



MOST IMPORTANT  
PRODUCTS EXPORTED  
BY BELGIUM  
IN 2020

## Preliminary remarks

The International Trade Centre (<http://www.intracen.org/tradstat/>) regularly provides information on the import and export performance of over 220 countries and territories and examines some 5,300 products of the Harmonized System. This research is done in collaboration with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The most important products exported by Belgium are listed on the website of the ITC under the heading “Exports 2001-2020 International Trade in Goods Statistics by Product Group” and more specifically “Exports” and “Belgium”.

The Belgian Foreign Trade Agency has not only searched for products for which Belgium is a major exporter but has also calculated Belgium’s share in total world exports of each of the selected products.

Using the Intrastat nomenclature (the number precedes the product) the different products for which Belgium is the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> exporter are mentioned in descending order of importance.

The presence of non-typical Belgian products on the list of the most exported products can be explained by the fact that export data are based on the community concept that, contrary to the national concept, takes into consideration the import and export transactions carried out by VAT registered non-residents without the intervention of residents. Returned goods are also taken into account.

## Did you know that in 2020:

**Belgium was the 1<sup>st</sup> exporter of:**

Code + description of the product	Belgian exports in 1 000 USD	World exports in 1 000 USD	Share of Belgium in %
<b><u>7405</u></b> Master alloys of copper	81 731	261 420	31.3
<b><u>8446</u></b> Weaving machines (looms)	438 720	1 435 164	30.6
<b><u>7903</u></b> Zinc dust, powders and flakes	116 487	450 105	25.9
<b><u>2004</u></b> Other vegetables prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid, frozen, other than products of heading 2006	2 094 476	8 362 029	25.0
<b><u>9602</u></b> Worked vegetable or mineral carving material and articles of these materials; moulded or carved articles of wax, of stearin, of natural gums or natural resins or of modelling pastes, and other moulded or carved articles, not elsewhere specified or included; worked, unhardened gelatin (except gelatin of heading 3503) and articles of unhardened gelatin	220 438	911 016	24.2
<b><u>2518</u></b> Dolomite, whether or not calcined or sintered, including dolomite roughly trimmed or merely cut, by sawing or otherwise, into blocks or slabs of a rectangular (including square) shape; dolomite ramming mix	92 126	410 187	22.5
<b><u>0710</u></b> Vegetables (uncooked or cooked by steaming or boiling in water), frozen	1 253 601	6 866 255	18.3
<b><u>5505</u></b> Waste (including noils, yarn waste and garnetted stock) of man-made fibres	24 346	139 155	17.5
<b><u>0205</u></b> Meat of horses, asses, mules or hinnies, fresh, chilled or frozen	53 375	360 643	14.8
<b><u>3211</u></b> Prepared driers	26 748	199 022	13.4

## Belgium was the 2<sup>nd</sup> exporter of:

Code + description of the product	Belgian exports in 1 000 USD	World exports in 1 000 USD	Share of Belgium in %
<b>5301</b> Flax, raw or processed but not spun; flax tow and waste (including yarn waste and garnetted stock)	210 233	731 325	28.7%
<b>2708</b> Pitch and pitch coke, obtained from coal tar or from other mineral tars	135 877	590 390	23.0%
<b>6906</b> Ceramic pipes, conduits, guttering and pipe fittings	18 770	92 100	20.4%
<b>7904</b> Zinc bars, rods, profiles and wire	21 465	108 569	19.8%
<b>5502</b> Artificial filament tow	213 855	1 137 197	18.8%
<b>5704</b> Carpets and other textile floor coverings, of felt, not tufted or flocked, whether or not made up	91 553	520 510	17.6%
<b>2808</b> Nitric acid; sulphonitric acids	43 638	256 439	17.0%
<b>3820</b> Anti-freezing preparations and prepared de-icing fluids	169 952	1 036 373	16.4%
<b>3101</b> Animal or vegetable fertilisers, whether or not mixed together or chemically treated; fertilisers produced by the mixing or chemical treatment of animal or vegetable products	139 574	921 638	15.1%
<b>5905</b> Textile wall coverings	12 845	96 871	13.3%
<b>7001</b> Cullet and other waste and scrap of glass; glass in the mass	50 289	394 578	12.7%
<b>2847</b> Hydrogen peroxide, whether or not solidified with urea	89 544	749 733	11.9%
<b>7406</b> Copper powders and flakes	166 530	1 441 563	11.6%

