. Ranked third on the world list of exporters of agricultural products, Canada sent more than half of its exports (56.2%) to the United States in 1995, while Japan took 17.6% of its exports.

II. The European Union ranks second among buyers of US agricultural products and took 16.2% of the United States' agricultural exports in 1995, while Japan took 25.1%. As a customer of China, however, the European Union accounted in 1995 for only about 10% of Chinese agricultural exports, more than 60% of which went to Japan and the countries of southeast Asia.

III. Cereals (SITC 04) are one of the main export products of the United States, the European Union and Canada. The United States led the way in 1995, when its export figure (ECU 12 300 million) was more than twice the EU figure (ECU 4 800 million) and nearly four times as much as the figure for Canada (ECU 3 100 million). As for other major products, the United States and the European Union also occupied the top two places for exports of vegetables and fruit (SITC 05), totalling ECU 5 400 million and 4 000 million respectively. They were also leading exporters of meat (SITC 01): ECU 4 900 million in the case of the United States and ECU 4 000 million for the European Union. In addition, the EU was the world's

leading exporter of beverages (SITC 11) and dairy products and birds' eggs (SITC 02), with exports in 1995 of ECU 8 200 million and 4 600 million respectively.

IV. Further down the list of exporters, Canada earned ECU 6 500 million from its exports of cork and wood, which accounted for more than a third of its total agricultural exports and the bulk of which (67.1%) went to the United States. In the case of China, vegetables and fruit (ECU 2 600 million) and fish (ECU 2 200 million) accounted for a third of the country's exports, with Japan taking 40.1% and 59.1% respectively in 1995.

#### V: Position of agricultural products in EU trade

I. The European Union's external trade in agricultural products grew at an average annual rate of 4.4% in the six years from 1990. Their share of total trade has declined in comparison with other products by 1.2 points in recent years. In 1996 it was only 9.6% and in the first six months of 1997 it fell to 9.2%. Agricultural products have in fact declined as a percentage of total EU imports, falling from 12.6% in 1990 to 11.4% in 1996. The percentage share of total agricultural exports is lower at about 8%, but this figure has remained stable.

II. Trade in agricultural products has been more vigorous within the European Union than with non-member countries. The average annual rate of increase since 1990 has been 5.1%, in spite of the sluggish performance (ECU 127 400 million) recorded in 1996 (+2%). Between 1990 and 1996 agricultural products continued to play a major part in intra-EU trade, accounting for more than



Structure of world exports in 1995 (% of total)

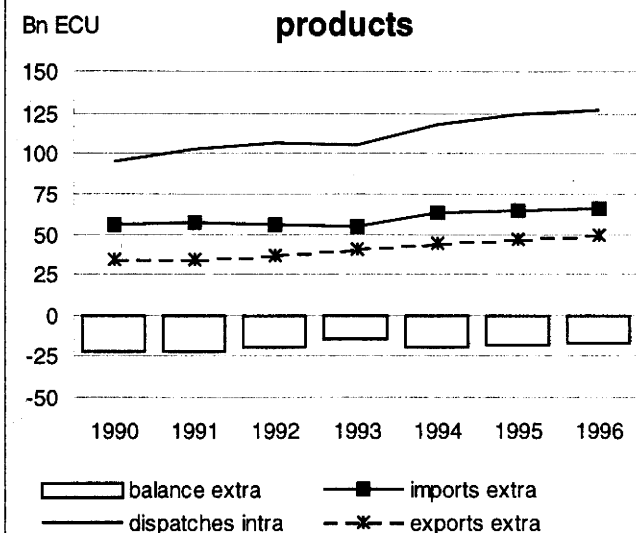
SITC rev.3	Total Bn ECU	EU-15	USA	Canada	Japan	EFTA (1)	Russia	CEEC (1)	ACP (1)	China	ASE7 (1)	Mercosur (1)	Rest of world
<b>USA</b>	<b>53.6</b>	16.2	-	10.1	25.1	0.5	1.6	0.6	2.8	3.9	7.1	1.0	31.0
04 Cereals	12.3	5.9	-	4.0	17.5	0.3	0.5	0.6	5.3	7.1	5.7	0.7	52.5
05 Fruit and vegetables	5.4	21.3	-	27.2	22.4	1.1	0.4	0.3	2.0	0.1	8.9	1.4	15.1
<b>EU-15</b>	<b>46.4</b>	-	11.2	1.8	7.4	9.8	7.8	11.3	5.1	1.6	7.2	2.6	34.4
11 Beverages	8.2	-	27.2	3.7	9.9	8.0	7.2	4.5	2.6	0.1	11.5	3.4	22.0
04 Cereals	4.8	-	6.3	1.3	3.8	6.3	4.0	5.6	11.2	7.2	4.4	3.7	46.3
<b>Canada</b>	<b>17.9</b>	8.6	56.2	-	17.6	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.5	4.2	2.0	0.8	9.5
24 Cork and wood	6.5	5.8	67.1	-	23.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0	3.0
04 Cereals	3.1	6.5	25.8	-	9.3	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.9	20.5	3.5	3.3	29.7
<b>China</b>	<b>11.4</b>	10.3	4.7	0.6	32.7	0.5	3.4	0.3	0.5	-	31.8	0.2	15.1
05 Fruit and vegetables	2.6	11.5	4.6	1.3	40.1	1.3	2.3	0.4	0.5	-	24.1	0.7	13.3
03 Fish	2.2	4.8	9.6	0.6	59.2	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	-	16.5	0.0	8.5

Source: Eurostat Comext (extra EU-15) and Comtrade (UN)

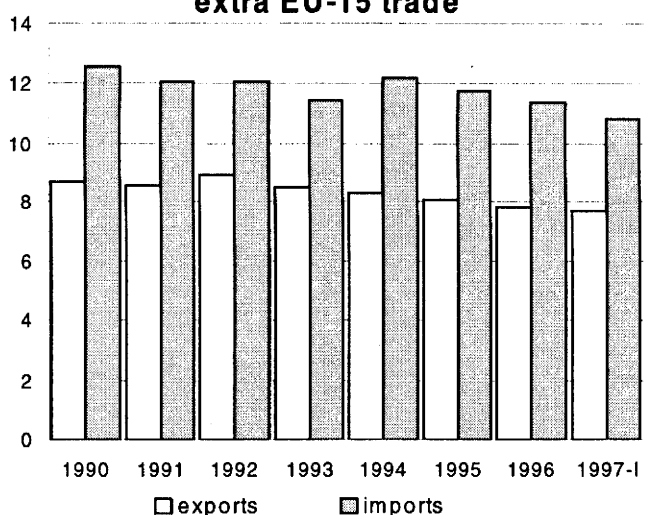
(1) The aggregates EFTA, CEEC (Central and Eastern European countries) ACP (some of the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries) ASE7 (seven industrial countries of east and southeast Asia) and MERCOSUR are described at the end of this publication. The areas represented in the aggregates in this table do not overlap.



