

## FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS (ECOMEX). August 2021

## Exports of goods from the Basque Country grew by 32.7% in August 2021

**The cumulative total of exports for the first eight months of 2021 amounted to 16,350 million euros, with a year-on-year increase of 23.9%**

There was a rise in **exports** of goods from the Basque Country of 32.7% in **August 2021**, according to Eustat data. Exports of energy products rose by 292.6% and those of non-energy products (91% of the total value) were up 24.6%.

Of particular relevance were the upturns in “*Transport Material*” (51.5%), “*Metals and Manufactured*” (33.2%), “*Chemical Products*” (108.5%) and, above all, “*Mineral and Energy Products*” (261.5%). As a whole, exports stood at 1,698 million euros compared to 1,279 million in the same month of the previous year.

**Imports** saw growth of 50.1% in August 2021, exceeding 1,645 million euros. *Energy* imports increased by 120.6%, and *non-energy* imports were up 33.0%.

### Evolution of the foreign trade of the Basque Country. Thousands of euros. August 2021

	EXPORTS			IMPORTS		
	August			August		
	2020	2021	Δ %	2020	2021	Δ %
<b>BASQUE COUNTRY</b>						
TOTAL MONTH	1.279.107	1.697.775	32,7	1.095.827	1.645.059	50,1
ENERGY PRODUCTS	38.969	152.989	292,6	214.552	473.295	120,6
NON-ENERGY PRODUCTS	1.240.137	1.544.786	24,6	881.274	1.171.764	33,0
ACCUMULATED YEARLY PERIOD	13.197.694	16.350.323	23,9	10.269.314	13.021.727	26,8
ENERGY PRODUCTS	683.392	824.655	20,7	2.044.829	2.618.710	28,1
NON-ENERGY PRODUCTS	12.514.302	15.525.668	24,1	8.224.485	10.403.017	26,5
<b>ARABA / ÁLAVA</b>						
TOTAL MONTH	245.313	375.798	53,2	253.043	265.336	4,9
ACCUMULATED YEARLY PERIOD	3.812.814	4.669.826	22,5	2.277.434	2.886.407	26,7
<b>BIZKAIA</b>						
TOTAL MONTH	499.089	756.689	51,6	585.534	1.046.002	78,6
ACCUMULATED YEARLY PERIOD	5.031.146	6.575.159	30,7	5.705.304	7.234.686	26,8
<b>GIPUZKOA</b>						
TOTAL MONTH	534.704	565.288	5,7	257.250	333.721	29,7
ACCUMULATED YEARLY PERIOD	4.353.733	5.105.338	17,3	2.286.577	2.900.634	26,9

Source: Eustat. Foreign trade statistics (ECOMEX)

### Provinces

**Álava** registered the largest growth in exports, with 53.2%, due to the increase in “*Transport Material*” (179.2%). The increase in **Bizkaia** was 51.6% as a result of the rise in “*Mineral and Energy Products*” (278.6%), which, with an increase of 114.2 million, this month accounted for 20.5% of the total exported from this province, and in “*Metals and Manufactured*” (58.8%). The balance was also positive in **Gipuzkoa**, with an increase in exports of 5.7%, underpinned by growth of 9.3% in “*Metals and Manufactured*”, 7.1% in “*Electrical Equipment, Machinery & Devices*” and 47.4% in “*Paper &*

*Manufactured*, despite a decrease in *Transport Material* (-13.5%), with exports down 15.9 million on the same month of the previous year.

As regards **imports**, it was **Bizkaia** that accounted for the highest growth (78.6%), owing to the rise in acquisitions of *Mineral and Energy Products* (117.1%) and *Metals and Manufactured* (141.9%). Growth in **Gipuzkoa** stood at 29.7%, primarily because of the increases in *Metals and Manufactured* (37.4%) and *Electrical Equipment, Machinery & Devices* (36.5%); the balance was also positive in **Álava**, given that purchases of goods rose by 4.9% due to the upturn in *Metals and Manufactured* (42.0%).

