Belgium's trade relations with

TUNISIA

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

1.1 Exports

Total exports of goods from the European Union (EU-27) to Tunisia accounted for about €12.6 billion in 2025. **Belgium represented a 3.4% share of this, making it the 5th most important EU exporter of goods to Tunisia.** France was the leading exporter of goods to Tunisia among all EU countries with a 28.1% share and an amount of roughly €3.5 billion. In addition, Italy and Germany claimed the second and third place in this ranking with shares of 26.7% and 16.9%, respectively.

While the value of European exports (EU-27) to Tunisia in 2025 was 4.2% (€+510.4 million) higher than a year earlier, Belgian exports were down by 10.5% (€-49.6 million). As a result, Belgium's share of EU goods exports to Tunisia decreased in 2025.

French exports of goods to Tunisia increased by 4.3% (€+145.9 million) in 2025, partly due to exports in the subcategories 'medium and heavy oils' and 'electronic integrated circuits'. Italian exports of goods to Tunisia rose modestly, growing by 1.9% (€+63.4 million). In addition, German exports of goods to Tunisia increased by 10.6% (€+203.8 million), driven by the subcategories 'copper wire' and 'barley'.

Table 1: Evolution of exports to Tunisia

	In million €	2024	2025	Variation (in %)	Share (in %)
1	**France**	3,382.7	3,528.7	4.3	28.1
2	**Italy**	3,300.4	3,363.8	1.9	26.7
3	**Germany**	1,927.9	2,131.7	10.6	16.9
	…				
5	**Belgium**	473.0	423.3	-10.5	3.4
	…				
	Total EU-27	**12,069.2**	**12,579.7**	**4.2**	**100.0**

1.2 IMPORTS

Total EU imports of goods from Tunisia amounted to about €13.4 billion in 2025. **Belgium was the 7th largest EU importer of goods from Tunisia in 2025 with a 1.8% share.** France was not only the number one exporter to Tunisia, but also the largest EU importer of goods from this country with a share of 37.4%, which corresponds to an amount of roughly €5.0 billion. Italy and Germany claimed the second and third place in this ranking with shares of 23.3% and 19.7%, respectively.

While imports of goods by the European Union (EU-27) from Tunisia increased by 2.8% (€+368.9 million) in 2025, Belgian imports from the country rose at a higher rate, namely 9.3% (€+20.3 million). As a result, Belgium's share of EU goods imports from Tunisia increased.

Partly due to a rise in imports of 'articles of plastics' and 'machines for the reception, conversion and transmission or regeneration of voice, images or other data, including switching and routing apparatus', French imports of goods from Tunisia increased by 6.2% (€+295.0 million). Meanwhile, Italian imports of goods from Tunisia decreased by 9.9% (€-345.6 million) in 2025 due to lower values for 'light oils and preparations' and 'extra virgin olive oil'. Furthermore, the growth of German imports was 13.3% (€+311.7 million) due to increased imports of 'ignition wiring sets and other wiring sets of a kind used in vehicles, aircraft or ships'.