## EU-15 trade in agricultural products



## Share of agricultural products in extra EU-15 trade



12% of all such trade. The percentage fell slightly in the first six months of 1997, however, with a figure of 11.6% compared with 12.3% in the first half of 1996.

III. Germany, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom are the main Member States involved in trade in agricultural products, and together they accounted for about 58% of both intra- and extra-EU trade in such products in 1996. Agricultural trade is particularly important

for Greece, Denmark and the Netherlands, for whom it accounted for between 17% and 25% of intra- and extra-EU trade in 1996. For Portugal and Spain, agricultural products are particularly important in trade with non-member countries and account for more than 17% of their extra-EU trade. In contrast, agricultural products' share of intra- and extra-EU trade was below the Community average for the new Member States and for Germany and the United Kingdom.

## Share of agricultural products in Member States' external trade\*

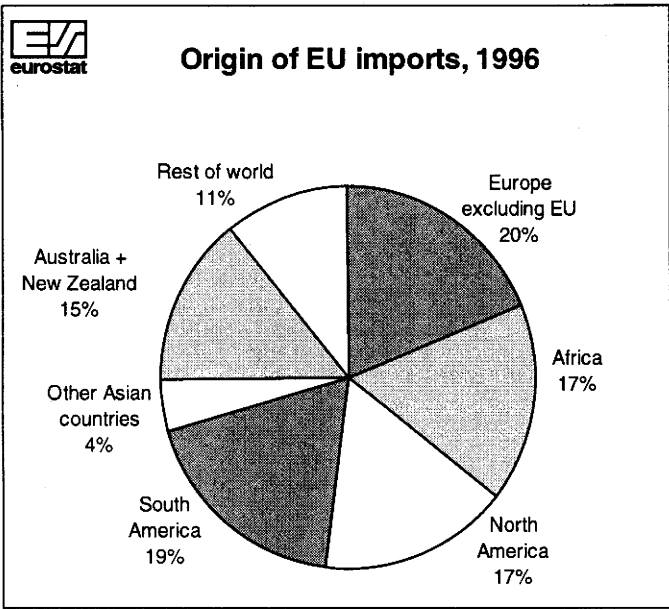
	1990				1996				1997-1st semester			
	Extra EU-15		Intra EU-15		Extra EU-15		Intra EU-15		Extra EU-15		Intra EU-15	
	Bn ECU	%	Bn ECU	%	Bn ECU	%	Bn ECU	%	Bn ECU	%	Bn ECU	%
B/L	4.0	8.9	16.9	11.6	6.9	10.1	25.3	12.7	3.8	9.8	12.5	12.1
DK	4.0	24.1	7.9	21.3	5.9	24.4	10.2	19.9	3.1	24.7	5.7	20.6
D	15.0	7.0	34.2	9.3	19.7	6.1	41.9	9.6	10.4	6.1	20.8	8.9
EL	1.4	19.2	3.4	23.1	2.1	17.3	4.4	24.5	:	:	:	:
E <sup>(1)</sup>	7.0	17.7	9.0	12.4	9.5	17.2	16.1	14.0	4.9	16.8	9.4	14.9
F <sup>(1)</sup>	14.6	12.0	34.7	14.2	16.8	10.2	43.1	14.1	8.7	9.7	22.1	13.6
IRL	1.4	17.4	4.9	18.6	2.0	10.0	6.8	15.2	1.0	8.3	:	:
I	10.1	9.8	21.8	12.7	12.6	8.2	25.9	12.4	6.8	8.4	12.7	11.6
NL	11.2	18.9	29.5	19.3	15.5	17.4	36.0	18.9	6.8	15.5	14.2	17.3
A	2.0	9.1	3.0	6.0	2.0	6.6	5.3	7.6	1.0	6.4	2.9	8.1
P	1.9	24.7	2.1	8.6	2.3	22.3	3.5	10.0	1.2	21.5	1.7	9.3
FIN	1.4	8.2	1.7	6.5	2.0	8.6	2.6	7.8	1.1	8.8	1.5	8.4
S	2.4	7.3	3.5	6.4	2.8	6.2	5.3	7.2	1.7	7.1	2.9	7.5
UK	13.0	9.5	19.4	10.8	15.0	7.9	24.2	10.1	8.9	7.9	12.2	9.7
<b>EU-15 <sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>89.4</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>94.9</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>115.1</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>127.4</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>60.5</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>62.8</b>	<b>11.6</b>

\*Extra EU-15 is the total of exports and imports. For each Member State, intra EU-15 trade is the total of its dispatches and arrivals. For the EU, however, intra EU-15 trade indicates only dispatches, which in theory should equal intra EU-15 arrivals.

<sup>(1)</sup> These figures must be interpreted in the light of the inclusion, since 1.1.1997, of the Canary Islands in the customs territory of Spain and of the French overseas departments, (Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana and Réunion) in the customs territory of France.

<sup>(2)</sup> The EU-15 total was estimated using data available in the Eurostat COMEXT data base on 5.11.97

# **VI: Trends in EU imports of agricultural products, by partner country**



I. In the first half of 1997 the European Union's imports of agricultural products totalled ECU 34 600 million, an increase of only 2.1% compared with the same period of 1996. Agricultural imports had already been easing off in 1996 (3%).

II. Products from the United States, the EU's primary partner for agricultural imports, fell by 5.2% to only ECU 4 700 million but still accounted for 13% of EU agricultural imports. Products from Brazil (8.7%) went up to ECU 3 000 million, a hefty increase of 24.8%, but those from the third-ranked country, Argentina, fell by 6.4% to ECU 1 500 million. In regional terms, South America (ECU 6 800 million) just edged out the rest of Europe (ECU 6 600 million) for EU imports of agricultural products in the first half of 1997, with each region accounting for more than 19% of total EU agricultural imports, ahead of Asia (16.9%), North America (16.2%) and Africa (15.9%).

III. Among its 15 main suppliers of agricultural products, the European Union boosted its imports most from Brazil (24.8%), Australia (16.2%) and New Zealand (13.3%). In contrast, imports of products from Côte d'Ivoire and Thailand fell back sharply, by 14.8% and 13.3% respectively. Indeed, imports of agricultural products from Africa (ECU 5 500 million) experienced a general decline during the first half of the year and were down by 8% in comparison with the same period in 1996. The same was true in the case of products from the industrial countries of south-east Asia4 (ECU 2 500 million).

IV. The modest overall increase in agricultural products in the first half of the year was mainly due to the rise in imports from Brazil, which contributed to growth of 1.8 points, and to increased imports from non-Community countries in Europe (1.6 points), which were up by 8.7%.

