



# METHODOLOGICAL EXPLANATION

## EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF GOODS

***This methodological explanation relates to the data releases:***

- Exports and imports of goods, Slovenia, Monthly (First Release)

### Content:

1. PURPOSE
2. LEGAL BASIS
3. UNIT DESCRIBED BY THE PUBLISHED DATA
4. SELECTION OF OBSERVATION UNIT
5. SOURCES AND METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION
6. DEFINITIONS
7. EXPLANATIONS
8. PUBLISHING
9. REVISION OF THE DATA
10. OTHER METHODOLOGICAL MATERIALS

Prepared by: Jana Živec

Last updated: 4 April 2019

## 1 PURPOSE

External trade statistics covers data on exports/imports of goods, i.e. data on goods which are exported from Slovenia to other countries or imported to Slovenia from other countries. These data enable monitoring of trends in Slovenia's trade in goods with foreign countries from the perspective of traded values and quantities, temporal dynamics, structure and regional orientation of trade in goods. Among the most important observed data are the data on values and quantities of exported/imported goods and the data on the structure of trade in goods by products and by Slovenia's trading partner countries.

## 2 LEGAL BASIS

- [Annual Programme of Statistical Surveys \(LPSR\)](#) (only in Slovene)
- [National Statistics Act](#) (OJ RS, No. 45/95 and 9/01)
- Other legal bases for Extrastat:
  - European statistical legislation for Extrastat (Regulation (EC) No 471/09 of the European Parliament and of the Council (CELEX: 32009R0471), Commission Regulation (EU) No 92/10 (CELEX: 32010R0092) and Commission Regulation (EU) No 113/10 (CELEX: 32010R0113)).
  - The Medium-term Programme of Statistical Surveys.
  - Extrastat is related also to the national customs legislation, which from 1 May 2004 on is completely harmonized with the European customs legislation (adoption of the common trade and agricultural policy, Taric).
- Other legal bases for Intrastat:
  - European statistical legislation for Intrastat (Regulation (EC) No 638/04 of the European Parliament and of the Council (CELEX: 32004R0638), Regulation (EC) No 222/09 of the European Parliament and of the Council (CELEX: 32009R0222), Commission Regulation (EC) No 1982/2004 (CELEX: 32004R1982), 91/2010 (CELEX: 32010R0091), 96/2010 (CELEX: 32010R0096), 1093/2013 (CELEX: 32013R1093), 659/2014 (CELEX: 32014R0659) and 759/2015 (CELEX: 32015R0759)).
  - The Medium-term Programme of Statistical Surveys.
  - Financial Administration Act (OJ RS, No 25/14).

Data are internationally comparable.

## 3 UNIT DESCRIBED BY THE PUBLISHED DATA

The observation unit in external trade statistics is export or import shipment of goods (trade transaction). Trade transactions are observed by: statistical value of goods, net mass of goods, quantity in supplementary unit, product and the partner country (of consignment in case of arrivals of goods and of destination in case of dispatches of goods).

## 4 SELECTION OF OBSERVATION UNIT

External trade statistics covers only trade in goods **with foreign countries**.

In covering transactions into the external trade statistics we take into consideration international recommendations of the UN Statistical Office.

Data in the **Extrastat system** are acquired from customs declarations (Single Administrative Documents – SADs), which are collected by the Financial Administration of the Republic of Slovenia (FURS). Statistics defines the coverage of customs data in Extrastat statistics by kinds of customs procedures. Commercial characteristics of transactions are also taken into consideration to a certain extent.

Very important for defining selection of observation unit in the **Extrastat system** is the system of trade, according to which external trade transactions are monitored. We distinguish between two systems: general trade system and special trade system. According to the general trade system the statistical territory of the country coincides with its economic territory. According to the special trade system the statistical territory comprises only a particular part of the economic territory. In the framework of special trade system we distinguish between relaxed and strict definition. In Slovenia we monitor external trade statistics in the Extrastat system according to the special trade system (relaxed definition), which means that beside regular export and import transactions also inward and outward processing as well as processing carried out in customs free trade zones are included.

