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## Iraqi-European-Oceanian Trade Relations for the Period 2009-2021

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### **Abstract**

*The purpose of the study was to shed light on how Iraq's exports and imports moved within the framework of trade agreements between the two countries, as well as the amount of money that the state made from maritime transport, which is vital to both the global economy in general and Iraqi trade in particular and the volume and value of trade exchanged through Iraqi seaports.*

**Keywords:** relations - Iraq - European - Oceania - trade - economic - exchange.

### **Introduction**

As a bridge of vital importance in the global economic system, through which the majority of economic, commercial, and financial movement flows, the continent of Europe, with its eastern and western parts, is a significant commercial and economic hub in the globe. Australia is known for being a region with a wide variety of economic commodities, particularly industrial and agricultural (plant and animal). This helped Iraq to establish economic relations with these regions to finance the requirements of economic development, and do not forget the interest of foreign countries in establishing trade relations with Iraq, which date back to ancient historical decades, especially since the discovery of oil and its extraction for the industrial and economic wheel.

### **Iraqi-European Trade Relations**

Iraq was associated with Europe with close historical relations that varied between tides and turns east or west under the pressure of internal and international variables<sup>(3)</sup>. The economic relations between Iraq and European countries are based on the export of oil and petrochemical products, the investment of petrodollars, and the import of food and industrial products.

The total volume of trade exchange increased by (64269.35, 70318.6) million dollars for exports and imports, respectively, as the volume of trade exchange between Iraq and European countries reached the highest level in 2010 by (87079.79) million dollars and (12.6%) for exports Table (1) and Figure (1) Exports continued to rise until 2014 by (6516.01) million dollars and by (10.1%) The year 2016 ranked last by (3353.33) million dollars, representing (5.2%) of the volume of trade exchange of exports.

As for imports, in 2018 it ranked first in the volume of trade exchange by (6734.86) million dollars and by (9.6%) of the total value of imports.

While the year 2009 ranked second by (6347.49) million dollars and (9%) of the total value of

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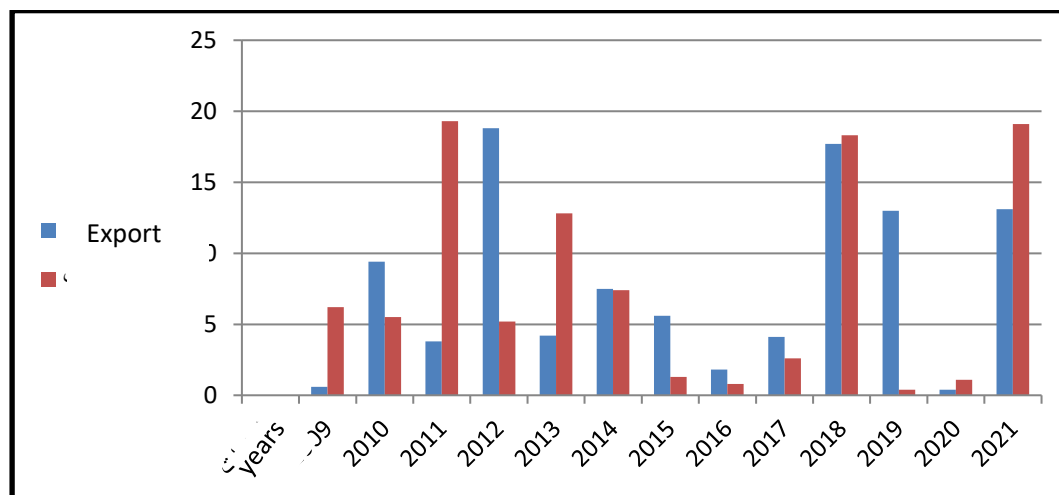
imports, while the year (2015-2020) ranked last by (4147.4, 4124.2) million dollars respectively and by (5.9%) each.

