

THIRD QUARTER 2020 MERCHANDISE TRADE



MERCHANDISE TRADE VOLUME

UPDATED ON 18 DECEMBER 2020

11.6%

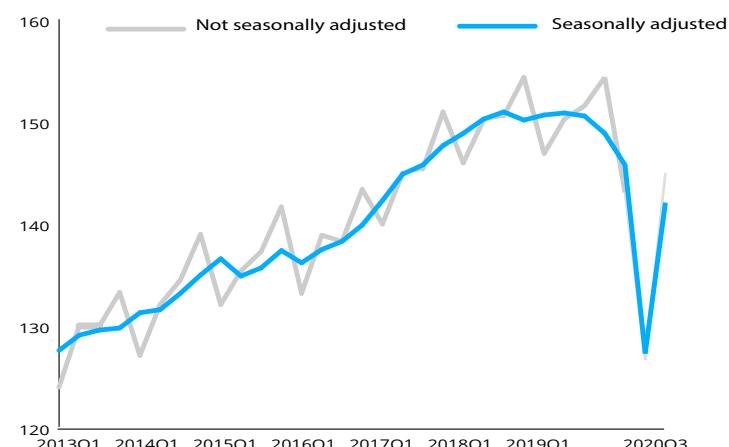
World merchandise trade volume¹

increased by **11.6%** in the third quarter of 2020 over the previous quarter, in seasonally adjusted terms. This growth was supported by fiscal and monetary interventions, business adaptation, and the relaxation of lockdown measures in Europe and North America during the summer months.

1. Average of exports and imports.

Source: WTO-UNCTAD

Indices, 2005=100



World merchandise exports increased by 13.8% in Q3 2020. North America and Europe rose the most (20.1% and 19.3%) as businesses adapted with online retail. In contrast, exports remained weak in South and Central America (3.1%) and Other regions (3.3) due to surges of COVID-19 and a lack of fiscal and monetary policy capacity. Merchandise imports reflected similar trends (9.4%).

Quarter-on-quarter growth, %, seasonally adjusted

	Exports				Imports			
	2019Q4	2020Q1	2020Q2	2020Q3	2019Q4	2020Q1	2020Q2	2020Q3
World	-0.8	-2.4	-13.5	13.8	-1.4	-1.9	-11.8	9.4
North America	-0.3	-0.9	-23.3	20.1	-2.6	-1.9	-14.4	16.6
South & Central America	1.0	-0.9	-6.4	3.1	-4.3	-1.2	-14.2	-0.7
Europe	0.7	-4.2	-17.9	19.3	-1.5	-2.8	-15.0	15.0
Asia	-2.2	-1.1	-5.9	10.3	-0.6	0.2	-6.2	2.1
Other ¹	-3.0	-2.6	-9.2	3.3	-0.1	-5.2	-12.8	3.2

Color Key



1. Includes the Caribbean

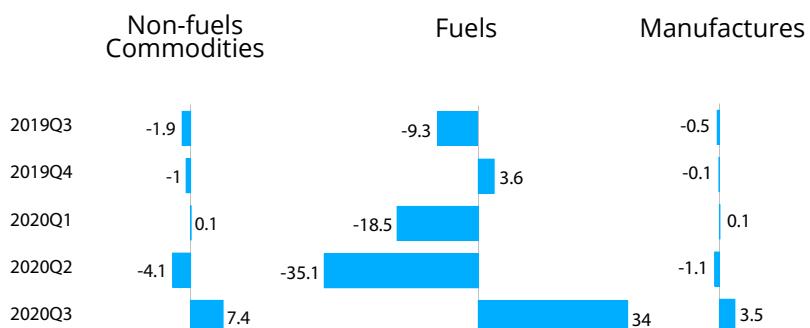
Source: WTO-UNCTAD

Data can be retrieved in [WTO Data](#) by selecting "Merchandise export volume indices, seasonally adjusted - quarterly" and "Merchandise import volume indices, seasonally adjusted - quarterly"

MERCHANDISE TRADE PRICES

Quarter-on-quarter growth, %

Prices for fuels made a significant comeback in 2020Q3, rising 34% after having fallen by 35.1% the previous quarter. Prices for non-fuel commodities and manufactures also returned to growth as economies adapted.



Data can be retrieved in [WTO Data](#) by selecting "Export and Import prices of manufacturing goods - Monthly"

Source: WTO

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NOTES

Annualized short-term statistics may differ from the annual statistics disseminated through the [WTO Data Portal](#), publications or press releases. Data for the latest period are provisional.

1. The publication is updated with the same frequency as the data release.

- Q1 Around the 25th of June
- Q2 Around the 25th of September
- Q3 Around the 20th of December
- Q4 Early April, along with the release of annual data.

2. For more information on the methodology, please refer to the [metadata](#).

Questions? Comments?

Contact us at statistics@wto.org