



**An
Phríomh-Oifig
Staidrimh**

Central
Statistics
Office

Standard SIMS Report: Exporting Enterprises in Ireland



Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) Report

For

Exporting Enterprises in Ireland

This documentation applies to the reporting period:
2017

Last edited: 05/10/2020



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2. Introduction

Exporting Enterprises in Ireland 2017 has been created with a view to providing a more detailed insight into the relationship between exports by enterprises in Ireland and their turnover. It includes a new indicator, export intensity, which is compiled using an amalgamation of data sources to create a broader picture of the Irish export market than was previously available.

This publication also helps address many other important questions, such as:

- Number of exporting enterprises by destination, geographical region, size class and sector.
- Number of persons engaged in these exporting enterprises.

It should be noted that this methodology was based on emerging European guidelines and may be modified for future publications.

3. Contact

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4. Metadata Update

4.1. Metadata last certified

05/10/2020

4.2. Metadata last posted

05/10/2020

4.3. Metadata last update

05/10/2020



5. Statistical Presentation

5.1. Data Description

This release is based on amalgamating Trade data with data taken from the CSO's Central Business Register (CBR) and Structural Business Statistics (SBS) surveys. The trade data is a combination of cross-border trade data supplied from International Trade in Goods Statistics (ITGS) and Balance of Payments, which supply additional goods data that account for a change in economic ownership as well as data on services exports. The SBS surveys used for this release are the Census of Industrial Production (CIP), Annual Services Inquiry (ASI) and the Building and Construction Inquiry (BCI). This form of compilation provides more granularity to the analysis and monitoring of the performance of exporting enterprises in Ireland. This level of information could not be provided by any of the datasets in isolation. MDL is not anticipated to increase data collection, respondent burden or costs.

5.2. Classification System

The Sector classification used was based on the NACE Rev. 2 categories and was determined as follows:

Sector	Nace Rev.2 Codes
Industry	05-33, 35-39
Construction	41-43
Distribution	45-47
Services	49-53, 55-56, 58-63, 68, 69-75 (excluding 7735)
Other	01-03, 84-88, 90-99

Similarly, the Modern and Traditional Sectors were defined in accordance with NACE Rev. 2 as follows:

Sector	Nace Rev.2 Codes
Modern	18,20-21,26-27,3250, 58-59, 61-63
Traditional	All other Nace Rev.2 Categories

Enterprise size class is determined by the number of persons engaged as follows:

Size Class	Number of Persons Engaged
Micro	5 < 25%
Small	25 < 50%
Medium	50 < 75%
Large	>= 75%



The 'Small and Medium Enterprise' classification refers to any enterprise in the Micro, Small or Medium category. The Reliance on Exports classification is determined by the export intensity of the exporting enterprise.

Reliance Category	Export Intensity
Not Very Reliant	5 < 25%
Slightly Reliant	25 < 50%
Reliant	50 < 75%
Very Reliant	>= 75%

Type of Ownership. The type of ownership of an enterprise identifies whether an enterprise is domestic or foreign controlled. A domestic enterprise is defined as either domestic indigenous or domestic multinational (with foreign control of less than 50%). A foreign controlled enterprise is defined as having foreign control of more than 50%.

Type of Ownership	Control (%)
Domestic	Enterprises with foreign control <=50%
Foreign	Enterprises with foreign control >= 50%

The definition of the age of an enterprise is taken using data taken from when the enterprise was first registered for either VAT, Corporation Tax, Income Tax or PREM. The reference date was taken to be 31 December of the reference year. For illustration, this means that for 2016, any enterprise which was first registered during 2016 has an enterprise age of 0 (completed) years, or an enterprise first registered during 2012 has an enterprise age of 4 (completed) years, and so on.

A 'young' enterprise is an enterprise which has an enterprise age of five years or less for the reference year. An established enterprise is an enterprise with an age of greater than five years. Hence, enterprises will move from the young category to the established category over time and these changes may be reflected in the data.

