

International trade for the European Neighbourhood Policy-East countries 2016 edition



Background information

The European Union (EU) has a common international trade policy, often referred to as the common commercial policy. The European Commission negotiates trade agreements and represents the interests of the EU Member States. The EU seeks to promote the development of free-trade as an instrument for stimulating economic growth and enhancing competitiveness.

The main objective of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) is to avoid the emergence of dividing lines between an enlarged EU and its closest neighbours. The ENP is complemented by regional and multilateral cooperation initiatives, for example, the Eastern Partnership. In 2015, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European Commission jointly presented a review of the European Neighbourhood Policy (SWD(2015) 500 final) which underlined a new approach for the EU in relation to its eastern and southern neighbours, based on stabilising the region in political, economic, and security-related terms.

There are currently six ENP countries in the east: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Data shown for Georgia and for Moldova exclude the regions over which their governments do not exercise effective control.

The European Commission supports the ENP-East countries through technical assistance programmes to promote evidence-based decision-making and to foster democratic developments. Eurostat coordinates the EU's efforts to increase the capacity of the ENP-East countries to produce good quality statistics and to promote the use of European and internationally recognised standards through technical assistance and direct support to national statistical authorities, with the goal of improving the availability, visibility and accessibility of robust, reliable and timely statistical data. These data are made available free-of-charge on Eurostat's website.

Extraction date

Data were extracted on 2 December 2016.

Data codes

Eurostat online data codes, which are given in the source under each table, provide users with a quick and efficient way to access the most up-to-date statistics. When entered in the 'search' facility on Eurostat's website, these codes provide users with the freshest data and longer time series.

Further information

Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations:
http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/eastern-partnership/index_en.htm

European Union External Action (EEAS):
<https://eeas.europa.eu/topics/eastern-partnership>

Main statistical findings

There was a marked expansion in the value of international trade in the EU-28 and all of the ENP-East countries (see Tables 1 and 2) as can be seen from the developments for exports and imports of goods over the period 2005–2015. Note that the data are presented in current price terms and so are affected by changes in price levels (inflation). Note also that the data for the EU-28 only concern extra-EU-28 trade flows (trade with non-member countries).

The most rapid growth in exports (in percentage terms) was recorded in Azerbaijan and in Georgia where the value of exports was nearly six times as high in 2015 as in 2005. Exports from Azerbaijan increased from EUR 3.5 billion (EUR 3.5 thousand million) in 2005 to EUR 16.1 billion in 2010, before increasing more moderately to reach EUR 20.4 billion by 2015. The value of goods exported from Armenia, Belarus and Moldova was 3.5–4.0 times as high in 2015 as it had been in 2005. By contrast, in Ukraine the overall increase in the value of exports was 25 % during the period 2005–2015, with export values contracting in both 2014 and 2015.

There was a similar pattern to developments for imports (see Table 2), with the fastest growth rates again recorded for Georgia and Azerbaijan; in the former the value of imports in 2015 was almost seven times as high as in 2005 and in the latter almost five times as high. The corresponding ratios for Armenia, Belarus and Moldova ranged from 3.5–4.0 times as high. There was a much slower rate of growth in Ukraine, with the value of imports nearly doubling between 2005 and 2013 but then falling considerably in both 2014 and 2015.

Table 1: Exports of goods to the world
(million EUR)

	2005	2010	2013	2014	2015
EU-28⁽¹⁾	1 049 473	1 353 196	1 736 648	1 703 019	1 790 652
Armenia	753	763	1 105	1 122	2 673
Azerbaijan	3 494	16 051	17 999	16 373	20 418
Belarus	12 842	19 072	28 012	27 159	48 058
Georgia	696	1 265	2 192	2 154	3 974
Moldova	877	1 163	1 828	1 761	3 545
Ukraine	55 024	77 590	95 355	81 164	68 728

(¹) Extra-EU-28 trade (trade with non-member countries).

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [ext_lt_intratrd](#) and [enpr_etmain](#))

Table 2: Imports of goods from the world
(million EUR)

	2005	2010	2013	2014	2015
EU-28⁽¹⁾	1 183 933	1 529 387	1 687 325	1 691 880	1 726 483
Armenia	1 360	2 853	3 205	3 131	5 871
Azerbaijan	3 385	4 976	8 104	6 909	16 604
Belarus	13 422	26 314	32 394	30 487	54 604
Georgia	2 001	3 949	6 040	6 475	13 934
Moldova	1 843	2 908	4 136	4 002	7 187
Ukraine	58 069	91 630	115 934	81 869	67 627

(¹) Extra-EU-28 trade (trade with non-member countries).

