
FACT SHEET **Insulin Trade Profile**

The *Insulin Trade Profile*, published in April 2016, identifies the key importing and exporting countries of insulin from 2004 – 2013 and their importance in global insulin trade. It identifies countries considered vulnerable to disruptions in insulin supply. Data was primarily sourced from the COMTRADE database (imports and exports of retail and bulk insulin by country). The profile and related fact sheet is the result of the mapping work completed in phase one of the Addressing the Challenge and Constraints of Insulin Sources and Supply (ACCISS) Study and is one of several pro-

files on the global insulin market to be published.

The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust and Stichting ICF are funding the ACCISS Study. The analysis included in this fact sheet is that of the authors alone and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Helmsley Charitable Trust or Stichting ICF. All references and conclusions are intended for educational and informative purposes and do not constitute an endorsement or recommendation from the Helmsley Charitable Trust or Stichting ICF.

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Access to Insulin in the Spotlight



Insulin Exports

- From 2004-2013, 10 countries made up 98-99 percent of the global value of retail insulin exports.
- Germany, Denmark, and France collectively exported between 85-96 percent of global retail insulin by value. In 2013: Germany 45.8 percent, Denmark 24.0 percent, and France 14.6 percent.
- The US contributed relatively little to global exports of retail insulin by value (3.3 percent in 2013). Brazil and Italy have increased their export share over time, but the levels are still low at 6.5 and 3.7 percent, respectively, in 2013.
- For bulk insulin, exports from Denmark have decreased since their peak in 2004, and exports from Germany have increased.

Insulin Imports

- From 2004-2013, 20 countries made up 85-87 percent of the global value of retail insulin imports.
- Approximately 50 percent of global imports of retail insulin were from the US, UK, Germany, and Japan. In 2013: US 36.4 percent, China 7.9 percent, Germany 7.9 percent, UK 5.6 percent, and Japan 5.5 percent.
- Between 2004-2013, import levels were quite constant in the UK, Germany, and Japan. However, imports doubled over that time period in the US.
- Import levels are increasing in China and India.
- The profile followed the nine countries that imported 65 percent of bulk insulin in 2004 and found that in general their importation pattern was sporadic and episodic, and less continuous than seen for retail insulin.
- Most countries import from one to eight countries; few have more import links. This may be due to the small number of major exporting countries.

Vulnerable Countries

- Between 2004-2013, around 60 countries (mostly low- and middle-income with no local insulin manufacturing) imported insulin from only one country for at least one year. This makes them vulnerable to any disruption in supply.
- Three countries, Cape Verde, Azerbaijan, and Botswana imported from one country for seven or more years.
- To illustrate supply vulnerabilities, we estimate that nearly two million people globally would be without insulin if Denmark ceased exporting (based on 2012 data).

Please note, all references in this fact sheet come directly from the Insulin Trade Profile.