Belgium's trade relations with

UZBEKISTAN

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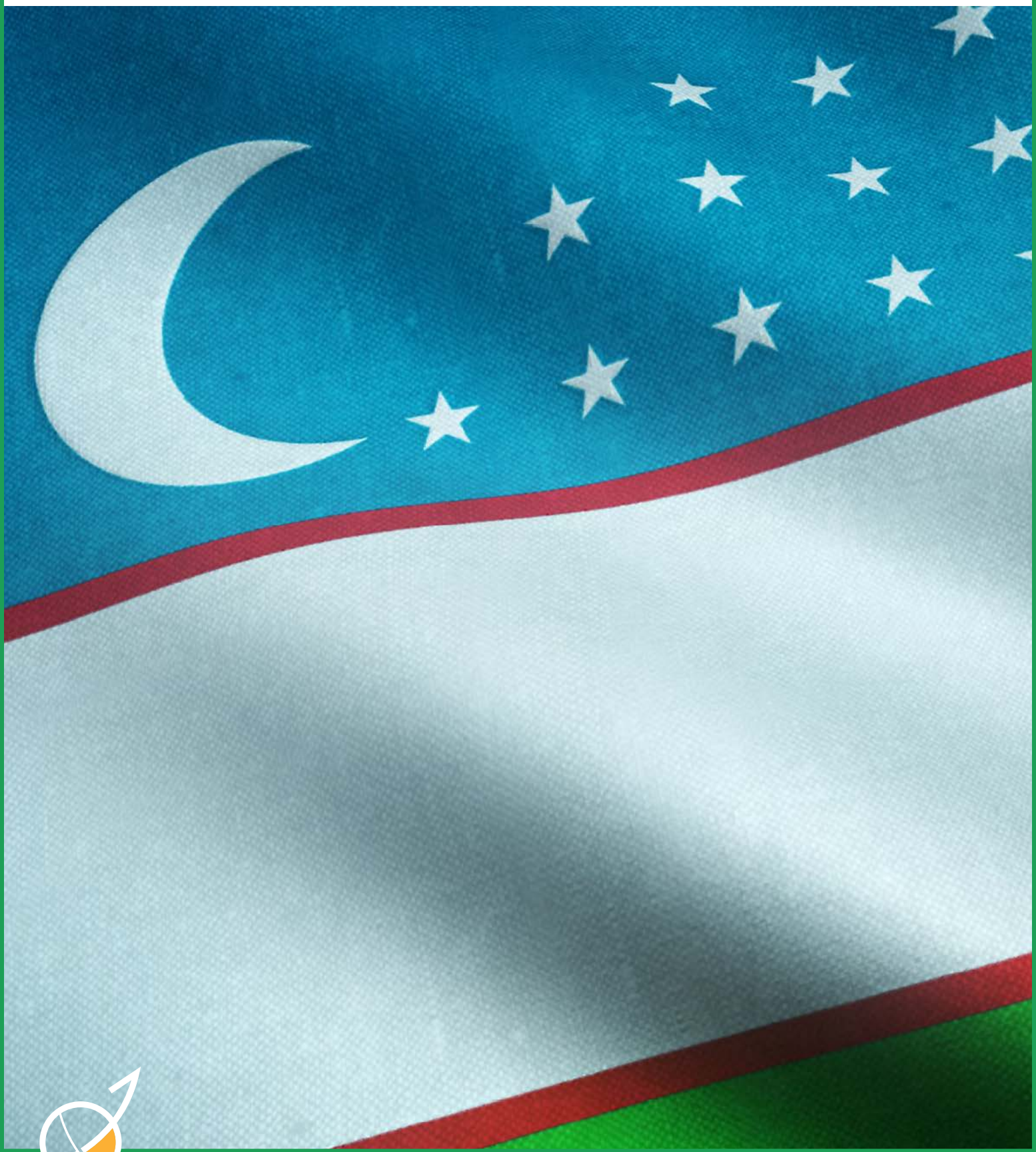

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1 Importance of Belgium and the other EU countries in trade with Uzbekistan

1.1 Exports

Total exports of goods from the European Union (EU-27) to Uzbekistan accounted for about €4.5 billion in 2025. **Belgium represented a 2.8% share of this, making it the 9th most important EU exporter of goods to Uzbekistan.** Germany was the leading exporter of goods to Uzbekistan among all EU countries with a 29.3% share and an amount of €1.3 billion. In addition, Italy and France claimed the second and third place in this ranking with shares of 12.7% and 11.0%, respectively.

While the value of European exports (EU-27) to Uzbekistan in 2025 was 15.5% (€+606.4 million) higher than a year earlier, Belgian exports were down by 1.0% (€-1.3 million). As a result, Belgium's share of EU goods exports to Uzbekistan decreased in 2025.

