

FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS (ECOMEX). September 2021

Exports of goods from the Basque Country grew by 19.5% in September 2021

The cumulative total of exports for the first nine months of 2021 amounted to 18,691 million euros, with a year-on-year increase of 23.3%

There was a rise in **exports** of goods from the Basque Country of 19.5% in **September 2021**, according to Eustat data. Exports of energy products rose by 109.4% and those of non-energy products (93% of the total value) were up 15.9%.

Of particular relevance this month were the upturns in “*Metals and articles thereof*” (62.4%), “*Mineral and Energy Products*” (103.8%) and “*Rubber and Plastic Products*” (29.0%). The decrease in “*Transport Material*” (-15.8%) was also noteworthy. As a whole, exports exceeded 2,341 million euros compared to 1,959 million in the same month of the previous year.

Imports saw growth of 51.3% in September 2021, reaching a value of 1,884 million euros. *Energy* imports increased by 110.3%, and *non-energy* imports were up 39.7%.

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

	EXPORTS			IMPORTS		
	September			September		
	2020	2021	Δ %	2020	2021	Δ %
BASQUE COUNTRY						
TOTAL MONTH	1.958.831	2.341.029	19,5	1.245.423	1.883.994	51,3
ENERGY PRODUCTS	75.165	157.398	109,4	204.664	430.394	110,3
NON-ENERGY PRODUCTS	1.883.666	2.183.631	15,9	1.040.760	1.453.600	39,7
ACCUMULATED YEARLY PERIOD	15.156.525	18.691.352	23,3	11.514.738	14.905.721	29,4
ENERGY PRODUCTS	758.556	982.053	29,5	2.249.493	3.049.103	35,5
NON-ENERGY PRODUCTS	14.397.968	17.709.299	23,0	9.265.245	11.856.618	28,0
ARABA / ÁLAVA						
TOTAL MONTH	642.508	637.458	-0,8	276.629	342.312	23,7
ACCUMULATED YEARLY PERIOD	4.455.322	5.307.284	19,1	2.554.063	3.228.719	26,4
BIZKAIA						
TOTAL MONTH	658.729	975.258	48,1	640.997	1.095.764	70,9
ACCUMULATED YEARLY PERIOD	5.689.876	7.550.416	32,7	6.346.301	8.330.450	31,3
GIPUZKOA						
TOTAL MONTH	657.594	728.314	10,8	327.797	445.918	36,0
ACCUMULATED YEARLY PERIOD	5.011.327	5.833.652	16,4	2.614.374	3.346.552	28,0

Source: Eustat. Foreign trade statistics (ECOMEX)

Provinces

Bizkaia registered the largest growth in exports, with 48.1%, due to the rise in “*Metals and articles thereof*” (63.5%) and in “*Mineral and Energy Products*” (109.7%), which, with an increase of 84 million, this month accounted for 16.5% of the total exported from this province. The increase in **Gipuzkoa** was 10.8% as a result of the rise in “*Metals and articles thereof*” (63.8%) and in “*Rubber and Plastic Products*” (162.5%), despite a decrease in “*Transport Material*” (-34.2%), with exports down 64.2 million on the same month of the previous year. In **Álava** the balance was slightly negative, with a 0.8% decline in exports, based on the 13.6% drop in “*Transport Material*”, which was offset by the 57.3% increase in “*Metals and articles thereof*”.

As regards **imports**, it was **Bizkaia** that accounted for the highest growth (70.9%), owing to the rise in acquisitions of “*Mineral and Energy Products*” (107.8%) and “*Metals and articles thereof*” (98.0%). Growth in **Gipuzkoa** stood at 36.0%, primarily because of the increase in “*Metals and articles thereof*” (78.6%); the balance was also positive in **Álava**, given that purchases of goods rose by 23.7% due to the upturn, as in the other provinces, in “*Metals and articles thereof*” (39.2%).

