Item 5: UNSD Activities in the field of International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS)

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Workshop on IMTS, San José, 1-5 October 2012
Item 5: UNSD Activities in international trade statistics
Activities of the International Merhandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) Section

- Four areas of work:
  1. Methodology / international standards and recommendations
  2. UN Comtrade database
  3. Analytical tables (publications)
  4. International coordination and technical assistance
I. Methodological work on IMTS

i. Concepts & Methods

✓ IMTS, Concepts and Definitions 2010 (IMTS 2010)

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

✓ IMTS, Supplement to the Compilers Manual (2008)

✓ Unit Value index and trade indices calculation
  (Strategies for Price and Quantity Measurement in External Trade; A technical report.)

ii. National Practices

  http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradereport/

iii. IMTS classifications and correspondence tables
1. Methodological work on IMTS

i. Concepts & Methods – old…
  - IMTS:

… and new
I. Methodological work on IMTS (cont.)

iii. IMTS classifications and correspondence tables:

- Commodity classifications:
  - Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC): Correspondence table with the Harmonized System (2002) and SITC, Rev3 - [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/methodology%20IMTS.htm](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](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/methodology%20IMTS.htm)

- Statistical Territories of the World for Use in International Merchandise Trade Statistics:
2. **UN comtrade**

- The UN Comtrade database (comtrade.un.org):
  - Collection and standardization of detailed merchandise trade statistics by partner and commodity (over 170 reporter countries)
  - More than 1 billion records starting 1962
  - Modern data processing system with extensive verification procedures
    - Totals
    - Data by partner and commodity
    - Quantity information
  - Powerful web-based dissemination system with free and subscriber access
  - Additional services: Knowledge Base and Community Forum
  - Reference database for worldwide data on IMTS
  - Also available at UN Data (data.un.org)
2. **UN MONTHLY COMTRADE**

- The UN Monthly Comtrade database (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)

- International Trade Statistics Yearbook
  - Country tables
  - Commodity tables
  - Analytical tables

- Monthly Bulletin of Statistics
  - Monthly and quarterly data
  - World and region totals for trade values
  - Indices for total exports and 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
  - Conversion factors calculation

✓ All are freely accessible
3. Analytical tables (publications)


Table 1: Exports by STDC sections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Exports</th>
<th>Trade Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>86.3</td>
<td>86.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>30.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>16.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graph 1: Total imports, exports and trade balance

Graph 2: Trade Balance by MDG Regions in 2009

Graph 3: Partner concentration of trade in 2009

Table 2: Imports by STDC sections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>27.8</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>14.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
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Table 3: Top 10 export commodities 2007 to 2009

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

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Table 5: Top 10 import commodities 2007 to 2009

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Item 5: UNSD Activities in international trade statistics
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.
- Workshops to support countries in the implementation of the international recommendations on IMTS
  
  http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/workshops_imts.htm
- Participation in other meetings / workshops on IMTS
Statistics of International Trade in Services (SITS) Section

- Areas of work:
  1. Methodology / International standards and recommendations
  2. UN Service Trade
  3. International Coordination and Technical Assistance

unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/
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
Global Forum on Trade Statistics

• Outcome and follow-up
  ◦ Measuring Global Trade
  ◦ New Recommendations IMTS / SITS
  ◦ Data Sources
  ◦ Global Production and Outsourcing
  ◦ Linking Trade and Business Statistics
  ◦ Trade in Value-Added
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.
Vision of the future of international trade statistics

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- Improve the statistical production process by better defining and organizing the co-operation among national stakeholders.
- Improve international classifications and correspondence.

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