German exports of goods to Uzbekistan increased by 22.7% (€+245.0 million) in 2025, partly due to exports in the subcategory 'gas turbines of a power exceeding 5,000 kW', which had not been recorded in 2024, as well as a higher export value for 'aeroplanes and other aircraft, of an unladen weight exceeding 15,000 kg'. Italian exports of goods to Uzbekistan also rose significantly, growing by 24.5% (€+112.7 million). In addition, French exports of goods to Uzbekistan increased by 34.5% (€+127.4 million), driven by the subcategory 'aeroplanes and other aircraft, of an unladen weight exceeding 15,000 kg', which likewise was not exported in 2024.

Table 1: Evolution of exports to Uzbekistan

In million €		2024	2025	Variation (in %)	Share (in %)
1	**Germany**	1,078.1	1,323.1	22.7	29.3
2	**Italy**	460.9	573.6	24.5	12.7
3	**France**	369.6	497.0	34.5	11.0
	…				
9	**Belgium**	125.8	124.6	-1.0	2.8
	…				
	Total EU-27	**3,903.5**	**4,509.9**	**15.5**	**100.0**

1.2 IMPORTS

Total EU imports of goods from Uzbekistan amounted to about €1.0 billion in 2025. **Belgium was the 10th largest EU importer of goods from Uzbekistan in 2025 with a 4.1% share.** France was the largest importer of goods from this country with a 19.0% share and an amount of €192.0 million. Lithuania and Germany claimed the second and third place in this ranking with shares of 14.8% and 11.2%, respectively.

While European Union (EU-27) imports of goods from Uzbekistan increased by 16.1% (€+140.3 million) in 2025, Belgian imports from the country were down by 31.4% (€-19.1 million). As a result, Belgium's share of EU goods imports from Uzbekistan decreased in 2025.

Largely due to a rise in imports of 'natural uranium and its compounds; alloys, dispersions (including cermets), ceramic products and mixtures containing natural uranium or natural uranium compounds', French imports of goods from Uzbekistan increased by 55.3% (€+68.4 million) in 2025. Meanwhile, the growth of Lithuanian imports was 40.3% (€+43.1 million) due to the higher values for 'ammonium nitrate, whether or not in aqueous solution' and 'electrical and electronic waste and scrap'. Furthermore, German imports from Uzbekistan grew by 69.6% (€+46.5 million) because of increased imports of, among others, 'apricots' and 'dried grapes'.

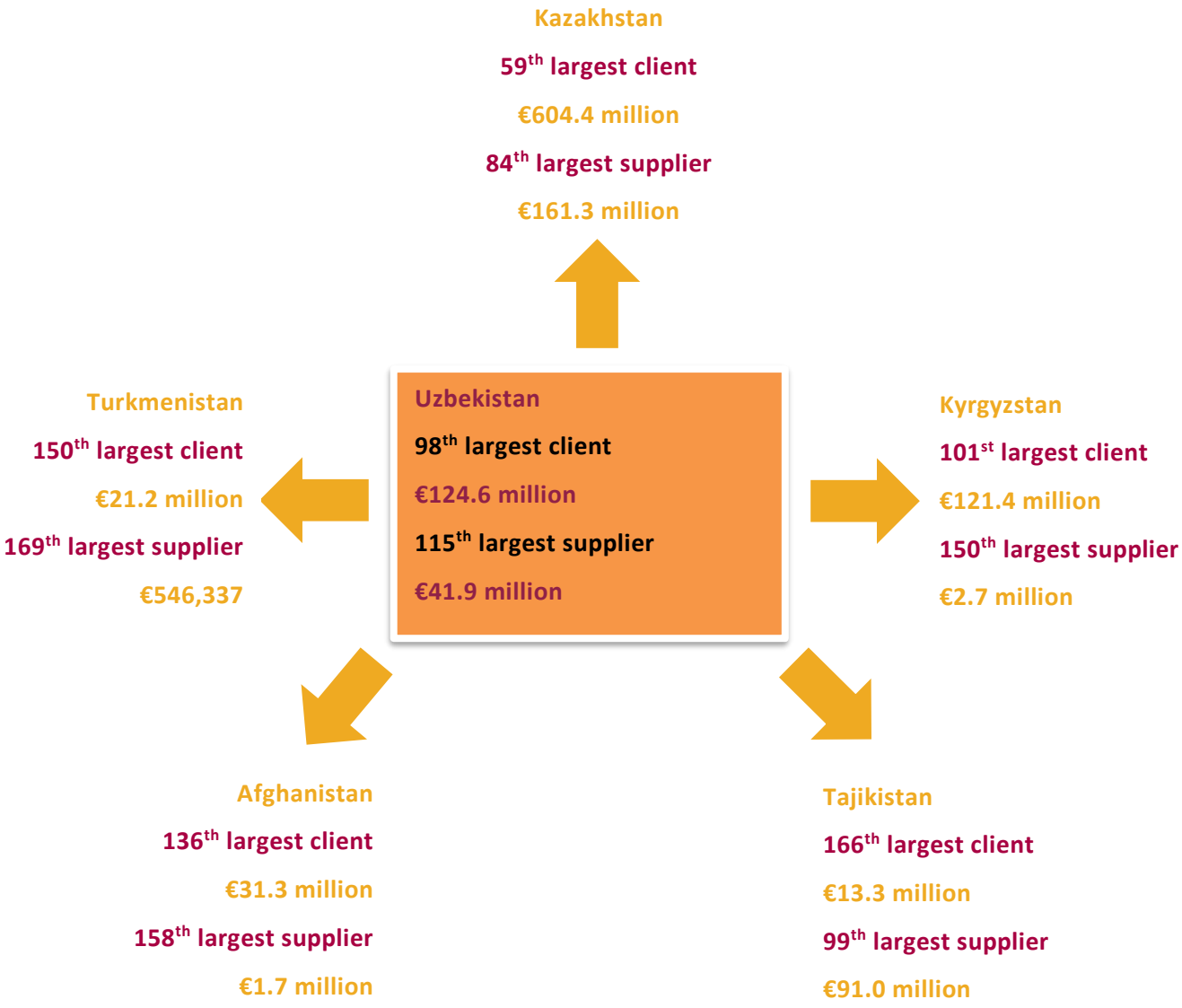
TABLE 2: EVOLUTION OF IMPORTS FROM UZBEKISTAN

