

EUROPEAN UNION TRADE WITH SWITZERLAND

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Statistics in focus

EXTERNAL TRADE

THEME 6 – 9/2000

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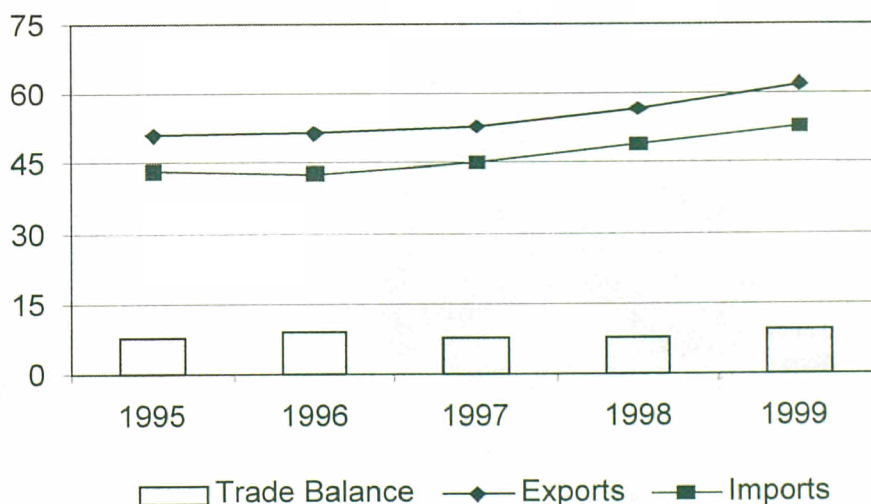
The EU has a trade surplus with Switzerland. In 1998, exports equalled 57 billion ECU, imports 49 billion and the EU trade surplus almost 8 billion. Trade increased from 1995 to 1998 (particularly during the last year), as exports rose by 12% and imports by 14%, but the trade balance has remained, on the whole, remarkably stable. First figures for 1999 indicate a further 9% rise in the value of exports to 63 bn euro and a 7% rise in the value of imports to 53 bn euro, with the surplus reaching 10 bn euro.

The EU dominates Swiss trade, accounting for around three quarters of its imports and 62% of its exports. Switzerland is also a major trading partner for the EU, being its second largest partner after the USA for exports and the third largest after the USA and Japan for imports.

Around one fifth of EU imports of 'Chemicals' originate from Switzerland; of these, 'Medical and pharmaceutical products' make up the largest share. Conversely, Switzerland imports more than one sixth of EU global exports of 'Energy', out of which more than half originates from France- largely 'Electric current'.

Almost three quarters of EU trade with Switzerland is accounted for by the four surrounding Member States (Austria, France, Germany, Italy).

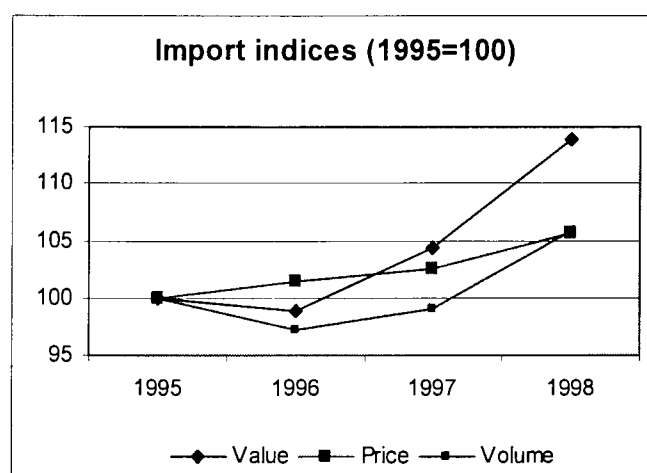
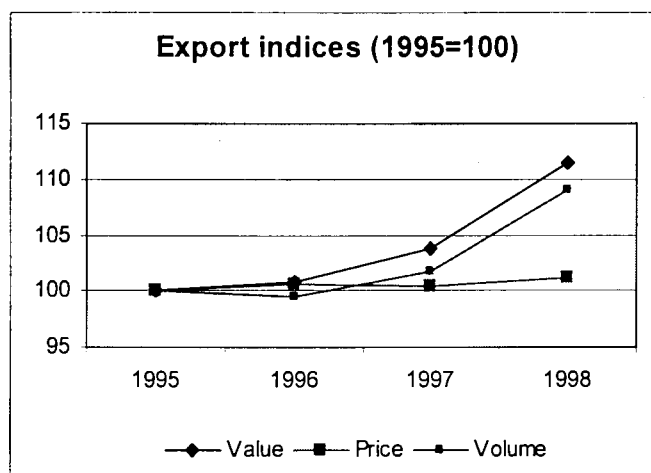
EU trade with Switzerland
(billion ECU/euro)



