HELLENIC REPUBLIC

HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY

Piraeus, 28 July 2020

PRESS RELEASE

EXPECTATIONS OF GREEK EXPORT ENTERPRISES

FOR THE YEAR 2020

SERIES OF EXPERIMENTAL STATISTICS

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), in the context of its mission to produce topical and useful statistics for the public, the enterprises and the policy makers, is launching a series of experimental statistics[1], aiming at providing statistical information on selected important domains of the economic and social life of Greece, reflecting, inter alia, the economic conjuncture for the immediate future.

Experimental statistics are new, developing and innovative statistics. They are published labeled as experimental statistics, so that users and other stakeholders can be involved in the evaluation of their usefulness and relevance, to adequately capture the subject of the survey and ultimately to contribute to the adaptation of these statistics to their needs for information.

The estimation for the expectations of Greek export enterprises, in terms of percentage change of exports of goods value for the current or next year is presented as the first main thematic area of experimental statistics series. This selection was based on the particular importance of exports for the Greek economy and the role they can play as an incentive / stimulus for its further development.

ELSTAT's initiative aims at:

- capturing the expectations of enterprises for the level of exports they are going to carry out during the current / next calendar year, providing a preliminary estimate of the trend of Greek exports of goods.
- creating a new data source of useful statistical information which will serve as the basis for the policy makers to draw conclusions on the differentiation of markets and the opportunities of enhancing extroversion and competitiveness of Greek enterprises.
- developing a methodological tool for statistical monitoring of the accrued export volume compared to the reflected expectations of the enterprises, which will produce timely information, immediately usable for the economic policy makers.

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[1] Link PR-1, Link PR-2

The primary information, on which the results were based, was drawn directly from a representative subtotal of the Greek export enterprises. These enterprises were called by ELSTAT, for the first time, to provide data, based on their own estimates and expectations, regarding the change trend of their exports for the next period, and not on an accounting basis.

With the aim to present an integrated statistical approach of the exports of goods, and given the impact that the pandemic of the Corona virus disease (COVID-19) had on the conduct of the survey and the level of the analysis of the collected data, ELSTAT presents in this Press Release, in addition to **the estimates for the exports of goods expectations of Greek enterprises the year 2020**, included in **Part 1**:

- in **Part 2**, the impact on Greek exports due to COVID-19, (a) an analysis of the exports change for the period March - May 2020 compared to 2019 and (b) specifically for exports of goods carried out during the period March - May 2020 compared to the corresponding period 2019 (accounting data), **by enterprises classified to sectors of economic activities, corresponding to KAD that were under suspension of operation on the basis of state order** (relevant link KAD of enterprises affected and KAD of closed enterprises on the basis of state order), and

- in **Part 3**, the latest export data of goods of all exporting enterprises, for the period January - May 2020 compared to the corresponding period 2019 (relevant link of International Trade in Goods Statistics).

Press Release Contents

Part 1: THE EXPECTATIONS OF ENTERPRISES FOR THE EXPORTS OF THE YEAR 2020

ELSTAT announces the 1st and 2nd estimate, based on the expectations of export enterprises, for the percentage change in goods exports value of the year 2020, compared to the year 2019. The 1st estimate corresponds to data collected by the enterprises during the period November - December 2019 and the 2nd estimate to data collected during the period April - May 2020.
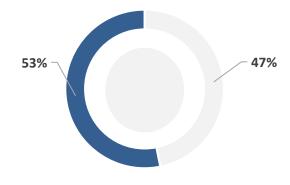
Table 1. Expectations of export enterprises, year 2020, 1st και 2nd estimate

Change (%) Exports of goods for the year 2020 compared to 2019	
1ST ESTIMATE	9%
2ND ESTIMATE	2%

The following figure depicts the share of participation of export enterprises in collective promotional activities for exports (trade fairs, business missions, etc.).

Figure 1. Share of enterprises participating in collective export promotions

The 47% of enterprises which responded to the first survey data collection cycle participated in collective promotional activities, while 53% of enterprises did not participate in such activities.

