



MOST IMPORTANT
PRODUCTS EXPORTED
BY BELGIUM
in 2015

Preliminary remarks

The International Trade Centre (<http://www.intracen.org/tradstat/>) regularly provides information on the import and export performance of over 220 countries and territories and examines some 5,300 products of the Harmonized System. This research is done in collaboration with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The most important products exported by Belgium are listed on the website of the ITC under the heading “Exports 2001-2015 International Trade in Goods Statistics by Product Group” and more specifically “Exports” and “Belgium”.

The Belgian Foreign Trade Agency has not only searched for products for which Belgium is a major exporter but has also calculated Belgium's share in total world exports of each of the selected products.

Using the Intrastat nomenclature (the number precedes the product) the different products for which Belgium is the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th exporter are mentioned in descending order of importance.

When reading this list, some questions may arise. For example, does Belgium really cultivate bananas? The answer - of course - is no, at least not on a commercial scale.

The presence of bananas and other non-typical Belgian products on the list of the most exported products can be explained by the fact that export data are based on the community concept that, contrary to the national concept, takes into consideration the import and export transactions carried out by VAT registered non-residents without the intervention of residents. Returned goods are also taken into account.

Did you know that in 2015:

Belgium was the 1st exporter of:

Code + description of the product	Belgian exports in 1 000 EUR	World exports in 1 000 EUR	Share of Belgium in %
<u>7904</u> Zinc bars, rods, profiles and wire	187 188	470 437	39.8%
<u>7405</u> Master alloys of copper	73 439	190 755	38.5%
<u>2938</u> Glycosides, natural or reproduced by synthesis, and their salts, ethers, esters and other derivatives	590 851	1 675 551	35.3%
<u>5704</u> Carpets and other textile floor coverings, of felt, not tufted or flocked, whether or not made up	138 597	551 595	25.1%
<u>3820</u> Anti-freezing preparations and prepared de-icing fluids	243 417	1 024 182	23.8%
<u>9602</u> Worked vegetable or mineral carving material and articles of these materials; moulded or carved articles of wax, of stearin, of natural gums or natural resins or of modelling pastes, and other moulded or carved articles, not elsewhere specified or included; worked, unhardened gelatin (except gelatin of heading 3503) and articles of unhardened gelatin	177 131	786 990	22.5%
<u>2004</u> Other vegetables prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid, frozen, other than products of heading 2006	1 408 182	6 324 059	22.3%
<u>0710</u> Vegetables (uncooked or cooked by steaming or boiling in water), frozen	1 060 908	5 158 847	20.6%
<u>1109</u> Wheat gluten, whether or not dried	187 099	1 084 956	17.2%
<u>3211</u> Prepared driers	31 260	185 062	16.9%
<u>2847</u> Hydrogen peroxide, whether or not solidified with urea	74 220	573 011	13.0%

1517 Margarine; edible mixtures or preparations of animal or vegetable fats or oils or of fractions of different fats or oils of this chapter, other than edible fats or oils or their fractions of heading 1516	578 161	4 542 902	12.7%
5505 Waste (including noils, yarn waste and garnetted stock) of man-made fibres	19 873	178 023	11.2%

Belgium was the 2nd exporter of:

