Examining Trade Flows of Key Inputs to Cigarette Manufacturing

Summary

- The analysis reviews the trade flows by quantity and value of the four key inputs into cigarettes (and to some extent other tobacco products) using the UN Comtrade database, based on ten relevant Harmonized System (HS) codes.
- In 2024, export values for these four key inputs into cigarette manufacturing reached 19.7 billion USD, while total import values were recorded at 19.5 billion USD.
- Over the ten-year period beginning in 2015, export values declined between 2019 and 2022 during, and in the aftermath, of the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by a rapid recovery after 2022. In contrast, import values have declined over the same period.
- Unlike imports, which are much more geographically widespread, export volumes remain mostly concentrated among a small number of supplier countries for all four key inputs.
- In 2024, Brazil was the largest exporter of tobacco leaf, while France was the leading exporter of cigarette paper. The United States led exports of cigarette filters, and Italy dominated exports of tobacco processing machinery.
- China was the largest destination for partially stripped tobacco leaf, and the United States imported the largest volume of cigarette paper. In 2024, Indonesia was the top importer of both cigarette filters and machinery.
- In 2024, the major bilateral trading pairs were China and Zimbabwe for tobacco leaf, Austria and Germany for cigarette paper, the Republic of Korea and Indonesia for filters, and Germany and Hungary for tobacco machinery.
- The primary re-exporters of tobacco leaf were the United States and Malawi. The United States also led in re-exporting various cigarette papers, followed by Georgia and Canada, as well as in tobacco machinery and parts. Georgia was the top re-exporter of cigarette filters, primarily to Azerbaijan.

1. Background

Measures to control the illicit tobacco market are a necessary component of a comprehensive tobacco control policy, though the measures may vary across countries depending on context. Understanding the totality of the tobacco supply chain is an important step to identify potential critical problem points that can help governments to formulate the most effective policy strategies to secure this supply chain. Evidence-based research conducted by the Convention Secretariat under Article 6.5 of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, with the support of the Economics for Health team at Johns Hopkins University, identified four key inputs essential to the manufacture of tobacco products: manufacturing equipment, tobacco leaf, cigarette filters, and cigarette papers (document FCTC/MOP/4/5). Based partly on this research, the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) established the Working Group on Article 6.5 of the Protocol through decision FCTC/MOP4(6). Tobacco leaf is also used to manufacture other tobacco products. International trade in these inputs is recorded in public databases, in particular the United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database (UN Comtrade), using data reported by countries. Identifying where these goods are coming from and where they are going can help authorities identify risks of diversion and strengthen control based on the flow of these key inputs into their jurisdictions. Note that UN Comtrade records international trade but does not record domestic production of any kind.

The aim of this document is to provide an overview of the imports and exports of these goods, drawing on public data from UN Comtrade. The appendix also includes a description of recent re-exports as these are occasionally an avenue to move key inputs to "third" countries, which may make them more difficult for relevant authorities to monitor. The report highlights the most prominent exporters of each of the four key inputs as well as the largest importers, providing a quasi-spatial illustration of where these key inputs are initially generated and, indirectly, where cigarettes are mostly made. This information should improve governments' understanding of the global marketplace for these goods, so they know where to focus their efforts to control their domestic supply chains. Please note that the authors have also created an online dashboard for visualizations of the data presented here: https://sawminthu-comtrade-app.share.connect.posit.cloud/

Many governments already record their exports (and re-exports) and imports, and could use these data to better understand their own licit and illicit supply chains for cigarettes and other tobacco products. For example, if authorities suspect illicit domestic cigarette manufacturing, one of the first places to check would be the importation of the key inputs that would be required to

manufacture these products. Similarly, if relevant import flows are puzzling, examining closely the flows of exports from likely export countries would be a logical step in identifying possible diversions or other irregularities.

2. Overall analysis

2.1 Products

Based on the HS codes identified in a key 2023 European Commission Staff Working Document, a total of twelve products related to tobacco commodity flow were identified in the UN Comtrade database. They are detailed in **Table 1**.

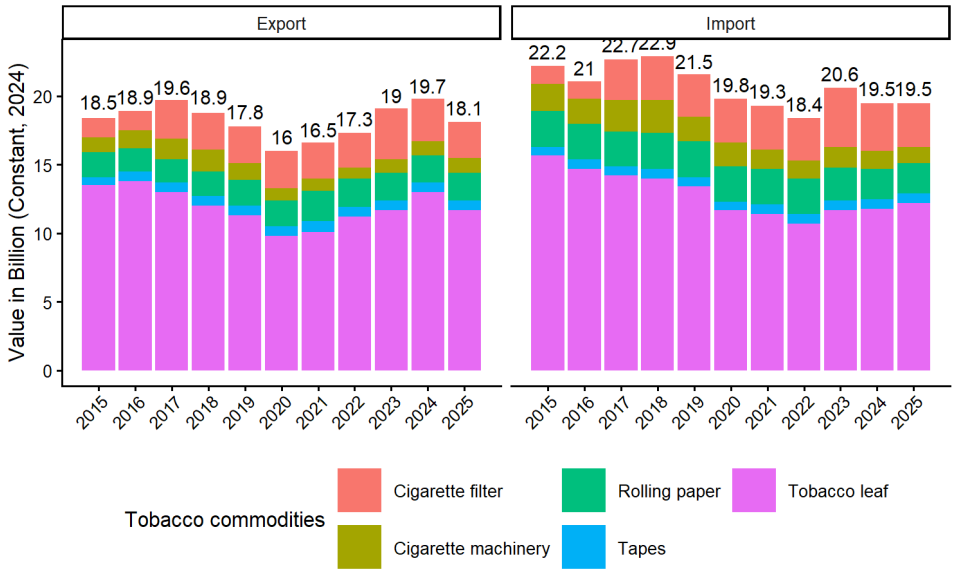
Table 1. Tobacco product types, HS codes and their descriptions

Product	Harmonized System (HS) code	Description
Tobacco leaf	240110	Tobacco, (not stemmed or stripped)
	240120	Tobacco; partly or wholly stemmed or stripped
	240130	Tobacco refuse
	240391	Tobacco; homogenised or reconstituted
Rolling paper	481310	Paper, cigarette; in the form of booklets or tubes
	481320	Paper, cigarette; in rolls of a width not exceeding 5cm
	481390	Paper, cigarette; (other than in rolls of a width not exceeding 5cm, or in booklets or tubes)
Cigarette filter	550210	Fibres; artificial filament tow of cellulose acetate
	560122	Wadding; other articles thereof, of man-made fibres
Tapes	591000	Textiles; transmission or conveyor belts or belting, of textile material, whether or not impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics, or reinforced with metal or other material
Cigarette machinery	847810	Machinery; for preparing or making up tobacco, n.e.c. in this chapter
	847890	Machinery; parts of those for preparing or making up tobacco, n.e.c. in this chapter

2.2 Total trade values (2015-2025)

Figure 1 shows the trends of trade value (in current USD) from 2015 to 2025, disaggregated by type of tobacco products. The trend reveals that there was a decline in export value between 2019 and 2021, at the time of COVID-19 pandemic. However, it recovered rapidly after 2021, reaching its highest point in 2024. Please note, reporting is not yet complete for 2025, and the revised figures will be higher than what are shown here.

Figure 1. Trends of export and import values of tobacco commodities, 2015-2025



2.3 Largest exporters by product

Table 2 demonstrates the largest exporters and importers by type of tobacco commodity in 2024. The findings suggest that the export market is more concentrated than the import market, where the country's share is widespread. In general, Brazil led the export of tobacco leaf while France held the largest share in cigarette rolling paper export. The Republic of Korea was the top exporter of cigarette filters. Italy was recorded as the largest exporter of tobacco machinery, while the Netherlands was the leading exporter of their parts in 2024.

Table 2. Top three exporters and importers by values across tobacco commodities, 2024

HS code	Description	Export (value)	Import (value)
240110	Tobacco, (not stemmed or stripped)	Türkiye (13% out of 1.94B USD)	Dominican Rep. (21% out of 1.79B USD)
240120	Tobacco; partly or wholly stemmed or stripped	Brazil (25% out of 10.44B USD)	China (20% out of 8.87B USD)
240130	Tobacco refuse	Brazil (24% out of 0.3B USD)	Poland (12% out of 0.33B USD)
240391	Tobacco; homogenised or reconstituted	France (35% out of 0.29B USD)	Algeria (44% out of 0.79B USD)
481310	Paper, cigarette; in the form of booklets or tubes	France (14% out of 0.97B USD)	USA (19% out of 0.92B USD)
481320	Paper, cigarette; in rolls of a width not exceeding 5cm	China (20% out of 0.44B USD)	Poland (11% out of 0.57B USD)
481390	Paper, cigarette; (other than in rolls of a width not exceeding 5cm, or in booklets or tubes)	France (17% out of 0.57B USD)	USA (10% out of 0.74B USD)
550210	Fibres; artificial filament tow of cellulose acetate	USA (51% out of 1.65B USD)	Poland (13% out of 2.39B USD)
560122	Wadding; other articles thereof, of man-made fibres	Rep. of Korea (13% out of 1.42B USD)	Indonesia (6% out of 1.11B USD)
591000	Textiles; transmission or conveyor belts or belting, of textile material, whether or not impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics, or reinforced with metal or other material	Germany (20% out of 0.71B USD)	USA (17% out of 0.69B USD)
847810	Machinery; for preparing or making up tobacco, n.e.c. in this chapter	Italy (37% out of 0.75B USD)	Indonesia (10% out of 0.68B USD)
847890	Machinery; parts of those for preparing or making up tobacco, n.e.c. in this chapter	Netherlands (15% out of 0.23B USD)	Rep. of Korea (13% out of 0.58B USD)

2.4 Largest export and import value in pairs of countries

Table 3 and **Table 4** show the leading bilateral trading pairs (exporter/ importer with their partners) by trade values across ten tobacco commodities in 2024. China and Zimbabwe led the trade of tobacco leaf in terms of value while the Austria and Germany pair ranked at the top in trading cigarette paper. For cigarette filters, trade between the Republic of Korea and Indonesia amounted to the highest value. Over the same period, Germany and Hungary represented the largest trade value in tobacco machinery.

Table 3. Reporters and their partners with the largest export values across commodities, 2024

HS code	Description	Exporter	Partner	Total value (million USD)
240110	Tobacco, (not stemmed or stripped)	USA	Dominican Rep.	93.80
240120	Tobacco; partly or wholly stemmed or stripped	Zimbabwe	China	627.95
240130	Tobacco refuse	Brazil	Belgium	20.93
240391	Tobacco; homogenised or reconstituted	France	Belgium	46.69
481310	Paper, cigarette; in the form of booklets or tubes	Austria	Germany	62.74
481320	Paper, cigarette; in rolls of a width not exceeding 5cm	China	Russian Federation	23.59
481390	Paper, cigarette; (other than in rolls of a width not exceeding 5cm, or in booklets or tubes)	China	United Arab Emirates	28.60
550210	Fibres; artificial filament tow of cellulose acetate	USA	Netherlands	160.31
560122	Wadding; other articles thereof, of man-made fibres	Rep. of Korea	Indonesia	44.26

HS code	Description	Exporter	Partner	Total value (million USD)
591000	Textiles; transmission or conveyor belts or belting, of textile material, whether or not impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics, or reinforced with metal or other material	Netherlands	USA	18.77
847810	Machinery; for preparing or making up tobacco, n.e.c. in this chapter	Hungary	Germany	53.50
847890	Machinery; parts of those for preparing or making up tobacco, n.e.c. in this chapter	Singapore	Indonesia	23.21

Table 4. Reporters and their partners with the largest import values across commodities, 2024

HS code	Description	Importer	Partner	Total value (million USD)
240110	Tobacco, (not stemmed or stripped)	Dominican Rep.	USA	179.50
240120	Tobacco; partly or wholly stemmed or stripped	China	Zimbabwe	787.91
240130	Tobacco refuse	Poland	Brazil	10.92
240391	Tobacco; homogenised or reconstituted	Algeria	Serbia	230.77
481310	Paper, cigarette; in the form of booklets or tubes	Germany	Austria	59.74

HS code	Description	Importer	Partner	Total value (million USD)
481320	Paper, cigarette; in rolls of a width not exceeding 5cm	China	Austria	28.34
481390	Paper, cigarette; (other than in rolls of a width not exceeding 5cm, or in booklets or tubes)	Dominican Rep.	USA	41.14
550210	Fibres; artificial filament tow of cellulose acetate	Poland	USA	141.12
560122	Wadding; other articles thereof, of man-made fibres	Indonesia	Rep. of Korea	41.60
591000	Textiles; transmission or conveyor belts or belting, of textile material, whether or not impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics, or reinforced with metal or other material	Czechia	Netherlands	29.06
847810	Machinery; for preparing or making up tobacco, n.e.c. in this chapter	Germany	Hungary	41.04
847890	Machinery; parts of those for preparing or making up tobacco, n.e.c. in this chapter	Rep. of Korea	Germany	39.03

3. Tobacco leaf

3.1 Overview

As shown in **Table 5**, 1,509 million kilograms of partly or wholly stemmed or stripped tobacco leaf, worth 10.43 billion USD, were exported globally in 2024.

