

On Latvia's Foreign Trade in October 2021

In October 2021, strong annual growth in foreign trade has been observed

According to the Central Statistical Bureau (CSB), in October 2021, the annual value of exports of goods at current prices increased by 17.8%. On the other hand, the value of imports of goods rose even more rapidly - by 28.8%.

In October 2021, the value of exports continued to increase in almost all main groups of goods. A large part of the increase in the value of exports continues to be provided by the rapid growth of exports of wood and wood products. Exports of iron, steel, and steel products, mineral products, the chemical industry also increased significantly. However, the value of exports of cereals, vehicles, and food products declined.



In October 2021, exports of goods to the EU increased by 27.6% annually. The value of exports increased significantly to Lithuania (i.e., mineral products), Germany (i.e., oilseeds, wood and wood products), Poland (i.e., iron and steel), Estonia (i.e., mineral products, electrical equipment), and Sweden (i.e., iron and steel, vehicles and their parts).

On the other hand, exports to the **CIS countries** decreased by 10.2%. The value of exports to Ukraine (i.e., aircraft and their parts), Russia, and Belarus (i.e., beverages) decreased more rapidly.

In October 2021, exports to **other countries** increased by 8.9%. In this group of countries, the value of exports rose more rapidly to the United Kingdom (i.e., wood and wood products), Nigeria (i.e., cereals), and Turkey (i.e., iron and steel). However, exports to Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Kenya, and Angola (i.e., cereals) declined.

The annual increase in the value of imports of goods was significantly driven by imports of iron and steel, mineral products, and aircraft and their parts. Also, imports of wood and wood products and plastic products increased.

In January-October 2021, compared to the corresponding period last year, exports increased by 22.2%. Also, imports of goods during this period were 29.3% higher than a year ago.

Although demand in the markets is currently stable, the incidence of Covid-19 remains elevated, which may have a negative impact on the growth of the exporting companies and the overall economic development in the near term.