

Intra-EU trade in goods - main features

Statistics Explained

*Data from April 2025
Planned update: May 2026*

Highlights

" Trade among EU countries as a share of total trade in goods ranged from just over 30% for Cyprus to 81% for Czechia in 2024. "

" Over three quarters (78%) of total exports of goods within the EU in 2024 were manufactured products. "

This article takes a close look at recent trends, focusing on total [intra-EU](#) trade in goods and the most traded products. It presents statistics for the [EU](#) aggregate and for individual EU countries for the period covering 2002 to 2024. Statistics on international trade in goods between countries of the [European Union \(EU\)](#) - especially the size and evolution of imports and exports - enable the EU and national authorities to evaluate the growth of the [Single Market](#) and the integration of EU economies. These statistics also provide EU businesses with essential information for their sales and marketing policies. This article is part of an [online publication](#) providing recent statistics on international trade in goods, covering information on the EU's main partners, main products traded, specific characteristics of trade as well as background information.

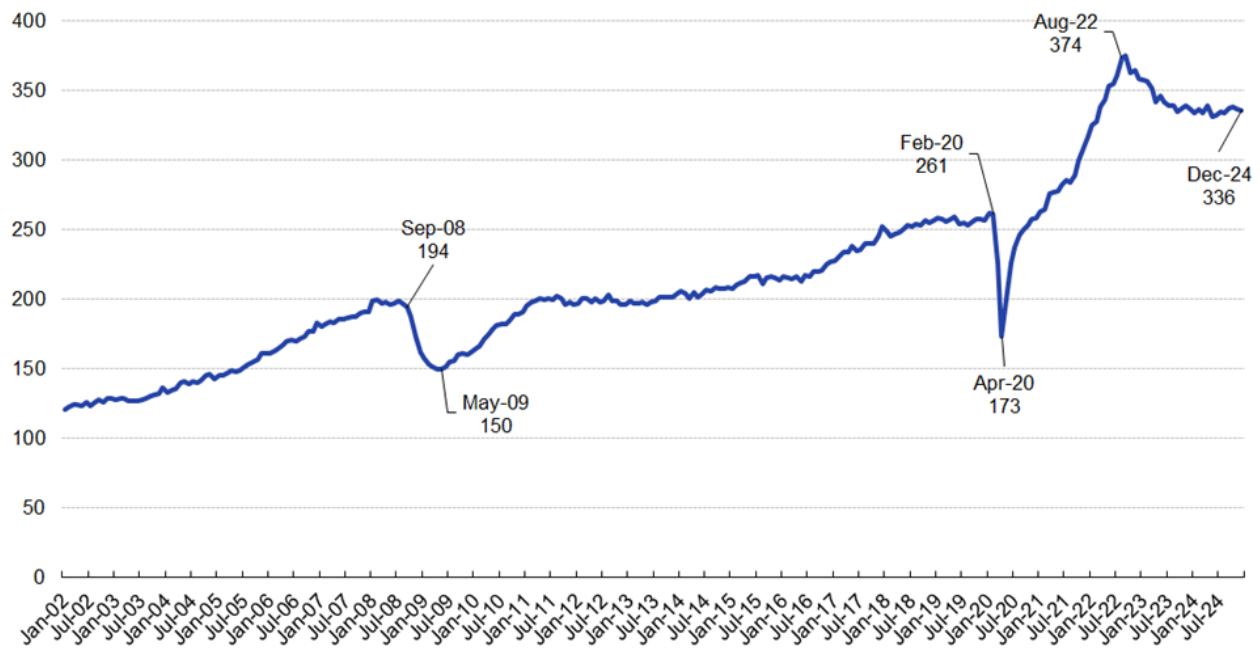
Evolution of intra-EU trade in goods

In 2024, the exports of goods from EU countries to other EU countries stood at 4 135 billion, a decrease of 2.4% compared to 2023.

When looking at the long-term evolution by month, exports of goods within the EU showed significant fluctuations during the financial and the COVID-19 crises. In particular during the pandemic crisis, exports dropped dramatically between February 2020 and April 2020, before recovering in the subsequent months and reaching a peak in August 2022. From September 2022

onwards, the exports of goods within the EU started to decrease gradually, standing at 336 billion in December 2024.

