

UNSD-ECLAC Workshop on International Trade Statistics

Implementation of IMTS 2010 and a new vision for trade statistics

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Item 22:

UN Comtrade database (incl. update) and IMTS analytical outputs

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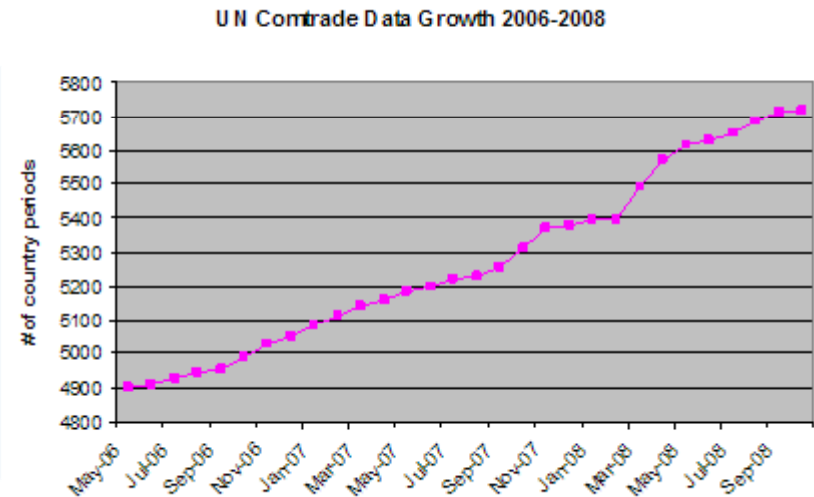
What is UN Comtrade?

- The **United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database**
- Maintained by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Trade Statistics Branch
- Contains **detailed imports and exports statistics** reported by statistical authorities of close to 200 countries or areas since year 1962
- Considered the most comprehensive trade database available in Internet with more than 1.5 billion records.



Coverage

A **typical record** is, e.g.: exports of cars from Germany to the United States in 2007, in terms of value (US dollars), net weight (kg), and supplementary quantity (number of cars)

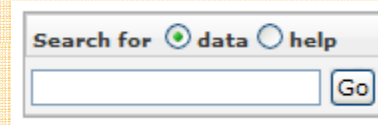


- Level of detail available is **up to HS 6-digits**
- The database is **continuously updated**. Whenever trade data are received from the national authorities, they are standardized by the UN Statistics Division and then added to UN Comtrade.

Main features

Data extraction

- **Basic extraction methods:** Text search, Shortcut Query, Basic Selection, Express Selection
- Download up to 20 millions records per query
- Comtrade data is also disseminated in UNdata
- Advanced data extraction via Web Service for large unattended data transfer



Personalization

- Save frequently used query; Set new data alert
- Automated data extraction
- Create country or commodity groupings; Set frequently used countries / commodities
- Customize download/output format

Main features (cont.)

Data availability and metadata

- Multiple way to view available data
- Each data release accompanied by Explanatory and Publication notes
- Individual footnote records also available

Support and help

- Browse Knowledge Base for any questions
- Use Community Forum for peer support
- Email to comtrade@un.org

Data Availability	Metad
Interactive	
In Graph	
by Reporter	
by Commodity	
by Year	
by Date of Loading	
in Tag Cloud & Map	

Released data	
# of country periods	
today (2009.04.17)	3
in a week	25
in a month	57
year-to-date	166
in a year	448
all data	5828

▶ Most Popular Articles...

- ▶ [Q10062 - INFO: First Time User](#)
- ▶ [Q10173 - INFO: Commodity Trade Statistics Publications](#)
- ▶ [Q10102 - INFO: UN Comtrade Reference Tables](#)
- ▶ [Q10104 - INFO: Comtrade: Manuals & Documentations](#)
- ▶ [Q10146 - INFO: Data Query & Extraction Manual](#)

▶ Latest Additions...

- ▶ [Q10259 - INFO: Areas NES codes redefined](#)
- ▶ [Q10050 - INFO: UN Comtrade SDMX](#)
- ▶ [Q10102 - INFO: UN Comtrade Reference Tables](#)
- ▶ [Q10256 - INFO: Areas not elsewhere specified \(Areas, NES\)](#)
- ▶ [Q10255 - FAQ: Values on different levels of HS/SITC Classification](#)

Useful FAQ

- Why our data are needed?
 - To have a complete world or regional coverage (for various analytical outputs); otherwise your data **will be estimated**
- How's about data confidentiality?
 - It is usually sufficient to protect confidentiality in HS 6-digits. If not, data can be suppressed as long as the chapter can still be identified (see presentation on data confidentiality)
- What are the benefits for data providers?
 - Visibility for your trade data, as UN Comtrade is used / referenced by many users, such as trade negotiation in WTO
 - Free unlimited access, can be used as a starting point in reconciliation study

Useful FAQ (cont.)

- When do you need the data?
 - Initial request is sent in February. It is preferable to have data within 6 months after the end of the reference year
- Final data is not ready within 6 months, but the preliminary data is available, do you accept it?
 - Yes, of course. If it is a preliminary data, please mention it explicitly so that the data set will be clearly flagged / noted as provisional data
- What are the required data items?
 - Annual trade by partners and detailed commodities with value, net weight and supplementary quantity. Data in HS 6-digits are required, tariff line level are preferred
- Is there any special requirement for data format?
 - No. It can be in any electronic format that can be easily transformed, such as text, excel, dbase, etc

IMTS Analytical Outputs

- Three working areas:
 - Total trade: values, indices and conversion factors
 - Trade in manufactured goods and fuel: values, unit value indices, and volume indices
 - Trade matrix data: complete world coverage
- Publications:
 - Tables on Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (MBS)
 - International Trade Statistics Yearbook
 - Vol. I: Trade by Country
 - Vol. II: Trade by Commodity (new design for 2008 edition)
 - Annual Totals Table (Country totals compared)

IMTS Analytical Outputs

- Frequency:
 - Total trade: monthly, quarterly and annual
 - Trade in manufactured goods and fuel: quarterly and annual
 - Trade matrix: generated in May, July, Sept, Nov, and Dec
- Data Sources:
 - Total trade: IMF, MBS questionnaire, country websites
 - Trade in manufactured goods and fuels: MBS questionnaire, country websites, and UN Comtrade
 - Trade matrix: UN Comtrade



Thank you for your
attention