# 4. External Relations

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| Exports of goods grew more moderately in Q2 than in Q1. |  | The total value of exports of goods[[1]](#footnote-2) increased by 103.4 bn CZK (4.4%) in H1 2025 and reached 2,445.3 bn CZK. The recorded increase mostly resulted from the development in Q1 of the year, as exports increased by only 33.7 bn CZK (2.8%) to 1,220.2 bn CZK in Q2 alone. The different dynamics of exports in Q1 and Q2 were also influenced by efforts to stock up on the US market due to tariffs, which stimulated exporters in Europe in Q1[[2]](#footnote-3). Export prices did not have a significant impact on the year-on-year development of the value of exports and dragged down the quarter-on-quarter increase[[3]](#footnote-4). According to seasonally adjusted data, the value of exports increased by 0.1%, quarter-on-quarter, marking a significant weakening compared to the previous quarter. | | |
| Mainly exports to Germany moderated. |  | The percentage increase of exports to EU countries (+53.4 bn CZK, 2.9%) was significantly weaker in H1 than in the case of exports outside the EU (+50.0 bn, 10.1%). This was caused by the solid increases of exports to the United Kingdom (+9.5 bn CZK, 8.7%) and the United States (+8.5 bn, 13.3%), as well as a sharp increase of the value of exports to Ukraine (+8.3 bn, 45.1%). Exports to the EU grew mainly due to exports to Germany (+27.6 bn CZK, 3.9%), followed by the less usual Denmark[[4]](#footnote-5) (+6.5 billion, 39.6%) in H1. Imports to Spain (−3.8 bn CZK, −5.4%), Hungary (−3.5 bn, −4.8%) and the Netherlands (−3.5 bn, −4.7%) declined the most. Growth of exports to the EU (+18.8 bn CZK, 2.0%) and outside the EU (+14.8 billion, 5.8%) weakened in Q2 alone. Exports to Ukraine contributed the most to the total increase of exports (see Table 2), for which the heightened year-on-year dynamics has persisted since the end of 2024. Belgium, Poland, Austria and Denmark also made a solid contribution to the increase of exports. Year-on-year growth of exports to Germany weakened after a strong Q1. Stronger declines of exports were recorded in the Netherlands and China, and exports to Latvia also fell by more than 1 bn CZK. | | |
| **Table 1 Sections of CPA classification with impact on goods exports in Q2 2025** (year-on-year) | | |  | **Table 2 Countries with largest impact on exports of goods in Q2 2025** (year-on-year) |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | bn CZK | % | | Motor vehicles (excl. motorcycles) and parts | +19.7 | +5.8 | | Computers, electron. and opt. appliances and equipment | +5.6 | +5.4 | | Other transport equipment | +4.3 | +20.2 | | Food products | +3.5 | +7.6 | | Electric equipment | +2.5 | +2.1 | | Coke and refined petroleum products | +2.2 | +22.3 | | Basic pharmaceutical products | +1.6 | +8.7 | | Other manufacturing products | +1.4 | +5.1 | | Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning | +1.1 | +14.0 | | Wood and wood products excl. furniture | +0.7 | +5.5 | | Clothing | −0.9 | −14.8 | | Machinery and equipment, n.c.e. | −0.9 | −0.7 | | Collection, treatment, management and disposal of waste | −1.2 | −8.8 | | Product of agriculture and hunting | −1.8 | −12.0 | | Chemicals and chemical products | −2.4 | −4.2 | | | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | bn CZK | % | | Ukraine | +4.0 | +40.3 | | Belgium | +3.8 | +15.9 | | Poland | +3.4 | +4.0 | | Austria | +3.4 | +7.6 | | Denmark | +3.2 | +34.7 | | Germany | +3.0 | +0.8 | | Italy | +2.8 | +5.9 | | United States of America | +2.3 | +6.7 | | Turkey | +1.9 | +9.8 | | United Arab Emirates | +1.7 | +35.7 | | Portugal | +1.6 | +38.4 | | Republic of Korea | +1.4 | +48.7 | | Sweden | +1.2 | +6.8 | | China | −2.4 | −16.4 | | Netherlands | −3.7 | −9.6 | |
| Source: CZSO | | |  | Source: CZSO |
| Motor vehicles drove export growth in the total H1 as well as Q2 itself. |  | Exports of motor vehicles and motorcycles grew the most, year-on-year (+42.0 bn CZK, 6.2%) in H1, followed by computers, electronic and optical appliances (+13.1 bn, 6.4%), electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning (+11.0 bn, 62.0%) and electrical equipment (+10.5 bn, 4.5%). The largest decrease was recorded for agricultural and hunting products (−CZK 2.1 bn, −7.0%). The dominant motor vehicles broadly maintained their previous growth rate in Q2 (see Table 1). Exports of computers, electronic and optical appliances and other transport equipment also grew robustly in Q2. A more significant decline was recorded for exports of chemicals, agricultural and hunting products, or machinery and equipment. The slowdown of total export dynamics in Q2 was mainly caused by the exports of electricity, electrical equipment (both of which slowed down), machinery and equipment, and chemicals (both of which switched growth to decline). | | |
