

USA-EU - international trade in goods statistics

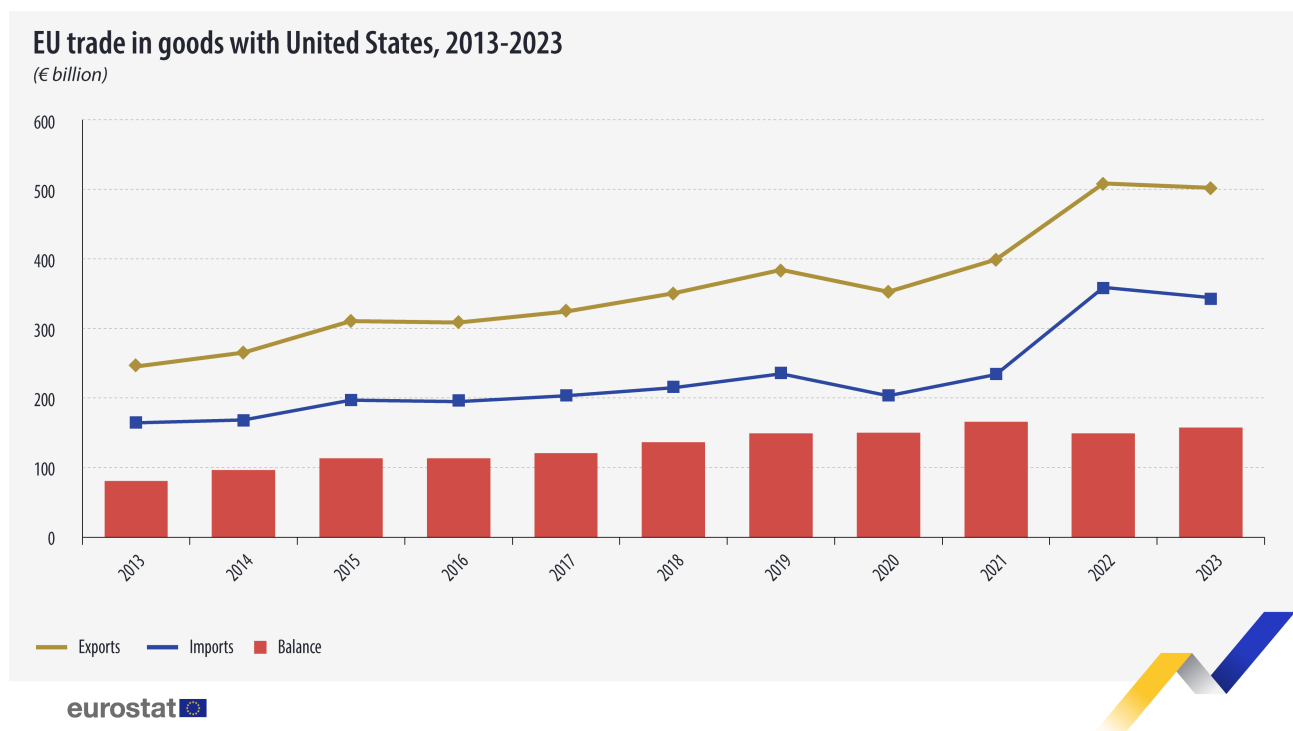
Statistics Explained

Data extracted in February 2024
Planned article update 11 March 2025

Highlights

" In 2023, the United States was the largest partner for EU exports of goods (19.7 %) and the second largest partner for EU imports of goods (13.7 %)."

" Among EU Member States, the Netherlands was the largest importer of goods from the United States and Germany was the largest exporter of goods to the United States in 2023."



This article provides a picture of the international trade in goods between the [European Union \(EU\)](#) and the United States. It analyses the type of goods exchanged between the two economies and the shares of each EU Member State in those exchanges.

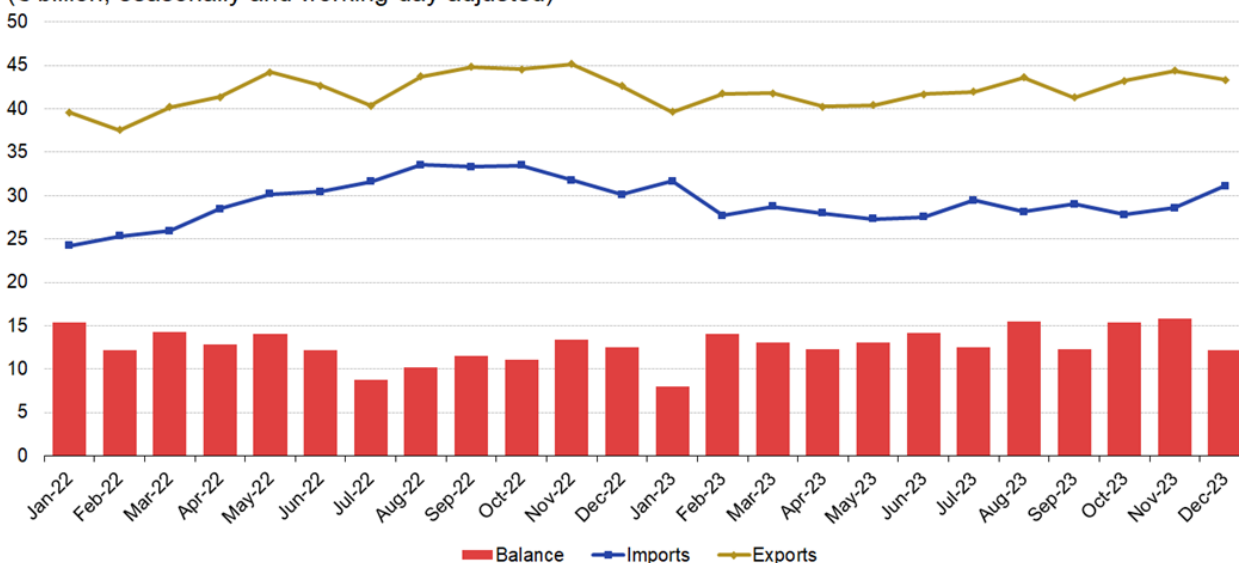
This article is part of an [online publication](#) providing recent statistics on international trade in goods, covering information on the EU's main partners, main goods traded, specific characteristics of trade as well as background information.

