

**FOREIGN TRADE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA:
ANALYSIS, EVALUATION AND PERSPECTIVES****Tatiana COLESNICOVA, Assoc. prof., PhD**National Institute for Economic Research, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova
*E-mail: ctania@gmail.com***Tatiana IATISIN, Researcher, PhD student**National Institute for Economic Research, Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova
*E-mail: tatianaiatisin@yahoo.com***Larisa SAVGA, Prof., PhD**Trade Co-operative University of Moldova
"Dunarea de Jos" University of Galati
*E-mail: savga.larisa@chisinau.edu.md***DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.59642/JRTMED.2.2023.05>**Universal Decimal Classification:** 339.5(478)**JEL Classification:** B17, F13, F17, L81, O24, P45, Q17

Abstract

This research is dedicated the foreign trade of the Republic of Moldova and the goal is to is to analyze the foreign trade of the country, identify the challenges, analyze and evaluate the situation in this domain. The trade policy of the Republic of Moldova is the main component of the country's economic policy and is aimed at developing foreign economic relations, in particular by promoting exports, protecting the national economy from foreign competition, regulating and monitoring imports and maintaining the trade balance.

The analysis in this research was based on information from national and international scientific research, data from the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova, data from national and international Reports.

The amount of foreign trade in goods in the first half of 2023, decreased by 3.4% compared to the same period of the previous year. Thus, the volume of foreign trade in goods in this period amounted to 6413.8 million USD. Exports of goods decreased by 10.9% or 249.2 million USD, while imports increased by 0.5% which amounts to 21 million USD. In recent years there have been important changes in Moldova's foreign trade. The EU being the main partner, this is due to the international relations, namely the cooperation and partnership process with the European Union. These relations also have a favorable impact on the development of the Moldovan economy and play an important role in strengthening the country. At the same time, the EU supports small and medium-sized enterprises by providing financial support in the form of grants, loans, coaching and advisory support. EU financial support is aligned with the DCFTA objective and represents a favorable framework for increasing exports, enhancing the competitiveness of domestic producers, diversifying relations with European and international business partners, increasing the productivity of companies by streamlining production processes and efficient use of natural resources, improving the quality management of enterprises by increasing the quality of domestic products and services.

Keywords: *foreign trade, import, export, WTO, DCFTA, goods and services, Republic of Moldova*

1. Introduction

The trade policy of the Republic of Moldova is the main component of the country's economic policy and is aimed at developing foreign economic relations, in particular by

promoting exports, protecting the national economy from foreign competition, regulating and monitoring imports and maintaining the trade balance.

Since 2001, the Republic of Moldova has been a full member of the World Trade Organization - WTO, which is working to liberalize trade in goods and services by removing barriers and developing new rules in trade-related areas. At the same time, the WTO agreements provide for a joint dispute settlement mechanism whereby members defend their rights and settle disputes that arise between them.

Since 2007, the Republic of Moldova has been a party of the Central-European Free Trade Agreement - CEFTA, to which the Republic of Moldova. This document is aims to increase trade in goods and services and boost investment between CEFTA member countries, as well as to eliminate barriers and distortions to trade and facilitate the movement of goods in transit and the cross-border movement of goods and services between the territories of the Parties.

Since 2014, the EU and the Republic of Moldova signed an Association Agreement. The Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) is an integral part of the Agreement. It reduces tariffs that European firms face when exporting to Moldova and makes customs procedures more efficient. In addition, the agreement facilitates trade further by gradual approximation of Moldovan legislation, rules and procedures, including standards, to those of the EU.

2. The main goal of research and applied methods and materials

The main purpose of this research is to analyze the foreign trade of the Republic of Moldova, identify the challenges, analyze and evaluate the situation in this domain in the country.

The analysis in this research was based on information from national and international scientific research, data from the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova, data from national and international Reports. The following research methods were used in the presented work: synthesis, logical, monographic, comparative, economic analysis of the statistical data, etc. The following Software applications were used for the practical implementation of the indicated methods: Microsoft Excel for spreadsheet manipulation, calculation, and elaboration of figures, and Microsoft Word for text processing.

This topic of foreign trade was researched and analyzed by authors in many scientific papers during many years [9-17].

3. Results obtained and discussions

According to official statistical data from National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova [1], the amount of foreign trade in goods in the first half of 2023 decreased by 3.4% compared to the same period last year. Thus, the volume of foreign trade in goods in this period amounted to 6413.8 million USD. Exports of goods decreased by 10.9% or 249.2 million USD, while imports increased by 0.5% which amounts to 21 million USD. The gap between exports and imports of goods resulted in the first half (January-June) of 2023 in the trade balance deficit - 2329.4 million USD, that is on 270.2 million USD or on 13.1% higher

than in the similar period previous year. The import-export in the first half of 2023 was 46.7% and down on 6.0 percentage points, compared to the similar period of 2022.

Exports of goods in the first half of 2023 amounted to 2042.2 million USD, which is on 10.9% less than in previous year 2022. Exports of domestic goods in this period amounted to 1365.8 million USD, which is on 20.0% lower than in the same period of 2022, which influenced on the decrease of total export value by 14.9%. Re-exports of foreign goods in this period amounted to 676.4 million USD or on 15.7% higher compared to the same period of 2022. This increase contributed to the increase on total exports by 4.0%. Re-exports of foreign goods in total exports - 33.1%. Re-exports of goods after processing accounted for 13.6% from total exports, and re-exports of classical goods, which have not undergone essential transformation - 19.5%.

By destination, exports of goods increased in all groups of countries. The main destination of Moldova's exports remains to EU countries and in the first half of 2023 totaled 1250.9 million USD, which is 11.3% less compared to the corresponding period in 2022. EU countries holding a share of 61.3% in total exports, down by 0.3 percentage points compared to first half of 2022.