Activity Branches (A86)

Analysing the largest **activity branches**, and in relation to exports, standing out this September were the increases in exports of “*Iron & Steel Products*” (93.1%), especially in Bizkaia, “*Coke plants and Oil Refining*” (109.5%), also in Bizkaia, and exports of “*Electrical Material & Equipment*” (89.5%), in both Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa. Products relating to the “*Manufacture of motor vehicles*” saw a decrease of 14.0% (76 million down on September 2020). This latter activity branch (first in the export ranking) fell in all three provinces, but especially in Álava (-14.1%), where it went from 396.8 million in exports in September 2020 to 340.8 million in 2021.

In relation to imports, it can be observed that the largest activity branch, “*Extraction & Petroleum Industries*” (16.6% of the total), saw a rise of 86.5%, as did “*Coke Plants & Oil Refining*” (201.8%), the former with 145 million more than in 2020 and the latter with 82 million more. There were also notable increases in imports of “*Iron & Steel Products*” (102.7% and 99 million more) and “*Waste Management and Remediation Services*” (120.4%); the latter was particularly noteworthy in Gipuzkoa.

Largest customs duty groups

A more detailed look reveals year-on-year rises in exports of “*Refined Petroleum Oils*” (120.9%), with an increase of 74 million in respect of the same month of the previous year, and “*Railway or tramway maintenance or service vehicles*” (5,464.3%). There was also growth in exports of “*Iron or Non-Alloy Steel Sections*” (80.4%), “*Flat, hot-rolled iron or non-alloy steel products of a width exceeding 599 mm*” (586.3%), “*Electrical Transformers, Static Converters & Inductors*” (209.8%), “*Flat rolled products of non-alloy iron or steel, not clad, plated or coated, of a width of less than 600 mm*” (927.2%) and “*Plastic items for transport, packaging or fastening (carboys, spools, bottles, bags, caps, lids and fasteners, etc.)*” (666.8%).

One of the customs duty groups that is traditionally among the largest, “*Goods Transport Vehicles*”, saw a decrease of 54.1% and its exports fell by 93.3 million compared to the same month of the previous year.

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

	2020	2021	2021 %	2021/2020 (%)
Total	1.958.831	2.341.029	100	19,5
Tourisms of less than 10 people	207.658	217.669	9,3	4,8
Parts and accessories of motor vehicles	149.805	160.884	6,9	7,4
Refined petroleum oils	61.111	135.002	5,8	120,9
New rubber tyres	87.748	94.986	4,1	8,2
Motor vehicles for goods transport	172.354	79.060	3,4	-54,1
Iron or non-alloyed profiles	32.841	59.257	2,5	80,4
Faucet articles, valves and similar organs for pipes	51.319	50.891	2,2	-0,8
Vehicles for maintenance or service of railways or similar	865	48.150	2,1	5.464,3
Sheets and bands, of aluminum, of a thickness exceeding 0.2 mm	22.580	38.736	1,7	71,6
Electrical transformers, static converters and reactance coils	11.434	35.416	1,5	209,8
Other iron and steel manufacturers	20.905	33.511	1,4	60,3
Hot-rolled flat products, iron or non-alloy steel, with a width greater than 599 mm	4.333	29.738	1,3	586,3
Unwrought aluminium	11.204	27.458	1,2	145,1
Other tubes and hollow profiles of iron or steel	14.346	27.288	1,2	90,2
Flat products laminated, iron or steel without alloy, plated or coated, of a width greater than or equal to 600 mm	2.389	24.535	1,0	927,2
Plastic items for transport, packaging or fastening (bags, caps, lids and fasteners)	3.123	23.950	1,0	666,8
Wires, electrically conductive insulated cables and fiber optic cables	14.697	23.873	1,0	62,4
Bars and profiles, of other alloyed steels and bars for perforation	15.650	22.821	1,0	45,8
Tubes and hollow profiles, without welding, of iron or steel without welding	20.023	21.990	0,9	9,8
Goods not specifically covered by the customs tariff	10.863	21.533	0,9	98,2
Copper without refining; anodes for electrolytic refined copper	17.147	20.248	0,9	18,1
Wine made with fresh grapes	18.024	20.090	0,9	11,5
Fats and oils, animals or vegetables, intended for industrial technical uses	0	18.715	0,8	-
Bars and sections, in stainless steel	16.407	18.490	0,8	12,7
Electric motors and generators (except generator sets)	7.222	17.818	0,8	146,7

