Global value chains: documentation of statistics

1 Contact information

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2 Metadata last update

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3 Description of the statistic

3.1 General description of the statistic

The statistics on global value chains describe enterprises' participation in global value chains. The global value chain consists of all border crossing activities that are required to bring a product or service from an idea through different production stages to the end user. One instance of enterprises' value and production chains is outsourcing of activities. The statistics describe which tasks

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enterprises operating in Finland are moving abroad, to which area and what reasons or obstacles are behind the outsourcing. The statistics also contain more extensive information on the activity of domestic enterprises on foreign markets and on the nature of the activity. The statutory data content has a changing share, within which data are collected from enterprises on topical matters in the reference period related to global value chains.

3.2   Sector coverage

Global value chains cover enterprises with at least 50 employees from industries B to N (Standard Industrial Classification 2008).

3.3   Statistical concepts and definitions

The key concepts are:

- Outsourcing business activities abroad

- Global value chain

3.4   Statistical unit

The statistical unit of the statistics on global value chains is an enterprise (enterprise unit). According to Statistics Finland's definition, an enterprise is a unit with decision-making autonomy, which produces goods and/or services to be sold on the market. An enterprise may be comprised of one or more legal units (Business ID). If an enterprise consists of several legal units, the enterprise unit data are formed based on Eurostat's guidelines.

Legal units include:

- Persons carrying on a business, trade or profession in their own name, or in the name of a registered firm

- Legal persons (such as limited liability company, limited partnership, general partnership, cooperative, savings bank and economic association)

- Market-based enterprises.

A legal unit is an administrative reporting unit and a reporting unit in the data collection on global value chains.

3.5   Statistical population

Enterprises engaged in business activities in Finland and employing at least 50 employees comprise the population of the statistics on global value chains. Enterprises have been selected for the

statistics if they operate on market terms and have turnover, other operating income, balance sheet, personnel or investments in the last year of the reference period.

3.6   Reference area

The statistics on global value chains are published on the level of the whole country.

3.7   Time coverage

The first reference period for the publication of regulation-based data is 2021 to 2023, which is also the first reference period for the statistics on global value chains. Before the statistics on global value chains were established, data were produced voluntarily in connection with EU-funded projects for the reference periods 2001 to 2006, 2009 to 2011, 2015 to 2017 and 2018 to 2020. The statistical survey in the topic developed as a result of the voluntary projects and at that time the reference periods of the inquiries, sample sizes and questionnaires could change for each survey. The results for the reference periods 2015 to 2017 and 2018 to 2020 have been published as experimental statistics: Global value chains and international sourcing of activities Data older than this are available as chargeable data through the Research Services.

3.8   Base period

The statistics on global value chains are not index-based statistics. The data comprise either the reference period (three years) or the last year of the reference period.

4   Unit of measure

- Share of enterprises,%

- Number of enterprises

- Number of employed persons

5   Reference period

According to the indicator, the reference period of the statistics on global value chains is either three consecutive calendar years or the latest calendar year of them.

6   Legal acts and other agreements

The compilation of statistics is guided by the Statistics Act. The Statistics Act contains provisions on collection of data, processing of data and the obligation to provide data. Besides the Statistics Act, the

Data Protection Act and the Act on the Openness of Government Activities are applied to processing of data when producing statistics.

Statistics Finland compiles statistics in line with the EU's regulations applicable to statistics, which steer the statistical agencies of all EU Member States.

Further information: Statistical legislation

The compilation of the statistics on global value chains is also guided by the following legislation::

1. Regulation (2019/2152) of the European Parliament and of the Council on European business statistics and the Commission Implementing Regulation on global value chains supplementing this with technical specifications, which is updated every three years. To support the application of EU legislation, Eurostat has prepared the "European business statistics compilers' manual for global value chains" for producers of data on the topic.

2. The Regulation on statistical units, Regulation of the Council on statistical units is applied to the statistics on enterprise activity (696/93).

