

# QUALITY DECLARATION

## Foreign trade - exports and imports of goods

**Subject area**

Trade in goods and services

**Statistical area**

Foreign trade

**Product code**

HA0201

**Reference time**

2021 month

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## Quality of the statistics

### 1 Relevance

#### 1.1 Purpose and information needs

##### 1.1.1 Purpose of the statistics

The statistics show Sweden's foreign trade with goods. Every month, Statistics Sweden publish information on the value and quantity, broken down by commodity and country. In connection with the publication of the first quarter of 2021, monthly publication will begin of a volume index that shows value changes in constant prices. This publication was previously only issued on a quarterly basis.

Statistics on Sweden's imports and exports are necessary for calculating the National Accounts and the Balance of payments, as well as for reporting to the European Union's statistical body, Eurostat, on Sweden's total exports and imports of goods. Detailed statistics on goods are also often used as a basis for decision-makers in the business sector, its organisations and public authorities.

The EU Council of Ministers has declared that information on trading of goods between Member States is essential to be able to show the development of the single market. This must be based on detailed information about trade in order to shed light on different sectors of the business sector's trade with goods within the Community and its Member States.

##### 1.1.2 User information needs

Statistics on Sweden's foreign trade is used in many different areas and important users and areas of use include:

- The Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, and the Riksbank, for assessments, forecasts and decisions on economic policy, industry and trade policy
- The National Board of Trade, Swedish Customs, the Swedish Board of Agriculture, and the National Food Agency, for negotiations and inquiries in the trade policy area
- The National Institute of Economic Research, the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise, analysis units at banks and financial institutions, and trade organisations, for assessments of and forecasts on the economic development in society
- Business Sweden, Swedish and foreign enterprises, and the trade sections at embassies, for market analyses, and assessment of market surveys
- mass media, for news coverage and as a basis for articles on Swedish foreign trade developments
- researchers and the education system (universities, institutes of higher education and others), for various research projects
- Eurostat, the European Central Bank, the United Nations, and other international bodies, for analysis and further dissemination of International statistics.

The variables that are collected are based on EU regulations. To keep the response burden at the lowest possible level, Statistics Sweden has opted to only collect the mandatory variables. This means that, in some cases, the published statistics does not meet the users' needs. For example, information about the country of origin and types of transaction are missing from the statistics, despite a frequent demand by users for this information.

## **1.2 Content of the statistics**

The statistical target characteristics that are estimated consist of monthly imports and exports of goods.

### **1.2.1 Objects and populations**

The target population of the survey consists of the goods that cross the Swedish border during the reference month. Goods refer to all moveable property including electric current. The target population corresponds to the population of interest.

Data sources consist of organisations (legal units such as enterprises and government agencies), or natural persons that conduct foreign trade with goods. In the interest of simplicity, all of these are referred to as enterprises.

The observation units are the same as the target units, that is, goods, as previously stated.

### **1.2.2 Variables**

The target variables consist of product codes according to the commodity classification CN8, partner country (export: country of destination, import: country of consignment), net weight, other quantity than weight for some goods, and statistical value of goods; export valued as free on board (fob), import valued as cost, insurance and freight (cif).

Country of origin is a variable of interest, requested by users but not available in the statistics.

The observation variables are the same as the target variables, with one exception. To lessen the response burden, invoice value is used instead of statistical value in trade in goods with other EU countries. See further Section 2.2.6.

### **1.2.3 Statistical measurements**

The statistical measurements consist of sum and volume index. Volume index consists of the value change, cleared from price changes. The calculation is done according to the Laspeyres index formula.

### **1.2.4 Study domains**

Sweden's trade in goods is published according to the following commodity classifications:

- **Combined nomenclature (CN)**. There is data at different levels of detail (2, 4, 6 and 8-digit level), in which CN8 is the most detailed level.
- **Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)**. There is data at different levels of detail (1, 2, 3, 4 and 5-digit level), in which SITC5 is the most detailed level.

