

In March 2021, exports from the Basque Country were consolidated with 39% growth, following on from a trend started in the previous month

The balance of exports of goods of 2021 closed with 9.1% growth

According to Eustat data, in March 2021 **exports** of goods from the Basque Country (accounting for 2,359.1 million euros) were up 39.0% compared to the same month of the previous year. Non-energy exports rose by 37.5%, and energy exports increased by 73.4%.

Imports (1,708.3 million) were up 18.6%, despite the 25.0% drop in energy products.

In March 2021, the trade balance (exports minus imports) became positive again by more than 650 million euros, with a **coverage rate of 138.1%**, which was 20.3 percentage points higher than the rate in March 2020.

Evolution of the foreign trade of the Basque Country. Thousands of euros. March 2021

	EXPORTS			IMPORTS		
	March			March		
	2020	2021	Δ %	2020	2021	Δ %
BASQUE COUNTRY						
TOTAL MONTH	1.697.592	2.359.089	39,0	1.440.665	1.708.336	18,6
ENERGY PRODUCTS	71.283	123.593	73,4	346.525	259.833	-25,0
NON-ENERGY PRODUCTS	1.626.309	2.235.496	37,5	1.094.141	1.448.502	32,4
ACCUMULATED YEARLY PERIOD	5.568.469	6.075.297	9,1	4.564.332	4.503.749	-1,3
ENERGY PRODUCTS	355.411	258.403	-27,3	1.145.102	811.996	-29,1
NON-ENERGY PRODUCTS	5.213.058	5.816.894	11,6	3.419.230	3.691.753	8,0
ARABA / ÁLAVA						
TOTAL MONTH	434.192	689.078	58,7	319.349	446.852	39,9
ACCUMULATED YEARLY PERIOD	1.663.596	1.864.871	12,1	1.020.298	1.085.326	6,4
BIZKAIA						
TOTAL MONTH	653.272	934.312	43,0	827.491	869.852	5,1
ACCUMULATED YEARLY PERIOD	2.148.844	2.382.507	10,9	2.596.134	2.369.404	-8,7
GIPUZKOA						
TOTAL MONTH	610.128	735.699	20,6	293.826	391.632	33,3
ACCUMULATED YEARLY PERIOD	1.756.028	1.827.919	4,1	947.900	1.049.019	10,7

Source: Eustat. Foreign trade statistics

For the second month in a row, all three provinces saw negative values, with percentages varying from 20.6% in Gipuzkoa, 58.7% in Álava, to 43.0% in Bizkaia. Bizkaia saw **72.9% growth after 13 months of significant decline**, including 2019 when positive values were recorded in only two months.

In Álava, most exports were in “*Transport Material*” (56.6% of the total), with an increase of 85.5%. Likewise, “*Electrical Equipment, Machinery & Devices*” (30.0%), “*Metals and Manufactured*” (17.8%), “*Plastics & Rubber*” (86.0%), to name the four major customs duty groups, were all up. All the others, bar two, also saw significant increases.

In Gipuzkoa, sales of “*Electrical Equipment, Machinery & Devices*” (31.2%) and “*Metals and Manufactured*” (44.1%) rose, while “*Transport Material*” exports were down by 23.9%, forming a series of 15 consecutive months of downward trend, all 11 of them over 20%. All other sections, except for two, increased.

Exports from Bizkaia followed the same trend as the other provinces, with an increase of 43.0%, a result of the upturns in “*Metals and Manufactured*” (67.8%), “*Mineral & Energy Products*” (75.7%) and “*Electrical Equipment, Machinery & Devices*” (18.4%). Only three groups, with a small specific weighting, were down.

In March 2021 five countries (Germany, France, United States, United Kingdom and Belgium) were our main clients, absorbing 53.0% of total exports from the Basque Country (1,251.4 million). Three belong to the EU27, which accounted for 61.9% of exports which, as we have said in previous releases, would have been 69.2% of the erstwhile EU28.