Recent developments

Both exports to and imports from the United States increased considerably between January 2022 and December 2023. Exports grew from € 39.6 billion in January 2022 to € 43.3 billion in December 2022 (Figure 1). Imports from the United States were € 24.2 billion in January 2022, growing to € 31.1 billion in December 2023. In January 2022 the trade surplus was € 15.4 billion, It hit a low of € 8.8 billion in July 2022 and stood at € 12.2 billion in December 2022.

EU trade in goods with the United States, 2022-2023

(€ billion, seasonally and working-day adjusted)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: ext_st_eu27_2020sitc)

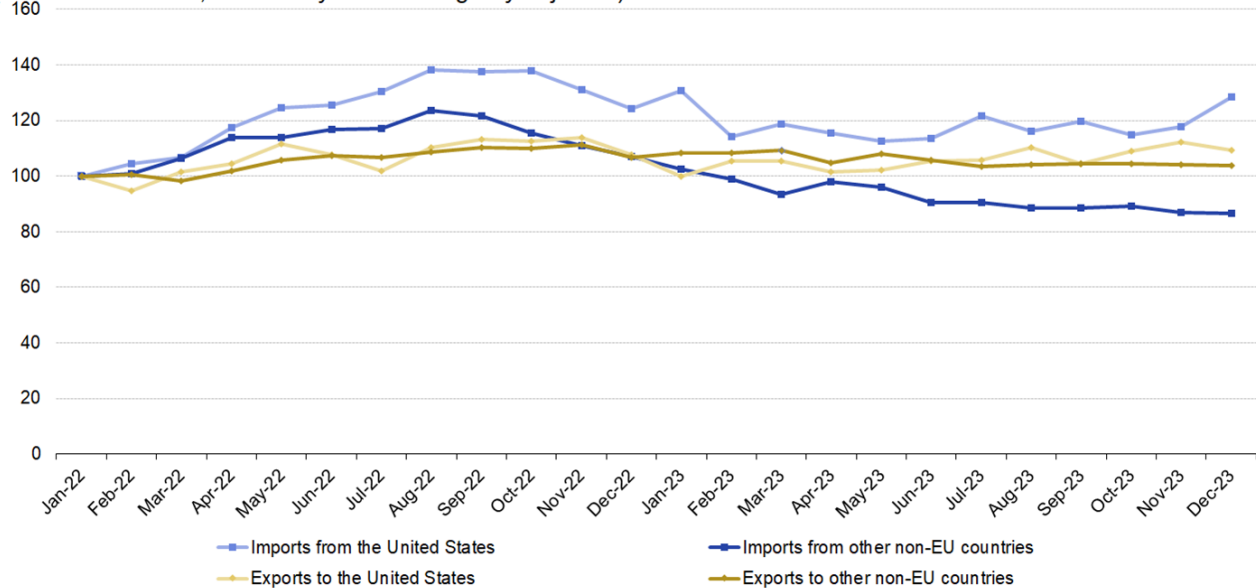
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Figure 1: EU trade in goods with the United States, 2022-2023 (€ billion, seasonally and working-day adjusted) Source: Eurostat (ext_st_eu27_2020sitc)

Figure 2 compares EU trade with the United States against EU trade with other non-EU countries. Between January 2022 and December 2023, EU imports from the United States increased by 28.3 % while imports from other non-EU countries decreased by 13.4 %. EU exports to the United States increased by 9.3 % while exports to other non-EU countries increased by 3.8 %.

EU trade in goods with the United States and other non-EU countries, 2022-2023

(Jan 2022 = 100 %, seasonally and working-day adjusted)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: ext_st_eu27_2020sitc)

