



### SPECIAL FEATURE:

## FREE DOWNLOAD OF TRADE DATA EFFECTIVE ON JULY 1ST 2010

The United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database (UN Comtrade) was established in the early 1960s. For almost fifty years, it has provided a wealth

Visit UN Comtrade Announcement at:

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

of trade information to policy makers, business community, research institutions and the general public. It stores standardized official annual trade statistics

reported by countries and reflecting international merchandise flows detailed by commodity and partner country with coverage reaching up to 99 percent of world merchandise trade.

The United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-first session held on 23-26 February 2010 recognized the importance of UN Comtrade as the global database and information platform and requested UNSD to enhance its features and metadata. Acting on the Commission's decision and responding to users' expectations, UNSD is making a special



effort to upgrade UN Comtrade in the near future.

### Free Data Downloading Services

Since UN Comtrade became available on the Internet in 2003, it allowed free access to any data record to any user worldwide by enabling them to run unlimited data queries and extract up to 1000 records per query. The limit of

1000 records was due to the computing capacity of our office. This service, however, meets the need of most users. Access to downloading services for a larger amount of data was on a subscription basis and a fee is charged for cost-recovery. Recognising that official statistics is a public good and that the demand for data has increased, UNSD will ensure that each and every user of trade statistics will have unlimited free access to trade data, subject to our technical constraints. With immediate effect, UNSD is pleased to announce that:

- 1) Free unlimited access will be available for all users through free downloading services. For technical reasons, a download limit of 50,000 data records per query is currently necessary. There is no limit on the number of queries. As we expand our technical computing capacity, we will relax this limitation further;
- 2) Registered institutional users from developing countries will be provided with special arrangements on the free access to and use of trade data. We will work on this in coordination with National Statistical Offices and the UN Regional Commissions as necessary.

### Premium Service

There are special occasions whereby a user may require premium service in obtaining the trade data. These could include bulk download of millions of records or special professional assistance. If you are interested to obtain premium access service, please visit UN Publication web site at <http://unp.un.org/comtrade.aspx> or email at [subscriptions@un.org](mailto:subscriptions@un.org).

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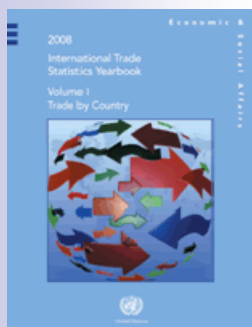
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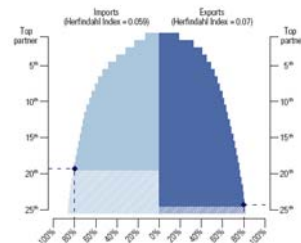
## DATABASES AND PUBLICATIONS: 2009 INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS YEARBOOK (2009 ITSY), VOLUME I - TRADE BY COUNTRY IS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE AT <http://comtrade.un.org/pb/>

The 2009 International Trade Statistics Yearbook, Volume I – Trade by Country provides an overview of the international merchandise trade in 2009 and detailed information on the trade performance for numerous countries up to the year 2009.

tion of those tables requires additional country data which, normally, become available later in the year. Volume II contains also updated versions of the two world trade tables published in Volume I.

This volume is compiled early in 2010 to allow for an advanced release of an overview of international merchandise trade in 2009 and for a much earlier publication of the available 2009 country (area) data.

Graph 3: Partner concentration of trade in 2009  
(cumulative share by ranked partners)



Beginning with the 2008 edition Volume I is published in a redesigned format in respect to the presentation of data for individual countries with the aim to provide a more analytical and condensed view of a country's trade performance (country trade profile).

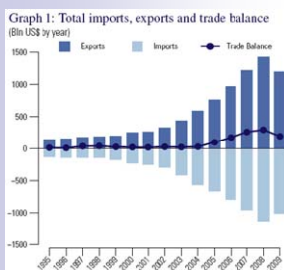
Volume II – Trade by Commodity contains the detailed tables showing international trade in main commodity groups and is finalized approximately six months after the completion of Volume I as the prepara-

Overall, data for a total of 174 countries (or areas) are shown in Volume I with the 2009 data on imports and exports by commodity and trading partner.

