US-Greece Economic Bulletin

1st Issue | September 2026

Prepared by IOBE on behalf of and in collaboration with AmCham Greece

Contents

CEO takeaways – what matters now

• Greece is outperforming the Euro Area (EA). GDP grew 2.0% y/y in Q1 2026 versus 0.3% in the EA, with fixed investment surging 12.1%. Investment is increasingly a contributory growth engine, gradually converging with EA average.

• The outlook remains positive, but the risk profile has changed. Energy prices, Middle East uncertainty and inflation are the main near-term risks; Greek HICP inflation averaged 3.8% in H1 before falling to 2.7% in July.

• The US is becoming strategically more important to Greece. The US accounted for 4.9% of Greek goods exports in 2025, placing it among Greece's top five export markets. Bilateral trade is now material, not marginal.

• Services are the strongest US–Greece economic ties. Greece exported €3.7bn of services to the US in 2025. US tourism receipts reached €1.74bn, with average spend per trip more than twice the average of other markets.

• High prospects for further billateral investment ties. US inward FDI shows a clear positive trend, reaching €1.315bn in 2025, while evidence points to further potential in investment, services, education and selected product categories.

• Takeaways for businesses: opportunities beyond goods trade, towards broader growth partnerships. Strong potential in services, investment, human capital, specific product categories and sectors where Greek and US capabilities complement each other. In parallel, need to manage uncertainty related to geopolitics, trade protectionism, energy and regulatory framework.

Executive summary – Recent trends in Greece, the US and the Euro Area

Greece

- The **economy has emerged from a deep**, **prolonged recession** following the 2009 crisis, showing **robust fiscal performance**, now **growing above the Euro Area (EA)** average, though moderating. **Private consumption remains the main driver**, **alongside strong fixed investment** – though the latter's import intensity turns the **external contribution negative**. **Growth momentum should stay positive through 2026–27** on **reforms**, **strong tourism** and **investment momentum** – provided Middle East uncertainty eases.
- **Challenges**: **inflation persistently above EA**, a **reform agenda vulnerable to pre-election** cycle, completing **RRF absorption**, long-term **demographic trends**.

US

- A **resilient economy** – **activity held up in 2026 H1 (2,4% y/y) despite adverse shocks**, underpinned by **exceptionally strong AI-related investment** (productivity growth). **Growth is projected by OECD at around +2.0% in 2026, easing to +1.8% in 2027**, as the energy shock and Middle East uncertainty temporarily weigh on private consumption; **inflation** should **rise sharply but briefly**, with core returning gradually toward target by end-2027.
- **Challenges**: **prolonged oil price pressure**, **stretched equity valuations**, **widening fiscal deficit** and **high/rising public debt**, **vulnerabilities in private credit markets.**

Euro Area

- **Activity decelerated in 2026 H1 (1.0% y/y)** as the **Middle East conflict** weighed through **higher energy prices** and **elevated uncertainty**; **sentiment** is **deteriorating** and **headline inflation picked up in Q2**, though the **labour market** – cooling but still strong, with unemployment near its historical low – continues to **support private consumption**. **OECD** and the **ECB project a slowdown to +0.8% in 2026**, with **recovery to +1.2% in 2027**, as the energy shock fades and inflation returns gradually to target.
- **Challenges**: **private investment** constrained by uncertainty, weak **productivity and demographics**, fiscal pressures, **exposure to energy price** and **geopolitical shocks**.

Prospects for further US-EA economic ties

- **Mirror image external imbalances** with bilateral trade split between **EU goods surplus and widening services deficit**, while **the transatlantic gap is widest in equity performance** and **public leverage**.
- **Scope for deepening** lies **in services**, **investment** and **human capital flows** rather than goods trade, where the imbalance is already large and politically sensitive.

Executive summary – US-Greece bilateral economic ties

Trends in bilateral US-GR ties

- Amid their **historically long-standing trading ties**, the US has recently become a more **important trading partner for Greece.** The share in Greek goods exports rose to **4.9% in 2025**. The US now ranks among Greece's **top five export markets** and **top eleven import sources**.
- **Greek exports** to the US concentrate in **food products**, **refined petroleum** and **basic metals**, while **imports** from the US are dominated by **crude oil** and **natural gas**, followed by **chemicals**, **machinery**, and **high-technology products**. Services trade remains a major strength of the bilateral relationship, led by **travel and transport services**. The US is the leading non-European market for **Greek tourism**.
- **Greece's trade intensity with the US marks above various regional peers since 2010** and has strengthened, albeit there is room for further improvement. The **complementarity of US exports with Greek economy's import needs** has systematically increased during the last decade.
- **Bilateral FDI and portfolio flows** have further potential, with a clear positive trend of US inward investment to Greece, including on real estate sector. Further intensified **education and cultural exchanges** continue to deepen the US-GR socio-economic ties.
- **Overall**, recent trend of strengthening billateral ties in trade, tourism and education, prospects for stronger ties in investments and specific sectors.

Special theme of the 1st issue: Highlighting product categories with bilateral trade opportunities. An analysis based on Revealed Comparative Advantage and Trade Intensity between Greece and USA shows that:

- **Greece leverages its competitive advantages in specific products to engage in significant trade with the US**, including the export of furskins, building materials, and dairy products. **There are significant prospects for trade in fertilizers and lead**, areas in which Greece has a comparative advantage.
- The **US uses its comparative advantage to achieve a high level of trade with Greece in works of art, collectors' pieces, antiques, nickel, and printing industry products**. There are **significant prospects for trade in photographic and cinematographic goods, cotton, and cereals**, in which the US has a comparative advantage.

1. Greek economy

- Macro | Markets | Fiscal | External balances

Greek economy – Summary

- **Growth moderated** yet **stayed well ahead of the Euro Area (EA)** as GDP rose by 2.0% y-o-y in Q1:2026 (from 2.3% in the previous quarter), far above the 0.3% of EA average. **Private consumption lost steam** (0.7%, from 2.3%) **despite** a **public consumption rebound** (1.6%, from -2.1%), and **total investment stalled** (0.0%, from 0.4%) on a sharper inventory drawdown **even as fixed investment held firm**. The **external balance improved** again, with **exports strengthening** (2.4%) and **imports decelerating** (0.5%).

- **Fixed investment** is the **key growth driver** with **GFCF growing by** 12.1% y-o-y in Q1:2026, lifting the GFCF-to-GDP ratio toward 18% – albeit **still below EA and regional peers**, with room to catch up.

- **Inflation re-accelerated above the ECB target** during the fist half of 2026 before easing sharply in July: **HICP averaged 3.8%** in **H1:2026**, up from 3.1% a year earlier, **peaking at 4.9%** in **May** and **falling to 2.7%** in **July**. The **pickup** was **energy-driven** (energy contributed 1.4 p.p. in April against −0.7 p.p. in January, with indirect taxes broadly neutral), and spanned goods and services, with housing/utilities (13.4% in April), transport and tourism-related services the main sources. By July, the **gap with the Euro Area** narrowed **(2.7% vs 2.9%)**.

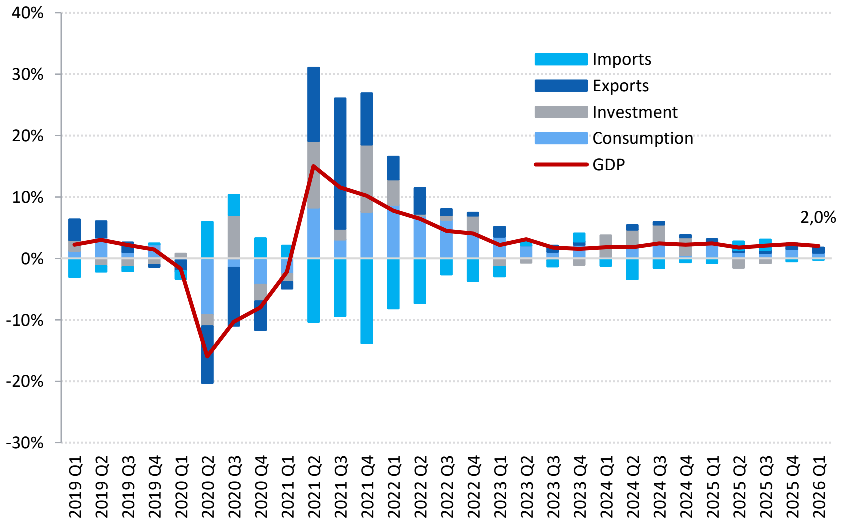
- **Economic sentiment stayed resilient and above the EA**, with the ESI averaging 107.0 in H1:2026 against below 100 in the EA. **Construction confidence reached a series high**, while **industrial confidence held steadily positive** during 2026.

- **Financial conditions** stayed **benign**, the Greek 10-year bond yield (3.79%) held near EA peers (3.44%), on a tight spread with the Bund (3.07%), while **ATHEX outpaced EURO STOXX 50**.

- The **external position stayed structurally in deficit** as the **current account gap re-widened** to about €14 bn **in 2025** – a record **services surplus** (€23 bn) was outweighed by an expanding **goods deficit** (€34 bn), reflecting the main and persistent drag. A similar trend is recorded in 2026 H1.

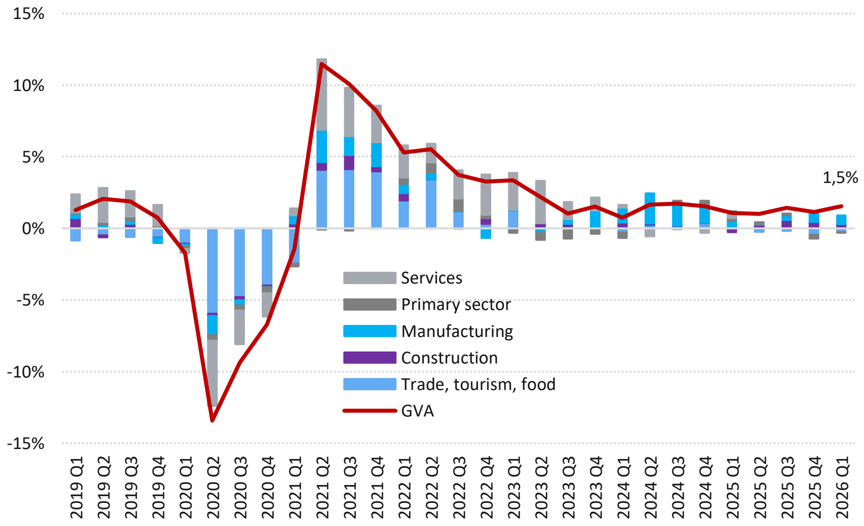
Economic activity expands moderately as sectoral contributions ease. GDP growth eased to 2.0% YoY in Q1:2026 (from 2.3% in Q4:2025), well above the 0.3% Euro Area (EA) average.