**Table (1):** Iraqi-European Trade Relations for the Period 2009-2021 (Value = Million Dollars).

Ratio	Exports	Ratio	Imports	Years
8,2	5280,2	9	6347,49	2009
12,6	87079,79	7,2	5064,17	2010
5,4	3488,75	9,5	6645,96	2011
5,3	3405,29	8	5658,85	2012
7,2	4631,43	7,1	5054,3	2013
10,1	6516,01	6	4190,7	2014
7,8	5012,29	5,9	4147,4	2015
5,2	3353,33	8,8	6207,33	2016
6,3	4016,28	7,6	5312,71	2017
6,2	4002,24	9,6	6734,86	2018
9,2	5934,78	6,7	4784,15	2019
7,1	4542,53	5,9	4124,2	2020
9,4	6006,43	8,7	6082,66	2021
100%	64269,35	100%	70318,6	Total

**Source:** Table of the Researcher's Work Based on.

- 1- National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), Massa Chusets Institute of Technology, <https://oec.world/en>.
- 2- United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Annual Statistical Series, No. 25, New York, 2004, p. 224.
- 3- League of Arab States, Unified Arab Economic Report, Arab Monetary Fund, 2009, p. 42.
- 4- United Nations, International Monetary Fund, 2008, p. 50.
- 5- Ministry of Planning, Central Bureau of Statistics, Annual Statistical Collection 2008-2009.



**Figure (1):** Iraqi-European Trade Relations for the Period 2009-2021 (Value = Million Dollars).

**Source:** Table (1) Data.

The establishment of economic and trade relations between Iraq and European countries has

been increasing since 2003 and the following years after it went through a number of turns, which resulted in the signing of many agreements and negotiating rounds, one of the objectives of which is to contribute to the establishment of market economies for Iraq and work to develop them with the countries of the region and the global system.

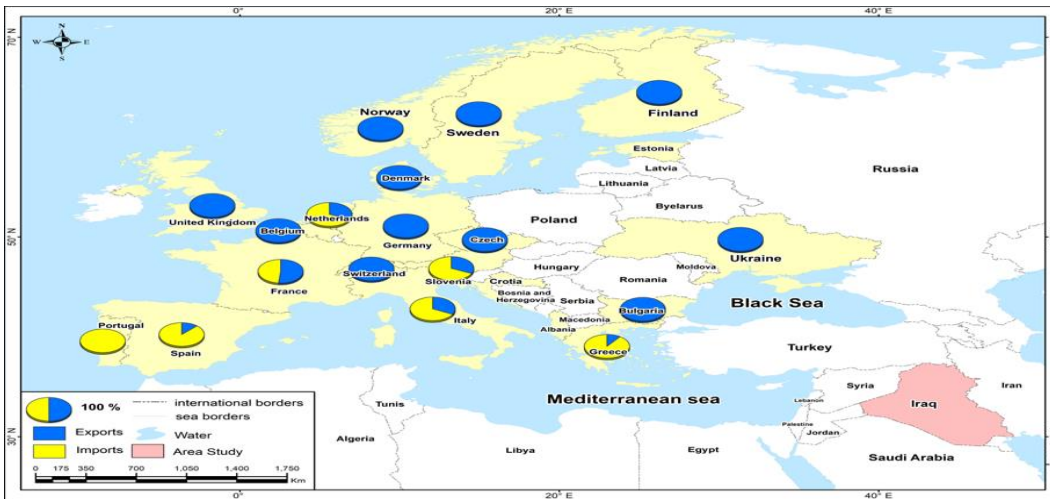
Among the most important of these agreements is an agreement for trade, economic and technical cooperation in 2012 with Italy in 2008, with Britain in 2009, with the Czech Republic in 2012 and with Armenia in 2013 Table (2) Map (1).

