

27 October 2021

**International Trade in Services Survey (ITSS)  
Year 2020****In 2020, services exports decreased by 8.7%, and imports by 7.6%****39.2% of exports were generated by companies belonging to a Spanish business group and 48.9% of imports by companies controlled by a foreign group****The United Kingdom was the main destination for exports, while Germany was the main source for imports**

Services exports reached 66,884.2 million euros in 2020, with a decrease of 8.7% as compared with the previous year. On the other hand, Services imports stood at 48,666.0 million euros, with a annual decrease of 7.6%.

The balance or difference between exports and imports stood at 18,218.1 million euros, with a decrease of 2,383.1 million as compared with the previous year.

**International Trade in Services by type of service**

In 2020, the most relevant Services for the exports were *Business*, with 23,875.4 million euros (35.7% of the total and an annual increase of 3.4%) and *Transport*, with 17,618.2 million (26.3% of the total and a decrease of 10.9%).

In terms of imports, the most relevant Services were also *Business*, with 17,288.9 million euros (35.5% of the total and an annual decrease of 11.1%) and *Transport*, with 10,652.2 million (21.9% of the total and an decrease of 6.1%).

On the other hand, the heading with the least weight in exports was *Government goods and services* (with 0.1% of the total). In the case of imports, it was *Construction* (0.2% of the total).

## Exports and imports and balance by type of service Year 2020

	Exports		Imports		Balance
	Value (million euros)	Weight (%)	Value (million euros)	Weight (%)	Value (million euros)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>66,884.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>48,666.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>18,218.1</b>
<b>1. Manufacturing services of physical inputs owned by others</b>	2,884.0	4.3	357.3	0.7	2,526.7
<b>2. Maintenance and repair</b>	1,475.0	2.2	680.0	1.4	795.0
<b>3. Transport</b>	17,618.2	26.3	10,652.2	21.9	6,966.1
3.1. Passengers	2,582.0	3.9	224.0	0.5	2,358.0
3.2. Goods	8,766.7	13.1	8,071.1	16.6	695.6
3.3. Other transport services	6,269.5	9.4	2,357.0	4.8	3,912.5
<b>4. Construction</b>	812.6	1.2	115.8	0.2	696.8
<b>5. Insurance and pension</b>	4,537.0	6.8	5,647.9	11.6	-1,110.9
5.1. Direct Insurance (premiums)	317.8	0.5	273.9	0.6	43.9
5.2. Reinsurance, pension and standardized guarantees (premiums and contributions to PF)	3,857.3	5.8	4,795.5	9.9	-938.2
5.3. Auxiliary insurance services	361.8	0.5	578.5	1.2	-216.7
<b>6. Financial</b>	2,126.4	3.2	1,231.0	2.5	895.4
<b>7. Charges for the use of Intellectual property</b>	2,519.9	3.8	4,393.4	9.0	-1,873.5
<b>8. Telecommunications, computer and information</b>	9,938.8	14.9	7,551.9	15.5	2,386.8
8.1. Telecommunication	1,725.2	2.6	1,542.9	3.2	182.3
8.2. Computer	7,657.4	11.4	5,275.5	10.8	2,381.8
8.3. Information	556.2	0.8	733.5	1.5	-177.3
<b>9. Business</b>	23,875.4	35.7	17,288.9	35.5	6,586.5
9.1. R&D	1,725.0	2.6	909.0	1.9	816.0
9.1.1. Work undertaken systematically to increase knowledge	822.8	1.2	742.2	1.5	80.6
9.1.2. Others related to R&D	902.2	1.3	166.8	0.3	735.5
9.2. Professional and management consultancy	7,025.8	10.5	5,209.3	10.7	1,816.5
9.2.1. Legal, accounting, business and management consultancy and Public Relations	4,609.0	6.9	2,459.4	5.1	2,149.6
9.2.2. Advertising, market research and Public opinion surveys	2,416.8	3.6	2,749.9	5.7	-333.1
9.3. Technical, trade-related and other business services	15,124.6	22.6	11,170.7	23.0	3,954.0
9.3.1. Architecture, engineering, other technical, waste treatment and decontamination, agricultural and mining	4,013.4	6.0	1,420.3	2.9	2,593.1
9.3.2. Operating Lease	591.1	0.9	825.7	1.7	-234.6
9.3.3. Trade-related	1,561.3	2.3	2,585.7	5.3	-1,024.3
9.3.4. Other business services	8,958.8	13.4	6,339.0	13.0	2,619.8
<b>10. Personal, cultural and recreational</b>	1,050.0	1.6	448.5	0.9	601.6
10.1. Audiovisual and related	481.1	0.7	202.3	0.4	278.8
10.2. Other personal, cultural and recreational services	568.9	0.9	246.2	0.5	322.8
<b>11. Goods and government services</b>	47.0	0.1	299.1	0.6	-252.1