This was followed by tobacco refuse (393 million kilograms) and not-stemmed-or-stripped tobacco (246 million kilograms).

Table 5. Overview of tobacco leaf exports and imports in 2024

HS code	Description	Import (total value in million USD)	Export (total value in million USD)	Import (total in million kilograms)	Export (total in million kilograms)
240110	Tobacco, (not stemmed or stripped)	1,793	1,942	229	246
240120	Tobacco; partly or wholly stemmed or stripped	8,874	10,445	1,180	1,509
240130	Tobacco refuse	332	305	300	393
240391	Tobacco; homogenised or reconstituted	788	294	76	80
Total		11,787	12,986	1,785	2,228

Table 6 shows the top three countries with the largest exports and imports of tobacco leaf commodities. No individual country dominated exports across the four categories in 2024. Brazil served as the primary exporter of stripped tobacco leaf and tobacco refuse, whereas Türkiye and France led exports in unstripped leaf and homogenized leaf, respectively.

Table 6. Top three countries with largest exports and imports across tobacco leaf products, 2024

Product	Export	Import
240110: Tobacco, (not stemmed or stripped)	Türkiye (13%)	USA (16%)
	India (11%)	Dominican Rep. (11%)
	Canada (8%)	Italy (7%)
240120: Tobacco; partly or wholly stemmed or stripped	Brazil (21%)	China (16%)
	India (17%)	Indonesia (11%)

Product	Export	Import
	Zimbabwe (12%)	Germany (11%)
240130: Tobacco refuse	Brazil (24%)	France (13%)
	China (22%)	Poland (11%)
	Zimbabwe (12%)	Indonesia (9%)
240391: Tobacco; homogenised or reconstituted	France (42%)	Türkiye (14%)
	Dominican Rep. (16%)	Poland (14%)
	Malaysia (14%)	Germany (11%)

3.2 Tobacco leaf export trend (2015-2024)

Figure 2 through **Figure 5** show the trends of export volumes across tobacco leaf categories over a ten-year period for countries that accounted for at least 70 percent of the trade volume. The export volumes of not-stripped tobacco leaf show a downward trend, while exports of stripped leaf and tobacco refuse have increased over time. Homogenised tobacco leaf exhibited a declining trend, possibly due to the absence of data from the Russian Federation since 2021.

Figure 2. Countries with the largest exports of tobacco leaf (HS 240110), 2015-2025

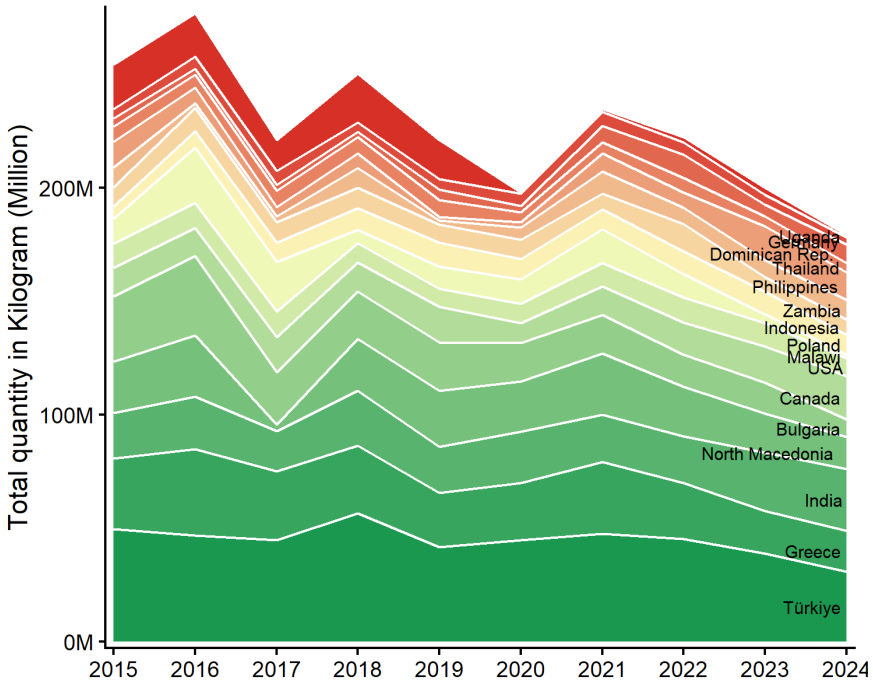


Figure 3. Countries with the largest exports of tobacco leaf (HS 240120), 2015-2025

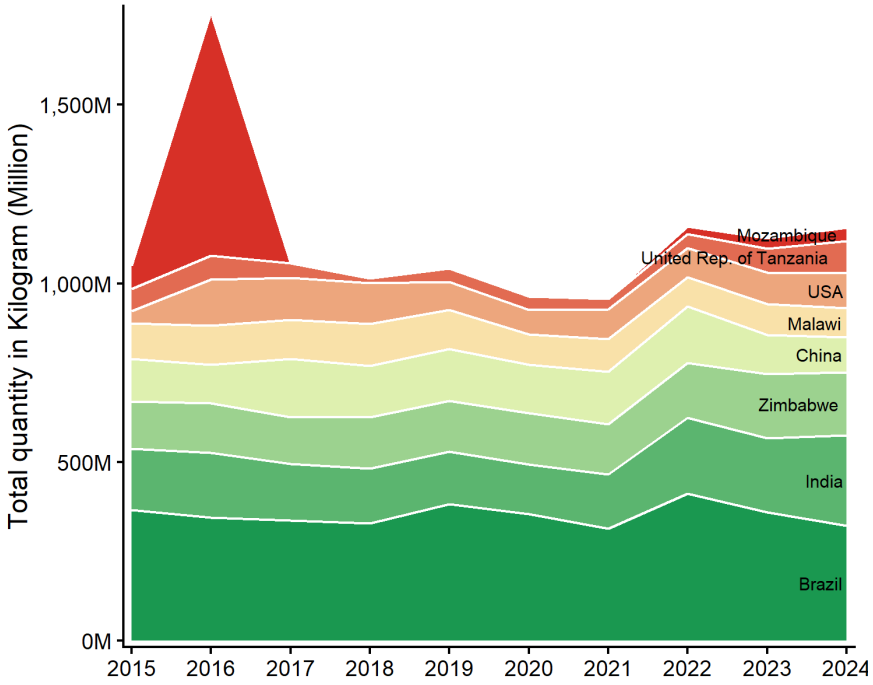


Figure 4. Countries with the largest exports of tobacco leaf (HS 240130), 2015-2025

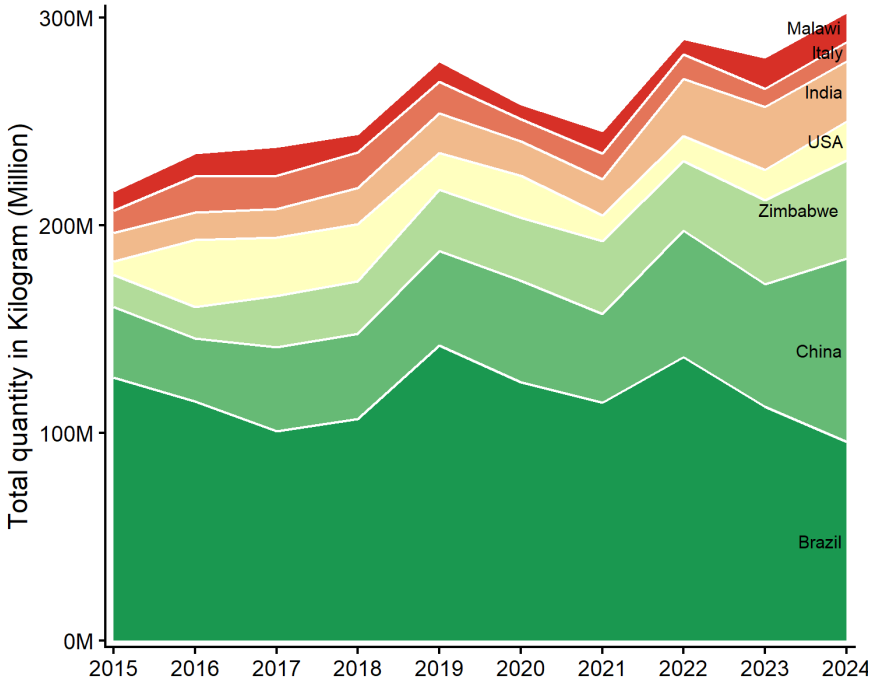
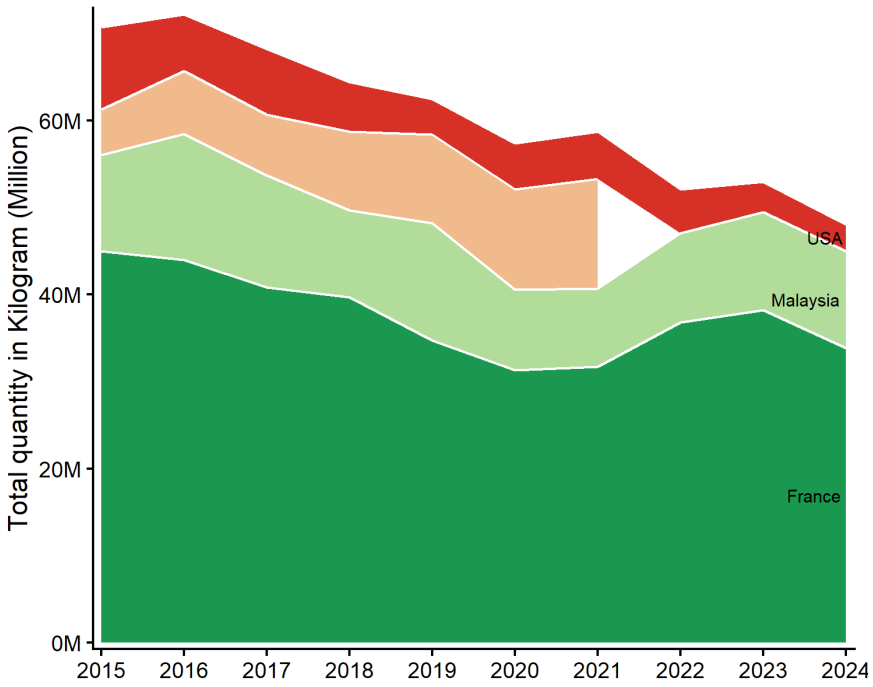


Figure 5: Countries with the largest exports of tobacco leaf (HS 240391), 2015-2025



3.3 Tobacco leaf export and import flows (2024)

Figure 6 through **Figure 13** illustrate the top ten largest exporters and importers across tobacco leaf commodities, along with their major partner countries.

