

Description of the products register

Contents

EU regulations

There is no EU legislation that requires a products register or corresponding statistics on chemicals to be kept.

Statistical characteristics

Statistical data from the products register relating to chemical substances with CAS numbers is stated in terms of quantity (metric tons) and the number of different products the substances are included in. The average value for the content deriving from the calculation is used for the quantity. The quantity is always stated as the total turnover quantity, unless otherwise stated.

Population and object

The population consists of all chemical products professionally imported or manufactured in Sweden or whose name has been changed. This relates to all products that can be included under the product codes in accordance with the Combined Nomenclature - CN (see below) established in SFS 2008:245. The population also consists of all the companies that report imports or manufacture of these products. When less than 100 kg per year of a product is manufactured or imported by one company it need not be reported, unless Kemi orders otherwise. Other products are subject to data protection. This means that the non-response is relatively small. Both chemical substances and preparations of chemical substances are considered as chemical products in the products register.

Variables

The products register contains data on:

- product type/function of chemical products
- the industrial category they belong to in accordance with the Swedish Standard Industrial Classification
- the products' health or environmental classification
- the customs number in accordance with the CN.

These clarify whether the product is accessible to consumers and whether it is imported, manufactured or whether its name has been changed. Quantities of products imported

and manufactured are reported for each year. The chemical substances of which the products consist are reported, giving their CAS numbers, name and contents.

Study domains

In official statistics and in the searchable database, variables are entered separately and grouped according to product types, industrial categories and product codes.

Nomenclature

Customs number

Combined Nomenclature (CN) - Kombinerad Nomenklatur - KN in Swedish - is a system for general classification of "products" and "goods". It defines approximately 10,000 different types of products, with each type being identified by an eight-digit number that corresponds to the statistical number and customs number, of which the first two digits relate to the chapter number in the customs regulations. This nomenclature is used in all official statistics on trade and manufacturing, among other things. It also forms the basis for the Swedish Standard Industrial Classification on manufacturing industry.

In order to obtain an approximate idea of the definitions one can, for example, study statistical publications on Sweden's international trade. Definitions of the published product types are given on the Swedish Customs Authority website, in their varuhandböcker - VHB [goods handbooks] and in the Tulltaxa med varubeskrivning - VHF [customs tariffs with descriptions of products].

TIN type

When a product is entered on the products register, the company has stated whether the product has been manufactured (Tillverkas), imported (Importerat) or has had its name changed (Namnbytt). The product is then classified as a TIN type.

When the number of products is divided among TIN types and a product has more than one TIN type, it is only entered once as manufactured, imported or having had its name changed. The quantity is divided equally between T and I if the product has a TI code. If the product has an IN code, it is considered as imported. Normally the quantities are stated in terms of turnover, i.e. the sum of manufacturing, import and change of name.

Industrial category/areas of use

Both the name "Industrial category" and the name "Use" are used on the products register to indicate to whom the chemical products are transferred. Products imported for companies' own professional use are listed in the companies' own industrial category. Industrial categories conform to the Swedish Standard Industrial Classification, which may be found on the SCB website. It has been modified for use with the products register so that certain industrial categories are reported at a very general level whereas others are extremely detailed, e.g., the chemicals industry.

Product types/function

The function or functions of chemical products are stated according to a classification of different product types summarised on the products register. Prior to 2002, the classification was national and contained approximately 220 different product types. Since 2002, it has been harmonised with Denmark and Norway and contains just over 500 different product types. Many product types have been described in more specific

detail, while some have been added to and a few have disappeared in the changeover. The list of product types should therefore be checked when product types are compared over a number of years.

CAS number

KemI has a database connected to the products register which contains names of chemical compounds. It also includes synonyms and chemical formulae, etc. The database is sorted according to the Chemical Abstract Service Registry System, in which just over 20 million different chemical compounds are allocated an identity number - the CAS number.

Products (particularly from the plant and mineral kingdoms) that contain many closely-related substances, e.g. rape oil acids and mineral oils, are also defined as substances with their own CAS number. The statistics contain both the CAS number and the substance name that the CAS number denotes.

Accuracy

Overall accuracy

Companies can sometimes supply incorrect data for any parameter. The data supplied is continually checked and errors are corrected. The register is also actively maintained.

Both importers and manufacturers must submit data to the products register. Therefore, the quantity of the same substance can be reported more than once, which means that amounts for individual substances may be duplicated. Data on quantities cannot therefore be used as a measurement of manufactured amount of the substance in the community, but is rather a measurement of the turnover of a chemical. The turnover consists of the quantities for imports + manufacturing + pure name changes, according to the TIN code. Exported amounts are to be found under the EXP industrial industrial category code.

Products with partially similar properties may have many different names and designations and are therefore grouped according to type. There are approximately 500 codes for product types. Companies do not always find the specific product type that correctly designates their product and sometimes the product is reported under a similar function. This means that the statistics become more accurate when they are more aggregated.

