Belgium's trade relations with

KOSOVO

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

1.1 Exports

Total exports of goods from the European Union (EU-27) to Kosovo accounted for about €2.4 billion in 2025. **Belgium represented a 1.4% share of this, making it the 15th most important EU exporter of goods to Kosovo.** Germany was the leading exporter of goods to Kosovo among all EU countries, with a 19.0% share and an export value of €448.8 million. In addition, Slovenia and Italy claimed second and third place in this ranking, with shares of 12.7% and 10.5%, respectively.

While the value of European exports (EU-27) to Kosovo in 2025 was 6.1% (€+136.3 million) higher than a year earlier, Belgian exports were up by only 1.2% (€+391,800). Consequently, Belgium's share of EU goods exports to Kosovo decreased in 2025.

German exports of goods to Kosovo witnessed a rise of 9.4% (€+38.7 million) in 2025 due partly to exports of 'parts of steam turbines and other vapour turbines' and 'wind-powered generating sets', both of which weren't exported to Kosovo in 2024. Furthermore, Slovenian exports of goods to Kosovo grew by 9.8% (€+26.8 million), largely because of increased exports of 'live bovine animals', 'prepared or preserved meat, meat offal, blood or insects of fowls' and 'medicaments consisting of mixed or unmixed products for therapeutic or prophylactic uses, put up in measured doses (including those in the form of transdermal administration systems) or in forms or packings for retail sale'. In addition, Italian exports of goods to Kosovo were down slightly by 0.1% (€-155,600).

Table 1: Evolution of exports to Kosovo

	In million €	2024	2025	Variation (in %)	Share (in %)
1	**Germany**	410.1	448.8	9.4	19.0
2	**Slovenia**	274.8	301.6	9.8	12.7
3	**Italy**	249.4	249.2	-0.1	10.5
	…				
15	**Belgium**	33.8	34.2	1.2	1.4
	…				
	Total EU-27	**2,230.1**	**2,366.4**	**6.1**	**100.0**

1.2 IMPORTS

Total EU imports of goods from Kosovo amounted to about €314.6 million in 2025. **Belgium was the 9th largest EU importer of goods from Kosovo in 2025 with a 3.6% share.** Germany was not only the number one exporter to Kosovo, but also the largest EU importer of goods from this country with a share of 34.2%, which corresponds to an amount of €107.7 million. Italy and the Netherlands claimed the second and third place in this ranking with shares of 8.7% and 8.1%, respectively.

While European Union (EU-27) imports of goods from Kosovo decreased only marginally by 0.5% (€-1.5 million) in 2025, Belgian imports from the country declined much more sharply, falling by 30.1% (€-4.9 million). As a result, Belgium's share of EU goods imports from Kosovo decreased in 2025.

Partly due to a rise in imports of 'doors, windows and their frames and thresholds for doors of iron or steel' and 'doors, windows and their frames and thresholds for doors of plastics', German imports of goods from Kosovo increased by 8.5% (€+8.5 million) in 2025. Meanwhile, the decline of Italian imports was 19.6% (€-6.7 million), which resulted in part from lower values for 'doors, windows and their frames and thresholds for doors of plastics' and 'soap and organic surface-active products and preparations, in the form of bars, cakes, moulded pieces or shapes, and paper, wadding, felt and nonwovens, impregnated, coated or covered with soap or detergent for toilet use (including medicated products)'. Furthermore, Dutch imports of goods from Kosovo were up by 2.2% (€+546,000).

