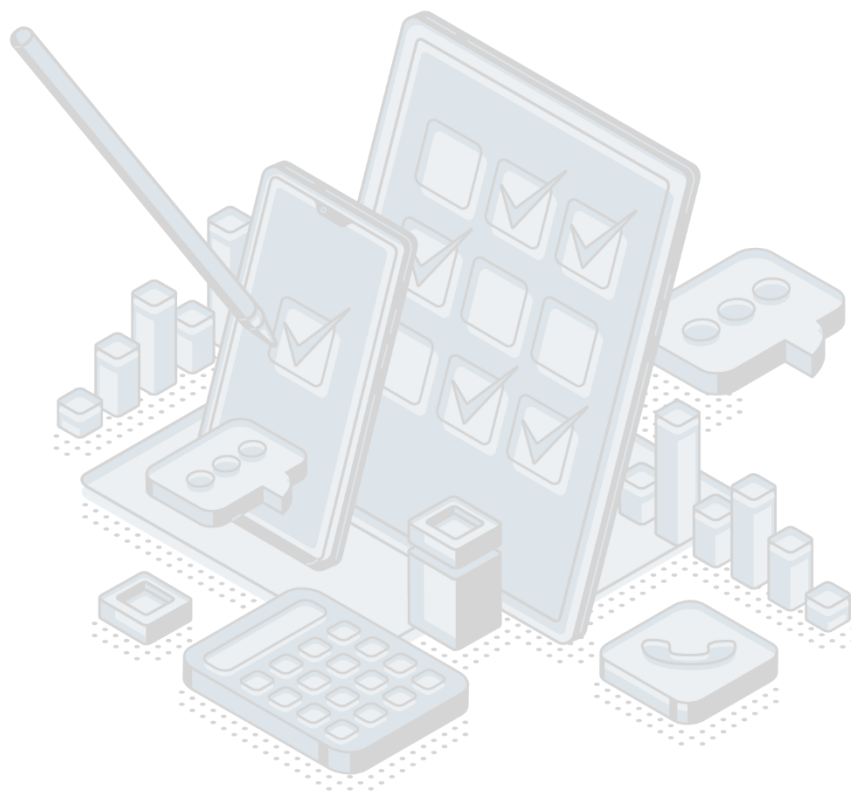


QUALITY REPORT

Foreign trade of goods 2024



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1. Introduction – Basic information about the survey

1.1 Purpose, goal and subject of the survey

The aim of foreign trade statistics of goods is to monitor foreign trade. All physical movements of goods, i.e. all goods entering or leaving the territory of Montenegro are recorded and documented. These statistics are an important source of data for national accounts, for balance of payments statistics and for short-term economic analysis. It is important for monitoring the competitiveness of a country or certain regions in order to successfully conduct economic policies, prepare trade negotiations and monitoring, as well as implementation of trade agreements.

1.2 Legal basics

The Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 18/12) defines provisions for collection, processing, and dissemination of data. The Law provides to the Statistical Office clear and wide legal powers to collect and access the data necessary for the implementation of Programme and Annual Plan. The Law gives a priority to the use of administrative data and right of access to individual data that are a result of survey of other official statistical producers. As an annex to legal provisions, Statistical Office has signed several memoranda on cooperation with administrative data providers.

Foreign trade statistics of goods are based on the recommendations of the UN and EU statistics, which are contained in the following documents:

- International Merchandise Trade Statistics, Concept and Definitions, UN;
- Statistics on the Trade of Goods, User Guide, Eurostat.

It complies with the regulations from the document "European Legislation applicable to the Statistics relating to the trading of goods", related to Extrastat:

- Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council No. 471/2009,
- Regulation of the European Commission No. 92/2010,
- Regulation of the European Commission No. 113/2010.

1.3 Statistical units

The unit of observation in foreign trade statistics of goods is any commodity delivery made through the export and import of goods.

1.4 Coverage and scope of survey

1.4.1 Sectors

Not relevant.

