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UNITED NATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
STATISTICS DIVISION

**Expert Group on International Merchandise Trade Statistics  
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New York, 3-6 November 2009**

**UN Comtrade Data Availability, Data Revision and Usage**

**UNSD Report**

**New York, October 2009**

## I. Data Availability

1. UN Comtrade contains 45 years of detailed annual trade data for over 170 countries (or areas). As of 14 October 2009, there were 134 countries for the most recent reporting year 2008 available on UN Comtrade which is eight less than at the end of 2008, but is more than released in any other year except 2008. Overall, data availability in terms of number of countries and timeliness on UN Comtrade has been significantly improved in previous years (see Table 1).

**Table 1**  
**Number of country periods (datasets) available as of 31 December of each year**

		Year					
		2009*	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Reporting Year	2003	173	169	163	159	151	112
	2004	175	168	160	146	126	
	2005	172	163	150	120		
	2006	167	162	133			
	2007	160	142				
	2008	134					

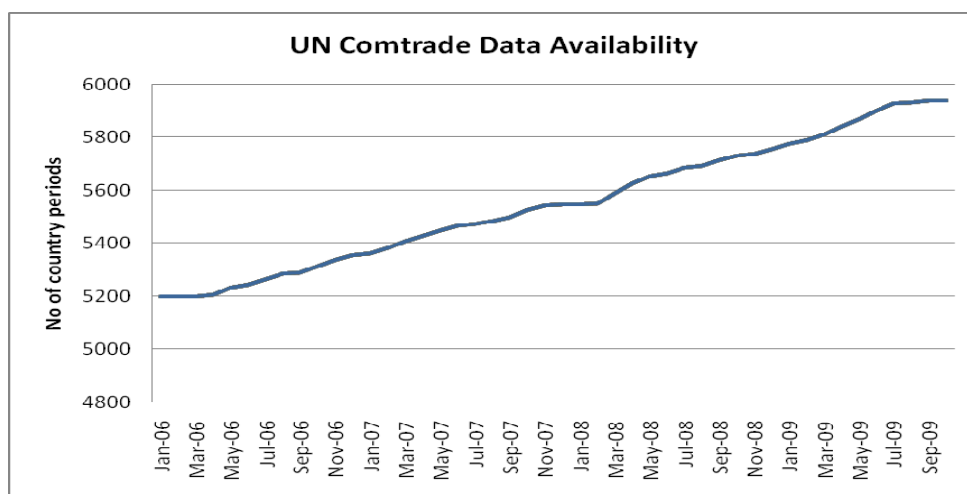
\* As of 14 October 2009

2. The maximum number of reporters per reporting year is 175 for 2004 (four years after the first year of data release in 2005). This number can be considered as a benchmark for the maximum number of countries per reporting year. Even though only 134 countries have reported data for the most recent reporting year 2008, this data accounts for around 90 percent of World Trade.

Annex 1 shows the availability of data on UN Comtrade for the reporting years 1998 to 2008 by country and commodity classification.

- Graph 1 below shows the increase of available country periods in UN Comtrade since the beginning of 2006 up to October 2009. On average, UN Comtrade added 16 new country periods per month and 178 new country periods per year.

**Graph 1:  
UN Comtrade data availability in terms of number of country periods**



## II. Data Revision

- UNSD receives new data and revised data for the latest and previous reporting years. So far during 2009 countries submitted 269 new and revised country periods (datasets) for the four reporting years 2005-2008. Of those, 100 (37.17 percent) were revised country periods. The number of revised datasets increased significantly in the previous years (see Table 2 for details). The publication of revised data accounts for a significant portion of UN Comtrade operations.