Source: Comext, unless otherwise mentioned



1. EU TRADE FLOWS WITH SWITZERLAND



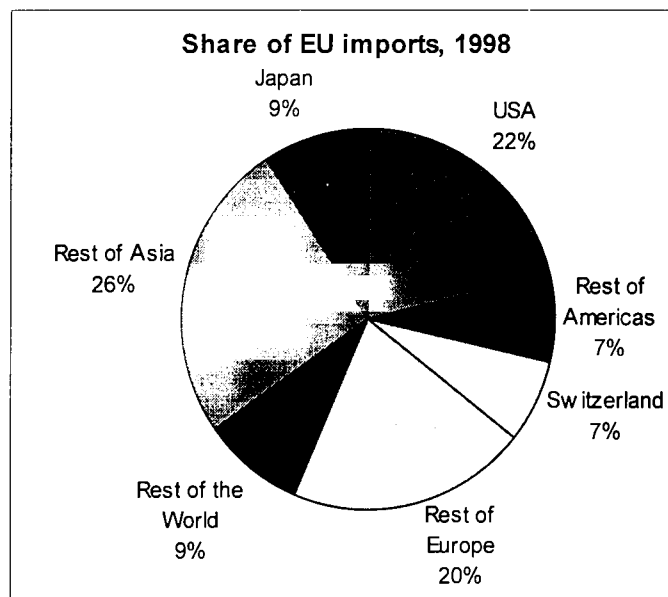
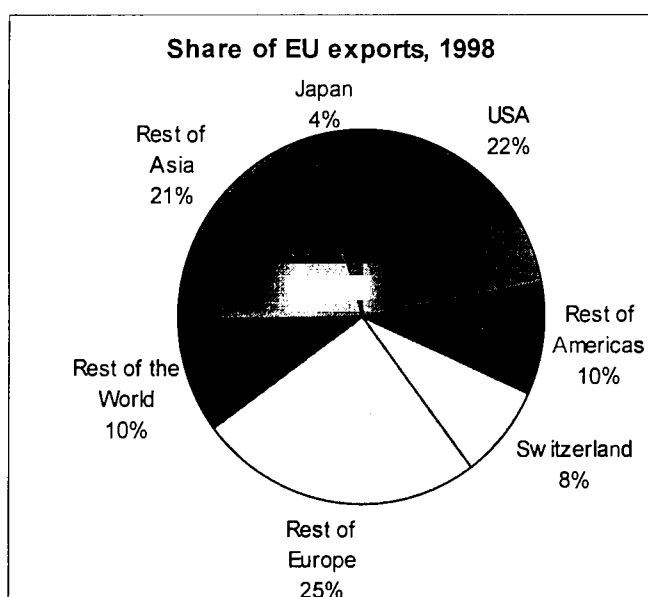
The EU registers a trade surplus with Switzerland. Between 1995 and 1998, EU exports to Switzerland increased from 51 billion ECU to almost 57 billion (+12%), whereas imports rose from 43 billion ECU to 49 billion (+14%). Apart from a slight contraction in imports between 1995 and 1996, trade exchanges grew at an increasing rate during these three years. They remained however well below the growth rate of total extra-EU trade, which was +27% for exports and +30% for imports in the same time period. The trade surplus with Switzerland has remained remarkably stable during this period, at around 8 billion ECU.

First figures for 1999 indicate a further 9% rise in the value of exports to 63 bn euro and a 7% rise in the value of imports to 53 bn euro. The EU trade surplus was also up, reaching 9.7 bn euro.

The volume of EU goods exported to Switzerland increased at a slightly lower rate than the value, but with a parallel trend. The difference was due to a slight increase in prices. Exports to Switzerland in volume terms also increased at a lower rate than the extra-EU total (+9% compared to +17%).

