**COUNTRY PROFILE REPORT OF ITJ DIVISION, DGCI&S**
**INDIA-BELGIUM BILATERAL TRADE RELATIONS**

## INTRODUCTION & BRIEF ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

1. The Kingdom of Belgium lies in north Western Europe, bounded to the north by the Netherlands, to the east by Luxembourg and Germany, to the south by France, and to the west by the North Sea. Belgium is a member of major international bodies viz. UN, WTO, NATO, BIS, OECD, EU, Council of Europe, WEU, OSCE, CERN. This report emphasises on India-Belgium bilateral trade relations, inter-alia. As per available data from DGCI&S database India and Belgium have noticeable bilateral trade relations. It has been observed that India's total import value with Belgium has been 1.07% of India's imports in FY 2023-24 and Belgium ranked 23rd as an import partner.

2. Belgium's strongly globalized economy and its transport infrastructure are integrated with the rest of Europe. Its location at the heart of a highly industrialized region helped make it the world's 15th largest trading nation in 2007. As per available report of IMF Executive Board Consultation with Belgium in March 20, 2025, The Belgian economy was resilient to a series of shocks, but growth has been slowing, and core inflation remains persistent. Labour productivity growth remained sluggish, and labour-cost competitiveness has declined. Successive shocks has increased structural fiscal deficits and public debt. Risks arising from deepening geo economic fragmentation and intensification of regional conflicts affecting energy, trade and financial spill overs could worsen the outlook.

**A snapshot of Belgium's selected economic indicators is as under.**

**TABLE- 1**

| Belgium: Selected Economic Indicators, 2022–30 | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Projections | | | | | | |
| | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
| | (Percent change, unless otherwise indicated) | | | | | | | | |
| **Real economy** | | | | | | | | | |
| Real GDP 1/ | 4.2 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| Domestic demand | 4.2 | 1.8 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 1.5 |
| Private consumption | 3.6 | 0.6 | 1.8 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.1 |
| Public consumption | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 1.4 | 1.9 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 |
| Gross fixed investment | 1.7 | 3.5 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 2.0 |
| Stock building 2/ | 1.1 | -0.1 | -1.0 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Foreign balance 2/ | 0.1 | -0.5 | 0.1 | -0.3 | -0.4 | -0.2 | -0.2 | -0.1 | -0.1 |
| Exports, goods and services | 5.8 | -7.1 | -4.0 | 0.0 | 2.6 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.1 |
| Imports, goods and services | 5.8 | -6.8 | -4.2 | 0.4 | 3.3 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.3 | 3.3 |
| Household saving ratio | 12.7 | 14.1 | 13.6 | 13.7 | 13.7 | 13.7 | 13.8 | 14.0 | 14.3 |
| Potential output growth | 2.0 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| Potential output growth | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.3 |
| per working age person | | | | | | | | | |
| Output gap (in percent) | 1.6 | 1.0 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | -0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Employment** | | | | | | | | | |
| Unemployment rate (in percent) | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5.5 | 5.6 | 5.7 | 5.8 |
| Employment growth | 1.9 | 0.8 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.4 |
| **Prices** | | | | | | | | | |
| Consumer prices (HICP) | 10.3 | 2.3 | 4.3 | 3.5 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 1.9 |
| Core CPI (HICP) | 4.0 | 6.0 | 3.4 | 3.0 | 2.6 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 1.9 | 1.9 |
| GDP deflator | 6.8 | 4.5 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.6 |
| | (Percent of GDP; unless otherwise indicated) | | | | | | | | |
| **Public finance** | | | | | | | | | |
| Revenue | 48.6 | 49.1 | 49.6 | 49.5 | 49.5 | 49.5 | 49.5 | 49.6 | 49.7 |
| Expenditure | 52.2 | 53.3 | 54.0 | 54.3 | 55.0 | 55.3 | 55.7 | 56.3 | 56.9 |
| General government balance | -3.6 | -4.2 | -4.4 | -4.8 | -5.5 | -5.8 | -6.2 | -6.7 | -7.2 |
| Structural balance | -4.3 | -4.4 | -4.5 | -4.8 | -5.5 | -5.8 | -6.1 | -6.8 | -7.2 |
| Structural balance (excl. Covid measures) | -3.7 | -4.3 | -4.4 | -4.8 | -5.5 | -5.8 | -6.1 | -6.8 | -7.2 |
| Structural primary balance | -2.7 | -2.4 | -2.2 | -2.5 | -3.0 | -3.0 | -3.2 | -3.5 | -3.7 |
| Primary balance | -2.0 | -2.2 | -2.2 | -2.4 | -3.0 | -3.0 | -3.3 | -3.4 | -3.7 |
| General government debt | 102.6 | 103.1 | 104.1 | 105.4 | 108.6 | 111.9 | 115.2 | 118.9 | 123.0 |
| **External Sector** | | | | | | | | | |
| Goods and services balance | -1.5 | -0.6 | -0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.7 |
| Current account | -1.3 | -0.7 | -0.3 | -0.3 | -0.3 | -0.3 | -0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| **Exchange rates** | | | | | | | | | |
| Euro per U.S. dollar, period average | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | … | … | … | … | … | … |
| NEER, ULC-styled (2005=100) | 96.3 | 97.6 | 97.8 | … | … | … | … | … | … |
| REER, ULC-based (2005=100) | 99.7 | 103.8 | 105.5 | … | … | … | … | … | … |
| **Memorandum items** | | | | | | | | | |
| Gross national savings (in percent of GDP) | 25.6 | 24.6 | 23.8 | 23.9 | 23.9 | 23.9 | 24.1 | 24.3 | 24.5 |
| Gross national investment | 26.9 | 25.3 | 24.1 | 24.2 | 24.3 | 24.3 | 24.2 | 24.2 | 24.3 |
| (in percent of GDP) | | | | | | | | | |
| Nominal GDP (in billions of euros) | 563.5 | 596.3 | 618.6 | 640.9 | 658.7 | 677.3 | 697.8 | 718.4 | 739.8 |
| Population (in millions) | 11.6 | 11.7 | 11.8 | 11.8 | 11.9 | 11.9 | 11.9 | 12.0 | 12.0 |