Sales to Belgium grew 116.5%, Italy 78.9%, Germany 61.3%, Portugal 54.1%, France 50.2% and the United Kingdom 23.7%. Exports to the Netherlands, on the other hand, were down 4.8%. 57.7% of all exports (1,360.5 million) went to these seven countries.

Outside of the European Union, there were four countries that stood out, led by the United States, with an increase of 66.0% and 190.7 million euros exported, followed by China, with 51.1 million (up 27.7%), Mexico (43.4 million and 9.5%) and Turkey (32.9 million and 38.3%).

Over half (57.3%) of all imports came from the EU27 and would have reached 60.1% for the erstwhile EU28. Of the countries with the most exports, Italy was in the lead with growth of 76.4%, the Netherlands with 50.5%, Germany (41.8% and 300.4 million in imports), the United Kingdom (37.8% and 48.6 million) and France (31.2% and 178.5 million).

As regards the rest of the world, imports from Russia (349.1% and 73.7 million), China (99.1% and 146.4 million), Mexico (39.8% and 67.9 million) and Brazil (19.0% and 45.8 million) increased. Imports from Russia and Mexico were energy-related.

Products traded in March 2021

In November, the ten main **export duty groups** accounted for 40.5% of exports, with a combined value of 955.4 million euros.

By order of size, there was a major increase in exports of “*Passenger cars with fewer than 10 seats*” (130.6% and 140.1 million more than in the same month of the previous year), “*Vehicle parts and accessories*” (49.4% and up 51.3 million), “*Goods Transport Vehicles*” (68.9% and up 46.8 million), “*New Rubber Tyres*” (34.4% and up 28.0 million) and “*Refined Petroleum Oils*” (62.0% and up 40.5 million). “*Iron or Non-Alloy Steel Sections*” (80.0% and up 27.6 million), “*Taps, valves and similar appliances for pipes*” (61.8% and 23.2 million) and “*Railway or Tramway Vehicle Parts*” (200.3% and 23.8 million) grew significantly.

This month, of the 25 main customs duty groups, five were within the vehicle sector (four of them occupying the top positions) which, with a year-on-year increase of 77.9%, managed to export 290 million euros more than in the same period of the previous year.

Exports of only two groups of the 25 dropped: “*Seamless tubes and hollow profiles made of iron or steel*” (-14.1% and 4.9 million down) and “*Plant or animal fats and oils for industrial technical use*” (-4.8% and -1.0 million).

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

	2020	2021	2021 %	2021/2020 (%)
Total	1.697.592	2.359.089	100	39,0
Tourisms of less than 10 people	107.271	247.351	10,5	130,6
Parts and accessories of motor vehicles	103.765	155.055	6,6	49,4
Motor vehicles for goods transport	67.970	114.795	4,9	68,9
New rubber tyres	81.300	109.300	4,6	34,4
Refined petroleum oils	65.408	105.943	4,5	62,0
Iron or non-alloyed profiles	34.476	62.051	2,6	80,0
Faucet articles, valves and similar organs for pipes	37.582	60.812	2,6	61,8
Vehicle parts for rail road tracks or similar	11.886	35.693	1,5	200,3
Sheets and bands, of aluminum, of a thickness exceeding 0.2 mm	25.408	32.371	1,4	27,4
Other iron and steel manufacturers	19.624	32.074	1,4	63,4
Tubes and hollow profiles,without welding, of iron or steel without welding	34.769	29.873	1,3	-14,1
Bars and profiles, of other alloyed steels and bars for perforation	16.253	24.436	1,0	50,4
Iron or uns alloyed steel wire rod, coiled in irregular coils "crowns"	4.494	23.951	1,0	433,0
Wine made with fresh grapes	19.456	22.899	1,0	17,7
Bars and sections in stainless steel	18.662	22.770	1,0	22,0
Washing machines, inc. with drying elements	13.710	22.653	1,0	65,2
Lifts, escalators, transporters...	16.349	21.416	0,9	31,0
Other tubes and hollow profiles of iron or steel	15.570	21.075	0,9	35,4
Copper without refining; anodes for electrolytic refined copper	13.125	20.729	0,9	57,9
Fats and oils animals or vegetables intended for industrial technical uses	21.664	20.626	0,9	-4,8
Wires, electrically conductive insulated cables and fiber optic cables	15.733	20.433	0,9	29,9
Pictures, panels and support for control or distribution of electricity	14.188	18.850	0,8	32,9
Padlocks, locks, bolts and keys made of base metals	14.445	18.843	0,8	30,5
Goods not specifically covered by the customs tariff	17.617	18.737	0,8	6,4
Copper waste and scrap	10.289	18.128	0,8	76,2