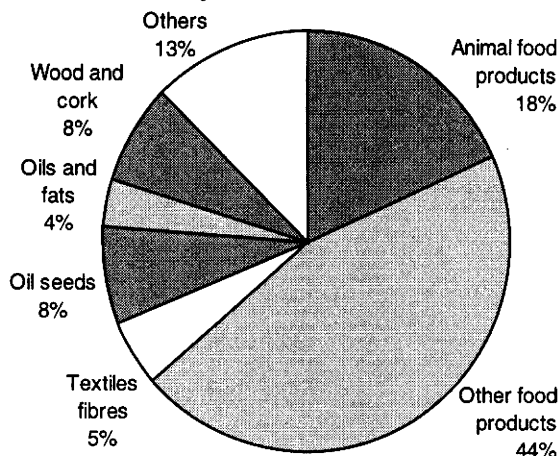


**EU imports of agricultural products, by main partner**

	1995		1996		1997-1st semester		Annual variation (%)		Contribution to growth* 1997-1st s.	EU agricultural products imports (%)	
	Bn ECU	%	Bn ECU	%	Bn ECU	%	96/95	1997-1/1996-1		1995	1996
USA	8.7	13.6	9.2	13.9	4.7	13.6	5.2	-5.2	-0.8	8.4	8.2
Brazil	4.8	7.5	5.0	7.6	3.0	8.7	4.8	24.8	1.8	44.2	48.0
Argentina	3.0	4.6	3.1	4.8	1.5	4.2	6.7	-6.4	-0.3	79.7	81.0
Norway	2.0	3.2	2.1	3.1	1.1	3.2	1.8	7.8	0.2	8.0	6.8
Ivory Coast	1.8	2.8	1.8	2.6	0.8	2.4	-3.4	-14.8	-0.4	87.7	83.5
Turkey	1.6	2.5	1.7	2.6	0.9	2.6	5.8	11.8	0.3	17.6	16.9
Canada	1.9	2.9	1.7	2.5	0.8	2.3	-11.9	-2.1	-0.1	16.2	14.5
Thailand	1.4	2.2	1.6	2.5	0.7	2.1	15.8	-13.3	-0.3	21.3	21.9
Indonesia	1.6	2.4	1.6	2.5	0.8	2.4	4.9	4.3	0.1	25.5	22.9
China	1.4	2.2	1.6	2.4	0.9	2.5	12.1	7.8	0.2	5.4	5.3
New Zealand	1.3	2.1	1.5	2.3	0.9	2.7	13.8	13.3	0.3	79.6	81.4
Australia	1.4	2.3	1.5	2.3	0.9	2.6	4.2	16.2	0.4	29.1	28.8
Russia	1.4	2.2	1.5	2.2	0.8	2.2	5.3	6.4	0.1	6.5	6.3
Colombia	1.6	2.5	1.4	2.1	0.7	2.1	-14.9	3.2	0.1	71.3	62.4
Malaysia	1.4	2.2	1.3	2.0	0.6	1.9	-8.1	-6.2	-0.1	15.7	14.0
Sum of above	35.5	55.2	36.6	55.4	19.2	55.6	3.3	2.7	1.5	14.5	13.7
<b>Total extra EU-15</b>	<b>64.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>66.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>34.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>11.4</b>

\* The contribution to import growth by partner country i for the period under consideration (t) is the ratio between the increase of each country flow and the total imports of the previous period (t-1):  $(I_i^t - I_i^{t-1}) / I_{total}^{t-1}$

## EU imports by main agricultural product, 1996



## VII: Trends in EU imports of agricultural products, by main products

I. The European Union's imports of food (SITC 00-09) in the first half of 1997 totalled ECU 21 200 million - more than 60% of all agricultural imports - and included ECU 15 000 million of non-animal products. Vegetables and fruit (SITC 05) topped the list of EU agricultural imports, totalling ECU 6 000 million, i.e. 17.4% of all agricultural imports, even though imports were down by 12.5% compared with the first half of 1996. Next on the list came coffee, tea, cocoa and spices (SITC 07), which accounted for ECU 4 200 million (+13.1%), followed by fish (SITC 03) at ECU 4 100 million (+8.7%). These three product headings accounted for more than 40% of the European Union's agricultural imports in the first half of 1997.

II. A comparison of the first six months in 1996 and 1997 shows that the products for which the European Union recorded the biggest increases in imports were starch, inulin and gluten (SITC 592.11 and 592.12); the amounts were low but nevertheless increased by 111.7%. Among major items, beverages (SITC 11) showed a sharp increase of 28.5%, while imports of cork and wood (SITC 24) were up by 23.4%. The trend was opposite for vegetables and fruit (SITC 05) and cereals (SITC 04), with imports in both categories falling by more than 12%.

V. Agricultural products were particularly important items of trade with Côte d'Ivoire, Argentina and New Zealand, since they accounted for more than 80% of all EU imports from these countries in 1996. As a percentage of total EU imports, agricultural products also exceeded 60% in the case of Colombia and were close on 50% for Brazil. Agricultural products, however, accounted for only 8.2% of all EU imports from the United States.

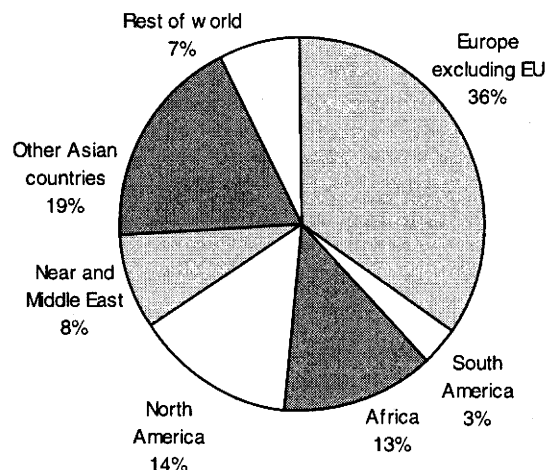
## EU imports by main agricultural product

