

Commentary

In Q1–Q3 2009 compared to Q1–Q3 2008 external trade turnover showed a significant year-on-year drop. Owing to a year-on-year fall of exports by 17.4% and imports by 20.2 %, the turnover decreased by 18.8 % (CZK –698.9 bn). Declining exports and imports contributed to a year-on-year decrease of external trade turnover by 47.4% and 52.6%, respectively. External trade balance reached a surplus of CZK 118.4 bn which was by 35.7 bn more year-on-year.

Exports and imports of manufacturing industries (items CPA 15 to CPA 36) had an essential impact on the external trade by CPA results. Exports and imports of manufacturing industries fell in Q1–Q3 2009 compared to Q1–Q3 2008 by 18.5% (CZK –339.1 bn) and 19.7% (CZK –321.2 bn), respectively. At the same time, the share of manufacturing industries in total exports shrank (from 96.4% to 95.1%) and it grew slightly in total imports (from 89.3% to 89.8%). As a result to depreciation of CZK against EUR and even more against USD exports and imports of output of manufacturing industries decreased markedly in euros (–23.9% and –25.1% respectively) and in US dollars (–31.6% and –32.7%, respectively).

In exports of manufacturing industry output, 'motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers' maintained the most important share of 18.8% (but –1.0 p.p. lower year-on year) and recorded a fall in exports by 14.0% (CZK –45.8 bn) compared to Q1–Q3 2008. Among other items of CPA showing a significant share in exports belonged 'machinery and equipment n.e.c.' (11.7%), 'office machinery and computers' (7.7%), 'electrical machinery and apparatus n.e.c' (7.7%) and 'radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus' (7.6%). These items also registered decreases in exports and in shares in total exports (except of 'office machinery and computers') in comparison to Q1–Q3 2008.

The most significant commodity in imports of manufacturing industries output remained (with a share of 12.2%; 0.8 p.p. higher year-on-year) 'chemicals, chemical products and man-made fibres' showing a 14.0% fall in imports, year-on-year. Marked shares in total manufacturing industries imports recorded also 'motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers' (10.4%), 'machinery and equipment n.e.c.' (9.7%) and 'radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus' (9.4%). In addition to output of manufacturing industries, further item of CPA contributing significantly to total imports was 'crude petroleum and natural gas' (6.3%). All these mentioned commodities showed a year-on-year drop.

Trade surplus in output of manufacturing industries amounted to CZK 189.7 bn and was by CZK 17.9 bn lower, year-on-year. All important commodities recorded year-on-year decreases in trade surplus: 'electrical machinery and apparatus' (by CZK –12.8 bn), 'machinery and equipment n.e.c (by CZK –8.3 bn) and 'motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers' (by –1.9 bn). In output of manufacturing industries 'chemicals, chemical products and man-made fibres' showed the largest deficit (CZK –60.6 bn), which was by CZK 13.0 bn lower year-on-year. In output of non-manufacturing industries a high trade gap (CZK –85.3 bn) was observed in 'crude petroleum and natural gas' (down by 37.0 bn year-on-year).

In Q1–Q3 2009, the same as in Q1–Q3 2008 the largest part of output of manufacturing industries was traded with EU member states. In Q1–Q3 2009 exports of manufacturing industries to EU and imports from EU represented 85.4% and 71.9% of total exports and imports, respectively (85.1% and 73.6% in the first half of 2008, respectively). Manufacturing industries exports to EU was by 18.2% lower and manufacturing industries imports from EU dropped by 21.6% year-on-year. The most important positions in exports to EU was held by 'motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers' (19.8%), 'machinery and equipment n.e.c.' (10.7%), 'radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus' (8.1%); in imports from EU prevailed 'chemicals, chemical products and man-made fibres' (13.5%), 'motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers' (12.8%), 'machinery and equipment n.e.c.' (10.6%). Output of manufacturing industries balance of trade with EU member states ended in a surplus of CZK 338.0 bn in Q1–Q3 2009 against CZK 363,1 bn in Q1–Q3 2008 and it influenced positively the total external trade balance.

Shares of other groups of countries in external trade with products of manufacturing industries were markedly lower. Developing economies and European transition economies and CIS took share in the total exports of manufacturing industries by 4.1% and 4.2%, respectively and in the total imports of manufacturing industries by 7.0% and 1.3%, respectively. In imports from European transition economies and CIS 'crude petroleum and natural gas' had the most significant share (77.1%) in the total imports from this group of countries. Output of manufacturing industries balance of trade with developing economies ended in a deficit of CZK 29.7 bn in Q1–Q3 2009 opposed to CZK 36.6 bn in Q1–Q3 2008; and with European transition economies and CIS achieved a surplus of CZK 45.4 bn in Q1–Q3 2009 compared to CZK 63.1 bn in Q1–Q3 2008.