



# STATISTICS IN FOCUS

## External trade

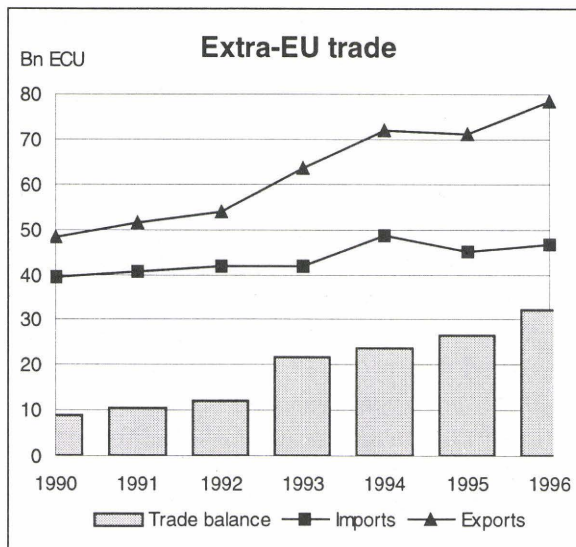


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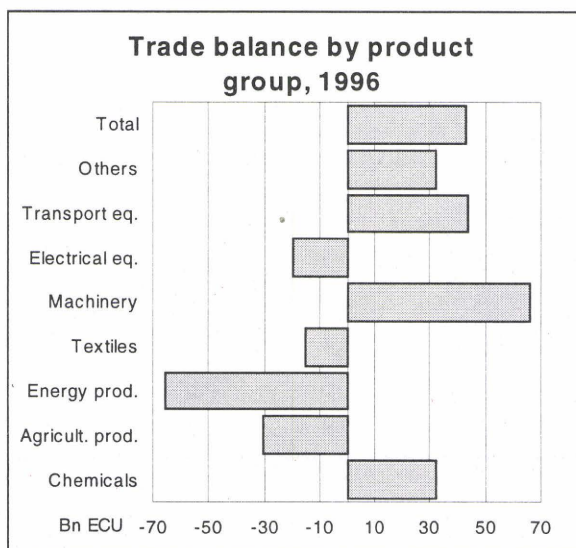
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### The European Union - the world's leading exporter and importer of chemicals



This study covers the European Union's external trade in chemicals between 1990 and 1997 (first six months). During this period, the European Union remained the world's largest exporter and importer of chemicals, followed by the United States and Japan. EU exports rose from ECU 48 100 million in 1990 to ECU 78 600 million in 1996, an average increase of 8.2% per annum. Exports increased steadily between 1990 and 1996, with the exception of a downturn in 1995 (-1.1%). The growth in imports, on the other hand, was more moderate, rising at an average annual rate of 2.7% from ECU 39 400 million in 1990 to ECU 46 500 million in 1996. Imports also fell in 1995, but the recovery was not as robust as the upturn in exports. The trade surpluses recorded by the EU in the chemicals sector have risen steadily from ECU 8 700 million in 1990 to ECU 32 100 million in 1996. In comparison, the surpluses recorded by the United States and Japan in 1996 were ECU 14 400 million and ECU 10 200 million respectively.



An analysis of the two most recent years (1995 and 1996) shows that the trade surplus in the chemicals sector (ECU 26 000 and ECU 32 000 million) makes a substantial contribution to the EU's overall external trade surplus (ECU 28 000 and ECU 43 000 million). The surplus in this sector is the third-largest after machinery and equipment (ECU 57 000 and ECU 66 000 million) and transport equipment (ECU 42 000 and ECU 44 000 million). On the other hand, the EU has a deficit in sectors such as energy products, raw materials, electrical equipment and textiles.

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.

The unit Bn is equal to one thousand million

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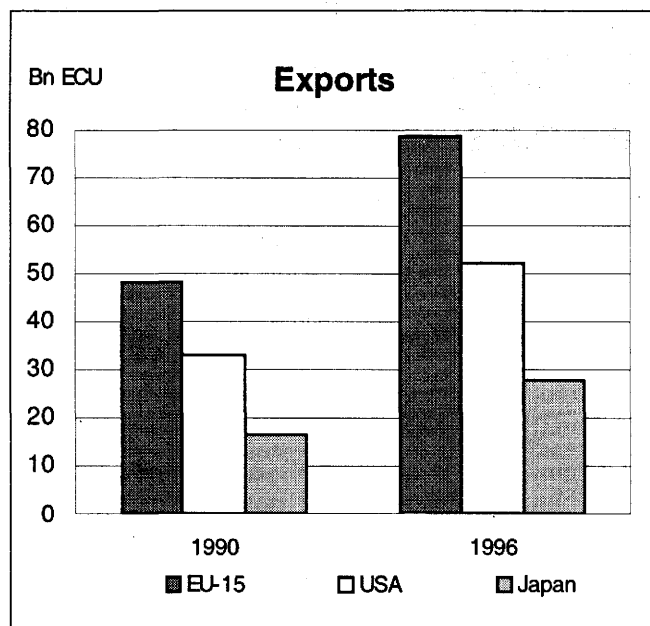
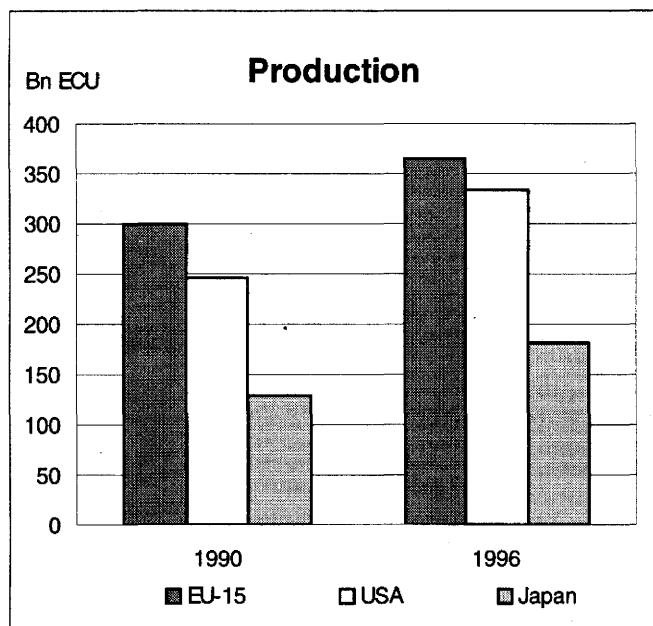
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## I. The EU chemicals industry



