



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

TRADE POLICY REVIEW IN THE COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA

3rd Quarter 2024 | Bulletin



TRADE AGREEMENTS

BELARUS RATIFIED THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION AND THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Belarus ratified the [Free Trade Agreement](#) between the Eurasian Economic Union and its member states and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 5 July 2024. The Agreement was signed on 25 December 2023 and its main goal is to liberalize and simplify trade between the EAEU countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Among others, this refers to enshrining basic WTO rules in terms of veterinary, sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS) as well as technical regulations.

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UPDATED CANADA-UKRAINE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT ENTERS INTO FORCE

The updated Free Trade Agreement between Ukraine and Canada (CUFTA) came into force on 1 July 2024. As reported in the bulletin of the second quarter, the updated CUFTA retains unchanged the provisions of the initial 2017 agreement with regard to market access for goods and contains new chapters on cross-border trade in services, financial services, investment, trade and gender, trade and small and medium-sized enterprises. The document also includes updated chapters on digital trade; rules of origin; competition policy; monopolies and state-owned enterprises; public procurement; environment; labour; transparency, anti-corruption and responsible business conduct. Canada completed the ratification of the updated CUFTA on 20 March 2024.

[apk-inform.com](#)

KAZAKHSTAN, AZERBAIJAN REACH AGREEMENT ON VETERINARY CERTIFICATES

Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan have reached an agreement on veterinary certificates for several products, in particular milk and dairy products, poultry meat, offal and by-products, live camels, as well as canned meat, sausages and other prepared meat products.

[en.trend.az](#)

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

KAZAKHSTAN, UZBEKISTAN ADOPT NEW LONG-TERM STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP & ALLIANCE PROGRAM

Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan have adopted the Strategic Partnership and Alliance Program 2024–2034. Among other things, this programme includes actions regarding market development, including agricultural markets, and the removal of existing restrictions. It also incorporates cooperation in agro-industrial, energy, logistics, chemical, electrical engineering, textile, and other sectors.

en.trend.az

AZERBAIJAN AND TÜRKIYE SIGN A DECLARATION OF INTENT ON STRENGTHENING COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE

A meeting was held between the Ministers of Agriculture of Azerbaijan and Türkiye on 25 September 2024 to discuss future directions of cooperation in the agricultural sector between the two countries. The two countries signed a Declaration of Intent to strengthen cooperation in the field of animal husbandry and animal health. According to this, the two parties agreed to exchange experience in the field of combating animal diseases, organize joint trainings, conduct research and control activities related to assessing the health of animals, attract investment in the field of animal husbandry, strengthen ties and promote their development between businessmen working in this field.

