



# International Trade Statistics

## Newsletter

### SPECIAL FEATURE:

## PROGRESS ON THE UPDATE OF THE IMTS COMPILERS MANUAL

### Worldwide consultation

In March 2011, the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) invited countries to participate in a worldwide consultation on the annotated draft outline of the updated International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) Compilers Manual. The purpose of the consultation was to give countries the opportunity to review the suggested contents of the 28 individual chapters of the Manual, as reflected in the draft annotated outline. Countries were requested to provide comments and suggestions in order to ensure that the Manual addresses the issues and needs of compilers of merchandise trade statistics in all countries and regions, and UNSD is very grateful to all respondents.

Of the 86 countries that returned their response forms, 49 provided comments, often giving very detailed feedback. The comments provide very important guidance and useful input for the drafting process. Both the quantitative results and the country comments show that the overwhelming majority

agree with the suggested contents of the individual chapters. Countries most frequently requested elaboration on two chapters, notably concerning data compilation for national accounts and balance of payments purposes (Chapter 24), and concerning trade indices (Chapter 27). The full report on the results of this worldwide consultation is available on the UNSD website at: [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/EG-IMTS/IMTS%202010,%20CM%20-%20Report%20Worldwide%20Consultation%20\(June%202011\).pdf](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/EG-IMTS/IMTS%202010,%20CM%20-%20Report%20Worldwide%20Consultation%20(June%202011).pdf)

### Second meeting of the EG-IMTS

The Expert Group on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (EG-IMTS) supports UNSD in the update of the IMTS Compilers Manual. In its second virtual meeting, held from 8 June to 22 July 2011, the Group reviewed the initial drafts of the first set of ten chapters of the new Manual prepared by UNSD. The experts mostly agreed with the initial draft of the ten chapters; however, this was subject to numerous comments

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### DATABASES AND PUBLICATIONS:

## 2010 INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS YEARBOOK (ITSY), VOL. I – TRADE BY COUNTRY – AVAILABLE ONLINE

2010 ITSY, Volume I – Trade by Country presents detailed data for a total of 175 countries (or areas), 93 of which have 2010 data (representing approximately 74% of 2010 world trade) on imports and exports by commodity and trading partner. All tables of Volume I were made available electronically at <http://comtrade.un.org/pb/> shortly after the completion of the manuscript.

The 2010 ITSY is being issued in two volumes which are prepared at different

points in time during 2011. Volume I – Trade by Country was compiled early in 2011 (May) to allow for the advance release of an overview of international merchandise trade in 2010 and for a much earlier publication of all available 2010 country (area) data. Volume II – Trade by Commodity, which contains detailed tables showing international trade by main commodity groups, is finalized approximately six months after the

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<http://comtrade.un.org>

All parts and tables of the Yearbook are available online:

<http://comtrade.un.org/pb/>

The analytical trade tables are published in the



### UN Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (MBS)

They are also available online at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/imts/analyticaltradetables.htm>

## PROGRESS ON THE UPDATE OF THE IMTS COMPILERS MANUAL

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and reservations which will be taken into account in the re-drafting or updating of the draft chapters. Numerous countries shared additional examples and materials concerning their national practices for inclusion in the Compilers Manual. Concrete examples are considered most useful in providing guidance to compilers of data. The report of the meeting has been made available at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/EG-IMTS/EG-IMTS%20web%20announcement.htm>

### Further process

A further virtual meeting of the EG-IMTS is planned for September 2011 to discuss the initial draft of most (but preferably all) of the remaining chapters. The EG-IMTS is expected to meet in December 2011 for a physical meeting to review and endorse the provisional draft text of the updated IMTS Compilers Manual for submission to the UN Statistical Commission in 2012 as an information item.

## 2010 INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS YEARBOOK, VOL. I - TRADE BY COUNTRY - AVAILABLE ONLINE

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completion of Volume I, since the preparation of these tables requires additional country data that normally become available later in the year. Volume II also contains updated versions of the two world trade tables published in Volume I.

The detailed information on trade of particular countries by commodity and partner (values and quantities) contained in the

tables and graphs for individual countries in Volume I and commodities in Volume II are taken from the publicly available UN Comtrade database (<http://comtrade.un.org/db/default.aspx>). Users are advised to visit UN Comtrade for any additional and more current information as it is continuously updated.

## ANALYTICAL TRADE TABLES PUBLISHED IN THE MONTHLY BULLETIN OF STATISTICS

The following analytical tables on international merchandise trade statistics have been updated since the last issue of this newsletter. They are published in the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (MBS) and are also available online at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/imts/analyticaltradetables.htm>

Table	Description	Latest data	Published
T 18	Fuel imports, developed economies: unit values, volume indices and value	1st quarter, 2011	Jun 2011
T 19	Indicators on fuel imports, developed economies	1st quarter, 2011	Jun 2011
T 35	Total imports and exports by regions and countries or areas	March 2011	Jun 2011
T 36	Total imports and exports: value, volume and unit value/price	March 2011	Jun 2011
T 37	Trade indices for countries in U.S. dollars	4th quarter, 2010	Apr 2011
T 38	External trade conversion factors by countries	1st quarter, 2011	Jun 2011
T 39	Trade indices for regions in U.S. dollars	4th quarter, 2010	May 2011
T 40	Manufactured goods exports: unit values, volume indices and value	1st quarter, 2011	Jun 2011

## EBOPS 2010 – CPC 2.0 CORRESPONDENCE TABLE NOW AVAILABLE

MSITS 2010 Online Annexes:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/TFSITS/msits2010/annexes.htm>

To know more about the activities of the TF-SITS visit the website at:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/TFSITS/default.htm>

For more about the services-related classifications, visit the **Trade Statistics Knowledge-base** at

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradekb/Default.aspx>

A draft version of the correspondence table between the new Extended Balance of Payments Services Classification (EBOPS 2010) and the Central Product Classification (CPC 2.0) has been produced by the Interagency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services and is available on its website at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/TFSITS/msits2010/annexes.htm>.