- **Swedish Standard of Product Classification by Industry (SPIN).**  
There is data at different levels of detail (1, 2, 3, 4 and 5-digit level), in which SPIN5 is the most detailed level.

In all tables published in Statistics Sweden's Statistical Database, the country of consignment is reported for imports and the country of destination is reported for exports. At the time of export, the country of destination refers to the most recently known country where the goods are intended to be consumed.

More information on the different commodity classifications is available under Product classification in [Statistics Sweden's classification database](#).

Statistics Sweden applies passive confidentiality monitoring to handle confidentiality in connection with publication of information on foreign trade with goods. This means that Statistics Sweden only examines restricted publication of detailed goods and country information once an enterprise has made this request.

#### **1.2.5 Reference times**

The reference time for both populations and variables is a month.

## **2 Accuracy**

### **2.1 Overall accuracy**

The survey on trade in goods with countries outside the EU (Extrastat) is based on information from Swedish Customs. The information originates in submitted import and export declarations regarding import of goods from or export of goods to a non-EU country. Since a declaration is required for all goods crossing Sweden's border for export to and import from a country outside the EU, no major inaccuracy is considered to exist.

Information about trade with EU countries (Intrastat) is collected via a total population survey with a cut-off limit, which means that the smallest enterprises are not included in the data collection. In addition to the submitted values, Statistics Sweden uses information from VAT declarations to the Swedish Tax Agency. Different model assumptions are made, in part for enterprises under obligation to provide information that have not reported values, in part for enterprises with trade that lies below the threshold value for obligation to provide information. The model assumptions are described in more detail in Section 2.2.6.

At the total level, the level of accuracy is regarded as high, although inaccuracy exists at more detailed levels.

### **2.2 Sources of inaccuracy**

The largest source of inaccuracy is considered to be measurement error.

Another large source of inaccuracy consists of the estimates made for enterprises that are not required to submit data. Inaccuracy is greatest at the more detailed levels.

### **2.2.1 Sampling**

This source does not contribute to inaccuracy in the statistics.

### **2.2.2 Frame coverage**

The frame of the survey, that is, all enterprises that could be considered for participation, looks different each month. This is because enterprises are included in or excluded from the frame on a continuous basis. Which enterprises are to be included is determined by the threshold value. There is some under- and overcoverage as a result of a lag in reporting of information that comes to Statistics Sweden from the Swedish Tax Agency. Coverage problems can also arise as a result of corporate changes and incomplete data in the VAT declarations.

Collection of information concerning vessels and aircraft is based on information that Statistics Sweden receives from the Swedish Transport Agency's ships and civil aircraft registers. Undercoverage problems are therefore considered to be minor. However, concerning the collection of goods delivered to vessels and aircraft, there is unknown undercoverage.

Taken together, the deficiencies in coverage in the survey are regarded as minor, with little impact on the accuracy of the statistics.

### **2.2.3 Measurement**

Collection in Intrastat is carried out via electronic measurement instruments, and automatic validation controls make certain types of incorrect reporting impossible. Statistics for Extrastat is compiled through statistical processing of administrative export and import declarations collected by Swedish Customs.

Commodity classification CN consists of more than 9 000 product codes, which means it can often be difficult for data providers to choose the correct product code. This particularly affects statistics at detailed levels. It is practically difficult for Statistics Sweden to verify that product codes were correctly stated. There are occasions when it is possible to discover errors, for example when information deviates from previously submitted values. However, systematic incorrect reporting is difficult to detect. In some cases, there are even large differences between the amounts reported to Intrastat and the VAT declaration for the same period. This can lead to temporary measurement errors, as it is often time consuming to identify which of the reported values is correct.

Measurement errors also arise if data providers accidentally report service products as trade in goods or vice versa. This type of mistake can arise fairly easily, since the delimitation between goods and services can be difficult to make in some cases. An example of this is the definition of software that contains both a goods and a service part. Measurement errors can also arise in connection with incorrect reporting of triangular trade. Triangular trade refers to commodity transactions, where three enterprises in two or sometimes three countries are active parties in the transaction. Incorrect reporting of reparation, processing under contract, financial/operational leasing, inventory, and software can also result in measurement errors.

