Greece (GRC)

SDDS - DQAF View

Category: Merchandise trade

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H.0.7 Data category notes

[Data category notes]

0. Prerequisites

0.1 Legal environment

0.1.1 Responsibility for collecting, processing, and disseminating statistics

[Laws and administrative arrangements specifying the responsibility for collecting, processing, and disseminating statistics]

The legal framework concerning the organization and operation of ELSTAT is as follows: Law 3832/2010 (Government Gazette No 38, Issue A): "Hellenic Statistical System Establishment of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) as an Independent Authority", as amended by article 90 paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Law 3842/2010 (Government Gazette No 58, Issue A): "Restoration of fiscal justice, confrontation of tax evasion and other provisions", by article 10 of the Law 3899/2010 (Government Gazette No 212, Issue A): "Urgent measures for the implementation of the assistance program of the Greek Economy", by article 45 of the Law 3943/2011 (Government Gazette No 66, Issue A): "Combating tax evasion, staffing of auditing services and other provisions falling within the competence of the Ministry of Finance", by article 22 paragraph 1 of the Law 3965/2011 (Government Gazette No 113, Issue A): "Operations Reform of the Consignment and Loan Fund, Public Debt Management Agency, Public Enterprises and Government bodies, the establishment of the General Secretary of Public Property and other provisions", by article first of the Law 4047/2012 (Government Gazette No 31, Issue A): "Ratification of the Act of Legislative Content "Very urgent measures for the implementation of the Medium-term Fiscal Strategy 2012-2015 and of the State Budget for 2011" and of the Act of Legislative Content "Regulation of very urgent issues for the implementation of law 4024/2011 "Pension provisions, uniform pay scale grading system, labour reserve and other provisions for the implementation of the Mediumterm Fiscal Strategy Framework 2012-1015" and of issues falling within the competence of the Ministries of Administrative Reform and E-Governance, Interior, Finance, Environment, Energy and Climate Change, and of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs and related to the implementation of the Medium-term Fiscal Strategy Framework 2012-2015"

and other provisions", by article 323 of the Law 4072/2012 (Government Gazette No 86, Issue A): "Improvement of the business environment New corporate form - Trade Marks - Realtors - Regulating maritime, port and fishing matters and other provisions" and by article 7 paragraph 1 of the Act of Legislative Content dated 18/11/2012 (Government Gazette No 228, Issue A): "Financial rules and other provisions".

Regulation on the Operation and Administration of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), 2012, (Government Gazette No 2390, Issue B, 28-8-2012)

Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council, on the European statistics (Official Journal of the European Union L 87/164).

Article 14 of the Law 3470/2006 (Government Gazette No 132, Issue A): "National Export Council, tax regulations and other provisions".

Article 3, paragraph 1c, of the Law 3448/2006 (Government Gazette No 57, Issue A): "For the further use of information coming from the public sector and the settlement of matters falling within the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization".

European Statistics Code of Practice adopted by the Statistical Programme Committee on 24 February 2005 and promulgated in the Commission Recommendation of 25 May 2005 on the independence, integrity and accountability of the national and Community statistical Authorities, after its revision, which was adopted on 28 September 2011 by the European Statistical System Committee.

Presidential Decree 226/2000 (Government Gazette No 195, Issue A): "Organization of the General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service of Greece".

Articles 4, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 of the Law 2392/1996 (Government Gazette No 60, Issue A): "Access of the General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service of Greece to administrative sources and administrative files, Statistical Confidentiality Committee, settlement of matters concerning the conduct of censuses and statistical works, as well as of matters of the General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service of Greece".

Statistics of international trade of goods statistics (ITGS) are compiled according to the EU Regulations:

- EXTRA EU-TRADE with non EU Member States in accordance with the criteria set out in E.E.C. Council Regulation 471/2010 and Commission Regulations 113/2010 and 92/2010
- INTRA EU TRADE with EU Member States are assessed in accordance with European Parliament and Council Regulation 638/2004 as it was amended by 222/2009 laying down the implementing provisions of Commission Regulations 91/2010 and 96/2010

0.1.2 Data sharing and coordination among data producing agencies

[Data sharing and coordination among data producing agencies are adequate.]

ELSTAT is the producer of ITGS data.

Intra EU Trade Data: The collector and compiler is ELSTAT. The statistical data of the Intra EU-Trade also include the transactions of the enterprises, which are not obliged to submit data to the Intrastat system, since the value of their transactions is below the applied statistical threshold. In compliance with the obligations provided for in EU Regulations on the compilation of external trade statistics, these transactions are calculated on the basis of the Recapitulative Statements of Intra-EU Deliveries and Acquisitions that all the enterprises are obliged to submit to the Ministry of Finance. The Recapitulative Statements of Intra-EU Deliveries and Acquisitions are transmitted by the Ministry of Finance to ELSTAT.

Extra EU Trade Data: The responsibility to collect Extrastat data is to the Customs Authorities while the compilation of Extra EU Trade Data is to ELSTAT.

The ITGS data is needed for the compilation of National Accounts and in a short term perspective will be needed for the compilation of the Balance of Payments.

0.1.3 Confidentiality of individual reporters' data

[Measures ensuring individual reporters' data are kept confidential and used for statistical purposes only.]

The issues concerning the observance of statistical confidentiality by the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) are arranged by articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Law 3832/2010 as in force, by Articles 8, 10 and 11(2) of the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the agencies of the Hellenic Statistical System and by Articles 10 and 15 of the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT.

More precisely:

ELSTAT disseminates the statistics in compliance with the statistical principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice and in particular with the principle of statistical confidentiality.

ELSTAT protects and does not disseminate data it has obtained or it has access to, which enable the direct or indirect identification of the statistical units that have provided them by the disclosure of individual information directly received for statistical purposes or indirectly supplied from administrative or other sources. ELSTAT takes all appropriate preventive measures so as to render impossible the identification of individual statistical units by technical or other means that might reasonably be used by a third party. Statistical data that could potentially enable the identification of the statistical unit are disseminated by ELSTAT if and only if:

- a) these data have been treated, as it is specifically set out in the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the agencies of the Hellenic Statistical System (ELSS), in such a way that their dissemination does not prejudice statistical confidentiality or
- b) the statistical unit has given its consent, without any reservations, for the disclosure of data.

