

Global Britain Briefing Note

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World Exports: Winners & Losers

Changes in Leading Countries' Shares of World Exports between 1991 & 2001

Summary

The analysis below reinforces the view that Japan & Germany are in secular economic decline. In terms of world export share lost, France's performance is even worse than Germany's. Germany & France account for over half of Eurozone GDP, so it is difficult to sustain a benign long-term prognosis for the Eurozone and its currency.

The USA is the only major developed nation to have held market share over the last decade. In keeping with its "mid-Atlantic" economic status, the UK has done less well than the USA, but far better than the rest of the EU, particularly the Eurozone "core" of Germany & France. China/Hong Kong's rise as a major exporting nation is confirmed.

Main Points

- Measured by the value of their exports of merchandise and commercial services, the **five leading developed nations** in 2001 were, in descending order, the **USA, Germany, Japan, France and the UK**. In **sixth** position, on the same measure, came **China (including Hong Kong)**.
Tables I and VIII
- Only one of the six, **China/Hong Kong, gained market share** of world exports of merchandise and commercial services between 1991 and 2001.
Table I
- One other country, the **USA, held market share** of world exports of merchandise and commercial services between 1991 and 2001, neither gaining nor losing.
Table I
- **Japan, France and Germany suffered heavy losses** in market share of both merchandise & commercial services between 1991 and 2001.
Tables I, II and III
- The **UK's overall loss of market share** (minus 9%) contained a **solid increase of share in commercial services (plus 14 per cent)**, but an offsetting decline in its share of merchandise exports (minus 17 per cent).
Tables I, II and III
- **NAFTA gained significant market share** between 1991 & 2001, mainly because of a spectacular improvement in Mexican share of world merchandise exports.
Table IV

- **Both the EU '15' and the Eurozone lost significant market share** between 1991 and 2001.
Table IV
- **Merchandise exports** by the fifteen EU member states to countries **outside the EU** suffered a **very slight loss** (minus 1%) in share of world merchandise exports between 1991 and 2001.
Table VII
- But the **share of merchandise exports** by the fifteen EU member states to each other (in other words **within the EU**) as a proportion of world merchandise exports **shrank by 18%** between 1991 and 2001.
Table VII

Other Points

- **China/Hong Kong's share** of world exports of merchandise **rose over the period by 60 per cent**, and of world exports of commercial services by 51 per cent.
Tables II and III
- Despite the high growth in Chinese exports, their value in 2001 was still - just - below that of the UK.
Tables I and VIII
- The US share of merchandise exports declined slightly over the period (minus 1 per cent); its share of commercial services exports rose slightly (plus 1 per cent).
Tables II and III
- The Eurozone's loss of share in exports of commercial services (minus 15%) was more severe than its loss of share in merchandise exports (minus 11%).
Tables V and VI

**Table I:
Percentage Shares of All World Exports
of Merchandise & Commercial Services**

Country	1991	2001	Increase/ (Decrease)
China/HK	3.0	4.7	+ 58%
USA	13.1	13.1	-
UK	5.5	5.0	(9%)
Germany	10.5	8.6	(18%)
France	6.6	5.3	(20%)
Japan	8.3	6.1	(27%)

**Table II:
Percentage Shares of All World Exports
of Merchandise**

Country	1991	2001	Increase/ (Decrease)
China/HK	2.9	4.6	+ 60%
USA	12.0	11.9	(1%)
UK	5.3	4.4	(17%)
Germany	11.5	9.3	(19%)
France	6.2	5.2	(16%)
Japan	9.0	6.6	(27%)

**Table III: Percentage Shares of All World Exports
of Commercial Services**

Country	1991	2001	Increase/ (Decrease)
China/HK	3.4	5.2	+ 51%
USA	17.9	18.0	+ 1%
UK	6.5	7.4	+ 14%
Germany	6.4	5.5	(14%)
France	8.5	5.5	(35%)
Japan	5.2	4.4	(15%)

**Table IV:
Percentage Shares by Zone of All World Exports*
of Merchandise & Commercial Services**

Zone	1991	2001	Increase/ (Decrease)
NAFTA ¹	17.7	19.2	+ 9%
Eurozone ²	34.9	30.8	(12%)
EU '15' ³	43.2	38.1	(12%)

**Table V: Percentage Shares by Zone of All World
Exports* of Merchandise**

Zone	1991	2001	Increase/ (Decrease)
NAFTA ¹	16.8	18.7	+11%
Eurozone ²	34.5	30.7	(11%)
EU '15' ³	42.5	37.2	(12%)

**Table VI:
Percentage Shares of All World Exports*
of Commercial Services**

Zone	1991	2001	Increase/ (Decrease)
NAFTA ¹	21.3	21.4	+ 0.5%
Eurozone ²	36.6	31.2	(15%)
EU '15' ³	46.5	42.0	(10%)

Table VII: Exports of MERCHANDISE only: Values & Shares: Internal & External EU Exports

Zone	1991		2001		Increase/(Decr.) in shares
	Value \$ bn	Share %	Value \$ bn	Share %	
World	3515	100.0	6155	100.0	
External EU Exports	504	14.3	874	14.2	(1.0%)
Internal EU Exports	989	28.1	1417	23.0	(18.1%)
Total EU Exports	1493	42.5	2291	37.2	(12.5%)

**Table VIII: Six Leading Exporting Nations: Key
Statistics: 2001**

Country	GDP ^a \$ bn	Exports ^b \$ bn	Population millions	Exports ^b per Capita \$
China/HK	908	361	1276.2	283
USA	10143	994	285.0	3488
UK	1424	381	59.8	6458
Germany	1846	651	82.3	7939
France	1310	402	59.2	6791
Japan	4141	467	127.2	3671

- a) @current prices and exchange rates
b) of merchandise and commercial services

Notes & References

* In Tables IV, V & VI, each Zone's "Exports" are the aggregate of the exports of the Zone's member-states both to each other & outside the Zone

- 1 NAFTA: North American Free Trade Agreement, comprising Canada, the USA & Mexico
2 Eurozone: the twelve EU states which have adopted the euro
3 The 15 member states of the European Union

A Note that exports of "merchandise" & "commercial services" comprise approximately 60% of the value of all world trading activity as conventionally defined. The other approximately 40% consists of flows of "investment income" and "transfers" for which geographical breakdowns are not yet available on a basis consistent with the World Trade Organisation data used here. Were it possible to take these into account, the performance of major international investors like the US and UK could well be significantly better than suggested here.

B The export values used in this Briefing Note are at current prices and exchange rates.

Source: World Trade Organisation: *International Trade Statistics 2002*, Tables A4 and A6. www.wto.org

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