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 8:
Introduction to the IMTS Compilers Manual

Presentation by Matthias Reister
Chief, International Merchandise Trade Statistics Section
Trade Statistics Branch, United Nations Statistics Division
E-mail: reister@un.org
The revised IMTS Compilers Manual (IMTS 2010-CM)

**Goal:** To provide further and more detailed explanation of certain recommendations and practical guidance by describing good practices applicable under different circumstances.

**A two year effort:**
- September 2010: Agreement on initial draft outline (EG-IMTS)
- Mid January 2011: First virtual meeting of the EG-IMTS on Draft annotated outline
- Beginning March 2011: Worldwide consultation on the Draft annotated outline
- May 2011: Second virtual meeting of the EG-IMTS on the first set of draft chapters
- September 2011: Third virtual meeting of the EG-IMTS on the second set of draft chapters
- December 2011: Meeting of the EG-IMTS on the full draft
- February 2012: Submission of draft text to Statistical Commission
# Table of contents of IMTS 2010-CM

## Part I  Legal framework and data sources
- Chapter 1  Legal framework
- Chapter 2  Customs declarations and related customs records
- Chapter 3  Non-customs administrative sources
- Chapter 4  Enterprise surveys

## Part II  Data compilation
- Chapter 5  Institutional arrangements
- Chapter 6  Statistical territory and organization of data collection
- Chapter 7  Integration of data from different sources
- Chapter 8  Data processing and database management
- Chapter 9  Data quality: assurance, measurement and reporting
- Chapter 10  Data compilation in the case of customs unions
- Chapter 11  Integrating trade and business statistics
### Table of contents...continued

#### Part III Compilation of particular data items
- Chapter 12 Time of recording
- Chapter 13 Commodity classification
- Chapter 14 Valuation
- Chapter 15 Quantity measurement
- Chapter 16 Partner country
- Chapter 17 Mode of transport
- Chapter 18 Customs procedure code

#### Part IV Compilation of data on trade in selected categories of goods
- Chapter 19 Scope of IMTS
- Chapter 20 Goods for processing
- Chapter 21 Goods which cross borders as a result of transactions between related parties
- Chapter 22 Electricity, gas, oil and water
- Chapter 23 Ships and aircraft
- Chapter 24 Other special cases and data compilation for national accounts and balance of payment purposes
Table of contents…continued

Part V  Metadata and dissemination
– Chapter 25  Metadata
– Chapter 26  Dissemination
– Chapter 27  Other international classifications relevant to trade statistics

Part VI  External trade indices and seasonally adjusted data
– Chapter 28  External trade indices
– Chapter 29  Seasonally adjusted data
PART I: LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND DATA SOURCES

Chapter 1 – Legal framework
Chapter 2 – Customs declarations and related customs records
Chapter 3 – Non-customs administrative and other sources
Chapter 4 – Enterprise surveys and other surveys
Ch 1: Legal framework

A. The importance of the legal framework for trade statistics
B. Legal acts governing customs records
C. Legal acts regulating non-customs data sources and institutional arrangements
D. Legal acts protecting confidentiality of traders and trade information
E. Case Studies
Ch 2: Customs declarations and related customs records

A. Customs declarations as the most prevalent source of trade data
B. Structure of the revised Kyoto Convention
C. Customs Procedures and IMTS
D. Verification of the declared information
E. Lodgement of declarations and data-collection issues
F. Other customs declarations and procedures
G. Information required to complete a goods declaration
H. Training in how to complete customs documents
I. Reporting thresholds and retention of records
J. Case Studies
Ch 3: Non-customs data sources

A. Additional data sources – Overview

B. Additional data sources – often used to supplement customs records
   1. Parcel post and letter post records
   2. Aircraft and ship registers
   3. Enterprise surveys
   4. Data exchanges between countries

C. Additional data sources used for supplementing and verifying of customs records
   1. Reports of commodity boards
   2. Administrative records associated with taxation
   3. Merging and cross-checking data obtained from customs and non-customs sources
   4. Case study
Ch 4: Enterprise surveys and other surveys

A. General description of enterprise and other surveys
B. Use of business registers and frames
C. Organization of surveys
D. Advantages and disadvantages of surveys
E. Examples of surveys for airline and shipping companies
F. Examples of border surveys
G. Examples of surveys used in the Intrastat system
H. Examples of enterprise surveys providing additional information
I. Merging of data from enterprise surveys with customs data
J. Response burden of enterprises and traders
PART II: DATA COMPILATION

Chapter 5 – Institutional arrangements
Chapter 6 – Statistical territory and organization of data collection
Chapter 7 – Integration of data from different sources
Chapter 8 – Data processing and database management
Chapter 9 – Data quality: assurance, measurement and reporting
Chapter 10 – Data compilation in the case of customs union
Chapter 11 – Data compilation in the case of customs union
Ch 5: Institutional arrangements

