

Statistics specification : Foreign trade of goods by Finnish regions (2013-2014)

Due to a procedural change in the statistics compilation process of the regional foreign trade statistics, the statistical information by region for the years 2013 and 2014 is not entirely comparable to the information for earlier years. Until the year 2012, these statistics were based on the information of companies whose import or export value in goods trade

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

Beginning from the year 2013, these statistics include the foreign trade of all companies without a value limit, and the address of a company is, also in foreign trade, primarily dictated by the location of the offices of the company.

The regional foreign trade statistics are based on the information on import and export values provided by companies engaged in foreign trade. Therefore, the statistics include not only industry but also other branches of business, such as wholesale, retail and car trade, mining and building, companies conducting re-export, 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 the region of Finland to which the company has assigned the Intrastat declaration for export or import or the customs declaration. One company can have many offices in Finland, which are reported to Customs using, in addition to the business ID, also the office ID of the company. Some large companies lodge their declarations in a centralised manner, in which case there is no office-specific information available in the Intrastat or customs declarations. In such cases, the office-specific distribution for these large companies has been estimated by Customs according to the office-specific declarations of previous years.

Information on internal trade, i.e. the trade between the EU Member States, is collected through the Intrastat system from operators obliged to provide information. The system includes only the companies which exceed the threshold value for import and/or export which is set each year. The only data available on the EU trade conducted by companies excluded from Intrastat is the information contained in declarations provided to the Tax Administration within the value added tax (VAT) system. As regards the VAT records, the total value of Community acquisitions and 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 these companies is the total value of their foreign trade in terms of import and export and the branches of industry. 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"). This information is gathered on the border of Finland. The industrial classification used in the statistics is the European Communities classification of Economic Activities (Nomenclature générale des Activités économiques dans les Communautés européennes 2008). These statistics combine the business branches under industry, trade and other sectors in the following way:

industry = category C: Industry

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

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

These statistics combine the Type of ownership (OTY) of the Register of Companies and Establishments of Statistics Finland under groups in the following way:

Private domestic = Private domestic (OTY=1)

State or municipality = State (OTY=2), Municipality (OTY=3) and the Region of Åland (OTY=4)

Foreign-owned = Foreign-owned (OTY=5) and Other type of ownership (OTY=6 or empty).

The group Foreign-owned includes companies whose type of ownership is marked as empty, because these are mainly foreign companies.

In the first phase of the statistics compilation process, the company-specific statistics on external trade are combined with the declaration-specific postal codes, and the statistics on internal trade are combined with the postal codes in accordance with the Intrastat address information of Customs' customer register. The observations within internal trade that remain below the threshold value, and missing observations, are extracted from the VAT statistics of the Tax Administration. The statistics on internal and external trade are then combined. In the next phase, clearly incorrect postal codes of companies with an import or export value of more than five million euros per year are corrected in the statistics at office level. Lastly, the missing postal code information is supplemented with information extracted from the company address chart maintained by Customs Statistics, after which the statistics are combined with the postal code and region key of Statistics Finland. Based on the material thus compiled, the region-specific export and import statistics are summarised.

In the last phase, the material of the previous phase is combined with the industrial classification (TOL) and type of ownership information (OTY) of the company address chart at business ID level. Then, the export and import statistics are summarised based on the TOL and, finally, on the OTY.