

PORTUGAL, 1775-1831

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1. Coverage

Series for Portuguese foreign trade are available from 1775 to 1831. The statistics were interrupted in 1832 because of the Portuguese civil war between liberals and absolutists. They were resumed in the 1840s, but with gaps and a different structure.

2. Documents

Annual balances of trade were produced from 1775 to 1831. These synthetic documents were assembled mostly in three separate books:

- The first concerned trade with the Portuguese Empire (“*Balança do Comercio deste Reyno com Os Seus Dominios – Balance of Trade of the Kingdom with its Domains*”);
- the second detailed trade with external markets (“*Balança Geral do Commercio do Reyno de Portugal com as Naçoens Estrangeiras – Balance of Trade of the Kingdom of Portugal with Foreign Nations*”);
- and the third book presented the same information as collected in the first two books but in summary form (“*Resumo da Balança Geral do Commercio do Reino de Portugal com o Brazil, Dominios Portuguezes e Nações Estrangeiras*” – “*Synopsis of the Balance of Trade of the Kingdom of Portugal with Brazil, Portuguese Domains, and Foreign Nations*”).
- There are, however, a few years for which this information is compiled in one single book (“*Balança geral do Commercio do Reyno de Portugal com os seus Dominios e Naçoens Estrangeiras – Balance of Trade of the Kingdom of Portugal with its Domains and Foreign Nations*”).

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- The statistical series available cover the years 1776, 1777, 1783, 1787, 1789, and 1796–1831. However for 1783, 1787, and 1789 only the balances of trade with external markets are given. An early nineteenth-century source indicates that balances of trade for the years 1775, 1780, and 1790 were also produced.³ However they were either lost or – more likely – destroyed by fire in 1821.⁴
- There are also the balances of trade with Great Britain alone for the period between 1775 and 1785 (“*Balança Geral do Commercio Do Reyno de Portugal Com Inglaterra Pelo Calculo do valor da Importação e Exportação das suas Praças desde o Anno de 1775 [Até] 1785 – The Balance of Trade of the Kingdom of Portugal with England by the calculation of the value of Imports and Exports with its cities since 1775 [until] 1785*”).
- Most of these annual registers include an introduction that expresses an array of ideas based upon the data collected.

3. Institutional setting

The institution that registered the entry and exit of goods in Portugal was the *Contadoria da Superintendência Geral dos Contrabandos, e Descaminhos dos Reaes Direitos* (General Superintendence Accounting of Smuggling and Embezzlement of Royal Rights). The man who signed the balances of trade between 1800 and 1825 was Maurício José Teixeira de Moraes. He had worked in the *Contadoria* since 1774. He was promoted to *contador* by royal decree of March 4, 1802. From 1826 on, balances were signed by Jacinto Teixeira de Azevedo due to the illness of Maurício José who died on 29 December 1832.

4. Motivation

The decree that decided on the creation of a balance of trade was dated 20 May 1774 and signed by the First Marques of Pombal. The balances were intended to:

3. “Ayant entre les mains (...) les bilans du commerce du Portugal des années 1775, 1880, 1790 et ceux de 1796 a 1820 si savamment rédigés par M. le chevalier Maurício José Teixeira de Moraes (...)”, in Balbi, (1822: 401).

4. “Since I have nothing more to add, I will demonstrate (...) the total of Portuguese wine exported (...) only for the years 1816 to 1824 (due to the fact that many balances of trade were consumed in the great fire of June, 1821)”. *Balança Geral do Commercio do Reino de Portugal com o Reino do Brazil, Dominios, e Nações Estrangeiras No Anno de 1824*.