Code + description of the product	Belgian exports in 1 000 EUR	World exports in 1 000 EUR	Share of Belgium in %
5301 Flax, raw or processed but not spun; flax tow and waste (including yarn waste and garnetted stock)	212 438	654 335	32.5%
2518 Dolomite, whether or not calcined or sintered, including dolomite roughly trimmed or merely cut, by sawing or otherwise, into blocks or slabs of a rectangular (including square) shape; dolomite ramming mix	112 147	435 564	25.7%
2305 Oilcake and other solid residues, whether or not ground or in the form of pellets, resulting from the extraction of groundnut oil	4 225	20 090	21.0%
2922 Oxygen-function amino-compounds	3 144 150	16 745 682	18.8%
2808 Nitric acid; sulphonitric acids	45 500	247 008	18.4%
5001 Silkworm cocoons suitable for reeling	304	1 687	18.0%
3702 Photographic film in rolls, sensitised, unexposed, of any material other than paper, paperboard or textiles; instant print film in rolls, sensitised, unexposed	252 803	1 418 181	17.8%
8442 Machinery, apparatus and equipment (other than the machine tools of headings 8456 to 8465) for preparing or making plates, cylinders or other printing components; plates, cylinders and other printing components; plates, cylinders and lithographic stones, prepared for printing purposes (for example, planed, grained or polished)	325 628	1 950 931	16.7%
6906 Ceramic pipes, conduits, guttering and pipe fittings	23 868	142 712	16.7%

0205 Meat of horses, asses, mules or hinnies, fresh, chilled or frozen	56 933	344 677	16.5%
2935 Sulphonamides	1 381 780	8 598 171	16.1%
5703 Carpets and other textile floor coverings, tufted, whether or not made up	962 819	6 223 233	15.5%
2933 Heterocyclic compounds with nitrogen hetero-atom(s) only	8 066 049	52 497 180	15.4%
5905 Textile wall coverings	14 168	93 776	15.1%
2915 Saturated acyclic monocarboxylic acids and their anhydrides, halides, peroxides and peroxyacids; their halogenated, sulphonated, nitrated or nitrosated derivatives	1 497 652	10 970 923	13.7%
2801 Fluorine, chlorine, bromine and iodine	144 073	1 062 507	13.6%
7219 Flat-rolled products of stainless steel, of a width of 600 mm or more	3 171 435	24 347 130	13.0%
2507 Kaolin and other kaolinic clays, whether or not calcined	207 123	1 590 836	13.0%
2907 Phenols; phenol-alcohols	556 226	4 417 364	12.6%
1107 Malt, whether or not roasted	387 441	3 111 930	12.5%
7001 Cullet and other waste and scrap of glass; glass in the mass	41 311	350 964	11.8%
2914 Ketones and quinones, whether or not with other oxygen function, and their halogenated, sulphonated, nitrated or nitrosated derivatives	534 792	4 627 251	11.6%
6811 Articles of asbestos-cement, of cellulose fibre-cement or the like	116 023	997 538	11.6%
1806 Chocolate and other food preparations containing cocoa	2 430 342	22 918 501	10.6%
0208 Other meat and edible meat offal, fresh, chilled or frozen	76 703	766 552	10.0%

3902 Polymers of propylene or of other olefins, in primary forms	3 475 075	35 627 268	9.8%
3918 Floor coverings of plastics, whether or not self-adhesive, in rolls or in the form of tiles; wall or ceiling coverings of plastics, as defined in note 9 to this chapter	569 216	6 222 396	9.1%
0803 Bananas, including plantains, fresh or dried	852 959	9 599 946	8.9%
2522 Quicklime, slaked lime and hydraulic lime, other than calcium oxide and hydroxide of heading 2825	78 955	887 017	8.9%
8002 Tin waste and scrap	6 805	77 220	8.8%
7408 Copper wire	1 173 737	14 823 181	7.9%

Belgium was the 3rd exporter of:

Code + description of the product	Belgian exports in 1 000 EUR	World exports in 1 000 EUR	Share of Belgium in %
5502 Artificial filament tow	336 939	1 927 309	17.5%
2834 Nitrites; nitrates	109 465	722 639	15.1%
1204 Linseed, whether or not broken	106 760	782 264	13.6%
3826 Biodiesel and mixtures thereof, not containing or containing less than 70 % by weight of petroleum oils or oils obtained from bituminous minerals	826 282	6 341 967	13.0%
2921 Amine-function compounds	973 977	7 541 463	12.9%
2852 Inorganic or organic compounds of mercury, whether or not chemically defined, excluding amalgams	4 816	37 422	12.9%

