

# Quality Report on external trade statistics

2009 edition

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# Quality Report on External Trade Statistics – Edition 2009

*Eurostat – International Trade*

*Reference year 2007*

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 External trade statistics

External trade statistics, as produced by Eurostat, measure the value and quantity of goods traded between the Member States of the European Union (known as intra-EU trade or Intrastat) and goods traded by the Member States of the EU with third countries (known as extra-EU trade or Extrastat). They are the official harmonised source of information about imports, exports and trade balance of the EU and of its Member States as well as of the euro area.

As external trade forms an important part of the world economy, statistics on the trading of goods are therefore an instrument of primary importance for numerous public and private sector decision makers. For example, external trade statistics:

- enable Community authorities to prepare multilateral and bilateral negotiations within the framework of the common commercial policy;
- enable Community authorities to evaluate the progress of the Single Market and the integration of EU economies;
- constitute an essential source of information for balance of payments statistics, national accounts and economic studies;
- help EU companies to conduct market research and define their commercial strategy.

This list, which is not exhaustive, demonstrates the diversity of the users and of their needs.

Community legislation in the field of external trade statistics ensures that the statistics provided to Eurostat by the competent national authorities of Member States are based on precise legal texts, directly applicable in the Member States, and on definitions and procedures which, to a large extent, have been harmonised.

Statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States are based on Regulation (EC) No 638/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1982/2004 and the amending Commission Regulation (EC) 1915/2005). Data are collected directly from trade operators as a consequence of the abolishment of customs control at the borders between the Member States. The reporting burden is reduced as far as possible: private individuals and small traders are exempted from any statistical obligations.

The statistics on the trade with third countries are based on the Council Regulation (EC) 1172/95, the Commission Regulation (EC) 1917/2000 and amending Commission Regulations EC 1669/2001, 179/2005 and 1949/2005. Extra-EU trade statistics data are issued from the customs declarations. Trade operators fulfilling their reporting obligations to the Customs authorities in a Member State are providing at the same occasion data used to compile trade statistics.

## 1.2 Quality reports and indicators

Quality reporting is not a new concept in European trade statistics. Since 2005, the Intrastat legislation made annual reporting on determined quality indicators for external trade statistics mandatory. Member States have to supply Eurostat with an annual Quality Report in a fixed deadline after the reference year. In practice this reporting process has been harmonized: Member States fulfil their obligation of quality reporting by completing the annual quality questionnaire pre-filled by Eurostat. The key quality indicators are then gathered in this summary Quality Report.

Even if the current Extrastat legislation – in force since 1995 – does not include quality articles, the quality questionnaire and report cover both intra and extra-EU trade statistics according to a harmonised approach.

This Quality Report summarises the results of the 2008 questionnaire. The figures and description of methods refer to **year 2007**. The corresponding data for 2006 have been shown in annex. Most indicators have been calculated internally by Eurostat by using the monthly detailed data delivered by Member States.



## 2 Relevance

### *ESS Quality Definition*

*Relevance is the degree to which statistical outputs meet current and potential user needs. It depends on whether all the statistics that are needed are produced and the extent to which concepts used (definitions, classifications etc.) reflect user needs.*

The EU trade statistics follow largely the international recommendations by United Nations Statistics Division (cf. International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions, 1998). This general recommendations manual is updated regularly so that it reflects the changes in the environment of external trade. Furthermore, the Intrastat and Extrastat Regulations as well as classifications for external trade are revised regularly in order to take into account the economic and administrative environment as well as users' needs.

External trade forms an important part of the world economy and, as such, must be measured reliably and the relevant statistical data should be comparable and widely disseminated. The statistics satisfy this need in a variety of ways. Users may need either very aggregated or very detailed data on products or partner countries. They may be interested in movements of values of trade in current prices or in movements of the volume of trade at constant prices. Alternatively, their interest may be in the weight of trade or some other quantity measure. These examples, which are far from exhaustive, show the diversity of the users and their requirements. Eurostat tries to meet these various needs and to adapt to the changing environment as the progression toward globalization, in particular, is becoming more and more important.

Satisfaction surveys are carried out but not regularly (last time in 2007). Nevertheless, the user satisfaction is monitored on a constant way through informal and formal contacts.

The EU trade statistics are based on the Community legislation which is directly applicable in the Member States. In particular, the legislation includes a clear and precise list of all the statistical variables to be provided by the Member States to Eurostat. All the mandatory variables – with minor exceptions - are provided by all the Member States.

### 3 Accuracy

#### *ESS Quality Definition*

*The accuracy of statistical outputs in the general statistical sense is the degree of closeness estimates to the true values.*

The accuracy of external trade statistics is affected in different ways by several factors:

- Coverage of data collection and methods to adjust non-collected data
- Measurement units
- Data revisions
- Confidentiality
- Control procedures

#### **3.1 Coverage of data collection and methods to adjust non-collected data**

##### 3.1.1 Intra-EU trade

External trade statistics belong to census type of statistics where data from all units is collected according to an agreed definition. In order to reduce the burden on enterprises, particularly small and medium sized ones, the Intrastat system is designed in a way that the workload for providers of statistical information varies according to the amount of trade in which they are engaged. To achieve this, each Member State applies a system of thresholds to exempt traders completely from statistical reporting or to limit the information they need to report<sup>1</sup>.

From the above follows that Intrastat data collection does not cover 100 % of Member States' trade with other EU Member States. However, in order to have complete trade coverage in trade statistics, the loss caused by the exemption threshold must be compensated with adjustments. Similarly, the loss of coverage due to late-response or non-response must be offset by means of adjustments.

Table 1 shows the share of collected data (detailed and simplified declarations) and estimated data (below the thresholds and for non-response), calculated in terms of trade value, in intra-EU trade.

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<sup>1</sup> More details about the thresholds and their impact on the response burden are reported in chapter 7

**Table 1: Share of collected data and adjustments for trade below the exemption threshold and non-response in intra-EU trade (share of total value)**

MEMBER STATES	Collected data				Estimated data			
	Detailed declarations		Simplified declarations		Below the exemption threshold		Non response	
	Arrivals	Dispatches	Arrivals	Dispatches	Arrivals	Dispatches	Arrivals	Dispatches
Belgium	96.4%	97.0%	0.03%	0.1%			(*) 3.6%	(*) 3.0%
Bulgaria	97.8%	98.7%	0.0002%	0.0002%	1.6%	1.0%	0.6%	0.3%
Czech Republic	98.7%	99.0%	0.031%	0.0%	1.0%	0.4%	0.3%	0.6%
Denmark	83.9%	90.6%	0.2%	0.1%			(*) 15.8%	(*) 9.3%
Germany	95.0%	97.1%	0.1%	0.2%	3.0%	1.8%	1.9%	1.0%
Estonia	92.1%	93.5%			3.0%	3.2%	4.9%	3.4%
Ireland	67.3%	86.6%	28.6%	11.6%	3.0%	1.5%	1.1%	0.3%
Greece **	99.3%	98.6%						
Spain **	95.4%	96.3%						
France **	98.1%	98.2%	1.3%	1.3%				
Italy	97.6%	97.7%	0.0001%	0.004%	2.4%	2.3%		
Cyprus	99.0%	98.3%			1.0%	1.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Latvia	95.7%	95.2%			2.0%	2.9%	2.2%	1.9%
Lithuania	98.5%	98.6%			1.4%	1.4%	0.1%	0.0%
Luxembourg	94.9%	96.1%	3.8%	3.0%	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%	0.3%
Hungary	92.2%	93.9%	0.2%	0.0%	3.0%	2.6%	4.6%	3.5%
Malta **	99.0%	99.0%						
Netherlands	88.1%	92.8%	0.03%	0.03%	3.4%	1.7%	8.4%	5.5%
Austria	95.7%	97.3%	0.01%	0.003%	2.7%	1.2%	1.5%	1.5%
Poland	98.4%	98.5%			0.9%	0.9%	0.7%	0.6%
Portugal	96.4%	97.1%			2.4%	1.7%	1.3%	1.2%
Romania	97.1%	98.0%			2.0%	1.7%	0.9%	0.3%
Slovenia	97.7%	98.4%			2.3%	1.6%	0.03%	0.01%
Slovakia	84.2%	85.9%	8.3%	7.4%			(*) 7.5%	(*) 6.7%
Finland	96.6%	98.2%			2.9%	1.6%	0.5%	0.2%
Sweden	96.7%	97.6%			2.3%	1.9%	1.0%	0.6%
United Kingdom	95.9%	96.3%	0.02%	0.1%	2.5%	3.0%	1.6%	0.7%
EU-27	94.9%	96.2%	1.2%	0.9%	:	:	:	:

Sources: Eurostat or 2008 Quality Questionnaire

\*: Only total level of adjustments (no distinction into below the exemption threshold and non-response) is available in Eurostat.

\*\*: No adjustment is compiled for trade below the exemption threshold and non response.

Note: The shares of detailed and simplified declarations in EU-27 trade correspond to weighted averages. Member States' data are weighted by their respective total trade values.

Table 2 shows the methods to compile adjustments and the level of adjusted data. For most Member States, adjustment methods are based on VAT data and/or historical data. According to the Intrastat legislation, the breakdown of adjustments transmitted to Eurostat must be at least by 2-digit product codes of the Harmonised System (HS2) and partner countries. A majority of Member States follow this requirement while some apply even more detailed breakdowns by products.

