

Fourth quarter 2020

EXPORT OF ITALIAN REGIONS

- In the fourth quarter of 2020, exports increased in seasonally-adjusted terms, compared with the previous period: +6.5% for the North-west, +5.70% for the South and Islands, +3.6% for the Centre and +3.4% for the North-east.
- In 2020, compared with the previous year, exports dropped in the Islands (-30.4%), in the North-west (-10.8%), in the Centre (-8.5%), in the North-east (-8.2%) and in the South (-6.4%).
- In 2020, more relevant falls, according to their contribution to the total export decrease, were recorded in Lombardia (-10.6%), Piemonte (-12.7%), Veneto and Emilia-Romagna (-8.2% for both) while increases were recorded only in Molise (+26.0%).

CHART 1. EXPORTS BY MACRO-REGIONS (NUTS LEVEL 1), INDICES

Q1 2008 – Q4 2020 (index, 2015=100)

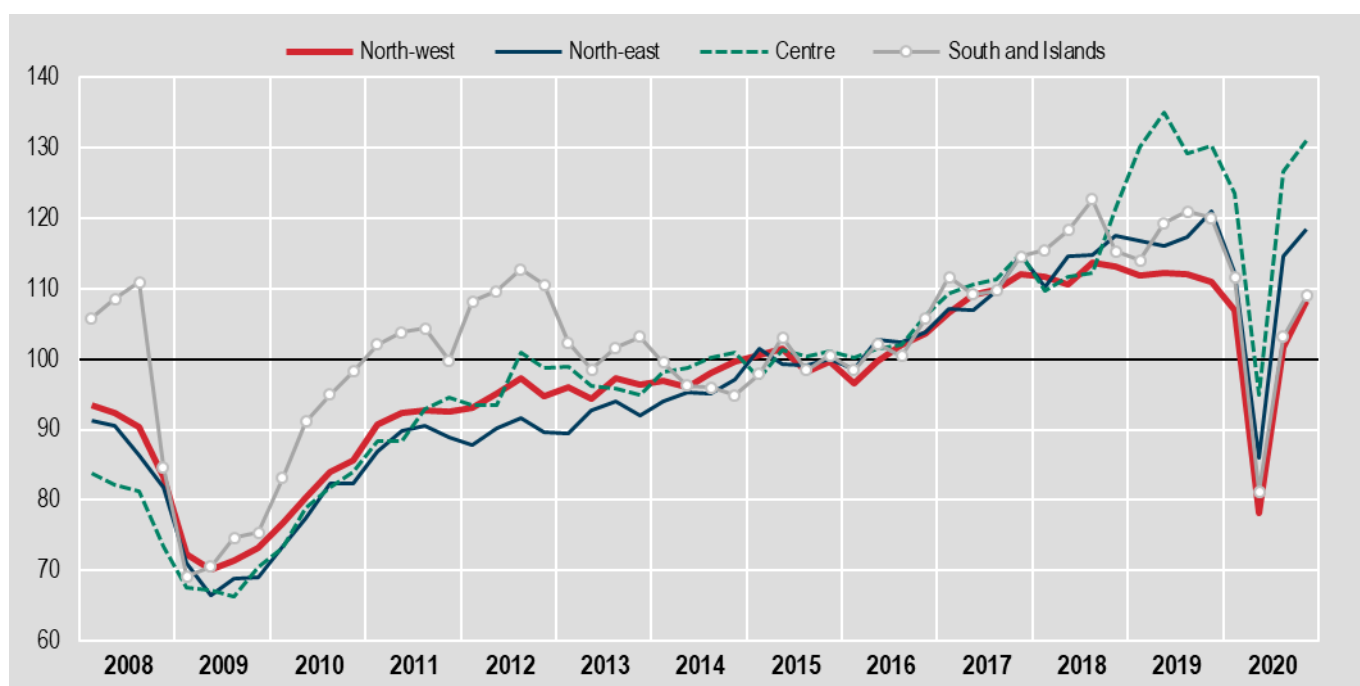


CHART 2. CONTRIBUTIONS OF MACRO REGIONS TO QUARTER ON PREVIOUS QUARTER PERCENTAGE CHANGES OF EXPORTS

