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

Agenda item 22: Supplementary topics

Presentation by Matthias Reister
Chief, International Merchandise Trade Statistics Section
Trade Statistics Branch, United Nations Statistics Division
E-mail: reister@un.org
A. External trade indices

• It is recommended that all countries produce and publish volume (quantum) indices and either price or unit value indices for their total imports and exports on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis. Countries are also encouraged to calculate and publish such indices for commodity groups of particular importance to countries at least quarterly and annually.

• Conceptual and compilation issue: Price vs. unit value indices; How to do it.
  – More detailed information and guidance on good practices will be provided in revised IMTS Compilers Manual
B. Seasonally adjusted data

- **Countries are encouraged** to compile and publish, where appropriate, seasonally adjusted monthly and quarterly international merchandise trade data on a regular basis.

- **It is recommended** that information on the adjustment methods, data quality etc. should be provided by countries in their metadata.
Chapter XI - Supplementary topics

C. Linking trade and business statistics

• **Countries are encouraged** to integrate their trade register with their business register and to take steps towards an integrated system of economics statistics for data compilation and analysis.
  
  – Further examples of the applications of linking trade and business statistics will be provided in the IMTS Compilers Manual.

• **Need for linking business and trade statistics:**
  
  – Significant efficiency and quality gains in data collection.
  
  – New information for many analytical purposes that otherwise would not exist.
    
    • One application is the analysis of trade by enterprise characteristics which, for example, allows to examine the impact of globalization on businesses.
Annex F - Conceptual differences between IMTS2010 and BPM6

Table F.1. Reconciliation between IMTS and total goods on a balance of payment basis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Merchandise trade statistics as provided in data source</th>
<th>Exports</th>
<th>Imports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adjustments, as relevant:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>For example (with paragraph reference)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Goods sent for or returned after processing without a change of ownership (F.3)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Goods acquired from other economies for processing abroad (F.3)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Goods sold abroad after processing in other economies (F.3)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>= Total goods on a balance of payment basis</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you for your attention!