



SPECIAL FEATURE:

UPDATE OF THE IMTS 2010 COMPILERS MANUAL

The United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-first session (23-26 February 2010) adopted "International merchandise trade statistics: concepts and definitions 2010" (IMTS 2010) and endorsed the proposed implementation programme, including the preparation of the revised International Merchandise Trade Statistics Compilers Manual (IMTS Compilers Manual).

The update of the IMTS Compilers Manual is the cornerstone of UNSD's action plan for the implementation of IMTS 2010. It will contain further and more detailed explanation of certain recommendations and provide practical guidance for compilers by describing good/best practices applicable under different circumstances.

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) is supported in the update of the IMTS Compilers Manual by the Expert Group on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (EG-IMTS) which assisted in the revision of the recommendations for IMTS and which met for the first time in December 2007.

During the summer of 2010, UNSD con-

sulted with the members of the EG-IMTS on the draft chapter outline for the updated IMTS Compilers Manual. The first virtual meeting of the EG-IMTS on the update of the IMTS Compilers Manual is scheduled to start on 12 January 2011 and will discuss the contents of the individual chapters as reflected in a draft annotated outline provided by UNSD.

The structure of the updated Compilers Manual is largely similar to the structure of the original Compilers Manual of 2004 with amendments needed (i) to incorporate guidance on the implementation of new recommendations and encouragements, and (ii) to reflect new good practices developed by countries in recent years. The Compilers Manual follows the logic of the data compilation process and starts with the legal framework and data sources (Part I). Then, it covers the overall compilation process (Part II) followed by compilation issues regarding specific data items (Part III) and specific categories of goods (Part IV). The additional parts Metadata and dissemination (Part V) and External

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DATABASES AND PUBLICATIONS:

2009 INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS YEARBOOK (2009 ITSY), VOLUME II - TRADE BY COMMODITY

NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

The 2009 International Trade Statistics Yearbook (2009 ITSY), Volume II - Trade by Commodity contains detailed tables showing international trade for individual commodities (3-digit SITC groups) in 2009 and eleven world trade tables covering trade values and indices with data up to 2009. Volume II has been compiled approximately six months after the submission of Volume I (in November 2010) as the prepara-

tion of these tables requires and benefits from the additional country data which, normally, become available later in the year. Volume II contains updated versions of the two world trade tables A and D published in Volume I.

Beginning with the 2008 edition, Volume II is published in a redesigned format in respect to the presentation of

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Editorial note

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<http://data.un.org/>

For more information regarding IMTS 2010:



<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/EG-IMTS/EG-IMTS%20web%20announcement.htm>

UPDATE OF THE IMTS 2010 COMPILERS MANUAL

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trade indices and seasonally adjusted data (Part VI) cover dissemination issues. The chapter outline is shown in the box below.

It is planned to conduct a worldwide consultation on the updated draft annotated outline resulting from this meeting in March/April 2011. Two further virtual meetings of the EG-IMTS are planned dur-

ing 2011 (May and September) to discuss the drafts of the individual 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.

Introduction: IMTS 2010 and the national programmes of trade statistics

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 (Brazil)

- Chapter 10 Data compilation in the case of customs unions (Czech Republic)

- Chapter 11 Integrating trade and business statistics

Part III Compilation of particular data items

- Chapter 12 Time of recording
- Chapter 13 Commodity classification (United Kingdom)
- Chapter 14 Valuation (Germany, Brazil)

- Chapter 15 Quantity measurement

- Chapter 16 Partner country

- Chapter 17 Mode of transport

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

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

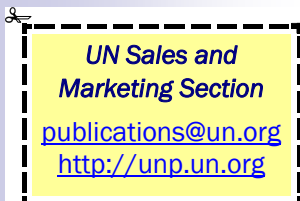
COOPERATION WITH COUNTRIES AND AGENCIES: WORKSHOP ON IMTS RECOMMENDATIONS AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION IN COUNTRIES OF THE SUB-SAHARAN REGION, LUSAKA, 1-5 NOVEMBER, 2010

Find out more about the Lusaka workshop at:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/WS%20Lusaka10/ws_imts_lusaka10.htm

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) organized this workshop in cooperation with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). The workshop in which 22 countries and several regional and international organizations participated discussed the updated and new recommendations for International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS 2010) and their implementation in countries of the Sub-Saharan region. In addition, the workshop aimed to identify issues and best practices for inclusion in the up-

dated IMTS Compilers Manual. One of the main conclusions of this workshop was that the implementation of many of the new and updated recommendations depends on the cooperation and discussions with the agencies involved in compilation, in particular with customs and that, in general, countries want or plan to implement the new recommendations. The full report of the meeting and all meeting presentations are available at the UNSD website at: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/workshops_imts.htm



The analytical trade tables are published in the

[UN Monthly Bulletin of Statistics \(MBS\)](#)



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

DATABASES AND PUBLICATIONS:

2009 INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS YEARBOOK

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data for individual commodities (3-digit SITC groups) with the aim to provide a more analytical and condensed view of the exports and imports of a specific commodity (commodity trade profile). Overall, data for a total of 258 commodities are shown in Volume II. The information for 2009 is based on data provided by 130 countries (areas), representing 92.6% of world trade of 2009 (as available by mid of November 2010). All tables of Volume II have been made available electronically shortly after the completion of the manuscript at: <http://comtrade.un.org/pb/>.

