

Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS v2.0)

(user oriented)

Country: Greece

Compiling agency: ELSTAT

Domain name: International Trade in Goods Statistics, 2021

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1. Contact Top	
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2. Metadata update

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2.1 Metadata last certified	12/10/2022
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3.1 Data description

The Hellenic Statistical Authority is the competent National Authority for the compilation of the International Trade in Goods Statistics (ITGS). There is a growing interest in the International Trade in Goods Statistics, therefore the timely the high quality information on this sector is among the major objectives of ELSTAT. The main purpose of the International Trade in Goods Statistics is the monthly compilation of data on Import-Arrivals and Exports-Dispatches of goods. The International Trade in Goods Statistics (Merchandise Trade) is part of the official Statistics of the European Union and pertain to the systematic production of statistics on transactions of goods between Member States (intra EU- trade) and with Third Countries (extra- EU trade).

Sources for the compilation of International Trade in Goods Statistics:

1. A specific data collection system, called «Intrastat», is implemented in order to provide statistical information on dispatches and arrivals of Community goods which are not included in the Single Administrative Document for customs or fiscal purposes.
2. The Extra- EU trade statistical data are transmitted to ELSTAT directly by the customs authorities, on a monthly basis.
3. For specific goods or movements, other sources of data can be used apart from Intrastat system or customs declarations.
4. Administrative sources.

The parties responsible for providing the information for the Intrastat system are:

(a) the natural or legal person registered for VAT in the Member State of dispatch who:

- (i) has concluded the contract, with the exception of transport contracts, giving rise to the dispatch of goods or, failing that,
- (ii) dispatches or provides for the dispatch of the goods or, failing that,
- (iii) is in possession of the goods which are the subject of the dispatch;

(b) the natural or legal person registered for VAT in the Member State of arrival who:

- (i) has concluded the contract, with the exception of transport contracts, giving rise to the delivery of goods or, failing that,
- (ii) takes delivery or provides for delivery of the goods or, failing that,
- (iii) is in possession of the goods which are the subject of the delivery.

3.2 Classification system

The commodities are classified in line with the international classification Combined Nomenclature (CN), at 8 digit level, and the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), at 5-digit level.

The classification of the countries is based on the Geonomenclature. The alphabetic codification of the countries and regions is based on the existing ISO alpha- 2, according to the requirements of Community Regulation.

The combined nomenclature (CN) was established by Regulation (EC) No 2658/87 with the main purpose to facilitate the compilation of statistical data on Community trade. Annex I of the above Regulation is amended every year, it includes the Combined Nomenclature and the Common External Tariff, which is the

annual Tariff of the Community.

The Combined Nomenclature is based on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) and aims to the uniform classification of goods in international trade. It consists of about 5000 groups of goods, and each of them is encoded with a six-digit number.

The ITGS are compiled on a monthly basis, in line with the following commodities classifications:

- 2-digit level of CN and one-digit level of SITC classification and country by Geonomenclature. This level of analysis also includes the adjustment of the intra-community trade below the threshold to the total of intra-community trade
- 8-digit level of CN by country according to Geonomenclature
- 5-digit level of SITC by country according to Geonomenclature

The codes of the Combined Nomenclature (CN) are available on the website of ELSTAT: <https://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/SFC02/2021-M01>

Furthermore, the codes of the Combined Nomenclature (CN) are also available on the website of electronic submission system for INTRASTAT at the following link:

<https://eurostat.statistics.gr/intrastat/>

3.3 Sector coverage

1. International Trade in Goods Statistics between Member States cover the dispatches/exports and the arrivals/imports according to the EU requirements.

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

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.

2. Trade statistics with third countries record exports and imports of goods.

An 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 in the Customs Code.

- a) Exportation
- b) Outward processing

An 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

- a) Release for free circulation
- b) Inward processing
- c) Processing under customs control.

3. For almost all transactions (except for some specific movements) the goods must physically move.

1. 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.

2. Goods and movements that are excluded from Extra EU Trade (Regulation 113/2010, Annex I):

Data are 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 custom control.

3.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

4.4.1. Intra – EU TRade

Concepts

International trade in Goods Statistics between Member States covers dispatches and arrivals of goods. For specific goods or movements, different or specific rules may be applied, as defined by the Commission (Eurostat). Some goods which are defined by the Commission (Eurostat) are excluded from the statistics for methodological reasons.

Definitions

The following definitions apply:

- a) 'goods': all movable property, including gas and electricity
- b) "specific goods or movements": goods or movements which, by their very nature, call for specific provisions, and in particular industrial plants, vessels and aircraft, sea products, goods delivered to vessels and aircraft, staggered consignments, military goods, goods to or from offshore installations, spacecraft, motor vehicle and aircraft parts and waste products.
- c) "Community goods":
 - i) goods entirely obtained in the customs territory of the Community without addition of goods from third countries or territories which are not part of the customs territory of the Community,
 - ii) goods from third countries or territories which are not part of the customs territory of the Community which have been released for free circulation in a Member State,
 - iii) goods obtained in the customs territory of the Community either from goods referred to exclusively in point ii) or from the goods referred to in points i) and ii)
- d) "Member State of dispatch": the Member State as defined by its statistical territory from which goods are dispatched to a destination in another Member State
- e) "Member State of arrival": the Member State as defined by its statistical territory in which goods arrive from another Member State
- f) 'goods in simple circulation between Member States ": Community goods dispatched from one Member State to another, which, on the way to the Member State of destination, travel directly through another Member State or stop for reasons related only to the transport of the goods.

3.4.2 Extra- EU trade

Concepts

Statistics on trade with with third countries covers all the imports and exports.