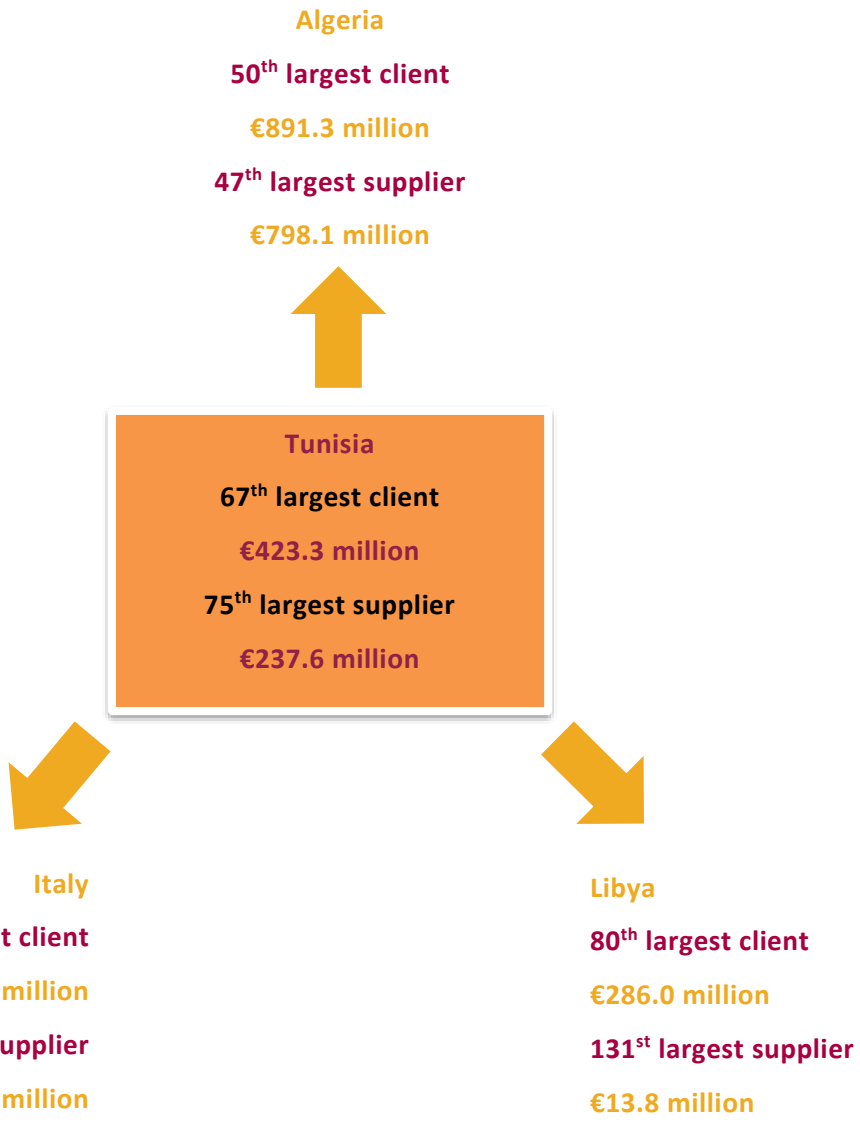
TABLE 2: EVOLUTION OF IMPORTS FROM TUNISIA

	In million €	2024	2025	Variation (in %)	Share (in %)
1	**France**	4,730.2	5,025.1	6.2	37.4
2	**Italy**	3,475.4	3,129.8	-9.9	23.3
3	**Germany**	2,337.7	2,649.3	13.3	19.7
	…				
7	**Belgium**	217.3	237.6	9.3	1.8
	…				
	Total EU-27	**13,079.0**	**13,447.8**	**2.8**	**100.0**

2 Importance of Tunisia 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, Tunisia ranked **67th** among Belgium's main clients, before the Democratic Republic of Congo, but after Côte d'Ivoire.

Total Belgian **exports** of goods to Tunisia amounted to **€423.3 million** in 2025, which is **10.5%** (€-49.7 million) less than the previous year. In 2025, exports to Tunisia were good for **0.1%** of total Belgian exports of goods.

Tunisia was Belgium's **75th** largest supplier of goods in 2025, ranking after Sri Lanka, but preceding Tanzania.