(p)Provisional data

Source: Eustat. Foreign trade statistics

As regards imports, in monetary terms, there was a sharp rise in Basque imports of “*Refined Petroleum Oils*” (211.6%) and a significant increase in “*Petroleum oils or oils obtained from bituminous minerals*” (46.4%). In the case of the former, it went from importing a volume of 103,074 tonnes, worth 37.5 million euros, in September 2020, to 193,091 tonnes, worth 116.8 million, in the same month of 2021, primarily of “*Diesel*”, which, with an additional 25 thousand tonnes, accounted for an increase in expenditure of 43 million euros; in weight it represented an increase of 26.9%, but in value it translated into a rise of 147.1% with regard to the same month of the previous year. To a lesser extent, “*Fuel Oil*” also saw a significant increase, considering that nothing was imported in September 2020 and 57,252 tonnes were imported in September 2021, reaching a total of 22.7 million euros.

It is also worth highlighting the extraordinary growth in imports of “*Petroleum gas and other hydrocarbon gases*” (768.1%), with a year-on-year increase of 55,860 tonnes and 79 million euros more than in September 2020 (it went from 7.7 million to 76.8), in this case solely of “*Natural gas*”.

There was also a notable rise in imports of “*Flat, hot-rolled iron or non-alloy steel products of a width exceeding 599 mm*” (150.6%), “*Remelting scrap ingots of iron or steel*” (193.0%) and “*Soya Beans, Whether or Not Broken*” (99.8%).

Destination customers

In September, five countries (France, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Italy) were the Basque Country’s biggest customers, absorbing 51.4% of the total. Three of them belong to the EU27, an entity that accounts for 66.4% of Basque exports.

Foreign trade in the Basque Country. Annual cumulative total

During the first nine months of 2021, exports of goods from the Basque Country grew by 23.3% (3,535 million more than the previous year), reaching 18,691.4 million euros. This figure is slightly lower than that for the same period of 2019, the year before the pandemic, when it reached 18,875.4 million euros.

The cumulative total of imports rose to 14,905.7 million, that is, 3,391 million more than in the same period of the previous tax year, representing an increase of 29.4%.

Foreign trade in the Basque Country during the first nine months of 2021 generated a positive balance of 3,786 million euros, with a coverage rate of 125.4%.

Evolution of the foreign trade of the Basque Country. Thousands of euros. January - September 2021

	EXPORTS			IMPORTS		
	January - September			January - September		
	2020	2021	Δ %	2020	2021	Δ %
BASQUE COUNTRY						
TOTAL MONTH	15.156.525	18.691.352	23,3	11.514.738	14.905.721	29,4
ENERGY PRODUCTS	758.556	982.053	29,5	2.249.493	3.049.103	35,5
NON-ENERGY PRODUCTS	14.397.968	17.709.299	23,0	9.265.245	11.856.618	28,0
ARABA/ÁLAVA	4.455.322	5.307.284	19,1	2.554.063	3.228.719	26,4
BIZKAIA	5.689.876	7.550.416	32,7	6.346.301	8.330.450	31,3
GIPUZKOA	5.011.327	5.833.652	16,4	2.614.374	3.346.552	28,0

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 32.7%, it was the leader in exports, reaching 7,550 million euros. In **Álava**, the rise stood at 19.1% (5,307.3 million euros) and in **Gipuzkoa** it was 16.4% (5,833.7 million euros).

