National Practices in Compilation and Dissemination of External Trade Index Numbers

A Technical Report

\[ \sum \frac{P_n Q_n}{P_o Q_n} \sum \frac{P_n Q_o}{P_o Q_o} \]
National Practices in Compilation and Dissemination of External Trade Index Numbers

A Technical Report
The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat is a vital interface between global policies in the economic, social and environmental spheres and national action. The Department works in three main interlinked areas: (i) it compiles, generates and analyses a wide range of economic, social and environmental data and information on which States Members of the United Nations draw to review common problems and to take stock of policy options; (ii) it facilitates the negotiations of Member States in many intergovernmental bodies on joint courses of action to address ongoing or emerging global challenges; and (iii) it advises interested Governments on the ways and means of translating policy frameworks developed in United Nations conferences and summits into programmes at the country level and, through technical assistance, helps build national capacities.

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Details and percentages do not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

“CN” refers to Combined Nomenclature, an eight-digit classification created by the European Union, which takes the six-digit Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System as its starting point. For example, “CN8” signifies “CN, eight-digit level”.

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>ASYCUDA</td>
<td>Automated System for Customs Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEC</td>
<td>Classification by Broad Economic Categories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CESTAT</td>
<td>Central European Cooperation in Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIS</td>
<td>Commonwealth of Independent States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CN</td>
<td>Combined Nomenclature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPA</td>
<td>Statistical Classification of Products by Activity in the European Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPC</td>
<td>Central Product Classification</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>f.o.b.</td>
<td>free on board</td>
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<tr>
<td>HS</td>
<td>Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intrastat</td>
<td>Intra-community trade statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISIC</td>
<td>International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NACE Rev.1</td>
<td>Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SITC</td>
<td>Standard International Trade Classification</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCTION

1. At its twenty-ninth session, in 1997, the Statistical Commission decided that one of the priority activities in the area of international merchandise trade statistics should be the collection of technical information on the index numbers of international trade statistics. Following that decision, the United Nations Statistics Division conducted a survey to collect information on national practices in the compilation and dissemination of index numbers of external trade.

2. A questionnaire was sent to a number of countries at the beginning of 1999. Between 1999 and 2002, the Division corresponded with those countries to seek clarification on their responses to the questionnaire, to request additional feedback from them, and obtained further information from relevant national publications. By December 2002, the Division had received responses on compilation practices from a total of 76 countries and one customs union.

3. The present report describes the compilation practices of each respondent according to the following characteristics:
   (a) Index number series produced;
   (b) Source of information;
   (c) Index calculation methods;
   (d) Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country;
   (e) Release dates;
   (f) Revision policy;
   (g) Dissemination;
   (h) Compiling agency and contact information.

   The results of the survey are summarized below, and descriptions of national practices are contained in the body of the report.

   Index number series produced

4. All 77 respondents compile unit value and/or price indices. Of these, 75 per cent calculate unit value indices only, 17 per cent price indices only and 8 per cent both unit value and price indices. Volume index numbers are produced by 79 per cent of the respondents.

5. Ninety-six per cent of the respondents construct indices for total exports and imports while the remaining 4 per cent compile indices for imports only. Ninety-five per cent of the respondents compile indices by various commodity classifications, the most common of which are the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), used by 45 per cent of the respondents; the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS), used by 19 per cent; and the Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC), used by 16 per cent. Many also compile indices according to either national or international classifications of industrial activities (21 per cent).

6. All of the respondents produce series of annual indices. Sixteen per cent produce annual series only, 34 per cent produce both annual and quarterly series, and 36 per cent produce annual, quarterly and monthly series.

   Source of information

7. Ninety-five per cent of the respondents use customs records, and for 60 per cent of those respondents, customs records are the sole source of data. For 35 per cent of the respondents, customs records are supplemented by other sources such as price surveys or the reports of various governmental agencies or commercial organizations. Only 5 per cent of the respondents use price surveys as the sole source of data.

   Index calculation method

8. Unit value indices, price indices and volume index numbers are calculated by applying Laspeyres, Paasche or Fisher formulae. Volume index numbers are also derived as quotients of value index numbers and unit value index numbers. Table 1 illustrates the proportion of respondents that use the various formula combinations. The combination most frequently used

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(25 per cent of the respondents) is a Paasche unit value or price index number and a Laspeyres volume index number. Fourteen per cent of the respondents calculate a Laspeyres index number for the unit value or price index and for the volume index, while 9 per cent of the respondents employ a Fisher unit value or price index and a derived volume index. Nine per cent of the respondents use multiple formulae to calculate unit value or price index numbers and volume index numbers. Some of the respondents use fixed base (direct) indices while others use chained indices; however, the information provided was insufficient to permit calculation of those percentages.

Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations

9. The problems most frequently encountered in the compilation of index numbers of external trade are:

(a) Data entry errors and omissions;
(b) Incorrect commodity coding and/or description;
(c) Changes in HS;
(d) Commodity groups too heterogeneous at certain levels of SITC;
(e) Inaccuracy and inconsistency of quantity data for selected commodities;
(f) Lack of adjustment for quality change.

10. Additional problems encountered by many of the respondents are:

(a) Inability to compile seasonally adjusted indices;
(b) Lack of experienced personnel or experts to train existing staff;
(c) Uncertainty regarding treatment of extreme unit value relatives, including selection of the upper and lower limits of acceptable relatives;
(d) Determining whether or not a particular tariff item is representative;
(e) Lack of up-to-date technology and/or funds;
(f) Accounting for exchange rate fluctuations; and
(g) Selection or design of appropriate software.

Release dates

11. Table 2 shows the time lag between the end of the reference month and the availability of monthly, quarterly and annual indices. In most cases, monthly and quarterly indices are available within 60 days of the end of the reference month. Annual indices are, in the majority of cases, released within 46 to 90 days. Only 28 per cent of the respondents take more than three months to release their annual index numbers.
Revision policy

12. Of the 69 per cent of respondents that revise their indices, 24 per cent do so only if and when trade or other related data are revised, while 45 per cent set a fixed month for a final revision. For the latter group, monthly and quarterly data are revised continually throughout the year, or at the end of every quarter, and the final revision month ranges from February to December of the following year. Respondents that rely solely on final trade data to compile their index numbers do not revise those numbers.

Dissemination

13. Dissemination of indices normally includes their provision to various governmental agencies, the business community and the general public. Nine per cent of the respondents, however, do not disseminate their indices either to the business community or to the general public. While most of the respondents publish their indices in monthly, quarterly and annual reports, about 43 per cent disseminate them via web sites as well.

Compiling agency and contact information

14. For 84 per cent of the respondents, the national statistical office is the compiling agency. For the remainder, central banks, customs administrations and specialized governmental organizations act as the compiling agencies. Contact information on the compiling agencies can be found in the body of the present report.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time lag after the end of the reference month</th>
<th>All respondents (percentage)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monthly indices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 days</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-30 days</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-45 days</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46-60 days</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61-90 days</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 days</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled from country responses to questionnaire.
COUNTRY RESPONSES
ALBANIA

1. **Index number series produced**
   Quarterly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:
   - By section and chapter of HS
   - By total

2. **Source of information**
   Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**
   Unit value: Paasche
   Volume: Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**

   **Limitation:**
   - Indices are not seasonally adjusted. Price trends for commodities with seasonal patterns may therefore require a longer time-span for proper analysis.

   **Problems:**
   - Lack of trained personnel
   - Treatment of extreme unit value relatives and definition of upper and lower limits of acceptable price relatives
   - Determining whether or not a tariff number is representative

5. **Release dates**
   Quarterly data are released on the twentieth day of the second month of the quarter following the reference quarter, except in the case of the fourth quarter. Fourth quarter and annual data are released on 15 March of the following year.

6. **Revision policy**
   Quarterly and monthly data for the year are finalized in June of the following year.

7. **Dissemination**
   Indices are used internally for the national accounts sector of the Institute of Statistics of Albania. The International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Ministry of Finance of Albania and the Bank of Albania also receive the index number data.
8. **Compiling agency and contact information**

Agency: Institute of Statistics of Albania  
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E-mail: amara@instat.gov.al, ljano@instat.gov.al

**ARGENTINA**

1. **Index number series produced**

Quarterly and annual price indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:
- By BEC, for exports  
  - Primary products  
  - Manufacture of agricultural products  
  - Manufacture of goods of industrial origin  
  - Mineral oil  
- By principal usage, for imports

2. **Source of information**

Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**

Price: Paasche  
Volume: Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**

No information provided

5. **Release dates**

Data are available 20 days after the close of the quarter.

6. **Revision policy**

No information provided

7. **Dissemination**

- Press releases  
- Web site: http://indec.mecon.ar
8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos, Ministerio de Economía y Obras y Servicios Publicos
Name: Patricio Carranza
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1067 Buenos Aires, Argentina
E-mail: hkislu@minproduccion.gov.ar (Attention: Mr. Hernan Kisluk)

ARMENIA

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports (in the methodology design stage):
- By Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries
- By all except CIS countries
- By commodity subgroup, group and sector classified in the commodity list of external economic activity
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Laspeyres
Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

The most difficult problem is the design of the correct methodology and of the software for the derivation of external trade indices. Another problem is the definition of upper and lower limits of price comparatives and their impact on the calculation of index numbers.

5. Release dates

Monthly data for the processing and calculation of index numbers is received by the twenty-fifth day of the next month.

6. Revision policy

Data are revised and corrected on a quarterly basis.
7. **Dissemination**

The indices will be published quarterly in:

- Monthly report of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia
- Bulletins and handbooks
- Web site: http://www.armstat.am

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**

Agency: National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia  
Ministry of Statistics, State Registry and Analysis  
Name: Stepan Mnatsakanyan  
Address: Republic Square  
3 Government House  
Yerevan, 375010, Armenia  
Telephone: (3741) 52-42-13  
Fax: (3741) 52-19-21  
E-mail: armstat@sci.am

**AUSTRALIA**

1. **Index number series produced**

   Quarterly and fiscal year price indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:

   - By section and selected division of SITC
   - By Australia and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification; selected industry of origin division and subdivision
   - By BEC, and broad balance of payments category, consumption and capital goods (for imports only)
   - By selected section (for imports only) of the harmonized tariff item statistical classification
   - By balance of payments group, rural and non-rural goods (for exports only)
   - By selected section (for exports only) of the Australian Harmonised Export Commodity Classification
   - By total

2. **Source of information**

   Price data are obtained from major exporters and importers of the selected items included in the index calculation.

3. **Index calculation methods**

   Price: Laspeyres
   Volume: Laspeyres
4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**

Imports are priced on a free on board (f.o.b.) and country of origin basis. Quantity re-evaluation is used extensively for volume index numbers. The methodology assumes homogeneous goods and services and no quality change.

5. **Release dates**

Quarterly price index data are released during approximately the third week of the month that follows the last month of the reference quarter. Quarterly volume index data are released approximately nine weeks following the reference quarter.

6. **Revision policy**

Price index numbers for the current reference quarter and the previous quarters are final and are not, in general, subject to revision. Volume index numbers for the previous four quarters are subject to revision. Historical series are revised every two years.

