

**UNSD-SACU workshop  
on the implementation of the new recommendations  
for International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS 2010)  
in SACU Member States**

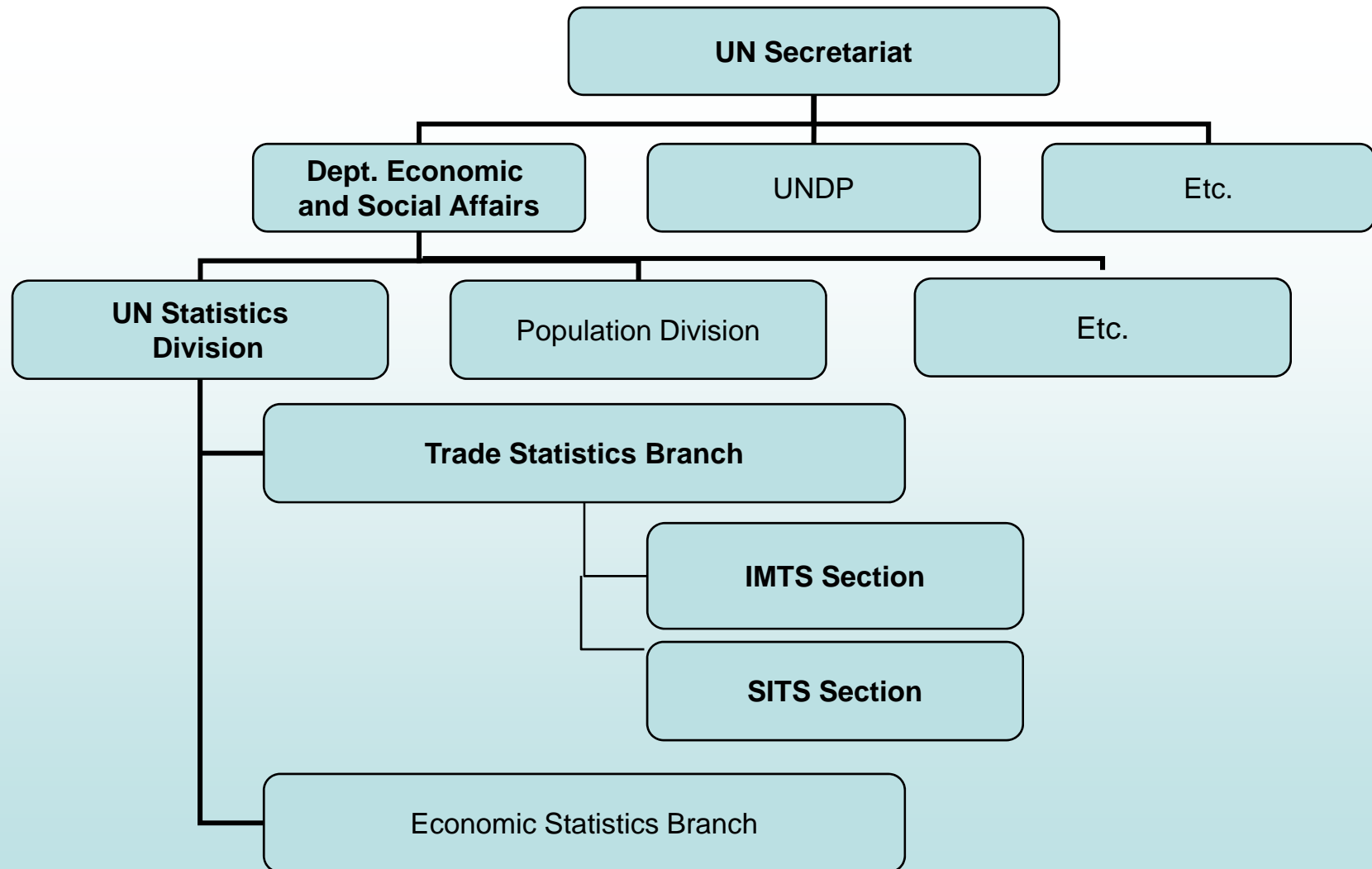
12 – 15 June 2012, Johannesburg, South Africa

