



Single Market Scoreboard

The United Kingdom withdrew from the EU on 31 January, 2020. The 2020 edition of the Single Market Scoreboard refers to time periods preceding the withdrawal of the UK, and the UK is therefore listed as a Member State.

Trade in goods and services

Reporting period:
2017 – 2018

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

The indicators reflect for each country:

- 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 in terms of exports (goods and services sold abroad)
- internal demand.

[More information](#) on trade in goods and services.

Trade in goods and services and the Single Market – why does it matter?

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

Higher values reflect an economy that is more open, competitive and integrated, in relation to its size.

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

Key messages

- In 2018, trade integration in both goods and services continued to rise in most EU countries. Integration continues to be significantly higher in the goods sector than in services.
- However, while integration in services fell in just 4 countries in 2018, integration in goods fell in 8 countries.
- In some sectors, weak competition and disproportionate regulatory restrictions are preventing consumers and firms from harnessing the full benefits of integration into the Single Market.

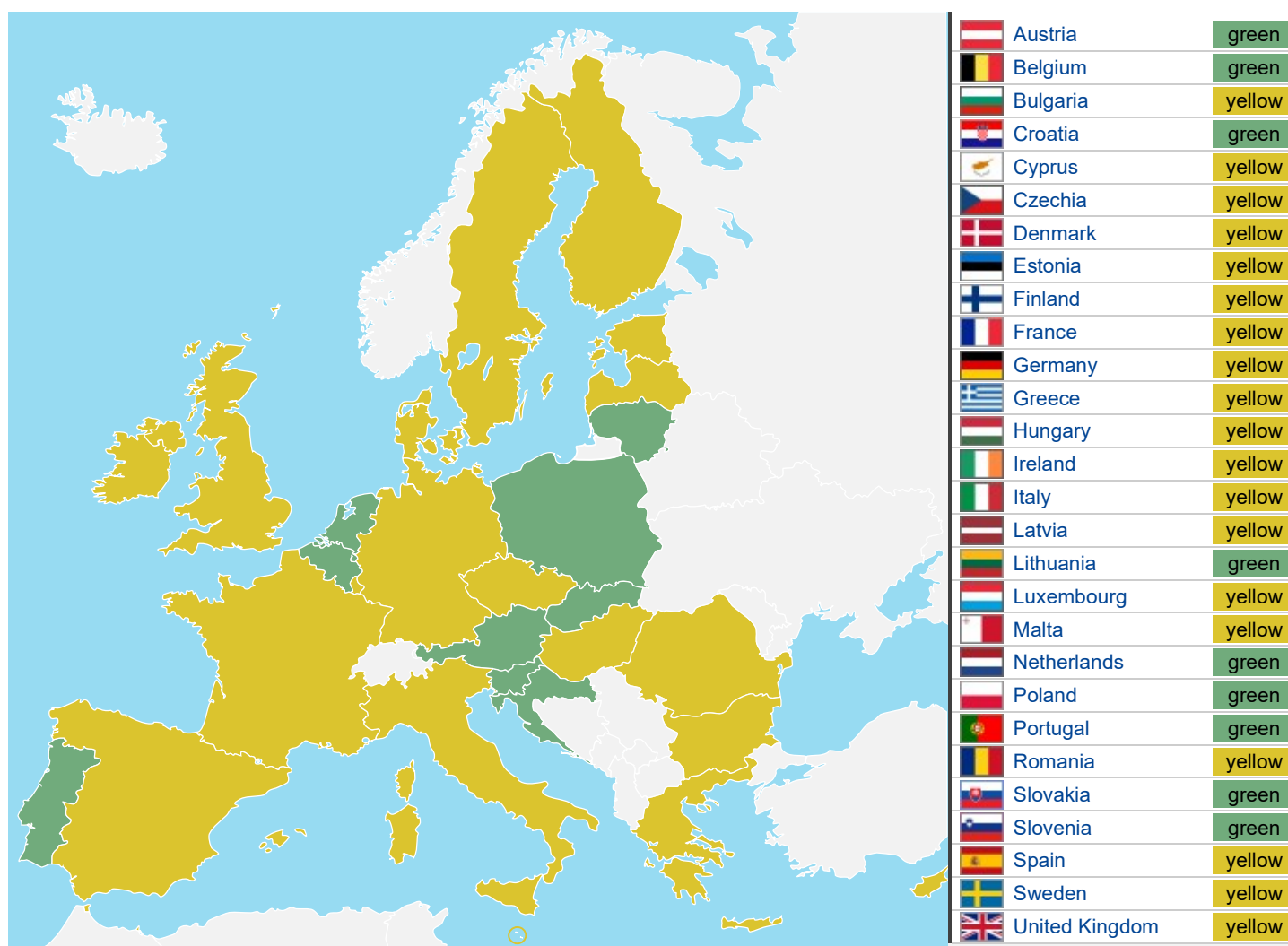
Note: When the 2020 edition of the Scoreboard was being drawn up, 2018 was the latest year available for data. Data sources: Eurostat, Balance of Payments data.

Overall performance

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

- relative to overall GDP, and
- change in 2017-2018

Overall performance (all 8 indicators combined)



