



African IMTS Quality Assessment Questionnaire

Preliminary analysis of results

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Summary

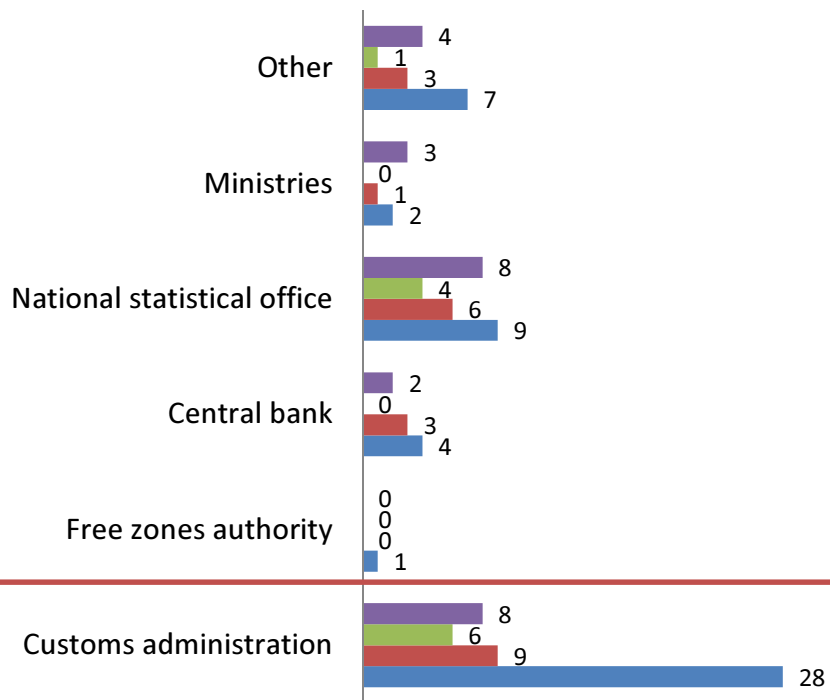
- The survey was conducted from 18 April 2014 to 3 May 2014.
- A total of 33 responses was received (21 in French, 12 in English)
- Among the 33 responses, the survey was completed by 32 National Statistical Offices and by 1 Customs administration
- The number of answer per questions varies, due to some missing responses

[NQAF 1] COORDINATING THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

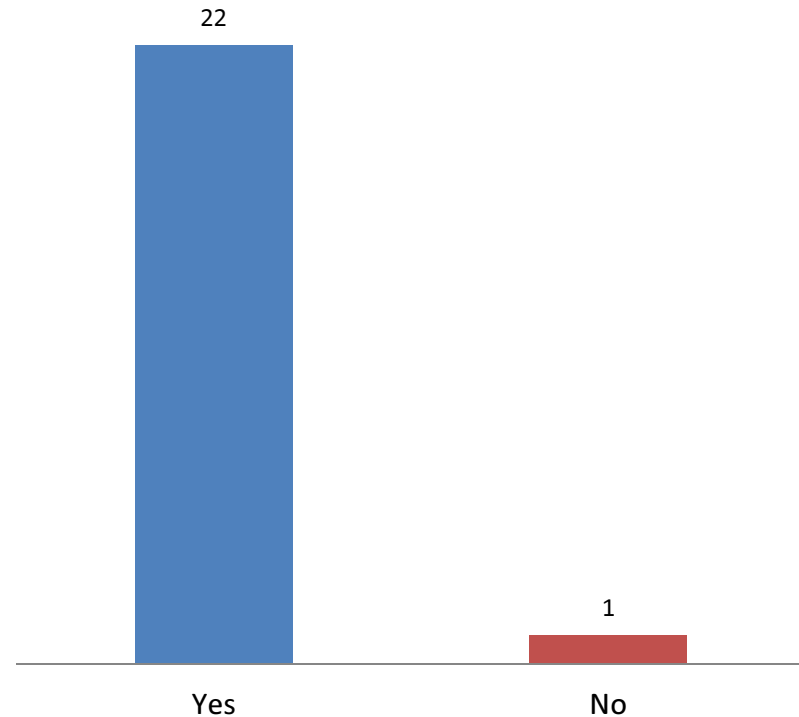
Customs administration is the primary agency providing data, and most countries confirm that customs declarations are main sources

Q4. Which agencies collect and provide the data sources for IMTS?

■ Annual ■ Semi-annual ■ Quarterly ■ Monthly

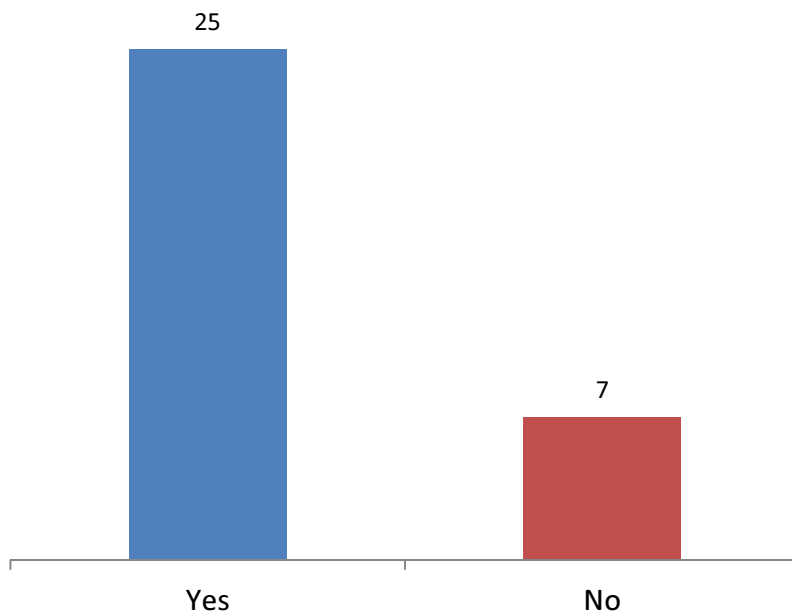


Q60. Do you use customs declarations as a main source?

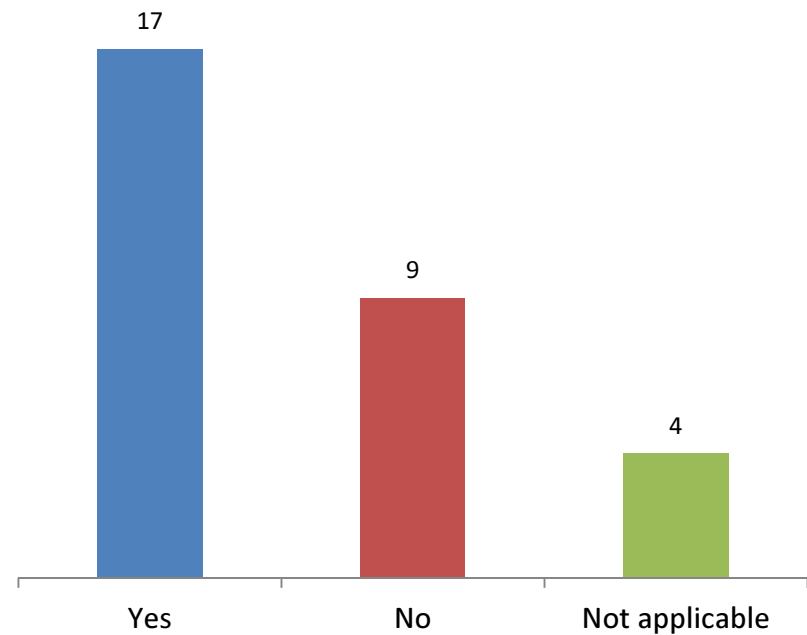


Most countries have an agreement with their partners, and they meet regularly

Q5. Do you have a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or similar working agreement with any of the agencies mentioned above?

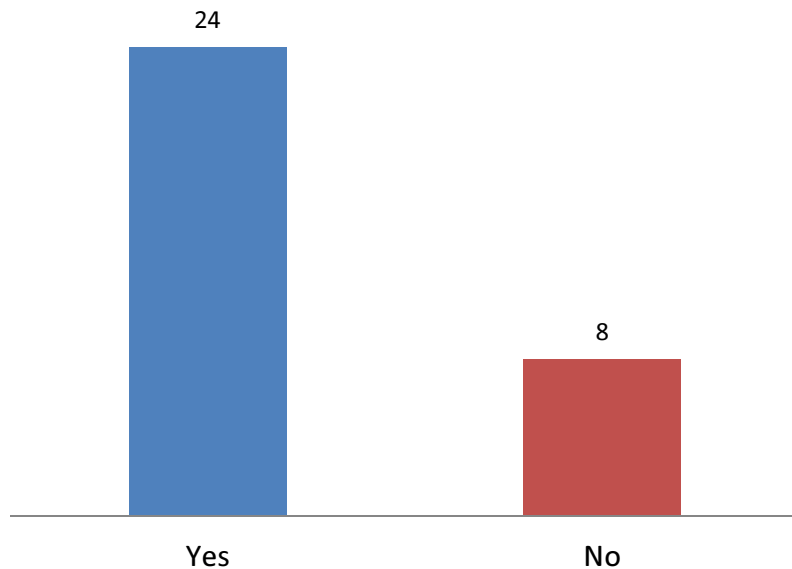


Q6. If you have working agreements with other agencies, does your office regularly meet or consult with these agencies before release of the trade statistics?

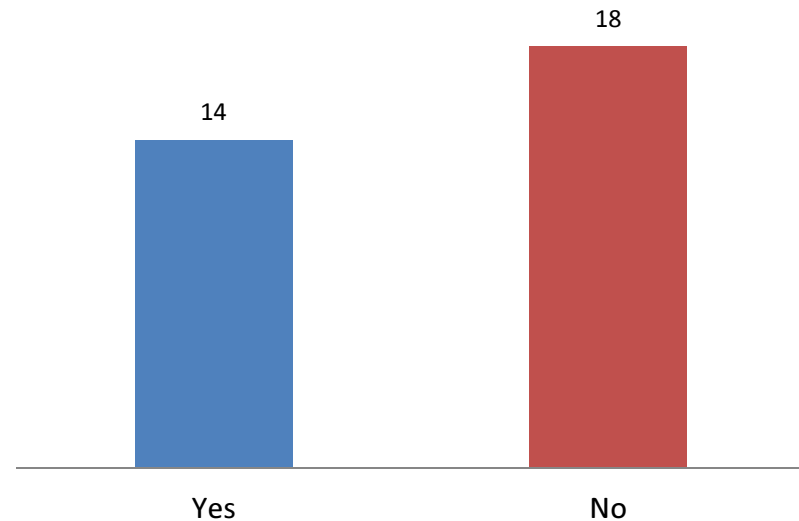


The majority of IMTS and BOP compilers work together in general sense, but in a specific topic

Q7. Do you provide assistance to Balance of Payments compilers in order to adjust basic IMTS data for their use in BOP?



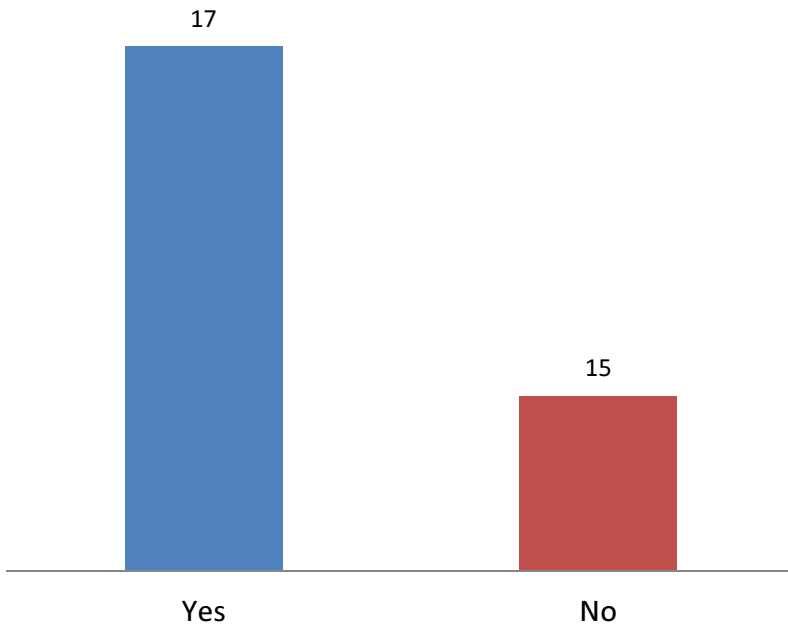
Q8. Does cooperation exist between the IMTS and BOP compilers to identify transactions of goods for processing without change of ownership?



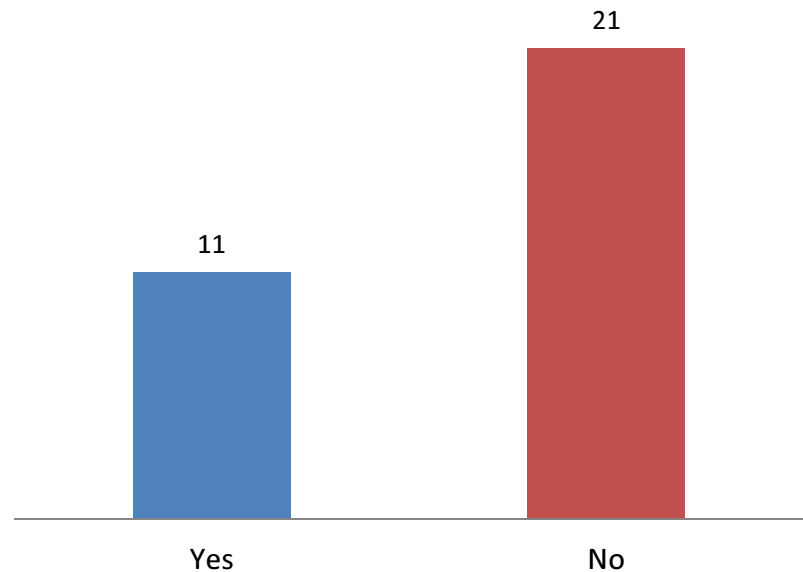
**[NQAF 2] MANAGING RELATIONSHIPS
WITH DATA USERS AND DATA
PROVIDERS**

While most countries conduct outreach and education of data providers, outreach towards data users remains a challenge in many countries.

Q10. Do you regularly conduct outreach and education for data providers including customs officers, brokers and traders?



Q9. Do you regularly conduct outreach and education for data users including officials from ministry of trade/economy and general public?

