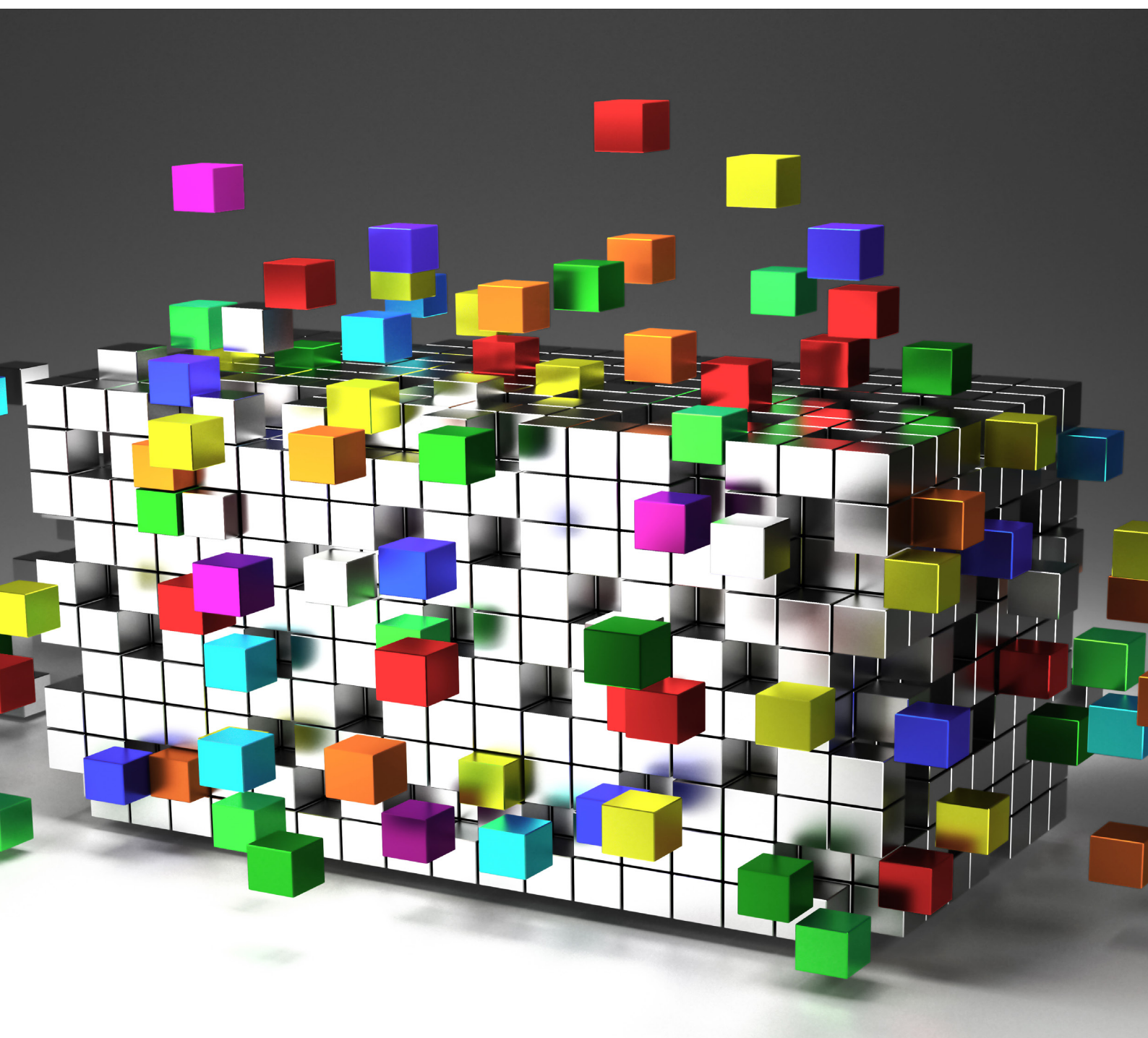


European business statistics compilers' manual for international trade in goods statistics – aggregated data

2023 edition



**European business statistics
compilers' manual for
international trade in goods
statistics – aggregated data** | **2023 edition**

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Abbreviations

CSV	Comma separated values
DSD	Data Structure Definition
EA	Euro area
EBS	European business statistics
ESS	European Statistical system
EU	European Union
GEONOM	Geonomenclature
ITGS	International trade in goods statistics
NSA	National Statistical Authority
PSI	Provider of statistical information
SDMX	Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification

1

Introduction

1.1. What are European statistics on international trade in goods?

International trade in goods statistics (ITGS) published by Eurostat measure the value and quantity of goods traded between the EU Member States (**intra-EU trade**) and goods traded by the EU Member States with non-EU countries (**extra-EU trade**). Their aim is to measure the physical flow of goods. 'Goods' means all movable property including electrical energy and natural gas. 'European' means that the statistics are compiled on the basis of the concepts and definitions set out in EU legislation. 'National' statistics, i.e. statistics published at national level by the Member States, are compiled on the basis of national rules which may differ from EU rules.

European ITGS are the official harmonised source of information about exports, imports and the trade balances of the EU, its Member States and the euro area. They serve the needs of many different users, including governments, businesses, academic and EU researchers and the general public. The growing interest in timely and high-quality trade in goods statistics has made the harmonisation of compilation practices among EU Member States a primary necessity.

1.2. What are 'aggregated data'?

Aggregated data correspond to monthly statistics on total trade by broad categories of products as defined by the one-digit codes of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) and with the following partner areas: intra- and extra-EU for all the EU Member States and intra- and extra-euro area for the EU Member States belonging to the euro area.

Aggregated data are made available shortly after the reference month (in general within 46 days) as they aim at providing the users with first figures on the exchange of goods of the EU and the euro area with the rest of the world.

1.3. What is the purpose of this compilers' manual?

This compilers' manual (further referred to as "Manual") is meant to serve as a practical reference document for all National Statistical Authorities involved in the compilation of European aggregated data on trade in goods. As such, it provides the necessary definitions and practical instructions regarding the preparation and transmission of aggregated data to Eurostat. Consistency checks applied to validate the data and dissemination channels are included as well.

Note that this edition of the Manual provides the necessary guidance for the compilation and transmission to Eurostat of aggregated data relating to 2023 reference months.

1.4. Where can I find further guidance and metadata on ITGS?

Further guidance and metadata on ITGS are available from the following sources:

- The [Statistics Explained page dedicated to International trade in goods](#) — It provides a global statistical picture of European ITGS and is updated on a regular basis.
- The [User Guide on European statistics on international trade in goods](#) — the purpose of this guide is to explain to a wide range of users how the statistics relating to trade in goods, both between EU Member States and with non-EU countries, are collected, compiled, processed and published at European level. The different issues are tackled in a question and answer format.
- The [Quality Report on European statistics on international trade in goods](#) — It allows the users to assess the quality of the international trade in goods statistics published by Eurostat. The data quality can be measured against indicators covering the following components: relevance, accuracy, timeliness and punctuality, accessibility and clarity, comparability and coherence.
- The [European business statistics compilers' manual for international trade in goods statistics — detailed data](#) — The purpose of this publication is to provide the compilers of European statistics on international trade in goods (ITGS) with clarifications on how to apply the EU legal provisions. With the help of concrete examples, clear text, definitions and systematic legislative references, the Manual is meant to serve as a practical reference document for National Statistical Authorities involved in the compilation of European ITGS.
- The [European business statistics geonomenclature applicable to European statistics on international trade in goods](#) — This publication provides the compilers and users of European statistics on international trade in goods with elaborate information on the nomenclature used to classify the reporting and partner countries. It includes the latest version of the 'nomenclature of countries and territories for the European statistics on international trade in goods and on the geographical breakdown for other business statistics' — known as the 'Geonomenclature', or GEONOM in abbreviated form —, as well as all the necessary information to understand the content of this country classification and the evolution of its codes. A further aim of this publication is to document the geographical and economic areas covered by the trade in goods statistics as disseminated by Eurostat.
- The [International trade reference metadata](#) in Euro SDMX Metadata Structure (ESMS) — These metadata cover methodological, qualitative and quantitative information in a standardised structure.
- The [Legislation page of Eurostat's website](#) dedicated to International trade in goods.
- The [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

2 Data compilation

2.1. Legislative background

As regards the compilation of international trade in goods statistics, the EU legislation aims at ensuring all Member States follow a harmonised approach. It sets out the rules, concepts and definitions to be applied and the obligations of every stakeholder in European ITGS. The EU provisions apply directly to European statistics only; they do not regulate the methods of compiling data required for national purposes.

The European Parliament and the Council adopted [Regulation No 2152/2019](#) (hereafter referred as 'EBS Regulation') on 17 December 2019. [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2020/1197](#) (hereafter referred as 'EBS GIA') was adopted on 30 July 2020. For international trade in goods statistics, these regulations are applicable from 1 January 2022 onwards. They introduce various changes in the data compilation and new requirements in terms of data transmissions to Eurostat.

The data requirements related to European aggregated statistics on international trade in goods are set out in Table 36 of EBS GIA Annex I, Part B reproduced hereafter.