interfood.az

TRADE POLICY AND DOMESTIC SUPPORT MEASURES IN JULY – SEPTEMBER 2024

COUNTRY	MEASURE CATEGORY	PUBLICATION DATE	DESCRIPTION
Azerbaijan	Import restrictions	2 September 2024	Azerbaijan has introduced a temporary restriction on imports of small ruminants from Greece, as of 2 September 2024, following the occurrence of sheep and goat pox in the administrative-territorial units of Macedonia and Thrace (Greece).
	Import restrictions	26 September 2024	Azerbaijan lifted previously imposed import restrictions on poultry products imposed from several countries. These restrictions were imposed in January 2024.
Belarus	Import restrictions	16 August 2024	Belarus has updated the list of agricultural and non-agricultural goods prohibited for import and sale in Belarus from the EU member-states in accordance with the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of 8 August 2024 No. 583 . The updated list of goods includes: live pigs, cattle meat, pork, fresh, chilled or frozen edible by-products of cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, horses, donkeys, mules or hinnies, meat and edible by-products of poultry, pork fat and poultry fat, milk and dairy products, with the exception of specialized lactose-free milk, specialized lactose-free dairy products for dietary therapeutic nutrition and dietary preventive nutrition, potatoes, onions, fresh white cabbage, fresh carrots, beets, nuts, apples, margarine, sausages, confectionery, pasta, mineral waters.
	Export licensing	22 August 2024	Belarus has decided to implement export licensing on exports of fresh and chilled tomatoes (EAEU customs code 0702 00 000). The relevant resolution , came into force on 1 November 2024 and will remain in effect until 2 March 2025, and establishes single-use licencing for the aforementioned products.
Georgia	Subsidies	1 August 2024	Georgia announced the continuation in 2024 of subsidies for Rkatsiteli grapes. More specifically, companies purchasing and processing at least 100 tonnes of Rkatsiteli grapes will receive a subsidy of 0.20 lari per kilogramme if they pay to the growers 1 lari per kilogram of grapes.
	Subsidies	30 August 2024	Georgia has decided the continuation, for 2024, of a governmental program that subsidizes the purchase, by processing companies, of non-standard apples. The program remains unchanged from last year. In this regard, the Rural Development Agency of Georgia will reimburse 0.03 euro per kilogram to processing companies if they purchase grade-out apples from farmers at a minimum price of 0.08 euro per kilogram.
Kazakhstan	Import ban	20 August 2024	Kazakhstan is implementing a ban on wheat imports. The ban came into effect on 21 August 2024 and will remain in place until 31 December 2024.
Kyrgyzstan	Agricultural sector projects	24 July 2024	Kyrgyzstan is launching a number of projects in the agricultural sector. These include a unified water management system, a platform for veterinary services for small livestock, laboratory and phytosanitary control, and a pasture monitoring system.
Republic of Moldova	Phytosanitary control	15 July 2024	The Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, on 11 July 2024, temporarily lifted phytosanitary controls of Ukrainian grain transit through the Republic of Moldova, until 14 September 2024.

