



Research and Statistics Department

Libya's Foreign Trade

During (2019 – 2022)



A Brief Summary of Foreign Trade

During (2019 – 2022)

The foreign trade sector is of great importance for both developed and developing economies, as it is the best approach to exploit the available economic resources and to provide the operating requirements necessary for the production process and capital flows.

During (2019-2022), the foreign trade sector in Libya witnessed fluctuations due to the political conditions and the state of political division, the frequent suspension of the production and export of crude oil, and due to the conditions that the global economy went through as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and its adverse effects on the supplies and prices of commodities, which had a direct impact on the volume of trade exchange of Libya with the rest of the world.

The following is an analysis of the most important indicators of foreign trade for the Libyan economy during the period 2019 – 2022:

First: the volume of trade exchange:

The volume of trade exchange (exports + imports) between Libya and the outside world during the period (2019-2022) recorded an average increase of about 24.1%. This was due to the exports' growth, which averaged 48.6%, where the volume of trade exchange for the year 2022 increased by 19.1% compared to the year 2021, which was due to the increase in oil exports because of the stability in production and export of crude oil.

To determine the importance of foreign trade in the local economy, the ratio of the volume of foreign trade (exports + imports) to GDP (the degree of external exposure) showed a continued exposure of the national economy to the outside world, as it recorded an increase in 2019 by 60.6%. While the degree of exposure decreased in

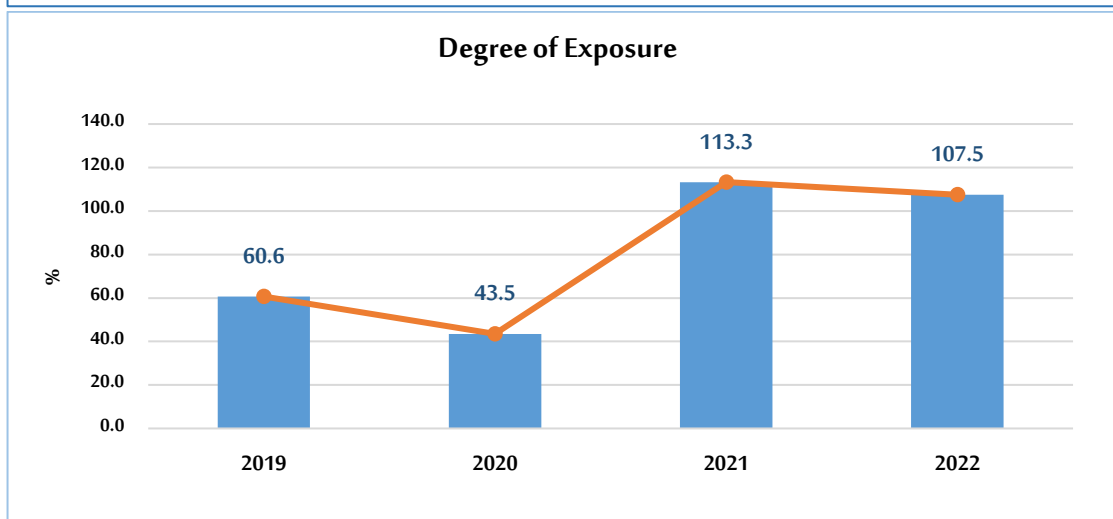
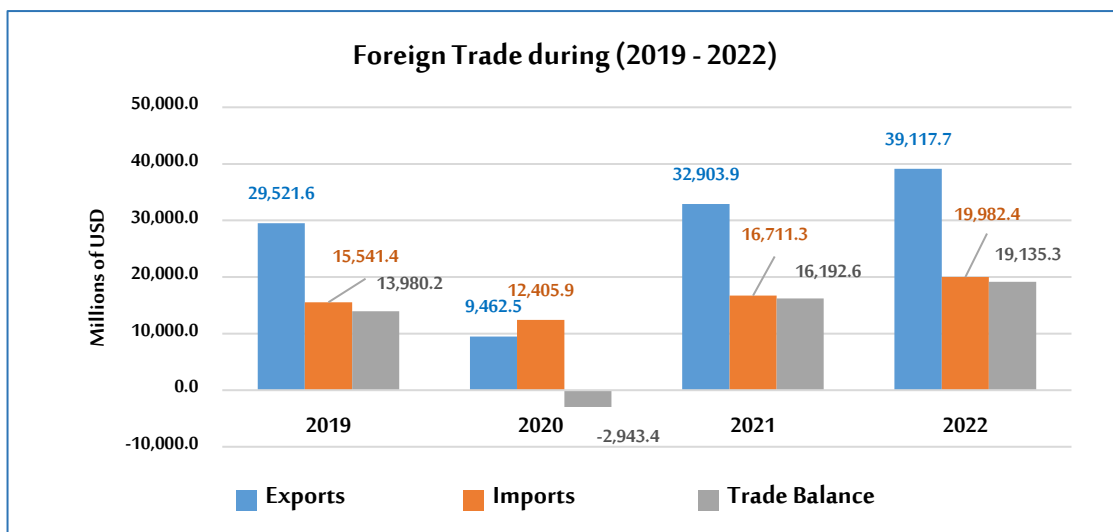
2020 to 43.5%, then increased to 113.3% in 2021, and then decreased to 107.5% in 2022, which indicates that the national economy is greatly affected by changes and external conditions.

