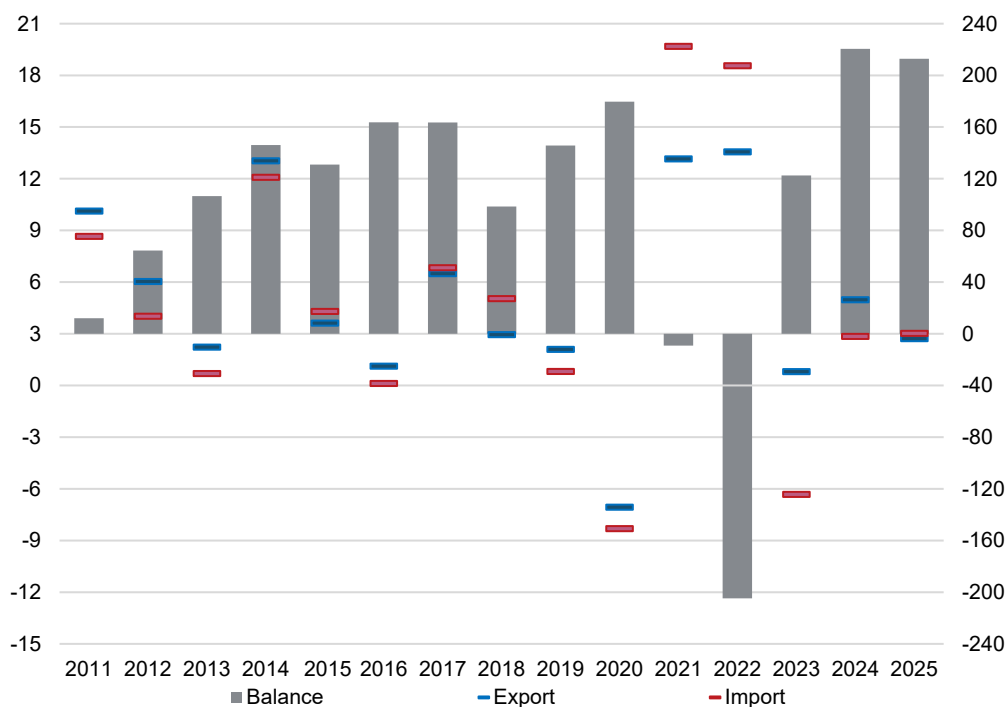


4. External Relations

Exports of goods increased last year, but their year-on-year dynamics weakened during the year.

The value of exports of goods¹ totalled 4,789.5 bn CZK in 2025 and increased by 126.4 bn CZK (2.7%) compared to the previous year. Nominal growth of exports was more moderate than in 2024, mainly due to price developments². Global international trade was affected by the introduction of tariffs between the United States and the rest of the world last year. Exports received a strong impetus especially at the beginning of the year³, and the year-on-year pace weakened during last year. In Q4 alone, the value of exports increased by 1.7 bn CZK (0.1%), year-on-year, and reached 1,191.1 bn CZK. According to seasonally adjusted data, the value of exports increased by 1.5%, quarter-on-quarter, in Q4.

Chart 9 Export and import of goods (y-o-y change, in %) and balance of international trade with goods (in bn CZK, right axis)



Source: CZSO

The growth of exports to some non-EU countries has slowed down.

The value of exports of goods to the EU (+77.7 bn CZK, 2.1%) and outside the EU (+48.3 billion, 4.7%) increased last year. However, a significant growth slowdown compared to the previous year was evident for non-EU exports. The main contribution to this moderation last year was due to the development of exports to the United States of America, Great Britain and Singapore. Massive exports from year 2024 were followed by stagnation here last year⁴. Exports increased the most to Germany (+34.8 bn CZK, 2.5%), Slovakia (+13.6 bn CZK, 3.2%) and France (+13.4 bn, 6.0%) last year. Significant increases were also recorded for exports to Turkey (+7.7 bn, 10.0%), Ukraine (+7.6 bn CZK, 16.9%), Denmark (+7.0 bn, 18.8%), Austria (+6.9 bn, 3.9%), Sweden (+6.2 bn, 9.0%), Belgium (+6.3 bn, 6.1%) and

¹ Data for international trade with goods are recalculated using the updated method based on higher rate of detail since year 2020, see <https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/aktualizace-metody-propoctu-zahranicni-obchod-se-zbozim>. Unless stated otherwise, all figures are without seasonal adjustment and at current prices.

