🇱🇦 Laos: trade brief

Customs figures for 2025 and 2026 to date; products for 2024; long-run totals. Prepared 2026-11-15.

Laos exported **$18B** of goods and imported **$4.8B** in 2025, a trade surplus of **$14B**. Its largest export market was China (39.2% of exports) and its largest supplier was Thailand (51.3% of imports).

#81
largest exporter of 202 economies, and #142 importer
#1 #202

39%
of exports go to 🇨🇳 China, the largest market

85%
of exports go to just three markets, out of 43

+14B
trade surplus: exports pay for 384% of imports

+68.4%
change in exports on 2024: $11B then, $18B in 2025

51%
of imports come from 🇹🇭 Thailand, the largest supplier

Laos in 2025 and 2026: the latest figures

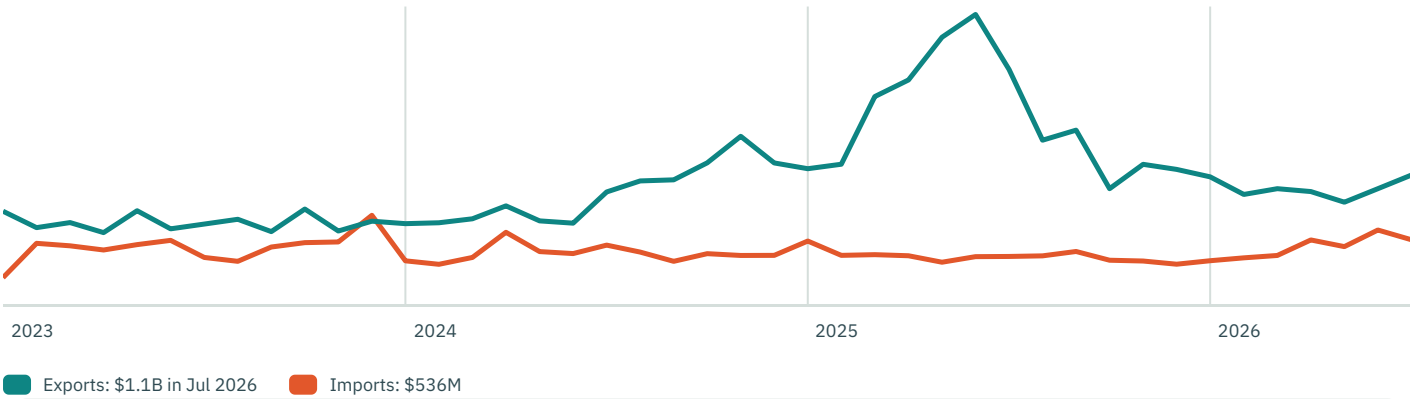
Monthly customs figures in US dollars from the IMF's trade-by-partner database. The newest month is Jul 2026.

$18B
Exports, 2025 **+68.4%** on 2024

$4.8B
Imports, 2025 **−5.2%** on 2024

$6.7B
Exports, Jan–Jul 2026 **−45.7%** on the same months of 2025

$3.3B
Imports, Jan–Jul 2026 **+14.8%** on the same months of 2025



Period	Exports	Imports	Balance
2026 (Jan–Jul)	$6.7B	$3.3B	+3.4B
2025	$18B	$4.8B	+14B
2024	$11B	$5.1B	+5.9B
2023	$8.1B	$5.7B	+2.5B
2022	$8.4B	$4.7B	+3.7B

Largest export markets in 2025 and 2026 so far

Export market	2025	Change on 2024	Share	Jan–Jul 2026	Change on Jan–Jul 2025
China †	$7.2B	+68.6%	39.2%	$2.6B	−45.7%
Vietnam †	$4.4B	+68.6%	24.1%	$1.6B	−45.7%
Thailand †	$3.9B	+68.6%	21.3%	$1.4B	−45.7%
Australia †	$928M	+68.6%	5.0%	$339M	−45.7%
India †	$493M	+68.6%	2.7%	$180M	−45.7%
Japan †	$320M	+68.6%	1.7%	$117M	−45.7%
Germany †	$260M	+68.6%	1.4%	$95M	−45.7%
Hong Kong †	$151M	+68.6%	0.8%	$55M	−45.7%
United States †	$125M	+68.6%	0.7%	$46M	−45.7%
Singapore †	$76M	+68.6%	0.4%	$28M	−45.7%

