

Did you know the Census Bureau has the most detailed insights on products imported into and exported from the United States?

With these data, you can track trends for specific products and services over time, and even look at trade data between specific countries. These data are easily accessed through our tool USA Trade Online.

In this Data Gem, we will show you how to access export data for a specific products like dairy products or sub-products, such as cheese or cheddar cheese being exported from the United States into the European Union. We will also share tips on spots where you could get tripped up.

Hi, I'm John Darr a Program Analyst in the Economics Indicator Division and together we're going to find out how much cheese was exported from the United States to the European Union from 2019 to 2022.

If you're lactose intolerant or just not a fan of cheese, that's okay, it's very simple to swap out the cheese for your favorite commodity.

Start your search by going to usatrade.census.gov.

You'll need to create an account. It's free and takes just a moment. Once you have a User ID and password, log in. This page is called the Data Selection Source.

Let's click on EXPORTS just to the right of Harmonized System District-Level Data. Now we're on the Commodity selection page.

The Harmonized System.

Also known as HS Codes, are used to organize products into a hierarchy. 01 contains live animals, 02 Meat, 03 Fish, all the way to 97 for works of art and 98 for special provisions. There are a few ways to begin our commodity search.

If you know exactly what you're looking for, you can type it in the search box.

However, for your first few searches I recommend using the commodity list below to expand the hierarchy to find the commodity level you need.

We're looking for cheese, and cheese is a dairy product. So, see that box with a plus sign to the left of 04 Dairy Products?

Let's start there.

That's the HS code we're looking for. Click it and we'll dive deeper into the commodities.

Now find 0406 – Cheese and Curd – and click the plus box to dive deeper. Here you can see all the different kinds of cheese categories, and if we wanted, we could expand each of these codes to zero in on maybe cheddar cheese.

But for the sake of this walkthrough, let's just pull data at the 4 digit level and that'll give us everything considered cheese and curd. I'll click the empty box next to 0406 and a check appears. We've selected cheese. Before leaving this page, look to the left side of the screen.

These links allow us to customize our report even further. The Measures page allows us to choose whether we want the total value of the goods, the physical volume, the average price paid per unit, or the number of line items.

The default is Value in US Dollars, so if we do not visit this page and select a different value, our report will tell us the dollar value of cheese exported.

The Country page allows us to focus on where these exports went.

Let's go there.

Much like the commodity section, we start broad and clicking on the box with the plus sign will allow us to dive deeper.

If we do not make a selection on this page, our report will pull the world total. But let's expand the International Organizations and Trade Agreements. And voila – there's the EU. Click the empty box on the left to add a check mark.

Finally, let's click on Time. USA Trade Online offers annual data back to 1992 and monthly data starting in 2002. Expanding a year will reveal the individual months.

Let's select 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 and that will give us year totals. There's a spot that trips up users.

Here it is.

See that word Report at the top, it's easy to miss. That's what we want to click to get our cheese data.

And there you go! Cheese exports from the United States to the EU from 2019 to 2022.

Click the green arrow, then OK to download the report. I find that CSV and Multi-dimensional work the best for me. These data come from the Census Bureau's U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services report and are released each month.

This was a basic data pull to get you started, but USA Trade Online is capable of doing so much more.

For additional training on this tool's advanced features like customization reports and seeing data by method of transport, please attend a Trade Data Tools webinar or visit census.gov/foreign-trade and follow the Outreach links.

Linked below.

For more videos like this, visit census.gov/academy and while you're there, don't forget to subscribe!