I.1. The EU was the world's leading producer of chemicals during the period 1990-1996. EU production in 1996 was ECU 363 800 million, followed by the United States (ECU 333 200 million) and Japan (ECU 180 500 million). In terms of average annual growth, however, EU production rose by 3.1% p.a., whereas Japan and the United States, its two main competitors, recorded annual rates of 5.5% and 4.9% respectively.

I.2. EU chemicals enterprises are very export-oriented. In 1996, they exported 21.8% of their output, whereas

the figure for Japanese and American enterprises was around 15%. Back in 1993, the weakness of national markets led chemicals-manufacturing enterprises to actively seek new markets abroad, thus partly explaining the growth in the share of total output intended for the export market. As EU chemicals enterprises sought to become competitive in the world market, they needed to carry out restructuring activities. These have resulted in staff numbers falling steadily at an average annual rate of 2.1%, with some 232 000 jobs being lost between 1990 and 1996.

### Chemical industry - main indicators

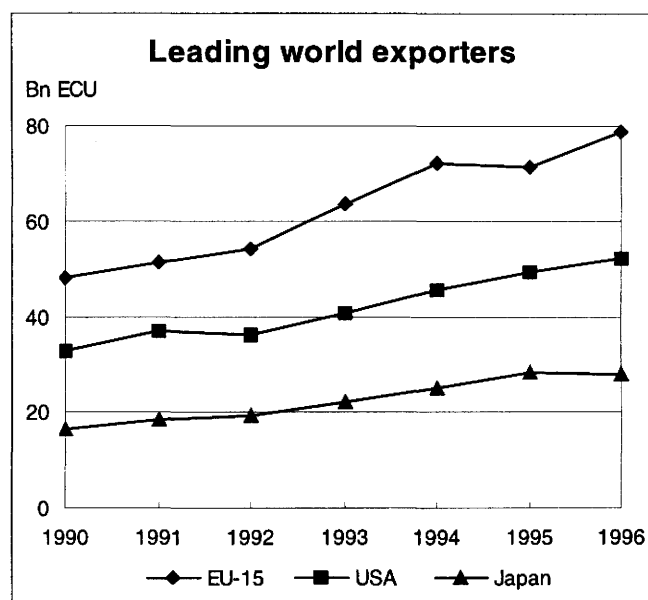
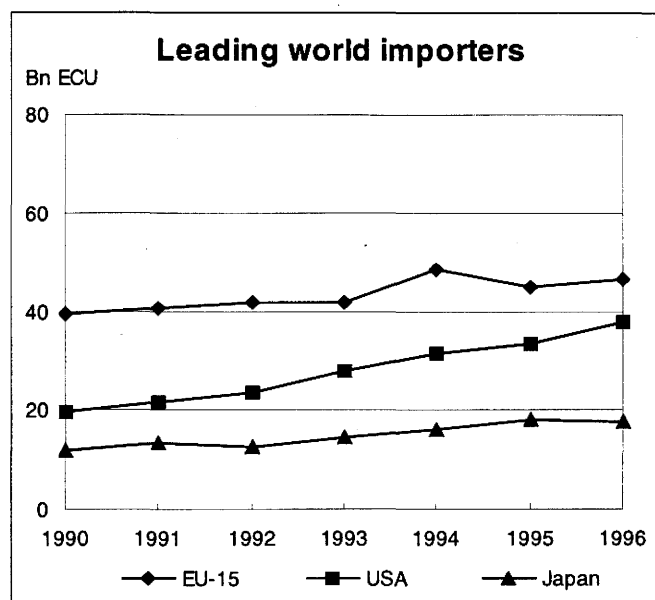
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Employees ('000)	1906.3	1901.8	1865.2	1777.3	1716.1	1703.0	1674.7
Production (Bn ECU)	300.4	307.3	310.7	305.0	328.7	363.4	363.8
Apparent consumption (Bn ECU)	291.7	296.6	298.5	283.4	305.0	337.1	331.7
Cover ratio (%)	121.9	126.1	129.0	151.6	148.8	158.5	169.0
Exports/Production (%)	16.0	16.7	17.4	20.8	21.9	19.6	21.6

Source: Eurostat

Apparent consumption: Production + imports - exports

Cover ratio: (Exports/imports)\*100

## II. World trade in chemicals



II.1. The EU tops the 1996 table of the world's ten largest importers of chemicals, accounting for one-fifth of world imports (ECU 46 500 million). Although EU imports only grew by a moderate average rate of 2.7% per annum between 1990 and 1996, the EU is still the world's leading importer. Over the same period, some of the other main importers, such as the United States, Canada and Singapore saw a more rapid rise in their import figures. The United States stood in second position in 1996 with ECU 37 900 million, followed by Japan (ECU 17 800 million). The EU and the United States between them account for 34% of world imports of chemicals, equal to the other eight main world importers combined. Chemicals account for 8% of the EU's total imports, slightly higher than the average figure for the

world's top ten importers (7.8%). The figures for Switzerland and China are over 14%.

