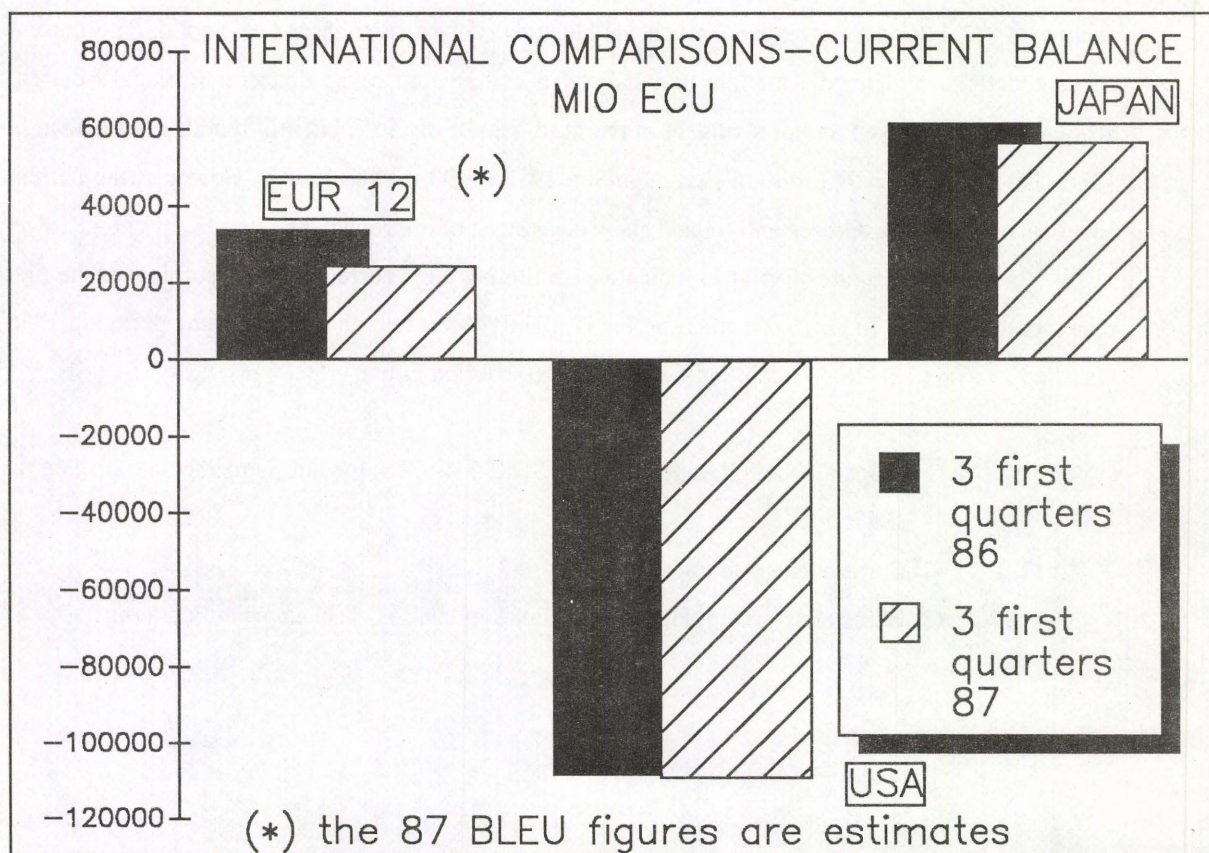


1988 □ 2

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS



BALANCE OF PAYMENTS : Community's current account still in surplus despite a significant drop in the trade balance.

The Community's current account was in surplus for the first nine months of 1987, but was lower than the corresponding period in 1986. (Jan-Sep 1986 = 34.1 billion Ecus; Jan-Sep 1987 = 24.6 billion Ecus). This fall was the result of a significant decrease (10 billion Ecus) in the trade balance surplus over the same period. In commodity terms, the principal contributory factor was a drop of 19% in the Community's surplus of manufactures (1). These goods represent about 58% of extra-EC imports and 81% of extra-EC exports (2). Important geographical factors were the fall in visible exports to the US (-6.1%) and OPEC (-20.9%), and the rise in visible imports from EFTA (+2.6%) (3).

