

Statistics specification : Foreign trade of goods by Finnish regions (2009-2012)

The regional foreign trade statistics are based on the information on import and export values provided by companies engaged in foreign trade. The statistics therefore include also the wholesale and retail branches, possible re-exporters and the goods trade carried out by companies operating in the service industries. Foreign trade in services is not included in the statistics. The statistics indicate cross-border goods trade according to what region of Finland the import and export transactions have taken place in. The statistics do not indicate where the actual production of goods has taken place or where the goods have been temporarily stored.

The statistics are based on the information of companies whose import or export value in goods trade

- a) exceeds 12 000 euros per year and is accumulated during at least two months or
- b) exceeds 120 000 per year.

The value of foreign trade which does not comply with these specifications is included in the figures of the "unknown" category.

Information on internal trade, i.e. trade between the EU member states, is stored in the Intrastat system from operators obliged to provide information. The system includes only the companies which exceed annual value thresholds. The information provided to the tax administration by declarations through the VAT system comprises the only data available on the EU trade conducted by companies excluded from Intrastat. Information on external trade, i.e. trade with non-EU countries, is obtained from the customs clearance system.

The export statistics are compiled based on the FOB value ("free on board"), and the import statistics based on the CIF value ("cost, insurance, and freight"). The information in question is gathered on the border of Finland. As regards the VAT records, the total value of Community acquisitions or sales is used. As the VAT records do not contain any country-specific information on foreign trade or any goods category details, the only information that can be provided in the statistics for the companies is the total value of their foreign trade in terms of import and export, and the quantities and branches of industry.

The industrial classification used in the statistics is the European Communities classification of Economic Activities (Nomenclature générale des Activités économiques dans les Communautés européennes 2002). These statistics combine the business branches under industry, trade and other branches in the following way:

industry = category C: Industry

trade = category G: Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles

other branches of business = other categories (other than C and G).

In the statistics, a company is placed in a specific region of Finland depending on the location of the place of business which provides Customs with information and which is entered in its customer register. The region-specific information is compiled based on the postal codes of the places of business that provide Customs with declarations. Some companies conduct business with Customs only through their head offices located in Helsinki, which results in some extra statistical increase in the regional share of the capital. The companies' postal code information is based on the register entries of the 2009 statistical year.

Where a postal code has not been available, Customs has used the company's place of domicile details available in the register of companies and places of business maintained by Statistics Finland. If either type of information is not available or the code indicating a company's place of domicile is 200 (meaning the company is based abroad) or 999 (meaning the place of domicile is unknown), the company is placed in the "unknown" category.

Regional statistics are not required by law, but they are instead compiled from the information gathered according to the regulations on foreign trade statistics, from VAT records and from the information on places of business which companies provide voluntarily to Customs.