



**-Tunisia-**

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**GENERAL FEATURES OF TRADE POLICY**

*The following table is an overview of the tradeflow between the European Union and Tunisia*

Section	Year	Import(Euro)	Export(Euro)
<b>Animals &amp; animal products</b>	1996	61,917,980	24,791,900
	1997	81,865,630	46,232,430
	1998	94,250,020	31,707,910
	1999	78,946,290	25,574,260
	2000	98,053,850	30,022,570
	2001	111,050,900	24,183,750
	2002	107,459,920	25,677,630
	2003	99,064,570	44,905,730
<b>Vegetable products</b>	1996	50,410,140	45,719,130
	1997	59,744,330	117,469,170
	1998	73,283,350	90,723,360
	1999	65,445,240	102,699,160
	2000	74,929,340	191,386,510
	2001	71,204,960	134,968,290
	2002	76,507,550	133,505,030
	2003	76,140,800	115,734,150
<b>Animal or vegetable fats</b>	1996	92,682,950	49,817,760
	1997	86,412,030	63,417,200
	1998	54,961,850	86,879,260
	1999	98,940,790	54,500,850
	2000	75,735,190	48,615,110
	2001	68,314,780	37,166,870
	2002	24,449,250	51,916,330
	2003	51,097,650	72,013,960
<b>Prepared foodstuffs</b>	1996	15,953,250	64,848,180
	1997	17,523,170	72,966,170
	1998	14,121,560	82,616,870
	1999	16,819,370	54,482,080
	2000	13,613,880	61,230,670
	2001	17,900,360	71,454,710
	2002	15,536,980	49,622,610
	2003	19,987,150	64,125,390
<b>Mineral products</b>	1996	414,992,610	142,095,600
	1997	400,648,740	211,778,500
	1998	226,510,170	159,595,770
	1999	351,320,060	210,488,340
	2000	516,499,930	318,758,440
	2001	529,727,720	389,393,570

	2002	554,831,790	348,836,470
	2003	592,545,090	414,106,030
<b>Chemical products</b>	1996	221,057,350	264,045,850
	1997	210,960,970	321,453,990
	1998	235,229,050	355,868,930
	1999	180,281,080	371,537,100
	2000	202,226,950	415,233,040
	2001	241,249,510	469,290,370
	2002	239,118,480	498,041,340
	2003	240,513,000	494,177,600
<b>Plastics &amp; rubber</b>	1996	7,088,090	144,032,470
	1997	8,223,230	174,175,350
	1998	14,654,840	193,745,850
	1999	14,302,120	210,295,720
	2000	27,166,000	270,213,030
	2001	44,253,260	312,392,730
	2002	42,619,720	339,330,450
	2003	47,417,790	334,032,000
<b>Hides &amp; skins</b>	1996	37,431,400	84,770,410
	1997	34,905,030	97,792,230
	1998	33,100,680	103,816,730
	1999	31,656,560	108,275,240
	2000	43,961,590	125,154,760
	2001	49,739,750	129,386,890
	2002	50,412,960	100,250,070
	2003	50,056,370	128,803,670
<b>Wood &amp; wood products</b>	1996	5,150,050	42,538,040
	1997	5,724,250	54,514,050
	1998	7,599,610	49,930,180
	1999	8,773,520	45,059,850
	2000	16,011,410	61,173,790
	2001	13,389,530	59,002,910
	2002	16,817,440	66,320,430
	2003	19,694,560	63,740,640
<b>Wood pulp products</b>	1996	12,985,440	80,373,210
	1997	16,595,200	92,037,820
	1998	16,721,640	98,804,830
	1999	20,787,420	116,698,110
	2000	24,786,030	161,816,170
	2001	27,367,930	184,628,230
	2002	24,539,080	174,925,980
	2003	25,453,810	162,294,230
<b>Textiles &amp; textile articles</b>	1996	1,748,043,980	1,130,818,550
	1997	1,871,490,260	1,299,449,520
	1998	2,105,823,620	1,475,049,580
	1999	2,204,409,120	1,590,533,870
	2000	2,462,273,500	1,759,538,890
	2001	2,816,705,000	1,972,402,730
	2002	2,866,678,550	1,933,137,370
	2003	2,703,294,300	1,787,075,940
<b>Footwear, headgear</b>	1996	175,066,630	38,332,470
	1997	200,238,600	38,950,500
	1998	223,030,670	50,548,280
	1999	258,917,000	62,839,360
	2000	321,371,500	83,749,760
	2001	359,301,980	111,956,920
	2002	372,017,130	122,851,600
	2003	376,848,780	84,414,680
	1996	9,521,220	39,251,450
	1997	12,596,460	40,524,130
	1998	16,774,160	47,357,040

