statistics flash

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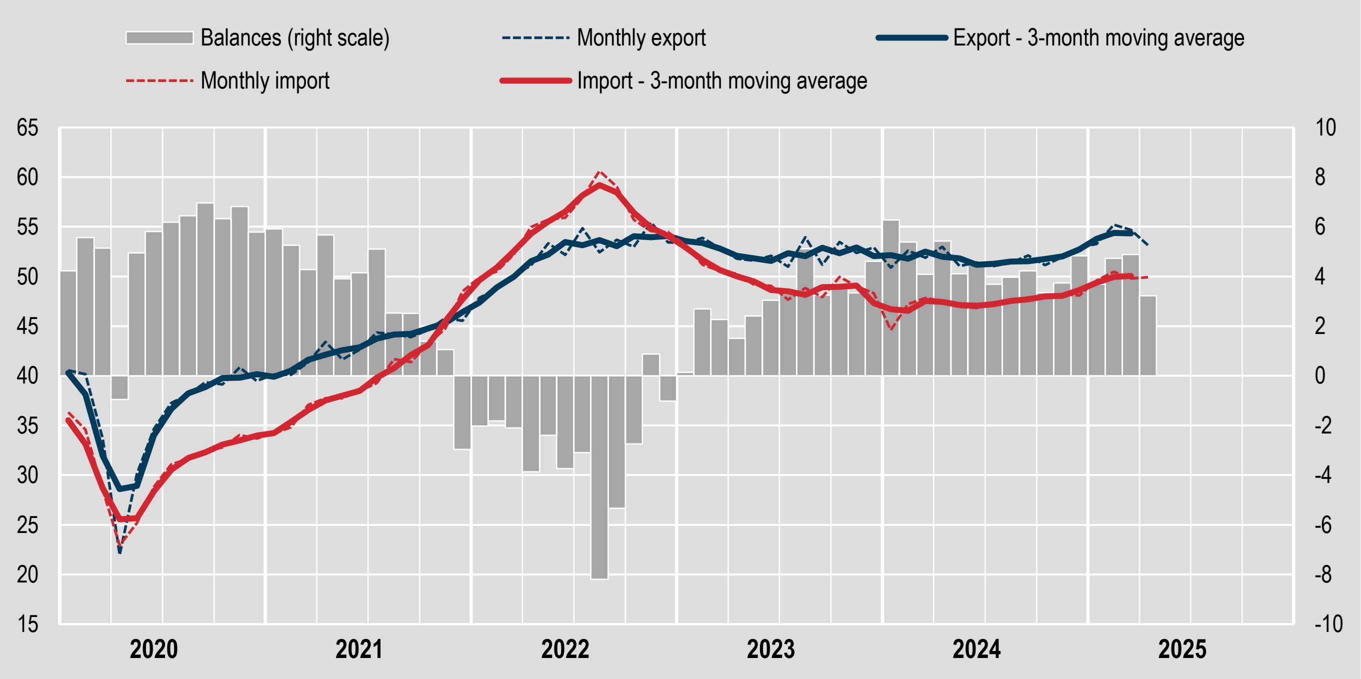
April 2025

FOREIGN TRADE AND IMPORT PRICES

- In April 2025, seasonally adjusted data, compared to March 2025, decreased for exports (-2.8%) and rose slightly for imports (+0.3%). Exports declined by -7.0% for non-EU countries and increased by +1.5% for EU countries. Imports grew by +1.6% for non-EU countries and fell by -0.7% for EU countries.
- Over the last quarter, seasonally-adjusted data, compared to the previous one, increased for both exports (+3.1%) and imports (+2.9%).
- In April 2025, compared to the same month of the previous year, exports increased by +0.4% and imports by +5.4%. Outgoing flows rose for EU countries (+2.1%) but fell for non-EU countries (-1.4%). Incoming flows increased by +0.8% for the EU area and by +11.5% for the extra-EU area.
- In April 2025, trade balance registered a surplus of +2,482 million Euros (+162 million euros surplus for EU countries and +2,320 million euros surplus for non-EU countries). Excluding energy, trade balance surplus amounted to +6,730 million Euros.
- In April 2025, import prices decreased by 1.2% on monthly basis (-0.6% for the euro zone, -1.8% for the non-euro zone). Over the last three months, compared to the previous three months, import prices decreased by 0.1% (-0.5% for the euro zone, +0.2% for the non-euro zone).
- Import prices, compared to the same month a year ago, decreased by 1.5% (-1.5% for both the euro and the non-euro zone).

CHART 1. EXTERNAL TRADE FLOWS

January 2020 – April 2025, monthly data and 3 month moving average, seasonally adjusted data and balance in billions of euros



Foreign trade

CHART 2. EXPORTS AND IMPORTS WITH EU27 AREA

January 2020 – April 2025, monthly data and 3 months moving average, seasonally adjusted data in billions of euros

