

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ROMANIAN CIF IMPORTS IN THE PERIOD 2017 - 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 2017 - 2018. My research goal is to identify the most important section of CIF imports during the period 2017 - 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

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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 seller is obligated to insure the goods while in transit for 110% of their value.” (***, <http://www.investopedia.com/terms/c/cif.asp>, 2019).

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>, 2019).

2. Content

In the period 01.01. – 31.12.2018 CIF imports amounted to 82866.8 million euro and increased with 9.6% as against the period 01.01. – 31.12.2017.

In the structure of exports, six sections of the Combined Nomenclature hold 73.4% of total imports, as follows:

Table 1: CIF Imports during the period 01.01.2017 - 31.12.2018

Section of the Combined Nomenclature (CN)	Value - million euro -	Structure in % as against total imports	In % as against 01.01. - 31.12.2017
XVI Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; sound and image recorders and reproducers	23106.8	27.9	110.1
XV Base metals and articles of base metals	8848.8	10.7	111.1
XVII Vehicles and associated transport equipment	8654.5	10.4	115.3
VI Chemicals products	7625.8	9.2	103.2
V Mineral products	6698.0	8.1	124.2
VII Plastics, rubber and articles thereof	5921.1	7.1	107.0

Source: (International Trade Statistic – 12/2018)

Imports of section XVI Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; sound and image recorders and reproducers, holding 27.9% of total imports in the period 01.01. – 31.12.2018, holding the first

place and registered an increase of 10.1% as against the period 01.01. – 31.12.2017.

The two chapters of this section hold the following weights: the products in the chapter “Boilers, turbines, engines, mechanical devices and apparatus and parts thereof” hold 44.8% of total section and 12.5% of total imports, while the products under the chapter “Electric machinery, appliances and equipment, TV sound and video reproduction and recording apparatus” had a weight of 55.2% in total section and 15.4% in total imports.

The section XV Base metals and articles of base metals, with a weight of 10.7% in total imports, registered an increase of 11.1% as against the period 01.01. - 31.12.2017. Exports of “Ping-iron, iron and steel” represent 32.2% of total section, exports of “Products of ping-iron, iron and steel” represent 30.9% of total section, exports of section “Aluminium and articles thereof” represent 11.8% in total section, exports of section “Miscellaneous articles of base metal” represent 9.6% in total section and exports of section “Copper and articles thereof” represent 7.8% in total section.

Imports of section XVII Vehicles and associated transport equipment, with a weight of 10.4% in total imports, increased as against the period 01.01. - 31.12.2017 by 15.3%. The section “Vehicles, tractors and other ground vehicles” represent 95.0% of total section.

Imports of section V Mineral products, with a weight of 8.1% in total imports, increased by 24.2% as against the period 01.01. - 31.12.2017. The section “Mineral fuels and oils; bituminous substances; mineral waxes” represent 93.3% of total section.

Imports of section VII Plastics, rubber and articles thereof, with a weight of 7.1% in total imports, have increased by 7.0% as against imports of similar products in the period 01.01. - 31.12.2017. Exports of “Plastic and articles thereof” represent 74.3% of total section and exports of section “Rubber and articles thereof” represent 25.7% in total section.

The main structural modifications came up in the evolution of imports by CN sections in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018 as against the period 01.01. - 31.12.2017, consists of:

- increasing weight for section: V Mineral products - by 1.0 percentage points, XVII Vehicles and associated transport equipment – by 0.5 percentage points;

