Brussels foreign trade balance sheet 2023

June 2024



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Colophon

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Summary

Belgium's exports of services, which were up 2%, recorded moderate growth in 2023, in contrast to the two previous years, which were marked by double-digit growth rates. Belgium had a **services** trade deficit of EUR 6.2 billion in 2023, as a result of relatively higher growth in imports (+4%). This negative balance can be explained primarily by the poor performance of "Travel" and, to a lesser extent, "Other business services".

Belgium's exports of services to its five main trading partners fell or grew only slightly. However, a number of countries stood out for their relatively high growth in exports of services from Belgium (+20%): Ireland, Denmark, Japan and Canada, which each rose four places in the rankings.

The top three countries for Belgian services exports are now the Netherlands, France and Ireland.

One year earlier, in 2022, the **Brussels-Capital Region** had a positive balance of trade in **services** of EUR 3.8 billion, despite a growth in exports (+9%) slightly lower than that of imports (+11%). The sectors that contributed the most to export growth in volume terms in 2022 are Transport and storage, Energy and waste management, and Specialist, scientific and technical activities.

In terms of **goods, Belgium** saw its exports fall by 17% in 2023, compared with 2022. This underperformance was primarily due to lower energy prices and the drastic reduction in sales of coronavirus vaccines (-71%) in 2023.

The **Brussels-Capital Region** exported **goods** worth EUR11.8 billion in 2023, a sustained increase of 24% in comparison to 2022. Imports of goods followed the same trend, increasing by 18.4%. The Region's balance of trade in goods nonetheless remained negative (EUR -8.6 billion).

Exports of Transport equipment and Products of the chemical or allied industries, accounted for almost 71% of exports of goods from Brussels, rising by EUR 2 billion in 2023, an increase of 32% in one year. Behind these two major categories of goods, those showing the strongest growth in exports were Machinery, electrical equipment and apparatus (+19%), Food products (+25%), Mineral products (+225%) and Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; paper or paperboard for recycling (...) (+78%).

Despite the increase in exports of Machinery, appliances and electrical equipment, the Region recorded a substantial trade deficit in this category of goods (-EUR 4 billion). These were the goods with the highest trade deficit at Regional level.

The Brussels Region's five main customers in terms of trade in goods were Germany, the Netherlands, France, the United States and Luxembourg.

Exports of goods from Brussels to the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Norway, Japan and Russia fell, while exports to Hungary, the Czech Republic, Turkey, Finland and Israel rose sharply in the ranking of the Region's trade partners (up 6 to 8 places in one year).

Key figures - 2023

Belgian trade in services - 2023

€135.3 billion

Belgium's service exports in 2023

+ 2%

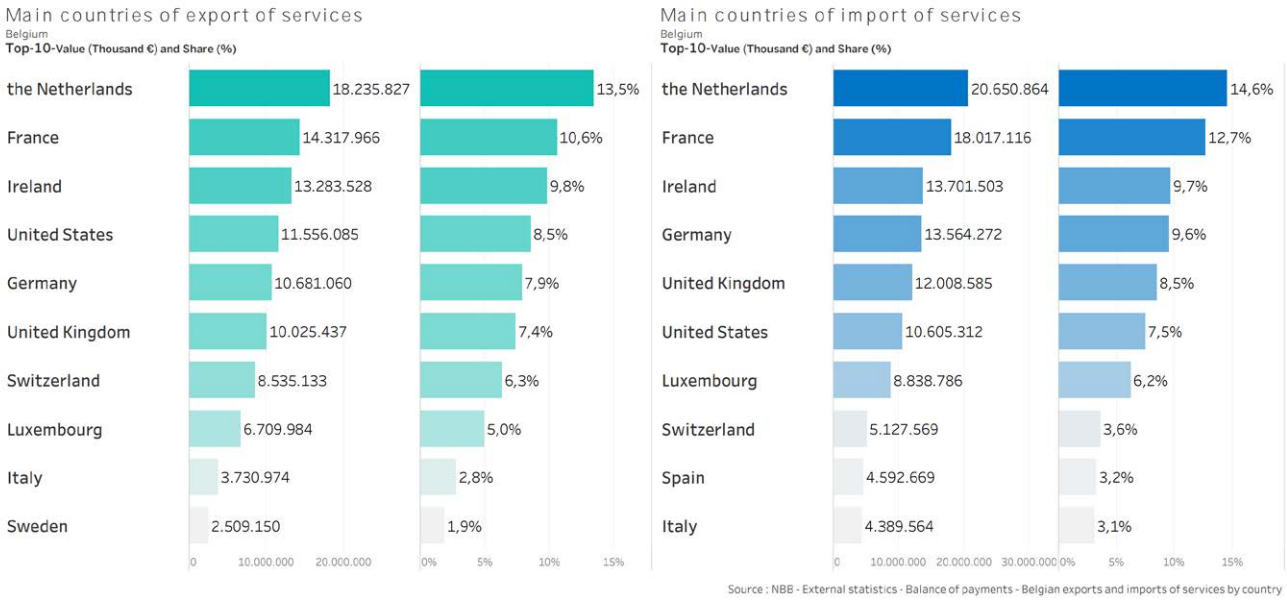
Growth in Belgian services exports in 2023
(+14% in 2022 and +5% in 2019)

Main service import and export countries from Belgium

37%

Percentage of Belgium's services exports to **neighbouring countries** in 2023

Figure 1. Belgium's main trading partners, volume of service exports and imports (€ thousand) and share of total (%)



Trade in services from the Brussels-Capital Region - 2022

€32.3 billion

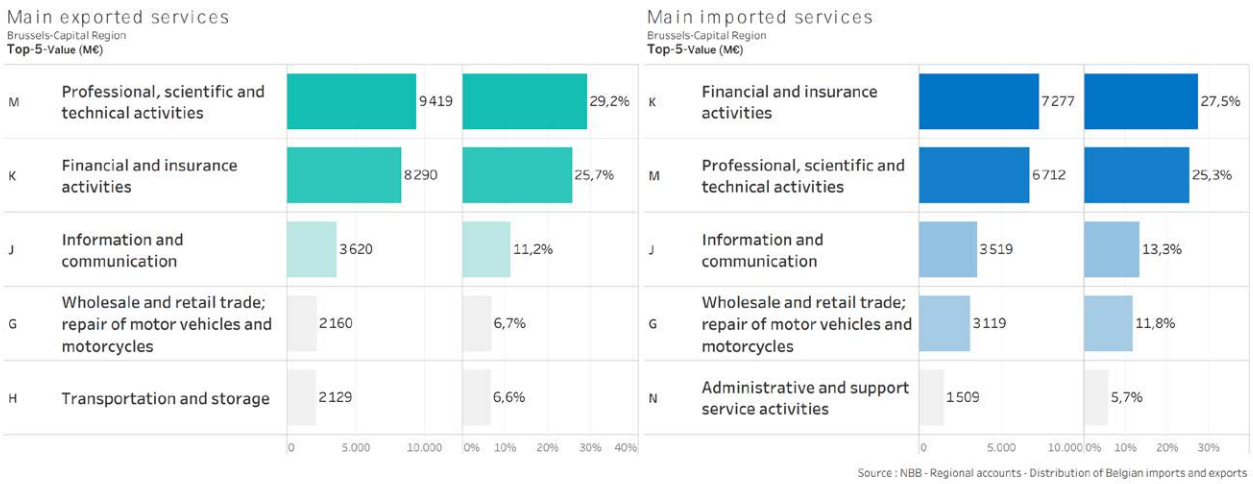
Exports of services from the Brussels-Capital Region - 2022

+ 9%

Growth in Brussels services exports in 2022
(+4% in 2021 and +7% in 2019)

Main services exported to and imported from the Brussels-Capital Region

Figure 2. Main services exported and imported, volume (€ million) and share of total (%)



Trade in goods from the Brussels-Capital Region - 2023

€11.8 billion

Exports of goods from the Brussels Region in 2023

+ 24%

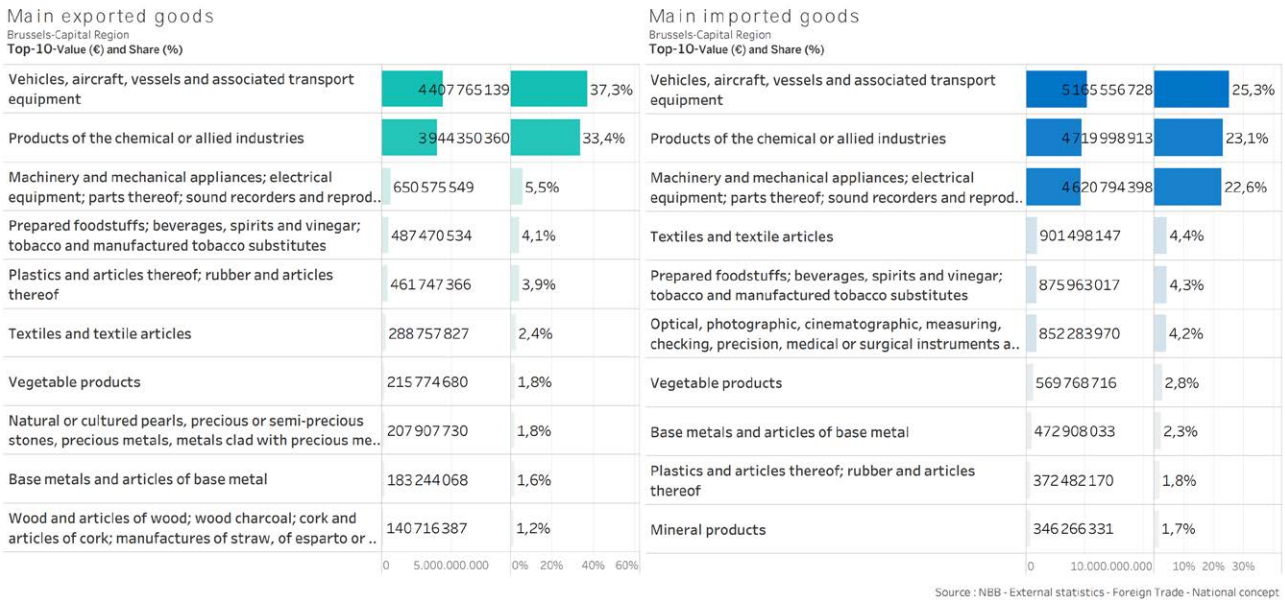
Growth in the Brussels-Capital Region's goods exports in 2023
(+20% in 2022 and +8% in 2019)

Main goods imported and exported

71%

Percentage of the two main exported goods, Transport equipment and Chemical and allied products, in the total Brussels exports of goods in 2023

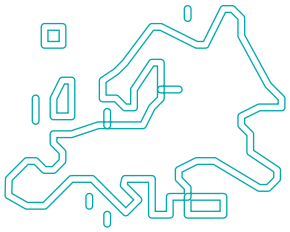
Figure 3. Main goods exported and imported, Brussels-Capital Region, volume (€) and share of total (%)



Major changes

Among the most exported goods, the highest growth was seen in the following products: **Mineral products** (+225%), **Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; paper or paperboard for recycling; paper and paper products** (+78%), **Products of the chemical and allied industries** (+57%), and **Products of the food industries** (+25%).

Main trading partners



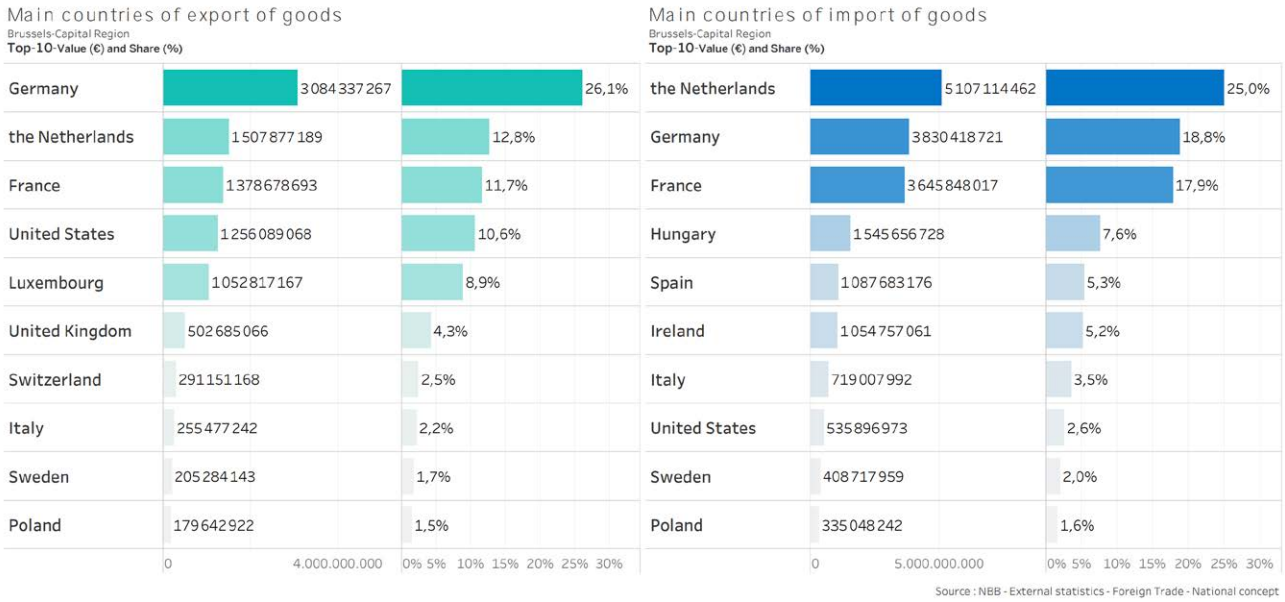
81%

Percentage of Brussels exports to Europe in 2023

60%

Percentage of Brussels-Capital Region exports to neighbouring countries from Belgium in 2023

Figure 4. The Brussels-Capital Region's main trading partners, volume of goods exports and imports (€) and share of total (%)



Major changes

Among the Brussels Region's most important trading partners (Top-25), the increase in exports between 2022 and 2023 was highest in the **Czech Republic** (+174%), **Hungary** (+153%), **Turkey** (+123%), **Finland** (+98%), **Canada** (+91%), **Israel** (+85%) and **Sweden** (+83%).

Methodological note

Recurrence

The Brussels External Trade Balance is published biennially: the report covering the annual export and import statistics for the Brussels-Capital Region is published in the first half of the year, while the publication covering the first half of the current year (H1) is published at the end of the year.

These analyses were first published around ten years ago, in support of the departments of hub.brussels that aim to promote, support and develop the international activities of Brussels companies and in support of the Secretary of State for the Brussels-Capital Region in charge of foreign trade.

Data source

The data on foreign **goods** trade is taken from the online database of the National Bank of Belgium (NBB) *NBB.Stat*, under the heading "External statistics - Foreign trade - National concept". The NBB publishes this data by type of goods and by country, for Belgium as a whole and the different regions. The data presented in this study was taken on 19/03/2024.

For international trade in **services**, the data by country for Belgium is sent to us directly by the NBB and is based on the Belgian balance of payments. It is available quarterly. The National Bank also publishes monthly data by type of activity under the "External statistics - Balance of payments" heading.

The annual data by region and by sector of activity is taken from NBB statistics on the "Regional breakdown of imports and exports", drawn up on the basis of the Regional Accounts. It can be downloaded from the *NBB.Stat* website. The data presented in this publication was extracted on 10/04/2024.

External goods trade - National concept

In this publication, statistics on international trade in goods are based on data drawn up according to the national concept and not the European concept. According to the national concept, the destination and origin of the goods are requested both in customs declarations and in Intrastat declarations[1]. By means of the collection of this data, the NBB is able to compile statistics on imports and exports by region according to the national concept.

This method avoids the headquarters effect and the gateway effect. The headquarters effect can occur in the case of companies with several headquarters which file their returns from their administrative headquarters and not from the place where they produce goods. The gateway effect describes cases in which returns are prepared by tax representatives or by subsidiaries that focus on the locations from which goods depart and where they arrive, such as ports and airports. Since administrative headquarters, ports and airports are not evenly distributed over the three regions in Belgium, these two effects could bias the regional distribution of trade in goods figures in Belgium.

The focus is therefore not on the identity of the exporter or the owner of the goods, but on the physical location where the economic processes takes place. This makes it possible to almost completely exclude the "headquarters effect" and to partially exclude the "gateway effect". The latter is largely mitigated by the application of the national concept. Most of the gateway effect is in fact attributable to non-residents. Most non-residents have their place of business close to the country's ports and airports (Antwerp, Zaventem) or in the capital (Brussels). By excluding these non-residents from the national concept, we therefore largely avoid the gateway effect.

1 The Intrastat declaration allows the National Bank of Belgium to collect statistical data on the movement of goods between EU Member States. All persons liable to VAT in these Member States have to declare their intra-Community trade as soon as it exceeds a certain threshold.
In Belgium, the declaration therefore concerns the arrival and/or dispatch of goods from or to another EU Member State. (https://www.nbb.be/doc/dd/onegate/data/intra-stat-quick-guide_en.pdf)

In contrast, according to the Community concept, all transactions involving the import and export of goods are taken into account, including purchases (imports) and sales (re-exports) in Belgium between non-resident companies.

Foreign trade in services - Regional concept

According to this concept, Belgian imports and exports of services are divided up regionally according to the district in which the importer or exporter owning the service is located, and attributed to the industry to which the importer or exporter belongs. If a declarant has establishments in more than one district, its imports or exports are divided among the different districts on the basis of the number of jobs per establishment according to the NSSO. The data is annual and broken down by sector of activity. It is published approximately two years after the previous year.

Foreign trade in services - Balance of payments

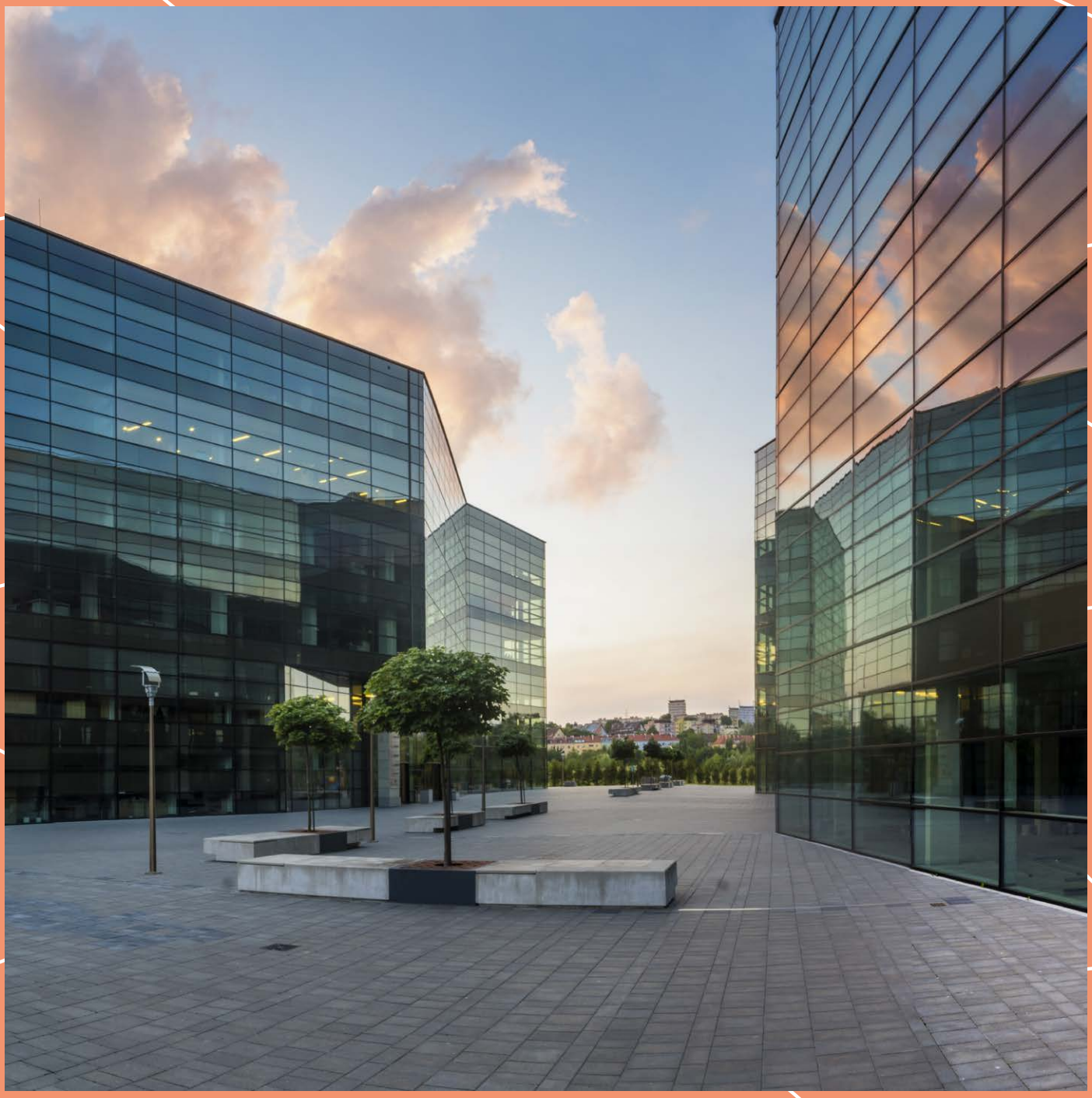
The National Bank of Belgium[2] analyses service transactions using several declarations intended for residents.

For companies in the non-financial sector, the selection is based on a mix of capping and sampling techniques. There is a full declaration for the most relevant companies (monthly or quarterly) and specific declarations for other companies (monthly or quarterly).

Three declarations have been defined for companies in the financial sector, each covering a specific sub-sector: credit institutions, insurance and reinsurance companies, and other financial institutions. The entirety of these sub-sectors is subject to declaration, but the frequency may be monthly, quarterly or annual.

In addition to direct declarations, the NBB also uses payment card information, administrative data and data from international institutions such as the European Commission.

2 https://www.nbb.be/doc/dq/f_method/itss_fr.pdf



Belgian external trade in services

BELGIAN EXTERNAL TRADE IN SERVICES - 2023

Slower growth in Belgian services exports in 2023 (+2%). Some of Belgium's major export markets (France, United States, Germany) have experienced a decline in export volumes, while others (the Netherlands) have stabilised. However, exports of services to Ireland increased 52%.

NBB data on Belgian exports of services is available on a quarterly basis, broken down by destination country. According to this data, the value of Belgian exports of services rose slightly between 2022 and 2023, from EUR 132.4 billion to EUR 135.3 billion[3] (+2.2%). This weak growth followed two good years of recovery (10 to 14%), after a drop of 4.2%.

Although the growth in imports of services (+3.7%) was lower than in 2022 (+18.4%), the percentage increase remained higher than the growth observed in exports. As a result, the trade deficit widened further to EUR 6.2 billion, a substantial 57% increase in one year. The Travel category alone showed a deficit of almost EUR 11 billion. The second category with a significant deficit was Other business services (EUR -1 billion). However, the data produced by the NBB does not allow the identification of the sectors of activity most affected by this imbalance for these two types of activity[4].

The top export countries include mainly neighbouring countries or those with close geographical proximity, such as the **Netherlands** (EUR 18.2 billion, up 0.3%), **France** (EUR 14.3 billion, down 4.8%), **Germany** (EUR 10.7 billion, down 1.1%), the **United Kingdom** (EUR 10 billion, up 2.4%), and the **United States** in fourth place (EUR 11.6 billion, down 14.2%). The main surprise in 2023 was **Ireland**, which moved up 4 places to 3rd place (EUR 13.3 billion, up 51.8%). Belgian service exports to this country rose by 136.5% in three years.

Outside Europe, in addition to the USA, **Japan** (EUR 1.9 billion, +27.2%), **China** (EUR 1.5 billion, -13%) and **Singapore** (EUR 1.2 billion, -18.6%) were Belgium's main customers.

In the top 25, the 2023 financial year saw a number of downward trends in services exports by country, the most significant being Austria (-25.2%). But in terms of trends over the last three years, only Belgian services to Singapore have fallen in terms of exports (-21%).

3 hub.brussels calculations based on quarterly data provided by the NBB: External statistics - Balance of payments - Belgian exports and imports of services by country.

4 The NBB's regional accounts data, by sector of activity, has not yet been updated. The latest data available is from 2022. Only balance of payments data by type of service is shown on the NBB website for 2023.

Figure 5. Top 25 destination countries for Belgian services exports, and their evolution and distribution, 2020-2023, NBB

Exports of services

Belgium

Top-25

Value (Thousands €)			Evolution 1 year (%)		Evolution 3 years (%)		Shares (%)			Cumulative shares (%)			Ranks		Evolution 1 year		Evolutie 3 years	
		2023		2023		2023		2022	2023		2022	2023		2023		2023		2023
the Netherlands	NL	18.235.827	NL	0,33%	NL	17,0%	NL	13,7%	13,5%	NL	13,7%	13,5%	NL	1	NL	0	NL	0
France	FR	14.317.966	FR	-4,81%	FR	23,9%	FR	11,4%	10,6%	FR	25,1%	24,1%	FR	2	FR	0	FR	0
Ireland	IE	13.283.528	IE	51,79%	IE	136,5%	IE	6,6%	9,8%	IE	31,7%	33,9%	IE	3	IE	-4	IE	-4
United States	US	11.556.085	US	-14,22%	US	2,6%	US	10,2%	8,5%	US	41,9%	42,4%	US	4	US	1	US	1
Germany	DE	10.681.060	DE	-1,13%	DE	18,9%	DE	8,2%	7,9%	DE	50,0%	50,3%	DE	5	DE	1	DE	1
United Kingdom	GB	10.025.437	GB	2,41%	GB	12,6%	GB	7,4%	7,4%	GB	57,4%	57,7%	GB	6	GB	1	GB	1
Switzerland	CH	8.535.133	CH	-5,12%	CH	20,0%	CH	6,8%	6,3%	CH	64,2%	64,0%	CH	7	CH	1	CH	1
Luxembourg	LU	6.709.984	LU	3,38%	LU	31,7%	LU	4,9%	5,0%	LU	69,1%	69,0%	LU	8	LU	0	LU	0
Italy	IT	3.730.974	IT	11,26%	IT	44,7%	IT	2,5%	2,8%	IT	71,7%	71,7%	IT	9	IT	0	IT	0
Sweden	SE	2.509.150	SE	1,52%	SE	37,0%	SE	1,9%	1,9%	SE	73,5%	73,6%	SE	10	SE	0	SE	0
Spain	ES	2.273.375	ES	7,09%	ES	27,9%	ES	1,6%	1,7%	ES	75,1%	75,3%	ES	11	ES	0	ES	0
Denmark	DK	1.904.319	DK	20,31%	DK	83,7%	DK	1,2%	1,4%	DK	76,3%	76,7%	DK	12	DK	-1	DK	-4
Japan	JP	1.865.998	JP	27,19%	JP	91,6%	JP	1,1%	1,4%	JP	77,4%	78,1%	JP	13	JP	-4	JP	-4
Poland	PL	1.807.347	PL	15,48%	PL	61,2%	PL	1,2%	1,3%	PL	78,6%	79,4%	PL	14	PL	0	PL	0
China, People's Republ..	CN	1.535.673	CN	-13,03%	CN	26,3%	CN	1,3%	1,1%	CN	79,9%	80,5%	CN	15	CN	3	CN	2
Singapore	SG	1.197.062	SG	-18,60%	SG	-21,0%	SG	1,1%	0,9%	SG	81,1%	81,4%	SG	16	SG	0	SG	4
Austria	AT	1.130.519	AT	-25,20%	AT	3,3%	AT	1,1%	0,8%	AT	82,2%	82,3%	AT	17	AT	2	AT	2
Czech Republic	CZ	954.512	CZ	-0,49%	CZ	58,5%	CZ	0,7%	0,7%	CZ	82,9%	83,0%	CZ	18	CZ	0	CZ	-3
Finland	FI	891.259	FI	-0,53%	FI	31,9%	FI	0,7%	0,7%	FI	83,6%	83,6%	FI	19	FI	0	FI	0
Canada	CA	846.244	CA	29,60%	CA	68,0%	CA	0,5%	0,6%	CA	84,1%	84,2%	CA	20	CA	-5	CA	-4
Türkiye	TR	844.880	TR	9,72%	TR	62,4%	TR	0,6%	0,6%	TR	84,7%	84,9%	TR	21	TR	1	TR	-2
Portugal	PT	798.720	PT	9,49%	PT	51,9%	PT	0,6%	0,6%	PT	85,2%	85,5%	PT	22	PT	1	PT	0
Romania	RO	745.840	RO	10,98%	RO	48,3%	RO	0,5%	0,6%	RO	85,7%	86,0%	RO	23	RO	-1	RO	-2
Norway	NO	726.935	NO	13,08%	NO	46,5%	NO	0,5%	0,5%	NO	86,2%	86,5%	NO	24	NO	-2	NO	-2
Hong Kong	HK	702.848	HK	1,75%	HK	9,2%	HK	0,5%	0,5%	HK	86,7%	87,1%	HK	25	HK	2	HK	5

Source : NBB - External statistics - Balance of payments - Belgian exports and imports of services by country



Foreign trade in services in Brussels

FOREIGN TRADE IN SERVICES IN BRUSSELS - 2022

A. TRADE IN SERVICES FROM THE BRUSSELS-CAPITAL REGION

The growth in exports of services in the Brussels-Capital Region was appreciable (9%), but lower than in the other regions of the country. The trade surplus was EUR 3.8 billion, while Wallonia and Flanders posted a deficit in their balance of trade in services.

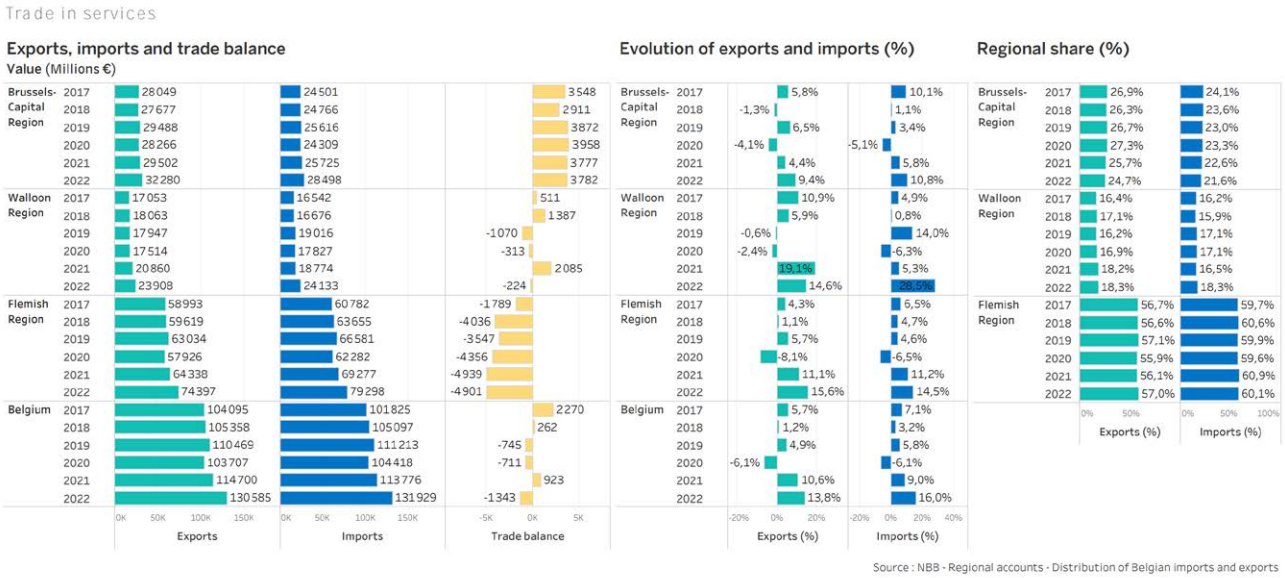
Exports of services in the Brussels Capital Region showed an increase of 9.4% in 2022 compared to 2021, rising from 29.5 to 32.3 billion EUR. Imports also rose, but by a slightly higher percentage (+10.8%), from EUR 25.7 to 28.5 billion. The trade balance is therefore positive in 2022, with a surplus of EUR 3.8 billion, a figure that has been stable since 2019.

The evolution of Brussels services exports has fluctuated fairly significantly in recent years, alternating years of increases with more stable or declining years. 2020, which marked the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, was characterised by a decline in Brussels' exports of services (-4.1%), but this followed a particularly prolific year (+6.6% in 2019). 2021 marked a return to sustained growth (+4.4%), exceeding the result recorded in 2019 and confirmed by the increase recorded in 2022 (+9.4%).

If we compare this with the two other regions of the country, we note that the growth in services exports was stronger in Flanders (+15.6%) and Wallonia (+14.6%) between 2021 and 2022. The same applies to imports (+14.5% in Flanders, and +28.5% in Wallonia). As a result, Wallonia's trade balance moved from a surplus of EUR 2.1 billion in 2021 to a deficit of EUR 224 million in 2022, while Flanders retained its deficit of EUR 4.9 billion in 2022.

After reaching 27% in 2020 ("peak" since 2017), the Brussels Region's share of Belgian services exports fell by one or two percentage points in subsequent years (25% in 2022). This was to the advantage of the other two Regions: 57% for Flanders and 18% for Wallonia in 2022.

Figure 6. Exports, imports and trade balance of services by Region and for Belgium (millions of EUR), 2017-2022, NBB



Source : NBB - Regional accounts - Distribution of Belgian imports and exports

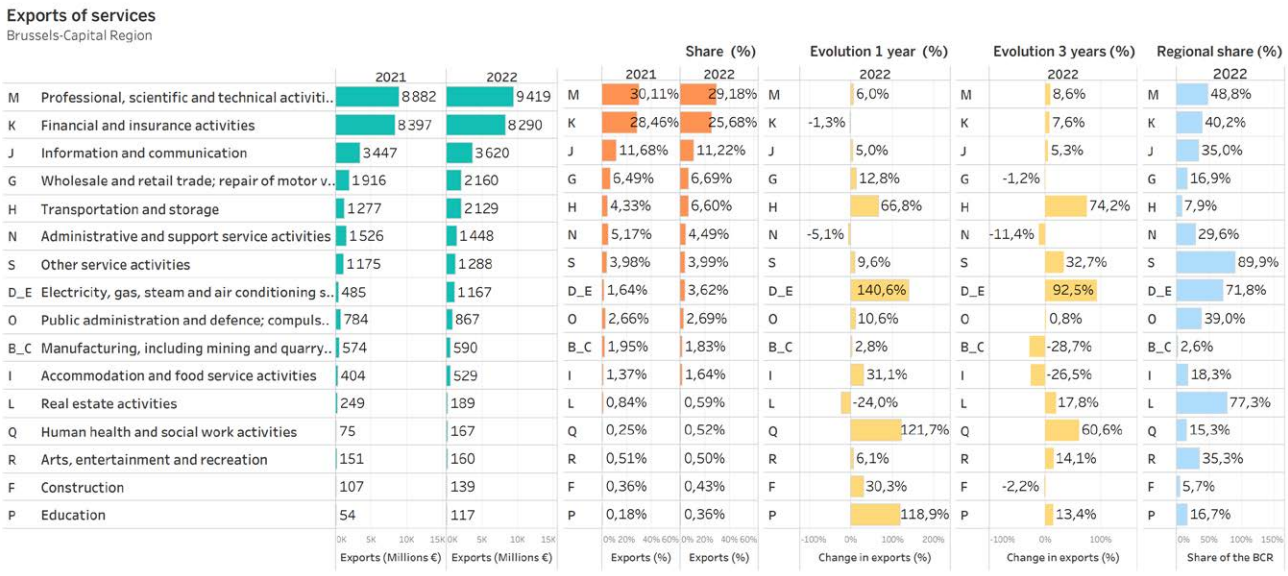
B. EXCHANGES OF BRUSSELS SERVICES BY SECTOR OF ACTIVITY

The number of sectors recording export growth has increased in recent years: there were just five in 2020, eight in 2021, and they were in the majority in 2022 (13 out of 16). The sectors with the most sustained sales of Brussels services abroad in 2022 are Transport and storage, Energy and waste management, and Specialist, scientific and technical activities.

Brussels exports of services

In 2022, 54.9% of Brussels' exports of services were generated by **Professional, scientific and technical activities** (29.2%) and **Financial and insurance activities** (25.7%). Third place was occupied by the **information and communication** sector with a total share of 11.2%.

Figure 7. Evolution of Brussels exports of services by sector of activity, 2019-2022, NBB



Source : NBB - Regional accounts - Distribution of Belgian imports and exports

Analysis of the positive performance of Brussels services exports by sector of activity

While growth in exports of services was mainly supported by **Professional, scientific and technical activities** in 2021 (+1.3 billion in value), 2022 was marked by increased foreign sales by the **Transport and storage** sector (+EUR 852 million), **Energy and waste management** (+EUR 682 million) and **Scientific and technical activities** in third place (+EUR 537 million).

Over three years (2019 to 2022), the **Production and distribution of electricity, gas and steam (...)**[5] sector and the **Transport and storage** sector grew strongly (92.5% and 66.8% respectively); growth between 2021 and 2022 was particularly remarkable, with increases of 140.6% and 66.8% respectively.

Trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, appeared to be recovering, with an increase of 12.8% between 2021 and 2022, whereas previous trends had been negative (-1.2% over the last three years).

Among the top sectors of exported services in Brussels, **Professional, scientific and technical activities** grew by 6% in 2022 (+8.6% over three years), **Information and communication** activities increased their foreign sales slightly (5% after a period of relative stagnation), while **Other services activities**[6] grew by 9.6%, in line with its growth over the last two years (32.7% in three years).

Further down the ranking, we can note the good performance of the **Human health and social work sectors** (+121.7% in 2022 - a level of growth unequalled in the last ten years -, 60.6% in three years); **Education** (+118.9% in 2022 after three years of relatively marked decline, +13.4% in three years); **Accommodation and food services** (+31.1% in 2022); and **Construction** (+30.3%). These last two sectors seem to be picking up again, after a tangible slowdown in 2020 (around -40%). Lastly, the **Public Administration** (+10.6%) and **Arts, Entertainment and Recreation** (+6.1% in 2022, and +14.1% in three years) sectors also saw more modest growth.

Analysis of the negative performance of Brussels services exports by sector of activity

The sectors of activity showing a decrease in the volume of Brussels exports in 2022 included:

- **Financial and insurance activities** (-1.3%, but up 7.6% over the last three years);
- **Administrative and support services** (-5.1% and 11.4% over three years);
- **Real estate activities** (-24.0%, but +17.8% over the last three years).

Brussels imports of services

Imports of services into the Brussels-Capital Region increased by 10.8% in 2022. The BCR service sectors with the highest import volumes in 2022 were:

- **Financial and insurance activities;**
- **Professional, scientific and technical activities;**
- **Information and communication technologies;**
- **Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles.**

While **Financial and insurance activities** accounted for a large part of the growth in the import value in 2021 (EUR +1.2 billion more for this sector alone), the situation in 2022 was more mixed]: **Professional, scientific and technical activities** imported EUR 772 million more than in 2021, **Energy and waste management** accounted for EUR 545 million more imports and **Financial and insurance activities** EUR 365 million more.

5 Also presented under the more concise heading of "Energy and waste management".

6 This section (S) includes the activities of associations, the repair of computers and personal and household goods, as well as various personal service activities not classified elsewhere in the Nace-Bel 2008 classification (https://statbel.fgov.be/sites/default/files/Over_Statbel_FR/Nomenclaturen/NACE-BEL%202008_FR.pdf, p. 494).

Brussels trade balance in services

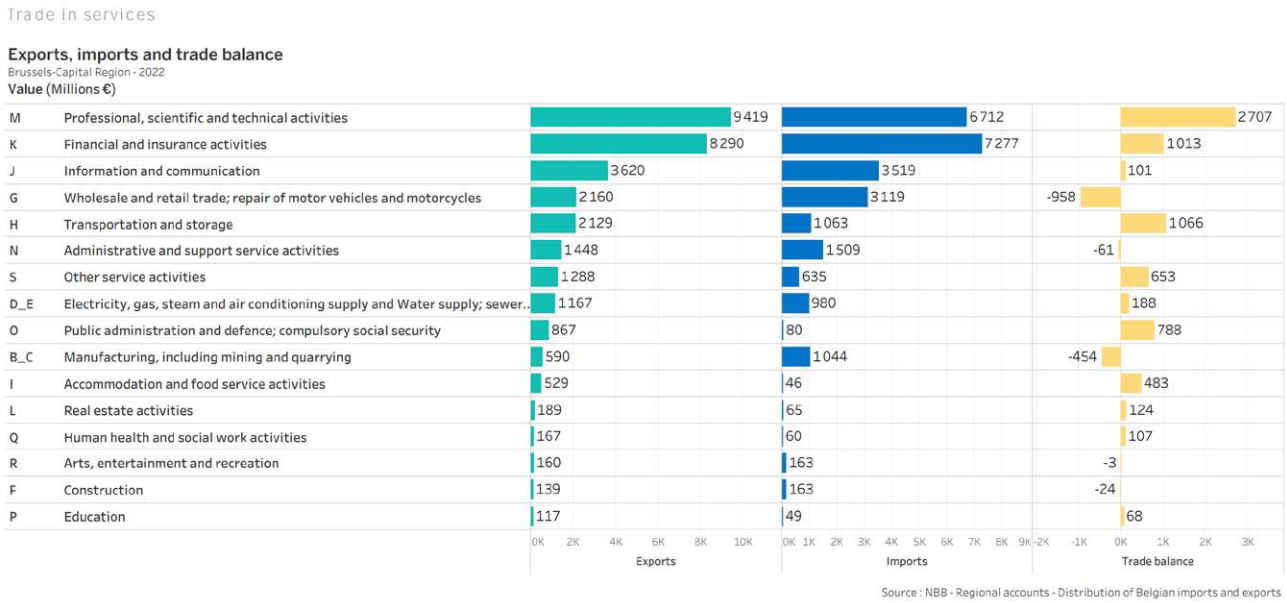
The sectors with a clear surplus in trade in services in 2022 included:

- **Professional, scientific and technical activities** (+EUR 2.7 billion)
- **Financial and insurance activities** (+EUR 1 billion)
- **Transport and storage** (EUR +1.1 billion)
- **Administrative and support services** (+EUR 788 million)
- **Other services** (+EUR 653 million)

Conversely, in the following sectors of activity, imports of services clearly exceeded exports:

- **Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles** (EUR -958 million)
- **Manufacturing industry, including mining and quarrying** (EUR -454 million).

