



# HIGHLIGHTS OF BELGIAN SERVICES TRADE IN 2021 AND BELGIUM'S POSITION IN GLOBAL TRADE

**Christelle CHARLIER**











**Director Studies, Statistics and Communication**



	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Δ 2021-2020</b>	
	(in millions of €)	(in millions of €)	(in %)	(in millions of €)
<b>EXPORTS: TOTAL</b>	<b>106,421.0</b>	<b>115,539.1</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>9,118.1</b>
<b>IMPORTS: TOTAL</b>	<b>104,633.0</b>	<b>113,714.1</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>9,081.1</b>
<b>TRADE BALANCE: TOTAL</b>	<b>1,788.0</b>	<b>1,825.0</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>37.0</b>











Although trade in goods accounts for the bulk of Belgian foreign trade, trade in services constitutes a significant part of total exports and imports. The share of services in total Belgian exports and imports amounted to 19.9% and 20.2% respectively over the past year.

**OVERVIEW OF BELGIUM'S MAIN TRADE PARTNERS IN  
EXPORTS OF SERVICES IN 2021**

			<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>		<b>Δ 2021-2020</b>	
			<b>(in millions of €)</b>	<b>(in millions of €)</b>	<b>(in %)</b>	<b>(in millions of €)</b>	<b>(in %)</b>
<b>1.</b>		<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	15,816.2	17,080.1	14.8	1,263.9	8.0
<b>2.</b>		<b>FRANCE</b>	11,657.5	12,387.5	10.7	730.0	6.3
<b>3.</b>		<b>UNITED STATES</b>	11,245.8	10,955.3	9.5	-290.5	-2.6
<b>4.</b>		<b>GERMANY</b>	9,157.0	6,668.5	8.4	511.5	5.6
<b>5.</b>		<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	8,958.2	9,323.2	8.1	365.0	4.1
<b>6.</b>		<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	7,048.0	8,733.6	7.6	1,685.6	23.9
<b>7.</b>		<b>IRELAND</b>	4,746.3	6,574.3	5.7	1,828.0	38.5
<b>8.</b>		<b>G.D. of LUXEMBOURG</b>	5,127.1	5,623.0	4.9	495.9	9.7
<b>9.</b>		<b>ITALY</b>	2,783.7	3,093.8	2.7	310.1	11.1
<b>10.</b>		<b>SWEDEN</b>	1,808.9	2,041.2	1.8	232.3	12.8
		<b>OTHER COUNTRIES</b>	28,072.3	30,058.6	26.0	1,986.3	7.1
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>106,421.0</b>	<b>115,539.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9,118.1</b>	<b>8.6</b>

		2020	2021		Δ 2021-2020	
		(in millions of €)	(in millions of €)	(in %)	(in millions of €)	(in %)
1.	OTHER BUSINESS SERVICES	41,502.6	43,663.1	37.8	2,160.5	5.2
2.	TRANSPORTATION SERVICES	21,821.2	24,130.4	20.9	2,309.2	10.6
3.	COMMUNICATION SERVICES	13,053.7	15,057.9	13.0	2,004.2	15.4
4.	FINANCIAL SERVICES	7,447.2	8,215.6	7.1	768.4	10.3
5.	TRAVEL SERVICES	5,785.0	5,592.1	4.8	-192.9	-3.3
	OTHER SERVICES	16,811.2	18,879.9	16.3	2,068.7	12.3
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>106,421.0</b>	<b>115,539.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9,118.1</b>	<b>8.6</b>