The large German current account surplus continues to keep the Community's balance in credit - for the first nine months of 1987 Germany's current account balance was 25.9 billion Ecus, 1.3 billion Ecus greater than the overall Community balance for the same period.

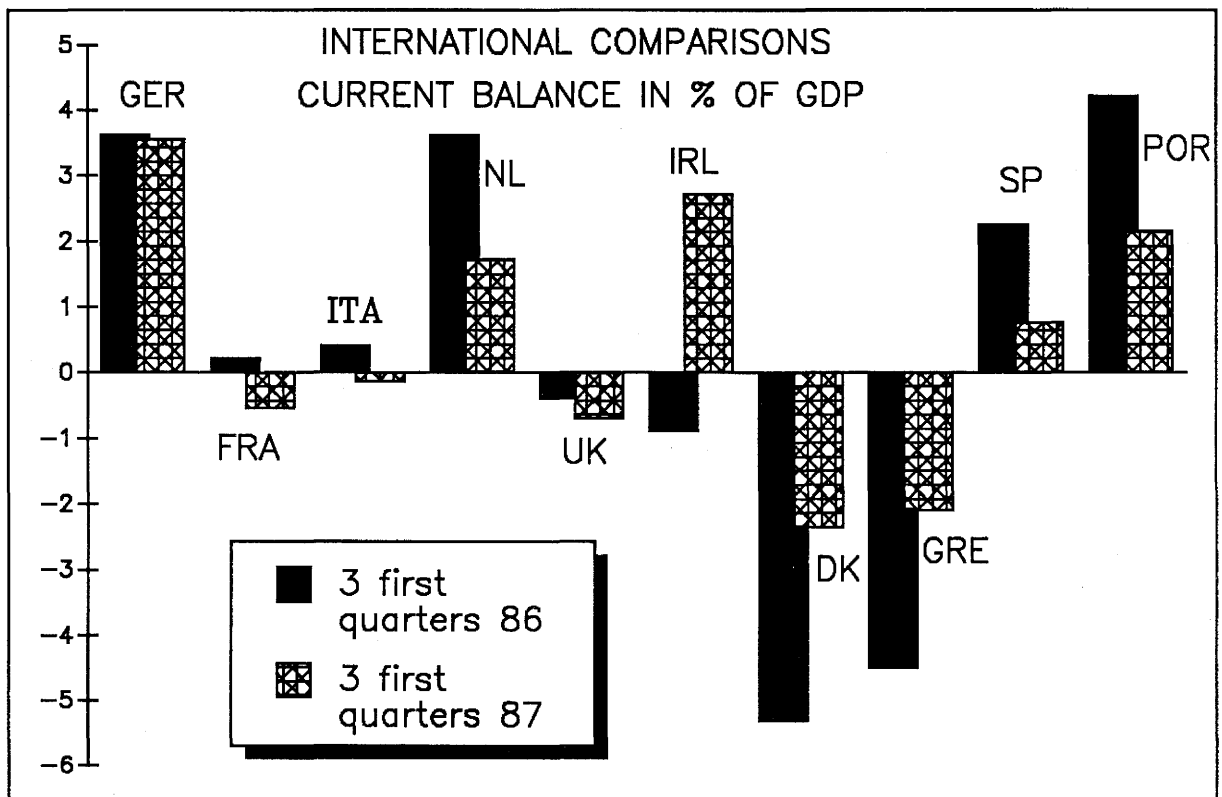
The situation elsewhere is less encouraging. Latest figures for France's current account balance, which was in clear credit in 1986, show a distinct deficit for the first nine months of 1987 (Jan-Sep 1986 = 1.3 billion Ecus; Jan-Sep 1987 = -3.1 billion Ecus). This is the result of a decline of 4.1 billion Ecus in the French visible trade deficit over the same period. The current account deficits of United Kingdom and Italy also continue to cause concern. Portugal's current account balance showed an improvement in the third quarter of 1987, but still remains lower than in 1986 (Jan-Sep 1986 = 913 million Ecus; Jan-Sep 1987 = 490 million Ecus). However, the current accounts of Denmark, Greece and Ireland show clear signs of improvement.