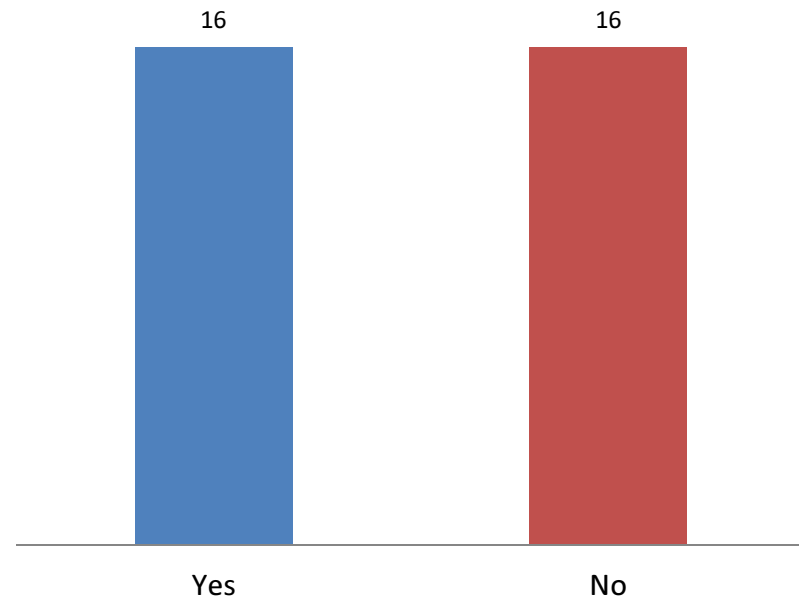


[NQAF 3] MANAGING STATISTICAL STANDARDS

Half of countries have conducted bilateral or multilateral reconciliation studies

- Countries performed reconciliation studies within region/programme: ECOWAS, COMESA, MEDSTATS, BCEAO, SACU
- Neighboring countries are likely destined as study partners rather than major trading partners

Q11. Have you conducted bilateral or multilateral reconciliation studies with your trading partners in recent years or do you plan to conduct such studies in the near future?



[NQAF 7] ASSURING STATISTICAL CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY

Most countries do not apply confidentiality, but when they do it can be on goods, trading partner or a combination

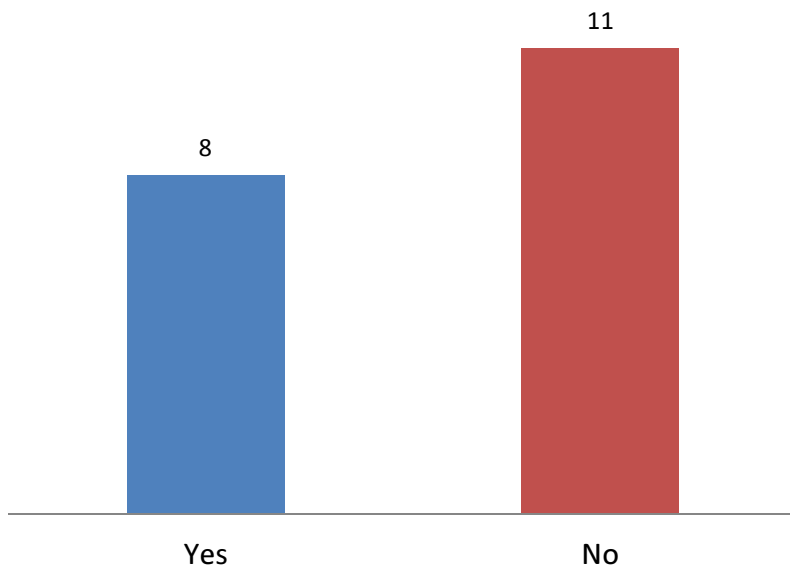
Q12. Is confidentiality applied to certain transactions of goods or trading partners?

■ Yes ■ No

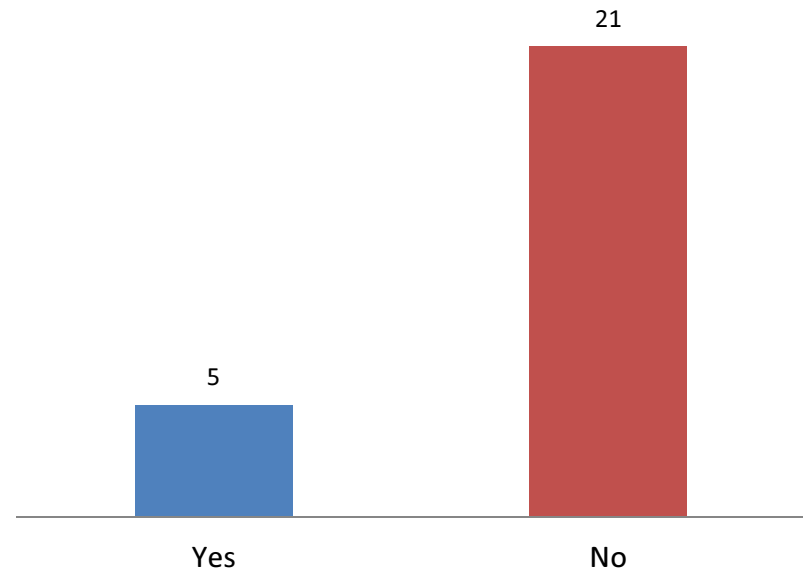


When confidentiality is applied, most countries do not provide information at a higher level of aggregation

Q13. When confidentiality is applied to certain goods transactions at the detailed commodity level, do you provide information at the next higher level of commodity aggregation?



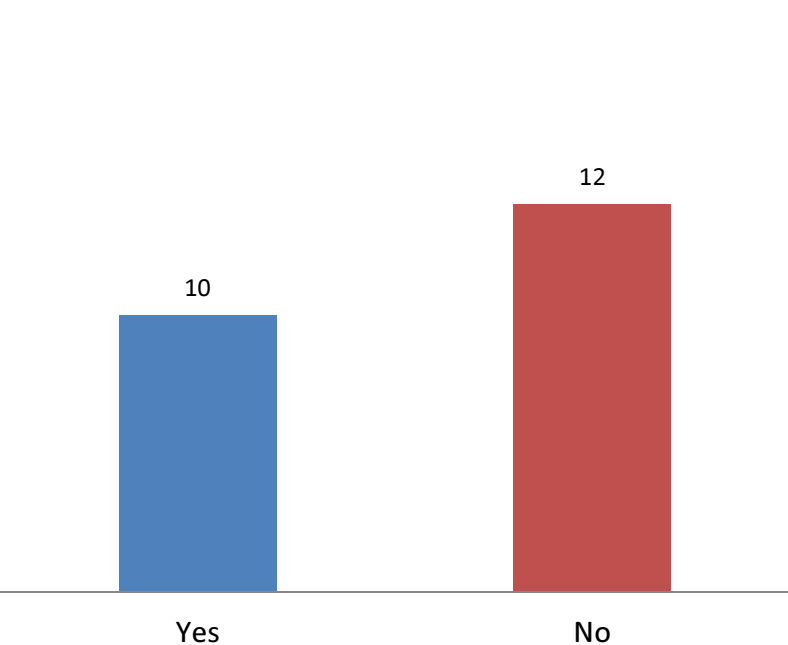
Q14. Do you add estimates of missing or suppressed values (for major commodities or partners) at a higher level of commodity aggregation?



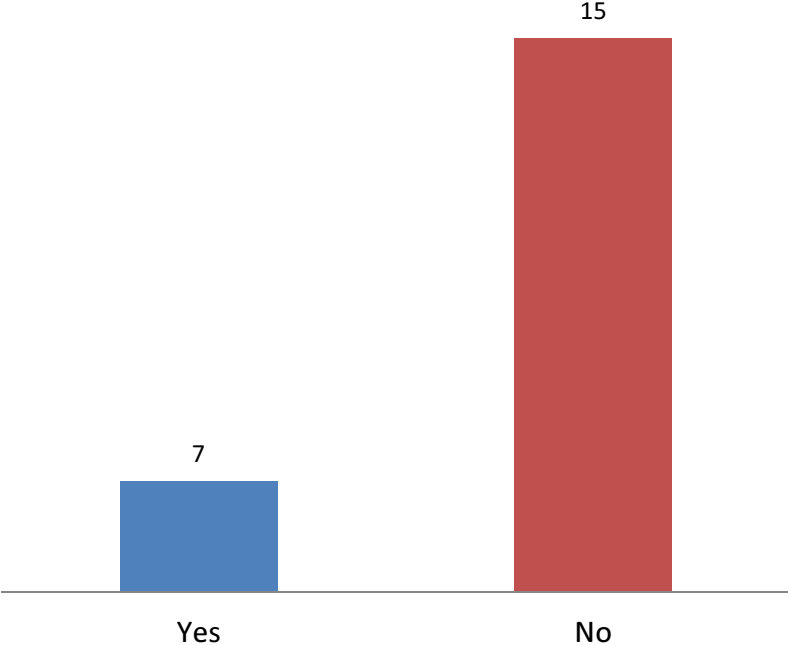
[NQAF 10] ASSURING METHODOLOGICAL SOUNDNESS

Missing or incorrect values are more likely to be estimated than quantities

Q18. For certain transactions do you estimate missing or incorrect values at detailed record level?



Q19. For certain transactions do you estimate missing or incorrect quantities at detailed record level?

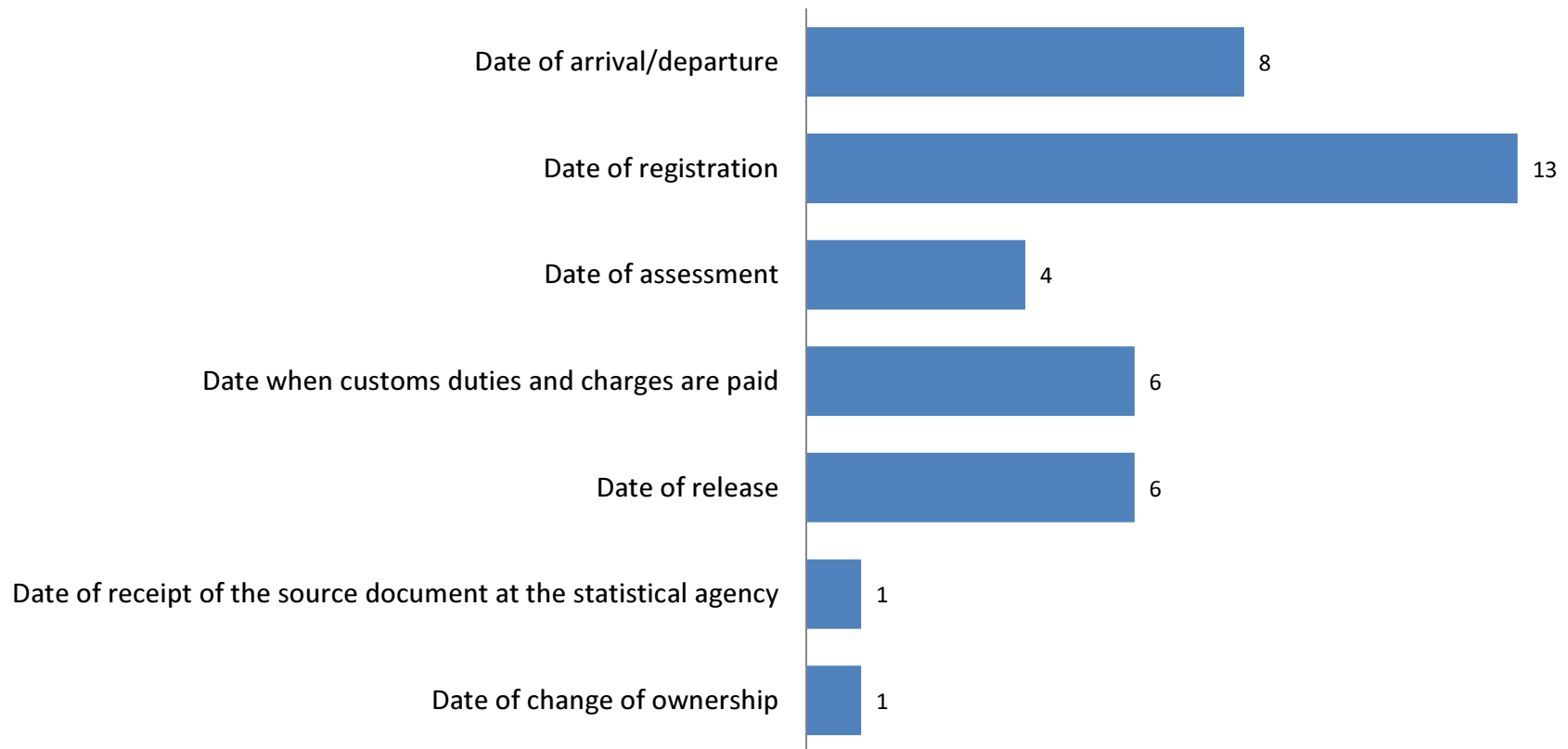


Common correction and estimation methods

- Cooperate with Customs to verify declaration
- Using other data sources (i.e., enterprise surveys, port statistics, etc.)
- Applying reference prices (i.e., price of live animal)
- Applying historical unit values (i.e., moving average of last X corresponding period)
- Estimating import price based on consumer price (by deducting cost of transport, mark up, taxes, etc.)

