

# Brussels foreign trade balance sheet 2024

**Part II:  
Foreign trade  
in goods and services by  
regional accounts in 2023**

**&**

**Belgian foreign trade  
in services  
in 2024**

**September 2025**



# Colophon

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# Summary

According to the latest data on the regional breakdown of Belgian imports and exports of goods and services, **Belgium** exported a total of EUR 501.9 billion worth of goods and services in 2023, down 6.5%. Exports of goods fell by 10.8%, but services exports rose by 6.7%.

This overall trend can be observed in all of the country's regions, although the slowdown is more moderate in Brussels (-0.8%) than in Flanders (-8.3%) or Wallonia (-3.8%).

Belgium's trade balance posted a deficit of EUR 3.6 billion in 2023, impacted by Brussels's significant deficit of EUR -14.7 billion. According to preliminary Balance of Payments data, the downward trend in Belgium's exports of goods and services continued in 2024, albeit on a smaller scale, with a 3.2% drop in exports, attributable to both goods and services exports.

In 2023, **Brussels** accounted for 13.7% of Belgium's total exports, with a value of EUR 68.7 billion. This amount is broken down as follows: 52% services and 48% goods. The share of service exports is much higher in Brussels than in the other regions (32% in Flanders, 23% in Wallonia), once again underlining the uniqueness of the city.

While exports of goods from Brussels fell by 9.2% in 2023, exports of services continued to grow, as they have done since 2021 (+8.6% in 2023). The Region thus accounted for 25% of Belgian services exports and a more modest 9% of the country's goods exports.

The Manufacturing (50%) and Wholesale and retail trade (39.4%) sectors accounted for the lion's share of Brussels' goods exports.

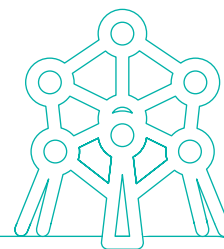
Exports of services from Brussels are mainly concentrated in Professional, scientific and technical activities (29.7%) and Financial and insurance activities (25.5%), followed by Information and communication (9.9%).

In 2023, two thirds of Brussels' service exports went to EU Member States and institutions. France, the Netherlands, the UK, Ireland, Germany, the USA and Luxembourg were our top seven partners, accounting for almost 65% of services exports.

According to **Belgium's** foreign trade in services data, provided this time for the 2024 financial year, national exports of services fell by 3%, with a record trade deficit (nearly EUR 10 billion). Travel services, Other business services and Transport services were the worst performers, even though the latter two sectors alone accounted for 56% of service exports. Telecommunication, computer and information services complete the podium with 16% of exports.

The main customers for Belgium's services in 2024 were the Netherlands, France, the USA, Germany and the UK. Within the top 25, only China has seen its purchases of Belgian services decrease over the last three financial years (-6%).

# Key figures for the trade in goods and services from the Brussels-Capital Region in 2023



**The Brussels-Capital Region exported goods and services worth €68.7 billion**

(-0.8% from 2022 to 2023)

48 %

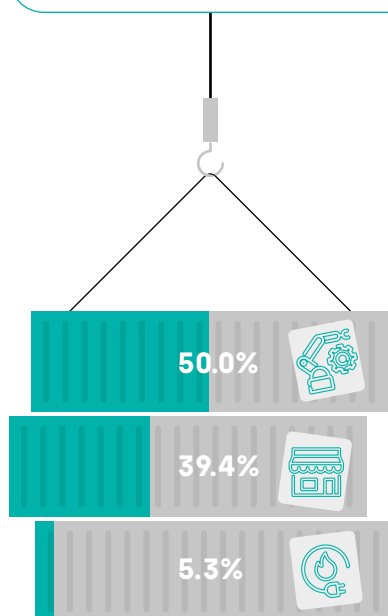
**€33.1 billion of goods**

(-9.2% from 2022 to 2023)

52 %

**€35.6 billion of services**

(+8.6% from 2022 to 2023)



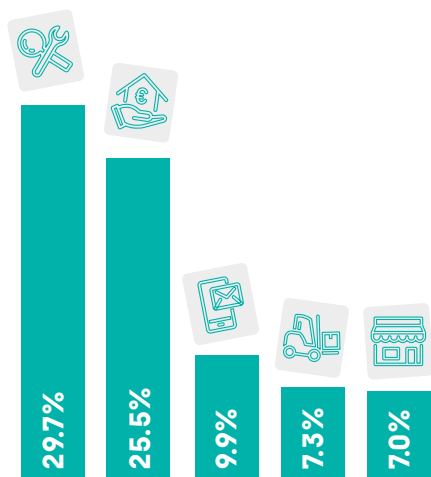
## Top 3 sectors of goods exports

### Millions of euros

|                                                                         |        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Manufacturing                                                        | 16,546 |
| 2. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles | 13,052 |
| 3. Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply                  | 1,739  |
| Total                                                                   | 31,337 |

**Total: 94.7%**

Source: Regional accounts, breakdown of Belgian imports and exports, NBB



## Top 5 sectors of services exports

### Millions of euros

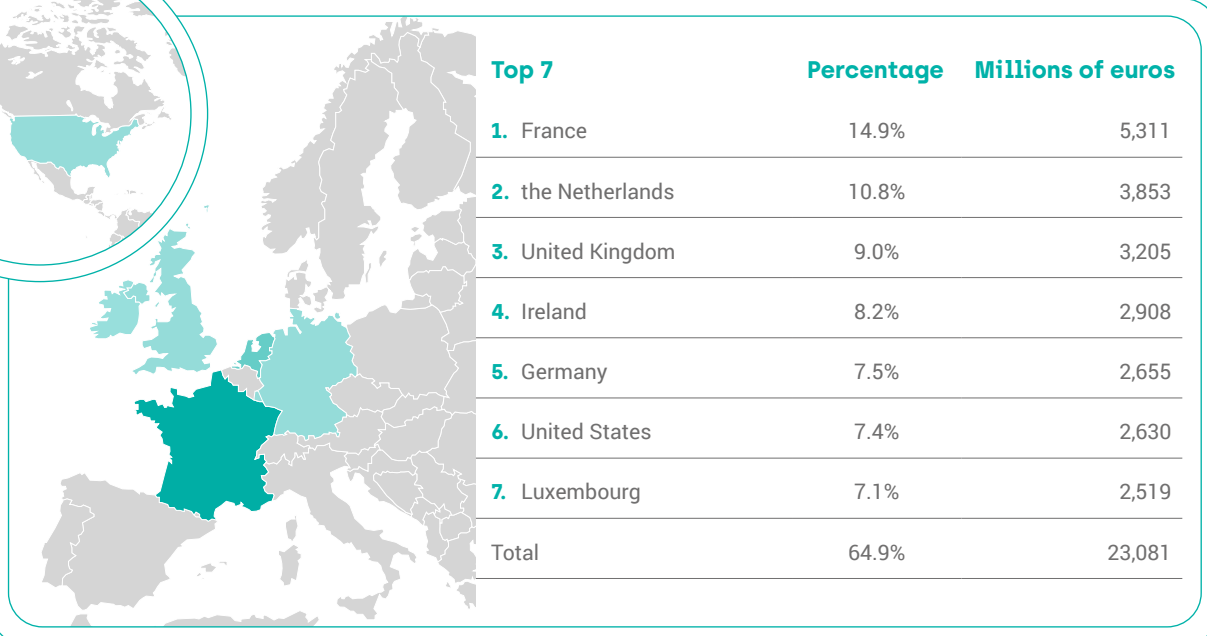
|                                                                         |               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Professional, scientific and technical activities                    | 10,548        |
| 2. Financial and insurance activities                                   | 9,071         |
| 3. Information and communication                                        | 3,525         |
| 4. Transportation and storage                                           | 2,587         |
| 5. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles | 2,497         |
| <b>Total</b>                                                            | <b>28,228</b> |

**Total: 79.4%**

Source: Regional accounts, breakdown of Belgian imports and exports, NBB



## Main services export markets



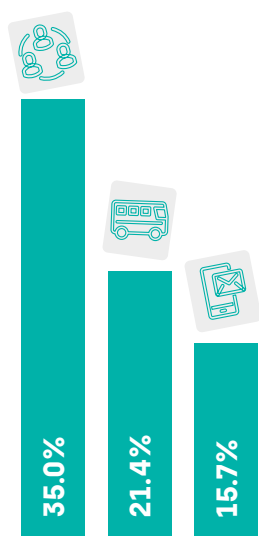
■ <5% ■ 5-10% ■ 10-15% ■ 15-20%

Source: Regional accounts, breakdown of Belgian imports and exports, NBB

# Key figures for the trade in services from Belgium in 2024

**Belgium exported €136.9 billion worth of services**

(-3% from 2023 to 2024)



## Top 3 types of services exported

Millions of euros

|                                                         |        |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Other business services                              | 47,961 |
| 2. Transport                                            | 29,327 |
| 3. Telecommunication, computer and information services | 21,550 |
| Total                                                   | 98,838 |

**Total: 72.1%**

Source: Foreign statistics, Balance of payments, NBB

## Main services export markets



| Top 7              | Percentage | Millions of euros |
|--------------------|------------|-------------------|
| 1. the Netherlands | 14.0%      | 19,129            |
| 2. France          | 11.6%      | 15,844            |
| 3. United States   | 10.6%      | 14,482            |
| 4. Germany         | 7.6%       | 10,395            |
| 5. United Kingdom  | 7.1%       | 9,694             |
| 6. Ireland         | 7.0%       | 9,601             |
| 7. Switzerland     | 6.6%       | 9,084             |
| Total              | 64.4%      | 88,229            |

Legend: <5% (lightest teal), 5-10% (light teal), 10-15% (medium teal), 15-20% (darkest teal)

Source: Foreign statistics, Balance of payments, NBB

# Methodological note

## Introduction

hub.brussels has made the editorial decision to publish its annual *Brussels foreign trade balance sheet* in two parts in 2025: one devoted to trade in goods, released in June 2025<sup>1</sup>, and the other targeting trade in services, the subject of this report. This split follows the late publication of data from the National Bank of Belgium (NBB) on the regional breakdown of Belgian imports and exports of goods and services, produced in collaboration with the regional statistical authorities.

## Data source

The **regional** data is taken from NBB statistics on the "Regional breakdown of imports and exports", drawn up on the basis of the Regional Accounts. This data is produced on an annual basis only, approximately two years after the full year has ended. They are available by sector of activity, and can be downloaded from the NBB.Stat website. The data presented in this study was taken on 15/07/2025.

With regard to **Belgium's** international trade in services, the quarterly data by country and type of service, taken from statistics on the Balance of payments, is sent to us directly by the NBB.

## Foreign trade in goods and services - Regional accounts<sup>2</sup>

The Regional accounts statistics produced by the NBB differ from the Foreign Trade in Goods statistics presented in Part I of the Foreign Trade Balance Sheet in that they use a different methodology to account for exports and imports: in this case, an export or import occurs when there is a **transfer of ownership** of goods or services - and not the crossing of a border.

Regional accounts statistics are used in this Part II to analyse:

- the value and distribution of goods and services in Belgian and regional trade;
- the breakdown of the trade in goods and services in the BCR by branch of activity;
- the BCR's trade in services with its main trading partners.

Moreover, in the Regional accounts, **repairs to goods and manufacturing services** on goods carried out by resident companies on behalf of foreign players are considered as exports of services. On the other hand, Foreign Trade statistics include a number of transactions involving goods that are not sold, but are manufactured or transformed in a Belgian branch or abroad, which has an impact on the total value of exports or imports of these goods.

In the Regional accounts, it is important to highlight that imports and exports are attributed to the region(s) in which the importer or exporter **owns establishments**, and not according to where the last value added, in the case of exports, or the first value added, in the case of imports, took place, as it is the case in Foreign Trade statistics.

If the declarant owns establishments in several districts, several variables are used as distribution keys (number of jobs, NSSO gross remuneration, reductions in employer contributions, number of full-time workers, number of part-time workers, number of people working as their main occupation, number of days worked by full-time workers and number of hours worked by part-time workers).<sup>3</sup>

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1 Bilan du commerce extérieur 2024 – Volet I : Le commerce extérieur de biens; Balans van de Brusselse buitenlandse handel 2024 – Luik I : De buitenlandse handel van goederen; Brussels foreign trade balance sheet 2024 – Part I: Foreign trade in goods.

2 m\_gd\_meth2016f.pdf; m\_meth2020f.pdf; m\_gd\_meth20f.pdf; m\_gd\_meth2016n.pdf; m\_meth2020n.pdf; m\_gd\_meth20n.pdf.

3 These distribution keys were applied after the 2019 methodological review, starting with the 2015 financial year. Previously, only the number of jobs determined the distribution by district (m\_meth2020f.pdf; m\_meth2020n.pdf).