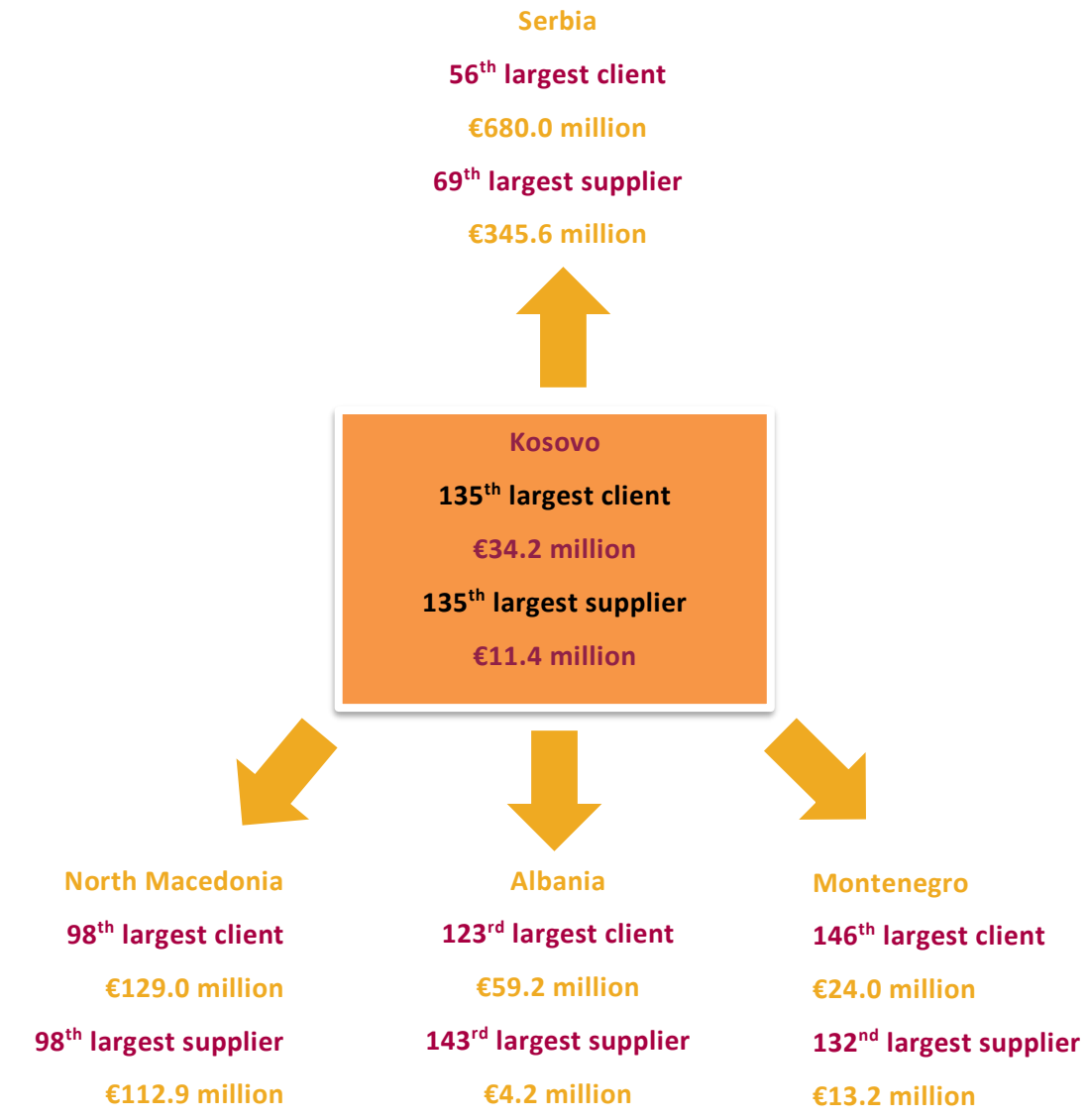
TABLE 2: EVOLUTION OF IMPORTS FROM KOSOVO

In million €		2024	2025	Variation (in %)	Share (in %)
1	**Germany**	99.3	107.7	8.5	34.2
2	**Italy**	34.2	27.5	-19.6	8.7
3	**Netherlands**	24.8	25.4	2.2	8.1
	…				
9	**Belgium**	16.4	11.4	-30.1	3.6
	…				
	Total EU-27	**316.1**	**314.6**	**-0.5**	**100.0**

2 Importance of Kosovo 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, Kosovo ranked **135th** among Belgium's main clients, before Malawi, but after Bolivia.

Total Belgian **exports** of goods to Kosovo amounted to **€34.2 million** in 2025, which is **1.2%** (€+391,800) more than the previous year.

Kosovo was also Belgium's **135th** largest supplier of goods in 2025, ranking after the Bahamas, but preceding Rwanda.