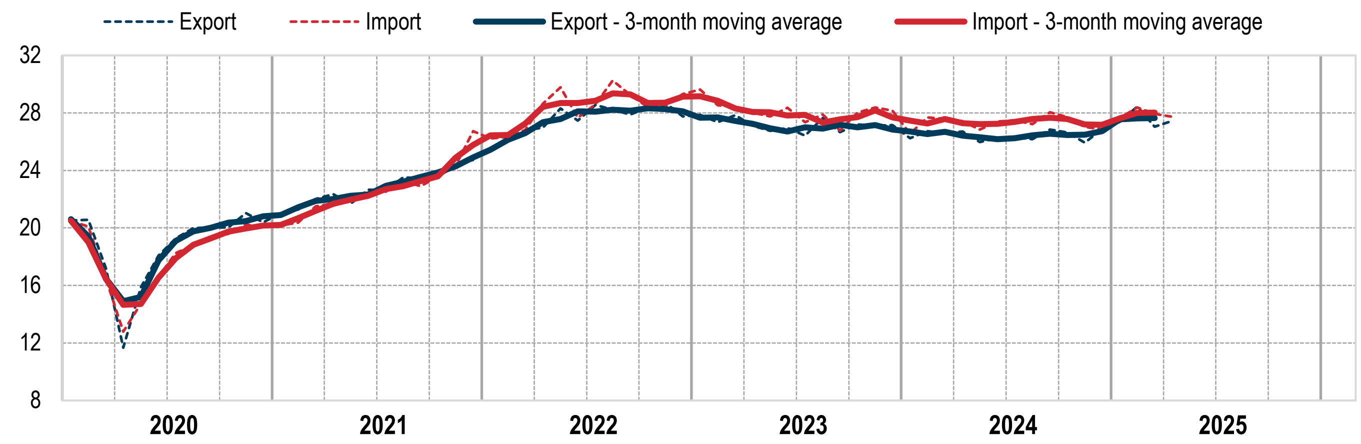


CHART 3. EXPORTS AND IMPORTS WITH NON-EU27 AREA

January 2020 – April 2025, monthly data and 3 months moving average, seasonally adjusted data in billions of euros

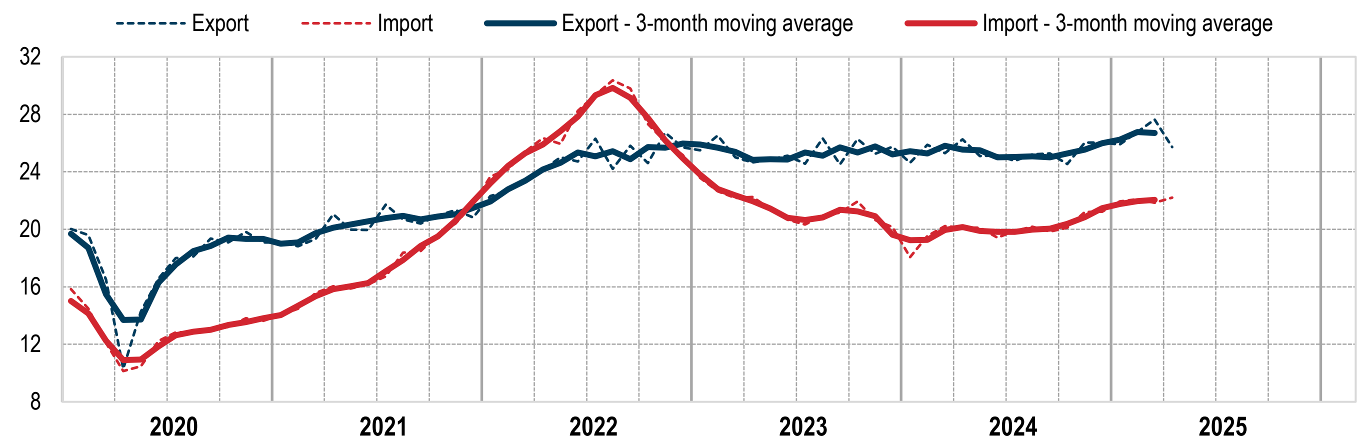


CHART 4. EXTERNAL TRADE FLOWS, MONTH ON SAME MONTH A YEAR AGO PERCENTAGE CHANGES

January 2021 – April 2025, non-seasonally adjusted data

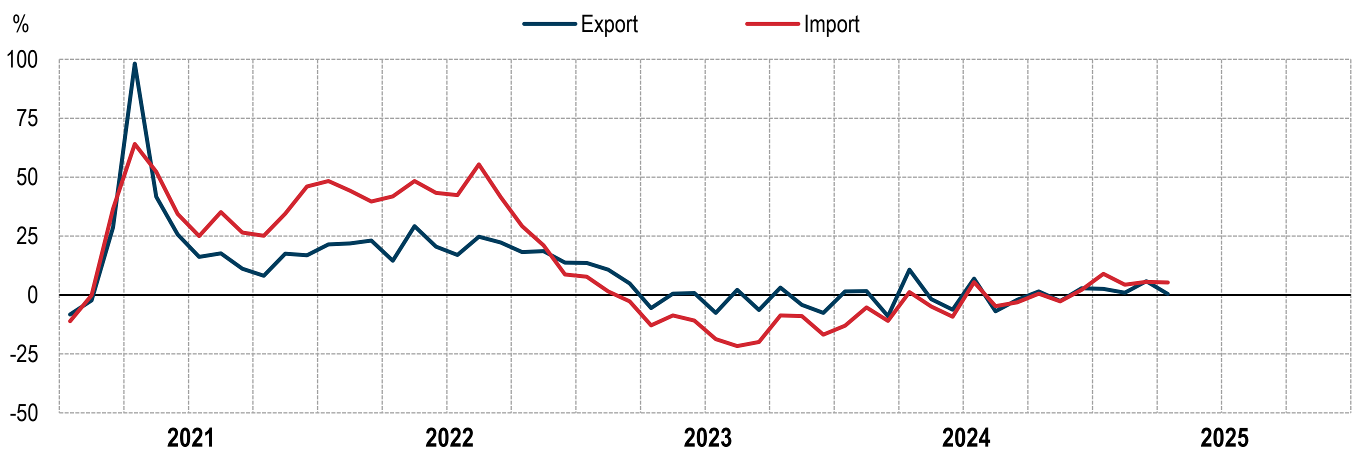


TABLE 1. EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND TRADE BALANCE

April 2025, months on same months a year ago and months on previous months percentage changes, trade balance in millions of euros

