

Manual on IDEP for International trade in services statistics

Statistics Netherlands 2025

CBS Heerlen

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Index

1.	Introduction		
	1.1	How to fill in the form	4
	1.2	Approaches to filling in	4
	1.3	Manuals, service and country codes	5
	1.4	Language settings	5
2.	Login, change password and change contact information		
	2.1	Logging into the IDEP application module	6
	2.2	Changing your password	6
	2.3	Checking and changing contact details	6
	2.4	View information on company structure	7
	2.5	Referring to relevant information	7
3.	How to submit your figures		
	3.1	Filling in manually	9
	3.2	Add records	9
	3.3	Submission template	11
	3.4	Importing data	11
	3.5	Using the standard import template	12
	3.6	Creating your own import template	13
	3.7	Importing the data	14
	3.8	Editing and sending the submission	15
	3.9	Sending a declaration	16
	3.10	Nil declaration	17
	3.11	Modifying a sent submission	17

1. Introduction

In this manual you will find more information about the statistical submission on international trade in services to Statistics Netherlands (CBS). The CBS publishes quarterly figures on international trade in services. These figures are a source for the gross domestic product (GDP). Ten percent of GDP is earned thanks to international trade in services. By having a good overview of international trade in services, the government can better shape its trade promotion policy. In addition, the results provide insight into the competitive position of the Netherlands in relation to other countries.

In addition to international trade in services, this survey also asks, if applicable, for two specific forms of trade in goods, namely transit and warehouse trade. More information can be found in our explanatory notes and in frequently asked questions on International Trade in Services IDEP (cbs.nl).

To submit their returns for the international trade in services statistics, companies must use the IDEP declaration module made available by Statistics Netherlands. In this declaration module declarations can be entered manually or files can be imported from the companies' own records. Companies that are obliged to submit returns will receive the link and log-in codes for IDEP by e-mail or by letter after the quarter ends.

This manual explains how the declaration module IDEP works, and which options there are to submit your data via IDEP.

Please note that as of Q1 2022, it is possible for companies that need to declare imports and exports of services to trade within and outside the European Union to also declare the specific countries separately. During the read-in, this is automatically converted in declaration module IDEP to Z1 (European Union) or Z2 (Outside European Union).

1.1 How to fill in the form

You will find the login link, your user name and password in two separate e-mails or letters sent to you by Statistics Netherlands. The password you set yourself will be used for all future returns. Please keep this password safe. If you lose your user name, you can request a new one from the CBS Contact Center: contactcenter@cbs.nl. If you have lost your password, please click the link: Request a new password

1.2 Approaches to filling in

The questionnaire can be completed in several ways:

- manual
- reading, or
- a combination of manual entry and data reading.

Manual declaration is suitable if you have a limited number of service-country combinations to declare. For companies with larger numbers, we recommend the read-in function. More information on these types of declarations can be found in chapters 3.1 and 3.4 respectively.

A combination of manual entry and reading is also possible. You can use this option in case you want to correct your data or add a limited number of records.

1.3 Manuals, service and country codes

On almost every screen you will see instructional texts that can provide you with additional help while using IDEP. You can access the explanations for individual services in the service code screen under the information sign "i". By clicking on this, the explanation becomes visible. For general questions, manuals and service and country codes, you can consult the relevant information under Help.

You can download country codes and service explanations under **Downloads**.

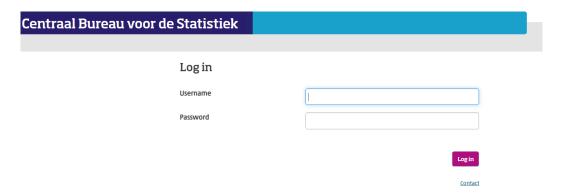
1.4 Language settings

In the statement module IDEP you have the option to use an English and Dutch version of the questionnaire. You can easily switch between the two versions by clicking on the corresponding flag. When changing a language you remain on the same page and your information is not lost.

2. Login, change password and change contact information

2.1 Logging into the IDEP application module

Go to https://antwoord.cbs.nl to log in. The letters you received from CBS contain a new username and password for logging into the application. After the first login, you will need to change your password.