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [ext_lt_intratrd](#) and [enpr_etmain](#))

In 2015, Azerbaijan recorded a trade surplus for goods of EUR 3.8 billion and Ukraine recorded a surplus of EUR 1.1 billion (see Table 3). Each of the four remaining ENP-East countries recorded trade deficits for goods in 2015, with these generally being valued between EUR 3.2 billion and EUR 6.5 billion, although in Georgia the trade deficit for goods was somewhat larger, at EUR 10.0 billion (note the deficit in Georgia grew at a rapid pace, as it was 7.6 times as high in 2015 as it had been a decade earlier).

Table 3: Trade balance with the world for goods
(million EUR)

	2005	2010	2013	2014	2015
EU-28 (*)	-134 460	-176 191	49 323	11 139	64 169
Armenia	-607	-2 090	-2 100	-2 009	-3 198
Azerbaijan	109	11 075	9 894	9 464	3 814
Belarus	-580	-7 242	-4 382	-3 328	-6 545
Georgia	-1 306	-2 684	-3 849	-4 321	-9 960
Moldova	-965	-1 745	-2 307	-2 241	-3 641
Ukraine	-3 045	-14 041	-20 579	-705	1 101

(*) Extra-EU-28 trade (trade with non-member countries).

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [ext_lt_intratrd](#) and [enpr_etmain](#))

Table 4: Exports to the world, by broad group of goods, 2015
(% of total exports)

	Food, drinks and tobacco	Raw materials	Mineral fuels, lubricants and related goods	Chemicals	Machinery and vehicles	Other manufactured goods	Other
EU-28 (*)	6.3	2.4	4.8	17.6	42.0	22.5	4.4
Armenia	25.6	26.2	6.2	1.5	1.8	31.1	7.6
Azerbaijan	5.8	1.2	87.2	1.7	0.5	1.8	1.9
Belarus	15.2	2.8	29.1	17.9	12.4	18.6	3.9
Georgia	27.2	15.3	6.2	14.4	13.4	20.5	3.1
Moldova	33.4	14.8	0.5	6.6	15.9	28.7	0.0
Ukraine	25.6	23.2	1.3	5.0	12.0	32.5	0.4

(*) Extra-EU-28 trade (trade with non-member countries).

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [ext_lt_intratrd](#) and [enpr_etsitc](#))

Table 5: Imports from the world, by broad group of goods, 2015
(% of total imports)

	Food, drinks and tobacco	Raw materials	Mineral fuels, lubricants and related goods	Chemicals	Machinery and vehicles	Other manufactured goods	Other
EU-28 (*)	6.3	4.2	19.0	10.7	31.0	26.1	2.7
Armenia	18.7	3.3	20.7	11.4	18.1	27.1	0.7
Azerbaijan	13.6	3.1	1.6	9.1	34.6	32.1	5.9
Belarus	13.6	3.1	30.4	11.0	19.4	18.3	4.2
Georgia	13.0	5.2	16.1	16.6	24.6	24.1	0.6
Moldova	13.3	2.7	11.5	15.7	20.7	29.4	6.7
Ukraine	8.1	4.2	29.0	17.8	21.3	18.9	0.7

(*) Extra-EU-28 trade (trade with non-member countries).

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [ext_lt_intratrd](#) and [enpr_etsitc](#))

There are considerable differences in the types of goods that individual countries export and import for reasons including, among others, the availability of natural resources, skills and technology. Food, drinks and tobacco, raw materials, and mineral fuels, lubricants and related goods made up a much greater share of exports to the rest of the world from ENP-East countries than they did from the EU-28. Azerbaijan was highly specialised in exporting mineral fuels, lubricants and related goods (87.2 % of its total exports of goods in 2015), while this same product group accounted for almost three tenths of the goods exported from Belarus (see Table 4). Georgia and Moldova reported that more than one tenth of their exports of goods in 2015 were raw materials; this category's share was higher than one fifth of total exports of goods from Ukraine and one quarter of total exports of goods from Armenia. Food, drinks and tobacco also accounted for a relatively large share of exports for most of the ENP-East countries (the exception being Azerbaijan); this was particularly the case in Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Ukraine, where these products accounted for one quarter to one third of all exported goods.

