

116/2021 - 15 October 2021

August 2021

Euro area international trade in goods surplus

€4.8 bn

€5.0 bn deficit for EU

Euro area

The first estimate for **euro area** exports of goods to the rest of the world in August 2021 was €184.3 billion, an increase of 18.2% compared with August 2020 (€155.9 bn). Imports from the rest of the world stood at €179.5 bn, a rise of 26.6% compared with August 2020 (€141.8 bn). As a result, the **euro area** recorded a €4.8 bn surplus in trade in goods with the rest of the world in August 2021, compared with +€14.0 bn in August 2020. **Intra-euro area** trade rose to €155.5 bn in August 2021, up by 21.2% compared with August 2020.



In January to August 2021, **euro area** exports of goods to the rest of the world rose to €1 563.0 bn (an increase of 15.2% compared with January-August 2020), and imports rose to €1 436.2 bn (an increase of 16.8% compared with January-August 2020). As a result the **euro area** recorded a surplus of €126.9 bn, compared with +€126.8 bn in January-August 2020. **Intra-euro area** trade rose to €1 388.4 bn in January-August 2021, up by 20.3% compared with January-August 2020.

EA trade - non seasonally adjusted data

bn €

Flows	Aug 20	Aug 21	Growth	Jan-Aug 20	Jan-Aug 21	Growth
Extra-EA exports	155.9	184.3	18.2%	1 356.7	1 563.0	15.2%
Extra-EA imports	141.8	179.5	26.6%	1 229.8	1 436.2	16.8%
Extra-EA trade balance	14.0	4.8		126.8	126.9	
Intra-EA trade	128.3	155.5	21.2%	1 153.7	1 388.4	20.3%

Source dataset: [ext_st_ea19sinc](#)

European Union

The first estimate for **extra-EU** exports of goods in August 2021 was €164.7 billion, up by 18.0% compared with August 2020 (€139.6 bn). Imports from the rest of the world stood at €169.8 bn, up by 31.8% compared with August 2020 (€128.8 bn). As a result, the **EU** recorded a €5.0 bn deficit in trade in goods with the rest of the world in August 2021, compared with a surplus of €10.8 bn in August 2020. **Intra-EU** trade rose to €247.8 bn in August 2021, +18.9% compared with August 2020.



In January to August 2021, **extra-EU** exports of goods rose to €1 400.0 bn (an increase of 13.8% compared with January-August 2020), and imports rose to €1 306.6 bn (an increase of 16.7% compared with January-August 2020). As a result, the **EU** recorded a surplus of €93.4 bn, compared with +€110.6 bn in January-August 2020. **Intra-EU** trade rose to €2 187.6 bn in January-August 2021, +20.6% compared with January-August 2020.

EU trade - non seasonally adjusted data

bn €

Flows	Aug 20	Aug 21	Growth	Jan-Aug 20	Jan-Aug 21	Growth
Extra-EU exports	139.6	164.7	18.0%	1 230.0	1 400.0	13.8%
Extra-EU imports	128.8	169.8	31.8%	1 119.4	1 306.6	16.7%
Extra-EU trade balance	10.8	-5.0		110.6	93.4	
Intra-EU trade	208.4	247.8	18.9%	1 814.6	2 187.6	20.6%

Source dataset: [ext_st_eu27_2020sitc](#)

Main products - EU

bn €

	Extra-EU exports			Extra-EU imports			Trade balance	
	Jan-Aug 20	Jan-Aug 21	Growth	Jan-Aug 20	Jan-Aug 21	Growth	Jan-Aug 20	Jan-Aug 21
Total	1 230.0	1 400.0	13.8%	1 119.4	1 306.6	16.7%	110.6	93.4
Primary goods:	183.4	220.0	20.0%	277.9	356.2	28.2%	-94.6	-136.1
<i>Food & drink</i>	107.0	112.1	4.8%	75.2	74.3	-1.2%	31.8	37.8
<i>Raw materials</i>	33.9	46.5	37.2%	51.6	68.4	32.6%	-17.7	-21.9
<i>Energy</i>	42.4	61.5	45.0%	151.1	213.4	41.2%	-108.7	-151.9
Manufactured goods:	1 017.5	1 150.4	13.1%	818.3	924.0	12.9%	199.3	226.3
<i>Chemicals</i>	275.2	292.9	6.4%	156.8	171.7	9.5%	118.4	121.2
<i>Machinery & vehicles</i>	469.8	538.5	14.6%	370.8	423.1	14.1%	99.0	115.4
<i>Other manuf'd goods</i>	272.5	318.9	17.0%	290.6	329.2	13.3%	-18.2	-10.3
Other	29.1	29.6	1.7%	23.2	26.4	13.8%	5.9	3.2

