

# TRADE STATISTICS LESOTHO



# outline

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# Introduction

- The Lesotho Bureau of Statistics (LBOS) compiles and publishes the Foreign Trade Statistics (FTS) according to International Merchandise Trade Statistics recommendations and definitions .
- To provide a complete record of inward and outward movements of goods for Lesotho, BOS has adopted the General Trade System, which records both the imports for direct domestic use and those entered into Customs storage and the direct exports as well as re-exports.

# Data Sources

- Lesotho Revenue Authority (LRA) (**main**)
- **Secondary:**
- Department of energy for Petroleum products
- Department of mines and Geology for Diamonds
- Ministry of Agriculture for livestock and livestock products like Wool and Mohair also supplementary information on numbers, weights and quantity
- Lesotho Electricity Company for Electricity and Lesotho Highlands Development Authority for piped water
- Individual dealers or importers of some specialized import goods like petroleum products, liquor distributors and car dealers.
- BOS receives the government records on donations and other goods

# Data Preparation

- Trade statistics are a by-product of Customs records.
- The raw data for the compilation of trade statistics come from customs declaration forms filled by exporters and importers, and verified by Customs authorities.
- The BOS obtains the fourth paper copy of the original declaration forms then process them manually using Eurotrace system (Dos-based).
- Comext is used for generation of tables which are later converted to excel spread sheet for analysis and publication.



# Classification

- The data from all sources are edited and coded according to the International Trade Classifications, definitions and concepts.
- Goods are classified according to the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System .
- SITC rev.3 is used for analysis
- Imported goods are valued at cost, insurance, freight (cif) while exports are at free on board (fob).
- Imports are classified by country of origin while exports are classified by country of last known destination

# Challenges

- Uncomputerised Customs border posts which results in a High backlog
- Misclassification of Goods by importers and exporters
- Data on quantities is incomplete.

# Success

- LRA introduced statistics section which is meant to pave way for credible and timely trade statistics ,
- Data capturing at LRA customs started in May 2012 using Excel spread sheet at border posts,
- LRA is in the process of automating all border posts,
- BOS and LRA are now working together to improve Trade Statistics.



The image features a solid blue background with a wavy, undulating top edge. The color transitions from a lighter, cyan-like blue at the top to a darker, navy blue at the bottom. The text "THANK YOU" is centered in a white, serif font.

THANK YOU