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PRESS RELEASE

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Regional distribution of Belgian imports and exports of goods and services, year 2015

- Imports and exports of goods decreased in all regions, except for the exports of goods in Wallonia
- Imports and exports of services increased in all regions, except for the imports of services in Brussels
- The share of services in the overall imports and exports increased in all regions; in Brussels the share of the exports of services even exceeded the exports of goods for the second year in a row

The already published regional distribution of the **Belgian** imports and exports of goods and services for the period 1995-2013 has been brought into line with the total amounts from the national accounts of September 2017 and supplemented by the data for the years 2014 and 2015.

The results only pertain to flows between the regions and foreign countries. In view of the lack of information as to all inter-regional flows of goods and services, the flows between the regions could not be identified and consequently are not included in the results below. Therefore no regional trade balances could be compiled.

Brussels-Capital Region

In 2015 the total exports of goods and services in the Brussels-Capital Region amounted to €46.0 billion, i.e. 3.5 % less than in 2014. The decrease was due to the exports of goods, which in 2015 dropped to €20.1 billion (-11.7 %), whereas the exports of services rose to €25.9 billion (+4.0 %). The exports of services, which accounted for 56.3 % of the total exports, in 2015 again outperformed the exports of goods (this occurred for the first time in 2014).

The overall imports of goods and services amounted to €57.1 billion in 2015, that is 8.4 % less than in 2014. The decrease showed both in goods (-10.7 %, to €35.3 billion) and in services (-4.3 %, to €21.8 billion). Goods accounted for 61,8 % of the overall exports.

Since the Brussels-Capital Region, as previously, imported more in 2015 than it exported, the net exports of goods and services was negative (- €11.1 billion, compared with -€14.7 billion in 2014). The negative balance was entirely attributable to goods (-€15,2 billion), although there was an improvement vis-à-vis 2014 (-€16.8 billion). The services showed a positive balance (€4.1 billion), almost twice as much as in 2014 (€2.1 billion).

Flemish Region

The exports of goods and services amounted to € 232.7 billion in 2015, just exceeding the 2014 level (+0,2 %). The exports of goods dropped by 2,3 % to € 174.4 billion and thus attained a share of 75 % of overall exports. The exports of services grew by 8,5 % to € 58,2 billion.

In 2015 the overall imports of goods and services in the Flemish Region amounted to € 220.9 billion, a slight decrease compared with 2014 (-0.2 %). The imports of goods (€ 165.4 billion or 74.9 % of overall Flemish imports) dropped in 2015 (-3,1 %). The imports of services (€ 55.5 billion), on the other hand, grew by 9.4 %.

Net exports overall amounted to € 11.8 billion, compared with € 10.9 billion in 2014. The rise showed in goods (+€ 1.1 billion to € 9.0 billion), whereas the balance in services slightly decreased (-€ 0.2 billion to € 2.8 billion).

Walloon Region

The exports of goods and services in the Walloon Region amounted to € 52.8 billion in 2015, i.e. 3,9 % more than in 2014. The exports of goods (€ 35.4 billion) were slightly up from 2014 (+1,1 %). The exports of services, on the other hand, recorded a strong rise (+10,1 %) and reached € 17,5 billion in 2015. As a result, the share of goods in the Walloon exports dropped to 67,0 %.

The imports of goods and services of the Walloon Region amounted to € 47.9 billion in 2015. That meant a rise by 7,6 % vis-à-vis 2014. The imports of goods (€ 28.9 billion) decreased by 1.0 %. The imports of services increased by 24.2 % to € 19.0 billion. Due to the very strong growth of the imports of services, the share of goods in overall imports fell to 60.4 %.

In the Walloon Region as well, net exports of goods and services, as in the past, showed a positive balance (€ 4.9 billion), be it less than in 2014 (€ 6.4 billion). The balance of transactions in goods increased (€ 6.4 billion, compared with € 5.8 billion in 2014), whereas the balance of transactions in services decreased and even turned negative (-€ 1,5 billion, compared with € 0,6 billion in 2014).