**Table (2):** Volume of Iraqi-European Trade Exchanges / 2009 (Value = Million Dollars).

Ratio	Exports	Ratio	Imports	Country
0	205285	0	2445	Albania
3,1	111136235	6,8	510056405	Austria
3,6	127986130	0	80923	Belgium
0,6	19552158	0	41991	Bulgaria
0,4	12862515	0	20648	Norway
5,9	207659897	13,3	1000482434	Netherlands
19,5	689486526	41,9	3156228906	Italy
2,9	102015191	0	2411803	Switzerland
4,1	146271825	0	6062	Czech Republic
23,7	840553192	0,2	13596692	Germany
1,5	51965981	0	64668	Denmark
2	72406703	13,3	1001042677	Spain
0	544944	0	49	Estonia
1,3	45522867	0	4215	Finland
14,8	524696672	13,8	1036746394	France
5,6	198025328	0	201106	United Kingdom
1	34447325	8,1	611868972	Greece
0	74900	0	15285	Croatia
6,4	224979584	0	44779	Ukraine
3,6	129223941	0	3093275	Sweden
0	995157	2,6	195974821	Portugal
100%	3540612356	100%	7531984550	Total

**Source:** Table of the Researcher's Work Based on.

- 1- National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), Massa Chusets Institute of Technology, <https://oec.world/en>.
- 2- United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Annual Statistical Compendium, No. 25, New York, 2004, p. 224.
- 3- League of Arab States, Unified Arab Economic Report, Arab Monetary Fund, 2009, p. 42.
- 4- United Nations, International Monetary Fund, 2008, p. 50.
- 5- Ministry of Planning, Central Bureau of Statistics, Annual Statistical Collection 2008 - 2009.



**Map (1):** Volume of Iraqi-European Trade Exchanges / 2009 (Value = Million Dollars).

**Source:** Table (2) Data.

Germany ranked first in terms of trade exchange with Iraq by (840553192) million dollars and by (23.7%) of the values of exports, because Iraq is associated with Germany with friendly relations before the establishment of the modern Iraqi state and then the conclusion of several agreements, including the agreement on economic, commercial, scientific, artistic and cultural cooperation, which was signed in 1981 to strengthen and develop relations between the two countries and after the regime change after 2003, full diplomatic relations between the two countries were restored.

Italy ranked second, with the total trade exchange between the two countries reaching (689486526) million dollars, accounting for (19.5%) of the total value of exports, and Estonia, Albania and Croatia ranked last by (544944, 205285, 74900) million dollars, respectively.

As for imports, Italy ranked first in terms of the volume of trade exchange with Iraq by (3156228906) million dollars and by (41.9%) of the values of Italian imports, while trade exchanges between France and Iraq ranked second by (1036746394) million dollars and by (13.8%) of the values of imports, within the economic and technical cooperation agreement with France signed in Baghdad in 1974 for the purpose of strengthening and developing the relationship between the two countries, while Estonia came in last place in terms of imports by (49) million. Dollar.

### – Iraqi-Oceanian Trade Relations

The Oceanian continent is characterized by its great economic importance, despite its extreme location and its distance from commercial markets, but it is an important commercial pole as its exports of agricultural and animal products, as it has remained exporting huge quantities of minerals and industrial goods, while its imports depend on crude oil, tobacco, some beverages, consumer goods and some basic metals<sup>(1)</sup>.

The economic relations between Iraq and Australia are based on the export of oil by Iraq and the import of consumer goods under the Trade, Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement held in Canberra in 1980 in order to strengthen, expand and diversify trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. We note through Table (3) and Figure (2) that the total values of exports and imports amounted to (5476.9 / 4880.06) million dollars respectively.

In 2012, the highest value of exports was recorded (1031),3 Million dollars (18.8%)

