Belgium's trade relations with

ALBANIA

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Belgian
Foreign Trade Agency

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1 Importance of Belgium and the other EU countries in trade with Albania

1.1 Exports

Total exports of goods from the European Union (EU-27) to Albania accounted for about €4.7 billion in 2025. **Belgium represented a 1.3% share of this, making it the 15th most important EU exporter of goods to Albania.** Italy was by far the leading exporter of goods to Albania among all EU countries, with a 39.0% share and an export value of just over €1.8 billion. In addition, Greece and Germany claimed second and third place in this ranking, with shares of 19.4% and 9.8%, respectively.

While the value of European (EU-27) exports to Albania in 2025 was 3.5% (€-170.1 million) lower than a year earlier, Belgian exports declined even more, by 4.8% (€-3.0 million). Consequently, Belgium's share of EU goods exports to Albania decreased in 2025.

Italian exports of goods to Albania witnessed a drop of 3.6% (€-67.0 million) in 2025 due partly to lower values for the subcategories 'light oils and preparations', 'prefabricated buildings' and 'medium and heavy oils'. Furthermore, Greek exports of goods to Albania grew by 3.6% (€+31.6 million), largely because of increased exports of 'electrical energy' and 'men's or boys' garments'. In addition, German exports of goods to Albania decreased slightly by 0.4% (€-1.8 million).

Table 1: Evolution of exports to Albania

	In million €	2024	2025	Variation (in %)	Share (in %)
1	**Italy**	1,885.8	1,818.8	-3.6	39.0
2	**Greece**	874.6	906.2	3.6	19.4
3	**Germany**	457.7	455.9	-0.4	9.8
	…				
15	**Belgium**	62.2	59.2	-4.8	1.3
	…				
	Total EU-27	**4,838.8**	**4,668.7**	**-3.5**	**100.0**

1.2 IMPORTS

Total EU imports of goods from Albania amounted to about €2.5 billion in 2025. **Belgium was the 19th largest EU importer of goods from Albania in 2025 with only a 0.2% share.** Italy was not only the number one exporter to Albania, but also the largest EU importer of goods from this country with a share of 56.2%, which corresponds to an amount of roughly €1.4 billion. Greece and Spain claimed the second and third place in this ranking with shares of 11.7% and 7.1%, respectively.

While European Union (EU-27) imports of goods from Albania increased by 0.9% (€+23.2 million) in 2025, Belgian imports from the country were down by 20.8% (€-1.1 million). As a result, Belgium's share of EU goods imports from Albania decreased in 2025.

Partly due to a decline in imports of 'virgin olive oil' and 'medium and heavy oils', Italian imports of goods from Albania were down by 2.2% (€-31.4 million) in 2025. Meanwhile, the decrease of Greek imports was 9.1% (€-29.5 million), which resulted in part from a lower value for 'electrical energy'. Furthermore, Spanish imports of goods from Albania grew by 40.0% (€+50.8 million), which can be attributed in part to a higher value for 'crude petroleum oils and crude oils obtained from bituminous minerals'.