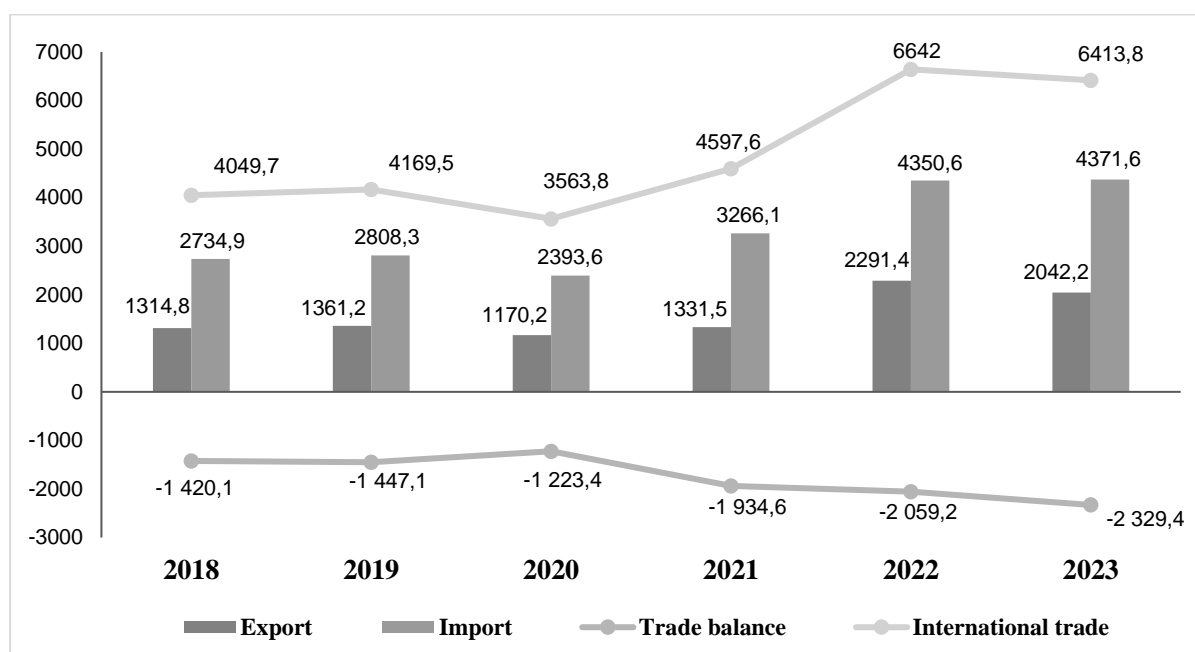


Figure 1. Trends in export, import, trade balance and international trade in first half of 2018-2023, million USD

Source: according to data from the National Bureau of Statistics [1]

Exports of goods to CIS countries in the research period were valued at 523.8 million USD, that is on 112.8 million USD or 27.4% more, compared to the same period in previous year 2022. Exports of goods to CIS countries holding a share of 25.6% in total exports, up by 7.7 percentage points compared to the same period in 2022. This increase was mainly caused by the increase of exports of goods to Ukraine by 109.9 million USD or 44.0% more compared to the same period in 2022.

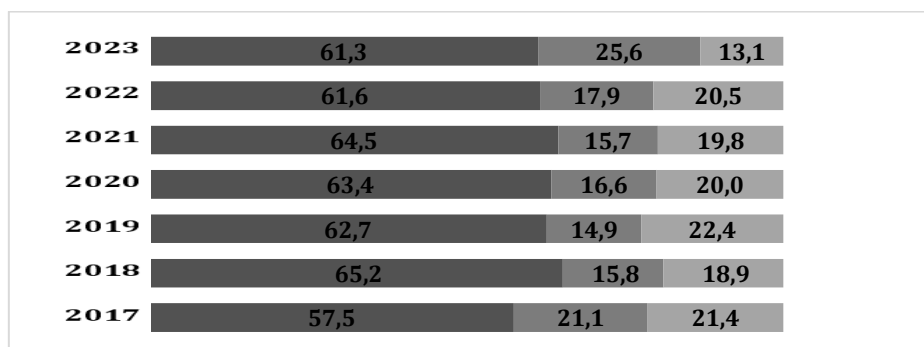


Figure 2. The structure of exports of goods by group of countries – EU, CIS and other countries – in the first half of 2017-2023, %

Source: according to data from the National Bureau of Statistics [1]

Top-10 partner countries in the first half of 2023 on exports of goods that attracted about 80% of total exports, such as:

- Romania contributed with a share of 31.6% in total exports, remains one of the main trading partners of the Republic of Moldova in exports. Exports to this country decreased by 2.9% compared to the same period last year.
- Ukraine being the second main partner in terms of imports of goods from the Republic of Moldova, they contributed with a share of 359.3 million USD or 17.9% in total exports. Exports to Ukraine increased by 44%, and the degree to which they positively influenced the evolution of exports was 4.8 p.p.
- Italy, also a major importer of Moldovan production, contributed 6.8% in total exports.
- Germany contributed with a share of 5.5% in total exports.
- The Russian Federation contributed with a share of 4.0% in total exports.
- Turkey contributed with a share of 3.9% in total exports.
- The Czech Republic contributed with a share of 3.9% in total exports.
- Poland contributed with a share of 2.8% in total exports.
- Belarus contributed with a share of 2.3% in total exports.
- Spain contributed with a share of 1.9% in total exports.
- Other countries contributed with a share of 19.8% in total exports.

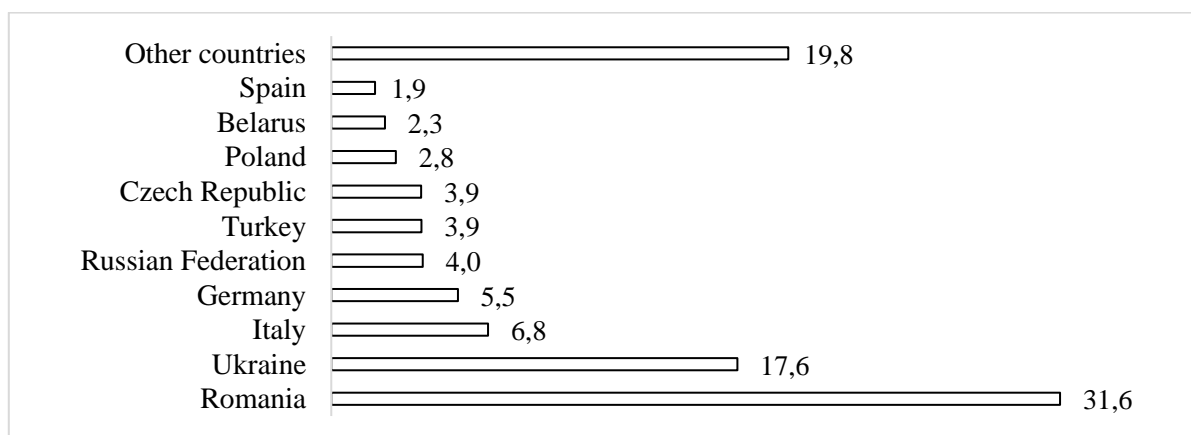


Figure 3. The main partner countries of the Republic of Moldova in the first half of 2023, %

