



Dissemination of international trade statistics

Regional Seminar on International Trade Statistics: Implementation of Recommendations

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 26-29 September 2016



United Nations Statistics Division
Statistics of International Trade in Services Section



Outline

- Overview of the dissemination principles
- UN Trade statistics database
- UNSD roles in distributing international trade statistics to general public

Dissemination principles

Dissemination means making available to the public, without restrictions and without regard for the way in which the action is carried out.

Publication involves the action of making statistical information public in different layouts (summary tables/graphs, detailed data, etc.) through various modes of dissemination (printed, website, files, etc.)

Dissemination principles

- I. *Providing users with information on the properties of statistical data*
 - Where data are to be located, according to subject and time period;
 - How the data were defined and compiled;
 - What quality is assigned to the data;
 - What related data can be used for comparison or to provide context.

Dissemination principles

II. Dissemination policy

- A release schedule (calendar) where all constituencies are treated equally (made public well in advance);
- A clear policy to identify the information that should be made available to the press and the supporting detail that can be disseminated through statistical bulletins;
- A policy regarding the cost of accessing detailed statistical information, if applicable

III. Different forms of dissemination

- *Traditional means*
 - *Printed publications*
 - *Press release*
- *Internet*
 - *File downloads*
 - *Interactive query*
 - *Web API (Application Programming Interface)*

Quality dimensions

- **Timeliness**
 - Time lag between end of reference period and date of data release
- **Punctuality**
 - Time lag between planned and actual date of data release
- **Accessibility**
 - The ease with which users can obtain data
- **Clarity**
 - The ease with which users can understand data

Quality trade off

- Accuracy vs. Timeliness, Punctuality
 - Releasing accurate data may take some time
 - Solution: flash estimates, preliminary figures, data revision
- Resources vs. Accessibility, Clarity
 - No resources to disseminate data and metadata beyond traditional means
 - Solution: use global trade data platform maintained by UNSD



UNSD activities related to dissemination

UNSD mission:

- to develop and promote global statistical standards in the measurement of economic performance, social progress, environmental changes and political attributes
- to **collect, analyse** and **disseminate** social, economic, political and environment statistical data at country, regional and global level
- to assist Member States to establish a functioning statistical system which serves as foundation to an effective international statistical system
- to coordinate and promote global statistical activities and enhance the functioning of the UN Statistical Commission as apex entity
- to support DESA in its multidimensional programme of work on social and economic affairs

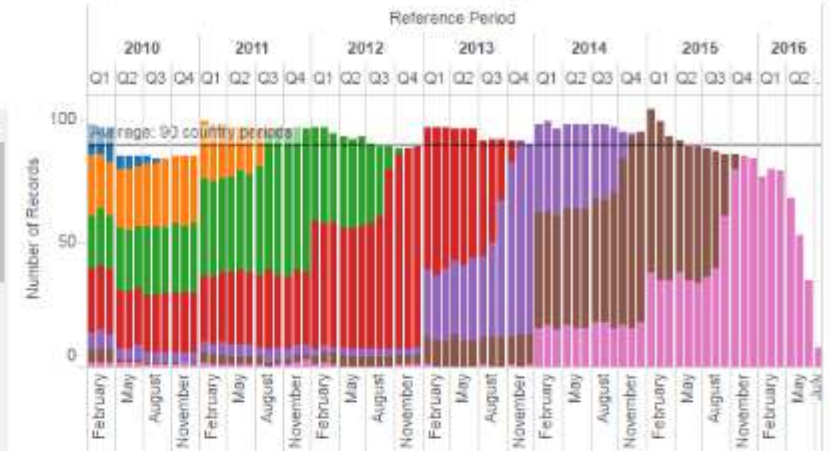
UN Trade Statistics Database

- Repository of official trade statistics:
<http://comtrade.un.org>
- Consists of **detailed data** by **product** and **partner** of **annual/monthly merchandise** and **services** data
- Widely used by general public with 1.2 trillion records downloaded

