

82/2021 - 16 July 2021

May 2021

Euro area international trade in goods surplus

€7.5 bn

€7.9 bn surplus for EU

Euro area

The first estimate for **euro area** exports of goods to the rest of the world in May 2021 was €188.2 billion, an increase of 31.9% compared with May 2020 (€142.7 bn), a month which had been heavily affected by the COVID-19 containment measures widely introduced by the Member States. Imports from the rest of the world stood at €180.7 bn, a rise of 35.2% compared with May 2020 (€133.7 bn). As a result, the **euro area** recorded a €7.5 bn surplus in trade in goods with the rest of the world in May 2021, compared with +€8.9 bn in May 2020. **Intra-euro area** trade rose to €181.5 bn in May 2021, up by 45.4% compared with May 2020.



In January to May 2021, **euro area** exports of goods to the rest of the world rose to €957.9 bn (an increase of 13.3% compared with January-May 2020), and imports rose to €878.2 bn (an increase of 12.7% compared with January-May 2020). As a result the **euro area** recorded a surplus of €79.7 bn, compared with +€66.1 bn in January-May 2020. **Intra-euro area** trade rose to €867.6 bn in January-May 2021, up by 20.5% compared with January-May 2020.

EA trade - non seasonally adjusted data

bn €

Flows	May 20	May 21	Growth	Jan-May 20	Jan-May 21	Growth
Extra-EA exports	142.7	188.2	31.9%	845.6	957.9	13.3%
Extra-EA imports	133.7	180.7	35.2%	779.5	878.2	12.7%
Extra-EA trade balance	8.9	7.5		66.1	79.7	
Intra-EA trade	124.8	181.5	45.4%	719.8	867.6	20.5%

Source dataset: [ext_st_ea19sitc](#)

European Union

The first estimate for **extra-EU** exports of goods in May 2021 was €172.3 billion, up by 32.8% compared with May 2020 (€129.7 bn). Imports from the rest of the world stood at €164.4 bn, up by 33.7% compared with May 2020 (€123.0 bn). As a result, the **EU** recorded a €7.9 bn surplus in trade in goods with the rest of the world in May 2021, compared with +€6.6 bn in May 2020. **Intra-EU** trade rose to €276.9 bn in May 2021, +41.6% compared with May 2020.



In January to May 2021, **extra-EU** exports of goods rose to €860.2 bn (an increase of 12.0% compared with January-May 2020), and imports rose to €791.1 bn (an increase of 11.0% compared with January-May 2020). As a result, the **EU** recorded a surplus of €69.1 bn, compared with +€55.2 bn in January-May 2020. **Intra-EU** trade rose to €1 362.5 bn in January-May 2021, +20.8% compared with January-May 2020.

EU trade - non seasonally adjusted data

bn €

Flows	May 20	May 21	Growth	Jan-May 20	Jan-May 21	Growth
Extra-EU exports	129.7	172.3	32.8%	767.9	860.2	12.0%
Extra-EU imports	123.0	164.4	33.7%	712.7	791.1	11.0%
Extra-EU trade balance	6.6	7.9		55.2	69.1	
Intra-EU trade	195.6	276.9	41.6%	1 128.3	1 362.5	20.8%

Source dataset: [ext_st_eu27_2020sitc](#)

Main products - EU

bn €

	Extra-EU exports			Extra-EU imports			Trade balance	
	Jan-May 20	Jan-May 21	Growth	Jan-May 20	Jan-May 21	Growth	Jan-May 20	Jan-May 21
Total	767.9	860.2	12.0%	712.7	791.1	11.0%	55.2	69.1
Primary goods:	117.2	134.3	14.6%	183.3	208.1	13.5%	-66.1	-73.8
<i>Food & drink</i>	67.8	69.3	2.2%	48.1	45.8	-4.8%	19.8	23.6
<i>Raw materials</i>	21.5	29.1	35.3%	33.4	40.8	22.2%	-12.0	-11.6
<i>Energy</i>	27.9	35.9	28.7%	101.8	121.6	19.4%	-73.9	-85.7
Manufactured goods:	633.1	708.4	11.9%	514.8	567.0	10.1%	118.3	141.5
<i>Chemicals</i>	178.0	178.7	0.4%	102.3	104.6	2.2%	75.8	74.1
<i>Machinery & vehicles</i>	287.7	335.0	16.4%	232.6	263.8	13.4%	55.2	71.2
<i>Other manuf'd goods</i>	167.4	194.7	16.3%	180.0	198.6	10.3%	-12.7	-3.9
Other	17.6	17.5	-0.6%	14.6	16.0	9.6%	3.0	1.5

Source dataset: [ext_st_eu27_2020sitc](#)

In the first five months of 2021, following the end of the transition period, EU imports from the United Kingdom dropped significantly (-21.6% – see methodological note).

