DISSEMINATION OF INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS (IMTS)

Presented by
Joseph Chimseu Phiri
At
IMTS 2010 Workshop for Countries of the Sub Saharan Region
1-5 November 2010, Lusaka, Zambia
PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Statistical Confidentiality
- Reference period and data dissemination timetable
- Timeliness
- Coherence of monthly, quarterly and annual data
- Data revision
- Dissemination Strategy
- Challenges
- Conclusion
INTRODUCTION

- External Trade section in the Economic Statistics Division does the dissemination of IMTS
- Dissemination is done inline with the UNSD IMTS(Rev.2) manual
National Statistical Office (NSO) in Malawi has the legal mandate to compile and disseminate IMTS data. The trade data are disseminated in a “passive confidentiality” manner as described in IMTS manual.
Malawi trade statistics data are produced on a calendar period basis.

There is no specific dissemination and data release policy for trade statistics.

The trade statistics are released in the following official NSO publications:

- Monthly Statistical Bulletin (MSB)
- Quarterly Statistical Bulletin (QSB)
- Trade Brief Release
REFERENCE PERIOD and DATA DISSEMINATION TIMETABLE cont.

- Annual Statement of Trade Statistics
- Website and E-mail contacts
TIMELINESS

- NSO releases its publications in line with guidelines as stated in IMTS (Rev.2) manual
- MSB is published one and half months after the end of the month in record
- QSB is released 2 months after the end of the quarter.
- Trade Brief Release has also a two months time lag after the end of the semi annual period.
- Annual Statement of Trade Statistics is produced after three months of the end of the year in record.
TIMELINESS cont.

- Publications are made available at NSO headquarters and in the Regional Offices
- Customers also access these reports on NSO's website: www.nso.malawi.net
COHERENCE OF MONTHLY QUARTERLY and ANNUAL DATA

- MSB trade statistics contains trade aggregates.
- QSB contains those indicators published in MSB. However, it also includes trade by principal markets and major partners.
- Trade Brief Release highlights the imports and exports values, top twenty imported and exported products and trade with trading blocks like COMESA.
- The Annual Statement of Trade Statistics. Information comes from the QSB. It also includes HS, SITC and BEC commodity classification by country. Value indices are also included.
Currently there is no policy for revising IMTS data.
Revisions for perfecting regular statistical production process are done.
CHALLENGES

- Late submission of data by MRA delays release of IMTS results in time
- Any changes in MRA’s ASYCUDA++ software affects our EURO TRACE software.
CONCLUSION

- Still more to be done to improve dissemination system as per IMTS requirements.
THE END

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!!!