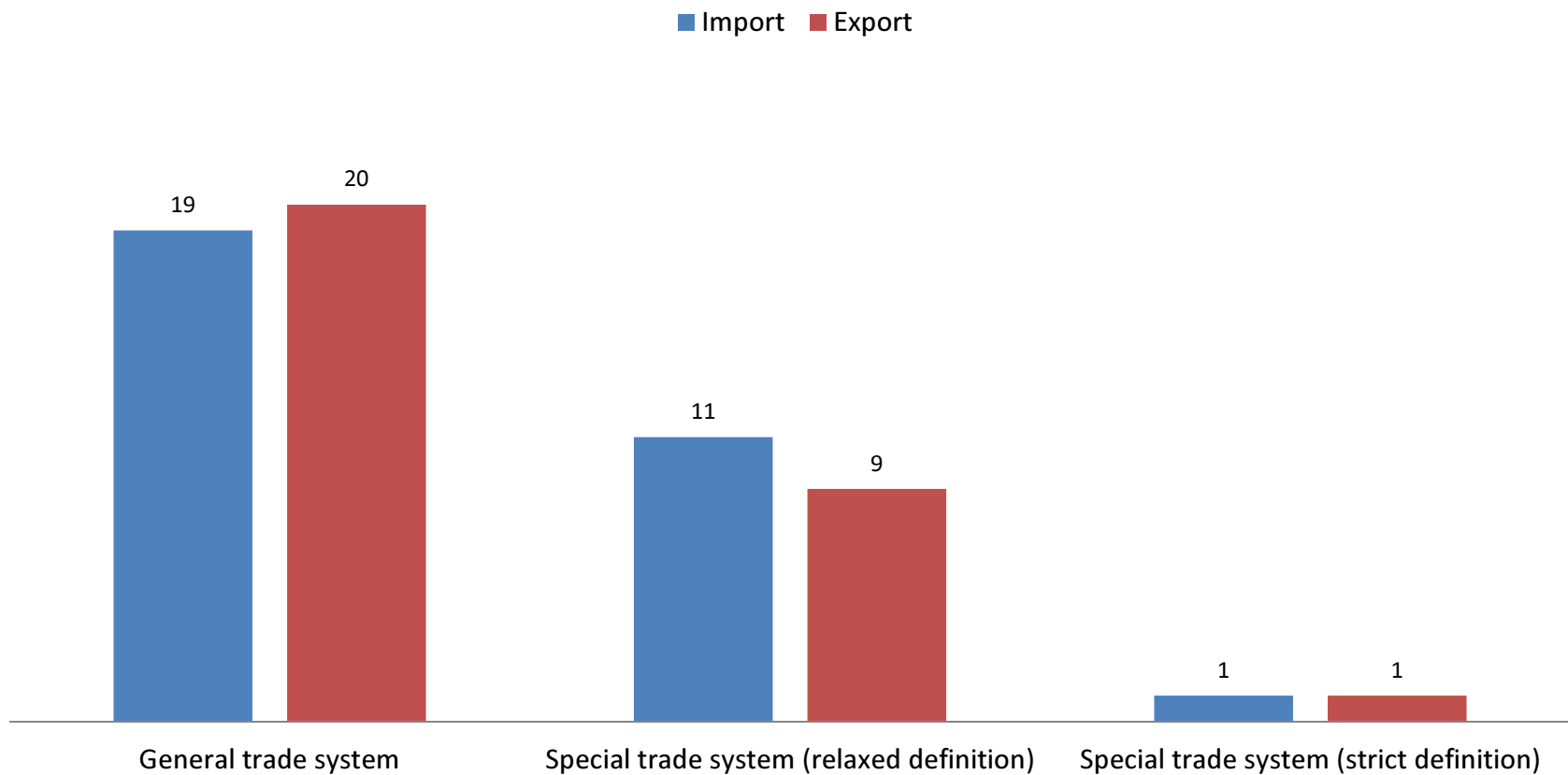
Time of recording varies among countries, the most common is registration date

Q20. Which date is used for your trade statistics?



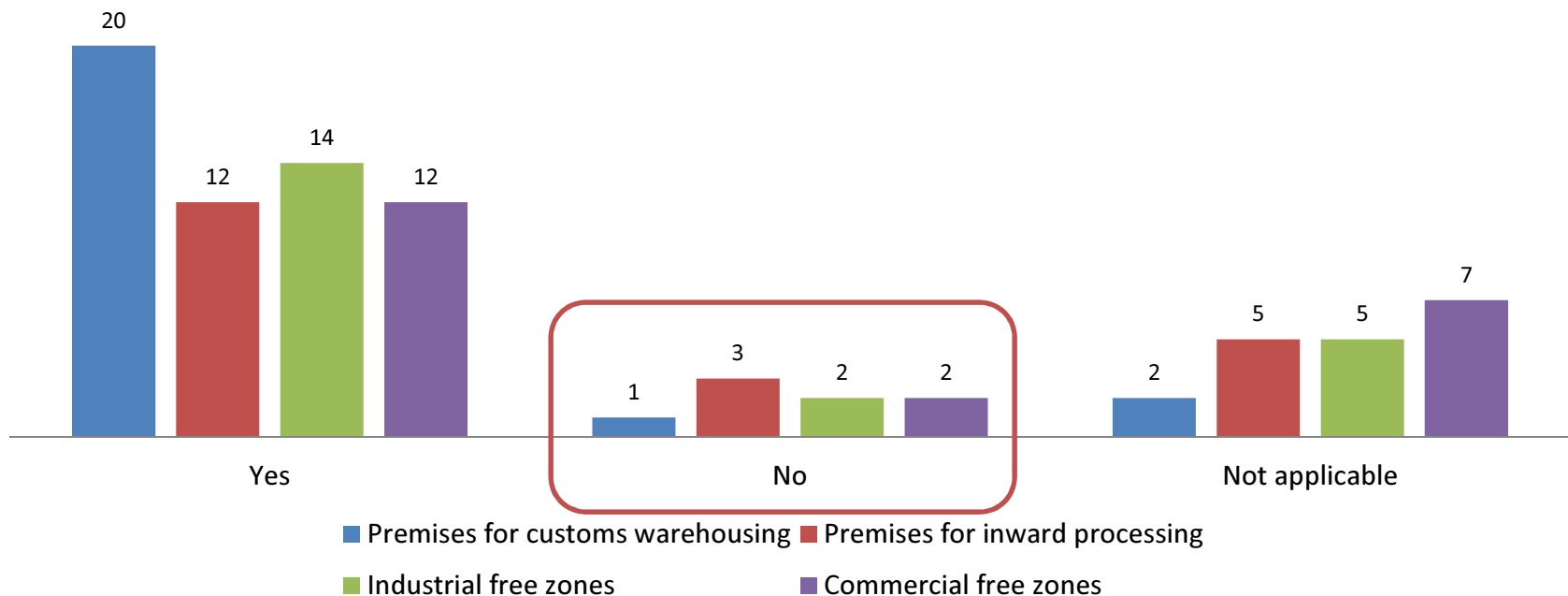
Two-third of countries use the general trade system on both imports and exports

Q24. Which trade system do you use?



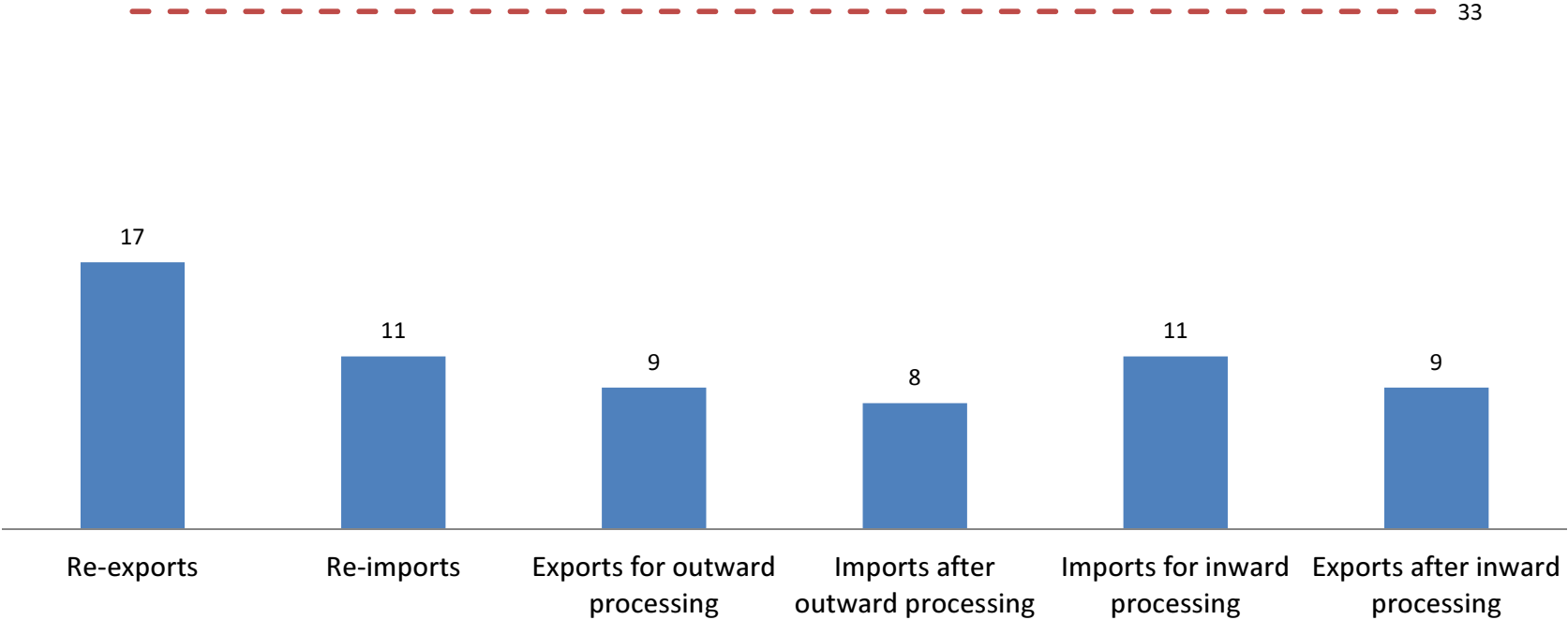
Few exclude certain territorial elements; discrepancies with trade system response

Q25. Do you include in your trade statistics goods transactions into or out of the following territorial elements (from/to the rest of the world)?



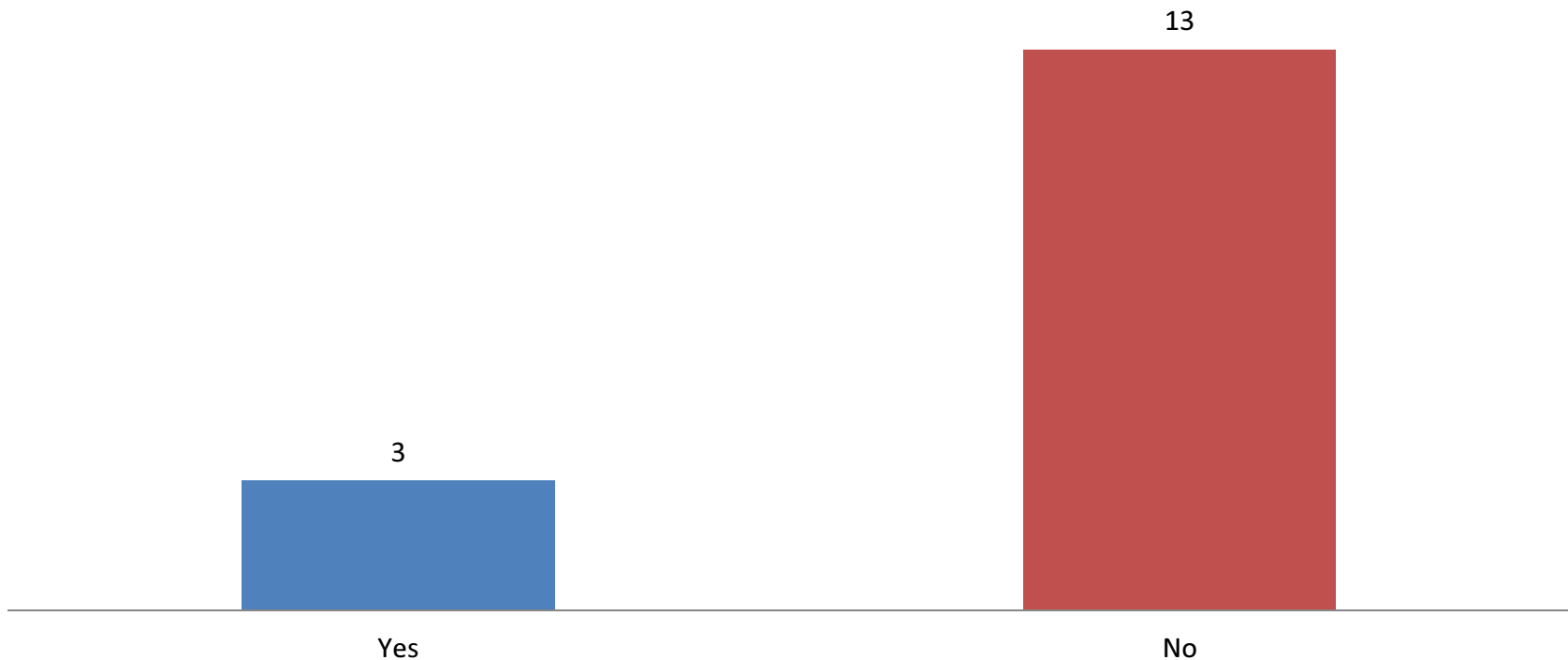
Many countries do not have yet breakdown of extended trade flows amid its importance for measuring economic globalization

Q28. Besides outright exports and imports for home use, which other (main) trade flows do you include in your trade statistics?



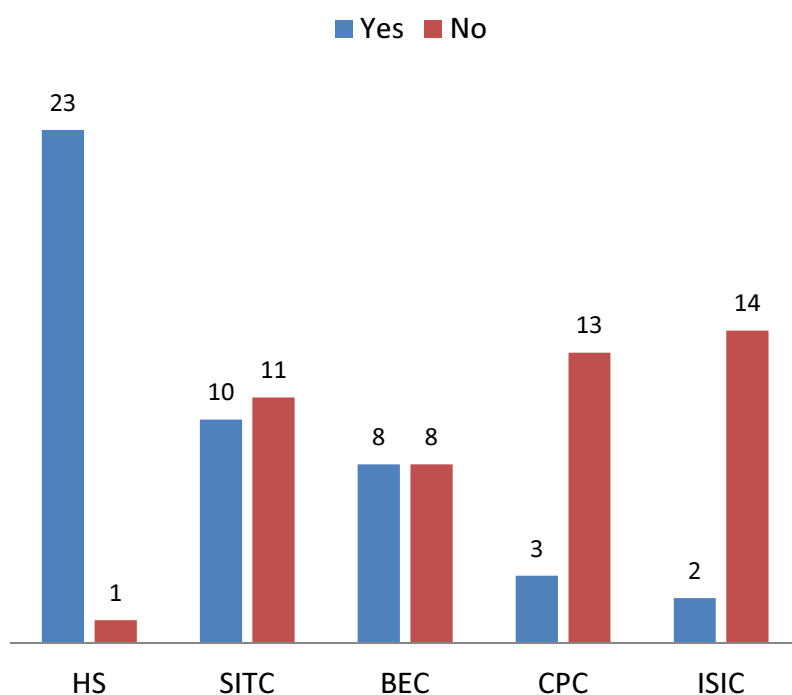
Not many countries are able to identify goods for processing without change of ownership; it assists BOP compilers for measuring manufacturing services

Q29. If you identify transactions for (inward or outward) processing, are you also able to distinguish those transactions in which the goods do not change ownership?

