

Russia-EU – international trade in goods statistics

Statistics Explained

*Data extracted in February 2022
Planned article update March 2023*

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

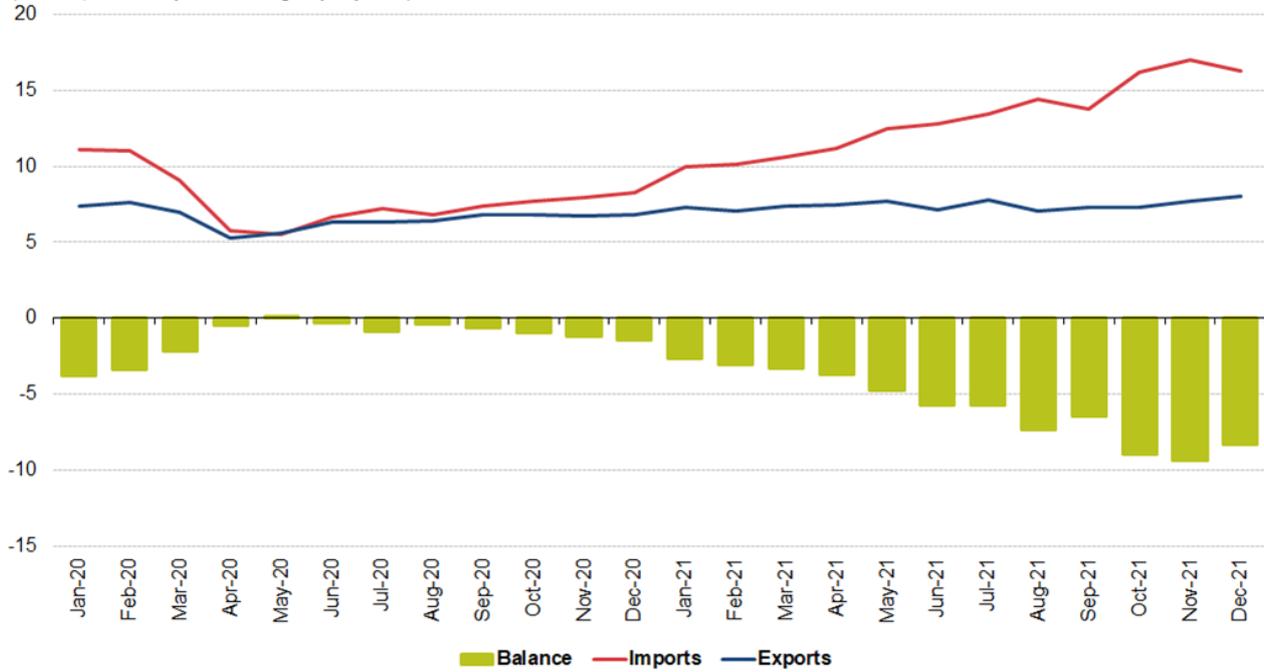
This article is part of an [online publication](#) providing recent statistics on international trade in goods, covering information on the EU's main partners, main goods traded, specific characteristics of trade as well as background information.

Recent developments

The COVID-19 crisis caused both exports and imports between the EU and Russia to fall in 2020, as shown in Figure 1. Imports reached a minimum of € 5.5 billion in May 2020. By December 2021 they had recovered to € 16.3 billion. Exports reached a minimum of € 5.2 billion in April 2020. By December 2021 they had recovered to € 8.0 billion.

EU trade in goods with Russia, 2020-2021

(€ billion, seasonally and working-day adjusted)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: ext_st_eu27_2020sitc)

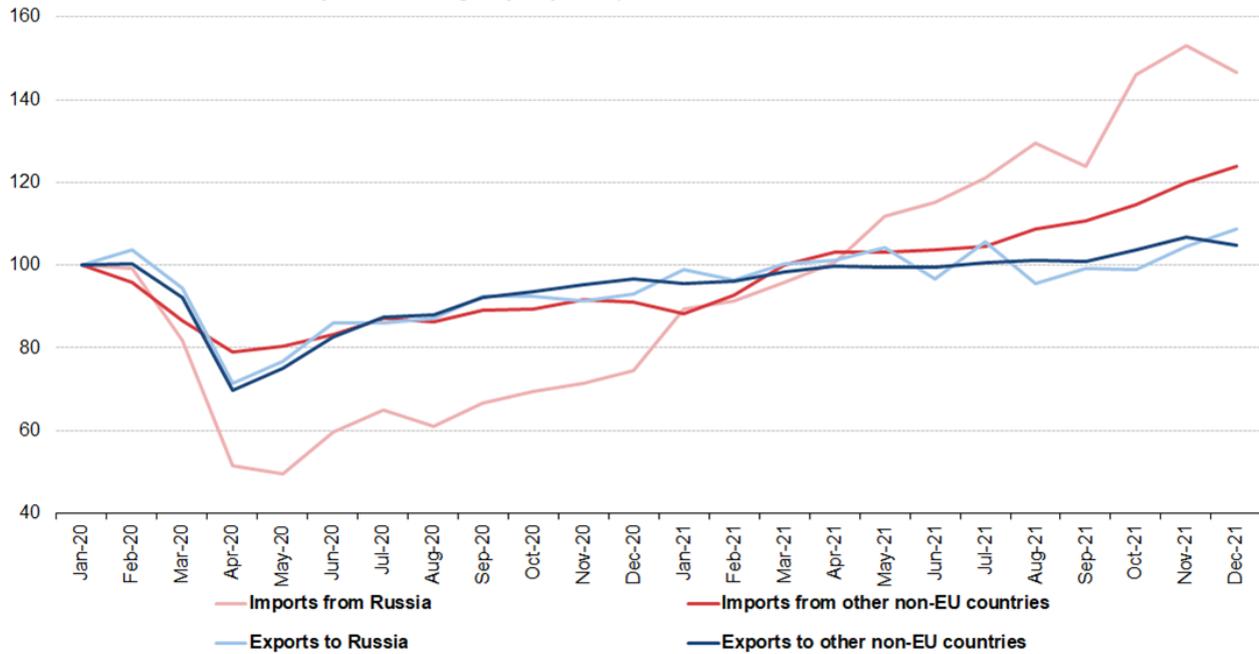
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Figure 1: EU trade in goods with Russia, 2020-2021 (€ billion, seasonally and working-day adjusted) Source: Eurostat (ext_st_eu27_2020sitc)