The table makes it explicit which detailed service products of the CPC are allocated to which category of the EBOPS 2010. The construction of the table is based on the detailed description of EBOPS services categories provided in the revised *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services* (MSITS 2010) and the Sixth Edition of the IMF's *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual* (BPM6), and the explanatory notes describing the services contained in each of the CPC product codes (see <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/cr/registry/cpc-2.asp>).

The guiding principle was to assign CPC product codes to only one EBOPS category. This would enable data compilers to make easy decisions when working from a CPC-based data collection to an EBOPS-based presentation of data. In a few cases however, such clear distinctions could not be made and one CPC product code had to be assigned to two or more EBOPS categories. Annotations on such cases are provided in the table.

The *EBOPS 2010 – CPC correspondence table* is one of the three online annexes of the MSITS 2010. The other annexes will relate the EBOPS 2010 respectively to the Services Sectoral Classification List (MTN.GNS/W/120) and the ISIC, Rev.4 Categories for Foreign Affiliates in services (ICFA, Rev.1). They will be posted as soon as they become available at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/TFSITS/msits2010/annexes.htm>.

### COOPERATION WITH COUNTRIES AND AGENCIES:

#### UNSD'S REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL DATA FIELDS – DISCUSSIONS WITH INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES

As indicated in the March 2011 edition of this newsletter, UNSD is requesting countries to provide their data with additional data fields according to the new recommendations for trade statistics (IMTS 2010) if such data are available. These new data fields are (i) second partner country or area, (2) second value for imports (FOB), (iii) mode of transport, and (iv) custom procedure code (or applicable transaction code). In particular, countries asked what information on customs procedures should be provided and whether there is a standard coding structure. However, while most countries are believed to follow broadly the Kyoto Convention on the Sim-

plification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures, there are significant variations in the customs procedures used in individual countries or regions. Therefore, it will require some time and effort to establish a statistical reporting of this information that satisfies the criteria of international comparability. At this time, countries are requested to provide the maximum information available on the customs procedures applied to individual transactions and a detailed description of this information. To read the full version of the data request letter, please visit: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/IMTS/datacollection.htm>.

## YOU HAVE ASKED US: SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK

We are seeking innovative ideas on how we can better serve users of the UN Comtrade database and make improvements to various aspects of the user experience. We intend to incorporate some of these ideas into the Comtrade upgrade, announced in the September 2010 issue of this newslet-

ter, which will take place over several years and incorporate significant quality improvements, as well as new data elements and features. Please send us your ideas and comments [comtrade@un.org](mailto:comtrade@un.org) with the subject "Comtrade Feedback".

## WHERE CAN I FIND METADATA FOR INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES?

The Trade Statistics Knowledgebase at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradekb/Knowledgebase/> contains dedicated country metadata pages for over 170 countries, which provide links to all available metadata. It includes not only metadata available to the Trade Statistics Branch of UNSD, but also links to selected outside sources. To find a country metadata page for a specific

country, either go within the Knowledgebase to "UN Merchandise Trade" and then to "Metadata of countries (national practices)," or enter the name of that country under "SEARCH." For further details, please see the example of the Metadata page for Slovenia at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradekb/Knowledgebase/Slovenia-Metadata?Keywords=Slovenia>

Visit our online knowledgebase:



<http://comtrade.un.org/kb>

Slovenia Metadata	
Slovenia Metadata	Details
Slovenia Metadata on International Merchandise Trade Statistics	Last Modified: Friday, October 15, 2010
<b>Comtrade Explanatory Notes</b>	Last Modified By: Editor SG
Metadata on (i) Trade System, (ii) Trade Valuation, (iii) Commodity Classification, (iv) Trading Partners (Origin/LastKnownDestination), and (v) Exchange Rate.	Type: INFO
<a href="http://comtrade.un.org/db/mr/daExpNoteDetail.aspx?r=705">http://comtrade.un.org/db/mr/daExpNoteDetail.aspx?r=705</a>	Article not rated yet.
	Article has been viewed 742 times.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### UPDATE: UNSD SEMINAR ON IMTS, VILNIUS, LITHUANIA, 26-30 SEPTEMBER 2011

As a follow-up to the Global Forum on Trade Statistics ([http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/s\\_geneva2011/outcome.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/s_geneva2011/outcome.htm)) which took place in February 2011 in Geneva, UNSD will organize a seminar on merchandise trade statistics for countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia from 26 to 30 September in Vilnius, Lithuania. This seminar is organized in cooperation with Eurostat and

Statistics Lithuania. It will focus on the implementation of International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions 2010 (IMTS 2010), the new international recommendations, with emphasis on linking trade and other economic statistics. For more information please go to: [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/workshops\\_imts.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/workshops_imts.htm).

To learn more about upcoming IMTS workshops, please visit:

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/workshops\\_imts.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/workshops_imts.htm).

## EDITORIAL NOTE

The Trade Statistics Newsletter is a quarterly publication prepared by the International Merchandise Trade Statistics Section of the United Nations Statistics Division – Department of Economic and Social Affairs. This Newsletter is not an official document of the United Nations nor does it express the official position of the United Nations. Editorial team: C. Sean Lovell and Matthias Reister.

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