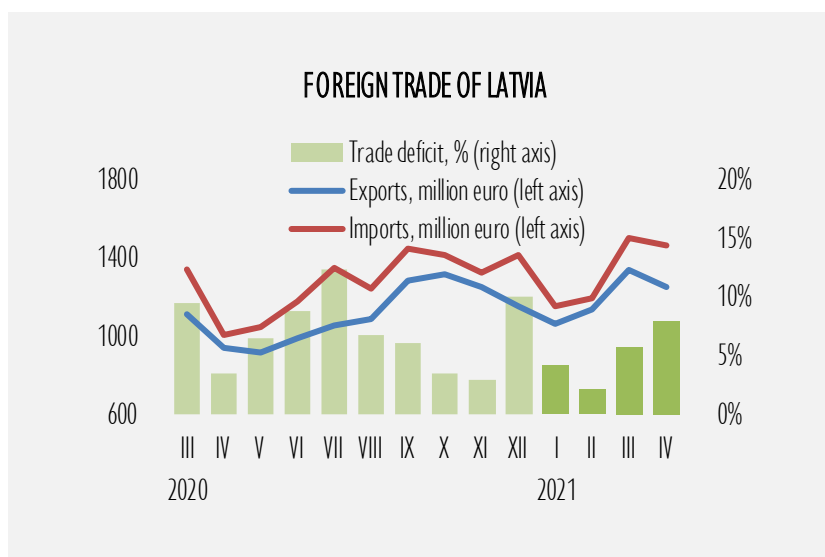


On Latvia's Foreign Trade in April 2021

In April 2021, both exports and imports of goods grew rapidly

According to the data of the Central Statistical Bureau (CSB), in April 2021, the annual value of exports of goods at current prices increased by 33%. In turn, compared to April 2019, exports of goods increased by 16%, implying that this year's increase can partly be attributed to the base effect. In April 2021, imports of goods grew at even a higher rate annually – i.e., by 45.7%.



In April 2021, the annual value of exports increased in almost all commodity groups. Exports of wood and wood products, land vehicles, mineral products, iron and steel, as well as electrical appliances and equipment grew rapidly. Exports of cereals, on the other hand, declined.

In April 2021, the annual value of exports of goods to EU countries, similarly to total exports, increased by 37.5%. Exports to EU countries grew more rapidly to Lithuania (i.e., mineral products, electrical appliances), Estonia (i.e., vehicles, iron and steel), Germany (i.e., vehicles, pharmaceuticals), France (i.e., wood and wood products, vegetables), Poland (i.e., iron and steel) and Sweden (i.e., vehicles). However, a decrease in the value of exports to Croatia (i.e., machinery) was observed.

At the same time, exports to the **CIS countries** also increased - by 11.4%. The value of exports increased significantly to Russia (i.e., iron and steel products) and Ukraine (i.e., electrical appliances, machinery, pharmaceuticals).

In April, exports to **other countries** also grew rapidly - by 19.4%. In this group of countries, the value of exports increased more rapidly to the United Kingdom (i.e., wood and wood products), Turkey (i.e., iron and steel) and the United States (i.e., wood and wood products). However, a decline in the value of exports to Nigeria (i.e., cereals) was observed.

The annual increase in imports of goods was driven by imports of land vehicles, electrical equipment and machinery, iron and steel, machinery and equipment, mineral products, and wood and wood products.

In January-April 2021, were by 14% higher, compared to the corresponding period last year. However, imports of goods during this period were 12.5% higher than a year ago.

In 2021, the prospects for export development have markedly improved. As the epidemiological situation improves, along with increased vaccination rates, economic activity and exports will gradually increase. However, uncertainty remains elevated due to the spread of new strains of the virus.