Accuracy in measurement at the total level is considered to be good. At a more detailed level, both systematic and random errors may occur, which means

that the level of accuracy is lower. Product codes (KN8) with several adjacent product codes linked to the same KN6 are regarded as being more difficult for data providers in terms of submitting the correct product code. Random errors are easier to find in the review than systematic errors.

#### **2.2.4 Non-response**

Non-response refers to information missing from enterprises in Intrastat under obligation to provide information at the point in time when Statistics Sweden starts to compile the statistics to be published. In 2020, non-response compensation accounted for 2 percent of the total export value, and 4 percent of the total import value calculated at the first publication. Non-response normally decreases at the revisions, since information continues to come in even after the first publication.

The statistics collected from Swedish Customs, Extrastat, is presumed not to be subject to non-response, and no response compensation is made.

Late information on goods with high values for which it is difficult to made non-response compensation, such as vessels and aircraft, can sometimes lead to some underestimation of trade at the first publication with regard to both Extrastat and Intrastat.

The methods used to compensate for the non-response are described in Section 2.2.6.

The impact on the accuracy of the statistics with regard to non-response at the total level is considered to be minor. At a more detailed level, some uncertainty may occur with regard to estimated data at the product and country level. However, this uncertainty is considered to be temporary, since the estimates are removed and are replaced with collected data as soon as the missing reports are submitted.

#### **2.2.5 Data processing**

Before publication, Statistics Sweden carries out controls to find and, if possible, correct errors that would have distorted the statistics. Suspected errors are followed up, for example through contact with the data provider. The remaining inaccuracy after this treatment is considered to be negligible at the total level.

#### **2.2.6 Model assumptions**

Intrastat, that is a total population survey with a cut-off limit, contains enterprises with an annual goods export to the EU for at least SEK 4.5 million or goods import from the EU for at least SEK 9.0 million. Enterprises are therefore divided into *those under obligation to provide information* (above the threshold) and *those not under obligation to provide information* (below the threshold). A description follows below of the model assumptions that Statistics Sweden makes in its production of statistics.

##### *Methods used for enterprises above the threshold on non-response*

Different imputation methods are used to compensate for object non-response in Intrastat. The value that the enterprise submitted in its VAT declaration is often used to determine the level of a company's trade. If this is missing, other methods are used to determine the level.

#### *Methods for enterprises below the threshold*

Statistics Sweden uses information in the VAT declaration regarding EU trade to determine the level and structure of trade below the threshold. These values are broken down by industry according to which the enterprises are classified under the relevant Swedish Standard of Industry Classification, SNI 2007. Accuracy concerning import is affected more by model assumption than by export. This is because the trade volume estimated to be below the import threshold is about seven percent compared with about three percent for export. At the aggregated level, the impact is assessed as lower than at the detailed level.

#### *Distribution of trade according to model assumptions*

The values calculated according to the two categories listed above are distributed either by a history of the enterprises, or by trade structure of similar enterprises. The distribution is made in the two dimensions good and country.

With regard to enterprises that trade with a number of different goods, the estimates can sometimes be less accurate. In general, accuracy at the CN-8 level is lower for the part of trade that is below the threshold.

#### *Estimates of statistical value based on invoice value*

Invoice value refers to the invoiced amount including costs for freight and insurance in cases where are included in the invoice in accordance with delivery conditions. To gain coherence in the information that is published, and in order to follow applicable regulations, invoice values are recalculated to statistical value using special recalculation factors.

The recalculation factors use a model-based approach based on the relationship between the statistical value and the price of the goods, both data collected via customs declarations. The material is based on data relating to countries bordering the EU. The recalculation factors are used in the Intrastat survey and the Special movement of goods survey to recalculate the invoice value to statistical value. The basis of the model is examined annually, and adjustments to increase the quality of the model are made when needed.