In million €		2024	2025	Variation (in %)	Share (in %)
1	**France**	123.6	192.0	55.3	19.0
2	**Lithuania**	107.1	150.2	40.3	14.8
3	**Germany**	66.9	113.4	69.6	11.2
	…				
10	**Belgium**	61.0	41.9	-31.4	4.1
	…				
	Total EU-27	**872.1**	**1,012.4**	**16.1**	**100.0**

2 Importance of Uzbekistan 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, Uzbekistan ranked **98th** among Belgium's main clients, before Congo, but after Uruguay.

Total Belgian **exports** of goods to Uzbekistan amounted to **€124.6 million** in 2025, which is **1.0%** (€-1.2 million) less than the previous year.

Uzbekistan was Belgium's **115th** largest supplier of goods in 2025, ranking after Cyprus, but preceding Papua New Guinea.

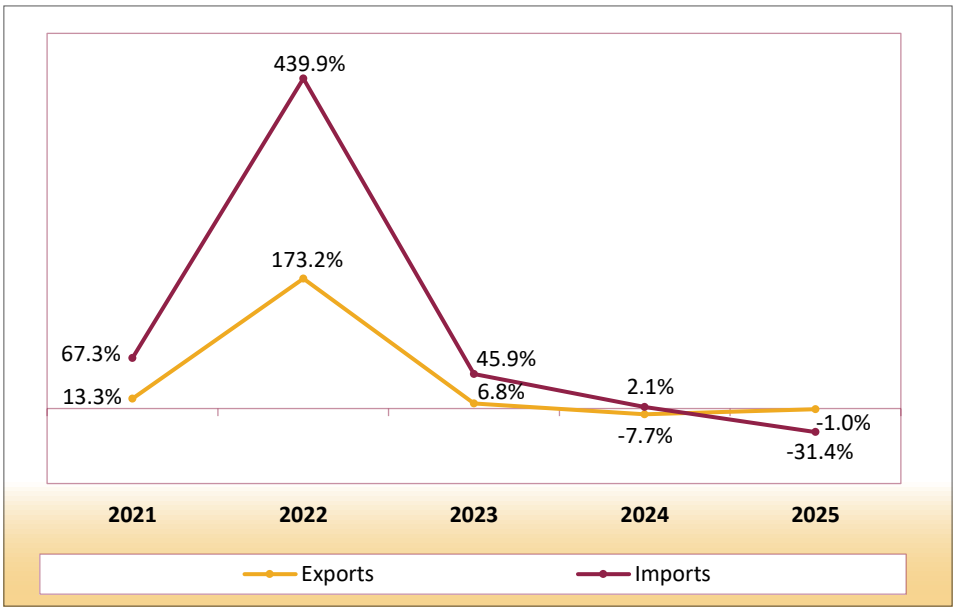
Total Belgian **imports** of goods from Uzbekistan were down by **31.4%** (€-19.1 million), falling to **€41.9 million** in 2025.