Figure 6. Largest exporters of tobacco leaf (HS 240110) and their destinations, 2024

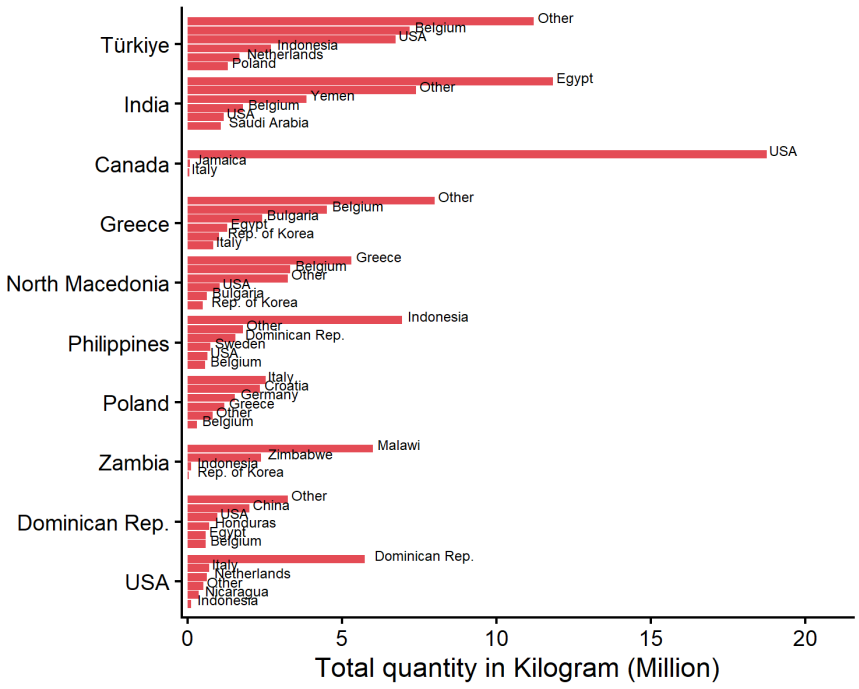


Figure 7. Largest importers of tobacco leaf (HS 240110) and their destinations, 2024

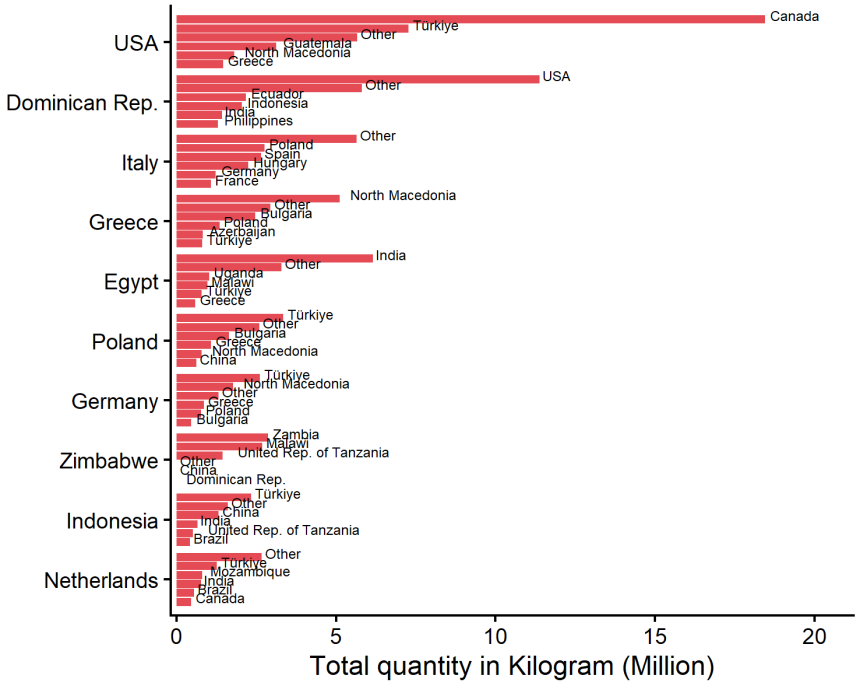


Figure 8. Largest exporters of tobacco leaf (HS 240130) and their destinations, 2024

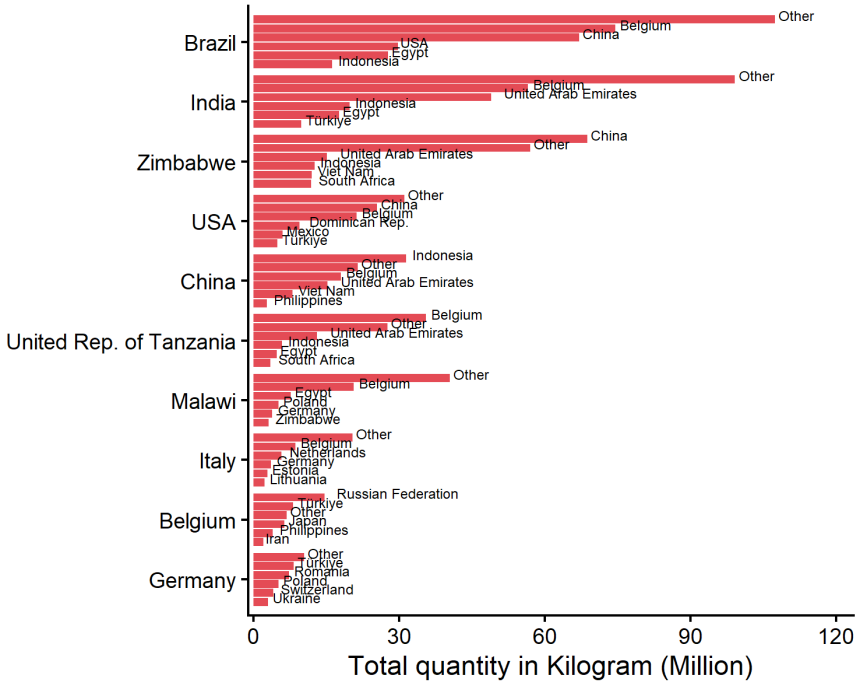


Figure 9. Largest importers of tobacco leaf (HS 240130) and their destinations, 2024

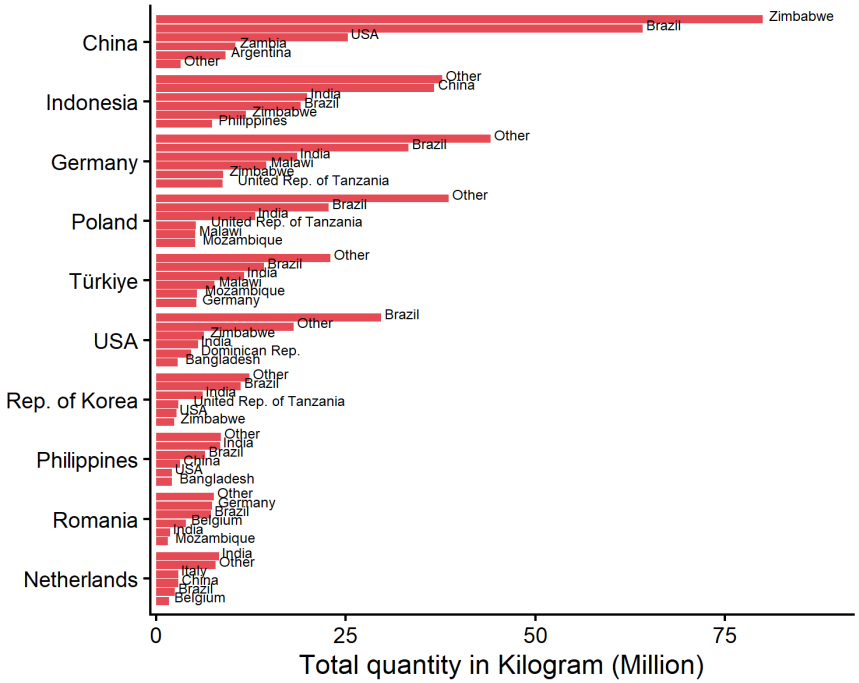


Figure 10. Largest exporters of tobacco leaf (HS 240130) and their destinations, 2024

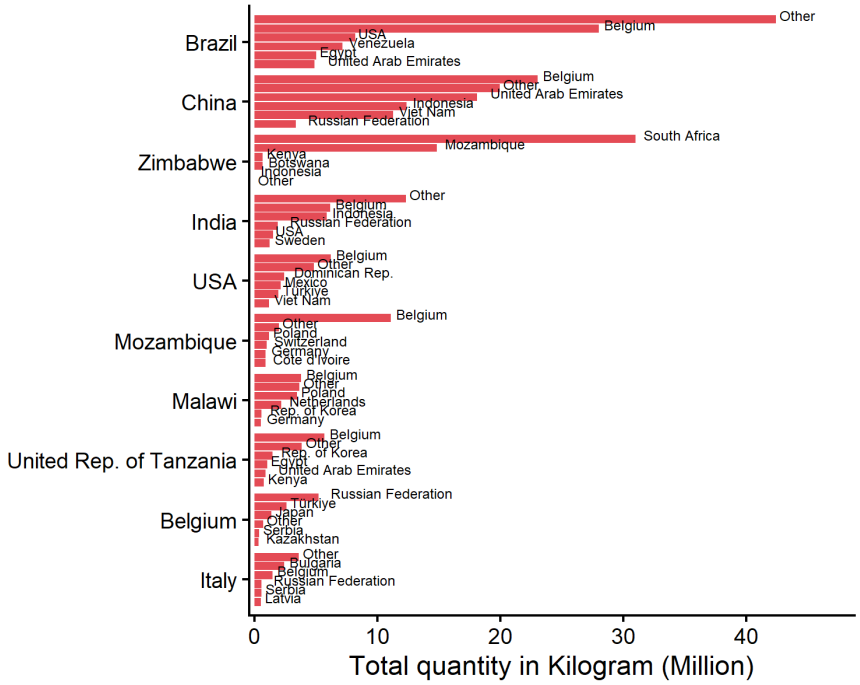


Figure 11. Largest importers of tobacco leaf (HS 240130) and their destinations, 2024

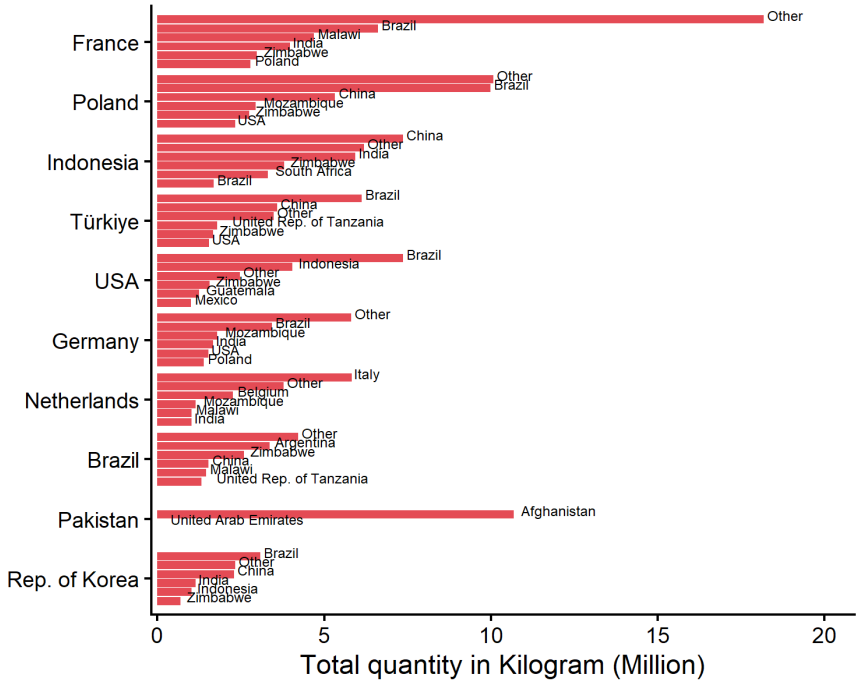


Figure 12. Largest exporters of tobacco leaf (HS 240391) and their destinations, 2024

