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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Trade Statistics Branch, United Nations Statistics Division
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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)

   – Updated IMTS, Compilers Manual (IMTS 2010-CM)

     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: Supplement to the Compilers Manual (2008)

..and new

1. Methodological work on IMTS (cont.)

iii. IMTS classifications and correspondence tables:

Commodity classifications:


2. **UN Comtrade**


- 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

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)


Table 1: Exports by SITC sections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITC Section</th>
<th>Value Added (1000 USD)</th>
<th>Growth Rate</th>
<th>Share of Total (% of Imports)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>011</td>
<td>1234</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>022</td>
<td>3456</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>033</td>
<td>4567</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>044</td>
<td>5678</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Imports by SITC sections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITC Section</th>
<th>Value Added (1000 USD)</th>
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<tr>
<td>011</td>
<td>6789</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>022</td>
<td>8901</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>033</td>
<td>0123</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>044</td>
<td>2345</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: Top 10 import commodities 2007 to 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Value Added (1000 USD)</th>
<th>Share of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crude oil</td>
<td>9876</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coal</td>
<td>7654</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron ore</td>
<td>5432</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>3210</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aluminum</td>
<td>1098</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graph 2: Trade Balance by MDG Regions in 2009

Zambia

Graph 3: Pattern concentration of trade in 2009

Imports Profile:
In 2009, the commodities group for imports was petroleum products, followed by machinery and transport equipment, iron and steel, copper and its products, and electrical machinery and equipment. For exports, iron and steel were the leading commodities group, followed by machinery and transport equipment, iron and steel, and copper and its products. Copper and its products also had a significant share of exports. The other major commodity group for exports also decreased by 32.4% and accounted for 61.9% of exports in 2009 (in addition to iron and steel), while other major group for copper and its products had a significant share of exports. The other major group for copper and its products had a significant share of exports. The other major group for copper and its products had a significant share of exports. The other major group for copper and its products had a significant share of exports.

Table 4: Exports by principal countries and SITC sections in 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Value Added (1000 USD)</th>
<th>Share of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>9876</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
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<td>China</td>
<td>7654</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
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<td>India</td>
<td>5432</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
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<td>Japan</td>
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<td>3%</td>
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Table 5: Top 10 export commodities 2007 to 2009

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<th>Commodity</th>
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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
  
  [Link](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
The future of international trade statistics

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

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.
Thank you for your attention