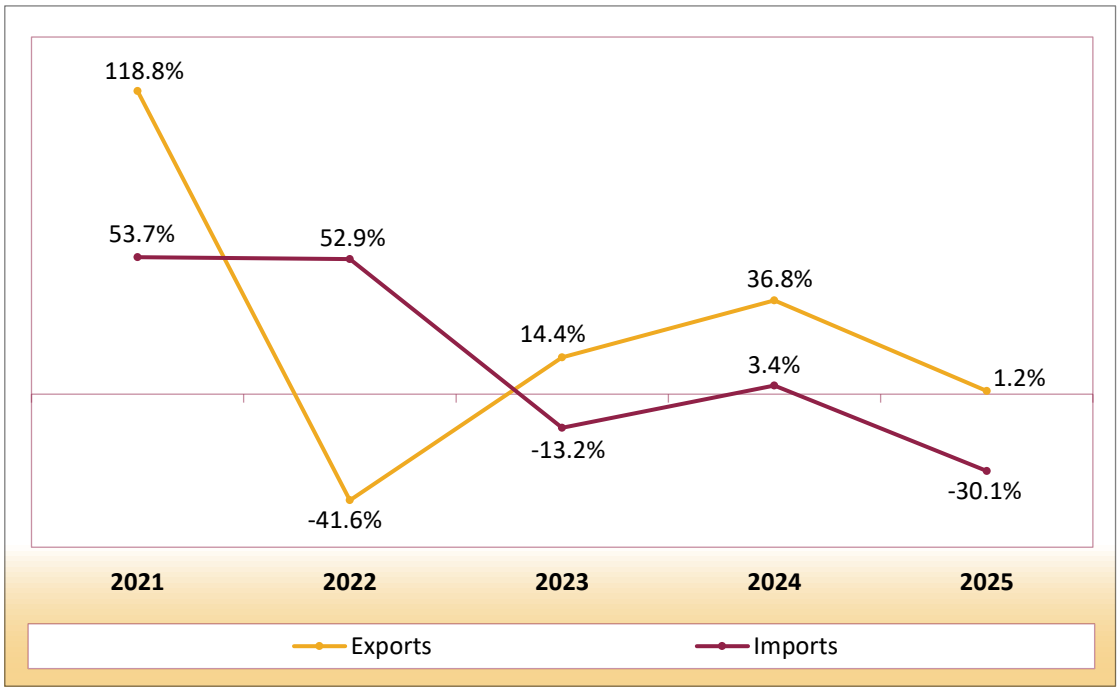
Total Belgian **imports** of goods from Kosovo were down by **30.1%** (€-5.0 million), falling to **€11.4 million** in 2025.

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

In million €	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Exports	37.0	21.6	24.7	33.8	34.2
Imports	11.9	18.2	15.8	16.4	11.4
Trade balance	25.1	3.4	8.9	17.4	22.8
Exports: variation (in %)	118.8	-41.6	14.4	36.8	1.2
Imports: variation (in %)	53.7	52.9	-13.2	3.4	-30.1

Belgium has traditionally recorded a surplus on its **trade balance in goods** with Kosovo. The surplus, which amounted to €25.1 million in 2021, fell to just €3.4 million a year later, as exports decreased significantly while imports rose by more than half. However, the situation reversed in 2023, as exports recovered somewhat from their slump the previous year and imports moved in the opposite direction. As a result, the surplus increased to €8.9 million. As export growth subsequently outpaced import growth in 2024, the surplus continued to rise, reaching €17.4 million. Finally, in 2025, exports increased for the third consecutive year, while imports fell to their lowest level over the period under review, resulting in the surplus on Belgium's trade balance in goods with Kosovo rising further to €22.8 million.

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



In 2021, Belgian **exports** to Kosovo grew by 118.8%, driven by higher values for transport equipment, and chemical and pharmaceutical products. However, exports of both product groups declined a year later, leading to a 41.6% drop in total exports. The value of transport equipment subsequently recovered in 2023 and 2024 and, together with increased exports of, among other things, foodstuffs, contributed to the recovery in total exports during these two years, which grew by 14.4% and 36.8%, respectively. Both product categories continued to expand in 2025, but lower values for chemical and pharmaceutical products, and plastics limited the overall growth of total Belgian exports of goods to Kosovo to just 1.2%.

While in 2021 and 2022 higher values for plastics and precious metals and stones partly drove total Belgian **imports** of goods from Kosovo up by 53.7% and 52.9%, respectively, the subsequent 13.2% decline recorded in 2023 can largely be attributed to the fact that the precious metals and stones category did not sustain the growth observed during the previous two years. The 3.4% increase that followed in 2024 was partly due to higher values for the vegetable products category, but this upward momentum was not sustained in 2025, as lower imports of plastics were largely responsible for the 30.1% drop in total Belgian imports of goods from Kosovo that year.

3.1.1 EXPORTS

In 2025, **transport equipment** took the leading position in total Belgian exports of goods to Kosovo. At around €7.5 million, this group of products represented a 21.9% share of total exports. This section mainly comprised 'motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons', specifically petrol and diesel cars.