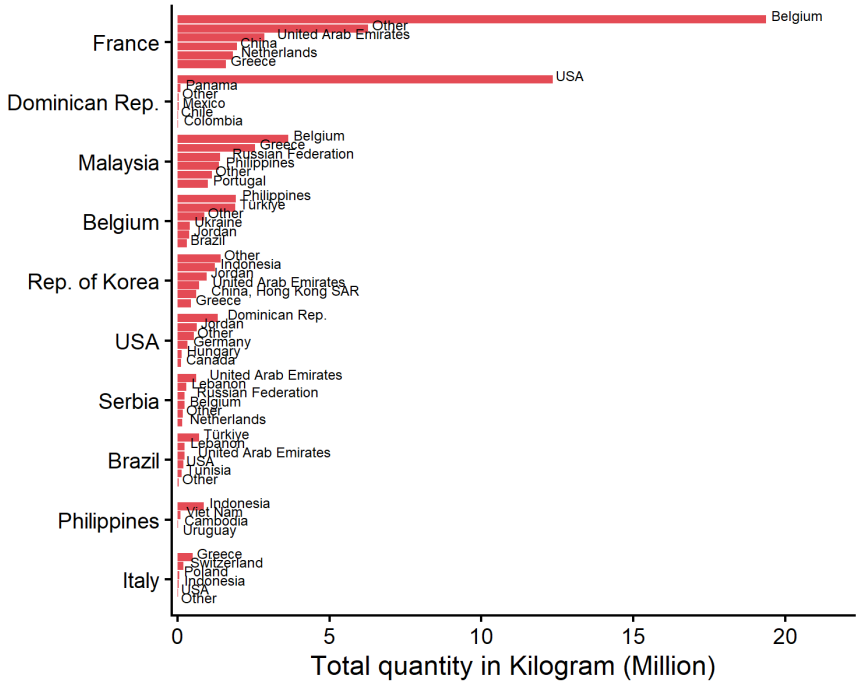
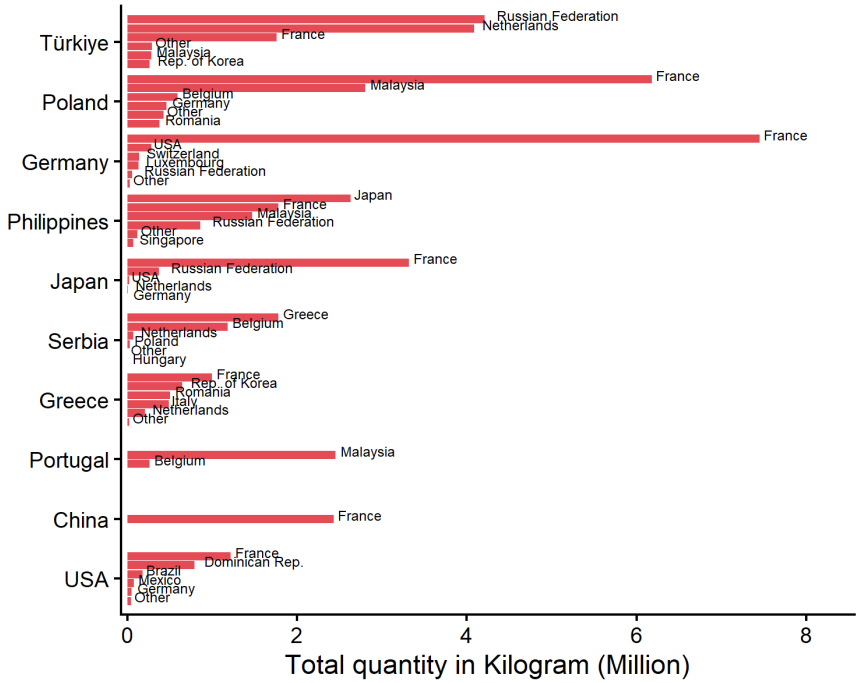


Figure 13. Largest importers of tobacco leaf (HS 240391) and their destinations, 2024



4. Cigarette paper

4.1 Overview

As shown in **Table 7**, total import and export trade values for cigarette paper were 2.22 billion USD and 1.97 billion, respectively, in 2024.

Table 7. Overview of cigarette paper exports and imports in 2024

HS code	Description	Import (total value in million USD)	Export (total value in million USD)	Import (total in million kilograms)	Export (total in million kilograms)
481310	Paper, cigarette; in the form of booklets or tubes	923	972	51	50
481320	Paper, cigarette; in rolls of a width not exceeding 5cm	570	437	150	141
481390	Paper, cigarette; (other than in rolls of a width not exceeding 5cm, or in booklets or tubes)	737	573	159	136
Total		2,230	1,982	360	327

Table 8 shows that Poland is the largest exporter of cigarette paper in the form of booklets or tubes while China exported the most in the remaining two categories in 2024.

Table 8. Top three countries with largest exports and imports across cigarette paper types, 2024

Product	Export	Import
481310: Paper, cigarette; in the form of booklets or tubes	Poland (21%)	Germany (17%)
	France (13%)	USA (14%)

Product	Export	Import
	Austria (11%)	Netherlands (9%)
481320: Paper, cigarette; in rolls of a width not exceeding 5cm	China (29%)	Poland (11%)
	Czechia (17%)	Türkiye (9%)
	France (12%)	Saudi Arabia (6%)
481390: Paper, cigarette; (other than in rolls of a width not exceeding 5cm, or in booklets or tubes)	China (23%)	Poland (10%)
	France (19%)	USA (7%)
	Germany (14%)	Türkiye (7%)

4.2 Rolling paper export trend (2015-2024)

Figure 14 through **Figure 16** demonstrate the trends of export volumes across cigarette rolling paper categories over a ten-year period. The countries presented in the charts account for at least 70 percent of the trade volume. The data reveal that exports of cigarette paper in rolls of width not exceeding 5cm (HS code 481320) increased over time, reaching a peak in 2022 while exports of paper in the form of booklets or tubes remained relatively stable.

Figure 14. Countries with the largest exports of rolling paper (HS 481310), 2015-2025

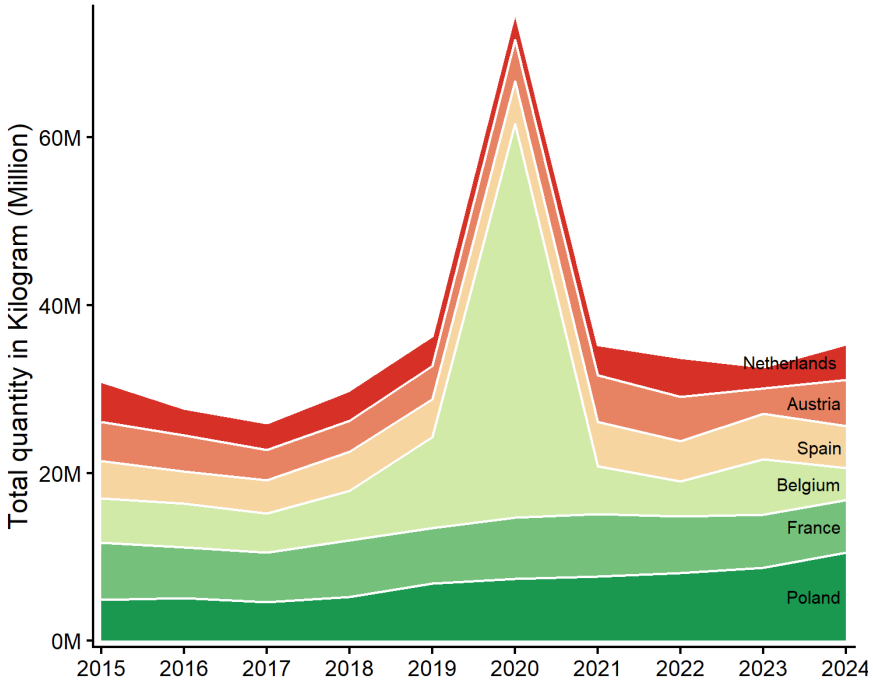


Figure 15. Countries with the largest exports of rolling paper (HS 481320), 2015-2025

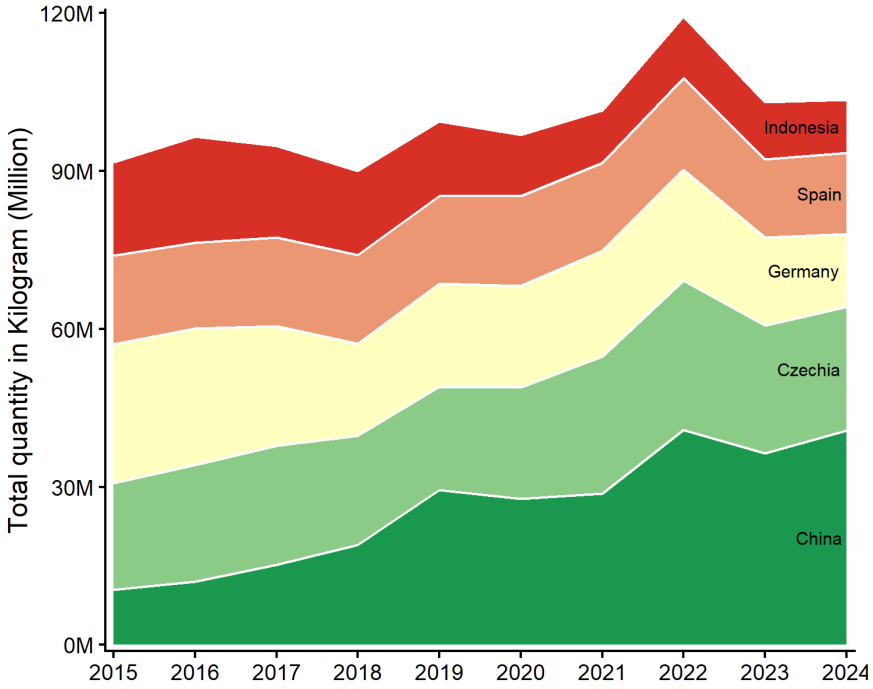
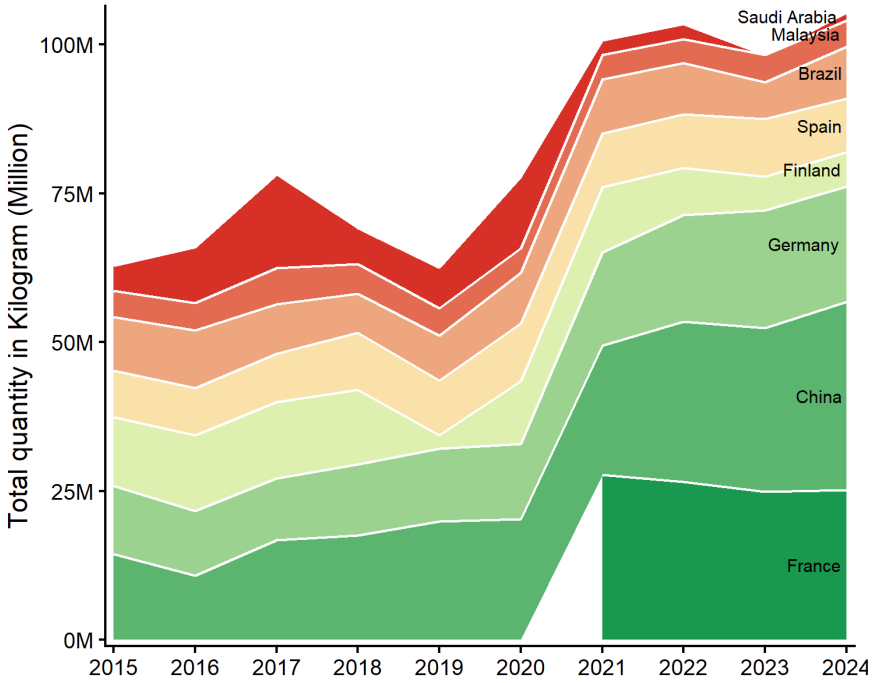


Figure 16. Countries with the largest exports of rolling paper (HS 481390), 2015-2025



4.3 Cigarette paper export and import flow (2024)

Figure 17 through **Figure 22** show the top ten largest exporters and importers across rolling paper commodities, along with their major partner countries.

