

**Documentation of statistics for
International Trade in Goods by Enterprise Characteristics
2021**

1 Introduction

The purpose of Trade in Goods by Enterprise Characteristics (TEC) is to describe enterprises engaging in foreign trade, how large they are, which economic sector they belong to, how many countries they trade with etc. These statistics have been compiled since 2010 are comparable until 2018 for legal units. From 2019 and onwards the statistics have been compiled on the basis of the enterprise unit.

2 Statistical presentation

Trade in Goods by Enterprise Characteristics is an annual measurement of enterprises involved in foreign trade and their characteristics, stated in number of enterprises and value. The statistics are grouped by economic activity, enterprise size, partner countries, ownership, type of trade and concentration of trade. The statistics can be found in our statbank under the subject External Economy.

2.1 Data description

Trade in Goods by Enterprise Characteristics is an annual measurement of enterprises involved in foreign trade and their characteristics. The characteristics are economic activity, size based on number of employees, partner countries, ownership and if the enterprise is involved in only imports, only exports or both imports and exports. Additionally the concentration of the largest traders involved in external trade in goods, is also presented. For all variables both the value of trade and the number of enterprises represented are shown.

2.2 Classification system

Economic activity: Trade in Goods by enterprise characteristics follows the Danish National version (DB07) of EU's nomenclature NACE. The national version is a 6-digit nomenclature where the first 4 digits follow the NACE rev. 2 structure.

2.3 Sector coverage

There is no sector limits in Trade in Goods by Enterprise Characteristics.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Value: The value of the external trade is published as the so-called statistical value. For imports this value is called the cif-value (cost, insurance and freight), i.e. the value of the commodity at the Danish border or sea port, including the service costs connected to the delivery of the commodity to the Danish border, e.g. transport costs and insurance. For exports the statistical value is equal to the fob-value (free on board), i.e. the value of the commodity at the point of export at the Danish border, including the costs connected to the transport of the commodity from the exporter to the export point at the Danish border or sea port.

Number of employees: The number of employees refers to the number of persons who work for an employer and who have a contract of employment and receive compensation. A worker is considered to be a wage or salary earner of a particular unit if he receives a wage or salary from the unit regardless of where the work is done (in or outside the production unit). According to the Business Register Regulation, the intention is to use the situation at the end of the year. However, as the end date approach is not harmonised, the annual average can also be used as reference.

Partner Country: The country distribution is conducted in accordance with Eurostat's Geonomenclature classifying about 200 different countries and territories. For trade with countries outside the EU, information on country of origin (country of manufacture) is collected and for imports information on country of dispatch and for exports information on country of destination is collected. In most situations, it is information on country of origin that is applied. For trade with countries within the EU, only information on country of dispatch for imports and country of destination for exports is collected.

Type of Trade: Type of trade is an indicator which shows if an enterprise has only imports, exports or both imports and exports for a given period.

Ownership: The ultimate owner: The statistics are defining a company's ownership attached to the ultimate owner who has control over the company, i.e. have the ability to determine a company's general policy, if necessary by selecting a board. The controlling unit is the ultimate owner and holds, directly or indirectly, more than 50 pct. of equity or shareholders' voting rights. The ultimate owner must be understood in relation to the direct owner, since a company can immediately be owned (directly) from a country, even if it ultimately is owned in another country. For more information see the [documentation for the statistics on foreign owned enterprises](#).

General trade and Special trade: General trade comprises all goods being moved into or out of the country, unless exceptions have been laid down in special rules. Thus, imports cover all goods entering the country, including goods intended for re-export or goods that are, in actual fact, re-exported. Similarly, exports cover all goods leaving the country, whether processed in the country or have previously been imported (re-export). External trade according to the special trade system excludes transactions between other countries and Danish customs bonded warehouses. Goods imported to a bonded warehouse are thus excluded from external trade based on the special trade principle and are only included when the goods are declared by the customs to Denmark.

