The indicators characterizing exports and imports of the Republic of Bulgaria are based on summarized data from SAD (Single Administrative Document). Foreign trade transactions for which SAD is not required, but which are subject of recording by foreign trade statistics (e.g. state foreign trade, bunkering, natural gas and electricity), are also included. For these activities statistical survey has been organized.

Since January 1, 1999 foreign trade statistics apply Special System of Trade in reporting trade flows.

The criteria to refer the foreign trade transactions to a given year is the date of issuing of a SAD.

The data on foreign trade statistics cover exports of goods for consumption into the country of destination; imports of goods for domestic consumption into the country; temporary imports and exports of goods before and after processing.

Exports and imports do not include: exported and imported goods, sold on consignment basis; transit of goods; household goods and means of transportation of emigrants/immigrants, personal effects and belongings of travellers according to the Customs rules; luggage and goods (personal and business) designated for the Bulgarian and foreign embassies, legations and consulates; gifts.

Re-exports refer to all foreign goods that our country has bought from one country and sold to another.

 Reporting of trade commodity flows is organized according to the National Customs Tariff based on Harmonized System of Commodity Description and Combined Nomenclature. This allows mirror comparisons between countries.