

Single Market Scoreboard

Trade in goods & services

Reporting period: 2016 – 2017

About



Note

At the time of preparing the 2019 edition of the Scoreboard, 2017 was the latest year available for data.

Trade in goods and services between EU Member States accounts for over two thirds of the overall trade of EU Member States.

Openness to imports (both from within and outside the EU) is a key measure of integration into European and international value chains and competition.



More detail and analysis:

- [Annual report on single market integration and competitiveness](#)
- [European Semester country reports.](#)

Indicators

EU trade integration

The percentage of a country's GDP that is accounted for by trade with EU countries (imports and exports), in either goods or services.

Total imports/exports

The value of all imports/exports of goods and services (from/to any country, inside or outside the EU) as a share of GDP.

What the indicators mean

For each country, the indicators reflect:

- overall import/export performance
- how integrated the economy is into European value chains
- how open the economy is to imports
- how competitive the economy is as reflected in exports, i.e. goods and services sold abroad
- internal demand.

Higher values indicate the economy is more open, competitive and integrated, in relation to the size of its economy.

Changes over time may indicate policy measures that reduce trade barriers or provide more favourable business conditions for trade.

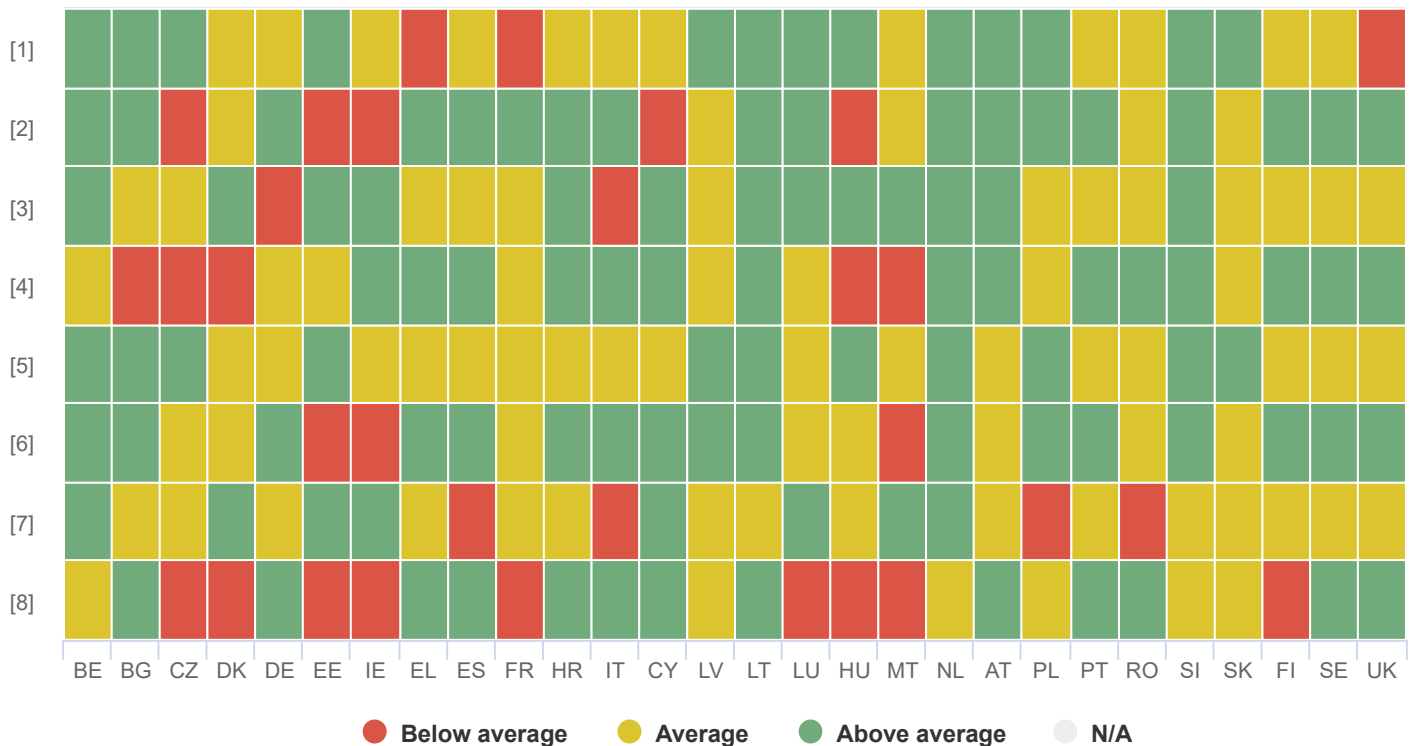
Data sources: Eurostat, Balance of Payments data.

Performance

The indicators below (*based on official Eurostat statistics*) reflect each country's performance as regards **trade integration** and **market openness to imports**:

- relative to overall GDP, and
- change in 2016–2017

1. By indicator



- [1] EU trade integration in **GOODS** (*levels*)
- [2] EU trade integration in **GOODS** (*change*)
- [3] EU trade integration in **SERVICES** (*levels*)
- [4] EU trade integration in **SERVICES** (*change*)
- [5] Openness to imports of **GOODS** (*levels*)
- [6] Openness to imports of **GOODS** (*change*)
- [7] Openness to imports of **SERVICES** (*levels*)
- [8] Openness to imports of **SERVICES** (*change*)

	Above average	Average	Below average
[1] EU trade integration in GOODS (<i>levels</i>)	> 26.2%	13.1% ... 26.2%	< 13.1%
[2] EU trade integration in GOODS (<i>change</i>)	> 2.7%	0% ... 2.7%	< 0%
[3] EU trade integration in SERVICES (<i>levels</i>)	> 9.5%	4.7% ... 9.5%	< 4.7%
[4] EU trade integration in SERVICES (<i>change</i>)	> 3.4%	0% ... 3.4%	< 0%
[5] Openness to imports of GOODS (<i>levels</i>)	> 41.2%	20.6% ... 41.2%	< 20.6%
[6] Openness to imports of GOODS (<i>change</i>)	> 3.9%	0% ... 3.9%	< 0%
[7] Openness to imports of SERVICES (<i>levels</i>)	> 14.6%	7.4% ... 14.6%	< 7.4%
[8] Openness to imports of SERVICES (<i>change</i>)	> 1.6%	0% ... 1.6%	< 0%

Indicators 1 and 3 – **levels** of integration
(bands set on the basis on the EU-level trade integration index).

Indicators 5 and 7 – **levels** of openness
(bands set on the basis on the market openness index index – within and outside the EU).

Indicators 2, 4, 6 and 8 – **change** in these levels

(bands set on the basis of on an unweighted EU average).