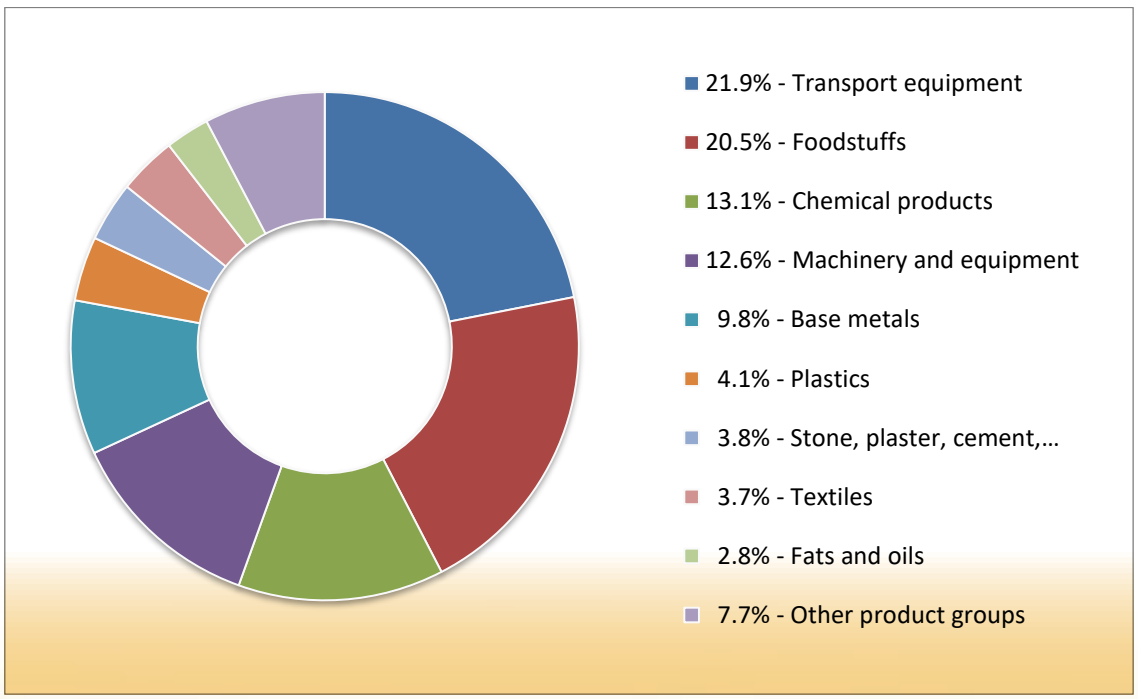
Exports of **foodstuffs** (main subsections: 'potatoes', 'cane or beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose, in solid form' and 'bread, pastry, cakes, biscuits and other bakers' wares, whether or not containing cocoa; communion wafers, empty cachets of a kind suitable for pharmaceutical use, sealing wafers, rice paper and similar products') amounted to €7.0 million, representing a 20.5% share.

Chemical and pharmaceutical products (main subsections: 'medicaments consisting of mixed or unmixed products for therapeutic or prophylactic uses, put up in measured doses (including those in the form of transdermal administration systems) or in forms or packings for retail sale', 'vaccines for human medicine' and 'anti-freezing preparations and prepared de-icing fluids') completed the top three of largest sections in exports of goods to Kosovo with a share of 13.1% and an export value of €4.5 million.

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

- **machinery and equipment**: €4.3 million, corresponding to a share of 12.6%; and
- **base metals**: €3.3 million, corresponding to a share of 9.8%.

