

**ANALYSIS OF THE ROMANIAN CIF IMPORTS
IN THE PERIOD 2018 – 2019**

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<http://doi.org/10.35409/IJBMER.2020.3208>

ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper is to analyze the Romanian CIF imports during the period 01.01.2018.-31.12.2019. My research goal is to identify the most important section of CIF imports during the analyzed period and the main structural modifications in evolution of the Romanian imports. The expected results are to know the most important import section of the Combined Nomenclature, the structural modification in evolution of these industries, the most important partner countries and to provide recommendations for the improvements of Romanian import activities.

Keyword: Imports, structural modifications, import partner countries, industries, main groups of goods, section of the combined nomenclature

1. 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).

2. MAIN BODY

In the period 01.01.-31.12.2019 CIF imports amounted to 86285.0 million euro and increased with 4.2% as against the period 01.01.-31.12.2018 (National Institute of Statistics, 2020, 12/2019, p. 7).

In the structure of exports, six sections of the Combined Nomenclature hold 72.7% of total imports, as follows:

Table 1. CIF Imports during the period 2018 - 2019

(National Institute of Statistics, 2020, 12/2019, p. 7)

Section of the Combined Nomenclature (CN)	Value for 2019 - million euro -	Structure in % as against total imports	In % as against 2018
XVI Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; sound and image recorders and reproducers	23385.0	27.1	101.0
XVII Vehicles and associated transport equipment	8988.3	10.4	104.4
XV Base metals and articles of base metals	8720.2	10.1	98.6
VI Chemicals products	8535.7	9.9	111.9
V Mineral products	7124.9	8.3	106.6
VII Plastics, rubber and articles thereof	5985.9	6.9	101.1

The main structural modifications came up in the evolution of imports by CN sections in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019 as against the period 01.01.-31.12.2018, consists of:

- XVI Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; sound and image recorders and reproducers - increasing with 27.1 percentage points;
- XVII Vehicles and associated transport equipment - increasing with 10.4 percentage points;
- XV Base metals and articles of base metals - increasing with 10.1 percentage points;
- VI Chemical products - increasing with 9.9 percentage points;
- V Mineral products - increasing with 8.3 percentage points;
- VII Plastics, rubber and articles thereof - increasing with 6.9 percentage points;

(National Institute of Statistics, 2020, 12/2019, p. 7).

Imports of section XVI Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; sound and image recorders and reproducers – with an amount of 23385.0 million euro representing 27.1% of total imports in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019, holding the first place and registered an increase of 1.0% as against the same period in 2018.

In this section, the chapters are:

- Chapter "Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; sound and image recorders and reproducers" holds 13064.0 million euro imports CIF, representing 55.9% in total section, 15.1% in total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019 and registered an increase of

2.3% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;

- Chapter “Boilers, turbines engines, mechanical apparatus and devices, parts thereof” holds 10321.1 million euro imports CIF, representing 44.1% in total section, 12.0% of total imports FOB in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019 and registered a decrease of 0.7% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018 (National Institute of Statistics, 2020, 12/2019, p. 61).

The second place is held by the imports of section XV Base metals and articles thereof - with an amount of 8720.2 million euro, representing 10.1% in total imports CIF and registered a decrease of 1.4% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018.

In this section, the chapter are:

- Chapter “Pig-iron, iron and steel” holds 2792.5 million euro imports CIF and registered a decrease of 1.7% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter “Products of pig-iron, iron and steel” holds 2729.8 million euro of the imports CIF and registered a decrease of 0.1% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter “Aluminium and articles thereof” holds 1004.3 million euro imports CIF and registered a decrease of 3.4% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter “Miscellaneous articles of base metal” holds 837.5 million euro imports CIF and registered a decrease of 0.9% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter “Copper and articles thereof” holds only 647.4 million euro imports CIF and registered a decrease of 5.9% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter “Tools and implements, cutlery of base metal” holds 414.9 million euro imports CIF and registered an increase of 6.7% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter “Other base metals; cermets” holds 89.9 million euro imports CIF and registered an decrease of 2.6% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter “Zinc and articles thereof” holds 86.8 million euro imports CIF and registered an important decrease of 20.9% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter “Nickel and articles thereof” holds 55.4 million euro imports CIF and registered an increase of 20.2% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter “Lead and articles thereof” holds 42.8 million euro imports CIF and registered an important increase of 20.2% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter “Tin and articles thereof” holds 19.0 million euro imports CIF and registered a decrease of 2.9% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018 (National Institute of Statistics, 2020, 12/2019, p. 61).