**Table 2: Method and level of adjustments in intra-EU trade**

<b>MEMBER STATES</b>	<b>Adjustment for trade below the exemption threshold</b>	<b>Adjustment for non response</b>	<b>Level of adjustment</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	Adjustment based on VAT data	Adjustment based on VAT data and trend indicator system for rapid estimates	CN8 / partner countries
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Adjustment based on historical figures	Adjustment based on historical figures and VAT data	HS2 / partner countries
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Adjustment based on VAT data	Adjustment based on historical figures	CN8 / partner countries
<b>Denmark</b>	Adjustment based on VAT data	Adjustment based on VAT data	CN8 / partner countries
<b>Germany</b>	Adjustment based on VAT data	Adjustment based on VAT data	HS2 / partner countries
<b>Estonia</b>	Adjustment based on historical figures and VAT data	Adjustment based on historical figures and VAT data	HS2 / partner countries
<b>Ireland</b>	Adjustment based on VAT data (use of the VAT return for the period in question or forecast done by applying the Holt-Winter's method)	Adjustment based on historical figures (use of the Holt-Winter's method) or, failing that, on VAT data	Below the threshold: by partner only Non response: CN8/ partner countries
<b>Greece</b>	No adjustment	No adjustment	
<b>Spain</b>	Adjustment based on VAT data	No adjustment	
<b>France</b>	No adjustment	No adjustment	
<b>Italy</b>	Adjustment based on "just-above-the-threshold" traders	No adjustment since the survey is total and the obligation of reporting is fiscal.	HS2 / partner countries
<b>Cyprus</b>	Adjustment based on VAT data	Adjustment based on historical figures (use of the Holt-Winter's method or, if not applicable, of the average of previous actual returns) or, if not applicable, on VAT data	CN8 / partner countries
<b>Latvia</b>	Adjustment based on historical figures and VAT data when available	Adjustment based on historical figures and VAT data when available	HS2 / partner countries
<b>Lithuania</b>	Adjustment based on VAT data	Adjustment based on VAT data	HS2 / partner countries
<b>Luxembourg</b>	Adjustment based on historical figures and VAT data (together with adjustment for non-response)	Adjustment based on historical figures and VAT data (together with adjustment for trade below the threshold)	HS2 / partner countries
<b>Hungary</b>	Adjustment based on VAT data	Adjustment based on historical figures and VAT data	HS4 / partner countries
<b>Malta</b>	No adjustment because a very low threshold	No adjustment	
<b>Netherlands</b>	Adjustment based on VAT data	Adjustment is based on historical figures and VAT data	HS2 / partner countries
<b>Austria</b>	Adjustment based on VAT data	Adjustment based on VAT data for non response and historical data for late response	CN8 / partner countries
<b>Poland</b>	Adjustment based on historical figures and VAT data	Adjustment based on historical figures and VAT data	CN8 / partner countries
<b>Portugal</b>	Adjustment based on VAT data	Adjustment based on common respondents	By HS2 / No partner breakdown
<b>Romania</b>	Adjustment based on historical figures and fiscal data (VAT & VIES)	Adjustment based on historical figures and fiscal data (VAT & VIES)	HS4 / partner countries
<b>Slovenia</b>	Adjustment based on VAT data	Adjustment based on historical figures and VAT data	CN8 / partner countries
<b>Slovakia</b>	Adjustment based on historical figures and VAT data	Adjustment based on historical figures and VAT data	CN8 / partner countries
<b>Finland</b>	Adjustment based on VAT data	Adjustment based on historical figures and VAT data	HS2 / partner countries
<b>Sweden</b>	Adjustment based on historical figures and VAT data	Adjustment based on imputation or growth models using historical figures or VAT data	CN8 / partner countries
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Adjustment based on VAT data	Adjustment based on growth factors	Below the threshold: By CN8 codes and partners Non response: No product or partner breakdown

Source: 2008 Quality Questionnaire.

### 3.1.2 Extra-EU trade

The problem of non-response for extra-EU trade should theoretically not exist since extra-EU trade statistics are based on customs declarations. Nevertheless, adjustments for "late" response may be necessary as well as adjustments for trade below the thresholds when an exemption threshold is applied.

**Table 3: Share of collected data and adjustments for trade below the exemption threshold and late-response in extra-EU trade (share of total value)**

MEMBER STATES	Collected data		Estimated data			
	Standard category		Below the exemption threshold		Late/partial response	
	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports
Belgium	100.0%	100.0%				
Bulgaria	100.0%	100.0%	0.0002	0.0004%		
Czech Republic	100.0%	100.0%				
Denmark	100.0%	100.0%			0.002%	
Germany	99.8%	99.7%	0.2%	0.3%		
Estonia	100.0%	100.0%				
Ireland	100.0%	99.9%		0.1%		
Greece	100.0%	100.0%				
Spain	100.0%	100.0%				
France	99.4%	99.4%	0.6%	0.6%		
Italy	99.6%	99.2%	0.4%	0.8%		
Cyprus	100.0%	100.0%				
Latvia	100.0%	100.0%				
Lithuania	100.0%	100.0%				
Luxembourg	100.0%	100.0%				
Hungary	100.0%	100.0%				
Malta	100.0%	100.0%				
Netherlands	98.9%	98.4%			1.1%	1.6%
Austria	99.8%	99.6%	0.2%	0.4%		
Poland	100.0%	100.0%				
Portugal	100.0%	100.0%				
Romania	100.0%	100.0%				
Slovenia	99.9%	99.9%	0.1%	0.1%		
Slovakia	100.0%	100.0%				
Finland	100.0%	100.0%				
Sweden	100.0%	100.0%				
United Kingdom	98.8%	99.7%	1.2%	0.3%		
<b>EU-27</b>	<b>99.5%</b>	<b>99.6%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>0.1%</b>

Source: Eurostat

The methods to compile adjustments and level of adjusted data for extra-EU trade are shown in table 4. The Extrastat legislation requires Member States to adjust data if statistical thresholds are applied. The adjustment should be available at least for the total products. Most Member States do not make adjustments because of low thresholds or no threshold at all.

**Table 4: Method and level of adjustments in extra-EU trade**

<b>MEMBER STATES</b>	<b>Method of adjustment</b>	<b>Level of adjustment</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	No adjustment	
<b>Bulgaria</b>	No adjustment	
<b>Czech Republic</b>	No adjustment	
<b>Denmark</b>	Adjustment based on control unit price limits to identify the declarations where only the net value added has been reported (allowed in imports after outward processing)	CN8 / partner countries
<b>Germany</b>	Adjustment based on fixed factor generated on basis of the value structure of former threshold raises	No product or partner breakdown
<b>Estonia</b>	No adjustment	
<b>Ireland</b>	No adjustment	No product or partner breakdown For a few cases, by partner country
<b>Greece</b>	No adjustment	
<b>Spain</b>	No adjustment	
<b>France</b>	Adjustment based on data collected by Customs	No product or partner breakdown
<b>Italy</b>	Adjustment based on data collected by Customs	No product or partner breakdown
<b>Cyprus</b>	No adjustment	
<b>Latvia</b>	No adjustment	
<b>Lithuania</b>	No adjustment	
<b>Luxembourg</b>	No adjustment	
<b>Hungary</b>	No adjustment	
<b>Malta</b>	No adjustment	
<b>Netherlands</b>	Adjustment based on historical data	HS2 / partner countries
<b>Austria</b>	Adjustment based on yearly updated factors derived from a statistical regression analysis taking into account the distribution of classified transaction values close above the threshold	No product or partner breakdown
<b>Poland</b>	No adjustment	
<b>Portugal</b>	No adjustment	
<b>Romania</b>	No adjustment	
<b>Slovenia</b>	Adjustment based on data collected by Customs for statistical purposes	No product or partner breakdown
<b>Slovakia</b>	No adjustment	
<b>Finland</b>	No adjustment	
<b>Sweden</b>	No adjustment	
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Adjustment based on data collected by Customs	No product or partner breakdown

Source: 2008 Quality Questionnaire.  
: Missing information

## 3.2 Measurement units

### 3.2.1 Statistical value

External trade statistics apply harmonised principles when compiling the statistical value of trade flows. In general all goods should be valued with the total amount which would be invoiced in case of sale or purchase at the national border of the reporting Member State. In practice the statistical

value of the good is based in most of the cases for intra-EU trade on the taxable amount determined for VAT purposes and for extra-EU trade on the value determined for customs purposes.

The statistical value does not include taxes on export or import, such as customs duties, value added tax, excise duty, levies, export refunds or other taxes with similar effect. It includes only incidental expenses (freight, insurance) incurred, in the case of exports/dispatches, in the part of the journey located on the territory of the reporting Member State and, in the case of imports/arrivals, in the part of the journey located outside the territory of the reporting Member State. It is said to be a FOB value (free on board), for exports/dispatches, and a CIF value (cost, insurance, freight) for imports/arrivals.

In intra-EU trade, the statistical value is not provided systematically by the information providers (see chapter 7). It usually differs from the amount agreed on the sales agreement (the invoice value) as a result of the delivery terms used in the transaction; therefore the statistical value must be collected in connection with the invoice value or must be estimated by using other variables such as delivery terms and mode of transport.

The quantitative impact of calculating the statistical value is shown in table 5. For most Member States it is relatively small.

**Table 5: The quantitative impact of calculating the statistical value**

MEMBER STATES	Arrivals	Dispatches
Belgium	0.0%	0.0%
Bulgaria	-0.1%	1.5%
Czech Republic	0.2%	-0.6%
Denmark	0.5%	-0.6%
Germany	0.0%	0.3%
Estonia	1.2%	0.2%
Ireland	-0.7%	-0.9%
Greece	:	:
Spain	0.3%	0.2%
France	0.0%	0.0%
Italy	1.1%	0.4%
Cyprus	2.8%	-3.4%
Latvia	2.1%	-1.6%
Lithuania	1.7%	-0.2%
Luxembourg	1.4%	-1.9%
Hungary	0.36%	- 0.09%
Malta	:	:
Netherlands	:	:
Austria	0.2%	-0.4%
Poland	0.6%	-0.6%
Portugal	0.1%	-0.6%
Romania	1.0%	-0.1%
Slovenia	0.4%	-0.5%
Slovakia	0.9%	-0.3%
Finland	1.8%	-2.4%
Sweden	1.2%	-1.4%
United Kingdom	:	:

Source: 2008 Quality Questionnaire.

: Data not available

As table 6 shows, most Member States collect statistical value from the trade operators above the statistical value threshold only and then estimate it for trade operators which remain below this threshold. On the other hand, some Member States do not collect statistical value at all but carry out adjustments on the invoice value in order to estimate it.