Figure 17. Largest exporters of rolling paper (HS 481310) and their destinations, 2024

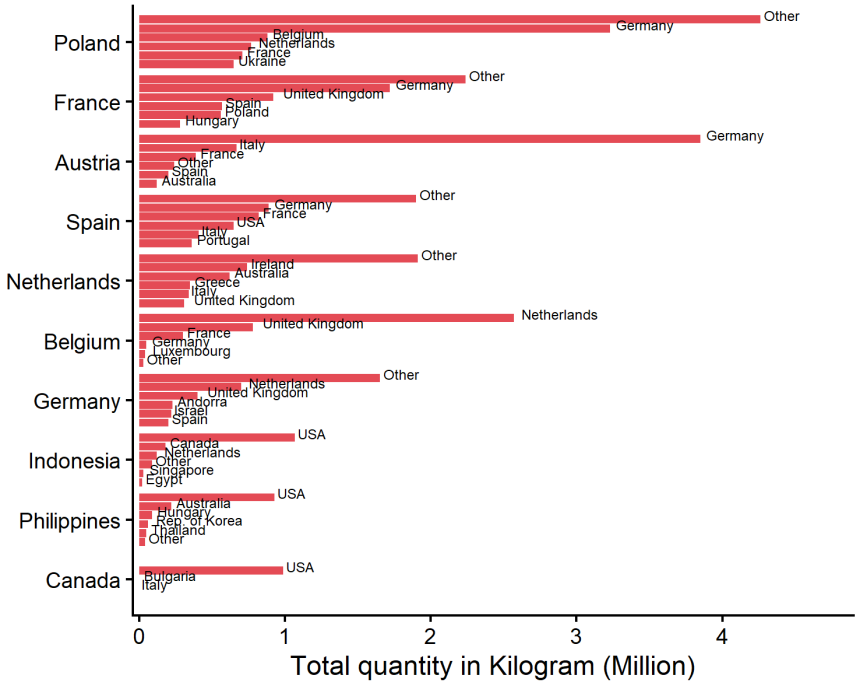


Figure 18. Largest importers of rolling paper (HS 481310) and their destinations, 2024

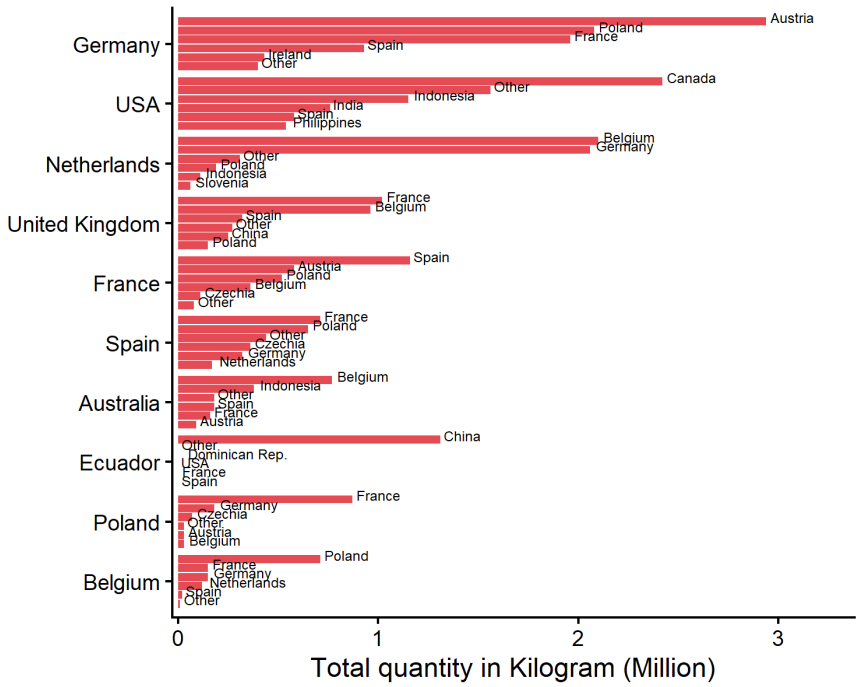


Figure 19. Largest exporters of rolling paper (HS 481320) and their destinations, 2024

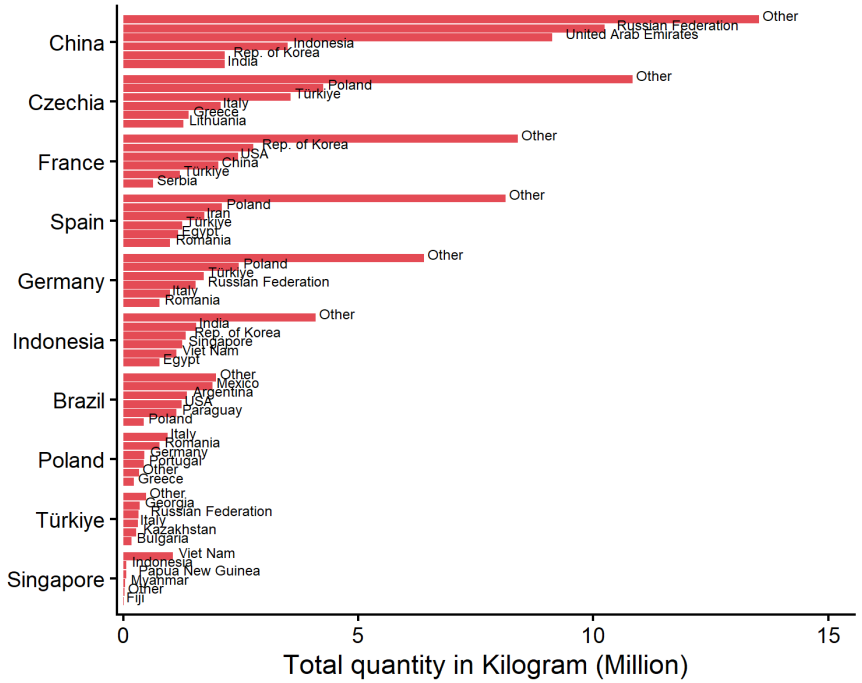


Figure 20. Largest importers of rolling paper (HS 481320) and their destinations, 2024

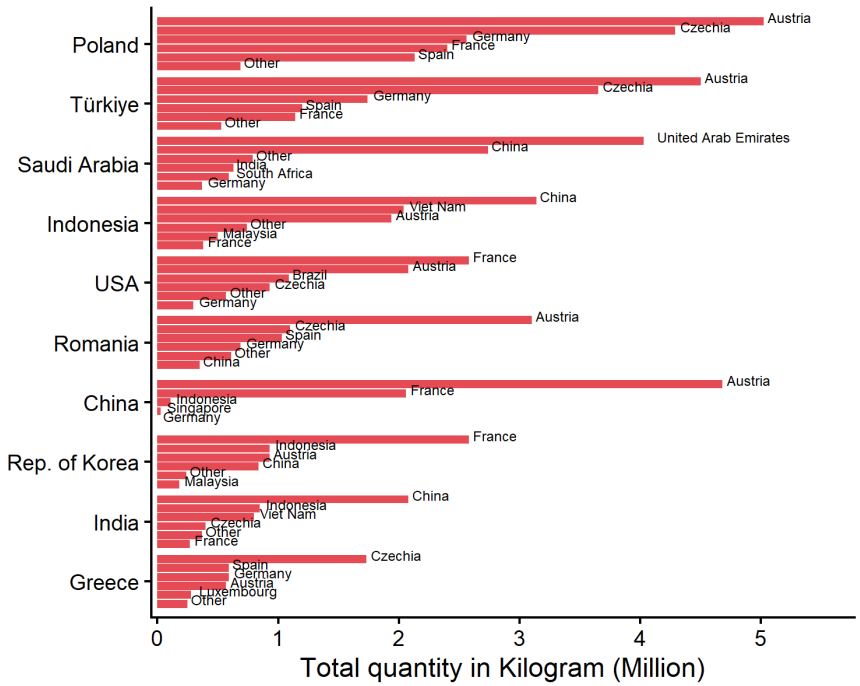


Figure 21. Largest exporters of rolling paper (HS 481330) and their destinations, 2024

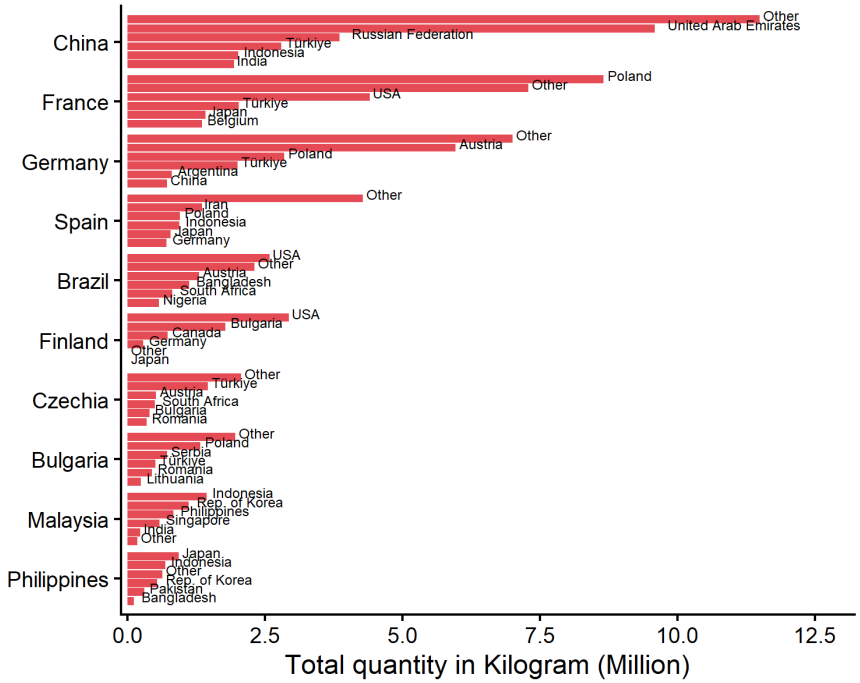
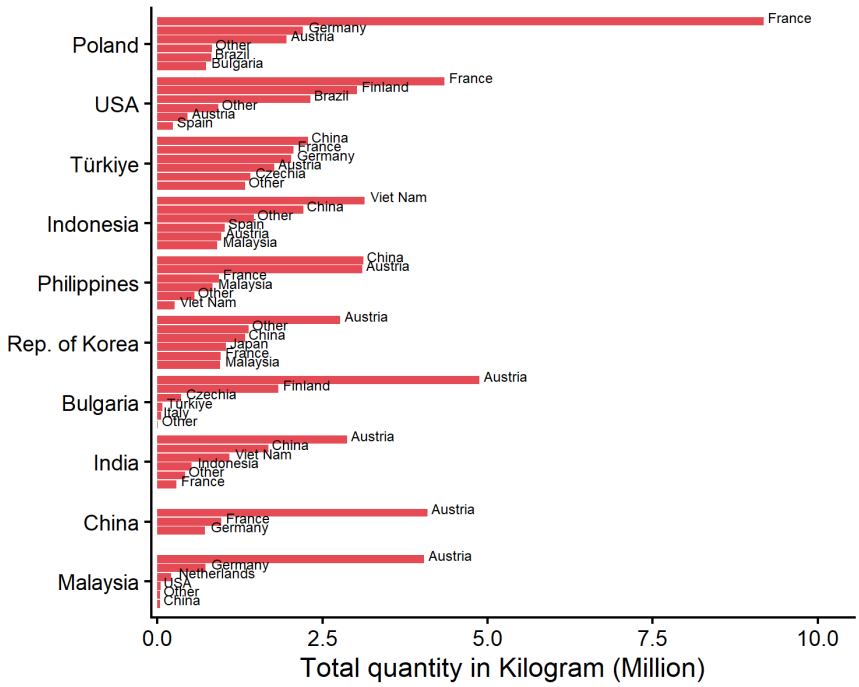


Figure 22. Largest importers of rolling paper (HS 481330) and their destinations, 2024



5. Cigarette filters

5.1 Overview

As shown in **Table 9**, 412 million kilograms of cigarette filters and acetate tow (the main input to cigarette filters) were exported globally (valued at 3.07 billion USD), while 453 million kilograms were imported (valued at 3.51 billion USD) in 2024. China led the export market with a 27 percent share for Wadding while USA exported 55 percent of Fibres (**Table 10**).

