Global Merchandise Trade SDMX
Data Structure Definition

Overview

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Regional Seminar on ITS – India © 2014
Background

• What’s SDMX?
  – SDMX = Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange
  – In layman’s term = standard data format for statistics
  – Standard in data structure, nomenclature and layout
  – Supported by 7 organizations including UN

• Why uses SDMX?
  – To reduce international reporting burden
  – To facilitate data processing
  – To increase efficiency of international data exchange
SDMX-IMTS Working Group

• Established in 2013 [UN, OECD, Eurostat, ITC, UNCTAD]

• UNSD acts as secretariat for the Working Group

• The purpose is to specify uniform structures, concept definitions and code lists for the transmission of IMTS data and metadata
Latest update – Nov 2014

- Participation of OECD, Eurostat, UN, ITC, UNCTAD
- Data flows analysed
- Concept scheme created for the whole domain. 42 concepts total!!!
- Most concepts coded, still work-in-progress
- Concepts mapped to Data flows resulting in 3 groups of dimensionality. The groups become separate DSDs with only relevant concepts used
- Concepts classified into 26 dimensions and 16 attributes
- Next steps
  - DSD working group continuing meetings
  - Gradual implementations expected to start next year
  - Maintenance agreement and governance
UN Comtrade: Analysis of data flow

1. Register
2. Down-load
3. Disseminate original data
4. Pre-process
5. Normalize
6. Disseminate tariffline data
7. Aggregate
8. Convert
9. Publish
10. Disseminate published data

Original commodity data user
Supplementary data
Reported totals

Data Brokers
Eurostat
National Data Provider
IMF
OPEC
WTO

Original commodity data
Processed data
Published data

UN Comtrade

Tariffline data
Processed tariffline data
Published tariffline data

Tariffline data user
Published data user
DSD Group 2: UN Comtrade detailed data collection

Relevant data flows

National data providers to UNSD: Original commodity trade datasets
• Currently used dimensions and attributes:
  • FREQ
  • TIME_PERIOD
  • REF_AREA
  • TRADE_FLOW
  • COMMODITY_1
  • COMMODITY_1_CONF
  • COMMODITY_2
  • COMMODITY_2_CONF
  • COMMODITY_CUSTOM_BREAKDOWN
  • COUNTERPART_AREA_1
  • COUNTERPART_AREA_1_CONF
  • COUNTERPART_AREA_2
  • COUNTERPART_AREA_2_CONF
  • TRANSPORT_MODE_BORDER
  • CUSTOMS_PROC
  • OBS_TYPE

• TIME_PERIOD_START_DATE
• UNIT_MULT
• UNIT_MEASURE
• TRADE_SYSTEM
• COMMODITY_CUSTOM_BREAKDOWN_CODE
• COMMODITY_CUSTOM_BREAKDOWN_DESC
• COUNTERPART_AREA_1_TYPE
• COUNTERPART_AREA_2_TYPE
• COUNTERPART_AREA_1_ANNOTATION
• COUNTERPART_AREA_2_ANNOTATION
• OBS_STATUS
• Dimensions and attributes for future use:
  • ECONOMIC_ACTIVITY
Simplified example of one single trade record
Codes used in this example:
HS12_010121: "Pure-bred breeding horses"
HS12_0101XX: "Live horses, asses, mules and hinnies // Confidential Item"
SITC4_0015: "Horses, asses, mules & hinnies, live"
ISIC4_014: "Animal production"
_Z = "Not applicable"
_X = "Not allocated / unspecified"

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Roadmap

Completed

- Visualization/Analysis of data flows
- Definition of list of concepts to be covered for the reporting framework
- Review of existing Code Lists in other domains
- Draft concept scheme for IMTS

Work in Progress

- Draft code lists for IMTS
- **Worldwide consultation with the countries**
- Finalize a first global reporting framework for IMTS
- Implementation of version 1 of global reporting framework for IMTS
Thank you - Merci

Please send your comments to
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