

TABLE 2-2

Leading Exporters and Importers in World Merchandise Trade 2010
(US\$ billions and %)

2010 Rank	2009 Rank	Exporters	2010 Value US\$B	2010 % Share	2010 Rank	2009 Rank	Importers	2010 Value US\$B	2010 % Share
1	1	China	1,578	10.4	1	1	United States	1,968	12.8
2	3	United States	1,278	8.4	2	2	China	1,395	9.1
3	2	Germany	1,269	8.3	3	3	Germany	1,067	6.9
4	4	Japan	770	5.1	4	5	Japan	693	4.5
5	5	Netherlands	572	3.8	5	4	France	606	3.9
6	6	France	521	3.4	6	6	United Kingdom	558	3.6
7	9	Korea	466	3.1	7	7	Netherlands	517	3.4
8	7	Italy	448	2.9	8	8	Italy	484	3.1
9	8	Belgium	411	2.7	9	10	Hong Kong	442	2.9
10	10	United Kingdom	405	2.7	10	11	Korea	425	2.8
13	12	Canada	387	2.5	11	12	Canada	402	2.6

Source: WTO and author's calculations.

Country Ranking by Trade Values

After having claimed top spot among the leading merchandise exporters in 2009, China cemented its hold on that position by posting a 31-percent increase in exports last year (Table 2-2). China's share in world merchandise exports climbed to 10.4 percent in 2010.

After slipping into second place in 2009, Germany lost another position in the ranking, falling to third place in 2010. Moving up into second place last year was the United States, as U.S. exports grew by some 21 percent compared to 13 percent for Germany. The U.S. and German world shares for 2010 stood at 8.4 percent and 8.3 percent, respectively.

Japan held onto fourth spot, registering growth of 33 percent in its exports and a world share of 5.1 percent.

EU nations accounted for all but one of the remaining top ten positions. The Netherlands and France remained in fifth and sixth place, respectively, with shares of 3.8 percent and 3.4 percent.

Strong export growth (28 percent) helped push Korea up from ninth spot to seventh while Italy and Belgium dropped back one position each, to eighth and ninth place, respectively. Korea's share of world merchandise exports stood at 3.1 percent last year, compared to 2.9 percent for Italy and 2.7 percent for Belgium.

The United Kingdom rounded out the top ten world exporters in tenth spot with a 2.7-percent world share.

Canada slipped from 12th place to 13th as Russia moved ahead of Canada.

On the import side, the United States held its position as the largest importing nation in the world by far, with a world import share of 12.8 percent. China (9.1 percent) and Germany (6.9 percent) held down the next two positions.

As noted earlier, France posted one of the lowest growth rates for imports in 2010. France's poor import performance allowed Japan to overtake France for fourth spot among the leading importing nations of the