

**Documentation of statistics for
External Trade of Organic Products 2023**

1 Introduction

The purpose of these statistics is to give information on the magnitude and composition of the turnover of organic foods in external trade. The survey was conducted the first time for the year 2003 with the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries.

2 Statistical presentation

The statistics are an annual statement of foreign trade of organic goods, broken down by product and country groups.

2.1 Data description

The statistics are an annual statement of foreign trade of organic goods, broken down by product and country groups. The trade concerns food, beverages and animal feed, which are certified as organic.

2.2 Classification system

Commodity classifications are based on the groupings in the EU's [Combined Nomenclature](#). Furthermore, when statistical data are published, UN's [Standard Trade Classification SITC](#) is applied. The distribution by countries is done according to the Geonomenclature of Eurostat. The nomenclatures used are described in more detail in the statistics on foreign trade in goods.

2.3 Sector coverage

Private enterprises with foreign trade.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Export: Sales value and amount of exported goods, excluding VAT.

Import: Purchase value and amount of imported goods, excluding VAT.

Country: Country defined after Eurostat's Geonomenclature.

Organic goods: Ecologically certified food or beverages. Does not include cosmetics, flower, clothes and other non-food. Exclusive vitamins and nutritional supplements. Including feed for animal production.

Organic certification of goods: Documentation of the organic status of goods, cf. the Ministry of Environment and Food's rules. Special for import: Documentation from an officially approved inspection body in the seller's home country can be obtained from Danish authorities, cf. EU regulations.

Organic certification of trade: Certification by the Ministry of Environment and Food of the right to trade in, packing or storing organic goods.

2.5 Statistical unit

The units in the statistics are goods and commodity groups as well as countries and country groups. Import or export in 1,000 kr. Data is collected among companies, broken down by SE-units (administrative units).

2.6 Statistical population

Enterprises with foreign trade of goods that may be organic (food and beverages, animal feed feed).

2.7 Reference area

Denmark.

2.8 Time coverage

2003-

2.9 Base period

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.10 Unit of measure

1.000 DKK

2.11 Reference period

Trade in calendar year.

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

Annual.

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

Act on Statistics Denmark.

2.14 Cost and burden

Response burden is calculated to 0,3 man-year.

2.15 Comment

More information can be found at the subject page for [Organic Production and Trade](#).

3 Statistical processing

An overall error detection is performed based on fluctuations in foreign trade at product or country level. Specific companies are reconnected and answers are compared with previous answers.

3.1 Source data

The survey is questionnaire based among companies that

1. have foreign trade with potential organic goods and
2. are organic certified by the Ministry of Environment and Food.

The statistics do not cover foreign trade in organic goods at the smallest companies, cf. the threshold values for *Foreign trade in goods*.

3.2 Frequency of data collection

Annual

3.3 Data collection

Data is collected using a spreadsheet which is uploaded to the IDEP reporting system.

3.4 Data validation

An overall error detection is performed based on fluctuations in foreign trade at product or country level. Specific companies are reconnected and answers are compared with previous answers.

3.5 Data compilation

The survey is a total census without weighting or correction for unit non response. There is only a small amount of imputation, for example, if quantities are missing. The validated data is grouped and tabulated in relation to product and country groups.

3.6 Adjustment

No correction of data is made except what has already been described under data validation and data processing.

4 Relevance

The statistics is used by interest groups, the Ministry of Food, other authorities etc. to assess the level and composition of foreign trade with organic goods.

User needs are covered in the User Committee for food statistics. Statistics Denmark is also in regular contact with key users, including the Ministry of Food and research institutions.

4.1 User Needs

The statistics is used by interest groups, the Ministry of Food, other authorities etc. to assess the level and composition of foreign trade with organic goods.

4.2 User Satisfaction

User needs are covered in the User Committee for Food statistics. Statistics Denmark is also in regular contact with key users, including the Ministry of Food and research institutions.

