



# International trade in goods

## Quality of the results

The statistics on international trade in goods are detailed. Not only are there two methods, but also various trade flows, goods and countries can be distinguished. In order to offer sufficient quality of results, boundary conditions and footnotes apply to the figures on international trade in goods in StatLine.

Below are the main remarks:

- Figures on the subjects of re-exports, exports of Dutch product and transit value are only available for the first digits of the SITC goods classification. The figures on these topics are in many cases based on general estimates, using various sources;
- Figures on inbound and outbound transit cannot be compared one-to-one for individual SITC1 codes and/or countries;
- Because there are (currently) no methodologically calibrated estimates available, StatLine lacks information on imports of goods intended for re-export;
- Unlike the statistics according to border crossing, the statistics by change of ownership do not go beyond the third SITC digit. This is due to less detailed additional source information needed to make the change of ownership statistics;
- Trade values are disseminated via StatLine in millions of euros by default due to reliability and quality considerations;
- Quantities accompanying commodity types (i.e. the eight digit codes of the CN goods classification) are in principle disseminated in millions (units). However, if scaling-up the level of detail leads to impoverishment of information for certain commodity types, such as ships and aircrafts, different scaling factors are applied for those CN codes;
- Due to reliability and quality considerations, statistics on commodity types (CN8) by (non-) EU are not published earlier than four months after the reporting month. Annual figures on CN8 codes by countries first become available about five months after the reporting year;
- At the high level of detail of tables on commodity types (about 9,500) x countries (about 250), generally (in source information) the quality of import and export values is higher than that of the according quantities.

Incidentally, in addition to the periodic statistics on international trade goods via StatLine, CBS also disseminates results from [additional research](#). General information on (requests for) additional statistical research can be found [here](#).

### More information

- [Eurostat – border crossing](#)
- [IMF – change of ownership](#)