

## MERCHANDISE TRADE METADATA

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Metadata provided by National Statistical Service of Greece in conformity with the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS)

Dissemination formats:						
<b>Hardcopy</b>	(X)	<b>News release</b>				
		<b>Weekly</b>	(X)	<b>Monthly</b>	(X)	<b>Quarterly bulletin</b>
	(X)	<b>Other annual</b>				
<b>Electronic</b>		<b>On-line country bulletin board or database</b>				
	(X)	<b>Diskette</b>		<b>CD ROM</b>	(X)	<b>Other</b>

### The Data: Coverage, Periodicity, and Timeliness

<b>Coverage characteristics</b>	<p>Data for total imports and total exports are published in million Euros (€) and U.S dollars for major categories on total exports (at FOB values), total imports (at CIF values) and Greece's balance of trade in million Euros.</p> <p>Foreign trade with EU-countries is based on information obtained by Intrastat declarations. Only VAT liable establishments with EU-imports of more than €29,000 and EU-exports of more than €44,000 are obliged to provide data.</p> <p>Foreign trade with non-EU countries is based on customs records received by Customs Offices. There is no threshold for imports. A threshold of 88 Euros exists for exports. Data are available at Customs House level.</p> <p>Intra trade is the Greece's total merchandise trade within the EU-countries. Extra trade is the total merchandise trade with countries who are not members of the EU.</p> <p>The data are released at the 8-digit level of the Combined Nomenclature.</p> <p>Data of the years previous to the introduction of Euro (2002) are published in million drachmae (national currency) and US dollars. Comparisons of 2002 with the previous years in Euros.</p> <p>External Trade Indices (1991=100): For general indices, by 2-digit group (half-yearly) and 1-digit section of the SITC Rev. 3; by country of origin and destination, for the EU and the main third countries, by 1-digit section of the SITC Rev 3.</p> <p>The data are not seasonally adjusted.</p>
<b>Periodicity</b>	Monthly
<b>Timeliness</b>	<p>According to EU regulations for the:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Intra Trade: on average ten weeks after the reference month.</li> <li>2) Extra Trade: on average 8 weeks after the reference month.</li> </ol>

	3) Estimates for Extra trade in 42days and Intra trade in 56 days after the reference month.
<b>Access by the Public</b>	
<b>Advance dissemination of release calendar</b>	In the end of December of each year the NSSG publishes a release calendar giving the precise release dates for the coming year. The calendar is distributed to the press and is available free of charge to all interested parties. The calendar is also disseminated on the NSSG's Internet website [ <a href="http://www.statistics.gr">http://www.statistics.gr</a> ] under the item "Calendar of Press Releases" (in Greek and English).
<b>Simultaneous release to all interested parties</b>	The data are released simultaneously to the users with the Press Release "Merchandise trade" at 12:00 local time. At the same time the data are also sent to subscribers by fax or e-mail. The Press Release is subsequently posted on the NSSG's Internet website ( <a href="http://www.statistics.gr/en/press.htm">http://www.statistics.gr/en/press.htm</a> under the item "External Trade"
<b>Integrity</b>	
<b>Dissemination of terms and conditions under which official statistics are produced, including confidentiality of individual responses</b>	<p>The National Statistical Service of Greece (NSSG) is a public agency, supervised by the Ministry of Economy and Finance, responsible for the conduct and dissemination of official statistics. Provision has been made in specific articles of the Foundation Law 3627/56 and of the Law 2392/96 so as to assure confidentiality of individual data. These laws govern all individual statistics collected by the NSSG. According to the above laws, individual data are subject to confidentiality and cannot be published or made available to any person or organization.</p> <p>Principles of methodology as well as data dissemination can be freely determined by the NSSG, taking into account international practices and, in particular, existing Eurostat recommendations, instructions and norms related to the corresponding statistical item.</p> <p>The data on Merchandise Trade are disseminated by the NSSG as a service to the public.</p> <p>The collection of trade data is governed by the European Council Regulations (EEC) no 1172/95 of May 22,1995 for the trade with non-EU Member States and (EEC) no 3330/91 of November 7, 1991 for trade with EU Member States.</p> <p>The public can obtain copies of the above-mentioned laws from the Statistical Information and Publications Division (tel. 3289 389, Fax: 3244748, 3241102, e-mail: <a href="mailto:data.dissem@statistics.gr">data.dissem@statistics.gr</a> and <a href="mailto:data.supply@statistics.gr">data.supply@statistics.gr</a>) upon request free of charge. Mail orders can be placed by writing to National Statistical Service of Greece, Statistical Information and Publications Division, 14-16 Lycourgou str, GR 10166 Athens. The Law 2392/96 is also available in English.</p> <p>Copies of the Greek version are also posted on the NSSG's internet site [<a href="http://www.statistics.gr">http://www.statistics.gr</a>]</p>
<b>Identification of internal government access to data before release</b>	There is no internal government access to the data before their release to the public.
<b>Identification of ministerial commentary on the occasion of statistical releases</b>	No ministerial commentary is attached to the release of the data.
<b>Provision of information about revision and advance notice of major changes in methodology</b>	<p>The data are preliminary when first released and are indicated as such. Trade figures are routinely revised during a calendar year and become final within 24 months. Final data are published in the Statistical Yearbook and the Monthly Statistical Bulletin when are available.</p> <p>Major changes in methodology are described and explained in the publication of the Statistical Yearbook that can be obtained for a fee upon request to the Statistical Information and Editions Division (tel.: 3289 389, Fax: 3244 748, 3241 102, e-mail: <a href="mailto:data.dissem@statistics.gr">data.dissem@statistics.gr</a> and <a href="mailto:data.supply@statistics.gr">data.supply@statistics.gr</a>).</p> <p>Changes are announced at the time they are introduced.</p>