Source dataset: [ext_st_eu27_2020sitc](#)

Main trading partners - EU

bn €

	EU exports to			EU imports from			Trade balance	
	Jan-Aug 20	Jan-Aug 21	Growth	Jan-Aug 20	Jan-Aug 21	Growth	Jan-Aug 20	Jan-Aug 21
China	127.7	147.2	15.3%	248.1	285.9	15.2%	-120.4	-138.7
United States	228.6	255.8	11.9%	136.1	145.8	7.1%	92.6	110.0
United Kingdom	172.1	181.9	5.7%	106.5	88.7	-16.7%	65.6	93.1
Switzerland	92.9	101.9	9.7%	72.1	79.1	9.7%	20.8	22.8
Russia	50.7	57.6	13.6%	63.6	94.6	48.7%	-12.9	-37.0
Turkey	42.7	50.9	19.2%	39.2	49.5	26.3%	3.5	1.4
Japan	36.2	40.6	12.2%	36.2	41.2	13.8%	0.0	-0.6
Norway	31.3	36.5	16.6%	27.7	38.9	40.4%	3.6	-2.4
South Korea	29.6	33.6	13.5%	28.4	35.9	26.4%	1.2	-2.3
India	18.8	26.3	39.9%	21.7	28.9	33.2%	-2.8	-2.6

Source dataset: [ext_st_eu27_2020sitc](#)