With regard to balances by type of main service, the most positive ones were in *Transport* (6,966.1 million euros) and *Business* (6,586.5 million). On the other hand, *Intellectual Property* and *Insurance and pensions* presented the most negative balances with -1,873.5 and -1,110.9 million euros, respectively.

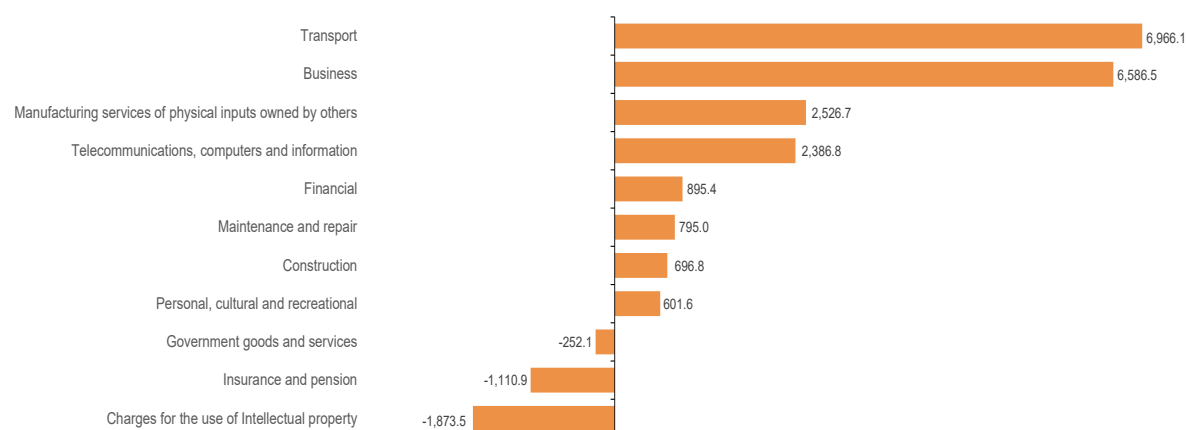
## Balance by type of service

Year 2020

	Balance 2019	Balance 2018
	Value	Value
	(million euros)	(million euros)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,218.1</b>	<b>20,601.2</b>
1. Manufacturing services of physical inputs owned by others	2,526.7	2,757.3
2. Maintenance and repair	795.0	886.9
3. Transport	6,966.1	8,419.6
4. Construction	696.8	1,000.6
5. Insurance and pension	-1,110.9	-592.1
6. Financial	895.4	936.5
7. Charges for the use of Intellectual property	-1,873.5	-2,991.5
8. Telecommunications, computers and information	2,386.8	6,020.4
9. Business	6,586.5	3,648.5
9.1. R&D	816.0	451.0
9.2. Professional and management consultancy	1,816.5	1,629.6
9.3. Technical, trade-related and other business services	3,954.0	1,568.0
10. Personal, cultural and recreational	601.6	698.5
11. Government goods and services	-252.1	-183.3

## Balance by type of service

2020 (Million euros)

