STATISTICS DENMARK

Documentation of statistics for International Trade in Goods 2018 Month 09

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STATISTICS DENMARK

1 Introduction

The statistics shows the development in Denmark's external trade in goods at a detailed level (imports and exports) by country and type of commodity. The statistics have been compiled regularly since 1838 covering 1836 and onwards.

2 Statistical presentation

The statistics show Denmark's imports and exports of goods from/to all countries in the world distributed by about 9,300 different commodity codes. The statistics do not cover the External trade of the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

2.1 Data description

The statistics show Denmark’s imports and exports of goods from/to all countries in the world distributed by about 9,300 different commodity codes recorded by value, net weight in kilograms and any supplementary unit (e.g. liters, units or square meters).

2.2 Classification system

Commodity classifications are based on the groupings in the EU's Combined Nomenclature (CN). Furthermore, when statistical data are published, the current version of the UN's Standard Trade Classification (SITC) is applied. In addition, imports are grouped by use in accordance with an adapted version of the UN's Broad Economic Categories (BEC), while exports are grouped by industrial origin (KONJ), which is a Danish classification defined on the basis of SITC.

The Combined Nomenclature (CN) is the merchandise nomenclature applied by the EU when reporting data on EU trade and trade with non-EU countries. In the Danish External Trade in Goods Statistics the most detailed statistics published are classified according to the Combined Nomenclature. The Combined Nomenclature consists of around 9,300 commodity codes. A detailed description of the CN codes is available in the EU Official Journal dissemination of Combined Nomenclature.

When disseminating External Trade in Goods Statistics by broader commodity groups, the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Revision 4 is mostly used. The SITC Revision 4 has been used in the Danish external trade statistics since 1 January 2007 and consists of 2,970 5-digit commodity items, which can be aggregated to 1,033 4-digits, 260 3-digits, 66 2-digits, and 10 1-digit commodity items. Statistics on periods before 2007 are disseminated using older revisions of the SITC classification. The SITC classification was revised in 2007 because of a major revision in the Harmonized System (HS) Nomenclature which is the base for the SITC classification.

UN's BEC classification (Broad Economic Categories) is with few exception based on SITC and consist of 7 main end-use categories. Each of the 7 categories of end-use in the BEC covers a number of commodity groups and is defined largely on the basis of SITC, so that all commodity items under a given SITC item are allocated to the same commodity group in BEC. Danish statistics are disseminated according to a modified version of the BEC classification.

The KONJ classification is a Danish classification where exports are classified by industrial origin comprising 8 categories of exports (by industrial origin), each covering a number of commodity groups and defined largely based on the SITC.

The distribution by partner countries is done according to the Geonomenclature of Eurostat which classified more than 200 different countries and territories.

Trade by enterprise characteristics used the Danish Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (DB07), which is 6-digit activity nomenclature based on EU's NACE classification. First four digits in DB07 are the same as in the NACE.

2.3 Sector coverage

There is no sector coverage in External Trade in Goods Statistics.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Data Collected in External Trade in Goods Statistics: The quantity of the imported and exported commodities is measured in terms of a basic unit and in some cases a supplementary unit (e.g. '1000 pieces' or 'litre'). The basic unit for the great majority of commodities is the net weight (excluding package) stated in kg.

For each commodity transaction (imports or exports), the following items of information are collected:

In Intrastat:

- Commodity code according to the Combined Nomenclature (CN)
- Partner country (country of dispatch/country of destination)
- Type of transaction (e.g. ordinary purchases/sales, returns of goods or contract processing)
- Invoiced value (converted into statistical value by Statistics Denmark)
- Net weight in kilogram
- Any supplementary unit, e.g. litres or no. of items (if required according to the CN)

In Extrastat:

- Commodity code according to the Combined Nomenclature (CN) or TARIC (imports only)
- Partner country (Country of origin and country of consignment in imports and country of destination in exports)
- Procedure code (7-digit code for the customs procedure, e.g. customs clearance for free sales and free consumption or for active processing)
- Statistical value
- Net weight in kilogram
- Any supplementary unit, e.g. litres or no. of items (if required according to the CN)
- Means of transport at the border
- Domestic means of transport

The statistics are published at the most detailed level as totals of statistical value (imports in terms of cif-values and exports in terms of fob-values), net weight and any supplementary unit for similar occurrences of commodity code and partner country. Furthermore, the statistics are grouped according to the current commodity nomenclatures (CN, SITC, BEC and KONJ).

