Belgium's trade relations with

AUSTRIA

This publication is also available on the website of the Belgian Foreign Trade Agency: www.abh-ace.be

Belgian
Foreign Trade Agency

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 Importance of Belgium and the other EU countries in trade with Austria 2

1.1 Exports 2

1.2 Imports 3

2 Importance of Austria and its neighbouring countries for Belgium's foreign trade (2025) 4

3 Bilateral trade relations 5

3.1 Trade in goods 5

3.1.1 Exports 7

3.1.2 Imports 9

3.2 Trade in services 11

3.2.1 Exports 12

3.2.2 Imports 13

4 Economic indicators for Austria 14

5 Index of the unit price for imports and exports 15

6 Sources 16

7 Contacts 16

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

1.1 Exports

Total exports of goods from the European Union (EU-27) to Austria accounted for about €160.6 billion in 2025. **Belgium represented a 3.2% share of this, making it the 8th most important EU exporter of goods to Austria.** Germany was by far the leading exporter of goods to Austria among all EU countries, with a 49.8% share and an export value of €79.9 billion. In addition, Italy and the Netherlands claimed second and third place in this ranking, with shares of 8.2% and 7.0%, respectively.

While the value of European exports (EU-27) to Austria in 2025 was 3.8% (€+5.9 billion) higher than a year earlier, Belgian exports were down by 4.5% (€-243.9 million). Consequently, Belgium's share of EU goods exports to Austria decreased in 2025.

German exports of goods to Austria witnessed a rise of 4.7% (€+3.6 billion) in 2025 due partly to higher values for the subcategories 'electrical energy', 'smartphones' and 'vehicles with both a spark-ignition internal combustion piston engine and an electric motor as motors for propulsion, capable of being charged by plugging to an external source of electric power'. Furthermore, Italian exports of goods to Austria grew by 5.6% (€+699.9 million), largely because of increased exports of 'natural gas in gaseous state'. In addition, Dutch exports of goods to Austria grew by 3.5% (€+379.6 million).

Table 1: Evolution of exports to Austria

In million €		2024	2025	Variation (in %)	Share (in %)
1	**Germany**	76,350.1	79,949.2	4.7	49.8
2	**Italy**	12,540.4	13,240.3	5.6	8.2
3	**Netherlands**	10,927.9	11,307.5	3.5	7.0
	…				
8	**Belgium**	5,428.9	5,185.0	-4.5	3.2
	…				
	Total EU-27	**154,727.2**	**160,605.4**	**3.8**	**100.0**

1.2 IMPORTS

Total EU imports of goods from Austria amounted to about €142.1 billion in 2025. **Belgium was the 11th largest EU importer of goods from Austria in 2025 with a 2.5% share.** Germany was not only the number one exporter to Austria, but also the largest EU importer of goods from this country with a share of 41.7%, which corresponds to an amount of roughly €59.3 billion. Italy and Slovakia claimed the second and third place in this ranking with shares of 9.4% and 6.2%, respectively.

While European Union (EU-27) imports of goods from Austria increased by 2.2% (€+3.1 billion) in 2025, Belgian imports from the country were down by 10.3% (€-408.3 million). As a result, Belgium's share of EU goods imports from Austria decreased in 2025.

Partly due to a rise in imports of 'electrical energy' and 'coin', German imports of goods from Austria increased by 2.6% (€+1.5 billion) in 2025. Meanwhile, the growth of Italian imports was 6.9% (€+865.3 million), which resulted in part from higher values for 'antisera and other blood fractions' and 'wood sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or end-jointed of fir and spruce'. Furthermore, Slovakian imports of goods from Austria were up by 2.9% (€+249.3 million).

TABLE 2: EVOLUTION OF IMPORTS FROM AUSTRIA

In million €		2024	2025	Variation (in %)	Share (in %)
1	**Germany**	57,777.1	59,278.5	2.6	41.7
2	**Italy**	12,498.2	13,363.5	6.9	9.4
3	**Slovakia**	8,563.0	8,812.3	2.9	6.2
	…				
11	**Belgium**	3,969.2	3,560.9	-10.3	2.5
	…				
	Total EU-27	**139,016.7**	**142,082.6**	**2.2**	**100.0**

2 Importance of Austria 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, Austria ranked **16th** among Belgium's main clients, before Denmark, but after the Czech Rep.

