

Exports from the Basque Country were down 13.5% in May 2023

In the cumulative total for the first five months of 2023, exports grew by 6.6% and imports increased by 3.0%

In May 2023 and compared to the same month of the previous year, exports of goods from the Basque Country (2,827.3 million euros) registered a drop of 13.5%, according to Eustat data. This trend was seen in both energy products (-53.3%) and non-energy products (-10.3%).

The import flow (2,471.7 million) also saw a decrease of 5.1%, which was evident in both energy imports (-7.4%) and non-energy imports (-4.5%). However, in terms of weight (tonnes), the year-on-year variations in both energy imports (14.6%) and non-energy imports (22.1%) were positive.

This month, there was a positive trade balance of 355.6 million euros and a coverage rate of 114.4%, all measured in nominal terms.

The balance for the first five months of 2023 showed a 6.6% increase in exports, with growth of 9.5% in non-energy products and a decline of 28.8% in energy products. With regard to imports, the balance closed with a rise of 3.0%; there was a 3.7% increase in energy products and non-energy products were up 2.7%.

Evolution of Foreign Trade of goods of the Basque Country. Thousands of euros. May 2023

	EXPORTS			IMPORTS		
	May			May		
	2022	2023	Increase (%)	2022	2023	Increase (%)
BASQUE COUNTRY						
TOTAL FOR THE MONTH	3.267.609	2.827.276	-13,5	2.605.374	2.471.712	-5,1
ENERGETIC PRODUCTS	244.249	113.999	-53,3	553.188	512.422	-7,4
NON ENERGETIC PRODUCTS	3.023.360	2.713.277	-10,3	2.052.185	1.959.290	-4,5
ANNUAL ACCUMULATED	13.319.635	14.202.605	6,6	11.497.995	11.837.692	3,0
ENERGETIC PRODUCTS	998.201	710.769	-28,8	2.785.537	2.889.391	3,7
NON ENERGETIC PRODUCTS	12.321.433	13.491.836	9,5	8.712.458	8.948.302	2,7
ARABA / ÁLAVA						
TOTAL FOR THE MONTH	960.840	935.750	-2,6	625.034	546.689	-12,5
ANNUAL ACCUMULATED	3.905.829	4.566.673	16,9	2.502.091	2.640.521	5,5
BIZKAIA						
TOTAL FOR THE MONTH	1.386.563	1.044.366	-24,7	1.420.757	1.428.008	0,5
ANNUAL ACCUMULATED	5.434.555	5.336.673	-1,8	6.621.464	6.907.208	4,3
GIPUZKOA						
TOTAL FOR THE MONTH	920.207	847.160	-7,9	559.583	497.014	-11,2
ANNUAL ACCUMULATED	3.979.251	4.299.259	8,0	2.374.440	2.289.962	-3,6

Date July 20, 2023

Source: Eustat. Foreign trade statistics

All three provinces registered decreases in exports in May 2023, albeit to varying degrees: the drop stood at 24.7% in Bizkaia and 7.9% in Gipuzkoa, while in Álava it was just 2.6%.

More than half of the goods exported from Álava this month consisted of “*Transport material*” (58.5%), despite a year-on-year decline of 5.3% (532.5 million in exports). Exports were also down in other customs duty groups, such as “*Metals and articles thereof*” (-9.7%), “*Food products*” (-8.9%) and “*Chemical products*” (-32.1%).

In Bizkaia, there was a drop in exports of “*Mineral and energy products*” (-51.7%), with 128.5 million less than in the same month of the previous year, “*Metals and articles thereof*” (-28.1%) and “*Chemical products*” (-43%). On the other hand, sales were up in “*Fats and oils*” (22.9%) and “*Animal products*” (26.9%).

In Gipuzkoa, there was a downturn of 10.3% in “*Electrical equipment, machinery & devices*”, 18.7% in “*Metals and articles thereof*”, 16.8% in “*Paper and articles thereof*” and as much as 41.8% in “*Chemical products*”. Meanwhile, exports of “*Transport material*” amounted to 152.9 million euros in May 2023, following an increase of 47.3%.