**OVERVIEW OF BELGIUM'S MAIN TRADE PARTNERS IN  
IMPORTS OF SERVICES IN 2021**

			<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>		<b>Δ 2021-2020</b>	
			<b>(in millions of €)</b>	<b>(in millions of €)</b>	<b>(in %)</b>	<b>(in millions of €)</b>	<b>(in %)</b>
<b>1.</b>		<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	15,321.8	15,568.5	13.7	246.7	1.6
<b>2.</b>		<b>FRANCE</b>	13,725.8	14,247.4	12.5	521.6	3.8
<b>3.</b>		<b>GERMANY</b>	10,986.5	11,858.6	10.4	872.1	7.9
<b>4.</b>		<b>UNITED STATES</b>	10,237.5	11,343.9	10.0	1,106.4	10.8
<b>5.</b>		<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	10,100.5	9,869.0	8.7	-231.5	-2.3
<b>6.</b>		<b>G.D. of LUXEMBOURG</b>	7,069.8	7,735.6	6.8	665.8	9.4
<b>7.</b>		<b>IRELAND</b>	6,113.0	6,091.1	5.4	-21.9	-0.4
<b>8.</b>		<b>ITALY</b>	3,969.2	4,296.1	3.8	326.9	8.2
<b>9.</b>		<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	2,937.5	4,283.7	3.8	1,346.2	45.8
<b>10.</b>		<b>SPAIN</b>	2,699.5	3,489.4	3.1	789.9	29.3
		<b>OTHER COUNTRIES</b>	21,471.9	24,930.8	21.9	3,458.9	16.1
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104,633.0</b>	<b>113,714.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9,081.1</b>	<b>8.7</b>

		2020	2021		Δ 2021-2020	
		(in millions of €)	(in millions of €)	(in %)	(in millions of €)	(in %)
1.	OTHER BUSINESS SERVICES	41,942.5	42,828.6	37.7	886.1	2.1
2.	TRANSPORTATION SERVICES	21,238.7	25,561.1	22.5	4,322.4	20.4
3.	COMMUNICATION SERVICES	10,503.6	12,481.8	11.0	1,978.2	18.8
4.	TRAVEL SERVICES	11,390.9	12,431.5	10.9	1,040.6	9.1
5.	FINANCIAL SERVICES	5,759.2	6,189.4	5.4	430.2	7.5
	OTHER SERVICES	13,798.1	14,221.7	12.5	423.6	3.1
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104,633.0</b>	<b>113,714.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9,081.1</b>	<b>8.7</b>

**MERCHANDISE EXPORTS AND IMPORTS IN % AND CURRENT US DOLLARS BY REGION IN 2021**

**N AMERICA**  
EXPORTS  
- up 23.3%  
- \$2.75 trillion  
- 12.4% of world total  
IMPORTS  
- up 23.1%  
- \$3.96 trillion  
- 17.6% of world total

**EUROPE**  
EXPORTS  
- up 22.0%  
- \$7.98 trillion  
- 35.8% of world total  
IMPORTS  
- up 23.0%  
- \$8.00 trillion  
- 35.5% of world total