SITC rev. 3	1995		1996		1997-1st sem.		Annual variation (%)		Contribution to growth* 1997-1st semester
	Bn ECU	% Total	Bn ECU	% Total	Bn ECU	% Total	96/95	1997-1/1996-1	
00 Live animals	0.506	0.8	0.522	0.8	0.273	0.8	3.1	12.1	0.1
01 Meat	2.748	4.3	2.935	4.4	1.520	4.4	6.8	8.5	0.4
02 Dairy products and eggs	0.692	1.1	0.731	1.1	0.383	1.1	5.6	4.9	0.1
03 Fish	7.688	12.0	8.015	12.1	4.063	11.7	4.3	8.7	1.0
04 Cereals	1.777	2.8	1.825	2.8	0.977	2.8	2.7	-12.9	-0.4
05 Fruit and vegetables	12.134	18.9	13.005	19.7	6.041	17.4	7.2	-12.5	-2.6
06 Sugar and honey	1.576	2.5	1.797	2.7	0.808	2.3	14.0	-11.7	-0.3
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices	7.982	12.4	7.327	11.1	4.205	12.1	-8.2	13.1	1.4
08 Feedingstuffs for animals	4.445	6.9	5.322	8.0	2.581	7.4	19.7	-4.3	-0.3
09 Misc.edible products and preparations	0.601	0.9	0.631	1.0	0.349	1.0	4.9	10.9	0.1
11 Beverages	1.109	1.7	1.435	2.2	0.823	2.4	29.3	28.5	0.5
12 Tobacco	1.964	3.1	2.180	3.3	1.072	3.1	11.0	1.6	0.0
21 Hides	1.052	1.6	1.027	1.6	0.584	1.7	-2.4	-4.8	-0.1
22 Oil seeds	4.498	7.0	4.987	7.5	2.701	7.8	10.9	3.6	0.3
231 Natural crude rubber	1.178	1.8	1.071	1.6	0.523	1.5	-9.1	-11.8	-0.2
24 Cork and wood	5.750	9.0	5.025	7.6	3.120	9.0	-12.6	23.4	1.7
261-5 +268 Natural textile fibres	3.491	5.4	3.248	4.9	1.999	5.8	-7.0	12.1	0.6
29 Crude animal and vegetable materials	2.381	3.7	2.627	4.0	1.397	4.0	10.3	-0.8	0.0
4 Oils and fats	2.641	4.1	2.463	3.7	1.226	3.5	-6.8	-4.2	-0.2
592.11-12 Starches, inulin and wheat	0.002	0.0	0.003	0.0	0.002	0.0	24.8	111.7	0.0
<b>Total of agricultural products</b>	<b>64.22</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>66.17</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>34.64</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.1</b>

\*The contribution to import growth by product i for the period under consideration (t) is the ratio between the increase of each product flow and the total imports of the previous period (t-1):  $(I_i^t - I_i^{t-1}) / I_{total}^{t-1}$



**Destination of EU exports, 1996**



III. The increase in imports of cork and wood (SITC 24), coffee, tea, cocoa and spices (SITC 07) and fish (SITC 03) contributed most the rise in imports with 4.1 points. The overall increase was only 2.1%, however, partly because of the adverse effect of the decrease of 2.6 points in imports of vegetables and fruit (SITC 05).

## VIII: Trends in EU exports of agricultural products, by partner country

I. The European Union's exports of agricultural products showed sustained growth in the first half of 1997, totalling ECU 25 900 million, up by 10.6% compared with the same period a year earlier. This rate of increase was nearly twice the figure for EU exports during the previous year (5.4%).

II. EU exports of agricultural products to its two main partners, the United States and Russia, rose by more than 18% to total ECU 3 100 million and 2 500 million respectively. If Russia is included, non-Community Europe (ECU 9 200 million) was the destination for more than a third of the European Union's agricultural exports. The second major export area was Asia, which took 29.7% of the EU's exports; the figure of ECU 7 600 million included ECU 2 100 million for exports to Japan, the Union's third most important export partner. With the exception of Japan (+5%), the main Asian markets saw a dramatic rise in EU agricultural exports, which increased by more than 25% in the case of the Near and Middle East (ECU 2 300 million) and the industrial countries of southeast Asia (ECU 2 100 million).



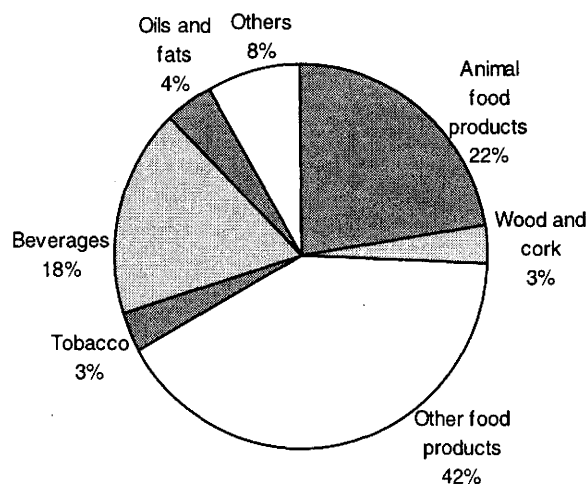
**EU exports of in agricultural products, by main partner**

	1995		1996		1997-1st sem.		Annual variation (%)		Contribution to growth* 1997-1st semester	% of EU exports	
	Bn ECU	%	Bn ECU	%	Bn ECU	%	96/95	1997-1/1996-1		1995	1996
USA	5.2	11.2	5.9	12.0	3.1	11.9	13.3	18.0	2.0	5.0	5.1
Russia	3.6	7.8	4.2	8.7	2.5	9.6	17.3	19.3	1.7	22.4	22.2
Japan	3.4	7.4	3.7	7.5	2.1	8.3	8.2	5.0	0.4	10.4	10.4
Switzerland	3.2	6.9	3.2	6.5	1.6	6.3	0.1	-0.4	0.0	6.3	6.2
Poland	1.4	2.9	1.6	3.3	0.9	3.4	19.7	25.1	0.8	8.8	8.2
Saudi Arabia	1.2	2.5	1.3	2.8	0.7	2.6	15.8	22.0	0.5	13.5	13.1
Norway	1.3	2.7	1.3	2.8	0.7	2.7	6.0	5.2	0.1	7.3	6.8
Hong Kong	1.2	2.6	1.3	2.6	0.7	2.8	6.8	35.6	0.8	7.5	7.3
Czech Republic	0.9	1.9	1.0	2.0	0.5	2.0	9.8	11.6	0.2	7.5	6.9
Canada	0.9	1.8	0.9	1.9	0.5	1.8	7.8	15.9	0.3	8.3	8.6
Turkey	0.9	1.9	0.9	1.9	0.6	2.1	6.4	14.7	0.3	6.4	5.0
Algeria	1.0	2.1	0.9	1.8	0.6	2.2	-13.3	45.3	0.8	21.0	21.3
South Korea	0.6	1.4	0.9	1.7	0.4	1.6	32.9	-0.6	0.0	5.2	6.0
Egypt	0.8	1.7	0.7	1.5	0.4	1.6	-8.8	42.0	0.5	16.1	12.9
Taiwan	0.7	1.5	0.7	1.4	0.4	1.6	-0.8	26.2	0.4	6.9	6.9
Total 15 countries	26.1	56.2	28.5	58.3	15.7	60.6	9.2	15.2	8.8	8.0	7.8
Total extra EU-15	46.4	100.0	48.9	100.0	25.9	100.0	5.4	10.6	10.6	8.1	7.8

\*The contribution to export growth by partner country *i* for the period under consideration (*t*) is the ratio between the increase of each country flow and the total exports of the previous period (*t-1*):  $(X_i^t - X_i^{t-1}) / X_{total}^{t-1}$



## EU exports by main agricultural product, 1996



III. The top 15 markets for the European Union's agricultural products also included Algeria and Egypt, two countries which saw the biggest increases in EU exports, which rose by more than 40%, even higher than the increase in the case of Hong Kong (+35.6%). Exports of EU agricultural products in fact remained more or less unchanged in only two markets: Switzerland (-0.4%) and South Korea (-0.6%).

