

Second meeting of the Expert Group on International Merchandise Trade Statistics

3-6 November 2009, New York

Agenda item 19: Chapter XI Supplementary topics



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The first round of consultation (Oct. 08)

- There was overwhelming support for the proposal to provide more detailed recommendations on the compilation, dissemination and use of external trade indices.

Question	Yes in %	No in %
Q16 (b) (i) - Conduct price survey for the purpose of external trade indices?	32	61
Q16 (b) (i) - Developed	56	38
Q16 (b) (i) - Developing and transitional	22	70
Q16 (b) (iii) – Unit values are calculated?	59	32
Q16(b) (iv) – Use unit values for the compilation of external trade indices	56	34

The first round of consultation (Oct. 08)

- Many countries expressed a clear need for more guidance on the methodology of the compilation of external trade indices in general and in particular on the use of unit values and price surveys for this purpose.
- Several countries emphasize the importance of elaborating the use of administrative customs information as part of external trade price index system.
- Suggested to develop a standard method of compilation procedure in order to construct external trade indices.
- Some countries made a reference to the IMF manual on export-import price index.

Chapter XI Supplementary topics

- **What's new**

- This is a new Chapter.
- Very similar text was already included in the previous recommendations.
- More detailed information and guidance on the calculation of trade indices and seasonal adjustment will be provided in the updated Compilers Manual.

Results of the 2nd Round of Worldwide Consultation

- Majority of comments agree with content of this new chapter.
- Countries request to provide further guidance and best practices on the calculation of trade indices and seasonal adjustment.
- Countries describe their national practices which indicate that seasonally adjusted merchandise trade data is not necessarily a top priority of users in all countries.

A way forward

- In general, continue methodological work on good practices in compilation of external trade indices.
 - Forthcoming Compilers Manual – a chapter on external trade indices
 - Review and endorsement of a questionnaire on country practices on IMTS index numbers (Q4 2010).
 - EG-IMTS meeting on good practices in the compilation of IMTS index (Q2 2012).

Thank you for your attention!