

External Trade Statistics of the Republic of Azerbaijan

External trade statistics of the Republic of Azerbaijan is conducted since 1991. In 1991-1993 the information on import and export was being gathered from primary enterprises and organizations.

Since 1994 the cargo custom declarations are used as source for data generation. The research is based on the received monthly information, which is gathered, controlled, processed and published by division of external trade statistics.

I. Methodological basis of International Trade Statistics

The methodological basis of International Trade Statistics is the second revised version of “International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions” (IMTS, Rev. 2), prepared by UN Statistical Commission in 1998. The Decree of President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated June 24, 1977 on “Regulation of import-export operations in the Republic of Azerbaijan” is the legal base.

In International Commodity Trade Statistics it is considered all goods, which are added to stocks of country material resources in the result of their import or are subtracted from them in the result of export outside of the Republic.

Commodity Classification

- On stock taking of import-export goods it is used “Commodity Nomenclature of Foreign-Economic Activity of CIS” (CNFEA CIS). This CNFEA has been worked out on the base of HS and CN.
- Besides CNFEA it is used UN Standard International Trade Classification (SITC). It has been established connection between CNFEA and SITC, i.e. it was prepared recode table between CNFEA and SITC.

Definition of Value

Statistical value of imported goods is defined by type of CIF, but exported goods – by type of FOB. The goods value is defined on agreement of purchase and sale and evaluated in US\$. If the goods value is indicated in other cost standard (in manat, mark) the declaration compilers convert the cost into US\$. The information on exchange rate of US\$ is taken from National Bank of the Republic two times in day.

Quantitative stock-taking

- As standart measurement unit of quantitative stock taking it is used kilogram and is defined on the base of net weight. Besides kilogram it is also used the additional measurement units, when the titles HS are given in standard weightless unit (piece, couple, cubic meter, squire meter and etc).

Country-partner

- On import, the stock taking is conducted by country of origin of goods and as additional information it is implemented data collection by country of destination of goods. On export, the stock taking is carried out by country of last known destination. As classification it is applied “The Classification of World Countries” prepared by UN Statistical Division.

II. Collection and processing of data for International Trade Statistics

Base information on external trade is received from custom authorities. The basis for this purpose is Shipping Custom Declaration, which is filled in custom points on import and export of goods. These declarations are transferred by e-mail to Custom Committee of the Republic. After 10-12 days of report month this information is transferred in magnetic medium to State Statistical Committee.

By the decree of the Cabinet of the Ministers dated 31 may, 2001 the natural persons can import or export without customs clearance charge if:

- goods value no more than 1000\$ or weight no more than 50kg
- value of international conversion no more than 200\$ or weight no more than 20 kg

- non-resident natural persons can transport the household things for permanent residence on cost not exceeding 20000\$

There is a limit for without custom duties export of certain goods (for example, sturgeon caviare no more than 125 gr., strong drinks no more than three litres, three blocks of cigarettes and etc.). It is possible to export the antiques only with the sanction of the Ministry of Culture and discharge of the tax with 100 % value.

The import and export of radioactive, narcotic substances, weapons and ammunition, obscene material is forbidden.

For all goods, which are imported (exported) for the commercial or industrial purposes, it is filled in Shipping Custom Declaration.

State Statistical Committee receives from Customs Committee about 30-35 thousand declarations on import and export in monthly order. During 12-15 days it is conducted the processing of data in computers. By program it is excluded declarations which are not included in external trade statistics (temporary import-export, banknotes, goods for exhibition and etc.), and checked up the codes of the country and goods, codes of currency, codes of enterprises. Wrong codes are checked up together with Customs Committee.

- If coordinates of enterprises are known, incorrect data are being specified by telephone, after that the logical control is realized. It is formed average value of each goods and comprised the values on declaration. Those declarations are indicated where the values are more differed from average and checked up. Every case is separately being analyzed and corrected on necessity.
- After the necessary corrections the information input on corresponding form and formation of data input starts.

III. Formation of results

- The results are formed by increasing outcome since the beginning of the year.
- After 28-30 days of report period it is being prepared the express information, which contains data on total volume of import, export and balance, on main trade partners, on volume of turnover with these countries, on volume of goods groups (21 groups) by CNFEA, share of each group, comparison with last period.

- In a week bulletin with the following tables are being prepared:
 - Outcome by countries—import, export, balance, comparison of import and export with last period, outcome of CIS countries and countries outside of CIS separately.
 - Outcome in the context of agreement character.
 - Outcome by groups (96 groups) and sections of CNFEA.
 - Outcome by goods positions CNFEA (6 codes) quantity, value.
 - Outcome by countries in the context of goods (6 codes)
 - Separate humanitarian aid by countries in the context of goods.
 - Annual bulletin consists of about 700 pages.

- During last five years, it is being published the yearbook once in a year in English and Azeri languages.
- The statistics of international trade is the main source of information for governing bodies of Republic of Azerbaijan: The Cabinet of Ministers, Ministry of Economic Development, National Bank, economic divisions of parliament. Moreover the Statistical Committee every month prepares the analytical report, which also contains the information on foreign trade for governing bodies of republic.
- Besides that information users on foreign trade are:
 - - embassies and councils interested in bilateral relationships;

- scientific-research institutes;
- enterprises and organizations engaged in foreign trade;
- international and European organizations: UN, IMF, FAO, EUROSTAT, CIS countries.

Agreement of Understanding Memorandum is signed between the Republic of Azerbaijan and EUROSTAT on information exchange. Since 2000 the information is being sent to EUROSTAT once in a quarter and since 2010 on monthly base in magnetic medium.

For increasing of data adequacy it is realized some operations on information exchange on foreign trade statistics with CIS countries. The reasons of data differences are turned out by result comparisons.