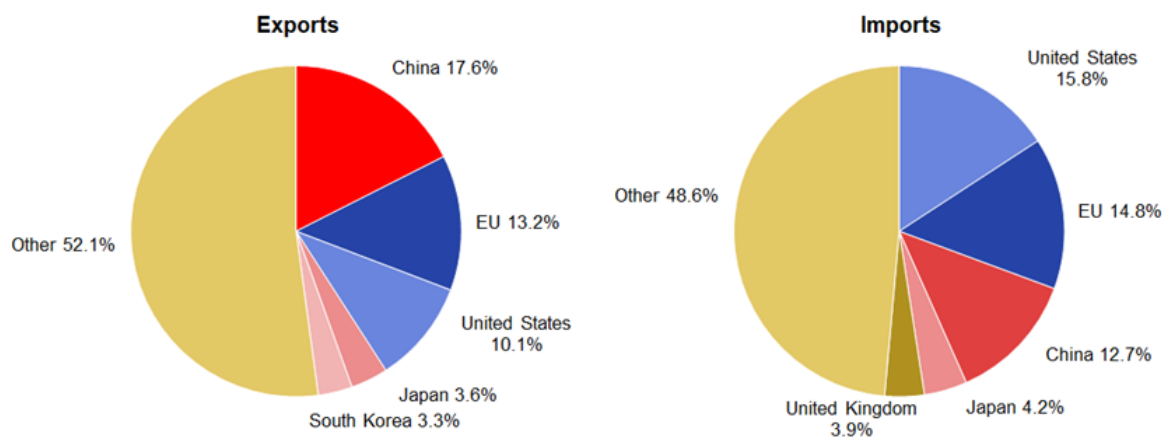
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Figure 2: EU trade in goods with the United States and other non-EU countries, 2022-2023 (Jan 2022 = 100 %, seasonally and working-day adjusted) Source: Eurostat (ext_st_eu27_2020sitc)

EU and the United States in world trade in goods

Figure 3 shows the world's largest traders of goods in 2022. The United States (€ 1 960 billion, 10.1 %) was the third largest exporter in the world, preceded by China (€ 3 413 billion, 17.6 %) and the EU (€ 2 572 billion, 13.2 %) and followed by Japan (€ 709 billion, 3.6 %) and South Korea (€ 649 billion, 3.3 %). The United States (€ 3 206 billion, 15.8 %) was the largest importer in the world, followed by the EU (€ 3 007 billion, 14.8 %), China (€ 2 579 billion, 12.7 %), Japan (€ 852 billion, 4.2 %) and the United Kingdom (€ 782 billion, 3.9 %).

The United States among the world's largest traders of goods, 2022 (% share of world exports/imports)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: ext_lt_introeu27_2020) and UNCTAD

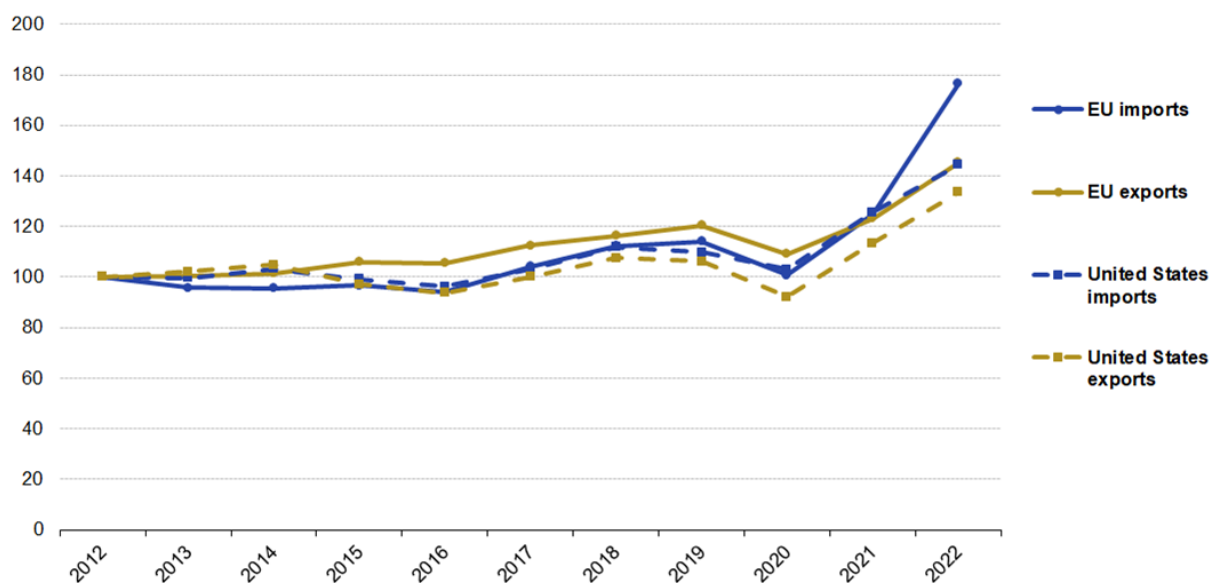


Figure 3: The United States among the world's largest traders of goods, 2022 (% share of world exports/imports) Source: Eurostat (ext_lt_introeu27_2020) and UNCTAD

The imports and exports of goods of the EU and the United States indexed at 100 in 2012 for the period up to 2022 are shown in Figure 4. It also shows the cover ratio (exports / imports) for this period. Exports from the EU were lowest in 2012 (100) and highest in 2022 (145). Imports to the EU were lowest in 2016 (94) and highest in 2022 (177). The cover ratio for the EU was lowest in 2022 (86 %) and highest in 2016 (116 %). Exports from the United States were lowest in 2020 (92) and highest in 2022 (134). Imports to the United States were lowest in 2016 (96) and highest in 2022 (144).

Trade in goods of the EU and the United States, 2012-2022

(exports and imports indexed at 100 in 2012)



Notes:

- While the trade balance provides information on the absolute value of trading positions, the cover ratio provides a relative measure that is based on the ratio (expressed in percentage terms) between the value of exports and the value of imports; if exports are higher than imports then the cover ratio will be above 100.