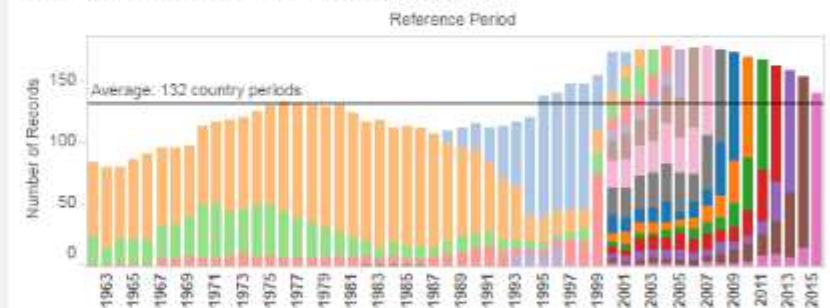
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	type / freq		
	Merchandise		Services
	A	M	A
Afghanistan	2015		2014
Albania	2015	201402	2014
Algeria	2015	201604	2014
Andorra	2014		
Angola	1991		2013
Anguilla	2008		2013
Antigua and B.	2015	201605	2013
Argentina	2015	201506	2014
Armenia	2015	201605	2014
Aruba	2015	201412	2015
Australia	2015	201606	2014
Austria	2015	201604	2014
Azerbaijan	2015	201602	2014
Bahamas	2015		2014
Bahrain	2015	201205	2014
Bangladesh	2011		2015
Barbados	2015	201606	2013
Belarus	2015	201606	2014
Belgium	2015	201605	2014
Belgium-Luxe..	1996		
Belize	2015	201608	2014
Benin	2015	201603	2013
Bermuda	2015	201512	2015
Bhutan	2012		2014
Bolivia (Plurin..	2015	201512	2014
Bosnia Herzeg..	2015	201606	2014
Botswana	2015	201512	2015
Brazil	2015	201607	2015
Brunei Daruss..	2015	201312	2014
Bulgaria	2015	201604	2014
Burkina Faso	2015	201112	2014
Burundi	2015	201603	2013
Cabo Verde	2015	201508	2014
Cambodia	2015		2013

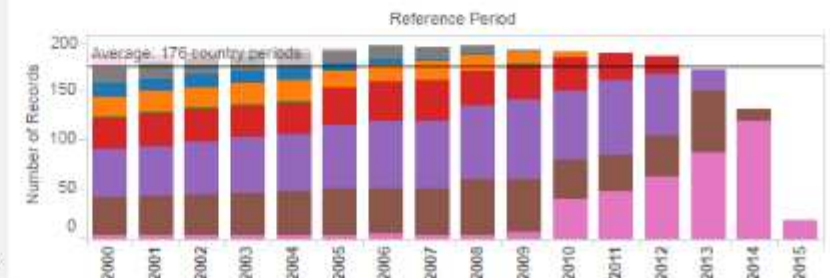
Monthly Merchandise Trade Data Availability



Annual Merchandise Trade Data Availability



Annual Services Trade Data Availability



Data Extraction interface

Type of product
 Goods Services

Frequency
 Annual

2. Classification

EBOPS

2002

3. Select desired data

Periods (year)

All or a valid period. Up to 5 may be selected.

Reporters

All or a valid reporter. Up to 5 may be selected. All may only be used if a partner is selected.

Partners

World, All, or a valid reporter. Up to 5 may be selected. All may only be used if a reporter is selected.

Trade flows

All or select multiple trade flows.

EBOPS2002 service codes

All, Total, AG[X] or a valid code. Up to 20 may be selected. If you know the code number, e.g. 01 - Live animals, type 01. To search by description type a word, e.g. rice.

4. See the results

[Preview](#) [Download CSV](#)

Issues opening CSV in Excel? See this Microsoft how-to.