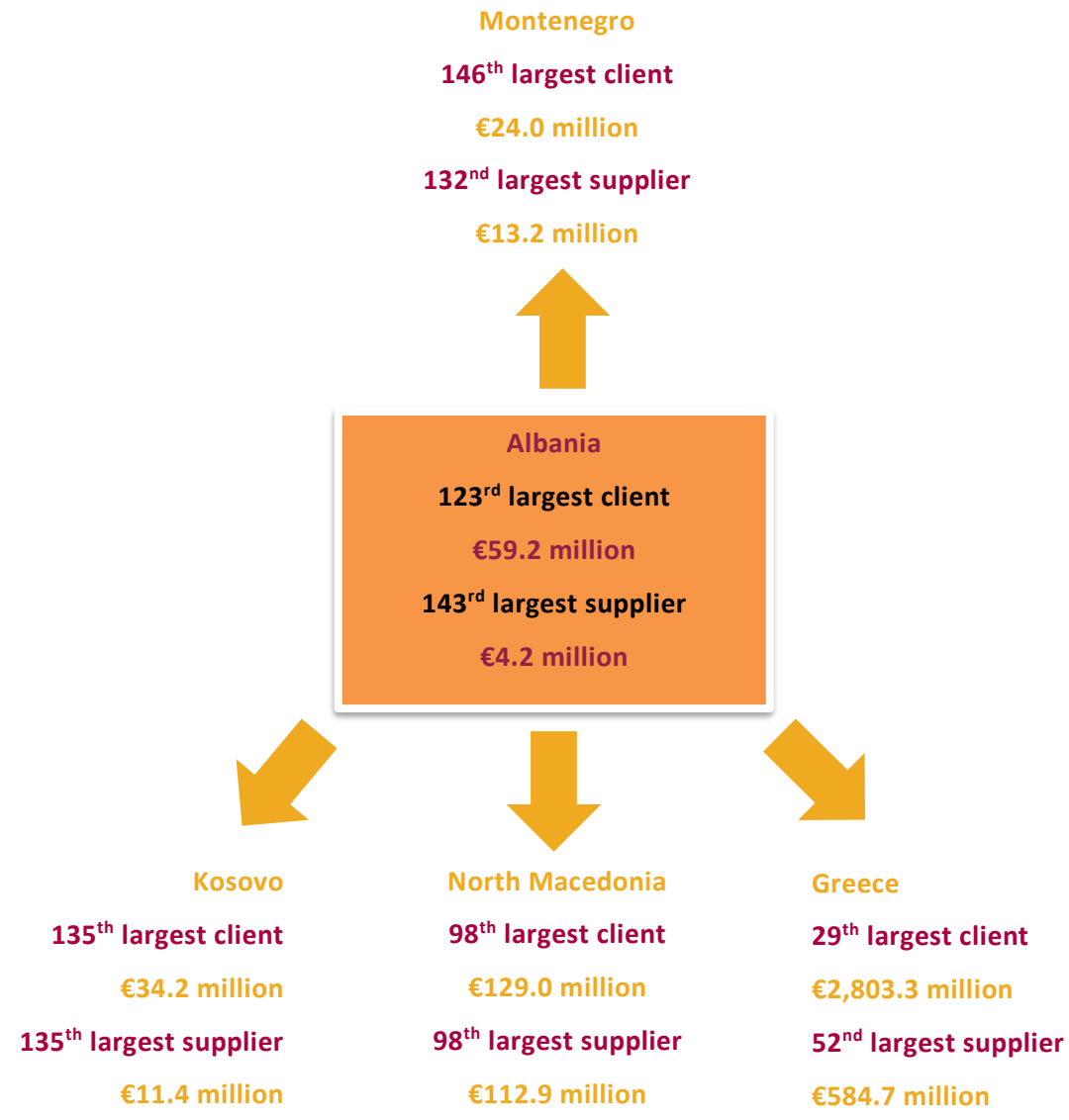
TABLE 2: EVOLUTION OF IMPORTS FROM ALBANIA

	In million €	2024	2025	Variation (in %)	Share (in %)
1	**Italy**	1,434.5	1,403.1	-2.2	56.2
2	**Greece**	322.3	292.8	-9.1	11.7
3	**Spain**	126.9	177.7	40.0	7.1
	…				
19	**Belgium**	5.3	4.2	-20.8	0.2
	…				
	Total EU-27	**2,473.5**	**2,496.7**	**0.9**	**100.0**

2 Importance of Albania and its neighbouring countries for Belgium's foreign trade (2025)

Client → Belgian exports

Supplier → Belgian imports



3 BILATERAL TRADE RELATIONS

3.1 TRADE IN GOODS

In 2025, Albania ranked **123rd** among Belgium's main clients, before Liberia, but after Rwanda.

Total Belgian **exports** of goods to Albania amounted to about **€59.2 million** in 2025, which is **4.8%** (€-3.0 million) less than the previous year.

Albania was Belgium's **143rd** largest supplier of goods in 2025, ranking after Yemen, but preceding Macao.

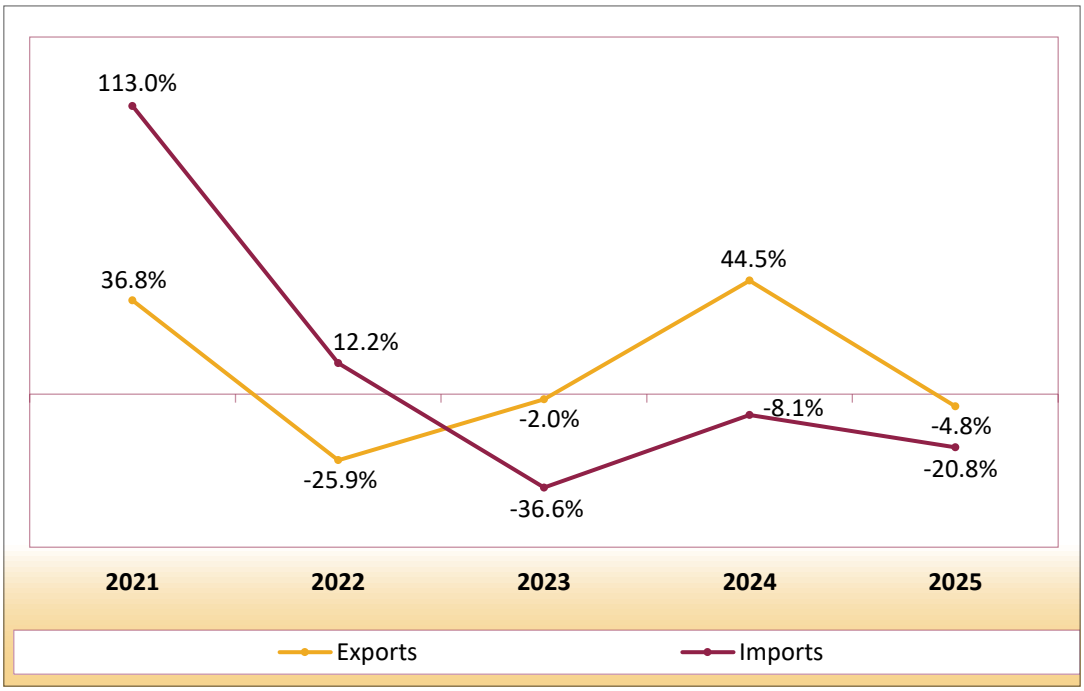
Total Belgian **imports** of goods from Albania were down by **20.8%** (€-1.1 million), falling to **€4.2 million** in 2025.

