

# INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS *and* ENTERPRISES

2023



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2023



## **INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS AND ENTERPRISES 2023**

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## PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Albanian Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) produced a special publication on the main indicators on international trade in goods and trade of goods according to the characteristics of the enterprise. Referring to the period from 2018-2022, statistics related to international trade in goods aim to monitor the character and trade developments of our country with the world.

In the new communication strategy, INSTAT has been oriented to meet the needs of users by targeting different user groups.

The material reflects some of the basic requirements and needs of some user groups for data on international trade in goods and their impact on the Albanian economy.

This dedicated publication presents figures on economic reality in the country and answers to growing demands for statistical information of decision-makers, researchers and academics in Albania. The preparation of this material is enabled to the cooperation and administrative data provided by the General Directorate of Customs and the General Directorate of Taxation.

Cooperation with other institutions and policy makers increases the responsibility of INSTAT for compiling specific publications and statistical information that would serve to better understand the economic reality in order to face the challenges of the future.

INSTAT will always provide continuous partnership and fruitful cooperation, as this publication also proves.

**Elsa DHULI PhD**

General Director, INSTAT



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## INTRODUCTION

International trade in goods statistics are a very important tool for decision-makers in the public and private sectors. They help in the preparation of bilateral and multilateral talks in the framework of trade policies and the assessment of market economies. They also help companies in market research and in defining their trading strategies. Statistics on trade of goods contain data on exports / imports of goods in Albania, as well as trade statistics of goods according to the characteristics of enterprises.

International trade in goods statistics by enterprise characteristics contain essential information on enterprises that participate in the international market and their characteristics as export / import values and number of enterprises. Through the linking of trade statistics of goods with enterprise statistics we understand the contribution of various economic sectors as well as the participation of small, medium and large enterprises in trade transactions. The compilation of trade statistics of goods according to the characteristics of enterprises is carried out through the individual level of International trade in goods data with the statistical register of enterprises. The main characteristics of enterprises from the enterprise's statistical register - both economic activity and the number of employees - are combined with typical variables of trade data such as product code and partner country, thus giving us a more complete of the trade structure of goods.

Referring to the period 2019-2023, the statistics related to the commodity trade in Albania aim to monitor the character and trade developments of our country with the world.

This material, prepared by INSTAT, is first published structured in this way, including data for the reference years 2019-2023 and will be continuous annual publication.

The material consists of two chapters. The first chapter presents information on the exchange of goods between Albania and other countries of the world.

The second chapter aims to present statistics on the international trade of detailed goods by different categories of enterprises.



## THE MAIN FINDINGS

In 2023 the exports are 440 billion ALL, decreasing by 9.5 % compared to 2022 and increasing by 47.4 % compared to 2019. While the imports are 873 billion ALL, decreasing by 8.2 % compared to year 2022 and increasing by 34.4 % compared to 2019.

In 2023 the share of exports to EU countries is 72 %, reaching the value of 316 billion ALL. Exports to EU countries decreased 11.5 % compared to 2022 and increasing by 38.6 % compared to 2019. While the share of imports from EU countries is 51 % of imports, reaching the value of 444 billion ALL. Imports from EU countries decreased 9.4 % compared with 2022 and increasing by 18.9 % compared to 2019.

Our main partner in 2023, for exports and imports continues to be Italy. The value of exports to Italy is 189 billion lekë, decreasing by 10.2 % compared to 2022 and increasing by 32.1 % compared to 2019. While the value of imports is 194 billion ALL decreasing by 5.9 % compared to 2022 and increasing by 18,0 % compared to 2019.

The number of exporting enterprises in 2023 is 3,792, increasing by 5.2 % compared to 2021 and increasing by 18.9 % compared to 2019. While the number of importing enterprises is 13,653 in 2023, increasing by 3.9 % compared to 2022 and increasing by 20.1 % compared to 2019.

In 2023, the share of exports by enterprises operating in the industry is 81 %, decreasing by 10.4 % compared to 2022 and increasing by 17.1 % compared to 2019. While the share of enterprises operating in commerce is 59 %, decreasing by 4.1 % compared with 2022 and increasing by 40.8 % compared to 2019.

In 2023, more than half of the exports are made by the 100 largest enterprises (58 %), while more than half of the imports are carried out by the largest 200 enterprises (51 %).

In 2023, the share of exports by enterprises exporting to 1 partner country is 28 %, followed by exports of enterprises exporting to 10 or more partner countries (23 %).

In 2023, the share of imports by enterprises importing from 10 or more partner countries is 59 %, followed by enterprises importing from 6-9 partner countries (13 %).

## CHARACTERISTICS OF TRADE OF GOODS, 2019-2023

### A. International trade in goods

During 2023, trade deficit improved, decreasing by 6.7 % compare to 2022 and worsened increasing by 23.4 % compared to 2019.