7. **Dissemination**

- *International Trade Price Indexes*, a quarterly publication issued by the Australian Bureau of Statistics
- *Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product*, a quarterly publication issued by the Bureau
- Web site: http://www.abs.gov.au

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**

Agency: Australian Bureau of Statistics  
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Address: Locked Bag 10, Belconnen ACT 2616, Australia  
Telephone: (02) 6252-6519; 1300-135-070  
Fax: (02) 6252-7060  
E-mail: siddhartha.de@abs.gov.au

AUSTRIA

1. **Index number series produced**

Quarterly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:

- By section of SITC
- By Statistical Classification of Products by Activity in the European Economic Community (CPA), three-digit level
- By total
2. **Source of information**  
Customs records and Intra-community trade statistics (Intrastat)

3. **Index calculation methods**  
Unit value: Paasche  
Volume: Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**  
No information provided

5. **Release dates**  
Data are released 12 weeks after the reference period.

6. **Revision policy**  
The final figures of a reference year are available in June of the following year and all indices are revised accordingly.

7. **Dissemination**  
   - *The Statistical Yearbook of Austria*  
   - *Foreign Trade of Austria* (semi-annual and annual)

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**  
   Agency: Statistics Austria  
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   Address: Hintere Zollamtsstraße 2b  
   1035 Vienna, Postfach 9000—Austria  
   Telephone: (431) 71128  
   Fax: (431) 715-0748  
   E-mail: christine.hellwig@statistik.gv.at

**BANGLADESH**

1. **Index number series produced**  
Monthly, quarterly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:  
   - By section of HS  
   - By total

2. **Source of information**  
Customs records
3. **Index calculation methods**
   
   Unit value: Laspeyres  
   Volume: Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**
   
   - Lack of training for most coders  
   - Unsatisfactory coordination among trade data-generating agencies  
   - Individual value and quantity for each commodity rarely provided in the import and export documents

5. **Release dates**

   No information provided

6. **Revision policy**

   No information provided

7. **Dissemination**

   - *Foreign Trade Statistics of Bangladesh*  
   - *Statistical Yearbook of Bangladesh*  
   - *Statistical Pocketbook of Bangladesh*  
   - *Monthly Statistical Bulletin, Bangladesh*

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**

   **Agency:** Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics  
   **Name:** M. A. Jalil Bhuiyan, Director  
   **Address:** Foreign Trade Section, 14/2 Topkhana Road, Dhaka, Bangladesh  
   **E-mail:** itlsbbs@bdonline.co

**BARBADOS**

1. **Index number series produced**

   Monthly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:  
   - By SITC  
   - By total

2. **Source of information**

   Customs records, petroleum dealers, the Barbados Agricultural Management Company, and the General Post Office
3. **Index calculation methods**
   
   Unit value: Laspeyres  
   Volume: Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**
   
   - Exchange rate fluctuations create difficulty in explaining fluctuations in average values.  
   - There is a question as to how and when to re-base the index, and what the resulting implications would be.

5. **Release dates**
   
   No information provided

6. **Revision policy**
   
   No information provided

7. **Dissemination**
   
   Indices are not yet available for dissemination.

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**
   
   Agency: Barbados Statistical Service  
   Trade and National Accounts Division  
   Name: Pedro Hutchinson  
   Senior Statistician (Ag.)  
   Address: 3rd Floor, National Insurance Building  
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   Telephone: (246) 427-7396, (246) 427-7841  
   Fax: (246) 435-2198  
   E-mail: barstats@caribsurf.com

**BELGIUM**

1. **Index number series produced**
   
   Monthly, quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:  
   - By Combined Nomenclatures (CN) eight-digit level  
   - By section of SITC  
   - By total
2. Source of information

Customs records and Intrastat

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Fisher
Volume: Derived by dividing value index by corresponding unit value index

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

- Indices are not seasonally adjusted.
- Extensive “filters” are needed to eliminate certain CN8 from the index calculations because, inter alia:
  — Their value is too small
  — The code has changed throughout the years
  — There is no requirement to declare weights for the codes

5. Release dates

Monthly data are released 10 weeks after the month.

6. Revision policy

Data are revised, on average, every two or three months.

7. Dissemination

- *Foreign Trade Statistics, Monthly Bulletin*
- *Foreign Trade Statistics, Quarterly Bulletin*
- Web site: http://www.nbb.be

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Banque Nationale de Belgique
Name: Filip Spagnoli
Address: Boulevard de Berlaimont 14
        1000 Brussels, Belgium
Telephone: (322) 221-48-34
Fax: (322) 221-31-46
E-mail: filip.spagnoli@nbb.be
BOLIVIA

1. **Index number series produced**
   Monthly, quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:
   - By traditional and non-traditional products
   - By International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), Rev.3
   - By clasificación según uso o destino económico
   - By BEC
   - By total

2. **Source of information**
   Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**
   Unit value: Laspeyres
   Volume: Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**
   No information provided

5. **Release dates**
   Quarterly data are released on the twentieth day of the second month of the quarter following the reference quarter, except in the case of the fourth quarter. Fourth quarter and annual data are released in March of the following year.

6. **Revision policy**
   Data are revised each quarter for the previous three months to reflect late reports and corrections. Quarterly and monthly data are finalized for the year in April of the next year.

7. **Dissemination**
   - *The Statistical Yearbook of the National Institute of Statistics of Bolivia*
   - *Actualidad Estadística* (quarterly)
   - Web site: http://www.ine.gov.bo

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**
   Agency: Instituto Nacional de Estadística de Bolivia
   Name: Ramiro Peña Guzmán
BOTSWANA

1. **Index number series produced**
   Annual unit value and volume index numbers:
   - Of fuel imports
   - Of major exported commodity groups

2. **Source of information**
   Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**
   Unit value: Fisher
   Volume: Fisher

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**
   No information provided

5. **Release dates**
   No information provided

6. **Revision policy**
   No information provided

7. **Dissemination**
   Annual trade supplement report

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**
   Agency: Central Statistics Office
   Name: M. P. Kerekang, Government Statistician
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   Telephone: (267) 395-2200
   Fax: (267) 395-2201
BULGARIA

1. **Index number series produced**
   Quarterly and annual price index numbers of exports and imports:
   - By section of SITC, Rev.3
   - By total

2. **Source of information**
   Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**
   Price: Paasche

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**
   Index numbers are not seasonally adjusted.

5. **Release dates**
   Quarterly data are released 10 weeks after the reference period. Annual data are released in September of the following year.

6. **Revision policy**
   Quarterly data for the year are finalized in August of the following year.

7. **Dissemination**
   - Quarterly bulletin; exports and imports
   - Foreign Trade of the Republic of Bulgaria (annual)
   - Web site: http://www.nsi.bg

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**
   Agency: National Statistical Institute of the Republic of Bulgaria
   Name: Emilia Danailova, Head, Foreign Trade Division
   Address: 2, Panayot Volov Str.
   1038 Sofia, Bulgaria
   E-mail: edanailova@nsi.bg

CANADA

1. **Index number series produced**
   Monthly, quarterly and cumulative year-to-date price indices and volume index numbers (raw and seasonally adjusted) of imports and exports:
• By commodity group
• By total

2. Source of information

Customs records. In cases where a quantity is not provided or data is not adequate, Statistics Canada uses proxies.

3. Index calculation methods

Price: Paasche and Laspeyres
Volume: Paasche and Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

No information provided

5. Release dates

Monthly data are released approximately seven weeks after the reference month.

6. Revision policy

The Monthly International Merchandise Trade Price Index for the current year is subject to revisions until the preliminary release of the January index for the following year. Data remain unchanged for the next 12 months, after which they are subject to a final revision process. Under normal circumstances, the revision covers, at most, the preceding four years.

7. Dissemination

• Canadian International Trade Tables (English: catalogue No. 65F0003XPE; French: catalogue No. 65F0003XPF)
• Canadian International Merchandise Trade (Catalogue No. 65001XPB)
• Web site: http://www.statcan.ca

8. Compiling agency and contact information:

Agency: Statistics Canada, Trade Information
         International Trade Division
Name: Carole Jacques, Iddi Alhassan, Senior Analyst
Address: Jean Talon Building, 9th Floor
         Ottawa, Ontario
Telephone: 1-800-951-5583; (613) 951-9647
Fax: 1-800-664-0055; (613) 951-0117
E-mail: Trade@statcan.ca
CHILE

1. **Index number series produced**
   Quarterly and annual price indices and volume index numbers of exports and imports:
   - By commodity group
   - By total

2. **Source of information**
   Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**
   Unit value: Paasche
   Volume: Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**
   No information provided

5. **Release dates**
   Indices are released on a quarterly basis.

6. **Revision policy**
   In general, indices are revised once a year. They are also revised, when necessary, to reflect improvement in the sources of information or changes in methodology.

7. **Dissemination**
   - Informe Económico y Financiero
   - Boletín Mensual
   - Anuario de Balanza de Pagos
   - Special publications, such as Índices de Exportacion: 1986-1999

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**
   Agency: Banco Central de Chile
   Name: Gloria Peña
   Address: Casilla 967
   Santiago, Chile
   Telephone: (562) 6702000
   Fax: (562) 6702231
   E-mail: bcch@bcentral.cl
CHINA

1. **Index number series produced**
   Quarterly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers for imports and exports:
   - By products (HS, two-digit and four-digit levels)
   - By total

2. **Source of information**
   Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**
   - Unit value: Paasche
   - Volume: Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**
   **Limitations:**
   - Inadequate sample coverage that causes calculation bias for some commodity items
   - Exclusive compilation of chained and HS-based indices, which do not fully meet analytical needs
   - The indices are not yet officially published; they are distributed only to specific agencies for reference

   **Problem:**
   - Lack of experience in the practical compilation of import and export unit value indices (e.g., lack of knowledge on how to select samples, how to convert data from HS, SITC and BEC, lack of knowledge on formula and reference year selections).

5. **Release dates**
   Quarterly data are released on the twentieth day of the second month of the following quarter.

6. **Revision policy**
   No information provided

7. **Dissemination**
   Since 1993, the Customs General Administration (CGA) has released a quarterly publication entitled, *China’s External Trade Indices*, which, though still in the pilot stage, is sent to relevant government institutions and international organizations (e.g., the International Monetary Fund) for reference. A plan is under way to publish China’s export and import indices early in 2002.
8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Statistical Department
Customs General Administration
Name: Li Yan, Deputy Director-General
Address: 6 Jian Guo Men Nei Avenue, Beijing 100730
People’s Republic of China
Telephone: (8610) 6519-5621
Fax: (8610) 6519-5627
E-mail: liyan@mail.customs.gov.cn
lyan@ht.rol.cn.net

CHINA, HONG KONG SAR

1. Index number series produced

Monthly, quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports, total exports, domestic exports, and re-exports:
- By commodity group (domestic exports)
- By end-use (imports and re-exports)
- By country or territory of consignment
- By total

2. Source of information
Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Laspeyres
Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Unit value indices are subject to some limitations, arising from incomplete use of the product specification approach.

5. Release dates
Monthly, quarterly and annual statistics are released within a period of eight weeks after the end of the reference period.