A similar analysis, but for imports, is shown in Table 5. Among the ENP-East countries, Belarus, Ukraine and Armenia recorded a relatively high share of their total imports of goods being made up of mineral fuels, lubricants and related goods. Food, drinks and tobacco accounted for a relatively high share of goods imported into each of the ENP-East countries, as these products represented between 13.0 % and 18.7 % of total imports in 2015, except in Ukraine where their share (8.1 %) was closer to the average recorded for the EU-28 (6.3 %). Due to its very low imports of mineral fuels, lubricants and related goods, the structure of Azerbaijan's imports was somewhat different from that reported in the other ENP-East countries; in particular, machinery and vehicles accounted for more than one third (34.6 %) of all goods imported in 2015.

The EU-28 is a key trading partner for most of the ENP-East countries. In value terms, Ukraine was the leading exporter of goods to the EU-28 in 2015 (see Table 6) and the leading importer of goods from the EU-28 (see Table 7). In 2015, among the ENP-East countries the largest trade surplus (see Table 8) with the EU-28 was recorded by Azerbaijan (EUR 2.9 billion), while Ukraine registered the largest deficit (EUR 2.1 billion).

Table 6: Exports of goods to the EU-28
(million EUR)

	2005	2010	2013	2014	2015
Armenia	355	379	383	329	397
Azerbaijan	1 950	8 216	8 669	8 707	5 510
Belarus	5 747	5 762	7 828	7 983	7 605
Georgia	174	233	457	470	582
Moldova	357	550	856	938	1 097
Ukraine	8 277	9 878	12 621	12 801	11 731

Note: as reported by ENP-East countries.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [enpr_etflow](#))

Table 7: Imports of goods from the EU-28
(million EUR)

	2005	2010	2013	2014	2015
Armenia	469	731	782	759	683
Azerbaijan	1 012	1 262	2 842	2 336	2 643
Belarus	2 906	5 714	7 885	9 646	5 206
Georgia	581	1 109	1 706	1 785	2 270
Moldova	837	1 287	1 861	1 933	1 761
Ukraine	9 814	14 445	20 365	15 852	13 817

Note: as reported by ENP-East countries.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [enpr_etflow](#))

Table 8: Trade balance for goods with the EU-28
(million EUR)

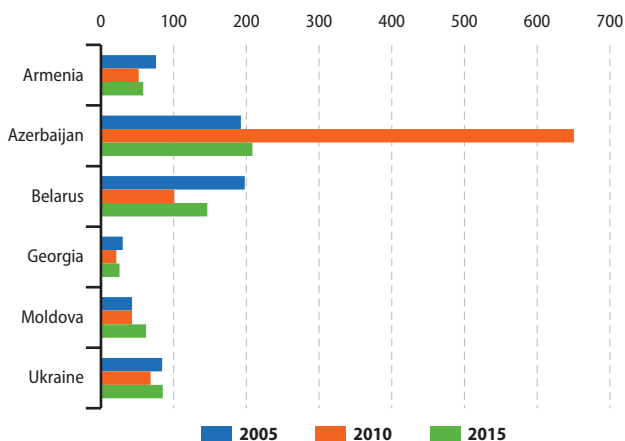
	2005	2010	2013	2014	2015
Armenia	-113	-353	-399	-430	-286
Azerbaijan	938	6 954	5 827	6 372	2 867
Belarus	2 842	48	-57	-1 663	2 398
Georgia	-408	-876	-1 249	-1 316	-1 689
Moldova	-480	-737	-1 005	-995	-664
Ukraine	-1 537	-4 568	-7 744	-3 051	-2 086

Note: as reported by ENP-East countries.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [enpr_etflow](#))

The cover ratio is calculated as the ratio of exports to imports (expressed as a percentage): a ratio below 100 % indicates a trade deficit. Azerbaijan's exports of goods to the EU-28 in 2015 were more than double its imports from the EU-28. However, the cover ratio for Azerbaijan for trade in goods with the EU-28 fell at a rapid pace, from 651 % in 2010 to 208 % in 2015 (see Figure 1). By contrast, the cover ratios shown for the remaining five ENP-East countries rose over the same five-year period (2010–2015), although in Armenia, Belarus and Georgia the ratio in 2015 remained below the level recorded in 2005.