The confidential data that are transmitted by ELSS agencies to ELSTAT are used exclusively for statistical purposes and the only persons who have the right to have access to

these data are the personnel engaged in this task and appointed by an act of the President of ELSTAT.

ELSTAT may grant researchers conducting statistical analyses for scientific purposes access to data that enable the indirect identification of the statistical units concerned. The access is granted provided the following conditions are satisfied:

- a) an appropriate request together with a detailed research proposal in conformity with current scientific standards have been submitted;
- b) the research proposal indicates in sufficient detail the set of data to be accessed, the methods of analyzing them, and the time needed for the research;
- c) a contract specifying the conditions for access, the obligations of the researchers, the measures for respecting the confidentiality of statistical data and the sanctions in case of breach of these obligations has been signed by the individual researcher, by his/her institution, or by the organization commissioning the research, as the case may be, and by ELSTAT.

Issues referring to the observance of statistical confidentiality are examined by the Statistical

Confidentiality Committee (SCC) operating in ELSTAT. The responsibilities of this Committee are to make recommendations to the President of ELSTAT on:

- the level of detail at which statistical data can be disseminated, so as the identification, either directly or indirectly, of the surveyed statistical unit is not possible;
- · the anonymization criteria for the microdata provided to users;
- · the granting to researchers access to confidential data for scientific purposes.

The staff of ELSTAT, under any employment status, as well as the temporary survey workers who are employed for the collection of statistical data in statistical surveys conducted by ELSTAT, who acquire access by any means to confidential data, are bound by the principle of confidentiality and must use these data exclusively for the statistical purposes of ELSTAT. After the termination of their term of office, they are not allowed to use these data for any purpose.

Violation of data confidentiality and/or statistical confidentiality by any civil servant or employee of ELSTAT constitutes the disciplinary offence of violation of duty and may be punished with the penalty of final dismissal.

ELSTAT, by its decision, may impose a penalty amounting from ten thousand (10,000) up to two hundred thousand (200,000) euros to anyone who violates the confidentiality of data and/or statistical confidentiality. The penalty is always imposed after the hearing of the defense of the person liable for the breach, depending on the gravity and the repercussions of the violation. Any relapse constitutes an aggravating factor for the assessment of the

administrative sanction.

Passive Confidentiality: The European regulation for ITGS data requires the application of passive confidentiality. Passive confidentiality means that the NSA will suppress the disseminated data only on request of the PSI whose individual data might be indirectly revealed from published results.

In cases that the detailed data permit to identify the trade of an individual trader, this trader may request that the data is not published. In this case the detailed level data is not published and data are disseminated at a more aggregated level that does not permit any inference of the company's trade.

0.1.4 Ensuring statistical reporting

[Legal mandates and/or measures to require or encourage statistical reporting.]

According to the Statistical Law 3832/10 as in force, individuals, associations of private persons and legal entities of private law are obliged to provide statistical information required by ELSTAT.

0.2 Resources

0.2.1 Staff, facilities, computing resources, and financing

[Staff, facilities, computing resources, and financing for statistical programs currently available as well as what would be required for programmed statistical outputs.]

International Trade in Goods Statistics are compiled by ELSTAT. All costs relative to this (staff cost, computer facilities, etc) are covered from the ELSTAT Budget.

Over the last 20 years the staff number has decreased while at the same time the statistical workload has increased. For human resources seminars are introduced.

Manpower employed, 20 Senior statisticians (methodology, compilation, reporting, etc) is the absolutely necessary to meet the needs of the statistical requirements.

Computing resources: High performance IT applications is used for the compilation of ITGS data, in all stages of collecting, processing, validating tools, data transmitting, network, security IT systems. Innovative applications are at the final stage of production for further improvement of the IT environment of ELSTAT.

0.2.2 Ensuring efficient use of resources

[Measures implemented to ensure efficient use of resources.]

The data collection is mostly based on web applications and IT tools. An extensive range of completeness, credibility and validity procedures and quality controls are being applied in order to ensure high data quality according to the Internanional Standards and to enable ELSTAT to produce quality international trade statistics that fully meet EU Requirements. The further improvement of IT applications to better monitoring the quality controls is foreseen. An automated reminder system for the better monitoring of the enterprises obligations above and below the statistical threshold will be introduced.

0.3 Relevance

0.3.1 Monitoring user requirements

[How the relevance and practical utility of existing statistics in meeting users' needs are monitored.]

User needs are monitored on a daily basis. Additionally ELSTAT conducts a user satisfaction survey as well as an annual users Congress in which all potential users are invited to express their opinion and their needs regarding Statistical data. The results of the user satisfaction survey (2011-2012) are in the following link:

http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/BUCKET/General/ELSTATUserSatisfactionSurvey12.pdf

Trade statistics serve the needs of different users, including government, businesses, academic and international researchers and the general public. Most important users are: Ministries, Embassies, Universities, Enterprises, European Union and other International Organizations (OECD, IMF, ECB, UN etc), as well as National Central Bank, government and other administrative authorities, several financial institutions, economic analysts, media and public.

0.4 Quality management

0.4.1 Quality policy

[Processes in place to focus on quality.]

Processes are in place to focus on quality.

Articles 1(4), 1(5), 1(6), 1(7), 2(2) and 6 of the Statistical Law 3832/2010 as in force, as well as Articles 2(1), 2(2) and 7 of the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the ELSS agencies refer to the quality of ELSS statistics.