Figure 8. Trade in services by sector of activity, Brussels-Capital Region, EUR million, 2022



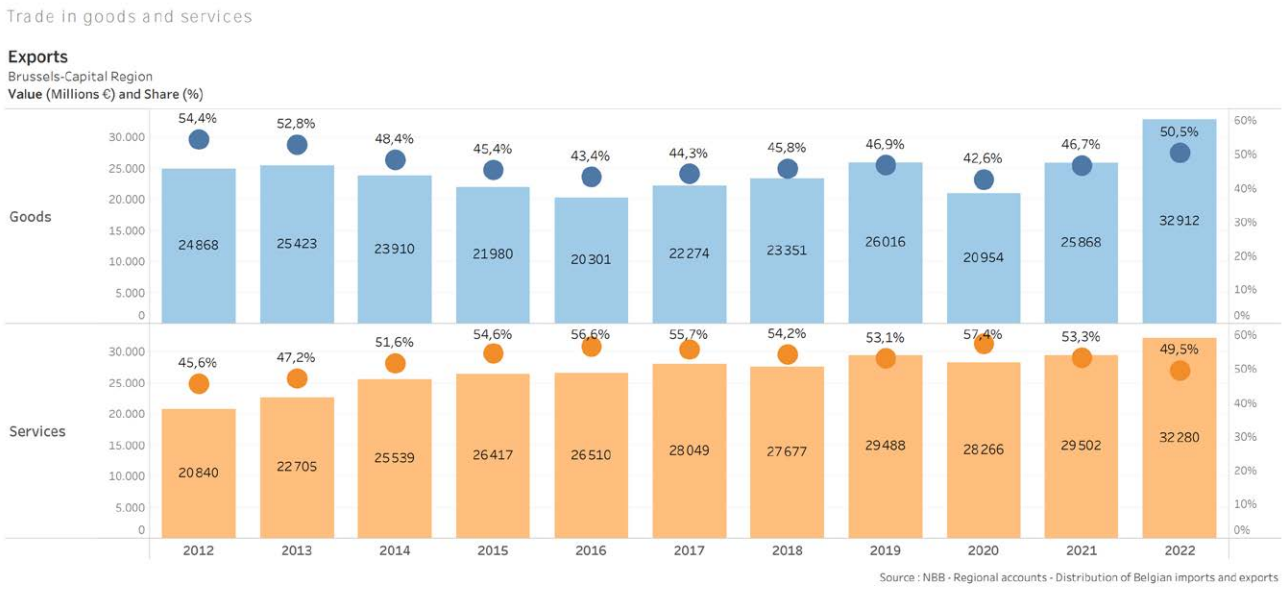
C. SHARE OF SERVICES IN BRUSSELS EXPORTS

The regional figures for exports of goods and services, established according to the regional concept[7] and the result of collaboration between the NBB and the three Regions, are provided annually by the NBB. According to this methodology, which records trade in goods and services based on the location of exporters and importers, the volume of exports of goods and exports of services from Brussels were almost equivalent in 2022 (EUR 32.9 billion and EUR 32.3 billion respectively).

In terms of trade in goods, this amount is significantly higher than the amount obtained using the external statistics methodology, according to the national concept, which takes into account the origin and destination of goods. According to this second method of recording trade in goods, Brussels exports totalled EUR 11.8 billion. The latter data will be used more widely in future chapters on the international trade in goods, as explained in the methodological note to this report.

In 2022, Brussels exports of services represented 49.5% of the Region's exports, the lowest percentage since 2013.

Figure 9. Breakdown of exports of goods and services from the Brussels-Capital Region, value (EUR million) and share (%), 2012-2022

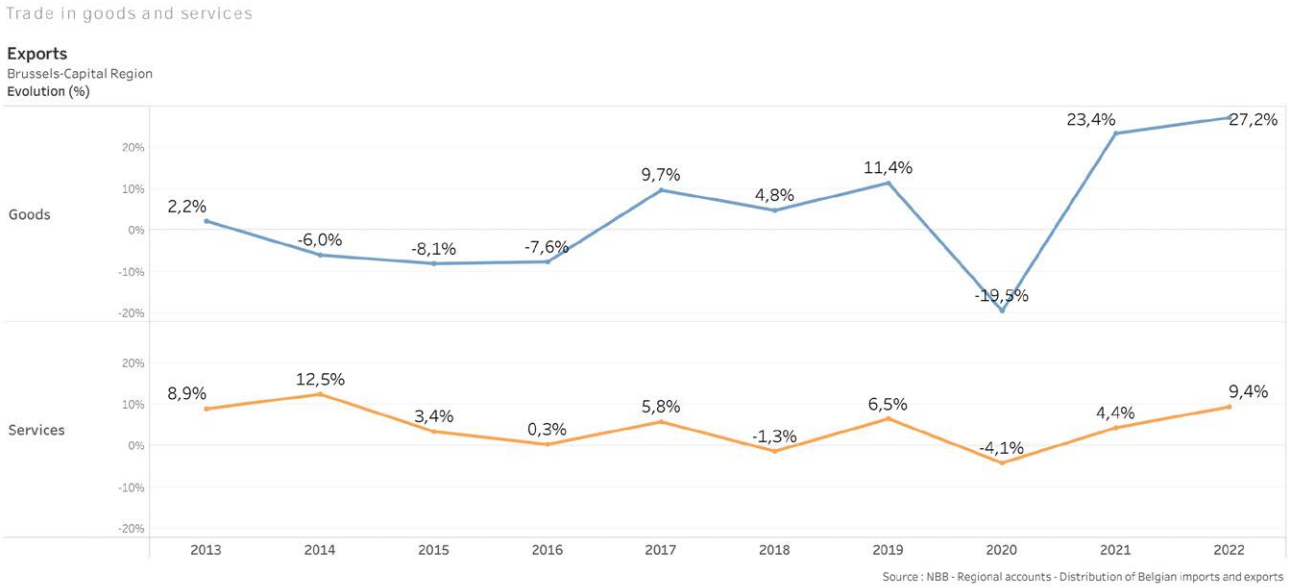


7 Not the national concept used for goods. (see Methodological Note above).

The sharp drop in exports of goods during the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic (-19.5% in 2020) was followed by two years of sustained growth in the volume of goods exported (+23.4% and +27.2%) (Figure 10). The extent of this phenomenon was smaller for services (-4.1% followed by growth of 4.4% and 9.4% in 2022), influencing the proportion of services in the Region's total volume of exports, which fell from 53.1% in 2019 to 49.5% in 2022. They are more resistant to changes in the economic environment than exports of goods[8].

Nevertheless, the Brussels-Capital Region still exported a higher proportion of services (49.5%) than Flanders (19.3% in 2022) and Wallonia (29.7% in 2022).

Figure 10. Evolution of exports of goods and services (%), Brussels-Capital Region, 2012-2022



8 24/04/2017 - BISA Focus no.19: Services, a cornerstone of Brussels exports.



Belgian external trade in goods

BELGIAN EXTERNAL TRADE IN GOODS - 2023

A. BELGIAN TRADE IN GOODS



Belgian exports down sharply and trade balance widening (-EUR 20.9 billion)

At **national** level, exports (EUR 363.9 billion) and imports of goods (EUR 384.7 billion) fell by 17.4% and 12.8% respectively in 2023, compared to 2022. Consequently, the trade deficit is widening, reaching EUR -20.9 billion in 2023. However, these negative evolutions followed significant increases in imports and exports of around 26% and 35% in 2021 and 2022.

Belgian exports fell sharply throughout most of the year, by between -10% and -30% between March and December 2023, compared with the corresponding months of the previous year. Belgian exports were at their lowest level in August 2023.

B. BELGIAN TRADE IN GOODS BY CATEGORY



Lower energy prices and a drastic reduction in vaccine sales were the main causes of the drop in Belgian exports of goods in 2023.

The decline in **Belgian exports** of goods is due in particular to the fall in exports of **Mineral products** (EUR -40.6 billion, or -45.1%) and the poor performance of **Chemical and related products**, the largest category of goods exported (25.4%). This is evident in the fall of EUR 24.3 billion (-20.9%) compared to 2022.

Within the **Mineral products** sector, exports of the two main categories, Petroleum oils (...) *and Petroleum gas and other gaseous hydrocarbons*, accounting for EUR 41.9 billion of Belgian exports of goods in 2023, fell by 46.3%. These products had almost tripled in value in 2022, rising from 26.7 in 2021 to EUR 78 billion. The vertiginous rise in export value was largely attributable to the increase in energy prices in this period[9].

Within **Chemical and related products**, mainly sales of coronavirus vaccines fell in 2023, from EUR 24.8 to EUR 7.1 billion (-71.3%).

Among the largest categories of goods, there were also significant falls in:

- **Natural and cultured pearls, precious and semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles made thereof; imitation jewellery; coins** (EUR 14.4 billion, a share of 3.9%, down 30.3%), and in particular exports of **diamonds** (EUR 8.9 billion, down 29%) and foreign sales of **platinum** (EUR 2.7 billion, down 42.1%). According to the National Bank of Belgium, the situation for diamonds can be explained by a number of factors: the difficult economic situation in China and India, which traditionally demand polished and rough diamonds respectively; competition from cheaper artificial diamonds worldwide; and the geopolitical situation, given that Russia is the world's leading producer of rough diamonds: many Belgian diamond merchants have adjusted their trade flows and are passing less through Belgium, in view of a possible European boycott of Russian diamonds[10];

9 https://www.nbb.be/doc/dq/n/dq3/histo/enp2312.pdf

10 https://www.nbb.be/doc/dq/n/dq3/histo/enp2309.pdf

- **Base metals and articles made of base metal** (7.6%, down 13.7%), mainly cast iron and steel (EUR 14.3 billion, down 15.9%, after a 25.7% rise in 2022);
- **Plastics and articles made thereof** (6.2%, down 16.8%).

The main categories of goods gaining in importance are **Transport equipment** (11.8% share, up 16.7%), and **Food industry products** (7%, up 13.9%).

Belgian imports fell by 12.8%, mainly due to the decline in **Mineral products** (18% import share, down 40.8% on 2022).

C. THE GOODS TRADE BY REGION

Brussels exports rose by 24% in 2023, the highest increase in the last five years, while exports from other regions fell in the same year.

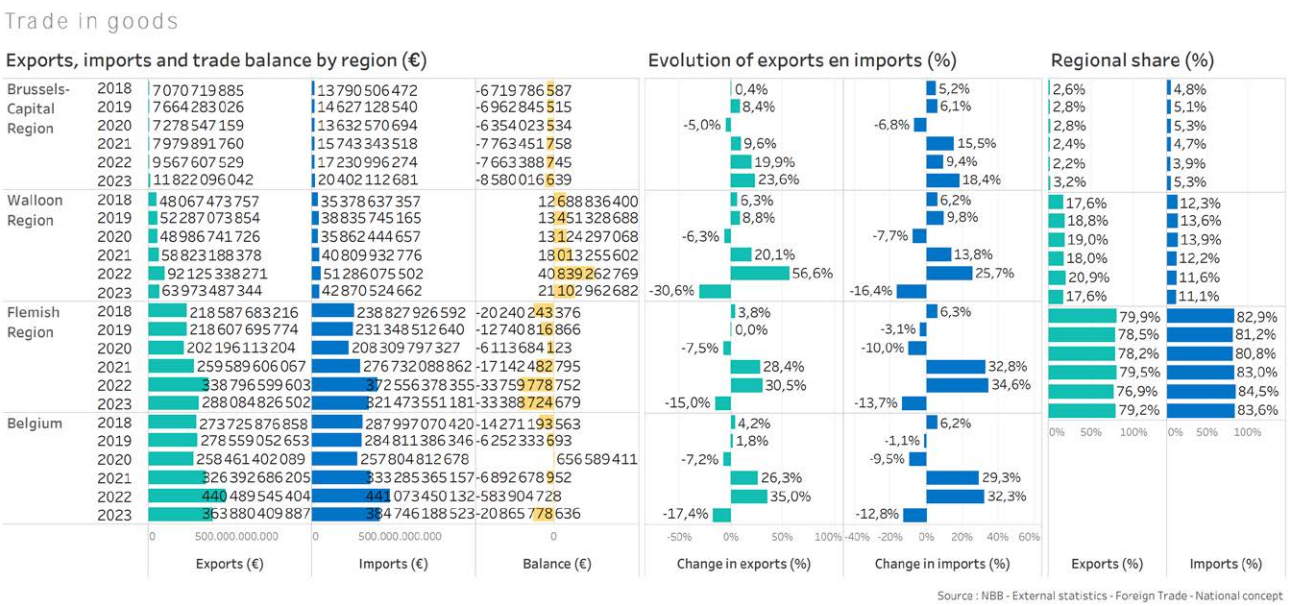
While Belgian exports of goods fell by 17.4% in 2023 compared to the same period the previous year, **Brussels exports** rose by **23.6%**, from EUR 9.6 to 11.8 billion, three consecutive years of sustained growth, since the decline in 2020 (-5%). The Brussels Region's share of Belgian exports therefore rose from 2.2% to 3.2% in 2023. Imports into Brussels followed the same trend, rising by 18.4% compared to a fall of 12.8% for Belgium as a whole.

The **trade balance** therefore remained in deficit (EUR -8.6 billion), as it has been for several years.

As for the other regions, **Flanders**, which accounted for around 79.2% of the country's exports of goods (compared with 76.9% in 2022), saw its overall exports and imports of goods fall by 15.0% and 13.7% respectively. The deficit remained stable compared with 2022, at EUR 33.4 billion.

Wallonia, which now accounts for 17.6% of Belgian exports (compared to 20.9% in 2022), saw its exports fall by 30.6% compared to 2022, while its imports fell by 16.4%. Consequently, its trade surplus shrank from EUR 40.8 billion to 21.1 billion in 2023.

Figure 11. Trade in goods, Belgium and regions, 2019-2023, NBB



D. TRADE IN THE GOODS CATEGORY BY REGION

In Brussels

As in 2022, the growth in Brussels exports was sustained in 2023, thanks in particular to the performance of **Chemical and related products** (+57.4%) in particular, and, to a lesser extent, **Transport equipment** (+15.2%). In three years, exports in these two categories of goods have grown by 123% and 40% respectively.

These two categories of goods account for almost 71% of Brussels exports of goods: 37.3% for Transport equipment, or EUR 4.4 billion, and 33.4% for Chemical and related products, or EUR 3.9 billion.

The share of other categories of goods does not exceed 6% of total foreign sales of the BCR for each, in particular:

- **Machinery and appliances, electrical equipment (...)** (5.5% of exports, or EUR 650.6 million, up 18.8%, +14% over three years)
- **Food industry products (...)** (4.1% of exports, or EUR 487.5 million, up 25.2%, +42% in three years)
- **Plastics and articles made thereof (...)** (3.9% of exports, or EUR 461.7 million, down 17%, +85% in three years).

Flanders and Wallonia

In **Flanders**, exports of **Chemical and related products** (more specifically Pharmaceutical products) fell overall by 27.1% (EUR 66.3 billion compared to 90.9 billion in 2022), even though this is the largest category of goods exported (a share of 23%). Similarly, **Mineral products** (12.5% of exports) were down 33.4% (in particular *Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products from distillation; bituminous materials; mineral waxes*, more specifically *Petroleum gas and other gaseous hydrocarbons* (-11.5 million EUR)). **Transport equipment** (12.8% share, +22.6%), **Machinery and equipment** (11.1% share, +5.2%) and **Food industry products** (7.3% share, +14.7%) followed the opposite trend.

In terms of imports, down by 13.7%, the picture is the same as at the national level, with a significant fall in Flemish imports of **Mineral products** (-39%).

As far as **Wallonia** is concerned, the situation is similar to that in Flanders as regards the category of goods that suffered the most in 2023: **Mineral products** fell by 63.2% on the export side (also *Fuels...*, and more specifically *Petroleum gas and other gaseous hydrocarbons*, with a loss of almost EUR 21 billion), compared with 2022, and by 61.3% on the import side.



Brussels' external trade in goods

BRUSSELS' EXTERNAL TRADE IN GOODS - 2023

A. BRUSSELS' TRADE BY GOODS TYPE

Exports

Accounting for more than half of Brussels exports, motor vehicles for passenger transport (36%) and pharmaceutical products (18%) recorded substantial increases in their foreign sales in 2023 (+33% and +48% respectively). Foodstuffs were a small step down, but climbed to fourth place among Brussels' most exported goods, followed by plastics and rubber.

With a share of 37.3%, compared to 40.0% in 2022, and an export volume of more than EUR 4.4 billion, **Transport equipment retained the top position** in the categories of goods most exported by the Brussels Region (Figure 12). Exports of this type of goods rose by 15.2% from 2022 to 2023. This is mainly **Passenger cars and other motor vehicles mainly designed for transporting people** (EUR 4.2 billion, up 16%).

Chemical and related products (33.4%) remained the **second** most exported category of goods in 2023 (EUR 3.9 billion), behind Transport equipment following an increase of 57.4% compared to 2022. This is mainly:

- *-Medicines consisting of products mixed together, prepared for therapeutic or prophylactic purposes but not put up in measured doses or in forms or packings for retail sale* (EUR 1.1 billion, compared with EUR 7.2 million in 2022, an exponential increase);
- *Medicines consisting of mixed or unmixed products, prepared for therapeutic or prophylactic uses, presented in measured doses* (EUR 629,7 million);
- *Human or animal blood for therapeutic uses, ...* (EUR 390.2 million)*, including mainly Immunological products, presented in doses or packaged for retail sale* (EUR 234.1 million) *and Vaccines for human medicine (excluding SARS coronavirus vaccines)* (EUR 128 million);
- *Oxygen-functional amino compounds* (EUR 379.7 million, an increase of 90.7%);
- *Perfume and eau de toilette* (EUR 235,5 million);
- *Heterocyclic compounds with nitrogen heteroatom(s) only* (EUR 219,5 million);
- *Sulphonamides* (EUR 180.3 million compared with EUR 23.2 million in 2022, an exponential increase);
- *Acyclic alcohols and halogenated, sulphonated, nitrated or nitrosated derivatives* (EUR 129 million);
- *Beauty or make-up preparations and preparations for the care of the skin, other than medicinal products, including sun tanning preparations and preparations for tanning; preparations for manicure or pedicure* (EUR 104 million).

After these two heavyweights in Brussels exports, the **third** category of goods exported in 2023 (5.5%) was **Machinery, appliances and electrical equipment.** Foreign sales of these goods rose by 18.8% compared with 2022, from EUR 547.7 million to EUR 650.6 million, while remaining a relatively modest category (5.7% share in 2022). The main goods exported in this category were *Centrifuges, filtering or purifying machinery for gases or liquids* (EUR 147.2 million, +7.6%); *Automatic data processing machines and units* (...) (EUR 134.5 million, +112.7%), *Electric motors and generators, excluding generating sets* (EUR 51.5 million, compared with only EUR 363. 729 in 2022), and *Consumer telephone sets* (EUR 47.1 million, +19.8%).

Food industry products (...) rose by 25.2% to become the **fourth** most exported category of Brussels goods, with an overall share of 4.1%, and a total value of 487.5 million (compared to 230.6 in 2022). Among the products in question, we could highlight:

- *Chocolate and other prepared foods containing cocoa* (EUR 90.4 million, -4.4%);
- *Malt beers* (EUR 78.9 million, + 418.3%);
- *Bakery products, pastries, cakes* (EUR 52.8 million, +6.3%);
- *Cereal products obtained by puffing or roasting (e.g. corn flakes); cereals (other than corn) in grain form or in the form of flakes or other prepared grains (excluding flour, groats and meal)* (EUR 51 million, up 23.6%).

Following food products, **Plastics and articles made thereof**, Rubber and articles made thereof rank fifth in Brussels' most exported goods categories, with an overall share of 3.9% and sales of EUR 461.5 million (up 17%). Most of this was generated by *Rubber and rubber products* (EUR 365.5 million, down 11.6%), including:

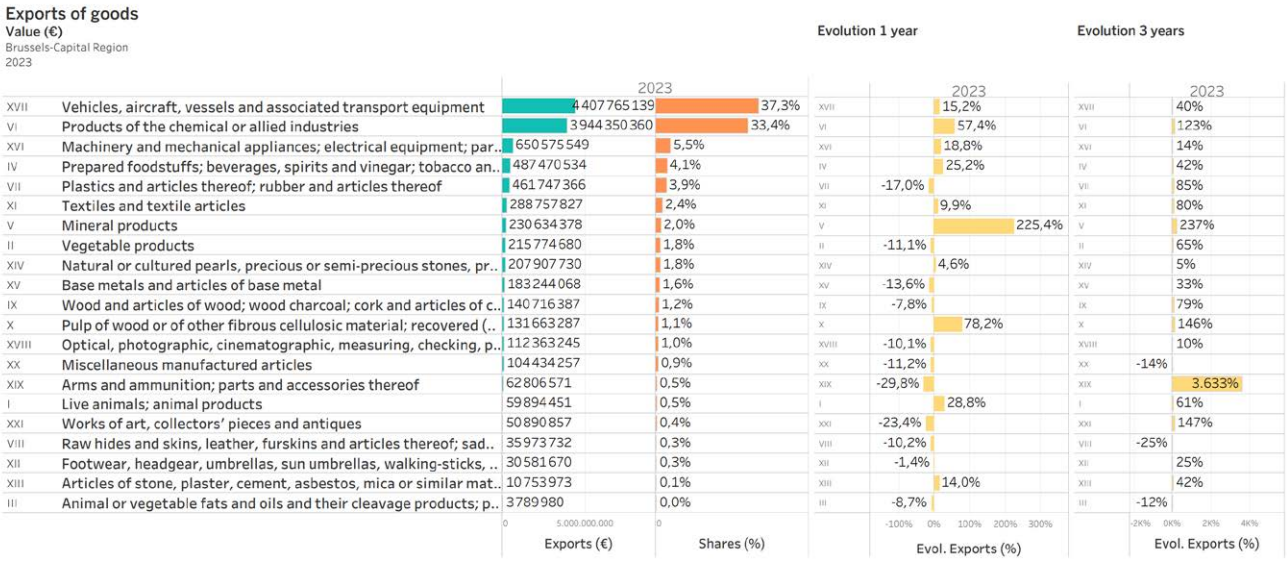
- *Natural rubber, balata, gutta-percha, guayule, chicle and similar natural gums, in primary forms or in plates, sheets or strip* (EUR 230.5 million, +21%)
- *New rubber tyres* (EUR 62.7 million, +37.4%)
- *Synthetic and factice rubber for rubber derived from oils, in primary forms or in plates, sheets or strip* (EUR 51.1 million, -21.7%)

Finally, the performance of **Mineral Products** cannot be overlooked, since in 2023, this category of goods saw its exports increase by 225.4%), reaching EUR 230.6 million, and an overall share of 2% (compared to 0.7% in 2022). Among the top products in this category:

- *Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, other than crude; preparations not elsewhere specified or included, containing by weight 70% or more petroleum oils or oils obtained from bituminous minerals, such oils being the basic constituents of the preparations* (EUR 99.7 million, +71%).
- *Slag, ash and residues (other than from the manufacture of iron or steel) containing metals, arsenic or compounds* (EUR 88.3 million, an exponential increase);

In addition, **Pulp from wood or from other fibrous cellulose material; paper or paperboard for recycling (waste and scrap); paper and paperboard products** recorded a 78.2% increase in foreign sales in the period under review, the second highest growth rate after mineral products.