Main trading partners - EU

bn €

	EU exports to			EU imports from			Trade balance	
	Jan-May 20	Jan-May 21	Growth	Jan-May 20	Jan-May 21	Growth	Jan-May 20	Jan-May 21
China	75.9	92.5	21.9%	148.5	174.6	17.6%	-72.5	-82.1
United States	145.2	156.6	7.9%	90.7	89.6	-1.2%	54.5	66.9
United Kingdom	107.1	110.6	3.3%	68.0	53.3	-21.6%	39.2	57.2
Switzerland	58.0	63.8	10.0%	46.1	48.9	6.1%	11.9	14.9
Russia	31.3	35.2	12.5%	43.2	54.7	26.6%	-11.9	-19.4
Turkey	26.1	32.2	23.4%	24.0	30.6	27.5%	2.1	1.6
Japan	23.6	25.0	5.9%	23.9	25.8	7.9%	-0.3	-0.8
Norway	19.3	22.3	15.5%	18.1	23.0	27.1%	1.1	-0.8
South Korea	18.7	20.9	11.8%	18.7	22.2	18.7%	0.0	-1.3
India	11.5	16.7	45.2%	14.0	17.8	27.1%	-2.5	-1.2

Source dataset: [ext_st_eu27_2020sitc](#)

Member States' total trade (intra-EU + extra-EU)