TRADE POLICY AND DOMESTIC SUPPORT MEASURES IN JULY – SEPTEMBER 2024

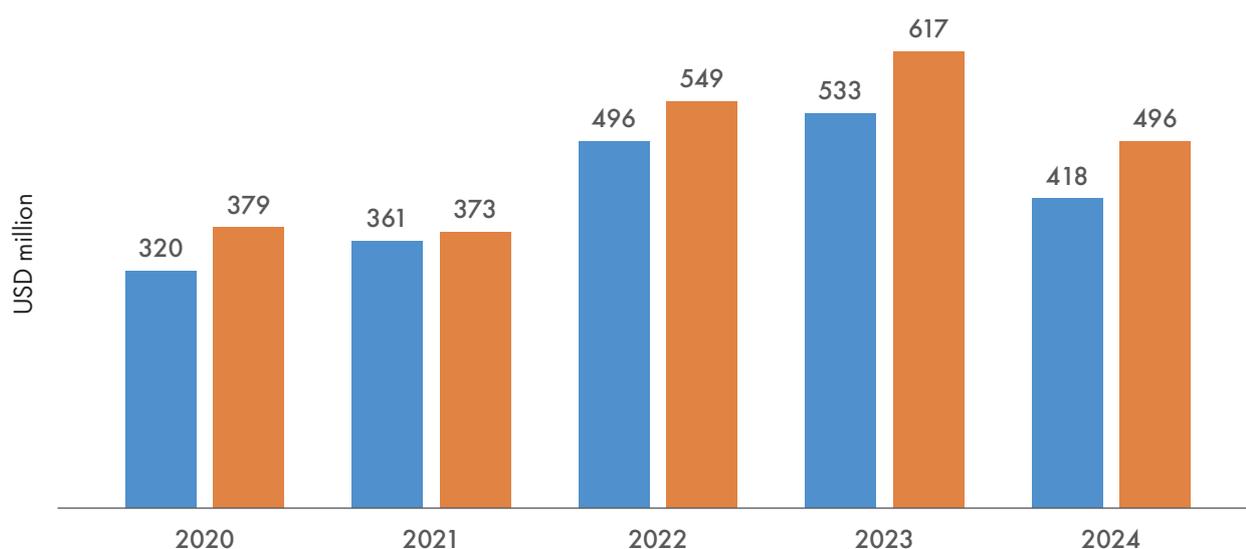
Russian Federation	Export restrictions	8 July 2024	The Government of the Russian Federation extended a restriction on the export of rice and rice groats until 31 December 2024 as per Resolution No. 920 of 6 July 2024.
	Import ban	20 July 2024	Starting from 15 July 2024, the Russian Federation banned imports of all fresh vegetables and fruits from Armenia. In accordance with the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (Rosselkhozadzor), the level of pesticide residues detected in tomatoes and apples imported from Armenia exceeded the relevant Maximum Residue Levels.
	Import restrictions	29 July 2024	The Russian Federation introduced temporary restrictions on imports of animal products from Greece, including products in transit, due to the occurrence of cases of the <i>peste des petits ruminants</i> (PPR). The measure entered into force on 17 July 2024 and covers sheep and goats, wild ruminants susceptible to the specified disease, their genetic material, as well as products of processing from these animals that have not been processed using a technology specified in the relevant articles of Chapter 14.7. of the OIE Code that ensures the PPR virus destruction.
	Export duty	16 August 2024	The Russian Federation decided the extension of an export duty on sunflower oil. The duty, expired on 31 August 2024, was extended until 1 September 2026.
	Export duty	1 September 2024	The Russian Federation has introduced an export duty on rapeseed from 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2026, replacing the current temporary ban on exports. The export duty rate will be 30 percent, but not less than 165 euros per ton.
Ukraine	Food Security Strategy	23 July 2024	The Government of Ukraine approved the Food Security Strategy of Ukraine on 23 July 2024 for the period up to 2027. The Strategy tries to achieve the following key goals: 1) to stimulate the development of agricultural production and provide markets with sufficient quantities of food; 2) ensure availability of food for all population groups; 3) strengthen the security component and eliminate threats. Among others, this refers to the formation of a state reserve, the restoration of commodity chains, the demining of agricultural land, adaptation to climate change etc.
EAEU	Tariff quotas	20 August 2024	The Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission has introduced tariff rate quotas (TRQs) on imports of certain types of meat and milk whey in the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) in 2025. The TRQs for cattle meat will be 9.5 thousand tonnes for Armenia, 21 thousand tonnes for Kazakhstan, 5 thousand tonnes for Kyrgyzstan and 570 thousand tonnes for the Russian Federation. For pork, they will be 9.4 thousand tonnes for Armenia, 20 thousand tonnes for Belarus and 2 thousand tonnes for Kyrgyzstan, while for poultry meat and by-products it will be 35.1 thousand tonnes for Armenia, 10.9 thousand tonnes for Belarus, 140 thousand tonnes for Kazakhstan, 58 thousand tonnes for Kyrgyzstan and 364 thousand tonnes for the Russian Federation. Finally, for milk whey it is set at 0.7 thousand tonnes for the Republic of Armenia and at 15 thousand tonnes for the Russian Federation.
	Tariff quotas	22 August 2024	The Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission has introduced TRQs on imports of certain types of long-grain rice originating from Vietnam in 2025. For Belarus, the TRQ f was set at 2,447 tonnes, for Armenia at 150 tonnes, and for the Russian Federation at 7,403 tonnes. This decision was made in accordance with the free trade agreement between the EAEU and Vietnam.

■ **AGRIFOOD TRADE IN THE COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA, THE FIRST HALF OF 2024**

ARMENIA

In **Armenia**, agrifood **exports** in the first half of 2024 were **USD 418 million**, which represents a 21.5 percent fall from the same period in 2023, and it is 9.7 percent below the average of the previous three years for the same period. The year-on-year decrease is due to the significant decline in the exports of tobacco and alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. Regarding the destinations, the reduction of exports to the Russian Federation and the NENA region was the main cause of the overall decrease.

Agrifood **imports** decreased significantly, by 19.7 percent year-on-year. This also represents a decrease of 3.4 percent with respect to the previous three-year average for the period January-June. Their value reached **USD 496 million** in the first six months of 2024. The decrease comes from negative variation in the imports of cereals, mainly from the Russian Federation, and dairy products.