****March 2016**** Trade in Services data available in the web interface and via the API

****November 2015**** Fast streaming of data files through API. Bulk data extraction is now available through [Bulk API](#). In addition, batch and very large query support is still currently available via the [legacy interface for annual data](#).

5. Preview (259 records)

Show entries

Period	Trade Flow	Reporter	Partner	Commodity Code	Commodity	Trade Value (US\$)	Flag
2014	Import	Afghanistan	World	205	1 Transportation	\$1,050,116,261	0
2014	Export	Afghanistan	World	205	1 Transportation	\$89,651,544	0
2014	Import	Albania	World	205	1 Transportation	\$224,875,811	0
2014	Export	Albania	World	205	1 Transportation	\$188,763,324	0

UN Trade Yearbook

Trade Profiles: India 2002-2015

India

Goods Imports: CIF, by origin

Goods Exports: FOB, by last known destination

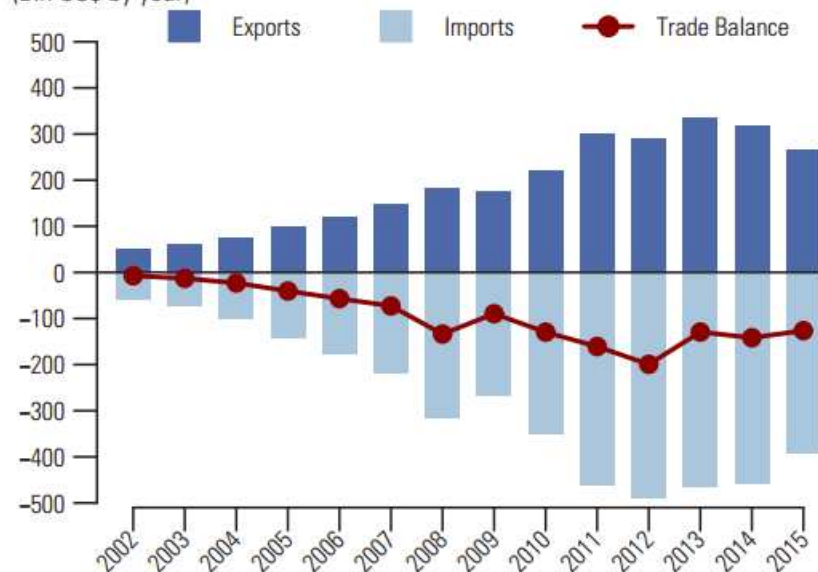
Trade System: General

Overview:

In 2015, the value of merchandise exports of India decreased substantially by 16.7 percent to reach 264.4 bln US\$, while its merchandise imports decreased substantially by 14.9 percent to reach 390.7 bln US\$ (see graph 1, table 2 and table 3). The merchandise trade balance recorded a moderate deficit of 126.4 bln US\$ (see graph 1). The largest merchandise trade balance was with MDG Eastern Asia at -57.4 bln US\$, much higher than that with Western Asia with which India had the largest deficit in 2014 (see graph 4). Merchandise exports in India were diversified amongst partners; imports were also diversified. The top 31 partners accounted for 80 percent or more of exports and 25 partners accounted for 80 percent or more of imports (see graph 5). In 2014, the value of exports of services of India increased slightly by 4.5 percent, reaching 155.3 bln US\$, while its imports of services increased slightly by 1.7 percent and reached 79.7 bln US\$ (see graph 2). There was a large trade in services surplus of 75.6 bln US\$.