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

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

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

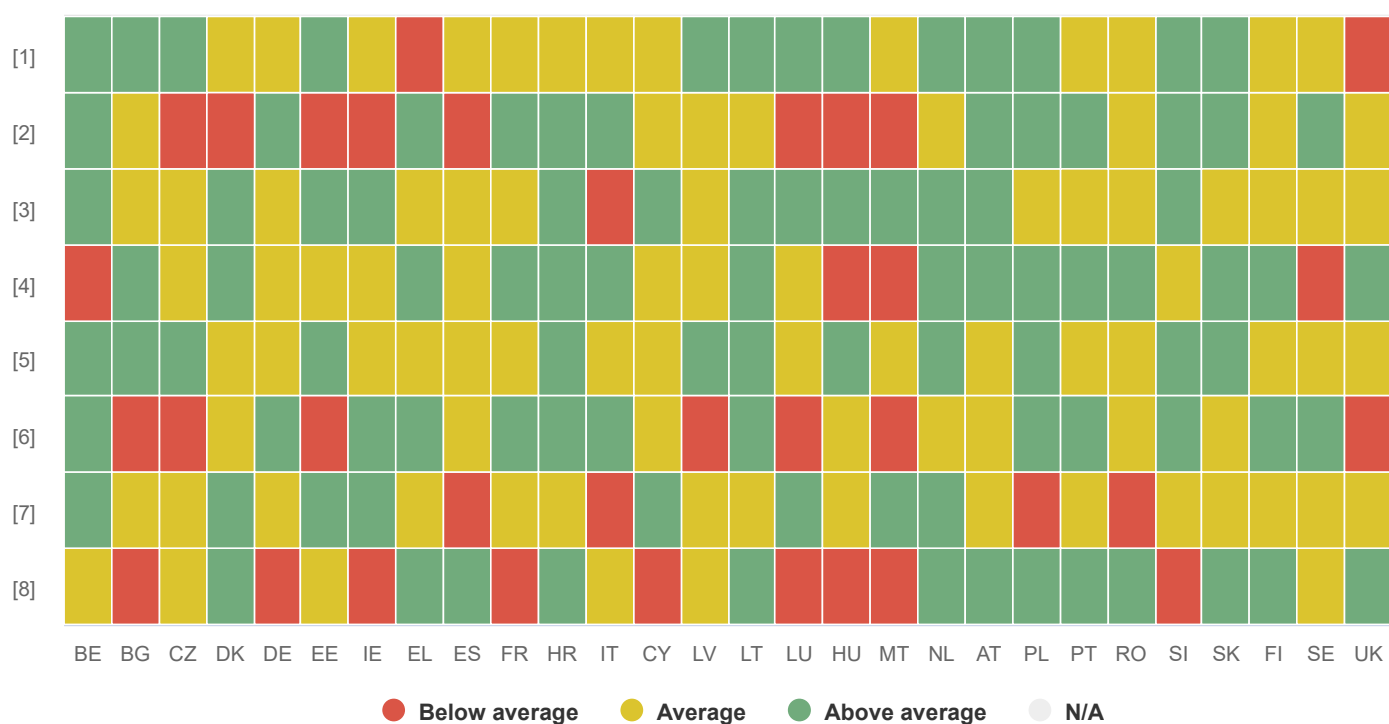
- **Red**: ≤ 1.5 ,
- **Yellow**: 1.6 to 2.4,
- **Green**: ≥ 2.5 .



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 also by other factors, including general economic developments in the EU and worldwide.

Performance indicators



| | Above average | Average | Below average |
|--|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| [1] EU trade integration in goods (levels) | > 26.6 % | 26.6 % – 13.3 % | < 13.3 % |
| [2] EU trade integration in goods (change) | > 1.2 % | 1.2 % – 0 % | < 0 % |
| [3] EU trade integration in services (levels) | > 9.8 % | 9.8 % – 4.9 % | < 4.9 % |
| [4] EU trade integration in services (change) | > 2.8 % | 2.8 % – 0 % | < 0 % |
| [5] Openness to imports of goods (levels) | > 42.3 % | 42.3 % – 21.1 % | < 21.1 % |
| [6] Openness to imports of goods (change) | > 2.3 % | 2.3 % – 0 % | < 0 % |
| [7] Openness to imports of services (levels) | > 15.5 % | 15.5 % – 7.7 % | < 7.7 % |
| [8] Openness to imports of services (change) | > 1.7 % | 01.7 % – % | < 0 % |

Indicators 1 and 3 – **levels** of integration

(bands set on the basis of the EU-level trade integration index).

Indicators 5 and 7 – **levels** of openness

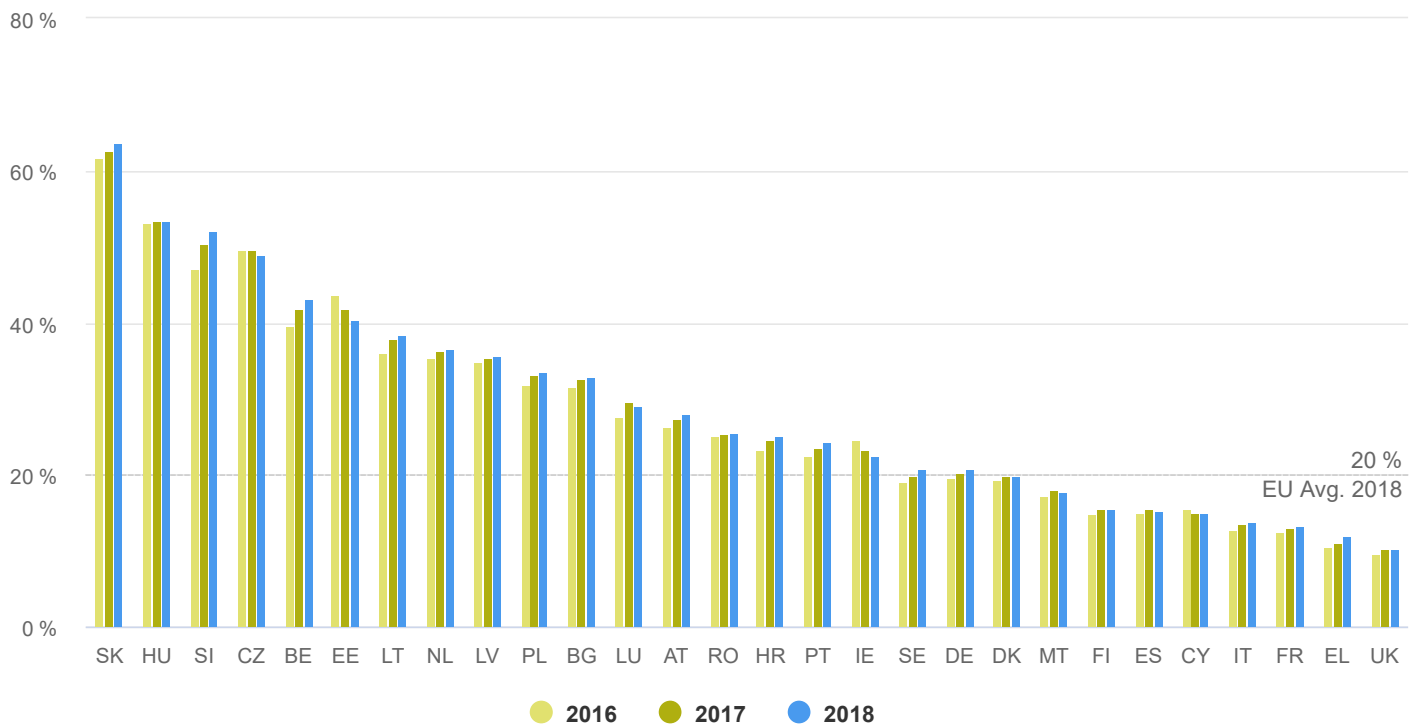
(bands set on the basis of the market openness index index – within and outside the EU).

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

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

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

The chart shows the percentage of a country's GDP represented by trade in goods with other EU countries (average of imports and exports).



