



-Colombia-
last updated on 2002-06-04

Table of Contents

GENERAL FEATURES OF TRADE POLICY

TARIFFS AND DUTIES

NON TARIFF BARRIERS

INVESTMENT RELATED BARRIERS

IPR

GENERAL FEATURES OF TRADE POLICY

Colombia is a founding member of the Andean Community Free Trade Area. The EU and the Andean Community have a Framework Agreement for cooperation, signed in 1993. Since 1990 the countries of the Andean Community have enjoyed preferential duties for its exports to the EU for making efforts in the fight against drugs. These preferences were later extended to the Central American countries. Nearly 90% of Andean and Central American products, including textiles and most agricultural products, enter Europe duty-free.

The EU is the second trade partner of Colombia after the US., however is its first client for products like coffee, bananas and coal.

The following table is an overview of the trade flow between the European Union and Colombia

Section	Year	Import(Euro)	Export(Euro)
Animals & animal products	1996	33,114,090	9,836,420
	1997	46,342,690	18,686,670
	1998	42,216,480	19,707,190
	1999	47,749,980	15,798,000
	2000	72,972,600	21,207,570
	2001	65,322,720	16,646,520
	2002	58,861,820	7,972,760
	2003	55,902,910	5,823,740
Vegetable products	1996	1,195,479,520	17,231,250
	1997	1,346,660,610	22,519,590
	1998	1,318,605,970	31,236,190
	1999	976,495,700	19,096,270
	2000	952,182,160	46,428,070
	2001	886,289,420	42,038,090
	2002	868,164,840	26,843,140
	2003	835,832,520	30,569,730
Animal or vegetable fats	1996	984,440	2,591,370
	1997	919,050	4,373,970
	1998	5,081,770	4,209,260
	1999	12,397,690	1,951,280
	2000	5,791,010	4,183,560
	2001	10,994,470	4,669,220
	2002	20,829,270	6,088,040
	2003	28,795,460	3,950,370
	1996	109,088,110	25,379,370

Prepared foodstuffs	1997	133,371,130	29,081,100
	1998	148,932,450	36,568,740
	1999	115,313,580	32,181,470
	2000	131,330,330	47,213,350
	2001	117,993,810	60,892,120
	2002	120,253,120	53,588,270
	2003	108,946,730	50,248,240
Mineral products	1996	461,883,220	43,227,130
	1997	479,589,930	21,665,740
	1998	512,882,130	60,847,700
	1999	516,044,000	6,841,980
	2000	752,356,520	8,497,920
	2001	903,431,220	14,927,720
	2002	822,732,120	10,914,230
2003	764,236,740	12,113,590	
Chemical products	1996	11,337,130	298,903,190
	1997	18,482,610	356,065,780
	1998	20,358,390	373,574,270
	1999	20,184,880	326,567,040
	2000	19,226,350	451,978,190
	2001	15,028,910	482,947,220
	2002	15,084,520	464,404,660
2003	17,336,720	439,883,280	
Plastics & rubber	1996	4,744,570	65,090,610
	1997	6,556,370	95,510,000
	1998	8,572,380	89,944,610
	1999	8,245,490	81,026,570
	2000	6,582,020	103,090,330
	2001	7,378,090	112,455,450
	2002	14,157,320	110,588,580
2003	25,683,030	99,574,240	
Hides & skins	1996	19,039,310	3,505,120
	1997	18,710,650	3,784,580
	1998	23,468,670	3,326,200
	1999	21,689,250	2,423,500
	2000	52,480,440	2,986,510
	2001	58,962,800	3,783,110
	2002	60,897,020	4,217,280
2003	60,387,260	4,553,110	
Wood & wood products	1996	173,100	2,458,300
	1997	160,370	2,820,250
	1998	197,270	2,730,470
	1999	212,030	2,027,890
	2000	616,020	2,321,480
	2001	432,530	3,027,480
	2002	348,990	3,987,760
2003	333,310	3,937,070	
Wood pulp products	1996	4,161,450	74,767,610
	1997	2,620,380	96,596,930
	1998	8,811,580	102,373,120
	1999	2,065,990	101,599,510
	2000	5,517,670	135,471,600
	2001	8,490,870	120,042,000
	2002	3,583,860	114,034,500
2003	2,462,480	97,786,520	
Textiles & textile articles	1996	52,593,880	54,219,720
	1997	52,154,070	62,397,230
	1998	49,790,090	57,985,600
	1999	45,036,840	48,723,230
	2000	46,635,090	62,821,260
	2001	51,570,460	71,546,290