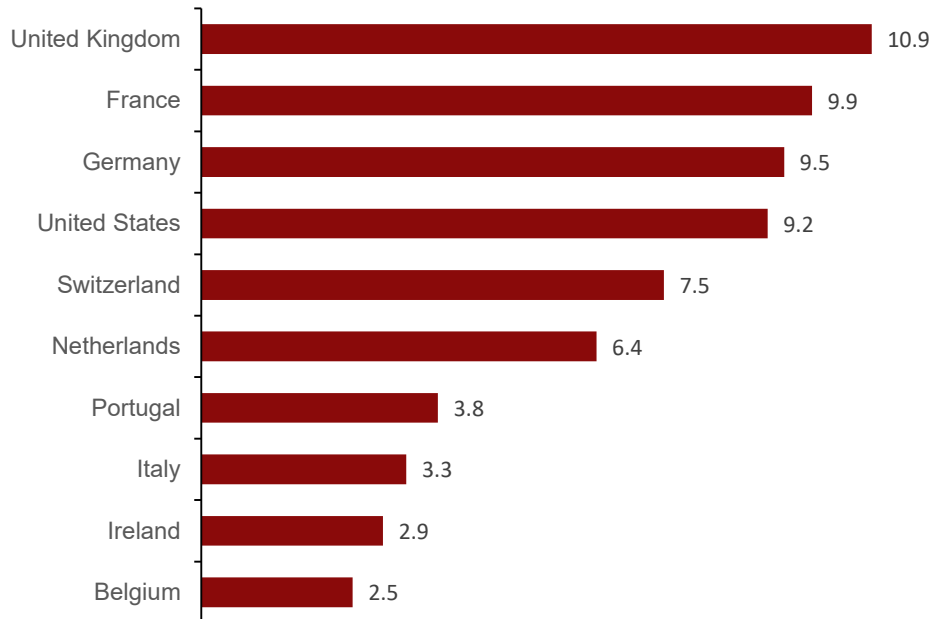


## International Trade in Services by country of destination and origin

The main destination countries of exports in 2020 were France and the United Kingdom (with 10.9% of the total), France (9.9%) and Germany (with 9.5%).

### Main destination countries of exports

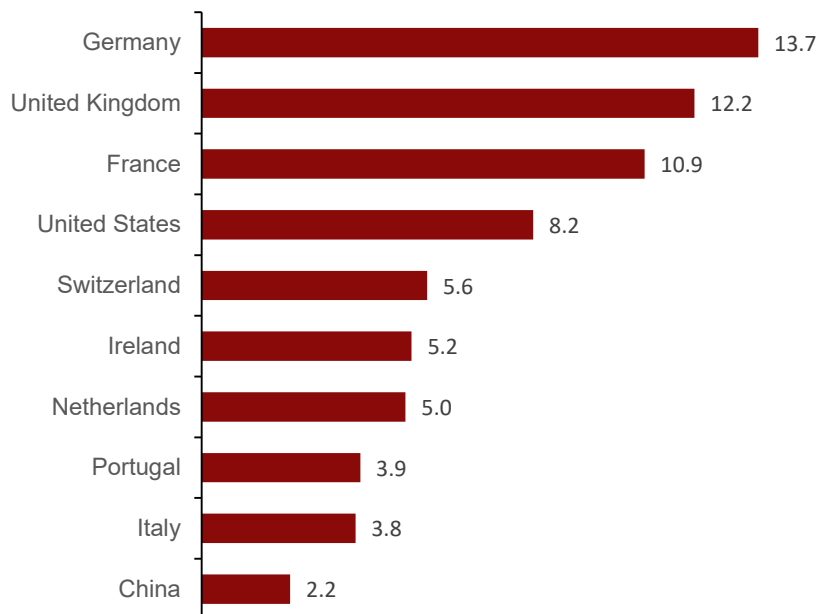
Year 2020 (percentage)



With regard to imports, the main countries of origin were Germany (13.7% of the total), United Kingdom (12.2%) and France (10.9%).

### Main countries of origin of imports

Year 2020 (percentage)