### **2.3 Preliminary statistics compared with final statistics**

This section describes primarily how much preliminary statistics differ from final statistics. Section 3.1 contains more information about when statistics are published and when revisions of previously published statistics are done.

First, preliminary information ("flash statistics") is published, with only the values for total imports and exports, broken down by EU trade and non-EU trade. Total EU trade is estimated based on information received up to that point from the majority of the data providers.

The measure of inaccuracy that has been produced shows that most (about 95 percent) of the deviations between preliminary statistics and the later outcome (when detailed information is published a month later) lie in the interval SEK -2 billion and SEK 1 billion with regard to both imports and exports.

A comparison between the first preliminary detailed statistics and the statistics published in February the following year (when information for the entire previous year is revised), shows that the average difference in absolute



numbers in 2020 for exports was SEK 198 million (0.2 percent) and for imports it was SEK 574 million (0.5 percent) per month. Since more information is received between these two publications, revisions normally often point in a positive direction. In other words, total values normally increase compared with the first preliminary publication. However, sometime the opposite occurs and values are revised downwards. This is often due to enterprises that have revised their previously submitted information.

### **3 Timeliness and punctuality**

#### **3.1 Production time**

Preliminary statistics (total export of goods, total import of goods and trade balance) are published about 27 days after the end of the reference month. The first publication of detailed information (by goods and country) is made about 57 days after the reference month. As from the publication of the first quarter of 2021, statistics on the volume index by commodity group will be published about 57 days after the reference month. Previously, statistics were published about 57 days after the reference quarter.

In connection with Statistics Sweden's publication of new statistics, previously published statistics are also revised, normally for the three previous months. In connection with publication of the full year in February, the entire previous year is revised. In connection with the publication in October, the entire current year, as well as the previous year, are revised. This means that final statistics for 2021 are planned for publication in October 2022. However, revisions may also be made later, and, in special cases, for periods even further back.

#### **3.2 Frequency**

Information is collected every month, statistics that refer to calendar months is published monthly.

#### **3.3 Punctuality**

Publication follows the 2021 publishing plan for Official Statistics of Sweden.

### **4 Accessibility and clarity**

#### **4.1 Access to the statistics**

The channels used to disseminate the statistics mainly consist of Statistics Sweden's website, [scb.se](http://scb.se), (in the form of statistical news, reports, and via the Statistical Database) and Eurostat's statistical database, Comext (which also includes other Member States' statistics).

Users can make their own withdrawals in the Statistical Database at [scb.se](http://scb.se). You can, for example, produce your own tables at different levels according to the CN, SITC and SPIN classifications, by country and time period.

- CN is the most detailed classification, and is summed up hierarchically from the 8-digit level to the 6-, 4- and 2-digit level.
- SITC is the UN's trade classification and has a hierarchical structure from a 1-digit level to a 5-digit level.

- SPIN is Statistics Sweden's own trade classification, in which products are grouped by industry classification SNI.

*How CN, SITC and SPIN classifications relate to each other*

While SNI is an industry classification of enterprises, SPIN can be regarded as an industry classification of goods. In other words, exports or imports of a specific SPIN code are not the same as exports or imports for enterprises with the same SNI code. Both SITC and SPIN classifications are based on sums of CN8 codes. Special keys are available, in which you can see which CN8 codes are included in each SITC and SPIN code. Keys for CN-SITC and CN-SPIN are available on Statistics Sweden's website, [www.scb.se/ha0201](http://www.scb.se/ha0201). Because all commodity codes at CN8-level do not require information about weight and other quantities (such as unit, or square metre), these can only be reported at CN-level. Since both SITC and SPIN classifications are based on sums of CN8 codes, it is not possible to present weight and other quantities for these commodity classifications.

