

The International Trade Evolution

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Abstract

This paper presents the main aspects regarding the international trade of Romania. From the point of view of the weight of the main groups of goods out of the combined Classified List, in the overall export operations for active processing, the main weights went to: clothes articles made out of knitted and crocheted, textile materials, mechanical equipments and machinery, electric apparatus for recording and reproducing sound and images, shoes and similar items, conveyance means and materials, metallurgical products.

Key words: *trade, import, export, products, weight*

From the point of view of the way the imports and the exports have been achieved by the three groups (defined, depending on the processing level, as after active processing, for passive processing), the structure has been as follows:

- As to export: final exports – 50.8%; exports after active processing – 48.8% and exports for passive processing – 0.4%;
- As to import: final imports – 75.2%; imports for active processing – 23% and imports after passive processing – 1.8%.

From the point of view of the weight of the main groups of goods out of the combined Classified List, in the overall export operations for active processing, the main weights went to: clothes articles made out of knitted and crocheted, textile materials, mechanical equipments and machinery, electric apparatus for recording and reproducing sound and images, shoes and similar items, conveyance means and materials, metallurgical products.

On an overall basis, we can appreciate that the foreign trade activity did develop negatively from the point of view of the volume but negatively as well as considering the two components, import and export.

The decrease of the exports and imports has been stimulated also by the slight appreciation of the national currency. On this ground, the positive element of the appreciation (volatility) of leu implies a negative effect on the exports. Many of the exporters either tempered their activities, or recorded modest gains to the best, if not pure losses.

Along with the effects of the economic and financial crisis, another element which generated a slower rhythm of evolution of the exports and imports, consists of the fact that the process of privatization and restructuring involved the closing-up of a number of companies or autonomous State supervised administrations, as well as of the fact that the quality of the manufactured products was not in the position to meet the foreign customers requirements.

In the structure by countries, the biggest deficits have been recorded with Hungary, China, Kazakhstan, Austria, Germany, Russian Federation, contrary to 2008, when the hierarchy of the countries of the biggest deficits for Romania included Germany, Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Austria and China.

However, to note the diminishing of the deficit with Germany, by about 37%, due to the increase of the cars export, which generated the transformation of the significant deficit in 2011.

Meantime, the deficit with the Russian Federation has been reduced as a result of the decrease recorded by the import of natural gas and crude oil from this country in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012.

The deficit recorded with China increased as a consequence of the imports increases for telephone devices for the mobile telephony and other kind of networks, this country holding presently the second place within the hierarchy of the countries of the highest deficits for Romania.

To note also the decrease of the surplus recorded with Bulgaria as a result of the diminishing of the exports of mineral oil products to this country.

Positive sold have been recorded mainly with: Serbia, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, Georgia, Iraq, United Kingdom, Syrian Arab Republic.

The biggest weight in 2012 is held by the textiles, the exports of textiles after active processing representing 37.5% of the total exports and about 61% of the total exports of textiles. The exports of clothing articles and accessories, other than the knitted or crocheted one, processed in Lohn system are holding the biggest weight in the frame of the textiles group.

As regards the exports and the imports achieved by the EU member states during the period 2007-2013, there are at least three common characteristics to be stated out.

The first characteristic consists of the fact that the evolution of exports and imports recorded during 2012 as comparatively with 2011, leave apart some small exceptions such as Ireland, Malta, Finland and United Kingdom for exports, respectively Estonia, Ireland, Latvia and Malta for imports, has marked positive trends although, of course, differing from country to country.

The second characteristic is given by the fact that for both export and import, all the countries have recorded negative developments which, I'd say, evidenced a given particularity implied by an increased magnitude, close to 15 and almost 30%, even over this value in the import case, such as for instance, Romania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, respectively Finland.

At last, the third characteristic is marked by the fact that the outrun of the exports decrease by the imports diminishing led implicitly to the decrease of the trade deficit.