(p)Provisional data

Source: Eustat. Foreign trade statistics

In the case of **imports**, we can see that the product with the largest specific weight "*Petroleum oils or oils obtained from bituminous minerals*" (9.3% of the total), saw a decrease of 47.9%, down 147.0 million on March 2020. Only two other groups recorded a negative trend: "*Mixtures of odoriferous substances used in the food and beverage industries*" (-7.2% and -2.1 million) and "*Petroleum gas and other hydrocarbon gases*" (-12.6% and 2.3 million). On the other hand, there was a considerable increase in "*Refined Petroleum Oils*" (290.1% and up 57.7 million), the third most imported product this month, followed by "*Vehicle parts and accessories*" (41.4% and +23.3 million). Also of note was the increase in "*Internal combustion engines, diesel or semi-diesel*" (38.5% and +15.3 million) and "*Remelting scrap ingots of iron or steel*" (36.5% +10.7 million).

ÁLAVA. Exports during March 2021

Exports from the province of Álava were up 58.7%. Of the 10 main groups, which account for 71.8% of the total, only two showed negative rates of growth, namely "*Seamless tubes and hollow profiles made of iron or steel*" (-37.1% and down 8.8 million) and "*Aircraft Parts*" (-64.4% and -8.0 million).

Conversely, the others stayed positive. The top three in the export rankings were associated with the vehicle sector: "*Passenger cars with fewer than 10 seats*" (130.7% and +138.2 million), "*Goods Transport Vehicles*" (68.8% and +46.6 million) and "*New Rubber Tyres*" (92.8% and +19.8 million).

Main exporting tariff headings in the province of Álava. Thousands of euros (p). March 2021

	2020	2021	2021 %	2021/2020 (%)
Total	434.192	689.078	100	58,7
Tourisms of less than 10 people	105.695	243.865	35,4	130,7
Motor vehicles for goods transport	67.797	114.426	16,6	68,8
New rubber tyres	21.303	41.083	6,0	92,8
Parts and accessories of motor vehicles	18.076	18.467	2,7	2,2
Wine made with fresh grapes	18.096	18.378	2,7	1,6
Tubes and hollow profiles, without welding, of iron or steel without welding	23.610	14.851	2,2	-37,1
Other tubes and hollow profiles of iron or steel	10.526	13.738	2,0	30,5
Glass containers for transport or packaging	5.663	11.427	1,7	101,8
Copper waste and scrap	3.088	10.625	1,5	244,1
Caps, lids and other accessories for containers of base metal	7.772	7.698	1,1	-1,0

(p)Provisional data

Source: Eustat. Foreign trade statistics

BIZKAIA. Exports during March 2021

In Bizkaia, exports grew by 43.0%, a trend shared by the main customs duty groups, except one of the top ten for Bizkaia, which was negative: “*Plant or animal fats and oils for industrial technical use*” (-4.8% and -1.0 million).

Conversely, “*Refined Petroleum Oils*” (61.1% and up 39.8 million), “*Vehicle parts and accessories*” (45.3% and +20.7 million) and “*Bars and rods of iron or non-alloy steel*” (460.8% and +19.5 million).