² Export prices of goods fell by 1.2% in 2025. In Q4 2025 alone, they decreased by 4.2%, year-on-year, and by 0.7%, quarter-on-quarter.

³ In the Czech context, the effect of stocking up in connection with the expected introduction of tariffs on imports to the USA was reflected mainly in a significant acceleration in the year-on-year increase of exports of goods to Germany in Q1 of this year, which is the largest European exporter to the USA. The Czech Republic is a subcontractor in this relation. However, the increase of Czech exports to Germany decreased sharply in Q2. Exports from the Czech Republic to the USA themselves strengthened significantly in 2024, and this year's Q1 continued this trend. Here, too, the dynamics slowed down in the following quarters.

⁴ Exports to the UK increased by 1.1 bn CZK last year after an increase of 40.9 bn CZK in 2024, by 3.4 bn CZK to the USA after an increase of 21.4 bn CZK, and exports to Singapore by 50 million CZK after an increase of 10.6 bn CZK.



Switzerland (+5.6 bn, 7.2%). There was also a significant percentage increase of exports in the Philippines (+1.1 bn CZK, 73.4%) and South Korea (+4.8 bn, 38.0%) last year. The recorded decreases were generally moderate last year, with exports to the Netherlands (-4.8 bn CZK, -3.2%), Hungary (-3.6 bn, -2.5%) and Russia (-3.4 bn, -23.3%) declining the most last year. Exports to the EU (+2.6 bn CZK, 0.3%) and outside the EU (-1.0 bn, -0.4%) stagnated, year-on-year, in Q4 alone. The favourable development of exports to France, Slovakia, Switzerland or Sweden (see Table 2) was offset by export decreases to Poland, the United States of America, Germany and Great Britain.

Tabulka č. 1 Sections of CPA classification with impact on goods exports in Q4 2025 (year-on-year) **Tabulka č. 2 Countries with largest impact on exports of goods in Q4 2025 (year-on-year)**

	bn CZK	%		bn CZK	%
Machinery and equipment, n.c.e	+6.2	+4.9	France	+6.4	+11.8
Motor vehicles (excl. motorcycles) and parts	+5.1	+1.6	Slovakia	+5.4	+4.7
Crude petroleum and natural gas	+2.5	+943.7	Switzerland	+3.1	+16.1
Basic pharmaceutical products	+1.8	+10.4	Sweden	+2.1	+12.5
Other transport equipment	+1.4	+6.4	Austria	+1.8	+4.1
Basic metals	+1.2	+3.6	Norway	+1.4	+26.6
Food products	+1.1	+2.2	South Korea	+1.2	+29.6
Computers, electron. and opt. appliances and equipment	+1.0	+0.8	Singapore	+1.1	+30.0
Furniture	-1.1	-12.8	Belgium	-1.1	-4.0
Other non-metal mineral products	-1.1	-5.6	Israel	-1.4	-18.4
Metalworking products except for machinery and equipment	-1.3	-1.9	Netherlands	-1.5	-3.9
Paper and paper products	-1.3	-6.5	Great Britain	-2.3	-4.5
Electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning	-4.1	-20.9	Germany	-2.6	-0.8
Chemicals and chemical products	-4.8	-8.3	United States of America	-3.0	-8.7
Electrical equipment	-6.4	-5.4	Poland	-6.7	-7.3

Source: CZSO

Source: CZSO

Motor vehicles were a key contributor to last year's increase of exports.

