

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 2001-2022 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 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th 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 2022:

Belgium was the 1st exporter of:

Code + description of the product	Belgian exports in 1 000 USD	World exports in 1 000 USD	Share of Belgium in %
7405 Master alloys of copper	114 222	262 952	43,4
8446 Weaving machines (looms)	672 579	2 079 384	32,3
7904 Zinc bars, rods, profiles and wire	34 333	114 428	30,0
2004 Other vegetables prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid, frozen	3 143 045	11 494 039	27,3
2808 Nitric acid; sulphonitric acids	160 244	601 492	26,6
1506 Other animal fats and oils and their fractions, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified	120 344	555 059	21,7
7903 Zinc dust, powders and flakes	131 377	612 255	21,5
5505 Waste (including noils, yarn waste and garnetted stock) of man-made fibres	51 255	251 145	20,4
<u>3002</u> 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; cell cultures, whether or not modified	61 559 407	326 522 275	18,9
2518 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	87 481	509 607	17,2

0205 Meat of horses, asses, mules or hinnies, fresh, chilled or frozen	53 695	328 661	16,3
2907 Phenols; phenol-alcohols	861 868	6 933 098	12,4
1107 Malt, whether or not roasted	546 390	4 523 188	12,1
2847 Hydrogen peroxide, whether or not solidified with urea	124 233	1 028 630	12,1
3211 Prepared driers	24 676	227 385	10,9

Belgium was the 2nd exporter of:

Code + description of the product	Belgian exports in 1 000 USD	World exports in 1 000 USD	Share of Belgium in %
5301 Flax, raw or processed but not spun; flax tow and waste (including yarn waste and garnetted stock)	499 287	1 227 562	40,7
5704 Carpets and other textile floor coverings, of felt, not tufted or flocked, whether or not made up	125 595	590 706	21,3
0710 Vegetables (uncooked or cooked by steaming or boiling in water), frozen	1 265 961	7 222 463	17,5
3820 Anti-freezing preparations and prepared de-icing fluids	239 558	1 454 837	16,5
2911 Acetals and hemiacetals, whether or not with other oxygen function, and their halogenated, sulphonated, nitrated or nitrosated derivatives	12 818	78 840	16,3

9602 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	174 818	1 096 009	16,0
specified or included; worked, unhardened gelatin (except gelatin of heading 3503) and articles of unhardened gelatin 2708 Pitch and pitch coke, obtained from coal tar or from other mineral tars	225 539	1 467 753	15,4
3826 Biodiesel and mixtures thereof, not containing or containing less than 70 % by weight of petroleum oils or oils obtained from bituminous minerals	6 012 980	39 856 424	15,1
5502 Artificial filament tow	153 776	1 064 658	14,4
2801 Fluorine, chlorine, bromine and iodine	350 474	2 488 977	14,1
2921 Amine-function compounds	1 765 389	12 540 813	14,1
5905 Textile wall coverings	18 899	137 363	13,8
1109 Wheat gluten, whether or not dried	279 479	2 063 669	13,5
2915 Saturated acyclic monocarboxylic acids and their anhydrides, halides, peroxides and peroxyacids; their halogenated, sulphonated, nitrated or nitrosated derivatives	2 566 529	19 954 183	12,9
8707 Bodies (including cabs), for the motor vehicles of headings 8701 to 8705	1 034 778	8 158 030	12,7
2605 Cobalt ores and concentrates	5 618	44 693	12,6
2707 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	5 076 174	40 161 821	12,6
<u>2509</u> Chalk	9 403	85 151	11,0
2930 Organo-sulphur compounds	922 184	8 426 125	10,9