12 June - item 4:  
**UNSD activities in the field of  
International Merchandise Trade  
Statistics (IMTS)**



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# The United Nations



## Activities of the International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) Section

### Four working areas:

1. Methodology / International standards and recommendations
2. UN Comtrade Database
3. Analytical tables (publications)
4. International Coordination and Technical Assistance

# 1. Methodological work on IMTS

The IMTS Section is responsible for the development and maintenance of the IMTS methodology, including IMTS concepts and definitions (IMTS 2010) and the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC, Rev. 4)

## i. Concepts & Methods

- IMTS, Concepts and Definitions 2010 (IMTS 2010)  
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/EG-IMTS/EG-IMTS%20web%20announcement.htm>
- Updated IMTS, Compilers Manual (IMTS 2010-CM)  
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/EG-IMTS/EG-IMTS%20web%20announcement.htm>
- IMTS, Supplement to the Compilers Manual (2008)  
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/imtssupplcompilersmanual.htm>
- Unit Value index and trade indices calculation (Strategies for Price and Quantity Measurement in External Trade; A technical report.)

## ii. National Practices

- IMTS, National Compilation and Dissemination Practices 2006  
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradereport/default.asp>

## iii. IMTS classifications and correspondence tables:

# 1. Methodological work on IMTS

## i. Concepts & Methods – old..

**IMTS: Concepts and Definitions, Rev.2 (1998)**

**IMTS: Compilers Manual (2004)**

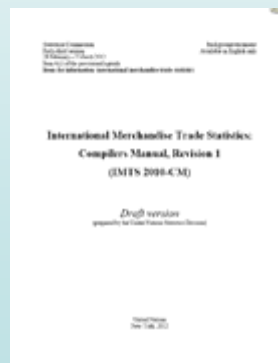
**IMTS: Supplement to the Compilers Manual (2008)**



## ..and new

**IMTS: Concepts and Definitions 2010 (IMTS 2010) (2010)**

**IMTS: Compilers Manual (IMTS 2010-CM) (2012)**



# 1. Methodological work on IMTS (cont.)

## iii. IMTS classifications and correspondence tables:

Commodity classifications:



- Standard International Trade Classification (SITC, Revision 4) and correspondence tables <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/sitcrev4.htm>
- Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC): correspondence table with the Harmonized System -2002 and SITC, R3) <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/methodology%20IMTS.htm>
- Other IMTS classifications and related correspondence tables <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/methodology%20IMTS.htm>

Statistical Territories of the World for Use in International Merchandise Trade Statistics <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/methodology%20IMTS.htm>

## 2. UN comtrade

The UN Comtrade database (<http://comtrade.un.org/>):

- Collection and standardization of detailed merchandise trade statistics by partner and commodity (over 170 reporter countries);
- More than 1 billion trade records starting from 1962;
- Modern data processing system with extensive verification procedures regarding totals, data by partner and commodity, and quantity information;
- Powerful web-based dissemination system with free and subscriber access;
- Additional services: Knowledge base, Community Forum

→ reference database for worldwide data on IMTS

→ Also available at UN Data <http://data.un.org/>

## 2.



## UN MONTHLY COMTRADE

(<http://comtrade.un.org/monthly>):

- Collection and standardization of detailed monthly merchandise trade statistics by partner and commodity
- 50- 60 reporter countries representing more than 75 percent of world trade;
- Data starting January 2010;
- Data browsing and bulk download.



# 3. Analytical tables (publications)

...covering trade values and indices for individual countries and regions.

- International Trade Statistics Yearbook
  - Consisting of country tables, Commodity tables, and analytical tables
- Monthly Bulletin of Statistics tables (monthly and quarterly data)
  - Analytical tables (containing world and region totals for trade values and trade indices for total exports, total imports, manufactured goods exports and fuel imports)
- Annual Totals Table (Country totals compared)
- Historical data (1900-1960)
- Other analytical outputs:
  - Unit value calculation based on UN Comtrade data
  - Conversion factor calculation

**All are freely accessible**

# 3. Analytical tables (publications)

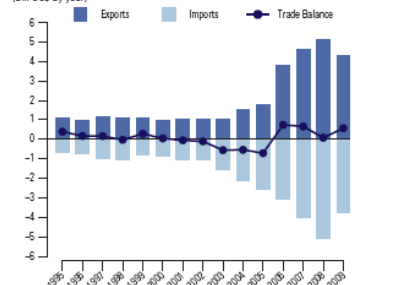
## 2009 International Trade Statistics Yearbook tables, Vol. I Trade by Country