Source: according to data from the National Bureau of Statistics [1]

At the same time, in the researched period, significantly increased exports to such countries, as:

- Czech Republic about 79.6 million USD, or about 1.6 times, of which 79% were wires, cables (including coaxial cables), being up on 2 times,
- Belarus, 47.5 million USD, up on 1.5 times, including wines from fresh grapes increased 1.8 times,
- Spain, 38.5 million USD, up on 2.6 times, of which about 70% - sunflower oil increasing 2.9 times.

Decreases in exports were recorded in such countries, as:

- Italy, 138.8 million USD, down 28.8%,
- Germany, 112 million USD, down 13.1%,
- Turkey, 79.9 million USD, about 2.6 times,
- Russian Federation, 80.9 million USD, down 30.8% and cumulatively subtracted 10.5 p.p. from export growth.

Significant shares in the export structure belonged to the following categories of goods:

- Machinery and electrical appliances and parts and accessories of these (15.9%);
- Petroleum, petroleum products and related products (13.1%);
- Cereals and cereal preparations (9.3%);
- Vegetables and fruits (7.8%);
- Clothing and accessories (7.2%);
- Fixed vegetable fats and oils, crude, refined or fractionated (6.9%);
- Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages (4.9%);
- Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits (4.5%);
- Furniture and parts of these (3.5%);
- Articles of non-metallic minerals (2.9%),
- Yarn, fabrics, textile and related products (2.1%);
- Road vehicles (2.0%);
- Other goods (19.9%).

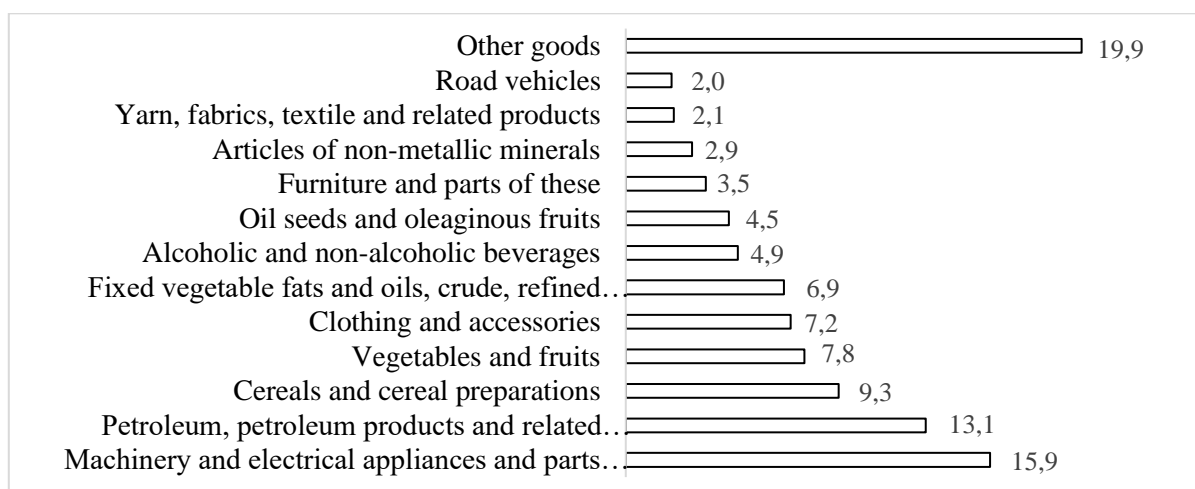


Figure 4. Exports of goods by main categories in first half of 2023, %

Source: according to data from National Bureau of Statistics [1]

In the export structure, about 36% of the goods categories recorded decreases in exports.

The goods that contributed negatively to the evolution of exports are: products of the plant kingdom, which recorded by 1.9 times decrease in exports, including: oilseeds and oleaginous fruits, which decreased by about 2.8 times, the degree of influence on the decrease in exports being 7.2 percentage points, cereals decreased by 46.1%, or -6.5 percentage points, edible fruit and nuts were down by 27.2%, or 1.7 percentage points, fats and oils of animal or vegetable origin were down by 38.4%, or 3.8 percentage points, base metals and articles of base metals down by 38.1% (of which cast iron, iron and steel - by about 3.4 times (-0.5 percentage points), aluminium and articles of aluminium - by 2 times (-0.3 percentage points), copper and articles of copper - by 33.8% (-0.2 percentage points).

The goods that contributed positively to the evolution of exports are: mineral products increased by 44.5% and positively influenced the evolution of exports by 4 percentage points, mainly representing re-exports to Ukraine; machinery and electrical equipment and parts thereof - up 21.2% (of which machinery, electrical equipment and parts thereof - up 15.7% (+1.9 percentage points); nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery, mechanical appliances and devices - up about 1.8 times (+0.9 percentage points); food industry products; beverages, spirits and vinegar; tobacco and tobacco substitutes, exports were up 11.9% (of which beverages, spirits and vinegar, up 18.4% (+0.8 percentage points); preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts or other parts of plants, up 10.1% (+0.2 percentage points); plastics and plastic products; rubber and rubber products, up 27% (including plastics and plastic products - up 24.6% (+0.3 percentage points). Export growth was also recorded for articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, small by 14.9% (including glass and glass articles - by 17.6% (+0.4 percentage points) etc.