<b>Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos</b>	1999	19,818,830	45,289,380
	2000	26,360,950	56,887,300
	2001	27,435,630	67,208,270
	2002	28,602,270	74,167,060
	2003	28,643,140	58,378,670
<b>Pearls, (semi-)precious stones, metals</b>	1996	7,688,460	12,067,800
	1997	6,678,660	9,934,920
	1998	5,541,480	10,110,980
	1999	6,740,190	12,026,330
	2000	9,365,220	18,152,820
	2001	9,439,840	18,736,260
	2002	7,545,050	15,323,600
<b>Base metals &amp; articles thereof</b>	2003	7,433,500	22,307,950
	1996	35,705,910	236,844,400
	1997	46,227,630	269,515,620
	1998	75,501,870	297,005,860
	1999	88,388,520	285,960,670
	2000	102,316,850	374,515,320
	2001	124,932,020	405,721,540
	2002	104,136,680	406,256,940
<b>Machinery &amp; mechanical appliances</b>	2003	109,282,140	373,223,280
	1996	282,524,800	932,249,140
	1997	385,728,190	1,095,022,610
	1998	507,094,700	1,263,427,410
	1999	560,193,760	1,271,445,430
	2000	702,917,200	1,580,716,650
	2001	792,268,610	1,733,343,480
	2002	796,068,790	1,685,069,280
<b>Transportation equipment</b>	2003	916,290,170	1,677,061,670
	1996	18,554,330	291,998,980
	1997	20,128,970	406,463,770
	1998	31,791,080	559,459,970
	1999	54,902,570	512,642,370
	2000	94,562,020	607,701,940
	2001	105,235,120	739,768,390
	2002	118,620,020	625,659,050
<b>Instruments - measuring, musical</b>	2003	143,317,190	504,758,610
	1996	15,146,090	82,494,150
	1997	19,854,970	96,663,810
	1998	21,819,080	104,233,660
	1999	23,032,820	117,402,430
	2000	27,563,150	148,448,320
	2001	31,460,660	150,266,960
	2002	45,743,780	152,311,480
<b>Arms &amp; ammunition</b>	2003	59,741,640	138,083,500
	1996	13,910	447,160
	1997	10,240	1,075,590
	1998	6,040	809,260
	1999	37,150	1,181,460
	2000	9,820	583,710
	2001	8,600	1,483,240
	2002	6,720	4,157,570
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	2003	68,140	1,455,060
	1996	22,023,730	52,699,840
	1997	25,521,760	65,109,140
	1998	33,314,660	70,082,670
	1999	36,340,250	67,644,530
	2000	45,580,370	75,305,680
	2001	59,352,490	99,165,170
	2002	85,477,110	108,550,440
	2003	119,133,860	79,888,440

<b>Works of art</b>	1996	45,280	233,220
	1997	29,900	802,750
	1998	34,210	132,620
	1999	29,980	186,770
	2000	90,420	67,960
	2001	76,770	98,330
	2002	262,500	201,480
	2003	29,120	142,130
<b>Other</b>	1996	8,888,920	11,390,880
	1997	6,002,310	27,821,880
	1998	7,734,610	7,933,170
	1999	11,930,060	6,033,370
	2000	11,016,710	9,344,310
	2001	11,767,970	17,736,170
	2002	13,744,620	16,930,340
	2003	11,419,580	12,624,600

**Agriculture and Fisheries**  
last updated on  
2002-02-21

The primary food crops produced are barley, potatoes, sugar beets and wheat. The primary meat products are beef and veal, chicken, game, horse, camel, lamb, pork and turkey. The largest (in value terms) agricultural exports in 1998 were olive oil, fish, dates, cigarettes and flour of wheat. The total value of agricultural exports in 1998 was \$527.4 million, while the total value of agricultural imports in 1998 was \$918.5 million.

**Mining**  
last updated on  
2002-01-09

Phosphate rock output with its derivative products, and base-metal mining are the most important segments of the Tunisian non-energy mineral industry.

