# Contribution to the Working Group on Measuring E-Commerce and the Digital Economy

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# TURKSTAT

## Studies on Cross Border e-Trade Statistics

The activities carried out within the scope of e-trade to date are summarized below.

### History

➢ In 2014, Legislation studies were made by the Ministry of Trade. (Law No. 6563 on the Regulation of Electronic Commerce)

➢ In 2017, production of cross border e-tradestatistics was evaluated in Official Statistics Programme committee meeting.

➢ In 2018, methodologic studies on e-trade statistics were carried out by TurkStat and the Ministry of Trade.

### Data Sources

➢ Customs declarations (including EDI)

➢ Electronic trade customs declarations (ECCD)

Transactions related to cross border e-trade are in two ways:

1- Some of trade transactions considered as e-trade is covered in the official foreign trade statistics but cannot be separated. The main data source for foreign trade statistics is the customs declarations, which are the administrative records of the Ministry of Trade. There is no information to separate e-trade transactions in the declarations.

2- Other transactions related to e-trade are compiled from electronic trade customs declarations and are not included in official foreign trade statistics.

Electronic Trade Customs Declaration

Because of the fact that the volume of cross border e-trade in international trade increasing, ECCD is used to facilitate traders activities and to reduce burdens. Electronic Trade Customs Declaration is an electronic declaration issued by express

carriers, namely operators in import and export. Customs brokers cannot issue these declarations. Airline cargo companies may issue these declarations and make a Customs declaration.

**Activities**

In 2019, the following activities were carried out:

➢ OECD-WTO Handbook on Measuring Digital Trade has been reviewed and is still under review.

➢ A consensus has been reached between TurkStat and the Ministry of Trade on the conceptual framework of e-commerce.

➢ For the detailed declaration (BILGE), the Ministry of Trade is working on the establishment of a separator for the determination of e-commerce.

➢ The Trade of Ministry is working on the separation of transactions carried out via EDI.

➢ Studies will be carried out in order to separate records that are considered not to be e-trade within the ECCD with exemption codes. In addition, it was stated that studies should be carried out to eliminate the problems in the product code and quantity variables found in the ECCD records by TurkStat.

➢ As of June 2019, the 22 Euro exemption for e-trade transactions was abolished.

➢ Within the scope of efforts to produce e-trade statistics, a meeting with authorized customs consultants is planned in Istanbul. TurkStat is requested to participate in this meeting.

Studies for the production of cross-border e-trade has been initiated in 2017 by Turkish Statistical Institute. It was brought to the agenda for the first time at the official statistics program committee meeting and methodological studies on scope, methods and data sources are continuing. These statistics include cross border transactions carried out by the other institutions such as Administration of Postal and Telegraph Organization. Therefore, the meetings are held in these institutions in certain periods and statistics are evaluated and studies on looking for other data sources about cross border e-trade continue.