In the current first publication of expectations of Greek export enterprises data for the year 2020, the main results of the survey were selected to be presented. However, in the context of this survey, a variety of additional analytical data (destination countries for expected exports, products of expected exports, verification of expectations for previous year's exports, etc.) are collected and posed in statistical processing. These additional data will enrich and be presented gradually in the future relevant Press Releases that will be announced by ELSTAT every year, as this survey will be established and its accuracy and representativeness will be evaluated in comparison with corresponding reported data.

Part 2: IMPACT ON GREEK EXPORTS DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

I. EXPORT CHANGE ANALYSIS MARCH – MAY 2020

The total value of exports of the **export enterprises** during the period March - May 2020 amounted to 6,283.9 million euros. During the period March - May 2020 and the corresponding period of 2019 the following changes are observed: The total value of exports of enterprises in each of which the individual value of exports **decreased by more than 50%,** amounted to 977.9 million euros while the value of exports corresponding to **a decrease of less than 50%** amounted to 2,292.8 million euros. The total value of enterprises' exports in each of which the individual value of exports **increased** amounted to € 3,013.2 million euros (Table 2).

Table 2. Distribution of the number of enterprises and the value of exports of goods[2], March - May 2020 compared to 2019, in mio €.

Change of Exports 2020/2019	Exports of Goods 2020						
	March		April		May		March- May
	Number of enterprises	Exports Value	Number of enterprises	Exports Value	Number of enterprises	Exports Value	Exports Value
Zero Exports	2,796	-	3,725	-	3,186	-	-
Exports decrease >50%	1,768	103.9	1,920	479.0	1,972	395.0	977.9
Exports decrease <50%	1,677	1,023.3	1,288	545.0	1,764	724.5	2,292.8
Exports increase	2,867	1,199.4	2,223	983.3	2,508	830.5	3,013.2
Total	**9,108**	**2,326.6**	**9,156**	**2,007.3**	**9,430**	**1,950.0**	**6,283.9**

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[2] The number of enterprises and the value of exports are derived from the total number of export enterprises of intra-EU trade in goods (Intrastat) and trade in goods with the Third Countries, which carried out exports during the period March - May 2019 and does not include VIES data.

II. EXPORT OF GOODS DATA FOR THE ENTERPRISES UNDER SUSPENSION OF OPERATION DUE TO COVID-19, YEAR 2019 AND MARCH-MAY 2020

Based on the data published in this section, the magnitude of any impact on the exports of goods for enterprises classified in KAD under suspension of operation by state order due to COVID-19 is highlighted. This effect is examined both in terms of the number of exporting enterprises and in terms of the value of exports.

Number of enterprises

The export enterprises classified in KAD under suspension of operation by state order due to COVID-19, constitute 9.1% of the total export enterprises of the year 2019. At the same time, the enterprises of these sections of economic activity constitute the 7.6% of the total of enterprises which exported goods during the period March - May 2019 and respectively 6.4% for the year 2020 (Table 3).

Exports value

The value of exports of goods of enterprises classified in KAD under suspension of operation by state order due to COVID-19, constitutes 2.7% of the total value of exports of goods of the year 2019. At the same time, the value of exports of goods of enterprises in these sections of economic activity constitutes 2.3% and 2.1% of the total value of exports of goods during the period March-May 2019 and 2020 respectively (Table 4).

Table 3. Number of enterprises by section of economic activity NACE Rev.2, which carried out exports of goods and are classified to KAD under suspension of operation due to COVID-19[3]

Exports of Goods					
NACE rev.2 Sections	**Description of NACE rev.2 Sections**	**Number of enterprises**			
		Year 2019	**March – May 2019**	**March- May 2020**	**Percentage change (%) March - May 2020/2019**
G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	2,643	1,459	1,079	-26.0
I	Accommodation and food service activities	337	141	77	-45.4
M+N+S	Professional, scientific and technical activities, Administrative and support service activities, Other service activities	137	71	51	-28.2
P	Education	74	29	22	-24.1
Q	Human health and social work activities	3	0	3	-
R	Arts, entertainment and recreation	92	39	26	-33.3
G, I, M, N, P, Q, R, S	**Total number of enterprises which carried out exports and are classified to KAD under suspension of operation due to COVID-19**	**3,286**	**1,739**	**1,258**	**-27.7**
All sections	**Total number of export enterprises for goods**	**36,194**	**23,018**	**19,765**	**-14.1**
	Percentage (%) of enterprises which carried out exports and are classified to KAD under suspension of operation due to COVID-19 to the total of export enterprises	**9.1**	**7.6**	**6.4**	

