

26 October 2022

**International Trade in Services Survey (ITSS)
Year 2021**

In 2021, services exports increased by 12.2%, and imports by 10.7%

37.0% of exports were generated by companies belonging to a Spanish business group and 48.6% of imports by companies controlled by a foreign group

France was the main destination of exports while Germany was the main origin of imports

Services exports reached 75,072.1 million euros in 2021, with an increase of 12.2% as compared with the previous year. On the other hand, Services imports stood at 53,889.2 million euros, with an annual decrease of 10.7%.

The balance or difference between exports and imports stood at 21,182.8 million euros, with an increase of 2,964.7 million as compared with the previous year.

International Trade in Services by type of service

In 2021, the most relevant Services for the exports were *Business*, with 26,225.0 million euros (34.9% of the total and an annual increase of 9.8%) and *Transport*, with 18,397.4 million (24.5% of the total and an increase of 4.4%).

Regarding imports, the most relevant Services were also *Business*, with 18,917.9 million euros (35.1% of the total and an annual variation of 9.4%) and *Transport*, with 13,037.7 million (24.2% of the total and an increase of 22.4%).

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 2021

	Exports		Imports		Balance
	Value (million euros)	Weight (%)	Value (million euros)	Weight (%)	Value (million euros)
TOTAL	75,072.1	100.0	53,889.2	100.0	21,182.8
1. Manufacturing services of physical inputs owned by others	3,511.0	4.7	401.0	0.7	3,110.0
2. Maintenance and repair	1,701.0	2.3	642.9	1.2	1,058.1
3. Transport	18,397.4	24.5	13,037.7	24.2	5,359.7
3.1. Passengers	2,013.2	2.7	335.5	0.6	1,677.7
3.2. Goods	9,693.9	12.9	9,428.0	17.5	265.9
3.3. Other transport services	6,690.4	8.9	3,274.2	6.1	3,416.1
4. Construction	979.2	1.3	115.2	0.2	864.0
5. Insurance and pension	5,080.1	6.8	5,186.1	9.6	-106.0
5.1. Direct Insurance (premiums)	587.2	0.8	323.9	0.6	263.3
5.2. Reinsurance, pension and standardized guarantees (premiums and contributions to PF)	4,084.5	5.4	4,243.8	7.9	-159.2
5.3. Auxiliary insurance services	408.3	0.5	618.4	1.1	-210.1
6. Financial	2,491.1	3.3	1,226.0	2.3	1,265.1
7. Charges for the use of Intellectual property	3,188.4	4.2	4,902.5	9.1	-1,714.2
8. Telecommunications, computer and information	11,942.1	15.9	8,741.1	16.2	3,201.0
8.1. Telecommunication	1,588.9	2.1	2,433.8	4.5	-844.9
8.2. Computer	9,520.4	12.7	5,472.8	10.2	4,047.6
8.3. Information	832.9	1.1	834.6	1.5	-1.7
9. Business	26,225.0	34.9	18,917.9	35.1	7,307.1
9.1. R&D	1,869.5	2.5	542.2	1.0	1,327.3
9.1.1. Work undertaken systematically to increase knowledge	961.9	1.3	380.1	0.7	581.7
9.1.2. Others related to R&D	907.6	1.2	162.1	0.3	745.5
9.2. Professional and management consultancy	7,255.0	9.7	5,692.7	10.6	1,562.3
9.2.1. Legal, accounting, business and management consultancy and Public Relations	4,820.4	6.4	2,803.4	5.2	2,017.0
9.2.2. Advertising, market research and Public opinion surveys	2,434.6	3.2	2,889.3	5.4	-454.7
9.3. Technical, trade-related and other business services	17,100.5	22.8	12,683.0	23.5	4,417.5
9.3.1. Architecture, engineering, other technical, waste treatment and decontamination, agricultural and mining	4,381.5	5.8	1,480.9	2.7	2,900.6
9.3.2. Operating Lease	678.8	0.9	961.8	1.8	-283.0
9.3.3. Trade-related	2,105.1	2.8	2,832.2	5.3	-727.1
9.3.4. Other business services	9,935.0	13.2	7,408.2	13.7	2,526.9
10. Personal, cultural and recreational	1,487.4	2.0	415.1	0.8	1,072.4
10.1. Audiovisual and related	852.2	1.1	144.9	0.3	707.3
10.2. Other personal, cultural and recreational services	635.2	0.8	270.1	0.5	365.1
11. Goods and government services	69.3	0.1	303.6	0.6	-234.4

With regard to balances by type of main service, the most positive ones were in *Business* (7,307.1 million euros) and *Transport* (5,359.7 million). On the other hand, *Intellectual Property* and *Governmental goods and services* presented the most negative balances with -1,714.2 and -234.4 million euros, respectively.