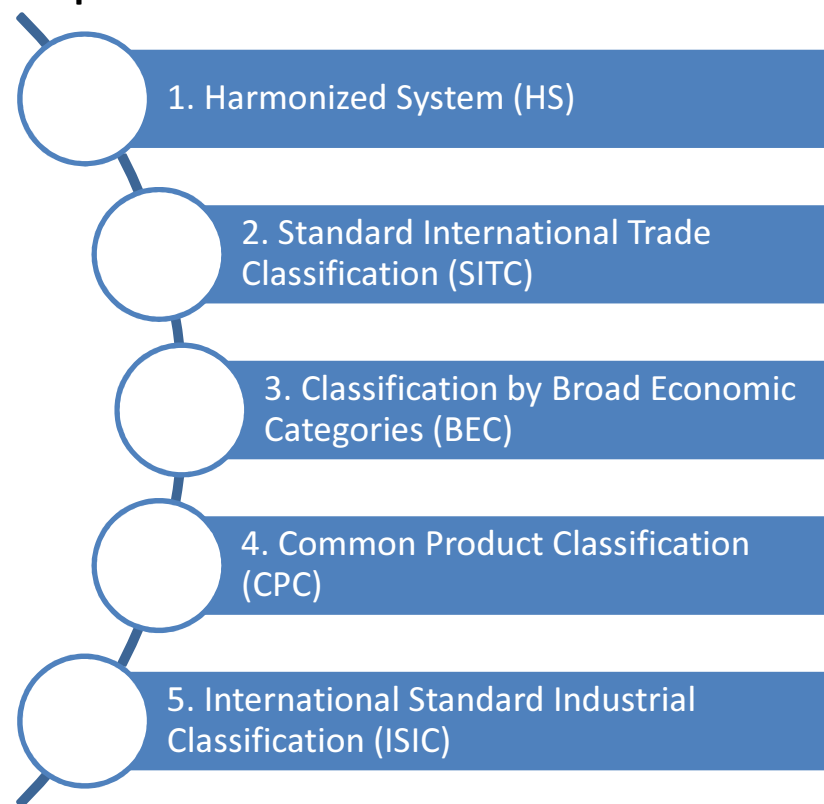


Most countries disseminate statistics in the Harmonized System (HS), which is also the most frequently requested classification by users

Q33. Do you publish / disseminate any international merchandise trade statistics in terms of any of the following commodity classifications:

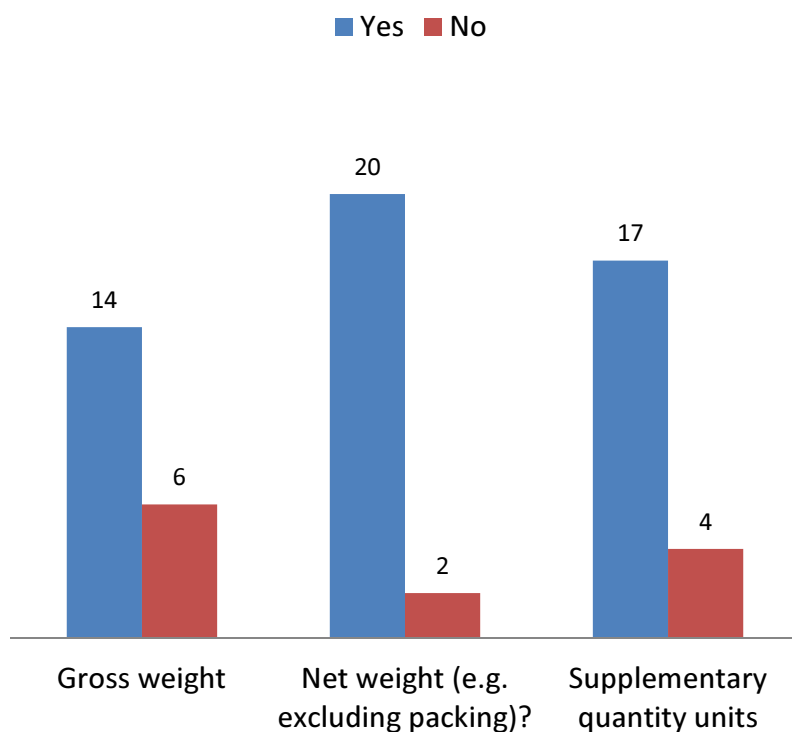


Q34. Please rank the most frequently requested commodity classification by users of your on-line database or via specific data requests:



More than half compile quantity information with some quality issues

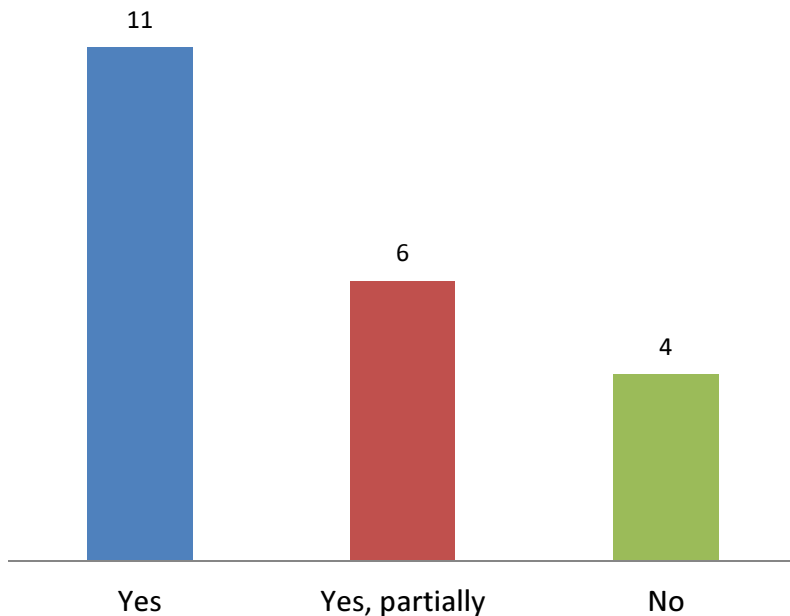
Q35. Do you collect quantity information (net weight and supplementary quantity units)?



- **Issues:**
 - Quantity is not a mandatory data item in Customs declaration
 - Therefore, quantity are only partially filled by traders
 - Even if mandatory, many are filled with zero

Only one-third fully comply with WCO recommended units; if do not, reasons vary:

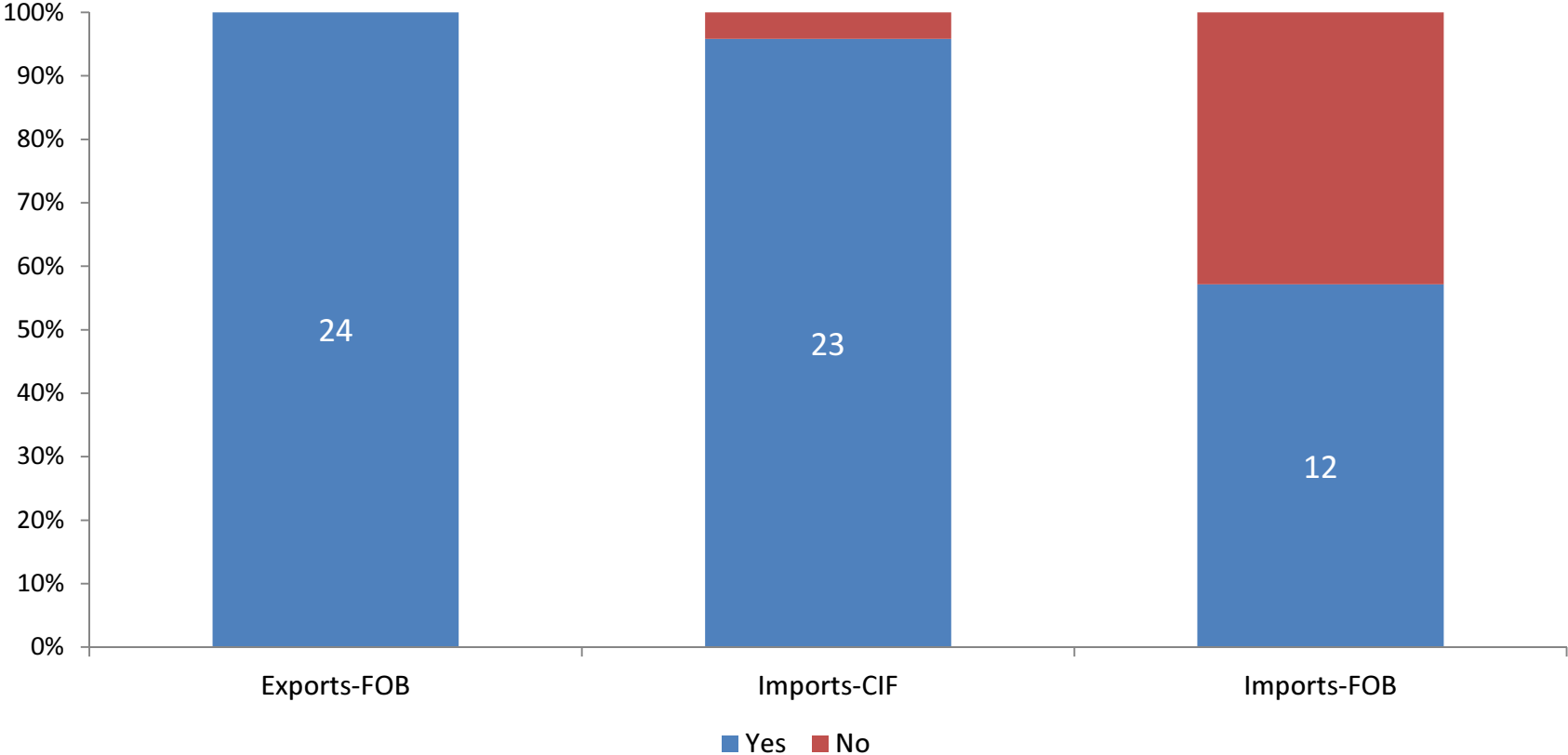
Q37. Do you compile the units of quantity as recommended by the World Customs Organization (WCO) for each of the HS sub-headings (6-digit codes)?



- Limited basic quantity data from original source documents (3)
- No demand for WCO recommended unit of quantities (2)
- No quantity conversion factors exist (1)
- WCO units are not inline with industry practices (1)

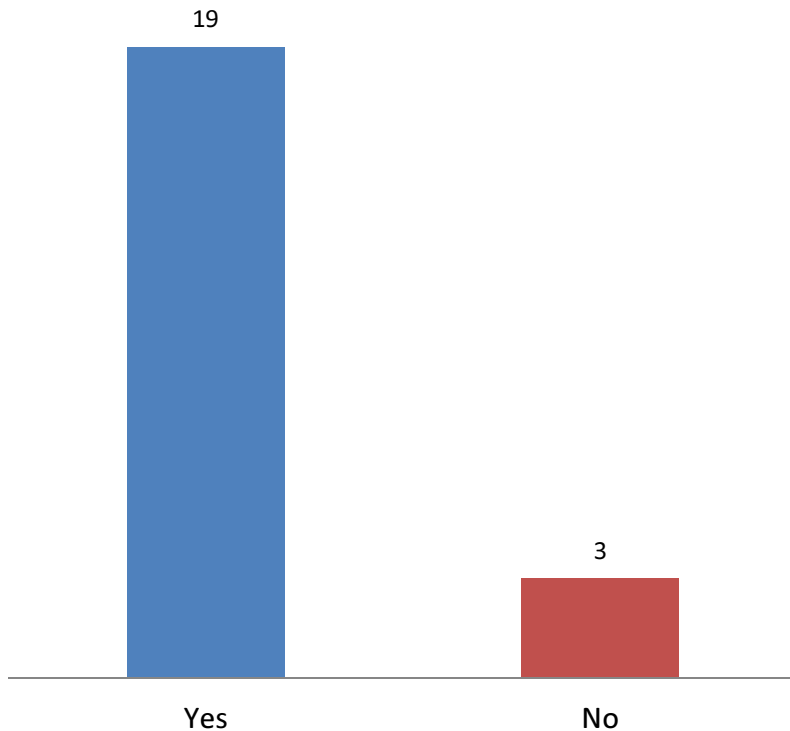
Not all countries have compiled imports-FOB (new data items required by IMTS 2010) but many mentioned that implementation is underway

Q40-42. Do you compile the following trade valuations?

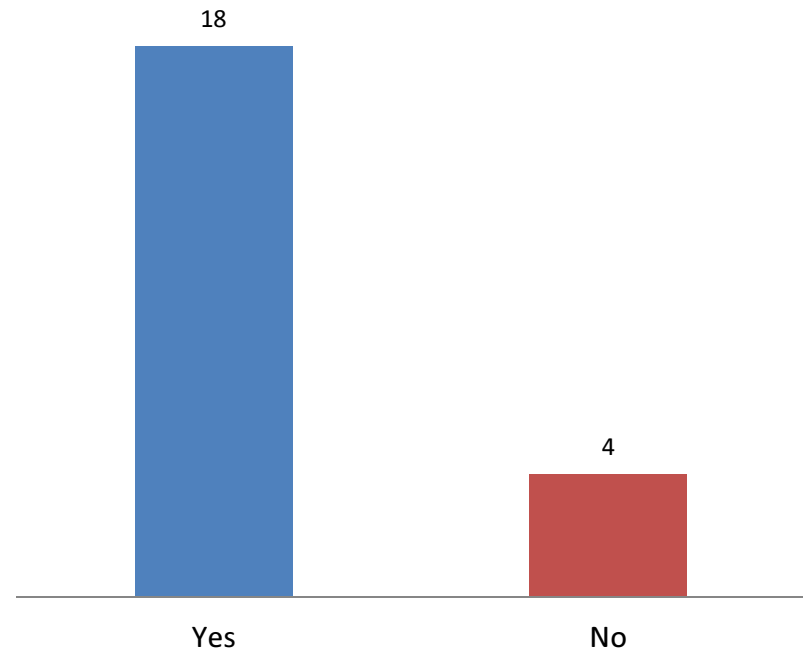


Many countries compile mode of transport (new data items required by IMTS 2010) and follow IMTS 2010 main categories

Q50. Do you compile mode of transport at the most detailed commodity level?

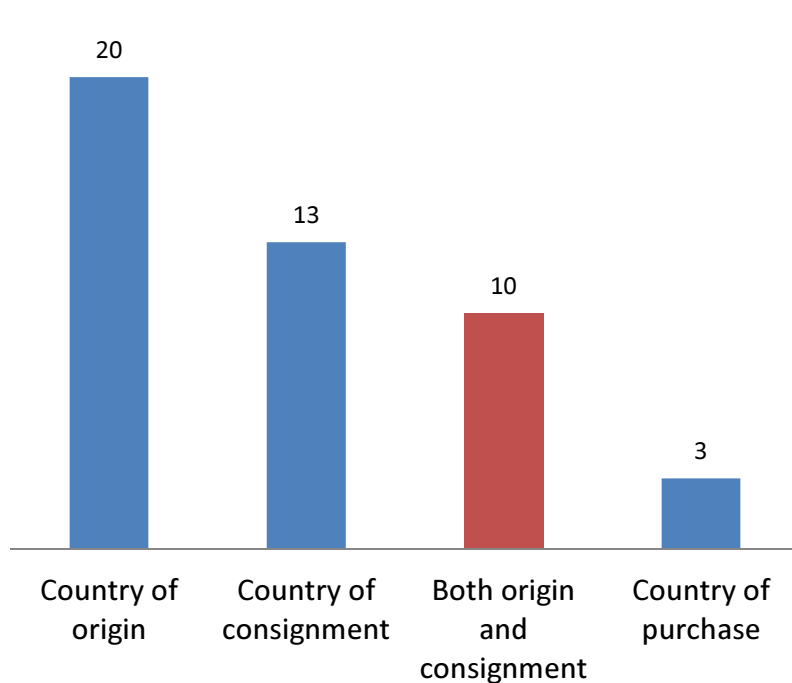


Q52. Do you use the mode of transport classification as outlined in IMTS 2010 at least for the main categories (1-digit)?

