

Project 06/07K: Strengthening the Development of International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) and the compilation of e-commerce in Member Countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Workshop on the compilation of IMTS and the application of methodological concepts

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Coverage of IMTS, inclusions and exclusions

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IMTS, Concepts and Definitions

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IMTS, Compilers manual

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Coverage – General Guideline

As a general guideline, **it is recommended** that international trade statistics record all goods which add to or subtract from the stock of material resources of a country by entering (imports) or leaving (exports) its economic territory.

Specific guidelines regarding

GOODS TO BE INCLUDED IN IMTS

1. ***Non-monetary gold.***
2. ***Unissued banknotes and securities, and coins not in circulation.***
3. ***Goods traded in accordance with barter agreements***
4. ***Goods traded on government account***
5. ***Food and other humanitarian aid.***
6. ***Goods for military use***
7. ***Goods acquired by all categories of travelers***
8. ***Goods on consignment***
9. ***Goods used as carriers of information and software.***
10. ***Goods for processing***
11. ***Goods which cross borders as a result of transactions between parent corporations and their direct investment enterprises (affiliates/branches)***

Specific guidelines regarding

GOODS TO BE INCLUDED IN IMTS

12. *Returned goods.*
13. *Electricity, gas and water*
14. *Goods dispatched through postal or courier services.*
15. *Migrants' effects.*
16. *Goods transferred from or to a buffer stock organization.*
17. ***Goods under financial lease***
18. ***Ships, aircraft and other mobile equipment***
19. ***Goods delivered to or dispatched from offshore installations located in the economic territory of a compiling country (from or to the economic territory of another country)***

Specific guidelines regarding GOODS TO BE INCLUDED IN IMTS

20. *Fish catch, minerals from the seabed and salvage landed from foreign vessels in national ports or acquired by national vessels on the high seas from foreign vessels are to be included in import statistics*

21. *Bunkers, stores, ballast and dunnage (acquired from or landed by (or supplied to) foreign vessels or aircraft in the economic territory of a country)*

22. *Empty bottles.*

23. *Waste and scrap.*

Specific guidelines regarding

GOODS TO BE EXCLUDED FROM IMTS

1. Monetary gold.
2. Issued banknotes and securities and coins in circulation
3. Goods temporarily admitted or dispatched.
4. Goods in transit.
5. Goods consigned to and from territorial enclaves.
6. Non-financial assets, ownership of which has been transferred from residents to non-residents, without crossing borders.
7. Goods treated as part of trade in services
(travelers purchases– below threshold, newspapers direct subscriptions, purchases by embassies etc. for own use, software developed to order, original recordings, blueprints)

Specific guidelines regarding

GOODS TO BE EXCLUDED FROM IMTS

8. Fish caught on the high seas by national vessels of a country and landed in its economic territory
9. Goods which are acquired and relinquished within the compiling country, by non-residents, within the same recording period, and which do not cross the frontiers of this country.
10. Goods under operational lease.
11. Goods lost or destroyed after leaving the economic territory of the exporting country but before entering the economic territory of the intended importing country
12. Empty bottles (for re-filling)
13. Waste and scrap (with no positive value)

Specific guidelines regarding

GOODS TO BE EXCLUDED BUT Recorded Separately for NA/BOP purposes

- 1. Mobile equipment that changes ownership while outside the country of residence of its original owner.***
- 2. Fish catch, minerals from the seabed and salvage sold from national vessels in foreign ports or from national vessels on the high seas to foreign vessels***
- 3. Bunkers, stores, ballast and dunnage that are acquired (or supplied) by national vessels or aircraft outside the economic territory of a country***

Specific guidelines regarding

GOODS TO BE EXCLUDED BUT Recorded Separately for NA/BOP purposes

4. *Goods purchased by international organizations located in the economic territory of a host country, from the host country, for their own use.*
5. *Goods for repair.*
6. *Goods entering or leaving the economic territory of a country illegally.*
7. *Goods lost or destroyed after ownership has been acquired by the importer.*

Problems and special issues

Questions to countries

Goods for processing (inward and outward)

- When does the country of origin change?
- Can you link goods imported for processing with goods being exported (or enter free circulation) after processing?
- Do you have information regarding change of ownership (i.e. can you identify manufacturing under contract – i.e. oil refining?)

Goods for repair

- How do you define goods for repair?
- How do you identify (and exclude) goods for repair ?

Which other items cause problems, and why ?

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