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

In million €	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Exports	46.7	127.7	136.4	125.8	124.6
Imports	7.6	41.0	59.8	61.0	41.9
Trade balance	39.1	86.7	76.6	64.8	82.7
Exports: variation (in %)	13.3	173.2	6.8	-7.7	-1.0
Imports: variation (in %)	67.3	439.9	45.9	2.1	-31.4

Belgium's **trade balance in goods** with Uzbekistan remained positive throughout the period from 2021 to 2025. The surplus of €39.1 million recorded in 2021 increased to €86.7 million a year later - the highest level observed over the period under review - as exports rose by more than imports. In 2023, both exports and imports continued to grow; however, imports increased at a faster pace, reducing the surplus to €76.6 million. In 2024, imports recorded growth for the fourth consecutive year, while exports declined, further narrowing the trade surplus to €64.8 million. Finally, in 2025, imports fell by a significantly larger margin than exports, resulting in a sharp increase in Belgium's trade surplus in goods with Uzbekistan to €82.7 million.

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



In 2021, Belgian **exports** of goods to Uzbekistan surged by 13.3%, driven, among others, by increased demand for foodstuffs. This growth then continued in 2022, when a sharp rise in the value of both machinery and equipment and chemical and pharmaceutical products caused total exports to grow by 173.2%. The value of the former category then contracted in 2023, but the further increase in exports of chemical and pharmaceutical products helped to obtain a further rise in exports of 6.8%. In 2024 and 2025, the machinery and equipment category recovered from its fall in value in 2023, but during both years exports of chemical and pharmaceutical products contracted, which is part of the reason why total Belgian exports of goods to Uzbekistan were down by 7.7% in 2024 and another 1.0% in 2025.

Higher values for, among others, textiles and plastics resulted in a 67.3% increase in total Belgian **imports** from Uzbekistan in 2021. In 2022, imports surged by 439.9%, driven by base metals and even more mineral products. While the value of the latter diminished in 2023, imports of base metals continued to grow hard, leading to a further 45.9% growth of overall imports. The value of mineral products in imports from Uzbekistan recovered in 2024 to a level slightly above the one recorded in 2022, while the value of base metals remained virtually unchanged, leading to a further 2.1% rise in imports. Finally, in 2025, imports of mineral products went down hard again, which is ultimately the main reason for the 31.4% drop in total Belgian imports of goods from Uzbekistan.

3.1.1 EXPORTS

In 2025, the **machinery and equipment** category took the leading position in total Belgian exports of goods to Uzbekistan. At €51.0 million, this group of products represented a 40.9% share of total exports. This section was mainly composed of 'parts of vapour generating boilers, including hybrid boilers', 'weaving machines (looms)' and 'generating sets with spark-ignition internal combustion piston engines'.

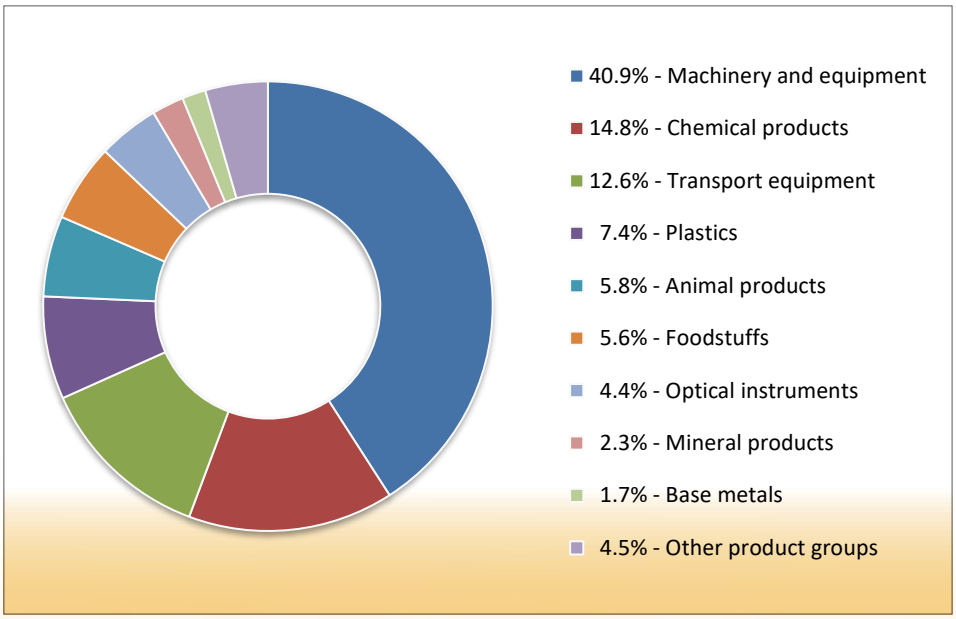
Exports of **chemical and pharmaceutical products** (main subsections: 'perfumes and toilet waters' and 'medicaments consisting of mixed or unmixed products for therapeutic or prophylactic uses') amounted to €18.4 million, representing a 14.8% share.