	NON SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED				SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED		
	Millions of euros		Months on same months a year ago		Millions of euros	Months on previous months	
	Apr. 2025	Jan.- Apr. 2025	Apr. 25 / Apr. 24	Jan.-Apr. 25 / Jan.-Apr. 24	Apr. 2025	Apr. 25 / Mar. 25	Feb.-Apr. 25 / Nov. 24-Jan. 25
TOTAL							
Exports	+52,908	+212,997	+0.4	+2.5	+53,155	-2.8	+3.1
Imports	+50,426	+201,653	+5.4	+6.0	+49,934	+0.3	+2.9
Trade balance	+2,482	+11,343			+3,221		
EU27 COUNTRIES							
Exports	+27,762	+111,359	+2.1	+2.8	+27,444	+1.5	+3.4
Imports	+27,600	+113,642	+0.8	+2.0	+27,728	-0.7	+3.1
Trade balance	+162	-2,283			-284		
NON-EU27 COUNTRIES							
Exports	+25,146	+101,638	-1.4	+2.1	+25,711	-7.0	+2.7
Imports	+22,826	+88,011	+11.5	+11.7	+22,206	+1.6	+2.7
Trade balance	+2,320	+13,627			+3,505		

TABLE 2. EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND TRADE BALANCE BY MAIN INDUSTRIAL GROUPINGS

April 2025, shares, months on same months a year ago percentage changes, trade balance in millions of euros

MIGS	EXPORTS			IMPORTS			TRADE BALANCE	
	Share (a)	Months on same months a year ago		Share (a)	Months on same months a year ago		Millions of euros	
		Apr. 25 / Apr. 24	Jan.-Apr. 25 / Jan.-Apr. 24		Apr. 25 / Apr. 24	Jan.-Apr. 25 / Jan.-Apr. 24	Apr. 2025	Jan.- Apr. 2025
Consumer goods	37.0	+7.0	+8.4	29.6	+21.0	+16.5	+3,812	+17,941
- consumer durables	6.4	-11.6	-7.0	3.2	+6.1	+12.0	+1,616	+6,071
- consumer non-durables	30.6	+11.4	+11.7	26.4	+22.9	+17.0	+2,196	+11,870
Capital goods	30.2	-5.5	-1.1	24.4	+4.1	+0.5	+3,533	+15,650
Intermediate goods	29.9	+1.2	+1.5	34.2	-4.7	+2.1	-615	-4,405
Energy	2.8	-22.8	-20.1	11.8	+1.4	+3.9	-4,248	-17,843
Total (except energy)	97.2	+1.2	+3.3	88.2	+5.9	+6.3	+6,730	+29,186
TOTAL	**100.0**	**+0.4**	**+2.5**	**100.0**	**+5.4**	**+6.0**	**+2,482**	**+11,343**

(a) Calculated on 2024 total foreign trade.

TABLE 3. EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND TRADE BALANCE BY COUNTRIES

April 2025, shares, months on same months a year ago percentage changes for imports and exports and trade balance in millions of euros

COUNTRIES	EXPORTS			IMPORTS			TRADE BALANCE	
	Share (a)	Months on same months a year ago		Share (a)	Months on same months a year ago		Millions of euros	
		Apr. 25 / Apr. 24	Jan.-Apr. 25 / Jan.-Apr. 24		Apr. 25 / Apr. 24	Jan.-Apr. 25 / Jan.-Apr. 24	Apr. 2025	Jan.- Apr. 2025
EU27 COUNTRIES	**51.0**	**+2.1**	**+2.8**	**57.7**	**+0.8**	**+2.0**	**+162**	**-2,283**
EMU20:	41.6	+2.6	+3.3	48.1	+0.8	+2.8	-274	-3,645
Austria	2.0	+7.4	+3.0	2.2	+3.2	+2.1	+99	+71
Belgium	3.1	+8.0	+0.8	4.6	+13.5	+6.2	-681	-2,601
France	10.0	+1.7	+1.8	8.0	-2.3	+1.3	+1,393	+5,457
Germany	11.4	+0.3	+4.1	14.9	-2.3	-2.9	-892	-2,967
Netherlands	3.1	-8.7	+3.5	6.4	+2.2	+9.2	-1,482	-6,283
Spain	5.5	+14.3	+10.8	6.0	-9.3	+3.2	+769	+1,481
Poland	1.3	+0.5	+8.5	1.6	+8.8	-0.9	-124	-271
Czechia	3.2	+6.7	+2.3	2.8	+2.1	-1.9	+353	+1,441
Romania	1.6	+1.4	+1.8	1.6	-2.4	-8.1	+225	+710
NON-EU27 COUNTRIES	**49.0**	**-1.4**	**+2.1**	**42.3**	**+11.5**	**+11.7**	**+2,320**	**+13,627**
European non-EU countries	15.1	-5.2	+0.4	8.5	+0.8	+3.6	+4,042	+14,143
United Kingdom	4.4	-18.8	+0.8	1.4	-1.3	+0.6	+1,647	+6,585
Russian Federation	0.7	-8.4	-15.0	0.6	-58.3	-26.3	+164	+392
Switzerland	4.8	+18.9	+13.1	2.8	-2.7	+4.5	+1,504	+5,107
Turkey	2.8	-18.2	-17.9	2.1	+20.0	+6.8	+353	+690
North Africa	2.3	-6.4	-1.4	4.5	-10.6	+0.4	-1,020	-4,344
Other African countries	1.0	+4.8	-6.0	1.6	-10.0	+15.1	-234	-1,617
North America	11.4	-2.7	+7.6	5.1	+57.3	+6.1	+2,725	+15,360
United States	10.4	-1.9	+8.4	4.6	+60.8	+6.6	+2,395	+14,283
Central and South America	3.4	+7.3	+0.6	2.2	+4.3	+17.8	+508	+1,981
Middle Eastern countries	4.2	+13.0	+13.6	3.9	+6.8	+3.0	+142	+1,675
Other Asian countries	9.1	-2.6	-5.2	16.0	+16.5	+22.5	-4,993	-17,993
China	2.5	-8.5	-10.5	8.7	+40.1	+38.0	-4,552	-16,633
Japan	1.3	-3.9	+0.5	0.8	-12.3	-3.4	+281	+1,274
India	0.8	-4.7	+3.0	1.6	-27.6	-14.4	-332	-1,082
Oceania and other territories	2.6	+4.0	+4.1	0.5	+2.3	+6.3	+1,149	+4,422
OPEC	3.7	+8.0	+14.6	5.3	-22.5	-6.0	-353	-1,491
MERCOSUR	1.2	+6.1	+11.1	1.1	-2.3	+20.8	+78	+373
ASEAN	1.7	+5.3	+0.1	2.2	-3.7	+21.6	-258	-1,137
TOTAL	**100.0**	**+0.4**	**+2.5**	**100.0**	**+5.4**	**+6.0**	**+2,482**	**+11,343**

