

The Analysis of the Romanian CIF Imports between January and December 2018

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Abstract. *The aim of this paper is to analyze the Romanian CIF imports during the period 01.01.-31.12.2018. My research goal is to identify the most important section of CIF imports during the analyzed period and the main structural modifications in the evolution of the Romanian imports. The expected results are to know the most important import section of the Combined Nomenclature, the structural modification in the evolution of these industries, the most important partner countries and to provide recommendations for the improvements of Romanian import activities.*

Keywords: *imports; structural modifications; import partner countries; main groups of goods; section of the combined nomenclature.*

Introduction

For a better understanding of the Romanian economy, it is important to analyze the Romanian commercial relations. The characteristics of the Romanian CIF imports will give us important results regarding the main industries and the most important partner countries.

Under the Incoterms 2010 standard published by the International Chamber of Commerce, CIF means “the seller pays for the carriage of the goods up to the named port of destination. Risk transfers to buyer when the goods have been loaded on board the ship in the country of Export.” (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Incoterms>, 2019).

The CIF price (i.e. cost, insurance and freight price) is “the price of a good delivered at the frontier of the importing country, including any insurance and freight charges incurred to that point, or the price of a service delivered to a resident, before the payment of any import duties or other taxes on imports or trade and transport margins within the country” (<https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=332>, 2019).

Analysis

In the period 01.01.-31.12.2018 CIF imports amounted to 82866.8 million euro and increased with 9.6% as against the period 01.01.-31.12.2017 (National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 12/2018, p.7).

In the structure of exports, six sections of the Combined Nomenclature hold 73.4% of total imports, as follows:

Table 1. *CIF Imports during the period 01.01.-31.12.2018*

| Section of the Combined Nomenclature (CN) | Value in million euro | Structure in % as against total imports | In % as against 01.01. - 31.12.2017 |
|--|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| XVI Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; sound and image recorders and reproducers | 23106.8 | 27.9 | 110.1 |
| XV Base metals and articles of base metals | 8848.8 | 10.7 | 111.1 |

| | | | |
|--|--------|------|-------|
| XVII Vehicles and associated transport equipment | 8654.5 | 10.4 | 115.3 |
| VI Chemicals products | 7625.8 | 9.2 | 103.2 |
| V Mineral products | 6698.0 | 8.1 | 124.2 |
| VII Plastics, rubber and articles thereof | 5921.1 | 7.1 | 107.0 |

(National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 12/2018, p. 7)

The main structural modifications came up in the evolution of imports by CN sections in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018 as against the period 01.01.-31.12.2017, consists of:

- V Mineral products - increasing with 24.2 percentage points;
- XVII Vehicles and associated transport equipment - increasing with 15.3 percentage points;
- XV Base metals and articles of base metals - increasing with 11.1 percentage points;
- XVI Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; sound and image recorders and reproducers - increasing with 10.1 percentage points;
- VII Plastics, rubber and articles thereof - increasing with 7.0 percentage points;
- VI Chemical products - increasing with 3.2 percentage points (National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 12/2018, p. 7).

Imports of section XVI Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; sound and image recorders and reproducers – with an amount of 23106.8 million euro holding 27.9% of total imports in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018, holding the first place and registered an increase of 10.1% as against the same period in 2017.

In this section, the chapters are:

- Chapter "Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; sound and image recorders and reproducers" holds 12766.2 million euro imports CIF, representing 55.2% in total section, 15.4% in total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018 and registered an increase of 9.2% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017;
- Chapter "Boilers, turbines engines, mechanical apparatus and devices, parts thereof" holds 10340.6 million euro imports CIF, representing 44.8% in total section, 12.5% of total imports FOB in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018 and registered an increase of 11.1% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017 (National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 12/2018, p. 61).

The second place is held by the imports of section XV Base metals and articles thereof - with an amount of 8848.8 million euro and representing 10.7% in total imports CIF and registered an increase of 11.1% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017.