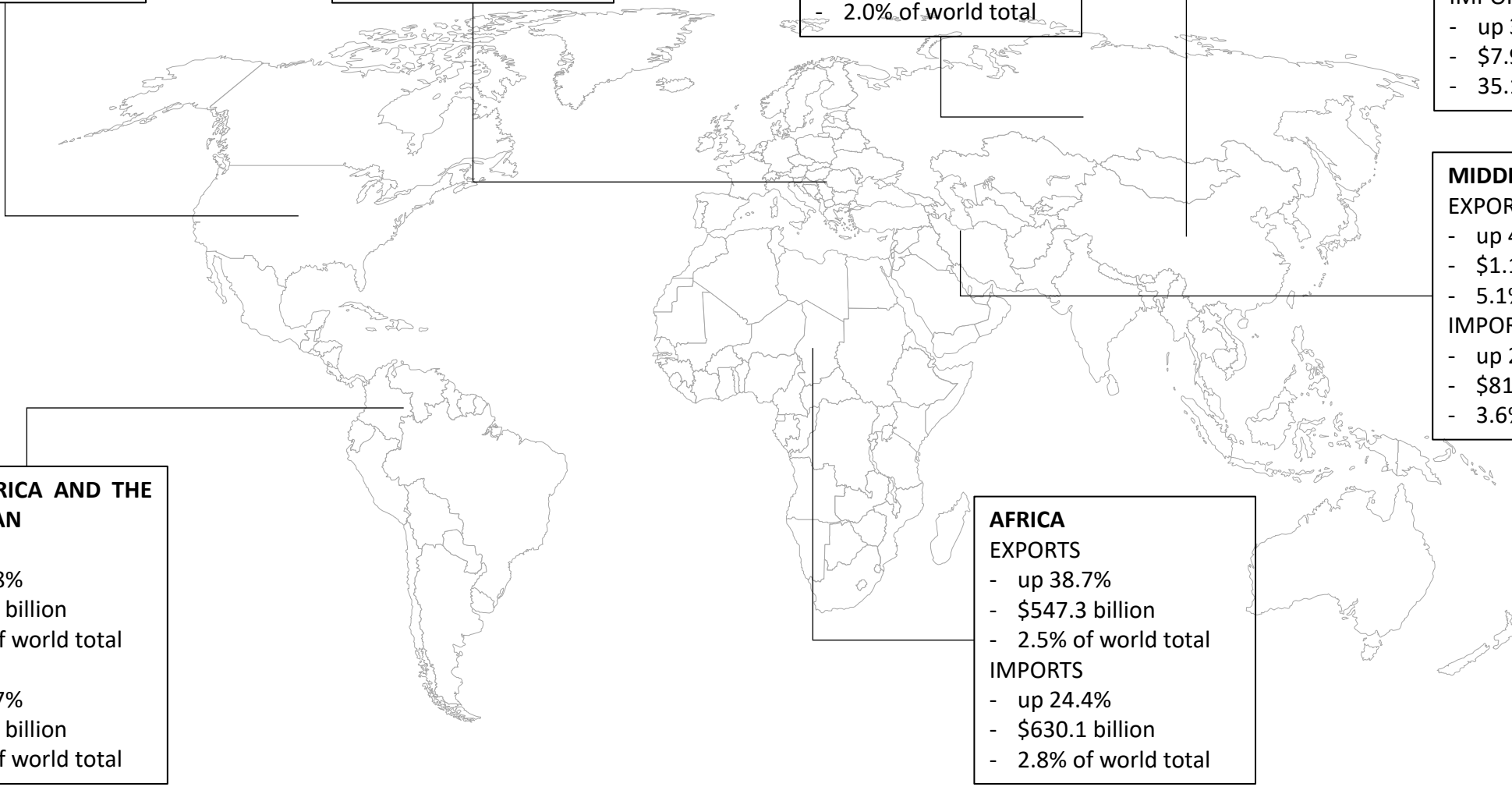
**COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES**  
EXPORTS  
- up 43.8%  
- \$652.3 billion  
- 2.9% of world total  
IMPORTS  
- up 24.6%  
- \$458.8 billion  
- 2.0% of world total

**ASIA**  
EXPORTS  
- up 27.2%  
- \$8.50 trillion  
- 38.2% of world total  
IMPORTS  
- up 30.1%  
- \$7.91 trillion  
- 35.1% of world total






**MIDDLE EAST**  
EXPORTS  
- up 40.5%  
- \$1.13 trillion  
- 5.1% of world total  
IMPORTS  
- up 21.8%  
- \$819.4 billion  
- 3.6% of world total

**S-C AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**  
EXPORTS  
- up 33.8%  
- \$717.9 billion  
- 3.2% of world total  
IMPORTS  
- up 41.7%  
- \$741.6 billion  
- 3.3% of world total

**AFRICA**  
EXPORTS  
- up 38.7%  
- \$547.3 billion  
- 2.5% of world total  
IMPORTS  
- up 24.4%  
- \$630.1 billion  
- 2.8% of world total








## The 5 leading exporters of goods in 2021 were:

	<b>CHINA</b>	\$3.36 trillion or 15.1% of world exports
	<b>UNITED STATES</b>	\$1.75 trillion or 7.9% of world exports
	<b>GERMANY</b>	\$1.63 trillion or 7.3% of world exports
	<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	\$836 billion or 3.8% of world exports
	<b>JAPAN</b>	\$756 billion or 3.4% of world exports

In 2021, **Belgium** still occupied the same position on the list of **world merchandise exporters** as it did the previous year. It ranked in **10<sup>th</sup>** place with a share of 2.4%, before Canada (2.3%), but behind France (2.6%).



