

## In August the trade balance was positive with main countries of destination

**According to Statistics Estonia, in August 2009 Estonian trade deficit was 1.6 billion kroons. At the same time the trade balance with the five biggest countries of destination was positive (exports exceeded imports).**

In August 2009, exports of goods from Estonia totalled 7.7 billion kroons and imports to Estonia 9.3 billion kroons. Both exports and imports declined by 31% compared to the same period of the previous year. The trade balance was positive with such main countries of destination as Finland, Russia, Latvia, Sweden and USA. The biggest trade deficit was announced in the trade with Lithuania (0.8 billion kroons) and Germany (0.4 billion kroons).

In August, the main countries of destination of exports from Estonia were Finland (18% of the total exports), Russia (11%), Latvia (11%) and Sweden (10%). Compared to August of the previous year, the decrease was announced to all the main countries of destination. The biggest decrease in exports was announced in exports to Finland (0.7 billion kroons) and Sweden (0.6 billion kroons).

The main countries from where goods were imported to Estonia in August were Finland and Lithuania (both 16% of the total imports). Compared to August of the previous year, imports of goods from Germany declined the most (1.2 billion kroons), also from Finland and Latvia. Imports from Lithuania and Poland increased.

In August, petroleum products (incl. fuels) and machinery and equipment held the biggest share in Estonia's total exports with the share of about 16% both. They were followed by metals and products thereof and agricultural products and food preparations. Compared to August of the previous year exports declined in all commodity sections, but the dispatches of machinery and equipment and metals and products thereof declined the most (1 billion kroons both).

In imports, among the commodity sections, the biggest share was held by petroleum products (a quarter of Estonia's total imports), machinery and equipment and agricultural products and food preparations. Compared to August of 2008 the biggest decrease was announced in the section of machinery and equipment (1.2 billion kroons) and metals and products thereof (1 billion kroons). Only the arrivals of petroleum products increased.

Compared to July 2009, exports of goods from Estonia decreased 7% and imports to Estonia 3%. The decline in exports was mainly caused by the decrease in the exports of machinery and equipment and petroleum products.

The decrease in exports and imports is characteristic of all the EU countries in January–July 2009. The average decline rate in EU countries was 20% in exports and 25% in imports compared to the same period of 2008.

### Estonia's foreign trade, January–August, 2008–2009

Month	Exports, million kroons			Imports, million kroons			Balance, million kroons	
	2008	2009	change, %	2008	2009	change, %	2008	2009
January	10 154	7 256	-29	13 725	8 835	-36	-3 571	-1 579
February	10 677	7 779	-27	13 641	8 852	-35	-2 964	-1 073
March	10 647	8 274	-22	14 145	9 803	-31	-3 498	-1 529
April	12 332	7 672	-38	15 916	9 326	-41	-3 584	-1 654
May	11 549	8 091	-30	14 507	8 511	-41	-2 958	-420
June	10 862	9 519	-12	14 140	9 929	-30	-3 278	-410
July	10 969	8 297	-24	15 047	9 566	-36	-4 078	-1 269
August	11 142	7 723	-31	13 420	9 300	-31	-2 278	-1 577

**Main foreign trade partners of Estonia, August 2009**

Country of destination, group of countries	Exports, million kroons	Share, %	Change compared to same month of previous year, %	Country of consignment, group of countries	Imports, million kroons	Share, %	Change compared to same month of previous year, %
<b>Total</b>	<b>7 723</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-31</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>9 300</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-31</b>
EU27	5 132	66	-32	EU27	7 207	77	-32
CIS	1 041	13	-36	CIS	1 165	13	-35
1. Finland	1 361	18	-33	1. Finland	1 190	13	-36
2. Russia	876	11	-31	2. Lithuania	1 185	13	15
3. Latvia	839	11	-29	3. Germany	871	9	-57
4. Sweden	799	10	-44	4. Latvia	822	9	-43
5. USA	524	7	-11	5. Russia	820	9	-10
6. Germany	457	6	-1	6. Sweden	734	8	-45
7. Lithuania	424	5	-30	7. Poland	637	7	20
8. Norway	280	4	-11	8. Netherlands	348	4	-5
9. Denmark	277	4	-22	9. Denmark	281	3	2
10. Niger	254	3	-	10. Belarus	279	3	-58

**Exports and imports by commodity sections, August 2009**

Commodity section by Combined Nomenclature (CN)	Exports			Imports			Balance, million kroons
	million kroons	share, %	change compared to same month of previous year, %	million kroons	share, %	change compared to same month of previous year, %	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7 723</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-31</b>	<b>9 300</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-31</b>	<b>-1 577</b>
Agricultural products and food preparations (I–IV)	765	10	-12	1 146	12	-28	-381
Mineral products (V)	1 259	16	-4	2 371	25	5	-1 112
Raw materials and products of chemical industry (VI)	478	6	-18	872	9	-11	-394
Articles of plastics and rubber (VII)	279	4	-26	528	6	-26	-249
Wood and products thereof (IX)	630	8	-26	265	3	-14	365
Paper and articles thereof (X)	275	4	-14	224	2	-25	51
Textiles and products thereof (XI)	363	5	-23	537	6	-28	-174
Metals and products thereof (XV)	768	10	-57	695	8	-59	73
Machinery and equipment (XVI)	1 257	16	-44	1 492	16	-45	-235
Transport equipment (XVII)	467	6	-43	445	5	-56	22
Miscellaneous manufactured articles (XX)	669	9	-17	215	2	-32	454
Other	513	6	-27	510	6	-33	3

The preliminary foreign trade data about August were released by Statistics Estonia on the 12th of October (on the 40th day after the end of the reference period). This news release provides the revised data and offers a more detailed overview of trade about the month under observation.

For further information:

More detailed data have been published in the Statistical Database (<http://www.stat.ee/database>).

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