

Commentary

External trade showed a significant decline in 2009 compared to 2008. The external trade turnover fell by 15.8 % (CZK -769.5 bn) due to a year-on-year decrease in exports by 13.8% and imports by 17.7 %. Falling exports and imports contributed to a year-on-year drop of external trade turnover by 44.5% and 55.5%, respectively. External trade balance ended in a surplus of CZK 152.0 bn which was by 84.8 bn more year-on-year.

Exports and imports of manufacturing industries (items CPA 15 to CPA 36) had a prevailing impact on the external trade by CPA results. Exports and imports of manufacturing industries went down in 2009 compared to 2008 by 14.7% (CZK -350.0 bn) and 16.7% (CZK -357.9 bn), respectively. The share of manufacturing industries in total exports shrank (from 96.1% to 95.1%) and it grew slightly in total imports (from 88.9% to 90.0%) year-on-year. As a result to marked depreciation of CZK against EUR and even more against USD exports and imports of output of manufacturing industries decreased notably in EUR (-19.5% and -21.4% respectively) and in US dollars (-23.8% and -25.4% respectively).

In exports of manufacturing industry output, 'motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers' made the largest item with share of 19.0% in 2009 against 17.2% in 2008, though it recorded a fall in exports by 6.0% (CZK -24.4 bn) year-on year. Among other items of CPA showing a significant share in exports belonged 'machinery and equipment n.e.c.'(11.6%), 'office machinery and computers' (7.9%), 'electrical machinery and apparatus n.e.c.' (7.8%), 'radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus' (7.8%), 'chemicals, chemical products and man-made fibres' (6.6%), 'fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment' (5.8%), 'basic metals' (5.2%) and 'rubber and plastics products' (5.1%). These items also registered decreases in exports and their shares in total exports (except of 'office machinery and computers', 'chemicals, chemical products and man-made fibres' and 'rubber and plastics products') in a year-on-year comparison.

A commodity with the most significant rank in imports of manufacturing industries output (with a share of 11.9% against 11.2% in 2008) were 'chemicals, chemical products and man-made fibres' showing an 11.8% decline in imports, year-on-year. Marked shares in total manufacturing industries imports registered also 'motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers' (10.5%), and 'radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus' (9.9%), 'machinery and equipment n.e.c.'(9.5%), 'office machinery and computers' (8.2%), 'basic metals' (7.5%), 'electrical machinery and apparatus n.e.c.' (6.6%), 'food products and beverages' (5.7%) and 'rubber and plastics products' (5.6%). In addition to output of manufacturing industries, further item of CPA contributing significantly to total imports was 'crude petroleum and natural gas' (6.1% in 2009 against 7.3% in 2008). All commodities (except of 'chemicals, chemical products and man-made fibres', 'food products and beverages', 'rubber and plastics products' and 'office machinery and computers' 'office machinery and computers' and 'radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus', 'machinery and equipment n.e.c.' showed a year-on-year drop of shares in the total manufacturing industries output imports.

Trade surplus in output of manufacturing industries reached CZK 246.1 bn and was by CZK 7.9 bn higher, year-on-year. A year-on-year increase in surplus was observed only in 'motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers' (CZK +17.3 bn). Surplus fell in 'electrical machinery and apparatus' (by CZK -13.5 bn), 'office machinery and computers' (by CZK -12.2 bn), 'fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment' (CZK -12.7 bn); surplus in 'machinery and equipment n.e.c.' remained on the same level as in 2008 (CZK 66.5 bn). In output of non-manufacturing industries the highest deficits were registered in 'chemicals, chemical products and man-made fibres' (CZK -78.4 bn, down by CZK 16.9 bn year-on-year), and 'basic metals' (CZK -27.9 bn, down by CZK 27.7 bn year-on-year). 'Food products and beverages' showed a further large trade gap (CZK -31.0 bn, down by CZK 6.8 bn year-on-year). In output of non-manufacturing industries a high deficit (CZK -112.4 bn) was generated in 'crude petroleum and natural gas' (down by 54.8 bn year-on-year).

In 2009, the same as in 2008 the largest part of output of manufacturing industries was traded with EU member states. In 2009 exports of manufacturing industries to EU and imports from EU represented 84.1% and 71.0% of total exports and imports, respectively (84.7% and 72.7% in the 2008 respectively). Manufacturing industries exports to EU was by 15.4% lower and manufacturing industries imports from EU decreased by 18.6% year-on-year. The most important positions in exports to EU hold 'motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers' (20.1%), 'machinery and equipment n.e.c.' (10.5%), 'radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus' (8.4%) and 'office machinery and computers' (8.0%); in imports from EU prevailed 'chemicals, chemical products and man-made fibres' (13.3%), 'motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers' (13.0%), 'machinery and equipment n.e.c.' (10.5%) and 'basic metals' (9.1%). Output of manufacturing industries balance of trade with EU member states ended in a surplus of CZK 439.2 bn in 2009 against CZK 459.6 bn in 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 considerably lower. Developing economies and European transition economies and CIS took share in the total exports of manufacturing industries by 4.5% and 4.5% respectively and in the total imports of manufacturing industries by 7.1% and 1.4% respectively. In imports from European transition economies and CIS 'crude petroleum and natural gas' had the most significant share (75.3%) in the total imports from this group of countries. Output of manufacturing industries balance ended in a deficit of CZK 35.6 bn in 2009 opposed to CZK 51.3 bn in 2008 in trade with developing economies; and it yielded a surplus of CZK 67.14 bn in 2009 compared to CZK 87.5 bn in 2008 in trade with European transition economies and CIS.