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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,

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Country Note

Tanzania

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EXPERIENCE OF TRADE SYSTEM AND DISSERMINATION

1.0   Introduction

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) was officially launched as an Executive Agency on 26th March 1999. It is the only agency in Tanzania mandated to provide official statistics to the Government, business community and the public at large. The transformation from government department to semi autonomy agency geared towards improvement on the performance for the production and dissemination of statistics.

National and regional policy formulation and planning depends on reliable and timely data of external trade. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) being one of the key measures of economic growth, one of its components is external trade statistics.   Another input which International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) provides is that of an input to the compilation of Balance of Payment statistics, which measure the country's level of international trade and investment position.

1.1   The Roles of NBS

The NBS has been mandated to carry out statistical activities in Tanzania mainland in accordance with the statistical Act of 2002. The Act stipulates the NBS roles as follows:

o   To provide statistics to the government, business community and general public as well as international organization for use in planning and decision making.

o   To provide statistical activities so as to produce statistics that is consistent.

2.0   Agenda item 9: Scope and Time of recording

It should be noted that in terms of data capturing, Tanzania is recording all transaction which refers to the cross border trade, except those being transported through a country or temporarily admitted or withdrawn. In this regards, all goods which add or subtract from the stock of material resources of Tanzania are recorded.

The Customs Department under the Statistics unit is responsible of compiling all the transactions from all boarder stations. The time of recording is referred to the date of lodging the customs declaration

2.1   Inclusions and Exclusions

Excluded from Imports:
- Traveler's sample, except in the case of goods subject to duty which are not re-exported,
- Motor vehicle imported on temporary unless such vehicles are not subsequently re-exported.
- Naval and military stores,
- Goods in transit,
- Diplomatic goods imported by diplomats or cleared ex-bond for their use
- Monetary gold
- Currency motes (intrinsic value)
- Goods for the president (personal items)
- Goods for exhibition unless sold to the local market and taxes paid
- Smuggled goods
- Drugs (Cocaine, marijuana)
- Prohibited animal trophies (Elephant, rhino)
- Personnel effects (clothes, fridge etc)

Excluded from Exports:
- Traveler's sample
- Passengers baggage
- Naval and military stores
- Transactions of gold between central banks or monetary authorities. These are considered as transactions in monetary gold.
- Issued banknotes, securities and coins in circulation,
- Goods temporarily admitted or dispatched,
- Goods consigned to and from territorial enclaves.
- Smuggled goods
- Drugs (Cocaine, Marijuana)
- Prohibited animal trophies (Elephant, rhino)

Note: *Imports or exports of un issued bank notes, coins and securities not in circulation are valued at the transaction value of the printed paper or engraving rather than at their face value.*

2.2 Inter alia Goods for processing

The experience we have might be different from other countries since we don't have much to import for the processing. In terms of exported goods for processing, only value added of re-imported goods is recorded.

2.3 Fish catch and bunkers

Goods included as imports are those acquired by national vessels or aircraft from foreign vessels or aircraft in the economic territory of a country, or are landed in national ports from foreign vessels or aircraft. Also, goods to be included in the export are those which Supplied to foreign vessels or aircraft in the economic territory of a country

3.0 Trade System

The key source of international merchandise trade statistics in Tanzania is the Declaration or Single Bill of Entry (SBE*)* administered by the Customs and Excise Department (CED) to clear cross border goods. In Customs-based data collection system, goods are recorded at the date of registration of the Customs Declaration or SBE. Due to this system, CED is able to compile consistent series from 1995 onwards. The statistics cover both the Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar. The free port located in Zanzibar is considered part of Tanzania.

At the entry points, data are captured using Automated SYstem for CUstom DAta Management (ASYCUDA). Then Customs data is processed to produce necessary statistical tables for country's external trade using EUROTRACE system. EUROTRACE is a computer system purposely designed for the collection and analysis of external trade statistics and was devised by the European Community's Statistical Office (Eurostat). This software is installed at both Customs and National Bureau of Statistics.

3.1 General Trade System

In the compilation and production of international merchandise trade statistics, definitions of procedures and other basic customs terms are used as per recommendations of the *Kyoto Convention on simplification and harmonization of Customs procedures.*

The International merchandise trade statistics are produced by the *General Trade System* as per recommendations of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). This implies that data is recorded when goods cross the frontiers of the recording statistical territory.

Direct imports + goods entering bonded warehouse

3.2 Special Trade System

However, *Home Use Statistics* are compiled and produced by using *Special Trade System* for monitoring revenue collection from international merchandise trade. (*Customs – Administrative data*)

Direct imports + goods from bonded warehouse

3.3   Recording of Customs procedure codes

- *Re –imports*
  All temporary exported goods which are for processing or repair when they are imported back, they are considered to be re-imports.

- *Re-exports*
  All imported goods which are subsequently exported either under drawback or not under drawback including ships' or aircraft's' stores.

- *Domestic Exports*
  All Goods grown, produced or manufactured in Tanzania which are exported to foreign countries, or sold as ships' and aircraft's' stores.

- *Direct Imports*:
  All goods entering the economic territory of a compiling country (directly cleared for home use and those declared for warehousing)

- *Imports for Home Use*:
  o   All goods directly cleared for home use,
  o   All goods released by Customs from bonded warehouses (Ex-warehousing),

4.0   DISSEMINATION POLICY

Dissemination is as an important statistical activity as is statistical production. The present strategy is to put on the recently started NBS website, quarterly external merchandise trade statistics release. Also it is planned to present an external merchandise trade statistics paper every year during World Statistics Day, African statistics day and other events. Currently external merchandise trade statistics are included in the economic survey reports produced by the Ministry of Planning and Privatization, which is published yearly.

Excel is another package used at NBS for production of external trade statistics, although it is a multipurpose package in statistical world compared to EUROTRACE which confines itself in external statistics only. In regular basis the National Bureau of Statistics is acquiring validated trade data from Customs and Excise Department into its database. On economic Quarterly report produced by the BOT, there are international, merchandised trade statistics produced for the users demand.

5.0   RECOMMENDATION

In order to fulfill the primary goal of production of credible and quality trade statistics, there is a need to enhance cooperation between Customs offices and National Statistical offices in Sub-Saharan region.

Regular trainings and workshops on collection, analysis and dissemination of International Merchandised Trade Statistics at national and regional levels like the one here in Lusaka are vital. This will allow sharing of knowledge and experience in line with acceptable international standards.