- (a) elaborate on and create an annual and systematic record relating to Portuguese trade over the years;
- (b) determine the resources of the Portuguese Empire;⁵
- (c) accurately determine the export and import flows for each and every market;
- (d) determine the qualities, quantities, and prices of the goods traded by the Portuguese Empire;
- (e) identify signs of smuggling in foreign trade and its consequences for the state, in particular the losses in state revenues;⁶
- (f) inform the king and his ministers about the state of Portuguese foreign trade;⁷
- (g) better understand Portugal's position in international trade and the way foreign imports might contribute to the betterment of Portugal's economy;⁸
- (i) provide conclusive evidence on the economic consequences of international treaties.⁹

5. Methods

The information contained in the balance of trade registers was based on declarations collected from documents issued by several administrative bureaus. The latter were responsible for the accuracy of data which was collected in "*Books, Deals, Maps, Customs dispatch manifests of all the Kingdom's Customs Houses and tax bureaus of this city*".¹⁰

5. "... to know the nations resources as soon as its potential is calculated". *Balança Geral do Commercio do Reyno de Portugal com Os Seus Dominios, No Anno de 1805.*

6. "... the legitimate balance of all imports and exports, may not be so much benign to this Kingdom, due to the present smuggling of this nation [England], which, every year, causes a downfall of State revenues". *Balança Geral do Commercio do Reino de Portugal com os seus Dominios e Nações Estrangeiras, No Anno de 1805.*

7. "... the actual balance of trade was extremely important to the supreme ruler [refers to the most important person of the Portuguese empire at the time, Prince D. João] and to his Ministers of State". *Balança Geral do Commercio do Reyno de Portugal com Os Seus Dominios, No Anno de 1805.*

8. "Grain every year compounds us with large sums to this [Prussia], and other nations, which deserves all of our attention since it increases our agriculture productivity and we'd be with all kinds of grain, linen and hemp to fill our factories of Beira and Minho, as well with wool production from livestock, which will give us fabrication from wool, mulberry cultivation and silkworms breeding, from what we can say that our factories from years to years always provided us with such elegant upholstery design and beautiful colors.". *Balança Geral do Commercio do Reino de Portugal com as Nações Estrangeiras No Anno de 1805.*

9. "... until this baneful Trade Treaty of 1810 endures,[England] will introduce in Portugal as much cloth it could produce. This trade deserves our most serious thought." *Balança Geral do Commercio do Reino de Portugal com o Reino do Brazil, Provincias Ultramarinas, e Nações Estrangeiras No Anno de 1821.*

Other sources used by the *Contadoria* include “*Merchant Shipping Books, confronted with maps, by the Ultramar ports and isles that will be submitted to the General Superintendence Accounting of Smuggling and Embezzlement of Royal Rights (...) and other important documents which every year have been asked for from other offices to achieve perfection*”.¹¹

Data were checked by comparing the information displayed in each of these documents. Bearing in mind that smuggling and tax evasion are a necessary evil in a protectionist setting, the existence of a statistical series provides a reliable approximation of the actual flow of goods and prices. Moreover, preliminary results from the trade database currently under construction show that the calculations made in the balances of trade are coherent.¹²

6. Information

The information collected encompasses prices, quantities, units, goods, classes, origins, and ports of entry of goods, exchange rates (for some years and markets), number of Portuguese and foreign ships that entered and exited the country (for some years and markets). The books also contained significant introductions, contextualizing and interpreting the quantitative data.

Each flow of imports and exports was measured in value. In general, it is possible to identify for each register the product, quantity, price, and unit of account used. The currency unit was the real and prices varied over the years. Export prices are FOB (free on board) and import prices are CIF (cost, insurance, and freight).¹³ Numerous units were used for physical quantities. So far we have identified around 70 different quantity units.

There are about 13 000 different types of goods, individual products mainly; the rest being registered as sets of aggregated products. Commodities were classified in several categories, but they are not coherent: a given product may often belong to different categories. Some of those categories include both raw materials and transformed goods.

10. “Livros, Relações, Mappas, e Manifestos dos Despachos de todas as Alfandegas do Reyno, e Mezas Fiscâes desta Cidade”. *Balança Geral do Commercio do Reyno de Portugal, com as Nações Estrangeiras No Anno de 1800*.

11. *Balança Geral do Commercio do Reyno de Portugal com Os Seus Dominios e Nações Estrangeiras, No Anno de 1802*.

12. Project *Trade Networks of Small and Neutral States before, during, and after the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Conflicts (1750–1850)*. Reference PTDC/HIS-HIS/118984/2010. Principal Investigator: Maria Cristina Moreira.

