

Mongolia: Statement

International Merchandise Trade Statistics: *Data quality*

Data quality issue consists of many criteria, namely relevance, accuracy, timeliness, punctuality, accessibility, clarity, comparability and coherence. In our case we have an important challenge that how should we define those indicators and what indicators should be used for these definitions.

In terms of National Statistical Office in one side it provide integrated methodologies for the statistical activities in the national level and in other hand it uses statistics as a “administrative statistics” for the compilation of indicators in macro level.

In the international practice Customs offices compile foreign trade statistic and statistical agencies publish it for the public. So it is important issue whether customs data covers fully according to the IMTS. Let’s take an example regarding to the data coverage.

In our practice we can not cover trade of hawkers for the data of export and import. If value of hawker’s goods which enter to the border of Mongolia are less than 1000 US\$ then we don’t take customs declaration and take a tax related to size and dimension of goods. So it is not possible to estimate what kinds of goods and in what volume of those goods are imported. Also in export goods we have a threshold of 500 US\$.

In this manner export and import are not estimated fully. Therefore in the System of National Account they are not estimated fully by this size also. This situation will vary among countries because of development level of countries. In here we have to emphasize that in terms of developing countries hawker’s trade is important.

In this regard some questions are coming namely how IMTS should be related to the SNA and the Balance of Payment and how should we cover this partial portion for the SNA compilation.

In order to produce good quality prices indexes we need good quality source data. We need to know how are the data collected, how are the processed, what checks are made on the accuracy of the data.

In other side “The Mirror” statistics, which give opportunity to check current of good entering and exiting between main partner countries, will be more useful for improving data quality.

Those are related to the data quality. So issue of the data quality of foreign trade statistic should be included in IMTS, revision 3 and indicators which define data quality should be described in each steps of data processing and focused on best practice and examples.