## Statistics on Foreign trade versus statistics on Regional accounts



In summary, the statistics on Foreign trade (analysed in Part I of the Brussels Foreign Trade Balance Sheet) and statistics on Regional accounts (detailed in this Part II) are both based on the National concept<sup>4</sup>, but use different definitions of exports and imports respectively. The former is based on border crossings, the latter on the transfer of ownership of goods or services. In addition, there are a number of methodological principles applied to the regional breakdown itself.

Consequently, the results published in the statistics on Foreign trade – total figures for the Kingdom and shares by region – differ from those published in the Regional accounts. In concrete terms, the value of goods exports from the Brussels-Capital Region is significantly higher according to the Regional accounts than the value of goods exports according to Foreign trade statistics. On the other hand, the Flemish Region's share is lower according to Regional accounts principles than according to Foreign trade principles.<sup>5</sup>

## Belgian foreign trade in services – Balance of payments

The NBB produces the data on **Belgium's foreign trade in services**<sup>6</sup> by type of service on a monthly basis for general figures and on a quarterly basis for statistics by country. This latter data is used in this report. Data for the previous year are available in the first half of the following year. In addition to this higher production frequency, this data offers greater granularity in terms of service export markets, and enables cross-analysis of the types of services delivered and export markets.

The National Bank of Belgium 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 and specific declarations for other companies, which can be done either 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.

<sup>4</sup> As opposed to the Community concept, used on a European scale (notably on the Eurostat website).

<sup>5</sup> [m\\_gd\\_meth20f.pdf](#); [m\\_gd\\_meth20n.pdf](#).

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.nbb.be/doc/dq/e\\_method/itss\\_en.pdf](https://www.nbb.be/doc/dq/e_method/itss_en.pdf); [itss\\_nl.pdf](#).







# Foreign trade in goods and services by regional accounts in 2023

# Foreign trade in goods and services by regional accounts in 2023

## Trade in goods and services in Belgium and by region

Belgian exports of goods and services fell by 6.5% overall between 2022 and 2023: a 10.8% decline in goods, but a 6.7% increase in services.



The same overall downward trend could be observed at regional level, although the decline in exports from Brussels was limited (-0.8%) compared to Flanders (-8.1%) and Wallonia (-3.8%).

Nevertheless, the Brussels-Capital Region was the only one to record a trade deficit in 2023 (EUR -14.7 billion).

### In Belgium

According to the latest Regional accounts statistics, in 2023 Belgium exported a total of EUR 501.9 billion worth of goods and services, down 6.5% on 2022, after two years of sustained growth (Figure 1). Imports amounted to EUR 505.5 billion, a decline of 7.3% compared to 2022, also following two years of significant growth. Belgium's trade balance shows a deficit of EUR 3.6 billion, down on 2022, which stood out due to its EUR 8.2 billion deficit, following a succession of positive trade balances from 2019 to 2021.

In 2023, Belgium's overall exports were broken down as follows (Figures 3 and 4):

- EUR 360.7 billion in goods exports (72% share), down 10.8% on 2022
- EUR 141.1 billion in services exports (28% share), up 6.7% on 2022 It should be noted that Belgium's service exports have been growing steadily since 2021.

Belgian imports in 2023 consisted of EUR 357.9 billion in goods (71% share, down 10.8%), and EUR 147.6 billion in services (29% share, up 6.0%).

According to the NBB's initial Balance of Payments statistics, which are still provisional, Belgium's exports of goods and services continued to decline in 2024, showing an overall drop of 3.2% (-3.3% for goods and -3.0% for services).

### In the regions

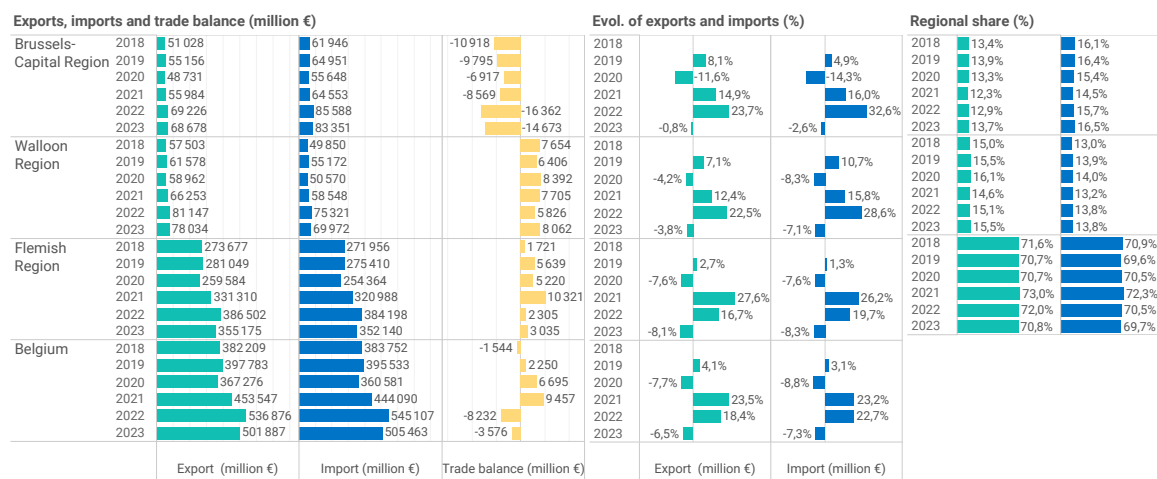
**Brussels** exported a total of EUR 68.7 billion worth of goods and services in 2023, representing 13.7% of the Belgian total, down 0.8% on 2022 (Figure 1). Brussels imports amounted to EUR 83.4 billion in 2023, representing 16.5% of the Belgian total, down 2.6% on 2022.

Brussels' trade balance posted a deficit of EUR 14.7 billion, unlike the other two regions, which showed a trade surplus. The trade deficit, which had recovered well in 2019 (-10%) and 2020 (-29%), rose again in 2021 (+24%) and in particular in 2022 (+91%), before narrowing by 10% in 2023.

**Flanders** exported a total of EUR 355.2 billion worth of goods and services in 2023, representing 70.8% of the Belgian total, down 8.1% on 2022. Flanders' imports amounted to EUR 352.1 billion, representing 69.7% of the Belgian total, and falling by 8.3% compared to 2022. As a result, Flanders' trade balance was in a EUR 3 billion surplus, a value well up on 2022 (+32%) but still below the value seen in 2019 (EUR 5.6 billion).

Finally, **Wallonia** exported a total of EUR 78 billion worth of goods and services in 2023, representing 15.5% of the Belgian total, posting a 3.8% decline compared to 2022. Wallonia's imports amounted to EUR 70 billion in 2023, representing 13.8% of the Belgian total, and down by 7.1%. Wallonia's trade balance was in a EUR 8.1 billion surplus, a healthy increase on 2022 (+38%) and up on 2019, which showed a figure of EUR 6.4 billion.

Figure 1. Trade in goods and services, Belgium and regions, 2018-2023, NBB



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

# Trade in Brussels by product type and sector of activity

## Trade in Brussels by product type

In 2023, Brussels exports amounted to EUR 68.7 billion, of which 52% were services and 48% were goods. Brussels is unique in seeing services account for such a high proportion of its exports, with these sectors only accounting for 28% for Belgium as a whole, and 23% and 32% for Flanders and Wallonia respectively.



While exports of goods from Brussels declined in 2023 (-9.2%), exports of services continued to grow steadily, as they have done since 2021 (+8.6% in 2023). While, in 2023, Brussels was the only region to post a trade deficit in goods (EUR -19.1 billion), it was also the only one to post a trade surplus in services (EUR +4.4 billion).

The Region accounted for 9% of Belgian goods exports in 2023, and 25% of the country's services exports.

In 2023, Brussels **exports**, totalling EUR 68.7 billion, were broken down as follows (Figure 2):

- EUR 33.1 billion in goods exports, i.e. a 48% share<sup>7</sup>;
- EUR 35.6 billion in services exports, i.e. a 52% share;

Exports of services have grown steadily since 2018, with the exception of the 2020 financial year, marked by a downturn (-5.5%) due to the COVID pandemic. However, exports of goods have recorded two declines in recent years, one in 2020 (-18.5%) and the other in 2023 (-9.2% versus +8.6% for services). These trends can also be observed across the rest of the country.

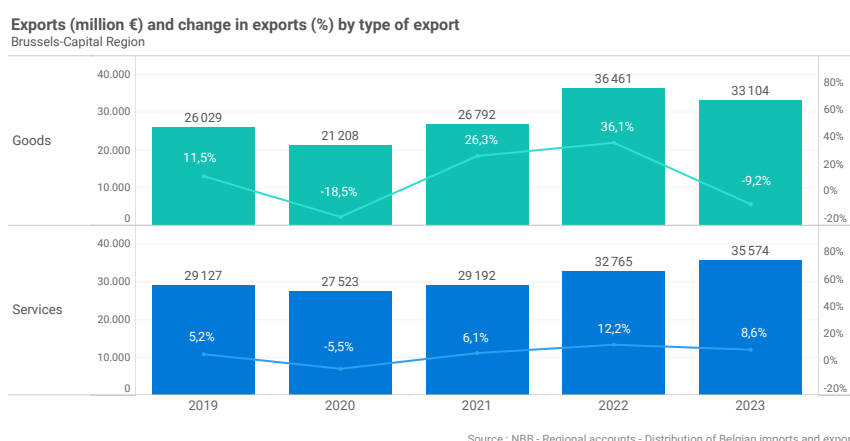
While, for the first time since 2018, Brussels' goods exports exceeded those of services in 2022, this was no longer the case in 2023. The city's services exports amounted to EUR 35.6 billion, compared to EUR 33.1 billion for goods.

Over the 2018-2023 period, the share of services in Brussels exports only fell below 50% in 2022 (47%), returning to 52% in 2023. This is due in particular to the comparatively more sustained increases in goods exports following the COVID crisis, bearing in mind that it is generally accepted that exports of services are more resistant to changes in the economic environment than exports of goods<sup>8</sup>. Across Belgium as a whole, the share of services was 28% in 2023, while it was 23% for Flanders and 32% for Wallonia, underlining the Brussels-Capital Region's uniqueness in terms of exports.

<sup>7</sup> In Part I of the Brussels foreign trade balance sheet 2024, devoted to foreign trade in goods, the total amount of goods exports was EUR 11.8 billion for 2023. As a reminder, the NBB statistics presented in Section I take into account the passage of goods across the border, on the one hand, and the place where the last value added was conducted, on the other. For further explanations of the methodology used in these two sections, please refer to the first part of this report, which includes the methodological note.

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

Figure 2: Exports by product type, Brussels-Capital Region, 2019-2023, NBB



If we compare these trends with those of the country's other two regions, Brussels posted decline in **goods** exports similar to that of Flanders in 2023 (-9.2% and -11.9%, respectively), but greater than that of Wallonia (-6.1%) (Figure 3). In 5 years, however, the value of goods exports from the BCR grew by 42%, while the other two regions recorded growth of 28% in Flanders and 34% in Wallonia.

In terms of trade in goods, the Brussels-Capital Region occupied a relatively modest position in Belgium: the Region accounted for 9% of Belgian goods exports in 2023, compared with 15% for Wallonia and 76% for Flanders. These percentages hardly changed compared with those from 2019.

In terms of **service** exports, growth was more pronounced in Brussels in 2023 (+8.6%) than in Flanders (+7.6%) and Wallonia (+1.3%). This was not the case in the previous two years, when the increase was more contained than in other regions (Figure 4). Over the 2018-2023 period, exports from Brussels grew more moderately (+29%) than those from Flanders (+35%) and Wallonia (+37%).

With a 25% share of Belgian services exports, Brussels plays a relatively more significant role in the country's trade in services. This share fell slightly (-1 percentage point) compared to 2019, to the benefit of the other two regions: 57% for Flanders and 18% for Wallonia in 2023.