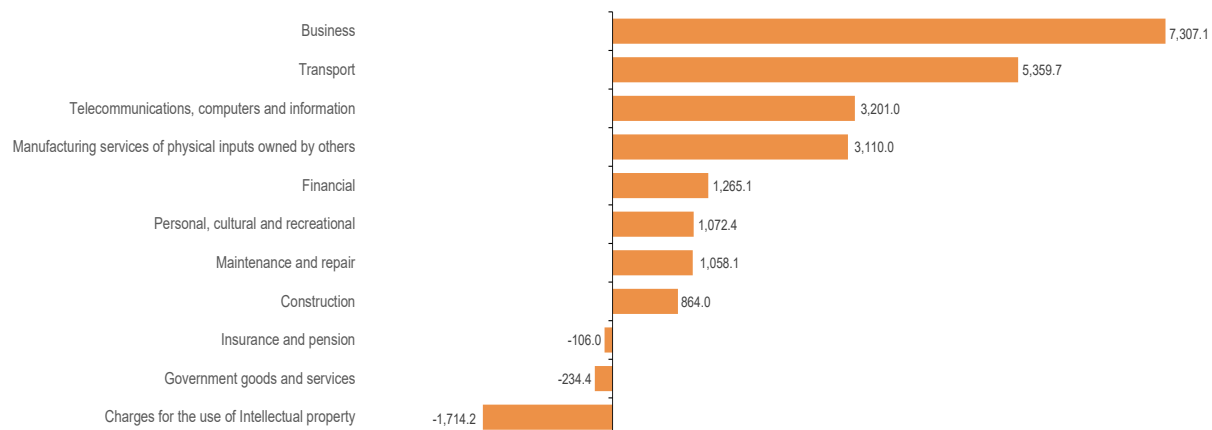
Balance by type of service

Year 2021

	Balance 2021	Balance 2020
	Value (million euros)	Value (million euros)
TOTAL	21,182.8	18,218.1
1. Manufacturing services of physical inputs owned by others	3,110.0	2,526.7
2. Maintenance and repair	1,058.1	795.0
3. Transport	5,359.7	6,966.1
4. Construction	864.0	696.8
5. Insurance and pension	-106.0	-1,110.9
6. Financial	1,265.1	895.4
7. Charges for the use of Intellectual property	-1,714.2	-1,873.5
8. Telecommunications, computers and information	3,201.0	2,386.8
9. Business	7,307.1	6,586.5
9.1. R&D	1,327.3	816.0
9.2. Professional and management consultancy	1,562.3	1,816.5
9.3. Technical, trade-related and other business services	4,417.5	3,954.0
10. Personal, cultural and recreational	1,072.4	601.6
11. Government goods and services	-234.4	-252.1

Balance by type of service

2021 (Million euros)