1.4.2 Statistical population

Foreign trade statistics of goods include all goods exported from Montenegro, goods imported from abroad and released into free circulation. Exports include all goods leaving the statistical territory of Montenegro: export, outward processing and re-export following inward processing and processing under customs

supervision. Imports include all goods entering the statistical territory of Montenegro: import for free circulation, inward processing, re-import and processing of goods under customs supervision.

1.5 Referent geographical area

Montenegro

1.6 Concepts and definitions

The Single Administrative Document is used by a person to request that goods be placed under a customs procedure in the manner and form prescribed. It contains a set of 8 sheets. The customs tariff is a systematic review of goods by tariff sub-headings, headings and titles (appointment) of goods. Customs procedure means placing goods for free circulation, transit procedure, customs warehousing procedure, processing procedure in Montenegro (inward processing), processing under customs supervision, temporary importation procedure, processing outside Montenegro (outward processing). It is expressed as a four-digit code where the first two-digit code signifies declared (required) customs procedures, while the other two-digit code indicates the previous procedure, procedure in which the goods have been declared before, if it is not 00 (two zeros).

1.7 Classifications

Within the foreign trade statistics of goods, product and country classifications are used. The following classifications are used to classify a wide variety of products or commodities: Combined Nomenclature, Harmonized System of Product Description and Coding, Standard International Trade Classification-SITC. The Combined Nomenclature (CN-8) is a customs and statistical classification of products / goods that enables the most detailed foreign trade data to be displayed. It contains about 10,000 codes. This classification is the European Customs Nomenclature for the Exchange of Goods adopted by the European Union in 1989. The Customs Tariff of Montenegro or the Combined Nomenclature is fully harmonized with the EU CN. CN is updated annually to meet the needs of technological development and changes in foreign trade flows. The Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) is a nomenclature used to create a single, harmonized nomenclature in the field of foreign trade, a classification that will be used by all participants in foreign trade. The Harmonized System comprises 21 sections, 97 chapters, 1221 tariff numbers and 5052 tariff items. It is updated every five years. The Standard International Trade Classification (SMTK) is a classification of goods adopted by the United Nations and is used to analyze international trade. The SMTK comprises 10 sectors, 67 departments, 262 groups, 1023 subgroups and 2970 positions.

1.8 Frequency of data collection

Data are collected on a daily basis by the Customs Administration of Montenegro.

1.9 Frequency of data dissemination

The frequency of data dissemination is monthly and annual.

The monthly and annual releases of foreign trade of goods figures for the last five years, follow the dissemination database, which has made significant progress in terms of availability of data on our web site.

- Annual data on foreign trade; dissemination database - Link – [Annual data](#)
- Monthly data on foreign trade; dissemination database -Link - [Monthly data](#)

1.10 Methodology

Manual on the methodology of foreign trade in goods can be found on the website of the Statistics Authority, at the following link:

[Methodology](#)

1.11 Base period

The base period for the index is previous year.

1.12 Unit of measure

The value of foreign trade in goods is presented in euros, while net mass and quantity are expressed in supplementary units defined in the Customs Tariff (e.g. m², litres, pieces).

1.13 Data source

The data source for foreign trade statistics of goods is the Single Administrative Document (SAD). SAD is provided by Customs Administration of Montenegro and is a document that is submitted in the customs procedure. It contains information that is important for the customs clearance procedure and data for statistical purposes as well as other users.

1.14 Method of data collection

The Customs Administration of Montenegro submits monthly data to Monstat. Data given refer to all previous months from the beginning of the year.

2. Relevance – Data users

2.1 User needs

International users:

- ✚ Eurostat;
- ✚ World Bank;
- ✚ UN organizations;
- ✚ International Monetary Fund.

National users:

- ✚ Ministries and other public administration bodies;
- ✚ Local government and other local government bodies;
- ✚ Central bank;
- ✚ Non-governmental organizations;
- ✚ Students;
- ✚ Researchers;
- ✚ Media.