**Table 6: Methods adopted for calculating the statistical value in intra-EU trade**

<b>MEMBER STATES</b>	<b>Method of adjustment</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	Statistical value not collected at all. No adjustment, use of the invoice value.
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Statistical value collected from trade operators above the threshold only. Correcting coefficient computed from historical data.
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Statistical value not collected at all. Correcting coefficient computed from historical data.
<b>Denmark</b>	Statistical value not collected at all. Adjustment from invoice value to statistical value done by applying factors derived from a survey performed in 1997.
<b>Germany</b>	Statistical value collected from trade operators above the threshold only. Correcting coefficient computed from above the threshold data for trade data below the threshold.
<b>Estonia</b>	Statistical value collected from trade operators above the threshold only. Correcting coefficient computed from above the threshold data for trade data below the threshold
<b>Ireland</b>	Statistical value collected from trade operators above the threshold only. Use of invoice value for trade data below the threshold.
<b>Greece</b>	Statistical value collected from trade operators above the threshold but as well below the threshold. Therefore, no adjustment is needed.
<b>Spain</b>	Statistical value collected from trade operators above the threshold only. Use of invoice value for trade data below the threshold.
<b>France</b>	Statistical value not collected at all. No adjustment, use of the invoice value.
<b>Italy</b>	Statistical value collected from trade operators above the threshold only. Correcting coefficient computed from above the threshold data for trade data below the threshold.
<b>Cyprus</b>	Statistical value collected from trade operators above the threshold only. Correcting coefficient computed from above the threshold data for trade data below the threshold.
<b>Latvia</b>	Statistical value collected from trade operators above the threshold only. Correcting coefficient computed from historical data for trade data below the threshold.
<b>Lithuania</b>	Statistical value collected from trade operators above the threshold only. Use of invoice value for trade data below the threshold.
<b>Luxembourg</b>	Statistical value collected from trade operators above the threshold only. Correcting coefficient computed from above the threshold data for trade data below the threshold.
<b>Hungary</b>	Statistical value collected from trade operators above the threshold only. Use of invoice value for trade data below the threshold.
<b>Malta</b>	No adjustment since both invoice and statistical values are collected.
<b>Netherlands</b>	Statistical value not collected at all. Correcting coefficients derived from historical data.
<b>Austria</b>	Statistical value collected from trade operators above the threshold only. Use of invoice value for trade data below the threshold.
<b>Poland</b>	Statistical value collected from trade operators above the threshold only. Correcting coefficient computed from above the threshold data for trade data below the threshold.
<b>Portugal</b>	Statistical value collected from trade operators above the threshold only. Correcting coefficient computed from above the threshold data for trade data below the threshold.
<b>Romania</b>	Statistical value collected from trade operators above the threshold only. Correcting coefficient computed from above the threshold data for trade data below the threshold.
<b>Slovenia</b>	Statistical value collected from trade operators above the threshold only. Use of invoice value for trade data below the threshold.
<b>Slovakia</b>	Statistical value not collected at all. Adjustment from invoice value to statistical value done by applying factors derived from a survey on ancillary costs carried out quarterly.
<b>Finland</b>	Statistical value collected from trade operators above the threshold only. Correcting coefficient computed from above the threshold data for trade data below the threshold.
<b>Sweden</b>	Statistical value not collected at all. Adjustment from invoice value to statistical value done by applying factors derived from an annual survey.
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Statistical value not collected at all. Delivery terms are collected from the largest traders. Adjustment from invoice value to statistical value done by a model using ancillary cost information derived from a monthly survey.

Source: 2008 Quality Questionnaire.



In extra-EU trade, the statistical value is based on customs value; therefore there is generally no need to adjust it.

### 3.2.2 Net mass

The quantity of a commodity is documented essentially in kilograms. This is the intrinsic weight of the commodity. It is defined as the weight of the commodity without any packing (net mass). However, some Member States do not transmit anymore the net mass when the supplementary unit is collected for intra-trade statistics as from 2006.

### 3.2.3 Supplementary unit

For selected types of commodities the quantity is also recorded and documented in a supplementary unit as this furnishes further useful information (e.g. Carats, Gross Tonnage, Kilowatt Hours, Litre, Square Metre, Cubic Metre, Number of Items, Terajoule). Further information whether a supplementary unit is collected for a given good is available in the Combined Nomenclature.

## **3.3 Revisions**

Data are revised frequently according to national needs and practices. They become normally final from six months up to more than one year after the reference year. Revisions to older data are also possible.

Table 7 presents the impact of revisions in terms of trade value. Signs are indicative of the direction of this impact. Negative signs state higher first figure whereas positive signs indicate smaller first figure than last one. From table 7 follows that, in most of the cases there is an underestimation of the first transmitted figure. The average extent of the revisions is generally higher for intra-EU trade than for extra-EU trade, and is also higher for arrivals than for dispatches.

**Table 7: Impact of revisions (in %) on intra- and extra-EU trade**

MEMBER STATES	Intra-EU trade		Extra-EU trade	
	Arrivals	Dispatches	Imports	Exports
Belgium	-3.3%	-2.0%	1.3%	6.7%
Bulgaria	1.4%	1.6%	0.0%	-0.3%
Czech Republic	-0.7%	-0.2%	2.9%	0.3%
Denmark	-2.0%	-1.3%	1.0%	-0.8%
Germany	-1.5%	-0.6%	1.8%	0.0%
Estonia	5.7%	1.2%	0.3%	-0.8%
Ireland	3.6%	-0.1%	-0.2%	1.2%
Greece	2.4%	1.6%	0.1%	-2.9%
Spain	8.5%	6.9%	0.6%	3.8%
France	1.7%	0.1%	3.1%	1.3%
Italy	2.8%	3.1%	-0.3%	-0.5%
Cyprus	1.2%	0.5%	9.9%	0.1%
Latvia	2.9%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%
Lithuania	3.1%	0.1%	0.1%	-0.3%
Luxembourg	3.6%	1.3%	3.4%	7.4%
Hungary	1.1%	2.2%	0.9%	3.1%
Malta	10.2%	5.3%	6.7%	6.0%
Netherlands	-0.2%	0.2%	1.3%	0.0%
Austria	6.1%	6.2%	3.8%	-0.3%
Poland	9.5%	5.5%	0.6%	0.3%
Portugal	2.5%	2.7%	1.5%	1.5%
Romania	1.4%	1.3%	2.7%	-0.9%
Slovenia	1.3%	0.3%	0.9%	-0.2%
Slovakia	-0.7%	0.6%	1.0%	-0.7%
Finland	4.1%	1.2%	0.6%	2.9%
Sweden	2.2%	0.1%	3.8%	1.3%
United Kingdom	3.4%	2.3%	-0.4%	1.4%
<b>EU27</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>

Source: Eurostat

-: First figure>Last figure

+: First figure<Last figure

### 3.4 Confidentiality

In external trade statistics the principle of “passive confidentiality” is applied, by which data should be suppressed only at the request of traders who feel that their interests would be harmed by the dissemination of their data. Passive confidentiality is therefore different from “active confidentiality”, where the National Statistical Authority takes directly the initiative to suppress data automatically when the suppression criteria are met, without informing the trade operator concerned.

The considerable amount of detail in trade data means that the potential for the creation of confidential data at detailed level is extremely high. Passive confidentiality allows minimising the effect of suppression on the quality of detailed data.

There are three types of confidentiality:

- Partner Confidentiality: in order to conceal the destination or the source or origin of a product, the code of the partner country is replaced by a ‘secret country code’, different for intra- and extra-EU trade.
- Product confidentiality: in order to suppress the nature of the commodity involved, all or part of the trade is allocated to a confidential product code. Information about a product may be regarded as commercially sensitive either for the value, the quantity or their ratio, since it would give an indication of the price of the product.
- Product and Partner Confidentiality: the two preceding types are applied at the same time; therefore both the partner and the product are hidden.

The levels of these three types of confidentiality can be assessed using data available in Eurostat Comext database, where special codes are used for hiding partner or product. Table 8 shows the impact of confidentiality over total trade, in terms of trade value, net mass and number 8-digit product codes (CN8) affected. As can be noticed, the importance of confidentiality is very different depending on the kind of trade, on the flow and on the Member State.

It should also be noticed that the shares have been calculated for confidentiality at total product level only; the picture would be different if we were considering a more disaggregated product level, for example the chapters.

**Table 8: Impact of the confidentiality on intra- and extra-EU trade**

MEMBER STATES	Intra-EU trade						Extra-EU trade					
	Arrivals			Dispatches			Imports			Exports		
	Number of CN8 codes affected	Impact on trade value (%)	Impact on net mass (%)	Number of CN8 codes affected	Impact on trade value (%)	Impact on net mass (%)	Number of CN8 codes affected	Impact on trade value (%)	Impact on net mass (%)	Number of CN8 codes affected	Impact on trade value (%)	Impact on net mass (%)
<b>Belgium</b>	34	0.8%	0.2%	144	1.9%	2.4%	34	1.5%	0.4%	136	3.0%	3.3%
<b>Bulgaria</b>	20	0.0%	0.0%	7	1.7%	0.0%	19	35.1%	0.0%	13	2.0%	0.0%
<b>Czech Republic</b>	774	0.4%		312	0.5%		312	0.3%		243	0.7%	
<b>Denmark</b>	36	0.6%	1.8%	97	9.1%	5.2%	31	3.0%	1.5%	96	11.8%	12.9%
<b>Germany</b>	61	1.7%	5.9%	417	3.1%	6.8%	53	6.1%	23.5%	405	3.5%	10.5%
<b>Estonia</b>												
<b>Ireland</b>	15	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.1%	0.5%						
<b>Greece</b>	12	0.2%	0.0%	13	3.9%	0.9%	12	0.0%	0.0%	16	2.1%	0.3%
<b>Spain</b>	35	0.1%	0.4%	29	0.5%	0.9%	31	0.3%	0.2%	35	1.1%	1.2%
<b>France</b>	11	0.0%	16.8%	281	2.4%	8.3%	10	0.0%	5.5%	259	1.9%	4.5%
<b>Italy</b>	26	1.3%	0.2%	116	0.7%	1.3%	24	9.0%	16.9%	106	0.5%	1.1%
<b>Cyprus</b>	1	0.1%	0.0%				1	0.6%	0.0%	1	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Latvia</b>												
<b>Lithuania</b>												
<b>Luxembourg</b>	3	3.9%	6.0%	7	1.2%	0.9%	1	1.2%	0.8%	5	2.4%	0.1%
<b>Hungary</b>	1 547	3.0%	7.8%	1 963	5.3%	19.7%	602	12.5%	41.7%	1 754	5.7%	18.7%
<b>Malta</b>												
<b>Netherlands</b>	245	4.2%	1.4%	509	6.2%	1.8%	462	3.5%	2.8%	915	2.4%	2.3%
<b>Austria</b>	96	2.5%	9.3%	283	7.7%	11.6%	89	13.8%	42.9%	274	6.8%	7.0%
<b>Poland</b>	1	0.0%	0.0%									
<b>Portugal</b>	3 771	1.3%	1.3%	1 522	5.3%	8.1%	1 424	1.8%	1.6%	1 114	3.9%	5.0%
<b>Romania</b>	88	0.2%	0.0%	50	0.2%	0.0%	74	0.3%	0.0%	40	0.5%	0.0%
<b>Slovenia</b>	23	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	0.1%	20		0.0%	21	0.2%	0.8%
<b>Slovakia</b>	1 317	0.6%		2 017	1.7%		161	0.1%		459	0.4%	
<b>Finland</b>	70	1.1%	10.6%	140	6.9%	14.0%	61	4.8%	11.3%	131	5.7%	12.9%
<b>Sweden</b>	19	0.1%	0.2%	83	3.7%	1.5%	19	0.5%	1.3%	82	4.5%	2.5%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	20	0.1%	1.7%	79	1.1%	2.3%	34	0.2%	0.5%	76	0.8%	1.9%

Source: Eurostat

Tables 9 and 10 split the share of confidential data into partner confidentiality, product confidentiality and simultaneously partner and product confidentiality, in terms of trade value and number of CN8 codes affected. As can be noticed, for most of the Member States, product confidentiality seems to affect rather more the dispatches/exports than the arrivals/imports. Moreover, some Member States are systematically only using one kind of confidentiality.

