Introduction to IMTS 2010 and Compilers Manual

IMTS 2010 Concepts and Definitions
IMTS 2010 Compilers Manual

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A two year long journey with broad support from countries

- Two rounds of worldwide consultation
  - In 2008 on 17 critical issues
  - In 2009 on the full draft of the revised recommendations
- 3 Virtual meetings of the EG-IMTS
- 2nd meeting of EG-IMTS in November 2009
  - endorsed the draft text of IMTS 2010 subject to several amendments and clarifications
- Submission to United Nations Statistical Commission in 2010
Responding to the needs of balance of payments and national accounts

- Separate recording of goods for processing without change of ownership and trade with related parties is encouraged in IMTS 2010;
- IMTS 2010 recommends symmetrical recording of a number of transactions previously treated differently in export and import statistics (i.e. bunkers and stores);
- Encouragement to cooperate with BOP/NA compilers with respect to the recording of goods of special interest (i.e. media);
Decision of the Statistical Commission at its 41 session (23-26 February 2010)

- The Statistical Commission: [excerpts]

  (b) **Adopted** International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions 2010 (IMTS 2010) and **endorsed the implementation programme** [...], including the preparation of the revised IMTS Compilers Manual and continued **technical assistance** activities;

  (d) Requested that **more attention is given to strengthening institutional arrangements in countries** to ensure that proper national coordination mechanisms exist for the compilation of high quality international merchandise trade statistics; also, cooperation with compilers of statistics on international trade in services, balance of payments and national accounts should be ensured;

  (f) Advised that in the future research agenda a due consideration is given to the emerging trade policy needs and the globalization issues; **in this context, linkage with business statistics and measuring merchandise trade in terms of value added should be further explored.**
Retained core elements from previous revision

- Scope
- Trade system
- Harmonized System (HS)
- Valuation
- Quantity
- Partner country
Updated core elements

**Scope**
- Clarifications, separate identification of certain transactions

**Valuation**
- Imports on the FOB basis (in addition to CIF); valuation of specific categories of goods

**Quantity**
- Recommendation further clarified

**Partner country**
- Second partner country (country of consignment)
New data items

**Valuation**
- Imports on the FOB basis (in addition to CIF); valuation of specific categories of goods

**Partner country**
- Second partner country (country of consignment)

**Mode of Transport**
- Add as additional data dimension

**Customs procedure codes (CPC)**
- Customs procedures applied to individual transactions to be made part of the data set provided by customs
Recommendations in 6 new areas

- Data quality
- Use of different data sources
- Linking trade and business statistics
- Metadata compilation and dissemination
- Establishment of necessary institutional arrangements

Dissemination issues: confidentiality for merchandise trade statistics, time table for data release, revision policy
IMTS Compilers Manual, Revision 1 (IMTS 2010-CM)

**Goal:** To provide further and more detailed explanation of certain recommendations and practical guidance by describing good practices applicable under different circumstances.

**A two year effort:**
- September 2010: Agreement on initial draft outline (EG-IMTS)
- Mid January 2011: First virtual meeting of the EG-IMTS on Draft annotated outline
- Beginning March 2011: Worldwide consultation on the Draft annotated outline
- May 2011: Second virtual meeting of the EG-IMTS on the first set of draft chapters
- September 2011: Third virtual meeting of the EG-IMTS on the second set of draft chapters
- December 2011: Meeting of the EG-IMTS on the full draft
- February 2012: Submission of draft text to Statistical Commission
# Part I. Legal framework and data sources

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Part VI. External trade indices and seasonally adjusted data

Chapter

• External trade indices
• Seasonally adjusted data

Country Experience

• External trade indices: practices of the Czech Republic
• Seasonally adjusted data: Example of Norway
Gradual Implementation Plan (Countries)

Core elements

New data items

Advanced elements

Linking trade and business statistics

Compliance with SDMX

Automated data exchange

Trade by Enterprise Characteristics

External trade indices, Seasonally adjusted data, Quality report

Imports FOB, Country of Consignment, Customs procedure codes, Mode of transport

Inclusion/Exclusion, General Trade System, Annual/Monthly
IMTS 2010 Implementation at UNSD

Technical assistance

(i) Workshops and seminars
(ii) Countries mission

Research agenda

(i) To address bilateral asymmetries in partner statistics
(ii) Address the issue of quality of quantity information
(iii) Finding innovative methods of linking trade and business statistics
(iv) Trade in terms of value added and to clarify the international production chain
(v) Good practices in the compilation of the trade indices and various analytical indicators and
(vi) Efficient ways of automated data transfer between countries and international organizations
IMTS 2010 Implementation at UNSD

Upgrade and enhancement of UN Comtrade
(International Trade Statistics Database) - 2016

(i) Inclusion of new data variables recommended in IMTS 2010

• Mode of transport
• Country of consignment as second partner country
• FOB-type value for imports
• Customs procedure Codes / Identifier for special transactions (intra-firm trade, goods for processing etc.)

(ii) Adding monthly trade data (+ services trade data)

(iii) Significant enhancement of metadata

(iv) Creation of global trade data structure (SDMX-IMTS)

(v) Data visualization (cooperation with other stakeholders)
Thank you

Please send your comments to
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