2105 Ice cream and other edible ice, whether or not containing cocoa	349 124	2 916 032	12.0%
2911 Acetals and hemiacetals, whether or not with other oxygen function, and their halogenated, sulphonated, nitrated or nitrosated derivatives	8 223	75 495	10.9%
3006 Pharmaceutical goods specified in note 4 to this chapter	1 365 907	13 075 446	10.4%
5702 Carpets and other textile floor coverings, woven, not tufted or flocked, whether or not made up, including 'Kelem', 'Schumacks', 'Karamanie' and similar hand-woven rugs	416 586	4 016 971	10.4%
2203 Beer made from malt	1 146 941	11 546 676	9.9%
3101 Animal or vegetable fertilisers, whether or not mixed together or chemically treated; fertilisers produced by the mixing or chemical treatment of animal or vegetable products	70 017	706 391	9.9%
3909 Amino-resins, phenolic resins and polyurethanes, in primary forms	1 253 997	13 006 816	9.6%
3910 Silicones in primary forms	424 927	4 570 054	9.3%
3214 Glaziers' putty, grafting putty, resin cements, caulking compounds and other mastics; painters' fillings; non-refractory surfacing preparations for façades, indoor walls, floors, ceilings or the like	596 432	6 596 685	9.0%
2926 Nitrile-function compounds	368 723	4 188 031	8.8%
3004 Medicaments (excluding goods of heading 3002, 3005 or 3006) 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	24 551 240	290 765 581	8.4%
0401 Milk and cream, not concentrated nor containing added sugar or other sweetening matter	557 659	6 614 937	8.4%
2509 Chalk	8 357	100 639	8.3%
3908 Polyamides in primary forms	950 721	11 655 260	8.2%
3901 Polymers of ethylene, in primary forms	5 145 690	64 745 810	7.9%
6904 Ceramic building bricks, flooring blocks, support or filler tiles and the like	113 072	1 448 270	7.8%

2401 Unmanufactured tobacco; tobacco refuse	784 405	10 202 664	7.7%
2937 Hormones, prostaglandins, thromboxanes and leukotrienes, natural or reproduced by synthesis; derivatives and structural analogues thereof, including chain modified polypeptides, used primarily as hormones	1 028 155	13 708 120	7.5%
3402 Organic surface-active agents (other than soap); surface-active preparations, washing preparations (including auxiliary washing preparations) and cleaning preparations, whether or not containing soap, other than those of heading 3401	1 778 856	24 197 818	7.4%
6404 Footwear with outer soles of rubber, plastics, leather or composition leather and uppers of textile materials	1 999 062	27 770 139	7.2%
2403 Other manufactured tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes; 'homogenised' or 'reconstituted' tobacco; tobacco extracts and essences	309 327	4 403 835	7.0%
3802 Activated carbon; activated natural mineral products; animal black, including spent animal black	138 602	2 026 319	6.8%
4816 Carbon paper, self-copy paper and other copying or transfer papers (other than those of heading 4809), duplicator stencils and offset plates, of paper, whether or not put up in boxes	26 911	409 304	6.6%
1704 Sugar confectionery (including white chocolate), not containing cocoa	596 247	9 239 515	6.5%
5801 Woven pile fabrics and chenille fabrics, other than fabrics of heading 5802 or 5806	134 671	2 076 517	6.5%
5309 Woven fabrics of flax	61 428	1 036 452	5.9%
6116 Gloves, mittens and mitts, knitted or crocheted	162 962	3 827 533	4.3%
4406 Railway or tramway sleepers (cross-ties) of wood	11 096	290 912	3.8%
6402 Other footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics	1 077 082	34 758 561	3.1%
5303 Jute and other textile bast fibres (excluding flax, true hemp and ramie), raw or processed but not spun; tow and waste of these fibres (including yarn waste and garnetted stock)	3 167	145 693	2.2%
0601 Bulbs, tubers, tuberous roots, corms, crowns and rhizomes, dormant, in growth or in flower; chicory plants and roots other than roots of heading 1212	28 451	1 439 751	2.0%
5307 Yarn of jute or of other textile bast fibres of heading 5303	4 886	431 081	1.1%