Goods excluded from the statistics: Some goods and movements of goods are excluded from the statistics, e.g. means of payment which are legal tender, securities and monetary gold; goods benefiting from diplomatic, consular or similar immunity; and goods that are not the subject of a commercial transaction.

Indices in External Trade in Goods: For the purposes of conducting further analyses of external trade, indices of value, unit value and quantity and terms of trade are also published.

The value index analyses the development in values for imports and exports.

The unit index reflects the change in the value of goods imported and exported, which is mainly due to price changes (changes in the unit values).

The quantity index shows the change in the value of goods imported and exports, which is due to quantity changes.

The terms of trade are measured as the ratio between the unit value index for respectively, exports and imports.

Intrastat and Extrastat: The primary data on which the statistics are compiled are collected from the Intrastat and Extrastat systems.

- Intrastat is based on data reported by Danish enterprises with total annual imports of goods and/or exports of goods over respectively, DKK 6.0 mio. and DKK 5.0 mio. in 2015. The threshold for reporting data is separately fixed annually for imports and exports for the purpose of ensuring coverage of 93 pct. and 97 pct. of respectively, total imports and exports as laid down by EU legislation. Furthermore, a small transaction threshold is applied in Intrastat. If the total sum of homogenenous transactions within a calendar month has a value

of not more than DKK 1,500 and a weight of not more than 1,000 kg, these goods can be reported as whole under a special commodity item (other goods).

- Extrastat is based on data reports concerning customs and supplies collected from the Danish tax authorities in connection with imports and exports of goods to/from Denmark and from/to non-EU member countries. A statistical threshold, which can be compared to the transaction threshold in Intrastat, is applied. If the value of a transaction is not over DKK 7,500 and the weight is not over 1,000 kg, these goods can be recorded under a special commodity item (other goods). All transactions related to imports must be stated, whereas it is possible to state orally transactions related to exports under the statistical threshold. This oral reporting is not recorded, but the amount of trade is insignificant.

Partner Country: The country distribution is conducted in accordance with Eurostat's Geo-nomenclature classifying about 200 different countries and territories. In Extrastat, information on country of origin (country of manufacture) is collected and for imports information on country of dispatch and for exports information on country of destination is collected. In most situations, it is information on country of origin that is applied in Extrastat.

In Intrastat, only information on country of dispatch for imports and country of destination for exports is collected.

Specific goods and movements: A range of goods and movements of goods differ from the general external trade and in such cases the statistics are compiled according to other principles, e.g. vessels and aircraft, stores and supplies, sea products, electricity and natural gas. Natural gas is compiled using a combination of reported trade and meter measures. The trade with natural gas is compiled for countries that Denmark has pipelines to/from.

Statistical value: The value of the external trade is published as the so-called statistical value. For imports this value is called the cif-value (cost, insurance and freight), i.e. the value of the commodity at the Danish border or sea port, including the service costs connected to the delivery of the commodity to the Danish border, e.g. transport costs and insurance.

For exports the statistical value is equal to the fob-value (free on board), i.e. the value of the commodity at the point of export at the Danish border, including the costs connected to the transport of the commodity from the exporter to the export point at the Danish border or sea port.

Trade systems: External trade can be compiled according to two different principles: the general trade system and the special trade system.

General trade comprises all goods being moved into or out of the country, unless exceptions have been laid down in special rules (see below). Thus, imports cover all goods entering the country, including goods intended for re-export or goods that are, in actual fact, re-exported. Similarly, exports cover all goods leaving the country, whether processed in the country or have previously been imported (re-export).

