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QUALITY REPORT 2019

Foreign trade statistics

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Content:

1. Introduction – Basic information about the survey

1.1 Purpose, goal and subject of the survey

The aim of foreign trade statistics of goods is to monitor foreign trade. All physical movements of goods ie all goods entering or leaving the territory of Montenegro are recorded and documented. These statistics are an important source of data for national accounts, for balance of payments statistics and for short-term economic analysis. It is important for monitoring the competitiveness of a country or certain regions in order to successfully conduct economic policies, prepare trade negotiations and monitoring, as well as implementation of trade agreements.

1.2 Legal basics

The Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 18/12) defines provisions for collection, processing, and dissemination of data. The Law provides to the Statistical Office clear and wide legal powers to collect and access the data necessary for the implementation of Programme and Annual Plan. The Law gives a priority to the use of administrative data and right of access to individual data that are a result of survey of other official statistical producers. As an annex to legal provisions, Statistical Office has signed several memoranda on cooperation with administrative data providers.

1.3 Statistical units

The unit of observation in foreign trade statistics of goods is any commodity delivery made through the export and import of goods.

1.4 Coverage and scope of survey

1.4.1 Sectors

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1.4.2 Statistical population

Foreign trade statistics of goods includes all goods exported from Montenegro, goods imported from abroad and released into free circulation. Under the export are included all goods leaving the statistical territory of Montenegro in accordance with the following customs procedures: export, outward processing and re-export of which was the inward processing and processing under customs supervision. Under the import are included all goods entering the statistical territory of Montenegro in accordance with the following customs procedures: import for free circulation, inward processing, re-import and processing of goods under customs supervision.

1.5 Referent geographical area

Foreign trade statistic covers the whole territory of Montenegro.

1.6 Concepts and definitions

Single administrative document is a document by which the person requires goods to be placed in some of the customs procedures in a manner and form prescribed. It contains a set of 8 sheets. The customs tariff is systematically review of goods by tariff sub-headings, headings and titles (appointment) of goods. Customs procedure means placing goods for free circulation, transit procedure, customs warehousing procedure, processing procedure in Montenegro (inward processing), processing under customs

supervision, temporary importation procedure, processing outside Montenegro (outward processing). It is expressed as a four-digit code where the first two-digit code signifies declared (required) customs procedures, while the other two-digit code indicates the previous procedure, procedure in which the goods have been declared before, if it were not enrolled 00 (two zeros).

1.7 Classifications

Within the foreign trade statistics of goods, product and country classifications are used. The following classifications are used to classify a wide variety of products or commodities: Combined Nomenclature, Harmonized System of Product Description and Coding, Standard International Trade Classification-SITC and Broad Economic Classification. The Combined Nomenclature (CN-8) is a customs and statistical classification of products / goods that enables the most detailed foreign trade data to be displayed. Contains about 10,000 codes. This classification is the European Customs Nomenclature for the Exchange of Goods adopted by the European Union in 1989. The Customs Tariff of Montenegro or the Combined Nomenclature is fully harmonized with the EU CN. CN is updated annually to meet the needs of technological development and changes in foreign trade flows. The Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) is a nomenclature used to create a single, harmonized nomenclature in the field of foreign trade, a classification that will be used by all participants in foreign trade. The Harmonized System comprises 21 sections, 97 chapters, 1221 tariff numbers and 5052 tariff item. It is updated every five years. The Standard International Trade Classification (SMTK) is a classification of goods adopted by the United Nations and is used to analyze international trade. The SMTK comprises 10 sectors, 67 departments, 262 groups, 1023 subgroups and 2970 positions. The broad economic category classification is a classification that serves to summarize foreign trade data by major economic product groups: capital goods, intermediate products and consumer products. The BEC has 19 basic categories that can be aggregated into the three commodity groups listed, which allows foreign trade statistics to be considered together with other economic statistics. The Country Nomenclature (Geonomenclature) compliant with ISO 3166 is used for the country determinations.

