

# BELGIAN FOREIGN TRADE AGENCY



## FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS 2023



**Studies and statistics**

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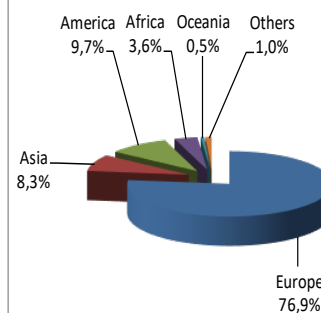
# BELGIAN FOREIGN TRADE

## 2023

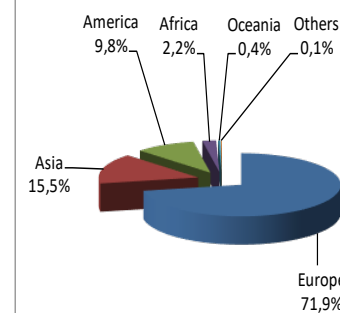
|                    | EXPORTS       | IMPORTS       | BALANCE      | COVER RATIO |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| <b>X 1.000 EUR</b> |               |               |              |             |
| <b>2022</b>        | 595.727.862,5 | 583.973.232,9 | 11.754.629,6 | 102,0       |
| <b>2023</b>        | 520.360.264,7 | 505.614.909,6 | 14.745.355,1 | 102,9       |
| <b>% VARIATION</b> |               |               |              |             |
| <b>2023 - 2022</b> | -12,7         | -13,4         |              |             |

| PER CONTINENT | EXPORTS              |              | IMPORTS              |              | COVER RATIO  |
|---------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
|               | X 1.000 EUR          | % Tot.       | 2023                 | % Tot.       |              |
| Europe        | 399.933.924,1        | 76,9         | 363.705.909,6        | 71,9         | 110,0        |
| Asia          | 42.981.416,8         | 8,3          | 78.415.375,6         | 15,5         | 54,8         |
| America       | 50.514.042,8         | 9,7          | 49.535.939,5         | 9,8          | 102,0        |
| Africa        | 18.943.329,3         | 3,6          | 11.245.967,4         | 2,2          | 168,5        |
| Oceania       | 2.743.309,5          | 0,5          | 1.979.687,6          | 0,4          | 138,6        |
| Others        | 5.244.242,4          | 1,0          | 732.030,0            | 0,1          | 716,4        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>520.360.264,7</b> | <b>100,0</b> | <b>505.614.909,6</b> | <b>100,0</b> | <b>102,9</b> |

### EXPORTS PER CONTINENT



### IMPORTS PER CONTINENT



The figures in this brochure, provided by the National Bank of Belgium and processed by the Belgian Foreign Trade Agency, are provisional results which have been partially rectified. Due to rounding off and/or changes in real time in the data base the totals in the various tables may differ from the sum of the sections (one digit after the comma).

The following statistical data are based upon the community concept and not upon the national concept that relies on the principle of economic residence. The community concept takes into consideration e.g. the import and export transactions carried out by VAT registered non-residents without the intervention of residents. Returned goods are also taken into account.

Source: EUROSTAT

## Belgium's top 20 customers

|  | X 1.000 EUR    | EXPORTS       |              | VAR.<br>%    | TOT.<br>%   |
|--|----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
|  |                | 2022          | 2023         |              |             |
|    | GERMANY        | 127.456.581,8 | 96.874.317,3 | <b>-24,0</b> | <b>18,6</b> |
|    | FRANCE         | 78.584.510,1  | 70.061.210,9 | <b>-10,9</b> | <b>13,5</b> |
|    | NETHERLANDS    | 82.562.952,0  | 68.389.943,0 | <b>-17,2</b> | <b>13,1</b> |
|    | UNITED STATES  | 34.873.735,7  | 31.323.869,7 | <b>-10,2</b> | <b>6,0</b>  |
|    | UNITED KINGDOM | 30.713.296,1  | 28.503.321,2 | <b>-7,2</b>  | <b>5,5</b>  |
|    | ITALY          | 25.575.052,5  | 25.668.740,1 | <b>0,4</b>   | <b>4,9</b>  |
|    | SPAIN          | 16.753.291,7  | 16.235.173,7 | <b>-3,1</b>  | <b>3,1</b>  |
|    | POLAND         | 13.578.711,0  | 13.481.097,4 | <b>-0,7</b>  | <b>2,6</b>  |
|    | SWEDEN         | 9.392.033,4   | 9.529.379,4  | <b>1,5</b>   | <b>1,8</b>  |
|    | CHINA          | 7.662.731,3   | 8.259.206,9  | <b>7,8</b>   | <b>1,6</b>  |
|    | LUXEMBOURG     | 8.719.880,2   | 7.782.232,1  | <b>-10,8</b> | <b>1,5</b>  |
|    | TÜRKIYE        | 7.044.044,3   | 6.936.342,4  | <b>-1,5</b>  | <b>1,3</b>  |
|   | SWITZERLAND    | 6.466.093,4   | 5.938.313,4  | <b>-8,2</b>  | <b>1,1</b>  |
|  | AUSTRIA        | 5.423.062,9   | 5.288.619,9  | <b>-2,5</b>  | <b>1,0</b>  |
|  | CZECH REP.     | 5.088.425,9   | 5.080.199,4  | <b>-0,2</b>  | <b>1,0</b>  |
|  | IRELAND        | 4.267.668,1   | 5.036.183,7  | <b>18,0</b>  | <b>1,0</b>  |
|  | BRAZIL         | 5.265.458,2   | 4.933.142,4  | <b>-6,3</b>  | <b>1,0</b>  |
|  | JAPAN          | 10.035.964,4  | 4.898.862,7  | <b>-51,2</b> | <b>0,9</b>  |
|  | INDIA          | 6.981.072,1   | 4.864.334,8  | <b>-30,3</b> | <b>0,9</b>  |
|  | NIGERIA        | 7.564.320,9   | 4.853.565,2  | <b>-35,8</b> | <b>0,9</b>  |