Figure 2 compares EU trade with Russia to EU trade with other non-EU countries. Between January 2020 and December 2021, EU imports from Russia increased by 46.5 % while imports from other non-EU countries increased by 24.0 %. EU exports to Russia increased by 8.8 % while exports to other non-EU countries increased by 4.8 %.

EU trade in goods with Russia and other non-EU countries, 2020-2021

(Jan 2020 = 100 %, seasonally and working-day adjusted)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: ext_st_eu27_2020sitc)

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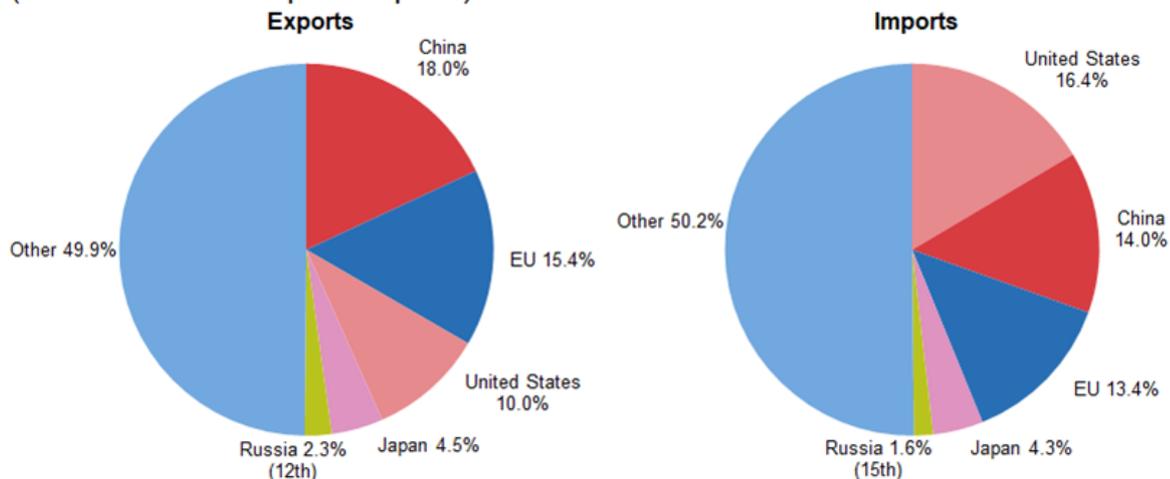
Figure 2: EU trade in goods with Russia and other non-EU countries, 2020-2021 (Jan 2019 = 100 %, seasonally and working-day adjusted) Source: Eurostat (ext_st_eu27_2020sitc)

EU and Russia in world trade in goods

Figure 3a shows the position of Russia among the largest traders of goods in the world in 2020. The four largest exporters were China (€ 2 268 billion, 18.0 %), the EU (€ 1 933 billion, 15.4 %), the United States (€ 1 253 billion, 10.0 %) and Japan (€ 561 billion, 4.5 %). The four largest importers were the United States (€ 2 108 billion, 16.4 %), China (€ 1 801 billion, 14.0 %), the EU (€ 1 717 billion, 13.4 %) and Japan (€ 556 billion, 4.3 %). Figure 3b has some more details. It shows that Russia (€ 291 billion, 2.3 %) was the twelfth largest exporter in the world between Taiwan (€ 304 billion, 2.4 %) and Switzerland (€ 280 billion, 2.2 %). Russia (€ 210 billion, 1.6 %) was the 15th largest importer in the world between Vietnam (€ 230 billion, 1.8 %) and the United Arab Emirates (€ 198 billion, 1.5 %).

