Item 19:
Data dissemination

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IMTS 2010, Chapter X: Dissemination

A. Statistical confidentiality

B. Reference period and data dissemination timetable

C. Dissemination strategy

D. Data revision

Fundamental principles of official statistics:

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."

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Statistical confidentiality

- Legal provisions governing statistical confidentiality at national level are set forth in countries' statistical laws
- IMTS 2010 (para 10.3):
  - It is **recommended** that *passive confidentiality* by applied much as possible (i.e., "that trade data are made confidential only when the trader requests so and the statistical authority finds the request justified based on the confidentiality rules")
  - It is further **recommended** that in suppressing data due to confidentiality, any information deemed confidential (suppressed) be *reported in full detail at the next higher level of commodity aggregation that adequately protects confidentiality*.

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Example: Managing confidentiality

Original data (no suppression):

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

Preferred compilation practice

After suppression – chapter cannot be identified:

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

After suppression – chapter can still be identified:

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

Reference period and data dissemination timetable

- IMTS2010 Recommendations

  ➢ Use Gregorian calendar for dissemination of IMTS (10.5)

  ➢ Announce advance release calendar of IMTS data release and its revisions (10.5)

- IMTS2010 Encouragements

  ➢ First releases of data: Monthly, within 45 days; Quarterly, within 60 days; Annual, within 90 days (10.7)

  ➢ Publishing provisional estimates soon after the end of reference period (10.8)

  ➢ Disseminating all revised data to ensure consistency of data available (10.9)

Data revision

- Timeliness vs. reliability, accuracy and comprehensiveness

- IMTS2010 Encouragements

  ➢ Compile and release provisional data that are later revised when new and more accurate information becomes available (10.10)

  ➢ Develop revision policy that is synchronized with advance release calendar and well coordinated with other area of statistics (10.11, 10.12)

Dissemination strategy

- IMTS2010 Recommendations

  ➢ All users are treated equally and data disseminated without preference, use the best format that best suits users' needs, IMTS can be accessed through the electronic dissemination database (10.13)

- IMTS2010 Encouragements

  ➢ Follow recommendations provided in Chapter IX and develop and disseminate metadata in accordance with the recommendations provided (10.14)

  ➢ Cooperate with international, supranational and regional organizations to identify and apply the most efficient ways of data and metadata dissemination (10.15)

Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX)

- Not just a format for data exchange

- The SDMX standard consists of

  ◦ Statistical content guidelines

  ◦ Technical standards

  ◦ IT service architecture and IT tools

- Aims to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of statistical data and metadata exchange

- Potential benefits:

  ◦ Reduction in development and maintenance costs

  ◦ Improved harmonization of business processes

  ◦ Reduction of manual intervention / risk of errors

- For additional information, see: http://www.sdmx.org

Additional guidance in IMTS 2010 - CM

Chapter 26: Dissemination

A. Role of data and metadata dissemination

B. Factors to consider in data and metadata dissemination

C. Combined presentation of statistics on external trade in goods and services

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Thank you for your attention