Exports of motor vehicles (+57.8 bn CZK, 4.4%) clearly contributed the most to the increase of the value of exports in 2025. Other areas of domestic production followed with a distance – machinery and equipment (+17.2 bn CZK, 3.4%), which partially recovered from the decline in the previous year, and other transport equipment (+13.1 bn CZK, 15.9%) and food products (+11.8 bn, 6.2%) significantly growing in recent years. The exports increase of basic pharmaceutical products (+8.0 bn, 11.3%), electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioned air (+7.8 bn CZK, 16.2%), rubber and plastic products (+6.6 bn, 3.0%), computers, electronic and optical appliances (+6.0 bn, 1.4%) and coke and refined petroleum products (+5.5 bn, 13.0%) was also significant. The decrease of the value of exports was concentrated mainly in the area of chemical substances and preparations last year (-10.7 bn CZK, -4.8%). In Q4, the year-on-year dynamics of exports across various items was only very modest, including the usual export leaders, such as weakly growing motor vehicles (see Table 1). On the contrary, exports of machinery and equipment, which have been subdued in recent years, recorded a relatively strong quarter. Exports of crude oil and natural gas also contributed more significantly to the total year-on-year growth of exports. By contrast, the decline of exports of electrical equipment from the previous quarter deepened, the decrease lasted for chemical substances and preparations, and exports of electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning decreased significantly.

Imports grew slightly last year.

Imports of goods amounted to 4,576.7 bn CZK in 2025 and increased by 134.0 bn CZK (3.0%). Nominal growth strengthened compared to 2024, although price developments were downward⁵. The year-on-year dynamics were strongest at the beginning of the year and gradually weakened also in the case of imports. The value of imports decreased by 10.8 bn

⁵ Import prices fell by 1.6% in 2025. They were lower by 5.1%, year-on-year, and by 1.1%, quarter-on-quarter, in Q4.

CZK (−0.9%) to 1,138.7 bn CZK in Q4. On a quarter-on-quarter basis, imports increased by 1.3% in Q4.

Imports from both the EU and non-EU countries grew.

Imports from EU countries increased by 62.6 bn CZK (2.3%) last year. In the case of imports outside the EU, the increase was relatively stronger (+48.5 bn, 3.0%). The largest increase was recorded in imports from Norway last year (+24.2 bn CZK, 44.0%) and China (+19.6 bn, 3.6%). Significant increases were recorded for imports from Germany (+11.4 bn CZK, 1.1%), Austria (+9.1 bn, 7.5%), Turkey (+8.9 bn, 16.0%), Hungary (+6.1 bn, 6.1%) and Switzerland (+5.6 bn, 11.8%). Strong percentage increases were recorded for imports from Singapore (+5.1 bn, 102.2%) and the United Arab Emirates (+1.4 bn, 32.6%). Only a minority of countries recorded a decrease of imports, only imports from Russia (−53.0 bn CZK, −67.5%) and Taiwan (−8.0 bn, −17.8%) featured a significant decrease. Non-EU countries (−8.6 bn, −2.0%) accounted for a greater share of the total reduction of imports in Q4 compared to imports from the EU (−5.7 bn CZK, −0.8%). The year-on-year decline of imports was mainly due to developments in Russia and China (see Table 4), and significant decreases were also recorded for imports from Slovakia, Poland and Germany. On the contrary, imports from Norway, Hungary and Taiwan grew.

Imports of metalworking products grew significantly last year.

Last year, imports of metal products⁶ (+40.1 bn CZK, 18.4%) and electrical equipment⁷ (+31.4 bn, 7.2%) increased the most. A significant increase was also recorded for imports of motor vehicles (+16.7 bn CZK, 2.5%), food products (+15.3 bn, 6.2%), electricity, gas, steam and conditioning (+10.7 bn, 54.8%), other products of the manufacturing industry (+9.2 bn, 9.6%) and other transport equipment (+9.1 bn, 14.5%). In particular, the value of imports of coke and refined petroleum products decreased significantly (−7.5 bn CZK, −7.5%). The total year-on-year decrease of imports of goods in Q4 was mainly influenced by a decline of imports of crude oil and natural gas (see Table 3). Imports of chemical substances and products, machinery and equipment, electrical equipment or coke, and refined petroleum products were also lower. On the contrary, imports of other transport equipment or other products of the manufacturing industry increased.