Latest figures for Japan indicate a continuing large current account surplus for the first nine months of 1987. In Ecu terms, this surplus is slightly lower than that for the same period in 1986 (Jan-Sep 1986 = 61.8 billion Ecus; Jan-Sep 1987 = 56.9 billion Ecus).

(1) Eurostat external trade statistics, SITC 5+6+7+8, for Jan-Sep 1986 and Jan-Sep 1987.

(2) Eurostat external trade statistics 1987.

(3) Eurostat external trade statistics Jan-Sep 1987, % changes in Ecu terms.



I. TABLES BY COUNTRY - IN NATIONAL CURRENCY

The new updates of this report are:	Portugal: revised data 01/87-02/87
Denmark: revised data 01/87-02/87; new data 03/87	new data 03/87
Germany: revised data 01/87 - 03/87	U.S.A: revised data 02/87;
Greece: revised data 04/86	new data 03/87
France: revised data 01/87 - 02/87; new data 03/87	Japan: revised data 02/87;
Italy: revised data 03/86; new data 02/87	new data 03/87
Netherlands: revised data 03/86-03/87	Updates for 86 yearly ecu data
United Kingdom: revised data 03/86-02/87; new data 03/87	THE 87 BLEU FIGURES ARE ESTIMATES
Spain: revised data 01/87-02/87; new data 03/87	

		UEBL / BLEU - Billion BFR					DANMARK - Million DKR				
		03/86	04/86	01/87	02/87	03/87	03/86	04/86	01/87	02/87	03/87
MERCHANDISE (fob-fob)	(+)	680,00	706,00	697,00	695,00	680,00	39 642	43 815	42 708	42 895	41 968
	(-)	651,00	706,00	695,00	676,00	651,00	42 265	45 386	40 988	40 448	40 266
	(=)	30,00	,00	2,00	19,00	30,00	-2 623	-1 571	1 720	2 447	1 702
CURRENT BALANCE	(+)	1 147,00	1 191,00	1 207,00	1 203,00	1 147,00	61 562	62 146	61 474	62 874	64 539
	(-)	1 100,00	1 159,00	1 175,00	1 153,00	1 100,00	68 875	70 494	64 927	68 224	68 056
	(=)	47,00	32,00	32,00	49,00	47,00	-7 313	-8 348	-3 453	-5 350	-3 517
BASIC BALANCE	(=)	-48,00	14,00	-42,00	-72,00	-48,00	5 313	91	20 246	8 274	3 667
OFFICIAL SETTLEMENTS BALANCE	(=)	-40,00	-4,00	-67,00	60,00	-40,00	-3 482	2 101	13 677	16 164	1 229
RESERVES (minus = net increase)		39,00	-11,00	6,00	-27,00	39,00	-5 322	2 247	-8 194	-16 260	-1 226

		B.R DEUTSCHLAND - Million DM					ESPANA - Billion PTAS				
		03/86	04/86	01/87	02/87	03/87	03/86	04/86	01/87	02/87	03/87
MERCHANDISE (fob-fob)	(+)	119 679	127 967	120 372	120 676	120 322	826,08	1 023,30	953,70	1 065,90	968,50
	(-)	89 142	93 210	90 872	92 243	91 683	1 046,46	1 348,86	1 290,20	1 381,90	1 391,60
	(=)	30 537	34 757	29 500	28 433	28 639	-220,38	-325,56	-336,50	-316,00	-423,10
CURRENT BALANCE	(+)	162 171	169 937	159 559	161 940	162 615	1 790,24	1 825,11	1 644,20	1 891,00	2 139,40
	(-)	144 257	142 347	139 175	142 767	148 381	1 448,68	1 792,96	1 706,10	1 821,60	1 941,00
	(=)	17 914	27 590	20 384	19 173	14 234	341,56	32,15	-61,90	69,40	198,40
BASIC BALANCE	(=)	27 590	32 207	36 705	20 205	-3 945	258,12	24,52	-54,80	394,10	701,90
OFFICIAL SETTLEMENTS BALANCE	(=)	9 509	2 741	16 248	5 745	-1 595	381,40	5,03	-42,00	375,30	627,60
RESERVES (minus = net increase)		-8 987	-3 916	-13 432	-4 415	-1 900	-376,04	1,62	-180,40	-567,50	-800,50