The increase in the value of imports between 1995 and 1998 was due almost equally to a rise in prices and to a rise in the volumes of goods exchanged (+6% each); however, the increase in volume took place almost exclusively in 1998. The volume of total extra-EU imports, in the same time period, increased at a faster rate (+24%).

The Swiss Franc fell in value by 5% against the ECU during the period considered.



Main EU trading partners, 1998

(million ECU)

| | Exports (%) | | Imports (%) | | Trade Balance |
|-------------|-------------|------|-------------|------|---------------|
| USA | 160 051 | 22.2 | 150 779 | 21.5 | 9 272 |
| Switzerland | 56 920 | 7.9 | 49 247 | 7.0 | 7 672 |
| Japan | 31 424 | 4.4 | 65 520 | 9.3 | -34 096 |
| China | 17 367 | 2.4 | 41 788 | 5.9 | -24 421 |
| Norway | 24 883 | 3.4 | 29 032 | 4.1 | -4 149 |
| Poland | 28 066 | 3.9 | 16 109 | 2.3 | 11 958 |
| Russia | 21 006 | 2.9 | 23 046 | 3.3 | -2 040 |
| Turkey | 22 069 | 3.1 | 13 589 | 1.9 | 8 480 |
| Czech Rep. | 17 113 | 2.4 | 14 662 | 2.1 | 2 451 |
| Hungary | 16 748 | 2.3 | 14 465 | 2.1 | 2 283 |
| Taiwan | 12 058 | 1.7 | 18 128 | 2.6 | -6 070 |
| Brazil | 15 592 | 2.2 | 13 168 | 1.9 | 2 424 |
| Canada | 14 827 | 2.1 | 12 718 | 1.8 | 2 109 |
| Hong Kong | 17 266 | 2.4 | 9 674 | 1.4 | 7 592 |
| South Korea | 9 102 | 1.3 | 15 673 | 2.2 | -6 570 |

Main Swiss trading partners, 1998

(million ECU)

| | Exports (%) | | Imports (%) | | Trade Balance |
|--------------|-------------|------|-------------|------|---------------|
| EU | 43 383 | 62.4 | 54 250 | 76.7 | -10 866 |
| USA | 7 648 | 11.0 | 5 027 | 7.1 | 2 621 |
| Japan | 2 675 | 3.8 | 1 881 | 2.7 | 795 |
| Hong Kong | 1 564 | 2.2 | 430 | 0.6 | 1 134 |
| China | 493 | 0.7 | 1 027 | 1.5 | -533 |
| Singapore | 665 | 1.0 | 651 | 0.9 | 15 |
| Oth.Asia nes | 746 | 1.1 | 386 | 0.5 | 360 |
| Russia | 320 | 0.5 | 807 | 1.1 | -486 |
| Korea Rp. | 337 | 0.5 | 737 | 1.0 | -400 |
| Turkey | 812 | 1.2 | 202 | 0.3 | 610 |
| Brazil | 749 | 1.1 | 244 | 0.3 | 505 |
| Canada | 532 | 0.8 | 407 | 0.6 | 125 |
| Saudi Arabia | 559 | 0.8 | 279 | 0.4 | 280 |
| Israel | 618 | 0.9 | 218 | 0.3 | 399 |
| Thailand | 352 | 0.5 | 357 | 0.5 | -5 |

Source: UN

Switzerland is a major trading partner for the EU, representing 8% of extra-EU exports and 7% of extra-EU imports in 1998.

