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Data Validation Procedures at The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) In the Sudan: Customs Procedure Codes, Commodity Nomenclature, Country Nomenclature, Valuation, Quantity Units, & Quantity Measurement

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Introduction:

1. The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) is responsible for the compilation, processing and dissemination of external trade statistics in the Sudan.

2. Customs Administration is the source of trade data. ASYCUDA System has been introduced at the major Customs offices in the Sudan since 1992, for processing of customs trade documentation.

3. Goods of exports, imports and re-exports in the Sudan are captured through Customs Administration. So the CBS does not use None-Customs sources in compilation of external trade statistics.

Introduction:

4. Sudan follows the International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concept and Definitions, Revised 2 (IMTS, Rev.2) and the International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Compilers Manual in compilation of external trade statistics**.**

5. External trade statistics in Sudan is established on General Trade System.

Eurotrace System:

1. With assistance of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) the Eurotrace software (Master Unit) has been installed at Foreign Trade Statistics Administration, CBS, since 1996, for compilation and processing of external trade statistics data. The latest version of the Eurotrace software (Eurotrace Windows) is already being installed.

2. The Foreign Trade Statistics Administration at CBS receives the monthly declaration files (electronic files) from the Customs Administration. The monthly declaration files are collected from the Computerised Customs Offices. The monthly declaration files are then transferred to Eurotrace System.

Eurotrace System:

3. For Non-Computerised Customs Offices, the Foreign Trade Statistics Administration receives hard copies of the manual declarations from Customs Administration Headquarters. Some Statisticians of Eurotrace Team code the manual declarations and enter them into the Eurotrace System.

Data Validation Procedure:

- The CBS applies data validation procedures in processing of customs data to improve the quality of data.

- Some of these procedures are as follows:
1. Validation checks of customs procedure codes (CPC).
2. Validation checks of of commodity nomenclature.
3. Validation checks of country nomenclature.
4. Validation checks of valuation.
5. Validation checks of of quantity units.
6. Validation checks of quantity measurement.

Validation Checks of Customs Procedure Codes (CPC):

After the monthly declaration files are transferred into Eurotrace System, the main validation checks are applied, that a lot of customs declarations of one month period are displayed in the screen through Eurotrace. The CPC of these customs declarations are reviewed. If some CPC codes were applied wrong, CBS enquires about this wrong and asks the Customs Administration to verify.

Validation Checks of Commodity Nomenclature:

1. Commodities are classified according to the Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System Nomenclature (H.S). The H.S has been upgraded from (H.S 96) to (H.S 2007) with assistance of COMESA in the current year.

2. The validation checks of commodity nomenclature are shown as follows:

a) Sudan does not exports some commodities, e.g. machinery, equipment, motor cars. Searching of these commodities is done in the customs declarations of export in Eurotrace screen. If these commodities are found or some of them in the screen, and by looking to contract type on each declaration, if it is found to be FOB, this indicates that the commodity was re-exported

Validation Checks of Commodity Nomenclature:

So the CPC code on the declaration is changed to suitable code.

Validation Checks of Country Nomenclature:

1. The trading partner country in case of imports is the country of origin, and in the case of exports is the country of last known destination.

2. The main validation checks of country nomenclature are shown below:

In Eurotrace System a searching for countries which are not likely to trade with Sudan, if these countries are found, then an other search for the customs declarations is made, e.g. some of these declarations show that tea imported from Cayman Island and the country code is "KY", and Sudan is likely imports tea from Kenya, the country code of Kenya is "KE". So country code "KY" is changed to "KE".

Validation Checks of Valuation:

1. Imports are based on CIF (Cost, Insurance and Freight). Exports are based on FOB (Free on Board).

2. The validation checks of valuation are shown below:

   The customs declarations with low value are displayed in the Eurotrace screen, and reviewed the same. If quantities of these declarations are extremely large, then CBS enquires about these quantities by asking the Customs Administration to verify.

Validation Checks of Quantity Units:

1. The quantity of measurement is the net weight in kilogram.
2. The term "supplementary unit" means a unit of measurement of quantity other than kilogram.
3. The allocation of supplementary units to tariff heading are based on the recommendation of WCO.
4. The validation checks are done, that a lot of customs declaration are displayed in the Eurotrace screen. The supplementary units are reviewed, that if the quantities were given in supplementary unit in accordance with the units of measurement of quantity or not.

Validation Checks of Quantity Measurement:

- Quantities are checked by calculating unit values for the time series. If large deviation is detected, then CBS enquires about this deviation and asks the Customs Administration to verify.

The Main Problem in processing of Customs Data & Other Issues:

1. The main problem in processing Customs Data are related to the quantity and net weight.

2. The quantity data and unit values in Sudan are accurate, and unit values can be used for the calculations of Export and Import Price indices.

Thank you

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