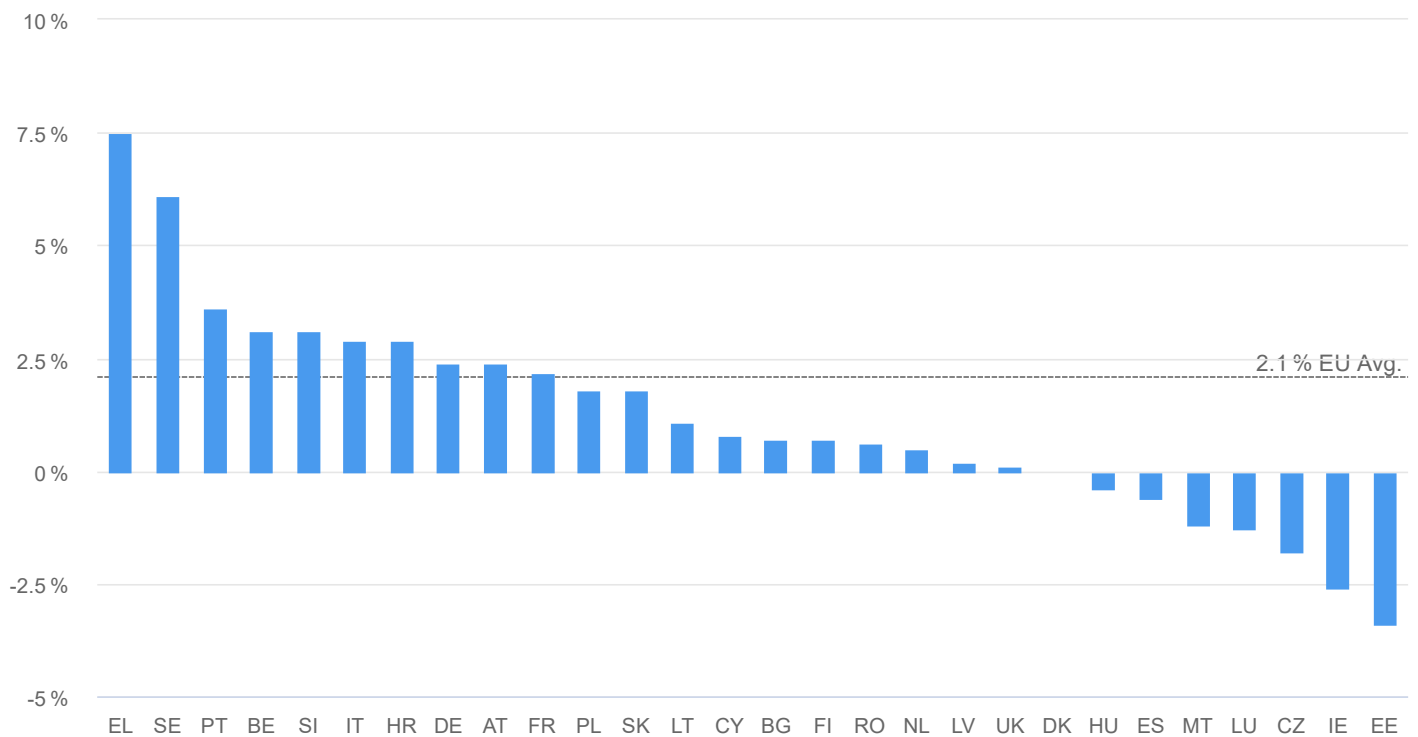
The chart reflects:

- 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*)

The chart shows percentage changes in trade integration indices for goods (average value of imports and exports as a share of GDP) between 2017 and 2018.



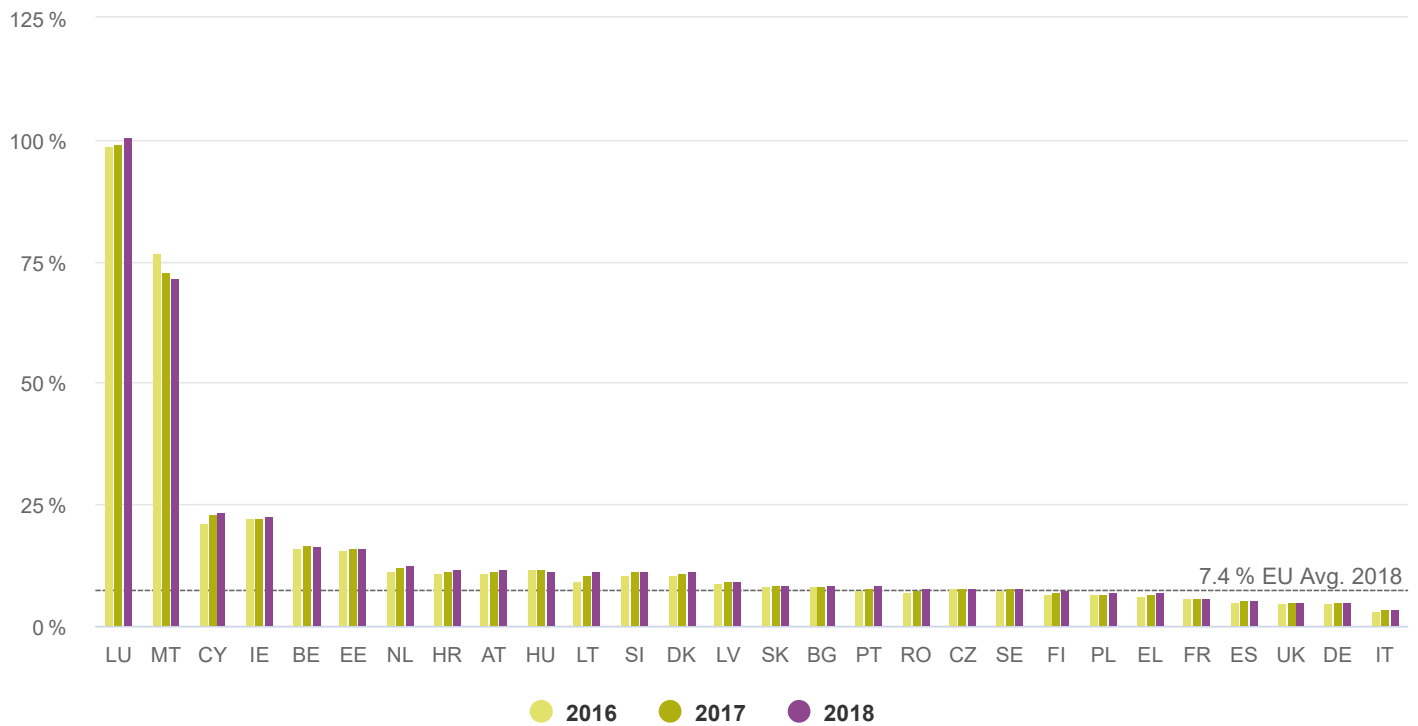
Positive values show:

- 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 the opposite trend.