Foreign Trade Volume during (2019 – 2022)

" Millions of USD "

Item	2019	2020	2021	2022
Exports	29,521.6	9,462.5	32,903.9	39,117.7
Imports	15,541.4	12,405.9	16,711.3	19,982.4
Trade Balance	13,980.2	-2,943.4	16,192.6	19,135.3
Foreign Trade Volume	45,063.0	21,868.4	49,615.2	59,100.1
Gross Domestic Product (GDP	74,415.0	50,310.0	43,800.0	55,000.0
Degree of Exposure (%)	60.6	43.5	113.3	107.5

*Source: Trade Statistics for International Business Development (Map Trade).



Second: Exports:

The Libyan economy relies heavily on the hydrocarbon sector as a primary source of income, such source is regarded as a depleted natural resource, this source of income is affected by the conditions of the global oil markets, where oil exports constitute more than 90.0% of the total exports, which made the national economy continuously vulnerable to strong shocks as a result of the sudden and significant changes in the oil sector locally and internationally.

Geographical Distribution of Exports:

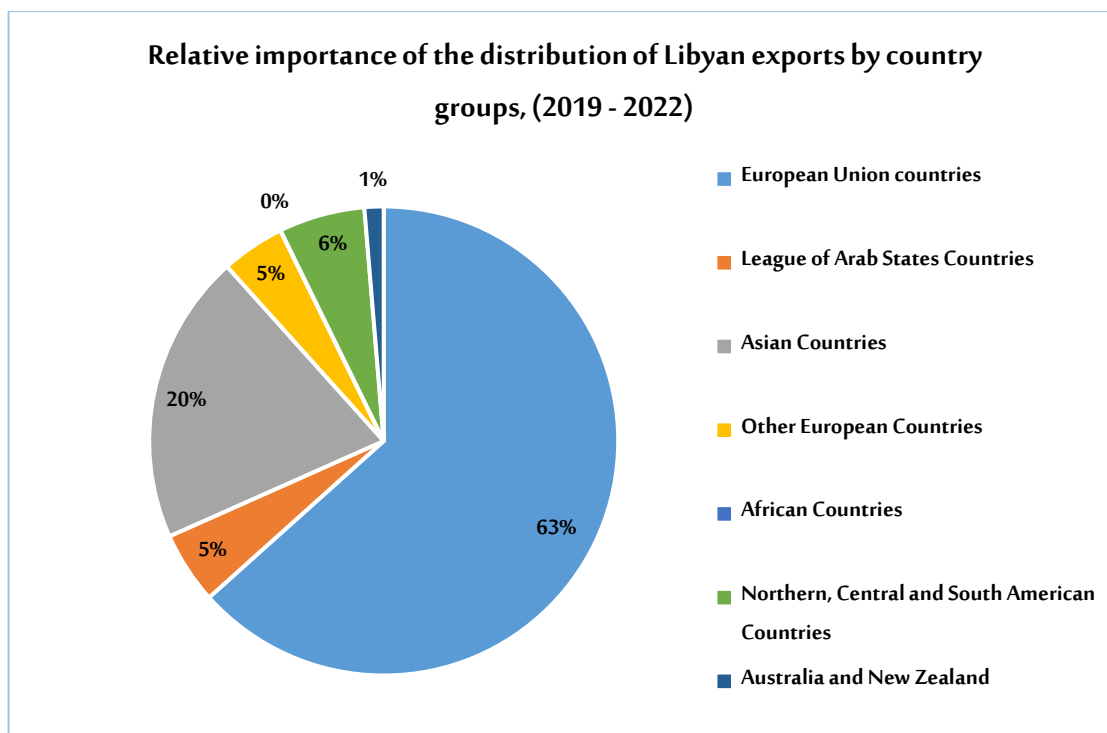
The table below shows the geographical distribution of Libyan exports, and it illustrates the high relative importance of Libyan exports to the European Union countries, as they averaged about 64.6% of the total exports during the period from 2019 to 2022. The reason of the high relative importance of national exports to the countries of the European Union (the eurozone) was due to the characteristics of the economies of these countries as industrial countries that depend to a large extent on crude oil. Libyan exports to Asian countries come in second place, as they amounted during the period to an average of about 23.6% of the total Libyan exports abroad.