For more information as to the distribution according to industries of the Belgian imports and exports by region, province or district, see the pdf publication and the figures on the website NBB.Stat.

Technical note

Since 2002 monthly import and export figures regarding foreign trade are made available on the website of the National Bank of Belgium by region. Those results – both the overall amount on the national level and the shares by region – differ from the figures which are published within the scope of the national and regional accounts in accordance with the ESA 2010. On the national level the figure shows a deviation for conceptual reasons (inter alia another treatment of the transit of natural gas, of the goods sent abroad for processing and repairs and merchanting). The differences in the shares by region result from the different methodological principles applied in the regional breakdown itself.

For a detailed description of the method applied, see the separate publication 'Regional distribution of the Belgian imports and exports of goods and services. Methodological note', which may be consulted on the website of the National Bank of Belgium (only available in Dutch and French).

There are no results available as to the regional imports and exports of services for 2006 and 2007, as not all the basic data are available.

KEY VARIABLES OF THE REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF BELGIAN IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES

	In absolute figures (€ million)	Share of each region in the national total (%)	Share of each transaction in the total (%)	Percentage change compared to the previous year (%)	
	2015	2015		2014	2015
Exports of goods and services					
Brussels Capital Region	45 995,6	13,9	100,0	1,4	-3,5
Flemish Region	232 685,1	70,2	100,0	3,6	0,2
Walloon Region	52 810,9	15,9	100,0	2,6	3,9
Belgium	331 491,6	100,0	100,0	3,1	0,2
Exports of goods					
Brussels Capital Region	20 120,1	8,8	43,7	-6,1	-11,7
Flemish Region	174 442,7	75,9	75,0	2,0	-2,3
Walloon Region	35 358,8	15,4	67,0	-0,8	1,1
Belgium	229 921,6	100,0	69,4	0,7	-2,7
Exports of services					
Brussels Capital Region	25 875,5	25,5	56,3	9,4	4,0
Flemish Region	58 242,4	57,3	25,0	9,6	8,5
Walloon Region	17 452,1	17,2	33,0	11,0	10,1
Belgium	101 570,0	100,0	30,6	9,8	7,6
Imports of goods and services					
Brussels Capital Region	57 144,4	17,5	100,0	-0,7	-8,4
Flemish Region	220 874,6	67,8	100,0	4,4	-0,2
Walloon Region	47 895,1	14,7	100,0	8,3	7,6
Belgium	325 914,1	100,0	100,0	3,9	-0,7
Imports of goods					
Brussels Capital Region	35 320,1	15,4	61,8	-6,3	-10,7
Flemish Region	165 401,9	72,0	74,9	2,4	-3,1
Walloon Region	28 910,2	12,6	60,4	2,3	-1,0
Belgium	229 632,2	100,0	70,5	0,9	-4,1
Imports of services					
Brussels Capital Region	21 824,3	22,7	38,2	10,8	-4,3
Flemish Region	55 472,7	57,6	25,1	11,8	9,4
Walloon Region	18 984,9	19,7	39,6	22,1	24,2
Belgium	96 281,9	100,0	29,5	13,2	8,4
In absolute figures (€ million)					
	2015	2014			
Net-exports of goods and services					
Brussels Capital Region	-11 148,8	-14 697,0			
Flemish Region	11 810,5	10 879,6			
Walloon Region	4 915,8	6 354,2			
Belgium	5 577,5	2 536,8			
Net-exports of goods					
Brussels Capital Region	-15 200,0	-16 777,1			
Flemish Region	9 040,8	7 918,5			
Walloon Region	6 448,6	5 779,5			
Belgium	289,4	-3 079,1			
Net-exports of services					
Brussels Capital Region	4 051,2	2 080,1			
Flemish Region	2 769,7	2 961,1			
Walloon Region	-1 532,8	574,7			
Belgium	5 288,1	5 615,9			

Source: NAI