Main exporting tariff headings in the province of Bizkaia. Thousands of euros (p). March 2021

	2020	2021	2021 %	2021/2020 (%)
Total	653.272	934.312	100	43,0
Refined petroleum oils	65.121	104.901	11,2	61,1
New rubber tyres	59.869	67.741	7,3	13,1
Parts and accessories of motor vehicles	45.805	66.537	7,1	45,3
Sheets and bands, of aluminum, of a thickness exceeding 0.2 mm	21.078	25.886	2,8	22,8
Iron or uns alloyed steel wire rod, coiled in irregular coils "crowns"	4.227	23.701	2,5	460,8
Copper without refining; anodes for electrolytic refined copper	13.125	20.729	2,2	57,9
Fats and oils animals or vegetables intended for industrial technical uses	21.664	20.626	2,2	-4,8
Bars and sections in stainless steel	15.532	20.384	2,2	31,2
Faucet articles, valves and similar organs for pipes	10.395	20.341	2,2	95,7
Other iron and steel manufacturers	7.036	18.134	1,9	157,7

(p)Provisional data

Source: Eustat. Foreign trade statistics

GIPUZKOA. Exports during March 2021

None of the top 10 customs duty groups were down, led by “*Vehicle parts and accessories*”, with an increase of 75.6% (30.2 million), “*Iron or Non-Alloy Steel Sections*” (82.5% and 27.1 million) “*Railway or Tramway Vehicle Parts*” (256.2% and +24.0 million) and “*Taps, valves and similar appliances for pipes*” (48.7% and +12.7 million).

Main exporting tariff headings in the province of Gipuzkoa. Thousands of euros (p). March 2021

	2020	2021	2021 %	2021/2020 (%)
Total	610.128	735.699	100	20,6
Parts and accessories of motor vehicles	39.884	70.051	9,5	75,6
Iron or non-alloyed profiles	32.827	59.906	8,1	82,5
Faucet articles, valves and similar organs for pipes	26.101	38.807	5,3	48,7
Vehicle parts for rail road tracks or similar	9.374	33.393	4,5	256,2
Machines for washing, filling, closing, labeling containers and packaging devices	13.251	21.902	3,0	65,3
Wires, electrically conductive insulated cables and fiber optic cables	14.222	19.584	2,7	37,7
Padlocks, locks, bolts and keys made of base metals	13.845	17.618	2,4	27,3
Lifts, escalators, transporters...	14.346	16.677	2,3	16,2
Parts and accessories destined to machine tools	5.345	14.801	2,0	176,9
and tapes to drill	9.580	12.743	1,7	33,0

(p)Provisional data

Source: Eustat. Foreign trade statistics

ANNUAL ACCUMULATE – FIRST QUARTER OF 2021

The foreign trade balance generated a surplus of 1,571.5 million euros and the coverage rate stood at 134.9%

For the first three months of 2021 as a whole, and for **exports** from the Basque Country, an increase of 9.1% was registered compared to the same period of the previous year, which translated into a rise of 506.8 million euros. The total amount of exports this period stood at 6,075.3 million euros; the greatest contribution to this figure was that of Bizkaia, with 2,382.5 million (39.2% of the total), followed by Álava (1,864.9 million) and Gipuzkoa (1,827.9 million).

Bizkaia exports were the largest in the Basque Country, with a year-on-year rise of 10.9% (233.7 million euros up on 2020). In Álava exports increased to an even greater extent, by 12.1% (+201.3 million) and they fell by 4.1% in Gipuzkoa (+71.9 million).

Considering the type of product exported, there was a decline in exports of “Energy Products” (-27.3% and down 97.0 million) while “Non-energy Products” were up (11.6% 603.8 million).

The ten most exported products (customs duty groups) during the first three months of 2021 accounted for 41.4% of all exports, reaching a total of 2,514.9 million euros. Only one recorded a considerable decline compared with the same period of 2020: “*Refined Petroleum Oils*” (-33.7% and -112.9 million). There were considerable rates of growth in the other products in this group, particularly in the vehicle sector, e.g. “*Railway or Tramway Vehicle Parts*”, with an increase of 134.4% and 54.5 million, “*Passenger cars with fewer than 10 seats*” were up 29.4% and 147.7 million. Similar trends were seen in “*Goods Transport Vehicles*” (26.6% and +84.3 million), “*Vehicle parts and accessories*” (-7.7% and +30.1 million) and “*New Rubber Tyres*” (6.0% +15.4 million).