- 1. Publication of the Mission Statement of ELSTAT in ELSTAT's website.
- 2. Creation in the website of ELSTAT of a special webpage for the ELSS. This website contains, inter alia, the Greek Statistical Law, the Greek Commitment on Confidence in Statistics, the Regulation (EC) 223/2009 on European Statistics, the European Statistics Code of Practice, the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (ESS QAF), the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the ELSS agencies, the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT, the Quality Policy of ELSTAT

http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/BUCKET/General/ELSTAT_Quality_Policy.pdf and the Revision Policy of ELSTAT

http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/BUCKET/General/ELSTAT_Revisions_Policy 22 5 2013 EN.pdf .

- The Methodology, Analysis and Research Section of ELSTAT deals with issues related to quality management.
- Operation since 2011 of the Group for the coordination and supervision of the progress of statistical works at ELSTAT, which includes the top management of ELSTAT and its mandate is to discuss the progress of statistical surveys/works of each Division of ELSTAT conducting surveys and takes decisions on improvement actions as regards the quality and timeliness of the results.
- A new Quality, Code of Practice and Certification Section is envisaged in the draft Organization of ELSTAT. This would further improve the current organizational arrangements in managing quality.
- Put in place of the Joint Overall Statistical Greek Action Plan (JOSGAP).
- Adoption by ELSTAT of the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the ELSS agencies and of the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT.
- Selection of temporary survey workers (Heads of Census Sectors and Enumerators) for the conduct of the 2011 Buildings and Population – Housing Censuses through transparent, standardized procedures and according to meritocratic criteria.
- Creation of an electronic Register of temporary survey workers and of a system for their ranking and for the assignment of surveys to them based on rules, transparent procedures, impartiality and meritocratic criteria.
- Development of a new system for programming and monitoring the progress of the statistical surveys/ works of ELSTAT (by developing a relevant computerized application), in order for ELSTAT to fully meet its European and national obligations, both in terms of timeliness and high quality.
- Initiation of steps for the certification of statistics produced by the ELSS agencies. In this context a workshop for ELSTAT officials on the assessment and certification of official statistics was organized by ELSTAT with the support of Eurostat and the UK Statistics Authority and held in ELSTAT's premises.
- Preparation of the documentation to be used in the assessment and certification process of the statistics produced by the ELSS agencies.
- An outline of the methodology to be used in the assessment and certification process of the statistics produced by the ELSS agencies is contained in the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT.
- ELSTAT has uploaded on its website the Regulation on Statistical Obligations of the ELSS agencies and the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT. The link for the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT is:
- http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/BUCKET/General/ELSTAT_REGULA_ TION_EN.pdf
- The Methodology, Analysis and Research Section of ELSTAT ensures updated documentation on quality.
- A workshop for ELSTAT officials on the assessment and certification of official statistics was organized by ELSTAT with the support of Eurostat and the UK Statistics

Authority and held in ELSTAT's premises.

- Employees of ELSTAT dealing with quality issues participate in ESTP training courses on quality organized by Eurostat.
- A significant number of ELSTAT staff in various areas have received training on the
 job and through specially organized seminars by Eurostat and ESS NSI experts
 providing TA to ELSTAT (e.g., Government Finance Statistics, Annual National
 Accounts, Regional Accounts, Quarterly National Accounts, International Trade
 Statistics, Census, Environmental Statistics and Accounts, etc).
- The training programme of ELSTAT for the period 2013-2015 contains courses on quality issues.

0.4.2 Quality monitoring

[Processes in place to monitor quality during the planning and implementation of the statistical program]

- Processes are in place to monitor the quality of the statistical program as following
- Methodological support is provided by the Methodology, Analysis and Research Section of ELSTAT to other Sections of ELSTAT.
- A new Quality, Code of Practice and Certification Section is envisaged in the draft Organization of ELSTAT.
- There are procedures in place within Divisions of ELSTAT involved in statistical production that monitor the quality of the statistical product.
- The Methodology, Analysis and Research Section of ELSTAT interacts within the context of standard procedures with Sections of ELSTAT involved in statistical production, with a view to check and assure the quality of published statistics.
- A new system for programming and monitoring the progress of the statistical surveys/ works of ELSTAT (using a relevant computerized application) has been in operation since 2011, in order for ELSTAT to fully meet its European and national obligations, both in terms of timeliness and high quality. This system is implemented by the Group for the coordination and supervision of the progress of statistical works at ELSTAT, and includes the top management of ELSTAT.
- Monitoring of the progress of the various stages of statistical surveys/works and taking of decisions on the quality of the followed procedures.
- Creation of a special section in ELSTAT's website concerning the ELSS. This section contains, inter alia, the Greek Statistical Law, the Regulation 223/2009, the European Statistics Code of Practice, the Commitment on Confidence in Statistics, the Regulation on the Statistical Obligations of the ELSS agencies, the Regulation on the Operation and Administration of ELSTAT and the Memoranda of Cooperation signed by ELSTAT.
- There are processes in place to deal with quality considerations in planning the statistical program.
- There are procedures in place within Divisions of ELSTAT involved in statistical production that deal with quality considerations in planning the statistical program.
- The Methodology, Analysis and Research Section of ELSTAT interacts within the context of standard procedures with Sections of ELSTAT involved in statistical production, with a view to check and assure the quality of published statistics.
- A new system for programming and monitoring the progress of the statistical surveys/

works of ELSTAT (using a relevant computerized application) has been in operation since 2011, in order for ELSTAT to fully meet its European and national obligations, both in terms of timeliness and high quality. This system is implemented by the Group for the coordination and supervision of the progress of statistical works at ELSTAT, and includes the top management of ELSTAT.