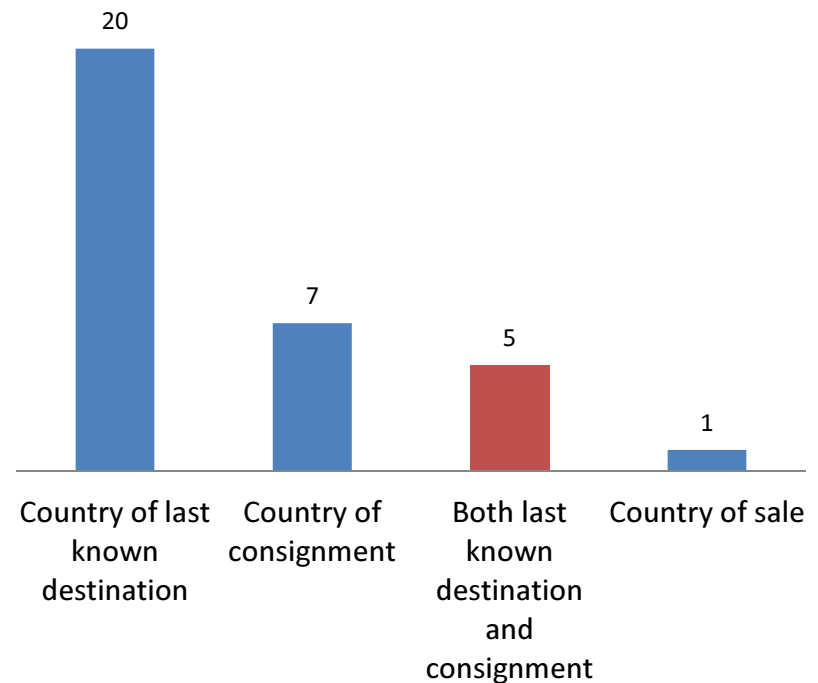


Import statistics are compiled by country of origin, while export statistics by country of last know destination; Not many can provide both origin and consignment for imports (new data item IMTS 2010)

Q44. Do you compile import statistics by:

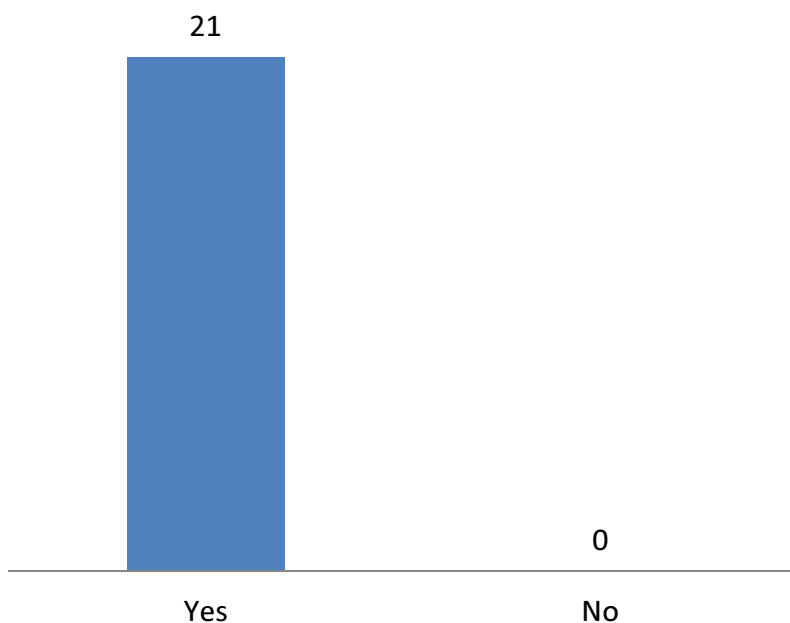


Q47. Do you compile export statistics by:



All countries use RKC for their customs procedure codes (new data item in IMTS 2010)

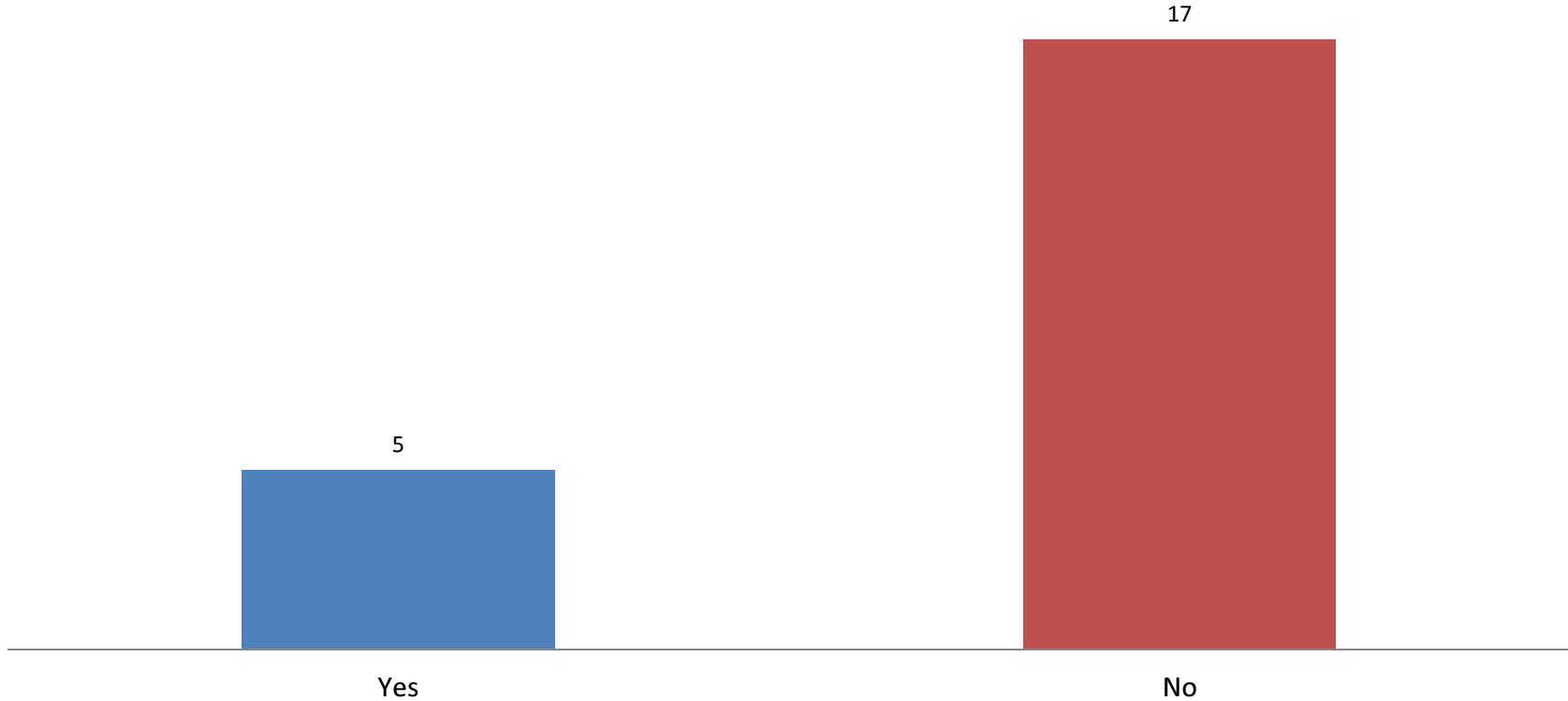
Q53. Does your Customs Administration use the Revised Kyoto Convention as the basis for the definitions of customs procedures?



- Customs Procedure Codes (CPC) is a crucial information to assist BOP compilers
 - Identification of manufacturing services, migrants' effect, trade between affiliates, etc.
- Harmonization of CPC for statistical use is underway (based on Revised Kyoto Convention)

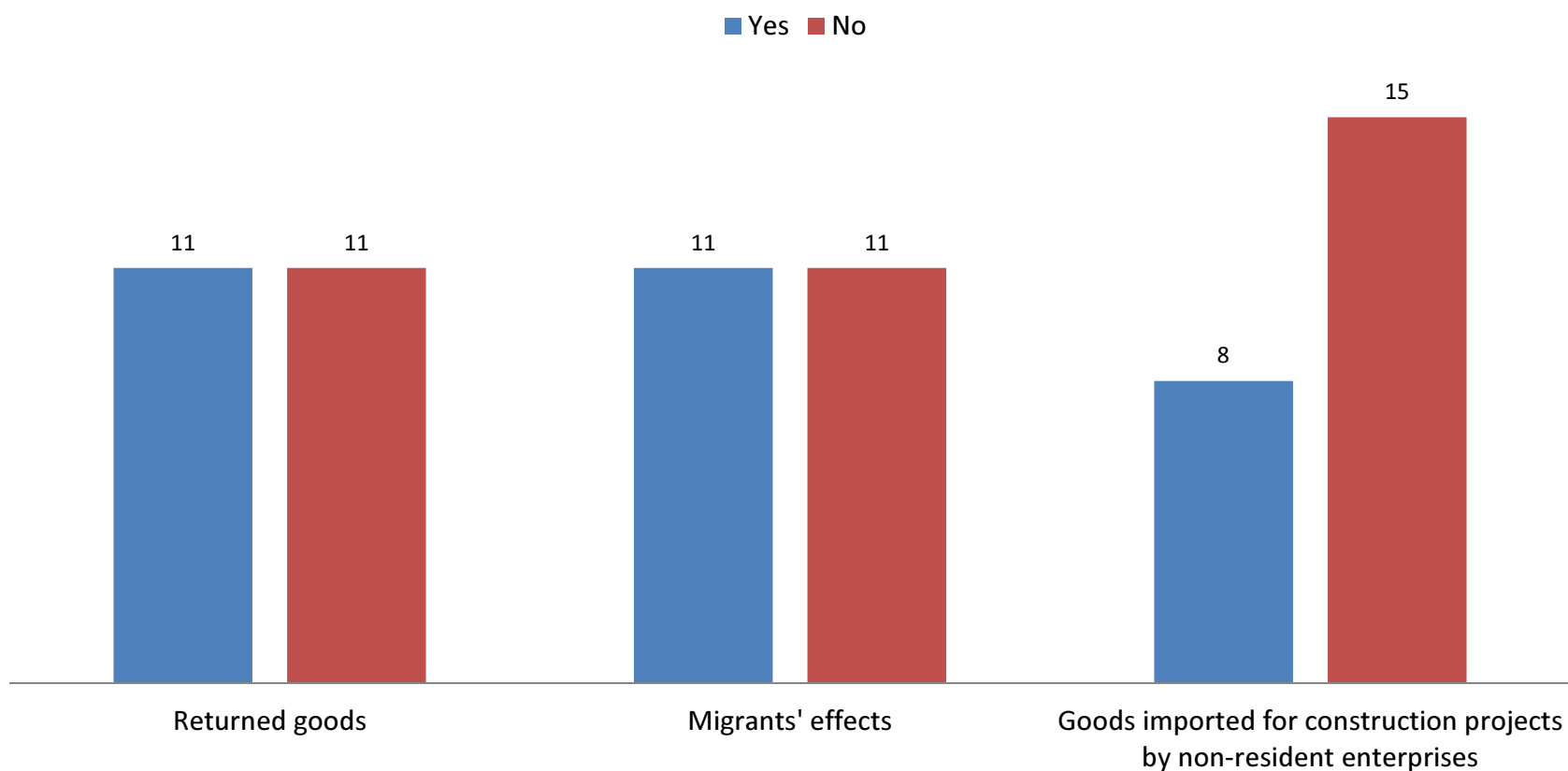
Countries are unaware of that the AUC is developing country of origin rules for Africa

Q46. Are you aware that the African Union Commission is developing rules for country of origin for Africa?



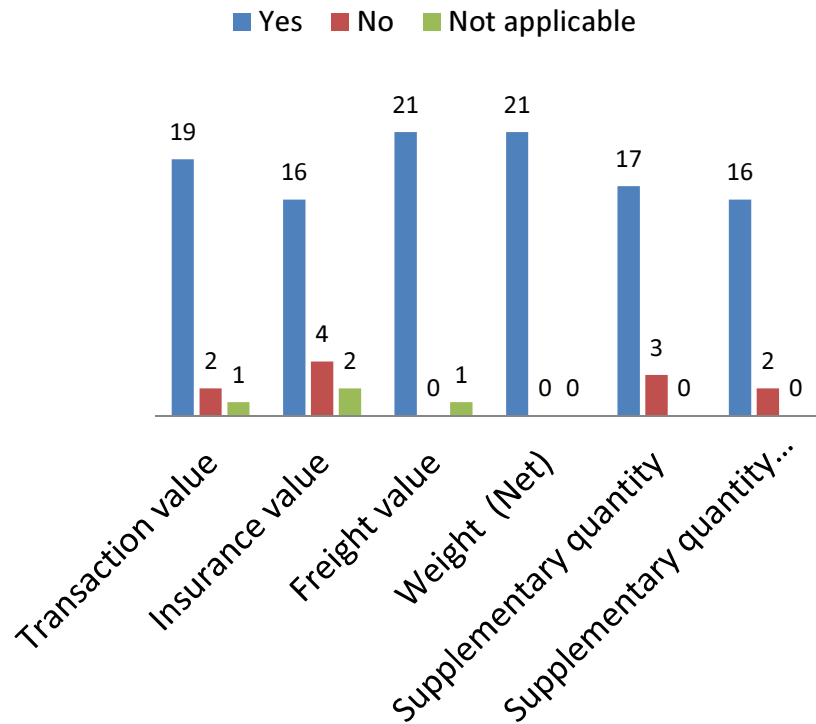
Some countries are able to identify transactions related to BOP; These transactions are to be included in IMTS but excluded in BOP

Q57-59. Do you separately record the following transactions?

