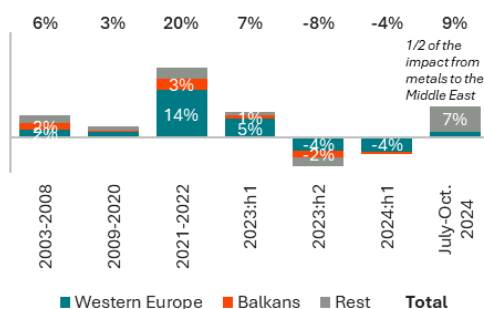


Against the odds, Greek Exports can accelerate in 2025

Greek exports experienced a recovery of 5% in the second half of 2024, nearly offsetting the losses of the first semester (-7%). As a result, total exports of goods for 2024 remained close to 2023 levels (-1% in deflated terms). However, as highlighted in the latest issue of the "Business Trends" report series by the [Economic Analysis Division of the National Bank of Greece](#), this upward trend appears fragile, as it lacks the support of the European markets that traditionally support Greek products. With Greek exports still seeking a solid foundation, the trajectory of the European economy is crucial. As its recovery largely depends on the emerging changes in the U.S. tariff policy, the latter is expected to have an indirect (but significant) effect on Greek exports.

Long-term contribution of regions to export performance
in nominal terms



Source: Eurostat | Estimates: NBG

To explore the revival trend of Greek exports in H2:2024, we focus on the critical August-October quarter, where the rebound began. Despite the strong momentum of the period (+5.5%, compared to -6.3% in the previous nine months), the recovery remains fragile as the "traditional" markets of Western Europe and the Balkans (which account for 2/3 of Greek exports) retracted. As a result, the entire boost in exports performance came from the "secondary" markets:

- Half of the increase stemmed from largely one-off metal orders, likely for energy projects in the Middle

East.

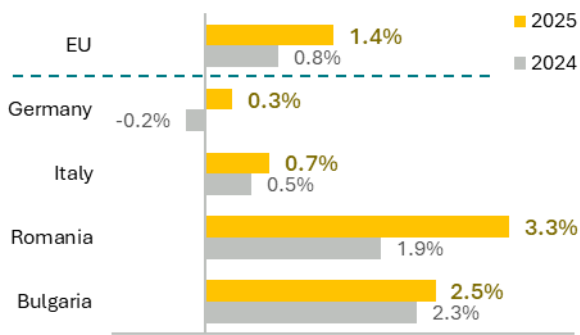
- Additionally, the U.S. has emerged as an increasingly important destination for Greek products over the past three years, with an average annual growth rate of 7% – more than three times the performance of other markets (which grew by 2%). However, this strong effort by Greek exporters may be at risk due to the aggressive trade policies by the U.S.

Beyond these concerns, two positive factors stand out in the current juncture:

- The food sector had a positive impact in the examined period, contributing 1.5 percentage points to export growth, with traditional Greek products – feta cheese, yogurt, olive oil, and olives – accounting for more than 3/4 of the increase.
- The share of Greek products in European exports reached a 15-year high (0.55% compared to 0.51% in the same period of 2023).

Several factors suggest a more promising outlook for 2025:

Key European markets' GDP growth *in deflated terms*



Source: IMF

products are well-positioned to capitalize on this trend, as export order indices have improved for a third consecutive month, setting Greece apart from the sluggish performance of European competitors.

- The recovery of olive oil production this year compared to 2023 levels (290,000 tons, compared to 175,000 in 2024 and 345,000 in 2023) is expected to boost 2025 exports by 1 percentage point, offsetting the corresponding loss caused by low production in 2024.

- A sustainable recovery in Greek exports is more likely, as the European economy is set to accelerate at a rate of 1.4% in 2025 (compared to +0.8% in 2024). Strong performance is expected especially in four key export markets – Germany, Italy, Romania, and Bulgaria – which together account for 1/3 of Greek exports. This momentum in turn could drive the recovery of European imports in 2025 (+2.2%) after two years of decline (-4% annually).

- Global demand is expected to remain resilient, with a healthy 3% growth in international trade volume (compared to 2.7% in 2024). Greek

International trade trend *annual growth, volume terms*



Source: Eurostat, WTO | Estimates: NBG

Given these circumstances, Greek exports could grow by c. 3%-4% (in deflated terms) in 2025. However, global uncertainty significantly increases the ex-post volatility in our estimates, creating a substantial risk of lower performance. Beyond the pressure on high-performing Greek exports to the U.S., the main issue is that the EU is at the centre of the “trade storm”, as it maintains a high trade surplus over the U.S. (particularly Germany and Italy, which are important export partners for Greece). Furthermore, a potential trade war could lead to a broad slowdown in global trade, as well as

significant reshuffling of market shares among major players.

The complete report (in Greek) is available on the National Bank of Greece Group's website, under the Economic Analysis and Research section (Greek Entrepreneurship):

<https://www.nbg.gr/el/omilos/meletes-oikonomikes-analuseis/reports/exports-2025q1>

Athens, February 11, 2025