



METHODOLOGICAL EXPLANATION

Amira Mušič, Irena Mesarič, Jana Živec

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF GOODS

This methodological explanation relates to the data releases:

- Exports and imports of goods, Slovenia, Monthly (First Release)
- Exports and imports of goods, detailed data, Slovenia, Monthly (Electronic Release)
- Trade in goods by enterprise characteristics, Slovenia, Annually (First Release)



Q

October 2023

Content	
1	PURPOSE..... 3
2	LEGAL FRAMEWORK..... 3
3	UNIT DESCRIBED BY THE PUBLISHED DATA..... 3
4	SELECTION OF OBSERVATION UNIT..... 4
5	SOURCES AND METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION..... 5
6	DEFINITIONS..... 6
7	EXPLANATIONS..... 8
8	PUBLISHING..... 10
9	REVISION OF THE DATA..... 11
10	OTHER METHODOLOGICAL MATERIALS..... 12

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of publishing the data is to show the movement of Slovenias foreign trade in goods (exports and imports of goods). The structure of trade in goods is shown by products and trading partners. The key statistics are the value and quantity of exported and imported goods.

The purpose of publishing the data by enterprise characteristics is to present data on the structure and concentration of Slovenias trade in goods (exports and imports) by characteristics of enterprises (exporters and importers). The key statistics are the value of trade and number of enterprises.

2 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- [Annual Programme of Statistical Surveys \(LPSR\) \(only in Slovene\)](#)
- [National Statistics Act \(OJ RS, No. 45/95 and 9/01\)](#)
- Financial Administration Act (OJ RS, No. 25/14)
- Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council 2152/19/EU of 27. 11. 2019 on European business statistics, repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics (Text with EEA relevance) (CELEX:32019R2152)
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 1225/21/EU of 27. 7. 2021 specifying the arrangements for the data exchanges pursuant to Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council 2152/19/EU and amending Commission Implementing Regulation 1197/20/EU, as regards the Member State of extra-Union export and the obligations of reporting units (Text with EEA relevance) (CELEX:32021R1225)
- Commission Delegated Regulation 1704/21/EU of 14. 7. 2021 supplementing Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council 2152/19/EU by further specifying the details for the statistical information to be provided by tax and customs authorities and amending its Annexes V and VI (Text with EEA relevance) (CELEX:32021R1704)
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 1197/20/EU of 30. 7. 2020 laying down technical specifications and arrangements pursuant to Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council 2152/19/EU on European business statistics repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics (Text with EEA relevance) (CELEX:32020R1197)

3 UNIT DESCRIBED BY THE PUBLISHED DATA

The observation unit in international 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).

In trade in goods by enterprise characteristics, the unit is described by size, economic activity and type of ownership of the enterprise.

4 SELECTION OF OBSERVATION UNIT

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

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

The international trade in goods statistics covers statistics relating to the trading of goods with EU non-member countries (data from **Extrastat system**) and as well statistics relating to the trading of goods between EU Member States (data from **Intrastat system**).

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).

In the Extrastat system any natural and legal person lodging a customs declaration is an observation unit. The coverage is full meaning that the survey covers all natural and legal persons who have lodged a customs declaration. 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 international 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 international 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).

In the Intrastat system any taxable person carrying out an intra-EU trade transaction with goods is an observation unit.

Reporting units (providers of statistical information) are selected in Intrastat system based on threshold coverage. 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 270,000 for dispatches and EUR 200,000 for arrivals. 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 8,700 business entities are included in the reporting obligation for Intrastat, i.e. 4,100 on dispatches of goods and 7,500 on arrivals of goods; 2,900 business entities among them are obliged to report data for both flows of goods.

From May 2004 onwards, we also estimate the value of trade with EU Member States of those business entities that do not exceed the exemption threshold for a given flow of goods (dispatches, receipts) in the observed period.

In the Intrastat system international 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.

International 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

Data are collected monthly.