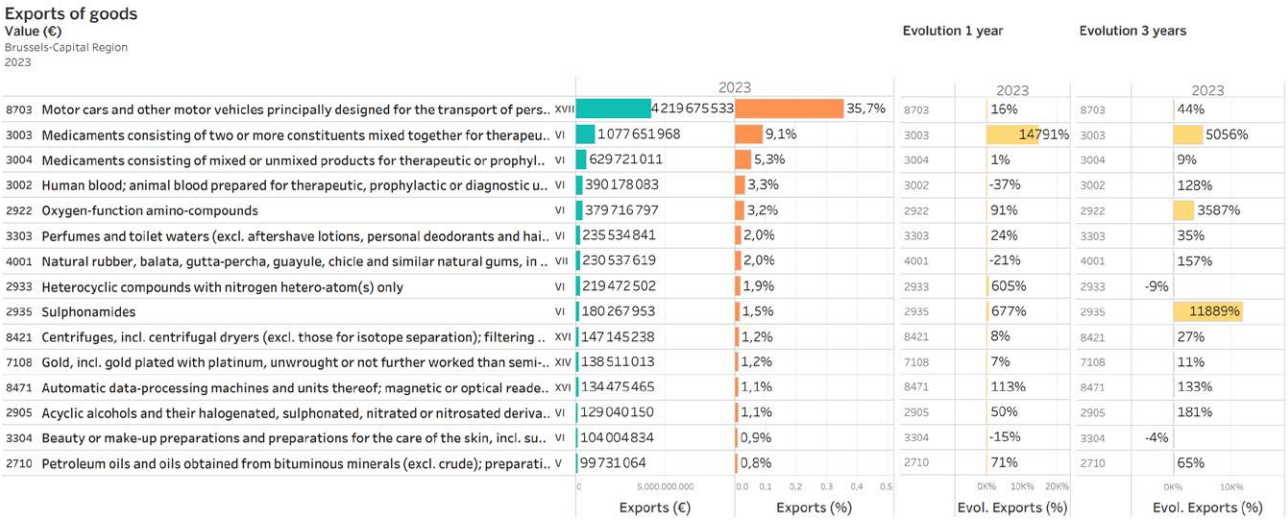
Figure 12. Evolution of exported Brussels goods by category, 2020-2023, NBB



Source : NBB - External statistics - Foreign Trade - National concept

More specifically, these are the fifteen main goods exported by the Brussels Region in 2023, together with their evolution (see Appendix 2 for the full description in English, French and Dutch).

Figure 13. Top 15 goods exported by the Brussels-Capital Region, 2020-2023, NBB



Source : NBB - External statistics - Foreign Trade - National concept

Imports

Machinery, appliances and electrical equipment were imported by the Brussels-Capital Region on a massive scale, generating a trade deficit of almost EUR 4 billion. This imbalance was mainly due to four European countries.

Three categories of goods stand out in terms of Brussels imports. These are **Transport equipment** (with a share of 25.3%), **Chemical and allied products** (with a share of 23.1%), and **Electrical machinery and apparatus** (with a share of 22.6%).

Transport equipment was up 33.3% compared with 2022, and mainly comprised Passenger cars and other motor vehicles for transporting people (EUR 2.4 billion, +33.5%), Car parts and accessories (EUR 1.4 billion, +28.2%), and Motor vehicles for transporting goods (EUR 701 million, +93.5%). The trade deficit for this category of goods was EUR 758 million.

Within the **Chemical and allied products category,** which grew by 47.5%, imports were largely in:

- *Medicines consisting of mixed products, prepared for therapeutic or prophylactic uses, presented in measured doses* (EUR 2.3 billion, +78.6%);
- *Human or animal blood (...), vaccines, toxins (...)* (EUR 545 million, -7.2%);
- *Sulfonamides* (EUR 446 million, +126.2%);
- *Heterocyclic compounds with nitrogen heteroatom(s) only* (EUR 240 million, +118.9%);
- *Beauty and make-up products and preparations for skin care (...)* (EUR 195 million, +22.5%);
- *Medicines consisting of products mixed together, prepared for therapeutic or prophylactic purposes but not put up in measured doses or in forms or packings for retail sale* (EUR 194 million, an exponential increase);
- *Perfume and eau de toilette* (EUR 170 million, +12.4%).

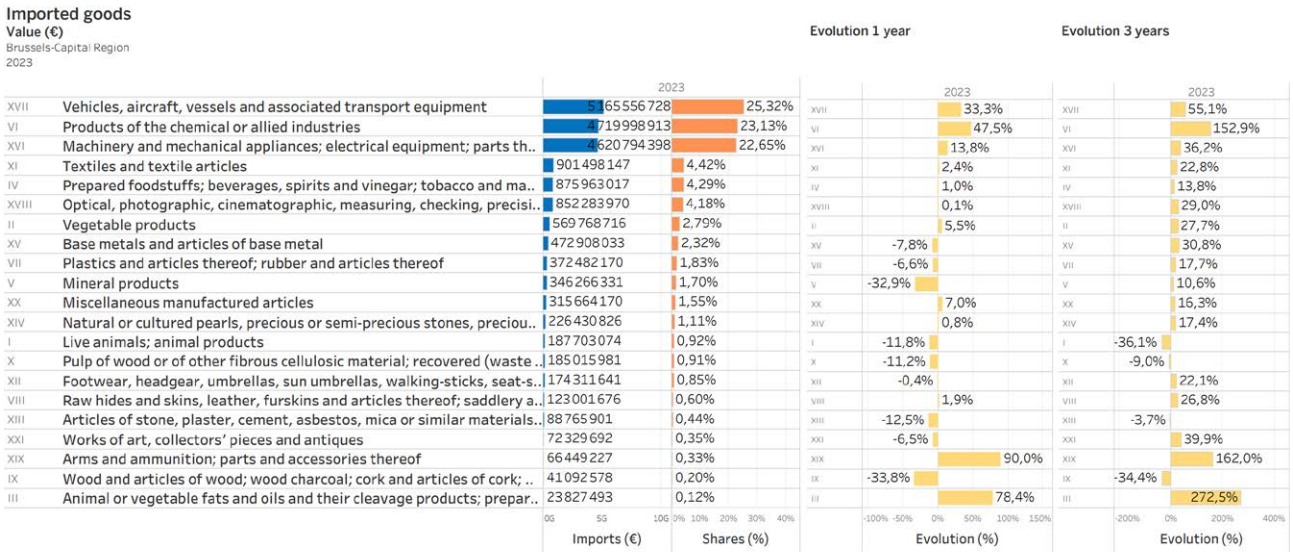
The trade balance for this category of goods was much the same as for Transport equipment (EUR -775.6 million).

Among the main goods imported in the "**Machinery and electrical equipment" category**, up 13.8%, we could highlight:

- *Storage cells* (EUR 1.2 billion, +45.6%);
- *Automatic data-processing machines and related units; magnetic and optical readers, (...)* (EUR 369.7 million, -23.3%);
- *User telephone sets (...); Other apparatus for the emission, transmission or reception of voice, images or other data* (EUR 351.7 million, +31%);
- *Electric motors and generators, excluding generating sets* (EUR 304.6 million, +35%);
- *Machines for the assembly of electric or electronic lamps, tubes or valves, or flashbulbs, incorporating a glass casing; machinery for manufacturing or hot working glass* (EUR 189.1 million, -39.2%).

The Brussels-Capital Region recorded a substantial trade deficit in this category of goods: EUR -3.97 billion in 2023; this was the only category of goods with a deficit of more than EUR 1 billion. The deficit came mainly from trade with four European countries: Hungary (EUR 1.45 billion), the Netherlands (EUR 841 million), Germany (EUR 454 million and France (EUR 326 million).

Figure 14. Ranking in descending order of Brussels categories of goods imported and import percentages, 2020-2023, NBB



Source : NBB - External statistics - Foreign Trade - National concept

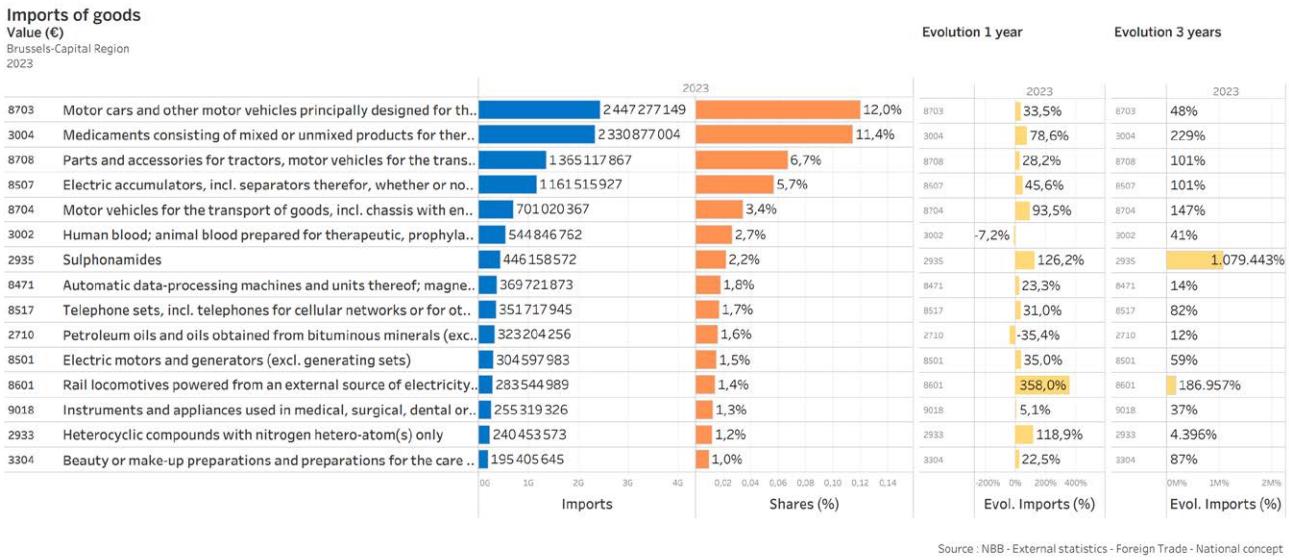
The fifteen main goods imported by the Brussels Region in 2023 are presented in Figure 15 (see Appendix 2 for the full description in English, French and Dutch).

Imports of *Locomotives and locotractors, powered by an external source of electricity or electric accumulators,* rose by more than 350% in the last two years, following growth of 8,583% in 2021. Imports totalled EUR 283 million in 2023, compared with EUR 364,000 in 2019.

Sulphonamides also stand out thanks to the strong rise in Brussels imports, from EUR 197.2 to EUR 446.2 million (+126.2%). Exponential growth in imports of this product had already been observed in 2022.

Lastly, among the main imported goods, there were three goods for which the trade balance showed a deficit of more than 1 billion: *Medicines consisting of mixed or unmixed products, prepared for therapeutic or prophylactic purposes, presented in dose form* (balance of EUR -1.7 billion, of which EUR -887 million with Germany and EUR -448 million with France), *Parts and accessories of motor vehicles* (balance of EUR -1.3 billion, of which EUR -505 million with Germany and EUR -470 million with France) and *Electric accumulators, including separators, whether or not rectangular* (balance of EUR -1.2 billion, of which EUR -1.1 billion with Hungary).

Figure 15. Top 15 goods imported by the Brussels-Capital Region, 2020-2023, NBB



Source : NBB - External statistics - Foreign Trade - National concept

B. OVERVIEW OF TRADE IN GOODS IN BRUSSELS BY CONTINENT

In 2023, the Brussels-Capital Region maintained a positive trade balance with America, Africa and Oceania, reduced its trade deficit with Asia but increased its deficit with Europe.

In 2023, the **European continent** maintained its position as the Brussels Region's leading customer and supplier (Figure 16). Indeed, the share of exports destined for this sector rose from 81.2% in 2022 to 81.3% in 2023, although it did not return to the level seen in 2021 (85.2%). Overall, exports of goods from Brussels to Europe rose by 23.8% compared to 2022. Imports from Europe rose by 20.4%, and their overall share reached 94.4%, up on the previous three years (92.9% in 2022). The Brussels-Capital Region therefore exports proportionately less to Europe than it imports from the same continent.

It should be noted that the **European Union** was the Brussels-Capital Region's leading customer and that this position was strengthened in 2023, as 72.2% of Brussels goods were destined for the EU (compared with 67.6% in 2022), although they did not reach pre-COVID levels (78% in 2019). These exports were 32% up on 2022, the biggest increase in the last five years.

The trade balance with Europe nevertheless remained negative for the Brussels-Capital Region, with a deficit of EUR 9.7 billion (compared to 8.2 in 2022).

In terms of other continents, there was an overall increase in exports to America, while other destinations lost some ground.

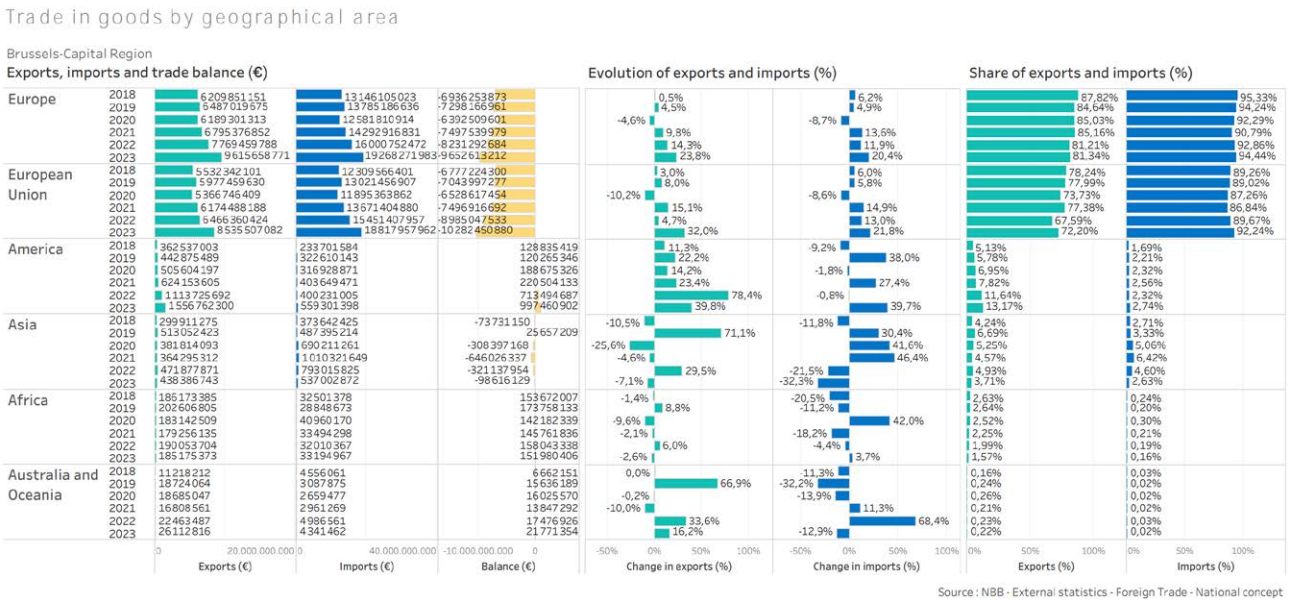
America saw its share of exports rise from 11.6% in 2022 to 13.2% in 2023, with an overall increase of 39.8%. Imports from this continent increased by 39.7% between 2022 and 2023, with their share also rising from 2.3% to 2.7%. The trade balance with this continent showed a surplus of almost EUR 1 billion (compared with EUR 713.5 million in 2022).

Asia is the third largest importer of goods from Brussels. This continent accounted for 3.7% of our exports (compared to 4.9% in 2022), which implies a fall of -7.1% compared to 2022 in monetary terms. Imports from Asia were down 32.3% compared to 2022, to an overall percentage of 2.6% (compared to 4.6% in 2022). As a result, the Brussels trade deficit with Asia has narrowed somewhat, from -321 to -98.6 million EUR.

Africa remains our fourth partner, with a share of exports that is also falling (from 2% to 1.6% in 2023). To a lesser extent, the same applies to imports (up from 0.19% to 0.16%).

Oceania comes in last in the continents to which the Brussels-Capital Region exports goods (EUR 26.1 million in 2023, a share of 0.2%).

Figure 16. Trade in goods by the Brussels-Capital Region by geographical area, 2018-2023, NBB



C. OVERVIEW OF TRADE IN GOODS IN BRUSSELS BY TRADE PARTNER

The Brussels-Capital Region increased or maintained its exports to most of its main trading partners. By contrast, the Region's sales fell to the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Norway, Japan and Russia. Hungary, the Czech Republic, Turkey, Finland and Israel moved up 6 to 8 places in the rankings.

Unsurprisingly, the main destinations for BCR goods are its closest neighbours, with the exception of the United States, which ranks fourth.

In terms of the distribution of Brussels goods exports, the main lesson to be learned from the financial year 2023 is the **ongoing dominant position of Germany**, to which exports increased by 49.7% compared to 2022 (Figure 17). With EUR 3.1 billion (compared with EUR 2.1 billion previously), Germany strengthened its pole position, with an overall share of 26.1%, compared with 21.5% in 2022. It should be noted that this share has fluctuated in recent years: it was 27.5% in 2019, 28.2% in 2021, and just 17.1% in 2018.

The **Netherlands** maintained its second place with EUR 1.5 billion and an increase of 12.9%, followed by **France** with an increase of 33.6% and EUR 1.4 billion.

With growth of 41.7% and a value of EUR 1.3 billion), the **United States** has moved up one place and is now fourth, and still the largest customer outside Europe.

With weak growth of 3.6%, **Luxembourg** was relegated to 5th place (4th in 2022), while the **United Kingdom** (6th) maintained its position, despite a drop of 15.7% between 2022 and 2023. It should be noted that over three years, exports to the UK have grown by 14.3%, despite Brexit. Conversely, imports from the UK have fallen by 42.4% in three years.

In the south of Europe, **Italy** posted a solid increase (+46.2%) and moved up one place (8th), while **Spain** remained 11th with a growth rate of 21.3%.

Further east, the **Czech Republic** (+174.3%, 19th) and **Hungary** (+152.6%, 13th) each moved up 8 places, while **Austria** (+78.4%, 14th) moved up 4 places. **Poland** (+28.2%, 10th) maintained its position, despite strong growth.

Turkey (20th) and **Israel** (25th) stood out by rising 6 and 7 places, with increases of 123.2% and 85.1% respectively.

The same is true of **Finland**, which has moved up 7 places (to 22nd), thanks to a 97.6% rise in Brussels exports, and **Sweden**, which moved up 3 places (9th) with growth of 82.9%, while **Denmark** has slipped 3 places (to 18th), due to more modest growth rate of 8.8%.

In the "major exports" category, in addition to the United States, **Canada** recorded a sustained rise of 91.3%, moving up 4 places to 12th.

It should be noted that **China** dropped three places (17th), due to weak growth of 5.4%. In terms of poor performance of Brussels goods exports, we should also mention the fall in exports to the **UK** (-15.7%, 6th), **Switzerland** (-4.6%, 7th), **Norway** (-51.4%, 15th), **Japan** (-3.5%, 16th) and **Russia** (-37.4%, 23rd), which fell 6 places.

Figure 17. Top 25 destination countries for Brussels goods, value, evolution and ranking, 2020-2023, NBB

Exports of goods

Brussels-Capital Region

Top-25

Value (€)

		Value (€) 2022	Value (€) 2023	Evolution 1 year (%) 2023	Evolution 3 years (%) 2023	Shares (%) 2022	Shares (%) 2023	Cumulative shares (%) 2022	Cumulative shares (%) 2023	Ranks 2022	Ranks 2023	Evol. 1 year 2023	Evol. 3 years 2023
Germany	DE	2050483357	3084337267	49,7%	82,3%	21,54%	26,09%	21,54%	26,09%	1	1	0	0
the Netherlands	NL	1336163113	1507877189	12,9%	35,2%	13,97%	12,75%	35,50%	38,84%	2	2	0	0
France	FR	1032299614	1378678693	33,6%	40,4%	10,79%	11,66%	46,29%	50,51%	3	3	0	0
United States	US	886511175	1256089068	41,7%	190,7%	9,27%	10,62%	55,56%	61,13%	5	4	-1	-2
Luxembourg	LU	1016100036	1052817167	3,6%	30,2%	10,62%	8,91%	66,18%	70,04%	4	5	1	1
United Kingdom	GB	596095996	502685066	-15,7%	14,3%	6,23%	4,25%	72,41%	74,29%	6	6	0	1
Switzerland	CH	305252225	291151168	-4,6%	4,8%	3,19%	2,46%	75,60%	76,75%	7	7	0	0
Italy	IT	174736549	255477242	46,2%	44,2%	1,83%	2,16%	77,42%	78,91%	9	8	-1	0
Sweden	SE	112218008	205284143	82,9%	70,0%	1,17%	1,74%	78,60%	80,65%	12	9	-3	-1
Poland	PL	140129607	179642922	28,2%	235,2%	1,46%	1,52%	80,06%	82,17%	10	10	0	-4
Spain	ES	138796796	168352028	21,3%	51,2%	1,45%	1,42%	81,51%	83,59%	11	11	0	0
Canada	CA	75982000	145388404	91,3%	1843,4%	0,79%	1,23%	82,31%	84,82%	16	12	-4	-31
Hungary	HU	53099877	134122637	152,6%	529,0%	0,55%	1,13%	82,86%	85,96%	21	13	-8	-10
Austria	AT	72828496	129904068	78,4%	75,8%	0,76%	1,10%	83,62%	87,06%	18	14	-4	1
Norway	NO	255270788	124186442	-51,4%	2622,9%	2,67%	1,05%	86,29%	88,11%	8	15	7	-39
Japan	JP	103665878	100057904	-3,5%	-35,1%	1,08%	0,85%	87,37%	88,95%	13	16	3	7
China, People's R..	CN	83113562	87614854	5,4%	-9,1%	0,87%	0,74%	88,24%	89,69%	14	17	3	5
Denmark	DK	79978420	87012090	8,8%	74,2%	0,84%	0,74%	89,08%	90,43%	15	18	3	3
Czech Republic	CZ	31662144	86840275	174,3%	278,3%	0,33%	0,73%	89,41%	91,16%	27	19	-8	-3
Türkiye	TR	35271371	78717766	123,2%	199,3%	0,37%	0,67%	89,78%	91,83%	26	20	-6	-1
Brazil	BR	64782660	65663017	1,4%	56,3%	0,68%	0,56%	90,46%	92,39%	19	21	2	4
Finland	FI	27578841	54506938	97,6%	171,5%	0,29%	0,46%	90,74%	92,85%	29	22	-7	-3
Russia	RU	73293507	45910661	-37,4%	0,4%	0,77%	0,39%	91,51%	93,23%	17	23	6	7
Ireland	IE	40097780	43184167	7,7%	53,1%	0,42%	0,37%	91,93%	93,60%	24	24	0	4
Israel	IL	21070238	39006694	85,1%	103,8%	0,22%	0,33%	92,15%	93,93%	32	25	-7	-3

Source : NBB - External statistics - Foreign Trade - National concept

D. POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE EXPORT PERFORMANCES (2022-2023) - EXPLANATORY FACTORS

While Transport equipment" and "Chemical and related products, which account for more than 70% of Brussels exports, are generally decisive in the upward or downward trend in exports from the Brussels-Capital Region to its various trading partners, significant changes were also noted in 2023 for other products in certain markets.