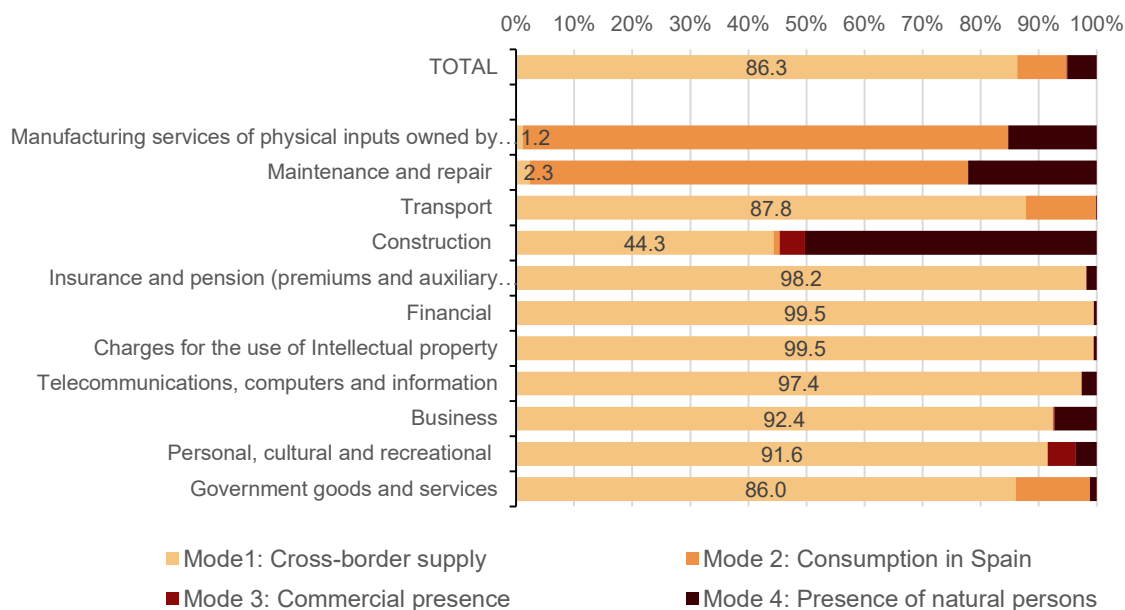


## International Trade in Services by main mode of supply<sup>1</sup> of the service

*Mode 1* (cross-border supply) totalled 86.3% of the total value of exports in 2020. This mode was the majority in all headings, except in *Construction*, *Maintenance and repair*, and in *Transformation of goods without transfer of ownership*, where it represented 44.3%, 2.3% and 1.2% of the total, respectively.

### Modes of supply of exported services by type of main service

Year 2020 (percentage)



In imports, *Mode 1* (cross-border supply) was also the main system, with 94.1% of the total.

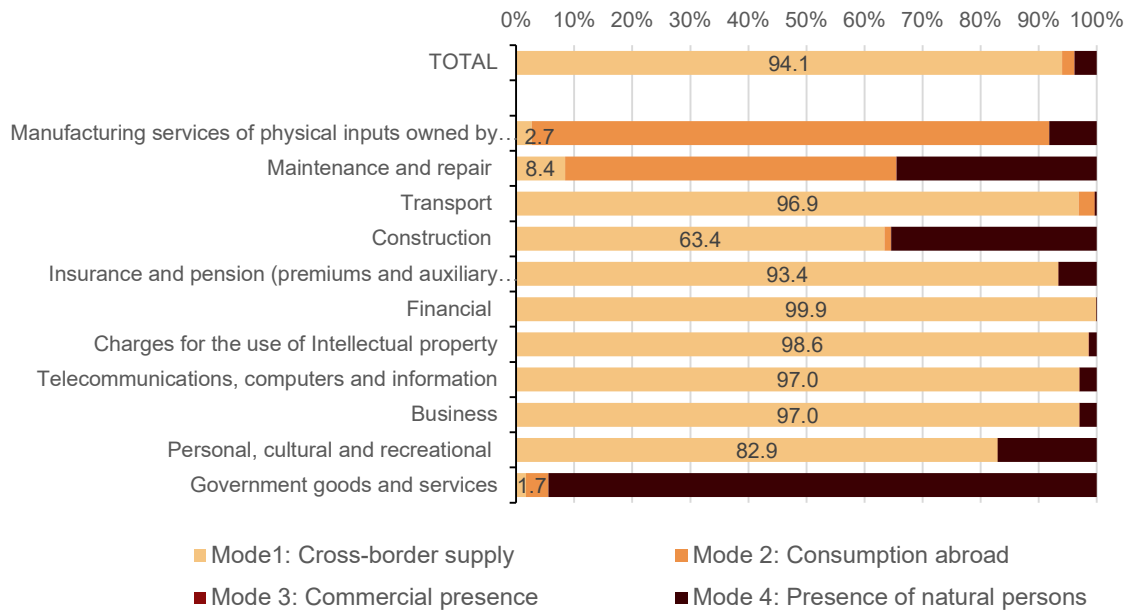
By main service heading, *Mode 1* was also predominant, except in *Maintenance and repair* (8.4%), *Transformation of goods without transfer of ownership* (2.7%), and *Government goods and services* (1.7 %).