II.2. The EU is also the world's top exporter of chemicals (ECU 78 600 million), followed by the United States (ECU 52 300 million), Japan (ECU 28 000 million) and Switzerland (ECU 17 000 million). These four countries account for two-thirds of total world exports. The world market for these products is very concentrated, with the ten largest exporters claiming a total share of 86%. Chemicals again feature very heavily in Swiss exports (26.8%), and are also important for the EU (12.6%) and the United States (10.7%). Over the whole period, the four main exporters registered an average annual growth rate of 8%. Other countries experienced even faster growth: South Korea (19%), Mexico (14.7%), China (12.1%) and Singapore (11.8%).

### Leading world traders, 1996

	Imports			Exports			Trade balance
	Total (Bn ECU)	World share (%)	National share (%)	Total (Bn ECU)	World share (%)	National share (%)	
EU-15	46.483	18.7	8.0	78.573	30.7	12.6	32.090
United States	37.875	15.2	5.9	52.307	20.4	10.7	14.431
Japan	17.797	7.2	6.5	27.986	10.9	8.6	10.188
China	15.825	6.4	14.5	7.168	2.8	6.0	-8.657
Hong Kong	12.013	4.8	7.6	9.621	3.8	6.8	-2.392
Canada	11.419	4.6	8.5	8.540	3.3	5.4	-2.879
South Korea	11.418	4.6	9.6	8.937	3.5	8.7	-2.481
Switzerland	8.921	3.6	14.3	17.036	6.6	26.8	8.115
Singapore	7.922	3.2	7.7	6.439	2.5	6.5	-1.482
Mexico	6.577	2.6	9.3	3.806	1.5	5.1	-2.771
<b>Total of 10</b>	<b>176.250</b>	<b>70.9</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>220.412</b>	<b>86.0</b>	<b>10.0</b>	
<b>World</b>	<b>248.687</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>256.308</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9.2</b>	

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

### III. The world's main importers of chemicals

III.1. In 1996, one-third of the chemicals imported by the EU came from the United States (its largest trading partner), closely followed by the EFTA countries (25%). The other countries supplying chemicals to the EU are more diversified. Japan accounts for 10.2% and the CEECs 7.3%. The next group, whose shares of the EU import market vary between 5% and 3%, includes the Mediterranean Basin countries, China and the ASE7 countries. In the opposite direction, the EU is the main supplier of chemicals to the United States and Japan, with figures of 41.8% and 37.7% respectively. Japan is the USA's second-largest supplier (15.7%) and the USA holds the same position in the list of Japanese suppliers (29.2%). The USA also imports chemicals from the EFTA countries, ASE7, and China. ASE7 and China are, furthermore, important trading partners for Japan. The structure for China is different, since 24.7% of its imports

come from ASE7 countries, just over 15% from Japan and the United States, and just 9% from the EU (much the same as from the CIS).

III.2. The largest group of chemicals imported by the EU (ECU 10 900 million), the United States (ECU 9 400 million) and Japan (ECU 4 400 million) is "Other organic basic chemicals" (NACE 2414). In each case, "Pharmaceutical preparations" (NACE 2442) are the second-largest group of imports - EU (ECU 6 400 million), USA (ECU 3 700 million) and Japan (ECU 2 600 million). China, on the other hand, mainly imports "Plastics in primary forms" (NACE 2416), especially from the ASE7 countries (28.8%) and Japan (22.7%). Its second-largest import is "Fertilisers and nitrogen compounds" (NACE 2415), mainly from the CIS countries (43.1%) and the United States (33.2%).

### Structure of world imports in 1996 (% of total)

Product (Nace rev.1)	Total (Bn ECU)	Share by partner (%)											
		EU-15	USA	EFTA <sup>(1)</sup>	Japan	China	CEEC <sup>(1)</sup>	Mediterr. Basin	Ase7 <sup>(1)</sup>	CIS	Mercosur <sup>(1)</sup>	ACP <sup>(1)</sup>	Others
<b>EU-15</b>													
Total chemical products	46.483	-	31.8	25.4	10.2	3.3	7.3	5.3	4.2	2.8	1.2	0.5	8.2
Other basic org. chemicals	10.918	-	30.5	21.6	9.7	5.4	7.1	3.8	6.0	2.4	1.7	0.9	10.8
Pharmaceutical preparations	6.419	-	36.2	52.1	4.7	0.6	1.1	0.9	0.5	0.0	0.2	0.1	3.6
<b>United States</b>													
Total chemical products	37.875	41.8	-	4.8	15.7	2.6	0.5	1.3	4.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	25.4
Other basic org. chemicals	9.387	45.7	-	4.9	13.2	1.9	0.6	1.9	5.4	0.2	1.9	1.1	23.2
Pharmaceutical preparations	3.748	68.4	-	10.9	7.0	1.0	0.0	3.0	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.0	9.2
<b>Japan</b>													
Total chemical products	17.797	37.7	29.2	5.9	-	6.4	0.4	0.6	9.9	0.4	1.1	0.0	8.3
Other basic org. chemicals	4.432	30.6	22.3	8.9	-	7.4	0.5	1.0	14.8	0.0	1.6	0.0	12.8
Pharmaceutical preparations	2.561	65.4	19.0	10.5	-	1.1	0.0	0.1	1.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	2.6
<b>China</b>													
Total chemical products	15.825	9.4	15.3	0.8	17.5	-	0.5	0.8	24.7	9.0	0.3	0.0	21.7
Plastics in primary forms	5.365	6.0	11.0	0.2	22.7	-	0.1	0.0	28.8	1.3	0.5	0.0	29.4
Fertilizers, nit. compounds	2.800	5.3	33.2	2.0	0.0	-	2.2	2.4	1.4	43.1	0.0	0.0	10.4

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

<sup>(1)</sup>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.

## IV. The world's main exporters of chemicals

IV.1. In 1996, the United States was the main destination for exports of chemicals by the EU, accounting for 17.2% of all EU exports of chemicals. Other European countries such as the EFTA countries (11.4%) and the CEECs (9.7%) also represent a very important market for the EU, as these two groups between them make up just over one-fifth of its export market. The Mediterranean Basin countries, ASE7 and Japan account for 10.5%, 9.4% and 6.7% of its total exports respectively, and are therefore all important markets.