Data are acquired within the task 'International trade in goods INTRASTAT, EXTRASTAT' (INTRASTAT-EXTRASTAT/M).

Since Slovenias accession to the EU the data on Slovenias trade in goods with foreign countries have been acquired from two different systems: from Extrastat and from Intrastat.

Data **from Extrastat system** acquired from the administrative data source (i.e. customs declarations or Single Administrative Documents – SADs); data are reported monthly to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SURS) by FURS on electronic media.

Data **from Intrastat system** 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 entitys 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.

The data source for economic activity and size of enterprises in the territory of Slovenia is the Statistical Business Register of Slovenia, which is kept by SURS.

6 DEFINITIONS

Flow of goods is the direction of trade in goods. In connection with the flow of goods, in international trade statistics the expressions **exports** and **imports** (of goods) are generally used.

Exports of goods means all physical movements of goods which subtract from the stock of material resources of Slovenia by leaving the statistical territory of Slovenia to a destination in the statistical territory of another Member State or a non-member country.

Imports of goods means all physical movements of goods which add to the stock of material resources of Slovenia by entering the statistical territory of Slovenia from the statistical territory of another Member State or from a non-member country.

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.

Processing covers activities that include modification, making, composition, improvement and renovation with the aim to produce new or significantly improved products.

Number of enterprises is the number of registered legal or natural persons that during the observed year traded goods with other countries and were active at least part of the observed period.

Enterprise size is determined by the number of employees in the enterprise. Data are shown by the following size classes of enterprises: micro enterprises (0-9 employees), small enterprises (10-49 employees), medium-sized enterprises (50-249 employees) and large enterprises (250 or more employees).

Employees are persons in paid employment and self-employed persons with compulsory social insurance, irrespective of whether they are employed full time or part time.

Instead of expressions **exporting enterprise** and **importing enterprise** shorter terms **exporter** and **importer** are used.

The observation period is the calendar month, and in the trade by enterprise characteristic is the calendar year. 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

- [Combined Nomenclature \(CN\)](#) (Economic classification)
- [Standard International Trade Classification \(SITC\)](#) (Economic classification)
- [Classification by Broad Economic Categories \(BEC\)](#)
- [Standard Classification of Activities \(SKD 2008\)](#) (Economic classification)
- [Nomenclature of Countries and Territories \(GEONOMENCLATURE\)](#)
- [Classification of Product by Activity CPA 2008 and CPA 2.1](#)

7.2 DATA PROCESSING

DATA EDITING

Data were statistically edited with appropriate imputation procedures. The historical imputation method was used (only for estimated data).

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

WEIGHTING

Weighting was not performed.

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

Seasonal adjustment was not performed.

7.3 INDICES

In order to monitor trends in Slovenia's trade in goods with foreign countries, in the First release of aggregated foreign trade data, we publish time periodical indices with a moving basis (tabular). For easier interpretation of published data, we also express indices in growth rates. In addition to the indices mentioned above, we also publish an index of export/import ratio for each observed period (month, cumulative). All indices are calculated from absolute aggregate data in Euros.

The following indices are calculated and published:

- **monthly indices** showing changes in the value of Slovenia's foreign trade in the current month compared to the same month last year,
- **cumulative indices** showing changes in the value of Slovenia's foreign trade in the current period compared to the same period last year,

- **index of export/import ratio**

Indices (monthly, cumulative) are calculated separately:

- for each flow of goods: imports, exports
- for each group of countries: EU, EU non-member countries, total (EU + EU non-member countries)

7.4 PRECISION

The survey is not conducted on the basis of a random sample.

7.5 OTHER EXPLANATIONS

Data that are statistically protected to respect the confidentiality of reporting units are replaced with the letter »z«.

Release dates for international trade statistics are harmonised with the European legislation for Extrastat and Intrastat. Aggregated data are published 35 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.

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.