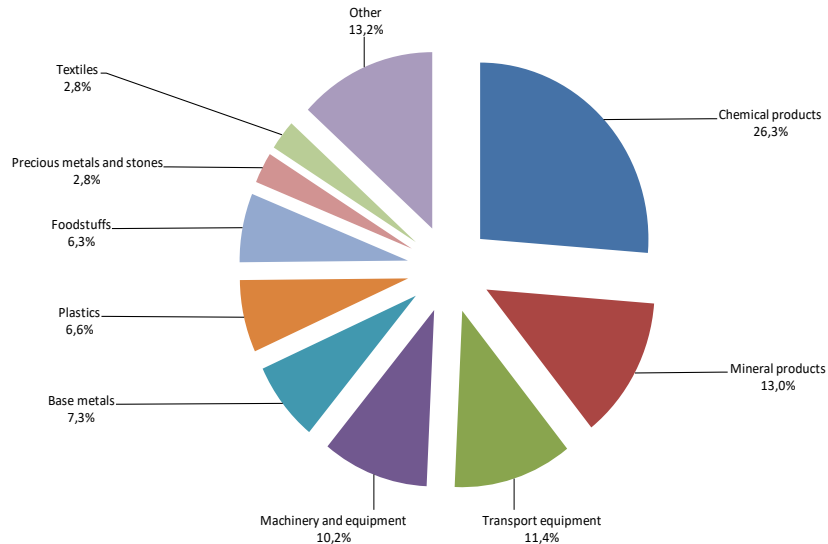
## Belgium's top 20 suppliers

|   | X 1.000 EUR    | IMPORTS       |              | VAR.<br>%    | TOT.<br>%   |
|---|----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
|   |                | 2022          | 2023         |              |             |
|    | NETHERLANDS    | 108.983.221,1 | 95.921.684,0 | <b>-12,0</b> | <b>19,0</b> |
|    | GERMANY        | 63.867.577,4  | 61.119.251,9 | <b>-4,3</b>  | <b>12,1</b> |
|    | FRANCE         | 54.650.095,7  | 51.875.213,6 | <b>-5,1</b>  | <b>10,3</b> |
|    | UNITED STATES  | 35.106.542,3  | 35.527.601,0 | <b>1,2</b>   | <b>7,0</b>  |
|    | CHINA          | 35.392.035,8  | 30.825.795,1 | <b>-12,9</b> | <b>6,1</b>  |
|    | IRELAND        | 20.375.714,0  | 20.268.519,8 | <b>-0,5</b>  | <b>4,0</b>  |
|    | UNITED KINGDOM | 34.584.918,9  | 19.360.584,0 | <b>-44,0</b> | <b>3,8</b>  |
|    | ITALY          | 22.688.006,4  | 18.119.665,2 | <b>-20,1</b> | <b>3,6</b>  |
|    | SPAIN          | 23.862.483,9  | 16.350.575,4 | <b>-31,5</b> | <b>3,2</b>  |
|    | SWITZERLAND    | 9.491.624,6   | 10.788.507,4 | <b>13,7</b>  | <b>2,1</b>  |
|    | JAPAN          | 10.518.985,2  | 10.134.194,9 | <b>-3,7</b>  | <b>2,0</b>  |
|    | NORWAY         | 17.309.897,9  | 9.402.416,3  | <b>-45,7</b> | <b>1,9</b>  |
|   | SWEDEN         | 8.025.081,2   | 9.128.586,7  | <b>13,8</b>  | <b>1,8</b>  |
|  | POLAND         | 8.134.190,9   | 8.340.126,6  | <b>2,5</b>   | <b>1,7</b>  |
|  | AUSTRIA        | 3.317.992,1   | 8.029.238,1  | <b>142,0</b> | <b>1,6</b>  |
|  | INDIA          | 8.111.409,8   | 6.319.643,8  | <b>-22,1</b> | <b>1,3</b>  |
|  | TÜRKIYE        | 6.109.658,3   | 5.068.643,3  | <b>-17,0</b> | <b>1,0</b>  |
|  | CZECH REP.     | 4.635.134,5   | 4.835.698,6  | <b>4,3</b>   | <b>1,0</b>  |
|  | REP. OF KOREA  | 4.737.639,7   | 4.645.443,4  | <b>-2,0</b>  | <b>0,9</b>  |
|  | CANADA         | 4.721.973,5   | 3.889.104,7  | <b>-17,6</b> | <b>0,8</b>  |