Analysis of positive export performance

A significant increase in exports of **Chemical and related products** (+57.4%, i.e. EUR 3.9 billion compared to EUR 2.5 billion in 2022) can be seen in the largest customers of the BCR: Germany, France, Luxembourg, Italy, Poland, Spain, Hungary, Czech Republic and Canada.

The same applies to **Transport equipment**: with the exception of Germany (-20.4%) and the Netherlands (+1.1%), the BCR's main trading partners (France, the United States, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom) experienced sustained growth in exports of this type of good. The overall increase is therefore relatively modest: +15.2%, or EUR 4.4 billion compared with EUR 3.8 billion in 2022.

Mineral products saw an exponential increase (+225.4%, i.e. EUR 230.6 compared to 70.9 million) as a result of the energy crisis, which mainly affected exports to the Netherlands and Spain, and to a lesser extent to France.

With regard to the other categories of goods, there were notable positive trends in **Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material** (Germany, Poland, Italy, Czech Republic, Spain, Austria, Hungary), **Plastics and articles thereof** (Czech Republic), **Textiles and articles thereof** (Poland, Denmark, Ireland), **Base metals** (Slovakia, Croatia) and **Food products** (United States, Israel, United Arab Emirates, Canada and other countries outside Europe).

Analysis of negative export performance

The **Transport equipment** category was responsible for poor results in Norway and part of the reduction in imports to Russia, while **Chemical and related products** saw foreign sales fall in the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Japan and Russia. The BCR also recorded a drop in exports to Switzerland of **Machinery and electrical appliances** and **Optical instruments and apparatus.**

E. TRADE IN GOODS BY CONTINENT AND TRADE PARTNER

Exports from Brussels by continent[11]

Europe

The share of exports of goods from the Brussels-Capital Region to Europe remained stable in 2023 compared to the previous year (81%).

Figure 18. Ranking, evolution and distribution of the main European destination countries for Brussels goods (> EUR 10 million), 2020-2023, NBB

Exports of goods to Europe

Brussels-Capital Region

Exports > 10 M€

Value (€)		2023
Germany	DE	3084337267
the Netherlands	NL	1507877189
France	FR	1378678693
Luxembourg	LU	1052817167
United Kingdom	GB	502685066
Switzerland	CH	291151168
Italy	IT	255477242
Sweden	SE	205284143
Poland	PL	179642922
Spain	ES	168352028
Hungary	HU	134122637
Austria	AT	129904068
Norway	NO	124186442
Denmark	DK	87012090
Czech Republic	CZ	86840275
Türkiye	TR	78717766
Finland	FI	54506938
Russia	RU	45910661
Ireland	IE	43184167
Romania	RO	30435505
Portugal	PT	23136181
Lithuania	LT	20980867
Slovenia	SI	20570561
Greece	GR	16706613
Ukraine	UA	16674432
Bulgaria	BG	12359003
Croatia	HR	11832728
Iceland	IS	11315326
Slovakia	SK	10770556
Europe	E1	9615658771

Evolution 1 year (%)		2023
DE		49,7%
NL		12,9%
FR		33,6%
LU		3,6%
GB	-15,7%	
CH	-4,6%	
IT		46,2%
SE		82,9%
PL		28,2%
ES		21,3%
HU		152,6%
AT		78,4%
NO	-51,4%	
DK		8,8%
CZ		174,3%
TR		123,2%
FI		97,6%
RU	-37,4%	
IE		7,7%
RO		38,6%
PT	-35,1%	
LT		19,2%
SI		0,7%
GR		45,0%
UA		40,1%
BG		39,8%
HR		78,8%
IS		21,3%
SK		50,8%
		23,8%

Evolution 3 years (%)		2023
DE		82,3%
NL		35,2%
FR		40,4%
LU		30,2%
GB		14,3%
CH		4,8%
IT		44,2%
SE		70,0%
PL		235,2%
ES		51,2%
HU		529,0%
AT		75,8%
NO		2622,9%
DK		74,2%
CZ		278,3%
TR		199,3%
FI		171,5%
RU		0,4%
IE		53,1%
RO		81,5%
PT		16,4%
LT		118,3%
SI		129,2%
GR		101,9%
UA		8,7%
BG		89,5%
HR		159,2%
IS		15,3%
SK		49,1%
		55,4%

Shares (%)		2022	2023
DE		26,5%	32,1%
NL		17,2%	15,7%
FR		13,3%	14,3%
LU		13,1%	10,9%
GB		7,7%	5,2%
CH		3,9%	3,0%
IT		2,2%	2,7%
SE		1,4%	2,1%
PL		1,8%	1,9%
ES		1,8%	1,8%
HU		0,7%	1,4%
AT		0,9%	1,4%
NO		3,3%	1,3%
DK		1,0%	0,9%
CZ		0,4%	0,9%
TR		0,5%	0,8%
FI		0,4%	0,6%
RU		0,9%	0,5%
IE		0,5%	0,4%
RO		0,3%	0,3%
PT		0,5%	0,2%
LT		0,2%	0,2%
SI		0,3%	0,2%
GR		0,1%	0,2%
UA		0,2%	0,2%
BG		0,1%	0,1%
HR		0,1%	0,1%
IS		0,1%	0,1%
SK		0,1%	0,1%
		100%	100%

Cumulative shares (%)		2022	2023
DE		26,5%	32,1%
NL		43,7%	47,8%
FR		57,0%	62,1%
LU		70,1%	73,0%
GB		77,8%	78,3%
CH		81,7%	81,3%
IT		83,9%	84,0%
SE		85,4%	86,1%
PL		87,2%	88,0%
ES		89,0%	89,7%
HU		89,7%	91,1%
AT		90,6%	92,5%
NO		93,9%	93,7%
DK		94,9%	94,7%
CZ		95,3%	95,6%
TR		95,8%	96,4%
FI		96,1%	96,9%
RU		97,1%	97,4%
IE		97,6%	97,9%
RO		97,9%	98,2%
PT		98,3%	98,4%
LT		98,5%	98,6%
SI		98,8%	98,9%
GR		99,0%	99,0%
UA		99,1%	99,2%
BG		99,2%	99,3%
HR		99,3%	99,5%
IS		99,4%	99,6%
SK		99,5%	99,7%
		100%	100%

Ranks	2023
DE	1
NL	2
FR	3
LU	4
GB	5
CH	6
IT	7
SE	8
PL	9
ES	10
HU	11
AT	12
NO	13
DK	14
CZ	15
TR	16
FI	17
RU	18
IE	19
RO	20
PT	21
LT	22
SI	23
GR	24
UA	25
BG	26
HR	27
IS	28
SK	29

Evol. 1 year	2023
DE	0
NL	0
FR	0
LU	0
GB	0
CH	0
IT	-1
SE	-3
PL	0
ES	0
HU	-4
AT	-2
NO	6
DK	2
CZ	-4
TR	-2
FI	-3
RU	5
IE	3
RO	-1
PT	4
LT	-1
SI	1
GR	-1
UA	1
BG	-3
HR	-4
IS	1
SK	-1

Evol. 3 years	2023
DE	0
NL	0
FR	0
LU	0
GB	0
CH	0
IT	0
SE	0
PL	-2
ES	1
HU	-6
AT	2
NO	-16
DK	2
CZ	-1
TR	1
FI	-1
RU	5
IE	5
RO	0
PT	2
LT	-1
SI	-1
GR	-1
UA	4
BG	-1
HR	-1
IS	6
SK	3

Source : NBB - External statistics - Foreign Trade - National concept

11 The percentages stated in the body of the text for each country correspond to that country's share of Brussels exports, not its share of Brussels exports to the continent concerned (percentage shown in the table).

Significant positive evolution:

- **Germany** (26.1%, compared with 21.5% in 2022). 49.7% growth in exports, due in particular to the substantial rise in "Chemical and related products" (+215.4%, EUR 1.8 billion compared to EUR 564.2 million in 2022).
- **Netherlands** (12.8%, compared with 14.0% in 2022). A growth rate of 12.9%, due to the "explosion" in exports of "Mineral products", i.e. mineral fuels, mineral oils and products from distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes (EUR 136.1 million compared to EUR 2.3 million).
- **France** (11.7%, compared with 10.8% in 2022). A growth rate of 33,6%, attributable to exports of:
  - "Products of the chemical or allied industries", which rose from 160.3 to 370.8 million euros (+131.4%).
  - "Transport equipment" (+38.2%), i.e. EUR 244.4 million compared with EUR 176.9 million in 2022;
  - "Wood, charcoal and articles of wood (...)" (+180.4%), i.e. EUR 75.3 compared with EUR 26.9 million;
  - "Machinery and electrical equipment (...)", (+31.5%), i.e. 149.2 compared with 113.4 million EUR;
  - "Food industry products (...)" (+31.1%), i.e. 98.0 compared with EUR 74.8 million;
  - "Mineral products" (+82.1%), i.e. EUR 19.2 compared with EUR 10.5 million.
- **Luxembourg** (8.9%, compared with 10.6% in 2022). A growth rate of 3,6% due to exports of:
  - "Transport equipment" (+15.2%, i.e. EUR 438.6 million compared to 380.6 million);
  - "Chemical and related products" (+40.4%, i.e. EUR 159.5 million compared to 113.6 million);
  - "Machinery and electrical equipment (...)", (+39.2%, i.e. 58.2 compared with 41.8 million EUR);
- **Italy** (2.2%, compared with 1.8% in 2022). +46.2%, growth attributable to exports of:
  - "Chemical and related products" (+154.8%, i.e. EUR 88.2 million compared to 34.6 million);
  - "Transport equipment" (+77%, i.e. EUR 70.5 million compared to 39.8 million).
  - "Textiles and products made thereof" (+60.3%, i.e. EUR 28.3 million compared to 17.7 million).
  - "Machinery and electrical equipment (...)", (+89%, i.e. 22.6 compared with 11.9 million EUR).
- **Sweden** (1.7%, compared with 1.2% in 2022), +82.9%, due to the increase in "Transport equipment" (+110.5%, or 172.7 compared with EUR 82.1 million).
- **Poland** (1.5%), + 28.2%, growth due in particular to good performance in:
  - "Chemical and related products" (+99%, i.e. EUR 33.2 million compared to 16.7 million);
  - "Textiles and products made thereof" (+52.7%, i.e. EUR 58.6 million compared to 38.4 million).
- **Spain** (1.4%, compared with 1.5% in 2022), + 21.3%, overall growth due to increase in exports of:
  - "Mineral products" (EUR 22.3 million compared to EUR 1,757);
  - "Chemical and related products" (+33.2%, i.e. EUR 36.9 million compared to 27.7 million);
- **Hungary** (1.1%, compared with 0.6% in 2022), +152.6%, growth attributable to exports of "Chemical and related products" (+814.9%, i.e. EUR 77.8 million compared to 8.5 million).
- **Austria** (1.1%, compared with 0.8% in 2022), +78.4%, an increase due to "Transport equipment" (+137.9%, or EUR 92.1 million compared with EUR 38.7 million) and to a lesser extent to "Machinery and electrical equipment (...)" (+48.4%, or EUR 30.0 million compared with EUR 14.1 million).

- **Denmark** (0.7%, compared with 0.8% in 2022), +8.8%, an increase due to "Electrical machinery and equipment (...)" (+103.9%, or 11.9 compared with EUR 5.8 million).
- **Czech Republic** (0.7%, compared with 0.3% in 2022), +174.3%, growth essentially due to exports of:
  - "Chemical and related products" (+516.9%, i.e. EUR 34.9 million compared to 5.7 million);
  - "Plastics and articles made thereof" (+278%, i.e. EUR 17.0 million compared to 4.5 million).
- **Turkey** (0.7%, compared with 0.4% in 2022%), +123.2%, due to an explosion in exports of "Transport equipment" (EUR 296.9%, or 55.9 compared with EUR 14.1 million).
- **Finland** (0.5%, compared with 0.3% in 2022), +97.6%, increase attributable to "Transport equipment" (+198.6%, or EUR 30.7 million compared with EUR 10.3 million) and "Machinery and electrical equipment (...)" (+170.3%, or EUR 17.2 million compared with EUR 6.4 million).
- **Romania** (0.3%), +38.6%, growth due to exports of:
  - "Machinery and electrical equipment (...)", (+81%, i.e. 10.9 compared with 6.0 million EUR);
  - "Transport equipment" (+77.5%, i.e. EUR 10.1 million compared to 5.7 million).
- **Greece** (0.2% compared with 0.1% in 2022), +45%, an increase attributable to exports of:
  - "Products of the chemical or allied industries" (+110.4%, i.e. 6.8 vs. 3.3 million EUR);
  - "Transport equipment" (+183.4%, i.e. EUR 3.9 million compared to 1.4 million).

Lastly, Brussels' exports to Eastern Europe held up well overall, rising - in addition to Hungary, Austria and Romania - to countries such as **Ukraine** (0.1% export share, +40.1%, due to exports of "Transport equipment"), **Bulgaria** (0.1%, +39.8%, thanks to "Transport equipment", "Products of the chemical or allied industries" and "Textiles and articles thereof"), **Croatia** (0.1%, +78.8%, thanks to "Transport equipment", "Base metals and articles of base metal" and "Products of the chemical or allied industries") and **Slovakia** (0.1%, +50.8%, thanks to "Base metals (...)", "Pulp of w (...)", "Products of the chemical or allied industries" and "Products of the food industries").

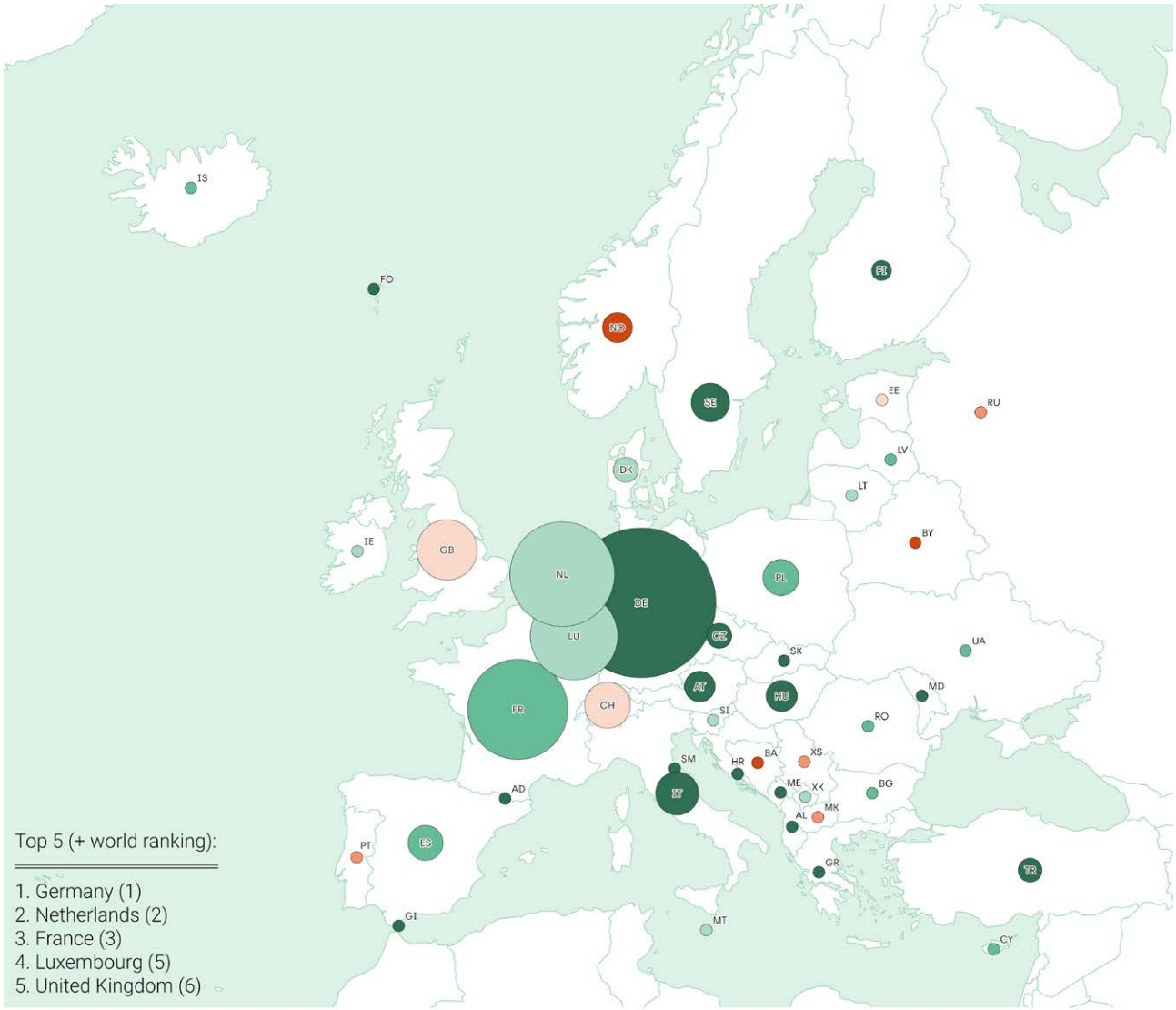
Significant negative evolution:

- **United Kingdom** (4.3% export share, compared with 6.2% in 2022), with a 15.7% drop attributable to exports of "Products of the chemical or allied industries" (-65, 9%, or 88.7 compared with EUR 260.2 million), while exports of "Transport equipment" rose by 28.5% (382.3 compared with EUR 297.4 million).
- **Switzerland** (2.5%, compared with 3.2% in 2022), -4.6%, attributable to two categories of goods:
  - "Chemical and related products": -74.4%, i.e. EUR 12.9 million compared to 50.3 million;
  - "Machinery and electrical equipment (...)": -46.8%, i.e. 17.9 compared with 33.6 million EUR);

At the same time, the "Transport equipment" segment performed well (up 68%, from EUR 56.6 million to 95 million).

- **Norway** (1.1%, compared with 2.7% in 2022), down 51.4%, mainly due to "Transport equipment" (-51.4%, i.e. EUR 121.2, compared to 249.4 million). This underperformance should be put into perspective in view of the exponential growth seen over three years (+110,027%).
- **Russia** (0.4%, compared with 0.8% in 2022), down 37.4%, where the "Transport equipment" (-100%, or EUR 49,502 compared to 10.2 million) and "Chemical and related products" (-27.5%, or EUR 43.7 million compared to 60.2 million) sectors both suffered.
- **Portugal** (0.2%, compared with 0.4% in 2022), -35.1%, due to a fall in exports of "Wood, charcoal and articles of wood (...)" (-95.6%, or 508,363 compared with EUR 11.5 million), while the sectors of "Products of the chemical or allied industries" (up 103.2%, or 5 compared with EUR 2.5 million) and "Transport equipment" (with a slight decrease of 3.1%, or 9.3 compared with EUR 9.6 million), performed rather well.

Figure 19. Cartographic representation of Brussels goods exports to Europe, value (€ million), evolution (%) and ranking in Europe and worldwide, 2022-2023, NBB



Volume of exports from the Brussels-Capital Region (€ million)

Total exports: 9 616 € millions

3 000
300
< 50

Change in export volume between 2022 and 2023 (%)

Total exports: + 23.8 % compared to 2022

> + 40 %
+ 20 % à + 40 %
0 % à + 20 %
0 % à - 20 %
- 20 % à - 40 %
< - 40 %

0 750 1.500 km

Source: National Bank of Belgium, 2024

America

Exports of products from the Brussels-Capital Region to **America** accounted for 13.2% of total exports in 2023, compared to 11.6% in 2022. While the United States remains the dominant market, accounting for 80.7% of Brussels exports to America, sales to Canada rose by 91.3%, an exponential rise in three years.