EBS GIA Annex I, Part B – Table 36. Statistics on international activities – Exports and imports of goods – aggregated data

Variables	450103. Statistical value of exports of goods – aggregated data 450104. Statistical value of imports of goods – aggregated data
Measurement unit	Values in national currency (units)
Statistical population	Total exports or imports of goods
Breakdowns	Data to be provided as a combination of all breakdowns specified in the following: Geographical breakdown: — For all Member States: — Intra-Union — Extra-Union — Additionally, for Member States belonging to the euro area: — Intra-euro area — Extra-euro area Breakdown by commodity: — Total — Additionally: Sections 0 to 9 of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) in force during the reference period – mandatory only for extra-Union and extra-euro area partner zones
Data transmission deadline	T+40D
First reference period	January 2022

Note that the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland (part of the Withdrawal Agreement), applicable from 1 January 2021, stipulates that the United Kingdom (Northern Ireland) will continue to follow a limited set of Union rules, notably on ITGS. This means that aggregated data are not only to be provided by the EU Member States but also by the United Kingdom in respect of Northern Ireland (code XI).

Trade with United Kingdom (Northern Ireland) as additional data element

The set of mandatory data elements defined by the EBS General Implementing Act is complemented by information on trade with United Kingdom in respect of Northern Ireland (partner code 'XI').

These additional data available within 40 days after the reference month enables Eurostat to disseminate first figures on trade with partner United Kingdom (code 'GB') within the targeted timeframe of 46 days. These figures are obtained by summing up the aggregated data on trade with 'United Kingdom (Northern Ireland)' – partner code 'XI' – and the total values compiled from the detailed data on trade with 'United Kingdom (excluding Northern Ireland)' – partner code 'XU' – also transmitted to Eurostat within 40 days (source: customs declarations).

2.2. Scope

Same scope as the monthly detailed data

The scope of aggregated data is the same as for monthly detailed data on trade in goods and consist of both intra- and extra-EU trade flows. They cover all goods entering (imports) or leaving (exports) the statistical territories of the EU Member States. The statistical territory of a Member State corresponds to its customs territory with one exception: the statistical territory but not the customs territory of Germany includes Heligoland.

Certain types of goods or movements of goods (such as vessels or aircraft) are subject to specific provisions, while others are excluded (e.g. monetary gold, means of payment which are legal tender and securities).

As ITGS in general, aggregated data cover all sectors of the economy.

Missing data to be estimated

Aggregated data shall cover total exports and imports of the reference month. They can be:

- either entirely or partly estimated from time series;
- or compiled from detailed data available within 40 days after the reference month, completed by estimates for data still to be collected.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the national statistical authorities closely monitor that the aggregated results do not deviate from the totals of the final detailed results transmitted to Eurostat afterwards.

3

Data transmission to Eurostat

3.1. General description

Aggregated data files include the statistical data elements laid down in the EBS Regulation complemented by metadata.

Statistical data elements

The content of the aggregated data files is defined in Table 36 of EBS GIA Annex I, Part B as follows:

- Reference month
- Reporting Member State
- Flow
- Product
- Partner area
- Observation value

Metadata

[Regulation No 2152/2019](#) refers to the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) international initiative on statistical and technical standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata, as the standards to be used where appropriate for European business statistics. The EBS data transmission standard meets the requirement for SDMX-compliant format by integrating all the SDMX standard concepts and code lists. For the aggregated data flow, this implies that the list of statistical data elements defined in Table 36 of EBS GIA Annex I, Part B are complemented by the following SDMX recommended concepts:

- Frequency
- Indicator
- Observation status
- Confidentiality status
- Number of decimals
- Unit multiplier
- Unit of measure
- Embargo time

3.2. File content

This section defines the content of each concept and its compilation instructions.

SECTION 1 – FREQUENCY

Concept Name	Frequency
Concept ID	FREQ
Concept type	Dimension
Role	Mandatory
Code List or format	CL_FREQ
Constraint	Only code 'M'

Definition

The frequency is the time interval at which the source data are collected.

Compilation instructions

The aggregated data have to be submitted on a monthly basis. Only the code 'M' is then expected under this section. Files containing other codes will be rejected.

SECTION 2 – REPORTING COUNTRY

Concept Name	Reporting country
Concept ID	REF_AREA
Concept type	Dimension
Role	Mandatory
Code List or format	CL_GEONOM
Constraint	Only codes 'AT', 'BE', 'BG', 'CY', 'CZ', 'DE', 'DK', 'EE', 'ES', 'FI', 'FR', 'GR', 'HR', 'HU', 'IE', 'IT', 'LT', 'LU', 'LV', 'MT', 'NL', 'PL', 'PT', 'RO', 'SE', 'SI', 'SK', 'XI'

Definition

The reference area corresponds to the reporting Member State (or the territory for which data is reported in the case of Northern Ireland), i.e. the statistical territory to which the declared imports and exports of goods refer to.

Compilation instructions

Indication of the alpha-2 code (in capitals) of the Geonomenclature identifying the reporting Member State (or XI when the territory for which data is reported is Northern Ireland).

The code used for the reference area is the same as the one indicated in EDAMIS when sending the data except for Greece (GR' under Section 2 and 'EL' in EDAMIS).

Methodological notes

- The statistical territory of a Member State corresponds to its customs territory as defined in the Customs Code with one exception: the statistical territory but not the customs territory of Germany includes the Island of Heligoland.

- The Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland (part of the Withdrawal Agreement), applicable from 1 January 2021, stipulates that Northern Ireland will continue to follow a limited set of Union rules, notably on ITGS. As a consequence, aggregated data are also to be provided by 'United Kingdom (Northern Ireland)', corresponding to the code 'XI' under Section 2.

SECTION 3 – PARTNER AREA

Concept Name	Partner area
Concept ID	COUNTERPART_AREA
Concept type	Dimension
Role	Mandatory
Code List or format	CL_GEONOM
Constraint	Only codes 'XI', 'B00', 'D0', 'Z1', 'U4'

Definition

Country or geographical/economical group of countries with which the reporting country had trading activities during the reference period.

Compilation instructions

- Data for individual partner countries shall be summed up so as to provide aggregated data on trade with intra- and extra-EU partner areas for all the EU Member States. The EU Member States belonging to the euro area shall also provide aggregated data on trade with intra- and extra-EA partner areas.
- The definitions of intra- and extra-EU trade applicable to 2023 periods are the following:
 - B00 = AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, QR, QV and QY
 - D0 = All individual countries not included in B00 plus QP, QS, QW and QZ
- The definitions of intra- and extra-euro area trade applicable to 2023 periods are the following:
 - Z1 = AT, BE, CY, DE, EE, ES, FI, FR, HR, GR, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PT, SI, SK, QR, QV and QY
 - NB: Z1 = B00 - trade with non-EA Member States (BG, CZ, DK, HU, PL, RO, SE)
 - U4 = All individual countries not included in Z1 plus QP, QS, QW and QZ
 - NB: U4 = D0 + trade with non-EA Member States (BG, CZ, DK, , HU, PL, RO, SE)
- Note that: $B00 + D0 = Z1 + U4 = \text{trade with the world}$
- Trade with Northern Ireland – statistical code 'XI' – should also be provided in addition to the partner areas 'B00', 'D0', 'Z1' and 'U4'. These data are used to complement the detailed data on trade with 'United Kingdom (excluding Northern Ireland)' – statistical code 'XU' – collected via customs declarations (as for any other extra-EU trade data) and provided to Eurostat within 40 calendar days after the reference month. This enables Eurostat to disseminate aggregated data on trade with partner United Kingdom – statistical code 'GB' corresponding to 'XI' + 'XU' – within the targeted timeframe of 46 days after the end of the reference month, in line with the dissemination of data on trade with all other non-EU countries (see [Chapter 5 Data dissemination](#)).

Methodological notes

- Aggregated data relate to trade with partner areas only, with the exception of trade with 'United Kingdom (Northern Ireland)' as individual partner country (code 'XI'). Trade data by individual

partner country are used to compile data on trade with the partner areas 'intra-EU' and 'extra-EU' for all the EU Member States, and 'intra- euro area' and 'extra- euro area' for the EU Member States belonging to the euro area.

- At detailed level, the partner country is defined as:
 - the last known country of destination for intra- and extra-EU exports;
 - the country of origin for extra-EU imports and the country of consignment for intra-EU imports.

SECTION 4 – PRODUCT

Concept Name	Product
Concept ID	PRODUCT
Concept type	Dimension
Role	Mandatory
Code List or format	CL_SITC4_PRODUCT
Constraint	Only codes '_T', 'SITC0', 'SITC1', 'SITC2', 'SITC3', 'SITC4', 'SITC5', 'SITC6', 'SITC7', 'SITC8', 'SITC9'

Definition

Goods, or products, are defined as all movable property, including electrical energy and natural gas. In aggregated data, goods are classified according to the sections (i.e. 1-digit codes) of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), revision 4.

Compilation instructions

- Product codes to be provided according to the partner areas:
 - Total trade for intra-EU trade (code 'B00'): '_T';
 - Total trade and SITC sections 0 to 9 for extra-EU trade (code 'D0'): '_T', 'SITC0', 'SITC1', 'SITC2', 'SITC3', 'SITC4', 'SITC5', 'SITC6', 'SITC7', 'SITC8', 'SITC9';
 - Total trade for intra-euro area trade (code 'Z1'): '_T';
 - Total trade and SITC sections 0 to 9 for extra euro area trade (code 'U4'): '_T', 'SITC0', 'SITC1', 'SITC2', 'SITC3', 'SITC4', 'SITC5', 'SITC6', 'SITC7', 'SITC8', 'SITC9'.
- A value is expected for every SITC code, including code 'SITC9' (Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC). **If no trade is associated to the record then the observation value must be filled in with zero.**
- Total trade values recorded under code '_T' must match with the sum of trade values recorded for SITC sections 0 to 9.

