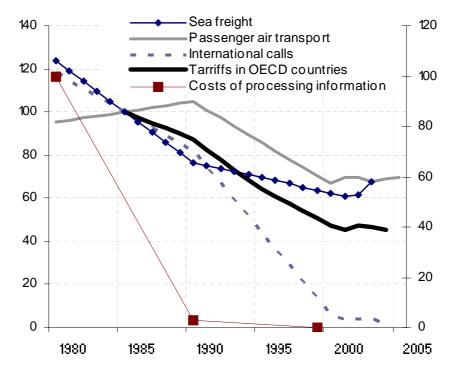
Chart I:
Costs of transport, information processing costs, and tariffs

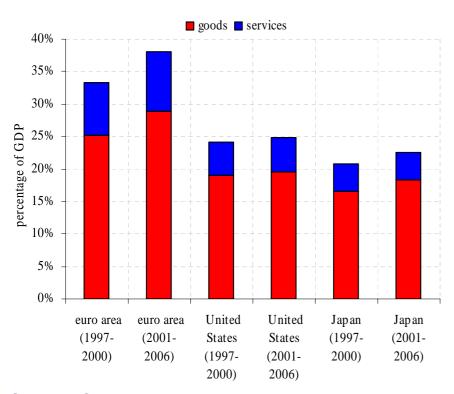
(Index, 1985-100)



Source: OECD.

Note: Tariffs are median of national mean bound tariffs for OECD countries, Sea freight is average international freight charges per tonne, passenger air transport is average airline revenue per passenger mile/US import air passenger fares; international calls is cost of a three-minute call from New York to London, costs of processing information is cost of computing an average operation (sum and multiplication).

Chart 2a:
Openness of the euro area, the
United States and Japan

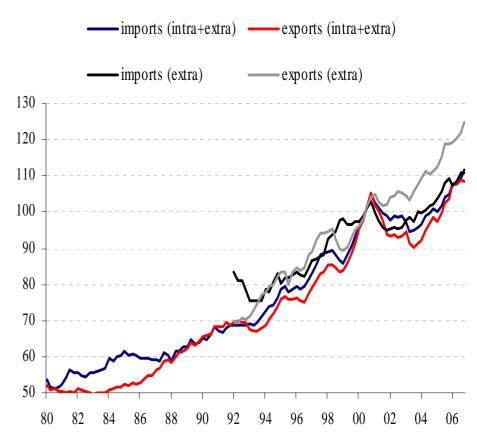


Source: ECB calculations.

Note: The degree of openness is measured as exports plus imports as a percentage of GDP, average 1997-2006. Euro area based on extra euro area trade.

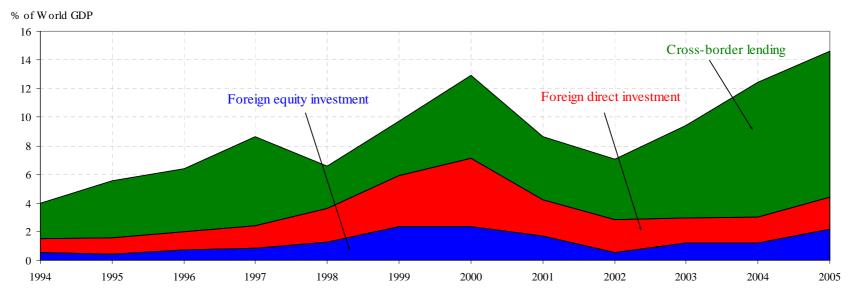
Chart 2b: Total and extra-euro area imports and exports divided by GDP

(quarterly data; indices; 2000=100; volumes)



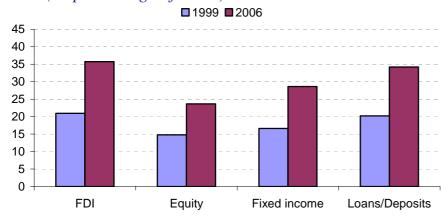
Source: ECB calculations.

Chart 3: Inward capital flows in the OECD countries



Euro area foreign assets

(as percentage of GDP)



Euro area foreign liabilities

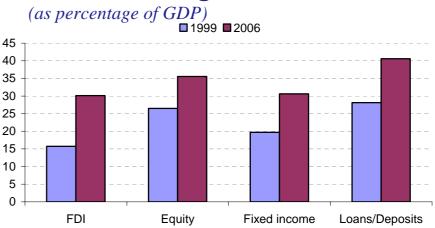


Chart 4a: China and NMS have lower import price level

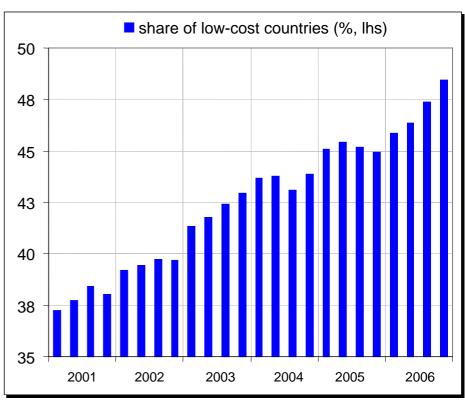
(euros per kg of EA manufacturing imports)

70 High Cost 60 Total 50 40 30 Rest of World 20 MMS 10 China 0 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005

Source: Eurostat Comext data and ECB staff calculations. Note: Latest observation refers to 2005.