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[3] The number of enterprises derived from the total number of export enterprises of intra-EU trade in goods (Intrastat, VIES) and trade in goods with the Third Countries.

Table 4. Value of exports of goods[4] by section of economic activity NACE Rev.2, for enterprises which carried out exports of goods and are classified to KAD under suspension of operation due to COVID-19 (in mio €)

Exports of goods					
		Value of exports			
NACE rev.2 Sections	Description of NACE rev.2 Sections	Year 2019	March - May 2019	March - May 2020	Percentage change (%) March - May 2020/2019
G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	898.8	194.6	134.4	-30.9
I	Accommodation and food service activities	15.6	3.6	2.1	-41.7
M+N+S	Professional, scientific and technical activities, Administrative and support service activities, Other service activities	4.1	1.3	0.7	-46.2
P	Education	1.0	0.3	0.1	-66.7
Q	Human health and social work activities	0.0	0.0	0.1	-
R	Arts, entertainment and recreation	6.0	1.9	0.3	-84.2
G, I, M, N, P, Q, R, S	**Total value of exports of enterprises classified to KAD under suspension of operation due to COVID-19**	**925.5**	**201.6**	**137.8**	**-31.7**
All sections	**Total value of exports of goods**	**33,851.3**	**8,860.5**	**6,662.2**	**-24.8**
	Percentage (%) of the value of exports of enterprises classified to KAD under suspension of operation due to COVID-19 to the total value of exports of goods	**2.7**	**2.3**	**2.1**	

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[4] The value of exports of goods results from the total number of export enterprises of intra-EU trade in goods (Intrastat, VIES) and trade in goods with the Third Countries.

Table 5. Exports of goods: Number of enterprises[5] by SITC sections (Standard International Trade Classification), which carried out exports of goods and are classified to KAD under suspension of operation due to COVID-19, March – May 2019 & 2020

Exports of Goods						
Sections of Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)		Number of enterprises classified to KAD under suspension of operation due to COVID-19	Total number of enterprises	Percentage (%) of number of enterprises classified to KAD under suspension of operation due to COVID-19	Number of enterprises classified to KAD under suspension of operation due to COVID-19	Total number of enterprises	Percentage (%) of number of enterprises classified to KAD under suspension of operation due to COVID-19
SITC	Description	March – May 2019			March - May 2020		
0	Food and live animals	29	2,442	1.2	20	2,332	0.9
1	Beverages and tobacco	7	421	1.7	5	350	1.4
2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	17	997	1.7	19	852	2.2
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants, etc	-	228	0.0	1	207	0.5
4	Animal and vegetable oils and fats	8	557	1.4	10	546	1.8
5	Chemicals and related products, n.e.s	82	2,228	3.7	65	2,064	3.1
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by raw material	191	3,774	5.1	147	3,270	4.5
7	Machinery and Transport equipment	132	3,852	3.4	94	3,281	2.9
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	455	4,466	10.2	353	3,743	9.4
9	Commodities and transactions not classified by category	11	416	2.6	12	352	3.4

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[5] Source: The number of enterprises is derived from the total number of export enterprises of intra-EU trade in goods (Intrastat) and trade in goods with the Third Countries, not including VIES data as they are not provided by SITC breakdown.

Table 6. Exports of goods: Value of exports[6] by SITC sections (Standard International Trade Classification) of enterprises which carried out exports of goods and are classified to KAD under suspension of operation due to COVID-19, March – May 2019 & 2020 (in mio €).

