

FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS (ECOMEX). December 2021

Exports from the Basque Country grew by 23% in 2021 and exceeded pre-pandemic figures for 2019

France and Germany were the Basque Country's biggest customers, followed by the United Kingdom, the United States and Belgium

In 2021, exports of goods from the Basque Country grew by 23.0% (4,800.9 million more than the previous year), reaching 25,665 million euros, according to Eustat data. Over the course of the year, the cumulative total for 2019 was reached and even surpassed by 179.6 million.

Foreign trade in the Basque Country in 2021 generated a positive balance of 4,605.5 million euros, with a coverage rate of 121.9%.

Evolution of Foreign Trade of goods of the Basque Country. Thousands of euros. Accumulated January - December 2021

	Exports			Imports		
	January - December			January - December		
	2020	2021	Increase (%)	2020	2021	Increase (%)
BASQUE COUNTRY						
TOTAL FOR THE MONTH	20.864.546	25.665.434	23.0	15.704.926	21.059.909	34.1
ENERGETIC PRODUCTS	951.362	1.365.126	43.5	2.898.185	4.567.797	57.6
NON ENERGETIC PRODUCTS	19.913.185	24.300.308	22.0	12.806.741	16.492.112	28.8
ARABA / ÁLAVA	6.149.756	7.340.459	19.4	3.735.587	4.529.941	21.3
BIZKAIA	7.779.566	10.204.983	31.2	8.373.004	11.879.641	41.9
GIPUZKOA	6.935.225	8.119.992	17.1	3.596.336	4.650.326	29.3

Date February 17, 2022

Source: Eustat. Foreign trade statistics

Provinces

Bizkaia stood out during this period in terms of export activity, as, with a year-on-year increase of 31.2%, it was the leader in exports, reaching 10,205 million euros. In **Álava**, the rise stood at 19.4% (7,340.5 million euros) and in **Gipuzkoa** it was 17.1% (8,120 million euros).

As regards **imports**, **Bizkaia** saw an increase of 41.9% and imported goods to the value of 11,879.6 million euros, followed by **Gipuzkoa** with 4,650.3 million, up 29.3%, and, lastly, **Álava** with 21.3% and a contribution of 4,529.9 million to the Basque Country total.

Products

Considering the type of product, it was *Non-energy Products*, with a year-on-year increase of 4,387.1 million (22.0%), which most contributed to the growth in exports, while *Energy Products* also recorded 413.8 million more than the previous year (43.5%).

Imports of *Energy products* rose by 57.6% and those of *Non-energy Products* were up 28.8%.

Destination countries

The ranking of countries to which Basque Country exports were sent in this period was topped by France, with 16.1% of the total exported (4,120 million euros), surpassing Germany, which ultimately took second place with 15.9% and 4,092 million. After these two countries came the United Kingdom (1,695 million and 6.6% of the total), the United States (1,592 million and 6.2%) and Belgium (1,361 million and 5.3%). These five countries accounted for half of Basque exports (50.1%), with 12,861 million euros. If we add Italy (5.3% and 1,351 million), the Netherlands (5.0% and 1,294 million), Portugal (4.4% and 1,117 million), China (2.6% and 665 million) and, lastly, Poland (2.3% and 602 million) to the aforementioned countries, the total amounted to 17,889.8 million euros, representing 69.7% of total Basque exports.

Activity Branches (A86)

Among the largest activity branches by export volume in 2021, of particular note was "*Iron and Steel products*", with an increase of 50.2% compared to the previous year, exceeding it by 955.6 million euros to reach 2,858.8 million. There was also considerable growth in exports of "*Coke Plants & Oil Refining*" (44.9%), "*Non-ferrous Metals*" (41.8%), "*Electrical Material & Equipment*" (21.7%), "*Rubber Products*" (18.3%) and, particularly, "*Naval Construction*" (239.5%), among others.

The branch of products relating to the "*Manufacture of motor vehicles*" (5,543.7 million and 21.6% of the total) registered cumulative growth of 15.6% at the end of December 2021, with 746.7 million more than in the same period of the previous year, and consolidated its predominance in the export ranking of the Basque Country.