Lower external prices, weaker economic activity and domestic demand lead to lower imports. Thus, imports have moderated and entered a negative trajectory since April this year (April - 10.4%, May -8.2%, June -13.4%). However, cumulatively, imports for the period January-June 2023 have increased by 0.5% compared to the same period in 2022. Thus, imports of goods in the period under review amounted to 4371.6 million USD.

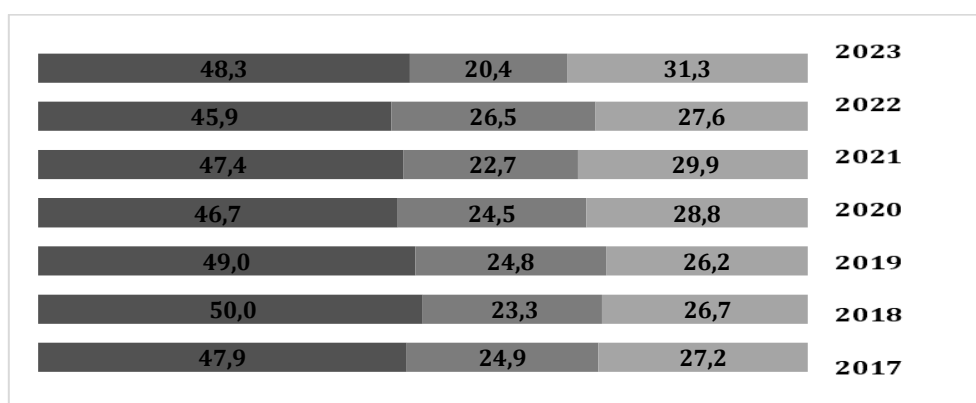


Figure 5. The structure of import of goods by group of countries – EU, CIS and other countries – in the first half of 2017-2023, %

Source: according to data from National Bureau of Statistics [1]

Imports of goods from EU countries in the first half of 2023 amounted to 2113,5 million USD which is on 5.8% more compared to the similar period in 2022 and representing a share of 48.3% in total imports, increasing by 2.4 percentage points, compared to the first half of 2022.

Imports of goods from CIS countries in this period recorded a value of 889.8 million USD, which is 22.9% less than in the similar period of 2022. Imports of goods to CIS countries register a share of 20.4% in total imports, down by 6.1 percentage points, compared to the first half of 2022.

About 73% of goods were imported from the top 10 countries - the main trading partners of the Republic of Moldova, most of which recorded increases in imports compared to similar period 2022.

The top 10 trading partners of the Republic of Moldova in terms of imports of goods were: Romania with a share of 15.6%, Ukraine - 13.0%, China - 10.5%, Turkey - 8.6%, Germany - 7.0%, Italy - 5.2%, Russian Federation - 4.5%, Poland - 3.4%, France - 2.6%, India - 2.5%, other countries - 27.0%.

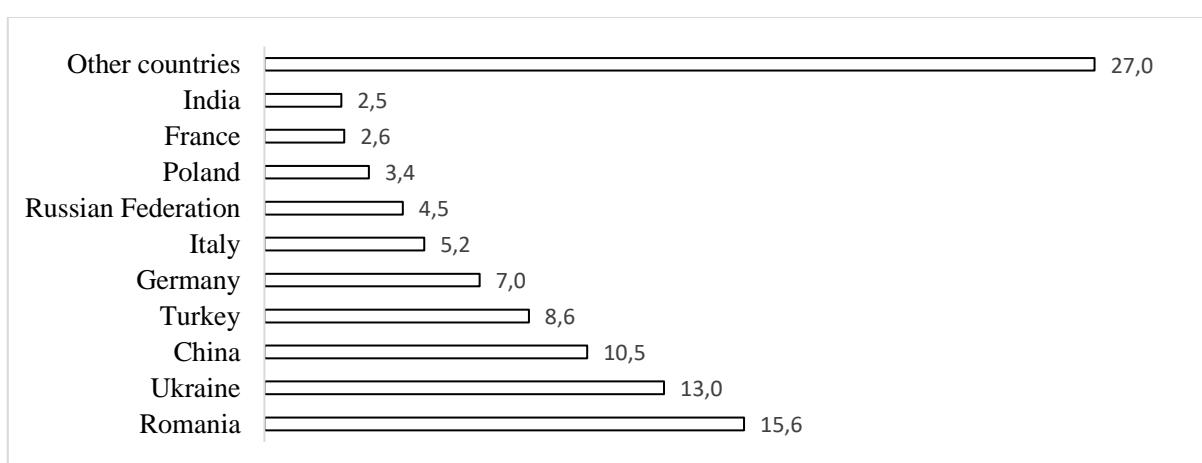


Figure 6. The main trading partners with share in total imports in the first half of 2023, %

Source: according to data from National Bureau of Statistics [1]

At the same time, during this period, the analysis of the evolution of imports by country shows increases in imports of goods from Ukraine by 42.6%, Turkey - by 22.4%, China - by 12.3%, Greece - by 3.3 times, Kazakhstan - by 5.0 times, Germany - by 6, 1%, Slovakia - 1.7 times, Japan - 57.7%, Israel - 2.2 times, Bulgaria - 18.1%, Czech Republic - 16.9%, France - 8.9%, Egypt - 2.9 times, Ecuador - 55.5%, Turkmenistan - 2.2 times, and other countries, which influenced the increase in total imports by 12.4%.

At the same time, imports from the Russian Federation fell by 70.2%, Romania - by 3.1%, Belarus - by 24.0%, the United States - by 17.9%, Uzbekistan - by 47.5%, India - by 3.7%, Pakistan - by 38.9%, South Korea - by 9.8%, dampening growth in total imports by 12.2%.

In the structure of imports the following groups of goods constituted the largest share as:

- petroleum, petroleum products and related products 15.9%;
- gas and industrial gas products 8.4%;
- machinery and electrical appliances and parts thereof 7.4%;
- road vehicles 6.4%;
- yarn, fabrics, textile and related products 3.5%;
- medicinal and pharmaceutical products 3.4%;
- vegetables and fruits 2.9%;

- general purpose industrial machinery and apparatus, parts and accessories thereof 2.7%;
- specialized machinery and apparatus for specific industries 2.5%;
- telecommunications and sound and video recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment 2.3%;
- clothing and accessories 2.2%;
- fabricated metal products 2.1%;
- mineral or chemical fertilizers 2.0%;
- other goods 38.3%.