6. Revision policy
There is no routine revision to published trade index numbers. Non-routine revision is conducted from time to time due to the need for re-basing or because of enhancement in compilation methodology.
7. **Dissemination**
   - Monthly press releases by the Census and Statistics Department (C and SD)
   - Hong Kong trade index numbers (monthly), C and SD
   - Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics, C and SD

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**
   
   **Agency:** Census and Statistics Department  
   **Name:** Elsa Lee  
   **Address:** Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
               Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road  
               Wan chai, Hong Kong SAR, China  
   **Telephone:** (852) 2582 4915  
   **Fax:** (852) 2802 1101  
   **E-mail:** trade@censtatd.gov.hk

**CHINA, MACAO SAR**

1. **Index number series produced**
   
   Quarterly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports:  
   - By basic classes of BEC  
   - By total  

   Quarterly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers of total exports, domestic exports and re-exports:  
   - By group of the Macao Standard Industrial Classification, Rev.1  
   - By textile and non-textile  
   - By total

2. **Source of information**
   
   Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**
   
   **Unit value:** Paasche  
   **Volume:** Laspeyres
4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Limitation:
- Indices not seasonally adjusted

Problem:
- Treatment of extreme unit value relatives

5. Release dates
Quarterly data are released in the third month of the following quarter, while annual data are released in March of the following year.

6. Revision policy
Quarterly data are revised in March of the following year.

7. Dissemination
- External Trade Index, issued quarterly by the Statistics and Census Service
- Web site: http://www.dsec.gov.mo
More detailed trade indices are also available on request.

8. Compiling agency and contact information
Agency: Statistics and Census Service
Name: Mok Iun Lei, Acting Director
Address: Dynasty Plaza Bldg., 17th floor
411-417 Alameda Dr. Carlos d’Assumpção
Macao SAR, China.
Telephone: (853) 3995311
Fax: (853) 307825
E-mail: info@dsec.gov.mo

COLOMBIA

1. Index number series produced
Quarterly and annual price indices and volume index numbers of exports and imports:
- By national account nomenclature, two-digit level
- By total

2. Source of information
Customs records
3. **Index calculation methods**
   
   Price:   Laspeyres  
   Volume:  Paasche  

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**

   Limitations and problems:
   
   - Changes in quality and definition of products
   - Technical smuggling (contraband)

5. **Release dates**

   Index numbers are prepared during the first 15 days of the second month of the following quarter.

6. **Revision policy**

   Prices are compared to those published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the *International Financial Statistics* and to those published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

7. **Dissemination**

   International trade index numbers are not published directly. However, implicit prices (current and constant) of exports and imports at the two-digit level of the national accounts nomenclature are published annually.

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**

   **Agency:**  Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (DANE)  
   **Name:**  José Eduardo Granados Fernández  
   Director de Metodología y Producción Estadística  
   **Address:**  Av. El Dorado—CAN Edificio DANE  
   Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia  
   **Telephone:**  (571) 597-8344  
   **Fax:**  (571) 597-8326  
   **E-mail:**  jegranadosf@dane.gov.co

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**CROATIA**

1. **Index number series produced**

   Quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:
   
   - By commodity sector of SITC, Rev.3
   - By national classification of economic activities
   - By total
2. **Source of information**
Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**
   
   **Price:** Fisher  
   **Volume:** Derived by dividing value index by corresponding unit value index

4. **Limitations of indexes, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**
Data with zero quantity, and unit value ratio of unacceptable deviation, are excluded from the calculation of indices.

5. **Release dates**
Data are released two months after the reference quarter.

6. **Revision policy**
To date, indices are not revised.

7. **Dissemination**
Web site: http://www.dzs.hr

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**
   
   **Agency:** Croatian Bureau of Statistics  
   **Name:** Marija Bjelotomić  
   **Address:** P.O. Box 80, Ilica 3, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia  
   **Telephone:** (3851) 4806-271  
   **Fax:** (3851) 4817-666  
   **E-mail:** vrcam@dzs.hr

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

1. **Index number series produced**
   Monthly, quarterly and annual price and unit value indices of imports and exports:
   - By section of SITC, Rev.3
   - By HS, one- and two-digit levels (price indices only)
   - By total

2. **Source of information**
Customs records and price surveys
3. **Index calculation methods**

   Price: Laspeyres  
   Unit value: Paasche  

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**

   Indices are not seasonally adjusted.

5. **Release dates**

   Price indices are available monthly on the Internet and in published form on the forty-fifth calendar day after the end of the surveyed month. Unit value index numbers are available two months after the surveyed month.

6. **Revision policy**

   Data are not revised backward. Complex revisions are carried out every five to seven years, the last time being the year 2000.

7. **Dissemination**

   - *Import and Export Price Indices in the Czech Republic* (monthly)  
   - *Monthly Statistics of the Czech Republic*  
   - Web site (price indices only): http://www.czso.cz  
   - *External Trade of the Czech Republic* (monthly, unit value indices only)

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**

   **Agency:** Czech Statistical Office  
   International Cooperation Department  
   **Name:** Zdeněk Veselý, Director  
   **Address:** Sokolovská n. 142  
   186 04 Prague 8  
   Czech Republic  
   **Telephone:** (4202) 6631-1229, (4202) 6604-1111  
   **Fax:** (4202) 822490  
   **E-mail:** Bondyova@gw.czso.cz  
   **Agency:** Prices Statistics Department  
   **Name:** Miroslava Ciznerova  
   **Telephone:** (4202) 7405-2709  
   **E-mail:** Ciznerova@gw.czso.cz  
   **Agency:** External Trade Statistics Department  
   **Name:** Vera Petraskova  
   **Telephone:** (4202) 7405-2213  
   **E-mail:** Petraskova@gw.czso.cz
DENMARK

1. **Index number series produced**
   Monthly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:
   - By BEC (imports only)
   - By konjunkturgrupper (commodity nomenclature based on SITC, exports only)
   - By chapter and section of SITC, Rev.3
   - By total

2. **Source of information**
   Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**
   Price: Fisher
   Volume: Fisher

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**
   No specific problems

5. **Release dates**
   Data for each month are released six to seven weeks after the end of the reference month.

6. **Revision policy**
   Data are revised each month for all months in the current year and of the previous year, until the data of the previous year are finalized (seven to eight months after the end of the same year).

7. **Dissemination**
   - *The Monthly Statistical Bulletin*, issued by DS
   - *The Statistical Yearbook*, issued by DS
   - Web site: http://www.statistikbanken.dk

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**
   Agency: Statistics Denmark
   Name: Peter Ottosen
   Head of Section
   Address: Postboks 2550, Sejrøgade 11
   DK-2100 Copenhagen, Denmark
DOMINICA

1. **Index number series produced**
   Annual unit value and volume index numbers of imports and exports:
   - By section of SITC, Rev.3
   - By total

2. **Source of information**
   Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**
   Unit value: Laspeyres and Paasche
   Volume: Laspeyres and Paasche

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**
   - Indices not seasonally adjusted
   - Inconsistencies in, and lack of, net weights and quantity data for selected commodities

5. **Release dates**
   Index numbers are released in March of the following year.

6. **Revision policy**
   Revisions are made after final corrections and amendments are completed.

7. **Dissemination**
   Annual report on external trade (summary tables)

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**
   Agency: Central Statistical Office
   Ministry of Finance
   Name: Prayma Blatze Burton
   Chief Statistician (Ag.)
   Address: Kennedy Avenue
   Roseau, The Commonwealth of Dominica, West Indies
   Telephone: (767) 448 2401, ext. 3400
   Fax: (767) 449-9128
   E-mail: csoda@cwdom.dm
EGYPT

1. **Index number series produced**
   
   Annual unit value and volume index numbers of total imports and exports

2. **Source of information**
   
   Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**
   
   Unit value: Paasche
   
   Volume: Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**
   
   - Lack of training on index number compilation
   - Indices not seasonally adjusted

5. **Release dates**
   
   Data are released annually.

6. **Revision policy**
   
   The base year revision from 1987 to 1998 is due in 2001/02.

7. **Dissemination**
   
   *International Trade Bulletin*

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**
   
   Agency: Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics
   
   Name: Farida Abdel-Fatah El-Gallad
   
   Director of Indices and Prices Department
   
   Address: P.O. Box 2086, Nasr City
   
   Cairo, Egypt
   
   Telephone: (202) 402-4632
   
   Fax: (202) 402-4099

ESTONIA

1. **Index number series produced**
   
   Monthly, quarterly and annual price indices of exports and imports:
   
   - By Estonian classification of economic activities developed according to Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the Euro-
pean Community (NACE), Rev.1, beginning in 2000; prior to 2000, indices were calculated according to HS

• By total

2. **Source of information**

Price surveys

3. **Index calculation methods**

Price: Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**

*Limitation:*

• Indices are not seasonally adjusted.

5. **Release dates**

Monthly and quarterly data are released on the twentieth of the following month, except when the twentieth is a holiday, in which case the data are released on the next business day.

6. **Revision policy**

The data are generally considered final when first released. There is a possibility to revise data for the previous three months if there are late reports and corrections in prices.

7. **Dissemination**

• *Estonian Statistics* (monthly)
• *Statistical Yearbook of Estonia*
• Web site: http://www.stat.ee

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**

Agency: Statistical Office of Estonia  
Name: Maie Nogelainen  
   Deputy Director General, Head of Development of Statistics Division  
Address: Endla 15  
         15174 Tallinn, Estonia  
Telephone: (372) 625-9202, (372) 625-9208  
Fax: (372) 625-9370
EUROPEAN UNION AND EURO AREA

1. **Index number series produced**
   Monthly, quarterly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:
   - By intra and extra European Union (EU) and intra and extra euro area by HS two-digit; SITC, Rev.3, two-digit; BEC one-digit
   - By section of SITC, Rev.3, and main partner countries
   - By section and subsection of CPA and main partner countries

2. **Source of information**
   Customs administrations and Intrastat

3. **Index calculation methods**
   Unit value:  Fisher (chained yearly)
   Volume:  Fisher (chained yearly)

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**
   - Aggregated indices may include partial estimation for missing data.
   - Unit value indices are not seasonally adjusted, but volume indices are.
   - Some difficulties are linked to detection and correction of outliers.

5. **Release dates**
   Monthly data are released 10 weeks after the reference month.

6. **Revision policy**
   Monthly indices are recalculated on a 12-month sliding period.

7. **Dissemination**
   - Eurostat online databases (New Cronos, COMEXT)
   - *External and Intra-European Union Trade* (monthly)
   - Web site: http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat (aggregate indices)

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**
   Agency:  Eurostat
   Name:  Henri Tyrman, Head of Section
   Unit C/4 (Intra and Extra-EU Trade)
   Address:  Postal: Bâtiment Jean Monnet
             rue Alcide de Gasperi
             L-2920 Luxembourg
FIJI

1. **Index number series produced**

   Annual price and volume indices for total imports and domestic exports:
   - By total

   Annual unit value index numbers of imports:
   - By section of SITC, Rev.3

   Annual and quarterly unit value indices:
   - By food imports
   - By commodities of domestic exports

2. **Source of information**

   Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**

   Unit value: Fisher
   Price: Fisher
   Volume (import): Fisher
   Volume (export): Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**

   **Problem:**
   - The most common problem encountered is inaccuracy in the quantity figures of commodities.

5. **Release dates**

   No information provided

6. **Revision policy**

   No information provided
7. Dissemination

Current Economic Statistics

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics
Name: Rajeshwaran Naidu
For the Government Statistician
Address: P.O. Box 2221, Government Buildings
Suva, Fiji
Telephone: (679) 315-822
Fax: (679) 330-656

FINLAND

1. Index number series produced

Monthly and cumulative monthly unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:

- By two- and three-digit levels of NACE or CPA
- By one-digit level of the main industrial groupings classification
- By total

2. Source of data information

Customs records and Intrastat

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Laspeyres
Volume: Paasche

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

- Lack of trained personnel
- Changing composition of the set of goods within CN8 during the calculation period
- Treatment of extreme unit value relatives

5. Release dates

At the moment, there are no fixed release dates. However, data for each month, as well as cumulative monthly data, are released on the fifteenth of the following month.
6. **Revision policy**

   Monthly data are not revised. Revisions are included in cumulative monthly index numbers.