For imports, it is worth highlighting that the largest branch, "*Mineral and Extraction Industries*" (crude oil), was up 44.9% and those following it in terms of volume also grew, especially "*Iron and Steel products*" (59.9%) and, most notably, "*Coke Plants & Oil Refining*" (116.7%) (refined oil).

Largest customs duty groups

A more detailed look reveals that, within exports, three of the top 25 customs duty groups had negative growth rates: "*Seamless tubes and hollow profiles made of iron or steel*" (-10.6%), "*Unrefined copper and copper anodes for electrolytic refining*" (-20.5%) and "*Railway or Tramway Vehicle Parts*" (-4.0%). 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*" (19.4%), "*Vehicle parts and accessories*" (23.0%), "*Goods Transport Vehicles*" (7.1%), "*Refined Petroleum Oils*" (44.9%) and "*New Rubber Tyres*" (15.6%). These groups comprised the leading Basque export group, with a cumulative total of 7,591 million euros, accounting for 29.6% of exports from the Basque Country.

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

	2020	2021	2021 %	2021 / 2020 %
Total	20.864.546	25.665.434	100	23,0
Tourisms of less than 10 people	1.757.142	2.098.273	8,2	19,4
Parts and accessories of motor vehicles	1.421.915	1.749.198	6,8	23,0
Motor vehicles for goods transport	1.416.185	1.516.534	5,9	7,1
Refined petroleum oils	813.468	1.178.373	4,6	44,9
New rubber tyres	907.193	1.048.656	4,1	15,6
Iron or non-alloyed profiles	342.986	657.866	2,6	91,8
Faucet articles, valves and similar organs for pipes	493.937	583.227	2,3	18,1
Sheets and bands, of aluminum, of a thickness exceeding 0.2 mm	251.364	386.684	1,5	53,8
Vehicle parts for rail road tracks or similar	373.767	358.644	1,4	-4,0
Other iron and steel manufacturers	282.389	335.583	1,3	18,8
Tubes and hollow profiles, without welding, of iron or steel without welding	366.412	327.627	1,3	-10,6
Other tubes and hollow profiles of iron or steel	167.758	265.356	1,0	58,2
Unwrought aluminium	103.260	265.195	1,0	156,8
Bars and profiles, of other alloyed steels and bars for perforation	167.251	253.617	1,0	51,6
Bars and sections, in stainless steel	188.792	244.434	1,0	29,5
Electrical transformers, static converters and reactance coils	157.980	234.172	0,9	48,2
Goods not specifically covered by the customs tariff	138.313	228.700	0,9	65,3
Wires, electrically conductive insulated cables and fiber optic cables	157.802	228.477	0,9	44,8
Wine made with fresh grapes	205.165	225.358	0,9	9,8
Hot-rolled flat products, iron or non-alloy steel, with a width greater than 599 mm	69.109	220.561	0,9	219,2
Lifts, escalators, transporters....	202.004	208.310	0,8	3,1
Transmission shafts, bearings, gear units clutches...	181.144	206.691	0,8	14,1
Copper without refining; anodes for electrolytic refined copper	249.809	198.486	0,8	-20,5
Padlocks, locks, bolts and keys made of base metals	173.958	197.548	0,8	13,6
Vehicles for maintenance and service of railways or similar	12.727	194.919	0,8	1.431,6

(p)Provisional data

Date February 17, 2022

Source: Eustat. Foreign trade statistics

If we carry out the same analysis for imports, of particular relevance was the increase in purchases of "Refined Petroleum Oils" (111.9%), which in 2021 represented 977.7 million euros compared to 461.3 million in the previous year, going from 1,437,460 tonnes to 2,004,539 tonnes, i.e. 567,078 tonnes more, which is almost the same number of tonnes by which imports of "Petroleum oils or oils obtained from bituminous minerals" decreased (-557,467 tonnes). Another customs duty group that grew considerably in this period was "Remelting scrap ingots of iron or steel" (93.3%). Attention should also be drawn to the rise in monetary imports of "Petroleum gas and other hydrocarbon gases", with an increase of 40.8%. However, in terms of volume, this represented a decrease of 25.1%, as it went from 1.37 million tonnes to one million.

December 2021

There was a rise in **exports** of goods from the Basque Country of 27.0% in **December 2021**. Exports of energy products increased by 30.9% and those of non-energy products (94% of the total value) were up 26.8%. Exports stood at 2,081.1 million euros compared to 1,638.3 million in the same month of the previous year.