2.2 Changing your password

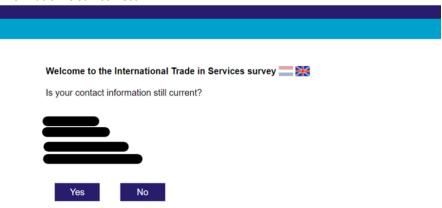
After you have logged in for the first time, you will automatically be directed to the page to change your password. This is mandatory and from this point on you will continue to use your self-selected password and username for all your subsequent entries.

To change your password go to Change settings > Change password.

Keep this password safe! If you have lost your user name you can request a new one through the CBS Contact Centre: contactcenter@cbs.nl. If you have lost your password, click on the link: Request a new password. After that you have to set a new password as described earlier.

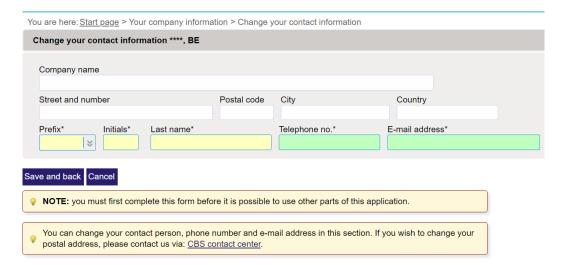
2.3 Checking and changing contact details

After logging in, you will be guided through a series of screens to verify that your contact information is still correct.



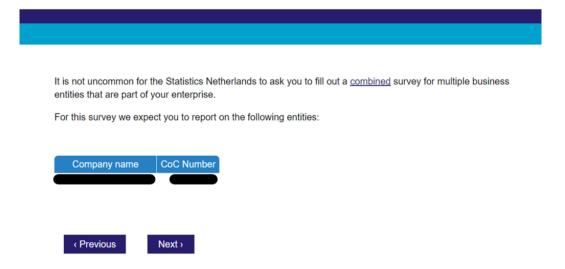
Check whether the data is correct. If necessary, you can adjust these data. If no details have been entered yet, it is important to add a contact person here.

Please note! You cannot change your company data. Please contact CBS for your company or go to Online help/Contact (cbs.nl).



2.4 View information on company structure

After your contact information has been checked and entered correctly, you will be directed to the page that lists the business units on which the consolidated statement should be done. You will then see the following screen.



2.5 Referring to relevant information

After familiarizing yourself with the structure of the company for which the declaration is being made, you will be taken to the page with the relevant information on what CBS expects from your declaration based on the available information sources.

This screen shows you what CBS expects from you based on ICP data and previous declarations.

We base our expectations on domestic and foreign tax information and/or previous submissions to Statistics Netherlands to determine whether you purchase (import) or sell (export) services internationally.

We expect:

Minimum expected EU-services trade based on VIES data:

Import : Several hundreds of thousands of euro's.

 ${\bf Minimum} \ \underline{\bf expected} \ {\bf services} \ {\bf trade} \ {\bf based} \ {\bf on} \ {\bf previous} \ {\bf submissions};$

Import : Several hundreds of thousands of euro's.

Export : Several tens of thousands of euro's.

Do you want more information?

Previous Yes No

If you would like more information, please continue by clicking the "YES" button. You will receive a more detailed explanation of the services we ask for in our survey and an overview of the reference amounts expected from you in the respective quarter, based on information coming from the Tax Office and/or your previous CBS statements.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our staff.



Step 5 of 5:

Do you have any questions? Contact InternationaleHandelinDiensten@cbs.nl

You can also contact us by phone: 0031-455706400.

Would you like to check all possible services or receive more information on the survey? Then take a look at the manual.

Would you like more information about completing this questionnaire, such as the posibility to upload your data? Then take a look at the <u>survey manual</u>.

Would you like some instruction on where to find this in your administration? Then read this hyperlink.

< Previous

To the submission overview

3. How to submit your figures

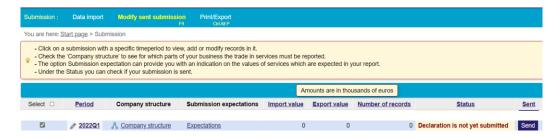
In the declaration module IDEP you can enter a declaration manually but it is also possible to read in data from your own administration. Especially when you have to enter many records per declaration, you can save a lot of time by using the read-in function.

Most companies are only required to provide a breakdown of services within the European Union with code Z1 or outside the European Union with code Z2. This information can be found in the email or letter received from Statistics Netherlands. If a company is only required to provide a breakdown by trade within or outside the European Union, this will be explicitly stated in the letter. Other companies must provide a breakdown of services per country of origin versus destination.

