SPECIAL FEATURE: 
FURTHER PROGRESS ON THE UPDATE OF THE 
IMTS COMPILERS MANUAL

During the second half of 2011 the work on the revision of the IMTS Compilers Manual continued with increased intensity.

Third meeting of the EG-IMTS

In its third virtual meeting on the update of the IMTS Compilers Manual from 21 September to 4 November 2011 the Expert Group on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (EG-IMTS) reviewed the initial drafts of the second set of nine chapters of the updated IMTS Compilers Manual provided by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

Meeting on compilation issues

From 6-9 December 2011 a meeting on compilation issues of IMTS 2010 was organized by the UNSD in cooperation with and hosted by the Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI) of Mexico in Mexico City. This meeting reviewed the first full draft of the revised IMTS Compilers Manual with all its chapters and gathered country experiences and good practices in the IMTS data compilation for inclusion in the Manual. Specifically, this meeting focused on making improvements to the draft chapters, providing additional information and filling gaps and giving overall guidance on how to improve the text and the Manual.

Fourth meeting of the EG-IMTS and submission to the Statistical Commission

At its fourth and final virtual meeting from 20 December 2011 - 19 January 2012 the EG-IMTS endorsed the draft IMTS Compilers Manual subject to multiple amendments and clarifications. Subsequently, UNSD is updating the first full draft of the IMTS Compilers Manual, taking into account the comments and inputs received during and after the Mexico meeting (as listed in the report of the Mexico meeting), generating a second full draft. This second full draft of the revised IMTS Compilers Manual will be provided to the 43rd session of the UN Statistical Commission, which takes place from 28 February to 2 March 2012, as a background document for information.


DATABASES AND PUBLICATIONS:

2010 INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS YEARBOOK (ITSY), VOL. II – TRADE BY COMMODITY – AVAILABLE ONLINE

2010 ITSY, Volume II – Trade by Commodity presents detailed tables showing 2010 international trade data for a total of 258 commodities (3-digit SITC groups) based on data provided by 141 countries (areas), representing 97.3% of world trade of 2010 (as available by mid of November 2011). In addition Volume II contains eleven world trade tables covering trade values and indices with data up to 2010. All tables of Volume II were made available electronically at http://comtrade.un.org/pb/ on 14 December 2011, shortly after the completion of the manuscript.

The 2010 International Trade Statistics Yearbook (2010 ITSY) is being issued in two volumes which were prepared at different points in time during 2011. Volume I - Trade by Country has been compiled early in 2011 (in May 2011) to allow for an advanced release of an over-

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Special feature:

- Further progress on the update of the IMTS Compilers Manual

Databases and Publications:

- 2010 International Trade Statistics Yearbook (ITSY), Vol. II – Trade by Commodity – available online
- Analytical trade tables published in the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics

Cooperation with Countries and Agencies

- Regional Seminar on International Trade Statistics, Beijing, China, 24 – 26 October 2011
- Seminar on merchandise trade statistics for countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Vilnius, Lithuania, 26 – 30 September 2011

You Have Asked Us

- Overview of the questions covered since 2005 – Part 1

Upcoming Events:


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http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/default.htm
2010 International Trade Statistics Yearbook (ITSY), Vol. II – Trade by Commodity – available online

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view of international merchandise trade in 2010 and for a much earlier publication of the available 2010 country (area) data. Volume II has been compiled approximately six months after the submission of Volume I (in November 2011) as the preparation of these tables requires and benefits from the additional country data which, normally, become available later in the year. Volume II contains updated versions of the two world trade tables A and D published in Volume I.

The detailed information about the trade of particular countries by commodity and partner (values and quantities) contained in the tables and graphs for individual countries in Volume I and commodities in Volume II has been taken from the publicly available database UN Comtrade (http://comtrade.un.org/db/default.aspx). Users are advised to visit UN Comtrade for any additional and more current information as it is continuously updated.

The printed publication is expected to be available by June 2012 the latest, its electronic (.pdf) version much earlier. Please contact the United Nations Sales and Marketing Section at E-mail: publications@un.org (Internet: http://unp.un.org).

Analytical trade tables published 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. They are published in the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (MBS) and are also available online at: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/imts/analyticaltradetables.htm.

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Cooperation with Countries and Agencies:

Regional Seminar on International Trade Statistics
Beijing, China, 24 – 26 October 2011

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), in collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics of China, organized a Regional Seminar on International Trade Statistics. The Seminar aimed to enhance the capacity of national statistical offices of Asian countries to produce reliable and high quality trade statistics. The Seminar was conducted as part of the project for strengthening statistical capacity in China and other developing countries in Asia and funded by the Chinese Government. For further information please go to http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/beijing11/default.htm.
 Seminar on merchandise trade statistics for countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Vilnius, Lithuania, 26 – 30 September 2011

UNSD, in cooperation with Eurostat and Statistics Lithuania, organized a seminar on merchandise trade statistics for countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia from 26 to 30 September in Vilnius, Lithuania. This seminar focused on the implementation of the new recommendations for international merchandise trade statistics (IMTS 2010) with emphasis on linking trade and other economic statistics. The seminar reviewed the updated and new recommendations on IMTS and discussed country practices in data compilation and the possible implementation of the new recommendations and data elements contained in IMTS 2010. In addition, potential issues and possible contributions for the updated IMTS Compilers Manual were discussed. All chapters of IMTS 2010 were covered. Special focus was given to linking trade and business statistics as a follow-up to the Global Forum on Trade Statistics which suggested to increase the relevance of trade statistics by linking it with business and other statistics. For further information please go to http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/vilnius11/default.htm.

You Have Asked Us: Overview of the questions covered since 2005 – Part 1

Since its first edition in January 2005, the newsletter on International Trade Statistics regularly contained answers to questions sent in by users of the trade statistics provided by the United Nations Statistics Division via its UN Comtrade database and related outputs and publications. A total of 39 questions have been replied to since 2005. The questions covered can be broken down into questions regarding general concepts for trade statistics, questions on partner country, questions on classification, questions on data and metadata and questions regarding the functionality of UN Comtrade, although often those aspects cannot be strictly separated. The below table shows the questions that have been asked over time concerning general concepts for trade statistics, partner country and classification, and indicates in which issue of the newsletter they have been covered. The next edition of this newsletter will provide the list of questions asked regarding data and metadata and the functionality of UN Comtrade.

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Visit our online knowledgebase:

http://comtrade.un.org/kb

To learn more about activities of the Statistics Division on trade statistics, please visit:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/default.htm

### Upcoming Events:

**UPDATE: UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL COMMISSION, NEW YORK, 28 FEBRUARY – 2 MARCH 2012**

The 43rd session of the United Nations Statistical Commission will take place from 28 February to 2 March 2012 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Following its regular program of work the Commission will have on its agenda, among many other topics, international merchandise trade statistics and statistics of international trade in services as items for information. There will be a side event on the topic of the role of official trade statistics in the measurement of globalization. In a second side event on trade statistics the new application for detailed monthly trade statistics will be introduced. For further information please go to http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/commission_43rd_session.htm

### 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: C. Sean Lovell and Matthias Reister.

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