



Statistics on commodity traders (NMP)

Description

The Statistics on commodity traders (NMP) capture the activities of all enterprises based in Switzerland that are engaged in commodity trading. They seek to provide official estimates of the size of the sector, how it changes over time and the contribution it makes to the national economy.

One distinctive feature of commodity traders is that a significant part of their activity (buying and selling) takes place outside Switzerland, without the commodities necessarily entering the country.

The statistics are drawn up on the basis of two mandates:

- a. Mandate linked to the report of 30 November 2018 entitled 'The Swiss commodities sector: current situation and outlook', in which the Federal Council instructed the FSO, the SIF and SECO to establish a conceptual basis for measuring the size of the sector. This mandate relates to the 'structural' data and seeks to identify the legal entities that belong to the sector in the narrow sense ('core') and to closely related industries ('cluster').
In order to fulfil this mandate, the FSO largely uses statistical information from the Structural Business Statistics (STATENT), the Enterprise Groups Statistics (STAGRE) and the Business and Enterprise Register (BER).

Data available since: **2017**

Structural characteristics recorded:

- Number of enterprises
- Number of jobs
- Number of full-time equivalent jobs
- Membership of a group of enterprises
- Economic activity (NOGA 2008 classification)
- Geographical location (by canton)
- Size category (according to number of jobs)

- b. Mandate of 22 November 2023, in which the Federal Council instructed the FSO to estimate the economic importance of commodity traders. This mandate relates to the 'monetary' data and only considers entities belonging to the core. Its objective is to quantify the value added that is created by commodity traders, and it initially covers reference years 2024, 2025 and 2026.

In order to fulfil this mandate, the FSO uses the value added survey (Value Added Statistics; WS), which gathers accounting data from enterprises employing at least three people. Participation in the WS survey is voluntary.

A weighting model is applied to ensure that the results are representative, applying non-response modelling and calibrated using auxiliary information.

A specific estimate is drawn up for the smallest enterprises (those employing fewer than three people), in order to take account of all core market participants.

Data available since: **2024**

Financial characteristics recorded: These include in particular value added, net profit, revenue (sales of goods) and cost of goods sold

Methodology

The core entities are selected using a methodology that connects keywords in the commercial register and other available sources (such as revenue according to VAT records, data from the Federal Customs Administration and information from the Swiss National Bank). It follows a step-by-step approach based on a decision tree. This applies the elements listed above along with criteria such as an entity's involvement in transit trade, the size of commodity exports and imports or the fact that it provides substantial services to entities in other countries.

The cluster entities have been selected based on publicly available information. The cluster largely consists of legal entities that provide direct support for trading activities. This includes, for example, financing, insurance, supervision, certification, shipbroking, warehousing and transport. The identification of market participants is a delicate matter, as entities often operate on behalf of multiple clients, which include traders, and in different industries. For example, it would be inaccurate to include all employees of a bank if only part of its workforce is engaged in supporting commodity traders.

Degree of regionalisation: Switzerland, cantons

Periodicity: annual (core)/every 2–3 years (cluster)

Reference period:

Structural data: month of December

Monetary data: calendar year

Policy on revisions

The revision policy for the Statistics on commodity traders is coordinated with that of the Structural Business Statistics (STATENT), and with that of the Value Added Statistics (WS) in respect of the monetary data.

Routine (or ongoing) revision: When the results for a year t are published, the results for year $t-1$ are examined in light of the new data and adapted where necessary.

Methodological (or fundamental) revision

- Benchmark revisions: normally every 5 years
- Conceptual revisions: normally every 10–15 years

During the methodological and unscheduled revisions, the results are normally wholly revised right back to the start of the series.

Last revised: November 2021; benchmark revision based on the new data and corrections of structural information (e.g. NOGA correction). The results for 2017 and 2018 were corrected.

Legal basis

Ordinance of 30 April 2025 on Federal Statistics (SR 431.011)

Organisation

Federal Statistical Office (FSO)

Structural data

Economic Structure and Analyses Section (WSA)

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Monetary data

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