bn €

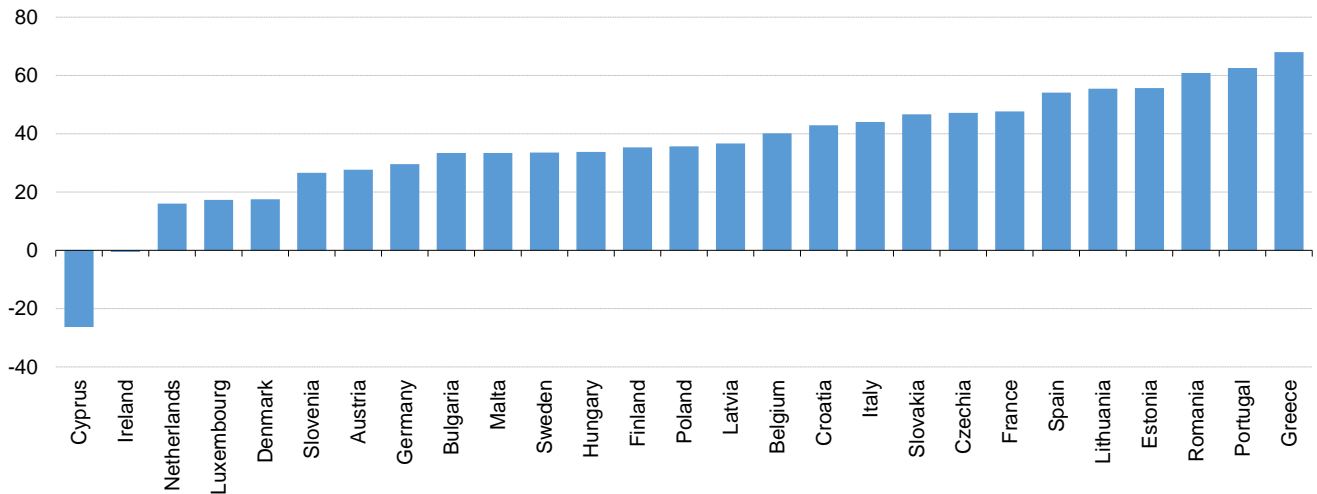
	Total exports						Total imports						Trade balance					
	Total		Intra-EU		Extra-EU		Total		Intra-EU		Extra-EU		Total		Intra-EU		Extra-EU	
	Jan-May 21	Growth / Jan-May 20	Jan-May 21	Growth / Jan-May 20	Jan-May 21	Growth / Jan-May 20	Jan-May 21	Growth / Jan-May 20	Jan-May 21	Growth / Jan-May 20	Jan-May 21	Growth / Jan-May 20	Jan-May 21	Jan-May 20	Jan-May 21	Jan-May 20	Jan-May 21	Jan-May 20
Belgium	178.1	18%	119.5	23%	58.6	10%	162.0	12%	101.3	18%	60.7	4%	16.0	6.2	18.2	11.0	-2.2	-4.9
Bulgaria	13.5	19%	9.0	23%	4.4	12%	14.9	23%	9.1	25%	5.7	21%	-1.4	-0.8	-0.1	0.0	-1.3	-0.8
Czechia	79.2	25%	63.7	26%	15.5	19%	70.4	20%	52.3	22%	18.1	13%	8.7	4.6	11.4	7.7	-2.7	-3.1
Denmark	42.4	7%	22.1	10%	20.3	5%	40.2	16%	27.0	14%	13.2	21%	2.3	5.0	-4.8	-3.5	7.1	8.5
Germany	556.2	16%	302.0	19%	254.2	11%	474.1	13%	304.3	18%	169.8	6%	82.2	62.8	-2.3	-5.8	84.4	68.6
Estonia	7.0	27%	4.6	22%	2.4	37%	7.6	28%	5.4	22%	2.2	44%	-0.6	-0.5	-0.8	-0.7	0.2	0.2
Ireland	64.4	-3%	25.5	-2%	38.9	-4%	37.8	12%	15.2	22%	22.6	7%	26.6	33.1	10.3	13.6	16.3	19.5
Greece	15.2	24%	8.2	18%	7.0	33%	23.5	19%	12.7	18%	10.8	21%	-8.3	-7.5	-4.5	-3.8	-3.8	-3.7
Spain	128.7	23%	80.2	26%	48.5	18%	133.6	17%	76.0	22%	57.5	11%	-4.9	-9.7	4.2	1.0	-9.1	-10.7
France	196.1	16%	107.3	17%	88.8	15%	237.0	17%	159.4	23%	77.6	7%	-40.9	-33.1	-52.1	-38.1	11.2	4.9
Croatia	7.1	25%	4.8	23%	2.3	27%	11.1	19%	8.4	14%	2.7	33%	-4.0	-3.7	-3.6	-3.5	-0.4	-0.2
Italy	205.1	24%	109.0	25%	96.1	22%	182.1	22%	106.3	25%	75.8	19%	23.0	16.7	2.7	1.6	20.4	15.1
Cyprus	1.0	-21%	0.3	-2%	0.6	-29%	3.3	12%	2.1	26%	1.2	-7%	-2.3	-1.7	-1.8	-1.3	-0.5	-0.3
Latvia	6.4	18%	4.2	20%	2.3	15%	7.3	20%	5.5	17%	1.8	31%	-0.9	-0.6	-1.4	-1.3	0.5	0.6
Lithuania	12.9	17%	7.4	17%	5.5	17%	13.8	22%	9.7	24%	4.1	18%	-0.9	-0.3	-2.4	-1.6	1.4	1.2
Luxembourg	5.6	14%	4.5	16%	1.0	6%	8.4	17%	7.4	19%	0.9	2%	-2.8	-2.3	-2.9	-2.4	0.1	0.0
Hungary	49.0	21%	38.6	22%	10.4	18%	47.0	19%	33.7	19%	13.3	17%	1.9	0.9	4.9	3.5	-3.0	-2.6
Malta	1.0	8%	0.6	13%	0.5	2%	2.1	3%	1.2	9%	0.9	-4%	-1.1	-1.1	-0.6	-0.6	-0.4	-0.5
Netherlands	273.4	14%	189.3	20%	84.1	2%	243.1	15%	103.2	19%	139.9	12%	30.4	27.2	86.1	70.3	-55.7	-43.1
Austria	67.9	14%	46.8	14%	21.1	14%	71.8	18%	55.0	19%	16.8	14%	-3.9	-1.3	-8.2	-5.0	4.3	3.8
Poland	112.7	24%	84.4	27%	28.2	18%	109.2	23%	73.8	25%	35.3	20%	3.5	2.0	10.6	7.5	-7.1	-5.5
Portugal	26.0	25%	18.6	26%	7.4	22%	31.5	14%	23.5	18%	8.0	3%	-5.4	-6.7	-4.9	-5.1	-0.5	-1.6
Romania	29.6	25%	22.2	29%	7.4	15%	38.7	25%	28.5	26%	10.3	23%	-9.1	-7.5	-6.3	-5.5	-2.8	-1.9
Slovenia	18.8	18%	12.5	19%	6.2	17%	17.8	22%	10.5	23%	7.3	22%	1.0	1.4	2.0	2.0	-1.0	-0.6
Slovakia	36.0	31%	28.8	30%	7.2	35%	35.1	24%	27.8	25%	7.3	22%	0.9	-0.8	1.1	-0.2	-0.1	-0.7
Finland	25.7	11%	14.0	10%	11.7	12%	26.9	10%	19.3	11%	7.6	7%	-1.2	-1.3	-5.3	-4.6	4.1	3.3
Sweden	63.8	14%	34.2	19%	29.6	9%	61.8	17%	42.1	20%	19.7	12%	2.0	3.4	-7.8	-6.2	9.8	9.6