7. **Dissemination**

   - *Foreign Trade Monthly Bulletin*
   - Special monthly publication for Finnish foreign trade indices
   - Web site: http://www.tulli.fi

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**

   Agency: National Board of Customs
   Statistical Unit

   Name: Seppo Virtanen

   Address: Hämeentie 3
   P.O. Box 512
   FIN-00101 Helsinki, Finland

   Telephone: (3589) 614-3846
   Fax: (3589) 614-3860
   E-mail: Seppo.Virtanen@tulli.fi

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**FRANCE**

1. **Index number series produced**

   Monthly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:
   - By products
   - By zones
   - By total (all zones and all products)

2. **Source of information**

   Customs records and Intrastat

3. **Index calculation methods**

   Unit value: Paasche and Fisher
   Volume: Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**

   Indices fluctuate more than national price indices.

5. **Release dates**

   Indices are released 45 days after the end of the reference month.
6. **Revision policy**

None

7. **Dissemination**

- *Informations Rapides*
- *Bulletin Mensuel de la Statistique de l’INSEE*
- *Banque de données macro-économiques*
- *Annuaire Statistique de la France*

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**

**Agency:** Institut National de la Statistique et des Études Économiques (INSEE)

**Name:** Laurent Fauvet

**Address:** 15 Boulevard Gabriel Péri

92245 Malakoff Cedex

75675 Paris (Cedex 14), France

**Telephone:** (331) 41-17-37-58

**Fax:** (331) 41-17-36-24

**E-mail:** laurent.Fauvet@insee.fr

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**GERMANY**

1. **Index number series produced**

Monthly, quarterly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:

- By commodity group, commodity and country groups
- By product group and branch
- By section of SITC, Rev.3, and groups of countries
- By investment and consumer goods and groups of countries
- By groups of countries, total

2. **Source of information**

Customs records and Intrastat

3. **Index calculation methods**

**Unit value:** Paasche

**Volume:** Laspeyres
4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**

*Limitation:*
- Indices not seasonally adjusted

*Problems:*
- Determining whether or not a tariff number is representative
- Treatment of extreme unit value relatives
- Defining upper and lower limits of still acceptable price relatives

5. **Release dates**

Monthly data are released eight weeks after the reference month.

6. **Revision policy**

Final revised data for the previous year are available in September of the next year.

7. **Dissemination**

- Press releases (monthly)
- *Foreign Trade according to SITC, Rev.3, Special Trade*
- *Aussenhandel, Zusammenfassende Übersichten für den Aussenhandel*
- Best-known cross-section publications: *Statistical Yearbook;* monthly *Wirtschaft und Statistik;* Statistischer Wochendienst; and *Key Data on Germany* booklet
- Web site: http://www.destatis.de

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**

**Agency:** Federal Statistical Office
   Statistical Information Service
**Name:** Albrecht Krockow, Section Head
   Foreign Trade Division
**Address:** Gustav-Stresemann-Ring 11
   65189 Wiesbaden, Germany
**Telephone:** (49611) 75-2481
**Fax:** (49611) 75-3965
**E-mail:** gruppe-vb@destatis.de

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**GHANA**

1. **Index number series produced**

   Monthly, quarterly and annual unit value indices of imports and exports:
• By section of SITC
• By total

2. **Source of information**

Customs records, the Electric Company of Ghana, and the Ministry of Trade and Industry

3. **Index calculation methods**

Unit value: Paasche

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**

- Data not adjusted to reflect price trends for commodities with seasonal patterns
- Lack of trained personnel
- Treatment of extreme value relatives
- Definition of upper and lower limits of acceptable price relatives

5. **Release dates**

The indices have not been calculated for a period of time owing to problems in determining a new base year. The base year for which data are available is 1980 and there is difficulty in obtaining base year data for updating the base year. There is no fixed date for the release of the available indices since the office depends on customs for the data and there is often a delay of 3 to 6 months before such data are released to the Statistical Office.

6. **Revision policy**

No revision policy is currently in place but, with improvements in the data received by customs, a decision can be expected regarding the length of time required for revision of an index.

7. **Dissemination**

The indices calculated in the past have been published in the *Quarterly Digest of Statistics*. Copies were made available to government agencies and universities, and the data were made available to others on request.

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**

Agency: Ghana Statistical Service
Name: Anthony Amuzu
Address: P.O. Box 1098, Accra
          Ghana
Telephone: (233) 21682692
Fax: (233) 21671731
E-mail: amuzua@yahoo.com
GREECE

1. **Index number series produced**
   Monthly, quarterly, cumulative monthly, and annual unit value and volume indices of total imports and exports:
   - By group and section of SITC
   - By section of SITC and regions (such as EU, rest of the world, total)
   - By country of destination and origin

2. **Source of information**
   Customs records and Intrastat

3. **Index calculation methods**
   Unit value: Paasche
   Volume: Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**
   No information provided

5. **Release dates**
   No information provided

6. **Revision policy**
   No information provided

7. **Dissemination**
   - *Monthly Statistical Bulletin*
   - *Statistical Yearbook of Greece*

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**
   Agency: General Secretariat of National Statistical Service of Greece (NSSG)
   Name: K. Harissis
   Head of the Division
   Address: Ministry of National Economy, NSSG
   Division of Industry and External Trade
   14-16 Lycourgou Street
   101 66—Athens, Greece
   Telephone: (301) 3289-502
   Fax: (301) 3237-524
GUATEMALA

1. Index number series produced
   Monthly, quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices of total imports and exports

2. Source of information
   Customs records

3. Index calculation methods
   Unit value: Paasche
   Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

   Problems:
   - Lack of up-to-date technology
   - Lack of a database on commodity prices
   - Lack of qualified staff

5. Release dates
   Monthly data are published two months after the reference month. Quarterly data are published in the first two months of the quarter following the reference quarter. Data for December, fourth quarter and annual data are published in the first 15 days of April of the following year.

6. Revision policy
   Data are revised each month, quarter and year before publication in order to reflect corrections or adjustments.

7. Dissemination
   - Quarterly tables of international trade, by the National Statistical Institute (INE)
   - Monthly and quarterly bulletins, by the Bank of Guatemala (Central Bank)
   - *International Trade Yearbook* by INE

8. Compiling agency and contact information
   Agency: Instituto Nacional de Estadística
   Name: Ricardo Avila Avila
          Mario Ernesto Anzueto García
   Address: 8a., Calle 9-55, zona 1
             Edificio América
             Guatemala, Guatemala
HAITI

1. **Index number series produced**
   Monthly and annual unit value and volume indices of export:
   - By primary products
   - By industrial products
   - By total exports
   Monthly and annual price and volume indices of total imports

2. **Source of information**
   Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**
   Unit value: Paasche
   Volume: Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**
   No information provided

5. **Release dates**
   No information provided

6. **Revision policy**
   No information provided

7. **Dissemination**
   No information provided

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**
   Agency: Institut Haïtien de Statistiques et d’Informatique
   Name: Evens Joseph, Director-General
   Address: Blvd. Harry Truman
   Port-au-Prince, Haiti
   Telephone: (509) 23-1011, (509) 22-2669, (509) 23-5330, (509) 22-5251
   Fax: (509) 23-5501
1. **Index number series produced**
   Quarterly, cumulative monthly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:
   - By section of SITC, Rev.3
   - By country groups
   - By total

2. **Source of information**
   Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**
   Unit value: Fisher
   Volume: Derived by dividing value index by corresponding unit value index

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**
   No information provided

5. **Release dates**
   Data are released about 50 days after the reference period.

6. **Revision policy**
   - Unit value indices: revision is made when yearly indices are calculated.
   - Volume indices: revision is made whenever trade value and quantity data are changed. Volume indices are qualified as final when annual trade data of a reference period are finalized.

7. **Dissemination**
   Cumulative monthly volume indices are published monthly while cumulative quarterly unit value indices are published quarterly, in the following publications:
   - *Rapid Reports on External Trade*
   - *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*
   - *Statistical Report of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office*
   Annual indices are published in the following:
   - *Statistical Yearbook of External Trade*
   - *Statistical Pocket Book of Hungary*
   - *Statistical Yearbook of Hungary*
   - Web site: http://www.ksh.hu (cumulative monthly volume indices)
8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Hungarian Central Statistical Office
Name: Katalin Kelecsenyi, Director
Foreign Trade Statistics Department
Address: Postal: P.O. Box 51
1525 Budapest
Office: Keleti Karoly St. 5-7
1024 Budapest
Telephone: (361) 212-4892
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E-mail: elnokhl@ksh.hu

ICELAND

1. Index number series produced

Cumulative monthly, quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:
  - By main economic categories for imports
  - By mode of processing for exports
Monthly price index numbers of exported fish products

2. Source of information

Customs records. Data for calculating the price index of exported fish products are from a monthly sample survey of several exporters.

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Fisher
Price: Laspeyres
Volume: Derived by dividing value index by corresponding unit value index

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

- Indices not seasonally adjusted
- Extreme price changes excluded from the calculations

5. Release dates

Quarterly data on unit value indices are released three months after the reference period. Monthly price indices for exported fish products are normally published two weeks after the reference month.
6. **Revision policy**

Revisions of indices from first release are negligible, with the exception of quarterly indices, due to use of the Laspeyres formula for the preliminary indices and the Fisher formula for the final indices.

7. **Dissemination**

- *Short Term Economic Indicators* (monthly price indices for exported fish products)
- *Industrial Statistics*: on Icelandic version of web site only (annual unit value indices for exported manufactured products)
- *Quarterly National Accounts* (quarterly and annual unit value indices of total exports and imports)
- Web site: [http://www.hagstofa.is](http://www.hagstofa.is) (annual indices for total exports and imports “see Iceland External Trade”)

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**

Agency: Statistics Iceland
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150 Reykjavik, Iceland
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**INDIA**

1. **Index number series produced**

Quarterly and fiscal year (ending March 31) unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:
- By commodity group and section of SITC, Rev.3
- By total

2. **Source of information**

Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**

Unit value: Paasche
Volume: Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**

- Indices not seasonally adjusted
- Base year used, 1978/79, not recent
5. **Release dates**

Indices for each quarter are released soon after release of the final eight-digit trade statistics. Indices for the fiscal year are released within two months of the release of the eight-digit trade data.

6. **Revision policy**

Index numbers are revised only if and when trade data are revised.