### Quality

<p><b>Dissemination of documentation on methodology and sources used in preparing statistics</b></p>	<p>The methodology used is that of the European Union set out in the relevant E.U regulations (Council Regulation 1172/95 and Council Regulation 3330/91). Brief explanatory notes on methodology and resources used are contained in the editions of the NSSG that include trade data, namely the Statistical Yearbook, the Monthly Statistical Bulletin and the annual publication for External Trade Statistics. A short note on methodology in English is available on NSSG's internet site [<a href="http://www.statistics.gr">http://www.statistics.gr</a>].</p> <p>The aforementioned publications are available upon request to National Statistical Service of Greece, Statistical Information and Publications Division, 14-16 Lycourgou str, GR 10166 Athens (tel. 3289 389, Fax: 3244748, 3241102, e-mail: <a href="mailto:data.dissem@statistics.gr">data.dissem@statistics.gr</a> and <a href="mailto:data.supply@statistics.gr">data.supply@statistics.gr</a>)</p>
<p><b>Dissemination of that support statistical cross-checks and provide assurance of reasonableness</b></p>	<p>The above-mentioned publications as well as the data derived from our database provide additional information and breakdowns of the data disseminated in the press release.</p> <p>Data for imports and exports, value and quantity are disseminated in accordance with the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Rev.3 on a monthly basis for the reference month, broken by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Commodity group</li> <li>· Partner Country</li> <li>· Custom</li> <li>· Tax office</li> <li>· Region (NUTS III level-a geographic breakdown of territory defined for all EU countries)</li> <li>· Mode of transport</li> </ul> <p>No reconciliation either with the National Accounts or with Balance of Payments.</p>

## Dissemination Formats Page

<b>Hardcopy</b>		
(X)	<b>News release:</b>	Press Release “Merchandise Trade”, available to subscribers and upon request to the National Statistical Service of Greece, Statistical Information and Publications Division, 14-16 Lycourgou str, GR 10166 Athens (tel: 3289 389, Fax: 3244 748, 3241 102, e-mail: <a href="mailto:data.dissem@statistics.gr">data.dissem@statistics.gr</a> and <a href="mailto:data.supply@statistics.gr">data.supply@statistics.gr</a> )
	<b>Weekly bulletin:</b>	
(X)	<b>Monthly bulletin:</b>	“Monthly Statistical Bulletin”, available for a fee to subscribers and upon request to the National Statistical Service of Greece, Statistical Information and Publications Division, 14-16 Lycourgou str, GR 10166 Athens (tel.: 3289 389, Fax: 3244 748, 3241 102, e-mail: <a href="mailto:data.dissem@statistics.gr">data.dissem@statistics.gr</a> and <a href="mailto:data.supply@statistics.gr">data.supply@statistics.gr</a> )
(X)	<b>Quarterly bulletin:</b>	
(X)	<b>Other:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Annual Publication “ External Trade Statistics”</li> <li>○ Statistical Yearbook of Greece</li> </ul> available for a fee upon request to the Statistical Information and Editions Division, 14-16 Lycourgou str. GR 101 66 Athens (tel.: 3289 389, Fax: 3244 748, 3241 102, e-mail: <a href="mailto:data.dissem@statistics.gr">data.dissem@statistics.gr</a> and <a href="mailto:data.supply@statistics.gr">data.supply@statistics.gr</a> ).
<b>Electronic</b>		
	<b>On-line country bulletin board or database.</b>	Quarterly Press Release “Merchandise Trade” available on Internet NSSG’s site
	<b>Internet address:</b>	<a href="http://www.statistics.gr">www.statistics.gr</a>
(X)	<b>Diskette:</b>	Available by subscription or upon request from the above address.
	<b>CD ROM:</b>	
(X)	<b>Other:</b>	Special data requests are forwarded via fax or e-mail to interested users, upon request to the External Trade Unit, 14-16 Lycourgou str. GR 101 66 Athens: tel. 0030 10 3289 -308, -304, -307, fax: 0030 10 3289304, e-mail: <a href="mailto:ext.trade@statistics.gr">ext.trade@statistics.gr</a> ).
(X)	<b>FAX</b> <b>E-mail</b>	