<sup>1</sup> The ITSS only reflects a residual part of *Mode 2: Consumption in Spain (exports) or abroad (imports)*, as tourism-related services are outside its scope, which are the services that are mostly supplied through this mode.

The ITSS, by focusing in measuring the trade in services between residents and non-residents, only includes a very residual part of *Mode 3: Commercial presence*, as in general terms the trade carried out through the commercial presence of subsidiaries and/or branches in the country of the service recipient is outside the scope of the survey.

### Modes of supply of imported services by main type of service

Year 2020 (percentage)

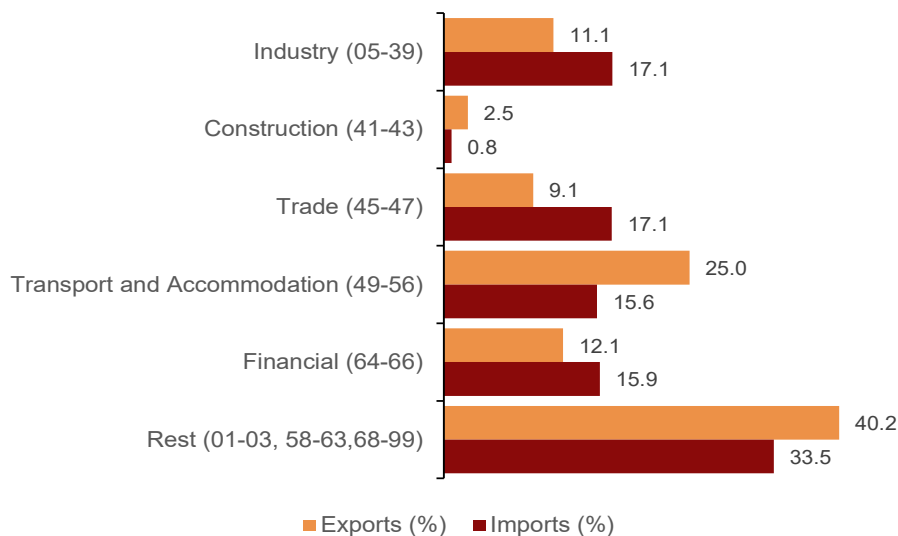


### International Trade in Services by sector of economic activity

The *Rest* sector (which includes agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishing activities; information and communication activities; real estate; professional, scientific and technical activities; administrative and support services; public administration and defence; compulsory social security; education; health and social services activities; arts, recreation and entertainment activities; other services; activities of households; activities of extraterritorial organisations and institutions) was the majority, both in exports (40.2%) and imports (33.5%).

### Exports and imports by sector of economic activity of the company

Year 2020. Percentage



At the level of main service heading, in 2020 a correspondence was observed between the type of service exported and imported and the main sector of economic activity in exporters and importers of these services.

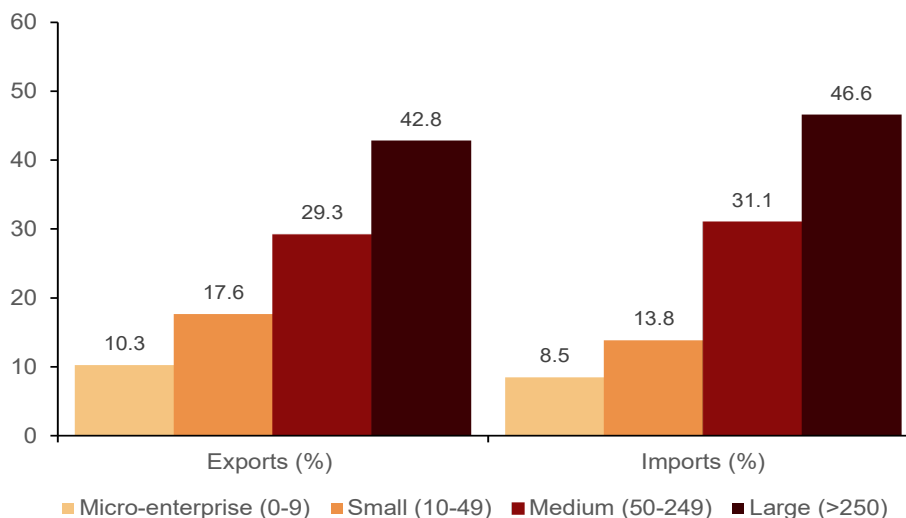
## Main economic activity sector of exporting and importing companies by type of service Year 2020

