Glossary:Broad economic categories (BEC)

The classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC) is an international product classification. Its main purpose is to provide a set of broad product categories for the analysis of trade statistics. Eurostat releases data for two versions of the BEC classification, BEC revision 4 and BEC revision 5. The fourth revision is limited to goods while the fifth revision also includes services.

Both versions allow goods and services to be distinguished by end-use into:

- intermediate consumption,
- gross fixed capital formation and
- final consumption.

The fifth revision added three new distinctions:

- primary / processed,
- generic / specific and
- durable / non-durable.

Further information

- BEC revision 4
- BEC revision 5

Related concepts

- International trade in services
- International trade in goods

Statistical data

- International trade in goods and services by end use
- International trade in services statistics by broad economic categories