(a) Calculated on 2024 total foreign trade.

CHART 5. AVERAGE UNIT VALUES AND VOLUMES FOR EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

January 2021 – April 2025, month on same month a year ago percentage changes (index, 2021=100)

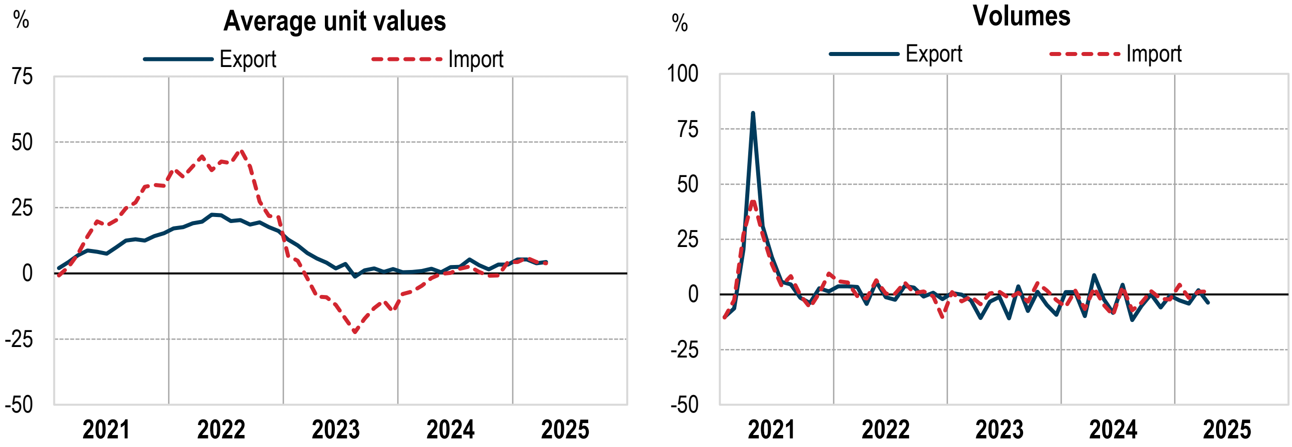


TABLE 4. UNIT VALUES AND VOLUME INDICES FOR EU27 COUNTRIES, NON-EU27 COUNTRIES AND TOTAL

April 2025, indices and months on same months a year ago percentage changes (index, 2021=100)

	INDICES		MONTHS ON SAME MONTHS A YEAR AGO			
	Unit value indices	Volume indices	Unit value indices		Volume indices	
	Apr. 2025	Apr. 2025	Apr. 25 / Apr. 24	Jan.-Apr. 25 / Jan.-Apr. 24	Apr. 25 / Apr. 24	Jan.-Apr. 25 / Jan.-Apr. 24
TOTAL						
Exports	130.8	93.2	+4.3	+4.7	-3.7	-2.1
Imports	125.1	100.7	+3.9	+4.6	+1.4	+1.4
EU27 COUNTRIES						
Exports	127.5	95.2	+4.3	+4.2	-2.0	-1.4
Imports	124.7	97.6	+2.6	+3.4	-1.8	-1.3
NON-EU27 COUNTRIES						
Exports	134.6	91.1	+4.3	+5.3	-5.5	-3.0
Imports	125.3	105.0	+5.3	+6.2	+5.8	+5.1

Import prices

TABLE 5. IMPORT PRICES INDEX FOR TOTAL, EURO AND NON-EURO ZONE

April 2025 (a), months on same months a year ago and months on previous months percentage changes (index, 2021=100)