5.3. Sector Coverage

Multisectoral

5.4. Statistical Concepts and definitions

Variables are collected from the various final datasets that constitute the Exporting Enterprises in Ireland publication. Thorough checks of associated metadata are conducted to ensure that coherent statistical units are in use throughout. The export intensity variable is essentially the ratio of an enterprise's exports to its turnover, and can be used to indicate how susceptible an enterprise may be to volatile trading conditions. In line with the definition above, export intensity is bounded by zero and one.

The enterprise is defined as the smallest combination of legal units that is an organisational unit producing goods and/or services, which benefits from a certain degree of autonomy in decision-making. In certain situations, trade data is reported to one legal unit for multiple enterprises. In this situation, the trade is estimated out among the enterprises based on the reported turnover.

5.5. Statistical Unit

The reporting statistical unit for this publication is the enterprise.



5.6. Statistical Population

Enterprises that exported €5,000 or more of goods and/or services and whose exports are at least 5% of turnover.

5.7. Reference Area

State

5.8. Time Coverage

2015 - 2017

5.9. Base period

Not Applicable.

6. Unit of Measure

Euro Billion & Persons engaged in the enterprises examined.

7. Reference Period

2017.

8. Institutional Mandate

8.1. Legal Acts and other agreements

Not Applicable.

8.2. Data Sharing

Not Applicable.

9. Confidentiality

9.1. Confidentiality – policy

All information supplied to the CSO is treated as strictly confidential. The Statistics Act, 1993 sets stringent confidentiality standards: Information collected may be used only for statistical purposes, and no details that might be related to an identifiable person or business undertaking may be divulged to any other government department or body.

These national statistical confidentiality provisions are reinforced by the following EU legislation: Council Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics for data collected for EU statistical purposes. Further details are outlined in the CSO's Code of Practice on Statistical Confidentiality.

For more information on the CSO confidentiality policy please visit:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/statisticalconfidentiality/>



9.2. Confidentiality – data treatment

All information supplied to the CSO is treated as strictly confidential. The Statistics Act 1993 sets stringent confidentiality standards. Information collected may be used only for statistical purposes, and no details that might be related to an identifiable person or business undertaking may be divulged to any other government department or body

10. Release Policy

10.1. Release Calendar

The date of dissemination of all statistics released by CSO can be found in the Release Calendar published in CSO.ie. This calendar is regularly updated.

10.2. Release calendar access

The release calendar can be accessed via the CSO website, www.cso.ie, or directly from this link: <https://www.cso.ie/en/csolatestnews/releasecalendar/>

10.3. User access

In accordance with Principle 6 of the European Statistics Code of Practice all users of CSO statistics have equal access via the CSO website at the same time of 11 am. Any privileged pre-release access to any outside user is limited, controlled and publicised. In the event that leaks occur, pre-release arrangements are revised so as to ensure impartiality.

The CSO recognises that in very limited circumstances a business need for pre-release access may be substantiated. Any form of pre-release access is a privilege and a strict CSO pre-release access policy is adhered to for these special requests. The full pre-release access policy can be accessed at <https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/csopolicyonpre-releaseaccess/>

The various results are published nationally in statistical release format as well as on the CSO website (www.cso.ie). Selected extracts from the results are posted on the CSO's data dissemination database, PxStat.

11. Frequency of Dissemination

This publication is a non-mandatory data linking project with ad-hoc frequency.

12. Accessibility and clarity

12.1. News release

CSO statistical publication, 13 November 2019, 11am

<https://www.cso.ie/en/csolatestnews/pressreleases/2019pressreleases/pressstatementexportingenterprisesinireland2017/>

12.2. Publications

The published release can be found in the CSO website or directly from this link <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-eeii/exportingenterprisesinireland2017/>



12.3. On-line database

Not applicable.

12.3.1. AC 1. Data tables – consultations`

Not calculated.

12.4. Micro-data Access

The micro data collected for the Exporting Enterprises in Ireland is not available to researchers and therefore it will not be used for any additional statistical research.

12.5. Other

Not applicable.

12.5.1. AC2. Metadata consultations

Not calculated.

12.6. Documentation on Methodology

Documentation on methodology can be found on the methods page of the latest Exporting Enterprises release

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/multisectoral/exportingenterprisesinireland/>

12.6.1. AC3 – Metadata completeness – rate

Not calculated.

