

To HH
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INPUT FOR THE ACC SUBCOMMITTEE IN THE AREA OF
INDUSTRIAL COMMODITY PRODUCTION STATISTICS

1. List of industrial products

The current UNSD industrial commodity production statistics is based on ISIC Rev.2 and is closely linked to SITC Rev.1 (Revised); the commodity definitions are based on BTN (Brussels Tariff Nomenclature), the predecessor of The Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS). Therefore, the current product list requires a thorough revision in order to bring it in compliance with the latest revisions of the international commodity classifications. UNSD's efforts to utilize, for this purpose, Provisional Central Product Classification did not give satisfactory results.

A draft revised list of industrial products has been developed by UNSD that is based on ISIC Rev.3 four-digit codes. The revised list is closely linked to SITC Rev.3 and its commodity descriptions are based on HS. Tables of correspondence between the product list and the latest versions of the international commodity classifications (SITC Rev.3, HS, PRODCOM (the industrial product list of the European Communities), CPC,

FAO Definition and Classification of Commodities) have also been developed.

2. International cooperation in the field of industrial commodity production statistics.

UNSD is the only world-wide collector and disseminator of industrial commodity production statistics. EUROSTAT's industrial commodity production statistics, which is based on PRODCOM, relates to the Member Countries of the European Communities. ECE collects statistics on selected industrial products (steel, chemical and engineering products) for European countries, and this statistics is based, by and large, on SITC Rev.3. FAO's commodity statistics comprises selected industrial products of agricultural origin.

Some efforts have already been made to expand cooperation between UNSD, EUROSTAT and ECE in the data collection/data exchange with a view to lessening the statistical reporting burden of European countries and reducing duplication in collecting such data at the global level. UNSD's revised product list and the related tables of correspondence could be the basis for developing of a joint questionnaire that would allow to avoid duplication in data collection by international organizations.