		FRANCE - Million FF					HELLAS - Million US\$				
		03/86	04/86	01/87	02/87	03/87	03/86	04/86	01/87	02/87	03/87
MERCHANDISE (fob-fob)	(+)	187 279	211 906	199 711	205 371	196 044	1 147	1 298	1 166	1 258	1 396
	(-)	190 669	209 640	219 011	223 490	206 831	2 264	2 284	2 423	2 788	2 864
	(=)	-3 390	2 266	-19 300	-18 119	-10 787	-1 116	-986	-1 257	-1 530	-1 468
CURRENT BALANCE	(+)	343 178	369 380	343 842	367 708	356 153	3 205	2 758	2 605	3 120	4 654
	(-)	338 389	357 916	355 972	371 337	361 815	3 079	3 098	3 357	3 809	3 959
	(=)	4 789	11 464	-12 130	-3 629	-5 662	126	-340	-752	-689	695
BASIC BALANCE	(=)	-16 961	-2 120	-4 634	4 279	-374	687	-55	157	-582	1 338
OFFICIAL SETTLEMENTS BALANCE	(=)	-5 262	-29 092	-5 796	9 676	-5 697	796	-42	246	-231	1 445
RESERVES (minus = net increase)		12 417	28 306	10 498	-8 471	8 245	-401	30	-182	-45	-1 297

		IRELAND - Million IRE					ITALIA - Billion LIT				
		03/86	04/86	01/87	02/87	03/87	03/86	04/86	01/87	02/87	03/87
MERCHANDISE (fob-fob)	(+)	2 154	2 430	2 287	2 709	2 645	34 318	37 629	34 243	35 352	38 225
	(-)	1 974	2 319	2 213	2 271	2 191	29 717	34 452	35 793	37 865	35 169
	(=)	180	111	74	438	454	4 601	3 177	-1 550	-2 513	3 056
CURRENT BALANCE	(+)	3 064	3 236	3 006	3 616	NA	50 034	50 732	47 436	51 994	55 174
	(-)	3 045	3 442	3 207	3 326	NA	43 384	49 037	51 058	53 169	51 468
	(=)	19	-206	-201	290	303	6 650	1 695	-3 622	-1 175	3 706
BASIC BALANCE	(=)	395	-96	406	497	NA	2 889	99	325	-3 464	1 802
OFFICIAL SETTLEMENTS BALANCE	(=)	-174	55	90	180	333	-1 897	183	5 257	-2 873	-1 989
RESERVES (minus = net increase)		174	-55	-90	-180	-333	1 765	-301	-5 098	2 918	1 998

		NEDERLAND - Million HFL					PORTUGAL - Billion ESC				
		03/86	04/86	01/87	02/87	03/87	03/86	04/86	01/87	02/87	03/87
MERCHANDISE (fob-fob)	(+)	40 854	42 759	43 597	43 739	41 716	267,83	293,51	307,80	315,60	322,00
	(-)	37 618	41 001	41 495	39 712	39 796	319,13	352,71	404,80	460,80	435,40
	(=)	3 236	1 758	2 102	4 027	1 920	-51,30	-59,20	-97,00	-145,20	-113,40
CURRENT BALANCE	(+)	59 778	61 031	62 678	64 776	63 565	552,29	520,49	533,60	576,60	674,50
	(-)	58 612	61 233	61 549	61 170	62 642	441,72	486,14	526,20	602,20	576,40
	(=)	1 166	-202	1 129	3 606	923	110,56	34,34	7,40	-25,60	98,10
BASIC BALANCE	(=)	-5 858	-3 236	-729	3 850	-257	97,12	-35,06	,70	-5,90	186,10
OFFICIAL SETTLEMENTS BALANCE	(=)	3 033	-2 162	1 600	3 820	775	107,03	-85,32	5,70	44,20	215,90
RESERVES (minus = net increase)		-1 488	1 740	-1 144	-3 384	-784	-108,97	86,39	-5,70	-44,20	-215,90

