

Belgium's trade relations with
NIGER

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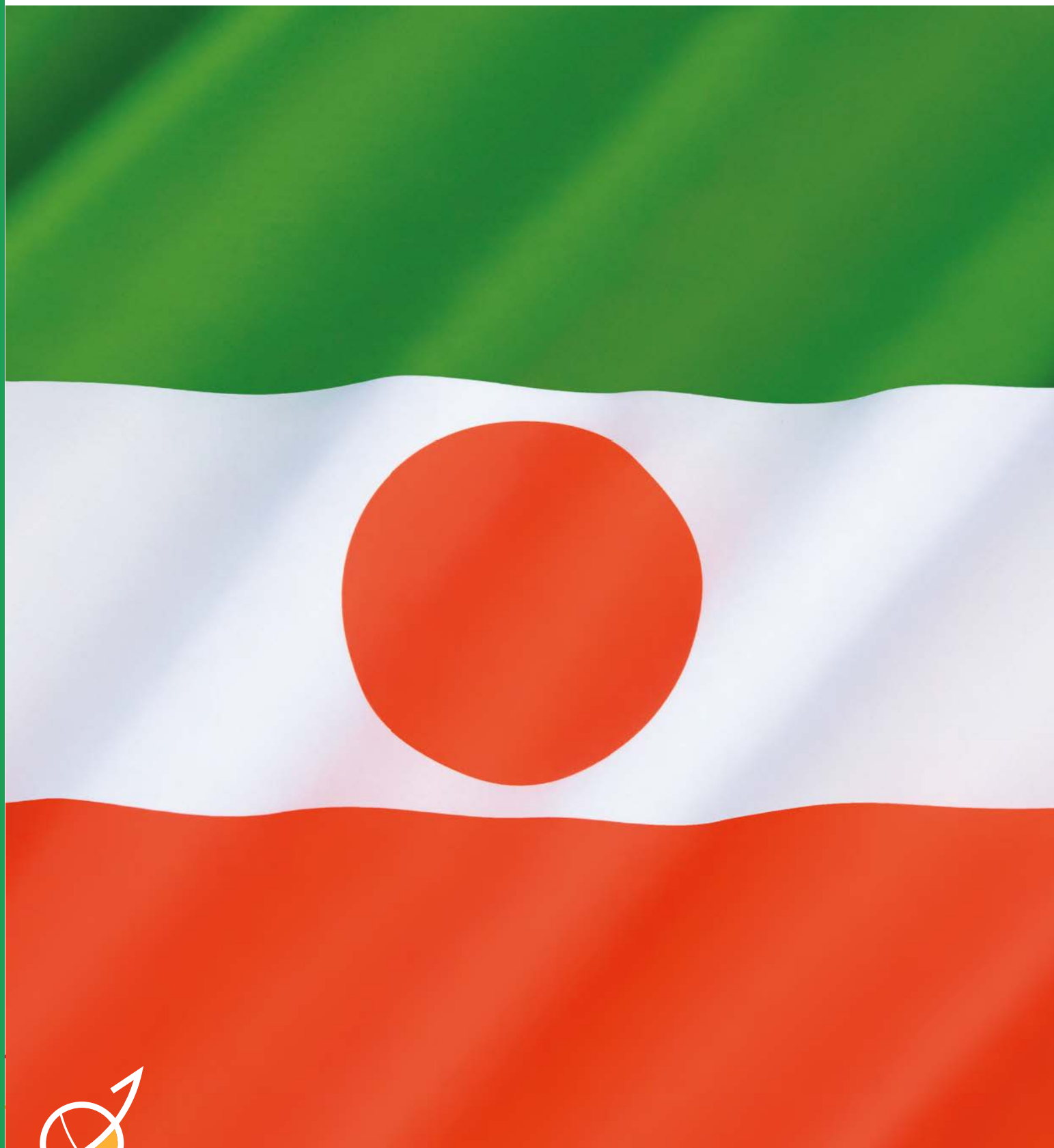


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1 IMPORTANCE OF BELGIUM AND THE OTHER EU COUNTRIES IN TRADE WITH NIGER

1.1 EXPORTS

Total exports of goods from the European Union (EU-27) to Niger reached €196.8 million in 2024.