- Exports and imports are indexed at 100 in 2012

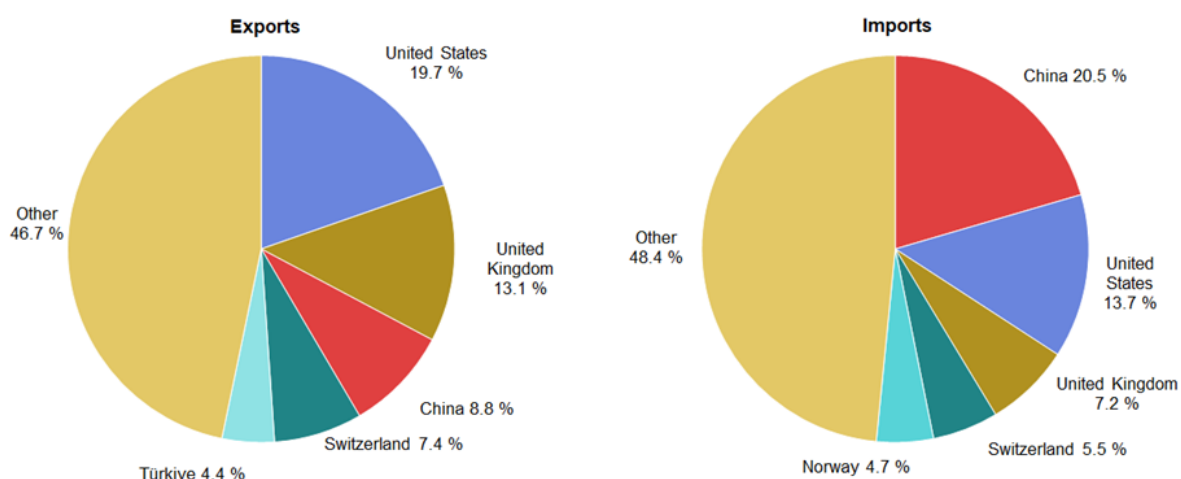
Source: Eurostat (online data code: ext_lt_introeu27_2020) and UNCTAD

Figure 4: Trade in goods of the EU and the United States, 2012-2022 (exports and imports indexed at 100 in 2012, cover ratio in %) Source: Eurostat (ext_lt_introeu27_2020) and UNCTAD

United States largest partner for EU exports of goods in 2023.

The position of the United States among the largest trade partners of the EU in 2023 can be seen in Figure 5. In 2023, the United States was the largest partner for EU exports of goods (19.7 %). It was followed by the United Kingdom (13.1 %), China (8.8 %), Switzerland (7.4 %) and Türkiye (4.4 %). It was the second largest partner for EU imports of goods (13.7 %), preceded by China (20.5 %) and followed by the United Kingdom (7.2 %), Switzerland (5.5 %) and Norway (4.7 %).

The United States among the EU's main partners for trade in goods, 2023 (% share of extra-EU exports/imports)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: ext_st_eu27_2020sitc)



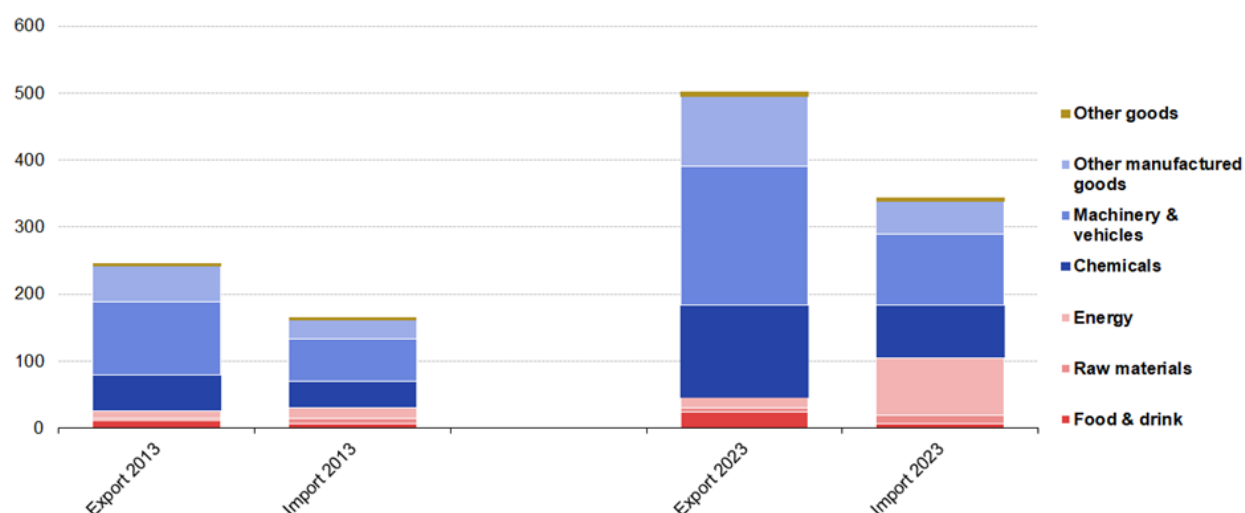
Figure 5: The United States among the EU's main partners for trade in goods, 2023 (% share of extra-EU exports/imports) Source: Eurostat (ext_st_eu27_2020sitc)

EU - United States trade by type of goods

The breakdown of EU trade with the United States by SITC groups is shown in Figure 6. The red shades denote the primary goods: food & drink, raw materials and energy, while the blue shades show the manufactured goods: chemicals, machinery & vehicles and other manufactured goods. Finally, other goods are shown in green. In 2023, EU exports of manufactured goods (89 %) had a higher share than primary goods (9 %). The most exported manufactured goods were machinery & vehicles (41 %), followed by chemicals (27 %) and other manufactured goods (21 %). In 2023, EU imports of manufactured goods (68 %) also had a higher share than primary goods (30 %). The most imported manufactured goods were machinery & vehicles (31 %), followed by chemicals (25 %) and other manufactured goods (14 %).

