



UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION

Expert Group on International Merchandise Trade Statistics
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Country Note
The People's Republic of China

Comparison of UN recommendation on IMTS and China practice

UN recommendation on IMTS Rev.2	China practice	Suggestion
I. Coverage and time of recording		
A. GENERAL GUIDELINES		
P11. data source customs data, supplemented with information obtained from other sources,	Same as UN recommendation, Customs data is the only source.	
P1. Coverage International merchandise trade statistics record all goods which add to or subtract from the stock of material resources of a country by entering (imports) or leaving (exports) its economic territory.	Same as UN recommendation	
P2. Time of recording. Goods be included at the time when they enter or leave the economic territory of a country. The time of recording be the date of lodgement of the customs declaration	Same as UN recommendation Export : goods released from Customs Import: goods declared to Customs	

B. SPECIFIC GUIDELINES		
1. Goods to be included in the detailed international merchandise trade statistics		
P3. Non-monetary gold.	Same as UN recommendation	
P4. Unissued banknotes and securities, and coins not in circulation.	Same as UN recommendation	
P5. Goods traded in accordance with barter agreements	Same as UN recommendation	
P6. Food and other humanitarian aid.	Same as UN recommendation	
P7. Goods for military use	Same as UN recommendation	
P8. Goods acquired by all categories of travelers	Same as UN recommendation	
P9. Goods on consignment	Same as UN recommendation	
P10. Goods used as carriers of information and software. (a) packaged sets containing diskettes or CD-ROMs with stored computer software and/or data developed for general or commercial use (not to order), with or without a users' manual, and (b) audio- and videotapes recorded for general or	<p>1. Same as UN recommendation, if for general or commercial use(not in order)</p> <p>2. <u>Different from UN recommendation, if developed in order,</u></p> <p><u>Imports:</u></p> <p>audio- and videotapes containing original recordings, and customized blueprints etc are included in imports statistics, because</p>	

commercial purposes	<p>the total value is required to declare according to the regulation of Customs Valuation.</p> <p><u>Exports:</u></p> <p>Diskettes or CD-ROMs with stored computer software and/or data, developed to order, audio- and videotapes containing original recordings, and customized blueprints etc. are included in exports statistics, and the software developed in order are classified in HS9803 if declared to Customs.</p> <p><u>This will be improved in future.</u></p>	
P11. Goods for processing.	Same as UN recommendation	
P12. Goods which cross borders as a result of transactions between parent corporations and their direct investment enterprises	Same as UN recommendation	
P13. Returned goods.	<p><u>Different from UN recommendation:</u></p> <p>Returned goods are not included in international merchandise trade statistics, but recorded separately for the use of balance of payment purposes.</p> <p><u>Reason:</u></p> <p>The returned goods are not real exports and imports, if included in IMTS, it will exaggerate the real scale of exports or</p>	<p><u>Suggestion:</u></p> <p>The returned goods should be excluded from international merchandise trade statistics, but record separately for balance of payments purposes.</p>

	imports.	
P14. Electricity, gas and water.	Same as UN recommendation	
P15. Goods dispatched through postal or courier services.	Same as UN recommendation	
P16. Migrants' effects.	Same as UN recommendation	
P17. Goods transferred from or to a buffer stock organization.	Same as UN recommendation	
P18. Goods under financial lease.	Same as UN recommendation	
P19. Ships, aircraft and other mobile equipment.	Same as UN recommendation	
P20. Goods delivered to or dispatched from offshore installations located in the economic territory of a compiling country	Same as UN recommendation	
P21. Fish catch, minerals from the seabed and salvage landed from foreign vessels in national ports or acquired by national vessels on the high seas from foreign vessels	Same as UN recommendation	
P22. Bunkers, stores, ballast and dunnage that are: (a) Acquired by national vessels or aircraft from foreign vessels or aircraft in the economic territory of a country, or are landed in national ports from foreign	Same as UN recommendation	

vessels or aircraft, (b) Supplied to foreign vessels or aircraft in the economic territory of a country are		
P23. Empty bottles, which represent a traded commodity,	Same as UN recommendation	
P24. Waste and scrap, if their value is positive	Same as UN recommendation	
2. Goods to be excluded from the detailed international merchandise trade statistics		
P25. Monetary gold.	Same as UN recommendation	
P26. Issued banknotes and securities and coins in circulation	Same as UN recommendation	
P27. Goods temporarily admitted or dispatched.	Same as UN recommendation	
P28. Goods in transit.	Same as UN recommendation	<u>Suggestion:</u> The difference of "goods in transit" and "goods for re-export" should be clarified.
P29. Goods consigned to and from territorial enclaves.	Same as UN recommendation	
P30. Non-financial assets,	Same as UN recommendation	