Q1 2013 – Q4 2020, seasonally adjusted data

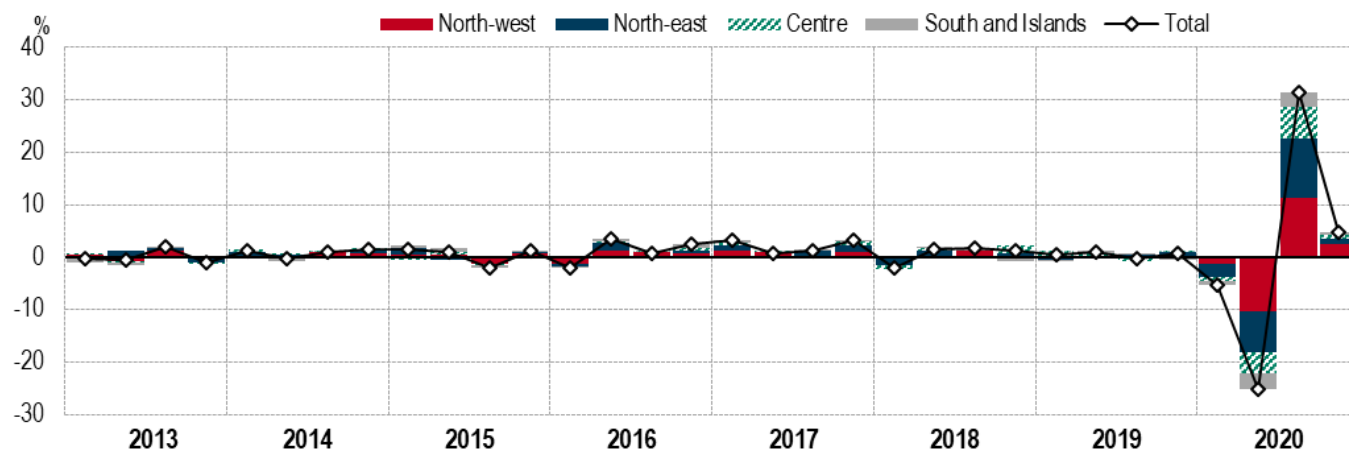


CHART 3. EXPORTS BY MACRO REGION, QUARTER ON SAME QUARTER A YEAR AGO PERCENTAGE CHANGES

Q1 2013 – Q4 2020, non-seasonally adjusted data

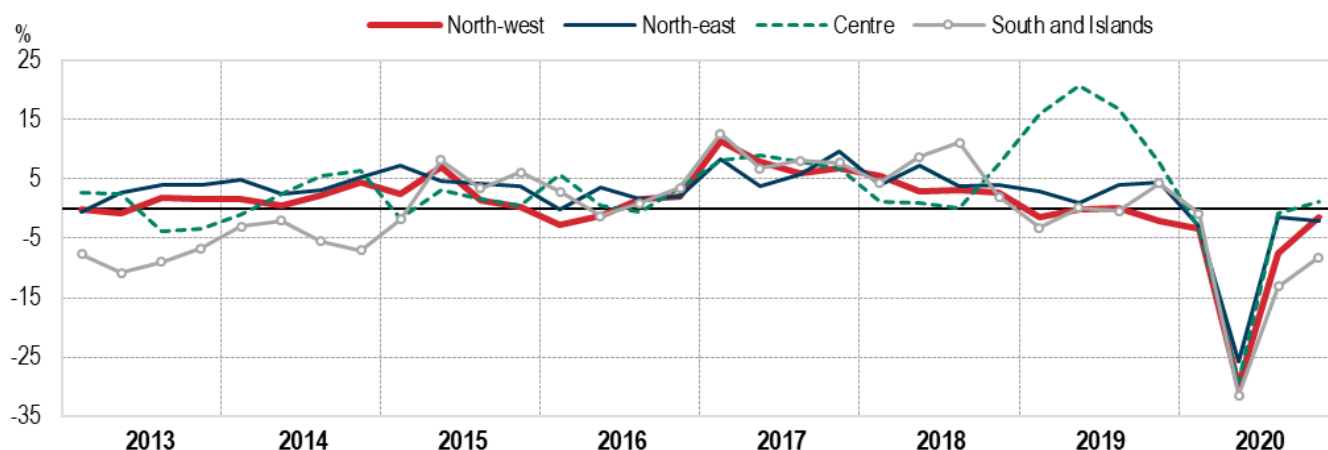


TABLE 1. EXPORTS BY MACRO-REGIONS (NUTS LEVEL 1)

January – December 2020, quarter on previous quarter and months on same months a year ago million of euros and percentage changes

MACRO-REGIONS	SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED		NON-SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED	
	Million of euros	Quarter on previous quarter	Million of euros	Months on same months a year ago
	Q4 2020	$\frac{Q4\ 2020}{Q3\ 2020}$	Jan-Dec. 2020	$\frac{Jan-Dec.20}{Jan-Dec.19}$
North-West	44,356	+6.5	162,587	-10.8
North-East	39,375	+3.4	143,600	-8.2
Centre	21,919	+3.6	80,067	-8.5
South	11,512	+5.7	32,486	-6.4
Islands			10,555	-30.4
Not specified provinces			4,264	
Italy			433,559	-9.7

