Statistical survey on external trade

ITBP_NT_M_EN_2023_12

Reference Metadata in ESMS 2.0 structure

1	Contact
1.1	**Contact organisation**
State Statistical Office	
1.2	**Contact organisation unit**
Department for external trade	
1.3	**Contact name**
Suzana Srchokova	
1.4	**Contact person function**
Head of department for external trade	
1.5	**Contact mail address**
Dame Gruev 4, 1000 Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia	
1.6	**Contact email address**
suzana.srcokova@stat.gov.mk	
1.7	**Contact phone number**
00389 2 3295 777	
1.8	**Contact fax number**
00389 2 3111 336	
2	Metadata update
2.1	**Metadata last certified**
22/07/2025	
2.2	**Metadata last posted**
22/07/2025	
2.3	**Metadata last update**
25/07/2025	

3	Statistical presentation

3.1	Data description

Exports cover: direct exports, exports in view of outward processing, re-exports following inward processing or processing under customs control.
Imports cover: direct imports, imports inward processing and processing under customs control, imports following outward processing. Exports from/imports to Customs warehouse or free zones with no processing involved are excluded.
The territory of observation in external trade statistics is the economic territory, which in essence is equivalent to the customs (state) territory.

3.2	Classification system

1) Customs Tariff,
2) Classification of Products by Activities - KPD,
3) Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, 2022
4) Combined Nomenclature - CN,
5) Standard International Trade Classification, Rev.4,
6) Classification by Broad Economic Categories, BEC Rev.4,
7) List of countries - alpha 2 code

3.3	Sector coverage

Subject of the statistical survey on foreign trade statistics are the goods leaving or entering the statistical territory of the Republic of North Macedonia which form the trade turnover of the country.

3.4	Statistical concepts and definitions

In external trade statistics, unit of observation is any transaction of goods executed either in the context of export or import of goods which ought to be homogenous with respect to the type of goods, country of origin, purpose, method of payment and border-crossing time. The statistical processing of import and export data is carried out on a monthly and an annual basis. Import and export data are distributed by month of transaction, by the time of receipt of the Single Administrative Document form. Monthly data on the current year are supplemented and corrected regularly each month. With the first processing of the data are scoped about 95% of total data. Data, which will additionally cover any corrections, are included in the month of observation according to the date of receipt of the Single Administrative Document. As a result, current data are treated as preliminary, until publishing of the definite annual data. The indicators: trade value of external trade in the national currency, dollars and euros, trade quantity in kg and unit value indices, disseminated by the main groups of the Custom Tariff, SITC, BEC and CPA classifications, both on a monthly and annual basis, are disseminated.

3.5	Statistical unit

natural person or legal entity

3.6	Statistical population

All natural persons and legal entities that have submitted Customs declaration in which are registered all goods that add to or subtract from the stock of material resources of a country

through export and import, including processing of goods, according to special trade system (relaxed definition).

3.7	Reference area

Republic of North Macedonia

3.8	Time coverage

Since 1993 onwards.

3.9	Base period

For the Uniit value indices (UVI) the base period is 2021 (2021 =100)

4	Unit of measure

trade values (in national currency, usd and euros)
quantities in kg (net mass)
quantities in the supplementary unit, according to the Combined Nomenclature and Custom Tariff nomenclature (e.g. litres, square metres, number of items)

5	Reference period

The reference period for the exported and imported goods is the calendar month during which the customs declaration is accepted by the customs authorities

6	Institutional mandate

6.1	Legal acts and other agreements

National: Law on State Statistics ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 54/97, 21/07, 51/11, 104/13, 42/14, 92/15, 27/16, and 83/18, 220/18, 31/20), Programme of Statistical Surveys 2023-2027("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 29/23 and 57/25) (https://www.stat.mk/en/about-us/legal-acts/program-for-statistical-surveys/) .
International: Regulation (EC) No 471/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 May 2009, Commission Regulation (EC) No 92/2010 of 2 February 2010; Commission Regulation (EC) No 113/2010 of 9 February 2010; Commission Regulation (EC) No 2658/87 of 23 July 1987; Commission Regulation (EC) No 2913/92 of 12 October 1992; Methodology of external trade EUROSTAT 2006, Guidelines for the implementation of INTRASTAT and EXTRASTAT legislation, Eurostat 2014, International external trade and statistical concepts and definitions of the statistical office of the United Nations (IMTS 2010).
Legislation applicable as of 1 January 2022.
Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 on European business statistics:
Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197 laying down technical specifications and arrangements pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/2152;
Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1225 specifying the arrangements for the data exchanges and amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1197, as regards the Member State of extra-Union export and the obligations of reporting units;
Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/1704 further specifying the details for the statistical information to be provided by tax and customs authorities and amending Annexes V and VI of Regulation (EU) 2019/2152.