**Table 2  
Number of revised country periods submitted as of 31 December of each year**

		Received Year			
		2009*	2008	2007	2006
Reporting Year	2005	21	15	25	8
	2006	16	19	21	
	2007	31	20		
	2008	32			

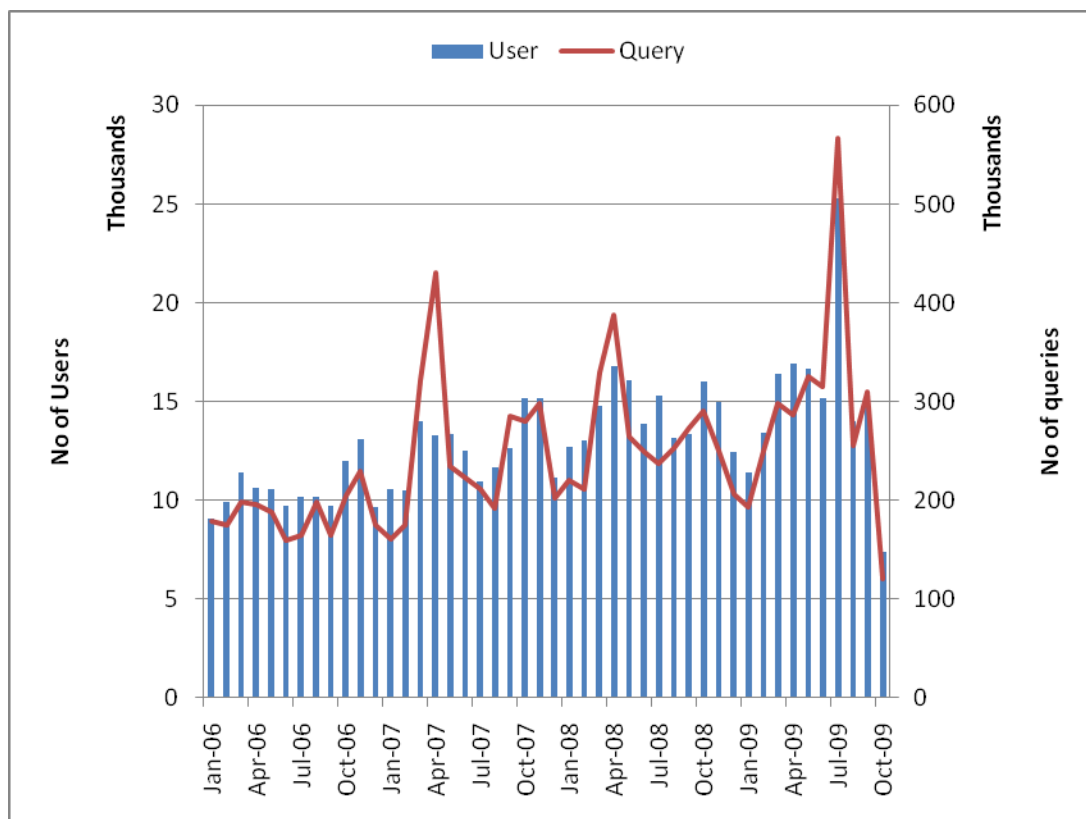
\* As of 14 October 2009

- So far during 2009 a total of 29 countries provided 32 revised datasets for the latest/current reporting year 2008. One of these 29 countries provided 4 revised datasets – meaning all other countries provided one revised dataset.

### III. Usage

6. In our last report on UN Comtrade usage statistics for the previous EG-IMTS meeting in December 2007 the number of users per month were about 10,000 and the number of queries were around 250,000 per month. Most of these users are guest users which use the database for free. As can be seen in Graph 2 below, the number of users increased to around 15,000 per month and the number of queries increased to 300,000 per month.

**Graph 2:  
Number of users and number of queries per month**



7. Since the beginning of 2008 UN Comtrade data has been made available within UNdata (<http://data.un.org>). UNdata is the United Nations Data Access System which gives access to current, relevant and reliable statistics for free (users can download up to 50,000 records per query). UNdata contains around 15.7 million trade records on 6-digits level of HS 1992 classification from the year 1998 up to the most recent year.
8. In addition of UNdata, UN Comtrade data are also re-disseminated by other international organizations such as World Bank (WITS-World Integrated Trade System), International Trade Center (Trade Map / Market Access Map), OECD, ESCWA, ECLAC and some other research institutions or private companies.