2. Overall (all 8 indicators combined)



Leaflet | Credit: EC-GISCO, © EuroGeographics for the administrative boundaries

A Member State's **performance across all 8 indicators** is calculated by scoring each indicator in chart 1 as follows:

Red = 1, **Yellow** = 2 and **Green** = 3.

The colours on the map thus represent the **average of these scores**:

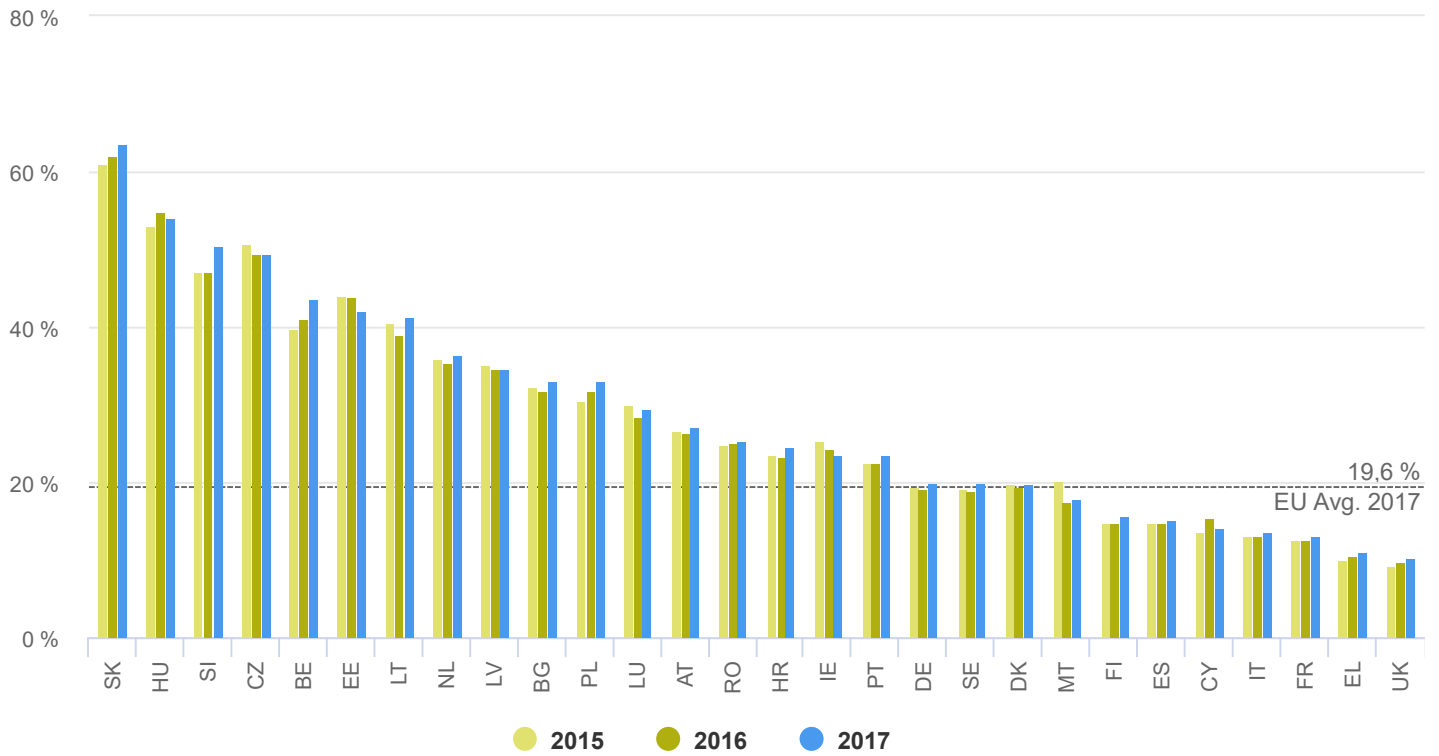
≤ 1.5, **1.6 ... 2.4**, **≥ 2.5**.



This is only a partial view of EU countries' trade integration performance and prospects.

Changes in these indicators are caused not just by national implementation of Single Market policies and laws, but by other factors, including general economic developments in the EU and globally.

Indicator [1]: EU trade integration in GOODS (levels)



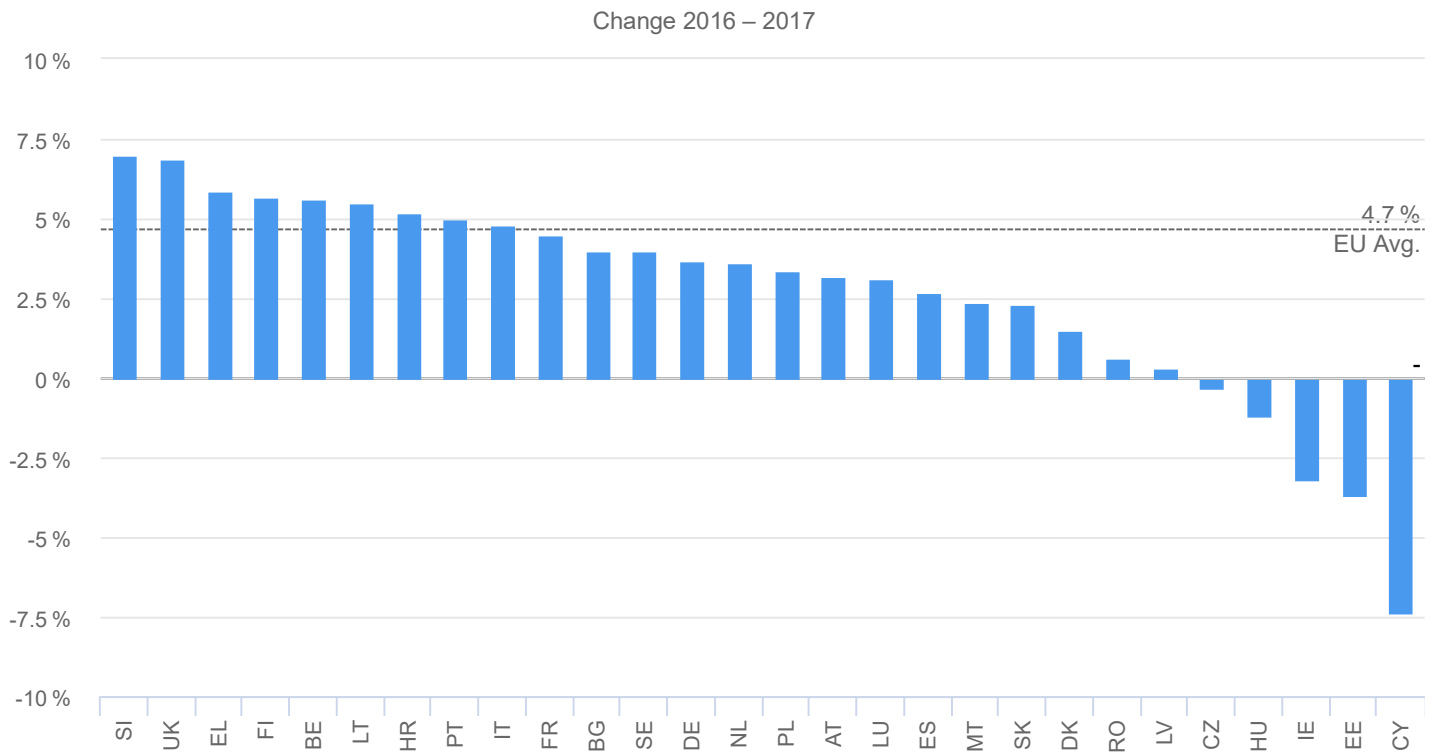
The percentage of a country's GDP that is represented by goods trade with other EU countries (average of imports and exports).