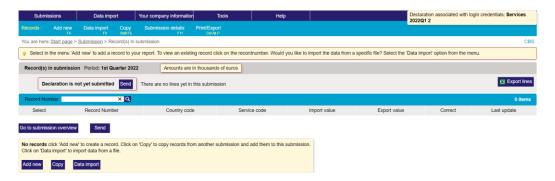
3.1 Filling in manually

Manual declaration is suitable if you have a limited number of service-country combinations to declare.

To fill in the questionnaire manually, go to Reporting via the Home menu. Select the period for which you want to submit the statement.



Then click Add to create your records within the statement.



3.2 Add records

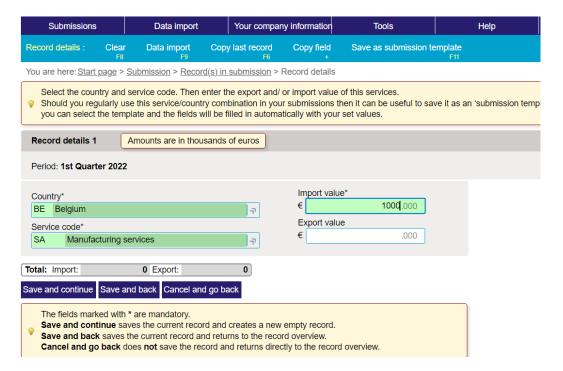
You will now enter the "Details records" screen. Here you can enter the service code(s), country code(s) and value(s) of import and/or export. You must enter the value(s) in <u>thousands</u> of euros.

For a brief explanation of a service code, click on the 'i' sign in the service list.



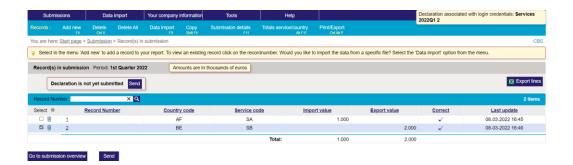
If you need to break down your imports and exports of services by trade within the European Union and by trade outside the European Union, you have two options for doing so:

- You can bundle countries to European Union and Outside European Union per service and then indicate in IDEP whether it concerns Z1 (European Union) or Z2 (Outside European Union).
- You can supply the country code for each service. During the reading process this will automatically be converted in IDEP to Z1 (European Union) or Z2 (outside the European Union).



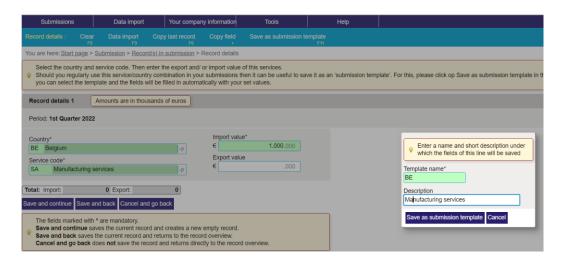
To enter the next record, click Save and continue. If you have entered all service/country combinations, click Save and return.

Back at the screen "Record(s) within declaration" you see all filled in records within the declaration of the quarter concerned. Here you can check the records and adjust them if necessary.



3.3 Submission template

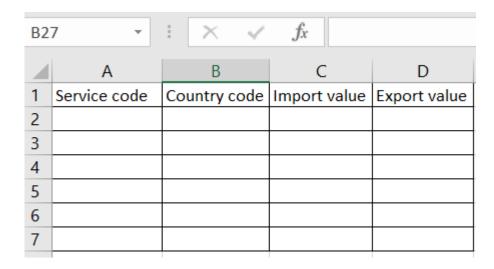
If you regularly need to specify similar service-country combinations, it is convenient to create a "Statement template". To do this, open the Statement and select the record with the content you want to use. Click Save as statement template and give it a clear name and description. The next time you create a new record you can select the statement template.



3.4 Importing data

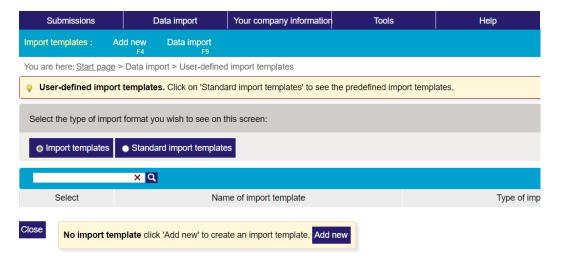
Companies with large numbers of service-country combinations are advised to use a read-in function. By this we mean that you prepare your data in advance in an Excel, Access, dBase or TXT file which you can then read in.