Total Belgian **exports** of goods to Austria amounted to about **€5.2 billion** in 2025, which is **4.5%** (€-243.9 million) less than the previous year. In 2025, exports to Austria represented **1.0%** of the total amount of Belgian goods exported.

Austria was Belgium's **20th** largest supplier of goods in 2025, ranking after Viet Nam, but preceding Finland.

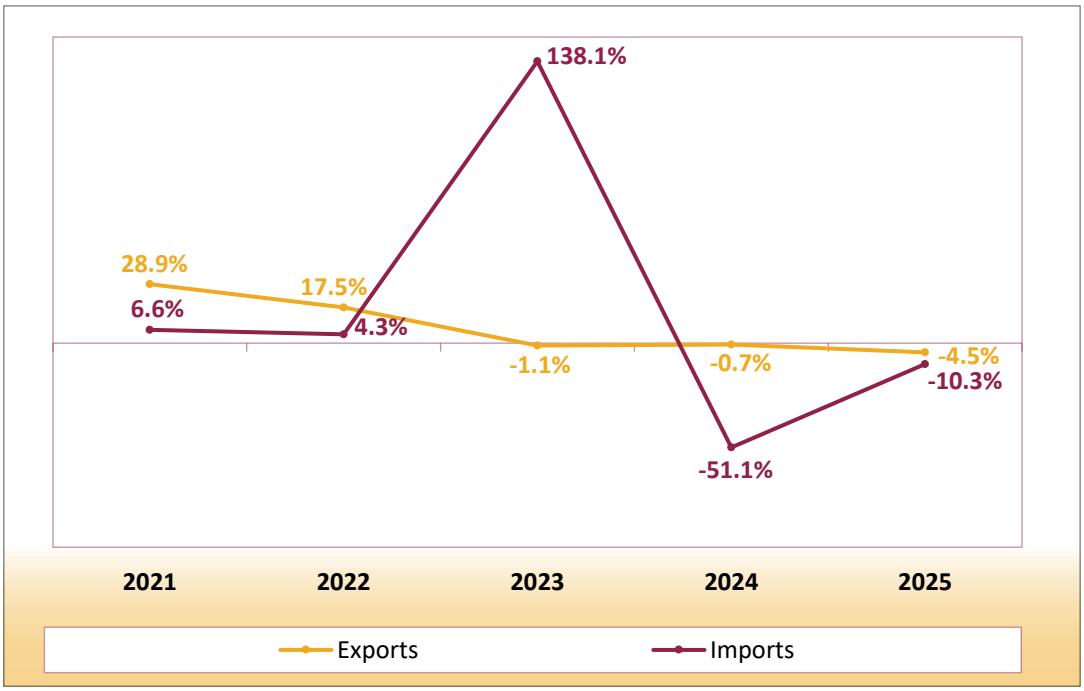
Total Belgian **imports** of goods from Austria were down by **10.3%** (€-408.3 million), falling to around **€3.6 billion** in 2025. Austria accounted for **0.7%** of total Belgian imports of goods.

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

In million €	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Exports	4,707.9	5,530.5	5,469.5	5,428.9	5,185.0
Imports	3,269.4	3,411.0	8,120.1	3,969.2	3,560.9
Trade balance	1,438.5	2,119.5	-2,650.6	1,459.7	1,624.1
Exports: variation (in %)	28.9	17.5	-1.1	-0.7	-4.5
Imports: variation (in %)	6.6	4.3	138.1	-51.1	-10.3

Belgium's **trade balance in goods** with Austria experienced significant volatility between 2021 and 2025. The more than €1.4 billion surplus recorded in 2021 grew to its highest level of the period under review at just over €2.1 billion a year later, with exports outperforming imports. However, in 2023, the trade surplus turned into a nearly €2.7 billion deficit as exports declined slightly while imports soared, more than doubling in value. Then, in 2024, imports dropped sharply, and even though exports shed some of their value, the trade deficit once again turned into a surplus of around €1.5 billion. Because imports kept regressing more than exports in 2025, the surplus on Belgium's trade balance for goods with Austria rose further to just over €1.6 billion.