| Imports grew stronger, year-on-year, compared to exports. |  | The value of imports of goods increased by 118.4 bn CZK (5.4%) to 2,306.9 Bn CZK in H1 2025. The Q1 also contributed more to this increase in case of imports, as imports increased by 44.5 bn CZK (4.0%) to 1,159.9 bn CZK in Q2. Simultaneously, import prices dropped[[5]](#footnote-6). The value of imports of goods decreased by 1.1%, quarter on quarter, in Q2 (seasonally adjusted). Again, imports from non-EU countries grew more significantly, year-on-year, in H1 (+59.7 bn CZK, 7.6%). Imports from the EU were higher by 48.8 bn (3.5%). Imports from China (+29.3 bn CZK, 11.9%), Poland (+10.7 bn, 5.2%), Norway (+10.7 bn CZK, 35.9%) and Germany (+10.3 bn, 2.0%) grew the most in H1. A deep slump was recorded for imports from Russia in H1 (−17.5 bn, −51.9%). Imports from China grew the most, year-on-year, in Q2 alone (see Table 4), but the increase weakened significantly compared to the previous three quarters. On the contrary, there was a significant recovery of import dynamics in case of Norway. A weaker increase of imports compared to Q1 was also recorded for Poland, Germany and Austria. Countries that contributed significantly to the growth of imports in Q2 featured a number of Asian destinations – Turkey, Singapore, Kazakhstan and Malaysia. Imports from Russia, Taiwan and the United States of America fell significantly. | | |
| **Table 3 Sections of CPA classification with highest impact on goods imports development in Q2 2025** (year-on-year) | | |  | **Table 4 Countries with largest impact on imports of goods in Q2 2025** (year-on-year) |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | bn CZK | % | | Electrical equipment | +13.5 | +12.6 | | Crude petroleum and natural gas | +11.0 | +31.7 | | Metalworking products | +10.4 | +20.9 | | Food products | +4.9 | +8.1 | | Motor vehicles (excluding motorcycles) and parts | +4.0 | +2.3 | | Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning | +2.2 | +68.2 | | Other manufacturing products | +2.2 | +9.9 | | Product of agriculture and hunting | +1.9 | +11.3 | | Tobacco products | +0.8 | +15.9 | | Basic metals | +0.7 | +0.8 | | Hard coal, brown coal and lignite | −0.6 | −18.5 | | Textiles | −0.6 | −4.5 | | Other transport equipment | −0.7 | −3.9 | | Chemicals and chemical products | −2.0 | −2.2 | | Coke and refined petroleum products | −6.1 | −21.5 | | | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | bn CZK | % | | China | +8.5 | +6.7 | | Norway | +8.4 | +51.2 | | Turkey | +2.9 | +21.4 | | Singapore | +2.8 | +217.5 | | Poland | +2.5 | +2.3 | | Canada | +2.4 | +122.9 | | Germany | +1.8 | +0.7 | | France | +1.6 | +4.8 | | Kazakhstan | +1.6 | +47.3 | | Malaysia | +1.6 | +28.6 | | Switzerland | +1.4 | +11.4 | | Austria | +1.3 | +4.4 | | Taiwan | −5.3 | −35.4 | | United States of America | −5.3 | −15.0 | | Russia | −8.2 | −60.8 | |
| Source: CZSO | | |  | Source: CZSO |
| Electrical equipment supported the import growth the most. |  | The sections electrical equipment[[6]](#footnote-7) (+33.4 bn CZK, 16.2%), fabricated metal products (+24.7 bn, 25.1%) and food products (+11.0 bn, 9.3%) influenced the year-on-year import growth in H1 the most. On the contrary, imports of coke and refined petroleum products decreased (−6.4 bn CZK, −12.2%). Electrical equipment also contributed the most to import growth in Q2 alone (see Table 3), although the increase shrank compared to the previous quarter. On the contrary, the value of crude oil and natural gas imports rose notably, year-on-year, after nine quarters of declines. Imports of metalworking and food products also maintained a strong increase. Imports of coke and refined petroleum products and chemicals fell the most, year-on-year, in Q2. | | |
| The surplus of the international trade with goods decreased, year-on-year. |  | The balance of international trade with goods reached a surplus of 138.3 bn CZK for the whole H1. However, due to the significant excess of the growth rate of imports over exports, the positive balance deteriorated by 14.9 bn CZK, year-on-year. Q2 stood mostly behind this deterioration, when the balance attained a surplus of 60.2 bn CZK, which decreased by 10.7 bn CZK, year-on-year. According to seasonally adjusted data, the balance of international trade with goods improved, quarter-on-quarter, in Q2. Trade with non-EU countries contributed to the year-on-year deterioration of the balance of international trade with goods in H1 (−9.7 bn CZK), while the balance of trade with the EU improved by 4.6 bn CZK[[7]](#footnote-8). Trade with China (−32.0 bn CZK) and Norway (−12.5 bn CZK) contributed the most to the deterioration of the balance in H1. In contrast, the balance improved for trade with Germany (+17.3 bn CZK, majority of improvement occurred in Q1), Russia (+16.0 bn) and the United States (+11.5 bn). The balance of trade with EU countries improved by 2.4 bn CZK, year-on-year, in Q2 alone, while with countries outside the EU it deteriorated by 4.5 bn CZK[[8]](#footnote-9). In particular, trade with China (see Table 6), Norway and the Netherlands worsened, year-on-year. On the contrary, a significant improvement of the balance was recorded for trade with the United States, Russia and Taiwan. | | |
