

NETHERLANDS, 1753-1809

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1. Coverage

This questionnaire discusses the Northern Netherlands from 1753 to 1809. The polities governing this region were first the Dutch Republic, then the Batavian Republic and finally the Kingdom of Holland.

Data collection on that region resumed after 1815 by States-General. For details, see: Dutch National Archives (further NA), Staatssecretarie, No. 6551 (1817/1819); NA, Staatssecretarie, No. 6441 (1822); Drieling, *Bijlagen*, appendices; *Verzameling van Staten* (1827, 1829, 1843); *Handelingen van de Staten-Generaal* (1839-1844); *Statistiek van den Handel en de Scheepvaart* (1846-1850).¹

2. Documents

Three types of data are commonly used to describe the economic history of the Dutch Republic: 1) *Statistieken van in- en uitvoer* (import and export trade statistics); 2) *Convoeien en Licenten* (convoy and licent duties); 3) registrations of ships arriving at or departing from ports in the Dutch Republic.

The first type is the least often available, yet represents in fact the only available 'real' trade statistics.² The second type covers longer periods of time, but has strong limitations regarding its use and reliability.³ The third type is more abundantly available but again has strong limitations regarding its use and reliability.⁴ Regardless of their limitations, these are the statistical data that are used most frequently.

1. Based on E. Horlings, *The Economic Development*, 70.

2. Joh. De Vries, *De economische achteruitgang der Republiek in de achttiende eeuw*, 1959, 24.

3. For a description, see: Joh. De Vries, *De economische achteruitgang*, 19–24.

4. For a description, see: Joh. De Vries, *De economische achteruitgang*, 24–29.

In this questionnaire, I will limit the focus to the 'real' external trade statistics. The following statistics, which have been published more or less extensively, are available:

1753: The Meuse, published in Dobbelaar (1921). Statistics of imports and exports via the towns that fell under the jurisdiction of the Admiralty of The Meuse in 1753. These towns are: Rotterdam, Dordrecht, Schiedam at the sea side, and Nijmegen, Den Bosch and Lillo at the land side. It contains a breakdown of goods, the quantities that entered and left the ports of the Admiralty of the Maas and their respective values. It does not contain information about the origin or destination of goods.

1753: Amsterdam, published in Nanninga (1952). Statistics of imports and exports *via* the towns that fell under the jurisdiction of the Admiralty of Amsterdam in 1753 (Amsterdam and other offices or *buiten-comptoiren*). Contains a breakdown of goods and the quantities or values that entered and left the ports under jurisdiction of the Admiralty of Amsterdam. It does also contain information about the origin or destination of goods. It contains a 'totals' column per product. Totals are specified separately for Amsterdam and the other offices of the Admiralty.

1774: Amsterdam, published in Posthumus (1913). Products and their quantities imported and exported from the port of Amsterdam in 1774, as registered by the Office of Convoy and Licent duties (*Comptoir van Convoeien en Licenten*). This includes neither directions, origins, nor values.

1784-1793: The Meuse, published in Joh. De Vries (1961/62-1963/64). Statistics of imports and exports via the towns that fall under the jurisdiction of the Admiralty of The Meuse in 1784-1793. It contains a breakdown of goods and the quantities or values that entered and left the ports under jurisdiction of the Admiralty of The Meuse. It also contains information about the origin or destination of goods, and a 'totals' column per product.

1789-1793 and 1796-1799: Amsterdam, published in Van Nierop (1915 and 1917). Statistics of imports and exports *via* the towns that fall under the jurisdiction of the Admiralty of Amsterdam (Amsterdam and other offices or *buiten-comptoiren*). Contains a breakdown of goods and the quantities or values that entered and left the ports under jurisdiction of the Admiralty of Amsterdam. Does also contain information about the origin or destination of goods. Contains a 'totals' column per

product. Totals are separately specified for Amsterdam and other offices of the Admiralty.

1803-1809: Batavian Republic, Kingdom of Holland, published in Alphonse (1900). The original can be found in Gogel, *Memoriën*, supplement. These are the only import and export trade statistics that cover the entire territory of the Batavian Republic (later Kingdom of Holland). The tables only contain aggregated values, in francs, per product. No origins or destinations are mentioned.