Belgium was the 4th exporter of:

Code + description of the product	Belgian exports in 1 000 EUR	World exports in 1 000 EUR	Share of Belgium in %
7102 Diamonds, whether or not worked, but not mounted or set	13 972 779	109 766 903	12.7%
2910 Epoxides, epoxyalcohols, epoxyphenols and epoxyethers, with a threemembered ring, and their halogenated, sulphonated, nitrated or nitrosated derivatives	323 864	3 029 966	10.7%
7903 Zinc dust, powders and flakes	29 183	272 467	10.7%
3002 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; vaccines, toxins, cultures of micro-organisms (excluding yeasts) and similar products	12 022 784	114 342 090	10.5%
8209 Plates, sticks, tips and the like for tools, unmounted, of cermets	582 316	5 614 054	10.4%
1105 Flour, meal, powder, flakes, granules and pellets of potatoes	55 895	548 651	10.2%
2916 Unsaturated acyclic monocarboxylic acids, cyclic monocarboxylic acids, their anhydrides, halides, peroxides and peroxyacids; their halogenated, sulphonated, nitrated or nitrosated derivatives	715 379	7 383 885	9.7%
1603 Extracts and juices of meat, fish or crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates	18 806	199 011	9.4%
3206 Other colouring matter; preparations as specified in note 3 to this chapter, other than those of heading 3203, 3204 or 3205; inorganic products of a kind used as luminophores, whether or not chemically defined	929 097	10 264 707	9.1%
2831 Dithionites and sulphonylates	20 024	221 241	9.1%
8707 Bodies (including cabs), for the motor vehicles of headings 8701 to 8705	620 139	6 874 901	9.0%
3903 Polymers of styrene, in primary forms	1 518 966	17 611 495	8.6%

8475 Machines for assembling electric or electronic lamps, tubes or valves or flashbulbs, in glass envelopes; machines for manufacturing or hot working glass or glassware	294 243	3 428 957	8.6%
1505 Wool grease and fatty substances derived therefrom (including lanolin)	17 790	209 162	8.5%
2920 Esters of other inorganic acids of non-metals (excluding esters of hydrogen halides) and their salts; their halogenated, sulphonated, nitrated or nitrosated derivatives	105 009	1 271 134	8.3%
8506 Primary cells and primary batteries	576 561	7 121 329	8.1%
3504 Peptones and their derivatives; other protein substances and their derivatives, not elsewhere specified or included; hide powder, whether or not chromed	167 877	2 084 483	8.1%
7209 Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of 600 mm or more, cold-rolled (cold-reduced), not clad, plated or coated	965 488	12 669 997	7.6%
2941 Antibiotics	759 286	9 926 002	7.6%
2820 Manganese oxides	18 860	248 373	7.6%
2201 Waters, including natural or artificial mineral waters and aerated waters, not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter nor flavoured; ice and snow	232 947	3 142 682	7.4%
6308 Sets consisting of woven fabric and yarn, whether or not with accessories, for making up into rugs, tapestries, embroidered tablecloths or serviettes, or similar textile articles, put up in packings for retail sale	6 199	83 629	7.4%
3912 Cellulose and its chemical derivatives, not elsewhere specified or included, in primary forms	345 097	4 697 885	7.3%
2505 Natural sands of all kinds, whether or not coloured, other than metalbearing sands of Chapter 26	95 123	1 375 226	6.9%
8433 Harvesting or threshing machinery, including straw or fodder balers; grass or hay mowers; machines for cleaning, sorting or grading eggs, fruit or other agricultural produce, other than machinery of heading 8437	1 076 585	15 947 097	6.8%
7212 Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of less than 600 mm, clad, plated or coated	216 834	3 211 034	6.8%
2009 Fruit juices (including grape must) and vegetable juices, unfermented and not containing added spirit, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter	852 202	12 658 539	6.7%
7210 Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of 600 mm or more, clad, plated or coated	2 323 047	37 988 748	6.1%

