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Country Presentation
Statistics Seychelles

*Item 12: Trade System, re-exports and re-imports, Customs
Procedure Codes and Free Zone Administration*

Merchandise Trade Statistics

Seychelles

Introduction

The Trade Unit of the National Statistics Bureau is responsible for compiling, analysing and publishing Merchandise Trade Statistics for Seychelles

Sources of data

The National Statistics Bureau uses several sources of data used in the compilation of Merchandise Trade Statistics. Of course the primary source of raw data is from the Customs Department. The other supplementary sources (mainly in the case of Exports and Re – Exports) are necessary for completeness to ensure that the data reported reflects the true volume.

Method of Compilation

Trade data are derived from Customs' documents completed by traders. They are analyzed in accordance with the General Trade System as recommended by the United Nations.

Valuation

Imports are valued C.I.F. (cost, insurance and freight) while Exports and Re-Exports are valued F.O.B. (free on board) excludes international freight charges and insurance costs.

The Trading Partner Country in the case of Imports is the Country of Origin while in the case of Exports is the Country of Destination.

Except for Re-Exports of Petroleum products where the country of origin is preferred as we get the data direct from the Seychelles Petroleum Company (SEYPEC). Steps are being put in place to record this by country of destination.

Components of Trade Statistics

- The three main components that make up International Trade are Imports, Domestic Exports and Re-Exports. Re-exports is becoming increasingly important to the Seychelles because of its strategic location as a transit point between Africa and Asia and also as the centre for tuna fishing in the Indian Ocean

Type A - Imports for home consumption (direct)

Type B - Imports for home consumption ex-warehouse

Type C - Imports for warehousing or Re-Exports

Type D - Re-Exports ex-warehouse

Type E - Re-Exports of Nationalised goods

Type F - Domestic Exports

Industrial Free Zones

- Type 1 – These are firms operating in the Industrial Free Zones. They import basic raw materials or semi-finished goods that undergoes further processes for Re-Exports. Goods under this category are classified as Domestic Exports.
- Type 2 – These are Imports for warehousing by firms operating in the Industrial Free Zones. The goods are then dispatched to other destinations. Since these goods do not really enter the trade flow it is not recorded as either imports or exports.

Main Exports

Seychelles main exports are Canned Tuna, Shrimps/Prawns, Fresh and Frozen fish, Medical Appliances and other medicaments. These are vastly different from exports of the 80's comprising of mostly Copra, Cinnamon, Patchouli, Sharks' fins and salted fish.

Publications

- External Trade Bulletins – Trade statistics are reported on a quarterly basis. Usually a Trade Bulletin is compiled before the end of the following quarter.
- Annual Trade Report – This is an annual report containing all the trade series and parameters. Here, a detailed presentation by HS Code of all commodities imported/exported by weight, value and country of origin/destination. For time series purposes some tables are also compiled in SITC.

Discussion Point

Source: International Merchandise Trade Statistics *Concepts and Definitions*.

- 36. *Ships, aircraft and other mobile equipment.* International transactions in these goods are to be included in international merchandise trade statistics. Frequently, such transactions are not the subject of customs documents. In the absence of customs documents, they should be recorded using non-customs data sources, such as registry additions and deletions or enterprise surveys.
- 38. *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.
- End Use Analysis and Classification by Broad Economic Categories