



UNITED NATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
STATISTICS DIVISION

**Expert Group on International Merchandise Trade Statistics**  
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*Country Presentation*  
**Belgium**

***Item 11: Re-exports***

# Re-exports

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## Scope of the presentation

- ▶ Purely statistical, not economic
- ▶ No economic analysis, estimates or quantification of re-exports, or evolution thereof
- ▶ No analysis of impact on market shares or other export performance indicators
- ▶ Limited to definition and statistical methods of measuring re-exports



## Re-exports, definition (1)

- ▶ Re-exports are foreign goods exported in the same state as previously imported, from the free circulation area, premises for inward processing or industrial free zones, directly to the rest of the world and from premises for customs warehousing or commercial free zones, to the rest of the world.
- ▶ IMTS Rev. 2, para. 78



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Presentation

## Re-exports, definition (2)

- ▶ Does **not** include:
- ▶ simple transit (customs transit)
- ▶ disguised transit in customs union (Rotterdam effect, instead of transit customs declarations, import or export declarations at outside border of the union) - goods have to be owned by a national resident
- ▶ processing (gray area: what is and is not processing? same state: change of commodity code? change of country of origin?)
- ▶ goods incorporated in other goods
- ▶ simple returns of goods



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## Re-exports, definition (3)

► **Includes:**

- in case of general trade: re-exports from warehouses/free zones if not processing



## How to measure?

- Customs procedures
- Nature of transaction codes (processing, returns)
- Origin country on exports: origin <> reporting country = re-export (what about mixing of local and foreign goods?)
- direct reporting (burden; what about 2 local partners involved?)
- Use of production statistics: exports - production destined for exports - processing = re-exports (production statistics only provide production destined for exports for certain NACE classes)
- Use of input-output tables

