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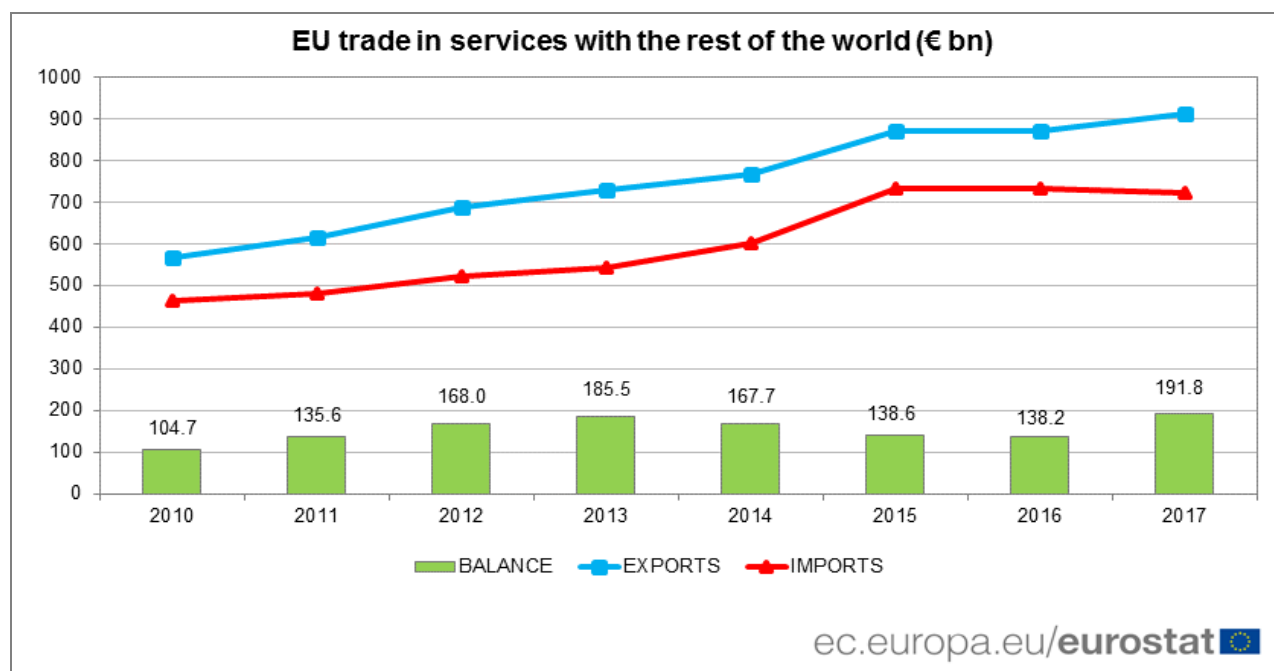
International trade in services

EU surplus up to over €190 bn in 2017

The USA continued to be the main partner for both exports and imports

The **European Union** (EU) surplus in trade in services, which had fallen between 2013 and 2016, increased to €191.8 bn in 2017. This is the result of **EU** exports of services to the rest of the world rising by 5%, from €870.5 bn in 2016 to €912.4 bn in 2017, while **EU** imports decreased by 2%, from €732.3 bn to €720.7 bn.

These data, issued by **Eurostat**, the statistical office of the European Union, are subject to revision.



EU has largest surplus with EFTA countries

In 2017, the main partners for EU exports of services remained the **United States** (€236.2 billion, or 26% of total EU exports) and the four **EFTA countries** together (€150.4 bn, 16%), well ahead of **China** (€46.7 bn, 5%) and **Japan** (€34.7 bn, 4%). The main partner for EU imports of services also continued to be the **United States** (€223.7 bn, 31% of total EU imports), followed by the **EFTA countries** (€90.0 bn, 12%), ahead of **China** (€30.6 bn, 4%), **Singapore** (€22.3 bn, 3%) and **Japan** (€18.3 bn, 3%). The **EU** recorded surpluses with almost all its main partners in 2017, except **Turkey** (-€1.6 bn) and **India** (-€0.5 bn). Among the main partners, the largest surplus was observed in trade with the **EFTA countries** (+€60.4 bn), ahead of **Russia** (+€16.5 bn), **Japan** (+€16.3 bn) and **China** (+€16.0 bn).

Compared with 2016, the **EU** deficit turned into a surplus with the **United States** (from -€2.8 bn in 2016 to +€12.4 bn in 2017) and **Hong Kong** (from -€0.1 bn in 2016 to +€0.2 bn in 2017), while a significant increase in the **EU** surplus can be noted with the **EFTA countries** (from +€36.3 bn in 2016 to +€60.4 bn in 2017). In contrast, the **EU** surplus fell with **other countries** (from +€42.1 bn in 2016 to +€34.8 bn in 2017).