**Table 9: Impact of different type of confidentiality on intra- and extra-EU trade (share of total value)**

MEMBER STATES	Intra-EU trade (%)						Extra-EU trade (%)					
	Arrivals			Dispatches			Imports			Exports		
	Secret product	Secret partner	Product and partner	Secret product	Secret partner	Product and partner	Secret product	Secret partner	Product and partner	Secret product	Secret partner	Product and partner
<b>Belgium</b>	0.8%			1.9%			1.5%		0.0%	2.9%		0.1%
<b>Bulgaria</b>		0.0%			1.7%			35.1%			2.0%	
<b>Czech Republic</b>	0.4%		0.0%	0.5%		0.0%	0.3%		0.1%	0.5%		0.2%
<b>Denmark</b>	0.2%	0.4%		4.3%	4.7%		2.8%	0.2%		2.7%	9.0%	
<b>Germany</b>	0.1%	1.5%	0.2%	1.4%	0.4%	1.3%	0.1%	5.9%	0.1%	1.7%	0.2%	1.6%
<b>Estonia</b>												
<b>Ireland</b>			0.0%			0.1%						
<b>Greece</b>	0.2%			3.9%			0.0%			2.1%		
<b>Spain</b>	0.1%			0.5%			0.3%			1.1%		
<b>France</b>	0.0%	0.0%		2.3%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%		1.9%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Italy</b>			1.3%			0.7%			9.0%			0.5%
<b>Cyprus</b>			0.1%						0.6%			0.0%
<b>Latvia</b>												
<b>Lithuania</b>												
<b>Luxembourg</b>			3.9%			1.2%			1.2%			2.4%
<b>Hungary</b>	3.0%			5.3%			12.5%			5.7%		
<b>Malta</b>												
<b>Netherlands</b>	3.6%	0.3%	0.3%	4.5%	0.4%	1.3%	0.2%	1.0%	2.3%	1.2%	0.9%	0.3%
<b>Austria</b>	0.4%		2.1%	2.6%		5.1%	1.5%	12.3%		3.7%	3.1%	
<b>Poland</b>		0.0%										
<b>Portugal</b>	0.8%		0.5%	2.3%		3.1%	0.3%		1.5%	0.4%		3.6%
<b>Romania</b>	0.2%			0.2%			0.3%			0.5%		
<b>Slovenia</b>			0.0%			0.0%						0.2%
<b>Slovakia</b>	0.6%		0.0%	1.7%			0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%		
<b>Finland</b>		0.3%	0.8%		2.2%	4.7%		0.1%	4.7%		1.7%	4.0%
<b>Sweden</b>			0.1%			3.7%			0.5%			4.5%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	0.1%	0.1%		1.0%	0.1%		0.1%	0.2%		0.6%	0.2%	

Source: Eurostat

Table 10: Number of CN8 codes affected according to the type of confidentiality

MEMBER STATES	Intra-EU trade (%)						Extra-EU trade (%)					
	Arrivals			Dispatches			Imports			Exports		
	Secret product	Secret partner	Product and partner	Secret product	Secret partner	Product and partner	Secret product	Secret partner	Product and partner	Secret product	Secret partner	Product and partner
Belgium	34			144			28		6	129		7
Bulgaria		1	19		2	5		2	17		2	11
Czech Republic	765		9	304		8	306		6	235		8
Denmark	21	15		54	43		18	13		53	43	
Germany	6	38	17	125	67	225	6	29	18	124	58	223
Estonia												
Ireland			15			8						
Greece	12			13			12			16		
Spain	35			29			31			35		
France	4	7		275	4	2	3	7		254	3	2
Italy			26			116			24			106
Cyprus			1						1			1
Latvia												
Lithuania												
Luxembourg			3			7			1			5
Hungary	1 547			1 963			602			1 754		
Malta												
Netherlands	85	146	14	211	276	22	62	384	16	152	738	25
Austria	40		56	169		114	35	54		162	112	
Poland		1										
Portugal	2 125		1 646	724		798	506		918	208		906
Romania	88			50			74			40		
Slovenia		1	22			12		1	19			21
Slovakia	1 316		1	2 017			158	1	2	459		
Finland		38	32		13	127		34	27		12	119
Sweden			19			83			19			82
United Kingdom	11	9		62	17		9	25		47	29	

Source: Eurostat

### 3.5 Control procedures

#### Controls using “primary” information/sources

The prime responsibility for ensuring the accuracy of the published trade data rests with Member States as they are responsible for data collection and thus have the access to the detailed data. At the level of the declarations, controls can be broadly classified as:

- **Basic controls:** this means checks on the validity of data and normally concerns all the variables collected. A validity error means that incorrect data causes processing problems, it cannot be included in the statistical analysis and so it must be removed or corrected. Examples of this kind of errors are incorrect or missing codes, missing values in the declarations; character data in numeric field and vice versa, etc. All Member States use reference tables with an automatic process to control these errors.
- **Complex controls:** this means checks on the plausibility of data and assesses all possible errors associated with the data. The data can be valid according to the previous criterion of validity but it is possibly incorrect; therefore it can be processed but it will distort the statistical analysis. The declaration for example is inconsistent internally in the comparison of the different variables, or it is not consistent with what was submitted in the previous months. The methods used by the Member States consist in checking one variable against the other within the declaration or between declarations.

Similar controls can in addition be carried out by the Member States at a more aggregated level, for example at the detail of product requested in the Regulations, before sending the data to Eurostat.

It should be kept in mind that, as basic data consists of millions of detailed trade declarations or reports each month, it is difficult to reach complete accuracy for the published statistics. As in all statistical work, a balance has to be struck between the resources devoted to checking and the likely benefit. Therefore the users should be aware of the margin of inaccuracies in the data used, at least concerning the most detailed level of data. This is particularly emphasised in the intra-EU trade statistics where smallest traders are exempted from making Intrastat declarations on their monthly trade (see chapter 7 for more details).

#### Controls using “secondary” information/sources

A close link with the VAT system allows Member States to check their intra-EU data with the data from VAT. Other sources can also be used, for example Balance of Payments, data from business statistics or statistics made by a particular professional federation, etc. The purpose of these secondary sources is to provide supplementary information to the trade data as reported by the Intrastat and Extrastat systems.

## 4 Timeliness and punctuality

### *ESS Quality Definition*

*The timeliness of statistical outputs is the length of time between the event or phenomenon they describe and their availability. Punctuality is the time lag between the release date of data and the target date on which they were scheduled for release as announced in an official release calendar, laid down by Regulations or previously agreed among partners.*

First results (including estimates) on Euro area and EU trade balances are published on line around 48 days after the reference month in the external trade Euro-indicators news release. The latest supplied detailed data (updates and revisions) are published at the date of the monthly press release. Short term indicators are updated on a monthly basis at the date of the press release. They include all data published in the Euro-indicators news release. Long term indicators are updated generally once a year when complete results are available for the last reference year.

According to the Intrastat and Extrastat legislations, Member States should provide Eurostat with intra- and extra-EU aggregated statistics within 40 days after the reference month. For detailed statistics the deadlines are 42 days for extra-EU statistics and 70 days for intra-EU statistics.

Table 11 shows how each Member State complied with these requirements. The table shows how many times (out of the 12 months of the year 2007) intra- and extra-EU detailed or aggregated data was delivered late and what the average delay of these late deliveries was. This indicator is based on the dates when the first version of each monthly data is sent to Eurostat and it is compared with the legal deadlines.



**Table 11: Transmission of detailed and aggregated results**

MEMBER STATES	Aggregated data		Detailed data			
	Intra- and extra-EU trade		Intra-EU trade		Extra-EU trade	
	Number of delayed data deliveries	Average delay in number of days	Number of delayed data deliveries	Average delay in number of days	Number of delayed data deliveries	Average delay in number of days
Belgium	1	1 day(s)	1	2 day(s)	3	1 day(s)
Bulgaria						
Czech Republic	1	3 day(s)				
Denmark			1	1 day(s)		
Germany	1	1 day(s)				
Estonia	1	1 day(s)	1	4 day(s)		
Ireland						
Greece	2	9 day(s)			2	7 day(s)
Spain	2	9 day(s)			2	3 day(s)
France	1	1 day(s)				
Italy	(*) 1	(*) 7 day(s)	1	1 day(s)	2	8 day(s)
Cyprus	2	1 day(s)	2	3 day(s)	3	2 day(s)
Latvia	1	1 day(s)			2	1 day(s)
Lithuania						
Luxembourg					4	2 day(s)
Hungary						
Malta	2	3 day(s)			2	1 day(s)
Netherlands						
Austria						
Poland						
Portugal	2	2 day(s)	1	1 day(s)	2	1 day(s)
Romania			1	1 day(s)	1	1 day(s)
Slovenia	1	1 day(s)	1	1 day(s)	1	5 day(s)
Slovakia	1	10 day(s)			1	1 day(s)
Finland						
Sweden						
United Kingdom					3	1 day(s)

Source: Eurostat

\*: Delays related to the transmission of intra-EU aggregated data only. Extra-EU aggregated data have been delivered systematically in due time

## 5 Accessibility and Clarity

### *ESS Quality Definition*

*The accessibility of statistical outputs is the measure of the ease with which users can obtain the data. It is determined by the physical conditions by means of which users obtain data: where to go, how to order, delivery time, pricing policy, marketing conditions (copyright, etc.), availability of micro or macro data, various formats (paper, files, CD-ROM, Internet, etc).*

*The clarity of statistical outputs is the measure of the ease with which users can understand the data. It is determined by the information environment within which the data are presented, whether the data are accompanied with appropriate metadata, whether use is made of illustrations such as graphs and maps, whether information on data accuracy are available (including any limitations on use) and the extent to which additional assistance is provided by the producer.*

All the different dissemination channels are used in dissemination: electronic and paper publications, predefined tables, databases, DVDs and FTP addresses for bulk download. Data are disseminated simultaneously and free of charges to all interested parties through Eurostat's website.

