

**TRADE BALANCE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
BETWEEN GREECE AND BULGARIA
2005 -2008**

The agricultural balance of trade between Greece and Bulgaria was in deficit during the period 2005-2007 but in 2008 was converted into surplus. The trade deficit, while in 2006/2005 marked a dramatic shrinkage by 61,5%, in 2007/2006 it was extended at the opposite way, increasing by 65,8%. However, in 2008 an impressive change was marked and the deficit turned to surplus, taking into account that its value remained equivalent to that of 2007.

More precisely, the Greek agricultural **imports** followed an ascendant course, increasing by 6,2% in 2006, by 35,6 in 2007 and by 36,1 in 2008. The 2007 and 2008 increases in imports are not focused only in one or two categories of agricultural products but are diffused in many of them.

On the other side, the Greek agricultural **exports** developed also positively and more intensively. In 2006-2005 the exports were improved by 17,2%, further by 34% in 2007-2006, with peak in 2008-2007 when they were ejected literally with an increase of 51,6%. The increases of exports in 2007 and 2008 appear to be also very impressive and diffuse in most categories of agricultural products.

Another interesting trade element between Greece and Bulgaria is that the agricultural imports constitute almost 19% of Greek total imports from Bulgaria in 2005, 15,3% in 2006, 18,7 in 2007 and 18,9% in 2008. Respectively the Greek agricultural exports were 11,8% of total exports to Bulgaria in 2005, 10,8% in 2006, 14,1% in 2007 and 18,6% in 2008. During the years 2007-2008, it is clear that there was a dynamic tendency of growth of Greek agricultural exports to Bulgaria. Moreover, according to the official data for 2008, **Bulgaria comes third in the classification of the main trade partners of Greece in agricultural exports.**

The whole picture of the **total trade balance** between the two countries is positive for Greece. The general balance appears to be in surplus. However, while in 2006 - 2005 it was strengthened by 21%, the following years were declining with a shrinkage of 23% in 2007 and of 65% in 2008. If this tendency is to be continued also in 2009, then the general balance will be certainly changed to deficit after a long period of important trade surplus for Greece's economy. This is due to the fact that, despite the improvement of exports, there is a swift increase of imports; however the tendency is slower by far.

More explicit, concerning **the imports per category of products**, the most important are Timber, Meats & preparations, Fruits and Vegetables, Dairy Products, Cereals and preparations, Oils and Fats, Tobacco and its products. More precisely:

1. In **Timber** category, which is diachronically the highest in value category of agricultural imports, in 2006/2005 an increase of imports appeared by 11.5% but in 2007/2006 this increase was limited to 2,4%. In 2008/2007, imports decreased considerably by 19%. The trade balance in this category of products is obviously negative and it influences decisively the total agricultural balance. Basic products imported are **firewood** and **processed pine timber**.

2. In **Meat and its preparations** category, an important reduction of imports by 32% appeared in 2007/2006 but the same imports partially return to positive signs in 2008, appearing an increase by 22%. Basic imported products are **fresh lamb carcasses**.

3. In **fruits and vegetables** category, two important increases of imports appeared by 26,4% in 2007 and 21,5% in 2008. However, those increases were compensated completely by the also impressive improvement of corresponding exports; and, as it is mentioned below, the important trade surplus in this category was not influenced negatively but

it was improved. Main imports from Bulgaria are **cherries preserved** and **walnuts**.

4. In **dairy products** category, the picture is mixed. In 2006, imports decreased drastically in half of the value of 2005, but the following two years 2007-2008 they recovered completely, worsening therefore the already deficit balance of this category. Main imported products were **fresh cheeses** and other cheeses (not specified) and **yoghurts**, flavoured or with the addition of fruits or cocoa.

5. In the **cereals and their preparations** category, imports earmarked an exceptional increase until 2007. They were doubled in value in 2006 and increased further by 33% in 2007. In 2008, they were stabilised at the levels of 2007 and a bit lower. **Soft wheat, barley and maize, wheat flours** and various **bread-making products** of bread, pastry or sweetened biscuits are the main imported products in this category.

6. In **oils and fats** category, there was an ejection of imports in 2007 tripled in value and a further increase by 53.3% appeared in 2008. Main imported products were crude **sunflower oil** and **corn oil**.

7. In **tobacco and its products** category, a regularly ascendant tendency in imports appears. There was an increase by 43% in 2006, an over doubling of their value in 2007 and similarly in 2008, obviously because of the drastic decrease of the Greek production since 2005 and afterwards. **Sun cured eastern type, flue cured Virginia** and **light air cured Burley**, were the basic imports of these products.

