

**CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ROMANIAN CIF IMPORTS
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 requires a more in-depth analysis of Romania's imports. The aim of this paper is to analyze the Romanian CIF imports in the period 01.01. – 30.06.2018. My research goal is to identify the most important section of CIF imports during the period 01.01. – 30.06.2018 and the main structural modifications in evolution of the Romanian imports. The expected results are to know the most important import section of the Combined Nomenclature, the structural modification in evolution of these industries and the most important partner countries.

Keywords: imports, structural modifications, import partner countries

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 CIF imports 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, CIF “requires the seller to pay the costs and freight necessary to transport goods to the named port of destination. Risk responsibility for lost or damaged goods, as well as any additional costs, gets transferred from the seller to the buyer once the goods are on board the ship in the port of shipment. CFR requires the seller to clear the goods for export. CFR and CIF are similar agreements; the exception being that, under CIF, the

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seller is obligated to insure the goods while in transit for 110% of their value under at least the minimum cover of the Institute Cargo Clauses of the Institute of London Underwriters (which would be Institute Cargo Clauses), or any similar set of clauses. The policy should be in the same currency as the contract. CIF should only be used for non-containerized seafreight” (***, <http://www.investopedia.com/terms/c/cif.asp>, 2018).

The CIF price (i.e. cost, insurance and freight price) is ”the price of a good delivered at the frontier of the importing country, including any insurance and freight charges incurred to that point, or the price of a service delivered to a resident, before the payment of any import duties or other taxes on imports or trade and transport margins within the country” (***, <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=332>, 2018).

2. Introduction

In the period 01.01. - 30.06.2018 CIF imports amounted to 40281.8 million euro and increased with 9.7% as against the period 01.01. - 30.06.2017.

In the structure of exports, six sections of the Combined Nomenclature hold 73.3% of total imports, as follows:

Table 1. CIF Imports during the period 01.01. - 30.06.2018

Section of the Combined Nomenclature (CN)	Value - million euro -	Structure in % as against total imports	In % as against 01.01. - 30.06.2017
XVI Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; sound and image recorders and reproducers	11102.5	27.6	109.1
XV Base metals and articles of base metals	4398.0	10.9	113.4
XVII Vehicles and associated transport equipment	4321.2	10.7	116.5
VI Chemicals products	3715.3	9.2	102.1
V Mineral products	3071.9	7.6	124.9
VII Plastics, rubber and articles thereof	2947.3	7.3	108.3

Source: (International Trade Statistic – 6/2018)

Imports of section XVI Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; sound and image recorders and reproducers, holding 27.6% of total imports in the period 01.01. - 30.06.2018, holding the first place and registered an increase of 9.1% as against the period 01.01. - 30.06.2017. The two chapters of this section hold the following weights: the products in the chapter “Electric machinery, appliances and equipment, TV sound and video reproduction and recording apparatus” had a weight of 55.5% in total section and 15.3% in total imports, while the products under the chapter “Boilers, turbines, engines, mechanical devices and apparatus and parts thereof” hold 44.5% of total section and 12.3% of total imports.

The section XV Base metals and articles of base metals, with a weight of 10.9% in total imports, registered an increase of 13.4% as against the period 01.01. - 30.06.2017. In this section, the chapter "Ping-iron, iron and steel" represent 32.6% and 3.6% of total imports and "Ping-iron, iron and steel products" represent 29.8% of total section and 3.3% of total imports.

Imports of section XVII Vehicles and associated transport equipment, with a weight of 10.7% in total imports, increased as against the period 01.01. - 30.06.2017 by 16.5%. Within this section, chapter “Cars, tractors, other vehicles“ represent 94.9% of total section and 10.2% of total imports.

Imports of section VI Chemical products, with a weight of 9.2% in total imports, increased by 2.1% as against the period 01.01. - 30.06.2017. Within this section, chapter “Pharmaceutical products“ represent 37.5% of total section and 3.5% of total imports.