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

bn €

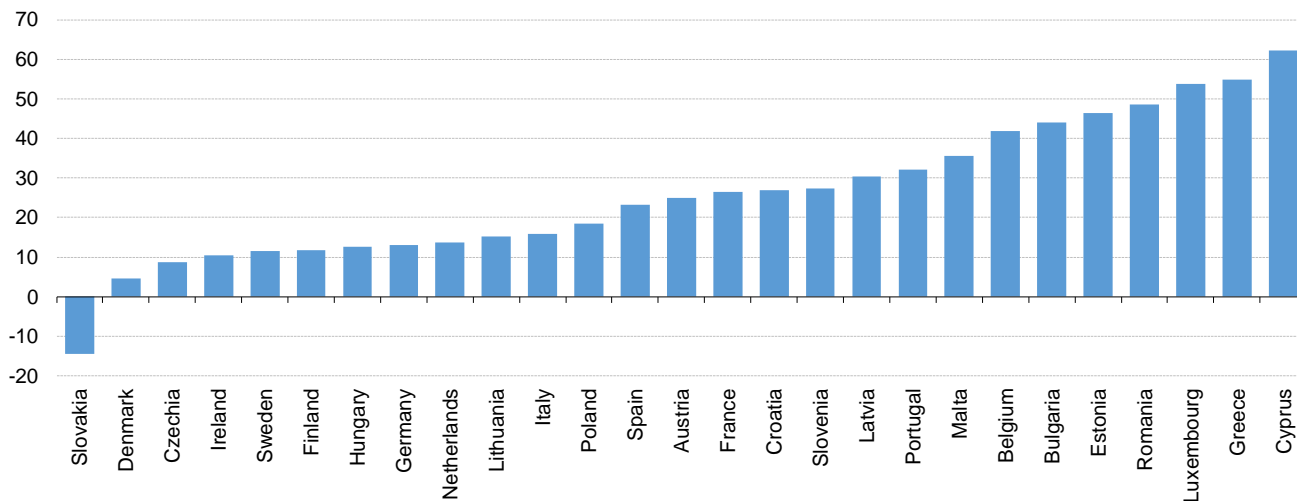
	Total exports						Total imports						Trade balance					
	Total		Intra-EU		Extra-EU		Total		Intra-EU		Extra-EU		Total		Intra-EU		Extra-EU	
	Jan-Aug 21	Growth / Jan-Aug 20	Jan-Aug 21	Growth / Jan-Aug 20	Jan-Aug 21	Growth / Jan-Aug 20	Jan-Aug 21	Growth / Jan-Aug 20	Jan-Aug 21	Growth / Jan-Aug 20	Jan-Aug 21	Growth / Jan-Aug 20	Jan-Aug 21	Jan-Aug 20	Jan-Aug 21	Jan-Aug 20	Jan-Aug 21	Jan-Aug 20
Belgium	289.3	21%	191.7	23%	97.6	17%	268.6	19%	166.4	21%	102.2	15%	20.7	12.7	25.3	18.7	-4.6	-5.9
Bulgaria	22.2	22%	14.7	23%	7.5	20%	24.6	26%	14.8	25%	9.8	28%	-2.4	-1.4	-0.1	0.1	-2.3	-1.4
Czechia	124.0	20%	99.6	21%	24.5	15%	114.1	21%	84.5	23%	29.6	16%	9.9	9.2	15.0	13.3	-5.1	-4.1
Denmark	68.5	9%	35.9	11%	32.6	8%	65.0	18%	43.7	16%	21.3	21%	3.5	7.4	-7.8	-5.2	11.3	12.5
Germany	895.6	16%	484.2	20%	411.4	12%	766.1	16%	490.0	19%	276.1	11%	129.5	109.9	-5.8	-8.9	135.3	118.9
Estonia	11.5	29%	7.7	27%	3.8	33%	12.6	31%	9.0	24%	3.7	52%	-1.1	-0.7	-1.3	-1.2	0.2	0.5
Ireland	104.1	-2%	40.2	-6%	63.9	1%	61.6	13%	24.5	18%	37.1	9%	42.5	51.0	15.7	22.0	26.8	29.1
Greece	24.9	26%	13.6	19%	11.3	36%	39.5	24%	20.8	18%	18.7	32%	-14.6	-12.1	-7.2	-6.2	-7.4	-5.8
Spain	207.0	21%	128.9	24%	78.1	18%	219.4	21%	121.8	21%	97.6	21%	-12.4	-11.4	7.1	3.2	-19.6	-14.6
France	316.2	18%	172.3	19%	143.9	16%	382.6	17%	254.8	20%	127.8	11%	-66.4	-58.4	-82.5	-67.0	16.1	8.6
Croatia	11.7	25%	7.9	25%	3.8	25%	18.4	20%	13.7	16%	4.7	35%	-6.6	-5.9	-5.8	-5.5	-0.8	-0.4
Italy	331.7	22%	173.6	24%	158.1	21%	292.9	25%	168.5	26%	124.5	24%	38.8	36.6	5.2	6.5	33.6	30.0
Cyprus	1.9	-2%	0.6	-4%	1.3	-2%	5.5	15%	3.6	28%	1.9	-3%	-3.6	-2.9	-3.1	-2.3	-0.6	-0.6
Latvia	10.9	23%	7.0	24%	3.9	21%	13.1	29%	9.5	22%	3.6	56%	-2.2	-1.3	-2.5	-2.2	0.3	0.9
Lithuania	21.4	19%	12.3	20%	9.1	17%	23.3	26%	16.1	24%	7.3	31%	-1.9	-0.5	-3.8	-2.7	1.8	2.2
Luxembourg	9.2	17%	7.4	17%	1.8	17%	13.7	16%	12.1	16%	1.5	13%	-4.5	-4.0	-4.7	-4.2	0.2	0.1
Hungary	77.8	18%	61.2	19%	16.6	17%	76.5	19%	54.5	20%	22.0	18%	1.3	1.7	6.8	6.2	-5.4	-4.4
Malta	1.7	15%	0.9	16%	0.8	14%	3.8	17%	2.2	24%	1.5	8%	-2.1	-1.8	-1.4	-1.0	-0.8	-0.7
Netherlands	444.7	17%	307.3	23%	137.4	6%	394.7	17%	166.6	20%	228.1	16%	50.0	42.4	140.7	109.7	-90.7	-67.3
Austria	110.8	16%	76.6	16%	34.2	14%	118.9	22%	91.1	23%	27.8	19%	-8.1	-1.7	-14.5	-8.4	6.5	6.7
Poland	182.5	23%	136.4	25%	46.1	17%	180.7	27%	120.8	26%	59.9	28%	1.8	6.2	15.6	13.8	-13.8	-7.6
Portugal	41.1	22%	29.2	21%	11.9	23%	51.6	18%	38.2	19%	13.4	15%	-10.4	-9.8	-9.0	-7.9	-1.4	-1.9
Romania	47.7	24%	35.1	24%	12.6	23%	62.8	25%	45.7	24%	17.1	27%	-15.1	-11.7	-10.6	-8.5	-4.5	-3.2
Slovenia	30.3	20%	20.2	20%	10.1	21%	29.6	27%	17.0	24%	12.6	32%	0.7	1.9	3.2	3.1	-2.5	-1.2
Slovakia	56.9	23%	45.5	23%	11.4	22%	56.3	23%	44.4	20%	11.9	33%	0.6	0.5	1.1	0.1	-0.6	0.4
Finland	42.3	16%	23.0	15%	19.3	16%	44.6	15%	31.7	15%	12.9	14%	-2.3	-2.2	-8.7	-7.5	6.4	5.3
Sweden	101.8	16%	54.5	21%	47.3	12%	99.5	19%	67.1	20%	32.4	17%	2.3	4.1	-12.6	-10.5	14.9	14.6