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



In 2021 and 2022, Belgian **exports** to Austria grew by 28.9% and 17.5%, respectively, driven by higher values for transport equipment, chemical and pharmaceutical products, machinery and equipment, plastics, and base metals - which constituted the five largest product groups in exports. While exports of transport equipment and machinery and equipment continued to grow in 2023, the value of the three other aforementioned categories was down, leading total exports to fall by 1.1%. In 2024, it was primarily the lower value of machinery and equipment that led to total exports falling by another 0.7%. In 2025, the continued regression of this product group, as well as the lower value of chemical and pharmaceutical products, was largely responsible for total Belgian exports of goods to Austria declining for the third straight year, this time by 4.5%.

While in 2021 and 2022 it was in part the higher values of machinery and equipment, base metals, and paper and paperboard that led total Belgian **imports** of goods from Austria to grow by 6.6% and 4.3%, respectively, the 138.1% surge witnessed in 2023 can almost solely be attributed to higher imports of chemical and pharmaceutical products - and more specifically, 'lactams'. However, as the value of this category came tumbling down in 2024 and 2025, so did total Belgian imports of goods from Austria, as evidenced by the 51.1% and 10.3% decreases during these two years.

3.1.1 Exports

In 2025, **transport equipment** took the leading position in total Belgian exports of goods to Austria. At around €1.1 billion, this group of products represented a 20.9% share of total exports. This section was mainly composed of 'vehicles with only an electric motor for propulsion', 'vehicles with only a spark-ignition internal combustion piston engine of a cylinder capacity exceeding 1,500 cm^3, but not exceeding 3,000 cm^3' and 'vehicles with both a spark-ignition internal combustion piston engine and an electric motor as motors for propulsion, capable of being charged by plugging to an external source of electric power'.

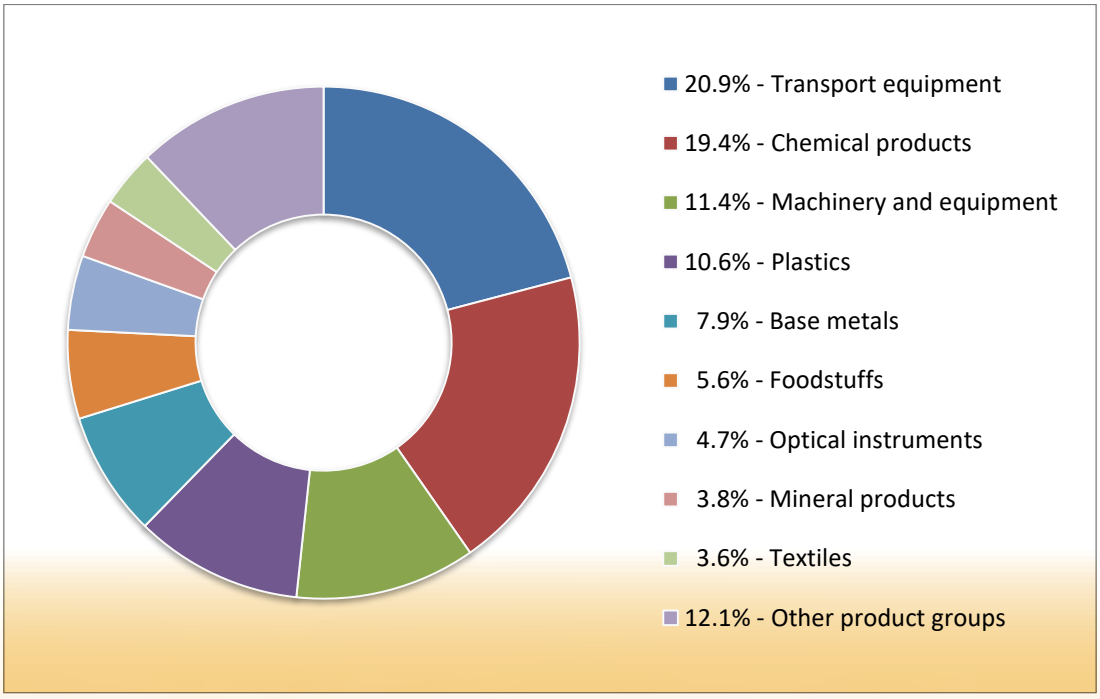
Exports of **chemical and pharmaceutical products** (main subsections: 'immunological products, put up in measured doses or in forms or packings for retail sale' and 'medicaments consisting of mixed or unmixed products for therapeutic or prophylactic uses') amounted to just over €1.0 billion, representing a 19.4% share.