Intra EU exports of goods, January 2002 - December 2024 (€ billion, seasonally adjusted data)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: ext_st_eu27_2020sitc)



Figure 1: Intra-EU exports of goods, January 2002 - December 2024 (€ billion) Source: Eurostat (ext_st_eu27_2020sitc)

Since the introduction of the [Intrastat](#) data collection system for intra-EU trade in goods on 1 January 1993, the value of intra-EU exports of goods has been consistently higher than that of intra-EU imports of goods. In theory, as intra-EU exports of goods are declared [FOB](#) -type value and intra-EU imports of goods [CIF](#) -type value, the value of intra-EU imports of goods should be slightly higher than that of intra-EU exports of goods. The analysis presented in this article considers intra-EU exports of goods only, as it is the more reliable measure of total intra-EU trade in goods since, at aggregated levels, total intra-EU exports of goods has better coverage than total intra-EU imports of goods.

Intra-EU trade in goods by EU country

There is a wide variation in the value of exports of goods by EU country to partners within the EU (Figure 2a). In 2024, the value of export trade in goods within the EU ranged from € 845 billion for Germany to just over € 1 billion for Cyprus. There were 7 EU countries (Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Italy, Poland and Spain) whose exports of goods to partners in the EU were more than € 200 billion in 2024, accounting for 72% of the total value of intra-EU exports of goods.

Exports of goods to other Member States, 2024

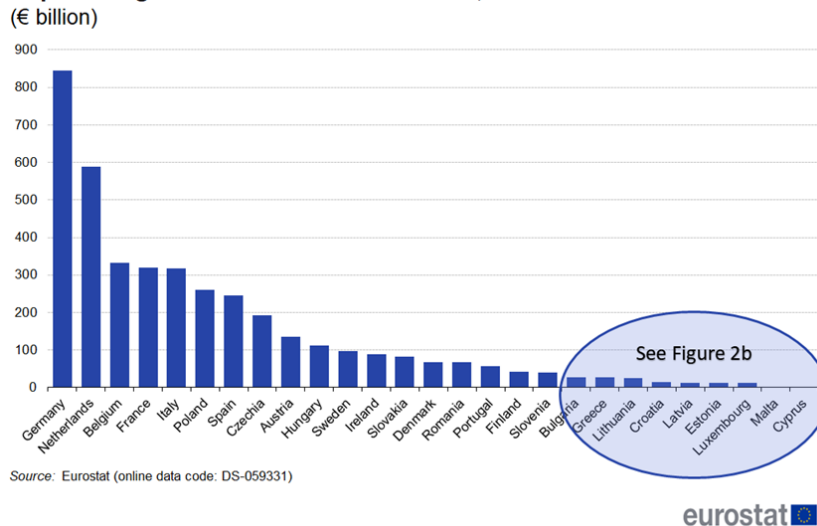


Figure 2a: Exports of goods to other Member States, 2024

(€ billion)

Source: Eurostat [Comext \(ds-059331\)](#)

Exports of goods to other Member States - details, 2024

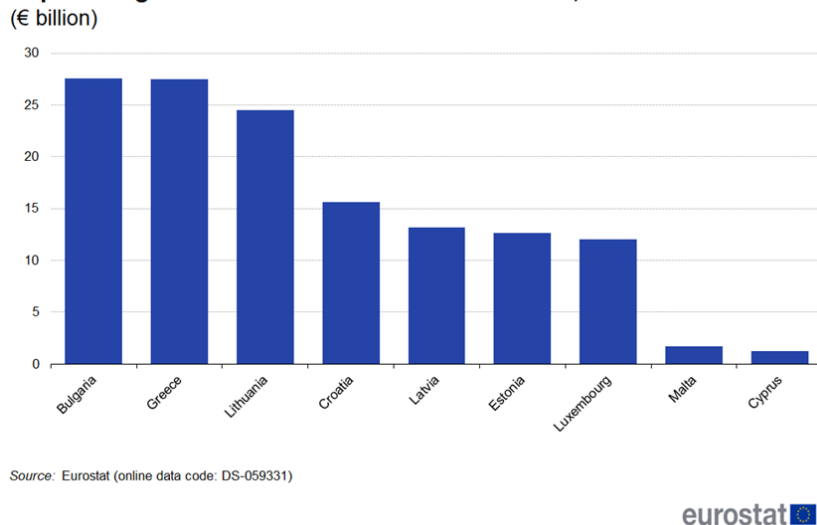


Figure 2b: Exports of goods to other Member States - details, 2024

(€ billion)

Source: Eurostat [Comext \(ds-059331\)](#)

Between 2002 and 2024, the value of exports of goods to partners in the EU increased more than 9% annually in average in 4 countries: Latvia (10.3%), Lithuania (9.9%), Poland (9.8%) and Bulgaria (9.7%) - see Table 1. In 10 of the remaining 23 EU countries annual average growth was between 5% and 9% and in 13 below 5%. EU countries in Eastern Europe tended to have higher growth rates.

