

OECD trade with low- and middle-income economies

6.3



Exports to low- and middle-income economies	High-income OECD countries		European Union		Japan		United States	
	1990	1998	1990	1998	1990	1998	1990	1998
\$ billions								
Food	32.4	54.9	16.0	27.1	0.3	0.5	10.2	18.7
Cereals	13.2	13.4	4.1	4.6	0.1	0.2	5.5	6.2
Agricultural raw materials	8.6	13.0	3.1	4.3	0.6	1.0	3.5	5.0
Ores and nonferrous metals	7.0	11.9	2.8	5.0	0.5	1.4	2.1	3.1
Fuels	6.5	11.7	2.5	5.2	0.3	0.6	2.6	3.9
Crude petroleum	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.3	..	0.0	0.0	0.1
Petroleum products	4.6	7.2	2.4	3.4	0.2	0.5	1.7	2.9
Manufactured goods	274.9	571.0	144.1	296.0	52.9	86.7	64.2	168.7
Chemical products	40.4	73.6	22.8	41.5	3.6	6.2	10.4	20.5
Mach. & transport equip.	157.9	339.2	77.4	161.9	34.9	60.7	39.3	107.5
Other	76.6	158.2	44.0	92.5	14.5	19.8	14.5	40.7
Miscellaneous goods	10.3	24.6	3.5	13.7	0.5	1.8	4.3	8.3
Total	339.7	693.7	172.0	354.7	55.1	92.0	86.9	207.7
% of total exports								
Food	9.5	7.9	9.3	7.6	0.6	0.6	11.7	9.0
Cereals	3.9	1.9	2.4	1.3	0.1	0.2	6.3	3.0
Agricultural raw materials	2.5	1.9	1.8	1.2	1.0	1.1	4.1	2.4
Ores and nonferrous metals	2.1	1.7	1.6	1.4	0.9	1.5	2.4	1.5
Fuels	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.5	0.5	0.6	3.0	1.9
Crude petroleum	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	..	0.0	0.0	0.0
Petroleum products	1.3	1.0	1.4	0.9	0.4	0.6	2.0	1.4
Manufactured goods	80.9	82.3	83.8	83.4	96.1	94.2	73.9	81.3
Chemical products	11.9	10.6	13.2	11.7	6.4	6.8	12.0	9.9
Mach. & transport equip.	46.5	48.9	45.0	45.6	63.4	66.0	45.2	51.8
Other	22.5	22.8	25.6	26.1	26.3	21.5	16.6	19.6
Miscellaneous goods	3.0	3.5	2.0	3.9	0.9	2.0	5.0	4.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0



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Imports from low- and middle-income economies	High-income OECD countries		European Union		Japan		United States	
	1990	1998	1990	1998	1990	1998	1990	1998
\$ billions								
Food	63.1	92.9	34.9	46.9	9.4	16.8	15.4	23.9
Cereals	1.3	2.3	0.5	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.6
Agricultural raw materials	17.4	21.8	9.9	13.0	4.7	3.6	2.3	4.4
Ores and nonferrous metals	29.9	42.2	15.0	21.0	8.9	9.0	5.1	9.4
Fuels	144.0	111.8	58.6	47.9	33.1	20.3	48.7	38.8
Crude petroleum	107.5	79.7	46.6	32.8	20.8	11.7	37.3	31.0
Petroleum products	23.2	14.0	6.2	5.2	5.4	1.6	10.8	6.9
Manufactured goods	170.3	540.7	76.1	205.7	15.4	51.7	66.6	251.0
Chemical products	13.4	28.2	7.7	14.4	1.7	3.1	2.7	8.2
Mach. and transport. equip.	45.2	208.9	14.6	68.0	2.0	17.1	24.8	111.7
Other	111.7	303.6	53.8	123.3	11.7	31.5	39.1	131.1
Miscellaneous goods	5.2	13.2	2.0	4.2	0.5	1.2	2.5	7.7
Total	429.9	823.6	196.5	339.5	71.9	102.5	140.6	335.2
% of total imports								
Food	14.7	11.3	17.8	13.8	13.1	16.4	10.9	7.1
Cereals	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.6	0.1	0.2
Agricultural raw materials	4.0	2.7	5.0	3.8	6.6	3.5	1.6	1.3
Ores and nonferrous metals	7.0	5.1	7.6	6.2	12.3	8.8	3.6	2.8
Fuels	33.5	13.6	29.8	14.1	46.0	19.8	34.7	11.6
Crude petroleum	25.0	9.7	23.7	9.7	28.9	11.4	26.5	9.2
Petroleum products	5.4	1.7	3.2	1.5	7.5	1.5	7.7	2.1
Manufactured goods	39.6	65.6	38.7	60.6	21.5	50.4	47.4	74.9
Chemical products	3.1	3.4	3.9	4.2	2.4	3.1	2.0	2.5
Mach. and transport. equip.	10.5	25.4	7.4	20.0	2.7	16.7	17.7	33.3
Other	26.0	36.9	27.4	36.3	16.3	30.7	27.8	39.1
Miscellaneous goods	1.2	1.6	1.0	1.2	0.6	1.1	1.8	2.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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About the data