External trade according to the special trade system excludes transactions between other countries and Danish customs bonded warehouses. Goods imported to a bonded warehouse are thus excluded from external trade based on the special trade principle and are only included when the goods are declared by the customs to Denmark.

Goods in transit, i.e. goods that are only being transported through the country, are excluded from the external trade statistics for special trade as well as general trade.

In connection with a revision of the external trade data in 1997, data from 1988 and onwards were revised according to the general trade system. However, the statistical office of the EU, Eurostat, publishes external trade statistics for the member states using the special trade system.

Consequently, there are nominal differences between Statistics Denmark's and Eurostat's figures for Danish external trade in goods.

2.5 Statistical unit

The statistical unit is commodities and commodities groups and partner country and country groups. In Trade by enterprise characteristics the legal enterprise unit is also used for identifying and defining the enterprises. The CVR number (Central Business Register) is the unit applied.

2.6 Statistical population

The statistical population consists of the enterprises which have external trade in goods and which report to either Intrastat or Extrastat For trade with EU countries, Intrastat, the population is defined as enterprises which have trade of a value which exceed an exemption threshold. For trade with non-EU countries, Extrastat, all traders are covered by the statistics.

In trade with EU countries, Intrastat, a statistical threshold is applied, based on the value of annual imports and exports to other EU Member States. The threshold is set by Statistics Denmark in compliance with the requirements of coverage stated in the EU legislation on Intrastat, and the limits are determined annually. Enterprises whose annual EU trade is below these limits are exempted from reporting detailed data under the Intrastat system. The Intrastat thresholds are set at levels where the enterprises reporting to Intrastat amount to minimum 93 per cent of the total value of EU imports and minimum 97 per cent of EU exports.

The Intrastat report obligation of the individual enterprises is based on their Intrastat reporting in previous year or on the amount of EU trade stated at their VAT statements. At the VAT statements the enterprises have to state the value of purchases of goods from other EU countries (box A) and the value of sales of goods to other EU countries (box B).

In trade with non-EU countries, Extrastat, there is no actual statistical population, as all transactions in principle are collected through the customs declarations submitted to the Danish Customs Authorities.

2.7 Reference area

The statistics cover Denmark’s imports and exports of goods from/to all countries in the world. The statistics do not cover the External trade of the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

2.8 Time coverage

The statistics cover the period from 1988 and onwards. Time series covering previous years are only available in paper publications and are described further in section ‘Comparability – over time’.

2.9 Base period

In the indices covering External Trade of Goods the base period is 1995 for the Quantity and Unit Value Indices.

2.10 Unit of measure

The units of measure in the statistics are value in Danish crowns (DKK), net weight in kilograms and for many commodity codes also a supplementary unit (e.g. litres, units or square metres), all distributedby commodity codes and partner countries.

2.11 Reference period

01-09-2018 - 30-09-2018

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

The statistics are published monthly.

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

Act on Statistics Denmark (Consolidated act No. 599 of June 22, 2000) and Consolidated act No. 1495 of December 16, 2004 of the Ministry of Economic and Business Affairs Regulation (EC) No 638/2004 of The European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 on Community statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 3330/91, with associated changes.

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1982/2004 of 18 November 2004 implementing Regulation (EC) No 638/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States and repealing Commission Regulations (EC) No 1901/2000 and (EEC) No 3590/92, with associated changes.

Regulation (EC) No 471/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 May 2009 on Community statistics relating to external trade with non-member countries and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1172/95.

Commission Regulation (EU) No 92/2010 of 2 February 2010 implementing Regulation (EC) No 471/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics relating to external trade with non-member countries, as regards data exchange between customs authorities and national statistical authorities, compilation of statistics and quality assessment.