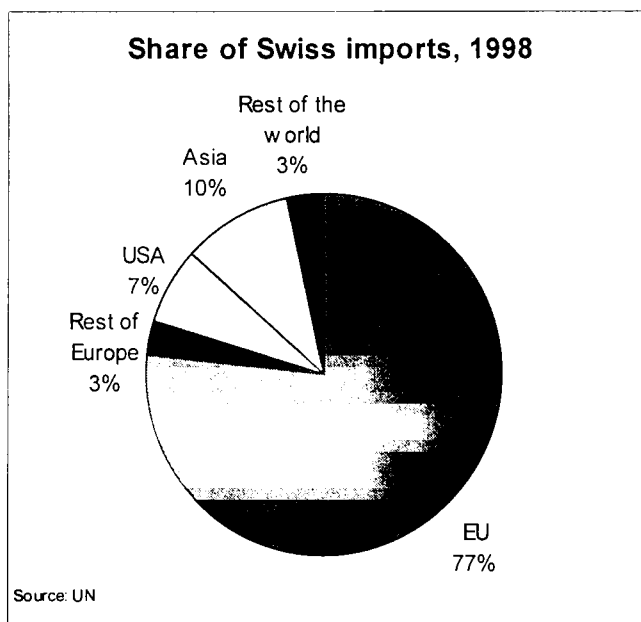
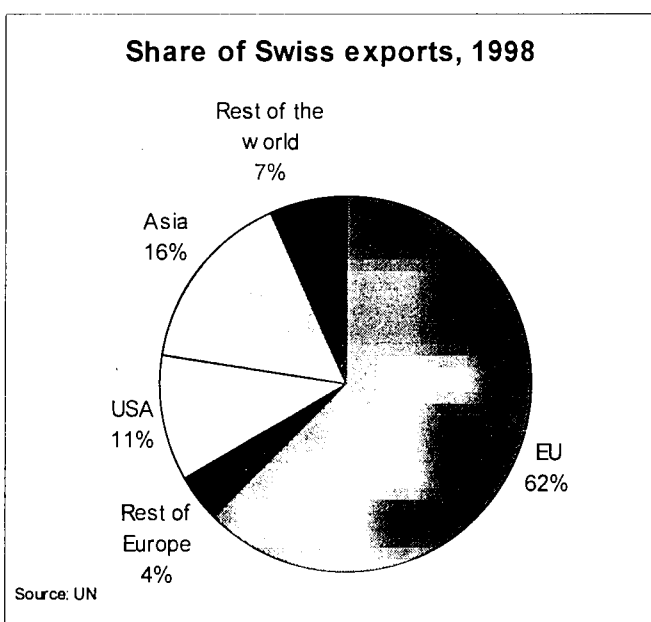
The EU dominates Swiss trade, representing more than three quarters of Swiss imports and 62% of the exports in 1998.

When trade with the EU is excluded, the remaining Swiss external trade is more oriented towards Asian countries than the EU's external trade. In fact Switzerland's largest trading partners after the EU

and the USA are all from the far East.

On the other hand, Switzerland trades less with those European countries outside the EU than does the EU itself, for which these make up a fair amount of its external trade. In particular, only Russia and Turkey are among the first 15 Swiss trading partners in 1998.

It is remarkable that while the EU's largest trade deficit is with Japan, Switzerland has a positive trade balance with the same country.



2. TRADE BY PRODUCT

(million ECU)

| | Exports | | | | Imports | | | | Trade Balance | | Cover ratio | |
|------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------|----------|-------------|------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| | Switzerland | | | Extra-EU | Switzerland | | | Extra-EU | EU- Switzerland | Extra-EU | EU- Switzerland | Extra-EU |
| | 1998 | 98/95 ann. growth rate | share (%) | 1998 | 1998 | 98/95 ann. growth rate | share (%) | 1998 | 1998 | 1998 | 1998 | 1998 |
| TOTAL | 56 920 | 3.7 | 100.0 | 731 851 | 49 247 | 4.4 | 100.0 | 713 074 | 7 672 | 18 776 | 116 | 103 |
| 0 Food and live animals | 1 956 | 1.7 | 3.4 | 31 720 | 957 | 0.2 | 1.9 | 45 383 | 1 000 | -13 663 | 204 | 70 |
| 1 Beverages and tobacco | 754 | 5.9 | 1.3 | 12 032 | 72 | 9.0 | 0.1 | 4 466 | 681 | 7 565 | 1 041 | 269 |
| 2 Crude materials | 971 | -6.0 | 1.7 | 11 643 | 680 | -2.6 | 1.4 | 39 363 | 292 | -27 720 | 143 | 30 |
| 3 Energy | 2 300 | 2.4 | 4.0 | 13 972 | 366 | 2.3 | 0.7 | 65 231 | 1 934 | -51 259 | 628 | 21 |
| 4 Animal, vegetable oil, fat | 68 | 9.6 | 0.1 | 2 841 | 8 | -4.4 | 0.0 | 2 983 | 59 | -142 | 817 | 95 |
| 5 Chemicals | 9 086 | 7.0 | 16.0 | 95 738 | 11 655 | 4.9 | 23.7 | 55 470 | -2 569 | 40 268 | 78 | 173 |
| 6 Basic manufactures | 9 306 | -0.4 | 16.3 | 113 127 | 9 356 | 12.0 | 19.0 | 94 916 | -51 | 18 211 | 99 | 119 |
| 7 Machinery and vehicles | 19 542 | 5.4 | 34.3 | 344 681 | 14 505 | 7.0 | 29.5 | 266 530 | 5 037 | 78 151 | 135 | 129 |
| 8 Misc. manufactured art. | 10 926 | 2.7 | 19.2 | 89 225 | 7 523 | 1.0 | 15.3 | 116 276 | 3 403 | -27 051 | 145 | 77 |
| 9 Other | 2 010 | 8.5 | 3.5 | 16 871 | 4 124 | -7.5 | 8.4 | 22 456 | -2114 | -5 584 | 49 | 75 |