The dissemination of the external trade statistics is supported by a complete set of structural metadata making possible to easily identify, retrieve and browse the data. The reference metadata describing the contents and the data quality are as well quite exhaustive. User support is ensured by the help desk on Comext database.

## 6 Coherence and Comparability

### *ESS Quality Definition*

*The coherence of two or more statistical outputs refers to the degree to which the statistical processes by which they were generated used the same concepts – classifications, definitions and target populations – harmonised methods. Coherent statistical outputs have the potential to validly combined and used jointly. Examples of joint use are where the statistical outputs refer to the same population, reference period and region but comprise different sets of data items (say, employment data and production data) or where they comprise different sets of data items (say, employment data) but of different reference periods, regions or domains. Comparability is a special case of coherence and refers to the latter example above where the statistical outputs refer to the same data items and the aim of combining them is to make comparisons over time, or across regions, or across other domains.*

### 6.1 Comparability over space

#### 6.1.1 Comparability between EU external trade statistics and those of its main partners

There are two main approaches used for the measurement of external trade in goods, the general trade system and the special trade system.

For extra-EU trade statistics, the special trade system is applied which means that goods from a non-EU country which are received into customs warehouses are not recorded in external trade statistics unless they subsequently go into free circulation in the Member State of receipt (or are placed under the customs procedures for inward processing). Similarly, outgoing goods from customs warehouses are not recorded as exports. The general trade system, which is applied by most of the EU main partner countries, is a wider concept since it includes all goods entering or leaving the country.

It should be noted that intra-EU trade statistics do not have a direct link to customs procedures, thus they are not compiled on a general or special trade basis.

#### 6.1.2 Comparability between Community concept and National concept

Community legislation serves as a basis for compiling the intra- and extra-EU trade statistics sent by the Member States and published by Eurostat. However, Community statistics, which cover the EU as a whole, and the statistics compiled and published by the Member States, are not always directly comparable. Member States may use a national concept at national level but they have to provide Eurostat with harmonised data according to the Community concept.

The principal differences between the Community concept and national concepts are as follows:

- Breakdown by partner country: For arrivals, 10 Member States (Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia, Spain, France, Ireland, Austria, Poland, Slovakia and Finland) record the country of origin as the partner country, whereas the Member State of consignment appears in Community statistics relating to the same movements.
- Treatment of goods in transit: 10 Member States (Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Latvia, Luxembourg, Hungary, Netherlands, Austria, Poland and Portugal) do not record in their national figures goods, which they consider to be 'in transit'. This involves, firstly, imports from non-member countries which are cleared in these Member States before being dispatched to other Member States and, secondly, goods from other Member States which are immediately re-exported to non-member countries. These flows are included in the Community statistics under

intra- or extra-EU trade, as appropriate. This phenomenon is sometimes referred to the ‘Rotterdam effect’.

- Other differences: Other methodological differences can cause discrepancies between national and Community statistics, for example applying the general trade system at national level rather than the special trade system.

### 6.1.3 Comparability between intra-EU trade statistics based on Community concept

In theory, intra-EU trade statistics based upon Community concept should be fully comparable; therefore data should generally be less affected by asymmetries than extra-EU trade statistics. Dispatches from Member State A to Member State B, as reported by A, should be almost equal to arrivals into B from A, as reported by B. Due to a different valuation principle (CIF > FOB), arrivals should be slightly higher than dispatches (see chapter 3.2.1 for details on valuation). However, since the Intrastat system came into operation, bilateral comparisons have revealed major and persistent discrepancies in the intra-EU trade statistics. Therefore, comparisons dealing with intra-EU trade statistics have to be made cautiously and should take into account the existence of these discrepancies.

The main reasons for the discrepancies are known and are represented by the thresholds, the non-response and their related adjustments; statistical confidentiality; triangular trade; time lags in the registration of the transactions; misclassification of goods; or by other methodological differences.

The following Table 12 reports the intra-EU asymmetries at global level and by Member States, calculated using trade in value. It is evident that the impact is very different among the Member States. Many Member States regularly carry out bilateral studies to find out at detailed product level where the problems are and to resolve them. However, remedies are not easily found despite all the analyses done.

**Table 12: Intra-EU asymmetries (in %)**

<b>MEMBER STATES</b>	<b>Arrivals*</b>	<b>Dispatches**</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	5.1%	6.9%
<b>Bulgaria</b>	12.6%	13.0%
<b>Czech Republic</b>	2.5%	8.2%
<b>Denmark</b>	3.2%	8.9%
<b>Germany</b>	-0.7%	2.2%
<b>Estonia</b>	-1.1%	0.2%
<b>Ireland</b>	-11.1%	-11.5%
<b>Greece</b>	-8.1%	-5.4%
<b>Spain</b>	-5.7%	1.4%
<b>France</b>	-6.8%	-1.2%
<b>Italy</b>	-2.6%	7.3%
<b>Cyprus</b>	-18.2%	-105.3%
<b>Latvia</b>	-1.1%	-17.3%
<b>Lithuania</b>	9.0%	8.6%
<b>Luxembourg</b>	-5.4%	-7.5%
<b>Hungary</b>	0.4%	6.8%
<b>Malta</b>	-23.2%	-23.7%
<b>Netherlands</b>	-4.1%	5.9%
<b>Austria</b>	-1.3%	6.1%
<b>Poland</b>	-5.3%	7.1%
<b>Portugal</b>	-1.8%	10.2%
<b>Romania</b>	11.9%	13.3%
<b>Slovenia</b>	1.7%	14.8%
<b>Slovakia</b>	0.4%	12.1%
<b>Finland</b>	-2.5%	-5.9%
<b>Sweden</b>	-3.4%	-4.0%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	-5.2%	-2.4%
<b>EU</b>	-2.4%	3.0%

Source: Eurostat

\*: (Arrivals – Mirror dispatches) / Mirror flows average

\*\* : (Dispatches – Mirror arrivals) / Mirror flows average

## 6.2 Comparability over time

Comparability over time is another important aspect of quality. Changes due to definitions, coverage or methods and other changes will have an impact on the continuity of external trade series.

The most important methodological changes or other events affecting the external trade statistics during the last few years are listed in the following table

**Table 13: Changes affecting comparability over time**

Year	Event	Quality dimensions affected
2007	EU enlargement (accession of Bulgaria and Romania)	Relevance, accuracy, comparability
2007	Revision of the Harmonized System	Relevance, comparability
2006	Repairs excluded from the scope of Extrastat	Relevance, comparability
2006	Collection of net mass in Intrastat no longer mandatory if supplementary unit is collected	Accuracy, comparability
2005	Repairs excluded from the scope of Intrastat	Relevance, comparability
2005	Revised Intrastat legislation enters into force	Relevance, accuracy, timeliness, clarity, comparability
2004	EU enlargement (accession of Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia)	Relevance, accuracy, comparability

The impact of the different methodological and practical changes that have occurred in recent years is difficult to assess precisely. Nevertheless, it can be concluded that a change from an administrative data source (Extrastat) to a purely statistical data collection system (Intrastat) means normally a major break in the trade statistics time series.

## 6.3 Coherence with other statistics

Apart from the external trade statistics, information on trade flows can be found in National Accounts, Business Statistics and Balance of Payments. The compilation of the data and the production of the above mentioned statistics follow the recommendations (sources and methods) of different international organisations, i.e. Eurostat, International Monetary Fund (IMF), United Nations (UN), etc. Table 14 tries to give an overall idea of the main differences between these sources.

**Table 14: Coherence between External Trade Statistics, National Accounts, Balance of Payments and Business Statistics at the EU level**

	<b>External Trade Statistics</b>	<b>National Accounts</b>	<b>BoP</b>	<b>Business Statistics</b>
<b>Concepts &amp; Definitions</b>	Community definition	Aggregation of national statistics based on ESA 95. However, account of the rest of the world is based on national definition.	Aggregation of national statistics based upon IMF 5 <sup>th</sup> manual. It implies some methodological discrepancies (FOB/FOB, difference of coverage). BoP statistics in Member States are most of the time derived from Member States' ETS. BoP statistics sent to Eurostat are compiled according to the Community concept.	Statistics are based on activity sector
<b>Statistical unit/object/population</b>	Cross-border movement of goods		International Transaction with change of ownership	Enterprise, local unit
<b>Classifications (nomenclature)</b>	Combined Nomenclature (CN)	Institutional sectors	IMF classification	NACE
<b>Geographical breakdown</b>	Detailed geographical breakdown	Intra-EU, Extra-EU, World	Detailed geographical breakdown	All partners
<b>Reference period</b>	Monthly	Annual	Quarterly	Annual
<b>Correction methods</b>	National corrections	National corrections	National corrections	National corrections

Source: internal documents.

#### 6.4 Internal coherence

A key feature of the European trade data is its coherence. Aggregated data are constructed from detailed data over Member States and over different product classifications with the help of official correspondence tables. This ensures internal coherence. In addition, Eurostat calculates derived indicators such as unit value indices or seasonally adjusted series from the detailed data provided by Member States in order to maintain coherence.

## 7 Performance, Cost and Respondent burden

*European Statistics Code of Practice*

*Principle 9. Resources must be effectively used.*

*Principle 10. Respondent burden should be proportional to the needs of users and not excessive for respondents, Respondent burden should be measured and targets set for its reduction over time.*

In order to reduce the burden on enterprises, particularly small and medium sized ones, the Intrastat system is designed in a way that the workload for providers of statistical information varies according to the amount of trade in which they are engaged. To achieve this, each Member State applies a system of thresholds. Member States have to define each year thresholds for both arrivals and dispatches that exempt enterprises to provide statistical information or to limit the information collected. The thresholds are expressed in annual values of intra-EU trade. There are three types of thresholds:

- Exemption threshold. Enterprises below the exemption threshold do not have to declare at all. For defining the exemption threshold Member States have to ensure that at least 97 % of the Member State's trade value is covered.
- Simplification threshold. It allows enterprises, whose annual trade value is above the exemption threshold but below the simplification threshold, to provide only a limited set of data or use a simplified commodity code. The trade reported by these enterprises may cover for at most 6 % of the total trade. Currently three Member States apply the simplification threshold.
- Statistical value threshold. Member States may collect the statistical value of goods from part of the enterprises. The value of this trade amounts to a maximum of 70 % of the total trade of that Member State. (see chapter 3.3 for more details of statistical value)

The following tables 15 to 17 show these thresholds in value and the share of traders affected by them.



