



Press release 30/9/2002

FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS (ECOMEX)

2nd quarter of 2002

A.C. OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY EXPORTS FELL 5.5% AND IMPORTS DROPPED 3.1% IN THE FIRST SEMESTER OF 2002

EXPORTS TO THE EUROPEAN UNION FELL BY 4.6% IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THE YEAR

In the second quarter of 2002 A.C. of the Basque Country exports amounted to 2,887.8 million euros and imports reached 2,456.8 million euros, according to Eustat data. These data, in relation to data from the same period the previous year, reflect an 8.5% decrease for exports and a 9.1% fall in imports. Non-energy exports amounted to 6.2% in the second quarter and non-energy imports fell by 10.1%.

Development of the Basque foreign trade. First semester of 2001-2002.

Unit: Thousand Euro

	EXPORTS			IMPORTS		
	January-June		D %	January-June		D %
	2001	2002		2001	2002	
A.C. OF EUSKADI						
TOTAL	5.974.437,2	5.648.627,4	-5,5	5.038.530,9	4.883.886,4	-3,1
MINERAL AND ENERGY PRODUCTS	334.670,7	224.996,4	-32,8	1.049.078,9	1.040.505,9	-0,8
NON ENERGY PRODUCTS	5.639.766,5	5.423.631,0	-3,8	3.989.452,0	3.843.380,5	-3,7
ALAVA/ARABA						
TOTAL	1.803.950,5	1.557.441,7	-13,7	905.081,8	1.002.363,4	10,7
MINERAL AND ENERGY PRODUCTS	1.817,8	1.938,0	6,6	9.164,3	8.066,2	-12,0
NON ENERGY PRODUCTS	1.802.132,7	1.555.503,7	-13,7	895.917,6	994.297,2	11,0
BIZKAIA						
TOTAL	2.211.171,3	2.152.620,1	-2,6	2.803.834,5	2.693.348,9	-3,9
MINERAL AND ENERGY PRODUCTS	323.612,3	211.829,6	-34,5	999.926,6	1.002.660,2	0,3
NON ENERGY PRODUCTS	1.887.559,0	1.940.790,5	2,8	1.803.907,9	1.690.688,7	-6,3
GIPUZKOA						
TOTAL	1.959.315,4	1.938.565,6	-1,1	1.329.614,6	1.188.174,1	-10,6
MINERAL AND ENERGY PRODUCTS	9.240,6	11.228,8	21,5	39.988,1	29.779,6	-25,5
NON ENERGY PRODUCTS	1.950.074,9	1.927.336,8	-1,2	1.289.626,5	1.158.394,5	-10,2

Source: EUSTAT

The **balance for the period January-June 2002** registered 5,648.6 million euros in exports and 4,883.9 in imports, which is the equivalent of a 5.5% reduction for the former and 3.1% for the latter. Exports of non-energy products fell by 3.8%, and non-energy imports dropped by 3.7%. **The total volume** of transactions fell from 11,013 million euros in the first semester of 2001 to 10,532.5 million in the first six months of the year, a 4.4% reduction.

The trade surplus for the first semester came to 764.7 million euros, compared with 935.9 million the previous year and, consequently, the rate of coverage of exports over imports fell from 118.6% in 2001 to 115.7% this year. Referring exclusively to

transactions of non-energy products, there was practically the same level of coverage as the year before (141.4% in 2001 and 141.1% in 2002).

By geographic destination areas, a negative evolution in exports to the whole of the OECD area can be seen (- 4.4%), with decreases both to the European Union (-4.6%) and the other countries (-3.6%) in this organization. Exports to the European Union only increased to the Netherlands, the UK, Ireland, Greece and Finland. There was also outstanding growth (+24.2%) in exports to the group of countries that are candidates to join the European Union. Imports from the OECD also fell OECD (-0.6%), although there was a slight increase in imports from the EU (+1.5%). Imports from the rest of the OECD countries fell (-11.4%).