Figure 20. Ranking, evolution and distribution of the main American destination countries for Brussels goods (> EUR 10 million), 2020-2023, NBB

Exports of goods to America

Brussels-Capital Region
Exports > 10 M€
Value (€)

		2023	Evolution 1 year (%) 2023	Evolution 3 years (%) 2023	Shares (%) 2022	Shares (%) 2023	Cumulative shares (%) 2022	Cumulative shares (%) 2023	Ranks 2023	Evol. 1 year 2023	Evol. 3 years 2023
United States	US	1256089068	41,7%	190,7%	79,6%	80,7%	79,6%	80,7%	1	0	0
Canada	CA	145388404	91,3%	1843,4%	6,8%	9,3%	86,4%	90,0%	2	0	-1
Brazil	BR	65663017	1,4%	56,3%	5,8%	4,2%	92,2%	94,2%	3	0	1
Costa Rica	CR	26943306	66,8%	354,3%	1,5%	1,7%	94,0%	95,3%	4	-1	-1
Mexico	MX	16912738	-12,6%	158,4%	1,7%	1,1%	95,4%	97,1%	5	1	1
Argentina	AR	13171795	-4,5%	128,3%	1,2%	0,8%	96,7%	97,9%	6	0	0
America	E7	1556762300	39,8%	207,9%	100%	100%	100%	100%			

Source : NBB - External statistics - Foreign Trade - National concept

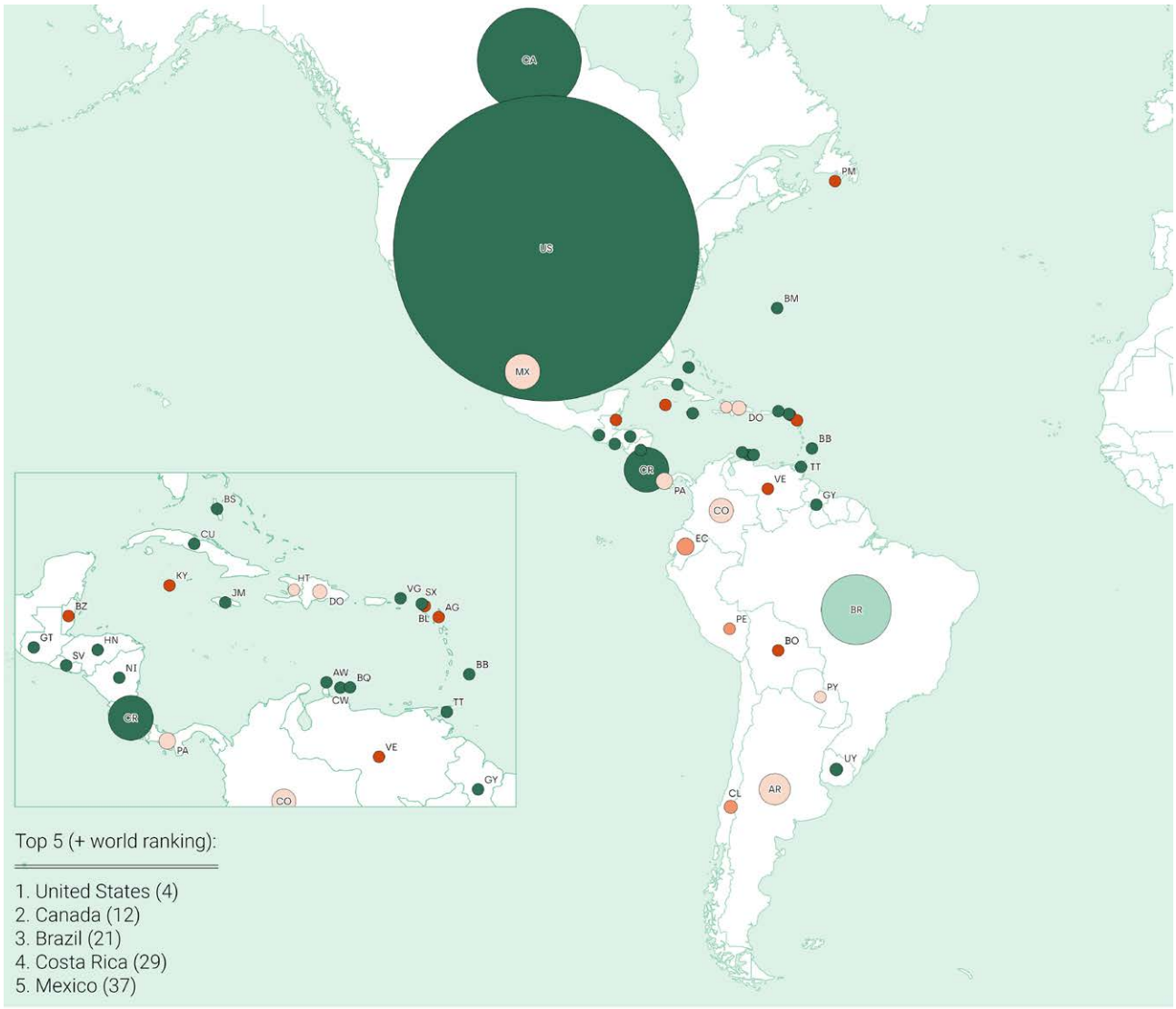
Significant positive evolution:

- **United States** (10.6%, compared with 9.3% in 2022). A growth rate of 41,7% due to exports of:
  - "Transport equipment" (+68%, i.e. EUR 926.4 million compared to 551.6 million);
  - "Food industry products" (+188%, i.e. EUR 19.5 million compared to EUR 6.8 million).
- **Canada** (1.2%, compared with 0.8% in 2022), +91.3%, mainly due to "Transport equipment" (+80.1%, or 117.5 compared with 65.2 million) and, to a lesser extent, "Products of the chemical or allied industries" (+166.9%, or 21.6 compared with EUR 8.1 million).

Significant negative evolution:

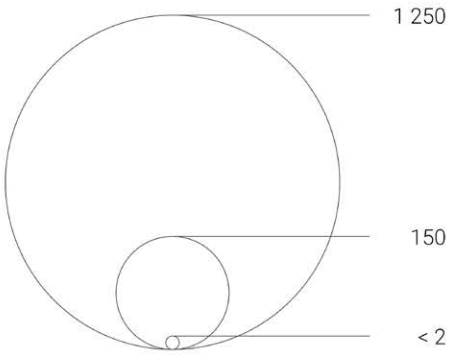
- **Mexico** (0.1%, compared with 0.2% in 2022), -12.6%, decrease attributable to "Products of the chemical or allied industries (-68.4%, down from EUR 12.7 million to EUR 4 million), while "Transport equipment" rose by 93% (EUR 6.1 million to EUR 11.8 million).

Figure 21. Cartographic representation of Brussels goods exports to America, value (€ million), evolution (%) and ranking in America and worldwide, 2022-2023, NBB



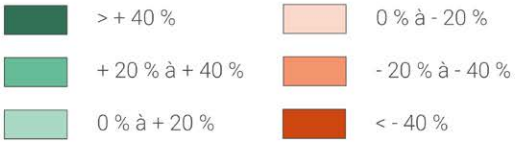
Volume of exports from the Brussels-Capital Region (€ million)

Total exports: 1 557 € millions



Change in export volume between 2022 and 2023 (%)

Total exports: + 39.8 % compared to 2022





Source: National Bank of Belgium, 2024

Asia and Oceania

The share of exports of goods from the Brussels-Capital Region to **Asia** fell compared to 2022 (3.7 compared to 4.9%), due in particular to the slight drop in exports to **Japan** (-3.5%) and the slight increase in sales to **China** (+5.4%), the Region's two main markets. The share of exports to **Australia** and **Oceania** remained stable in 2023 (0.22% compared with 0.23% in 2022). Exports of goods from Brussels to **Australia** were up 58.6%, contrary to those to **New Zealand** which were down 39.4%.

Figure 22. Ranking, evolution and distribution of the main Asian and Oceanian destination countries for Brussels goods (> EUR 10 million), 2020-2023, NBB

Exports to Asia and Oceania

Brussels-Capital Region
Exports > 10 M€
Value (€)

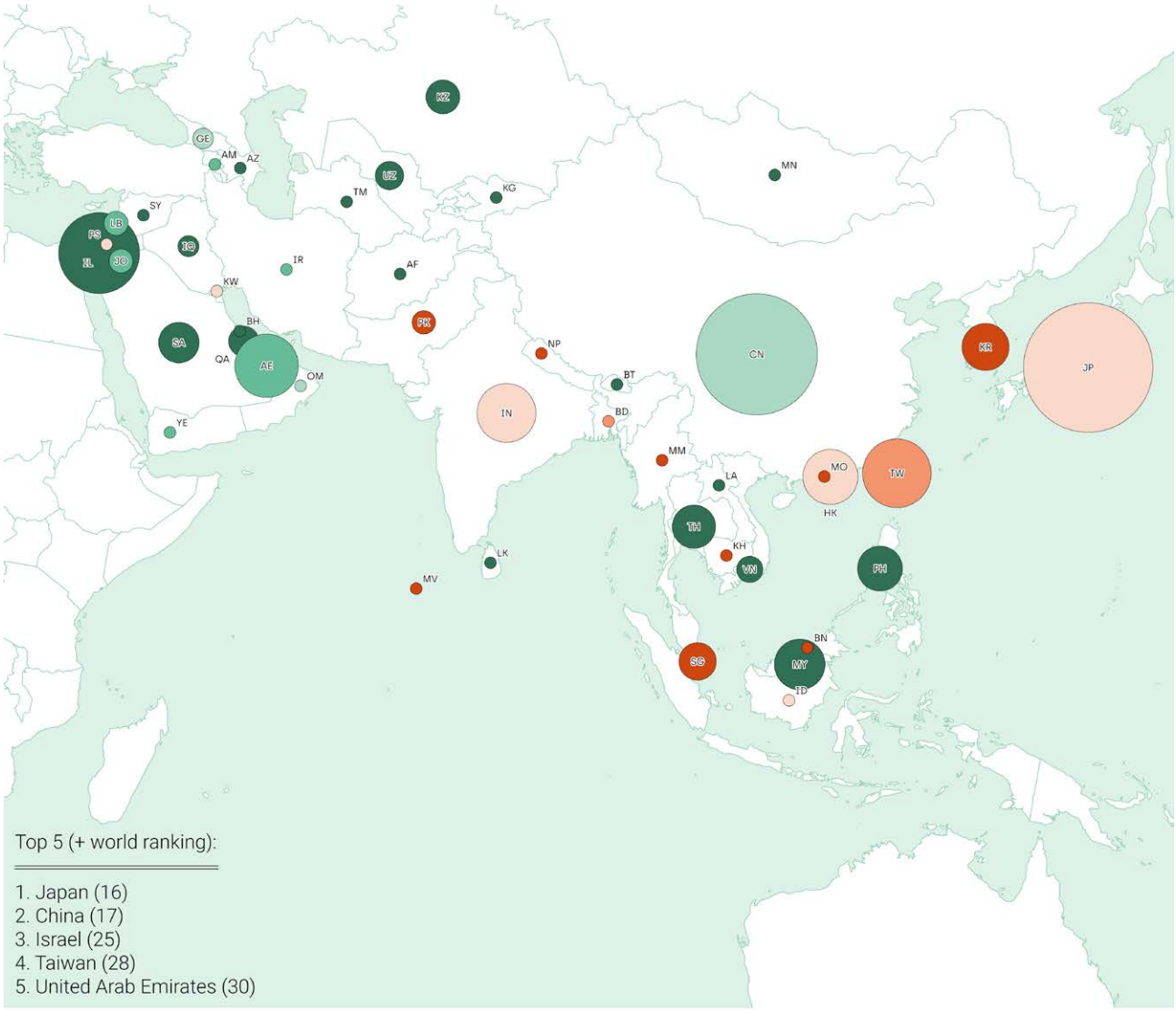
		Value (€) 2023	Evolution 1 year (%)		Evolution 3 years (%)		Shares (%)		Cumulative shares (%)		Ranks	Evol. 1 year	Evol. 3 years
		2023		2023		2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2023	2023	2023
Japan	JP	100057904	JP	-3,5%	JP	-35,1%	JP 22,0%	22,8%	JP 22,0%	22,8%	JP 1	JP 0	JP 0
China, People's R..	CN	87614854	CN	5,4%	CN	-9,1%	CN 17,6%	20,0%	CN 39,6%	42,8%	CN 2	CN 0	CN 0
Israel	IL	39006694	IL	85,1%	IL	103,8%	IL 4,5%	8,9%	IL 44,0%	51,7%	IL 3	IL -4	IL -2
Taiwan	TW	28064067	TW	-39,5%	TW	775,9%	TW 9,8%	6,4%	TW 53,9%	58,1%	TW 4	TW 0	TW -6
United Arab Emir..	AE	24082057	AE	29,7%	AE	353,7%	AE 3,9%	5,5%	AE 57,8%	63,6%	AE 5	AE -5	AE -3
India	IN	20692090	IN	-6,7%	IN	157,1%	IN 4,7%	4,7%	IN 62,5%	68,3%	IN 6	IN 0	IN -1
Hong Kong	HK	18090667	HK	-5,8%	HK	-5,9%	HK 4,1%	4,1%	HK 66,6%	72,4%	HK 7	HK -2	HK 3
Malaysia	MY	15332351	MY	933,0%	MY	1934,2%	MY 0,3%	3,5%	MY 66,9%	75,9%	MY 8	MY -13	MY -12
South Korea	KR	13208294	KR	-78,9%	KR	-66,5%	KR 13,2%	3,0%	KR 80,1%	79,0%	KR 9	KR 6	KR 6
Philippines	PH	12107826	PH	69,2%	PH	12751,8%	PH 1,5%	2,8%	PH 81,7%	81,7%	PH 10	PH -1	PH -21
Thailand	TH	11197360	TH	140,4%	TH	693,9%	TH 1,0%	2,6%	TH 82,6%	84,3%	TH 11	TH -1	TH -3
Asia	F2	438386743	-7,1%		14,8%		100%	100%	100%	100%			
Australia	AU	20145348		58,6%	16,1%		56,6%	77,1%	56,6%	77,1%	1	0	0
Australia and Oceania	F7	26112816		16,2%	39,8%		100%	100%	100%	100%			

Source : NBB - External statistics - Foreign Trade - National concept

Significant evolution:

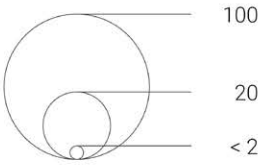
- **Israel** (0.3%, compared with 0.2% in 2022), +85.1%, growth due in particular to:
  - "Transport equipment" (+195.6%, i.e. EUR 10.6 million compared to 3.6 million);
  - "Products of the chemical or allied industries" (+20%, i.e. 17.3 vs. 14.4 million EUR);
  - "Food industry products (...)" (+1,268%, i.e. EUR 8.9 million compared to EUR 646,911).
- **Malaysia** (0.13%, compared with 0.02% in 2022), +933%, due to the sharp rise in exports of "Transport equipment" (EUR 13.2 million, compared with EUR 6,525 in 2022).
- **Thailand** (0.09% compared with 0.05% in 2022), +140.4%, mainly due to growth in exports of "Transport equipment" (+338.5%, or EUR 8.0 million compared with EUR 1.8 million).

Figure 23. Cartographic representation of Brussels goods exports to Asia, value (€ million), evolution (%) and ranking in Asia and worldwide, 2022-2023, NBB



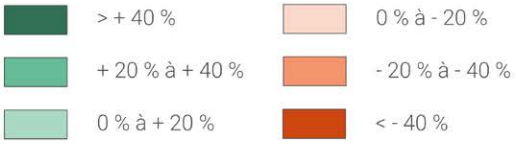
Volume of exports from the Brussels-Capital Region (€ million)

Total exports: 438 € millions



Change in export volume between 2022 and 2023 (%)

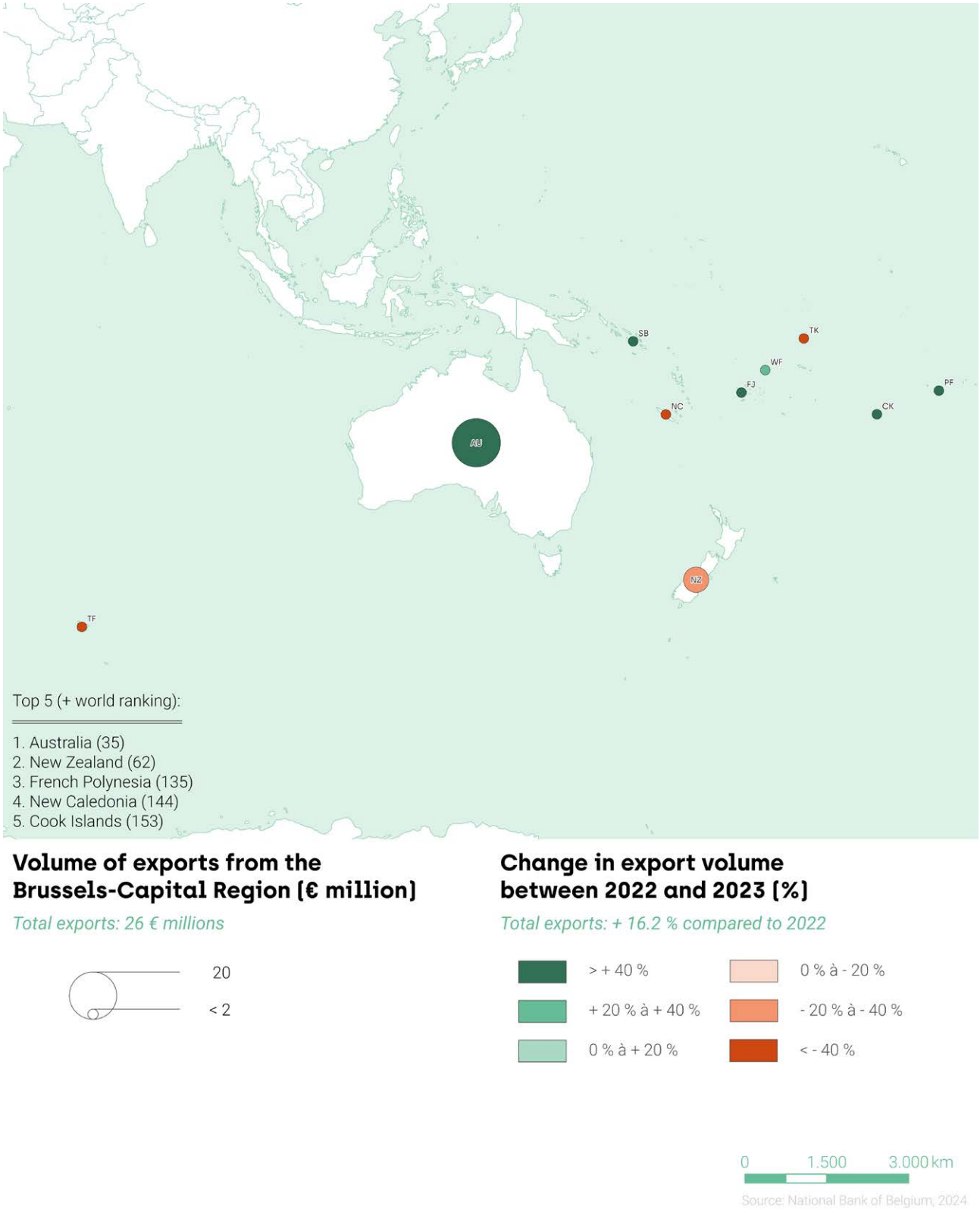
Total exports: - 7.1 % compared to 2022





Source: National Bank of Belgium, 2024

Figure 24. Cartographic representation of Brussels goods exports to Oceania, value (€ million), evolution (%) and ranking in Oceania and worldwide, 2022-2023, NBB



Africa

Exports of goods from the Brussels-Capital Region to **Africa** accounted for 1.6% of total exports in 2023, compared to 2.0% in 2022.

The **Democratic Republic of Congo** is still the BCR's main African partner, accounting for 20.8% of exports to Africa in 2023. Exports to this country nevertheless fell by 8% in 2023 due to the fall in:

- "Food industry products" (-44%, 1.8 instead of EUR 3.2 million);
- "Optical instruments and apparatus (...)" (-40.6%, 1.6 compared with EUR 2.8 million);
- "Products of the chemical or allied industries" (-6.4%, 15.8 instead of 16.9 million EUR).