## The 5 leading importers of goods in 2021 were:

	<b>UNITED STATES</b>	\$2.94 trillion or 13.0% of world imports
	<b>CHINA</b>	\$2.69 trillion or 11.9% of world imports
	<b>GERMANY</b>	\$1.42 trillion or 6.3% of world imports
	<b>JAPAN</b>	\$769 billion or 3.4% of world imports
	<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	\$757 billion or 3.4% of world imports

In 2021, **Belgium** was down one place on the list of the largest **world merchandise importers** when compared to the previous year. It ranked in **13<sup>th</sup>** place with a share of 2.3%, before Canada (2.2%), but behind Mexico (2.3%).

**SERVICES EXPORTS AND IMPORTS IN % AND CURRENT US DOLLARS BY REGION IN 2021**

**N AMERICA**  
EXPORTS  
- up 10.5%  
- \$903.4 billion  
- 15.0% of world total  
IMPORTS  
- up 16.7%  
- \$685.4 billion  
- 12.3% of world total

**EUROPE**  
EXPORTS  
- up 17.8%  
- \$3.10 trillion  
- 51.5% of world total  
IMPORTS  
- up 13.5%  
- \$2.65 trillion  
- 47.6% of world total

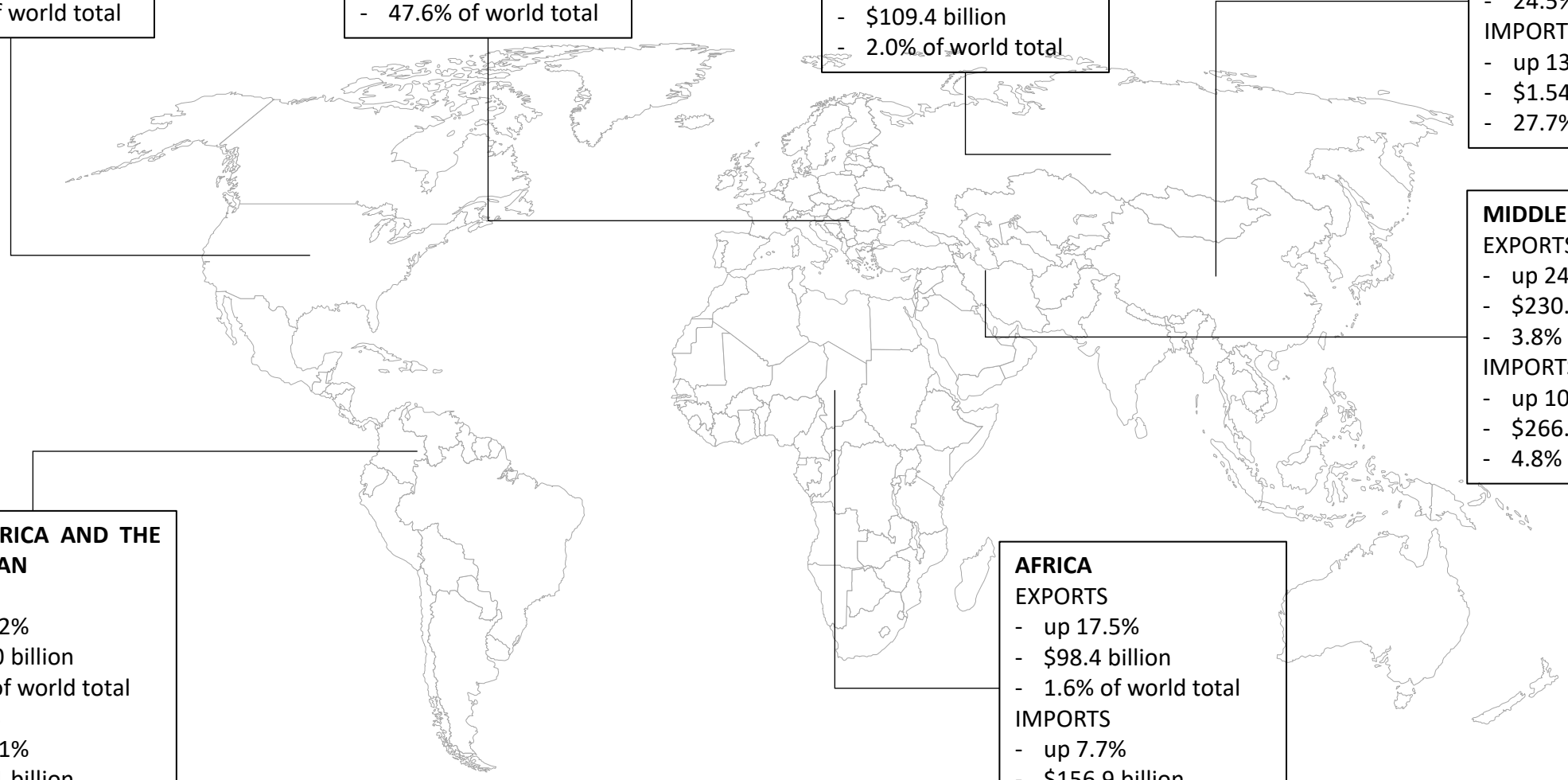
**COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES**  
EXPORTS  
- up 18.8%  
- \$86.2 billion  
- 1.4% of world total  
IMPORTS  
- up 14.8%  
- \$109.4 billion  
- 2.0% of world total

