

**WORKSHOP
ON
THE UPDATED & NEW
RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR
INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE
TRADE STATISTICS(IMTS 2010)
AND
THEIR IMPLEMENTATION
IN COUNTRIES OF SUB-SAHARAN REGION**

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Country Presentation

MAURITIUS

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DATA COMPILATION STRATEGIES

- **Trade statistics are compiled in compliance with United Nations Statistical recommendations.**
- **All goods adding to the material resources of the country by entering the economic territory are captured as imports.**
- **Goods leaving the economic territory are considered as exports.**

Data Sources

Main Source

- The Customs and Excise Department of the Mauritius Revenue Authority
- *Customs Declarations*
- All goods entering and leaving the economic territory whether by air or by sea are subject to a customs declaration and are captured by the Customs Management System at the time of lodgment.
- Each month an average of 65,000 records are lodged electronically through the on line system and are processed by the Customs & Excise department using the Customs Management System, a tailor made software

Supplementary data

- The State Trading Corporation :
Government imports of petroleum products, rice, flour and cement
- The Mauritius Sugar Syndicate :
Figures on exports of sugar
- The Mauritius Marine Authority and Air Mauritius:
Imports and Re-exports of marine vessels and aircraft
- Private company:
Supply of jet fuel top aircraft

Compilation Strategies

- **Imports** include goods brought in directly for domestic consumption plus goods imported into customs bonded warehouses
- **Exports** cover domestic exports and re-exports which include re-exports from customs bonded warehouses

COMPILATION STRATEGIES

- Ships stores and bunkers are included in total exports and are shown separately
- Trade by parcel post is also included in imports and exports
- Activities of the Freeport are also included
- Temporary imports of equipment and machinery for a period exceeding one year are also included in External trade statistics
- All goods in transit are excluded
- Imports are valued on a C.I.F. (Cost, Insurance and Freight) basis whilst exports on a F.O.B. (Free On Board) basis.

Exceptions to coverage

Exports

- All exports of a value not exceeding Rs 1,000
- Returned goods
- Postage stamps, bank notes, coins & monetary gold
- Empty containers
- Goods sent for repairs abroad
- Personal effects
- Local sales and transfers

Exceptions to coverage

- All items on bills of entries are taken into consideration with the following exception :-

Imports

- Imports of a value not exceeding Rs 1,000
- Transshipment
- Re-warehousing
- Returned goods, postage stamps, bank notes and coins as well as monetary gold
- Empty containers
- Personal effects
- Goods imported by duty free shops
- Fish and other sea products landed in Mauritius from High Seas by Mauritian Vessels
- Goods returning after repairs abroad

Institutional Arrangement

- The responsibility for collecting, processing, and disseminating foreign trade statistics is clearly specified.
- The primary responsibility for collecting data on merchandise trade is the Customs Department of the Mauritius Revenue Authority.
- The responsibility for the processing, and disseminating statistics on merchandise trade lies on the Central Statistics Office. The Central Statistics Office (CSO) collects and disseminates statistics under the authority of the Statistics Act No 38 of 2000.

Institutional Arrangement

- Arrangements or procedures exist to facilitate data sharing and coordination between the CSO with the primary responsibility for compiling the statistics and other data producing agencies.
- Procedures are in place to provide for the effective and timely flow of source data from the Customs with a lag of five days after the end of the month.
- Working arrangements are consistent with this assignment of responsibility.

Institutional Arrangement

- Given that more than one data producing agency is involved in producing parts of the statistics, arrangements are in place to promote consistency of methods and results
- Data from State Trading Corporation and Mauritius Sugar Syndicate are forwarded as scheduled
- Required data i.c.w jet fuel are timely received

Institutional Arrangement

- Contacts (e.g., regular meetings are maintained with the customs Department and the declarants to promote a proper understanding of data requirements
- Monthly data (at microlevel) after first step validation are also supplied to the Ministry of Industry for producing additional reports for their internal use
- Data on Merchandise Trade are submitted to the Central Bank for the compilation of BOP statistics. Consequently, trade in services are compiled by the Central Bank and submitted to the Statistics Office for use in national accounts aggregates.

Data Dissemination

- As from July 2003, processing is done in-house at the CSO.
- In-house system based on Visual Basic (VB) and Structured Query Language (SQL) Server developed by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

The in-house processing has **improved** :

- Quality of trade data since basic consistency checks have been incorporated into the system.
- Timeliness of data dissemination

Dissemination

- Trade Statistics comprise mainly an annual report with detailed trade data, quarterly reports and a Monthly Bulletin giving an overview of trade. These are :
 - The annual Digest of External Trade Statistics
 - The quarterly Economic and Social Indicator and
 - The Monthly Trade Statistics

Publications

Quarterly publications

- The quarterly report on **External Trade** comprises among other things:
 - Imports/exports by country
 - Trade with International or Regional Organisations such as ACP, SADC, COMESA etc.
 - Imports/exports by commodity/section

Other publications

- Annual Digest of Statistics
- Mauritius in figures
- Five-year series of detailed trade data by HS/country
- Quarterly trade series including the trade balance
- All these publications are posted on the CSO website.

Publications

- Publication Programme available on the C.S.O website indicating the period covered and date of release of Economic and Social Indicators.
- Monthly : 7 weeks after reference month
- Quarterly: 3 months after reference month
- Yearly : 9 months after reference year

Successes

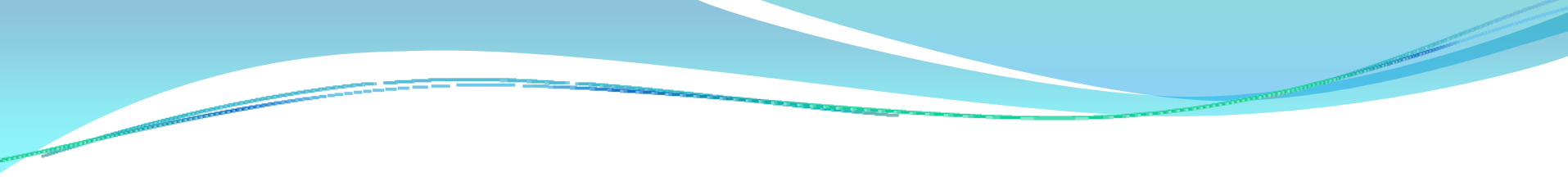
- Timeliness
- Data quality
- Publications on website
- Working arrangements with concerned Institutions
- User satisfaction
- Connected on line with Customs Department

Constraints

- The actual system does not generate historical tables automatically (Data can be retrieved for specific period only)
- Need to convert text file format for further processing
- The forthcoming E-Business Plan and Eurotrace installation will take care of these constraints

Challenges

- Implementation of E-Business Plan as objectives of further improvement in :
 - *Data quality*
 - *Timeliness*
- Eurotrace Software as an efficient tool for data dissemination



Thank you
for your
kind attention