You can find a sample Excel file for exercise module IDEP via this link: Excel IHD.xlsx



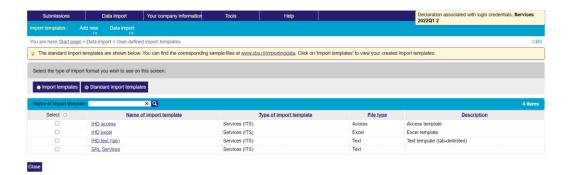
To start the importing of data, go to Import templates via the Data import.

In the declaration module IDEP you can choose from a number of predefined reading templates or create your own reading template. As long as the column structure of your file does not change, you can always use the same reading template. Otherwise you have to customize the template.



3.5 Using the standard import template

For the predefined standard import templates, you can choose from a number of standard templates in Excel, Access and TXT formats. Were you declaring via SRL in the past? Then you can use the standard SRL template to make your declaration. By clicking on the templates you can see how they are structured. Here too it is important that the column structure in your file matches the reading template. So you must know in which column or at which position the data are in the file.



3.6 Creating your own import template

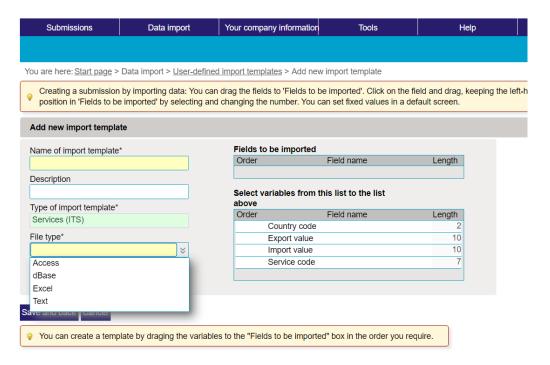
To create your own reading template, first go to the menu function Reading Reading Templates and select the option Reading Templates. In the menu bar you click on Add.

You are now in the Add Reading template screen.

Give your template a name and a description if you like. Then choose the format you want to use. The possibilities are: Access, dBase, Excel and Text (TXT).

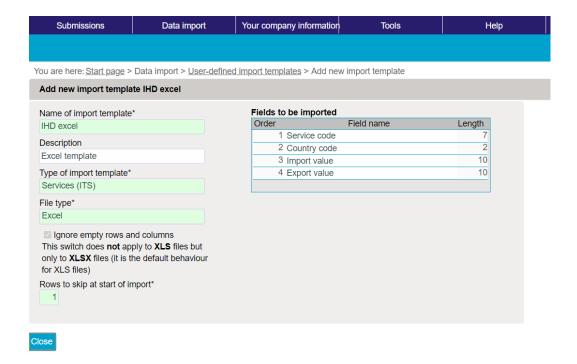
With the dBase option you can indicate how many lines the template should skip from the file to be read. Also with Excel, you can choose that the template should skip lines and/or it should ignore empty columns and lines.

At the TXT option you have to indicate how the columns are separated, for example by a TAB or by a separator which you can choose yourself, like for example 'point comma'.



After you have chosen the format, you need to determine on the right side what the order of the information will be.

The information that must be in it is: the service code, input value, country code and output value. You do this by dragging the white lines with this information from the Not to be Read Fields box to the Read Fields box above. The order in the often Read-in fields must match the order of the fields in your file.



After you have determined the order you click Save and go back. You are now back in the Reading templates screen where you see your own reading template.

If you still want to change it, click on the template and make the changes and then save it again. Now your own template is available at the read-in function.

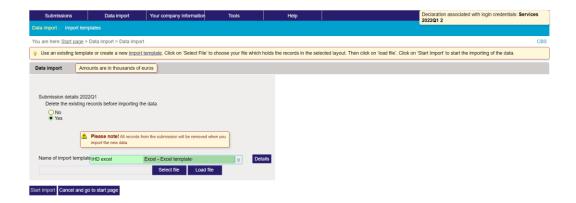
3.7 Importing the data

To read in the data now, go to Data Import via Data Import. First you must indicate whether existing records within the statement are to be deleted. In this case there are no records within the declaration yet so check "No".