GDP growth (YoY)
Chain linked volumes, index 2020=100
Seasonally adjusted



Source: Elstat, until 3/2026

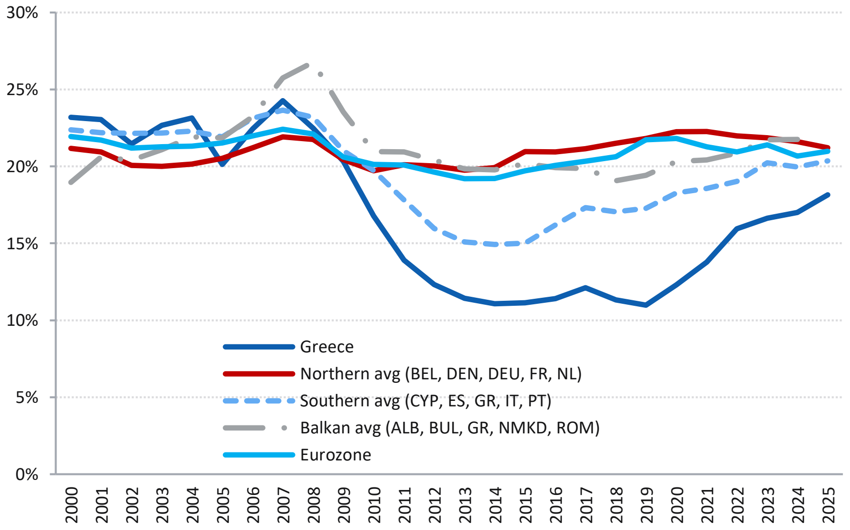
GVA growth contribution by production component (YoY)
Chain linked volumes, index 2020=100
Seasonally adjusted



Source: Elstat, until 3/2026

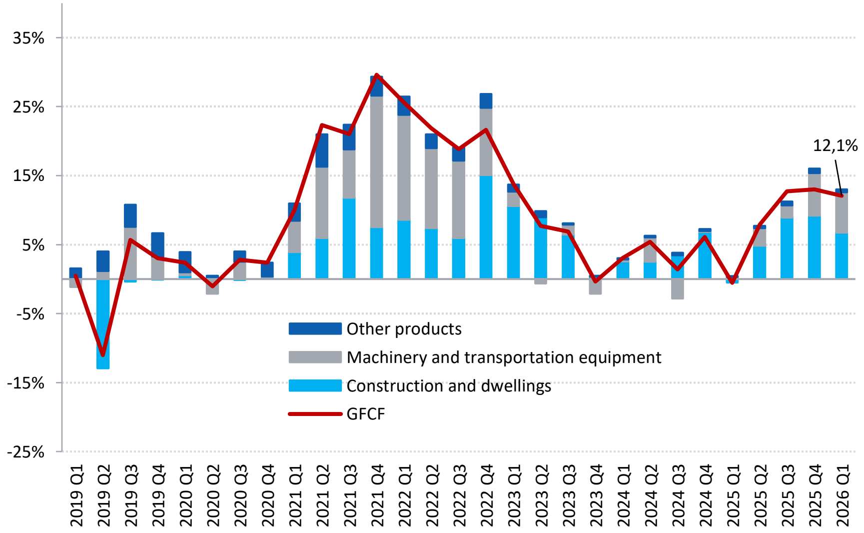
Fixed investment remains a key growth engine: GFCF grew 12.1% YoY in Q1:2026 (from 13.0% in Q4:2025), lifting the GFCF-to-GDP ratio toward 18%, though still below EA and regional peers.

Gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) (% GDP) Chain linked volumes, index 2020=100 Seasonally adjusted



Source: Elstat, until 12/2025

GFCF growth rate and contribution by components Chain linked volumes, index 2020=100 Seasonally adjusted

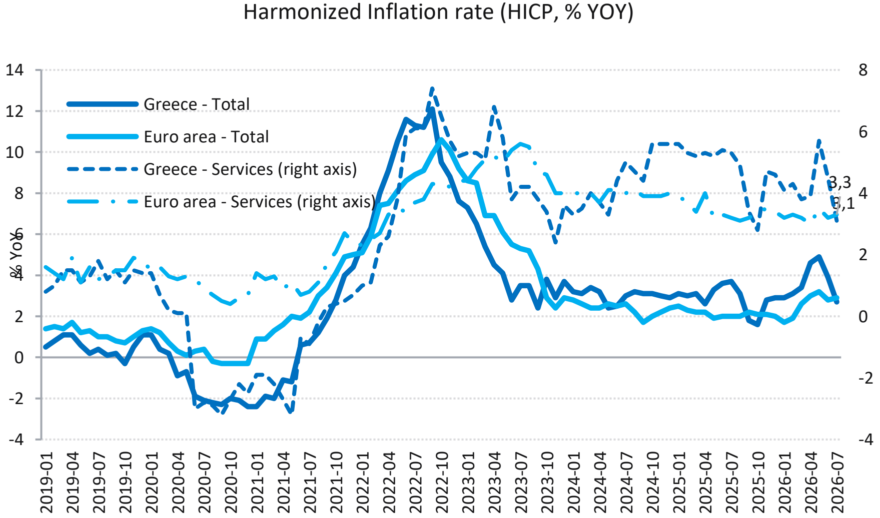


Source: Elstat, until 3/2026

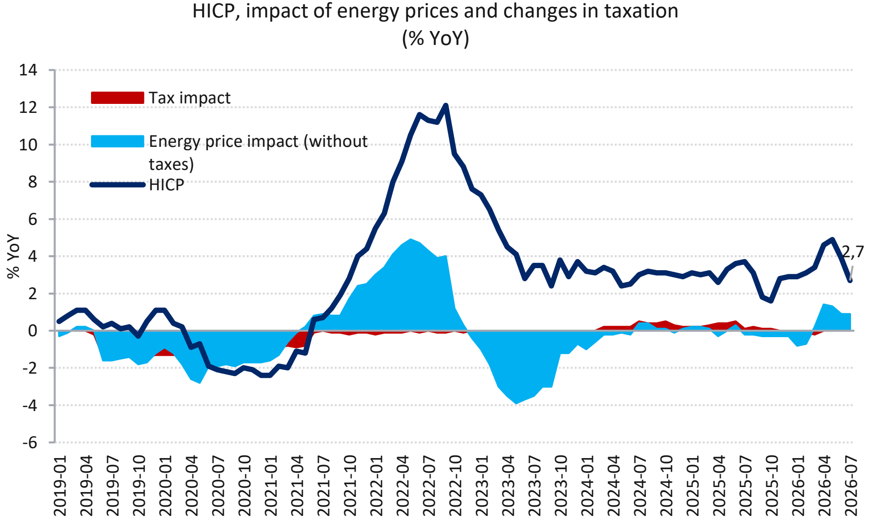
Inflation peaked in Q2:2026, well above the ECB target, while decelerated sharply in July.

HICP inflation averaged 3.8% in H1:2026, peaking at 4.9% in May. Services inflation, which was systematically acute, has since fallen to 3.1% in July, marginally below the Euro Area.

Energy remained the main driver through July: its contribution swung from -0.7 p.p. in January to a peak of +1.4 p.p. in April, easing to +0.9 p.p. in June–July.



Source: Elstat, Eurostat, until 7/2026

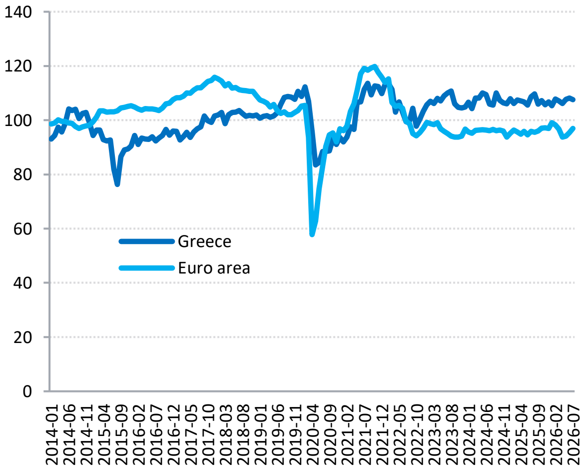


Source: Elstat, Eurostat, until 7/2026

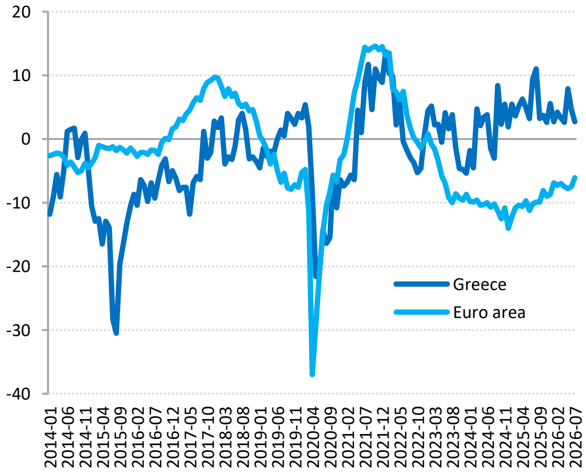
Yet, economic sentiment stays resilient and above the Euro Area driven by strong business expectations.

Greek sentiment (ESI) averaged 107.0 in H1:2026, 7 points above its long-run average and unchanged on H1:2025, against below 100 in the Euro Area. Construction confidence hit a series high of +34.7 in May, averaging +27.4 in H1 (+15.3 a year earlier); industrial confidence held steady.

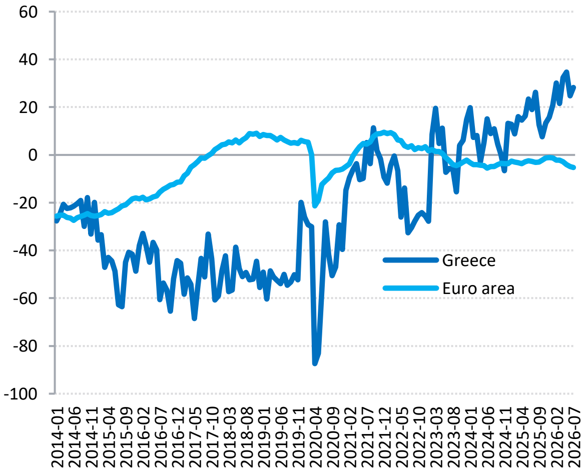
Economic Sentiment Indicator



Industrial Confidence Indicator



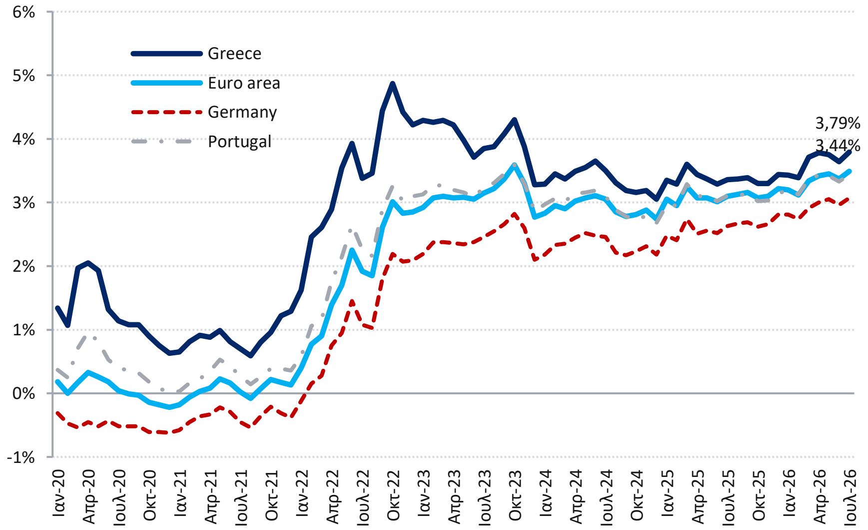
Construction Confidence Indicator



Source: IOBE, European Commission, until 7/2026

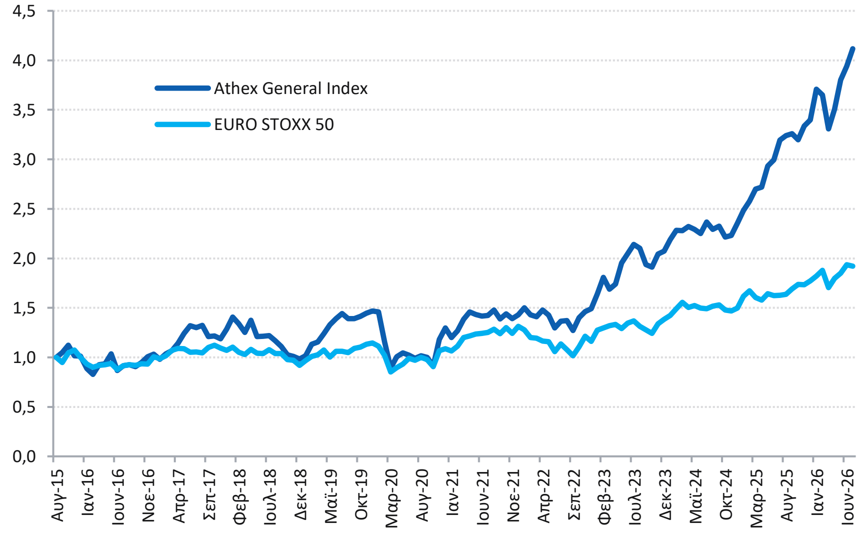
Greek 10-year bond yields hold near Euro Area peers and the spread over Bunds stays tight, as Athens Stock Exchange continues to outpace EURO STOXX 50.

