

21/2022 - 15 February 2022

December 2021

Euro area international trade in goods deficit

€4.6 bn

€10.0 bn deficit for EU

Euro area

The first estimate for **euro area** exports of goods to the rest of the world in December 2021 was €218.7 billion, an increase of 14.1% compared with December 2020 (€191.7 bn). Imports from the rest of the world stood at €223.3 bn, a rise of 36.7% compared with December 2020 (€163.4 bn), mainly driven by an increase in energy imports. As a result, the **euro area** recorded a €4.6 bn deficit in trade in goods with the rest of the world in December 2021, compared with a surplus of €28.3 bn in December 2020. **Intra-euro area** trade rose to €191.9 bn in December 2021, up by 27.8% compared with December 2020.



In January to December 2021, **euro area** exports of goods to the rest of the world rose to €2 434.3 bn (an increase of 14.1% compared with January-December 2020), and imports rose to €2 305.9 bn (an increase of 21.4% compared with January-December 2020). As a result the **euro area** recorded a surplus of €128.4 bn, compared with +€233.9 bn in January-December 2020. **Intra-euro area** trade rose to €2 180.1 bn in January-December 2021, up by 20.7% compared with January-December 2020.

EA trade - non seasonally adjusted data

bn €

Flows	Dec 20	Dec 21	Growth	Jan-Dec 20	Jan-Dec 21	Growth
Extra-EA exports	191.7	218.7	14.1%	2 133.9	2 434.3	14.1%
Extra-EA imports	163.4	223.3	36.7%	1 900.0	2 305.9	21.4%
Extra-EA trade balance	28.3	-4.6		233.9	128.4	
Intra-EA trade	150.2	191.9	27.8%	1 806.4	2 180.1	20.7%

Source dataset: [ext_st_ea19sitc](#)

European Union

The first estimate for **extra-EU** exports of goods in December 2021 was €198.2 billion, up by 12.5% compared with December 2020 (€176.1 bn). Imports from the rest of the world stood at €208.2 bn, up by 41.8% compared with December 2020 (€146.8 bn). As a result, the **EU** recorded a €10.0 bn deficit in trade in goods with the rest of the world in December 2021, compared with a surplus of €29.3 bn in December 2020. **Intra-EU** trade rose to €297.3 bn in December 2021, +25.3% compared with December 2020.



In January to December 2021, **extra-EU** exports of goods rose to €2 180.5 bn (an increase of 12.8% compared with January-December 2020), and imports rose to €2 111.5 bn (an increase of 23% compared with January-December 2020). As a result, the **EU** recorded a surplus of €68.9 bn, compared with +€215.8 bn in January-December 2020. **Intra-EU** trade rose to €3 424.7 bn in January-December 2021, +19.9% compared with January-December 2020.

EU trade - non seasonally adjusted data

bn €

Flows	Dec 20	Dec 21	Growth	Jan-Dec 20	Jan-Dec 21	Growth
Extra-EU exports	176.1	198.2	12.5%	1 933.1	2 180.5	12.8%
Extra-EU imports	146.8	208.2	41.8%	1 717.3	2 111.5	23.0%
Extra-EU trade balance	29.3	-10.0		215.8	68.9	
Intra-EU trade	237.3	297.3	25.3%	2 855.4	3 424.7	19.9%

Source dataset: [ext_st_eu27_2020sitc](#)

In 2021, the highest increase for both import and export flows was recorded in the energy sector, leading to a significant worsening of the EU energy deficit (-€276.7 bn in 2021 compared with -€157.2 bn in 2020).

Main products – EU

bn €

	Extra-EU exports			Extra-EU imports			Trade balance	
	Jan-Dec 20	Jan-Dec 21	Growth	Jan-Dec 20	Jan-Dec 21	Growth	Jan-Dec 20	Jan-Dec 21
Total	1 933.1	2 180.5	12.8%	1 717.3	2 111.5	23.0%	215.8	68.9
Primary goods:	283.6	350.3	23.5%	414.0	603.8	45.8%	-130.4	-253.5
<i>Food & drink</i>	166.3	175.5	5.5%	113.0	117.0	3.5%	53.3	58.5
<i>Raw materials</i>	53.2	70.8	33.1%	79.7	106.0	33.0%	-26.5	-35.2
<i>Energy</i>	64.1	104.1	62.4%	221.3	380.8	72.1%	-157.2	-276.7
Manufactured goods:	1 603.0	1 783.6	11.3%	1 265.9	1 466.0	15.8%	337.0	317.6
<i>Chemicals</i>	410.9	456.2	11.0%	233.1	270.5	16.0%	177.8	185.8
<i>Machinery & vehicles</i>	760.0	830.8	9.3%	588.1	670.7	14.0%	171.9	160.1
<i>Other manuf'd goods</i>	432.1	496.6	14.9%	444.7	524.8	18.0%	-12.7	-28.3
Other	46.5	46.5	0.0%	37.3	41.7	11.8%	9.1	4.8

Source dataset: [ext_st_eu27_2020sitc](#)

Main trading partners - EU

bn €

	EU exports to			EU imports from			Trade balance	
	Jan-Dec 20	Jan-Dec 21	Growth	Jan-Dec 20	Jan-Dec 21	Growth	Jan-Dec 20	Jan-Dec 21
China	202.8	223.3	10.1%	385.1	472.2	22.6%	-182.3	-248.9
United States	353.2	399.4	13.1%	203.0	232.0	14.3%	150.2	167.4
United Kingdom	278.3	283.6	1.9%	169.0	146.0	-13.6%	109.3	137.6
Switzerland	142.3	156.5	10.0%	108.9	123.6	13.5%	33.4	32.9
Russia	79.0	89.3	13.0%	94.7	158.5	67.4%	-15.7	-69.2
Turkey	70.1	79.2	13.0%	62.4	78.0	25.0%	7.7	1.3
Norway	48.6	56.5	16.3%	42.5	74.5	75.3%	6.1	-18.0
Japan	55.2	62.4	13.0%	55.0	62.3	13.3%	0.3	0.0
South Korea	45.3	51.9	14.6%	44.1	55.4	25.6%	1.2	-3.6
India	32.2	41.9	30.1%	33.0	46.2	40.0%	-0.8	-4.3

Source dataset: [ext_st_eu27_2020sitc](#)

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

bn €

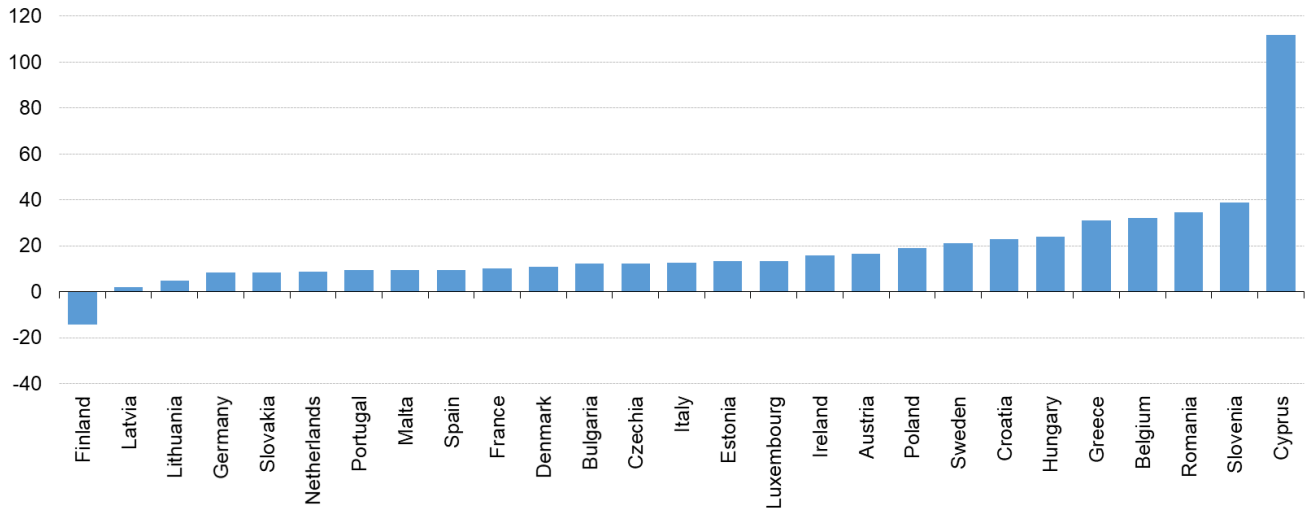
	Total exports						Total imports						Trade balance					
	Total		Intra-EU		Extra-EU		Total		Intra-EU		Extra-EU		Total		Intra-EU		Extra-EU	
	Jan-Dec 21	Growth / Jan-Dec 20	Jan-Dec 21	Growth / Jan-Dec 20	Jan-Dec 21	Growth / Jan-Dec 20	Jan-Dec 21	Growth / Jan-Dec 20	Jan-Dec 21	Growth / Jan-Dec 20	Jan-Dec 21	Growth / Jan-Dec 20	Jan-Dec 21	Jan-Dec 20	Jan-Dec 21	Jan-Dec 20	Jan-Dec 21	Jan-Dec 20
Belgium	459.9	24%	304.2	27%	155.6	19%	431.2	24%	264.6	24%	166.6	23%	28.7	21.7	39.7	26.0	-11.0	-4.3
Bulgaria	34.6	24%	23.2	26%	11.4	18%	39.1	28%	23.7	27%	15.4	29%	-4.5	-2.7	-0.5	-0.4	-4.0	-2.3
Czechia	191.4	14%	154.0	15%	37.5	10%	178.4	19%	131.3	20%	47.1	16%	13.0	18.0	22.6	24.6	-9.6	-6.6
Denmark	105.5	11%	55.4	13%	50.1	9%	102.8	20%	69.0	17%	33.8	27%	2.7	9.3	-13.6	-9.9	16.3	19.2
Germany	1 380.0	14%	747.4	18%	632.7	10%	1 201.1	17%	765.3	18%	435.8	15%	179.0	183.7	-17.9	-11.0	196.9	194.7
Estonia	18.2	28%	12.2	29%	6.0	25%	20.0	32%	14.4	26%	5.6	49%	-1.7	-0.9	-2.2	-1.9	0.4	1.1
Ireland	160.8	2%	61.4	-4%	99.4	6%	100.5	15%	38.2	15%	62.3	15%	60.3	70.6	23.2	30.9	37.1	39.7
Greece	39.9	30%	21.4	21%	18.5	41%	64.2	31%	32.9	18%	31.3	49%	-24.3	-18.1	-11.5	-10.2	-12.9	-7.9
Spain	325.3	21%	203.7	23%	121.6	16%	354.2	24%	193.5	20%	160.7	30%	-28.9	-15.7	10.3	3.3	-39.2	-19.0
France	495.0	16%	270.6	18%	224.4	13%	604.6	19%	400.4	19%	204.1	19%	-109.6	-81.3	-129.9	-107.4	20.3	26.2
Croatia	19.2	28%	13.2	30%	6.0	23%	29.1	24%	21.6	19%	7.5	40%	-9.9	-8.5	-8.4	-8.0	-1.5	-0.5
Italy	516.3	18%	269.8	20%	246.5	16%	465.8	25%	267.3	23%	198.6	28%	50.4	63.3	2.5	6.9	47.9	56.4
Cyprus	3.2	19%	0.9	-6%	2.4	32%	8.5	12%	5.5	24%	3.1	-6%	-5.3	-5.0	-4.6	-3.5	-0.7	-1.4
Latvia	17.7	24%	11.4	29%	6.4	17%	20.6	28%	15.0	23%	5.5	44%	-2.9	-1.8	-3.7	-3.4	0.8	1.6
Lithuania	34.6	21%	19.9	24%	14.6	16%	37.8	30%	25.5	23%	12.3	44%	-3.2	-0.5	-5.5	-4.6	2.4	4.1
Luxembourg	14.0	16%	11.3	16%	2.7	14%	21.7	17%	19.3	17%	2.4	18%	-7.7	-6.4	-8.0	-6.7	0.3	0.3
Hungary	119.8	14%	93.5	13%	26.3	16%	120.1	18%	85.5	19%	34.6	16%	-0.2	4.0	8.0	11.0	-8.2	-7.0
Malta	2.6	12%	1.3	9%	1.3	15%	5.8	27%	3.4	28%	2.4	25%	-3.2	-2.2	-2.1	-1.5	-1.1	-0.8
Netherlands	707.7	20%	490.9	26%	216.7	7%	641.2	23%	264.4	22%	376.8	24%	66.5	69.5	226.5	171.3	-160.0	-101.8
Austria	170.9	15%	117.9	16%	53.0	14%	185.0	23%	141.2	22%	43.8	26%	-14.1	-2.6	-23.3	-14.2	9.2	11.6
Poland	285.8	19%	213.8	21%	72.1	16%	286.4	25%	188.9	22%	97.6	32%	-0.6	10.6	24.9	22.2	-25.5	-11.6
Portugal	63.5	18%	45.4	18%	18.1	18%	82.5	21%	60.7	19%	21.8	26%	-19.0	-14.4	-15.4	-12.5	-3.7	-1.9
Romania	73.9	20%	54.1	18%	19.8	24%	98.4	22%	71.3	20%	27.1	28%	-24.4	-18.7	-17.2	-13.5	-7.3	-5.2
Slovenia	48.2	23%	32.5	23%	15.7	23%	48.7	32%	27.3	26%	21.5	41%	-0.5	2.3	5.2	4.8	-5.7	-2.4
Slovakia	87.6	16%	70.6	18%	17.1	8%	87.6	19%	68.5	16%	19.1	32%	0.0	1.9	2.0	0.5	-2.0	1.4
Finland	69.1	19%	38.8	24%	30.4	15%	72.5	21%	50.5	18%	22.1	30%	-3.4	-1.9	-11.7	-11.4	8.3	9.5
Sweden	160.4	18%	86.2	21%	74.2	14%	158.0	20%	105.3	18%	52.7	25%	2.5	4.9	-19.0	-17.9	21.5	22.8

