

Ukraine & Netherlands economic dialogue



~6th

The NL is one of Ukraine's key EU economic partners: ~6th largest export destination in 2024



Gateway to EU markets: Dutch ports, finance and trading networks connect Ukrainian exports to global markets

≈€11 bn

Largest EU investor in UA: Dutch FDI stock ≈€11 bn (~20% of total FDI), primarily reflecting financial structuring rather than capital origin

> 130k

Growing Ukrainian community: over 130k people under temporary protection, strengthening labour and business ties

Centre for Economic Strategy (CES), an independent Ukrainian think tank that analyzes key public policies and promotes support for reforms.

With donor support, CES has launched a series of studies on trade relations between Ukraine and the European Union countries.

Find more:



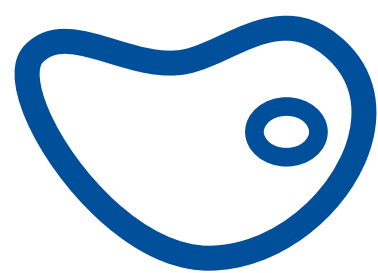
Free movements of goods and services



The NL runs a persistent goods trade deficit with UA (~€800 mln in 2021, ~€680 mln in 2024). Strong asymmetry in NL–UA goods trade in UA’s favour, driven by the NL’s transit hub role



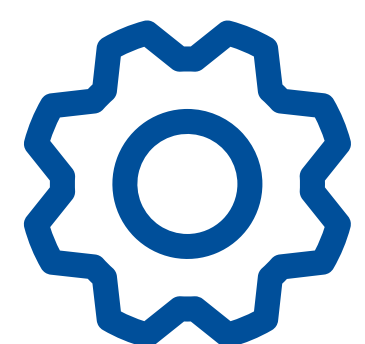
Pre-war: UA exports were led by oilseeds, vegetable oils and cereals, linking UA agriculture to the NL feed and food-processing chains



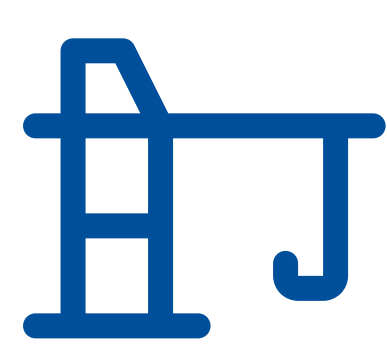
By 2024, UA exports became more concentrated in feed-chain commodities, with rising meat exports and iron & steel dropping out



Pre-war: Dutch exports were mainly industrial goods, led by machinery, pharmaceuticals, vehicles, and electrical equipment



