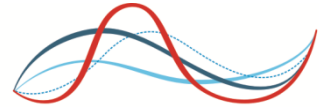




REPUBLIC OF CROATIA



CROATIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

QUALITY REPORT FOR STATISTICAL SURVEY
Intrastat – Statistics on Trading in Goods with EU Member States
For 2019

Organisational unit: Foreign Trade in Goods Statistics Department
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0. Basic information

- Purpose, goal, and subject of the survey

The importance of statistics on trading in goods of the Republic of Croatia with EU Member States is the result of the importance of this activity for Croatia's economy. Following the basic methodological recommendations of the UN Statistics Division and Eurostat, the Croatian Bureau of Statistics statistically processes and disseminates the collected Intrastat (statistics on trading in goods with EU Member States) and Extrastat (statistics on trading in goods with non-EU Member States) data as unique information on foreign trade in goods of the Republic of Croatia. These statistical data serve as the most important instrument for numerous institutions that create economic policies: it enables administrative bodies to prepare multilateral and bilateral negotiations, and companies to conduct market research and define their market position; it serves as a basic source of information for the preparation of the country's balance of payments and national accounts as well as for the calculation of the gross domestic product and the analysis of economic cycle. These statistics are among the most important areas of statistical activity. They provide information on decrease or increase of a country's material resources, as well as on the participation of Croatia in the international trade; they represent an important part of the statistical documentation base required for monitoring of the country's economic developments, and an essential element for the calculation of the country's national accounts system. The data source for statistics on trading in goods with EU Member States is the Intrastat form used by the reporting units to report on arrivals and/or dispatches on a monthly basis, that is, for each month in which goods physically enter or leave the territory of the Republic of Croatia. The reporting units are all business entities, value added tax payers, whose value of trading in goods with EU Member States exceeds the exemption threshold determined for a particular reference year. For 2019, this exemption threshold was set to 2.2 million kuna for arrivals and to 1.2 million kuna for dispatches. In order to achieve complete harmonisation with EU methodology and legislation, data on foreign trade in goods have been supplemented with trade value below the exemption threshold, which was estimated on the basis of data on supplies and acquisitions of goods in/from EU Member States provided by the Tax Administration of the Republic of Croatia.

- Reference period

Calendar year.

- Legal acts and other agreements

The legal basis for conducting the Intrastat survey is the European legislation related to the statistics on the trading in goods between EU Member States (Regulation No 638/2004 and amending Regulations Nos 222/2009 and 659/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council as well as the implementing Commission Regulation No 1982/2004 and the amending Commission Regulations Nos 1915/2005, 91/2010, 96/2010 and 1093/2013), the Official Statistics Act (NN, No. 25/20), the Annual Implementation Plan of Statistical Activities of the Republic of Croatia 2019 (NN, No. 19/19) and the Customs Administration Act (NN, Nos 68/13, 30/14, 115/16, 39/19 and 98/19).

- Classification system

Combined Nomenclature 2019
National Classification of Activities 2007
Geonomenclature

Standard International Trade Classification (SITC, Rev. 4)

Main Industrial Groupings, 2009

Types of trade transactions

Modes of transport

- Concepts and definitions

The values expressed are actual values achieved at the time when deals were contracted (invoice values), which are then further recalculated according to deliveries at the Croatian border. Export values are calculated on the basis of the FOB parity. It means that the invoice value is reduced for transportation and other costs incurred from the Croatian border to the place of delivery abroad, if it was agreed that goods are delivered abroad. If it was agreed for the delivery to take place in the country (Republic of Croatia), the invoice value is increased by the costs incurred from the place of delivery in Croatia to the Croatian border. The import values are calculated on the basis of the CIF parity. It means that the invoice value is increased by transportation and other costs incurred from the place of delivery abroad to the Croatian border, if it was agreed that goods are delivered abroad. If it was agreed for the delivery to take place in the country (Republic of Croatia), the invoice value is reduced for the costs incurred from the Croatian border to the place of delivery in Croatia. Official data on foreign trade in goods are expressed in the national currency, in euros and American dollars. The amounts expressed in foreign currency are converted into kuna, euros and American dollars according to the monthly exchange rate lists determined for the reporting month. The mean exchange rate of the Croatian National Bank is used.

- Statistical units

All business entities that realise the trade with EU Member States. Every provider of statistical information (PSI), a VAT taxpayer, whose value of trade in goods with Member States exceeds the exemption threshold, either for dispatches or arrivals, or for both trade flows, is obliged to report Intrastat data.

- Statistical population

Business entities from Statistical Business Register.