Largest suppliers in 2025 and 2026 so far

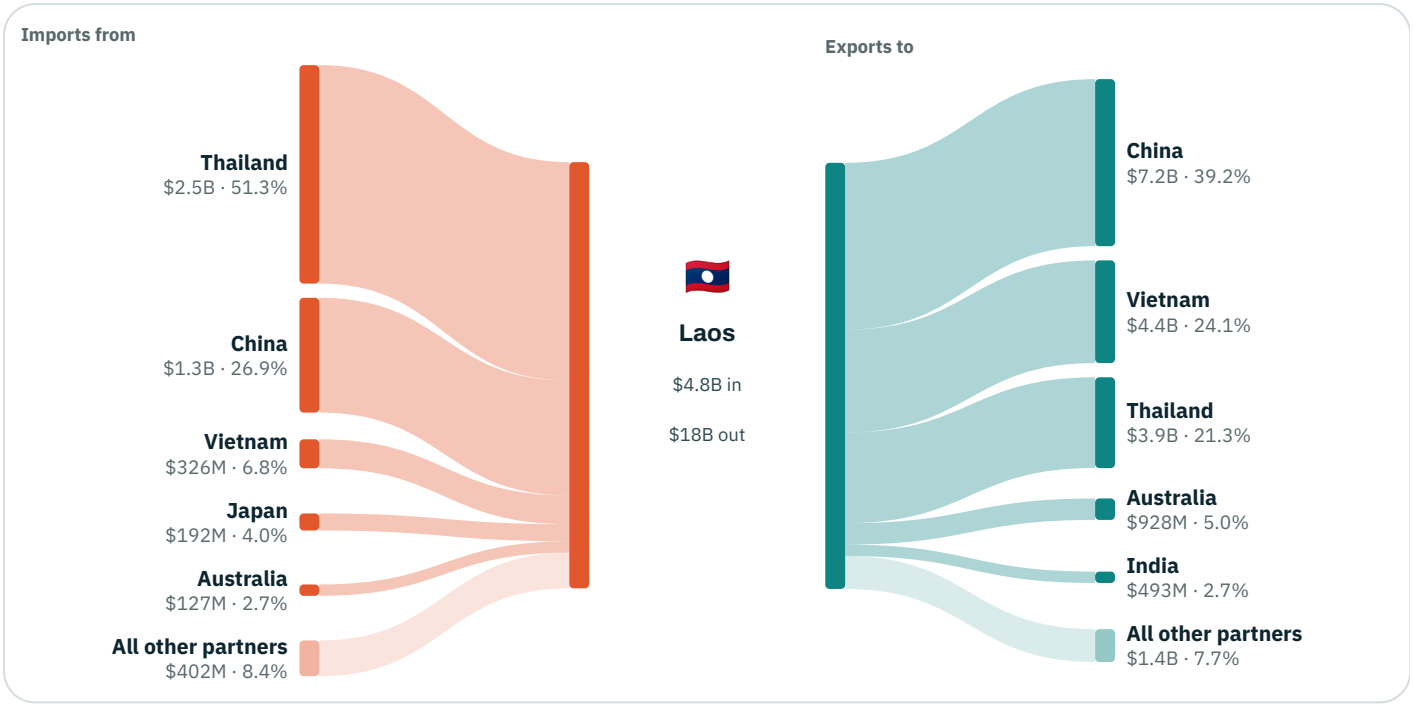
Supplier	2025	Change on 2024	Share	Jan–Jul 2026	Change on Jan–Jul 2025
Thailand †	$2.5B	−2.4%	51.3%	$1.7B	+15.7%
China †	$1.3B	−2.4%	26.9%	$900M	+15.7%
Vietnam †	$326M	−2.4%	6.8%	$227M	+15.7%
Japan †	$192M	+20.2%	4.0%	$170M	+54.3%
Australia †	$127M	+3.4%	2.7%	$92M	+30.7%
Singapore †	$69M	−2.4%	1.4%	$48M	+15.7%
South Korea †	$54M	−2.4%	1.1%	$37M	+15.7%
United Kingdom †	$34M	+8.5%	0.7%	$23M	+6.3%
Philippines †	$26M	+625.8%	0.5%	$2M	−91.5%
India †	$25M	−2.4%	0.5%	$17M	+15.7%

† Laos had not yet reported this flow, so the IMF derived it from the partner's own records. Treat these as provisional.