Figure 1: Cover ratio for trade in goods with the EU-28
(%)



Note: as reported by ENP-East countries.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [enpr_etflow](#))

Table 9 shows the share of exports of goods from the ENP-East countries that were destined for three of their main trading partners: the EU-28, Russia and China. The EU-28 accounted for an increasing share of the total exports of goods between 2010 and 2015, other than for Armenia. A similar pattern was observed with respect to ENP-East exports to China, where the only falling share was recorded for Azerbaijan. By contrast, the proportion of exports of goods from the ENP-East countries to Russia remained unchanged or fell, other than an expansion for Georgia. Table 10 provides similar information for imports: the EU-28 and China accounted for a falling proportion of the total imports of goods into Armenia between 2010 and 2015, and this pattern was repeated for imports into Azerbaijan from Russia and China, imports into Belarus from the EU-28, and imports into Moldova and Ukraine from Russia. The largest increase in ENP-East market shares was recorded by the EU-28, as its proportion of the total imports of goods into Ukraine increased by 9.3 percentage points (when compared with 2010). The largest contraction between 2010 and 2015 also concerned Ukraine, with the share of imports from Russia falling from 36.5 % of the total to 20.0 %.

Table 9: Exports of goods to selected partners
(% share of total exports)

	EU-28		Russia		China	
	2010	2015	2010	2015	2010	2015
Armenia	49.6	29.7	15.8	15.2	3.1	11.1
Azerbaijan	51.2	54.0	3.6	3.6	1.6	0.3
Belarus	30.2	31.6	39.4	38.6	1.9	2.9
Georgia	18.4	29.3	0.7	7.2	1.6	5.7
Moldova	47.3	61.9	26.2	12.2	0.1	0.4
Ukraine	25.5	34.1	26.1	12.7	2.6	6.3

Note: as reported by ENP-East countries.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [enpr_etflow](#))

Table 10: Imports of goods from selected partners
(% share of total imports)

	EU-28		Russia		China	
	2010	2015	2010	2015	2010	2015
Armenia	25.6	23.3	21.9	30.4	10.6	9.7
Azerbaijan	25.4	31.8	17.4	15.6	8.9	5.6
Belarus	21.7	19.1	51.8	55.8	4.8	7.7
Georgia	28.1	32.6	4.3	6.7	6.4	7.6
Moldova	44.3	49.0	15.2	13.4	8.3	9.2
Ukraine	31.5	40.9	36.5	20.0	7.7	10.1

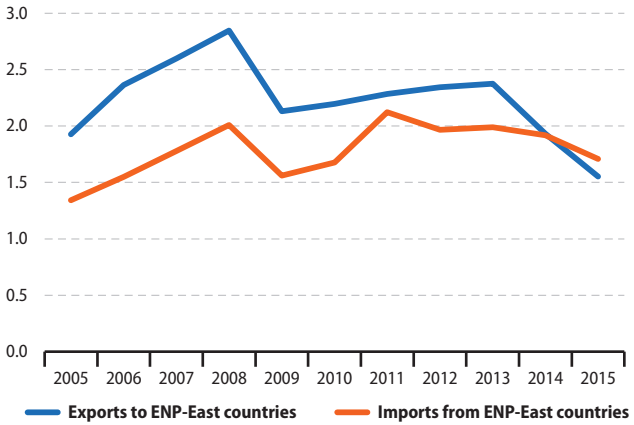
Note: as reported by ENP-East countries.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [enpr_etflow](#))

The final seven figures are based on an analysis from the perspective of the EU-28 as the reporting entity (in contrast to the first part of this compact guide which is based on data reported by the ENP-East countries). Figure 2 shows the relative importance of the ENP-East countries as a market for the EU-28's trade in goods. Between 2005 and 2015, the ENP-East countries accounted for a declining share of total EU-28 exports of goods, while there was a modest increase in the share of total EU-28 imports of goods that originated in the ENP-East countries.