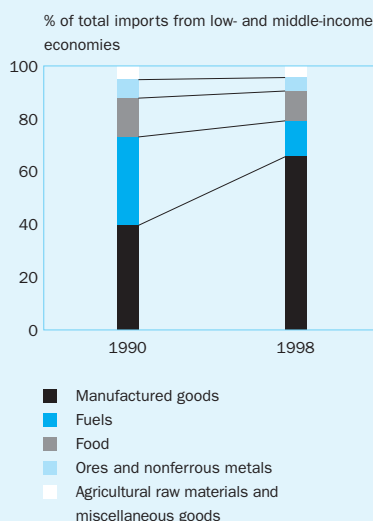
Trade flows between high-income members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and low- and middle-income economies reflect the changing mix of exports to and imports from developing economies. While food and primary commodities have continued to fall as a share of OECD imports, the share of manufactured goods supplied by developing countries has grown. At the same time developing countries have increased their imports of manufactured goods from high-income countries—particularly capital-intensive goods such as machinery and transport equipment. Although trade between developing countries has grown substantially over the past decade (see table 6.5), high-income OECD countries remain the developing world's most important partners.

The aggregate flows in the table were compiled from intercountry flows recorded in the United Nations Statistics Division's Commodity Trade (COMTRADE) database. Partner country reports by high-income OECD countries were used for both exports and imports. Exports are recorded free on board (f.o.b.); imports include insurance and freight charges (c.i.f.). Because of differences in sources of data, timing, and treatment of missing data, the data in this table may not be fully comparable with those used to calculate the direction of trade statistics in table 6.2 or the aggregate flows shown in tables 4.4–4.6.

For further discussion of merchandise trade statistics see *About the data* for tables 4.4–4.6 and 6.2.

Figure 6.3

High-income economies' imports of manufactures from low- and middle-income economies have surged



Source: United Nations Statistics Division, COMTRADE database.

Imports of manufactured goods by high-income economies were the most dynamic sector of developing country trade between 1990 and 1998.

Definitions

The product groups in the table are defined in accordance with the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) revision 1: food (0, 1, 22, and 4) and cereals (04); agricultural raw materials (2 excluding 22, 27, and 28); ores and nonferrous metals (27, 28, and 68); fuels (3), crude petroleum (331), and petroleum products (332); manufactured goods (5–8 excluding 68), chemical products (5), machinery and transport equipment (7), and other manufactured goods (6 and 8 excluding 68); and miscellaneous goods (9).

• **Exports** are all merchandise exports by high-income OECD countries to low- and middle-income economies as recorded in the United Nations Statistics Division's COMTRADE database. • **Imports** are all merchandise imports by high-income OECD countries from low- and middle-income economies as recorded in the United Nations Statistics Division's COMTRADE database.

• **High-income OECD countries** in 1998 were Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. • **European Union** comprises Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

Data sources

COMTRADE data are available in machine-readable form from the United Nations Statistics Division. Although not as comprehensive as the underlying COMTRADE records, detailed statistics on international trade are published annually in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) *Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics* and the United Nations Statistics Division's *International Trade Statistics Yearbook*.