### Activity Branches (A86)

Analysing the largest **activity branches**, and in relation to exports, standing out this August were the increases in exports of *Coke plants and Oil Refining* (288.3%), *Iron & Steel Products* (70.4%) and exports of products relating to the *Manufacture of motor vehicles* (72.6%). This latter activity branch (first in the export ranking) rose in all three provinces, but especially in Álava (213.6%), where it went from 47 million in exports in August 2020 to 147 million in 2021.

In relation to imports, it can be observed that the largest activity branch this month, *Extraction & Petroleum Industries* (22.5% of the total), saw an increase of 125.3%, as did *Iron & Steel Products* (115.7%) and *General Use Machinery* (30.8%).

#### Main exporting tariff headings in the Basque Country (Thousands of euros) (p). August 2021

	2020	2021	2021 %	2021/2020 (%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.279.107</b>	<b>1.697.775</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>32,7</b>
Parts and accessories of motor vehicles	112.380	133.801	7,9	19,1
Refined petroleum oils	29.644	131.200	7,7	342,6
New rubber tyres	70.479	77.072	4,5	9,4
Tourisms of less than 10 people	19.508	59.678	3,5	205,9
Motor vehicles for goods transport	10.264	52.381	3,1	410,3
Faucet articles, valves and similar organs for pipes	36.183	45.621	2,7	26,1
Vehicles for maintenance or service of railways or similar	3.461	41.304	2,4	1.093,3
Fishing boats and boats factory for the processing of marine products	-	34.454	2,0	-
Iron or non-alloyed profiles	21.181	31.433	1,9	48,4
Hot-rolled flat products, iron or non-alloy steel, with a width greater than 599 mm	4.681	30.470	1,8	550,9
Wires, electrically conductive insulated cables and fiber optic cables	10.409	26.844	1,6	157,9
Sheets and bands, of aluminum, of a thickness exceeding 0.2 mm	14.941	24.712	1,5	65,4
Other iron and steel manufacturers	22.174	23.680	1,4	6,8
Lifts, escalators, transporters....	24.299	21.988	1,3	-9,5
Unwrought aluminium	3.089	21.895	1,3	608,9
Biodiesel and mixtures thereof, not containing petroleum or bituminous mineral oils or containing less than 70 % by weight	-	21.530	1,3	-
Tubes and hollow profiles, without welding, of iron or steel without welding	21.106	20.286	1,2	-3,9
Electrical transformers, static converters and reactance coils	21.989	19.889	1,2	-9,5
Other cast articles of iron or steel	27.227	19.851	1,2	-27,1
Copper without refining; anodes for electrolytic refined copper	14.030	17.192	1,0	22,5
Construction-based sheets, rods, profiles, tubes and similars, of cast iron, iron or steel	13.475	17.019	1,0	26,3
Other tubes and hollow profiles of iron or steel	9.737	15.983	0,9	64,2
Machines for washing, filling, closing, labeling containers and packaging devices	11.146	15.484	0,9	38,9
Petroleum gas and other hydrocarbon gases	2.138	14.252	0,8	566,5
Uncoated kraft paper and paperboard, in rolls or sheets	9.487	14.214	0,8	49,8

(p)Provisional data

Source: Eustat. Foreign trade statistics

### Largest customs duty groups

A more detailed look reveals year-on-year increases in exports of what are traditionally three of the largest customs duty groups: *Passenger cars with fewer than 10 seats* (205.9%), *Goods Transport Vehicles* (410.3%) and *Vehicle parts and accessories* (19.1%), all pertaining to the vehicle sector, which this month recorded exports worth 364 million euros (21.5% of the total). However, despite the strong growth in these customs duty groups, the greatest export momentum occurred in *Refined Petroleum Oils* (342.6%), with an increase of 102 million in respect of the same month of the previous year. If we neutralise the effect that the rise in prices of products derived from petroleum in summer 2020 had on this increase, and we compare the tonnes exported in year-on-year terms, we can see

that this growth was still significant (179.2%), given that it went from 79,959 tonnes in August 2020 to 223,209 tonnes in 2021.