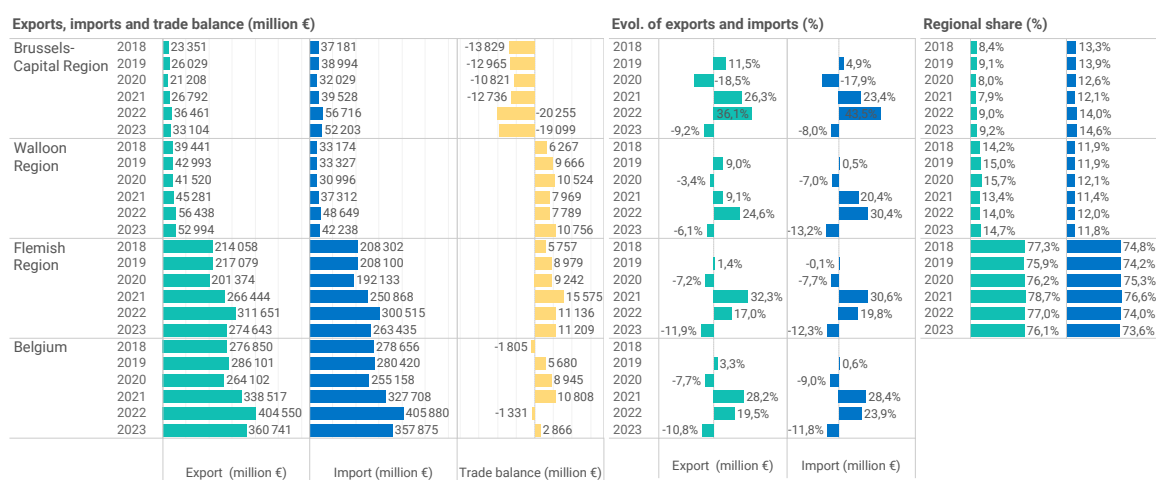
**Imports** of goods fell in all regions, underlining once again the slowdown in trade in goods in 2023 (-8% in Brussels and -12% to 13% in Flanders and Wallonia).

Services imports followed the same trend as exports, posting growth rates that were positive, albeit growing at a slower pace than in 2022 (+8% in Brussels, +6% in Flanders and +4% in Wallonia).

While Brussels' **goods trade deficit** has widened in recent years, rising from EUR -12.7 billion in 2021 to EUR -20.3 billion in 2022, then stabilising at EUR -19.1 billion in 2023, Flanders and Wallonia posted a surplus of around EUR 11 billion.

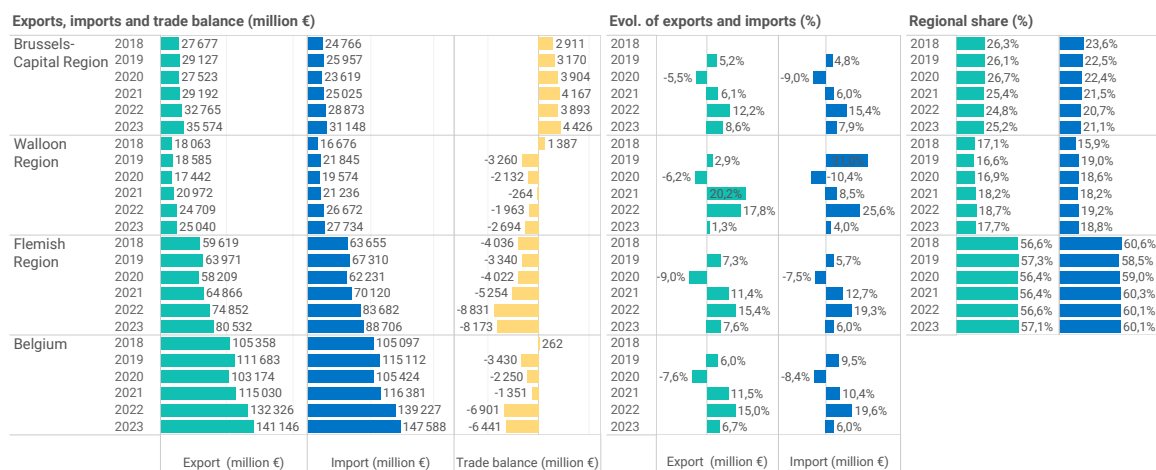
Nevertheless, Brussels was the only region to post a surplus in its **services** trade balance in recent years (EUR +4.4 billion in 2023, the highest since 2018, with EUR -8.2 billion in Flanders and EUR -2.7 billion in Wallonia).

Figure 3. Trade in goods, Belgium and regions, 2018-2023, NBB



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

Figure 4. Trade in services, Belgium and regions, 2018-2023, NBB



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

# Trade in Brussels by sector of activity

Accounting for almost 90% of Brussels' exports of goods, Manufacturing and Wholesale and retail trade are the two leading sectors in terms of sales of goods abroad. While exports from the Manufacturing sector fell by 14% in 2023, those from the Wholesale and retail trade sector continued to grow in 2023 (+7%). 55% of the exports of services were generated by Professional, scientific and technical activities and Financial and insurance activities, two sectors that have been growing significantly since 2021. The Information and Communication sector (around 10% export share) completes the top three.



## Trade in goods by sector of activity

### Exports of goods

Almost 90% of goods exports from the Brussels-Capital Region were generated by the **Manufacturing**<sup>9</sup> (EUR 16.5 billion in 2023) and **Wholesale and retail trade** (EUR 13.1 billion) sectors (Figure 5). Two other sectors shared 8% of goods sales abroad: **Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply** (EUR 1.7 billion) and **Professional, scientific and technical activities** (EUR 894 million).

Among these, the **Manufacturing** and **Electricity, gas, (...) supply** sectors saw their exports decline by 14% and 51% respectively in 2023. Exports of goods by the **Wholesale and retail trade** and **Professional, scientific and technical activities** sectors rose by 7% and 43% respectively during the same year, following two years of continuous growth. This latter sector is thriving, multiplying its foreign sales by five over the past five years.

Figure 5: Exports of goods by sector of activity, Brussels-Capital Region, 2019-2023, NBB

| Brussels-Capital Region<br>Value (million €)    |          |          | Evolution 1 year (%) |  | Evolution 3 years (%) |  | Evolution 5 years (%) |  | Shares (%) |       |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------------------|--|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|--|------------|-------|
|                                                 | 2022     | 2023     | 2023                 |  | 2023                  |  | 2023                  |  | 2022       | 2023  |
| Manufacturing C                                 | 19.187,6 | 16.546,3 | -13,8%               |  | 58,6%                 |  | 56,0%                 |  | 52,6%      | 50,0% |
| Wholesale and retail trade; repair of mot... G  | 12.151,2 | 13.051,9 | 7,4%                 |  | 41,4%                 |  | 23,8%                 |  | 33,3%      | 39,4% |
| Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioni... D | 3.542,4  | 1.739,1  | -50,9%               |  | 281,3%                |  | 95,2%                 |  | 9,7%       | 5,3%  |
| Professional, scientific and technical act... M | 624,2    | 894,0    | 43,2%                |  | 820,7%                |  | 436,0%                |  | 1,7%       | 2,7%  |
| Financial and insurance activities K            | 399,4    | 298,6    | -25,2%               |  | -57,6%                |  | -25,7%                |  | 1,1%       | 0,9%  |
| Administrative and support service activ... N   | 228,0    | 252,5    | 10,7%                |  | 86,8%                 |  | 71,9%                 |  | 0,6%       | 0,8%  |
| Construction F                                  | 103,4    | 115,3    | 11,5%                |  | 643,9%                |  | -0,2%                 |  | 0,3%       | 0,3%  |
| Transportation and storage H                    | 88,9     | 69,8     | -21,5%               |  | 220,2%                |  | -79,9%                |  | 0,2%       | 0,2%  |
| Information and communication J                 | 81,3     | 69,0     | -15,1%               |  | 14,4%                 |  | 25,0%                 |  | 0,2%       | 0,2%  |
| Water supply, sewerage, waste manage... E       | 25,0     | 27,7     | 10,8%                |  | 77,6%                 |  | -24,3%                |  | 0,1%       | 0,1%  |
| Arts, entertainment and recreation R            | 12,1     | 17,7     | 46,3%                |  | 82,5%                 |  | 84,4%                 |  | 0,0%       | 0,1%  |
| Human health and social work activities Q       | 3,8      | 6,8      | 78,9%                |  | 325,0%                |  | 277,8%                |  | 0,0%       | 0,0%  |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing A             | 4,0      | 5,6      | 40,0%                |  | 3,7%                  |  | 180,0%                |  | 0,0%       | 0,0%  |
| Real estate activities L                        | 2,3      | 3,7      | 60,9%                |  | 27,6%                 |  | -36,2%                |  | 0,0%       | 0,0%  |
| Other service activities S                      | 3,2      | 2,5      | -21,9%               |  | -71,6%                |  | -67,1%                |  | 0,0%       | 0,0%  |
| Public administration and defence; com... O     | 1,7      | 1,7      | 0,0%                 |  | 41,7%                 |  | -78,5%                |  | 0,0%       | 0,0%  |
| Mining and quarrying B                          | 0,6      | 0,7      | -22,2%               |  | 0,0%                  |  | 40,0%                 |  | 0,0%       | 0,0%  |
| Education P                                     | 0,9      | 0,7      | 16,7%                |  | -91,3%                |  | -90,7%                |  | 0,0%       | 0,0%  |
| Accommodation and food service activi... I      | 0,9      | 0,4      | -55,6%               |  | -84,0%                |  | -77,8%                |  | 0,0%       | 0,0%  |

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

### Imports of goods

The three leading sectors in terms of goods imports into the Brussels-Capital Region are **Wholesale and retail trade** (EUR 24.7 billion, with a 48% share), **Manufacturing** (EUR 17.2 billion, with a 34% share) and **Electricity, gas (...) supply** (EUR 6.3 billion, with a 12% share). Imports from the latter sector showed the sharpest decline in 2023 (-41%), while those from the Manufacturing sector fell by 11%. Foreign purchases in the Wholesale and retail trade sector showed the opposite trend, with an increase of 7% over the same year.

9 Full descriptions of the sectors and their translations are provided in Appendix 1 of this document.

## Trade balance of goods

The **Wholesale and retail trade** sector posted the highest trade deficit in goods: EUR -11.6 billion in 2023. This was followed by **Electricity, gas (...) supply** (with a deficit of EUR -4.5 billion), **Manufacturing** (EUR -655 million), **Information and communication** (EUR -479 million) and **Transportation** (EUR -328 million). The deficit in these sectors worsened in 2023 compared with the previous year, with the exception of Transportation and Electricity, gas (...) supply, which reduced its deficit by EUR 2.5 billion.

Figure 6: Trade in goods by sector of activity, Brussels-Capital Region, 2023, NBB

### Exports, Imports, Trade balance by sector (million €)

Brussels-Capital Region  
2023

|                                                                      |   |          |          |               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----------|----------|---------------|
| Manufacturing                                                        | C | 16.546,3 | 17.199,4 | -654,7        |
| Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles | G | 13.051,9 | 24.691,2 | -11.639,3     |
| Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply                  | D | 1.739,1  | 6.260,5  | -4.521,4      |
| Professional, scientific and technical activities                    | M | 894,0    | 946,5    | -52,5         |
| Financial and insurance activities                                   | K | 298,6    | 540,7    | -242,1        |
| Administrative and support service activities                        | N | 252,5    | 59,5     | 193,0         |
| Construction                                                         | F | 115,3    | 124,2    | -8,9          |
| Transportation and storage                                           | H | 69,8     | 398,2    | -328,4        |
| Information and communication                                        | J | 69,0     | 547,6    | -478,6        |
| Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities  | E | 27,7     | 24,1     | 3,6           |
| Arts, entertainment and recreation                                   | R | 17,7     | 21,3     | -3,6          |
| Human health and social work activities                              | Q | 6,8      | 84,2     | -77,4         |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing                                    | A | 5,6      | 4,8      | 0,8           |
| Real estate activities                                               | L | 3,7      | 13,3     | -9,6          |
| Other service activities                                             | S | 2,5      | 8,5      | -6,0          |
| Public administration and defence; compulsory social security        | O | 1,7      | 126,3    | -124,6        |
| Mining and quarrying                                                 | B | 0,7      | 0,3      | 0,4           |
| Education                                                            | P | 0,7      | 47,5     | -46,8         |
| Accommodation and food service activities                            | I | 0,4      | 15,3     | -14,9         |
|                                                                      |   | Export   | Import   | Trade balance |

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

## Trade in services by sector of activity

### Brussels exports of services

In 2023, 55% of Brussels' exports of services were generated by **Professional, scientific and technical activities** (29.7%) and **Financial and insurance activities** (25.5%). Third place was occupied by the **Information and communication** sector with a total share of 9.9%.

