



UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION

Expert Group on International Merchandise Trade Statistics
First meeting
New York, 3-6 December 2007

Presentation
EUROSTAT

Item 11: Partner Country attribution

Partner Country attribution

Expert Group on International Merchandise Trade
Statistics

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Trade flow	IMTS Recommendations	EU practice
Import		
•Country of origin	➤Should be recorded	For Extra EU trade, some MS also for Intra EU trade
•Country of consignment	➤Should be collected as additional information	For Intra EU trade, in future also for Extra EU trade
Export		
•Country of final destination	➤Should be recorded	For Extra and Intra EU trade
•Country of consignment / destination	➤Feasibility studies should be carried out	Not recorded: in Intra not in the survey; in Extra not at customs declaration



Country of Origin - Import

The country in which the goods are "wholly produced" or the last "substantial transformation" took place

Needs / Pros	Disadvantages / Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A relationship between the producing country and the importing country is kept. • Trade policies (import quotas, anti-dumping, ...) and related economic analysis rely on the origin concept. • International agreements on origin rules exist (Kyoto, WTO) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No symmetrical recording of the same trade transactions by the exporting country • Not entirely fitting for BoP • Determining the origin is complex: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Definition of substantial transformation ◦ Less customs control for zero rated goods, ◦ European origin ◦ Preferential origin versus general origin rules ◦ Origin in economic territory or customs territory

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Country of Consignment - Import

The country from which goods were dispatched to the importing country, without any commercial transactions or other operations which change the legal status of the goods taking place in any intermediate country

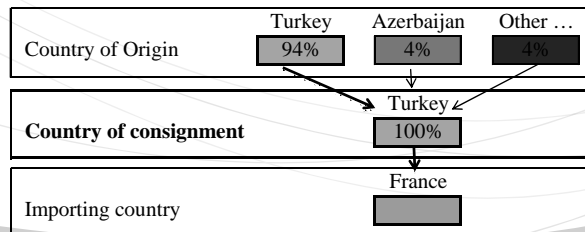
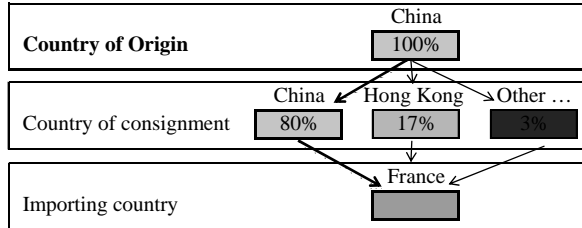
Needs / Pros	Disadvantages / Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best option to reach consistency with partner country data • Nearer to the commodity flow • Nearer to BoP concept • Importer knows in general the country (related to past events) • Applied when goods originate in the importing country • Data on delivery terms may help for accuracy checks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exemptions from consistency with partner country: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Partner country does not compile data on destination for exports ◦ Operations during transport took place ◦ The import is not recorded due to special trade system or temporary admissions • The entire value of a transaction is attributed to that country • Not convenient for trade policies • Less used by Customs (no use for pre/arrival security information) • Often the country of purchase is declared

Partner Country attribution



Compiling both partner countries on imports: Origin & Consignment

Allows analysing
better the value
added chain



Source:
Eurostat
internal data
- annual
2006

Partner Country attribution



Country of last known destination - Export

The last country of destination of the goods to be exported as known at the time of export

Needs / Pros	Disadvantages / Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recorded by Customs Closer to the country of consumption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less symmetrical recording of the same trade transactions by the importing country (on consignment basis,) Related to future events increases the lack of knowledge about the destination of goods (e.g. redirected, transhipped goods, oil) Ex-post Customs/Statistical controls are complex (Less used by Customs) Clear instructions for exporters are necessary Difficult to distinguish from country of consignment

Partner Country attribution



Country of consignment/destination - Export

The first country to which goods are dispatched without - as far as it is known at the time of exportation - being subject to any commercial transactions or other operations which change the legal status of the goods

Needs / Pros	Disadvantages / Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Best option to reach consistency with partner country data , if partner collects consignment data• Data on delivery terms may help for accuracy checks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exemptions from consistency with partner country data exists (see: country of consignment on imports)• Lack of knowledge about the destination of goods• Less/not used by Customs (no use for pre/departure security information)• Difficult to distinguish from country of final destination

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