IV.2. In 1996, the EU was the main destination for exports of chemicals from Switzerland and the United States. It swallowed up over half of Switzerland's total exports of chemicals, primarily in the form of "Pharmaceutical preparations" (NACE 2442). The United States dispatched 14% of its exports of chemicals to the ASE7 countries and 8.6% to Japan. The EU is Japan's third-

largest customer, behind the ASE7 countries (35.1%) and the USA (19.7%).

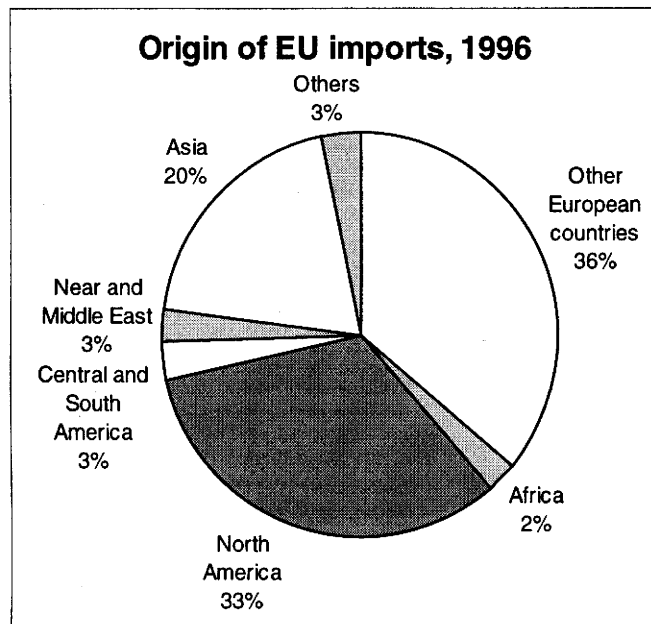
IV.3. Of all the chemicals exported in 1996, "Other organic basic chemicals" (NACE 2414) occupy the top slot for the United States (ECU 11 000 million) and Japan (ECU 7 200 million), but this is not the case for the EU, even though in value terms it exports over twice as much as Japan. "Plastics in primary forms" (NACE 2416) are the second-largest group of USA exports with ECU 8 700 million, and half of Japan's exports of these chemicals go to ASE7 countries. Whilst the EU and Switzerland are the largest exporters of "Pharmaceutical preparations" (NACE 2442), the EU exports three times more in value terms (ECU 15 300 million) than Switzerland. These products do, however, account for a larger share of total Swiss exports of chemicals (31.8%) than is the case for the EU (19.5%).

### Structure of world exports in 1996 (% of total)

Product (Nace rev.1)	Total (Bn ECU)	Share by partner (%)											
		EU-15	USA	EFTA	Japan	China	CEEC	Mediterr. Basin	Ase7	CIS	Mercosur	ACP	Others
<b>EU-15</b>													
Total chemical products	78.573	-	17.2	11.4	6.7	1.6	9.7	10.5	9.4	3.1	3.7	2.7	23.9
Pharmaceutical preparations	15.343	-	16.6	15.1	8.9	1.2	8.9	8.7	5.1	3.5	2.8	4.1	25.2
Other basic org. chemicals	14.146	-	28.1	11.3	8.9	2.1	4.9	7.0	8.5	0.7	5.0	1.0	22.6
<b>United States</b>													
Total chemical products	52.307	24.6	-	1.1	8.6	3.0	0.3	1.4	14.0	0.2	5.5	1.3	39.9
Other basic org. chemicals	10.911	25.1	-	1.1	8.6	1.7	0.1	1.8	15.2	0.1	6.8	0.4	39.2
Plastics in primary forms	8.654	17.8	-	0.4	5.0	2.9	0.1	1.3	16.0	0.1	4.7	1.3	50.5
<b>Japan</b>													
Total chemical products	27.986	17.3	19.7	0.9	-	7.4	0.2	0.6	35.1	0.2	0.9	0.2	17.5
Other basic org. chemicals	7.210	18.1	18.1	1.8	-	8.4	0.2	0.3	32.9	0.1	1.0	0.0	19.1
Plastics in primary forms	4.470	9.3	9.7	0.2	-	11.1	0.1	0.6	50.0	0.1	1.0	0.1	17.8
<b>Switzerland</b>													
Total chemical products	17.036	59.8	9.0	0.3 *	5.5	0.4	3.3	3.8	4.7	0.6	2.7	0.6	9.4
Pharmaceutical preparations	5.417	60.0	5.7	0.6 *	5.0	0.5	4.8	4.3	2.9	0.8	2.2	0.4	12.7
Other basic org. chemicals	2.928	49.4	15.4	0.1 *	12.9	0.4	1.7	3.0	3.8	0.2	3.2	0.2	9.7

\*Switzerland not included

## V. EU imports of chemicals by partner country



V.1. During the first half of 1997, imports of chemicals by the EU (ECU 26 200 million) rose substantially by 10.4%, after an increase of only 3.3% during the whole of 1996. The largest increase during the first half of 1997 was in imports from China, these being 23.8% up on the same period in 1996.

V.2. EU imports of chemicals from its two main suppliers (the United States and Switzerland) stood at ECU 8 800 million and ECU 5 300 million respectively in the first half of 1997. Of the EU's ten main suppliers, these two alone accounted for half of its imports of chemicals in 1996 (ECU 25 000 million). It is worth noting that chemicals account for one quarter of the EU's total imports of products from Switzerland, whereas the equivalent figure for the USA is 13.1%. Imports from Japan (the EU's third-largest partner) stood at ECU 2 600 million in the first half of 1997, an increase of 7.8%, whereas they only rose by 2.3% during the whole of 1996.