FIGURE 2: BREAKDOWN OF BELGIAN EXPORTS TO KOSOVO BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES (IN %) — 2025



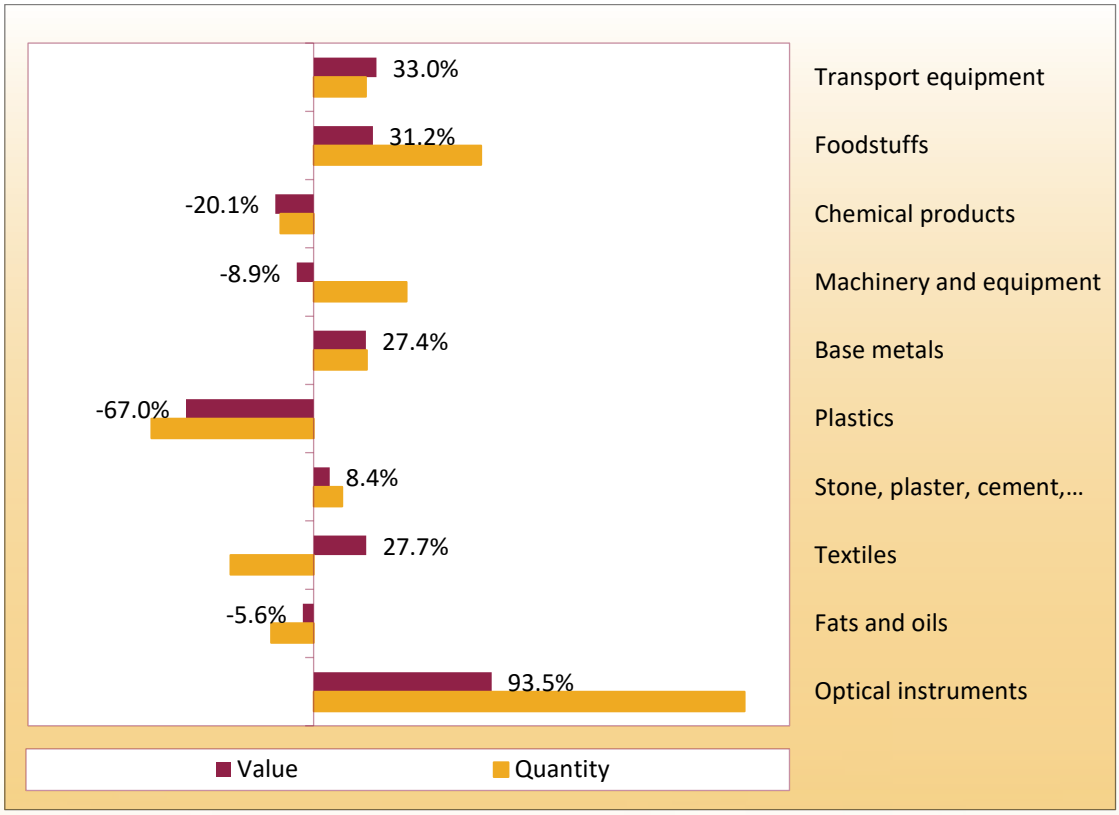
The main reasons for the 1.2% increase in total Belgian exports of goods to Kosovo were the higher values of **transport equipment**, as well as **foodstuffs**. Exports in the former category were up by €1.9 million (+33.0%) in 2025, which can be attributed to a higher value for 'vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons with only a spark-ignition internal combustion piston engine'. Meanwhile, the value of foodstuffs grew by 31.2% (€+1.7 million) due partly to higher exports of 'cane or beet sugar and chemically pure sucrose, in solid form'.

While the value of **optical, precision and medical instruments** was up by 93.5% (€+413,400) due partly to the subcategory 'ultrasonic scanning apparatus', the exported quantity grew significantly more because of the subsection 'mechano-therapy appliances; massage apparatus; psychological aptitude-testing apparatus'. However, the latter had limited impact on the overall value trend.

Stone, plaster, cement,… (+8.4%, or €+100,700), **base metals** (+27.4%, or €+717,300) and **textiles** (+27.7%, or €+273,400) were the three remaining product groups from the top ten whose exports were up. The increase in exports of the latter group can mainly be attributed to the subsection 'carpets and other floor coverings'.

In contrast, the four product groups from the top ten whose export value decreased recorded negative growth ranging from 5.6% for **fats and oils** to 67.0% for **plastics**. The fall of €2.8 million in the latter product group can partly be attributed to the lower value of 'polyacetals, other polyethers and epoxide resins, in primary forms' and 'waste, parings and scrap of polymers of ethylene'.

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



3.1.2 IMPORTS

In 2025, the **plastics** category, which was composed mainly of 'sacks and bags (including cones) of plastics', took the top position in total Belgian imports of goods from Kosovo with €5.6 million, giving this group of products a share of 49.0%.