Source dataset: [ext_st_27_2020msbec](#)

Annual comparison by Member State

In August 2021, compared with August 2020, all the Member States registered a large increase in **extra-EU** exports except **Slovakia** (-14.6%). The highest increases were registered in **Cyprus** (+62.1%), **Greece** (+54.8%) and **Luxembourg** (+53.8%).

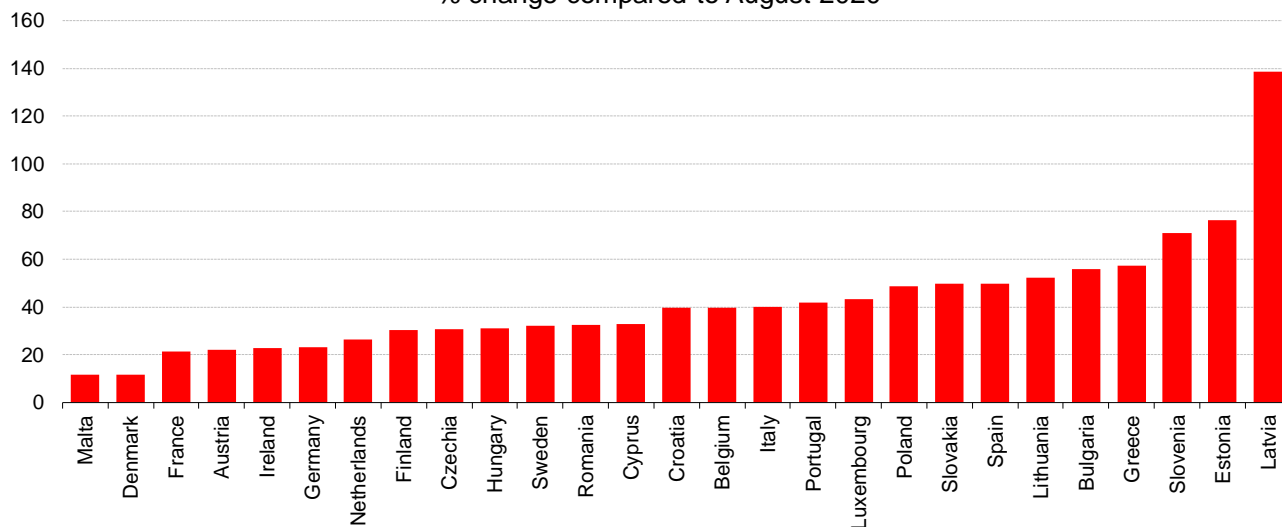
Extra-EU exports by Member State - August 2021
% change compared to August 2020



ec.europa.eu/eurostat

With regard to the extra-EU imports, all Member States registered an increase in **extra-EU** imports in August 2021 compared to August 2020. The highest increases were observed in **Latvia** (+138.7%), **Estonia** (+76.3%) and **Slovenia** (+70.8%).

Extra-EU imports by Member State - August 2021
% change compared to August 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 12 October 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 August 2021 compared with July 2021, **euro area** seasonally adjusted exports increased by 0.3%, while imports increased by 1.6%. The seasonally adjusted balance was +€11.1 bn, a fall compared with July (+€13.5 bn).