Exports of goods to other Member States, 2002 and 2024 (€ billion and %)

	2002	2024	Annual average growth rate
Belgium	151	332	3.7%
Bulgaria	4	28	9.7%
Czechia	33	193	8.4%
Denmark	37	67	2.8%
Germany	361	845	3.9%
Estonia	3	13	7.1%
Ireland	39	88	3.8%
Greece	7	27	6.5%
Spain	87	245	4.8%
France	194	319	2.3%
Croatia	3	16	7.2%
Italy	147	318	3.6%
Cyprus	0	1	8.8%
Latvia	2	13	10.3%
Lithuania	3	25	9.9%
Luxembourg	9	12	1.6%
Hungary	29	112	6.3%
Malta	1	2	3.8%
Netherlands	180	588	5.5%
Austria	59	135	3.8%
Poland	33	260	9.8%
Portugal	19	56	5.0%
Romania	10	67	9.0%
Slovenia	8	41	7.5%
Slovakia	13	83	8.7%
Finland	25	42	2.4%
Sweden	44	98	3.7%

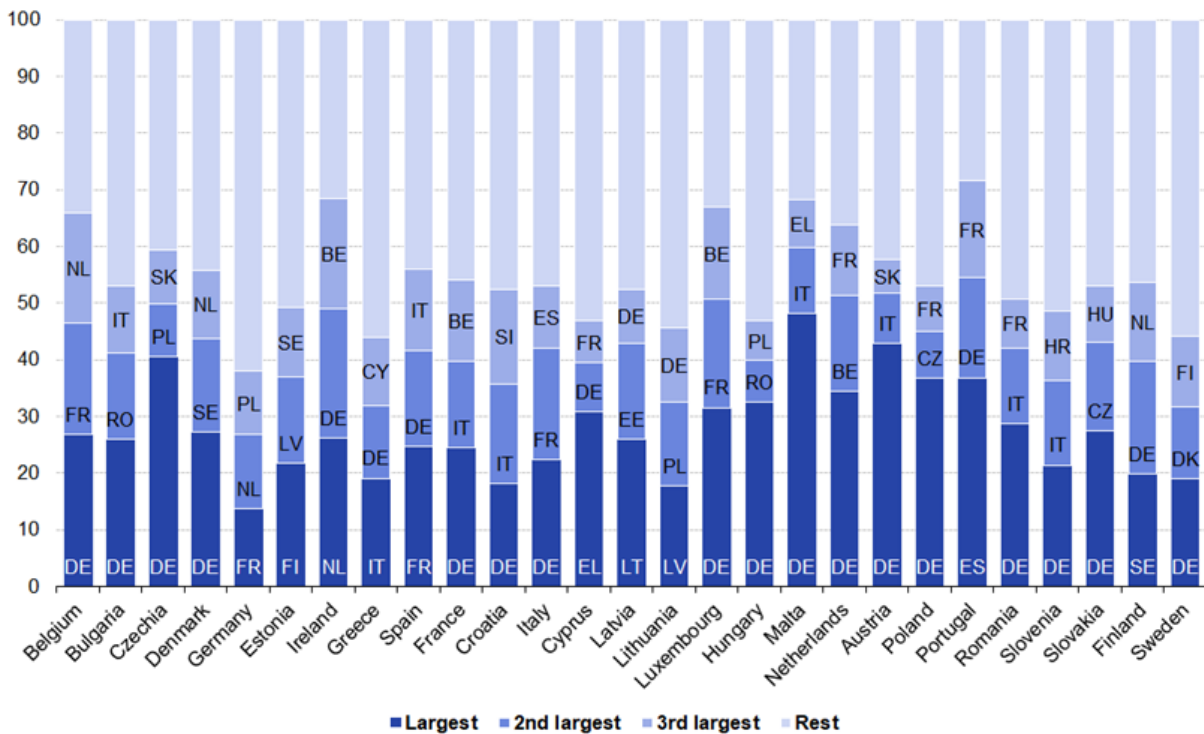
Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-059331)



Table 1: Exports of goods to other Member States, 2002 and 2024 (€ billion and %) Source: Eurostat Comext (ds-059331)

In 19 EU countries the top 3 partners accounted for over 50% of exports within the EU (Figure 3). For a further 7 countries the top 3 partners have between 40% and 50% of exports within the EU. Only in Germany (38%) is this share below 40%. Germany appeared most often (25 times) as a top 3 partner; France (10 times) and Italy (9 times) were the next 2 popular partners.