TABLE 2. EXPORTS BY REGION

January – December 2019 and 2020, million of euros and percentage composition, months on same months a year ago percentage changes

REGIONS	Jan-Dec. 2019		Jan-Dec. 2020		Jan-Dec.20 Jan-Dec.19
	Million of euros	% comp.	Million of euros	% comp.	Months on same months a year ago
NORTH-CENTRE	426,044	88.7	386,254	89.1	-9.3
North-West	182,196	37.9	162,587	37.5	-10.8
Piemonte	46,903	9.8	40,951	9.4	-12.7
Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste	701	0.1	563	0.1	-19.6
Liguria	7,103	1.5	7,051	1.6	-0.7
Lombardia	127,488	26.5	114,022	26.3	-10.6
North-East	156,353	32.5	143,600	33.1	-8.2
Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol	9,095	1.9	8,372	1.9	-7.9
Bolzano/Bozen	5,099	1.1	4,922	1.1	-3.5
Trento	3,996	0.8	3,450	0.8	-13.7
Veneto	65,142	13.6	59,812	13.8	-8.2
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	15,495	3.2	14,268	3.3	-7.9
Emilia-Romagna	66,621	13.9	61,148	14.1	-8.2
Centre	87,495	18.2	80,067	18.5	-8.5
Toscana	43,242	9.0	40,572	9.4	-6.2
Umbria	4,315	0.9	3,762	0.9	-12.8
Marche	12,236	2.5	10,809	2.5	-11.7
Lazio	27,701	5.8	24,924	5.7	-10.0
SOUTH AND ISLANDS	49,856	10.4	43,041	9.9	-13.7
South	34,698	7.2	32,486	7.5	-6.4
Abruzzo	8,712	1.8	8,171	1.9	-6.2
Molise	755	0.2	951	0.2	+26.0
Campania	12,345	2.6	11,551	2.7	-6.4
Puglia	8,962	1.9	8,117	1.9	-9.4
Basilicata	3,445	0.7	3,294	0.8	-4.4
Calabria	480	0.1	402	0.1	-16.2
Islands	15,158	3.2	10,555	2.4	-30.4
Sicilia	9,498	2.0	7,195	1.7	-24.2
Sardegna	5,659	1.2	3,360	0.8	-40.6
Not specified provinces	4,453	0.9	4,264	1.0	-4.2
Italy	480,352	100.0	433,559	100.0	-9.7

TABLE 3. TERRITORIAL BREAKDOWN OF EXPORTS FLOWS BY COUNTRY

January – December 2020, months on same months a year ago percentage changes

COUNTRIES	Macro-regions (NUTS Level 1)				Italy
	North-west	North-east	Centre	South and Islands	
EU27 countries:	-11.4	-8.8	-3.8	-15.9	-9.7
EMU:	-10.9	-8.7	-3.2	-13.9	-9.1
Austria	-13.3	-12.0	-12.9	-4.3	-12.2
Belgium	-0.6	+0.5	+11.5	-3.8	+4.3
France	-13.5	-9.4	-5.2	-20.9	-11.7
Germany	-10.8	-4.7	+2.8	+8.5	-4.8
Netherlands	-1.8	-8.4	-6.8	-13.1	-6.2
Spain	-14.8	-17.4	-14.7	-23.4	-16.7
Poland	-8.9	-4.8	+18.1	-11.7	-4.1
Czech Republic	-11.9	-12.7	-12.1	-13.4	-12.1
Romania	-11.5	-11.9	-14.9	-20.8	-12.8
Non-EU27 countries:	-10.1	-7.4	-12.6	-11.4	-9.8
European non-EU27 countries	-11.3	-4.8	-5.2	-12.3	-8.0
United Kingdom	-14.8	-11.3	-6.1	-8.5	-11.1
Russian Federation	-11.4	-8.9	-8.8	-9.3	-9.9
Switzerland	-10.5	+10.7	+1.2	-13.0	-2.9
Turkey	-2.6	+1.9	-23.4	-15.0	-7.4
North Africa	-11.4	-5.2	-5.2	-32.6	-15.1
Other African countries	-15.6	-12.0	-10.8	+14.9	-9.3
North America	-4.0	-5.1	-16.4	-1.0	-6.6
United States	-3.4	-5.6	-17.4	-0.8	-6.7
Central and South America	-15.3	-11.7	-12.2	-27.1	-15.0
Middle Eastern countries	-9.7	-15.0	-11.7	-23.1	-13.3
Other Asian countries	-9.9	-9.7	-21.2	-4.2	-11.5
China	-0.4	-0.9	+1.9	-8.5	-0.6
Japan	-14.4	+3.0	-15.8	-8.8	-7.6
India	-19.6	-23.3	-40.5	-26.7	-23.9
Oceania and other territories	-21.6	-7.3	-34.7	+18.3	-11.8
OPEC	-12.3	-15.7	-17.6	-22.1	-15.8
MERCOSUR	-2.8	-3.7	-26.1	-32.5	-9.7
ASEAN	-12.0	-16.0	-30.6	-8.1	-16.1
Total	-10.8	-8.2	-8.5	-13.7	-9.7