Commission Regulation (EU) No 113/2010 of 9 February 2010 implementing Regulation (EC) No 471/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics relating to external trade with non-member countries, as regards trade coverage, definition of the data, compilation of statistics on trade by business characteristics and by invoicing currency, and specific goods or movements Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 of 23 July 1987 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff.

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1779/2002 of 4 October 2002 on the nomenclature of countries and territories for the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States Council Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92 of 12 October 1992 establishing the Community Customs Code.

2.14 Cost and burden

For Intrastat the response burden is estimated as DKK 49.0 million in 2014 distributed across around 7,500 enterprises.

In contrast, as an administrative source Extrastat does not impose any additional response burden on enterprises.

2.15 Comment

External Trade in Goods has a subject page.

3 Statistical processing

Trade data is collected on monthly basis using the various data sources. The collected data are validated for logical errors and completeness and a credibility check of the reported data is carried out.

The collected data are used to compile the trade figures and full coverage of trade is ensured by estimation for missing. There is thus full coverage of International Trade in Goods in the disseminated statistics.

In connection with the release of trade figures some time series are seasonal adjusted and furthermore indices are calculated.

3.1 Source data

The statistics are compiled on the basis of two general sources: Extrastat and Intrastat.

Extrastat covers Denmark's trade in goods (imports and exports) with non-EU countries (third country) on the basis of the data on customs and supplies reported by business enterprises to the Danish tax authorities concerning their trade in goods with countries outside the EU. Consequently, Extrastat is an administrative (secondary) source.

Intrastat is the system behind the statistics of the trade of goods between Denmark and the other EU countries. Prior to the introduction of EC's Single Market on 1 January 1993, this trade was also covered by the Extrastat-system. However, following the introduction of the Single Market, the requirement concerning customs and forwarding documents in connection with intra-EU trade was abolished. Consequently, Extrastat was no longer able to provide information about this trade and Intrastat was introduced on 1 January 1993.

Intrastat is primarily based on monthly data reports submitted to Statistics Denmark by approximately 7,500 business enterprises in Denmark with regard to their trade in goods with enterprises in other EU countries (supplemented by information about EU trade derived from the VAT declarations that are filled out by all enterprises liable to pay VAT in Denmark). Consequently, Intrastat is a statistical (primary) source.

In addition to Intrastat and Extrastat, trade data are also collected via other data sources. Data on vessels and aircrafts are partly coming from registers kept by Danish Maritime Authority and Danish Transport Authority, respectively. Data on sea products landed in foreign harbor are coming from The Danish AgriFish Agency and trade in electricity is based on data on the actual transmission across the borders provided by the grid operator, http://www.Energinet.dk.

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3.2 Frequency of data collection

Intrastat data are collected monthly and the deadline for reporting data under Intrastat is the tenth working day after the reference month. Extrastat data are collected on daily basis when the customs declarations are submitted to the customs authorities.

3.3 Data collection

In Intrastat it is mandatory to submit declarations digitally. The main reporting tools in Intrastat are Idep.web and online forms on http://www.virk.dk portal. In Extrastat, reporting tools provided customs authorities are used and almost all are digitally reporting tools.

3.4 Data validation

Statistics on the Danish External Trade in Goods are compiled on the basis of customs declarations for the trade with non-EU countries and reports to the Intrastat system covering trade with EU countries.

The collected data are validated at several levels before the statistics are disseminated. First, the reporting obligation of the enterprises is monitored. Furthermore, the data are check for any logical error (e.g. wrongful commodity code) or missing information. Trade reported on e.g. wrongful commodity codes is not included in trade figures before the information is corrected.

Credibility checks of the reported data are also carried out. In these checks the reported records are compared with records reported in the past. Those records which have a significant effect on the trade figures are checked manually. Records with less effect on the trade figures are automatic corrected. Significant errors are corrected quickly by telephone contact with the enterprises, while the other potential erroneous records are included in the statistics while investigations are carried out.

The reports are also checked for completeness. Large records are checked manually each month. In Intrastat, the reported figures are also compared with the enterprises' declaration of EU purchases and acquisitions stated on the VAT statements.