Definitions

The following definitions apply:

- (a) 'goods' means all movable property, including electricity
- (b) 'statistical territory of the Community' means the 'customs territory of the Community' as defined in the Customs Code with the addition of the Island of Heligoland in the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany

(c) 'customs declaration' means the 'customs declaration' as defined in the Customs Code.

For methodological reasons, certain goods or movements are excluded from International trade in Goods Statistics. This concerns monetary gold and means of payment which are legal tender; goods the intended use of which is diplomatic or similar nature; movements of goods between the importing and exporting Member State and their national armed forces stationed abroad as well as certain goods acquired and disposed of by foreign armed forces; particular goods which are not the subject of a commercial transaction; movements of satellite launchers before their launching; goods for and after repair; goods for or following temporary use; goods used as carriers of customized information and downloaded information; and goods declared orally to customs authorities which either are of a commercial nature, provided that their value does not exceed the statistical threshold of EUR 1 000 in value or 1 000 kg in net mass, or are of a non-commercial nature.

In accordance with EU Regulations entered into force in 2010 (Regulations (EU) 96/2010, 113/2010) and in accordance with Regulations (EU) 2152/2019 and (EU) 1197/2020 entered into force in 2022, the EU Member States are obliged to record the transactions of special goods and movements and more specifically of vessels and aircrafts in line with the principle of economic ownership.

"Economic ownership" means the right of a taxable person to claim the benefits associated with the use of a vessel or aircraft in the course of an economic activity by virtue of accepting the associated risks.

For the compilation of statistics on imports/arrivals and exports/dispatches of ships are used Intrastat data, data from administrative sources (Customs, Ministry of Marine and Island Policy), as well as data from national and international commercial databases based on the estimation model of the Bank of Greece for the Greek shipping (see Press Release on Balance of Payments published by the Bank of Greece on 20.11.2018).

The compilation of statistics on imports/arrivals and exports/dispatches of aircrafts is based on Intrastat data and data from administrative sources (Customs, Hellenic Civil Aviation Authority).

3.5 Statistical unit

1. The parties responsible for providing the information for the Intrastat system shall be:

(a) the natural or legal person registered for VAT in the Member State of dispatch who: (i) has concluded the contract, with the exception of transport contracts, giving rise to the dispatch of goods or, failing that, (ii) dispatches or provides for the dispatch of the goods or, failing that, (iii) is in possession of the goods which are the subject of the dispatch

(b) the natural or legal person registered for VAT in the Member State of arrival who: (i) has concluded the contract, with the exception of transport contracts, giving rise to the delivery of goods or, failing that, (ii) takes delivery or provides for delivery of the goods or, failing that, (iii) is in possession of the goods which are the subject of the delivery.

The parties responsible for providing information may transfer the task to a third party, but such transfer shall in no way reduce the responsibility of the said party.

In order to satisfy users' needs for statistical information without imposing excessive burdens on economic operators, Member States define each year thresholds expressed in annual values of intra-Community trade, below which parties are exempted from providing any Intrastat information. The thresholds are defined, separately for arrivals and dispatches. For defining thresholds below which parties are exempted from providing any Intrastat information, must be ensured that at least 97 % of dispatches and 93% of arrivals total trade expressed in value is covered.

However, companies carrying out intra-EU transactions below the defined threshold are exempted from the obligation to submit an Intrastat declaration. Member States have implemented a threshold system that allows the enterprise not to submit an Intrastat declaration provided that their total transaction value does not exceed the threshold set in the previous year or cumulatively in the current reference year. Statistical thresholds are updated annually and are reported by the Hellenic Statistical Authority. Our country sets

national thresholds according to the requirements of the European Regulations.

2. Trade with Third Countries

Any natural or legal person who submits a customs declaration is the reference to trade statistics with Third Countries, provided that the customs procedure is statistically relevant.

3.6 Statistical population

The statistical population is based on the guidelines of the United Nations Manual on the compilation of ITGS and includes all the goods that add or subtract from the stock of material resources of the reference country during the time of arrival/import or dispatch/export of the economic territory, including goods being intended for processing. The ITGS are mainly based on the principle of transboundary physical movement of goods. More specifically, International Trade in Goods Statistics follow the physical movements of goods. The compilation of extra-EU trade statistics is based on the principles of special trade and the compilation of intra-community trade statistics resembles with the principles of general trade statistics.

3.7 Reference area

All the regions of Greece are covered. The statistical territory of Greece coincides with its customs territory as defined in Article 3 of Regulation (EEC) No. 2913/92 of 12 October 1992 establishing the Community Customs Code, as amended and in force.

3.8 Time coverage

The international trade in goods statistics produce results since 1957 on a monthly and annual basis. Data in electronic form are available from 1998 onwards.

3.9 Base period

Not applicable.

4. Unit of measure

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- Value in euro
- Quantity in kilograms (net mass)
- Quantity in other units of measure, in line with the Combined Nomenclature (e.g., number of pieces, m, m² etc.)

5. Reference period

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Intra – EU trade

The reference period is the calendar month when the dispatch or arrival of the goods has been carried out, i.e. the month when the goods are leaving or entering the statistical territory of Greece, in accordance with Article 6 of (EC) No 638 / 2004.

Extra – EU trade

The reference period is the calendar year and the month when the goods are imported or exported. When the data source for records on imports and exports is the customs declaration, the reference period is the calendar year and month when the declaration is lodged with the customs authorities in accordance with Article 3 of EC 113/2010.