EU trade in services by selected partner (€ bn and %)

	2016			2017				
	Exports	Imports	Balance	Exports	Share in total exports	Imports	Share in total imports	Balance
Total	870.5	732.3	138.2	912.4		720.7		191.8
USA	226.3	229.1	-2.8	236.2	26%	223.7	31%	12.4
EFTA countries	147.4	111.2	36.3	150.4	16%	90.0	12%	60.4
China	42.8	32.2	10.6	46.7	5%	30.6	4%	16.0
Japan	31.6	18.5	13.1	34.7	4%	18.3	3%	16.3
Singapore	24.3	22.8	1.4	28.8	3%	22.3	3%	6.5
Russia	25.0	11.3	13.7	29.1	3%	12.6	2%	16.5
Canada	20.2	12.1	8.2	21.7	2%	13.2	2%	8.5
India	14.4	15.7	-1.3	16.6	2%	17.1	2%	-0.5
Australia	20.6	8.9	11.7	23.5	3%	9.5	1%	14.0
Turkey	12.6	14.0	-1.4	12.6	1%	14.1	2%	-1.6
Hong Kong	11.6	11.7	-0.1	13.4	1%	13.2	2%	0.2
Brazil	14.4	7.8	6.7	16.1	2%	8.1	1%	8.0
Other countries	279.2	237.1	42.1	282.7	31%	247.9	34%	34.8

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

EU surplus largely sustained by ICT services

The main components of EU exports of services were "other business services" (R&D, business, professional & technical services) which accounted for over a quarter of EU total exports (26%) in 2017, followed by transport (18%) and travel (15%), ICT services (14%), financial services (9%) and charges for the use of intellectual property (8%). "Other business services" were also the largest category of services imported by the EU (30% of EU imports), ahead of transport (18%), charges for the use of intellectual property (16%) and travel (15%).

In 2017, ICT services remained the largest contributor to the EU surplus (+€74.1 bn), ahead of transport (+€39.1 bn), financial services (+€38.2 bn) and travel (+€30.6 bn). In contrast, a deficit was recorded for charges for the use of intellectual property (-€37.5 bn).

EU trade in services by type of services (€ bn and %)

	2016			2017				
	Exports	Imports	Balance	Exports	Share in total exports	Imports	Share in total imports	Balance
Total Services	870.5	732.3	138.2	912.4		720.7		191.8
Manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others	20.5	11.1	9.4	19.4	2%	12.0	2%	7.4
Maintenance and repair services n.i.e.	12.7	11.1	1.6	14.3	2%	12.2	2%	2.1
Transport	152.9	120.9	31.9	165.6	18%	126.5	18%	39.1
Travel	124.8	102.0	22.7	137.0	15%	106.3	15%	30.6
Construction	12.5	5.5	7.0	13.2	1%	5.7	1%	7.4
Insurance and pension services	30.9	12.9	18.0	23.2	3%	13.8	2%	9.4
Financial services	86.4	46.8	39.6	86.7	9%	48.5	7%	38.2
Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.	65.4	114.3	-48.9	74.6	8%	112.1	16%	-37.5
Telecommunications, computer and information services (ICT)	111.3	46.0	65.3	123.9	14%	49.8	7%	74.1
Other business services	235.2	244.2	-9.1	237.2	26%	216.8	30%	20.4
<i>Research and development services</i>	40.2	87.1	-46.9	43.6		53.5		-9.9
<i>Professional and management consulting services</i>	64.7	56.0	8.6	68.0		60.3		7.8
<i>Technical, trade-related, and other business services</i>	130.3	101.1	29.2	125.5		103.1		22.5
Personal, cultural, and recreational services	9.7	10.8	-1.1	10.5	1%	10.5	1%	0.0
Government goods and services n.i.e.	7.5	6.3	1.1	7.3	1%	6.2	1%	1.0
Services not allocated	0.8	0.2	0.6	-0.3	0%	0.2	0%	-0.4

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

Geographical information

The **European Union** (EU) 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, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

EFTA (European Free Trade Association) includes Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

The full geographical breakdown of the services account is available on the Eurostat website. All figures can be downloaded from the balance of payments section.

Methods and definitions

The main methodological references used for the production of statistics on international trade in services are the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s sixth balance of payments manual (BPM6) and the United Nations' manual on statistics of international trade in services.

International trade in services is geographically allocated according to the residence of the trading partner.

Revisions and time table

The annual statistics on EU international trade in services are collected under the BPM6 methodology. Figures are provided by the Member States to Eurostat nine months after the reference period. The annual data covered in this News Release will be revised in one year's time when revised data will be transmitted by Member States. The figures shown in the tables may not exactly add up due to rounding.

For more information

Eurostat website section dedicated to statistics on international trade in services

Eurostat database on balance of payments and international transactions

Eurostat metadata on international trade in services

Theme in the Spotlight page on the EU trade in services.

Issued by: **Eurostat Press Office**


Romina BRONDINO
Tel: +352-4301-33 444
eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu

 ec.europa.eu/eurostat
 [@EU_Eurostat](https://twitter.com/EU_Eurostat)
 [EurostatStatistics](https://www.facebook.com/EurostatStatistics)

Production of data:

Eleni GIANNOPOULOU
Tel: +352-4301-31 988
eleni.giannopoulou@ec.europa.eu

Theodora KOSMIDOU
Tel: +352-4301-36 644
theodora.kosmidou@ec.europa.eu

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