

Seminar on International Trade Statistics
Implementation of IMTS 2010 and follow-up to the Global Forum
26 – 30 September 2011, Vilnius, Lithuania

Agenda item 8:
IMTS 2010 and its implementation



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United Nations Statistics Division
Workshop IMTS, Vilnius, 26-30 September 2011

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1. Decisions by the Statistical Commission
2. Introducing IMTS 2010
3. IMTS 2010 implementation
4. Results from IMTS 2010 Implementation questionnaire

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1. Decision of the Statistical Commission at its 41 session (23-26 February 2010)



The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Expressed high appreciation of the efforts undertaken by UNSD in the organization of the efficient revision process including the conduct of the worldwide consultation and commended the Expert Group and Task Force on international merchandise trade statistics and countries for their contributions;
- (b) Adopted International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions 2010 (IMTS 2010) and endorsed the implementation programme [...], including the preparation of the revised IMTS Compilers Manual and continued technical assistance activities;

1. Decision of the Statistical Commission at its 41 session (23-26 February 2010)



(continued)

- (c) Requested the Expert Group and Task Force to continue their work, focus on the implementation of IMTS 2010 and give a due consideration to national circumstances, harmonization of national and regional compilation practices and the conduct of related comparison studies;
- (d) Requested that more attention is given to strengthening institutional arrangements in countries to ensure that proper national coordination mechanisms exist for the compilation of high quality international merchandise trade statistics; also, cooperation with compilers of statistics on international trade in services, balance of payments and national accounts should be ensured;

1. Decision of the Statistical Commission at its 41 session (23-26 February 2010)



(continued)

- (e) Recognized the importance of UN Comtrade as the global database and information platform on international merchandise trade and requested UNSD to enhance its features and metadata;
- (f) Advised that in the future research agenda a due consideration is given to the emerging trade policy needs and the globalization issues; in this context, linkage with business statistics and measuring merchandise trade in terms of value added should be further explored.

2. IMTS 2010

IMTS 2010: a 2 year long journey with broad support from countries

- Two rounds of worldwide consultation
 - In 2008 on 17 critical issues which define scope of revised recommendations – 115 countries participated- over 1,000 detailed comments
 - In 2009 on the full draft of the revised recommendations – over 100 countries participated, strongly supporting the provided draft text and the contents of the individual chapters (Countries saw it as a comprehensive and balanced as well as containing necessary updates and new recommendations. At the same time, countries confirmed that the main elements of the conceptual framework should be maintained.)
- 2nd meeting of EG-IMTS in November 2009
 - endorsed the draft text of IMTS 2010 subject to several amendments and clarifications

IMTS 2010 - overview: Continuity of the Conceptual Framework

The 6 core elements are retained:

- 1) **Scope**: definition of the scope of international merchandise trade statistics as recording of goods which add to or subtract from the stock of material resources of a country by entering (imports) or leaving (exports) its economic territory;
- 2) **Trade system**: preference for the application of general system;
- 3) **Harmonized System (HS)**: use for basic data collection;
- 4) **Statistical value**: use the FOB-type statistical value for exports and CIF-type statistical value for imports;
- 5) **Quantity**: use of net weight and the WCO quantity units;
- 6) **Partner country**: country of goods origin (imports) and the last known destination (exports).

IMTS 2010 - overview: Update of 4 core elements, plus 4 new data fields

- 1) Scope (Update): Clarifications, separate identification of certain transactions;
 - 2) Valuation (Update and **New data field**): Imports on the FOB basis in addition to the standard CIF valuation; valuation of specific categories of goods;
 - 3) Quantity (Update): Recommendation further clarified;
 - 4) Partner country (Update and **New data field**) Recommendation for the recording of a second partner country (country of consignment);
- ❖ Mode of transport (**New data field**): Add as additional data dimension;
 - ❖ Customs procedure codes (**New data field**): Customs procedures applied to individual transactions to be made part of the data set provided by customs.