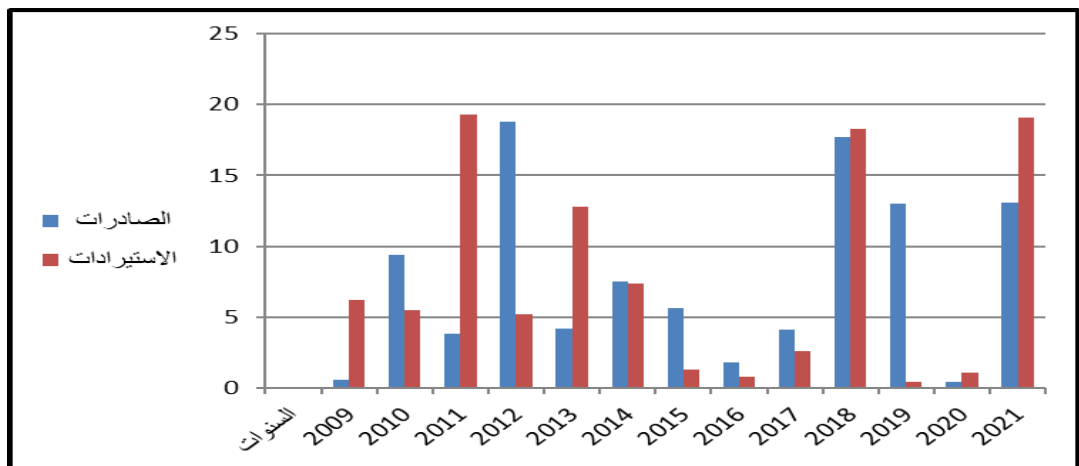
Followed by (2018) by (969) million dollars and (17.7%) of the total volume of exports, while (2020) recorded the lowest export value by (24.21) million dollars and by (0.4%) as a result of the political turmoil that followed the protests of 2019, as well as the decline in oil prices and the outbreak of the Corona virus pandemic.

**Table (3):** Volume of Iraqi-Oceanian Trade Exchange for the Period 2009-2021 (Value = Million Dollars).

Ratio	Exports	Ratio	Imports	Years
0,6	34	6,2	305	2009
9,4	513	5,5	270,7	2010
3,8	212	19,3	940	2011
18,8	1031,3	5,2	255,83	2012
4,2	230	12,8	627	2013
7,5	413,3	7,4	361	2014
5,6	304,19	1,3	65,42	2015
1,8	97	0,8	40,17	2016
4,1	223,9	2,6	129	2017
17,7	969	18,3	880	2018
13	707	0,4	18,94	2019
0,4	24,21	1,1	55	2020
13,1	718	19,1	932	2021
100%	5476,9	100%	4880,06	Total

**Source:** Table of the Researcher's Work Based on.

- 1- National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), Massa Chusets Institute of Technology, <https://oec.world/en>.
- 2- United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Annual Statistical Compendium, No. 20, New York, 2004, p. 216.
- 3- League of Arab States, Unified Arab Economic Report, Arab Monetary Fund, 2009, p. 34.



**Figure (3):** Volume of Iraqi-Oceanian Trade Exchanges for the Period 2009-2021 (Value = Million Dollars).

**Source:** Table (3) Data.

As for imports, they continued to rise compared to exports, as the year (2011) recorded the highest value of imports by (940) million dollars and by (19.3%), followed by (2018) by (880)

million dollars and by (18.3%) of the total value of imports, while the year (2019) recorded the lowest value of imports by (0.4%), as a result of the popular protests that swept Iraq since October to stimulate local industries and limit the import of competing foreign goods.

The volume of Iraqi trade exchanges with economic countries was limited to Australia, New Zealand, as New Zealand ranked first by (23498) million dollars and constituted (69.1%) of the total value of exports, while Australia ranked second by (10529) million dollars and by (30.9%) of the total volume of trade exchange of exports Table (4) and map (2).

