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ANALYSIS OF THE ROMANIAN CIF IMPORTS IN THE PERIOD 2023 – 2024

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ABSTRACT
The aim of this paper is to analyze the Romanian CIF imports during the period 01.01.2023.-31.12.2024. 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 imports by product groups according to the Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 4, the structural modification in 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, industries, main groups of goods.

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.
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, 2025).
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, 2025).

2. MAIN BODY
In the period 01.01.-31.12.2024 CIF imports amounted to 126084.0 million euro and increased by 3.3% as against the period 01.01.-31.12.2023 (National Institute of Statistics, 2024, Press Release no. 31 from 09.02.2024, 1-2; National Institute of Statistics, 2025, Press Release no. 29 from 10.02.2025, 1-2).

In the structure of exports, four sections of the Combined Nomenclature hold 79.2% of total imports, as follows:

Table 1. CIF Imports by sections according to Standard International Trade Sections (SITC) during the period 01.01.2023 - 31.12.2024

(National Institute of Statistics, 2024, Press Release no. 31 from 09.02.2024, 1-2; National Institute of Statistics, 2025, Press Release no. 29 from 10.02.2025, 1-2)

Section according to Standard International Trade Sections (SITC)	Value for 2024 - million euro -	Structure in % as against total imports	In % as against 2023
7 Machinery and transport equipment	45899.1	36.4	102.0
6 Manufactured goods classified mainly by raw materials	21310.1	16.9	102.0
5 Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.	17853.6	14.2	108.0
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	14707.4	11.7	105.2
0 Food and live animals	11427.6	9.1	105.1
3 Mineral fuels, lubrifiants and related ma terials	10355.9	8.2	99.7
2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	2925.9	2.3	101.6

Imports of section 7 Machinery and transport equipment - are in an amount of 45899.1 million euro, representing 36.4% of total imports in the period 01.01.-31.12.2024, hold the first place and registered an increase of 2.0% in comparison with the period 01.01-31.12.2023.
In this section, the chapters are:
- Chapter “Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and parts thereof (including non-electric counterparts of electric household equipment)”;
- Chapter "Road vehicles (including air-cushion vehicles)”;
- Chapter “General industrial machinery and equipment, and machine parts”;
- Chapter “Telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment”;
- Chapter “Machinery specialized for particular industries”;
- Chapter “Power generating machinery and equipment”;
- Chapter “Office machines and automatic data processing machines” (National Institute of Statistics, 2025, 12/2024, 32-37).

The second place is held by the imports of section 6 Manufactured goods classified mainly by raw materials - with an amount 21310.1 million euro and represent 16.9% in total imports of the period 01.01.-31.12.2024 and registered an increase of 2.0% in comparison with the period 01.01-31.12.2023.
In this section, the chapter are:

- Chapter “Manufactures of metals”;
- Chapter “Iron and steel”;
- Chapter “Textile yam, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s. and related products”;
- Chapter “Non-ferrous metals”;
- Chapter “Rubber manufactures”;
- Chapter “Paper, paperboard and articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard”;
- Chapter “Leather, leather manufactures, n.e.s. and dressed furskins” (National Institute of Statistics, 2025, 12/2024, 32-37).

The third place is held by the imports of section 5 Chemicals and related products - with an amount 17853.6 million euro and represent 14.2% of total imports in the period 01.01.-31.12.2024 and registered an increase of 8.0% in comparison with the period 01.01-31.12.2023.
In this section, the chapter are:
- Chapter “Medical and pharmaceutical products”;
- Chapter “Plastics in primary forms”;
- Chapter “Chemical materials and products, n.e.s.”;
- Chapter “Essential oils, resinoids and perfume material: toilet, polishing and cleaning preparations”;
- Chapter “Plastics in non-primary forms”;
- Chapter “Organic chemicals (National Institute of Statistics, 2025, 12/2024, 32-37).

The fourth place is held by the imports of section 8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles - with an amount 14707.4 million euro and represent 11.7% of total imports in the period 01.01.-31.12.2024 and registered an increase of 5.2% in comparison with the period 01.01-31.12.2023.
In this section, the important chapter are:
- Chapter “Miscellaneous manufactured articles n.e.s.”;
- Chapter “Articles of apparel and clothing accesories”;
- Chapter “Professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus”;
- Chapter “Fotwear” (National Institute of Statistics, 2025, 12/2024, 32-37).