Sources: Haver Analytics, Belgian authorities, and IMF staff projections.
1/ Based on national accounts data available as of January 29, 2025.
2/ Contribution to GDP growth.

## FOREIGN TRADE

3. As per recent available inputs on WITS (World Integrated Trade Solution), the five major merchandise export partners of Belgium are Germany, Netherlands, France, United States and United

Kingdom. On the other hand five major import partners of Belgium are Netherlands, Germany, France, United Kingdom and United States. Major five exported goods of Belgium are (i) Natural gas in gaseous state, (ii) Vaccines for human medicine, (iii) Petroleum oils, etc, (excl. crude); preparation (iv) Other medicaments of mixed or unmixed products and (v) Automobiles nes including gas turbine powered. On the other hand major five imported goods of Belgium are (i) Natural gas in gaseous state, (ii) Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous, (iii) Petroleum oils, etc, (excl. crude); preparation, (iv) Other medicaments of mixed or unmixed products and (v) Automobiles nes including gas turbine powered.

4. Belgium's total exports globally in 2020 were of the order of USD 295,144 million. It was USD 377,265 million in 2024. Exports from Belgium increased by 30.78% in the year 2021 just after the initial serious impact of Covid-19 pandemic but in the year 2023 there was a downfall of 15.23% in comparison to 2022. During the period from 2020 to 2024, the annual average compound rate of growth of exports was 6.33%.

5. Belgium's total imports from the world in 2020 were of the order of USD 294,247 million and was USD 366,891 million in 2024. During the period from 2020 to 2024, the annual average compound rate of growth of imports was 5.67%.

6. Belgium runs an overall Balance of Trade deficit from 2021 to 2023, which declined up to USD 21,979 million in 2023 but in the year 2020 and 2024 it was surplus balance of trade. During the period from 2020 to 2024, the annual average compound rate of growth of total volume of trade was 6.00%.

