Belgium's trade relations with TURKIYE

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1 IMPORTANCE OF BELGIUM AND THE OTHER EU COUNTRIES IN TRADE WITH TÜRKIYE

1.1 EXPORTS

Total exports of goods from the European Union (EU-27) to Türkiye in 2022 accounted for about €99.7 billion. Belgium represented a 7.2% share in this, making it the 5th most important exporter of goods to Türkiye within the EU. Germany was the leading exporter of goods to Türkiye among all EU countries with a 27.0% share and an amount of €26.9 billion. In addition, Italy and France claimed the second and third place with a share of 13.5% and 9.3%, respectively.

While the value of European exports (EU-27) to Türkiye in 2022 was 25.9% (€+20.5 billion) higher than a year earlier, Belgian exports increased by only 17.9% (€+1.1 billion). The fact that Belgium's exports of goods to

Türkiye did not improve as much in percentage terms as those of the EU meant that Belgium's share of EU exports of goods to Türkiye fell in 2022.

German exports of goods to Türkiye realized growth of 23.5% (€+5.1 billion) in 2022 due to the increase in exports of, among other things, 'airplanes and other aircraft, of an unladen weight exceeding 15,000 kg'. In addition, driven by the 'gas oils' and 'gold' sub-sections, Italian exports to Türkiye increased by 40.9% (€+3.9 billion), while growth in exports from France to Türkiye was 24.8% (€+1.8 billion).

TABLE 1: EVOLUTION OF EXPORTS TO TÜRKIYE

In r	nillion €	2021	2022	Variation (in %)	Share (in %)
1	Germany	21,805.7	26,921.3	23.5	27.0
2	Italy	9,523.4	13,419.5	40.9	13.5
3	France	7,408.1	9,248.2	24.8	9.3
5	Belgium	6,101.3	7,194.6	17.9	7.2
	Total EU-27	79,145.5	99,653.8	25.9	100.0



1.2 IMPORTS

Total imports of goods of the European Union (EU-27) from Türkiye amounted to about €98.7 billion in 2022. Belgium was the 6th most important importer of goods from Türkiye within the EU last year with a 6.2% share. Germany was not only the main exporter to Türkiye within the EU in 2022, but also the main importer of goods from this country with a 20.1% share and an amount of €19.8 billion. Italy and Spain claimed the second and third place with shares of 12.4% and 9.7%, respectively.

While European imports (EU-27) of goods from Türkiye increased by 26.6% (€+20.7 billion) between 2021 and 2022, Belgian imports from this country grew by only 11.9% (€+651.8 million). The fact that, in percentage terms, Belgian imports of goods from Türkiye grew less than those of the EU

resulted in Belgium's share of EU imports of goods from Türkiye falling in 2022.

Partly due to the increase in imports of 'tractors with only a compression-ignition internal combustion piston engine (diesel or semi-diesel)', 'aluminium profiles' and 'parts of airplanes, helicopters or unmanned aircraft', German imports of goods from Türkiye increased by 31.9% (€+4.8 billion) in 2022. While the growth of Italian imports was 24.4% (€+2.4 billion) due to the higher value for 'gas oils', 'motor vehicles for the transport of goods with only a compressionignition internal combustion piston engine (diesel or semi-diesel) of a gross weight not exceeding 5 tonnes' and 'tractors with only a compression-ignition internal combustion piston engine (diesel or semi-diesel)', among others, Spanish imports from Türkiye improved by 18.4% (€+1.5 billion).

