

September 2021

Euro area international trade in goods surplus €7.3 bn

€0.5 bn surplus for EU

Euro area

The first estimate for **euro area** exports of goods to the rest of the world in September 2021 was €209.3 billion, an increase of 10.0% compared with September 2020 (€190.2 bn). Imports from the rest of the world stood at €202.0 bn, a rise of 21.6% compared with September 2020 (€166.1 bn). As a result, the **euro area** recorded a €7.3 bn surplus in trade in goods with the rest of the world in September 2021, compared with +€24.1 bn in September 2020. **Intra-euro area** trade rose to €191.5 bn in September 2021, up by 16.4% compared with September 2020.



In January to September 2021, **euro area** exports of goods to the rest of the world rose to €1 775.1 bn (an increase of 14.7% compared with January-September 2020), and imports rose to €1 643.2 bn (an increase of 17.7% compared with January-September 2020). As a result the **euro area** recorded a surplus of €131.9 bn, compared with +€151.2 bn in January-September 2020. **Intra-euro area** trade rose to €1 580.6 bn in January-September 2021, up by 19.7% compared with January-September 2020.

EA trade - non seasonally adjusted data

bn €

Flows	Sep 20	Sep 21	Growth	Jan-Sep 20	Jan-Sep 21	Growth
Extra-EA exports	190.2	209.3	10.0%	1 547.5	1 775.1	14.7%
Extra-EA imports	166.1	202.0	21.6%	1 396.3	1 643.2	17.7%
Extra-EA trade balance	24.1	7.3		151.2	131.9	
Intra-EA trade	164.5	191.5	16.4%	1 320.6	1 580.6	19.7%

Source dataset: [ext_st_ea19sitc](#)

European Union

The first estimate for **extra-EU** exports of goods in September 2021 was €186.9 billion, up by 9.4% compared with September 2020 (€170.9 bn). Imports from the rest of the world stood at €186.4 bn, up by 26.5% compared with September 2020 (€147.3 bn). As a result, the **EU** recorded a €0.5 bn surplus in trade in goods with the rest of the world in September 2021, compared with +€23.7 bn in September 2020. **Intra-EU** trade rose to €299.1 bn in September 2021, +14.0% compared with September 2020.



In January to September 2021, **extra-EU** exports of goods rose to €1 589.6 bn (an increase of 13.5% compared with January-September 2020), and imports rose to €1 497.5 bn (an increase of 18.2% compared with January-September 2020). As a result, the **EU** recorded a surplus of €92.0 bn, compared with +€134.2 bn in January-September 2020. **Intra-EU** trade rose to €2 487.7 bn in January-September 2021, +19.6% compared with January-September 2020.

EU trade - non seasonally adjusted data

bn €

Flows	Sep 20	Sep 21	Growth	Jan-Sep 20	Jan-Sep 21	Growth
Extra-EU exports	170.9	186.9	9.4%	1 400.9	1 589.6	13.5%
Extra-EU imports	147.3	186.4	26.5%	1 266.7	1 497.5	18.2%
Extra-EU trade balance	23.7	0.5		134.2	92.0	
Intra-EU trade	262.3	299.1	14.0%	2 080.8	2 487.7	19.6%

Source dataset: [ext_st_eu27_2020sitc](#)

Main products - EU

bn €

	Extra-EU exports			Extra-EU imports			Trade balance	
	Jan-Sep 20	Jan-Sep 21	Growth	Jan-Sep 20	Jan-Sep 21	Growth	Jan-Sep 20	Jan-Sep 21
Total	1 400.9	1 589.6	13.5%	1 266.7	1 497.5	18.2%	134.2	92.0
Primary goods:	207.2	252.1	21.7%	309.9	410.3	32.4%	-102.7	-158.2
<i>Food & drink</i>	121.2	128.3	5.9%	84.3	84.8	0.6%	36.9	43.5
<i>Raw materials</i>	38.6	52.6	36.3%	58.3	78.2	34.1%	-19.7	-25.6
<i>Energy</i>	47.4	71.2	50.2%	167.3	247.3	47.8%	-119.9	-176.1
Manufactured goods:	1 160.3	1 304.2	12.4%	929.7	1 057.8	13.8%	230.7	246.4
<i>Chemicals</i>	309.3	333.2	7.7%	175.1	195.8	11.8%	134.2	137.4
<i>Machinery & vehicles</i>	539.8	608.6	12.7%	423.6	483.4	14.1%	116.2	125.3
<i>Other manuf'd goods</i>	311.3	362.4	16.4%	331.0	378.6	14.4%	-19.7	-16.2
Other	33.4	33.3	-0.3%	27.2	29.4	8.1%	6.2	3.8

