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Research Report

Russia's restrictions on food imports

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Abstract

Russia decided last week on an import ban on certain food products originating in countries that have imposed economic sanctions on Russia. All countries subject to the ban had at least some exports to Russia in these product categories last year.

Keywords: Russia, imports

Russia's restrictions on food imports

The Russian Government last week published its countermeasures directed towards those countries that have imposed economic sanctions on Russia. According to the document, approved by Prime Minister Medvedev, Russia will for one year ban imports of selected food products, including certain meat, fish and dairy products as well as fruits and vegetables originating in the following countries: United States, members of the European Union, Canada, Australia and Norway. These measures come into force on the day of their publication. Prime Minister Medvedev noted in the government meeting that children's food and imports by private persons are excluded from the import ban. He also said that the government may revise the length of the import ban at a later date. All countries that the Russian import ban concerns had at least some exports to Russia in these product categories last year, but for most countries the export volumes are limited.

Table 1. Exports in 2013 in product categories falling under the Russian food import ban

	Value of exports, EUR million	Share in total goods exports, %	Share in GDP, %
Austria	102	0.1	0.0
Belgium	280	0.1	0.1
Bulgaria	10	0.0	0.0
Croatia	7	0.1	0.0
Cyprus	13	0.9	0.1
Czech Republic	10	0.0	0.0
Denmark	366	0.4	0.1
Estonia	72	0.6	0.4
Finland	283	0.5	0.1
France	234	0.1	0.0
Germany	554	0.1	0.0
Greece	125	0.5	0.1
Hungary	76	0.1	0.1
Ireland	89	0.1	0.1
Italy	161	0.0	0.0
Latvia	67	0.6	0.3
Lithuania	910	3.7	2.6
Luxembourg	4	0.0	0.0
Malta	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Netherlands	525	0.1	0.1
Poland	832	0.5	0.2
Portugal	15	0.0	0.0
Romania	1	0.0	0.0
Slovakia	6	0.0	0.0
Slovenia	8	0.0	0.0
Spain	338	0.1	0.0
Sweden	9	0.0	0.0
United Kingdom	40	0.0	0.0
Australia	180	0.1	0.0
Canada	270	0.1	0.0
Norway	838	0.7	0.2
United States	545	0.0	0.0

Sources: Eurostat, UN Comtrade, Russian Government.

N.B. The figures should not be regarded as perfectly accurate, due to limited availability of detailed trade data and some differences in the details of the customs nomenclatures used by different countries. The figures include only direct exports to Russia from a country; some exports could be transported through third countries but this cannot be distinguished from the data. Trade data in value-added terms is available only on a relatively aggregate level, e.g. for the sectors 'Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing' and 'Food products, beverages and tobacco'. For the above countries, the share of foreign value added originating in foreign agriculture and food, beverages and tobacco averaged 2% of the total exports of the agriculture sector and 5% of the total exports of the food, beverages and tobacco industry.

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