It is likely that not all erroneous records are identified and therefore the accuracy of the trade figures can be somewhat affected at detailed levels. Since the validation is targeted on large records, it is assessed that the effect of wrongful records is limited at aggregated level of the trade figures.

3.5 Data compilation

The reported EU trade is grossed up to full coverage of external trade in goods, by making estimation for trade from enterprises exempted from Intrastat reporting based on the stated value of purchases of goods from other EU countries (box A) and the value of sales of goods to other EU countries (box B) from the VAT statement and by making estimation from the enterprises obliged to Intrastat which have failed to report or have reported wrongfully. Consequently, the disseminated trade figures are thus covering the total trade.

The estimations are distributed by commodity codes and partner countries. The distribution of goods is based on the industry-specific trade patterns of the reporting companies, while the geographical distribution is estimated from the administrative source EU sales without VAT, indicating which EU countries Danish companies have traded with. For those companies that are exempted from reporting to Intrastat, the industry-specific trade pattern is based on the trade of small and medium-sized companies. For reporting companies that have not reported, the industry-specific trade pattern is based on the trade of large and medium-sized companies and the companies' own historical data.

3.6 Adjustment

Seasonal adjustment is applied. Data is seasonally adjusted using JDemetra+ with fixed model examined once a year. There will be adjusted for Easter, trading days and leap years if these effects are significant. Indirect seasonal adjustment is used in the calculation of the seasonally adjusted total trade figures. There is no special adoption of the annual figures, and there can be discrepancies between actual and seasonally adjusted figures annually. The seasonally adjusted figures are divided into commodity groups and by geography. The totals in the two reports are consistent.

4 Relevance

There is great interest in the disseminated statistics of External Trade in Goods among users who monitor the Danish economy. The statistics are demanded widely by trade and industry organisations, the bank and finance sector, politicians, public and private institutions, researchers, enterprises, news media, embassies and international organisations.

The statistics is also used for compilation of National Accounts and Balance of Payments Statistics. Furthermore, Eurostat use the statistics to make joint EU trade statistics.

The users view the External Trade in Goods Statistics as an important short term indicator, and it often gets a lot of attention in the media and amongst professional users.

4.1 User Needs

Users are public authorities, private organisations and firms, international organisations, embassies, the media and private individuals. Furthermore, the detailed figures are widely used for conducting market analyses and research.

4.2 User Satisfaction

No user satisfaction survey have been carried out.

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4.3 Data completeness rate

Trade in certain commodity/partner country combinations can be made confidential according to the rules defining confidentiality. These combinations are not disclosed in the statistics.

Furthermore, at the first release of statistics 40 days after the reference month, detailed statistics on the EU trade is not disseminated. It is based on an assessment that these figures are not reliable enough so soon after the end of the reference month.

5 Accuracy and reliability

The reliability of the final statistics at aggregated level is relatively high. In Extrastat, the reliability at detailed commodity/country levels is also high, while the reliability is comparatively lower in Intrastat due to the margins of uncertainty involved in estimating trade by enterprises exempted from reporting data.

However, the first publications of the external figures are subject to some uncertainty, as a relatively high number of errounous data reports cannot be included at the time of publication. Compensation for this is made by estimation and a later correction. The reliability of figures for a given month is greatly increased by later publications of statistics. Similarly, the highest reliability is achieved at aggregated level.

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5.1 Overall accuracy

The uncertainty levels of the two main sources for the statistics differ.

Extrastat covering trade with non-EU countries is generally of a high quality. However, the reliability of the figures at the detailed level is affected by:

- The figures on imports probably have a slightly higher quality compared to the figures on exports, due to the circumstance that import transactions are subject to greater control measures via the customs system.
- Information on weight and quantity may be subject to greater margins of uncertainty compared to information on value.