Imports of section XVII Vehicles and associated transport equipment - hold the third place as weight in total imports CIF with 8988.3 million euro, holding 10.4% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019 and registering an increase of 4.4% as against the period 01.01.-31.12.2018.

In this section, the chapter are:

- Chapter “Vehicles, tractors and other ground vehicles” holds 8588.2 million euro of the imports CIF and represent 95.2% of total section and 10.0% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019 and registered an increase of 19.2% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter “Aircrafts, spacecrafts” holds 244.6 million euro imports CIF and registered a decrease

of 5.1% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;

- Chapter "Railway or tramway locomotives and rolling-stock" holds 128.1 million euro imports CIF and registered an important increase of 59.2% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Ships, boats and float structures" holds 27.5 million euro imports CIF, but registered a important decrease of 73.9% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018 (National Institute of Statistics, 2020, 12/2019, p. 61).

Imports of section VI Chemical products - hold the fourth place as weight in total imports CIF with 8535.7 million euro, registering an increase with 11.9% as against the period 01.01.-31.12.2018.

In this section, the chapter are:

- Chapter "Pharmaceuticals products" holds 3416.0 million euro imports CIF and registered an increase of 13.7% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Miscellaneous chemical products" holds 1288.3 million euro imports CIF and registered an increase of 16.4% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Essentials oils and resinoids; perfumery, cosmetic or toilet preparations" holds 842.2 million euro imports CIF and registered an increase of 8.4% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Organic chemicals" holds 762.0 million euro imports CIF and registered an increase of 5.7% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Fertilizers" holds 609.5 million euro imports CIF and registered an important increase of 26.4% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Tanning or dyeing extracts; tannins and their derivates; dyes, pigments and other dyestuff; paints and varnishes; putty and mastics; inks" holds only 462.6 million euro exports CIF and remained unchained in % in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Soap; washing and lubricating preparations, dental wax, modeling pastes" holds 582.2 million euro imports CIF and registered an increase of 13.9% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Inorganic chemicals" holds 310.0 million euro imports CIF and registered an increase of 2.4% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2017;
- Chapter "Albuminoidal substances; modified starch; glues; enzymes" holds 158.4 million euro imports CIF and registered an increase of 0.3% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;
- Chapter "Explosives; pyrotechnic products; matches; pyrophoric alloys; certain combustible preparation" holds 70.0 million euro imports CIF and registered a decrease of 3.1% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018 (National Institute of Statistics, 2020, 12/2019, p. 57).

Imports of section VII Plastics, rubber and articles thereof - hold the fifth place as weight in total imports CIF with 5985.9 million euro and registered an increase with 1.1% as against the period 01.01.-31.12.2018.

In this section, the chapter are:

- Chapter "Plastics and articles thereof" holds 4381.0 million euro of the imports CIF and

registered a decrease of 0.4% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;

- Chapter “Rubber and articles thereof” holds 1604.9 million euro imports CIF and registered an increase of 5.5% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018 (National Institute of Statistics, 2020, 12/2019, p. 57).

Imports of section V Mineral products – hold the sixth place as weight in total imports CIF with 7124.9 million euro, registering an increase of 6.6% as against the period 01.01.-31.12.2018.

In this section, the chapter are:

- Chapter “Mineral fuels and oils; bituminous substances; mineral waxes” holds 6609.2 million euro of the imports CIF and registered an increase of 6.0% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;

- Chapter “Ores, slag and ash” holds 359.8 million euro imports CIF and registered an increase of 16.0% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018;

- Chapter “Salt; sulphur; stone; plaster; lime and cement” holds 155.9 million euro imports CIF and registered an increase of 13.3% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018 (National Institute of Statistics, 2020, 12/2019, p. 55).

Table 2. Structure of CIF imports by main groups of goods per month

(values in million euro)

(National Institute of Statistics, 2018, 1/2018, pp. 54-61; National Institute of Statistics, 2018, 2/2018, pp. 54-61; National Institute of Statistics, 2018, 3/2018, pp. 54-61; National Institute of Statistics, 2018, 4/2018, pp. 54-61; National Institute of Statistics, 2018, 5/2018, pp. 54-61; National Institute of Statistics, 2018, 6/2018, pp. 54-61; National Institute of Statistics, 2018, 7/2018, pp. 54-61; National Institute of Statistics, 2018, 8/2018, pp. 54-61; National Institute of Statistics, 2018, 9/2018, pp. 54-61; National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 10/2018, pp. 54-61; National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 11/2018, pp. 54-61; National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 12/2018, pp. 54-61; National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 1/2019, pp. 54-61; National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 2/2019, pp. 54-61; National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 3/2019, pp. 54-61; National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 4/2019, pp. 54-61; National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 5/2019, pp. 54-61; National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 6/2019, pp. 54-61; National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 7/2019, pp. 54-61; National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 8/2019, pp. 54-61; National Institute of Statistics, 2019, 9/2019, pp. 54-61; National Institute of Statistics, 2020, 10/2019, pp. 54-61; National Institute of Statistics, 2020, 11/2019, pp. 54-61; National Institute of Statistics, 2020, 12/2019, pp. 54-61)

