

RUSSIA, 1758-1766

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From the early eighteenth century onwards, several scattered records regarding the trade of individual Russian ports in single years have been preserved. Excerpts of some of these records have been published here and there, but most of them are only accessible at the Russian State Archive of Ancient Documents (*Rossiiskij Gosudarstvennyj Archiv Drevnich Aktov*) in Moscow.

The first Russian trade statistics that deliberately aimed at covering the entire Russian empire, are kept in the collections of College of Manufactures (*Manufaktur-Kollegija*)¹. These statistics cover imports and exports the years 1758, 1759 (only imports), 1762, 1763 (only imports) and 1764-1766². The earlier records contain less detail than the later ones and mainly provide aggregated figures of the values of goods imported to and exported from the Russian Empire. From 1764 onwards, the trade statistics comprise separate lists of imports and exports for each of the 28 toll stations of the Russian Empire, ranging from Riga and St. Petersburg on the Baltic coast, to Archangel and Onega on the coast of the White Sea, Moscow and several other toll stations in the Russian heartland and Astrachan' on the Caspian Sea. Although there are differences between the amount of information provided by each toll station, most of the statistics of imports and exports between 1764 and 1766 contain information about the goods, their weight, value, origin and taxation. Sometimes, the final destination of the goods passing the toll is registered as well. Thus, these trade statistics provide a wealth of information about trade streams in the

1. Of particular importance are the collections of the College of Commerce (*Kommerts-Kollegija*) and the College of Manufactures (*Manufaktur-Kollegija*).

2. RGADA, fond 277 (*Manufaktur-Kollegija*), opis' 3, dela 619-631.
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Russian Empire around the mid-eighteenth century. Until now, only the import and export statistics for St. Petersburg in 1764 have been published³.

After 1766, the early effort of Russian tax officials to draw up trade statistics comparable to those of France was abandoned until the end of the eighteenth century⁴. In 1802, the collection of Russian trade statistics took a new start⁵. For the years between 1802 and 1807, only aggregated trade statistics for the entire country are preserved, which hardly contain any geographical information. After a brief interruption during the Napoleonic Wars, the gathering of Russian trade statistics took its regular course in 1812, when the import and export statistics of the different Russian toll stations were gathered and published in annual overviews of the Russian empire's trade⁶. The statistics of Russia's external trade in the first half of the nineteenth century were used extensively by Nebol'sin⁷. Recently, the annual publications of nineteenth-century Russian trade statistics have been used as an additional source of information in a project on the dynamics of economic and social development in Russia during the nineteenth and early twentieth century⁸, which insofar as foreign trade is concerned, relies largely on Pokrovskij's 1902 survey of the history and statistics of Russia's foreign trade⁹.

3. Demkin, A.V., *Vnešnjaia trgovlja Rossii čerez peterburgskij port. 1764 god. Vedomost' ob importe inostrannyx tovarov*, Moskva 1996; Ibidem, *Vnešnjaia trgovlja Rossii čerez peterburgskij port. 1764 god. Vedomost' ob eksporte rossijskix tovarov*, Moskva 1996.

4. Nevertheless, here and there, some statistical information regarding Russia's foreign trade can be found. For example in: Storch, Heinrich von, *Historisch-statistisches Gemälde des Russischen Reichs am Ende des achtzehnten Jahrhunderts*, Leipzig 1797-1803; Čulkov, M.D. *Istoričeskoe opisanie rossijskoj komercii pri vsech portach i granicach ot drevnich vremjan do nyne nastojaščego i vsech preimuščestvennyx uzakonenij po onoj gosudarja imperatora Petra Velikago i nyne blagopolučno carstvujuščija gosudaryni Imperatricy Ekateriny Velikija*, Moskva 1781-1788.

5. See: Rumjancev, N. *Gosudarstvennaja trgovlja 1802 goda v raznyx ee vidax*, Sankt-Peterburg 1802. A summary in French of the trade statistics for the years between 1802 and 1805 was published in 1808. See: Rumiantsev, N., *Tableau du commerce de l'empire de Russie: Années 1802, 1803, 1804, 1805*. St. Pétersbourg 1808.

6. An uninterrupted series of Russian trade statistics is available from 1812 up to 1915. During this century, the precise format of the annual publications was changed several times, adding and removing particular tabular visualisations of Russian trade streams. The annual statistics were published under slightly different names. Until 1864, their publication was executed by the Department of Foreign trade; after 1864, it was handed over to the Ministry of Finance. For a brief introduction to these series (in Russian), see: T.Ja. Valetov, "Vnešnjaia trgovlja. Dinamičeskie rjady," retrieved from <http://www.hist.msu.ru/Dynamics/10text.htm>.

7. Nebol'sin, G. *Statističeskoe obozrenie vnešnej trgovli Rossii*, Sankt-Peterburg 1850.

8. For more information (in Russian) about the project "Dinamika ekonomičeskogo i social'nogo razvitija Rossii v XIX – načale XX vv.," see the project website: <http://www.hist.msu.ru/Dynamics/index.html>.

9. Pokrovskij, V.I. *Sbornik svedenij po istorii i statistike vnešnej trgovli Rossii*, Sankt-Peterburg 1902.