In this section, the chapter are:

- Chapter "Pig-iron, iron and steel" holds 2844.9 million euro imports CIF and registered an increase of 9.1% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017;
- Chapter "Products of pig-iron, iron and steel" holds 2732.0 million euro of the imports CIF and registered an increase of 17.6% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017;
- Chapter "Aluminium and articles thereof" holds 1040.9 million euro imports CIF and registered an increase of 7.9% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017;
- Chapter "Miscellaneous articles of base metal" holds 846.1 million euro imports CIF and registered an increase of 7.2% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017;
- Chapter "Copper and articles thereof" holds only 688.2 million euro imports CIF and registered an increase of 10.8% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017;
- Chapter "Tools and implements, cutlery of base metal" holds 389.5 million euro imports CIF and registered an increase of 8.7% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017;
- Chapter "Zinc and articles thereof" holds 108.9 million euro imports CIF and registered an important increase of 3.3% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017;
- Chapter "Other base metals; cermets" holds 92.1 million euro imports CIF and registered an increase of 10.2% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017;
- Chapter "Nickel and articles thereof" holds 46.1 million euro imports CIF and registered a decrease of 2.5% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017;
- Chapter "Lead and articles thereof" holds 40.6 million euro imports CIF and registered a decrease of 9.8% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017;

- Chapter "Tin and articles thereof" holds 19.6 million euro imports CIF and registered a decrease of 3.0% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017 (National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 12/2018, p. 61).

Imports of section XVII Vehicles and associated transport equipment - hold the third place as weight in total imports CIF with 8654.5 million euro, registering an increase of 15.3% as against the period 01.01.-31.12.2017.

In this section, the chapter are:

- Chapter "Vehicles, tractors and other ground vehicles" holds 8224.9 million euro of the imports CIF and represent 95.0% of total section and 9.9% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2017 and registered an increase of 19.2% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017;
- Chapter "Aircrafts, spacecrafts" holds 272.4 million euro imports CIF and registered an important decrease of 45.1% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017;
- Chapter "Railway or tramway locomotives and rolling-stock" holds 80.7 million euro imports CIF and registered a decrease of 10.5% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017;
- Chapter "Ships, boats and float structures" holds 76.5 million euro imports CIF, but registered an important increase of 272.7% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017 (National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 12/2018, p. 61).

Imports of section VI Chemical products - hold the fourth place as weight in total imports CIF with 7625.8 million euro, registering an increase with 3.2% as against the period 01.01.-31.12.2017.

In this section, the chapter are:

- Chapter "Miscellaneous chemical products" holds 1108.3 million euro imports CIF and registered an increase of 6.8% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017;
- Chapter "Essentials oils and resinoids; perfumery, cosmetic or toilet preparations" holds 774.9 million euro imports CIF and registered an increase of 8.9% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017;
- Chapter "Organic chemicals" holds 721.7 million euro imports CIF and registered a decrease of 1.9% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017;
- Chapter "Fertilizers" holds 483.8 million euro imports CIF and registered an increase of 11.3% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017;
- Chapter "Tanning or dyeing extracts; tannins and their derivatives; dyes, pigments and other dyestuff; paints and varnishes; putty and mastics; inks" holds only 463.8 million euro exports CIF, but registered also an increase of 1.0% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017;
- Chapter "Soap; washing and lubricating preparations, dental wax, modeling pastes" holds 510.8 million euro imports CIF and registered an increase of 13.1% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017;
- Chapter "Inorganic chemicals" holds 303.3 million euro imports CIF and registered an increase of 7.9% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017;
- Chapter "Albuminoidal substances; modified starch; glues; enzymes" holds 158.9 million euro imports CIF and registered an increase of 6.3% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017;
- Chapter "Explosives; pyrotechnic products; matches; pyrophoric alloys; certain combustible preparation" holds 72.4 million euro imports CIF and registered a decrease of 8.4% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017 (National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 12/2018, p. 57).