	Index (2021=100)	Months on previous months		Months on same months a year ago	
	Apr. 2025	Apr. 25 / Mar. 25	Feb.-Apr. 25 / Nov. 24-Jan. 25	Apr. 25 / Apr. 24	Jan.-Apr. 25 / Jan.-Apr. 24
TOTAL INDEX	**108.0**	**-1.2**	**-0.1**	**-1.5**	**+0.6**
Euro zone	108.3	-0.6	-0.5	-1.5	-0.5
Non-euro zone	108.1	-1.8	+0.2	-1.5	+1.8

(a) Data are provisional and subject to revisions

CHART 6. IMPORT PRICES

January 2021 – April 2025, month on same month a year ago percentage changes (index, 2021=100)

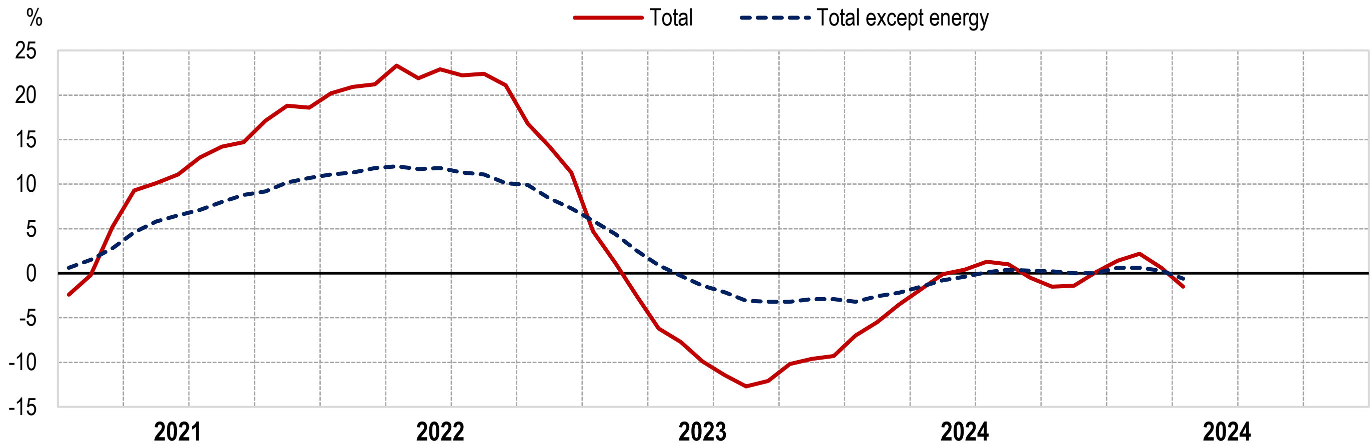


TABLE 6. EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF GOODS IN VALUE

April and March 2025, revisions of percentage changes, differences in percentage points

	World		EU27 Countries		Non-EU27 Countries	
	Year-on-year change	Month-on-month change	Year-on-year change	Month-on-month change	Year-on-year change	Month-on-month change
April 2025						
Export	-	-	-	-	+0.7	+0.5
Import	-	-	-	-	+0.1	0.0
March 2025						
Export	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	-	0.0
Import	-2.0	-1.5	-3.4	-2.8	-	0.0

TABLE 7. IMPORT PRICES

March 2025, revisions of percentage changes, differences in percentage points (index, 2021=100)

Total		Euro zone		Non Euro zone	
Year-on-year change	Month-on-month change	Year-on-year change	Month-on-month change	Year-on-year change	Month-on-month change
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Introduction

This document provides legislative references and methodological notes relating to statistics on the international trade in goods and import prices. Background information is listed below in Table A.

TABLE A. STATISTICS ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS AND IMPORT PRICES: MAIN CHARACTERISTICS

	STATISTICS	
	International trade in goods	**Import prices**
Data sources	1) Customs data and data collected through the Intrastat system 2) Statistical processing foreign trade in goods data 3) Estimates for trade in specific goods or movements are obtained by integrating different data sources	Direct survey
Coverage	All traded products (see glossary), excluding monetary gold, customized software, means of payment which are legal tender and securities, goods for and after repair. No restrictions are applied with respect to the main economic activity of traders.	1) Products listed in sections B, C and D of the CPA classification (derived from NACE Rev.2); 2) Enterprises characterized by main economic activity in sections B, C, D, E and G of the Ateco2007 classification (derived from NACE Rev.2).
Dissemination frequency and geographical breakdown	Monthly frequency of data at national level	Monthly frequency of data at national level
Reference period	Month and period which information collected refers to	Month and period which information collected refers to
Main indicators	1) Collected or estimated monetary statistical values (CIF, FOB) in current prices 2) Chain-linked unit values and volumes Fisher Indices	Chain-linked Laspeyres Index

International trade in goods

Statistics on international trade in goods are based on two data collection systems that measure respectively trade in goods between Italy and the EU Member States (Intrastat) and between Italy and third countries (Extrastat).

Legal framework

Statistics related to trade in goods between Member States (intra-EU trade) and between Italy and third Countries (extra-EU trade) are based on EU legislation: Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European business statistics; Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197 laying down technical specifications and arrangements pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/2152; Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/1704 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 by further specifying the details for the statistical information to be provided by tax and customs authorities and amending its Annexes V and VI; Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1225 specifying the arrangements for the data exchanges pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 and amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197, as regards the Member State of extra-Union export and the obligations of reporting units.