- decreasing weight for section: VI Chemical products - by 0.6 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	V Mineral products	VII Plastic, rubber and articles thereof
01.2017	1486.7	523.5	478.8	510.4	494.2	365.9
02.2017	1576.1	596.4	544.7	600.7	394.6	428.8
03.2017	1858.4	689.3	667.7	709.4	405.2	503.6
04.2017	1614.4	612.5	581.1	543.5	422.3	447.6
05.2017	1839.1	761.7	643.5	627.4	416.5	494.9
06.2017	1797.6	696.4	794.9	649.0	326.0	479.8
07.2017	1666.2	681.7	611.2	634.2	462.1	482.4
08.2017	1604.1	624.9	536.8	655.3	499.5	448.7
09.2017	1816.7	708.3	678.3	627.9	459.7	490.0
10.2017	2054.4	765.2	673.4	641.2	496.6	521.5
11.2017	1939.3	732.5	684.3	638.2	503.1	492.2
12.2017	1709.1	575.3	631.2	565.9	508.3	381.6
∑ 2017	20962.1	7967.7	7525.9	7403.2	5388.2	5537.0
01.2018	1727.8	665.5	615.8	566.8	534.2	454.2
02.2018	1745.0	679.2	657.8	617.7	488.5	465.3
03.2018	1951.9	764.3	774.6	678.0	504.6	518.1
04.2018	1751.9	678.8	664.0	583.8	390.9	458.5
05.2018	1984.1	788.0	759.1	611.3	579.8	524.4
06.2018	1984.7	821.9	846.6	651.5	577.7	523.4
07.2018	1973.9	815.2	815.9	641.2	514.2	539.5
08.2018	1793.9	678.2	557.5	650.0	681.5	472.7
09.2018	1982.0	733.5	703.6	564.0	506.0	493.4
10.2018	2357.4	843.3	813.6	741.6	756.5	577.9
11.2018	2146.1	778.7	810.1	679.9	556.6	516.4
12.2018	1708.0	602.2	635.8	639.7	607.5	377.2
∑ 2018	23106.8	8848.8	8654.5	7625.8	6698.0	5921.1

Source: (International Trade Statistic, 1/2017 – 12/2018)

In the period 01.01. – 31.12.2018, as against the period 01.01. – 31.12.2017, imports from the other 27 European Union (EU28) countries increased with 8.0%, registering a weight of 74.7% in total imports.

Partner countries holding the first 10 places in total amount of imports in the period 01.01. – 31.12.2018 (representing 68.1% of total imports) were the following:

1. Germany (20.5% of total imports),
2. Italy (9.4% of total imports),
3. Hungary (6.9% of total imports),
4. Poland (5.6% of total imports),
5. China (5.3% of total imports),
6. France (5.1% of total imports),
7. Turkey (4.3% of total imports),
8. Netherlands (3.9% of total imports),
9. Russian Federation (3.8% of total imports),
10. Austria (3.3% of total imports), (International Trade Statistic, 12/2018).

In the period 01.01. – 31.12.2018, CIF imports amounted to 82866.8 million euro, with 9.6% more compared with the period 01.01. – 31.12.2017.

During the period 01.01. – 31.12.2018, the FOB – CIF trade deficit amounted 15133.7 million euro, 2173.9 million euro (16.8% increase against the period 01.01. – 31.12.2017) more compared to the period 01.01. – 31.12.2017.

3. Conclusions

The most important import section of the Combined Nomenclature in the period 01.01. 2017 – 31.12.2018 of the Romanian CIF imports are:

XVI Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; sound and image recorders and reproducers – 27.7% of the total imports in the year 2017 and 27.9% of the total imports in the year 2018;

XV Base metals and articles of base metals – 10.5% of the total imports in the year 2017 and 10.7% of the total imports in the year 2018;

XVII Vehicles and associated transport equipment – 10.0% of the total imports in the year 2017 and 10.4% of the total imports in the year 2018;

VI Chemicals products – 9.8% of the total imports in the year 2017 and 9.2% of the total imports in the year 2018;

V Mineral products – 7.1% of the total imports in the year 2017 and 8.1% of the total imports in the year 2018;

VII Plastics, rubber and articles thereof – 73% of the total imports in the year 2017 and 7.1% of the total imports in the year 2018.

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 12.2% in 2017 compared to 2016 and by 9.6% in 2018 compared to 2017 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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