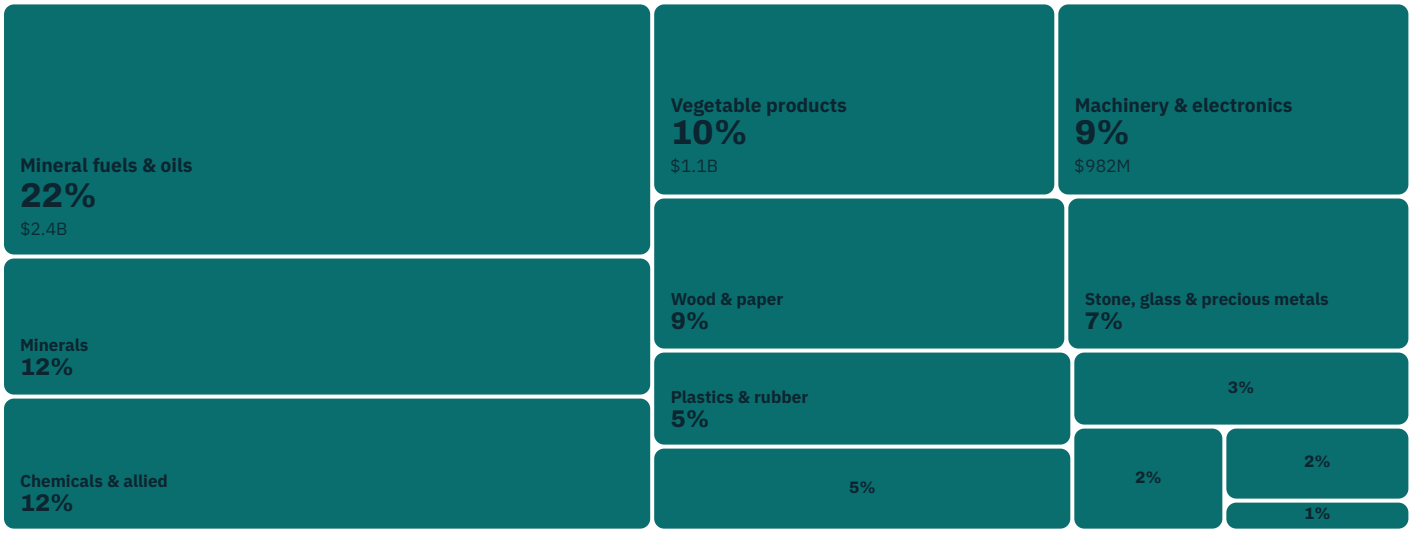
Source: International Monetary Fund, International Trade in Goods by partner country, retrieved 2026-11-15. The IMF collects each economy's national customs figures and converts them to US dollars at the average exchange rate of the month the goods moved. Imports include freight and insurance; exports do not. The product and partner sections further down use BACI's reconciled figures for 2024, which can differ noticeably for the same year, so compare like with like.

Where Laos's goods come from, and where they go

The five largest suppliers and the five largest markets in 2025. Ribbon width is in proportion to value within each side.