Main EU partners for exports of goods by Member State, 2024 (share of total intra-EU exports of goods)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-059331)



Figure 3: Main EU partners for exports of goods by Member State, 2024 (share of total Intra-EU exports of goods) Source: Eurostat Comext (ds-059331)

Intra-EU trade in goods balance

It can be difficult to interpret figures in absolute terms for individual EU countries. In particular their trade in goods balances must be interpreted with caution for the phenomenon of [quasi-transit](#).

In 2024, 8 EU countries had a trade surplus for intra EU trade in goods (Figure 4a). The surplus was highest in the Netherlands (€ 270.3 billion). It was also above € 10 billion in Czechia (€ 38.7 billion), Belgium (€ 35.9 billion), Ireland (€ 33.0 billion), Poland (€ 23.6 billion) and Hungary (€ 13.9 billion). There were 19 EU countries with a trade deficit. The deficit was highest in France (€ 122.4 billion). It was also at least € 10 billion in Romania (€ 24.2 billion), Portugal (€ 23.8 billion), Sweden (€ 18.9 billion), Austria (€ 18.7 billion), Croatia (€ 17.0 billion), Greece (€ 16.1 billion), Germany (€ 14.8 billion), Finland (€ 10.9 billion) and Italy (€ 10.3 billion). In 11 EU countries the trade balance was between +€ 10 billion and -€ 10 billion (Figure 4b).

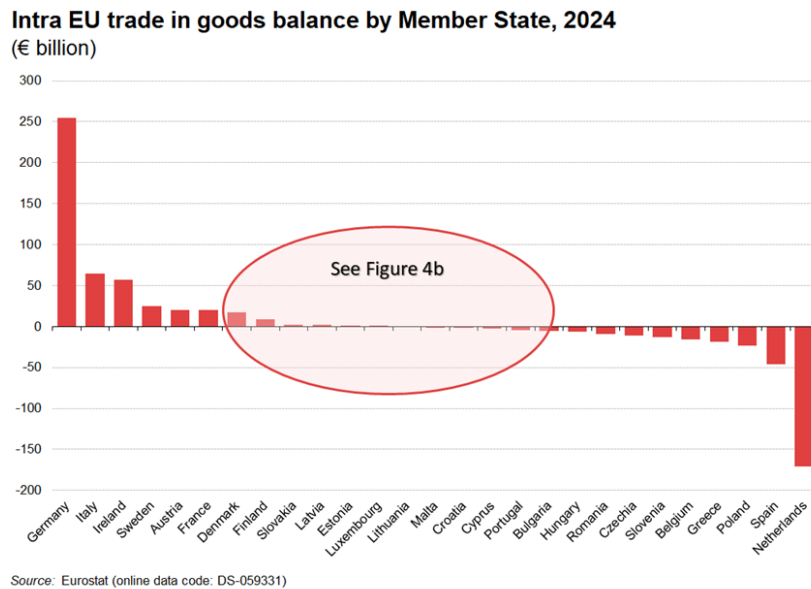


Figure 4a: Intra-EU trade in goods balance by Member State, 2024
(€ billion)
Source: Eurostat [Comext \(ds-059331\)](#)



Figure 4b: Intra-EU trade in goods balance by Member State - details, 2024
(€ billion)
Source: Eurostat [Comext \(ds-059331\)](#)

In 2002, 19 EU countries had a trade deficit for intra EU trade in goods (Table 2). In Spain, Poland and Slovenia this had changed to a surplus by 2024. In 2002, 9 EU countries had a trade surplus for intra EU trade in goods. In Germany, Denmark, Slovakia and Finland this changed to a deficit by 2024.