## Annex 1

## Countries or areas available in UN Comtrade by commodity classification

Country	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	148	155	172	173	174	173	175	172	167	160	134
Afghanistan											H2
Albania	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2
Algeria	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	
Andorra	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	0.5H2	0.5H2		
Anguilla			H0	H0	H0	H0	H0		H0	H0	H0
Antigua and Barbuda		H1	H1					H1	0.5H1	H1	
Argentina	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Armenia		H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Aruba	S2		H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2
Australia	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Austria	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Azerbaijan	H0	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Bahamas	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2
Bahrain			H0	H0	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	
Bangladesh	H0		H0	H0	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	
Barbados	H0	H0	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2
Belarus	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3
Belgium		H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Belgium-Luxembourg	H1										
Belize	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2
Benin	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H1	H1	H1	H2		
Bermuda								0.5H2	0.5H2	0.5H2	0.5H2
Bhutan	H0	H1						H2			H3
Bolivia	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Bosnia Herzegovina						H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3
Botswana			H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1
Brazil	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3
Brunei	H0			H0	H1	H1			H1		
Darussalam											
Bulgaria	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Burkina Faso	H0	H0	H0	H1	H2	H1	H2	H2			
Burundi	H0	H0	H0	H0	H0	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2
Cambodia			H1	H1	H1	H1	H2				
Cameroon	0.5H0	0.5H0	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2		
Canada	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Cape Verde	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	0.5H3
Central African Rep.	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H0	H0			
Chile	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	
China	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
China, Hong Kong SAR	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3

Country	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	148	155	172	173	174	173	175	172	167	160	134
China, Macao SAR	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Colombia	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Comoros	H0	H0	H0	H0	H0	H0	H0	H0	H0	H0	
Cook Isds			0.5H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2		0.5H0	0.5H3
Costa Rica	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Côte d'Ivoire	H0	H0	H0	H1	H0	H0	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3
Croatia	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Cuba		H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2		
Cyprus	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Czech Rep.	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Denmark	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Dominica		H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2
Dominican Rep.				H1							
Ecuador	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3
Egypt	H0	H0	H0	H0	H0	H0	H0	H0	H0	H0	H3
El Salvador	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Eritrea			S3	S3	S3	H1					
Estonia	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Ethiopia	H0	H0	H0	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3
EU-27			H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Faeroe Isds	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2		
Fiji			0.5H1	S3	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	
Finland	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
France	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
French Polynesia	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2		
Gabon	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2		
Gambia	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1
Georgia	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2
Germany	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Ghana	H0	H0	H0	H0	0.5H0	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2
Greece	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Greenland	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	
Grenada	H0	H0	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1
Guatemala	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Guinea	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2		H1	H2	H2	H2	H2
Guinea-Bissau						H1	H1	H1			
Guyana	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H3	H3
Honduras	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	
Hungary	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Iceland	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
India	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2
Indonesia	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1
Iran	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2		
Iraq			S3	S3	S3		0.5S3	0.5S3	0.5S3	0.5S3	0.5S3
Ireland	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3