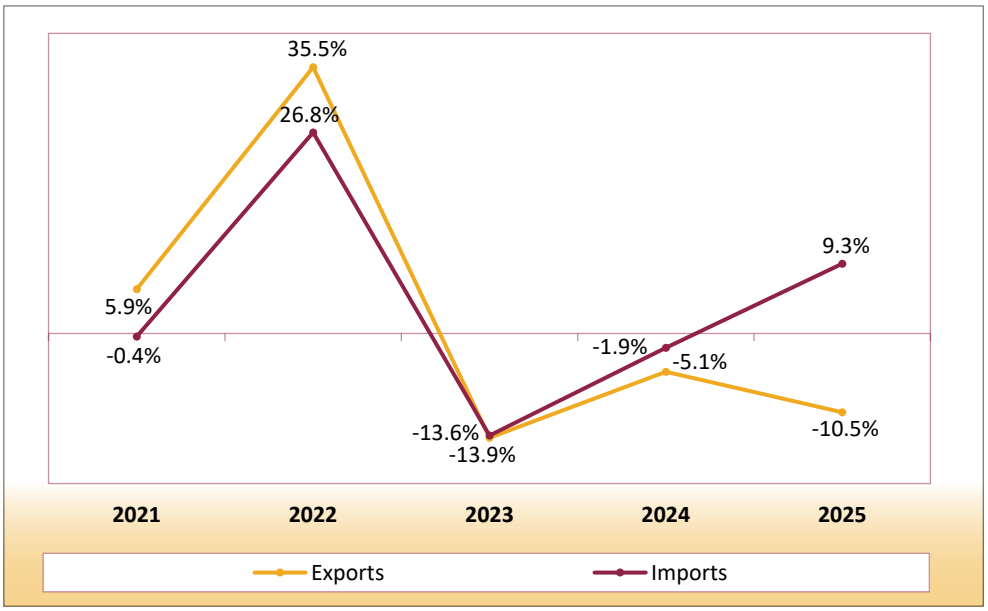
Total Belgian **imports** of goods from Tunisia were up by **9.3%** (€+20.3 million), rising to **€237.6 million** in 2025. Tunisia accounted for **0.1%** of total Belgian imports of goods.

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

In million €	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Exports	427.1	578.5	498.2	473.0	423.3
Imports	202.1	256.2	221.5	217.3	237.6
Trade balance	225.0	322.3	276.7	255.7	185.7
Exports: variation (in %)	5.9	35.5	-13.9	-5.1	-10.5
Imports: variation (in %)	-0.4	26.8	-13.6	-1.9	9.3

Belgium's **trade balance in goods** with Tunisia remained positive throughout the period from 2021 to 2025. The surplus of €225.0 million recorded in 2021 increased to €322.3 million a year later - the highest level observed during the period under review - as exports grew more strongly than imports. In 2023 and 2024, both exports and imports declined; however, exports fell at a faster rate, reducing the surplus to €276.7 million in 2023 and €255.7 million in 2024. In 2025, imports recovered from their slump in the previous two years, while exports declined for the third consecutive year, leading to a further decrease in Belgium's trade surplus in goods with Tunisia to €185.7 million.

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



After growing by 5.9% in 2021, total Belgian **exports** of goods to Tunisia increased by a further 35.5% in 2022, driven in part by higher exports of textiles and mineral products. However, exports of the latter product group declined significantly in 2023, weighing on total exports, which fell by 13.9% that year. The downward trend continued in 2024, with exports decreasing by another 5.1%, partly due to a drop in textile exports. In 2025, mineral products once again were the main factor behind the decline, contributing to a further 10.5% decrease in total Belgian exports of goods to Tunisia.

Total Belgian **imports** of goods from Tunisia traditionally consist for more than half of textiles. As a result, fluctuations in imports of this product group have a significant impact on the overall evolution of imports from Tunisia. However, a lower value for machinery and equipment was the main factor behind the slight 0.4% decrease in total Belgian imports from Tunisia in 2021. In 2022, imports surged by 26.8%, driven by textiles and, even more so, by mineral products. While the value of textile imports continued to grow in 2023, imports of mineral products declined by more than half, leading to an overall decrease of 13.6%. Both product groups recorded declines in 2024, resulting in a further 1.9% contraction in total imports. Although textile imports showed modest growth in 2025, it was mainly the higher value of mineral products that led to a 9.3% increase in total Belgian imports of goods from Tunisia.

3.1.1 Exports

In 2025, the **chemical and pharmaceutical products** category took the leading position in total Belgian exports of goods to Tunisia. At €109.1 million, this group of products represented a 25.8% share of total exports. This section was mainly composed of 'medicaments consisting of mixed or unmixed products for therapeutic or prophylactic uses' and 'immunological products'.