6.2	Data sharing

Not applicable

7	Confidentiality

7.1	Confidentiality - policy

1. The protection of individual data is regulated by the Law on State Statistics (https://www.stat.gov.mk/ZakonZaStatistika_en.aspx).
2. The basic principles and activities undertaken to ensure data confidentiality are described in the Policy on Statistical Confidentiality (https://www.stat.gov.mk/pdf/PolicyOnStatisticalConfidentiality.pdf).

7.2	Confidentiality - data treatment

Pursuant to Article 38 of the Law on State Statistics (https://www.stat.gov.mk/ZakonZaStatistika_en.aspx) and the Policy on Statistical Confidentiality (https://www.stat.gov.mk/pdf/PolicyOnStatisticalConfidentiality.pdf), individual data are not published.

8	Release policy

8.1	Release calendar

The date of data publication is determined in the Advance Release Calendar, which is updated quarterly.

8.2	Release calendar access

https://www.stat.mk/en/publishing-calendar/#/

8.3	User access

All users have equal access to statistics at the same time: this means that the publication dates are announced in advance and no user has access to official statistics before they are published. Statistical data are first published in the "News Releases" edition on the website of the State Statistical Office at 12:00.

9	Frequency of dissemination

Monthly - cummulative level, preliminary data.
Yearly - cummulative level, final data and UVI data

10	Accessibility and clarity

10.1	News release

News releases are published monthly and they are available on the website of the SSO in the section: "News Releases" (https://www.stat.mk/en/all-new-releases)

10.2	Publications

Statistical Yearbook,
Monthly Statistical Bulletin,
MakStat Selection.

10.3	On-line database

MAKStat database-Foreign Trade, available on the State Statistical Office website.
http://makstat.stat.gov.mk/PXWeb/pxweb/en/MakStat/?rxid=46ee0f64-2992-4b45-a2d9-cb4e5f7ec5ef

10.4	Micro-data access

The use of microdata by external users is possible only for research purposes and is done in accordance with the Law on State Statistics (Article 41, Article 42 and Article 43). Access to anonymised microdata is defined by an internal procedure of the State Statistical Office "Access to anonymised microdata for scientific research purposes" (https://www.stat.gov.mk/ZaNas_en.aspx?id=22).

10.5	Other

Time series for cumulative monthly data: from January 2002 via eDAMIS to Eurostat.
Time series for cumulative monthly data via FTP to UN database.
Time series for monthly data for SDDS Plus-Special Data

10.6	Documentation on methodology

The methodological explanations are released on the State Statistical Office website.
http://www.stat.gov.mk/MetodoloskiObjasSoop_en.aspx?id=78&rbrObl=23
http://www.stat.gov.mk/Metodologii_en.aspx

10.7	Quality documentation

A quality Report is prepared after the final processing and dissemination of the data.The report is prepared in accordance with the internal manuals and is only for internal usage.

11	Quality management

11.1	Quality assurance

The quality of the processes and products in the State Statistical Office is ensured by adhering to the European Statistics Code of Practice (https://www.stat.gov.mk/ZaNas_en.aspx?id=2) and the Quality Assurance Framework within the European Statistical System (ESS Quality Assurance Framework – https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/64157/4392716/ESS-QAF-V2.0-final.pdf). The quality criteria are also determined in the Law on State Statistics in Article 4b and Article 4c (https://www.stat.gov.mk/ZakonZaStatistika_en.aspx).

11.2	Quality assessment

The State Statistical Office carries out statistical activities in accordance with the Statistical Business Process Model, which is based on the international model - Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM). The application of this model and international standards in statistical production ensures a high level of accuracy and comparability of data.

12	Relevance

12.1	User needs

They monitor the flow of goods across the national borders and are used for most public and private sector decision-makers e.g. for bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations, for planning and managing the economic, trade and monetary policies, for market research and commercial

strategies, etc. Folowing the used needs SSO Process data in tailor made format for data users (as government institutions,trade chambers, scientists and business entities).

12.2	User satisfaction

Starting from 2009, the State Statistical Office conducts a User Satisfaction Survey every three years.

12.3	Completeness

About the data according the Regulation (EC) No 471/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 May 2009, SSO has a full coverage.

13	Accuracy and reliability

13.1	Overall accuracy

Data accuracy is ensured by working on decreasing non-sampling errors, as well as with additional data comparisons and analysis before dissemination.

13.2	Sampling error

Not applicable

13.3	Non-sampling error

Data control done by checking data accuracy, reliability and completeness shows insignificant share of incorrect customs declarations.

14	Timeliness and punctuality

14.1	Timeliness

The data are published as follows:
· Preliminary data - T+ 40 calendar days
· Final data - T+ 480 calendar days
· Unit value indices - T+720 calendar days

14.2	Punctuality

Data are disseminated within the established deadlines in accordance with the Release Calendar.