Figure 2: Share of the ENP-East countries in total trade of goods, EU-28

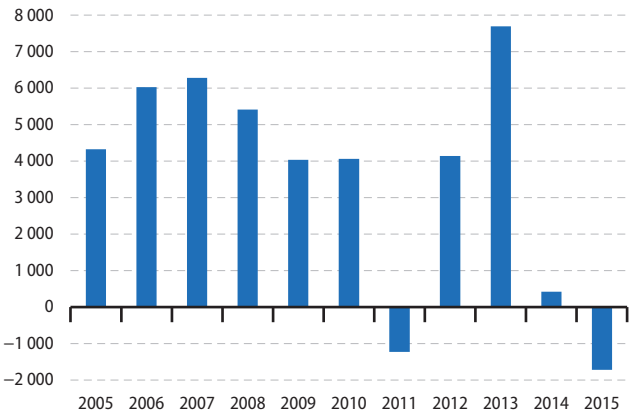
(% of all EU-28 exports and imports)



Note: as reported by ENP-East countries.
 Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-018995)

Figure 3: Trade balance for goods with ENP-East countries, EU-28

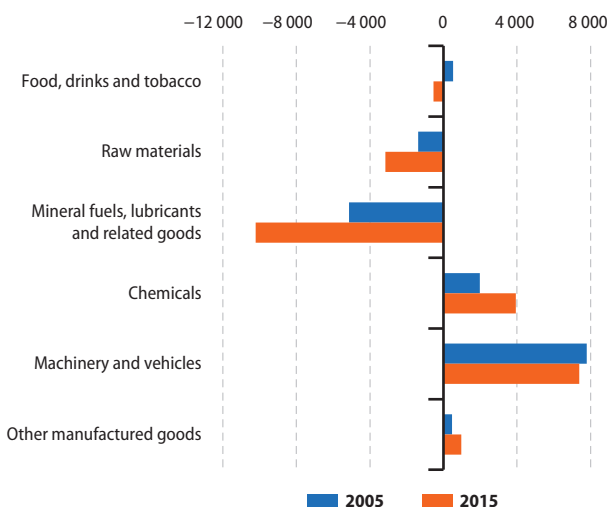
(million EUR)



Note: as reported by ENP-East countries.
 Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-018995)

The EU-28 generally ran a trade surplus with the ENP-East countries (collectively) during the period 2005–2015, but there were relatively small deficits recorded in 2011 and 2015 (see Figure 3). More detail on the composition of the trade balance in 2015 is presented in Figure 4: while the EU-28 recorded a deficit with the ENP-East countries for mineral fuels, lubricants and related goods, raw materials and for food, drinks and tobacco, the EU-28 ran a surplus for the remaining product categories, in particular for machinery and vehicles and chemicals.

Figure 4: Trade balance with ENP-East countries, by broad group of goods, EU-28
(million EUR)



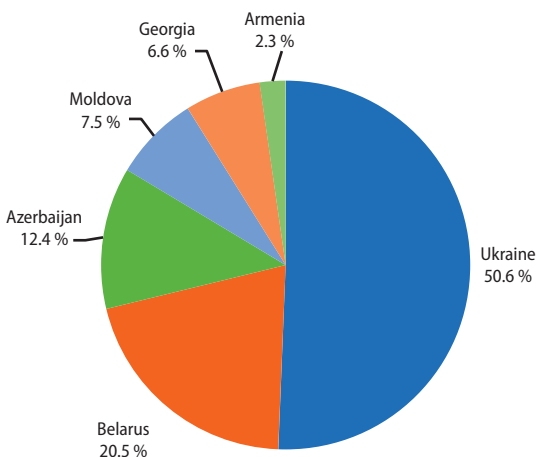
Note: as reported by EU Member States.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-018995)

Just over half (50.6 %) of the goods that were exported from the EU-28 to the ENP-East countries in 2015 were destined for Ukraine. The next highest share (20.5 %) was accounted for by Belarus, while Azerbaijan was the only other ENP-East country to account for a double-digit share (see Figure 5). Ukraine was also the principal partner in terms of imports, as it accounted for a 43.5 % share of EU-28 imports from the ENP-East countries, while more than one third (36.2 %) of the EU-28's imports from ENP-East countries originated from Azerbaijan (see Figure 6).

Among the EU Member States, Germany was the principal exporter to the ENP-East countries, accounting for just over one fifth of all exports in 2015 (see Figure 7), while Poland and Italy accounted for 16.4 % and 8.7 % of the total respectively and Lithuania also recorded a relatively high share (6.6 %). Looking at imports from the ENP-East countries, almost one quarter (25.3 %) of all the goods imported (23.5 %) were destined for Italy, while Germany (15.3 %) was the only other Member State to record a double-digit share (see Figure 8).