For statistics related to trade in goods between Member States (intra-EU trade), EU Regulations are transposed into national legislation: Legislative Decree No. 18/2010 (Gazzetta ufficiale della Repubblica Italiana No. 41 of 19-2-2010), Decree of the Minister of the Economy and Finance of 22/2/2010 (Gazzetta ufficiale della Repubblica Italiana No. 53 of 5-3-2010) and the Legislative Act of the Customs Agency of 22/2/2010, the Provision of the Director of the Italian Revenue Agency of 25/09/2017 and the Legislative Act of the Customs Agency n. 493869 of 23/12/2021.

For statistics related to trade in goods between Italy and third Countries (extra-EU trade), 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 for dispatches of goods and for import and export of services. The reference universe consists of all businesses 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 and the Legislative Act of the Customs Agency n. 493869 of December 23, 2021, starting from 1 January 2022, 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 (same threshold in force from 1 January 2018).

b) arrivals of goods, operators who have traded, at least in one of the four previous quarters, a total quarterly amount exceeding 350,000 Euros (from January 2018 to December 2021, threshold was equal to 200,000 Euros).

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

Starting from January 2022, the thresholds are set in order to meet the minimum Intra-EU trade coverage required by EU Regulation (97% for dispatches and 91% for arrivals), achieving a significant reduction in burden for economic operators[1].

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. 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 data (Single Administrative Document - SAD) according to statistical definitions and classifications. Since January 2024, the survey includes data on "quasi-exports" (exports of domestic goods registered by other EU countries customs). These data come from the exchange of microdata between European Statistical Institutes (CDE - Customs data exchange) and are available after the first publication of foreign trade with non-EU countries. The flows of "quasi-exports" of domestic goods registered by other EU countries customs are therefore included in the extra-EU trade data with the first revision in the following month and released in the Press Release Foreign Trade and import prices. At the same time, the flows of “quasi-export” of goods of other EU countries registered by Italian Custom are exclude from the extra-EU trade data.

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

Starting from January 2022, in compliance with the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197, for consignments whose value is less than 1,000 Euros, the reporting units may report the statistical information on the commodity without breakdown.

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.

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 or destination of the goods.

In compliance with the EU Regulations, Intra-EU trade in goods are classified according to country of consignment for arrivals and country of destination for dispatches, while trade of goods with non-EU countries are classified by country of origin for imports and country of destination for exports.

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.

[1] As consequence of the exemption threshold raising, the number of economic operators required to submit the monthly Intrastat declaration for arrivals is reduced from 18,000 in 2021 to 14,000 in 2022.

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.

In 2003, Istat adopted the classification for economic destination “Main Industrial Groupings (MIGS)”, defined by Commission Regulation n. 586/2001 (Official Journal of the European Communities of 27/03/2001), amended by Regulation (EC) no. 656/2007 of 14/06/2007 following the entry into force of Nace Rev. 2.

The Main Industrial Groupings (MIGS) are:

- Consumer durables;
- Consumer non-durables;
- Capital goods;
- Intermediate goods;
- Energy.

As for Ateco 2007[2], the MIGS classification has been adapted to the statistics on foreign trade.

Data processing

Both raw and seasonally adjusted trade values are published. TRAMO-SEATS procedure for Linux (February 2010 version) provides seasonally adjusted data.

Starting from 2012, some substantial process and product innovations have been introduced in the seasonal adjustment procedures, aimed at improving the accuracy of the estimates and at providing users with a wider detail of statistical indicators at main industrial groupings level for the short-term analysis of foreign trade.

Seasonally adjusted data are monthly revised. The models are annually reviewed in November, with the final revision of raw data. The TRAMO-SEATS procedure’s specifications used by Istat are available to users under request.

In November 2024, with the final revision of 2023 raw data, the seasonal adjustment models were reviewed.

Output

Data monthly released include monetary values, indices and year-on-year and month-on-month variations of international trade in goods. Collected or estimated monetary statistical values (CIF, FOB) in current prices are reported.

Unit values and volumes indices of foreign trade in goods are disseminated at Ateco 2007 product groups classification, main industrial groupings (MIGS) product aggregation and geographical/geo-economic areas. Monthly unit values indices are obtained using Fisher Index where the base year is the previous year (annually chain-linking index). The annual update of the weighting system makes it possible to closely follow changes in the composition of the traded products mix. However, in order to make chain-linking indexes comparable over long-time period, time series are expressed according to a fixed reference year, updated every 5 years in line with the international indications for short-term statistics. Since January 2024, the reference year is 2021 (the previous one was 2015). Indexes for product groups are calculated aggregating elementary index at product level (Combined Nomenclature); identification and treatment of measurement errors are applied (Istat, "Information note" of 25/02/2008). Both unit values and value indices are directly calculated, while volume indices are obtained by deflation in order to ensure the coherence between the three indices. The dissemination plan foresees the release of unit values and volumes indices. Annual and quarterly unit value indices are calculated as averages of monthly indices, including only monthly reported data; on the contrary, in volume indexes calculation all the transactions are included, in order to allow a more precise decomposition of values changes in term of volumes and unit values changes.

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[2]Time series of the import and export of goods by MIGS classification have been recalculated, and therefore, may differ from those previously published.

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/.

The new Intrastat survey from January 2022

With the Legislative Act of the Customs Agency n. 493869 of December 23, 2021, starting from 1 January 2022, important innovations in the Intrastat system have been introduced in compliance with EU Regulations 2019/2152 and 2020/1197 and with a view to simplifying and reducing the statistical burden on Intrastat reporters.