1. Relevance

1.1. Data users

The main users are ministries and state administration bodies, the Croatian Chamber of Economy, financial institutions (Croatian National Bank, commercial banks), economic analysts, the media, researchers and students, entrepreneurs, international organisations (UNSD, IMF) and users within the Croatian Bureau of Statistics (Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate, Spatial Statistics Directorate – Agricultural Production and Structural Statistics Department, and Environment and Energy Statistics and Sustainable Development Indicators Department).

1.1.1 User needs

International trade is an important part of the world economy, so statistics must monitor it in an adequate way. The foreign trade statistics is a valuable source of data on trends of exports

and imports of goods for numerous users who create economy policies: it enables administrative bodies to prepare multilateral and bilateral negotiations and companies to conduct market research and to define their market position, it serves as a basic source of information for the preparation of a country's balance of payments and national accounts as well as for the calculation of the gross domestic product and the analysis of economic cycle.

1.1.2 User satisfaction

In April 2015, the Croatian Bureau of Statistics conducted the User Satisfaction Survey for the second time. The aim of the survey was to determine users' satisfaction with the quality of data and services, as well as their needs. The survey was conducted in the period from 13 to 26 April 2015 on a sample of data users of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics by combining a web-based questionnaire and telephone interviewing. The survey included 952 users. Regarding the data usage by statistical area, 799 users responded and 22.0% of them used data on foreign trade in goods. Considering the overall quality of data (their timeliness, availability and comparability), the average score of users' evaluation of data in the area of foreign trade in goods was 3.56.

1.2. Completeness

Information is complete and fully in line with the concepts and definitions based on the principles included in the European Statistics Code of Practice, which is defined by Regulation (EC) No. 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics.

1.2.1 Data completeness rate

The indicator for this survey is not computed.

2. Accuracy and reliability

2.1. Sampling error

Not available.

2.1.1 Sampling error indicators

The indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.1.2 Bias due to sample selection process

The indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.2. Non-sampling error

VAT data are one of the many auxiliary data sources that can be used to improve the quality of Intrastat data. The comparison of the total taxable amount of arrivals/dispatches reported for Intrastat and the taxable amount indicated in VAT returns at the PSI level provides information on possible errors. The most important reporting units with the highest discrepancies between the Intrastat and VAT figures can be contacted and data corrected, if needed. Data errors are corrected in one of the following ways:

- by replacing estimates with collected data

- by correcting inaccurate and incorrectly reported data
- by deletion of incorrectly reported movements of goods that never took place.

2.2.1 Coverage error

The reporting units are all business entities, value added tax payers, whose value of trading in goods with EU Member States exceeds the exemption threshold determined for the reference year. For 2019, this exemption threshold was set to 2.2 million kuna for arrivals and to 1.2 million kuna for dispatches. The exemption threshold is determined at the level that must provide the statutory coverage rate, which is specified in relevant legal provisions regarding intra-EU trade statistics; it actually means that at least 97% of a country's total value of dispatches of goods and at least 93% of a country's total value of arrivals of goods need to be reported for Intrastat. A Member State is therefore allowed to make estimates for not more than 3% of the total value of dispatches of goods and/or 7% of the total value of arrivals of goods with other Member States.

2.2.2 Over-coverage rate

The indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.2.3 Measurement errors

PSIs often classify goods, as well as their quantity and value, incorrectly when filling in the Intrastat form. The impact of this error is very difficult to measure, but it is considered a major reason for asymmetries in mirror statistics.

2.2.4 Non-response errors

Turnover has to be estimated for companies that are liable to report to Intrastat, but for which any record for a given flow and reference period is missing. In principle, nil report is treated as if the company submitted the report, but there is a possibility that a statistician excludes these records, which is why the turnover of the company has to be estimated. In this phase, statistical value in HRK at the company level is estimated. The estimation of non-response has to be executed at the reference period/flow of goods/OIB level. The result of the estimation is a statistical value for the given reference period/flow of goods/OIB. The estimation process follows the methodology, step by step. If there is no result during the first step, the process continues at the second step, and so on.

- Included (not estimated) value of trade for the same reference month of the previous reference year is imputed.
- Last available reported value of the intra-EU trade for a current or previous year is imputed.
- VAT data for a current reference month are imputed. VAT data have to be multiplied by the VAT correction factor (CF), but its default value is 1.
- VAT data for the same reference month of the previous reference year, multiplied by CF, are imputed.
- Last available VAT data in the current year or in the previous year multiplied by CF are imputed
- Estimated Intrastat data for the same month of the previous reference year are imputed. Estimated value of "just above threshold" companies is not allowed to be taken into account!
- Last available estimated value of intra-EU trade in the current or in the previous year is imputed.