TABLE 3: EVOLUTION OF BELGIUM'S TRADE IN GOODS WITH ALBANIA

In million €	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Exports	59.3	44.0	43.1	62.2	59.2
Imports	8.0	9.0	5.7	5.3	4.2
Trade balance	51.3	35.0	37.4	56.9	55.0
Exports: variation (in %)	36.8	-25.9	-2.0	44.5	-4.8
Imports: variation (in %)	113.0	12.2	-36.6	-8.1	-20.8

Belgium has traditionally recorded a surplus on its **trade balance in goods** with Albania. The surplus, which amounted to €51.3 million in 2021, declined by €16.3 million a year later to €35.0 million, as the value of exports decreased while imports continued to grow. In 2023, the value of imports declined more sharply than that of exports, causing the surplus in Belgium's trade balance in goods with Albania to increase slightly to €37.4 million. In 2024, exports recovered significantly from their slump in the previous two years, while imports continued to decline, leading the surplus to grow further to €56.9 million - the highest level of the period under review. Finally, in 2025, imports fell for the third consecutive year; however, as exports declined by a larger margin, the surplus on Belgium's trade balance in goods with Albania decreased to €55.0 million.

FIGURE 1: VARIATION OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS (IN %)



After total Belgian **exports** of goods to Albania increased by 36.8% in 2021, driven in part by the chemical and pharmaceutical products category, exports declined by 25.9% and 2.0% in 2022 and 2023, respectively, as the value of this category decreased significantly. Then, in 2024, exports of, among others, foodstuffs, base metals, and machinery and equipment - the three main categories - all grew, leading total exports to soar by 44.5%. Finally, in 2025, exports of base metals continued to grow; however, this was insufficient to offset declines in the foodstuffs and machinery and equipment categories, among others, resulting in a 4.8% decrease in total Belgian exports of goods to Albania.

Driven by the categories of mineral products and textiles, total Belgian **imports** of goods from Albania more than doubled in 2021, growing by 113.0%. This was followed by further import growth of 12.2% in 2022, supported by base metals, machinery and equipment, and miscellaneous manufactured articles. However, the value of the latter two categories declined in 2023, contributing to an overall decrease of 36.6%. Although imports of base metals rose significantly in 2024, total imports still fell by 8.1%, which can be attributed, among other factors, to the continued decline in imports of miscellaneous manufactured articles. Finally, in 2025, the base metals category could not sustain the increase recorded the previous year, and its decline contributed to a 20.8% overall fall in total Belgian imports of goods from Albania.

3.1.1 Exports

In 2025, **foodstuffs** took the leading position in total Belgian exports of goods to Albania. At €13.3 million, this group of products represented a 22.4% share of total exports. This section was mainly composed of 'cane or beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose, in solid form', 'potatoes' and 'chocolate and other food preparations containing cocoa'.

