

# International trade in goods for the enlargement countries

2018 edition



## The enlargement process in the EU

The Treaty on European Union (Article 49) states that any European country may apply for membership of the European Union (EU) if it respects a range of democratic values — human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights — and is committed to promoting them.

As of September 2014, the EU had granted the perspective of membership to seven enlargement countries, five of which have candidate country status: Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Serbia and Turkey. Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo (¹) are potential candidates.

Eurostat monitors the progress of enlargement countries in complying with the EU acquis (the body of EU law) in the field of statistics, collecting a wide range of data from each country, either through an annual questionnaire or integrated in the regular collection of data from EU Member States and EFTA countries, as is the case for the trade data presented in this compact guide. In return, Eurostat provides technical assistance and support to each national statistical authority.

(¹) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

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

	2007	2012	2015	2016	2017
<b>EU-28 (¹)</b>	1 234 470	1 684 928	1 789 873	1 744 557	1 878 779
Montenegro	455	367	317	326	371
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2 477	3 124	4 088	4 329	5 007
Albania	265	1 531	1 728	1 771	2 026
Serbia	6 615	8 251	11 447	12 742	14 360
Turkey	78 126	118 644	129 555	128 792	139 252
Bosnia and Herzegovina	:	4 018	4 595	4 815	5 652
Kosovo (²)	147	276	325	310	378

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

(²) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [ext\\_lt\\_intratrd](#) and [ext\\_lt\\_intercc](#))

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

	2007	2012	2015	2016	2017
<b>EU-28 (¹)</b>	1 450 919	1 798 758	1 730 321	1 712 501	1 855 908
Montenegro	2 073	1 821	1 842	2 062	2 303
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	3 834	5 071	5 801	6 107	6 825
Albania	3 046	3 797	3 882	4 169	4 648
Serbia	13 501	13 522	14 425	15 225	17 581
Turkey	123 959	184 087	186 536	179 468	207 000
Bosnia and Herzegovina	:	7 799	8 105	8 263	9 272
Kosovo (²)	1 576	2 508	2 635	2 789	3 047

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

(²) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [ext\\_lt\\_intratrd](#) and [ext\\_lt\\_intercc](#))

## The EU's common commercial policy

The EU has a common international trade policy, often referred to as the common commercial policy. In other words, the EU acts as a single entity on trade issues, including issues related to the World Trade Organisation (WTO). In these cases, 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.

### Main statistical findings

There was an expansion in the value of international trade for goods in the EU-28 and most of the enlargement countries (see Tables 1 and 2) when analysing the period 2007-2017, although it should be remembered 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 trade with non-member countries.

The most rapid growth (in percentage terms) in exports of goods was recorded in Albania, where the value was more than seven times as high in 2017 as in 2007, while in Kosovo, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the value more than doubled over this period. Montenegro was the exception, as its exports were 18 % lower in 2017 than in 2007. Montenegro and Kosovo had the lowest level of exports from the enlargement countries in 2017, both less than EUR 0.5 billion (EUR 500 million). Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina recorded exports valued between EUR 2 and 6 billion, while Serbia's exports were EUR 14.4 billion. By far the largest exporter was Turkey, with exports of goods in 2017 valued at EUR 139.3 billion.

There was a broadly similar but more subdued pattern to developments for imports of goods (see Table 2), with all enlargement countries (for which data are available) reporting increases between 2007 and 2017.

All of the enlargement countries reported a trade deficit for goods in 2017, ranging from EUR 1.9 billion in Montenegro to EUR 3.6 billion in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the deficit for Turkey (EUR 67.7 billion) well above this range (see Table 3). Between 2007 and 2017, most of the enlargement

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

	2007	2012	2015	2016	2017
<b>EU-28 (¹)</b>	-216 448	-113 829	59 553	32 057	22 871
Montenegro	-1 618	-1 454	-1 524	-1 736	-1 932
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	-1 356	-1 947	-1 714	-1 777	-1 818
Albania	-2 260	-2 267	-2 154	-2 399	-2 622
Serbia	-6 886	-5 271	-2 978	-2 483	-3 221
Turkey	-45 833	-65 443	-56 981	-50 676	-67 748
Bosnia and Herzegovina	:	-3 781	-3 510	-3 448	-3 620
Kosovo (²)	-1 429	-2 232	-2 309	-2 480	-2 669

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

(²) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [ext\\_lt\\_intratrd](#) and [ext\\_lt\\_intercc](#))

countries experienced a widening of their trade deficits with the exception of Serbia where it more than halved.