## Belgium's export sections

| BELGIAN EXPORTS<br>SECTIONS         | DECEMBER            |                     |              | JANUARY-DECEMBER     |                      | VAR.<br>%    | % TOT.       |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
|                                     | x 1.000 EUR         | 2022                | 2023         | 2022                 | 2023                 |              |              |
| Chemical products                   | 11.961.683,6        | 9.128.899,1         | -23,7        | 165.537.055,0        | 136.663.850,7        | -17,4        | 26,3         |
| Mineral products                    | 9.086.179,8         | 5.217.687,1         | -42,6        | 110.176.562,9        | 67.757.277,0         | -38,5        | 13,0         |
| Transport equipment                 | 5.652.635,2         | 4.600.291,3         | -18,6        | 49.915.452,3         | 59.484.194,1         | 19,2         | 11,4         |
| Machinery and equipment             | 4.544.641,9         | 4.042.334,8         | -11,1        | 49.262.642,1         | 53.169.121,9         | 7,9          | 10,2         |
| Base metals                         | 2.790.747,4         | 2.269.163,8         | -18,7        | 44.490.152,2         | 37.897.148,3         | -14,8        | 7,3          |
| Plastics                            | 2.677.659,0         | 2.084.787,0         | -22,1        | 41.321.493,8         | 34.508.144,2         | -16,5        | 6,6          |
| Foodstuffs                          | 2.520.718,4         | 2.553.937,0         | 1,3          | 28.741.345,9         | 32.883.887,6         | 14,4         | 6,3          |
| Precious metals and stones          | 1.497.052,1         | 1.092.013,9         | -27,1        | 20.952.949,6         | 14.776.355,8         | -29,5        | 2,8          |
| Textiles                            | 1.201.920,9         | 1.027.481,7         | -14,5        | 15.040.687,3         | 14.326.510,9         | -4,7         | 2,8          |
| Optical instruments                 | 1.119.121,1         | 1.058.369,8         | -5,4         | 12.871.810,9         | 13.217.219,0         | 2,7          | 2,5          |
| Live animals                        | 1.024.055,3         | 903.141,1           | -11,8        | 11.014.456,7         | 11.163.204,0         | 1,4          | 2,1          |
| Vegetable products                  | 961.365,9           | 814.301,9           | -15,3        | 11.232.842,8         | 10.864.363,1         | -3,3         | 2,1          |
| Footwear, headgear and umbrellas    | 613.764,6           | 547.344,6           | -10,8        | 7.164.416,2          | 7.746.024,6          | 8,1          | 1,5          |
| Miscellaneous manufactured articles | 517.254,9           | 496.075,0           | -4,1         | 6.420.235,3          | 6.403.035,2          | -0,3         | 1,2          |
| Paper and paperboard                | 526.204,5           | 399.044,4           | -24,2        | 6.797.602,2          | 5.682.564,1          | -16,4        | 1,1          |
| Stone. Plaster. Cement.             | 388.782,8           | 280.191,2           | -27,9        | 4.891.454,2          | 4.710.107,7          | -3,7         | 0,9          |
| Wood and articles of wood           | 275.154,8           | 190.003,3           | -30,9        | 4.258.961,7          | 3.317.957,6          | -22,1        | 0,6          |
| Fats and oils                       | 258.051,8           | 229.356,4           | -11,1        | 3.163.467,8          | 3.000.150,3          | -5,2         | 0,6          |
| Raw hides and skins, leather        | 107.534,5           | 80.456,0            | -25,2        | 1.362.662,7          | 1.384.362,4          | 1,6          | 0,3          |
| Works of art                        | 44.331,2            | 24.318,0            | -45,1        | 340.765,4            | 522.331,7            | 53,3         | 0,1          |
| Non-classified articles             | 35.235,5            | 38.137,1            | 8,2          | 363.715,0            | 473.673,6            | 30,2         | 0,1          |
| Arms and ammunition                 | 56.896,3            | 89.968,8            | 58,1         | 407.219,6            | 408.877,4            | 0,4          | 0,1          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                        | <b>47.860.984,1</b> | <b>37.167.295,1</b> | <b>-22,3</b> | <b>595.727.862,5</b> | <b>520.360.264,7</b> | <b>-12,7</b> | <b>100,0</b> |