Figure 7: Exports of services by sector of activity, Brussels-Capital Region, 2018-2023, NBB

Brussels-Capital Region  
Value (million €)

|                                                                |     | 2022    | 2023     | Evolution 1 year (%) | Evolution 3 years (%) | Evolution 5 years (%) | Shares (%)  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------|----------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
|                                                                |     |         |          | 2023                 | 2023                  | 2023                  | 2022 2023   |
| Professional, scientific and technical activities              | M   | 9.553,6 | 10.548,3 | 10,4%                | 38,7%                 | 28,9%                 | 29,2% 29,7% |
| Financial and insurance activities                             | K   | 8.050,8 | 9.071,0  | 12,7%                | 34,8%                 | 40,1%                 | 24,6% 25,5% |
| Information and communication                                  | J   | 3.637,3 | 3.525,0  | -3,1%                | 3,8%                  | 3,0%                  | 11,1% 9,9%  |
| Transportation and storage                                     | H   | 2.235,3 | 2.586,5  | 15,7%                | 105,7%                | 107,3%                | 6,8% 7,3%   |
| Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and mot.. | G   | 2.393,6 | 2.497,0  | 4,3%                 | 4,2%                  | -6,7%                 | 7,3% 7,0%   |
| Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply and Wate.. | D,E | 1.264,5 | 1.834,6  | 45,1%                | 224,1%                | 294,9%                | 3,9% 5,2%   |
| Other service activities                                       | S   | 1.290,4 | 1.423,5  | 10,3%                | 33,8%                 | 58,4%                 | 3,9% 4,0%   |
| Accommodation and food service activities                      | I   | 983,6   | 1.100,1  | 11,8%                | 83,8%                 | 61,9%                 | 3,0% 3,1%   |
| Administrative and support service activities                  | N   | 1.373,3 | 1.013,6  | -26,2%               | -42,2%                | -23,5%                | 4,2% 2,8%   |
| Manufacturing, including mining and quarrying                  | B,C | 578,3   | 700,7    | 21,2%                | -10,9%                | -22,0%                | 1,8% 2,0%   |
| Public administration and defence; compulsory social secur..   | O   | 785,0   | 626,6    | -20,2%               | -29,5%                | -21,2%                | 2,4% 1,8%   |
| Arts, entertainment and recreation                             | R   | 178,9   | 180,2    | 0,7%                 | 52,3%                 | 61,2%                 | 0,5% 0,5%   |
| Human health and social work activities                        | Q   | 145,2   | 148,7    | 2,4%                 | 59,5%                 | 56,5%                 | 0,4% 0,4%   |
| Construction                                                   | F   | 142,0   | 147,5    | 3,9%                 | 71,5%                 | -8,4%                 | 0,4% 0,4%   |
| Education                                                      | P   | 59,2    | 97,1     | 64,0%                | 36,4%                 | -12,0%                | 0,2% 0,3%   |
| Real estate activities                                         | L   | 94,2    | 73,9     | -21,5%               | -33,9%                | -44,6%                | 0,3% 0,2%   |

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

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

In 2023, growth in services exports was driven mainly by **Professional, scientific and technical activities** (+10.4%, an increase of almost EUR 1 billion, up 39% over three years), and **Financial and insurance activities** (+13%, a gain of EUR 1 billion, up 35% over three years). These service activities topped the rankings of Brussels' exports.

Other noteworthy increases included **Electricity, gas, steam (...) supply; sewerage (...)**<sup>10</sup> (+45%, i.e. an increase of EUR 570 million), and **Transportation and storage** (+16%, i.e. an increase of EUR 351 million). In five years (2018 to 2023), foreign sales of services in these sectors have doubled or tripled (+295% and +107% respectively).

The **Accommodation and food services activities** sector also seems to have recovered over the past three years (+84%) – after a drastic 38% drop in 2020 following the COVID crisis – with a 12% increase in 2023.

The **Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles** sector, which was also affected by the crisis in 2020 (-11%) and 2021 (-4%), appears to have recovered over the past two years, with an annual increase of 4% since 2022.

**Other service activities**<sup>11</sup> grew by 10% in 2023, confirming a multi-year trend (+58% over the past five years), while **Industry, including mining and quarrying**, is on the rise again (+21% in 2023), after three years of decline.

Further down the ranking, the strong performance of the **Education** sector in 2023 should be noted (+64%, after a 34% decline in 2022, showing a 'boom and bust' cycle over the past four years).

Lastly, the **Construction** (+4%), **Human health and social work activities** (+2%) and **Arts, entertainment and recreation** (+0.7%) sectors lost momentum in 2023, following strong gains in 2022 (+35%, +98%, +21% respectively).

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

The sectors of activity showing a decrease in the value of Brussels exports in 2023 included:

- **Information and communication** (-3%, after two consecutive years of slight growth);
- **Administrative and support services** (-26% and -42% over three years);
- **Public administration and defence (...)** (-20%, and -30% over three years);
- **Real estate activities** (-22%, and -34% over the last three years).

<sup>10</sup> In terms of services, this sector includes activity codes D "Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply" and E "Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities".

<sup>11</sup> 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](https://statbel.fgov.be/sites/default/files/Over_Statbel_FR/Nomenclaturen/NACE-BEL%202008_FR.pdf); [https://statbel.fgov.be/sites/default/files/Over\\_Statbel\\_FR/Nomenclaturen/NACE-BEL%202008\\_NL.pdf](https://statbel.fgov.be/sites/default/files/Over_Statbel_FR/Nomenclaturen/NACE-BEL%202008_NL.pdf), p. 494).

## Brussels imports of services

Imports of services into the Brussels-Capital Region increased by 8% in 2023 (Figure 8). The BCR service sectors with the highest import amounts in 2023 were:

- **Professional, scientific and technical activities** (EUR 7.5 billion);
- **Financial and insurance activities** (EUR 7.4 billion);
- **Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles** (EUR 3,6 billion);
- **Information and communication** (EUR 3.5 billion).

With the exception of the Wholesale and retail trade (...) sector, which recorded a slight drop in service imports (-2%), the other main sectors saw their foreign purchases increase in 2023 (+31% for Information and communication, +14% for Financial and insurance activities and +9% for Professional, scientific and technical activities).

## Brussels trade balance in services

The sectors with a clear surplus in trade in services in 2023 included:

- **Professional, scientific and technical activities** (EUR +3.0 billion);
- **Financial and insurance activities** (+EUR 1.7 billion);
- **Accommodation and food service activities** (EUR +1.0 billion);
- **Transportation and storage** (EUR +1.0 billion);
- **Other service activities** (EUR +659 million);
- **Electricity (...) supply; sewerage (...)** (EUR +547 billion);
- **Public administration and defence (...)** (EUR +515 billion).

The trade surplus of these sectors grew from +3% to +78% in 2023<sup>12</sup>, with the exception of Public administration and defence (-25%) and Transportation and storage (-2%).

By contrast, the **Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles** sector posted a substantial trade deficit: EUR -1.1 billion, an increase of 51% in 2023.

Figure 8: Trade in services by sector of activity, Brussels-Capital Region, 2023, NBB

| Exports, Imports, Trade balance by sector (million €)   |     |        |        |               |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----|--------|--------|---------------|
| Brussels-Capital Region                                 |     |        |        |               |
| 2023                                                    |     |        |        |               |
| Professional, scientific and technical activities       | M   | 10 548 | 7 515  | 3 033         |
| Financial and insurance activities                      | K   | 9 071  | 7 403  | 1 668         |
| Information and communication                           | J   | 3 525  | 3 544  | -19           |
| Transportation and storage                              | H   | 2 587  | 1 569  | 1 017         |
| Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles .. | G   | 2 497  | 3 618  | -1 121        |
| Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply a.. | D,E | 1 835  | 1 287  | 547           |
| Other service activities                                | S   | 1 424  | 765    | 659           |
| Accommodation and food service activities               | I   | 1 100  | 67     | 1 034         |
| Administrative and support service activities           | N   | 1 014  | 744    | 269           |
| Manufacturing, including mining and quarrying           | B,C | 701    | 856    | -155          |
| Public administration and defence; compulsory soci..    | O   | 627    | 112    | 515           |
| Arts, entertainment and recreation                      | R   | 180    | 165    | 15            |
| Human health and social work activities                 | Q   | 149    | 58     | 90            |
| Construction                                            | F   | 148    | 181    | -33           |
| Education                                               | P   | 97     | 61     | 36            |
| Real estate activities                                  | L   | 74     | 70     | 4             |
|                                                         |     | Export | Import | Trade balance |

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

<sup>12</sup> The Electricity (...) supply; Sewerage (...) sector recorded 78% growth in its trade surplus, compared with 3% to 14% for the other main sectors.

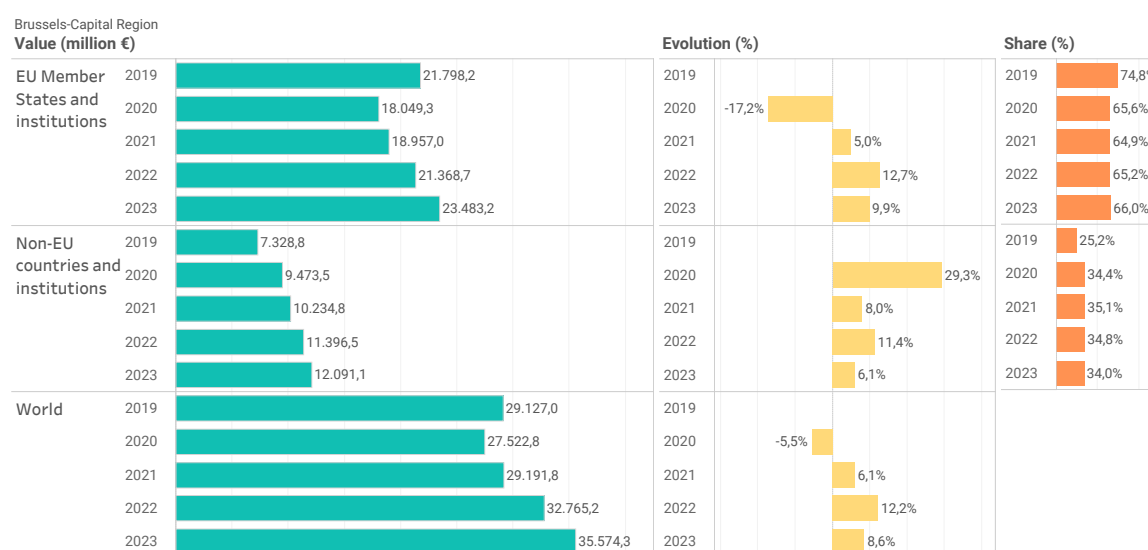
## Brussels service exports by trade partner

In 2023, two thirds of Brussels services were exported to EU Member States and institutions. In descending order, the main customers using these services are: France, the Netherlands, the UK, Ireland, Germany, the USA and Luxembourg. They accounted for 65% of total demand.



66% of exported Brussels services were destined for EU Member States and institutions, a share down on 2019 (75%) following the UK's decision to leave the European Union.

Figure 9: Exports of services by geographical area, Brussels-Capital Region, 2019-2023, NBB



Source : NBB - Regional distribution of the Belgian imports and exports of services by partner country - 2023 : provisional data

Based on the NBB's selection of 12 countries for the production of its regional statistics by trade partner, five countries account for half of the Brussels-Capital Region's service exports: **France** leads the way with a 15% share, followed by **the Netherlands** (11%), **the UK** (9%), **Ireland** (8%) and **Germany** (8%) (Figure 10). **The USA** and **Luxembourg** were close behind, with a 7% share of all Brussels' services sold abroad. **Switzerland**, **Italy** and **Spain** account for 2% to 4%, while **Sweden** and **Poland** account for around 1% of all Brussels' services sold abroad.

In terms of growth, the biggest increases between 2019 and 2023 were seen in **Luxembourg** and **Switzerland** (over 40%), and in **France** and **Ireland** (over 30%). 2023 was particularly prolific in terms of transactions with **Ireland**, **the Netherlands**, **Spain** and **France** (+11% to 17%). **The UK**, **Italy** and **Poland** also posted strong growth in this same year (+8% to 9%). Compared to the situation in 2019, **the USA** lost two places to **Ireland** and **Germany**, which moved up to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> respectively, relegating **the USA** to 6<sup>th</sup> place.