1.8 Frequency of data collection

Data are collected on a daily base by the Customs Administration of Montenegro.

1.9 Frequency of data dissemination

Frequency of data dissemination is monthly and yearly.

The monthly and annual releases of foreign trade figures for the last five years, follows the dissemination database, which has made significant progress in terms of availability of data on our web site.

 • Annual data on foreign trade; dissemination database - Link – Data

 • Monthly data on foreign trade; dissemination database -Link - Data

1.10 Methodology

http://www.monstat.org/cg/page.php?id=171&pageid=171

1.11 Base period

The base period for the index is previous year.

1.12 Unit of measure

The value of foreign trade of goods is presented in Euro, the net mass and quantity in the supplementary unit, which is defined in the Customs Tariff (for example: m2, liters, pieces, etc.), are the units of measure in the statistics of foreign trade.

1.13 Source of data

Data source for the statistics of foreign trade of goods is Single administrative document (SAD) on export and import of goods. SAD is provided by Customs Administration and is a document that is submitted in the customs procedure. It contains information that is important for the custom clearance procedure and data for statistical purposes as well as other users.

1.14 Method of data collection

The Customs Administration submit monthly data to Monstat. Data given refer to all previous months from the beginning of the year.

2. Relevance – Data users

2.1 User needs

International users:

- ➢ Eurostat;
- ➢ World Bank;
- ➢ UN organizations;
- ➢ International Monetary Fund .

National users:

- ➢ Ministries and other public administration bodies;
- ➢ Local government and other local government bodies;
- ➢ Central bank;
- ➢ Non-governmental organizations;
- ➢ Students;
- ➢ Researchers;
- ➢ Media.

2.2 User satisfaction

The Statistical Office has adopted the Quality Management Strategy, the Guidebook to the Implementation of the Quality Management Strategy, as well as the Plan for the Implementation of the Quality Policy. In order to measure the degree to which fulfills obligations towards users and within the new quality policy, the Statistical Office conducted User satisfaction survey. Data collection was carried out through a web survey, in the period from 1 September to 20 October, 2017.

The results of the survey are available on the Statistical Office website, at the following link:
http://www.monstat.org/userfiles/file/KVALITET/Izvjestaj%20o%20zadovoljstvu%20korisnika%20eng.pdf

3. Accuracy and reliability

3.1 Accuracy – Overall remark

The accuracy of foreign trade in goods statistics is affected by: data collection coverage, units of measurement, data audits, confidentiality and control procedures (validation and credibility). Data on foreign trade in goods are based on the records of trade transactions in customs declarations and are considered an administrative source of data, which leads to the full coverage of data. The data are preliminary when they are first published at the end of January, for the previous year, and can be revised until April next year. Revised data are published together with monthly corrections. Audits tend to be (but are not exclusively) upward, as period-related customs declarations are further completed and processed.

3.2 Error processing the data

Data on foreign trade statistics for goods are not collected on the basis of a sample, so in this regard they are not affected by errors in sampling and data processing. The source of data on foreign trade is administrative data obtained by the Customs Administration of Montenegro.

3.3 Data revision

3.3.1 Data revision policy

Statistical Office has adopted the revision policy and it is available on the website:

Revision policy

3.3.2 Data revision practice

Each month, routine revision of data is executed. Reviewed data is related to the current year. Monthly data obtained from the Customs Administration include data from the beginning of the year until the last month of the current year as the cumulative data. For example: in May Monstat receive data as cumulative from January to April. Despite the fact that some customs declaration is already filled in the customs procedure, correction of already submitted declarations is usually, which is one of the reasons for the revision of the data. When it comes to correcting certain declarations, Customs along with other monthly data submits the amended declaration. Also, one of the reasons for the revision of the data are new customs declarations received in the last month, and some refer to the previous months. In order to process the declaration, it must be reviewed for the previous month and classify such a declaration in the month/s when external trade exchange was executed. Certain customs declarations are subject to an administrative dispute which may last for several months and only after the dispute is completed the customs declaration is made. In this regard, there are new declaration relating to the previous months, which is another reason for the revision of data. In addition to routine revision data, special revision data are also performed. There are no defined rules when it will make a special revision data. Special revisions are carried out in cases where there is a substantial change in the use of basic methodologies for data processing, and which affect the impossibility of comparison data. A revision of this type was made in September 2010, and the revised data for the period 2005 to 2009. The reason for the data revision is to comply with current EU standards, ie to change the data processing system from general to special. Data on foreign trade in goods are processed according to a special trading system and thus, data from 2005 onwards are completely comparable.