Methodological notes

The product breakdown includes the residual category corresponding to the code 'SITC9' (Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere), under which can be classified confidential records or specific goods such as non-monetary gold.

SECTION 5 – TRADE FLOW

Concept Name	Trade flow
Concept ID	FLOW
Concept type	Dimension
Role	Mandatory
Code List or format	CL_TRADE_FLOW
Constraint	Only codes 'X' and 'M'

Definitions

- Export: Operation/movement of goods which subtract the goods from the stock of material resources of the reporting country by leaving its statistical territory.
- Import: Operation/movement of goods which add the goods to the stock of material resources of the reporting country by entering its statistical territory.

Compilation instructions

- The aggregated data file must contain both types of flows.
- The code 'X' has to be used for exports of goods, while the code 'M' has to be used for imports of goods.

Methodological notes

Except for some specific goods like vessels and aircraft, ITGS follow the physical movements of the goods. Member States should record an import when goods enter their statistical territory and an export when goods leave that territory except if those goods are in simple transit. Goods should be recorded only when adding to or subtracting from the stock of national material resources or, in the context of extra-EU trade, when customs formalities are applied.

SECTION 6 – EBS INDICATOR

Concept Name	EBS indicator
Concept ID	INDICATOR
Concept type	Dimension
Role	Mandatory
Code List or format	CL_EBS_INDICATOR
Constraint	Only code 'STAT_VAL'

Definition

The concept INDICATOR indicates which type of measure is reported under the section OBS_VALUE.

Compilation instructions

The code 'STAT_VAL' must be used in order to indicate that the measure reported under Section 8 'Observation value' corresponds to the statistical value.

SECTION 7 – REFERENCE MONTH

Concept Name	Reference month
Concept ID	TIME_PERIOD
Concept type	Dimension
Role	Mandatory
Code List or format	Time Format (YYYY-MM)
Constraint	-

Definition

Reference month during which goods are imported or exported.

Compilation instructions

- The aggregated data file can only refer to a single reference month.
- The reference month should be the one corresponding to the new period for which data are expected based on the legal data transmission deadline of 40 days after the reference month.
- The reference month should be indicated in the following time format: YYYY-MM. Note that the separator between the year 'YYYY' and the month 'MM' has to be a hyphen '-'. Example: '2023-01' for January 2023.

Methodological notes

Theoretically, the reference period for the information on international trade in goods transactions should be the calendar month of export or import of the goods. However, in practice the reference period for extra-EU trade is generally the calendar month during which the customs declaration is accepted by the National Customs Authority. The reference period for intra-EU trade may be adapted in case of sales or purchases to the calendar month during which the VAT on the intra-EU supplies or acquisitions becomes chargeable. The chargeable event relates to the issue date of the invoice.

SECTION 8 – OBSERVATION VALUE

Concept Name	Trade value
Concept ID	OBS_VALUE
Concept type	Measure
Role	Mandatory
Code List or format	Double
Constraint	-

Definition

The observation value correspond to the statistical value as indicated under the concept INDICATOR, Section 6. The statistical value is the value of the goods at the time and place they cross the border of the reporting country.

Compilation instructions

- The statistical value is to be expressed in national currency units of the reporting country, with a maximum of two decimals, without thousands separators and without spaces, using a point ('.') as decimal separator. Both types of values, with (e.g. 150.15 or 150.1) or without decimals (e.g. 150)

are accepted.

- Total trade values must correspond to the sum of values by product.
- A value is expected for every product code, including code 'SITC9' (Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC). If no trade is associated to the record then the observation value must be filled in with zero.

Methodological notes

- The statistical value is based on the same definition as the one applied for monthly detailed statistics.
- The value of traded goods is calculated at the national frontier, on a FOB (free on board) basis for exports and a CIF (cost, insurance, freight) basis for imports. Hence, only incidental expenses (freight, insurance) are included and they are incurred for:
 - exports in the part of the journey located on the territory of the country where the goods are exported from;
 - imports in the part of the journey located outside the territory of the country where the goods are imported to.

SECTION 9 – OBSERVATION STATUS

Concept Name	Observation status
Concept ID	OBS_STATUS
Concept type	Attribute
Role	Mandatory
Code List or format	CL_OBS_STATUS
Constraint	Only code 'A'

Definition

Information on the quality of a value or an unusual or missing value.

Compilation instructions

Code to be used (as defined in the SDMX standard for observation status):

- A (Normal value)

The code 'A' is to be used even if data includes estimates.

SECTION 10 – CONFIDENTIALITY STATUS

Concept Name	Confidentiality status
Concept ID	CONF_STATUS
Concept type	Attribute
Role	Mandatory
Code List or format	CL_CONF_STATUS
Constraint	Only code F for 'Free for publication'

Definition

Information about the confidentiality status of the record to which this attribute is attached.

Compilation instructions

Aggregated data are not detailed enough to make it possible to identify a specific trader. Therefore no specific confidentiality treatment applies and the code to be used for this section (as defined in the SDMX standard for observation status) is:

- F (Free for publication).

SECTION 11 – NUMBER OF DECIMALS

Concept Name	Number of decimals
Concept ID	DECIMALS
Concept type	Attribute
Role	Mandatory
Code List or format	CL_DECIMALS
Constraint	Only code '2'

Definition

Number of digits of an observation to the right of a decimal point.

Compilation instructions

The statistical values provided under Section 8 must be expressed in units of national currency with an accuracy up to two decimals, corresponding to the indication of code '2' under Section 11.

SECTION 12 – UNIT MULTIPLIER

Concept Name	Unit multiplier
Concept ID	UNIT_MULT
Concept type	Attribute
Role	Mandatory
Code List or format	CL_UNIT_MULT
Constraint	Only code '0'

Definition

Exponent in base 10 used for calculating the actual value in the unit of measure.

Compilation instructions

Aggregated data should be reported in units of national currency, i.e. unit multiplier should be set to zero.

SECTION 13 – UNIT OF MEASURE

Concept Name	Unit of measure
Concept ID	UNIT_MEASURE
Concept type	Attribute
Role	Mandatory
Code List or format	CL_UNIT
Constraint	Only codes 'BGN', 'CZK', 'DKK', 'EUR', 'GBP', 'HUF', 'PLN', 'RON', 'SEK'

Definition

Unit in which the observation values are expressed.

Compilation instructions

Values should be reported in units of the national currency having legal-tender status in the reporting country:

- euro ('EUR') for Member States belonging to the euro area;
- national currency for Member States not belonging to the euro area: Bulgarian lev ('BGN') for Bulgaria, Czech koruna ('CZK') for Czechia, Danish krone ('DKK') for Denmark, UK pound sterling ('GBP') for Northern Ireland, Hungarian forint ('HUF') for Hungary, Polish zloty ('PLN') for Poland, Romanian leu ('RON') for Romania, Swedish krona ('SEK') for Sweden.

SECTION 14 – EMBARGO TIME

Concept Name	Embargo time
Concept ID	EMBARGO_TIME
Concept type	Attribute
Role	Optional
Code List or format	DateTime Format
Constraint	-

Definition

Exact time at which the data can be made available to the public.

Compilation instructions

- Embargo time needs to be filled in only if the reporting country wish that Eurostat would not publish the data prior to their dissemination at national level. If relevant, embargo time should be indicated in the following time format: YYYYMMDDThh:mm:ss.
- **An embargo time is to be indicated only if necessary.** The field must remain empty otherwise. In such a case, the last field to be filled in would be the 'Unit of measure', with the indication of the relevant national currency followed by a semicolon ';'. See example shown in [section 3.3](#) hereafter.

Methodological notes

- Data are considered as delivered only when they can be disseminated. This means that the receipt date recorded by Eurostat for data transmitted under embargo is the one corresponding to the embargo time. Embargo time post legal transmission deadline (40 days after the reference month

for aggregated data) will then lead to an issue of non-compliance with the legislation. **Therefore NSAs are encouraged to adapt their national release calendar so that aggregated data can be published by Eurostat within 40 days after the reference month.**

- Aggregated data are used by Eurostat in the context of its monthly News Release on international trade in goods. The release calendar is accessible on Eurostat's [website](#).

3.3. File format

Aggregated data and accompanying metadata are transmitted via CSV files that are SDMX-compliant and have the following characteristics:

- header row with the term DATAFLOW (as constant text) in the first column, followed by the dimension IDs, as defined in section 3.2 above;
- semi-colon (;) as field separator;
- point (.) as decimal separator;
- line break (CRLF) as record separator;
- For aggregated data, the dataflow is named **ESTAT:COMEXT_AGG_A(2.0)**.

Notes

- The embargo time is to be indicated only if necessary, otherwise the field should remain empty, as shown in the example below.
- All other fields are mandatory and must be filled in.
- If no trade is associated to the record, the observation value must be filled in with zero.

More information about SDMX-CSV format specifications can be found on the [Standards page](#) of the SDMX website. **SDMX-CSV is the only format applicable to the transmission of aggregated data from the transmission of January 2023 data onwards.** No other format is accepted.

Reporting countries are strongly encouraged to send test files to Eurostat before the transmission of January 2023 data. This would allow to solve possible errors and inconsistencies in the structure and/or in the content of the data file in due time. The procedure to be followed to send test files is described under [section 3.5](#).