During the 4-year period (2019-2022) there is a marked increase in exports and imports. In 2023 the share of exports is 34 %, decreasing by 9.5 % compare to 2022 and increasing by 47.4 % compared to 2019. While imports' share in 2023 is 66 %, decreasing by 8.2 % compared to 2022 and increasing by 34.4 % compared to 2019.

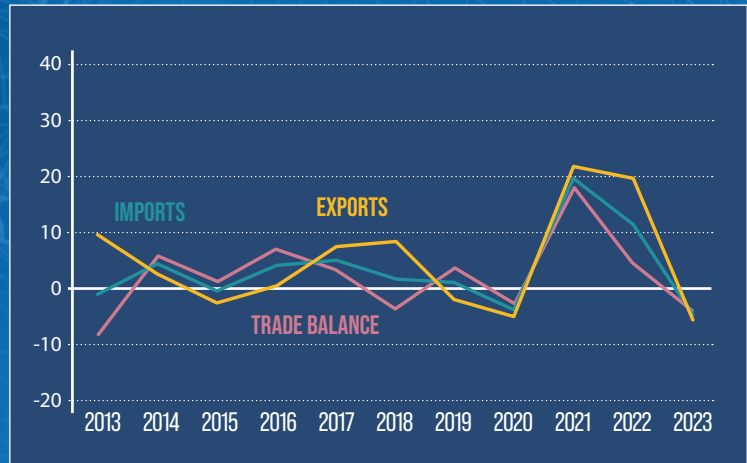
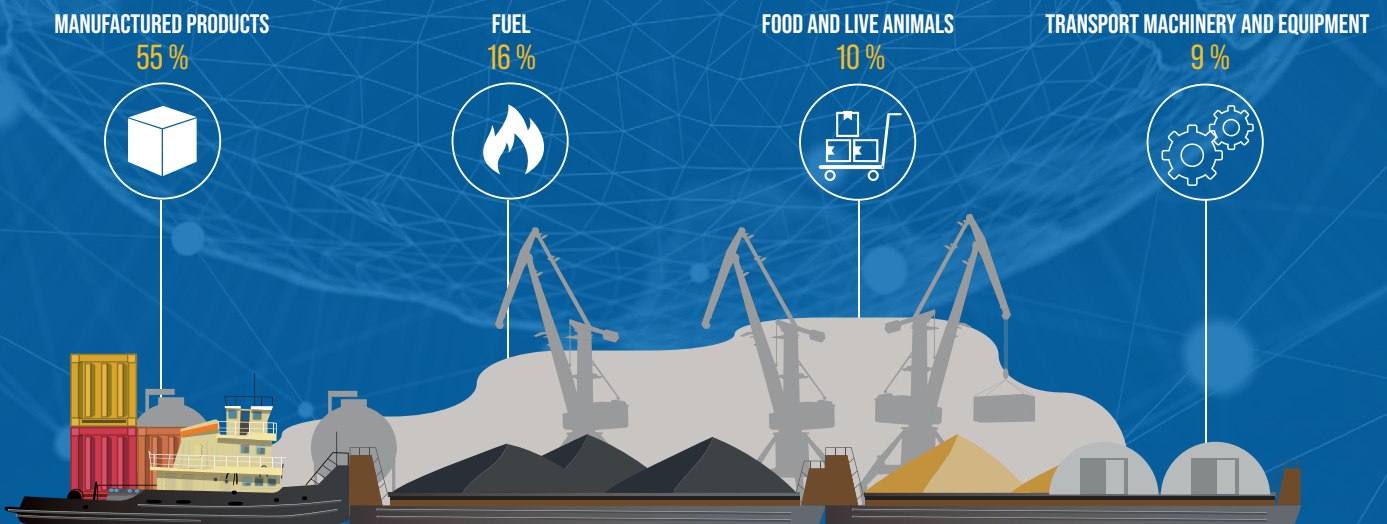


Fig.1 Annual change in international trade in goods, 2019-2023 (%)

### B. International Trade in Goods by Product

**The main products**  
Products that occupy a significant share in Albanian exports and imports for the 5-year period are exports of processed goods.

For 2023 the most exported are product groups: “Manufactured products” by 55 %, decreasing by 10.8 % compared to 2022 and increasing by 28.6 % compared to 2019, “Fuel” by 16 % decreasing by 16.1 % compared to 2022 and increasing by 2 times compared to 2019, “Food and live animals” with 10 % of exports, increasing by 4.1 % compared to 2022 and increasing by 50.4 % compared to 2019, and “Transport machinery and equipment” by 9 % decreasing by 2.2 %, compared to 2022 and increasing by 84.7 % compared to 2019.



