

TRADE DATA QUALITY

THE ZIMBABWEAN CASE

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Outline

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Introduction

- ▣ Data captured in ASYCUDA WORLD by ZIMRA.
- ▣ Processed in EUROTRACE by ZIMSTAT.
- ▣ Currently using HS2012, most detailed at 8 digit.
- ▣ Data available on www.zimstat.co.zw

Achievements

- ▣ Coherence between ZIMRA and ZIMSTAT
 - The data set that is maintained by ZIMSTAT after processing is in line with the records that ZIMRA shares with the Ministry of Finance (MoF).
 - Some queries between ZIMRA and MoF are clarified using data published by ZIMSTAT.

Achievements (contd.)

- ▣ Trade stats concur with the statistics of major organisations that compile for specific industries.
 - e.g. Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board (TIMB) for tobacco exports, Minerals Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe (MMCZ) for mineral exports.

Achievements (contd.)

- ▣ Data at all ports is captured electronically using ASYCUDA.
- ▣ This ensures that the data from ZIMRA is ready to be shared with ZIMSTAT in the first week after the completion of each month (timeliness).

Achievements (contd.)

▣ Accuracy

- in terms of values reported. This is attributable to the fact that ZIMRA is mostly interested in values because of its mandate as a revenue collecting authority.
- with the use of the monthly average exchange rate applied by ZIMRA, values can also be reported in GBP and ZAR.
- data is also correct for key reported variables such as partner country and mode of transport.

Achievements (contd.)

- ▣ Completeness of records
 - for all the records of transactions, all of the fields are completed except for insurance and freight which for some transactions are not recorded separately.
 - it is therefore possible to report by most other variables such as partner country, mode of transport, port, etc.

Achievements (contd)

▣ Timeliness

- Preliminary monthly figures are published two weeks after the completion of each month
- Preliminary quarterly figures are published one month after the end of the quarter
- Preliminary annual figures are published three months after the completion of the year

Achievements (contd)

▣ Accessibility

- Available summarised data on www.zimstat.co.zw
- Printed reports (Statement of External Trade, Quarterly Bulletin of External Trade) available to the public from Publications Office for a small fee.
- Disseminate monthly tables to key government stakeholders (RBZ, Ministries, ZimTrade, Zeparu, international organisations) through a mailing list
- Respond via email or other electronic means to adhoc data requests

Challenges

- ▣ Outliers are usually difficult to follow up and rectify. ZIMRA is not able to follow up timeously due to resource constraints.
- ▣ Data on quantities is not of good quality.
- ▣ Limited ability to edit dataset in EUROTRACE.

Challenges (contd.)

- ▣ In a few cases the partner countries reported are questionable e.g. imports of fuel from the UK.
- ▣ Not able to accurately report imports f.o.b because most importers are declaring a single c.i.f value.

Proposed Solutions

- ▣ ZIMRA could have officers whose main responsibility is to follow up on the queries raised by ZIMSTAT.
- ▣ There is need to have a survey of exporters and importers to verify data on quantities and partner countries among other variables. provided by ZIMRA. There is need to source funding for this exercise.

Proposed Solutions (contd.)

- ▣ There is need to build capacity in editing of datasets especially use of the EDITOR among others. COMESA can assist with training.
- ▣ ZIMSTAT has communicated with ZIMRA the need to promote the isolation of insurance and freight in declarations made. ZIMRA is currently making efforts in this direction. ZIMRA system already has the provision and capability but there is need to engage importers so that they report variables separately.

Conclusion

- ▣ Have made a lot of progress in terms of accuracy, completeness, accessibility and timeliness although there is room for improvement.
- ▣ Major challenge is in the quality of data on quantities.
- ▣ Financial resources will go a long way in improving the quality of data available.

THANK YOU