Example of records in an aggregated data file with embargo time

```

DATAFLOW;FREQ;REF_AREA;COUNTERPART_AREA;PRODUCT;FLOW;INDICATOR;TIME_PERIOD;OBS_VALUE;OBS_STATUS;
CONF_STATUS;DECIMALS;UNIT_MULT;UNIT_MEASURE;EMBARGO_TIME
ESTAT:COMEXT_AGG_A(2.0);M;DE;D0;_T;M;STAT_VAL;2023-01;522660;A;F;2;0;EUR;2023-03-15T11:00:00
ESTAT:COMEXT_AGG_A(2.0);M;DE;D0;SITC0;M;STAT_VAL;2023-01;265;A;F;2;0;EUR;2023-03-15T11:00:00
ESTAT:COMEXT_AGG_A(2.0);M;DE;D0;SITC1;M;STAT_VAL;2023-01;14875;A;F;2;0;EUR;2023-03-15T11:00:00
ESTAT:COMEXT_AGG_A(2.0);M;DE;D0;SITC2;M;STAT_VAL;2023-01;44597;A;F;2;0;EUR;2023-03-15T11:00:00
ESTAT:COMEXT_AGG_A(2.0);M;DE;D0;SITC3;M;STAT_VAL;2023-01;1021;A;F;2;0;EUR;2023-03-15T11:00:00
ESTAT:COMEXT_AGG_A(2.0);M;DE;D0;SITC4;M;STAT_VAL;2023-01;49285;A;F;2;0;EUR;2023-03-15T11:00:00
ESTAT:COMEXT_AGG_A(2.0);M;DE;D0;SITC5;M;STAT_VAL;2023-01;52317;A;F;2;0;EUR;2023-03-15T11:00:00
ESTAT:COMEXT_AGG_A(2.0);M;DE;D0;SITC6;M;STAT_VAL;2023-01;188897;A;F;2;0;EUR;2023-03-15T11:00:00
ESTAT:COMEXT_AGG_A(2.0);M;DE;D0;SITC7;M;STAT_VAL;2023-01;76053;A;F;2;0;EUR;2023-03-15T11:00:00
ESTAT:COMEXT_AGG_A(2.0);M;DE;D0;SITC8;M;STAT_VAL;2023-01;30063;A;F;2;0;EUR;2023-03-15T11:00:00
ESTAT:COMEXT_AGG_A(2.0);M;DE;D0;SITC9;M;STAT_VAL;2023-01;65287;A;F;2;0;EUR;2023-03-15T11:00:00

```

Example of records in an aggregated data file without embargo time

```

DATAFLOW;FREQ;REF_AREA;COUNTERPART_AREA;PRODUCT;FLOW;INDICATOR;TIME_PERIOD;OBS_VALUE;OBS_STATUS;
CONF_STATUS;DECIMALS;UNIT_MULT;UNIT_MEASURE;EMBARGO_TIME
ESTAT:COMEXT_AGG_A(2.0);M;DE;D0;_T;M;STAT_VAL;2023-01;522660;A;F;2;0;EUR;
ESTAT:COMEXT_AGG_A(2.0);M;DE;D0;SITC0;M;STAT_VAL;2023-01;265;A;F;2;0;EUR;
ESTAT:COMEXT_AGG_A(2.0);M;DE;D0;SITC1;M;STAT_VAL;2023-01;14875;A;F;2;0;EUR;
ESTAT:COMEXT_AGG_A(2.0);M;DE;D0;SITC2;M;STAT_VAL;2023-01;44597;A;F;2;0;EUR;
ESTAT:COMEXT_AGG_A(2.0);M;DE;D0;SITC3;M;STAT_VAL;2023-01;1021;A;F;2;0;EUR;
ESTAT:COMEXT_AGG_A(2.0);M;DE;D0;SITC4;M;STAT_VAL;2023-01;49285;A;F;2;0;EUR;
ESTAT:COMEXT_AGG_A(2.0);M;DE;D0;SITC5;M;STAT_VAL;2023-01;52317;A;F;2;0;EUR;
ESTAT:COMEXT_AGG_A(2.0);M;DE;D0;SITC6;M;STAT_VAL;2023-01;188897;A;F;2;0;EUR;
ESTAT:COMEXT_AGG_A(2.0);M;DE;D0;SITC7;M;STAT_VAL;2023-01;76053;A;F;2;0;EUR;
ESTAT:COMEXT_AGG_A(2.0);M;DE;D0;SITC8;M;STAT_VAL;2023-01;30063;A;F;2;0;EUR;
ESTAT:COMEXT_AGG_A(2.0);M;DE;D0;SITC9;M;STAT_VAL;2023-01;65287;A;F;2;0;EUR;

```

3.4. Transmission deadlines

As laid down in Table 36 of EBS GIA Annex I, Part B, national statistical authorities shall transmit to Eurostat aggregated monthly data no later than 40 calendar days after the end of the reference month.

The following deadlines apply to the transmission of aggregated data relating to 2023 periods:

Reference period	Transmission deadlines	
	Date	Timeliness
January 2023	Monday 13/03/2023	41 days
February 2023	Monday 10/04/2023	41 days
March 2023	Wednesday 10/05/2023	40 days
April 2023	Friday 09/06/2023	40 days
May 2023	Monday 10/07/2023	40 days
June 2023	Wednesday 09/08/2023	40 days
July 2023	Monday 11/09/2023	42 days
August 2023	Tuesday 10/10/2023	40 days
September 2023	Thursday 09/11/2023	40 days
October 2023	Monday 11/12/2023	41 days
November 2023	Tuesday 09/01/2024	40 days
December 2023	Friday 09/02/2024	40 days

Note: If the 40-day deadline falls on a weekend, the transmission deadline is the next Monday.

3.5. Transmission channels

The EDAMIS web portal is the official entry point for the transmission of ITGS aggregated data to Eurostat. It is accessible via the following link: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/edamis4>.

EDAMIS is made available through different networks: the Internet, and secure European networks like TESTA and CCN. Information regarding networks, comparison between the different transmission methods and step-by-step instructions for file submission are provided in EDAMIS [short](#) and [extensive user guides](#) developed by Eurostat.

The aggregated data files shall be transmitted via EDAMIS using the dataset called 'COMEXT_AGG_M'.

However, under exceptional circumstances, the transmission via email could be used. An example of exceptional circumstances is when the web portal is not available and an urgent retransmission of data is requested. In such circumstances, an email with the attached data can be sent to: ESTAT-ITGS_AGG@ec.europa.eu.

Nota Bene

For Greece, the alpha-2 country code to be indicated in the data file under Section 2 'Reporting country' differs from the one required by EDAMIS: For Greece: 'GR' under Section 2 and 'EL' in EDAMIS.

How to pre-validate data before official submission

Reporting countries can pre-validate their data before official submission to Eurostat by clicking the 'Pre-Validation only' button available in the EDAMIS production environment (<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/edamis4/transmissions/send-datafile>) instead of the 'Send' button. It is important to stress that files that, even if the pre-validation is successful, the file will not be automatically communicated to Eurostat. For official transmission, the 'Send' button must be used.

3.6. Data revisions

Aggregated data are collected by Eurostat with the aim to speed up the dissemination of first figures on international trade in goods. They are used as long as detailed data on intra- and extra-EU trade are not available, which means in general once, for the publication of data on the new reference month.

Revisions of aggregated data are then useless except in very exceptional cases, i.e. when there is a considerable delay in transmitting the detailed data.

No data revisions should be sent except upon request of Eurostat.