Intrastat covering trade with EU member countries is subject to considerably higher margins of uncertainty compared to Extrastat. Current data-editing measures give rise to corrections, but especially the lack of data reports constitutes a considerable source of uncertainty. Particularly in the first months, estimates for delayed data reports are replaced by actual data reports, which give rise to, e.g. changes in trade between different goods and countries. Estimating trade of the smallest business enterprises exempted from reporting data also contributes to the circumstance that the statistics at the most detailed level are subject to some degree of uncertainty.

The figures for total imports and exports from/to EU countries are considered to be of high quality in the final statistics as information is added with information from the VAT returns of the business enterprises, which cover all transactions of goods between Denmark and the EU countries.

At the detailed level, the reliability of the figures is affected by:

- No data reports from enterprises below the threshold limits of Intrastat.
- Imperfect and/or delayed data reports from enterprises obliged to report.
- Submission of inconsistent information, e.g. where the relationship between value and net weight in kg and/or supplementary unit seems unlikely.
- For reasons of resources, it is not possible to examine all data reports where (probably) inconsistent information has been submitted.

At the moment, there are no exact figures for the statistical uncertainty.

5.2 Sampling error

For non-EU trade, Extrastat, there is full coverage of population and sampling error is thus 0. In EU trade, Intrastat, the population is in principle a cut-off sample. The sampling error is not known.

5.3 Non-sampling error

The overall accuracy of Intrastat is affected by sampling error and non-sampling error combined. Non-sampling errors include measurement error and non-response error, i.e. missing or wrongful reports from enterprises obliged for Intrastat reporting or wrongful estimation of missing trade from enterprises which are exempted from reporting to Intrastat.

5.4 Quality management

Statistics Denmark follows the recommendations on organisation and management of quality given in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and the implementation guidelines given in the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF). A Working Group on Quality and a central quality assurance function have been established to continuously carry through control of products and processes.

5.5 Quality assurance

Statistics Denmark follows the principles in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and uses the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF) for the implementation of the principles. This involves continuous decentralized and central control of products and processes based on documentation following international standards. The central quality assurance function reports to the Working Group on Quality. Reports include suggestions for improvement that are assessed, decided and subsequently implemented.

5.6 Quality assessment

The accurary levels of the two main sources for the statistics differ.

Extrastat covering trade with non-EU countries is generally of a high quality. However, the reliability of the figures at the detailed level is affected by:

- The figures on imports probably have a slightly higher quality compared to the figures on exports, due to the circumstance that import transactions are subject to greater control measures via the customs system.
- Information on weight and quantity may be subject to greater margins of uncertainty compared to information on value.

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The figures for total imports and exports from/to EU countries are considered to be of high quality in the final statistics as information is added with information from the VAT returns of the business enterprises, which cover all transactions of goods between Denmark and the EU countries.

At the detailed level, the reliability of the figures is affected by:

- No data reports from enterprises below the threshold limits of Intrastat.
- Imperfect and/or delayed data reports from enterprises obliged to report.
- Submission of inconsistent information, e.g. where the relationship between value and net weight in kg and/or supplementary unit seems unlikely.
- For reasons of resources, it is not possible to examine all data reports where (probably) inconsistent information has been submitted.

At the moment, there are no exact figures for the statistical uncertainty.

5.7 Data revision - policy

Statistics Denmark revises published figures in accordance with the Revision Policy for Statistics Denmark. The common procedures and principles of the Revision Policy are for some statistics supplemented by a specific revision practice.

5.8 Data revision practice

As the share of estimated figures is in the order of 20 to 30 pct. when the statistics are published for the first time, there are a number of deviations between the first and the final publication of external trade figures for a given month.

The inaccuracy with respect to the provisional statistics can be illustrated by the difference between the first provisional publication and the subsequent publications of statistics. Generally, there are greater differences between the figures for EU trade (Intrastat) between the first publication and the last publication of statistics than is the case for non-EU trade (Extrastat).

6 Timeliness and punctuality

Aggregated statistics for selected countries and country groups and for aggregated commodity groups are published monthly 40 days after the end of the reference period. Detailed statistics are published 70 days after the end of the reference period.