7. **Dissemination**

- *Selected Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India*, Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics
- *Statistical Abstract, India* (annual), CSO

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**

Agency: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics
Name: Mita Roy Chowdhury
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Address: 1, Council House Street
   Calcutta—700001, India
Telephone: (9133) 2248-3111/3112/3113/3114
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   Mrc@dgcis.nic.in

ISRAEL

1. **Index number series produced**

Quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:
- By aggregated economic branch (exports)
- By end use (imports)
- By aggregated industries of manufactured goods exports
- By commodity groups of imported investment products
- By raw materials by commodity group
- By total

2. **Source of information**

Customs records
3. **Index calculation methods**
   Unit value: Fisher  
   Volume: Fisher

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**
   - Information used to estimate unit value indices comprised only 50 per cent of total imports and exports.

5. **Release dates**
   Approximately 45 to 50 days after the end of the reference period

6. **Revision policy**
   No information provided  
   Data are revised continuously throughout the reference year. The data for a specific year are revised at the end of the year, when fourth quarter data are available.

7. **Dissemination**
   - *Statistical Abstract of Israel*  
   - *Foreign Trade Statistics* (quarterly)  

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**
   **Agency:** Central Bureau of Statistics  
   Foreign Trade Division  
   **Name:** Rachel Klein  
   Helen Brusilovsky  
   **Address:** Kanfey Nesharim St. 66  
   P.O. Box 13015  
   Jerusalem 95464, Israel  
   **Telephone:** (9722) 659-2643  
   **Fax:** (9722) 659-2652  
   **E-mail:** rach elk@cbs.gov.il  
   helen@cbs.gov.il

**ITALY**

1. **Index number series produced**
   Monthly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:  
   - By geographical area
By geo-economic area
By NACE, Rev.1

2. **Source of information**
Customs records and Intrastat

3. **Index calculation methods**
Unit value: Fisher
Volume: Fisher

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**
Not able to report intra-EU and extra-EU indices at the same time due to Intrastat data collection system

5. **Release dates**
Indices relating to intra-EU are released two months after the reference period, while indices relating to extra-EU countries are released one month afterwards.

6. **Revision policy**
At the end of each year all the indices relating to the same year are revised, in order to take into account the latest data collected by customs.

7. **Dissemination**
- Press release (monthly)
- *External Trade Annual Report*
- Other publications

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**
Agency: National Institute of Statistics of Italy
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         00184 Rome, Italy
Telephone: (396) 46731, (396) 2567
Fax: (396) 46732560
E-mail: anitori@istat.it
JAMAICA

1. **Index number series produced**
   Annual unit value and volume indices of imports and domestic exports:
   - By section of SITC
   - By BEC (import index numbers only)

2. **Source of information**
   Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**
   Unit value: Laspeyres
   Volume: Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**
   No information provided

5. **Release dates**
   Indices are released one year after the reference year.

6. **Revision policy**
   Indices are not compiled until each year’s data are revised and updated.

7. **Dissemination**
   *External Trade* (annual)

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**
   Agency: The Statistical Institute of Jamaica
   Name: M. Bartley
   Address: 7 Cecelio Avenue
           Kingston 10, Jamaica
   E-mail: statinja@infochan.com

JAPAN

1. **Index number series produced**
   Monthly, quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:
   - By principal commodity
• By special classifications (food, raw materials, mineral fuels and manufactures)
• By total

2. **Source of information**
   Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**
   Unit value: Fisher
   Volume: Derived by dividing value index by corresponding unit value index

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**
   None

5. **Release dates**
   Monthly data are released at the end of the following month. Quarterly data are released at the end of the first month of the following quarter. Semi-annual data are released at the end of the first month of the following half-year. Annual data are released at the end of January of the following year.

6. **Revision policy**
   Revised annual data are released in February or March of the following year.

7. **Dissemination**
   *Summary Report on Trade of Japan* (monthly), Japan Tariff Association

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**
   Agency: Statistics Bureau
   Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs
   Post and Telecommunications
   Name: Takao Ito
   Director, International Statistical Affairs Division
   Address: 19-1 Wakamatsu-cho
   Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-8668, Japan
   Telephone: (813) 5273-1145
   Fax: (813) 5273-1181
   E-mail: internat@stat.go.jp
JORDAN

1. **Index number series produced**
   Monthly, quarterly and annual price index numbers of imports and exports:
   - By group of HS and BEC
   - By total

2. **Source of information**
   Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**
   Price: Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**
   - Lack of trained personnel
   - Lack of equipment and funds to hire sufficient staff
   - Definition of upper and lower limits of still acceptable price relatives

5. **Release dates**
   Data will be released five weeks after the end of the reference month or quarter. For the month and quarter ending in December, data will be released on 15 March of the following year.

6. **Revision policy**
   Indices will be considered for revision if significant discrepancy is found when export indices are compared to producer price indices, and import indices to wholesale price indices.

7. **Dissemination**
   Indices are expected to be available to users beginning in 2004.

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**
   Agency: Department of Statistics
   Name: Siham Gammoh
   Rabeh Abu Affar
   Address: P.O. Box 2015
   Amman 11181, Jordan
   Telephone: (9626) 530-0717
   Fax: (9626) 530-0710
   E-mail: siham@dos.gov.jo
KAZAKHSTAN

1. Index number series produced
   Monthly, quarterly and annual unit value indices for total exports and imports:
   • By section and chapter of HS
   • By total

2. Source of information
   Customs records

3. Index calculation methods
   Unit value: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country
   Imputed prices are used to smooth out drastic fluctuations in unit values.

5. Release dates
   Monthly indices are released five to six days after the end of the reference month. Annual indices are released in February of the following year.

6. Revision policy
   Indices are not revised.

7. Dissemination
   • Monthly and annual publications of the Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan

8. Compiling agency and contact information
   Agency: The Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan
   Name: J. Kulekeev
   Address: 125 Prospekt Abaia
   480008 Almaty Kalasi
   Kazakhstan
   Telephone: (73272) 42-13-89, (73272) 62-13-23
   Fax: (73272) 42-08-24
   E-mail: kazstat@online.ru
KENYA

1. **Index number series produced**
   Annual unit value index and volume index numbers of imports and exports:
   - By sections 0-8 of SITC
   - By total non-oil imports and exports
   - By total

2. **Source of information**
   Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**
   Unit value: Laspeyres
   Volume: Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**
   The problem encountered in the compilation of index numbers is the treatment of extreme unit value relatives (outliers).

5. **Release dates**
   Annual data are released by the end of May of the following year.

6. **Revision policy**
   Revision is made once a year, after the Customs Office revises trade data.

7. **Dissemination**
   - *Statistical Abstract* (annual), Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)
   - *Economic Survey* (annual), CBS

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**
   Agency: Central Bureau of Statistics
   Ministry of Planning and National Development
   Name: David S. O. Nalo, Director of Statistics
   Address: P.O. Box 30266
   Nairobi, Kenya
   Telephone: (2542) 333971-6
   Fax: (2542) 333030
   E-mail: eurotrace@iconnect.go.ke
KUWAIT

1. **Index number series produced**
   Annual unit value and volume indices of imports

2. **Source of information**
   Customs records, oil authorities and Kuwait Airways

3. **Index calculation methods**
   Unit value:  Paasche
   Volume:  Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**
   No information provided

5. **Release dates**
   No information provided

6. **Revision policy**
   No information provided

7. **Dissemination**
   *Annual Statistical Abstract*

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**
   Agency:  Central Statistical Office
   Ministry of Planning
   Name:  Hamad M. H. Monawer
   Assistant Under-Secretary
   Statistical and Information Sector
   Address:  P.O. Box 26188
   13122 Safat, Kuwait
   Telephone:  (965) 2454968
   Fax:   (965) 2430464

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

1. **Index number series produced**
   Quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:
   - By section and chapter of HS
   - By total
2. Source of information
Customs records

3. Index calculation methods
Unit value: Paasche
Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country
Comparability of data pertaining to current and preceding period is limited.

5. Release dates
Fifty-five days after the reference period

6. Revision policy
No information provided

7. Dissemination
The Foreign Trade of Kyrgyz Republic

8. Compiling agency and contact information
Agency: National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic
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LATVIA

1. Index number series produced
Quarterly and annual unit value index numbers of exports and imports:
• By chapter and section of CN
• By class, division and section of NACE, Rev.1
• By total

2. Source of information
Customs records. For non-homogeneous goods, data are collected for specific representative goods in importing enterprises.
3. **Index calculation methods**

   Unit value: Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**

   The main problem in the calculation of indices is occasional large unit values by quarter.

5. **Release dates**

   Quarterly data are released on the twenty-first day of the second month of the following quarter.

6. **Revision policy**

   The published data are final and are not usually revised.

7. **Dissemination**

   - *Monthly Bulletin of Latvian Statistics*, issued by the Central Statistical Bureau (CSB)
   - *Foreign Trade Unit Value Indices* (quarterly), issued by CSB
   - *Statistical Yearbook of Latvia*, issued by CSB
   - Press releases
   - Web site: http://www.csb.lv

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**

   Agency: Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia
   Name: Aleksandrs Gržibovskis
   Address: 1 Lāčplēša Street, Rīga, LV-1301, Latvia
   Telephone: (371) 7366813
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**LITHUANIA**

1. **Index number series produced**

   Quarterly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:
   - By group, chapter and section of CN

   Monthly, quarterly and annual price index numbers of exports:
   - By class, group, division, section and subsection of NACE, Rev.1
   - By total
2. **Source of information**

Customs records and monthly sample surveys

3. **Index calculation methods**

Price: Laspeyres  
Unit value: Laspeyres  
Volume: Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**

*Limitation:*

- Indices are not seasonally adjusted. As a consequence, price trends for commodities with seasonal patterns may require longer time-spans for proper analysis.

*Problems:*

- Groups of commodities too heterogeneous; even the most detailed commodity specification in CN is not detailed enough for price data
- Treatment of extreme unit value relatives
- Definition of upper and lower limits of still acceptable price relatives and influence of limits on value of index

5. **Release dates**

Export price index data are released on the tenth working day of the month following the reference month. The quarterly export and import unit value indices and volume index numbers are released in the third month following the reference quarter.

6. **Revision policy**

Foreign trade statistics are revised, if necessary, every month for all previous months of the year, and are corrected once a year. Corrected records are included in the month of the original transaction. Data for the full year are usually finalized towards the end of the first quarter following the reference year. Every April, the quarterly export and import unit value and volume indices for the previous year are recalculated.

Export price indices are routinely subject to revision one month after their original publication to reflect corrections made by company respondents. Both the list of sampled representative goods and the weights for all indices are revised and updated at the beginning of every year.

7. **Dissemination**

The quarterly and annual export and import unit value indices and volume index numbers are released to the National Accounts Unit of Statistics Lithuania, as well as to the Bank of Lithuania and to all interested parties.
Export price index numbers, and export and import unit value index numbers are published:

- In *Economic and Social Development in Lithuania* (monthly)
- In consumer and producer price indices (quarterly)

Annual export and import unit value indices and volume index numbers are published in the *Statistical Yearbook of Lithuania*

### 8. Compiling agency and contact information

**Agency:** Statistics Lithuania  
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Head, Price Statistics Unit  
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**Agency:** Statistics Lithuania  
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Head, Foreign Trade Statistics Unit  
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2600, Vilnius, Lithuania  
**Telephone:** (37052) 36-46-61  
**Fax:** (37052) 36-48-45  
**E-mail:** valdone.kasperiuniene@mail.std.lt

**MALAYSIA**

1. **Index number series produced**

Monthly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:

- By section of SITC  
- By total

2. **Source of information**

Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**

Unit value: Laspeyres  
Volume: Paasche
4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Problems:

- Introduction of new products in the calculation of indices
- Zero trade values and quantities

5. Release dates

Trade indices are released within 70 days after the reference month.