Intra EU trade in goods balance, 2002 - 2024

(€ million)

	2002	2024	Trend
Belgium	13 416	35 899	
Bulgaria	-1 043	-927	
Czechia	2 894	38 716	
Denmark	1 368	-7 821	
Germany	53 105	-14 809	
Estonia	-575	-4 797	
Ireland	25 193	32 995	
Greece	-15 032	-16 091	
Spain	-22 481	1 551	
France	-19 300	-122 384	
Croatia	-4 555	-17 034	
Italy	-4 567	-10 312	
Cyprus	-1 725	-6 084	
Latvia	-1 692	-4 908	
Lithuania	-1 204	-3 826	
Luxembourg	-2 075	-9 218	
Hungary	4 562	13 881	
Malta	-833	-3 939	
Netherlands	70 520	270 364	
Austria	-6 107	-18 736	
Poland	-5 344	23 567	
Portugal	-12 256	-23 751	
Romania	-2 138	-24 161	
Slovenia	-904	8 222	
Slovakia	990	-170	
Finland	1 485	-10 912	
Sweden	-956	-18 937	

Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-059331)

Red points denote trade deficits and blue points trade surpluses

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Table 2: Intra-EU trade in goods balance, 2002 - 2024 (€ million) Source: Eurostat Comext (ds-059331)

In 2024, the Netherlands, which had the highest trade surplus in absolute terms, had also the highest ratio of exports to imports (185) followed by Ireland (160) see Table 3. France, which had the highest trade deficit in absolute terms, ranked twenty-first for its ratio of exports to imports. Its ratio of 72 was higher than that of Portugal (70), Greece (63), Luxembourg (57), Croatia (48), Malta (31) and Cyprus (17) which all had a lower deficit in absolute terms than France.

Intra EU goods: exports divided by imports, 2002 - 2024 (%)

	2002	2024	Trend
Belgium	110	112	
Bulgaria	78	97	
Czechia	110	125	
Denmark	104	90	
Germany	117	98	
Estonia	83	73	
Ireland	281	160	
Greece	31	63	
Spain	79	101	
France	91	72	
Croatia	42	48	
Italy	97	97	
Cyprus	10	17	
Latvia	47	73	
Lithuania	72	87	
Luxembourg	81	57	
Hungary	118	114	
Malta	48	31	
Netherlands	164	185	
Austria	91	88	
Poland	86	110	
Portugal	61	70	
Romania	82	73	
Slovenia	90	125	
Slovakia	108	100	
Finland	106	79	
Sweden	98	84	

Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-059331)

Red points are the lowest value and blue points the highest



Table 3: Intra-EU goods: exports divided by imports, 2002-2024 (%) Source: Eurostat Comext (ds-059331)

Table 4 considers the trade relationship of individual EU countries with non-EU partners to add further context to the interpretation of intra-EU trade in goods balances. It shows the ratio of 'goods exports divided by goods imports' by EU country for trade with non-EU partners. In 2024 this ratio was highest in Ireland (174), Germany (156), Latvia and Luxembourg (both 153) and lowest in Malta, Cyprus (both 57) and Greece (54).

Extra EU goods: exports divided by imports, 2002 - 2024 (%)

	2002	2024	Trend
Belgium	107	91	
Bulgaria	65	73	
Czechia	60	82	
Denmark	134	145	
Germany	138	156	
Estonia	49	145	
Ireland	131	174	
Greece	32	54	
Spain	71	76	
France	116	108	
Croatia	54	86	
Italy	111	127	
Cyprus	13	57	
Latvia	84	153	
Lithuania	67	94	
Luxembourg	81	153	
Hungary	47	84	
Malta	115	57	
Netherlands	64	61	
Austria	137	148	
Poland	52	80	
Portugal	74	84	
Romania	69	74	
Slovenia	112	71	
Slovakia	36	112	
Finland	177	140	
Sweden	162	144	

Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-059331)

Red points are the lowest value and blue points the highest



Table 4: Extra-EU goods: exports divided by imports, 2002-2024 (%) Source: Eurostat Comext (ds-059331)

Comparing Table 3 and Table 4, there were 8 EU countries (Bulgaria, Greece, Croatia, Cyprus, Lithuania, Malta, Portugal and Romania) with a trade deficit in both intra- and extra-EU trade in 2024, indicated in the Tables 3 and 4 by a value below 100%. There were 7 EU countries (Belgium, Czechia, Spain, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland and Slovenia) with a surplus in intra-EU trade, but a deficit in extra-EU trade. There were 11 EU countries (Denmark, Germany, Estonia, France, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Austria, Slovakia, Finland and Sweden) with a deficit in intra-EU trade, but a surplus in extra-EU trade. Finally, only Ireland had a trade surplus in both tables.