V.3. The EU also significantly increased its imports from the USA (17.5%), Israel (14.9%), Norway (13.3%), Poland (12.1%) and South Korea (10.4%). As for imports from Russia, these fell substantially (-22.5%) in 1996, but were only marginally down (-1.3%) in the first half of 1997. The countries of origin of EU chemicals imports can be divided into three main areas with comparable shares of the EU import market. The first group is made up of other European countries (36%) and includes Switzerland, Norway, Russia, Poland and the Czech Republic. The second covers North America (33%), primarily the United States, and the third consists of other Asian countries (20%).

## EU imports by main partner

	1996				1997 1 <sup>st</sup> semester	
	Imports (Bn ECU)	Growth (%)	Share (%)	Relative share <sup>(1)</sup>	Imports (Bn ECU)	Share (%)
United States	14.767	13.8	31.8	13.1	8.759	17.5
Switzerland	10.282	3.3	22.1	24.1	5.317	0.1
Japan	4.723	2.3	10.2	9.0	2.600	7.8
China	1.531	3.9	3.3	5.1	0.918	23.8
Norway	1.448	2.5	3.1	4.7	0.795	13.3
Russia	0.999	-22.5	2.1	4.3	0.489	-1.3
Israel	0.781	3.1	1.7	14.8	0.457	14.9
Poland	0.716	-7.3	1.5	5.8	0.389	12.1
Czech Republic	0.696	-0.7	1.5	7.1	0.383	8.1
South Korea	0.676	-0.3	1.5	6.1	0.390	10.4
<b>Total of 10</b>	<b>36.619</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>78.8</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>20.495</b>	<b>10.4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>46.483</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>26.204</b>	<b>10.4</b>

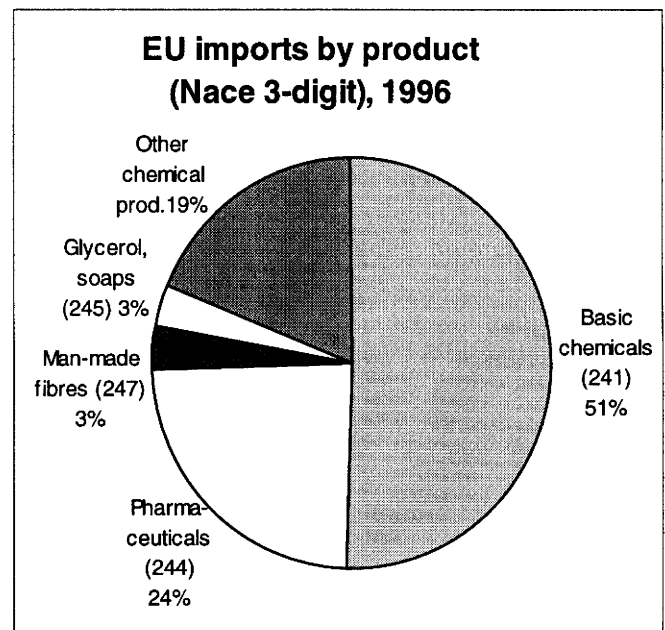
<sup>(1)</sup>Relative share of chemical product imports in total EU imports from partner country

## VI. EU imports by type of chemicals

VI.1. "Other organic basic chemicals" (NACE 2414) make up the largest group of EU imports, totalling ECU 6 600 million in the first half of 1997. These are followed by "Pharmaceutical preparations" (NACE 2442) (ECU 3 600 million) and "Plastics in primary forms" (NACE 2416) (ECU 2 700 million). These three types of products account for half of the EU's total imports of chemicals. They all experienced substantial growth in the first half of 1997, with increases of 16.2%, 14.2% and 8.3% respectively. It should be stressed that, after a period of stagnation in 1996, the upturn in imports of "Other organic basic chemicals" is quite remarkable.

VI.2. Imports of "Dyes and pigments" (NACE 2412) and "Man-made fibres" (NACE 2470) recovered strongly in the first half of 1997 (14.1% and 13.7% respectively), after having fallen in 1996 (-4.3% and -4% respectively). The largest increases in imports of chemicals by the EU during the first half of 1997 were in "Industrial gases" (NACE 2411) and "Paints, varnishes and similar coatings" (NACE 2430), with figures of 17.7% and 17.3% respectively.

VI.3. On the other hand, EU imports of "Pesticides and other agro-chemical products" (NACE 2420) fell sharply in the first half of 1997 (-15%), after having recorded one

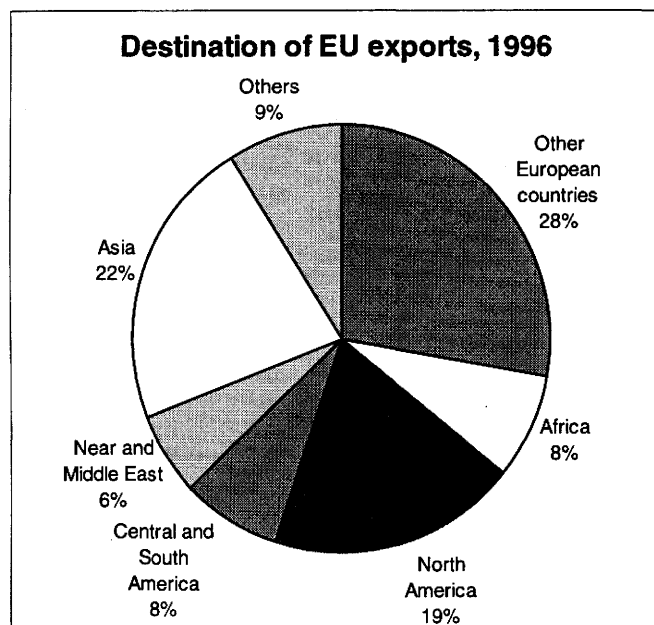


of the highest growth rates in 1996 (14.6%). Imports of "Fertilisers and nitrogen compounds" (NACE 2415) by the EU fell moderately (2.7%) in the first half of 1997, in line with the trend already observed in 1996 (-2%).