- The progress of statistical surveys/works of each Division of ELSTAT conducting surveys, which is recorded by the system for programming and monitoring the statistical surveys/works, is discussed in the meetings of a Coordination Group for the coordination and supervision of the progress of statistical works. In this framework, decisions on improvement actions as regards the quality and timeliness of the results are taken. This Group consists of the President of ELSTAT, the two General Directors, the Directors of the Informatics Division and of the Organization, Methodology and International Relations Division, as well as the Head of the Programming and Coordination Section of ELSTAT. In the above meetings the Director and the Heads of Sections of the Division responsible for the conduct of the surveys considered participate also.
- ELSTAT assesses the degree of satisfaction of users regarding its statistical products and services through the conduct of a user satisfaction surveys on a continuous basis and the Users Conferences held on an annual basis.
- Starting from 2013, the results of User Satisfaction Surveys for the years 2011 and 2012 are made public. Moreover, the minutes of the Users Conferences are available on ELSTAT's website.
- An extensive range of data completeness, credibility and validity quality controls are applied in order to ensure high data quality according to the Internanional Standards and to enable ELSTAT to produce quality ITGS that fully meet EU Requirements.
- A set of quality controls rules are applied to all stages of ITGS data production on collection of micro data by ELSTAT directly from providers of Statistical information (PSIs) in Intrastat system supported by modern IT applications:
- micro data validation rules implemented at PSIs level, which are executed at the moment of the submission of the Intrastat declaration.
- processing of Intrastat and Extrastat raw data by ELSTAT,
- validation rules at the earliest stage possible
- complex validation rules for continuous variables (e.g. statistical value, quantity in net mass, etc)
- micro data validation controls for Intrastat and Extrastat data are performed.

1. Integrity

1.1 Professionalism

1.1.1 Impartiality of statistics

[Measures to promote impartiality in production of statistics.]

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) is an independent authority, not subjected to the control of governmental bodies or other administrative authorities. Its function comes under the control of the Greek Parliament. ELSTAT is responsible for the conduct and dissemination of official statistics. According to Statistical Law 3832/2010 as in force the following are forecasted among other in article 1:

Principles and scope of EL.S.S.

- 1. The Hellenic Statistical System is the set of rules, activities and agencies responsible for the conduct of statistical operations aiming at the development, production and dissemination of the country's official statistics, which are used for the decision and policy making at local, national, European and international level.
- 2. The agencies of EL.S.S. are the Hellenic Statistical Authority (EL.STAT.), an independent authority which is established by Article 9 and constitutes the national statistical authority according to Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 (L 87/164), as well as the services and agencies of the public and private sectors which have the responsibility or obligation to collect data and are included in the list of EL.S.S agencies, in accordance with paragraph 5 of Article 10.
- 3. The terms "statistics", "development", "production", "dissemination", "data collection", statistical unit", "confidential data", "use for statistical purposes", "direct identification" and "indirect identification", have the meaning defined in Article 3 of the Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009.
- 4. The activities of the EL.S.S. agencies concerning the development, production and dissemination of statistics are governed by the statistical principles of "professional independence", "impartiality", "objectivity", "reliability", "statistical confidentiality" and "cost-effectiveness" as these principles are defined in the provisions of Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 and are developed in the European Statistics Code of Practice, as stipulated in Article 11 of the same Regulation, as in force from time to time.
- 5. When developing, producing and disseminating statistics, EL.S.S agencies shall implement the European Statistics Code of Practice, as in force from time to time.
- 6. In order to guarantee the quality in the development, production and dissemination of the statistical results, the EL.S.S. agencies shall follow uniform standards and harmonized methods and apply the evaluation criteria of quality, such as "relevance", "accuracy", "timeliness", "punctuality", "accessibility", "clarity", "comparability" and "coherence" as these are defined in Article 12 of the Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009, as in force from time to time.

1.1.2 Selection of data sources, methodology, and modes of dissemination [Selection of data sources, methodology, and modes of dissemination.]

Choices of methods are done according to Principles 1 and 6 of Code of Practice.

The European Statistics Code of Practice is based on 15 Principles covering the institutional environment, the statistical production processes and the output of statistics.

The Principles of the Code of Practice together with the general quality management principles represent a common quality framework in the European Statistical System.

Specifically the Principles 1 and 6 forecast the following:

Principle 1

Professional independence of statistical authorities from other policy, regulatory or administrative departments and bodies, as well as from private sector operators, ensures the credibility of European Statistics.

- 1.1: The independence of the National Statistical Institutes and Eurostat from political and other external interference in developing, producing and disseminating statistics is specified in law and assured for other statistical authorities.
- 1.2: The heads of the National Statistical Institutes and of Eurostat and, where appropriate, the heads of

other statistical authorities have sufficiently high hierarchical standing to ensure senior level access to policy authorities and administrative public bodies. They are of the highest professional calibre.

- 1.3: The heads of the National Statistical Institutes and of Eurostat and, where appropriate, the heads of other statistical authorities have responsibility for ensuring that statistics are developed, produced and disseminated in an independent manner.
- 1.4: The heads of the National Statistical Institutes and of Eurostat and, where appropriate, the heads of

other statistical authorities have the sole responsibility for deciding on statistical methods, standards and procedures, and on the content and timing of statistical releases.

- 1.5: The statistical work programmes are published and periodic reports describe progress made.
- 1.6: Statistical releases are clearly distinguished and issued separately from political/policy statements.
- 1.7: The National Statistical Institute and Eurostat and, where appropriate, other statistical authorities, comment publicly on statistical issues, including criticisms and misuses of statistics as far as considered suitable.
- 1.8: The appointment of the heads of the National Statistical Institutes and Eurostat and, where appropriate, of other statistical authorities, is based on professional competence only. The reasons on the basis of which the incumbency can be terminated are specified in the legal framework. These cannot include reasons compromising professional or scientific independence.

Principle 6

Statistical authorities develop, produce and disseminate European Statistics respecting scientific independence and in an objective, professional and transparent manner in which all users are treated equitably.

- 6.1: Statistics are compiled on an objective basis determined by statistical considerations.
- 6.2: Choices of sources and statistical methods as well as decisions about the dissemination of statistics are informed by statistical considerations.
- 6.3: Errors discovered in published statistics are corrected at the earliest possible date and publicised.
- 6.4: Information on the methods and procedures used is publicly available.
- 6.5: Statistical release dates and times are pre-announced.
- 6.6: Advance notice is given on major revisions or changes in methodologies.
- 6.7: All users have equal access to statistical releases at the same time. Any privileged prerelease access to any outside user is limited, controlled and publicised. In the event that leaks occur, pre-release arrangements are revised so as to ensure impartiality.
- 6.8: Statistical releases and statements made in press conferences are objective and non-

partisan.		