Other manufactured goods (which cover SITC Sections 6 and 8) accounted for the highest share of total exports in most of the enlargement countries in 2017 (see Table 4). In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the share of machinery and vehicles was marginally higher than that of other manufactured goods; furthermore, it was the only enlargement country to report that chemicals accounted for a share of its total exports in excess of 10 %, their share in fact reaching 24.0 %. Bosnia and Herzegovina reported the lowest share of total exports from food, drinks and tobacco, but its 7.0 % share was nevertheless just above the EU-28 average (6.5 %). For Kosovo and

**Table 4: Exports to the world, by broad group of goods, 2017**  
(% of total exports)

	Food, drinks and tobacco	Raw materials	Mineral fuels, lubricants and related goods	Chemicals	Machinery and vehicles	Other manufactured goods	Other
<b>EU-28<sup>(1)</sup></b>	6.5	2.6	5.2	17.7	42.2	22.6	3.1
Montenegro	12.7	27.8	12.4	4.9	11.3	31.3	0.0
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	10.1	5.8	1.5	24.0	29.5	29.0	0.1
Albania	9.6	8.5	8.6	1.2	5.6	66.5	0.0
Serbia	16.8	4.9	2.5	9.3	27.6	36.9	2.0
Turkey	9.9	3.5	2.6	5.3	30.7	42.3	5.7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	7.0	12.0	8.3	8.1	14.4	48.8	1.4
Kosovo <sup>(2)</sup>	15.6	24.6	9.3	5.0	2.6	41.5	1.3

(<sup>1</sup>) Extra-EU-28 trade (trade with non-member countries).

(<sup>2</sup>) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [ext\\_lt\\_intratrd](#) and [ext\\_lt\\_intercc](#))

**Table 5: Imports from the world, by broad group of goods, 2017**  
(% of total imports)

	Food, drinks and tobacco	Raw materials	Mineral fuels, lubricants and related goods	Chemicals	Machinery and vehicles	Other manufactured goods	Other
<b>EU-28<sup>(1)</sup></b>	6.0	4.2	18.2	10.5	31.9	25.6	3.5
Montenegro	21.9	2.4	11.1	9.9	24.0	30.7	0.0
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	10.0	3.2	9.8	11.2	21.6	44.2	0.1
Albania	15.7	3.9	9.9	11.9	21.1	37.2	0.3
Serbia	8.5	5.6	11.6	16.2	27.5	30.5	0.1
Turkey	3.9	7.3	7.0	13.3	30.5	21.1	16.8
Bosnia and Herzegovina	15.1	4.3	14.3	12.5	20.7	33.0	0.1
Kosovo <sup>(2)</sup>	21.5	3.1	12.5	11.5	20.4	30.9	0.1

(<sup>1</sup>) Extra-EU-28 trade (trade with non-member countries).

(<sup>2</sup>) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [ext\\_lt\\_intratrd](#) and [ext\\_lt\\_intercc](#))

Montenegro, the share of exports coming from raw materials was considerably higher than in the other countries and around 10 times as high as the equivalent share in the EU-28.

Other manufactured goods also generally accounted for the highest share of total imports among the enlargement countries (see Table 5) with shares around three tenths to two fifths of total imports in 2017. There were two exceptions: in Turkey the share of other manufactured goods was relatively low (21.1 %), while the share of imports of machinery and vehicles (30.5 %) was much higher; in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the imports of other manufactured goods accounted for a particularly high share of imports, at 44.2 %.