Period	Section of the Combined Nomenclature					
	XVI Machinery and mechanical appliances ;electrical equipment	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

	;sound and image recorders and reproducers					
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
∑ 2018	23106.8	8848.8	8654.5	7625.8	6698.0	5921.1
01.2019	1857.1	674.4	660.1	705.7	596.8	464.7
02.2019	1898.4	736.0	733.0	752.3	549.6	496.9
03.2019	1946.7	794.2	809.7	760.3	509.7	527.2
04.2019	1838.9	729.3	729.8	619.3	616.3	486.4
05.2019	2090.5	818.3	919.7	697.4	559.1	561.5
06.2019	1813.1	655.2	731.4	707.3	553.1	486.4
07.2019	2007.9	842.7	806.1	756.3	680.9	554.6

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08.2019	1728.9	627.1	584.5	677.3	560.5	454.4
09.2019	1987.5	733.1	734.4	677.2	629.9	514.6
10.2019	2395.4	825.8	826.9	769.3	637.8	562.8
11.2019	2113.7	731.9	746.4	736.7	561.2	496.1
12.2019	1707.0	552.4	706.2	676.5	669.9	380.3
Σ 2019	23385	8720.2	8988.3	8535.7	7124.9	5985.9

Table 3. CIF Imports by sections according to Standard International Trade Sections (SITC) during the period 01.01.2018 -31.12.2019
(National Institute of Statistics, 2020, 12/2019, pp. 32-37)

Section according to Standard International Trade Sections (SITC)	Value for 2019 - million euro -	Structure in % as against total imports	In % as against 01.01.-31.12.2018
7 Machinery and transport equipment	32064.7	37.2	101.8
6 Manufactured goods classified mainly by raw materials	16185.5	18.8	99.7
5 Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.	11390.5	13.2	109.0
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	9970.8	11.6	110.7
3 Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	6599.7	7.6	105.9
0 Food and live animals	6767.9	7.8	111.5
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	2384.3	2.8	96.9

Imports of section 7 Machinery and transport equipment - are in an amount of 32064.7 million euro, representing 37.2% of total imports in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019, hold the first place and registered an increase of 1.8% in comparison with the period 01.01-31.12.2018.

In this section, the chapters are:

- Chapter “Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and parts thereof (including non-

electric counterparts of electric household equipment)” holds 9775.4 million euro imports CIF, representing 30.5% in total section and 11.3% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019;

- Chapter "Road vehicles (including air-cushion vehicles)” holds 8231.6 million euro imports CIF, representing 25.7% in total section, 9.5% in total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019;

- Chapter “General industrial machinery and equipment, and machine parts” holds 4486.4 million euro imports CIF, representing 14.0% in total section and 5.2% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019;

- Chapter “Telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment” holds 2956.1 million euro imports CIF, representing 9.2% in total section and 3.4% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019;

- Chapter “Machinery specialized for particular industries” holds 2376.8 million euro imports CIF, representing 7.4% in total section and 2.8% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019;

- Chapter “Power generating machinery and equipment” holds 2120.2 million euro imports CIF, representing 6.6% in total section and 2.5% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019;

- Chapter “Office machines and automatic data processing machines” holds 1108.3 million euro imports CIF, representing 3.5% in total section and 1.3% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019 (National Institute of Statistics, 2020, 12/2019, pp. 35-37).

The second place is held by the imports of section 6 Manufactured goods classified mainly by raw materials - with an amount 16185.5million euro and represent 18.8% in total imports of the period 01.01.-31.12.2019and registered a decrease of 0.3% in comparison with the period 01.01.-31.12.2018.

In this section, the chapter are:

- Chapter “Manufactures of metals” holds 3675.5 million euro imports CIF and represent 22.7% of total section and 4.2% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.–31.12.2019;

- Chapter “Iron and steel” holds 3403.2 million euro of the imports CIF and represent 21.0% of total section and 3.9% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.–31.12.2019;

- Chapter “Textile yam, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s. and related products” holds 2897.5 million euro imports CIF and represent 17.9% of total section and 3.4% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019;

- Chapter “Non-ferrous metals” holds 1426.7 million euro of the imports CIF and represent 8.8% of total section and 1.7% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.–31.12.2019;

- Chapter “Rubber manufactures” holds 1230.6 million euro imports CIF and represent 7.6% of total section and 1.4% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.–31.12.2019;

- Chapter “Paper, paperboard and articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard” holds 1171.5 million euro imports CIF and represent 7.2% of total section and 1.4% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.–31.12.2019;

- Chapter “Leather, leather manufactures, n.e.s. and dressed furskins” holds 708.0 million euro imports CIF and represent 4.4% of total section and 0.8% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.–31.12.2019 (National Institute of Statistics, 2020, 12/2019, p. 35).