	2002	47,653,220	64,655,990
	2003	41,440,920	50,601,040
Footwear, headgear	1996	9,842,660	6,158,890
	1997	10,426,250	6,846,930
	1998	6,822,700	8,175,980
	1999	4,884,240	4,644,300
	2000	5,850,310	5,213,710
	2001	4,293,230	8,579,970
	2002	3,125,880	6,728,730
	2003	3,751,340	2,910,980
	Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos	1996	3,332,460
1997		2,951,570	44,022,120
1998		2,945,400	44,704,820
1999		3,518,900	24,793,790
2000		3,788,050	27,205,800
2001		2,011,820	29,970,340
2002		3,471,150	28,484,830
2003		8,719,120	22,733,000
Pearls, (semi-)precious stones, metals	1996	9,212,000	6,286,700
	1997	17,119,330	6,945,650
	1998	15,117,940	7,214,760
	1999	15,369,480	4,806,090
	2000	12,875,610	3,923,140
	2001	13,398,320	4,864,300
	2002	16,822,410	4,925,300
	2003	15,628,230	3,688,240
Base metals & articles thereof	1996	106,958,710	129,459,750
	1997	106,258,190	131,392,110
	1998	92,612,580	96,141,860
	1999	112,870,720	62,961,430
	2000	200,459,720	88,868,480
	2001	201,906,850	95,222,000
	2002	196,443,270	80,307,710
	2003	216,539,560	82,390,770
Machinery & mechanical appliances	1996	6,054,900	785,415,360
	1997	7,881,820	843,978,050
	1998	13,279,950	816,023,200
	1999	7,872,820	501,333,860
	2000	11,370,160	484,779,240
	2001	11,148,170	587,899,010
	2002	10,887,330	484,616,410
	2003	17,175,340	606,073,510
Transportation equipment	1996	622,940	61,186,760
	1997	3,975,180	99,459,300
	1998	4,706,720	116,189,650
	1999	2,143,520	50,146,840
	2000	3,428,240	79,040,930
	2001	1,190,180	93,691,580
	2002	2,076,670	91,003,520
	2003	2,019,870	165,342,070
Instruments - measuring, musical	1996	2,727,660	68,475,880
	1997	3,697,620	98,670,900
	1998	2,089,380	113,791,880
	1999	2,263,280	55,133,930
	2000	1,984,970	64,746,870
	2001	3,354,050	74,758,520
	2002	4,717,460	75,741,920
	2003	5,141,150	72,649,550
	1996	0	1,861,950
	1997	3,920	2,005,460
	1998	0	1,713,140

Arms & ammunition	1999	14,290	670,380
	2000	3,090	1,799,510
	2001	0	1,341,570
	2002	0	388,630
	2003	1,340	223,160
Miscellaneous	1996	4,162,400	26,299,810
	1997	3,496,020	28,483,010
	1998	2,420,570	28,154,530
	1999	2,672,730	13,907,560
	2000	3,001,310	26,915,790
	2001	3,846,760	28,487,230
	2002	3,486,120	25,765,320
	2003	3,627,840	20,889,020
Works of art	1996	404,850	158,960
	1997	546,780	260,880
	1998	372,200	1,932,650
	1999	546,980	237,800
	2000	980,170	1,290,730
	2001	440,140	601,310
	2002	571,420	1,417,160
	2003	363,870	1,638,900
Other	1996	3,209,620	23,861,130
	1997	101,560,810	11,547,590
	1998	6,580,940	18,136,670
	1999	9,058,450	7,269,430
	2000	5,303,850	5,233,260
	2001	6,262,700	5,755,970
	2002	6,296,540	4,828,000
	2003	6,528,720	8,000,320

**Automotive
last updated on
2001-10-31**

Colombia, together with Venezuela and Ecuador is member of the Andean Community Common Automotive Policy. This policy favours local investments via the requirement of a minimum local content of 24% in order to qualify for reduced imported duties.