Regarding the **Greek agricultural exports**, the main categories are fruits & vegetables, tobacco, oils & fats, cereals, meat and dairy products, sugar and its preparations. More precisely:

1. In **fruits and vegetables** category, an improvement of exports by 20% appeared in 2007 and a further increase by 5,5% in 2008. Main exported products are: fresh **bananas**, fresh sweet **oranges**, **peaches** (including nectarines), **tangerines**, **clementines**, **cherries** (provisionally maintained), **fried potatoes** (crisps), **tomatoes preserved** and **olives preserved**.

2. In **cereals and their preparations** category, Greek exports follow a course of dynamic growth. In particular, they were over doubled in 2007/2006 and a further increase by 35% appeared in 2008. The main exports include **maize**, **wheat flour**, various **pastas** (not containing eggs but flour and semolina of soft wheat) and **wheat seeds**.

3. In **tobacco and its products** category, the exports were also developed highly, as an increase appeared by 29% in 2006, 17% in 2007 and 80% in 2008. The main exports include tobacco of **sun cured Eastern type** and **cigarettes**.

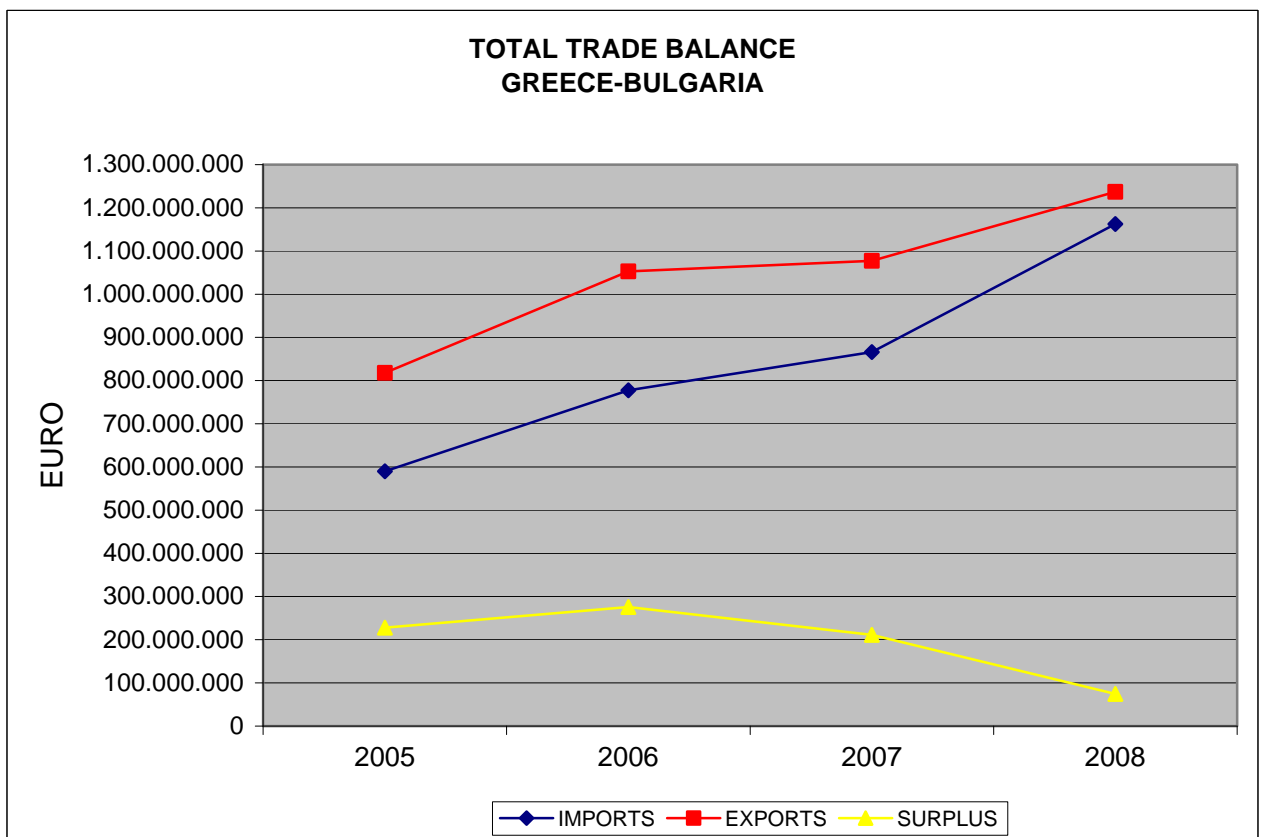
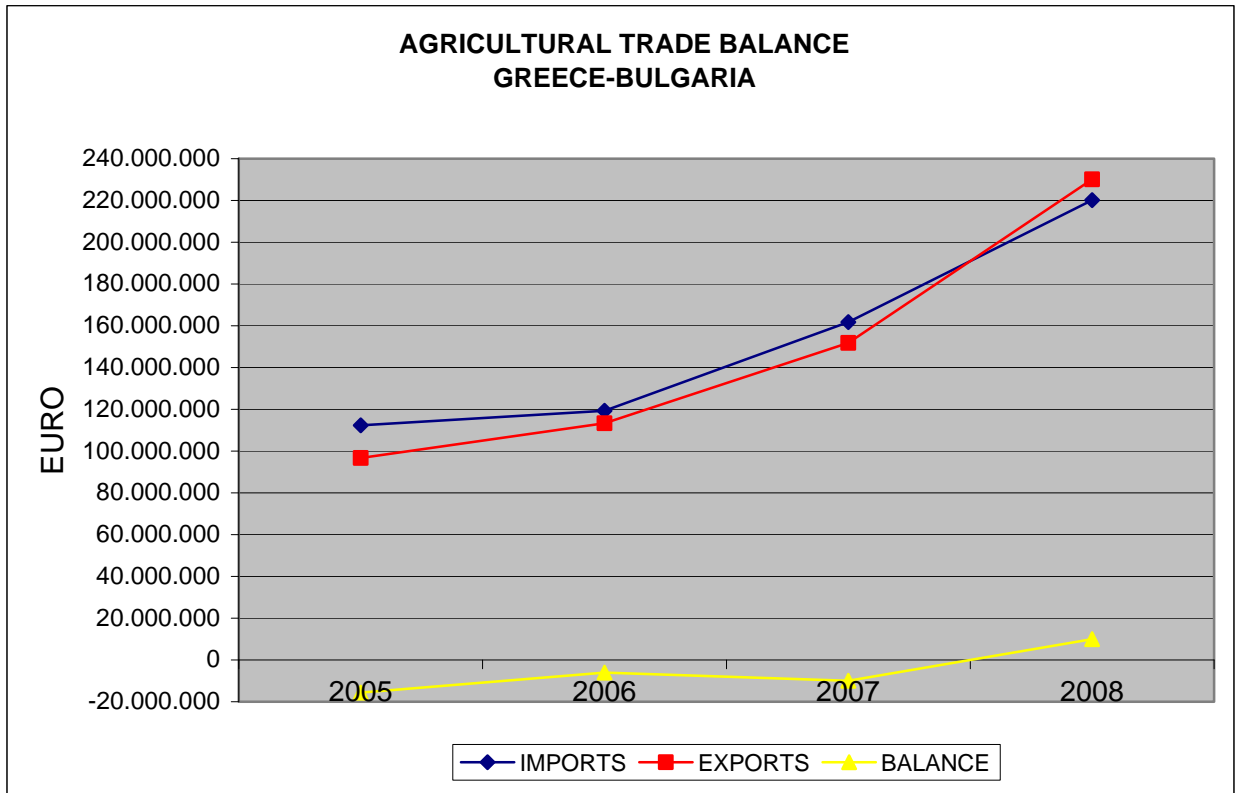
4. In **oils & fats** category, exports were over doubled in value in 2007 and in 2008, recording a further impressive rise by 78%. The basic exports were **pistachio oil**, **cotton oil**, **processed palm oil**, processed **sunflower oil** and **soya oil**.

5. In the **meat and its preparations** category, a regularly ascendant development of exports appears, with an increase by 10% in 2006 and an over doubled increase in 2007 and 2008. The basic exports were **frozen poultry meat and preparations**, as well as **frozen pig meat**.

6. In **dairy products** category, exports quadrupled in value in 2007/2006 and they continued their ascendant course with further increase by 13% in 2008. The basic exports were various **cheeses** not specified and **yoghurts** not flavoured and without addition of fruits or cocoa.

7. Finally, in sugar and its preparations category, exports quadrupled in value in 2008/2007. Almost exclusively exports consist of **white sugar**.