*To consider when making withdrawals from the Statistical Database*

When making withdrawals from the Statistical Database, take into account that all imports of goods are based on imports from the country of consignment (which is often different from the country of origin). With regard to exports, the country of destination applies (at the time of export, the last known country in which the goods are intended to be consumed). Values are reported in thousands of Swedish kronor in current prices, unless otherwise indicated, and weights are reported in tons. With regard to certain goods, quantities other than weight are reported (such as cubic metres, litres or units). Information on what goods that require information about other quantity is available on Intrastat's website, [www.scb.se/intrastat](http://www.scb.se/intrastat).

Various tables can be used to withdraw statistics, both adjusted and not adjusted for non-response. In the non-response adjusted tables, Statistics Sweden has estimated values for enterprises that have not submitted information in time (non-response), and for enterprises that are below the threshold for enterprises under obligation to provide information. Tables that are not adjusted for non-response contain collected values, which means that values that are published in these tables are underestimated for many goods and countries.

#### **4.2 Possibility of obtaining additional statistics**

In addition to published statistics, it is also possible to, for a fee, order statistics on foreign trade with goods linked to different variables in the Business Register. Often, these variables include county, municipality, size class by number of employees, Standard Industrial Classification (SNI) and turnover class. It is also possible to order export and import information about different summations of goods at different levels (CN, SITC, and SPIN). Other variants that can be ordered include tables on the number of exporting and importing enterprises, and the country of origin for imports from countries outside of the EU. Active confidentiality applies to all statistics that are delivered on demand.

### 4.3 Presentation

Statistical news on the trade balance is published every month. Every quarter, statistical news and a brief report (Statistical Report) are also published about exports and imports by goods and countries, and by volume index. Starting in the second quarter of 2021, short statistical news on values in both constant and current prices will also be published on a monthly basis.

To help users, Statistics Sweden presents some prepared tables on scb.se on frequently requested withdrawals. These are updated monthly. The tables show exports and imports of goods by continents and countries, exports and imports of important areas of goods according to SITC, and exports and imports to and from Sweden's 30 largest trading partners. All tables report values in current prices (in millions of Swedish kronor) for the relevant period (accumulated for the year) and for the same period in the previous year. Percentage and change in percent are also reported.

In addition to the prepared tables, there are prepared figures that show the development of exports and imports for large commodity groups according to SPIN and to the major trading partners. There is also a figure that shows the development of total exports, imports, and the trade balance. All figures are updated monthly. The figures are trend-extrapolated, which means that values (in millions of Swedish kronor in current prices) are adjusted for different numbers of working days in the months and seasonal variations, and smoothed for temporary random variations.

### 4.4 Documentation

The production of statistics is described in the *Production of statistics (StaF)*. Detailed information on microdata is described in the *Detailed contents of the statistics (MetaPlus)*. All documentation is available on Statistics Sweden's website, [www.scb.se/ha0201](http://www.scb.se/ha0201).

The following method reports have been produced in the area Foreign trade with goods and are published on Statistics Sweden's website (see link above):

- Evaluating and improving the validation process in the Swedish foreign trade of goods statistics (2015)
- Use of administrative auxiliary information to improve the quality with respect to a future SIMSTAT system in SE (2014)
- Improving macro-editing in Intrastat (2011)
- Improvement of the Swedish rapid estimates in the foreign trade on commodities (2008:12)
- Evaluation of the estimation methods in the Swedish Intrastat System (2008:11)
- A Selective Editing Method considering both Suspicion and Potential Impact, developed and applied (2006:3)
- Increased Automation of the validation and correction processes in the Swedish Intrastat production (2005:8).

Other documentation that may be of interest for users of the survey on Foreign trade on goods includes:

- User guide on European statistics on international trade in goods (Eurostat)

- Quality report on European statistics on international trade in goods (Eurostat) International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions 2010 (UN).

## **5 Comparability and coherence**

### **5.1 Comparability over time**

The change in statistics introduced in 1995, when Sweden joined the European Union, resulted in considerable difficulties in comparing statistical information before and after this date.

From 1998, data providers report invoice value to Intrastat, rather than statistical value. The aim was to make it easier for data providers, and the change had a relatively small impact on statistics.