Machinery and equipment (main subsections: 'parts of air-conditioning machines, comprising a motor-driven fan and elements for changing the temperature and humidity, including those machines in which the humidity cannot be separately regulated' and 'centrifuges, including centrifugal dryers; filtering or purifying machinery and apparatus, for liquids or gases') completed the top three of largest sections in exports of goods to Austria with a share of 11.4% and an export value of €592.3 million.

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

- **plastics**: €550.9 million, corresponding to a share of 10.6%;
- **base metals**: €411.6 million, corresponding to a share of 7.9%; and
- **foodstuffs**: €289.2 million, corresponding to a share of 5.6%.

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



The main reasons for the 4.5% decrease in total Belgian exports of goods to Austria were the lower values of **chemical and pharmaceutical products**, as well as **machinery and equipment**. Exports in the former category were down by €187.7 million (-15.7%) in 2025, which can be attributed to lower values for 'lactams' - a chemical compound used in medicine (specifically to fight bacterial infections) and industrial polymer manufacturing - and 'medicaments'. Meanwhile, the value of machinery and equipment dropped by 22.9% (€-176.1 million) due to lower exports of 'parts of harvesting or threshing machinery, including straw or fodder balers; grass or hay mowers; and machines for cleaning, sorting, or grading eggs, fruit, or other agricultural produce'.

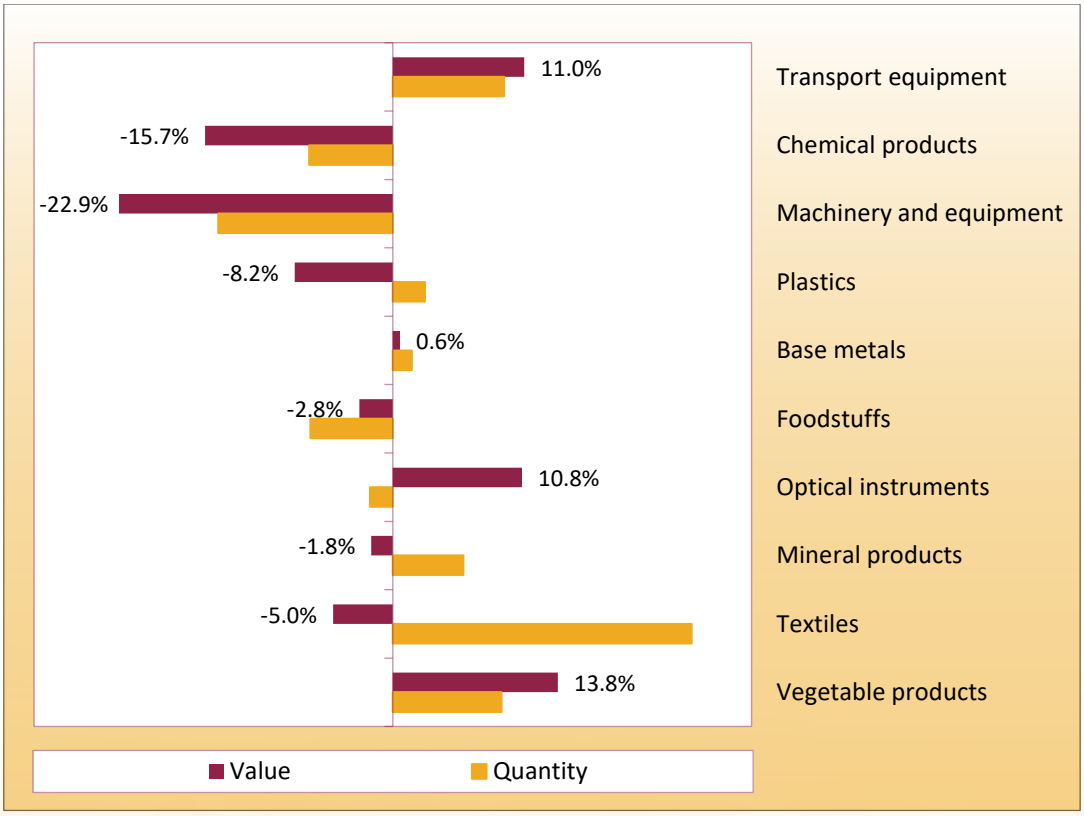
While the value of **textiles** was down by 5.0% (€-10.0 million), the exported quantity moved in the opposite direction and grew significantly. This growth can be attributed to the subcategory 'nonwovens, whether or not impregnated, coated, covered, or laminated'. However, this particular subsection had very little impact on the overall value trend.