Data on international 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 international 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 international 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

- SiStat Database: [Foreign economic relations](#) – Exports and imports of goods; – [Trade in goods by economic classifications](#); 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 and by the following classifications:
 - The Combined Nomenclature (CN) on 2-, 4-, 6- and 8-digit level;
 - Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) on 1- and 2-digit level;
 - Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC) on 1- and 2-digit level;
 - The Standard Classification of Activities (SKD 2008) on 1- and 2-digit level;
 - Nomenclature of Countries and Territories (GEONOMENCLATURE).
- SiStat Database: Foreign economic relations – Exports and imports of goods – Trade in goods by enterprise characteristics. Results are published yearly. Data can be viewed by economic activity of the enterprise, by enterprise size, by selected trade partners, by number of trade partners, by type of ownership and by product activity. Economic activity of the enterprise corresponds to the Standard Classification of Activities (SKD 2008). Product activity corresponds to the CPA 2008.
- First release (Foreign Economic Relations, Exports and imports of goods): »Exports and imports of goods, Slovenia, monthly«
- First Release (Foreign Economic Relations, Exports and Imports of Goods): »Trade in goods by enterprise characteristics, Slovenia, annually«
- Electronic release (Foreign Economic Relations, Exports and imports of goods): »Exports and imports of goods, detailed data, Slovenia, monthly«
- Statøbook.
- Regions in Figures
- Better, Worse, Average
- [Slovenia's trade in goods](#)
- Eurostat, European Statistical Office
- The United Nations (UN)
- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

9 REVISION OF THE DATA

9.1 PUBLISHING OF PRELIMINARY AND FINAL DATA

To avoid posting any revisions to the monthly results, all monthly releases in the current year have the status of provisional data. At each monthly First Release, this information may be corrected and supplemented with new information. Monthly data are given final status by publication of annual data (around 15 June of the following year).

International 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.

After publishing final data, international 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 international trade data required by the European Commission or due to later discovery of other major data discrepancies (inconsistencies).

Publishing of provisional and final data is planned. Due to the needs of users for timely information, provisional 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, more complete and better data can significantly contribute to the quality of data-based decision-making.

Data on trade in goods by enterprise characteristics are published as final.

9.2 FACTORS INFLUENCING COMPARABILITY OVER TIME

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 international 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 Slovenias 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 Slovenias trade with EU Member States in the context of the total Slovenias trade at the expense of the decline in the share of Slovenias trade with EU non-member countries.

With the Great Britain withdrawal from the EU (February 2020) some changes in statistical monitoring of the trade in goods between Slovenia and Great Britain were introduced. Statistical data on the trade in goods between Slovenia and Great Britain became subject of statistics related to the trading in goods between EU non-member countries (Extrastat) and were no longer subject of statistics related to the trading in goods between EU Member States (Intrastat). To ensure the comparability of data on Slovenias trade in goods by groups of countries, SURS adjusted the cumulative data for the EU-27 Member States from January 2020 period. This means that Slovenia's trade with EU Member States no longer included data on trade between Slovenia and Great Britain, which increased the share of Slovenias trade with EU non-member countries in the context of the total Slovenias trade at the expense of the decline in the share of Slovenias trade with EU Member States.

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.

10 OTHER METHODOLOGICAL MATERIALS

Methodological materials on SURS's website are available at <https://www.stat.si/statweb/en/Methods/QuestionnairesMethodologicalExplanationsQualityReports>.

- Data entry via web application [Intrastat](#)
- Quality report for the surveys:
 - International trade in goods INTRASTAT, EXTRASTAT (INTRASTAT-EXTRASTAT/M) theme: Foreign Economic Relations, sub-theme: Exports and imports of goods

The detailed content-related and technical documentation on reporting of data in the Slovenian Intrastat system (methodology and legislation for Intrastat, Intrastat guide for PSIs, classifications and code books, web form, information on the inclusion in electronic reporting for Intrastat and supervision of electronic

sending of data) are published on [SURs methodological website for Intrastat](#).