Exports of goods, million €							
Sections of Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)		Value of exports of enterprises classified to KAD under suspension of operation due to COVID-19	Total value of exports	Percentage (%) of exports value of enterprises classified to KAD under suspension of operation due to COVID-19	Value of exports of enterprises classified to KAD under suspension of operation due to COVID-19	Total value of exports	Percentage (%) of exports value of enterprises classified to KAD under suspension of operation due to COVID-19
SITC	Description	March - May 2019			March - May 2020		
0	Food and live animals	2.2	1,195.1	0.2	1.1	1,256.3	0.1
1	Beverages and tobacco	0.4	188.3	0.2	0.4	192.1	0.2
2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	0.8	392.4	0.2	0.5	235.0	0.2
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants, etc	-	2,922.8	0.0	0.0	1,235.2	0.0
4	Animal and vegetable oils and fats	0.3	96.6	0.3	0.3	126.9	0.2
5	Chemicals and related products, n.e.s	2.8	1,030.9	0.3	4.1	1,205.9	0.3
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by raw material	2.8	1,398.3	0.2	2.3	1,157.8	0.2
7	Machinery and Transport	12.1	757.5	1.6	7.7	630.9	1.2
8	Miscellaneous manufactured	91.6	634.6	14.4	59.5	413.2	14.4
9	Commodities and transactions not classified by category	5.5	132.6	4.1	1.2	113.8	1.0

[6] Source: The total value of exports of goods is derived from the total number of export enterprises of intra-EU trade in goods (Intrastat) and trade in goods with the Third Countries, not including VIES data as they are not provided by SITC breakdown.

Part 3: INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS EXPORTS DATA, JANUARY-MAY 2020

In this section, the latest reported data of exports of goods of the period January - May 2020 is presented. The total value of exports during the period January-May 2020 amounted to 12,165.8 million euros compared to 14,058.6 million euros of the same period during the year 2019, recording a decrease, in euros 13.5% (Table 7).

The largest decrease 39.8%, in the value of exports - dispatches during the period January - May 2020 compared to the same period of 2019 is presented in the section of SITC 3 "Mineral fuels, lubricants, etc." while the largest increase, 43.1%, in section 4 " Animal and vegetable oils and fats" (Table 7).

Regarding the 2-digit classification of Combined Nomenclature categories, the largest decrease in value is recorded in CN 27 "Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes", 1,790.5 million euros, while the largest increase in value in the period January-May 2020 compared to the corresponding period 2019 is recorded in CN 30" Pharmaceutical products ", 343.3 million euros (Table 8).

Table 7. Exports of goods: Value of exports by sections of Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), January – May 2019 & 2020 (in mio €)

SITC	Sections of Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)	January - May 2019	January - May 2020	Percentage change (%) January - May 2020/2019
0	Food and live animals	1,922.0	2,117.2	10.2
1	Beverages and tobacco	311.9	318.5	2.1
2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	666.1	483.1	-27.5
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants, etc	4,498.7	2,708.1	-39.8
4	Animal and vegetable oils and fats	181.9	260.3	43.1
5	Chemicals and related products, n.e.s	1,670.0	1,987.0	19.0
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by raw material	2,221.2	2,015.7	-9.3
7	Machinery and Transport equipment	1,255.5	1,167.4	-7.0
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1,128.8	912.9	-19.1
9	Commodities and transactions not classified by category	202.5	195.6	-3.4
	Total	**14,058.6**	**12,165.8**	**-13.5**

Figure 2. Percentage change (%) of exports of goods by sections of Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), January - May 2019 & 2020