IV. Because of their significance in EU exports and the overall increase of 10.2%, exports to the rest of Europe gave a strong boost to total growth during the first half of the year, prompting a rise of 3.6 points, of which 1.7 came from exports to Russia. However, the strong performance in the first six months of 1997 reflected in particular the performance in markets outside Europe, since exports to the Near and Middle East (2.1 points), the United States (2 points) and southeast Asia (1.9 points) together produced a six-point growth in the overall level of agricultural exports.

## IX: Trends in EU exports of agricultural products, by main products

I. The start of 1997 produced good results for the three main agricultural products exported by the European Union. Beverages (SITC 11) were up by 7.7% at ECU 4 300 million. In earning ECU 3 100 million, cereals were up by 23.6%, a performance that bettered even the previous year's average of 19.5%. Dairy products and birds' eggs (SITC 02) brought in ECU 2 500 million, thereby increasing by 8.9% after the previous year's slight decline (-0.3%). Exports of vegetables and fruit (SITC 05) and meat (SITC 01) both earned ECU 2 200 million. These five categories accounted for more than half of the European Union's exports of agricultural products in the first six months of 1997.

## EU exports by main agricultural product

SITC Rev.3	1995		1996		1997-1st sem.		Annual variation (%)		Contribution to growth* 1997-1st semester
	Bn ECU	%	Bn ECU	%	Bn ECU	%	96/95	1997-1/1996-1	
00 Live animals	0.78	1.7	0.75	1.5	0.25	1.0	-3.8	-22.1	-0.3
01 Meat	4.00	8.6	4.18	8.5	2.21	8.5	4.6	2.4	0.2
02 Dairy products and eggs	4.62	10.0	4.61	9.4	2.45	9.5	-0.3	8.9	0.9
03 Fish	1.40	3.0	1.46	3.0	0.85	3.3	4.6	13.3	0.4
04 Cereals	4.84	10.4	5.78	11.8	3.08	11.9	19.5	23.6	2.5
05 Fruit and vegetables	4.02	8.7	4.16	8.5	2.21	8.5	3.4	5.1	0.5
06 Sugar and honey	2.47	5.3	2.21	4.5	1.11	4.3	-10.5	7.7	0.3
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices	2.76	5.9	2.84	5.8	1.35	5.2	2.7	4.2	0.2
08 Feedingstuffs for animals	1.47	3.2	1.47	3.0	0.82	3.2	0.1	14.1	0.4
09 Misc.edible products and preparations	3.17	6.8	3.54	7.2	1.85	7.2	11.8	4.0	0.3
11 Beverages	8.21	17.7	8.65	17.7	4.31	16.7	5.4	7.7	1.3
12 Tobacco	1.18	2.6	1.67	3.4	1.13	4.4	41.1	63.8	1.9
21 Hides	0.83	1.8	1.01	2.1	0.48	1.9	21.4	2.7	0.1
22 Oil seeds	0.14	0.3	0.20	0.4	0.08	0.3	47.3	3.8	0.0
231 Natural crude rubber	0.03	0.1	0.03	0.1	0.02	0.1	11.4	4.9	0.0
24 Cork and wood	1.60	3.4	1.59	3.2	1.01	3.9	-0.5	30.9	1.0
261-5 +268 Natural textile fibres	0.71	1.5	0.71	1.4	0.44	1.7	0.3	16.4	0.3
29 Crude animal and vegetable materials	1.95	4.2	2.01	4.1	1.03	4.0	3.2	0.0	0.0
4 Oils and fats	2.21	4.8	2.02	4.1	1.19	4.6	-8.3	13.4	0.6
592.11-12 Starches, inulin and wheat	0.03	0.07	0.04	0.08	0.02	0.07	18.9	-8.6	0.0
<b>Total of agricultural products</b>	<b>46.42</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>48.94</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>25.90</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>10.6</b>

\*The contribution to export growth by product i for the period under consideration (t) is the ratio between the increase of each product flow and the total exports of the previous period (t-1):  $(X_i^t - X_i^{t-1}) / X_{total}^{t-1}$

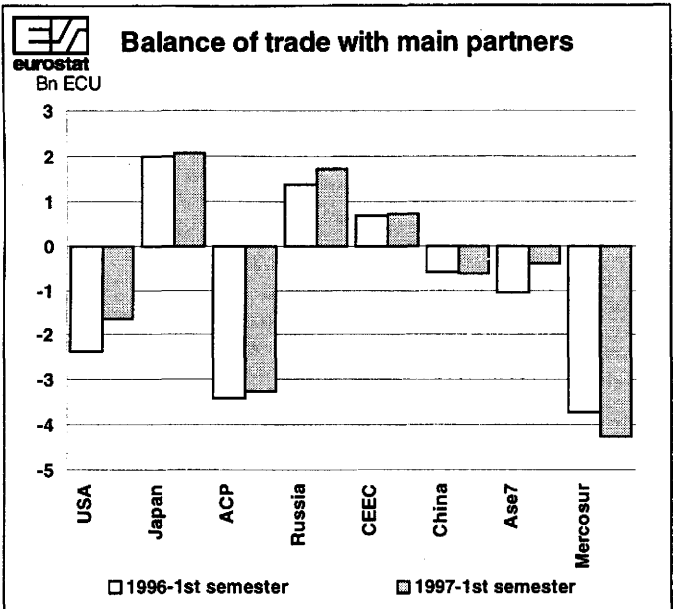
II. The first half of the year was also an excellent period for exports of tobacco (SITC 12), which surged ahead by 63.8%, a result that was even better than the figure of 41% for the whole of 1996. The category that showed the next greatest rise was cork and wood (SITC 24), which improved by 30.9% after the static performance of 1996 (-0.5%). There were reductions in some categories, however, the most marked being live animals (SITC 00), which plummeted by 22.1% in comparison with the same period in 1996.

III. The export gains achieved by cereals (SITC 04), tobacco (SITC 12), beverages (SITC 11) and cork and wood (SITC 24) resulted in an total improvement of 6.7 points and were a major contribution to the European Union's export performance in the first half of 1997.