Source dataset: [ext_st_27_2020msbec](#)

Annual comparison by Member State

In May 2021, compared with May 2020, all Member States registered large increases in **extra-EU** exports except **Cyprus** (-26.3%) and **Ireland** (-0.5%). The highest increases were registered in **Greece** (+68.0%), **Portugal** (+62.6%) and **Romania** (+60.8%).

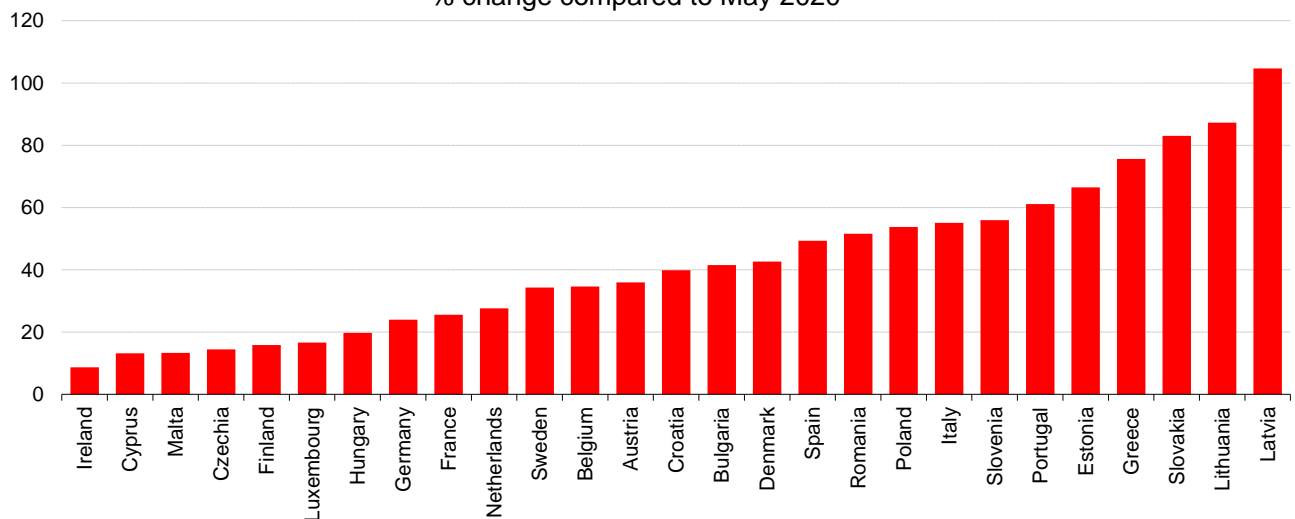
Extra-EU exports by Member State - May 2021
% change compared to May 2020



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With regard to the extra-EU imports, all Member States registered increases in **extra-EU** imports in May 2021 compared to May 2020. The highest increases were observed in **Latvia** (+104.7%), **Lithuania** (+87.3%) and **Slovakia** (+83.0%).

Extra-EU imports by Member State - May 2021
% change compared to May 2020



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Geographical information

The **euro area** (EA19) includes Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland.

The **European Union** includes Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland and Sweden.