Source/destination countries, May 2023

In May 2023, five countries (Germany, France, the United States, the United Kingdom and Belgium) were the Basque Country’s biggest customers, absorbing 51.7% (1,462.9 million) of the total exported. Three of these belong to the EU27, which accounts for 63.3%.

Exports to Germany this month stood at 479.5 million euros, with those of “*Passenger cars with fewer than 10 seats*” (112.8 million), “*Goods transport vehicles*” (96.1 million) and “*Vehicle parts and accessories*” (37.9 million) predominating, for a total of 422 different products.

673 types of products were sent to France, accounting for a total of 418.4 million euros. Standing out among these were “*Vehicle parts and accessories*” (30.5 million) and “*New rubber tyres*” (26.2 million).

The United States, with 210.4 million, came in third place, with the majority of exports in “*Goods transport vehicles*” (34 million), “*Refined petroleum oils*” (25 million) and “*Seamless tubes and hollow profiles made of iron or steel*” (22.3 million), totalling 341 different products.

The United Kingdom accounted for 178.3 million of total exports from the Basque Country, of which 20.2 million corresponded to “*Iron or non-alloy steel sections*”, 14.8 million to “*Turbo-reactors, turbo-propellers and other gas turbines, and their parts and components*” and 10.4 million to “*New rubber tyres*”.

Exports to Belgium amounted to 176.2 million euros and this month’s transactions were dominated by “*Refined petroleum oils*” (42.2 million), “*Goods not specifically covered by the customs tariff*” (27.7 million) and “*Unrefined copper*” (15.6 million).

This month, 55.5% of Basque **imports** came from the EU27. One of the standout countries in terms of imports was Germany (364.1 million), with imports consisting mainly of “*Vehicle parts and accessories*” (41.8 million) and “*Internal combustion engines, diesel or semi-diesel*”, with 36.8 million. It is also worth mentioning China, with 196 million, with the leading product in this case being “*Electric accumulators and parts thereof*”, with 30.3 million. France took third place with 176.4 million, of which 33.1 million corresponded to “*Remelting scrap ingots of iron or steel*”. The Netherlands was a major importer this May, with a total of 150.5 million traded, with “*Refined petroleum oils*” (39.3 million) and “*Petroleum oils or oils obtained from bituminous minerals*” (33 million) accounting for almost half of the total.

This month, energy imports were distributed as follows: 123.7 million euros from Kazakhstan, 78.3 million from the Netherlands, 70.7 million from Mexico, 57.5 million from the United States, 46.9 million from Norway, 43.3 million from Iraq, 38.5 million from the United Kingdom, 31.3 million from Kuwait, 19.8 million from Portugal and 1.4 million from Germany. The remainder, totalling 512 million euros, were distributed among 22 countries.

Products traded, May 2023

A more detailed look reveals that in May 2023 the ten main **customs duty groups** accounted for 40.2% of exports, with a combined value of 1,136.2 million euros.

Of particular note within this set of products, due to their significance and negative performance, were "*Passenger cars with fewer than 10 seats*" (year-on-year variation rate of -5.4%) with 263.4 million in exports, 15.1 million less than in the same month of the previous year, "*Goods transport vehicles*" (-5% and 202 million euros in exports) and "*Refined petroleum oils*" (-56.6% and 92.1 million). By contrast, among the top traded products with positive growth rates were "*New rubber tyres*", up 9% (122.3 million), and "*Lifts, Escalators, Transporters, etc.*", whose exports rose by 116.3% (40.5 million). If we widen the scope of the analysis to include the top 25 positions in the export ranking, we can see significant growth rates in groups such as: "*Diesel and electric motor units for railway tracks and motorised trams*" (365.5%), "*Railway or tramway vehicle parts*" (48.7%) and "*Turbo-reactors, turbo-propellers and other gas turbines, and their parts and components*" (39.9%). On the other hand, it should be pointed out that there were decreases in sales of "*Goods not specifically covered by the customs tariff*" (-65.1%), "*Aluminium sheets and strips of a thickness exceeding 0.2 mm*" (-44.6%), "*Other iron or steel articles*" (-33.1%) and "*Stainless steel bars and sections*" (-14.6%), among others.

