

FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS (ECOMEX) 3rd QUARTER 2009

Exports from the Basque Country fell by 30.2% in the third quarter of 2009

Imports posted a nominal fall of 43.4% for the same period.

Exports from the Basque Country reported a nominal fall of 30.2% in the third quarter of 2009, according to EUSTAT data. They totalled 3,446 million euros compared to 4,940 million last year. This decrease in exports in the third quarter places **the accumulated rate for the first nine months of 2009 at -31%**.

Total **imports** experienced a 43.4% fall in the third quarter of the current year and came to 3,032 million euros. If only non-energy imports are considered, they performed less negatively (-40.9%) between July and September. The accumulated total for imports over these nine months grew by 44% compared to the same period of the previous year, while it fell by 42.4% in terms of non-energy imports.

EVOLUTION OF THE FOREIGN TRADE OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY. FIRST HALF 2008-2009. Third Quarter 2008-2009. Thousands of euros.

	EXPORTS			IMPORTS		
	July-September			July-September		
	2008	2009	Δ %	2008	2009	Δ %
BASQUE COUNTRY						
TOTAL	4.940.252	3.446.045	-30,2	5.353.901	3.032.051	-43,4
MINERAL AND ENERGY PRODUCTS	461.818	303.655	-34,2	2.111.823	1.116.299	-47,1
NON-ENERGY PRODUCTS	4.478.434	3.142.391	-29,8	3.242.079	1.915.752	-40,9
ALAVA						
TOTAL	1.189.641	806.566	-32,2	670.694	445.644	-33,6
MINERAL AND ENERGY PRODUCTS	1.877	751	-60,0	9.159	3.822	-58,3
NON-ENERGY PRODUCTS	1.187.764	805.814	-32,2	661.535	441.822	-33,2
BIZKAIA						
TOTAL	2.050.573	1.377.011	-32,8	3.652.907	1.943.512	-46,8
MINERAL AND ENERGY PRODUCTS	451.092	295.890	-34,4	2.090.487	1.089.664	-47,9
NON-ENERGY PRODUCTS	1.599.481	1.081.121	-32,4	1.562.421	853.848	-45,4
GIPUZKOA						
TOTAL	1.700.038	1.262.469	-25,7	1.030.300	642.895	-37,6
MINERAL AND ENERGY PRODUCTS	8.849	7.014	-20,7	12.177	22.813	87,3
NON-ENERGY PRODUCTS	1.691.189	1.255.455	-25,8	1.018.122	620.082	-39,1

Source: EUSTAT

The trade balance for the third quarter showed a **surplus** of 414 million euros and, as a result, the coverage rate of total exports in relation to imports rose to 113.7%. However, if imported and exported energy products are excluded, **the non-energy trade balance registered a surplus of 1,227 million euros**, similar to that of the third quarter of 2008, when it came to 1,236 million euros. The coverage of non-energy exports in relation to imports of the same type rose from 138.1% in the third quarter of 2008 to 164% in the same quarter of this year.

Exports to the **European Union** fell by 32.5% on the figures of the third quarter of 2008. Sales to all European Union countries have dropped, but special mention should be made of the year-on-year fall in terms of volume in the exports to France (-32%), Germany (-30.9%), Italy (-39.2%) and the United Kingdom (-42.3%). Exports to the USA (-45.7%) and Japan (-80.5%) decreased significantly, along with those to Mexico (-38.2%). There was only positive growth in the sales to the other OECD countries.