What Laos exports, 2024

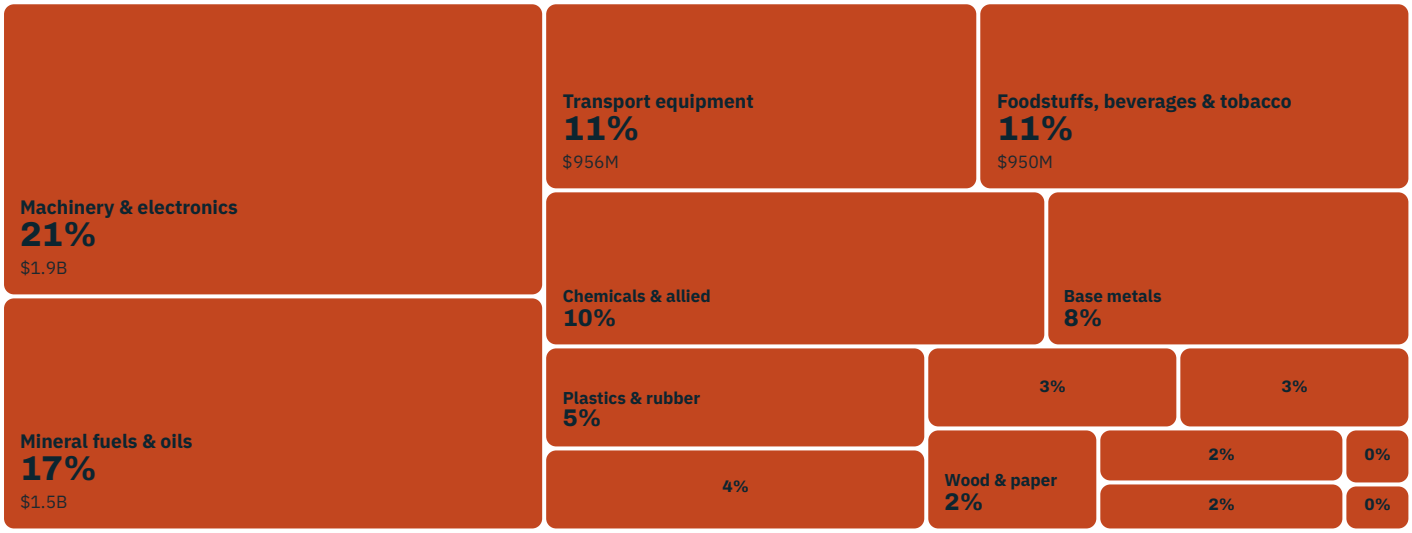


Reconciled figures (BACI): exports of $11B on that basis. 2024 is the newest year with product detail for every economy.

Largest export products

Product	2024	Share
Electrical energy `2716.00`	$2.4B	22.0%
Fertilizers, mineral or chemical; potassic, potassium… `3104.20`	$822M	7.7%
Metals; gold, non-monetary, unwrought (but not powder) `7108.12`	$725M	6.8%
Iron ores and concentrates; non-agglomerated `2601.11`	$480M	4.5%
Copper ores and concentrates `2603.00`	$476M	4.5%
Vegetable roots and tubers; manioc (cassava), with high… `0714.10`	$399M	3.7%
Rubber; natural (excluding latex, technically specified… `4001.29`	$396M	3.7%
Paper & paperboard; uncoated, testliner (recycled… `4805.25`	$314M	2.9%

What Laos imports, 2024



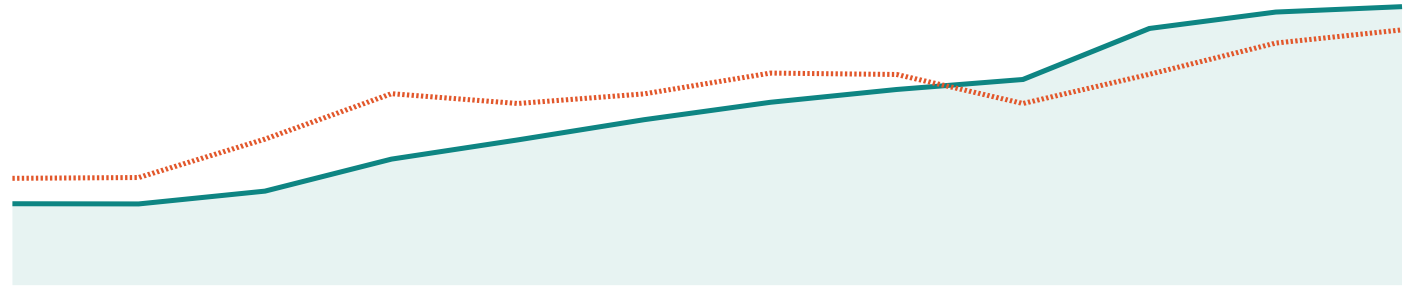
Reconciled figures (BACI): imports of $8.7B on that basis.

Largest import products

Product	2024	Share
Petroleum oils and oils from bituminous minerals, not… `2710.00`	$1.3B	14.5%
Sugars; sucrose, chemically pure, in solid form, not… `1701.99`	$206M	2.4%
Metals; gold, non-monetary, unwrought (but not powder) `7108.12`	$173M	2.0%
Mechanical shovels, excavators and shovel loaders; with a… `8429.52`	$166M	1.9%
Electrical energy `2716.00`	$161M	1.8%
Non-alcoholic beverages; other than non-alcoholic beer… `2202.99`	$99M	1.1%
Vehicles; dumpers, designed for off-highway use, for… `8704.10`	$88M	1.0%
Vehicles; with only electric motor for propulsion `8703.80`	$88M	1.0%

Laos's trade over the long run

Merchandise exports and imports, World Bank series, current US dollars.



Exports Imports 2012–2023

Sources and method

- **2024 products:** BACI (CEPII), which reconciles what exporters and importers each reported to UN Comtrade, six-digit HS, current US dollars.
- **Totals and partners, latest year and current year:** International Monetary Fund, International Trade in Goods by partner country: each economy's own monthly customs figures, converted to US dollars at the average exchange rate of each month. Values marked † were derived by the IMF from partners' records because the economy had not yet reported.
- **Long-run totals:** World Bank, merchandise exports and imports, current US dollars.
- The two sources use different methods and can give different totals for the same year. Compare like with like.
- Product classification: Harmonized System, © World Customs Organization.

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