EU trade with the United States by product group, 2013 and 2023

(€ billion)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: ext_st_eu27_2020sitc)

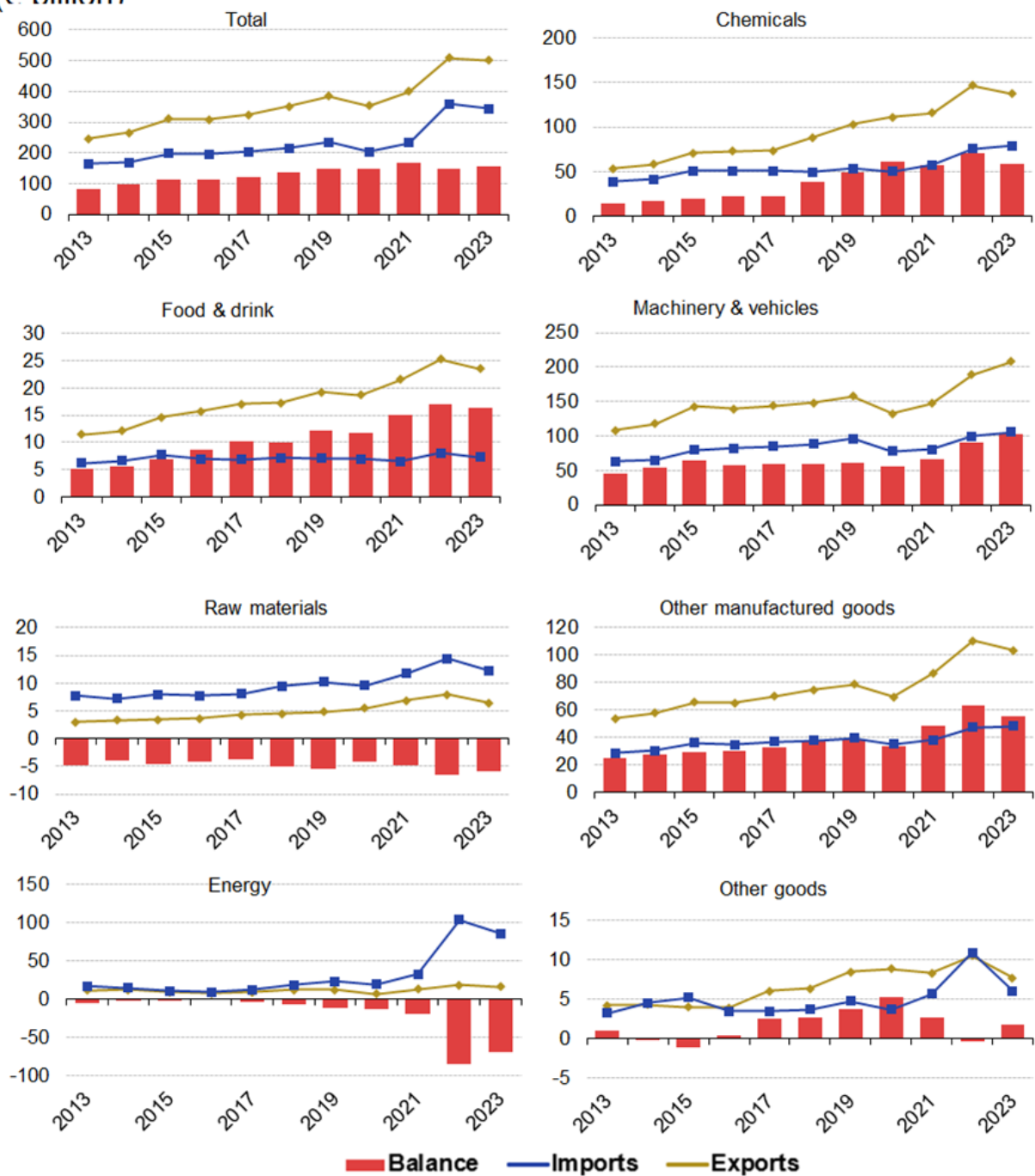
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Figure 6: EU trade with the United States by product group, 2013 and 2023 (€ billion) Source: Eurostat (ext_st_eu27_2020sitc)

Figure 7 shows the evolution of EU imports and exports by SITC group since 2013. In 2023, the EU had trade surpluses in machinery & vehicles (€ 102 billion), chemicals (€ 58 billion), other manufactured goods (€ 55 billion) and food & drink (€ 16 billion). The EU had trade deficits in energy (€ 70 billion) and raw materials (€ 6 billion) and other goods (€ 2 billion). The overall balance with US, after steadily increasing between 2013 and 2021, decreased in 2022 because of the high deficit recorded for energy products.