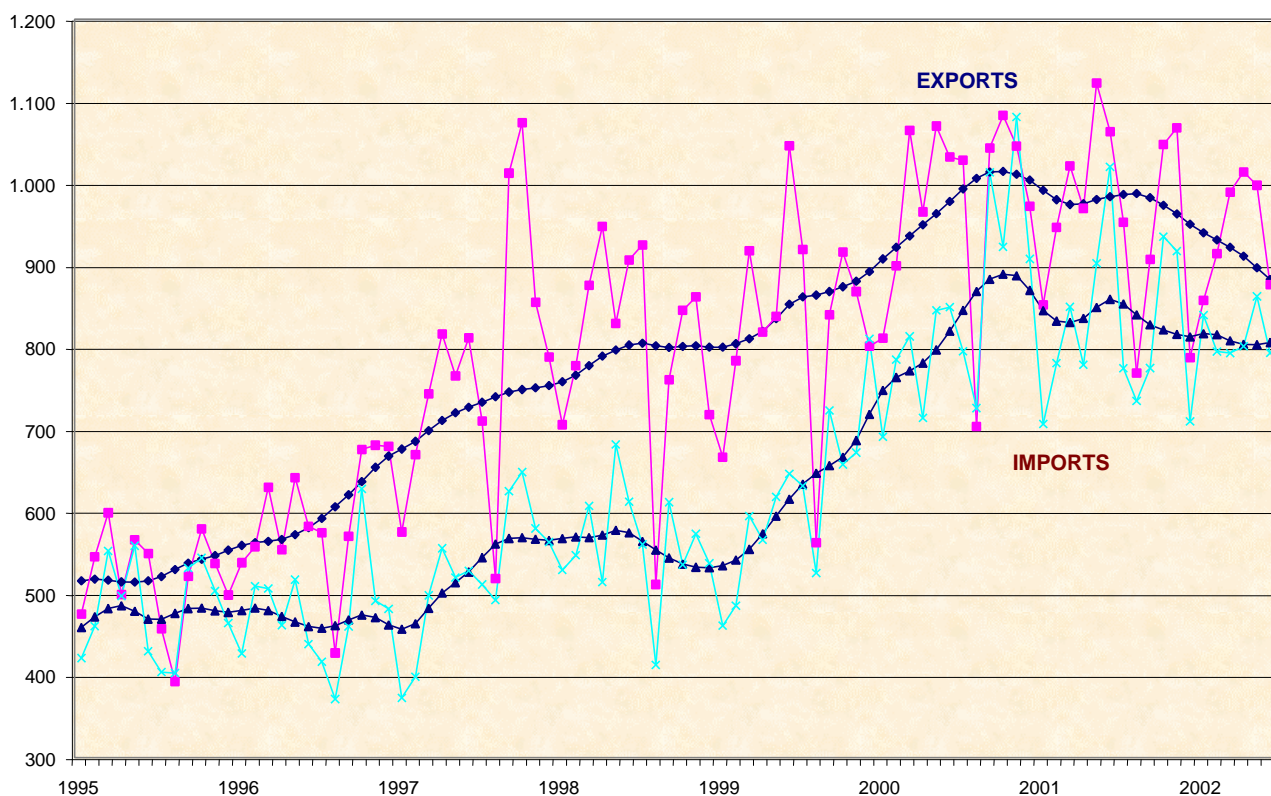
From the sectorial point of view we may observe a fall back in exports for the two most important customs duty groups by volume: *Capital goods* (-3.2%) and *Metals and manufactured* (-9.3%), also affecting the reduction in all other groups, except *Other manufactured*.

With regard to imports, *Capital goods* rose (+4.3%) and *Metals and manufactured* fell (-11.1%).

The results for the **three provinces** of the A.C. of the Basque Country show considerable differences in the evolution of total exports. There was a 13.7% decrease in Alava, as a result of the fall in *Transport material* (-16.7%), *Metals and manufactured* (-18.1%) and *Electric Material* (-18.8%). There was also a slightly lower decrease, 2.7%, in Bizkaia and 1.1% in Gipuzkoa where *Capital goods* developed positively by 8.9% and 3.6% respectively. Imports increased in Álava (+10.8%), and decreased in Bizkaia (-3.9%) and above all Gipuzkoa (-10.6%).

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE A.C. OF EUSKADI (Original data and trend)

Million EUROS



For further information:

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