A. Introduction
B. Purposes of institutional arrangements
C. Characteristics of effective institutional arrangements
D. Governance and mechanisms of cooperation
   1. Statistical office as the responsible agency
   2. Customs administration as the responsible agency
   3. Central bank as the responsible agency
E. Towards improved institutional arrangements
F. Institutional arrangements and data quality

Annex 5.1: Country experiences in institutional arrangements
   1. Experience of the USA
   2. Experience of Mexico
   3. Experience of Brazil
   4. Experience of the Philippines
   5. The experience of China
Ch 6: Statistical territory and organization of data collection

A. Statistical territory
B. Detailed description of the elements of the statistical territory
C. Organization of the data collection in respect to different territorial elements
Ch 7: Integration of data from different sources

A. Advantages and limitations of customs and non-customs data sources
B. Issues encountered when merging data sources
C. Examples of merging data from other administrative sources with customs data
D. Examples of merging data from enterprise surveys with customs data
E. General conclusions on merging different data sources
F. Integrated approach to economic statistics
Ch 8: Data processing and database management

A. Data processing and database management at Customs
   1. Requirements for automation at customs
   2. Characteristics of data processing at customs
   3. Examples of automated systems at customs and its interface with statistical data

B. Data processing and database management at the responsible agency
   1. Characteristics of data processing, data flow and data transformations
   2. Examples of data processing systems at the responsible agency

C. Data fields required for statistical purposes
Ch 9: Data quality: assurance, measurement and reporting

A. Quality assurance
   1. An overview of the main elements of national quality assurance frameworks
   2. Quality assurance at customs
   3. Quality assurance at the responsible agency
   4. Major quality issues and how to approach them
   5. Country examples and best practices

B. Quality measurement and reporting
   1. Steps and guidelines for producing data quality reports
   2. User-oriented quality reports – contents and examples
   3. Producer-oriented quality reports – contents and examples
   4. Measuring data quality

C. Reconciliation studies, cross-country comparability and bilateral data exchanges

D. Inter-agency collaboration on data quality
Ch 9: Data quality: assurance, measurement and reporting (cont.)

Annex 9.1: Brazilian statistical depuration system
1. Preventive depuration
2. Continuous depuration
3. Post depuration

Annex 9.2: ASYCUDA Data quality assurance, measurement and reporting – Controls and reports
1. Existence controls
2. Data Format controls
3. Referential and validity controls
4. Consistency controls
5. ASYCUDA statistical reports

Annex 9.3: Detailed discussion of data items that affect statistical discrepancies between countries and further guidance

Annex 9.4: Experience of Brazil
Ch 10: Data compilation in the case of customs union

A. Description of main types of customs unions and their implications for trade data compilers
   1. European Union: Customs unions as a single market
   2. Customs unions of developing and transitional countries

B. Current challenges and good practices in the organization of data compilation

C. Longer term strategies

D. Good practices in other multi-country data exchanges
Ch 11: Integrating trade and business statistics

A. Integrated approach to economic statistics
B. The benefits of integrating trade and business statistics
C. Integrating trade and business statistics in data compilation – possibilities and examples
D. Ensuring quality of the linked data sources and the quality of the linked/integrated data
E. Generation and dissemination of additional information – possibilities and examples
F. Required institutional and working arrangements
PART III:

Chapter 12  – Time of recording
Chapter 13  – Commodity classification
Chapter 14  – Valuation
Chapter 15  – Quantity measurement
Chapter 16  – Partner country
Chapter 17  – Mode of transport
Chapter 18  – Customs procedure code
Ch 12: Time of recording

A. Basic concepts and data sources: an overview
B. Approximation of time of recording
Ch 13: Commodity classification

A. Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System- Introduction
B. HS overview
C. 2012 edition of HS
D. Application of the HS for coding traded goods – challenges and good practices
E. Country experiences in the use of the HS for data dissemination and analytical purposes
Ch 14: Valuation

A. Statistical value and its components: an overview
B. Compilation of the statistical value of imported goods
C. Compilation of statistical values of exported goods
D. Valuation of selected categories of imported and exported goods
E. Issues of currency recording and conversion
Ch 15: Quantity measurement

A. An overview of the WCO standard units of quantity
B. Weight concept
C. Compilation of quantity data from customs sources
D. Compilation of quantity data from non-customs sources
E. Conversion factors from non-standard to standard units of quantity
F. Quality issues
G. Estimation and imputation of quantity data
Ch 16: Partner country

A. Introduction

B. Country of origin and its use in import statistics
   1. Kyoto Convention
   2. The status of the WCO work on the harmonized rules of origin
   3. Country experiences in definition of goods origin and challenges in their application

C. Country of last known destination and its use in export statistics
   1. Concept of country of last known destination
   2. Country experiences in the approximation of country of last known destination