The fifth place is held by the imports of section 0 Food and live animals - with an amount 11427.6 million euro and represent 9.1% of total imports in the period 01.01.-31.12.2024 and registered an increase of 5.1% in comparison with the period 01.01-31.12.2023.
In this section, the chapter are:
- Chapter “Vegetable and fruits”;
- Chapter “Meat and meat preparations”;
- Chapter “Cereals and cereal preparations”;
- Chapter “Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and manufactures thereof”;
- Chapter “Dairy products and birds eggs”;
- Chapter “Miscellaneous edible products and preparations”;
- Chapter “Feeding stuff for animals (not including unmilled cereals)”;
- Chapter “Sugars, sugar preparations and honey”;
- Chapter “Fish, crustaceans, molluscs”;
- Chapter “Live animals” (National Institute of Statistics, 2025, 12/2024, 32-37).

The sixt place is held by the imports of section 3 Mineral fuels, lubrifiants and related materials - with an amount 10355.9 million euro and represent 8.2% of total imports in the period 01.01.-31.12.2024 and registered a decrease of 0.3% in comparison with the period 01.01-31.12.2023.
In this section, the chapter are:
- Chapter “Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials”;
- Chapter “Gas, natural and manufactured”;
- Chapter “Coal, coke and briquettes”;
- Chapter “Electricity” (National Institute of Statistics, 2025, 12/2024, 32-37).

The seventh place is held by the imports of section 2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels - with an amount 2925.9 million euro and represent 2.3% of total imports in the period 01.01.-31.12.2024 and registered an increase of 1.6% in comparison with the period 01.01-31.12.2023.
In this section, the chapter are:
- Chapter “Metalliferrous ores and metal scrap”;
- Chapter “Textile fibres (other than wool tops and wool yam combed) and their wastes (not manufactured into yarn or fabric)”;
- Chapter “Raw rubber (including synthetic and reclaimed;
- Chapter “Oil seeds and oleaginous fruit”;
- Chapter “Cork and wood”;
- Chapter “Crude animal and vegetable material, n.e.s.” (National Institute of Statistics, 2025, 12/2024, p. 32-37).

In the period 01.01.-31.12.2024, as against the same period in 2023, imports from the other 27 European Union (EU27) countries decreased with 1.2%, registering a weight of 72.1% in total imports of Romania (National Institute of Statistics, 2024, 12/2023, 32-37; National Institute of Statistics, 2025, 12/2024, 32-37).

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.-31.12.2024 (representing 87.3% of total imports) were the following:
1. Germany (18.9% of total imports),
2. Italy (8.3% of total imports),
3. Hungary (6.6% of total imports),
4. Poland (6.4% of total imports),
5. China(6.3% of total imports),
6. Turkey (5.6% of total imports),
7. Bulgaria (4.4% of total imports),
8. Netherlands (4.3% of total imports),
9. France (4.2% of total imports),
10. Austria (3.1% of total imports),

11. Spain (3.0% of total imports),
12. Czech Republic (2.9% of total imports),
13. Belgium (2.5% of total imports),
14. Slovakia (2.1% of total imports),
15. Kazakhstan (2.0% of total imports),
16. Greece (1.2% of total imports),
17. Switzerland (1.2% of total imports),
18. United States (1.0% of total imports)
19. Ukraine (1.0% of total imports),
20. United Kingdom (1.0% of total imports), (National Institute of Statistics, 2025, 12/2024, 19).

In the period 01.01.-31.12.2024, CIF imports amounted to 126084.0 million euro, with 3.3% more compared with the same period in 2023.

3. CONCLUSIONS

The most important import sections according to Standard International Trade Sections (SITC) in the period 01.01.2023 - 31.12.2024 of the Romanian CIF imports are:
7 Machinery and transport equipment
6 Manufactured goods classified mainly by raw materials
5 Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.
8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles
0 Food and live animals
3 Mineral fuels, lubrifiants and related ma terials (National Institute of Statistics, 2025, 12/2024, 26-31).

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. Turkey;
7. Bulgaria;
8. Netherlands;
9. France;
10. Austria;
11. Spain;
12. Czech Republic;
13. Belgium;
14. Slovakia;
15. Kazakhstan;
16. Greece;

17. Switzerland;
17. United States;
19. Ukraine;
20. United Kingdom (National Institute of Statistics, 2025, 12/2024, 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, 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, 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, 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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