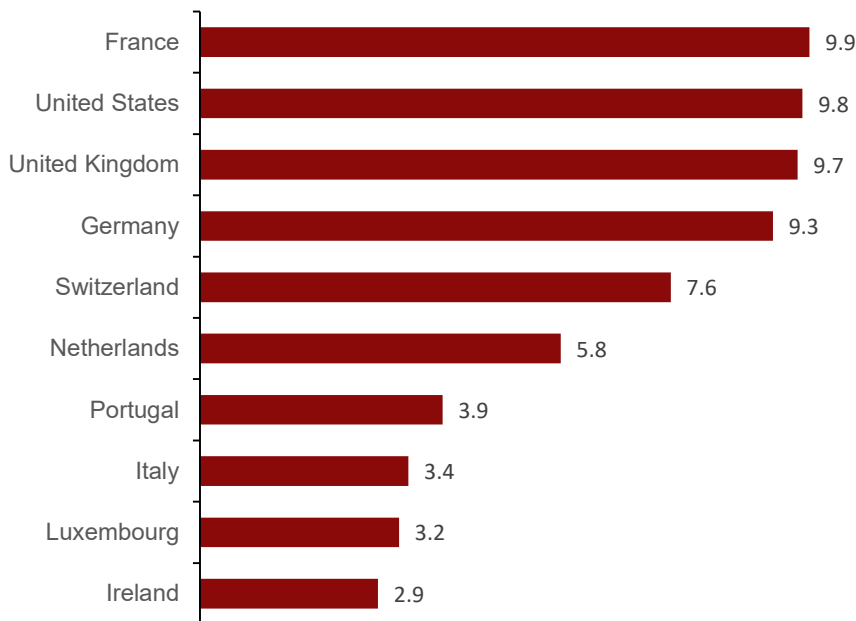


International Trade in Services by country of destination and origin

The main destination countries for exports in 2021 were France (9.9%), the United States (9.8%) and the United Kingdom (with 9.7% of the total).

Main destination countries of exports

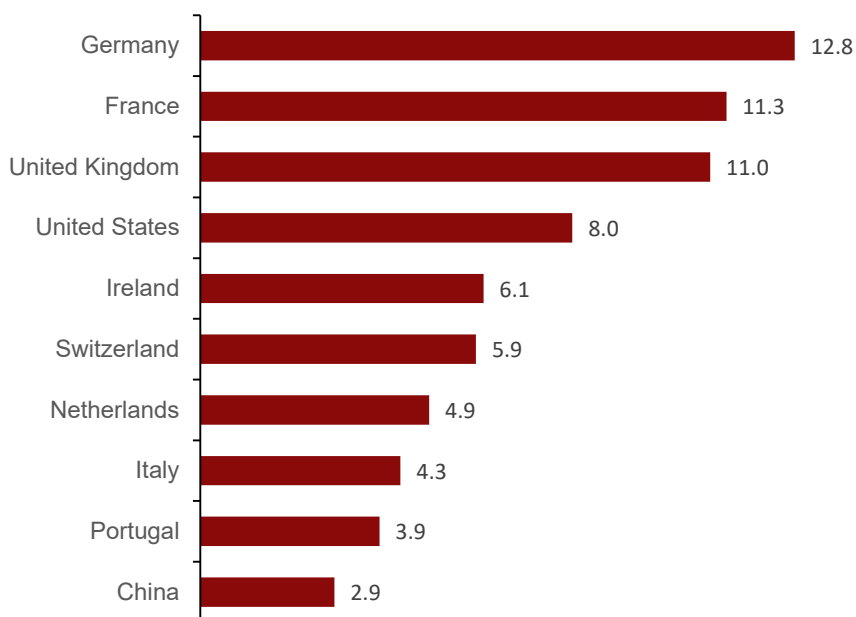
Year 2021 (percentage)



With regard to imports, the main countries of origin were Germany (12.8% of the total), France (11.3%) and the United Kingdom (11.0%).

Main countries of origin of imports

Year 2021 (percentage)