12.7. Quality Documentation

Further information on the documentation associated with this output can be found in the Methods page in cso.ie <https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/multisectoral/exportingenterprisesinireland/>

13. Quality Management

13.1. Quality Assurance

Quality Management Framework

The CSO avails of an office wide Quality Management Framework (QMF). This framework allows all CSO processes and outputs to meet the required standard as set out in the European Statistics Code of Practice (ESCOP). The QMF foundations are based on establishing the UNECE's Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) as the operating statistical production model to achieve a standardised approach to Quality Management. All and any changes implemented to CSO processes and outputs require adherence to the QMF.

13.2. Quality Assessment

The CSO conducts self-assessment reviews on all their published processes on an annual basis. The last iteration of this review carried out in 2021 did not identify any changes. However, it should be noted that this methodology was based on emerging European guidelines and may be modified for future publications.



14. Relevance

14.1. User Needs

Exporting Enterprises in Ireland has been created with a view to providing a more detailed insight into the relationship between exports by enterprises in Ireland and their turnover. It includes a new indicator, export intensity, which is compiled using an amalgamation of data sources to create a broader picture of the Irish export market than was previously available.

This publication also helps address many other important questions, such as:

- Number of exporting enterprises by destination, geographical region, size class and sector
- Number of persons engaged in these exporting enterprises

14.1.1. Main National Users

Government Departments & Economists.

14.1.2. Principal External Users

Eurostat.

14.2. User Satisfaction

Not measured.

14.3. Data Completeness

Not measured.

14.3.1. Data Completeness rate

Not measured.

15. Accuracy and reliability

15.1. Overall accuracy

Most of the data collected directly is via the various CSO divisions, such as the SBS surveys. These are supplemented by, administrative data from other government departments and agencies e.g. Revenue Commissioners. These data sources are considered to be reliable.

15.2. Sampling Error

Not applicable.

15.2.1. A1. Sampling error indicator

Not applicable.

15.3. Non-sampling Error

Not applicable.



15.3.1. Coverage error

Where possible, the issue of item non-response for turnover was resolved using previous survey returns and administrative data.

15.3.1.1. A2. Over coverage rate

Not measured.

15.3.1.2. A3. Common units – proportion

Not measured.

15.3.2. Measurement error

It is possible that the use of imputation techniques where deemed necessary may have an effect on data quality but this is not quantifiable.

15.3.3. Non-Response Error

Where possible, the issue of item non-response for turnover was resolved using previous survey returns and administrative data.

15.3.3.1. Unit non-response rate

or unit non-response, turnover was estimated based on previous survey returns or administrative data where available.

15.3.3.2. Item non-response rate

Not measured.

15.3.4. Processing error

Not applicable – processing errors are managed by each of the constituent surveys individually.

15.3.5. Model assumption error

The imputation used may have some effect on data quality. However, the impact of this is minor with respect to the overall volume of exports.

16. Timeliness and punctuality

16.1. Timeliness

This release was published 98 weeks after the end of the reference year. It was published on November 13th 2019 and the reference year is 2017.

16.1.1. TP1. Time lag – First results

Not applicable.

16.1.2. TP2. Time lag – Final results

98 weeks



16.2. Punctuality

The CSO statistical release was published on 13 November 2019, 11am as specified in the CSO's release calendar.

16.2.1. TP3. Punctuality – Punctuality - delivery and publication

The release was delivered on time according to the release calendar

17. Comparability

17.1. Comparability – Geographical

Not applicable.

17.1.1. CC1. Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics

Not applicable.

17.2. Comparability over time

This is the first iteration of this release.

17.2.1. Length of Comparable Time series

This is the first iteration of this release.

17.3. Coherence – cross domain

The results presented in Exporting Enterprises in Ireland include only enterprises whose value of exports exceeded €5,000 in the reference year. Furthermore, only enterprises with an export intensity of greater than 5% in the reference year are classified as an exporting enterprise. Note that these criteria are not directly replicable in any of the constituent data sources so will result in differing statistical populations. These thresholds were chosen based on emerging European standards.

