

Workshop on the Methodology and Data Compilation of International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS)

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Agenda item 21: Metadata and Data Dissemination



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Introduction

- IMTS2010 Chapter X : Dissemination
 - A. Statistical Confidentiality
 - B. Reference period and data dissemination timetable
 - C. Data Revision
 - D. Dissemination Strategy

Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Principle 1: “Official statistics that meet the test of practical utility are to be compiled and made available on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies to honor citizens' entitlement to public information.”

Statistical Confidentiality

- Legal provisions governing statistical confidentiality at national level are set forth in countries' statistical laws

IMTS2010 Recommendations:

- Use the concept of *passive confidentiality* (“that trade data are made confidential only when the trader requests so and the statistical authority finds the request justified based on the confidentiality rules”).
- When 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.

Example: Managing Confidentiality

Original Data
no suppression

HS Code	Value
310501	\$500
310510	\$100
874900	\$200
874910	\$400

After suppression,
chapter cannot be identified

HS Code	Value
999999	\$500
310510	\$100
874900	\$200
874910	\$400

On aggregated data
chapter 31 is not complete

HS Code	Value
31	\$100
87	\$600
99	\$500

After suppression,
chapter can still be identified

HS Code	Value
983100	\$500
310510	\$100
874900	\$200
874910	\$400

On aggregated data
chapter 31 is preserved

HS Code	Value
31	\$600
87	\$600

**Preferable
compilation practice**

Reference period and data dissemination timetable

IMTS2010 Recommendations:

- Using Gregorian calendar for dissemination of IMTS [10.4]
- Announcement of advance release calendar of IMTS data release and its revisions [10.5]

IMTS2010 Encouragements:

- First releases of data: monthly within 45 days, quarterly within 60 days, annual within 90 days [10.7]
- Publishing provisional estimates soon after the end of reference period [10.8]
- Disseminate all revised data to ensure consistency of data available [10.9]

Data Revision

- Timeliness vs. reliability, accuracy and comprehensiveness

IMTS2010 Encouragements:

- Compile and release provisional data first, then later revised when new and more accurate information available [10.10]
- Develop revision policy which is synchronized with advance release calendar and well coordinated with other area of statistics [10.11, 10.12]

Dissemination Strategy

IMTS2010 Recommendations:

All users are treated equally and data disseminated without preference, use the best format that best suits users' needs, IMTS can be accessed through the electronic dissemination database [10.13]

IMTS2010 Encouragements:

Follow recommendations provided in Chapter IX and develop and disseminate metadata in accordance with the recommendations provided [10.14]

Cooperate with international, supranational and regional organizations to identify and apply the most efficient ways of data and metadata dissemination [10.15]

SDMX: data exchange format

- Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange
- SDMX consists of
 - Content Oriented Guidelines
 - Technical Standards
- Aims to facilitate statistical data and metadata exchange
- For additional information, see <http://www.sdmx.org>



Thank you for your attention!