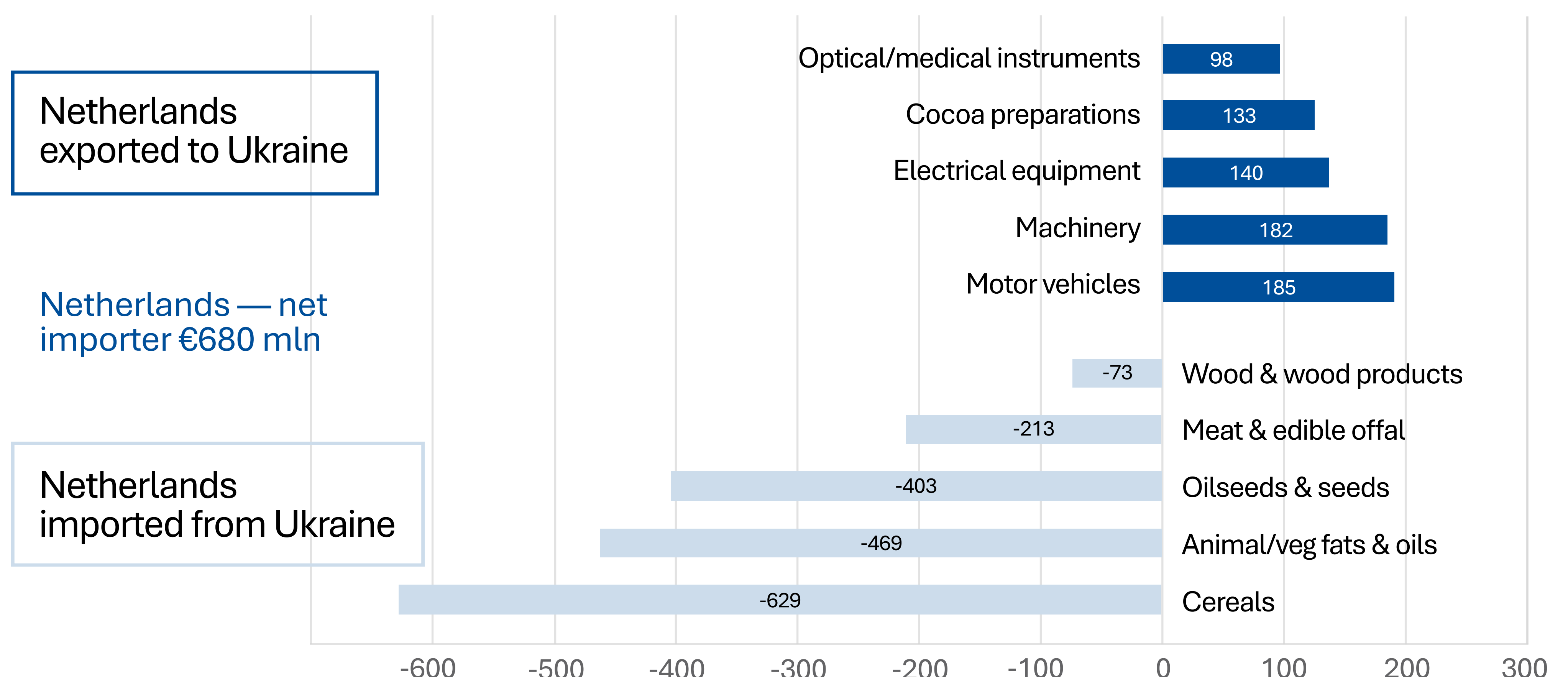
Dutch exports stayed industrial in 2024, with a shift toward vehicles, machinery, electrical and medical equipment



The NL runs a surplus in services trade with UA, with wartime logistics, travel related to displacement, and reconstruction-linked services becoming the main drivers

Trade Balance UA-NL 2024

Top 5 goods in NL–UA bilateral trade in 2024, EUR mln



Free movement of persons and capital

Pre war:

~21k

Ukrainians lived in the NL

~60% of working-age Ukrainians employed; many in services, logistics, trade and hospitality

Post-2022:

+ ~133k

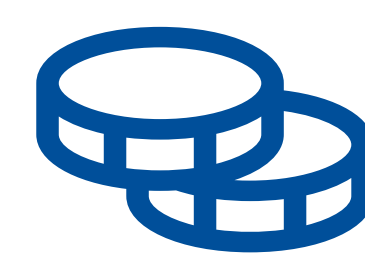
Ukrainians under temporary protection

➤ NL FDI in UA (2024): \$10.9 bn (~20% of total FDI), among the largest EU investors

➤ Dutch FDI largely reflects holding structures but remains economically significant as a hub for capital and finance