A snapshot of Belgium's overall Trade Statistics is presented in **Table 2 and Figure 1 below.**

**TABLE - 2**

**BELGIUM'S TOTAL EXPORTS AND IMPORTS, VOLUME OF TRADE AND BALANCE OF TRADE BETWEEN 2020 TO 2024**

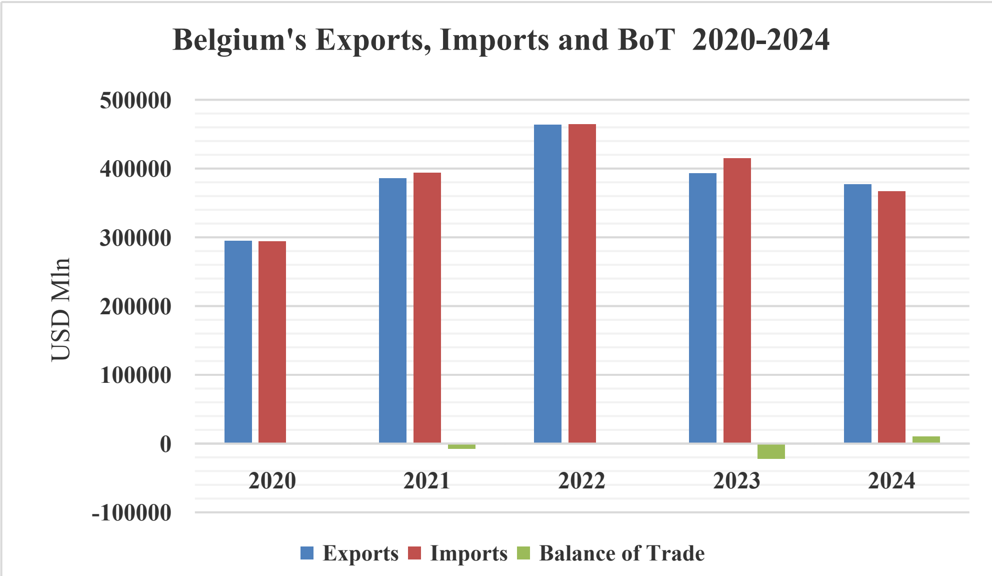
**(Figures in USD Million)**

| Year | Exports | Percentage Growth in Exports | Imports | Percentage Growth in Imports | Volume of Trade | Percentage Growth in Vol. of Trade | Balance of Trade |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2020 | 295144 | | 294247 | | 5,89,391 | | 897 |
| 2021 | 385980 | 30.78 | 393948 | 33.88 | 7,79,928 | 32.33 | -7968 |
| 2022 | 463782 | 20.16 | 464277 | 17.85 | 9,28,059 | 18.99 | -495 |
| 2023 | 393158 | -15.23 | 415137 | -10.58 | 8,08,295 | -12.90 | -21979 |
| 2024 | 377265 | -4.04 | 366891 | -11.62 | 7,44,156 | -7.94 | 10374 |
| **Annual Compound Growth Rate** | | **6.33** | | **5.67** | | **6.00** | |

**NOTE : Figures relate to calendar year (January to December)**

SOURCE : UN COMTRADE PUBLICATION

FIGURE - 1




## BILATERAL TRADE WITH INDIA

### Merchandise Trade

7. Belgium was among the first European countries to establish diplomatic relations with independent India in September 1947. Our close bilateral relationship is based on shared commonalities and commitment to the rule of law, federalism and pluralism. Belgium supports India's aspiration for permanent membership of the UNSC. Belgium ranked 17th as an export destination of India in FY 2024-25. India exported to Belgium almost 1.44 % of its total export value in FY 2024-25. In the same financial year imports from Belgium was 0.96% of India's total import value. Belgium was the 28th largest import partner of India in FY 2024-25. Almost 0.98% of India's total international trade value of goods was between India and Belgium as has been recorded in DGCI&S database for FY 2024-25.