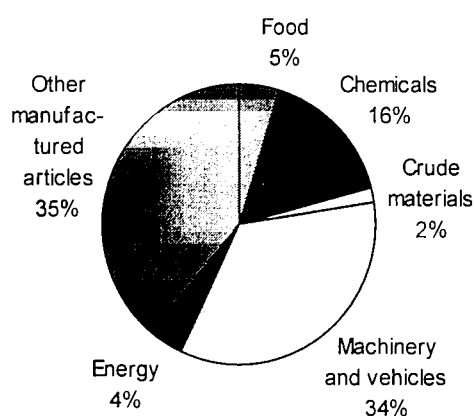
The most notable element in EU trade with Switzerland by product group is EU imports of 'Chemicals', equal to almost 12 billion ECU in 1998, a 24% share of EU imports from Switzerland. In fact, imports from Switzerland of these goods are so important that they account for over one fifth of total EU imports of 'Chemicals'.

Within the chemical product group, the largest share of imports are those of 'Medical and pharmaceutical products' (9%), and 'Organic chemicals' (6%).

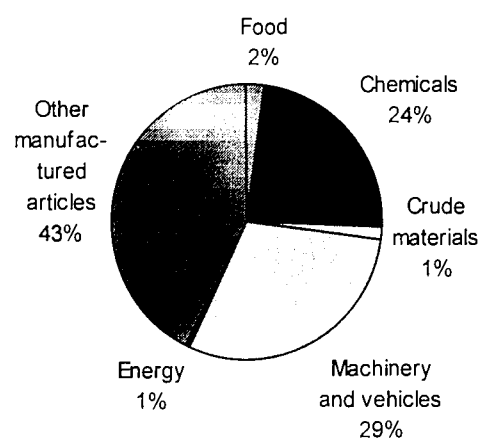
It is interesting that these same products are also among the main exports to Switzerland; however, they do not compensate for the value of imports, and consequently the EU registers a consistent trade deficit with Switzerland for chemical products, equal to almost 3 billion ECU in 1998.

EU imports of jewellery are also important, as 'Pearls and other precious stones' equalled almost 6% of total imports from Switzerland, and 'Gold' amounted to over 5%. For this reason the EU also has a large trade deficit with Switzerland in the category: 'Other'.

EU exports to Switzerland by product, 1998



EU imports from Switzerland by product, 1998



Share of EU exports by main products, 1998

| SITC, Rev.3 2-digit of which: | Description | Share of exports to Switzerland (%) | | Share of extra-EU exports (%) |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----|----------------------------------|
| 78 | Road vehicles (including air-cushion vehicles) | 8.1 | | 9.3 |
| 781 | Motor cars and other motor vehicles... | | 5.8 | 5.3 |
| 89 | Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s. | 7.9 | | 4.1 |
| 892 | Printed matter | | 1.8 | 0.8 |
| 893 | Articles, n.e.s.: of plastic | | 1.3 | 0.8 |
| 896 | Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques | | 1.3 | 0.4 |
| 54 | Medical and pharmaceutical products | 5.2 | | 3.7 |
| 542 | Medicaments ... | | 4.3 | 2.8 |
| 79 | Other transport equipment | 4.7 | | 5.5 |
| 792 | Aircraft and associated equipment;... | | 4.2 | 4.0 |
| 74 | General ind. mach. and equip., n.e.s., etc. | 4.7 | | 6.5 |
| 77 | Elec. machinery, app. and appl., n.e.s. etc. | 4.6 | | 7.3 |
| 75 | Office machines and autom. data-proc. machines | 4.0 | | 2.9 |
| 51 | Organic chemicals | 3.9 | | 2.8 |
| 84 | Articles of apparel and clothing accessories | 3.7 | | 1.9 |
| 69 | Manufacture of metals, n.e.s. | 3.2 | | 2.6 |

Although the products mentioned above are specific to the structure of EU trade with Switzerland, the products most traded are 'Machinery and vehicles', of which the EU exported to Switzerland in 1998 20 billion ECU and imported 15 billion. The relative share of trade for these products is however lower than that for extra-EU trade as a whole.

