

Comment on Methodology

External trade statistics represent an important source of information for the needs of the economy-oriented public, ministries and other state authorities of the Czech Republic (Office of the Government, Chamber of Deputies, the Senate, Czech National Bank), institutions of higher education, international organizations (Eurostat, FAO, IMF, OECD) and last but not least the business-oriented public.

The source of information on external trade is data collected by customs authorities. Starting from processing of the January 2004 data, data collection and the first check are carried out by the Directorate General of Customs, whereas the Czech Statistical Office is in charge of further data processing, checks and publishing.

External trade statistics is made up of the sum of intra-Community trade (trade with the EU Member States) and trade with non-EU countries. Data on goods traded between Member States of the Communities are supplied by reporting units to the customs office on the Intrastat forms, with information on dispatches of goods or arrivals of goods. Data on imported and exported goods in trade with non-EU countries are given in a Single Administrative Document.

In compliance with the binding regulations of the EU, the measurement of data on exports and imports is governed by Customs Act No 13/1993 Coll., as amended; by Decree No 199/2004 Coll., on trade with third countries implementing certain provisions of the customs act and repealing certain decrees regulating exemptions from import duty and the non-preferential origin of goods (by the Ministry of Finance of the CR) as amended, effective since 1 May 2004. Intrastat, is governed by Decree No 393/2008 amending Decree No 201/2005 Coll., on statistics of exported and imported goods and the manner of communicating information on trade between the Czech Republic and other Member States of the European Communities, as amended by Decree No 563/2006 Coll. which came into effect on 1st January 2009.

Annual data on external trade in EUR and in USD are calculated using average monthly exchange rate in a given period as reported by the Czech National Bank.

Data on exports are compiled by country of destination and data on imports are compiled by country of origin.

Discrepancies between the data published by the Czech statistical office and Eurostat are caused mainly by time delays in publishing revised data and by a different methodology defining the term partner country.

2008 data are final, referring to 28 August 2009 closing date. 2009 data are updated, referring to 26 February 2010 closing date.

Casual differences on the last digit position arise for rounding off the absolute number.

Statistical symbols:

0	the value of exports (imports) is smaller than half of the unit of measure
-	data did not occur in the reference period
.	data unavailable or inapplicable
x	with indices, indicates the 100 multiple of the resulting value