Distribution of Libyan Exports by Country Groups During (2019 -2022)

" Millions of USD "

Country groups	2019	2020	2021	2022
European Union countries	17,799.7	4,492.2	21,207.9	26,848.1
League of Arab States Countries	1,944.6	1,109.1	1,250.5	1,210.0
Asian Countries	6,770.5	3,131.1	5,880.8	6,433.8
Other European Countries	561.3	317.3	2,006.3	1,975.8
African Countries	1.2	1.9	1.2	16.5
Northern, Central and South American Countries	1,818.3	250.0	2,268.8	2,245.9
Australia and New Zealand	626.1	160.8	288.4	387.6
Total	29,521.6	9,462.5	32,903.9	31,117.6

*Source: Trade Statistics for International Business Development (Map Trade).



Exports According to the Most Important Exporting Countries:

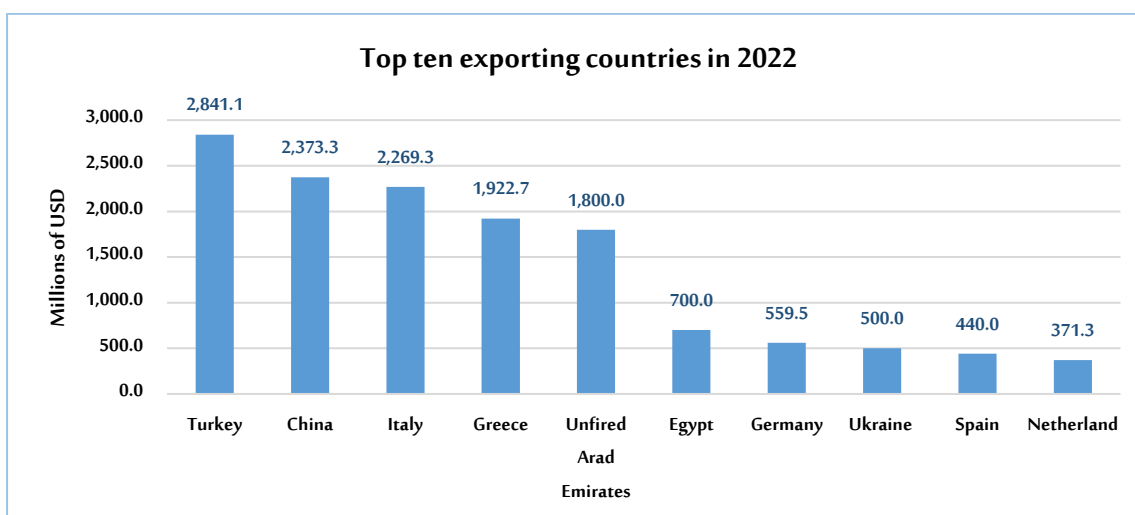
The tables below show the values of exports according to the most important exporting countries, the data indicates that Italy was the most important importer, as the percentage of what was exported to it alone amounted to an average of 22.1% during the period (2019-2022), respectively, of the total value of Libyan exports, as the value of what was exported to it amounted to during the year 2022, it received about \$10,468.1 million, while Spain, Germany, China, Greece and France were among the most important importing countries from Libya. It should be noted that most of the Libyan exports to these countries are oil exports.

The Value of Exports According to the Most Important Exporting Countries During (2019 – 2022)

" Millions of USD "

Exporting Countries	2019	2020	2021	2022
Italy	5,278.3	1,970.3	7,470.1	10,468.1
Spain	4,274.4	705.2	3,427.2	3,962.5
Germany	4,386.7	849.5	3,659.9	3,764.8
China	4,816.5	827.1	3,271.5	2,933.4
Greece	671.9	58.3	1,023.2	2,537.5
France	1,595.3	529.2	2,175.8	2,269.4
United States	1,572.5	224.9	2,239.7	2,245.8
Netherland	197.6	121.0	1,692.7	2,103.1
Thailand	483.9	326.8	1,155.9	1,959.9
United Kingdom	253.5	88.9	1,548.3	1,589.5
United Arab Emirates	1,570.4	955.2	956.2	900.0
Turkey	483.5	1,674.3	821.8	767.0
Singapore	379.2	198.0	171.2	200.0
Switzerland	291.6	144.7	302.1	117.1
South Korea	225.7	19.7	12.5	90.9
Malaysia	293.2	0.6	30.3	36.7
Indonesia	0.2	0.7	10.5	0.8
Other Countries	2,747.2	768.1	2,935.0	3,171.2
Total	29,521.6	9,462.5	32,903.9	39,117.7

*Source: Trade Statistics for International Business Development (Map Trade).



