

# A Strategic Economic Dialogue: Italy–Ukraine Fact Sheet

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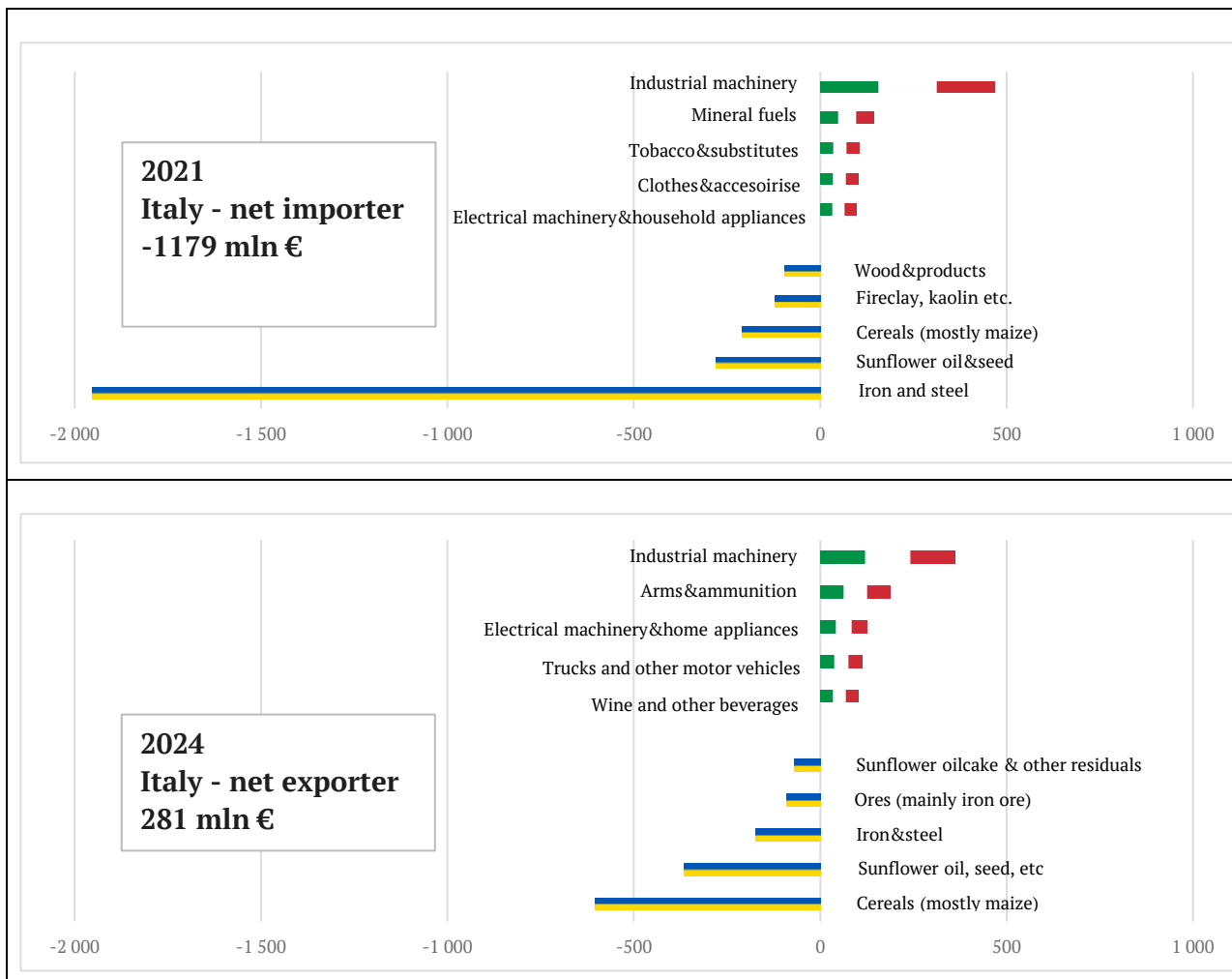
# FREE MOVEMENT OF GOODS

Italy is the 7<sup>th</sup> largest Ukraine’s export destination and 6<sup>th</sup> largest source of imported goods. Ukraine accounts for less than 0.5% of Italy's exports and imports. Ukrainian diaspora is sizeable at 1/10 of the total number of the non-EU citizens in Italy. Italian Intesa Sanpaolo owns Ukrainian PraxBank, and many Italian producers have their representative offices in Ukraine. Meanwhile, the Ukrainian Metinvest Holding owns two large Italian metallurgical plants.