Legend:
- Food and live animals
- Beverages and tobacco
- Crude materials, inedible, except fuels
- Mineral fuels, lubricants, etc
- Animal and vegetable oils and fats
- Chemicals and related products, n.e.s
- Manufactured goods classified chiefly by raw material
- Machinery and Transport equipment
- Miscellaneous manufactured articles
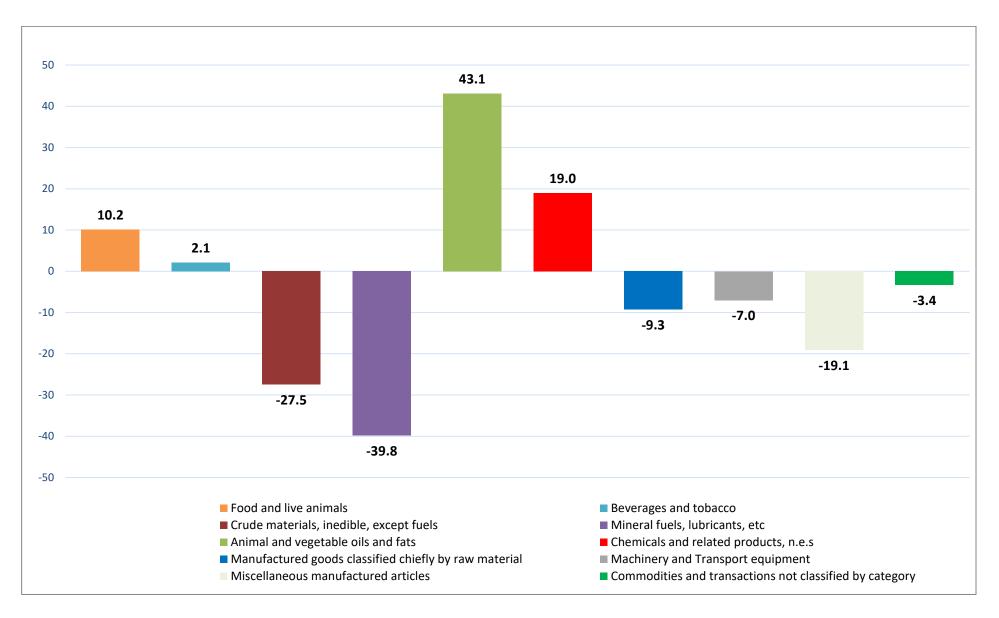- Commodities and transactions not classified by category

Table 8. Exports of goods by Combined Nomenclature Product Classification, in ascending and descending order of differences, January – May 2020 & 2019 (in mio €)

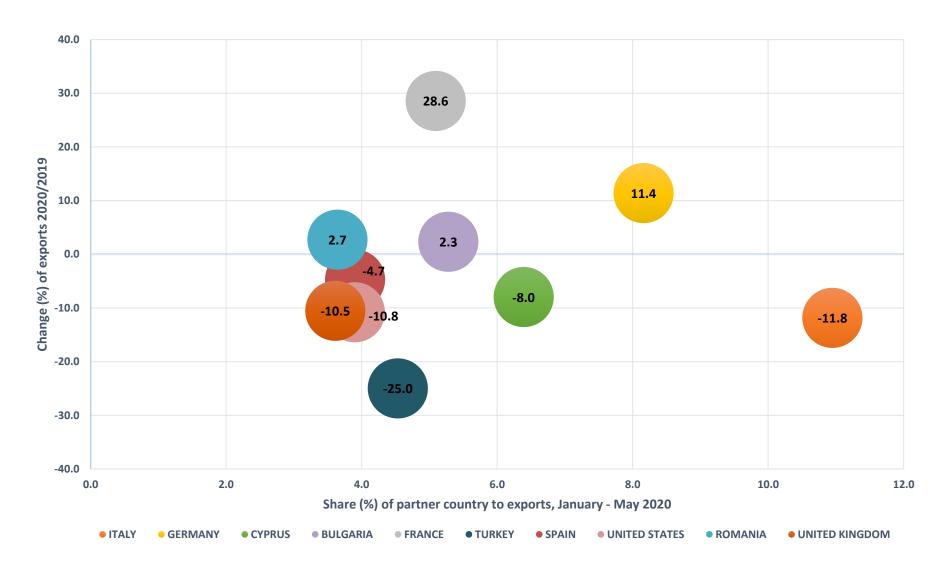| Combined Nomenclature 2 dig. Code	Combined Nomenclature categories (CN)	Value, January – May 2019, in mio €	Value, January – May 2020, in mio €	Difference 2020 (-) 2019 in ascending order, in mio €
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	4,498.7	2,708.1	-1,790.5
52	Cotton	259.2	170.6	-88.5
76	Aluminium and articles thereof	751.4	663.1	-88.3
25	Salt; Sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	245.3	162.2	-83.1
72	Iron and steel	261.1	184.0	-77.1
61	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted	231.2	161.9	-69.4
84	Boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	716.3	649.8	-66.5
74	Copper and articles thereof	306.5	244.1	-62.4
62	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted	142.8	91.5	-51.3
39	Plastics and articles thereof	523.0	474.5	-48.5
64	Footwear, gaiters and the like; parts of such articles	121.7	82.7	-39.0
43	Furskins and artificial fur; manufactures thereof	57.2	25.7	-31.4
28	Inorganic chemicals; organic or inorganic compounds of precious metals, of rare-earth metals, of radioactive elements or of isotopes	87.0	66.4	-20.6
03	Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	270.1	251.8	-18.3
68	Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica or similar materials	94.6	80.0	-14.5