<b>2509</b> Chalk	8 396	83 352	10.1%
<b>6904</b> Ceramic building bricks, flooring blocks, support or filler tiles and the like	167 374	1 746 611	9.6%
<b>2815</b> Sodium hydroxide (caustic soda); potassium hydroxide (caustic potash); peroxides of sodium or potassium	363 523	3 905 284	9.3%
<b>5605</b> Metallised yarn, whether or not gimped, being textile yarn, or strip or the like of heading 5404 or 5405, combined with metal in the form of thread, strip or powder or covered with metal	18 727	204 867	9.1%
<b>1806</b> Chocolate and other food preparations containing cocoa	2 503 920	28 042 556	8.9%
<b>7016</b> Paving blocks, slabs, bricks, squares, tiles and other articles of pressed or moulded glass, whether or not wired, of a kind used for building or construction purposes; glass cubes and other glass smallwares, whether or not on a backing, for mosaics or similar decorative purposes; leaded lights and the like; multicellular or foam glass in blocks, panels, plates, shells or similar forms	74 255	1 022 761	7.3%
<b>3918</b> Floor coverings of plastics, whether or not self-adhesive, in rolls or in the form of tiles; wall or ceiling coverings of plastics, as defined in note 9 to this chapter	708 354	11 643 711	6.1%

### Belgium was the 3<sup>rd</sup> exporter of:

Code + description of the product	Belgian exports in 1 000 USD	World exports in 1 000 USD	Share of Belgium in %
<b>2911</b> Acetals and hemiacetals, whether or not with other oxygen function, and their halogenated, sulphonated, nitrated or nitrosated derivatives	10 862	72 968	14.9
<b>1109</b> Wheat gluten, whether or not dried	177 588	1 303 461	13.6
<b>3702</b> Photographic film in rolls, sensitised, unexposed, of any material other than paper, paperboard or textiles; instant print film in rolls, sensitised, unexposed	174 380	1 322 426	13.2

<b>2203</b> Beer made from malt	1 974 346	14 994 334	13.2
<b>5703</b> Carpets and other textile floor coverings, tufted, whether or not made up	780 104	6 492 914	12.0
<b>2921</b> Amine-function compounds	865 349	7 596 483	11.4
<b>7219</b> Flat-rolled products of stainless steel, of a width of 600 mm or more	2 538 234	25 201 634	10.1
<b>3826</b> Biodiesel and mixtures thereof, not containing or containing less than 70 % by weight of petroleum oils or oils obtained from bituminous minerals	1 543 584	15 778 376	9.8
<b>2105</b> Ice cream and other edible ice, whether or not containing cocoa	415 577	4 347 592	9.6
<b>0506</b> Bones and horn-cores, unworked, defatted, simply prepared (but not cut to shape), treated with acid or degelatinised; powder and waste of these products	27 383	290 177	9.4
<b>1107</b> Malt, whether or not roasted	321 402	3 424 305	9.4
<b>2922</b> Oxygen-function amino-compounds	1 291 077	14 464 220	8.9
<b>1517</b> Margarine; edible mixtures or preparations of animal or vegetable fats or oils or of fractions of different fats or oils of this chapter, other than edible fats or oils or their fractions of heading 1516	503 261	5 742 248	8.8
<b>2619</b> Slag, dross (other than granulated slag), scalings and other waste from the manufacture of iron or steel	23 627	277 042	8.5
<b>4814</b> Wallpaper and similar wallcoverings; window transparencies of paper	125 504	1 519 092	8.3
<b>0106</b> Other live animals	94 683	1 162 203	8.1
<b>3214</b> Glaziers' putty, grafting putty, resin cements, caulking compounds and other mastics; painters' fillings; non-refractory surfacing preparations for façades, indoor walls, floors, ceilings or the like	664 020	8 317 860	8.0