In the case of imports, there was a sharp rise in Basque imports of “*Petroleum oils or oils obtained from bituminous minerals*” (109.5%) and a significant increase in “*Refined Petroleum Oils*” (82.8%), 15,746 tonnes more than in 2020 (primarily “*Diesel*” and, to a lesser extent “*Fuel Oil*”). It is also worth highlighting the extraordinary growth in imports of “*Petroleum gas and other hydrocarbon gases*” (437.6%), with a year-on-year increase of 68,164 tonnes and 42 million euros more than in August 2020. There was also a notable rise in imports of “*Flat, hot-rolled iron or non-alloy steel products of a width exceeding 599 mm*” (143.5%), “*Remelting scrap ingots of iron or steel*” (190.0%) and “*Ferrous products obtained by directly reducing iron ores*” (53,487 tonnes or 25 million in imports in August 2021).

### **Destination customers**

In August, five countries (France, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States) were the Basque Country’s biggest customers, absorbing 52% of total Basque exports. Three of these belong to the EU27, which accounts for 63.5%.

## **Foreign trade in the Basque Country. Annual cumulative total**

During the first eight months of 2021, exports of goods from the Basque Country grew by 23.9% (3,153 million more than the previous year), reaching 16,350.3 million euros. This figure is still slightly lower than that for the same period of 2019, the year before the pandemic, when it reached 16,741.2 million euros.

The cumulative total of imports rose to 13,021.7 million, that is, 2,752.4 million more than in the same period of the previous tax year, representing an increase of 26.8%.

Foreign trade in the Basque Country during the first eight months of 2021 generated a positive balance of 3,329 million euros, with a coverage rate of 125.6%.

### **Evolution of the foreign trade of the Basque Country. Thousands of euros. January - August 2021**

	EXPORTS			IMPORTS		
	January - August			January - August		
	2020	2021	Δ %	2020	2021	Δ %
<b>BASQUE COUNTRY</b>						
TOTAL MONTH	<b>13.197.694</b>	<b>16.350.323</b>	<b>23,9</b>	<b>10.269.314</b>	<b>13.021.727</b>	<b>26,8</b>
ENERGY PRODUCTS	683.392	824.655	20,7	2.044.829	2.618.710	28,1
NON-ENERGY PRODUCTS	12.514.302	15.525.668	24,1	8.224.485	10.403.017	26,5
<b>ARABA/ÁLAVA</b>	<b>3.812.814</b>	<b>4.669.826</b>	<b>22,5</b>	<b>2.277.434</b>	<b>2.886.407</b>	<b>26,7</b>
<b>BIZKAIA</b>	<b>5.031.146</b>	<b>6.575.159</b>	<b>30,7</b>	<b>5.705.304</b>	<b>7.234.686</b>	<b>26,8</b>
<b>GIPUZKOA</b>	<b>4.353.733</b>	<b>5.105.338</b>	<b>17,3</b>	<b>2.286.577</b>	<b>2.900.634</b>	<b>26,9</b>

Source: Eustat. Foreign trade statistics (ECOMEX)

### **Provinces**

**Bizkaia** stood out during this period in terms of export activity, as, with a year-on-year increase of 30.7%, it was the leader in exports, reaching 6,575 million euros. In **Álava**, the rise stood at 22.5% (4,669.8 million euros) and in **Gipuzkoa** it was 17.3% (5,105 million euros).

As regards **imports**, the performance was more even in the three provinces: **Gipuzkoa** saw an increase of 26.9% and imported goods to the value of 2,901 million euros, followed by **Bizkaia** with 7,235 million, up 26.8%, and **Álava** with a similar percentage (26.7%) and a contribution of 2,886 million to the Basque Country total.