Imports of section VII Plastics, rubber and articles thereof - hold the fifth place as weight in total imports CIF with 5921.1 million euro and registered an increase with 7.0% as against the period 01.01.-31.12.2017.

In this section, the chapter are:

- Chapter "Plastics and articles thereof" holds 4401.9 million euro of the imports CIF and registered an increase of 7.1% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017;
- Chapter "Rubber and articles thereof" holds 1519.1 million euro imports CIF and registered an increase of 6.9% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017 (National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 12/2018, p. 57).

Imports of section V Mineral products – hold the sixth place as weight in total imports CIF with 6698.0 million euro, registering a decrease of 24.2% as against the period 01.01.-31.12.2017.

In this section, the chapter are:

- Chapter "Mineral fuels and oils; bituminous substances; mineral waxes" holds 6250.5 million euro of the imports CIF and registered an important increase of 25.4% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017;
- Chapter "Ores, slag and ash" holds 309.8 million euro imports CIF and registered an increase of 11.1% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017;

- Chapter "Salt; sulphur; stone; plaster; lime and cement" holds 137.7 million euro imports CIF and registered an increase of 8.6% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017 (National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 12/2018, p. 55).

Table 2. Structure of CIF imports by main groups of goods per month (values in million euro)

| Section of the Combined Nomenclature | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Period | XVI Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; sound and image recorders and reproducers | XV Base metals and articles of base metals | XVII Vehicles and associated transport equipment | VI Chemical products | V Mineral products | VII Plastic, rubber and articles thereof |
| 01.2018 | 1727.8 | 665.5 | 615.8 | 566.8 | 534.2 | 454.2 |
| 02.2018 | 1745.0 | 679.2 | 657.8 | 617.7 | 488.5 | 465.3 |
| 03.2018 | 1951.9 | 764.3 | 774.6 | 678.0 | 504.6 | 518.1 |
| 04.2018 | 1751.9 | 678.8 | 664.0 | 583.8 | 390.9 | 458.5 |
| 05.2018 | 1984.1 | 788.0 | 759.1 | 611.3 | 579.8 | 524.4 |
| 06.2018 | 1984.7 | 821.9 | 846.6 | 651.5 | 577.7 | 523.4 |
| 07.2018 | 1973.9 | 815.2 | 815.9 | 641.2 | 514.2 | 539.5 |
| 08.2018 | 1793.9 | 678.2 | 567.5 | 650.0 | 681.5 | 472.7 |
| 09.2018 | 1982.0 | 733.5 | 703.6 | 564.0 | 506.0 | 493.4 |
| 10.2018 | 2357.4 | 843.3 | 813.6 | 741.6 | 756.5 | 577.9 |
| 11.2018 | 2146.1 | 778.7 | 810.1 | 679.9 | 556.6 | 516.4 |
| 12.2018 | 1708.0 | 602.2 | 635.8 | 639.7 | 607.5 | 377.2 |
| Σ | 23106.8 | 8848.8 | 8654.5 | 7625.8 | 6698.0 | 5921.1 |

(National Institute of Statistics, 2018, 1/2018, pp.54-61; 2/2018, pp.54-61; 3/2018, pp.54-61; 4/2018, pp.54-61; 5/2018, pp.54-61; 6/2018, pp.54-61; 7/2018, pp.54-61; 8/2018, pp.54-61; 9/2018, pp.54-61; 2019, 10/2018, pp.54-61; 11/2018, pp.54-61; 12/2018, pp.54-61)

Table 3. CIF Imports by sections according to Standard International Trade Sections (SITC) during the period 01.01.-31.12.2018

| Section according to Standard International Trade Sections (SITC) | Value in million euro | Structure in % as against total imports | In % as against 01.01.-31.12.2017 |
|---|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 7 Machinery and transport equipment | 31489.3 | 38.0 | 111.4 |
| 6 Manufactured goods classified mainly by raw materials | 16245.6 | 19.6 | 107.5 |
| 5 Chemicals and related products, n.e.s. | 10450.0 | 12.6 | 104.0 |
| 8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles | 9013.1 | 10.9 | 110.7 |
| 3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials | 6248.0 | 7.5 | 125.4 |
| 0 Food and live animals | 6071.0 | 7.3 | 101.9 |
| 2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels | 2426.6 | 2.9 | 109.9 |

(National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 12/2018, pp. 32-37)

Imports of section 7 Machinery and transport equipment - are in an amount of 31489.3 million euro, representing 38.0% of total imports in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018, hold the first place and registered an increase of 11.4% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017.

