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AGENCY FOR STATISTICS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

QUALITY REPORT FOR STATISTICAL SURVEY

BiH INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS STATISTICS **2015**

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1 Introduction – the statistical process and its results – survey methodology

1.1 Purpose of the survey

International trade forms an important part of the world economy and, as such, must be measured reliably and the relevant statistical data should be comparable and widely disseminated.

BiH international trade in goods statistics measure trade in goods (value and quantity) between BiH and other countries. It is the official source of data for export, import and trade balance of BiH.

BiH international trade in goods statistics are an important primary source for most public- and private-sector decision-makers. For example, BiH international trade in goods statistics:

- enable BiH authorities to prepare for bilateral and multilateral negotiations in the framework of trade agreements,
- constitute an essential source of information for balance of payments statistics, national accounts and economic studies,
- help enterprises to conduct market research and develop their commercial strategy.

1.2 Legal basis and the duties of the statistical institutions

- Law on Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Multi-annual statistical programs and annual work plans for BiH;
- Methodology BiH international trade in goods statistics
- International recommendations and manuals (Eurostat, MMF, UN)

This statistical survey is a part of the annual programme of operations of the Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

1.3 Observation unit

Observation unit in the BiH international trade in goods statistics is any delivery of goods, exported or imported, if it is homogenous by product type, country of destination/origin, mode of payment and the time of border crossing. Goods are classified according to Customs Tariff of BiH.

1.4 Data collection

Data source is Indirect Taxation Authority. Every month Indirect Taxation Authority provides Agency for Statistics of BiH with data from Single Administrative Documents.

Single Administrative Document is a document lodged by declarer (business entity or other authorized person, i.e. freight forwarder) to a customs office for customs clearing. Every Single Administrative Document comprises, among other data, data on flow of goods (export or import), tariff code (ten digit code in line with Customs Tariff of BiH), statistical value in KM, quantity in kilograms and supplementary unit.

1.5 Scope

The statistical survey is not based on sampling. Every Single Administrative Document i.e. export and import transaction is processed.

As a general guideline, United Nations Statistics Division recommends that international trade in goods statistics record all goods, which add to or subtract from the stock of material resources of a country by entering (imports) or leaving (exports) its economic territory. Goods simply being transported through a country (goods in transit) or temporarily admitted or withdrawn (except for goods for inward or outward processing) do not add to or subtract from the stock of material resources of a country and are not included in the international trade in goods statistics. In many countries, a country's economic territory largely coincides with its customs territory, which is the territory in which the customs law of a country applies in full.

The above general guidelines serve as a basis for formulating a set of specific recommendations on the inclusion or exclusion of certain categories of goods.

The following transactions are generally included in international trade in goods statistics: barter trade, goods on consignment, goods on financial lease, goods traded between enterprises under common ownership, goods traded on government account, processing trade.

The following transactions are excluded in international trade in goods statistics for conceptual or methodological reasons: goods in simple transit, temporary trade, particular trade not subject of a commercial transaction, means of payment and monetary gold, goods for and after repair.

BiH international trade in goods statistics apply the special trade system which means that goods from another country which are received into customs warehouses are not recorded in international trade in goods statistics unless they subsequently go into free circulation in BiH (or are placed under the customs procedures for inward processing). Similarly, outgoing goods from customs warehouses are not recorded as exports.

1.6 Definitions

Export of goods means flow of goods where goods physically leave customs territory of BiH.

Import of goods means flow of goods where goods physically enter customs territory of BiH.

Goods mean every tangible movable product.

Country of origin of goods is the country where the goods are manufactured.

Country of final destination of goods is the country where the goods should be delivered.

Statistical value represents value of goods according to FOB term of delivery for export and CIF term of delivery for import.

Statistical value for export (FOB – Free On Board) is defined in the following way:

- if the place of delivery is abroad, statistical value comprises invoice value minus transport, insurance and other costs from the border of BiH to the place of delivery abroad,
- if the place of delivery is in BiH, statistical value comprises invoice value plus transport, insurance and other costs from the place of delivery in BiH to the border of BiH.