2916 Unsaturated acyclic monocarboxylic acids, cyclic monocarboxylic acids, their anhydrides, halides, peroxides and peroxyacids; their halogenated, sulphonated, nitrated or nitrosated derivatives	1 321 093	12 844 858	10,3
1806 Chocolate and other food preparations containing cocoa	3 175 933	31 617 053	10,0
3902 Polymers of propylene or of other olefins, in primary forms	5 076 497	50 629 991	10,0
3006 Pharmaceutical goods	1 817 726	18 948 197	9,6
0401 Milk and cream, not concentrated nor containing added sugar or other sweetening matter	1 035 510	10 768 686	9,6
1517 Margarine; edible mixtures or preparations of animal, vegetable or microbial fats or oils or of fractions of different fats or oils of this chapter, other than edible fats or oils or their fractions	898 231	9 469 887	9,5
7901 Unwrought zinc	1 601 992	17 592 781	9,1
6904 Ceramic building bricks, flooring blocks, support or filler tiles and the like	265 231	2 983 407	8,9
7408 Copper wire	1 856 344	22 621 336	8,2
2922 Oxygen-function amino-compounds	1 255 303	17 855 123	7,0

Belgium was the 3rd exporter of:

Code + description of the product	Belgian	World	Share of
	exports	exports	Belgium
	in 1 000 USD	in 1 000 USD	in %
6906 Ceramic pipes, conduits, guttering and pipe fittings	17 314	94 500	18,3

	131 745	855 699	15,4
1105 Flour, meal, powder, flakes, granules and pellets of potatoes	131 743	033 033	15,4
3101 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	146 168	1 131 235	12,9
5703 Carpets and other textile floor coverings (including turf), tufted, whether or not made up	795 392	6 766 442	11,8
7219 Flat-rolled products of stainless steel, of a width of 600 mm or more	5 020 477	45 321 113	11,1
8475 Machines for assembling electric or electronic lamps, tubes or valves or flashbulbs, in glass envelopes; machines for manufacturing or hot working glass or glassware	713 500	6 491 371	11,0
3903 Polymers of styrene, in primary forms	2 408 764	22 959 312	10,5
3702 Photographic film in rolls, sensitised, unexposed, of any material other than paper, paperboard or textiles; instant print film in rolls, sensitised, unexposed	147 297	1 435 269	10,3
2203 Beer made from malt	1 605 120	15 706 527	10,2
3909 Amino-resins, phenolic resins and polyurethanes, in primary forms	2 313 271	22 593 726	10,2
1505 Wool grease and fatty substances derived therefrom (including lanolin)	23 900	250 801	9,5
3813 Preparations and charges for fire-extinguishers; charged fire- extinguishing grenades	30 254	318 824	9,5
2815 Sodium hydroxide (caustic soda); potassium hydroxide (caustic potash); peroxides of sodium or potassium	917 493	9 838 695	9,3
7209 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	1 676 029	18 249 731	9,2

2914 Ketones and quinones, whether or not with other oxygen function, and their halogenated, sulphonated, nitrated or nitrosated derivatives	605 747	6 999 930	8,7
<u>5605</u> 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	19 192	220 613	8,7
2105 Ice cream and other edible ice, whether or not containing cocoa	430 065	4 994 760	8,6
2102 Yeasts (active or inactive); other single-cell micro-organisms, dead (but not including vaccines of heading 3002); prepared baking powders	230 499	2 768 641	8,3
<u>0506</u> Bones and horn-cores, unworked, defatted, simply prepared (but not cut to shape), treated with acid or degelatinised; powder and waste of these products	27 065	332 862	8,1
<u>3004</u> 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	34 553 263	426 338 530	8,1
<u>0403</u> Yogurt; buttermilk, curdled milk and cream, 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	346 187	4 382 640	7,9
4814 Wallpaper and similar wallcoverings; window transparencies of paper	116 084	1 575 635	7,4
<u>3214</u> 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	712 385	10 102 725	7,1
3901 Polymers of ethylene, in primary forms	7 017 894	100 470 546	7,0
7210 Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of 600 mm or more, clad, plated or coated	4 666 485	67 443 374	6,9
3918 Floor coverings of plastics, whether or not self-adhesive, in rolls or in the form of tiles; wall or ceiling coverings of plastics	961 205	14 246 252	6,7