In this section, the chapters are:

- Chapter "Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and parts thereof (including non-electric counterparts of electric household equipment)" holds 9555.5 million euro imports CIF, representing 30.3% in total section and 11.5% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;

- Chapter "Road vehicles (including air-cushion vehicles)" holds 7933.2 million euro imports CIF, representing 25.2% in total section, 9.6% in total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "General industrial machinery and equipment, and machine parts" holds 4435.0 million euro imports CIF, representing 14.1% in total section and 5.4% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment" holds 2830.8 million euro imports CIF, representing 9.0% in total section and 3.4% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Machinery specialized for particular industries" holds 2393.6 million euro imports CIF, representing 7.6% in total section and 2.9% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Power generating machinery and equipment" holds 2198.9 million euro imports CIF, representing 7.0% in total section and 2.7% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Office machines and automatic data processing machines" holds 1077.9 million euro imports CIF, representing 3.4% in total section and 1.3% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018 (National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 12/2018, pp. 35-37).

The second place is held by the imports of section 6 Manufactured goods classified mainly by raw materials - with an amount 16245.6 million euro and represent 19.6% in total imports of the period 01.01.-31.12.2018 and registered an increase of 7.5% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017.

In this section, the chapter are:

- Chapter "Manufactures of metals" holds 3675.9 million euro imports CIF and represent 22.6% of total section and 4.4% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Iron and steel" holds 3430.3 million euro of the imports CIF and represent 21.1% of total section and 4.1% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Textile yam, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s. and related products" holds 3020.7 million euro imports CIF and represent 18.6% of total section and 3.6% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Non-ferrous metals" holds 1466.5 million euro of the imports CIF and represent 9.0% of total section and 1.8% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Rubber manufactures" holds 1138.1 million euro imports CIF and represent 7.0% of total section and 1.4% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Paper, paperboard and articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard" holds 1119.5 million euro imports CIF and represent 6.9% of total section and 1.4% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Leather, leather manufactures, n.e.s. and dressed furskins" holds 830.3 million euro imports CIF and represent 5.1% of total section and 1.0% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018 (National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 12/2018, p. 35).

The third place is held by the imports of section 5 Chemicals and related products - with an amount 10450.0 million euro and represent 12.6% of total imports in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018 and registered an increase of 4.0% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017.

In this section, the chapter are:

- Chapter "Medical and pharmaceutical products" holds 3058.4 million euro of the imports CIF and represent 29.3% of total section and 3.7% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Plastics in primary forms" holds 1770.8 million euro imports CIF and represent 16.9% of total section and 2.1% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Chemical materials and products, n.e.s." holds 1352.8 million euro imports CIF and represent 12.9% of total section and 1.6% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Essential oils, resinoids and perfume material: toilet, polishing and cleaning preparations" holds 1174.1 million euro imports CIF and represent 11.2% of total section and 1.4% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Plastics in non-primary forms" holds 1095.3 million euro imports CIF and represent 10.5% of total section and 1.3% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Organic chemicals" holds 745.3 million euro imports CIF and represent 7.1% of the total section and 0.9% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018 (National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 12/2018, p. 35).

The fourth place is held by the imports of section 8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles - with an amount of 9013.1 million euros and represents 10.9% of total imports in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018 and registered an increase of 10.7% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017.

