

## Comment on Methodology of External Trade Statistics

The source of information on external trade is data collected by customs authorities. Starting from processing of the January 2004 data, data collection and the first check are carried out by the Directorate General of Customs (DGC), whereas the Czech Statistical Office is in charge of further data processing, checks and publishing.

External trade statistics is made up of the sum of intra - Community trade (trade with the EU Member States) and trade with third countries. Data on goods traded between Member States of the Communities are supplied by reporting units to the customs office on the Intrastat questionnaire, with information on dispatches of goods or arrivals of goods. Data on imported and exported goods in trade with third countries are given in a Single Administrative Document (SAD).

In compliance with the binding regulations of the EU, the measurement of data on exports and imports is governed by Customs Act No. 13/1993 Sb., as amended; by Decree No. 199/2004 Sb., on trade with third countries implementing certain provisions of the customs act and repealing certain decrees regulating exemptions from import duty and the non-preferential origin of goods (by the Ministry of Finance of the CR) as amended, effective since 1 May 2004. Intrastat, is governed by Decree No. 563/2005 Sb., on statistics of exported and imported goods and on the way of sharing data on trade with the other Member States of the European Communities amending decree No. 201/2005 Sb. which came into effect on 1 January 2007.

Annual data on external trade in EUR and in USD are calculated using average monthly exchange rate in a given period as reported by the Czech National Bank.

Data on exports are compiled by country of destination and data on imports are compiled by country of origin.

Discrepancies between the data published by the Czech statistical office and Eurostat are caused mainly by time delays in publishing revised data and by a different methodology defining the term partner country.

**2007 data are final, referring to 28 August 2008 closing date. 2008 data are updated, referring to 27 February 2009 closing date.**

Casual differences on the last digit position arise for rounding off the absolute number.