Reflects:

- overall import and export performance
- degree of integration into European value chains
- levels of openness, competitiveness and internal demand.

Higher values show better results on these points.

Indicator [2]: EU trade integration in GOODS (change)



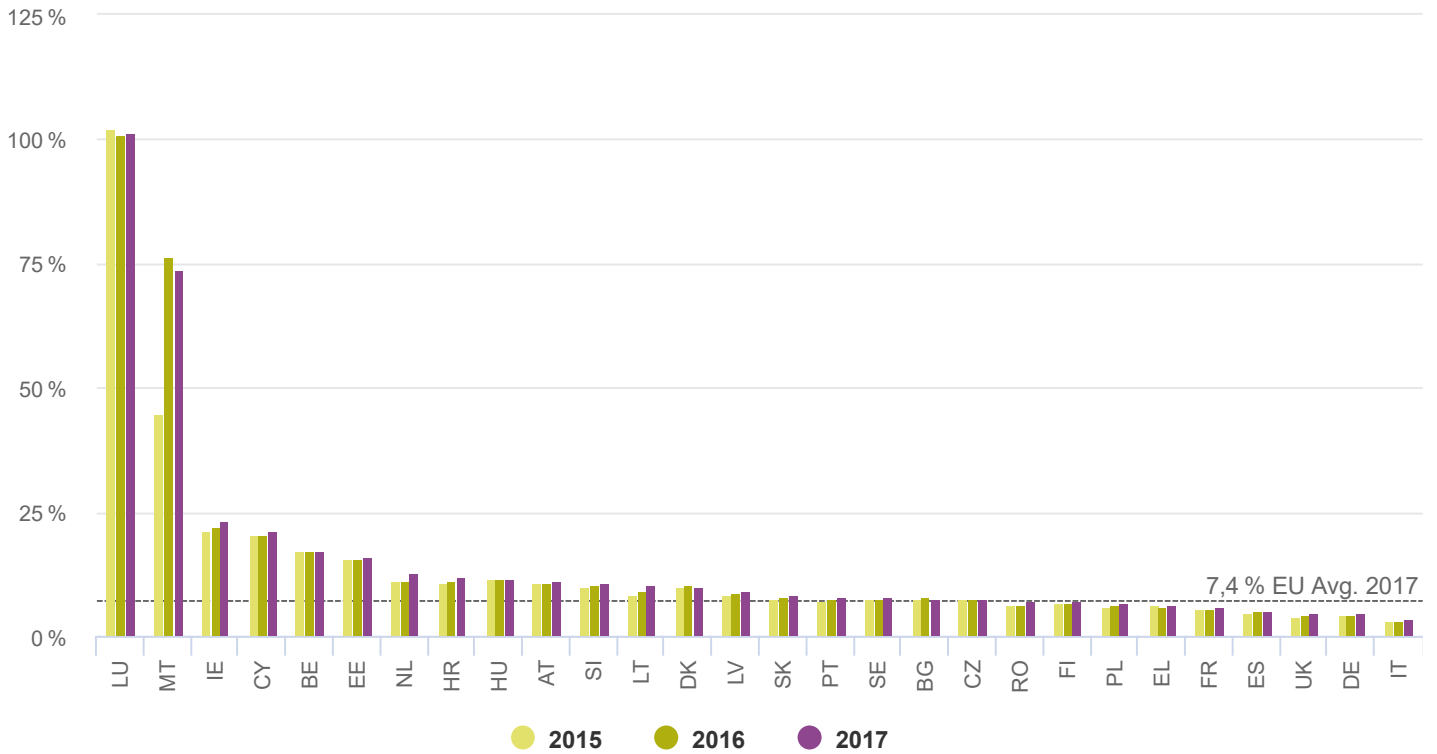
Percentage changes in trade integration indices for goods (average value of imports and exports as a share of GDP) between 2016 and 2017.

Positive values show:

- relative shares of imports/exports have increased
- the country is more integrated into European value chains
- (possibly) policy measures have reduced obstacles to goods trade.

Negative values show an opposite trend.

Indicator [3]: EU trade integration in SERVICES (levels)



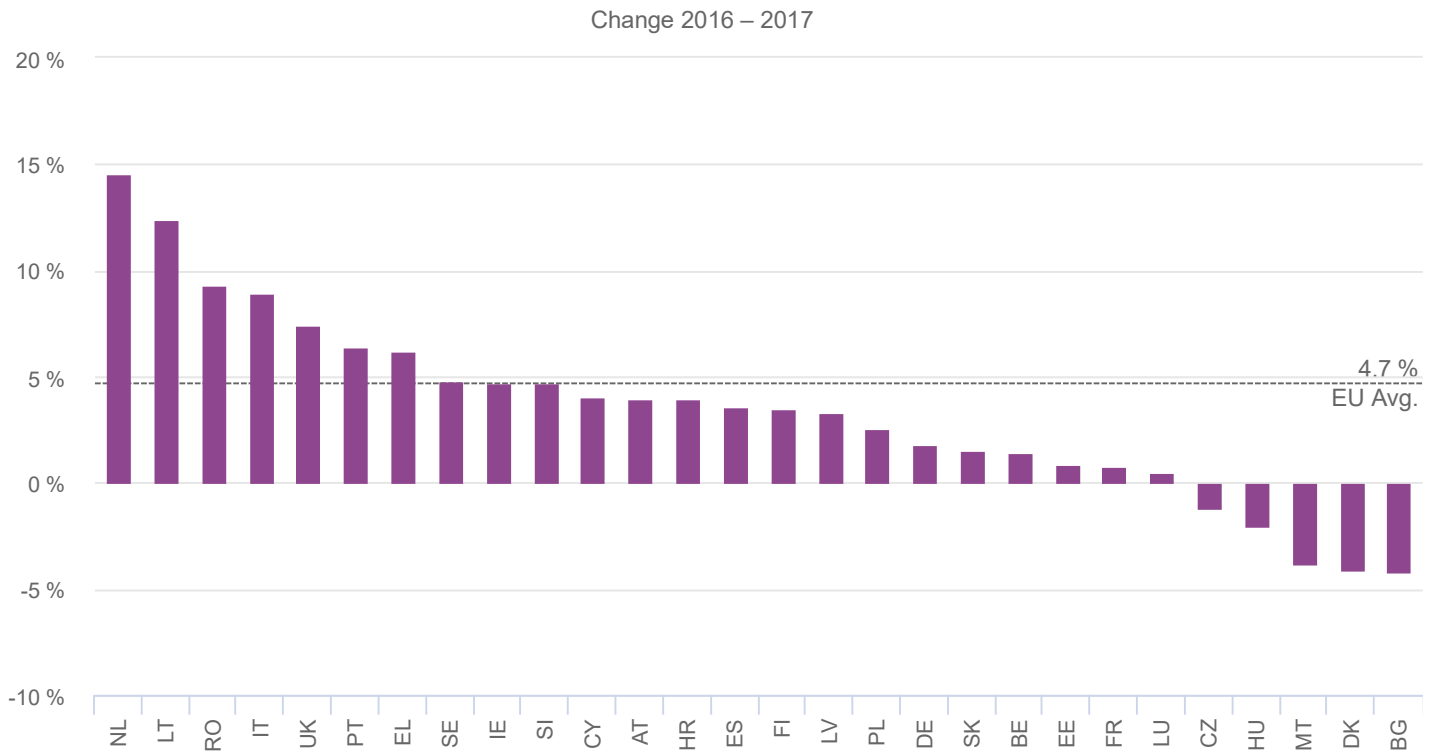
The percentage of a country's GDP that is represented by trade in services (financial and non-financial) with other EU countries (average of imports and exports).