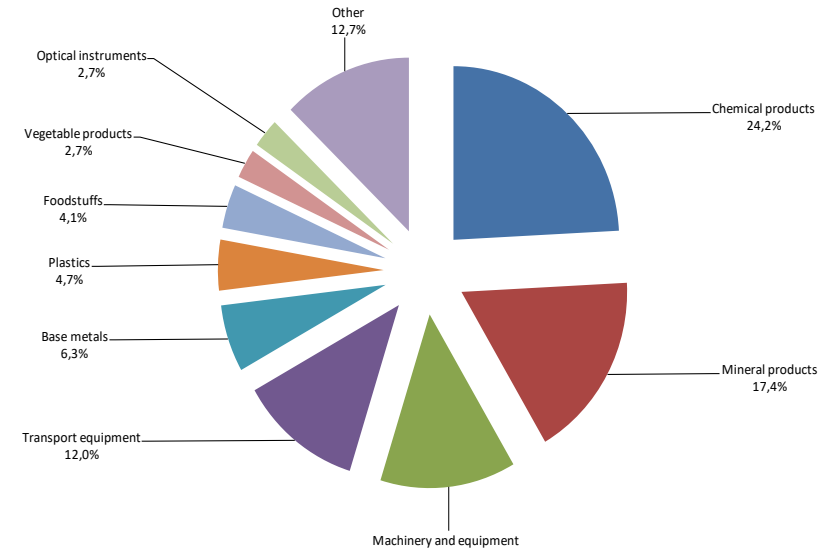
### BELGIUM'S TOP EXPORT SECTIONS



## Belgium's import sections

| BELGIAN IMPORTS<br>SECTIONS         | DECEMBER            |                     |              | JANUARY-DECEMBER     |                      | VAR.<br>%    | % TOT.       |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
|                                     | x 1.000 EUR         | 2022                | 2023         | 2022                 | 2023                 |              |              |
| Chemical products                   | 9.415.650,1         | 8.243.303,6         | -12,5        | 136.478.277,8        | 122.163.974,6        | -10,5        | 24,2         |
| Mineral products                    | 11.033.268,7        | 7.068.539,2         | -35,9        | 136.812.966,3        | 88.010.186,5         | -35,7        | 17,4         |
| Machinery and equipment             | 5.897.474,9         | 4.905.476,0         | -16,8        | 63.710.593,5         | 66.901.130,9         | 5,0          | 13,2         |
| Transport equipment                 | 5.529.143,4         | 4.478.359,7         | -19,0        | 53.417.068,6         | 60.879.123,8         | 14,0         | 12,0         |
| Base metals                         | 2.437.317,6         | 2.063.534,0         | -15,3        | 39.161.925,5         | 31.663.377,9         | -19,1        | 6,3          |
| Plastics                            | 1.886.753,8         | 1.591.361,0         | -15,7        | 28.666.361,0         | 23.839.623,5         | -16,8        | 4,7          |
| Foodstuffs                          | 1.755.832,2         | 1.763.096,0         | 0,4          | 18.854.120,6         | 20.644.363,1         | 9,5          | 4,1          |
| Vegetable products                  | 1.356.423,4         | 972.288,7           | -28,3        | 14.853.309,5         | 13.839.895,5         | -6,8         | 2,7          |
| Optical instruments                 | 1.247.808,1         | 1.114.293,5         | -10,7        | 13.646.812,2         | 13.662.652,5         | 0,1          | 2,7          |
| Precious metals and stones          | 1.229.451,1         | 739.803,2           | -39,8        | 19.181.080,9         | 12.341.591,2         | -35,7        | 2,4          |
| Textiles                            | 1.147.951,3         | 817.802,2           | -28,8        | 13.856.412,5         | 11.655.633,3         | -15,9        | 2,3          |
| Live animals                        | 940.039,3           | 782.834,5           | -16,7        | 9.871.713,6          | 9.452.547,3          | -4,2         | 1,9          |
| Miscellaneous manufactured articles | 593.554,7           | 539.005,3           | -9,2         | 7.950.055,5          | 7.125.412,3          | -10,4        | 1,4          |
| Paper and paperboard                | 558.851,1           | 456.890,3           | -18,2        | 7.244.097,0          | 6.054.100,3          | -16,4        | 1,2          |
| Footwear, headgear and umbrellas    | 530.921,9           | 353.380,7           | -33,4        | 5.645.561,3          | 4.595.406,1          | -18,6        | 0,9          |
| Stone. Plaster. Cement.             | 361.846,5           | 260.259,4           | -28,1        | 4.512.310,7          | 4.213.626,4          | -6,6         | 0,8          |
| Fats and oils                       | 273.274,8           | 299.973,3           | 9,8          | 3.916.543,6          | 3.457.299,4          | -11,7        | 0,7          |
| Wood and articles of wood           | 278.195,6           | 173.556,4           | -37,6        | 4.145.175,4          | 3.002.076,7          | -27,6        | 0,6          |
| Raw hides and skins, leather        | 97.423,7            | 90.590,5            | -7,0         | 1.281.449,9          | 1.206.604,9          | -5,8         | 0,2          |
| Works of art                        | 54.048,4            | 33.676,5            | -37,7        | 498.078,8            | 619.277,0            | 24,3         | 0,1          |
| Arms and ammunition                 | 17.606,1            | 27.222,1            | 54,6         | 231.306,1            | 221.910,8            | -4,1         | 0,0          |
| Non-classified articles             | 4.613,2             | 13.587,9            | 194,5        | 38.030,4             | 65.113,4             | 71,2         | 0,0          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                        | <b>46.647.448,2</b> | <b>36.788.832,3</b> | <b>-21,1</b> | <b>583.973.232,9</b> | <b>505.614.909,6</b> | <b>-13,4</b> | <b>100,0</b> |