3.7. Support to data providers

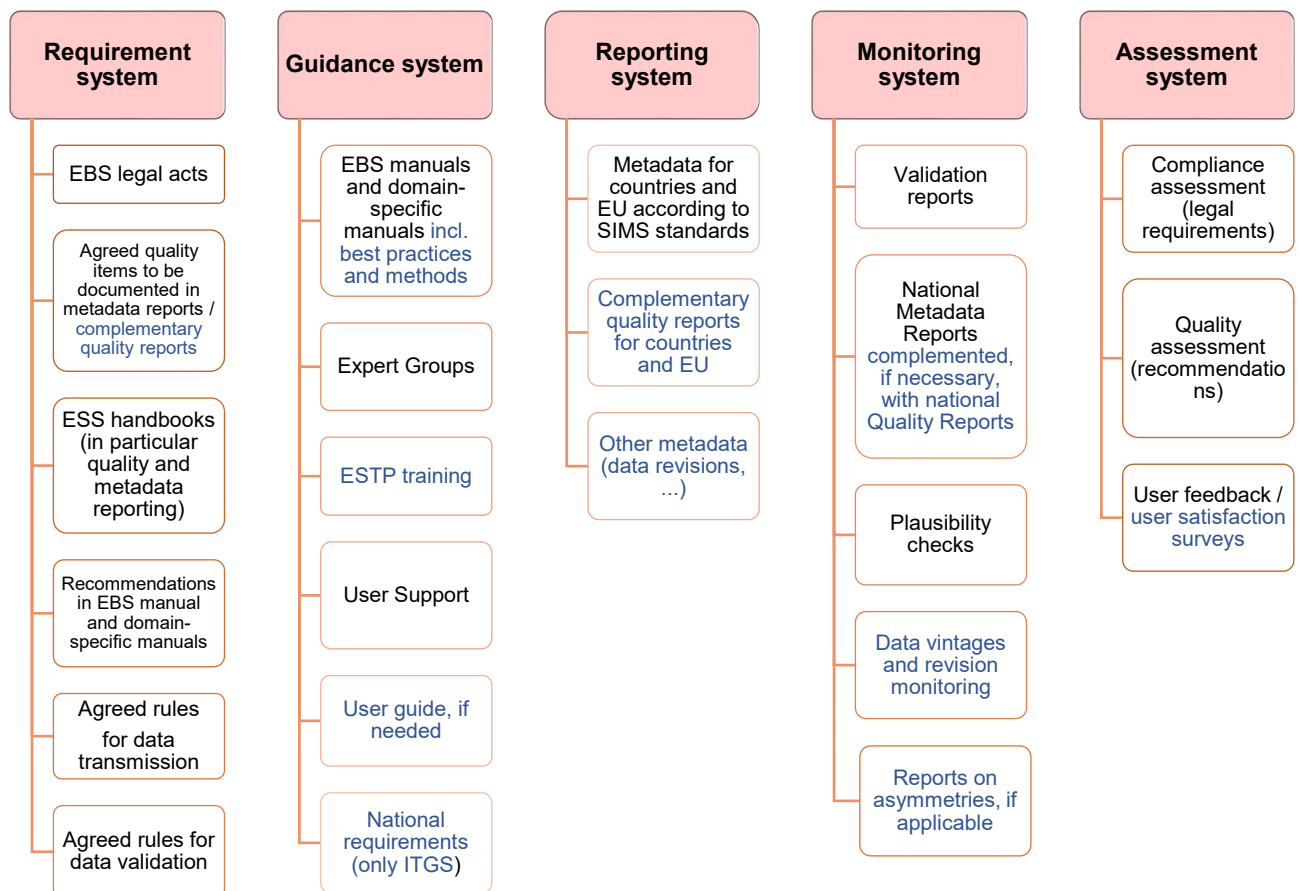
Note that specific support is available for questions on aggregated data through the following email address: ESTAT-ITGS_AGG@ec.europa.eu.

4 Data quality

4.1. Quality framework

4.1.1. EBS QUALITY FRAMEWORK

Under the EBS Regulation, efforts to harmonise the quality framework for the business and trade statistics covered are foreseen. As shown below, the core EBS quality framework encompasses different instruments that ensure high quality statistics and allow users to understand the quality issues for the statistics concerned.



The instruments in black form the set of core instruments for ensuring the quality of business and trade statistics which should eventually be in place for all business and trade statistics. The instruments in blue are deemed optional according to the needs of the individual domains.

4.1.2. IMPLEMENTATION FOR AGGREGATED DATA

REQUIREMENT SYSTEM	
EBS legal acts	See section 2.1 Legislative background Table 36 of EBS GIA Annex I, Part B
Agreed quality items to be documented in metadata reports	<p>12.3.1 Number of incomplete monthly datasets over the reference year Identification of incomplete datasets</p> <p>12.3.2 Data completeness rate Identification of missing cells</p> <p>13.3.1 Aggregated data versus last version of detailed data</p> <p>13.3.2 Aggregated data versus first version of detailed data</p> <p>14.1.1 Timeliness of aggregated data</p> <p>14.2.1 Punctuality of aggregated data</p> <p>18.1 Data source – Characteristics and components of the source data used for compiling ITGS aggregated data</p> <p>18.2 Frequency of data collection</p> <p>18.3 Data collection – Description of the systematic process of gathering data on the basis of which aggregated data are compiled.</p> <p>18.4 Data validation – Description of the process of monitoring the results of ITGS aggregated data compilation and ensuring the quality of statistical results</p> <p>18.5 Data compilation – Description of the operations performed on the source data to derive ITGS aggregated data compliant with EU requirements</p>
ESS handbooks (in particular quality and metadata reporting)	European Statistical System (ESS) handbook for quality and metadata reports
Recommendations	See section 2.2 Scope
Agreed rules for data transmission	See chapter 3 Data transmission to Eurostat
Agreed rules for data validation	See Annex 3 ITGS_AGG validation rules
GUIDANCE SYSTEM	
EBS manuals and domain-specific manuals incl. best practices and methods	Specific manual: <i>European business statistics compilers' manual for international trade in goods statistics – aggregated data</i>

Expert Groups	ITGS Task Force on Compilation and Quality ITGS Task Force on Methodology
ESTP training	Not relevant for aggregated data
User Support	ESTAT-ITGS_AGG@ec.europa.eu
User guide, if needed	Not relevant for aggregated data considering that they are disseminated only for a short period of time, until detailed data are available
National requirements (only ITGS)	Not applicable for aggregated data
REPORTING SYSTEM	
Metadata for countries and EU according to SIMS standards	Not relevant for aggregated data considering that they are disseminated only for a short period of time, until detailed data are available
Complementary quality reports for countries and EU	Quality report on European statistics on international trade in goods
Other metadata (data revisions, ...)	Not relevant for aggregated data
MONITORING SYSTEM	
Validation reports	Countries contacted in case of issues
National Metadata Reports complemented, if necessary, with national Quality Reports	Collection of metadata according to the single integrated metadata structure (SIMS)
Plausibility checks	Checks based on forecasts
Data vintages and revision monitoring	Not applicable for aggregated data (no revision requested)
Reports on asymmetries, if applicable	Not applicable for aggregated data
ASSESSMENT SYSTEM	
Compliance assessment (legal requirements)	Assessment carried out at least once a year
Quality assessment (recommendations)	Quality assessment carried out at least once a year
User feedback / user satisfaction surveys	Collected via questions addressed to the user support

4.2. Data validation by Eurostat

Although reporting countries are responsible for the quality of the data provided, Eurostat performs a series of checks in order to ensure the correctness of data transmission format and the absence of errors. The validation process is currently structured according to the validation levels classification

established by the ESS.VIP on validation.

- Validation Level 0: consistency with the expected IT structural requirements
- Validation Level 1: consistency within the dataset
- Validation Level 2: consistency with other datasets within the same domain and the same data source
- Validation Level 3: consistency within the same domain between different data sources
- Validation Level 4: consistency between separate domains in the same data provider
- Validation Level 5: consistency with data of other data providers

For the aggregated data validation process, currently only levels 0 to 3 are used currently. The format checks, the checks on the completeness of the file and uniqueness of the records (level 0) and the checks on consistency of data (level 1) are of highest priority. These checks are performed by two Corporate validation tools:

- The Structural Validation service (called STRUVAL) performs structural validation of statistical data files following the SDMX Information Model for a given data flow.
- The Content Validation service (called CONVAL) performs the validation of the content of statistical datasets based on validation rules and constraints applying to the respective domain.

Failing to pass those priority checks executed by STRUVAL and CONVAL implies the rejection of the file and the automatic sending of an error report describing the issue(s) to the data provider. The structure of data files is verified in the first place. Should STRUVAL detect a requirement not being fulfilled, the content of the file is not further checked by CONVAL. In other words, the content of the data file can only be checked once the structure is successfully validated.

When the file is successfully validated by both tools, it is uploaded into the production database where additional checks (listed below) are executed.

These other checks may result in a list of warnings for which the reporting country is asked either to send revised data or to confirm the data correctness according to the type of warning spotted.

A literary description of the different checks performed on aggregated data is provided below, with an indication of those executed by STRUVAL and CONVAL respectively. **More details, especially regarding the rules applied and the error severity, are included in [Annex 3 - ITGS_AGG validation rules](#).**

Validation Level 0 – Consistency with the expected IT structural requirements

The first step consists in checking the compliance of the file with the structure and the format required in the DSD file. The checks performed at this stage refer to the:

- **Validity of format (STRUVAL)** – Aggregated data are expected to be sent in the sole SDMX-CSV format as defined under [section 3.3](#) above. The number of concepts should be according to those included in [ITGS_AGG DSD](#).
- **Validity of codes (STRUVAL)** – These checks are performed on each dimension and attribute at record level. They aim to verify that each reported code belongs to the code list related to that particular dimension or attribute.
- **Integrity of the file (STRUVAL)** – No duplicate id-keys between the different records (i.e. no duplicate combinations of the content of key dimensions)

Validation Level 1 – Consistency within the dataset

The next step in the validation process consists in analysing the content of the file. The checks

performed at this stage refer to the:

- **Completeness of the file (CONVAL)** – This check consists in verifying that the number of records contained in the file is equal to the total number expected for this dataset. A distinction is made between EA (euro area) and non-EA Member States. All EU Member States are expected to provide data on intra- and extra-EU trade, with a breakdown by SITC 1-digit product for extra-EU trade. In addition, those belonging to the euro area have to provide data on intra- and extra-EA trade, with a breakdown by SITC 1-digit product for extra-EA trade. A value is expected for every record, including for the code 'SITC9' (Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC). If no trade is associated to the record then the observation value must be filled in with zero.
- **Consistency with EDAMIS metadata (CONVAL)** – This check ensures that the reporting country and the reference period reported in the data file correspond respectively to the country and year indicated in the "FROM" and "REFERENCE YEAR" fields in EDAMIS metadata.
- **Intra-record checks on values (CONVAL)** – This check consists in verifying that every value is non-negative (CONVAL).
- **Inter-record consistency checks (CONVAL)** – These checks aim to verify the consistency between the observation value of two or more records. These records can be linked by an equality or an inequality. The link is described in a consistency rule. The following checks have been implemented for aggregated data:
 - Equality between total trade and sum of values by SITC products, for imports and exports separately;
 - For EA Member States, equality between sum of intra- and extra-EU trade and sum of intra- and extra-EA trade, for imports and exports separately;

Validation Level 2 – Consistency with other datasets within the same domain and the same data source

In this step, the trade values are compared with Eurostat's forecasts. When a data is deemed too far from the expected value (i.e. the trade value falls outside the confidence band), Eurostat contact the concerned Member State in order to receive clarifications and confirmation of the data correctness.