Figure 5: Destination for goods exported to the ENP-East countries, EU-28, 2015

(% of total EU-28 exports to ENP-East countries)

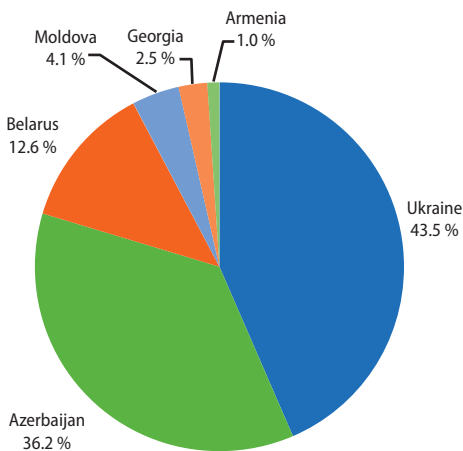


Note: as reported by EU Member States; shares do not sum to 100 % due to rounding.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-018995)

Figure 6: Origin of goods imported from the ENP-East countries, EU-28, 2015

(% of total EU-28 imports from ENP-East countries)

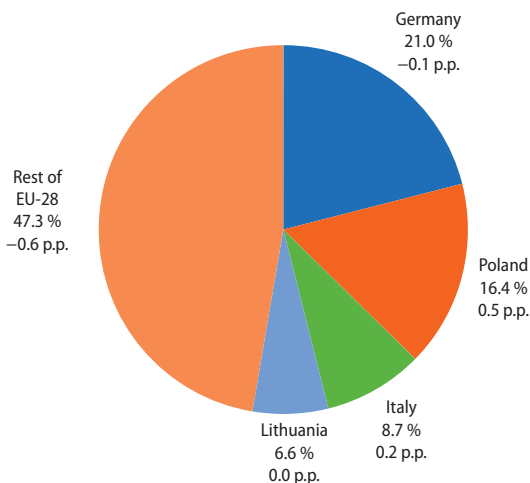


Note: as reported by EU Member States; shares do not sum to 100 % due to rounding.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-018995)

Figure 7: Main origins for goods exported by the EU-28 to the ENP-East countries, 2015

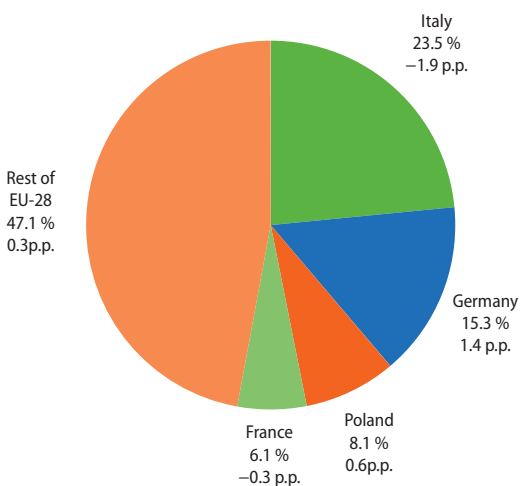
(% of EU-28 exports to ENP-East countries and percentage point (p.p.) change 2015–2014)



Note: as reported by EU Member States; shares do not sum to 100 % due to rounding.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-018995)

Figure 8: Main destinations for goods imported into the EU-28 from ENP-East countries, 2015

(% of EU-28 imports from ENP-East countries and percentage point (p.p.) change 2015–2014)



Note: as reported by EU Member States; shares do not sum to 100 % due to rounding.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-018995)

Further information

Eurostat's website

Eurostat's website (<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>) provides free access to its statistics; it is available in German, English and French. Eurostat online data codes, which are given in the source under each table or figure, provide users with a quick and efficient way to access the most up-to-date statistics. When entered in the 'search' facility on Eurostat's website, these codes provide users with the freshest data and longer time series.

Statistics Explained

Statistics Explained (<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php>) is Eurostat's wiki-based system that presents statistical topics in an easy to understand way.

Statistical articles on ENP countries:

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/European_Neighbourhood_Policy_countries_-_statistical_overview

Background information on the ENP:

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Statistical_cooperation_-_European_Neighbourhood_Policy

National statistical offices of the ENP-East countries

Armenia <http://www.armstat.am/en/>
Azerbaijan <http://www.stat.gov.az/indexen.php>
Belarus <http://www.belstat.gov.by/en/>
Georgia <http://www.geostat.ge/index.php?action=0&lang=eng>
Moldova <http://www.statistica.md/index.php?l=en>
Ukraine <http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua/>

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