Imports saw growth of 51.5% in December 2021, reaching 1,958.8 million euros. *Energy* imports rose by 206.5%, and *non-energy* imports were up 29.3%.

Evolution of Foreign Trade of goods of the Basque Country. Thousands of euros.

December 2021

	Exports			Imports		
	December			December		
	2020	2021	Increase (%)	2020	2021	Increase (%)
BASQUE COUNTRY						
TOTAL FOR THE MONTH	1.638.284	2.081.076	27,0	1.292.750	1.958.804	51,5
ENERGETIC PRODUCTS	95.387	124.894	30,9	161.852	496.109	206,5
NON ENERGETIC PRODUCTS	1.542.898	1.956.183	26,8	1.130.899	1.462.695	29,3
ANNUAL ACCUMULATED	20.864.546	25.665.434	23,0	15.704.926	21.059.909	34,1
ENERGETIC PRODUCTS	951.362	1.365.126	43,5	2.898.185	4.567.797	57,6
NON ENERGETIC PRODUCTS	19.913.185	24.300.308	22,0	12.806.741	16.492.112	28,8
ARABA / ÁLAVA						
TOTAL FOR THE MONTH	414.251	528.368	27,5	379.529	364.151	-4,1
ANNUAL ACCUMULATED	6.149.756	7.340.459	19,4	3.735.587	4.529.941	21,3
BIZKAIA						
TOTAL FOR THE MONTH	637.969	813.490	27,5	603.296	1.159.976	92,3
ANNUAL ACCUMULATED	7.779.566	10.204.983	31,2	8.373.004	11.879.641	41,9
GIPUZKOA						
TOTAL FOR THE MONTH	586.065	739.219	26,1	309.925	434.678	40,3
ANNUAL ACCUMULATED	6.935.225	8.119.992	17,1	3.596.336	4.650.326	29,3

Date Februyar 17, 2022

Source: Eustat. Foreign trade statistics

Provinces

Exports in **Gipuzkoa** grew by 26.1% this month, owing to the increase in “*Metals and articles thereof*” (79.2%) and in “*Transport Material*” (52.2%). The increase in **Bizkaia** was 27.5% as a result of the rises in “*Fats and Oils*” (393.5%), “*Chemical Products*” (100.4%), “*Mineral and Energy Products*” (30.7%), “*Metals and articles thereof*” (15.7%) and “*Electrical Material*” (22.7%). **Álava** also recorded an increase of 27.5%, due to growth of 37.5% in “*Transport Material*” and 24.8% in “*Metals and articles thereof*”.

As regards **imports**, it was **Bizkaia** that saw the greatest increase (92.3%), thanks to acquisitions of “*Mineral and Energy Products*” (188.2%), with 332.8 million more than the previous year, “*Metals and articles thereof*” (58.9%) and “*Vegetable Products*” (315.2%). Growth in **Gipuzkoa** stood at 40.3%, primarily because of the increases in “*Metals and articles thereof*” (47.5%) and “*Electrical Material & Equipment*” (54.1%). In **Álava**, however, there was a decline of 4.1%, based on “*Transport Material*” (-47.2%) and “*Electrical Material*” (-15.4%), which would have been even greater were it not for the upturn in “*Metals and articles thereof*” (52.9%).

Activity Branches (A86)

Analysing the largest **activity branches** for the Basque Country as a whole, and in relation to exports, standing out once again was the increase in “*Iron and Steel products*” (81.9%) in all three provinces, but above all in Gipuzkoa (105.7 million in exports), followed by Bizkaia (93 million) and Álava (52 million). “*Paints and other chemical finishes*” also experienced strong growth (221.4%), concentrated in Bizkaia, with sales of 69 million. Products relating to the “*Manufacture of motor vehicles*” owe their 28.4% increase (92 million more than in December 2020) to the 269 million exported this month from the province of Álava and the 91 million exported from Gipuzkoa. In Gipuzkoa, there was also strong year-on-year growth in “*Other Transport Material*”, which, with 70 million, significantly contributed to the 83.9% rise in this activity branch in the Basque Country as a whole. “*Coke Plants & Oil Refining*” posted a 41.1% increase.