The 2009 ITSY is being issued in two volumes which were prepared at different points in time during 2010. Volume I -Trade by Country has been compiled early in 2010 (in May 2010) to allow for an advanced release of an overview of interna-

tional merchandise trade in 2009 and for a much earlier publication of the available 2009 country (area) data.

The detailed information about the 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 has been taken from the publicly available database UN Comtrade (<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.

The printed publication is expected to become available in approximately six months from now, its electronic (pdf-) version much earlier. Please contact the United Nations Sales and Marketing Section using the links at left.

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	3rd quarter 2010	Dec 2010
T 19	Indicators on fuel imports, developed economies	3rd quarter 2010	Dec 2010
T 35	Total imports and exports by regions and countries or areas	3rd quarter 2010	Dec 2010
T 36	Total imports and exports: value, volume and unit value/price	3rd quarter 2010	Dec 2010
T 37	Trade indices for countries in U.S. dollars	2nd quarter, 2010	Oct 2010
T 38	External trade conversion factors by countries	3rd quarter, 2010	Dec 2010
T 39	Trade indices for regions in U.S. dollars	2nd quarter, 2010	Nov 2010
T 40	Manufactured goods exports: unit values, volume indices and value	3rd quarter, 2010	Dec 2010

YOU HAVE ASKED US:

TRADE IN ELECTRICAL ENERGY

Q: Does the trade value for electrical energy (HS 1996 code 271600) include its distribution value in the Comtrade database?

A: IMTS 2010, para. 4.15(c) offers guidance on this matter. While there are practical problems with the valuation of trade in electrical energy, it is recommended that electricity, gas, oil and water be valued net

of any delivery charges not included according to FOB- or CIF-type valuation. The recommended CIF-type valuation for imports does entail delivery charges up to the border of the importing country, and the FOB-type valuation recommended for exports includes delivery charges up to the border of the exporting country.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

FIRST VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE EG-IMTS ON THE UPDATE OF THE IMTS COMPILERS MANUAL, 12 JANUARY – 23 FEBRUARY 2011

The objective of this first virtual meeting of the Expert Group on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (EG-IMTS) on the update of the IMTS Compilers Manual is to review and discuss the first annotated draft outline prepared by UNSD for chapters 1 to 28 of the updated IMTS Compilers Manual

(IMTS, CM, Rev.1) and to reach an overall agreement on the scope and contents of the individual chapters. The meeting is scheduled to start on 12 January with the posting of the annotated draft outline and expected to conclude end of February with the posting of the final report.

GLOBAL FORUM ON TRADE STATISTICS, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 2-4 FEBRUARY 2011

Trade statisticians around the world are working tirelessly in getting the numbers right, but are we measuring the right numbers? This is the overarching theme of this Global Forum "Measuring Global Trade – Do we have the right numbers?" organized jointly by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the Statistical Office of the

European Communities (Eurostat), and in collaboration with the World Trade Organization (WTO). The forum will take place on 2-4 February 2011 in Geneva at the WTO. Initially this event was planned to take place on 25-27 January in Istanbul but was moved to Geneva.

42ND SESSION OF THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION, NEW YORK, 22-25 FEBRUARY 2011

The 42nd session of the Statistical Commission will be held at United Nations Headquarters, New York from 22 to 25 February 2011. This year trade statistics will not be on the agenda. Items of interest

for trade statisticians are the Report of the Friends of the Chair on integrated economic statistics and the Report of the Secretary-General on short-term economic indicators.

MEETING OF TASK FORCE ON INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS (TF-IMTS), LUXEMBOURG, 28-29 MARCH 2011

The focus of this meeting is expected to be on the update of the IMTS Compilers Manual and other implementation activities for the new recommendations contained in

IMTS 2010. Following the TF-IMTS meeting a Joint Session of the Task Forces on IMTS and of Statistics on International Trade in Services will take place on 30 March 2011.

Visit our Knowledge Base at:

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

IMTS 2010:

The new recommendations on international merchandise trade statistics

(<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/EG-IMTS/EG-IMTS%20web%20announcement.htm>)

Find out more about the Global Forum at:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/s_geneva2011/geneva2011.htm

Find out more about the Statistical Commission:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/commission.htm>

EDITORIAL NOTE

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