**Table (4):** Volume of Iraqi Trade Exchange with Oceanian Countries in 2009 (Value = Million Dollars).

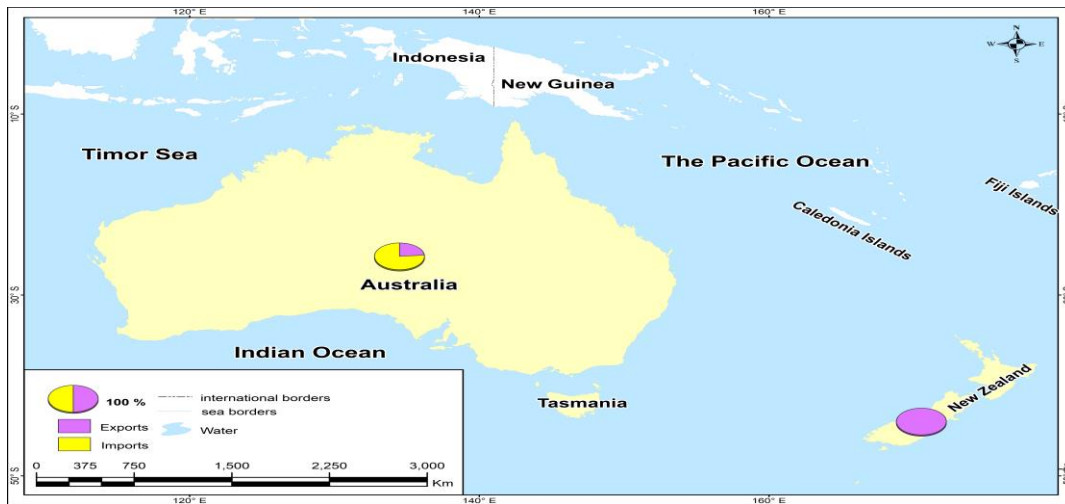
Ratio	Exports	Ratio	Imports	Country
30,9	10529	99,5	202714155	Australia
69,1	23498	0,5	1027882	New Zealand
100%	34027	100%	203742037	Total

**Source:** Table of the Researcher's Work Based on.

- 1- National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), Massa Chosts Institute of Technology, <https://oec.world/en>.
- 2- United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Annual Statistical Compendium, No. 20, New York, 2004, p. 216.
- 3- League of Arab States, Unified Arab Economic Report, Arab Monetary Fund, 2009, p. 34.

As for imports, Australia ranked first by (202714155) million dollars and by (99.5%) of the total value of imports, while New Zealand ranked second by (1027882) million dollars and by (0.5%) of the total values of trade exchange of imports.

This trade exchange took place within the agreement of trade, economic and technical cooperation between Iraq and New Zealand, which was held in Baghdad in 1982 to enhance economic and technical trade cooperation based on mutual benefit between the two countries and strengthen relations in the fields of trade and economy.



**Map (2):** Volume of Iraqi Trade Exchanges with Oceanian Countries in 2009 (Value = Million Dollars).

**Source:** Table (4) Data.

## Results

- 1- Iraq has economic relations with the countries of Europe and Oceania, from which many agreements have emerged, including an agreement on economic, social, scientific and technical cooperation with Italy, Britain, the Czech Republic and Armenia, as well as New Zealand in the continent of Oceania.
- 2- The year 2010 recorded the highest volume of trade exchange between Iraq and European countries by (8,707,979) million dollars and a rate of 12.6% for exports. If Germany ranked first with (840,553,192) million dollars and (23.7%) of the value of exports.

While the year 2012 recorded the highest value of exports amounting to (1031.3) million dollars and a percentage that constituted (18.8%) of the volume of Iraqi-Oceanian trade exchange, if New Zealand ranked first by (23498) million dollars and constituted (69.1%) of the total value of Iraqi Oceanian exports.

- 3- The year 2018 recorded the first rank for the volume of trade exchange between Iraq and European countries by (6734.86) million dollars and by 9.6% of the total value of imports, as Italy ranked first for the volume of trade exchanges with Iraq by (3156228906) million dollars and by (41.9%) of the total value of imports. As for Oceania, in 2011 recorded the highest value of the volume of trade exchange by (940) and by (19.3%) of the total value of imports. Australia ranked first by (20,2714,155) million dollars, by (99.5) of the total Import values.

## References

- (1) Amna Muhammad Ali, Iraqi Foreign Policy towards the European Union and its Future Prospects, *International Studies*, Issue (4), p. 118.
- (2) National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), Massa Chusets Institute of Technology, <https://oec.world/en>.
- (3) United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), *Annual Statistical Compendium*, No. 25, New York, 2004.
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- (5) United Nations, *International Monetary Fund*, 2008.
- (6) Ministry of Planning, Central Bureau of Statistics, *Annual Statistical Collection 2008 - 2009*.

years  
Export  
import