**Table 15: Intrastat exemptions thresholds in EUR and share of traders exempted from reporting**

MEMBER STATES	Exemption threshold in value		Share of traders exempted from reporting		
	Arrivals	Dispatches	Arrivals	Dispatches	Total
Belgium	400 000	1 000 000	(*) 92%	(*) 89%	(*) 92%
Bulgaria	76 694	51 129	:	:	:
Czech Republic	65 000	130 000	67%	74%	65%
Denmark	242 000	630 000	(*) 78%	(*) 78%	(*) 80%
Germany	300 000	300 000	90%	79%	87%
Estonia	127 823	127 823	64%	66%	63%
Ireland	191 000	635 000	97%	95%	97%
Greece	55 000	55 000	39%	27%	36%
Spain	200 000	200 000	(*) 83%	(*) 74%	(*) 80%
France	150 000	150 000	50%	58%	:
Italy	180 000	250 000	84%	72%	:
Cyprus	52 147	52 147	45%	56%	49%
Latvia	69 721	115 253	66%	69%	64%
Lithuania	72 405	101 367	55%	65%	55%
Luxembourg	150 000	150 000	81%	75%	80%
Hungary	240 000	400 000	80%	84%	81%
Malta	700	700	:	:	:
Netherlands	400 000	400 000	85%	80%	91%
Austria	300 000	300 000	86%	77%	84%
Poland	127 166	203 626	50%	56%	:
Portugal	70 000	110 000	86%	91%	84%
Romania	85 000	250 000	67%	71%	69%
Slovenia	85 000	200 000	74%	73%	73%
Slovakia	132 749	265 498	78%	80%	78%
Finland	100 000	200 000	72%	71%	71%
Sweden	238 000	484 000	85%	85%	83%
United Kingdom	385 000	385 000	(*) 82%	(*) 83%	(*) 82%

Source: 2008 Quality Questionnaire.

\* : Data to be confirmed.

**Table 16: Intrastat simplification thresholds in EUR and share of beneficiary PSIs**

MEMBER STATES	Exemption threshold in value		Share of PSIs allowed to use Intrastat simplified declarations		
	Arrivals	Dispatches	Arrivals	Dispatches	Total
France	230 000	230 000	7%	15%	:
Luxembourg	375 000	375 000	47%	38%	47%
Slovakia	637 196	637 196	36%	30%	34%

**Table 17: Intrastat statistical value thresholds in EUR and share of beneficiary PSIs**

MEMBER STATES	Statistical value threshold		Percentage of PSIs exempted from the reporting of the statistical value		
	Arrivals	Dispatches	Arrivals	Dispatches	Total
<b>Belgium</b>	All PSIs exempted		100%	100%	100%
<b>Bulgaria</b>	1 023 000	3 068 000	:	:	:
<b>Czech Republic</b>	All PSIs exempted		100%	100%	100%
<b>Denmark</b>	All PSIs exempted		100%	100%	100%
<b>Germany</b>	25 000 000	37 000 000	96%	97%	96%
<b>Estonia</b>	3 067 759	3 642 964	89%	91%	89%
<b>Ireland</b>	5 000 000	34 000 000	90%	77%	90%
<b>Greece</b>	(*) 1 300 000	(*) 1 700 000	:	:	:
<b>Spain</b>	6 000 000	6 000 000	91%	90%	91%
<b>France</b>	All PSIs exempted		100%	100%	100%
<b>Italy</b>	20 000 000	20 000 000	99%	99%	:
<b>Cyprus</b>	869 000	869 000	87%	71%	86%
<b>Latvia</b>	1 750 142	2 852 874	90%	88%	90%
<b>Lithuania</b>	2 027 000	5 792 000	86%	93%	87%
<b>Luxembourg</b>	2 500 000	4 500 000	58%	47%	59%
<b>Hungary</b>	10 000 000	40 000 000	91%	82%	94%
<b>Malta</b>	No exemption		0%	0%	0%
<b>Netherlands</b>	All PSIs exempted		100%	100%	100%
<b>Austria</b>	6 500 000	6 500 000	86%	82%	90%
<b>Poland</b>	7 381 436	12 472 081	93%	94%	:
<b>Portugal</b>	5 830 000	8 100 000	95%	93%	94%
<b>Romania</b>	2 800 000	5 600 000	89%	88%	89%
<b>Slovenia</b>	3 000 000	9 000 000	91%	91%	91%
<b>Slovakia</b>	All PSIs exempted		100%	100%	100%
<b>Finland</b>	13 200 000	51 800 000	94%	97%	94%
<b>Sweden</b>	All PSIs exempted		100%	100%	100%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	All PSIs exempted		100%	100%	100%

\*: All the traders report the statistical value including those above the statistical value threshold.

In addition to thresholds in value, Member States may apply other simplification measures. These include for instance optional collection of net mass for CN-codes where quantity needs to be reported in supplementary unit or the use of simplified reporting for specific products such as industrial plants or parts of motor vehicles.

Extra-EU trade statistics cover in principle all imports and exports declared by Member States. However, it is allowed to exclude transactions whose value and net mass are lower than statistical thresholds. These thresholds are at maximum 1000 Euro or 1000 kg.

**Table 18: Extrastat statistical thresholds**

<b>MEMBER STATES</b>	<b>Extrastat statistical threshold</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	800 € or 1000 kg
<b>Bulgaria</b>	:
<b>Czech Republic</b>	1000 € or 1000 kg
<b>Denmark</b>	1008 € or 1000 kg, except 403 € and 1000 kg for exports to Greenland and the Faeroe Islands
<b>Germany</b>	1000 € or 1000 kg
<b>Estonia</b>	No threshold
<b>Ireland</b>	No threshold
<b>Greece</b>	No threshold
<b>Spain</b>	1000 € or 1000 kg
<b>France</b>	1000 € or 1000 kg
<b>Italy</b>	700 € (chapters 1-14), 1000 € (chapters 15-97)
<b>Cyprus</b>	No threshold
<b>Latvia</b>	No threshold
<b>Lithuania</b>	EUR 1000 in value and 1000 kg
<b>Luxembourg</b>	No threshold
<b>Hungary</b>	No threshold
<b>Malta</b>	No threshold
<b>Netherlands</b>	No threshold
<b>Austria</b>	1000 €
<b>Poland</b>	No threshold
<b>Portugal</b>	No threshold
<b>Romania</b>	No threshold
<b>Slovenia</b>	1 000 €
<b>Slovakia</b>	1000 € or 1000 kg
<b>Finland</b>	1000 €
<b>Sweden</b>	No threshold
<b>United Kingdom</b>	1000 € or 1000 kg

Source: 2008 Quality Questionnaire.

## **8 Conclusions**

The previous paragraphs present the main quality indicators of the EU trade statistics for the year 2007. The purpose of this Quality Report is to provide users with information on different factors affecting statistics, thus allowing them to assess the quality. The purpose is not to sort the EU Member States from best to worst for each quality indicator; instead this report presents the differences in the practises and methods applied by Member States.

The Quality Report aims at monitoring the quality of statistics – both over time and over space - therefore it can be used as a tool to improve quality. Annual editions of the Quality Report can thus be a useful source of information also for the compilers of trade statistics at national level.

**ANNEX: 2006 figures**

**Table 1: Share of collected data and adjustments for trade below the exemption threshold and non-response in intra-EU trade (share of total value), 2006**

MEMBER STATES	Collected data				Estimated data			
	Detailed declarations		Simplified declarations		Below the exemption threshold		Non response	
	Arrivals	Dispatches	Arrivals	Dispatches	Arrivals	Dispatches	Arrivals	Dispatches
Belgium	96.2%	97.2%	0.03%	0.1%	2.1%	1.4%	1.6%	1.4%
Czech Republic	97.9%	97.7%	0.03%	0.02%	1.2%	1.1%	0.9%	1.1%
Denmark	86.5%	92.0%					(*) 13.5%	(*) 8.0%
Germany	94.6%	96.9%	0.1%	0.2%	2.9%	1.8%	2.3%	1.2%
Estonia	91.9%	92.7%			3.1%	3.2%	5.0%	4.1%
Ireland	73.0%	88.9%	20.5%	9.3%	3.2%	1.6%	3.3%	0.2%
Greece ***	:	:						
Spain ***	:	:						
France ***	:	:	:	:				
Italy	96.8%	97.4%	0.001%	0.004%	3.2%	2.6%		
Cyprus	98.6%	97.5%			1.4%	2.3%	0.1%	0.2%
Latvia	95.9%	95.0%			2.3%	3.1%	1.8%	1.9%
Lithuania	99.2%	99.0%			0.7%	0.9%	0.1%	0.1%
Luxembourg	91.8%	93.8%	3.4%	2.0%			(*) 4.7%	(*) 4.2%
Hungary	92.6%	95.2%	0.2%	0.04%	3.6%	2.3%	3.7%	2.5%
Malta ***	:	:						
Netherlands	87.6%	91.5%	0.02%	0.02%	3.1%	1.3%	9.3%	7.2%
Austria	96.3%	98.3%	0.01%	0.003%			(*) 3.7%	(*) 1.7%
Poland	98.2%	98.5%			1.0%	1.0%	0.8%	0.5%
Portugal	95.6%	96.7%			1.7%	1.2%	2.7%	2.0%
Slovenia	96.6%	98.1%			3.3%	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%
Slovakia	86.9%	88.6%	7.8%	7.1%			(*) 5.4%	(*) 4.3%
Finland	96.5%	98.2%			2.5%	1.3%	0.9%	0.5%
Sweden	96.1%	97.6%			3.1%	2.2%	0.9%	0.3%
United Kingdom	84.1%	96.8%	0.02%	0.1%	2.0%	2.2%	(**) 13.9%	0.9%
EU-25	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Source: Eurostat or 2007 Quality Questionnaire

\*: Only total level of adjustments (no distinction into below the exemption threshold and non-response) is available in Eurostat.

\*\* : Includes a non-response adjustment of 12.4 % for the impact of Missing Trader Intra-Community (MTIC) fraud.

\*\*\*: No adjustment is compiled for trade below the exemption threshold and non response.