The effect of these threshold criteria is that some classifications may display volatility year on-year because only those enterprises which meet this condition were included. However, if these criteria were not imposed then the number of exporting enterprises would be significantly inflated. Additionally, trade data which could not be directly linked to an enterprise has been excluded from this publication. Note however that this only applies to a minimal proportion of the overall value of trade.

17.3.1. Coherence – Sub annual and annual statistics

Not applicable.

17.3.2. Coherence with National Accounts

Not applicable.

17.4. Coherence – internal

Statistics in this publication are not directly comparable with other material published to date by the CSO. This occurs for a number of reasons:

Additional administrative data sources were used in conjunction with Balance of Payments data to facilitate microdata linking across the relevant data. The 5% export intensity threshold as described



earlier does not apply to material already published by External Trade. Merchanting trade and goods for processing adjustments are not applicable to External Trade. The publication only reports exports linked to enterprises and excludes other measures relating to exports included by Balance of Payments or National Accounts. NACE Rev. 2 category N7735 (Aircraft Leasing) has been excluded from the analysis

18. Cost and Burden

Estimates of Cost and Burden can be obtained from the Response Burden Barometer
<https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/multisectoral/responseburdenbarometer/>

Survey specific information is available via CSO's dissemination database PxStat.
<https://data.cso.ie/product/RBB>

Data Revision

18.1. Data Revision Policy

Revisions refer to changes made to published statistical data when the information used in its production has been updated or corrected. This information includes all data used in compiling the statistic e.g. respondent data, administrative data, weights and factors, methodology, classifications, definitions, modifications to survey questionnaires, survey scope and data collection methods. The data revision policy that CSO statistics adheres to can be found via the following link:
<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/quality/treatmentofrevisions/>

18.2. Data Revision Practice

No revisions to the data are carried out.

18.2.1. Data Revision – Average size

Not applicable.

19. Statistical processing

19.1. Source Data

The underlying data is based on amalgamating the CSO's Structural Business Statistics (SBS) surveys with the CSO's Trade data. The Trade data is a combination of cross-border trade data supplied from International Trade in Goods Statistics (ITGS), Balance of Payments (BoP), which supply additional goods data that account for a change in economic ownership and services exports, as well as administrative data from VAT Information Exchange System (VIES).

Structural Business Statistics

The SBS surveys used for this release are the Census of Industrial Production (CIP), Annual Services Inquiry (ASI) and the Building and Construction Inquiry (BCI).

Census of Industrial Production

The CIP covers all enterprises which are wholly or principally involved in industrial production. This survey is carried out on an annual basis. Administrative data are used for some micro enterprises which are not surveyed as well as non-respondents across all case sizes. The scope of the CIP extends to NACE Rev. 2 sections B, C, D and E.

For further information, please see the CIP background notes below:



Annual Services Inquiry

The ASI has been conducted as an annual survey of both distributive and non-distributive services since 1991. Results are published aggregated by the type of activity (NACE), region, size class, etc. All enterprises with one or more persons engaged are included. Administrative data are used for some micro enterprises which are not surveyed as well as non-respondents across all case sizes. The survey covers all enterprises in the Retail, Wholesale, Transport & Storage, Accommodation & Food, Information & Communication, Real Estate, Professional, Scientific & Technical Activities, Administrative & Support Activities and Other Selected Services sectors (NACE Rev. 2 sectors G, H, I, J, L, M, N, R and S). Enterprises that traded for at least 6 months in the reference year are included in the survey. Since 1995 the CSO's Central Business Register provides the sampling frame, from which the Annual Services Inquiry sample is selected each year.

For further information, please see the ASI background notes below:

Building and Construction Inquiry

The BCI was introduced in 2009 for reference year 2008 onwards and replaced the Census of Building and Construction (CBC). The CBC covered all private firms with 20 or more persons engaged whose main activity was building, construction or civil engineering (i.e. Section F of NACE Rev. 2). The BCI extended this coverage to also include a sample of private firms with less than 20 persons engaged. Administrative data are used for some micro enterprises which are not surveyed as well as non-respondents across all case sizes. The Business Register is used as the sampling frame for the BCI.

For further information, please see the BCI background notes

<https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/construction/buildingandconstructioninquiry/>

19.1.1. Population and sampling frame

Not applicable.