8. Indo-Belgium total volume of bilateral trade in FY 2020-21 was of the order of USD 12,176.43 million. It was USD 13,198.04 million in FY 2024-25. The annual compound growth rate of total volume comprising both exports and imports during the period from 2020-21 to 2024-25 had been of the order of 2.03% , however in 2021-22 total volume of trade was highest at USD 20036.18 million.

9. It is seen from the available figures that between 2020-21 and 2024-25, India had a deficit Balance of Trade with Belgium except in the FY 2021-22 and FY 2023-24. Exports from India to Belgium increased steeply by 92.61% in FY 2021-22. The annual average compound rate of growth of Exports was 4.82% during the period under review. On the other hand, imports from Belgium to India increased by 43.38% in FY 2021-22 just after the pandemic hit year. During the period from 2020-21 to 2024-25, the annual average compound rate of growth of imports was negative at -0.23%.

A snapshot of India's merchandise trade statistics w.r.t. Belgium is presented in Table 3 & Figure 2.

**TABLE - 3**

**INDIA'S MERCHANDISE EXPORTS & IMPORTS w.r.t. BELGIUM**
**From FY 2020-21 to 2024-25**

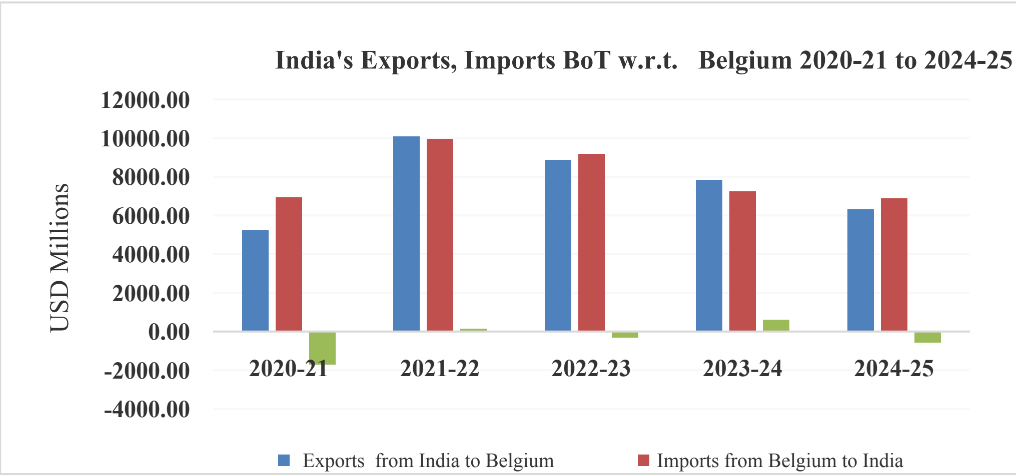
**(Value in USD Million)**

| Year | Exports from India to Belgium | Percentage Growth in Exports | Imports from Belgium to India | Percentage Growth in Imports | Volume of Trade | Percentage Growth in Vol. of Trade | Balance of Trade |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2020-21 | 5235.75 | | 6940.68 | | 12176.43 | | -1704.93 |
| 2021-22 | 10084.53 | 92.61 | 9951.65 | 43.38 | 20036.18 | 64.55 | 132.88 |
| 2022-23 | 8864.20 | -12.10 | 9177.67 | -7.78 | 18041.87 | -9.95 | -313.47 |
| 2023-24 | 7839.20 | -11.56 | 7240.21 | -21.11 | 15079.41 | -16.42 | 598.99 |
| 2024-25 | 6320.10 | -19.38 | 6877.94 | -5.00 | 13198.04 | -12.48 | -557.84 |
| **Annual Compound Growth Rate** | | **4.82** | | **-0.23** | | **2.03** | |

**NOTE : Figures relate to Financial Year (April to March)**

**SOURCE : DGCI&S, M/o C&I**

**FIGURE-2**




10. Additionally, **from Tables 4 & 5 presented** below the following are stated:

**a.** **Pearl, Precs. Semi precs. Stones**, **Iron and Steel and Tobacco Unmanufactured** occupied the top three slots in India's exports to Belgium in the year 2024-25. **Pearl, Precs. Semi precs. Stones** occupied the bulk 24.26% share of India's total exports to Belgium.

b. **Pearl, Precs. Semi-precs. Stones**; **Plastic Raw Materials** and **Indl. Machinery For Dairy Etc.** were the three major commodities in India's imports list from Belgium in the year 2024-25, India had imported a significant amount of **Pearl, Precs. Semi precs. Stones** from Belgium with a share of 28.93% of total imports from Belgium recorded in 2024-25. For both exports and imports, **Pearl, Precs. Semi-precs Stones** occupied the top slot and detailed item-wise analysis may provide more insightful facts.

