

## Exports from the Basque Country fell by 26.6%, compared to 38.9% for imports, in 2009

*The foreign trade balance posted a surplus of 2,328 million euros*

**Exports** from the Basque Country reached 14,606.2 million euros in 2009, that is to say, 5,282.2 million less than in 2008, which meant a nominal decrease of 26.6%, according to data provided by Eustat.

**Imports** came to 12,277.9 million euros for the same annual period, which was 38.9% down on the data for 2008. This figure reflects the downturns in all the customs duty groups.

Both exports and imports in the Basque Country posted sharper falls than in the **rest of Spain**. Thus, while exports were down by 15.9% in Spain, they dropped by 26.6% in the Basque Country. Something similar happened with imports, as they were down by 26.2% in total and by 38.9% in our Autonomous Community.

**Table 1.- Evolution of the foreign trade of the Basque Country. 2008-2009.**  
Thousands of euros

	EXPORTS			IMPORTS		
	2008	2009	Δ %	2008	2009	Δ %
<b>BASQUE COUNTRY</b>						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19.888.399</b>	<b>14.606.210</b>	<b>-26,6</b>	<b>20.102.335</b>	<b>12.277.945</b>	<b>-38,9</b>
MINERAL AND ENERGY PRODUCTS	1.785.800	1.235.722	-30,8	7.100.237	4.196.568	-40,9
NON-ENERGY PRODUCTS	18.102.599	13.370.487	-26,1	13.002.098	8.081.377	-37,8
<b>ALAVA</b>						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5.289.406</b>	<b>3.552.042</b>	<b>-32,8</b>	<b>3.279.374</b>	<b>1.925.875</b>	<b>-41,3</b>
MINERAL AND ENERGY PRODUCTS	6.952	3.208	-53,9	47.244	15.514	-67,2
NON-ENERGY PRODUCTS	5.282.454	3.548.834	-32,8	3.232.130	1.910.362	-40,9
<b>BIZKAIA</b>						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7.983.875</b>	<b>5.949.445</b>	<b>-25,5</b>	<b>12.901.329</b>	<b>7.665.773</b>	<b>-40,6</b>
MINERAL AND ENERGY PRODUCTS	1.743.845	1.504.363	-30,9	7.000.036	4.092.144	-41,5
NON-ENERGY PRODUCTS	6.240.030	4.745.081	-24,0	5.901.294	3.573.629	-39,4
<b>GIPUZKOA</b>						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6.615.118</b>	<b>5.104.723</b>	<b>-22,8</b>	<b>3.921.632</b>	<b>2.686.296</b>	<b>-31,5</b>
MINERAL AND ENERGY PRODUCTS	35.003	28.151	-19,6	52.957	88.910	67,9
NON-ENERGY PRODUCTS	6.580.115	5.076.572	-22,8	3.868.675	2.597.387	-32,9

Source: Eustat. Foreign trade statistics (ECOMEX)

The 2009 **Basque trade balance** (exports minus imports) posted a 2,328.3 million-euro deficit, which was up 2,542.2 million on 2008. In this sense, the export coverage rate worsened by 0.6 percentage points and went from 98.9% in 2008 to 119% in 2009. On the other hand, the Spanish coverage rate stood at 75.9% in 2009, which, even though it had improved on the previous year, reflected a long-standing trade deficit, which reached 50,000 million euros in 2009.

Returning to the Basque Country, the balance of non-energy products performed better than the previous year, standing at 5,289.1 million euros compared to the 5,100.5 million of 2008. The coverage rate of non-energy products improved significantly and rose from 139.2% in 2008 to 165.4% in 2009.

**By geographical areas**, special mention should be made of the trade balance of the Basque Country with the **European Union**, as it fell by 23.9% from 3,519.6 million euros in 2008 to 2,679.9 million in 2009. The coverage rate improved by over seven percentage points and rose from 136.3% to 143.5% in 2009. Compared to the performance of non-OECD countries, the deficit shrunk from 4,915.7 million euros in 2008 to a deficit of 1,167.7 million in 2009.

