REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

CROATIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

QUALITY REPORT FOR STATISTICAL SURVEY

Intrastat – Statistics on Trading in Goods with EU Member States for 2020

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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 countries) data as a unique information on foreign trade in goods of the Republic of Croatia. These statistical data are the most important instrument for numerous institutions that create economic policies: they enable administrative bodies to prepare multilateral and bilateral negotiations, and companies to conduct market research and define their market position; they serve 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 our country in the international trade; they represent an important part of the statistical documentation base, which is required for the monitoring of the country's economic developments, and an essential element for the calculation of a country's national accounts system. The data source for statistics on trading in goods with EU Member States is the Intrastat form used by providers of statistical information 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 providers of statistical information 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 2020, 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 Office 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, Commission Implementing Regulation No 1982/2004 and amending Commission Regulations Nos 1915/2005, 91/2010, 96/2010 and 1093/2013), Official Statistics Act (OG, No. 25/20), Annual Implementation Plan of Statistical Activities of the Republic of Croatia 2020 (OG, No. 12/20) and Customs Service Act (OG, Nos 68/13, 30/14, 115/16, 39/19 and 98/19).

- Classification system

Combined Nomenclature 2020
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. 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, American dollars and euros. 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 in goods with EU Member States. The provider of statistical information (PSI) is every business entity, a VAT taxpayer, whose value of trade in goods with EU Member States exceeds the exemption threshold, either for dispatches or arrivals, or for both trade flows.

- Statistical population

Business entities included in the 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, researches 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 economic policies: they enable administrative bodies to prepare multilateral and bilateral negotiations, and companies to conduct market research and define their market position; they serve as a basic source of information for 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.

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 research 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 the 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 and regulated by principles of the Code of Practice of the European Statistics, which is defined by Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 concerning structural business statistics.

1.2.1. Data completeness rate

Indicator for this survey is not computed.

2. Accuracy and reliability

2.1. Sampling error

Not available.

2.1.1. Sampling error indicators

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.1.2. Bias due to sample selection process

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.2. Non-sampling error

VAT data are one out of many auxiliary data sources which can be used to improve the quality of Intrastat data. The comparison of total taxable amount of arrivals/dispatches reported for Intrastat and taxable amount indicated in VAT returns at PSI level provides information on possible errors. The most important PSIs with the highest discrepancies between 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 providers of statistical information 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 2020, 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 a total value of dispatches of goods and/or 7% of a total value of arrivals of goods with other Member States.

2.2.2. Over-coverage rate

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.2.3. Measurement errors

Goods, as well as their quantity and value, are often classified incorrectly by PSIs filling in Single Administrative Documents. 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 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 for a current or the previous year, multiplied by CF, are imputed.
- Estimated Intrastat data for the same month of a 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 non-response rate

%

Domain	Domain value	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Average
Selected PSIs based on determined exemption threshold	97% for dispatches and 93% for arrivals	0.53	1.24	0.72	0.47	0.25	0.53	0.40	0.77	0.46	0.76	0.63	0.95	0.64

2.2.6. Item non-response-rate

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. The fields containing the error list are flow of goods, reference period, OIB, form registration number, ordinal number of item, error code, error explanation. One record can have more types of validity errors; therefore, one record can appear in several rows in an error list.

2.2.8. Imputation rate

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.2.9. Editing rate

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.2.10. Hit rate

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 (preliminary 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

Statistics	Domain	Domain value	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Average
			0.23	0.88	0.91	0.09	0.29	0.86	1.09	0.07	0.54	0.73	0.02	1.07	0.56

2.4. Seasonal adjustment

Not applicable.

3. Timeliness and Punctuality

3.1. Timeliness

3.1.1. Time lag – first results

Timeliness of first results is T + 40 days.

3.1.2. Time lag – final results

Timeliness of 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 2020 Calendar of Statistical Data Issues.

4. Accessibility and clarity

Data are published in the First Release 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 the First Release Nos 4.2.1. and 4.2.2., the Statistics in Line and the Statistical Database – Foreign Trade in Goods. A detailed description of the methodology applied can be found in the quality reports published on the web page 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 2020 is: 90 months or 7.5 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 changed, while the second break was due to the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union on 1 July 2013. Since then, data on foreign trade in goods statistics of the Republic of Croatia have been acquired from two different sources: the Intrastat form for the statistics of the trading in goods between the EU Member States (Intrastat) and the single administrative document for statistics of trading in goods with non-EU countries (Extrastat).

6. Coherence

6.1. Coherence – short-term and structural data

Indicator for this survey is not computed.

6.2. Coherence – national accounts

Indicator for this survey is not computed.

6.3. Coherence – administrative sources

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. Data processing for Intrastat involves 3 – 4 employees.

7.2. Burden

Medium-sized PSI's spend the highest number of hours (11.9) per month in filling in the Intrastat form. 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 the Intrastat forms 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).