With the exception of the years 1776, 1777, and 1783, balance of trade records classified Portuguese imports from its domains and foreign nations and Portuguese exports to its domains.¹⁴

The books provide accurate information of both the external market¹⁵ and Portuguese empire market¹⁶ from or to which the commodities flowed. Moreover, they indicate the Portuguese administrative region where the trade was registered.¹⁷ Finally, the geographical origins of Portuguese or colonial imports and the origin of Portuguese exports to colonial markets are specified as well. As for the imports from foreign nations, it is possible to identify the market from which the goods were imported. Moreover, for exports to foreign nations it is possible to identify their origin: the Portuguese Empire (Africa, Asia, Atlantic Isles, Brazil, Kingdom) or re-exports.¹⁸

7. Availability

Some of the data have already been digitized and are currently being processed into a database.

8. Research questions

Thus far the information extracted from the balance of trade books has been used in works analyzing trade in the Portuguese Empire and Portuguese trade with Britain, Spain, Hamburg, and the United States of America.

However, one can easily think of other issues that can be addressed with these data for instance:

(1) Was Portugal's dependence on exports to settle imports inherent in economic growth?

13. "In each of these important articles we can see the quantities and sorts of imported and exported commodities, the average calculated price, with the difference however that the price regarding imports would be the cost and expense regarding the goods that arrived to the ports of Portugal before paying the custom fees; on the other hand, the exports price will have an inflated cost upon the value-based pricing of the current year, exports fees and commission. The knowledge about the quantity and quality of the genres by Entrance or Exit was extracted from the Book of Shipments Relations of customs all around the kingdom and fiscal documentation of this city [Lisbon], even the ones that were tax-free" and "... For the construction of the balance the prices of the first cost from the port of origin were examined; to the exports, the commissions and rights of export will be added; to know these prices, some traders of the market were consulted; from those conversations, and with other well thought speculations, the medium prices were extracted". The former citation is from: *Balança Geral Do Commercio do Reyno de Portugal com as, Nações Estrangeiras, Em o Anno de 1796* and *Balança Geral Do Commercio do Reyno de Portugal com Os Seus Dominios Em o Anno de 1796* for the latter.

(2) How did prices and quantities of the principal goods change in the foreign market?

(3) How can foreign trade data contribute to constructing an index of industrial and agriculture productivity over the period?

(4) Will we be able to see export and import price fluctuations parallel to what we know about the markets?

(5) How elastic were the supply of and demand for Portuguese imports?

(6) Would Portugal fit in with the international market as a re-export platform? Would the benefits and profits cover all the involved partners?

(7) To trace the trade flows between the Portuguese Empire and foreign markets, especially whether the pressure of the war effort allowed more latitude for Portugal (and other small and/or neutral states) to explore its trade options.

(8) To assess the changes in the types of goods exchanged over this complex period.

14. For Portuguese exports to its domains: *Drogas* (drugs), *Lanifícios* (wool industry – includes raw material and manufactured goods), *Linifícios* (linen industry – includes raw material and manufactured goods), *Madeira* (wood), *Mantimentos* (provisions), *Manufaturas de Algodão* (cotton objects – discriminated between British and foreign cotton objects), *Produções da Ásia* (Asia products), *Metais* (metals), *Ouro e Prata* (gold and silver – for a few years we have the values of silver alone and gold alone), *Sedas* (silks – includes raw material and manufactured goods), *Produções das fábricas do reino* (goods from the Kingdom factories – this class includes some of the Kingdom’s manufactured goods, however there are other classes that also include national manufactured goods) and *Vários Gêneros* (miscellaneous goods).

For Portuguese imports from its domains: *Algodão* (cotton – includes raw material and manufactured goods), *Courama* (leather), *Drogas* (drugs), *Gêneros estrangeiros reexportados do Brasil* (Foreign goods reexported from Brazil), *Madeira* (wood), *Mantimentos* (provisions), *Ouro e prata* (gold and silver – for a few years we have the values of silver alone and gold alone) *Produções da Ásia* (Asia products), *Vários Gêneros* (miscellaneous goods).