AN ANNEX OF DIAGRAMS AND TABLES FOLLOWS



2005, GREECE-BULGARIA: AGRICULTURAL TRADE DATA in Euro

SITC Code s	PRODUCTS	IMPORTS	TOTAL AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS (%)	EXPORTS	TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS (%)	BALANCE
00	Live animals	987.643	0,88%	107.628	0,11%	-880.015
01	Meat & preparations	18.610.728	16,56%	2.809.164	2,90%	-15.801.564
02	Milk & Eggs	20.239.440	18,01%	1.725.864	1,78%	-18.513.576
03	Fish & preparations	69.400	0,06%	1.322.423	1,37%	1.253.023
04	Cereals & preparations	11.914.536	10,60%	6.016.138	6,22%	-5.898.398
05	Fruit & Vegetables	12.774.128	11,37%	36.312.410	37,54%	23.538.282
06	Sugar & Honey	563.771	0,50%	3.203.326	3,31%	2.639.555
07	Coffee, cocoa, tea, spices	302.414	0,27%	948.795	0,98%	646.381
08	Animal feed	1.137.568	1,01%	946.390	0,98%	-191.178
09	Food products	5.128.252	4,56%	6.031.046	6,24%	902.794
11	Beverages	261.869	0,23%	1.341.161	1,39%	1.079.292
12	Tobacco	4.364.860	3,88%	16.770.787	17,34%	12.405.927
21	Hides & skins unprocessed	548	0,00%	682.182	0,71%	681.634
22	Oilseeds	331.282	0,29%	165.242	0,17%	-166.040
231	Natural rubber	89.687	0,08%	14.750	0,02%	-74.937
24	Timber & cork	30.549.434	27,19%	117.233	0,12%	-30.432.201
261-265 & 268	Natural textile fibres	74.901	0,07%	9.871.045	10,21%	9.796.144
29	Agricultural raw material	1.396.372	1,24%	415.194	0,43%	-981.178
4	Oils & fats	3.564.505	3,17%	7.923.032	8,19%	4.358.527
592-11/12	Starches, insuline	0	0,00%	1.243	0,00%	1.243
	TOTAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS	112.361.338	19,05%	96.725.053	11,83%	-15.636.285
(0-9)	TOTAL TRADE	589.830.695	100%	817.863.568	100%	228.032.873

2006, GREECE-BULGARIA: AGRICULTURAL TRADE DATA in Euro

SITC codes	PRODUCTS	IMPORTS	TOTAL AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS (%)	EXPORTS	TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS (%)	BALANCE
00	Live animals	991.032	0,83%	76.522	0,07%	-914.510
01	Meat & preparations	18.431.687	15,44%	3.091.596	2,73%	-15.340.091
02	Milk & eggs	11.359.742	9,52%	1.500.936	1,32%	-9.858.806
03	Fish & preparations	65.700	0,06%	1.756.532	1,55%	1.690.832
04	Cereals & preparations	22.436.025	18,80%	6.868.556	6,06%	-15.567.469
05	Fruit & vegetables	11.559.342	9,69%	35.911.933	31,69%	24.352.591
06	Sugar & honey	653.284	0,55%	7.730.569	6,82%	7.077.285
07	Coffee, cocoa, tea, spices	291.908	0,24%	1.048.648	0,93%	756.740
08	Animal feed	2.736.073	2,29%	2.386.101	2,11%	-349.972
09	Food products	4.477.207	3,75%	7.487.128	6,61%	3.009.921
11	Beverages	187.434	0,16%	1.576.712	1,39%	1.389.278
12	Tobacco	6.241.530	5,23%	21.610.590	19,07%	15.369.060
21	Hides & skins unprocessed	549	0,00%	534.330	0,47%	533.781
22	Oilseeds	462.021	0,39%	94.514	0,08%	-367.507
231	Natural rubber	222.852	0,19%	0	0,00%	-222.852
24	Timber & cork	34.077.860	28,55%	263.676	0,23%	-33.814.184
261-265 & 268	Natural textile fibres	41.483	0,03%	13.458.439	11,88%	13.416.956
29	Agricultural raw materials	1.801.756	1,51%	902.596	0,80%	-899.160
4	Oils & fats	3.303.865	2,77%	7.015.482	6,19%	3.711.617
592-11/12	Starches, insuline	0	0,00%	0	0,00%	0
	TOTAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS	119.341.350	15,35%	113.314.860	10,76%	-6.026.490
(0-9)	TOTAL TRADE	777.336.912	100%	1.052.880.406	100%	275.543.494