**Tab.1 Exports by Standard Foreign Trade Classification (SITC Rev.4), 2018-2022**
*million ALL*

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Total</b>	<b>298,792</b>	<b>271,955</b>	<b>368,769</b>	<b>486,784</b>	<b>440,308</b>
Food and live animals	28,388	31,227	35,595	41,011	42,689
Beverages and tobacco	1,846	1,710	2,086	3,528	3,992
Crude materials	20,582	20,192	25,877	36,980	29,969
Minerals fuels and lubricants	33,322	22,957	50,244	82,539	69,263
Oils, fats and wax of animal or vegetable origin	196	297	390	557	3,281
Chemical products	5,357	5,229	7,824	11,213	10,140
Manufactured products	63,391	61,118	97,654	123,762	103,980
Transport machinery and equipments	20,930	22,360	28,744	39,514	38,648
Various manufactured items	124,562	106,353	119,848	147,095	137,748
Good and transactions N.E.S.	218	513	508	582	598

Group products dominating imports for 2023 are: "Manufactured products" by 36 %, decreasing by 6.6 % compared to 2022 and increasing by 32.5 % compared to 2019, "Transport machinery and equipment" by 24 % increasing by 13.8 % compared to 2022 and increasing by 55.7 % compared to 2019 and " Food and live animals " by 12 % decreasing 2.7 % compared to 2022 and increasing by 30.6 % compared to 2019.

**Tab.2 Imports according to the Standard Foreign Trade Classification (SITC Rev.4), 2019-2023**
*million ALL*

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Total</b>	<b>649,118</b>	<b>605,262</b>	<b>800,718</b>	<b>950,381</b>	<b>872,676</b>
Food and live animals	82,044	82,736	95,762	110,118	107,170
Beverages and tobacco	20,990	19,553	24,964	28,428	30,145
Crude materials	22,167	22,368	27,745	22,439	16,531
Minerals fuels and lubricants	73,118	50,808	100,668	164,780	95,353
Oils, fats and wax of animal or vegetable origin	4,192	5,242	5,628	6,710	4,396
Chemical products	75,483	77,831	97,803	98,723	96,225
Manufactured products	145,720	136,208	179,487	227,222	206,227
Transport machinery and equipments	135,148	130,737	167,529	184,858	210,381
Various manufactured items	89,750	79,517	100,687	106,765	105,709
Good and transactions N.E.S.	506	263	447	336	539

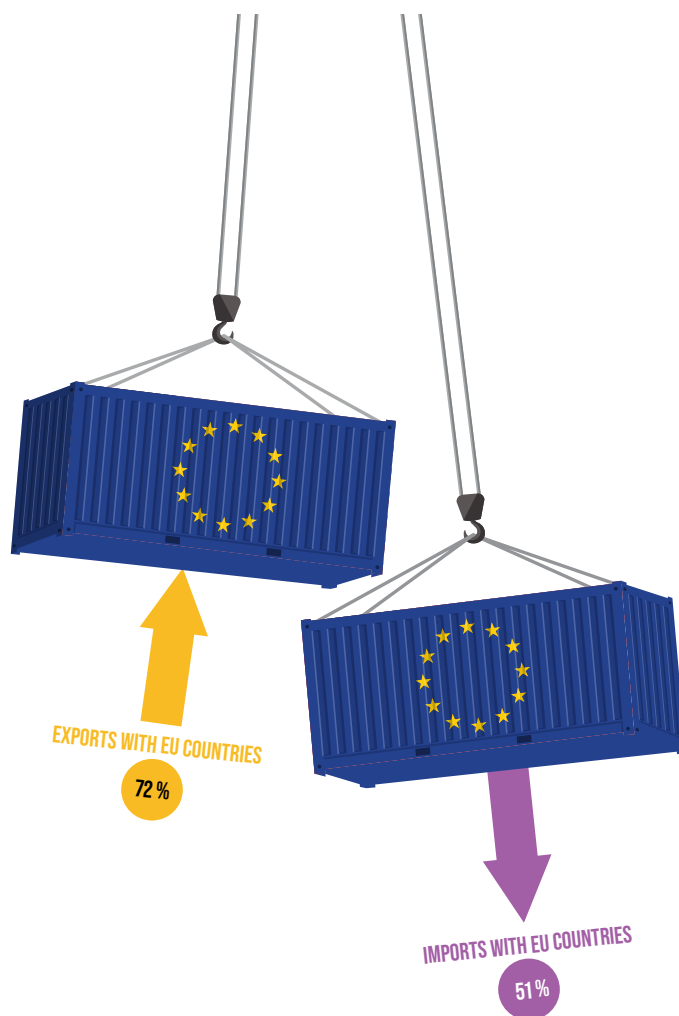
### C. International Trade in Goods by Main Regions

In 2023 the share of exports to EU countries is 72 %, decreasing by 11.5 % compare to 2022 and increasing by 38.6 % compared to 2019. While the share of imports from EU countries is 51 % of imports, decreasing by 9.4 % compared with 2022 and increasing by 18.9 % compared to 2019.

