

ZVEI Foreign Trade Report

Edition May 2020

German electric industry

– Exports and imports

% change on year earlier



Source: Destatis and ZVEI's own calculations

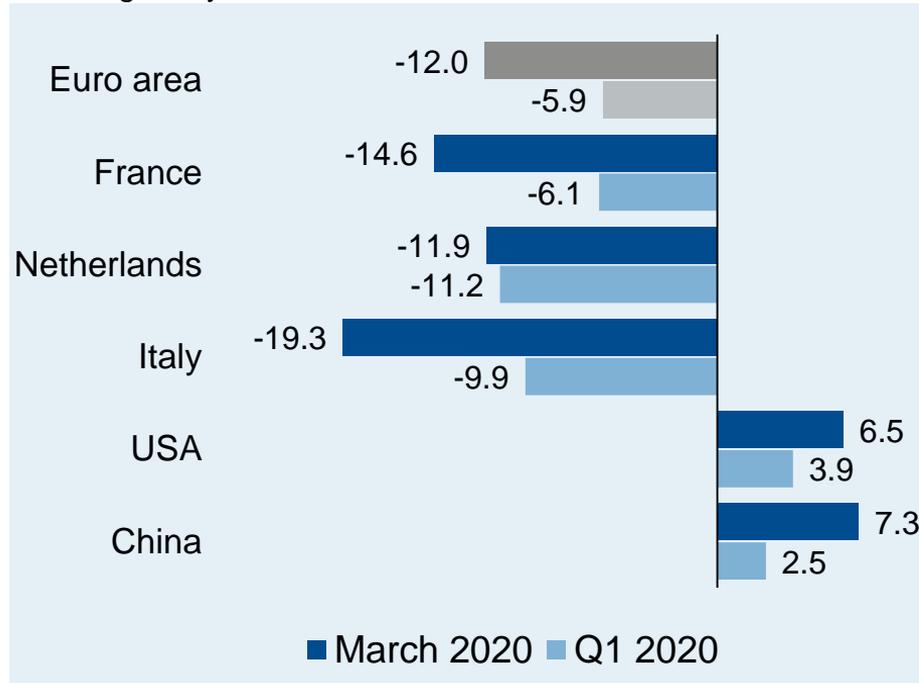
In March 2020 the exports of the German electric industry came to €17.6bn. With it, they failed their pre-year level by 4.4%. However, the decline in deliveries abroad was smaller than the decreases in new orders, production and sales in the same month. In the full first quarter of this year the sector's aggregate exports fell by 1.8% (year over year) to €52.8bn.

With €15.2bn the German imports of electrical and electronic products were down by 4.4% (again compared to a year earlier) in March, too. Accumulated from January through March 2020 they mounted up to €47.5bn. The decline by 3.4% compared to the first quarter of 2019 was almost twice as high as the fall in exports.

German electric industry

– Exports by countries/regions

% change on year earlier



Source: Destatis and ZVEI's own calculations

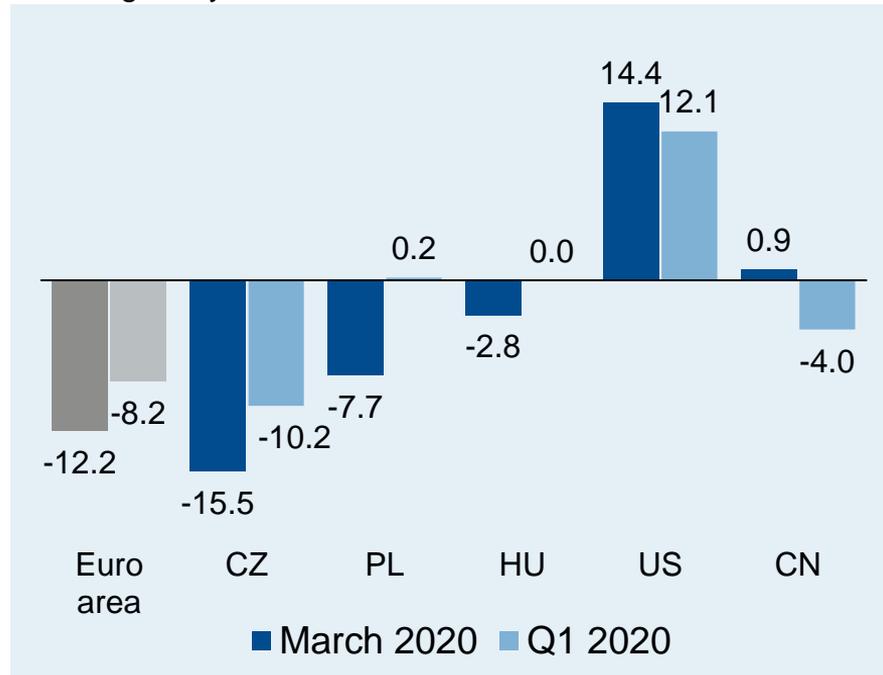
While the electric exports to the euro area sagged by 12.0% (year-on-year rate) to €5.1bn in March, the deliveries to the USA were still positive and those to China picked up again. The former rose by 6.5% to €1.7bn and the latter were 7.3% up and came to €1.9bn. The exports to Italy, France and the Netherlands plummeted by 19.3% to €715m, 14.6% to €1.0bn and 11.9% to €832m, respectively.