TABLE 2: EVOLUTION OF IMPORTS FROM TÜRKIYE

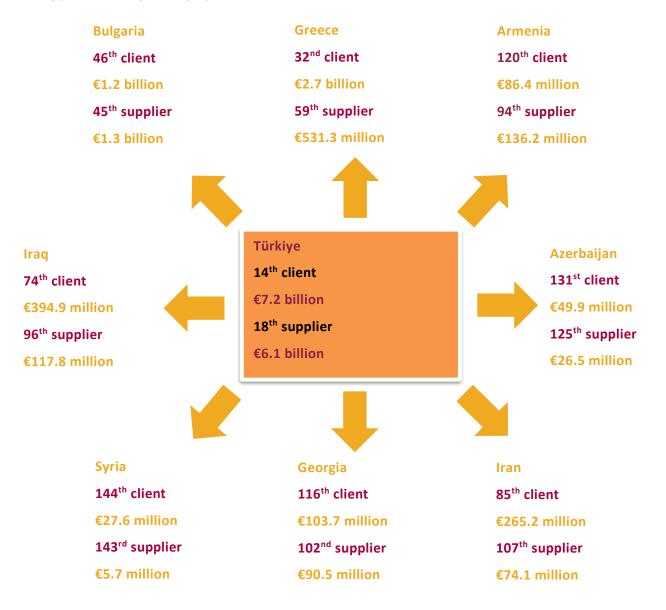
In million €		2021	2022	Variation (in %)	Share (in %)
1	Germany	15,033.9	19,835.6	31.9	20.1
2	Italy	9,848.2	12,249.4	24.4	12.4
3	Spain	8,073.9	9,559.6	18.4	9.7
6	Belgium	5,460.7	6,112.5	11.9	6.2
	Total EU-27	78,001.9	98,719.7	26.6	100.0



2 IMPORTANCE OF TÜRKIYE AND ITS NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES FOR BELGIUM'S FOREIGN TRADE (2022)

CLIENT → BELGIAN EXPORTS

SUPPLIER → BELGIAN IMPORTS



INTEREST IN TÜRKIYE

The database of the Belgian Foreign Trade Agency, which registers around 25,000 companies, keeps records on 1,877 Belgian companies that export to Türkiye and another 2,663 companies that show an interest in this market.



3 BILATERAL TRADE RELATIONS

3.1 TRADE IN GOODS

In 2022, Türkiye ranked 14th among Belgium's main clients, before India, but after Nigeria. Total Belgian exports of goods to Türkiye amounted to nearly €7.2 billion in 2022, which is 17.9% (€+1.1 billion) more than the previous year. In 2022, exports to Türkiye represented 1.2% of the total amount of Belgian goods exported.

Türkiye was Belgium's **18**th largest supplier of goods in 2022, ranking after Qatar, but before South Korea.

Total Belgian **imports** of goods from Türkiye were up by **11.9%** (€+651.8 million), reaching a little more than €6.1 billion in 2022. Türkiye accounted for **1.0%** of total Belgian imports of goods.

TABLE 3: EVOLUTION OF BELGIUM'S TRADE IN GOODS WITH TÜRKIYE

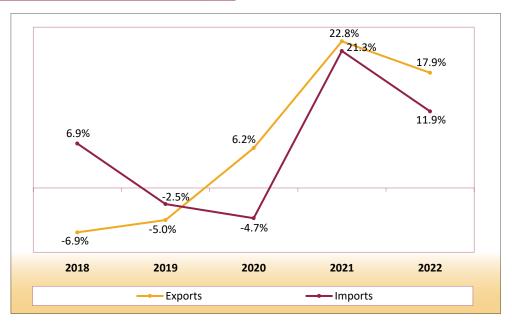
In million €	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Exports	4,927.5	4,681.5	4,969.5	6,101.3	7,194.6
Imports	4,844.3	4,724.6	4,503.6	5,460.7	6,112.5
Trade balance	83.2	-43.1	465.8	640.6	1,082.1
Exports: variation in %	-6.9	-5.0	6.2	22.8	17.9
Imports: variation in %	6.9	-2.5	-4.7	21.3	11.9

The surplus on the **Belgian trade balance for goods** with Türkiye, which amounted to €83.2 million in 2018, turned into a deficit of €43.1 million a year later as the value of exports deteriorated more than that of imports. Imports also remained in a negative spiral in 2020, but as exports rebounded with growth, the deficit also once again turned

into a surplus of €465.8 million. Subsequently, over the past two years, the increase in exports was more significant than that of imports, resulting in the surplus in Belgium's trade balance for goods with Türkiye rising to €640.6 million and €1.1 billion in 2021 and 2022, respectively.