EU trade with the United States by group, 2013-2023

(€ billion)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: ext_st_eu27_2020sitc)

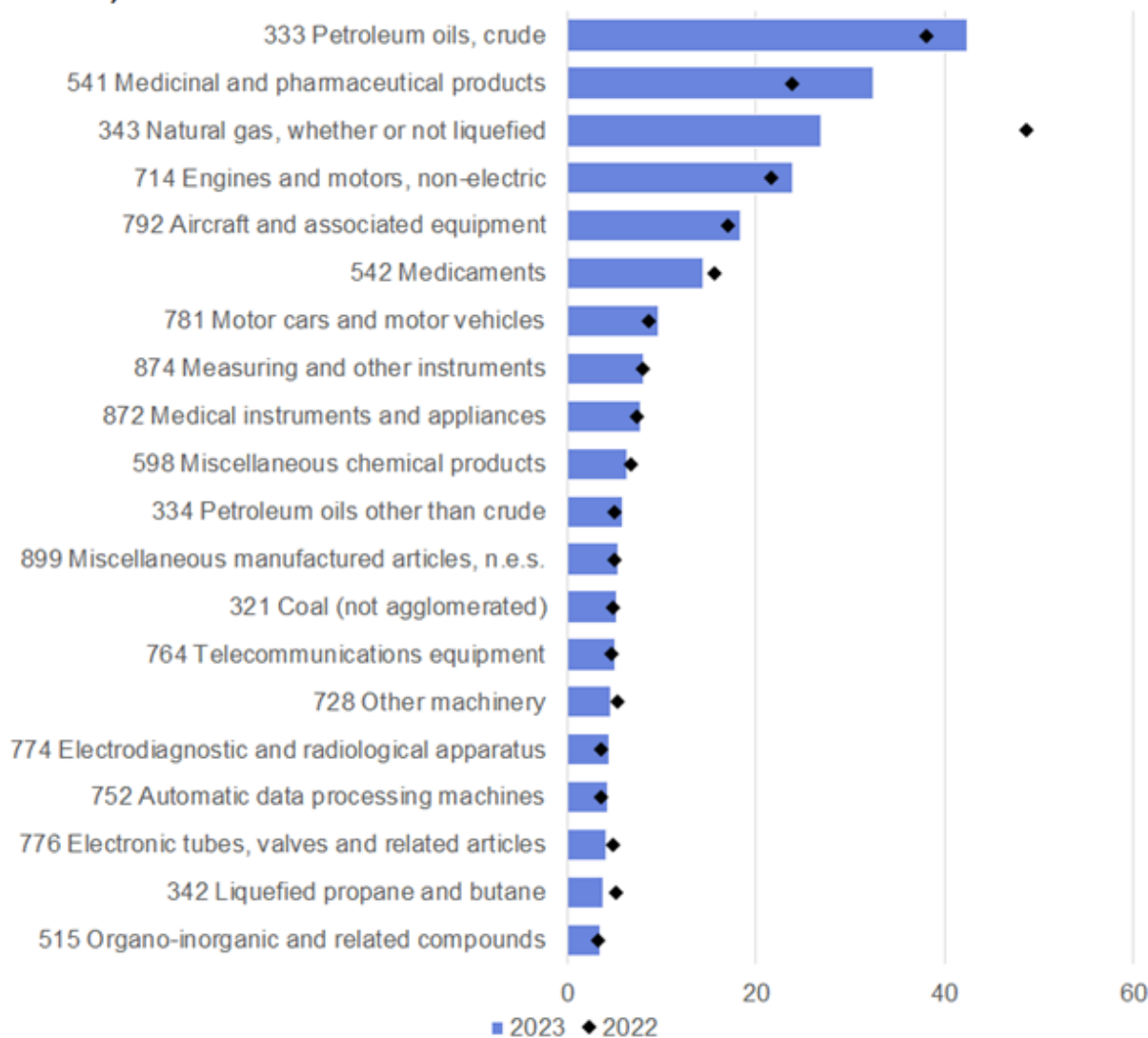


Figure 7: EU trade with the United States by group, 2013-2023 (€ billion) Source: Eurostat (ext_st_eu27_2020sitc)

EU - United States most traded goods

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the imposition of bans on Russian oil and gas, the United States partly replaced Russia as a source of these imports. Consequently, oil and natural gas became the first and third most imported products from the United States, while medical and pharmaceutical products were the second most imported products in 2023 (Figure 8).

