

DISSEMINATION OF INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS (IMTS)

Presented by

Joseph Chimseu Phiri

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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

STATISTICAL CONFIDENTIALITY

- 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

REFERENCE PERIOD and DATA DISSEMINATION TIMETABLE

- Malawi trade statistics data are produced on a calendar period basis
- There is no specific dissemination and data release policy for trade statistic
- 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.

DATA REVISION

- 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!!!**