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

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



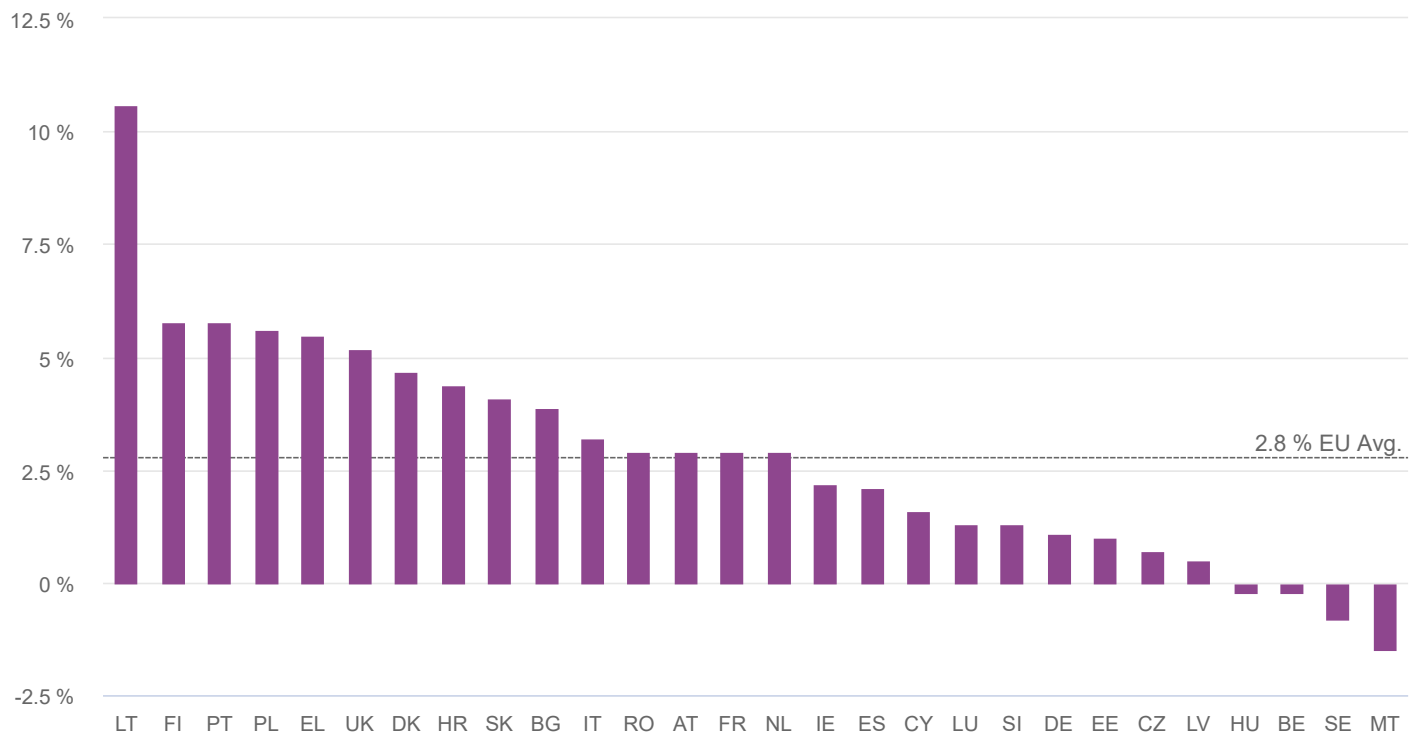
The chart reflects:

- 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*)

The charts shows percentage changes in trade integration indices for services (average value of imports and exports as a proportion of GDP) between 2017 and 2018.



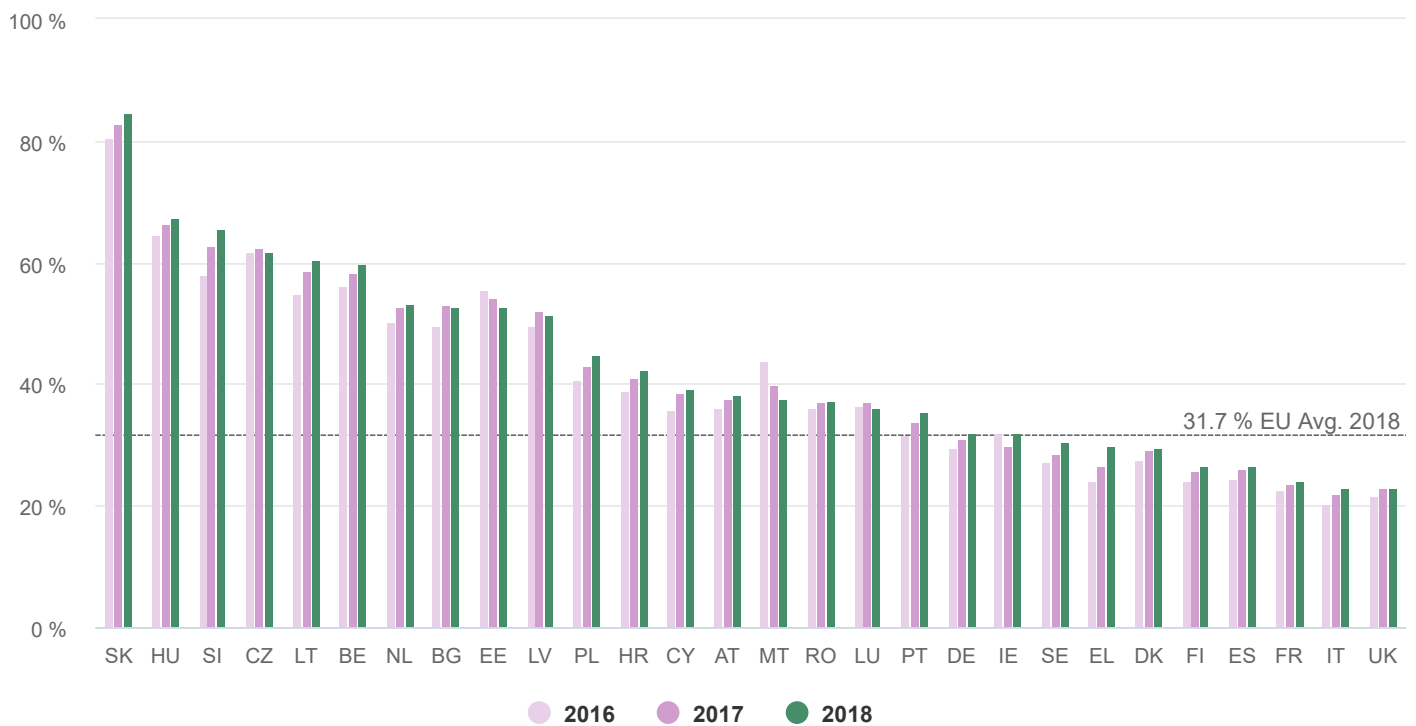
Positive values show:

- 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*)

The chart shows the value of all goods imports – from any country, inside or outside the EU – as a share of GDP.