Validation Level 3 – Consistency within the same domain between different data sources

Aggregated data are checked against the detailed data available. In case of significant inconsistency between the two sources, Member States are contacted for providing clarifications and corrections, if needed.

The list of validation rules according to the level and their severity can be found in [Annex 3](#).

5

Data dissemination

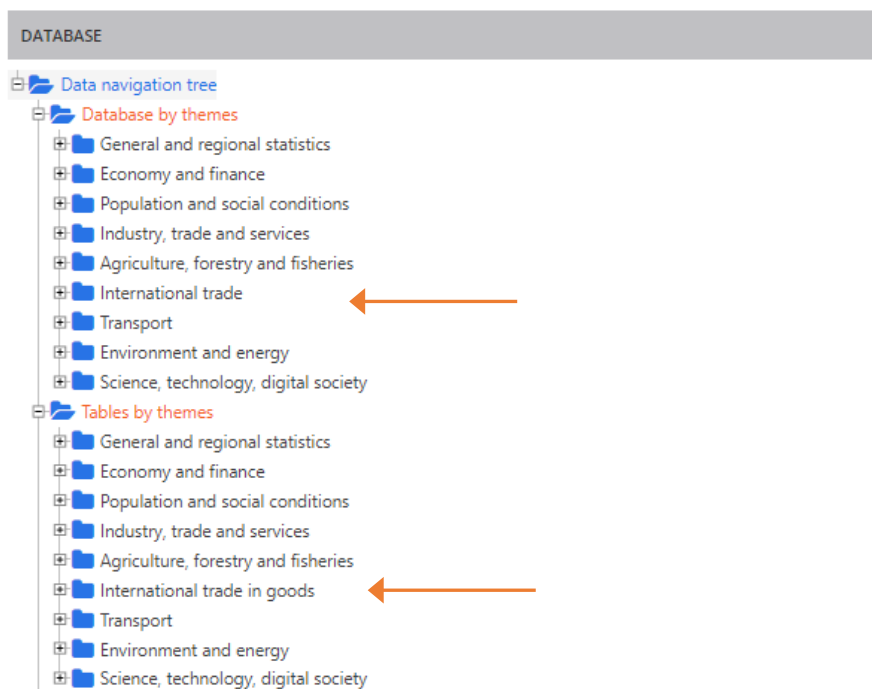
Aggregated data correspond to provisional figures used only temporarily, as long as the detailed data relating to the same partner area and reference month are not available. In general, this means during one month as it is the maximum time lag for reaching full coverage from detailed data.

5.1. Via the News Release on international trade in goods

Aggregated data are primarily collected for Eurostat's monthly News Release on international trade in goods. All news releases can be found under <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/international-trade-in-goods/publications>. The news release is published at 11:00 am CET on the day indicated in the release calendar for euro indicators (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/news/release-calendar> - indicator name: International trade in goods).

5.2. Via Eurostat's online database

Aggregated data used for the news release are also disseminated via Eurostat's online database under the theme 'International trade in goods'. See 'Database by themes' and 'Tables by themes' in the [Data navigation tree](#).



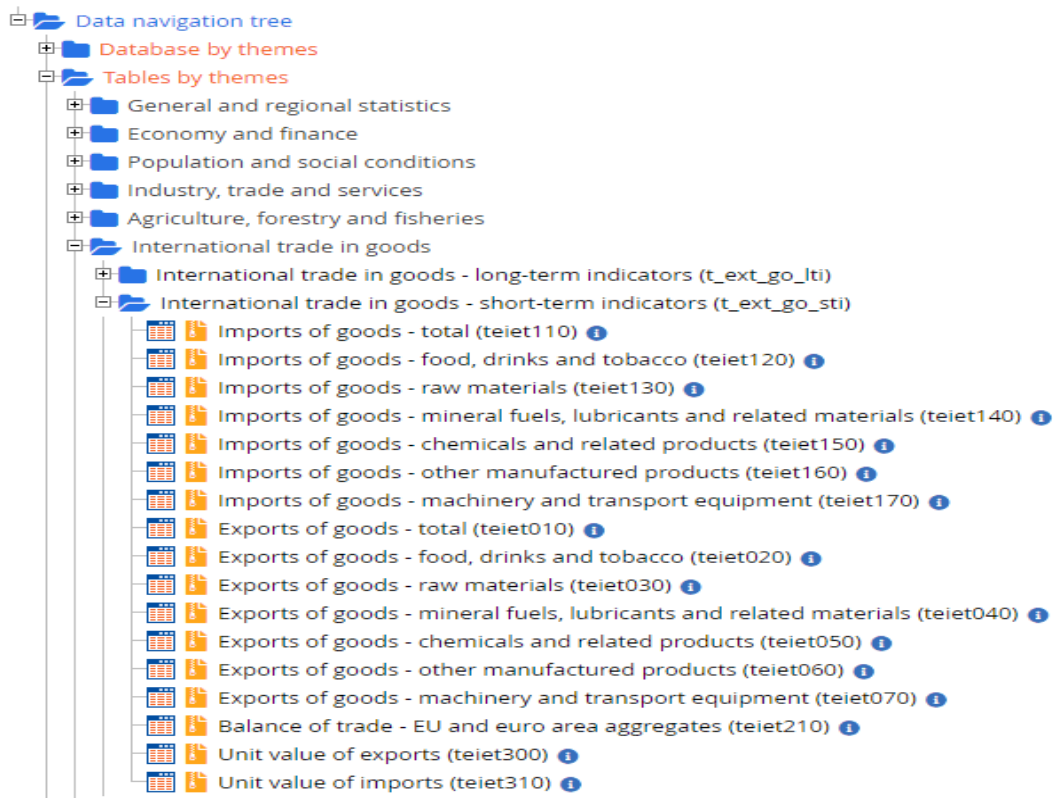
- Database by themes – Branch ‘International trade in goods - short-term indicators ([ext_go_sti](#))’

As shown below, data are made available in separate datasets for the European Union and euro area as reporting entities as well as for the EU Member States individually.

The screenshot shows the 'DATABASE' navigation tree. The path is: Database by themes > International trade > International trade in goods (ext_go) > International trade in goods - short-term indicators (ext_go_sti). An orange arrow points to the 'International trade in goods - short-term indicators (ext_go_sti)' folder. Below this, a detailed view of the 'International trade in goods - short-term indicators (ext_go_sti)' folder is shown, listing several datasets: EU27 (from 2020) trade by SITC product group (ext_st_eu27_2020sitc), Euro area19 trade by SITC product group since 1999 (ext_st_ea19sitc), EU27 (from 2020) trade by BEC product group (ext_st_eu27_2020bec), Euro area19 trade by BEC product group since 1999 (ext_st_ea19bec), Member States EU27 (from 2020) trade by BEC product group since 1999 (ext_st_27_2020msbec), and Macro series for EFTA, enlargement countries and Northern Ireland (raw data and growth rates) (ext_st_eftacc).

- Table by themes – Branch ‘International trade in goods - short-term indicators ([t_ext_go_sti](#))’

The ‘Tables by themes’ are predefined tables focusing on key indicators. They are automatically refreshed when data are loaded into the database. They include key indicators for the EU and the euro area. Data are available for total trade and for a limited range of broad product categories (i.e. by aggregates of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)).



Annex 1 — Overview of ITGS_AGG DSD

The DSD is available at [Euro SDMX Registry](#) with the following specifications:

- DSD agency: ESTAT
- DSD Name: ITGS_AGG
- DSD Version: 1.0

This annex contains all the information about the concepts and their types (dimension, measure or attribute), roles (mandatory or optional) and related code lists or format.