Turkey was, unsurprisingly, the leading exporter of goods to the EU-28 in 2017 and also the leading importer of goods from the EU-28 (see Table 6). Combining these figures for exports to and imports from the EU-28, Table 7 presents information pertaining to the trade balance for goods with respect to the EU-28: all enlargement countries reported a trade deficit for goods with the EU-28 in 2017 and consequently recorded cover ratios below 100 % (see Figure 1). Between 2007 and 2017 the Albanian and Serbian cover ratios for trade in goods with the EU-28 increased greatly, as the growth in exports outstripped the growth in imports,

**Table 6: Goods exports to and imports from the EU-28**  
(million EUR)

	Exports			Imports		
	2007	2012	2017	2007	2012	2017
Montenegro	321	189	129	1 025	810	1 091
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1 737	2 039	4 061	1 989	3 057	4 292
Albania	158	1 158	1 564	1 851	2 401	2 866
Serbia	4 088	5 154	9 713	7 820	7 905	10 349
Turkey	44 264	46 162	65 493	50 054	68 186	75 379
Bosnia and Herzegovina	:	2 919	4 011	:	4 785	5 659
Kosovo <sup>(1)</sup>	64	110	94	594	1 050	1 312

Note: as reported by enlargement countries.

(<sup>1</sup>) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ext\\_lt\\_intercc](#))

**Table 7: Trade balance for goods with the EU-28**  
(million EUR)

	2007	2012	2015	2016	2017
Montenegro	-704	-621	-647	-871	-962
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	-252	-1 018	-448	-325	-231
Albania	-1 693	-1 243	-1 095	-1 253	-1 302
Serbia	-3 732	-2 751	-592	-330	-636
Turkey	-5 790	-22 024	-13 256	-8 287	-9 886
Bosnia and Herzegovina	:	-1 866	-1 639	-1 681	-1 648
Kosovo <sup>(1)</sup>	-530	-940	-1 007	-1 132	-1 218

Note: as reported by enlargement countries.

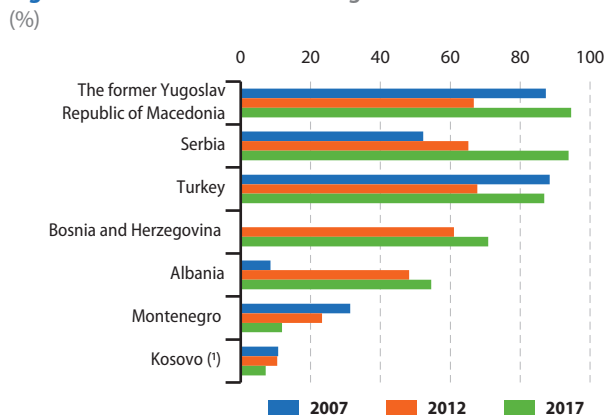
(<sup>1</sup>) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ext\\_lt\\_intercc](#))

moving towards a balanced trade position; the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia recorded a smaller increase in its cover ratio. Relatively small decreases in the cover ratio were observed for Turkey and Kosovo, while in Montenegro the decrease was greater, reflecting its fall in exports to the EU-28 and increase in imports during this period.

Table 8 looks at trade between the enlargement countries, analysing exports. In total, the value of exports from enlargement countries to other enlargement countries reached EUR 6.3 billion in 2017. Serbia was the largest exporter of goods to the other enlargement countries, mainly exporting to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

**Figure 1: Cover ratio for trade in goods with the EU-28**



Note: as reported by enlargement countries.

(!) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ext\_lt\_intercc)

**Table 8: Intra-regional trade — exports, 2017**

(million EUR)

Reporting country	Partner countries						
	Montenegro	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Albania	Serbia	Turkey	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Kosovo
Montenegro	–	6	11	66	22	47	23
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	29	–	66	219	78	74	199
Albania	37	63	–	36	16	10	156
Serbia	597	485	113	–	268	1 071	:
Turkey	36	240	253	416	–	228	183
Bosnia and Herzegovina	180	74	21	555	211	–	:
Kosovo (!)	20	46	60	48	7	9	–

(!) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-056697)

Turkey was the second largest exporter of goods to other enlargement countries, with Serbia its largest partner; Serbia was also the largest partner for Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Kosovo and Albania were each other's largest partner.

