



## 4.6 Structure of merchandise imports

	Merchandise imports		Food		Agricultural raw materials		Fuels		Ores and metals		Manufactures	
	\$ millions		% of total		% of total		% of total		% of total		% of total	
	1980	1998	1980	1998	1980	1998	1980	1998	1980	1998	1980	1998
Albania	354	812	..	27	..	1	..	4	..	1	..	67
Algeria	9,614	..	21	..	3	..	2	..	2	..	72	..
Angola	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Argentina	9,394	29,448	6	5	4	2	10	3	3	2	77	89
Armenia	..	806	..	31	..	0	..	27	..	0	..	39
Australia	20,521	61,232	5	5	3	1	14	5	2	1	75	87
Austria	23,716	66,480	6	6	4	2	15	4	5	3	69	84
Azerbaijan	..	1,724	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bangladesh	2,353	6,862	24	15	6	5	9	7	3	2	58	69
Belarus	..	8,482	..	11	..	2	..	0	..	3	..	57
Belgium <sup>a</sup>	61,432	145,599	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Benin	312	..	26	..	1	..	8	..	1	..	62	..
Bolivia	574	1,759	19	8	1	1	1	5	2	1	78	86
Bosnia and Herzegovina	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Botswana	603	1,983	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Brazil	22,955	57,739	10	10	1	2	43	9	5	3	41	76
Bulgaria	7,445	4,757	..	9	..	3	..	30	..	6	..	50
Burkina Faso	368	..	20	..	2	..	13	..	1	..	64	..
Burundi	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cambodia	..	1,097	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cameroon	1,620	..	9	..	0	..	12	..	1	..	78	..
Canada	59,593	204,614	7	6	2	1	12	3	5	2	72	85
Central African Republic	185	..	21	..	1	..	2	..	2	..	75	..
Chad	55	..	23	..	2	..	2	..	1	..	72	..
Chile	5,469	17,347	15	7	2	1	18	9	2	1	60	81
China <sup>†</sup>	..	136,914	..	5	..	4	..	5	..	5	..	81
Hong Kong, China	22,467	184,941	12	5	4	1	6	2	2	2	75	89
Colombia	4,283	14,008	12	12	3	2	12	2	3	2	69	79
Congo, Dem. Rep.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Congo, Rep.	545	..	19	..	1	..	14	..	2	..	65	..
Costa Rica	1,375	5,791	9	8	2	1	15	4	2	1	68	86
Côte d'Ivoire	2,614	2,705	13	17	0	2	16	23	2	1	68	56
Croatia	..	8,774	..	10	..	2	..	7	..	2	..	75
Cuba	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Czech Republic	..	28,989	..	6	..	2	..	6	..	4	..	82
Denmark	14,163	44,382	11	12	5	3	22	3	3	2	57	77
Dominican Republic	1,520	7,597	17	..	2	..	25	..	2	..	54	..
Ecuador	2,242	5,198	8	12	2	2	1	5	2	1	87	76
Egypt, Arab Rep.	6,814	14,617	32	21	6	5	1	5	1	3	59	59
El Salvador	897	3,718	18	16	2	3	18	10	2	1	61	68
Eritrea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Estonia	..	3,805	..	16	..	2	..	8	..	2	..	71
Ethiopia	650	1,042	8	..	3	..	25	..	1	..	64	..
Finland	14,752	30,902	7	7	3	3	29	7	5	5	56	77
France	123,767	275,528	10	10	4	2	27	6	5	3	54	80
Gabon	686	..	19	..	0	..	1	..	1	..	78	..
Gambia, The	138	..	26	..	1	..	9	..	0	..	61	..
Georgia	..	1,060	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Germany <sup>b</sup>	183,221	460,951	12	9	4	2	23	6	6	4	52	73
Ghana	908	2,346	10	..	1	..	27	..	2	..	59	..
Greece	9,717	..	9	..	5	..	23	..	2	..	60	..
Guatemala	1,473	4,256	8	12	2	2	24	8	1	1	65	77
Guinea	..	572	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Guinea-Bissau	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Haiti	319	641	22	..	1	..	13	..	1	..	62	..
Honduras	954	2,340	10	16	1	1	16	8	1	1	72	74
† Data for Taiwan, China	19,685	99,862	8	6	9	4	25	8	6	5	50	73