In the entire first three months of this year the sector's deliveries to the euro zone of €16.7bn failed their pre-year level by 5.9% (exports to Italy: -9.9% to €2.3bn; to France: -6.1% to €3.1bn; to the Netherlands: -11.2% to €2.4bn). In contrast, the deliveries to the USA were 3.9% on the rise in the first quarter and amounted to €4.9bn. The exports to China increased by 2.5% to €5.2bn.

German electric industry

– Imports by countries/regions

% change on year earlier



Source: Destatis and ZVEI's own calculations

Regarding imports, the same discrepancy as with exports appeared in March. The deliveries from the euro area decreased by 12.2% (yoy) to €2.6bn, whereas the imports from China were slightly on the rise (by 0.9% to €4.0bn), and the deliveries to the USA even picked up by a two-digit rate (+14.4% to €1.1bn). The imports from the Czech Republic fell by 15.5% to €760m in March. At the same time, the deliveries from Poland and Hungary declined by 7.7% to €727m and 2.8% to €655m, respectively.

In the first quarter of 2020 the electric imports from the euro zone dropped by 8.2% (yoy) to €9.0bn. The deliveries from the Czech Republic sagged by 10.2% to €2.4bn, but the imports from Poland (+0.2% to €2.3bn) and Hungary (\pm 0.0% to €2.0bn) stayed the same. The deliveries from the USA were still able to go up by 12.1% to €3.4bn between January and March, but the imports from China were on the decline (-4.0% to €12.0bn).

German electric industry

– Key figures on foreign trade

	2019	2020 March	2020 Jan - Mar
Exports total, billion € (% change on year earlier)	216.5 (+2.7%)	17.6 (-4.4%)	52.8 (-1.8%)
Top ten receiving countries (2018)			
1. China	21.9 (+4.3%)	1.9 (+7.3%)	5.2 (+2.5%)
2. USA	19.1 (+7.7%)	1.7 (+6.5%)	4.9 (+3.9%)
3. France	14.0 (+3.0%)	1.0 (-14.6%)	3.1 (-6.1%)
4. Netherlands	11.1 (-2.5%)	0.8 (-11.9%)	2.4 (-11.2%)
5. Poland	10.6 (+3.0%)	0.8 (+2.3%)	2.4 (+4.7%)
6. Czech Republic	10.4 (+2.4%)	0.9 (+13.2%)	2.5 (+8.2%)
7. Italy	10.3 (+3.9%)	0.7 (-19.3%)	2.3 (-9.9%)
8. United Kingdom	9.8 (-10.4%)	0.8 (-21.5)	2.2 (-20.0%)
9. Austria	9.5 (+1.5%)	0.7 (-15.3%)	2.1 (-8.5%)
10. Switzerland	7.0 (+4.2%)	0.6 (+2.6%)	1.8 (+2.5%)

	2019	2020 March	2020 Jan - Mar
Imports total, billion € (% change on year earlier)	196.9 (+2.5%)	15.2 (-4.4%)	47.5 (-3.4%)
Biggest supplying countries (2018)			
1. China	53.7 (+4.0%)	4.0 (+0.9%)	12.0 (-4.0%)
2. USA	13.1 (+9.7%)	1.1 (+14.4%)	3.4 (+12.1%)
3. Czech Republic	10.9 (+2.1%)	0.8 (-15.5%)	2.4 (-10.2%)
4. Poland	9.1 (+7.1%)	0.7 (+7.7%)	2.3 (+0.2%)
5. Hungary	8.8 (+4.9%)	0.7 (-2.8%)	2.0 (±0.0%)
6. Japan	7.8 (+0.6%)	0.6 (+1.6%)	1.9 (+0.1%)
Export prices	-0.3%	-0.9%	-0.9%
Import prices	-1.7%	-2.8%	-2.8%

Source: Destatis and ZVEI's own calculations

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