### Zambia

Imports: CIF, by origin Exports: FOB, by last known destination Trade System: Special

**Overview:**  
After several years of continuous growth marked by a peak of 5.1 bln US\$ in 2006, the value of the exports of Zambia dropped by 15.4 percent in 2009 and amounted to 4.3 bln US\$, well below its 2007 level (see table 1 and graph 1). Imports showed a more pronounced development with a decline of 25.1 percent in 2009 to 3.8 bln US\$ (see table 2 and graph 1). The trade balance recorded a surplus of 519 mln US\$ in 2009 (see graph 1). By MDG region, trade recorded deficits with Sub-Saharan Africa (-1.3 bln US\$) and Western Asia (-0.2 bln US\$) while Developed Europe and Eastern Asia recorded surpluses respectively 1.8 bln and 0.3 bln US\$ (see graph 2). Zambia's trade was relatively concentrated among a few partners: respectively 6 and 6 major partners accounted for 80 percent of exports and imports. In addition, Switzerland, the top partner for exports, accounted for a large share (47.0 percent) of total exports in 2009 (see table 4).

Graph 1: Total imports, exports and trade balance (Bln US\$ by year)



**Table 1: Exports by SITC sections**  
(Value in million US\$, growth and shares in percentage)

SITC	2009	Avg. Growth rates (%) 2005-2009	2009 share
Total	4312.1	24.2	-15.4
0+1	314.9	7.6	12.1
2+4	585.9	25.1	-30.4
3	28.2	30.5	6.2
5	67.3	54.7	20.7
6	3071.9	25.6	-16.5
7	138.6	35.1	-2.7
8	29.7	-15.1	69.9
9	45.3	207.4	57.9

**Table 2: Imports by SITC sections**  
(Value in million US\$, growth and shares in percentage)

SITC	2009	Avg. Growth rates (%) 2005-2009	2009 share
Total	3792.6	10.3	-25.1
0+1	166.3	9.9	-0.9
2+4	474.3	38.3	-30.2
3	528.6	16.5	-34.6
5	709.0	11.9	-6.4
6	617.2	12.9	-16.3
7	1065.8	7.7	-34.0
8	196.9	-15.0	-8.6
9	15.5	-17.5	-64.3

**Exports Profile:**  
In 2009, exports of manufactured goods classified chiefly by material (SITC section 6), the largest commodity group for exports, dropped by 16.5 percent and represented 71.2 percent of exported goods (see table 1). Exports of intermediate crude materials (except fuels), animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes (SITC sections 2+4), the other major commodity group for exports, also decreased by 30.4 percent and represented 13.6 percent of exports in 2009. In addition to Switzerland, other major partners for exports included China and South Africa (see table 4). Over the last three years, copper products were the top commodities for exports (see table 3). These are refined copper and copper alloys, unwrought (HS code 7403), copper plates, sheets and strip, of a thickness exceeding 0.15 mm (HS code 7409) and copper ores and concentrates (HS code 2603). They accounted respectively for 52.2, 12.4 and 6.7 percent of exports in 2009.

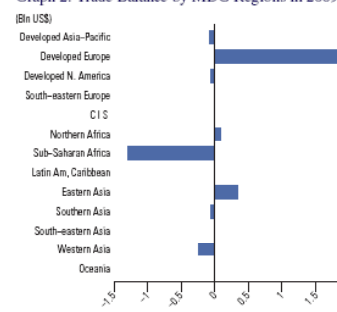
Table 3: Top 10 export commodities 2007 to 2009 (Value in million US\$)