After a decline of 6.9% and 5.0% in 2018 and 2019 due to reduced exports of base metals and chemical products, among others, the latter section helped to ensure that total Belgian **exports** of goods to Türkiye picked up again in 2020 with a growth of 6.2%. Together with the plastics and base metals sections, chemical products were then partly responsible for the fact that the value of exports continued to increase in 2021 and 2022 by 22.8% and 17.9% respectively.

Belgium's total **imports** of goods from Türkiye registered a growth of 6.9% in 2018, which was helped by the sharp increase in imports of base metals. Like the value of transport equipment, the value of base metals decreased in 2019 and 2020, resulting in total imports falling during these two years by 2.5% and 4.7%, respectively. Then in 2021 and 2022, there was strong growth in imports of mineral products as well as machinery and equipment. This helped ensure that total Belgian imports of goods from Türkiye increased by 21.3% and 11.9%, respectively, over the past two years.



3.1.1 EXPORTS

In 2022, chemical products took the leading position in total Belgian exports of goods to Türkiye. At €1.7 billion, this group of products represented a 24.1% share of total exports. This section was mainly composed of 'medicaments consisting of mixed or unmixed products for therapeutic or prophylactic uses', 'immunological products' and 'pigments and preparations based on titanium dioxide'.

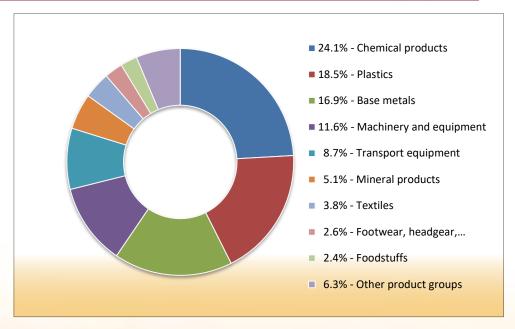
Exports of **plastics** (main sub-sections: 'poly(vinyl chloride), not mixed with any other substances', 'polymers of styrene, in primary forms' and 'acrylic polymers in primary forms') amounted to €1.3 billion, representing an 18.5% share.

Base metals (main sub-section: 'ferrous waste and scrap; remelting scrap ingots of iron or steel') completed the top three with a share of 16.9% and an export value of about €1.2 billion.

There were three other product groups that also accounted for a share of more than 5.0% of Belgian exports of goods to Türkiye. These sections were:

- machinery and equipment: €835.1 million, corresponding to a share of 11.6%;
- transport equipment: €624.1 million, corresponding to a share of 8.7% and
- mineral products: €365.5 million,
 corresponding to a share of 5.1%.







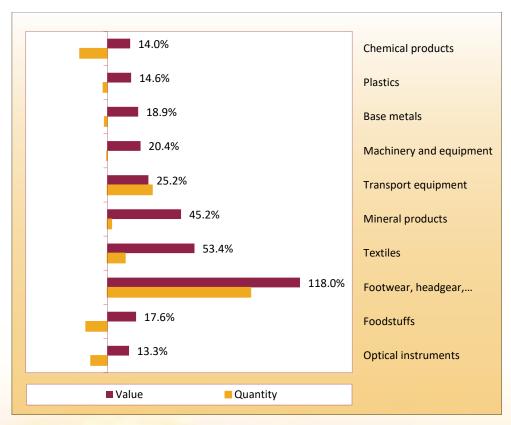
The growth of 17.9% in total Belgian exports of goods to Türkiye was primarily due to increased exports of chemical products by 14.0%. Their value increased by €212.7 million, mainly due to growth in exports of 'immunological products' and 'additives for lubricating oils containing petroleum oils or oils obtained from bituminous minerals'. The fact that the quantity exported evolved in the opposite direction to the value was mainly due to the 'ammonium sulphate' sub-section. However, this had very little impact on the evolution of the value.