**Table 3: Share of collected data and adjustments for trade below the exemption threshold and late-response in extra-EU trade (share of total value), 2006**

MEMBER STATES	Collected data		Estimated data			
	Standard category		Below the exemption threshold		Late/partial response	
	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports
Belgium	100.0%	100.0%				
Czech Republic	100.0%	100.0%				
Denmark	99.5%	99.3%	0.002%	0.7%	0.5%	
Germany	99.7%	99.7%	0.3%	0.3%		
Estonia	100.0%	100.0%				
Ireland	100.0%	99.9%		0.1%		
Greece	100.0%	100.0%				
Spain	100.0%	100.0%				
France	99.4%	99.4%	0.6%	0.6%		
Italy	99.8%	99.5%	0.2%	0.5%		
Cyprus	100.0%	100.0%				
Latvia	100.0%	100.0%				
Lithuania	100.0%	100.0%				
Luxembourg	100.0%	100.0%				
Hungary	100.0%	100.0%				
Malta	100.0%	100.0%				
Netherlands	99.0%	98.6%			1.0%	1.4%
Austria	99.7%	99.6%	0.3%	0.4%		
Poland	100.0%	100.0%				
Portugal	100.0%	100.0%				
Slovenia	99.9%	99.9%	0.1%	0.1%		
Slovakia	100.0%	100.0%				
Finland	100.0%	100.0%				
Sweden	100.0%	100.0%				
United Kingdom	98.8%	99.7%	1.2%	0.3%		
EU-25	99.6%	99.6%	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%

Source: Eurostat

**Table 5: The quantitative impact of calculating the statistical value, 2006**

<b>MEMBER STATES</b>	<b>Arrivals</b>	<b>Dispatches</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Czech Republic</b>	-0.69%	1.63%
<b>Denmark</b>	0.52%	-0.61%
<b>Germany</b>	0.39%	0.55%
<b>Estonia</b>	1.44%	-0.16%
<b>Ireland</b>	0.02%	0.01%
<b>Greece</b>	0.03%	-0.01%
<b>Spain</b>	:	:
<b>France</b>	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Italy</b>	1.40%	0.30%
<b>Cyprus</b>	2.93%	-3.39%
<b>Latvia</b>	2.16%	-2.02%
<b>Lithuania</b>	0.02%	0.00%
<b>Luxembourg</b>	1.80%	-2.20%
<b>Hungary</b>	0.56%	-0.31%
<b>Malta</b>	:	:
<b>Netherlands</b>	:	:
<b>Austria</b>	0.21%	-0.48%
<b>Poland</b>	-0.19%	-0.21%
<b>Portugal</b>	:	:
<b>Slovenia</b>	0.29%	-0.53%
<b>Slovakia</b>	0.60%	-0.50%
<b>Finland</b>	1.13%	-2.96%
<b>Sweden</b>	1.17%	-1.38%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	0.27%	-0.52%

Source: 2007 Quality Questionnaire

: Data not available



**Table 7: Impact of revisions (in %) on intra-and extra-EU trade, 2006**

MEMBER STATES	Intra-EU trade		Extra-EU trade	
	Arrivals	Dispatches	Imports	Exports
Belgium	-4.0%	-3.7%	7.2%	12.3%
Czech Republic	0.5%	0.2%	1.7%	1.2%
Denmark	-2.8%	-2.0%	0.1%	2.5%
Germany	-0.3%	-0.6%	-0.1%	0.0%
Estonia	8.2%	5.3%	0.0%	3.7%
Ireland	1.5%	-3.9%	-0.8%	-3.8%
Greece	0.7%	1.2%	0.9%	-0.7%
Spain	4.9%	4.1%	2.7%	8.1%
France	4.3%	3.1%	1.2%	0.6%
Italy	2.4%	3.0%	-0.4%	-0.5%
Cyprus	1.2%	6.4%	-0.8%	-0.1%
Latvia	5.1%	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Lithuania	1.9%	1.0%	-0.1%	0.0%
Luxembourg	7.2%	9.3%	-0.1%	13.4%
Hungary	3.9%	2.4%	1.2%	5.5%
Malta	13.0%	8.0%	-1.5%	1.8%
Netherlands	0.6%	0.2%	0.8%	2.0%
Austria	1.4%	0.4%	2.4%	1.9%
Poland	8.2%	4.4%	0.2%	0.3%
Portugal	2.0%	0.9%	0.6%	0.7%
Slovenia	0.5%	0.1%	0.9%	-0.1%
Slovakia	-2.2%	0.8%	-1.0%	-0.2%
Finland	3.3%	1.1%	1.2%	0.6%
Sweden	1.0%	0.1%	2.8%	0.8%
United Kingdom	6.0%	12.1%	0.3%	0.7%
<b>EU-25</b>	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>

Source: Eurostat

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**Table 8: Impact of the confidentiality on intra- and extra-EU trade, 2006**

MEMBER STATES	Intra-EU trade						Extra-EU trade					
	Arrivals			Dispatches			Imports			Exports		
	Number of CN8 codes affected	Impact on trade value (%)	Impact on net mass (%)	Number of CN8 codes affected	Impact on trade value (%)	Impact on net mass (%)	Number of CN8 codes affected	Impact on trade value (%)	Impact on net mass (%)	Number of CN8 codes affected	Impact on trade value (%)	Impact on net mass (%)
<b>Belgium</b>	35	0.7%	0.3%	151	2.1%	2.7%	34	1.3%	0.4%	147	2.9%	5.4%
<b>Czech Republic</b>	839	0.8%		327	0.4%		262	10.1%		202	1.0%	
<b>Denmark</b>	36	0.7%	1.8%	97	9.6%	4.9%	31	2.6%	0.9%	96	11.8%	15.3%
<b>Germany</b>	58	2.0%	6.9%	428	3.3%	7.1%	53	7.1%	25.3%	413	3.4%	10.2%
<b>Estonia</b>												
<b>Ireland</b>	15	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%				
<b>Greece</b>	15	0.5%	0.7%	12	4.0%	1.5%	9	0.0%	0.0%	17	1.2%	0.1%
<b>Spain</b>	36	0.2%	0.4%	37	0.6%	1.0%	30	0.3%	0.3%	34	0.9%	1.1%
<b>France</b>	8	0.0%	17.1%	279	2.1%	8.1%	9	0.0%	5.1%	248	1.7%	3.9%
<b>Italy</b>	26	1.7%	0.2%	119	0.7%	1.5%	25	10.2%	17.4%	113	0.7%	1.2%
<b>Cyprus</b>	1	1.7%	0.0%				1	0.5%	0.0%			
<b>Latvia</b>												
<b>Lithuania</b>												
<b>Luxembourg</b>	3	3.7%	6.0%	7	0.8%	2.2%	1	1.2%	1.2%	5	2.8%	0.0%
<b>Hungary</b>	1 601	3.1%	8.2%	1 498	4.6%	19.8%	757	13.0%	38.5%	2 002	4.9%	18.2%
<b>Malta</b>												
<b>Netherlands</b>	211	0.8%	0.8%	497	6.3%	2.0%	274	2.7%	1.6%	719	2.0%	2.2%
<b>Austria</b>	94	2.0%	10.2%	267	6.1%	10.5%	81	10.7%	41.4%	261	5.6%	6.9%
<b>Poland</b>	1	0.0%	0.0%									
<b>Portugal</b>	3 510	1.4%	1.0%	1 457	5.3%	8.4%	1 437	1.8%	1.2%	1 241	4.6%	5.1%
<b>Slovenia</b>	25	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	0.1%	21		0.0%	19	0.2%	0.9%
<b>Slovakia</b>	1 064	0.4%		1 653	1.9%		95	0.0%		367	0.6%	
<b>Finland</b>	66	0.9%	10.8%	147	7.0%	14.5%	60	5.0%	10.7%	138	5.2%	13.1%
<b>Sweden</b>	20	0.2%	0.2%	75	3.6%	1.4%	16	0.4%	1.2%	78	4.6%	2.5%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	19	0.1%	1.7%	88	1.0%	2.1%	28	0.2%	0.5%	75	0.8%	1.8%

Source: Eurostat

: Data not available

**Table 9: Impact of different type of confidentiality on intra- and extra-EU trade (share of total value), 2006**

MEMBER STATES	Intra-EU trade (%)						Extra-EU trade (%)					
	Arrivals			Dispatches			Imports			Exports		
	Secret product	Secret partner	Product and partner	Secret product	Secret partner	Product and partner	Secret product	Secret partner	Product and partner	Secret product	Secret partner	Product and partner
<b>Belgium</b>	0.7%			2.1%			1.3%		0.0%	2.8%		0.1%
<b>Czech Republic</b>	0.8%		0.0%	0.4%		0.0%	10.1%		0.0%	0.8%		0.1%
<b>Denmark</b>	0.3%	0.4%		4.6%	5.0%		2.4%	0.2%		3.3%	8.6%	
<b>Germany</b>	0.1%	1.8%	0.1%	1.5%	0.5%	1.3%	0.1%	6.9%	0.1%	1.8%	0.1%	1.4%
<b>Estonia</b>												
<b>Ireland</b>			0.0%			0.0%	0.0%		0.0%			
<b>Greece</b>	0.5%			4.0%			0.0%			1.2%		
<b>Spain</b>	0.2%			0.6%			0.3%			0.9%		
<b>France</b>	0.0%	0.0%		2.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%		1.7%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Italy</b>			1.7%			0.7%			10.2%			0.7%
<b>Cyprus</b>			1.7%						0.5%			
<b>Latvia</b>												
<b>Lithuania</b>												
<b>Luxembourg</b>			3.7%			0.8%			1.2%			2.8%
<b>Hungary</b>	3.1%			4.6%			13.0%			4.9%		
<b>Malta</b>												
<b>Netherlands</b>	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	5.0%	0.3%	1.1%	0.2%	0.5%	2.1%	1.1%	0.6%	0.3%
<b>Austria</b>	0.4%	1.6%		3.0%	3.1%		1.5%	9.2%		3.5%	2.1%	
<b>Poland</b>		0.0%										
<b>Portugal</b>	1.2%		0.2%	3.7%		1.6%	1.0%		0.8%	3.3%		1.3%
<b>Slovenia</b>			0.0%			0.0%						0.2%
<b>Slovakia</b>	0.4%		0.0%	1.9%		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		0.6%		
<b>Finland</b>		0.3%	0.6%		2.3%	4.8%		0.1%	4.9%		1.8%	3.4%
<b>Sweden</b>			0.2%			3.6%			0.4%			4.6%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	0.1%	0.1%		0.9%	0.1%		0.1%	0.1%		0.5%	0.3%	

