

International trade in goods statistics in Lithuania

Objective

The objective of the compilation of foreign trade statistics is to provide information on the flows of goods between Lithuania and other countries. National authorities employ this information in analysing the economic development of Lithuania, determining directions of trade policy, structuring economic development programmes, compiling national accounts and the balance of payments of the Republic of Lithuania. Various business structures use this information in assessing their position in the market, establishing business plans and seeking for new markets. Foreign trade statistics is also used by international organisations to explore global tendencies, to estimate country's economic potential.

Legal basis

Regulation (EC) No 638/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 on Community statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 3330/91;

Regulation (EC) No 471/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 May 2009 on Community statistics relating to external trade with non-member countries and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1172/95;

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1982/2004 of 18 November 2004 implementing Regulation (EC) No 638/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States and repealing Commission Regulations (EC) No 1901/2000 and (EEC) No 3590/92;

Commission Regulation (EU) No 92/2010 of 2 February 2010 implementing Regulation (EC) No 471/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics relating to external trade with non-member countries, as regards data exchange between customs authorities and national statistical authorities, compilation of statistics and quality assessment;

Commission Regulation (EU) No 113/2010 of 9 February 2010 implementing Regulation (EC) No 471/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics relating to external trade with non-member countries, as regards trade coverage, definition of the data, compilation of statistics on trade by business characteristics and by invoicing currency, and specific goods or movements;

Resolution No 1086 of 10 July 2002 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on the foreign trade and the value added tax data collection procedure (OG, 2002, No 72-3034).

Classifications

Valid edition of the Combined Nomenclature, approved by Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 of 23 July 1987 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff;

The Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC);

Standard International Trade Classification (SITC);

Classification of Products by Activity (CPA 2008), approved by Regulation (EC) No 451/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2008 establishing a new statistical classification of products by activity (CPA) and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 3696/93;

Country and Area Nomenclature, approved by Commission Regulation (EC) No 1833/2006 of 13 December 2006 on the nomenclature of countries and territories for the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States.

Statistical survey methods, population of the statistical survey and parameters estimated

The object of foreign trade statistics is goods arriving to and leaving the statistical territory of the Republic of Lithuania. After the accession to the European Union (EU), indicators of foreign trade statistics have been calculated based on two data collection systems (Extrastat and Intrastat). The Extrastat survey covers data on Lithuanian trade with non-member states of the EU; the data source for this survey is customs declarations (Single Administrative Document). Intrastat is a system for the collection of data on Lithuanian trade with the member states of the EU. Information on such trade is supplied to the Customs of the Republic of Lithuania in Intrastat reports UPS-01 (Dispatches) and UPS-02 (Arrivals). Intrastat exemption thresholds have been set by order of the Director General of Statistics Lithuania, i.e. the value of dispatches/arrivals to/from the EU over a year below which VAT payers are exempted from the obligation to provide Intrastat reports. The thresholds are set at a level that ensures that the value of at least 97 % of the total dispatches and at least 95 % of the total arrivals of Lithuania is covered. Data of VAT payers who are exempted from the provision of Intrastat declarations and respondents who have not provided Intrastat reports in time are adjusted using VAT declarations' data.

Foreign trade of Lithuania is defined by four indicators: exports and imports define trade volumes of Lithuania with non-Member States of the EU, while dispatches and arrivals define trade with EU Member States. In general, foreign trade volumes are defined using the exports and imports concepts. The main parameters are statistical value and quantity of goods.

Imported goods and arrivals are estimated at CIF prices, while exported goods and dispatches – at FOB prices. In case of imports and arrivals, the CIF price includes the value of goods together with transportation, loading, insurance and other costs related to the transportation of goods to the territory of the Republic of Lithuania. The FOB price includes the value of goods together with insurance and transportation costs incurred within the territory of the Republic of Lithuania. The statistical value of goods does not include any taxes (i.e. duties, value added, excises).

Exported or dispatched commodities are distributed by country of destination. Imported commodities are distributed by country of origin, arrivals – by country of consignment.

Results provided to users

Statistical information is published no later than on the 40th calendar day after the end of the reporting period, according to an information publication calendar approved by order of the Director General of Statistics Lithuania.

General information on foreign trade statistics is published in a press release (imports and exports by month of the current year, by BEC, key foreign trade partner and commodity structure).

More detailed statistical information is provided in a monthly statistical bulletin *Economic and Social Development in Lithuania* (imports and exports by month, quarter, by BEC, CN section and economic zone, country and key foreign partner); annual information is provided in the *Statistical Yearbook of Lithuania*.

Aggregated and detailed monthly, quarterly and annual statistical information is published on the website of Statistics Lithuania, at <http://www.stat.gov.lt>, and in the Eurostat's database, at <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu>.

Statistical information is also provided on user request.