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# INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND DATA SOURCES

Report prepared by

*Trinidad and Tobago*



## **INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND DATA SOURCES**

### **METHODOLOGY**

Trinidad and Tobago methodology and dissemination of Foreign Merchandise Trade is based on the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC). Revised (3) extended to six (6) digits. Commodities declared as imports and exports are given headings from the CET which are based on the Harmonized System (HS). For the purpose of statistical reporting and analysis all data relating to Merchandise Trade are classified to the SITC Rev. 3 via a correlation table developed for the purpose.

The Special trade System, which is the method applied in Trinidad and Tobago involves the record of trade statistics at the point where the goods are declared for home use.

### **SOURCE OF DATA**

The Central Statistical Office is the responsible Agency for the compilation and dissemination of the Trade Statistics. The Custom and Excise Division Ministry of Finance is the sole supplier of data through the Custom Declaration Form C82 for the compilation of the Trade Statistics. The underlying principle for imports and exports of goods is subject to the customs status of goods or the customs procedure under which the goods are placed.

### **DATA QUALITY AND CONTROL**

The Central Statistical Office has established a Special Unit of the Trade Section at the Customs Division. The staff of this unit is responsible for receiving, editing coding and dispatching of the custom declaration Form C82 for data Capture. These documents are collected daily and sorted into batches.

#### **Detail (Fields)**

There are basic checks performed on the documents by the staff of the CSO. These include:

- Checking of the registration number
- Checking of regime number against custom procedure code
- Check value added tax (VAT) number
- Check mode and port must correspond
- Check date import and export
- Check description of goods against commodity code
- Check supply quantity where required
- Check net mass against custom value of item (net mass must not exceed gross mass)
- Check C.I.F. and F.O.B.

### **VALIDATION**

The Data processing Section at the CSO process the C82 forms .Further checks are done at this point by the section and all queries are returned to the statistical unit at customs division in the form of error lists for correction and clarification with brokers on behalf of the importers and exporters.

### **PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED**

The most important problems encountered with the Custom Declaration Form C82 are as follows:

- There is no supply quantity when needed
- Improper stripping of form C82 documents by the clerk at Customs
- Queries are not answered promptly by the custom brokers
- Oil documents are never submitted on time. In addition careful attention must be paid to duplications.

### **GOODS UNDER FINANCIAL LEASE**

**The Custom procedure codes for imports C5 –regime goods imported temporary for subsequent re-export. Export regime E4 –goods temporary exported Goods are subject to ten percent (10%) duty liability and permission is needed via a minister’s license from the Ministry of Finance.**