## EU imports by main product

Product (Nace rev.1)		1996			1997 1 <sup>st</sup> semester	
		Imports (Bn ECU)	Growth (%)	Share (%)	Imports (Bn ECU)	Growth (%)
2414	Other basic organic chemicals	10.918	-0.5	23.5	6.623	16.2
2442	Pharmaceutical preparations	6.419	15.5	13.8	3.603	14.2
2416	Plastics in primary forms	4.874	-10.5	10.5	2.732	8.3
2441	Basic pharmaceutical products	4.758	11.3	10.2	2.563	6.2
2466	Other chemicals n.e.c.	3.318	12.3	7.1	1.843	12.7
2415	Fertilizers and nitrogen compounds	2.426	-2.0	5.2	1.187	-2.7
2413	Other basic inorganic chemicals	2.155	9.7	4.6	1.196	10.1
2412	Dyes and pigments	2.006	-4.3	4.3	1.171	14.1
2464	Photographic chemical material	1.804	3.5	3.9	0.986	6.2
2470	Man-made fibres	1.537	-4.0	3.3	0.911	13.7
2452	Perfumes and toilet preparations	1.020	10.5	2.2	0.527	6.1
2465	Prepared unrecorded media	1.006	-3.1	2.2	0.518	-0.1
<b>24</b>	<b>Chemicals and man-made fibres</b>	<b>46.483</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>103.3</b>	<b>26.204</b>	<b>10.4</b>

## VII. EU exports of chemicals by partner country



VII.1. EU exports of chemicals rose by 12% in the first half of 1997 to ECU 43 200, half of which went to its ten largest customers.

VII.2. The United States is the EU's largest customer, purchasing one-fifth of its exports of chemicals (ECU 8 200 million). These exports were up more significantly in the first half of 1997 than in 1996 (23.9% as against 17.5%). Switzerland remained in second place behind the United States, importing around half as much (ECU 3 900 million). The EU's ten largest customers also include Poland and Russia. In 1996, these countries substantially increased their purchases, recording increases of 25.4% and 39.3% respectively, and this rhythm was sustained in the first half of 1997. Chemicals topped the percentage list of total EU exports to Brazil and Australia in 1996, with respective figures of 16.5% and 15.1%.

VII.3. When broken down by geographical area, "Other European countries" were the EU's largest customer in 1996. They purchased 28% of all the chemicals exported by the EU, followed by "Other Asian countries" on 22%, and North America on 19%.

## EU exports by main partner

	1996				1997 1 <sup>st</sup> semester	
	Exports (Bn ECU)	Growth (%)	Share (%)	Relative share <sup>(1)</sup>	Exports (Bn ECU)	Growth (%)
United States	13.532	17.5	17.2	11.8	8.206	23.9
Switzerland	7.163	2.5	9.1	13.9	3.834	5.8
Japan	5.283	1.0	6.7	14.8	2.698	3.8
Turkey	2.481	21.5	3.2	13.6	1.477	21.4
Poland	2.351	25.4	3.0	11.8	1.425	26.9
Hong Kong	1.955	5.0	2.5	11.2	1.046	4.4
Brazil	1.934	21.4	2.5	16.5	1.092	21.7
Russia	1.849	39.3	2.4	9.7	1.106	25.4
Australia	1.739	19.8	2.2	15.1	0.971	16.9
Norway	1.711	3.8	2.2	8.7	0.953	12.8
<b>Total of 10</b>	<b>39.999</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>50.9</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>22.807</b>	<b>16.1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>78.573</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>43.203</b>	<b>12.0</b>

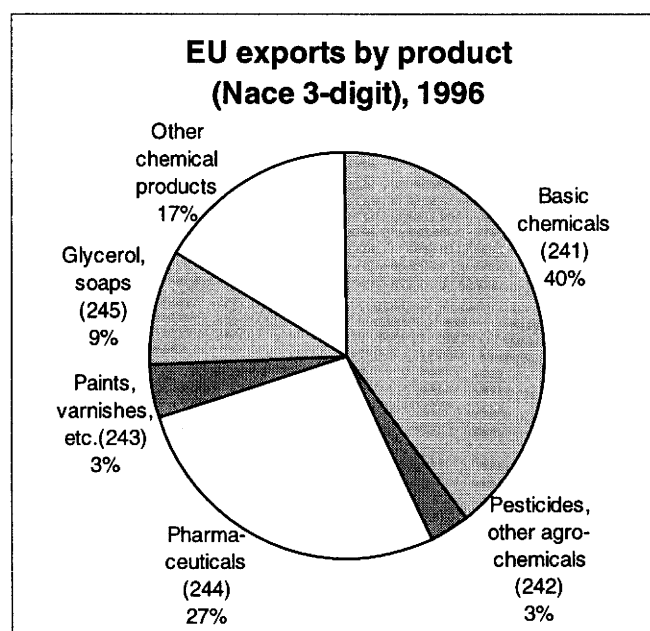
<sup>(1)</sup>Relative share of chemical product exports in total EU exports from partner country



## VIII. EU exports by type of chemicals

VIII.1. In the first half of 1997, "Pharmaceutical preparations" (NACE 2442), were the EU's largest chemical export, valued at ECU 9 000 million. They were closely followed by "Other organic basic chemicals" (NACE 2414) on ECU 8 000 million and "Plastics in primary forms" (NACE 2416) on ECU 4 500 million. These three items accounted for half of the EU's exports of chemicals in 1996. Exports of "Pharmaceutical preparations" shot up by 22.6% in the first half of 1997 from a more modest growth rate of 9.8% in 1996. Exports of "Basic pharmaceutical products" (NACE 2441) and "Perfumes and toilet preparations" (NACE 2452) also rose substantially in 1996, by 17.2% and 14.2% respectively. This was followed by more moderate expansion in the first half of 1997, with respective growth rates of 3.6% and 9.8%.

