



# **Data Quality of International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) in Malawi**

**Presented**

**by**

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# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Coverage
- Data Sources
- Classification
- Problems
- Compilation
- Quality control
- Conclusion

# INTRODUCTION

- National Statistical Office (NSO) is legally mandated to compile trade statistics.
- External Trade section in the Economic Statistics Division does the compilation.
- Compilation is based on the UNSD IMTS(Rev.2) manual.
- We mainly look at imports, exports and re-exports.

## COVERAGE

- Based on the guidelines set by UNSD.
- Compilation is done in accordance with the general trade system.
- As per requirement, not all goods are included in the analysis.
- Among those included are: all traded goods from the Customs Declaration Forms.

## COVERAGE continued.....

- Goods excluded in analysis are:
  - Consignment of goods in direct transit.
  - Returned merchandise and returned merchandise repair free of charge.
  - Personal belongings; removable articles imported on transfer of residences.
  - Goods imported by diplomatic corps.
  - Supplies under military defense agreements.
  - Commercial samples.

# DATA SOURCES

- Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA)
  - Electronically captured Custom declaration data in ASYCUDA++ and some hard forms are sent to NSO by 15<sup>th</sup> of every month.
  - Submission of soft copies is through flash disks or E-mail. Hardcopies come by post.
  - Sometimes, there are some delays in data submission which entail follow-ups.

## DATA SOURCES *continued...*

- Electricity Supply Commission of (ESCOM)
- Major exporting companies and associations :
  - ILLOVO Sugar Corporation
  - Tea and Coffee Association of Malawi and
  - Tobacco Control Commission

# CLASSIFICATION

- Three classifications of goods are followed during data analysis i.e.
  - HS – classifies goods into physical material nature (97 categories)
  - SITC Rev. 3 – classifies goods for statistical purposes/level of processing.
  - BEC-Classifies goods according to end use.



# PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED with CUSTOMS DATA SOURCE

- Wrong measurements. E.g. cars (tones/kgs) instead of unit.
- Misclassifications of codes lead to underestimate or overestimate of quantities. e.g. Diesel recorded as Petrol, vice versa.
- Omission of quantity data for some commodities.
- Wrong commodity codes.
- This delays data processing since data is sent back for corrections