6. Revision policy

Revisions are made from time to time as a result of quality checks and the changes are incorporated in subsequent issues of publications.

7. Dissemination

- Indices (1970-1987) were disseminated as a supplement to the Monthly External Trade Statistics publication. Production of these indices was discontinued in 1988
- A new series of indices began in January 2000 and will be available in January 2003 in the publication External Trade Indices—Malaysia (at base year 1999)

8. Compiling agency and contact information

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External Trade Statistics Division

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Chief Statistician

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jpbpo@stats.gov.my

MAURITIUS

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly and annual unit value index numbers of imports and domestic exports and price index numbers of domestic exports:
- By group and section of SITC, Rev.3
- By total
2. **Sources of information**

Customs records and data from representative samples of exporting firms

3. **Index calculation methods**

   Unit value: Laspeyres
   
   Price: Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**

   - Indices are not seasonally adjusted.
   - For the export price index, the price most often quoted is the contract price, which may have been negotiated much earlier in foreign currencies (mostly United States dollars). The price, in Mauritian rupees, that was used for the calculation of the index for a particular quarter may therefore not reflect the actual price.

5. **Release dates**

Index numbers are published 10 weeks after the reference period.

6. **Revision policy**

Index numbers are revised periodically whenever there are major revisions in the value and quantity data supplied by the customs administration.

7. **Dissemination**

   - *Economic and Social Indicators* (quarterly):
     - *Export Price Index*
     - *External Trade* (unit value index numbers)
   - Web site: http://statsmauritius.gov.mu

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**

   **Agency:** Central Statistics Office
   
   **Name:** G. Vydelingum
   
   **Ag. Principal Statistician**
   
   **Address:** LIC Building
   
   President John Kennedy St.
   
   Port Louis, Mauritius
   
   **Telephone:** (230) 210-3732
   
   **Fax:** (230) 211-4150
   
   **E-mail:** cso@intnet.mu
MEXICO

1. **Index number series produced**
   Monthly and annual price indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports

2. **Source of information**
   - Customs records
   - International commodity prices of products exported by Mexico
   - Unit prices for imports and price index for United States exports

3. **Index calculation methods**
   Price: Paasche
   Volume: Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**
   No information provided

5. **Release dates**
   No information provided

6. **Revision policy**
   No information provided

7. **Dissemination**
   *Indices de Precios* (monthly)

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**
   Agency: Banco de México
   Name: Javier Salas Martin
   Telephone: (5255) 5237-2610
   Fax: (5255) 5237-2705
   E-mail: jsalas@banxico.org.mx

NETHERLANDS

1. **Index number series produced**
   Monthly, quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices of exports and imports:
   - By chapter of HS (quarterly and annual)
   - By section of HS (monthly)
2. **Source of information**

Customs records and Intrastat

3. **Index calculation methods**

Unit value: Fisher

Volume: Fisher

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**

No information provided

5. **Release dates**

Data for each month are released about two months after the reference month. The data are provisional.

6. **Revision policy**

Data for each month of the quarter are revised about two months after the release date of the last month in the reference quarter (provisional definitive figures). Data for each month of the year are revised about half a year after the last month of the reference year (definitive figures).

7. **Dissemination**

- *Monthly Bulletin of Financial Statistics*
- *Monthly Bulletin of International Trade Statistics*
- Web site: http://www.cbs.nl

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**

Agency: Statistics Netherlands

Division of Trade, Transport and Services

Sector International Trade

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NEW ZEALAND

1. **Index number series produced**
   
   Quarterly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:
   
   - By major commodity groups
   - By end use (imports only)
   - By total

2. **Source of information**

   Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**

   Unit value: Fisher

   Volume: Fisher

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**

   Many imported goods classified under particular codes are not sufficiently homogeneous. Unit values for those goods are not suitable for inclusion in the indices.

5. **Release dates**

   Provisional quarterly indices are available on the twelfth working day of the third month of the following quarter. Final quarterly indices are released three months later. Annual indices are available when the corresponding fourth quarter indices are released.

6. **Revision policy**

   Merchandise trade price and volume indices are provisional for one quarter to allow for the inclusion of late data and amendments to the merchandise trade data source.

7. **Dissemination**

   - *Hot Off the Press* releases
   - Information Network for Official Statistics (INFOS) database
   - *Key Statistics* articles (monthly)
   - *New Zealand Official Yearbook* (annual)
   - Web site: http://www.stats.govt.nz
8. Compiling agency and contact information

**Price indices**
Agency: Statistics New Zealand  
Name: Loretta Dobbs  
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85 Molesworth Street  
P.O. Box 2922  
Wellington, New Zealand  
Telephone: (644) 931-4600  
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E-mail: loretta_dobbs@stats.govt.nz

**Volume indices**
Agency: Statistics New Zealand  
Name: Fiona Thomson  
Address: Dollan House  
401 Madras Street  
Private Bag 4741, Christchurch, New Zealand  
Telephone: (643) 964-8700  
Fax: (643) 964-8964  
E-mail: fiona_thomson@stats.govt.nz

**NORWAY**

1. **Index number series produced**
Quarterly and annual unit value and seasonally adjusted volume indices of imports and exports:
   - By SITC (three-digit selected commodity group, two-digit and section)  
   - By total, excluding ships and oil platforms  
   - By total, excluding ships, oil platforms, crude oil and natural gas (exports only)

2. **Source of information**
Customs records, except for data on ships and mobile oil platforms, and exports of crude oil and natural gas that are collected directly by Statistics Norway

3. **Index calculation methods**
Unit value: Paasche  
Volume: Laspeyres
4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

**Limitation:**
- Indices not seasonally adjusted

**Problems:**
- Heterogeneity within economically important commodity groups (e.g., machinery), resulting in few representative tariff numbers
- Price measurement of capital goods because of complexity of products involved
- Lack of adjustment for quality change
- Definition of upper and lower limits of still acceptable price relatives

5. Release dates

Indices for the first quarter are released on 15 May. Indices for the second, third and fourth quarters are released on the 15 July, October and January, respectively.

6. Revision policy

Indices for the previous quarters are updated to reflect late reports and corrections. Final figures for the previous year are published in May of the following year.

7. Dissemination

Indices are disseminated by the web site of Statistics Norway as follows:

8. Compiling agency and contact information

**Agency:** Statistics Norway  
**Name:** Anne Berit Dahle  
Statistical Adviser  
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N-0033 Oslo  
Office Kongens gate 6  
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**Telephone:** (47) 21-09-47-10  
**Fax:** (47) 21-09-49-96  
**E-mail:** anne.berit.dahle@ssb.no
OMAN

1. **Index number series produced**

   Annual unit value indices of import:
   - By section of SITC, Rev.1
   - By total

2. **Source of information**

   Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**

   Unit value: Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**

   The most difficult problem encountered by the index compilers is lack of an accurate quantitative unit of measurement that is linked to specifications of goods.

5. **Release dates**

   Indices are released on an annual basis.

6. **Revision policy**

   Indices are not revised.

7. **Dissemination**

   *Statistical Yearbook*

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**

   Agency: Directorate General of Economic Statistics
          Ministry of National Economy
   Name:  Ahmed Fadhil Al Fareed
   Address: P.O. Box 881, Postal Code 113
          Muscat, Oman
   Telephone: (968) 604-918
   Fax: (968) 604-718
   E-mail: mone@omantel.net.om
PAKISTAN

1. Index number series produced
   Quarterly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:
   • By section of SITC, Rev.3
   • By total

2. Source of information
   Customs records

3. Index calculation methods
   Unit value: Laspeyres
   Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

   Limitation:
   • Index numbers not seasonally adjusted

   Problems:
   • Lack of trained personnel
   • Determining whether or not a tariff number is representative
   • Defining upper and lower limits of still acceptable price relatives and influence of limits on value of index

5. Release dates
   Quarterly data are released by the twenty-fifth day of the second month of the following quarter.

6. Revision policy
   Indices are not revised, as final revised trade data are used to calculate index numbers.

7. Dissemination
   • Monthly Statistical Bulletin
   • Pakistan Statistical Yearbook

8. Compiling agency and contact information
   Agency: Federal Bureau of Statistics
   Name: Nazeer Ahmed
   Director, Trade
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

1. **Index number series produced**
   Quarterly and annual unit value and price indices for exports and annual unit value indices for imports:
   - By commodity groups (exports)
   - By section (imports) of SITC
   - By total

2. **Source of information**
   Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**
   Unit value: Laspeyres
   Price: Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**

   **Limitations:**
   - Substantial difference in values between average of quarterly indices and annual index numbers

   **Problems:**
   - Lack of expertise to advise on index numbers
   - Lack of funding to carry out statistical surveys for additional data on export and import prices
   - Data from customs authorities not timely, as they are received 6-12 months late
   - The Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) set up in major ports only, thereby delaying data input from other ports

5. **Release dates**
   Data for each month are released quarterly, on the last working day of the quarter. Quarterly data are released 30 days after the end of the quarter. Data for the fourth quarter and annual data are released before the end of the first quarter of the following year.
6. Revision policy

Data are revised each month for the previous quarter to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections. Quarterly and monthly data for the year are finalized in March of the following year.

7. Dissemination

*Economic Indicators*
Web site: http://www.nso.gov.pg

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: National Statistical Office of Papua New Guinea
Name: Nick Suvulo
National Statistician
Address: P.O. Box 337
Waigani, NCD, Papua New Guinea
Telephone: (675) 301-1200
Fax: (675) 325-1869
E-mail: nsuvulo@gov.pg

PERU

1. Index number series produced

Annual unit value and volume index numbers of exports and imports:
- By Central Product Classification (CPC)
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Paasche
Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Because the quantity of all items is expressed in gross units, it becomes necessary to use other indicators, such as international market prices for minerals, petroleum and petroleum products, and fish, to validate certain price indices. A specialist is needed to train staff on index numbers computation methodology.
5. **Release dates**

Indices are published in May of the following year.

6. **Revision policy**

Index numbers for the reference year are preliminary. They are revised, and final figures are published in the next issue of the annual publication.