The European Commission is currently carrying on bilateral consultation on discriminatory VAT imposed to imported cars.

[back to top](#)

TARIFFS AND DUTIES

Colombia applies the Andean Community Common External Tariff (CET).

Colombia has consolidated in three categories its import duties (with the exception of agricultural products covered by the variable levy calculated by a "price band" and the automobiles - 35%-) :

0% and 5% raw material , intermediate goods and capital goods not produced in Colombia

10% and 15% raw material , intermediate goods and capital goods produced in Colombia

20% consumer goods

The variable levy on agricultural products is calculated on a weekly basis on the difference between domestic and international prices.

Current duty rates may be searched by either an HS Product Code (4 or 6 digits) or by Keywords describing the product in the [Applied Tariffs section](#) of this Database.

Other Tariffs and Duties

● 020052-*Tax on lower price ceramics* [2002-04-24]

The importation of European ceramic tiles is subjected to an additional tax in case the value declared at custom is inferior to a pre-fixed price.

[back to top](#)

NON TARIFF BARRIERS

Non automatic licensing applies to some agricultural products like poultry.

Sanitary and phytosanitary measures

● 040040-*Colombia- Live bovine animals and bovine products* [2005-01-06]

Ban on EU exports of live bovine animals and bovine products and by-products. Also concentrated feeds containing meat, blood and bone meal. The ban also applies to meat and bone meal and mammalian offal meal (and excludes semen, milk and dairy products)
Countries banned: FR, ES, others...

- General statement on BSE to all Third Countries during the SPS Committee in Geneva on 17/03/2004 in reaction on the statement of the USA. During the XXXI SPS Committee in October 2004 the Commission has given a general statement on BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy). Some WTO members started to lift the ban due to BSE for some EU live ruminants and ruminant derived products (e.g.: China, New Zealand, Brazil, Philippines). The EC requested other WTO members to follow the same line and to respect guidelines as set up by international organizations (OIE).

[back to top](#)

INVESTMENT RELATED BARRIERS

Tax Discrimination

● 980094- *Special VAT for imported cars* [2003-01-27]

Colombia introduced a tax reform in December 1995 (Law 223/1995). This tax law included new provisions concerning VAT. VAT for cars was set at a rate of 45% except for public transport vehicles, ambulances and imported cars under 1400 cc. The latter category was subject to 35% VAT whereas for domestic cars under 1400 cc the VAT rate was 20%. This meant that imported cars under 1400cc were subject to a higher VAT rate than domestic cars.

For imported private cars with a customs (cif) value including customs duties of more than US\$35,000, the VAT rate was set at 60%.

A further tax reform was introduced on 24 December 1998 (Law 488) whereby the VAT rates were adjusted to 35% for imported cars of all engine capacities and 20% for domestically produced cars under 1400cc. For imported cars with a customs duty of more than US\$40,000 the VAT rate was set at 45%.

On 18 August 2000, at the request of Volkswagen AG, the European Commission opened a Trade Barrier Regulation investigation on the alleged violation of the National Treatment principle contained in Article III.2 of the GATT.

Following negotiations between Colombia and the European Union, an agreement was reached for the gradual elimination of the VAT tax discrimination for cars under 1400 cm³, starting on 1 July 2003 and scheduled to arrive at a non-discriminatory situation by no later than 30 June 2005.

Under Article 39 of Law 788 adopted by the Colombian Parliament on 27 December 2002, VAT on imported cars up to and including 1400cm³ will decrease to 33% from 1 July 2003, to 29%

from 1 July 2004 and to 25% from 1 July 2005. The VAT on domestically produced and assembled cars up to 1400cm³ will increase to 21% from 1 July 2003, to 23% from 1 July 2004 and to 25% from 1 July 2005.

All other cars, both domestically produced and imported are subject to 38% VAT from 1 January 2003.

[back to top](#)

IPR

Colombia's IPR and Copyright legislation has been defined following **Andean Community Resolutions**, whose are considered to be sufficiently in line with WTO TRIPS requirements. However, a certain number of ambiguities seems still existing in sector like data protection.

Guide

A Service Provided by DG-Trade, European Commission

Your Comments