**ASIA**  
EXPORTS  
- up 16.9%  
- \$1.47 trillion  
- 24.5% of world total  
IMPORTS  
- up 13.0%  
- \$1.54 trillion  
- 27.7% of world total

**MIDDLE EAST**  
EXPORTS  
- up 24.3%  
- \$230.5 billion  
- 3.8% of world total  
IMPORTS  
- up 10.0%  
- \$266.2 billion  
- 4.8% of world total

**S-C AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**  
EXPORTS  
- up 18.2%  
- \$128.0 billion  
- 2.1% of world total  
IMPORTS  
- up 19.1%  
- \$158.1 billion  
- 2.8% of world total

**AFRICA**  
EXPORTS  
- up 17.5%  
- \$98.4 billion  
- 1.6% of world total  
IMPORTS  
- up 7.7%  
- \$156.9 billion  
- 2.8% of world total








## The 5 leading services exporters in 2021 were:



<b>UNITED STATES</b>	\$771 billion or 12.8% of world exports
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	\$417 billion or 6.9% of world exports
<b>CHINA</b>	\$394 billion or 6.6% of world exports
<b>GERMANY</b>	\$387 billion or 6.4% of world exports
<b>IRELAND</b>	\$337 billion or 5.6% of world exports

In 2021, **Belgium** lost one place on the list of **world services exporters** when compared to the previous year. It ranked in **12<sup>th</sup>** place with a share of 2.3%, before Switzerland (2.2%), but behind Luxembourg (2.3%).

## The 5 leading services importers in 2021 were:

	<b>UNITED STATES</b>	\$541 billion or 9.7% of world imports
	<b>CHINA</b>	\$427 billion or 7.7% of world imports
	<b>GERMANY</b>	\$386 billion or 6.9% of world imports
	<b>IRELAND</b>	\$340 billion or 6.1% of world imports
	<b>FRANCE</b>	\$261 billion or 4.7% of world imports

In 2021, **Belgium** lost one place on the list of the **world's largest services importers** when compared to the previous year. It ranked in **12<sup>th</sup>** place with a share of 2.4%, before the Republic of Korea (2.2%), but behind Switzerland (2.6%).