

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

Data dissemination

(Review of existing recommendation; Use of new technology)



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Current Recommendations

Dissemination

Therefore, it is recommended that data compilers:

- (a) Publicly disseminate documentation on their sources and methods;
- (b) Publicly announce scheduled release dates;
- (c) Provide regular monthly reporting of data to the user community through publications and/or electronic media;
- (d) Regularly revise data (when additional information is available), taking into due consideration user needs for reliable statistics.

Refer to IMTS, Rev.2, para. 154.

Expert Group confirmed the importance of timely data dissemination to international agencies for inclusion of data in international reporting.

Current Recommendations

Reference Period

It is recommended that countries make their data available on a calendar period basis, according to the Gregorian calendar and consistent with the recommendations set out in the present publication.

Refer to IMTS, Rev.2, para. 155.

Data Reporting

It is recommended that countries make their statistics publicly available on a monthly basis for aggregate data and for data by major trading partners and commodity groups. The detailed data by commodity and partner should be made available at least on a quarterly basis.

It is recommended that IMTS be reported in accordance with the recommendations contained in the present publication

Refer to IMTS, Rev.2, para. 156.

Current Recommendations

Confidentiality

It is recommended that in suppressing data due to confidentiality, any information deemed confidential (suppressed) be reported in full detail at the next higher level of commodity aggregation that adequately protects confidentiality.

For instance, a confidential commodity (six-digit HS) with complete or partial country breakdown that is suppressed should be reported in full detail at the lowest level of aggregation of HS that adequately protects confidentiality. Suppression of data should not be carried higher than necessary in the commodity aggregation hierarchy.

Refer to IMTS, Rev.2, para. 157.

Current Recommendations

Data comparability

It is recommended, therefore, that countries periodically conduct bilateral and multilateral reconciliation studies or implement data exchanges so that their statistics can be made more accurate and useful both for national purposes and for international comparisons.

Refer to IMTS, Rev.2, para. 158.

2006 NCDP Results

Result from the 2006 NCDP Questionnaire

Question 9.11, 11.08-11.12:	Yes	No	N/A
Since the year 2000, did you conduct bilateral or multilateral reconciliation studies with your trading partners or do you plan to conduct such studies in the near future?	47.7	40.2	12.1
Do you make your annual data available: according to the Gregorian calendar (January to December) ?	90.2	4.5	5.3
Do you make aggregate data (by major trading partners or by commodity groups) publicly available on a monthly basis?	76.5	20.5	3.0
Do you make detailed data by commodity and partner publicly available on a quarterly basis?	63.6	28.0	8.3
When confidentiality is applied to certain products, do you always report the full trading partner detail at the next higher level of commodity aggregation that adequately protects confidentiality ?	49.2	25.8	25.0

Use of new technology

Expert Group requested to elaborate and clarify the possible use of new technologies for dissemination such as the internet and SDMX.

Internet Data dissemination

2006 NCDP Question 11.06 :	Yes	No	N/A
Do you make data available on a Web site?	84.1	11.4	4.5

- Most countries have made IMTS data accessible on the Internet, however, level of available detailed data differs from one country to another.
- The recognition of the efforts from regional organizations to make IMTS data of their member countries available in the most detailed data level.

Use of new technology

Expert Group requested to elaborate and clarify the possible use of new technologies for dissemination such as the internet and SDMX.

What is SDMX?

- The name “Statistical Data and Metadata exchange” refers to an international initiative aimed at developing and employing more efficient processes for exchange and sharing of statistical data and metadata among international organisations and their member countries.
- The rationale of SDMX is standardisation for statistical data and metadata access and exchange.

SDMX is an initiative sponsored by **BIS, ECB, Eurostat, IMF, OECD, UN** and the **World Bank** to foster standards for the exchange of statistical information.

UN Comtrade SDMX is part of SDMX aligned projects.

For further information, please go to UN Comtrade Knowledge base

Promoting SDMX

In order to promote SDMX format, any UN Comtrade user (subscriber/non-subscriber) can download limited data in SDMX format.

Data Exchange Practices

- UN Comtrade has been disseminating data in SDMX format since year 2005.
- World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS) from World Bank downloads SDMX trade data format daily using automated web system.
- Also other international / regional organizations, such as ECLAC, ITC, OECD and other major users

Selected classification: SITC Rev.3
 Selected commodities: TOTAL (ALL COMMODITIES)
 Selected reporters: All
 Selected years: 2005
 Selected partners: Indonesia
 Selected trade flows: Import

Sort Order: Year;Flow;Rep;Comm;TradeVal;

[Modify Selection](#) [View Graph & Map](#) [Printable Format](#) [View Explanatory Notes](#) [SDMX Download](#)
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**Promoting SDMX:
1000 free records/day
to all users**

Trade	NetWeight	Qu
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Possible issues for discussion

Timely data dissemination to international agencies

- How to improve timely data submission to international agencies?
 - Submission of provisional data first then final data when it is ready
- Excessive use of data suppression due to confidentiality can lead to incomparable trade statistics
 - What is the current practice in your country related to confidentiality?

SDMX

- Any comments on the proposal of dissemination data in SDMX format?

Thank you for your attention