ownership of which has been transferred from residents to non-residents, without crossing borders.		
P31. Goods treated as part of trade in services.	<p><u>Different from UN recommendation, if diskettes or CD-ROMs with stored computer software etc. , developed in order,</u></p> <p><u>Imports:</u> audio- and videotapes containing original recordings, and customized blueprints etc are included in imports statistics, because the total value is required to declare according to the regulation of Customs Valuation.</p> <p><u>Exports:</u> Diskettes or CD-ROMs with stored computer software and/or data, developed to order, audio- and videotapes containing original recordings, and customized blueprints etc. are included in exports statistics, and the software developed in order are classified in HS9803.</p> <p><u>This will be improved in future</u></p>	
P32. Fish caught on the high seas by national vessels of a country and landed in its economic territory	Same as UN recommendation	

P33. Goods which are acquired and relinquished within the compiling country, by non-residents, within the same recording period, and which do not cross the frontiers of this country.	Same as UN recommendation	
P34. Goods under operational lease.	Same as UN recommendation	
P35. Goods lost or destroyed after leaving the economic territory of the exporting country but before entering the economic territory of the intended importing country	Same as UN recommendation	
P36. Empty bottles, as "means of transport"	Same as UN recommendation	
P37. Waste and scrap.		
3. Goods recommended to be excluded from the detailed international merchandise trade statistics but recorded separately		
P38. Mobile equipment that changes ownership while outside the country of residence of its original owner.	<u>Different from UN recommendation</u> Excluded from international merchandise trade statistics, and not recorded separately. Reasons: customs declaration is not required. Data is not available.	
P39. Fish catch, minerals from the	<u>Different from UN recommendation</u>	

seabed and salvage sold from national vessels in foreign ports or from national vessels on the high seas to foreign vessels	Excluded from international merchandise trade statistics, and not recorded separately. Reasons: customs declaration is not required. Data is not available.	
<p>P40. Bunkers, stores, ballast and dunnage that are:</p> <p>(a) Acquired by national vessels or aircraft outside the economic territory of a country</p> <p>(b) Supplied by national vessels or aircraft to foreign vessels or aircraft outside the economic territory of a country or landed in foreign ports from national vessels or aircraft</p>	<p><u>Different from UN recommendation</u></p> <p>Excluded from international merchandise trade statistics, and not recorded separately.</p> <p>Reasons: customs declaration is not required. Data is not available.</p>	
P41. Goods purchased by international organizations located in the economic territory of a host country from the host country, for their own use. These goods should be recorded as exports of the host country (for adjustment purposes only)	<p><u>Different from UN recommendation</u></p> <p>Included in international merchandise trade statistics as exports, but not recorded separately.</p> <p>Reasons: there is no separate customs procedure to collection the data separately.</p>	

P42. Goods for repair.	<u>Same as UN recommendation</u> Excluded from international merchandise trade statistics, and there a separate customs procedure.	<u>Suggestion:</u> Goods for test should be also clarified to excluded from international merchandise trade, but record as services.
P43. Goods entering or leaving the economic territory of a country illegally.	<u>Different from UN recommendation</u> Excluded from international merchandise trade statistics, and not recorded separately. Reasons: Data is not available.	
P44. Goods lost or destroyed after ownership has been acquired by the importer.	<u>Different from UN recommendation</u> Excluded from international merchandise trade statistics, and not recorded separately. Reasons: customs declaration is not required. Data is not available.	
II. Trade system		
It is recommended, that countries use the general system for compilation of their international merchandise trade statistics and international reporting.	Same as UN recommendation. General trade system has been adopted since 1995, Special trade system had been adopted before 1995.	