### BELGIUM'S TOP IMPORT SECTIONS



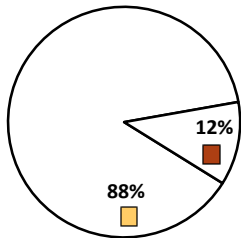




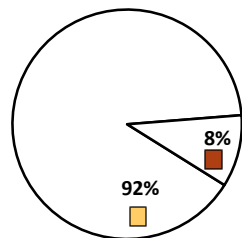
## Movement of goods within the EU in 2023



DELIVERIES

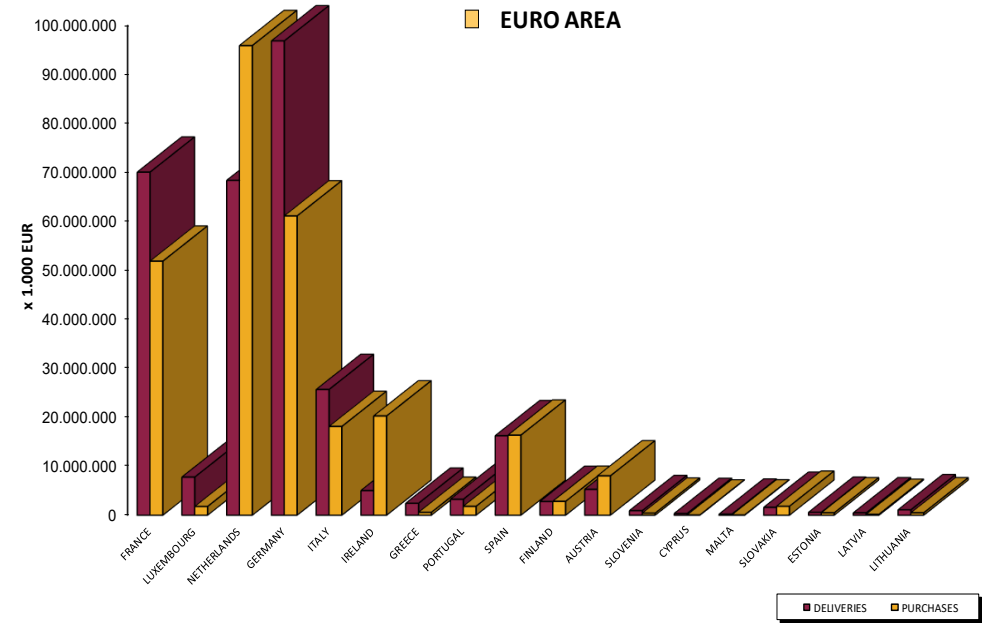