In May 2004, the EU expanded with ten new Member States, and in January 2007 two new countries joined, and in July 2013 one more country joined the EU. In statistics, this means that information on trade with these countries is now collected and reported in Intrastat instead of, as previously, in Extrastat.

Commodity classification is reviewed regularly, which leads to complete removal, addition, or changed content of commodity codes. New nomenclature versions are created in connection with this. These reviews that are made as trade patterns change make it difficult to keep long time series available. To be able to see changes that have occurred between the years, commodity code keys have been produced for different years, as well as a search function that can be used to search for both new and old commodity codes. Some changes in terms may also affect comparability between different periods. An example of this is that imports up to 1995 were based on the country of origin, while after 1995 imports were based on the country of consignment.

Another aspect that affects comparability over time is the simplifications for small enterprises that are constantly subject to investigation, both at national and EU level. One simplification that has been used on a number of occasions is to raise the threshold value that determines which enterprises are obliged to provide information to Intrastat. This makes it easier for many data providers, who are then below the threshold and no longer required to report to Statistics Sweden. However, this has a negative effect on statistics, since every time the threshold is raised it becomes necessary to estimate a larger amount of data to compensate for the enterprises that are now below the threshold. The impact increases inaccuracy at the detailed level. This, in turn, means that every time the threshold is raised, the tables adjusted for non-response at the CN8 level in the Statistical Database are based on lesser data collection. Furthermore, the tables adjusted for non-response at the CN 2-, 4- and 6-level contain more estimates than before. This can lead to clear breaks in time series for some commodity codes.

As of 1 February 2020, the United Kingdom is no longer part of the European Union and a withdrawal agreement has entered into force and applies until 31 December 2020. In practice, this means that trade will carry on as usual during the transition period. The variable EU27\_2020 will be introduced in tables on

trade in goods at country level. At the same time, the United Kingdom will be transferred from the EU28 group to the Other Europe group.

## 5.2 Comparability between domains

CN at the 8-digit level is used in the EU in reporting on foreign trade with goods, and the Intrastat and Extrastat statistics systems are used by all EU Member States. There is coherence between the UN and EU standards. CN corresponds to the WCO's nomenclature Harmonised system (HS) at the 6-, 4- and 2-digit level. SPIN corresponds to the Eurostat's Classification of product by activity (CPA), at the 4-digit level.

Foreign trade statistics with goods is governed by EU regulations other than the regulations that apply to National Accounts and the Balance of payments, which makes comparability difficult in this area. Since the second and third quarter 2014 respectively, the National Accounts and the Balance of payments have also published according to new manuals (ENS 2010 and BPM6 respectively). These largely correspond to each other, although the changes have led to increased changes in outcome between the National Accounts, the Balance of payments and Foreign trade in goods, in particular with regard to exports. Explanations of these differences are addressed in more detail in Section 5.3.

## 5.3 Other coherence

### *Production of commodities and industrial services*

The survey Production of commodities and industrial services in Sweden is disseminated according to the same commodity nomenclature (CN) as foreign trade statistics, which to some extent enables coherence between export, import, and production information at the goods level. Although both surveys are based on the same nomenclature, there are differences that can make comparisons difficult. One difference between the surveys is that Production of commodities and industrial services is an annual survey, while Foreign trade in goods is a monthly survey. There are also differences in threshold values used to determine which enterprises are to be included in each data collection. Treatment of estimations for enterprises below the threshold is also different. Production of commodities and industrial services describes the value and the amount of goods, and associated services that the Swedish industry produced during the year, and according to economic theory there should be a connection between imports, production, consumption and exports. However, in practice, differences can be detected during joint checking of reported values. These differences can be explained by, for instance, that different CN8-codes have been used in the different surveys. Periodisation errors may also occur. These arise if the same goods have been reported in different periods in both surveys.

### *National Accounts*

Foreign trade with goods is part of the material in Statistics Sweden's quarterly calculations of the GDP. Due to different definitions and delimitations, the information reported in the GDP and Foreign trade in goods is different. One of the differences is that Foreign trade in goods present information by statistical value, while in National Accounts, information is

presented by invoice value, which leads to some value-based deviations in comparisons.