HS code	4-digit heading of Harmonized System 2002	Value (million US\$)			Unit value			SITC code
		2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	
All Commodities		4617.5	5096.7	4312.1				
7403 Refined copper and copper alloys, unwrought		2104.7	2113.7	2249.9	7.1	6.9	4.6	682
7409 Copper plates, sheets and strip, of a thickness exceeding 0.15 mm		824.7	996.6	534.6	7.3	7.4	5.5	682
2603 Copper ores and concentrates		255.5	666.6	287.9	2.3	2.0	0.7	283
8105 Cobalt mattes and other intermediate products of cobalt metallurgy		250.5	294.0	75.2	55.3	74.6	10.5	689
7409 Copper wire		158.9	143.4	102.5	7.6	8.6	5.4	682
1701 Cane or beet sugar and pure sucrose, in solid form		82.4	57.9	95.1	0.6	0.6	0.6	061
2401 Unmanufactured tobacco; tobacco refuse		61.5	71.7	84.7	2.6	2.9	3.2	121
7402 Unrefined copper; copper anodes for electrolytic refining		152.1	8.9	0.1	7.5	4.7	4.4	682
2605 Cobalt ores and concentrates		9.6	24.8	101.6	2.1	4.0	2.1	287
1005 Maize (corn)		60.2	51.1	21.9	0.3	0.3	1.1	044

Source: UN Comtrade

### Zambia

Graph 2: Trade Balance by MDG Regions in 2009 (Bln US\$)



Graph 3: Partner concentration of trade in 2009 (Cumulative share by ranked partners)

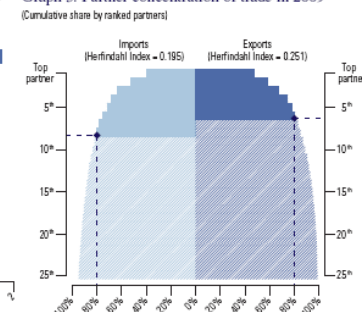


Table 4: Exports by principal countries and SITC sections in 2009 (Value in million US\$, percentages of country total)

Country	Total	Shares by SITC sections (%)									
		0+1	2+4	3	5	6	7	8	9	Total	
World	4312.1	7.3	13.6	0.9	2.0	71.2	3.2	0.7	1.1	100	
Switzerland	2027.2	0.0	13.8	0.0	...	86.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	100	
China	482.6	2.0	8.6	...	0.2	88.8	0.3	0.0	0.0	100	
South Africa	394.7	10.0	37.8	0.2	0.4	32.2	12.1	2.2	5.1	100	
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	300.3	26.5	3.3	8.3	23.1	19.5	14.7	4.6	0.0	100	
United Arab Emirates	141.0	0.0	1.6	...	0.0	98.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	100	
Saudi Arabia	118.1	0.0	0.1	...	...	99.8	0.0	...	0.1	100	
Egypt	106.5	0.0	0.1	...	...	99.8	0.2	0.0	0.0	100	
United Kingdom	87.2	13.0	3.1	...	0.1	78.5	0.5	0.1	4.7	100	
Zimbabwe	84.3	61.1	1.8	7.1	3.9	4.1	18.9	2.5	0.6	100	
Rep. of Korea	77.0	0.0	0.1	...	...	99.8	0.0	...	0.0	100	

**Imports Profile:**  
In 2009, all the commodity groups for imports dropped in total by 25.1 percent (see table 2). Machinery and transport equipment (SITC section 7), which accounted for 28.6 percent of imports dropped by 34.0 percent. Other major commodity groups for imports included chemicals and related products, n.e.s. (SITC section 5) (16.7 percent), manufactured goods classified chiefly by material (SITC section 6) (16.3 percent) and mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (SITC section 3) (13.9 percent). They decreased respectively by 6.4, 16.8 and 34.9 in 2009. From 2007 to 2009, major imported products were petroleum oils, crude (HS code 2709), copper ores and concentrates (HS code 2603) and petroleum oils, other than crude (HS code 2710) (see table 5).

Table 5: Top 10 import commodities 2007 to 2009 (Value in million US\$)

