Glossary:Standard international trade classification (SITC)

Statistics Explained

The **Standard international trade classification** , abbreviated as **SITC** , is a product classification of the United Nations (UN) used for external trade statistics (export and import values and volumes of goods), allowing for international comparisons of commodities and manufactured goods.

The groupings of SITC reflect:

- the production materials;
- the processing stage;
- market practices and uses of the products;
- the importance of the goods in world trade;
- technological changes.

The main categories are:

- *food, drinks and tobacco* (Sections 0 and 1 - including live animals);
- *raw materials* (Sections 2 and 4);
- *energy products* (Section 3);
- *chemicals* (Section 5 - including pharmaceuticals and plastics);
- *machinery and transport equipment* (Section 7);
- *other manufactured goods* (Sections 6 and 8);
- *other goods* (Section 9).

SITC Revision 4 was accepted by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its 37th session in 2006 and it is currently being implemented.

Further information

- Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 4 (United Nations Statistics Division - Trade Statistics)

Related concepts

- PRODCOM
- Statistical classification of products by activity (CPA)

Statistical data

- International trade in goods