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	\$ millions		% of total		% of total		% of total		% of total		% of total	
	1980	1998	1980	1998	1980	1998	1980	1998	1980	1998	1980	1998
Hungary	..	23,101	..	4	..	2	..	6	..	3	..	84
India	13,947	44,828	9	6	2	4	45	25	6	6	39	55
Indonesia	..	31,942	..	11	..	7	..	10	..	3	..	69
Iran, Islamic Rep.	10,888	13,608	21	..	4	..	1	..	2	..	72	..
Iraq	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ireland	10,452	41,651	12	7	3	1	15	3	2	2	66	81
Israel	9,201	26,197	11	7	3	1	26	7	4	2	57	82
Italy	94,016	206,941	13	11	7	4	28	6	6	4	45	72
Jamaica	1,038	2,710	20	17	1	2	38	13	2	1	39	65
Japan	124,610	251,655	12	16	9	4	50	15	10	6	19	57
Jordan	2,136	3,404	18	..	2	..	17	..	1	..	61	..
Kazakhstan	..	6,589	..	11	..	1	..	15	..	3	..	70
Kenya	2,345	3,029	8	14	1	3	34	18	1	2	56	64
Korea, Dem. Rep.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Korea, Rep.	21,859	90,495	10	6	11	4	30	20	6	7	43	61
Kuwait	6,756	7,714	15	16	1	1	1	1	1	2	81	81
Kyrgyz Republic	..	756	..	21	..	1	..	29	..	1	..	48
Lao PDR	..	507	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Latvia	..	3,141	..	13	..	2	..	10	..	2	..	74
Lebanon	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lesotho	424	866	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Libya	10,368	..	19	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	78	..
Lithuania	..	5,480	..	11	..	3	..	14	..	2	..	69
Macedonia, FYR	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Madagascar	764	693	9	15	3	1	15	21	1	0	73	61
Malawi	308	..	8	..	1	..	15	..	1	..	75	..
Malaysia	10,569	54,477	12	6	2	1	15	3	4	3	67	85
Mali	308	..	19	..	0	..	35	..	0	..	45	..
Mauritania	321	319	30	..	1	..	14	..	0	..	52	..
Mauritius	516	2,018	26	16	4	3	14	6	1	1	54	73
Mexico	21,087	125,374	16	6	3	2	2	2	4	2	75	85
Moldova	..	1,043	..	8	..	2	..	31	..	1	..	57
Mongolia	..	524	..	14	..	1	..	19	..	1	..	65
Morocco	3,771	9,463	20	17	6	5	24	17	4	4	47	58
Mozambique	720	782	14	22	3	2	9	11	3	1	70	62
Myanmar	788	2,455	6	..	1	..	3	..	2	..	87	..
Namibia	..	1,451	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nepal	328	1,238	4	12	1	5	18	12	1	3	73	49
Netherlands	73,474	153,027	15	11	3	2	24	7	4	3	53	77
New Zealand	5,091	11,242	6	9	2	1	22	7	4	2	65	81
Nicaragua	803	1,384	15	18	1	1	20	12	1	1	63	69
Niger	677	323	14	..	0	..	26	..	3	..	55	..
Nigeria	14,728	9,211	15	..	0	..	7	..	2	..	76	..
Norway	16,753	39,070	8	7	3	2	17	3	5	4	67	83
Oman	1,780	..	15	..	1	..	11	..	0	..	66	..
Pakistan	5,570	9,834	13	21	3	5	27	16	3	2	54	55
Panama	2,806	7,696	10	12	1	0	31	9	1	1	58	78
Papua New Guinea	1,021	1,078	21	..	0	..	15	..	1	..	61	..
Paraguay	675	3,938	11	20	1	0	28	10	1	1	60	69
Peru	3,090	8,200	20	16	3	2	2	8	2	1	73	73
Philippines	7,727	29,524	8	9	2	1	28	7	3	2	48	80
Poland	15,819	45,303	14	8	5	2	18	6	6	3	51	80
Portugal	8,611	38,293	14	13	7	3	24	6	4	2	52	77
Puerto Rico	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Romania	12,685	10,927	..	8	..	2	..	12	..	3	..	73
Russian Federation	..	57,948	..	17	..	1	..	3	..	2	..	44



