



# International Trade Statistics

## Newsletter

### SPECIAL FEATURE:

#### JOINT UNSD/INEC EXERCISE OF LINKING TRADE AND BUSINESS STATISTICS EXERCISES IN COSTA RICA

Linking trade and business statistics is a central element of the implementation strategy of IMTS 2010, and is crucial to provide analysts and decision makers with relevant information on the new direction of international trade statistics and economic globalization. In this context, users increasingly demand better and more detailed information on trade by industry, even at the enterprise level.

As a follow-up to the Workshop on Business Registers that took place in Washington DC, USA on 16 September 2012, and to the Regional Workshop on IMTS for Latin America in San José, Costa Rica, from 1 to 5 October 2012, UNSD has initiated a project to support the National Statistical Office of Costa Rica (INEC) in their efforts to link Costa Rica's trade statistics with enterprise data from the National Statistical Business Register.

The results of a first exercise linking and

analysing Costa Rica's detailed exports statistics of April 2012 to the business register were presented in a report in December 2012. The first results of the linking exercise are very encouraging, showing high matching rates for exporters and moderate rates on the import side. While the linking of data is expected to deliver standard output tables in the longer term, in the short term the results will be fed into a project led by the Ministry of Foreign Trade that is designed to upgrade the exporting industries of Costa Rica in the global value chains.

A technical mission regarding the linking of trade and business statistics to INEC, the national statistical office of Costa Rica, and a meeting with various stakeholders in the field of international trade is planned for the first half of 2013. INEC is committed to continue working on this project with the technical guidance and assistance from UNSD.

### DATABASES AND PUBLICATIONS:

#### 2011 INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS YEARBOOK (ITSY), VOL. II – TRADE BY COMMODITY – AVAILABLE ONLINE

2011 ITSY, Volume II – Trade by Commodity presents detailed data for individual commodities (3-digit SITC groups) with the 2011 data on imports and exports by country (or area). Overall, data for a total of 258 commodities are shown in Volume II. The information is based on data provided by 137 countries (areas), representing 95.6% of world trade of 2011. Furthermore, to provide comprehensive view and coverage for each commodity, the non-reporting countries and areas were estimated by UNSD. All world and commodity tables of Volume II are made available electronically on [http://](http://comtrade.un.org/pb/WorldTables.aspx?y=2011)

[comtrade.un.org/pb/WorldTables.aspx?y=2011](http://comtrade.un.org/pb/WorldTables.aspx?y=2011) and <http://comtrade.un.org/pb/CommodityPagesNew.aspx?y=2011> respectively.

World Table A (Total imports and exports by regions and countries or areas) in the yearbook showed that the total value of world trade reached U.S. dollars 18.0 trillion in 2011, measured in terms of exports valued FOB at the border of the exporting country with the increase of 19.3 percent compared with the previous year. The biggest exporter in 2011 with exports of U.S. dollar 1,899 billion was China, followed by the United

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## 2011 INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS YEARBOOK (ITSY), VOL. II – TRADE BY COMMODITY – AVAILABLE ONLINE

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States with U.S. dollar 1,480 billion and Germany with U.S. dollar 1,475 billion. The United States was the biggest importer with imports of U.S. dollar 2,266 billion in 2011 which resulted in a trade deficit of U.S. dollar 785 billion, while Germany and China recorded trade surpluses of U.S. dollar 220 billion and 156 billion respectively. The share of total exports of developed economies decreased from 65.1 percent in 2000 to 51.8 percent in 2011.

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/>). Users are advised to visit UN Comtrade for any additional and more current information as it is continuously updated. In addition, for more detailed information users are requested to refer to the introduction.

All parts and tables of the Yearbook are available online:

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



<http://comtrade.un.org>

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>

## 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, 2012	Dec 2012
T 19	Indicators on fuel imports, developed economies	3rd quarter, 2012	Dec 2012
T 35	Total imports and exports by regions and countries or areas	Sep 2012	Dec 2012
T 36	Total imports and exports: value, volume and unit value/price	Sep 2012	Dec 2012
T 37	Trade indices for countries in U.S. dollars	2nd quarter, 2012	Oct 2012
T 38	External trade conversion factors by countries	3rd quarter, 2012	Dec 2012
T 39	Trade indices for regions in U.S. dollars	2nd quarter, 2012	Nov 2012
T 40	Manufactured goods exports: unit values, volume indices and value	3rd quarter, 2012	Dec 2012

## REGIONAL SEMINAR ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS, BOGOTA, COLOMBIA, 11 – 14 DECEMBER 2012

UNSD and the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) jointly organized a training workshop on compilation issues of MSITS 2010 for Latin American and Caribbean countries from 11 to 14 December 2012 at DANE Headquarters in Bogota, Colombia.

The agenda of the workshop covered topics such as: the general framework of MSITS 2010, the main data collection and data processing issues with special attention to

enterprise surveys and the use of ITRS, the compilation issues related to measuring Travel services and the Tourism-related international trade in services, and some cross-cutting issues such as quality management, meta-data and the use of information technology.

Further information is available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/workshops/Bogota2012/default.htm>

## REGIONAL SEMINAR ON INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS, SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA, 1 – 5 OCTOBER 2012

More information on IMTS international cooperation and assistance activities is available online:

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/imts/intl\\_cooperation.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/imts/intl_cooperation.htm)

International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions 2010 (IMTS 2010) available at

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp?id=449>

All previous newsletters are available online at:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/newsletter.htm>

From 1 to 5 October 2012, the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) organized in San Jose, Costa Rica, a workshop for Latin American countries on the “Implementation of IMTS 2010 and a new vision for trade statistics”, in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas y Censos (INEC) of Costa Rica. The purpose of this workshop was to provide guidance on the implementation of the new and updated recommendations of International Merchandise Trade Statistics, Concepts and Definitions 2010 (IMTS 2010) in the region, including the compilation of the additional data items, the linking of trade and business statistics, and data quality, among others.

Sixteen countries of Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela) participated in the workshop and were represented by at least one staff member from their national statistical agency responsible for the overall IMTS compilation and dissemination. Besides ECLAC, also ALADI, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and the IMF's Regional Technical Assistance Center for Central America, Panama and Dominican Republic (CAPTAC-DR) took active part in the workshop.

Each new or updated recommendation from IMTS 2010 was introduced by UNSD, followed by at least one country presentation on the corresponding national practic-

es. Also, guided small-group and round-table discussions on the status of IMTS 2010 implementation in all countries and on the issues encountered allowed to exchange experiences and to provide guidance and clarifications.

As result of this workshop numerous countries indicated their plans to strengthen their efforts to implement IMTS 2010, having now much greater awareness of its recommendations and encouragements. UNSD gave additional presentations on its activities in trade statistics and on the revised IMTS 2010 and its implementation, including the current project to upgrade UN Comtrade and the revised IMTS Compilers Manual. ECLAC, ALADI and IADB gave presentations on their activities and trade databases, while CAPTAC-DR provided a presentation on their capacity building activities related to the treatment of goods for processing.

Countries are eager to implement all new recommendations contained in IMTS 2010, although it is a challenging task. UNSD will continue encouraging and supporting countries in this endeavour through various means.

To learn more about activities of the Statistics Division on trade statistics, please visit:

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

## EDITORIAL NOTE

The Trade Statistics Newsletter is a semiannual 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: Kenneth Iversen and Markie Muryawan.

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