



UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION

COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND
SOUTHERN AFRICA



**Workshop on the updated and new recommendations
for International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS 2010)
and their implementation in countries of the Sub-Saharan region,
Lusaka, 1-5 November, 2010**

Country Note

Seychelles

Merchandise Trade Statistics

SEYCHELLES

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Introduction

The Trade Unit of the National Statistics Bureau is responsible for compiling, analysing and publishing Merchandise Trade Statistics for Seychelles

Sources of data

The main source of data on Merchandise Trade is the Customs Department. In addition to this the National Statistics Bureau uses data from other sources, either to crosscheck the data with that of customs or to replace the data supplied. The supplementary sources (mainly in the case of Exports and Re – Exports) are necessary for completeness to ensure that the data reported reflects the true volume.

Method of Compilation

Trade data are derived from Customs' documents completed by traders. They are analyzed in accordance with the General Trade System as recommended by the United Nations.

Valuation

Imports are valued C.I.F. (cost, insurance and freight) while Exports and Re-Exports are valued F.O.B. (free on board) excludes international freight charges and insurance costs.

The Trading Partner Country in the case of Imports is the Country of Origin while in the case of Exports is the Country of Destination.

Except for Re-Exports of Petroleum products where the country of origin is preferred as we get the data direct from the Seychelles Petroleum Company (SEYPEC). Steps are being put in place to record this by country of destination.

Nomenclature

Since March 2008 the Customs started using HS 2002.

Partner Countries uses the two letter country codes. Previously we used the three letter country codes.

There are only two modes of transport, namely Air and Sea.

Components of Trade Statistics

The three main components that make up Merchandise Trade are Imports, Domestic Exports and Re-Exports. Re-exports is becoming increasingly important to the Seychelles because of its strategic location as a transit point between Africa and Asia and also as the centre for tuna fishing in the Indian Ocean.

- Type A - Imports for home consumption (direct)
- Type B - Imports for home consumption ex-warehouse
- Type C - Imports for warehousing or Re-Exports
- Type D - Re-Exports ex-warehouse
- Type E - Re-Exports of Nationalised goods
- Type F - Domestic Exports

Data Capture

The software used for data capture is ASYCUDA++ (since March 2008).

Non Customs data are still being captured in an in-house software.

Data Processing

The National Statistics Bureau is currently using three softwares for data processing.

- 1.The in-house software for time series data.
- 2.Eurotrace Software
- 3.Excel 2007

Publications


- External Trade Bulletins – Trade statistics are reported on a quarterly basis. Usually a Trade Bulletin is compiled before the end of the following quarter.
- Annual Trade Report – This is an annual report containing all the trade series and parameters. Here, a detailed presentation by HS Code of all commodities imported/exported by weight, value and country of origin/destination. For time series purposes some tables are also compiled in SITC.

Challenges

- Lack of expertise in using the Eurotrace Software.
- Poor quality of Customs Data (Kg, Supplementary Units).
- Lack of qualified statistics personnel.
- Untimely release of publications
- Time taken to deal with data requests.

Successes

- Managed to attend to data requests from the government departments, business community and international organisations.
- Disseminate monthly trade to the Central Bank for BOP Compilation.
- Regular dialogue with Department of Customs and ASYCUDA team.



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION