

International trade in goods in 2016

A third of EU trade with the United States and China

At Member State level, trade within the EU largely prevails though

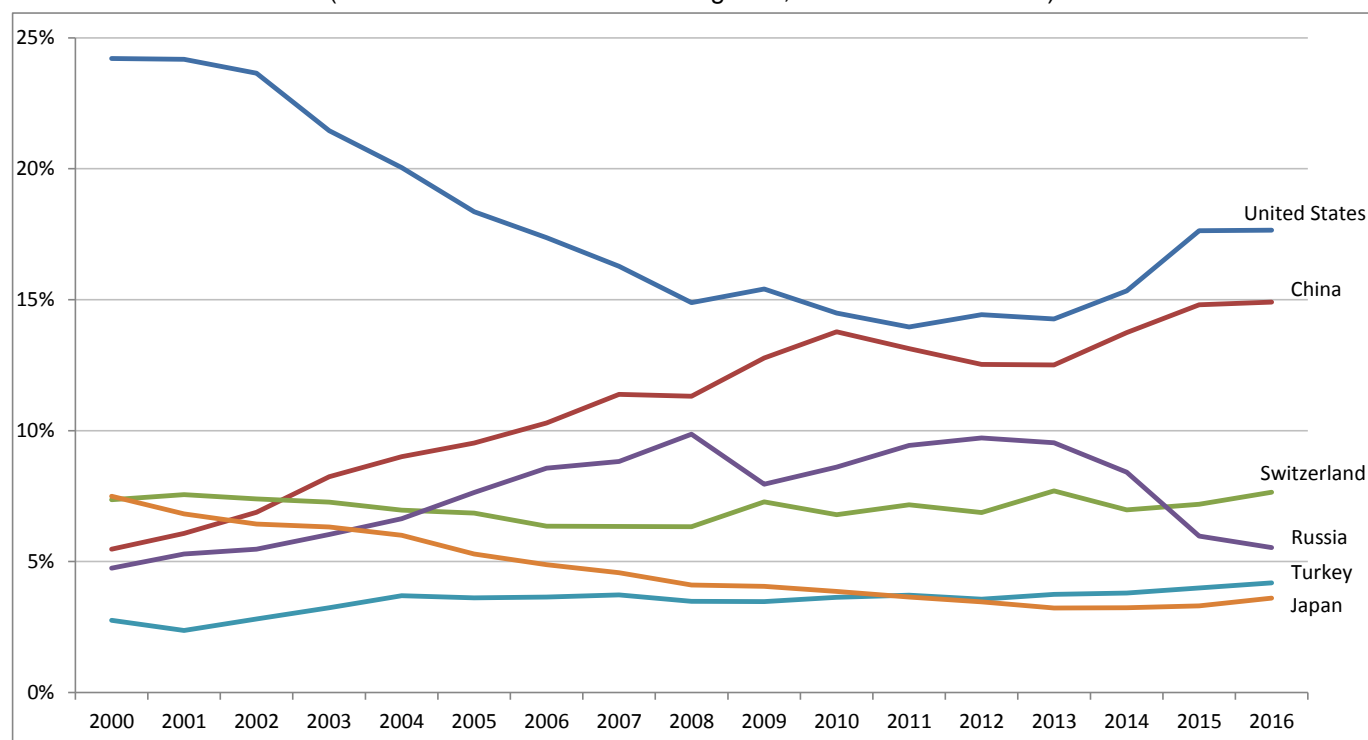
In 2016, the **United States** (€610 bn, or 17.7% of total EU trade in goods) and **China** (€515 bn, or 14.9%) continued to be the two main goods trading partners of the **European Union** (EU), well ahead of **Switzerland** (€264 bn, or 7.6%), **Russia** (€191 bn, or 5.5%), **Turkey** (€145 bn, or 4.2%) and **Japan** (€125 bn, or 3.6%).

Trends observed over the past years are however very different for these top trading partners of the EU. After recording a significant and almost continuous fall until 2011, the share of the **United States** in EU total trade in goods has begun to increase again to reach 17.7% in 2016. The share of **China** has almost tripled since 2000, rising from 5.5% to 14.9% in 2016. Since 2013 the share of **Russia** in total EU trade in goods has nearly halved to 5.5% in 2016, as did the share of **Japan** since 2000 to 3.6% in 2016. As for **Switzerland** and **Turkey**, their respective share remained relatively unchanged over the entire time period.

In 2016, machinery and transport equipment, other manufactured goods and chemicals represented the main categories of product traded by the **EU**.

These data are issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. A selection of [infographics](#) on international trade in goods is also available on the Eurostat website.

EU top trading partners, 2000-2016
(Share in total extra-EU trade in goods, based on trade value)



Germany, main export destination for a majority of Member States

In almost all EU Member States, the main partner for exports of goods in 2016 was another member of the European Union, except for **Germany, Ireland, Malta** and the **United Kingdom** (the United States was the main destination of exports) as well as **Lithuania** (Russia).

In some Member States, over a quarter of exports went to one single partner. This partner was **Germany** for the **Czech Republic** (32% of exports of goods), **Austria** (30%), **Hungary** (28%) and **Poland** (27%). It was the **United States** for **Malta** (27%) and **Ireland** (26%), while for **Portugal** 26% of exports of goods went to **Spain**. Overall, **Germany** was the main destination of goods exports for 16 Member States and among the top three in 22 Member States.

For extra-EU trade, that is trade with non-EU countries, the 3 main destinations of EU exports in 2016 were the **United States** (21% of all extra-EU exports), **China** (10%) and **Switzerland** (8%).

Exports of goods of the EU Member States: top 3 partners, 2016
(based on trade value)

	Main partner	%	Second main partner	%	Third main partner	%
EU*	United States	21	China	10	Switzerland	8
Belgium	Germany	17	France	15	Netherlands	11
Bulgaria	Germany	14	Italy	9	Romania	9
Czech Republic	Germany	32	Slovakia	8	Poland	6
Denmark	Germany	16	Sweden	12	United States	8
Germany	United States	9	France	8	United Kingdom	7
Estonia	Sweden	18	Finland	16	Latvia	9
Ireland	United States	26	United Kingdom	13	Belgium	13
Greece	Italy	11	Germany	8	Cyprus	6
Spain	France	15	Germany	11	Italy	8
France	Germany	16	Spain	8	United States	7
Croatia	Italy	13	Slovenia	12	Germany	12
Italy	Germany	13	France	11	United States	9
Cyprus	Greece	13	United Kingdom	8	Libya	8
Latvia	Lithuania	17	Estonia	11	Russia	11
Lithuania	Russia	13	Latvia	10	Poland	9
Luxembourg	Germany	23	Belgium	17	France	15
Hungary	Germany	28	Romania	5	Slovakia	5
Malta	United States	27	Germany	14	France	8
Netherlands	Germany	24	Belgium	11	United Kingdom	9
Austria	Germany	30	United States	6	Italy	6
Poland	Germany	27	United Kingdom	7	Czech Republic	7
Portugal	Spain	26	France	13	Germany	12
Romania	Germany	22	Italy	12	France	7
Slovenia	Germany	19	Italy	10	Austria	7
Slovakia	Germany	22	Czech Republic	12	Poland	8
Finland	Germany	13	Sweden	10	United States	8
Sweden	Germany	11	Norway	10	United States	7
United Kingdom	United States	15	Germany	11	France	6

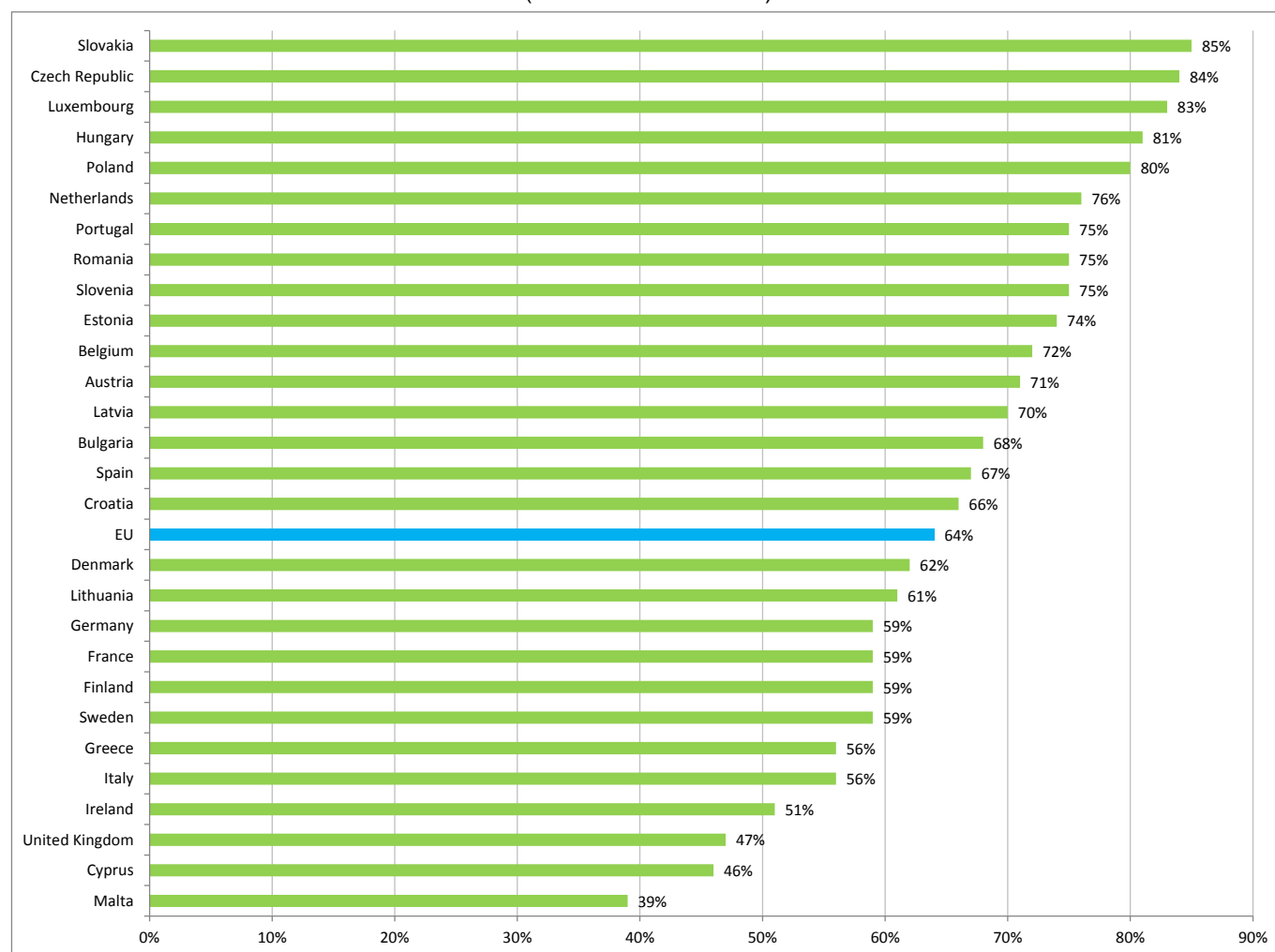
* EU exports refer to extra-EU exports only, while exports of Member States refer to total exports (both intra- and extra-EU).
Cells shaded in blue are EU Member States.
The source dataset can be found [here](#).

Intra-EU exports prevail in all Member States apart from Malta, Cyprus and the United Kingdom

In 2016, the 28 EU Member States exported a total of €4 855 bn of goods, of which €3 110 bn (or 64%) were destined for another Member State of the EU (intra-EU trade).

With about three-quarters or more of goods exported to other EU Member States, **Slovakia** (85% intra-EU in total exports), the **Czech Republic** (84%), **Luxembourg** (83%), **Hungary** (81%), **Poland** (80%), the **Netherlands** (76%), **Portugal**, **Romania** and **Slovenia** (all 75%) as well as **Estonia** (74%) recorded in 2016 the highest shares of intra-EU exports. At the opposite end of the scale, **Malta** (39%), **Cyprus** (46%) and the **United Kingdom** (47%) were the only Member States that exported more goods to non-EU countries than within the EU in 2016.

Share of intra-EU exports, 2016
(based on trade value)



The source dataset can be found [here](#).

Germany, also main source of imports for more than half of EU Member States

As for exports, the main partner for imports of goods in 2016 was another member of the European Union in all Member States except **Lithuania**, for which Russia was the main country of origin of goods imported.

In seven Member States, more than 25% of imports of goods came from a single partner country in 2016: **Austria** (43% of imports of goods originated from Germany), **Portugal** (33% from Spain), the **Czech Republic** (31% from Germany), **Ireland** (29% from the United Kingdom), **Luxembourg** (29% from Belgium), **Poland** (28% from Germany) and **Hungary** (26% from Germany). Overall, **Germany** was among the top three countries of origin of goods imported in all EU Member States except **Ireland** and **Malta**.

For extra-EU trade, the main country of origin of goods imported into the EU in 2016 remained **China** (20% of all extra-EU imports), followed by the **United States** (14%), **Switzerland** (7%) and **Russia** (7%).

Imports of goods into the EU Member States: top 3 partners, 2016 (based on trade value)

	Main partner	%	Second main partner	%	Third main partner	%
EU*	China	20	United States	14	Switzerland	7
Belgium**	Netherlands**	16	Germany	13	France	9
Bulgaria	Germany	13	Russia	9	Italy	8
Czech Republic	Germany	31	Poland	10	China	7
Denmark	Germany	21	Sweden	12	Netherlands**	8
Germany	Netherlands**	13	China	7	France	7
Estonia	Finland	13	Germany	11	Lithuania	9
Ireland	United Kingdom	29	United States	15	France	13
Greece	Germany	11	Italy	9	China	7
Spain	Germany	15	France	12	China	7
France	Germany	19	Belgium**	11	Netherlands**	8
Croatia	Germany	16	Italy	12	Slovenia	11
Italy	Germany	16	France	9	China	7
Cyprus	Greece	21	Germany	17	Italy	7
Latvia	Lithuania	17	Germany	12	Poland	10
Lithuania	Russia	14	Germany	12	Poland	11
Luxembourg	Belgium**	29	Germany	24	France	10
Hungary	Germany	26	Austria	6	China	6
Malta	Italy	21	Cayman Islands	12	Canada	10
Netherlands**	Germany	15	China	14	Belgium**	8
Austria	Germany	43	Italy	6	Switzerland	5
Poland	Germany	28	China	8	Netherlands**	6
Portugal	Spain	33	Germany	14	France	8
Romania	Germany	21	Italy	10	Hungary	7
Slovenia	Germany	17	Italy	13	Austria	10
Slovakia	Germany	20	Czech Republic	17	Austria	10
Finland	Germany	17	Sweden	16	Russia	11
Sweden	Germany	19	Netherlands**	8	Norway	8
United Kingdom	Germany	14	United States	9	China	9

* EU imports refer to extra-EU imports only, while imports of Member States refer to total imports (both intra- and extra-EU).

** See country note.

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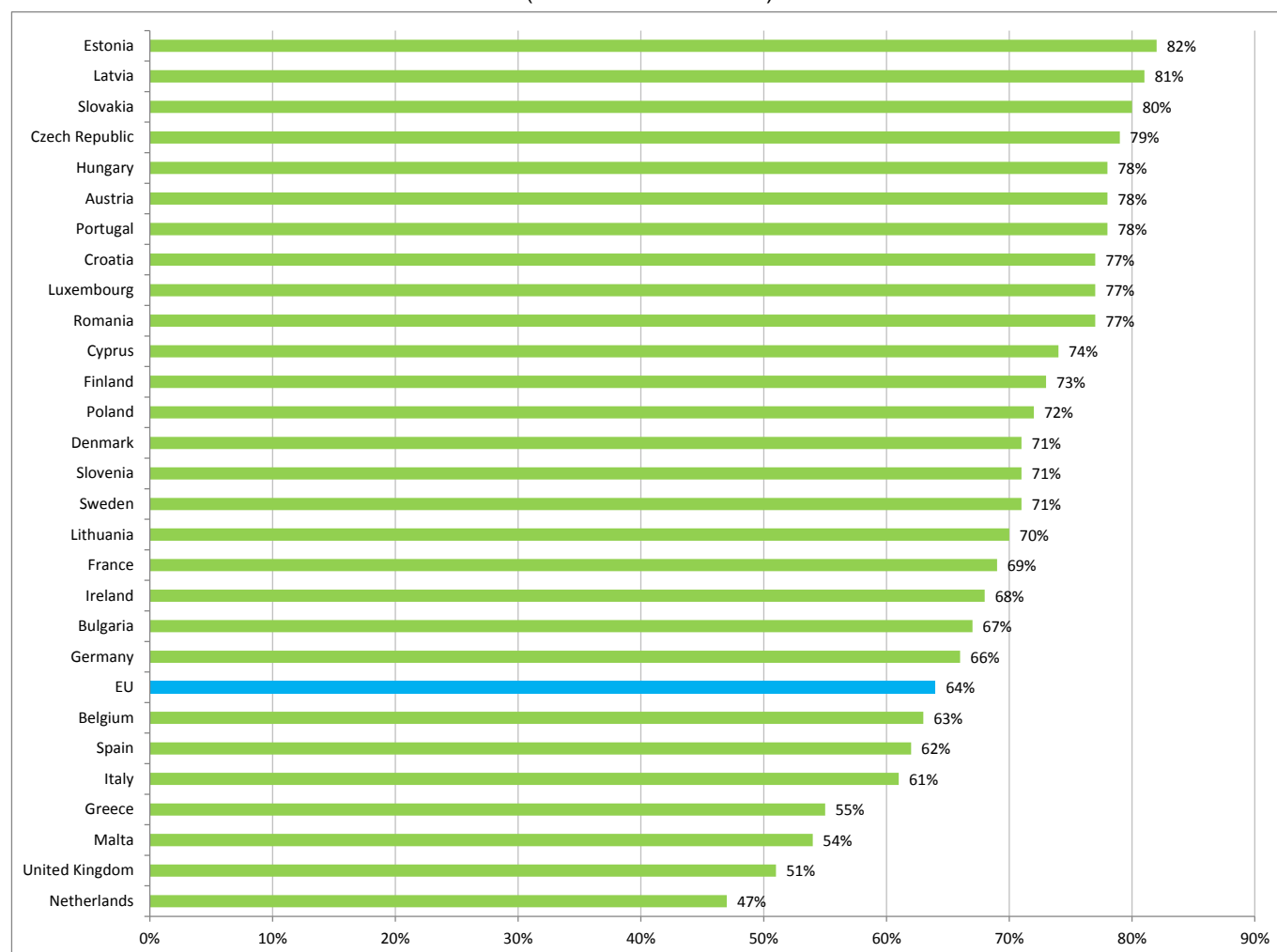
The source dataset can be found [here](#).

Intra-EU imports prevail in almost all Member States

In 2016, the 28 EU Member States imported a total of €4 736 bn of goods, of which €3 029 bn (or 64%) came from another EU Member State (intra-EU trade).

Over three-quarters of total imports of goods originated from another EU Member State in **Estonia** (82%), **Latvia** (81%), **Slovakia** (80%), the **Czech Republic** (79%), **Hungary**, **Austria** and **Portugal** (all 78%), **Croatia**, **Luxembourg** and **Romania** (all 77%). In contrast, the **Netherlands** (47%) was the only Member State where less than half of the imports came from within the EU. This is largely due to the so-called 'Rotterdam effect' (see country note).

Share of intra-EU imports, 2016
(based on trade value)



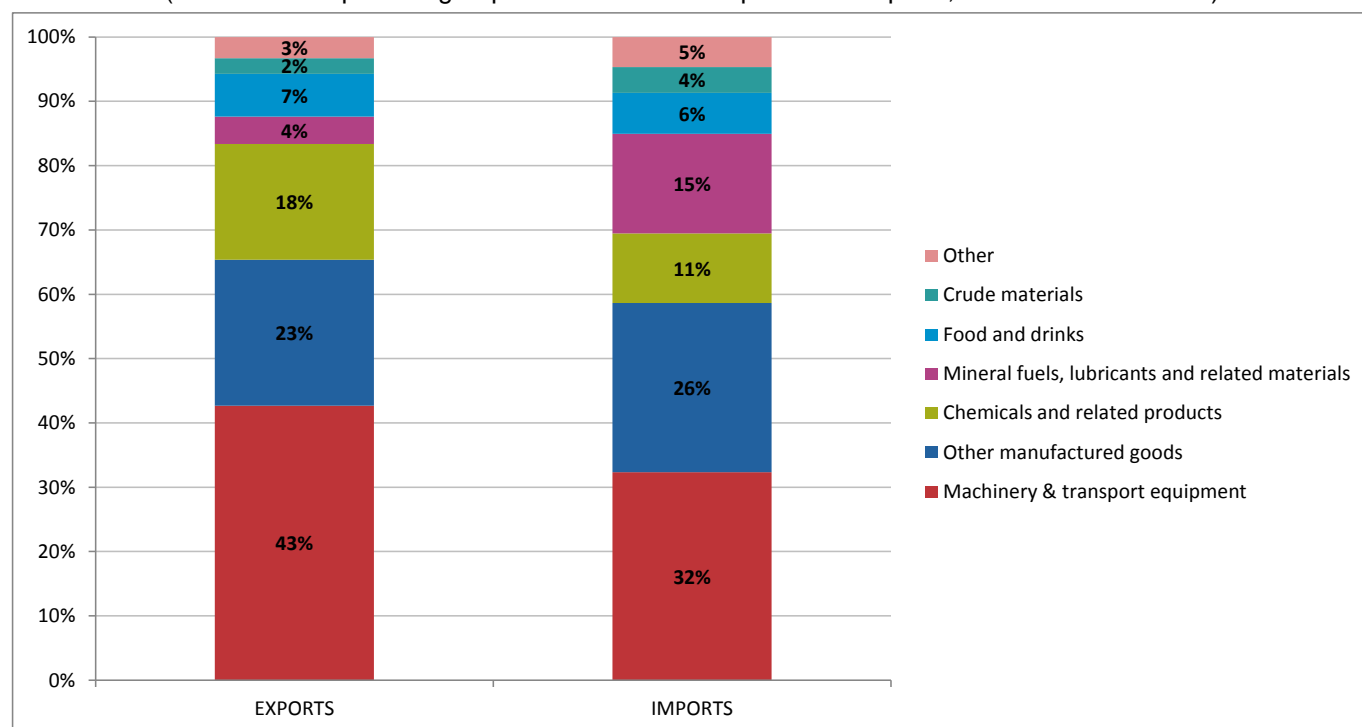
The source dataset can be found [here](#).

Machinery & transport equipment dominated both EU exports and imports

In 2016, machinery and transport equipment continued to play a major role in EU trade in goods with the rest of the world, accounting for 43% of total extra-EU exports and 32% of imports. Other manufactured goods (23% of extra-EU exports and 26% of extra-EU imports) as well as chemicals (18% of extra-EU exports and 11% of extra-EU imports) also played a significant role in EU trade in goods in 2016. Mineral fuels made up a minor share of extra-EU exports (4%), but accounted for 15% of all imports.

Extra EU-trade by product group, 2016

(share of each product group in total extra-EU exports and imports, based on trade value)



The source dataset can be found [here](#).

Geographical information

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

Methods and definitions

This News Release is based on data available on 17 March 2017. These are provisional figures based on information provided by Member States. They are subject to frequent revision for up to two years after the year in question. Furthermore, national concepts may differ from the harmonised methodology used by Eurostat, leading to differences between figures in this release and those published nationally.

Products are classified according to the [Standard international trade classification \(SITC\)](#), Revision 4. Other manufactured goods includes articles made of leather, rubber and wood, paper, textiles, metals, building fixtures and fittings, furniture, clothes, shoes and accessories, scientific instruments, clocks, watches and cameras.

As data for all EU Member States are available according to a harmonised methodology, in theory the intra-EU balance should be 0. However, bilateral comparisons have revealed persistent discrepancies in the mutual Member States' intra-EU trade, called **asymmetries**. For example, this means that, for a given period and a specific product X, exports from France to Austria do not equal to imports of Austria from France. There are different reasons for these asymmetries, including methodological issues (such as CIF/FOB valuation, deliveries to vessels and aircrafts, system of threshold for providing statistical information) but also mismatch in data reporting.

Country note:

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. To a lesser extent, Belgian figures are similarly overestimated.

For more information

Eurostat [website section](#) dedicated to trade in goods statistics.

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

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

Eurostat [infographic](#) on EU international trade in goods in 2016.

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