2820 Manganese oxides	24 248	375 748	6,5
6404 Footwear with outer soles of rubber, plastics, leather or composition leather and uppers of textile materials	3 306 881	54 145 097	6,1
<u>7016</u> 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	73 504	1 290 715	5,7
<u>3212</u> Pigments (including metallic powders and flakes) dispersed in non- aqueous media, in liquid or paste form, of a kind used in the manufacture of paints (including enamels); stamping foils; dyes and other colouring matter put up in forms or packings for retail sale	121 429	2 219 933	5,5
1515 Other fixed vegetable or microbial fats and oils (including jojoba oil) and their fractions, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified	260 364	5 309 695	4,9
5309 Woven fabrics of flax	80 815	1 932 801	4,2
7401 Copper mattes; cement copper (precipitated copper)	44 613	1 350 646	3,3
<u>0601</u> Bulbs, tubers, tuberous roots, corms, crowns and rhizomes, dormant, in growth or in flower; chicory plants and roots	47 862	1 944 457	2,5
2822 Cobalt oxides and hydroxides; commercial cobalt oxides	183 086	8 672 213	2,1

Belgium was the 4th exporter of:

Code + description of the product	Belgian exports in 1 000 USD	World exports in 1 000 USD	Share of Belgium in %
1204 Linseed, whether or not broken	166 128	1 517 833	10,9
2831 Dithionites and sulphoxylates	35 929	340 027	10,6
<u>3701</u> 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	451 892	4 256 838	10,6
7001 Cullet and other waste and scrap of glass, excluding glass from cathode- ray tubes or other activated glass of heading 8549; glass in the mass	59 641	576 870	10,3
<u>3206</u> 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	1 633 697	16 096 561	10,1
4406 Railway or tramway sleepers (cross-ties) of wood	31 739	323 386	9,8
1501 Pig fat (including lard) and poultry fat	101 539	1 094 847	9,3
0405 Butter and other fats and oils derived from milk; dairy spreads	993 886	11 836 619	8,4
3703 Photographic paper, paperboard and textiles, sensitised, unexposed	32 772	396 294	8,3
2935 Sulphonamides	708 527	8 675 035	8,2
<u>2620</u> Slag, ash and residues (other than from the manufacture of iron or steel), containing metals, arsenic or their compounds	297 979	3 707 382	8,0
<u>3402</u> Organic surface-active agents (other than soap); surface-active preparations, washing preparations (including auxiliary washing preparations) and cleaning preparations, whether or not containing soap	2 863 819	35 713 586	8,0

3908 Polyamides in primary forms	1 469 878	18 272 116	8,0
3910 Silicones in primary forms	682 861	8 491 155	8,0
<u>3503</u> 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	178 974	2 319 692	7,7
6811 Articles of asbestos-cement, of cellulose fibre-cement or the like	116 814	1 526 600	7,7
2401 Unmanufactured tobacco; tobacco refuse	783 724	10 352 881	7,6
1108 Starches; inulin	443 920	5 935 213	7,5
<u>5702</u> 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	373 830	5 022 836	7,4
7225 Flat-rolled products of other alloy steel, of a width of 600 mm or more	2 765 897	37 852 641	7,3
0208 Other meat and edible meat offal, fresh, chilled or frozen	52 789	732 048	7,2
3802 Activated carbon; activated natural mineral products; animal black, including spent animal black	225 947	3 226 689	7,0
8433 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	1 956 085	27 791 203	7,0
0106 Other live animals	97 625	1 387 921	7,0
3912 Cellulose and its chemical derivatives, not elsewhere specified or included, in primary forms	488 073	7 054 895	6,9
<u>8105</u> Cobalt mattes and other intermediate products of cobalt metallurgy; cobalt and articles thereof, including waste and scrap	238 300	3 449 619	6,9
1801 Cocoa beans, whole or broken, raw or roasted	575 267	8 449 499	6,8

