

## Methodological notes

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 organisations (Eurostat, IMF, OECD) and last but not least the business-oriented public.

The source of data on external trade is information 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.

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 201/2005 Coll., on statistics of exported and imported goods and on the way of sharing data on trade with the other Member States of the European Communities, as amended; and by Act No 235/2004 Coll., on Value Added Tax, as amended.

**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.

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

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

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**2010** data for January to April are updated, referring to 27 August 2010 closing date,  
for May are updated, referring to 29 September 2010 closing date,  
for June are updated, referring to 29 October 2010 closing date,  
for July are updated, referring to 29 November 2010 closing date,  
for August are updated, referring to 29 December 2010 closing date,  
for September are updated, referring to 28 January 2011 closing date,  
for October are updated, referring to 28 February 2011 closing date,  
for November to December are updated, referring to 28 March 2011 closing date.

**2011** data for January are updated, referring to 28 March 2011 closing date,  
for February are preliminary, referring to 28 March 2011 closing date.

**The way of updating monthly results of external trade changed from quarterly to monthly basis in 2010. Preliminary data of the reference month are released together with updated data of the previous three months.**

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