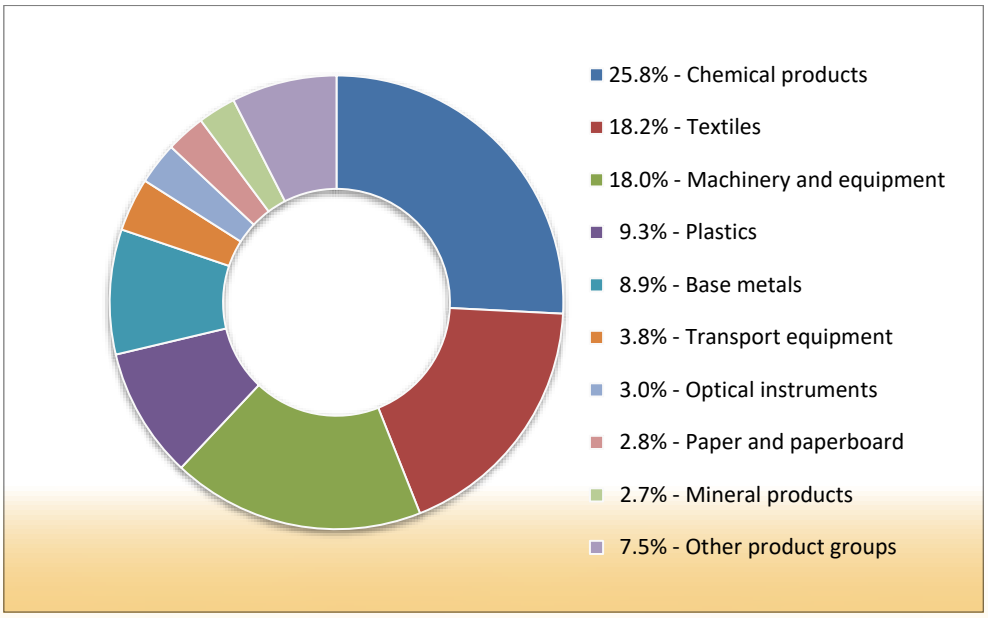
Exports of **textiles** (main subsections: 'brassières', 'woven fabrics of synthetic staple fibres' and 'textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with polyurethane') amounted to €77.2 million, representing an 18.2% share.

Machinery and equipment (main subsections: 'insulating fittings of plastics' and 'processing units') completed the top three of largest sections in exports of goods to Tunisia with a share of 18.0% and an export value of €76.3 million.

There were nine other product groups that also accounted for a share of more than 1.0% of Belgian exports of goods to Tunisia. These sections were:

- **plastics**: €39.5 million, corresponding to a share of 9.3%;
- **base metals**: €37.9 million, corresponding to a share of 8.9%;
- **transport equipment**: €16.2 million, corresponding to a share of 3.8%;
- **optical, precision and medical instruments**: €12.6 million, corresponding to a share of 3.0%;
- **paper and paperboard**: €11.8 million, corresponding to a share of 2.8%;
- **mineral products**: €11.5 million, corresponding to a share of 2.7%;
- **vegetable products**: €6.7 million, corresponding to a share of 1.6%;
- **foodstuffs**: €6.5 million, corresponding to a share of 1.5%; and
- **miscellaneous manufactured articles**: €5.5 million, corresponding to a share of 1.3%.

