



## FOREIGN TRADE IN THE BARCELONA AREA 2015 (Preliminary results)

**2015 export figures for the Barcelona area topped the 50,000 M € mark for the first time ever.**

Exports from the **province of Barcelona amounted to 50,057.4 M €** in 2015, marking a new export record for the fifth consecutive year. Compared to 2014, **Barcelona's (+6.1%) sales abroad grew most**, with Catalonia (+5.9%) and Spain as a whole following (+4%). Barcelona's exports represent 20% of Spain's total, putting the region again at the top of the national exporter ranking.

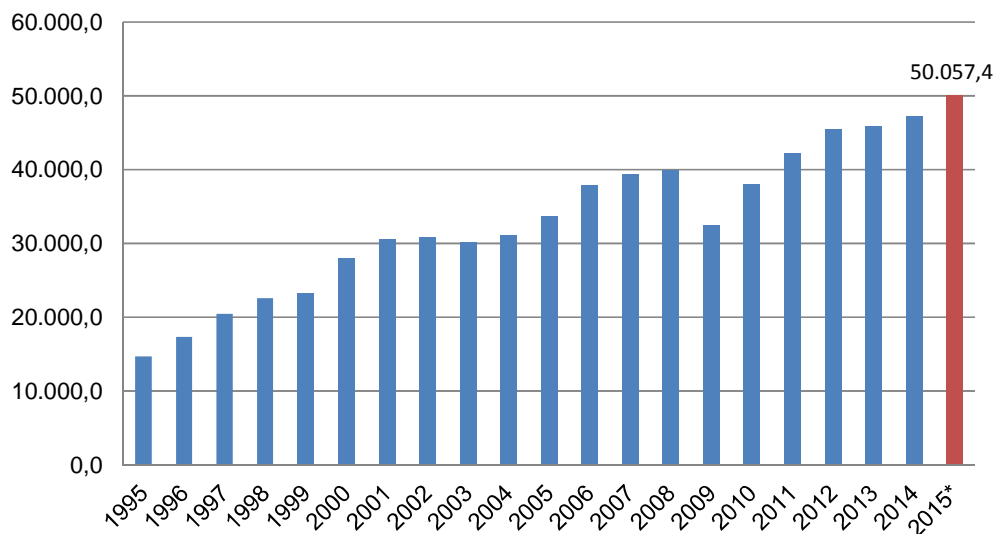
### EXPORTS. In millions €

	2014	2015*	Percentage/Spain	Variation 15/14 (en%)
<b>Barcelona Province</b>	47.184,07	50.057,37	20,00%	6,09%
<b>Catalonia</b>	60.291,20	63.838,87	25,51%	5,88%
<b>Spain</b>	240.581,83	250.241,33	100,00%	4,02%

\*Provisional data

Source: Barcelona City Council's Employment, Business and Tourism Studies Department based on data from the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness

### Exports from the Barcelona area



\* Provincial data (in millions of euros).

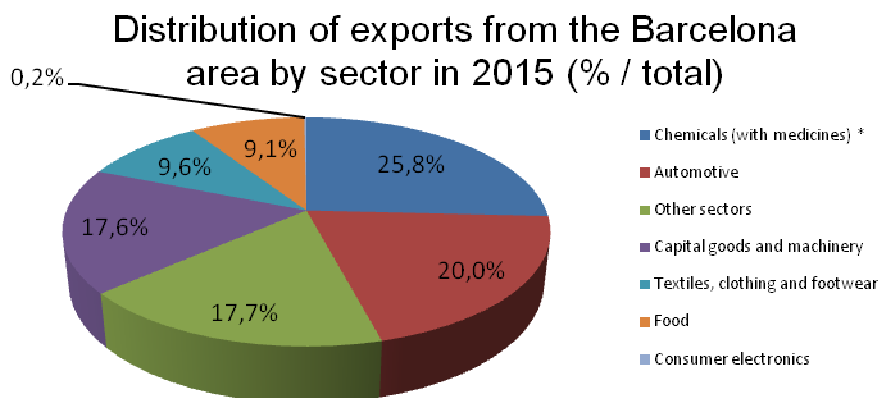
Source: Barcelona City Council's Employment, Business and Tourism Studies Department based on data from the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness

The export trend for 2015 saw growth of about 6% in each quarter compared to 2014. The keys to this sustained growth throughout the year are a general improvement in competitiveness together with a depreciation of the euro.

The number of exporters in the province of Barcelona stood at 39,747 in 2015, representing 28.3% of the total of all exporting companies in Spain.

### 1) Exports by sectors

The **chemical sector**, which includes medicines- **represented more than a quarter of all the export sales** of the province of Barcelona (25.8%) in 2015, valued at over 12,900 M €, followed by the **automotive** (20%), **machinery** and **capital goods** sectors (17.6% of the total), **textiles** and the **food industry** (9.6% and 9.1%, respectively).