Tabulka č. 3 Sections of CPA classification with highest impact on goods imports development in Q4 2025 (year-on-year) **Tabulka č. 4 Countries with largest impact on imports of goods in Q4 2025 (year-on-year)**

	bn CZK	%		bn CZK	%
Other transport equipment	+3.6	+24,9	Norway	+7,1	+75.8
Other manufacturing products	+1.6	+5,7	Hungary	+4,5	+18.7
Metalworking products except for machinery and equipment	+1.4	+2,1	Taiwan	+2,5	+27.9
Basic pharmaceutical products	+1.0	+3,1	Austria	+2,1	+6.6
Motor vehicles (excl. motorcycles) and parts	+1.0	+0,6	Singapore	+1,9	+145.7
Wood and wood products excl. furniture	+0.8	+13,7	Switzerland	+1,7	+15.3
Hard coal, brown coal and lignite	−0.8	−28,0	Japan	+1,6	+8.0
Paper and paper products	−0.9	−5,1	Kazakhstan	+1,5	+33.0
Rubber and plastic products	−0.9	−1,8	India	−1,6	−17.1
Leather and associated products	−0.9	−11,6	Azerbaijan	−1,8	−18.6
Coke and refined petroleum products	−1.5	−6,8	Germany	−3,0	−1.2
Electrical equipment	−1.8	−1,5	Poland	−4,1	−3.8
Machinery and equipment, n.c.e.	−2.1	−2,1	Slovakia	−5,2	−7.8
Chemicals and chemical products	−2.6	−2,9	China	−7,7	−5.1
Crude oil and natural gas	−6.7	−16.4	Russia	−21.7	−78.0

Source: CZSO

Source: CZSO

The surplus of the international trade with

The balance of international trade with goods reached a surplus of 212.9 bn CZK last year. This represented a slight decrease of the positive balance compared to the previous year

⁶ The increase was mainly in weapons and ammunition.

⁷ Batteries were imported to a larger extent, especially for electric cars.



goods remained significant last year. (–7.6 bn CZK). Most of the surplus was created in H1 2025. The international trade surplus with goods reached 52.4 bn CZK in Q4 2025. This was a year-on-year improvement of 12.5 bn CZK and at the same time the highest positive balance for this quarter of the year in the entire time series. According to seasonally adjusted data, the balance of international trade with goods also improved, quarter-on-quarter, in Q4.

The positive balance of trade with EU countries was improving. In 2025, the balance of international trade with goods improved for trade with the EU (+15.1 bn CZK) and slightly deteriorated for trade with non-EU countries (–0.2 bn). However, it had a significant negative impact on the total balance of the category of unspecified countries⁸ last year (–22.5 bn CZK). Trade with Norway (–25.0 bn CZK), China (–21.7 bn CZK), Hungary (–9.7 bn), the Netherlands (–6.9 bn), Spain (–5.6 bn) and Singapore (–5.0 bn) had the greatest impact on the deterioration of the balance of international trade with goods. On the contrary, the balance improved significantly for trade with Russia (+49.6 bn CZK), Germany (+23.4 bn) and France (+11.1 bn). Trade with the United States (+7.2 bn), Taiwan (+7.0 bn), Ukraine (+6.1 bn), Denmark (+5.9 bn), Slovakia (+5.5 bn) and Belgium (+5.1 bn) also had a significant impact on the balance improvement. The surplus of trade with the EU increased by 8.3 bn CZK, year-on-year, in Q4 alone and the deficit with non-EU countries⁹ narrowed by 7.6 bn CZK. The balance improved the most, year-on-year, for Russia, Slovakia, China and France (see Table 6). In contrast, trade with Norway, the United States or Hungary acted in the direction of deterioration.

Tabulka č. 5 Sections of CPA classification with highest impact on international trade with goods balance development in Q4 2025 (year-on-year)

	bn CZK
Crude petroleum and natural gas	+9.3
Machinery and equipment, n.c.e.	+8.2
Motor vehicles (excl. motorcycles) and parts	+4.2
Coke and refined petroleum products	+1.9
Computers, electron. and opt. appliances and equipment	+1.8
Rubber and plastic products	+1.5
Basic metals	+1.3
Products of agriculture and hunting	+1.1
Other manufacturing products	–0.9
Other non-metal mineral products	–1.6
Other transport equipment	–2.2
Chemicals and chemical products	–2.2
Metalworking products except for machinery and equipment	–2.7
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning	–4.4
Electric equipment	–4.7

Source: CZSO

Tabulka č. 6 Countries with largest impact on international trade with goods development in Q4 2025 (year-on-year)

	bn CZK
Russia	+21.0
Slovakia	+10.6
China	+8.4
France	+6.1
Sweden	+2.0
South Korea	+1.6
Belgium	–1.7
Ireland	–2.0
Kazakhstan	–2.3
Great Britain	–2.5
Poland	–2.7
Taiwan	–2.7
Hungary	–3.5
United States of America	–3.5
Norway	–5.7

Source: CZSO

Last year, the motor vehicle trade was in the direction of improving the balance.