The strongest percentage increase, however, was recorded by the **footwear**, **headgear**, ... section. The growth here was 118.0% (€+102.1

million) and this was due to the higher value for the sub-sections 'sports footwear; tennis shoes, basketball shoes, gym shoes, training shoes and the like' and 'footwear with outer soles of rubber, plastics, leather or composition leather and uppers of leather'.

The other product groups in the top ten recorded growth ranging from 13.3% (optical, precision, and medical instruments) to 53.4% (textiles). The €95.4 million increase in the latter product group can largely be attributed to increased exports of 'artificial filament tow of cellulose acetate', 'high tenacity yarn of aramids' and 'rousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of cotton'.







3.1.2 IMPORTS

Belgian imports of goods from Türkiye in 2022 consisted primarily of **transport equipment** and more specifically 'vehicles, with both a spark-ignition internal combustion piston engine and an electric motor as motors for propulsion, other than those capable of being charged by plugging to an external source of electric power' and 'motor vehicles for the transport of goods with only a compressionignition internal combustion piston engine (diesel or semi-diesel) of a gross weight not exceeding 5 tonnes'. Imports of these amounted to about €1.5 billion, giving this group of products a share of 23.8%.

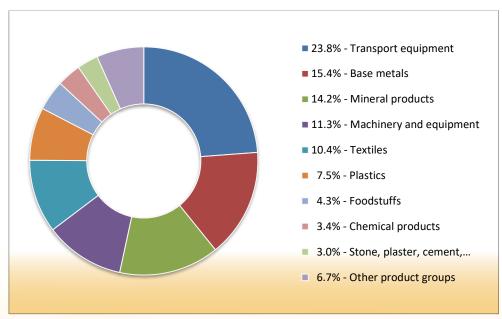
Base metals (main sub-sections: 'flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel' and 'bars and rods, not further worked than hot-rolled, hot-drawn or extruded') accounted for a 15.4% share of total imports, totalling €941.2 million.

The mineral products heading completed the top three of main sections in Belgian imports of goods from Türkiye. This group of products, which was mainly composed of 'oils and other products of the distillation of high temperature coal tar', 'zinc ores and concentrates' and 'ethylene, propylene, butylene and butadiene', accounted for a share of 14.2% and an amount of €866.8 million.

Three other product groups also accounted for a share of more than 5.0% of Belgian imports of goods from Türkiye. These sections were:

- machinery and equipment: €688.1 million, corresponding to a share of 11.3%;
- textiles: €635.2 million, corresponding to a share of 10.4% and
- plastics: €460.8 million, corresponding to a share of 7.5%.







The graph below shows that among the ten main product groups in total Belgian imports of goods from Türkiye, that of mineral products increased the most in value in 2022. Imports of this product group grew by €310.9 million (+55.9%), largely due to the increase in imports of 'petroleum bitumen' and 'ethylene, propylene, butylene and butadiene'. The fact that the quantity imported improved significantly less than the value indicates that the unit price for this type of goods was higher than a year earlier.

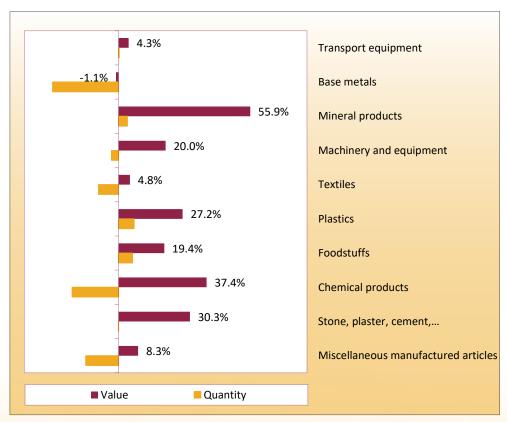
The value of **transport equipment**, the most important section in imports from Türkiye, increased by 4.3% (€+59.5 million) in 2022.