Source dataset: ext_st_27_2020msbec

Annual comparison by Member State

In December 2021 compared with December 2020, all the Member States registered an increase in **extra-EU** exports except **Finland** (-14.2%). The highest increases were registered in **Cyprus** (+111.8%), **Slovenia** (+38.9%) and **Romania** (+34.6%).

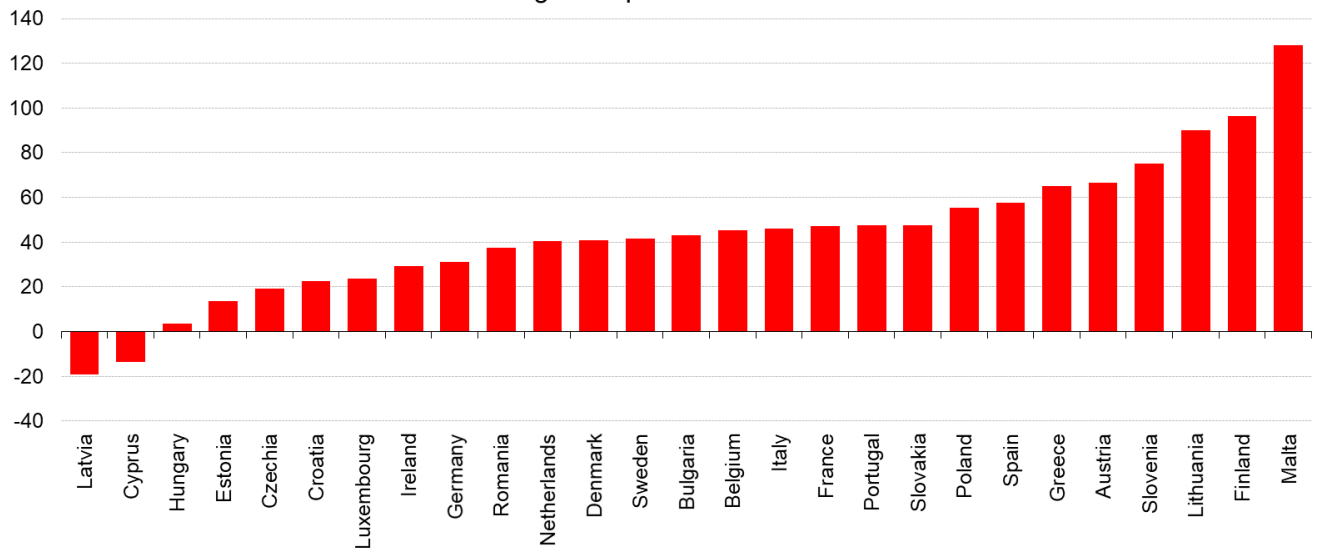
Extra-EU exports by Member State - December 2021
% change compared to December 2020