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



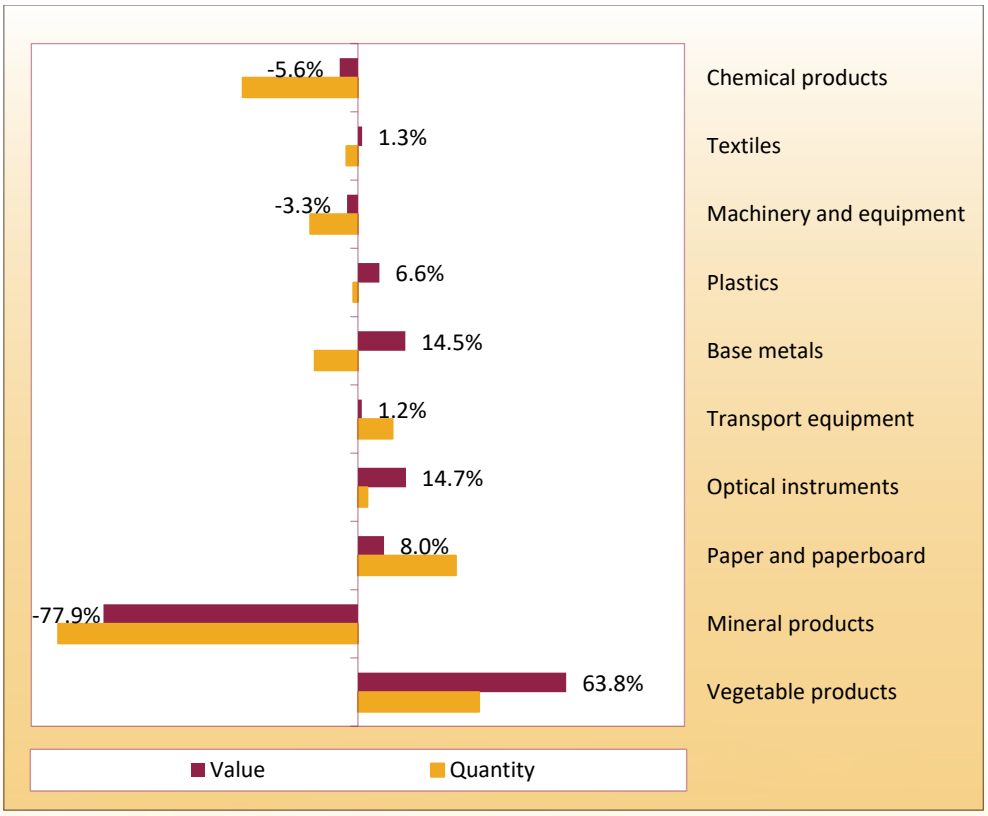
The 10.5% decline in total Belgian exports of goods to Tunisia was largely driven by lower exports of **mineral products** (-77.9%). The value of this category fell by €40.5 million, mainly as a result of a sharp decrease in the value of 'light oils and preparations' and 'aromatic hydrocarbon mixtures'.

Two other product groups within the top ten whose export values declined were **machinery and equipment** (-3.3%, or €-2.6 million) and **chemical and pharmaceutical products** (-5.6%, or €-6.5 million). The contraction in exports of the latter category can mainly be attributed to the subsections 'anti-knock preparations' and 'vinyl acetate'.

By contrast, **vegetable products** recorded an increase of 63.8% (€+2.6 million). This growth was driven by higher export values for, among others, 'vegetable seeds' and 'malt, not roasted'. The fact that the exported quantity of the latter category increased less than its value indicates that the unit price of these products was higher in 2025 than in the previous year.

The six remaining product groups within the top ten that recorded export growth displayed increases ranging from 1.2% for **transport equipment** to 14.7% for **optical, precision and medical instruments**. The €1.6 million increase in the latter category can partly be attributed to a higher export value for 'artificial parts of the body'.

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



3.1.2 IMPORTS

In 2025, the **textiles** category, which was composed mainly of 'brassières', 'men's or boys' garments of man-made-fibres' and 'trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts of synthetic fibres', took the top position in total Belgian imports of goods from Tunisia with €136.3 million, giving this group of products a share of 57.4%.

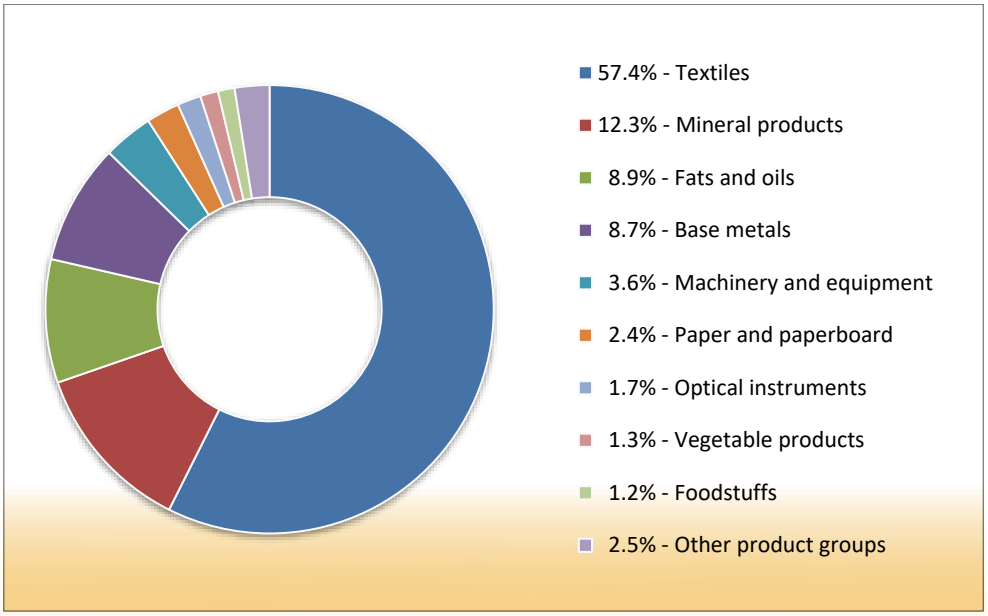
Mineral products (main subsection: 'light oils and preparations') accounted for a 12.3% share of total imports, totaling €29.2 million.