It reflects:

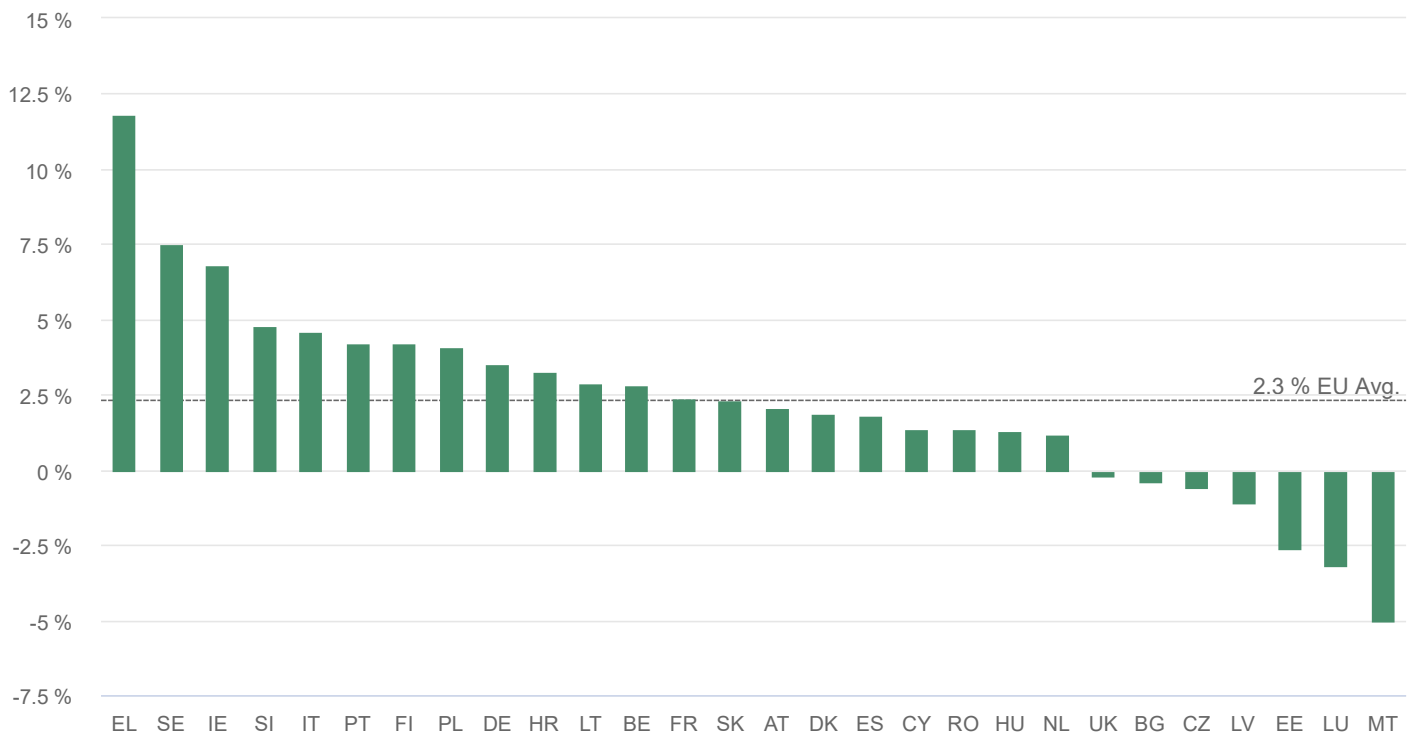
- The manufacturing sector's overall degree of openness, competitiveness and integration into international value chains.

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*)

The chart shows percentage changes in openness to import goods (value of all goods imported as a share of GDP), 2017 and 2018.



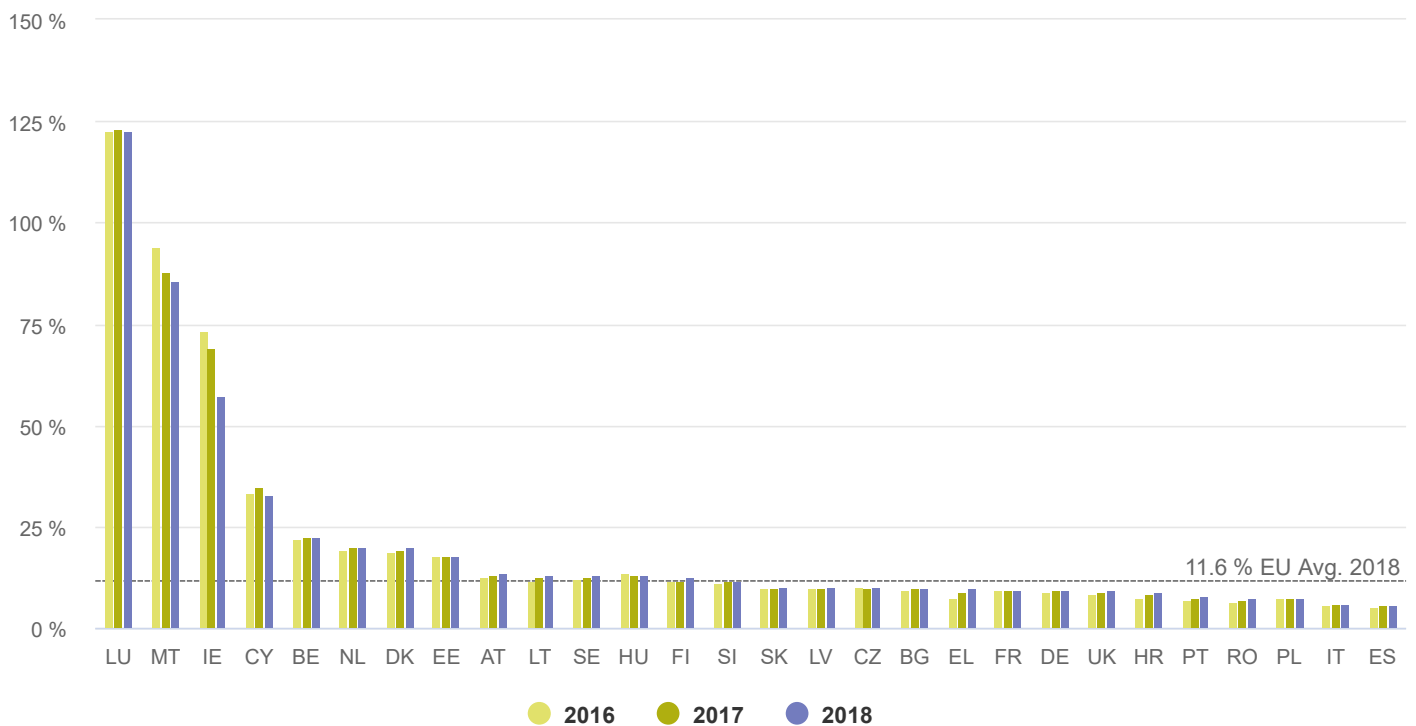
Positive values show that:

- the value of goods imports as a share of GDP rose between 2017 and 2018
- the economy has become more open, competitive or integrated into international value chains.
- policy measures have reduced obstacles to goods imports (possibly).

