

External Merchandise Trade Statistics

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2. Metadata update	
2.1. Metadata last certified	February 14, 2023
2.2. Metadata last posted	February 14, 2023
2.3. Metadata last update	February 14, 2023

3. Statistical presentation	
3.1. Data description	
<p>Crossing a border of the economic territory of the country is the main criterion for determining exports and imports for compilation of External Merchandise Trade Statistics of Georgia.</p> <p>Exports imply both export of domestic production abroad and re-export of imported goods.</p> <p>Imports imply importing of products and re-import of exported goods.</p> <p>Domestic exports include export of goods produced in the country, as well as imported from abroad, the value of which has significantly changed as a result of domestic processing.</p> <p>Data on external merchandise trade do not cover transit goods passing through the country and the data of Simplified Customs Declarations (Form №4) as well as shuttle trade.</p> <p>Database of Customs Declarations (DBCD) is the main information source on external trade transactions. National Statistics Office (NSO) receives DBCD from the Revenue Service of the Ministry of Finance of Georgia on a monthly basis. In addition, information on external trade by gas and electric power is obtained from LTD Georgian Gas Transportation Company, JSC Georgian State Electric System and JSC Electricity System Commercial Operator, to complete the data.</p> <p>Data is provided at the 4-digit and 6-digit levels of the Harmonized Commodity Nomenclature System (HS 2017) as well as at the 1-digit and 5-digit levels of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC Rev.4), at the 1-digit and 3-digit level of Broad Economic Categories (BEC), by countries and country groups, by mode of transport, by size classes of traders and by kind of economic activities.</p> <p>There are the following criteria to determine the partner country: for imports the sending country, while for exports the country of final destination.</p> <p>Exports are valued at FOB (Free on Board), i.e. franco-border prices of the exporting country (includes costs of cargo transportation to the board of exporting country and loading on-board of transport mean), while imports are valued at CIF (Cost, Insurance and Freight) prices i.e. transportation costs to the border of the importing country (international freight and insurance costs are also included in addition to the price).</p>	
3.2. Classification system	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS 2017); • World Country and Territory Classification – GNC 007-2016 (ISO 3166); • Currency Classification – SC 008-2017 (ISO 4217); • Standard International Trade Classification (SITC, rev.4); • Broad Economic Categories (BEC, rev.4); • Classification of Economic Activities – GNC (NACE Rev.2) 006-2016 (2016); 	

•Classification of Types of Transport.
3.3. Sector coverage
The object of the Foreign Trade Statistics is any commodity entering and exiting the economic territory of a country and changing its material inventories.
3.4. Statistical concepts and definitions
External Trade Statistics is compiled according to the international methodology of the United Nations Statistics Department „International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Compilers Manual, Revision 1“ (IMTS 2010-CM)), (United Nations, New York, USA 2013) and on the basis of the most recent recommendations „International Merchandise Trade Statistics, Concepts and Definitions, 2010“ (United Nations, New York, 2011). The data is processed and disseminated on a monthly basis. All items are presented in value and quantity (weight, supplementary size).
3.5. Statistical unit
The statistical unit is any natural or legal person (enterprise, local authority, public entity, household) that fills the customs declaration.
3.6. Statistical population
External Merchandise Trade includes all goods that enter (import) or leave (export) statistical territory of a country and increase or decrease inventories of country's material resources, including goods processing.
3.7. Reference area
The information includes External Merchandise Trade between Georgia (except for areas not controlled by the central government, such as the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region (so-called South Ossetian Autonomous Region)) and the rest of the world.
3.8. Time coverage
Since 1995.
3.9. Base period
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4. Unit of measure
Data on External Merchandise Trade statistics are published in US dollars; In addition, information is processed and disseminated in kilograms and additional units (liters, liters of 100% spirit, thousand liters, pieces, one hundred pieces, thousand pieces, thousand kWh, meters, sq. Meters, cubic meters, pairs, etc.).