Belgium accounted for a share of 19.8% of this, making it the 2nd largest EU exporter of goods to Niger. France took first place in EU exports of goods to Niger with a share of 23.5% and an amount of €46.2 million. Meanwhile, Ireland occupied the third place with a share of 13.9%.

While European exports (EU-27) to Niger were down 34.0% (€-101.3 million) in 2024, Belgian exports fell by 61.7% (€-62.9 million).

Since the percentage decrease of Belgian exports to Niger was more significant than that of the EU as a whole, our country's share of EU exports of goods to Niger decreased in 2024.

The value of French exports of goods to Niger dropped by 38.2% (€-28.6 million) in 2024 because of the lower values for 'food preparations' and 'milk and cream', among other things. Meanwhile, Ireland, the third largest EU exporter of goods to Niger, recorded a 55.4% (€+9.7 million) growth rate due to increased exports of 'malt extract'.

TABLE 1: EVOLUTION OF EXPORTS TO NIGER

X €1,000	2023	2024	Variation (in %)	Share (in %)
1 France	74,836.4	46,229.8	-38.2	23.5
2 Belgium	101,795.5	38,945.3	-61.7	19.8
3 Ireland	17,585.6	27,331.1	55.4	13.9
...				
Total EU-27	298,177.9	196,849.3	-34.0	100.0

1.2 IMPORTS

Total EU-27 imports of goods from Niger reached €299.7 million in 2024.

Belgium was only the 11th largest EU importer of goods from Niger in 2024 with a share of just 0.03%. France took first place in EU imports of goods from Niger with a share of 97.5% and an amount of €292.2 million. Meanwhile, Spain and the Netherlands took the second and third place in this ranking with shares of 0.9% and 0.5%, respectively.

While European imports (EU-27) from Niger were up 63.8% (€+116.8 million) in 2024, Belgian imports from this country grew by

43.9% (€+31,400). Since the percentage increase of Belgian imports from Niger was lower than that of the EU as a whole, our country's share of EU imports of goods from Niger decreased in 2024.

French imports of goods from Niger grew by 72.4% (€+122.7 million) in 2024, in part due to higher values for 'crude petroleum oils and crude oils from bituminous minerals' and 'natural uranium and its compounds'. Meanwhile, Spain and the Netherlands recorded a 28.2% (€-1.0 million) and 73.7% (€-4.4 million) fall in imports.

TABLE 2: EVOLUTION OF IMPORTS FROM NIGER

X €1,000	2023	2024	Variation (in %)	Share (in %)
1 France	169,471.0	292,197.2	72.4	97.5
2 Spain	3,633.6	2,610.3	-28.2	0.9
3 Netherlands	5,917.1	1,557.2	-73.7	0.5
...				
11 Belgium	71.4	102.8	43.9	0.0
...				
Total EU-27	182,904.7	299,676.1	63.8	100.0

2 IMPORTANCE OF NIGER AND ITS NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES FOR BELGIAN FOREIGN TRADE (2024)

CLIENT → BELGIAN EXPORTS

SUPPLIER → BELGIAN IMPORTS



INTEREST IN NIGER

The database of the Belgian Foreign Trade Agency, which registers around 25,000 companies, keeps records on 842 Belgian companies that export to Niger and another 1,743 companies that show an interest in this market.

3 BILATERAL TRADE RELATIONS

3.1 TRADE IN GOODS

In 2024, Niger ranked **137th** among Belgium's main clients, before Bolivia, but after Burundi.

Total Belgian **exports** of goods to Niger amounted to €38.9 million in 2024, which is **61.7%** (€-62.9 million) less than the previous year.

Niger was Belgium's **191st** largest supplier of goods in 2024, ranking after Christmas Island, but before the Cocos Keeling Islands.

Total Belgian **imports** of goods from Niger were up **43.9%** (€+31,400), amounting to €102,800 in 2024.