Transport equipment (main subsections: 'vehicles, with both a compression-ignition internal combustion piston engine (diesel or semi-diesel) and an electric motor as motors for propulsion, other than those capable of being charged by plugging to an external source of electric power' and 'vehicles with only a spark-ignition internal combustion piston engine of a cylinder capacity exceeding 3,000 cm^3') completed the top three of largest sections in exports of goods to Uzbekistan with a share of 12.6% and an export value of €15.6 million.

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

- **plastics**: €9.2 million, corresponding to a share of 7.4%;
- **animal products**: €7.2 million, corresponding to a share of 5.8%;
- **foodstuffs**: €7.0 million, corresponding to a share of 5.6%;
- **optical, precision and medical instruments**: €5.5 million, corresponding to a share of 4.4%;
- **mineral products**: €2.9 million, corresponding to a share of 2.3%;
- **base metals**: €2.2 million, corresponding to a share of 1.7%;
- **vegetable products**: €1.4 million, corresponding to a share of 1.2%; and
- **textiles**: €1.4 million, corresponding to a share of 1.1%.

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



The 1.0% decline in total Belgian exports of goods to Uzbekistan was largely driven by lower exports of both **precious metals and stones** (-96.4%) and **chemical and pharmaceutical products** (-39.0%). The value of the former category fell by €16.0 million, mainly as a result of a sharp decrease in the value of gold. Consequently, this product group was no longer among the ten largest sections of Belgian goods exports to Uzbekistan. Meanwhile, the value of chemical and pharmaceutical exports declined by €11.8 million, reflecting lower exports of the subcategories 'vaccines for human medicine' and 'antimony oxides'.

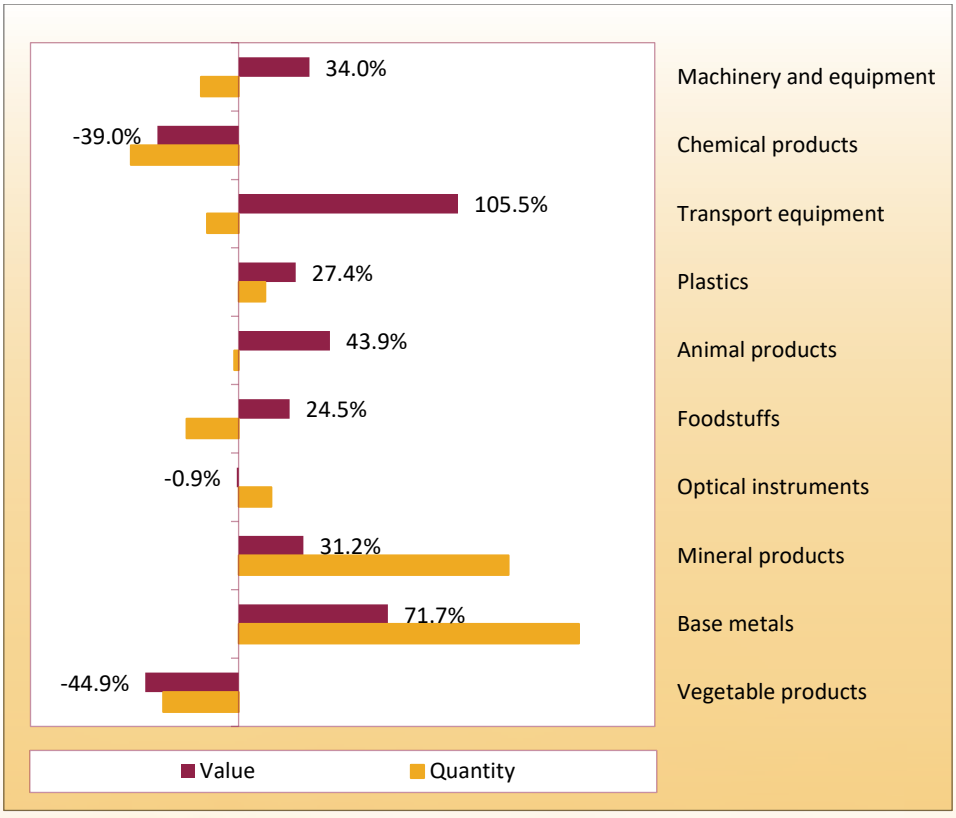
Two other product groups within the top ten whose export values declined were **optical, precision and medical instruments** (-0.9%, or €-48,900) and **vegetable products** (-44.9%, or €-1.2 million). The contraction in exports of vegetable products can mainly be attributed to the subsection 'bulbs, tubers, tuberous roots, corms, crowns and rhizomes, dormant'.