**X: Trends in EU balances of trade in agricultural products, by partner country**

I. The European Union's trade deficit in agricultural products fell to ECU 8 700 million during the first half of 1997, following a figure of ECU 10 500 million in the first six months of 1996. There was thus an improvement of ECU 1 800 million in the agricultural trade balance in the first half of the year, a performance that was much better than the improvement of ECU 600 million for the whole of 1996.

II. Trade between the EU and Brazil produced the largest deficit in the first half of 1997 (ECU 2 700 million), ahead of the deficit with the United States (ECU 1 600 million). The major components in the European Union's overall



trade deficit in agricultural products were the Mercosur countries (which include Brazil) and the ACP countries. These two economic areas produced deficits for the EU of ECU 4 300 million and 3 300 million respectively.

III. Among the largest deficits, the situation with regard to EU-Brazil trade in agricultural products worsened by ECU 600 million. The cover rate for trade with this country, already among the lowest, was only 9.4%. In trade with the United States, however, the deficit made one of its best improvements and was down by ECU 700 million.

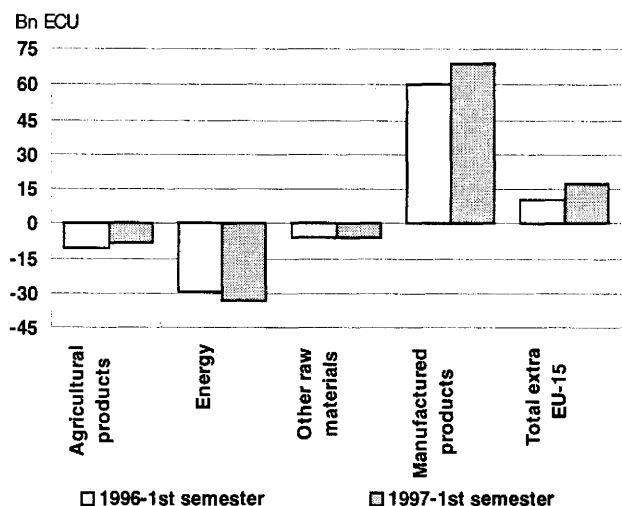


**Breakdown of balance of EU trade by partner country\***

	1995		1996			1997-1st semester		
	Bn ECU	Cover rate **	Bn ECU	Variation Bn ECU	Cover rate **	Bn ECU	Variation Bn ECU	Cover rate **
United States	-3.57	59.2	-3.33	0.2	63.7	-1.63	0.73	65.4
Russia	2.22	258.8	2.77	0.6	288.3	1.73	0.36	326.9
Brazil	-3.95	17.6	-4.36	-0.4	13.1	-2.73	-0.62	9.4
Switzerland	1.92	251.0	1.98	0.1	263.0	1.04	0.01	278.7
Japan	3.30	2946.9	3.57	0.3	3121.7	2.09	0.10	3628.0
Norway	-0.76	62.6	-0.72	0.0	65.2	-0.42	-0.05	62.2
Argentina	-2.76	6.6	-2.95	-0.2	6.4	-1.35	0.12	7.6
Poland	0.10	108.3	0.44	0.3	137.8	0.34	0.16	160.2
Turkey	-0.77	52.9	-0.81	0.0	53.2	-0.33	-0.02	62.9
Canada	-1.04	45.2	-0.74	0.3	55.3	-0.36	0.08	56.2
Thailand	-1.01	28.8	-1.20	-0.2	26.6	-0.48	0.14	32.6
Australia	-0.97	33.2	-0.98	0.0	35.2	-0.61	-0.07	32.3
Ivory coast	-1.63	10.3	-1.54	0.1	12.3	-0.72	0.17	14.5
China	-0.70	50.7	-1.25	-0.5	21.9	-0.65	-0.06	25.5
Indonesia	-1.36	12.7	-1.46	-0.1	10.6	-0.75	-0.03	10.5
<b>Total extra EU-15</b>	<b>-17.8</b>	<b>72.3</b>	<b>-17.2</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>74.0</b>	<b>-8.7</b>	<b>1.77</b>	<b>74.7</b>

\*Countries are ranked in descending order of total trade (exports + imports) in agricultural products with the EU  
 \*\*Ratio of exports to imports (exports / imports)\*100

## Extra EU-15 balance of trade



There was a similar cut in the EU trade deficit with the countries of southeast Asia, which meant that the previous figure of ECU 1 100 million declined to ECU 400 million, thanks to falling imports (-7.8%) and soaring exports (+26.3%).

IV. As for EU surpluses in agricultural trade, the surplus in trade with Japan (ECU 2 100 million) went up by only ECU 100 million. Agricultural imports from Japan are very small, and this explains the cover rate of 3 628% in the first half of the year. In second place, the EU surplus

with Russia (ECU 1 700 million) went up by ECU 400 million. The buoyant performance of agricultural exports to Russia (+19.3%) was such that the European Union exported more than three times as much as it imported from Russia, thus yielding a cover rate of 327%.

## XI: Trends in EU balances of trade in agricultural products, by main products

I. In the first half of 1997 the largest deficit, for vegetables and fruit (SITC 05), amounted to ECU 3 800 million, with fish (SITC 03) in second place at ECU 3 200 million. Coffee, tea, cocoa and spices (SITC 07) produced a deficit of ECU 2 900 million. The biggest surpluses were achieved in beverages (SITC 11) at ECU 3 500 million, followed by cereals (SITC 04) and dairy products and birds' eggs (SITC 02), which each recorded a surplus of ECU 2 100 million.

II. The recovery in the balance of trade in agricultural products during the first half of 1997 was due mainly to the reduced deficit in vegetables and fruit (SITC 05), down by ECU 1 000 million, and the increase in the surplus for cereals (SITC 04), which improved by more than 60% (ECU 800 million). The balance of trade in tobacco (SITC 12) also helped the improvement of ECU 400 million by recording a small surplus in the first half of the year (ECU 100 million). The deficits in coffee, tea, cocoa and spices (SITC 07) and cork and wood (SITC 24) provided the worst performances, increasing by ECU 400 million.

