Workshop on the Methodology and Data Compilation of International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS)
Phnom Penh, 2-5 February 2010

Agenda item 5:
UNSD activities in the field of International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS)

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The United Nations

UN Secretariat

Dept. Economic and Social Affairs

UN Statistics Division

Population Division

Trade Statistics Branch

IMTS Section

Economic Statistics Branch

Etc.
Activities of the International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) Section

Four working areas:

1. Methodology / International standards and recommendations
2. UN Comtrade Database
3. Analytical tables (publications)
4. 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 2010 (IMTS2010)

ii. National Practices

1. Methodological work on IMTS

i. Concepts & Methods

IMTS, Concepts and Definitions, Rev.2 (1998)


IMTS, Supplement to the Compilers Manual (2008)

IMTS, Concepts and Definitions 2010 (IMTS2010)
1. Methodological work on IMTS (cont.)

iii. IMTS classifications and correspondence tables:

Commodity classifications:


2. UN comtrade

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 170 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/
2. UN Comtrade Database
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)**
- **Other analytical outputs:**  
  Unit value calculation based on UN Comtrade data  
  Conversion factor calculation
3. Analytical tables (publications)

4. International Cooperation and Technical Assistance

- UN Statistical Commission

- Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics

- Further cooperation with other international and regional organizations: ITC, OECD, FAO, WCO, ECLAC, Eurostat, 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