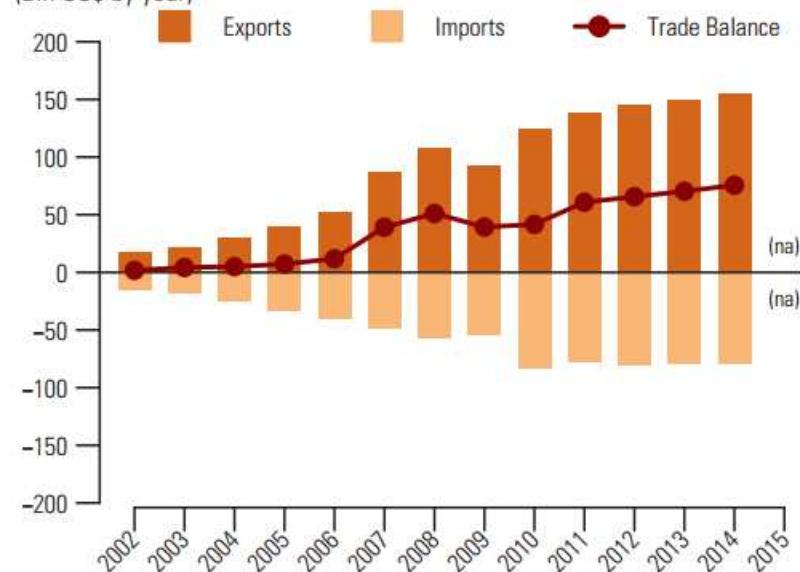
Graph 1: Total merchandise trade, by value

(Bln US\$ by year)



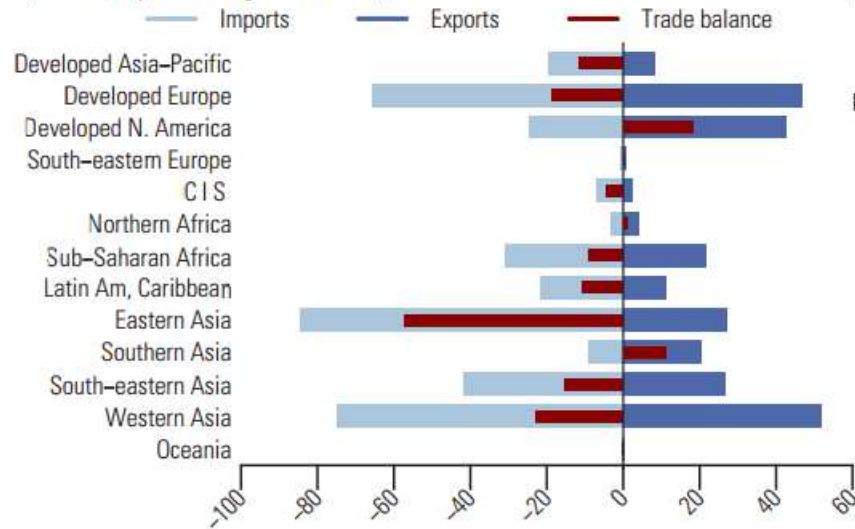
Graph 2: Total services trade, by value

(Bln US\$ by year)

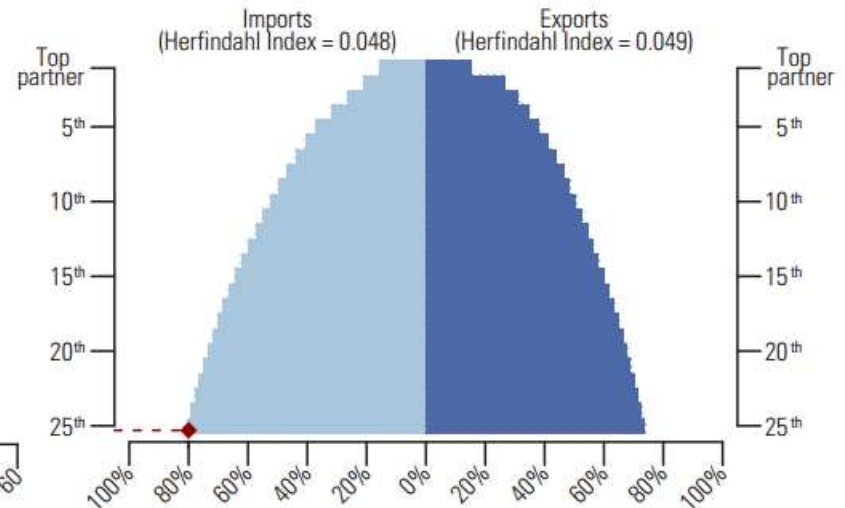


Trade Profiles: India 2002-2015

Graph 4: Merchandise trade balance
(Bln US\$ by MDG Regions in 2015)



