

Biodiesel trade losing momentum

UFOP: exports ease pressure on rapeseed and biodiesel markets – call for spirited biofuels policy

Berlin, 10 September 2025 - Foreign trade in biodiesel has noticeably slowed in 2025. German exports are declining, and imports are also tapering off. The Netherlands, with key ports in Rotterdam and Amsterdam, remains the central hub.

Foreign trade in biodiesel is showing a decline in 2025. According to data from the German Federal Statistical Office, biodiesel exports dropped just over 16 per cent in the first half of 2025 compared to the same period the previous year, falling to 1.4 million tonnes. Imports declined slightly less, with Germany purchasing 833,310 tonnes of biodiesel from abroad, approximately 9 per cent less than a year earlier. The export surplus decreased around 0.19 million tonnes, from 0.73 million tonnes the previous year's period to 0.54 million tonnes.

The Netherlands remains Germany's primary trading partner, serving as a hub for overseas imports via ports such as Rotterdam and Amsterdam. According to research by Agrarmarkt Informations-Gesellschaft (AMI), larger shipments also came from Malaysia and Belgium, although volumes remained below last year's levels.

EU member states continue to be the main recipients of German biodiesel exports, particularly the Netherlands, Belgium, Poland, Austria and France. While the Netherlands reduced its imports just over 22 per cent year-on-year, Belgian imports declined approximately 5 per cent.

From the perspective of the Union zur Förderung von Oel- und Proteinpflanzen e. V. (UFOP), these exports are an essential outlet to relieve pressure on the German rapeseed oil and biodiesel markets. They help keep the oil mills working at full capacity and secure market supply with rapeseed meal as a protein source. The association considers the future of biodiesel to be challenging due to manifold uncertainties caused by US tariff policies targeting the EU, Brazil, Canada and especially China.

The UFOP has pointed out that the US, Canada and Brazil view their national biofuels policies also as active instruments for regulating agricultural prices and incomes. The association has contended that, in contrast, Germany and the EU are merely administering the status quo. The UFOP has reiterated its rejection of the proposed cap on biofuels derived from cultivated biomass, as outlined in the Federal Ministry for the Environment's draft bill to amend the greenhouse gas quota. According to the UFOP, biofuels represent an easy access to defossilise the existing vehicle fleet – an option overlooked in the current debate on fossil-fuel vehicles. The



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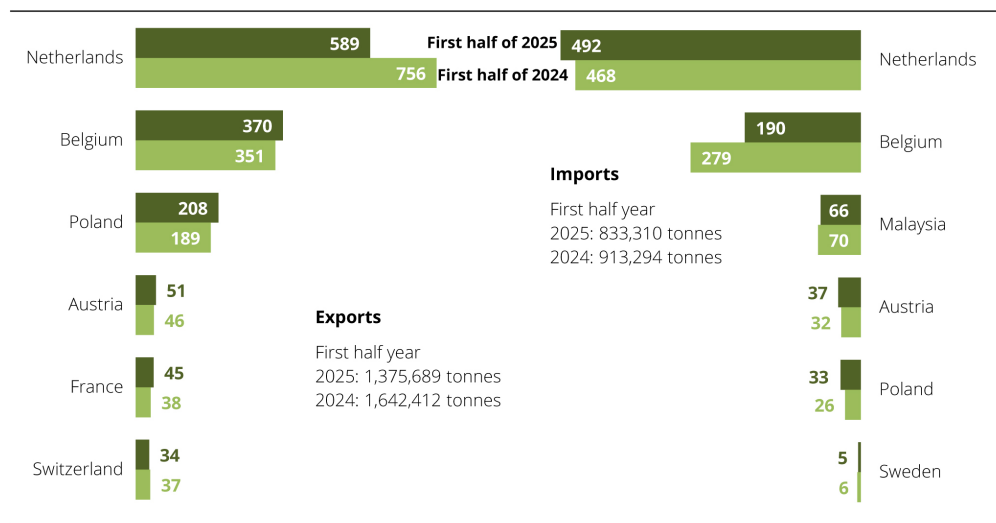
Herausgeber:

UFOP e. V.
Claire-Waldoff-Straße 7
10117 Berlin
Telefon 030/235 97 99 - 0
Telefax 030/235 97 99 - 99
E-Mail info@ufop.de
Web www.ufop.de

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association has emphasised that biofuels must instead be thought of as the foundation of a fuel strategy.

Germany: countries of destination and origin of biodiesel in 1,000 tonnes, in the first half of the year



Source: Destatis

Editorial contact:

Stephan Arens

Tel. +49 (0)30 235 97 99 – 10

E-Mail: s.aren@ufop.de

Quick information on UFOP e. V.:

The Union for the Promotion of Oil and Protein Crops e. V. (UFOP) represents the political interests of companies, associations and institutions involved in the production, processing and marketing of domestic oil and protein crops in national and international bodies. UFOP supports research to optimise agricultural production and for the development of new utilisation possibilities in the food, non-food and feed sectors. UFOP public relations aim to promote the marketing of domestic oil and protein crop end products.