Source dataset: [ext_st_eu27_2020sitc](#)

Main trading partners - EU

bn €

	EU exports to			EU imports from			Trade balance	
	Jan-Sep 20	Jan-Sep 21	Growth	Jan-Sep 20	Jan-Sep 21	Growth	Jan-Sep 20	Jan-Sep 21
China	145.2	165.7	14.1%	281.8	331.5	17.6%	-136.6	-165.8
United States	260.3	290.3	11.5%	153.7	167.1	8.7%	106.6	123.2
United Kingdom	198.2	207.2	4.5%	121.2	101.8	-16.0%	77.0	105.3
Switzerland	105.4	115.2	9.3%	81.2	89.4	10.1%	24.2	25.8
Russia	57.8	65.6	13.5%	70.4	108.2	53.7%	-12.6	-42.6
Turkey	49.4	57.5	16.4%	44.9	56.2	25.2%	4.5	1.3
Japan	40.7	46.6	14.5%	40.5	46.6	15.1%	0.2	0.0
Norway	35.7	41.5	16.2%	31.5	45.9	45.7%	4.1	-4.4
South Korea	33.1	38.0	14.8%	32.0	40.4	26.3%	1.1	-2.4
India	22.0	30.1	36.8%	24.6	32.7	32.9%	-2.6	-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-Sep 21	Growth / Jan-Sep 20	Jan-Sep 21	Growth / Jan-Sep 20	Jan-Sep 21	Growth / Jan-Sep 20	Jan-Sep 21	Growth / Jan-Sep 20	Jan-Sep 21	Growth / Jan-Sep 20	Jan-Sep 21	Growth / Jan-Sep 20	Jan-Sep 21	Jan-Sep 20	Jan-Sep 21	Jan-Sep 20	Jan-Sep 21	Jan-Sep 20
Belgium	329.9	21%	218.2	23%	111.7	18%	306.7	19%	189.2	21%	117.5	17%	23.2	15.3	29.0	21.0	-5.8	-5.8
Bulgaria	25.2	22%	16.7	24%	8.5	20%	28.0	26%	17.0	25%	11.0	27%	-2.8	-1.6	-0.2	0.0	-2.5	-1.6
Czechia	140.2	18%	112.6	19%	27.6	13%	129.5	21%	95.7	22%	33.8	18%	10.7	11.7	16.8	15.9	-6.2	-4.2
Denmark	77.1	8%	40.4	10%	36.7	7%	74.1	18%	49.8	17%	24.3	22%	3.0	8.5	-9.4	-5.9	12.4	14.4
Germany	1 014.1	15%	549.0	18%	465.1	11%	868.0	15%	554.3	18%	313.6	12%	146.1	131.1	-5.4	-6.0	151.5	137.1
Estonia	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Ireland	117.3	-2%	45.3	-6%	72.0	1%	70.3	15%	27.3	19%	42.9	12%	47.1	58.2	18.0	25.1	29.1	33.1
Greece	28.6	28%	15.6	20%	13.0	38%	45.4	26%	23.9	18%	21.5	36%	-16.7	-13.7	-8.3	-7.3	-8.5	-6.4
Spain	236.2	21%	147.7	23%	88.5	18%	251.6	21%	139.6	19%	112.0	22%	-15.4	-13.6	8.1	2.9	-23.5	-16.5
France	359.0	17%	196.1	18%	162.9	15%	434.7	17%	289.6	19%	145.2	12%	-75.7	-64.8	-93.4	-76.6	17.8	11.8
Croatia	13.4	25%	9.1	26%	4.3	23%	20.9	21%	15.6	17%	5.3	37%	-7.5	-6.5	-6.5	-6.1	-1.0	-0.4
Italy	376.5	20%	198.2	21%	178.3	19%	335.3	24%	192.2	23%	143.0	24%	41.3	42.0	5.9	7.3	35.3	34.8
Cyprus	2.1	-1%	0.6	-4%	1.4	0%	6.1	14%	4.1	25%	2.1	-3%	-4.1	-3.3	-3.4	-2.6	-0.6	-0.7
Latvia	12.6	23%	8.1	25%	4.6	21%	15.0	29%	10.9	22%	4.1	53%	-2.4	-1.4	-2.8	-2.5	0.4	1.1
Lithuania	24.5	19%	14.1	20%	10.4	17%	26.7	26%	18.2	23%	8.4	35%	-2.2	-0.4	-4.1	-3.1	2.0	2.7
Luxembourg	10.4	17%	8.4	17%	2.0	16%	15.7	17%	13.8	16%	1.8	20%	-5.3	-4.5	-5.4	-4.7	0.2	0.2
Hungary	88.1	16%	69.1	15%	19.0	16%	87.3	19%	62.0	19%	25.3	19%	0.8	2.8	7.1	7.7	-6.3	-4.9
Malta	1.8	14%	1.0	13%	0.9	15%	4.2	19%	2.5	27%	1.7	9%	-2.4	-1.9	-1.6	-1.1	-0.8	-0.8
Netherlands	509.7	19%	350.5	24%	159.2	8%	454.8	19%	190.1	20%	264.6	19%	55.0	48.7	160.3	124.5	-105.4	-75.8
Austria	125.9	15%	87.0	16%	38.9	14%	135.2	22%	103.6	22%	31.6	21%	-9.4	-1.7	-16.6	-9.6	7.3	7.9
Poland	207.4	21%	155.0	22%	52.4	17%	205.6	25%	137.2	23%	68.4	28%	1.8	6.7	17.8	15.3	-16.0	-8.6
Portugal	46.7	20%	33.2	19%	13.5	22%	58.8	18%	43.4	18%	15.5	18%	-12.2	-11.0	-10.2	-8.9	-2.0	-2.1
Romania	54.0	21%	39.7	21%	14.3	23%	71.2	23%	51.9	23%	19.3	25%	-17.3	-13.3	-12.3	-9.5	-5.0	-3.8
Slovenia	34.5	20%	23.0	19%	11.5	21%	34.1	29%	19.4	24%	14.7	37%	0.3	2.3	3.5	3.6	-3.2	-1.2
Slovakia	63.8	19%	51.2	20%	12.5	15%	63.4	20%	50.0	18%	13.5	32%	0.3	1.1	1.3	0.4	-1.0	0.7
Finland	48.9	18%	26.9	18%	22.0	17%	51.2	16%	36.3	15%	14.9	17%	-2.3	-2.6	-9.4	-8.7	7.1	6.0
Sweden	116.2	17%	62.3	21%	53.9	13%	113.3	19%	76.0	19%	37.3	19%	3.0	4.2	-13.7	-12.2	16.6	16.5