The original data for these publications are available in the form of archival records.

1753 Rotterdam: National Archives, 1.01.46 Admiraliteitscolleges, I Archief van het College der Admiraliteit op de Maze, Inv. Nr. 1892 (old number).

1753 Amsterdam: National Archives, 1.01.46 Admiraliteitscolleges, II Archief van het College der Admiraliteit te Amsterdam, Inv. Nr. 1795.

1774: Royal Library Copenhagen, Sign. Ny Kgl. S., 8, 178^b, Lijst der ingekomen en verzonden goederen volgens de aangevinge daarvan gedaan ten Comptoire der Convoyen en Licenten binnen Amsteldam, in den jaare 1774. Gebragt op eene alphabetische orde, zijnde de goederen, die bij de waarde betaalen, bij de waarde, en die, welke bij het gewigt betalen, bij het gewigt gesteld.⁵

1784-1793: National Archives, 1.01.46 Admiraliteitscolleges, I Archief van het College der Admiraliteit op de Maze, Inv. Nrs. 691-703.

1789-1793 and 1796-1799: National Archives, Archief der Admiraliteitscolleges, II Archief van het College der Admiraliteit te Amsterdam 1795-1799.

1803-1809: See: Gogel, *Memoriën*, supplement.

As far as I know, no separate balances of trade were produced at the time.

3. Institutional setting

The different responsible institutions were:

1753: Admiralty of Amsterdam; Admiralty of The Meuse

5. Signature and title of the document are taken from Posthumus, "Statistiek," 517-519.

1774: Office of Convoy and Licent Duties of Amsterdam

1784-1793: Admiralty on The Meuse

1789-1793; 1796-1799: Admiralty of Amsterdam (Collegie ter Admiraliteit te Amsterdam en de buiten-comptoiren onder het ressort van denzelven)

1803-1809 : The customs office of Holland at the Ministry of Finance (of the Kingdom of Holland). Evaluation of each good was done by the Chamber of Commerce of the City of Amsterdam.

4. Motivations

The goal of the Admiralties was to get a better insight into the structure and volume of Dutch commerce, which could be used to take appropriate fiscal measures as well as to improve the Republic's economic policies.⁶

1803-1809 : These data were collected during the time of the Batavian Republic (1795-1806) and the Kingdom of Holland (1806-1810). The goal was to get an insight in Dutch commerce in the first decade of the nineteenth century.

5. Informations

Only the 1803-1809 statistics are measured in values of individual goods.

The other statistics contain either values or quantities, measured in different units of measurement, depending on the type of product that is being measured. Only the 1753 Meuse register contains both values and quantities for some of the listed goods.

The classical source for finding comparable prices still is: N.W. Posthumus, *Nederlandsche Prijsgeschiedenis*, Leiden 1943.

The number of different goods mentioned by each source is as follows: 1753 Meuse: 463 ; 1753 Amsterdam: imports 213 and exports 231; 1774 Amsterdam: 224; 1784-1793 Meuse: no visu; 1789-1799 Amsterdam: imports 241 and exports 235 and 1803-1809: 315. The goods are all listed in Dutch and were probably chosen by the Admiralties. There does not seem to be any *a priori* coherent list.

6. Van Nierop, "Uit de bakemat der Amsterdamsche handelsstatistiek," // *Jaarboek van het genootschap Amstelodamum*, 1915, XIII, 109.

The 1753, 1784-1793, 1789-1793 and 1796-1799 registers include broad geographical categories (ten in the case of the Amsterdam Admiralties). No geographical classification is included in the 1774 and 1803-1809 registers. There is a separation in the 1753, 1774, 1784-1793, 1789-1799 registers between the main office and the outer offices (*buitencomptoiren*) of the respective Admiralties.

6. Availability

Dobbelaar P.J., (1921), "Een statistiek van den in- en uitvoer van Rotterdam c.a. in 1753," *Economisch-Historisch Jaarboek*, 7: 210-230.

Nanninga, (1952), *Bronnen tot de geschiedenis van den Levantschen handel III 1727-1765*, Hoofdstuk XII: De in- en uitvoer van Amsterdam in 1753, 650-701.