Yield of 10-year government bonds



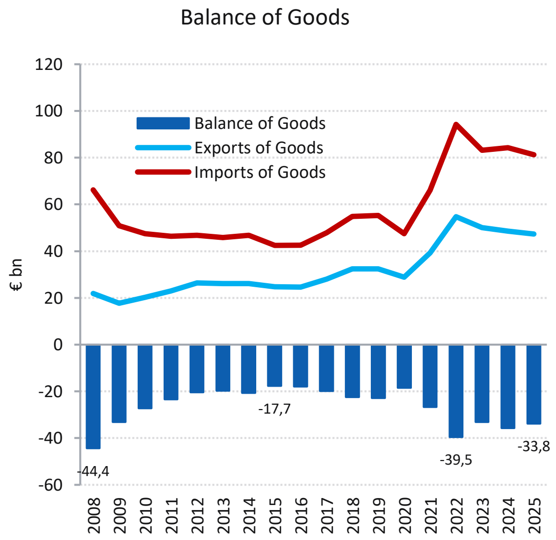
Source: BoG, ECB, until 7/2026

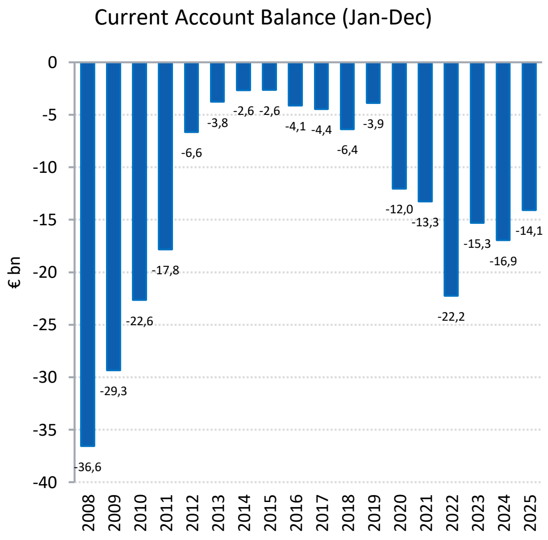
Market Share Price Indices (closing prices)
Base Year 2015=1

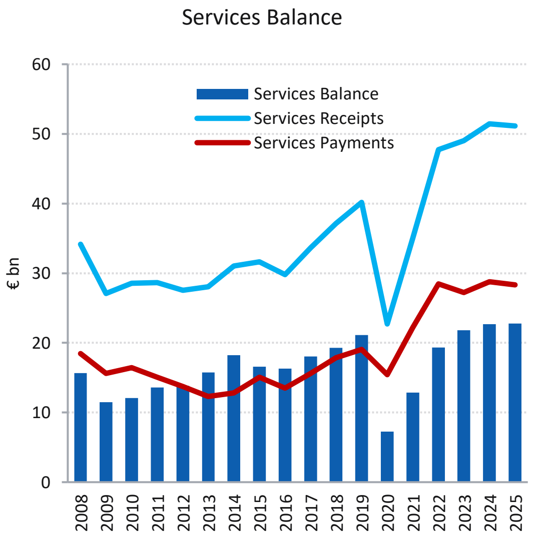


Source: Yahoo Finance, BoG, until 7/2026

A structural current account deficit has widened since its mid-2010s low, as a growing goods gap outpaces a record services surplus.







After narrowing to near-balance in 2014–15 (-€2.6 bn), the current account deficit has re-widened structurally to about €14 bn in 2025. A record services surplus (€23 bn) provides a growing cushion, but it is outweighed by an expanding goods deficit (€34 bn), which constitutes the principal and persistent drag on the country's external position.

Source: BoG, annual BoP data until 12/2025

2. US vs EU economy

- Macro | Markets | Fiscal | Trade

US vs EU economy - Summary

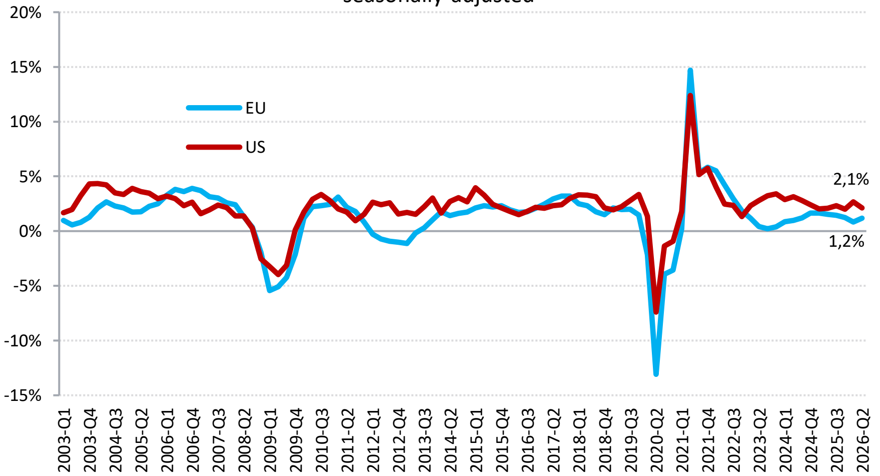
- The **US** has **outgrown** the **EU since 2022** on **resilient consumption**, **fiscal impulse** and **AI-related investment**, but the gap has narrowed during **2025** (US 2.02%, EU 1.49%). Growth rates **decelerated in 2026 Q2** due to raising uncertainty triggered by the **war in the Middle East**.
- **Both US and EU disinflated during 2023-2025 from their 2022 peaks** (EU 11.5%, US 9%). However, **headline inflation** has **turned back up** on both sides **following the war in the Middle East**, which triggered another **energy shock.**
- **Driven by AI and tech**, **US equities** keep **outrunning EU peers**: **Nasdaq sits** near **5× its 2015 level** versus **under 2×** for **EURO STOXX 50**, leaving a wide transatlantic gap. Amid fiscal pressures, during 2026 there is an increasing trend for **long-term US bond yields, which remain above the Euro Area**, while the exchange rate **EUR/USD** follows shifting FED-ECB **interest rate differentials**.
- **US public debt** keeps **climbing far above the Euro Area**: around 124% of GDP in 2025 versus 87%, a **37-point gap that keeps widening**.
- **Private sector credit** has **eased on both sides of the Atlantic**, retreating from its 2020-21 peak (290% of GDP) to about 245–250% in both economies – so the transatlantic gap is in public, rather than private, leverage. Within the **EU,** the **periphery deleveraged** faster (Greece -8.0 pp, Cyprus -7.7 pp, Ireland -5.4 pp), while debt rose most in Finland, Poland, France and Italy, reversing the old core-vs-periphery split.
- The **EU and US run mirror image external imbalances**: a **steady EU** current-account **surplus** (1.9% of GDP) **against a persistent**, **re-widening US deficit** (-3.6%). Bilaterally, the **EU's large goods surplus with the US** (€290 bn in 2025) **is** increasingly **offset by a widening services deficit** (-€190 bn) that has grown sharply since 2020, steadily eroding the net EU surplus. The re-emergence of trade protectionism measures as well as the on-going wars in Ukraine and Middle East have brought frictions in the transatlantic alliance.

US growth has outpaced the EU since 2022, while inflation – after converging near 2% – is edging higher during 2026 in both regions.

US real GDP growth has outpaced the EU since 2022, on resilient consumption, fiscal impulse and AI-related investment — though the gap has narrowed during 2025.

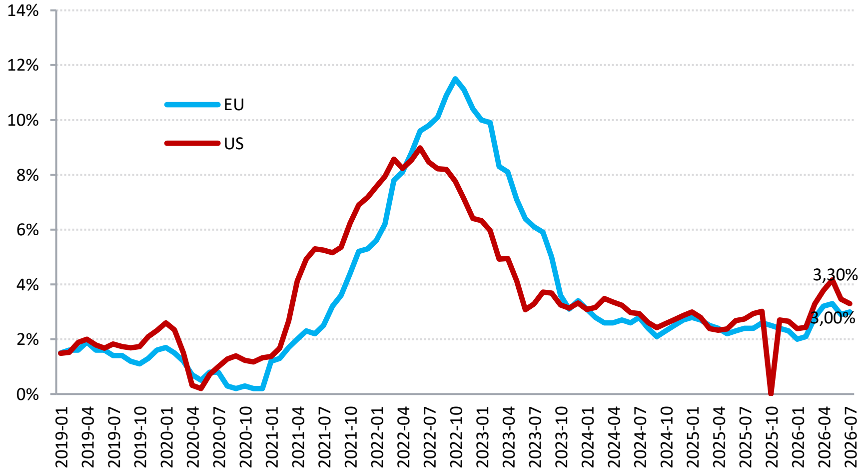
Both regions disinflated from their 2022 peaks (EU 11.5%, US 9%) toward 2% through 2025, but headline inflation has turned back up in 2026 H1, with energy the renewed driver.

GDP growth, QoQ, Yearly % Change Chain-linked Volumes seasonally-adjusted



Source: Eurostat, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, until 6/2026

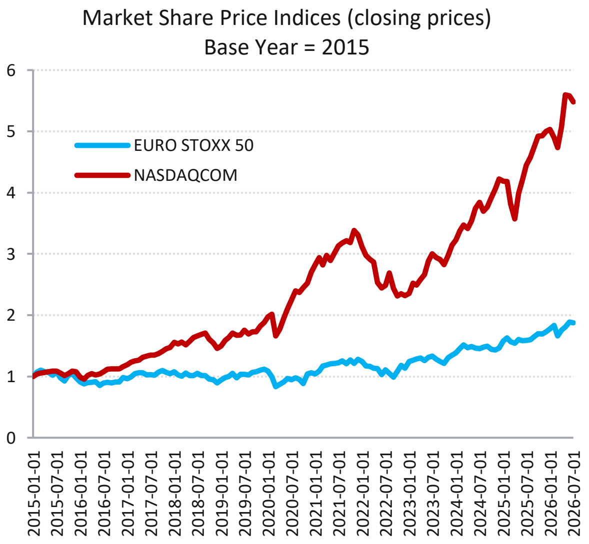
Inflation rate, monthly, YoY % Change



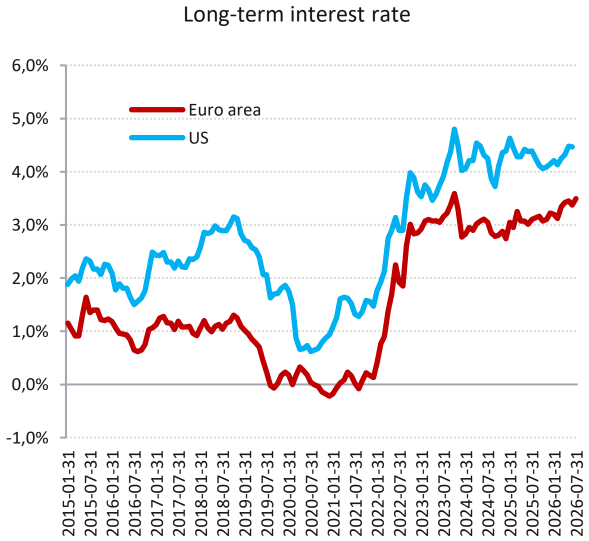
Source: Eurostat, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, until 7/2026

US equities retain a wide level advantage over Europe, but the gap has stopped widening; the euro has stabilised as the Fed-ECB spread narrowed.