1.1.3 Commenting on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics

[Entitlement to, opportunity for, and historical frequency of, comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics by the appropriate statistical entity.]

1.2 Transparency

1.2.1 Disclosure of terms and conditions for statistical collection, processing, and dissemination

[Disclosure of terms and conditions for statistical collection, processing, and dissemination.]

There are no legal provisions applying specifically to the compilation of the data apart from the general legal provisions applying to all statistical areas.

All users can obtain copies of the above-mentioned laws from the Statistical Information and Publications Division {tel. (00 30 213) 1352022, Fax: (00 30 213) 1352312}, e-mail: data.dissem@statistics.gr upon request free of charge.

Mail orders can be placed by writing to ELSTAT, Statistical Information and Publications Division, 46 Pireos & Eponiton str, GR 18510, PIREAS.

Copies of the Greek and English version of the Statistical Law as in force are also posted on the ELSTAT's portal.

http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/BUCKET/General/Greek Statistical Law 3832 en.pdf

1.2.2 Internal governmental access to statistics prior to release

[Disclosure of Internal governmental access to statistics prior to their release.]

There is no internal government access to the data prior to their release to the public.

1.2.3 Attribution of statistical products

[Identification of statistical agencies/units producing disseminated statistics.]

Attribution is made to ELSTAT which is the producer.

1.2.4 Advance notice of major changes in methodology, source data, and statistical techniques.

[Advance notice of major changes in methodology, source data, and statistical techniques.]

ELSTAT policy includes advance notice as regards major changes in methodology, source data and statistical techniques.

1.3 Ethical standards

1.3.1 Guidelines for staff behavior

[Measures implementing and enforcing guidelines for staff behavior.]

Guidelines contained in the European Statistics Code of Practice are applied and have been incorporated in the Statistical Law 3832/2010 of ELSTAT as in force.

Please see the following link:

http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-codepractice

2. Methodology

2.1 Concepts and definitions

2.1.1 Concepts and definitions

[Degree to which the overall structure of concepts and definitions follows internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.]

International Trade in Goods Statistics (ITGS) is a part of the official European Union (EU) statistics which provide data on movement of goods between countries. The interest in ITGS is increasing, therefore production of timely and high quality data is of primary importance for ELSTAT.

ITGS is based on EU legislation in order to ensure a harmonised approach for the production of statistics by all Member States.

Statistics of International Trade of Goods Statistics (ITGS) are compiled according to the EU Regulations:

- EXTRA EU-TRADE with non EU Member States in accordance with the criteria set out in E.E.C. Council Regulation 471/2010 and Commission Regulations 113/2010 and 92/2010
- INTRA EU TRADE with EU Member States are assessed in accordance with European Parliament and Council Regulation 638/2004 as it was amended by 222/2009 laying down the implementing provisions of Commission Regulations 91/2010 and 96/2010

Intrastat: In line with the UN recommendation on International Merchandise Trade Statistics and European Regulations, intra-EU trade statistics record all goods which add to or subtract from the stock of material resources of a Member State by entering (arrival) or leaving (dispatch) its economic territory. Therefore intra-EU trade statistics concern the movement of goods between the statistical territories of Member States. Basically all moveable goods entering or leaving a Member State, including gas and electricity, are be recorded. For almost all transactions (except for some specific movements) the goods must physically move between Member States.

Extrastat: in line with the UN recommendations the scope of IMTSis in correspondence with the statistical territory, i.e. imports of a country are flows of goods into its statistical territory and exports are the flows out of its statistical territory. For determining the applied trade system according to UN recommendation customs warehouses, all types of free zones, premises for inward processing and free circulation areas are considered. The scope of extra-

EU trade statistics is based on the application of customs and more specifically on customs declarations.

Data elements

- The reference period
- The flow (arrival, dispatch)
- · The commodity, identified by the eight-digit code of the Combined Nomenclature
- The Partner Countru
- The value of goods
- The quantity of the goods
- The nature of transaction
- The region of origin, on dispatch, and the region of destination, on arrival
- The delivery terms
- The mode of transport
- The statistical procedure

2.2 Scope

2.2.1 Scope

2.2.1.1 Scope of the data

[Scope of the data.]

International Trade Statistics are compiled in the basis of the Special Trade System:

INTRA EU-TRADE refers to the trading of goods between Member States cover arrivals and dispatches of goods.

Arrivals cover the following goods entering the M.S. of arrival, which were initially dispatched from another M.S.

- Community goods, except goods, which are in simple circulation between M.S.
- Goods formerly placed in the Member State of dispatch according to the inward processing customs procedure or the processing according to customs control procedure, which are maintained according to the inward processing customs procedure or the processing according to customs control procedure or released for free circulation in the Member State of arrival.

Dispatches cover the following goods leaving the M.S. of dispatch for a destination in another M.S.

- Community goods, except goods, which are in simple circulation between Member States.
- Goods placed in the Member State of dispatch under the inward processing customs procedure or the processing under customs control procedure

EXTRA-EU TRADE refers to the trading of goods with third countries record imports and exports of goods.

Import is recorded in the event that goods are entering the statistical territory of the Community in accordance with one of the following customs procedures laid down in the Customs Code

- Release for free circulation
- Inward processing
- Processing under customs control.

Export is recorded in the event that goods are leaving the statistical territory of the Community in accordance with one of the following customs procedures laid down un the Customs Code.

- Exportation
- Outward processing
- Re-exportation following either inward processing or processing under customs control.

The special trade system does not include:

- Foreign goods placed in a customs warehouse and not released for consumption and/or temporary import,
- Goods returned to a foreign Country and
- Goods in transit on the national territory

2.2.1.2 Exceptions to coverage

[Exceptions to coverage.]