The share of exports in CEFTA countries is 18 %, decreasing by 2.3 % compare to 2022 and increasing by 55.1 % compared to 2019. While the share of imports from CEFTA countries is 6 % of imports, decreasing by 23.3 % compared with 2022 and increasing by 25.0 % compared to 2019.

Fig.2 Trade of goods by group of countries, 2023

	Exports	Imports
Eu countries	72%	51%
EFTA countries	18%	6%
CEFTA countries	1%	2%
Rest of the world	9%	41%

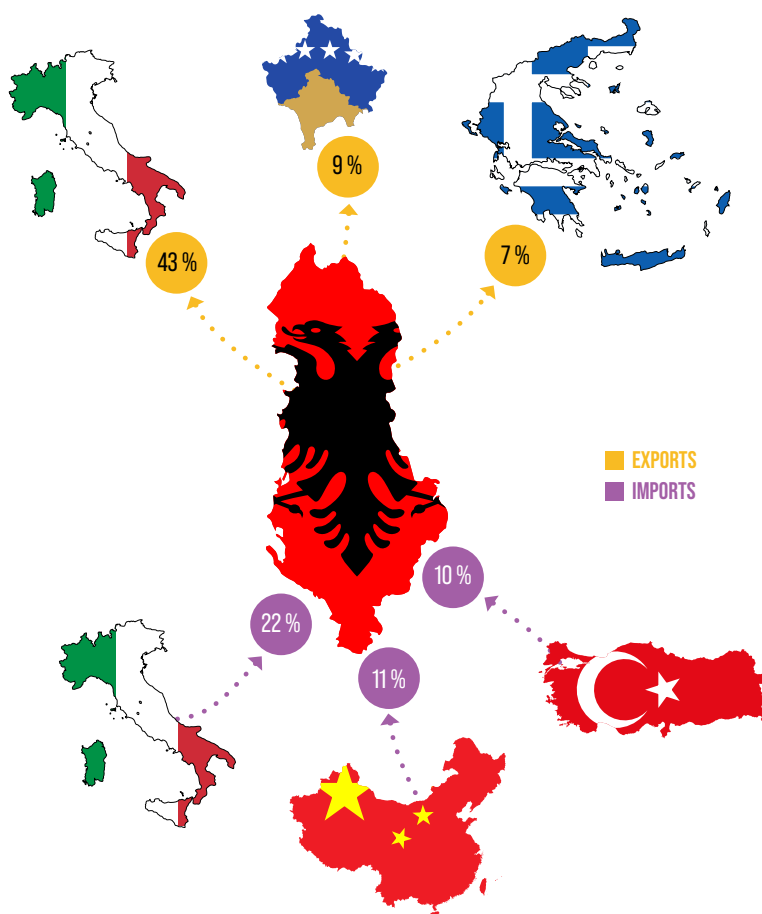


### D. International Trade in Goods by Key Partners

**Trend of trading partners, 2023**  
Exports in value have marked an increase towards Kosovo, Greece, China, Montenegro, United Kingdom, ect. While imports are growing for China, Germany, USA, United Kingdom, etc.

In 2023 our main partners for exports are: Italy (43%) decreasing by 10.2 % compared to 2022 and increasing by 32.1 % compared to 2019, Kosovo (9 %) increasing by 8.3 % compared to 2022 and increasing by 37.3 % compared to 2019, Greece (7 %) increasing by 13.1 % compared to 2022 and increasing by 2 times compared to 2019.

While the main import partners are: Italy (22 %) decreasing by 5.9 % compared to 2022 and increasing by 18.0 % compared to 2019, China (11 %) increasing 21.0 % compared to 2022 and increasing by 57.0 % compared to 2019, Turkey (10 %) decreased by 26.2 % compared to 2022 and increasing by 36.9 % compared to 2019.



# INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS ACCORDING TO THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ENTERPRISE, 2019-2023

## A. International Trade in Goods by Size of Enterprise

In the period 2019-2023, the number of exporting and importing enterprises has increased. The number of exporting enterprises in 2023 is 3,792, increasing by 5,2 % compared to 2022 and increasing by 18.9 % compared to 2019. In 2023, the share of micro, small and medium enterprises is 97 %. The weight for micro enterprises is 49 %, small enterprises is 34 %, medium enterprises is 14 % and large enterprises is 3 %.

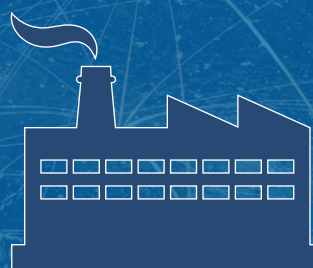
In 2023, the number of importing enterprises is 13,653 increasing by 3.9 % compared to 2022 and increasing by 20.1 % compared to 2019. The weight of micro, small and medium enterprises is 99 % of total importing enterprises. The weight for micro enterprises (1-9 employees) is 68 %, small enterprises is 23 % of total importing enterprises, medium enterprises is 7 % and large enterprises is 1 %.