Statistical value for import (CIF – Cost, Insurance, Freight) is defined in the following way:

- if the place of delivery is abroad, statistical value comprises invoice value plus transport, insurance and other costs from the place of delivery abroad to the border of BiH,
- if the place of delivery is in BiH, statistical value comprises invoice value minus transport, insurance and other costs from the border of BiH to the place of delivery in BiH.

Quantity of goods represents net weight of goods in kilograms or quantity expressed in one of supplementary quantity units.

1.7 Data processing

Agency for Statistics of BiH performs automatic processing of Single Administrative Documents in order to obtain data on BiH international trade in goods statistics. During processing, some Single Administrative Documents are excluded in accordance to special trade system as well as international standards which recommend that certain products and transactions should be excluded from international trade in goods statistics.

The validity and credibility controls are performed during processing.

The final results of processing are the following indicators:

- Flow (import or export)
- Year
- Month
- Partner country
- Product code defined by Customs tariff of BiH
- Statistical value
- Quantity in kilograms
- Quantity in supplementary units
- Statistical procedure
- Mode of transport at the frontier
- Nationality of the means of transport at the frontier
- Container

1.8 Publishing of results

Agency for Statistics of BiH disseminates BiH international trade in goods statistics in KM and USD in monthly Press Releases. The following data are disseminated: total export and import, export and import by partner countries, export and import by sections of Customs tariff of BiH (Harmonised System), by sections and divisions of Classification of Activities in BiH 2010 (NACE rev.2), by sections and divisions of Standard International Trade Classification (SITC rev.4), by main industrial groupings and by statistical procedures.

Press Releases are published 20 days after the end of reference period.

Final data in KM, EUR and USD are published in the Thematic Bulletin on July 20.

The afore-mentioned publications can be found on web site www.bhas.ba.

1.9 Key variables

The main variables are the data from Single Administrative Documents.

1.10 Key statistics

The following key statistics are produced:

- Flow (import or export)
- Year
- Month
- Partner country
- Product code defined by Customs Tariff of BiH
- Statistical value
- Quantity in kilograms
- Quantity in supplementary units
- Statistical procedure
- Mode of transport at the frontier
- Nationality of the means of transport at the frontier
- Container

1.11 Questionnaire

Statistical survey BiH international trade in goods statistics is not based on sampling and questionnaires.

1.12 Contacts

Department for International Trade Statistics is responsible for production of BiH international trade in goods statistics.

Contact persons:

Goran Slatinšek (Email address: goran.slatinsek@bhas.ba; phone number +387 33 911 965)

Adisa Maljanović (Email address: adisa.maljanovic@bhas.ba; phone number +387 33 911 959)

2 Relevance

2.1 Quality and performance indicator – the rate of the ESS statistics available (R1)

BiH international trade in goods statistics are produced in accordance to methodological guidelines of Eurostat and UN. Key statistics for this statistical survey are produced, in accordance to international standards.

3 Accuracy

3.1 Sampling errors

Statistical survey is not based on sampling. Sampling errors do not exist.

3.2 Non-sampling errors

3.2.1 Coverage errors

Coverage errors do not exist. All Single Administrative Documents i.e. transactions are processed.

3.2.2 Measurement errors

3.2.2.1 Controls used to detect the measurement errors

Indirect Taxation Authority and Agency for Statistics of BiH perform validity and credibility checks. A validity error is found when a record is not correct therefore it may cause processing problems, it cannot be included in the statistical analysis and so it must be removed or corrected. Examples of this kind of errors are incorrect or missing codes, missing values in the Single Administrative Documents, character data in numeric field and vice versa, etc. Credibility controls mean checks on the accuracy of data and assessment of all possible errors associated with the data. Indeed, some data passing the previous validity checks can still be not correct. Residual errors can be pointed out by looking for variable inconsistencies. The Single Administrative Document, for example, is inconsistent internally in the comparison of the different variables, or it is not consistent with what was submitted in the previous months.