Country	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	148	155	172	173	174	173	175	172	167	160	134
Israel	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Italy	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Jamaica	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3
Japan	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Jordan	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Kazakhstan	H1	H0	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2
Kenya	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3
Kiribati	H0	H0					0.5H1	H2			
Kuwait	S3	S3	H0	H0	H0	H0	H0		H2	H2	
Kyrgyzstan	S3	S3	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	
Latvia	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Lebanon	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2		H3	
Lesotho			H0	H0	H0	H0	H0				
Libya	S2					0.5S3	0.5S3				
Lithuania	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Luxembourg		H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Madagascar	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Malawi	0.5H0	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3
Malaysia	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2
Maldives	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3
Mali	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3
Malta	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Mauritania			H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	0.5H1	H1	H1
Mauritius	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3
Mayotte			H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	
Mexico	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3
Mongolia	H1	H1	H1	H1	0.5H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	
Montserrat		H1	H0	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2
Morocco	H0	H0	H0	H0	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	
Mozambique	0.5S3	0.5H1	H0	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2
Namibia			H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Nepal	H1	H1	H1			H2					
Neth. Antilles	H1										
Netherlands	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
New Caledonia		H0	H0	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3
New Zealand	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Nicaragua	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	
Niger	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3
Nigeria	H0	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1			H2	H2	H2
Norway	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Occ. Palestinian Terr.			S3	S3	S3	S3	S3	S3	S3	H3	
Oman	H0	H0	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H2
Other Asia, nes	H0	H0	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2
Pakistan	S3	S3	S3	S3	S3	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3

<b>Country</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
	<b>148</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>134</b>
Panama	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	0.5H2	H2	H2	H2	H3
Papua New Guinea	H0		H0	H1	H2	H2	H2				
Paraguay	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Peru	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	0.5H3
Philippines	H0	H0	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2
Poland	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Portugal	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Qatar	S3	S3	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2
Rep. of Korea	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	
Rep. of Moldova	H0	H0	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2
Romania	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Russian Federation	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Rwanda	H0	H0		H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3
Saint Kitts and Nevis		H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	
Saint Lucia	H0	H0	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1
Saint Vincent	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1
Samoa				H1	H2	H2	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1
Sao Tome and Principe		H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1
Saudi Arabia	H0	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	
Senegal	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3
Serbia								H2	H2	H3	H3
Serbia and Montenegro	H0	H0	H1	H1	H1		H1				
Seychelles	H1	H1	H0	H1	H2	H0	H0	H1	H1	H0	H3
Sierra Leone					H0						
Singapore	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Slovakia	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Slovenia	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
So. African Customs Union	H1	H1									
Solomon Isds					H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	
South Africa			H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Spain	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	
Sri Lanka		H1		H1	H2	H2	H2	H2			H3
Sudan	H0	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	0.5H3	H3
Suriname	S3	H0	H0	H0	H0	H0	H0	H0	H0	H0	H0
Swaziland			H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	
Sweden	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Switzerland	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Syria	S2	S2	S3	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	
Tajikistan			H1								
TFYR of Macedonia	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	0.5H3



<b>Country</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
	<b>148</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>134</b>
Thailand	H0	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Timor-Leste							H2	H2			
Togo	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2		H2	
Tonga			H0	H0	H0	H0	H0	H0	H0	H0	
Trinidad and Tobago	H0	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Tunisia	H0	H0	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3
Turkey	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Turkmenistan	H0	H1	H1								
Turks and Caicos Isds		H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2
Tuvalu	0.5H1	0.5H1		0.5H0	H0	0.5H0	H0	H0	0.5H0		0.5H0
Uganda	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3
Ukraine	H0	H0	H0	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2
United Arab Emirates		H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3
United Kingdom	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
United Rep. of Tanzania	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	
Uruguay	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
USA	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3	H3
Vanuatu			H0						H1	H2	
Venezuela	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	0.5H2	H2
Viet Nam	S3	S3	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	
Wallis and Futuna Isds			0.5H0	0.5H0	0.5H0	0.5H0	0.5H0	0.5H0	0.5H0		
Yemen	S2	S2	S2	S3	S3	S3	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2
Zambia	H1	H1	H1	H1	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H2	H3
Zimbabwe		S3	0.5H1	H1	H1		H2	H2	H2	H2	

Legend:

H0 = HS1992

H1 = HS1996

H2 = HS2002

H3 = HS2007

S3 = SITC Rev.3

S2 = SITC Rev.2

0.5 denotes that only imports or exports reported