Methods and definitions

Since the introduction of Intrastat for intra-EU trade on 1 January 1993, the value of intra-EU exports has been consistently higher than that of intra-EU imports. In theory, as exports are declared FOB and imports CIF, the value of corresponding imports should be slightly higher than that of exports. Eurostat uses intra-EU exports as the more reliable measure of total intra-EU trade as, at aggregated levels, total intra-EU exports has better coverage than total intra-EU imports. Due to this divergence in intra-EU trade, and to the difficulties of interpreting figures in absolute terms at the level of individual Member States, trade balances for individual Member States must be interpreted with caution. The same caution applies to the trade balance of the euro area, which includes some intra-EU trade.

Dutch trade flows are over-estimated because of the so-called 'Rotterdam effect' (or quasi-transit trade): that is goods bound for other EU countries arrive in Dutch ports and, according to EU rules, are recorded as extra-EU imports by the Netherlands (the country where goods are released for free circulation). This in turn increases the intra-EU flows from the Netherlands to those Member States to which the goods are re-exported. Although to a lesser extent, trade figures of other Member States like Belgium or Luxembourg may also be overestimated due to quasi-transit.

The United Kingdom is considered as an extra-EU partner country for the EU for the reference time period covered by this news release. However, the United Kingdom was still part of the internal market until the end of the transition period (31 December 2020), meaning that data on trade with the United Kingdom for reference periods up to December 2020 were still based on statistical concepts applicable to trade between the EU Member States. The end of the transitory period thus had an impact on the trade flows between the United Kingdom and the EU Member States.

As of January 2021 onwards, data on trade with the United Kingdom is based on a mixed concept. In application of the Withdrawal Agreement Protocol on Ireland / Northern Ireland, for trade with Northern Ireland the statistical concepts applicable are the same as those for trade between Member States while for trade with the United Kingdom (excluding Northern Ireland) the same statistical concepts are applicable as for trade with any other extra-EU partner country.

For these reasons data on trade with the United Kingdom are not fully comparable with data on trade with other extra-EU trade partners, and for reference periods before and after the end of 2020.

National concepts may differ from the harmonised methodology used by Eurostat, leading to differences between figures in this release and those published nationally, both for raw data and for seasonally adjusted series.

Products are classified according to the [Standard international trade classification](#) (SITC), Revision 4.

Data collection for international trade in goods has in many countries been affected by the COVID-19 crisis. The data in this release are, for several Member States, based on fewer statistical observations than usual. For missing data, imputation and estimation methods were applied. Information on the compilation of international trade in goods statistics during the COVID-19 crisis can be found [here](#).

Revisions and timetable

This News Release is based on data available on 13 July 2021. These are provisional figures based on information provided by Member States. They are subject to frequent revision for up to two years after the month in question.

For more information

Eurostat [website section](#) on international trade in goods

Eurostat [database section](#) on international trade in goods

Eurostat [Statistics Explained article](#) on international trade in goods statistics

Eurostat €-indicators [release calendar](#)

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Annex - Seasonally adjusted data

In May 2021 compared with April 2021, **euro area** seasonally adjusted exports decreased by 1.5%, while imports increased by 0.7%. The seasonally adjusted balance was +€9.4 bn, a fall compared with April (+€13.4 bn).

EA trade - seasonally adjusted data

bn €

Flows	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21
Extra-EA exports	163.5	173.0	175.9	182.6	186.3	189.7	192.2	191.7	192.6	197.7	198.0	195.1
Extra-EA imports	147.3	154.5	155.0	159.8	160.9	166.0	165.5	163.6	169.1	179.8	184.6	185.8
Extra-EA trade balance	16.2	18.5	20.9	22.8	25.4	23.7	26.7	28.1	23.5	17.9	13.4	9.4
Intra-EA trade	141.7	148.5	154.9	156.7	159.3	161.2	161.4	164.5	165.5	173.2	174.1	183.7

Source dataset: [ext_st_ea19sitc](#)

In May 2021 compared with April 2021, **EU** seasonally adjusted exports remained stable, while imports increased by 0.4%. The seasonally adjusted balance was +€10.1 bn, a fall compared with April (+€10.9 bn).