19.1.2. Sampling design

Not applicable.

19.1.3. Survey size

Not applicable.

19.1.4. Survey technique

Not applicable.

19.2. Frequency of data collection

Exporting Enterprises in Ireland is an ad hoc statistical product which is intended to be repeated in the future.

19.3. Data Collection

19.3.1. Type of Survey/Process

The Exporting Enterprises in Ireland release is the result of a data matching exercise using the data sources outlined in 5.1 above. A wide variety of identifiers were used to link enterprises across the various datasets in use, such as VAT numbers and Revenue Customer numbers. This facilitated the amalgamation of data at a granular level for the computation of aggregate figures by sector, size class and so on.



19.3.2. Questionnaire (including explanations)

Not applicable.

19.3.3. Survey Participation

Not applicable.

19.3.4. Data Capture

For the Exporting Enterprises in Ireland publication, data capture is in the form of final datasets for the three constituent SBS surveys (i.e. the CIP, ASI and BCI). For more information on how data is captured in each of these surveys, see the 'Methodology' tab at <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/multisectoral/structuralbusinessstatistics/>.

A micro data linking procedure is then used to link these surveys to a variety of Trade of Goods data. Intra-EU trade data is captured via the Intrastat system. All Intrastat data is collected by VIMA via the Revenue On Line Service (ROS). This data is then transferred by secure electronic means to the External Trade section in the CSO for processing and dissemination. The Non-EU data is collected via the Customs AEP system and then securely transferred by VIMA to the CSO.

Trade of Services data is collected by the Balance of Payments division via an integrated computer processing system (BoPfacts) using Sybase relational database technology

19.4. Data Validation

Statistics in this publication are not directly comparable with other material published to date by the CSO. This occurs for a number of reasons:

- Additional administrative data sources were used in conjunction with Balance of Payments data to facilitate microdata linking across the relevant data.
- The 5% export intensity threshold as described earlier does not apply to material already published by External Trade.
- Merchanting trade and goods for processing adjustments are not applicable to External Trade.
- The publication only reports exports linked to enterprises and excludes other measures relating to exports included by Balance of Payments or National Accounts.
- NACE Rev. 2 category N7735 (Aircraft Leasing) has been excluded from the analysis.

However, data used in the publication is validated against those sources to ensure that the underlying data is coherent.

In addition to checks between different data sources, checks from each year are used to highlight any percentage changes above a threshold that is then queried.

19.5. Data Compilation

The reporting statistical unit for this publication is the enterprise. The enterprise is defined as the smallest combination of legal units that is an organisational unit producing goods and/or services, which benefits from a certain degree of autonomy in decision-making. In certain situations, trade data is reported to one legal unit for multiple enterprises. In this situation, the trade is estimated out among the enterprises based on the reported turnover.

The export intensity of an enterprise refers to the ratio of the exports of the enterprise to its turnover. An export intensity of zero means that the enterprise does not export and an export intensity of one means that the enterprise is completely reliant on exports, i.e. does not sell anything domestically. There are instances in the dataset where the exports of an enterprise may be greater than its turnover. There are many potential reasons for why this may occur, such as wholesaling of goods by one enterprise on behalf



of other enterprises or processing of goods on behalf of other enterprises. Enterprises such as these were retained in the data.

19.5.1. Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets)

For unit non-response, turnover was estimated based on previous survey returns or administrative data where available. For all other enterprises, turnover is imputed using knearest neighbour (KNN) methodology, which is a form of machine learning. KNN works by finding the distance between a query and all the examples in the data, selecting the specified number of examples (K=15) closest to the query, and then averaging the labels.

19.5.1.1. A7. Imputation rate

Not measured.

19.5.2. Grossing and Weighting

Not applicable.

19.6. Adjustment

Since goods do not cross the border of Ireland when merchanting occurs this data is not recorded in International Trade statistics despite a change in economic ownership. Therefore, Balance of Payments incorporate an adjustment for these transactions. This adjustment is applied on a net basis, i.e. sales net purchases.

19.6.1. Seasonal Adjustment

Not applicable.

20. Comment