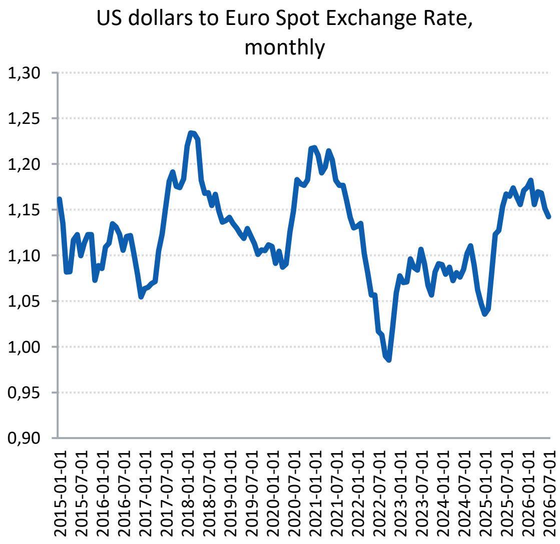
Nasdaq stands at 5.5x its 2015 level against 1.9x for EURO STOXX 50, but the two have moved in step since end-2024 (+30% and +28%). US long-term yields remain above the Euro Area, facing increasing pressures, though the spread eased to 1.1 p.p. in June 2026 from 1.7 p.p. at end-2024. The euro gained 12% against the dollar in 2025 and has since held a 1.14–1.18 range.



Source: ECB, Nasdaq Inc., until 7/2026

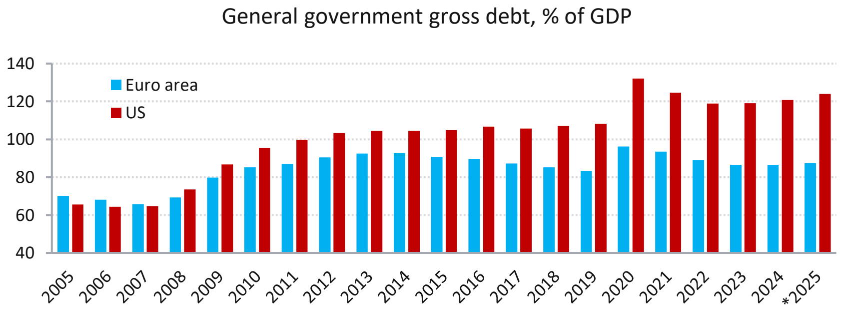


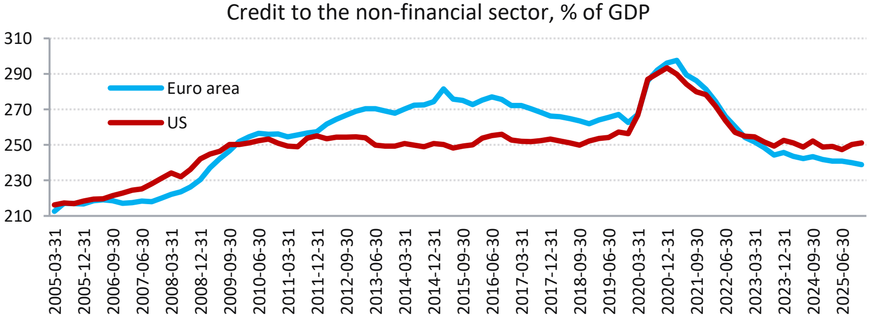
Source: ECB, OECD, until 7/2026



Source: Board of Governors of the FED, until 7/2026

US public debt keeps rising above the Euro Area, while private-sector credit has eased from its pandemic peak on both sides of the Atlantic.



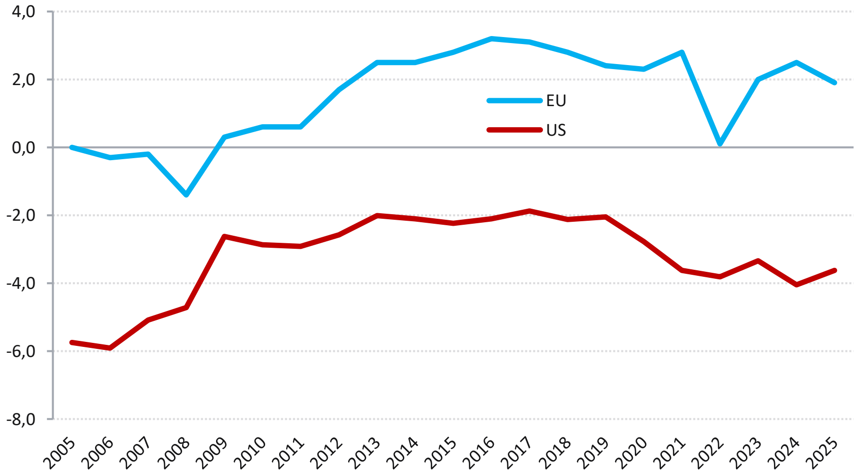


- **US public debt** is far **higher** and still **climbing**. General government debt in the US stands near **124% of GDP in 2025**, versus roughly **87% for** the **EA** aggregate.
- **Private-sector credit has eased on both sides of the Atlantic**. Credit to the non-financial private sector has fallen back from its 2020–21 peak (around 290% of GDP) to some 250% in both economies, **leaving public leverage**, not private, **as the sharper transatlantic divide**.
- Dispersion behind the aggregate trend. Through end-2025, **the periphery cut debt fastest** (Greece −8.0 pp, Cyprus −7.7 pp, Ireland −5.4 pp, Portugal −3.8 pp), **while the largest increases came in Finland, Poland, France and Italy**.
- **Highest ratios in the south.** Greece (146.1%), Italy (137.1%) and France (115.6%) top the EA, the first two exceeding even the US.

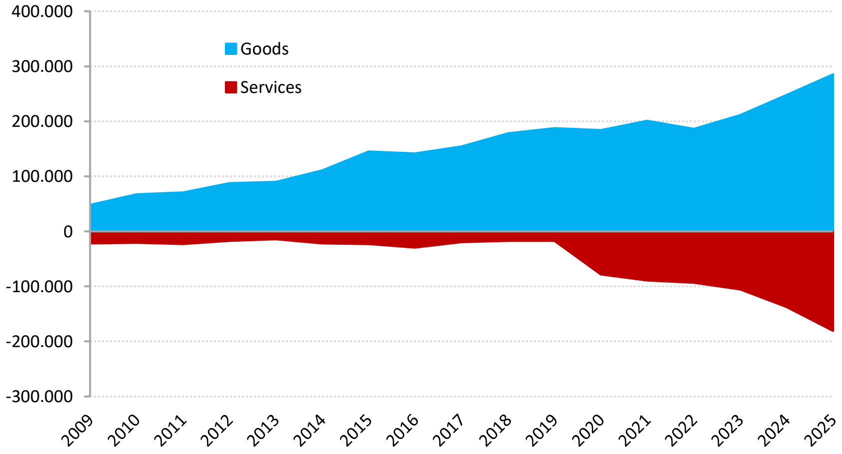
Source: ECB, IMF, Bank for International Settlements (BIS), until 12/2025, *Projection for US

EU runs an external surplus while the US deficit persists, with EU–US trade imbalance increasingly split between goods and services.

Current account balance (% of GDP) vis-á-vis the Rest of the World
not seasonally-adjusted



EU Balance of Payments vis-á-vis US (€ millions)
not seasonally-adjusted



The **EU and US** run **mirror image external imbalances**: a steady EU current-account surplus (1,9% of GDP) versus a persistent, re-widening US deficit (−3.6%). Bilaterally, the **EU** posts a **large goods surplus with the US** (€290 bn in 2025) but an **increasingly wide services deficit** (−€190 bn) that has grown sharply since 2020. Hence, so the net EU surplus persists, but is steadily eroded on the services side.

Source: Eurostat, IMF, until 12/2025

3. US-Greece bilateral economic ties

- Goods | Services | Novel indices | Investment & education

US-Greece bilateral economic ties - Summary

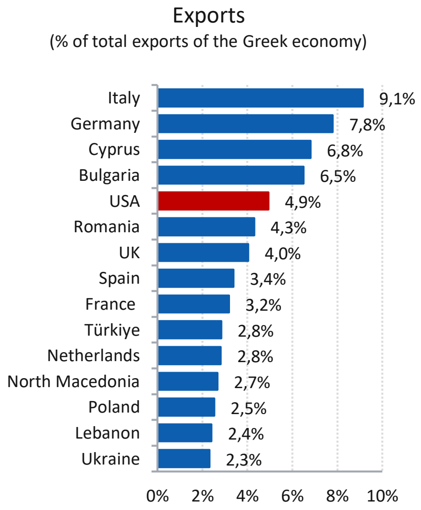
- **Greece's** exports to the **US** total **€2.4 billion in goods** and **€3.7 billion in services** in 2025, while US' exports to Greece amounts to **€2.3 billion in goods** and **€806 million in services**.
- The US has gradually become a more **important trading partner for Greece**, with its share in Greek goods exports rising to **4.9% in 2025**, while the US now ranks among Greece's **top five export markets** and **top eleven import sources**.
- **Greek exports** to the US concentrated in **food products**, **refined petroleum** and **basic metals**, while **imports** from the US are dominated by **crude oil** and **natural gas**, followed by **chemicals**, **machinery**, and **high-technology products**. During 2026 H1, there is evidence for an increase in fuel exports, but annual decrease in non-oil exports.
- Services trade remains a major strength of the bilateral relationship, led by **travel and transport services**. The US is the leading non-European market for **Greek tourism**, with **tourism receipts reaching €1.74 billion in 2025**, while the average **expenditure per trip (€1,120)** is more than double the average for other markets (€546).
- **Greece's trade intensity with the US has remained consistently above various regional peers since 2010** and has strengthened since 2021, although it remains below Portugal and Türkiye, which exhibit the deepest trade integration with the U.S. in recent years.
- The **complementarity of US exports with the Greek economy's import needs** has been systematically increasing during the last decade, while the complementarity of Greek exports with the US economy import needs has remained flat.
- **Bilateral FDI flows** remain volatile, with a clear positive trend of US inward investment to Greece, including on real estate sector.
- Further intensified **education and cultural exchanges** continue to deepen the US-GR socio-economic ties.

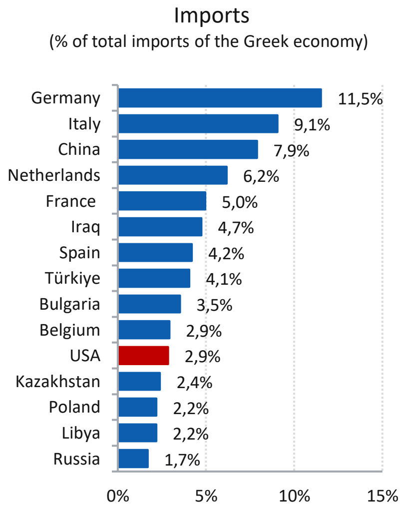
US share in Greek goods exports has risen to a multi-year high; Greece moves up the ranking of US partners.

Greece's total exports to the US amount to €2.4 billion and imports from US to €2.3 bln. US share in total Greek goods exports has risen materially since 2020; share of Greece in total US goods exports has edged higher.