EU trade - seasonally adjusted data

bn €

Flows	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21
Extra-EU exports	148.4	156.3	157.4	164.8	168.0	171.5	172.9	172.0	172.7	176.4	178.9	178.9
Extra-EU imports	133.1	139.0	138.1	142.8	143.7	148.1	147.4	144.5	151.9	163.1	168.0	168.7
Extra-EU trade balance	15.3	17.3	19.3	22.0	24.3	23.3	25.5	27.5	20.8	13.3	10.9	10.1
Intra-EU trade	223.2	234.9	245.1	247.8	253.3	257.0	257.1	262.2	264.2	274.8	275.1	281.4

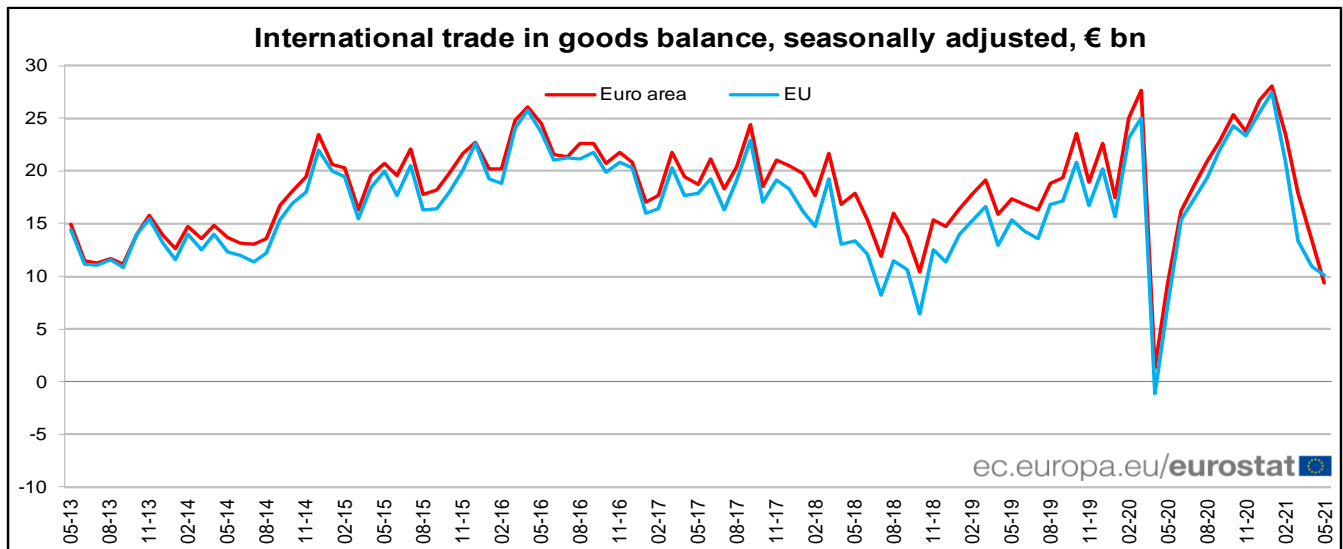
Source dataset: [ext_st_eu27_2020sitc](#)

