

20 May 2021 (No. of pages: 3)

Japanese report: 20 May 2021

April 2021 Trade Statistics

Exports to China now leading performance, with export value returning to level seen before US-China trade friction began

Economic Research Dept.
Kazuma Kishikawa

Summary

- According to April 2021 trade statistics, export value grew by +38.0% y/y, its highest growth rate in eleven years. In seasonally adjusted terms export value grew for the second consecutive month at +2.5% m/m. Exports of semicon machinery etc. to China led overall performance, while export value (seasonally adjusted) recovered to nearly the level of 2018 before US-China trade friction heated up.
- Export volume (seasonally adjusted by DIR) marked time for the most part at +0.1% m/m. Looking at export volume by source of demand, performance shifted into the negative range for the US at -1.0%, and the EU at -4.3%, while exports to Asia achieved growth for the second consecutive month at +0.7%. As for exports to the US and the EU, cars, which contributed to growth during the previous month, suffered a decline. Meanwhile, exports to Asia were led by semicon machinery etc. exports to China, while in other parts of Asia car exports achieved growth.
- As for the future of exports, the growth trend is expected to continue. Exports will likely be led by trade with the US where large-scale economic measures are being implemented, and China, where a high level of infrastructure investment is expected. However, the worldwide shortage in semiconductors is holding down domestic automobile production, so we must keep in mind that this could lead to a slowdown in exports.