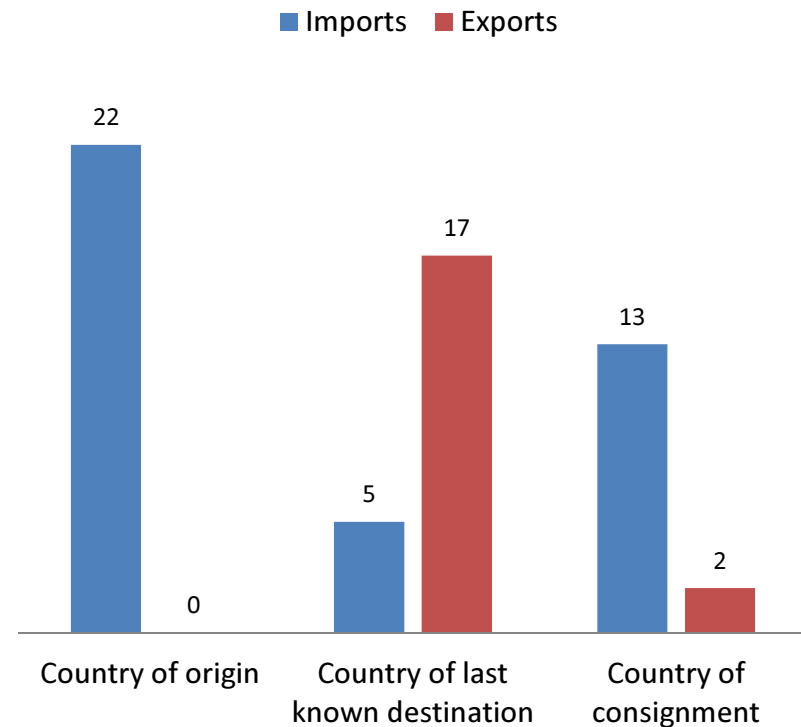


Most items are mandatory on the customs declaration; 12 countries have both origin and consignment for imports

Q55. Are the following items mandatory to be completed on the customs declaration?



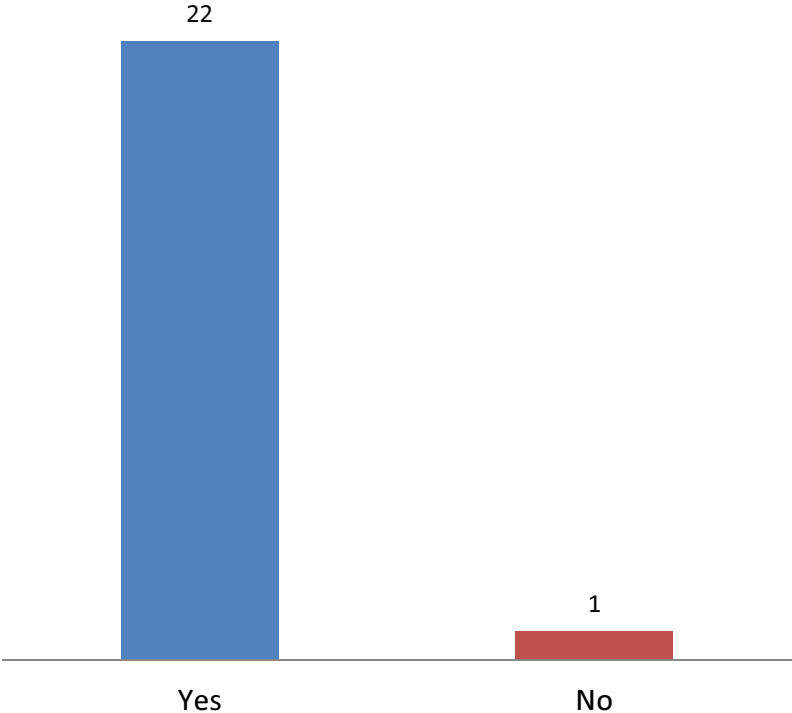
Q56. Please select partner country attribution(s) that are requested on the custom declaration



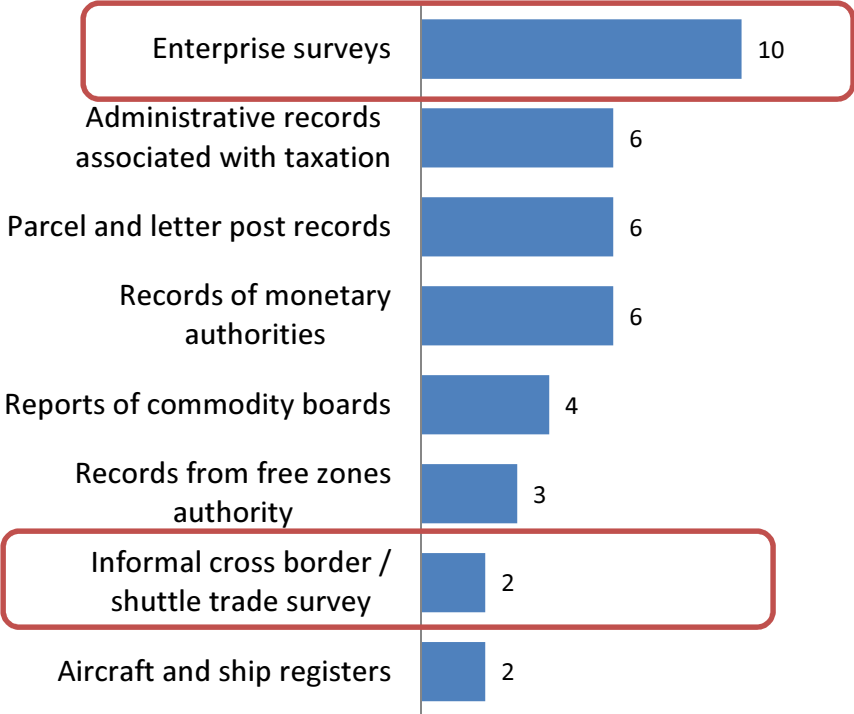
[NQAF 11] ASSURING COST-EFFECTIVENESS

Customs declarations are the main source but other sources such as surveys are also important

Q60. Do you use customs declarations as a main source?

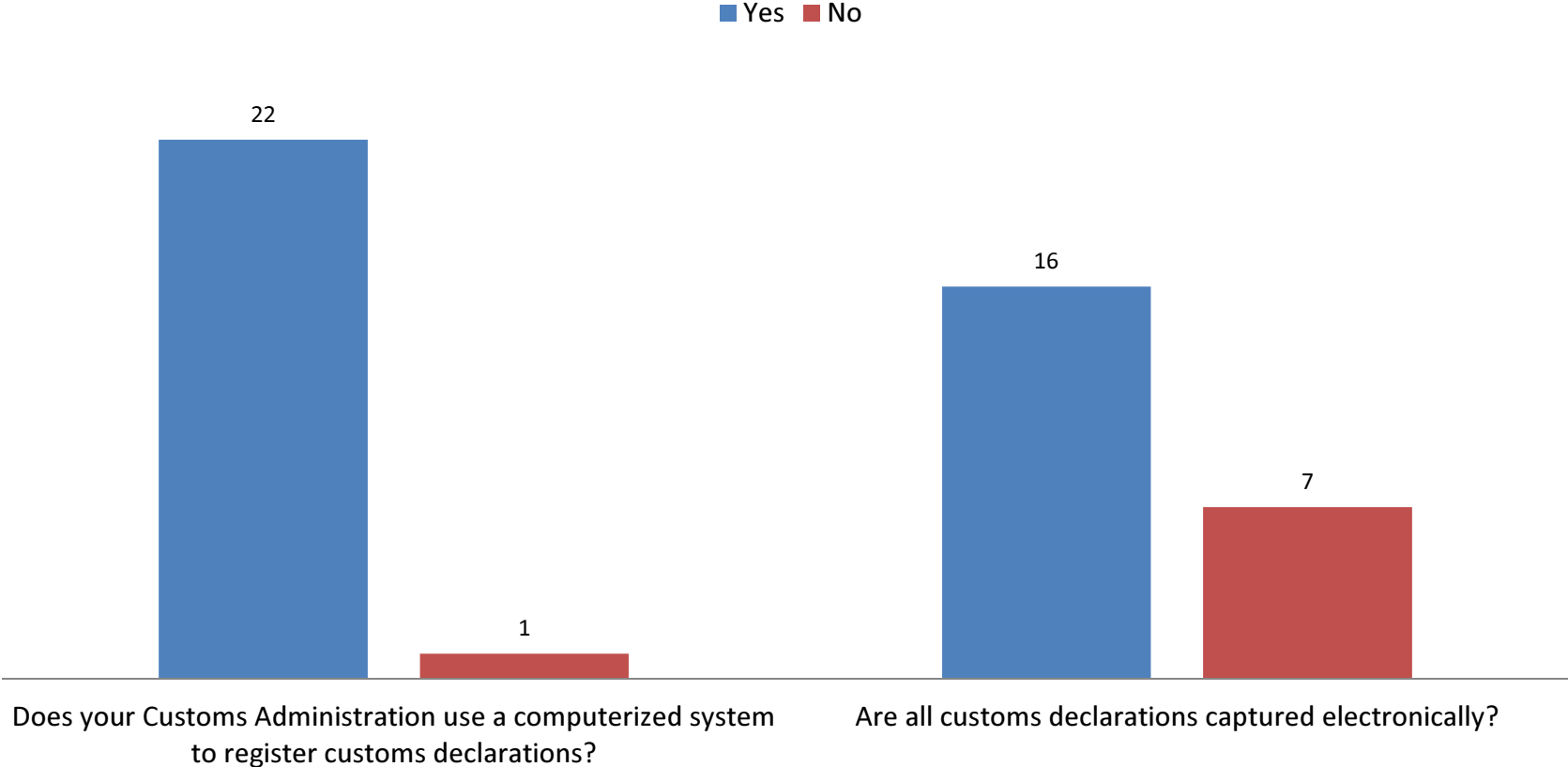


Q61. In addition to customs records, do you use the following sources of data in your country?



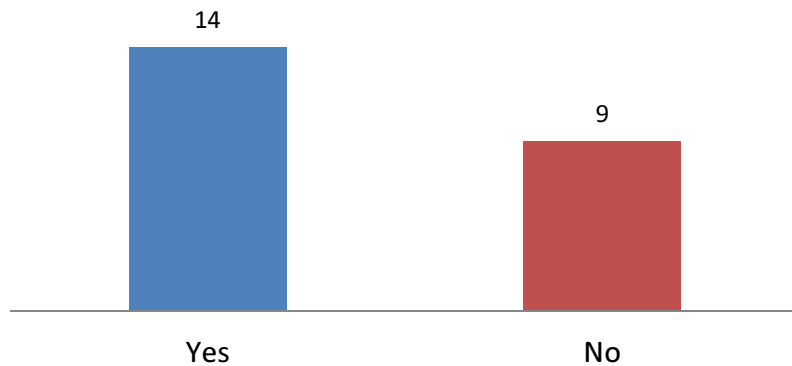
Amid almost all countries use some kind of computerized customs system, it does not translate to 100% coverage of transactions

Q62-63. Do you use computerized system and what is the coverage?



Nowadays communication is crucial for data exchange and dissemination; nevertheless it has yet to improve in 1/3 of countries

Q65. Do you have stable and reliable communication connectivity (for data exchange)?



- Couple remarks from questionnaires:
 - Unstable and low speed internet connection
 - Commonly used medium: USB
 - Use of cloud storage for data exchange (i.e., dropbox)

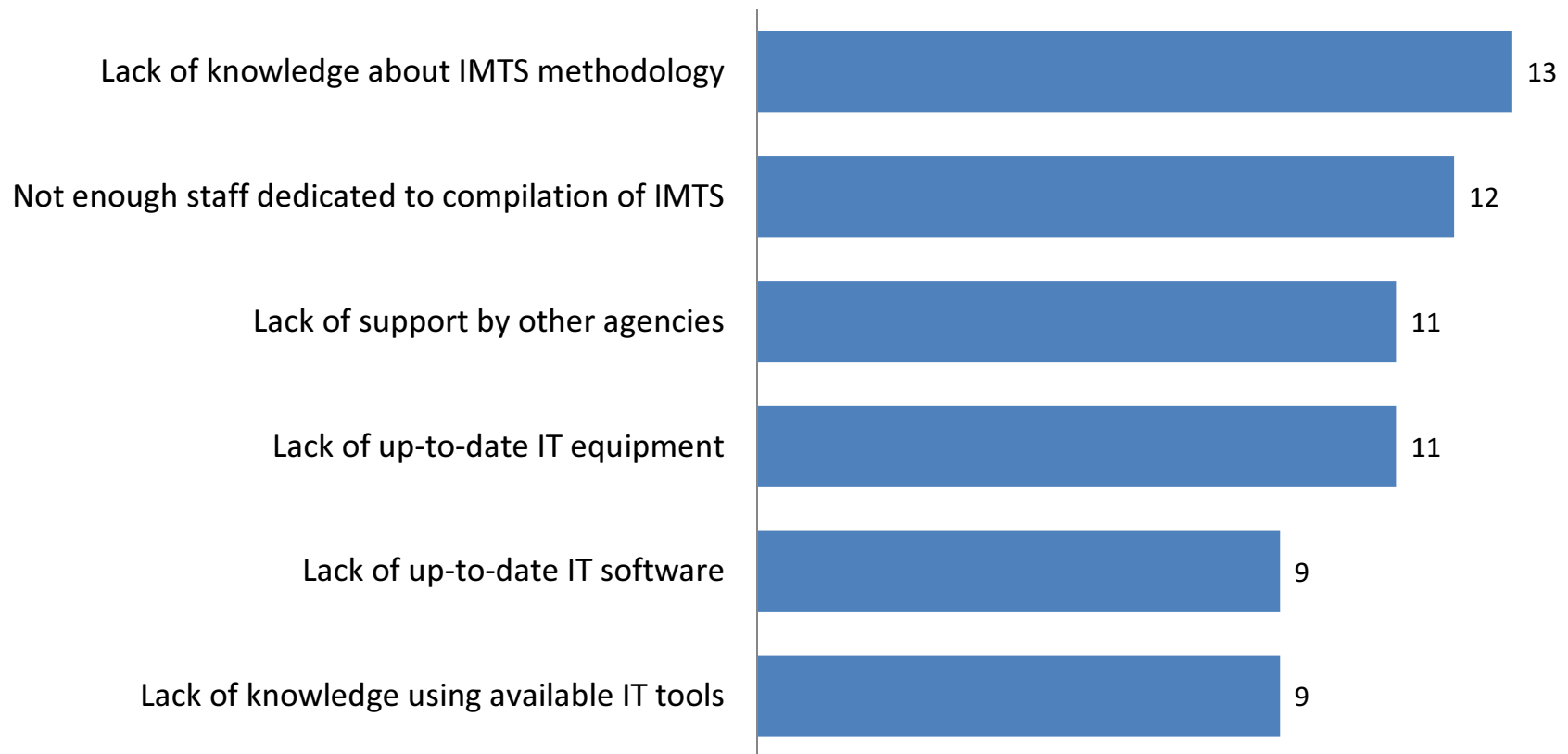
Q66. How do you receive the data from providing agencies?

| | Mail | Email | FTP | Web |
|---------------------------------|------|-------|-----|-----|
| Printed records / PDF | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Plain Text format (such as CSV) | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Database format (such as Acces) | 5 | 6 | 0 | 1 |
| XML format | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