<b>0401</b> Milk and cream, not concentrated nor containing added sugar or other sweetening matter	685 068	8 750 840	7.8
<b>2707</b> Oils and other products of the distillation of high temperature coal tar; similar products in which the weight of the aromatic constituents exceeds that of the non-aromatic constituents	1 493 945	20 026 345	7.5
<b>3006</b> Pharmaceutical goods specified in note 4 to this chapter	1 107 192	15 020 278	7.4
<b>7408</b> Copper wire	1 150 225	15 735 920	7.3
<b>0403</b> Buttermilk, curdled milk and cream, yogurt, kephir and other fermented or acidified milk and cream, whether or not concentrated or containing added sugar or other sweetening matter or flavoured or containing added fruit, nuts or cocoa	289 358	4 419 287	6.5
<b>6308</b> Sets consisting of woven fabric and yarn, whether or not with accessories, for making up into rugs, tapestries, embroidered tablecloths or serviettes, or similar textile articles, put up in packings for retail sale	5 874	92 652	6.3
<b>5309</b> Woven fabrics of flax	65 635	1 160 953	5.7
<b>2822</b> Cobalt oxides and hydroxides; commercial cobalt oxides	102 010	3 564 861	2.9
<b>0601</b> Bulbs, tubers, tuberous roots, corms, crowns and rhizomes, dormant, in growth or in flower; chicory plants and roots other than roots of heading 1212	45 732	1 763 848	2.6

### Belgium was the 4<sup>th</sup> exporter of:

Code + description of the product	Belgian exports in 1 000 USD	World exports in 1 000 USD	Share of Belgium in %
<b>8710</b> Tanks and other armoured fighting vehicles, motorised, whether or not fitted with weapons, and parts of such vehicles	820 062	5 147 807	15.9

<b>8475</b> Machines for assembling electric or electronic lamps, tubes or valves or flashbulbs, in glass envelopes; machines for manufacturing or hot working glass or glassware	713 380	5 212 919	13.7
<b>1105</b> Flour, meal, powder, flakes, granules and pellets of potatoes	101 234	764 468	13.2
<b>2831</b> Dithionites and sulphonylates	26 164	215 748	12.1
<b>3701</b> Photographic plates and film in the flat, sensitised, unexposed, of any material other than paper, paperboard or textiles; instant print film in the flat, sensitised, unexposed, whether or not in packs	443 324	3 769 952	11.8
<b>3601</b> Propellant powders	34 511	311 126	11.1
<b>7102</b> Diamonds, whether or not worked, but not mounted or set	8 176 071	74 280 477	11.0
<b>8707</b> Bodies (including cabs), for the motor vehicles of headings 8701 to 8705	711 981	6 506 021	10.9
<b>2801</b> Fluorine, chlorine, bromine and iodine	171 918	1 647 412	10.4
<b>1505</b> Wool grease and fatty substances derived therefrom (including lanolin)	18 173	181 175	10.0
<b>2933</b> Heterocyclic compounds with nitrogen hetero-atom(s) only	7 832 755	78 353 968	10.0
<b>2937</b> Hormones, prostaglandins, thromboxanes and leukotrienes, natural or reproduced by synthesis; derivatives and structural analogues thereof, including chain modified polypeptides, used primarily as hormones	1 961 379	20 378 773	9.6
<b>6811</b> Articles of asbestos-cement, of cellulose fibre-cement or the like	108 821	1 211 149	9.0
<b>3503</b> Gelatin (including gelatin in rectangular (including square) sheets, whether or not surface-worked or coloured) and gelatin derivatives; isinglass; other glues of animal origin, excluding casein glues of heading 3501	175 939	2 011 642	8.7
<b>3813</b> Preparations and charges for fire-extinguishers; charged fire-extinguishing grenades	20 434	239 946	8.5
<b>1603</b> Extracts and juices of meat, fish or crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates	25 910	324 747	8.0
<b>1204</b> Linseed, whether or not broken	74 919	979 165	7.7