As regards **imports**, the performance was more even in the three provinces: **Bizkaia** saw an increase of 31.3% and imported goods to the value of 8,330.5 million euros, followed by **Gipuzkoa** with 3,346.6 million, up 28.0%, and **Álava** with a similar percentage (26.4%) and a contribution of 3,228.7 million to the Basque Country total.

Products

Considering the type of product, it was *Non-energy Products*, with a year-on-year increase of 3,311 million (23.0%), which most contributed to the growth in exports, while *Energy Products* also recorded 223.5 million more than the previous year (29.5%).

Imports of *Energy products* rose by 35.5% and those of *Non-energy Products* were up 28.0%.

Destination countries

The ranking of countries to which Basque Country exports were sent in this period was topped by Germany, with 16.4% of the total exported, followed by France (16.0%), the United Kingdom (6.8%), the United States (5.9%) and Belgium with 5.3%. These five countries accounted for half of Basque exports (50.4%), with 9,428 million euros. If we add Italy (5.2%), the Netherlands (5.0%), Portugal (4.3%), China (2.7%) and Poland (2.4%) to the aforementioned states, the cumulative total for the first nine months of 2021 amounted to 13,101 million euros and represented 70.1% of total Basque exports.

Activity Branches (A86)

Among the largest activity branches by export volume, of particular note was "*Iron and Steel products*" (44.8%), which exceeded that exported during the previous year by 628 million, reaching 2,031 million

euros. This activity branch increased its growth rate by 5 percentage points compared to the cumulative total up to the previous month, with an increase of 134 million in just one month.

There was also considerable growth in exports of “*Non-ferrous Metals*” (61.8%), “*General Use Machinery*” (9.2%), “*Rubber Products*” (20.9%) and, particularly, “*Naval Construction*” (1,138.8%).

The branch of products relating to the “*Manufacture of motor vehicles*” (4,020.5 million and 21.5% of the total) registered cumulative growth of 17.9% at the end of September 2021, with 610.3 million more than in 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 14.0% and those following it in terms of volume also grew, especially “*Iron and Steel products*” (50.4%) and, most notably, “*Coke Plants & Oil Refining*” (170.8%) (refined oil).

Largest customs duty groups

A more detailed look reveals that, within exports, only three of the top 25 customs duty groups had negative growth rates: “*Seamless tubes and hollow profiles made of iron or steel*” (-22.3%), “*Railway or Tramway Vehicle Parts*” (-5.7%) and “*Lifts, Escalators, Transporters, etc.*” (-2.8%). 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*” (19.0%), “*Goods Transport Vehicles*” (9.5%), “*New Rubber Tyres*” (16.3%), “*Refined Petroleum Oils*” (26.0%) and, in particular, “*Vehicle parts and accessories*” (32.3%). These comprised the leading Basque export group, with a total of 5,537 million euros exported, accounting for almost 29.6% of exports.

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

	2020	2021	2021 %	2021/2020 (%)
Total	15.156.525	18.691.352	100	23,3
Tourisms of less than 10 people	1.324.497	1.576.800	8,4	19,0
Parts and accessories of motor vehicles	990.979	1.311.506	7,0	32,3
Motor vehicles for goods transport	936.343	1.025.293	5,5	9,5
Refined petroleum oils	663.757	836.143	4,5	26,0
New rubber tyres	676.684	787.250	4,2	16,3
Faucet articles, valves and similar organs for pipes	353.318	454.942	2,4	28,8
Iron or non-alloyed profiles	252.172	444.609	2,4	76,3
Sheets and bands, of aluminum, of a thickness exceeding 0.2 mm	200.915	275.751	1,5	37,2
Vehicle parts for rail road tracks or similar	285.610	269.467	1,4	-5,7
Other iron and steel manufacturers	189.627	251.603	1,3	32,7
Tubes and hollow profiles, without welding, of iron or steel without welding	281.968	219.076	1,2	-22,3
Unwrought aluminium	71.135	198.876	1,1	179,6
Other tubes and hollow profiles of iron or steel	120.469	196.350	1,1	63,0
Bars and profiles, of other alloyed steels and bars for perforation	123.500	186.668	1,0	51,1
Bars and sections, in stainless steel	139.971	176.438	0,9	26,1
Wires, electrically conductive insulated cables and fiber optic cables	110.536	174.033	0,9	57,4
Electrical transformers, static converters and reactance coils	126.219	172.841	0,9	36,9
Wine made with fresh grapes	137.876	163.593	0,9	18,7
Hot-rolled flat products, iron or non-alloy steel, with a width greater than 599 mm	47.413	163.294	0,9	244,4
Goods not specifically covered by the customs tariff	90.520	162.613	0,9	79,6
Lifts, escalators, transporters...	158.419	153.929	0,8	-2,8
Transmission shafts, bearings, gear units clutches...	136.648	153.527	0,8	12,4
Copper without refining; anodes for electrolytic refined copper	140.889	151.938	0,8	7,8
Padlocks, locks, bolts and keys made of base metals	129.190	146.718	0,8	13,6
Machines for washing, filling, closing, labeling containers and packaging devices	111.309	145.797	0,8	31,0