IMTS 2010 - overview: Recommendations in 6 new areas

- ❖ **U**se of different data sources;
- ❖ **E**stablishment of necessary institutional arrangements;
- ❖ **D**ata quality;
- ❖ **M**etadata compilation and dissemination;
- ❖ **D**issemination issues: confidentiality for merchandise trade statistics, time table for data release, revision policy;
- ❖ **L**inking trade and business statistics.

IMTS 2010 - overview: Responding to the needs of balance of payments and national accounts

- ❖ **Separate recording of goods for processing without change of ownership and trade with related parties is encouraged in IMTS2010**
- ❖ **IMTS2010 recommends symmetrical recording of a number of transactions previously treated differently in export and import statistics (i.e. bunkers and stores)**
- ❖ **Encouragement to cooperate with BOP/NA compilers with respect to the recording of goods of special interest (i.e. media)**
- ❖ **IMTS2010, Annex F provides detailed description of conceptual differences between IMTS2010 and BPM6/2008SNA**

3. IMTS 2010 Implementation

3. Implementation programme

1. Updating the IMTS Compilers Manual

Goal: To provide further and more detailed explanation of certain recommendations and practical guidance by describing good practices applicable under different circumstances. (planned for end of 2011)

Schedule:

- September 2010: Agreement on initial draft outline (EG-IMTS)
- January-February 2011: First virtual meeting of the EG-IMTS on Draft annotated outline
- March-May 2011: Worldwide consultation on the Draft annotated outline
- June-July 2011: Second virtual meeting of the EG-IMTS on the first set of draft chapters
- September-October 2011: Third virtual meeting of the EG-IMTS on the second set of draft chapters
- December 2011 (scheduled): Meeting of the EG-IMTS on the full draft
- January 2012 (scheduled): Submission of draft text to Statistical Commission

3. Implementation programme

1. Updating the IMTS Compilers Manual

Draft table of contents:

- | | | |
|---|----------------|---|
| - | Part I | Legal framework and data sources |
| - | Chapter 1 | Legal framework |
| - | Chapter 2 | Customs declarations and related customs records |
| - | Chapter 3 | Non-customs administrative sources |
| - | Chapter 4 | Enterprise surveys |
| - | Part II | Data compilation |
| - | Chapter 5 | Institutional arrangements |
| - | Chapter 6 | Statistical territory and organization of data collection |
| - | Chapter 7 | Integration of data from different sources |
| - | Chapter 8 | Data processing and database management |
| - | Chapter 9 | Data quality: assurance, measurement and reporting |
| - | Chapter 10 | Data compilation in the case of customs unions |
| - | Chapter 11 | Integrating trade and business statistics |

3. Implementation programme

1. Updating the IMTS Compilers Manual

Draft table of contents: (continued)

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|
| – | Part III | Compilation of particular data items |
| – | Chapter 12 | Time of recording |
| – | Chapter 13 | Commodity classification |
| – | Chapter 14 | Valuation |
| – | Chapter 15 | Quantity measurement |
| – | Chapter 16 | Partner country |
| – | Chapter 17 | Mode of transport |

3. Implementation programme

1. Updating the IMTS Compilers Manual

Draft table of contents: (continued)

- | | | |
|---|----------------|--|
| – | Part IV | Compilation of data on trade in selected categories of goods |
| – | Chapter 18 | Scope of IMTS |
| – | Chapter 19 | Goods for processing |
| – | Chapter 20 | Goods which cross borders as a result of transactions between related parties |
| – | Chapter 21 | Electricity, gas, oil and water |
| – | Chapter 22 | Ships and aircraft |
| – | Chapter 23 | Other special cases (Goods acquired by all categories of travellers, Media, whether or not recorded, waste, fishing products, leasing, returned goods) |
| – | Chapter 24 | Overview of data compilation for national accounts and balance of payment purposes |