2.5 Statistical unit

The statistical unit is an enterprise, defined as a legal unit in the period from 2010 to 2018. From 2018 the statistical unit is the enterprise unit. An enterprise can be used to collect parts of a complex company across e.g. legal units. Enterprises can be formed if it is assessed that they will provide more correct statistics. Before 2019 International Trade in Services by Enterprise characteristics used the legal unit as the statistical unit. Thus the legal unit defined the characteristic of the enterprise e.g. economic sector. Enterprises include all parts of the production process that a company has directly or indirectly ownership of. Thus, processes which have been separated in different companies, for historical or legal reasons, will be consolidated to one enterprise. For many small companies there will be no need to consolidate to enterprises and their enterprise will correspond to the legal unit. A change in the EU-legislation was the reason behind the change to enterprises as this will result in more correctly measuring the activity of the companies. Enterprises have been formed for the large and statistically most important companies.

2.6 Statistical population

The statistics cover all Danish foreign trade in Goods.

2.7 Reference area

The statistics covers the Danish external trade with the rest of the world.

2.8 Time coverage

The statistics annually covers the period from 2010 to 2018 for legal units. From 2019 and onwards the statistics cover enterprises.

2.9 Base period

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.10 Unit of measure

The statistics are disseminated in mill. DKK and number of enterprises.

2.11 Reference period

It is an annual statistics which follow the calendar year.

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

This statistics are disseminated annually.

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

These statistics share legal acts with International Trade in Goods Statistics and was included in the update of this act in 2009.

- Act on Statistics Denmark (Consolidated act No. 610 of May 30, 2018) and Consolidated act No. 1495 of December 16, 2004 of the Ministry of Economic and Business Affairs 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, with associated changes.
- 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, with associated changes.
- 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 Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 of 23 July 1987 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff.
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 1779/2002 of 4 October 2002 on the nomenclature of countries and territories for the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States Council Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92 of 12 October 1992 establishing the Community Customs Code.

For more information see the documentation of [Statistics for International Trade in Goods](#).

2.14 Cost and burden

Not relevant for these statistics as they are based on already collected data.

2.15 Comment

Further information can be found by contacting Statistics Denmark directly.

3 Statistical processing

These statistics are compiled by combining data for International Trade in Goods (ITGS) with Business register data. Data is validated by comparing data with the sources used for compiling the statistics and by comparing the different tables compiled in this statistic.

3.1 Source data

The sources used to compile the statistics are International Trade in Goods Statistics (ITGS), the Business Register, the statistics for foreign owned enterprises (IFATS) and the statistics for Danish Foreign affiliates (OFATS).

3.2 Frequency of data collection

The sources used to compile the statistics are International Trade in Goods Statistics (ITGS), the Business Register, the statistics for foreign owned enterprises (IFATS) and the statistics for Danish Foreign affiliates (OFATS).

3.3 Data collection

The statistics are based on information from other statistical domains. This information is combined to form an independent statistic.

3.4 Data validation

The total International Trade and total international trade on countries are compared between International Trade in Goods Statistics and International Trade in Goods by Enterprise Characteristics statistics to ensure consistency. Also the total trade on economic sectors, countries etc. is compared between tables in international trade in goods by enterprise characteristics, to ensure internal consistency within this domain.

3.5 Data compilation

Through a common ID-variable (VAT-number) data from the Business register, International Trade in Goods Statistic, the statistics for foreign owned enterprises (IFATS) and the statistics for Danish Foreign affiliates (OFATS) are linked. The information from all these statistics are then used to form a variety of tables which can be found in the statbank. If a link cannot be established between the data sources, the enterprise in question will be a part of the group unknown for business related variables. Certain goods e.g. electricity will be given an economic sector.

3.6 Adjustment

For certain goods such as electricity, natural gas, ships and aircrafts, International Trade in Goods data does not have an ID which can be matched to the other sources. In these cases other knowledge about the goods will make sure this trade will have an economic sector.

4 Relevance

These statistics are relevant for analysts and enterprises, for analyses of e.g. globalization and enterprises which contribute to external trade in Denmark.