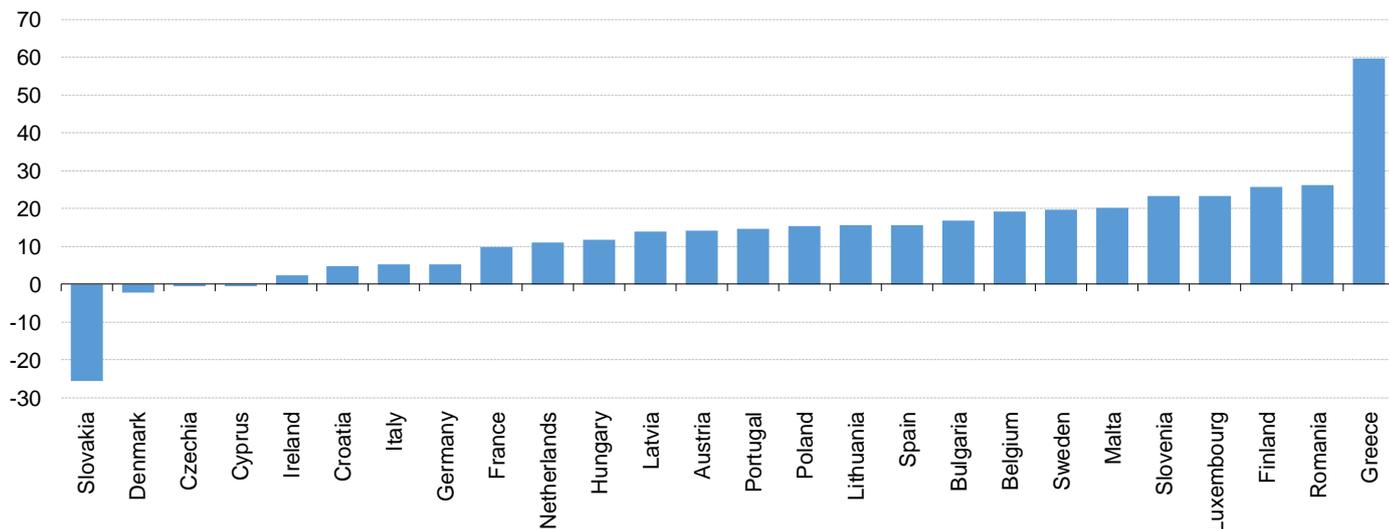
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Source dataset: [ext_st_27_2020msbec](#)

