

International trade statistics play a vital role in the assessment of economies in a globalised world, providing not only comprehensive information on the values and characteristics of the goods traded between countries, but also data on external trade balances which are essential for compiling current account balances.

Nevertheless, to have a deeper insight into the structures of companies involved in the increasing interconnection of economies, traditional trade statistics in terms of “Intrastat” and “Extrastat” reach their limits. While it is particularly business statistics that provide a closer view into structures of traders with regard to their sector of economic activity, their size (in terms of number of employees), and others they do not include any information on trade relations. An efficient way and a proven method to enrich trade statistics without additional burden for respondents was found to be the combination of both data sources. The linking procedure is based on the systematic recording of identification codes in the trade transaction records and in the business register.

The results of this data compilation, referred to as “Trade by enterprise characteristics” (TEC), are currently available and updated on a yearly basis for the EU countries in terms of the following indicators:

- Trade by activity and enterprise size class
- Concentration of trade by activity
- Trade by partner country and activity
- Trade by number of partner countries and activity
- Trade by commodity and activity

These TEC data allow for a deeper analysis of the impact of cross-border trade on employment, production and value added. The presentation will show current results of TEC data compilation in Germany and outline the linking process.