The three other product groups from the top ten whose export value decreased recorded negative growth ranging from 1.8% for **mineral products** to 8.2% for **plastics**. The fall of €49.5 million in the latter product group can partly be attributed to the lower value of 'propylene copolymers, in primary forms'.

The category of **transport equipment**, the leading section in exports of goods to Austria, recorded a rise of 11.0% (€+107.7 million), due to the higher value of, among others, 'vehicles with only an electric motor for propulsion', 'vehicles with both a spark-ignition internal combustion piston engine and an electric motor as motors for propulsion, capable of being charged by plugging into an external source of electric power' and 'vehicles with only a spark-ignition internal combustion piston engine of a cylinder capacity exceeding 1,500 cm³, but not exceeding 3,000 cm³'.

Base metals (+0.6%, or +€2.6 million), **optical, precision and medical instruments** (+10.8%, or +€23.6 million) and **vegetable products** (+13.8%, or +€17.7 million) 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 subsections 'bananas, including plantains, fresh or dried', 'coffee, not roasted and not decaffeinated' and 'kiwifruit'.

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



3.1.2 IMPORTS

In 2025, the **chemical and pharmaceutical products** category, which was composed mainly of 'antisera and other blood fractions', took the top position in total Belgian imports of goods from Austria with around €1.2 billion, giving this group of products a share of 34.6%.

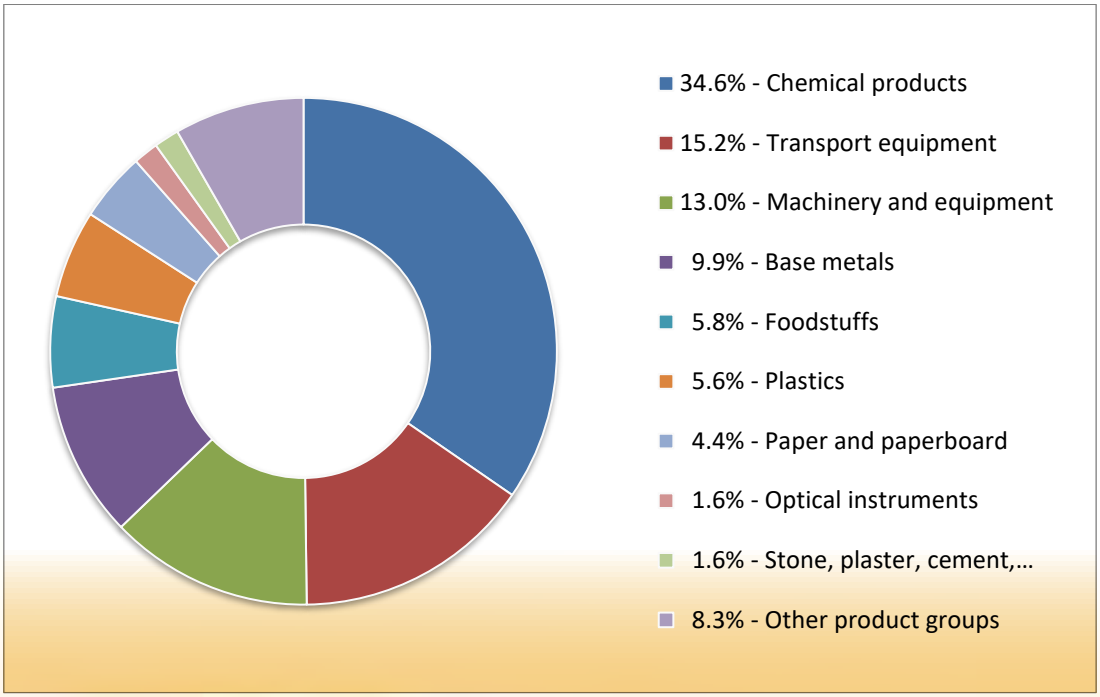
Transport equipment (main subsection: 'vehicles with only a spark-ignition internal combustion piston engine of a cylinder capacity exceeding 1,500 cm^3, but not exceeding 3,000 cm^3') accounted for a 15.2% share of total imports, totalling €539.8 million.