Section number	Concept type *	Role **	Concept ID	Concept Name	Code List or format	Agency
1	D	M	FREQ	Frequency	CL_FREQ+2.0	SDMX
2	D	M	REF_AREA	Reporting country	CL_GEONOM+1.0	ESTAT
3	D	M	COUNTERPART_AREA	Partner area	CL_GEONOM+1.0	ESTAT
4	D	M	PRODUCT	Product	CL_SITC4_PRODUCT+1.0	ESTAT
5	D	M	FLOW	Trade flow	CL_TRADE_FLOW+2.0	ESTAT
6	D	M	INDICATOR	EBS indicator	CL_EBS_INDICATOR+1.0	ESTAT
7	D	M	TIME_PERIOD	Reference month	Time Format	
8	M	M	OBS_VALUE	Trade value	Double	
9	A	M	OBS_STATUS	Observation status	CL_OBS_STATUS+2.2	SDMX
10	A	M	CONF_STATUS	Confidentiality status	CL_CONF_STATUS+1.2	SDMX
11	A	M	DECIMALS	Number of decimals	CL_DECIMALS+1.0	SDMX
12	A	M	UNIT_MULT	Unit multiplier	CL_UNIT_MULT+1.1	SDMX
13	A	M	UNIT_MEASURE	National currency unit	CL_UNIT+1.15	IMF
14	A	O	EMBARGO_TIME	Embargo time	DateTime Format	

* Concept type: A = Attribute
D = Dimension
M = Measure

** Role: M = Mandatory
O = Optional

Annex 2 — ITGS_AGG code lists

SDMX+CL_FREQ+2.0

CODE	LABEL	ITGS_AGG
W	Weekly	
S	Half-yearly	
Q	Quarterly	
O	Other	
N	Non periodic	
M	Monthly	x
D	Daily	
A	Annual	
A9	Every nine years	
A8	Every eight years	
A7	Every seven years	
A6	Every six years	
A5	Every five years	
A4	Every four years	
A3	Every three years	
A2	Every two years	

ESTAT+CL_GEONOM+1.0

Extract of the full code list, including only those codes that are relevant for AGG data transmission

CODE	LABEL	ITGS_AGG	
		REF_AREA	COUNTERPART_AREA
AT	Austria	X	
BE	Belgium	X	
BG	Bulgaria	X	
CY	Cyprus	X	
CZ	Czechia	X	
DE	Germany	X	
DK	Denmark	X	
EE	Estonia	X	
ES	Spain	X	
FI	Finland	X	
FR	France	X	
GR	Greece	X	
HR	Croatia	X	
HU	Hungary	X	
IE	Ireland	X	
IT	Italy	X	
LT	Lithuania	X	
LU	Luxembourg	X	
LV	Latvia	X	
MT	Malta	X	
NL	Netherlands	X	
PL	Poland	X	
PT	Portugal	X	
RO	Romania	X	
SE	Sweden	X	
SI	Slovenia	X	
SK	Slovakia	X	
XI	United Kingdom (Northern Ireland)	X	X
B00	Intra-EU (changing composition)		X
D0	Extra-EU (changing composition)		X
Z1	Intra-euro area (changing composition)		X
U4	Extra-euro area (changing composition)		X

ESTAT+CL_SITC4_PRODUCT+1.0

Extract of the full code list, including only those codes that are relevant for AGG data transmission

CODE	LEVEL	LABEL	ITGS_AGG
_T	_T	Total	x
SITC0	0	Food and live animals	x
SITC1	1	Beverages and tobacco	x
SITC2	2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	x
SITC3	3	Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	x
SITC4	4	Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	x
SITC5	5	Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.	x
SITC6	6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	x
SITC7	7	Machinery and transport equipment	x
SITC8	8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	x
SITC9	9	Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC	x

Note: The full code list related to the PRODUCT concept has more than 4 000 entries and encompasses all levels of SITC Rev. 4 (i.e. 10 sections identified by a one-digit numerical code (0 to 9), 67 divisions identified by a two-digit numerical code, 262 groups identified by a three-digit numerical code, 1 023 sub-groups identified by a four-digit numerical code and 2 970 basic headings (items) identified by a five-digit numerical code). For sake of clarity, only the codes that are relevant for aggregated data are listed above.

ESTAT+CL_TRADE_FLOW+1.0

CODE	LABEL	ITGS_AGG
X	Total exports	x
X1	Export of domestic goods	
X2	Re-exports	
X3	Export of goods after inward processing	
X3_WO	Export of goods after inward processing w/o change of ownership	
X3_W	Export of goods after inward processing with change of ownership	
X4	Export of goods for outward processing	
X4_WO	Export of goods for outward processing w/o change of ownership	
X4_W	Export of goods for outward processing with change of ownership	
X5	Export on intra-firm trade	
M	Total imports	x
M1	Import of foreign goods	
M2	Re-imports	
M3	Import of goods for inward processing	
M3_WO	Imports of goods for inward processing w/o change of ownership	
M3_W	Imports of goods for inward processing with change of ownership	
M4	Import of goods after outward processing	
M4_WO	Import of goods after outward processing w/o change of ownership	
M4_W	Import of goods after outward processing with change of ownership	
M5	Import on intra-firm trade	

ESTAT+CL_EBS_INDICATOR+1.0

CODE	LABEL	ITGS_AGG
NB_ENT	Number of enterprises	
NB_ENT_TRD	Number of enterprises engaged in international trade	
STAT_VAL	Statistical value of imports / exports of goods	x
QTY_NET_MASS	Quantity of imports / exports of goods - Net Mass	
QTY_SU	Quantity of imports / exports of goods - Supplementary Unit	
NB_TR	Number of traders	

SDMX+CL_OBS_STATUS+2.2

CODE	LABEL	ITGS_AGG
A	Normal value	x
B	Time series break	
D	Definition differs	
E	Estimated value	
F	Forecast value	
G	Experimental value	
I	Value imputed by a receiving agency	
K	Data included in another category	
W	Includes data from another category	
O	Missing value	
M	Missing value; data cannot exist	
P	Provisional value	
S	Strike and other special events	
L	Missing value; data exist but were not collected	
H	Missing value; holiday or weekend	
Q	Missing value; suppressed	
J	Derogation	
N	Not significant	
U	Low reliability	
V	Unvalidated value	

SDMX+CL_CONF_STATUS+1.2

CODE	LABEL	ITGS_TIC
F	Free (free for publication)	x
N	Not for publication, restricted for internal use only	
C	Confidential statistical information	
D	Secondary confidentiality set by the sender, not for publication	
S	Secondary confidentiality set and managed by the receiver, not for publication	
A	Primary confidentiality due to small counts	
O	Primary confidentiality due to dominance by one unit	
T	Primary confidentiality due to dominance by two units	
G	Primary confidentiality due to dominance by one or two units	
M	Primary confidentiality due to data declared confidential based on other measures of concentration	
E	Not for publication, restricted for internal use only (equivalent to the code N) until the embargo time elapses; Free for publication (equivalent to the code F) after the embargo time elapses	

SDMX+CL_DECIMALS+1.0

CODE	LABEL	ITGS_AGG
0	Zero	
1	One	
2	Two	x
3	Three	
4	Four	
5	Five	
6	Six	
7	Seven	

SDMX+CL_UNIT_MULT+1.1

CODE	LABEL	ITGS_AGG
0	Units	x
1	Tens	
2	Hundreds	
3	Thousands	
4	Tens of thousands	
6	Millions	
9	Billions	
12	Trillions	
15	Quadrillions	

IMF+CL_UNIT+1.14

CODE	LABEL	ITGS_AGG
BGN	Bulgarian lev	x
CZK	Czech koruna	x
DKK	Danish krone	x
EUR	Euro	x
GBP	UK pound sterling	x
HUF	Hungarian forint	x
PLN	Polish zloty	x
RON	Romanian leu	x
SEK	Swedish krona	x

The full code list related to the UNIT_MEASURE concept has almost 500 entries and encompasses many diverse types of units. For sake of clarity, only those that are relevant for aggregated data are listed above.

Annex 3 — ITGS_AGG validation rules

This annex provides the list of validation rules performed by Eurostat's data validation system.

The information displayed in this table is as follows:

- **Section number:** as defined in [section 3.2](#)
- **Concept ID:** as defined in [section 3.2](#)
- **Concept type:** as defined in [section 3.2](#)
- **Rule:** mathematical description of the rule
- **Rule name:** according to the naming convention C[*concept number*][*validation level*][*rule number*]
- **Rule description:** literary description of the rule applied
- **Error severity:** E = Error (Blocking. The data is rejected and the identified issue must be corrected in the file before re-submission.)
W = Warning (Non-blocking. The validation process detected an issue where expert evaluation and possible correction is required before the acceptance of the data.)
I = Info (Non-blocking. Information on the data is provided.)
- **Error type:**
 - FO = Invalid format
 - CT = Invalid content
 - CO = Invalid code
 - ED = Inconsistency between micro-data and EDAMIS metadata
 - DA = Data inconsistency
- **Validation level:** as defined in [section 4.2](#)

SECTION NUMBER	CONCEPT ID	CONCEPT TYPE	RULE	RULE NAME	RULE DESCRIPTION	ERROR SEVERITY	ERROR TYPE	VALIDATION LEVEL	
1	00	(file level)	M	REF_AREA & COUNTERPART_AREA & PRODUCT & FLOW & INDICATOR & TIME_PERIOD (r1) ≠ REF_AREA & COUNTERPART_AREA & PRODUCT & FLOW & INDICATOR & TIME_PERIOD (r2) where r1, r2 are records of the data file	C00_1_01	No duplicated records in the file, with or without same trade value	E	CT	1
2	00	(file level)	D	REF_AREA & COUNTERPART_AREA & PRODUCT & FLOW in the expected list	C00_1_02	All expected data combinations are provided with a distinction between EA (euro area) and non-EA Member States. EA Member States are expected to provide data for intra- and extra-EA trade with an SITC 1-digit breakdown for the extra-EA trade.	E	CT	1
3	01	FREQ	D	FREQ ∈ CL_FREQ+2.0 excluding all codes excepts 'M' NB: Constraint integrated in SDMX DSD	C01_0_01	Code 'M' to be indicated (monthly frequency)	E	CO	0
4	02	REF_AREA	D	REF_AREA ∈ CL_GEONOM+1.0 excluding all codes excepts 'AT', 'BE', 'BG', 'CY', 'CZ', 'DE', 'DK', 'EE', 'ES', 'FI', 'FR', 'GR', 'HR', 'HU', 'IE', 'IT', 'LT', 'LU', 'LV', 'MT', 'NL', 'PL', 'PT', 'RO', 'SE', 'SI', 'SK', 'XI' NB: Constraint integrated in SDMX DSD	C02_0_01	Reporting country indicated as alpha-2 code (capital letters) of the Geonomenclature (CL_GEONOM+1.0), restricted to EU MS and United Kingdom(Northern Ireland)	E	CO	0
5	02	REF_AREA	D	REF_AREA = EDAMIS SENDING COUNTRY Exception: 'GR' as REF_AREA corresponds to 'EL' as EDAMIS SENDING COUNTRY	C02_1_02	Reporting country indicated as alpha-2 code (capital letters) of the Geonomenclature (CL_GEONOM+1.0) corresponds to the country code of the sending country as indicated in the field 'FROM' in EDAMIS metadata	E	ED	1
6	03	COUNTERPART_AREA	D	COUNTERPART_AREA ∈ CL_GEONOM+1.0 excluding all codes except 'XI', 'B00', 'D0', 'Z1', 'U4' NB: Constraint integrated in SDMX DSD	C03_0_01	Partner area indicated as alpha-2 code (capital letters) of the Geonomenclature (CL_GEONOM+1.0), and excluding all codes except the ones relating to intra/extra-EU, intra/extra-EA and UK(Northern Ireland)s	E	CO	0