6. Institutional mandate

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6.1 Legal acts and other agreements

1. The legal framework concerning the organization and operation of ELSTAT is detailed in the following link: <http://www.statistics.gr/en/legal-framework>

2. Legal framework of Intra-Community Trade Statistics (INTRASTAT):

National Legislation

- Ministerial Decision No 15988/1274/1993 of the Ministry of Finance and National Economy
- Ministerial Decision No 24189/I 2254/1993 of the Ministry of Finance and National Economy
- Decision (POL) No 1253/1993 of the Ministry of National Economy / General Secretariat of the National Statistical Service
- Decision (POL) No 1315/1993 of the Ministry of Finance
- Decision (POL) No 1176/1995 of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of National Economy
- Decision (POL) No 1076/2002 of the Ministry of Finance
- Decision (POL) No 1277/16.12.2002 of the Ministry of Economy and Finance
- Decision (POL) A.1120/2021/28.5.2021 of the Independent Authority of Public Revenue

3. European Legislation

The ITGS are compiled in line with the principles of the European institutional framework, as follows: For intra-EU trade (Intrastat) and for trade with third countries (Extrastat), in accordance with **Regulation (EU) 2152/2019 and (EU) 1197/2020**.

Legal framework for statistics relating to Intra-Union Trade:

REGULATION (EC) No 638/2004 on Community statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States

This Regulation was amended by:

- **REGULATION (EC) No 222/2009** amending Regulation (EC) No 638/2004 on Community statistics
- **COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 1093/2013** amending Regulation (EC) No 638/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1982/2004 as regards the simplification within the Intrastat system and the collection of Intrastat information
- **REGULATION (EU) No 659/2014 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL** amending Regulation (EC) No 638/2004 on Community statistics relating to trading of goods between Member States as regards conferring delegated and implementing powers on the Commission for the adoption of certain measures, the communication of information by the customs administration, the exchange of confidential data between Member States and the definition of statistical value
- **REGULATION (EU) 2016/1724 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL** of 14 September 2016 amending Regulation (EC) No 471/2009 on Community statistics relating to external trade with non-member countries as regards conferring of delegated and implementing powers upon the Commission for the adoption of certain measures

Implementing Regulations

- **COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1982/2004** implementing Regulation (EC) No 638/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States and repealing Commission Regulations (EC) No 1901/2000 and (EEC) No 3590/92
- **COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1915/2005** amending Regulation (EC) No 1982/2004 with regard to the simplification of the recording of the quantity and specifications on particular movements of goods
- **COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 91/2010** amending Regulation (EC) No 1982/2004 implementing Regulation (EC) No 638/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on

Community statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States, as regards the list of goods excluded from statistics, the communication of information by the tax administration and quality assessment

- **COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 96/2010** amending Regulation (EC) No 1982/2004 implementing Regulation (EC) No 638/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States, as regards the simplification threshold, trade by business characteristics, specific goods and movements and nature of transaction codes
- **COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 1093/2013** amending Regulation (EC) No 638/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1982/2004 as regards the simplification within the Intrastat system and the collection of Intrastat information

Legal framework for statistics relating to Extra-Union trade (EXTRASTAT)

REGULATION (EC) No 471/2009 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on Community statistics relating to external trade with non-member countries and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1172/95

Implementing Regulations

COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 113/2010 implementing Regulation (EC) No 471/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics relating to external trade with non-member countries, as regards trade coverage, definition of the data, compilation of statistics on trade by business characteristics and by invoicing currency, and specific goods or movements

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

- **COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) NO 1106/2012** implementing Regulation (EC) No 471/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics relating to external trade with non-member countries, as regards the update of the nomenclature of countries and territories
- **COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) No 1101/2014** amending Annex I to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff
- **REGULATION (EU) 2016/1724** amending Regulation (EC) No 471/2009 on Community statistics relating to external trade with non-member countries as regards conferring of delegated and implementing powers upon the Commission for the adoption of certain measures
- **COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) 2016/2119** amending Regulation (EC) No 471/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Regulation (EU) No 113/2010 as regards the adaptation of the list of customs procedures and the definition of the data
- **COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2016/1253** amending Regulation (EU) No 92/2010 as regards the data exchange between customs authorities and national statistical authorities and the compilation of statistics

6.2 Data sharing

Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European business statistics, repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics (EBS) was adopted on 27 November 2019 and becomes applicable for ITGS in 2022. The EBS incorporates the key elements of the modernised intra-Union trade in goods statistics, as agreed by the ESSC in May 2016.

The future system of compiling intra-Union trade in goods statistics will be more flexible and innovative in terms of data sources and compilation methods, making it possible to reduce response burden while

maintaining the necessary quality. To this end, the most innovative new technical feature is the compulsory micro-data exchange (MDE) on intra-Union exports between the Member States.

Micro-data exchange (MDE) on intra-Union exports between the Member States. MDE adopts the principle that data do not need to be collected more than once. This means: the importing EU Member State could use the intra-Union exports data collected in other Member States as data source for the compilation of its own intra-Union imports statistics.

The legal basis for the MDE is set in the European Business Statistics Basic Act (EBS BA) while the specifications are given in the EBS Implementing Act (EBS IA).

- EBS Basic Regulation (EBS BA): Regulation (EU) No 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on European business statistics, repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics
- EBS General implementing act (EBS GIA): Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 2020/1197 of 30 July 2020 laying down technical specifications and arrangements pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European business statistics repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics

Eurostat together with the Member States started the implementation of the project 'Intrastat Modernisation' (short for 'Modernisation of the system of compiling intra-Union trade in goods statistics').

In 2021, the last year before the actual MDE implementation as required by the EBS, the outstanding work focused on thorough testing of the MDE IT system in the framework of MDE pre-production phase via secured environment.

7. Confidentiality

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7.1 Confidentiality - policy

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.

<http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistical-confidentiality?inheritRedirect=true>

Protection of personal data

ELSTAT abides by the commitments and obligations arising from the applicable EU and national legislation on the protection of the individual from the processing of personal data and the relevant decisions, guidelines and regulatory acts of the Hellenic Data Protection Authority.