Table 8. (continued) Exports of goods by Combined Nomenclature Product Classification, in ascending and descending order of differences, January – May 2020 & 2019 (in mio €)

Combined Nomenclature 2 dig. Code	Combined Nomenclature categories (CN)	Value, January – May 2019, in mio €	Value, January – May 2020, in mio €	Difference 2020 (-) 2019 in descending order, in mio €
30	Pharmaceutical products	734.7	1,078.1	343.3
8	Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons	316.0	409.4	93.4
15	Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes	191.1	268.2	77.1
73	Articles of iron or steel	245.9	299.9	53.9
4	Dairy produce; birds' eggs; natural honey; edible products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included	288.7	333.3	44.7
10	Cereals	62.3	90.5	28.2
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts or other parts of plants	450.3	471.8	21.4
19	Preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk; pastrycooks' products	115.4	134.2	18.8
34	Soap, organic surface-active agents, washing preparations, lubricating preparations, artificial waxes, prepared waxes, polishing or scouring	59.7	76.6	17.0
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	218.4	234.0	15.6
63	Other made-up textile articles; sets; worn clothing and worn textile articles; rags	25.2	38.0	12.8
26	Ores, slag and ash	51.4	63.9	12.5
56	Wadding, felt and nonwovens; special yarns; twine, cordage, ropes and cables and articles	59.2	70.7	11.5
12	Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder	34.2	44.9	10.7
48	Paper and paperboard; articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard	92.1	102.4	10.3

Table 9. Value of exports of goods to the main partner countries of destination, January-May 2019 & 2020 (in mio €)

Country of exports destination	Value of exports January – May 2019, in mio €	Value of exports January – May 2020, in mio €	Change % 2020/2019	Partner Country Share (%) to the total of exports of goods January – May 2020
Italy	1,510.8	1,331.9	-11.8	10.9
Germany	891.3	992.9	11.4	8.2
Cyprus	844.8	777.6	-8.0	6.4
Bulgaria	627.6	642.3	2.3	5.3
France	481.9	619.6	28.6	5.1
Turkey	735.3	551.6	-25.0	4.5
Spain	498.3	474.8	-4.7	3.9
United States	531.8	474.4	-10.8	3.9
Romania	431.5	443.2	2.7	3.6
United Kingdom	491.0	439.3	-10.5	3.6
China	409.4	313.1	-23.5	2.6
Netherlands	267.4	256.4	-4.1	2.1
Lebanon	567.6	248.0	-56.3	2.0
Poland	204.7	229.7	12.2	1.9
Republic of North Macedonia	318.2	227.3	-28.6	1.9
Albania	261.6	209.6	-19.9	1.7
Egypt	355.8	195.2	-45.1	1.6
Gibraltar	169.8	188.7	11.1	1.6
Belgium	196.0	173.6	-11.4	1.4
Libya	205.4	172.9	-15.8	1.4

Figure 3. Main partner countries of export of goods: Share (%) of the main partner countries to the total of exports, January – May 2020 and percentage change (%) January – May 2020 to 2019

EXPORTS OF GOODS, BY MAIN PARTNER COUNTRY, January - May 2020
(in thousand euros)