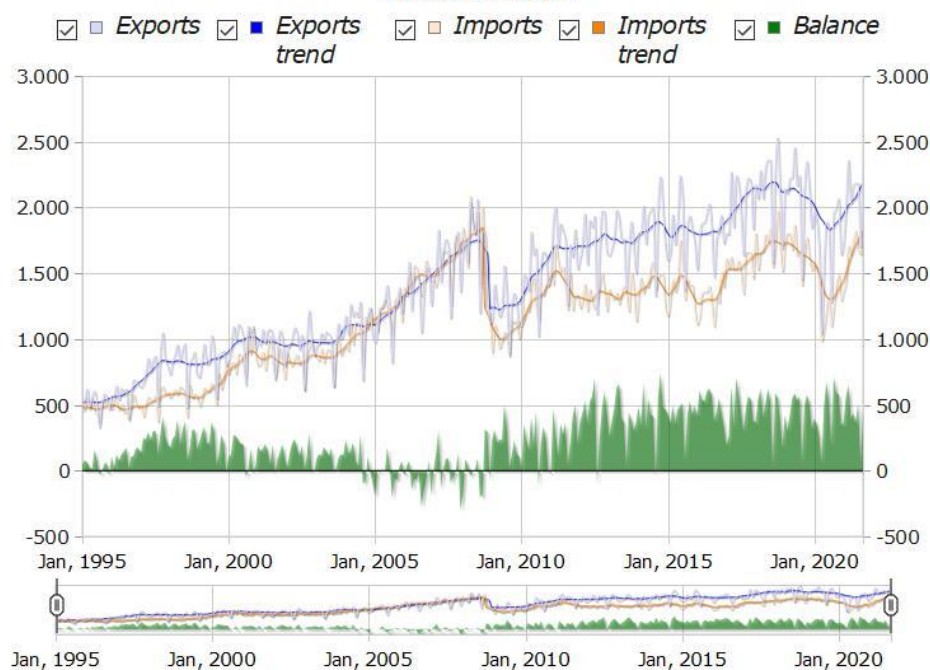
(p)Provisional data

Source: Eustat. Foreign trade statistics (ECOMEX)

If we carry out the same analysis for imports, of particular relevance was the significant increase in purchases of “*Refined Petroleum Oils*” (165.6%), which, in the period in question, accumulated 760 million euros compared to 286 million in the same period of the previous year, going from 911,538 tonnes to 1,650,779 tonnes; there is no higher growth rate until the 64th customs duty group in the import ranking. None of the top 25 customs duty groups imported posted a negative growth rate; the first group with a negative rate was “*Telephones*” (-32.3%), in 36th place, and, in particular, “*Mobile telephones*”, which caused this drop, with a specific decrease of 46.5%.

Evolution of the foreign trade of the Basque Country

Millions Euros



Source: Eustat. Foreign trade statistics (ECOMEX)

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