

## Comment on Methodology of External Trade Statistics

External trade statistics represent an important source of information for the needs of the economy-oriented public, ministries and other state authorities of the Czech Republic (Office of the Government, Chamber of Deputies, the Senate, Czech National Bank), institutions of higher education, international organisations (Eurostat, FAO, IMF, OECD) and last but not least the business-oriented public.

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, whereas the Czech Statistical Office is in charge of further data processing, checks and publishing.

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 393/2008 amending Decree No 201/2005 Sb., on statistics of exported and imported goods and the manner of communicating information on trade between the Czech Republic and other Member States of the European Communities, as amended by Decree No 563/2006 Sb. which came into effect on 1st January 2009.

**External trade statistics is made up of the sum of intra-Community trade (trade with the EU Member States) and trade with non-EU 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 non-EU countries are given in a Single Administrative Document.

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

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

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**2008** data for January to December are final, referring to 27 February 2009 closing date.

**2009** data for January are preliminary, referring to 27 February 2009 closing date.

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