EA trade - seasonally adjusted data

bn €

Flows	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21
Extra-EA exports	182.8	186.3	189.9	192.4	191.6	192.6	197.8	198.1	199.3	197.9	200.0	200.6
Extra-EA imports	159.9	161.2	166.2	165.7	164.0	169.0	179.7	184.9	185.8	186.1	186.5	189.4
Extra-EA trade balance	22.9	25.1	23.8	26.7	27.7	23.6	18.1	13.2	13.5	11.8	13.5	11.1
Intra-EA trade	156.9	159.3	161.5	161.5	164.7	165.8	173.7	174.7	175.8	176.6	179.4	181.2

Source dataset: [ext_st_ea19sitc](#)

In August 2021 compared with July 2021, **EU** seasonally adjusted exports decreased by 0.1%, while imports increased by 2.7%. The seasonally adjusted balance was +€3.5 bn, a fall compared with July (+€8.2 bn).

EU trade - seasonally adjusted data

bn €

Flows	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21
Extra-EU exports	164.9	168.0	171.5	172.9	171.9	172.7	176.6	178.9	178.6	177.7	179.0	178.9
Extra-EU imports	142.8	143.8	148.1	147.5	144.9	151.8	163.3	168.4	169.1	170.3	170.8	175.4
Extra-EU trade balance	22.1	24.2	23.4	25.5	27.0	20.8	13.3	10.5	9.6	7.4	8.2	3.5
Intra-EU trade	248.3	253.5	257.5	257.4	262.6	264.7	275.3	276.0	277.0	277.8	282.3	284.1

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	
	Jul 21	Aug 21	Growth	Jul 21	Aug 21	Growth	Jul 21	Aug 21
EU	179.0	178.9	-0.1%	170.8	175.4	2.7%	8.2	3.5
Belgium	12.8	14.0	9.2%	13.2	14.1	6.5%	-0.4	0.0
Bulgaria	1.0	1.0	6.4%	1.2	1.4	18.0%	-0.2	-0.4
Czechia	3.1	3.0	-3.4%	3.8	4.0	5.8%	-0.7	-1.0
Denmark	4.2	3.6	-13.9%	2.8	2.6	-6.6%	1.4	1.0
Germany	51.4	51.1	-0.6%	34.5	36.2	4.8%	16.9	15.0
Estonia	0.5	0.5	10.7%	0.5	0.6	4.5%	0.0	0.0
Ireland	8.2	8.4	3.5%	4.9	4.9	-1.2%	3.2	3.6
Greece	1.4	1.5	8.3%	2.8	2.6	-5.3%	-1.4	-1.1
Spain	9.6	10.1	5.1%	13.0	13.8	6.5%	-3.4	-3.7
France	18.2	18.7	2.9%	16.4	16.7	2.1%	1.8	2.0
Croatia	0.4	0.5	1.9%	0.6	0.6	10.8%	-0.1	-0.2
Italy	20.8	20.1	-3.4%	16.6	17.2	4.0%	4.2	2.8
Cyprus	0.2	0.2	0.4%	0.2	0.2	10.0%	0.0	0.0
Latvia	0.5	0.5	0.0%	0.5	0.6	19.5%	0.0	-0.1
Lithuania	1.2	1.2	4.1%	1.1	1.1	0.5%	0.1	0.1
Luxembourg	0.2	0.3	4.6%	0.2	0.2	16.3%	0.0	0.0
Hungary	2.1	2.2	4.9%	3.0	3.0	2.3%	-0.9	-0.9
Malta	0.1	0.1	3.7%	0.2	0.2	-24.6%	-0.1	-0.1
Netherlands	17.6	17.2	-2.3%	29.8	29.3	-1.6%	-12.2	-12.1
Austria	4.4	4.5	1.8%	3.4	3.6	3.9%	0.9	0.9
Poland	6.1	5.9	-3.4%	8.3	8.7	4.3%	-2.2	-2.8
Portugal	1.5	1.6	7.3%	1.8	1.8	0.2%	-0.3	-0.2
Romania	1.6	1.8	11.2%	2.4	2.2	-9.9%	-0.8	-0.4
Slovenia	1.4	1.3	-5.7%	1.8	2.1	17.0%	-0.4	-0.8
Slovakia	1.6	1.3	-20.3%	1.6	1.6	-4.0%	-0.1	-0.3
Finland	2.6	2.4	-9.0%	1.8	1.8	-3.3%	0.8	0.6
Sweden	6.3	5.8	-7.3%	4.3	4.3	0.1%	2.0	1.6

Source dataset: [ext_st_27_2020_msbec](#)

International trade in goods balance, seasonally adjusted, € bn