Figure 25. Ranking, evolution and distribution of the main African destination countries for Brussels goods (> EUR 10 million), 2020-2023, NBB

Exports of goods to Africa

Brussels-Capital Region
Exports > 10 M€
Value (€)

		Value (€) 2023	Evolution 1 year (%) 2023	Evolution 3 years (%) 2023	Shares (%) 2022	Shares (%) 2023	Cumulative shares (%) 2022	Cumulative shares (%) 2023	Ranks 2023	Evol. 1 year 2023	Evol. 3 years 2023
Congo, Democr..	CD	38457413	-7,8%	1,2%	22,0%	20,8%	22,0%	20,8%	1	0	0
Ivory Coast	CI	15032095	59,9%	89,1%	4,9%	8,1%	26,9%	28,9%	2	-5	-5
Tunisia	TN	13443016	2,3%	10,7%	6,9%	7,3%	33,8%	36,1%	3	-1	-3
Cameroon	CM	13440488	-24,6%	-27,9%	9,4%	7,3%	43,2%	43,4%	4	2	1
Guinea	GN	11327383	-19,5%	-24,3%	7,4%	6,1%	50,6%	49,5%	5	2	0
Senegal	SN	11098154	10,6%	-33,1%	5,3%	6,0%	55,9%	55,5%	6	0	2
South Africa	ZA	10812126	101,7%	637,4%	2,8%	5,8%	58,7%	61,4%	7	-3	-15
Africa	E4	185175373	-2,6%	1,1%	100%	100%	100%	100%			

Source : NBB - External statistics - Foreign Trade - National concept

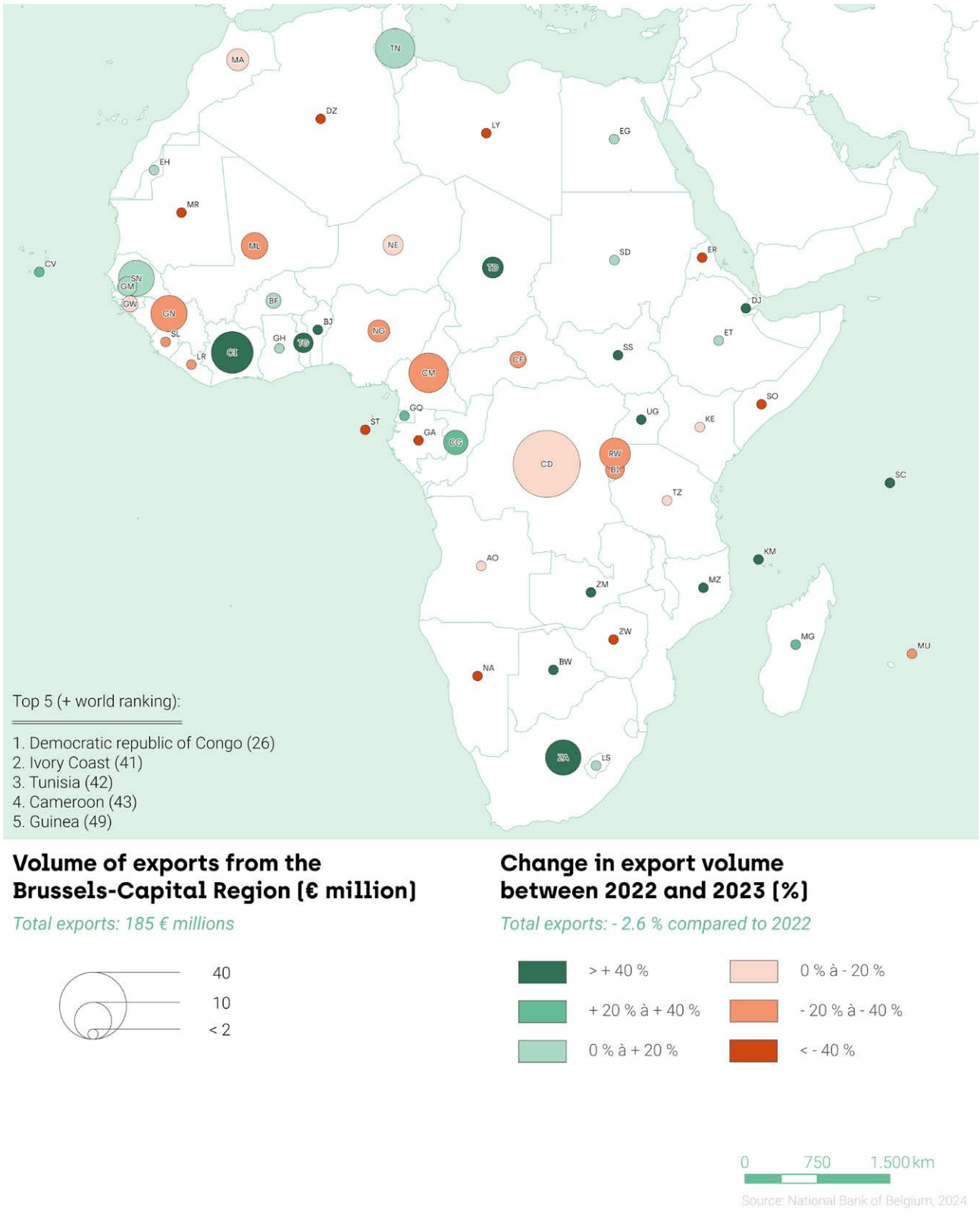
Significant evolution:

In contrast, Brussels exports to Côte d'Ivoire and South Africa rose by 60% and 102% respectively.

Côte d'Ivoire imported more "Transport equipment" (+58.1%, 8.9 compared with 5.6 million EUR), "Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material" (+108.5%, 3.6 compared with EUR 1.7 million) and "Food products (...) (EUR 800,290 compared with EUR 1,888) from the Brussels-Capital Region.

However, the growth in exports to **South Africa** was due exclusively to the increase in sales of "Products of the chemical or allied industries" (+591%, 8.8 instead of EUR 1.3 million).

Figure 26. Cartographic representation of Brussels goods exports to Africa, value (€ million), evolution (%) and ranking in Africa and worldwide, 2022-2023, NBB



Imports into Brussels by continent

The Brussels-Capital Region imported EUR 20.4 billion in 2023, an increase of 18.4% compared to 2022. These imports come mainly from **European countries** (94.4% of imports come from Europe, compared to 92.9% in 2022) and mainly from neighbouring countries: **Netherlands** (25.0% of imports); **Germany** (18.8% of imports) and **France** (17.9% of imports).

We could highlight some figures in Europe:

The countries moving up the rankings included:

- 4th place for **Hungary,** with imports 40% higher than in 2022;
- 6th place for **Ireland** (up one place), with imports up 142.7%;
- 9th place for **Sweden** (up three places, with imports up 50.8%);
- 11th place for **Denmark** (up two places, despite a 9.9% drop in imports);
- 13th place for **Luxembourg** (up four places, with imports up 21.2%);
- 14th place for **Switzerland** (up two places, with imports up 7.8%);
- 17th place for the **Czech Republic** (up two places, with imports up 17.8%);

Of the countries that slipped in the rankings, the following developments stand out:

- the drop by **Italy** (7th largest supplier instead of 6th in 2022, despite a 7.8% rise in imports) and **Poland** (10th instead of 8th);
- lower down the rankings for BCR suppliers, the same applies to the **United Kingdom** (12th instead of 10th, -37.7%) and **Austria** (21st instead of 20th, -12.4%).

Excluding Europe, Asia - the 2nd largest supplier continent in 2022 - decline sharply, with an import share of 2.6% in 2023, compared with 4.6% in 2022 and 6.4% in 2021. It was overtaken by America, which, with an overall import share of 2.7%, became the Brussels-Capital Region's second-largest supplier of goods. The **United States** is the BCR's leading supplier country outside Europe (eighth, up 60.9% and up one place on 2022), ahead of **Singapore** (16th, down 48.4% and five places) and **China** (18th, down 39.8% in imports and down four places). **Japan** slipped down one place to 19th, with a drop of 5.4%.

Figure 27. Top 25 countries the Brussels-Capital Region imported goods from, 2020-2023, NBB

Import of goods

Top-25
Value (€)
Brussels-Capital Region

		Value (€)		Evolution 1 year (%)		Evolution 3 years (%)		Shares (%)		Cumulative shares (%)		Ranks		Evol. 1 year		Evol. 3 years	
		2022	2023		2023		2023		2023		2023		2023		2023		2023
the Netherlands	NL	4293461849	5107114462	NL	19,0%	NL	69,5%	NL	24,9% 25,0%	NL	24,9% 25,0%	NL	1	NL	0	NL	-1
Germany	DE	3459299595	3830418221	DE	10,7%	DE	21,0%	DE	20,1% 18,8%	DE	45,0% 43,8%	DE	2	DE	0	DE	1
France	FR	2871242745	3645848317	FR	27,0%	FR	77,6%	FR	16,7% 17,9%	FR	61,7% 61,7%	FR	3	FR	0	FR	0
Hungary	HU	1104432904	1545656728	HU	40,0%	HU	142,1%	HU	6,4% 7,6%	HU	68,1% 69,3%	HU	4	HU	0	HU	-1
Spain	ES	1236764659	1387683176	ES	13,7%	ES	74,4%	ES	5,6% 5,3%	ES	73,6% 74,6%	ES	5	ES	0	ES	-1
Ireland	IE	434569564	1054757061	IE	142,7%	IE	762,7%	IE	2,5% 5,2%	IE	76,1% 79,8%	IE	6	IE	-1	IE	-11
Italy	IT	866827303	934907992	IT	7,8%	IT	-11,7%	IT	3,9% 3,5%	IT	80,0% 83,3%	IT	7	IT	1	IT	3
United States	US	732994680	935895973	US	60,9%	US	76,9%	US	1,9% 2,6%	US	81,9% 85,9%	US	8	US	-1	US	-1
Sweden	SE	771056232	908717959	SE	50,8%	SE	120,0%	SE	1,6% 2,0%	SE	83,5% 87,9%	SE	9	SE	-3	SE	-4
Poland	PL	834975901	835048242	PL	0,0%	PL	-27,7%	PL	1,9% 1,6%	PL	85,5% 89,6%	PL	10	PL	2	PL	3
Denmark	DK	733064825	709930875	DK	-9,9%	DK	66,5%	DK	1,4% 1,0%	DK	86,8% 90,6%	DK	11	DK	-2	DK	-5
United Kingdom	GB	805671535	490367991	GB	-37,7%	GB	-42,4%	GB	1,8% 0,9%	GB	88,6% 91,5%	GB	12	GB	2	GB	4
Luxembourg	LU	646015238	776949059	LU	21,2%	LU	26,8%	LU	0,8% 0,9%	LU	89,4% 92,4%	LU	13	LU	-4	LU	-1
Switzerland	CH	653973669	665922245	CH	7,8%	CH	-29,6%	CH	0,9% 0,8%	CH	90,3% 93,2%	CH	14	CH	-2	CH	3
Romania	RO	665006081	657489586	RO	-4,6%	RO	58,5%	RO	1,0% 0,8%	RO	91,3% 94,0%	RO	15	RO	0	RO	-5
Singapore	SG	1304265837	656917673	SG	-48,4%	SG	-18,5%	SG	1,8% 0,8%	SG	93,1% 94,7%	SG	16	SG	5	SG	4
Czech Republic	CZ	628418457	651267959	CZ	17,8%	CZ	55,9%	CZ	0,7% 0,7%	CZ	93,8% 95,5%	CZ	17	CZ	-2	CZ	-4
China, People's Rep..	CN	1225205458	635511915	CN	-39,8%	CN	-48,7%	CN	1,3% 0,7%	CN	95,1% 96,1%	CN	18	CN	4	CN	8
Japan	JP	1140655920	1133100924	JP	-5,4%	JP	-2,4%	JP	0,8% 0,7%	JP	95,9% 96,8%	JP	19	JP	1	JP	4
Portugal	PT	885051959	886829431	PT	2,1%	PT	27,5%	PT	0,5% 0,4%	PT	96,4% 97,2%	PT	20	PT	-1	PT	-3
Austria	AT	996140212	884250524	AT	-12,4%	AT	21,5%	AT	0,6% 0,4%	AT	97,0% 97,6%	AT	21	AT	1	AT	-1
Türkiye	TR	775794183	782214665	TR	8,5%	TR	-20,2%	TR	0,4% 0,4%	TR	97,4% 98,0%	TR	22	TR	0	TR	4
Slovakia	SK	754975554	766853986	SK	21,6%	SK	-34,4%	SK	0,3% 0,3%	SK	97,7% 98,4%	SK	23	SK	0	SK	4
Finland	FI	753639932	762031542	FI	15,6%	FI	94,3%	FI	0,3% 0,3%	FI	98,0% 98,7%	FI	24	FI	-1	FI	0
Taiwan	TW	724622714	725459840	TW	3,4%	TW	4,0%	TW	0,1% 0,1%	TW	98,2% 98,8%	TW	25	TW	-1	TW	0

Source : NBB - External statistics - Foreign Trade - National concept

Go to analytics.brussels

For further information on Brussels' external trade, please visit analytics.brussels. On this economic data display platform, you will find publications about external trade in the Brussels-Capital Region.

The first, "Brussels and the world - General statistics", presents the Brussels-Capital Region's trade at world level and by continent, while the second, "Brussels and the world - Statistics by country" provides detailed statistics on the Brussels-Capital Region's trade with each country in the world, as well as various socio-economic and strategic indicators relating to these countries. The data presented in these publications is updated every year.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Business sectors - Descriptions in English, French and Dutch

	Sector	Secteur	Sector
B_C	Manufacturing, including mining and quarrying	Industrie manufacturière, y compris l'industrie extractive	Industrie, m.i.v. de extractieve nijverheid
D_E	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply and Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	Production et distribution d'électricité, de gaz, de vapeur et d'air conditionné et Production et distribution d'eau; assainissement, gestion des déchets et dépollution	Productie en distributie van elektriciteit, gas, stoom en gekoelde lucht en Distributie van water; afval- en afvalwaterbeheer en sanering
F	Construction	Construction	Bouwnijverheid
G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	Commerce; réparation d'automobiles et de motocycles	Groot- en detailhandel; reparatie van auto's en motorfietsen
H	Transportation and storage	Transports et entreposage	Vervoer en opslag
I	Accommodation and food service activities	Hébergement et restauration	Verschaffen van accommodatie; eet- en drinkgelegenheden
J	Information and communication	Information et communication	Informatie en communicatie
K	Financial and insurance activities	Activités financières et d'assurance	Financiële activiteiten en verzekeringen
L	Real estate activities	Activités immobilières	Exploitatie van en handel in onroerend goed
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities	Activités spécialisées, scientifiques et techniques	Vrije beroepen en wetenschappelijke en technische activiteiten
N	Administrative and support service activities	Activités de services administratifs et de soutien	Administratieve en ondersteunende diensten
O	Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	Administration publique	Openbaar bestuur en defensie; verplichte sociale verzekeringen
P	Education	Enseignement	Onderwijs
Q	Human health and social work activities	Santé humaine et action sociale	Menselijke gezondheidszorg en maatschappelijke dienstverlening
R	Arts, entertainment and recreation	Arts, spectacles et activités récréatives	Kunst, amusement en recreatie
S	Other service activities	Autres activités de services	Overige diensten

Appendix 2 - Categories of goods - Descriptions in English, French and Dutch, in ascending order of category

	Category of goods	Catégorie de biens	Categorië van goederen
I	Live animals; animal products	Animaux vivants et produits du règne animal	Levende dieren en producten van het dierenrijk
II	Vegetable products	Produits du règne végétal	Producten van het plantenrijk
III	Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	Graisses et huiles animales ou végétales; produits de leur dissociation; graisses alimentaires élaborées; cires d'origine animale ou végétale	Vetten en oliën (dierlijke en plantaardige) en dissociatieproducten daarvan; bewerkt spijsvet; was van dierlijke of van plantaardige oorsprong
IV	Prepared foodstuffs; beverages, spirits and vinegar; tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	Produits des industries alimentaires; boissons, liquides alcooliques et vinaigres; tabacs et succédanés de tabac fabriqués	Producten van de voedselindustrie; dranken, alcoholhoudende vloeistoffen en azijn; tabak en tot verbruik bereide tabakssurrogaten
V	Mineral products	Produits minéraux	Minerale producten
VI	Products of the chemical or allied industries	Produits des industries chimiques ou des industries connexes	Producten van de chemische en van de aanverwante industrieën
VII	Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof	Matières plastiques et ouvrages en ces matières; caoutchouc et ouvrages en caoutchouc	Kunststof en werken daarvan; rubber en werken daarvan
VIII	Raw hides and skins, leather, furskins and articles thereof; saddlery and harness; travel goods, handbags and similar containers; articles of animal gut (other than silkworm gut)	Peaux, cuirs, pelleteries et ouvrages en ces matières; articles de bourrellerie ou de sellerie; articles de voyage, sacs à main et contenants similaires; ouvrages en boyaux	Huiden, vellen, leder en pelterijen, lederwaren en bontwerk; zadel- en tuigmakerswerk; reisartikelen, handtassen e.d. bergingsmiddelen; werken van darmen
IX	Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal; cork and articles of cork; manufactures of straw, of esparto or of other plaiting materials; basketware and wickerwork	Bois, charbon de bois et ouvrages en bois; liège et ouvrages en liège; ouvrages de sparterie ou de vannerie	Hout, houtskool en houtwaren; kurk en kurkwaren; vlechtwerk en mandenmakerswerk
X	Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard; paper and paperboard and articles thereof	Pâtes de bois ou d'autres matières fibreuses cellulosiques; papier ou carton à recycler (déchets et rebuts); papier et ses applications	Houtpulp en pulp van andere cellulosehoudende vezelstoffen; papier en karton voor het terugwinnen (resten en afval); papier en karton, alsmede artikelen daarvan
XI	Textiles and textile articles	Matières textiles et ouvrages en ces matières	Textielstoffen en textielwaren
XII	Footwear, headgear, umbrellas, sun umbrellas, walking-sticks, seat-sticks, whips, riding-crops and parts thereof; prepared feathers and articles made therewith; artificial flowers; articles of human hair	Chaussures, coiffures, parapluies, parasols, cannes, fouets, cravaches et leurs parties; plumes apprêtées et articles en plumes; fleurs artificielles; ouvrages en cheveux	Schoeisel, hoofddeksels, paraplu's, parasols, wandelstokken, zitstokken, zwepen, rijzwepen, alsmede delen daarvan; geprepareerde veren en artikelen van veren; kunstbloemen; werken van mensenhaar
XIII	Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica or similar materials; ceramic products; glass and glassware	Ouvrages en pierres, plâtre, ciment, amiante, mica ou matières analogues; produits céramiques; verre et ouvrages en verre	Werken van steen, van gips, van cement, van asbest, van mica en van dergelijke stoffen; keramische producten; glas en glaswerk

XIV	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin	Perles fines ou de culture, pierres gemmes ou similaires, métaux précieux, plaqués ou doublés de métaux précieux et ouvrages en ces matières; bijouterie de fantaisie; monnaies	Echte en gekweekte parels, edelstenen en halfedelstenen, edele metalen en metalen geplateerd met edele metalen, alsmede werken daarvan; fancybijouterieën; munten
XV	Base metals and articles of base metal	Métaux communs et ouvrages en ces métaux	Onedele metalen en werken daarvan
XVI	Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts and accessories of such articles	Machines et appareils, matériel électrique et leurs parties; appareils d'enregistrement ou de reproduction du son, appareils d'enregistrement ou de reproduction des images et du son en télévision, et parties et accessoires de ces appareils	Machines, toestellen en elektrotechnisch materieel, alsmede delen daarvan; toestellen voor het opnemen of het weergeven van geluid, voor het opnemen of het weergeven van beelden en geluid voor televisie, alsmede delen en toebehoren van deze toestellen
XVII	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels and associated transport equipment	Matériel de transport	Vervoermaterieel
XVIII	Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus; clocks and watches; musical instruments; parts and accessories thereof	Instruments et appareils d'optique, de photographie ou de cinématographie, de mesure, de contrôle ou de précision; instruments et appareils médico-chirurgicaux; horlogerie; instruments de musique; parties et accessoires de ces instruments ou appareils	Optische instrumenten, apparaten en toestellen; instrumenten, apparaten en toestellen, voor de fotografie en de cinematografie; meet-, verificatie-, controle- en precisie-instrumenten, -apparaten en -toestellen; medische en chirurgische instrumenten, appa
XIX	Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof	Armes, munitions et leurs parties et accessoires	Wapens en munitie; delen en toebehoren daarvan
XX	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	Marchandises et produits divers	Diverse goederen en producten
XXI	Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques	Objets d'art, de collection ou d'antiquité	Kunstvoorwerpen, voorwerpen voor verzamelingen en antiquiteiten

Appendix 3 - Top 15 exported goods - Descriptions in English, French and Dutch, in descending order of export value

	Top 15-Goods	Top 15-Biens	Top 15-Goederen
8703	Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons, incl. station wagons and racing cars (excl. motor vehicles of heading 8702)	Voitures de tourisme et autres véhicules automobiles principalement conçus pour le transport de personnes (autres que ceux du no 8702), y compris les voitures du type ' break « et les voitures de course	Automobielen en andere motorvoertuigen, hoofdzakelijk ontworpen voor personenvervoer, incl. motorvoertuigen van het type 'station-wagon' of 'break' en racewagens (m.u.v. bussen bedoeld bij post 8702)
3003	Medicaments consisting of two or more constituents mixed together for therapeutic or prophylactic uses, not in measured doses or put up for retail sale (excl. goods of heading 3002, 3005 or 3006)	Médicaments (à l'exclusion des produits des nos 3002, 3005 ou 3006) constitués par des produits mélangés entre eux, préparés à des fins thérapeutiques ou prophylactiques, mais ni présentés sous forme de doses, ni conditionnés pour la vente au détail	Geneesmiddelen, bestaande uit voor therapeutisch of profylactisch gebruik vermengde zelfstandigheden (m.u.v. producten bij de posten 3002, 3005 en 3006 en m.u.v. geneesmiddelen in afgemeten hoeveelheden of opgemaakt voor de verkoop in het klein)
3004	Medicaments consisting of mixed or unmixed products for therapeutic or prophylactic uses, put up in measured doses 'incl. those in the form of transdermal administration» or in forms or packings for retail sale (excl. goods of heading 3002, 3005 or 3006)	Médicaments (à l'exclusion des produits des nos 3002, 3005 ou 3006) constitués par des produits mélangés ou non mélangés, préparés à des fins thérapeutiques ou prophylactiques, présentés sous forme de doses (…)	Geneesmiddelen bestaande uit producten, ook indien vermengd, voor therapeutisch of profylactisch gebruik, in afgemeten hoeveelheden 'ook die in de vorm van systemen voor gereguleerde toediening door de huid', dan wel opgemaakt voor de verkoop in het klein
3002	Human blood; animal blood prepared for therapeutic, prophylactic or diagnostic uses; antisera and other blood fractions and immunological products, whether or not modified or obtained by means of biotechnological processes; vaccines, toxins (…)	Sang humain; sang animal préparé en vue d'usages thérapeutiques, prophylactiques ou de diagnostic; antisérums, autres fractions du sang et produits immunologiques, même modifiés ou obtenus par voie biotechnologique; vaccins, toxines (…)	Menselijk bloed; dierlijk bloed bereid voor therapeutisch of profylactisch gebruik of voor het stellen van diagnosen; sera van geïmmuniseerde dieren of personen, alsmede andere bloedfracties en immunologische producten, ook indien gewijzigd (…)
2922	Oxygen-function amino-compounds	Composés aminés à fonctions oxygénées	Aminoverbindingen met zuurstofhoudende groepen
3303	Perfumes and toilet waters (excl. aftershave lotions, personal deodorants and hair lotions)	Parfums et eaux de toilette (à l'excl. des préparations pour l'après-rasage [lotions after-shave] et des désodorisants corporels)	Parfums, reuk- en toiletwaters (m.u.v. scheerlotions 'after shave lotions', deodorantia voor lichaamsverzorging en haarlotions)
4001	Natural rubber, balata, gutta-percha, guayule, chicle and similar natural gums, in primary forms or in plates, sheets or strip	Caoutchouc naturel, balata, gutta-percha, guayule, chicle et gommes naturelles analogues, sous formes primaires ou en plaques, feuilles ou bandes	Natuurlijke rubber, balata, gutta-percha, guayule, chicle e.d. natuurlijke gommen, in primaire vormen of in platen, vellen of strippen
2933	Heterocyclic compounds with nitrogen hetero-atom[s] only	Composés hétérocycliques à hétéroatome(s) d'azote exclusivement	Heterocyclische verbindingen met uitsluitend één of meer stikstofatomen als hetero-atoom