Exceptions to coverage are those defined by relevant EU legislations

Exceptions to Intra EU Trade (Regulation 91/2010, Annex I):

List of goods excluded from statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States to be transmitted to the Commission (Eurostat)

- •(a) monetary gold;
- •(b) means of payment which are legal tender and securities, including means which are payments for services such as postage, taxes, user fees;
- •(c) goods for or following temporary use (e.g. hire, loan, operational leasing), provided all the following conditions are met:
- no processing is or was planned or carried out,
- the expected duration of the temporary use was or is not intended to be longer than 24 months,
- the dispatch/arrival has not to be declared as a supply/acquisition for VAT purposes;
- •(d) goods moving between:
- a Member State and its territorial enclaves in other Member States, and
- the host Member State and territorial enclaves of other Member States or international organisations.

Territorial enclaves include embassies and national armed forces stationed outside the territory of the mother country;

- •(e) goods used as carriers of customised information, including software;
- •(f) software downloaded from the Internet;
- •(g) goods supplied free of charge which are themselves not the subject of a commercial transaction, provided that the movement is with the sole intention of preparing or supporting an intended subsequent trade transaction by demonstrating the characteristics of goods or services such as: advertising material, commercial samples;
- •(h) goods for and after repair and replacement parts that are incorporated in the framework of the repair and replaced defective parts;
- •(i) means of transport travelling in the course of their work, including spacecraft launchers at the time of launching.'

Exceptions to Extra EU Trade (Regulation 113/2010, Annex I):

Data shall not be compiled for the following goods:

- •(a) monetary gold;
- •(b) means of payment which are legal tender and securities, including means which are payments for services such as postage, taxes, user fees;
- •(c) goods for or following temporary use (e.g. hire, loan, operational leasing), provided all the following conditions are met:
- no processing is or was planned or carried out,
- the expected duration of the temporary use was or is not intended to be longer than 24 months,
- no change of ownership took place or is intended to take place;
- •(d) goods moving between:
- the Member State and its territorial enclaves in non-member countries, and
- the host Member State and territorial enclaves of non-member countries or international organisations.

Territorial enclaves include embassies and national armed forces stationed outside the territory of the mother country;

- •(e) goods used as carriers of customized information including software;
- •(f) software downloaded from the Internet;
- •(g) goods supplied free of charge which are themselves not the subject of a commercial transaction, provided that their movement is with the sole intention of preparing or supporting an intended subsequent trade transaction by demonstrating the characteristics of goods or services such as: advertising material, commercial samples:
- •(h) goods for and after repair and replacement parts that are incorporated in the framework of the repair and the replaced defective parts;
- •(i) means of transport travelling in the course of their work, including spacecraft launchers at the time of launching;
- •(j) goods declared orally to Customs authorities which are either of a commercial nature provided that their value does not exceed the statistical threshold of 1 000 EUR or 1 000 kilograms or of a non-commercial nature;
- •(k) goods released for free circulation after being subject to the customs procedures of inward processing or processing under customs control.

2.2.1.3 Unrecorded activity

[Unrecorded activity.]

INTRA EU TRADE

The monthly data of Intra EU transactions have been adjusted to the total trade transactions with EU countries, (including the transactions below the statistical threshold, on the basis of the Recapitulative Statements of Intra-EU Deliveries and Acquisitions that are submitted by the enterprises in the Ministry of Finance. Accordingly, the provisional data from the "incomplete customs declarations" have been incorporated in the monthly data on trade with third countries and, after having been completed, they will be replaced by the final data.

By virtue of EU Regulations on the compilation of intra-EU trade statistics, Member States set out a "statistical exemption threshold". On the basis of the exemption threshold, the enterprises whose transactions are below the statistical threshold are exempted from the obligation to submit data on their intra-Community transactions (Intrastat declaration). The aim is to reduce the burden on enterprises. The statistical exemption threshold, valid for each year, is specified and released by ELSTAT on a yearly basis.

ELSTAT is performing adjustments on a monthly basis to the total trade for transactions below the statistical threshold as well as due to non/late/partial response. The adjustments are based to the VIES/VAT data transmitted on a monthly basis by the Greek fiscal Authorities.

2.3 Classification/sectorization

2.3.1 Classification/sectorization

[Broad consistency of classification/sectorization systems used with internationally accepted standards, guidelines, or good practices.]

ELSTAT is in line with the international classification standards.

- Commodities are classified according to the combined nomenclature CN8.
- Classification of countries: The classification of countries used for International Trade Statistics purposes is the Country Nomenclature for the External Trade Statistics of the Community and Statistics of Trade between Member States (Geonomenclature).

The international classifications of CN per 8 digit level and SITC per 5 digit level are used for the compilation of ITGS.

2.4 Basis for recording

2.4.1 Valuation

[Types of prices (market, historical, administrative, basic, purchasers', producer, etc.) used to value flows and stocks.]

ELSTAT is compiling International Trade in Goods Statistics on the basis of the statistical value. Statistical value is the value calculated at national frontiers. For **Exports/Dispatches** it is calculated on a F.O.B. basis (free on board), and for **Imports/Arrivals** on c.i.f. basis (cost, insurance, freight). The statistical value is generally based on the customs value in the case of extra-EU trade, or on taxable value in the case of intra-EU trade. Within the Intrastat system, the statistical value is mandatory to be provided by all the PSI's

Conversion to unit of account: Data are compiled in Euro (€) since 2002. For the previous years the valuation is in million Drachmas.

2.4.2 Recording basis

[Degree to which recording meets requirements for accrual accounting.]

INTRA-EU TRADE

The reference period is generally the calendar month of the dispatch or arrival of the goods. This is the month in which the goods physically enter or leave the statistical territory of Greece.

EXTRA - EU TRADE

The reference period is the calendar month in which goods are imported or exported and a customs declaration is accepted by the Greek Customs Authorities.

2.4.3 Grossing/netting procedures

[Broad	consistency of	f grossing/netting	procedures wit	h internationally	y accepted s	tandards, z	guidelines,
or good	d practices.]						
	_						

3. Accuracy and reliability

3.1 Source data

3.1.1 Source data collection programs

[Comprehensiveness of source data from administrative and survey data collection programs, and appropriateness of the collection modality for country-specific conditions.]