Russia among the world's largest traders of goods, 2020

(% share of world exports/imports)



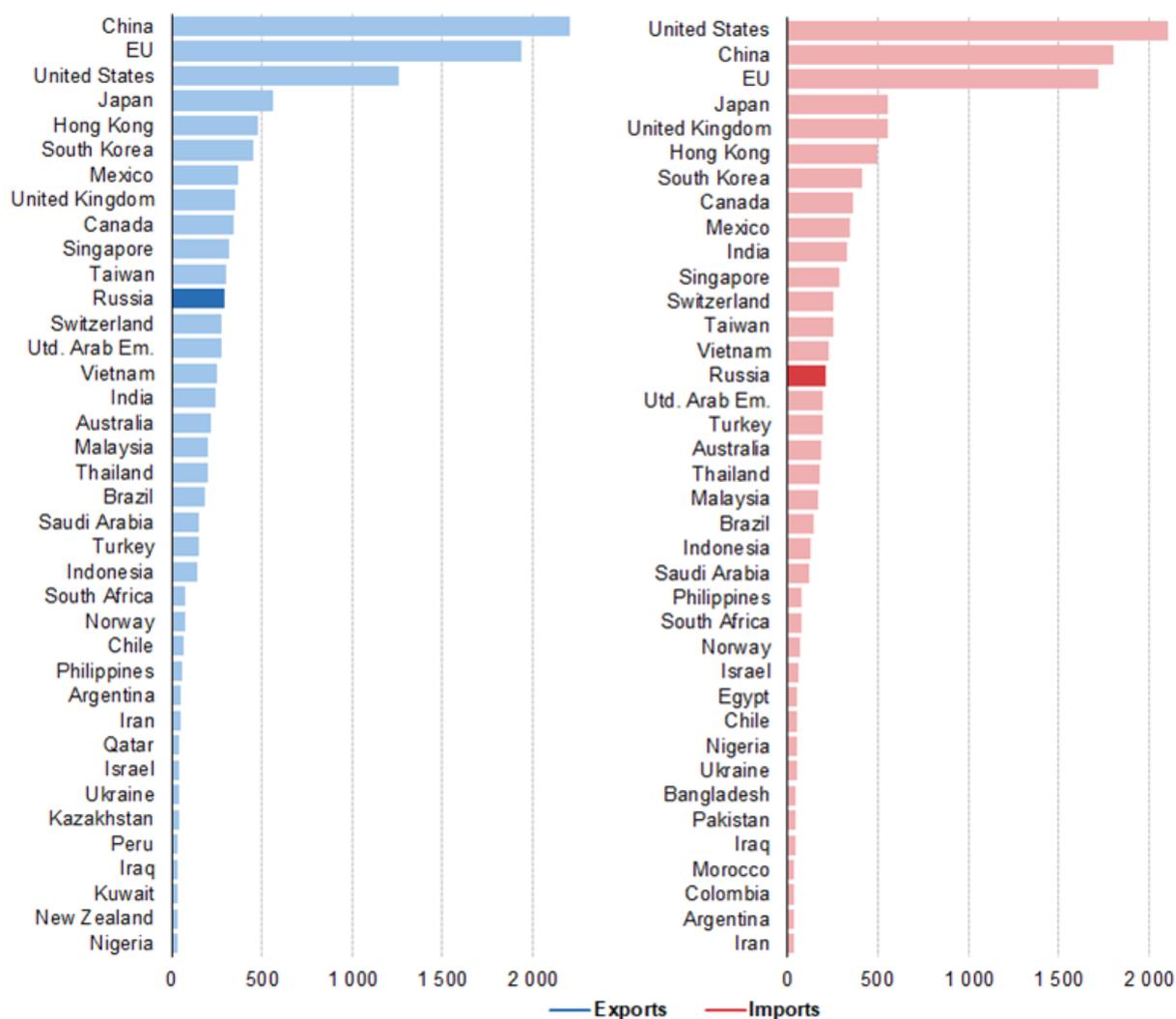
Source: Eurostat (online data code: ext_lt_introeu27_2020) and UNCTAD



Figure 3a: Russia among the world's largest traders of goods, 2020 (% share of world exports/imports)
Source: Eurostat (ext_lt_introeu27_2020) and UNCTAD

Top traders in goods with a focus on Russia, 2020

(€ billion)



