

# Germany's main export markets are feeling the pinch

According to Viktor Fuchs, general director at freight forwarders' association Gross+Fuchs, the real question at the moment is how long the current economic crisis will last.

"It's very difficult to evaluate that. If you've prepared yourself well in recent years by reducing your costs then it's not so much of a problem at the moment, but at some point the savings will run out," he remarked.

Some of Germany's big freight forwarders who work with manufacturers and suppliers in

the country's ailing automotive industry are "having real problems", Fuchs said, noting that the automotive business accounts for around 40 percent of Germany's economic activity.

Other major export commodities include chemicals and pharmaceuticals. Here, Fuchs considered: "Pharmaceuticals should be comparatively stable but if there are cuts in government spending on health then this could have a big effect on the industry later on."