2.2 User satisfaction

The Statistical Office has adopted the Quality Management Strategy, the Guidebook to the Implementation of the Quality Management Strategy, as well as the Plan for the Implementation of the Quality Policy. In order to measure the degree to which it fulfills obligations towards users and within the new quality policy, the Statistical Office conducted a user satisfaction survey.

The results of the survey are available on the Statistical Office website, at the following link:

[User satisfaction](#)

3. Accuracy and reliability

3.1 Accuracy – Overall remark

The accuracy of foreign trade in goods statistics is affected by: data collection coverage, units of measurement, data audits, confidentiality and control procedures (validation and credibility).

Data on foreign trade in goods are based on the records of trade transactions in customs declarations and are considered an administrative source of data, which leads to the full coverage of data.

The data are preliminary when they are first published at the end of January, for the previous year, and can be revised until April next year. Revised data are published together with monthly corrections. Audits tend to be (but are not exclusively) upward, as period-related customs declarations are further completed and processed.

3.2 Error in data processing

Data on foreign trade statistics for goods are not collected on the basis of a sample, so in this regard they are not affected by errors in sampling and data processing. The source of data on foreign trade is administrative data obtained by the Customs Administration of Montenegro.

3.3 Non-sampling error

Data on foreign trade statistics for goods are not collected on the basis of a sample, so in this regard they are not affected by errors in sampling and data processing. The source of data on foreign trade is administrative data obtained by the Customs Administration of Montenegro.

3.3.1 Coverage error

Not relevant.

3.3.2 Measurement error

Not relevant.

3.3.3 Nonresponse error

Not relevant.

3.3.4 Error processing the data

Not relevant.

3.4 Seasonal adjustment

Not relevant

3.5 Data revision

3.5.1 Data revision policy

Statistical Office has adopted the revision policy and it is available on the website:

[Revision policy](#)

3.5.2 Data revision practice

Each month, routine revision of data is executed. Reviewed data is related to the current year. Monthly data obtained from the Customs Administration include data from the beginning of the year until the last month of the current year as the cumulative data. For example: in May Monstat receives data as cumulative from January to April. Despite the fact that some customs declarations are already filled in the customs procedure, correction of already submitted declarations are usual, which is one of the reasons for the revision of the data. When it comes to correcting certain declarations, Customs Administration along with other monthly data submits the amended declaration. Also, one of the reasons for the revision of the data are new customs declarations received in the last month, and some refer to the previous months. In order to process the declaration, it must be reviewed for the previous month and classify such a declaration in the month/s when external trade exchange was executed. Certain customs declarations are subject to an administrative dispute which may last for several months and only after the dispute is completed the customs declaration is made. In this regard, there are new declarations relating to previous months, which is another reason for the revision of data. In addition to routine revision data, special data revisions are also performed. There are no predefined rules regarding when a special data revision will be carried out. Special revisions are carried out in cases where there is a substantial change in the use of basic methodologies for data processing, and which affect the impossibility of comparison data. A revision of this type was made in September 2010, and the revised data for the period 2005 to 2009. The reason for the data revision is to comply with current EU standards, ie to change the data processing system from general to special. Data on foreign trade in goods are processed according to a special trading system and thus, data from 2005 onwards are completely comparable.

3.5.3 Data revision - average size

There was no special data revision in 2024.

4. Timeliness and punctuality

4.1 Timeliness

Monthly releases are published at the end of the month for the previous period, so that the time between the availability of data and events described is less than one month.

For annual releases preliminary data are published at the end of January and the final in the middle of April of the current year.

Time lag of the preliminary monthly results

T+30 days

Time lag of the final annual results

T+120 days (middle of April)

There is no time interval between actual data delivery and target date. All releases were published in accordance with the scheduled release date.