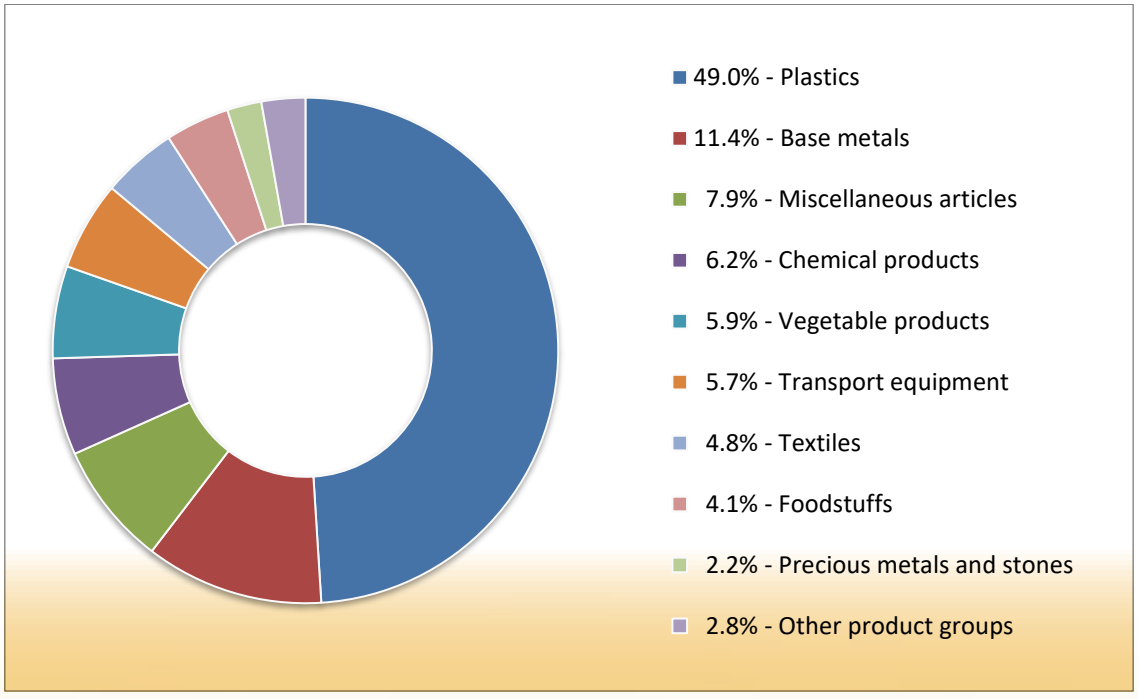
Base metals (main subsection: 'articles of aluminium') accounted for an 11.4% share of total imports, totalling €1.3 million.

The **miscellaneous manufactured articles** heading completed the top three of main sections in Belgian imports of goods from Kosovo. This group of products, which was mainly composed of 'upholstered seats with wooden frames', accounted for a share of 7.9% and an amount of €907,000.

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

- **chemical and pharmaceutical products**: €713,700, corresponding to a share of 6.2%;
- **vegetable products**: €671,600, corresponding to a share of 5.9%; and
- **transport equipment**: €653,000, corresponding to a share of 5.7%.