Graph 5: Partner concentration of merchandise trade
(Cumulative share by ranked partners in 2015)



Trade Profiles: India 2002-2015

Exports Profile:

"Goods classified chiefly by material" (SITC section 6), "Machinery and transport equipment" (SITC section 7) and "Miscellaneous manufactured articles" (SITC section 8) were the largest commodity groups for exports in 2015, representing respectively 26.0, 16.4 and 14.9 percent of exported goods (see table 2). From 2013 to 2015, the largest export commodity was "Petroleum oils, other than crude" (HS code 2710) (see table 1). The top three destinations for merchandise exports were the United States, the United Arab Emirates and China, accounting for respectively 13.6, 10.5 and 4.3 percent of total exports. "Computer and information services" (EBOPS code 262) accounted for the largest share of exports of services in 2014 at 72.6 bln US\$, followed by "Other business services" (EBOPS code 268) at 30.7 bln US\$ and "Travel" (EBOPS code 236) at 19.7 bln US\$ (see graph 3).

Table 1: Top 10 export commodities 2013 to 2015

HS code	4-digit heading of Harmonized System 2012	Value (million US\$)			Unit value			SITC code
		2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	
	All Commodities.....	336611.4	317544.6	264381.0				
2710	Petroleum oils, other than crude.....	67075.2	60838.6	30455.0		0.9	0.5	US\$/kg 334
7102	Diamonds, whether or not worked, but not mounted or set.....	28952.1	24064.5	21873.3				667
7113	Articles of jewellery and parts thereof, of precious metal.....	10603.3	13087.6	9991.7			26.0	thsd US\$/kg 897
3004	Medicaments (excluding goods of heading 30.02, 30.05 or 30.06).....	10314.0	10302.7	11235.6	26.4	26.7	31.1	US\$/kg 542
1006	Rice.....	8169.5	7905.7	6380.1	0.7	0.7	0.6	US\$/kg 042
8703	Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport.....	5556.5	5769.0	5392.9	5.5	5.5	5.1	thsd US\$/unit 781
0202	Meat of bovine animals, frozen.....	4411.0	4719.1	4030.6	2.9	3.2	3.2	US\$/kg 011
5205	Cotton yarn (other than sewing thread), containing 85 % or more.....	4773.1	4095.4	3736.7	3.5	3.3	2.8	US\$/kg 651
8708	Parts and accessories of the motor vehicles of headings 87.01 to 87.05.....	3912.8	4001.3	3885.5	5.9	5.7	5.7	US\$/kg 784
8802	Other aircraft (for example, helicopters, aeroplanes); spacecraft.....	2590.3	5247.8	2437.7	16.5		0.5	mln US\$/unit 792



Trade Profiles: India 2002-2015

Imports Profile:

