



MONTHLY TRADE TRENDS: MARCH 2020 - APRIL 2020

WTO OMC

MERCHANDISE TRADE

UPDATED ON 23 JUNE 2020

Merchandise trade continued its downward trend in April due to the spread of Covid-19. Exports and imports of merchandise trade fell across the board as cargo ships were quarantined and economies implemented lockdown measures. Only China reported mild growth in exports (3%) as the Chinese economy returned to production following the lifting of quarantine measures at the start of April.

Exports	Value, Bn\$				Monthly year-on-year growth (%)				
	Mar-20	Apr-20	Mar-19	Apr-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20
European Union	461	...	-6	-4	1	-3	-3	-11	...
Intra-Trade	276	...	-6	-4	0	-3	-3	-10	...
Extra-Trade	185	...	-5	-3	3	-2	-3	-12	...
China	185	200	14	-3	8	...	-17 ¹	-7	3
United States of America ²	135	96	0	-2	1	0	2	-9	-29
Japan	59	48	-7	-6	-4	-3	-1	-9	-19
Korea, Republic of	46	36	-8	-2	-5	-7	4	-2	-25
United Kingdom	35	30	2	-1	20	-1	-8	-22	-23
Imports									
European Union	430	...	-5	-3	-1	-4	-5	-12	...
Intra-Trade	269	...	-6	-4	-2	-4	-3	-11	...
Extra-Trade	161	...	-2	-2	-1	-3	-7	-14	...
China	165	155	-7	5	17	...	-4 ¹	-1	-14
United States of America	200	171	0	2	-2	-4	-4	-7	-21
Japan	59	57	-3	3	-2	-4	-14	-2	-4
Korea, Republic of	42	38	-6	3	-1	-5	1	0	-16
United Kingdom	51	38	6	-6	-1	-9	-11	-20	-27

... Not available

1. Calculations for January and February combined.

2. FAS: Free Alongside Ship.

TRADE IN COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Global trade in commercial services declined substantially in April compared to the previous year. As economies implemented border measures due to Covid-19, including travel restrictions, the associated services trade ground to a halt. Only China reported a milder decline in services exports (-4%) as their economy began to unwind imposed quarantine measures.

Selected traders

Exports	Value, Bn\$				Monthly year-on-year growth (%)				
	Mar-20	Apr-20	Mar-19	Apr-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20
European Union Extra-Trade ¹	77	62	-5	0	4	5	-2	-13	-31
United States of America ²	60	54	0	3	2	3	2	-14	-24
China	24	22	9	5	14	...	-9 ³	-6	-4
United Kingdom ^{1,2}	27	20	0	-1	6	9	2	-23	-41
India ¹	18	16	7	3	12	7	7	1	-9
Japan	15	10	-2	6	11	-7	-18	-24	-38
Korea, Republic of	7	6	5	7	-3	2	-4	-18	-30
Imports									
European Union Extra-Trade ¹	82	60	-5	16	21	20	21	8	-31
United States of America ²	37	31	5	5	3	2	1	-21	-33
China	34	28	-9	2	3	...	-17 ³	-19	-36
United Kingdom ¹	17	11	2	2	11	6	0	-25	-54
India ^{1,4}	11	9	11	4	10	9	13	-2	-18
Japan	14	16	-7	0	0	-7	-4	-14	-19
Korea, Republic of	8	8	1	-1	3	-8	-6	-22	-24

... Not available

1. Total Services

2. Seasonally adjusted

3. Calculations for January and February combined.

4. Data do not include part of the costs for freight transport and insurance (i.e. cif/fob adjustment).

NOTES

Annualized short-term statistics may differ from the annual statistics disseminated through the WTO's online databases, publications or press releases. Data for the latest period are provisional.

1. Data can be downloaded on our website data.wto.org, by selecting the following indicators:

- Total merchandise exports - monthly
- Total merchandise imports - monthly
- Commercial services exports of selected economies - monthly
- Commercial services imports of selected economies - monthly

2. The publication is updated with the same frequency as the data release - around the 20th of the month.

3. The economies/territories shown in the publication represent a selection of our coverage of reporting economies and territories. In particular, the reporter "European Union" now reflects the current membership of 27 economies (no longer including the United Kingdom).

For more information on the scope and methodology of the time series, please refer to the [metadata](#).

Questions? Comments?

Contact us at statistics@wto.org