	January–June 2024	Jan–Jun 2024/Jan–Jun 2023	Jan–Jun 2024/3-years average
USD million		Change, %	
Export	418	-21.5 ↓	-9.7 ↓
Import	496	-19.7 ↓	-3.4 ↓

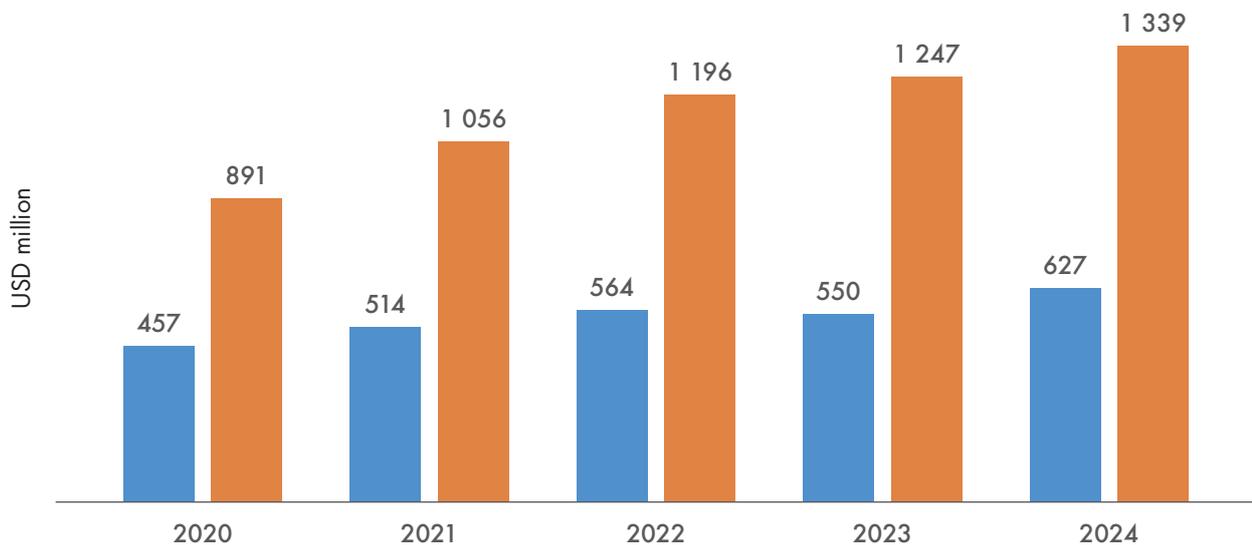
Source: based on Global Trade Tracker data.

AGRIFOOD TRADE IN THE COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA, THE FIRST HALF OF 2024

AZERBAIJAN

Azerbaijan recorded agrifood **exports** of a total of **USD 627 million** in the first half of 2024, which is an increase of 14.1 percent with respect to the same period of 2023. This value also represents an increase of 15.5 percent compared to the three-years average. Dairy and tobacco are among the main products contributing to the growth. The main export destination driving the positive variation was Türkiye.

Agrifood **imports** were **USD 1 339 million**, a value 7.4 percent above the same period in 2023. Moreover, they were 14.8 percent above the three-years average. The products contributing the most to the increase were fruits and nuts, dairy and meat.



	January–June 2024	Jan–Jun 2024/Jan–Jun 2023	Jan–Jun 2024/3-years average
USD million		Change, %	
Export	627	14.1 ↑	15.5 ↑
Import	1339	7.4 ↑	14.8 ↑