Table 9 shows the share of exports from the enlargement countries that were destined for the EU-28, the United States and China. The EU-28 is a key trading partner for several of the enlargement countries, particularly the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. The share of exports from the enlargement countries to the EU-28 increased between 2012 and 2017, most notably in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, while it decreased most strongly in Montenegro and Kosovo. The share of exports to the United States and to China changed most between 2012 and 2017 in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in particular the share of exports to China falling greatly. The relative importance of the EU-28 and China as the origin of imports increased between 2012 and 2017 in all enlargement countries, while the United States' share decreased in four of the seven countries (see Table 10).

**Table 9: Exports of goods to selected partners**

(% share of total exports)

	EU-28		United States		China	
	2012	2017	2012	2017	2012	2017
Montenegro	51.5	34.8	0.3	0.5	1.0	1.7
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	65.3	81.1	1.4	1.0	4.0	1.1
Albania	75.6	77.2	0.5	1.3	2.7	3.0
Serbia	62.5	67.6	0.9	1.6	0.1	0.4
Turkey	38.9	47.0	3.7	2.7	1.9	1.6
Bosnia and Herzegovina	72.6	71.0	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.3
Kosovo (!)	39.9	24.9	0.1	0.6	1.2	1.5

Note: as reported by enlargement countries.

(!) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: ext\_lt\_intercc and DS-056697)

**Table 10: Imports of goods from selected partners**

(% share of total imports)

	EU-28		United States		China	
	2012	2017	2012	2017	2012	2017
Montenegro	44.5	47.4	0.8	0.8	7.2	9.6
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	60.3	62.9	1.3	2.3	5.7	5.8
Albania	63.2	61.7	2.2	1.4	6.4	7.9
Serbia	58.5	58.9	2.1	1.7	8.1	9.2
Turkey	37.0	36.4	6.0	4.5	9.0	9.1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	61.4	61.0	2.5	3.2	5.4	6.5
Kosovo (!)	41.9	43.1	1.9	1.2	6.4	9.0

Note: as reported by enlargement countries.

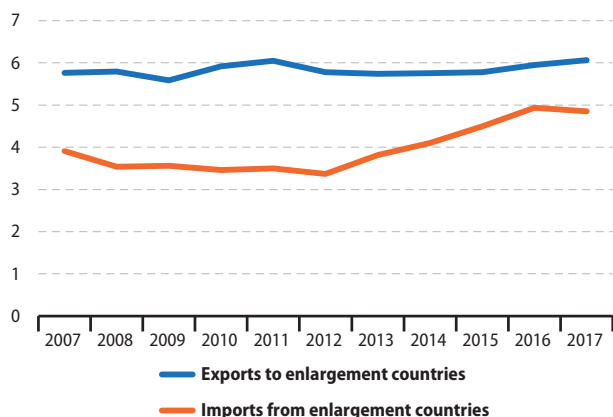
(!) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: ext\_lt\_intercc and DS-056697)

The final seven figures are based on an alternative analysis, namely, 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 information pertaining to the enlargement countries as reporting entities). Figure 2 shows the relative importance of the enlargement countries as a market for the EU-28's trade in goods. In 2017, the enlargement countries together accounted for 6.1 % of the EU-28's total exports and for 4.8 % of the EU-28's total imports.