## TABLE -4

### INDIA'S MAJOR ITEMS OF MERCHANDISE EXPORTS TO BELGIUM 2020-21 TO 2024-25 AND THEIR GROWTH RATES

**(Value in USD Million)**

| Sl. No. | Name of the Merchandise Commodities | Value of Exports | | | | | Annual Growth Rates | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 21-22 over 2020-21 | 22-23 over 2021-22 | 23-24 over 2022-23 | 24-25 over 2023-24 |
| 1 | **Pearl, Precs. Semi-precs Stones** | **1296.47** | **2662.56** | **2620.08** | **2027.22** | **1533.05** | **105.37** | **-1.60** | **-22.63** | **-24.38** |
| | Share in total export | 24.76 | 26.40 | 29.56 | 25.86 | 24.26 | | | | |
| 2 | **Iron and Steel** | **453.46** | **1522.17** | **769.98** | **764.79** | **520.20** | **235.68** | **-49.42** | **-0.67** | **-31.98** |
| | Share in total export | 8.66 | 15.09 | 8.69 | 9.76 | 8.23 | | | | |
| 3 | **Tobacco Unmanufactured** | **153.38** | **164.82** | **243.29** | **269.21** | **341.01** | **7.46** | **47.61** | **10.65** | **26.67** |
| | Share in total export | 2.93 | 1.63 | 2.74 | 3.43 | 5.40 | | | | |
| 4 | **Drugs, Formulations, Biologicals** | **259.80** | **326.43** | **605.87** | **351.30** | **340.09** | **25.65** | **85.60** | **-42.02** | **-3.19** |
| | Share in total export | 4.96 | 3.24 | 6.84 | 4.48 | 5.38 | | | | |
| 5 | **Petroleum Products** | **589.01** | **1925.48** | **718.08** | **1106.28** | **315.00** | **226.90** | **-62.71** | **54.06** | **-71.53** |
| | Share in total export | 11.25 | 19.09 | 8.10 | 14.11 | 4.98 | | | | |
| 6 | **Organic Chemicals** | **264.08** | **603.28** | **502.32** | **322.00** | **299.48** | **128.45** | **-16.74** | **-35.90** | **-6.99** |
| | Share in total export | 5.04 | 5.98 | 5.67 | 4.11 | 4.74 | | | | |
| 7 | **Marine Products** | **119.11** | **157.42** | **210.98** | **179.55** | **225.34** | **32.16** | **34.02** | **-14.90** | **25.50** |
| | Share in total export | 2.27 | 1.56 | 2.38 | 2.29 | 3.57 | | | | |
| 8 | **Residual Chemical And Allied Prods.** | **154.58** | **181.90** | **379.37** | **188.18** | **194.74** | **17.67** | **108.56** | **-50.40** | **3.49** |
| | Share in total export | 2.95 | 1.80 | 4.28 | 2.40 | 3.08 | | | | |
| 9 | **Electronic Machinery And Equipments** | **78.31** | **70.72** | **100.98** | **178.46** | **184.15** | **-9.69** | **42.79** | **76.73** | **3.19** |
| | Share in total export | 1.50 | 0.70 | 1.14 | 2.28 | 2.91 | | | | |
| 10 | **Bulk Drugs, Drugs Intermediates** | **100.30** | **113.91** | **95.13** | **202.20** | **174.51** | **13.57** | **-16.49** | **112.55** | **-13.69** |
| | Share in total export | 1.92 | 1.13 | 1.07 | 2.58 | 2.76 | | | | |
| | **Total exports to BELGIUM** | **5235.75** | **10084.53** | **8864.20** | **7839.20** | **6320.10** | **92.61** | **-12.10** | **-11.56** | **-19.38** |