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	Merchandise imports		Food		Agricultural raw materials		Fuels		Ores and metals		Manufactures	
	\$ millions		% of total		% of total		% of total		% of total		% of total	
	1980	1998	1980	1998	1980	1998	1980	1998	1980	1998	1980	1998
Rwanda	196	263	10	..	3	..	13	..	0	..	72	..
Saudi Arabia	25,563	27,535	14	18	1	1	1	0	1	4	82	76
Senegal	875	..	25	..	1	..	25	..	0	..	48	..
Sierra Leone	386	..	24	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	71	..
Singapore	22,400	95,702	8	4	6	1	29	8	2	2	54	84
Slovak Republic	..	13,071	..	6	..	2	..	6	..	3	..	77
Slovenia	..	9,870	..	7	..	3	..	6	..	4	..	80
South Africa <sup>a</sup>	18,268	27,216	3	5	3	2	0	8	2	1	62	70
Spain	32,272	128,521	13	12	5	2	39	7	6	3	38	76
Sri Lanka	1,845	5,302	20	..	1	..	24	..	2	..	52	..
Sudan	1,127	1,732	26	17	1	2	13	19	1	0	60	60
Sweden	32,860	67,547	7	7	2	2	24	5	5	3	62	81
Switzerland	46,958	92,871	8	6	3	2	11	3	7	4	71	85
Syrian Arab Republic	4,010	3,307	14	21	3	3	26	4	2	3	55	69
Tajikistan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tanzania	1,089	1,365	13	17	1	2	21	14	2	1	63	66
Thailand	8,352	36,513	5	5	3	3	30	9	4	3	51	78
Togo	524	..	17	..	1	..	23	..	0	..	59	..
Trinidad and Tobago	1,789	2,999	11	11	2	1	38	13	1	3	49	71
Tunisia	3,166	7,875	14	10	4	3	21	5	4	2	58	79
Turkey	7,513	45,552	4	5	2	4	48	8	3	5	43	75
Turkmenistan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Uganda	318	..	11	..	1	..	23	..	0	..	65	..
Ukraine	..	16,283	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
United Arab Emirates	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
United Kingdom	106,267	306,239	13	9	4	2	13	2	7	3	61	82
United States	249,760	917,178	8	5	3	2	33	7	5	2	50	81
Uruguay	1,668	3,594	8	11	4	3	29	6	3	1	56	79
Uzbekistan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Venezuela, RB	10,877	14,816	14	12	3	2	2	2	2	2	79	82
Vietnam	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
West Bank and Gaza	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yemen, Rep.	..	2,201	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yugoslavia, FR (Serb./Mont.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Zambia	1,114	..	5	..	1	..	22	..	1	..	71	..
Zimbabwe	1,335	..	6	..	2	..	12	..	1	..	73	..
<b>World</b>	<b>1,884,105 t</b>	<b>5,304,372 t</b>	<b>11 w</b>	<b>8 w</b>	<b>4 w</b>	<b>2 w</b>	<b>25 w</b>	<b>7 w</b>	<b>5 w</b>	<b>3 w</b>	<b>54 w</b>	<b>77 w</b>
<b>Low income</b>	<b>106,408</b>	<b>301,063</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>76</b>
Excl. China & India	73,977	119,321	16	..	2	..	16	..	2	..	64	..
<b>Middle income</b>	<b>359,848</b>	<b>972,340</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>72</b>
Lower middle income	174,905	350,148	11	12	3	2	18	8	3	2	58	67
Upper middle income	184,943	622,192	11	7	5	3	23	10	4	4	57	76
<b>Low &amp; middle income</b>	<b>466,256</b>	<b>1,273,403</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>73</b>
East Asia & Pacific	89,093	395,183	10	6	6	4	24	10	4	5	53	74
Europe & Central Asia	110,346	294,161	..	10	..	2	..	6	..	3	..	67
Latin America & Carib.	98,691	328,756	13	9	2	2	19	6	3	2	63	80
Middle East & N. Africa	81,230	108,232	19	20	3	3	9	5	2	3	67	68
South Asia	24,911	69,513	12	10	2	4	35	22	4	5	46	56
Sub-Saharan Africa	61,985	77,558	10	..	2	..	9	..	2	..	64	..
<b>High income</b>	<b>1,417,849</b>	<b>4,030,969</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>78</b>
Europe EMU	625,713	1,547,893	12	10	4	2	25	6	5	3	52	76

Note: Components may not sum to 100 percent due to unclassified trade.

a. Includes Luxembourg. b. Data prior to 1990 refer to the Federal Republic of Germany before unification. c. Data on import commodity shares refer to the South African Customs Union, which comprises Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, and South Africa.



