

**CHARACTERISTICS OF THE
ROMANIAN FOB EXPORTS IN THE PERIOD 01.01. – 30.06.2018**

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Abstract

In the context of Romania's membership of the European Union, but also of globalization, the relationship and the dependence of the Romanian economy of the other states economies, it requires a more in-depth analysis of Romania's export. The aim of this paper is to analyze the Romanian FOB exports in the period 01.01. – 30.06.2018. My research goal is to identify the most important section of FOB exports during the period 01.01. – 30.06.2018 and the main structural modifications in evolution of the Romanian exports. The expected results are to know the most important export section of the Combined Nomenclature, the structural modification in evolution of these industries and the most important partner countries.

Keywords: exports, structural modifications, export partner countries, industries

JEL classification: F10, F40

1. Introduction

For a better understanding of the Romanian economy, it is important to analyze the Romanian commercial relations. The characteristics of the Romanian FOB exports will give us important results regarding the main industries and the most important partner countries.

Under the Incoterms 2010 standard published by the International Chamber of Commerce, FOB means “that the seller pays for delivery of goods to the vessel including loading. The seller must also arrange for export clearance. The buyer pays cost of marine freight transportation, insurance, unloading and transportation cost from the arrival port to destination. The buyer arranges for the vessel, and the shipper must load the goods on to the

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named vessel at the named port of shipment according to the dates stipulated in the contract of sale as informed by the buyer. Risk passes from the seller to the buyer when the goods are loaded aboard the vessel” (***, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Incoterms>, 2018).

The FOB price (free on board price) of exports and imports of goods is ”the market value of the goods at the point of uniform valuation, (the customs frontier of the economy from which they are exported). It is equal to the CIF price less the costs of transportation and insurance charges, between the customs frontier of the exporting (importing) country and that of the importing (exporting) country” (***, <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=1009>, 2018).

2. Content

FOB exports during the period 01.01. - 30.06.2018, amounted to 33977.5 million euro and increased with 10.0% as against the period 01.01. - 30.06.2017.

In the structure of exports, six sections of the Combined Nomenclature hold 73.9% of total exports, as follows:

Table 1: FOB Exports during the period 01.01. - 30.06.2018

Section of the Combined Nomenclature (CN)	Value - million euro -	Structure in % as against total exports	In % as against 01.01. - 30.06.2017
XVI Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; sound and image recorders and reproducers	9822.5	28.9	109.9
XVII Vehicles and associated transport equipment	6678.1	19.7	114.0
XV Base metals and articles of base metals	3112.4	9.2	114.7
XI Textiles and textiles articles	2053.7	6.0	99.6
VII Plastics, rubber and article thereof	1966.4	5.8	109.1
V Mineral products	1455.5	4.3	130.1

Source: (International Trade Statistic, 6/2018)

The main structural modifications came up in the evolution of exports by CN sections in the period 01.01. - 30.06.2018 as against the period 01.01. - 30.06.2017, consists of:

- a) increasing weight for sections:
 - V Mineral products – with 30.1 percentage points.
 - XV Base metals and articles of base metals - with 14.7 percentage points;
 - XVII Vehicles and associated transport equipment - with 14.0 percentage points;
 - XVI Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; sound and image recorders and reproducers – with 9.9 percentage points;
 - VII Plastics, rubber and articles thereof - with 9.1 percentage points;
- b) decreasing weight for sections:
 - XI Textiles and textiles articles - with 0.4 percentage points.

Exports of section XVI Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; sound and image recorders and reproducers, representing 28.9% of total exports in the period 01.01. - 30.06.2018, hold the first place and registered an increase of 9.9% in comparison with the period 01.01 - 30.06.2017. In this section, the chapter "Electric machinery, appliances and equipment and parts thereof" holds the main weight (61.1% in total section and 17.7% in total exports).

The second place is held by the section XVII Vehicles and associated transport equipment with 19.7% in total exports, where exports of "Vehicles, tractors and other ground vehicles" represent 92.8% of total section and 18.2% of total exports.