NOTE : Figures relate to each Financial Year (April to March)
SOURCE : DGCI&S, M/o C&I

## TABLE -5

## INDIA'S MAJOR ITEMS OF MERCHANDISE IMPORTS FROM BELGIUM 2020-21 TO 2024-25 AND THEIR GROWTH RATES

(Value in USD Million)

| Sl. No. | Name of the Merchandise Commodities | Value of Import | | | | | Annual Growth Rates | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 21-22 over 2020-21 | 22-23 over 2021-22 | 23-24 over 2022-23 | 24-25 over 2023-24 |
| 1 | **Pearl, Precs Semi precs. Stones** | **3500.52** | **5788.50** | **4708.64** | **2789.78** | **1989.63** | **65.36** | **-18.66** | **-40.75** | **-28.68** |
| | Share in total import | 50.43 | 58.17 | 51.31 | 38.53 | 28.93 | | | | |
| 2 | **Plastic Raw Materials** | **287.67** | **414.34** | **429.19** | **358.62** | **441.91** | **44.03** | **3.58** | **-16.44** | **23.23** |
| | Share in total import | 4.14 | 4.16 | 4.68 | 4.95 | 6.43 | | | | |
| 3 | **Indl. Machinery For Dairy Etc.** | **219.57** | **247.68** | **382.74** | **500.55** | **377.67** | **12.80** | **54.53** | **30.78** | **-24.55** |
| | Share in total import | 3.16 | 2.49 | 4.17 | 6.91 | 5.49 | | | | |
| 4 | **Residual Chemical And Allied Products** | **218.79** | **270.06** | **303.90** | **259.85** | **294.62** | **23.43** | **12.53** | **-14.49** | **13.38** |
| | Share in total import | 3.15 | 2.71 | 3.31 | 3.59 | 4.28 | | | | |
| 5 | **Medical And Scientific Instruments** | **117.26** | **177.64** | **200.27** | **221.49** | **226.24** | **51.49** | **12.74** | **10.60** | **2.14** |
| | Share in total import | 1.69 | 1.79 | 2.18 | 3.06 | 3.29 | | | | |
| 6 | **Organic Chemicals** | **302.79** | **281.92** | **211.97** | **203.64** | **206.20** | **-6.89** | **-24.81** | **-3.93** | **1.26** |
| | Share in total import | 4.36 | 2.83 | 2.31 | 2.81 | 3.00 | | | | |
| 7 | **Petroleum Products** | **138.00** | **201.87** | **200.03** | **134.73** | **181.28** | **46.28** | **-0.91** | **-32.65** | **34.55** |
| | Share in total import | 1.99 | 2.03 | 2.18 | 1.86 | 2.64 | | | | |
| 8 | **Drugs, Formulations Biologicals** | **318.91** | **390.10** | **292.14** | **169.57** | **178.85** | **22.32** | **-25.11** | **-41.96** | **5.47** |
| | Share in total import | 4.59 | 3.92 | 3.18 | 2.34 | 2.60 | | | | |
| 9 | **Iron And Steel** | **239.72** | **244.68** | **302.49** | **319.15** | **172.47** | **2.07** | **23.63** | **5.51** | **-45.96** |
| | Share in total import | 3.45 | 2.46 | 3.30 | 4.41 | 2.51 | | | | |
| 10 | **Electric Machinery And Equipments** | **102.98** | **222.30** | **203.72** | **192.18** | **165.44** | **115.87** | **-8.36** | **-5.66** | **-13.91** |
| | Share in total import | 1.48 | 2.23 | 2.22 | 2.65 | 2.41 | | | | |
| | **Total import from BELGIUM** | **6940.68** | **9951.65** | **9177.67** | **7240.21** | **6877.94** | **43.38** | **-7.78** | **-21.11** | **-5.00** |

**NOTE : Figures relate to each Financial Year (April to March)**
**SOURCE : DGCI&S, M/o C&I**