2007, GREECE-BULGARIA: AGRICULTURAL TRADE DATA in Euro

SITC codes	PRODUCTS	IMPORTS	TOTAL AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS (%)	EXPORTS	TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS (%)	BALANCE
00	Live animals	2.668.407	1,65%	235.013	0,15%	-2.433.394
01	Meat & preparations	12.520.698	7,74%	7.862.976	5,18%	-4.657.722
02	Milk & eggs	14.982.875	9,26%	6.013.616	3,96%	-8.969.259
03	Fish & preparations	52.716	0,03%	1.994.326	1,31%	1.941.610
04	Cereals & preparations	29.874.321	18,47%	18.165.808	11,97%	-11.708.513
05	Fruits & vegetables	18.079.023	11,18%	43.178.592	28,45%	25.099.569
06	Sugar & honey	8.488.470	5,25%	5.274.616	3,48%	-3.213.854
07	Coffee, cocoa, tea, spices	773.724	0,48%	4.165.932	2,74%	3.392.208
08	Animal feed	6.257.128	3,87%	2.118.831	1,40%	-4.138.297
09	Food products	5.282.757	3,27%	4.371.050	2,88%	-911.707
11	Beverages	408.960	0,25%	3.724.259	2,45%	3.315.299
12	Tobacco	14.889.225	9,20%	25.280.897	16,66%	10.391.672
21	Hides & skins unprocessed	0	0,00%	350.310	0,23%	350.310
22	Oilseeds	326.350	0,20%	1.648.150	1,09%	1.321.800
231	Natural rubber	0	0,00%	57.539	0,04%	57.539
24	Timber & cork	34.898.608	21,57%	895.592	0,59%	-34.003.016
261-265 & 268	Natural textile fibres	300.387	0,19%	6.572.417	4,33%	6.272.030
29	Agricultural raw material	1.286.898	0,80%	1.211.911	0,80%	-74.987
4	Oils & fats	10.442.098	6,45%	18.656.139	12,29%	8.214.041
592-11/12	Starches, insuline	244.040	0,15%	1.789	0,00%	-242.251
	TOTAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS	161.776.685	18,68%	151.779.763	14,09%	-9.996.922
(0-9)	TOTAL TRADE	866.090.309	100%	1.077.448.469	100%	211.358.160

2008, GREECE-BULGARIA: AGRICULTURAL TRADE DATA in Euro

SITC codes	PRODUCTS	IMPORTS	TOTAL AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS (%)	EXPORTS	TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS (%)	BALANCE
00	Live animals	2.703.572	1,23%	666.384	0,29%	-2.037.188
01	Meat & preparations	15.285.175	6,94%	16.807.202	7,30%	1.522.027
02	Milk & eggs	26.881.829	12,21%	6.789.691	2,95%	-20.092.138
03	Fish & preparations	196.996	0,09%	2.829.550	1,23%	2.632.554
04	Cereals preparations	29.221.002	13,27%	24.500.148	10,65%	-4.720.854
05	Fruit & vegetables	21.971.768	9,98%	49.890.925	21,68%	27.919.157
06	Sugar & honey	20.645.466	9,38%	19.291.036	8,38%	-1.354.430
07	Coffee, cocoa, tea, spices	3.400.518	1,54%	6.092.456	2,65%	2.691.938
08	Animal feed	10.538.986	4,79%	4.188.393	1,82%	-6.350.593
09	Food products	6.983.864	3,17%	5.045.013	2,19%	-1.938.851
11	Beverages	1.146.469	0,52%	6.038.195	2,62%	4.891.726
12	Tobacco	30.294.911	13,76%	45.607.094	19,82%	15.312.183
21	Hides & skins unprocessed	0	0,00%	940.066	0,41%	940.066
22	Oilseeds	4.058.578	1,84%	1.147.222	0,50%	-2.911.356
231	Natural rubber	940	0,00%	17.741	0,01%	16.801
24	Timber & cork	28.221.964	12,82%	701.667	0,30%	-27.520.297
261-265 & 268	Natural textile fibres	717.914	0,33%	5.002.288	2,17%	4.284.374
29	Agricultural raw materials	1.065.654	0,48%	1.384.377	0,60%	318.723
4	Oils & fats	16.007.999	7,27%	33.137.587	14,40%	17.129.588
592-11/12	Starches, insuline	812.058	0,37%	6.945	0,00%	-805.113
	TOTAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS	220.155.663	18,94%	230.083.980	18,60%	9.928.317
(0-9)	TOTAL TRADE	1.162.626.181	100%	1.236.979.686	100%	74.353.505