Ranking of monthly Exports of the Basque Country by tariff headings. Thousands of euros (p). May 2023

	2022	2023	2023 (%)	2023/2022 (%)
TOTAL EXPORTS	3.267.609	2.827.276	100,0	-13,5
Tourisms of less than 10 people	278.447	263.353	9,3	-5,4
Motor vehicles for goods transport	212.529	202.003	7,1	-5,0
Parts and accessories of motor vehicles	195.386	197.159	7,0	0,9
New rubber tyres	112.168	122.260	4,3	9,0
Refined petroleum oils	212.249	92.133	3,3	-56,6
Tubes and hollow profiles, without welding, of iron or steel without welding	67.466	68.339	2,4	1,3
Iron or non-alloyed profiles	78.079	67.122	2,4	-14,0
Faucet articles, valves and similar organs for pipes	60.319	46.487	1,6	-22,9
Elevators, escalators, conveyors, etc	18.737	40.519	1,4	116,3
Bars and profiles, of other alloyed steels and bars for perforation	40.828	36.797	1,3	-9,9
Bars and sections, in stainless steel	41.796	35.694	1,3	-14,6
Goods not specifically covered by the customs tariff	98.950	34.490	1,2	-65,1
Other iron and steel manufacturers	48.802	32.647	1,2	-33,1
Sheets and bands, of aluminum, of a thickness exceeding 0.2 mm	57.112	31.618	1,1	-44,6
Vehicle parts for rail road tracks or similar	19.587	29.119	1,0	48,7
Other cast articles of iron or steel	23.871	27.133	1,0	13,7
Turbojet engines, propeller turbines and other combustion turbines, including their parts and components	18.279	25.567	0,9	39,9
Other tubes and hollow profiles of iron or steel	30.682	23.041	0,8	-24,9
Machines for washing, filling, closing, labeling containers and packaging devices	17.823	22.842	0,8	28,2
Pictures, panels and support for control or distribution of electricity	22.127	22.271	0,8	0,7
Padlocks, locks, bolts and keys made of base metals	24.064	21.367	0,8	-11,2
Diesel or electric motor units for railway tracks and motorised trams	4.579	21.313	0,8	365,5
Electrical transformers, static converters and reactance coils	25.837	21.117	0,7	-18,3
Construction-based sheets, rods, profiles, tubes and similars, of cast iron, iron or steel	31.415	20.746	0,7	-34,0
Transmission shafts, bearings, gear units clutches, etc.	23.600	20.587	0,7	-12,8

(p)Provisional data

Date: July 20, 2023

Source: Eustat. Foreign trade statistics

In the case of **imports**, the largest customs duty group, “*Petroleum oils or oils obtained from bituminous minerals*” (16% of the total), registered a drop of 19.5%, 95.9 million less than in the same month of 2022, making a total of 396.3 million in imports. However, if we make the comparison in tonnes, imports increased from 687,790 tonnes in May 2022 to 780,330 tonnes in the same month of 2023, which was a rise of 13.5%.

There was significant growth in imports of “*Refined petroleum oils*”, with 91 million in imports. Notable increases were also recorded for “*Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of 600 mm or more, hot-rolled, not clad, plated or coated*” (25%), “*Soya beans, whether or not broken*” (17.6%), “*Other preparations and products of the chemical and allied industries*” (63%) and “*Mixtures of odoriferous substances used in the food and beverage industries*” (74.7%), all of which are on the list of the most imported items.

ÁLAVA. Exports during May 2023

In Álava, exports fell by 2.6%. Only three of the top ten export duty groups registered positive variations in May. These were: “*New rubber tyres*”, whose exports rose by 39.4% to reach a value of 52.6 million euros; “*Stainless steel in ingots or other primary forms*”, with an increase of 29% and exports worth 8.6 million, and “*Seamless tubes and hollow profiles made of iron or steel*”, up 6.5% (56.6 million). The other groups posted decreases of varying degrees, ranging from -4.9% for “*Goods transport vehicles*” (201.5 million) to -23.2% for “*Stoppers, caps and other packing accessories of base metal*” (9.2 million) to -33% for “*Other tubes and hollow profiles made of iron or steel*” (15 million).