In terms of the transactions of non-energy commodities, there was a downturn with respect to its previous position, rising from a positive balance of 4,082.6 million with the European Union in 2008 to 2,975.1 million in 2009. The coverage rate also improved from 147.7% to 153.7% in 2009.

**Table 2 - Main countries of destination and origin of foreign trade of the Basque Country. 2009. Thousands of euros**

COUNTRIES	EXPORTS	COUNTRIES	IMPORTS
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14.606.210</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12.277.945</b>
France	2.463.342	Russia	1.742.941
Germany	2.011.240	Germany	1.488.888
United States	971.492	France	1.237.911
Italy	820.310	Italy	896.029
United Kingdom	771.175	China	712.306
Portugal	702.255	Iran	615.840
Belgium	553.884	United Kingdom	505.501
Turkey	333.981	Netherlands	402.568
Algeria	313.455	Belgium	376.846
Singapore	306.024	United States	372.937

Source: Eustat. Foreign trade statistics (ECOMEX)

**By countries**, five countries were the destination for nearly half of the exports of the Basque Country: France (16.9%), Germany (13.8%), the United States (6.7%), Italy (5.6%) and the United Kingdom (5.3%). Five countries were likewise the origin for over half of the total imports: Russia (14.2%), Germany (12.1%), France (10.1%), Italy (7.3%) and China (5.8%).

In an analysis by **products**, it is noteworthy that the first 10 products in the ranking accounted for 39.6% of the exports, as can be seen in Table 3. The category in first place and a further four belonged to the *Transport Equipment* customs group and accounted for 17.9% of the total exports. Second place in the ranking was held by *Petroleum Oils*, followed by *New Rubber Tyres*. The *Metal and Manufactured* section also boasted two of its four categories among the top ten (in sixth and eighth place). Lastly, *Tap Fittings and Similar* was in seventh place and this category's exports came of 389.9 million euros.

**Table 3.- Main categories exported by the Basque Country. 2008-2009. Thousands of euros**

Commodities	2009	%	2008	Δ % 09/08
<b>Total</b>	14.606.210		19.888.399	-26,6
8708. Parts and accessories of motor vehicles	1.063.827	7,3	1.466.141	-27,4
2710. Petroleum oils	1.006.570	6,9	1.394.981	-27,8
4011. New pneumatic tyres of rubber	660.978	4,5	826.578	-20,0
8703. Motor cars for 5 to 10 people	527.253	3,6	899.743	-41,4
8704. Motor vehicles for the transport of goods	509.053	3,5	877.092	-42,0
7304. Tubes and hollow profiles, seamless, of iron and steel	410.611	2,8	763.019	-46,2
8481. Taps and similar appliances	389.886	2,7	513.527	-24,1
7214. Bars of iron or non-alloy steel	310.330	2,1	455.117	-31,8
8905. Light-vessels, dredgers, floating docks, platforms	272.114	1,9	0	-
8605. Passenger coaches, special purpose railway coaches	240.862	1,6	46.619	416,7

Source: Eustat. Foreign trade statistics (ECOMEX)

Imports by **customs duty sections** posted downturns in all sections, where those with the highest volumes were particularly noteworthy: *Metals and Manufactured (-53.7%)*, *Mineral Products (-40.9%)*, *Electrical material (-22.2%)* and *Transport Material (-49.4%)*.

By provinces, exports decreased in the three provinces in 2009, with a 22.8% drop recorded in Gipuzkoa, 25.5% in Bizkaia and 32.8% in Álava.

In terms of imports, the most significant point was the downturn of over 30% in all three provinces. The greatest decrease in imports was in Álava (-41.3%), mainly based on the downturn in *Transport Equipment (-69.3%)*. There was a 40.6% decrease in imports in Bizkaia, based mainly on the drop in *Energy and Mineral Products (-41.5%)* and *Metals and Manufactured (-58.3%)*. The drop was least sharp in Gipuzkoa (-31.5%), where *Metals and Manufactured* was the key customs duty group, down 50.1%.

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