Pursuant to the Regulation on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data [Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 (General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR)], ELSTAT implements the appropriate technical and organisational measures for ensuring adequate level of security against risks for the personal data it collects and has access to, in the context of carrying out its tasks, in order to meet the requirements of this Regulation and to protect these personal data from any unauthorised access or illegal processing.

The personal data collected by ELSTAT are used exclusively for purposes related to the conduct of surveys and the production of relevant statistics. Only ELSTAT has access to the data. The controller is the person appointed by law pursuant to the relevant provisions concerning the Legal Entities of Public Law and the Independent Authorities. The data are stored in the databases of ELSTAT for as long as required by the relevant legislation.

Legal basis of the processing: Article 6, para 1(c) and 1(d) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

<https://www.statistics.gr/el/privacy-info>

Passive Confidentiality: Passive confidentiality means that the National Statistical Authority (NSA) will suppress the disseminated data only on request of the provider of statistical information (PSI) whose individual data might be indirectly revealed from published results. The European Regulation on ITGS requires for international trade in goods statistics the application of passive confidentiality. Passive confidentiality means that the NSA will suppress the disseminated data only upon request of the PSI whose individual data might be indirectly revealed from published results. In accordance with the Article 11 of Regulation (EC) 638/2004 of the European Parliament and the Council, where the parties who have provided information so request, the national authorities decide whether statistical results which make it possible indirectly to identify the said provider(s) are to be disseminated or are to be amended in such a way that their dissemination does not prejudice statistical confidentiality. Furthermore, in accordance with Article 10 of Regulation (EC) 471/2009 of the European Parliament and the Council, only where an importer or exporter so requests will the national authorities of a given Member State decide whether the ITGA of that Member State which may make it possible to identify that importer or exporter are to be disseminated or are to be amended in such a way that their dissemination does not prejudice statistical confidentiality.

7.2 Confidentiality - data treatment

- 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.

Pursuant to the Regulation on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data [Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 27 April 2016 (General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR)], ELSTAT implements the appropriate technical and organisational measures for ensuring adequate level of security against risks for the personal data it collects and has access to, in the context of carrying out its tasks, in order to meet the requirements of this Regulation and to protect these personal data from any unauthorised access or illegal processing.

Passive Confidentiality

The Statistical Confidentiality Policy of ELSTAT - International Trade in Goods Statistics is available at the following link:

https://www.statistics.gr/documents/20181/1609796/ELSTAT_Statistical_Confidentiality_Policy_foreign_trade_gt.pdf/63a5dcb6-3e4c-35d1-5e62-5a0b18fb5d3e

Additionally, detailed information on confidentiality regarding the ITGS data treatment is available at the following link:

[European business statistics compilers' manual for international trade in goods statistics, Edition 2021](#)

8. Release policy

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8.1 Release calendar

The Press Releases Calendar announces, approximately, 4 months before the beginning of the reference year the exact release dates of the data, which are posted on the website of ELSTAT.

8.2 Release calendar access

The Press Releases Calendar is distributed to the press and is available to all interested parties free of charge. It is also posted on the website of the ELSTAT (www.statistics.gr) at the link <https://www.statistics.gr/el/calendar#102022>.

8.3 User access

The data are included in the Press Release "Commercial Transactions of Greece" which is posted on the website of ELSTAT, at 12:00, at the following link:

<http://www.statistics.gr/el/statistics/-/publication/SFC02/>

Furthermore, the time series are posted on the website of ELSTAT, they are disseminated to users and transmitted to Eurostat and other international organizations. The Government has no access to the data

before their release to the public.

The statistical users get access to the ITGS data or receive required data in the following way:

- Yearly ITGS data are available in ELSTAT's website (www.statistics.gr), under section "International Trade in Goods Statistics", subsection "External Trade" in December of the each reference year eg. for reference 2020 link: <https://www.statistics.gr/el/statistics/-/publication/SFC02/2020-M12>)
- Upon user's request, which can be submitted through a special web form in the following link: <https://www.statistics.gr/en/statistical-data-request> monthly and yearly data of international trade in goods statistics are provided per variable (or their combination)
 - 2, 4, 6, 8 digit level of Combined Nomenclature Classification (CN) or 1,2,3,4,5 level Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) per
 - Country
 - Value
 - Quantity
 - in aggregated levels of CN and SITC classifications by prefecture or by NUTS2 region
 - in aggregated levels of CN and SITC classifications by transport mean.

The international trade in goods statistics data are disseminated in accordance with ELSTAT's Dissemination Policy, which is available at the following link:

http://www.statistics.gr/documents/20181/1609796/Dissemination_Policy_of_ELSTAT_en.pdf/8c399d64-9611-4d55-b514-56ea51ac1ecf

Information on the access to confidential data for scientific purposes is available at the following link: http://www.statistics.gr/en/scientific_provision_data.

9. Frequency of dissemination

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Monthly. The results are announced at 12:00, on the specific date of the publication of the relevant Press Release.

10. Accessibility and clarity

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10.1 News release

The Press Release "Commercial Transactions of Greece" is published 38 days after the end of the reference month.