Ranking of monthly Exports of Álava by tariff headings. Thousands of euros (p). May 2023

	2022	2023	2023 (%)	2023/2022 (%)
TOTAL EXPORTS	960.840	935.750	100,0	-2,6
Tourisms of less than 10 people	276.119	258.602	27,6	-6,3
Motor vehicles for goods transport	211.968	201.492	21,5	-4,9
Tubes and hollow profiles, without welding, of iron or steel without welding	53.176	56.647	6,1	6,5
New rubber tyres	37.712	52.560	5,6	39,4
Parts and accessories of motor vehicles	55.164	46.334	5,0	-16,0
Wine made with fresh grapes	19.349	16.468	1,8	-14,9
Other tubes and hollow profiles of iron or steel	22.376	15.000	1,6	-33,0
Caps, lids and other accessories for containers of base metal	12.015	9.225	1,0	-23,2
Parts of aircraft with or without engines, manned or not and parts of satellites and space vehicles	10.694	9.007	1,0	-15,8
Stainless steel ingots or other primary forms	6.651	8.583	0,9	29,0

(p)Provisional data

Date July 20, 2023

Source: Eustat. Foreign trade statistics

BIZKAIA. Exports during May 2023

Exports from the province of Bizkaia were down 24.7%. “*Refined petroleum oils*”, first in the export ranking for Bizkaia, registered a decline of 57.2%, with exports for this group amounting to 90.4 million. Another significant drop was seen in “*Goods not specifically covered by the customs tariff*”, with exports falling by 66.4% this month to just 32.5 million. Together with “*Aluminium sheets and strips of a thickness exceeding 0.2 mm*” (-48.9% and 23.2 million), these two groups accounted for the largest decreases within the most notable groups for Bizkaia. On the other hand, there were upturns in exports of “*Turbo-reactors, turbo-propellers and other gas turbines, and their parts and components*” (41% and 25.5 million), “*Other cast iron or steel articles*” (23.1% and 18.3 million) and “*Vehicle parts and accessories*” (5.4% and 74.9 million).

Ranking of monthly Exports of Bizkaia by tariff headings. Thousands of euros (p). May 2023

	2022	2023	2023 (%)	2023/2022 (%)
TOTAL EXPORTS	1.386.563	1.044.366	100,0	-24,7
Refined petroleum oils	211.098	90.411	8,7	-57,2
Parts and accessories of motor vehicles	71.027	74.864	7,2	5,4
New rubber tyres	73.906	68.935	6,6	-6,7
Goods not specifically covered by the customs tariff	96.703	32.506	3,1	-66,4
Bars and sections, in stainless steel	35.218	27.977	2,7	-20,6
Turbojet engines, propeller turbines and other combustion turbines, including their parts and components	18.078	25.490	2,4	41,0
Sheets and bands, of aluminum, of a thickness exceeding 0.2 mm	45.472	23.220	2,2	-48,9
Soybean oil	518	20.254	1,9	3.813,5
Bars and profiles, of other alloyed steels and bars for perforation	24.119	19.924	1,9	-17,4
Other cast articles of iron or steel	14.906	18.347	1,8	23,1

(p)Provisional data

Date July 20, 2023

Source: Eustat. Foreign trade statistics

GIPUZKOA. Exports during May 2023

Exports from Gipuzkoa fell by 7.9% in May 2023 compared to the same month of 2022. Considerable growth of more than 100% was recorded in “*Diesel and electric motor units for railway tracks and motorised trams*” (365.5% and 21.3 million in exports), “*Vehicles for transporting 10 or more people, including the driver*” (183.7% and 18.5 million in exports) and “*Lifts, Escalators, Transporters, etc.*” (139.9% and 34.8 million). Another significant increase, in terms of the weight of the group in the total exported, was seen in “*Vehicle parts and accessories*” (19.2% and 71.7 million in exports).

