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

- 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
Data Extraction interface

2. Classification

EBCOPS
- 2002

3. Select desired data

Periods (year)
- 2014

Reporters
- All

Partners
- World

Trade flows
- All

EBCOPS2002 service codes
- 1. Transportation

4. See the results

Download CSV

Issues opening CSV file? See tutorial on 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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Trade Flow</th>
<th>Reporter</th>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>Commodity Code</th>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Trade Value (US$)</th>
<th>Flag</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Import</td>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>World</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$1,050,118,261</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Export</td>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>World</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$880,551,544</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Import</td>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>World</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$224,878,311</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Export</td>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>World</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$138,763,324</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overview:
In 2015, the value of merchandise exports of India decreased substantially by 16.7 percent to reach 264.4 bln US$, 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)
Graph 4: Merchandise trade balance
(Bln US$ by MDG Regions in 2015)
- Developed Asia-Pacific
- Developed Europe
- Developed N. America
- South-eastern Europe
- C.I.S.
- Northern Africa
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Latin Am, Caribbean
- Eastern Asia
- Southern Asia
- South-eastern Asia
- Western Asia
- Oceania

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HS code</th>
<th>4-digit heading of Harmonized System 2012</th>
<th>Value (million US$)</th>
<th>Unit value</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>SITC code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2710</td>
<td>Petroleum oils, other than crude</td>
<td>336,511.4</td>
<td>317,544.6</td>
<td>264,381.0</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7102</td>
<td>Articles of jewellery and parts thereof, of precious metals</td>
<td>67,075.2</td>
<td>60,838.6</td>
<td>30,455.0</td>
<td>26.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7113</td>
<td>Articles of jewellery and parts thereof, of precious metals</td>
<td>28,952.1</td>
<td>24,064.5</td>
<td>21,873.3</td>
<td>28.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3004</td>
<td>Medicaments (excluding goods of heading 30.02, 30.05 or 30.06)</td>
<td>10,603.3</td>
<td>13,087.6</td>
<td>9,991.7</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1006</td>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>8,169.5</td>
<td>7,905.7</td>
<td>6,380.1</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8703</td>
<td>Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport</td>
<td>5,556.5</td>
<td>5,769.0</td>
<td>5,392.9</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0202</td>
<td>Meat of bovine animals, frozen</td>
<td>4,411.0</td>
<td>4,719.1</td>
<td>4,030.6</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5205</td>
<td>Cotton yarn (other than sewing thread), containing 85 % or more</td>
<td>4,773.1</td>
<td>4,095.4</td>
<td>3,736.7</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8708</td>
<td>Parts and accessories of the motor vehicles of headings 87.01 to 87.05</td>
<td>3,912.8</td>
<td>4,001.3</td>
<td>3,885.5</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8802</td>
<td>Other aircraft (for example, helicopters, aeroplanes); spacecraft</td>
<td>2,590.3</td>
<td>5,247.8</td>
<td>2,437.7</td>
<td>16.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**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 266) 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HS code</th>
<th>4-digit heading of Harmonized System 2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>SITC code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All Commodities</td>
<td>466,045.6</td>
<td>459,389.5</td>
<td>390,744.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2709</td>
<td>Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude</td>
<td>148,046.7</td>
<td>135,826.2</td>
<td>72,321.7</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>US$/kg</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7108</td>
<td>Gold (including gold plated with platinum)</td>
<td>37,711.8</td>
<td>31,039.7</td>
<td>34,999.5</td>
<td>45.1</td>
<td>33.5</td>
<td>53.1</td>
<td>thsd US$/kg</td>
<td>971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7102</td>
<td>Diamonds, whether or not worked, but not mounted or set</td>
<td>22,649.6</td>
<td>21,609.7</td>
<td>16,405.1</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>US$/kg</td>
<td>687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2701</td>
<td>Coal; briquettes, cokes and similar solid fuels manufactured from coal</td>
<td>14,931.2</td>
<td>16,395.3</td>
<td>14,115.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>US$/kg</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2711</td>
<td>Petroleum gases and other gaseous hydrocarbons</td>
<td>14,272.7</td>
<td>17,627.2</td>
<td>11,869.1</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>US$/kg</td>
<td>343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8517</td>
<td>Electrical apparatus for line telephony or line telegraphy</td>
<td>10,916.8</td>
<td>13,343.2</td>
<td>15,814.0</td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>US$/kg</td>
<td>764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9999</td>
<td>Commodities not specified according to kind</td>
<td>11,504.7</td>
<td>10,599.3</td>
<td>10,852.2</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>US$/kg</td>
<td>931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1511</td>
<td>Palm oil and its fractions</td>
<td>6,966.8</td>
<td>6,551.4</td>
<td>5,922.1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>US$/kg</td>
<td>422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2603</td>
<td>Copper ores and concentrates</td>
<td>7,443.4</td>
<td>5,320.2</td>
<td>4,093.6</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>US$/kg</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8471</td>
<td>Automatic data processing machines and units thereof</td>
<td>4,600.9</td>
<td>4,530.2</td>
<td>5,220.5</td>
<td>80.0</td>
<td>81.6</td>
<td>89.8</td>
<td>US$/unit</td>
<td>752</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Composition of service trade: India 2014

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

- Computer & information (45.8 %)
- Other business (19.8 %)
- Transportation (12.0 %)
- Travel (12.7 %)
- Remaining (8.8 %)

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

- Transportation (20.5 %)
- Other business (39.2 %)
- Travel (18.3 %)
- Royalties & lic. fees (6.1 %)
- Remaining (15.9 %)
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
  - A place to showcase innovative and experimental uses of trade data, cutting-edge data extraction tools, and alternative dissemination platforms
Live demo on selected applications ....

Followed by Q & A

Thank you