Negative values show an opposite trend.

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

The chart shows the value of all imports of services – from any country, inside or outside the EU – as a share of GDP.



It reflects:

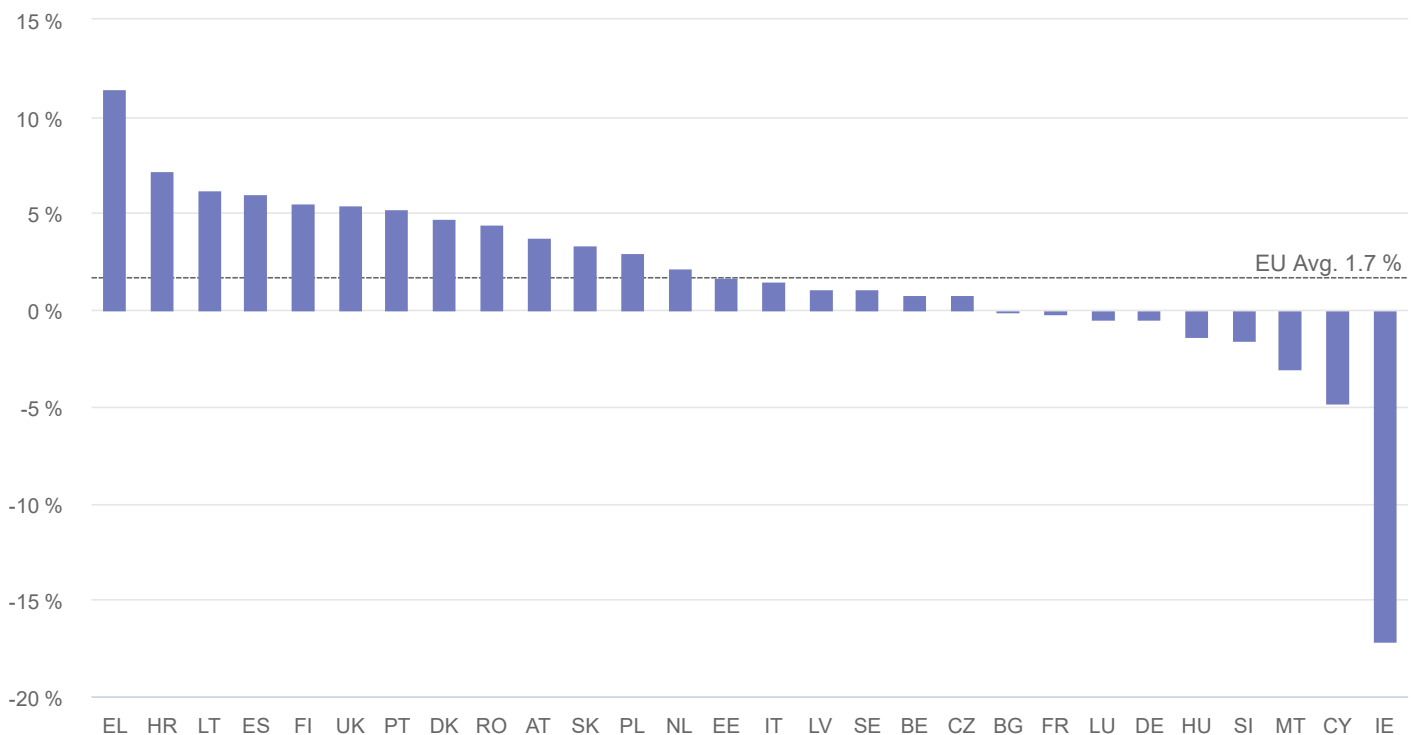
- The service sector's overall openness, competitiveness and integration into international value chains.

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*)

The chart shows percentage changes in openness to imports services (value of all services imports as a share of GDP), 2017 and 2018.



Positive values show that:

- the value of services imports as a share of GDP increased between 2017 and 2018
- the economy has become more open, competitive or integrated into international value chains
- policy measures have reduced obstacles to services imports (possibly).

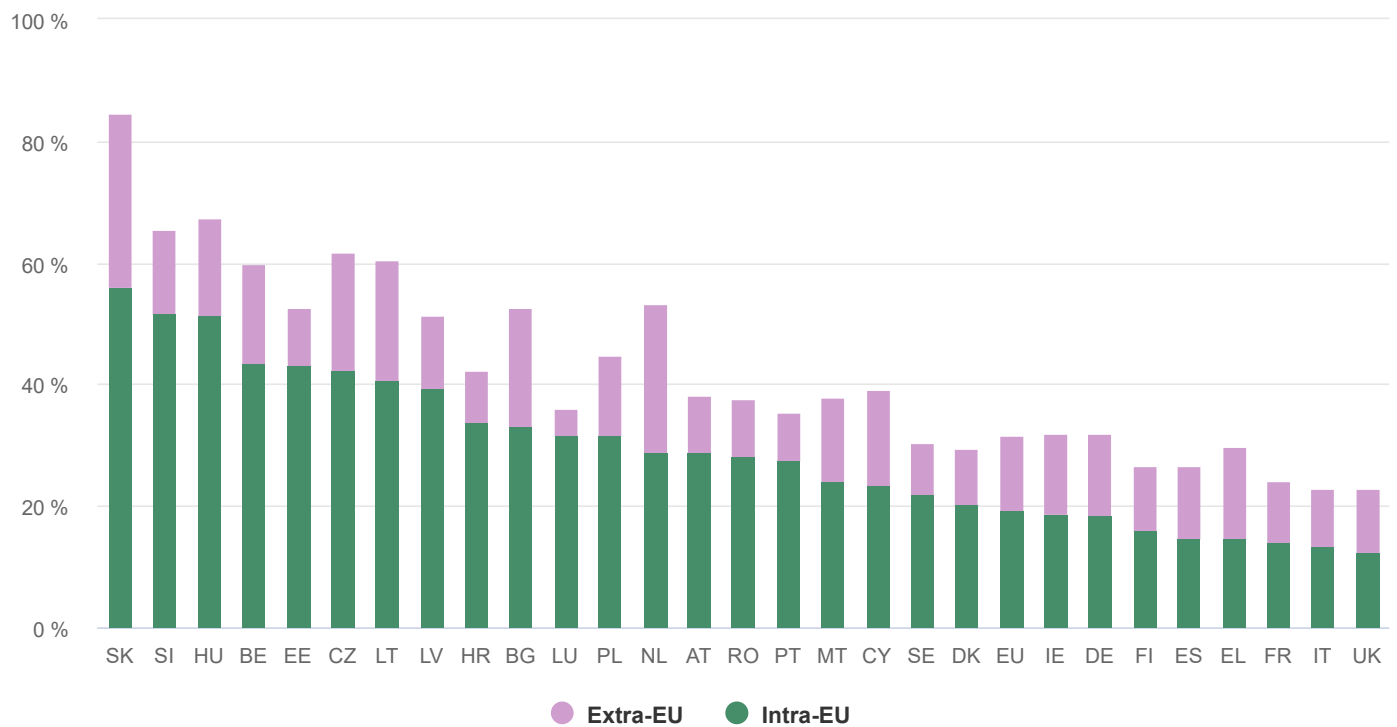
Negative values show an opposite trend.