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

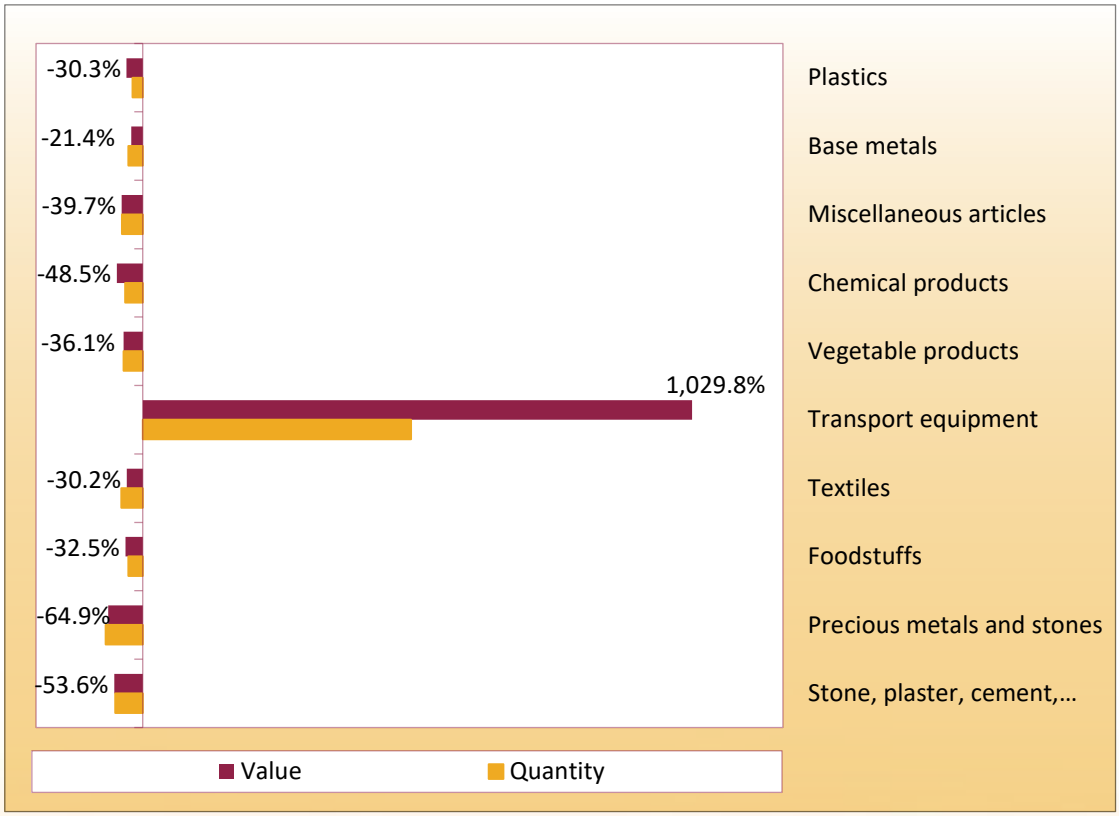


The 30.1% decline in total Belgian imports of goods from Kosovo in 2025 was mainly driven by the **plastics** category, which fell for the second consecutive year - this time by 30.3%, after dropping by 2.5% in 2024. The value of this category decreased by €2.4 million, largely as a result of lower imports of 'sacks and bags (including cones) of polymers of ethylene' and 'doors, windows and their frames and thresholds for doors of plastics'.

The eight other product groups among the top ten that recorded a decrease in imports in 2025 reported negative growth rates ranging from 21.4% for **base metals** to 64.9% for **precious metals and stones**. The fall in the latter category, amounting to €471,900, can be attributed, among other factors, to the subsection 'waste and scrap of platinum, including metal clad with platinum but excluding sweepings containing other precious metals'.

By contrast, **transport equipment** was the only category among the ten largest product groups in imports from Kosovo whose value increased. Growth in this category, amounting to €595,200 (+1,029.8%), was largely driven by higher imports of 'vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons with only a spark-ignition internal combustion piston engine of a cylinder capacity exceeding 3,000 cm^3'. The fact that its value increased significantly more than the imported quantity indicates that the unit value of these goods was higher in 2025 than in the previous year.

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



3.2 TRADE IN SERVICES

The value of Belgian exports of services to Kosovo was up by **34.1%** (€+5.0 million) in 2025, increasing to **€19.8 million**. This made Kosovo Belgium's **107th** largest client, after the Dominican Republic, but before the Republic of Congo.

Belgian imports of services from Kosovo accounted for a value of **€6.7 million** in 2025, corresponding to a **27.7%** (€+1.5 million) increase compared to the year before. Kosovo was Belgium's **133rd** largest supplier in 2025, ranking before Papua New Guinea, but after Togo.

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

X €1,000	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Exports	10,773	12,431	13,251	14,773	19,806
Imports	3,929	2,672	2,868	5,233	6,685
Trade balance	6,844	9,759	10,383	9,540	13,121
Exports: variation (in %)	34.6	15.4	6.6	11.5	34.1
Imports: variation (in %)	35.5	-32.0	7.3	82.5	27.7

Since Belgium's exports of services to Kosovo were consistently higher than its imports from 2021 to 2025, the services balance with this country showed a surplus in Belgium's favor every year during this period.

The surplus on Belgium's **services trade balance** with Kosovo amounted to €6.8 million in 2021 and subsequently increased to €9.8 million a year later, as exports continued to grow while imports moved in the opposite direction. Imports then began to recover in 2023 from their slump the previous year, but as exports grew at a faster rate than imports, the trade surplus rose further to €10.4 million. The situation reversed in 2024, with import growth outpacing that of exports, reducing the trade surplus to €9.5 million. In 2025, exports once again increased more than imports, leading the surplus in Belgium's trade in services with Kosovo to reach €13.1 million - the highest level of the period under review.

The services balance showed similarities with the goods balance from 2021 to 2025, as both were 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 Kosovo with a value of €16.5 million and an 83.5% 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 9.8% share, while the **travel services** section completed the top three with a 3.0% share.

A significantly higher value for **telecommunications, computer, and information services** was the main reason why total Belgian exports of services to Kosovo increased by 34.1% in 2025. Exports in this category grew by 51.2% (€+5.6 million) to €16.5 million.