By contrast, **machinery and equipment** - the leading export section in trade with Uzbekistan - recorded an increase of 34.0% (€+12.9 million). This growth was driven by higher export values for, among others, 'parts of vapour-generating boilers, including hybrid boilers' and 'knitting machines, stitch-bonding machines and machines for making gimped yarn, tulle, lace, embroidery, trimmings, braid or net, as well as machines for tufting'.

However, the largest percentage increase among the top ten export sections in 2025 was recorded by **transport equipment**. The value of this product group more than doubled, rising by 105.5% (€+8.0 million), mainly due to increased exports of hybrid vehicles.

The five remaining product groups within the top ten that recorded export growth displayed increases ranging from 24.5% for **foodstuffs** to 71.7% for **base metals**. The €902,000 increase in the latter category can largely be attributed to higher export values for 'flat-rolled products of alloy steel' and 'seamless tubes, pipes and hollow profiles of iron (other than cast iron) or steel'. The fact that the exported quantity of the latter section increased more than its value, indicates that the unit price for this type of products was lower in 2025 than in the previous year.

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



3.1.2 IMPORTS

In 2025, the **base metals** category, which was composed mainly of 'molybdenum and articles thereof, including waste and scrap', took the top position in total Belgian imports of goods from Uzbekistan with €32.4 million, giving this group of products a share of 77.4%.

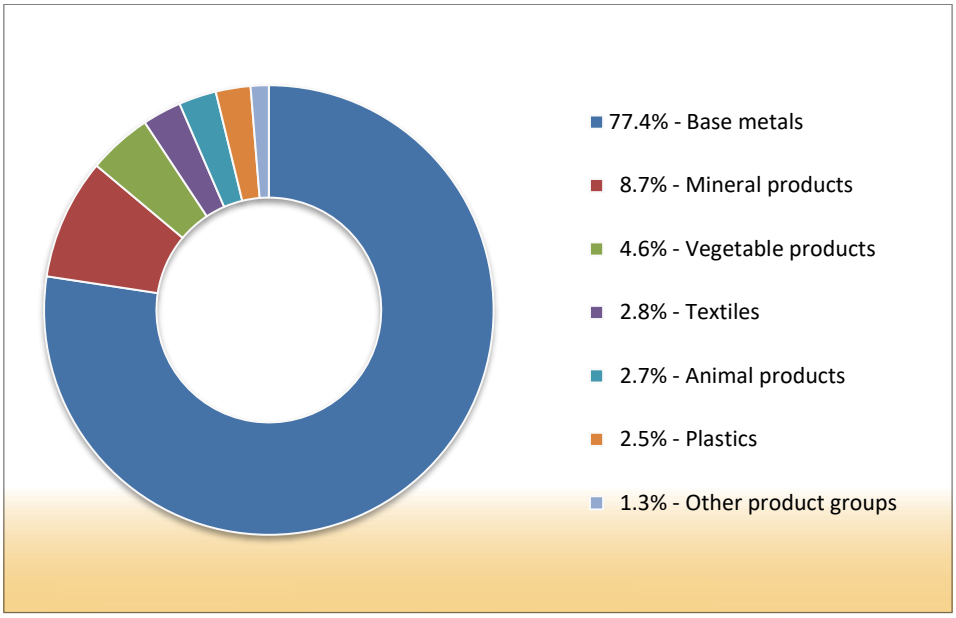
Mineral products (main subsection: 'benzol (benzene)') accounted for an 8.7% share of total imports, totalling €3.7 million.

The **vegetable products** heading completed the top three of main sections in Belgian imports of goods from Uzbekistan. This group of products, which was mainly composed of 'prunes', 'dried grapes' and 'kidney beans, including white pea beans', accounted for a share of 4.6% and an amount of €1.9 million.

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

- **textiles**: €1.2 million, corresponding to a share of 2.8%;
- **animal products**: €1.1 million, corresponding to a share of 2.7%; and
- **plastics**: €1.0 million, corresponding to a share of 2.5%.

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



The 31.4% decline in total Belgian imports of goods from Uzbekistan in 2025 was mainly driven by a sharp contraction in the **mineral products** category, which fell by 84.8%. The value of this category decreased by €20.4 million, largely due to lower imports of 'oils and other products of the distillation of high-temperature coal tar'.

