

Workshop for Developing Countries on the Revision of  
the International Recommendations for International  
Merchandise Trade Statistics  
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# Mode of transport

(What to record; How to classify)



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# Mode of transport

## 1. Current recommendation(s)

There is no explicit reference to mode of transport in IMTS, Rev.2. However, IMTS, Rev.1, recommended that countries should collect import and export data by mode of transport, broken down into three categories:

- Air;
- Water (of which Sea, Inland waterway);
- Land (Railway, Road, Pipeline)

Refer to IMTS, Rev.1, para. 148.

## 2. Result from the 2006 NCDP Questionnaire

Question 10.01 – 10.08 :		All 122 countries or areas		
		Yes	No	N/A
If you compile trade statistics by mode of transport, do you identify the following modes:				
	Air	85.9	8.3	5.8
	Sea	76.0	13.2	10.8
	inland waterway	33.9	38.8	27.3
	Railway	53.7	28.1	18.2
	Road	66.2	19.8	14.0
	Pipeline	38.8	38.0	23.2

As most countries compile trade data by mode of transport it seems appropriate to review relevant IMTS, Rev.1 recommendations and further elaborate them in IMTS, Rev.3.

### 3. Result from world wide consultations

<b>Question 8(a):</b> Do you agree to include in IMTS, Rev.3 updated recommendations on compilation and dissemination of trade statistics by mode of transport?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No Op.</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Total of 110 replies	93	6	1	0
Developed (34)	85	12	3	0
Developing and transitional (76)	96	4	0	0
<b>Question 8(b):</b> If yes, please indicate how mode of transport should be recorded:				
(i) By means of transport <u>at port of departure/ port of arrival</u>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No Op.</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Total of 110 replies	67	15	1	16
Developed (34)	59	18	0	24
Developing and transitional (76)	71	14	1	13
(ii) By <u>predominant mode of transport</u>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No Op.</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Total of 110 replies	30	43	1	26
Developed (34)	15	56	0	29
Developing and transitional (76)	37	37	1	25
(iii) By <u>multiple modes of transport</u>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No Op.</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Total of 110 replies	24	53	0	24
Developed (34)	9	59	0	32
Developing and transitional (76)	30	50	0	20

## 4. UNSD observation of wwc result

There is almost universal support (93%, with no-answers only 6%) for this proposal although there is less agreement on how mode of transport should be recorded.

A clear majority of countries (67%, with no-answers 15%) want, that the means of transport at the port of departure/ port of arrival should be recorded. The other options, the recording of predominant mode of transport or multiple mode of transport were rejected by more countries (43% and 53% respectively) than supported (30% and 24% respectively).

Some of the comments discuss additional ways of recording mode of transport such as mode of transport when crossing the border. Some countries commented that the recommendation should also cover the treatment of special cases such as self-propelled goods and electricity.

To record predominant mode or multiple modes of transport has no support from developed countries (only 15% and 9% respectively) while about one third of other countries supported these alternatives (37% and 30%).

## 5. Selected comments (from total of 61 comments)

- “The breakdown of trade statistics by mode of transport is important for analysis about international trade and, for practical reasons, the record of means of transport at port of departure/port of arrival can be the best way to get this data.”
- “An additional mode of transport to provide for electrical transmissions is also required.”
- “In the recommendation, we might want to consider how to handle things like mail shipments, goods moving under their own power (airplanes, vessels, etc.) and such.”
- “All other options for reference point except point of entry/exit are fairly complicated to measure”
- “Regarding the list at section 1, Pipelines are not always on land and wires are also a mode of transport.”
- “These information are very necessary for estimation FOB-value of imported goods, for data reconciliation between the countries and for estimation transportation services of BOP compilation as well as international trade in services statistics.”

# Mode of transport categories

## Mode of transport categories according to IMTS, Rev.1

- Air
- Water (of which Sea, Inland waterway)
- Land (Railway, Road, Pipeline)

## Possible mode of transport categories for the next revision

- Air
- Water (of which Sea, Inland waterway)
- Land (Railway, Road)
- Self-propelled/Own-propelled (transported by its own means, such as ship/aircraft)
- Pipeline (for water, oil, gas)
- Wire (for electricity)

# Possible issues for discussion

## What to record?

- Most countries supported the proposal of adding recommendation to record and publish Mode of Transport, however, based on current situation in your country, what is the feasibility of recording:
  - By means of transport at port of departure/arrival?
  - By predominant mode of transport?
  - By multiple modes of transport?

## How to classify?

- Any comments on the proposed mode of transport categories on previous slide?



# Thank you for your attention