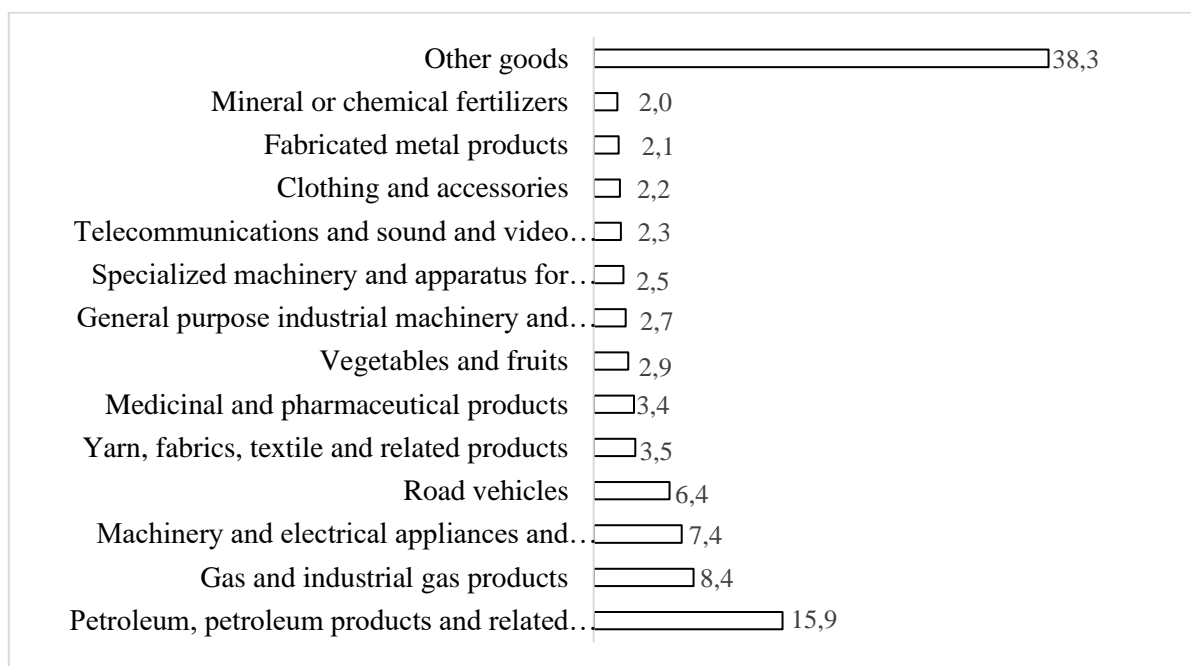


Figure 7. The structure of imports by goods section in the first half of 2023, %

Source: according to data from National Bureau of Statistics [1]

The evolution of imports by main goods sections is mainly influenced by, decreasing internal demand, falling world prices for energy resources and food products. Increases in the value of imports compared to the first half of 2022 and, respectively, positively influenced the development of imports accounted for about 76.0% of the goods sections.

During the period analyzed, imports of machinery and electrical appliances and parts thereof increased by 21.8%, petroleum, petroleum products and related products by 8.6%, road vehicles by 15.9%, products of the food industry, beverages, tobacco increased by 9.1% (of which beverages, alcoholic liquids and vinegar - by 14.4% (+0.1 percentage points)). Imports of goods from EU countries in the first half of 2023 amounted to 2113.5 million USD, 5.8% more, compared to the same period in 2022 and representing a share of 48.3% in total imports, increasing by 2.4 percentage points, compared to the first half of 2022. Imports of goods from CIS countries in this period recorded a value of 889.8 million USD, which is 22.9% less, than in the corresponding period of 2022. Imports of goods to CIS countries register a share of 20.4% in total imports, down by 6.1 percentage points, compared to the first half of 2022.

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During the researched period, imports of machinery and electrical appliances and parts thereof increased by 21.8%, petroleum, petroleum products and related products by 8.6%, road vehicles by 15.9%, food products, beverages, tobacco increased by 9.1% (of which beverages, alcoholic liquids and vinegar - by 14.4% (+0.1 percentage points), mix food preparations - by 8.5% (+0.1 percentage points), preparations based on cereals, flour, starch - by 5.7% (+0.1 percentage points), telecommunications, sound and video recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment - 20.7%, essential oils, resinoids and perfumes, toilet preparations, cosmetics - 17.9%, non-metallic mineral products - 13.5%, electricity - 1.6 times, mainly due to increased deliveries from Romania and Ukraine, power generating machinery and their equipment by 1.7 times, coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and their substitutes by 17.6%, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages by 14.4%, professional, scientific and control instruments and apparatus by 15.6%, clothing and accessories by 5.1%, mineral or chemical fertilizers by 5.8%, inorganic chemicals by 27.3%, fish, crustaceans, mollusks by 10.1%, sugar, sugar preparations; honey with 34.5%, cameras, optical equipment and supplies; watches and clocks with 42.6%, dairy products and poultry eggs with 4.4%, contributing to the increase in total imports with 6.3%.

Sections of goods which recorded decreases in imports, gas and industrial products obtained from gas by 15.4%, specialized machinery and apparatus for specific industries by 30.4%, fixed vegetable fats and oils, crude, refined or fractionated by 72.1%, iron and steel by 29.7%, oil seeds and oleaginous fruits by 28.5%, yarn, fabrics, textile and allied products by 6.8%, wood and cork by 29.0%, prefabricated buildings; other plumbing, heating and lighting fixtures and fittings 26.6%, meat and meat preparations 17.3%, paper, paperboard and articles of pulp, paper or paperboard 9.5%, leather, other processed leather and fur 21.4%, processed rubber 14.8%, processed plastics 6.3%, plastics in primary forms 11.1%, furniture and parts thereof 9.3%, fabricated metal products 3.0%, mitigating the increase in total imports 6.1%.