The export ranking in these first three months of 2021 situates Germany as the prime receiver country of Basque exports, with 1,094.1 million and 18.0% of the total exported. After Germany came France (965.5 million), the United Kingdom (438.2 million), the United States (365.8 million), Italy (317.9 million) and Belgium (314.6 million). These six countries accounted for 57.5% of exports. Italy had the lowest proportion, 120.3%, and the United States the largest, 320.9%.

Cumulative **imports** for the Basque Country as a whole during the period in question amounted to 4,503.7 million euros. Comparing this figure in year-on-year terms, we see that it is 60.6 million euros down on the equivalent for the same period in 2020. This decrease (1.3%) is largely due to the fact that the province of Bizkaia (with imports of 2,369.4 million) registered a downturn of 8.7%, that is, 226.7 million down on the same period of the previous year. Imports grew in other provinces, at 6.4%

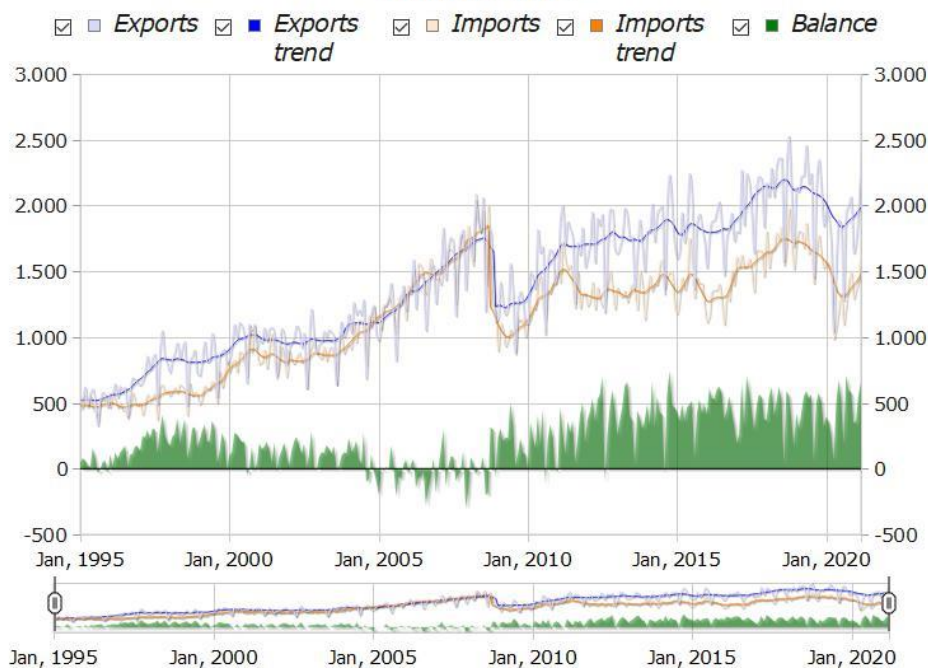
in Álava and 10.7% in Gipuzkoa, where imports reached 1,085.3 million and 1,049.0 million euros, respectively.

In the Basque Country, “Energy Products” fell by 29.1% (-333.1 million) over this period, while “Non-energy Products” rose by 8.0% (272.5 million).

The top Basque exports were “Petroleum oils or oils obtained from bituminous minerals”, with 579.0 million euros, despite the considerable decrease (-35.2% and 314.2 million down) seen this quarter. On the other hand, Basque exports of “Refined Petroleum Oils” (91.8% and 84.9 million) were up. Foreign purchases of “Soya Beans, Whether or Not Broken” (40.3% and 30.6 million), “Remelting scrap ingots of iron or steel” (37.2% and 27.5 million) and “Unwrought aluminium” (65.7% and 25.4 million) increased.

Foreign trade in goods in the Basque Country during the first three months of 2021 had a positive balance of 1,571.5 million euros, which is 567.4 million more than was registered during the same period of the previous year and maintains a positive coverage rate of 134.9%.

Evolution of the foreign trade of the Basque Country Millions Euros



Source: Eustat. Foreign trade statistics (ECOMEX)

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