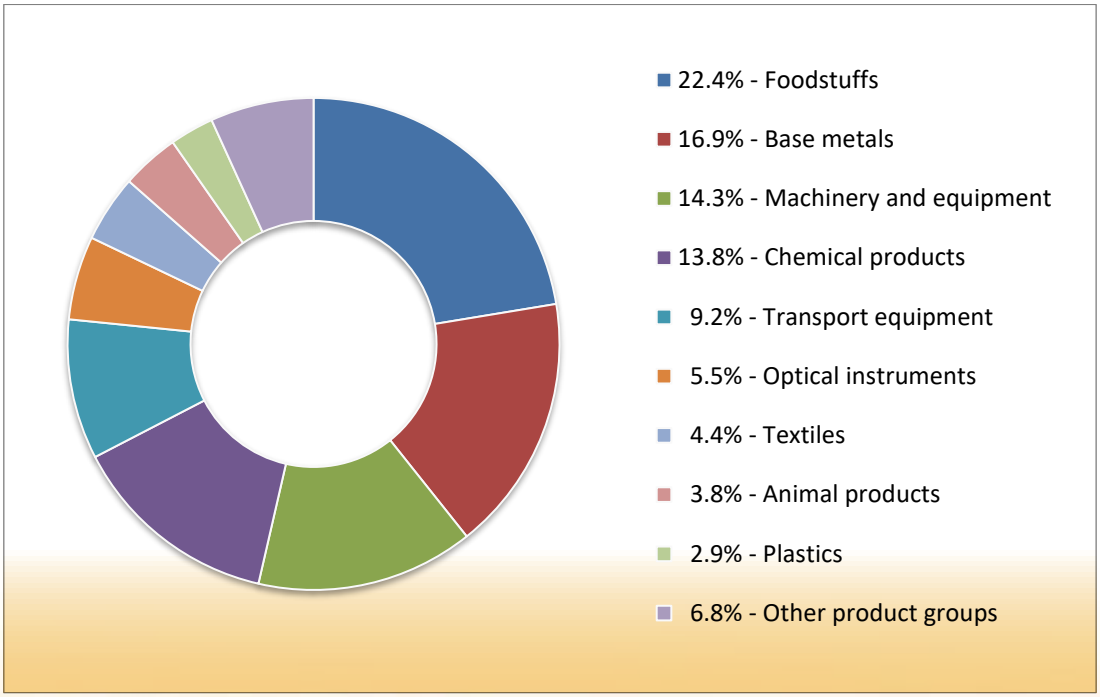
Exports of **base metals** (main subsections: 'lead powders and flakes' and 'unwrought zinc') amounted to €10.0 million, representing a 16.9% share.

Machinery and equipment (main subsection: 'machinery with a 360° revolving superstructure') completed the top three of largest sections in exports of goods to Albania with a share of 14.3% and an export value of €8.5 million.

There were three other product groups that also accounted for a share of more than 5.0% of Belgian exports of goods to Albania. These sections were:

- **chemical and pharmaceutical products**: €8.2 million, corresponding to a share of 13.8%;
- **transport equipment**: €5.5 million, corresponding to a share of 9.2%; and
- **optical, precision and medical instruments**: €3.3 million, corresponding to a share of 5.5%.

Figure 2: Breakdown of Belgian exports to Albania by principal commodities (in %) — 2025



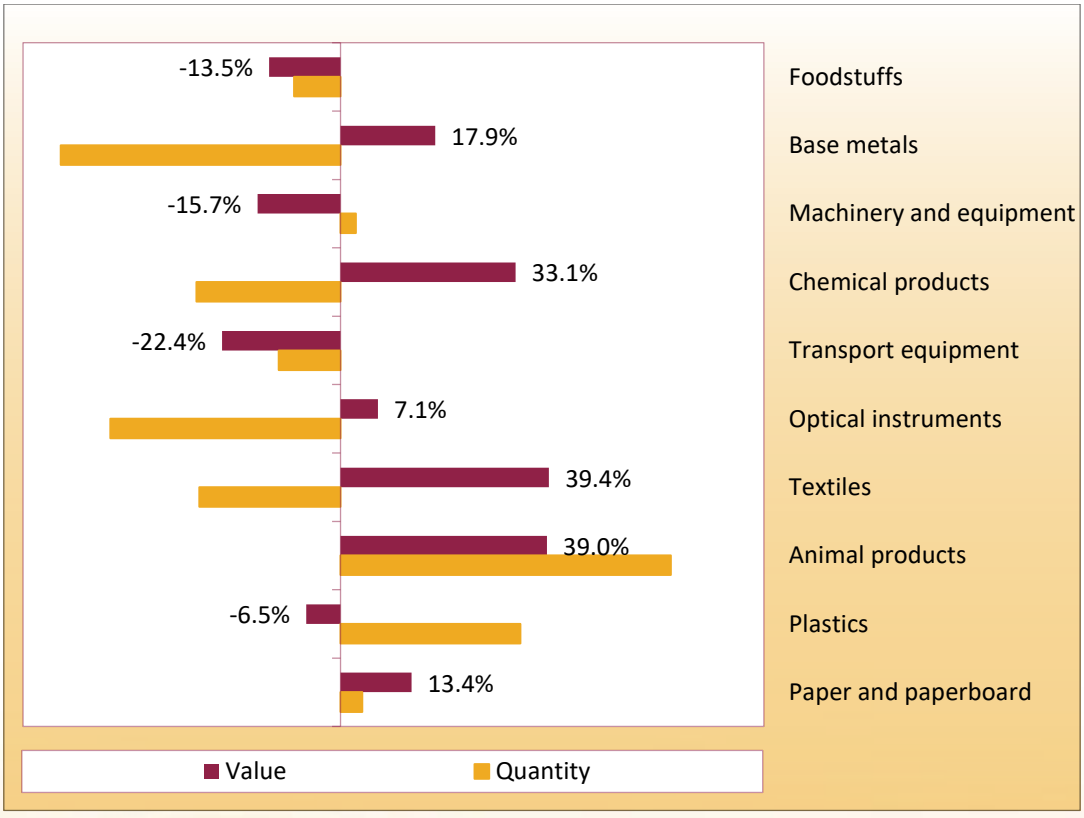
The main reasons for the 4.8% decrease in total Belgian exports of goods to Albania were the lower values of **foodstuffs**, as well as **mineral products**. Exports in the former category were down by €2.1 million (-13.5%) in 2025, which can be attributed to the lower value for 'cane or beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose, in solid form'. Meanwhile, the value of mineral products dropped by 64.7% (€-1.6 million) due to lower exports of 'petroleum coke, non-calcined' and 'medium and heavy oils'. As a result, mineral products were no longer among the top ten largest export categories.

