

Methodological changes in balance of payments

– illegal economy and other changes

Starting from September 2015, following Eurostat's recommendations, illegal activities has been included in the balance of payments. These activities comprising illegal trade in drugs, cigarettes as well as prostitution have been classified as trade in goods and services. Data has been revised back to 2004.

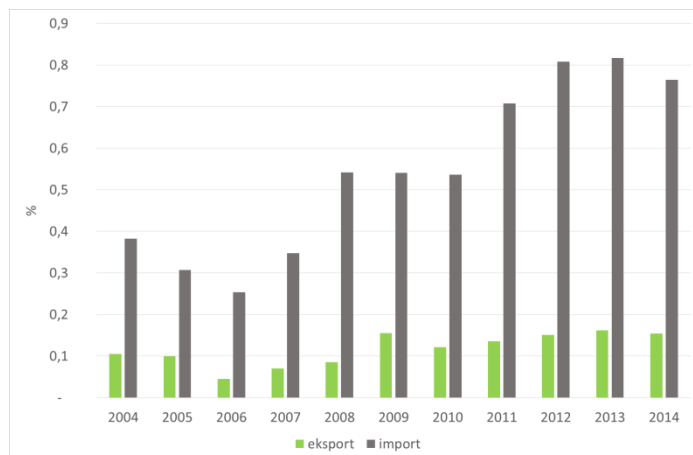
European recommendations emphasize the need to align estimations of illegal activities with national accounts statistics. Therefore, Narodowy Bank Polski used estimations prepared by the Central Statistical Office and included in national accounts Statistics in September 2014. Detailed information on these estimations has been published by the CSO in: *„Wdrożenie Europejskiego Systemu Rachunków Narodowych i Regionalnych w Unii Europejskiej (ESA2010) do polskich rachunków narodowych. Zmiany metodologiczne oraz ich wpływ na główne agregaty makroekonomiczne”*¹. (Polish version only)

Volume of illegal activities

In 2014 exports of illegal goods (drugs and cigarettes combined) equaled 0.15% of total exports of goods. Estimated imports of illegal goods was higher than exports and stood at 0.76% of total imports of goods. In recent years share of illegal activities in trade in goods has been slowly increasing, especially in imports where, in 2014, illegal imports amounted to 0.38% of total imports.

¹ <http://stat.gov.pl/obszary-tematyczne/rachunki-narodowe/europejski-system-rachunkow-narodowych-i-regionalnych-esa-2010/wdrozenie-esa2010-do-rachunkow-narodowych-zmiany-metodologiczne-oraz-ich-wplyw-na-glowne-agregaty-makroekonomiczne,8,1.html>

Wykres1.Share of illegal activities in trade in goods



Trade in illegal services has been significantly lower than those observed in trade in goods. In 2014, residents' procurement of non-resident women for prostitution-registered as credits against services- constituted 0.1% of total services.

Wages of non-resident women rendering sexual services (which is legal in Poland) have been classified as grey area. Debits against non-residents' prostitution in Poland amounted to 0.22% of total debits against services.

Detailed description of data sources as well as estimation methods for respective types of transactions can be found in the abovementioned methodological note published by the CSO (Polish version only)

Other changes to balance of payments methodology

Individual persons expenditure against transportation have been included in transportation. So far, only expenditure of travel agencies or other legal entities which obtained transportation services from foreign carrier have been registered in this item. Revised bop data encompassed new data source – results of the survey on travel

expenditure². In 2014, revision against travel expenditure contributed to PLN 1.2 billion increase in debits against transportation. The same data source has been applied in estimating the value of resident travel expenditure financed by non-residents. Travel financed by non-resident is a form of transfer, therefore its estimated value has been registered as secondary income of other sectors on the side of credits.

² Joint survey of Central Statistical Office, Narodowy Bank Polski and Ministry of Sport and Tourism.