

11. EXTERNAL TRADE

The information source on the external trade of the Czech Republic in goods is data collected by customs authorities. Since 2004, the data collection and the first check have been carried out by the General Directorate of Customs. The Czech Statistical Office is in charge of the further data processing, checks, and publishing.

In compliance with binding EU regulations the surveying of data on exports and imports is regulated by the Act No. 13/1993 Sb. the Customs Act, as amended, and by the Decree of the Ministry of Finance of the CR No. 199/2004 implementing certain provisions of the Customs Act and repealing certain decrees regulating exemptions from import duty and the non-preferential origin of goods. For the data collection in the system of Intrastat the surveying is governed by the Decree of the Czech Statistical Office and the Ministry of Finance of the CR No. 201/2005 Sb. on the statistics of exported and imported goods and the method of the sharing of the data on trade among the Czech Republic and the other Member States of the European Communities, as amended.

External trade statistics is a summary of the intra-union trade (i.e. the trade with the EU Member States) and trade with states outside the European Union. The reporting unit shall deliver data on goods, which is subject to trade among the Member States of the European Union, to custom authorities in an electronic form in a required format along with data on the goods dispatching or receiving. Data on the goods exported and imported within the trade with states outside the European Union are given in the customs declarations (Single Administrative Documents).

The Intrastat data processing includes mathematical and statistical imputations and adjustments, which compensate for information lost due to non-response and introduction of statistical thresholds. The value imported annually in both directions of the trade is around three per cent.

Data published are finalised data.

Methodology and definitions of basic terms

*The statistical value of the **dispatched/exported goods** is based on invoiced values of the goods. The statistical value includes only direct trading costs (freight and insurance, in particular) associated with transport of the dispatched/exported goods within the Czech Republic, no matter whether paid by the buyer or the seller. The statistical value encompasses neither banking fees and banking compensations related to the dispatch/export of goods nor export-related taxes and levies.*

*The statistical value of the **received/imported goods** is based on invoiced values of the goods. It includes only direct trading costs associated with transport of received/imported goods outside the Czech Republic, no matter whether paid by the buyer or the seller. The statistical value contains neither banking compensations related to the receipt/import of goods nor import-related taxes and levies.*

*Since the accession to the EU, in accordance with the international methodology, the external trade statistics are published in FOB (Free On Board) values for exports and CIF (Cost, Insurance and Freight) values for imports. The FOB value of **exports** refers to the value of goods plus direct trading costs associated with transport to the country border of the CR (the statistical value) irrespectively who is reimbursing the costs. The CIF value of **imports** refers to value of goods plus external direct trading costs associated with transport to the country border of the CR (the statistical value). The FOB value of **imports** refers to value of goods excluding direct trading costs associated with transport from the country border of dispatching country.*

Turnover of external trade is the sum of values of imports and exports over a certain period of time. The external trade balance is the difference between of the export value and the value of imports in a certain period.

Classification of countries:

Since 1999, following the regulation of Eurostat, the Czech Statistical Office has been using the territorial breakdown according to the Geonomenclature. The international standard of GEONOM is binding for the international trade statistics both for the trade among the EU Member States and with states outside the EU.

EU28 – (European Union): Austria; Belgium; Bulgaria; Croatia; the Czech Republic; Cyprus; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France ; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Ireland; Italy; Latvia; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Malta; the Netherlands; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; and the United Kingdom.

EA17 (Euro area 17): Austria; Belgium; Cyprus; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Ireland; Italy; Luxembourg; Malta; the Netherlands; Portugal; Slovakia; Slovenia; and Spain.

Classification of goods:

The external trade data are compiled and published according to the breakdown of the Combined nomenclature, a European classification of goods used for foreign trade statistics based on the Harmonized commodity description and coding system. The conversion of the data to nomenclatures of goods of the SITC, Rev. 4 (Standard International Trade Classification – the UN international classification of goods) and the national version of the European Classification of Products by Activity (CZ-CPA) used in this chapter was performed according to the conversion tables.

Exports and imports at current and constant prices

Exports and imports are reported at current prices. External trade at constant prices is calculated from external trade at current prices (according to the two-digit classification of the SITC, Rev. 4) and from the sample indices of nominal export and import prices, the same period of the previous year is used as the base period. The **index of exports and imports**, respectively at constant prices (**volume index**) shows relative changes in the volume of exchange of goods in the current period compared to the base period, adjusted for effects of price changes. The **deflator of exports and imports**, respectively is the ratio between the index of exports or imports, respectively at current prices and the index of exports or imports, respectively at constant prices. **Terms of trade** are the ratio of export prices and import prices.

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Further data can be found on web pages of the Czech Statistical Office at:

- www.czso.cz/eng/redakce.nsf/i/external_trade_in_goods_according_to_the_movement_%28cross_border_concept%29_
- apl.czso.cz/pll/stazo/STAZO.STAZO?jazyk=EN (the database of external trade in goods containing data beginning in 1999).

The data for 1993–1998 are provided only by means of the Information Services of the CZSO (infoservis@czso.cz).