## Structure of merchandise imports 4.6

### About the data

Data on imports of goods are derived from the same sources as data on exports. In principle, world exports and imports should be identical. Similarly, exports from an economy should equal the sum of imports by the rest of the world from that economy. But differences in timing and definitions result in discrepancies in reported values at all levels. For further discussion of indicators of merchandise trade see *About the data* for tables 4.4 and 4.5.

The value of imports is generally recorded as the cost of the goods when purchased by the importer plus the cost of transport and insurance to the frontier of the importing country—the c.i.f. (cost, insurance, and freight) value. A few countries, including Australia, Canada, and the United States, collect import data on an f.o.b. (free on board) basis and adjust them for freight and insurance costs. Many countries collect and report trade data in U.S. dollars. When countries report in local currency, the United Nations Statistics Division applies the average official exchange rate for the period shown.

Countries may report trade according to the general or special system of trade (see *Primary data documentation*). Under the general system imports include goods imported for domestic consumption and imports into bonded warehouses and free trade zones. Under the special system imports comprise goods imported for domestic consumption (including transformation and repair) and withdrawals for domestic consumption from bonded warehouses and free trade zones. Goods transported through a country en route to another are excluded.

The data on total imports of goods (merchandise) in this table come from the World Trade Organization (WTO). The WTO uses two main sources, national statistical offices and the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) *International Financial Statistics*. It supplements these with the Commodity Trade (COMTRADE) database maintained by the United Nations Statistics Division and publications or databases of regional organizations, specialized agencies, and economic groups (such as the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Eurostat, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Commonwealth of Independent States, and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries). It also consults private sources, such as country reports of the Economist Intelligence Unit and press clippings. In recent years country websites and direct contacts through email have helped significantly improve the collection of up-to-date statistics for many countries, reducing the proportion of estimated figures. The WTO database now covers most of the major traders in Africa, Asia, and Latin

America, which together with the high-income countries account for nearly 90 percent of total world trade. There has also been a remarkable improvement in the availability of recent, reliable, and standardized figures for countries in Europe and Central Asia.

The shares of imports by major commodity groups were estimated by World Bank staff from the COMTRADE database. The values of total imports reported here have not been fully reconciled with the estimates of imports of goods and services from the national accounts (shown in table 4.9) or those from the balance of payments (table 4.17).

The classification of commodity groups is based on the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) revision 1. Most countries now report using later revisions of the SITC or the Harmonized System. Concordance tables are used to convert data reported in one system of nomenclature to another. The conversion process may introduce some errors of classification, but conversions from later to early systems are generally reliable. Shares may not sum to 100 percent because of unclassified trade.

### Definitions

- **Merchandise imports** show the c.i.f. value of goods purchased from the rest of the world valued in U.S. dollars.
- **Food** comprises the commodities in SITC sections 0 (food and live animals), 1 (beverages and tobacco), and 4 (animal and vegetable oils and fats) and SITC division 22 (oil seeds, oil nuts, and oil kernels).
- **Agricultural raw materials** comprise SITC section 2 (crude materials except fuels) excluding divisions 22, 27 (crude fertilizers and minerals excluding coal, petroleum, and precious stones), and 28 (metalliferous ores and scrap).
- **Fuels** comprise SITC section 3 (mineral fuels).
- **Ores and metals** comprise the commodities in SITC divisions 27, 28, and 68 (non-ferrous metals).
- **Manufactures** comprise the commodities in SITC sections 5 (chemicals), 6 (basic manufactures), 7 (machinery and transport equipment), and 8 (miscellaneous manufactured goods), excluding division 68.

### Data sources

The WTO publishes data on world trade in its *Annual Report*. Estimates of total imports of goods are also published in the IMF's *International Financial Statistics* and *Direction of Trade Statistics* and in the United Nations Statistics Division's *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) publishes data on the structure of exports and imports in its *Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics*. Tariff line records of exports and imports are compiled in the United Nations' COMTRADE database.