Glossary:Statistical classification of products by activity (CPA)

Statistics Explained

The **Statistical classification of products by activity** , abbreviated as **CPA** , is the classification of products (goods as well as services) at the level of the European Union (EU) .

Product classifications are designed to categorise products that have common characteristics. They provide the basis for collecting and calculating statistics on the production, distributive trade , consumption, international trade and transport of such products.

CPA product categories are related to activities as defined by the Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community (NACE) . Each CPA product - whether a (tangible or intangible) good or a service - is assigned to one single NACE activity. This linkage to NACE activities gives the CPA a structure parallel to that of the NACE at all levels.

The CPA is part of an integrated system of statistical classifications, consisting of international classifications developed mainly under the auspices of the United Nations Statistical Division and European classifications developed mainly under the auspices of Eurostat, as well as other regional and national classifications. This system makes it possible to compare statistics across countries and across different statistical domains.

CPA has a hierarchical structure with six levels, each identified with a specific code. For CPA Version 2.2 (applicable from 2025 onwards), the number of positions at each level is as follows:

- first level: 22 *sections* (alphabetical code);

- second level: 87 *divisions* (two-digit numerical code);

- third level: 284 *groups* (three-digit numerical code);

- fourth level: 644 *classes* (four-digit numerical code);

- fifth level: 1 432 *categories* (five-digit numerical code);

- sixth level: 3 359 *subcategories* (six-digit numerical code).

Further information

- CPA Ver. 2.2 in the Official Journal

- Eurostat web section on CPA

Related concepts

- PRODCOM

- Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community (NACE)