Base metals - the leading import section from Uzbekistan - also recorded a slight decline, falling by 0.5% (€-155,800).

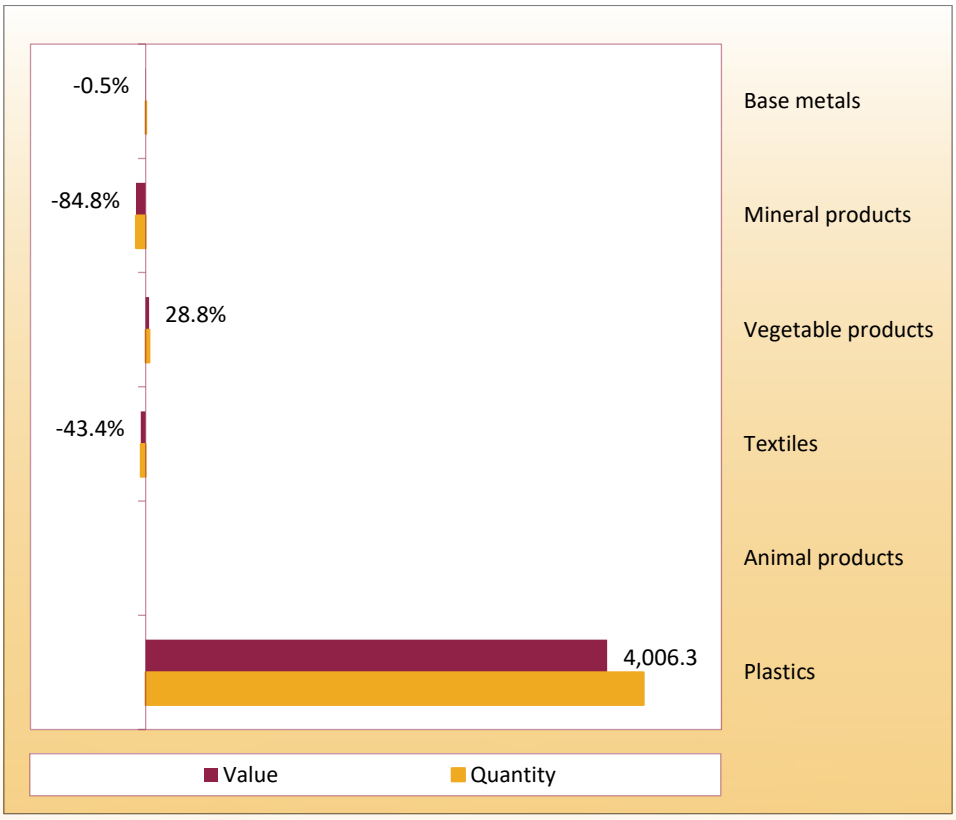
Textiles were the only other category with a share of more than 1.0% of total imports to experience a decrease in value. Imports in this category dropped by 43.4% (€-896,900), mainly reflecting lower values in the subsections 'cotton yarn' and 'T-shirts, singlets and other vests, knitted or crocheted, of cotton'.

By contrast, imports in the **vegetable products** category increased by €432,900 (+28.8%), largely driven by higher imports of 'prunes'.

Animal products - amounting to €1.1 million in 2025 and consisting mainly of 'products of fish or crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates' - had not formed part of imports from Uzbekistan in 2024.

The only remaining product group with a share exceeding 1.0% was **plastics**, which recorded a sharp increase of 4,006.3%. This rise, amounting to €1.0 million, can be attributed, among other factors, to higher imports of 'polymers of ethylene, in primary forms'.

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



3.2 TRADE IN SERVICES

The value of Belgian exports of services to Uzbekistan was down by **33.7%** (€-20.5 million) in 2025, decreasing to **€40.1 million**. This made Uzbekistan Belgium's **85th** largest client, after Iraq but before Albania.

Belgian imports of services from Uzbekistan accounted for a value of **€7.6 million** in 2025, corresponding to a **68.6%** (€-16.6 million) decrease compared to the year before. Uzbekistan was Belgium's **127th** largest supplier in 2025, ranking before Zambia, but after Gabon.

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

In million €	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Exports	28.3	36.6	67.1	60.6	40.1
Imports	16.3	6.0	24.6	24.2	7.6
Trade balance	12.0	30.6	42.5	36.4	32.5
Exports: variation (in %)	146.3	29.6	83.1	-9.7	-33.7
Imports: variation (in %)	383.1	-63.2	309.9	-1.8	-68.6

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

The surplus on Belgium's services balance with Uzbekistan, which stood at €12.0 million in 2021, increased to €30.6 million in 2022 as exports rose while imports moved in the opposite direction. Although imports recovered in 2023 from their decline the previous year, exports increased by an even larger amount, resulting in a further widening of the surplus to €42.5 million. In 2024 and 2025, however, imports declined by less than exports, leading to a reduction in the services trade surplus in both years, first to €36.4 million and ultimately to €32.5 million.