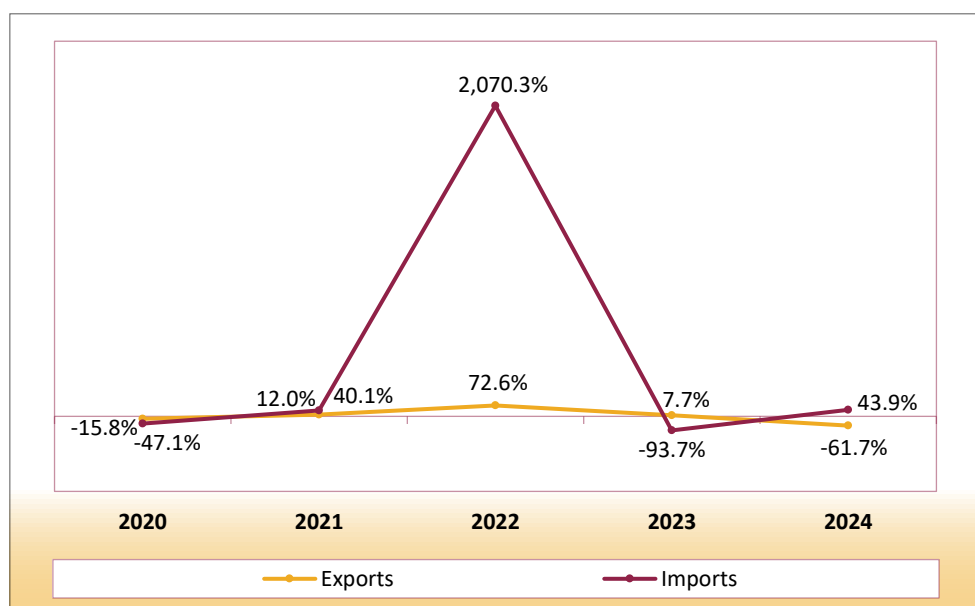
TABLE 3: EVOLUTION OF BELGIUM'S TRADE IN GOODS WITH NIGER

X €1,000	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Exports	48,894.3	54,750.5	94,509.1	101,795.5	38,945.3
Imports	37.3	52.2	1,132.5	71.4	102.8
Trade balance	48,857.1	54,698.3	93,376.6	101,724.1	38,842.6
Exports: variation in %	-15.8	12.0	72.6	7.7	-61.7
Imports: variation in %	-47.1	40.1	2,070.3	-93.7	43.9

Belgium's **trade balance for goods** with Niger has traditionally shown a surplus in favor of our country. The surplus amounted to €48.9 million in 2020 as the value of exports decreased more sharply than that of imports. In 2021 and 2022, both imports and exports resumed an upward trend, and since the value of exports increased more strongly than that of imports in both years, the surplus on Belgium's trade balance for goods with Niger also rose to €54.7 million and

€93.4 million, respectively. Exports continued to grow in 2023, while imports plummeted. As a result, the surplus increased to €101.7 million, the highest level in the period under review. Finally, in 2024, the situation reversed compared to the previous year, as exports fell by nearly two-thirds while imports increased. As a result, the surplus dropped to €38.8 million, the lowest level in the past five years.

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



As the value of chemical products in exports declined in 2020, total Belgian **exports** of goods to Niger also decreased by 15.8%. In 2021 and 2022, the higher value of, among others, transport equipment led to an increase in total Belgian goods exports to Niger, which grew by 12.0% and 72.6%, respectively, in those two years. The fact that total exports continued to grow in 2023 by 7.7%, despite a decline in exports of both chemical products and transport equipment, was mainly driven by the section of machinery and equipment. In 2024, the value of the latter category dropped significantly, leading to a 61.7% decrease in total Belgian exports of goods to Niger.

The value of precious stones and metals declined in 2020, which contributed to a 47.1% decrease in total Belgian **imports** of goods from Niger that year. After a recovery began in 2021 with a 40.1% increase in imports, the base metals category played a significant role in the continued growth of total Belgian imports of goods from Niger in 2022, which rose by 2,070.3%. However, in 2023, base metals were no longer present, resulting in a 93.7% decline in total imports that year. Finally, increased imports of machinery and equipment and transport equipment led to a 43.9% rise in total Belgian goods imports from Niger in 2024.