Sources:

ITGS result from the combination of data from various sources: customs declarations, VAT/VIES records and tax registers and Intrastat declarations.

For Extrastat trade, the source is the customs tariff (SAD) document. For Intrastat trade, the source is the Intrastat declaration made by the trader.

3.1.2 Source data definitions, scope, sectorization, classifications, valuation, and time of recording

[Degree to which source data approximate definitions, scope, sectorization, classifications, valuation, and time of recording required (as described in 2.1.1-2.4.3).]

Type of data collected: Goods classified CN 8 digit; 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 Extrastat trade, country of origin/destination. Data are available at the Customs House level. For Intrastat trade, country of consignment and destination.

3.1.3 Source data timeliness

[Source data timeliness relative to what is required for producing statistical outputs whose timeliness meets applicable data standard (SDDS requirements or GDDS recommendations).]

ITGS data at aggregated level of Intra EU are compiled and transmitted to Eurostat in T+40 days and in detail level at T+70 days trade, according to the requirements of EU Regulations. ELSTAT compiles and transmits aggregated data to Eurostat in T+38 days and detailed data at T+56 days. Timeliness is ensured on a monthly basis.

Extra EU Trade data are transmitted by the Customs Authorities to ELSTAT at T+26 days and detailed data are compiled at T+38 and transmitted to Eurostat. The EU Regulations require data transmission at T+40 days. Timeliness is ensured on a monthly basis.

3.2 Assessment of source data

3.2.1 Source data assessment

[Routine assessment of source data—including censuses, sample surveys, and administrative records
(e.g., for coverage, sample error, response error, and nonsampling error); whether assessment result
are monitored; how results are used to guide statistical processes.]

3.3 Statistical techniques

3.3.1 Source data statistical techniques

[Statistical techniques in data compilation to deal with data sources (e.g., to align them with target concepts from 2.1.1).]

The threshold (value) of the exemption threshold applied in 2013 was 100000€ for arrivals and 90000€ for dispatches in Intra EU Trade Statistics. ELSTAT is performing adjustments on a monthly basis to the total trade for transactions below the statistical threshold as well as due to non response per CN2 and country. The adjustments are based to the VIES/VAT data transmitted on a monthly basis by the Hellenic fiscal Authorities. Concerning the adjustments for below threshold trade and non/late/partial response the national method was developed on the basis of the availability of VIES data, as the recapulative statements are reported by the enterprises on a monthly basis for both flows, arrivals and dispatches.

3.3.2 Other statistical procedures [Statistical techniques employed in other statistical proceduransformations, and statistical analysis).]	lures (e.g., data adjustments and
3.4 Data validation 3.4.1 Validation of intermediate results [Assessment and investigation of statistical discrepancies	in intermediate data.]
Data quality controls are performed to all stages from to ensure completeness, validity and credibility. The applications used by the staff.	m data production to data compilation,
3.4.2 Assessment of intermediate data [Assessment and investigation of statistical discrepancies]	in intermediate data.]
3.4.3 Assessment of discrepancies and other pro [Investigation of statistical discrepancies and other poten	
outputs.]	

3.5 Revision studies

3.5.1 Revision studies and analyses

[Periodicity with which studies and analyses of revisions and/or updates are carried out; whether and how they are used internally to inform statistical processes (see also 4.3.3).]

Monthly management of revision rates is performed. The revision rates are small and in the framework of Eurostat's requirements.

4. Serviceability

4.1 Periodicity and timeliness

4.1.1 Periodicity

[Periodicity of statistical outputs relative to applicable dissemination standard (SDDS requirement or GDDS recommendation).]

Monthly.

4.1.2 Timeliness

[Timeliness of statistical outputs relative to applicable dissemination standard (SDDS requirement or GDDS recommendation).]

According to EU regulations and the National Dissemination Practices:

- 1) Extra EU Trade Data: on average 38 days after the reference month.
- 2 Intra EU Trade Data (aggregated): on average 38 days after the reference month.
- 3) Intra EU Trade Data (detailed): on average 56 days after the reference month.

4.2 Consistency

4.2.1 Internal consistency

[Consistency of statistics within the dataset.]

There is consistency between classifications.

4.2.2 Temporal consistency

[Consistency or reconcilability of statistics over a reasonable period of time.]

4.2.3 Intersectoral and cross-domain consistency [Consistency or reconcilability of statistics with those obtained through other data sources and/or statistical frameworks.] 4.3 Revision 4.3.1 Revision and/or update schedule [Transparency and regularity of revision/update schedule.] Revisions are performed monthly for all months of the current year and disseminated in the monthly Press Releases, at ELSTAT's Portal Web site and to publications.
[Consistency or reconcilability of statistics with those obtained through other data sources and/or statistical frameworks.] 4.3 Revision 4.3.1 Revision and/or update schedule [Transparency and regularity of revision/update schedule.] Revisions are performed monthly for all months of the current year and disseminated in the
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[Transparency and regularity of revision/update schedule.] Revisions are performed monthly for all months of the current year and disseminated in the
Revisions are performed monthly for all months of the current year and disseminated in the
4.3.2 Identification of preliminary and/or revised/updated data [Identification of preliminary and/or revised/updated data.]
The data are preliminary when first released and are indicated as such. Final data are published in the monthly Press Releases, at ELSTAT's Portal Web site and to publications.
4.3.3 Dissemination of revision studies and analyses [Dissemination of revision studies and analyses (see also 3.5.1).]
5 Accessibility
5. Accessibility 5.1 Data

5.1.1 Statistical presentation

[Statistics are presented in a way that facilitates proper interpretation and meaningful comparisons (layout and clarity of text, tables, and charts).]

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 (€).

The data are disseminated at the 8-digit level of the Combined Nomenclature.

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.

5.1.2 Dissemination media and format

5.1.2.1 Hard copy - New release

[Hard copy - New release.]