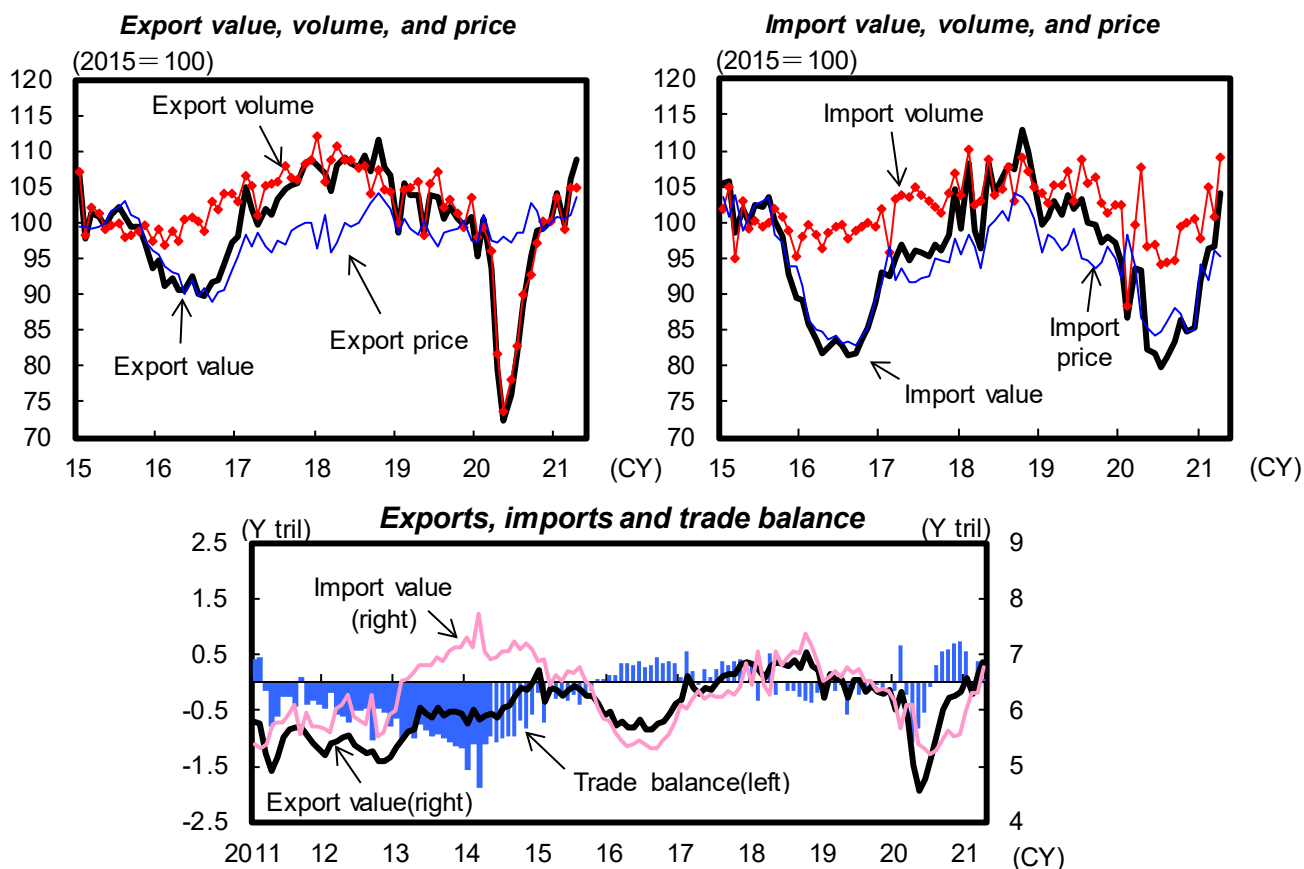
Trade Statistics **Chart 1**

	2020					2021				
	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	
Export value (y/y %)	-14.8	-4.9	-0.2	-4.2	2.0	6.4	-4.5	16.1	38.0	
Market consensus (Bloomberg)									30.8	
DIR estimate									18.6	
Import value (y/y %)	-20.4	-17.1	-13.1	-11.0	-11.5	-9.4	11.9	5.8	12.8	
Export volume (y/y %)	-14.8	-7.7	-1.6	-3.9	-0.1	5.3	-4.3	12.6	28.4	
Export price (y/y %)	0.1	3.0	1.5	-0.2	2.1	1.0	-0.1	3.1	7.4	
Import volume (y/y %)	-11.3	-8.1	-5.5	-2.1	-2.0	-4.1	22.0	3.9	2.4	
Import price (y/y %)	-0.0	-0.0	-8.0	-9.1	-0.0	-5.5	-8.3	1.8	10.1	
Trade balance (Y100 mil)	2,280	6,674	8,582	3,558	7,447	-3,272	2,117	6,622	2,553	
Export value (SA, m/m %)	8.7	7.4	3.7	0.3	1.2	3.9	-4.3	6.5	2.5	
Export volume (SA, m/m %)	8.8	3.0	4.8	3.0	0.0	3.3	-4.2	5.9	0.1	
Export price (SA, m/m %)	-0.2	4.3	-1.1	-2.6	1.2	0.6	-0.1	0.6	2.4	
Import value (SA, m/m %)	1.5	2.9	3.7	-2.0	0.7	7.7	4.9	0.3	7.5	
Import volume (SA, m/m %)	0.1	0.6	4.7	0.8	0.5	-2.7	7.4	-4.0	8.2	
Import price (SA, m/m %)	1.4	2.3	-0.9	-2.8	0.2	10.7	-2.4	4.5	-0.6	
Trade balance (SA, Y100 mil)	2,968	5,593	5,771	7,099	7,470	5,645	-141	3,719	652	
The Japan Customs rate (yen/dlr)	106.19	105.96	105.51	104.68	104.11	103.57	104.50	107.13	109.56	

Source: Ministry of Finance, Bloomberg; compiled by DIR.

Note: Volume and price seasonally adjusted by DIR.

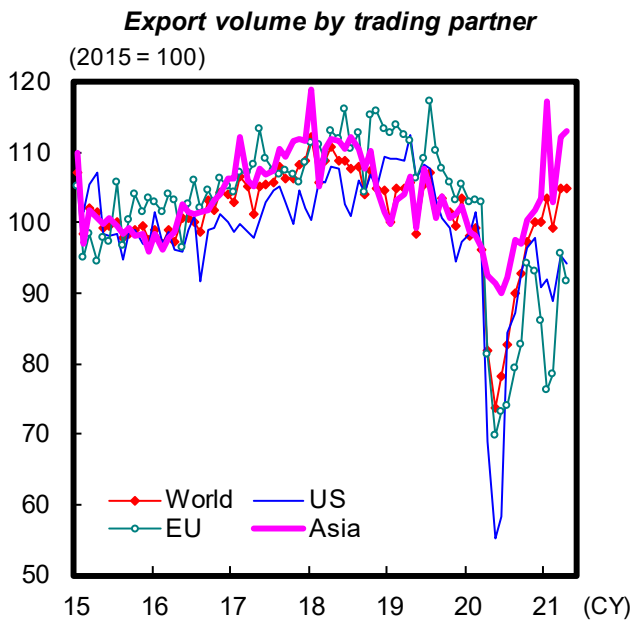
Export (Value, Volume and Price), Import (Value, Volume and Price) and Trade Balance **Chart 2**



Source: Ministry of Finance; compiled by DIR.

Note: Export volume and export price seasonally adjusted by DIR.

Export Volume by Trade Partner; Global Economy and Japan's Export Volume Chart 3



Source: Ministry of Finance; OECD; compiled by DIR.

Notes: 1) OECD CLI (Composite Leading Indicator): OECD member and six non-member countries.

2) Export volume seasonally adjusted by DIR.