For Portuguese imports from foreign nations: *Algodão* (cotton – includes raw material and manufactured goods; sometimes there is additional information regarding cotton fabric and British cotton products), *Drogas* (drugs), *Lanifícios* (wool industry – includes raw material and manufactured goods), *Linifícios* (linen industry – includes raw material and manufactured goods), *Madeira* (wood), *Mantimentos* (provisions), *Metais* (metals), *Sedas* (silks – includes raw material and manufactured goods) and *Vários Gêneros* (miscellaneous goods).

15. Austria, Barbary Coast, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Hamburg, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Prussia, Russia, Spain, Sweden and United States of America.

16. Atlantic Isles: Madeira and Azores, Africa: Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea and Mozambique), Brazil, Asia: India, Batavia (Indonesia) and Macau.

17. Algarve, Aveiro, Caminha, Figueira da Foz, Lisbon, Porto, Setubal, Viana do Castelo and Vila do Conde, Alentejo, Beira, Minho, and Trás-os-Montes, the four latter regions being grouped into one region, “Provinces” since 1799.

18. *África* (Africa), *Ásia* (Asia), *Ilhas* (Atlantic Isles), *Brasil* (Brazil), *Reino* (Kingdom) and *Fora do Reino Reexportados* (Re-exports).

(9) To determine the significance of this trade for the war effort of the major participants, i.e., the scale and scope of this trade, both in the short and the long term.

(10) To analyze the response of the small/neutral states' foreign trade during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars in relation to military needs.

(11) To understand the effects of the war which spilled over to influence the relations between neutrals.

(12) To analyze new outlets and sources, alternative trading partners and networks for the trade of many countries which had seen an impact on trade relations as a result of war, an impact which affected all nations.

(13) To analyze the relationship between external trade in a wartime and dumping.

9. Bibliography

9.1. Primary sources of the Portuguese balances of trade (1775–1831)¹⁹

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PT/AHMOP/SGC/05/02, *Balança Geral do Commercio do Reyno de Portugal com os seus Dominios e Naçoens Estrangeiras No Anno de 1777;*

PT/AHMOP/SGC/05/04 *Balança Geral do Commercio do Reino de Portugal com os seus Dominios e Nações Estrangeiras 1796-1820;*

PT/AHMOP/SGC/06 *Alfabeto Das Importaçoes e Exportaçoes Do Reyno de Portugal Com As Naçoens Estrangeiras Em o Anno De 1789;*

PT/AHMOP/SGC/05/06 *Balança do Comercio deste Reyno com Os Seus Dominios No Anno de 1798;*

PT/AHMOP/SGC/05/07 *Balança Geral do Commercio do Reino de Portugal com Os Seus Dominios, e Naçoens Estrangeiras, No Anno de 1808* (book in summary form);

19. The *Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo*, Lisbon, Portugal has also almost all the years of the Portuguese balances of trade, PT-TT-JC/C/1 to 30. The *Fundação da Biblioteca Nacional, Rio do Janeiro, Brasil* has some copies of the Portuguese balance of trade that can be found in the *Arquivo Histórico do Ministério das Obras Públicas*, Lisbon, Portugal. Furthermore, some of the Portuguese balances of trade in *Instituto Nacional de Estatística*, Lisbon, Portugal can be found in *Arquivo Histórico do Ministério das Obras Públicas*, Lisbon, Portugal, in *Fundação da Biblioteca Nacional*, Rio do Janeiro, Brazil and in *Instituto Histórico e Geográfico Brasileiro*, Rio do Janeiro, Brazil.

PT/AHMOP/SGC/05/08 *Balança Geral do Commercio do Reino de Portugal com o Reino do Brazil, Dominios, e Nações Estrangeiras*, No Anno de 1822.

Instituto Nacional de Estatística, Lisbon, Portugal

INEG2448, years: 1796, 1797, 1799 to 1807, 1809 to 1821 and 1823 to 1831.