Ukrainian exports to Italy traditionally were connected with supplies for [Metinvest’s Italian facilities](#) (Trametal and Ferriera Valsider). The major share of Ukrainian exports (about 60%) was represented by steel semi-finished and finished products, pipes, pig iron, iron ore. However, due to war and occupation, exports have collapsed, making Ukraine a net importer from Italy. Metinvest still [sees](#) Italy as a key industrial and logistical EU hub. Current Ukrainian exports to Italy are mostly agricultural (60% of exports in monetary terms) along with some iron & steel products (less than 15% of exports in monetary terms).

For example, 10% of corn exports go to Italy, covering 27% of Italy’s corn imports – along with some metal products and iron ore. Italy supplies 5% of Ukraine’s tobacco market and is a growing defence supplier (9% of Italian exports). Italian industrial machinery makes up 6% of Ukraine’s imports in that category, but Ukraine is just 0.3% of Italy’s machinery exports.

Figure 1. Trade balance in goods between Italy and Ukraine by product group (€ mln)

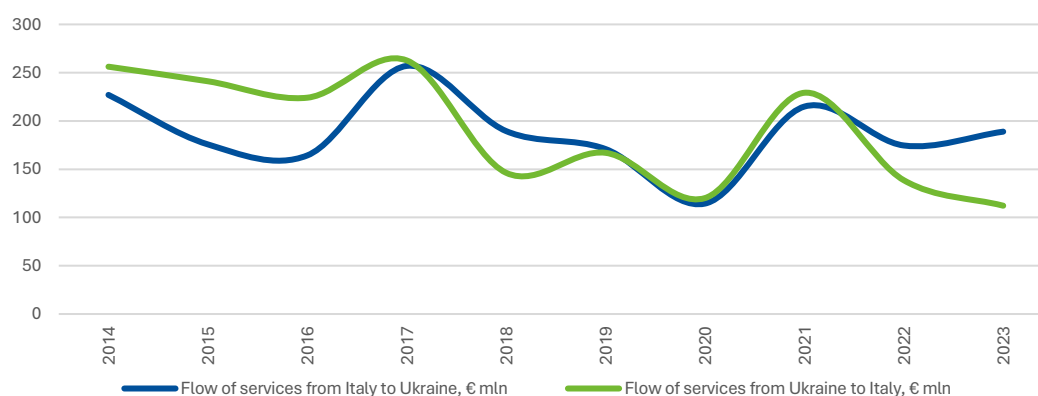


Source: [ITC Trademap](#)

## FREE MOVEMENT OF SERVICES

Italy–Ukraine trade in services has remained modest in scale but shows a notable asymmetry in Italy’s favour. Italy is [among the top 10 Ukrainian service trade partners](#), while Ukraine occupies less than 0.5% of Italy’s extra-EU imports of services and is not even in the top 40 partners list. Italy has recorded a growing positive balance since 2022, reaching €76.7 million in 2023.

Figure 2. International trade in services between Italy and Ukraine, EUR mln



Source: CES calculations and visualisation based on Eurostat, International trade in services (since 2010)

## FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS

Before the war, Italy had the EU’s second-largest Ukrainian-born community ([223 thousand residents](#)). Following the full-scale invasion, [167 thousand Ukrainians received temporary protection](#). By May 2025, app. 390 thousand Ukrainians lived legally in Italy, making up [10.3% of all the third largest non-EU community residents](#). They show [higher employment rates](#) than other non-EU nationals (with [66% of Ukrainian refugees employed, 80% holding higher education, and 50% able to afford good living conditions](#)). Most are women working in the personal care sector. Italy has also been a key source of remittances to Ukraine ([10.2% in 2024](#)). In contrast, Italian community in Ukraine is rather small – [1,322 people](#) in 2022.

## FREE MOVEMENT OF CAPITAL

Ukrainian investments in Italy include two Metinvest Group steel plants and Vesco Clay Italy. Italy’s fresh equity investments into Ukraine during the war [totaled](#) EUR 30 mln<sup>1</sup>, or less than 2% of the total amount. However, Italian private sector has been historically active in Ukraine, with 79 Ukrainian companies (total revenue over EUR 1 billion) linked to Italy<sup>2</sup> (mainly trade reps), and Ukrainian Pravex Bank [owned](#) by the Italian Intesa Sanpaolo.

<sup>1</sup> Data might be incomplete, as businesses often structure ownership via foreign jurisdictions, incl. offshore or low+tax

<sup>2</sup> Youcontrol Market data

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*The Centre for Economic Strategy (CES) is an independent centre for state policy research. CES is tasked with supporting reforms in Ukraine to achieve sustainable economic growth in the country. The Centre contributes to the development of Ukraine's economic growth strategy, analyses the most important aspects of public policies, and works to strengthen public support for reforms. It was founded in May 2015.*

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