3.1.1 EXPORTS

In 2024, **chemical products** took the top position in total Belgian **exports** of goods to Niger. With a value of €25.0 million, this group of products accounted for a share of 64.3% of total exports. This section was mainly composed of ‘vaccines for human medicine’ and ‘medicaments’.

Exports of **foodstuffs** (main sub-section: ‘sauces and preparations therefor’) amounted to €5.2 million, corresponding to a share of 13.4% of Belgian exports of goods to Niger.

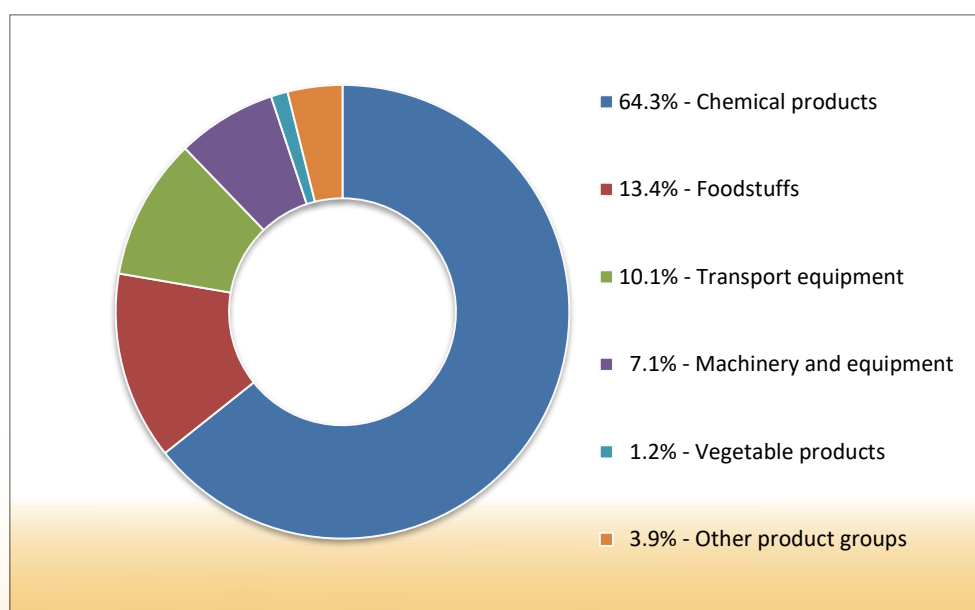
Transport equipment (main sub-sections: ‘motor vehicles for the transport of goods with only a compression-ignition internal combustion piston engine (diesel or semi-diesel) of a gross vehicle weight exceeding 5

tonnes but not exceeding 20 tonnes’ and ‘vehicles for the transport of persons with only a spark-ignition internal combustion piston engine of a cylinder capacity exceeding 1,500 cm³, but not exceeding 3,000 cm³’) completed the top three of Belgian export sections to Niger in 2024 with a share of 10.1% and exports totalling €3.9 million.

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

- **machinery and equipment:** €2.8 million, corresponding to a 7.1% share and
- **vegetable products:** €459,200, corresponding to a 1.2% share.