The increase in value of the previous two product groups contributed significantly to the overall 11.9% increase in Belgian imports of goods from Türkiye.

The other product groups in the top ten whose imports increased, recorded growth rates ranging from 4.8% (textiles) to 37.4% (chemical products). The increase in the latter product group can be largely attributed to higher imports of 'disodium carbonate', 'p-xylene' and 'anhydrous ammonia'.

The only product group from the top ten that recorded a decrease in value was **base metals** (-1.1%, or €-10.1 million). The reduced imports of this product group can largely be attributed to lower imports of 'flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel'.

FIGURE 5: VARIATION OF IMPORTS FROM TÜRKIYE BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES (IN VALUE AND QUANTITY) — 2022/2021





3.1.3 GENERAL PATTERN OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRADE IN GOODS AFTER THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 2023

EXPORTS

Belgian **exports** of goods to Türkiye amounted to nearly €3.7 billion after the first six months of 2023. This is a modest increase of 1.0% (€+35.9 million) compared to the same period of 2022.

Chemical products retained the first place after the period under review with a 20.3% share and an amount of €742.0 million, even though the value of this group of products was down €179.7 million (-19.5%) compared to the first half of 2022.

Base metals took second place in total Belgian exports of goods to Türkiye with a share of 17.5% and an amount of €640.6 million, despite a decline in exports of 12.0% (€-87.0 million).

The increase in total Belgian exports of goods to Türkiye after the first six months of 2023 can be attributed in large part to a rise in exports of **transport equipment**. This group of products completed the top three with a share of 17.1%. The value of this group of products was up 151.1% (€+376.5 million) to €625.7 million after the first six months of 2023, due primarily to increased exports of 'vehicles with only an electric motor for propulsion'.

IMPORTS

Belgian **imports** of goods from Türkiye accounted for just over €2.7 billion after the first six months of 2023. This is 14.5% (€-459.7 million) less than after the corresponding period of 2022.

Imports of the **transport equipment** section increased by 5.4% (€+41.3 million) to €803.0 million. As a result, its share in total imports grew to 29.7%.

Machinery and equipment took second place in Belgian imports of goods from Türkiye with a share of 12.9%. Their value increased by 2.7% (€+9.3 million) to €349.8 million.

The decline in total Belgian imports of goods from Türkiye after the period under review was mainly due to a decrease in imports of base metals and mineral products. The value of the former section fell by 36.2% (€-179.8 million) to €317.1 million, while imports of the latter group of products were down 38.9% (€-180.3 million) to €283.6 million. These groups of products represented shares of 11.7% and 10.5% respectively in imports of goods from Türkiye.



3.2 TRADE IN SERVICES

The value of Belgian exports of services to Türkiye was up by 20.6% (€+131.6 million) in 2022, increasing to €770.0 million. This made Türkiye Belgium's 20th largest client, after Finland but before Portugal with a share of 0.6% of total Belgian exports of services.

Belgian imports of services from Türkiye accounted for a value of €484.5 million in 2022, corresponding to a 19.5% (€+79.2 million) increase compared to the year before. Türkiye was Belgium's 31st largest supplier in 2022 with a share of 0.4% of our country's total imports of services, ranking before Hungary, but after Finland.

TABLE 4: EVOLUTION OF BELGIUM'S TRADE IN SERVICES WITH TÜRKIYE

In million €	2020	2021	2022
Exports	520.4	638.4	770.0
Imports	363.1	405.3	484.5
Trade balance	157.3	233.1	285.5
Exports: variation in %	-5.3	22.7	20.6
Imports: variation in %	-19.4	11.6	19.5

As exports of services to Türkiye from 2020 to 2022 were each time more significant than their imports, the **balance of services** with this country showed a surplus in favour of Belgium each year during this period.

The surplus in Belgium's services balance with Türkiye, which amounted to €157.3 million in 2020, rose to €233.1 million and

€285.5 million during the following two years, respectively, as the value of exports each time outpaced that of imports.