	Exports		Imports	
	Predominant activity sector	Weight (%)	Predominant activity sector	Weight (%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	Rest	40.2	Rest	33.6
1. Manufacturing services of physical inputs owned by others	Industry	90.1	Industry	70.6
2. Maintenance and repair	Industry	36.8	Transport and Accomodation	41.7
3. Transport	Transport and Accomodation	89.5	Transport and Accomodation	55.9
4. Construction	Construction	65.5	Industry	43.6
5. Insurance and pension	Financial	98.2	Financial	96.9
6. Financial	Financial	96.3	Financial	77.1
7. Charges for the use of Intellectual property	Rest	79.0	Rest	70.4
8. Telecommunications, computers and information	Rest	86.0	Rest	69.5
9. Business	Rest	61.0	Rest	37.2
9.1. R&D	Industry	47.4	Industry	62.4
9.2. Professional and management consultancy	Rest	75.9	Rest	46.8
9.3. Technical, trade-related and other business services	Rest	56.1	Rest	32.8
10. Personal, cultural and recreational	Rest	97.9	Rest	85.0
11. Government goods and services	Rest	96.4	Rest	99.6

## International Trade in Services by size of the company

Companies with 250 or more employees generated the highest export and import values, with 42.8% and 46.6% of the total, respectively.

## Exports and imports by company size measured in number of employees. Year 2020 (percentage)



Large companies were predominant in most headings of exports and imports of Services. Medium-sized companies (50-249 salaried employees) accounted for the majority in *Insurance and pension services*. Small companies (10-49 wage earners) predominated in *Government Goods and Services* and in *Construction*.

In imports, medium-sized companies were the majority in *Insurance and pensions*, in *Government goods and services*, in *Transformation of goods without transfer of ownership*, and in *Personal, cultural and recreational activities*.

## Predominant size of exporting and importing companies by type of service Year 2020

	Exports		Imports	
	Predominant size	Weight (%)	Predominant size	Weight (%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	Large	42.9	Large	46.6
1.Manufacturing services of physical inputs owned by others	Large	67.5	Medium	48.6
2. Maintenance and repair	Large	42.4	Large	62.0
3. Transport	Large	41.1	Large	38.6
4. Construction	Small	39.4	Large	51.7
5. Insurance and pension	Medium	82.4	Medium	68.9
6. Financial	Large	53.1	Large	68.6
7. Charges for the use of Intellectual property	Large	36.8	Large	68.4
8. Telecommunications, computers and information	Large	58.5	Large	54.8
9. Business	Large	41.4	Large	48.2
9.1. R&D	Large	75.3	Large	84.9
9.2. Professional and management consultancy	Large	38.3	Large	47.9
9.3. Technical, trade-related and other business services	Large	39.0	Large	45.4
10. Personal, cultural and recreational	Large	45.6	Medium	29.0
11. Government goods and services	Small	62.4	Medium	53.1

## International trade in Services by ownership<sup>2</sup> of the company

In 2020, companies that belonged to a business group concentrated 80.4% of services exports and 85.7% of services imports.

Companies controlled by a Spanish group recorded 39.2% of exports and 36.8% of imports. In turn, those controlled by a foreign group accounted for 41.1% of exports and 48.9% of imports. It is worth noting that 19.5% of exports and 13.7% of imports were carried out by independent companies which didn't belong to a business group.

<sup>2</sup> Ownership of the company is a variable not included in the ITSS questionnaire and was obtained by crossing the ITSS sample with the INE Central Companies Directory (CCD), which provides information on whether or not the company belongs to a business group, and whether the control of the group is Spanish or foreign. Those that were not crossed have been included under the heading "Unknown".

The control falls within the context of the country of residence of the unit that ultimately controls the exporting/importing company. This unit is the one that, proceeding hierarchically upwards along the chain of control of the company, exercises control over it, not being controlled, in turn, by any other unit. For the purposes of these statistics, this unit is known as parent company.



