

On Foreign Trade of Latvia in October 2024

Both exports and imports increased year-on-year in October

According to the Central Statistical Bureau, in October 2024, the annual value of exports of goods increased by 1.3% in current prices, while the annual value of imports grew faster by 5.8%. As a result, the trade balance in October slightly decreased in annual terms, reaching -7.8%.

In October, exports of mineral products, wood, and its products saw faster growth. The export of live animals, dairy products, iron and steel, as well as optical devices and equipment also increased. On the other hand, exports of cereal products and other chemical products decreased.

Exports to Latvia's main market, the EU countries, decreased slightly by 0.2%. The export value decreased more significantly to Denmark (animal and vegetable fats), the Netherlands (cereals), Sweden (mixed chemical products), and Spain (cereals). However, exports to Lithuania increased significantly (mineral products, vehicles, dairy products, wood), and more moderately to Belgium (oilseeds).

Exports to CIS countries decreased by 13.8%, with significant reductions in exports to Russia (pharmaceutical products, beverages) and Kyrgyzstan (mechanisms). Notably, 50% of all exports to Russia in October consisted of beverages. Other goods exported to Russia included footwear, clothing, accessories, perfumery, pharmaceutical products, and items not subject to sanctions.

Exports to other countries increased significantly in October, by 11.7%. The value of exports to countries like Nigeria, Morocco (both cereals), Turkey (iron, steel), the United Kingdom (wood), Tunisia (mineral products), Madagascar (cereals), and the United States (wood) grew significantly. However, exports to South Africa, Tanzania, Angola, Namibia, and Mozambique (all cereals) decreased.

Imports in October were notably influenced by the increase in the value of mineral product imports. Imports of vehicles, wood and its products, plastic products, and rail transport also grew. On the other hand, imports of weapons and ammunition, and cereals decreased.

In the first ten months of 2024, exports of goods at current prices were 2.3% lower than the previous year, while imports decreased by 6.7% during the same period.

Looking ahead, positive export growth is expected to continue in the final months of 2024. External demand and geopolitical uncertainty will remain significant factors driving export performance. To mitigate risks, it is important for businesses to continue seeking new supply opportunities and markets for their products.