5. Reference period
The month of receipt of the customs declaration by the customs authority.

6. Institutional mandate
6.1. Legal acts and other agreements
The Law of Georgia on Official Statistics; https://www.geostat.ge/media/20817/latest-Law-of-Georgia_2018.pdf Statistical Work Programme (annual); https://www.geostat.ge/en/modules/categories/307/statistical-work-programme Charter of the National Statistics Office of Georgia. https://www.geostat.ge/media/20845/10%2Csaqstatis-konsolidirebuli-debuleba.pdf
6.2. Data sharing
Statistical data on external trade, goods imported and exported for processing and repair are provided to the authority producing official statistics, in particular, the National Bank of Georgia, on regular basis according to agreed timing and format for compilation of the balance of payments statistics.

7. Confidentiality
7.1. Confidentiality – policy
1. The Law of Georgia on Official Statistics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •According to the article 4 of the law individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural or legal persons, are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes.

- According to the article 28 (Observing Confidentiality of Statistical Data) of the law 1. The data collected for the purpose of producing official statistics shall be confidential if it allows for identification of observation unit or if it is possible to identify such data through it. 2. The confidential statistical data shall not be issued or disseminated or used for a non-statistical purpose but for the exceptions envisaged by the Georgian legislation. 3. When producing the official statistics, it is obligatory to destroy or store separately the identity data including the questionnaires containing such data and used for statistical surveys according to the rules defined in the Georgian legislation.
- According to the article 29 (The Obligations and Responsibilities of the Employees of the Geostat) of the law the confidential statistical data collected and processed for the purpose of statistical survey shall not be used or disseminated by the employees of the units of the Geostat.

https://www.geostat.ge/media/20817/latest-Law-of-Georgia_2018.pdf

2. Data Confidentiality Policy at Geostat

https://www.geostat.ge/media/20860/Data-Confidentiality-Policy-at-Geostat_En.pdf

3. Public Use Microdata Dissemination Policy at Geostat

https://www.geostat.ge/media/20862/Microdata-Dissemination-Policy_Eng.pdf

4. The Law of Georgia on Personal Data Protection

<https://matsne.gov.ge/en/document/view/1561437?publication=9>

7.2. Confidentiality – data treatment

- Confidentiality guidelines.
- Written undertakings by an employee of Geostat on ensuring confidentiality of gained/collected data as a result of official duties.

8. Release policy

8.1. Release calendar

Data dissemination dates are defined according to the Advance release calendar, which is available on the website of Geostat and publicly accessible.

8.2. Release calendar access

<https://www.geostat.ge/en/calendar>

8.3. User access

All users have the equal access to the statistical data simultaneously.

9. Frequency of dissemination

Monthly.

10. Accessibility and clarity

10.1. News release

Monthly press release on External Trade Statistics is available on the following link:

<https://www.geostat.ge/en/relationsOfCategory/35/post>

10.2. Publications

External merchandise trade statistics data are available in following publications:

„External Trade Of Georgia“ (annual):

<https://www.geostat.ge/en/single-categories/99/external-trade-tendencies-of-georgia>

„Statistical Yearbook“:

<https://www.geostat.ge/en/single-categories/95/statistical-yearbook>

„Quarterly bulletin“:

<https://www.geostat.ge/en/single-categories/98/quarterly-bulletin>

10.3. On-line database

Monthly statistics on external merchandise trade are disseminated through External Trade Portal:

<http://ex-trade.geostat.ge/en>

10.4. Micro-data access

Microdata on external merchandise trade are not subject to dissemination.

10.5. Other

External merchandise trade statistics are also available at the social network (Facebook) and through a special application for Android and iOS system mobile phones.