The **fats and oils** heading completed the top three of main sections in Belgian imports of goods from Tunisia. This group of products, which was mainly composed of 'extra virgin olive oil', accounted for a share of 8.9% and an amount of €21.0 million.

Six other product groups also accounted for a share of more than 1.0% of Belgian imports of goods from Tunisia. These sections were:

- **base metals**: €20.7 million, corresponding to a share of 8.7%;
- **machinery and equipment**: €8.6 million, corresponding to a share of 3.6%;
- **paper and paperboard**: €5.7 million, corresponding to a share of 2.4%;
- **optical, precision and medical instruments**: €3.9 million, corresponding to a share of 1.7%;
- **vegetable products**: €3.1 million, corresponding to a share of 1.3%; and
- **foodstuffs**: €2.9 million, corresponding to a share of 1.2%.

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



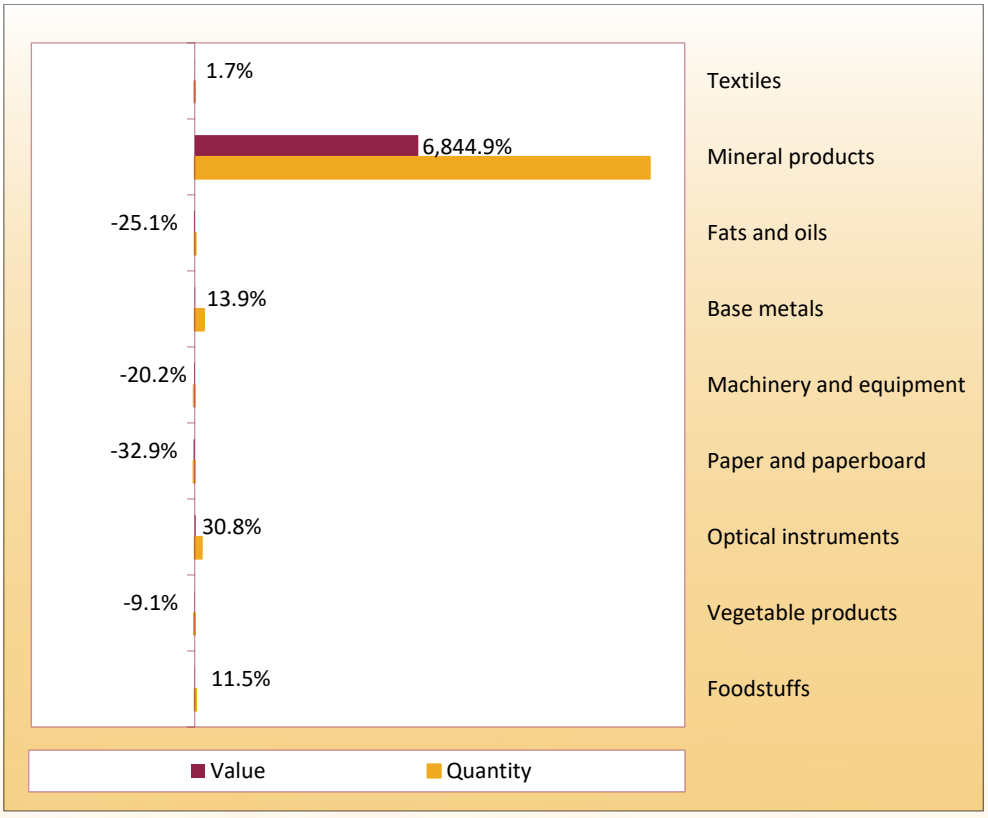
The 9.3% increase in total Belgian imports of goods from Tunisia in 2025 was mainly driven by a sharp rise in the **mineral products** category, which grew by 6,844.9%. The value of this category increased by €28.8 million, largely due to higher imports of 'light oils and preparations'. The fact that the imported quantity increased more than its value, indicates that the unit price for this type of products was lower in 2025 than in the previous year.