Source: Elstat, US Census Bureau, until 12/2025

US ranking among Greek goods trade partners, 2025

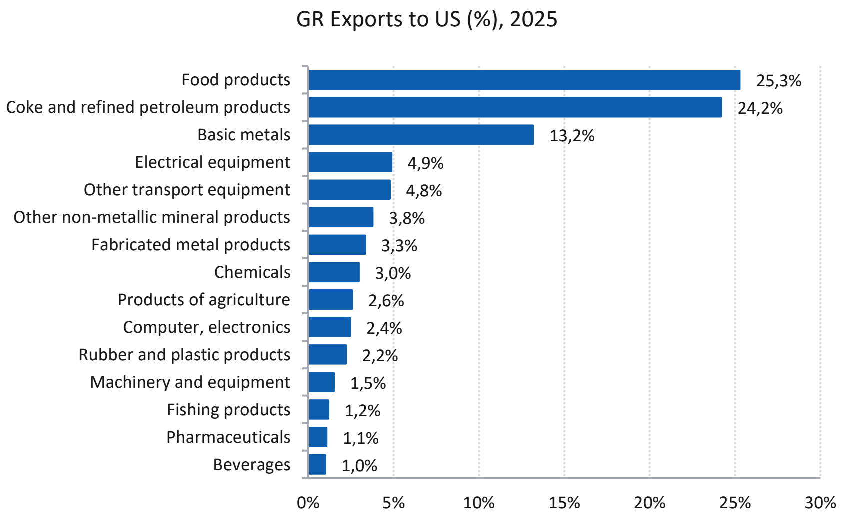




Source: Elstat, US Census Bureau, until 12/2025

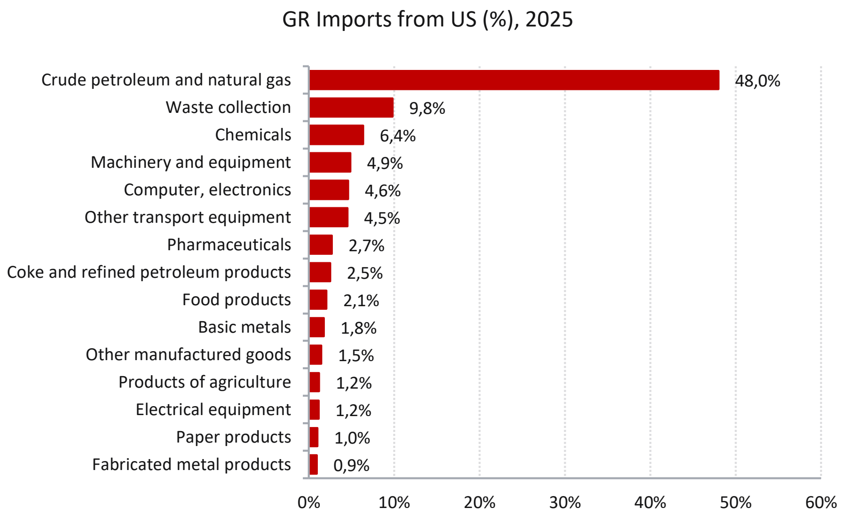
Composition of bilateral goods trade – dominated by pharma, energy, food & beverages and machinery.

Composition of Greek goods exports to the US, Classification of Products by Activity (CPA 2.2)



Source: Eurostat, until 12/2025

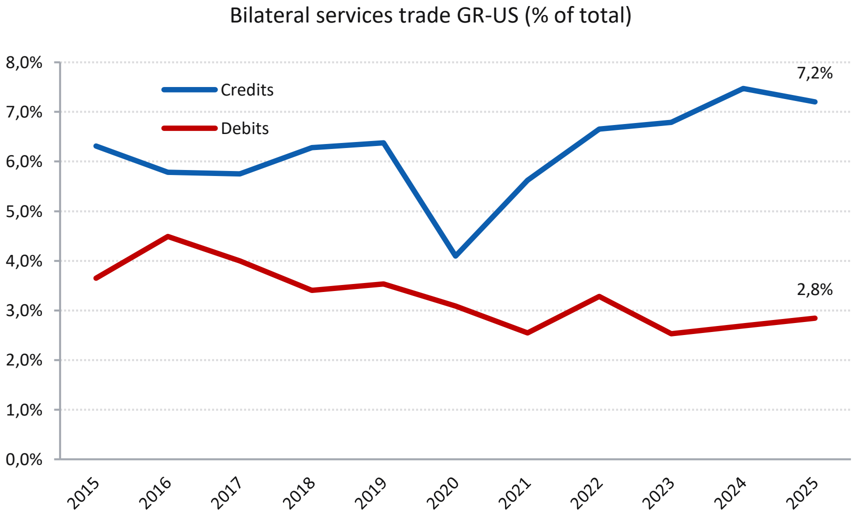
Composition of Greek goods imports from the US, Classification of Products by Activity (CPA 2.2)



Source: Eurostat, until 12/2025

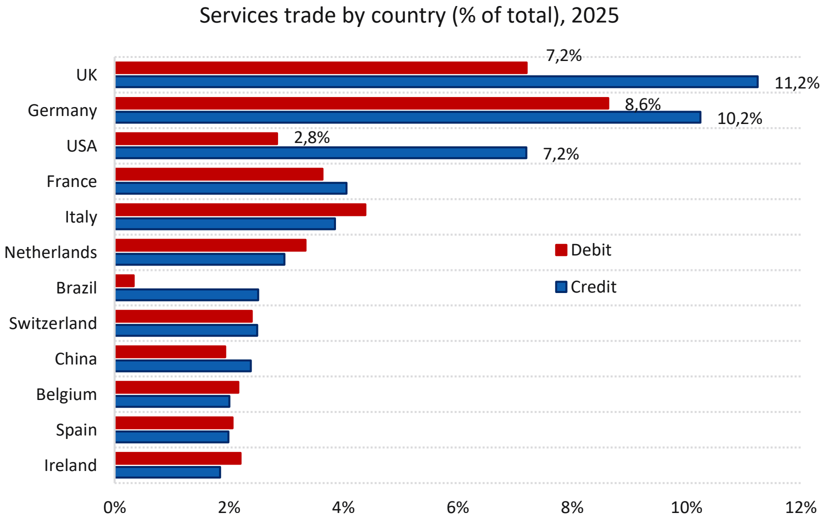
Bilateral services trade anchored by travel and transport, with business and digital services gaining share.

US share in total Greek services exports (credits) and total Greek services imports (debits) over time. Greece's services exports to the US total €3.7 billion, while imports from the US are €800 million in 2025.



Source: Eurostat, BoG, US BEA, until 12/2025

US ranking among Greek services trade partners, 2025

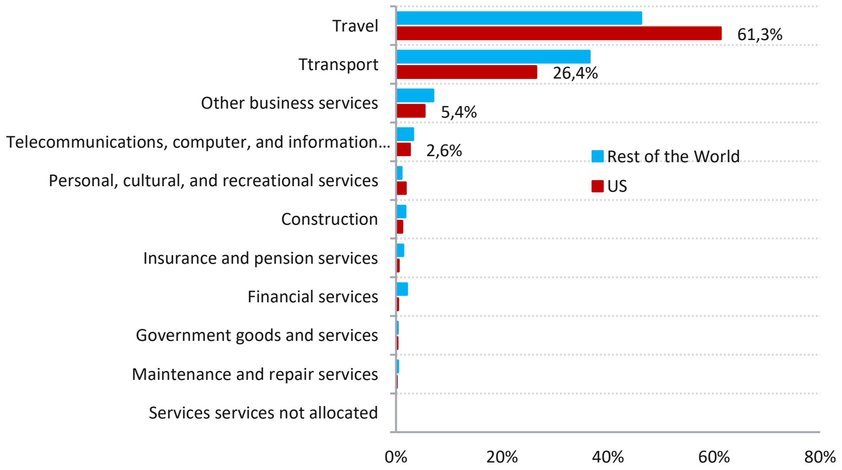


Source: BoG, US BEA, until 12/2025

Composition of bilateral services trade – travel and transport dominant, business services rising.

Composition of services exports (credits) to the US, by category, 2025 (travel, transport, business services, financial, digital, other).

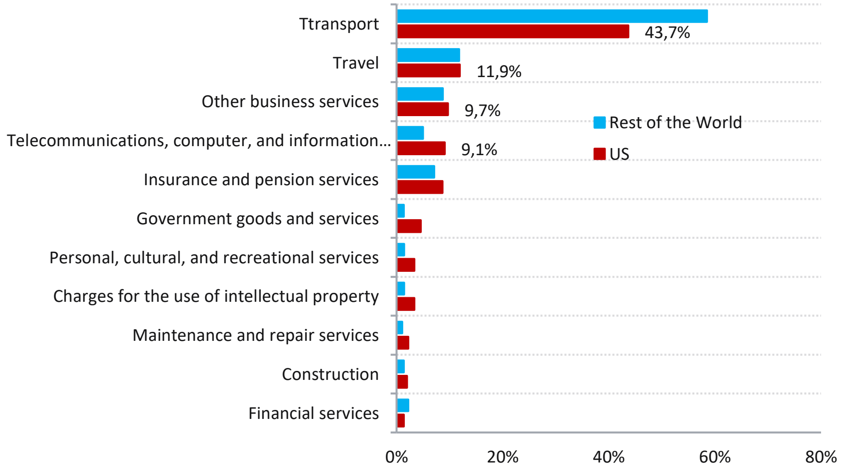
Greece credits (services exports) – (% of total credits by region)



Source: Eurostat, BoG, until 12/2025

Composition of services imports (debits) from the US, by category, 2025 (travel, transport, business services, financial, digital, other).

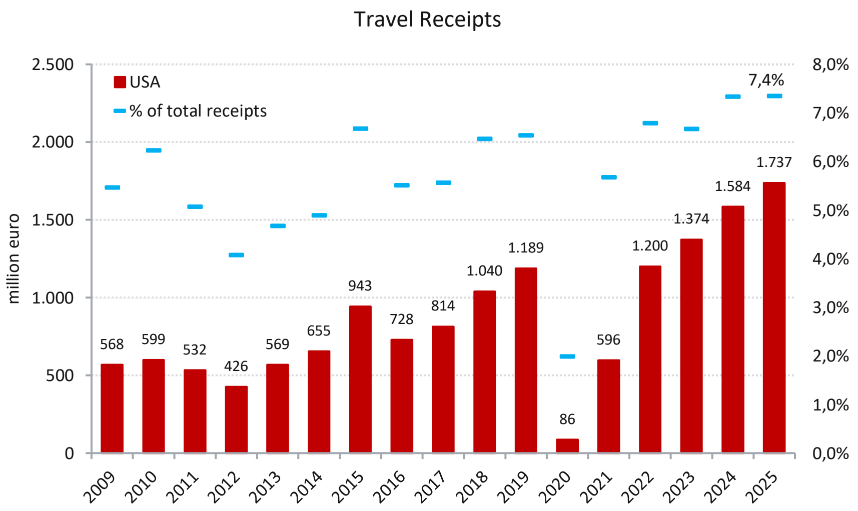
Greece debits (services imports) – (% of total debits by region)



Source: Eurostat, BoG, until 12/2025

US is now Greece's top non-EU travel source market by spend; receipts continue to grow at double-digit rates.

Travel receipts from the US ranked vs. all major source markets; US spend per visit substantially above EU average.



Ranking: **US** is consistently **the #1 non-EU source market for Greek travel receipts**.

Spend per visit: **US visitors record materially higher spend per trip** (€1.120) than the all-markets average (€546).

Growth: **receipts from US travelers** have grown **at double-digit rates** since 2022.

Seasonality: **US travel demand is more concentrated in the shoulder seasons** (May, June, September), extending the Greek season.