## Breakdown of balance of EU trade in agricultural products, by product

SITC rev.3	1995		1996		1997-1st semester	
	Bn ECU	Variation Bn ECU 95/94	Bn ECU	Variation Bn ECU 96/95	Bn ECU	Variation Bn ECU 97/96
00 Live animals	0.28	0.22	0.23	-0.05	-0.03	-0.10
01 Meat	1.25	0.04	1.25	0.00	0.69	-0.07
02 Dairy products and eggs	3.93	0.61	3.88	-0.05	2.07	0.18
03 Fish	-6.29	0.04	-6.56	-0.26	-3.21	-0.23
04 Cereals	3.06	-0.09	3.96	0.90	2.10	0.73
05 Fruit and vegetables	-8.11	0.13	-8.85	-0.73	-3.83	0.97
06 Sugar and honey	0.89	-0.03	0.41	-0.48	0.30	0.19
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices	-5.22	-0.58	-4.49	0.73	-2.86	-0.43
08 Feedingstuffs for animals	-2.98	0.82	-3.86	-0.88	-1.76	0.22
09 Misc.edible products and preparations	2.57	0.38	2.91	0.34	1.50	0.04
11 Beverages	7.10	-0.20	7.22	0.12	3.49	0.13
12 Tobacco	-0.78	0.58	-0.51	0.27	0.06	0.43
21 Hides	-0.22	0.04	-0.01	0.20	-0.10	0.04
22 Oil seeds	-4.36	-0.24	-4.79	-0.42	-2.63	-0.09
231 Natural crude rubber	-1.15	-0.33	-1.04	0.11	-0.51	0.07
24 Cork and wood	-4.15	0.00	-3.44	0.72	-2.11	-0.35
261-5 +268 Natural textile fibres	-2.79	0.01	-2.54	0.24	-1.56	-0.15
29 Crude animal and vegetable materials	-0.43	0.16	-0.61	-0.18	-0.37	0.01
4 Oils and fats	-0.43	0.16	-0.44	-0.01	-0.03	0.19
592.11-12 Starches, inulin and wheat	0.03	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.02	0.00
<b>Total of agricultural products</b>	<b>-17.80</b>	<b>1.71</b>	<b>-17.23</b>	<b>0.57</b>	<b>-8.75</b>	<b>1.77</b>

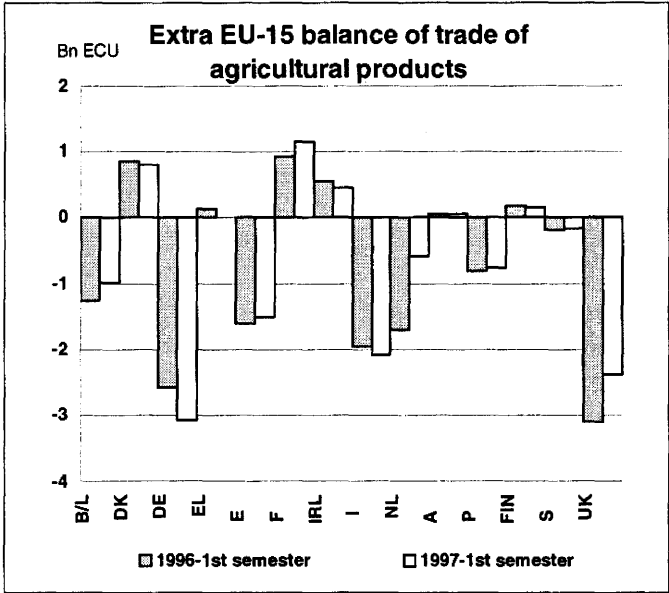
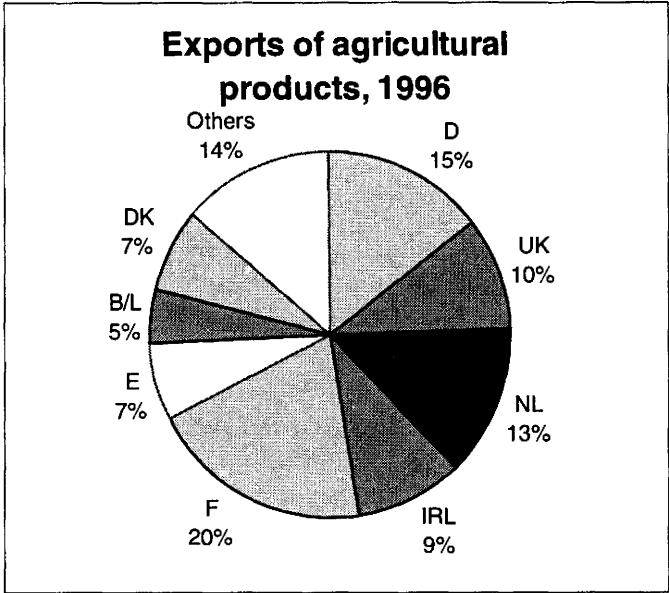
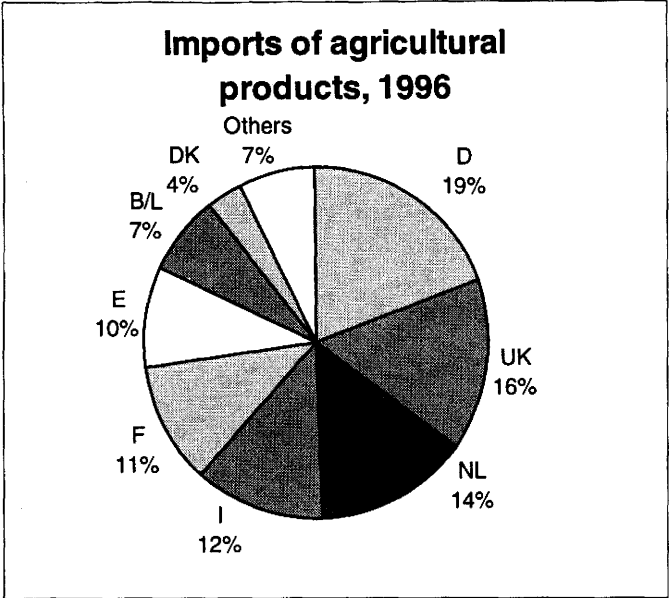
**XII: Contribution of the Member States to EU external trade in agricultural products**

I. Germany, France and the United Kingdom are the top three Member States for extra-EU trade in agricultural products and together accounted for more than 45% of total trade in such products in the first half of 1997. In 1996 the Netherlands was ranked fourth (with 13.7% of total EU trade), ahead of Italy, although the Dutch position could be explained by its role as a transit country for EU trade.

II. Germany and the United Kingdom, the two leading importers of agricultural products, saw imports go up by more than 10% in relation to the first six months of 1996. The two countries recorded ECU 6 700 million and 5 700 million respectively, ahead of Italy with ECU 4 400 million. During the same period, agricultural imports by Sweden (ECU 900 million) and Ireland (ECU 300 million) made the biggest jump in percentage terms, with both countries recording a rise in imports of more than 20%. In contrast, imports by the Netherlands (ECU 3 700 million) declined by 23%.

III. The leading export country was France (ECU 4 900 million), where exports rose by 7.5%. Next came Germany (ECU 3 600 million), where the improvement was 6.2%. There was also a spectacular increase in exports from the United Kingdom (ECU 3 300 million), which rose by nearly 62% compared with the first six months of 1996. Sweden (ECU 800 million) and Belgium (ECU 1 400 million) also produced excellent export performances, up by 32.8% and 20.6% respectively. In the case of Ireland (ECU 700 million), exports shrank by 9.5%.

