

	Imports	Exports	Total imports and exports	Export surplus
1896—1900	5 966	7 014	12 980	1 048
1901—1905	8 497	10 424	18 921	1 927
1906—1910	11 531	13 707	25 238	2 176
1911—1915	18 112	22 368	40 480	4 256
1916—1920	53 709	48 453	102 162	+5 256
1921—1925	56 562	64 212	120 774	7 650
1926	57 767	53 070	110 837	+4 697
1927	53 162	63 153	116 315	9 991

This summary shows that the exports have usually, though not always during the Great War and the years immediately succeeding, exceeded the imports in value.

Compared with the number of population the total foreign trade (imports and exports) is larger than that of most other countries. This is largely due to the fact, that a country like Iceland which has a very limited range of products, must depend on foreign countries for a great number of important goods and necessities.

The import and export value per head of inhabitants may be seen from the following summary:

	Imports	Exports	Total
1896—1900	78 kr.	91 kr.	169 kr.
1901—1905	107 —	131 —	238 —
1906—1910	139 —	165 —	304 —
1911—1915	207 —	256 —	463 —
1916—1920	583 —	526 —	1 109 —
1921—1925	580 —	658 —	1 238 —
1926	568 —	522 —	1 090 —
1927	515 —	611 —	1 126 —

It should be mentioned that the great increase in 1916—1920 is due solely to the enormous general rise in the price-level during the Great War.

The subjoined table roughly shows the value of the imports to Iceland, distributed over the following groups:

	Total value					
	1000 kr. 1925	1000 kr. 1926	1000 kr. 1927	Reckoned in percent.		
			1925	1926	1927	
Foodstuffs	9 651	7 821	7 532	13.7	13.5	14.2
Coffee, sugar, tobacco etc.	5 903	5 708	4 811	8.4	9.9	9.0
Other goods for consumption	4 537	4 072	3 502	6.5	7.1	6.6
Textiles and clothes.	11 590	9 109	7 758	16.5	15.8	14.6
Fuel and lighting materials	9 334	5 763	7 617	13.3	10.0	14.3
Building materials	6 009	5 973	4 851	8.6	10.3	9.1
Materials for the fishing trade	12 178	8 223	8 111	17.4	14.2	15.3
Materials for farming	1 365	1 664	1 220	1.9	2.9	2.3
Various materials for production	9 624	9 434	7 760	13.7	16.3	14.6
Total	70 191	57 767	53 162	100.0	100.0	100.0