

8. International trade in selected space products

Not many space products and services are fully commercial, as most are strategic in nature and not freely traded. This section provides a partial overview of existing trade data by examining the exports of one commodity code with significant space components from the International Trade in Commodity Statistics (ITCS) database. Based on available trade data, Table 8.1 and Figure 8.3 show France, the United States, Belgium, Italy and Germany leading the exports of spacecraft (including satellites) and spacecraft launch vehicles. Concerning importers, a diversity of OECD and non-OECD countries appear, reflecting the emergence of new actors in space activities. France and Luxembourg, homes of large commercial satellites telecommunications operators (Eutelsat and SES Global respectively) show a level of imports corresponding to satellite orders (i.e. commercial communication satellite's costs represent usually USD 150 to 300 million). Malaysia also shows an import of some USD 189 million in 2009, which could correspond to the launch that year of its first earth observation satellite and associated services.

Methodological notes

The data come from the International Trade by Commodity Statistics (ITCS) database jointly managed by the OECD and the United Nations. The Commodity Code used is 7925 "Spacecraft (including satellites) and spacecraft launch vehicles". Due to confidentiality, countries may not report some of its detailed trade, and imports reported by one country may not coincide with exports reported by its trading partners. Differences are due to various factors including national trade valuation (imports/exports including or excluding "cost, insurance and freight"), differences in inclusions/exclusions of particular commodities, or timing. These data need to be completed by industry association's results, as many of the space manufacturing contracts do not appear readily in official statistical databases.

Source

OECD (2010), *International Trade by Commodity Statistics Database*, www.oecd.org/std/trade-goods.

Further reading

United Nations, European Commission, International Monetary Fund, OECD, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and World Trade Organization (2002), *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services*, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics Division, Geneva, Luxembourg, New York, Paris, Washington DC.

Note

Information on data for Israel: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932315602>.

8.1 Exporters of spacecraft (including satellites) and spacecraft launch vehicles

Current USD million in 2007, 2008 and 2009

	2007	2008	2009
Belgium	–	–	292
Brazil	34	9	1
Canada	1	1 699	–
France	614	360	1 768
Germany	258	–	185
India	–	1.1	0.6
Israel	–	328	–
Italy	–	90	249
Japan	0.2	–	–
South Africa	0.03	25	1.2
United Kingdom	–	217	8
United States	667	0.7	151
Others	5	0.7	11

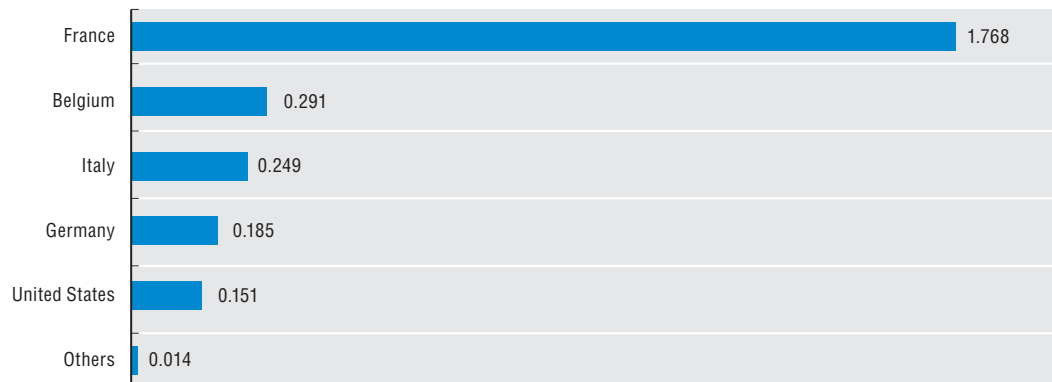
8.2 Importers of spacecraft (including satellites) and spacecraft launch vehicles


Current USD million in 2007, 2008 and 2009

	2007	2008	2009
Canada	0.09	0.51	0.014
France	160.01	215.12	–
Germany	–	59.21	–
India	–	–	0.91
Japan	13.96	0.10	–
Luxembourg	218.11	218.52	–
Malaysia	–	–	189.49
Nigeria	–	–	0.12
Norway	0.29	–	0.05
Singapore	0.021	–	1.44
Sudan	5.63	165.18	–
Sweden	0.63	0.38	–
United Kingdom	0.42	–	–
United States	78.98	33.96	–
Others	0.33	0.41	0.16

8.3 Top exporters of satellites and launch vehicles in 2009

Current USD million



StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932400323>



From:
The Space Economy at a Glance 2011

Access the complete publication at:
<https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264111790-en>

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2011), "International trade in selected space products", in *The Space Economy at a Glance 2011*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264113565-13-en>

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