

International Trade

Import

Germany must import almost all of its raw materials:

Crude Oil	97%
Natural Gas	83%
Iron	

(the figures of other raw materials are similar)

Germany trades with countries all over the world.

Crude oil, for example, comes from the following states:

Russia	2.82 million metric tons (=31.5%)
Norway	1.62 million metric tons (=18%)
Libya	1.52 million metric tons (=16.9%)
Great Britain	1.04 million metric tons (=11.6%)
Saudi Arabia	0.38 million metric tons (=4.2%)

(2004 statistics)

Going by **the value of import and exports**, Germany is second only to the United States in world trade. Between 1991 (\$ 14,4 billion) and 2002 (\$ 110 billion), the German trade surplus soared. In 2001 the trade surplus reached a record \$114 billion.

Export

Germany is the most important market-place in the European Union and about 25% of all German-made products are exported which makes Germany the greatest exporter of all the industrialized countries.

Exports by comparison:

Country	Percentage of Products Exported
France	20.3%
Great Britain	18.6%
Japan	10.5%
United States	6.7%

The most common goods are: vegetables, fruit, tropical fruits, coffee, tea, cocoa, raw materials, clothing, textiles, computers, office machines.

The most commonly exported products are: cars, machines, chemical products, electronics, foodstuffs, iron/steel, metal goods, aerospace equipment.

The **most important trade partners** of Germany in 2004 were:

Exports from Germany	Imports to Germany
France 10.4%	France 9.1%
United States 9.3%	The Netherlands 8.0%
Great Britain 8.4%	United States 7.3%
Italy 7.3%	Italy 6.4%
The Netherlands 6.3%	Great Britain 6.0%

The Single European Market

Germany is part of the Single European market. Formed in 1993, the Single European Market nowadays combines the 25 domestic markets of its member nations into one single market. This means that trade between Germany and the countries of the European Union is not export trade but, rather, domestic trade.

Germany's economy plays an active part within the Single European Market: The closest trading relationships are those with EU member states, with whom more than half of all foreign trade is conducted.