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

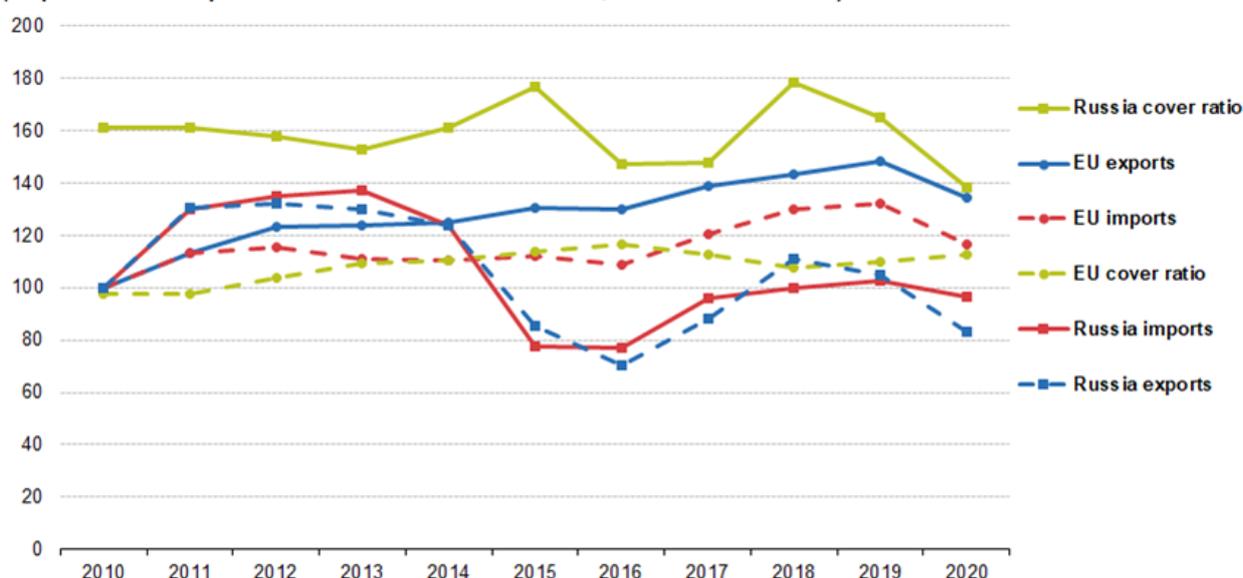


Figure 3b: Top traders in goods with a focus on Russia, 2020 (€ billion) Source: Eurostat (ext_lt_introeu27_2020) and UNCTAD

The imports and exports of goods of the EU and Russia indexed at 100 in 2010 for the period to 2020 are shown in Figure 4. It also shows the cover ratio (exports / imports) for this period. Exports from the EU were lowest in 2010 (100) and highest in 2019 (149) and were 135 in 2020. Imports to the EU were lowest in 2010 (100) and highest in 2019 (132) and were 117 in 2020. The cover ratio for the EU was lowest in 2011 (97 %) and highest in 2016 (116 %) and was 113 % in 2020. Exports from Russia were lowest in 2016 (70) and highest in 2012 (132) and were 83 in 2020. Imports to Russia were lowest in 2016 (77) and highest in 2013 (137) and were 97 in 2020. The cover ratio for Russia was lowest in 2020 (138 %) and highest in 2018 (178 %).

Trade in goods of the EU and Russia, 2010-2020

(exports and imports indexed at 100 in 2010, cover ratio in %)



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 2010

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

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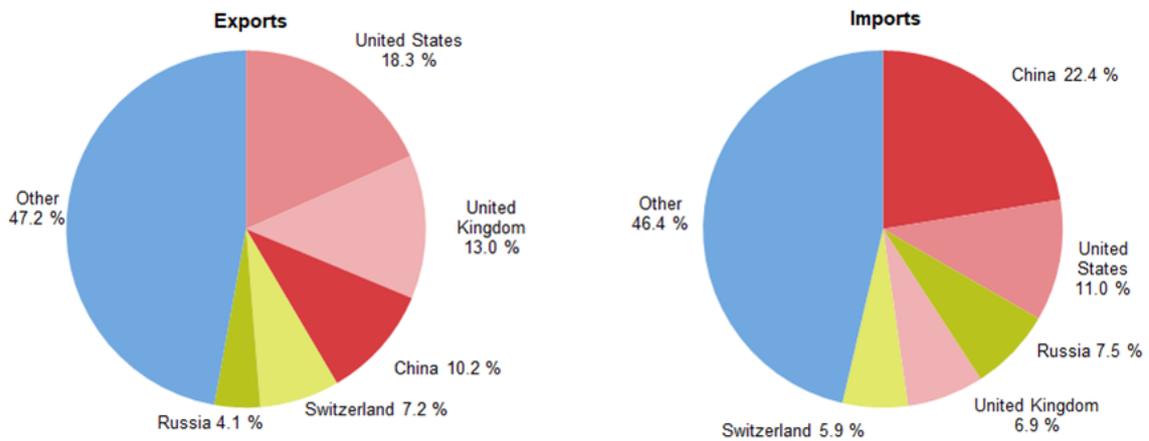
Figure 4: Trade in goods of the EU and Russia, 2010-2020 (exports and imports indexed at 100 in 2010, cover ratio in %) Source: Eurostat (ext_lt_introeu27_2020) and UNCTAD

Both exports to and imports from Russia decreased between 2011 and 2021.

The position of Russia among the largest trade partners of the EU in 2021 can be seen in Figure 5. In 2021, Russia was the fifth largest partner for EU exports of goods (4.1 %). It was preceded by the United States (18.3 %), the United Kingdom (13.0 %), China (10.2 %) and Switzerland (7.2 %). It was the third largest partner for EU imports of goods (7.5 %), preceded by China (22.4 %) and the United States (11.0 %) and followed by the United Kingdom (6.9 %) and Switzerland (5.9 %).

Russia among the EU's main partners for trade in goods, 2021

(% share of extra-EU exports/imports)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: ext_st_eu27_2020sitc and DS-018995)