Textiles - the leading import section from Tunisia - also recorded a slight increase, growing by 1.7% (€+2.2 million).

Foodstuffs (+11.5%, or €+301,500), **base metals** (+13.9%, or €+2.5 million) and **optical, precision and medical instruments** (+30.8%, or €+929,500) were the other categories with a share of more than 1.0% of total imports to experience a rise in value. Increased imports in the latter reflected higher values in the subsections 'instruments and appliances used in medical, surgical, dental or veterinary sciences' and 'automatic regulating or controlling instruments and apparatus'.

By contrast, the four product groups with a share of more than 1.0% in imports that recorded import decline displayed decreases ranging from 9.1% for **vegetable products** to 32.9% for **paper and paperboard**. The €2.8 million decrease in the latter category can partly be attributed to a lower import value for 'sacks and bags, including cones of paper, paperboard, cellulose wadding or webs of cellulose fibres'.

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



3.2 TRADE IN SERVICES

The value of Belgian exports of services to Tunisia was down by **1.4%** (€-446,000) in 2025, decreasing to **€31.4 million**. This made Tunisia Belgium's **97th** largest client, after Senegal but before Kuwait.

Belgian imports of services from Tunisia accounted for a value of **€158.6 million** in 2025, corresponding to a **4.8%** (€+7.3 million) increase compared to the year before. Tunisia was Belgium's **50th** largest supplier in 2025, ranking before Taiwan, but after Serbia.

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

In million €	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Exports	25.7	35.4	37.4	31.9	31.4
Imports	51.1	91.1	125.3	151.3	158.6
Trade balance	-25.4	-55.7	-87.9	-119.4	-127.2
Exports: variation (in %)	7.6	37.7	5.6	-14.8	-1.4
Imports: variation (in %)	-3.2	78.4	37.5	20.8	4.8

Belgium's **trade balance in services** vis-à-vis Tunisia was negative in each year from 2021 to 2025, with imports of services from Tunisia consistently exceeding exports to that country.

The deficit on Belgium's services balance with Tunisia has grown in each year from 2021 to 2025. In 2021, the deficit amounted to €25.4 million, after which it was up to €55.7 million and €87.9 million, respectively, in 2022 and 2023 due to imports growing faster than exports in each of these years. While exports declined in 2024, imports continued to grow, resulting in a trade balance deficit of €119.4 million. The same situation as in 2024 continued in 2025, with imports rising for the fourth straight year and exports regressing. This resulted in Belgium's services trade deficit with Tunisia rising to €127.2 million, the largest deficit of the period under review.

Over the period from 2021 to 2025, Belgium's services balance with Tunisia thus stood in contrast to the trade balance in goods, as the latter remained consistently in Belgium's favour.

3.2.1 Exports

In 2025, the **transportation services** section led Belgian **exports** of services to Tunisia with a value of €9.9 million and a 31.4% 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 23.7%, while the **telecommunications, computer and information services** section completed the top three with a 22.7% share.

The lower values for **telecommunications, computer and information services** and **other business services** were the main reasons why total Belgian exports of services to Tunisia decreased by 1.4% in 2025. Exports of the former section recorded a 9.8% (€-776,000) drop, while the value of the latter section was down 3.2%, from just over €7.7 million to around €7.5 million.

Travel services was the other section from the top five that saw its value go down. This group of services recorded a drop of 4.1% (€-92,000) as spending by Tunisian businesspeople and tourists during their stays in Belgium was down in 2025.