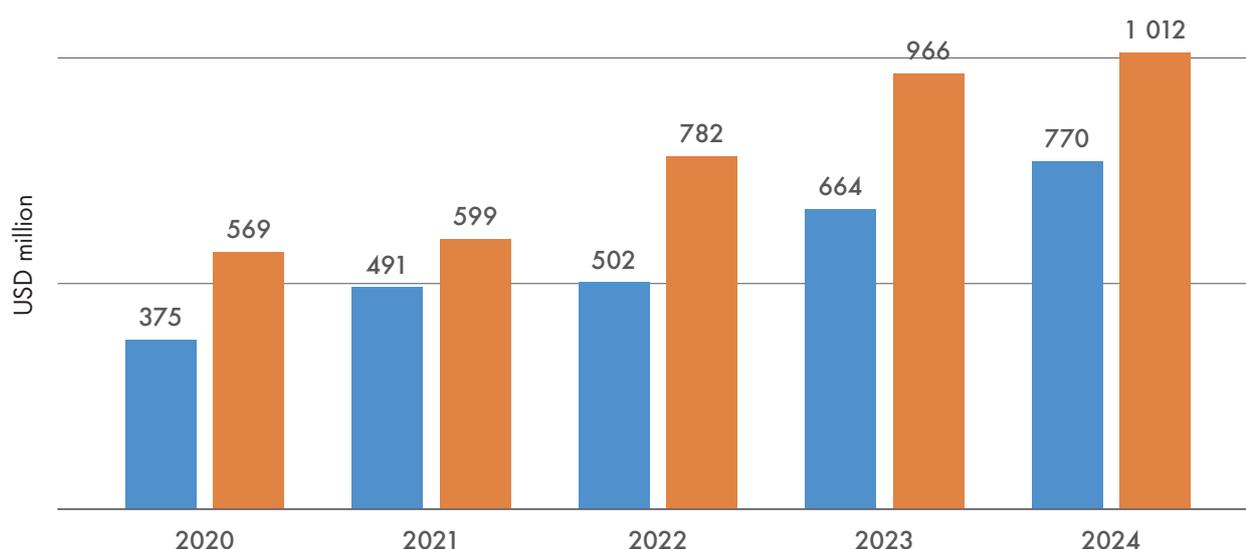
Source: based on Global Trade Tracker data.

AGRIFOOD TRADE IN THE COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA, THE FIRST HALF OF 2024

GEORGIA

Georgia's agrifood **exports** experienced a sharp increase in the period January - June 2024, which were 15.9 percent higher than in the same period of 2023 and 39.3 percent above the average of the previous three years, reaching **USD 770 million**. Most of the year-on-year increase comes from a significant increase in the exports to the Russian Federation and China. The main growth contributor was the commodity group of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.

Agrifood **imports** in the first half of 2024 increased by 4.8 percent compared to a year earlier, and 29.4 percent compared to the previous three-year average. The total amount of imports in 2023 was **USD 1 012 million**.



	January–June 2024	Jan–Jun 2024/Jan–Jun 2023	Jan–Jun 2024/3-years average
USD million		Change, %	
Export	770	15.9 ↑	39.3 ↑
Import	1012	4.8 ↑	29.4 ↑

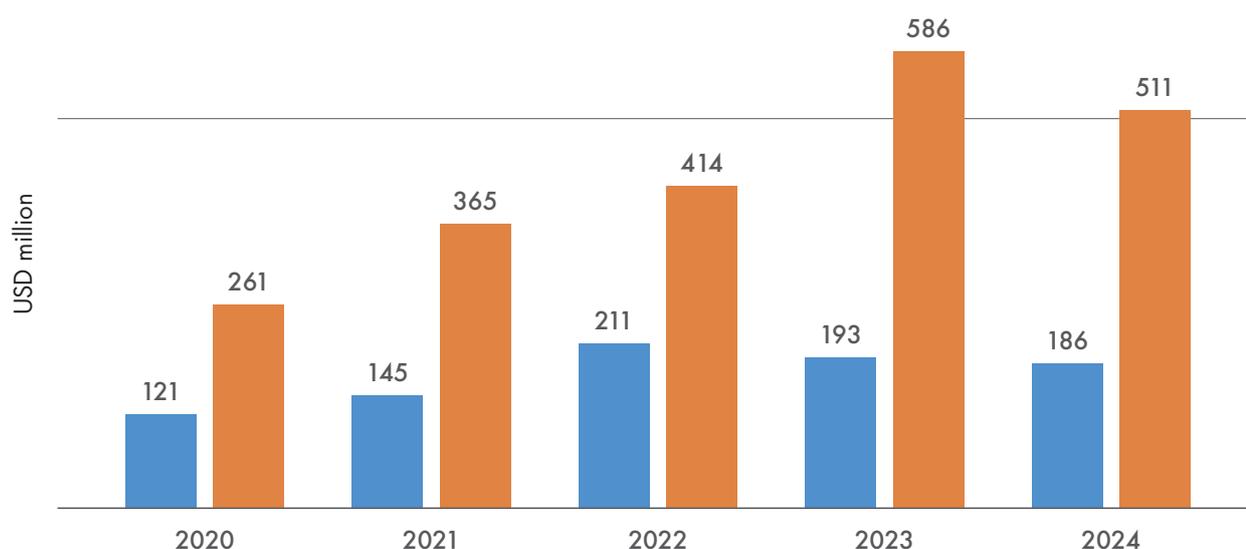
Source: based on Global Trade Tracker data.