		UNITED KINGDOM - Million UKE					EUR - 12 - Million ECU				
		03/86	04/86	01/87	02/87	03/87	03/86	04/86	01/87	02/87	03/87
MERCHANDISE (fob-fob)	(+)	16 891	20 253	19 590	19 378	19 351	181 651	200 150	190 275	193 314	191 946
	(-)	19 649	21 974	21 223	22 020	22 401	169 996	186 271	184 890	189 060	184 750
	(=)	-2 958	-1 721	-1 633	-2 642	-3 050	11 679	13 879	5 385	4 254	7 218
CURRENT BALANCE	(+)	36 792	39 629	38 792	38 963	40 823	298 444	310 096	296 321	309 173	NA
	(-)	37 767	39 457	38 637	40 020	42 053	282 094	294 312	290 999	300 646	NA
	(=)	-975	172	155	-1 057	-1 230	16 350	15 784	5 322	8 504	10 810
BASIC BALANCE	(=)	-2 537	-6 243	1 899	-3 091	314	9 704	5 357	21 491	7 462	NA
OFFICIAL SETTLEMENTS BALANCE	(=)	2 175	-105	1 443	3 868	191	9 603	-4 196	13 527	15 753	4 415
RESERVES (minus = net increase)		-2 321	306	-1 523	-4 469	-269	-8 686	3 782	-13 486	-16 392	-6 963

		UNITED STATES - Million US\$					JAPAN - Million US\$				
		03/86	04/86	01/87	02/87	03/87	03/86	04/86	01/87	02/87	03/87
MERCHANDISE (fob-fob)	(+)	53 909	57 873	57 209	61 633	61 730	53 873	54 664	50 488	55 823	56 585
	(-)	92 699	96 395	93 952	101 255	104 245	27 087	27 085	27 135	30 784	32 991
	(=)	-38 790	-38 522	-36 744	-39 622	-42 515	26 786	27 579	23 352	25 039	23 594
CURRENT BALANCE	(+)	90 847	95 575	98 958	102 756	102 471	67 609	69 371	67 889	74 534	77 511
	(-)	131 116	132 021	132 411	144 720	150 999	43 240	43 685	46 932	51 786	56 662
	(=)	-40 269	-36 447	-33 453	-41 964	-48 529	24 368	25 685	20 957	22 748	20 849
BASIC BALANCE	(=)	-18 559	-11 075	-11 613	-13 626	-34 280	-13 255	-19 955	-9 154	-21 674	-1 545
OFFICIAL SETTLEMENTS BALANCE	(=)	-8 287	302	-5 510	-3 804	4 073	6 712	-60	17 224	13 121	2 758
RESERVES (minus = net increase)		289	133	1 967	3 416	26	-7 337	-651	-15 837	-10 857	-2 758

II. TABLES BY HEADING - IN MIO ECU

EXCHANGE RATES

1 ECU = ...		03/86	04/86	01/87	02/87	03/87
BLEU / UEHL	1000 BFR	0,04365	0,04329	0,04287	0,04304	0,04310
DANEMARK	DKR	7,94519	7,85963	7,81124	7,81846	7,93901
B.R. DEUTSCHLAND	DM	2,11230	2,08307	2,06801	2,07622	2,07487
ESPAÑA	1000 PTAS	0,13695	0,13973	0,14501	0,14500	0,14059
FRANCE	FF	6,86570	6,82353	6,88774	6,92878	6,92043
HELLAS	US\$	1,01273	1,03816	1,12455	1,14978	1,12844
IRELAND	IR£	0,74392	0,76478	0,77473	0,77605	0,77529
ITALIA	1000 LIT	1,45427	1,44264	1,46917	1,49444	1,50151
NEDERLAND	HFL	2,38200	2,35399	2,33425	2,34036	2,33635
PORTUGAL	1000 ESC	0,14895	0,15391	0,15943	0,16140	0,16281
UNITED KINGDOM	UK£	0,68012	0,72664	0,72924	0,70005	0,69770
UNITED STATES	US\$	1,01273	1,03816	1,12455	1,14978	1,12844
JAPAN	US\$	1,01273	1,03816	1,12455	1,14978	1,12844
SDR		0,84199	0,86050	0,89184	0,88855	0,88384