Data from the **Intrastat system** are collected directly from business entities (providers of statistical information). The business entities liable to report for Intrastat in a given reporting year are those whose trade with EU Member States exceeded the value of the exemption threshold in the preceding year for one or both flows of goods (i.e. dispatches or arrivals of goods). The exemption threshold in Slovenia is set at EUR 220,000 for dispatches and EUR 140,000 for arrivals, i.e. at a level that ensures that the value of at least 97% of the total Slovenia's dispatches of goods to EU Member States and at least 95% of the total Slovenia's arrivals of goods from EU Member States is collected from providers of statistical information in Intrastat. In a given reporting year also business entities that exceeded the value of the exemption threshold during the year are included. The business entities report only data for the flow of goods (dispatches or arrivals of goods) for which the threshold value was exceeded. In Slovenia currently around 7,200 business entities are included in the reporting obligation for Intrastat, i.e. 3,000 on dispatches of goods and 6,400 on arrivals of goods; 2,200 business entities among them are obliged to report data for both flows of goods. Data on trade in goods with EU Member States, which refer to the period from May 2004 on, include also estimated value of trade for business entities below the exemption threshold.

In the **Intrastat system** external trade statistics is monitored in line with the methodology specified in the European statistical legislation for Intrastat, which is directly applicable in all EU Member States. The European legislation in some cases allows national solutions; therefore the implementation of Intrastat differs slightly among EU Member States.

**External trade statistics does not cover** goods for or following temporary use, when the expected duration of the temporary use was or is not intended to be longer than 24 months, goods used as carriers of customized information, including software, software downloaded from the Internet, goods for and after repair, means of payment which are legal tender and securities, monetary gold, advertising material and commercial samples supplied free of charge, which are themselves not the subject of a commercial transaction and imports of goods for foreign embassies in Slovenia.

## 5 SOURCES AND METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION

Since Slovenia's accession to the EU the data on Slovenia's trade in goods with foreign countries have been acquired from two different systems: from Extrastat or statistics relating to the trading of goods with non-member countries and from Intrastat or statistics relating to the trading of goods between EU Member States.

Data in **Extrastat** are acquired within the task 'Izvoz in uvoz blaga (države nečlanice) EXTRASTAT ZT-IUB/M'. Data are acquired from the administrative data source (i.e. customs declarations); data are reported monthly to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SURS) by FURS on electronic media.

Data in **Intrastat** are acquired within the task 'Menjava blaga med državami članicami INTRASTAT'. Data are acquired directly from business entities on statistical questionnaires. Data are reported electronically (using the system for electronic data interchange or via a web form). The required information is usually retrieved from the business entity's accounting records, i.e. from the data available on the issued or received invoices and from the data available on transport documentation, which accompany each export and import shipment of goods.

## 6 DEFINITIONS

**The statistical value of goods** is the value of goods on the Slovenian border. For exported, dispatched goods is FOB-type valuation and for imported, arrived goods is CIF-type valuation.

**In Extrastat system the statistical value** (value of goods on the Slovenian border) is based on the customs value, i.e. on the transaction value of goods. This value is recalculated to the value on the Slovenian border by adding or subtracting on whole or in part costs of transport, loading, unloading and insurance, depending on terms of delivery set down in the contract. Thus defined values of exported and imported goods are recalculated to the monthly customs exchange rates valid in the month of submission of the customs declaration, or, if this month is not used for implementing customs regulations, in the month which is specially stated for this purpose.

**In Intrastat system the statistical value** is based on the invoice value, which is recalculated into the national currency using the average monthly exchange rate of the Bank of Slovenia; it includes insurance and freight costs, which are added to or subtracted from the invoice value depending on delivery terms.

**The quantity** of exported and imported goods is shown in net mass if it can be determined considering the nature of the product and in the supplementary unit of measurement when it is prescribed in the Combined Nomenclature (CN) with Commission Implementing Regulation. You can find more information about which supplementary unit of measurement is prescribed for certain product on [SURS web site](#) among economic classifications within CN - Combined Nomenclature under the legal framework.

As a **trading partner country the country of destination** is shown **at exports** while **at imports** in Intrastat the **country of consignment** and in Extrastat **the country of origin** is shown respectively. In cases where the country of origin is unknown, the country of consignment or the country from where the goods arrived is shown.

