

PRESS

WOOD-FURNISHING SUPPLY CHAIN EXPORTS WORTH 20 BILLION, 15 IN FURNISHING ALONE

France was top of the podium, followed by the US and Germany which, although down, remained above 2019 values. The Emirates grew, while China lost further ground. A dynamic African continent

Feltrin: "Made in Italy Day celebrates the excellence of our design. A strategic supply chain for national GDP"

"The excellence of Italian creativity, ingenuity, Italy that creates": these are the keywords chosen for the first official day celebrating Made in Italy for which, as a wood-furnishing and design supply chain, we have always been global ambassadors. We therefore welcome this initiative with enthusiasm and participation, which precedes the opening of the 62nd edition of the Salone del Mobile.Milano, and was strongly desired by Minister Urso."

This was what FederlegnoArredo President Claudio Feltrin had to say, **on the eve of Made in Italy Day on Monday 15th April**, mapping supply chain export results according to the 2023 Final Accounts produced by the FederlegnoArredo Study Centre.

Mr Feltrin explained: *"We pride ourselves on representing a strategic supply chain for national GDP: style, research, innovation and 'industrial' craftsmanship enable us to be a sector with a furnishing macro-system worth around 28 billion euros and which exports a good 53% of its furnishing products, 15 of which are destined for abroad, and a trade balance of 9.8 billion"*

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euros. Over 141,000 employees are active in the furniture sector for a total of just over 21 thousand companies. These are important figures for a sector whose strength lies in exports, as is also demonstrated by the influx of foreign buyers and insiders, more than 60% in 2023, who come to Milan every year to visit the Salone, the most important design fair in the world".

Definitive data for 2023 from the FederlegnoArredo Study Centre confirm that Italian **furnishing macrosystem exports were worth 15 billion euros in 2023** (53% of the total), seeing a contained **3.8%** drop compared with the previous year, although at higher levels than in 2019, when they accounted for slightly over 12 billion euros.

France was the top destination country (over 2.4 billion euros, equal to 16.5% of total exports), for a value in line with 2022 (+0.2%). The **United States** took second place at 1.7 billion euros, (11.7% of the total), registering an **8% drop** compared with 2022, with **Germany** in third place at **1.3 billion euros, down 5.4%**. The **United Kingdom** was in fourth place, **down 6.4%**, followed by **Switzerland, down 3%**, while **Spain remained stable in sixth place**. **China** fell to **seventh place, seeing a significant 17% contraction**. There was a positive result for the **United Arab Emirates**, in ninth position, **up 5.4% (329 million euros)**. The Netherlands were in tenth place, down 9.2%. The average decline could mainly be ascribed to the performance of the American, German and Chinese markets. [DIAGRAM OF FURNISHING MACROSYSTEM MARKETS](#)

Taking a broader look at the wood-furnishing supply chain as a whole, the total value of exports in 2023 stood at **20 billion euros, a 4.6% decline compared with 2022**, but still **around 2.8 billion euros higher than 2019 levels**. The **top 10 destination markets accounted for 63% of total exports**, all of which slid, with the exception of Spain and Austria which remained stable, accounting for an overall drop of almost a billion euros. **France** again snagged top position (**16.3% of the total**) accounting for **3.2 billion euros**, remaining **largely stable** compared with 2022, followed by the **United States (10.7% of the total)** at **2.1 billion euros, down 10.5%**; **Germany** took third place (**10.7% of the total**), at **2.1 billion euros, down 7%**. The **United Kingdom** came in

fourth, down 6.6%, followed by Switzerland, down 4.2%. Spain was distinguished by a positive 1.3% upswing, ahead of China, which fell a mighty 16.8%. Austria remained more or less stable, ahead of Belgium in ninth position, with the Netherlands closing the top ten at 442 million, down 8.4%. [DIAGRAM OF SUPPLY CHAIN MARKETS](#)

In addition to the US and Germany, China was undoubtedly one of the most heavily penalised leading markets in 2023, losing 115 million euros and performing far worse than the European countries, testament to the fact that the Chinese market saw huge expansion before being blocked by Covid, since when it has failed to pick up speed, unlike other markets.

Outside Europe, Egypt recorded improved performance (**35th position**) with the supply chain up 21.2% on 2022 for a value of 106 million euros, as did India, which accounted for 135 million euros (29th position), and saw 15.7% growth - despite the relatively low value, India is worth keeping an eye on given its as-yet unquantifiable potential; the United Arab Emirates came in 12th, up 3.9% (388 million euros).

Another phenomenon thrown up by **the supply chain export data concerns Russia**, or rather Russians with the financial means to move to other countries after the outbreak of war, as the figures for Georgia (+54.2%), Kyrgyzstan (+263.3%) and Kazakhstan (+71.3%) would suggest.

Movements on the **African continent (588 million euros, +5.1%)** also proved interesting, those of the **northern belt** countries in particular, which **grew by 10.7% for a total value of 349 million euros**. Undoubtedly, dynamic markets characterised by "spot dynamism," which tend not to see a uniform and constant trend over time, deter long-term investment in these areas.

Saudi Arabia took **16th position**, growing 2.1% and accounting for a **value of 247 million euros**, almost exclusively in furnishing.

Like the United States, Canada also witnessed something of an impasse, down 11.6%, putting it into 14th place.

As far as the wood macro-system was concerned, exports (excluding wood trade) were worth 5 billion euros, suffering a 7.2% contraction. The top ten destination markets evidenced negative trends, with the exception of Spain, which grew by 3% (225 million euros) and Austria, which remained stable at +0.1% (172 million euros). France overtook Germany (785 million euros and -9.3%) to become the leading market at 805 million euros, despite registering a 1.3% contraction. The United Kingdom (579 million euros) came in third at -6.9%, ahead of the United States (411 million euros), which saw the most significant decline in the top 10 (-19.7%) whilst maintaining its position, while China (-16%) fell out of the top ten and into 11th place.

[ALL THE MARKET INFOGRAPHICS IN PDF FORMAT](#)

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