

**Workshop for Developing Countries on the  
Revision of the Recommendations for  
International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS)  
Bangkok, 9-12 September 2008**

**THE CURRENT ISSUES IN IMPLEMENTING  
INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS  
(IMTS) OF CAMBODIA**

**COUNTRY NOTES  
FOR IMTS OF CAMBODIA**

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## 1. Introduction

The National Institute of Statistics (NIS)/Ministry of Planning of the Royal Government of Cambodia have a Bureau of Trade and Industrial Statistics that are responsible for the compilation and dissemination of trade statistics. During the Workshop<sup>1</sup> in March 2003, NIS raised the issues related to the compilation of import and export statistics and also tries to use and follow the guidelines and recommendations as stated in HS, SITC. But at currently, they did not yet compile any trade statistics as recommended in IMTS manual due to lack of its resources and poor incorporation from the other government agency especially from Customs and Excise Department (CED) and so on. However, NIS has compiled the national accounts statistics since 1996, therefore, including the import and export data have been estimated as annual aggregates for their publication.

Main Indicators	2004	2005	2006p	2007p
Population (million est.)	13.5	13.7	13.8	14.0
Real GDP (% increase)	10.3	13.3	10.8	10.2
GDP per Capita (US\$)	394	455	514	615
GDP Inflation (%)	4.8	6.1	4.6	6.5
Average Inflation rate (%)	3.9	5.8	4.7	5.8
Agriculture (% real GDP)	28.8	29.4	28.0	26.7
Industry (% real GDP)	26.9	26.8	28.6	28.1
Service (% real GDP)	38.6	38.5	38.3	38.3
Exports of goods (% GDP)	52.9	52.1	57.4	57.1
Imports of goods (% GDP)	67.2	69.6	72.9	74.5
Trade balance of Goods (% GDP)	-14.4	-17.5	-15.5	-17.4
Avg. Exchange rate Riels/US\$	4015	4092	4103	4068

*Source: NIS*

## 2. Sources of Data and Document Collection

The administrative data are mostly used for compilation of import and export especially from the Customs and Excises Department (CED) foreign trade and from GSP exports data are utilized in verifying BOP data. The adjustment of import and exports made by NBC for unrecorded exports and imports of merchandise are taken into account. Some additional adjustments to unrecorded trade and re-export for the periods in order to ensure consistency with the revised BOP data. The administrative data are collected for compiling the imports and exports as follow:

Quarterly/Annual Customs and Excises Department (CED) data

Foreign investment enterprises (CDC)

Annual Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (MAFF) data

Quarterly Generalized System of Preference (GSP) exports data, Ministry of Commerce (MoC)

<sup>1</sup> *UNSD/UNESCAP Workshop on Trade Statistics for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing Countries (SIDCs) Bangkok, 25-28 March 2003*

The central bank, NBC annual reports, Quarterly BOP data fro NBC

Industrial/Establishment Survey reports will be used in updating for the compilation of the imports and exports while the survey's report is released in the future.

### 3. Scope and Coverage

The commodities as recorded by CED for imported and exported goods which pass through the boundary of customs territory that were declared in the custom declaration from various routes viz. sea , air, land including postal that they reports directly to the CED. For commodities unrecorded for imported/exported goods as stated by NBC were utilized. But certain goods such as military hardware, gold, currency notes, coins and goods in transit are excluded. However, NIS has only got the import and export data in aggregates by major commodity from the CED, not detailed all commodities. The re-exports are based on re-export shares that advice from Bill Le Drew, IMF Customs Advisor on 21/03/06. GSP exports are collected from the Ministry of Commerce (Generalized System of Preference (GSP) exports data). The current issue is that estimation of imported and exported goods which are unrecorded in the customs declaration; it is difficult to compiles for IMTS.

### 4. Classification of Commodity and Coding

To follow the structure of HS that is recommended in the IMTS compilers manual (IMTS Rev.2) that is based on the SITC Rev. 3, the National Accounts Bureau tried to classified all commodities depending on the data information collected from CED, BNC, MOC and from the national accounts statistics himself. However, some data provided are not detailed by commodities, means that aggregate data, therefore we are difficult to classify into specific sectors of commodity. The proposed classification of Cambodia is presented as below:

Code	Commodity	Volume Measures
1	Live Animals, Animal Products	n.a
2	Prepare Foods	Tons
3	Beverage and Tobacco	Ctns
4	Other agri-products	Tons
5	Mineral Products: Petroleum Products	000 Tons
6	Chemical Products	n.a
7	Rubber, Plastics and Articles	Tons
8	Leather, Raw Hide and Skin	n.a
9	Logs and Sawn Timbers, Wood and Articles	m3
10	Plywood, Papers/Boards	m3
11	Textiles, Fabric Footwear and Textiles Articles	000 Tons/m3
12	Clothing, Clothes used	000 Tons/m3
13	Cement	000 Tons
14	Gems, Pearl	Carat

15	Steels	000 Tons
16	Electric Goods/Equipments	000 units
17	Vehicles, Tractors, Parts, Transport Equipments	Sets
18	Optical, Photographic, Medical or Surgical Instruments, Clocks and Watches, Musical Instruments	Sets
19	Duty Free Goods	000 Tons
20	Miscellaneous, Furniture	000 Tons
21	Manufactured Products: Construction Materials	000 Tons

The above classification will be improved due to there are available data and information are provided from the relevant governments' agency. However, we are still misunderstanding on section of classification and coding commodities between HS vs SITC.