In relation to imports, it is worth noting that the largest activity branch, “*Extraction & Petroleum Industries*”, grew by 182.7%, “*Coke Plants & Oil Refining*”, second in the ranking, saw an increase of 275.3%, as did “*Iron & Steel Products*” (71.5%), which came in third place this month. The “*Agriculture, Livestock and Hunting*” activity branch also rose considerably (157.1%), primarily in Bizkaia, with 81.6 million euros in imports from this province.

Largest customs duty groups

A more detailed look reveals year-on-year rises in exports of “*Refined Petroleum Oils*” (59.5%), with an increase of 44.3 million in respect of the same month of the previous year, and “*Iron or Non-Alloy Steel Sections*” (233.6% and 53.7 million more than in December 2020), which together accounted for a total of 75 million euros in exports for Gipuzkoa. There was also considerable growth in exports of “*Plant or animal fats and oils for industrial technical use*” (431.6%), which reached 30 million euros in the case of Bizkaia. Likewise, there was a major upturn within the vehicle sector, as its six largest customs duty groups registered significant increases, especially “*Vehicles for transporting 10 or more people, including the driver*” (268.4%), with 45 million in exports from Gipuzkoa, and “*Railway or tramway maintenance or service vehicles*” (3,238.0%), with 53 million in exports from Gipuzkoa. Similarly, there were rises in exports of “*Goods Transport Vehicles*” (31.2%), “*Vehicle parts and accessories*” (9.1%), “*Passenger cars with fewer than 10 seats*” (20.5%) and “*New Rubber Tyres*” (6.8%). In contrast, the most significant decrease was in “*Unrefined copper and copper anodes for electrolytic refining*” (-60.0%).

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

	2020	2021	2021 %	2021 / 2020 %
Total	1.638.284	2.081.076	100	27,0
Parts and accessories of motor vehicles	122.135	133.263	6,4	9,1
Motor vehicles for goods transport	92.633	121.579	5,8	31,2
Refined petroleum oils	74.414	118.679	5,7	59,5
Tourisms of less than 10 people	93.529	112.696	5,4	20,5
Iron or non-alloyed profiles	23.003	76.731	3,7	233,6
New rubber tyres	65.445	69.885	3,4	6,8
Vehicles for maintenance and service of railways or similar	1.600	53.403	2,6	3.238,0
Motor vehicles for the transport of ten or more persons, including the driver	12.185	44.894	2,2	268,4
Faucet articles, valves and similar organs for pipes	48.130	41.716	2,0	-13,3
Tubes and hollow profiles, without welding, of iron or steel without welding	25.840	32.022	1,5	23,9
Sheets and bands, of aluminum, of a thickness exceeding 0,2 mm	15.634	30.212	1,5	93,2
Fats and oils, animals or vegetables, intended for industrial technical uses	5.642	29.994	1,4	431,6
Biodiesel and mixtures thereof, not containing petroleum or bituminous mineral oils or containing less than 70 % by weight	62	26.621	1,3	42.684,8
Other iron and steel manufacturers	36.804	24.043	1,2	-34,7
Other tubes and hollow profiles of iron or steel	12.218	22.436	1,1	83,6
Bars and profiles, of other alloyed steels and bars for perforation	11.661	20.214	1,0	73,3
Hot-rolled flat products, iron or non-alloy steel, with a width greater than 599 mm	6.132	18.712	0,9	205,2
Construction-based sheets, rods, profiles, tubes and similars, of cast iron, iron or steel	11.446	18.690	0,9	63,3
Transmission shafts, bearings, gear units, clutches...	13.689	18.611	0,9	36,0
Copper without refining: anodes for electrolytic refined copper	45.646	18.257	0,9	-60,0
Unwrought aluminium	12.563	17.877	0,9	42,3
Machining centers for metalworking	10.362	17.524	0,8	69,1
Pictures, panels and support for control or distribution of electricity	15.412	17.252	0,8	11,9
Machines for washing, filling, closing, labeling containers and packaging devices	10.321	17.249	0,8	67,1
Electric motors and generators (except generator sets)	15.923	16.964	0,8	6,5

(p)Provisional data

Date February 17, 2022

Source: Eustat. Foreign trade statistics

In the case of imports, there was a sharp rise in purchases of "Petroleum oils or oils obtained from bituminous minerals" (216.6%), which represented 234 million euros and 288,463 tonnes more than in December 2020, and "Refined Petroleum Oils" (278.6%), primarily "Diesel", with 105.6 million and 174,201 tonnes in imports. In contrast to previous months, of particular note was the absence of imports of "Natural gas"; this phenomenon has only occurred on four occasions in the last ten years (December 2013, March 2014, January 2015 and June 2016).