FIGURE 2: BREAKDOWN OF BELGIAN EXPORTS TO NIGER BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES (IN %) — 2024

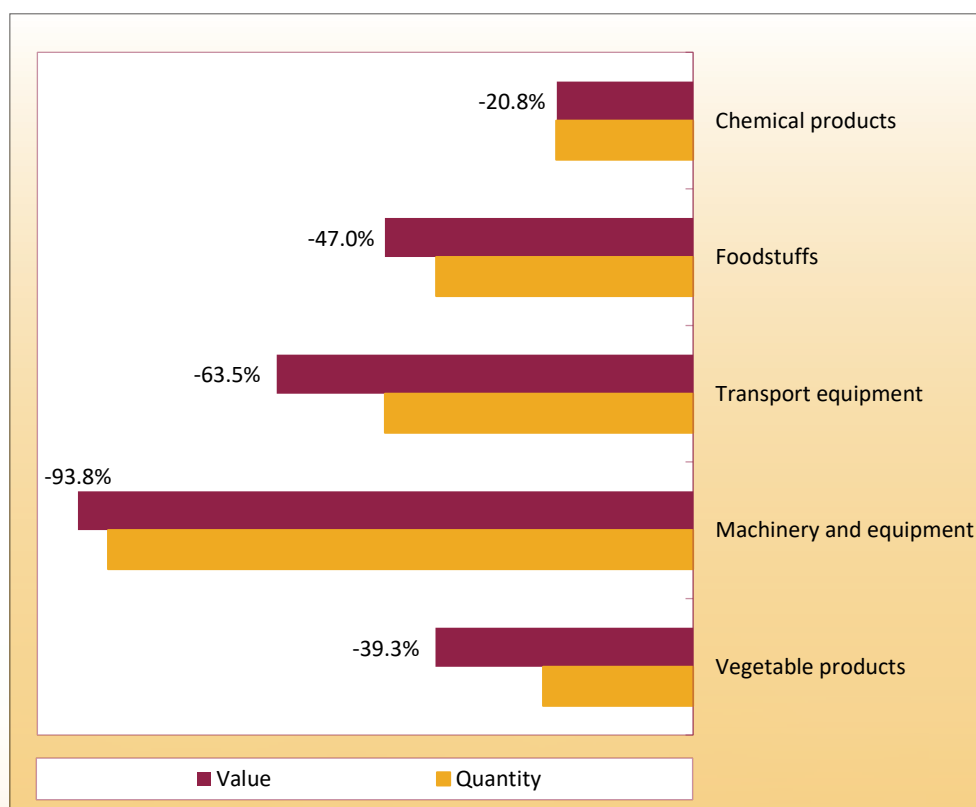


The main reason for the 61.7% decrease of total Belgian exports of goods to Niger was the evolution of **machinery and equipment**. Exports of this section were down €41.9 million (-93.8%) in 2024, which can be attributed to the lower value for ‘centrifuges, including centrifugal dryers; filtering or purifying machinery and apparatus, for liquids or gases’ and ‘compression-ignition internal combustion piston engines (diesel or semi-diesel engines)’.

Exports of **chemical products**, the largest category in Belgian exports of goods to Niger, fell by 20.8% (€-6.6 million) in 2024, due in particular to a lower value for ‘vaccines for human medicine’.

The three other sections with a share of more than 1.0% also recorded a decline in exports: the value of **vegetable products** was down by €296,900 (-39.3%), while **foodstuffs** and **transport equipment** recorded a fall of 47.0% (€-4.6 million) and 63.5% (€-6.8 million), respectively. The lower value for the latter category can be attributed to the ‘vehicles for the transport of persons with only a compression-ignition internal combustion piston engine (diesel or semi-diesel) of a cylinder capacity exceeding 2,500 cm³’ and ‘vehicles for the transport of persons with only a spark-ignition internal combustion piston engine of a cylinder capacity exceeding 1,500 cm³, but not exceeding 3,000 cm³’ subcategories.

FIGURE 3: VARIATION OF EXPORTS TO NIGER BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES (IN VALUE AND QUANTITY) — 2024/2023



3.1.2 IMPORTS

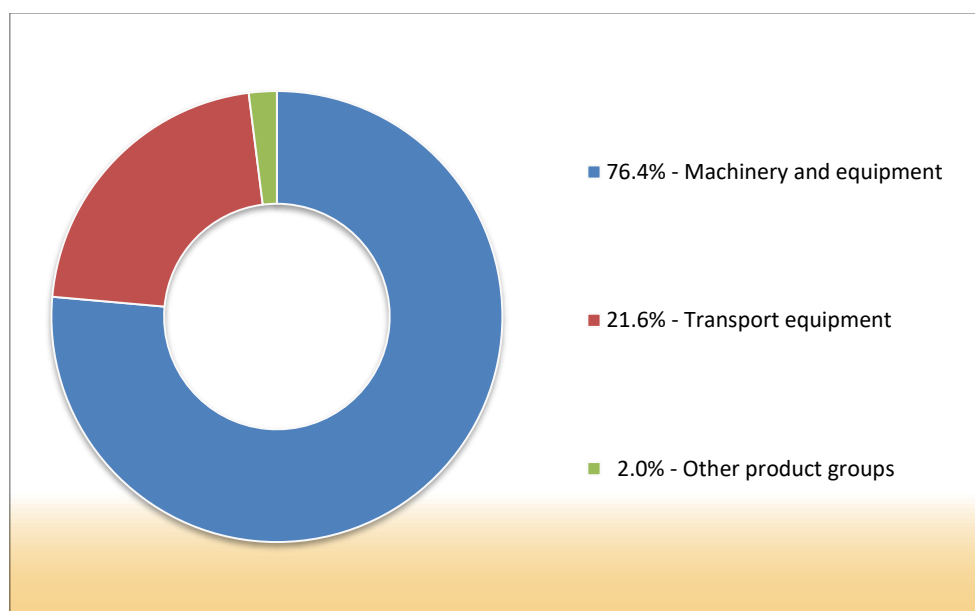
In 2024, **machinery and equipment** was by far the largest section of Belgian imports of goods from Niger with a share of 76.4%. This group of products, composed primarily of ‘graders and levellers’, accounted for a value of €78,500.