The EU Regulation 2019/2152 introduces the obligation to exchange micro-data on intra-EU exports between Member States from January 2022. Exchange micro-data between Member States represents an innovative statistical approach - based on the principle that data should not be collected more than once ("once only"). It allows Member States to use those mirror data for the compiling of their own intra-EU imports statistics and it could reduce the administrative burden on Intrastat reporters on the imports side while maintaining data quality.

In order to implement the micro-data exchange approach, starting from January 2022 data, an additional variable in Intrastat declarations for dispatches was requested ("Country of origin", EU Regulation 2020/1197, Section 12, paragraph 3). Moreover, the 2-digit coding has been adopted for the variable "Nature of the transaction".

At the same time many simplifications were introduced, among them the increase of the statistical threshold that determines the obligatory monthly compilation of Intrastat declarations for arrivals (from 200,000 to 350,000 Euros).

Finally, for tax purposes, a new section for dispatches under the so-called "call-off stock" (Legislative Decree no. 192 of 5 November 2021) were introduced in the Intrastat declarations.

Industrial import prices

Introduction and legal framework

Industrial import prices indices measure the monthly change of import prices of a representative basket of main goods imported by industrial and commercial companies.

The legal basis for the STS indicators is the Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European business statistics, repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics (EBS-Regulation) and the Commission Implementing Regulation 2020/1197 laying down technical specifications and arrangements pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 (General Implementing Act).

The statistics on import prices are based on the monthly *Survey of import prices*, included in the National Statistical Programme.

The sample survey approximately counts about 1,300 products linked to a list of about 4,100 companies providing more than 11,000 monthly price quotations.

Observation field, analysis and survey unit

The observation field of the import survey concerns:

a) products included in sections B, C and D of the CPA classification;

b) enterprises whose main economic activity is in sections B, C, D, E and G of the 2007 Ateco classification.

The product above mentioned is the analysis unit (raw material, semi-processed and finished product) acquired on the foreign market and used in the production process (industrial enterprise) or sold in the national territory or abroad (trade company).

The survey unit – company or enterprise - must be located in the national territory; in the case of an industrial company, the location refers to the industrial plant: the company acquired raw materials, semi-processed and finished products on the foreign market reusing them in its own production process. Trade company acquires raw materials, semi-processed and finished products on the foreign market for reselling them on the national and foreign market.

The underlying trade system is the special trade system so normal imports as well as imports for inward processing and after outward processing, when the reporting unit acquires the ownership of goods, are included. The following limitations apply for the scope of import prices:

a) imports carried out from families, public administrations and non-profit institutions are excluded;

b) imports for repair are not covered;

c) all products related services are excluded.

Sample design

The monthly sample survey of import prices is carried out by collecting data from industrial and commercial enterprises. A list of enterprises is linked to the basket of products. Each reporting units (enterprise) provides a set of import prices corresponding to its own production/trade.

The basket of products is a representative sample of the main goods imported by industrial and commercial enterprises. Products are selected from the international trade statistics (annual value of imports at a merchandise level, coded according to the Combined Nomenclature).

The products/enterprises association is carried out by crossing international trade data (Tax register, economic operator/VAT ID number) and those of the Business register (where the enterprises main economic activity is identified). Through this link the analysis units (imported products) are connected to the survey units (import enterprises).

At present time, the basket of products is made up (Table B) of 1,279 items and 11,027 price quotations monthly surveyed. In particular, focusing data per area, Euro and non-Euro areas respectively count 996 and 843 products; 5,836 and 5,191 price quotations. Regarding to the survey units (enterprises) the total number of units is equal to 4,086: 2,393 in the Euro area and 2,316 in the non-Euro area.

TABLE B. IMPORT PRICES. SIZE OF THE PRODUCT SAMPLE, PRICES AND ENTERPRISES
December 2024 calculation base

UNIT	Total	Euro area	Non-Euro area
Products	1,279	996	843
Enterprises	4,086	2,393	2,316
Prices	11,027	5,836	5,191

TABLE C. IMPORT PRICES, EURO AND NON-EURO AREAS. SIZE OF THE PRODUCT SAMPLE, PRICES AND ENTERPRISES BY MAIN INDUSTRIAL GROUPINGS (a)
December 2024 calculation base

MAIN INDUSTRIAL GROUPINGS	Euro area			Non-Euro area		
	Products	Enterprises	Prices	Products	Enterprises	Prices
Consumer goods	258	660	1,613	218	622	1,436
Consumer durables	*54*	*123*	*314*	*45*	*125*	*301*
Consumer non-durables	*204*	*541*	*1,299*	*173*	*505*	*1,135*
Capital goods	190	514	1,287	162	479	1,121
Intermediate goods	537	1,387	2,907	452	1,303	2,592
Energy	11	24	29	11	34	42
Total	**996**	**2,393**	**5,836**	**843**	**2,316**	**5,191**

(a) The total enterprises by main industrial groupings is greater than the total sample because some enterprises provide price quotations for products classified in different groupings. For the same reason, the total enterprises for Consumer goods grouping is higher than the sum of enterprises for Consumer durables and Consumer non–durables groupings.

Data collection and quality control

Import prices are monthly collected by a web questionnaire available in the Statistical Portal of Istat. The electronic questionnaire provides a grid of checks that reduce filling in errors carried out by the respondent. Further, once filled in, data are immediately stored in the survey database. To be timeliness compliance according to the European Regulations, data must be transmitted by respondents within a time window whose lower and upper times are respectively the first and approximately the fourteenth day after the end of the reference month. Reminders and follow up operations are planned for reducing non-responses so to ensure high coverage levels both for provisional and final data.