Table 9. Overview of cigarette filter exports and imports in 2024

HS code	Description	Import (total value in million USD)	Export (total value in million USD)	Import (total in million kilograms)	Export (total in million kilograms)
550210	Fibres; artificial filament tow of cellulose acetate	2,395	1,648	350	273
560122	Wadding; other articles thereof, of	1,114	1,420	103	139

	man-made fibres				
Total		3,509	3,068	453	412

Table 10. Top three countries with largest exports and imports of cigarette filter, 2024

Product	Export	Import
550210: Fibres; artificial filament tow of cellulose acetate	USA (55%)	Poland (14%)
	Belgium (13%)	Indonesia (11%)
	Japan (7%)	Türkiye (8%)
560122: Wadding; other articles thereof, of man-made fibres	China (27%)	Romania (5%)
	Rep. of Korea (7%)	Türkiye (5%)
	Poland (6%)	Latvia (4%)

5.2 Cigarette filter export trends (2015-2024)

Figure 23 and **Figure 24** illustrate the trend of cigarette filter exports over a ten-year period for countries that account for at least 70 percent of the trade volume. Countries with largest export of Fibres were the USA and Belgium in 2024. The top three countries that exported the highest volumes of cigarette filters (Wadding) were China, Republic of Korea and Poland. United Arab Emirate, which ranked the second highest in 2023, did not report data in 2024.

Figure 23. Countries with the largest exports of cigarette filter (HS 550210), 2015-2025

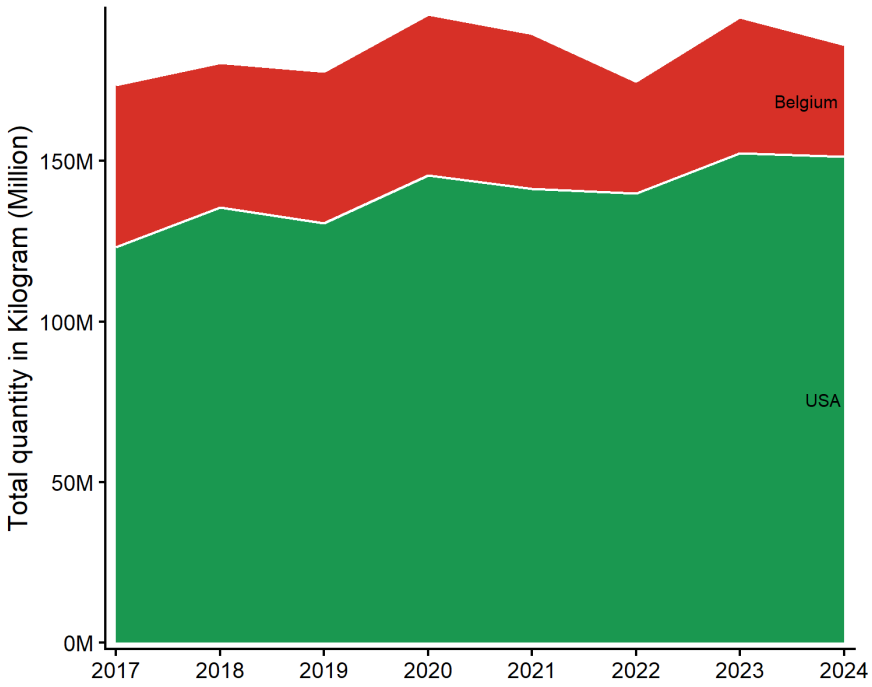
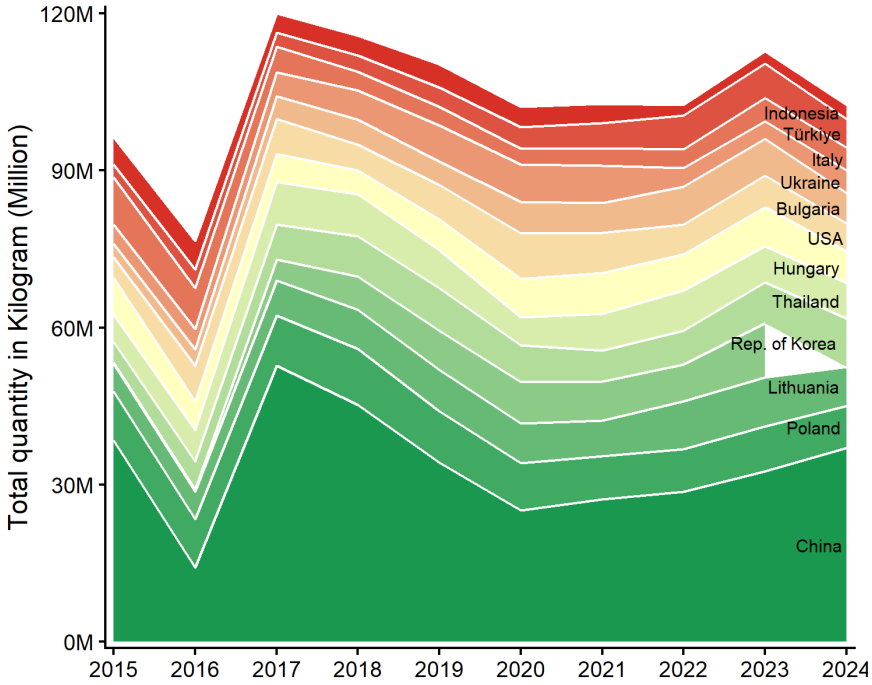


Figure 24. Countries with the largest exports of cigarette filter (HS 560122), 2015-2025



5.3 Cigarette filter export and import flows (2024)

Figure 25 through **Figure 28** show the ten largest exporters and importers of tobacco filter/acetate tow commodities and their major partner countries.

Figure 25. Largest exporters of cigarette filter (HS 550210) and their destinations, 2024

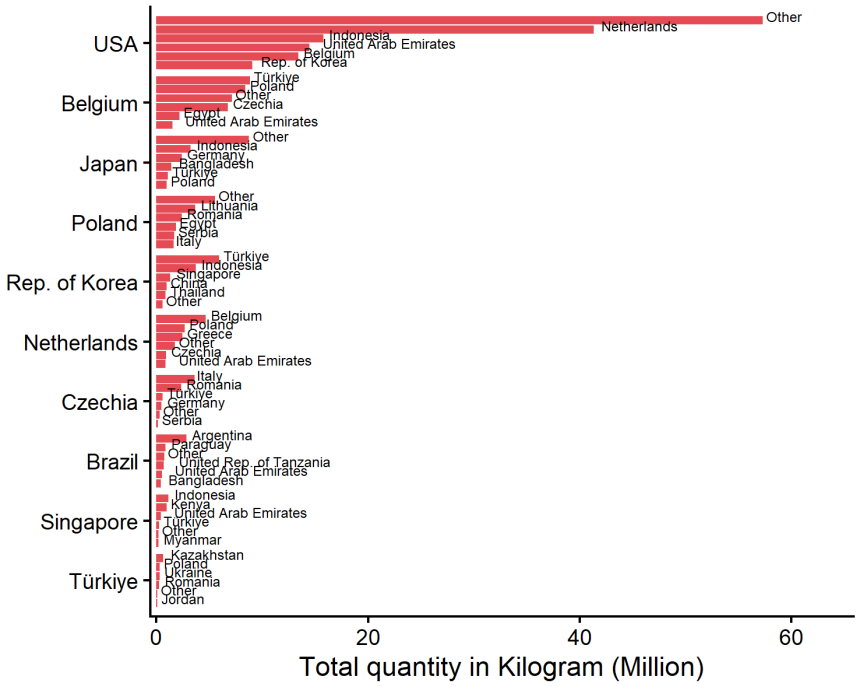


Figure 26. Largest importer of cigarette filter (HS 550210) and their destinations, 2024

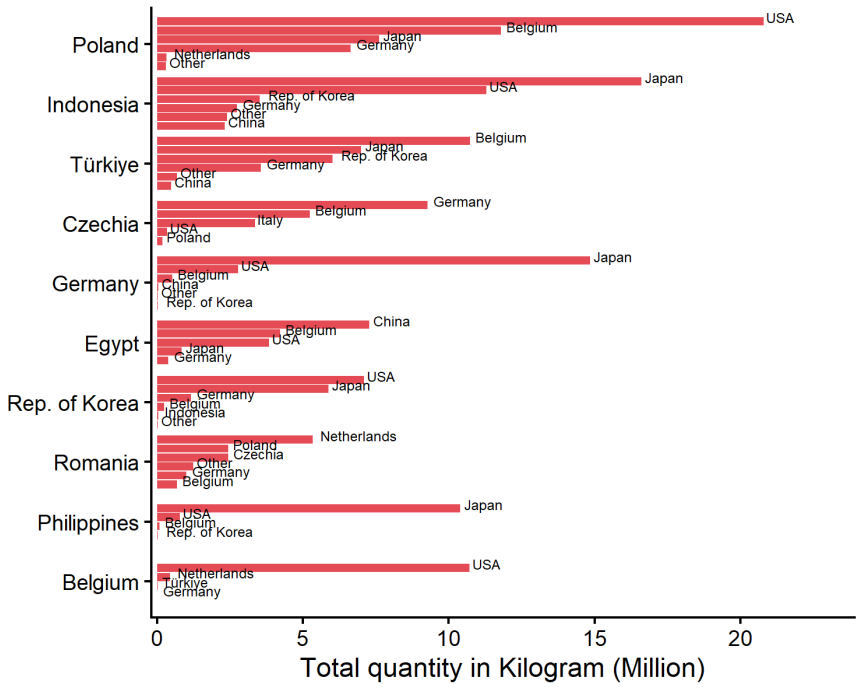


Figure 27. Largest exporters of cigarette filter (HS 560122) and their destinations, 2024