When considering the trade relationships between a country and its trading partners, consideration must also be given to, trade in services to get a more complete picture. See for example the recent article on [Trade in Services](#).

Intra-EU trade in goods compared with extra-EU trade in goods

In 2024, 15 EU countries had a ratio of total exports to total imports below 100% (Table 5). It was below 80% in Greece, Croatia, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal and Romania. The remaining 12 countries had a ratio of more than 100%, of which only Ireland had a ratio of more than 120%.

EU goods total: exports divided by imports, 2002 - 2024 (%, total = intra-EU + extra-EU)

	2002	2024	Trend
Belgium	109	104	
Bulgaria	72	87	
Czechia	95	113	
Denmark	114	108	
Germany	126	118	
Estonia	72	84	
Ireland	168	168	
Greece	32	59	
Spain	76	90	
France	101	85	
Croatia	46	57	
Italy	103	110	
Cyprus	12	33	
Latvia	56	87	
Lithuania	70	89	
Luxembourg	81	65	
Hungary	91	106	
Malta	77	40	
Netherlands	111	113	
Austria	100	101	
Poland	74	100	
Portugal	65	74	
Romania	78	74	
Slovenia	95	94	
Slovakia	87	102	
Finland	132	97	
Sweden	122	104	

Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-059331)

Red points are the lowest value and blue points the highest

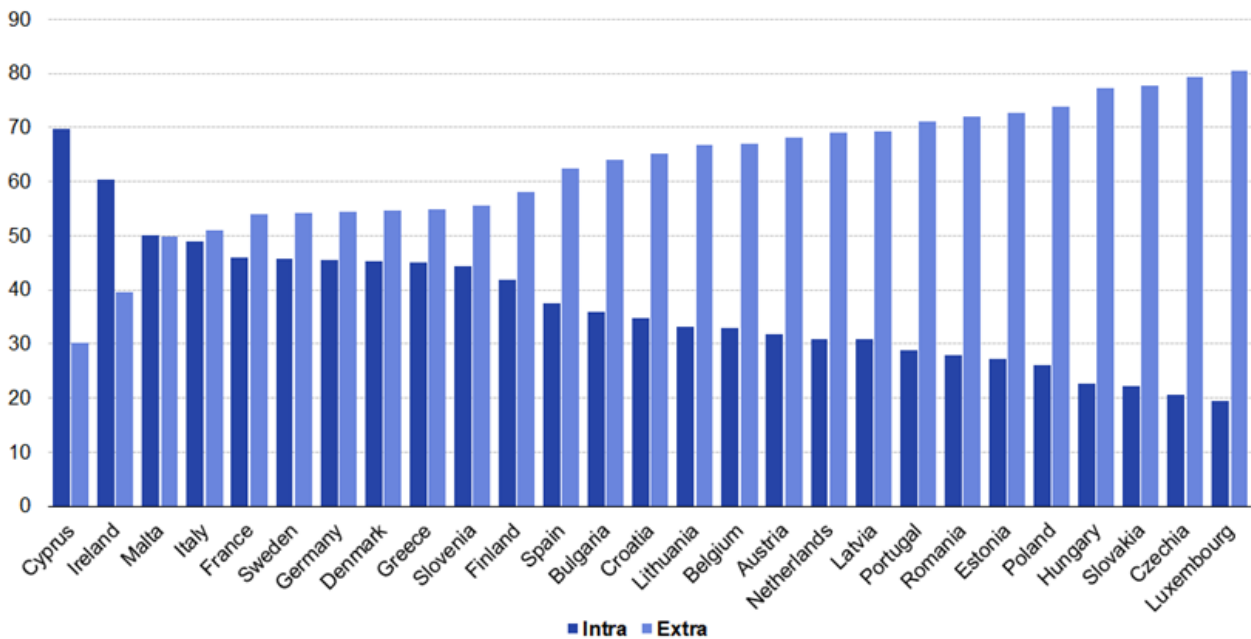
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Table 5: EU goods total: exports divided by imports, 2002-2024 (% , total = intra-EU + extra-EU) Source: Eurostat Comext (ds-059331)

In 2024, most EU countries had a share of intra-EU exports between 50% and 75% (Figure 5). It was above 75% in Hungary (77%), Slovakia (78%), Czechia, (79%) and Luxembourg (81%). Only in Cyprus (30%) and Ireland (40%) was the share of intra-EU exports lower than 50%, meaning extra-EU exports were higher than intra-EU exports.