7. **Dissemination**

*Oferta y Demanda Global*

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**

Agency: Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática  
Name: Rosa Navarro Miraval  
Address: Av. General Garzón No. 654-658—Jesús María  
Apartado 2095  
Lima, Perú  
Telephone: (511) 433-4223, extension 147  
Fax: (511) 433-8611  
E-mail: rnavarro@inei.gob.pe

**PHILIPPINES**

1. **Index number series produced**

Monthly, quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:
- By one-, two- and three-digit levels of the 1993 Philippine Standard Commodity Classification
- By total

2. **Source of information**

Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**

Unit value: Paasche  
Volume: Value indices divided by unit value indices

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**

No information provided
5. **Release dates**
   No information provided

6. **Revision policy**
   No information provided

7. **Dissemination**
   - Special releases by the National Statistics Office
   - Web site: www.census.gov.ph

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**
   
   **Agency**: National Statistics Office  
   **Name**: Margarita F. Guerrero, Director II  
   **Industry and Trade Statistics Department**  
   **Address**: R. Magsaysay Blvd.  
   Sta. Mesa, Manila 1008  
   Manila, Philippines  
   **Telephone**: (632) 713-7074, (632) 716-0454  
   **Fax**: (632) 713-7073, (632) 716-3924  
   **E-mail**: M. Morada@census.gov.ph

**POLAND**

1. **Index number series produced**
   Monthly, quarterly and annual price and volume indices of imports and exports:
   - By division and section of the combined nomenclature of Poland
   - By division and section of SITC
   - By lines of business, branches and groups of customs postal branches
   - By EU, by Central and Eastern Europe; developed and developing countries
   - By total

2. **Source of information**
   Customs records and price surveys

3. **Index calculation methods**
   **Price**: Paasche  
   **Volume**: Laspeyres
4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**

   No information provided

5. **Release dates**

   External trade price survey results are released 80 days after the surveyed month.

6. **Revision policy**

   The data are revised monthly and corrections are made for the previous month. All data are finalized for the year 90 days after the surveyed period.

7. **Dissemination**

   Monthly:
   - *Prices in the National Economy* (Ceny w Gospodarce narodowej)
   - *Statistical Bulletin* (Biuletyn Statystyczny)

   Quarterly:
   - *Foreign Trade* (Handel Zagraniczny)
   - *CESTAT Statistical Bulletin*

   Annual:
   - *Prices in the National Economy* (Ceny w Gospodarce narodowej)
   - *Yearbook of Foreign Trade Statistics* (Rocznik Statystyczny Handlu Zagranicznego)
   - *Statistical Yearbook* (Rocznik Statystyczny)
   - *Concise Statistical Yearbook of Poland* (Mały Rocznik Statystyczny)

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**

   **Agency:** European Integration and International Co-operation Bureau
   Central Statistical Office of Poland

   **Name:** Barbara Domaszewicz, Director

   **Address:** Al. Niepodległości 208
   00-925 Warsaw, Poland

   **Telephone:** (4822) 608-31-13
   **Fax:** (4822) 608-38-70
   **E-mail:** G. Jurczak@stat.gov.pl
PORTUGAL

1. **Index number series produced**
   Quarterly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:
   - By commodity flow
   - By intra- and extra-community (annual indices only)
   - By total

2. **Source of information**
   Customs records and Intrastat

3. **Index calculation methods**
   Unit value: Paasche and Laspeyres
   Volume: Paasche and Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**
   No information provided

5. **Release dates**
   Quarterly indices are released at the beginning of the fourth month after the end of the reference period.
   Annual indices are released by the end of the following year.

6. **Revision policy**
   Indices are revised at the end of the following year.

7. **Dissemination**
   - Release papers
   - *International Trade Statistics* (annual)

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**
   Agency: Instituto Nacional de Estatística
   Name: António Dias
   Departamento de Estatísticas da Indústria e Serviços
   Serviço de Estatísticas do Comércio International
   Address: Av. António José de Almeida, 2
            1000-043 Lisbon, Portugal
   Telephone: (351) 218426100, ext. 1384/1409
   Fax: (351) 218426380, (351) 218426552
   E-mail: antonio.dias@ine.pt
1. **Index number series produced**

Annual unit value and volume index numbers of imports:
- By section of SITC, Rev.3
- By total

2. **Source of information**

Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**

Unit value: Fisher
Volume: Fisher

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**

No information provided

5. **Release dates**

Index number data for each year are released the following year.

6. **Revision policy**

No information provided

7. **Dissemination**

- *Annual Statistical Abstract* issued by the Planning Council of the State of Qatar
- Web site: http://www.planning.gov.qa

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**

Agency: Statistics Department of the Planning Council
Name: Ahmed Bin Mohammad Bin Jabor Al-Thani
      Secretary-General
Address: P.O. Box 1855
        Doha, Qatar
Telephone: (974) 4381111
Fax: (974) 425555
REPUBLIC OF KOREA

1. Index number series produced
   Monthly, quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:
   - By principal commodity
   - By total

2. Source of information
   Customs records

3. Index calculation methods
   Unit value:  Paasche
   Volume:  Derived by dividing value index by corresponding unit value index

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country
   No information provided

5. Release dates
   Data for each month (except December) are released between the tenth and fifteenth of the following month; for each quarter, except the fourth quarter, between the tenth and fifteenth of the second month of the following quarter; and for December, the fourth quarter and the year, between the tenth and fifteenth of March of the following year.

6. Revision policy
   - A change of over $30 million a month is made in the import and export figures of the Korea Customs Service.
   - Quarterly and monthly data are finalized for the year in March of the following year.

7. Dissemination
   - Monthly Statistical Bulletin of the Bank of Korea
   - Monthly Balance of Payments Bulletin
   - Economic Statistics Yearbook
   - Press releases
   - Web site: http://www.bok.or.kr

8. Compiling agency and contact information
   Agency:  The Bank of Korea
   Economic Statistics Department
   Balance of Payments Statistics Team
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

1. **Index number series produced**
   Quarterly and annual unit value index numbers of imports and exports:
   - By section of HS
   - By total

2. **Source of information**
   Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**
   Unit value: Paasche

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**
   No information provided

5. **Release dates**
   No information provided

6. **Revision policy**
   No information provided

7. **Dissemination**
   - *External Trade of the Republic of Moldova*
   - *Statistical Yearbook* prepared by the Main Division of Trade and Services Statistics
   - Web site: http://www.statistica.md/statistics

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**
   **Agency:** Department for Statistics and Sociology of the Republic of Moldova
ROMANIA

1. **Index number series produced**

   Annual unit value indices for exports and imports:
   - By six-, four- and two-digit levels and section of CN
   - By group of countries (European Union, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, transition and other countries)
   - By total

2. **Source of information**

   Customs records and statistical reports for electrical energy and natural gas

3. **Index calculation methods**

   Unit value: Paasche

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**

   *Limitation:*
   - Indices are not seasonally adjusted.

   *Problems:*
   - Lack of trained personnel
   - Determining whether or not a tariff number is representative
   - Treatment of extreme unit value relatives
   - Definition of upper and lower limits of still acceptable price relatives and influence of limits on value of index

5. **Release dates**

   Monthly indices are released 45 days after the end of the reference month.
   Quarterly unit value indices are released 90 days after the end of the reference quarter (beginning with data for the first quarter of 2002).
6. **Revision policy**
Quarterly data for the current year are finalized at the end of the first quarter of the next year.

7. **Dissemination**
- *Romanian Statistical Yearbook*
- *Romanian Foreign Trade Yearbook*
- *Romania in Figures*
- Specialized publications

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**
Agency: National Institute of Statistics
Name: Maria Chişinevschi
Director for International Co-operation and European Integration Department
Address: Ave. Libertăţii, Nr. 16, Sector 5
70542 Bucharest, Romania
Telephone: (401) 312-0605
Fax: (401) 311-2389
E-mail: statint@insse.ro

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

1. **Index number series produced**
Quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices for total exports and imports:
- By section and chapter of HS
- By total

2. **Source of information**
Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**
- Unit value: Paasche
- Volume: Derived by dividing value index by corresponding unit value index

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**
Calculation of index numbers in trade among members of a customs union
5. Release dates
On the sixtieth day after the reference period

6. Revision policy
Revised when the database is updated

7. Dissemination

- Quarterly and annual publications of the State Customs Committee of the Russian Federation
- Web site: http://www.customs.ru (Russian)

8. Compiling agency and contact information
Agency: State Customs Committee
Name: Valery Orlov, Head
Department of Statistics and Analysis
Address: 10-3-288 Gabrichevskaya Street
         Moscow, Russian Federation
Telephone: (7095) 913-93-45
Fax: (7095) 449-70-66
E-mail: utsa-sog@gnivc.customs.ru

SENEGAL

1. Index number series produced
Annual unit value indices for exports and imports:
   - By products
   - By total

2. Source of information
Customs records and records of the International Trade Office

3. Index calculation methods
Unit value: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country
   Problems:
   - Base year too old
   - Lack of powerful computers
5. **Release dates**
   No information provided

6. **Revision policy**
   No information provided

7. **Dissemination**
   *Note d’Analyse du Commerce Extérieur*

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**
   Agency: Direction de la Prévision et de la Statistique
   Ministère de l’Économie, des Finances et du Plan
   Name: Moussa Faye, Director
   Address: B.P. 116
   Dakar, Senegal
   Telephone: (221) 825-0743, (221) 824-6853, (221) 823-7007
   Fax: (221) 824-9001

**SINGAPORE**

1. **Index number series produced**
   Monthly and annual price indices of exports and imports:
   - By commodity group, division and section of SITC
   - By total

2. **Source of information**
   Data from monthly price surveys of exporters and importers

3. **Index calculation methods**
   Price: Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**
   Indices are not seasonally adjusted.

5. **Release dates**
   Data for each month are released on the thirtieth of the following month.

6. **Revision policy**
   Data published are considered final and are not normally revised.
7. **Dissemination**
   - *Monthly Digest of Statistics*
   - *Yearbook of Statistics*

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**
   
   **Agency:**  Singapore Department of Statistics  
   **Name:**  Susanna Lee Hwee Siang  
   **Address:**  100 High Street # 05-01  
   The Treasury, Singapore 179434  
   **Telephone:**  (65) 63327712  
   **Fax:**  (65) 63327689  
   **E-mail:**  Susanna_LEE@singstat.gov.sg

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**SLOVAKIA**

1. **Index number series produced**
   
   Quarterly and annual unit value indices of exports and imports:
   - By geographical zones  
   - By section and chapter of HS

2. **Source of information**

   Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**

   Unit value:  Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**

   Unit value indices by geographical zones, starting in the year 2000 are not comparable with those prior to 2000.

5. **Release dates**

   Unit value indices are released 60 days after the reference quarter.

6. **Revision policy**

   Unit value indices are not revised.

7. **Dissemination**

   - Press agency  
   - *Foreign Trade of the Slovak Republic* (monthly)  
   - *Price indices in the Foreign Trade of the Slovak Republic* (quarterly)
8. **Compiling agency and contact information**

Agency: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Name: Jozefina M. Frankova, Director

Department of External Trade Statistics

Address: Mileticova 3
82467 Bratislava, Slovakia

Telephone: (4212) 5023-6396

Fax: (4212) 5023-6626

E-mail: Jozefina.Frankova@statistics.sk

Agency: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Name: Mária Schwartzová, Director

Department of Comprehensive Analyses and Publications

Address: Mileticova 3
82467 Bratislava, Slovakia

Telephone: (4212) 5023-6324

Fax: (4212) 5556-1361

E-mail: Maria.Schwartzova@statistics.sk

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**SLOVENIA**

1. **Index number series produced**

Quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices of exports and imports
- By section and division of SITC, Rev.3
- By section, subsection and division of NACE, Rev.1
- By BEC
- By total

Monthly unit value indices of imports and exports:
- By section and division of SITC, Rev.3
- By total

2. **Source of information**

Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**

Unit value: Fisher

Volume: Derived by dividing value index by corresponding unit value index
4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

- Lack of trained personnel for unit value index calculation
- Determining whether or not a tariff number is representative
- Definition of upper and lower limits of still acceptable price relatives and influence of limits on value of index

5. Release dates

Monthly and annual indices are produced six weeks after the end of the reference period. Quarterly indices are available to users six and a half to seven weeks after the end of the reference quarter. They are published approximately two and a half months after the end of the reference quarter.