**The country of destination** is the country in which the goods are released into free circulation for consumption or further processing.

**The country of consignment** is the country from which the goods were dispatched to Slovenia.

**The country of origin** is the country in which goods were produced. For goods that were not processed in the country where they were produced, the country where the processing took place is shown.

Due to the adjustment to Intrastat methodology in the imports data broken down by countries the country of consignment is taken into account also for the period before the accession to the EU (from January 2000 to April 2004) if it was an EU Member State and the country of origin if the country of consignment was a non-member country. Data on imports broken down by countries, which refer to the above mentioned periods, are thus not comparable to the data which were published previously for these periods.

**The observation period** is the calendar month. In Intrastat the transactions are included in the reporting month according to the date, when the invoice is issued or the date of the actual arrival or dispatch of goods. In Extrastat the transactions are included in the reporting month according to the date of submission of the customs declaration or according to some other date valid for the implementation of the customs regulations.

## **7 EXPLANATIONS**

### **7.1 CLASSIFICATIONS**

#### **a) goods classifications:**

- Since 1996 the Combined Nomenclature (CN), ninth digit is national level, harmonised with the European CN after the accession to the EU.
- Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) of the United Nations.
- Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC) of the United Nations.

**b) classification of activities:**

- Since 1997 [the Standard Classification of Activities \(SKD 2008\)](#). SKD 2008 is the national version of European statistical classification of economic activities [NACE. Rev. 2](#), which includes the entire activities of the European classification and at same time adds some national subclasses.

**c) countries:**

- Nomenclature of Countries and Territories for the External Trade Statistics of the Community and Statistics of Trade between Member States (Geonomenclature).

## 7.2 DATA PROCESSING

### STATISTICAL DATA EDITING

Data were statistically edited with appropriate imputation procedures. The following imputation methods were used: historical imputation (only for estimated data).

For more, see the general methodological explanations [Statistical data editing](#).

## 7.3 OTHER EXPLANATIONS

Especially in the Extrastat system there are slight methodological differences between data on Slovenia's trade in goods published by SURS and data on Slovenia's trade in goods published by Eurostat.

The data submitted by SURS to Eurostat (i.e. Community concept) differ from the data published by SURS at the national level (i.e. national concept) in that they include also the data on trade in goods acquired from the customs declarations, which were customs cleared in Slovenia by foreign companies (i.e. non-residents), but this trade in goods cannot be connected with the economic activity on the Slovenian market. Consequently, in trade with some countries the data on Slovenia's trade in goods published by Eurostat can be significantly higher than the data on Slovenia's trade in goods published by SURS.

Letter »z« is used if the data are suppressed to protect the reporting unit. The data that are suppressed for confidentiality reasons are not published but replaced with letter »z«.

Data on external trade statistics are important for monitoring bilateral and multilateral relations between countries as information support for negotiations, agreements and various economic policy decision-makings connected with commodity exchange with foreign countries. Data on external trade statistics represent also important input information for other fields of macroeconomics such as the system of national accounts and the balance of payments.

Integrating data on external trade statistics with data from the Slovenian Business Register (SBR) enables us to show the structure and concentration of Slovenia's trade

in goods with foreign countries by some of the most important characteristics of exporters/importers (e.g. by economic activity, size or concentration of trade value).

## 8 PUBLISHING

Data are published:

### Monthly:

- SI-STAT Database: Foreign Economic Relations – [Exports and Imports of Goods](#). Results are published as absolute and seasonally unadjusted data. Detailed data on exports and imports of goods are available as monthly series and as annual cumulative data. Data can be viewed by countries, by country economic groups as the following:
  - a) goods classifications:
    - The Combined Nomenclature (CN) on 2-, 4-, 6- and 8-digit level;
    - Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) of the United Nations on 1- and 2-digit level;
    - Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC) of the United Nations on 1- and 2-digit level.
  - b) classifications of activities:
    - The Standard Classification of Activities (SKD 2008) on 1- and 2-digit level.
  - c) countries:
    - Nomenclature of Countries and Territories for the External Trade Statistics of the Community and Statistics of Trade between Member States (Geonomenclature).
- First release (Foreign Economic Relations, Exports and imports of goods): »Exports and imports of goods, Slovenia, monthly«.
- Statøbook.
- Foreign organizations which release our data (Eurostat, The United Nations (UN)).