VIII.2. There were, on the other hand, several chemicals whose share of the EU total for exports of chemicals was less than 4%. Of these, "Essential oils" (NACE 2463) experienced the highest growth rate (38.2%) during the first six months of 1997. Exports of "Synthetic rubber" (NACE 2417), which had fallen significantly (-11.2%) in 1996, recovered strongly (24%) in the first half of 1997. For the rest, exports of "Man-made fibres"



(NACE 2470), "Fertilisers and nitrogen compounds" (NACE 2415), and "Prepared unrecorded media" (NACE 2465) all fell in the first six months of 1997.

## EU exports by main product

Product (Nace rev.1)	1996			1997 1 <sup>st</sup> semester	
	Exports (Bn ECU)	Growth (%)	Share (%)	Exports (Bn ECU)	Growth (%)
2442	15.343	9.8	19.5	9.032	22.6
2414	14.146	0.8	18.0	8.008	12.9
2416	8.823	6.9	11.2	4.581	6.8
2466	6.678	12.1	8.5	3.781	16.1
2441	5.564	17.2	7.1	2.854	3.6
2452	5.064	14.2	6.4	2.693	9.8
2412	3.478	3.3	4.4	1.907	11.2
2430	3.209	15.2	4.1	1.764	17.9
2464	2.366	3.7	3.0	1.175	1.4
2420	2.263	16.4	2.9	1.389	4.2
2413	2.078	5.4	2.6	1.035	0.1
2451	2.000	10.1	2.5	1.022	6.3
<b>24</b>	<b>78.573</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>110.2</b>	<b>43.203</b>	<b>12.0</b>

## IX. EU trade balances

IX.1. In the first half of 1997, the EU recorded a trade surplus of ECU 17 000 million, an increase of just over ECU 2 000 million on the same period in 1996. The EU's largest trade surpluses are with Turkey (ECU 1 300 million) and Poland (ECU 1 000 million). Its largest deficits, on the other hand, are with Switzerland (-ECU 1 500 million) and the United States (- ECU 500 million).

IX.2. In 1996, the EU had trade surplus in chemical products with seven of its top ten partners. It improved all its surpluses by over 20% in the first half of 1997, other than the surplus in trade with Norway, which was up only 0.2%. At the same time, it maintained its trade surplus with Japan. The EU has substantially increased its surplus with Russia (60%) thanks to a 25.4% increase in exports coupled with a slight reduction in imports (-1.3%). Compared to the same period in 1996, the EU also reduced its deficits with Switzerland (by ECU 200 million) and the United States (by ECU 300 million) in the first half of 1997. On the other hand, the only EU deficit which did not show any improvement was the deficit with China, which almost doubled due to a 23.8% leap in imports in the first six months of 1997.

IX.3. In the first half of 1997, the EU recorded its highest trade surplus (ECU 5 400 million) in "Pharmaceutical preparations" (NACE 2442). In second place came "Perfumes and toilet preparations" (NACE 2452) with ECU 2 200 million. The trade surpluses also topped ECU 1 000 million for "Plastics in primary forms" (NACE 2416), "Other organic basic chemicals" (NACE 2414) and "Paints, varnishes and similar coatings" (NACE 2430). On the other hand, the EU trade deficits for "Fertilisers and nitrogen compounds" (NACE 2415) and "Other inorganic basic chemicals" (NACE 2413) totalled ECU 700 million and ECU 200 million respectively.

IX.4. In the first half of 1997, the EU recorded strong growth rates of around 30% in its trade surpluses for "Pharmaceutical preparations" (NACE 2442) and "Perfumes and toilet preparations" (NACE 2452). It also saw its trade balance in "Paints, varnishes and similar coatings" (NACE 2430) increase by ECU 1 100 million. The trade balances for "Fertilisers and nitrogen compounds" (NACE 2415) and "Other inorganic basic chemicals" (NACE 2413) were both down substantially (by ECU 1 800 million and ECU 800 million respectively), as a result of the drop in exports of the former (-11.3%) and an increase in imports of the latter (+10.1 %).

### EU trade balance by partner<sup>(1)</sup> (Bn ECU)

	1995	1996	1997 1 <sup>st</sup> semester
United States	-1.451	-1.235	-0.553
Switzerland	-2.969	-3.119	-1.483
Japan	0.615	0.560	0.098
Norway	0.236	0.263	0.158
Poland	1.102	1.635	1.037
Russia	0.038	0.850	0.617
Turkey	1.684	2.164	1.288
China	-0.469	-0.292	-0.250
Brazil	1.206	1.537	0.876
South Korea	0.853	0.928	0.550
<b>Total</b>	<b>26.339</b>	<b>32.090</b>	<b>16.998</b>