The Relative Importance of Libyan Exports according to the Most Important Exporting Countries, during (2019 – 2022)

"Percentage %"

Exporting Countries	2019	2020	2021	2022
Italy	17.9	20.8	22.7	26.8
Spain	14.5	7.5	10.4	10.1
Germany	14.9	9.0	11.1	9.6
China	16.3	8.7	9.9	7.5
Greece	2.3	0.6	3.1	6.5
France	5.4	5.6	6.6	5.8
United States	2.5	2.4	6.8	5.7
Netherland	0.7	1.3	5.1	5.4
Thailand	1.6	3.5	3.5	5.0
United Kingdom	0.9	0.9	4.7	4.1
United Arab Emirates	5.3	10.1	2.9	2.3
Turkey	1.6	17.7	2.5	2.0
Singapore	1.3	2.1	0.5	0.5
Switzerland	0.1	1.5	0.9	0.3
South Korea	0.8	0.2	0.0	0.2
Malaysia	1.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Indonesia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Countries	9.3	8.1	8.9	8.1

*Source: Trade Statistics for International Business Development (Map Trade).

Commodity Composition of Exports:

The data relating to the commodity composition of national exports presented in the table below showed the extent to which exports of mineral fuels, fuels and related materials acquired the largest share of total exports during the period (2019-2022), constituting 90.0% of total exports, which indicates the undiversified exports of the national economy, this is because of the weak structure of domestic production, which makes the economy vulnerable to fluctuations in oil production and its prices in international markets, while other exports accounted for 10.0% of total exports, most of which are precious metals and their products (gold) and common metals (scrap).

Export Value Classified by Commodities Groups

During (2019 – 2022)

"Millions of USD"

Commodity Groups	2019	2020	2021	2022
Mineral products, the most important of which are crude oil	27,661.4	7,267.5	31,551.6	37,657.7
Ordinary metals and articles thereof	298.9	440.7	835.1	812.8
Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, and articles thereof	1,198.0	1,659.2	237.8	274.8
Products of the chemical and related industries.	45.7	14.8	207.2	226.6
Transportation Equipment	1.8	15.6	4.5	61.6
Live animals – animal products	21.7	16.2	26.3	42.7
Machinery, devices, electrical equipment, recording devices, radio, and sound	23.2	27.9	16.7	12.8
Wood pulp, cellulosic pastes, cardboard, and wastepaper	5.0	2.7	8.3	8.9
Miscellaneous Goods and Products	13.1	1.1	1.6	4.5
Products of the plant kingdom	6.3	8.3	3.7	3.9
Optical, photographic, cinematic, pressure measuring devices and medical equipment	4.1	1.5	1.0	3.0
Raw animal skins and tanned skins	4.2	3.2	2.9	2.5
Prepared foodstuffs, beverages, vinegar, tobacco	1.7	1.4	1.6	2.2
Textile products and materials	2.6	1.7	1.2	1.6
Plastics and articles thereof, rubber and articles thereof.	1.0	0.8	1.6	1.6
Animal and vegetable fats, fats, oils, and derivatives thereof	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.9
Wood and articles thereof, wood charcoal, cork, and articles thereof, thatch articles	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3
Articles of stone, plaster, cement, mica, porcelain, and glass products	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Shoes, headwear, umbrellas, sun umbrellas, walking sticks, equestrian whips	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Weapons and ammunition, parts, and accessories	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	29,285.9	9,462.5	32,903.9	39,117.7

*Source: Trade Statistics for International Business Development (Map Trade).