2935	Sulphonamides	Sulfonamides	Sulfonamidoverbindingen
8421	Centrifuges, incl. centrifugal dryers (excl. those for isotope separation); filtering or purifying machinery and apparatus, for liquids or gases; parts thereof (excl. artificial kidneys)	Centrifugeuses, y compris les essoreuses centrifuges; appareils pour la filtration ou l'épuration des liquides ou des gaz	Centrifuges, incl. centrifugaaldrogers (m.u.v. die voor isotopenscheiding); toestellen voor het filtreren of zuiveren van vloeistoffen of van gassen (m.u.v. kunstnieren)
7108	Gold, incl. gold plated with platinum, unwrought or not further worked than semi-manufactured or in powder form	Or (y compris l'or platiné), sous formes brutes ou mi-ouvrées, ou en poudre	Goud, incl. geplatineerd goud, onbewerkt, halfbewerkt of in poedervorm
8471	Automatic data-processing machines and units thereof; magnetic or optical readers, machines for transcribing data onto data media in coded form and machines for processing such data, n.e.s.	Machines automatiques de traitement de l'information et leurs unités; lecteurs magnétiques ou optiques, machines de mise d'informations sur support sous forme codée et machines de traitement de ces informations, non dénommés ni compris ailleurs	Automatische gegevens verwerkende machines en eenheden daarvoor; magnetische en optische lezers, machines voor het in gecodeerde vorm op dragers overzetten van gegevens en machines voor het verwerken van die gegevens, n.e.g.
2905	Acyclic alcohols and their halogenated, sulphonated, nitrated or nitrosated derivatives	Alcools acycliques et leurs dérivés halogénés, sulfonés, nitrés ou nitrosés	Alcoholen, acyclisch, alsmede halogeen-, sulfo-, nitro- en nitrosoderivaten daarvan
3304	Beauty or make-up preparations and preparations for the care of the skin, incl. sunscreen or suntan preparations (excl. medicaments); manicure or pedicure preparations	Produits de beauté ou de maquillage préparés et préparations pour l'entretien ou les soins de la peau, autres que les médicaments, y compris les préparations antisolaires et les préparations pour bronzer; préparations pour manucures ou pédicures	Schoonheidsmiddelen en producten voor de huidverzorging (m.u.v. geneesmiddelen), incl. preparaten tegen zonnebrand en preparaten voor het verkrijgen van een bruine huidskleur; producten voor manicure of voor pedicure
2710	Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals (excl. crude); preparations containing >= 70% by weight of petroleum oils or of oils obtained from bituminous minerals, these oils being the basic constituents of the preparations, n.e.s.(...)	Huiles de pétrole ou de minéraux bitumineux, autres que les huiles brutes; préparations non dénommées ni comprises ailleurs, contenant en poids 70 % ou plus d'huiles de pétrole ou de minéraux bitumineux et dont ces huiles constituent l'élément de base (...)	Aardolie en olie uit bitumineuze mineralen (m.u.v. ruwe olie); preparaten die >= 70 gewichtspercenten aardolie of olie uit bitumineuze mineralen bevatten en waarvan het karakter door deze olie wordt bepaald, n.e.g. (...)

Appendix 4 - Top 15 imported goods - Descriptions in English, French and Dutch, in descending order of import value

	Top 15-Goods	Top 15-Biens	Top 15-Goederen
8703	Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons, incl. station wagons and racing cars (excl. motor vehicles of heading 8702)	Voitures de tourisme et autres véhicules automobiles principalement conçus pour le transport de personnes (autres que ceux du no 8702), y compris les voitures du type ' break « et les voitures de course	Automobielen en andere motorvoertuigen, hoofdzakelijk ontworpen voor personenvervoer, incl. motorvoertuigen van het type 'station-wagon' of 'break' en racewagens (m.u.v. bussen bedoeld bij post 8702)
3004	Medicaments consisting of mixed or unmixed products for therapeutic or prophylactic uses, put up in measured doses 'incl. those in the form of transdermal administration» or in forms or packings for retail sale (excl. goods of heading 3002, 3005 or 3006)	Médicaments (à l'exclusion des produits des nos 3002, 3005 ou 3006) constitués par des produits mélangés ou non mélangés, préparés à des fins thérapeutiques ou prophylactiques, présentés sous forme de doses (y compris ceux destinés à être administrés par	Geneesmiddelen bestaande uit producten, ook indien vermengd, voor therapeutisch of profylactisch gebruik, in afgemeten hoeveelheden 'ook die in de vorm van systemen voor gereguleerde toediening door de huid', dan wel opgemaakt voor de verkoop in het klein
8708	Parts and accessories for tractors, motor vehicles for the transport of ten or more persons, motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons, motor vehicles for the transport of goods and special purpose motor vehicle	Parties et accessoires des véhicules automobiles des nos 8701 à 8705	Delen en toebehoren van tractors, bussen, automobielen voor personenvervoer en voor goederenvervoer en van automobielen voor bijzondere doeleinden bedoeld bij de posten 8701 tot en met 8705, n.e.g.
8507	Electric accumulators, incl. separators therefor, whether or not square or rectangular; parts thereof (excl. spent and those of unhardened rubber or textiles)	Accumulateurs électriques, y compris leurs séparateurs, même de forme carrée ou rectangulaire	Elektrische accumulatoren, alsmede scheiplaten daarvoor, ook indien in vierkante of rechthoekige vorm (niet gebruikt en m.u.v. die van niet-geharde gevulkaniseerde rubber of van textiel), alsmede delen daarvan
8704	Motor vehicles for the transport of goods, incl. chassis with engine and cab	Véhicules automobiles pour le transport de marchandises	Automobielen voor goederenvervoer, incl. chassis met motor en cabine
3002	Human blood; animal blood prepared for therapeutic, prophylactic or diagnostic uses; antisera and other blood fractions and immunological products, whether or not modified or obtained by means of biotechnological processes; vaccines, toxins (...)	Sang humain; sang animal préparé en vue d'usages thérapeutiques, prophylactiques ou de diagnostic; antisérums, autres fractions du sang et produits immunologiques, même modifiés ou obtenus par voie biotechnologique; vaccins, toxines (...)	Menselijk bloed; dierlijk bloed bereid voor therapeutisch of profylactisch gebruik of voor het stellen van diagnosen; sera van geïmmuniseerde dieren of personen, alsmede andere bloedfracties en immunologische producten (...)
2935	Sulphonamides	Sulfonamides	Sulfonamidoverbindingen

8471	Automatic data-processing machines and units thereof; magnetic or optical readers, machines for transcribing data onto data media in coded form and machines for processing such data, n.e.s.	Machines automatiques de traitement de l'information et leurs unités; lecteurs magnétiques ou optiques, machines de mise d'informations sur support sous forme codée et machines de traitement de ces informations, non dénommés ni compris ailleurs	Automatische gegevens verwerkende machines en eenheden daarvoor; magnetische en optische lezers, machines voor het in gecodeerde vorm op dragers overzetten van gegevens en machines voor het verwerken van die gegevens, n.e.g.
8517	Telephone sets, incl. telephones for cellular networks or for other wireless networks; other apparatus for the transmission or reception of voice, images or other data, incl. apparatus for communication in a wired or wireless network (...)	Postes téléphoniques d'usagers, y compris les téléphones pour réseaux cellulaires et pour autres réseaux sans fil; autres appareils pour l'émission, la transmission ou la réception de la voix, d'images ou d'autres données (...)	Telefoontoestellen, daaronder begrepen telefoontoestellen voor cellulaire netwerken of voor andere draadloze netwerken; andere toestellen voor het zenden of ontvangen van spraak, van beelden of van andere gegevens (...)
2710	Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals (excl. crude); preparations containing >= 70% by weight of petroleum oils or of oils obtained from bituminous minerals, these oils being the basic constituents of the preparations, n.e.s. (...)	Huiles de pétrole ou de minéraux bitumineux, autres que les huiles brutes; préparations non dénommées ni comprises ailleurs, contenant en poids 70 % ou plus d'huiles de pétrole ou de minéraux bitumineux et dont ces huiles constituent l'élément de base; (...)	Aardolie en olie uit bitumineuze mineralen (m.u.v. ruwe olie); preparaten die >= 70 gewichtspercenten aardolie of olie uit bitumineuze mineralen bevatten en waarvan het karakter door deze olie wordt bepaald, n.e.g. (...)
8501	Electric motors and generators (excl. generating sets)	Moteurs et machines génératrices, électriques, à l'exclusion des groupes électrogènes	Elektromotoren en elektrische generatoren (m.u.v. generatoraggregaten)
8601	Rail locomotives powered from an external source of electricity or by electric accumulators	Locomotives et locotracteurs, à source extérieure d'électricité ou à accumulateurs électriques	Locomotieven en railtractors, elektrisch, zonder eigen energiebron of met elektrische accumulatoren
9018	Instruments and appliances used in medical, surgical, dental or veterinary sciences, incl. scintigraphic apparatus, other electro-medical apparatus and sight-testing instruments, n.e.s.	Instruments et appareils pour la médecine, la chirurgie, l'art dentaire ou l'art vétérinaire, y compris les appareils de scintigraphie et autres appareils électromédicaux ainsi que les appareils pour tests visuels	Instrumenten, apparaten en toestellen voor de geneeskunde, voor de chirurgie, voor de tandheelkunde of voor de veeartsenijkunde, incl. scintigrafische en ander elektromedische apparaten en toestellen, alsmede apparaten en toestellen voor onderzoek van het
2933	Heterocyclic compounds with nitrogen hetero-atom[s] only	Composés hétérocycliques à hétéroatome(s) d'azote exclusivement	Heterocyclische verbindingen met uitsluitend één of meer stikstofatomen als hetero-atoom
3304	Beauty or make-up preparations and preparations for the care of the skin, incl. sunscreen or suntan preparations (excl. medicaments); manicure or pedicure preparations	Produits de beauté ou de maquillage préparés et préparations pour l'entretien ou les soins de la peau, autres que les médicaments, y compris les préparations antisolaires et les préparations pour bronzer; préparations pour manucures ou pédicures	Schoonheidsmiddelen en producten voor de huidverzorging (m.u.v. geneesmiddelen), incl. preparaten tegen zonnebrand en preparaten voor het verkrijgen van een bruine huidskleur; producten voor manicure of voor pedicure

Appendix 5 - Codes ISO-alpha2

Ranking by country

Country	Code	Country	Code	Country	Code	Country	Code
Afghanistan	AF	British Virgin Islands	VG	Dominican Republic	DO	Heard Island and Mcdonald Islands	HM
Albania	AL	Brunei Darussalam	BN	East Timor	TL	Honduras	HN
Algeria	DZ	Bulgaria	BG	Ecuador	EC	Hong Kong	HK
American Samoa	AS	Burkina Faso	BF	Egypt	EG	Hungary	HU
Andorra	AD	Burundi	BI	El Salvador	SV	Iceland	IS
Angola	AO	Cambodia	KH	Equatorial Guinea	GQ	India	IN
Anguilla	AI	Cameroon	CM	Eritrea	ER	Indonesia	ID
Antarctica	AQ	Canada	CA	Estonia	EE	Iran	IR
Antigua and Barbuda	AG	Cape Verde	CV	Ethiopia	AND	Iraq	IQ
Argentina	AR	Cayman Islands	KY	Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	FK	Ireland	IE
Armenia	AM	Central Africa	CF	Faroe Islands	FO	Israel	IL
Aruba	AW	Ceuta	XC	Fiji	FJ	Italy	IT
Australia	AU	Chad	TD	Finland	FI	Ivory Coast	CI
Austria	AT	Chile	CL	France	FR	Jamaica	JM
Azerbaijan	AZ	China, People's Republic of	CN	French Polynesia	PF	Japan	JP
Bahamas	BS	Christmas Island	CX	French Southern Territories	TF	Jordan	JO
Bahrain	BH	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	CC	Gabon	GA	Kazakhstan	KZ
Bangladesh	BD	Colombia	CO	Gambia	GM	Kenya	KE
Barbados	BB	Comoros	KM	Georgia	GE	Kiribati	KI
Belarus	BY	Congo, Democratic Republic of	CD	Germany	DE	Kosovo	XK
Belize	BZ	Congo, Republic of the	CG	Ghana	GH	Kuwait	KW
Benin	BJ	Cook Islands	CK	Gibraltar	GI	Kyrgyzstan	KG
Bermuda	BM	Costa Rica	CR	Greece	GR	Laos	LA
Bhutan	BT	Croatia	HR	Greenland	GL	Latvia	LV
Bolivia	BO	Cuba	CU	Grenada	GD	Lebanon	LB
Bonaire, Saint Eustatius and Saba	BQ	Curaçao	CW	Guam	GU	Lesotho	LS
Bosnia and Herzegovina	BA	Cyprus	CY	Guatemala	GT	Liberia	LR
Botswana	BW	Czech Republic	CZ	Guinea	GN	Libya	LY
Bouvet Island	BV	Denmark	DK	Guinea-Bissau	GW	Liechtenstein	LI
Brazil	BR	Djibouti	DJ	Guyana	GY	Lithuania	LT
British Indian Ocean Territory	IO	Dominica	DM	Haiti	HT	Luxembourg	LU

Country	Code	Country	Code	Country	Code	Country	Code
Macao	MO	North Korea	KP	Senegal	SN	Trinidad and Tobago	TT
Madagascar	MG	North Macedonia, Republic of	MK	Serbia	XS	Tunisia	TN
Malawi	MW	Northern Mariana Islands	MP	Seychelles	SC	Turkey	TR
Malaysia	MY	Norway	NO	Sierra Leone	SL	Turkmenistan	TM
Maldives	MV	Oman	OM	Singapore	SG	Turks and Caicos Islands	TC
Mali	ML	Pakistan	PK	Sint Maarten (Dutch Part)	SX	Tuvalu	TV
Malta	MT	Palau	PW	Slovakia	SK	Uganda	UG
Marshall Islands	MH	Palestinian Territory, Occupied	PS	Slovenia	SI	Ukraine	UA
Mauritania	MR	Panama	PA	Solomon Islands	SB	United Arab Emirates	AE
Mauritius	MU	Papua New Guinea	PG	Somalia	SO	United Kingdom	GB
Melilla	XL	Paraguay	PY	South Africa	ZA	United States	US
Mexico	MX	Peru	PE	South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands	GS	United States Minor Outlying Islands	UM
Micronesia	FM	Philippines	PH	South Korea	KR	Uruguay	UY
Moldova, Republic of	MD	Pitcairn	PN	South Sudan	SS	Uzbekistan	UZ
Mongolia	MN	Poland	PL	Spain	ES	Vanuatu	VU
Montenegro	ME	Portugal	PT	Sri Lanka	LK	Vatican City	VA
Montserrat	MS	Qatar	QA	Sudan	SD	Venezuela	VE
Morocco	MA	Romania	RO	Suriname	SR	Vietnam	VN
Mozambique	MZ	Russia	RU	Swaziland	SZ	Virgin Islands of the United States	VI
Myanmar	MM	Rwanda	RW	Sweden	SE	Wallis and Futuna	WF
Namibia	NA	Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha	SH	Switzerland	CH	Western Sahara	EH
Nauru	NR	Saint Kitts and Nevis	KN	Syria	SY	Yemen	YE
Nepal	NP	Saint Lucia	LC	Taiwan	TW	Zambia	ZM
New Caledonia	NC	Saint Pierre and Miquelon	PM	Tajikistan	TJ	Zimbabwe	ZW
New Zealand	NZ	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	VC	Tanzania	TZ		
Nicaragua	NI	Saint-Barthélemy	BL	Thailand	TH		
Niger	NE	Samoa	WS	The Netherlands	NL		
Nigeria	NG	San Marino	SM	Togo	TG		
Niue	NU	Sao Tome and Principe	ST	Tokelau	TK		
Norfolk Island	NF	Saudi Arabia	SA	Tonga	TO		

Ranking by code

Code	Country	Code	Country	Code	Country	Code	Country
AD	Andorra	BW	Botswana	ER	Eritrea	IE	Ireland
AE	United Arab Emirates	BY	Belarus	ES	Spain	IL	Israel
AF	Afghanistan	BZ	Belize	AND	Ethiopia	IN	India
AG	Antigua and Barbuda	CA	Canada	FI	Finland	IO	British Indian Ocean Territory
AI	Anguilla	CC	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	FJ	Fiji	IQ	Iraq
AL	Albania	CD	Congo, Democratic Republic of	FK	Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	IR	Iran
AM	Armenia	CF	Central Africa	FM	Micronesia	IS	Iceland
AO	Angola	CG	Congo, Republic of the	FO	Faroe Islands	IT	Italy
AQ	Antarctica	CH	Switzerland	FR	France	JM	Jamaica
AR	Argentina	CI	Ivory Coast	GA	Gabon	JO	Jordan
AS	American Samoa	CK	Cook Islands	GB	United Kingdom	JP	Japan
AT	Austria	CL	Chile	GD	Grenada	KE	Kenya
AU	Australia	CM	Cameroon	GE	Georgia	KG	Kyrgyzstan
AW	Aruba	CN	China, People's Republic of	GH	Ghana	KH	Cambodia
AZ	Azerbaijan	CO	Colombia	GI	Gibraltar	KI	Kiribati
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	CR	Costa Rica	GL	Greenland	KM	Comoros
BB	Barbados	CU	Cuba	GM	Gambia	KN	Saint Kitts and Nevis
BD	Bangladesh	CV	Cape Verde	GN	Guinea	KP	North Korea
BF	Burkina Faso	CW	Curaçao	GQ	Equatorial Guinea	KR	South Korea
BG	Bulgaria	CX	Christmas Island	GR	Greece	KW	Kuwait
BH	Bahrain	CY	Cyprus	GS	South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands	KY	Cayman Islands
BI	Burundi	CZ	Czech Republic	GT	Guatemala	KZ	Kazakhstan
BJ	Benin	DE	Germany	GU	Guam	LA	Laos
BL	Saint-Barthélemy	DJ	Djibouti	GW	Guinea-Bissau	LB	Lebanon
BM	Bermuda	DK	Denmark	GY	Guyana	LC	Saint Lucia
BN	Brunei Darussalam	DM	Dominica	HK	Hong Kong	LI	Liechtenstein
BO	Bolivia	DO	Dominican Republic	HM	Heard Island and Mcdonald Islands	LK	Sri Lanka
BQ	Bonaire, Saint Eustatius and Saba	DZ	Algeria	HN	Honduras	LR	Liberia
BR	Brazil	EC	Ecuador	HR	Croatia	LS	Lesotho
BS	Bahamas	EE	Estonia	HT	Haiti	LT	Lithuania
BT	Bhutan	EG	Egypt	HU	Hungary	LU	Luxembourg
BV	Bouvet Island	EH	Western Sahara	ID	Indonesia	LV	Latvia

Code	Country	Code	Country	Code	Country	Code	Country
LY	Libya	NP	Nepal	SI	Slovenia	UA	Ukraine
MA	Morocco	NR	Nauru	SK	Slovakia	UG	Uganda
MD	Moldova, Republic of	NU	Niue	SL	Sierra Leone	UM	United States Minor Outlying Islands
ME	Montenegro	NZ	New Zealand	SM	San Marino	US	United States
MG	Madagascar	OM	Oman	SN	Senegal	UY	Uruguay
MH	Marshall Islands	PA	Panama	SO	Somalia	UZ	Uzbekistan
MK	North Macedonia, Republic of	PE	Peru	SR	Suriname	VA	Vatican City
ML	Mali	PF	French Polynesia	SS	South Sudan	VC	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
MM	Myanmar	PG	Papua New Guinea	ST	Sao Tome and Principe	VE	Venezuela
MN	Mongolia	PH	Philippines	SV	El Salvador	VG	British Virgin Islands
MO	Macao	PK	Pakistan	SX	Sint Maarten (Dutch Part)	VI	Virgin Islands of the United States
MP	Northern Mariana Islands	PL	Poland	SY	Syria	VN	Vietnam
MR	Mauritania	PM	Saint Pierre and Miquelon	SZ	Swaziland	VU	Vanuatu
MS	Montserrat	PN	Pitcairn	TC	Turks and Caicos Islands	WF	Wallis and Futuna
MT	Malta	PS	Palestinian Territory, Occupied	TD	Chad	WS	Samoa
MU	Mauritius	PT	Portugal	TF	French Southern Territories	XC	Ceuta
MV	Maldives	PW	Palau	TG	Togo	XK	Kosovo
MW	Malawi	PY	Paraguay	TH	Thailand	XL	Melilla
MX	Mexico	QA	Qatar	TJ	Tajikistan	XS	Serbia
MY	Malaysia	RO	Romania	TK	Tokelau	YE	Yemen
MZ	Mozambique	RU	Russia	TL	East Timor	ZA	South Africa
NA	Namibia	RW	Rwanda	TM	Turkmenistan	ZM	Zambia
NC	New Caledonia	SA	Saudi Arabia	TN	Tunisia	ZW	Zimbabwe
NE	Niger	SB	Solomon Islands	TO	Tonga		
NF	Norfolk Island	SC	Seychelles	TR	Turkey		
NG	Nigeria	SD	Sudan	TT	Trinidad and Tobago		
NI	Nicaragua	SE	Sweden	TV	Tuvalu		
NL	The Netherlands	SG	Singapore	TW	Taiwan		
NO	Norway	SH	Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha	TZ	Tanzania		

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