III. Commodity Classifications		
countries use HS for the compilation and publication of detailed international merchandise trade statistics.	Same as UN recommendation HS is adopted for the compilation and publication of detailed IMTS since 1992. now HS 2007 edition is adopted.	
IV. Valuation		
A. Statistical value of imports and exports		
It is recommended that countries adopt the WTO Agreement on Valuation as the basis for valuation of their international merchandise trade for statistical purposes.	Same as UN recommendation. Statistical value is based on Customs valuation according to WTO Agreement.	
it is recommended that: (a) The statistical value of imported goods be a CIF-type value; (b) The statistical value of exported goods be an FOB-type value.	Same as UN recommendation CIF for imported goods. FOB for exported goods	

B. Currency conversion		
<p>it is recommended</p> <p>"(a) Where the conversion of currency is necessary for the determination of the customs value, the rate of exchange to be used shall be that duly published by the competent authorities of the country of importation concerned and shall reflect as effectively as possible, in respect of the period covered by each such document of publication, the current value of such currency in commercial transactions in terms of the currency of the country of importation;</p> <p>"(b) The conversion rate to be used shall be that in effect at the time of exportation or the time of importation, as provided by each Member."</p>	<p>same as recommendation</p> <p>Statistical data are published in RMB and US\$.</p> <p>The exchange rate which published by the Bank of China monthly for duty collection, if exchanging foreign currency into RMB.</p> <p>The exchange rate which published by the State Administration of Foreign Exchange for statistical use, if exchange foreign currency into US\$.</p>	
V. Quantity measurement		
It is recommended that countries use	Same as recommendation	

<p>the WCO standard units of quantity when collecting and reporting international merchandise trade on the basis of the Harmonized System. It is also recommended that:</p> <p>(a) In the case of the HS headings (subheadings) where the standard unit is other than weight, a weight also be collected and reported;</p> <p>(b) Weight figures be reported on a net weight basis;</p> <p>(c) Countries that use units of quantity other than the WCO standard units provide the conversion factors to the standard units in their statistical nomenclatures.</p>	WCO standard units of quantity is adopted	
VI. Partner country		
<p>it is recommended that in the case of imports, the country of origin be recorded; that the country of consignment be collected as additional information; and that in the case of exports, the country of last known destination be recorded.</p>	<p>Same as UN recommendation</p> <p>Imported goods: Country of origin, country of consignment</p> <p>Exported goods: Country of final destination, country of consignment</p>	<p><u>Suggestion:</u></p> <p>Since the rules of origin established by each country may be different, and therefore, may cause the difference in bilateral trade statistics. Partnered countries should be encouraged</p>

		to exchange information and conduct studies.
VII. Reporting and dissemination		
<p>Dissemination.</p> <p>it is recommended that data compilers:</p> <p>(a) Publicly disseminate documentation on their sources and methods;</p> <p>(b) Publicly announce scheduled release dates;</p> <p>(c) Provide regular monthly reporting of data to the user community through publications and/or electronic media;</p> <p>(d) Regularly revise data (when additional information is available), taking into due consideration user needs for reliable statistics.</p>	Same as UN recommendation	
<p>Reference period</p> <p>It is recommended that countries make their data available on a calendar period basis, according to the</p>	Same as UN recommendation	

Gregorian calendar and consistent with the recommendations set out in the present publication.		
Data reporting It is recommended that countries make their statistics publicly available on a monthly basis for aggregate data and for data by major trading partners and commodity groups.	Same as UN recommendation	
Confidentiality It is recommended that in suppressing data due to confidentiality, any information deemed confidential (suppressed) be reported in full detail at the next higher level of commodity aggregation that adequately protects confidentiality.	<u>Different from UN recommendation</u> Part of confidential data is aggregated to Chapter 98, for the reason of data processing.	
Data comparability it is recommended, that countries periodically conduct bilateral and multilateral reconciliation studies or implement data exchanges so that their statistics can be made more accurate and useful both for national purposes and for international comparisons.	Same as UN recommendation.	

Retained imports.	<u>No retained imports are calculated.</u> No separate re-exports data is collected.	
Index numbers It is recommended that all countries produce and publish volume (quantum) indices and either unit value or price indices for their total imports and exports on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis.	Same as UN recommendation	
Seasonally adjusted data. Countries are encouraged to publish such data on a regular basis.	<u>Different from UN recommendation</u> Seasonally adjusted data is not provided.	
IMTS, Rev.2 and the 1993 SNA and BPM5. It is recommended, however, that countries: (a) Use crossing the border of an economic territory as a general guideline for the inclusion of goods in the international merchandise trade statistics; (b) Use the list of adjustments contained herein (see paras. 55 - 63 above) to get international merchandise trade statistics	(a) Same as UN recommendation (b) <u>Different from UN recommendation</u> Some data is not required to declare to Customs, data is not available.	

coverage closer to the 1993 SNA and BPM5 requirements; (c) Use the general system of data recording; (d) Make a separate collection of data on freight and insurance.	(c) Same as UN recommendation (d) possible to collect F&I information	
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