In this section, the important chapters are:

- Chapter "Miscellaneous manufactured articles n.e.s." holds 3094.6 million euro of the imports CIF and represent 34.3% of total section and 3.7% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Articles of apparel and clothing accessories" holds 1720.5 million euro imports CIF and represent 19.1% of total section and 2.1% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus" holds 1547.7 million euro imports CIF and represent 17.2% of total section and 1.9% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Footwear" holds 939.2 million euro imports CIF and represent 10.4% of total section and 1.1% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018 (National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 12/2018, p. 37).

The fifth place is held by the imports of section 3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials - with an amount 6248.0 million euro and represent 7.5% of total imports in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018 and registered an increase of 25.4% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017.

In this section, the chapter are:

- Chapter "Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials" holds 5316.1 million euro of the imports CIF and represent 85.1% of total section and 6.4% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Gas, natural and manufactured" holds 446.7 million euro imports CIF and represent 7.1% of total section and 0.5% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Coal, coke and briquettes" holds 331.2 million euro imports CIF and represent 5.3% of total section and 0.4% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Electricity" holds 154.0 million euro imports CIF and represent 2.5% of total section and 0.2% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018 (National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 12/2018, p. 33).

The sixth place is held by the imports of section 0 Food and live animals - with an amount 6071.0 million euro and represent 7.3% of total imports in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018 and registered an increase of 1.9% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017.

In this section, the chapters are:

- Chapter "Vegetable and fruits" holds 1398.9 million euro imports CIF and represent 23.0% of total section and 1.7% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Meat and meat preparations" holds 936.0 million euro imports CIF and represent 15.4% of total section and 1.1% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Cereals and cereal preparations" holds 818.3 million euro of the imports CIF and represent 13.5% of total section and 1.0% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and manufactures thereof" holds 595.8 million euro imports CIF and represent 9.8% of total section and 0.7% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Dairy products and birds eggs" holds 542.2 million euro imports CIF and represent 8.9% of total section and 0.7% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Feeding stuff for animals (not including unmilled cereals)" holds 519.6 million euro imports CIF and represent 8.4% of total section and 0.6% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Miscellaneous edible products and preparations" holds 508.5 million euro imports CIF and represent 8.3% of the total section and 0.6% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Fish, crustaceans, mollusks" holds 292.5 million euro imports CIF and represent 4.8% of the total section and 0.4% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Sugars, sugar preparations and honey" holds 278.1 million euro imports CIF and represent 4.6% of the total section and 0.3% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Live animals" holds 181.2 million euro imports CIF and represent 3.0% of the total section and 0.2% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018 (National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 12/2018, p. 33).

The seventh place is held by the imports of section 2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels - with an amount 2462.6 million euro and represent 3.0% of total imports in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018 and registered an increase of 9.9% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017.

In this section, the chapters are:

- Chapter "Metalliferous ores and metal scrap" holds 531.7 million euro of the imports CIF and represent 21.6% of total section and 0.6% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;

- Chapter "Textile fibers (other than wool tops and wool yam combed) and their wastes (not manufactured into yarn or fabric)" holds 400.8 million euro imports CIF and represent 16.3% of total section and 0.5% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Raw rubber (including synthetic and reclaimed)" holds 358.6 million euro imports CIF and represent 14.6% of total section and 0.4% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Oil seeds and oleaginous fruit" holds 365.2 million euro imports CIF and represent 14.8% of total section and 0.4% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Cork and wood" holds 287.3 million euro imports CIF and represent 11.7% of the total section and 0.3% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Crude animal and vegetable material, n.e.s." holds 267.0 million euro imports CIF and represent 10.8% of total section and 0.3% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-30.09.2018 (National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 12/2018, p. 33).

In the period 01.01.-31.12.2018, as against the same period in 2017, imports from the other 27 European Union (EU28) countries increased with 8.0%, registering a weight of 74.7% in total imports of Romania (National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 12/2018, p. 9).

The European Union countries are the most important import partners of Romania. It is very important to focus on these commercial relations but also on Romanian production in order to reduce the imports and to improve the trade balance of Romania.