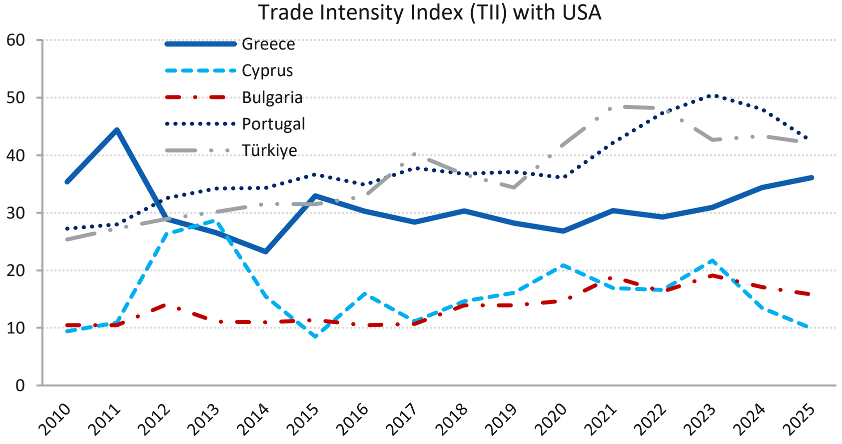
Source: BoG, INSETE, until 12/2025

New Trade Intensity and Trade Complementarity Indices for GR-US bilateral trade

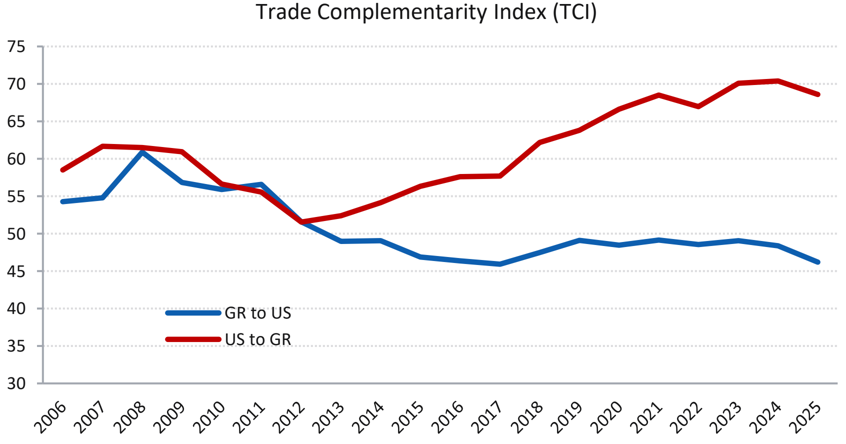
The Trade Intensity Index (TII)[1] captures the depth of bilateral trade relative to that with other partners and identifies whether a country exports a higher percentage of its goods to a particular partner than the world average. A high score (>1) indicates that the two countries trade more with each other than would be predicted by the global average, while a low score (<1) suggests that they trade less than expected.

The Trade Complementarity Index (TCI)[2], measures how well one country's export pattern matches another country's import pattern, in other words, how well Country A's exports align with Country B's imports. A score close to 100 indicates that Country A's exports and Country B's imports are highly complementary, whereas a score close to 0 suggests a mismatch.

The intensity of Greek trade flows with the US has outpaced the respective of Bulgaria and Cyprus, albeit lags the one of Portugal and Türkiye



The complementarity of GR exports relative to US import needs has been increasing since 2012



Source: International Trade Center, IOBE calculations, until 12/2025, UN COMTRADE and World Bank methodology. ***Note: details on the construction of the indices are presented in the Annex.***

[1, 2] The definition of the index is provided in the appendix.

New US-GR Business Outlook Index – forthcoming high-frequency read on business expectations stemming from a new AmCham Greece survey

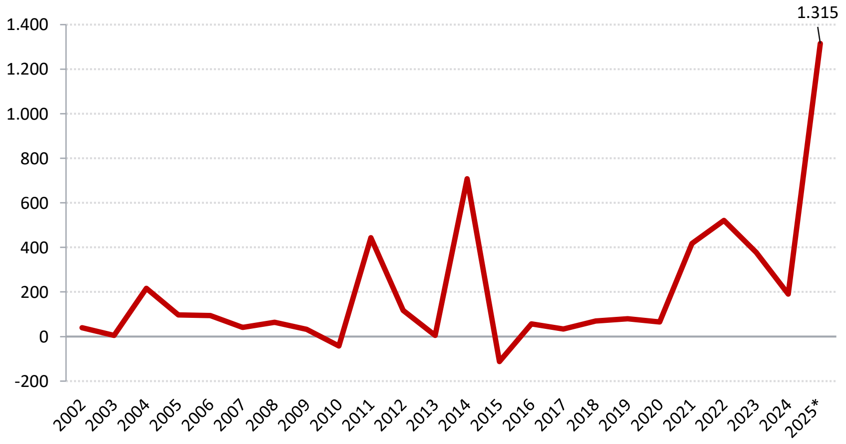
- **Forthcoming US-GR bilateral sentiment index of businesses** designed by IOBE using its established methodology, aligned with the Business and Consumer Surveys coordinated by the European Commission.
- **Source:** Primary survey data reflecting the expectations and opinion of members of AmCham Greece.
- The index aims to provide a **forward-looking measure of business sentiment and expectations regarding bilateral economic and investment relations.**
- **Sub-components of the index:** expectations on bilateral trade, investment, opportunities, challenges, regulatory framework and overall business sentiment.
- **Timeline:** AmCham Greece will launch a periodic survey in Fall 2026. The survey findings will support the development of the index. The new index is expected to be published periodically, starting in Fall 2026.

Bilateral FDI flows remain volatile, with a clear positive trend of US inward investment to Greece.

US investments in Greece show intense volatility over the years. After many fluctuations, US investments reached €1,315 million in 2025.

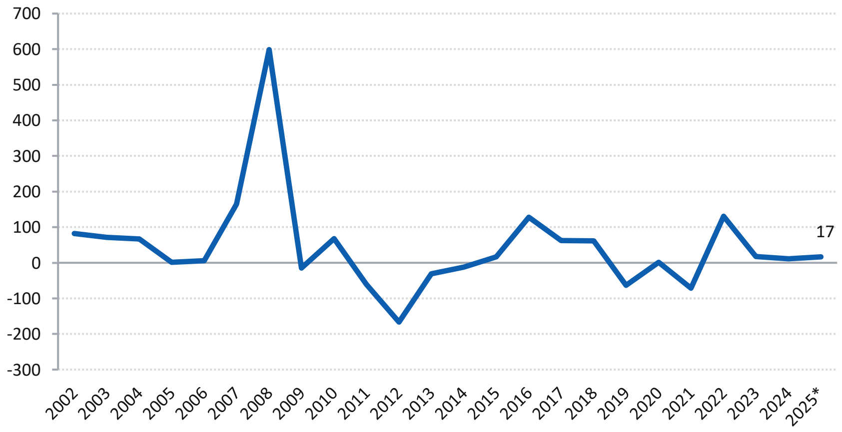
Greek investments in the US generally stay low, except for one massive peak in 2008. Since then, flows fluctuated near zero, reaching €17 million in 2025.

US (net) direct investment into Greece
(€ million)



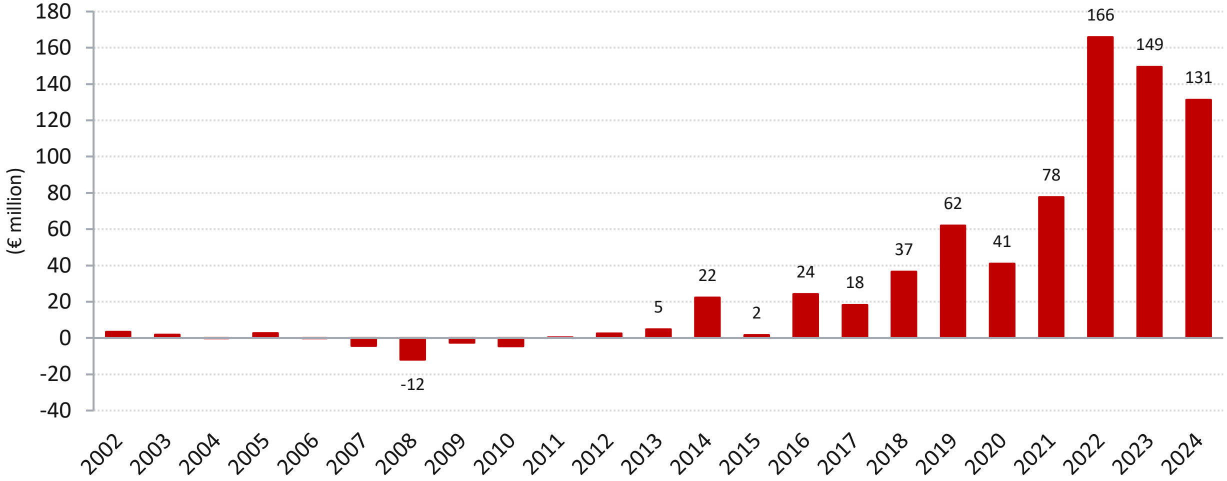
Source: BoG, *Provisional data, until 12/2025

Greek (net) direct investment into the US
(€ million)



Source: BoG, *Provisional data, until 12/2025

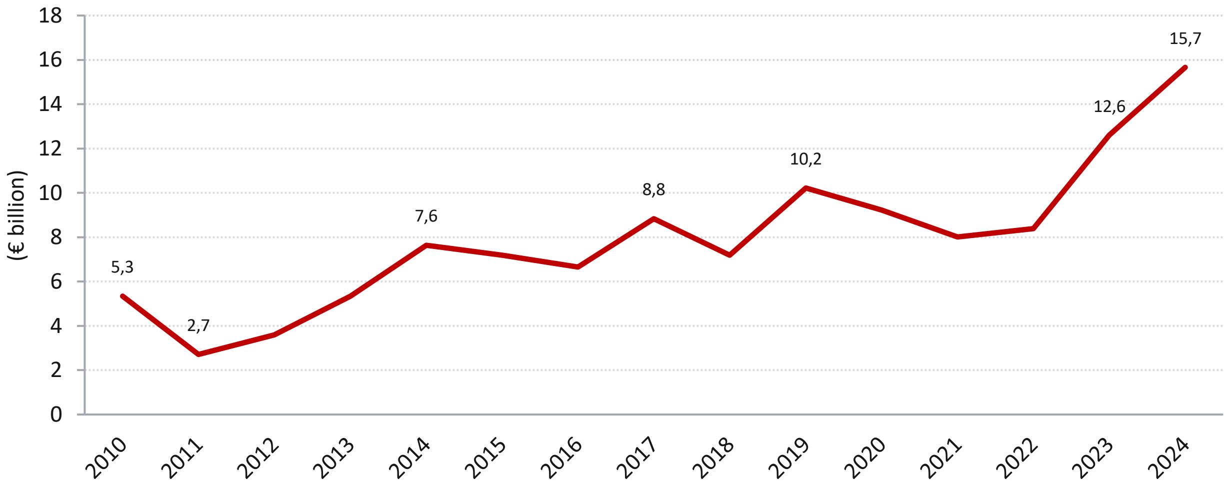
US Net Foreign Direct Investment in Greece: Real Estate



US Net FDI in Greek real estate fluctuated near zero with occasional negative net flows **between 2002 and 2013**, **followed** by **an upward trend until 2021**. The net inflows have further increased sharply during 2022-2024, **peaking at €166 million in 2022**.

Source: BoG, until 12/2024

U.S. Portfolio Holdings of Long-Term Securities Issued by Greece

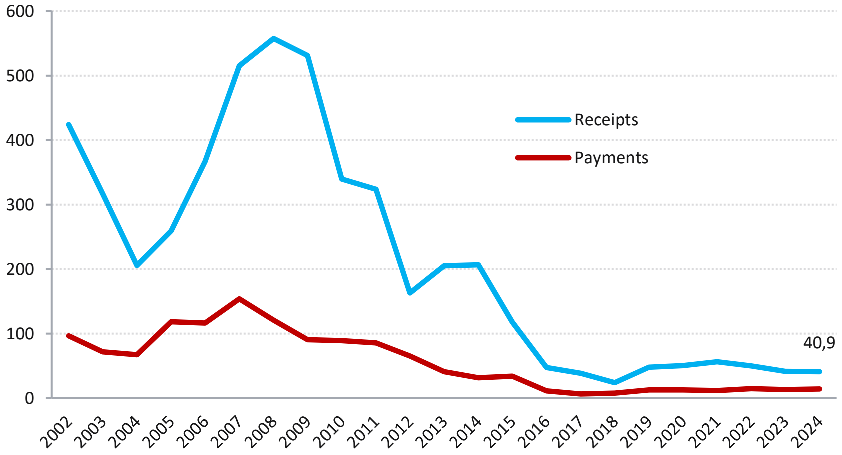


US portfolio holdings **of Greek long-term securities have increased by multiples since the Greek crisis era, albeit have further potential, reaching a peak** of €15.7 billion **in 2024**.