Chart 4b: Rising share of low-cost countries in euro area imports

(values in euro; % of extra-EA imports)



Source: Eurostat, ECB staff calculations Note: Latest observation refers to Q4 2006. Low-cost countries consists of 15 countries and regions (including ASEAN, NMS, CIS, China, India, etc).

Table I Impact of low-cost countries on extra-EA manuf. import prices

Decomposition of low-cost effect

(annual average 1996-2004, percentage points unless otherwise indicated)

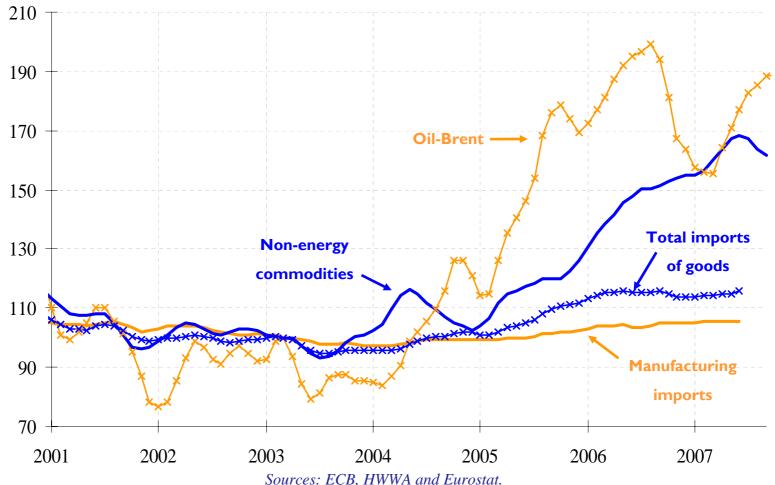
Low-cost effect (aggregate direct effect)	-2.1		
Share effect		-1.6	
Of which:			
China			-0.8
NMS			-0.7
Rest of low-cost			0.0
Price effect		-0.5	
Of which:			
China			-0.2
NMS			-0.2
Rest of low-cost			-0.1

Sources: ECB staff calculations.

Note: "Share effect" captures the impact of rising import share and relatively low price level of low cost import suppliers (1.6 pp per annum); "price effect" captures impact of relatively lower import price inflation of low cost countries (0.5 pp per annum).

Chart 5
Extra-euro area import and commodity prices

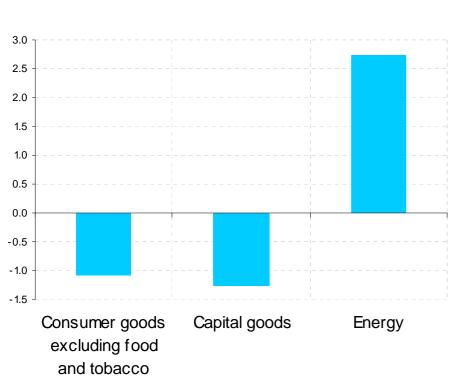
(indices: 2003M1=100, 3-month moving avg.)



Note: Last observation relates to dates from July 2007 to September 2007. All prices are in euro.

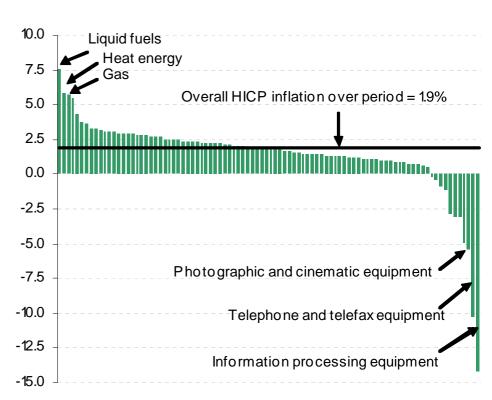
Chart 6a: Producer prices: Evolution of selected sub-indices relative to overall index

(Difference between annualised growth rate over 1996-2006 in component relative to overall index, %)



Source: ECB calculations based on Eurostat data.

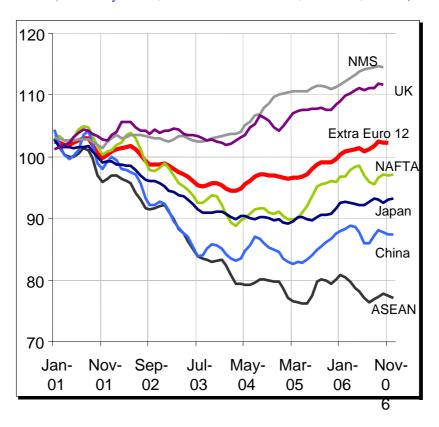
Chart 6b:
Consumer prices: average price changes in euro area HICP subcomponents (average annual change over 1996-2006, %)



Source: ECB calculations based on Eurostat data. Note: Data for 92 HICP subcomponents.

Chart 7
Recent developments in extra-EA manuf. import prices by import supplier

(monthly data, unit value indices, 3MMA, Euro)



Sources: ECB, HWWA and Eurostat.

Note: Last observation relates to dates ranging from Nov. 2006

to March 2007.