UNSD activities in the field of International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) (item 04)

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Activities of the International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) Section

Four working areas:

1. Methodology / International standards and recommendations

1. UN Comtrade Database

2. Analytical tables (publications)

1. International Coordination and Technical Assistance
1. Methodological work on IMTS

The IMTS Section is responsible for:

the development and maintenance of the IMTS methodology, including IMTS concepts and definitions (IMTS, Rev. 2) and the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC, Rev. 4)

i. Concepts & Methods

– Unit Value index and trade indices calculation (Strategies for Price and Quantity Measurement in External Trade; A technical report.)
– IMTS, Concepts and Definitions, Rev.3 (2010)

ii. National Practices

1. Methodological work on IMTS (cont.)

iii. IMTS classifications and correspondence tables:

Commodity classifications:

– Standard International Trade Classification (SITC, Revision 4) and correspondence tables \[\text{http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/sitcrev4.htm}\]

– Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC): correspondence table with the Harmonized System -2002 and SITC, R3) \[\text{http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/methodology%20IMTS.htm}\]

– Other IMTS classifications and related correspondence tables \[\text{http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/methodology%20IMTS.htm}\]

2. UN Comtrade Database

The UN Comtrade database (http://comtrade.un.org/):

- More than 1 billion trade records starting from 1962;
- Collection and standardization of detailed merchandise trade statistics by partner and commodity (over 160 reporter countries);
- Modern data processing system with extensive verification procedures regarding totals, data by partner and commodity, and quantity information;
- Powerful web-based dissemination system with free and subscriber access;
- Additional services: Knowledge base, Community Forum

→ reference database for worldwide data on IMTS

→ Also available at UN Data http://data.un.org/
3. Analytical tables (publications)

Free access to analytical tables covering trade values and indices for individual countries and regions.

- International Trade Statistics Yearbook tables (annual data)
  → Consisting of country tables, Commodity tables, and analytical tables
- Monthly Bulletin of Statistics tables (monthly and quarterly data)
  → Analytical tables (containing world and region totals for trade values and trade indices for total exports, total imports, manufactured goods exports and fuel imports)
- Annual Totals Table (Country totals compared)
- Historical data (1900-1960) (forthcoming)
- Other analytical outputs:
  → Unit value calculation based on UN Comtrade data
  → Conversion factor calculation
4. International Cooperation and Technical Assistance

- UN Statistical Commission (40th Session this year)
- Task force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics
- Further cooperation with other international and regional organizations: OECD, FAO, WCO, ECLAC, Eurostat, ALADI, etc.
- Conduct workshops to support countries in the implementation of the international recommendations on IMTS
  http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/workshops_imts.htm
- Participation in other meetings/ workshops on IMTS
Thank you for your attention

Muchas Gracias