3. The Standard Industrial Classification 2008 is based on the European Union's common industrial classification, NACE Rev. 2, supplemented for national needs on the 5-digit level.

7 Data sharing

The data are published every three years on the statistics' website and in the StatFin database. Eurostat publishes the results of the countries on its website. Microdata can be released without identification data for research use.

8 Statistical confidentiality

8.1 Confidentiality – policy

The data protection of data collected for statistical purposes is guaranteed in accordance with the requirements of the Statistics Act (280/2004), the Act on the Openness of Government Activities (621/1999), the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and the Data Protection Act (1050/2018). The data materials are protected at all stages of processing with the necessary physical and technical solutions. Statistics Finland has compiled detailed directions and instructions for confidential processing of the data. Employees have access only to the data essential for their duties. The premises where unit-level data are processed are not accessible to outsiders. Members of the personnel have signed a pledge of secrecy upon entering the service. Violation of data protection is punishable.

Further information: Data protection | Statistics Finland (stat.fi)

8.2 Confidentiality – data treatment

Statistics Finland's official guidelines on the protection of tabulated business data are applied in protecting the data of the statistics on global value chains. As in sample surveys, the basis for publishing the data is to not publish data on the statistical units belonging to the sample. In terms of protection, compliance with the threshold rule is the primary procedure. If the statistics contained data in euros they would also be protected according to the dominance rule. The protected data are suppressed.

The global value chains data are submitted to Statistics Finland's Research Services for research use. The data do not include identifiers. The use of the data for scientific research and statistical surveys is possible only on the basis of a separate licensing decision and in an unidentifiable format.

In the tabulations submitted to Eurostat, sensitive cells are indicated as protected (also secondary protection), in which case Eurostat does not publish these data. However, the data can be used in calculating summary data at the EU level. Protection is indicated in accordance with instructions given by Eurostat.

9 Release policy of the statistic

9.1 Release calendar

Statistics Finland publishes new statistical data at 8 am on weekdays in its web service. The release times are listed in advance in the release calendar published in the web service. The data become public after they have been updated in the web service.

Further information: Publication principles for statistics at Statistics Finland

9.2 Release calendar access

Statistics Finland's release calendar: Future publications

Future releases of the statistics can be found on the page of the statistics at: Future publications of the statistics

9.3 User access

The data are released to all users at the same time. At Statistics Finland, statistical data may only be handled, and information on them may only be disclosed, before release by persons involved in the production of the statistics concerned, or who need the data contained in the statistics concerned in their own work before the data are published.

Further information: Publication principles for statistics

Unless otherwise specifically stated in connection with the product, data or service concerned, Statistics Finland is the producer and copyright owner of the data. The terms of use for statistical data.

10 Frequency of dissemination

Data on the statistics on global value chains are published once a year on Statistics Finland's website.

11 Accessibility and clarity

The statistics are published as database tables in the StatFin database. The database is the primary data publishing site and the site where all updates are first published. When releasing statistical data, existing database tables can be updated with new data or completely new database tables can be published.

In addition to statistical data published in the StatFin database, a release on the key data is usually published in the web service. If the release contains data concerning several reference periods (e.g. monthly and annual data), a review bringing together these data is published in the web service. Database tables updated at the time of publication are listed both in the release and in the review. In some cases, statistical data can also be published as database releases in the StatFin database. No release or review is published in connection with these database releases.

Releases and database tables are published in three languages, in Finnish, Swedish and English. The language versions of releases may contain less information than the Finnish version.

Information on changes in the release schedules and database tables and corrections in them is given as change releases published in the web service.

12 Quality management

12.1 Quality assurance

Quality management requires comprehensive guidance of activities. The European Statistics Code of Practice (CoP) is used as the quality management framework for statistics. The quality criteria of Official Statistics of Finland are also compatible with the European Statistics Code of Practice.