EU most imported goods from the United States, 2023 (€ billion)



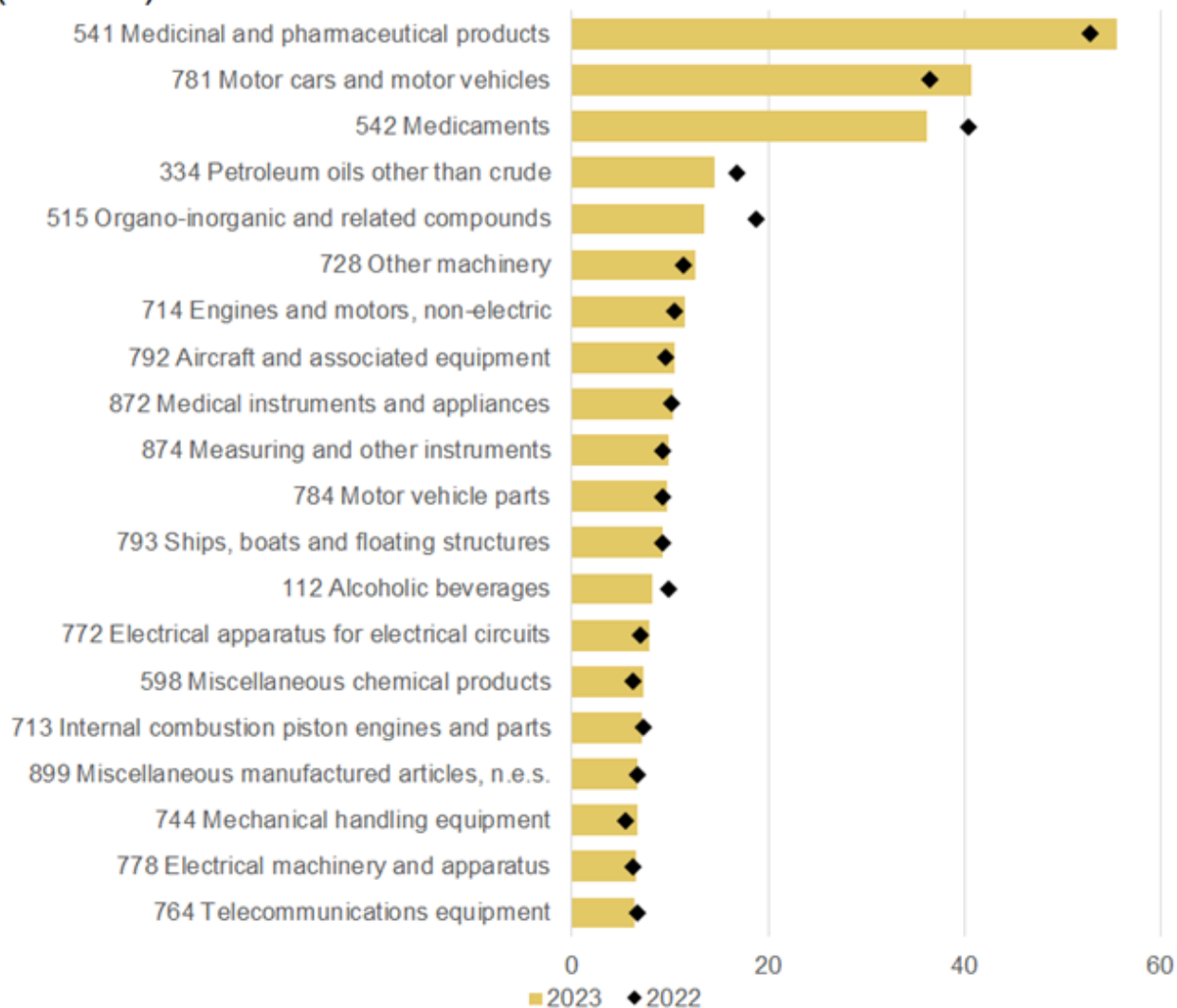
Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-059331)

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Figure 8: Most traded goods between EU and the United States, 2023 (€ billion) Source: Eurostat Comext (ds-059331)

The top three exported products to the United States in 2023 remained the same as in 2022 (Figure 9). They were medical and pharmaceutical products, motor cars and motor vehicles and medicaments.

EU most exported goods to the United States, 2023 (€ billion)



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

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Figure 9: EU most imported goods from the United States, 2023 (€ billion) Source: Eurostat Comext (ds-059331)

Trade with the United States by EU Member State

Table 1a shows the imports of goods from the United States by EU Member State in 2023. The three largest importers from the United States in the EU were the Netherlands (€ 75 240 million), Germany (€ 71 932 million) and France (€ 43 656 million). Luxembourg (29.2 %) had the highest share for the United States in its extra-EU imports.

EU imports of goods from the United States, 2023

	€ million	% of the United States in extra EU imports
Netherlands	75 240	16.5
Germany	71 932	15.2
France	43 656	17.0
Belgium	35 528	18.6
Italy	25 172	9.9
Spain	24 609	12.7
Ireland	20 523	24.7
Poland	10 410	9.4
Sweden	6 244	10.7
Denmark	5 222	12.4
Austria	5 080	9.9
Czechia	3 656	6.3
Lithuania	2 877	21.5
Finland	2 803	12.5
Portugal	2 253	8.4
Hungary	2 063	4.7
Greece	1 503	3.7
Romania	1 374	4.2
Croatia	1 068	11.0
Luxembourg	682	29.2
Slovakia	657	3.0
Bulgaria	525	2.6
Slovenia	293	0.9
Estonia	283	9.0
Latvia	233	4.9
Malta	224	7.8
Cyprus	135	2.3




























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



Table 1a: EU imports of goods from the United States, 2023 Source: Eurostat Comext (ds-059331)

Table 1b shows the exports of goods to the United States by EU Member State in 2023. The three largest exporters to the United States in the EU were Germany (€ 157 732 million), Italy (€ 67 266 million) and Ireland (€ 51 621 million). Ireland (45.8 %) had the highest share for the United States in its extra-EU exports.