The **machinery and equipment** heading completed the top three of main sections in Belgian imports of goods from Austria. This group of products, which was mainly composed of 'lighting or visual signalling equipment' and 'taps, cocks, valves and similar appliances for pipes, boiler shells, tanks, vats or the like, including pressure-reducing valves and thermostatically controlled valves', accounted for a share of 13.0% and an amount of €461.9 million.

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

- **base metals**: €353.9 million, corresponding to a share of 9.9%;
- **foodstuffs**: €208.1 million, corresponding to a share of 5.8%; and
- **plastics**: €199.6 million, corresponding to a share of 5.6%.

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

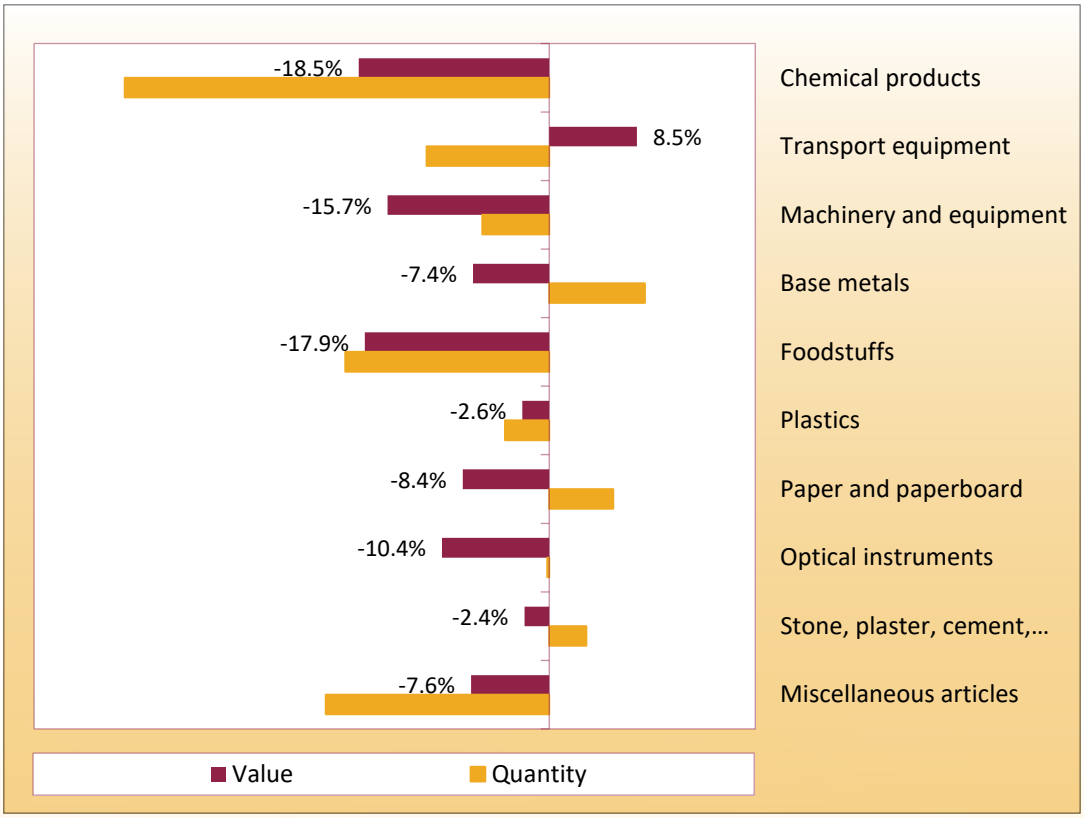


The 10.3% decline in total Belgian imports of goods from Austria in 2025 was mainly driven by the **chemical and pharmaceutical products** category, which fell for the second consecutive year - this time by 18.5%, after plummeting by 72.8% in 2024. The value of this category decreased by €279.0 million, largely as a result of lower imports of 'lactams', just as in 2024. The fact that the imported quantity in this category dropped much more sharply than its value can be attributed to the subcategories 'ethylene' and 'phenol (hydroxybenzene) and its salts'. However, these particular subsections had little impact on the overall value trend.

