

COVERAGE PRACTICES THE BAHAMAS

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On the Revisions of the International
Recommendations for International Merchandise
Trade Statistics (IMTS)**

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INTRODUCTION

- The Department of Statistics is the Government Agency in The Bahamas mandated by law to collect, process, analyze and disseminate statistics.

INTRODUCTION

- The present legislation governing the operation of the Department of Statistics is “The Statistics Act of 1973”.
- The Foreign Trade Unit, the unit within the DOS responsible for the collection, compilation, processing, analysis and dissemination of trade statistics operates within this legal framework.

COVERAGE (IMTS)

- IMTS (Rev 2, para.14) – As a general guideline recommends that goods which add to or subtract from the stock of material resources of a country by entering (imports) or leaving (exports) its economic territory should be included in IMTS.



COVERAGE

Country Practices

- As far as possible, The Bahamas follows the guidelines as set out in the IMTS concepts & definitions manual.
- Goods that add to or subtract from the material resources of the country are included in the IMTS. Goods in transit or entered for storage purposes only are excluded from the IMTS.

COVERAGE COMMENTS

- The Bahamas agrees that the existing recommendation should be further elaborated to clarify the following statements.
- “adding to or subtracting from the material resources”
- “temporary admission”.

COVERAGE COMMENTS

- “being simply transported” this statement seems sufficiently clear.
- Any clarification of these statements should be simple and concise and should provide examples to assist in the clarification.

CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP (IMTS)

- Other than the reference to Annex A in the IMTS manual, IMTS Rev 2. does provide further guidelines on the use of “change of ownership” in the IMTS

CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP COUNTRY PRACTICES

- Currently, The Bahamas does not use “change of ownership” as a basis for inclusion of certain goods in trade statistics.
- We also do not compile detailed commodity by partner trade statistics on the basis of “change of ownership”.

CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP COMMENTS

It would be good to have a set of cases and examples of when the basis of “change of ownership” should be used.

- E.g. The recording of ships registered under The Bahamas’ flag are not recorded for IMTS purposes when a change of ownership takes place.
- Another e.g. is the case of oil in storage. From time to time oil in storage is sold to a local oil company when that happens this transaction is recorded for IMTS purposes.

CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP COMMENTS

- Financial leasing is another case where the transaction is recorded for IMTS purposes.
- In the e.g. of the oil in storage sold to a local company, assigning the country of origin becomes a problem in some instances.
- So as to avoid the inconsistencies in how transactions are treated, the concept of “change of ownership” should be clarified as much as possible.

GOODS FOR PROCESSING (IMTS)

- According to IMTS Rev 2, Those goods sent abroad or brought into a country for processing, including processing under contract should be recorded as imports and exports of the respective countries.

GOODS FOR PROCESSING COUNTRY PRACTICES

- As a general practice “Goods for Processing” are included in trade statistics as imports and the goods resulting from such processing are treated as domestic exports when leaving the country.
- E.g. chemicals & other medicaments brought in for processing of a drug for AIDS patients.

GOODS FOR PROCESSING COUNTRY PRACTICES

- E.g. Oil refining in the past was recorded in IMTS.

GOODS FOR PROCESSING COMMENTS

- It is recommended that the current recommendation be revised to clearly define the term “Goods for Processing”
- Some guidelines on how to identify goods for processing where change of ownership takes place will be necessary.

TRADE BETWEEN AFFILIATED ENTERPRISES (IMTS)

- According to IMTS, Rev 2, Goods which cross borders as a result of transactions between parent corporations and their direct investment enterprises are to be included in IMTS.

TRANSACTIONS BETWEEN PARENT & AFFILIATED ENTERPRISES

COUNTRY PRACTICES

- In The Bahamas, the transactions between parent corporations and their affiliated enterprises are included in the IMTS.
- However these transactions are not recorded separately, as the current system of processing does not allow for this distinction to be made.

TRANSACTIONS BETWEEN PARENT & AFFILIATED ENTERPRISES

COMMENTS

- While we currently include these transactions in our IMTS, we were not in favour of updating the current recommendation to include recording of such transactions separately.
- Recording these transactions separately would require revisions to the customs documentation.

TRANSACTIONS BETWEEN PARENT & AFFILIATED ENTERPRISES

COMMENTS

- Due to the complexity of these types of transactions, to attempt to record these transactions separately could create a nightmare for Customs Departments, thereby further compromising the quality of data we now receive from Customs.

Thank You for your attention