When companies notify KemI of the concentration of substances, that data is sometimes supplied in the form of an interval. The quantity of the substance cannot then be calculated exactly. The statistics now apply an average content value, whereas both the lowest and the highest quantities were given in previous statistics and other extracts from the register. A statement that includes an interval of 10 per cent at most is permitted only for ready-to-use paints.

Errors in the distribution of products among industrial categories can be of two types. In order to avoid duplication, the quantity of the product is distributed among the stated industrial categories. An equal quantity is ascribed to all industrial categories unless a percentage distribution is stated. This can mean that certain industrial categories' purchases of chemicals are overestimated and other industrial categories' purchases are underestimated.

Products are sometimes sold to a wholesaler. Wholesalers can then sell them on to other industrial categories and do not need to inform the products register as long as they do not change the product's name. This means that no final-user industrial categories are recorded for those products. The quantities for certain industrial categories therefore appear lower than they really are.

More than one product type is sometimes given for individual products. This leads to a certain duplication when adding the number of products. In order to avoid duplication of quantities, the quantity of the product is distributed among the stated functions. An equal share of the quantity is ascribed to all stated functions, which can mean an overestimate or an underestimate.

When the person supplying the data has filled in the form, they respond with a yes or no, according to whether or not the product is accessible to consumers. The given quantity for the product is the total amount and there is no particular statement of the quantity accessible to consumers. This means that the figure given for the amount accessible to consumers is excessively high in most cases.

Due to the fact that, since 2002, even compound products must be classified as to whether they are dangerous for the environment, certain products have not always been marked with "-" in the danger classification even if the company judged that they are not dangerous to health, and are only reported as being included in danger classification N - dangerous for the environment. For that reason, the group of products with the "-" sign no longer represents all the products that are not dangerous to health, but contains somewhat fewer products than the real number of such products.

Sources of inaccuracy

Sampling

All products and companies in the products register are included in extracts of data, unless another variable is specified.

Coverage

The data in the products register is governed by sections 3-6 of the Chemical Products and Biotechnical Organisms Ordinance (2008:245), and annexes to this ordinance and the Chemical Products and Biotechnical Organisms Regulations (KIFS 2008:2). All chemical products of which over 100 kg are imported, manufactured or whose name is changed must be entered on the register. Because imports and manufacture of chemical products mean chemical charges, data on amounts must always be submitted and there is therefore no non-respons as far as quantity data is concerned. For data on the chemical composition of a product, the degree of coverage varies depending on what product group the product belongs to, but it is well over 95 per cent for the large product groups in terms of quantity.

Non-respons

Occasionally companies omit to report that they have imported or manufactured chemical products. Sometimes also, companies fail to report all their products. It is also the case that not all companies know that a chemical product must be reported or which products must be reported. That non-respons is noticed when inspections are

carried out on companies, both by KemI and the municipalities, and when data is compared to data from other sources. However, there has been no systematic investigation into the non-responses since the mid 1990s.

Data processing

The products register is a public register. It is used to provide a basis for and to reply to questions from authorities, companies, training organisations and media. There are established processing reports for recurring statistics. Otherwise, the data is processed according to the question.

Model assumptions

This depends on the question and is decided in consultation with the searcher.

Timeliness

Production time

The previous year's quantities and new products are reported to the products register before 28 February. The quantity data is recorded halfway through the year. Data on compounds takes longer to register, but a preliminary edition of the previous year's data is available from 1 September. The final edition is confirmed after checking in January of the following year. The processing time is approximately 1 year.

Frequency

Data is compiled on a yearly basis.

Comparability

Comparability over time

In most cases, data from the products register is comparable year on year. The only changes to the various product classifications have been to individual values and not product types, which were radically changed in 2002. In particular, a greater level of detail applies to paints and adhesives. For most of the new functions there are one or more comparable functions in the old system.

Comparability between domains

Data from the products register is comparable with the SCB industry and overseas trade statistics with regard to imported or manufactured amounts per product code. The quantities from the products register are mostly shown as turnover, which is not directly comparable.

Industrial category statistics from, for example, SCB can be used together with industrial category statistics from the products register because they are based on the same trade classification. However, it has not been possible to directly compare the published statistics with products register statistics on the supply of chemicals because the industrial category classification was not the same.

Availability

Availability to micro data

Primary data is subject to special physical protection and is processed by an IT system separated from other systems at the Chemicals Inspectorate. Only KemI personnel have access to primary data. Data can only be extracted and processed by certain personnel. The issue of data from the products register is subject to the Secrecy Act. This means that data cannot be disclosed if it is considered that disclosure could cause damage for the person who supplied it. In the case of individual extracts, each item is considered on its own individual merits and as far as possible it is issued in aggregate form in accordance with the searcher's requirements. The statistics are subject to secrecy so that only data supplied by at least three companies is published. When the connection itself between a substance and its use could cause damage for the person submitting the data, the full data is excluded from the statistics.

The data is refined in accordance with government management rules on processing.

Information services

Products register staff will answer any questions on the obligation to register chemical products and how to go about it. They also deal with questions on the contents of the register. The register can be contacted by telephone at +46-8-519 41 183 or by e-mail at kemi@kemi.se