1277

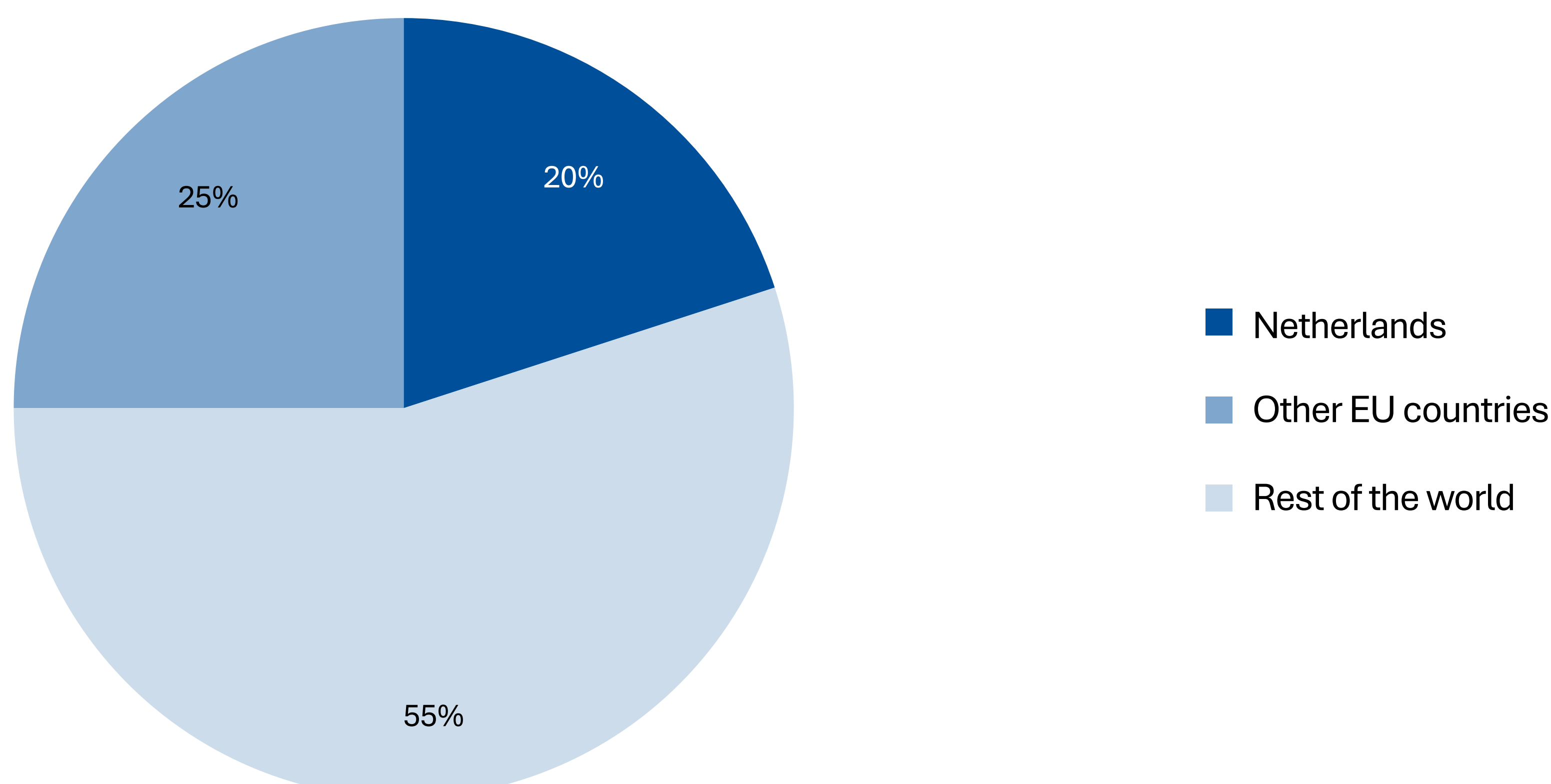
NL-linked firms operate in Ukraine, mainly in trade, manufacturing, ICT, energy and logistics



UA investment in NL: companies like Astarta and Metinvest use NL holding structures for international financing operations

➤ Emerging platforms (e.g. Dutch Defence Cluster) signalling potential for future industrial expansion

Share of the NL in UA's total FDI stock, 2024 (%)



Tighter co-operation potential

- ✔ Prioritise export-supporting logistics and storage to improve the reliability of UA's deliveries into Dutch and wider EU value chains.
- ✔ Expand agri-food processing and supply-chain upgrades (processing, traceability, certification) around existing grain and oilseed trade flows.
- ✔ Scale project-linked business services (engineering, project management, procurement, legal/compliance, logistics coordination, digital support) tied to concrete reconstruction projects.
- ✔ Use de-risking and project support instruments to lower entry barriers and move from first contracts to repeat cooperation as rules and predictability improve.

Interesting fact

In 2025, the NL became the first NATO ally to use the Alliance's new Prioritised Ukraine Requirements List (PURL) mechanism, committing €500 mln to finance U.S.-supplied weapons for Ukraine, including air-defence systems and ammunition.