Reflects:

- overall import and export performance
- degree of integration into European value chains
- levels of openness, competitiveness and internal demand.

Higher values show better results on these points.

Indicator [4]: EU trade integration in SERVICES (*change*)



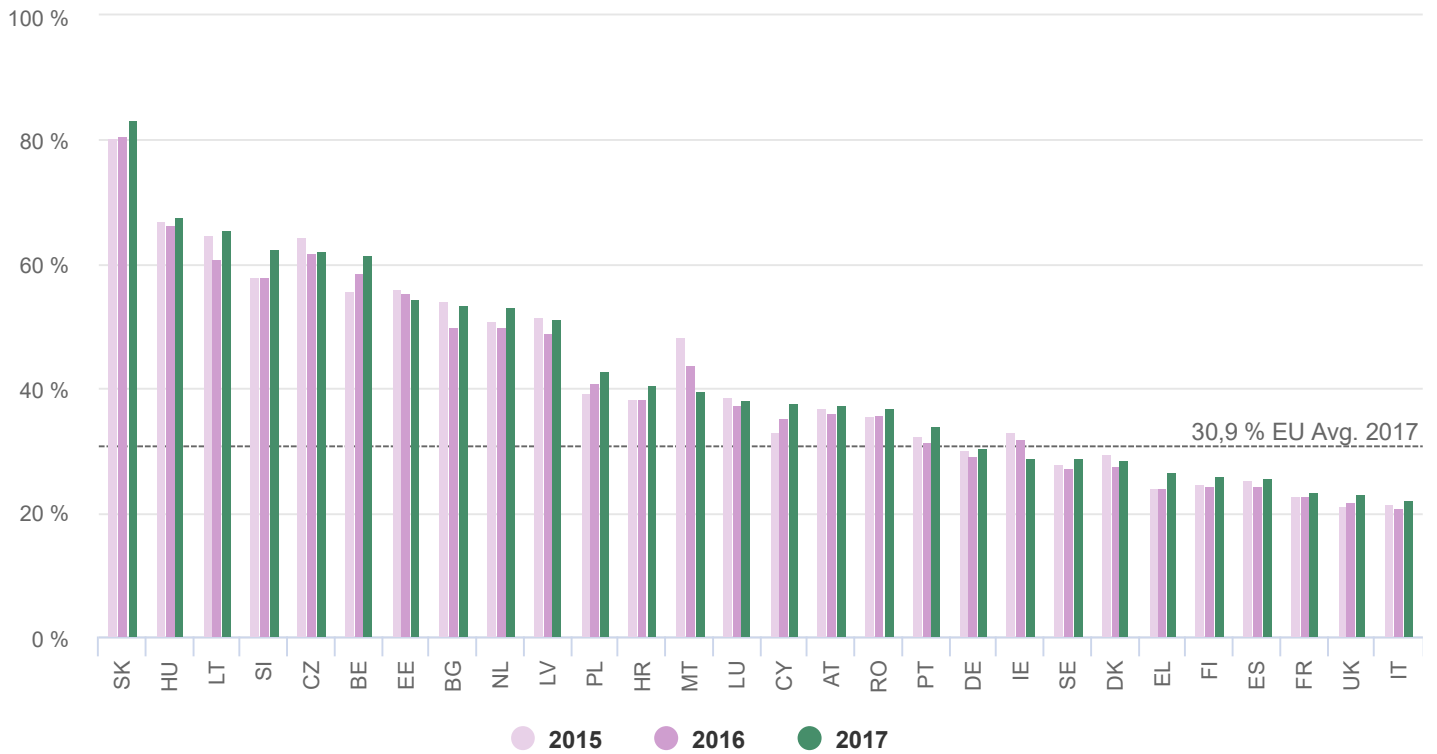
Percentage changes in trade integration indices for services (average value of imports and exports as a share of GDP) between 2016 and 2017.

Positive values show:

- relative shares of imports/exports have increased
- the country is more integrated into European value chains
- (possibly) policy measures have reduced obstacles to trade in services.

Negative values show an opposite trend.

Indicator [5]: Openness to imports of GOODS (levels)



Value of all goods imports – from any country, inside or outside the EU – as a share of GDP.