Figure 10. Exports of services to selected countries, Brussels-Capital Region, 2019-2023, NBB

| Brussels-Capital Region |    | Value (million €) |         | Evolution 1 year (%) |       | Evolution 4 years (%) |       | Shares (%) |       | Cumulative shares (%) |       | Ranks |      |      |
|-------------------------|----|-------------------|---------|----------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|-------|------|------|
|                         |    | 2022              | 2023    |                      | 2023  |                       | 2023  | 2022       | 2023  | 2022                  | 2023  | 2019  | 2022 | 2023 |
| France                  | FR | 4.773,2           | 5.311,4 | FR                   | 11,3% | FR                    | 33,1% | FR         | 14,6% | FR                    | 14,9% | FR    | 1    | 1    |
| Netherlands             | NL | 3.357,4           | 3.852,7 | NL                   | 14,8% | NL                    | 23,2% | NL         | 10,2% | NL                    | 24,8% | NL    | 2    | 2    |
| United Kingdom          | GB | 2.961,2           | 3.205,1 | GB                   | 8,2%  | GB                    | 11,4% | GB         | 9,0%  | GB                    | 33,9% | GB    | 3    | 3    |
| Ireland                 | IE | 2.483,8           | 2.908,4 | IE                   | 17,1% | IE                    | 30,5% | IE         | 7,6%  | IE                    | 41,4% | IE    | 5    | 7    |
| Germany                 | DE | 2.540,3           | 2.654,6 | DE                   | 4,5%  | DE                    | 21,8% | DE         | 7,8%  | DE                    | 49,2% | DE    | 6    | 6    |
| United States           | US | 2.591,6           | 2.629,7 | US                   | 1,5%  | US                    | 9,1%  | US         | 7,9%  | US                    | 57,1% | US    | 4    | 4    |
| Luxembourg              | LU | 2.574,5           | 2.519,3 | LU                   | -2,1% | LU                    | 47,1% | LU         | 7,9%  | LU                    | 65,0% | LU    | 7    | 5    |
| Switzerland             | CH | 1.360,9           | 1.354,0 | CH                   | -0,5% | CH                    | 40,7% | CH         | 4,2%  | CH                    | 69,1% | CH    | 8    | 8    |
| Italy                   | IT | 902,1             | 982,5   | IT                   | 8,9%  | IT                    | 27,6% | IT         | 2,8%  | IT                    | 71,9% | IT    | 9    | 9    |
| Spain                   | ES | 589,3             | 665,4   | ES                   | 12,9% | ES                    | 1,6%  | ES         | 1,8%  | ES                    | 73,7% | ES    | 10   | 10   |
| Sweden                  | SE | 367,2             | 389,8   | SE                   | 6,2%  | SE                    | 10,0% | SE         | 1,1%  | SE                    | 74,8% | SE    | 11   | 11   |
| Poland                  | PL | 301,6             | 327,7   | PL                   | 8,7%  | PL                    | 8,2%  | PL         | 0,9%  | PL                    | 75,7% | PL    | 12   | 12   |

Source : NBB - Regional distribution of the Belgian imports and exports of services by partner country - 2023 : provisional data







# Belgian foreign trade in services in 2024

# Belgian foreign trade in services in 2024

After several years of growth, Belgium saw its service exports fall by 3% in 2024, and its imports by 0.4%. The trade deficit is at a record high (almost EUR 10 billion), impacted in particular by the poor performance of Travel services, Other business services and Transport.



More than half of Belgian services are exported, in descending order, to the Netherlands, France, the USA, Germany and the UK, although these exports declined in 2024.

Other service activities (35%), Transport (21%) and Telecommunications, computer and information services (16%) top the list of exported services.

## Trade by type of service

In 2024, Belgium exported EUR 136.94 billion worth of services and imported EUR 146.90 billion, generating a record deficit of EUR 9.96 billion, up 56%. **Travel-related**<sup>13</sup> services alone generated a EUR 16.3 billion deficit, up 24% on 2023. **Other business services** and **Transport** services also contributed to the deterioration in the trade balance, with the former increasing its deficit in 2024 from EUR -633 million to EUR -2.3 billion, and the latter reducing its trade surplus by EUR 1 billion in the same year.

2024 saw a 3% drop in Belgian services exports, after several years of increases ranging from 7% to 15% between 2021 and 2023. Imports followed the same trend, albeit to a more moderate extent in 2024 (-0.4% versus +6% to 20% in previous years).

Figure 11. Trade by type of service, Belgium, 2024, NBB

| Belgium 2024                                         |    |                     |                     |                            |  |    |                      |  |  |
|------------------------------------------------------|----|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|--|----|----------------------|--|--|
| Other business services                              | SJ | 47.961.236          | 50.283.726          | -2.322.490                 |  | SJ | 35,0%                |  |  |
| Transport                                            | SC | 29.326.888          | 27.840.351          | 1.486.537                  |  | SC | 21,4%                |  |  |
| Telecommunication, computer and information services | SI | 21.550.458          | 19.269.096          | 2.281.362                  |  | SI | 15,7%                |  |  |
| Financial services                                   | SG | 8.965.323           | 8.926.846           | 38.477                     |  | SG | 6,5%                 |  |  |
| Travel                                               | SD | 8.103.471           | 24.369.543          | -16.266.072                |  | SD | 5,9%                 |  |  |
| Manufacturing services                               | SA | 4.885.413           | 2.651.151           | 2.234.262                  |  | SA | 3,6%                 |  |  |
| Royalties and license fees                           | SH | 4.418.302           | 3.558.941           | 859.361                    |  | SH | 3,2%                 |  |  |
| Insurance and pension services                       | SF | 3.464.582           | 3.321.857           | 142.725                    |  | SF | 2,5%                 |  |  |
| Construction                                         | SE | 2.944.673           | 3.143.579           | -198.906                   |  | SE | 2,2%                 |  |  |
| Government goods and services n.i.e.                 | SL | 2.544.400           | 84.325              | 2.460.075                  |  | SL | 1,9%                 |  |  |
| Personal, cultural and recreational services         | SK | 1.258.087           | 1.235.370           | 22.717                     |  | SK | 0,9%                 |  |  |
| Services non allocated                               | SN | 796.281             | 1.123.957           | -327.676                   |  | SN | 0,6%                 |  |  |
| Maintenance and repair                               | SB | 724.490             | 1.095.394           | -370.904                   |  | SB | 0,5%                 |  |  |
|                                                      |    | Export (thousand €) | Import (thousand €) | Trade balance (thousand €) |  |    | Share in exports (%) |  |  |

Source : NBB - External statistics - Balance of payments

<sup>13</sup> The different categories of services are described in the NBB's methodological note on International Trade in Services: [https://www.nbb.be/doc/dq/f\\_method/itss\\_fr.pdf; itss\\_nl.pdf](https://www.nbb.be/doc/dq/f_method/itss_fr.pdf; itss_nl.pdf). Full descriptions and their translations are provided in Appendix 2 of this document.

## Service exports by trade partner

With a 79% share of trade in 2024, Europe is undeniably the most important continent for Belgium's service exports. America was in second place with a 13% share, followed by Asia (6%), Africa (just over 1%) and Oceania (less than 0.5%)<sup>14</sup>. Belgium's top five service customers in 2024 were the Netherlands, France, the USA, Germany and the UK, with shares ranging from 7% to 14% of the country's total service exports. Nevertheless, these markets as a whole are down between 2% and 7% this year.

Among our main trading partners, there was an increase in trade with **Ireland** (+2%), **Sweden** (+22%), **Spain** (+15%), **Poland** (+6%) and **Austria** (+8%). Further down the ranking, the Czech Republic, Türkiye, the United Arab Emirates and Romania moved up the hierarchy in 2024, gaining 1 to 5 places.

Over three years, Belgian services exports have risen for all the top 25 countries, with the sole exception of **China** (-6%). The biggest increases between 2021 and 2024 were seen in transactions with the following countries: **Mexico** (+104%), **the United Arab Emirates** (+67%), **the Czech Republic** (+63%), **Denmark** (+46%), **Sweden** (+44%), **Türkiye** (+37%) and **Ireland** (+36%).

Belgium's 50 biggest services export markets are presented in Appendix 3 of this report.

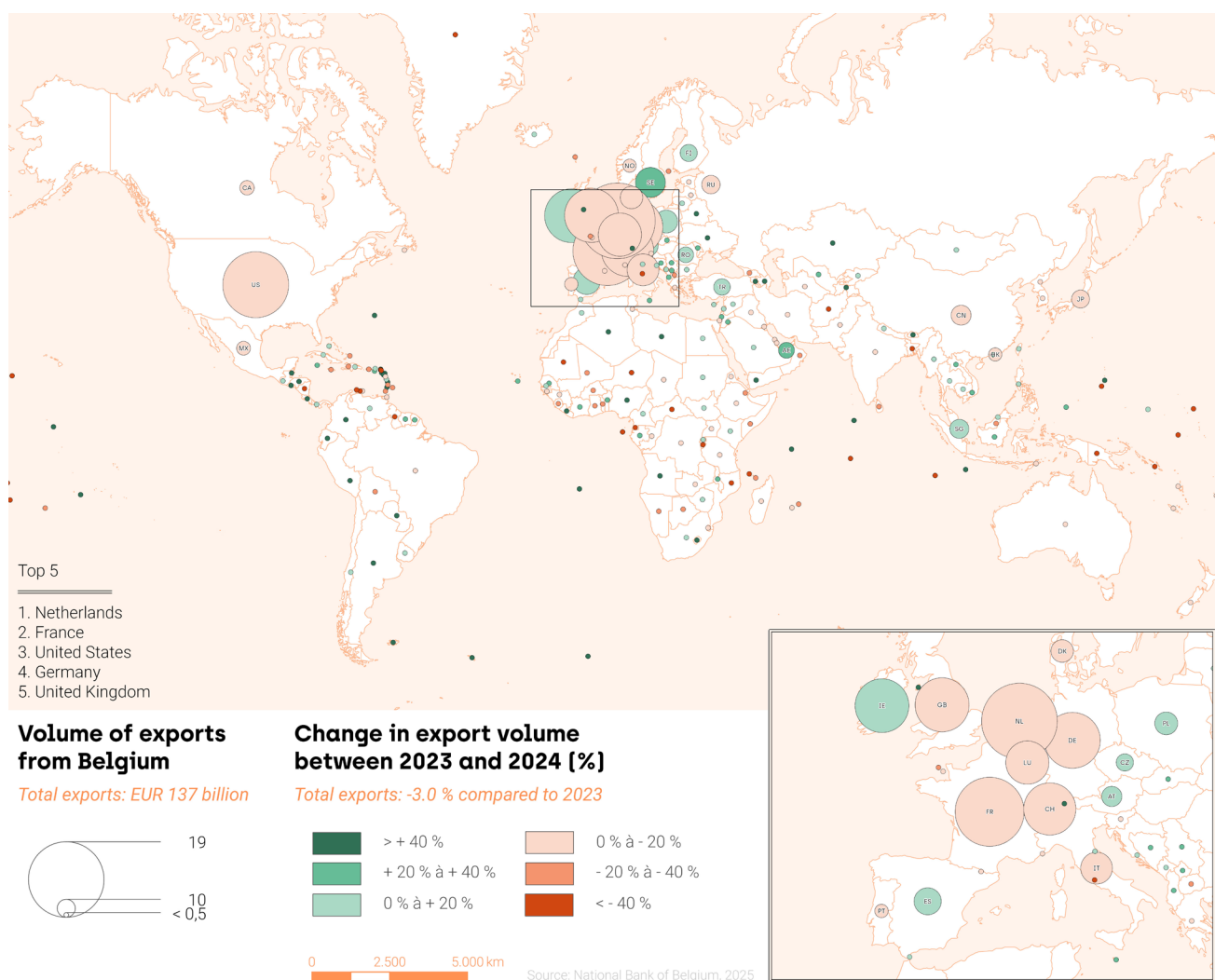
Figure 12. Top 25 destination countries for services exports, Belgium, 2021-2024, NBB