**Micro enterprises:**  
1-9 employees,



**Small enterprises:**  
10-49 employees,



**Medium enterprises:**  
49-250 employees,



**Large enterprises:**  
250+ employees.

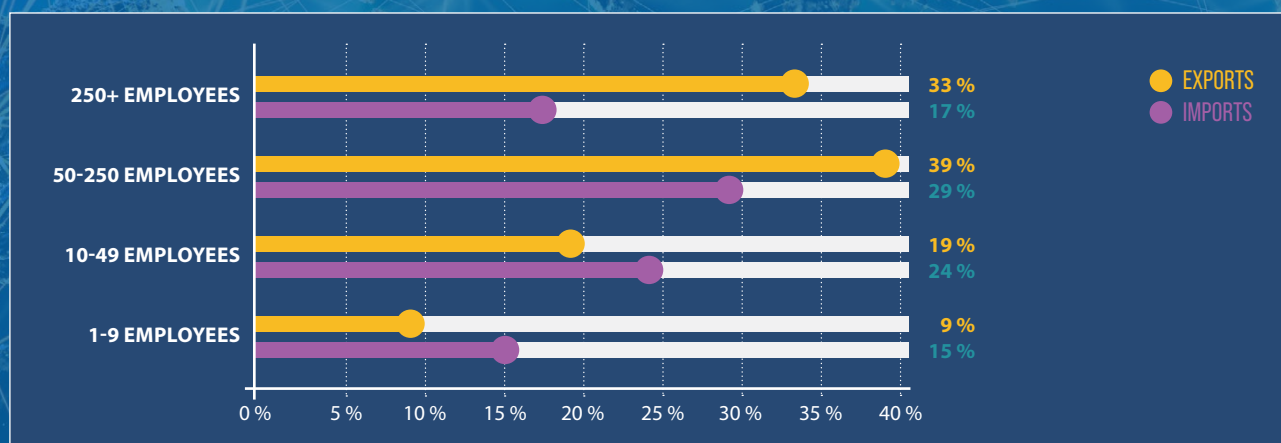


Fig.3 Enterprises, by size of enterprise, 2023

### B. Prevailing Sectors in Goods Exports / Imports

**Industry include:**

Mining and quarrying; Manufacturing; Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; Water supply and treatment activities, waste management, waste

For the period 2019-2023, enterprises operating in the industry sector prevail in exporting enterprises. In 2023, the share of exports made by enterprises operating in the industry is 81 %, decreasing by 10.4 % compared to 2022 and

increasing by 17.1 % compared to 2019. Large enterprises account for 39 % of the value of exports of these enterprises, decreasing with 11.5 % compared to 2022 and increasing by 18.3 % compared to 2019.

For the period 2019-2023, the largest value of imports has enterprises operating in the trade sector. In 2023, the share of these enterprises is 59 %, decreasing by 4.1 % compared to 2022 and increasing by 40.8 % compared to 2019.

In 2023 micro, small and medium enterprises account for 89 % of the value of imports of enterprises operating in the trade sector, decreasing by 5.1 % compared with 2022 and increasing by 37.2 % compared to 2019.