Exports of section XV Base metals and articles of base metals hold the third place as weight with 9.2% in total exports, registering an increase of 14.7% as against the period 01.01. - 30.06.2017. In this section, the chapter "Ping-iron, iron and steel products" represent 34.9% and 3.2% of total exports and "Ping-iron, iron and steel" represent 32.0% of total section and 2.9% of total exports. Exports of section XI Textiles and textiles articles, hold the fourth place and registered a decrease with 0.4% as against the period 01.01. - 30.06.2017.

The next positions in the top are held by the following sections:

- VII Plastic, rubber and article thereof - with 5.8% of total exports;
- V Mineral products - with a weight of 4.3% of total exports.

Table 2: Structure of FOB exports by main groups of goods per month (values in million euro)

Period	Section of the Combined Nomenclature					
	XVI Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; sound and image recorders and reproducer s	XVII Vehicles and associated transport equipmen t	XV Base metals and article s of base metals	XI Textiles and textiles articles	VII Plastic , rubber and article s thereof	V Mineral products
01.2018	1535.5	1073.0	492.5	330.9	308.6	259.2
02.2018	1547.9	1105.3	486.1	336.5	315.5	251.5
03.2018	1770.9	1199.3	527.8	370.6	352.7	275.5
04.2018	1527.3	1000.2	495.3	296.9	312.5	198.6
05.2018	1718.0	1188.1	530.2	361.6	343.6	211.1
06.2018	1722.9	1112.3	580.6	357.1	333.6	259.6
Σ	9822.5	9822.5	3112.4	2053.7	1966.4	1455.5

Source: (International Trade Statistic, 1/2018 – 6/2018)

In the period 01.01 - 30.06.2018, in comparison with the period 01.01. - 30.06.2017, exports to the other 27 European Union (EU28) countries increased by 11.0%, registering a weight of 76.7% in total exports.

Partner countries holding the first 10 places in the total amount of exports in the period 01.01. -30.06.2018 (representing 66.9% of total exports) where the following:

1. Germany (23.4% of total exports),
2. Italy (11.6% of total exports),
3. France (7.2% of total exports),
4. Hungary (4.5% of total exports),
5. United Kingdom (4.3% of total exports),
6. Turkey (3.3% of total exports),
7. Bulgaria (3.2% of total exports),

8. Spain (3.2% of total exports),
9. Poland (3.2% of total exports),
10. Czech Republic (3.0% of total exports). (International Trade Statistic, 6/2018)

3. Conclusions

The most important export section of the Combined Nomenclature in the period 01.01. - 30.06.2018 of the Romanian FOB exports are:

XVI Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; sound and image recorders and reproducers - 28.9% of the total exports;

XVII Vehicles and associated transport equipment - 19.7% of the total exports;

XV Base metals and articles of base metals - 9.2% of the total exports;

XI Textiles and textiles articles - 6.0% of the total exports;

VII Plastics, rubber and articles thereof - 5.8% of the total exports;

V Mineral products - 4.3% of the total exports.

In order to stabilize the trade balance of Romania, we recommend the increase in exports through better use of the competitive advantages and the focus on the best performing industries of our country (Fleischer, 2014).

In order to obtain an improvement of the Romanian FOB exports, we recommend following measures:

1. Improvement of the Romanian infrastructure. Ensuring an infrastructure similar to those of the countries in western Europe (particularly the Bucharest - Nadlac highway) would result in an increase in foreign investments in general, because the poor infrastructure of Romania represents one of the most important impediments to foreign direct investments and creates logistical problems that should not exist if we take into account Romania's favorable geopolitical position;
2. The adoption of the European Union legislation in Romania is not sufficient; it must be accompanied by detailed application rules designed so that their implementation, their accomplishment should be easy;
3. Ensuring a legislative stability and predictability in Romania, in the sense that regardless of government, there should exist a medium-term strategy related to taxes and the absolutely necessary changes in this area should take effect from 1 January the following years;

4. Focusing on the industries where we would have competitive advantages and which can cope with the European and global competition. The analysis of Romania's exports in the recent years has shown that the production of auto parts and the car production (especially the Dacia brand, part of the Renault group, or Ford) are sectors that can make a significant contribution to balancing the Romanian trade balance (Fleischer, 2011).

In conclusion, the increase of Romania's FOB exports by 10.0% in the period 01.01. – 30.06.2018 compared to the period 01.01. – 30.06.2017 is a positive evolution that is in line with the economic increase of Romania in 2018 compared to the previous year.

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