0403 Buttermilk, curdled milk and cream, yogurt, kephir and other fermented or acidified milk and cream, whether or not concentrated or containing added sugar or other sweetening matter or flavoured or containing added fruit, nuts or cocoa	221 690	3 607 183	6.1%
4411 Fibreboard of wood or other ligneous materials, whether or not bonded with resins or other organic substances	500 059	8 345 874	6.0%
6101 Men's or boys' overcoats, car coats, capes, cloaks, anoraks (including ski jackets), windcheaters, wind-jackets and similar articles, knitted or crocheted, other than those of heading 6103	133 415	2 249 651	5.9%
4415 Packing cases, boxes, crates, drums and similar packings, of wood; cabledrums of wood; pallets, box pallets and other load boards, of wood; pallet collars of wood	154 254	2 743 305	5.6%
0602 Other live plants (including their roots), cuttings and slips; mushroom spawn	397 636	7 229 709	5.5%
4911 Other printed matter, including printed pictures and photographs	522 840	9 743 698	5.4%
7019 Glass fibres (including glass wool) and articles thereof (for example, yarn, woven fabrics)	506 580	10 016 434	5.1%
3819 Hydraulic brake fluids and other prepared liquids for hydraulic transmission, not containing or containing less than 70 % by weight of petroleum oils or oils obtained from bituminous minerals	31 546	670 066	4.7%
4416 Casks, barrels, vats, tubs and other coopers' products and parts thereof, of wood, including staves	16 833	750 955	2.2%

Belgium was the 5th exporter of:

Code + description of the product	Belgian exports in 1 000 EUR	World exports in 1 000 EUR	Share of Belgium in %
3701 Photographic plates and film in the flat, sensitised, unexposed, of any material other than paper, paperboard or textiles; instant print film in the flat, sensitised, unexposed, whether or not in packs	399 348	3 945 114	10.1%
3706 Cinematographic film, exposed and developed, whether or not incorporating soundtrack or consisting only of soundtrack	1 249	15 417	8.1%

3905 Polymers of vinyl acetate or of other vinyl esters, in primary forms; other vinyl polymers in primary forms	293 089	3 718 218	7.9%
3403 Lubricating preparations (including cutting-oil preparations, bolt or nut release preparations, anti-rust or anti-corrosion preparations and mouldrelease preparations, based on lubricants) and preparations of a kind used for the oil or grease treatment of textile materials, leather, furskins or other materials, but excluding preparations containing, as basic constituents, 70 % or more by weight of petroleum oils or of oils obtained from bituminous minerals	602 325	7 776 247	7.7%
2823 Titanium oxides	42 725	554 169	7.7%
0405 Butter and other fats and oils derived from milk; dairy spreads	455 611	6 027 699	7.6%
3503 Gelatin (including gelatin in rectangular (including square) sheets, whether or not surface-worked or coloured) and gelatin derivatives; isinglass; other glues of animal origin, excluding casein glues of heading 3501	112 099	1 470 539	7.6%
1506 Other animal fats and oils and their fractions, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified	17 786	243 768	7.3%
3005 Wadding, gauze, bandages and similar articles (for example, dressings, adhesive plasters, poultices), impregnated or coated with pharmaceutical substances or put up in forms or packings for retail sale for medical, surgical, dental or veterinary purposes	430 444	6 323 540	6.8%
7401 Copper mattes; cement copper (precipitated copper)	28 261	437 067	6.5%
2806 Hydrogen chloride (hydrochloric acid); chlorosulphuric acid	14 107	218 183	6.5%
7901 Unwrought zinc	620 623	9 800 095	6.3%
9018 Instruments and appliances used in medical, surgical, dental or veterinary sciences, including scintigraphic apparatus, other electromedical apparatus and sight-testing instruments	5 640 940	96 345 700	5.9%
2828 Hypochlorites; commercial calcium hypochlorite; chlorites; hypobromites	25 185	444 490	5.7%
3916 Monofilament of which any cross-sectional dimension exceeds 1 mm, rods, sticks and profile shapes, whether or not surface-worked but not otherwise worked, of plastics	244 419	4 364 712	5.6%
2809 Diphosphorus pentoxide; phosphoric acid; polyphosphoric acids, whether or not chemically defined	208 249	3 707 662	5.6%
2835 Phosphinates (hypophosphites), phosphonates (phosphites) and phosphates; polyphosphates, whether or not chemically defined	169 603	3 098 305	5.5%