This product group is also the one which contributes most to the positive trade balance with Switzerland, as exports exceeded imports by to 5 billion ECU in 1998.

Within this group, 'Road vehicles' alone made up 8% of exports to Switzerland. Also notable are the exports of 'Aircraft' equal to 4% of total exports.

Share of EU imports by main products, 1998

| SITC, Rev.3 2-digit of which: | Description | Share of imports from Switzerland (%) | | Share of extra-EU imports (%) |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----|----------------------------------|
| 54 | Medical and pharmaceutical products | 9.3 | | 1.8 |
| 542 | Medicaments ... | | 6.8 | 0.9 |
| 66 | Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s. | 6.4 | | 2.3 |
| 667 | Pearls, prec. and semi-prec. stones, unworked or work. | | 5.8 | 1.5 |
| 51 | Organic chemicals | 5.9 | | 2.2 |
| 515 | Organo-inorganic compounds, heterocyclic comp., ... | | 3.5 | 0.9 |
| 77 | Elec. machinery, app. and appl., n.e.s. etc. | 5.9 | | 7.6 |
| 772 | Elec. app. for making and break. elec. circuits, ... | | 2.2 | 1.2 |
| 778 | Electric machinery and apparatus, n.e.s. | | 1.7 | 1.7 |
| 72 | Machinery specialized for particular industries | 5.8 | | 1.9 |
| 728 | Other machinery and equipment special. for part. ind.,... | | 2.4 | 0.7 |
| 74 | General ind. mach. and equip., n.e.s., etc. | 5.4 | | 2.9 |
| 89 | Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s. | 5.3 | | 4.2 |
| 97 | Gold, non-monetary (excl. gold, ores and conc.) | 5.2 | | 1.4 |
| 88 | Photographic appar., ... and optical goods, ... | 4.7 | | 1.4 |
| 69 | Manufacture of metals, n.e.s. | 3.6 | | 2.0 |

3. TRADE BY MEMBER STATE

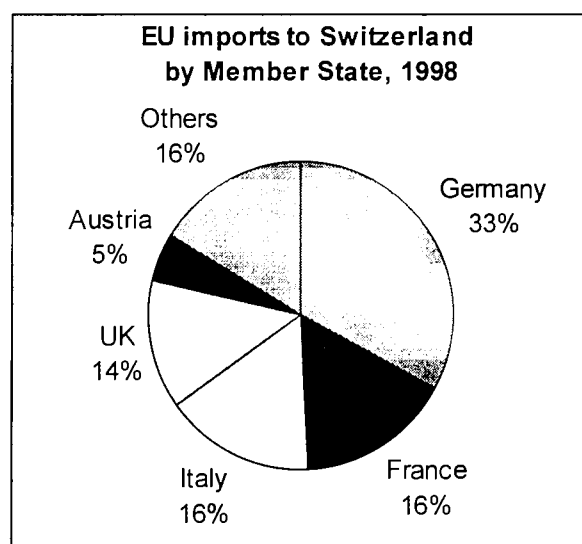
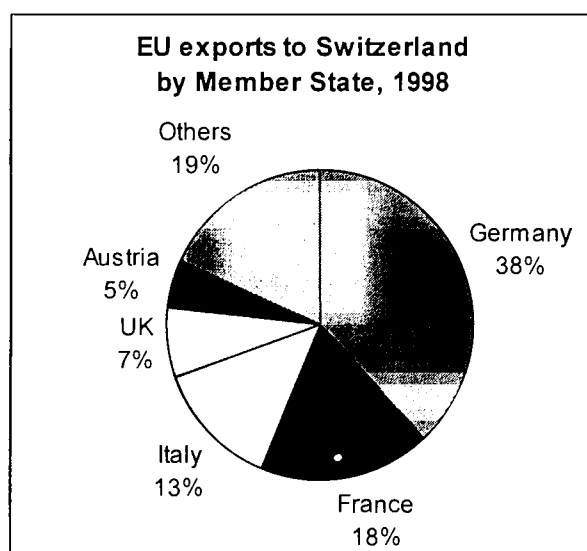
(million ECU)