EU exports of goods to the United States, 2023

	€ million	% of the United States in extra EU exports	
Germany	157 732	22.1	
Italy	67 266	22.2	
Ireland	51 621	45.8	
France	43 892	16.4	
Netherlands	40 547	15.5	
Belgium	31 324	18.4	
Spain	18 904	13.1	
Sweden	16 306	19.6	
Austria	14 758	23.2	
Poland	11 003	12.3	
Denmark	9 918	18.5	
Finland	8 429	25.5	
Czechia	5 525	12.6	
Portugal	5 235	22.7	
Slovakia	4 873	19.8	
Hungary	4 371	13.8	
Romania	2 149	8.4	
Greece	2 117	9.7	
Lithuania	1 886	12.1	
Bulgaria	1 043	6.5	
Slovenia	867	3.1	
Croatia	587	7.8	
Luxembourg	519	15.9	
Latvia	502	6.7	
Estonia	501	10.5	
Cyprus	136	4.4	
Malta	126	8.4	

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



Table 1b: EU exports of goods to the United States, 2023 Source: Eurostat Comext (ds-059331)

The trade in goods balance in 2023 between the EU Member States and the United States is shown in Table 1c. It shows that 20 EU Member States had a trade surplus with the United States. The largest surplus was held by Germany (€ 85 800 million), followed by Italy (€ 42 093 million) and Ireland (€ 31 098 million). There were seven EU Member States that had a trade deficit with the United States. The largest deficit was held by the Netherlands (€ 34 692 million), followed by Spain (€ 5 705 million) and Belgium (€ 4 204 million).

EU trade balance of goods with the United States, 2023

(€ million)

	€ million
Germany	85 800
Italy	42 093
Ireland	31 098
Sweden	10 062
Austria	9 678
Finland	5 626
Denmark	4 695
Slovakia	4 215
Portugal	2 983
Hungary	2 308
Czechia	1 870
Romania	775
Greece	614
Poland	593
Slovenia	574
Bulgaria	519
Latvia	269
France	236
Estonia	218
Cyprus	1
Malta	-98
Luxembourg	-163
Croatia	-481
Lithuania	-991
Belgium	-4 204
Spain	-5 705
Netherlands	-34 692

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



Table 1c: EU trade balance of goods with the United States, 2023 Source: Eurostat Comext (ds-059331)

Source data for tables and graphs

- [EU - United States international trade in goods statistics - graphs and tables](#)

Data sources

EU data is taken from Eurostat's COMEXT database. COMEXT is the reference database for international trade in goods. It provides access not only to both recent and historical data from the EU Member States but also to statistics of a significant number of non-EU countries. International trade aggregated and detailed statistics disseminated via the Eurostat website are compiled from COMEXT data according to a monthly process.

Data are collected by the competent national authorities of the EU Member States and compiled according to a harmonised methodology established by EU regulations before transmission to Eurostat. For extra-EU trade, the statistical information is mainly provided by the traders on the basis of customs declarations.

EU data are compiled according to EU guidelines and may, therefore, differ from national data published by the individual Member States. Statistics on extra-EU trade are calculated as the sum of trade of each of the 27 EU Member States with countries outside the EU. In other words, the EU is considered as a single trading entity and trade flows are measured into and out of the area, but not within it.

Dutch trade flows are over-estimated because of the so-called 'Rotterdam effect' (or quasi-transit trade): 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.

Data for the non-EU countries used in Figure 3 and Figure 4 are taken from the UNCTAD database of the United Nations. For the calculation of shares, the world trade is defined as the sum of EU trade with non-EU countries (source: Eurostat) plus the international trade of non-EU countries (source: UNCTAD). **Methodology**

According to the EU concepts and definitions, extra-EU trade statistics (trade between EU Member States and non-EU countries) do not record exchanges involving goods in transit, placed in a customs warehouse or given temporary admission (for trade fairs, temporary exhibitions, tests, etc.). This is known as 'special trade'. The partner is the country of final destination of the goods for exports and the country of origin for imports.

Product classification

Information on commodities exported and imported is presented according to the [Standard international trade classification \(SITC\)](#) . A full description is available from Eurostat's classification server [RAMON](#) .

Unit of measure

Trade values are expressed in millions or billions (10⁹) of euros. They correspond to the statistical value, i.e. to the amount which would be invoiced in the event of sale or purchase at the national border of the reporting country. It is called a [FOB](#) value (free on board) for exports and a [CIF](#) value (cost, insurance, freight) for imports.

Context

Trade is an important indicator of Europe's prosperity and place in the world. The bloc is deeply integrated into global markets both for the products it sources and the exports it sells. The EU trade policy is one of the main pillars of the EU's relations with the rest of the world.

Because the 27 EU Member States share a single market and a single external border, they also have a single trade policy. EU Member States speak and negotiate collectively, both in the [World Trade Organisation](#) , where the rules of international trade are agreed and enforced, and with individual trading partners. This common policy enables them to speak with one voice in trade negotiations, maximising their impact in such negotiations. This is even more important in a globalised world in which economies tend to cluster together in regional groups.

The openness of the EU's trade regime has meant that the EU is the biggest player on the global trading scene and remains a good region to do business with. Thanks to the ease of modern transport and communications, it is now easier to produce, buy and sell goods around the world which gives European companies of every size the potential to trade outside Europe.

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