Transport equipment (main sub-sections: ‘vehicles for the transport of persons with only a spark-ignition internal combustion piston engine of a cylinder capacity exceeding 1,000 cm³, but not exceeding 1,500 cm³’ and ‘parts and accessories of motor vehicles’) was the

only other category with a share of more than 1.0% in total Belgian imports of goods from Niger in 2024. Imports of this group of products amounted to €22,200, which is equivalent to a share of 21.6%.

The other 2.0% of Belgian imports of goods from Niger was composed of **precious metals and stones** (0.9%, or €969), **vegetable products** (0.8%, or €790), **textiles** (0.1%, or €121), **chemical products** (0.1%, or €92) and **foodstuffs** (0.1%, or €76).

FIGURE 4: BREAKDOWN OF BELGIAN IMPORTS FROM NIGER BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES (IN %) — 2024

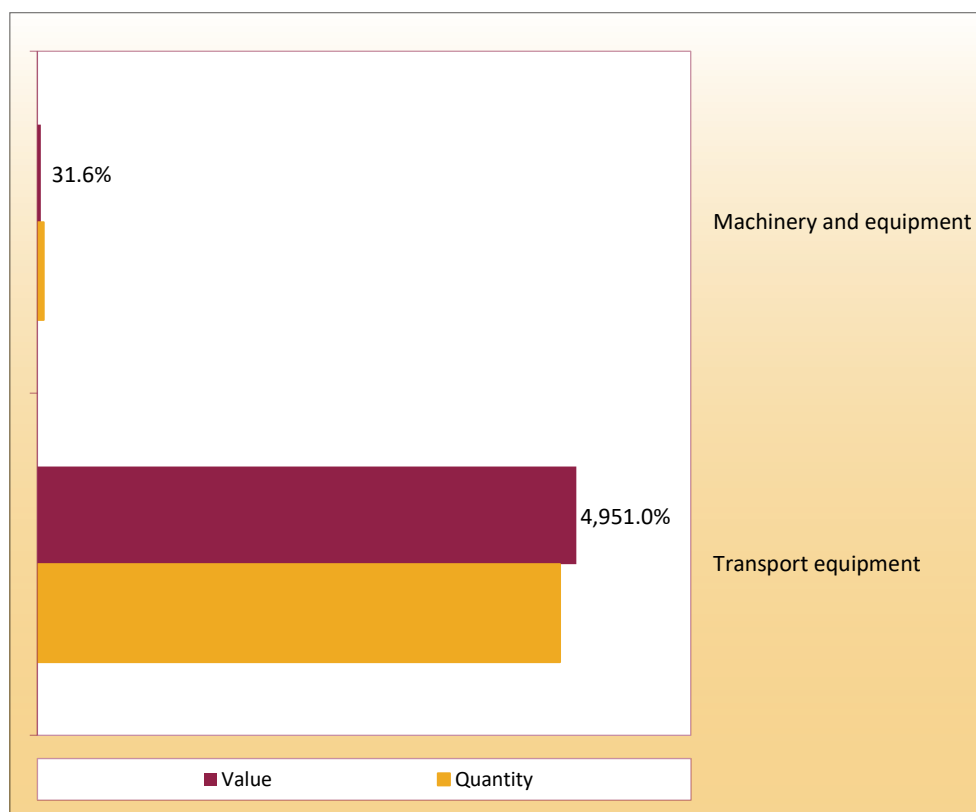


Among the two product groups accounting for more than 1.0% of Belgian imports of goods from Niger, **transport equipment** experienced the largest increase in value in 2024. Imports in this category grew by €21,700 (+4,951.0%), primarily due to a rise in the ‘vehicles for the transport of persons with only a spark-ignition internal combustion piston engine of a cylinder capacity exceeding 1,000 cm³, but not

exceeding 1,500 cm³ and ‘parts and accessories of motor vehicles’ subcategories.

Machinery and equipment, the largest section in imports, displayed a 31.6% (€+18,800) increase in value, which can largely be attributed to the ‘graders and levellers’ subcategory.

FIGURE 5: VARIATION OF IMPORTS FROM NIGER BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES (IN VALUE AND QUANTITY) — 2024/2023



3.2 TRADE IN SERVICES

In 2024, the value of Belgian exports of services to Niger decreased by **73.3%** (€-5.2 million) to **€1.9 million**. As a result, Niger moved down to the **184th** place on the list of most important clients of Belgium in total Belgian exports of services, after Djibouti, but before Lesotho.

Belgian imports of services from Niger represented a value of **€3.3 million** in 2024, a **39.2%** (€-2.1 million) decrease compared to the previous year. Niger was the **153rd** most important supplier of services to Belgium in 2024, after Bolivia and before Mozambique.

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

X €1,000	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Exports	9,271	7,443	5,635	7,108	1,895
Imports	6,834	6,294	6,461	5,434	3,305