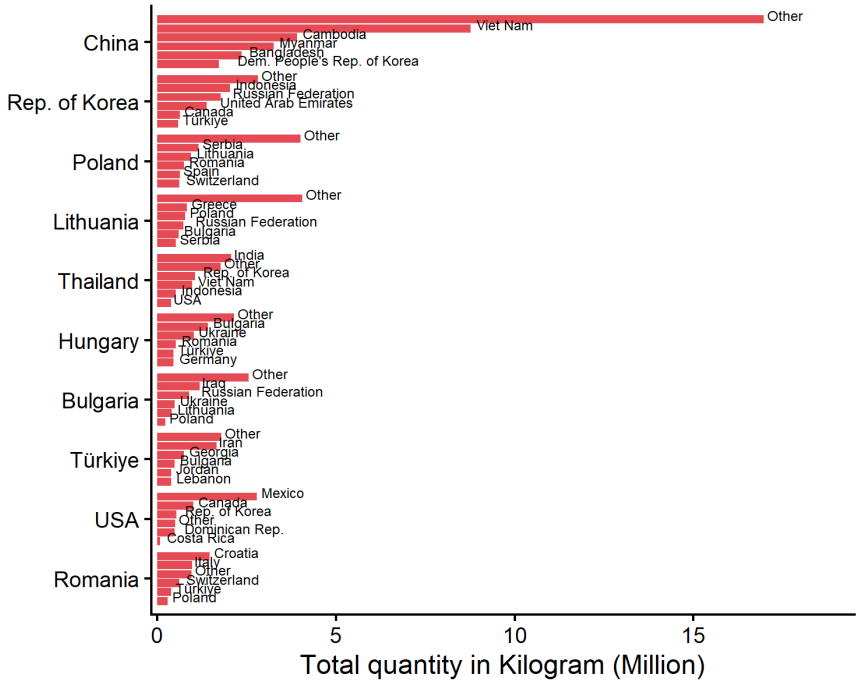
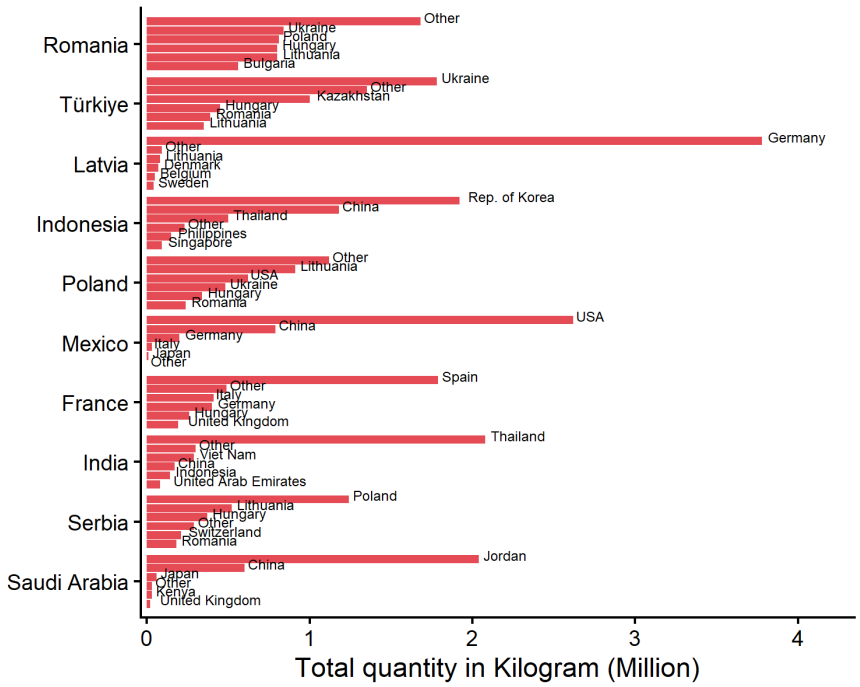


Figure 28. Largest importer of cigarette filter (HS 560122) and their destinations, 2024



6. Manufacturing equipment

6.1 Overview

Table 11 shows that 753 million USD worth of cigarette manufacturing equipment and 225 million USD worth of machinery parts were exported globally in 2024. As presented in **Table 12**, Italy was the largest exporter for manufacturing equipment, accounting for 26 percent of export value. The top exporter for machinery parts was the Netherlands, which contributed 15 percent of the total export share. Indonesia (10% of total value) and the Republic of Korea (13% of total value) were the primary importers of machinery and their parts respectively.

Table 11. Overview of cigarette machinery export and import in 2024

HS code	Description	Import (total value in millions)	Export (total value in millions)
847810	Machinery; for preparing or making up tobacco, n.e.c. in this chapter	681	753

847890	Machinery; parts of those for preparing or making up tobacco, n.e.c. in this chapter	584	226
Total		1,265	979

Table 12. Top three countries with largest export and import of cigarette machinery 2024

Product	Export	Import
847810: Machinery; for preparing or making up tobacco, n.e.c. in this chapter	Italy (37%)	Indonesia (10%)
	Hungary (9%)	USA (9%)
	Malaysia (8%)	Germany (7%)
847890: Machinery; parts of those for preparing or making up tobacco, n.e.c. in this chapter	Netherlands (15%)	Rep. of Korea (13%)
	Singapore (12%)	Poland (9%)
	Italy (12%)	Saudi Arabia (9%)

6.2 Cigarette machinery export trend (2015-2024)

According to **Figure 29**, Italy has been the primary exporter of tobacco machinery during the ten-year period from 2015. Italy also led the export for parts between 2021 and 2023, though the Netherlands overtook the top position in 2024.

Figure 29. Countries with the largest exports of cigarette machinery (HS 847810), 2015-2025

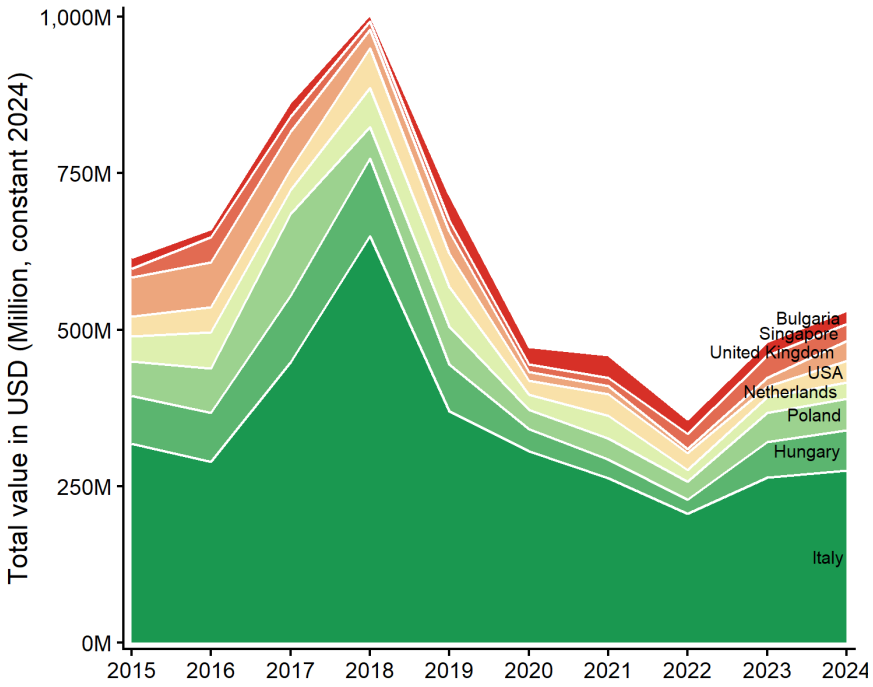
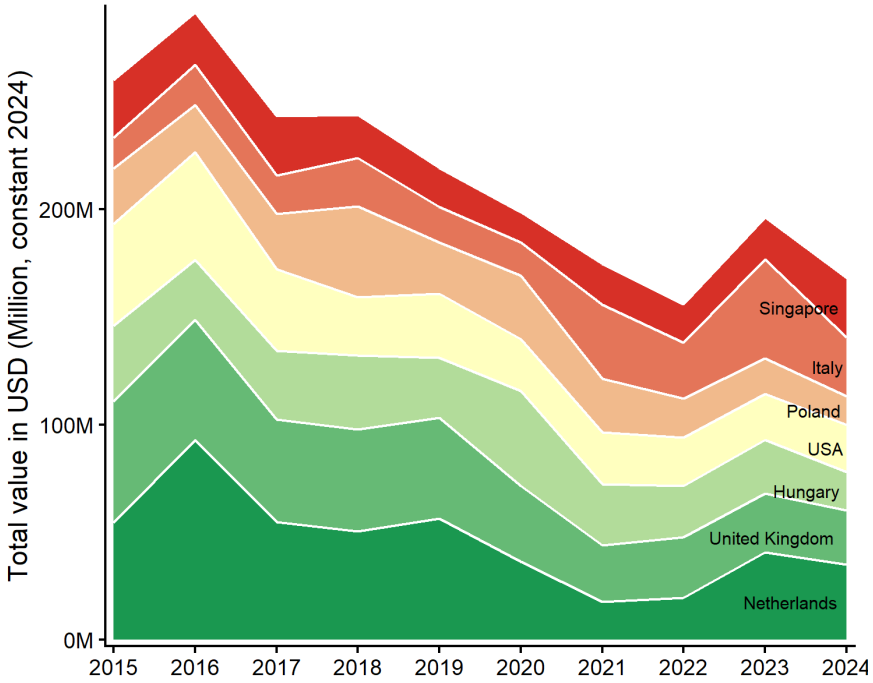


Figure 30. Countries with the largest exports of cigarette machinery (HS 847890), 2015-2025



6.3 Cigarette manufacturing equipment export trends (2015-2024)

Figure 31 through **Figure 34** show the top ten largest exporters and importers of cigarette machinery and parts, along with their major partner countries.

Figure 31. Largest exporters of cigarette machinery (HS 847810) and their destinations, 2024

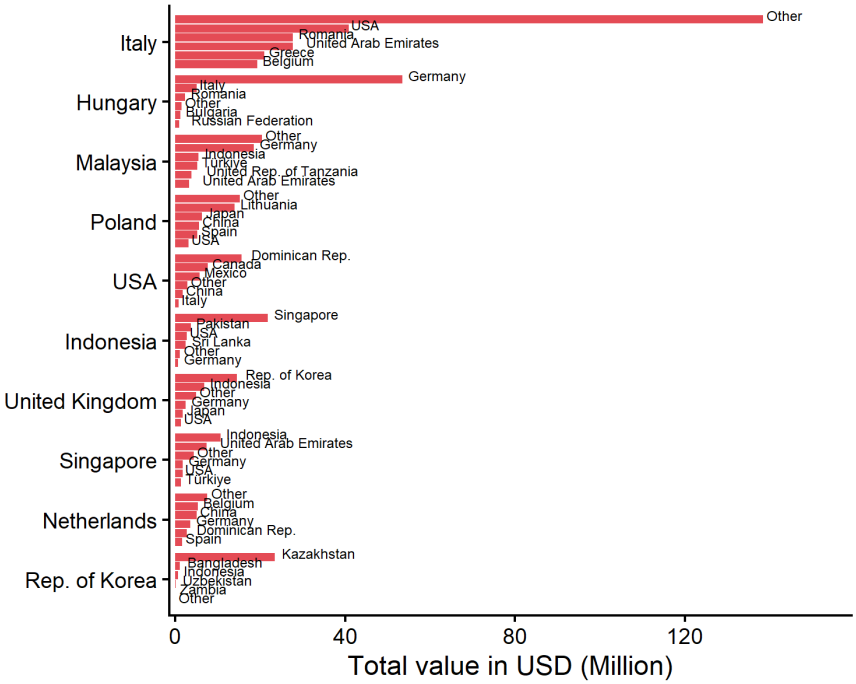


Figure 32. Largest importer of cigarette machinery (HS 847810) and their destinations, 2024

