

**Workshop on updated and new recommendations for
International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS 2010) and
their implementation in countries of the Sub-Saharan Africa region**

Lusaka, Zambia, 1-5 November, 2010

**Agenda item 16:
Data Dissemination**



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Introduction

- **IMTS2010 Chapter X : Dissemination**
 - A. Statistical Confidentiality**
 - B. Reference period and data dissemination timetable**
 - C. Data Revision**
 - D. Dissemination Strategy**

Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/gp/fundprinciples.aspx>

Principle 1: “Official statistics that meet the test of practical utility are to be compiled and made available on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies to honor citizens' entitlement to public information.”

Statistical Confidentiality

- Legal provisions governing statistical confidentiality at national level are set forth in countries' statistical laws

IMTS2010 Recommendations:

Use the concept of passive confidentiality unless the use of active confidentiality is already the established, desired and accepted practice **(IMTS 2010, para 10.3, new)**

When suppressing data due to confidentiality, report the information in full detail at the next higher level of commodity aggregation and/or partner that adequately protects confidentiality **(IMTS 2010, para 10.3 unchanged).**

Example: Managing Confidentiality

Original Data
no suppression

HS Code	Value
310501	\$500
310510	\$100
874900	\$200
874910	\$400

After suppression,
chapter can still be identified

After suppression,
chapter cannot be identified

HS Code	Value
999999	\$500
310510	\$100
874900	\$200
874910	\$400

HS Code	Value
983100	\$500
310510	\$100
874900	\$200
874910	\$400

On aggregated data
chapter 31 is not complete

HS Code	Value
31	\$100
87	\$600
99	\$500

On aggregated data
chapter 31 is preserved

HS Code	Value
31	\$600
87	\$600

**Preferable
compilation practice**

Reference period and data dissemination timetable

IMTS 2010 Recommendations:

- Make the IMTS data available on a calendar basis according to the Gregorian calendar [IMTS 2010, para 10.4, unchanged]
- Announce in advance the calendar of IMTS data release and its revisions [IMTS 2010, para 10.5, updated]

IMTS 2010 Encouragements:

- Timeliness. First releases of data: monthly within 45 days, quarterly within 60 days, annual within 90 days [IMTS 2010, para 10.7, new]
- Publishing provisional estimates soon after the end of reference period [IMTS 2010, para 10.8, new]
- Disseminate all revised data to ensure consistency of data available [IMTS 2010, para 10.9, updated]

Timeliness vs. reliability, accuracy and comprehensiveness

IMTS2010 Encouragements:

- Compile and release provisional data first, then later revised when new and more accurate information available [10.10]
- Develop revision policy which is synchronized with advance release calendar and well coordinated with other area of statistics [IMTS 2010, para 10.11 and 10.12, updated]

Dissemination Strategy

IMTS2010 Recommendations:

- All users are treated equally and data disseminated without preference, use the best format that best suits users' needs [IMTS 2010, para 10.13, new recommendation]

Thank you for your attention!