The Belgian services balance with Türkiye from 2020 to 2022 displayed similarities with the goods balance, as both were in our country's favour during this period.



3.2.1 EXPORTS

In 2022, the communication services section led Belgian exports of services to Türkiye with a value of €332.4 million and a 43.2% share. Transportation services occupied second place with 22.6%, while the other business services section completed the top three with an 18.6% share. The latter group of services includes, among other things, 'merchanting', 'operational leasing services', 'legal services', 'accounting, auditing, bookkeeping and tax consultancy services', 'advertising, market research and public opinion polling' and 'waste treatment and depollution'.

The higher value for **communication services** was the main reason for the 20.6% growth in total Belgian exports of services to Türkiye in 2022. Their value increased by 43.9%, from

€231.1 million in 2021 to €332.4 million last year.

Transportation services and **other business services**, which ranked second and third in exports of services to Türkiye in 2022, recorded increases of 3.9% (€+6.5 million) and 10.0% (€+13.0 million), respectively.

Royalties and license fees were the only other group of services from the top five whose exports increased. The value of these showed growth of 41.7% (€+9.1 million).

The positive evolution of the previous four services groups and the **other services** (+51.9%, or €+17.1 million) was more significant than the decline of the **financial services** section (-28.3%, or €-15.4 million).

TABLE 5: BELGIAN EXPORTS TO TÜRKIYE BY PRINCIPAL SERVICES

In million €	2021	2022	2022/2021 Var. in %	2022 Share in %
Communication services	231.1	332.4	43.9	43.2
Transportation services	167.7	174.2	3.9	22.6
Other business services	130.5	143.5	10.0	18.6
Financial services	54.5	39.1	-28.3	5.1
Royalties and licence fees	21.7	30.8	41.7	4.0
Other services	32.9	50.0	51.9	6.5
Total	638.4	770.0	20.6	100.0



3.2.2 IMPORTS

The **transportation services** section dominated total Belgian **imports** of services from Türkiye in 2022 with a value of €179.2 million and a 37.0% share. This section includes sea transport, air transport, rail transport, road transport and inland waterway transport. **Other business services** and travel services completed the top three with shares of 21.5% and 17.9%, respectively.

The higher value for **travel services** was the main reason for the 19.5% growth in total Belgian imports of services from Türkiye in 2022. The value of this group of services increased by 135.4%, from €36.8 million in 2021 to €86.7 million last year.

The value of **transportation services**, the main section in Belgian imports of services from Türkiye, increased by 20.6% (€+30.7 million).

Communication services and government services not mentioned elsewhere were the two other sections from the top five whose value increased. The growth of the former section was 43.9% (€+22.3 million), while imports of the latter group of services recorded an increase of 62.8% (€+5.5 million).

The increase in imports of the preceding service groups was more significant than the negative evolution of **other business services** (-17.9%, or €-22.8 million) and the **other services** (-19.0%, or €-6.4 million).

TABLE 6: BELGIAN IMPORTS FROM TÜRKIYE BY PRINCIPAL SERVICES

In million €	2021	2022	2022/2021 Var. in %	2022 Share in %
Transportation services	148.6	179.2	20.6	37.0
Other business services	126.9	104.2	-17.9	21.5
Travel services	36.8	86.7	135.4	17.9
Communication services	50.7	73.0	43.9	15.1
Government services not mentioned elsewhere	8.7	14.2	62.8	2.9
Other services	33.5	27.1	-19.0	5.6
Total	405.3	484.5	19.5	100.0



3.2.3 GENERAL PATTERN OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRADE IN SERVICES AFTER THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 2023

EXPORTS

According to the available data for 2023, Belgian **exports** of services to Türkiye amounted to €392.3 million after the first six months. This is a slight increase of 2.1% (€+8.2 million) compared to the same period of 2022.

The increase in total Belgian exports of services to Türkiye was due in part to higher exports of **communication services**. This section had cemented the first place in exports after the period under review with an amount of €175.8 million and a share of 44.8%. This was due to the fact that its value was up €21.5 million (+13.9%).