3.2.2.2 Causes of measurement errors

Errors can arise while inputting data i.e. inputting and submitting Single Administrative Documents.

3.2.2.3 Procedures in cases of measurement errors

If errors arise, they are corrected.

3.2.2.4 Quality and performance indicator – editing rate (A3)

Subsequent data revisions and corrections can be performed by Indirect Taxation Authority and Agency for Statistics of BiH, but they do not have major impact on first results.

3.2.2.5 Measures taken in order to reduce the number of measurement errors

Primary data checks are performed by Indirect Taxation Authority. Agency for Statistics of BiH perform subsequent validity and credibility checks on data from Single Administrative Documents. This part of data processing should be further improved.

3.2.3 Non-response errors

Statistical survey is not based on sampling. Non-response errors do not exist.

4 Timeliness and the accuracy of the release

4.1 Timeliness of the release

4.1.1 Quality and performance indicator – timeliness of first result releases (T1)

Timeliness of the first release of results is defined as the difference between the date of the first release and the end of the reference period – in our case it is 20 days from the end of the reference period (quarter).

4.1.2 Quality and performance indicator – timeliness of final results release (T2)

The final monthly and annual results are disseminated in the Thematic Bulletin 7 months after the end of reference year. The difference between first and final results is negligible.

4.2 Accuracy of the release

4.2.1 Quality and performance indicator – accuracy of the release (T3)

There were no deviations in terms of the announced date in the annual publication calendar and the actual date of the release.

4.2.2 Reasons for major delays and the measures taken to improve the timeliness and accuracy of releases

There were no delays.

5 Availability and clarity

5.1 Availability

5.1.1 Dissemination channels

Following dissemination channels are used to publish the results of BiH international trade in goods statistics:

No.	Dissemination channels	Used
1	Web page – Internet release	YES
2	Written requests from users according to the specification they provide	YES
3	Data published via phone	YES
4	Digital media (CD, discs, etc...)	YES
5	Data presented at the press conference	NO
6	Thematic Bulletin	YES
7	Specialized printed publications	YES
8	Databases, available to external users	NO
9	Statistically protected microdata	NO

5.1.2 Quality and performance indicator – the rate of the dissemination channels used (AC1)

The rate of the dissemination channels used is 66,7% (6/9X100).

5.1.3 Dissemination modalities

Following dissemination modalities are used for the publishing of data on BiH international trade in goods statistics:

No.	Dissemination modalities	Used
1	Web page – internet release	YES
2	Web pages of other institutions	YES
3	Web pages of international institutions	YES
4	Thematic web pages (i.e. Census)	NO
5	Written requests	YES
6	Phone facilitation	YES
7	Digital media (CD, disks, etc...)	YES
8	Data presented at the press conference	NO
9	Yearbook	NO
10	BiH in Numbers	YES
11	First Release	YES
12	Thematic Bulletin	YES
13	Specialized publications	NO
14	Eurostat publications	YES
15	Publications of other international organizations (OECD, IMF)	YES
16	Databases, for internal use	YES
17	Bases available to external users	NO

5.1.4 Quality and performance indicator – the rate of the dissemination modalities (AC2)

The rate of the channels used for the dissemination is 70,6% (12/17X100).

5.1.5 Quality and performance indicator – number of visits to online database (AC3)

There is no on-line database for the indices.

5.2 Clarity

5.2.1 Printed publications and internet publications - releases

- Monthly First Release »BiH international trade in goods statistics«
- Annual First Release »BiH international trade in goods statistics«
- Thematic Bulletin »International Trade in Goods of BiH – final data«
- BiH in Numbers (part »Foreign Trade«).