7	04	PRODUCT	D	PRODUCT ∈ CL_SITC4_PRODUCT+1.0 excluding all codes except codes '_T', 'SITC0', 'SITC1', 'SITC2', 'SITC3', 'SITC4', 'SITC5', 'SITC6', 'SITC7', 'SITC8', 'SITC9' NB: Constraint integrated in SDMX DSD	C04_0_01	Product category indicated as an alphanumeric code of the SITC product classification (CL_SITC4_PRODUCT+1.0) and excluding all codes except the ones relating to total trade and 1-digit codes of the SITC classification	E	CO	0
8	05	FLOW	D	FLOW ∈ CL_FLOW+1.0 excluding all codes except 'X' and 'M' – NB: Constraint integrated in SDMX DSD	C05_0_01	Flow is one of these two codes: 'X' for 'Total exports' and 'M' for 'Total imports'.	E	CO	0
9	06	INDICATOR	D	INDICATOR ∈ CL_EBS_INDICATOR+1.0 excluding all codes except 'STAT_VAL' NB: Constraint integrated in SDMX DSD	C06_0_01	Indicator indicated as alpha code (capital letters) of the EBS Indicator code list (CL_EBS_INDICATOR+1.0), excluding all codes except the one relating to the statistical value	E	CO	0
10	07	TIME_PERIOD	D	TIME_PERIOD = YYYY-MM	C07_0_01	Reference month is expressed as YYYY-MM	E	FO	0
11	07	TIME_PERIOD	D	TIME_PERIOD (year) = Reference year indicated in EDAMIS metadata	C07_1_02	Reference month corresponding to the reference period indicated in EDAMIS metadata under the field 'REFERENCE YEAR'	E	ED	1
12	08	OBS_VALUE	M	OBS_VALUE >=0	C08_0_01	Statistical value is a non-negative real number	E	CT	0
13	08	OBS_VALUE	M	_T = SITC0 + SITC1 + SITC2 + SITC3 + SITC4 + SITC5 + SITC6 + SITC7 + SITC8 + SITC9 for FLOW ∈ {M,X} and COUNTERPART_AREA ∈ {D0,U4}	C08_1_02	For each flow and partner area for which the SITC breakdown is provided, the aggregation of all SITC sections should be equal to total trade	E	DA	1
14	08	OBS_VALUE	M	B00 + D0 = Z1 + U4 for FLOW ∈ {M,X} and REF_AREA ∈ {AT, BE, CY, DE, EE, ES, FI, FR, HR, GR, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PT, SI, SK}	C08_1_03	For each EA Member State, the aggregation (by flow) of intra-/extra-EU trade values should be equal to the aggregation of intra-/extra-EA trade values	E	DA	1
15	08	OBS_VALUE	M	OBS_VALUE in (forecast band)	C08_2_04	Trade value included in a confidence interval based on time series analysis	I	DA	2
16	08	OBS_VALUE	M	OBS_VALUE = 'Comext value' for FLOW ∈ {M,X} and COUNTERPART_AREA ∈ {B00,D0,Z1,U4} and PRODUCT ∈ {_T, SITC0, SITC1, SITC2, SITC3, SITC4, SITC5, SITC6, SITC7, SITC8, SITC9}	C08_3_05	Aggregated data are consistent with total values compiled from detailed data (source: Comext).	I	DA	3

17	09	OBS_STATUS	A	OBS_STATUS ∈ CL_OBS_STATUS+2.2 excluding all codes except 'A' NB: Constraint integrated in SDMX DSD	C09_0_01	Observation status of the statistical value contains one of the possible codes listed in the code list CL_OBS_STATUS+2.2, excluding all codes except 'Normal'	E	CO	0
18	10	CONF_STATUS	A	CONF_STATUS ∈ CL_CONF_STATUS+1.2 excluding all codes except 'F' NB: Constraint integrated in SDMX DSD	C10_0_01	Confidentiality status of the statistical value contains one of the possible codes listed in the code list CL_CONF_STATUS+1.2, excluding all codes except 'Free for publication'	E	CO	0
19	11	DECIMALS	A	DECIMALS ∈ CL_DECIMALS+1.0 excluding all codes except '2' NB: Constraint integrated in SDMX DSD	C11_0_01	Number of decimals of the statistical value contains one of the possible codes listed in the code list CL_DECIMALS+1.0, excluding all codes except 'Zero'	E	CO	0
20	12	UNIT_MULT	A	UNIT_MULT ∈ CL_UNIT_MULT +1.1 excluding all codes except '0' NB: Constraint integrated in SDMX DSD	C12_0_01	Unit multiplier of the unit of measure contains one of the possible codes listed in the code list CL_UNIT_MULT+1.1, excluding all codes except 'Zero'.	E	CO	0
21	13	UNIT_MEASURE	A	UNIT_MEASURE ∈ CL_UNIT+1.14 excluding all codes except 'BGN', 'CZK', 'DKK', 'EUR', 'GBP', 'HUF', 'PLN', 'RON', 'SEK' NB: Constraint integrated in SDMX DSD	C13_0_01	National currency to be indicated according to the relevant code of CL_UNIT+1.14 and consistent with the reference area	E	CO	0
22	14	EMBARGO_TIME	A	EMBARGO_TIME = YYYYMMDDThh:mm:ss	C14_0_01	Embargo time to be indicated according to the format YYYYMMDDThh:mm:ss (e.g. 2023-03-15T11:00:00)	E	FO	0
23	14	EMBARGO_TIME	A	EMBARGO_TIME (r1) = EMBARGO_TIME (r2) where r1, r2 are records of the data file	C14_1_02	Embargo time to be similar for all the records in the file	E	CT	1

Glossary

Attributes	Give additional information about the concepts used and do not affect the dataset structure itself.
Code lists	A code list is a predefined list from which some statistical coded concepts take their values. Each code list has the following properties: a) identifier (it provides a unique identification within the set of code lists specified by a structural definitions maintenance agency); b) name (also unique); c) description (a description of the purpose of the code list); and d) code value length (either an exact or a maximum number of characters and a type, i.e. numeric or alphanumeric).
Concept Scheme	The descriptive information for an arrangement or division of concepts into groups based on characteristics, which the objects have in common. A concept scheme is a maintained list of concepts that are used in key family and metadata structure definitions.
CIF-type value	Valuation principle when the value includes the transaction value of the goods, the value of services performed to deliver goods to the border of the exporting country and the value of the services performed to deliver the goods from the border of the exporting country to the border of the importing country.
Dataflow	A structure which describes categorizes and constrains the allowable content of a dataset that providers will supply for different reference periods
Dataset	A collection of related observations, organized according to a predefined structure.
Data Structure Definition (DSD)	Metadata describing the structure and organization of a dataset, the statistical concepts and attached to them code lists used within the dataset.
Dimensions	Concepts that determine the dataset's "physical" structure.
Exports	Goods which subtract from the stock of material resources of a country by leaving its economic territory.
Goods	All movable property, including electrical energy and natural gas.

FOB-type value	Valuation principle when the value includes the transaction value of the goods and the value of services performed to deliver goods to the border of the exporting country.
Imports	Goods which add to the stock of material resources of a country by entering its economic territory.
National statistical authority (NSA)	Within the meaning of the Extrastat and Intrastat Regulations, the national statistical institutes and other bodies responsible in each Member State for producing international trade in goods statistics.
Reference period	<p>The calendar year and month in which the goods are imported or exported.</p> <p>When the customs declaration is the source of records on imports and exports, the reference period indicates the calendar year and month when the declaration is accepted by customs authorities.</p>
Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX)	This standard describes and universalizes the way to exchange statistical data, and provides standard formats for data and metadata, content guidelines as well as IT architecture for exchange of data and metadata.
Statistical value	<p>The statistical value is based on the value of the goods at the time and place they cross the border of the Member State of destination on import or of the Member State of actual export on export.</p> <p>Statistical value includes the transport and insurance costs incurred in delivering the goods from the place of their departure to the border of the importing or exporting Member State.</p>

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European business statistics compilers' manual for international trade in goods statistics – aggregated data

This compilers' manual is meant to serve as a practical reference document for all National Statistical Authorities involved in the compilation of aggregated data on EU international trade in goods statistics. As such, it provides the necessary definitions and practical instructions regarding the preparation and transmission of aggregated data to Eurostat.

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