

International trade in ICT services

Methodology

Services in the field of information and communication technologies (hereinafter only referred to as **ICT services**) are defined as services, the core function of which is to implement or to enable communication or information processing by electronic means, including their record, transmission, and display. In international trade statistics, these services are defined based on the international **Extended Balance of Payments Services Classification (EBOPS 2010)**. The area of ICT services includes the following items of **Telecommunications, computer, and information services (SI)** of this classification:

1. **Telecommunications services**
2. **Computer services**
3. **Information services**

1) Telecommunications services (code SI1) include, first of all, transactions between Czech and foreign telecommunication operators for international calls. A payment the Czech operator receives from the foreign operator for the arrangement of the international call is considered exports. A payment from the Czech operator to the foreign operator is imports. Telecommunications services also involve payments for the access to the Internet, cable television, and to other computer networks, including providing of services as electronic mail, video conferences, or transmitting of audio-visual signal over the Internet.

2) Computer services (code SI2) comprise the following two items:

- Computer software (code SI21) comprising original computer software, i.e. purchase (import) and sale (export) of customised software and related applications and other computer software, i.e. purchase and sale of standard software and applications supplied over the Internet. It also includes the purchase (import) and sale (export) of a medium containing an activation code, or the acquisition of additional rights (software already installed before is accessible after additional purchase of the code or rights), i.e. licence fees for the authorised use of computer software. I.e. it includes licence fees only related to the use of software, not to its reproduction and distribution
- Other computer services (code SI22) comprising hardware and software consultancy and further maintenance and repairs of computers and peripheral equipment.

3) Information services (code SI3), that are further split into:

- **News agency services (code SI31)** and
- **Other information services (code SI32)** that mainly include data processing and hosting services, web search portals and related services.

Data on exports and imports of ICT services come from the **survey on exports and imports of services (ZO 1-04) carried out by the CZSO**.