| Belgium<br>Top-25<br>Value (Thousands €) |               | Evolution 1 year (%) |            | Evolution 3 years (%) |         | Shares (%) |        | Cumulative shares (%) |       | Ranks |      | Evolution 1 year |      | Evolution 3 years |      |
|------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------------|---------|------------|--------|-----------------------|-------|-------|------|------------------|------|-------------------|------|
|                                          | 2023          |                      | 2024       |                       | 2024    |            | 2023   |                       | 2024  |       | 2024 |                  | 2024 |                   | 2024 |
| the Netherlands                          | NL 20.043.385 | NL                   | 19.128.699 | NL                    | -4,56%  | NL         | 12,8%  | NL                    | 14,2% | NL    | 1    | NL               | 0    | NL                | 0    |
| France                                   | FR 16.165.296 | FR                   | 15.843.626 | FR                    | -1,99%  | FR         | 24,6%  | FR                    | 1,5%  | FR    | 2    | FR               | 0    | FR                | 0    |
| United States                            | US 15.631.102 | US                   | 14.481.817 | US                    | -7,35%  | US         | 17,3%  | US                    | 1,1%  | US    | 3    | US               | 0    | US                | 0    |
| Germany                                  | DE 11.021.588 | DE                   | 10.395.004 | DE                    | -5,69%  | DE         | 15,3%  | DE                    | 7,8%  | DE    | 4    | DE               | 0    | DE                | 0    |
| United Kingdom                           | GB 10.466.846 | GB                   | 9.693.975  | GB                    | -7,38%  | GB         | 17,3%  | GB                    | 7,4%  | GB    | 5    | GB               | 0    | GB                | 0    |
| Ireland                                  | IE 9.387.682  | IE                   | 9.600.730  | IE                    | 2,27%   | IE         | 36,4%  | IE                    | 6,7%  | IE    | 6    | IE               | -1   | IE                | -1   |
| Switzerland                              | CH 9.552.210  | CH                   | 9.083.726  | CH                    | -4,90%  | CH         | 11,8%  | CH                    | 6,8%  | CH    | 7    | CH               | 1    | CH                | 1    |
| Luxembourg                               | LU 7.128.187  | LU                   | 6.227.427  | LU                    | -12,64% | LU         | 6,5%   | LU                    | 5,1%  | LU    | 8    | LU               | 0    | LU                | 0    |
| Italy                                    | IT 3.417.451  | IT                   | 3.375.452  | IT                    | -1,23%  | IT         | 18,8%  | IT                    | 2,4%  | IT    | 9    | IT               | 0    | IT                | 0    |
| Sweden                                   | SE 2.443.010  | SE                   | 2.979.314  | SE                    | 21,95%  | SE         | 44,1%  | SE                    | 1,7%  | SE    | 10   | SE               | 0    | SE                | 0    |
| Spain                                    | ES 2.142.401  | ES                   | 2.460.033  | ES                    | 14,83%  | ES         | 23,6%  | ES                    | 1,5%  | ES    | 11   | ES               | 0    | ES                | 0    |
| Poland                                   | PL 1.633.995  | PL                   | 1.736.021  | PL                    | 6,24%   | PL         | 22,3%  | PL                    | 1,2%  | PL    | 12   | PL               | -1   | PL                | 0    |
| Denmark                                  | DK 1.844.505  | DK                   | 1.691.506  | DK                    | -8,29%  | DK         | 46,1%  | DK                    | 1,3%  | DK    | 13   | DK               | 1    | DK                | -3   |
| Austria                                  | AT 1.262.234  | AT                   | 1.361.847  | AT                    | 7,89%   | AT         | 11,1%  | AT                    | 0,9%  | AT    | 14   | AT               | -2   | AT                | 0    |
| China, People's R.                       | CN 1.499.650  | CN                   | 1.320.073  | CN                    | -11,97% | CN         | -6,2%  | CN                    | 1,1%  | CN    | 15   | CN               | 1    | CN                | 2    |
| Singapore                                | SG 1.197.149  | SG                   | 1.199.722  | SG                    | 0,21%   | SG         | 2,2%   | SG                    | 0,8%  | SG    | 16   | SG               | -2   | SG                | 1    |
| Russia                                   | RU 1.355.533  | RU                   | 1.134.729  | RU                    | -16,29% | RU         | 14,8%  | RU                    | 1,0%  | RU    | 17   | RU               | 2    | RU                | 0    |
| Japan                                    | JP 1.261.654  | JP                   | 1.071.000  | JP                    | -15,11% | JP         | 21,6%  | JP                    | 0,9%  | JP    | 18   | JP               | 1    | JP                | 0    |
| Czech Republic                           | CZ 930.838    | CZ                   | 992.178    | CZ                    | 6,59%   | CZ         | 62,7%  | CZ                    | 0,7%  | CZ    | 19   | CZ               | -1   | CZ                | -3   |
| Finland                                  | FI 951.069    | FI                   | 977.906    | FI                    | 2,82%   | FI         | 19,9%  | FI                    | 0,7%  | FI    | 20   | FI               | 1    | FI                | 1    |
| Türkiye                                  | TR 776.041    | TR                   | 907.853    | TR                    | 16,99%  | TR         | 37,0%  | TR                    | 0,5%  | TR    | 21   | TR               | -2   | TR                | 0    |
| United Arab Emir..                       | AE 681.060    | AE                   | 844.713    | AE                    | 24,03%  | AE         | 66,9%  | AE                    | 0,5%  | AE    | 22   | AE               | -5   | AE                | -4   |
| Romania                                  | RO 717.226    | RO                   | 810.204    | RO                    | 12,96%  | RO         | 21,0%  | RO                    | 0,5%  | RO    | 23   | RO               | -2   | RO                | 3    |
| Canada                                   | CA 839.880    | CA                   | 696.504    | CA                    | -17,07% | CA         | 22,9%  | CA                    | 0,6%  | CA    | 24   | CA               | 3    | CA                | -1   |
| Mexico                                   | MX 721.601    | MX                   | 644.078    | MX                    | -10,74% | MX         | 104,3% | MX                    | 0,5%  | MX    | 25   | MX               | 1    | MX                | -9   |

Source : NBB - External statistics - Balance of payments

14 Own calculations, excluding international organisations and unallocated trade.

Figure 13. Cartographic representation of services exports across the world, Belgium, 2023-2024, NBB



## Exports by type of service and trade partner

With exports worth EUR 48 billion, **Other service activities**<sup>15</sup> were Belgium's top-selling service abroad. The USA topped the ranking for this type of service, with exports to this country worth EUR 8.6 billion. The Netherlands, France and Ireland (EUR 5 to 6 billion), Germany, the UK and Switzerland (EUR 3 to 4 billion), and Luxembourg and Italy (EUR 1 to 1.6 billion) completed the ranking.

**Transport**<sup>16</sup> services came second, with foreign sales of EUR 29 billion, mainly to Belgium's neighbouring countries, as well as Switzerland, the UK and the USA.

**Telecommunications, computer and information services** followed close behind with a total of EUR 21.6 billion. The UK, the Netherlands, the USA and Ireland topped the list, with export figures approaching or exceeding EUR 2 billion. France and Germany followed close behind, with values in excess of EUR 1 billion.

Figure 14. Exports by country and type of service, Top 25, Belgium, 2024, NBB

| Belgium<br>Top-25<br>2024 - Value (Thousands €) |                             | SA                     | SB                     | SC        | SD        | SE           | SF                             | SG                 | SH                         | SI                                                   | SJ                      | SK                                           | SL                                   | SN                     |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
|                                                 |                             | Manufacturing services | Maintenance and repair | Transport | Travel    | Construction | Insurance and pension services | Financial services | Royalties and license fees | Telecommunication, computer and information services | Other business services | Personal, cultural and recreational services | Government goods and services n.i.e. | Services non allocated |
| NL                                              | the Netherlands             | 586.526                | 170.682                | 5.966.101 | 1.906.320 | 676.334      | 378.356                        | 681.871            | 502.274                    | 2.125.085                                            | 5.766.580               | 256.756                                      | 717                                  | 111.097                |
| FR                                              | France                      | 325.380                | 92.496                 | 3.660.989 | 1.963.576 | 685.344      | 620.267                        | 923.233            | 429.624                    | 1.562.721                                            | 5.286.657               | 190.716                                      | 269                                  | 102.355                |
| US                                              | United States               | 27.444                 | 29.447                 | 1.580.057 | 338.014   | 156.622      | 166.332                        | 662.520            | 685.205                    | 2.043.302                                            | 8.639.547               | 80.507                                       | 52                                   | 72.775                 |
| DE                                              | Germany                     | 274.711                | 58.389                 | 3.157.281 | 472.298   | 170.446      | 337.734                        | 522.666            | 288.411                    | 1.220.074                                            | 3.720.878               | 84.131                                       | 195                                  | 77.791                 |
| GB                                              | United Kingdom              | 87.015                 | 19.875                 | 2.011.208 | 362.445   | 188.673      | 310.585                        | 1.016.012          | 274.608                    | 2.965.961                                            | 2.648.867               | 162.623                                      | 34                                   | 46.073                 |
| IE                                              | Ireland                     | 772.960                | 34.887                 | 598.862   | 292.403   | 14.050       | 164.803                        | 399.947            | 319.439                    | 1.991.344                                            | 4.967.448               | 15.633                                       | 64                                   | 28.887                 |
| CH                                              | Switzerland                 | 2.012.517              | 21.256                 | 2.623.741 | 111.771   | 56.133       | 87.306                         | 179.063            | 146.042                    | 666.663                                              | 3.121.668               | 39.049                                       | 106                                  | 18.408                 |
| LU                                              | Luxembourg                  | 86.556                 | 97.677                 | 1.358.649 | 517.579   | 68.736       | 196.380                        | 1.228.777          | 129.720                    | 860.979                                              | 1.607.312               | 36.492                                       | 141                                  | 38.432                 |
| IT                                              | Italy                       | 28.518                 | 20.215                 | 703.051   | 164.061   | 41.794       | 209.150                        | 87.813             | 145.636                    | 934.792                                              | 991.362                 | 31.189                                       | 36                                   | 17.831                 |
| SE                                              | Sweden                      | 45.752                 | 8.162                  | 707.771   | 43.601    | 14.700       | 41.996                         | 37.029             | 84.818                     | 342.640                                              | 1.611.474               | 28.763                                       | 12                                   | 12.596                 |
| ES                                              | Spain                       | 15.289                 | 8.646                  | 492.092   | 189.002   | 52.585       | 91.504                         | 221.512            | 132.577                    | 524.084                                              | 682.695                 | 33.822                                       | 125                                  | 16.099                 |
| PL                                              | Poland                      | 32.333                 | 5.982                  | 230.563   | 302.688   | 64.449       | 43.905                         | 34.413             | 47.140                     | 485.247                                              | 465.322                 | 8.747                                        | 32                                   | 15.201                 |
| DK                                              | Denmark                     | 7.971                  | 5.311                  | 516.215   | 26.257    | 216.243      | 37.449                         | 84.183             | 62.382                     | 184.699                                              | 512.703                 | 19.161                                       | 611                                  | 18.321                 |
| AT                                              | Austria                     | 361.325                | 9.444                  | 257.870   | 32.499    | 12.802       | 43.841                         | 13.671             | 28.566                     | 204.216                                              | 377.671                 | 9.696                                        | 3                                    | 10.245                 |
| CN                                              | China, People's Republic of | 5.035                  | 3.531                  | 403.066   | 33.626    | 21.986       | 21.139                         | 40.306             | 237.536                    | 95.073                                               | 439.486                 | 14.808                                       | 19                                   | 4.463                  |
| SG                                              | Singapore                   | 9.370                  | 6.308                  | 656.111   | 16.318    | 9.494        | 15.336                         | 62.282             | 42.561                     | 71.888                                               | 299.613                 | 6.299                                        | 6                                    | 4.137                  |
| RU                                              | Russia                      | 88                     | 1.537                  | 16.549    | 1.257     | 228          | 126                            | 1.063.591          | 20.496                     | 18.126                                               | 11.519                  | 513                                          | 0                                    | 698                    |
| JP                                              | Japan                       | 475                    | 922                    | 191.154   | 17.038    | 1.860        | 44.291                         | 157.647            | 20.618                     | 72.601                                               | 504.316                 | 49.540                                       | 2                                    | 10.536                 |
| CZ                                              | Czech Republic              | 12.261                 | 2.531                  | 130.660   | 26.424    | 15.383       | 16.517                         | 54.342             | 54.227                     | 255.917                                              | 396.198                 | 3.606                                        | 2                                    | 24.112                 |
| FI                                              | Finland                     | 10.283                 | 1.608                  | 200.027   | 40.176    | 3.076        | 15.716                         | 28.296             | 14.760                     | 116.595                                              | 530.341                 | 11.123                                       | 2                                    | 5.908                  |
| TR                                              | Türkiye                     | 1.807                  | 2.974                  | 144.040   | 33.889    | 3.536        | 5.864                          | 22.462             | 40.509                     | 493.636                                              | 148.037                 | 3.633                                        | 135                                  | 7.331                  |
| AE                                              | United Arab Emirates        | 4.659                  | 7.076                  | 298.471   | 29.614    | 28.331       | 23.719                         | 102.723            | 39.827                     | 163.845                                              | 133.205                 | 7.922                                        | 2                                    | 5.319                  |
| RO                                              | Romania                     | 8.114                  | 6.182                  | 116.519   | 171.280   | 7.922        | 17.817                         | 9.662              | 19.895                     | 232.951                                              | 200.175                 | 13.158                                       | 2                                    | 6.528                  |
| CA                                              | Canada                      | 91.028                 | 7.962                  | 148.626   | 36.538    | 14.085       | 8.552                          | 18.473             | 43.698                     | 77.383                                               | 241.367                 | 6.271                                        | 30                                   | 2.490                  |
| MX                                              | Mexico                      | 2.163                  | 1.046                  | 85.288    | 22.855    | 16.803       | 12.330                         | 16.640             | 42.882                     | 68.668                                               | 364.846                 | 4.323                                        | 5                                    | 6.230                  |

Source : NBB - External statistics - Balance of payments

The three main services exported, accounting for 72% of the total, have recorded positive growth rates in most of the **top 25** countries over the last three years (2021-2024). However, there were some exceptions: a decline in exports of **Other service activities** was observed during this period, particularly to **Singapore** and **Russia**, and to a lesser extent to **the UK**, **Spain** and **the United Arab Emirates**. In **Telecommunications (...)**, only **Russia** saw a decline in sales of Belgian services. Lastly, **Transport** saw a slight decline in sales in **Austria**, and a more substantial one in **China** and **Russia**.

Among the countries with the highest growth rates during this period, the following services saw increases of over 100% between 2021 and 2024:

- **Mexico**: Transport, Travel, Construction, Royalties and license fees, Telecommunication (...) and Personal, cultural and recreational services;
- **United Arab Emirates**: Construction, Insurance and pension services and Financial services;
- **Czech Republic**: Financial services;
- **Denmark**: Construction (+1,523%);
- **Sweden**: Insurance and pension services, Royalties and license fees, Other services and Travel close to 100% growth;

15 R&D services, Professional and management consulting services, Technical services – Trade-related services – Other business services.