## 5. Data Processing, Tabulation and Publication

The import and export data in form of aggregates by major commodity from the CED, MOC and NBC will be coded and recorded by commodity into the worksheet such as quantity, value. However, the import origin or export destination is not yet compiled follow by the current commendation (IMTS Rev.2) because the sources of data and information are not available due to have a poor cooperation from other relevant organizations. This is the current issues for compiling IMTS of Cambodia.

NIS has published the import and exports data as external trades in aggregated imports and exports as stated in the national accounts statistics that is available in quarterly and annual bulletin. Some bulletins can be found on the website [www.nis.gov.kh](http://www.nis.gov.kh) . The import and export data may be published the table in annex as attached below.

## 6. System of Trade

The system of trade statistics in Cambodia now are difficult to consider in using general trade systems or special trade system in compilation for IMTS of Cambodia if referred and based on the current recommendation, because lack of data sources and information from the CED.

## 7. Valuation of Import and Export

The valuation of goods is depends on expediency of revenue collection, the current tariff value or international prices perceived by the CED for determining the customs and related duties. Normally they records export value on FOB basis and export value on CIF basis.

## 8. Conclusion and Recommendation

At the currently, the trade statistics of Cambodia has not yet been compiled due to lack of skill knowledge and experiences, especially lack of budget for financing in

compilation and poor cooperation from the data providers such CED, MOC. However, the National Accounts Bureau has just compiled the import and export data as recommendation of the IMTS Rev.2, but some of the recommendation of IMTS Rev.2 is more difficult in practice for Cambodia because of the data and information are not available, and some data provided of import and export from CED, MOC, NBC is stated value in aggregates by major commodity (commodity is not detailed). In particularly the data for import and export of goods by partners or by destination are not available.

Some concept and definition of the current IMTS Rev.2 is difficult to understand, such as coverage and time of recoding, trade system, quality control, due to NIS staff as in charge of trade statistics is still needed to improve their knowledge and experience.

Therefore, we would like to seek for technical assistance and financial supports to compile for IMTS of Cambodia. In addition, the staff in charge of compilation for trade statistics of Cambodia should be trained from the other organization, especially from UNSD, UNESCAP.

For future practices for IMTS compilation, NIS will follow the IMTS manual in compiling for trade statistics of Cambodia in order to integrate the UN statistics and also ASEAN statistics.

### Annex: Cambodia Export and Import of Major Commodities by Section

BY MAJOR COMMODITY		EXPORTS (Million Riels)				IMPORTS (Million Riels)			
		2004	2005	2006	2007	2004	2005	2006	2007
1	Live Animals, Animal Products	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
2	Prepare Foods	733,620.5	1,027,449.9	1,720,203.8	1,877,806.6	54,239.7	72,161.3	105,547.2	78,719.9
3	Beverage and Tobacco	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	421,241.3	454,079.8	550,526.4	585,423.0
4	Other agri-products	717,380.3	991,073.4	1,363,549.2	1,698,977.6	1,415,185.6	1,835,621.7	2,022,651.0	2,717,625.5
5	Mineral Products: Petroleum Products	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	2,662,098.2	3,743,519.9	5,010,099.6	5,798,136.5
6	Chemical Products	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
7	Rubber, Plastic and Articles	461,422.9	488,735.0	716,028.4	589,082.8	4,174.1	4,555.9	4,892.3	4,996.8
8	Leather, Raw Hide and Skin	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
9	Logs and Sawn Timbers, Wood and Articles	63,240.6	66,879.7	75,796.0	85,964.6	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
10	Plywood, Papers/Boards	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
11	Textiles, Fabric Footwear and Textiles Articles	8,354,470.0	9,271,287.3	11,195,861.8	12,265,062.1	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
12	Clothing, Clothes used	53,207.8	58,217.8	62,446.9	61,827.0	174,345.3	222,361.4	220,560.0	250,926.9
13	Cement	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	158,743.4	181,737.9	218,422.9	217,240.7
14	Gems, Pearl	6,434.8	6,572.7	6,573.3	6,513.1	7,513.4	8,422.7	9,754.0	10,458.4
15	Steel	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	76,217.6	86,989.8	134,717.7	172,400.0
16	Electronics Goods/Equipments	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	60,795.0	75,325.3	81,608.0	97,565.9
17	Vehicles, Tractors, Parts, Transport Equipments	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	497,759.3	670,131.5	901,809.5	1,139,667.9
18	Clock and Watches	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	5,008.9	5,359.9	5,769.0	5,950.5
19	Duty Free Goods	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	8,420,707.3	9,290,583.7	10,922,986.1	11,687,406.8
20	Furniture	13,286.1	14,905.0	15,553.2	16,008.3	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
21	Construction materials	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	110,251.1	691,575.9	847,177.3	852,519.4
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>10,403,062.8</b>	<b>11,925,120.7</b>	<b>15,156,012.5</b>	<b>16,601,242.2</b>	<b>14,068,280.3</b>	<b>17,342,426.6</b>	<b>21,036,521.2</b>	<b>23,619,038.2</b>

Sources: NIS/MOP; CED, NBC, MOC

Note: Excluded Gold, n.a is non-applicable or not available of data