The third place is held by the imports of section 5 Chemicals and related products - with an amount 11390.5million euro and represent 13.2% of total imports in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019 and registered an increase of 9.0% in comparison with the period 01.01-31.12.2018.

In this section, the chapter are:

- Chapter “Medical and pharmaceutical products” holds 3484.5 million euro of the imports CIF and represent 30.6% of total section and 4.0% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.–31.12.2019;
- Chapter “Plastics in primary forms” holds 1728.7 million euro imports CIF and represent 15.2% of total section and 2.0% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.–31.12.2019;
- Chapter “Chemical materials and products, n.e.s.” holds 1530.2 million euro imports CIF and represent 13.4% of total section and 1.8% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019;
- Chapter “Essential oils, resinoids and perfume material: toilet, polishing and cleaning preparations” holds 1307.5 million euro imports CIF and represent 11.5% of total section and 1.5% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.–31.12.2019;
- Chapter “Plastics in non-primary forms” holds 1116.5 million euro imports CIF and represent 9.8% of total section and 1.3% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019;
- Chapter “Organic chemicals” holds 839.2 million euro imports CIF and represent 7.4% of total section and 1.0% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019 (National Institute of Statistics, 2020, 12/2019, p. 35).

The fourth place is held by the imports of section 8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles - with an amount 9970.8 million euro and represent 11.6% of total imports in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019 and registered an increase of 10.7% in comparison with the period 01.01-31.12.2018.

In this section, the important chapter are:

- Chapter “Miscellaneous manufactured articles n.e.s.” holds 3334.6 million euro of the imports CIF and represent 33.4% of total section and 3.9% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.–31.12.2019;
- Chapter “Articles of apparel and clothing accesories” holds 1895.7 million euro imports CIF and represent 19.0% of total section and 2.2% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.–31.12.2019;
- Chapter “Professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus” holds 1787.3 million euro imports CIF and represent 17.9% of total section and 2.1% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.–31.12.2019;
- Chapter “Fotwear” holds 990.7 million euro imports CIF and represent 9.9% of total section and 1.1% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019 (National Institute of Statistics, 2020, 12/2019, p. 37).

The fifth place is held by the imports of section 3 Mineral fuels, lubrifiants and related materials - with an amount 6599.7million euro and represent 7.6% of total imports in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019 and registered an increase of 5.9% in comparison with the period 01.01-31.12.2018.

In this section, the chapter are:

- Chapter “Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials” holds 5284.1 million euro of the imports CIF and represent 80.1% of total section and 6.1% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.–31.12.2019;

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- Chapter “Gas, natural and manufactured” holds 657.2 million euro imports CIF and represent 10.0% of total section and 0.8% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.–31.12.2019;
 - Chapter “Coal, coke and briquettes” holds 368.3 million euro imports CIF and represent 5.6% of total section and 0.4% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.–31.12.2019;
 - Chapter “Electricity” holds 290.2 million euro imports CIF and represent 4.4% of total section and 0.3% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.–31.12.2019 (National Institute of Statistics, 2020, 12/2019, p. 33).

The sixth place is held by the imports of section 0 Food and live animals - with an amount 6767.9million euro and represent 7.8% of total imports in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019 and registered an increase of 11.5% in comparison with the period 01.01-31.12.2018.

In this section, the chapter are:

- Chapter “Vegetable and fruits” holds 1547.0 million euro imports CIF and represent 22.9% of total section and 1.8% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019;
- Chapter “Meat and meat preparations” holds 1080.7 million euro imports CIF and represent 16.0% of total section and 1.3% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.–31.12.2019;
- Chapter “Cereals and cereal preparations” holds 968.9 million euro of the imports CIF and represent 14.3% of total section and 1.1% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.–31.12.2019;
- Chapter “Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and manufactures thereof” holds 665.6 million euro imports CIF and represent 9.8% of total section and 0.8% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019;
- Chapter “Dairy products and birds eggs” holds 618.3 million euro imports CIF and represent 9.1% of total section and 0.7% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019;
- Chapter “Miscellaneous edible products and preparations” holds 546.6 million euro imports CIF and represent 8.1% of total section and 0.6% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019;
- Chapter “Feeding stuff for animals (not including unmilled cereals)” holds 545.6 million euro imports CIF and represent 8.1% of total section and 0.6% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019;
- Chapter “Sugars, sugar preparations and honey” holds 312.7 million euro imports CIF and represent 4.6% of total section and 0.4% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019;
- Chapter “Fish, crustaceans, molluscs” holds 298.5 million euro imports CIF and represent 4.4% of total section and 0.3% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019;
- Chapter “Live animals” holds 184.0 million euro imports CIF and represent 2.7% of total section and 0.2% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.–31.12.2019 (National Institute of Statistics, 2020, 12/2019, p. 33).