Meanwhile, the value of **maintenance and repair services** increased by 6.5% (€+10,000) to €156,000 last year. This category of services includes maintenance and repair work by residents on goods that are owned by non-residents (and vice versa). The repairs may be performed at the site of the repairer or elsewhere. Maintenance and repairs on ships, aircraft and other transport equipment are included in this item.

Furthermore, exports of **royalties and licence fees**, which were good for €384,000 in 2024, rose by 5.5% in 2025 to €405,000. They refer to cross-border payments for the authorized use, reproduction, or distribution of intangible assets and intellectual property (IP), such as patents, trademarks, and copyrights.

Exports in the **travel services** category rose by 3.3% (€+18,000), which implies increased spending by Kosovar tourists and businesspeople during their stays in Belgium.

The positive evolution of these four service categories offset the decline in exports of the **other remaining services** (-56.2%, or €-234,000), as well as that of **other business services**. Exports in this particular category fell by 16.3% (€-378,000).

TABLE 5: BELGIAN EXPORTS TO KOSOVO BY PRINCIPAL SERVICES

X €1,000	2024	2025	2025/2024 Var. (in %)	2025 Share (in %)
Telecommunications, computer and information services	10,933	16,528	51.2	83.5
Other business services	2,324	1,946	-16.3	9.8
Travel services	570	588	3.3	3.0
Royalties and licence fees	384	405	5.5	2.0
Maintenance and repair services	146	156	6.5	0.8
Other remaining services	417	183	-56.2	0.9
Total	**14,773**	**19,806**	**34.1**	**100.0**

3.2.2 IMPORTS

The **travel services** section was the largest category in Belgian **imports** of services from Kosovo, with a value of €2.9 million and a 43.8% share. **Telecommunications, computer and information services** and **other business services** completed the top three with shares of 27.9% and 23.7%, respectively.

The higher value for **telecommunications, computer and information services** contributed to the 27.7% increase in total Belgian imports of services from Kosovo. Imports in this particular category rose by 99.3% (€+931,000) to €1.9 million in 2025.

Imports of **travel services**, the largest category, grew by 15.2% (€+386,000), which implies increased spending by Belgian tourists and businesspeople during their stays in Kosovo.

Meanwhile, imports of **other business services** rose by 7.1% (€+105,000) in 2025 to €1.6 million.

Imports of **transportation services** were up by 160.0% (€+46,000). 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 of each of the four aforementioned services categories and the **other remaining services** (+2.1%, or €+2,000) was more significant than the fall in imports of **manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others** (-13.0%, or €-18,000). These include activities such as processing, assembly, labelling and packing that are undertaken by enterprises that do not own the goods. Examples include oil refining, liquefaction of natural gas and assembly of clothing and electronics. Excluded are the assembly of prefabricated construction (included in construction) and labelling, and packing incidental to transport (included in transport services).

TABLE 6: BELGIAN IMPORTS FROM KOSOVO BY PRINCIPAL SERVICES

X €1,000	2024	2025	2025/2024 Var. (in %)	2025 Share (in %)
Travel services	2,544	2,930	15.2	43.8
Telecommunications, computer and information services	937	1,868	99.3	27.9
Other business services	1,481	1,586	7.1	23.7
Manufacturing services	138	120	-13.0	1.8
Transportation services	29	75	160.0	1.1
Other remaining services	104	106	2.1	1.6
Total	**5,233**	**6,685**	**27.7**	**100.0**

4 Economic indicators for Kosovo

Economic structure (2025 - estimates)	
GDP	€11.5 billion
GDP growth rate	3.6%
Inflation rate	3.9%
Exports of goods (FOB)	€944.3 million
Imports of goods (FOB)	€7,480.0 million
Trade balance	€-6,535.7 million
Population	1.6 million
Unemployment rate (2023)	10.9%
Main clients (2025): % of total	
Albania	17.0
North Macedonia	14.7
Germany	11.4
Switzerland	10.5
Main suppliers (2025): % of total	
Türkiye	14.4
Germany	14.2
China	11.9 - 13.0
Albania	5.3
Main exports (2025): % of total	
Base metals and articles thereof	20.3 - 26.1
Mineral products	15.4
Plastics, rubber and articles	11.2 - 15.1
Main imports (2025): % of total	
Mineral products	14.0 - 16.8
Machinery and electrical equipment	12.5 - 14.3
Prepared foods, beverages and tobacco	11.3 - 13.1

Sources: Kosovo Chamber of Commerce and the Kosovo Agency of Statistics (KAS)

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

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CIA World factbook — www.cia.gov

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

World Trade Organization — www.wto.org

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