4.3 Data completeness rate

No requirements from legal acts.

5 Accuracy and reliability

These statistics do not cover foreign trade in organic products with the smallest companies. Some companies find it difficult to identify organic goods in their accounting systems.

5.1 Overall accuracy

These statistics do not cover foreign trade in organic products with the smallest companies. The size of the remaining uncertainty is not estimated.

5.2 Sampling error

Not relevant for these statistics.

5.3 Non-sampling error

The statistics do not cover foreign trade in organic products with the smallest companies. Some companies find it difficult to identify organic goods in their accounting systems.

No sampling uncertainty as the survey is a total census. The population's threshold may lead to an underestimation of the actual external trade of organic goods between Denmark and other countries.

For some companies, the following may apply:

- Problems with identifying organic goods in their accounting systems, which may lead to underreporting.
- Import and export of wild-caught fish can be misplaced as organic.
- Incorrect currency conversion may cause a mismatch between price and quantity.
- At company discontinuation, it may be difficult to get exact information.
- If foreign trade is registered with freight forwarders, they may have difficulty separating the ecological part.

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

No sampling uncertainty as the survey is a total census. The population's threshold may lead to an underestimation of the actual external trade of organic goods between Denmark and other countries.

For some companies, the following may apply:

- Problems with identifying organic goods in their accounting systems, which may lead to underreporting.
- Import and export of wild-caught fish can be misplaced as organic.
- Incorrect currency conversion may cause a mismatch between price and quantity.
- At company discontinuation, it may be difficult to get exact information.
- If foreign trade is registered with freight forwarders, they may have difficulty separating the ecological part.

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

Normally only final statistics are published.

6 Timeliness and punctuality

The statistics are published 11 month after the reference time. These statistics are published without delay, with reference to the announced time of publication in the release calendar.

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

The statistics are published 11 month after the reference time.

6.2 Punctuality

These statistics are published without delay, with reference to the announced time of publication in the release calendar.

7 Comparability

The survey was conducted for the first time for the statistical year 2003 and have followed same method since. There are no comparable statistics internationally. Foreign trade in organic goods can be seen as a subset of total foreign trade in goods.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

There are no comparable figures internationally at same level of detail. Eurostat has published import figures for the EU as a whole: [EU imports of organic agri-food products] (https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-imported-slightly-fewer-organic-agri-food-products-2020-2021-06-09_en)

7.2 Comparability over time

The survey was conducted for the first time for the statistical year 2003 and have followed same method since.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

The same classifications for goods and country codes are used as in foreign trade in goods. Foreign trade in organic goods can be seen as a subset of total foreign trade in goods.

7.4 Coherence - internal

Externally received data on ecological certification are made consistent with Statistics Denmark's Business Register.

8 Accessibility and clarity

These statistics are published yearly in a Danish press release, at the same time as the tables are updated in the StatBank. .

8.1 Release calendar

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

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.

8.2 Release calendar access

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

8.4 News release

These statistics are published yearly in a Danish press release.

8.5 Publications

Not relevant for these statistics.

8.6 On-line database

The statistics are published in the StatBank under the subjects [International trade with organic food](#) [International trade in goods](#) in the following tables:

- [OEKO4](#): External trade with organic products by imports and exports, commodities and time
- [OEKO5](#): External trade with organic products by imports and exports, country and time
- [OEKO6](#): External trade with organic products by imports and exports, country, main SITC groups and time

8.7 Micro-data access

There is no access to micro-data for this survey.

8.8 Other

See also thematic website: [Import and exports of organic goods](#).

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

[Data Confidentiality Policy](#) at Statistics Denmark.

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

Confidentiality treatment of data not relevant for the used dissemination level.

8.11 Documentation on methodology

No further documentation of methodology.

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 Food Industries. The contact person is Martin Lundø, tel.: + 45 5146 1512, and e-mail: MLU@dst.dk.