10.2 Publications

1. Monthly Press Releases: <http://www.statistics.gr/el/statistics/-/publication/SFC02/>
2. E-Publications, "The Greek Economy", tables 19-27. In addition, tables 29 and 30 present selected economic indicators of euro zone countries and selected economic indicators of the main countries of imports and exports: http://www.statistics.gr/el/the_greek_economy
3. Quarterly publication "Greece in figures": <http://www.statistics.gr/el/greece-in-figures>
4. Monthly standard tables on International Trade in Goods Statistics in electronic format: <http://www.statistics.gr/el/statistics/-/publication/SFC02/>
5. Annual analytical tables on International Trade in Goods Statistics in electronic format: <http://www.statistics.gr/el/statistics/-/publication/SFC02/> which are posted on December of each reference year, e.g. the annual data of the year 2016 are posted on January 2021 <http://www.statistics.gr/el/statistics/-/publication/SFC02-2021-M01>

10.3 On-line database
Annual analytical tables on International Trade in Goods Statistics in electronic format, which are posted on December of each reference year: http://www.statistics.gr/el/statistics/-/publication/SFC02/
10.3.1 Data tables - consultations
User's consultations amounted approximately to 151.000 hits.
10.4 Micro-data access
Anonymised micro-data are provided to researchers according to the procedure for dissemination of confidential data for scientific purposes. Analytical information are presented under point 8.3.
10.5 Other
http://dlib.statistics.gr/portal/page/portal/ESYE/
10.6 Documentation on methodology
International trade in goods statistics, for the reference year 2021, are compiled in accordance with EU Regulations of the European Parliament and of the Council (as presented under point 3.1) establishing a common methodological framework for statistical purposes among MS. The methodology followed takes into account, Eurostat's guidelines and standards, mainly the European business statistics compilers' manual for international trade in goods statistics — 2021 edition European business statistics compilers' manual for international trade in goods statistics, Edition 2021
10.6.1 Metadata completeness – rate
Metadata completeness rate is estimated at 100%.
10.7 Quality documentation
The ITGS quality report is sent to Eurostat on an annual basis.

11. Quality management	Top
11.1 Quality assurance	
<p>A wide range of quality controls are carried out during the whole process of the compilation of ITGS in order to fully meet the requirements of European regulations. These checks aim at ensuring completeness, reliability and validity of statistics, thus resulting to high quality data, fully harmonized with international standards.</p> <p>More specifically:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completeness checks: completeness checks refer to measures aimed at ensuring that the submitted data represent the total of trade 2. Validity checks: these checks refer to measures aimed at identifying erroneous variables, missing variables or codes 3. Reliability checks: these checks refer to measures aimed at identifying implausible values, codes or ratios. <p>The methodology followed is in line with the relevant decisions taken in the meetings of the ITGS Working Groups, as well as with the recommendations of the Task Forces set up by Eurostat for the examination of particular topics.</p> <p>Exhaustive quality controls based on integrated IT tools are carried out at all stages of the compilation of the ITGS starting from the micro level data. The data are mainly derived from primary data submission by</p>	

providers of statistical information and administrative sources. At first stage, statistical checks are carried out to identify the extreme values and the data completeness of the ITGS data.

11.2 Quality assessment

The results of the ITGS ensure high quality, more specifically:

- All the obligatory and almost all the optional variables are collected, in compliance with the requirements of the European institutional framework.
- The applied methodology is fully in line with European practices, in order to ensure the exhaustiveness of the data on intra-community and external trade. The coverage of collected data for intra-community trade (dispatches and arrivals over the statistical threshold) is approximately 95.00% for arrivals and 97.00% for dispatches. Subsequently, the monthly data on intra-community trade are adjusted to the total of intra-community trade, including transactions below the statistical threshold, on the basis of the Recapitulative Statements of Intra-EU Deliveries and Acquisitions, which are submitted by the enterprises to the Independent Authority of Public Revenue. Data on exports and imports to and from non-EU countries are transmitted on a monthly basis to ELSTAT by the Customs authorities and pertain to the total of external trade. The coverage of ITGS amounts to 100%.
- Indicators on the revisions rate of ITGS are compiled on a monthly basis. These rates are relatively low and always in compliance with the relevant requirements of Eurostat.
- The International Trade in Goods Statistics are compiled and disseminated in a timely manner, on a monthly basis, 38 days after the end of the reference month, i.e., earlier than the requirements of the European regulations and therefore there are no delays.

12. Relevance

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12.1 User needs

Data on ITGS are available in electronic format on the website of ELSTAT. ELSTAT responds to specific users' requests for ITGS data, upon submission of the relevant request, with detailed description of the required data.

The ITGS cover national and international needs. More specifically, ITGS meet the needs of users such as the Government, enterprises, academia and international researchers, as well as the needs of the wider public. The more important users are: Ministries, embassies, universities, enterprises, the EU and other international organizations (OECD, IMF, UN, ECB, etc.) as well as the bank of Greece, the government and other administrative authorities and credit institutions, economic analysts, the Press and the public.

12.2 User satisfaction

<http://www.statistics.gr/en/user-satisfaction-survey>

12.3 Data completeness

The ITGS cover all the obligatory and almost all the optional variables, in compliance with the requirements of the European institutional framework. In order to ensure the completeness of ITGS an adjustment is made for the total of intra-community trade as regards the transactions below the statistical threshold. The data are fully in line with the requirements of the relevant European regulations.

It should be noted that a wide range of completeness, reliability and validity checks are carried out in order to ensure high quality, in accordance with International Standards, aiming at the compilation of reliable ITGS which meet the requirements of the EU.

A set of quality control rules is applied during all the stages of the production of the ITGS data, which is supported by

IT applications. The data collection is mostly based on web applications and IT tools.

13. Accuracy and reliability

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13.1 Overall accuracy

The ITGS are compiled in accordance with the relevant EU Regulations.

ELSTAT collects and compiles statistics on intra-EU trade. Statistics on intra-EU trade also include the transactions of the enterprises which are not obliged to submit an Intrastat declaration, as the value of their transactions is below the statistical threshold. On the basis of the obligations laid down in the European regulations concerning the compilation of ITGS statistics, these transactions are estimated on the basis of the Recapitulative Statements of Intra-EU Deliveries and Acquisitions, which all the enterprises have to submit to the Independent Authority of Public Revenue. Subsequently, these statements are transmitted by the Independent Authority of Public Revenue to ELSTAT.

The Customs Authorities are competent for the collection of data on trade with third countries, while the compilation of the relevant statistics is under the responsibilities of ELSTAT.