The seventh place is held by the imports of section 2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels - with an amount 2384.3million euro and represent 2.8% of total imports in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019and registered a decrease of 3.1% in comparison with the period 01.01-31.12.2018.

In this section, the chapter are:

- Chapter “Metalliferous ores and metal scrap” holds 551.8 million euro of the imports CIF and represent 23.1% of total section and 0.6% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.–31.12.2019;
- Chapter “Textile fibres (other than wool tops and wool yam combed) and their wastes (not

manufactured into yarn or fabric)” holds 353.4 million euro imports CIF and represent 14.8% of total section and 0.4% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.–31.12.2019;

- Chapter “Raw rubber (including synthetic and reclaimed)” holds 349.4 million euro imports CIF and represent 14.7% of total section and 0.4% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.–31.12.2019;

- Chapter “Oil seeds and oleaginous fruit” holds 329.9 million euro imports CIF and represent 13.8% of total section and 0.4% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019;

- Chapter “Cork and wood” holds 252.9 million euro imports CIF and represent 10.6% of total section and 0.3% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019;

- Chapter “Crude animal and vegetable material, n.e.s.” holds 300.4 million euro imports CIF and represent 12.7% of total section and 0.3% of total imports CIF in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019 (National Institute of Statistics, 2020, 12/2019, p. 33).

In the period 01.01.-31.12.2019, as against the same period in 2017, imports from the other 27 European Union (EU28) countries increased with 4.1%, registering a weight of 74.6% in total imports of Romania (National Institute of Statistics, 2020, 12/2019, p. 9).

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

Partner countries holding the first 20 places in total amount of imports in the period 01.01.2019-31.12.2019 (representing 87.9% of total imports) were the following:

- 1.Germany 17424.2 million euro imports CIF (20.2% of total imports),
- 2.Italy 7874.7 million euro imports CIF (9.1% of total imports),
- 3.Hungary 6080.1 million euro imports CIF (7.0% of total imports),
- 4.Poland 5161.0 million euro imports CIF (6.0% of total imports),
- 5.China 4541.6 million euro imports CIF (5.3% of total imports),
- 6.France 4240.4 million euro imports CIF (4.9% of total imports),
- 7.Turkey 3853.1 million euro imports CIF (4.5% of total imports),
- 8.Netherlands 3405.2 million euro imports CIF (3.9% of total imports),
- 9.Russian Federation 3095.4 million euro imports CIF (3.6% of total imports),
10. Austria 2695.9 million euro imports CIF (3.1% of total imports),
- 11.Czech Republic 2618.7 million euro imports CIF (3.0% of total imports),
12. Bulgaria 2542.3 million euro imports CIF (2.9% of total imports),
13. Spain 2412.6 million euro imports CIF (2.8% of total imports),
14. Belgium 2057.4 million euro imports CIF (2.4% of total imports),
15. Slovakia 1940.1 million euro imports CIF (2.2% of total imports),
- 16.Kazakhstan 1666.6 million euro imports CIF (1.9% of total imports),
- 17.United Kingdom 1652.5 million euro imports CIF (1.9% of total imports),
18. Greece 1019.7 million euro imports CIF (1.2% of total imports),
- 19.Ukraine931.1 million euro imports CIF (1.1% of total imports),
- 20.Serbia 811.4 million euro imports CIF (0.9% of total imports) (National Institute of Statistics, 2020, 12/2019, p. 19).

In the period 01.01.-31.12.2019, CIF imports amounted to 86285.0 million euro, with 4.2% more compared with the same period in 2018.

3. CONCLUSIONS

The most important import section of the Combined Nomenclature in the period 01.01.2018 - 31.12.2019 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 total amount of imports in the period 01.01.-31.12.2019 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. Kazakhstan;

17. United Kingdom;

18. Greece;

19. Ukraine;

20. United States (National Institute of Statistics, 2020, 12/2019, 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 best performance in the technologic 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 this 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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