The evolution of the trade deficit of the EU member states is showing in a suggestive way a decrease of the deficit in 2012 for 16 countries including Romania as well, ordered at the left side of the demarcation line.

Thus, we are meeting two hypostasis: those countries which increased their trade deficit in 2012 as comparatively with the year 2009: Ireland, Belgium, Denmark, Czech Republic and Hungary and countries where the surplus recorded in 2009 is maintained in 2011 as well, although at a relatively lower level. This is the case of Germany, Holland, Sweden and Finland.

With a diminishing deficit of almost 14%, Romania is joining the countries having recorded the biggest deficit reductions.

Within the structure by countries, the largest deficits in 2012 have been recorded with Hungary, China, Kazakhstan, Germany, Austria, Russian Federation, contrary to the year 2010 when the hierarchy of the countries with which Romania recorded the biggest trade deficits included countries such as Germany, Russian Federation, Hungary, Kazakhstan, China and Austria.

The diminishing of the deficit with Germany is also noticeable, being due to the increase of the exports of cars and auto-vehicles for goods transportation.

Meantime, the deficit with the Russian Federation has been reduced, as a consequence of the diminished imports of gas and crude oil from this country in 2012 as against the year 2011. In fact, the total imports of gas and crude oil of Romania have been significantly reduced in 2011 and 2012.

The global economic crisis showed itself critically in the foreign trade field, each month in 2012 recording decreases of the Romanian export as comparatively with the corresponding months of the year 2009, which confirmed the tendencies occurring previously, starting with 2008.

As to the importers, out of about 68340 importers, 1110 importers (recording annual imports of over 5 million euro) are covering almost 70% of the imports volume of the year 2013.

To note that the weight of the exports and imports of agro-alimentary products (including beverage and tobacco) in the total exports, respectively imports, has decreased during the first six months of 2013 by about 0.9% in the exports case and by about 2.0% in the case of imports.

The main commercial partners from the European Union for the exports of agro-alimentary products, beverage and tobacco are the following: Italy (2% of the total export of agro-alimentary products, beverage and tobacco), Bulgaria (11%), Hungary (8%), Greece, Germany, Spain and Holland (with 5% each).

The exits of agro-alimentary products towards the European Union countries held a value weight of about 72% while the entries of agro-alimentary products from the European Union countries held a weight of over 25%.

In the case of the imports of agro-alimentary products imports, beverage and tobacco the main commercial partners from the European Union are the following: Hungary (18% of the total imports of agro-alimentary products, beverage and tobacco), Germany (12%), Bulgaria (8%), Holland (7%), Italy and Poland (with 6% each).

When analyzing the structure by partner countries for Romania exports and imports, according to the situation being available at the level of 2012, it can be easily stated out that the biggest weights as for the export are held by: Germany, holding a weight of about 18.6% (the top of the products being exported to this country comprising plug sets for sparking plugs, wires, cables, conductors, auto parts and accessories, cars, ships); Italy (over 12.8%, foot-ware, cigarettes, phones, clothing, cars); France (7.5%, cars, auto parts and accessories, plug sets for sparking plugs, phones, cables, conductors, tires, bearings, furniture); Turkey (6.2%, raw iron residues, iron and steel, rolled plates, oil products, phones, cars, cars parts and accessories); Hungary (5.6%, wires, cables, conductors, oil products, tires, pumps, refined sun-flower oils, mobile phones devices, electronic components).

The biggest weight in the top of the partner countries to import is held, similar to the exports case, by: Germany with 17.1% (where from Romania is importing mainly cars, cars parts and accessories, drugs, wires, cables,) and Italy with 11.3% (leather, foot-ware parts, rolled plates, oil products, circuits), followed by Hungary, holding a weight of 8.7% of the total imports (drugs, wires, cables, mobile phone devices, electronic), France holding over 5.8% (auto-vehicles parts, drugs, turbojets, pumps, superchargers).

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