PURCHASES

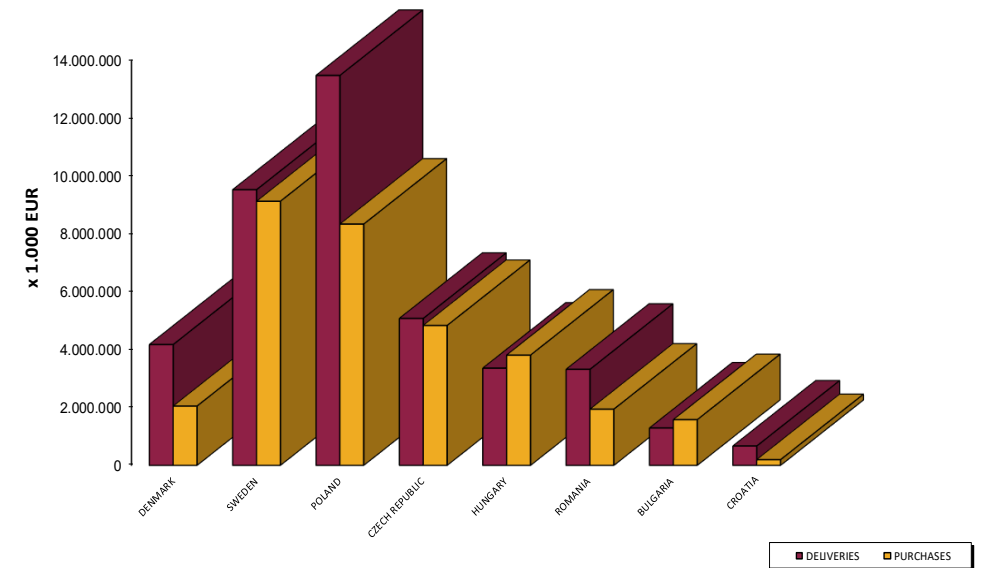


■ EURO AREA  
■ OUTSIDE THE EURO AREA

## Comparison deliveries-purchases in 2023

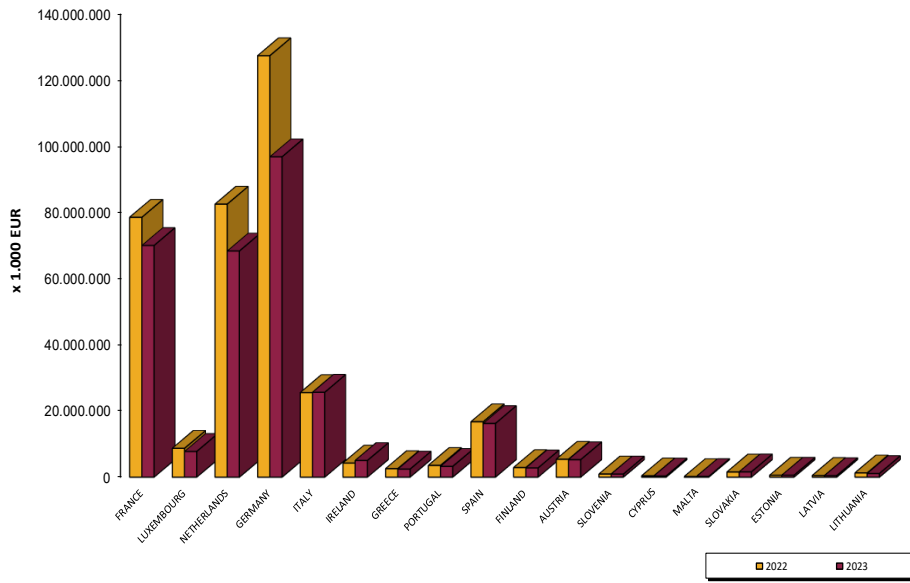


OUTSIDE THE EURO AREA

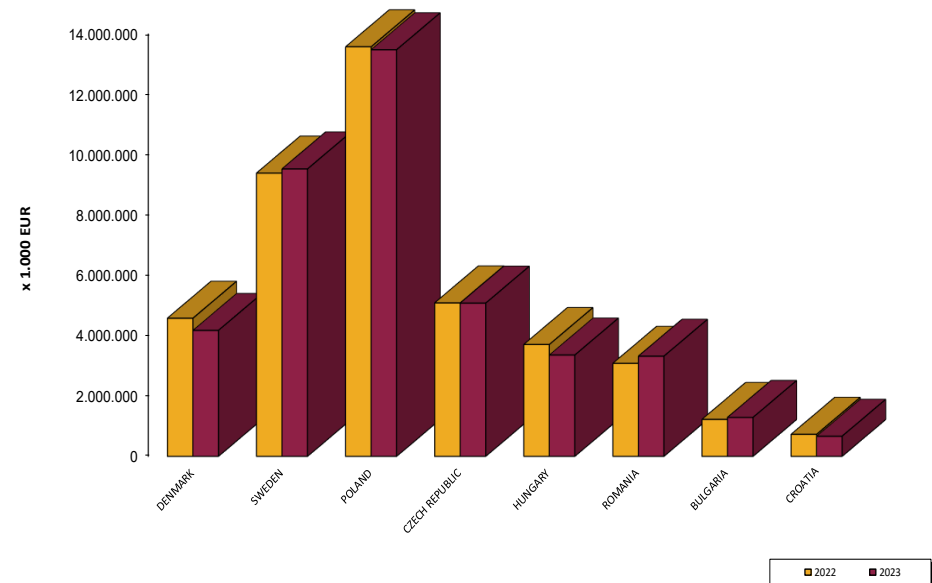


