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EU spirits and liqueur exports to non-EU markets rose 12% through September

The European Commission reported exports were up 725 million euros from a year earlier, without data on shipment volumes

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European Union exports of spirits and liqueurs to countries outside the bloc rose by 725 million euros in January through September from the same period in 2025, a 12% increase, according to a European Commission trade update released Tuesday,

November 24.

The figures came from the Commission’s Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, known as DG AGRI, which tracks EU farm and food trade and reports spirits and liqueurs as a separate category. The Commission is the European Union’s executive arm.

The increase points to stronger foreign sales revenue for European distillers over the first nine months of the year. But the published data measured only export value, not shipment volumes. That means the Commission’s release does not show how much of the increase came from higher quantities, higher prices, changes in product mix, currency effects or a combination of those factors.

The statement also did not give the total value of EU exports for spirits and liqueurs in January through September. It reported only the year-over-year increase of 725 million euros and the 12% growth rate. The material reviewed did not include a specific month-by-month comparison for September.

The Commission’s update referred to exports to third countries, meaning markets outside the European Union. It did not identify which non-EU destinations drove the gain. It also did not break the category into smaller segments, so the published figures do not show whether the growth was led by one type of spirit, several product lines or a broad increase across the category.

That leaves an incomplete picture of what changed in the market, even though the direction of trade was clear. A rise in export value can reflect stronger demand, but it can also come from higher selling prices or a shift toward more expensive products. Without volume data, the Commission’s figures cannot distinguish between those possibilities.

The update nonetheless offered a positive signal for producers that depend on overseas markets. Spirits and liqueurs are sold across a wide range of price points, from large-volume brands to premium products, and value changes can matter even when underlying shipment trends are less clear. In this case, the Commission’s release showed that exporters in the category brought in more revenue from non-EU buyers

than they did a year earlier.

DG AGRI regularly publishes trade monitoring on the EU’s farm and food sectors, and those reports are often used by companies, trade groups and policymakers to track changes in external demand. In the latest release, the separate reporting of spirits and liqueurs stood out because it showed a clear improvement in one of the bloc’s branded food and drink categories at a time when the Commission’s short statement provided only limited detail on the reasons behind the move.

Because the published material did not break down destinations, it remains unclear whether the increase was concentrated in a few large markets or spread more widely. The release also did not show whether the gain built steadily through the year or came from stronger results in specific months. What it did establish was that, by the end of September, EU exports of spirits and liqueurs to markets outside the bloc were running well above their level a year earlier.