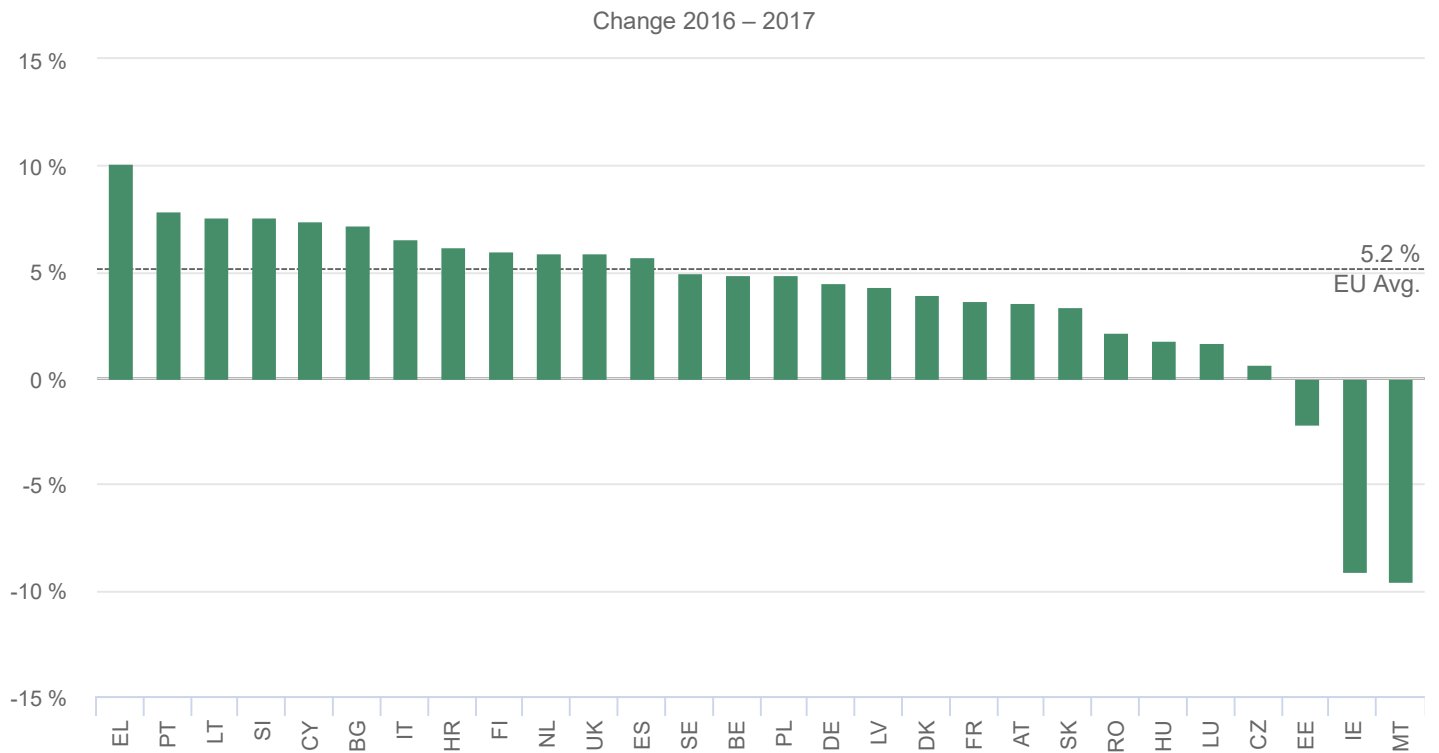
Reflects:

- The manufacturing sector's overall degree of openness, competitiveness and integration into international value chains.

Higher values show better results on these points.

For a breakdown of imports by source (within or outside the EU), see [“Facts and Figures”](#).

Indicator [6]: Openness to imports of GOODS (*change*)

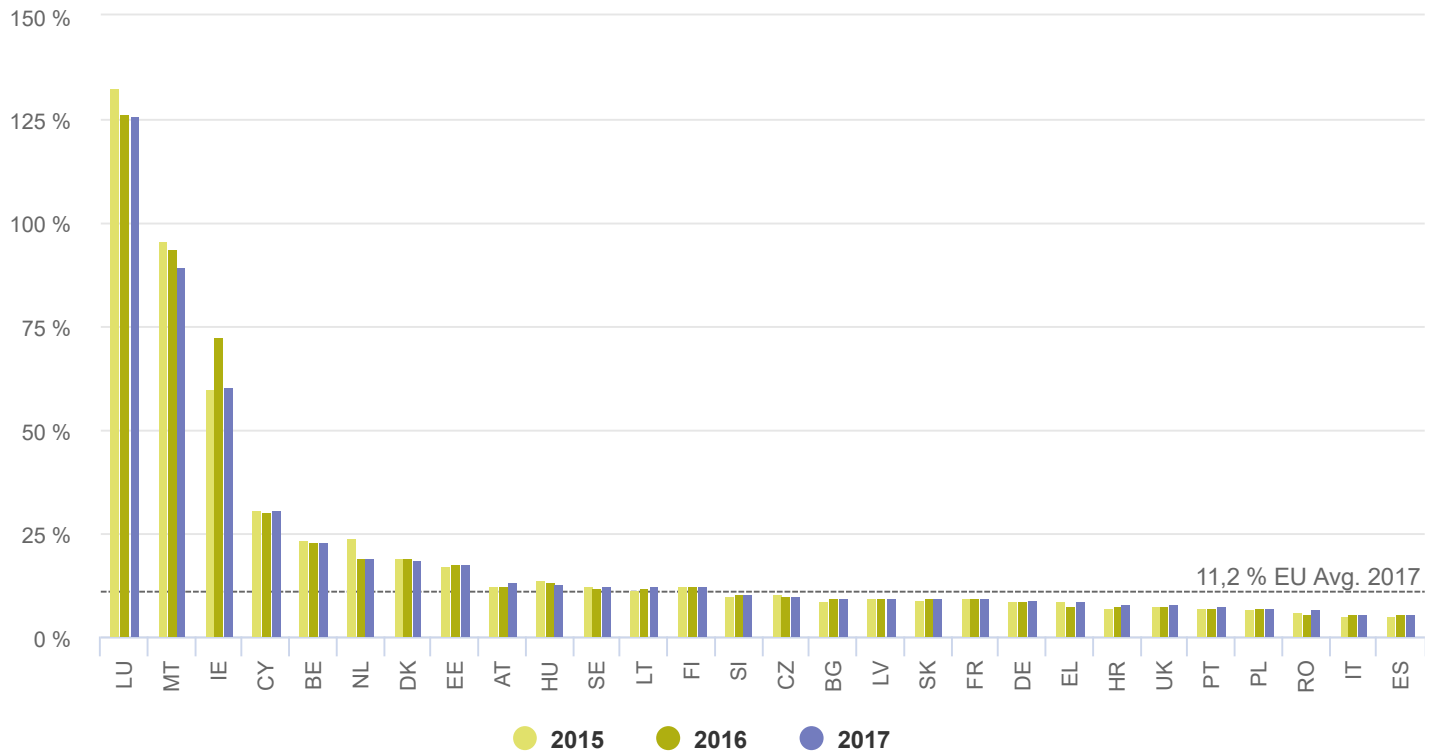


Positive values show:

- that the value of goods imports as a share of GDP increased between 2016 and 2017
- that the economy has become more open, competitive or integrated into international value chains.
- (possibly) that policy measures have reduced obstacles to goods imports.

Negative values show an opposite trend.

Indicator [7]: Openness to imports of SERVICES (*levels*)



Value of all imports of services – from any country, inside or outside the EU – as a share of GDP.