■ DELIVERIES  
■ PURCHASES

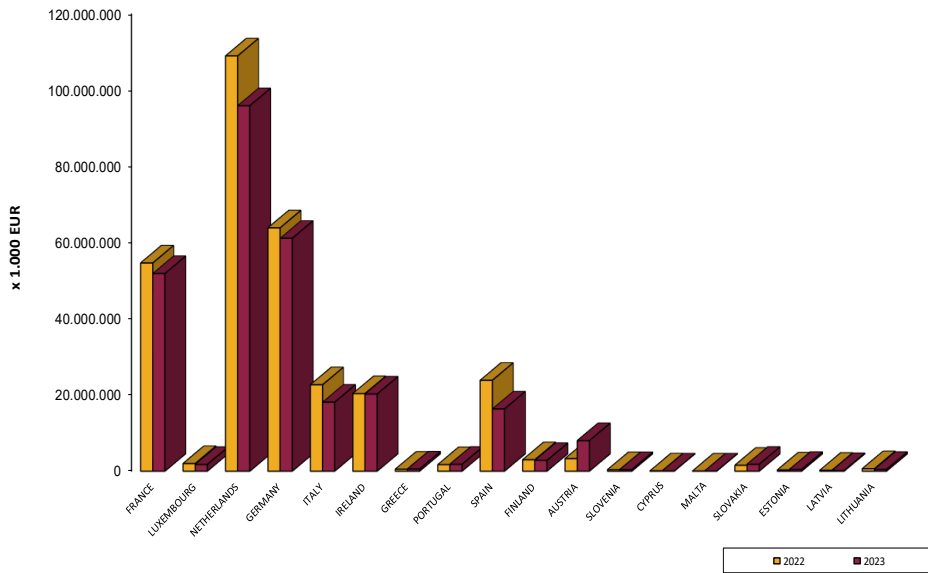
EVOLUTION OF THE DELIVERIES IN THE EURO AREA



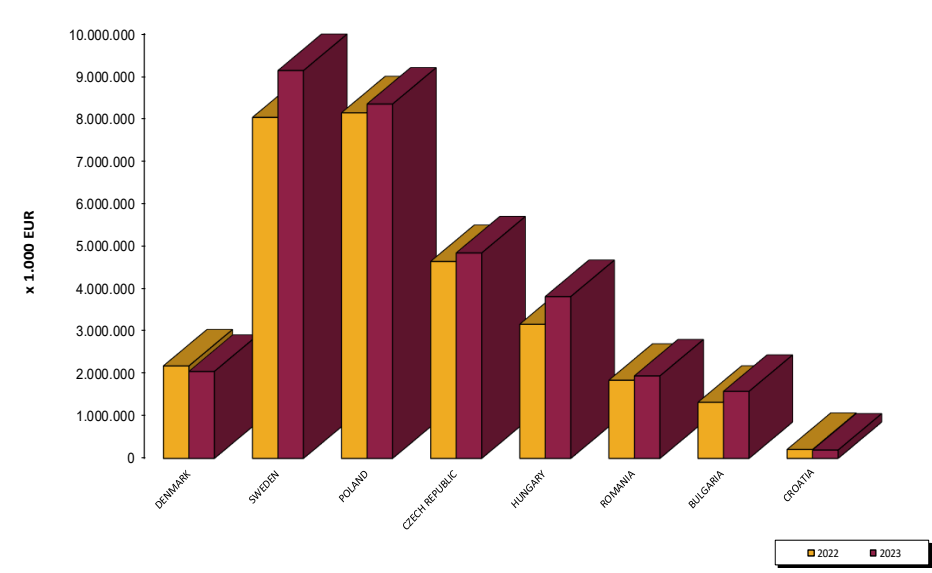
EVOLUTION OF THE DELIVERIES OUTSIDE THE EURO AREA