The implementation of the DCFTA facilitates the access of domestic products to the EU market, which means that their quality must comply with European standards. The Free Trade Agreement aims to eliminate import and export duties on trade in products between the partners. It aims to remove barriers to trade in services and improve access for companies to those markets. Only a few agricultural goods (mostly animal products, sugar and cereal products), which are considered sensitive in the EU, will be subject to monitoring of trade flows. This monitoring will aim to ensure that imports of products classified as manufactured in Moldova correspond to the country's production capacity and that there is no tax avoidance for products originating in other countries.

Statistical analysis shows a significant increase in cereal exports to the EU through the application of the evasion mechanism. Thus, in 2022, the Republic of Moldova exceeded

trigger levels for the following products which are subject to an anti-circumvention mechanism:

- Processed cereals– exceeded by 5.3 times (26973 tons over 5000 tons)
- Sweet corn – exceeded by 4 times (6762 tons over 1500 tons)
- Maize, flour and pellets – exceeded by 2 times (535303 tons over 250000 tons)
- Wheat, flour and pellets – exceeded by 1.27 times (191124 tons over 150000 tons contingent).

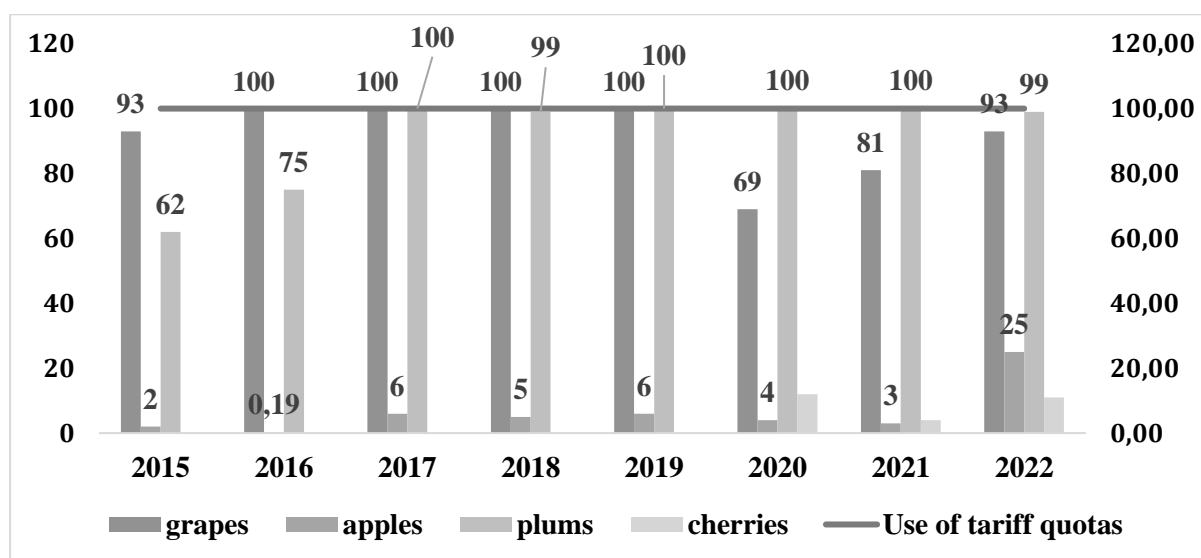


Figure 8. Valuation of tariff quotas for products covered by the annual tax-free quota for export to the EU, 2015-2022, %

Source: according to data from DCFTA [4]

Partially completed:

- Processed sugar – 60% (2511 tons of 4200 tons)
- Barley, flour and pellets – 30% (30407 tons of 100000 tons)
- Sugar – 16% (6163 tons of 37400 tons).

Table 1. Products covered by duty-free tariff quotas

Products	Quota offered, tons	Available quota, tons 31.12.2022	Available, % 31.12.2022	Available quota, tons 29.06.2023	Available, % 29.06.2023
Table grapes	38 000 tons	18 612 tons	93.0 %	10 650 tons	28.03%
Plums	25 000 tons	14 894 tons	99.3 %	8786 tons	35.14%
Apples	40 000 tons	11 061 tons	27.6 %	1332 tons	3.4%
Cherries	1500 tons	161 tons	11.0 %	2590 kg	0.17%
Grape juice	500 tons	48 tons	9.6 %	0 tons	0
Tomato	2000 tons	0 tons	0 %	0 tons	0
Garlic	220 tons	0 tons	0 %	0	0

Source: Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization of Republic of Moldova

In addition, a limited category of fruit and vegetables, which are subject to the EU entry price, will be liberalised (ad valorem free) under tariff quotas covering traditional trade flows [8].

The main markets for grapes: Poland 3001.2 tons, Romania 1897.4 tons, Latvia 1537.4 tons, Spain 201.7 tons. The main markets for plums: Romania 11849.6 tons, Germany 2821.0 tons, Poland 1967.7 tons, Austria 1149.2 tons. The main markets for apples: Romania 10781.7 tons, Bulgaria 234.3 tons, Germany 80.6 tons, Spain 40 tons.

Foreign trade of Moldovan wines and wine products

Regarding the main product and brand of the Republic of Moldova - *Moldovan wines and wine products*, in recent years the Government of the Republic of Moldova has approved a number of laws that harmonized the rules for the production of Moldovan wines with those of the European Union; streamlined conformity assessment procedures by eliminating outdated standards and orders and decreasing the number of indicators to be assessed; and, established a framework for the production of protected geographical indication (PGI) wines in accordance with EU standards.

According to the data from National Vine and Wine Office [19], in the first nine months of 2023, Moldova exported wine products in the sum of 135 million USD, which is 25% more than in the same period of 2022.

The largest deliveries of all types of products were made to Belarus - 26 million USD, Ukraine - 22 million USD, Romania - 20.3 million USD, Georgia/Abkhazia - 8.3 million USD, Poland and Czech Republic - 5.6 million USD each, Russia - 3.8 million USD, Great Britain - 3.1 million USD, China - 3 million USD and the USA - 3 million USD. The whole geography of export for this period includes 62 countries.