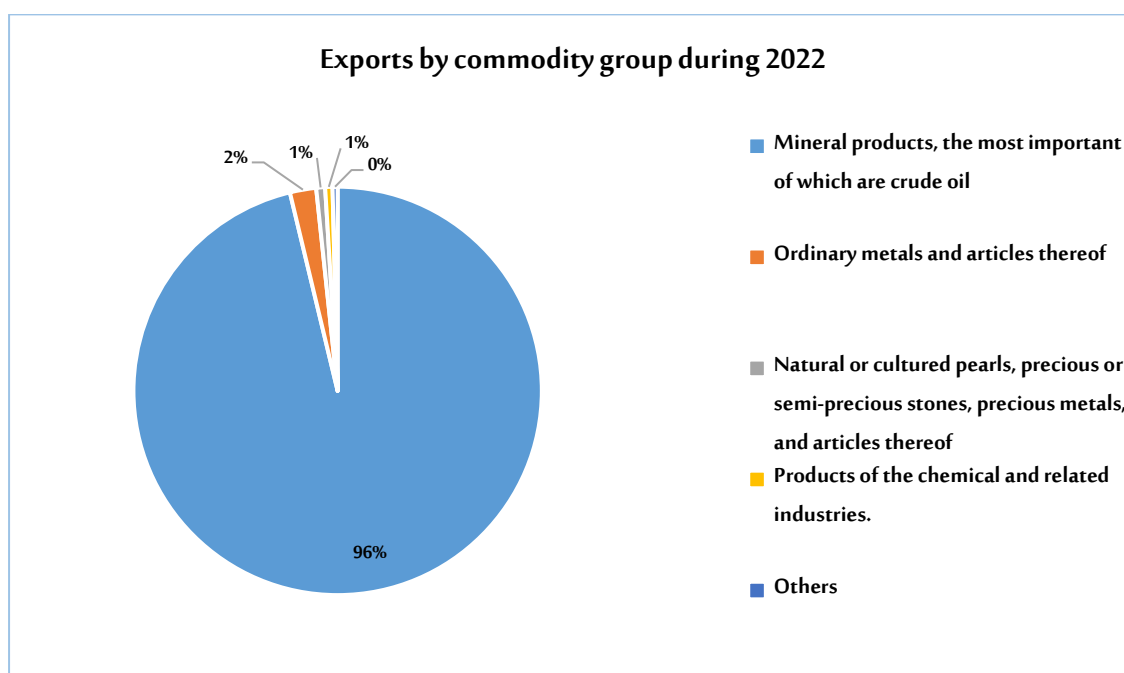
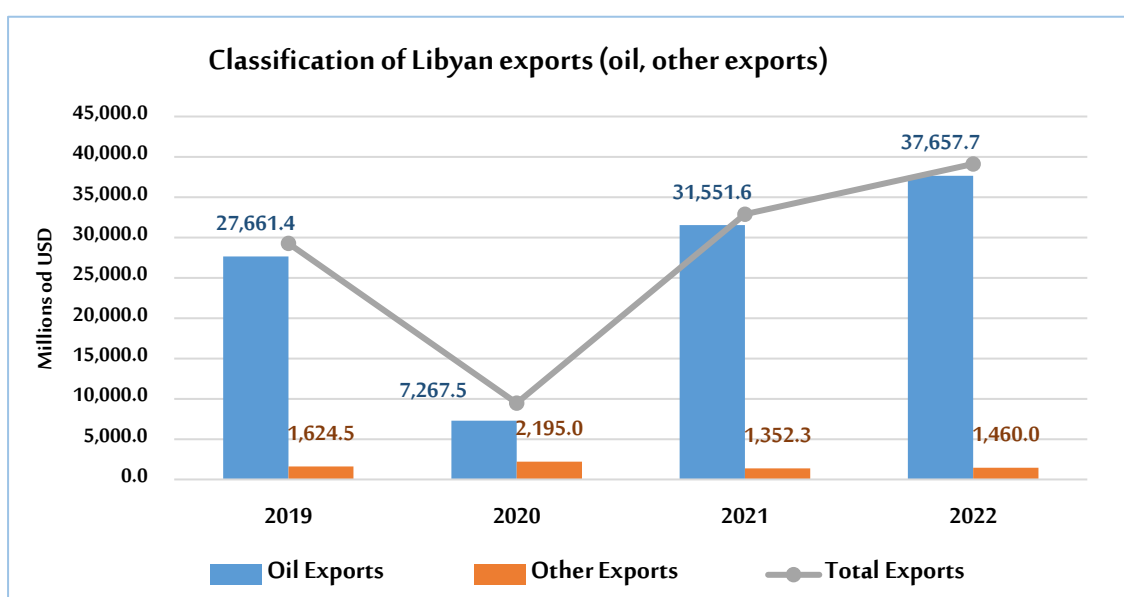
Classification of Libyan exports (oil, other exports)

During (2019 – 2022)

" Millions of USD "

Years	Oil Exports	Other Exports*	Total Exports
2019	27,661.4	1,624.5	29,285.9
2020	7,267.5	2,195.0	9,462.5
2021	31,551.6	1,352.3	32,903.9
2022	37,657.7	1,460.0	39,117.7

(*)Other exports are mostly precious metals and common metals.



The Most Important Trading Partners for Other Exports

Other export data showed that Turkey and the United Arab Emirates are the most important importing countries from Libya, which concentrated most of its imports of precious metals and common metals.

Exports - Turkey

" Millions of USD "

Years	Precious metals	Iron	Copper	Aluminum	Other	Total
2019	221.2	106.7	57.2	21.3	77.1	483.5
2020	1319.8	179.2	99.8	35.6	39.9	1674.3
2021	101.0	408.7	141.8	60.4	109.9	821.8
2022	138.0	286.7	150.7	71.0	120.6	767.0

Exports – United Arab Emirates

" Millions of USD "

Years	Precious metals and articles thereof (gold)	Other*	Total
2019	971.6	598.8	1570.4
2020	338.7	616.5	955.2
2021	136.6	819.6	956.2
2022 (preliminary data)	128.6	771.4	900.0

* Most of them are oil exports.