Country	Value
ITALY	1,331,872
SPAIN	474,780
GERMANY	992,906
UNITED STATES	474,400
CYPRUS	777,587
ROMANIA	443,227
BULGARIA	642,259
UNITED KINGDOM	439,283
FRANCE	619,581
CHINA	313,144
TURKEY	551,553
NETHERLANDS	256,372

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Generally Experimental statistics are new, developing and innovative statistics. They are published labeled as experimental statistics, so that users and other stakeholders can be involved in the evaluation of their usefulness and relevance, to adequately capture the subject of the survey and ultimately to contribute to the adaptation of these statistics to their needs for information.

The survey on the expectations of Greek export enterprises was conducted in two rounds of data collection by enterprises. The first round took place in November and December 2019 and the second in April and May 2020.

The answers from the surveyed enterprises themselves, regarding their expectations for exports, have been the data source of the survey.

The second round of the survey, which has been a repetition of the first data collection round with the aim to update enterprises' exports estimates, coincided with the period of the pandemic of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and an increased difficulty of the respondents in estimating exports for the year 2020 was observed.

Export is considered any export of goods to an EU member state or a Third Country.

Statistical Classifications The goods are classified in compliance with the 2-digit Combined Nomenclature Code (CN/2) and the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) digit 1.

For the economic activities, the European statistical classification of economic activities NACE Rev. 2 is used. It is noted that an automatic transition from KAD to codes of NACE Rev.2 classification was applied based on valid correspondence rules.

Reference year 2020

Statistical Unit The statistical unit is the legal unit (distinct VAT numbers).

Methodology Intrastat: It is an exhaustive statistical survey. The parties responsible for providing statistical information through Intrastat System are the enterprises which perform intra EU trade transactions and they have exceeded the applied statistical thresholds. The statistical thresholds are readjusted each year. The statistical thresholds for 2020 are the following:

• Arrivals: € 150,000.00 (95.0% coverage)

• Dispatches: € 90,000.00 (98.0% coverage)

The statistical data of Intra EU-Trade include also the transactions of the enterprises, which are not obliged to submit Intrastat data since the value of their transactions is below the applied statistical threshold, based on the VAT Information Exchange System (VIES).

Extrastat: It is a statistical survey where data are collected by administrative sources. The Customs Authorities collect the relevant statistical data on trade by filling in the Single Administrative Document (SAD). All the transactions with Third

Countries above the amount of 1,000 euros are registered. In the beginning of each month Customs Authorities transmit to the Hellenic Statistical Authority an electronic file with the customs data of statistical relevance of the previous month. The statistical data of imports and exports of goods with the Third Countries, are derived from the data transmitted by the Customs Authorities. Henceforth, the provisional data from the "incomplete customs declarations" - which concern mainly petroleum products - are incorporated in the monthly data on trade with third countries; the "incomplete customs declarations" data after having been completed will be replaced by the corresponding final data.

The export data presented in Parts 2 and 3 of the current Press Release, for the years 2019 and 2020 is provisional.

Data Collection   Sampling for the survey: For the selection of the survey sample, the population of export enterprises of the year 2018 was used. All the enterprises that had more than €1,000,000 of export statistical value were selected from the above population. The sample coverage in the total value of exports of the year 2018 amounted to 91.0%. The initial sample number was 2,123. From this sample, the enterprises related to supplies, processing of goods, tax representatives, etc. were excluded.

The second data collection round took place only for the enterprises that had completed the questionnaire during the first data collection round, i.e. in 611 enterprises which were solely asked to update their first estimate for 2020 exports. A letter from the President of the Hellenic Statistical Authority was sent to the enterprises of the sample population before the beginning of the survey.

The survey was conducted via electronic means by sending a unique security key to each enterprise of the sample. A special electronic platform was created with secure access for the enterprises of the sample, in order to complete the questionnaire.

During the survey, a Helpdesk was operating, and telephone communication was conducted with most of the sample enterprises in order to give answers to any questions enterprises might have as regards the questionnaire and also for reminding the submission of the filled-in questionnaire.