Source: Barcelona City Council's Employment, Business and Tourism Studies Department  
based on data from the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness

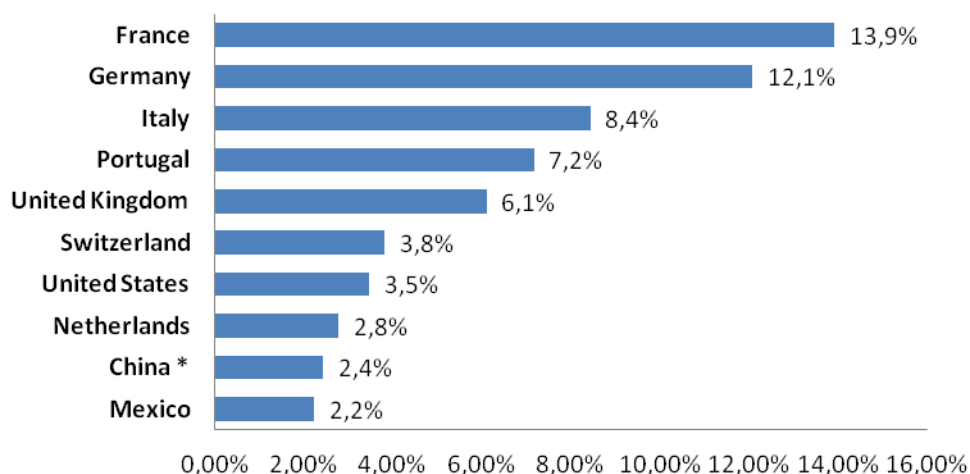
Compared to 2014, the **export trend was positive in the automotive, food and chemical sectors** (with increases of +12.8, +12 and +4.7%, respectively), while sales abroad for the **textile, machinery and capital goods sectors** rose slightly (+ 2.4%), and overseas sales for the consumer electronics sector recorded a slight drop (-0.6%).

## 2) Exports by country

In terms of geographical distribution in 2015, **most of the exports from the Barcelona area went to the European Union** (61.9% of the total), with France (13.9%), Germany (12.1%) and Italy (8.4%) being the main destinations. The weighting of the European Union as a destination for Barcelona's exports increased significantly last year (+7.2%) compared to 2014, and those exports destined for Eurozone countries (+6.3%) now represent half of all exports from the Barcelona area (50.1%).

**Exports to North America and Asia** grew by 16.3% and 14.9% respectively in 2015 compared to the previous year, followed by **Latin America (+9.4%)**, while sales to the **rest of Europe (-2.3%)**, **Africa (-3%)** and especially **Oceania (-29.8%)** all fell because of lacklustre performances by some emerging economies. In terms of countries, including non-European markets, the Barcelona area ended 2015 with **significant increases in annual sales to countries like Cuba (+53.2%)**, **Argentina (+36.1%)**, **Japan (+20.9%)**, **Canada (+19.8%)**, **India (+19.2%)** and the **United Arab Emirates (+17%)**.

### Countries with most exports from the



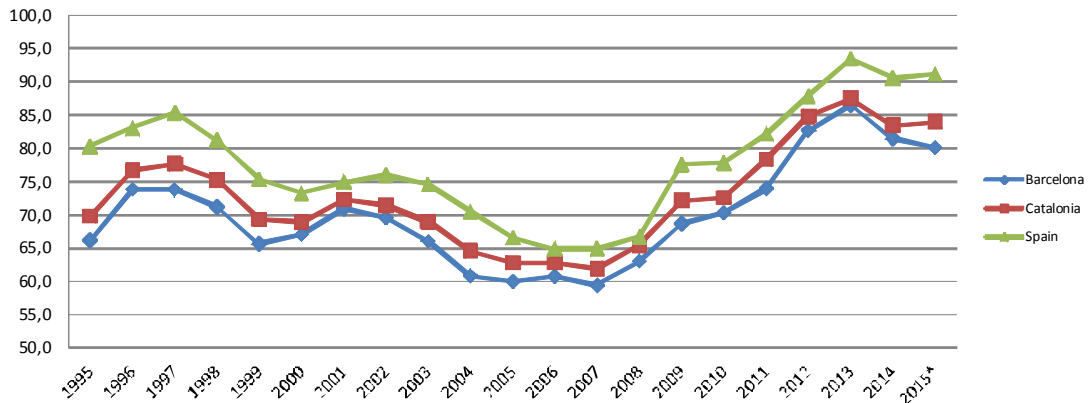
\*China+Hong Kong+Macao

Source: Barcelona City Council's Employment, Business and Tourism Studies Department based on data from the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness

## 3) Imports

**Imports** to the province of Barcelona stood at 62,491.7 M € in 2015, representing an annual growth of 8.2%, and 22.8% of all Spain's imports. Importantly, **growth in sales purchases from outside the Barcelona area exceeded export sales for the second time since 2007**.

### Coverage rate trend (%) (1995-2014)



Source: Barcelona City Council's Employment, Business and Tourism Studies Department based on data from the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness

The fact that imports showed greater dynamism than exports in the Barcelona area due to a recovery in internal demand in 2015 meant that there was a balance of trade deficit and a **coverage rate<sup>2</sup> of 80.1%**, 1.4% below the figure posted a year ago. This means that for every euro worth imported from abroad, exports cover 80 cents of this amount.

**Barcelona, February, 2016**

<sup>1</sup> Relationship shows Exports/Imports (%)