The statistics are usually published without delay in relation to the scheduled date, which is announced at least 3 months in advance on Statistics Denmark's website

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

Aggregated statistics for selected countries and country groups and for aggregated commodity groups are published monthly 40 days after the end of the reference period. Detailed statistics are published 70 days after the end of the reference period.

All months of the reference year are revised in connection with each publication of statistics up to and including October in the following year. Subsequently, figures will not be revised for a whole year. The figures are also revised in October in the two following years. This implies that final figures for external trade in goods are published about 2½ years after the end of the statistical year. This revision practice is coordinated with the Balance of Payments Statistics and the National Accounts Statistics.

6.2 Punctuality

The statistics are usually published without delay in relation to the scheduled date, which is announced at least 3 months in advance on Statistics Denmark's website.

Trade data are without delay submitted to Eurostat on the same day as statistics are published.

7 Comparability

At overall level, the statistics are comparable across time and with statistics from other countries.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

The statistics are comparable with other countries' external trade statistics, which follow the basic principles of the UN guidelines. Comparability can be influenced by the differences between general and special trade system.

7.2 Comparability over time

Any break in the time series as a result of changed collection methods, etc. are adjusted be means of estimations. Consequently, the statistics are comparable over time, ie. from 1988 and onwards .

However, the comparability at detailed commodity level can be affected by changes in the commodity code definition over time.

Time series before 1988 are only available in paper publications and are not comparable over time because of data break cause by changes in compilation methods.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

The External Trade of Goods Statistics are comparable with several other statistics and data sources:

- The partner country's recording of the same transaction (mirror transaction). The comparison is hampered by differences in the level of the value for the recording of imports and exports (respectively, cif and fob) and various methodological differences.
- Information on EU purchases and sales of goods on the VAT return is used by Statistics Denmark in the continuous control and grossing up of data reported to Intrastat.
- For exports of industrial products with figures from the recording of turnover of the industrial statistics in export markets. The comparison is hampered by the fact that the records of the industrial statistics are not distributed by country.
- Furthermore, comparisons are made for a number of commodities with information from commodity-specific statistics.
- The External Trade of Goods Statistics are incorporated into the statistics on Denmark's balance of payments. However, due to definitional differences concerning e.g. bunkering, the trade balance for goods in the Statistics of Balance of Payments are not identical to that of the External Trade of Goods Statistics (for further information, please see quality declaration for Balance of Payment Statistics.

7.4 Coherence - internal

The statistics is internally coherent.

Seasonal adjustments are applied indirectly at disaggregated level, ensuring providing consistency between seasonally adjusted totals and their components.

8 Accessibility and clarity

These statistics are published monthly in a Danish press release, at the same time as the tables are updated in the StatBank. In the StatBank, these statistics can be found under International trade in goods. For further information, go to the subject page.

8.1 Release calendar

The publication date appears in the release calendar. The date is confirmed in the weeks before.

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8.2 Release calendar access

The Release Calender can be accessed on our English website: Release Calender.

8.3 User access

Statistics are always published at 8:00 a.m. at the day announced in the release calendar. No one outside of Statistics Denmark can access the statistics before they are published. Theme publications etc. may be published at other times of the day. The National Statistician can decide that such publications may be released before their official publication time, e.g. to the media and other stakeholders.

8.4 News release

These statistics are published quarterly in a Danish press release.

8.5 Publications

These statistics feature in the Statistical Yearbook.