# DATA ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

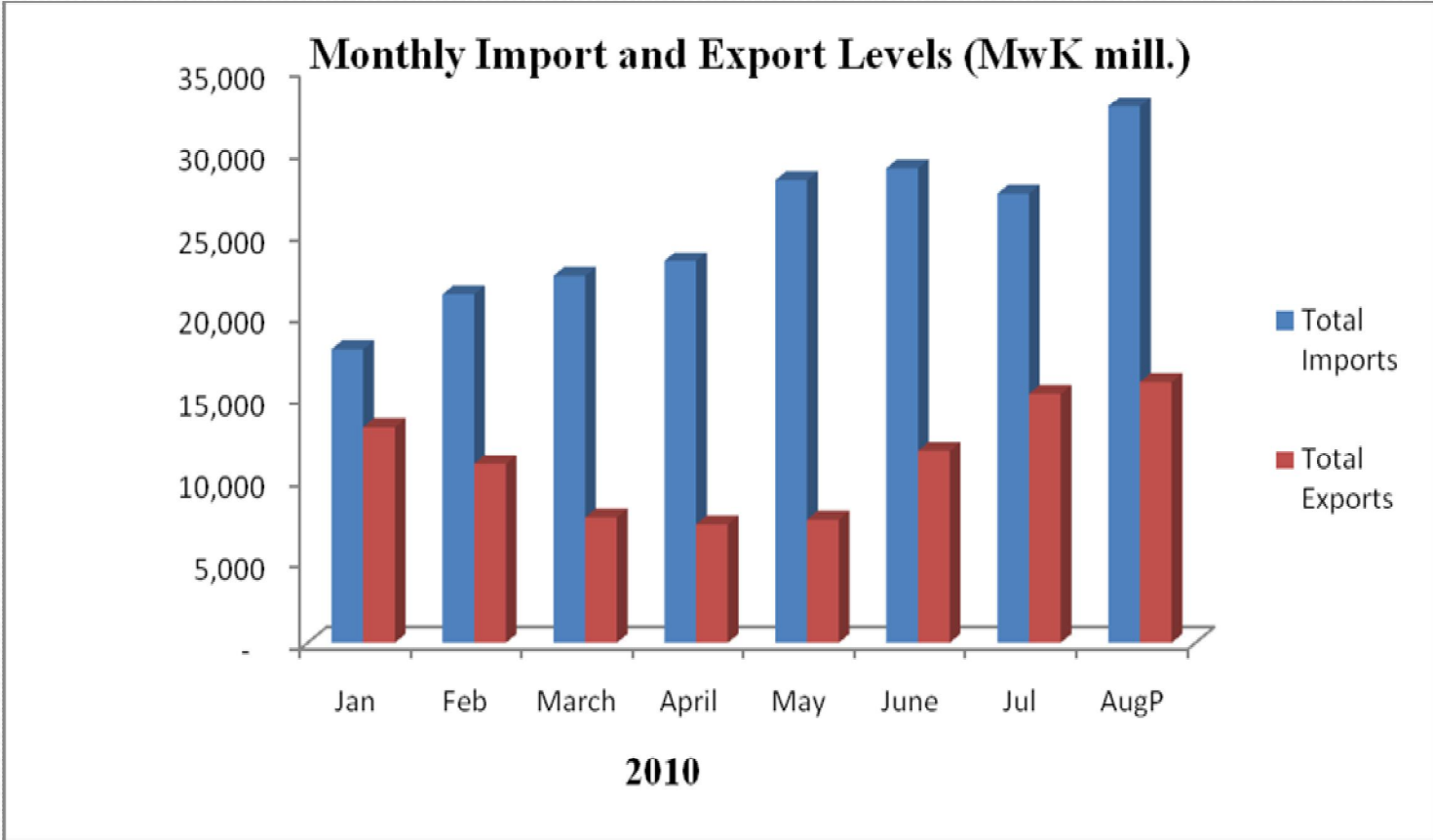
- EUROTRACE is the main package for data analysis. It consists of 3 modules namely **DBMS, Editor and Comext.**
- Data is loaded into the server. It is then converted and stored in the EUROTRACE
- In EUROTRACE, tables and graphs are made.
- The graphs and tables made in EUROTRACE package are later exported to excel for further analysis. (*examples of a table and a graph in the next two slides below that were made in excel.*)

# IMPORTS(HS) BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AND VALUE IN MALAWI KWACHA

**TABLE 1.1: FISH IMPORTS BY HS AND COUNTRY OF ORIGIN FOR AUGUST 2010**

HS CODE	DESCRIPTION	IMPORTS			
		Country of Origin	Unit of Measure	Quantity	CIF Value
03037100	FROZEN SARDINES	LEBANON	Kgs	125	13114
03055900	DRIED FISH, NOT SMOKED (EXC	TANZANIA	Kgs	124050	3617467
03061400	FROZEN CRABS	TANZANIA	Kgs	100	12060
03021900	FRESH OR CHILLED SALMONIDAE	SOUTH AFRICA	Kgs	1577	327769
03042900	FROZEN FISH FILLETS, NES OTHER FISH SALTED OR IN	SOUTH AFRICA	Kgs	1181	251209
03056900	BRINE	AFRICA	Kgs	401	341629

# MONTHLY IMPORT AND EXPORT LEVELS FOR 2010 (MwK mill.)



# INSTITUTIONAL RANGEMENTS

- National Statistical Office is legally mandated to compile trade statistics.
- Malawi Revenue Authority is the sole data provider.
- ESCOM, TEA and COFFEE Association, Illovo Sugar Corporation and Tobacco Control Commission provide data mostly to cross check with MRA values.

# QUALITY CONTROL

- Hard copies from Non automated customs offices undergo
  - Sorting
  - Manual Checks
  - Verification of Codes
  - Wrong and late entries are identified.
  - These are sent back to MRA for physical verification.

# QUALITY CONTROL CONTINUED...

Quality control of electronic data from Automated Customs office involves:

- Checking of codes e.g. HS, partner country etc.
- The relationship that exists between net weight and supplement unit (pieces).
- The checks are built up in the validation rules of the EUROTRACE package.

# CONCLUSION

- Updated and new recommendations of IMTS (2010) to be implemented.





**End of  
Presentation!**

*Thank You for your  
Attention*