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. The [single market strategy](#) and the [digital single market strategy](#) have tackled these obstacles, and the 2020 EU Industrial Policy Strategy will continue to do so. Related reforms at the national and euro area level are promoted in the [European Semester](#).

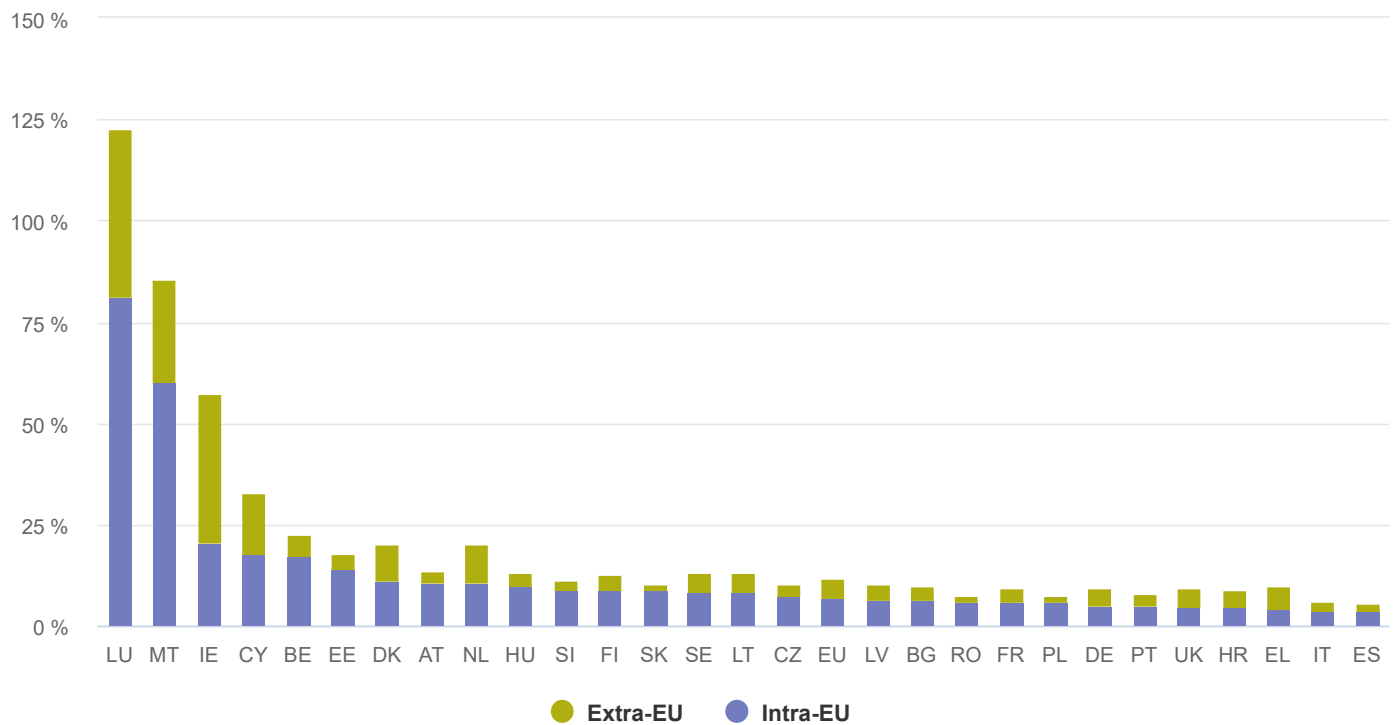
Facts and figures

Imports of goods in 2018 (from within and outside the EU)



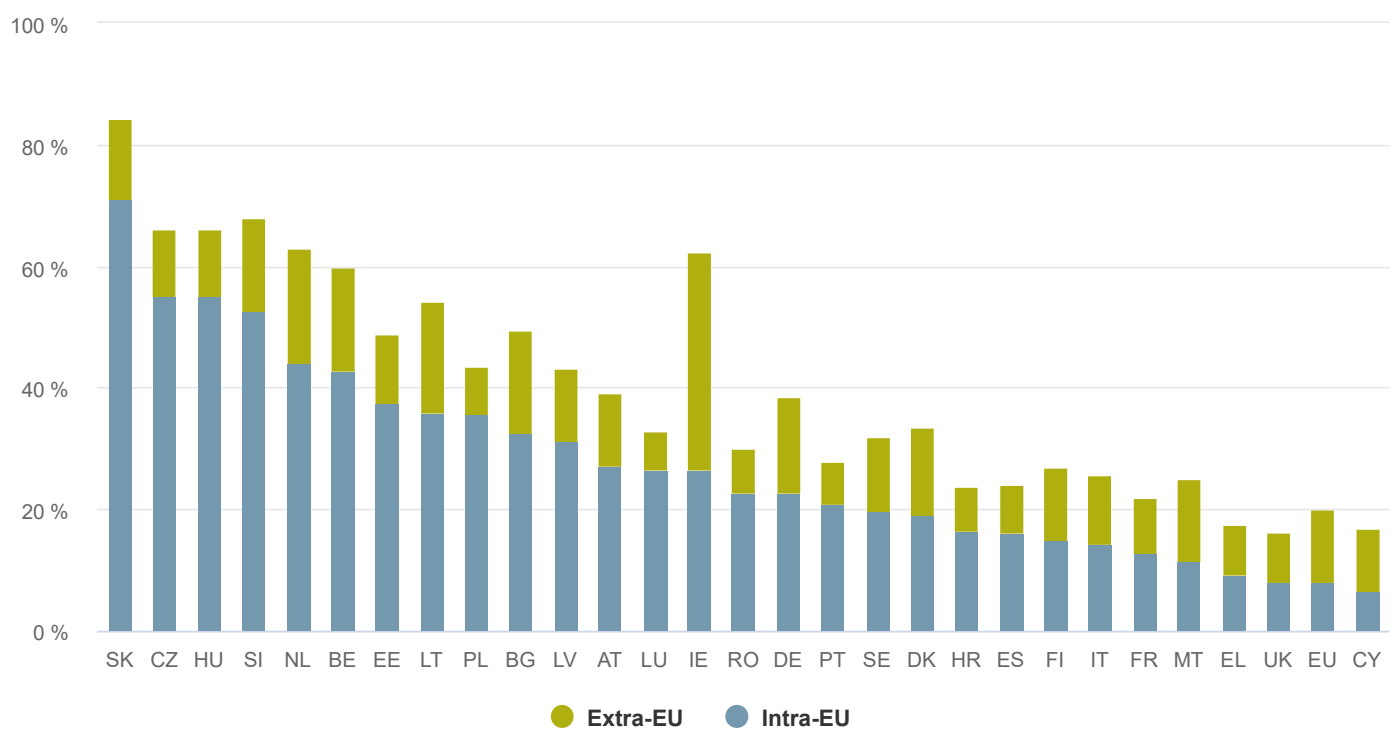
Total value of goods imports as a share of GDP in 2018, by source (other EU countries or non-EU countries).