### ANALYTICAL TRADE TABLES IN THE MONTHLY BULLETIN OF STATISTICS

The following analytical tables on international merchandise trade statistics have been updated since the last issue of this newsletter and are available online at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/imts/analyticaltradetables.htm>

Table	Description	Latest data	Published	Next Update
T 18	Fuel imports, developed economies: unit values, volume indices and value	1 <sup>st</sup> quarter, 2010	June 2010	Sept 2010
T 19	Indicators on fuel imports, developed economies	1 <sup>st</sup> quarter, 2010	June 2010	Sept 2010
T 35	Total imports and exports by regions and countries or areas	1 <sup>st</sup> quarter, 2010	June 2010	July 2010
T 36	Total imports and exports: value, volume and unit value/price	1 <sup>st</sup> quarter, 2010	June 2010	July 2010
T 37	Trade indices for countries in U.S. dollars	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter, 2009	April 2010	July 2010
T 38	External trade conversion factors by countries	1 <sup>st</sup> quarter, 2010	June 2010	July 2010
T 39	Trade indices for regions in U.S. dollars	2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter, 2009	May 2010	Aug 2010
T 40	Manufactured goods exports: unit values, volume indices and value	1 <sup>st</sup> quarter, 2010	June 2010	Sept 2010



The analytical trade tables are officially published in the

**[UN Monthly Bulletin of Statistics \(MBS\)](#)**



## DATABASES AND PUBLICATIONS: UN COMTRADE: MONTHLY AND QUARTERLY DATA

To further improve data quality and data accessibility, UNSD is upgrading UN Comtrade to include detailed monthly and quarterly trade data in order to allow short term analysis of the global economy.

Detailed monthly trade data are made available by many countries through their national media as well as by some regional organizations. However, unlike the annual

data, these data are not yet standardized and are not readily accessible at the global level. To meet the user demand and to enhance the policy relevance and analytical value of the internationally available trade data, UNSD intends to begin the collection, storage

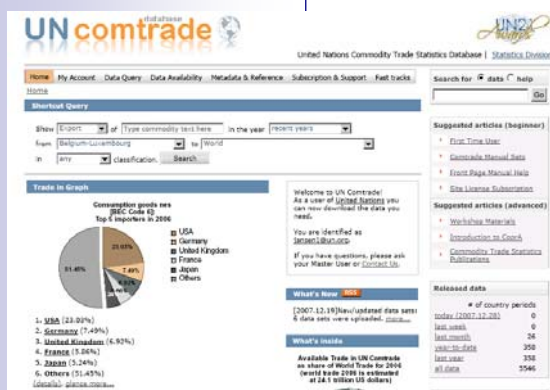
and dissemination of detailed (6-digit level of HS) monthly and quarterly data as a part of its regular work programme.

As of July 2nd 2010, there are 49 countries submitted monthly data to UNSD. These countries include Brazil, Canada, EU-27, Malaysia, Thailand, Japan, U.S.A., UK, and Zimbabwe. Other countries including China, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Indonesia,



Israel, Republic of Korea, Poland, and Singapore confirmed that they will send monthly data to UNSD.

UNSD is currently pilot processing a few countries' monthly and quarterly data at 6-digit level of HS.



### CONCEPTUAL WORK:

## NEW RECOMMENDATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS (IMTS 2010, PRE-EDITED VERSION) IS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Statistical Commission, at its forty-first session, held in New York from 23 to 26 February 2010, adopted the draft of the International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions 2010 (IMTS 2010) as the new international recommendations for merchandise trade statistics.