4.2 Punctuality

The accuracy indicator represents the time difference between the actual data release and the planned data release. The deadlines for the publication of foreign trade of goods data are defined in accordance with the Statistical Data Publication Calendar and those deadlines for the publication of releases are respected.

Indicator TP3 (accuracy) is 0, i.e. there is no difference between the planned and actual data release, which means that the data was released in accordance with the Data Release Calendar.

5. Availability and clarity

5.1 Statistical Release Calendar

The Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 018/12 and 047/19) stipulates that official statistical producers prepare, update, and publish Statistical Release Calendar. It is published on the website of the Statistical Office not later than 20 December for the next year, for all official statistical producers that includes the dates of statistical data releases. Any change in date of releasing in the Calendar is published in advance in accordance with the Procedure on Unplanned Revisions.

5.2 Access to data Release calendar

The calendar of publication of statistical data is available at the following link: [Release calendar](#)

5.3 Releases

Editions containing statistics of the foreign trade in goods are a monthly statement and an annual statement (Foreign Trade of Montenegro).

Link: [Annual data releases](#)

Link: [Monthly data releases](#)

5.4 Publications

Statistical Office publishes the following regular publications:

1. Statistical Yearbook,
2. Montenegro in figures,
3. Monthly statistical review.

In addition to the above regular ones, Statistical Office also publishes additional publications. Some of the most important additional publications are as follows:

1. Women and Men in Montenegro,
2. The most often used statistical data.

All publications published by the Statistical Office are available at the following link: [Publications](#)

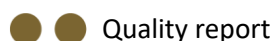
5.5 On-line database

On the MONSTAT website, in the Foreign Trade section, there are releases on foreign trade in goods on a monthly and annual basis.

In the section "Data", in the form of Excel tables, data on imports and exports of goods are available, on a monthly and annual basis, by all countries in accordance with the Combined Nomenclature and the Standard International Trade Classification, at the level of two and four digits.

Link:

- [Annual data](#)



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- [Monthly data](#)

5.6 Access to microdata

The Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 018/12 and 047/19) regulates rules under which external users can obtain access to individual data for needs of research. Article 58 defines types of scientific and research organizations that can obtain such data. Providing individual data without identifiers is possible only upon a written request of scientific and research institutions, for the purpose of performing scientific and research activities as well as international statistical organizations and statistical producers from other countries. The research entity signs the agreement with Statistical Office, and it signs the statement on respecting the confidentiality principle. Official statistical producers keep a separate record on users and purpose of using the statistical data provided to these users.

5.7 Metadata occupancy

The ratio of the number of metadata elements provided to the total number of metadata elements applicable. For foreign trade of goods survey the metadata fill rate is 100%.

6. Comparability

6.1 Geographical comparability

Geographical comparability of foreign trade statistics may be influenced by different definitions and concepts used by countries in the process of collecting data. There may be differences in the methods used by some countries in terms of coverage, the partner, and the transaction value. In Montenegro, the special trade system is used, which makes data comparable with Member States of the European Union that use special trade system, while for example some countries such as the USA, Japan and Canada apply the general trade system and our data cannot be compared with these countries because of the use of different trading systems.

6.2 Time comparability

Over time, various changes may occur, for example, in classifications, definitions and concepts which may lead to a lack of data comparability. Because of that in the Department of Foreign Trade there are ordinary and extraordinary revisions of data to make the data series comparable. Time comparability is also influenced by time shifts as the same operation can be recorded under a different reference month due to the time of transport and the time of registration of a given occurrence. The aforementioned temporal incomparability can only occur when comparing monthly data.

Time comparability indicator

Length of comparable time series indicator is calculated as follows:

$$CC1 = J_{last} - J_{first} + 1$$

J_{last} - number of the last reference period with disseminated statistics.

J_{first} - number of the first reference period with comparable statistics.

According to the above formula, the length of a comparable time series for foreign trade of goods data is 20 years. Data are comparable from 2005 onwards, since the beginning of their processing by Monstat.