5.2.1.1 Disseminated results

The results of statistical survey BiH international trade in goods statistics are presented in the form of absolute and relative numbers.

Data are presented in PDF file format only.

5.2.1.2 Level (of details) of dissemination

Aggregated monthly and annual data are disseminated. The following data are published: export and import by sections of Customs tariff of BiH (Harmonised System – HS), by sections and divisions of Classification of Activities in BiH 2010 (NACE rev.2), by sections and divisions of Standard International Trade Classification (SITC rev.4), by Main Industrial Groupings, by partner countries and by statistical procedures.

5.2.1.3 Metadata

Reference metadata - ESMS: Contact (organization, organizational unit, mail address); Metadata Updating - Dates; Statistical Presentation (data description, classification system, sectoral coverage, statistical concepts and definitions, statistical unit, statistical population, reference domain, coverage in terms of time, baseline period); Measurement Unit; Reference Period; Institutional Jurisdiction (Mandate) (legal documents and other agreements, data provision); Confidentiality (confidentiality – policy, confidentiality – data processing); Publication Policy (publication calendar, calendar of access to publications, user access); Dissemination Frequency; Dissemination Format (releases – news, publications, on-line data base, access to micro-data, other); Availability of Documents (methodology documents, quality related documents); Quality Management (quality assurance, quality assessment); Relevance (user needs, user satisfaction, completeness); Accuracy and Reliability (overall accuracy, sampling error, non-sampling error - a) coverage error - b) measurement error - c) processing error - d) non-response error); Timeliness and Release Accuracy (timeliness, release accuracy); Comparability (comparability – geographical, comparability – within time); Coherence (coherence – between domains, coherence with i.e. population statistics, coherence with i.e. employment estimates in national accounts, coherence with the employment estimates derived from buss. surveys, coherence – internal); Costs and Load; Data Revision (data revision – policy, data revision - practice); Statistical Processing (data sources, data collection frequency, data collection, data validity control, data compilation, adjusting).

5.2.1.4 Measures used to improve the clarity of disseminated results

Data posted at the new BHAS web page are shown in PDF file format only. Data should be presented using tables and graphs in Excel as well, in order to allow users to analyse and use data in an easier manner.

5.2.2 Quality and performance indicator – metadata completeness rate (AC4)

The total number of metadata elements from the Reference ESMS used is 56. The number of available metadata elements for statistical survey Export and import price indices of BiH (unit values) is 49. Thus, the metadata completeness rate for the mentioned survey is 87,5 % (49/56x100).

6 Comparability and compliance

6.1 Comparability over time

6.1.1 Quality and performance indicator – the length of comparable time series (CC1)

The data on BiH international trade in goods are produced and published from 2005.

By 2014, there is an 11 year long data time series for BiH. The value of this indicator, considering that these are quarterly series is $11 \times 12 = 132$.

6.1.2 Interruptions within the time series

There have been no interruptions in BiH international trade in goods statistics series, since their introduction in 2005.

6.1.3 Other factors affecting comparability over time

There were no other relevant factors that would affect the comparability over time.

6.2 Geographic comparability

6.2.1 Comparability with other members of the European Statistical System

BiH international trade in goods statistics are produced in accordance to international recommendations. Data are comparable to data of other members of European Statistical System.

6.3 Deseasonalization

The data on BiH international trade in goods statistics are not seasonally adjusted.

6.4 Compliance between the interim (temporary) and final data

6.4.1 Interim data dissemination policy

The Interim data dissemination policy does not apply to the presentation of results of the BiH international trade in goods statistics.

6.4.2 Quality indicator – compliance between the interim and final data (CC2)

The difference between the first and final results is negligible.

6.4.3 Reasons for significant differences between the interim and final data

The difference between the first and final results is negligible.

6.5 Compliance with the reference survey results

6.5.1 Short description of the reference survey

No reference survey is being implemented.

7 Trade-offs between the quality output components

Some of the significant trade-offs are trade-off between relevance and comparability over time and trade-off between accuracy and timeliness.