Italian exports in goods statistics at regional level are quarterly compiled through elaboration and estimation processes based on Intra-EU and Extra-EU trade data.

Legal framework

Italian exports in goods statistics at regional level are included in the National Statistical Program (IST-02676).

Statistics related to trade in goods between Member States (intra-EU trade) are based on EU legislation: Regulations (EC) N. 222/2009, (EU) N. 1093/2013 and N. 659/2014 amending Regulation (EC) N. 638/2004, and Regulations (EC) N. 1915/2005, (EU) N. 91/2010, N. 96/2010 and N. 1093/2013 amending Regulation (EC) N. 1982/2004. EU Regulations are transposed into national legislation: Legislative Decree N. 18/2010 (Gazzetta ufficiale della Repubblica Italiana N. 41 of 19-2-2010), Decree of the Minister of the Economy and Finance of 22/2/2010 (Gazzetta ufficiale della Repubblica Italiana N. 53 of 5-3-2010) and the Legislative Act of the Customs Agency of 22/2/2010 and the Provision of the Director of the Agenzia delle Entrate (Italian Revenue Agency) of 25/09/2017.

Statistics related to trade in goods between Italy and third Countries (extra-EU trade) are based on EU legislation: Regulations (EU) N. 1724/2016 and N. 2119/2016 amending Regulation (EC) of the European Parliament and of the Council N. 471/2009, and Regulation (EU) N. 1253/2016 amending Commission Regulation (EU) N. 92/2010, and Regulation (EU) N. 2119/2016 amending Regulation N. 113/2010. EU Regulations are transposed into national legislation by specific provisions issued by the Customs Agency.

Sources and data collection

Concerning Intra-EU trade statistics, information is gathered by Intrastat declarations both for arrivals and dispatches of goods and for import and export of services, at both national and regional level. For exports, the finest territorial detail is defined by the Italian province of origin/shipment of exported goods.

The reference universe consists of all economic operators identified on the basis of the VAT number, which appear to have carried out at least one commercial transaction with the EU countries during the reference period. Under the law February 27, 2017 N. 19, starting from 1 January 2018, the statistical thresholds that determine the mandatory response to the monthly Intrastat survey are defined as follows:

- a) dispatches of goods, operators who have traded, at least in one of the four previous quarters, a total quarterly amount exceeding 100,000 euros .
- b) arrivals of goods, operators who have traded, at least in one of the four previous quarters, a total quarterly amount exceeding 200,000 euros.

The monthly and quarterly declarations are collected electronically by the Italian Customs Agency.

The thresholds are set in order to meet the minimum Intra-EU trade coverage required by EU Regulation (97% for dispatches and 93% for arrivals), achieving a significant reduction in burden for economic operators¹.

In order to produce an accurate and timely estimate referred to the universe of Intra-EU operators, a register-based approach for estimating the share of trade flows associated to exempted operators by product and partner country is adopted, considering both national and territorial domains. For exempted operators, the province of origin/shipment of exported goods is estimated recovering information from Italian Business Register. During the annual revision of data in November, latest fiscal and register-based information available will be included in the estimation procedure to further improve the quality and coverage of the estimates.

Statistics on trade in goods with non-EU countries are based on monthly fiscal-administrative information (Single Administrative Document - SAD) consistent with statistical definitions and classifications.

Since 2000, in compliance with the EU legislation, import and export with non EU countries below the exclusion thresholds (commercial transactions value less than 1,000 euros, starting from 2010) are monthly included as aggregated data.

¹ The number of economic operators required to submit the monthly Intrastat declaration is reduced from 78,000 in 2017 to 20,000 for arrivals, and from 70,000 in 2017 to about 32,000 for dispatches. As a further simplification measure for arrivals, operators below threshold are not required to submit Intrastat quarterly recapitulative statements, obtained by alternative fiscal sources.