8.6 On-line database

The statistics are published in the StatBank under International trade in goods in the following tables:

Total external trade

- UHV1: Total external trade by imports and exports, seasonal adjustment, kind and time
- UHV2: Total external trade by imports and exports, seasonal adjustment, country and time
- UHV3: Total external trade by imports and exports, kind, country and time
- UHV4: Total external trade by imports and exports, main SITC groups, country and time
- UHV5: Total external trade by imports and exports, SHORT-TERM, country and time
- UHV6: Total external trade by imports and exports, BEC, country and time
- UHV7: Total external trade by imports and exports, main SITC groups, country and time

Detailed external trade

- KN8MEST: Imports and exports CN by imports and exports, commodities, country, unit, Data source and time
- KN8Y: Imports and exports CN by imports and exports, commodities, country, unit and time

Imports and exports (SITC)

- SITC2R4M: Value of imports and exports by main SITC groups, country, imports and exports and time
- SITC2R4Y: Value of imports and exports by main SITC groups, country, imports and exports and time
- SITC5R4M: Imports and exports by imports and exports, main SITC groups, country, unit and time
- SITC5R4Y: Imports and exports by imports and exports, main SITC groups, country, unit and time

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Danish version of the BEC classification

- BEC2M: Value of imports and exports by BEC, country, imports and exports and time
- BEC2Y: Value of imports and exports by BEC, country, imports and exports and time

Short term trade statistics

- KONJ2M: Value of exports by SHORT-TERM, country, imports and exports and time
- KONJ2Y: Value of exports by SHORT-TERM, country, imports and exports and time

Index

- UHIX: Index on total external trade by imports and exports, index type, seasonal adjustment and time
- SITCIX: Index on imports and export by imports and exports, index type, main SITC groups and time
- BECIX: Index on imports and main BEC groups by index type, BEC and time
- KONJIX: Index on exports and main KONJ groups by index type, SHORT-TERM and time
- BEC3M: Quantity index and index of unit values for imports by BEC, index type and time
- BEC42: Quantity index and index of unit values for imports by BEC, index type and time
- KONJ3M: Quantity index and index of unit values for exports by SHORT-TERM, index type and time
- KONJ42: Quantity index and index of unit values for exports by SHORT-TERM, index type and time
- SITC62: Quantity index and index of unit values for exports by main SITC groups, index type and time
- SITC82: Quantity index and index of unit values for imports by main SITC groups, index type and time

Terms of trade

- BYT22: Terms of trade by kind and time
- BYT2M: Terms of trade by kind and time

8.7 Micro-data access

In addition to the statistical primary data described above , the primary data contain a range of identifiers (e.g. VAT registration number (so-called SE-no.) and a distribution by type of transaction (ordinary purchases/sales, processing, etc.).

The identifiers make it possible to match the External Trade in Goods Statistics with other business statistics.

Trade by enterprise characteristics is figures based on a match of data in the External Trade Statistics and Business sector statistics.

It is possible to get access to anonymised Micro-data through Statistics Denmark's research scheme. Furthermore, Statistics Denmark's Customer Centre can carry out special data extractions.

8.8 Other

Statistics Denmark's Customer Centre can provide users with tailor made data extractions and special data subscriptions.

STATISTICS DENMARK

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

Data Confidentiality Policy at Statistics Denmark.

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

The compilation of the External Trade in Goods Statistics follows the Data Privacy Policy of Statistics Denmark. Trade in certain commodity/partner country combinations made confidential are not disclosed in the statistics, if necessary by applying secondary confidentiality. The secondary confidentiality ensures that the primary confidentiality data are not disclosed at 2-digit CN chapters and 2-digit SITC- level.

At the end of 2013, 39 CN headings in imports and 101 CN headings in exports were subject to confidentiality procedures at 8-digit CN level. A total of 134 CN-headings were subject to confidentiality. The confidential data are included in the external trade data at a more aggregated level. Trade subject to confidentiality amounted to 1.4 per cent in total Danish imports and 9.2 per cent in total Danish exports in 2013.

8.11 Documentation on methodology

Methodological documentation is only available in Danish.

8.12 Quality documentation

Results from the quality evaluation of products and selected processes are available in detail for each statistics and in summary reports for the Working Group on Quality.

9 Contact

The administrative placement of these statistics are in the division of External Economy. The person responsible is Søren Rich, tel. +45 39 17 33 36, e-mail: sri@dst.dk

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Statistics Denmark

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