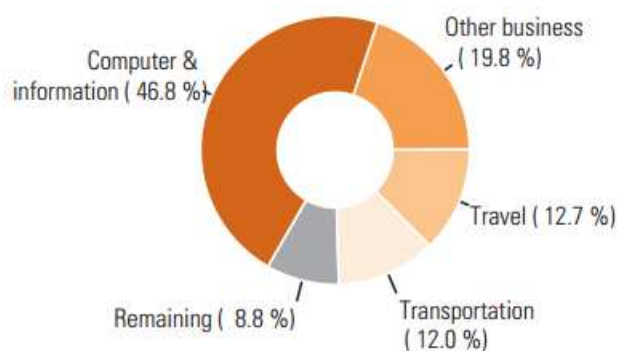
"Mineral fuels, lubricants" (SITC section 3), "Machinery and transport equipment" (SITC section 7) and "Goods classified chiefly by material" (SITC section 6) were the largest commodity groups for imports in 2015, representing respectively 26.8, 20.6 and 14.3 percent of imported goods (see table 3). From 2013 to 2015, the largest import commodity was "Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude" (HS code 2709) (see table 4). The top three partners for merchandise imports were China, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, accounting for respectively 13.0, 6.9 and 6.1 percent of total imports. "Other business services" (EBOPS code 268) accounted for the largest share of imports of services in 2014 at 31.2 bln US\$, followed by "Transportation" (EBOPS code 205) at 16.3 bln US\$ and "Travel" (EBOPS code 236) at 14.6 bln US\$ (see graph 6).

Table 4: Top 10 import commodities 2013 to 2015

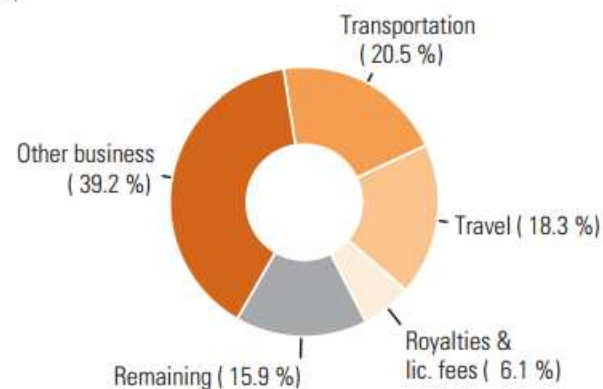
HS code	4-digit heading of Harmonized System 2012	Value (million US\$)			Unit value			SITC code
		2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	
	All Commodities.....	466045.6	459369.5	390744.7				
2709	Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude.....	148046.7	135826.2	72321.7	0.8	0.7	0.4	US\$/kg 333
7108	Gold (including gold plated with platinum).....	37711.8	31039.7	34999.5	45.1		33.5	thsd US\$/kg 971
7102	Diamonds, whether or not worked, but not mounted or set.....	22649.6	21609.7	16405.1				667
2701	Coal; briquettes, ovoids and similar solid fuels manufactured from coal.....	14931.2	16395.3	14115.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	US\$/kg 321
2711	Petroleum gases and other gaseous hydrocarbons.....	14272.7	17627.2	11868.1	0.7	0.8	0.5	US\$/kg 343
8517	Electrical apparatus for line telephony or line telegraphy.....	10916.4	13432.3	15814.0				764
9999	Commodities not specified according to kind.....	11504.7	10599.3	10852.2				931
1511	Palm oil and its fractions.....	6966.8	6551.4	5922.1	0.8	0.8	0.6	US\$/kg 422
2603	Copper ores and concentrates.....	7443.4	5320.2	4093.6	2.5	2.7	2.4	US\$/kg 283
8471	Automatic data processing machines and units thereof.....	4600.9	4530.2	5220.5	80.0	81.6	89.8	US\$/unit 752

Composition of service trade: India 2014


Graph 3: Exports of services by EBOPS category
(% share in 2014)



Graph 6: Imports of services by EBOPS category
(% share in 2014)



Interactive data visualization

- Why?
 - To turn data into insights using modern visualization techniques
 - Users are able to explore the data, and to zoom in into specific details
- We have started to collect data visualization applications in  [UN Comtrade Labs](http://comtrade.un.org/labs/)
 - A place to showcase innovative and experimental uses of trade data, cutting-edge data extraction tools, and alternative dissemination platforms
 - <http://comtrade.un.org/labs/>

Data Visualization

Live demo on selected applications

Followed by Q & A

Thank you