- Good connectivity opens up possibility of innovative data collection
 - i.e., Internet based surveys

Lack of knowledge about IMTS methodology is the main challenge even though others are equally important

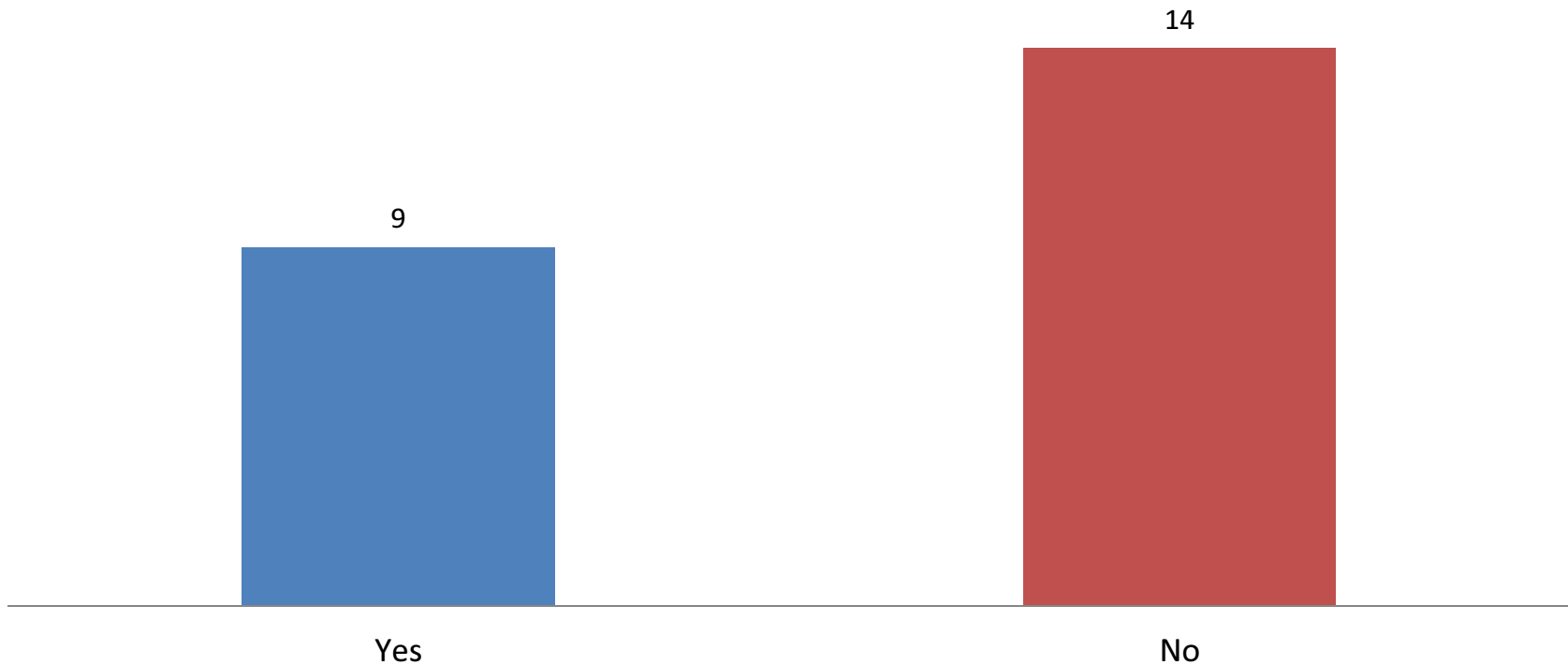
Q67. Which kind of challenges does your office face?



[NQAF15] ASSURING ACCURACY AND RELIABILITY

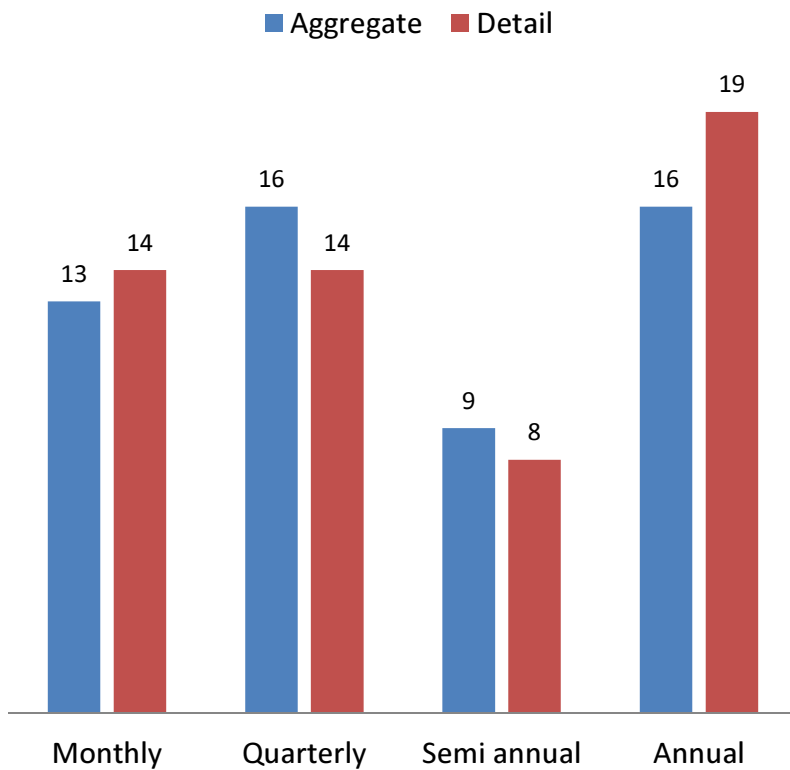
Several countries do produce quality reports, but the majority don't

Q68. Do you produce quality reports about the production of international merchandise trade statistics?

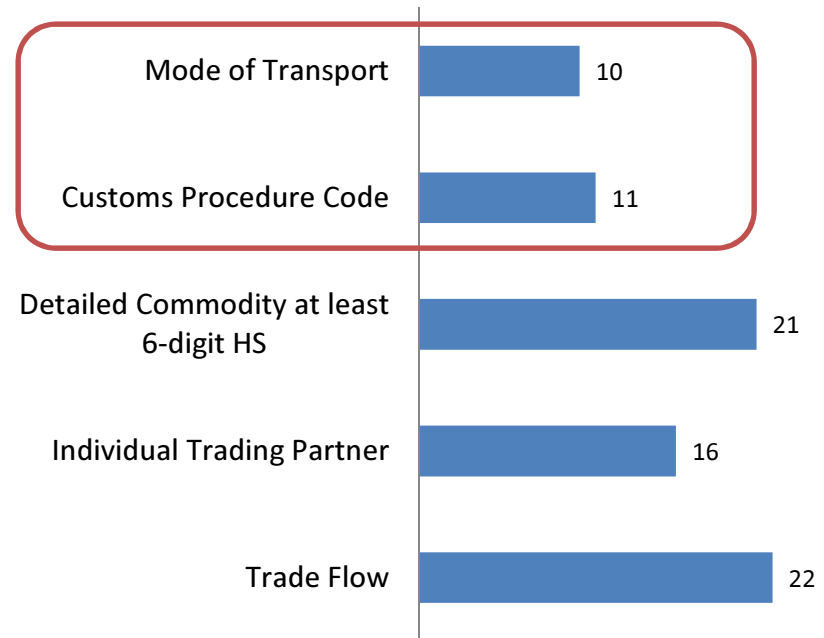


Countries disseminate aggregated data publicly however detailed data is available upon request; MoT and CPC have not yet part of international reporting

Q70. What is the level of detail of publicly?

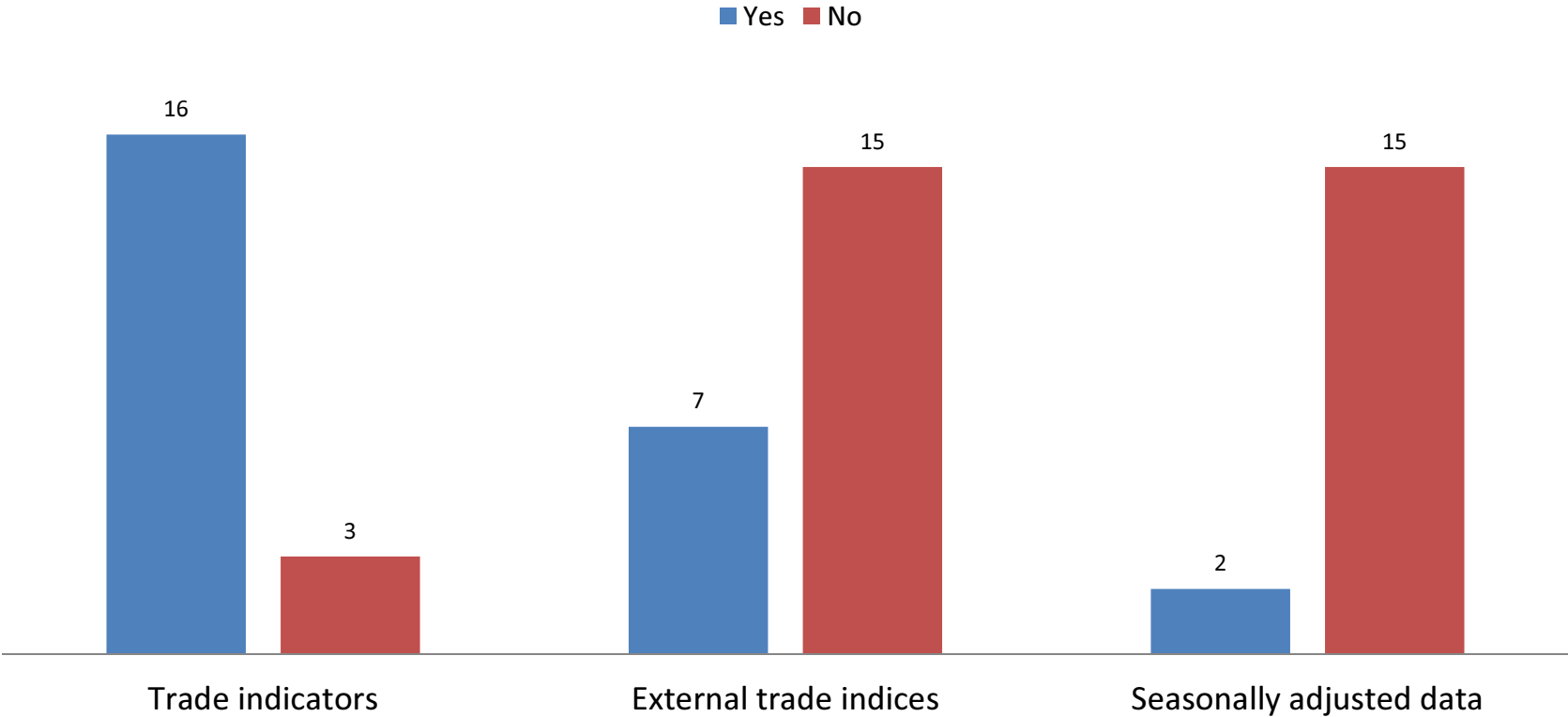


Q71. Do you make publicly available or report to international organizations the following data items?



Trade indicators are widely compiled, but not trade indices nor seasonally adjusted data

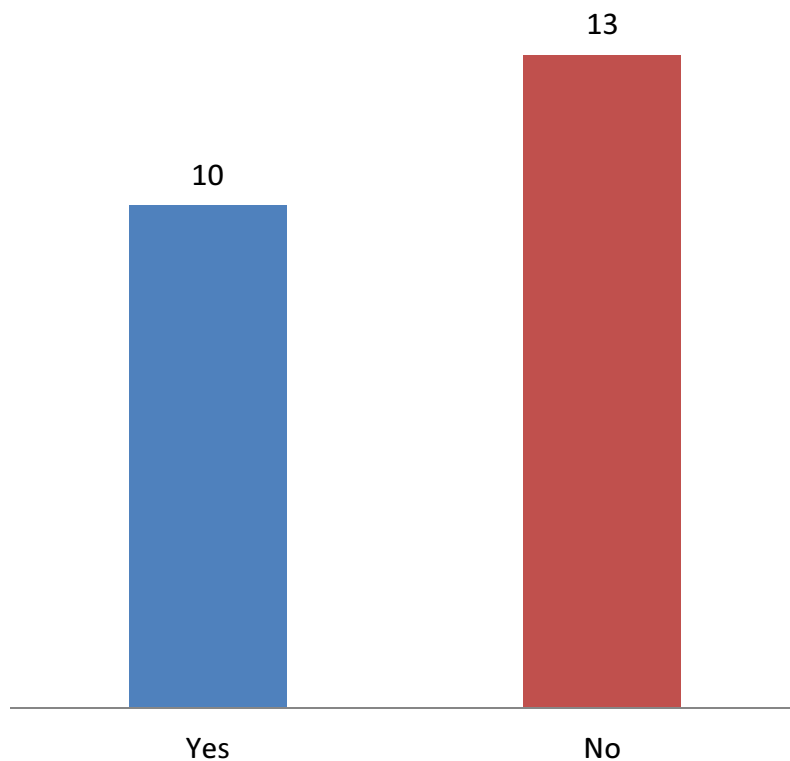
Q72. Do you compile and disseminate indicators, indices and seasonally adjusted data?



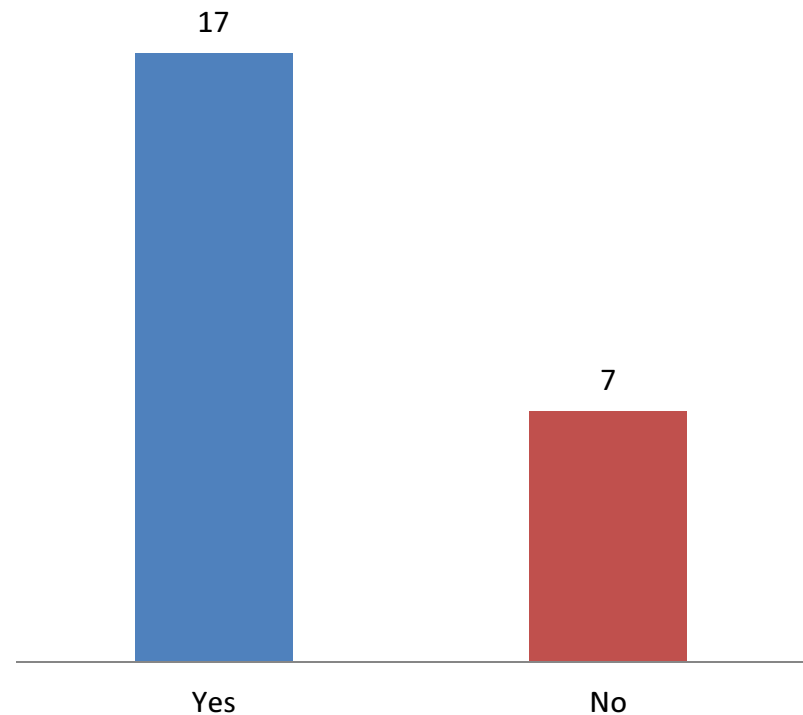
[NQAF16] ASSURING TIMELINESS AND PUNCTUALITY

While majority publishes provisional figures timely, they do not announce scheduled released dates

Q77. Do you publicly announce scheduled release dates?