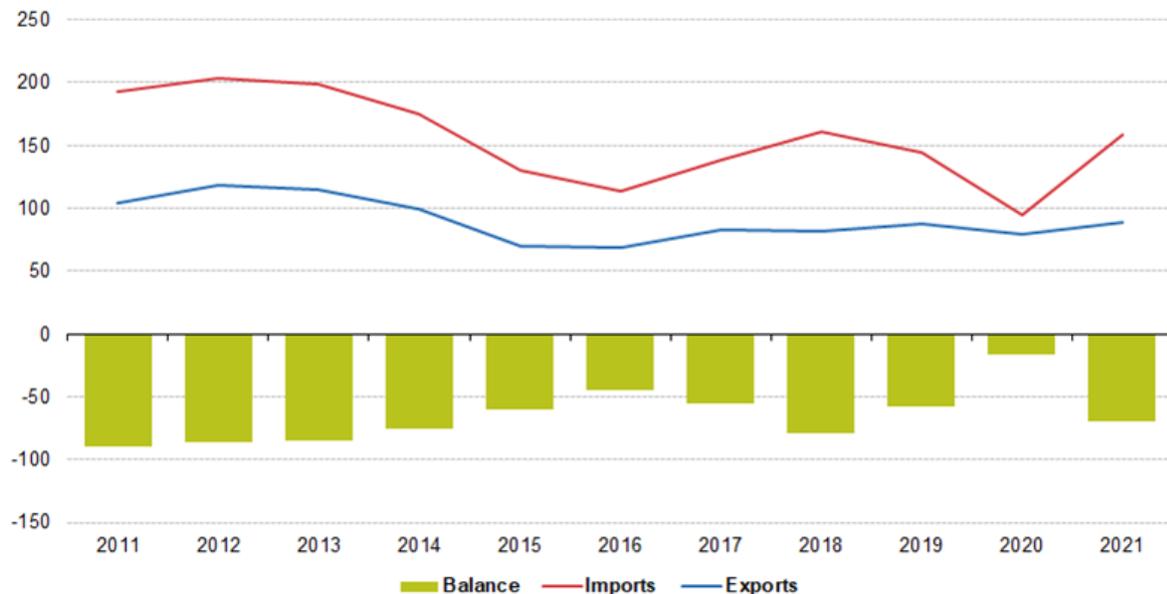
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Figure 5: Russia among the EU's main partners for trade in goods, 2021 (% share of extra-EU exports/imports) Source: Eurostat (ext_st_eu27_2020sitc) and Comext DS-018995

Figure 6 shows the exports, imports and trade balance between the EU and Russia from 2011 to 2021. In 2011, the EU had a trade deficit with Russia of € 89 billion. The trade deficit remained throughout the whole period, reaching € 69 billion in 2021. Both exports to and imports from Russia decreased between 2011 and 2021. EU exports to Russia were highest in 2012 (€ 118 billion) and lowest in 2016 (€ 69 billion). EU imports from Russia were highest in 2012 (€ 204 billion) and lowest in 2020 (€ 95 billion).

EU trade in goods with Russia, 2011-2021

(€ billion)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: ext_st_eu27_2020sitc and DS-018995)

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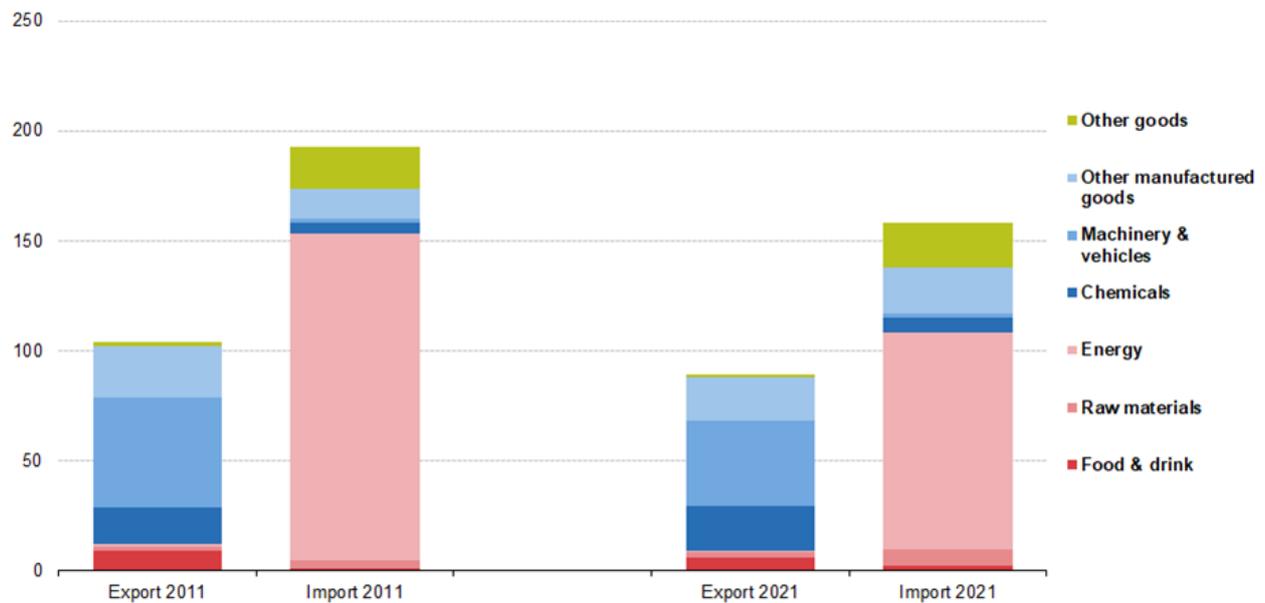
Figure 6: EU trade in goods with Russia, 2011-2021 (€ billion) Source: Eurostat (ext_st_eu27_2020sitc) and Comext DS-018995

EU-Russia trade by type of goods

The breakdown of EU trade with Russia by SITC groups is shown in Figure 7. 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 2021, EU exports of manufactured goods (88 %) had a higher share than primary goods (10 %). The most exported manufactured goods were machinery & vehicles (44 %), followed by chemicals (23 %) and other manufactured goods (22 %). In 2021, EU imports of primary goods (68 %) had a higher share than manufactured goods (19 %). The most imported primary goods were energy (62 %), followed by raw materials (5 %) and food & drink (1 %).