| | Exports | | | 1998 | Imports | | | 1998 | Trade Balance | | Cover Ratio | |
|--------|---------|------------------------|-----------|---------|---------|------------------------|-----------|---------|----------------|----------|----------------|----------|
| | 1998 | 95-98 ann. growth rate | share (%) | | 1998 | 95-98 ann. growth rate | share (%) | | EU-Switzerland | Extra-EU | EU-Switzerland | Extra-EU |
| EU-15 | 56 920 | 3.7 | 100.0 | 731 851 | 49 247 | 4.4 | 100.0 | 713 074 | 7 672 | 18 776 | 116 | 102.6 |
| BLEU | 2 634 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 38 538 | 1 567 | -2.1 | 3.2 | 43 563 | 1 068 | -5 024 | 168 | 88.5 |
| DK | 593 | -5.5 | 1.0 | 14 668 | 528 | -3.1 | 1.1 | 12 396 | 66 | 2 272 | 112 | 118.3 |
| D | 21 653 | 0.7 | 38.0 | 210 913 | 16 254 | 1.7 | 33.0 | 172 418 | 5 400 | 38 495 | 133 | 122.3 |
| EL | 289 | 3.1 | 0.5 | 4 460 | 416 | 7.4 | 0.8 | 8 903 | -127 | -4 443 | 69 | 50.1 |
| E | 1 047 | 9.9 | 1.8 | 27 501 | 1 594 | 8.8 | 3.2 | 35 153 | -546 | -7 653 | 66 | 78.2 |
| F | 10 356 | 5.6 | 18.2 | 107 615 | 7 959 | 7.9 | 16.2 | 89 062 | 2 400 | 18 552 | 130 | 120.8 |
| IRL | 1 152 | 23.0 | 2.0 | 17 605 | 304 | 24.6 | 0.6 | 14 782 | 848 | 2 822 | 379 | 119.1 |
| I | 7 554 | 4.5 | 13.3 | 94 445 | 7 812 | 8.4 | 15.9 | 73 969 | -258 | 20 476 | 97 | 127.7 |
| NL | 2 735 | 4.5 | 4.8 | 40 204 | 2 008 | 6.7 | 4.1 | 76 618 | 727 | -36 414 | 136 | 52.5 |
| A | 2 761 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 20 477 | 2 409 | 5.2 | 4.9 | 16 321 | 353 | 4 156 | 115 | 125.5 |
| P | 268 | -8.2 | 0.5 | 3 980 | 362 | -1.9 | 0.7 | 7 498 | -94 | -3 518 | 74 | 53.1 |
| FIN | 485 | 7.2 | 0.9 | 17 137 | 423 | 6.1 | 0.9 | 10 080 | 62 | 7 057 | 115 | 170.0 |
| S | 1 299 | 6.5 | 2.3 | 31 798 | 918 | -1.0 | 1.9 | 18 777 | 381 | 13 021 | 141 | 169.3 |
| UK | 4 089 | 9.1 | 7.2 | 102 509 | 6 695 | 4.2 | 13.6 | 133 532 | -2 605 | -31 023 | 61 | 76.8 |
| EUR-11 | 50 649 | 3.4 | 89.0 | 578 416 | 40 691 | 4.7 | 82.6 | 539 466 | 9 958 | 38 950 | 124 | 107.2 |

The analysis of EU trade with Switzerland by Member State highlights the importance that the geographical component plays in external trade. The four EU countries bordering Switzerland (Austria, France, Germany, Italy) account in fact for almost three quarters of EU trade with this country. On the contrary, the geographically more distant countries, such as Sweden, Finland and the UK register a lower share of EU trade with Switzerland than they do for extra-EU trade as a whole.

Due to the UK's large trade deficit with Switzerland (3 billion ECU in 1998), the euro-zone registers a higher trade surplus than the EU as a whole, equalling almost 10 billion ECU in 1998.