## Exports and imports by company ownership Year 2020

	Exports		Imports	
	Value (million euros)	Weight (%)	Value (million euros)	Weight (%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	66,884.2	100.0	48,666.0	100.0
1. Belonging to a business group:	53,763.1	80.4	41,716.6	85.7
1.1. Of foreign control:	27,516.7	41.1	23,792.2	48.9
1.2. Of Spanish control:	26,246.3	39.2	17,924.4	36.8
1.2.1. Domestic	4,840.3	7.2	3,762.8	7.7
1.2.2. Multinational	21,406.0	32.0	14,161.6	29.1
2. Not belonging to a business group:	13,073.9	19.5	6,661.2	13.7
3. Unknown	47.2	0.1	288.1	0.6

The country of the parent company whose subsidiaries in Spain accounted for the most exports was the United States, with 8.9% of the total. In imports, Germany was the country of the parent company whose subsidiaries in Spain accounted for the most imports (with 10.5%).

## Main countries of residence of the parent companies of the foreign subsidiaries resident in Spain that export and import services Year 2020

	Exports		Imports	
	Residence country of the parent company	Weight (%)	Residence country of the parent company	Weight (%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	United States	8.9	Germany	10.5
1. Manufacturing services of physical inputs owned by others	United States	43.2	Japan	18.1
2. Maintenance and repair	Denmark	13.6	Japan	9.7
3. Transport	Germany	6.4	Germany	11.8
4. Construction	France	3.7	Portugal	9.4
5. Insurance and pension	Germany	5.2	Switzerland	21.6
6. Financial	United Kingdom	20.8	United Kingdom	13.2
7. Charges for the use of Intellectual property	United Kingdom	16.8	United Kingdom	11.6
8. Telecommunications, computers and information	France	6.4	United States	11.8
9. Business	United States	13.0	Germany	10.6
9.1. R&D	United States	13.5	Germany	38.0
9.2. Professional and management consultancy	United States	12.0	United States	13.3
9.3. Technical, trade-related and other business services	United States	13.5	United States	9.3
10. Personal, cultural and recreational	France	7.3	United States	12.2
11. Government goods and services	Sweden	8.6	Belgium	0.0

## Data Review and Update

The data published today are final. All results are available on INEBase.

## Methodological note

The main objective of the International Trade in Services Survey (ITSS) is to provide information on the value of exports and imports of non-tourist services, carried out between resident and non-resident units in Spain. The data obtained is used as a basic statistical source in the compilation of statistics regarding Balance of Payments and Spanish National Accounts.

It is a continuous quarterly statistical operation with dissemination of quarterly and annual data. On a quarterly basis, the ITSS provides information on exports and imports for the main types of services (excluding tourist services) according to the Extended Balance of Payments Services Classification (EBOPS), as well as by geographical areas and counterpart countries. On an annual level, it presents the same more disaggregated quarterly information, on a geographical level and of types of services, and with other variables that allow characterising companies that trade services internationally. In addition, information is presented by modes of supply of the services.

**Type of survey:** quarterly continuous survey.

**Population scope:** set of entities (companies or other institutions) that have the status of residents in Spain, including Spanish embassies and consulates in the rest of the world.

**Geographical scope:** the entire national territory.

**Reference period:** calendar quarter.

**Sample size:** 8,617 units.

**Collection method:** questionnaire that can be filled out and returned by post, fax or email, or answered using the IRIA computer application.

**Comparison with other sources:** this information is complementary to that published by the Bank of Spain in its Balance of Payments statistics referring to the exchange of this type of services. The adjustments made by the Bank of Spain to the ITSS data for the purposes of the Balance of Payments for Services include the following: the estimation of the weight of operators with all their international service operations below the threshold of 50,000 euros, the National Accounts estimates of the freight service based on foreign trade data of goods consistent with the correct f.o.b. valuation of transported goods, the value of the insurance service (as the ITSS only collects gross premiums and indemnities) and of illegal activities, the incorporation into financial services of Bank of Spain estimates of financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM) and the inclusion of government services charges for the collection of EU traditional own resources.

For more information the methodology can be accessed at:

<https://www.ine.es/metodologia/t37/t373019801.pdf>

The standardized methodological report is at:

<https://www.ine.es/dynt3/metadatos/es/RespuestaDatos.html?oe=30198>

INE statistics are produced in accordance with the Code of Good Practice for European Statistics, which is the basis for the institution's quality policy and strategy. For more information see the section [Quality at INE and the Code of Best Practices on the INE website](#).

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