IMPORTS

Belgian **imports** of services from Türkiye amounted to €207.1 million at the end of the first six months of 2023. This is a decrease of 5.1% (€-11.1 million) compared to the same period of 2022.

The transportation services section had retained first place after the period under review on the import side with a 35.8% share and an amount of €74.0 million, despite the fact that its value had decreased by €15.3 million (-17.2%).

The other business services section occupied second place after the first six months of 2023 in Belgian exports of services to Türkiye with a share of 21.1% and a value of €82.7 million. This is an increase of 22.4% (€+15.1 million) compared to the corresponding period of 2022.

The value of **transportation services** in Belgian exports of services to Türkiye fell 22.9% (€-21.2 million) after the first six months of 2023 compared to the corresponding period a year earlier to €71.4 million. As a result, this group of services accounted for an 18.2% share.

The value of **other business services** in the import of services from Türkiye decreased by 3.3% (€-1.5 million) to €45.0 million. As a result, the share of this group of services was reduced to 21.7%.

Travel services completed the top three of most important sections in Belgian imports of services from Türkiye with a share of 18.6%. Their value had risen by 39.7% (€+10.9 million) to €38.5 million after the first half of 2023.



4 ECONOMIC INDICATORS FOR TÜRKIYE

Economic structure (2022 - estimates)	
GDP	\$905.5 billion
GDP growth rate	5.6%
Inflation rate	72.3%
Exports of goods (FOB)	\$254.2 billion
Imports of goods (FOB)	\$363.7 billion
Trade balance	\$-109.5 billion
Population	85.2 million
Unemployment rate	10.5%
Main clients (2022): % of total	
Germany	8.3
United States	6.6
Iraq	5.4
United Kingdom	5.1
Main suppliers (2022): % of total	
Russian Federation	16.1
China	11.3
Germany	6.6
Switzerland	4.2
Main exports (2022): % of total	
Petroleum oils and oils from bituminous minerals	5.1
Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons	3.7
Articles of jewellery and parts thereof, of precious metal or of metal clad with precious metal	3.2
Main imports (2022): % of total	
Gold	5.6
Petroleum oils and oils from bituminous minerals	5.1
Ferrous waste and scrap; remelting scrap ingots of iron or steel	2.7

Sources: TrendEconomy + Lloyds Bank Trade



5 INDEX OF THE UNIT PRICE FOR IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

The table below gives an overview of the development of the index of the unit price for imports and exports for Belgium (with the world).

This index facilitates an analysis of the general development of the price of goods.

This makes it possible to consider the global development of Belgian imports and exports in perspective by determining the part that is

caused by price developments (and hence which part is caused by a change in quantity).

The table has to be interpreted as follows: If a given product had an export value of €100 in the year 2015, then this product had an average value of €141.4 in 2022. The same principle applies to imports. If a particular product had an import value of €100 in 2015, the same product then had an import value of €144.7 in 2022.

TABLE 7: INDEX OF THE UNIT VALUE OF TOTAL BELGIAN EXPORTS AND IMPORTS (2015=100)

	Formand	
	Export	Import
2011	99.7	101.2
2012	102.5	104.4
2013	101.6	103.3
2014	100.5	101.8
2015	100.0	100.0
2016	97.4	95.8
2017	102.4	102.0
2018	105.7	106.6
2019	106.4	106.5
2020	104.8	103.5
2021	115.6	115.4
2022	141.4	144.7



6 SOURCES

WORLD BANK — <u>WWW.WORLDBANK.ORG</u>

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM — <u>WWW.BNB.BE</u>

CREDENDO GROUP — <u>WWW.CREDENDOGROUP.COM</u>

 ${\sf CIA\ World\ Factbook-\underline{WWW.CIA.GOV}}$

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL COMMERCE, EUROPEAN COMMISSION — http://ec.europa.eu/trade

EUROSTAT, EUROPEAN COMMISSION — http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION — <u>www.wto.org</u>

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