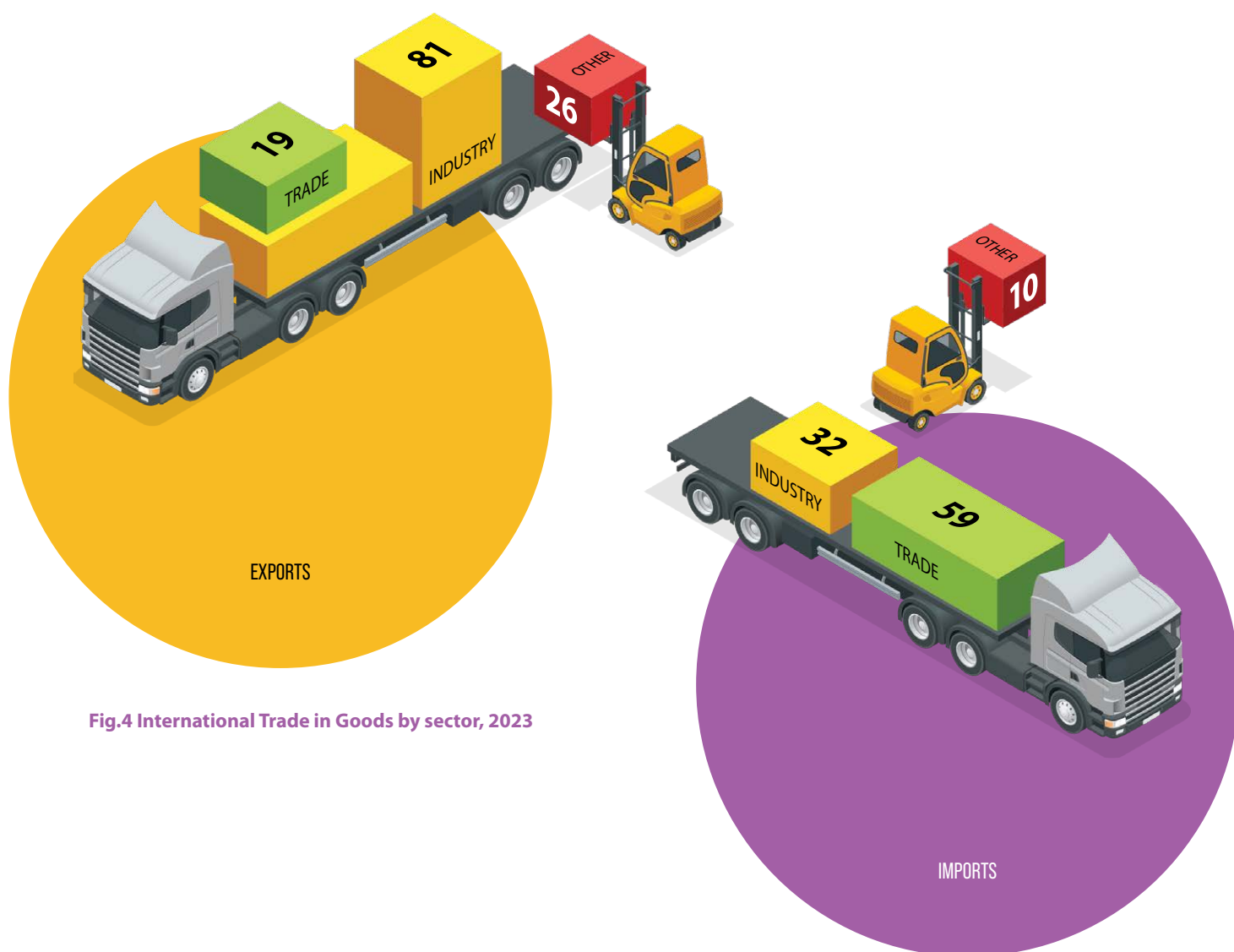


Fig.4 International Trade in Goods by sector, 2023

### C. Exports / Imports of Enterprises by Product

“Manufactured products”, in the period 2019-2023 occupy main products exported and imported. In 2023, the share of exports of these products is 76 %, decreasing by 7.3 % compared to 2022 and increasing by 36.6 % compared to 2019. Products with the main weight in “Manufactured products” are: “Wearing apparel” (20 %), “Basic metals” (17 %), “Leather and related products” (17 %).

While the weight of imports of “Manufactured products” is 87 %, decreasing by 4.1 % compared to 2022 compared to 2022 and increasing by 39.6 % compared to 2019. Products with the main weight in “Manufactured products” are: “Food Products” (11 %) and “Coke and refined petroleum products” (9 %).

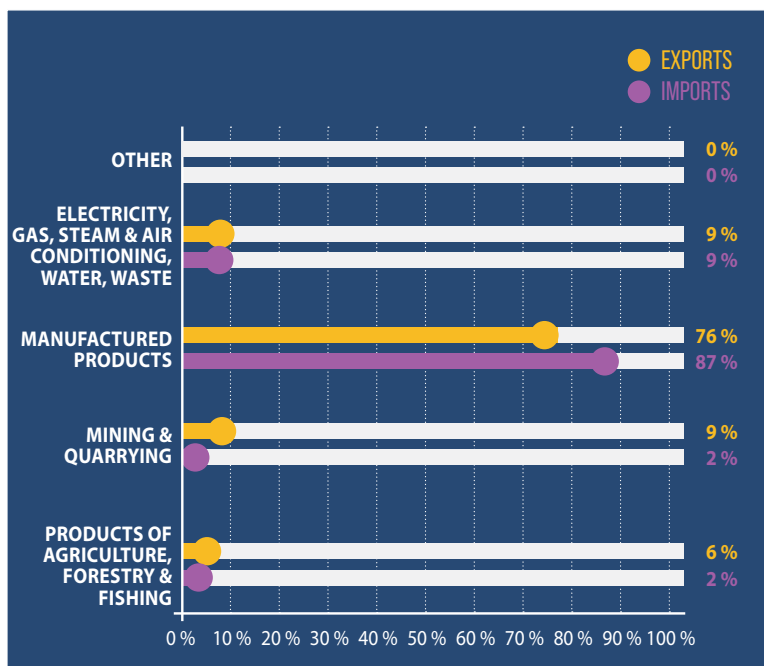
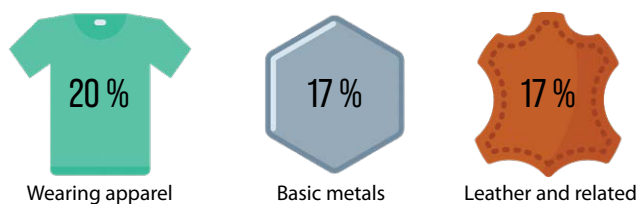


Fig.5 Exports / imports of Enterprises by Product, 2023 (%)

Exported products with the main weight in “Manufactured products” are:



### D. Concentration of exporting / importing enterprises

In the period 2019-2021, more than half of the exports were concentrated in the 50 largest enterprises. In 2022-2023, more than half of the exports were concentrated in the 100 largest enterprises, where their weight in 2023 is 58 %. The weight of these enterprises operating in the industry is 69 %, while the number of enterprises operating in trade is 74 %.