A. TRADE BALANCE NET

	03/86	04/86	01/87	02/87	03/87	1986
EUR-12 *)	11679	13879	5385	4254	7218	39685
U.S.A	-38302	-37106	-32674	-34461	-37676	-149605
JAPON	26449	26565	20766	21777	20909	95677
BLEU / UEHL	687	0	47	441	696	1169
DANMARK	-330	-200	220	313	214	-1225
B.R. DEUTSCHLAND	14457	16685	14265	13695	13803	54915
ESPAÑA	-1609	-2330	-2321	-2179	-3009	-6511
FRANCE	-494	332	-2802	-2615	-1559	-2503
HELLAS	-1102	-950	-1118	-1331	-1301	-4600
IRELAND	242	145	96	564	585	765
ITALIA	3164	2202	-1055	-1682	2035	4553
NEDERLAND	1359	747	901	1721	822	7163
PORTUGAL	-344	-385	-608	-900	-697	-1699
UNITED KINGDOM	-4349	-2368	-2239	-3774	-4372	-12342

B. BALANCE OF INVISIBLES NET

	03/86	04/86	01/87	02/87	03/87	1986
EUR-12 *)	4670	1905	-62	4250	3592	11582
U.S.A	-1460	1999	2927	-2037	-5329	3055
JAPON	-2388	-1824	-2130	-1993	-2433	-7066
BLEU / UEHL	389	739	700	697	394	2496
DANMARK	-590	-862	-662	-997	-657	-3197
B.R. DEUTSCHLAND	-5976	-3441	-4408	-4460	-6943	-17463
ESPAÑA	4103	2560	1894	2658	4421	10564
FRANCE	1191	1348	1041	2091	741	5443
HELLAS	1226	622	449	731	1917	2764
IRELAND	-216	-414	-355	-191	-195	-1212
ITALIA	1409	-1027	-1410	895	433	-971
NEDERLAND	-869	-833	-417	-180	-427	-2537
PORTUGAL	1087	608	655	741	1299	2810
UNITED KINGDOM	2916	2605	2452	2264	2609	12142

C. CURRENT BALANCE NET

	03/86	04/86	01/87	02/87	03/87	1986
EUR-12 *)	16350	15784	5322	8504	10810	52003
U.S.A	-39763	-35107	-29748	-36497	-43005	-146487
JAPON	24062	24741	18636	19785	18476	88467
BLEU / UEHL	1077	739	747	1138	1090	3665
DANMARK	-920	-1062	-442	-684	-443	-4488
B.R. DEUTSCHLAND	8481	13245	9857	9235	6860	38805
ESPAÑA	2494	230	-427	479	1411	4269
FRANCE	698	1680	-1761	-524	-818	2940
HELLAS	124	-328	-669	-599	616	-1779
IRELAND	26	-269	-259	374	390	-447
ITALIA	4573	1175	-2465	-786	2468	3173
NEDERLAND	490	-86	484	1541	395	4898
PORTUGAL	742	223	46	-159	603	1168
UNITED KINGDOM	-1434	237	213	-1510	-1763	-199

D. LONG TERM CAPITAL NET

	03/86	04/86	01/87	02/87	03/87	1986
EUR-12 *)	-6646	-10427	16169	-1042	NA	-24682
U.S.A	21437	24439	19421	24646	12627	79609
JAPON	-37150	-43962	-26776	-38635	-19845	-133438
BLEU / UEBL	-2176	-416	-1726	-2811	-2204	-7039
DANMARK	1589	1074	3034	1743	905	3556
B.R. DEUTSCHLAND	4581	2216	7892	497	-8762	16645
ESPANA	-609	-55	49	2239	3581	-1667
FRANCE	-3168	-1991	1088	1141	764	-7566
HELLAS	554	275	808	93	570	2215
IRELAND	505	144	783	267	NA	1744
ITALIA	-2586	-1106	2687	-1532	-1268	-2404
NEDERLAND	-2949	-1289	-796	104	-505	-9212
PORTUGAL	-90	-451	-42	122	541	-488
UNITED KINGDOM	-2297	-8828	2392	-2906	2213	-19974