The three other product groups from the top ten whose export value decreased recorded negative growth ranging from 6.5% for **plastics** to 22.4% for **transport equipment**. The fall of €1.6 million in the latter product group can partly be attributed to the lower values of 'road tractors for semi trailers' and 'motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons'.

While the value of **textiles** was up by 39.4% (€+730,100) due partly to the subcategory 'garments, knitted or crocheted, of man-made fibres', the exported quantity moved in the opposite direction. This decline can be attributed to the subcategories 'worn clothing and other worn articles' and 'carpets and other textile floor coverings (including turf), tufted, whether or not made up'. However, these particular subsections had very little impact on the overall value trend.

The five other product groups among the top ten that recorded an increase in exports in 2025 reported growth rates ranging from 7.1% for **optical, precision and medical instruments** to 39.0% for **animal products**. The rise in the latter category, amounting to €629,700, can be attributed, among other factors, to the subsections 'butter', 'milk and cream, not concentrated nor containing added sugar or other sweetening matter' and 'cuts and offal of poultry, frozen'.

FIGURE 3: VARIATION OF EXPORTS TO ALBANIA BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES (IN VALUE AND QUANTITY) — 2025/2024



3.1.2 IMPORTS

In 2025, the **mineral products** category, which was composed mainly of 'zinc ores and concentrates' and 'butanes', took the top position in total Belgian imports of goods from Albania with €1.3 million, giving this group of products a share of 30.4%.

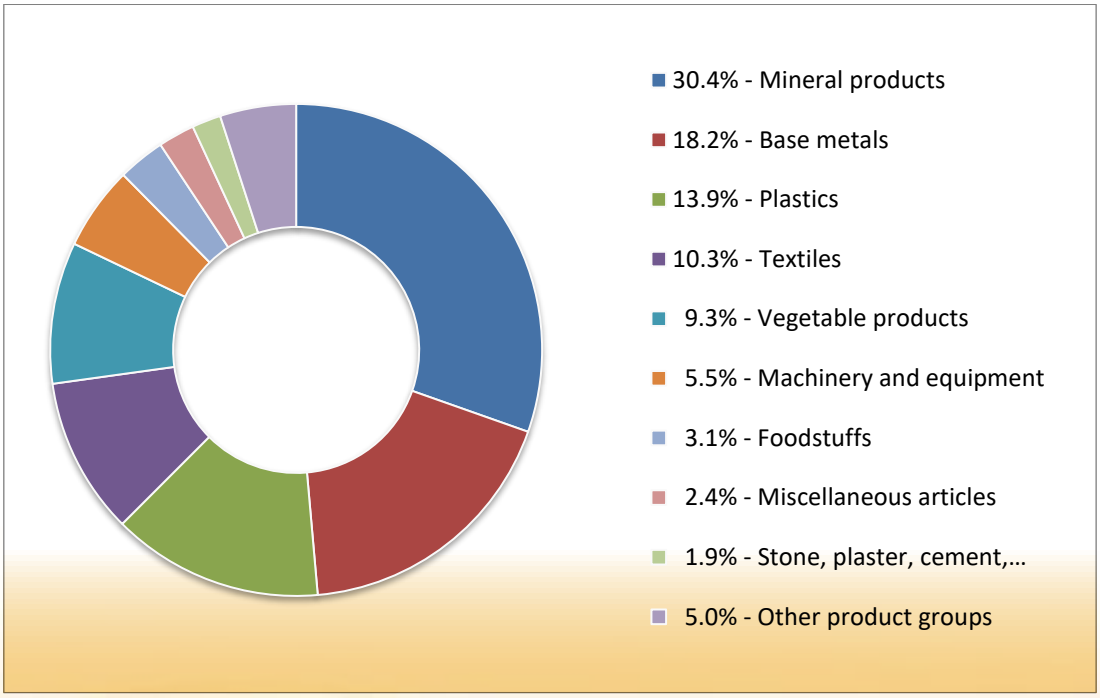
Base metals (main subsections: 'aluminium doors, windows and their frames and thresholds for doors' and 'refined lead') accounted for an 18.2% share of total imports, totalling €756,700.

