

## XVII. FOREIGN TRADE

The indicators characterizing exports and imports of the Republic of Bulgaria till 1991 incl. are formulated on the basis of statistical records of the companies exercising foreign trade activity. Since 1992 information is based on summarized data from customs declarations. Information for foreign trade activities, for which customs declaration are not filled in, but which are subject of recording of foreign trade statistics are also included. For these activities statistical records have been organized.

As imports and exports are considered all goods that have passed the state boundary. Re-exports are included in the corresponding exports or imports.

Re-exports refer to all foreign goods that our country has bought from one country and sold to another. Data on transit re-exports are not included in the re-exports, neither in the total exports and imports.

The following changes in methodology of recording exports and imports since 1992, compared with this applied till the end of 1991, should be taken in consideration:

- Since the 1st of January 1992 the Unified Commodity Nomenclature of the former member-countries of CMEA is changed by the Customs Tariff, based on the Harmonized System;

- Till the end of 1991 the value of exported and imported goods is at f.o.b. prices - while since 1992 the imports are measured at c.i.f. prices;

- Till 1991 the value variables are at currency price and are calculated according to the official exchange rate of the Bulgarian National Bank (BNB). For 1991 is used the official exchange rate of leva towards the foreign currency till 19th of February. After this date is applied the official exchange rate, published every day by BNB. Since the beginning of 1992 evaluation of exports and imports is based on the official exchange rate of BNB, published in the beginning of every week;

- Since 1992 data for imports and exports include the value of goods subject to processing and turned back to the country. Till 1991 only the value of the service was included;

- Since 1992 exports and imports of goods, delivered free of charge are included;

- Quantum of exports and imports is given at net weights in the corresponding measure unit and commodity groups since 1992 - at thousand tons.

Exports and imports do not include:

- exported and imported goods, sold on consignment basis;

- temporary export and temporary import of goods that come back to the country without undergoing any changes;

- transit transportation of goods;

- household goods and means of transportation of emigrants and personal effects and belongings of travellers according to the Customs rules;

- luggage and goods (personal and business) designated for the Bulgarian and foreign embassies, legations and consulates;

- gifts, incl. those sent by post;

- provisions and fuel that our ships have taken on board from our ports;

- haulage of fish by Bulgarian fish enterprises;

- delivered projects, Know How and other documentation concerning scientific and technical cooperation.

Data concerning exports are given by countries - importers of goods, while imports are given by countries - producers of goods.

Data on republics, which are included in Former USSR, are published separately since 1992. Variables for CIS include data for Russian Federation, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

The index numbers show the changes in the average prices of aggregate imports and exports. Until 1994 the indices have been calculated on the basis of the Paasche's formulae, and since 1995 their computation is based on Laspeyr's formulae, using a basket of goods consisting 75 % of the total value of the exports and imports respectively. The value and volume indices of exports and imports are calculated based on the same basket. The indices are calculated from the value at the preceding year prices.