## **Products**

Considering the type of product, it was *Non-energy Products*, with a year-on-year increase of 3,011 million (24.1%), which most contributed to the growth in exports, while *Energy Products* also recorded 141 million more than the previous year (20.7%).

Imports of *Energy products* rose by 28.1% and those of *Non-energy Products* were up 26.5%.

## **Destination countries**

The ranking of countries to which Basque Country exports were sent in this period was topped by Germany, with 16.6% of the total exported, followed by France (15.8%), the United Kingdom (6.9%), the United States (6.0%) and Belgium with 5.4%. These five countries accounted for half of Basque exports (50.6%). If we add Italy (5.1%), the Netherlands (4.8%), Portugal (4.3%), China (2.7%) and Poland (2.4%) to the aforementioned states, the cumulative total for the first eight months of 2021 amounted to 11,428.5 million euros and represented 70% of total Basque exports.

## **Activity Branches (A86)**

Among the largest activity branches by export volume, of particular note was the increase in exports of “*Iron and Steel products*” (39.2%), exceeding that exported during the previous year by almost 494 million, reaching 1,753 million euros.

There was also considerable growth in exports of “*Non-ferrous Metals*” (60.2%), “*General Use Machinery*” (12.9%), “*Rubber Products*” (22.5%) and, particularly, “*Naval Construction*” (1,217.9%).

The branch with the highest volume of exports was that of products relating to the “*Manufacture of motor vehicles*” (3,552 million and 21.7% of the total), which at the end of August 2021 registered accumulative growth of 23.9% in respect of the same period of the previous year.

For imports, it is worth highlighting that the largest branch, “*Mineral and Extraction Industries*” (crude oil), was up 7.4% and those following it in terms of volume also grew, especially “*Iron and Steel products*” (44.9%) and, most notably, “*Coke Plants & Oil Refining*” (165.9%) (refined oil).

## **Largest customs duty groups**

A more detailed look reveals that, within exports, only one of the top 25 customs duty groups had a negative growth rate: “*Seamless tubes and hollow profiles made of iron or steel*” (-24.8%). In the remaining customs duty groups, the rates were positive, with the following standing out due to their significance and specific weight: “*Passenger cars with fewer than 10 seats*” (21.7%), “*Goods Transport Vehicles*” (23.9%), “*New Rubber Tyres*” (17.5%), “*Refined Petroleum Oils*” (16.3%) and, in particular, “*Vehicle parts and accessories*” (36.8%).

If we carry out the same analysis for imports, of particular relevance was the significant increase in purchases of “*Refined Petroleum Oils*” (158.6%), which, in the period in question, accumulated 643 million euros compared to 249 million in the same period of the previous year, going from 808 tonnes to 1,458 tonnes. Looking again at imports, only one of the top 25 customs duty groups imported posted a negative growth rate: “*Petroleum gas and other hydrocarbon gases*” (-8.7%), which went from 196.8 million in imports in 2020 to 179.6 million in 2021, a drop from 1,039 tonnes to 718 tonnes.