4.1 User Needs

Trade in Goods by enterprise characteristics (TEC) was created from a rising demand from users to be able to add more details to the traditional international trade in goods statistics. TEC gives the users better knowledge about the enterprises which have international trade in goods and can be used to e.g. analyze the consequences of globalization.

4.2 User Satisfaction

There are no user satisfaction surveys done for these statistics.

4.3 Data completeness rate

Data are complete in regards to the criteria on which International Trade in Goods Statistics are collected cf. Guidelines from Eurostat.

5 Accuracy and reliability

The accuracy for International Trade in Goods by Enterprise Characteristics is closely related to the accuracy of International Trade in Goods Statistics which is high on an aggregated level. The revisions follow the revision structure of International Trade in Goods Statistics.

There may be changes in enterprise characteristics (e.g. size, industry and ownership) during a given year, which can give rise to a change the trade flows, but the statistics reflect the characteristics at the end of the year.

5.1 Overall accuracy

The accuracy for International Trade in Goods by Enterprise Characteristics is closely related to the accuracy of International Trade in Goods Statistics which is high on an aggregated level. Trade with EU countries is subject to considerably higher margins of uncertainty compared to trade with countries outside the EU. Current data-editing measures give rise to corrections, but especially the lack of data reports constitutes a considerable source of uncertainty. See e.g. the documentation of statistics for International Trade in Goods.

5.2 Sampling error

Not relevant for these statistics.

5.3 Non-sampling error

There can be uncertainty related to International Trade in Goods Statistics because of missing or erroneous reporting. Estimations for EU trade below the threshold does also contains some uncertainty. Over-coverage can appear due to trade collected both directly from enterprises and by special sources e.g. electricity, gas, ships and airplanes.

The characteristics of enterprises is measured at the end of the period. Changes in the organization of an enterprise during the year, e.g. if the production is outsourced, is not taken into account. This means that activities, which would be linked to e.g. large industrial enterprises, can end up in other activity- or size groups, if the characteristics of the enterprise change during the year.

5.4 Quality management

Statistics Denmark follows the recommendations on organisation and management of quality given in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and the implementation guidelines given in the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF). A Working Group on Quality and a central quality assurance function have been established to continuously carry through control of products and processes.

5.5 Quality assurance

Statistics Denmark follows the principles in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and uses the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF) for the implementation of the principles. This involves continuous decentralized and central control of products and processes based on documentation following international standards. The central quality assurance function reports to the Working Group on Quality. Reports include suggestions for improvement that are assessed, decided and subsequently implemented.

5.6 Quality assessment

Trade in goods by Enterprise Characteristics is of high quality. It is relevant for our users as it covers user needs which have not previously been met. These statistics are also consistent and comparable over time. The quality is as good as the sources used for compiling. For more information on the sources see the documentation of statistics for International Trade in Goods, the Business Register, foreign owned enterprises and foreign affiliates abroad.

5.7 Data revision - policy

Statistics Denmark revises published figures in accordance with the [Revision Policy for Statistics Denmark](#). The common procedures and principles of the Revision Policy are for some statistics supplemented by a specific revision practice.

5.8 Data revision practice

These statistics are revised by each publication date for the latest 2 year. This follows the revision policy of International Trade in Goods and National Accounts.

6 Timeliness and punctuality

These statistics are published 10 months after the reference period. They are published without any delays.

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

These statistics are published 10 months after the reference period. Final numbers follows the revision policy of national accounts and is thus disseminated two years and ten months after the reference period.

6.2 Punctuality

These statistics are published without any delays in relation to the publication date announced in the release calendar. Data is also delivered to Eurostat without delay.

7 Comparability

These statistics have been disseminated since 2014 and contains values from 2010 and onwards. It is in its present form comparable from 2010 and onwards. These statistics are compiled according to common European guidelines and are therefore comparable with statistics from other EU countries published by Eurostat. The comparability can be influenced by the difference between the general- and special trade system.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

These statistics are compiled according to common European guidelines and are therefore mainly comparable with statistics from other countries published by Eurostat. The comparability can be influenced by the difference between the general- and special trade system, where data to Eurostat is based on the special trade system and the data disseminated in the National Danish Statbank is based on the general trade system.