Contribution of EU Member States to extra-EU trade - seasonally adjusted data

bn €

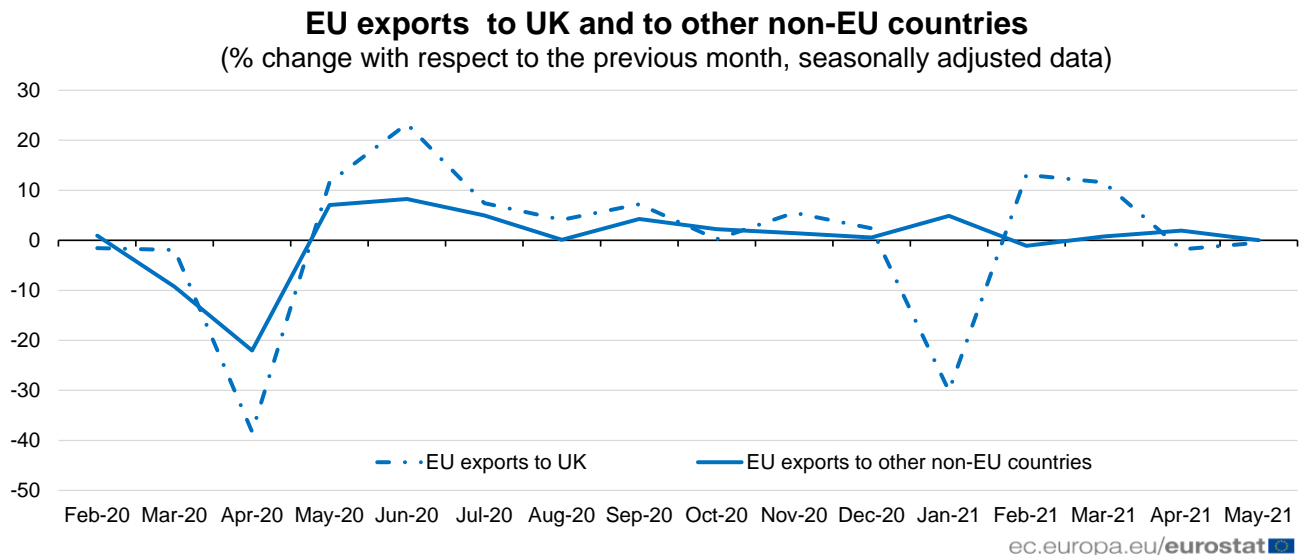
	Total exports			Total imports			Trade balance	
	Apr 21	May 21	Growth	Apr 21	May 21	Growth	Apr 21	May 21
EU	178.9	178.9	0.0%	168.0	168.7	0.4%	10.9	10.1
Belgium	12.3	12.9	4.7%	12.7	13.7	7.8%	-0.4	-0.8
Bulgaria	1.0	0.9	-2.6%	1.3	1.2	-6.4%	-0.3	-0.2
Czechia	3.3	3.2	-1.6%	3.8	3.6	-4.2%	-0.5	-0.4
Denmark	4.2	4.2	-0.8%	2.7	2.9	6.9%	1.5	1.3
Germany	51.8	51.7	-0.2%	36.3	35.9	-1.0%	15.5	15.8
Estonia	0.5	0.5	-8.8%	0.5	0.5	-1.7%	0.1	0.0
Ireland	6.9	7.8	12.0%	4.8	4.8	0.3%	2.2	3.0
Greece	1.5	1.5	-0.8%	2.4	2.4	1.7%	-0.9	-0.9
Spain	9.6	10.0	3.9%	12.3	12.4	0.4%	-2.7	-2.4
France	18.8	18.3	-2.3%	16.1	15.6	-2.6%	2.7	2.7
Croatia	0.6	0.5	-18.2%	0.6	0.6	-3.2%	0.0	-0.1
Italy	21.3	20.7	-3.0%	16.0	15.9	-0.5%	5.3	4.8
Cyprus	0.2	0.1	-4.0%	0.2	0.2	-10.6%	0.0	0.0
Latvia	0.5	0.5	3.4%	0.4	0.5	12.5%	0.1	0.1
Lithuania	1.2	1.3	6.4%	0.8	1.1	37.7%	0.4	0.2
Luxembourg	0.2	0.2	1.3%	0.2	0.2	22.6%	0.0	0.0
Hungary	2.2	2.2	-2.3%	2.9	2.9	-0.3%	-0.7	-0.7
Malta	0.1	0.1	0.2%	0.3	0.2	-14.5%	-0.2	-0.1
Netherlands	17.8	17.6	-0.8%	29.9	30.0	0.3%	-12.2	-12.4
Austria	4.4	4.4	-0.8%	3.8	3.6	-5.6%	0.6	0.7
Poland	6.0	5.9	-0.8%	7.4	8.1	9.1%	-1.5	-2.2
Portugal	1.5	1.5	1.2%	1.7	1.6	-2.5%	-0.2	-0.1
Romania	1.7	1.5	-8.7%	2.2	2.1	-4.4%	-0.5	-0.6
Slovenia	1.3	1.2	-6.6%	1.6	1.5	-4.1%	-0.3	-0.3
Slovakia	1.5	1.3	-17.7%	1.6	1.5	-3.6%	0.0	-0.2
Finland	2.4	2.5	6.3%	1.6	1.5	-4.3%	0.8	1.0
Sweden	6.1	6.3	2.2%	4.2	4.2	1.1%	2.0	2.1

Source dataset: [ext_st_27_2020_msbec](#)



Trade with the United Kingdom more stable in the last two months

Exports to the United Kingdom decreased slightly between April 2021 and May 2021 in seasonally adjusted terms (-0.5%), while exports to the rest of third countries remained stable.



Imports from the United Kingdom increased by 6.0% in May 2021 compared with April 2021, while imports from other third countries remained unchanged.