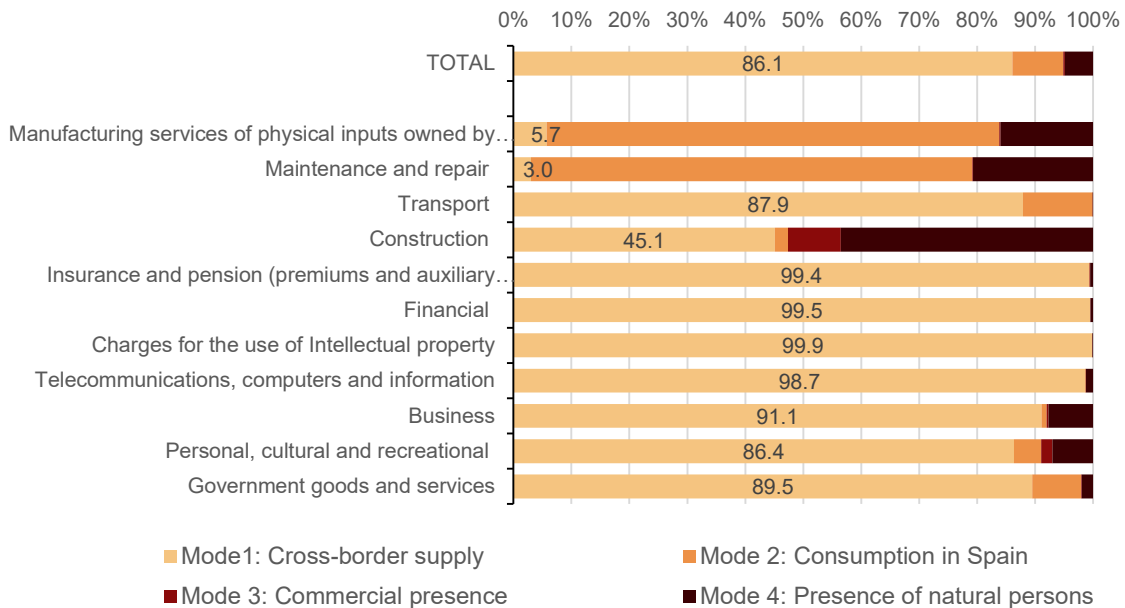


International Trade in Services by main mode of supply¹ of the service

Mode 1 (cross-border supply) totalled 86.1% of the total value of exports in 2021. This mode was the majority in all headings, except in *Construction*, *Transformation of goods without transfer of ownership* and *Maintenance and repair*, where it represented 5.7% and 3.0% of the total, respectively.

Modes of supply of exported services by type of main service

Year 2021 (percentage)



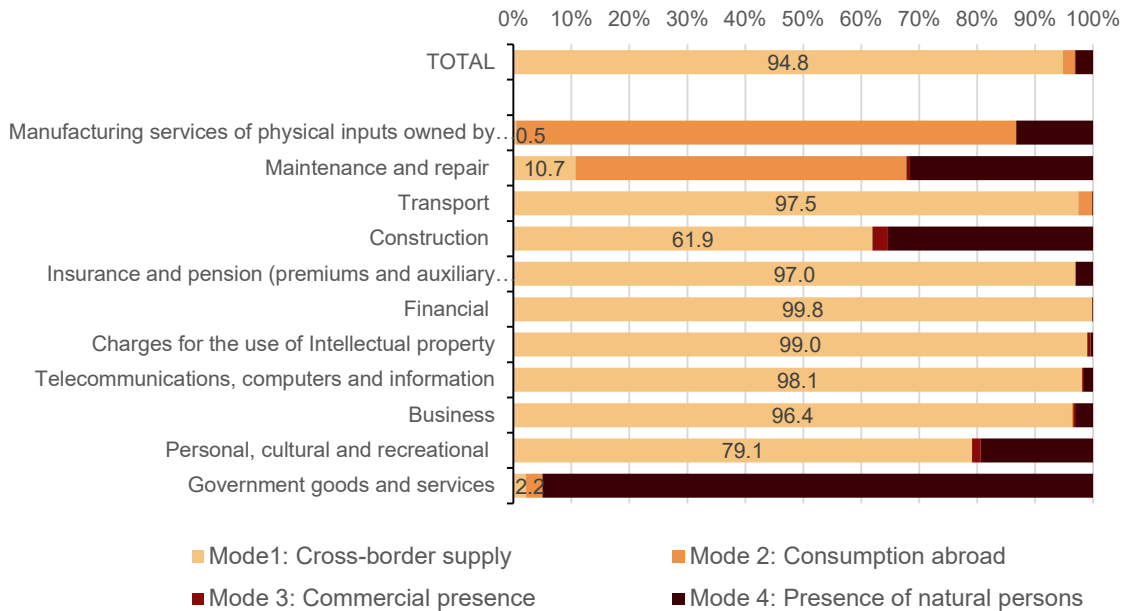
In imports, *Mode 1* (cross-border supply) was also the main system, with 94.8% of the total.

By main service heading, *Mode 1* was also predominant, except in *Maintenance and repair* (36.8% of the total), *Government goods and services* (2.2%), *Transformation of goods without transfer of ownership* (0.5%), and *Maintenance and repair* (6.3%).