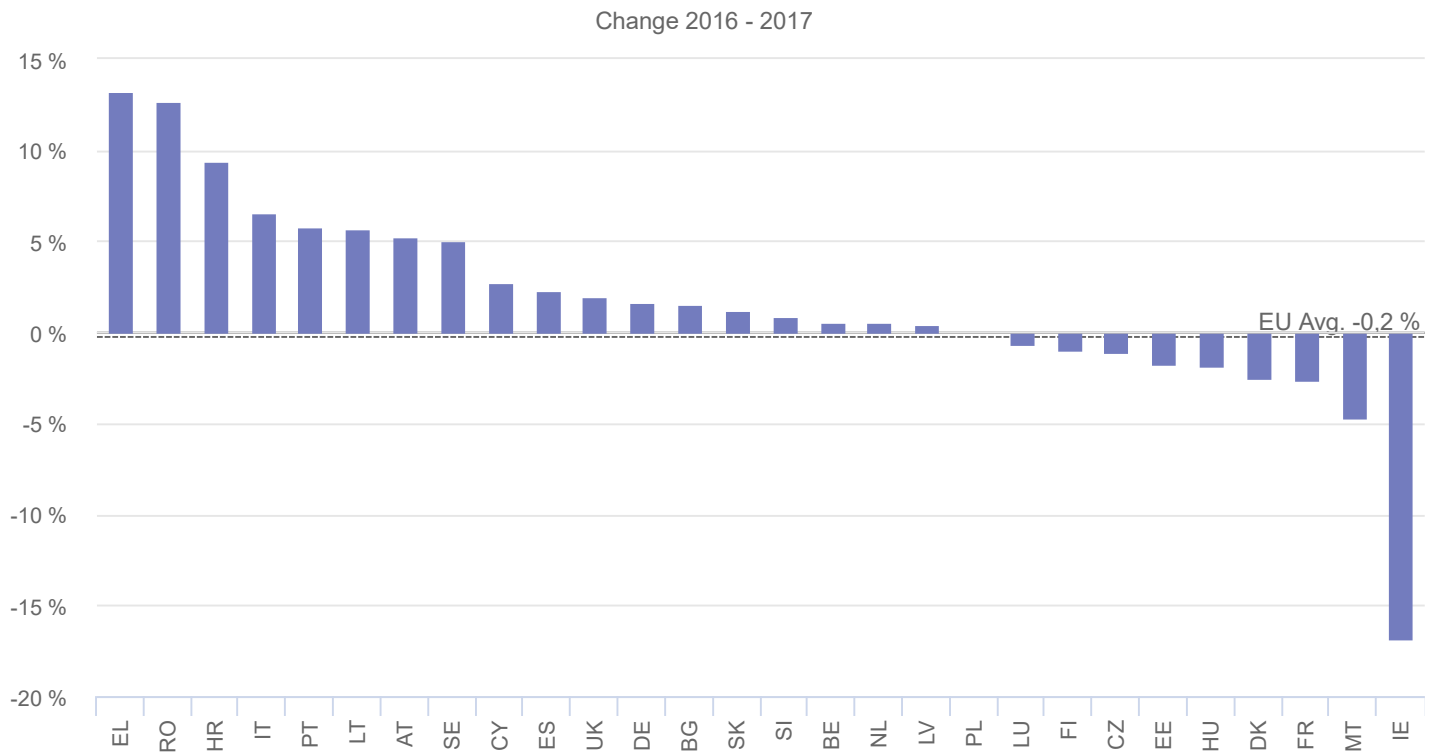
Reflects:

- The service sector's overall degree of openness, competitiveness and integration into international value chains.

Higher values show better results on these points.

For a breakdown of imports by source (within or outside the EU), see [Facts and Figures](#).

Indicator [8]: Openness to imports of SERVICES (change)



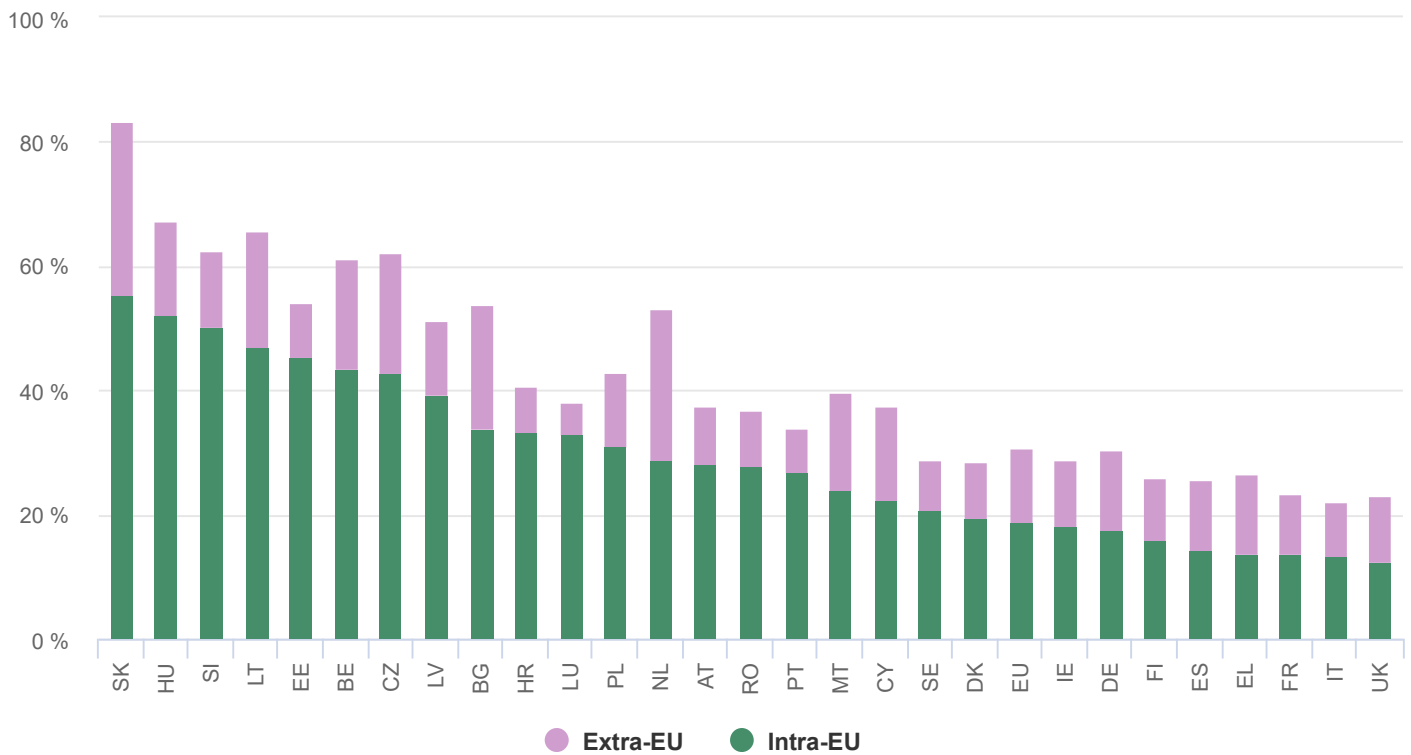
Positive values show:

- that the value of services imports as a share of GDP increased between 2016 and 2017
- that the economy has become more open, competitive or integrated into international value chains
- (possibly) that policy measures have reduced obstacles to services imports.