In the period 2019-2020, more than half of the imports were concentrated in the 100 largest enterprises. In 2021-2023, more than half of the imports are carried out by the largest 200 enterprises. The weight of these enterprises in 2023 is 51 %. The weight of these enterprises operating in industry is 78 %, while the weight of enterprises operating in trade is 59 %.

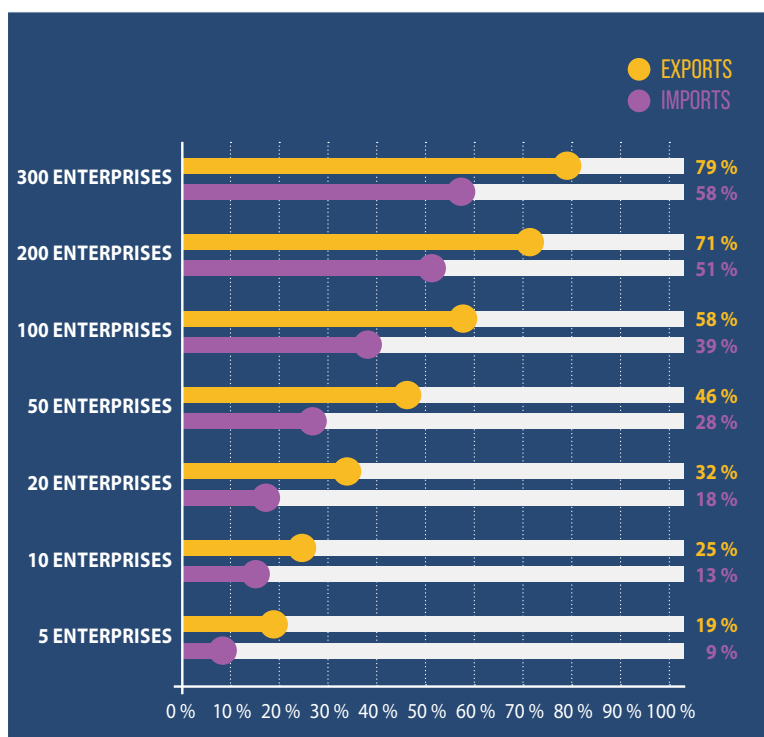
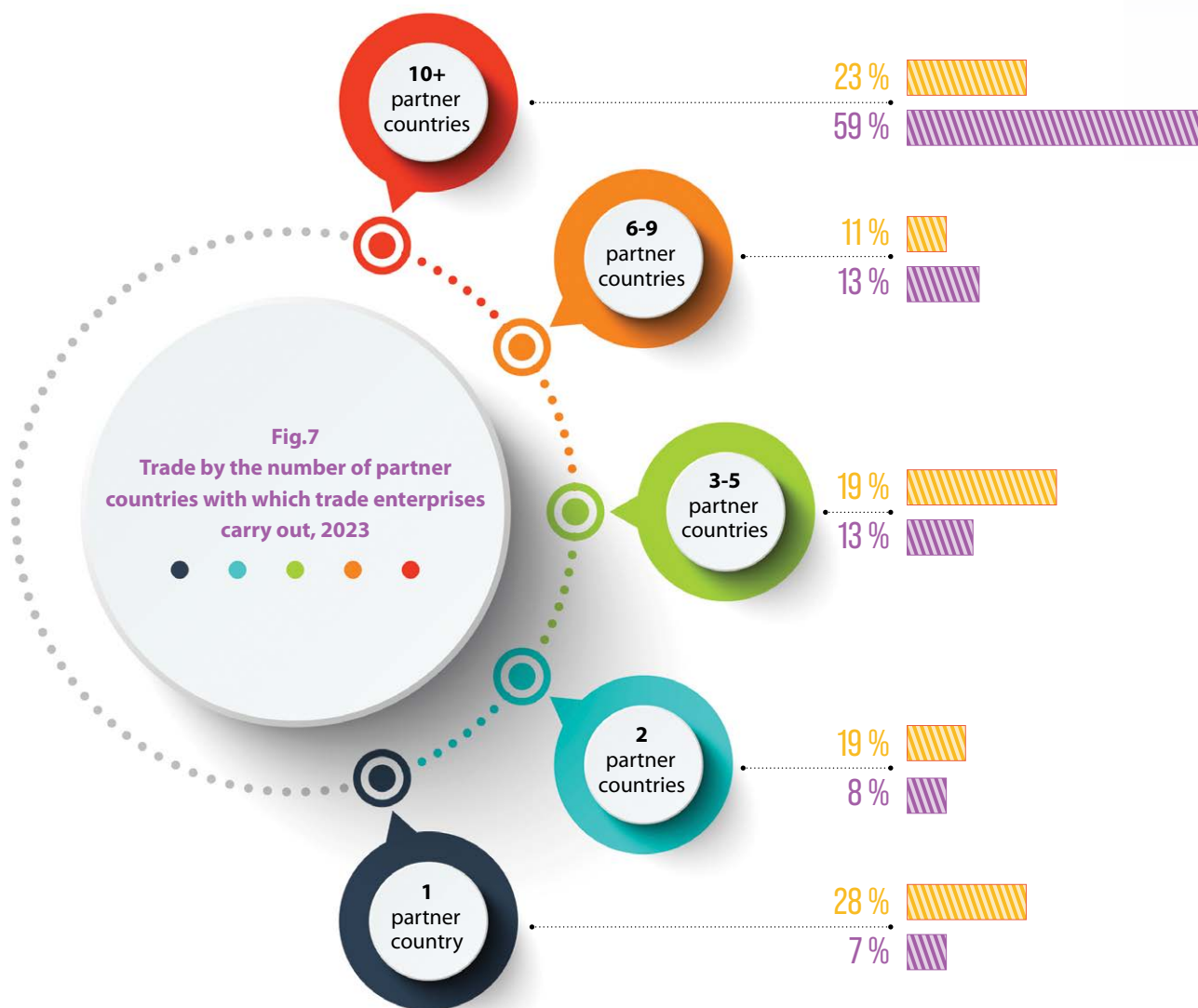