Detailed quality checks are carried out during the whole process of the compilation of ITGS in order to fully meet the requirements of European regulations. These checks aim at ensuring completeness, reliability and validity of statistics, thus resulting to high quality data, fully harmonized with international standards.

In the framework of the works of the Action Plan on the improvement of external trade statistics, carried out by ELSTAT in cooperation with Eurostat, during the period 2011-2012, the following methodological adjustments were made:

Intra-EU Trade

The data on intra-EU trade also include the transactions of the enterprises which are not obliged to submit an Intrastat declaration, as the value of their transactions is below the statistical threshold. These transactions are estimated, according to the provisions laid down in the European regulations concerning the compilation of External trade statistics, on the basis of the Recapitulative Statements of Intra-EU Deliveries and Acquisitions, which all the enterprises have to submit to the Independent Authority of Public Revenue.

Trade with Third Countries

The statistical data on imports and exports to Third Countries are estimated on the basis of the data from the Customs Authorities, to which data from the incomplete customs declarations are integrated, concerning mostly oil products. The data from the incomplete customs declarations, after having been completed, are replaced by the respective final data.

13.2 Sampling error

No sampling error; the survey for the compilation of ITGS is a census survey. The ITGS are based on census data, due to the high coverage rates which are required by the European institutional framework and to the estimation methods for the total of trade which is based on administrative data sources.

13.3 Non-sampling error

a. Unit non – response

The collection of data for 2021 covers approximately 95.2% of arrivals and 97.4% of dispatches and the rest is estimated on the basis of the data transmitted by administrative sources.

b. Item non - response

Non response is relatively low, due to the electronic system of monthly reminders to those who are obliged to submit an Intrastat declaration, as well as special reminders in case an enterprise has exceeded the exemption threshold and has not submitted a declaration.

The coverage error correction includes the enterprises that have not responded and amount approximately to 0.9% for arrivals and 1,1% for dispatches. The estimation is based on administrative data sources. Given the fact that the administrative data are not broken down by product, the adjustment to the total of intra-

community trade (non-response is included) is compiled at 2-digit level commodities of the Combined Nomenclature and by country.

13.3.3 Processing error

Checks during the data entry are carried out for the submission of Intrastat declaration, and thorough checks during the data entry of Extrastat data in the database. No other data processing errors are observed.

13.3.4 Model assumption error

No model is used for the compilation ITGS.

14. Timeliness and punctuality

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14.1 Timeliness

In accordance with the European institutional framework, all Member States should transmit to Eurostat estimates for total transactions of international trade of the country. Specifically the aggregated data should be transmitted within 40 days after the end reference month and the provisional data, per product, 70 days after the end of the reference month.

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) announces through specific press releases estimated aggregated and detailed ITGS data at T+38 days. The dissemination of the data at national level takes place earlier than the requirements of the EU Regulations.

After the completion of thorough quality controls and the correction of outliers, the provisional ITGS data are finalized within 10 months after the reference year, as recommended by Eurostat, namely in October of the next year. The final annual data are disseminated at national level, they are transmitted to Eurostat and other international organizations.

The aggregated and detailed ITGS data are transmitted timely on a monthly basis to Eurostat in electronic form via EDAMIS.

14.2 Punctuality

No delays have been observed in the announcement of the ITGS data and their transmission to Eurostat. The data are released at national level and they are transmitted to Eurostat earlier than the dates required by the European Regulations.

In line with the provisions of the European regulations and the national practices for data dissemination, the aggregated and detailed data of intra-community trade and trade with third countries are released 38 days after the end of the reference year.

15. Coherence and comparability

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15.1 Comparability - geographical

The ITGS are compiled in line with European Regulations and methodological principles on the basis of guidance from Eurostat, thus ensuring comparability of European statistics, taking always into consideration the specific conditions prevailing in each country which may necessitate minor methodological deviations.

15.2 Comparability over time

Since 2004, the monthly data on intra-community transactions are adjusted to the total of intra-community transactions, including the transactions below the statistical threshold, on the basis of the Recapitulative Statements on Intra-Community Deliveries and Acquisitions that are submitted by the enterprises to the Independent Authority of Public Revenue. The produced data are checked for their overtime comparability both by ELSTAT and Eurostat.

15.3 Coherence cross-domain

15.3.1 Coherence – sub annual and annual statistics

The ITGS are characterised by high coherence among the monthly, quarterly and annual data since they follow harmonised collection and compilation methods.

15.3.2 Coherence – National Accounts

ITGS are coherent with National Accounts, since ITGS are one of the basic sources for their compilation.

15.4 Coherence - internal

ITGS are internally coherent because their compilation system is based on comprehensive, systematic and harmonized data collection methods, and quality checks. The internal coherence of the ITGS is also ensured through the analysis of the administrative data sources.

16. Cost and burden

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The data are collected mostly through web applications and IT tools and therefore there is no additional burden for the compilation of the ITGS. In the framework of the continuous efforts to reduce the burden of respondents, ELSTAT participated to the project of the European Statistical System “Redesign of Intrastat” which is part of the projects portfolio of the ESS Vision 2020 and which is an innovative approach for the simplification of the data collection system for Intrastat.

The future system of compiling intra-Union trade in goods statistics based on micro data exchange will be more flexible and innovative in terms of data sources and compilation methods, making it possible to reduce response burden while maintaining the necessary quality. The most innovative new technical feature is the compulsory micro-data exchange (MDE) on intra-Union exports between the Member States. The MDE implementation is expected to reduce significantly the administrative burden of enterprises, while at the same time maintaining the quality of the relevant data, through the exchange and reuse of intra-union micro data among Member States.