The eight other product groups among the top ten that recorded a decrease in imports in 2025 reported negative growth rates ranging from 2.4% for **stone, plaster, cement,…** to 17.9% for **foodstuffs**. The fall in the latter category, amounting to €45.3 million, can be attributed, among other factors, to the subsection 'waters, including mineral waters and aerated waters, containing added sugar or other sweetening matter or flavored'.

By contrast, **transport equipment** was the only category among the ten largest product groups in imports from Austria whose value increased. Growth in this category, amounting to €42.4 million (+8.5%), was largely driven by higher imports of 'parts of railway or tramway locomotives or rolling stock' and 'self-propelled railway or tramway coaches, vans and trucks, powered from an external source of electricity'. The fact that the imported quantity moved in the opposite direction of its value can be attributed to the subcategories 'containers (including containers for the transport of fluids) specially designed and equipped for carriage by one or more modes of transport' and 'tractors'. However, these particular subsections had limited impact on the overall value trend.

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



3.2 TRADE IN SERVICES

The value of Belgian exports of services to Austria was up by **11.7%** (€+165.2 million) in 2025, increasing to about **€1.6 billion**. This made Austria Belgium's **14th** largest client, after Poland but before Singapore with a share of **1.1%** of total Belgian exports of services.

Belgian imports of services from Austria accounted for a value of roughly **€1.3 billion** in 2025, corresponding to a **2.7%** (€+34.5 million) increase compared to the year before. Austria was Belgium's **16th** largest supplier in 2025 with a share of **0.9%** of our country's total imports of services, ranking before Denmark, but after Romania.

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

In million €	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Exports	1,228.8	1,335.5	1,324.2	1,416.7	1,581.9
Imports	885.7	1,086.8	1,256.4	1,297.2	1,331.7
Trade balance	343.1	248.7	67.8	119.5	250.2
Exports: variation (in %)	11.3	8.7	-0.9	7.0	11.7
Imports: variation (in %)	2.4	22.7	15.6	3.2	2.7

Since Belgium's exports of services to Austria 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 Austria amounted to €343.1 million in 2021 and subsequently declined to €248.7 million a year later, as import growth outpaced that of exports. The trade surplus reached its lowest level of the period under review in 2023, sitting at €67.8 million due to exports decreasing marginally while imports continued to grow. Then, in 2024 and 2025, the trade surplus grew to €119.5 million and €250.2 million, respectively, as exports outpaced import growth each time.

The services balance showed similarities with the goods balance from 2021 to 2022 and from 2024 to 2025, as both were in Belgium's favor during these years.

3.2.1 Exports

In 2025, the **other business services** section led Belgian exports of services to Austria with a value of €465.5 million and a 29.4% share. This 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'. **Telecommunications, computer, and information services** took second place with a 22.5% share, while the **manufacturing services** section completed the top three with a 21.6% share.

A significantly higher value for **telecommunications, computer, and information services** was the main reason why total Belgian exports of services to Austria increased by 11.7% in 2025. Exports in this category grew by 86.1% (€+164.6 million) to €356.0 million.

Exports of **other business services**, the largest section, were up marginally by 0.9% (€+3.9 million).

The positive evolution of these two service categories, together with the **other remaining services** (+18.9%, or €+20.2 million), offset the fall in exports among the three other service groups from the top five. While the decline of **transportation services** was limited to 0.8% (€-2.0 million), exports of **manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others** were down by 4.7% (€-16.8 million). This category includes activities such as processing, assembly, labeling, and packing that are undertaken by enterprises that do not own the goods. Furthermore, the value of **insurance services** - which cover the provision of various types of insurance to non-residents by resident enterprises, and vice versa - dropped by 11.6% (€-4.8 million).

Table 5: Belgian exports to Austria by principal services

In million €	2024	2025	2025/2024 Var. (in %)	2025 Share (in %)
Other business services	461.6	465.5	0.9	29.4
Telecommunications, computer and information services	191.3	356.0	86.1	22.5
Manufacturing services	359.3	342.5	-4.7	21.6
Transportation services	256.4	254.4	-0.8	16.1
Insurance services	41.1	36.3	-11.6	2.3
Other remaining services	107.0	127.2	18.9	8.0
Total	**1,416.7**	**1,581.9**	**11.7**	**100.0**

3.2.2 IMPORTS

The **travel services** section was the largest category in Belgian **imports** of services from Austria, with a value of €395.2 million and a 29.7% share. **Transportation services**, which include sea transport, air transport, rail transport, road transport and inland waterway transport, and **other business services** completed the top three with shares of 26.4% and 24.2%, respectively.