8 Assessment of the needs and perceptions of users

First Releases can be found on web page in PDF file format only, but Excel tables will soon be provided, to manage and analyse the data in an easier way. In order to facilitate the interpretation of the data presented, each release includes a short comment and the methodology instructions in all three official languages used in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in English as well – to assist the foreign users. Thematic Bulletin is provided in English as well.

8.1 Classification and understanding of users

The key users of BiH international trade in goods statistics are Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH, Directorate for Economic Planning under Council of Ministers of BiH, Central Bank of BiH, Eurostat and UN. Additional users are business enterprises and media.

Internally, the indices are used in the National Accounts Statistics for production of gross domestic product (GDP).

8.2. User perception and satisfaction monitoring

Satisfaction of users is mainly monitored based on the frequency of their requests and petitions sent to the Agency for Statistics of BiH – in terms of frequency of similar requests for indicators which are, later on, being introduced into release itself (if these requests are found to be legitimate and if they do not refer to data we are obliged to protect).

8.2.1 *Quality and performance indicator – the user satisfaction index (US1)*

No specific survey in terms of the user satisfaction with regard to this product is being conducted.

8.2.2 *Quality and performance indicator – time elapsed from the previous user satisfaction survey (US2)*

No specific survey in terms of the user satisfaction with regard to this product is being conducted.

9 Respondents/reporting units costs and workload

9.1 Survey costs for the statistics office

9.1.1 *Quality and performance indicator – annual operational costs, averages as per main cost components (PCR1)*

Information on costs cannot be determined.

9.2 Respondents/reporting units costs and workload

9.2.1 Quality and performance indicator – respondents' annual workload in hours and/or financial indicators (PCR2)

Administrative data are used. Source of data is Indirect Taxation Authority and data from Single Administrative Documents are used. Information on respondents' annual workload and costs is not available at the Agency for Statistics of BiH. Only Indirect Taxation Authority has information regarding these indicators.

9.3 Measures taken to reduce the costs and workload

Administrative data are used. Source of data is Indirect Taxation Authority. This institution is responsible for introducing measures to reduce respondents costs and burden.

10 Confidentiality, transparency and protection

10.1 Confidentiality

Statistical data confidentiality is required by law, while the staff in charge of the statistical survey is also, according to the same legislation, bound to protect that confidentiality.

Thus the Article 27 of the Law on Statistics of BiH states that »All measures of organisational, regulatory, administrative and technical nature necessary to protect Confidential Data against unauthorised access, disclosure and use, shall be taken by the Competent Authorities in collecting, processing, transmitting and dissemination of Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina including at the Entity level«, while the Article 28 of the same Law states that »Persons having access to Confidential Data in the performance of their tasks shall be subject to compliance with the provisions of this law, even after the cessation of their functions«.

In addition, the document called the »Rulebook on the Protection of Statistical Data at the Agency for Statistics of BiH« states the procedures to secure confidentiality during collection, processing and dissemination – including protocols to safeguard individual accessible data, rules to define confidential cells in output tables as well as procedures to detect and prevent disclosure and the access to microdata by external users for research purposes.

10.2 Transparency

Users are informed of the way of how to use the data from the statistical survey BiH international trade in goods statistics.

Statements at the press conference related to survey results are absolutely impartial and politically neutral.

No errors were detected in the publications regarding BiH international trade in goods statistics, thus there was no need for any corrections and for the publishing of such changes.

10.3 Protection

Listed in the Chapter 10.1.

11 Conclusion

Methodology of production of BiH international trade in goods statistics is in line with international standards of Eurostat and UN.

BiH international trade in goods statistics are characterised by relevance, timeliness, accuracy, availability, comparability, clarity and coherence. Main areas where the quality could be further improved are accuracy and availability. Data from Single Administrative Documents could be further improved. Data presented in Excel tables should be put on web.