IV. Germany's deficit in agricultural trade (ECU 3 100 million) worsened by ECU 500 million during the first half of the year and moved the country ahead of the United Kingdom (ECU 2 400 million), where the deficit was cut by ECU 700 million. The agricultural trade deficit of the Netherlands (ECU 600 million) registered the biggest improvement, declining by ECU 1 100 million. On the surplus side, France retained the leading position with a surplus of ECU 1 100 million in the first half of 1997, with Denmark (ECU 800 million) and Ireland (ECU 400 million) following.



# Member States' extra EU-15 trade in agricultural products

	Imports				Exports				Trade balance		
	1996	1997-1	1996	1997-1/ 1996-1	1996	1997-1	1996	1997-1/ 1996-1	1996	1997-1	1997-1/ 1996-1
	Bn ECU		%	Variation (%)	Bn ECU		%	Variation (%)	Bn ECU		Variation (Bn ECU)
B/L	4.54	2.38	6.9	-1.4	2.35	1.38	4.8	20.6	-2.19	-1.00	0.27
DK	2.27	1.16	3.4	4.5	3.60	1.96	7.4	0.0	1.34	0.80	-0.05
D	12.48	6.72	18.9	11.7	7.17	3.65	14.7	6.2	-5.31	-3.07	-0.49
EL	0.88	:	1.3	:	1.22	:	2.5	:	0.34	:	:
E <sup>(1)</sup>	6.12	3.20	9.2	-1.7	3.43	1.69	7.0	3.1	-2.69	-1.51	0.11
F <sup>(1)</sup>	7.11	3.77	10.7	3.4	9.71	4.93	19.8	7.5	2.60	1.15	0.22
IRL	0.45	0.27	0.7	20.5	1.56	0.72	3.2	-9.5	1.12	0.44	-0.12
I	7.93	4.42	12.0	4.2	4.64	2.33	9.5	2.4	-3.29	-2.09	-0.12
NL	9.09	3.70	13.7	-23.0	6.45	3.12	13.2	1.0	-2.64	-0.58	1.14
A	1.01	0.49	1.5	15.2	0.99	0.55	2.0	14.5	-0.02	0.06	0.01
P	1.82	0.98	2.7	-3.4	0.48	0.21	1.0	1.6	-1.34	-0.76	0.04
FIN	0.84	0.46	1.3	13.3	1.18	0.62	2.4	7.1	0.34	0.16	-0.01
S	1.55	0.95	2.3	21.5	1.25	0.79	2.6	32.8	-0.30	-0.16	0.03
UK	10.09	5.66	15.3	10.5	4.91	3.26	10.0	61.9	-5.19	-2.39	0.71
<b>EU-15 <sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>66.17</b>	<b>34.64</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>48.94</b>	<b>25.90</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>-17.23</b>	<b>-8.75</b>	<b>1.71</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> These figures must be interpreted in the light of the inclusion, since 1.1.1997, of the Canary Islands in the customs territory of Spain and of the French overseas departments, (Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana and Réunion) in the customs territory of France.

<sup>(2)</sup> The EU-15 total was estimated using data available in the Eurostat COMEXT data base on 5.11.97



## Definitions

### Food and live animals

Live animals (SITC 00), meat (SITC 01), dairy products and birds' eggs (SITC 02), fish (SITC 03), cereals (SITC 04), vegetables and fruit (SITC 05), sugars and honey (SITC 06), coffee, tea, cocoa and spices (SITC 07), feeding stuff for animals (SITC 08), miscellaneous edible products and preparations (SITC 09)

### Food of animal origin and live animals

Live animals (SITC 00), meat (SITC 01), dairy products and birds' eggs (SITC 02), fish (SITC 03)

## Geographic and economic areas

### Europe excluding EU

Includes the EFTA countries, the CEEC (Central and Eastern European) countries and other European countries including Turkey, Russia and other CIS countries not in Asia

### EFTA

EFTA (European Free Trade Association) has included Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Iceland since 1 January 1995

### CEEC

Central and Eastern European countries: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina

### Asia

Includes the countries of the Near and Middle East and "other Asian countries" including Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, China, India, Japan, Taiwan and the newly industrialised countries of east and southeast Asia

### Near and Middle East

The area included in this aggregate stretches from Israel in the east to Iraq in the west and from the Caucasus countries (Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan) in the north to Yemen in the south

### Southeast Asia (ASE 7)

Newly industrialised countries of east and southeast Asia (ASE 7): Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea and Thailand; Taiwan is usually also included in this group (NICs in Eurostat nomenclature) but has not been included in this aggregate to ensure comparability with the UN Comtrade data base, in which statistics on trade with Taiwan are not available

### Africa

Includes the countries of North Africa (Morocco to Egypt) and other African countries as far as South Africa

### North America

United States, Canada, Greenland, St Pierre and Miquelon

### South America

Includes the Mercosur countries and other South American countries from Colombia in the north to Chile and the Falkland Islands in the south; excludes French Guiana

### Mercosur

The signatories to the South American Free Trade Agreement: Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay

## Other geographic and economic areas

### ACP

African, Caribbean and Pacific countries signatories to the Lomé Convention in the context of trade with the European Union

### AUSTR+NZ

Australia and New Zealand

## Methodological notes

### Intra-EU trade

Statistics on trade between the Member States cover the arrivals and dispatches of movable property recorded by each Member State. Arrivals and dispatches are defined as follows:

- arrivals are goods in free circulation within the European Union which enter the statistical territory of a given Member State;
- dispatches are goods in free circulation within the European Union which leave the statistical territory of a given Member State to enter another Member State.

Goods placed under the customs arrangements of inward processing or processing under customs control (for working, processing or repairs) are also regarded as arrivals or dispatches.

### Extra-EU trade

Statistics on trade with third countries cover movable property imported and exported by the European Union. The definitions are as follows:

- imports are goods which enter the statistical territory of the European Union from a third country and are

placed under the customs procedure for free circulation (as a general rule goods intended for consumption), or following outward processing, or inward processing, or processing under customs control (goods for working, processing or repair) immediately, or after bonded warehousing;

- exports are goods which leave the statistical territory of the European Union for a third country after being placed under the customs procedure for exports (definitive export) or outward processing (goods for working, processing) or repair or following inward processing.

Statistics on trade with third countries do not, therefore, include goods in transit or those placed under a customs procedure for bonded warehousing or temporary entry (for fairs, exhibitions, tests, etc.) nor do they include re-export following entry under one of these procedures.

The field covered by statistics on trade with third countries corresponds to "special" trade. This method of accounting differs from that of "general" trade, which includes all goods entering the statistical territory and those leaving it, with the exception, however, of goods in transit. Goods placed in bonded warehouses and exports of goods after bonded warehousing are included in the definition of general trade.

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