¹ 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 2021 (percentage)

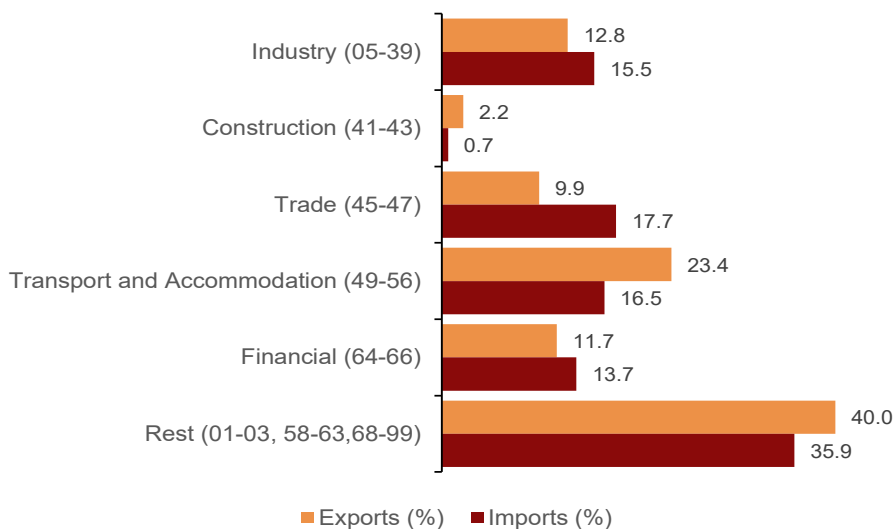


International Trade in Services by sector of economic activity

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 (40.0%) and imports (35.9%).

Exports and imports by sector of economic activity of the company

Year 2021. Percentage



At the level of main service heading, in 2021 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.

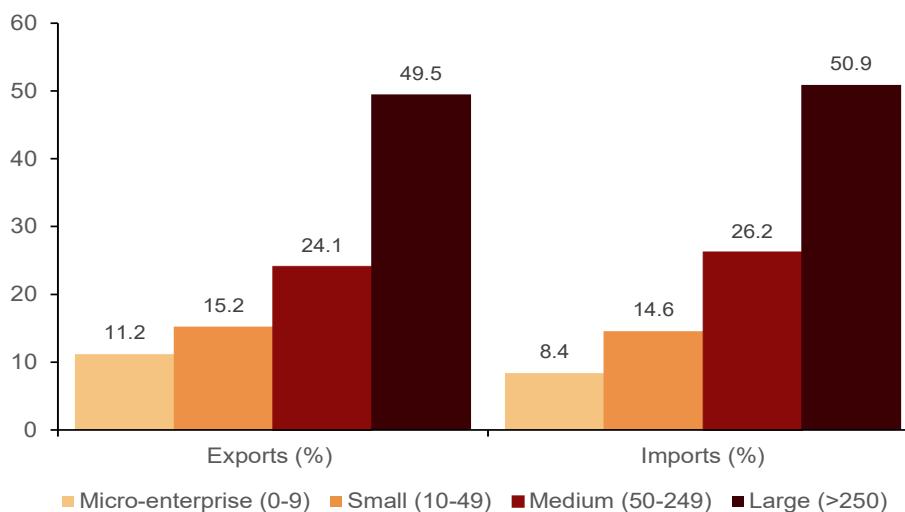
Main economic activity sector of exporting and importing companies by type of service. Year 2021

	Exports		Imports	
	Predominant activity sector	Weight (%)	Predominant activity sector	Weight (%)
TOTAL	Rest	40.0	Rest	35.9
1. Manufacturing services of physical inputs owned by others	Industry	92.0	Industry	74.0
2. Maintenance and repair	Industry	52.7	Industry	35.3
3. Transport	Transport and Accomodation	88.4	Transport and Accomodation	55.1
4. Construction	Construction	67.0	Construction	36.8
5. Insurance and pension	Financial	97.9	Financial	96.0
6. Financial	Financial	91.8	Financial	76.1
7. Charges for the use of Intellectual property	Rest	75.2	Rest	73.2
8. Telecommunications, computers and information	Rest	86.0	Rest	71.1
9. Business	Rest	57.8	Rest	41.0
9.1. R&D	Industry	44.7	Rest	50.1
9.2. Professional and management consultancy	Rest	76.9	Rest	52.6
9.3. Technical, trade-related and other business services	Rest	51.3	Rest	35.4
10. Personal, cultural and recreational	Rest	99.1	Rest	78.0
11. Government goods and services	Rest	97.7	Rest	100.0

International Trade in Services by size of the company

Companies with 250 or more employees generated the highest export and import values, with 49.5% and 50.9% of the total, respectively.