**Main export tariff headings in the Basque Country. Thousands of euros (p).  
Accumulated January - August 2021**

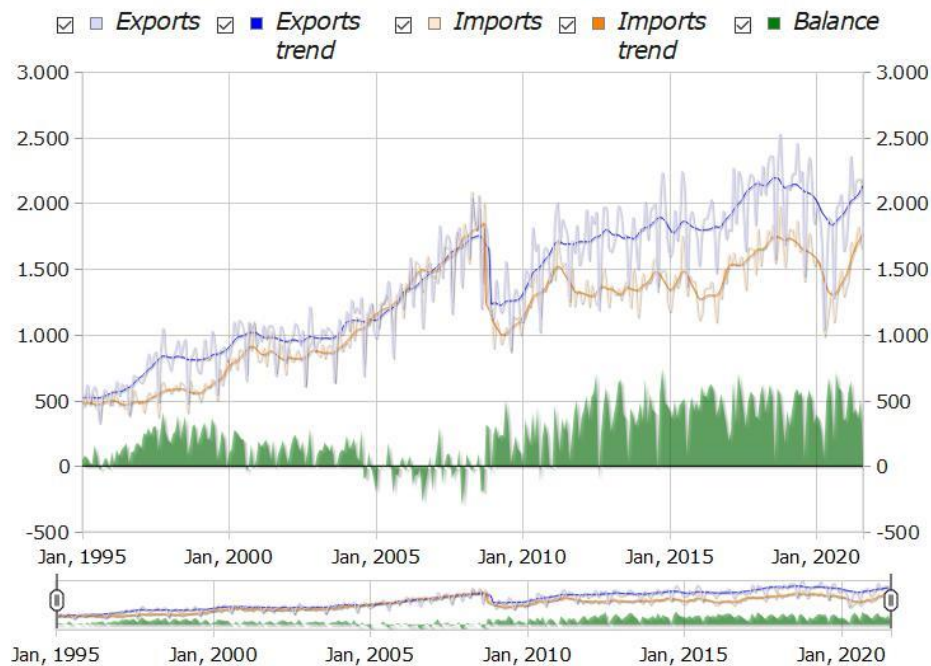
	2020	2021	2021 %	2021/2020 (% )
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.197.694</b>	<b>16.350.323</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>23,9</b>
Tourisms of less than 10 people	1.116.839	1.359.131	8,3	21,7
Parts and accessories of motor vehicles	841.174	1.150.623	7,0	36,8
Motor vehicles for goods transport	763.989	946.233	5,8	23,9
Refined petroleum oils	602.645	701.142	4,3	16,3
New rubber tyres	588.937	692.264	4,2	17,5
Faucet articles, valves and similar organs for pipes	301.998	404.051	2,5	33,8
Iron or non-alloyed profiles	219.331	385.352	2,4	75,7
Vehicle parts for rail road tracks or similar	180.570	258.000	1,6	42,9
Sheets and bands, of aluminum, of a thickness exceeding 0.2 mm	178.336	237.016	1,4	32,9
Other iron and steel manufacturers	168.722	218.092	1,3	29,3
Tubes and hollow profiles,without welding, of iron or steel without welding	261.945	197.087	1,2	-24,8
Unwrought aluminium	59.931	171.419	1,0	186,0
Other tubes and hollow profiles of iron or steel	106.123	169.063	1,0	59,3
Bars and profiles, of other alloyed steels and bars for perforation	107.850	163.848	1,0	51,9
Bars and sections, in stainless steel	123.564	157.948	1,0	27,8
Wires, electrically conductive insulated cables and fiber optic cables	95.839	150.159	0,9	56,7
Lifts, escalators, transporters....	137.185	144.369	0,9	5,2
Wine made with fresh grapes	119.851	143.503	0,9	19,7
Goods not specifically covered by the customs tariff	79.657	141.080	0,9	77,1
Transmission shafts, bearings, gear units clutches...	121.245	137.728	0,8	13,6
Electrical transformers, static converters and reactance coils	114.785	137.424	0,8	19,7
Hot-rolled flat products, iron or non-alloy steel, with a width greater than 599 mm	43.080	133.556	0,8	210,0
Machines for washing, filling, closing, labeling containers and packaging devices	100.553	133.148	0,8	32,4
Copper without refining; anodes for electrolytic refined copper	123.742	131.690	0,8	6,4
Padlocks, locks, bolts and keys made of base metals	114.927	129.784	0,8	12,9

(p)Provisional data

Source: Eustat. Foreign trade statistics (ECOMEX)

## Evolution of the foreign trade of the Basque Country

Millions Euros



Source: Eustat. Foreign trade statistics (ECOMEX)

### For further information:

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