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With regard to the extra-EU imports, all Member States, except **Latvia** (-19.4%) and **Cyprus** (-13.5%), registered an increase in **extra-EU** imports in December 2021 compared with December 2020. The highest increases were observed in **Malta** (+128.1%), **Finland** (+96.4%) and **Lithuania** (+90.1%).

Extra-EU imports by Member State - December 2021
% change compared to December 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 10 February 2022. 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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Eurostat Press Office

María Guadalupe MORENO CABANILLAS

Tel: +352-4301-33 408

eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu

For further information on data:

Michele MAROTTA

Tel: +352-4301-32 493

estat-etfree@ec.europa.eu

 **Media requests:** eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu / Tel: +352-4301-33 408

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Annex - Seasonally adjusted data

In December 2021 compared with November 2021, **euro area** seasonally adjusted exports decreased by 0.6%, while imports increased by 3.1%. The seasonally adjusted balance was -€9.7 bn, a fall compared with November (-€1.8 bn).

EA trade - seasonally adjusted data

bn €

Flows	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21
Extra-EA exports	191.4	192.5	197.8	198.1	199.7	198.4	202.0	203.0	202.5	207.3	213.5	212.2
Extra-EA imports	163.6	168.8	179.9	185.2	186.4	187.3	189.2	194.4	197.0	206.5	215.3	221.9
Extra-EA trade balance	27.8	23.7	17.9	13.0	13.3	11.1	12.8	8.7	5.5	0.8	-1.8	-9.7
Intra-EA trade	164.3	165.5	174.4	175.4	176.6	177.7	180.7	183.1	186.8	193.1	195.7	199.0

Source dataset: [ext_st_ea19sitc](#)

In December 2021 compared with November 2021, **EU** seasonally adjusted exports decreased by 1.6%, while imports increased by 2.7%. The seasonally adjusted balance was -€17.2 bn, a fall compared with November (-€8.7 bn).

EU trade - seasonally adjusted data

bn €

Flows	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21
Extra-EU exports	171.7	172.6	176.6	179.0	179.0	178.0	180.7	181.2	181.0	185.6	191.3	188.2
Extra-EU imports	144.4	151.5	163.4	168.5	169.6	171.1	173.1	180.2	182.5	191.0	200.0	205.4
Extra-EU trade balance	27.3	21.0	13.2	10.5	9.4	7.0	7.6	0.9	-1.5	-5.4	-8.7	-17.2
Intra-EU trade	262.0	264.3	276.1	276.8	278.1	279.2	284.3	285.2	289.9	298.9	305.8	309.5

Source dataset: [ext_st_eu27_2020sitc](#)

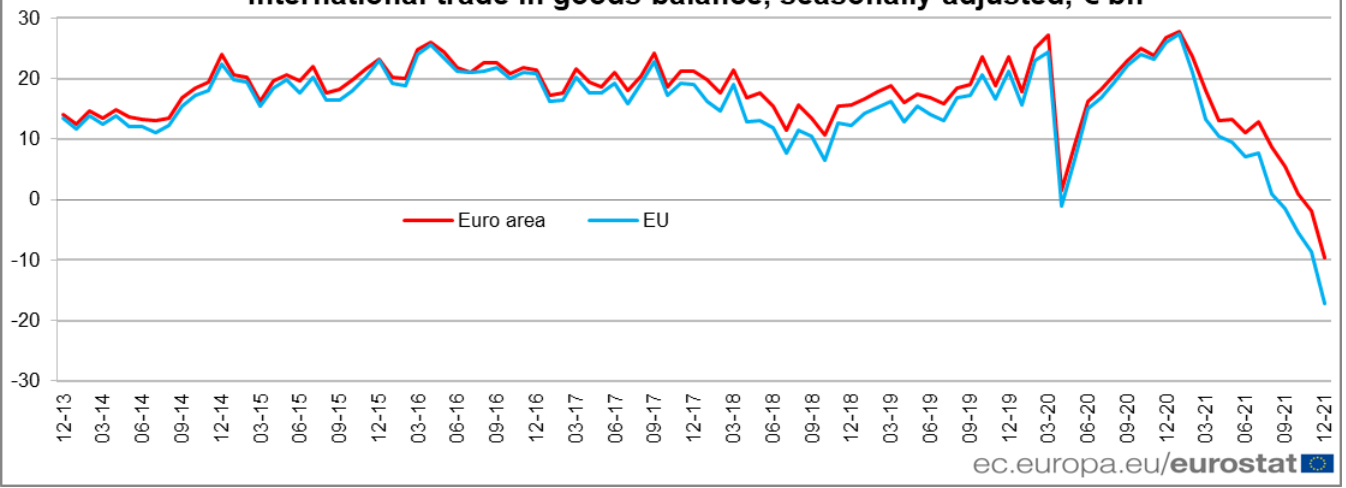
Contribution of EU Member States to extra-EU trade - seasonally adjusted data