3.3.3 Data revision - average size

There was no special data revision in 2019.

4. Timeliness and punctuality

4.1 Timeliness

Monthly releases are published on the end of the month for the previous period, so that the time between the availability of data and events described is less then month.

For annual releases preliminary data are published on the end of January and the final on middle of April of the current year.

Time lag of the preliminary monthly results

T+30 days

Time lag of the final annualy results

T+120 days(middle of April)

There is no time interval between actual data delivery and target date. All releases were published in accordance with the scheduled release date.

4.2 Punctuality

There is no time-lag between the actual delivery of the data and the target date. All press releases are published in accordance with the scheduled publication date.

5. Availability and clarity

5.1 Statistical Release Calendar

The Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 18/12) stipulates that official statistical producers prepare, update, and publish Statistical Release Calendar. It is published on the website of Statistical Office not later than 20 December for the next year, for all official statistical producers that includes date of releasing statistical data. Any change in date of releasing in the Calendar is published in advance in accordance with the Procedure on Unplanned Revisions.

5.2 Access to data Release calendar

Release calendar

5.3 Releases

Editions containing statistics of the foreign trade in goods are a monthly statement (Foreign Trade of Montenegro) and an annual statement (Foreign Trade of Montenegro).

Link: Annual data releases

Link: Monthly data releases

5.4 Publications

Statistical Office publishes the following regular publications:

1. Statistical Yearbook,

2. Montenegro in figures,

3. Monthly statistical review.

In addition to the above regular ones, Statistical Office publishes also additionally publications. Some of the most important additional publications are as it follows:

1. Women and Men in Montenegro,

2. The most often used statistical data.

All publication published by Statistical Office are available at the following link:

http://monstat.org/eng/publikacije.php

5.5 On-line database

There is no online database where users can access the data, but users can make a request for the necessary information.

5.6 Access to microdata

The Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 18/12) regulates rules under which external users can obtain an access to individual data for needs of research. Article 58 defines types of scientific and research organizations that can obtain such data. Providing individual data without identifier is possible only upon a written request of scientific and research institutions, with purpose of performing scientific and research activities as well as international statistical organizations and statistical producers from other countries. Research entity signs the agreement with Statistical Office, and it signs the statement on respecting the confidentiality principle.   Official statistical producers keep a separate record on users and purpose of using the statistical data given to these users.

5.7 Metadata occupancy

6. Comparability

6.1 Spatial comparability

Geographical comparability of foreign trade statistics may be influenced by different definitions and concepts used by the country in the process of collecting data. There may be differences in the methods used by some countries in terms of coverage, the partner, and the transaction value. In Montenegro is in use the special trade system, which makes data comparable with the data members of the European Union who are using special trade system, while for example some countries like USA, Japan and Canada apply general trade system and our data cannot be compared with these countries because of the use of different trading systems.

6.2 Time comparability

During the time there are happening different changes, for example, in classification, definition, concepts and it can lead to an incomparability of data. Because of that in the Department of Foreign Trade there are ordinary and extraordinary revisions of data to make the data series comparable. Time comparability is also influenced by time shifts as the same operation can be recorded under a different reference month due to the time of transport and the time of registration of a given occurrence. The aforementioned temporal incomparability can only occur when comparing monthly data. Data is comparable from 2005, since the beginning of their processing by Monstat.