AGRIFOOD TRADE IN THE COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA, THE FIRST HALF OF 2024

KYRGYZSTAN

Kyrgyzstan's agrifood exports totalled **USD 186 million** in the first half of 2024, which represents a decrease of 3.3 percent from 2023. However, this value was slightly above the average of the previous three years by 1.8 percent. The decrease compared to the previous year comes from the decline in exports to the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and Türkiye. Among the products contributing to the fall were preparations of cereal and fish and seafood products.

Imports of agrifood products in the first half of 2024 decreased 12.9 percent compared to the same period of the previous year, yet increased 12.2 percent with respect to the three-year average. The total amount of imports in this period was **USD 511 million**. Similarly to the exports, the decline in imports from the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan were the main drivers of the overall import fall. The products exhibiting a large decrease and therefore causing the decline in the overall imports were animal and vegetable fats, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages and preparations of cereals.



	January–June 2024	Jan–Jun 2024/Jan–Jun 2023	Jan–Jun 2024/3-years average
USD million		Change, %	
Export	186	-3.3 ↓	1.8 ↑
Import	511	-12.9 ↓	12.2 ↑

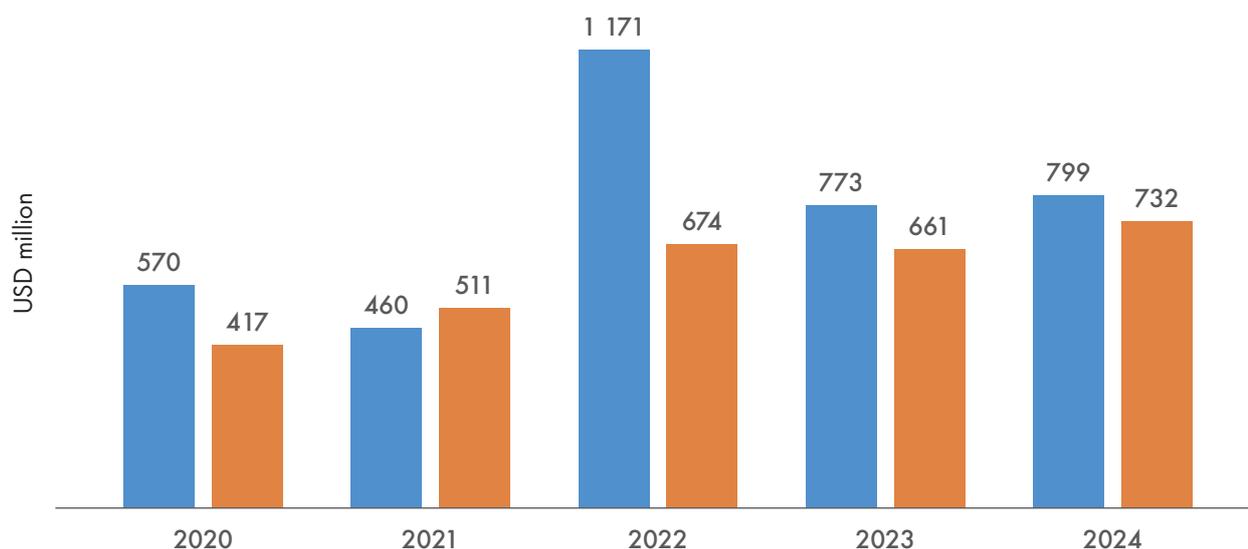
Source: based on Global Trade Tracker data.

■ **AGRIFOOD TRADE IN THE COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA, THE FIRST HALF OF 2024**

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

In the **Republic of Moldova**, agrifood **exports** in January – June 2024 were 3.5 percent above the previous value of the same period in 2023 and 0.2 percent below average of the previous three years, totalling **USD 799 million**. The increase is explained by positive variation in the exports of groups of goods as oil seeds and oleaginous fruits, and fruits and nuts, mainly to the European Union.