Further information: Quality management | Statistics Finland (stat.fi)

12.2 Quality assessment

The quality of the statistics is assessed in two stages of the statistical process. The coherence of the unit data of the statistics with other enterprise data and the coherence between the responses filled in by the respondent are examined during the data collection stage. In the validation prior to the release of the statistics final corrections and imputations are made more extensively to unit-level data based on the existing data.

13 Overall accuracy

Global value chains is a sample survey and the survey design always involves statistical uncertainty factors, the most important of which are measurement error and non-response.

14 Timeliness and punctuality

14.1 Timeliness

At the end of the reference period:

- The data are collected in approximately four months' time.

- The data are published in 18 months' time.

- The data are supplied to Eurostat at the latest 21 months from the end of the reference period.

14.2 14.2 Punctuality

There is no delay in publishing the data of the statistics on global value chains. The data have been published on the days indicated in the release calendar.

15 Consistency and comparability of data

15.1 Comparability – geographical

The data production of the global value chains topic is based on Eurostat's guidelines and the concepts are comparable with the data of other European statistical offices. The production modes of the European statistical offices are regularly compared coordinated by Eurostat.

15.2 Comparability – over time

The first regulation-based reference period of the topic of global value chains as well as the first published reference period of the statistics is 2021 to 2023.

Some of the questions concern the whole reference period, some only the last year of the reference period.

Data have previously been produced voluntarily in connection with EU-funded projects for the reference periods 2001 to 2006, 2009 to 2011, 2015 to 2017 and 2018 to 2020. The statistical research in the topic has developed along with the voluntary projects and the reference periods of the inquiries, sample sizes and questionnaires could change for each survey. The results for the reference periods 2015 to 2017 and 2018 to 2020 have been published as experimental statistics: Global value chains and international sourcing of activities

15.3   Coherence – cross domain

The global value chains topic is connected to the statistics on international trade, as well as to the statistics on affiliates and on foreign direct investments. The data are compared as applicable with each other and data on the global value chains topic are produced partly utilising existing data on other topics.

16   Statistical process

16.1   Source data

Data production in the topic of global value chains is based on data obtained through data collection from enterprises and on utilisation of other data materials.

The population of the statistics covers all enterprises with at least 50 employees in the industries B to N (Standard Industrial Classification 2008). Data collection is directed to all enterprises employing at least 100 persons and a sample is formed from enterprises employing 50 to 99 persons. The framework is based on the data of the Business Register. The sampling is made as simple stratified random sampling. The strata of the sampling are industry and group relationship.

16.2   Frequency of data collection

The data are produced every three years.

16.3   Data collection

The data collection questionnaire is based on a template produced by Eurostat. The content of the national version of the template was developed in cooperation with Statistics Finland's employees in the questionnaire design and testing function.

An electronic questionnaire has been used in data collection.

In connection with the reference period 2021 to 2023, questionnaire testing was carried out, based on which it was made more user-friendly.

The data collection typically includes at least two reminder rounds in addition to the actual survey. Reminder rounds can be carried out by mail, email or telephone.

The data collection unit is a legal unit (Business ID) even though the statistical unit is an enterprise. The enterprise unit data are formed based on the data of legal units according to Eurostat's guidelines.

16.4   Data validation

The data collection data are checked in two ways. Internal coherence of a data collection response is checked in cases where it can be concluded that a certain response alternative is illogical compared to the respondent's other responses to the survey. The external coherence of the data collection responses is checked with regard to applicable questions relative to administrative data or other data collection materials insofar as there are data on the enterprise. The main problematic aspects can be checked during the implementation of the data collection. The results of the validations are also taken into account in the designing of the questionnaire for the following data collections.

16.5   Data compilation

The data are supplemented with additional data obtained with unit level checks directly to the data. Imputations are made by statistical methods based on the existing consistency data. As a rule, part of the statutory content of the statistics is produced based on existing data. Inflating the sample to the level of the population also takes into account non-response. The strata and inflating coefficients are based on size category, industry and group type.