2007 Jams, fruit jellies, marmalades, fruit or nut purée and fruit or nut pastes, obtained by cooking, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter	149 368	2 740 636	5.5%
7007 Safety glass, consisting of toughened (tempered) or laminated glass	445 688	8 329 211	5.4%
1904 Prepared foods obtained by the swelling or roasting of cereals or cereal products (for example, corn flakes); cereals (other than maize (corn)) in grain form or in the form of flakes or other worked grains (except flour, groats and meal), pre-cooked or otherwise prepared, not elsewhere specified or included	275 333	5 106 491	5.4%
2517 Pebbles, gravel, broken or crushed stone, of a kind commonly used for concrete aggregates, for road metalling or for railway or other ballast, shingle and flint, whether or not heat-treated; macadam of slag, dross or similar industrial waste, whether or not incorporating the materials cited in the first part of the heading; tarred macadam; granules, chippings and powder, of stones of heading 2515 or 2516, whether or not heat-treated	142 040	2 610 410	5.4%
1801 Cocoa beans, whole or broken, raw or roasted	478 568	9 018 580	5.3%
2207 Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of 80 % vol or higher; ethyl alcohol and other spirits, denatured, of any strength	322 360	6 382 954	5.1%
1501 Pig fat (including lard) and poultry fat, other than that of heading 0209 or 1503	19 933	394 316	5.1%
3209 Paints and varnishes (including enamels and lacquers) based on synthetic polymers or chemically modified natural polymers, dispersed or dissolved in an aqueous medium	261 190	5 188 010	5.0%
3105 Mineral or chemical fertilisers containing two or three of the fertilizing elements nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium; other fertilisers; goods of this chapter in tablets or similar forms or in packages of a gross weight not exceeding 10 kg	924 446	18 738 545	4.9%
7314 Cloth (including endless bands), grill, netting and fencing, of iron or steel wire; expanded metal of iron or steel	179 941	3 851 390	4.7%
2825 Hydrazine and hydroxylamine and their inorganic salts; other inorganic bases; other metal oxides, hydroxides and peroxides	125 980	2 686 429	4.7%
7105 Dust and powder of natural or synthetic precious or semi-precious stones	16 018	337 923	4.7%
1515 Other fixed vegetable fats and oils (including jojoba oil) and their fractions, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified	146 295	3 267 571	4.5%
6113 Garments, made up of knitted or crocheted fabrics of heading 5903, 5906 or 5907	35 782	843 697	4.2%

<u>1101</u> Wheat or meslin flour	168 249	4 176 769	4.0%
<u>8467</u> Tools for working in the hand, pneumatic, hydraulic or with selfcontained electric or non-electric motor	721 520	19 254 115	3.7%
<u>3703</u> Photographic paper, paperboard and textiles, sensitised, unexposed	26 205	720 047	3.6%
<u>3924</u> Tableware, kitchenware, other household articles and hygienic or toilet articles, of plastics	433 981	15 309 617	2.8%
<u>4903</u> Children's picture, drawing or colouring books	23 627	911 714	2.6%
<u>8111</u> Manganese and articles thereof, including waste and scrap	13 599	756 859	1.8%

Source: <http://www.intracen.org/tradstat/>

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