In the segment of wines, the main sales fall on the share of bottled wines. However, in physical terms, compared to last year, it decreased by 8.1 percentage points and amounted to only 32.6%. In monetary terms, it decreased by 5.5 percentage points - to 62.6%. Bottled wines were shipped to 59 countries, but the top-10 represent for 79% of the volume. The top 10 included Romania (+12.1%), Poland (-22.2%), Czech Republic (-16.9%), Belarus (-0.7%), Russia (-53%), Canada (-2.1%), USA (+17.5%), Netherlands (+57.5%), China (-21.8%) and Ukraine (+19.7%). That is, the growth is observed only in four countries, while the stable growth over the last three years is in Romania and the Netherlands (although our country sends very small volumes of wine products to the Netherlands). In total, 33.5 million bottles of still and sparkling wines were exported in January-September 2023.

The ranking of the top-10 countries by value, where bottled wines from Republic of Moldova are delivered, includes the same participants. But sales growth, besides the four countries mentioned above, was also registered in Belarus (+34%) and Canada (+2.7%). On the Romanian market, the efforts to promote our wines - the largest marketing expenses are allocated in this country - and the fact that Moldova is a well-known country for their consumers. Belarus maintains a traditionally good attitude towards Moldovan wines due to the common past as part of the USSR.

The wine materials in bulk (54.1 million liters) were exported to 22 countries. 98% of the volume was shipped to the first ten and 76% to the first two. This segment was one of the drivers of overall growth in wine exports, increasing, year-on-year, by 29% in volume terms and by 30% in value terms, with an average beam price of \$0.67 per liter.

Nine countries out of the TOP-10, except for Great Britain, recorded an increase in the supply of bottled wine in liters. Belarus traditionally accounts for almost half of wine sales - 45.8%. Georgia/Abkhazia is buying 29.4%, Romania - 6.3%, UK - 6%, France - 2.6%, Czech Republic - 2.4%, Canada - 2.4%, Poland - 1.1%, Russia - 1%, Denmark - 0.8%. In total, 36 million USD of bottled wine in liters was sold.

In January-September 2023, 134% more divines, brandy and distillates were exported in physical volume than in the previous year. And the revenue from these products doubled to 37 million USD. In this segment, too, there was a shift in favor of bottled products. Bottled products, compared to the previous year, lost 7 percentage points, reducing their share to 15.8% in physical terms and in monetary terms it amounts to 36.2%.

Nevertheless, there were 62% more bottled divines and brandies exported abroad, totaling approximately 2.8 million bottles. Deliveries were made to 34 countries, but the top 10 account for 94%. Three main countries can be mentioned - Ukraine, where 58.5% of our divines and brandy are sold, Belarus with a share of 10.7% and Russia (6.5%). Insignificant quantities of these products are exported to other countries. But almost everywhere there is an increase in sales, except Poland (-20%). Exports to Ukraine, with its high share, grew by 180%, and in terms of cost - by 169%.

The demand abroad for divines, brandy, distillates in bulk also increased: in volume - by 155%, in value - by 149%. They were shipped to 11 countries, but the main two are Ukraine with the share of 78.4% and Belarus (19%). All countries increased their purchases, especially the leaders: Ukraine - by 196%, Belarus - by 72%, and in terms of cost - by 231% and 79%, respectively.

In terms of export destinations of all types of Moldovan wine products in physical terms, the leading export destinations are the CIS countries with a share of 61.7%, Europe accounts for 29.9%, America - 4.4%, Asia - 2.8%, Africa - 1.2% and Oceania - 0.1%. In terms of cost, the ratio changes slightly: the CIS share is 49.1%, Europe 38.7%, America 5.1%, Asia 4.8%, Africa 2.1% and Oceania 0.2%.

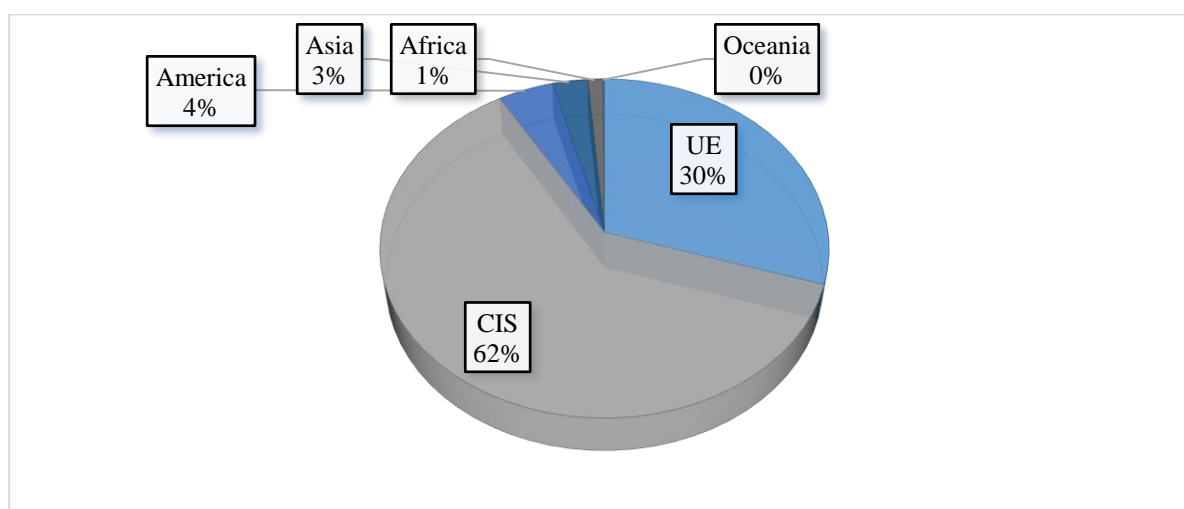


Figure 9. Destinations of all types of Moldovan wine products in physical terms in 2023, %

Source: according to data from National Vine and Wine Office [19]

4. Conclusions

In recent years there have been important changes in Moldova's foreign trade. The EU being the main partner, this is due to the international relations, namely the cooperation and partnership process with the European Union. These relations also have a favourable impact on the development of the Moldovan economy and play an important role in strengthening the country. At the same time, the EU supports small and medium-sized enterprises by providing financial support in the form of grants, loans, coaching and advisory support. EU financial support is aligned with the DCFTA objective and represents a favourable framework for increasing exports, enhancing the competitiveness of domestic producers, diversifying relations with European and international business partners, increasing the productivity of companies by streamlining production processes and efficient use of natural resources, improving the quality management of enterprises by increasing the quality of domestic products and services.