Exports of goods: intra EU and extra EU, 2024

(%)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-059331)

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Figure 5: Exports of goods: intra-EU and extra-EU, 2024 (%) Source: Eurostat Comext (ds-059331)

The ratio of intra-EU exports to extra-EU exports decreased in 16 EU countries (Figure 6). The largest decreases were in Slovakia (-362 pp), and Slovenia (-173 pp). The ratio increased in 11 EU countries. The largest increases were in Latvia (+53 pp) and Lithuania (+79 pp).

Exports of goods: intra EU divided by extra EU, 2002 - 2024

(%)

	2002	2024	Trend
Belgium	193	204	
Bulgaria	146	178	
Czechia	414	383	
Denmark	150	121	
Germany	124	119	
Estonia	332	267	
Ireland	72	65	
Greece	131	122	
Spain	187	166	
France	124	117	
Croatia	184	188	
Italy	121	104	
Cyprus	74	43	
Latvia	172	225	
Lithuania	123	202	
Luxembourg	390	413	
Hungary	417	340	
Malta	57	100	
Netherlands	230	223	
Austria	247	214	
Poland	321	284	
Portugal	245	246	
Romania	215	257	
Slovenia	298	125	
Slovakia	713	351	
Finland	107	138	
Sweden	102	118	

Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-059331)

Red points are the lowest value and blue points the highest

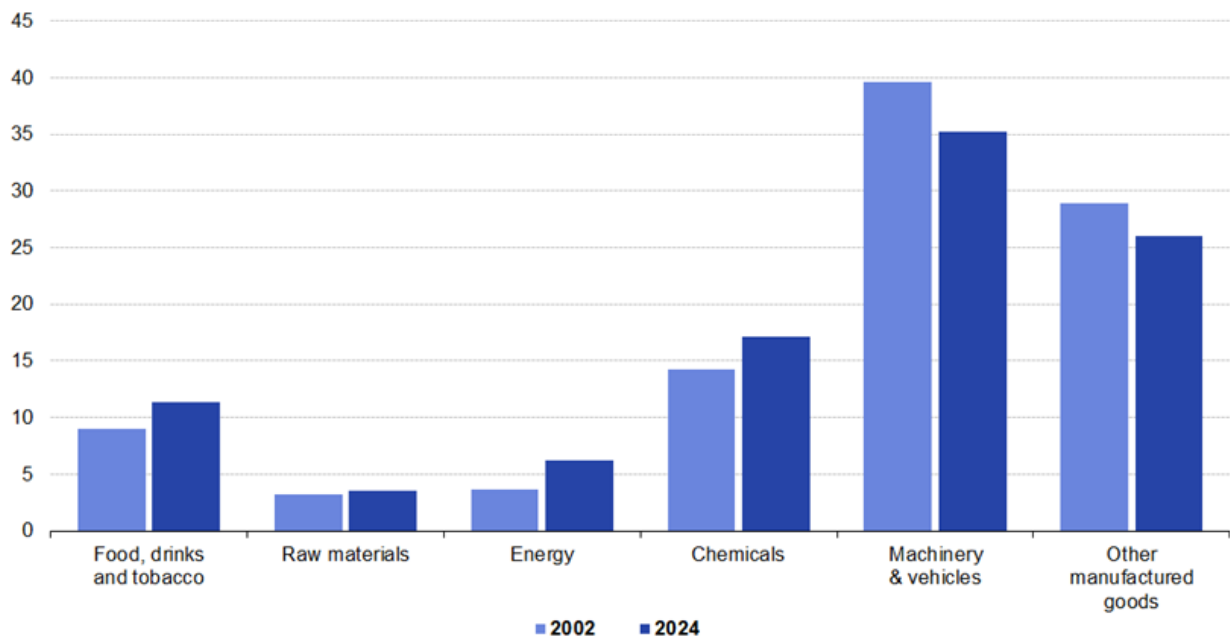
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Table 6: Exports of goods: intra-EU divided by extra-EU, 2002, 2024 and trend (%) Source: Eurostat Comext (ds-059331)

Intra-EU trade in goods by main product groups

Figure 6 shows the share in intra-EU exports of goods by product type. Between 2002 and 2024, the share increased for food, drinks and tobacco, energy (both +2 pp) and chemicals (+3 pp). It decreased for machinery & vehicles (-4 pp), other manufactured goods (-3 pp) and other goods (-1 pp).