- 1) Press Release "Merchandise Trade", made available within 38 days after the reference month.
- 2) Press Release "Merchandise Trade" (with provisional data), within 56 days after the reference month.

Data also are available upon request to the Hellenic Statistical Authority, Statistical Information and Publications Division, 46 Pireos & Eponiton str, GR 18510 PIREAS, tel. (+ 30 213) 1352 022, Fax: (+ 30 213) 1352312, E-mail: data.dissem@statistics.gr or through the on-line request form at the ELSTAT's portal www.statistics.gr (Statistical Data Request).

5.1.2.2 Hard copy - Weekly bulletin [Hard copy - Weekly bulletin.]	
5.1.2.3 Hard copy - Monthly Bulletin [Hard copy - Monthly Bulletin.]	

5.1.2.4 Hard copy - Quarterly bulletin

[Hard copy - Quarterly bulletin.]

5.1.2.5 Hard copy - Other

[Hard copy - Other.]

Annual Publications:

"Statistical Yearbook of Greece» available for a fee upon request to the Hellenic Statistical Authority, Statistical Information and Publications Division, 46 Pireos & Eponiton str, GR 18510 PIREAS, tel. (+ 30 213) 1352 022, Fax: (+ 30 213) 1352312, E-mail: data.dissem@statistics.gr or through the on-line request form at the EL.STAT.'s portal www.statistics.gr (Statistical Data Request).

5.1.2.6 Electronic - On-line bulletin or data

[Electronic - On-line bulletin or data.]

Monthly Press Release "Merchandise Trade" is available on the EL.STAT's Portal and in the electronic publication "The Greek Economy":

(http://www.statistics.gr) at the following link:

http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-themes?p_param=A0902 and http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-economy

5.1.2.7 Electronic - Other

[Electronic - Other.]

Electronic (CD-Rom) - Fax services are available upon request to the Hellenic Statistical Authority, Statistical Information and Publications Division, 46 Pireos & Eponiton str, GR 18510 PIREAS, tel. (+ 30 213) 1352 022, Fax: (+ 30 213) 1352312, E-mail: data.dissem@statistics.gr or through the on-line request form at the EL.STAT.'s portal www.statistics.gr (Statistical Data Request).

5.1.3 Advance release calendar

[Pre-announcement of the release schedule for statistics.]

An advance release calendar which gives one-quarter-ahead notice of the precise release dates is disseminated on the Internet on the IMF's DSBB:

(http://dsbb.imf.org/Applications/web/sddsctycatarclist/?strcode=GRC). In addition, in the end of December of each year ELSTAT 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 ELSTAT's Portal: (http://www.statistics.gr) under the item "Calendar of Press Releases" (in Greek and English).

5.1.3.1 ARC Note

[ARC Note.]

5.1.4 Simultaneous release

[Degree to which statistics are made available to all users at the same time, and modalities used to achieve this.]

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 email. The Press Release is subsequently posted on the ELSTAT's Portal:

(http://www.statistics.gr/Deltia_menu_eng.asp) under the item "External Trade" at the following link:

http://www.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/PAGE-themes?p param=A0902

5.1.5 Dissemination on request

[Dissemination on request of unpublished but non-confidential statistics.]

Data are available to users upon request to the Hellenic Statistical Authority, Statistical Information and Publications Division, 46 Pireos & Eponiton str, GR 18510 PIREAS, tel. (+ 30 213) 1352 022, Fax: (+ 30 213) 1352312, E-mail: data.dissem@statistics.gr or through the online request form at the ELSTAT's portal www.statistics.gr (Statistical Data Request).

5.2 Metadata

5.2.1 Dissemination of documentation on concepts, scope, classifications, basis of recording, data sources, and statistical techniques

[Dissemination of documentation on concepts, scope, classifications, basis of recording, data sources, and statistical techniques, including annotation of differences from internationally accepted standards, guidelines.]

The methodology used is that of the European Union set out in the relevant E.U. regulations.

- EXTRA EU-TRADE with non EU Member States in accordance with the criteria set out in E.E.C. Council Regulation 471/2010 and Commission Regulations 113/2010 and 92/2010
- INTRA EU TRADE with EU Member States are assessed in accordance with European Parliament and Council Regulation 638/2004 as it was amended by 222/2009 laying down the implementing provisions of Commission Regulations 91/2010 and 96/2010

Brief explanatory notes on methodology and sources used are contained in the editions of the EL.STAT. that include trade data, namely the annual "Statistical Yearbook of Greece", the "Monthly Statistical Bulletin" and the annual publication for External Trade Statistics. A short note on methodology in English is available on EL.STAT's Portal: (http://www.statistics.gr).

5.2.2 Disseminated level of detail

[Customization of detail and format of tables for the target groups of users.]

A scietance to users		

5.3 Assistance to users

5.3.1 Dissemination of information on contact points

[Dissemination of information on contact points for each subject field.]

5.3.2 Availability of documents and services catalogs

[Dissemination of catalogs of publications, documents, and other services, including information on any charges.]

The mentioned publications are available upon request to the Hellenic Statistical Authority, Statistical Information and Publications Division, 46 Pireos & Eponiton str, P.O. Box 80847, GR 18510 Pireas (tel. (30) 213 1352311, Fax: (30) 213 13552312, e-mail: (data.dissem@statistics.gr) and (data.source@statistics.gr)).

Contact Person(s):

[Please provide information below as relevant]

Contact 1						
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Prefix/First Name/Last Name:	Mrs.	Eleni	P	andi		
Title:						
Division:						
Department:	Trade a	nd Servi	ces Statistics Division	1		
Agency:						
Address1:	46, Pire	os and E	poniton str.			
Address2:						
City/State:			A	thens		
Postal Code:						
Phone: Country Code/Number	30		1352042			
Fax: Country Code/ Number			1352396			
Email:	elenpan	d@statis	tics.gr			

	Contact 2		-
Applies To:	☐Base page	☐Summary Page	Dissemination Page
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