- The average value for the reference month at the NACE section level (company's activity) has to be imputed, calculated from original (not estimated) Intrastat data; the average would be calculated as a total statistical value for the given NACE section and reference month, divided by number of companies in this section in the given period.

2.2.5 Unit non-response rate

Unweighted unit non-response rate:

														%
Domain	Domain value	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Average
Selected reporting units based on determined exemption threshold	97% for dispatches and 93% for arrivals	0.40	0.33	0.39	0.47	0.23	0.58	0.29	0.22	0.62	0.45	0.71	0.48	0.43

2.2.6 Item non-response-rate

The indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.2.7 Processing errors

The error list contains identification fields of non-valid records (validity status = excluded, or validity status = included and recoding flag = recoded), accompanied with validity error codes and explanations. Error lists contain flow of goods, reference period, OIB, form registration number, ordinal number of items, error code and error explanation. One record can have more types of validity errors; therefore, one record can appear in more than one row in the error list.

2.2.8 Imputation rate

The indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.2.9 Editing rate

The indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.2.10 Hit rate

The indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.2.11 Model assumption error

Not available.

2.3. Data revision

2.3.1 Data revision – policy

The users of statistical data are informed about revisions (provisional data, final data) on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics.

2.3.2 Data revision – practice

Monthly data are corrected until final data processing for the current year is completed (the middle of the next year). Monthly data are considered provisional until the final processing for the current year is completed and dissemination of final data is done.

2.3.3 Data revision – average size

Data revision – average size is:

Statistics	Domain	Domain value	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Average
			1.15	1.36	1.78	2.24	2.16	1.88	1.78	1.99	1.41	0.51	1.07	1.86	1.599

2.4. Seasonal adjustment

Not applicable.

3. Timeliness and Punctuality

3.1. Timeliness

3.1.1 Time lag – first results

Time lag – first results is T + 40 days.

3.1.2 Time lag – final results

Time lag – final results is T + 6 months.

3.2. Punctuality

3.2.1 Punctuality – delivery and publication

Delivery and publication is 100% (all data are published at the time specified in the Calendar of Statistical Data Issues). The results of the survey were published on the exact date specified in the 2019 Calendar of Statistical Data Issues

4. Accessibility and clarity

Data are published in First Releases Nos 4.2.1. and 4.2.2., Statistics in Line, Statistical Information of the Republic of Croatia, Croatia in Figures and Statistical Database – Foreign Trade in Goods.

4.1. News release

Foreign Trade in Goods of the Republic of Croatia

4.2. Other publications

Statistics in Line
Statistical Information of the Republic of Croatia
Croatia in Figures

4.3. On-line database

PC-Axis Database: Foreign Trade in Goods

4.4. Micro-data access

The conditions under which certain users can access microdata are regulated by the Ordinance on the Conditions and Terms of Using Confidential Data for Scientific Purposes.

4.5. Documentation on methodology

Notes on methodology can be found in First Releases Nos 4.2.1. and 4.2.2., Statistics in Line and Statistical Database – Foreign Trade in Goods. A more detailed description of the methodology applied can be found in the quality reports published on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics.

5. Comparability

5.1. Asymmetry for mirror flows statistics

Not available.

5.2. Comparability over time

5.2.1 Length of comparable time series

The length of comparable time series in December 2019 was 78 months or 6.5 years

5.2.2 Reasons for break in time series

The first break in time series took place in 2007, when the National Classification of Activities was revised, while the second break was due to the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union on July 1 2013. Since then, statistical data on foreign trade in goods of the Republic of Croatia have been collected from two different sources: the Intrastat form for the statistics on trade in goods between the EU Member States (Intrastat) and the single administrative document for statistics on trade in goods with non-EU Member States (Extrastat).

6. Coherence

6.1. Coherence – short-term and structural data

The indicator for this survey is not computed.

6.2. Coherence – national accounts

The indicator for this survey is not computed.

6.3. Coherence – administrative sources

The indicator for this survey is not computed.

7. Cost and burden

7.1. Cost

The Intrastat Department of the Customs Administration is in charge of data collection, while the Croatian Bureau of Statistics is in charge of processing and dissemination of statistical data. The data processing for Intrastat requires 3 – 4 employees.

7.2. Burden

Medium-sized PSIs spend the highest number of hours (11.9) per month in filling in Intrastat export declarations. Large, small and micro-sized PSIs spent 5.5, 2.3 and 2.2 hours, respectively. The highest number of hours spent in filling in declarations on imports is generated by large PSIs (12.9 hours), which is followed by medium-sized (11.2 hours), small (5.6 hours) and micro-sized PSIs (3.1 hours).