| **Table 5 Sections of CPA classification with highest impact on international trade with goods balance development in Q2 2025** (year-on-year) | | |  | **Table 6 Countries with largest impact on international trade with goods development in Q2 2025** (year-on-year) |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | bn CZK | | Motor vehicles (except for motorcycles) and parts | +15.7 | | Coke and refined petroleum products | +8.4 | | Computers, electr. and opt. appliances and equipment | +5.4 | | Other transport equipment | +4.9 | | Basic pharmaceutical products | +1.1 | | Machinery and equipment, n.c.e. | −1.0 | | Other non-metal mineral products | −1.0 | | Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning | −1.1 | | Clothing | −1.3 | | Food products | −1.4 | | Collection, treatment, management and disposal of waste | −1.5 | | Products of agriculture and hunting | −3.7 | | Metalworking products | −10.6 | | Crude oil and natural gas | −11.0 | | Electrical equipment | −11.0 | | | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | bn CZK | | United States of America | +7.6 | | Russia | +7.3 | | Taiwan | +5.1 | | Ukraine | +3.5 | | Belgium | +3.3 | | Denmark | +2.5 | | Republic of Korea | +2.2 | | Italy | +2.1 | | Austria | +2.0 | | Hungary | −1.9 | | Canada | −2.0 | | Singapore | −3.2 | | Netherlands | −4.4 | | Norway | −8.2 | | China | −10.9 | |
| Source: CZSO | | |  | Source: CZSO |
| Even a massive improvement of the result of the motor vehicle and motorcycle trade was not sufficient to increase the total surplus. |  | Trade with metalworking products (−24.1 b CZK), electrical equipment (−22.9 bn CZK), crude oil and natural gas (−7.2 bn CZK) and agricultural and hunting products (−6.0 bn CZK) contributed the most to the year-on-year balance deterioration in H1. On the contrary, the balance of trade with motor vehicles and motorcycles (+37.1 bn CZK), coke and refined petroleum products (+9.5 bn) and computers, electronic and optical appliances (+7.9 bn) improved. The trade balance deteriorated for most items in Q2 itself, most notably for crude oil and natural gas (see Table 5), and the deficit deepened for the first time since Q4 2022. Furthermore, the result of trade with metalworking products and electrical equipment deteriorated significantly, year-on-year. On the contrary, the surplus of trade with motor vehicles increased significantly, and the result of trade in coke and refined petroleum products, other transport equipment and computers, electronic and optical appliances also showed a solid improvement. | | |
|  |  | **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 | | |

1. Data for international trade with goods are recalculated using the updated method based on higher rate of detail since year 2020, see[https://csu.gov.cz/update-of-the-compilation-method-international-trade-in-goods-change-of-ownership](https://csu.gov.cz/update-of-the-compilation-method-international-trade-in-goods-change-of-ownershipU)*.* Unless stated otherwise, all figures are without seasonal adjustment and in current prices. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. The effect of this stock up was particularly evident in Q1 this year in the significant acceleration of year-on-year growth of exports of goods to Germany, which is the largest European exporter to the USA and the Czech Republic is its subcontractor. Exports from the Czech Republic to the USA strengthened considerably throughout last year, and this trend only continued in Q1 this year. Nevertheless, the increases of Czech exports to both countries plunged in Q2. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Export prices decreased by 0.1%, year-on-year, in Q2 2025 and by 1.7%, quarter-on-quarter. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Motor vehicles in particular, but the strengthening is also evident in the export of pharmaceutical products and computers, electronic and optical appliances. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Import prices decreased by 0.5%, year-on-year, in Q2 and decreased by 2.5%, quarter-on-quarter. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Batteries were imported to a larger extent, especially for electric cars. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. The impact on the balance for the "unspecified" category also increased in H1. Trade with crude oil and natural gas, which could not be territorially classified, was captured here. The trade balance within this category deteriorated by 9.8 bn CZK, year-on-year, in H1. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. The balance deteriorated by 8.6 bn CZK in case of unspecified origin of goods. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)