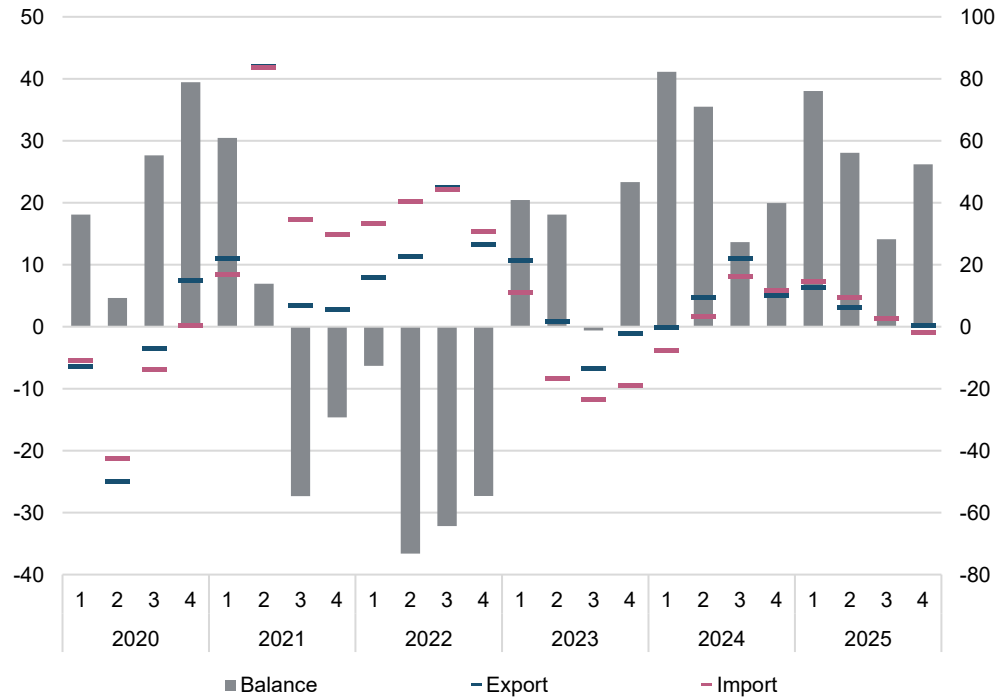
Trade with metalworking products (–39.9 bn CZK) and electrical equipment (–30.8 bn) had the greatest impact on the deterioration of the balance of international trade with goods. The balance of trade with agricultural and hunting products (–7.2 bn CZK) and chemicals and chemical products (–7.3 bn CZK) also deteriorated significantly. On the contrary, trade with motor vehicles (+41.1 bn CZK), machinery and equipment (+15.1 bn CZK), coke and refined petroleum products (12.9 bn CZK), computers, electronic and optical appliances (+8.6 bn), basic pharmaceutical products (+5.3 bn) and rubber and plastic products (+5.1 bn) had a significant impact on the balance last year. The total year-on-year improvement of the balance of international trade with goods in Q4

⁸ The impact on the balance for the “unspecified” category has been growing since the beginning of the year. Mainly the trade with crude oil and natural gas, which could not be territorially classified, was captured here.

⁹ The balance deteriorated by 3.4 bn CZK in case of unspecified origin of goods.

was positively influenced mainly by trade in crude oil and natural gas (see Table 5) and machinery and equipment. Smaller improvements were then recorded in trade with coke and refined petroleum products, basic metals, motor vehicles, or rubber and plastic products. On the contrary, the balance of trade with electrical equipment, electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning, metalworking products, other transport equipment, or chemicals and chemical goods deteriorated.

Chart 10 Export and import of goods (y-o-y change, in %) and balance of international trade with goods (in bn CZK, right axis)



Source: CZSO

