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EU wine trade surplus rose to 11.095 billion euros despite flat exports

The bloc sold 12.13 billion euros of wine to non-EU markets through September, with imports falling to 1.035 billion euros

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The European Union sold wine and wine-based products worth 12.13 billion euros to non-EU countries between January and September 2026, almost unchanged from the same period in 2025, while the sector’s trade surplus increased because imports fell

faster than exports.

The figures came from the European Commission’s agri-food trade report, published Tuesday, November 24, with data from Eurostat. The report showed that export value slipped by just 25 million euros, or 0.2%, from the first nine months of 2025. Even with that small decline, the wine sector’s trade surplus rose to 11.095 billion euros.

The improvement came from the import side of the ledger. The value of wine and wine-based products entering the EU fell to 1.035 billion euros in the January-to-September period, down from about 1.1 billion euros a year earlier. That larger drop in imports more than offset the slight decline in exports, lifting the sector’s trade balance by 42 million euros, according to the Commission.

The latest numbers marked a slower rate of decline than the bloc recorded over all of 2025. In the full 2025 calendar year, EU exports of wine and wine-based products fell from 17.456 billion euros to 16.492 billion euros, a loss of 964 million euros, or 5.5%. By contrast, the comparison between January through September 2025 and the same months of 2026 showed a much smaller fall of 0.2%.

Despite the slight drop in export value, wine remained one of the EU’s largest agri-food export categories. The Commission’s report ranked wine and wine-based products third among the bloc’s agri-food exports to non-EU markets. The category accounted for nearly 6.8% of the EU’s agri-food export earnings during the period.

Its role in the trade balance was even larger. The 11.095 billion euro surplus represented 28% of the EU’s total agri-food trade surplus with non-EU countries, the report said. Measured another way, the bloc exported 11.7 euros worth of wine and wine-based products for every euro it spent importing them.

In the United States, wine kept its position as the leading agri-food product the EU sold into that market. The Commission’s report also included a figure for volume that it did not provide for exports to all destinations combined. Through September, U.S. buyers received the same volume of EU wine as they did in the first nine months of 2025.

Brussels did not publish the value of those wine exports to the United States in the report, which means the steady volume does not show whether exporters earned more or less from that market than they did a year earlier. The data only indicate that the quantity shipped held steady, while wine continued to lead EU agri-food sales to the United States.