10.6. Documentation on methodology
Brief methodology of external merchandise trade statistics is available on the following link: https://www.geostat.ge/media/43172/EXTERNAL-MERCHANDISE-METHODOLOGY.pdf Detailed methodology is available on the following link: https://www.geostat.ge/media/19377/2-IMTS%20-%20Concepts%20and%20Definitions.pdf
10.7. Quality documentation
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11. Quality management
11.1. Quality assurance
To ensure the quality of the statistical processes and products Geostat follows Article 4 – Basic principles of official statistics – of the Law of Georgia on Official Statistics, as well as the European Statistics Code of Practice, the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF).
11.2. Quality assessment
Methodology and Quality Management Division of Geostat, along with the sectoral departments, is responsible for the quality of the produced statistical products and processes. The Division carries out quality audit of statistical processes and assesses the risks associated with production of statistical data. Geostat has developed policy documents, guidelines and standard routine descriptions. These documents ensure the standardization of statistical processes and products and the establishment of a unified quality assurance system.
12. Relevance
12.1. User needs
The main users of the external trade statistics data are: representatives of business sector, researchers and students, international organizations, government agencies, media etc. Users need data in order to perform various types of statistical analysis, to plan a marketing strategy or to study and evaluate the economic situation.
12.2. User satisfaction
In 2021 user satisfaction survey was conducted, the target of the survey was to analyze the assessment of quality of statistical data by users and explore ways to improve user services. The survey report is available on the website of Geostat (in Georgian): https://www.geostat.ge/ka/page/customer-service
12.3. Completeness
The data is relevant to international standards.
13. Accuracy and reliability
13.1. Overall accuracy
Accuracy of data is related to practical data collection during customs administration, which does not exclude quantitative and qualitative gaps. Faults are eliminated through pre-compiled control and adjustment procedures.
13.2. Sampling error
External merchandise trade statistics are fully based on administrative sources, so there are no sampling errors.
13.3. Non-sampling error
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14. Timeliness and punctuality
14.1. Timeliness
Preliminary data on foreign trade are available on the 13th day and detailed data on the 19th day after the end of the reporting period. The data will be disseminated on the following business day in case of information release date coincides with the day off.
14.2. Punctuality
The data is published according to the date specified in the statistical work program. There has not been any violation of publication dates.

15. Coherence and comparability
15.1. Comparability – geographical
The data are comparable in geographical terms.
15.2. Comparability – over time
Partly comparable in terms of commodity nomenclature: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-digit level comparable periods – since 1995; • By 6-digit level – since 2000.
15.3. Coherence – cross domain
The data is coherent.
15.4. Coherence – internal
The data is coherent.
16. Cost and burden
The data is being received and processed by the basic staff within budget of Geostat budget. The source of information is administrative data.
17. Data revision
17.1. Data revision – policy
Statistical data revision policy is available on the website of Geostat: https://www.geostat.ge/media/44385/Revision-policy-and-error-correction_Geo.pdf
17.2. Data revision – practice
Revision and adjustment of statistical data is made on a regular basis according to the adjusted information received from relevant sources. In addition, a large-scale revision is carried out once a year in order to obtain verified data.
18. Statistical processing
18.1. Source data
The export-import statistics of goods are conducted on the basis of the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Database of Customs Declarations (DBCDD) from the Revenue Service of the Ministry of Finance of Georgia; • Data on export/import of natural gas – LTD Georgian Gas Transportation Company; • Electricity export/import data – JSC Georgian State Electric System and JSC Electricity System Commercial Operator.
18.2. Frequency of data collection
Monthly.
18.3. Data collection
National Statistics Office (NSO) receives DBCDD from the Revenue Service of the Ministry of Finance of Georgia on a monthly basis. Data on gas and electric power is received via e-mail from relevant sources upon official request.
18.4. Data validation
The following activities are being carried out by National Statistics Office based on obtained information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verification of main indicators of the DBCDD – commodity codes, prices, weights, dates of customs declarations, country codes for origin/destination, non-existent codes of country and commodity; • Control the limits on prices of main commodities and adjustment of quantities, prices or supplementary unit: Price / weight / supplementary unit control (the following codes are checked and corrected: 01 group, 0407, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2402, 2716, 8429, 8430, 8701, 8702, 8703, 8704, 8705, 8711, 8716); • Exclusion from the database commodities (securities, banknotes and coins in circulation, diplomatic and similar goods) that should not be classified as external merchandise trade according to the internationally approved methodology.
18.5. Data compilation
For the compilation of External Merchandise Trade statistics Georgia uses the “general method”, which means that crossing a border of the economic territory of the country is the main criterion for determining exports and imports. External trade data collection, processing, clarification and correction is carried out in accordance with international standards.
18.6. Adjustment

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19. Comment

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