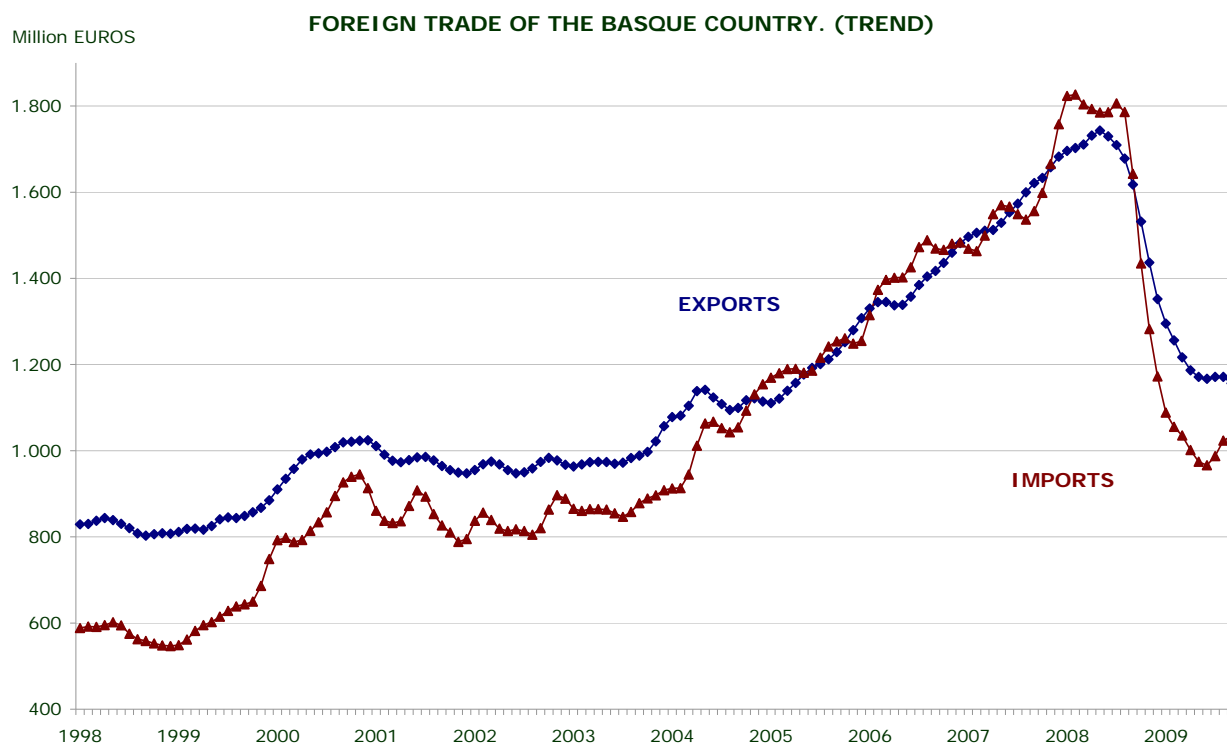
Imports from the European Union fell by 36.6%, repeating the situation of the exports, even though with higher downturn rates.

The largest **duty tariff sections**, for the Basque Country overall, were the ones that contributed the most to the negative performance of quarterly exports, particularly *Metal and Manufactured*, where foreign sales fell by 49.8%, and Mineral Products, which were down by 34.2%. There were also significant decreases in sales of *Electrical Equipment* (-19.4%), *Transport Equipment* (-13.6%) and *Plastic and Rubber* (-21.1%), to quote the most important. However, *Food Products* increased in the duty tariff section by 0.3%. In the areas of imports, there were notable decreases in *Metal and Manufactured* (-62.1%) and *Mineral Products* (-47.1%), while special mention should be made of the fall in imports of *Transport Equipment* down by 27.6%.

The greatest fall in exports was in Bizkaia. They dropped by 32.8% in the third quarter and by 33.5% for the first nine months of 2009 as a whole, which was due to the fall in *Metal and Manufactured* (-45.4%) and *Mineral Products* (-34.4%) over the last three months, while *Paper and Manufactured* rose by 18.1%. Imports headed for Bizkaia fell by 46.8% in the third quarter of 2009, with the largest drop being registered by *Metal and Manufactured* (-66.6%)

Exports from Álava in July, August and September were down by 32.2% with respect to the same months of 2008, which was slightly better than the performance for the first nine months of 2009 (-36.7%). This decrease in exports from Álava was partly due to the fall in exports of *Transport Material* (-35.6%), which accounted for 34% of exports from this province. Another notable drop in the exports was posted by *Metals and Manufactured* (-49.3%). Quarterly imports in this province fell by 33.6%, which was mainly caused by the drop in imports of *Transport Material* (-53.9%) and *Metal and Manufactured* (-58.2%).

Exports from Gipuzkoa fell by 25.7% in the third quarter of the year, which meant the growth rate for the first nine months of 2009 was very similar (-23.4%). The duty tariff sectors that fell to the greatest extent in this quarter were: *Metals and Manufactured* (-56%) and *Electrical Equipment* (-25.4%), while *Transport Equipment* rose by 28.8%. The 37.6% decrease in imports occurred in Gipuzkoa, which was mainly due to the drop in *Metals and Manufactured* (-56.2%).



Source: Eustat

For further information:

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