Then select the reading template you want to use.



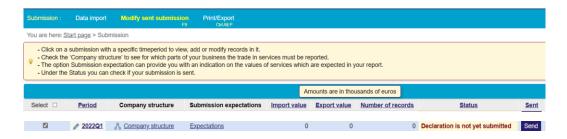
Choose the file on your computer and click Load File. If there are multiple tabs in the file, enter the correct worksheet name. Click Start Reading.



During the read-in process, you can see the status. A summary can be found in the Reading log.



If the read-in action went well, you will arrive at the screen where you can submit your statement

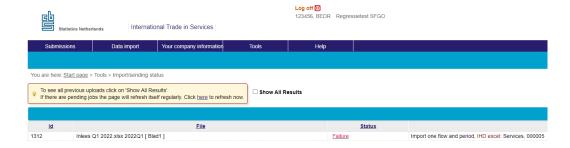


3.8 Editing and sending the submission

If the loading action did not go well, it will look like this.

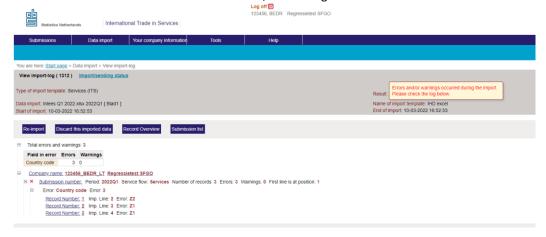
You can then see what went wrong by clicking on the plus sign.

You will also see a red cross in your statement overview which indicates that something is wrong with the statement.





To see in which records which errors occurred, click on sign "x".



The most likely reason for this error is that you used a different format in your read file than the template you selected. It is also possible that you have used the wrong country code. For example that you have split the services per country while you only had to split them per EU and Non-EU (or visa versa). It is also possible that you have used the wrong separator in a TXT file, for example a comma instead of a TAB.

You can then correct your read-in data manually by selecting the period and opening it and adjusting the data so that there is finally a green check mark. Or you can correct your file to be read and first delete your current (incorrect) statement by selecting it and clicking delete option.

If you keep having problems with reading the data please contact us via the CBS Contact Center: contactcenter@cbs.nl.

3.9 Sending a declaration

If everything is correct and complete, you can proceed to Send.

In the send screen you can see if the declaration meets the expectations. You can clarify the declaration in case of major changes and fluctuations in your figures.

If your statement does not meet the statement expectations, you can correct it.

Your submission	n was saved . These are the reported totals:
Period 20	024Q1
Import value	€0
Export value	€0
There are no in	mports of services reported while it was expected based on your previous submissions.
Do you need an	explanation?
Yes	No, I want to edit records No, I want to submit the declaration

If there are significant fluctuations between quarters, changes in company structure, or other events that may affect your numbers, we will ask you for an explanation.

	e difference between the expectation and your submitted values? If your submission does ted value, which is based on VIES information and/or earlier submissions, we might contact	
you for clarification	tod value, which is based on vice information and/or edition submissions, we might contact	
 Previous 	Next >	

3.10 Nil declaration

If you believe that your company has no trade in services, you can submit a nil statement. This means that you send in an empty declaration. If you expect your statement to indicate that there is a trade in services, we recommend that you first contact us to find out. When constructing the sample, it was taken into account that the companies participating in the survey are actually active in service trade. This was partly determined by the INTRA-COMMUNITY data.

You make a nil statement by going to the Statement overview. Here you select the quarter you want to submit empty. After this you click on send.

If there is a declaration expectation you must give an explanation why you are submitting a nil declaration. After completing the comment, click on: Yes, send statement.

3.11 Modifying a sent submission

It is always possible that you have clicked on the send button too fast and have overlooked something. In this case you can unblock your submitted declaration, modify it and re-send it. This will then overwrite the incorrect statement.

This can be done by going to the Statement overview and selecting the statement you have sent. Then click on Edit submitted statement. This unblocks the statement and allows you to make changes. After you have done so, click Send again.



The declaration can then be sent to the CBS. In this screen you can choose to check your data or to adjust them if necessary. You will return to the screen with your declaration. Click Yes, send statement to send your statement.

The confirmation of receipt will be sent automatically to the e-mail address given, but it can also be printed immediately.