1904 Prepared foods obtained by the swelling or roasting of cereals or cereal products (for example, corn flakes); cereals (other than maize (corn)) in grain form or in the form of flakes or other worked grains (except flour, groats and meal), pre-cooked or otherwise prepared, not elsewhere specified or included	518 981	7 613 285	6,8
1905 Bread, pastry, cakes, biscuits and other bakers' wares, whether or not containing cocoa; communion wafers, empty cachets of a kind suitable for pharmaceutical use, sealing wafers, rice paper and similar products	2 973 825	45 804 461	6,5
2619 Slag, dross (other than granulated slag), scalings and other waste from the manufacture of iron or steel	31 851	490 041	6,5
5503 Synthetic staple fibres, not carded, combed or otherwise processed for spinning	448 379	7 041 111	6,4
1210 Hop cones, fresh or dried, whether or not ground, powdered or in the form of pellets; lupulin	46 841	751 475	6,2
1205 Rape or colza seeds, whether or not broken	1 024 119	16 755 078	6,1
2920 Esters of other inorganic acids of non-metals (excluding esters of hydrogen halides) and their salts; their halogenated, sulphonated, nitrated or nitrosated derivatives	134 454	2 208 679	6,1
2505 Natural sands of all kinds, whether or not coloured, other than metal- bearing sands	100 970	1 725 511	5,9
2828 Hypochlorites; commercial calcium hypochlorite; chlorites; hypobromites	39 609	676 221	5,9
2901 Acyclic hydrocarbons	1 568 890	27 089 815	5,8
1518 Animal, vegetable or microbial fats and oils and their fractions, boiled, oxidised, dehydrated, sulphurised, blown, polymerised by heat in vacuum or in inert gas or otherwise chemically modified, excluding those of heading 1516; inedible mixtures or preparations of animal, vegetable or microbial fats or oils or of fractions of different fats or oils of this chapter, not elsewhere specified or included	551 573	9 746 178	5,7
2522 Quicklime, slaked lime and hydraulic lime, other than calcium oxide and hydroxide	69 865	1 232 184	5,7
8506 Primary cells and primary batteries	491 461	8 606 665	5,7
<u>2201</u> Waters, including natural or artificial mineral waters and aerated waters, not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter nor flavoured; ice and snow	227 771	4 114 713	5,5

7019 Glass fibres (including glass wool) and articles thereof (for example, yarn, rovings, woven fabrics)	763 513	14 268 668	5,4
7608 Aluminium tubes and pipes	139 925	2 604 735	5,4
2806 Hydrogen chloride (hydrochloric acid); chlorosulphuric acid	23 033	445 243	5,2
6308 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	4 343	82 836	5,2
2003 Mushrooms and truffles, prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid	121 321	2 445 126	5,0
2917 Polycarboxylic acids, their anhydrides, halides, peroxides and peroxyacids; their halogenated, sulphonated, nitrated or nitrosated derivatives	890 615	17 738 990	5,0
7208 Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of 600 mm or more, hot-rolled, not clad, plated or coated	3 679 653	73 106 227	5,0
<u>2835</u> Phosphinates (hypophosphites), phosphonates (phosphites) and phosphates; polyphosphates, whether or not chemically defined	269 197	5 524 594	4,9
7212 Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of less than 600 mm, clad, plated or coated	393 113	7 948 887	4,9
7007 Safety glass, consisting of toughened (tempered) or laminated glass	526 279	11 380 256	4,6
2931 Other organo-inorganic compounds	499 872	12 097 076	4,1
5303 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)	4 252	264 379	1,6

Belgium was the 5th exporter of:

