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Foreign trade statistics published by the National Board of Customs

Foreign trade statistics provide information on the goods trade between Finland and the other EU member states and third countries (other than EU member states), that is, on internal and external trade. Foreign trade statistics are the only official source of information regarding Finland's import, export and trade balance. Foreign trade statistics are an important tool for decision-makers, planners and researchers of both the public and private sector and for the media. Statistics are used, for example, in conveying information on the development of national and international economy and in compiling market studies and other statistical reports. Foreign trade statistics published by the National Board of Customs are part of the Official Statistics of Finland.

Basic information

The information on Finland's trade with other EU countries is collected from statistical declarations submitted by companies, using the Intrastat system of internal trade. The Intrastat system is based on extensive statistical samples. Information on the goods trade between Finland and third countries is obtained from customs declarations which must be provided for all import and export consignments. The information on internal and external trade is combined in compiling Finland's foreign trade statistics.

Key statistics

The monthly goods statistics on imports and exports are the most essential foreign trade statistics. They indicate the goods that are imported and exported, the value and quantity of the goods and the distribution of trade by country. Preliminary statistics are completed six weeks after the end of each statistical month, and the monthly statistics are completed nine weeks after the end of each statistical month. In addition, the unit value and volume indexes of import and export related to the foreign trade of goods are compiled each month.

Besides goods statistics, the National Board of Customs compiles statistics on the foreign trade logistics of Finland. These include transport, traffic and transit statistics. Since 2003, the National Board of Customs has compiled statistics also on the structures of businesses engaging in foreign trade. These consist of statistics based on the size, ownership and industry branches of the businesses.

Classifications used

The most significant goods classification system used in foreign trade statistics is the Combined Nomenclature (CN) of the EU. Import and export goods are classified according to CN headings both in statistical reports of internal trade and in customs declarations of external trade. The Combined Nomenclature contains approximately 10 000 commodity codes. Another essential classification system of goods trade is the Standard International Trade Classification, SITC, used by the UN. The SITC contains about 3 000 commodity codes. Foreign trade statistics are also compiled according to product category, industry branch and main use of goods (MIG).

The use of statistics compiled according to the Combined Nomenclature is recommended when information as detailed as possible is required on foreign trade. The use of statistics based on the SITC is suitable in obtaining a good general idea of the entire foreign trade or of trade with a specific country. The classification according to product category, industry branch and main use of goods is suited for macroeconomic observations.

Statistics publications

The National Board of Customs publishes the **preliminary data on foreign trade** within 40 days of the end of each statistical month. The preliminary data indicate the overall development of import, export and trade balance and contain comparisons with the data of the two previous years. More detailed foreign trade information is published in **monthly surveys**. Monthly surveys are published simultaneously with the goods-specific statistics nine weeks after the end of each statistical month. Monthly surveys focus on the analysis of the main trends of foreign trade. The schedules for the publication of both the preliminary data and monthly surveys are available on the Finnish Customs website. The printed **monthly publication** is released about four weeks after the monthly survey and contains goods statistics accordant with the SITC, among other information. Detailed statistical information on Finland's foreign trade is available on the annual CD-ROM publication entitled "**Foreign trade of goods**". The CD-ROM is published each autumn following the statistical year. A **pocket-size statistics publication** containing concise information on the previous year's foreign trade is released during the spring.

Annual and monthly publications are available from Edita Publishing Ltd (tel. +358 20 450 05). Other publications are available on the Finnish Customs website at <http://www.tulli.fi/en/>

finnish_customs/statistics/index.jsp. The Statistics Service of the National Board of Customs can also be contacted with enquiries for publications.

Uljas – System for distribution of foreign trade statistics

The detailed foreign trade statistics of Finnish Customs can be obtained from Uljas, the distribution system for foreign trade statistics. The database can be accessed on the website <http://uljas.tulli.fi>. The database can be used free of charge and it does not require registration. Uljas is updated on the same schedule as the monthly foreign trade survey. The oldest information in the database dates back to 1987. The three most essential goods classification systems, the CN, SITC and CPA, which form the basis for the available country-specific import and export statistics, are included in the database, but it will be expanded to cover other statistics material as well in the future. In addition to individual countries, the database contains various country classifications, such as the EU area, the Euro area, the UN classification of the developing countries, and the continents. The area classifications are up-to-date. The Uljas database can be used in Finnish, Swedish and English.

Statistics Service

The Statistics Service (e-mail: statistics@tulli.fi, telephone: +358 20 690 603) gives advice in the use of ULJAS and in other statistical matters. Statistical information on foreign trade can also be ordered from the Statistics Service for delivery by e-mail or by post in return for payment. Customers can subscribe to the statistical information they want to monitor regularly. The Statistics Service can be contacted with enquiries about other foreign trade statistics and publications of previous years released by the National Board of Customs.

Written enquiries and subscriptions can be sent to the National Board of Customs to the address P.O. Box 512, 00101 Helsinki, by fax to +358 20 492 1860 or by e-mail to statistics@tulli.fi. An online form for enquiries and subscriptions is available on the contact information site of Finnish Customs, http://www.tulli.fi/en/contact_us/index.jsp. The contact information site contains details of other Customs information services as well.

Service charges

Some of the statistics services of the National Board of Customs are subject to charges. The delivery of statistical data as well as reports compiled and services performed by assignment are subject to charge. The National Board of Customs publishes an annual price list which is available also on the Customs website.

Further online information

The Finnish Customs website (www.tulli.fi) contains further information on foreign trade statistics, the criteria of statistics compilation, the classifications used, the Intrastat system and statistical services. The publication schedule of statistics is also available on the website. The website contains also the preliminary data on foreign trade, the information of monthly surveys as well as other published reports, all of which can be accessed free of charge. All of the country-specific reports and industry branch reports published by the National Board of Customs are available on the Customs website along with the material of the pocket-size statistics publication.

Service contacts

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Written enquiries can be sent using the enquiry form available at www.tulli.fi/en

>Contact us >Enquiry form

Tip-off hotline 0800 1 4600

www.tulli.fi

Prices of calls to Customs telephone numbers beginning with 020 492 or 020 391:

- from fixed-line telephones 8.21 cents/call + 6.90 cents/min (incl.VAT 22%)

- from mobile phones 8.21 cents/call + 16.90 cents/min (incl.VAT 22%)

Calls to service numbers beginning with 020 690: no extra charge, the price depends on the subscriber connection used:

- from fixed-line telephones 0 cents/min + local network charge

- from mobile phones 0 cents/min + mobile call charge

The EU countries are Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.