The **plastics** heading completed the top three of main sections in Belgian imports of goods from Albania. This group of products, which was mainly composed of 'doors, windows and their frames and thresholds for doors of plastics', accounted for a share of 13.9% and an amount of €579,500.

Three other product groups also accounted for a share of more than 5.0% of Belgian imports of goods from Albania. These sections were:

- **textiles**: €428,400, corresponding to a share of 10.3%;
- **vegetable products**: €387,900, corresponding to a share of 9.3%; and
- **machinery and equipment**: €230,100, corresponding to a share of 5.5%.

FIGURE 4: BREAKDOWN OF BELGIAN IMPORTS FROM ALBANIA BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES (IN %) — 2025



The 20.8% decline in total Belgian imports of goods from Albania in 2025 was mainly driven by the **base metals** category, which fell by 66.2%. The value of this category decreased by €1.5 million, largely as a result of lower imports of 'structures and parts of structures (for example, bridges and bridge-sections, lock-gates, towers, lattice masts, roofs, roofing frameworks, doors and windows and their frames and thresholds for doors, shutters, balustrades, pillars and columns), of iron or steel; plates, rods, angles, shapes, sections, tubes and the like, prepared for use in structures, of iron or steel'.

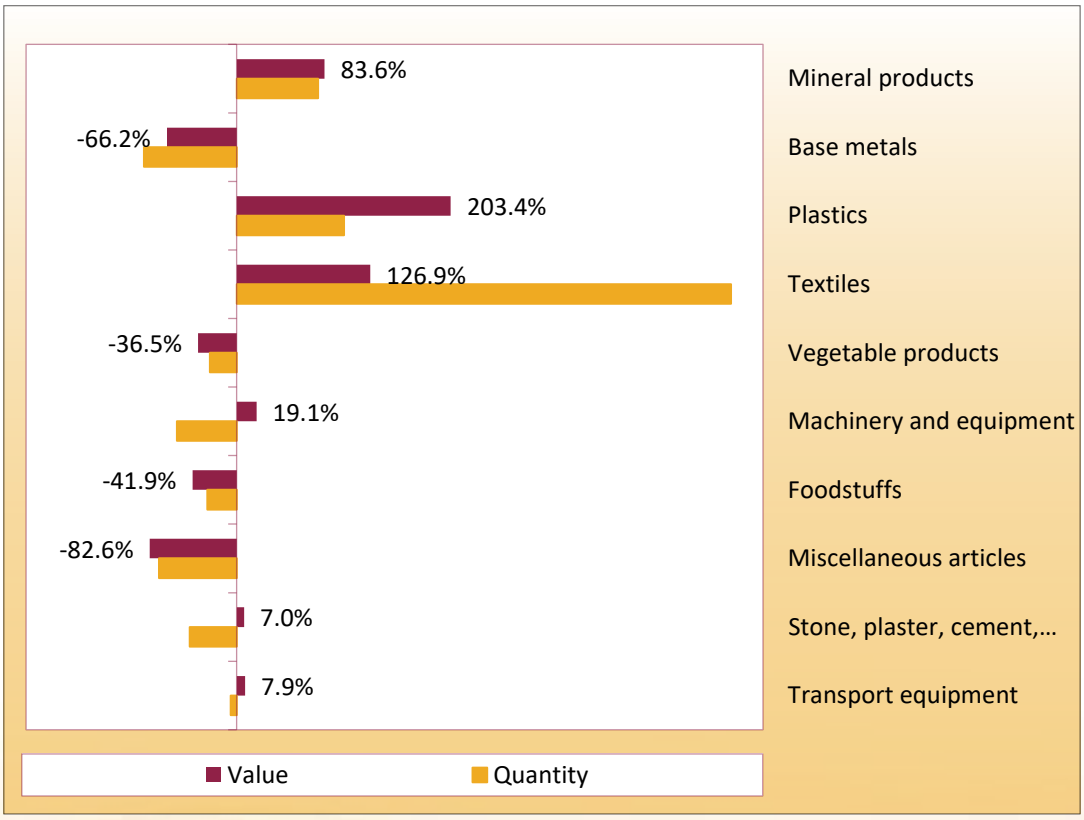
The three other product groups from the top ten whose import value decreased recorded negative growth ranging from 36.5% for **vegetable products** to 82.6% for **miscellaneous manufactured articles**. The fall of €466,700 in the latter product group can partly be attributed to the lower imports of 'upholstered seats with wooden frames'.