15	Coherence and comparability

15.1	Comparability - geographical

Data are produced on national level, the international comparability is ensured.

15.2	Comparability - over time

1) Comparability over time is ensured and main changes that occurred in the national methodology are the following:
- Production of data according to the BEC in 2008,
- Production of data according to the SITC in 2007,
- Introducing the code for Kosovo in 2009,
- Croatia's adhesion to the EU in 2013,

- Brexit,withdrawal the United Kingdom from the EU in 2020,
- Implemenatation and introducing the CPA2.1 .in 2017,
-Production of data according to the HS in 2017,
-Production of data according to the HS in 2022.
2) Comparability of data is ensured from 1993 without break in the time series for indicator value of realized external trade.
3) For unit value indices are provided series from 1998.

15.3	Coherence - cross domain

The data are coherance with the data from the BOP, SNA and Bussines statistics

15.4	Coherence - internal

Internal coherence of data is ensured.

16	Cost and burden

Not applicable

17	Data revision

17.1	Data revision - policy

Data revision is made in accordance with the Statistical Data Revision Policy of the SSO: (https://www.stat.gov.mk/ZaNas_en.aspx?id=25)

17.2	Data revision - practice

The data are published as preliminary and final data.

18	Statistical processing

18.1	Source data

Source of the data is the data from custom declaration. Data for all customs procedures except for the procedures of transit, Customs Administration submitted to the SSO.

18.2	Frequency of data collection

Monthly cumulative.

18.3	Data collection

Every monthly transmission from the CA, the xml data from the digital custom declaration for the recent period include also the revised data for the previous month and year. Period of transmission is not later than the 15th of the reference month.

18.4	Data validation

The validation process is organized and implemented according validation rules defined in the data validation methodology handbook and it is closely related to the ESS Code of Practice. Data control done by checking data accuracy, reliability and completeness shows insignificant share of incorrect customs declarations.

18.5	Data compilation

The process of data compilation, starts with defining the scope of survey through correlation regarding customs procedures and method of payment. Application of the Annex and the EU Regulation No.113/2010 defines the list of goods excluded from compilation.

The external trade data are processed according to the special trade system -relaxed definition, based on the concept on the commodity crossing of the customs border. The country classification is according to the ISO 3166 alpha-2 codes.

Exports, according to this principle, comprise all goods exported abroad and in the foreign customs warehouses and commercial free zones, originating from our domestic market, premises for further processing and industrial free zones, and nationalized goods.

Exports cover:
- direct exports,
- exports in view of outward processing,
- re-exports following inward processing or processing under customs control.

Imports comprise all goods, imported from abroad from customs transit, customs warehouses and commercial free zones. Thus, imports are comprised of all goods for which duties and taxes are paid, and which are put in the internal market,premises for further processing or in the industrial free zones.

Imports cover:
- direct imports,
- imports inward processing and processing under customs control,
- imports following outward processing.

Exports are calculated upon the f.o.b. term of goods delivery, and imports upon c.i.f. term of goods delivery-national border.

• Exceptions to coverage

The statistical survey does not include the following transactions, which are subject to customs evidence
- monetary gold
- goods temporarily admitted or dispatched
- goods in transit
- goods under operational leasing
- supplying of diplomatic missions abroad
- supplying of diplomatic ships and planes abroad
- repair of vehicles abroad, except repairs based on further processing
- goods which are subject to double ownership
- personal luggage and tourist goods including vehicle
- commercial samples with minimal value
- re-exports:

Exports from /imports to Customs warehouse or free zones with no processing involved are excluded.

The statistical value on the customs declaration is the full value of the goods at the national border. The statistical value of goods imported or exported after processing is the so-called gross value – it includes the value of exported/imported goods (materials) plus the value of the service performed.The statistical value is calculated automatically from the invoice value by use of an algorithm.

Statistical value is CIF type for imports, i.e. freight and insurance costs from place of export in the exporting country to the national border of North Macedonia are included in the value. It is FOB type for exports, i.e. freight and insurance costs from place of export in North Macedonia to the national border of North Macedonia are included in the value.

The statistical value in national currency is recalculated by SSO into the statistical value in USD and EUR by using the daily exchange rate (middle average rate of the Central Bank) on the day of the lodgment of the customs declaration.

After application of the validation rules (checks of the accuracy, data completeness, compilation the time series and linear regression) statistical value is calculated. Processing the unit value indices is done by using the formulas of Laspeyres, Pashe and Fisher.

18.6	Adjustment

Data from the custom declaration are processed without application of the statistical threshold and therefore there is no need for adjusting the data. The seasonal adjustment is not applied.

19	Comment

No comment

A.1	Annexes