17. Data revision

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17.1 Revision policy

The Revision Policy of ELSTAT is available at the following link:

<http://www.statistics.gr/documents/20181/a49dca9a-dacf-4b52-b5df-b156216cb354>

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) has established its National Revision Policy related to International Trade in Goods Statistics (ITGS). ELSTAT will carry out its responsibilities in respect of revisions by following this policy, while fully observing the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice. ELSTAT strives to follow best European practices and recommendations in carrying out revisions.

The Revision Policy is applicable to both Intra- EU and Extra-EU trade statistics

1. Planned Revisions

- Routine revisions:

Routine revisions refer to routine revisions to published “provisional” data. This kind of revisions is related to the regular data production process and they refer to:

- estimated values for non-response replaced by reported figures or
- modifications and corrections of data provided from Providers of Statistical Information (PSIs)

The data are revised monthly for all previous months of the current year until the final release of the yearly data at Y+10 months, until that time all data are considered as “Provisional”. As soon as data are published by ELSTAT, the current month data with the revised data from the beginning of the reference

year are transmitted to Eurostat and other international organizations. In case that the data of the previous period are not affected by revisions the data will not be retransmitted.

The final yearly data are transmitted to Eurostat and other international organizations by the end of October following the reference year.

- Major revisions

Major revisions are changes in published data, often substantial, which are due to one of the following reasons:

- A change in the concepts, definitions and/or classifications used to produce the series (adoption of a new classification, changes in international statistical standards, etc.)
- The enter in force of a new legal act

Usually data producers take the opportunity of a forthcoming major revision to introduce methodological improvements. This is considered as good practice as it avoids revisions occurring too often. Therefore, it is common that major revisions are not determined by one single cause but by a combination of them.

2. Non - scheduled revisions

Non- scheduled revisions should only occur exceptionally and not announced in advance because they are the result of unforeseeable events such as errors or accidents.

17.2 Revision practice

- The users are timely informed on any major errors that are identified in published data resulting to non-scheduled revisions. The revised results are published without any delay in a transparent and open procedure. Furthermore, the reasons for the non-scheduled revisions are also made public.
- The major and non-scheduled revisions of data, when published, are accompanied by the relevant documentation, as well as by updated backwards data, when available. Information on the revisions is also provided in the metadata of surveys which are published on the website of ELSTAT. ELSTAT has to announce in advance the revisions, informing on their release date. The announcement on the date of the revisions is posted on the website of ELSTAT.
- ELSTAT announces major methodological changes in the compilation of statistics before the publication of statistics that are based on the new methods.
- ELSTAT follow up the revisions on a regular basis, by implementing international methods as appropriate.
- The results of the revisions on the statistical products that are included in the priorities of ELSTAT are taken into consideration in order to improve the quality of these statistical products.

The International Trade in Goods Statistics compile, on a monthly basis, revision indicators. The ITGS data have low rates of revisions, meeting the requirements of Eurostat.

18. Statistical processing

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18.1 Source data

The International Trade in Goods Statistics are based on census data, because of the high coverage rates required by the European institutional framework and because of the method for estimating the total of trade which is based on administrative data. In accordance with the European Regulations requirements at least 93% of arrivals and 97% of dispatches of intra-community trade must be collected.

In accordance with the European Regulations requirements, some intra-community trade transactions are not collected with the aim of reducing the administrative burden of enterprises. Furthermore, there are some transactions of small value which are missing on account of non-response of the enterprises. In accordance with Eurostat guidelines, these transactions are estimated for the total trade, on the basis of the Recapitulative Statements of Intra-EU Deliveries and Acquisitions, in line with the standards set by the

European estimation methods.

Through Intrastat declaration all the obligatory variables and part of the optional ones are collected, as laid down in article 9 of Regulation 638/2004.

- VAT register number of the enterprise dispatching goods to other Member States or receiving goods from other Member States, trade name and address
- Reference period
- Flow (arrival or dispatch)
- Member State of arrival or consignment
- Mode of transport as defined in the Annex of Regulation 638/2004
- Nature of the transaction as defined in Annex III of Regulation 69/2010
- Goods code
- Net mass/additional units
- Invoice value of goods
- Statistical value of goods

The Customs Authorities transmit to ELSTAT, on a monthly basis, a record with all the imports and exports, on the basis of the custom declarations lodged with them, pursuant to Article 2 of Regulation 92/2010.

Through the customs declarations, the following information is collected, pursuant to Article 2 of Regulation 92/2010, via the fields of the Single Administrative Document:

- Customs code
- Customs declaration for import-export
- Number of customs declaration
- Date of lodging/acceptance
- Code of the country of consignment/dispatch on import
- Country of destination and code
- Code of country of origin on import
- Code of the country of last known destination on export
- Code of the nature of transactions, where possible
- Granted preference code on import
- Mode of transport to the border
- Internal mode of transport
- Container
- Goods code according to CN for exports or according to Taric for import
- Citizenship of the transportation means
- Status
- Quantity in kg
- Quantity in additional units
- Additional units
- Statistical value
- Currency and amount on invoice, where available

All the variables that are required by European Regulations are transmitted to Eurostat.

18.2 Frequency of data collection

Monthly data.

18.3 Data collection

INTRASTAT

The System for the collection of data on Intra-Community Trade, called INTRASTAT, is used for the provision of statistical information on arrivals and dispatches of goods from/to EU Member States in order to compile Intra-Community Trade Statistics.

The Intrastat declaration may be submitted:

- Electronically, through an application for the electronic submission of declarations of intra community trade that has been elaborated by ELSTAT since 1.1.2003 and can be found at the following address:

<https://eurostat.statistics.gr>

At least 99,9% of Intrastat Declarations are submitted electronically through the web application of ELSTAT.

- Through a relevant printed form submitted to the competent Tax Office. Less than 0,1% of Intrastat Declarations are submitted through this printed form and are transmitted to ELSTAT for the compilation of monthly statistics.