Trade balance	2,437	1,149	-826	1,674	-1,410
Exports: variation in %	-2.2	-19.7	-24.3	26.1	-73.3
Imports: variation in %	8.6	-7.9	2.7	-15.9	-39.2

In 2022 and 2024, the value of imports exceeded that of exports. As a result, Belgium recorded a services trade deficit with Niger in each of those two years. From 2020 to 2021 and in 2023 a surplus was registered.

The surplus on Belgium's **services trade balance** with Niger, which amounted to just over €2.4 million in 2020, declined by nearly €1.3 million the following year to approximately €1.1 million, as the value of exports decreased more strongly than that of imports. While imports returned to growth in

2022, exports continued to decline, turning the surplus into a deficit of €826,000. In 2023, the situation reversed, with exports rising and imports falling. As a result, the deficit shifted back to a surplus of just under €1.7 million. Subsequently, exports fell by a larger amount than imports in 2024, causing the surplus to once again turn into a €1.4 million deficit.

The trade balance for services contrasted with the one for goods in 2022 and 2024, as the latter has traditionally been positive for our country.

3.2.1 EXPORTS

In 2024, **other business services** was the largest section in terms of total Belgian exports of services to Niger with a share of 34.0% and a value of €644,000. This category of services includes ‘merchandising’, ‘operational leasing services’, ‘legal services’, ‘accounting, auditing, bookkeeping and tax consultancy services’, ‘advertising, market research and public opinion polling’ and ‘waste treatment and depollution’. **Travel services** took 2nd place with 25.7%, while **telecommunications, computer and information services** settled in third place with a share of 21.6%.

The significantly lower value for **other business services** was by far the main reason why total Belgian exports of services to Niger

were down by 73.3% in 2024. Exports in this category fell by 87.6% (€-4.5 million).

Meanwhile, the value of **travel services** decreased by 43.2%, from €857,000 in 2023 to €487,000 last year.

Exports of **transportation services** and **financial services** decreased by 57.5% (€-359,000) and 16.3% (€-7,000), with their values falling to €265,000 and €36,000, respectively.

The decline in exports of the preceding services groups was more significant than the higher values for **telecommunications, computer and information services** (+17.5%, or €+61,000) and the **other services** (+25.6%, or €+11,000).