Over the period from 2021 to 2025, Belgium's services balance with Uzbekistan thus displayed similarities to the trade balance in goods, as both remained consistently in Belgium's favour.

3.2.1 Exports

In 2025, the **telecommunications, computer and information services** section led Belgian **exports** of services to Uzbekistan with a value of €22.2 million and a 55.2% share. **Transportation services** took second place with 19.1%, while the **other business services** section completed the top three with a 15.3% share. The latter category includes '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'.

The lower values for **transportation services** and **other business services** were the main reasons why total Belgian exports of services to Uzbekistan decreased by 33.7% in 2025. Exports of the former section recorded a 51.6% (€-8.2 million) drop, while the value of the latter section was down 60.9%, from €15.8 million to €6.2 million.

Royalties and licence fees was the other section from the top five that saw its value go down. This group of services recorded a drop of 75.7% (€-2.6 million).

The negative evolution of each of the three aforementioned services categories and the **other remaining services** (-61.9%, or €-3.0 million) was more significant than the rise in exports of **telecommunications, computer and information services** (+15.0%, or €+2.9 million) and **construction services** (+2.4%, or €+35,000). 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 Uzbekistan by principal services

In million €	2024	2025	2025/2024 Var. (in %)	2025 Share (in %)
Telecommunications, computer and information services	19.3	22.2	15.0	55.2
Transportation services	15.9	7.7	-51.6	19.1
Other business services	15.8	6.2	-60.9	15.3
Construction services	1.5	1.5	2.4	3.7
Royalties and licence fees	3.4	0.8	-75.7	2.1
Other remaining services	4.8	1.8	-61.9	4.5
Total	**60.6**	**40.1**	**-33.7**	**100.0**

3.2.2 Imports

The **telecommunications, computer and information services** section not only dominated total Belgian exports of services to Uzbekistan in 2025; it was also the largest category in **imports**, with a value of €2.7 million and a 35.6% share. **Travel services** and **transportation services** completed the top three with shares of 23.5% and 22.9%, respectively.

The lower values for **other business services** and **telecommunications, computer and information services** were the main reasons why total Belgian imports of services from Uzbekistan decreased by 68.6% in 2025. Imports of the former section recorded an 85.8% (€-6.4 million) drop, while the value of the latter section was down 60.2%, from €6.8 million to €2.7 million.

Transportation services, which include 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, was the other section from the top five that saw its value go down. This group of services recorded a decline of 66.2% (€-3.4 million).

The decrease in imports of each of the three aforementioned services categories and the **other remaining services** (-94.4%, or €-3.3 million) was more significant than the rise in imports of **travel services** (+46.3%, or €+565,000) and **maintenance and repair services** (+63.5%, or €+48,000). The latter 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.

Table 6: Belgian imports from Uzbekistan by principal services

In million €	2024	2025	2025/2024 Var. (in %)	2025 Share (in %)
Telecommunications, computer and information services	6.8	2.7	-60.2	35.6
Travel services	1.2	1.8	46.3	23.5
Transportation services	5.2	1.7	-66.2	22.9
Other business services	7.4	1.1	-85.8	13.8
Maintenance and repair services	0.1	0.1	63.5	1.6
Other remaining services	3.5	0.2	-94.4	2.6
Total	**24.2**	**7.6**	**-68.6**	**100.0**

4 Economic indicators for Uzbekistan

Economic structure (2025 - estimates)	
GDP	$147.1 billion
GDP growth rate	7.7%
Inflation rate	8.8%
Exports of goods (2024 - FOB)	$19.7 billion
Imports of goods (2024 - FOB)	$35.3 billion
Trade balance (2024)	$-15.6 billion
Population	38.2 million
Unemployment rate	4.8%
Main clients (2024): % of total	
Russian Fed.	15.1
Kazakhstan	6.4
China	6.0
Main suppliers (2024): % of total	
China	29.2
Russian Fed.	21.8
Kazakhstan	7.8
Main exports (2024): % of total	
Gold	37.9
Cotton yarn other than sewing thread	6.0
Petroleum gas and other gaseous hydrocarbons	3.2
Main imports (2024): % of total	
Petroleum gas and other gaseous hydrocarbons	4.8
Medicaments consisting of mixed or unmixed products for therapeutic or prophylactic uses	4.3
Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals (excl. crude)	4.2

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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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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