**Figure 2: Share of the enlargement countries in total trade of goods, EU-28**

(% of all EU-28 exports and imports)

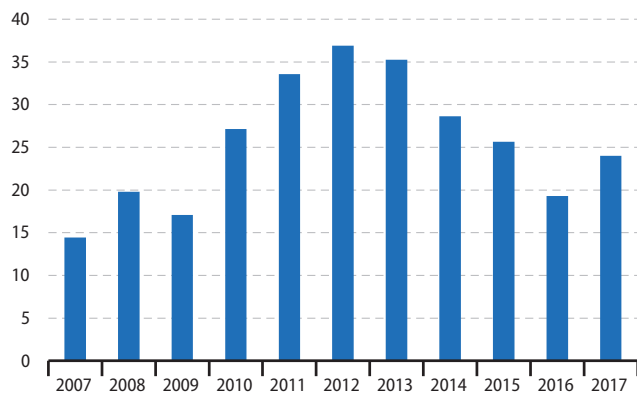


Note: as reported by EU Member States.

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

**Figure 3: Trade balance for goods with enlargement countries, EU-28**

(billion EUR)



Note: as reported by EU Member States.

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

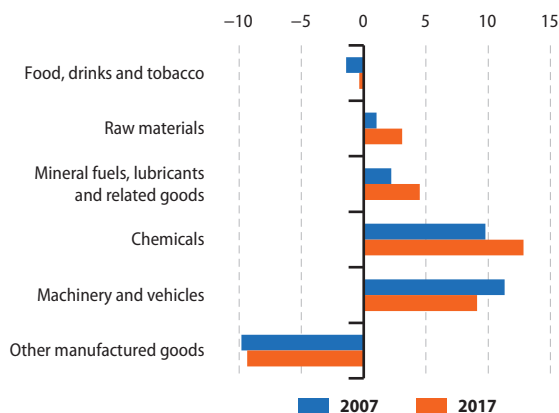
The EU-28 ran a trade surplus for goods with the enlargement countries (collectively) during the whole period 2007-2017, increasing most years between 2007 and 2012, decreasing between 2012 and 2016 and then increasing again in 2017 (see Figure 3). An analysis of the composition of the trade balance for goods with the enlargement countries is presented in Figure 4: the EU-28 recorded a surplus for most of the goods categories, most notably for chemicals as well as machinery and vehicles; by contrast, the largest deficit was for other manufactured goods. Between 2007 and 2017, a narrowing of the deficits was observed for the two categories where there were deficits, while the surpluses in the remaining categories generally widened, the one exception being machinery and vehicles.

Turkey alone accounted for approximately three quarters (74.3 %) of the goods that were exported from the EU-28 to the enlargement countries in 2017, with Serbia accounting for just over one tenth (see Figure 5). Concerning imports from enlargement countries, Turkey had a slightly larger share (77.5 %), while Serbia's share was slightly smaller, but still over one tenth (see Figure 6). While the precise shares varied slightly between exports and imports of goods, the ranking stayed the same, with Montenegro and Kosovo having the smallest shares.

Among the EU Member States, Germany was by far the principal exporter to the enlargement countries, accounting for nearly one quarter (23.3 %) of all exports in 2017 (see Figure 7), nearly double the next largest share (12.5 %) from Italy. Looking at imports from the enlargement countries, Germany was also the largest destination, with one fifth (20.7 %) of the total, again ahead of Italy (see Figure 8).

**Figure 4: Trade balance with enlargement countries, by broad group of goods, EU-28**

(billion EUR)

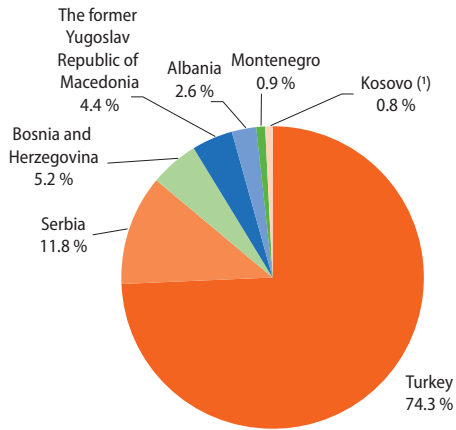


Note: as reported by EU Member States.