16 Maritime, air, space, rail, road, inland waterway, pipeline and electricity transport, other ancillary and auxiliary transport services, postal and courier services.

- **Türkiye:** Travel, Telecommunication (...), and Royalties and license fees and Manufacturing services close to 100% growth;
- **Ireland:** Manufacturing services, Maintenance and repair and Travel.

Figure 15. Change in exports by country and type of service (%), Top 25, Belgium, 2021-2024, NBB

Belgium  
Top-25  
Evol. 2021-2024 (%)

|                       | SA                     | SB                     | SC        | SD     | SE           | SF                             | SG                 | SH                         | SI                             | SJ                      | SK                                     | SL                                   | SN                     |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------|--------|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
|                       | Manufacturing services | Maintenance and repair | Transport | Travel | Construction | Insurance and pension services | Financial services | Royalties and license fees | Telecommunication, computer... | Other business services | Personal, cultural and recreational s. | Government goods and services n.i.e. | Services non allocated |
| NL the Netherlands    | 10%                    | 80%                    | 28%       | 12%    | 30%          | 60%                            | -38%               | 92%                        | 20%                            | 1%                      | 66%                                    | -52%                                 | -46%                   |
| FR France             | 45%                    | 33%                    | 23%       | 40%    | 56%          | 198%                           | 307%               | 21%                        | 4%                             | 7%                      | 17%                                    | -95%                                 | -47%                   |
| US United States      | 1%                     | 181%                   | 55%       | 154%   | 132%         | -20%                           | 0%                 | 71%                        | 92%                            | 0%                      | 25%                                    | -97%                                 | 5%                     |
| DE Germany            | -10%                   | -9%                    | 7%        | 15%    | -48%         | 43%                            | 660%               | 15%                        | 13%                            | 15%                     | -34%                                   | -96%                                 | -34%                   |
| GB United Kingdom     | 3%                     | 26%                    | 26%       | 31%    | 3%           | -14%                           | 6%                 | 37%                        | 77%                            | -11%                    | 75%                                    | -98%                                 | -24%                   |
| IE Ireland            | 616%                   | 281%                   | 86%       | 211%   | 14%          | 41%                            | 16%                | 7%                         | 80%                            | 8%                      | -14%                                   | -89%                                 | 40%                    |
| CH Switzerland        | 11%                    | -34%                   | 24%       | 17%    | -72%         | 4%                             | -25%               | -51%                       | 12%                            | 29%                     | -40%                                   | -95%                                 | -85%                   |
| LU Luxembourg         | -5%                    | 39%                    | 80%       | -12%   | -29%         | 47%                            | -21%               | 14%                        | 12%                            | 5%                      | -61%                                   | -93%                                 | -34%                   |
| IT Italy              | 37%                    | 65%                    | 8%        | 60%    | 48%          | 53%                            | -5%                | 5%                         | 66%                            | -2%                     | -22%                                   | -97%                                 | -61%                   |
| SE Sweden             | 38%                    | -44%                   | 10%       | 96%    | -65%         | 118%                           | -64%               | 109%                       | 29%                            | 96%                     | -10%                                   | -97%                                 | -50%                   |
| ES Spain              | -41%                   | 37%                    | 19%       | 124%   | 4%           | 48%                            | 24%                | 76%                        | 73%                            | -6%                     | 8%                                     | -90%                                 | -57%                   |
| PL Poland             | 55%                    | 28%                    | 34%       | -20%   | 61%          | 92%                            | -40%               | 34%                        | 67%                            | 26%                     | -36%                                   | -90%                                 | 4%                     |
| DK Denmark            | 39%                    | -68%                   | 58%       | 75%    | 1.523%       | 44%                            | -3%                | -1%                        | 31%                            | 19%                     | 22%                                    | -20%                                 | 11%                    |
| AT Austria            | 43%                    | 21%                    | -6%       | 38%    | 17%          | 144%                           | -66%               | -28%                       | 21%                            | 9%                      | -42%                                   | -100%                                | -56%                   |
| CN China, People's... | 108%                   | -43%                   | -32%      | 106%   | -23%         | 6%                             | -14%               | 60%                        | 4%                             | 4%                      | -9%                                    | -97%                                 | -75%                   |
| SG Singapore          | -82%                   | -1%                    | 106%      | 213%   | 1%           | 108%                           | 109%               | -32%                       | 5%                             | -50%                    | 53%                                    | -96%                                 | -47%                   |
| RU Russia             | -97%                   | -53%                   | -62%      | -58%   | -58%         | -4%                            | 5%                 | -15%                       | -2%                            | -95%                    | -76%                                   | -109%                                | -92%                   |
| JP Japan              | -100%                  | 15%                    | 3%        | 164%   | 16%          | 37%                            | 387%               | 32%                        | 12%                            | 11%                     | 145%                                   | -96%                                 | 76%                    |
| CZ Czech Republic     | -55%                   | 71%                    | 44%       | 46%    | -8%          | 62%                            | 153%               | -14%                       | 53%                            | 33%                     | -35%                                   | -99%                                 | 52%                    |
| FI Finland            | -42%                   | -48%                   | 34%       | 267%   | -17%         | 139%                           | -58%               | -15%                       | 41%                            | 21%                     | 22%                                    | -99%                                 | -38%                   |
| TR Türkiye            | 96%                    | -40%                   | 2%        | 168%   | -44%         | 59%                            | -80%               | 99%                        | 122%                           | 12%                     | 54%                                    | 75%                                  | 55%                    |
| AE United Arab Em..   | 9%                     | 10%                    | 38%       | 85%    | 131%         | 299%                           | 301%               | 45%                        | 37%                            | -6%                     | 42%                                    | -93%                                 | 295%                   |
| RO Romania            | 121%                   | 105%                   | 39%       | 6%     | -30%         | 301%                           | 52%                | -40%                       | 66%                            | 1%                      | 12%                                    | -99%                                 | -40%                   |
| CA Canada             | 63%                    | -49%                   | 10%       | 133%   | 74%          | 90%                            | 468%               | 120%                       | 51%                            | 40%                     | -93%                                   | -84%                                 | -59%                   |
| MX Mexico             | 63%                    | -73%                   | 171%      | 236%   | 468%         | 61%                            | 16%                | 181%                       | 213%                           | 76%                     | 166%                                   | -80%                                 | 373%                   |

Source : NBB - External statistics - Balance of payments

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For further information on Brussels' external trade, please visit [analytics.brussels](https://analytics.brussels). On this economic data display platform, you will find publications about foreign 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>B</b> | Mining and quarrying                                                 | Industrie extractive                                                                 | Extractieve nijverheid                                                   |
| <b>C</b> | Manufacturing                                                        | Industrie manufacturière                                                             | Industrie                                                                |
| <b>D</b> | Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply                  | Production et distribution d'électricité, de gaz, de vapeur et d'air conditionné     | Productie en distributie van elektriciteit, gas, stoom en gekoelde lucht |
| <b>E</b> | Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities  | Production et distribution d'eau; assainissement, gestion des déchets et dépollution | Distributie van water; afval- en afvalwaterbeheer en sanering            |
| <b>F</b> | Construction                                                         | Construction                                                                         | Bouwnijverheid                                                           |
| <b>G</b> | 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             |
| <b>H</b> | Transportation and storage                                           | Transports et entreposage                                                            | Vervoer en opslag                                                        |
| <b>I</b> | Accommodation and food service activities                            | Hébergement et restauration                                                          | Verschaffen van accommodatie; eet- en drinkgelegenheden                  |
| <b>J</b> | Information and communication                                        | Information et communication                                                         | Informatie en communicatie                                               |
| <b>K</b> | Financial and insurance activities                                   | Activités financières et d'assurance                                                 | Financiële activiteiten en verzekeringen                                 |
| <b>L</b> | Real estate activities                                               | Activités immobilières                                                               | Exploitatie van en handel in onroerend goed                              |
| <b>M</b> | Professional, scientific and technical activities                    | Activités spécialisées, scientifiques et techniques                                  | Vrije beroepen en wetenschappelijke en technische activiteiten           |
| <b>N</b> | Administrative and support service activities                        | Activités de services administratifs et de soutien                                   | Administratieve en ondersteunende diensten                               |
| <b>O</b> | Public administration and defence; compulsory social security        | Administration publique                                                              | Openbaar bestuur en defensie; verplichte sociale verzekeringen           |
| <b>P</b> | Education                                                            | Enseignement                                                                         | Onderwijs                                                                |
| <b>Q</b> | Human health and social work activities                              | Santé humaine et action sociale                                                      | Menselijke gezondheidszorg en maatschappelijke dienstverlening           |
| <b>R</b> | Arts, entertainment and recreation                                   | Arts, spectacles et activités récréatives                                            | Kunst, amusement en recreatie                                            |
| <b>S</b> | Other service activities                                             | Autres activités de services                                                         | Overige diensten                                                         |

## Appendix 2

### Types of services - Descriptions in English, French and Dutch

|    | Service                                              | Service                                                                         | Dienst                                                   |
|----|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| SA | Manufacturing services                               | Travail à façon                                                                 | Maakloon                                                 |
| SB | Maintenance and repair                               | Entretiens et réparations                                                       | Onderhoud en herstelling                                 |
| SC | Transport                                            | Transports                                                                      | Vervoer                                                  |
| SD | Travel                                               | Voyages                                                                         | Reisverkeer                                              |
| SE | Construction                                         | Construction                                                                    | Constructie                                              |
| SF | Insurance and pension services                       | Services d'assurances et de fonds de pension                                    | Verzekerings- en pensioendiensten                        |
| SG | Financial services                                   | Services financiers                                                             | Financiële diensten                                      |
| SH | Royalties and license fees                           | Rémunération pour usage de la propriété intellectuelle                          | Vergoedingen voor het gebruik van intellectueel eigendom |
| SI | Telecommunication, computer and information services | Services de télécommunication, services informatiques et services d'information | Telecommunicatie-, computer- en informatiediensten       |
| SJ | Other business services                              | Autres services aux entreprises                                                 | Overige zakelijke diensten                               |
| SK | Personal, cultural and recreational services         | Services culturels, personnels et relatifs aux loisirs                          | Persoonlijke, culturele en recreatieve diensten          |
| SL | Government goods and services n.i.e.                 | Biens et services des administrations publiques non compris ailleurs            | Overheidsgoederen en -diensten, niet elders genoemd      |
| SN | Services non allocated                               | Services non alloués                                                            | Niet toegewezen diensten                                 |