Third: Imports:

More than 85.0% of the local market needs of all sectors and individuals of consumed and capital goods such as machinery, equipment, raw materials and intermediate goods needed for the production process, are imported from foreign markets.

Geographical distribution of imports:

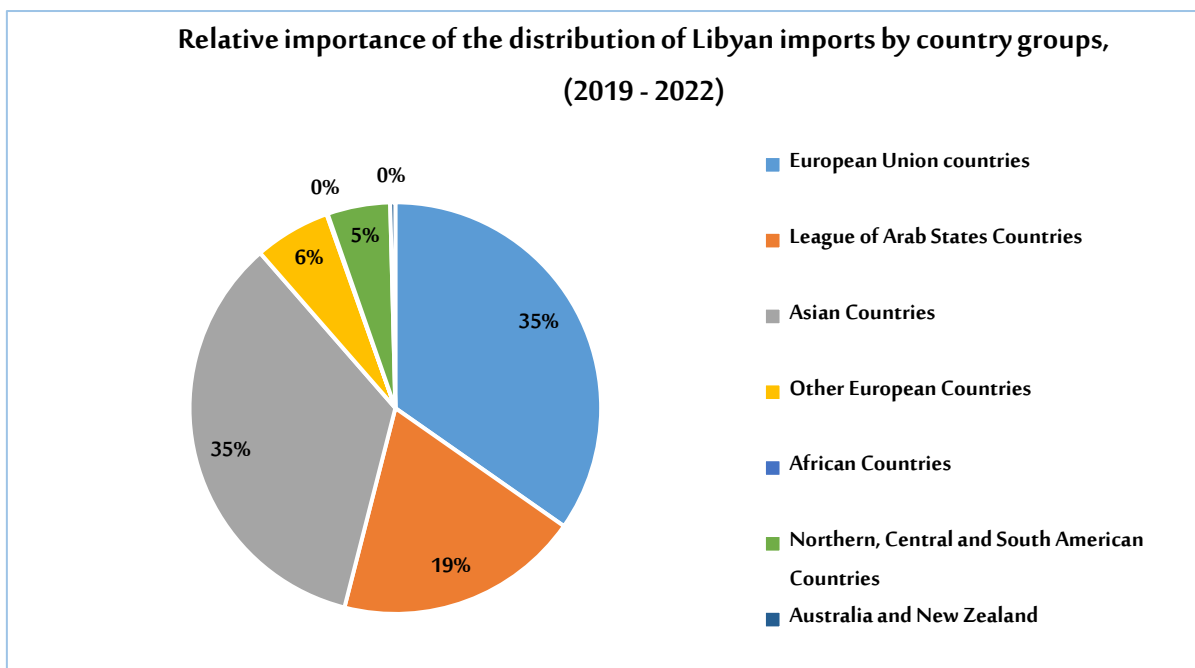
The European Union countries are the main source of Libya's imports, as their relative importance amounted to an average of about 34.4% of the total imports during the period (2019-2022), as the value of Libya's imports from the European Union countries recorded about 4.9, 4.3, 5.1, and 8.0 billion dollars, respectively, during the reported period. This is due to the geographical neighborhood, which plays a major role in increasing the volume of trade exchanges between Libya and the countries of the eurozone, while the Asian countries, Arab League States and other European countries accounted for the remaining proportions, and the data indicates the weakness of trade exchanges between Libya and African countries, Australia, and New Zealand.

Distribution of Libyan Imports by Country Groups

During (2019 – 2022)

" Millions of USD "

Country groups	2019	2020	2021	2022
European Union countries	4,946.8	4,319.4	5,135.9	8,041.2
League of Arab States Countries	3,049.6	2,328.9	3,516.3	3,556.0
Asian Countries	5,820.9	4,342.7	5,940.8	6,266.3
Other European Countries	828.7	763.1	1,154.8	1,124.2
African Countries	12.3	18.6	19.0	4.5
Northern, Central and South American Countries	837.6	571.7	879.3	901.9
Australia and New Zealand	45.5	61.5	65.2	88.3
Total	15,541.4	12,405.9	16,711.3	19,982.4



Imports According to the Most Important Importing Countries:

The table below displays the value of imports according to the most important countries from which they are imported, it is obvious that the countries of Turkey, China, Italy, Greece and the UAE still top the list of the most important countries. As the percentage of what was imported from them on average reached about 52.4% during the period (2019-2022) of the total value of Libyan imports.

However, Turkey is regarded as the most important country from which Libya imports and the value of what was imported from Turkey during the year 2022 amounted to about \$2.8 billion, accounting for 14.2% of the total, while China ranked second with a value of \$2.4 billion, and Italy came in third place with about \$2.3 billion.

