

SITC Rev. 4

Full title: Standard international trade classification

Abbreviation: SITC Rev. 4

Legal basis:

- There is no legislation requiring the use of the classification. SITC Rev. 4 was adopted by the UN Statistical Commission at its 37th session in March 2006.

Implementation date: March 2006

History of the classification:

The data according to the SITC nomenclature were compiled by matching the headings of the items in the Harmonised System (HS) and in the Combined Nomenclature (CN), given that the accounting of external trade by product is made according to HS from 1991 to 1995 and according to HS and KN, based on the Combined Nomenclature (CN) of the European Union, from 1996.

SITC Rev. 4 was adopted by the UN Statistical Commission at its 30th session (March 2006). SITC Rev. 4 retains the overall structure of SITC Rev. 3 and consists of the same number of sections, divisions and groups. The changes made were at the level of basic headings and some sub-groups. Two hundred and thirty-eight basic headings of SITC Rev. 3 were deleted and 87 new basic headings were introduced.

Structure:

SITC Rev. 4 applies:

- 1 digit for 10 commodity sections,
- 2 digits for 67 commodity divisions,
- 3 digits for 262 commodity groups,
- 4 digits for 1,023 subgroups and 2,970 basic headings.

Short description:

The SITC classification is to be applied to compile international trade statistics owing to its international comparability. This classification maintained by the UN is used in most countries. On the basis of detailed nomenclatures (HS, CN), SITC classifies commodities into more homogeneous categories e.g. with regard to the degree of their processing. The SITC classification is not revised annually, which enables comparisons by means of longer time series.

Main statistical applications: statistics on external trade in goods.

Linked classifications: the classification currently used is the same as the United National Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 4 (SITC Rev. 4).

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