EU trade with Russia by product group, 2011 and 2021

(€ billion)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: ext_st_eu27_2020sitc and DS-018995)

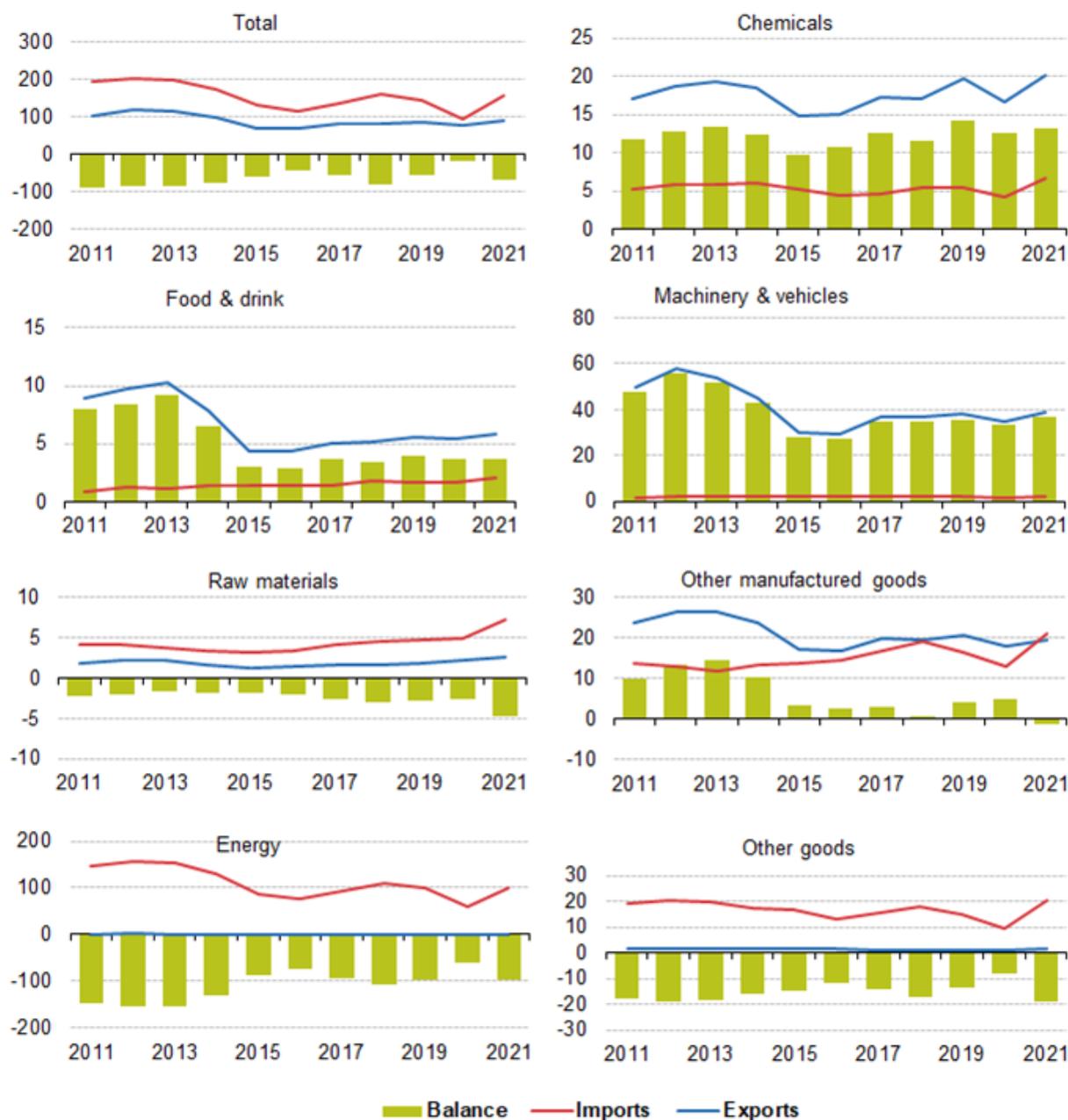
eurostat

Figure 7: EU trade with Russia by product group, 2011 and 2021 (€ billion) Source: Eurostat (ext_st_eu27_2020sitc) and Comext DS-018995

Figure 8 shows the evolution of EU imports and exports by SITC group since 2011. In 2021, the EU had trade surpluses in machinery & vehicles (€ 37 billion), chemicals (€ 13 billion) and food & drink (€ 4 billion). The EU had trade deficits in other manufactured goods (€ 1 billion), raw materials (€ 5 billion), other goods (€ 19 billion) and energy (€ 98 billion).