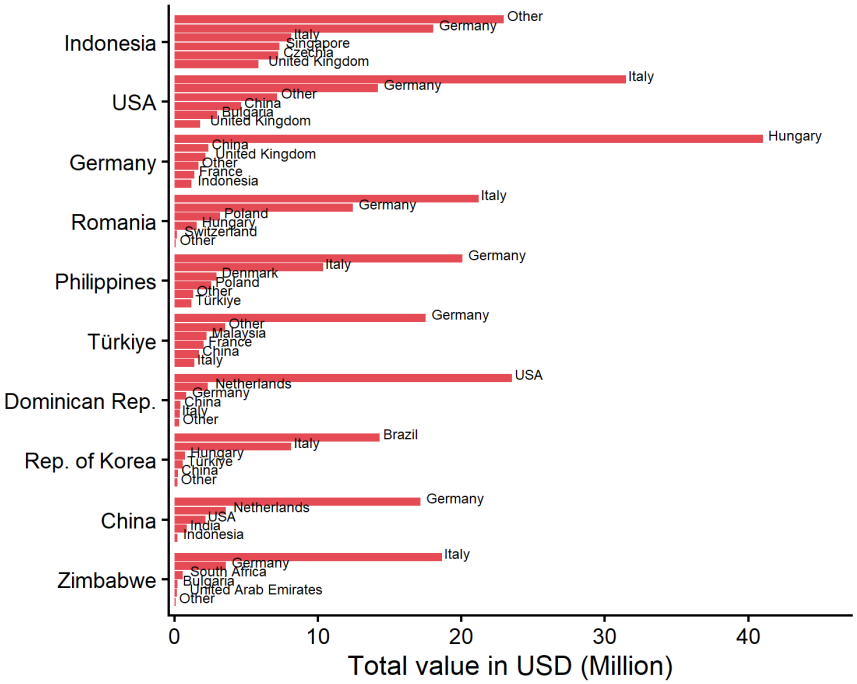


Figure 33: Largest exporters of cigarette machinery (HS 847890) and their destinations, 2024

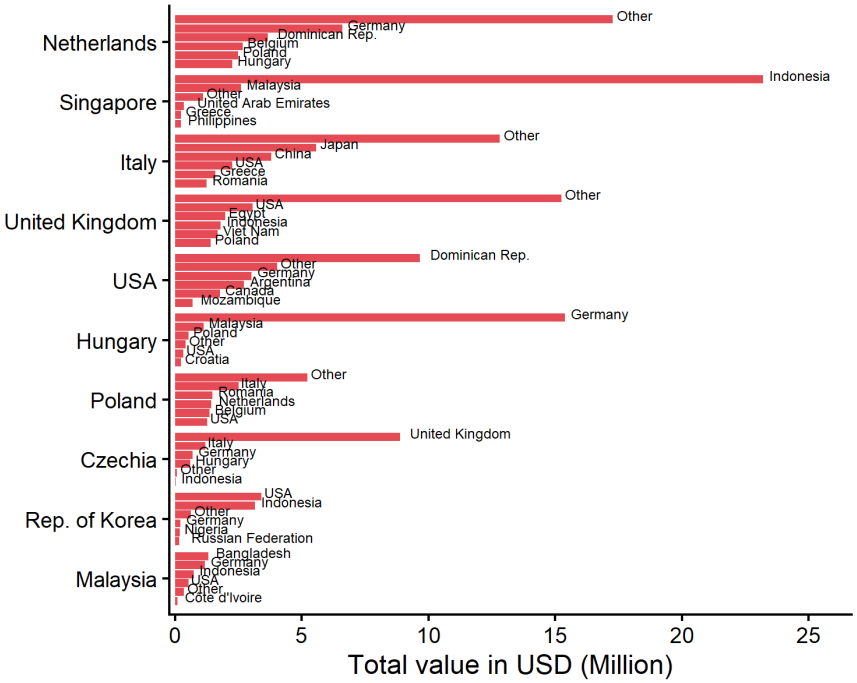
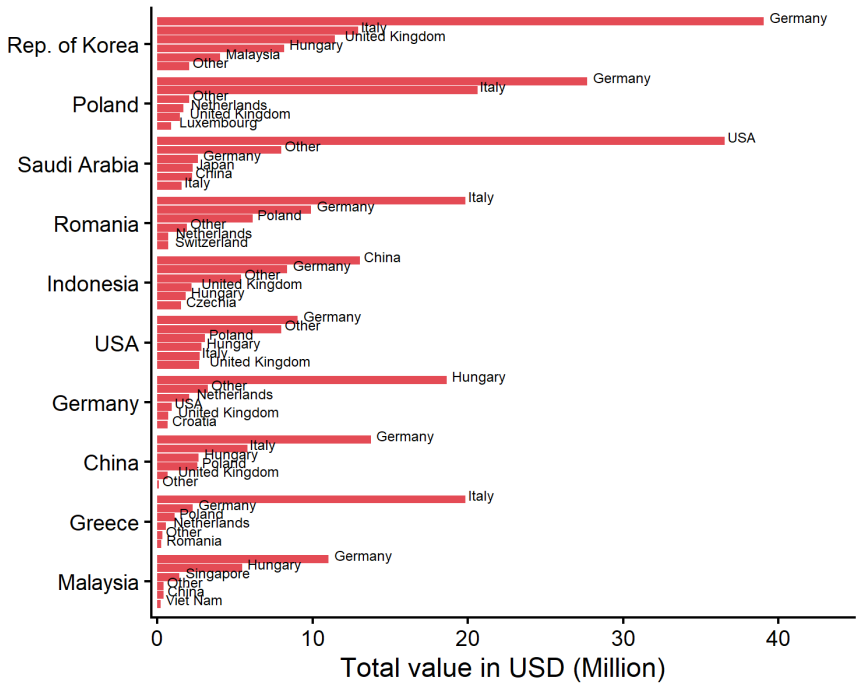


Figure 34: Largest importers of cigarette machinery (HS 847890) and their destinations, 2024



7. Appendix

7.1 Largest re-exporting countries with their top partners by commodities

Re-export is the export of foreign goods in the same state as they were previously imported into the country. The main reason for re-exporting is that some countries serve as transit points for traded goods, arguably most commonly for logistical reasons, but also sometimes for tariff-related or other financial reasons. In some cases, there might be very light manipulation of the goods (very limited value addition) prior to re-export such as blending tobacco leaf types. Supply and values chains are sometimes complex and it can be logical for companies to pass their goods through an intermediary country. Note that transit and re-export, including through free zones, are widely understood to be risk areas. Article 12 of the Protocol addresses free zones and international transit, and FCTC/MOP/4/5 (paragraph 32) notes challenges in ensuring compliance within free trade zones.

As shown in **Table 13**, the primary re-exporters of tobacco leaf were the United States and Malawi. The United States also led in re-exporting various cigarette papers, followed by Georgia and Canada, as well as tobacco machinery and parts. Georgia was the top re-exporter of cigarette filters, primarily to Azerbaijan.

Table 13. Largest re-export countries with their top partners by tobacco commodities, 2024

Commodity	Re-exporter	Partners	Value in million USD
240110: Tobacco, (not stemmed or stripped)	Canada	USA (94.5%) and Italy (5.5%)	2.63 (23.8%)
	Saudi Arabia	Yemen (92.2%) and United Arab Emirates (7.8%)	2.21 (20%)
	Sri Lanka	Indonesia (95.5%) and Dominica (4.5%)	2.17 (19.6%)
240120: Tobacco; partly or wholly stemmed or stripped	USA	Canada (38.4%) , Mexico (29.6%) , Other (19.4%) and Dominican Rep. (12.7%)	17.17 (40.4%)
	Malawi	China (72.8%) , Belgium (24.5%) , Other (1.5%) and Indonesia (1.2%)	16.77 (39.5%)

Commodity	Re-exporter	Partners	Value in million USD
	Italy	Germany (31.2%), Other (24.7%), United Arab Emirates (22.7%) and Serbia (21.4%)	3.42 (8%)
240130: Tobacco refuse	Saudi Arabia	Yemen (86.6%) and Kuwait (13.4%)	0.42 (33.2%)
	Sri Lanka	Italy (45%), Other (23.9%), Germany (19.6%) and USA (11.6%)	0.26 (21%)
	Canada	USA (100%)	0.22 (17.4%)
240391: Tobacco; homogenised or reconstituted	Cambodia	Indonesia (100%)	0.18 (75.3%)
	USA	Dominican Rep. (85.5%) and Mexico (14.5%)	0.06 (24.5%)
	Panama	Belize (100%)	0 (0.2%)
481310: Paper, cigarette; in the form of booklets or tubes	USA	Canada (92.6%), Ireland (3.3%), Other (2.7%) and Mexico (1.4%)	4.35 (65.6%)
	Rwanda	United Kingdom (100%) and South Sudan (0%)	1.14 (17.2%)
	Canada	USA (99.2%) and Italy (0.8%)	0.59 (9%)
481320: Paper, cigarette; in rolls of a width not exceeding 5cm	Georgia	Azerbaijan (100%)	3.46 (67.1%)
	USA	Mexico (62.3%), Canada (18.7%), Netherlands (12.2%) and Other (6.8%)	0.95 (18.4%)
	Canada	USA (98.4%) and Costa Rica (1.6%)	0.72 (13.9%)
481390: Paper, cigarette; (other than in rolls of a width not exceeding 5cm, or in booklets or tubes)	Canada	USA (100%) and Australia (0%)	10.67 (64%)
	Georgia	Azerbaijan (100%)	3.9 (23.4%)
	USA	Canada (88.2%), Israel (4.9%), France (3.5%) and Other (3.4%)	1.83 (11%)

Commodity	Re-exporter	Partners	Value in million USD
550210: Fibres; artificial filament tow of cellulose acetate	Thailand	Indonesia (88.9%) and Hungary (11.1%)	1 (46.1%)
	Georgia	Türkiye (100%)	0.69 (31.9%)
	USA	Viet Nam (98%) and Uruguay (2%)	0.48 (22%)
560122: Wadding; other articles thereof, of man-made fibres	Georgia	Azerbaijan (100%)	17.82 (86.3%)
	USA	Costa Rica (32.6%), Other (28%), Mexico (25.6%) and Canada (13.7%)	1.98 (9.6%)
	Canada	USA (63.2%), Costa Rica (26.8%), United Kingdom (7.1%) and Other (2.9%)	0.36 (1.7%)
591000: Textiles; transmission or conveyor belts or belting, of textile material, whether or not impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics, or reinforced with metal or other material	USA	Canada (36.9%), Other (29%), Mexico (26.1%) and Chile (8%)	4.71 (80.7%)
	Canada	USA (90%), Other (6.7%), Barbados (1.8%) and Sweden (1.5%)	1.05 (18%)
	Italy	Poland (45.6%), Germany (38.7%), Spain (8.3%) and Other (7.5%)	0.02 (0.3%)
847810: Machinery; for preparing or making up tobacco, n.e.c. in this chapter	USA	Canada (45.1%), Dominican Rep. (36.8%), Other (9.3%) and Mexico (8.7%)	13.01 (72.8%)
	Sri Lanka	Indonesia (100%)	2.85 (15.9%)
	Georgia	Türkiye (100%)	1.39 (7.8%)
847890: Machinery; parts of those for preparing or making up tobacco, n.e.c. in this chapter	USA	Germany (53.3%), Other (16.2%), Canada (15.5%) and Dominican Rep. (14.9%)	3.38 (90.3%)
	Canada	USA (100%)	0.13 (3.4%)
	Saudi Arabia	United Arab Emirates (100%)	0.08 (2.1%)

Suggested citation

Oo, S.M.T., & Drope, J. (2026). *Examining Trade Flows of Key Inputs to Cigarette Manufacturing.* Economics for Health.

Correspondence to:

Saw Min Thu Oo, soo1@jh.edu and/or Jeff Drope, jdrope@jhu.edu.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Patrick Musavali and Rodrigo Santos Feijo for their valuable feedback and input.

About Economics for Health

Economics for Health is a collaboration of leading researchers who have been studying the economics of health policy for nearly 30 years with a focus on health taxes. The team is dedicated to helping researchers, advocates, and policymakers access the latest and best research about what's working—or not working—to improve public health and economic wellbeing globally. As a program of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health department of Health, Behavior & Society, Economics for Health is not affiliated with any tobacco manufacturer. Visit www.economicsforhealth.org, follow us on X (www.x.com/econforhealth), or add us on LinkedIn and Facebook to learn more.