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

**Figure 5: Destination for goods exported to the enlargement countries, EU-28, 2017**

(% of total EU-28 exports to enlargement countries)



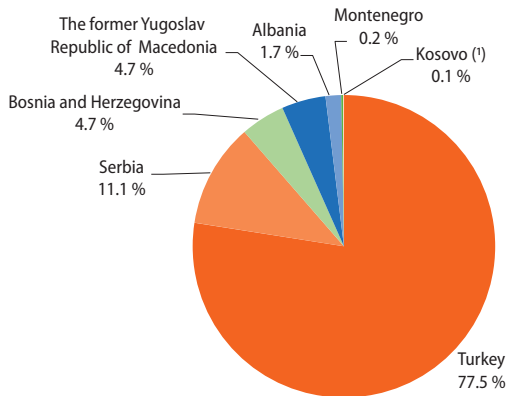
Note: as reported by EU Member States.

(\*) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

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

**Figure 6: Origin of goods imported from the enlargement countries, EU-28, 2017**

(% of total EU-28 imports from enlargement countries)



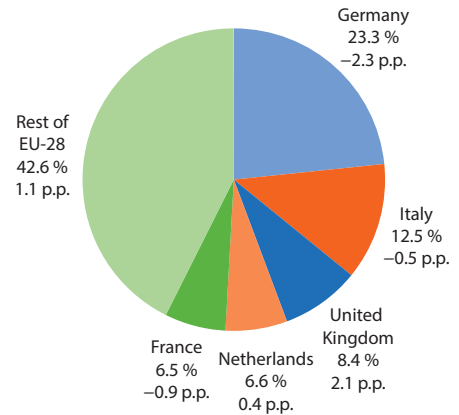
Note: as reported by EU Member States.

(\*) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

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

**Figure 7: Share of goods exported by the EU-28 to the enlargement countries, 2017**

(% of EU-28 exports to enlargement countries and percentage point (p.p.) change 2016-2017)

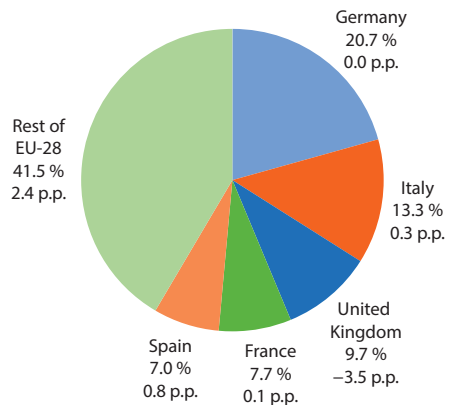


Note: as reported by EU Member States.

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

**Figure 8: Share of goods imported into the EU-28 from enlargement countries, 2017**

(% of EU-28 imports from enlargement countries and percentage point (p.p.) change 2016-2017)



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 enlargement countries:

[http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Enlargement\\_countries\\_-\\_statistical\\_overview](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Enlargement_countries_-_statistical_overview)

### Background information on the enlargement countries:

[http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Enlargement\\_policy\\_and\\_statistical\\_cooperation](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Enlargement_policy_and_statistical_cooperation)

### National statistical authorities of the enlargement countries

<b>Montenegro</b>	<a href="http://monstat.org/eng/index.php">http://monstat.org/eng/index.php</a>
<b>The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b>	<a href="http://www.stat.gov.mk/Default_en.aspx">http://www.stat.gov.mk/Default_en.aspx</a>
<b>Albania</b>	<a href="http://www.instat.gov.al/en/Home.aspx">http://www.instat.gov.al/en/Home.aspx</a>
<b>Serbia</b>	<a href="http://webrzs.stat.gov.rs/WebSite">http://webrzs.stat.gov.rs/WebSite</a>
<b>Turkey</b>	<a href="http://www.turkstat.gov.tr">http://www.turkstat.gov.tr</a>
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	<a href="http://bhas.ba/index.php?lang=en">http://bhas.ba/index.php?lang=en</a>
<b>Kosovo</b>	<a href="http://ask.rks-gov.net/eng">http://ask.rks-gov.net/eng</a>

Data were extracted on 19 and 20 March 2018.

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