Annual comparison by Member State

In September 2021, compared with September 2020, all the Member States for which data were available registered an increase in **extra-EU** exports except **Slovakia** (-26.3%), **Denmark** (-2.2%), **Czechia** (-0.5%) and **Cyprus** (-0.4%). The highest increases were registered in **Greece** (+59.7%), **Romania** (26.2%) and **Finland** (+25.7%).

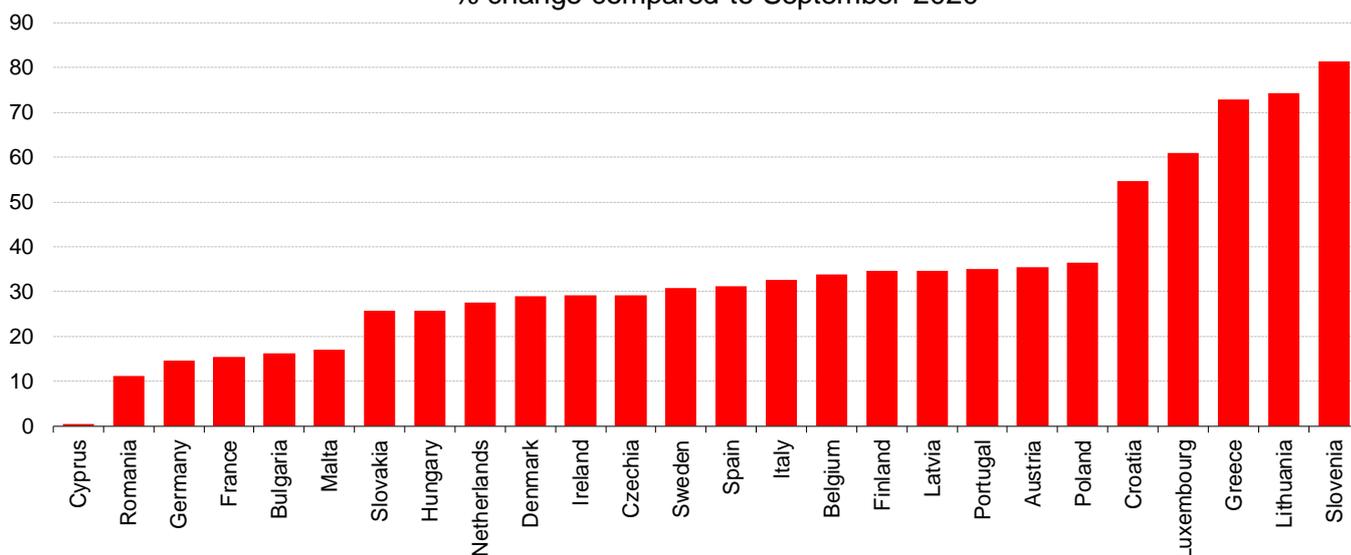
Extra-EU exports by Member State - September 2021
% change compared to September 2020



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With regard to the extra-EU imports, all Member States for which data were available registered an increase in **extra-EU** imports in September 2021 compared to September 2020. The highest increases were observed in **Slovenia** (+81.5%), **Lithuania** (+74.3%) and **Greece** (+73.0%).

Extra-EU imports by Member State - September 2021
% change compared to September 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.

Data for September 2021 for Estonia were not available. Euro area and EU aggregates include Eurostat estimates for missing data.

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 10 November 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 September 2021 compared with August 2021, **euro area** seasonally adjusted exports decreased by 0.4%, while imports increased by 1.5%. The seasonally adjusted balance was +€6.1 bn, a fall compared with August (+€9.7 bn).