In contrast, imports of **mineral products** grew by 83.6% (€+576,000), which can largely be attributed to the subcategory 'zinc ores and concentrates'.

While the value of **textiles** increased by 126.9% (€+239,600), partly due to the subcategory 'sacks and bags, of a kind used for the packing of goods', the imported quantity grew significantly faster, indicating that the unit price for this category of goods was lower in 2025 than in the previous year.

The four other product groups among the top ten that recorded an increase in imports in 2025 reported growth rates ranging from 7.0% for **stone, plaster, cement,…** to 203.4% for **plastics**. The rise in the latter category, amounting to €388,500, can be attributed, among other factors, to the subsection 'doors, windows and their frames and thresholds for doors of plastics'.

FIGURE 5: VARIATION OF IMPORTS FROM ALBANIA BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES (IN VALUE AND QUANTITY) — 2025/2024



3.2 TRADE IN SERVICES

The value of Belgian exports of services to Albania was up by **25.6%** (€+8.0 million) in 2025, increasing to about **€39.2 million**. As a result, Albania moved up to the **86th** place on the list of Belgium's largest service clients, ranking after Uzbekistan and before Liberia.

Belgian imports of services from Albania accounted for a value of **€50.3 million** in 2025, corresponding to an **8.8%** (€+4.0 million) increase compared to the year before. Albania was Belgium's **73rd** largest supplier of services in 2025, ranking before Moldova, but after Colombia.

TABLE 4: EVOLUTION OF BELGIUM'S TRADE IN SERVICES WITH ALBANIA

In million €	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Exports	18.6	23.5	27.1	31.2	39.2
Imports	17.8	27.0	29.2	46.3	50.3
Trade balance	0.8	-3.5	-2.1	-15.1	-11.1
Exports: variation (in %)	3.0	26.3	15.1	15.1	25.6
Imports: variation (in %)	26.1	51.4	8.1	58.7	8.8

Belgium's imports of services from Albania have been consistently higher than its exports since 2022. As a result, the services balance with this country showed a deficit to Belgium's detriment each year from 2022 to 2025. The last time Belgian exports of services exceeded imports from Albania was in 2021.

The surplus on Belgium's **services trade balance** with Albania amounted to €0.8 million in 2021 and subsequently turned into a €3.5 million deficit a year later, as import growth outpaced that of exports. In 2023, this trend was partly reversed, with exports growing more than imports, which reduced the deficit to €2.1 million. Both exports and imports continued to grow in 2024 and 2025. In 2024, imports increased more than exports, which led to the trade deficit reaching its highest level of the period under review, at €15.1 million. Finally, in 2025, exports increased more than imports, resulting in the deficit in Belgium's services trade balance with Albania narrowing to €11.1 million.

The services balance contrasted with the goods balance over the period 2022–2025, as the latter was consistently in Belgium's favor during these years.

3.2.1 EXPORTS

In 2025, the **telecommunications, computer and information services** section led Belgian exports of services to Albania with a value of €27.4 million and a 69.9% share. **Other business services**, which include 'merchanting', 'operational leasing services', 'legal services', 'accounting, auditing, bookkeeping, and tax consultancy services', 'advertising, market research, and public opinion polling' and 'waste treatment and depollution', took second place with a 15.6% share, while the **travel services** section completed the top three with a 7.0% share.

The higher values for **telecommunications, computer and information services** and **other business services** were the main reasons why total Belgian exports of services to Albania grew by 25.6% in 2025. Exports of the former section recorded a 22.9% (€+5.1 million) increase. Meanwhile, the value of the latter category rose by 65.9%, from €3.7 million to €6.1 million.

Furthermore, the value of **personal, cultural and recreational services** was up by 15.0% (€+164,000). This category encompasses the cross-border exchange of activities related to arts, media, heritage, and entertainment. As a rapidly growing segment of the global economy, this trade facilitates the worldwide export and import of creative outputs, digital content, and interactive experiences.

The positive evolution of these three service categories, together with the **other remaining services** (+84.6%, or €+488,000), offset the fall in exports among the two other service groups from the top five. While the decline of **travel services** was limited to 4.6% (€-133,000), exports of **royalties and licence fees** were down by 7.8% (€-52,000). This category includes payments made between parties in different countries for the right to use, reproduce, or distribute intellectual property (IP).

TABLE 5: BELGIAN EXPORTS TO ALBANIA BY PRINCIPAL SERVICES

In million €	2024	2025	2025/2024 Var. (in %)	2025 Share (in %)
Telecommunications, computer and information services	22.3	27.4	22.9	69.9
Other business services	3.7	6.1	65.9	15.6
Travel services	2.9	2.8	-4.6	7.0
Personal, cultural and recreational services	1.1	1.3	15.0	3.2
Royalties and licence fees	0.7	0.6	-7.8	1.6
Other remaining services	0.6	1.1	84.6	2.7
Total	**31.2**	**39.2**	**25.6**	**100.0**

3.2.2 IMPORTS

The **travel services** section was the largest category in Belgian **imports** of services from Albania, with a value of €30.8 million and a 61.2% share. **Personal, cultural and recreational services** and **telecommunications, computer and information services** completed the top three with shares of 16.3% and 11.3%, respectively.