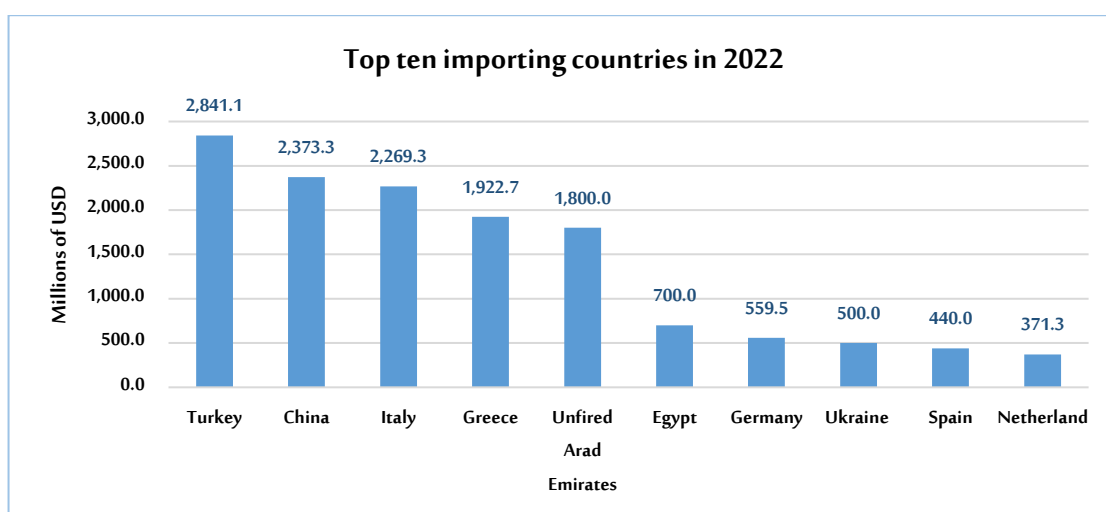
The following table shows the most important importing countries from during the period (2019 – 2022):

The Value of Imports According to the Most Important Importing Countries During (2019 – 2022)

" Millions of USD "

Countries of Import	2019	2020	2021	2022
Turkey	2,069.7	1,653.1	2,769.4	2,841.1
China	2,451.6	1,880.4	2,129.0	2,373.3
Italy	1,390.9	1,000.6	1,434.2	2,269.3
Greece	451.4	719.4	1,189.8	1,922.7
Unfired Arad Emirates	1,354.8	1,003.4	1,706.5	1,800.0
Egypt	838.9	572.8	796.2	700.0
Germany	484.4	400.8	683.5	559.5
Ukraine	316.9	327.8	425.0	500.0
Spain	468.7	346.8	366.7	440.0
Netherland	595.3	576.9	535.8	371.3
South Korea	632.1	338.0	428.5	366.9
Brazil	279.4	166.4	313.4	320.0
Unites States	412.0	290.0	295.3	291.0
France	210.0	171.3	208.2	229.6
Switzerland	121.1	127.1	216.7	153.7
United Kingdom	201.4	147.7	141.1	144.6
Other Countries	3,262.8	2,683.4	4,072.0	4,699.4
Total	15,541.4	12,405.9	17,711.3	19,982.4

*Source: Trade Statistics for International Business Development (Map Trade).



The Relative Importance of Imports According to the Most Important Importing Countries, During (2019 – 2022)

"Percentage %"

Countries of Import	2019	2020	2021	2022
Turkey	13.3	13.3	15.6	14.2
China	15.8	15.2	12.0	11.9
Italy	8.9	8.1	8.1	11.4
Greece	2.9	5.8	6.7	9.6
Unfired Arad Emirates	8.7	8.1	9.6	9.0
Egypt	5.4	4.6	4.5	3.5
Germany	3.1	3.2	3.9	2.8
Ukraine	2.0	2.6	2.4	2.5
Spain	3.0	2.8	2.1	2.2
Netherland	3.8	4.7	3.0	1.9
South Korea	4.1	2.7	2.4	1.8
Brazil	1.8	1.3	1.8	1.6
Unites States	2.7	2.3	1.7	1.5
France	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.1
Switzerland	0.8	1.0	1.2	0.8
United Kingdom	1.3	1.2	0.8	0.7
Other Countries	21.0	21.6	23.0	23.5

*Source: Trade Statistics for International Business Development (Map Trade).

Commodity composition of imports:

The imports of the products group (metal products, electrical machinery, equipment, recording, broadcasting and sound equipment, prepared foodstuffs, beverages, vinegar, and tobacco) ranked first in terms of total commodity imports during the period (2019-2022), accounting for 45.6% of total commodity imports, while the imports of the products group (products of the plant kingdom, products of chemical industries and related items, and transport equipment) ranked second in terms of relative importance, constituting 20.4% of the total merchandise imports, while the imports of products of other groups accounted for the remaining percentage, which represents 34.0% of the total merchandise imports.