This is a milestone publication which will contribute to strengthening national merchandise trade statistics programmes and to harmonizing IMTS methodologies across countries, thus improving the availability of trade data and their cross country comparability.

IMTS 2010 provides a comprehensive methodological framework for collection and compilation of international merchandise trade statistics in all countries, irre-

spective of the level of development of their statistical system.

The conceptual framework of IMTS 2010 reflects both the multipurpose nature of these statistics and concern for availability of the adequate data sources and data compilation procedures. IMTS 2010 follows an integrated approach to economic statistics including the use, as applicable, of common concepts, definitions, classifications and data compilation strategies.

The pre-edited version of the IMTS 2010 is available at

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/EG-IMTS/EG-IMTS%20web%20announcement.htm>

**TOWARDS  
IMTS 2010**  
New recommendations for IMTS

**UNdata**  
A world of information  
<http://data.un.org/>

## TRADE STATISTICS KNOWLEDGEBASE:

COUNTRY METADATA IS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE AT  
TRADE STATISTICS KNOWLEDGEBASE

UNSD is making a special effort to create a new International Trade Statistics Knowledgebase. Each country metadata page contains the following information:

- Comtrade Explanatory Notes (metadata on trade system, trade valuation, commodity classification, trading partners (origin / last-known destination), and exchange rate);
- National Compilation and Reporting Practices (NCDP) (metadata on coverage, trade system, commodity classification, valuation, quantity measure-

ment, and partner country);

- Comtrade Publication Notes (Information as to when and from where data was received);
- Responsible Agency, National Web-Pages for Data and Metadata;
- IMF Data Dissemination Standards GDDS/SDDS on Merchandise Trade;
- Additional Information about Country Metadata.

For detailed information please go to the website of the Knowledgebase at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradekb/Knowledgebase/>

## YOU HAVE ASKED US:

## WHY CHINA'S REIMPORTS ARE SO HIGH?

*Why China's reimports are so high? Reimports made up 8% of China's total imports in 2008. For some other countries with large re-import values, such as France, UK, Canada, Australia, and Thailand, reimports made up only 0.5-1.2% of total imports.*

**Definition:** Reimports are imports of domestic goods which were previously recorded as exports.

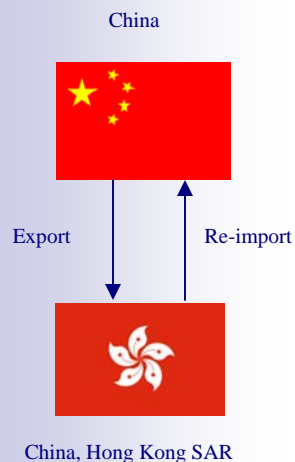
This is mainly due to the trade between China and Hong Kong, SAR of China.

Firstly, it shall be clear that China uses general trade system. It determines the coverage of China's international trade. Imports (including reimports) from China's trading partners (not free zones) into China's bonded warehouse are all counted into total imports when the goods cross the border. In this context, China treats Hong Kong as a trading partner, like U.S. or Japan, since Hong Kong belongs to a separate customs district.

Secondly, in terms of partner attribution for

imports, China uses country of origin. It means China uses rule of origin to determine its trading partners. If the country of origin is China when importing, then the trading partner is China, i.e. China import/reimport from China, even though goods shipped through Hong Kong.

Thirdly, unlike other trading partners, Hong Kong not only deals with a lot of goods imported from China for inward processing, but also serves as a unique distribution center. Thus, manufactured goods or raw materials **originally** exported from China to Hong Kong could be simply re-distributed back to China via Hong Kong, and count as a reimport for China.



## EDITORIAL NOTE

The Trade Statistics Newsletter is a quarterly publication prepared by the International Merchandise Trade Statistics Section of the United Nations Statistics Division – Department of Economic and Social Affairs. This Newsletter is not an official document of the United Nations nor does it express the official position of the United Nations. Editorial team: Matthias Reister, Markie Muryawan and Wei Liu.

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