D. Country of consignment

E. Definitions of partner country in trade between members of a customs union

F. Partner country coding for statistical purposes
Ch 17: Mode of transport

A. Basic concepts and data sources: an overview
   1. Basic concepts
   2. Description of particular modes of transport
   3. Other considerations

B. Compilation of MoT trade statistics: countries experiences

C. Dissemination of MoT statistics: countries experiences
Ch 18: Customs procedure code

A. Customs procedure code as a new data field
B. IMTS 2010 recommendations
C. Importance of compilation and international reporting
D. Custom procedures applied by countries

Annex 18.A: Harmonization of customs procedures and codes in COMESA
Annex 18.B: List of nature of transaction codes for Extrastat
PART IV: COMPILATION OF DATA ON TRADE IN SELECTED CATEGORIES OF GOODS

Chapter 19  – Scope of IMTS
Chapter 20  – Goods for processing
Chapter 21  – Goods which cross borders as a result of transactions between related parties
Chapter 22  – Electricity, gas, oil and water
Chapter 23  – Ships and aircraft
Chapter 24  – Other special categories of goods and compilation for National Accounts and Balance of Payments purposes
Ch 19: Scope of IMTS

A. The general guideline
B. Comparison of specific categories of goods
C. Economic territory and categories of goods
D. Cross-border trade and smuggling
E. Customs and statistical threshold, treatment of non-response
F. Confidential data and incomplete coverage by data omission
Ch 20: Goods for processing

A. Definition and examples of goods for processing
B. Transactions and activities that are not goods for processing
C. Treatment of goods for processing in the 2008 SNA/ BPM6
D. Measuring trade in goods for processing – with or without change of ownership - and implications for the balance of payments compilation
E. Examples of good practices
F. Additional issues
Ch 21: Goods which cross borders as a result of transactions between related parties

A. Definition of related parties and examples of trade between related parties

B. Purposes of identifying trade between related parties (including valuation)

C. Ways to obtain information on trade between related parties

D. Good practices
Ch 22: Electricity, gas, oil and water

A. Characteristics of trade in electricity, gas, oil and water

B. Recording of pipeline trade in electricity, gas, oil and water

C. Country experience in the compilation of electricity, gas, oil and water

D. Valuation issues and issues related to the timing of recording
Ch 23: Ships and aircraft

A. Difficulties encountered in the measurement of trade in ships and aircraft
B. Existing practices for recording and measuring trade in ships and aircraft
C. Possibilities for improving the international measurement of trade in ships and aircraft
D. Leasing
E. Case studies
Chapter 24  Other special categories of goods and the compilation for national accounts and balance of payment purposes

A. Goods to be recorded similarly in IMTS and BPM6/NA

B. Goods to be recorded differently in IMTS and BPM6/NA

C. Common metadata to be provided by IMTS and BOP compilers
PART V: METADATA AND DISSEMINATION

Chapter 25 – Metadata
Chapter 26 – Dissemination
Chapter 27 – Other international classifications relevant for trade statistics
Ch 25: Metadata

A. Introduction
B. Presentation and dissemination of metadata
C. Metadata items relevant for international merchandise trade statistics
D. Country practices
Ch 26: Dissemination

A. Factors to consider in data and metadata dissemination
   1. Variables to be made available
   2. Timeliness
   3. Coherence between disseminated datasets
   4. Statistical confidentiality
   5. Revision policy
   6. Users
   7. Formats and means of dissemination
   8. Dissemination of metadata and information on data quality

B. Combined presentation of statistics on external trade in goods and services
Ch 27: Other international classifications relevant to trade statistics

A. Standard International Trade Classification
B. Central Product Classification
C. Classification by Broad Economic Categories
D. International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities
E. Correspondence and conversion tables and their use
PART VI:
EXTERNAL TRADE INDICES
AND SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

Chapter 28 – External trade indices
Chapter 29 – Seasonally adjusted data
Ch 28: External trade indices

A. General overview
B. Measurement approaches
C. Criticalities in the approaches
D. Methodological issues
E. Other issues
F. Best practices
   1. The Norwegian experience
   2. The Canadian experience
   3. The Czech experience
   4. The German experience
Ch 28: External trade indices

Annex 27.1: The Norwegian experience
1. Unit values from customs records
2. Producer Price Indices (PPIs) for external trade
3. Data validation and editing
4. Institutional framework

Annex 27.2: The Canadian experience
Ch 29: Seasonally adjusted data

A. Basic concepts and uses of seasonally adjusted trade data
B. Preliminary treatment of data prior to seasonal adjustment
C. Seasonal adjustment
D. Revision policies
E. Quality of seasonal adjustment
F. Specific issues
G. Data presentation
H. Specific issues related to trade data
Thank you for your attention!