## Summary Methodology Page

### **I. Analytical framework, concepts, definitions, and classifications (including reference to applicable guidelines)**

- Definition: Import and export statistics refer to (a) trade with countries belonging to European Community; and, (b) trade with other countries, exports and imports considered as goods exiting or entering the borders.
- Classification: The classifications used are the Combined Nomenclature, 8level (CN8) developed for national purposes for Extra trade and the SITC Rev 3. Country coding is the alphabetic ISO – 2digit level adopted by the European Union.
- International, regional guidelines: Foreign trade statistics follow European Community regulations. A distinction has to be made between the trade with EU-Member States (Intrastat system) and trade with non EU-Member States.

### **II. Scope of the data (coverage of, e.g., institutional units, transactions and stock, commodities, industries, and geographic areas)**

- Transactions coverage: For Extra Trade transactions below €88 Euros are excluded, because of their low value. For EU trade no data collected for transactions of individuals and enterprises under the statistical threshold (€29,000 Euros for acquisitions and €44,000 Euros for deliveries). Certain goods for confidentiality reasons are recorded under a special commodity category (“other commodities”).
- Geographic coverage: All merchandise trade between Greece and the rest of the world is included.
- Unrecorded activity: No estimates are made.

### **III. Accounting conventions (e.g. time of recording, valuation methods)**

- Conversion to unit of account: Data are converted into Euro (€), from the year 2002. For the previous years the valuation is in million Drachmae.
- Valuation: For imports the CIF value is used. For exports the FOB value is used.

### **IV. Nature of the basic data (e.g., administrative records, surveys censuses, combinations of these)**

- Sources: For Extra Trade, the source is the customs tariff (SAD) document. For Intra trade, the source is the INTRASTAT declaration made by the trader
- Type of data collected: Goods classified CN 8digit; countries of origin/destination; quantity (net weight and/or units); value in national currency; nature of transaction; national region of origin/destination; mode of transport; and delivery terms (CIF, FOB, etc).
- Basis of country data: For Extra trade country of origin/destination. For Intra trade country of consignment and destination.

### **V. Compilation practices (e.g., weighting schemes, imputation methods, balancing/cross-checking techniques)**

- Adjustments to improve coverage/classifications/timing/valuation: There are no adjustments. The processing system checks for errors in the commodity code, the country code and many other data items in order to obtain accurate results.
- Processing system: National automated system.
- Processing site: For Extra Trade Customs Offices collect the data. The 78% of the data are sent on line to the Central Computer of the Ministry of Finance. The rest 22% of the data in printed form are sent for data-entry to the Informatics center of the Ministry of Finance. After that the whole data sent to the Central Computer of the NSSG. For Intra trade Tax Offices collect the data. The 70% of the

data in printed form are sent to NSSG for data-entry. The rest of 30% of the data are submitted to the NSSG by the traders through IDEP/CN8. Gradually the electronic tracing for data collection will be brought into general use. The whole process is controlled by the NSSG, who compiles and publishes the statistics.

- Timing of recording transactions: Time of clearance, for Third Country Trade. For Intra EC trade, all transactions of every trader in one month (the calendar month in which the VAT is due).
- Reconciliation: For Third Countries Trade reconciliation is undertaken between Customs offices and importers/exporters and for Intra EC trade between Tax offices and intra EU traders.

**VI. Other aspects (e.g., seasonal adjustment, disclosure avoidance, base years, reference years, transformations from fiscal to calendar years)**

- Seasonal adjustment: No seasonal adjustment is made.
- Geographic detail: Published information is available by country and major country groups
- Commodity detail: Published information is available by 3digit commodity (CN 8).