Intra EU export shares by product type, 2002 and 2024 (%)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-059331)





























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Figure 6: Intra-EU export shares by product type, 2002 and 2024 (%) Source: Eurostat Comext (ds-059331)

In 2024, in all EU countries the share of manufactured goods was higher than the share of primary goods although there were considerable differences between EU countries. In Ireland (8.7) and Czechia (7.1) the share of manufactured goods was more than 7 times as high as the share of primary goods, while ratios below two were found in Cyprus (1.8), Latvia (1.7), and Malta (1.6).

Intra EU exports of goods by product type, 2002 - 2024

(%)

	Primary goods		Manufactured goods		Other goods		Ratio manufactured to primary goods , 2024
	2002	2024	2002	2024	2002	2024	
EU	16	21	83	78	1	1	3.7 
Belgium	19	29	81	71	0	0	2.5 
Bulgaria	15	22	83	77	2	0	3.4 
Czechia	10	12	90	87	0	0	7.1 
Denmark	24	25	74	75	3	0	3.0 
Germany	13	17	84	82	3	1	4.8 
Estonia	18	27	82	71	0	1	2.6 
Ireland	7	10	87	90	6	0	8.7 
Greece	23	33	76	67	1	0	2.0 
Spain	17	24	83	75	0	1	3.1 
France	15	21	85	78	0	1	3.6 
Croatia	16	29	84	70	0	1	2.4 
Italy	13	18	84	81	2	1	4.4 
Cyprus	18	36	82	63	0	2	1.8 
Latvia	24	37	76	63	0	0	1.7 
Lithuania	21	30	79	70	0	0	2.3 
Luxembourg	18	28	81	72	1	0	2.6 
Hungary	9	15	90	84	1	0	5.6 
Malta	13	38	87	61	0	0	1.6 
Netherlands	28	30	72	70	0	0	2.3 
Austria	13	18	86	81	0	1	4.5 
Poland	12	18	88	81	0	1	4.5 
Portugal	15	23	85	77	0	0	3.4 
Romania	10	17	90	83	0	0	5.0 
Slovenia	11	19	89	80	0	1	4.1 
Slovakia	13	13	87	86	0	0	6.4 
Finland	14	24	84	75	2	2	3.2 
Sweden	15	21	81	79	4	0	3.8 

Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-059331)

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Table 7: Share of intra-EU trade in goods by product type, 2002-2024 (%) Source: Eurostat Comext (ds-059331)

Source data for tables and graphs

- [Intra-EU trade in goods - tables and graphs \(Excel file\)](#)

Data sources

EU international trade data comes from Eurostat's COMEXT database.

COMEXT is the Eurostat reference database for international trade in goods. It provides access not only to both recent and historical data from the [EU countries](#) but also to statistics of a significant number of non-EU countries. International trade aggregated and detailed statistics disseminated from Eurostat website are compiled from COMEXT data according to a monthly process. Because COMEXT is updated on a daily basis, data published on the website may differ from data stored in COMEXT in case of recent revisions.

Information on intra-EU trade is collected by the EU countries using the various media placed at the disposal of the information providers. These may be paper or electronic declarations provided for at national level. The declarations are addressed directly to the competent national administrations.

European statistics on international trade in goods are compiled according to the EU concepts and definitions and

may, therefore, differ from national data published by EU countries.

Context

The EU's single or internal market is a market where goods, services, capital and people can circulate freely. The free movement of goods principle requires that national barriers to the free movement of goods within the EU be removed. Articles 34 to 36 of the Treaty of the functioning of the European Union prohibit quantitative restrictions on imports, exports or goods in transit and all similar restrictive measures between countries. All measures capable of hindering directly or indirectly such imports are considered to be quantitative restrictions.

Additionally, because the 27 EU countries of the European Union share a single market and a single external border, they also have a single trade policy. Both in the [World Trade Organization](#), where the rules of international trade are agreed and enforced, and with individual trading partners, EU countries speak and negotiate collectively.

The importance of the EU's internal market is underlined by the fact that the proportion of intra-EU trade in goods is higher than extra-EU trade in goods in most EU countries with few exceptions. The variation in the proportion of total trade in goods accounted for by intra-EU trade reflects to some degree historical ties and geographical location.

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