bn €

	Total exports			Total imports			Trade balance	
	Nov 21	Dec 21	Growth	Nov 21	Dec 21	Growth	Nov 21	Dec 21
EU	191.3	188.2	-1.6%	200.0	205.4	2.7%	-8.7	-17.2
Belgium	13.9	15.1	8.7%	16.2	16.9	4.2%	-2.4	-1.9
Bulgaria	0.9	0.9	9.6%	1.5	1.4	-2.2%	-0.6	-0.5
Czechia	3.3	3.2	-2.9%	4.0	4.2	4.9%	-0.7	-1.0
Denmark	4.5	4.3	-5.5%	3.2	3.2	-0.6%	1.3	1.1
Germany	54.8	53.0	-3.3%	39.3	41.4	5.2%	15.5	11.6
Estonia	0.5	0.6	6.6%	0.5	0.4	-13.7%	0.0	0.1
Ireland	8.6	8.3	-3.1%	5.6	6.1	9.5%	2.9	2.1
Greece	1.8	1.6	-9.8%	3.4	3.0	-12.6%	-1.7	-1.4
Spain	11.2	10.6	-5.7%	16.8	16.6	-1.2%	-5.6	-6.0
France	19.1	19.2	0.7%	19.5	20.1	2.8%	-0.5	-0.9
Croatia	0.6	0.5	-11.8%	0.8	0.8	3.4%	-0.2	-0.3
Italy	21.9	21.2	-3.0%	18.6	18.9	1.9%	3.3	2.3
Cyprus	0.3	0.3	-4.5%	0.4	0.3	-37.4%	-0.1	0.0
Latvia	0.5	0.5	-3.1%	0.4	0.4	-9.7%	0.1	0.2
Lithuania	1.3	1.3	-6.2%	1.4	1.3	-4.6%	0.0	0.0
Luxembourg	0.2	0.2	-8.4%	0.2	0.2	5.6%	0.1	0.0
Hungary	2.3	2.4	2.1%	2.9	2.8	-4.9%	-0.6	-0.4
Malta	0.1	0.1	-12.0%	0.3	0.4	21.5%	-0.2	-0.3
Netherlands	19.4	18.8	-3.0%	35.6	36.6	2.8%	-16.2	-17.8
Austria	4.7	4.4	-6.2%	3.9	4.4	12.4%	0.8	0.0
Poland	6.3	6.4	1.1%	9.7	9.7	0.1%	-3.4	-3.3
Portugal	1.5	1.5	-2.6%	2.3	2.1	-7.3%	-0.7	-0.6
Romania	1.7	1.9	11.6%	2.5	2.4	-5.3%	-0.8	-0.5
Slovenia	1.4	1.4	-0.5%	2.0	2.3	17.6%	-0.5	-0.9
Slovakia	1.5	1.6	10.5%	1.7	1.9	15.1%	-0.2	-0.3
Finland	2.7	2.6	-2.7%	2.2	2.5	14.8%	0.5	0.1
Sweden	6.4	6.5	1.1%	5.0	5.0	0.6%	1.4	1.5

Source dataset: [ext_st_27_2020_msbec](#)

International trade in goods balance, seasonally adjusted, € bn



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