<b>3909</b> Amino-resins, phenolic resins and polyurethanes, in primary forms	1 116 249	14 742 217	7.6
<b>2505</b> Natural sands of all kinds, whether or not coloured, other than metalbearing sands of Chapter 26	113 089	1 506 532	7.5
<b>8002</b> Tin waste and scrap	4 992	67 115	7.4
<b>5702</b> Carpets and other textile floor coverings, woven, not tufted or flocked, whether or not made up, including 'Kelem', 'Schumacks', 'Karamanie' and similar hand-woven rugs	340 769	4 750 380	7.2
<b>8433</b> Harvesting or threshing machinery, including straw or fodder balers; grass or hay mowers; machines for cleaning, sorting or grading eggs, fruit or other agricultural produce, other than machinery of heading 8437	1 366 614	21 065 226	6.5
<b>1506</b> Other animal fats and oils and their fractions, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified	35 411	554 008	6.4
<b>3908</b> Polyamides in primary forms	778 190	12 246 812	6.4
<b>2917</b> Polycarboxylic acids, their anhydrides, halides, peroxides and peroxyacids; their halogenated, sulphonated, nitrated or nitrosated derivatives	619 932	9 818 371	6.3
<b>2003</b> Mushrooms and truffles, prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid	101 902	1 648 408	6.2
<b>2522</b> Quicklime, slaked lime and hydraulic lime, other than calcium oxide and hydroxide of heading 2825	61 349	1 006 716	6.1
<b>7212</b> Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of less than 600 mm, clad, plated or coated	233 215	3 932 542	5.9
<b>4406</b> Railway or tramway sleepers (cross-ties) of wood	19 002	333 795	5.7
<b>3819</b> Hydraulic brake fluids and other prepared liquids for hydraulic transmission, not containing or containing less than 70 % by weight of petroleum oils or oils obtained from bituminous minerals	42 346	748 582	5.7
<b>7210</b> Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of 600 mm or more, clad, plated or coated	2 352 314	42 581 510	5.5
<b>1514</b> Rape, colza or mustard oil and fractions thereof, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified	421 207	7 783 406	5.4
<b>7019</b> Glass fibres (including glass wool) and articles thereof (for example, yarn, woven fabrics)	563 508	11 396 178	4.9

<b>5906</b> Rubberised textile fabrics, other than those of heading 5902	68 571	1 395 143	4.9
<b>7608</b> Aluminium tubes and pipes	92 875	1 988 181	4.7
<b>1501</b> Pig fat (including lard) and poultry fat, other than that of heading 0209 or 1503	34 366	770 005	4.5
<b>0602</b> Other live plants (including their roots), cuttings and slips; mushroom spawn	454 922	10 609 839	4.3
<b>7105</b> Dust and powder of natural or synthetic precious or semi-precious stones	13 962	327 007	4.3
<b>7401</b> Copper mattes; cement copper (precipitated copper)	34 868	818 475	4.3
<b>5303</b> Jute and other textile bast fibres (excluding flax, true hemp and ramie), raw or processed but not spun; tow and waste of these fibres (including yarn waste and garnetted stock)	4 411	168 003	2.6

### Belgium was the 5<sup>th</sup> exporter of:

Code + description of the product	Belgian exports in 1 000 USD	World exports in 1 000 USD	Share of Belgium in %
<b>3002</b> Human blood; animal blood prepared for therapeutic, prophylactic or diagnostic uses; antisera, other blood fractions and immunological products, whether or not modified or obtained by means of biotechnological processes; vaccines, toxins, cultures of micro-organisms (excluding yeasts) and similar products	20 676 950	225 016 102	9.2
<b>0405</b> Butter and other fats and oils derived from milk; dairy spreads	603 008	8 538 915	7.1
<b>8106</b> Bismuth and articles thereof, including waste and scrap	5 210	75 364	6.9
<b>2517</b> Pebbles, gravel, broken or crushed stone, of a kind commonly used for concrete aggregates, for road metalling or for railway or other ballast, shingle and flint, whether or not heat-treated; macadam of slag, dross or similar industrial	197 643	3 042 299	6.5