TABLE 5: BELGIAN EXPORTS TO NIGER BY PRINCIPAL SERVICES

X €1,000	2023	2024	2024/2023 Var. in %	2024 Share in %
Other business services	5,193	644	-87.6	34.0
Travel services	857	487	-43.2	25.7
Telecommunications, computer and information services	348	409	17.5	21.6
Transportation services	624	265	-57.5	14.0
Financial services	43	36	-16.3	1.9
Other services	43	54	25.6	2.8
Total	7,108	1,895	-73.3	100.0

3.2.2 IMPORTS

Other business services not only dominated total Belgian exports of services to Niger in 2024, they were also the largest category of imports from that country. **Manufacturing services** took 2nd place with 29.4%, while **transportation services** settled in third place with a share of 15.2%. The latter group of services is composed of sea transport, air transport, space transport, rail transport, road transport, inland waterway transport and pipeline transport, among others.

The lower values for **other business services** and **manufacturing services** - the two largest service categories in imports - were the main reasons why total Belgian imports of services from Niger fell by 39.2% in 2024. Imports of the

former category decreased by nearly €1.8 million (-60.4%). Meanwhile, the value of the latter declined by 39.6%, from around €1.6 million in 2023 to €973,000 in 2024.

Travel services was the other category among the top five services imports to record a decline, with its value decreasing by 7.6% (€-27,000).

The fall in imports of these major service categories outweighed the increases seen in **transportation services** (+39.3%, or €+142,000), **telecommunications, computer and information services** (+242.4%, or €+160,000) and the **other services** (+30.7% or €+23,000).

TABLE 6: BELGIAN IMPORTS FROM NIGER BY PRINCIPAL SERVICES

X €1,000	2023	2024	2024/2023 Var. in %	2024 Share in %
Other business services	2,964	1,175	-60.4	35.6
Manufacturing services	1,611	973	-39.6	29.4
Transportation services	361	503	39.3	15.2
Travel services	357	330	-7.6	10.0
Telecommunications, computer and information services	66	226	242.4	6.8
Other services	75	98	30.7	3.0
Total	5,434	3,305	-39.2	100.0

4 ECONOMIC INDICATORS FOR NIGER

Economic structure (2024 - estimates)	
GDP	\$19.6 billion
GDP growth rate	9.9%
Inflation rate	7.8%
Exports of goods (2023 - FOB)	\$467.4 million
Imports of goods (2023 - FOB)	\$3.1 billion
Trade balance	\$-2.7 billion
Population	28.1 million
Unemployment rate	n/a
Main clients (2023): % of total	
France	44.0
United Arab Emirates	21.0
Mali	10.8
Main suppliers (2023): % of total	
China	27.0
France	24.0
India	11.5
Main exports (2023): % of total	
Uranium or thorium ores and concentrates	43.0
Gold	23.0
Petroleum oils and oils from bituminous minerals	18.4
Main imports (2023): % of total	
Parts of aircraft and spacecraft	19.5
Rice	9.8
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	4.3

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 2015, then this product had an average value of €143.5 in 2023. The same principle applies to imports. If a particular product had an import value of €100 in 2015, the same product then had an import value of €145.6 in 2023.

TABLE 7: INDEX OF THE UNIT VALUE OF TOTAL BELGIAN EXPORTS AND IMPORTS (2015=100)

	Export	Import
2014	100.5	101.8
2015	100.0	100.0
2016	97.4	96.2
2017	102.0	102.5
2018	105.9	108.5
2019	108.3	111.5
2020	108.3	108.8
2021	120.4	122.3
2022	152.8	157.7
2023	143.5	145.6

6 SOURCES

WORLD BANK — WWW.WORLDBANK.ORG

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM — WWW.BNB.BE

CREDENDO GROUP — WWW.CREDENDOGROUP.COM

CIA WORLD FACTBOOK — WWW.CIA.GOV

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL COMMERCE, EUROPEAN COMMISSION — [HTTP://EC.EUROPA.EU/TRADE](http://EC.EUROPA.EU/TRADE)

EUROSTAT, EUROPEAN COMMISSION — [HTTP://EC.EUROPA.EU/EUROSTAT](http://EC.EUROPA.EU/EUROSTAT)

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION — WWW.WTO.ORG

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