For the United Kingdom, no longer part of the European Union from 1 February 2020, trade flows are recorded by Intrastat declarations until 31 December 2020. In fact, according to the withdrawal agreement ratified by the European Parliament on 29 January 2020, the United Kingdom will continue, until that date, to be part of the European Union's customs and tax territory (VAT and exciseduties); only after 31 December 2020 -unless otherwise agreed –trade flows between the UK and the EU will be considered trade with a third country.

Since September 2011, a new approach for the compilation of external trade statistics on natural gas in gaseous state and electricity has been implemented. Data on physical quantities are monthly collected from reliable sources, while for the other variables required by EU regulations (total trade in values and breakdown of volumes and values by partner countries) new estimation procedures have been developed.

The finest territorial detail for exports, is defined by the Italian province of origin/shipment of exported goods collected by Single Administrative Document and further elaborated exploiting information from the Italian Business Register.

Classifications system

The main classifications used in foreign trade statistics are based on the elementary information concerning the type of goods, the statistical partner country and the province of origin of the goods.

In compliance with the EU Regulations, exports in goods are classified according to the country of destination.

Geographical and the geo-economic areas are defined according to the Nomenclature of countries and territories for the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States, known as Geonomenclature.

The Combined Nomenclature (CN) is the primary nomenclature for traded goods used by the EU Member States, defined by the European Union and annually updated.

Since January 2009, products aggregations are defined according to the classification of the economic activities Ateco 2007, adapted to foreign trade (CPA). Ateco 2007 is the national version of the European nomenclature NACE rev.2 published in the Official Journal on 2 December 2006 (Regulation (EC) No. 1893/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20/12/2006). Ateco 2007 corresponds to Nace rev.2 up to the fourth digit. Data are released according to an intermediate disaggregation of the sections.

The regional detail follows the administrative and territorial changes yearly published by Istat (<https://www.istat.it/it/territorio-e-cartografia?classificazioni>).

Data processing

Both raw and seasonally adjusted trade values are published for Italian macro-regions: North-West, North-East, Centre, South and Islands. TRAMO-SEATS procedure for Linux (February 2010 version) provides seasonally adjusted data, quarterly revised.

The TRAMO-SEATS procedure's specifications used by Istat are made available to users under request.

In order to manage the discontinuities produced by the Covid-19 crisis on time series, a revision of the seasonal adjustment models was carried out, following Eurostat guidelines available in the web page [Covid-19: Support for statisticians](#). Taking into account the the extraordinary dynamics in exports recorded starting from March, models for time series treatment included additional regressors when necessary. This procedure, which aims to minimise, at present, the revisions of the past values of the seasonally adjusted series, was carried out also in fourth quarter, but only for the series of export of the Centre it was necessary to revise the models, through a more parsimonious specification of the added regressors; for this series, the revisions of the already disseminated seasonally adjusted data was larger than usual. As soon as the available information allows an overall assessment of the phase of increased variability of exports, a possible revision of seasonal adjustment models will be carried out.

Output

Data monthly released include monetary values and year-on-year and month-on-month changes of exports in goods. Collected or estimated monetary statistical values (Fob) in current prices are reported.

Confidentiality

Starting from 2000, Istat has defined new procedures for processing and dissemination of confidential data related to foreign trade in goods statistics, according to the current national regulatory framework (Law No. 675/96, Legislative Decrees N. 322/89, 281/99 and 196/03).

In particular, the new procedures bring to a significant reduction of the risk of indirect and accidental identification of confidential data, limiting, at the same time, the loss of information available for external users.

In addition to the protection of confidential information according to the principle of passive confidentiality, Istat provides a specific dissemination plan for international trade of goods at national and territorial level, designed in such a way to reduce the risk of indirect identification of confidential trade. Further information on the protection of privacy is available at the following link <https://www.coeweb.istat.it/>

Timeliness of release and revision of data

Data are published 75 days after the reference quarter. The release calendar is defined annually, and published on the Institute website (<https://www4.istat.it/it/informazioni/per-i-giornalisti/calendario/>).

At the first publication, foreign trade data are provisional and undergo a first revision in the following month in order to integrate additional information which become available after their first dissemination; final data will be definitively consolidated in the month of November of the following year.

International trade data are available on Coeweb² in the month following the press release. The datawarehouse provides, on a monthly basis, detailed information on the trade of goods between Italy and the rest of the world and time series since 1991.

Further foreign trade press releases:

- [Foreign trade and import prices](#)
- [Foreign trade with non-EU countries](#)

Insights

Statistical production system for international trade in natural gas and electric energy of [Nota informativa 15/11/2011](#).

For technical and methodological information

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² Data warehouse devoted to foreign trade statistics.