Source: Eurostat

: Data not available

**Table 10: Number of CN8 codes affected according to the type of confidentiality, 2006**

MEMBER STATES	Intra-EU trade (%)						Extra-EU trade (%)					
	Arrivals			Dispatches			Imports			Exports		
	Secret product	Secret partner	Product and partner	Secret product	Secret partner	Product and partner	Secret product	Secret partner	Product and partner	Secret product	Secret partner	Product and partner
<b>Belgium</b>	35			151			28		6	139		8
<b>Czech Republic</b>	829		10	320		7	254		8	193		9
<b>Denmark</b>	21	15		53	44		17	14		52	44	
<b>Germany</b>	6	33	19	139	58	231	5	28	20	137	49	227
<b>Estonia</b>												
<b>Ireland</b>			15			10	8		1			
<b>Greece</b>	15			12			9			17		
<b>Spain</b>	36			37			30			34		
<b>France</b>	3	5		272	5	2	3	6		244	2	2
<b>Italy</b>			26			119			25			113
<b>Cyprus</b>			1						1			
<b>Latvia</b>												
<b>Lithuania</b>												
<b>Luxembourg</b>			3			7			1			5
<b>Hungary</b>	1 601			1 498			757			2 002		
<b>Malta</b>												
<b>Netherlands</b>	94	97	20	204	276	17	79	173	22	166	531	22
<b>Austria</b>	36	58		167	100		32	49		164	97	
<b>Poland</b>		1										
<b>Portugal</b>	2 396		1 114	920		537	775		662	618		623
<b>Slovenia</b>			25			10			21			19
<b>Slovakia</b>	1 063		1	1 646		7	94	1		367		
<b>Finland</b>		35	31		24	123		31	29		20	118
<b>Sweden</b>			20			75			16			78
<b>United Kingdom</b>	10	9		71	17		9	19		50	25	

Source: Eurostat

: Data not available

**Table 11: Transmission of detailed and aggregated results, 2006**

MEMBER STATES	Aggregated data		Detailed data			
	Intra- and extra-EU trade		Intra-EU trade		Extra-EU trade	
	Number of delayed data deliveries	Average delay in number of days	Number of delayed data deliveries	Average delay in number of days	Number of delayed data deliveries	Average delay in number of days
Belgium						
Czech Republic	1	3 day(s)	1	7 day(s)	1	1 day(s)
Denmark						
Germany						
Estonia	1	1 day(s)	2	3 day(s)		
Ireland	2	2 day(s)	2	5 day(s)		
Greece			1	4 day(s)	3	2 day(s)
Spain					3	17 day(s)
France	2	1 day(s)			1	1 day(s)
Italy	(*) 6	(*) 2 day(s)	7	2 day(s)	1	1 day(s)
Cyprus	1	1 day(s)				
Latvia			1	1 day(s)	1	1 day(s)
Lithuania						
Luxembourg					5	2 day(s)
Hungary			1	1 day(s)		
Malta	1	1 day(s)			1	8 day(s)
Netherlands						
Austria						
Poland						
Portugal	3	4 day(s)	4	6 day(s)	4	3 day(s)
Slovenia						
Slovakia	1	2 day(s)				
Finland	1	1 day(s)				
Sweden						
United Kingdom						

Source: Eurostat

\*: Delays related to the transmission of intra-EU aggregated data only. Extra-EU aggregated data have been delivered systematically in due time

**Table 12: Intra-EU25 asymmetries (in %), 2006**

<b>MEMBER STATES</b>	<b>Arrivals*</b>	<b>Dispatches**</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	4.1%	7.7%
<b>Czech Republic</b>	3.1%	11.0%
<b>Denmark</b>	-1.5%	7.0%
<b>Germany</b>	-4.4%	1.1%
<b>Estonia</b>	-8.6%	-11.2%
<b>Ireland</b>	-14.1%	-13.4%
<b>Greece</b>	-6.1%	-3.6%
<b>Spain</b>	-10.5%	0.9%
<b>France</b>	-8.8%	3.4%
<b>Italy</b>	-1.8%	8.4%
<b>Cyprus</b>	-43.6%	-129.3%
<b>Latvia</b>	-8.1%	-27.0%
<b>Lithuania</b>	9.3%	14.1%
<b>Luxembourg</b>	-13.1%	6.6%
<b>Hungary</b>	-0.2%	8.6%
<b>Malta</b>	-20.5%	-13.5%
<b>Netherlands</b>	-6.5%	6.3%
<b>Austria</b>	-3.4%	5.5%
<b>Poland</b>	-5.4%	9.1%
<b>Portugal</b>	-7.5%	-0.6%
<b>Slovenia</b>	5.5%	17.0%
<b>Slovakia</b>	2.2%	14.5%
<b>Finland</b>	-3.3%	-5.0%
<b>Sweden</b>	-5.8%	-3.0%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	11.6%	18.8%
<b>EU-25</b>	-2.8%	5.0%

Source: Eurostat

\*: (Arrivals – Mirror dispatches) / Mirror flows average

\*\*: (Dispatches – Mirror arrivals) / Mirror flows average

**Table 15: Intrastat exemptions thresholds in EUR and share of traders exempted from reporting, 2006**

MEMBER STATES	Exemption threshold in value		Share of traders exempted from reporting		
	Arrivals	Dispatches	Arrivals	Dispatches	Total
Belgium	400 000	1 000 000	:	:	:
Czech Republic	65 000	130 000	:	:	:
Denmark	216 216	554 054	:	:	:
Germany	300 000	300 000	:	:	:
Estonia	127 823	127 823	:	:	:
Ireland	191 000	635 000	:	:	:
Greece	45 000	45 000	:	:	:
Spain	200 000	200 000	:	:	:
France	150 000	150 000	:	:	:
Italy	150 000	200 000	:	:	:
Cyprus	42 715	42 715	:	:	:
Latvia	69 721	115 253	:	:	:
Lithuania	31 858	57 924	:	:	:
Luxembourg	150 000	150 000	:	:	:
Hungary	240 000	400 000	:	:	:
Malta	700	700	:	:	:
Netherlands	400 000	400 000	:	:	:
Austria	250 000	250 000	:	:	:
Poland	118 835	190 137	:	:	:
Portugal	50 000	80 000	:	:	:
Slovenia	94 308	94 308	:	:	:
Slovakia	77 674	155 348	:	:	:
Finland	100 000	200 000	:	:	:
Sweden	243 293	497 644	:	:	:
United Kingdom	329 217	329 217	:	:	:

Source: 2007 Quality Questionnaire

**Table 16: Intrastat simplification thresholds in EUR and share of beneficiary PSIs, 2006**

MEMBER STATES	Exemption threshold in value		Share of PSIs allowed to use Intrastat simplified declarations		
	Arrivals	Dispatches	Arrivals	Dispatches	Total
France	230 000	460 000	:	:	:
Luxembourg	375 000	375 000	:	:	:
Slovakia	310 696	776 739	:	:	:

Source: 2007 Quality Questionnaire

**Table 17: Intrastat statistical value thresholds in EUR and share of beneficiary PSIs, 2006**

MEMBER STATES	Statistical value threshold		Percentage of PSIs exempted from the reporting of the statistical value		
	Arrivals	Dispatches	Arrivals	Dispatches	Total
<b>Belgium</b>	All PSI exempted		:	:	:
<b>Czech Republic</b>	All PSI exempted		:	:	:
<b>Denmark</b>	All PSI exempted		:	:	:
<b>Germany</b>	22 000 000	35 000 000	:	:	:
<b>Estonia</b>	2 556 466	3 642 964	:	:	:
<b>Ireland</b>	5 000 000	34 000 000	:	:	:
<b>Greece</b>	(*) 1 300 000	(*) 1 700 000	:	:	:
<b>Spain</b>	6 000 000	6 000 000	:	:	:
<b>France</b>	All PSI exempted		:	:	:
<b>Italy</b>	10 000 000	10 000 000	:	:	:
<b>Cyprus</b>	854 301	854 301	:	:	:
<b>Latvia</b>	1 750 142	2 852 874	:	:	:
<b>Lithuania</b>	1 737 720	5 792 400	:	:	:
<b>Luxembourg</b>	2 500 000	4 500 000	:	:	:
<b>Hungary</b>	10 000 000	40 000 000	:	:	:
<b>Malta</b>	No exemption		:	:	:
<b>Netherlands</b>	All PSI exempted		:	:	:
<b>Austria</b>	5 000 000	5 000 000	:	:	:
<b>Poland</b>	5 941 770	10 219 850	:	:	:
<b>Portugal</b>	5 830 000	8 100 000	:	:	:
<b>Slovenia</b>	2 831 748	6 607 828	:	:	:
<b>Slovakia</b>	All PSI exempted		:	:	:
<b>Finland</b>	9 300 000	42 000 000	:	:	:
<b>Sweden</b>	All PSI exempted		:	:	:
<b>United Kingdom</b>	All PSI exempted		:	:	:

Source: 2007 Quality Questionnaire

\*: All the traders report the statistical value including those above the statistical value threshold.



**Table 18: Extrastat statistical thresholds, 2006**

<b>MEMBER STATES</b>	<b>Extrastat statistical threshold</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	800 € and 1000 kg
<b>Czech Republic</b>	1000 € and 1000 kg
<b>Denmark</b>	1008 € and 1000 kg, except 403 € and 1000 kg for exports to Greenland and the Faroe Islands
<b>Germany</b>	1000 € and 1000 kg
<b>Estonia</b>	No threshold
<b>Ireland</b>	No threshold
<b>Greece</b>	No threshold
<b>Spain</b>	1000 € and 1000 kg
<b>France</b>	650 €
<b>Italy</b>	516 € (chapters 1-24), 620 € (chapters 25-97)
<b>Cyprus</b>	No threshold
<b>Latvia</b>	No threshold
<b>Lithuania</b>	1000 €, applied only for exports of small urgent air deliveries
<b>Luxembourg</b>	No threshold
<b>Hungary</b>	No threshold
<b>Malta</b>	No threshold
<b>Netherlands</b>	800 € and 1000 kg
<b>Austria</b>	1000 €
<b>Poland</b>	No threshold
<b>Portugal</b>	No threshold
<b>Slovenia</b>	1000 € for business entities, 130 € for private individuals
<b>Slovakia</b>	1000 € and 1000 kg
<b>Finland</b>	1000 €
<b>Sweden</b>	No threshold
<b>United Kingdom</b>	1000 € or 1000 kg

Source: 2007 Quality Questionnaire

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