The higher value for **telecommunications, computer and information services** contributed to the 2.7% increase in total Belgian imports of services from Austria. Imports in this particular category rose by 31.0% (€+22.8 million) to €96.2 million in 2025.

Imports of **travel services**, the largest category, grew by 2.0% (€+7.7 million), which implies increased spending by Belgian tourists and businesspeople during their stays in Austria.

Meanwhile, imports of **construction services**, which were good for €36.8 million in 2024, rose by 41.0% in 2025 to €51.8 million. These services cover 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.

Imports of **transportation services** were up by 2.2% (€+7.4 million). 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** (+22.5%, or €+21.0 million) was more significant than the fall in imports of **other business services** (-10.9%, or €-39.6 million).

TABLE 6: BELGIAN IMPORTS FROM AUSTRIA BY PRINCIPAL SERVICES

In million €	2024	2025	2025/2024 Var. (in %)	2025 Share (in %)
Travel services	387.5	395.2	2.0	29.7
Transportation services	344.6	352.0	2.2	26.4
Other business services	361.6	322.0	-10.9	24.2
Telecommunications, computer and information services	73.4	96.2	31.0	7.2
Construction services	36.8	51.8	41.0	3.9
Other remaining services	93.4	114.4	22.5	8.6
Total	**1,297.2**	**1,331.7**	**2.7**	**100.0**

4 Economic indicators for Austria

Economic structure (2025 - estimates)	
GDP	€512.8 billion
GDP growth rate	0.6%
Inflation rate	3.6%
Exports of goods (FOB)	$197.0 billion
Imports of goods (FOB)	€203.6 billion
Trade balance	$-6.6 billion
Population	9.2 million
Unemployment rate	5.7%
Main clients (2025): % of total	
Germany	28.9
United States	6.6
Italy	6.5
Main suppliers (2025): % of total	
Germany	39.2
Italy	6.1
Czech Rep.	5.2
Main exports (2025): % of total	
Human blood; animal blood prepared for therapeutic, prophylactic or diagnostic uses; antisera, other blood fractions and immunological products, whether or not modified or obtained by means of biotechnological processes	4.9
Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons, including station wagons and racing cars	3.9
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	3.3
Main imports (2025): % of total	
Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons, including station wagons and racing cars	5.9
Human blood; animal blood prepared for therapeutic, prophylactic or diagnostic uses; antisera, other blood fractions and immunological products, whether or not modified or obtained by means of biotechnological processes	3.5
Telephone sets, incl. smartphones and other telephones for cellular networks or for other wireless networks	3.2

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

World Bank — www.worldbank.org

National Bank of Belgium — www.bnb.be

Credendo — www.credendo.com

CIA World factbook — www.cia.gov

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

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

World Trade Organization — www.wto.org

7 Contacts

Studies and statistics

Christelle Charlier
Director Economic Studies, Statistics and Communication
☎ +32 471 73 89 68
✉ christelle.charlier@abh-ace.be

Dennis Gijsbrechts
International Trade Analyst
☎ +32 475 53 00 94
✉ dennis.gijsbrechts@abh-ace.be

Sammy Sioen
International Trade Analyst
☎ +32 2 206 35 63
✉ sammy.sioen@abh-ace.be

Date of publication: June 2026

Text writer: Dennis Gijsbrechts

Despite the fact that everything has been done to deliver accurate and up-to-date information, the Belgian Foreign Trade Agency and its partners (hub.brussels, Flanders Investment & Trade and Wallonia Foreign Trade & Investment Agency) cannot be held accountable for mistakes, omissions or deceitful declarations. They can also not be held responsible for the use or the interpretation of the information in this publication.

This publication has not the intention to give advice. Reproduction is authorised, provided the source is acknowledged.

Belgian
Foreign Trade Agency

Belgian Foreign Trade Agency
Rue Montoyer 3 - 1000 Brussel • Belgium
+32 2 206 35 11 • www.abh-ace.be

Printed on FSC & PEFC paper.