The questionnaire associates to each reporting units (enterprises) its own product (the link between product and respondent – as seen above – is done by Istat). The respondent, consistently with the assigned product, identifies the most representative items that are monthly and regularly purchased over time.

Import prices: i) point out purchase prices referring to items chosen by the respondent; ii) concern goods sold by a non-resident operator to an industrial/trade enterprise resident in Italy; iii) are market prices, that is, true selling prices; iv) are surveyed in Euro according to the CIF clause (cost, insurance and freight) at the national border; v) are net of VAT and of any other cost borne by the buyer.

Data correction processes are currently undertaken to ensure good quality standard. Missing data, anomalous values, lack of consistency between item price and product are all data controls monthly carried out. Follow up operations are also planned. Missing data are estimated.

Data monthly collected are compiled in terms of index numbers, disseminated as aggregate information to ensure confidentiality.

Since January 2022, a new approach for the compilation of import price indices of crude oil, natural gas in gaseous state and electricity has been implemented. The new approach is based on monthly information from foreign trade data.

Index compilation

The import price index expresses the dynamic of the prices of a representative basket of the main industrial products imported by industrial and commercial companies. The import price index measures changes of prices for industrial products bought (in the Euro zone and the non-Euro zone) by industrial and commercial enterprises resident in Italy.

Since January 2022, import price indices are compiled according to the methodology of the annual chain-linking on a monthly basis. For 2025, the calculation base period is December 2024; the reference base period is the year 2021.

The system of import price indices is made up of two surveyed variables – referring to Euro area and non-Euro area – and by a summary variable – total (Euro and non-Euro areas). The variables are calculated as base period indices and successively released as reference base indices.

The compilation process is made up of three steps. The first step deals with the definition of price relatives (quotients of current prices – numerator – and base prices, denominator, December 2024). In the second step, prices relatives associated with each product are aggregated by simple geometric average to provide product indices. In the third step, the product indices are aggregated by weighted arithmetic averages (chain-linked Laspeyres type formula) to provide the whole set of sub-aggregate indices and the overall one.

Weighting structure

The index weighting system is derived from the international trade statistics. There are two weighting systems depending upon the Euro and the non-Euro area. Total indices are defined by weighted arithmetic means of Euro and non-Euro indices. The variable used to set up weights is the annual value of imports of goods in 2022. For both areas, values concern goods according to the Combined nomenclature (eight-digit level). These data are reported to the Prodcom nomenclature by the corresponding tables available in the Eurostat website.

Confidentiality

Data on import prices are disseminated ensuring confidentiality rules aimed to protect individual data. Statistical confidentiality is detailed in the Art. 9 of Legislative Decree n° 322/89; the regulation regarding the protection and processing of personal data is contained in the Legislative Decree n° 196 of 30 June 2003.

Foreign trade and import prices: data issue

Timeliness of release and revision of data

Data are published 45 days after the reference month. The release calendar is defined annually, and published on the Institute website: https://www.istat.it/en/information-and-services/journalists/press-releases-/press-calendar

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

The final data on import prices are instead released after 75 days. The dates of dissemination comply with the conditions required by Eurostat.

For more information on revisions to short-term indicators, see the specific section, relating to the revision policies of the foreign trade indicators and import prices.

Dissemination channels

- Data are disseminated through the monthly press release - the Flash Statistics "Foreign Trade and Import Prices" - released on the Istat website.

The updated time series are attached to the press release.

Data on the import prices are published in the Institute data warehouse IstatData within the *Prices* theme-*Import prices.* Time series of indices in reference base 2021=100 are available since January 2005.

Further foreign trade press releases:

- Foreign trade with non-EU countries
- Exports of Italian regions

Data are transmitted to Eurostat on a monthly basis and available at http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database (Theme *Industry, trade and services*, topic *Short-term business statistics (sts)/Industry (sts_ind)*).

International trade data are available on Coeweb (https://www.coeweb.istat.it/) in the month following the press release.

International trade data are also available on External Trade Statistics (https://esploradati.istat.it/coeweb/databrowser/#/en), the new data warehouse entirely devoted to foreign trade statistics that will replace Coeweb.

The last update of Coeweb will take place on 11 September 2025. Coeweb will be closed down on 30 September 2025. From 1 October 2025, international trade statistics will be available exclusively on the new data warehouse External Trade Statistics.

On a monthly basis, detailed data on trade of goods between Italy and the rest of the world, information and time series since 1991 are provided. Time series of unit value and volume indices for foreign trade in reference base 2021=100 are available since January 1996.

Insights (only Italian version available)

- Methodology adopted for foreign trade indices calculation Nota Informativa 25/02/2008
- Statistical production system for international trade in natural gas and electric energy Nota informativa 15/11/2011
- The start of import prices survey Nota Informativa 24/02/2014
- The reconstruction of the time series on import prices for the period of January 2005 - December 2009 Nota Informativa 16/10/2015
- New reference year, 2015=100, in import price indices Nota informativa 17/05/2018
- Fixed base chain-linking changeover, in import price indices Nota informativa 20/04/2022
- December 2022 calculation base, in import price indices Nota informativa 18/04/2023
- New reference year, 2021=100 and December 2023 calculation base, in import price indices Nota informativa 16/04/2024
- December 2024 calculation base, in import price indices Nota informativa 18/03/2025

For technical and methodological information

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