

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY OF THE AUDIT OF THE CZECH STATISTICAL OFFICE STATISTICS METHODOLOGY

Audited subject: Statistics of external trade in goods

Audited department: External Trade Statistics Department, National Accounts Department, Quarterly Estimates Unit

Audit took place: May 2013 – October 2013

AUDIT TEAM MEMBERS:

Jakub Fischer (University of Economics, Prague) – team leader

Stanislava Hronová (University of Economics, Prague)

Josef Plandor (Ministry of Industry and Trade)

Rudolf Olšovský (Czech National Bank)

Jiří Štrupl (General Directorate of Customs)

Zdeněk Veselý (Ministry of Finance)

Jan Zeman (University of Economics, Prague)

MAIN AUDIT CONCLUSIONS:

Based on the audit of the methodology, the audit team:

- 1) considers the process of statistical capture of external trade both in the cross-border and national approaches as corresponding to requirements and methodological recommendations of Eurostat. The audit team appreciates both the cross-border statistics, compiling of which for the needs of the European Union bodies as well as for the needs of national accounts compiling is a laborious and important task, and activities of the National Accounts Department, which has done a great piece of work in identifying and subsequently solving of discrepancies between the cross-border and national approaches;
- 2) appreciates quality of the background documents received from all the audited departments and units and recommends to assess their partial use as a part of the communication with the users (including of an illustrative examples into the methodological notes); and
- 3) states that recommendations from the last audit of methodology of external trade in 2006 have been delivered with one exception (data for regions). Concerning this only exemption the audit team agrees with the explanation produced by the audited department.

MAIN AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based on the audit of the methodology, the audit team:

- 1) recommends to reinforce and make deeper the cooperation of departments and units compiling the external trade statistics in the cross-border and national approaches;
- 2) recommends to:
 - a. publish the results in the national approach, which are by their nature significantly closer to the economic reality of the Czech Republic, as the primary statistics of the external trade statistics; and
 - b. distinguish in a better way the cross-border and national approaches in terms of terminology in the sense that only results of the national approach will be presented as information on external trade. The audit team does not recommend results in the cross-border approach are called external trade yet to call them “cross-border movements of goods”. In News Releases the information on cross-border movements of goods should be published as an additional piece of information. The audit team recommends to communicate this change with users in advance;
- 3) furthermore gives a partial recommendation on improvements to the technical side of the data published; and
- 4) recommends to cease the publishing of Table 9 – “External trade by the registered office of the reporting units in 2011 and 2012 (cross-border statistics)” in News Releases.

RESPONSE OF THE AUDITED DEPARTMENT:

Recommendations of the audit team have been accepted and included in the medium-term plan of the department activities.