Another difference relates to merchanting, that is, the part of triangular trade that means that enterprises in Sweden purchase products abroad in order to sell them without bringing them into Sweden first. According to the manual ENS 2010 (used by National Accounts), merchanting is now reported as trade in goods. In the National Accounts, the purchases are counted as negative exports of goods, and sales are counted as (positive) good exports. In the past, this business margin was counted as an export of services. The change does not have any impact on the total net trade balance, but it does mean that large sums are transferred from export of services to export of goods in the GDP reporting. The definition of processing under contract according to ENS 2010, used in the National Accounts, is also different from the one applied in Foreign trade in goods, and the difference has increased compared with the situation before ENS 2010. Now, processing under contract is counted as net in the National Accounts, that is, only the value of the processing service is reported as exports with regard to processing under contract of foreign goods in Sweden, and as imports on processing abroad. These net values are distributed as trade in each goods respectively. In the past, the value of the entire goods was reported when they crossed the border, both before and after processing. In other words, the definition of processing under contract has changed in the National Accounts, but is counted, as before, in exports and imports of goods. Since foreign trade statistics on goods is reporting according to other EU regulations, these changes will not be reflected in foreign trade statistics on goods. This means that merchanting still won't be included in exports of goods, and processing under contract will continue to be calculated in the same way.

Another explanation for differences that arise is that Statistics Sweden sometimes adjusts foreign trade statistics in the National Accounts with the objective of getting calculations of the GDP to agree on the consumption and production side. Adjustments such as this may apply to both price development and values in current prices.

#### **5.4 Numerical consistency**

In the prepared tables containing information on exports and imports of important areas of goods according to the SITC, there are some deviations between different total sums, "sum inconsistency". This is because the tables contain a mixture of different groups of goods in the SITC (1-5-digit level). Some groups of goods have also been summed up in the table to a number of groups that are not included in the SITC as standard. At the same time, some groups of goods have been excluded, which is why the sum in of the groups of goods in the table does not always match the reported summations and total sums. The reason why Statistics Sweden has chosen to present the tables like this is to better reflect trade with regard to export and import goods that are important for Sweden.

## General information

### A Classification of the Official Statistics of Sweden

With regard to statistics included in Official Statistics of Sweden (SOS), special rules apply for quality and accessibility, see the Official Statistics Act () and the Official Statistics Ordinance ([2001:100](#)), and the Statistics Sweden Regulations on the Quality of the Official Statistics ([SCB-FS 2016:17](#)).

### B Confidentiality and handling of personal data

Regarding confidentiality in the agency's specific task of the production of statistics, Chapter 24, Section 8 of the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act ([2009:400](#)) is applied.

No single enterprise's information is identifiable in the presented statistics. Under the Ordinance on the General Business Register ([1984:692](#)), the aggregated information on export and import country (groups in eight country areas) and export and import values (distributed in nine size classes), are to be submitted to the General Business Register (BASUN). Information in these registers is not subject to confidentiality.

Passive confidentiality monitoring is used to handle protection of identity with regard to foreign trade in goods. This means that Statistics Sweden only examines restricted publication of detailed goods and country information once an enterprise has made this request.

With regard to personal data, that is, information that directly or indirectly relates to a living person, the Official Statistics Act ([2001:99](#)), the Official Statistics Ordinance ([2001:100](#)) and the EU Data Protection Regulation ([2016/679](#)) are applied.

### C Archiving and discarding material

Information on Sweden's foreign trade in goods is archived together with personal data in cases where operations are carried out by an individual business operator. An assessment has deemed it necessary to keep this data available for 40 years, before it can be archived at the National Archives. Therefore, the archiving time limit is 40 years after the last publication of the statistical register. Under the regulations in the legislation on statistics, the National Archives may specify exceptions to disposal. The regulation on preservation at Statistics Sweden that applies to foreign trade in goods is the National Archives decision on preservation RA-MS 2007:64 (amended by RA-MS 2011:59, RA-MS 2013:55, and RA-MS 2017:15). Preservation at Statistics Sweden is exempt from disposal.