In order to expand the channels for its foreign trade – the several international agreements signed by the Republic of Moldova in recent years which contribute to the development of trade relations between Moldova and EU countries. Thus, the agreement initiated in 2013 at the Eastern Partnership summit in Vilnius on the creation of a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) with the European Union will provide Moldova with the necessary basis for the modernization of trade relations and economic development by opening the markets through the elimination of customs duties and quotas, as well as through the comprehensive harmonization of the national legislation, rules and regulations with the European legislation in trade-related fields.

Also, a free trade agreement was signed between the Republic of Moldova and such important partner as the Republic of Turkey, which provides for the promotion of regional trade by improving trade relations between the signatory states, is determined by Turkey's commitments towards the European Union, according to which the Turkish side should harmonize its trade policy with that of the Community, and this harmonization will also include preferential trade agreements that the European Union should sign with third countries, including the Republic of Moldova.

As a result, foreign trade between the Republic of Moldova and the EU has been expanding over the last period. Statistical analysis of official data shows a significant increase in grain exports to the EU through the application of the anti-circumvention mechanism. Thus, processed cereals were exported - 15659 tons or 313% of the total of 5000 tons, corn - 130484 tons or 52% of the total of 250000 tons, wheat - 169975 tons, i.e. 113% of the total set quota of 150000 tons, barley - 14347 tons or 14% of the total of 100000 tons, sweet corn - 3053 tons or 204% of the total of 1500 tons, processed sugar - 2207 tons, that is, 53% of the total of 4200 tons, and sugars - 18778 tons, that is, 50% of the total of 37400 tons.

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Rezumat

Această lucrare are drept scop analiza și evoluția comerțului extern al Republicii Moldova și identificarea provocărilor din sector. Politica comercială a Republicii Moldova este componenta principală a politicii economice a țării și are drept scop dezvoltarea relațiilor economice externe, în special prin promovarea

exporturilor și diversificarea piețelor, stimularea, dezvoltarea și protejarea economiei naționale de concurența străină, prin reglementarea și monitorizarea importurilor și menținerea balanței comerciale. Analiza și cercetarea acestei lucrări s-a bazat pe lucrările științifice naționale și internaționale, pe rapoartele Ministerului Dezvoltării Economice și Digitalizării, pe Rapoartele naționale și internaționale și datele oficiale ale Biroului Național de Statistică al Republicii Moldova.

Volumul comerțului exterior de mărfuri în prima jumătate a anului 2023, comparativ cu perioada similară a anului precedent, s-a redus cu 3,4%. Astfel, volumul comerțului exterior în perioada analizată a constituit 6413,8 milioane USD. Exporturile de mărfuri au scăzut cu 10,9% sau 249,2 milioane USD, în timp ce importurile au crescut cu 0,5%, constituind 21 milioane USD.

În ultimii ani au avut loc schimbări importante în comerțul exterior reorientându-se spre UE. Astfel, devenind principalul partener comercial al Republicii Moldova, acest lucru se datorează relațiilor internaționale, și anume procesului de cooperare și parteneriat cu Uniunea Europeană. Aceste relații au, de asemenea, un impact pozitiv asupra dezvoltării economiei naționale și joacă un rol important în consolidarea țării. În același timp, UE sprijină întreprinderile mici și mijlocii prin acordarea de sprijin financiar sub formă de granturi, împrumuturi, coaching și consultanță. Sprijinul financiar al UE este aliniat la obiectivul DCFTA și reprezintă un cadru favorabil pentru creșterea exporturilor, sporirea competitivității producătorilor autohtoni, diversificarea relațiilor cu partenerii de afaceri internaționali, creșterea productivității întreprinderilor prin eficientizarea proceselor de producție și utilizarea eficientă a resurselor naturale, îmbunătățirea managementului calității întreprinderilor prin creșterea calității produselor și serviciilor autohtone.

Cuvinte-cheie: comerțul exterior, import, export, OMC, DCFTA, bunuri și servicii, Republica Moldova

Аннотация

Данное исследование посвящено внешней торговле Республики Молдова, и его целью является анализ внешней торговли страны, выявление проблем, анализ и оценка ситуации в этой области. Торговая политика Республики Молдова является основным компонентом экономической политики страны и направлена на развитие внешнеэкономических связей, в частности, путем стимулирования экспорта, защиты национальной экономики от иностранной конкуренции, регулирования и мониторинга импорта и поддержания торгового баланса.

Анализ в данном исследовании основывался на информации из национальных и международных научных исследований, данных Национального бюро статистики Республики Молдова, данных национальных и международных Отчетов.

Объем внешней торговли товарами в первом полугодии 2023 года снизился на 3,4% по сравнению с аналогичным периодом предыдущего года. Таким образом, объем внешней торговли товарами в этот период составил 6413,8 млн долларов США. Экспорт товаров сократился на 10,9% или на 249,2 млн долларов США, а импорт увеличился на 0,5%, что составляет 21 млн долларов США. В последние годы во внешней торговле Молдовы произошли значительные изменения. Основным партнером является ЕС, что обусловлено международными отношениями, а именно процессом сотрудничества и партнерства с Европейским союзом. Эти отношения также оказывают благоприятное влияние на развитие молдавской экономики и играют важную роль в укреплении страны. В то же время ЕС поддерживает малые и средние предприятия, предоставляя им финансовую поддержку в виде грантов, кредитов, коучинга и консультативной помощи. Финансовая поддержка ЕС соответствует целям УВЗСТ и представляет собой благоприятную основу для увеличения экспорта, повышения конкурентоспособности отечественных производителей, диверсификации отношений с европейскими и международными деловыми партнерами, повышения производительности компаний за счет рационализации производственных процессов и эффективного использования природных ресурсов, улучшения управления качеством предприятий путем повышения качества отечественной продукции и услуг.

Ключевые слова: внешняя торговля, импорт, экспорт, ВТО, УВЗСТ, товары и услуги, Республика Молдова

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