6. Revision policy

Monthly, quarterly and annual unit value indices are calculated from revised external trade data and are therefore not revised.

7. Dissemination

- Rapid reports (quarterly indices, all classifications)
- *Monthly Statistical Review of the Republic of Slovenia* (quarterly indices, total only)
- *Statistical Yearbook* (annual indices, total only)
- *Slovenia in Figures* (annual indices, total only)
- *CESTAT Statistical Bulletin* (quarterly, annual indices, total only)
- Web site: http://www.sigov.si

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia
        Department of External Trade Statistics
Name: Majda Rant
        Head of Department of External Trade Statistics
        Frida Braunsberger
        Adviser to Director for External Trade Statistics
Address: Vožarski pot 12
        1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
Telephone: (3861) 2415-142 (Frida Braunsberger)
Fax: (3861) 2415-344
E-mail: Simon.perse@gov.si
SOUTH AFRICA

1. **Index number series produced**
   Monthly and annual unit value and volume indices of exports and imports:
   - By section and commodity group of SITC
   - By total

2. **Source of information**
   Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**
   Unit value: Paasche
   Volume: Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**
   - Export declarations are not fully automated yet and figures may not be entirely accurate.
   - There is a lack of experienced staff during the first checking phase at the ports.

5. **Release dates**
   Data are released on or before the last day of the month.

6. **Revision policy**
   Revisions are made to the preliminary (unaudited) figures during the audit for a specific month. Any other revisions made by importers or exporters to their original declarations are included in the cumulative figures for the month the revision is submitted to customs.

7. **Dissemination**
   - *Monthly Abstract of Trade Statistics*
   - *Foreign Trade Statistics*
   - Web site: http://www.sars.gov.za

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**
   Agency: South African Revenue Service
   Name: Jack M. Heyns
   Commissioner for South African Revenue Service
   Address: Brookfield Park South
   299 Bronkhorst Street
   Nieuw Muckleneuk
   Pretoria, 0181
   Private Bag X923, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa
SWEDEN

1. **Index number series produced**

   Monthly, quarterly and annual price indices, and quarterly and annual volume indices of exports and imports:
   - By section of ISIC
   - By SITC
   - By total

2. **Source of information**

   Data from special surveys by Statistics Sweden and data from foreign trade statistics.

3. **Index calculation methods**

   Price: Paasche  
   Volume: Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**

   None

5. **Release dates**

   Quarterly data are released two and a half months after the end of the quarter.  
   Yearly data are released two and a half months after the end of the year.

6. **Revision policy**

   Revisions are undertaken each quarter for the preceding two quarters. End-of-year revisions for yearly and quarterly indices are made in August of the following year.

7. **Dissemination**

   - *Statistiska Meddelanden*  
   - *Monthly Digest of Swedish Statistics*  
   - *Statistical Yearbook of Sweden*  
   - Web site: http://www.seb.se/allmanmanadsstatistik
8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Statistics Sweden
Name: Lars Malmborg
Foreign Trade Program
Address: Box 24300
S-104 51
Stockholm, Sweden
Telephone: (468) 5069-4629
Fax: (468) 5069-4810
E-mail: lars.malmborg@scb.se

SWITZERLAND

1. Index number series produced

Monthly, cumulative monthly, quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices of exports and imports:

- By nature of goods (Swiss nomenclature)
- By BEC (Swiss nomenclature)
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Fisher
Volume: Derived by dividing value index by corresponding unit value index

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Problems:

- Determining whether or not a tariff number is representative
- Treatment of extreme unit value relatives
- Interpretation of resulting index numbers

5. Release dates

The data are published in printed form and are available electronically two to three weeks after the end of the reference period. The exact date of release can be found on the web site below.
6. Revision policy
No information provided

7. Dissemination
- Statistics by goods and by countries
- Annual report
- *La Vie économique—Revue de politique économique*
- CD-ROM by domain
- SWISS-impex (statistical database)
- Web site: http://www.zoll.admin.ch/d/aussenhandel/statindd.htm

8. Compiling agency and contact information
Agency: Directorate General of Swiss Customs
Name: H. R. Balmer
Head of the Statistics Division
Address: Monbijoustrasse 40
         CH-3003 Bern, Switzerland
Telephone: (4131) 322-6525
Fax: (4131) 323-3927
E-mail: ozd.aussenhandelsstatistik@ezv.admin.ch

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

1. Index number series produced
Annual unit value and volume indices of exports and imports:
- By section and division of SITC, Rev.3
- By country of origin and destination, and tariff headings
- By total

2. Source of information
Customs records

3. Index calculation methods
Unit value: Laspeyres and Paasche
Volume: Laspeyres and Paasche

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

*Problem:*
- Definition of upper and lower limits of still acceptable price relatives and influence of limits on value of index numbers.
5. Release dates
Annual data are released at the end of May of the following year.

6. Revision policy

7. Dissemination
- *Foreign Trade Statistics*, Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)
- *Quarterly Bulletin*, Central Bank of Syria
- *Statistical Abstract*, CBS

8. Compiling agency and contact information
Agency: Central Bureau of Statistics
Name: Ibrahim Ali, Director
Address: Office of the Prime Minister
Abdel Malek Ben Marwan Street, Abu Rumeleh
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
Telephone: (96311) 333-5830/1/2/3
Fax: (96311) 332-2292
E-mail: cbs@mail.sy

THAILAND

1. Index number series produced
Monthly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:
- By SITC one-digit
- By economic classification by end use imports
- By product group—classification by economic sector (exports)

2. Source of information
Customs records

3. Index calculation methods
Unit value: Fisher (chained)
Volume: Derived by dividing value index by corresponding unit value index

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country
Unit value may not be a proper choice for the calculation of price indices, especially for heterogeneous commodities.
5. Release dates
Indices of the reference month are released on the last working day of the following month.

6. Revision policy

7. Dissemination

- Economic and Financial Statistics (quarterly)
- Web site: http://www.bot.or.th/bothomepage/databank/EconData/Econ/EconData_e.htm

Seasonally adjusted series are also available for classification by product group and by economic classification.

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Bank of Thailand
Name: Nuannute Thana-anekcharoen
Address: Bangkok 10200, Thailand
Telephone: (662) 283-5626
Fax: (662) 283-5185
E-mail: nuannutt@bot.or.th

TURKEY

1. Index number series produced

Monthly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:
- By sector and subsector of ISIC, Rev.3 and Rev.2
- By section of SITC, Rev.3
- By BEC
- By national sector classification
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Fisher
Volume: Laspeyres
4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**

*Limitation:*

- Indices are not seasonally adjusted. As a result, price trends for commodities with seasonal patterns may require a longer time-span for proper analysis.

*Problems:*

- Lack of trained personnel
- Determining whether or not a tariff number is representative
- Treatment of extreme unit value relatives
- Defining upper and lower limits of still acceptable price relatives and influence of limits on value of index

5. **Release dates**

Although there is no specified date for release, data for each month (except December) are released two months after the reference month.

6. **Revision policy**

Indices are not revised.

7. **Dissemination**

- News releases
- *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*
- *Foreign Trade Statistics*
- *Statistical Yearbook of Turkey*
- Web site: http://www.die.gov.tr

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency:</th>
<th>State Institute of Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
<td>Mr. Omer Demir, President</td>
</tr>
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</table>
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

1. **Index number series produced**

   Monthly, quarterly and annual price indices and volume index numbers for exports and imports:
   - By division and section of SITC, Rev.3
   - By EU, by non-EU and by world
   - By total

2. **Source of information**

   Data are from the Office of National Statistics and from United Kingdom manufacturers. For import prices where products are dealt on a world market basis, details on the movements of world market prices are used. For other products, price quotes are obtained by the Office directly from importing companies. For commodities other than manufactured goods, price movements continue to be derived from customs-based data.

3. **Index calculation methods**

   Price: Laspeyres
   Volume: Laspeyres

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**

   **Problems:**
   - Exchange rate movements

   **Problems in direct collection of export and import price information:**
   - Resistance of businesses to providing information on the grounds that it has already been reported to customs
   - Difficulty in identifying businesses that can provide regular monthly price quotes, particularly for imports of capital goods (for the same product and country)

5. **Release dates**

   Currently, non-EU data are published on the fifteenth working day of the following month and EU and world data on the fifteenth working day of the second month after the month to which the data relate. From March 2002, world, EU and non-EU data for each month are published on the fortieth calendar day after the end of the month to which the data relate.

6. **Revision policy**

   The monthly estimates for trade in goods are revised when the following month’s figures are first published, to reflect adjustments to overseas trade statistics data and revisions to the previous month’s seasonal factors. Long-
run revisions to previously published data, such as for balance-of-payments and national accounts calculations, can be made only at certain points in the year to ensure consistent trade data in the United Kingdom. All months of the current year are open to revision to coincide with the quarterly balance of payments and national accounts, while revisions to earlier years are made once or twice a year.

7. Dissemination

- *United Kingdom Trade First Release on a Balance of Payments (BOP) Basis* (monthly)
- *Monthly Review of External Trade Statistics*
- *Monthly Digest of Statistics*

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Office for National Statistics
Name: David Ruffles
   Head of Trade in Goods Branch
   BOPFS D3/19
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1. Index number series produced

   Monthly, quarterly and annual price index numbers of imports and exports:
   - By Bureau of Economic Analysis end-use
   - By section, division (selected) and group (selected) of SITC, Rev.3
   - By section and chapter (selected) of HS
   - By locality of origin
   - By selected categories of services
   - By total

2. Source of information

Data are collected from companies through sample surveys conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

3. Index calculation methods

   Price: Laspeyres
4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country
   • Indices are not seasonally adjusted. As a consequence, price trends for commodities with seasonal patterns may require a longer time-span for proper analysis.
   • Use of the appropriate exchange rate in converting from a foreign currency price to a dollar price when items are priced in foreign currencies.

5. Release dates
   Monthly data are available on the fifteenth day of the month following the reference month.

6. Revision policy
   Data are revised for the previous three months to reflect the late reports and corrections by respondents.

7. Dissemination
   • Monthly news release (NEWS)
   • Web site: http://stats.bls.gov/mxp

8. Compiling agency and contact information
   Agency: United States Department of Labor
             Bureau of Labor Statistics
             Division of International Prices
   Name: Eugene Becker
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URUGUAY

1. Index number series produced
   Quarterly and annual unit value indices of imports and exports:
   • By detailed level of national classification
   • By chapter and section of HS
   • By ISIC and BEC for imports
   • By total
2. **Source of information**
   Customs records

3. **Index calculation methods**
   Unit value: Fisher

4. **Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country**
   No information provided

5. **Release dates**
   No information provided

6. **Revision policy**
   No information provided

7. **Dissemination**
   Indices are published in the March, June, September and December issues of the *Boletín Estadístico*, issued by the Banco Central del Uruguay.

8. **Compiling agency and contact information**
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