E. BASIC BALANCE

	03/86	04/86	01/87	02/87	03/87	1986
EUR-12 *)	9704	5357	21491	7462	NA	27791
U.S.A	-18326	-10668	-10327	-11851	-30378	-63950
JAPON	-13088	-19222	-8140	-18851	-1369	-46739
BLEU / UEBL	-1100	323	-980	-1673	-1114	-3375
DANMARK	669	12	2592	1058	462	-843
B.R. DEUTSCHLAND	13062	15461	17749	9732	-1901	54597
ESPANA	1885	175	-378	2718	4993	2516
FRANCE	-2470	-311	-673	618	-54	-4626
HELLAS	678	-53	140	-506	1186	471
IRELAND	531	-126	524	640	NA	1296
ITALIA	1987	69	221	-2318	1200	1521
NEDERLAND	-2459	-1375	-312	1645	-110	-4327
PORTUGAL	652	-228	4	-37	1143	656
UNITED KINGDOM	-3730	-8592	2604	-4415	450	-20174

F. OFFICIAL SETTLEMENTS BALANCE

	03/86	04/86	01/87	02/87	03/87	1986
EUR-12 *)	9603	-4196	13527	15753	4415	10612
U.S.A	-8183	291	-4900	-3308	3609	-22534
JAPON	6628	-58	15316	11412	2444	13773
BLEU / UEBL	-916	-92	-1563	1394	-928	-1183
DANMARK	-438	267	1751	2067	155	-2067
B.R. DEUTSCHLAND	4502	1316	7857	2767	-769	3377
ESPANA	2785	36	-290	2588	4464	2504
FRANCE	-766	-4263	-841	1396	-823	1702
HELLAS	786	-40	219	-201	1281	719
IRELAND	-234	72	116	232	429	-98
ITALIA	-1304	127	3578	-1922	-1325	2348
NEDERLAND	1273	-918	685	1632	332	-636
PORTUGAL	719	-554	36	274	1326	-148
UNITED KINGDOM	3198	-145	1979	5525	274	4094

G. RESERVES

	03/86	04/86	01/87	02/87	03/87	1986
EUR-12 *)	-8686	3782	-13486	-16392	-6963	-14571
U.S.A	285	128	1749	2971	23	334
JAPON	-7245	-627	-14083	-9443	-2444	-15062
BLEU / UEBL	893	-254	140	-627	905	155
DANMARK	-670	286	-1049	-2080	-154	1418
B.R. DEUTSCHLAND	-4255	-1880	-6495	-2126	-916	-5324
ESPANA	-2746	12	-1244	-3914	-5694	-2330
FRANCE	1809	4148	1524	-1223	1191	-1729
HELLAS	-396	29	-162	-39	-1149	-369
IRELAND	234	-72	-116	-232	-429	98
ITALIA	1214	-209	-3470	1953	1331	-2563
NEDERLAND	-625	739	-490	-1446	-336	305
PORTUGAL	-732	561	-36	-274	-1326	129
UNITED KINGDOM	-3413	421	-2088	-6384	-386	-4362

SCOPE OF THE PUBLICATION

For each of the Member States of the European Community, for the Community (EUR-12) and also for the United States and Japan the most recently available data at SOEC (often provisional) are presented, based on the recommendations and definitions of the Balance of Payments Manual of the International Monetary Fund. Sometimes figures are drawn up on a "settlements basis"; they are marked with the footnote "s)". The ECU conversion rates used are quarterly averages.

CONCEPTS

Trade Account (FOB/FOB) [A]

The trade account or "merchandise" covers all transactions in movable goods, measured on a f.o.b.-basis.

Invisibles Account [B]

The invisibles account covers all transactions in services, income and unrequited transfers.

Current Account [C] = [A] + [B]

Long-term Capital Account [D]

The long-term capital account covers all changes in an economy's long-term foreign financial assets and liabilities.

Basic Balance [E] = [C] + [D]

Official Settlements Balance [F]

Balance which is financed by short-term movements in foreign assets and liabilities of the official sector

Reserves [G]

Reports movements in foreign assets and liabilities of the monetary authorities

EXPLANATORY NOTES

s) = Data on a "settlements" basis. For a correct use of these estimates please refer to the Balance of Payments methodologies of the Member States published by EUROSTAT.

*) = To interpret the EUR-12 estimates correctly the user should refer to footnotes for each of the Member States' balances.

N.A = not available

(+) = credit

(-) = debit

(=) = balance

Additional information on the data base and also on the methodology of balance of payments may be obtained from EUROSTAT's Division B2, "Regional and financial statistics".

More information about the data can be found in the publications of the Balances of Payments section. (quarterly and annual global data, and geographical breakdown).