EVOLUTION OF THE PURCHASES IN THE EURO AREA



EVOLUTION OF THE PURCHASES OUTSIDE THE EURO AREA



## Monthly evolution of Belgium's trade

|                    | 2022                 | 2023                 | 2023 - 2022  | 2022                 | 2023                 | 2023 - 2022  | 2022                | 2023                |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| MONTHS             | EXPORTS              |                      |              | IMPORTS              |                      |              | BALANCE             |                     |
| QUARTERS           | X 1.000 EUR          |                      | %            | X 1.000 EUR          |                      | %            | X 1.000 EUR         |                     |
| JANUARY            | 43.745.433,8         | 46.566.374,6         | 6,4          | 42.591.721,5         | 47.173.775,0         | 10,8         | 1.153.712,3         | -607.400,4          |
| FEBRUARY           | 44.804.940,3         | 45.010.866,0         | 0,5          | 42.530.237,5         | 44.444.955,7         | 4,5          | 2.274.702,8         | 565.910,2           |
| MARCH              | 53.015.898,9         | 50.635.863,7         | -4,5         | 51.364.950,7         | 49.149.310,0         | -4,3         | 1.650.948,2         | 1.486.553,7         |
| <b>1st QUARTER</b> | <b>141.566.273,0</b> | <b>142.213.104,3</b> | <b>0,5</b>   | <b>136.486.909,8</b> | <b>140.768.040,8</b> | <b>3,1</b>   | <b>5.079.363,3</b>  | <b>1.445.063,6</b>  |
| APRIL              | 46.051.940,6         | 41.843.288,8         | -9,1         | 46.432.149,9         | 43.422.834,4         | -6,5         | -380.209,3          | -1.579.545,6        |
| MAY                | 51.134.111,2         | 42.844.958,0         | -16,2        | 48.814.911,6         | 42.524.340,4         | -12,9        | 2.319.199,6         | 320.617,6           |
| JUNE               | 49.886.152,2         | 44.178.039,3         | -11,4        | 49.193.542,8         | 42.551.722,5         | -13,5        | 692.609,4           | 1.626.316,8         |
| <b>2nd QUARTER</b> | <b>147.072.204,0</b> | <b>128.866.286,1</b> | <b>-12,4</b> | <b>144.440.604,2</b> | <b>128.498.897,3</b> | <b>-11,0</b> | <b>2.631.599,7</b>  | <b>367.388,8</b>    |
| <b>6 MONTHS</b>    | <b>288.638.477,0</b> | <b>271.079.390,4</b> | <b>-6,1</b>  | <b>280.927.514,0</b> | <b>269.266.938,1</b> | <b>-4,2</b>  | <b>7.710.963,0</b>  | <b>1.812.452,3</b>  |
| JULY               | 48.383.336,9         | 40.549.117,7         | -16,2        | 49.956.544,4         | 37.664.453,8         | -24,6        | -1.573.207,5        | 2.884.663,9         |
| AUGUST             | 50.117.649,9         | 40.021.553,5         | -20,1        | 52.528.420,6         | 38.342.886,2         | -27,0        | -2.410.770,6        | 1.678.667,4         |
| SEPTEMBER          | 56.557.435,7         | 44.566.588,6         | -21,2        | 53.582.752,7         | 40.082.283,2         | -25,2        | 2.974.683,0         | 4.474.305,4         |
| <b>3rd QUARTER</b> | <b>155.058.422,5</b> | <b>125.127.259,8</b> | <b>-19,3</b> | <b>156.067.717,6</b> | <b>116.089.623,1</b> | <b>-25,6</b> | <b>-1.009.295,1</b> | <b>9.037.636,7</b>  |
| <b>9 MONTHS</b>    | <b>443.696.899,5</b> | <b>396.206.650,2</b> | <b>-10,7</b> | <b>436.995.231,6</b> | <b>385.356.561,2</b> | <b>-11,8</b> | <b>6.701.667,9</b>  | <b>10.850.089,0</b> |
| OCTOBER            | 51.945.209,6         | 45.134.873,8         | -13,1        | 49.471.340,7         | 42.906.541,5         | -13,3        | 2.473.868,9         | 2.228.332,4         |
| NOVEMBER           | 52.224.769,3         | 41.851.445,5         | -19,9        | 50.859.212,4         | 40.562.974,7         | -20,2        | 1.365.556,9         | 1.288.470,8         |
| DECEMBER           | 47.860.984,1         | 37.167.295,1         | -22,3        | 46.647.448,2         | 36.788.832,3         | -21,1        | 1.213.535,9         | 378.462,9           |
| <b>4th QUARTER</b> | <b>152.030.963,0</b> | <b>124.153.614,5</b> | <b>-18,3</b> | <b>146.978.001,3</b> | <b>120.258.348,4</b> | <b>-18,2</b> | <b>5.052.961,7</b>  | <b>3.895.266,1</b>  |
| <b>12 MONTHS</b>   | <b>595.727.862,5</b> | <b>520.360.264,7</b> | <b>-12,7</b> | <b>583.973.232,9</b> | <b>505.614.909,6</b> | <b>-13,4</b> | <b>11.754.629,6</b> | <b>14.745.355,1</b> |