## Appendix 3

### Top 50 services export markets for Belgium

| Ranking | Country                     | Pays                           | Land                         | Code | Exports (€) | Share (%) |
|---------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------|-------------|-----------|
| 1       | the Netherlands             | Pays-Bas                       | Nederland                    | NL   | 19,128,699  | 14.0%     |
| 2       | France                      | France                         | Frankrijk                    | FR   | 15,843,626  | 11.6%     |
| 3       | United States               | Etats-Unis d'Amérique          | Verenigde Staten             | US   | 14,481,817  | 10.6%     |
| 4       | Germany                     | Allemagne                      | Duitsland                    | DE   | 10,395,004  | 7.6%      |
| 5       | United Kingdom              | Royaume-Uni                    | Verenigd Koninkrijk          | GB   | 9,693,975   | 7.1%      |
| 6       | Ireland                     | Irlande                        | Ierland                      | IE   | 9,600,730   | 7.0%      |
| 7       | Switzerland                 | Suisse                         | Zwitserland                  | CH   | 9,083,726   | 6.6%      |
| 8       | Luxembourg                  | Luxembourg                     | Luxemburg                    | LU   | 6,227,427   | 4.5%      |
| 9       | Italy                       | Italie                         | Italië                       | IT   | 3,375,452   | 2.5%      |
| 10      | Sweden                      | Suède                          | Zweden                       | SE   | 2,979,314   | 2.2%      |
| 11      | Spain                       | Espagne                        | Spanje                       | ES   | 2,460,033   | 1.8%      |
| 12      | Poland                      | Pologne                        | Polen                        | PL   | 1,736,021   | 1.3%      |
| 13      | Denmark                     | Danemark                       | Denemarken                   | DK   | 1,691,506   | 1.2%      |
| 14      | Austria                     | Autriche                       | Oostenrijk                   | AT   | 1,361,847   | 1.0%      |
| 15      | China, People's Republic of | Chine, République populaire de | China, Volksrepubliek        | CN   | 1,320,073   | 1.0%      |
| 16      | Singapore                   | Singapour                      | Singapore                    | SG   | 1,199,722   | 0.9%      |
| 17      | Russia                      | Russie, Fédération de          | Rusland                      | RU   | 1,134,729   | 0.8%      |
| 18      | Japan                       | Japon                          | Japan                        | JP   | 1,071,000   | 0.8%      |
| 19      | Czech Republic              | République Tchèque             | Tsjechië                     | CZ   | 992,178     | 0.7%      |
| 20      | Finland                     | Finlande                       | Finland                      | FI   | 977,906     | 0.7%      |
| 21      | Türkiye                     | Turquie                        | Turkije                      | TR   | 907,853     | 0.7%      |
| 22      | United Arab Emirates        | Emirats arabes unis            | Verenigde Arabische Emiraten | AE   | 844,713     | 0.6%      |
| 23      | Romania                     | Roumanie                       | Roemenië                     | RO   | 810,204     | 0.6%      |
| 24      | Canada                      | Canada                         | Canada                       | CA   | 696,504     | 0.5%      |
| 25      | Mexico                      | Mexique                        | Mexico                       | MX   | 644,078     | 0.5%      |
| 26      | Hungary                     | Hongrie                        | Hongarije                    | HU   | 615,901     | 0.4%      |
| 27      | Portugal                    | Portugal                       | Portugal                     | PT   | 602,383     | 0.4%      |
| 28      | Norway                      | Norvège                        | Noorwegen                    | NO   | 585,078     | 0.4%      |
| 29      | Hong Kong                   | Hong Kong                      | Hongkong                     | HK   | 579,480     | 0.4%      |
| 30      | Ukraine                     | Ukraine                        | Oekraïne                     | UA   | 487,700     | 0.4%      |
| 31      | Malta                       | Malte                          | Malta                        | MT   | 475,572     | 0.3%      |
| 32      | Greece                      | Grèce                          | Griekenland                  | GR   | 415,240     | 0.3%      |
| 33      | Australia                   | Australie                      | Australië                    | AU   | 398,687     | 0.3%      |
| 34      | India                       | Inde                           | India                        | IN   | 397,095     | 0.3%      |
| 35      | Cyprus                      | Chypre                         | Cyprus                       | CY   | 394,472     | 0.3%      |
| 36      | Saudi Arabia                | Arabie saoudite                | Saoedi-Arabië                | SA   | 381,077     | 0.3%      |
| 37      | Israel                      | Israël                         | Israël                       | IL   | 371,714     | 0.3%      |

|    |              |                         |             |    |         |      |
|----|--------------|-------------------------|-------------|----|---------|------|
| 38 | South Africa | Afrique du Sud          | Zuid-Afrika | ZA | 366,323 | 0.3% |
| 39 | Bulgaria     | Bulgarie                | Bulgarije   | BG | 365,890 | 0.3% |
| 40 | Slovakia     | Slovaquie               | Slovakije   | SK | 363,042 | 0.3% |
| 41 | Brazil       | Brésil                  | Brazilië    | BR | 289,583 | 0.2% |
| 42 | Lithuania    | Lituanie                | Litouwen    | LT | 273,129 | 0.2% |
| 43 | South Korea  | Corée,<br>République de | Zuid Korea  | KR | 268,780 | 0.2% |
| 44 | Qatar        | Qatar                   | Qatar       | QA | 234,215 | 0.2% |
| 45 | Estonia      | Estonie                 | Estland     | EE | 194,133 | 0.1% |
| 46 | Taiwan       | Taiïwan                 | Taiwan      | TW | 183,792 | 0.1% |
| 47 | Kazakhstan   | Kazakhstan              | Kazachstan  | KZ | 164,510 | 0.1% |
| 48 | Slovenia     | Slovénie                | Slovenië    | SI | 161,724 | 0.1% |
| 49 | Bermuda      | Bermudes                | Bermuda     | BM | 159,075 | 0.1% |
| 50 | Thailand     | Thaïlande               | Thailand    | TH | 157,758 | 0.1% |

# Appendix 4

## Codes ISO-alpha2

### Ranking by country

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

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

## Ranking by code

| Code | Country                           |
|------|-----------------------------------|
| AD   | Andorra                           |
| AE   | United Arab Emirates              |
| AF   | Afghanistan                       |
| AG   | Antigua and Barbuda               |
| AI   | Anguilla                          |
| AL   | Albania                           |
| AM   | Armenia                           |
| AO   | Angola                            |
| AQ   | Antarctic                         |
| AR   | Argentina                         |
| AS   | American Samoa                    |
| AT   | Austria                           |
| AU   | Australia                         |
| AW   | Aruba                             |
| AZ   | Azerbaijan                        |
| BA   | Bosnia-Herzegovina                |
| BB   | Barbados                          |
| BD   | Bangladesh                        |
| BF   | Burkina Faso                      |
| BG   | Bulgaria                          |
| BH   | Bahrain                           |
| BI   | Burundi                           |
| BJ   | Benin                             |
| BL   | Saint-Barthélemy                  |
| BM   | Bermuda                           |
| BN   | Brunei Darussalam                 |
| BO   | Plurinational State of Bolivia    |
| BQ   | Bonaire, Saint Eustatius and Saba |
| BR   | Brazil                            |
| BS   | Bahamas                           |
| BT   | Bhutan                            |
| BV   | Bouvet Island                     |

| Code | Country                       |
|------|-------------------------------|
| BW   | Botswana                      |
| BY   | Belarus                       |
| BZ   | Belize                        |
| CA   | Canada                        |
| CC   | Cocos (Keeling) Islands       |
| CD   | Congo, Democratic Republic of |
| CF   | Central African Republic      |
| CG   | Congo, Republic of            |
| CH   | Switzerland                   |
| CI   | Ivory Coast                   |
| CK   | Cook Islands                  |
| CL   | Chile                         |
| CM   | Cameroon                      |
| CN   | China, People's Republic of   |
| CO   | Columbia                      |
| CR   | Costa Rica                    |
| CU   | Cuba                          |
| CV   | Cape Verde                    |
| CW   | Curaçao                       |
| CX   | Christmas Island              |
| CY   | Cyprus                        |
| CZ   | Czech Republic                |
| DE   | Germany                       |
| DJ   | Djibouti                      |
| DK   | Denmark                       |
| DM   | Dominica                      |
| DO   | Dominican Republic            |
| DZ   | Algeria                       |
| EC   | Ecuador                       |
| EE   | Estonia                       |
| EG   | Egypt                         |
| EH   | Western Sahara                |
| ER   | Eritrea                       |

| Code | Country                            |
|------|------------------------------------|
| ES   | Spain                              |
| ET   | Ethiopia                           |
| FI   | Finland                            |
| FJ   | Fiji                               |
| FK   | Falkland Islands                   |
| FM   | Micronesia, Federated States of    |
| FO   | Faroe Islands                      |
| FR   | France                             |
| GA   | Gabon                              |
| GB   | United Kingdom                     |
| GD   | Grenada                            |
| GE   | Georgia                            |
| GH   | Ghana                              |
| GI   | Gibraltar                          |
| GL   | Greenland                          |
| GM   | Gambia                             |
| GN   | Guinea                             |
| GQ   | Equatorial Guinea                  |
| GR   | Greece                             |
| GS   | South Georgia and the Sand Islands |
| GT   | Guatemala                          |
| GU   | Guam                               |
| GW   | Guinea-Bissau                      |
| GY   | Guyana                             |
| HK   | Hong Kong                          |
| HM   | Heard Island and McDonald Islands  |
| HN   | Honduras                           |
| HR   | Croatia                            |
| HT   | Haiti                              |
| HU   | Hungary                            |
| ID   | Indonesia                          |

| Code | Country                                |
|------|----------------------------------------|
| IE   | Ireland                                |
| IL   | Israel                                 |
| IN   | India                                  |
| IO   | British Indian Ocean Territory         |
| IQ   | Iraq                                   |
| IR   | Iran, Islamic Republic of              |
| IS   | Iceland                                |
| IT   | Italy                                  |
| JM   | Jamaica                                |
| JO   | Jordan                                 |
| JP   | Japan                                  |
| KE   | Kenya                                  |
| KG   | Kyrgyz Republic                        |
| KH   | Cambodia                               |
| KI   | Kiribati                               |
| KM   | Comoros                                |
| KN   | Saint Kitts and Nevis                  |
| KP   | Korea, Democratic People's Republic of |
| KR   | Korea, Republic of                     |
| KW   | Kuwait                                 |
| KY   | Cayman Islands                         |
| KZ   | Kazakhstan                             |
| LA   | Laos, People's Democratic Republic     |
| LB   | Lebanon                                |
| LC   | Saint Lucia                            |
| LI   | Liechtenstein                          |
| LK   | Sri Lanka                              |
| LR   | Liberia                                |
| LS   | Lesotho                                |
| LT   | Lithuania                              |
| LU   | Luxembourg                             |

| Code | Country                         |
|------|---------------------------------|
| LV   | Latvia                          |
| LY   | Libya                           |
| MA   | Morocco                         |
| MD   | Moldova, Republic of            |
| ME   | Montenegro                      |
| MG   | Madagascar                      |
| MH   | Marshall Islands                |
| MK   | Northern Macedonia, Republic of |
| ML   | Mali                            |
| MM   | Myanmar                         |
| MN   | Mongolia                        |
| MO   | Macao                           |
| MP   | Northern Mariana Islands        |
| MR   | Mauritania                      |
| MS   | Montserrat                      |
| MT   | Malta                           |
| MU   | Mauritius                       |
| MV   | Maldives                        |
| MW   | Malawi                          |
| MX   | Mexico                          |
| MY   | Malaysia                        |
| MZ   | Mozambique                      |
| NA   | Namibia                         |
| NC   | New Caledonia                   |
| NE   | Niger                           |
| NF   | Norfolk, Island                 |
| NG   | Nigeria                         |
| NI   | Nicaragua                       |
| NL   | Netherlands                     |
| NO   | Norway                          |
| NP   | Nepal                           |
| NR   | Nauru                           |
| NU   | Niue                            |
| NZ   | New Zealand                     |
| OM   | Oman                            |
| PA   | Panama                          |
| PE   | Peru                            |

| Code | Country                                      |
|------|----------------------------------------------|
| PF   | French Polynesia                             |
| PG   | Papua New Guinea                             |
| PH   | Philippines                                  |
| PK   | Pakistan                                     |
| PL   | Poland                                       |
| PM   | Saint Pierre and Miquelon                    |
| PN   | Pitcairn                                     |
| PS   | Occupied Palestinian Territory               |
| PT   | Portugal                                     |
| PW   | Palau                                        |
| PY   | Paraguay                                     |
| QA   | Qatar                                        |
| RO   | Romania                                      |
| RU   | Russia (Federation)                          |
| RW   | Rwanda                                       |
| SA   | Saudi Arabia                                 |
| SB   | Solomon Islands                              |
| SC   | Seychelles                                   |
| SD   | Sudan                                        |
| SE   | Sweden                                       |
| SG   | Singapore                                    |
| SH   | Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha |
| SI   | Slovenia                                     |
| SK   | Slovakia                                     |
| SL   | Sierra Leone                                 |
| SM   | San Marino                                   |
| SN   | Senegal                                      |
| SO   | Somalia                                      |
| SR   | Suriname                                     |
| SS   | South Sudan                                  |
| ST   | São Tomé and Príncipe                        |
| SV   | El Salvador                                  |
| SX   | Saint-Martin (Dutch part)                    |
| SY   | Syrian Arab Republic                         |

| Code | Country                              |
|------|--------------------------------------|
| SZ   | Eswatini                             |
| TC   | Turks and Caicos Islands             |
| TD   | Chad                                 |
| TF   | French Southern and Ant. Lands       |
| TG   | Togo                                 |
| TH   | Thailand                             |
| TJ   | Tajikistan                           |
| TK   | Tokelau Islands                      |
| TL   | East Timor                           |
| TM   | Turkmenistan                         |
| TN   | Tunisia                              |
| TO   | Tonga                                |
| TR   | Türkiye                              |
| TT   | Trinidad and Tobago                  |
| TV   | Tuvalu                               |
| TW   | Taiwan                               |
| TZ   | Tanzania, United Republic of         |
| UA   | Ukraine                              |
| UG   | Uganda                               |
| UM   | United States Minor Outlying Islands |
| US   | United States of America             |
| UY   | Uruguay                              |
| UZ   | Uzbekistan                           |
| VA   | Holy See                             |
| VC   | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines     |
| VE   | Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of    |
| VG   | British Virgin Islands               |
| VI   | United States Virgin Islands         |
| VN   | Vietnam                              |
| VU   | Vanuatu                              |
| WF   | Wallis and Futuna                    |

| Code | Country      |
|------|--------------|
| WS   | Samoa        |
| XC   | Ceuta        |
| XK   | Kosovo       |
| XL   | Melilla      |
| XS   | Serbia       |
| YE   | Yemen        |
| ZA   | South Africa |
| ZM   | Zambia       |
| ZW   | Zimbabwe     |