This reflects the weakness and inability of the local market to provide many commodities that individuals need, which leads to an increase in the degree of external exposure and an increase in demand for foreign exchange.

The following table illustrates the imports, classified according to commodities, during the period (2019-2022):

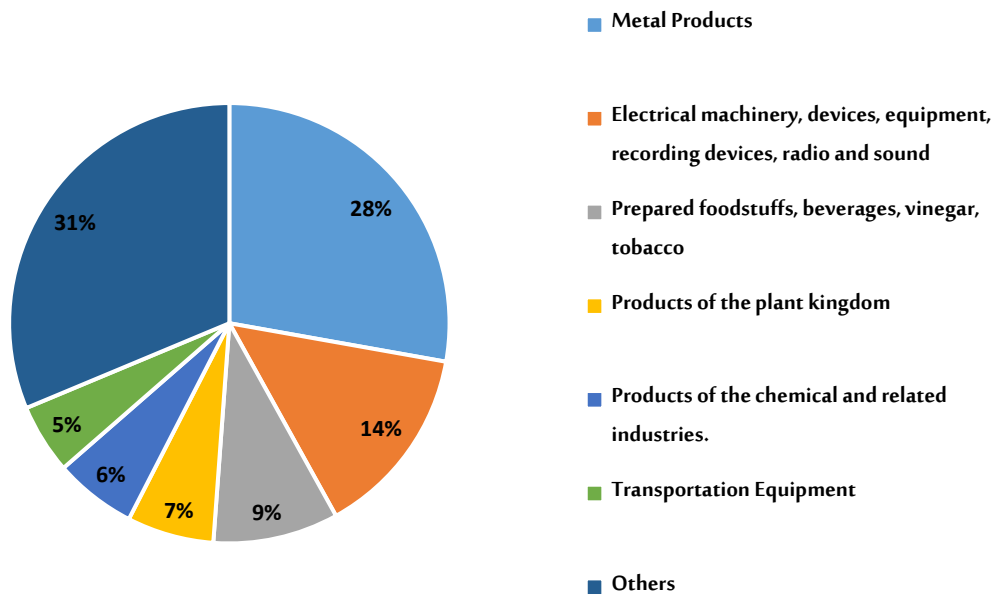
The Value of Imports Classified by Commodities Departments.
During (2019 – 2022)

"Millions of USD"

Commodity Groups	2019	2020	2021	2022
Metal Products	2,404.5	1,898.7	3,246.7	5,555.9
Electrical machinery, devices, equipment, recording devices, radio and sound	2,609.8	1,771.5	3,029.8	2,828.6
Prepared foodstuffs, beverages, vinegar, tobacco	1,591.4	1,642.9	1,825.0	1,841.7
Products of the plant kingdom	918.3	833.0	1,231.0	1,276.1
Products of the chemical and related industries.	1,012.9	957.0	1,353.8	1,205.7
Transportation Equipment	1,485.7	875.5	1,094.1	1,023.9
Ordinary metals and articles thereof	776.9	551.8	849.2	858.6
Textile products and materials	981.0	741.1	828.1	858.3
Plastics and articles thereof, rubber and articles thereof,	651.5	515.3	763.6	816.9
Live animals – animal products	739.1	734.2	865.0	801.8
Miscellaneous Goods and Products	574.6	533.4	676.6	797.2
Articles of stone, plaster, cement, mica, porcelain, and glass products	482.8	321.4	486.2	484.5
Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, and articles thereof	297.9	124.4	466.3	449.6
Animal and vegetable fats, fats, oils, and derivatives thereof	152.1	162.9	255.7	347.4
Wood pulp, cellulosic pastes, cardboard, and wastepaper	245.1	227.2	222.2	261.9
Optical, photographic, cinematic, pressure measuring devices and medical equipment	320.1	332.4	238.4	240.2
Wood and articles thereof, wood charcoal, cork, and articles thereof, thatch articles	101.5	73.2	133.2	156.0
Shoes, headwear, umbrellas, sun umbrellas, walking sticks, equestrian whips	146.8	85.5	115.8	130.0
Raw animal skins and tanned skins	49.4	23.5	29.8	46.2
Weapons and ammunition, their parts, and accessories	0.0	1.0	0.8	1.9
Total	15,541.4	12,405.9	17,711.3	19,982.4

*Source: Trade Statistics for International Business Development (Map Trade).

Imports by commodity categories during 2022



Appendices

- 1- Foreign trade during the period (2019 – 2022).
- 2- The value of exports according to groups and classes of commodities during the period (2019 – 2022).
- 3- The value of imports according to groups and classes of commodities during the period (2019 – 2022).
- 4- The relative distribution of intra-regional trade with international communities that include Libya during the period (2019 – 2022).
- 5- The relative distribution of intraregional trade with international communities that do not include Libya during the period (2019 – 2022).