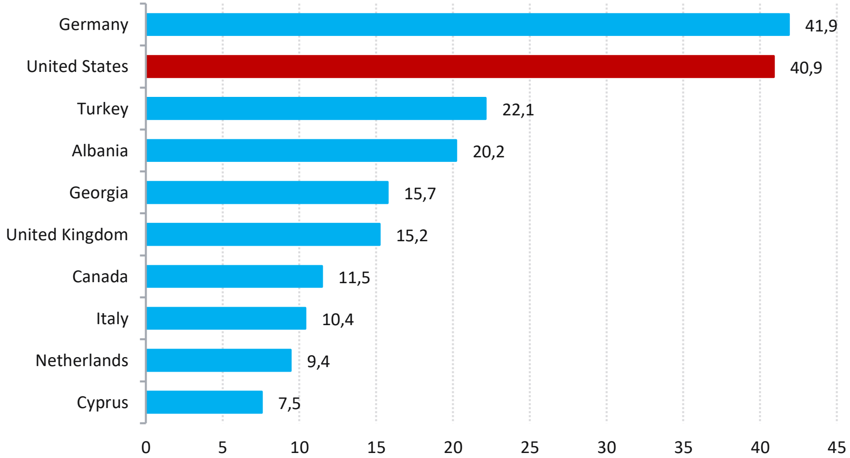
Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury, Treasury International Capital (TIC) System, until 12/2024. ***Note: USD converted to EUR at the annual-average DEXUSEU spot rate.***

Remittances sent home by Greek emigrants in the United States peaked in 2008 at over €550 million, before falling sharply to around €40.89 million by 2024

Remittances: from US to GR (Receipts) / from GR to US (Payments)
(€ million)



Top 10 remittances to GR for 2024
(€ million)

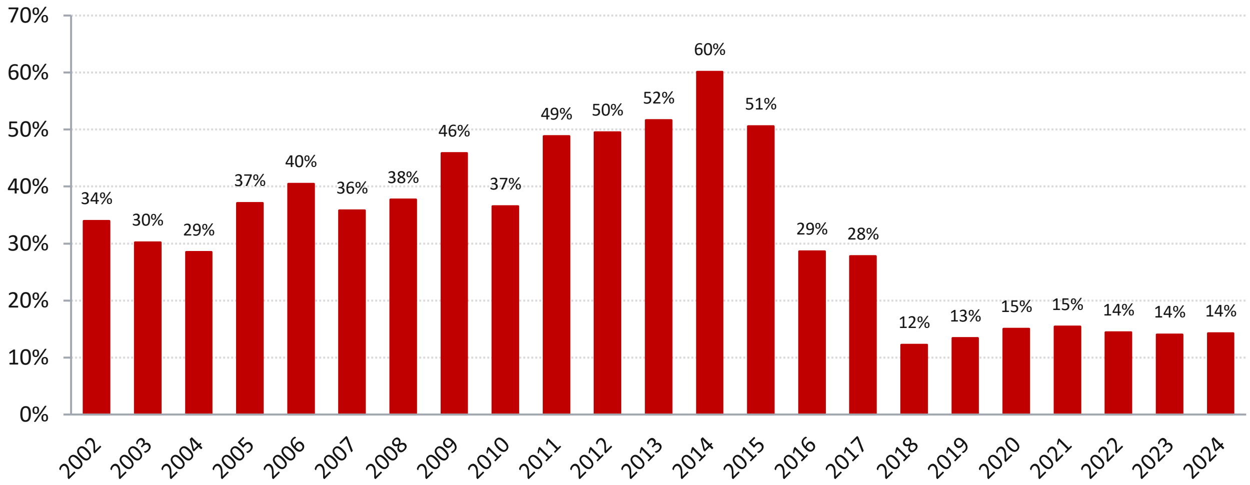


The **US is Greece's second-largest remittance source in 2024** (€40.9 million), narrowly behind Germany (€41.9 mn) and ahead of Turkey (€22.1 million) and Albania (€20.2 million) – **reflecting the large, long-established Greek community in the US** (1.2–1.3 million approximately by self-reported ancestry and up to 3 million on broader estimates).

Source: BoG, until 12/2024

Source: Bank of Greece, until 12/2024

Remittances sent home by Greek emigrants in the United States (% of total receipts)

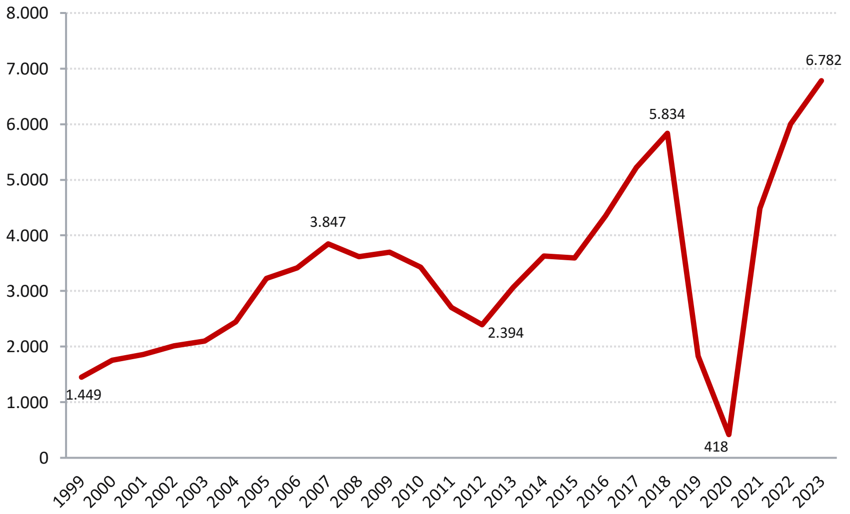


The **US share of Greece's total remittance receipts rose** through the 2000s **to a 60% peak in 2014**, **then fell sharply** – settling at just 12–15% **from 2018 onward, roughly a quarter of its former weight**.

Source: BoG, until 12/2024

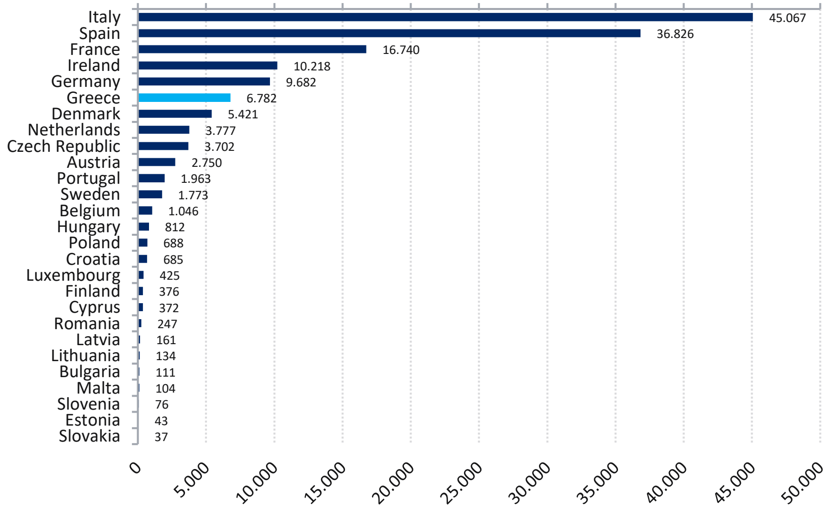
Education and cultural exchange continue to deepen the US-Greece relationship

Number of US students studying in Greece (including temporary exchange programs)



Source: IIE Open Doors, until 12/2023

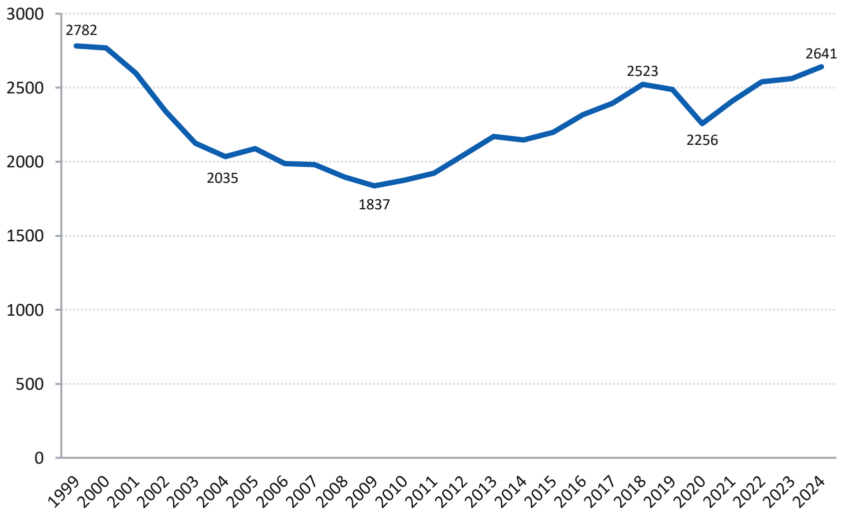
Distribution of US students to EU27 (2023/24) Greece was the 6th most popular EU27 destination



Source: IIE Open Doors, until 6/2024

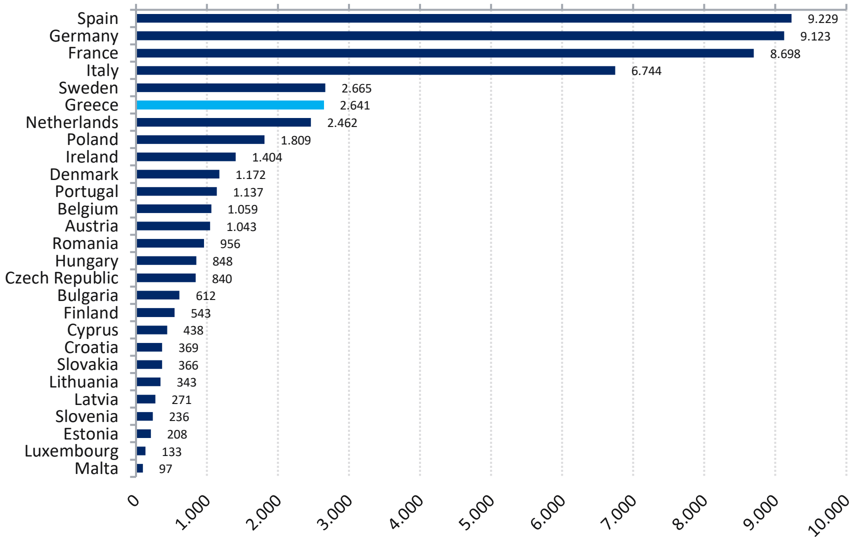
Education and cultural exchange (2)

Number of Greek students enrolled in US universities



Source: IIE Open Doors, until 12/2024

Distribution of EU27 students to US (2024/25)
Greece was the 6th-largest EU27 source of students to the US



Source: IIE Open Doors, until 6/2025

4. Special theme

- 1st Issue | Highlighting product categories with bilateral trade opportunities

An analysis based on Revealed Comparative Advantage and Trade Intensity between Greece and USA

Special theme - Summary

- **We highlight product categories with bilateral trade opportunities for Greece and the USA.** The analysis is based on Revealed Comparative Advantage – RCA (Balassa) indices of Greece and US combined with Trade Intensity Indices (TII).
- **9 out of 10 of Greece's top export goods to the US have a trade intensity score higher than the bilateral national average of 36.1, while 6 out of 10 of the US's top export goods to Greece have a trade intensity score higher than the bilateral national average of 32.2.**
- **Greece leverages its competitive advantages to engage in significant trade with the US**, including the export of furskins, building materials, and dairy products. **There are significant prospects for trade in fertilizers and lead**, areas in which Greece has a comparative advantage.
- However, **Greece faces competition from other countries in aircraft and parts, arms, and ships**, goods in which has **high trade intensity with the US but no comparative advantage**.
- The **US uses its comparative advantage to achieve a high level of trade with Greece in works of art, collectors' pieces, antiques, nickel, and printing industry products**. There are **significant prospects for trade in photographic and cinematographic goods, cotton, and cereals**, in which the US has a comparative advantage.
- The **US faces threats from competing countries in tin, copper, and iron**, goods in which has **a high level of trade with Greece but no comparative advantage**.