7.2 Comparability over time

These statistics are comparable from 2010 to 2018 where there is a break. It is again comparable from 2019 and onwards.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

These statistics are fully comparable with International Trade in Goods. Due to limitations on the economic activities presented and thresholds on the value, these statistics are only to some extent comparable to the Business Statistics.

7.4 Coherence - internal

These statistics are fully comparable with International Trade in Goods.

8 Accessibility and clarity

These statistics are published annual in a Danish press release, at the same time as the tables are updated in the StatBank. In the StatBank, these statistics can be found under the [International Trade in Goods](#). The statistics can also be found in various publications and analysis' and it is possible to gain access to microdata through our program for authorized research institutions.

8.1 Release calendar

The publication date appears in the release calendar. The date is confirmed in the weeks before.

8.2 Release calendar access

The Release Calendar can be accessed on our English website: [Release Calendar](#).

8.3 User access

Statistics are always published at 8:00 a.m. at the day announced in the release calendar. No one outside of Statistics Denmark can access the statistics before they are published.

8.4 News release

These statistics are published annually in a Danish press release.

8.5 Publications

The statistics can be found in various annual publications and analyses published by Statistics Denmark.

8.6 On-line database

The statistics are published in the StatBank under the subjects in the following tables: - [DKTEC1](#): Trade in goods by enterprise characteristics by imports and exports, unit, enterprise size, industry and time - [DKTEC2](#): Trade in goods by enterprise characteristics by imports and exports, unit, country, main industries and time - [DKTEC6](#): Trade in goods by enterprise characteristics by imports and exports, unit, industry, ownership, country and time - [DKTEC5](#): Trade in goods by enterprise characteristics by imports and exports, unit, type of trader, industry, group of countries and time - [DKTEC3](#): Trade in goods by enterprise characteristics by imports and exports, unit, concentration, main industries and time - [DKTEC4](#): Trade in goods by enterprise characteristics by imports and exports, unit, partner country, main industries and time - [DKTEC1](#): Trade in goods by enterprise characteristics by imports and exports, unit, enterprise size, industry and time - [DKTEC2](#): Trade in goods by enterprise characteristics by imports and exports, unit, country, main industries and time - [DKTEC6](#): Trade in goods by enterprise characteristics by imports and exports, unit, industry, ownership, country and time - [DKTEC5](#): Trade in goods by enterprise characteristics by imports and exports, unit, type of trader, industry, group of countries and time - [DKTEC3](#): Trade in goods by enterprise characteristics by imports and exports, unit, concentration, main industries and time - [DKTEC4](#): Trade in goods by enterprise characteristics by imports and exports, unit, partner country, main industries and time

8.7 Micro-data access

Researchers and other analysts from authorized research institutions can be granted access to the underlying microdata by contacting the [Research Services division](#). This is possible to gain access to international trade in goods and business statistics, not trade by enterprise characteristics directly.

8.8 Other

These statistics are also available through [Eurostat's COMEXT](#) database and tailored products and special data-extractions can be bought through Statistics Denmark's division - DST Consulting.

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

These statistics follows the [Data Confidentiality of Statistics Denmark](#) (at Statistics Denmark).

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

These statistics follow an active confidentiality policy. For a cell to be published, it must contain more than 2 enterprises, and the two largest enterprises must altogether not hold more than 85% of the total value in the cell. The statistics for number of enterprises are not suppressed according to the confidentiality policy of the Business Statistics.

8.11 Documentation on methodology

The method used for compiling Trade in Goods by Enterprise Characteristics is described by Eurostat in [Compilers guide on international trade in goods by enterprise characteristics](#).

8.12 Quality documentation

Results from the quality evaluation of products and selected processes are available in detail for each statistics and in summary reports for the Working Group on Quality.

9 Contact

The administrative placement of these statistics is in the division of External Economy. The person responsible is Søren Burman, tel.: + 45 3917 3029, e-mail: sbu@dst.dk.

9.1 Contact organisation

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