Negative values show an opposite trend.

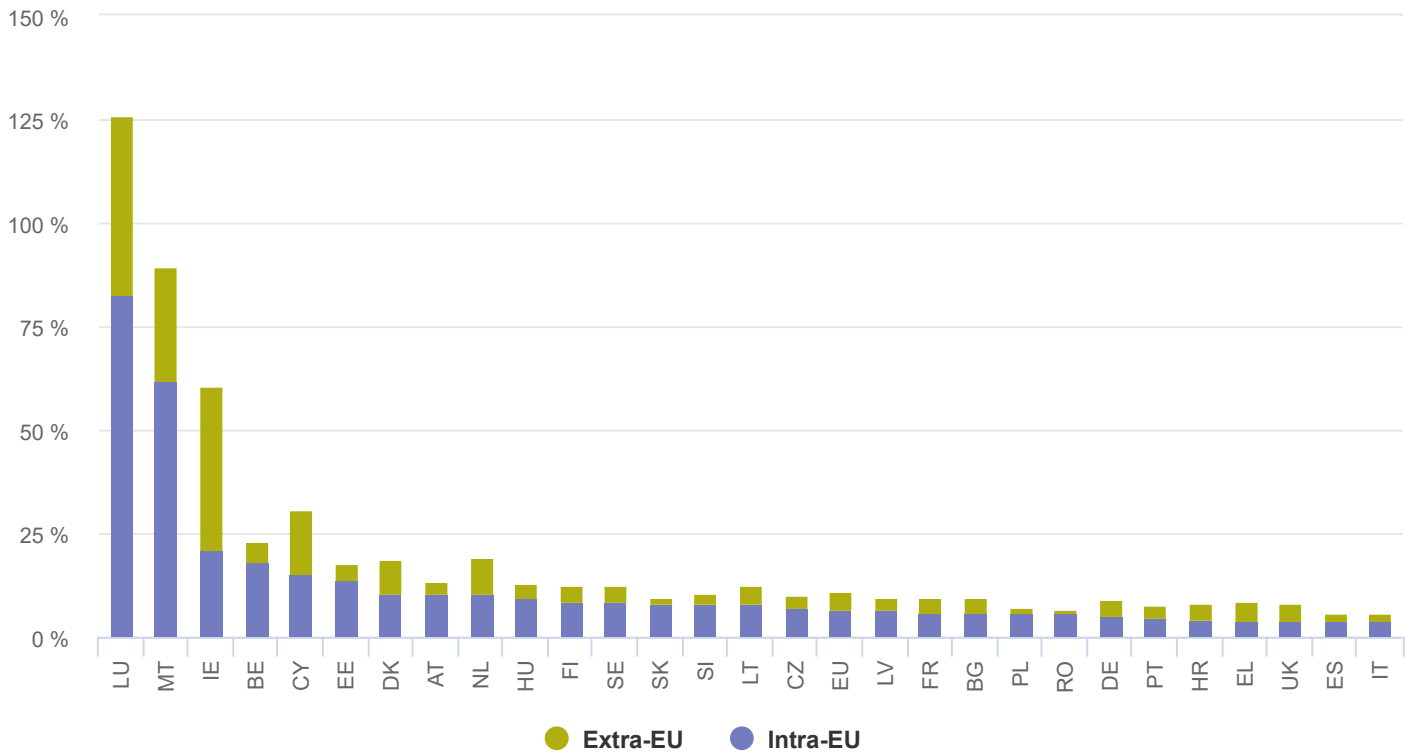
Facts and Figures

Imports of goods in 2017 (from within and outside the EU)



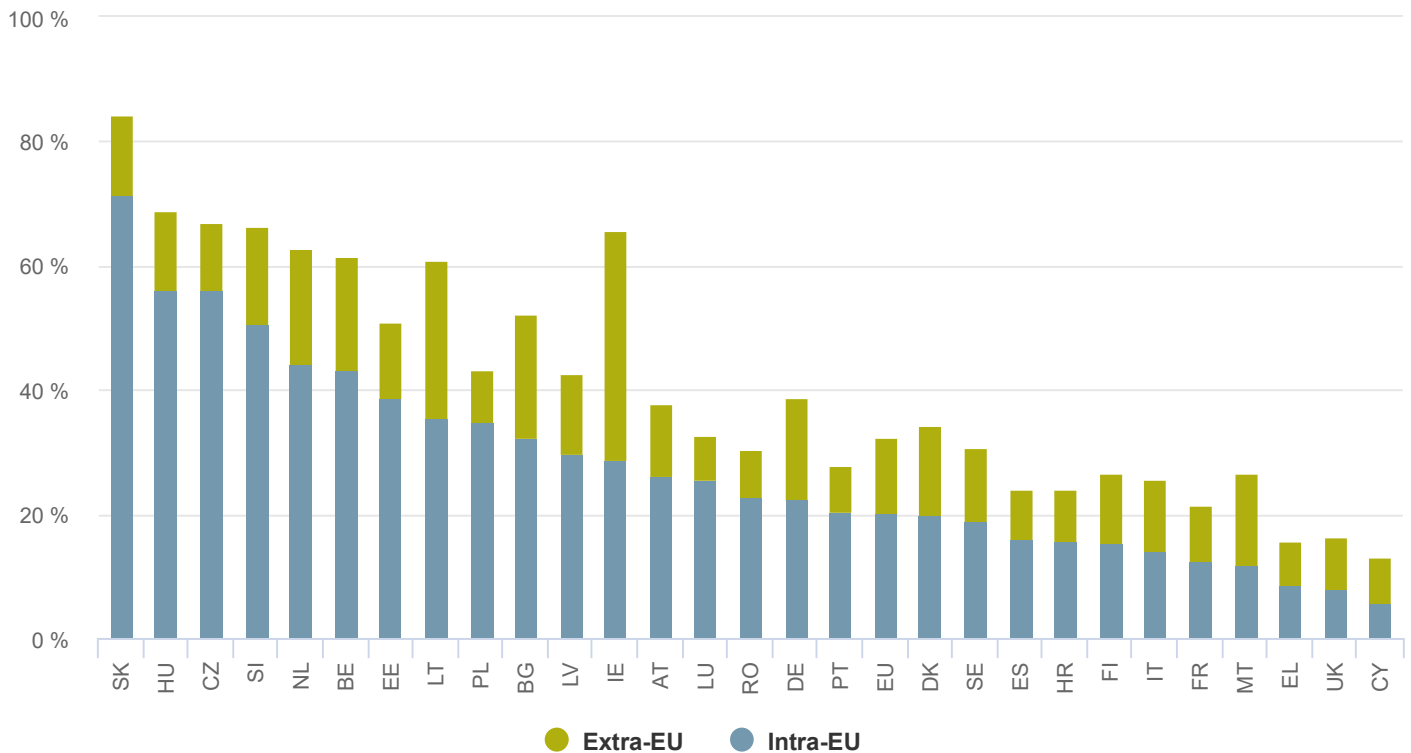
Total value of goods imports as a share of GDP for 2017, by source (other EU countries or non-EU countries).