Agrifood **imports** were **USD 732 million**, representing a 10.8 percent increase compared to the previous year. Moreover, this value is significantly above the previous three-year average (18.9 percent). The increase comes from a rise in imports of animal and vegetable fats, dairy products and fish and seafood products.



	January–June 2024	Jan–Jun 2024/Jan–Jun 2023	Jan–Jun 2024/3-years average
USD million		Change, %	
Export	799	3.5 ↑	-0.2 ↓
Import	732	10.8 ↑	18.9 ↑

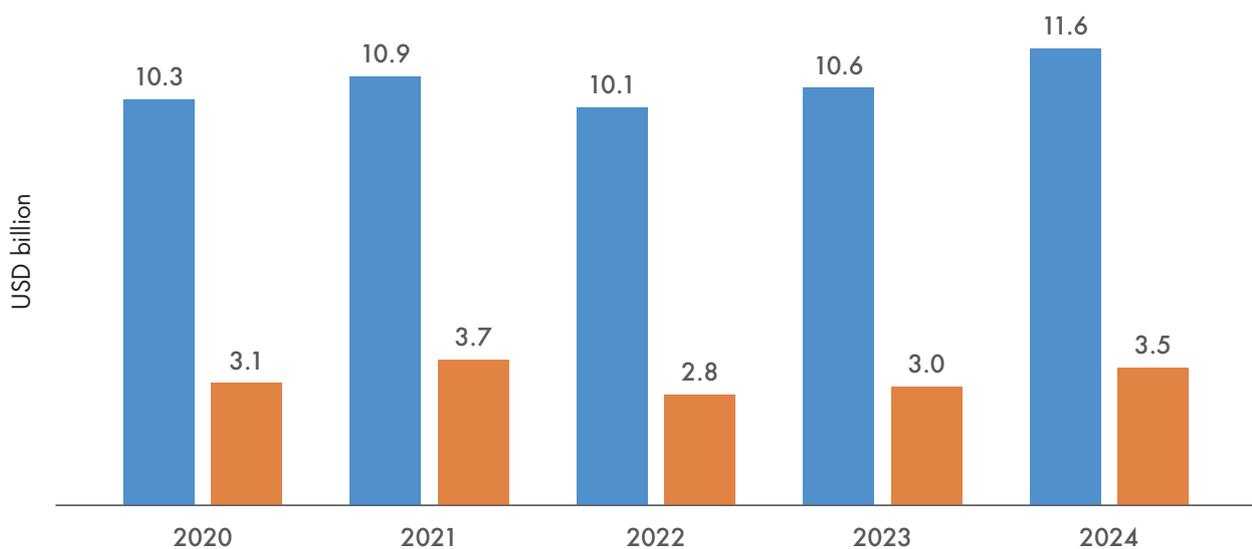
Source: based on Global Trade Tracker data.

AGRIFOOD TRADE IN THE COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA, THE FIRST HALF OF 2024

UKRAINE

Ukraine's agrifood **exports** amounted **USD 11.6 billion** in the first semester of 2024, which is 9.1 percent above their value in the same period of 2023. Additionally, this value is 9.8 percent above the previous three-year average. The destinations that caused most of the growth were the NENA region, the European Union and India. Animal and vegetables fats, as well as meat have positively contributed to the growth.

Agrifood **imports** increased by 18.3 percent in the first half of 2024 compared to the same period of 2023, amounting for **USD 3.5 billion**. The significant growth was due to increased imports from the European Union, Türkiye and the United States of America.



	January–June 2024	Jan–Jun 2024/Jan–Jun 2023	Jan–Jun 2024/3-years average
USD billion		Change, %	
Export	11.6	9.1 ↑	9.8 ↑
Import	3.5	18.3 ↑	12.1 ↑

Source: based on Global Trade Tracker data.

Additional Information:

<https://www.fao.org/markets-and-trade/areas-of-work/trade-policy-and-partnerships/aten/en>

<https://www.fao.org/europe/work-in-the-region/regional-initiatives/en>

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