The higher value for **travel services** was the main reason for the 8.8% increase in total Belgian imports of services from Albania. Imports in this particular category rose by 16.0% (€+4.3 million), which implies increased spending by Belgian tourists and businesspeople during their stays in Albania.

Meanwhile, imports of **telecommunications, computer and information services**, which were good for €5.4 million in 2024, rose by 4.5% in 2025 to €5.7 million.

Furthermore, imports of **transportation services** were up by 3.4% (€+16,000). This category includes all services provided by residents of one economy to residents of another economy that involve the transport of persons, the movement of goods (freight), the rental (charter) of vehicles with crew and related support services.

The increase in imports in each of the three aforementioned service categories was more significant than the decline in imports of the **other remaining services** (-27.8%, or €-198,000) and of two other categories in the top five. The value of **personal, cultural and recreational services** decreased by 0.9% (€-71,000), while imports of **other business services** recorded a decline of 4.0% (€-195,000).

TABLE 6: BELGIAN IMPORTS FROM ALBANIA BY PRINCIPAL SERVICES

In million €	2024	2025	2025/2024 Var. (in %)	2025 Share (in %)
Travel services	26.5	30.8	16.0	61.2
Personal, cultural and recreational services	8.3	8.2	-0.9	16.3
Telecommunications, computer and information services	5.4	5.7	4.5	11.3
Other business services	4.9	4.7	-4.0	9.3
Transportation services	0.5	0.5	3.4	1.0
Other remaining services	0.7	0.5	-27.8	1.0
Total	**46.3**	**50.3**	**8.8**	**100.0**

4 Economic indicators for Albania

Economic structure (2025 - estimates)	
GDP	$30.3 billion
GDP growth rate	3.7%
Inflation rate	2.2%
Exports of goods (2024 - FOB)	$4.0 billion
Imports of goods (2024 - FOB)	$9.6 billion
Trade balance (2024)	$-5.6 billion
Population	2.7 million
Unemployment rate	8.7%
Main clients (2024): % of total	
Italy	43.7
Serbia	12.1
Greece	6.3
Main suppliers (2024): % of total	
Italy	21.2
China	10.9
Türkiye	10.8
Main exports (2024): % of total	
Parts of footwear, incl. uppers whether or not attached to soles other than outer soles; removable in-soles, heel cushions and similar articles; gaiters, leggings and similar articles, and parts thereof (excl. articles of asbestos)	6.7
Men's or boys' suits, ensembles, jackets, blazers, trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts (excl. knitted or crocheted, wind-jackets and similar articles, separate waistcoats, tracksuits, ski suits and swimwear)	4.9
Footwear with outer soles of rubber, plastics, leather or composition leather and uppers of leather (excl. orthopaedic footwear, skating boots with ice or roller skates attached, and toy footwear)	4.0
Main imports (2024): % of total	
Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons, including station wagons and racing cars	7.4
Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals (excl. crude)	5.9
Medicaments consisting of mixed or unmixed products for therapeutic or prophylactic uses, put up in measured doses "incl. those for transdermal administration" or in forms or packings for retail sale	2.7

Sources: IMF + International Trade Centre

5 INDEX OF THE UNIT PRICE FOR IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

The table below gives an overview of the development of the index of the unit price for imports and exports for Belgium (with the world).

This index facilitates an analysis of the general development of the price of goods. This makes it possible to consider the global development of Belgian imports and exports in perspective by determining the part that is caused by price developments (and hence which part is caused by a change in quantity).

The table has to be interpreted as follows:
If a given product had an export value of €100 in the year 2021, then this product had an average value of €122.2 in 2025. The same principle applies to imports. If a particular product had an import value of €100 in 2021, the same product then had an import value of €122.2 in 2025.

TABLE 7: INDEX OF THE UNIT VALUE OF TOTAL BELGIAN EXPORTS AND IMPORTS (2021=100)

	Export	Import
2016	80.3	78.1
2017	84.7	83.8
2018	87.9	88.7
2019	89.9	91.2
2020	89.9	89.0
2021	100.0	100.0
2022	126.9	129.2
2023	119.6	118.6
2024	119.5	120.0
2025	122.2	122.2

6 Sources

World Bank — www.worldbank.org

National Bank of Belgium — www.bnb.be

Credendo — www.credendo.com

CIA World factbook — www.cia.gov

Directorate-General Commerce, European Commission — http://ec.europa.eu/trade

Eurostat, European Commission — http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat

World Trade Organization — www.wto.org

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