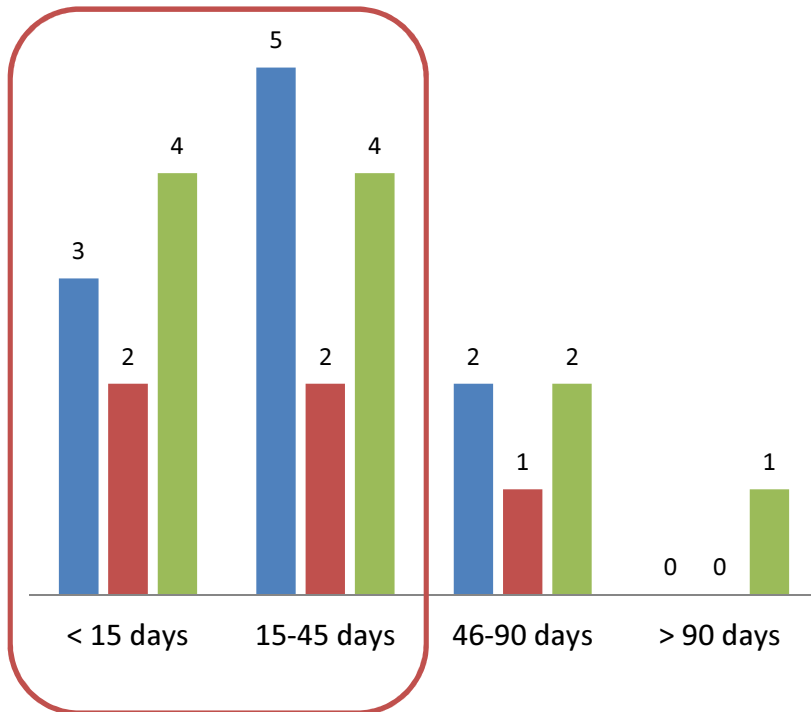
Q78. Do you publish provisional trade statistics after the end of the reference period?



Most countries comply with IMTS 2010 encouragement in regard to timeliness (para 10.7) regardless modes of data dissemination

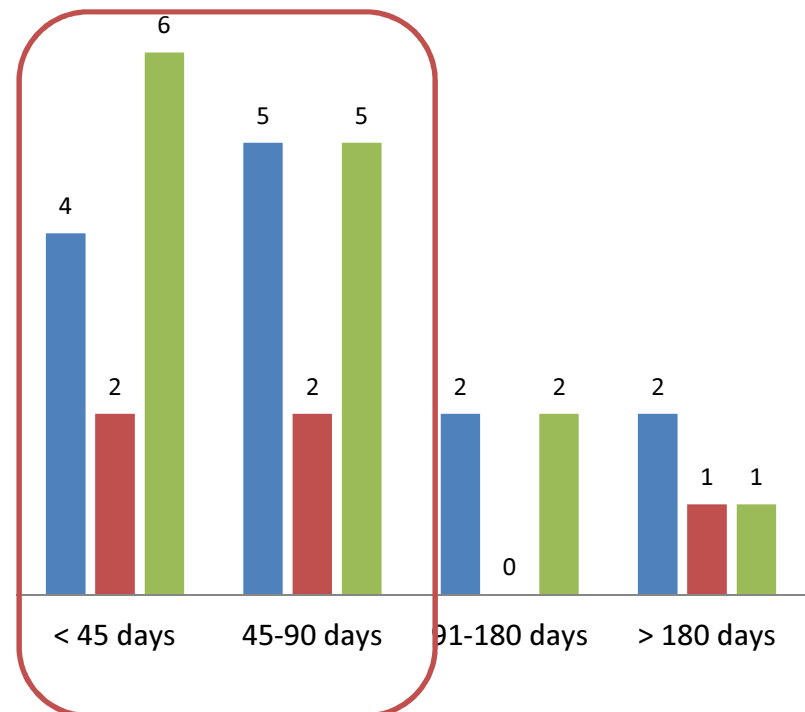
Q79. When does monthly data become available publicly?

■ Printed ■ Press release ■ Web



Q79. When does yearly data become available publicly?

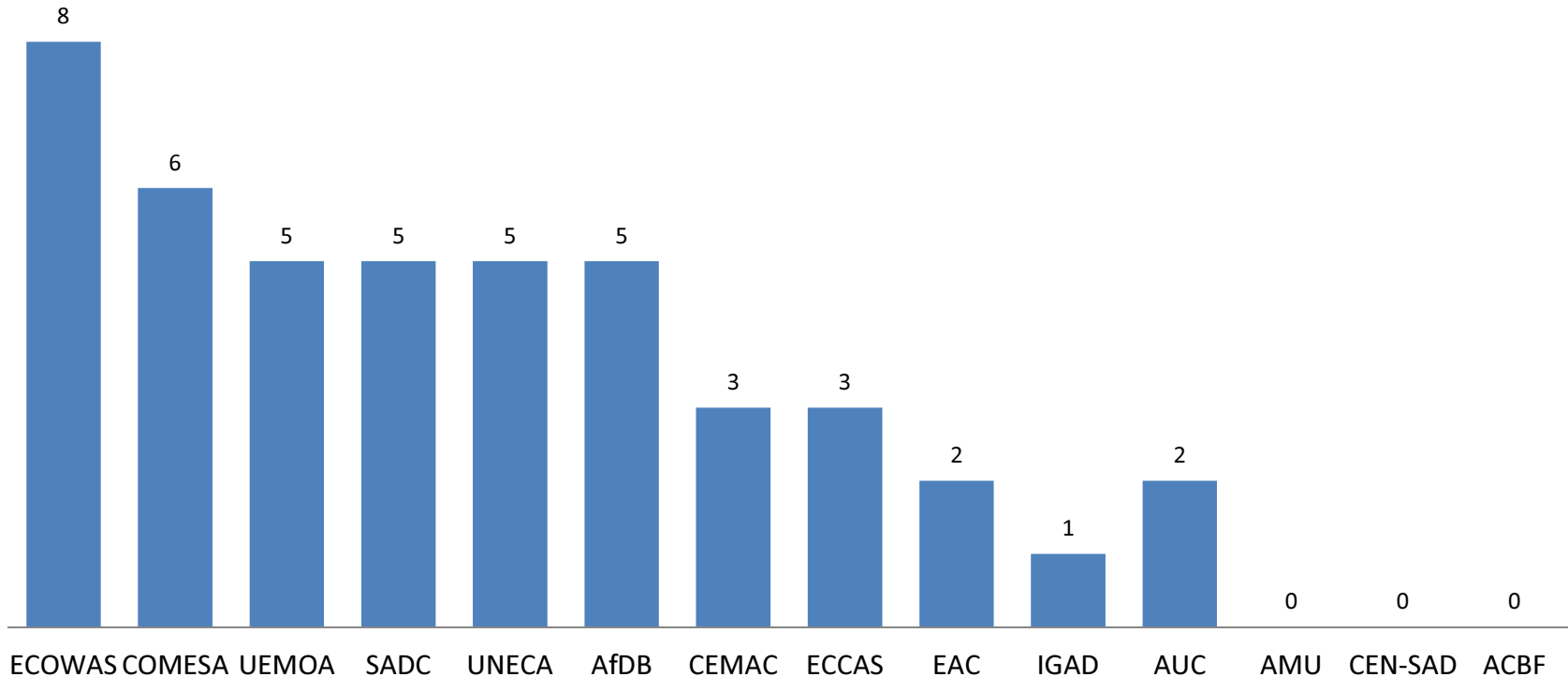
■ Printed ■ Press release ■ Web



[NQAF17] ASSURING ACCESSIBILITY AND CLARITY

In average, a country reports to 2.2 regional organizations; other organizations not shown below: UN, ITC, SACU, FAO, UNCTAD

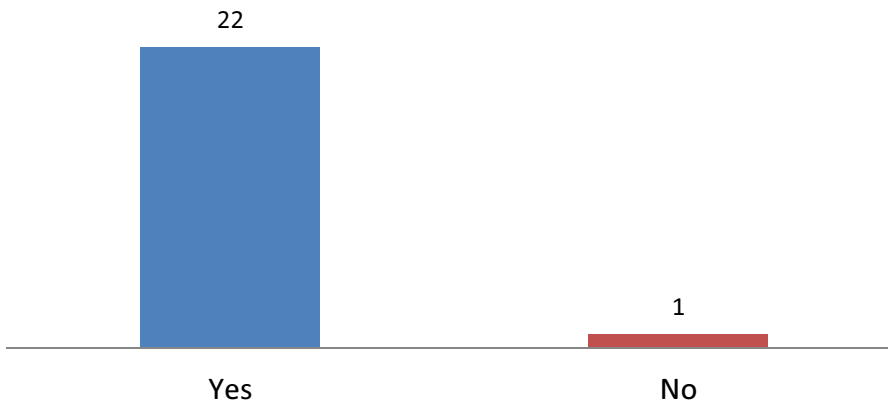
Q84. If you report data to regional organizations in regular basis, please select the name of organizations:



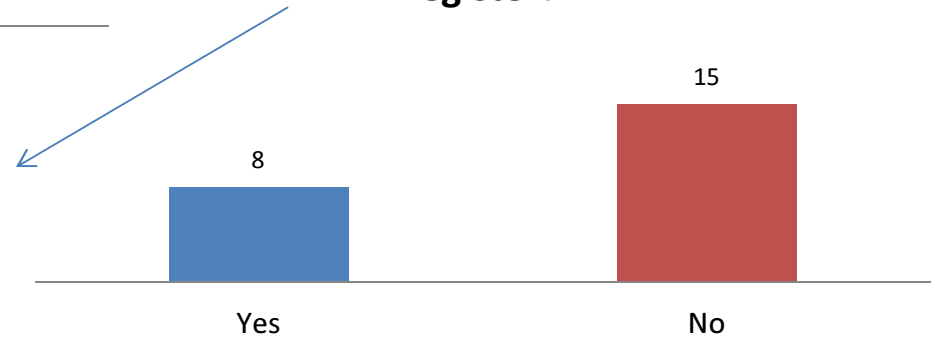
[NQAF18] ASSURING COHERENCE AND COMPARABILITY

Almost all countries have SBR, but only 1/3 attempted to link trade and business, therefore, only handful of countries publish the data on trade by enterprise characteristics/industries

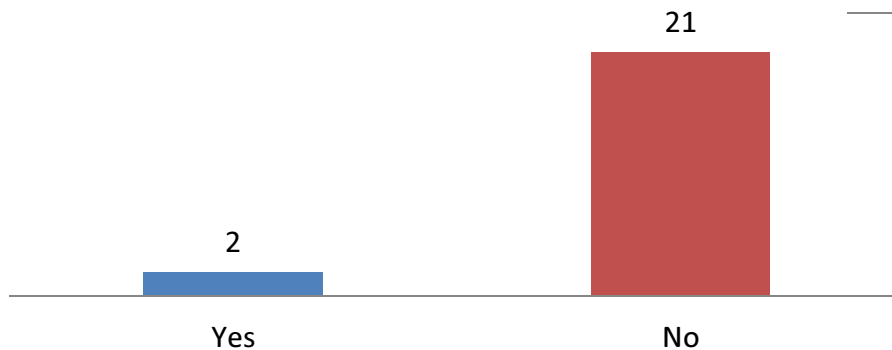
Q85. Does the National Statistical Office maintain a statistical business register?



Q86. Has any agency in your country attempted to link the detailed trade statistics with the statistical business register?



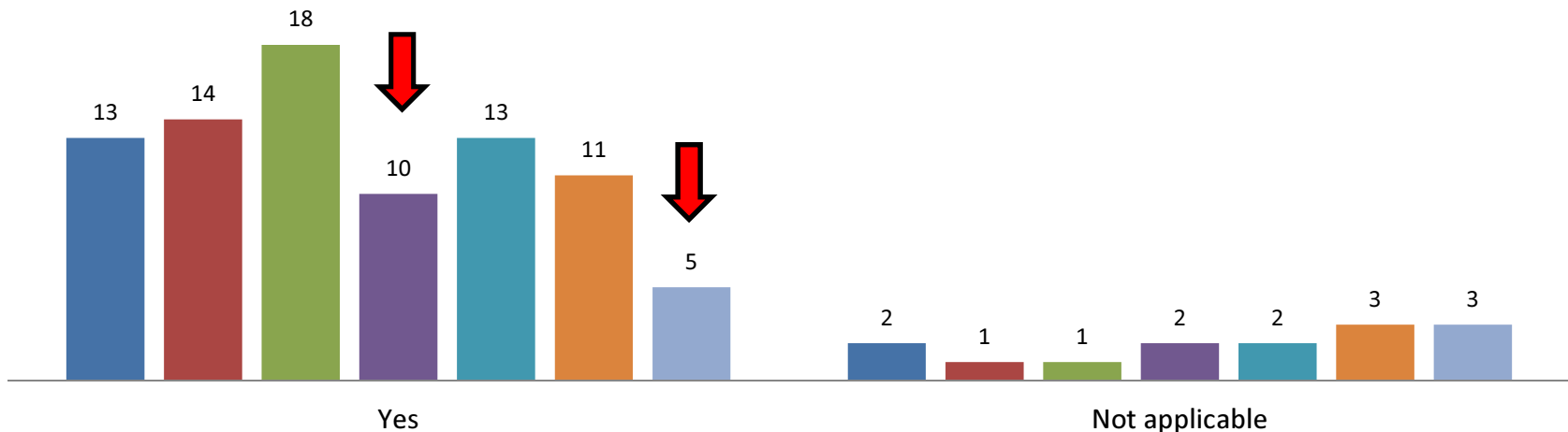
Q87. Do you publish data on trade by enterprise characteristics or by industries?



[NQAF19] MANAGING METADATA

Many countries do disseminate metadata covering wide range of categories; Areas of improvement: description of estimation method and quality reporting

Q88. Do you cover the following categories of metadata?



- Description of underlying concepts and definitions, including deviation from international standards
- Legal framework, institutional arrangements and data sources
- Description of data collection and processing procedures
- Description of estimation methods
- Descriptions of all data fields/variables
- Explanations and footnotes of data
- Quality reporting

GENERAL QUESTIONS: OBSTACLES AND PLANS

Thank you - Merci