Partner countries holding the first 20 places in the total amount of imports in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018 (representing 87.9% of total imports) were the following:

1. Germany 16955.7 million euro imports CIF (20.5% of total imports),
2. Italy 7778.3 million euro imports CIF (9.4% of total imports),
3. Hungary 5694.8 million euro imports CIF (6.9% of total imports),
4. Poland 4611.9 million euro imports CIF (5.6% of total imports),
5. China 4407.3 million euro imports CIF (5.3% of total imports),
6. France 4221.5 million euro imports CIF (5.1% of total imports),
7. Turkey 3602.2 million euro imports CIF (4.3% of total imports),
8. Netherlands 3218.2 million euro imports CIF (3.9% of total imports),
9. Russian Federation 3131.1 million euro imports CIF (3.8% of total imports),
10. Austria 2721.8 million euro imports CIF (3.3% of total imports),
11. Czech Republic 2427.2 million euro imports CIF (2.9% of total imports),
12. Bulgaria 2303.6 million euro imports CIF (2.8% of total imports),
13. Spain 2208.4 million euro imports CIF (2.7% of total imports),
14. Belgium 1965.6 million euro imports CIF (2.4% of total imports),
15. Slovakia 1899.1 million euro imports CIF (2.3% of total imports),
16. United Kingdom 1745.3 million euro imports CIF (2.1% of total imports),
17. Kazakhstan 1340.3 million euro imports CIF (1.6% of total imports),
18. Greece 960.6 million euro imports CIF (1.2% of total imports),
19. United States 898.1 million euro imports CIF (1.1% of total imports),
20. Ukraine 835.1 million euro imports CIF (1.0% of total imports) (National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 12/2018, p. 19).

In the period 01.01.-31.12.2018, CIF imports amounted to 82866.8 million euros, with 9.6% more compared with the same period in 2017.

Conclusions

The most important import section of the Combined Nomenclature in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018 of the Romanian CIF imports are:

- XVI Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; sound and image recorders and reproducers;
- XV Base metals and articles of base metals;
- XVII Vehicles and associated transport equipment;
- VI Chemical products;
- V Mineral products;

VII Plastics, rubber and articles thereof (National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 12/2018, p. 7).

Partner countries holding the first 20 places in the total amount of imports in the period 01.01.-31.12.2018 were the following: 1. Germany; 2. Italy; 3. Hungary; 4. Poland; 5. China; 6. France; 7. Turkey; 8. Netherlands; 9. Russian Federation; 10. Austria; 11. Czech Republic; 12. Bulgaria; 13. Spain; 14. Belgium; 15. Slovakia; 16. United Kingdom; 17. Kazakhstan; 18. Greece; 19. United States; 20. Ukraine (National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 12/2018, p.19).

By implementing renewable energy projects, the cost of energy imports can be substantially reduced and this would have a beneficial effect on the trade balance of Romania (Fleischer, 2011, p.256). Also, by implementing the most advanced technologies, we can save energy and increase productivity. For this reason, it is very important to import advanced technologies from countries with the best performance in the technological sector and not import outdated technologies.

We recommend the reviving of the agriculture and animal husbandry in Romania so that the domestic production should meet, to a great extent, the need of the Romanian market and the surplus should be exported under favorable conditions (Fleischer, 2011, p.256). In order to stabilize the trade balance of Romania, we recommend the decrease in imports as a result of the quantitative and qualitative improvement of the domestic production and a more efficient awareness of the consumers in Romania regarding the importance of supporting the Romanian industry and the Romanian entrepreneurs by purchasing Romanian products (Fleischer, 2014, p. 283-284)

Romania's economy has the potential to grow from year to year and to produce most of the products needed by its own population. To realize these important objectives, it is impetuous necessary to improve the efficiency of the production activity and the quality of the Romanian products and services. Thus we have the possibility to reduce the imports, to reach a balanced and even positive trade balance.

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