Code + description of the product	Belgian exports in 1 000 USD	World exports in 1 000 USD	Share of Belgium in %
7102 Diamonds, whether or not worked, but not mounted or set	12 613 028	119 607 212	10,5
3601 Propellent powders	41 582	412 772	10,1
2929 Compounds with other nitrogen function	646 240	6 750 033	9,6
3811 Anti-knock preparations, oxidation inhibitors, gum inhibitors, viscosity improvers, anti-corrosive preparations and other prepared additives, for mineral oils (including gasoline) or for other liquids used for the same purposes as mineral oils	1 163 240	14 252 620	8,2
5202 Cotton waste (including yarn waste and garnetted stock)	39 689	482 874	8,2
1603 Extracts and juices of meat, fish or crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates	18 453	231 455	8,0
2910 Epoxides, epoxyalcohols, epoxyphenols and epoxyethers, with a three- membered ring, and their halogenated, sulphonated, nitrated or nitrosated derivatives	311 487	4 063 575	7,7
<u>3403</u> Lubricating preparations (including cutting-oil preparations, bolt or nut release preparations, anti-rust or anti-corrosion preparations and mould-release preparations, based on lubricants) and preparations of a kind used for the oil or grease treatment of textile materials, leather, furskins or other materials, but excluding preparations containing, as basic constituents, 70 % or more by weight of petroleum oils or of oils obtained from bituminous minerals	786 988	10 617 847	7,4
3905 Polymers of vinyl acetate or of other vinyl esters, in primary forms; other vinyl polymers in primary forms	495 664	6 842 027	7,2
2937 Hormones, prostaglandins, thromboxanes and leukotrienes, natural or reproduced by synthesis; derivatives and structural analogues thereof, including chain modified polypeptides, used primarily as hormones	1 332 874	20 894 588	6,4
<u>3706</u> Cinematographic film, exposed and developed, whether or not incorporating soundtrack or consisting only of soundtrack	332	5 178	6,4

3819 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	68 226	1 070 431	6,4
<u>6101</u> Men's or boys' overcoats, car coats, capes, cloaks, anoraks (including ski jackets), windcheaters, wind-jackets and similar articles, knitted or crocheted	217 942	3 410 764	6,4
8106 Bismuth and articles thereof, including waste and scrap	5 615	89 819	6,3
2809 Diphosphorus pentaoxide; phosphoric acid; polyphosphoric acids, whether or not chemically defined	455 454	7 354 602	6,2
3915 Waste, parings and scrap, of plastics	233 482	3 817 089	6,1
4801 Newsprint, in rolls or sheets	261 630	4 302 805	6,1
2933 Heterocyclic compounds with nitrogen hetero-atom(s) only	5 517 963	94 342 774	5,8
2934 Nucleic acids and their salts, whether or not chemically defined; other heterocyclic compounds	1 617 333	28 687 938	5,6
3404 Artificial waxes and prepared waxes	223 043	3 994 059	5,6
6801 Setts, curbstones and flagstones, of natural stone (except slate)	40 369	729 631	5,5
2941 Antibiotics	506 812	9 549 295	5,3
2926 Nitrile-function compounds	326 077	6 250 362	5,2
2507 Kaolin and other kaolinic clays, whether or not calcined	98 886	1 936 284	5,1
2716 Electrical energy	5 805 337	112 903 152	5,1
2207 Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of 80 % vol or higher; ethyl alcohol and other spirits, denatured, of any strength	680 296	13 693 467	5,0
5906 Rubberised textile fabrics	84 401	1 673 384	5,0

4415 Packing cases, boxes, crates, drums and similar packings, of wood; cable- drums of wood; pallets, box pallets and other load boards, of wood; pallet collars of wood	302 265	6 586 515	4,6
5801 Woven pile fabrics and chenille fabrics	90 292	2 055 597	4,4
2834 Nitrites; nitrates	58 366	1 410 177	4,1
<u>2512</u> Siliceous fossil meals (for example, kieselguhr, tripolite and diatomite) and similar siliceous earths, whether or not calcined, of an apparent specific gravity of 1 or less	5 527	146 103	3,8
<u>4015</u> Articles of apparel and clothing accessories (including gloves, mittens and mitts), for all purposes, of vulcanised rubber other than hard rubber	345 072	10 407 574	3,3
6116 Gloves, mittens and mitts, knitted or crocheted	185 053	5 931 001	3,1
6402 Other footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics	1 204 300	48 536 412	2,5
6601 Umbrellas and sun umbrellas (including walking-stick umbrellas, garden umbrellas and similar umbrellas)	46 845	3 637 161	1,3
5307 Yarn of jute or of other textile bast fibres	4 743	590 653	0,8

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

August 2023

Additional information:

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