### D Obligation to provide information

The obligation to provide information applies under the Official Statistics Act ([2001:99](#)), the Official Statistics Ordinance ([2001:100](#)), Statistics Sweden's Regulations relating to statistical information concerning Sweden's trade with EU Member States ([SCB-FS 2015:3](#)), Statistics Sweden's Regulations on statistical information concerning certain particular movements of goods ([SCB-FS 2010:16](#)), and Statistics Sweden's Regulations on statistical information concerning exports by invoiced currency ([SCB-FS 2010:17](#)).

## **E EU regulations and international reporting**

The statistics are regulated by the following EU legislation:

### *Intrastat*

- Regulation (EC) No 638/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 on Community statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 3330/91
- Regulation (EC) No 222/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 amending Regulation (EC) No 638/2004 on Community statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 1982/2004 of 18 November 2004 implementing Regulation (EC) No 638/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States and repealing Commission Regulations (EC) No 1901/2000 and (EEC) No 3590/92
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 1915/2005 of 24 November 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 of 2 February 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 of 4 February 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 of 4 November 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 of 15 May 2014 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) 2015/759 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2015 amending Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics

*Extrastat*

- Regulation (EC) No 471/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 May 2009 on Community statistics relating to external trade with non-member countries and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1172/95
- Commission Regulation (EU) No 92/2010 of 2 February 2010 implementing Regulation (EC) No 471/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics relating to external trade with non-member countries, as regards data exchange between customs authorities and national statistical authorities, compilation of statistics and quality assessment
- Commission Regulation (EU) No 113/2010 of 9 February 2010 implementing Regulation (EC) No 471/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics relating to external trade with non-member countries, as regards trade coverage, definition of the data, compilation of statistics on trade by business characteristics and by invoicing currency, and specific goods or movements
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1253 of 29 July 2016 amending Regulation (EU) No 92/2010 as regards the data exchange between customs authorities and national statistical authorities and the compilation of statistics
- 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
- Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/2119 of 2 December 2016 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

*Nomenclature, goods*

- Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 of 23 July 1987 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2159 of 16 December 2020 amending Annex I to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff
- Council Regulation (EU) No 1325/2013 of 9 December 2013 amending Annex I to Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff
- Council Regulation (EU) No 1326/2013 of 9 December 2013 amending Annex I to Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff

- Reports and instructions - Code of practice for the management of the Combined Nomenclature
- Reports and instructions - explanatory notes regarding the Combined Nomenclature

*Nomenclature, countries*

- Commission Regulation (EU) No 1106/2012 of 27 November 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

At the international level, the statistics are reported to Eurostat and the UN. At the end of every month, data is delivered concerning the current reference month and revised months. Updated data is also submitted yearly in the case of yearly revisions and in cases in which revisions have been made that impact previously delivered yearly data. Deliveries to Eurostat are done via Eurostat’s software EDAMIS4 Web Application, while data to the UN is uploaded to the UN’s FTP site.

**F History**

Historical statistics regarding Sweden’s foreign trade in goods is available on Statistics Sweden’s website as far back as 1732. Statistics Sweden took over responsibility for foreign trade statistics in 1962. Before that date, statistics was produced and processed at the National Board of Trade.

An important change in foreign trade statistics in goods occurred in connection with Sweden’s entry into the European Union in 1995. Before that date, all statistics concerning goods could be based on data on imports and exports that enterprises submitted to Swedish Customs. This option was no longer possible once Sweden joined the EU, and part of the single market. Since 1995, a system developed by the EU has been used to replace data that can no longer be collected from customs documents. Using the system, information is collected directly from enterprises on their trade with other Member States. Information on Sweden’s trade with countries outside the EU is still collected from customs documents.

**G Contact information**

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