Also of interest is the positive trade balance with Switzerland of the Benelux countries, and in particular of the Netherlands. These countries in fact generally register a deficit in their extra-EU trade.



| | Exports | | | | | | | Imports | | | | | | |
|--------|---------|------------|--------|-------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------|------------|--------|--------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| | Food | Crude mat. | Energy | Chem. | Machin. & vehic. | Other manuf.art | Articles not class. | Food | Crude mat. | Energy | Chem. | Machin. & vehic. | Other manuf.art | Articles not class. |
| EU-15 | 2 710 | 1 039 | 2 300 | 9 086 | 19 542 | 20 232 | 2 010 | 1 029 | 688 | 366 | 11 655 | 14 505 | 16 879 | 4 124 |
| BLEU | 65 | 32 | 248 | 558 | 640 | 988 | 103 | 48 | 14 | 4 | 441 | 349 | 657 | 54 |
| DK | 88 | 38 | 0 | 53 | 147 | 187 | 80 | 14 | 3 | 0 | 112 | 178 | 199 | 20 |
| D | 439 | 329 | 349 | 3 461 | 8 157 | 7 906 | 1 014 | 363 | 215 | 201 | 3 305 | 5 743 | 5 541 | 885 |
| E | 12 | 4 | 0 | 11 | 4 | 254 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 230 | 80 | 96 | 2 |
| ES | 185 | 31 | 0 | 209 | 329 | 282 | 11 | 28 | 22 | 0 | 598 | 473 | 456 | 17 |
| F | 830 | 160 | 1 255 | 1 621 | 3 571 | 2 875 | 47 | 192 | 70 | 98 | 2 507 | 2 849 | 2 198 | 45 |
| IRL | 53 | 9 | 0 | 520 | 345 | 193 | 31 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 158 | 75 | 59 | 10 |
| I | 579 | 103 | 134 | 1 118 | 1 920 | 3 626 | 73 | 148 | 271 | 35 | 1 705 | 1 432 | 1 706 | 2 514 |
| NL | 226 | 147 | 299 | 394 | 1 092 | 407 | 170 | 41 | 13 | 4 | 541 | 794 | 586 | 28 |
| A | 104 | 95 | 10 | 329 | 906 | 1 266 | 50 | 70 | 32 | 20 | 545 | 603 | 920 | 218 |
| P | 18 | 8 | 0 | 8 | 26 | 208 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 157 | 98 | 100 | 0 |
| FIN | 5 | 36 | 0 | 28 | 220 | 195 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 0 | 99 | 218 | 93 | 0 |
| S | 16 | 25 | 1 | 76 | 717 | 369 | 96 | 26 | 12 | 1 | 225 | 385 | 260 | 10 |
| UK | 90 | 22 | 2 | 700 | 1 470 | 1 474 | 330 | 78 | 28 | 0 | 1 032 | 1 227 | 4 008 | 322 |
| EUR-11 | 2 504 | 950 | 2 296 | 8 245 | 17 205 | 17 947 | 1 500 | 905 | 644 | 362 | 10 056 | 12 636 | 12 317 | 3 771 |

In analysing EU trade with Switzerland by product sectors, it is interesting to note the leading position of France, within the EU, in exports of 'Energy' and 'Beverages and tobacco'. For these two product groups, French exports represent around half of the total value of EU exports to Switzerland. About three quarters of French exports to Switzerland of 'Energy' are 'Electric current'.

As far as imports from Switzerland are concerned, Germany accounts for over half of EU imports of 'Energy'.

Finally, the UK has an exceptionally low share in both imports and exports of 'Crude materials'.

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Data sources: Customs sources, Eurostat Comext database; for Swiss data: the UN' Comtrade database. Divergences between the two sources on figures concerning bilateral trade can be partly explained by the use of different methodologies and concepts.

System: Special trade.

Goods classification: Third revision of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC).

Statistical values: CIF values for imports and FOB values for exports.

Indices: Changes over time in the value of trade are influenced by changes in prices and the quantities marketed. Eurostat calculates Fisher's annual chain indices to measure these two effects. Price indices are approximated by unit value indices.

EFTA: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland.

BLEU: Belgo-luxembourg Economic Union

In this report, 1 Bn ECU= 1000 million ECU.

Please consult www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/ for further information.

Further information:

➤ Reference publications

Title External and intra-EU trade – monthly statistics
 Catalogue No CA-AR-00-001-EN-C Price EUR 20

➤ Databases

Comext: Domains EC Special Trade,
 Comtrade

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