EXTRASTAT

The Customs authorities transmit electronically to ELSTAT, on a monthly basis, a file with all the imports and exports, on the basis of the custom declarations lodged with them, pursuant to Article 2 of Regulation 92/2010. The data are transmitted to ELSTAT by the Customs Authorities on time, namely at T+26 days approximately after the end of the reference month.

18.4 Data validation

A wide range of quality checks are carried out during the whole process of the compilation of ITGS in order to fully meet the requirements of European regulations. These checks aim at ensuring completeness, reliability and validity of statistics, thus resulting to high quality data, fully harmonized with international standards.

A set of quality checks are carried out by means of:

- Validation rules for micro data at the level of PSIs, during the submission of Intrastat declarations
- Thorough reliability and completeness checks in line with ESS standards.

More specifically:

1. Completeness checks

The completeness checks refer to measures aimed at ensuring that the submitted data represent the total of trade.

The checks for ensuring the completeness of data are carried out by means of comparing the data from the Recapitulative Statements on Intra-EU Acquisitions and Deliveries and from 2013 onwards, these checks are carried out regularly, on a monthly basis. In this frame, the monthly data of intra-community transactions are adjusted to the total of trade, including the transactions below the statistical threshold, on the basis of the Recapitulative Statements on Intra-EU Acquisitions and Deliveries that are submitted by the enterprises to the Ministry of Finance. Furthermore, the monthly data on trade with third countries are complemented with the provisional data from the "incomplete customs declarations" which after their completion are replaced by the corresponding final data. In addition, the Customs Authorities transmit to ELSTAT, on a monthly basis, any revised data.

2. Validity checks

Validity checks refer to measures aimed at identifying erroneous variables, missing variables or codes. In

order to identify any implausible data cross-checks are carried out among several variables (e.g. value, quantity, country, etc.) Furthermore, the maximum and minimum value of the variable “value” of the unit is checked, as well as the average value of the variable “value” of the unit.

In case wrong entries are identified, they are not deleted but they are replaced.

In addition to the above regular checks, all the values above one million euro are checked and validated on a monthly basis for the compilation of statistics on intra-community trade and trade with third countries.

3. Reliability checks:

Reliability checks refer to measures aimed at identifying implausible values, codes or ratios.

During the electronic submission of data on intra-community trade, all the fields are validated obligatorily. Similarly, validation checks are carried out for the data on trade with third countries. The declarations in printed form are checked on a monthly basis.

The completeness, validity and reliability checks are carried out both for intra-community trade data and data on trade with third countries.

It should be noticed that any revised data are immediately disseminated; the revision rates are relatively low and are followed-up on a monthly basis.

18.5 Data compilation

The number of imports/ arrivals and export/dispatches is calculated by adding the monthly data of enterprises by goods code and by country. The methodology for compiling the International Trade in Goods Statistics is based on the European institutional framework and on the guidelines of Eurostat.

The total of imports/arrivals and exports/dispatches is the sum of the all the records, by enterprise, in accordance with the following formula:

$$x_i(t) = \sum_{j,l} x_{ijl}(t)$$

Where:

i is the record per enterprise,

j is the country,

l is the good (commodity) and

t is the reference month

In order to reduce the burden on enterprises, pursuant to Regulation 638/2004 as in force, statistical thresholds expressed in annual values of intra-Community trade are established, below which parties are exempted from providing any Intrastat information. Member States ensure that the statistics cover the value of at least 97% of the total intra-community trade for dispatches and 93% for arrivals.

18.5.1 Imputation – rate

Not applicable.

18.6 Adjustment

With the aim to fully cover the intra-community trade (arrivals, dispatches) the data are adjusted to the total of intra-community transactions, including the transactions below the statistical threshold, on the basis of the Recapitulative Statement on intra-EU Acquisitions and Deliveries. Given the fact that the data in these forms are not broken down by product, the adjustment to the total of intra-community trade is compiled at 2-digit level of the Combined Nomenclature and by country.

The methodology for the adjustment to the total of intra-community trade is compiled in line with Eurostat guidelines and separately for arrivals and dispatches, 2-digit level of the Combined Nomenclature and by country.

The methodology for the adjustment was elaborated in the framework of the works of the Action Plan on the improvement of external trade statistics, carried out by ELSTAT in cooperation with Eurostat, during the period 2011-2012, taking also into consideration international best practices.

The following adjustment was based on the assumption that the enterprises below the threshold are similar and the enterprises exactly above the threshold are small. More specifically the methodology is as follows:

The enterprises below the threshold that have to submit Intrastat declarations are ranked by descending order on the basis of the value of transactions

$$x_1(t) > x_2(t) > \dots > x_k(t) > x_{k+1}(t) > \dots > x_N(t)$$

The sum of small values of the enterprises exactly below the threshold is compared with the total value of transactions which are below the statistical threshold, as derived from the Recapitulative Statements on intra-EU Acquisitions and Deliveries:

$$x(t) = \sum_{i=k+1}^N x_i(t) \geq \sum_{i=1}^{n_f} x_i^{(f)}$$

Where:

N is the number of enterprises,

i is the value of the enterprise,

t is the reference month,

$x_i(t)$ is the value of goods below the threshold by i enterprise on the basis of the Recapitulative Statements on intra-EU Acquisitions and Deliveries,

N is the number of enterprises below the statistics threshold.

The value $x(t)$ is distributed by partner country and by 2-digit goods code of CN,

The collection of intra-community trade data for 2016 as regards value amounts to 95.2% for arrivals and 97.4% for dispatches. For estimating the arrivals and dispatches for the total of intra-community trade, the above adjustment method applies.

18.6.1 Seasonal adjustment

Not applicable.

19. Comment

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