EU trade with Russia by group, 2011-2021

(€ billion)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: ext_st_eu27_2020sitc and DS-018995)



Figure 8: EU trade with Russia by group, 2011-2021 (€ billion) Source: Eurostat (ext_st_eu27_2020sitc) and Comext DS-018995

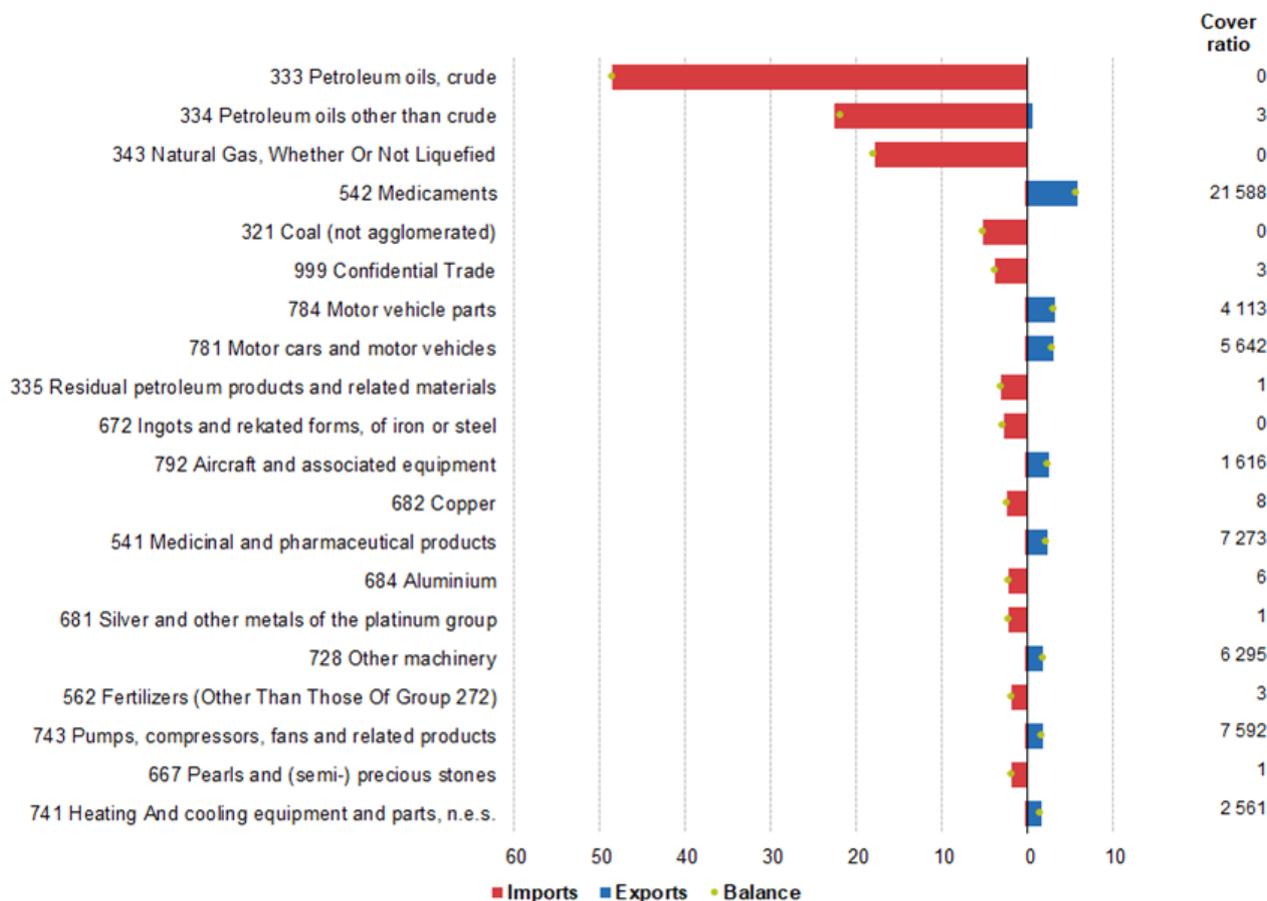
EU-Russia most traded goods

More detail about the goods exchanged between the EU and Russia is given in Figure 9, showing the 20 most traded goods at SITC-3 level. These top 20 goods covered 79 % of total trade in goods in 2021. Six belonged to machinery and vehicles, five each to energy and other manufactured goods, three to chemicals and one to other goods. The most traded group of goods at this level was petroleum oils, crude. Another interesting way to look at the data is to investigate the cover ratio (exports / imports) of traded goods, showing the direction of the trade flows between the two economies. These ratios can be found in the right-hand margin of Figure 9. Twelve products were

below 10 %, indicating EU imports from Russia were more than ten times as large as EU exports to Russia. Eight products were above 1000 %, indicating EU exports to Russia were more than ten times as large as EU imports from Russia.

Most traded goods between EU and Russia, 2021

(€ billion)



Note: 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.

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



Figure 9: Most traded goods between EU and Russia, 2021 (€ billion) Source: Eurostat DS-018995

Trade with Russia by Member State

Table 1a shows the imports of goods from Russia by Member State. The three largest importers from Russia in the EU were Germany (€ 28 856 million), the Netherlands (€ 26 684 million) and Poland (€ 16 725 million). Finland (38.8 %) had the highest share for Russia in its extra-EU imports.