Imports of services in 2017 (from within and outside the EU)



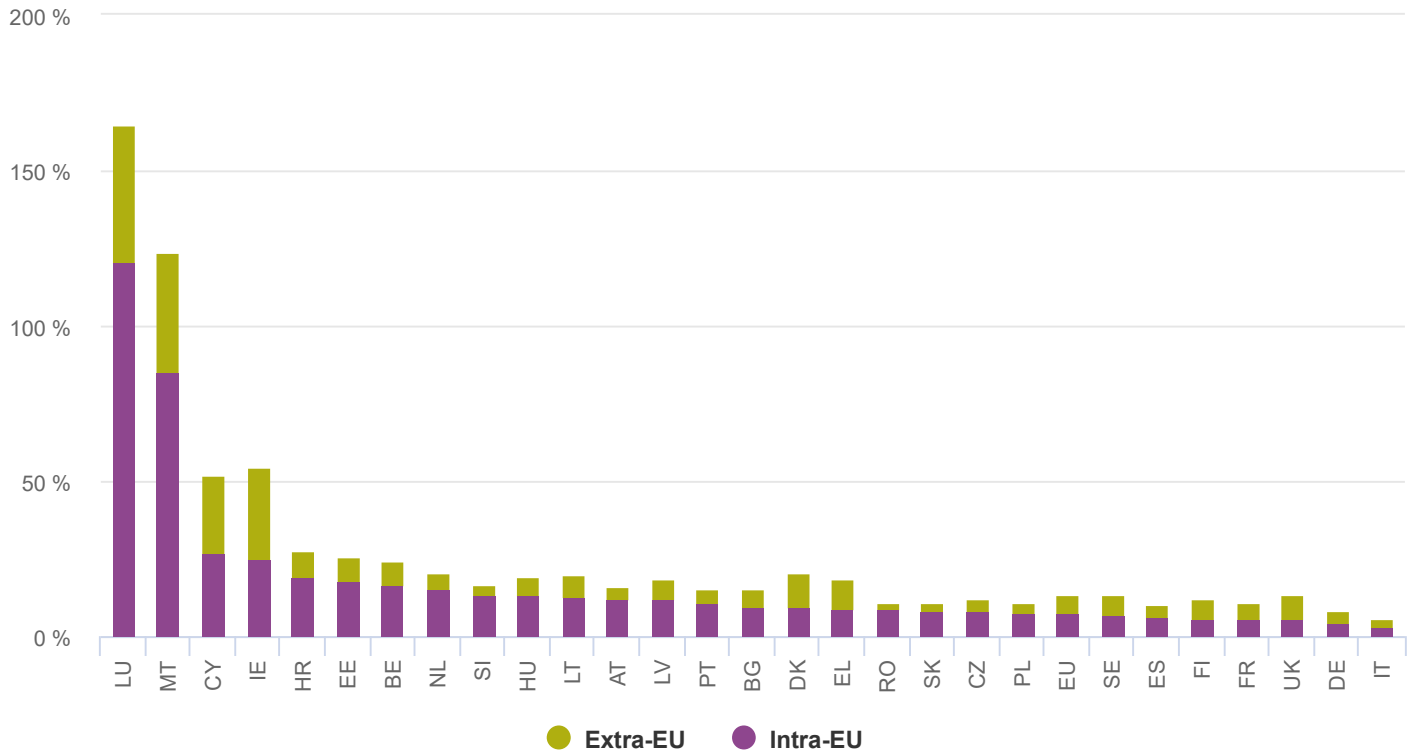
Total value of services imports as a share of GDP for 2017, by source (other EU countries or non-EU countries).

Exports of goods in 2017 (to EU countries and outside the EU)



Total value of goods exports as a share of GDP for 2017, by market (other EU countries or non-EU countries).

Exports of services in 2017 (to EU countries and outside the EU)



Total value of services exports as a share of GDP for 2017, by market (other EU countries or non-EU countries).

Achievements

- **Intra-EU trade** had been developing strongly vigorously until the financial and economic crises severely hit all EU Member States and sectors, leading to a sharp decline in trade in 2009. **Intra-EU trade in goods** suffered a bigger dip than trade in services but quickly recovered. From 2011 onwards, weak demand and slow economic growth led to low dynamics in intra-EU trade in goods. **Intra-EU trade in services** endures a less severe slump and showed a more stable increase afterwards. The recovery in intra-EU trade after the crisis has been steady, albeit at a slower pace than the expansion of extra-EU trade in goods and services.
- The EU's overall **economic performance further improved** in 2016/17, albeit at a slow pace, still helped by the euro's relatively low value and moderate oil prices as well as the effects of previous reforms. Positive signs of accelerated growth in intra-EU trade in goods and services were observed in 2015-2017.
- There is **considerable turnaround** in the rankings for **goods trade integration**. The countries with the fastest increases in levels of trade integration are Slovenia, Finland, Belgium, Lithuania, Croatia, and Portugal. Greece and the United Kingdom had witnessed relatively high increases from low levels. Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Czechia and Belgium had highest trade integration index overall. Larger Member States not only show much lower levels of trade integration (due to their size), but some are actually becoming less integrated.
- **Services trade integration** continues to increase for most Member States, though trends differ across sectors. The countries with the fastest increases in levels of trade integration are The Netherlands, Lithuania and Romania. Italy and the United Kingdom had strong increases from low starting levels. There is considerable potential for further strengthening trade integration in services, notably construction and business services.

Priorities

- To increase trade integration in services, **cross-border provision of services, recognition of qualifications and establishment outside the home country** (by their nature, services are less suitable for trading across borders).
- **Structural reforms** are needed at EU and national level to remove regulatory, structural and behavioural obstacles to business opportunities, innovation opportunities and investments, including those made available through **new technologies** and **new business models** and through **stronger integration** in EU and global value chains. These obstacles are being addressed in the [single market strategy](#) and the [digital single market strategy](#) as well as in the renewed EU Industrial Policy Strategy. Related reforms at national and euro area levels are promoted in the [European Semester](#).