waste, whether or not incorporating the materials cited in the first part of the heading; tarred macadam; granules, chippings and powder, of stones of heading 2515 or 2516, whether or not heat-treated			
<b>2915</b> Saturated acyclic monocarboxylic acids and their anhydrides, halides, peroxides and peroxyacids; their halogenated, sulphonated, nitrated or nitrosated derivatives	690 541	11 068 626	6.2
<b>7209</b> Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of 600 mm or more, cold-rolled (cold-reduced), not clad, plated or coated	696 973	11 187 641	6.2
<b>7104</b> Synthetic or reconstructed precious or semi-precious stones, whether or not worked or graded but not strung, mounted or set; ungraded synthetic or reconstructed precious or semi-precious stones, temporarily strung for convenience of transport	155 402	2 530 418	6.1
<b>3004</b> Medicaments (excluding goods of heading 3002, 3005 or 3006) consisting of mixed or unmixed products for therapeutic or prophylactic uses, put up in measured doses (including those in the form of transdermal administration systems) or in forms or packings for retail sale	24 113 014	392 930 766	6.1
<b>4411</b> Fibreboard of wood or other ligneous materials, whether or not bonded with resins or other organic substances	586 781	9 687 442	6.1
<b>3802</b> Activated carbon; activated natural mineral products; animal black, including spent animal black	147 970	2 493 398	5.9
<b>2935</b> Sulphonamides	564 894	9 661 565	5.8
<b>1704</b> Sugar confectionery (including white chocolate), not containing cocoa	605 265	10 748 828	5.6
<b>8001</b> Unwrought tin	188 094	3 374 920	5.6
<b>2835</b> Phosphinates (hypophosphites), phosphonates (phosphites) and phosphates; polyphosphates, whether or not chemically defined	175 879	3 325 481	5.3
<b>3206</b> Other colouring matter; preparations as specified in note 3 to this chapter, other than those of heading 3203, 3204 or 3205; inorganic products of a kind used as luminophores, whether or not chemically defined	651 025	12 434 027	5.2
<b>2817</b> Zinc oxide; zinc peroxide	63 118	1 214 784	5.2
<b>2834</b> Nitrites; nitrates	47 323	922 171	5.1
<b>2806</b> Hydrogen chloride (hydrochloric acid); chlorosulphuric acid	13 915	275 419	5.1

<b>1108</b> Starches; inulin	217 635	4 348 129	5.0
<b>3402</b> Organic surface-active agents (other than soap); surface-active preparations, washing preparations (including auxiliary washing preparations) and cleaning preparations, whether or not containing soap, other than those of heading 3401	1 602 096	32 216 214	5.0
<b>4415</b> Packing cases, boxes, crates, drums and similar packings, of wood; cabledrums of wood; pallets, box pallets and other load boards, of wood; pallet collars of wood	180 872	3 697 547	4.9
<b>3703</b> Photographic paper, paperboard and textiles, sensitised, unexposed	15 669	332 870	4.7
<b>2207</b> Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of 80 % vol or higher; ethyl alcohol and other spirits, denatured, of any strength	452 764	10 071 255	4.5
<b>7314</b> Cloth (including endless bands), grill, netting and fencing, of iron or steel wire; expanded metal of iron or steel	227 611	5 423 319	4.2
<b>5801</b> Woven pile fabrics and chenille fabrics, other than fabrics of heading 5802 or 5806	76 828	1 864 864	4.1
<b>6502</b> Hat-shapes, plaited or made by assembling strips of any material, neither blocked to shape, nor with made brims, nor lined, nor trimmed	336	15 361	2.2
<b>5102</b> Fine or coarse animal hair, not carded or combed	3 810	293 107	1.3

Source: <http://www.intracen.org/tradstat/>

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**Additional information:**  
**Belgian Foreign Trade Agency**  
**Rue Montoyer 3**  
**1000 Brussels**

**Statistics Department**

**Christelle Charlier**

Director

☎ +32 2 206 35 78

[christelle.charlier@abh-ace.be](mailto:christelle.charlier@abh-ace.be)

**Dennis Gijsbrechts**

International Trade Analyst

☎ +32 2 206 35 73

[dennis.gijsbrechts@abh-ace.be](mailto:dennis.gijsbrechts@abh-ace.be)

**Cédric Cludts**

International Trade Analyst

☎ +32 2 206 35 64

[cedric.cludts@abh-ace.be](mailto:cedric.cludts@abh-ace.be)