Exports and imports by company size measured in number of employees. Year 2021 (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 the exports of *Personal, cultural and recreational services*. Small companies (10-49 wage earners) predominated in exports of *Government Goods and Services* and in *Construction*.

In imports, medium-sized companies were the majority in *Government services and goods services* and in *Transformation of goods without transfer of ownership*.

Predominant size of exporting and importing companies by type of service Year 2021

	Exports		Imports	
	Predominant size	Weight (%)	Predominant size	Weight (%)
TOTAL	Large	49.5	Large	50.9
1. Manufacturing services of physical inputs owned by others	Large	65.1	Medium	51.2
2. Maintenance and repair	Large	33.5	Large	56.5
3. Transport	Large	40.4	Large	37.8
4. Construction	Small	38.3	Large	35.4
5. Insurance and pension	Large	71.0	Large	79.1
6. Financial	Large	68.5	Large	68.5
7. Charges for the use of Intellectual property	Large	44.7	Large	68.4
8. Telecommunications, computers and information	Large	63.5	Large	54.5
9. Business	Large	45.6	Large	46.1
9.1. R&D	Large	77.5	Large	78.1
9.2. Professional and management consultancy	Large	45.0	Large	45.0
9.3. Technical, trade-related and other business services	Large	42.3	Large	45.2
10. Personal, cultural and recreational	Medium	42.0	Large	37.7
11. Government goods and services	Small	63.8	Medium	54.9

International trade in Services by ownership² of the company

In 2021, companies that belonged to a business group concentrated 79.7% of services exports and 83.0% of services imports.

Companies controlled by a Spanish group recorded 37.0% of exports and 34.4% of imports. In turn, those controlled by a foreign group accounted for 42.7% of exports and 48.6% of imports. It is worth noting that 20.1% of exports and 16.6% of imports were carried out by independent companies which didn't belong to a business group.

² 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 2021

	Exports		Imports	
	Value (million euros)	Weight (%)	Value (million euros)	Weight (%)
TOTAL	75,072.1	100.0	53,889.2	100.0
1. Belonging to a business group:	59,798.9	79.7	44,746.1	83.0
1.1. Of foreign control:	32,054.8	42.7	26,199.0	48.6
1.2. Of Spanish control:	27,744.1	37.0	18,547.1	34.4
1.2.1. Domestic	6,051.3	8.1	4,525.4	8.4
1.2.2. Multinational	21,692.8	28.9	14,021.7	26.0
2. Not belonging to a business group:	15,115.4	20.1	8,961.4	16.6
3. Unknown	157.8	0.2	181.8	0.3

The country of the parent company whose subsidiaries in Spain accounted for the most exports was the United States, with 9.9% of the total. In imports, Germany was the country of the parent company whose subsidiaries in Spain accounted for the most imports (with 9.4%).

Main countries of residence of the parent companies of the foreign subsidiaries resident in Spain that export and import services Year 2021

	Exports		Imports	
	Residence country of the parent company	Weight (%)	Residence country of the parent company	Weight (%)
TOTAL	United States	9.9	Germany	9.4
1. Manufacturing services of physical inputs owned by others	United States	40.2	Japan	16.0
2. Maintenance and repair	Denmark	14.2	Japan	10.3
3. Transport	Germany	7.8	Germany	13.7
4. Construction	United States	3.0	Portugal	7.5
5. Insurance and pension	Barbados	5.6	Germany	18.7
6. Financial	United Kingdom	24.6	United States	12.7
7. Charges for the use of Intellectual property	United Kingdom	13.9	United Kingdom	14.0
8. Telecommunications, computers and information	France	7.8	United Kingdom	10.9
9. Business	United States	16.4	France	9.8
9.1. R&D	United States	40.0	Germany	13.1
9.2. Professional and management consultancy	United States	11.2	France	11.1
9.3. Technical, trade-related and other business services	United States	16.1	France	9.2
10. Personal, cultural and recreational	Switzerland	13.9	United Kingdom	10.7
11. Government goods and services	Sweden	5.8	-	-

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: 9,965 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, see the section on [Calidad en el INE y Código de Buenas Prácticas](#) on the INE website.

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