HS code	4-digit heading of Harmonized System 2002	Value (million US\$)			Unit value			SITC code
		2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	
All Commodities		4007.0	5060.5	3792.6				
2709 Petroleum oils, crude		226.5	461.9	430.8	0.9	0.9	0.3	333
2603 Copper ores and concentrates		126.2	425.3	255.5	1.1	1.6	0.7	283
2710 Petroleum oils, other than crude		223.4	260.0	64.7	1.0	1.6	1.3	334
8704 Motor vehicles for the transport of goods		134.0	129.1	99.7				382
8474 Machinery for sorting, screening, separating, washing, crushing, grinding		193.0	109.8	78.3				728
8420 Self-propelled bulldozers, angledozers, graders, levelers, scrapers		122.6	109.3	60.2	62.4			723
3004 Medicaments (excluding goods of heading 30.02, 30.05 or 30.06)		53.4	137.4	97.0	18.2	42.4	33.7	542
8703 Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport		83.5	120.7	68.6	13.5			781
8431 Parts suitable for use principally with the machinery of headings 84.25		92.3	105.6	63.9	12.2	14.7	15.2	723
7403 Refined copper and copper alloys, unwrought		1.9	100.7	124.3	4.4	6.0	4.7	682

Source: UN Comtrade

# 4. International Cooperation and Technical Assistance

- UN Statistical Commission



- Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics
- Further cooperation with other international and regional organizations: ITC, OECD, FAO, WCO, ECLAC, Eurostat, etc.
- Conduct workshops to support countries in the implementation of the international recommendations on IMTS  
[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/workshops\\_imts.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/workshops_imts.htm)
- Participation in other meetings/ workshops on IMTS

## Activities of the International Trade in Services (SITS) Section

### Working areas:

1. Methodology / International standards and recommendations
2. UN ServiceTrade
3. International Coordination and Technical Assistance

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/default.htm>

# Outcome and Follow-up to the Global Forum on Trade Statistics



# Global Forum on Trade Statistics

Measuring Global Trade - Do we have the right numbers?

*organized jointly by UNSD and Eurostat in collaboration with WTO and UNCTAD*

2-4 February 2011, Geneva, Switzerland

- Measuring Global Trade
- New Recommendations IMTS / SITS
- Data Sources
- Global Production and Outsourcing
- Linking Trade and Business Statistics
- Trade in Value-Added

# Global Forum on Trade Statistics

organized jointly by UNSD and Eurostat in collaboration with WTO and UNCTAD

2-4 February 2011, Geneva, Switzerland

## Vision of the future of international trade statistics

Responding to demands of policy makers for more information on international trade and its relation to global value chains, employment, environment and the interdependence of economies, the participants of the Global Forum on Trade Statistics identify the following points of improvement.

*Improve the relevance of international trade statistics by connecting trade information and integrating it with its economic, social, environmental and financial dimensions while minimizing the response burden.*

*Improve the statistical production process by better defining and organizing the co-operation among national stakeholders*

*Improve international classifications and correspondence tables relevant for research on international trade and globalization, such as research on trade in value added, on global value chains and on outsourcing of business functions.*

- **Agenda:** [Webpage](#) / [PDF](#)
- **List of participants:** [Countries](#) / [International organizations](#)
- **Report of the Forum:** [PDF](#) (Updated 18 May 2011)
- **Outline of the Compendium on International Trade and Business Statistics:** [PDF](#)
- **Vision Statement:** [Detailed PDF](#) (Updated 15 March 2011)
- **Trade Information Systems in 2020 – Background note:** [PDF](#)



# GLOBAL FORUM ON TRADE STATISTICS

UNITED NATIONS  
STATISTICS DIVISION

AL FORUM

EVENTS

PROCESSES

PUBLICATIONS

PARTNERS

Workshop on Global Production and Trade in Value-Added, USA, Jun 2011

Seminar on International Trade Statistics, Lithuania, Sep 2011

Seminar on International Trade Statistics, China, Oct 2011

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Classifications and correspondenc

## Global Forum on Trade Statistics

The Global Forum consisting of trade statisticians, economists, trade analysts and policy makers from all over the world, developed a new vision for international trade statistics.

### Intergovernmental Processes on Trade Statistics

The United Nations Statistical Commission brings together Chief Statisticians from around the world to set statistical standards, develop concepts and methods and their implementation at the national and international level.

### Research Studies Analytical Reports and Trade Publications

Trade statistics are used in different statistical frameworks: national accounts, balance of payments, customs, input-output tables, etc. Structural changes linked to globalization are challenging the relevance of these traditional trade statistics.

### Follow Up Events

Trade statistics are used in different statistical frameworks: national accounts, balance of payments, customs, input-output tables, etc. Structural changes linked to globalization are challenging the relevance of these traditional trade statistics.



# Thank you for your attention