3. Implementation programme

1. Updating the IMTS Compilers Manual

Draft table of contents: (continued)

- **Part V** **Metadata and dissemination**
- Chapter 25 Metadata
- Chapter 26 Dissemination

- **Part VI** **External trade indices and seasonally adjusted data**
- Chapter 27 External trade indices
- Chapter 28 Seasonally adjusted data

3. Implementation programme

2. Upgrade and enhancement of UN Comtrade 2010-2013

(i) Inclusion of new data variables recommended in IMTS 2010

- **Mode of transport**
- **Country of consignment as second partner country**
- **FOB-type value for imports**
- **Customs procedure Codes / Identifier for special transactions (intra-firm trade, goods for processing etc.)**

(ii) Adding monthly and quarterly trade data

→ 74 countries provided data for testing purposes

(iii) Significant enhancement of metadata

- New Trade Statistics Knowledgebase has been established
- Metadata reference pages for 187 countries have been added

3. Implementation programme

3. Technical assistance

- Tentatively planned to hold two workshops per year and deliver training to countries which need it most by the end of 2012
- In collaboration with other international organizations
- Possible development of E-Learning, Knowledgebase etc.

4. Future research agenda and inter-national cooperation

- To address imbalances in partner statistics
- **Finding innovative methods of linking trade and business statistics in the context of an integrated approach to economic statistics,**
- Trade in terms of value added and to clarify the international production chain,
- Good practices in the compilation of the trade indices and various analytical indicators and
- **Efficient ways of automated data transfer between countries and international organizations.**

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4. Results from IMTS 2010 Implementation questionnaire

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4. IMTS Implementation questionnaire – May 2010

- In May 2010 the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) informed countries about the new recommendations.
- Requested to complete a brief questionnaire on the implementation of the new recommendations.
- By the end of August 2010 a total of 100 countries replied to the questionnaire, 28 developed and 72 developing and transition countries
- UNSD will take the results of the questionnaire into account in its activities for the implementation of IMTS 2010 and share and discuss them with its partner organizations on international and regional level.

4. IMTS Implementation questionnaire – Results

Awareness

63 % replied that IMTS 2010 implementation has already been discussed in the office	82% of developed countries	56% of developing/transition
33 % indicated that IMTS 2010 implementation was discussed with other agencies	50% of developed countries	26% of developing/transition
...but 47 % wanted to do so in the near future	14% of developed countries	60% of developing/transition

Plans for implementation

32% expect to implement most of the new recommendations for reporting year 2011 !	36% of developed countries	31% of developing/transition
And 34% for the reporting year 2012 !	14% of developed countries	42% of developing/transition

4. IMTS Implementation questionnaire – Results

Critical factors for implementation

An overwhelming majority (more than 80%) of developing and transition countries considered each of the four questioned factors as critical for IMTS implementation (rated 5 or 4 out of 5).

- **cooperation with other agencies**
- **guidance on how to implement the recommendations**
- **mobilization of the required resources**
- **raising awareness**

Developed countries rated these factors as less important than developing and transition countries – **EU regulations** and **burden on respondents** were mentioned as important.

Burden on respondents was also cited as critical factor by developing and transition countries. Several developing and transition countries pointed out that **advocacy** (raising awareness) and **interagency cooperation** are critical factors for implementation

4. IMTS Implementation questionnaire – Results

Materials and support

83% of countries viewed the availability of the updated IMTS Compilers Manual as being of high importance (rated 5 or 4 out of 5) for their office	71% of developed countries	88% of developing/transition
73% of countries considered the availability of additional information resources such as website, knowledgebase and hotline as being of high importance (rated 4 or 5 out of 5).	64% of developed countries	76% of developing/transition

The overwhelming majority of developing and transition countries considered technical assistance activities such as **workshops and study visits** of high importance for the implementation of IMTS 2010. For developed countries technical assistance activities are far less important.

Thank you for your attention!