Of particular note among the main customs duty groups were the decreases registered in “*Taps, valves and similar appliances for pipes*” (-31% and 30.9 million), “*Iron or non-alloy steel sections*” (-15.1% and 62.6 million), “*Other iron or steel articles*” (-18.6% and 18.7 million) and “*Padlocks, locks, bolts and keys made of base metals*” (-13.4% and 19.7 million).

Ranking of monthly Exports of Gipuzkoa by tariff headings. Thousands of euros (p). May 2023

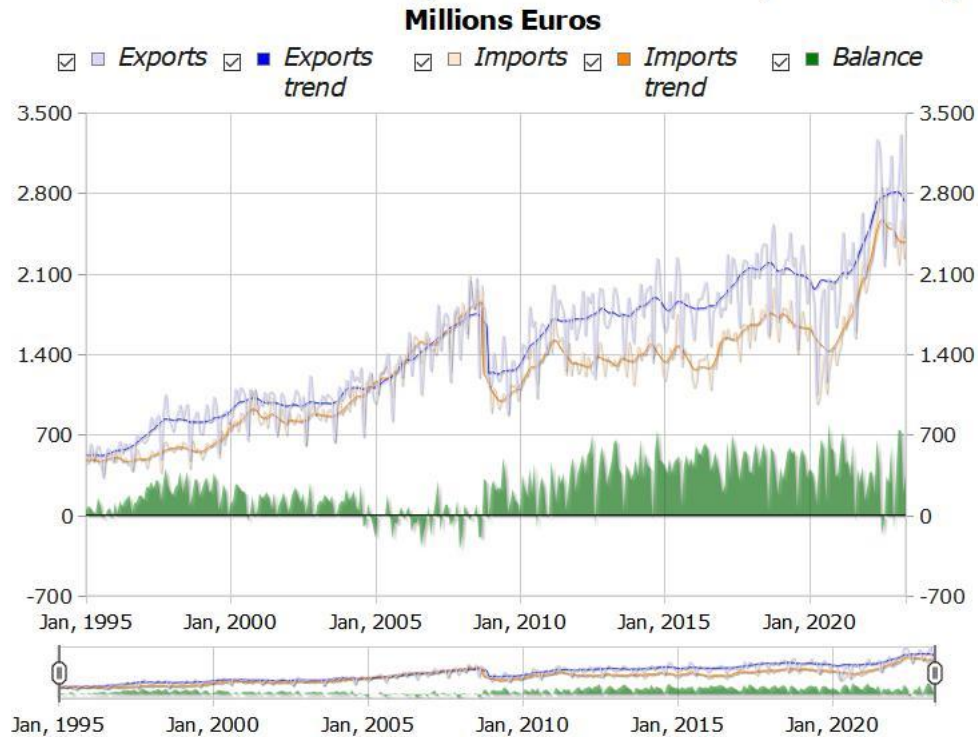
	2022	2023	2023 (%)	2023/2022 (%)
TOTAL EXPORTS	920.207	847.160	100,0	-7,9
Parts and accessories of motor vehicles	69.195	75.961	9,0	9,8
Iron or non-alloyed profiles	73.815	62.632	7,4	-15,1
Elevators, escalators, conveyors, etc	14.499	34.775	4,1	139,9
Faucet articles, valves and similar organs for pipes	44.843	30.940	3,7	-31,0
Vehicle parts for rail road tracks or similar	13.975	26.533	3,1	89,9
Diesel or electric motor units for railway tracks and motorised trams	4.579	21.313	2,5	365,5
Machines for washing, filling, closing, labeling containers and packaging devices	16.955	21.145	2,5	24,7
Padlocks, locks, bolts and keys made of base metals	22.756	19.716	2,3	-13,4
Other iron and steel manufacturers	22.944	18.672	2,2	-18,6
Motor vehicles for the transport of ten or more persons, including the driver	6.515	18.483	2,2	183,7

(p)Provisional data

Date July 20, 2023

Source: Eustat. Foreign trade statistics

Evolution of the foreign trade of the Basque Country



Source: Eustat. Foreign trade statistics (ECOMEX)

You can find more information by accessing the foreign trade data search application [Elkano](#)

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