Posthumus N.W., (1913), "Statistiek van den in- en uitvoer van Amsterdam in het jaar 1774," *Bijdragen en Mededelingen van het Historisch Genootschap*, 516-528.

Van Nierop L., (1915), "Uit de bakermat der Amsterdamsche handelsstatistiek," *Jaarboek van het genootschap Amstelodamum*, XIII, 105-172.

Van Nierop L., (1917), "Uit de bakermat der Amsterdamsche handelsstatistiek," *Jaarboek van het genootschap Amstelodamum*, XV, 35-110.

De Vries, Joh. (ed.), (1961-1962), "De Statistiek van in- en uitvoer van de Admiraliteit op de Maaze, 1784-1793," *Economisch-Historisch Jaarboek*, 29, 188-259; 1963-1964, 30, 236-307.

D'Alphonse F.J.B., (1900), "Eenige hoofdstukken uit het Aperçu sur la Hollande," *Bijdrage tot de Statistiek van Nederland. Nieuwe Volgreeks 1*, Chapitre VI: Commerce, Importations et Exportations (1803-1809), 384-401.

J.M. Gogel, Bijvoegsel bij I.J.A. Gogel, (1844), *Memoriën en Correspondentiën, bevattende de algemeene Staten van den aangegeven in-, uit- en doorvoer van de jaren 1802-1809 en 1814-1816*, s.l.

Some of these are readily available in MDB or DBF format.

editor: G.M. Welling

downloadable at: www.let.rug.nl/~welling/paalgeld/appendix.html

note: The names that Welling gave to these databases are somewhat confusing. Rather than covering 'The Netherlands', they cover Amsterdam.

7. Bibliography

7.1. Secondary works using the data

Morineau M., (1965), “La Balance du commerce franco-néerlandais et le resserrement économique des Provinces-Unies au XVIII^e siècle,” *Economisch-Historisch Jaarboek*, 30, 170–235.

Horlings E., (proefschrift 1995), *The economic development of the Dutch services sector 1800-1850*.

Statistics of imports and exports from the port of Rotterdam in the years 1762-1764 may be added to the list.⁷ However, these statistics are incomplete. Another possible source is: Brugmans *et al.*, *Statistieken van de Nederlandse nijverheid uit de eerste helft der negentiende eeuw*, 's-Gravenhage 1956 (RGP 98-99). [digitized], from which trade statistics may possibly be extracted.

The logical starting point for any statistical research in the first half of the nineteenth century is Horlings' study on *The economic development of the Dutch services sector 1800-1850*.

Prices: References for the period after 1800 can be found in Horlings, *The Economic development*, 76–77.

7. Nationaal Archief, XXXVII no. 477: Statistiek van in- en uitvoer van Rotterdam voor de jaren 1762-1764 (incomplete).

NORWAY, 1731-1795

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1. Coverage

This questionnaire discusses the historical trade statistics available in Norway. They can be found for each of the 27 or so ports (the number varies through the period). They are not available for the national level. Only the towns of Christiania (Oslo), Bergen, Trondheim, and Kristiansand had full import and export rights. Smaller towns were limited to trading only with other parts of the dual Kingdom of Denmark-Norway, though some (those along the southern and eastern coast) had extended privileges to export timber and to some degree to import goods.

The statistics are available from 1731 to 1795, however, there are several lacunas for the ports. These are most notable between 1733 and 1750, and 1760 to ca. 1780. After 1795, the trade statistics continue although the record keeping was changed and simplified; the origin/destination of the goods was no longer noted and the goods were increasingly lumped together in categories. From 1828 trade statistics were collected and published by Statistics Norway for the national level. (available on <http://www.ssb.no/a/histstat/publikasjoner/>)

2. Documents

The original data are available as at least 25 shelf meters of ledgers. They describe seagoing trade with other parts of Denmark-Norway, as well as with foreign states and regions. The ledgers are in the Royal Norwegian Archives. All have been scanned, and will be made available in full online in 2014/ 2015.

No synthetic document has survived, either for Norway on its own, or for Denmark-Norway as a state. It may be possible to recreate an estimate of the balance of trade using import/export values from harbors with such rights.

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