The negative evolution observed in each of the three aforementioned services categories was more pronounced than the increase in exports of the **other remaining services** (+4.5%, or €+125,000) and some of the other top five categories. For example, exports of **transportation services** - the leading category - grew by 0.9% (€+88,000). Meanwhile, exports of **construction services** increased by 30.4% (€+453,000). The latter covers the creation, management, renovation, repair or extension of fixed assets in the form of buildings, land improvements of an engineering nature and other constructions such as roads, bridges and dams. It also includes related installation and assembly work, site preparation and general construction as well as specialized services such as painting, plumbing and demolition.

Table 5: Belgian exports to Tunisia by principal services

In million €	2024	2025	2025/2024 Var. (in %)	2025 Share (in %)
Transportation services	9.8	9.9	0.9	31.4
Other business services	7.7	7.5	-3.2	23.7
Telecommunications, computer and information services	7.9	7.2	-9.8	22.7
Travel services	2.2	2.1	-4.1	6.8
Construction services	1.5	1.9	30.4	6.2
Other remaining services	2.8	2.9	4.5	9.2
Total	**31.9**	**31.4**	**-1.4**	**100.0**

3.2.2 IMPORTS

The **travel services** section dominated total Belgian **imports** of services from Tunisia in 2025 with a value of €53.9 million and a 34.0% share. **Telecommunications, computer and information services** and **transportation services** completed the top three with shares of 17.6% and 16.2%, respectively. This last section is composed of sea transport, air transport, space transport, rail transport, road transport, inland waterway transport and pipeline transport.

The higher values for **telecommunications, computer and information services** and **transportation services** were the main reasons why total Belgian imports of services from Tunisia increased by 4.8% in 2025. Imports of the former section recorded a 17.9% (€+4.2 million) rise, while the value of the latter section was up 23.4%, from €20.9 million to €25.7 million.

Travel services, the largest section in imports, was the other section from the top five whose value increased. Imports in this group of services recorded a rise of 2.4% (€+1.3 million) as spending by Belgian businesspeople and tourists during their stays in Tunisia was slightly up in 2025.

The rise in imports of each of the three aforementioned services categories and the **other remaining services** (+23.1%, or €+2.3 million) was more significant than the fall in imports of **other business services** (-11.0%, or €-2.5 million) and **manufacturing services** (-13.3%, or €-3.0 million). The latter covers activities such as processing, assembly, labelling and packing that are undertaken by enterprises that do not own the goods.

TABLE 6: BELGIAN IMPORTS FROM TUNISIA BY PRINCIPAL SERVICES

In million €	2024	2025	2025/2024 Var. (in %)	2025 Share (in %)
Travel services	52.6	53.9	2.4	34.0
Telecommunications, computer and information services	23.6	27.9	17.9	17.6
Transportation services	20.9	25.7	23.4	16.2
Other business services	22.2	19.7	-11.0	12.4
Manufacturing services	22.2	19.2	-13.3	12.1
Other remaining services	9.9	12.2	23.1	7.7
Total	**151.3**	**158.6**	**4.8**	**100.0**

4 ECONOMIC INDICATORS FOR TUNISIA

Economic structure (2025 - estimates)	
GDP	$57.6 billion
GDP growth rate	2.5%
Inflation rate	5.3%
Exports of goods (2024 - FOB)	$19.9 billion
Imports of goods (2024 - FOB)	$25.9 billion
Trade balance (2024)	$-6.0 billion
Population	12.4 million
Unemployment rate	15.2%
Main clients (2024): % of total	
France	21.7
Italy	18.8
Germany	13.3
Main suppliers (2024): % of total	
Italy	12.0
China	11.4
France	10.3
Main exports (2024): % of total	
Insulated wire, cable and other insulated electric conductors, whether or not fitted with connectors	15.0
Olive oil and its fractions, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified	7.8
Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude	3.2
Main imports (2024): % of total	
Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals (excl. crude)	8.5
Petroleum gas and other gaseous hydrocarbons	6.3
Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons, including station wagons and racing cars	3.7

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

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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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