Fundação da Biblioteca Nacional, Rio do Janeiro, Brazil

Cód. 17, 4, 27, *Balança Geral do Commercio Do Reyno de Portugal Com Inglaterra Pelo Calculo do valor da Importação e Exportação das suas Praças desd'o Anno de 1775 [Até] 1785* (Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo, Lisboa, Portugal, Projecto Reencontro, Biblioteca Nacional, F 0110 P);

Cód. 18, 4, 1, *Balança Geral do Commercio Do Reyno de Portugal com as Nações Estrangeiras no Anno de 1783* (Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo, Lisboa, Portugal, Projecto Reencontro, Biblioteca Nacional, F 0110 P);

Cód. 11, 4, 7, *Balança Geral do Commercio Do Reyno de Portugal com as Nações Estrangeiras Em o Anno de 1787* (Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo, Lisboa, Portugal, Projecto Reencontro, Biblioteca Nacional, F 0110 P);

Cód. 11, 4, 11, *Balança Geral do Commercio Do Reyno de Portugal com as Nações Estrangeiras no Anno de 1798* (Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo, Lisboa, Portugal, Projecto Reencontro, Biblioteca Nacional, F 0105 P).

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9.4. Complementary sources

9.4.1. Primary sources

The balances of trade are the most reliable source for studying and quantifying Portuguese external trade from the last quarter of the eighteenth century until 1831. For previous periods there is no one such consistent source. Nevertheless, there is a fairly wide array of sources in the Portuguese national, regional, district, and municipal archives and libraries that can provide data about trade for the seventeenth, eighteenth and earliest nineteenth centuries, such as:

- a) For Lisbon, the letters of City Hall (published in the work of Freire de Oliveira, *Elementos para a História do Municipio de Lisboa*);
- b) the *Corpo Cronológico, Ministerio do Reino e Inquisição* (kept in the Arquivo Nacional Torre do Tombo);
- c) the *Coleção Pombalina, Memória Feita e Publicada pelos Ingleses em Lisboa em Julho de 1729* (Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal, codex, 638);

- d) the freight contracts registered by Portuguese notaries;
- e) for the trade based on Porto, one can also count on the records of the customs house since 1639, which allow research into quantities imported and exported, something that the contracts do not show;
- f) the records of the *Conselho de Fazenda* or the *Conselho Ultramarino* (useful for clarifying the contexts surrounding freight contracts);
- g) the *Gazeta de Lisboa*, a newspaper published between 1715 and 1833;
- h) the *Reflexões geraes sobre o mapa do comercio de Portugal com as nações estrangeiras em 1777* (Biblioteca da Ajuda, códex 52-IX-26(1)),
- i) consular sources, like the *Mémoire sur le commerce de la France en Portugal par le chevalier de Saint Priest, 13 mars 1764*²⁰, *État du Portugal en 1778 – Responses du Consul de France a Lisbonne aux questions envoyées de Paris*,²¹ and *Notions générales sur le commerce de Portugal, 1786*²².
- j) the *Arquivo Histórico do Ministério das Obras Públicas* also provides a set of documentation that can shed some light on Portuguese commerce in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, namely the following collections: *Documentos respeitantes a comércio, 1743-1747, 1789-1791 e 1795, 1822-1830*²³; *Índices dos registos de decretos, alvarás, consultas, ordens e outros documentos respeitantes à Junta do Comércio, 1755-1757*²⁴; *Registos de decretos, alvarás, consultas, ordens e outros documentos respeitantes à Junta do Comércio, 1755-1757, 1755-1802*²⁵; *Documentos acerca de assuntos alfandegários, 1766-1785*²⁶; *Avisos e ordens recebidas, 1757-1834*²⁷; *Consultas da Junta do Comércio, 1763 a 1818*²⁸; *Mesa do Bem Comum dos Mercadores*²⁹; *Registo dos papéis extraídos da Mesa para a Junta do Comércio 1758-1828, 2 volumes*³⁰.

9.4.2. Works on complementary foreign sources

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21. Godinho, 1955: 336-341.

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23. Documents regarding trade, 1743-1747, 1789-1791 and 1795, 1822-1830.

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25. Records of decrees, charters, advice, orders and other documents regarding the Trade Board, 1755-1757, 1755-1802.

26. Documents about custom houses matters, 1766-1785

27. Warnings and orders received, 1757-1834.

28. Counsels of the Board of Trade, 1763 to 1818

29. Board of Merchants Common Good.

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