Imports of services in 2018 (from within and outside the EU)



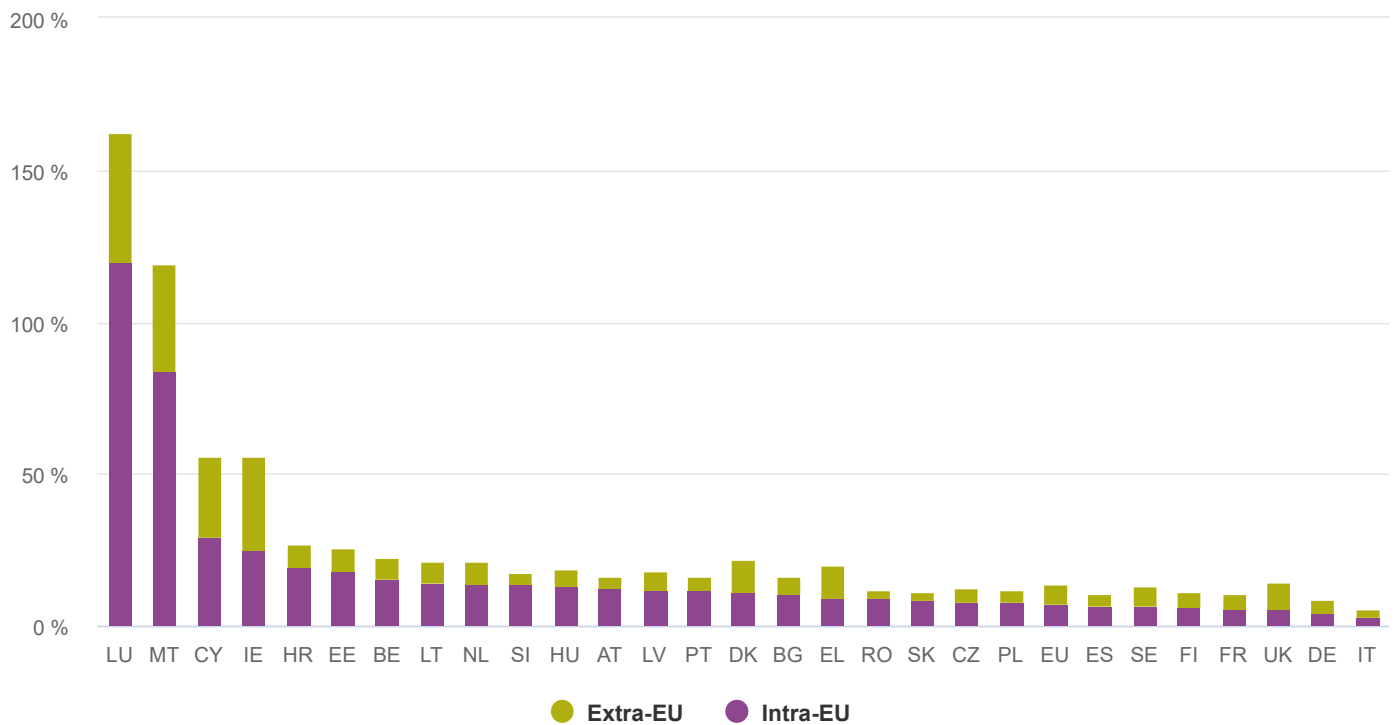
Total value of services imports as a share of GDP in 2018, by source (other EU countries or non-EU countries).

Exports of goods in 2018 (to EU countries and outside the EU)



Total value of goods exports as a share of GDP in 2018, by market (other EU countries or non-EU countries).

Exports of services in 2018 (to EU countries and outside the EU)



Total value of services exports as a share of GDP in 2018, by market (other EU countries or non-EU countries).

Achievements

- **Intra-EU trade** progressed until the financial and economic crises 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. After a period of stagnation in the early 2010s, trade integration in goods improved again.
- **Intra-EU trade in services** endured a less severe slump and showed a more stable increase afterwards. Trade integration in services reached an all-time high in 2018. Moreover, such integration may be underestimated, as the value-added of services included in trade of manufactured products is also growing.
- The EU's overall **economic performance further improved** in 2018, albeit at a slow pace, still helped by the euro's relatively low value and the effects of previous reforms. There were positive signs of sizeable growth in intra-EU trade in goods and services in 2015-2018.
- There is **considerable turnaround** in the rankings for **goods trade integration**. The countries where trade integration was increasing fastest in 2018 were Greece, Sweden, Portugal, Belgium, and Slovenia. Greece and Italy had relatively high increases from low levels. Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Czechia and Belgium had the highest trade integration index overall. Larger countries show much lower levels of trade integration (owing to their size), and generally more moderate growth.
- **Services trade integration** continues to increase for most Member States, though trends differ across

sectors. The countries where trade integration was increasing fastest in 2018 were Lithuania, Finland, Portugal, and Poland. There is considerable potential for boosting trade integration in services further, notably in construction, retail, and some business services.

More information

Indicators

EU trade integration indicators: 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.

Higher values show 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 improve business conditions for trade.

Data sources: Eurostat, Balance of Payments data.

The following reports provide more detailed information, plus analysis:

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