

## **Frequently asked questions on the availability of data on trade with the United Kingdom (UK) after BREXIT.**

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### **Will Eurostat continue to publish international trade in goods statistics (ITGS) data for the UK in 2021?**

Yes and no - depending on whether the UK is a reporting or a partner country.

As a reporting country, the UK is no longer legally obliged to transmit any data to Eurostat since the end of the transition period (31 December 2020). This concerns new reference periods, as well as revisions of data previously transmitted to Eurostat.

Currently the ITGS data transmitted by the UK to Eurostat cover the full year 2019, and months January to October 2020. Pending a new agreement on statistical cooperation between the EU and the UK, Eurostat will not publish any new data for reporter UK, whether via the database or other products, such as statistical publications.

As a partner country, the UK became an extra-EU partner in February 2020. Eurostat continues to publish these data, although some differences apply compared to the other extra-EU partners (see next questions ‘Since when is the UK considered an extra-EU partner country?’ and ‘Will the Member States compile the UK data as any other extra-EU data as from 1 January 2021?’).

The extra\_EU27 partner aggregate includes partner GB whatever the reference period.

### **Since when is the UK considered an extra-EU partner country?**

Since February 2020. However, as the UK remained part of the single market until 31 December 2020, the other EU Member States continued to collect trade data for the UK as a partner according to the statistical concepts applicable to trade between EU countries.

As a result, 2020 trade data with the UK cannot be fully compared with data on trade with other extra-EU trade partners, like China. While imports from any other extra-EU trade partner are grouped by country of origin, the UK data reflect country of consignment. This means that the goods imported by the EU from the UK were physically transported from the UK, but part of these goods could have been of other origin than the UK.

### **Will the Member States compile the UK data as any other extra-EU data as from 1 January 2021?**

No. From 1 January 2021, the EU Member States will collect and send trade data for partner GB via two separate channels:

- UK (excluding Northern Ireland) data – statistical code XU – will be collected via customs declarations as for any other extra-EU trade data. This data is sent to Eurostat within 40 days of the end of the reference month.
- UK (Northern Ireland) data – statistical code XI – will continue to be collected via Intrastat declarations, and be sent to Eurostat within 70 days of the end of the reference period.

Eurostat will then aggregate the data and publish them under the heading ‘partner GB’. As a result, partner GB will be published with a one-month delay compared to the other extra-EU partners.

The reason for the two separate channels is due to the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland (part of the Withdrawal Agreement), applicable from 1 January 2021. It stipulates that Northern Ireland will continue to follow a limited set of Union rules, notably on ITGS.

**Will Eurostat continue to provide the EU28 aggregate in its EU datasets?**

No. From the reference periods February 2020, first quarter 2020 and the year 2020 onwards Eurostat will publish only the EU-27 aggregate.

**Will trade with UK (Northern Ireland) be published in ITGS statistics?**

Yes. As from March 2021 (reference month January 2021), the UK (Northern Ireland) will send detailed trade data each month. Eurostat will publish these data as a series of new datasets with Northern Ireland as reporter under the heading ‘non-EU datasets’.