Balassa index combined with Trade Intensity Index

- **Trade Intensity Index (TII)**

The higher the index the more intense trade ties the US and GR have, compared to other trading partners.

- **Revealed Comparative Advantage Index – RCA (Balassa)[1] for Greece**

The RCA (Balassa) Index indicates whether a country has a comparative advantage (RCA>1) or disadvantage (RCA<1) in a given product category.

- **Intuition**

Together, these two indices show **whether a country uses its comparative advantage to trade with another country and whether there are prospects to expand trade with that country.**

		Trade Intensity Index	
		High index	Low index
Revealed Comparative Advantage (Balassa) Index – RCA	RCA > 1	**High intensity of trade between Greece and US,** using its advantage in world trade (A)	**Significant prospects for trade growth** based on the potential of the Greek economy (B)
	RCA < 1	**High intensity of trade between Greece and US,** not using its advantage in world trade (C)	Low trade opportunities (D)

[1] The definition of the index is provided in the appendix.

Trade Intensity Index (TII) by 2-digit HS category

GR exports to US (€ million)

HS	Category	€ million	TII
'27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral ...	580,9	57
'20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts or other parts of plants	335,4	111
'76	Aluminium and articles thereof	184,9	65
'85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television ...	131,3	43
'73	Articles of iron or steel	113,6	106
'88	Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof	86,5	809
'04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs; natural honey; edible products of animal origin, not elsewhere ...	74,5	138
'25	Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	74,3	160
'15	Animal, vegetable or microbial fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; ...	70,9	69
'84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	61,5	16

US exports to GR (€ million)

HS	Category	€ million	TII
'27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances	893,8	48
'90	Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical	152,8	57
'74	Copper and articles thereof	147,9	258
'72	Iron and steel	147,0	222
'84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances	132,7	25
'88	Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof	99,0	27
'85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television ...	98,6	29
'39	Plastics and articles thereof	93,8	30
'97	Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques	39,6	393
'08	Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons	39,0	62

9 out of 10 top exporting goods of Greece to the US exhibit trade intensity score than the bilateral national average (36.1)

6 out of 10 top exporting goods of the US to Greece exhibit trade intensity score than the bilateral national average (32.2)

Source: International Trade Center, IOBE calculations, until 12/2025

Goods exported from Greece to US (2 digit Harmonized System categories)

	High Trade Intensity Index	Low Trade Intensity Index
RCA > 1	**A - High intensity of trade between Greece and US, using its advantage in world trade** '43 Furskins and artificial fur; manufactures thereof '25 Salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement '04 Dairy produce; birds' eggs; natural honey; edible products of animal origin '13 Lac; gums, resins and other vegetable saps and extracts '20 Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts or other parts of plants '73 Articles of iron or steel '33 Essential oils and resinoids; perfumery, cosmetic or toilet preparations '21 Miscellaneous edible preparations '82 Tools, implements, cutlery, spoons and forks, of base metal; parts thereof of base metal '15 Animal, vegetable or microbial fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats	**B - Significant prospects for trade growth based on the potential of the Greek economy** '31 Fertilisers '78 Lead and articles thereof '36 Explosives; pyrotechnic products; matches; pyrophoric alloys; certain combustible preparations '23 Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder '52 Cotton '38 Miscellaneous chemical products '95 Toys, games and sports requisites '30 Pharmaceutical products '07 Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers '66 Umbrellas, sun umbrellas, walking sticks, seat-sticks, whips, riding-crops
RCA < 1	**C - High intensity of trade between Greece and US, not using its advantage in world trade** '88 Aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof '93 Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof '89 Ships, boats and floating structures '54 Man-made filaments; strip and the like of man-made textile materials '53 Other vegetable textile fibres; paper yarn and woven fabrics of paper yarn '17 Sugars and sugar confectionery '92 Musical instruments; parts and accessories of such articles '97 Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques '12 Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal '71 Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad	**D - Low trade opportunities** '79 Zinc and articles thereof '35 Albuminoidal substances; modified starches; glues; enzymes '55 Man-made staple fibres '10 Cereals '45 Cork and articles of cork '37 Photographic or cinematographic goods '81 Other base metals; cermets; articles thereof '28 Inorganic chemicals; organic or inorganic compounds of precious metals, of rare-earth metals, ... '67 Prepared feathers and down and articles made of feathers or of down; artificial flowers; articles ... '40 Rubber and articles thereof

Source: International Trade Center, IOBE calculations, until 12/2025, Analysis by IOBE

Goods exported from the US to Greece (2 digit Harmonized System categories)

	High Trade Intensity Index	Low Trade Intensity Index
RCA > 1	**A - High intensity of trade between US and Greece, using its advantage in world trade** ‘97 Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques ‘75 Nickel and articles thereof ‘49 Printed books, newspapers, pictures and other products of the printing industry; manuscripts ‘08 Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons ‘90 Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgica ‘47 Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper ‘93 Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof ‘27 Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral ‘12 Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal ‘92 Musical instruments; parts and accessories of such articles	**B - Significant prospects for trade growth based on the potential of the US economy** ‘37 Photographic or cinematographic goods ‘52 Cotton ‘10 Cereals ‘23 Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder ‘02 Meat and edible meat offal ‘36 Explosives; pyrotechnic products; matches; pyrophoric alloys; certain combustible preparations ‘34 Soap, organic surface-active agents, washing preparations, lubricating preparations, artificial ‘29 Organic chemicals ‘71 Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad ‘30 Pharmaceutical products
RCA < 1	**C - High intensity of trade between US and Greece, not using its advantage in world trade** ‘80 Tin and articles thereof ‘74 Copper and articles thereof ‘72 Iron and steel ‘14 Vegetable plaiting materials; vegetable products not elsewhere specified or included ‘43 Furskins and artificial fur; manufactures thereof ‘13 Lac; gums, resins and other vegetable saps and extracts ‘89 Ships, boats and floating structures ‘66 Umbrellas, sun umbrellas, walking sticks, seat-sticks, whips, riding-crops and parts thereof ‘67 Prepared feathers and down and articles made of feathers or of down; artificial flowers; articles ‘91 Clocks and watches and parts thereof	**D - Low trade opportunities** ‘18 Cocoa and cocoa preparations ‘78 Lead and articles thereof ‘04 Dairy produce; birds' eggs; natural honey; edible products of animal origin, not elsewhere ‘01 Live animals ‘86 Railway or tramway locomotives, rolling stock and parts thereof; railway or tramway track fixtures ‘54 Man-made filaments; strip and the like of man-made textile materials ‘79 Zinc and articles thereof ‘41 Raw hides and skins (other than furskins) and leather ‘65 Headgear and parts thereof ‘09 Coffee, tea, maté and spices

Source: International Trade Center, IOBE calculations, until 12/2025, Analysis by IOBE

Scope and frequency: This bulletin is prepared by IOBE in collaboration with AmCham Greece. It is intended to be published on a quarterly basis (initially three issues over the first year). Each issue presents charts on selected economic indicators and US-GR novel index tracking, accompanied by brief commentary, plus a deep-dive on a Special theme.

Methodology - Trade Intensity Index: Follows the World Bank methodology, capturing the extent to which the US and Greece trade more bilaterally, in relative terms, than with other partners; the index controls for the degree of US-GR trade complementarity.

Methodology - Bilateral Sentiment Index: Constructed on the basis of an online survey of AmCham Greece members, designed in line with the methodology applied by IOBE for the Business and Consumer Surveys (BCS). The survey is circulated to AmCham Greece members approximately one month prior to each bulletin publication.

Primary data sources: ELSTAT, Bank of Greece, US BEA, US Census Bureau, Eurostat, ECB, Federal Reserve, IMF WEO, OECD, UN COMTRADE, IIE Open Doors, INSETE, Hellenic Ministry of Finance, Hellenic Ministry of Environment & Energy, Enterprise Greece, Bloomberg, Caldara & Iacoviello (TPU index).

Disclaimer: This document has been prepared by IOBE in collaboration with AmCham Greece strictly for informational purposes. It does not constitute, and shall not be construed as, an offer, invitation, recommendation or advice to engage in any transaction or investment. The information contained herein is based on sources believed to be reliable but neither IOBE nor AmCham Greece makes any representation or warranty as to its accuracy or completeness. Any opinions expressed are those of the authors at the time of writing and may be subject to change without notice.

Appendix

The **Trade Intensity Index (TII)** identifies whether a country exports more, as a percentage, to a partner than the world does on average**.** It is defined as the share of one country's exports going to a partner divided by the share of world exports going to the partner. It is calculated as: $\boldsymbol{TII_{ij}} = \frac{X_{ij}/X_i}{X_{wj}/X_w}$ where x_{ij} and x_{wj} are the values of country i's exports and of world exports to country j and where X_i and X_w are country i's total exports and total world exports respectively. An index of more (less) than one indicates a bilateral trade flow that is larger (smaller) than expected, given the partner country's importance in world trade.

The **Trade Complementarity Index (TCI)** can provide useful information on prospects for intraregional trade in that it shows how well the structures of a country's imports and exports match. It also has the attraction that its values for countries considering the formation of a regional trade agreement can be compared with others that have formed or tried to form similar arrangements. The TC between countries k and j is defined as: $\boldsymbol{TCI_{ij}} = 100 \cdot \left(1 - sum\left(\frac{|m_{jp} - x_{ip}|}{2}\right)\right)$, where x_{ip} is the share of good p in global exports of country i and m_{jp} is the share of good p in all imports of country j. The index is zero when no goods are exported by one country or imported by the other and 100 when the export and import shares exactly match.

Revealed Comparative Advantage Index (RCA) also known as the Balassa Index, identifies whether a country has a comparative advantage in exporting a particular product. The RCA index compares the importance of a product in a country's export basket with the importance of the same product in world exports. The Index is defined as: $\boldsymbol{RCA_{ip}} = \frac{X_{ip}/X_i}{X_{wp}/X_w}$, where x_{ip} and x_{wp} are the values of country i's exports of product p and world exports of product p and where X_i and X_w refer to the country's total exports and world total exports. A value of less than unity implies that the country has a revealed comparative disadvantage in the product. Similarly, if the index exceeds unity, the country is said to have a revealed comparative advantage in the product.

Examples for Greece

Trade Intensity Index (TII)

The index can be calculated for 2 digit Harmonized System (HS) Codes of products. For example, the index for Greece exports to USA is:

$$\frac{\dfrac{Exports\ of\ Greece\ to\ USA\ of\ 2\ digit\ HS2}{Total\ exports\ of\ Greece\ of\ 2\ digit\ HS2}}{\dfrac{Total\ Exports\ of\ the\ World\ to\ USA\ (Total\ Imports\ of\ USA\ of\ 2\ digit\ HS2)}{World\ Exports\ of\ 2\ digit\ HS2}}$$

Revealed Comparative Advantage Index (RCA) - Balassa for Greece

$$RCA_{Greece,2\ digit\ HS2} = \frac{X_{Greece,2\ digit\ HS2}/X_{Greece\ total\ exports}}{X_{wolrd\ exports\ of\ 2\ digit\ HS2}/X_{world\ total\ exports}}$$

$RCA_{ij} < 1$ Implies that the country has a revealed comparative disadvantage in the product.

$RCA_{ij} > 1$ Implies that the country has a revealed comparative advantage in the product.