Imports of section V Mineral products, with a weight of 7.6% in total imports, were with 24.9% less compared with the period 01.01. - 30.06.2017.

Imports of section VII Plastics, rubber and articles thereof, with a weight of 7.3% in total imports, have increased by 8.3% as against imports of similar products in the period 01.01. - 30.06.2017.

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

- increasing weight for section: V Mineral products - by 0.9 percentage points, XVII Vehicles and associated transport equipment – by 0.6 percentage points;
- decreasing weight for section: VI Chemical products - by 0.7 percentage points.

Table 2. Structure of CIF imports by main groups of goods per month (values in million euro)

Period	XVI Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; sound and image recorders and reproducers	XV Base metals and articles of base metals	XVII Vehicles and associated transport equipment	VI Chemical products	VII Plastic, rubber and articles thereof	V Mineral products
01.2018	1723.9	665.8	616.4	567.3	454.3	534.5
02.2018	1740.7	679.9	659.4	617.1	465.6	489.1
03.2018	1938.6	764.4	776.9	682.2	518.1	504.0
04.2018	1745.2	679.4	666.2	582.3	459.3	387.2
05.2018	1976.0	788.3	759.3	609.7	524.7	577.4
06.2018	1978.1	820.2	843.0	656.8	525.3	579.7
Σ	11102.5	4398.0	4321.2	3715.3	2947.3	3071.9

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

In the period 01.01. - 30.06.2018, as against the period 01.01. - 30.06.2017, imports from the other 27 European Union (EU28) countries increased with 8.8%, registering a weight of 75.2% in total imports.

Partner countries holding the first 10 places in total amount of imports in the period 01.01. - 30.06.2018 (representing 68.0% of total imports) where the following:

1. Germany (20.9% of total imports),
2. Italy (9.6% of total imports),
3. Hungary (6.8% of total imports),
4. France (5.4% of total imports),
5. Poland (5.4% of total imports),
6. China (5.1% of total imports),
7. Turkey (4.3% of total imports),
8. Netherland (3.8% of total imports),
9. Russian Federation (3.4% of total imports),
10. Austria (3.3% of total imports). (International Trade Statistic, 6/2018)

3. Conclusions

The most important import section of the Combined Nomenclature in the period 01.01. - 30.06.2018 of the Romanian CIF imports are:

XVI Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; sound and image recorders and reproducers - 27.6% of the total imports;

XV Base metals and articles of base metals - 10.9% of the total imports;

XVII Vehicles and associated transport equipment - 10.7% of the total imports;

VI Chemicals products - 9.2% of the total imports;

V Mineral products - 7.6% of the total imports;

VII Plastics, rubber and articles thereof - 7.3% of the total imports.

Romania's substantial expenditure for the import of foreign energy resources is a big burden for Romania's state budget and a major factor that contributes to the Romanian trade balance disequilibrium. As a solution for this problem we recommend implementing renewable energy projects (hydrological, solar, wind, biogas and biomass plants), which will provide much of the necessary energy. Thus, the cost of energy imports would be substantially reduced and this would have a beneficial effect on the trade balance of Romania (Fleischer, 2011).

We recommend the reviving of the agriculture and animal husbandry in Romania, so that the domestic production should meet, to a great extent, the need of the Romanian market and the surplus should be exported under favorable conditions (Fleischer, 2011).

In order to stabilize the trade balance of Romania, we recommend the decrease in imports as a result of the quantitative and qualitative improvement of the domestic production and a more efficient awareness of the consumers in Romania regarding the importance of supporting the Romanian industry by purchasing Romanian products (Fleischer, 2014).

In conclusion, the increase of Romania's CIF imports by 9.7% in the period 01.01. – 30.06.2018 compared to the period 01.01. – 30.06.2018 is an unpleasant evolution that must be removed by a better performance of the Romanian producers, reducing imports (especially gas) and a better revaluation of renewable resources.

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