Phosphate rock extraction was entirely controlled and operated by the Government parastatal, *Compagnie des Phosphates de Gafsa*, the largest company in Tunisia. *Le Groupe Chimique Tunisien* controls phosphate processing through its Tunisian-owned *Société Industrielle d'Acide Phosphorique et d'Engrais* and *Société Arabe des Engrais Phosphates et Azotes*. *Société Minière du Nord-Ouest* operated a lead-zinc-barite mine at Boujabeur and a zinc mine at Hassine. The parastatal *Société du Djebel Djerissa* produced iron ore from the underground mine at Djerissa and the open pit operations at Tamera and Douaria.

**Services - Energy**  
last updated on  
2001-10-30

Electricity

Tunisian power demand is growing rapidly, at an estimated 7% annually. Recent census figures indicate that around 94.6% of Tunisian homes had access to electricity in 1999, up sharply from 85.9% in 1994. Around 97% of Tunisian power generating capacity is thermal (oil and gas), with the rest mainly hydropower.

In late 1999, financing on the \$250-million Rades, 471-megawatt (MW), gas-fired power project was completed. A consortium comprised of U.S.-based PSEG (60%), and Japan's Marubeni (40%) is developing the project on a 20-year build, own, and transfer (BOT) basis.

Rades -- Tunisia's first independent power plant -- is expected to become operational by January 2002. Gas for the Rades plant is to be supplied from various Tunisian sources. Tunisia's state-owned gas and power company, STEG (*Societe Tunisienne de l'Electricite et du Gaz*) has signed a 20-year power-purchase agreement with the consortium building Rades. BG is planning to build a \$200-million, 500-MW power plant near Sfax that will use gas from the Miskar, and eventually, Hasdrubal fields. BG will likely partner with STEG or ETAP, and the facility should be operational in 2006.

Libya and Tunisia are working on linking their electricity grids after a meeting of Arab energy ministers in April 2001, emphasized the importance of completing the project of linking all Arab countries' electricity grids. Red Electrica of Spain and Transenergie of Canada have been awarded a contract to advise the two governments on implementing the

connection.

Services -  
Financial  
last updated on  
2001-10-30

reform of the banking sector continued in the context of a structural adjustment program formulated with the World Bank, including the consolidation and restructuring of bad loans to public enterprises, the strengthening of the regulatory and prudential framework (adoption of a capital adequacy ratio of 8 percent applicable as of December 31, 1999 and reform of the banking law to establish universal banking), and merger of selected government-owned banks.

The average capital-asset ratio rose from 6.3 percent in 1997 to 8.9 percent in 1998, with 2 banks instead of 3 not complying with the present minimum level of 5 percent.

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## TARIFFS AND DUTIES

### Internal Taxation

#### 990006- *advance profit tax* [2003-04-01]

The Tunisian Government imposes since 1996 a 10% advance profit tax on importers. This advance profit tax is calculated on the basis of the CIF price, customs duties and VAT. The advance tax on profits, which is exclusively applied on imported goods, constitutes an unfair discrimination against imported goods. Also, it would appear extremely difficult, if not impossible in practice to reclaim the tax in case no profits are made.

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## NON TARIFF BARRIERS

### Standards and Other Technical Requirements

#### 990007- *Excessive testing* [2003-04-01]

Shipments of certain consumer goods are subject to laboratory testing by the Tunisian Authorities prior to release from the ports. This process prolongs customs clearance of goods from the Tunisian ports by about 6 to 8 weeks, sometimes up to 3 months. Products complying fully with European standards, even fairly common household products, still have to go through laboratory testing of samples before clearance.

Agriculture and  
Fisheries

### Sanitary and phytosanitary measures

#### 040055- *Tunisia- Live bovines, bovine products and derivates* [2004-12-20]

Ban on the import of live bovines and beef due to BSE

- General statement on BSE to all Third Countries at the SPS Committee 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 derivated 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).

#### 040020- *Tunisia- Vegetables, pickles* [0000-00-00]

Ban on the import because of content of Tartazine( NT 9025)

## GATS Specific Measures

### 990005- *publicity discrimination* [2003-04-01]

Imported and local products are not treated equally as far as access to media advertising is concerned. A premium of 250% is charged on television advertising of imported products. This very high premium is charged by the government-owned television station (RTT). A premium of 200% exists for advertising of imported goods on government-owned radiostations. European industry considers the premiums prohibitive and a serious limitation of access to the Tunisian market.

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