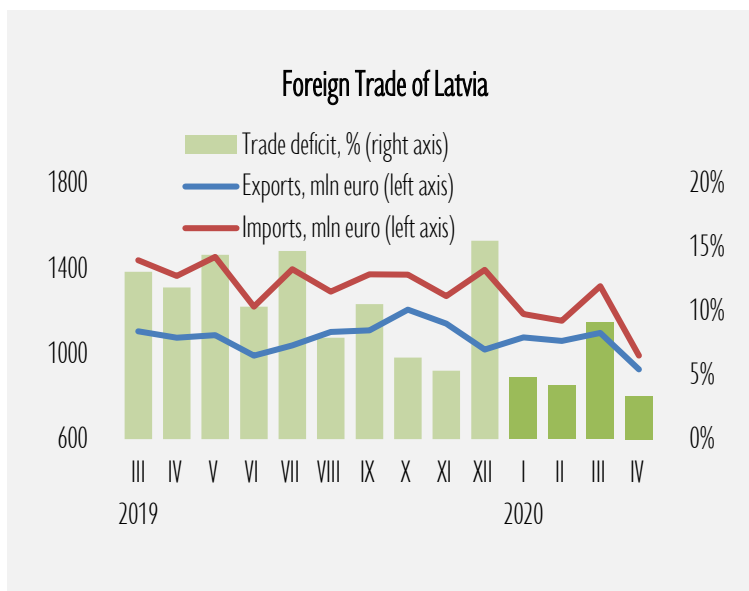


Foreign Trade of Latvia in April 2020

In April 2020, the value of exports declined by 13.9% due to the Covid-19 pandemic

According to the Central Statistical Bureau (CSB), in April 2020, the value of exports of goods at current prices decreased by 13.9% annually. However, a more significant decline of 27.4% was observed for imports of goods. Therefore, the trade deficit has also decreased on an annual basis.

The decline in exports in April 2020 was affected by almost all commodity groups. The value of exports of land vehicles, wood and wood products, oil products, and cereal crops significantly declined. The decrease was partially offset by the value of exports of oilseeds, chemical products (excl. pharmaceuticals), and iron and steel products.



In April 2020, the value of exports of goods to EU countries declined by 13.1%. Exports decreased to Lithuania (i.e., mineral products, vehicles), Estonia (i.e., vehicles, iron and steel), Germany (i.e., iron and steel, vehicles, cereals), France (i.e., wood and wood products, vehicles), Poland (i.e., mineral products, iron and steel), and Sweden (i.e., wood and wood products, vehicles). However, an increase in the value of exports to Finland (i.e., mineral products, iron and steel) and Croatia (i.e., chemical products) was observed.

Exports to the CIS countries decreased slightly more moderately - by 6.8%. Whilst the value of exports to Belarus (i.e., optical devices) and Uzbekistan (i.e., pharmaceutical products) declined, an increase in exports to Ukraine and Russia was observed.

In April 2020, exports to other countries declined by 20%. The value of exports to Turkey (i.e., cereals), the United Kingdom (i.e., wood and wood products), and Norway (i.e., machinery) decreased. However, exports to Chad (i.e., fertilizers), Ghana, and Nigeria (both cereals) increased.

In April 2020, the value of imports of goods was significantly affected by a decline in imports of vehicles, mineral products, machinery and equipment, chemical products, and metals and metal products.

Overall, in Q1 2020, exports were by 0.8% lower than a year ago, whilst imports declined by 8.7%.

In April 2020, the decline in the value of exports can primarily be attributed to restrictions imposed to curb the spread of the pandemic around the world. Export markets in the near future (as the overall economic outlook) remain uncertain due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In the coming months, exports will also be negatively affected by the decline in external demand.