Response rate
A. in number of enterprises
1st estimate: 29% (out of a total of 2,123 enterprises)
2nd estimate: 57% (out of a total of 611 enterprises)
B. in value of exports for the year 2019
1st estimate: 67%
2nd estimate: 54%

Extrapolation Factors:
The population of the survey includes enterprises with a total of exports value more than 1 million euros carried out in the year 2018. The sample population was

stratified. The strata were created based on the combination of the 1-digit sections of Standard International Trade Classification (SITC dig.1) and the size class of exports for each enterprise during the year 2018. Exceptions were enterprises belonging to the SITC section 9 due to their very small population (18 enterprises). Size classes are different for each section SITC dig.1.

Export size classes were formed using the Kozak algorithm with an estimation accuracy of 5% with probability of 68% or 10% with probability of 95%. Following relevant audits, a high linear correlation was found between the exports of 2018 and 2019, which ranges from 85.8% to 100% (Pearson's correlation) depending on the SITC dig.1 section (The corresponding percentages for the Spearman coefficient are 71.3% -95.1%).

For the classification of enterprises in SITC dig.1, the percentage value of SITC dig.1 (type of products) for each enterprise to its total export value was calculated. Each enterprise was classified in a group of products SITC, based on the SITC dig.1 in which it had the highest percentage of exports.

The comparison of SITC for the years 2018 and 2019 showed that in their vast majority (93-99% depending on the SITC section) the enterprises were classified in both years in the same SITC group.

Regarding the size of the percentage of exports based on which each enterprise was classified in the specific SITC group, it was found that the value of this percentage exceeded 75%, ranging from 82.5% to 97.5% depending on the SITC group.

Extrapolatory factors cover SITC 0-8 groups corresponding to the 98.2% of the exports of the year 2018 for the specific enterprise survey population.

For the SITC section 9, extrapolation was not feasible, mainly because no data have been collected from the two largest enterprises classified in this group, representing 65% of the exports of 2018.

For the enterprises of the section SITC 9, the value 1 was used as extrapolation factor.

For the imputation of the missing values of enterprises' expectations - enterprises that did not respond during the second collection round – (April - May 2020), the following data were taken into account:

1. the reported value of exports for the period January - May 2020,

2. regarding the rest of the year (7 months)
   I. the expectations for the value of exports during the 1st collection round (November - December 2019)
   II. the percentage value (share of SITC dig1, type of products) for each enterprise to its total exports based on the annual SITC data for the year 2019,
   III. the percentage change of SITCs groups between the 1st and the 2nd estimate of export expectations.

For the calculation of the percentage change of exports for the year 2020 compared to 2019 (1st and 2nd estimation) the extrapolatory factors were used according to the above.

Data processing of COVID-19 Tables

In Part 2 of the Press Release, the presented statistical data concern enterprises classified in the economic activity sections that were or are under suspension of operation, based on state order, due to the pandemic of the corona virus disease COVID-19.

These statistical data have been compiled based on the linking and processing of data by business registers, for the reporting year 2019.

In particular, the population of legal units (VAT number) classified in KAD (Codes of Activity) with temporary suspension of operation from administrative registers of enterprises of year 2019 have been used.

Comparability

The data presented in Part 2 of the Press Release, section II (Tables 3-6), are not immediately comparable to the data presented in Table 5 of the Press Release "EVOLUTION OF TURNOVER OF ENTERPRISES UNDER SUSPENSION OF OPERATION DUE TO THE PANDEMIC OF THE CORONA VIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)" published by ELSTAT on April 16, 2020, since for the first data the administrative registers of enterprises of the year 2019 were taken exclusively as a reference framework, while for the latter the reference framework resulted by the linking of administrative registers of enterprises of the year 2019 with the Statistical Business Register of the year 2017.

Communication

For comments and suggestions regarding the experimental statistics "Expectations of Greek Export Enterprises" (feedback): e.pandi@statistics.gr

References

More information concerning the survey on Commercial Transactions is available on the website of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (www.statistics.gr) under the link "Statistics / International Trade in Goods".