Fig.6 International trade in goods by major enterprises, 2023

### E. Exporting / importing enterprises, according to the number of partner countries

In the period 2019-2023, most of the exports are carried out by only one partner country. In 2023, the most share of exports of these businesses is exporting by 1 partner country (28 %), followed by enterprises exporting to 10 or more partner countries (23 %).

While most of the imports, in the period 2019-2023, companies carry out more than 10 partner countries. In 2023, the share of imports of these businesses is 59 %, followed by enterprises importing from 6-9 partner countries (13 %).





## ANNEX 1:

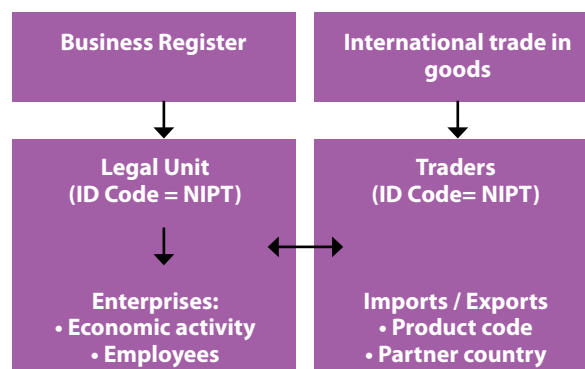
### Methodology

#### Source of information

The General Directorate of Customs is the source of International Trade in Goods data and the General Tax Directory is the source of data for the Enterprise Registry.

#### Data collection

At the conceptual level, the methodology used in collecting and validating data can be explained by the following scheme:



## DEFINITIONS / CONCEPTS

The definitions and concepts in this methodological explanation are given in such a way as to reflect the relationship between the content of foreign trade data and the enterprise registry.

**The enterprise** is: “the smallest combination of legal units, that is, an organizational unit that produces goods or services that has a certain degree of autonomy in decision-making, especially for the distribution of its current resources, more locations (local units)”. The relationship between an enterprise and a legal entity is defined as “the enterprise corresponds either to a legal unit or a combination of legal entities”.

**The partner country** in terms of exports is the place of final destination of goods. For imports is the country of origin of the goods.

**EU member states** - Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Germany, Netherlands, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Cyprus, The Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden;

**CEFTA countries** - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Macedonia, Moldova, Serbia, Albania;

**EFTA countries** - Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein, Switzerland.

**Exports are evaluated with FOB** (Represents a condition of delivery of goods, indicating that the price of the goods includes both transport and delivery costs, at a certain loading port). Goods are generally destined for a third country, placed under the customs procedure, passive processing, re-exported after the active processing.

**Imports are evaluated with CIF** (Represents a condition for the distribution of goods, indicating that the commodity price includes security and transportation, to a designated destination port).

### Classifications

In processing statistical information on International Trade in Goods, import-exports, is used Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), which classifies goods according to their production phases, for economic activity classification activities NACE rev.2 (abbreviated English - NACE Rev.2), for products Statistical Classification of Products by Activity, POE 2008 (English abbreviated CPA 2008).

**CIP Katalogimi në botim BK Tiranë**

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