There was a notable rise this month in imports of "Soya Beans, Whether or Not Broken" (332.3%), with purchases of 64.6 million, and "Remelting scrap ingots of iron or steel" (72.2%). On the other hand, decreases were recorded in "Internal combustion engines, diesel or semi-diesel" (-48.9%) and "Vehicle parts and accessories" (-43.7%).

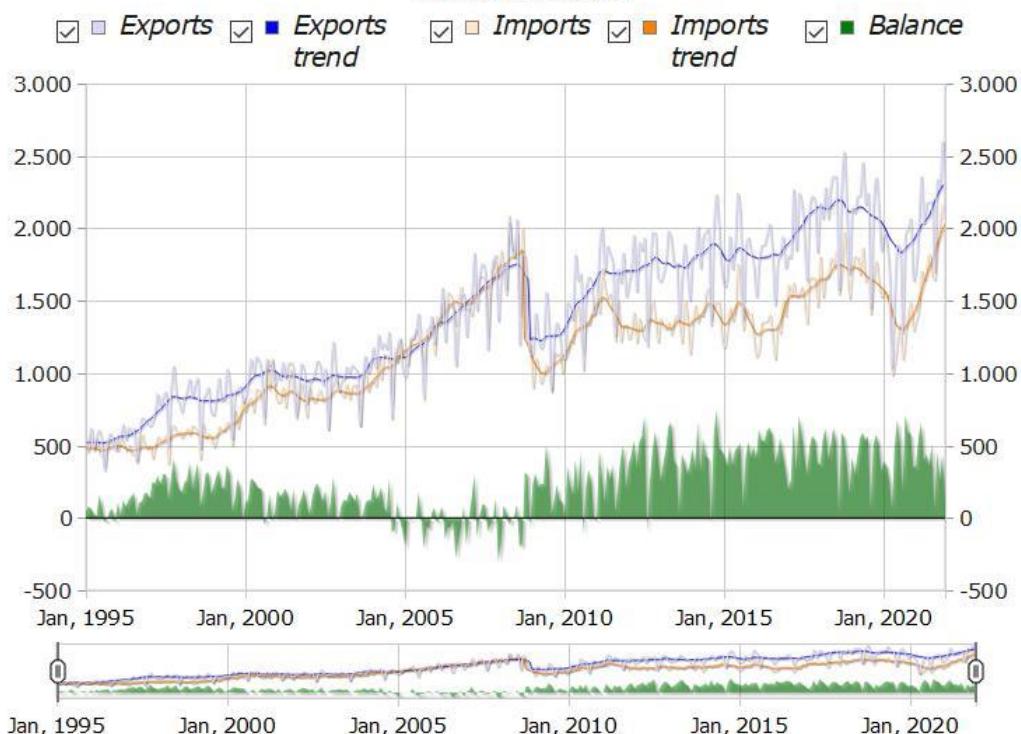
Source/destination customers

In December 2021, five countries (France, Germany, the Netherlands, the United States and Belgium) were the Basque Country's biggest customers, absorbing 48.9% of the total. Four of them belong to the EU27, an entity that accounts for 63% of Basque exports. The United Kingdom dropped to eighth place in the ranking this month, having also been overtaken by Italy and Portugal.

As regards the main supplier countries, they were: Germany (230 million), France (195 million), China (178 million), Russia (142 million) and the Netherlands (123 million), which together accounted for 44% of the total imported.

Evolution of the foreign trade of the Basque Country

Millions Euros



Source: Eustat. Foreign trade statistics (ECOMEX)

For further information:

Eustat - Euskal Estatistika Erakundea / Basque Statistics Institute
C/ Donostia-San Sebastián, 1 01010 Vitoria-Gasteiz
Press Service: servicioprensa@eustat.eus Tel.: 945 01 75 62