EA trade - seasonally adjusted data

bn €

Flows	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21
Extra-EA exports	186.4	190.1	192.8	191.6	192.6	197.8	198.1	199.3	197.9	201.1	202.2	201.4
Extra-EA imports	161.2	166.1	166.7	164.0	169.2	179.8	185.2	186.1	186.8	187.9	192.5	195.3
Extra-EA trade balance	25.2	24.0	26.1	27.6	23.5	18.0	12.9	13.2	11.1	13.2	9.7	6.1
Intra-EA trade	159.4	161.6	161.6	164.8	166.0	173.9	175.0	176.0	176.8	179.6	182.1	182.9

Source dataset: [ext_st_ea19sitc](#)

In September 2021 compared with August 2021, **EU** seasonally adjusted exports decreased by 0.2%, while imports increased by 1.4%. The seasonally adjusted balance was -€0.9 bn, a fall compared with August (+€1.9 bn).

EU trade - seasonally adjusted data

bn €

Flows	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21
Extra-EU exports	168.0	171.6	173.4	171.9	172.7	176.6	178.9	178.7	177.7	180.1	180.6	180.3
Extra-EU imports	143.7	148.2	148.2	144.9	151.9	163.4	168.7	169.4	170.9	172.2	178.7	181.2
Extra-EU trade balance	24.3	23.4	25.2	27.0	20.7	13.2	10.2	9.3	6.8	8.0	1.9	-0.9
Intra-EU trade	253.9	258.0	258.1	262.7	264.9	275.4	276.2	277.0	277.8	282.4	283.2	284.0

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	
	Aug 21	Sep 21	Growth	Aug 21	Sep 21	Growth	Aug 21	Sep 21
EU	180.6	180.3	-0.2%	178.7	181.2	1.4%	1.9	-0.9
Belgium	14.0	13.5	-3.9%	14.1	14.8	4.7%	-0.1	-1.3
Bulgaria	1.0	1.0	-1.8%	1.4	1.2	-11.7%	-0.4	-0.2
Czechia	3.0	3.0	-1.3%	4.0	4.2	3.3%	-1.0	-1.2
Denmark	3.6	3.9	6.6%	2.6	2.9	12.3%	1.0	0.9
Germany	51.1	50.9	-0.4%	36.3	36.6	0.8%	14.8	14.3
Estonia	0.5	:	:	0.6	:	:	0.0	:
Ireland	8.2	8.1	-1.8%	5.3	5.4	2.9%	3.0	2.7
Greece	1.5	1.6	3.8%	2.6	2.7	3.7%	-1.1	-1.1
Spain	10.2	10.4	2.4%	13.9	13.4	-3.0%	-3.7	-3.0
France	18.8	18.7	-0.3%	16.8	17.0	0.8%	2.0	1.8
Croatia	0.5	0.5	0.5%	0.6	0.6	2.1%	-0.2	-0.2
Italy	20.1	20.5	2.2%	17.3	17.5	1.7%	2.8	3.0
Cyprus	0.2	0.1	-39.0%	0.2	0.2	-18.4%	0.0	-0.1
Latvia	0.5	0.6	3.9%	0.7	0.5	-31.0%	-0.1	0.1
Lithuania	1.2	1.2	2.6%	1.1	1.2	5.5%	0.1	0.1
Luxembourg	0.3	0.2	-1.4%	0.2	0.2	-0.3%	0.0	0.0
Hungary	2.2	2.2	1.6%	3.1	3.1	1.4%	-0.9	-0.9
Malta	0.1	0.1	-3.1%	0.2	0.2	2.2%	-0.1	-0.1
Netherlands	19.0	18.3	-3.6%	31.7	32.3	1.9%	-12.8	-14.1
Austria	4.5	4.4	-0.4%	3.6	3.8	6.7%	0.9	0.6
Poland	5.9	6.0	1.6%	8.7	8.4	-2.9%	-2.8	-2.5
Portugal	1.6	1.6	-3.4%	1.8	2.0	8.8%	-0.2	-0.4
Romania	1.8	1.7	-7.0%	2.2	2.1	-2.8%	-0.4	-0.4
Slovenia	1.3	1.3	2.1%	2.1	2.1	-1.7%	-0.8	-0.7
Slovakia	1.2	1.1	-6.1%	1.5	1.5	-2.7%	-0.3	-0.4
Finland	2.4	2.6	10.0%	1.8	1.9	8.6%	0.6	0.7
Sweden	5.9	6.3	6.9%	4.3	4.7	8.2%	1.5	1.6

: Data not available

Source dataset: [ext_st_27_2020_msbec](#)

International trade in goods balance, seasonally adjusted, € bn