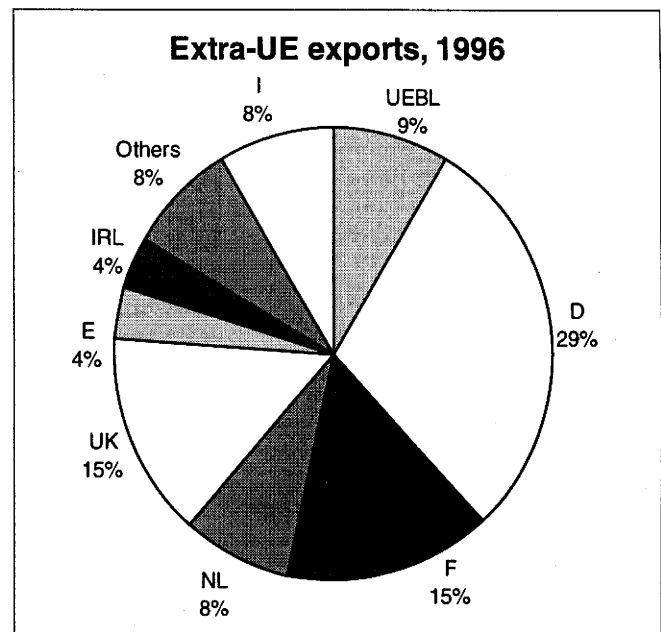
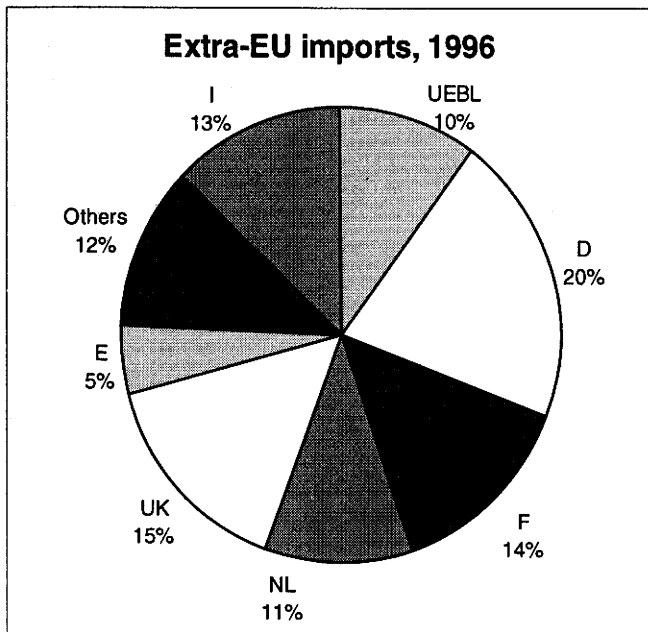
<sup>(1)</sup>Countries and products are ranked in descending order of total trade (exports + imports) in chemical products with the EU

### EU trade balance by product<sup>(2)</sup> (Bn ECU)

Product (Nace rev.1)	1995	1996	1997 1 <sup>st</sup> semester
2414	3.069	3.228	1.384
2442	8.422	8.924	5.429
2416	2.809	3.948	1.849
2441	0.471	0.806	0.290
2466	3.001	3.361	1.938
2452	3.512	4.045	2.166
2412	1.270	1.472	0.735
2413	0.006	-0.077	-0.161
2464	0.539	0.562	0.189
2430	2.116	2.502	1.349
<b>24</b>	<b>26.339</b>	<b>32.090</b>	<b>16.998</b>

<sup>(2)</sup>See labels on preceding tables

## X. The Member States' contributions to intra- and extra-EU trade in chemicals



X.1. Trade in chemicals accounted for 12.6% of total intra-EU trade in 1996 and 10.4% of total extra-EU trade. Trade in chemicals between the Member States amounted to ECU 127 700 million, whilst extra-EU trade totalled ECU 125 000 million.

X.2. In 1996, Germany had the highest trade surplus for chemicals, with a figure of ECU 20 600 million. Two-thirds of this surplus was achieved in extra-EU trade. It is the top exporter of chemicals in both intra- and extra-EU trade. In second place in terms of total trade is the

### Trade by Member State, 1996 (BN ECU)

	Extra-EU trade			Intra-EU trade			Total Balance	Intra-EU trade/ total %
	Imports	Exports	Balance	Arrivals	Dispatches	Balance		
UEBL	4.745	6.692	1.947	14.465	18.760	4.295	6.242	74.4
DK	0.675	1.750	1.075	3.053	2.387	-0.666	0.409	69.2
D	9.582	23.137	13.555	22.763	29.548	6.785	20.340	61.5
EL	0.585	0.279	-0.306	2.190	0.171	-2.019	-2.325	73.2
E <sup>(1)</sup>	2.303	2.842	0.539	9.140	4.229	-4.911	-4.372	72.2
F <sup>(1)</sup>	6.418	12.111	5.693	20.327	20.267	-0.060	5.633	68.7
IRL	1.120	2.903	1.782	2.350	5.860	3.510	5.293	67.1
I	5.900	6.455	0.555	16.603	7.653	-8.949	-8.395	66.3
NL	5.038	6.243	1.204	11.416	16.621	5.205	6.409	71.3
A	1.096	1.462	0.367	4.381	1.650	-2.731	-2.365	70.2
P	0.376	0.216	-0.159	2.522	0.638	-1.884	-2.043	84.2
FIN	0.518	0.860	0.341	2.170	0.922	-1.248	-0.906	69.2
S	1.081	2.086	1.004	4.192	3.316	-0.876	0.128	70.3
UK	7.047	11.539	4.492	15.658	15.696	0.038	4.530	62.8
<b>EU-15</b>	<b>46.483</b>	<b>78.573</b>	<b>32.090</b>		<b>127.718</b>			<b>67.1</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.

BLEU (Belgium and Luxembourg) on ECU 6 200 million, followed by the Netherlands with a surplus of ECU 6 400 million. France and the United Kingdom recorded more moderate surpluses of ECU 5 600 million and ECU 4 500 million respectively, but the high value of both their intra- and extra-EU trade figures puts them in second and third position behind Germany in the Member States' league table. Ireland's surplus of ECU 5 200 is of similar proportions. Denmark's trade figures show a slight surplus of less than ECU 500 million.

X.3. At the other end of the scale, the southern members of the EU - Italy, Spain and Greece - recorded trade deficits amounting to ECU 8 400 million, ECU 4 000 million and ECU 2 300 million respectively in 1996, due to their high levels of imports (ECU 16 600 million, ECU 8 600 million and ECU 2 200 million). Sweden had a slight surplus of ECU 100 million, thanks to its extra-EU trade, whilst Finland and Austria were in the red by ECU 900 million and ECU 2 300 million respectively.

## 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

### ACP

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

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