Release dates for external trade statistics are harmonised with the European legislation for Extrastat and Intrastat. Aggregated data are published 40 days after the observation period, while the detailed data on Slovenia's trade in goods with foreign countries are published 70 days after the observation period.

## 9 REVISION OF THE DATA

### 9.1 PUBLISHING OF PRELIMINARY AND FINAL DATA

Data revision is planned. Due to the needs of users for timely information, data are published that meet the criteria of the quality of official statistical data but do not meet the quality that can be met with complete coverage. Data are revised when recent, completed and more quality data respectively can significantly contribute to the quality of data-based decision-making and when due to publication deadlines determined by the European legislation less accurate data are published on the basis of incomplete coverage.

External trade data are updated and adjusted at every publication, so **monthly data** for all periods of observation of the current year are provisional until final data are published. Data referring to the last cumulative period of the current year include data from new forms (Intrastat) and data from new customs declarations (Extrastat) for the last period of observation as well as all data for previous periods of observation of the current year, including all changes in data that have happened since the previous publication. Corrections and updates are included in the data for the period of observation in which original data were included.

**Annual data** are published twice: provisional data are published with a regular delay, while final data for all periods of observation of the previous year are generally published around 15 June of the current year in the SI-STAT database. After publishing final data, external trade data can exceptionally be revised, especially due to unforeseen changes in Intrastat and Extrastat methodology or due to major changes in data that occur due to mandatory reconciliation of asymmetries in external trade data required by the European Commission or due to later discovery of other major data discrepancies (inconsistencies).

## 9.2 BREAKS IN TIME SERIES

In 2013 SURS made a detailed analysis of goods that were imported or exported by the foreign (non-residential) business entities on the Slovenian territory. On the basis of that analysis the methodology of statistical coverage of the external trade was updated. This required also that the data on the trade of goods with the EU non-member countries and (to a lesser extent) also the data on the trade of goods with the EU Member States needed to be adjusted. SURS adjusted the data from 2006 to 2012; data for 2004 and 2005 were not adjusted due to lack of information from which the economic activity of the foreign business entities in the Slovenian territory could be inferred. The data for 2013 and 2014 were published according to the adjusted methodology.

With the Croatian accession to the EU (July 2013) some changes in statistical monitoring of the trade in goods between Slovenia and Croatia were introduced. Statistical data on the trade in goods between Slovenia and Croatia became subject of statistics related to the trading in goods between EU Member States (Intrastat) and were no longer subject of statistics related to the trading in goods between EU non-member countries (Extrastat). To ensure the comparability of data on Slovenia's trade in goods by groups of countries, SURS adjusted the data for the EU-28 Member States for 2012 and for the January-June 2013 period. This means that Slovenia's trade with EU Member States included data on trade between Slovenia and Croatia, which significantly increased the share of Slovenia's trade with EU Member States in the context of the total Slovenia's trade at the expense of the decline in the share of Slovenia's trade with EU non-member countries.

In May 2004 the current Intrastat methodology was implemented; before that period all the data were collected from the customs declarations. Data series from January 2000 to April 2004 were adjusted to ensure data compatibility.

Methodological explanation on revision of statistical data is available on



## 10 OTHER METHODOLOGICAL MATERIALS

- Standard quality report for the surveys
  - Trade in goods between EU Member States (INTRASTAT),  
theme: Foreign Economic Relations, sub-theme: Exports and imports of goods
  
- Annual quality report for the surveys
  - Trade in goods between EU Member States (INTRASTAT),  
theme: Foreign Economic Relations, sub-theme: Exports and imports of goods  
<https://www.stat.si/StatWeb/en/Methods/QuestionnairesMethodologicalExplanationsQualityReports>
  
- The detailed content-related documentation on reporting of data in the Slovenian Intrastat system (methodology and legislation for Intrastat, Intrastat guide for PSIs, classifications, code books and Intrastat paper form) are published on [SURS's methodological website for Intrastat](#).
  
- The detailed technical documentation (web form, information on the inclusion in electronic reporting for Intrastat and supervision of electronic sending of data) are published on the [technical website for Intrastat](#).