EU imports of goods from Russia, 2021

	€ million	% of Russia in extra EU imports
Germany	28 856	6.6
Netherlands	26 684	7.1
Poland	16 725	17.1
Italy	13 984	7.0
France	9 299	4.6
Finland	8 550	38.8
Belgium	7 801	4.7
Spain	5 977	3.7
Lithuania	4 582	37.3
Greece	4 297	13.7
Slovakia	4 213	22.0
Hungary	4 131	12.0
Austria	3 692	8.4
Romania	3 160	11.7
Bulgaria	2 980	19.3
Czechia	2 978	6.3
Estonia	2 110	37.8
Latvia	1 983	35.8
Sweden	1 978	3.8
Denmark	1 852	5.5
Portugal	1 068	4.9
Ireland	580	0.9
Croatia	489	6.5
Slovenia	415	1.9
Cyprus	86	2.8
Luxembourg	16	0.7
Malta	9	0.4

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ext_st_eu27_2020sitc and DS-018995)



Table 1a: EU imports of goods from Russia, 2021 Source: Eurostat (ext_st_eu27_2020sitc) and Comext DS-018995

Table 1b shows the exports of goods to Russia by Member State. The three largest exporters to Russia in the EU were Germany (€ 26 774 million), Poland (€ 8 004 million) and the Netherlands (€ 7 967 million). Latvia (30.4 %) had the highest share for Russia in its extra-EU exports.

EU exports of goods to Russia, 2021

	€ million	% of Russia in extra EU exports
Germany	26 774	4.2
Poland	8 004	11.1
Netherlands	7 967	3.7
Italy	7 696	3.1
France	6 392	2.8
Belgium	4 445	2.9
Finland	3 751	12.4
Lithuania	3 749	25.6
Czechia	3 594	9.6
Sweden	2 222	3.0
Spain	2 213	1.8
Austria	2 049	3.9
Latvia	1 931	30.4
Hungary	1 711	6.5
Slovakia	1 345	7.9
Denmark	1 021	2.0
Romania	1 001	5.0
Slovenia	852	5.4
Estonia	772	12.8
Ireland	540	0.5
Bulgaria	433	3.8
Greece	207	1.1
Croatia	204	3.4
Portugal	178	1.0
Luxembourg	155	5.7
Cyprus	61	2.6
Malta	8	0.6

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ext_st_eu27_2020sitc and DS-018995)



Table 1b: EU exports of goods to Russia, 2021 Source: Eurostat (ext_st_eu27_2020sitc) and Comext DS-018995

The trade in goods balance between the EU Member States and Russia is shown in Table 1c. It shows that four Member States had a trade surplus with Russia. The largest surplus was held by Czechia (€ 616 million), followed by Slovenia (€ 436 million) and Sweden (€ 244 million). There were 23 Member States that had a trade deficit with Russia. The largest deficit was held by the Netherlands (€ 18 717 million), followed by Poland (€ 8 721 million) and Italy (€ 6 288 million).

EU trade balance of goods with Russia, 2021

(€ million)

	€ million
Czechia	616
Slovenia	436
Sweden	244
Luxembourg	139
Malta	0
Cyprus	-25
Ireland	-40
Latvia	-52
Croatia	-285
Denmark	-830
Lithuania	-833
Portugal	-890
Estonia	-1 338
Austria	-1 643
Germany	-2 083
Romania	-2 159
Hungary	-2 420
Bulgaria	-2 547
Slovakia	-2 868
France	-2 907
Belgium	-3 356
Spain	-3 764
Greece	-4 091
Finland	-4 798
Italy	-6 288
Poland	-8 721
Netherlands	-18 717

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ext_st_eu27_2020sitc and DS-018995)



Table 1c: EU trade balance of goods with Russia, 2021 Source: Eurostat (ext_st_eu27_2020sitc) and Comext DS-018995

Source data for tables and graphs

- [EU - Russia 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 third 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 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 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.

The United Kingdom is considered as an extra-EU partner country for the EU-27 for the whole period covered by this article. However, the United Kingdom was still part of the internal market until the end of the transitory period (31 December 2020), meaning that data on trade with the United Kingdom are still based on statistical concepts applicable to trade between the EU Member States. Consequently, while imports from any other extra-EU-27 trade

partner are grouped by country of origin, the United Kingdom data reflect the country of consignment. In practice this means that the goods imported by the EU-27 from the United Kingdom were physically transported from the United Kingdom but part of these goods could have been of other origin than the United Kingdom. For this reason, data on trade with the United Kingdom are not fully comparable with data on trade with other extra-EU-27 trade partners.

Data for the non EU-27 countries used in figures 1-3 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 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 case 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 Organization](#) , 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.

Other articles

- [International trade in goods](#)
- [Extra-EU trade in goods](#)

Main tables

- [International trade in goods](#) (t_ext_go), see:

International trade in goods - long-term indicators (t_ext_go_lti)

International trade in goods - short-term indicators (t_ext_go_sti)

Database

- [International trade in goods \(ext_go\)](#), see:

International trade in goods - aggregated data (ext_go_agg)

International trade in goods - long-term indicators (ext_go_lti)

International trade in goods - short-term indicators (ext_go_sti)

International trade in goods - detailed data (detail)

- [Full access to detailed statistics on international trade in goods \(Comext\)](#) , see:

EU trade since 1988 by SITC (DS-018995)

Dedicated section

- [International trade in goods](#)

Data visualisations

- [Top 5 partners in trade in goods](#)

Methodology

- [International trade in goods statistics - background](#)
- [International trade in goods \(ESMS metadata file — ext_go_esms\)](#)
- [User guide on European statistics on international trade in goods](#)

External links

- [European Commission](#)
- [Globalisation](#)
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