



Update on UNSD Activities

United Nations Statistics Division
Regional Workshop on International Merchandise Trade Statistics
Suzhou, China – September 2017



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IMTS 2010 Compilation Guide

IMTS 2010 Compilation Guide Home

Created by UNSD_NS, last modified on Mar 01, 2017

Welcome to the Online IMTS 2010 Compilation Manual!



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Thank you!

UNSD Trade Statistics Team

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- ✓ **Part I Legal framework and data sources**
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Part I Legal framework and data sources

Created by UNSD_NS, last modified by UNSD_JH on Feb 16, 2017

1.1. The present chapter stresses the importance of the legal framework for the compilation and dissemination of trade data, the necessary data sources such as customs records (see chap. II) and non-customs sources ensuring the protection of confidentiality (see also chap. XXVI). Country practices are described in several

In this part:

- **Chapter 1 The legal framework for IMTS**
 - A. Importance of the legal framework for trade statistics
 - B. Legal acts governing customs records
 - C. Legal acts regulating non-customs data sources
 - D. Legal acts regulating institutional arrangements
 - E. Legal acts protecting confidentiality of traders and trade information
 - F. Country experiences
 - Country Experience: Morocco: The legal framework for trade statistics (ch. 1)
 - Country Experience: The Philippines: Confidentiality Act (ch. 1)
- **Chapter 2 Customs declarations and related customs records**
 - A. Customs declarations as the most prevalent source of trade data



Trade Statistics Bi-annual Newsletter

Upcoming Event

Trade Branch Newsletters ▾



Methodology

Report of 48th session of the UN Statistical Commission (2017) on the item 4 (h) of International Trade and Economic Globalization

The report provides information on progress made by Expert Group on International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics – EG-ITEGS – (established in 2015) to prepare a handbook on a system of extended national accounts and integrated business statistics. The handbook deals with measurement of interconnectedness of economies by properly accounting for global value chains (GVC) while maintaining the perspective of the national statistical system. Both the GVC perspective and the perspective of the national data compiler are fundamental in understanding the construction of this handbook. The GVC approach also promotes a global enterprise perspective and builds on the integrated collection of business statistics from large enterprises for a selected set of GVC related economic activities, including trade in intermediate goods and services, and foreign direct investments, especially of the large multi-national enterprises. In addition to promoting the integration of business, trade and investment statistics at the micro-economic level – nationally and between the main economic partner countries – inter-country supply and use tables (SUTs), as well as intercountry input-output tables (IOTs), can help to chart and understand relations at a macro-economic level. To properly and correctly measure the cross-border statistics some data sharing with important economic partner countries may be necessary.

In 2016, the Expert Group has met twice (January and November) in New York to further the progress of drafting the handbook (see the report and related documents at the links below). The preparation of the handbook will be driven by an editorial board which includes the editor of the

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Methodology ▾

Report of 48th session of the UN Statistical Commission (2017) on the item 4 (h) of International Trade and Economic Globalization

Report of 48th session of the UN Statistical Commission (2017) on the item 3 (d) of Big Data for Official Statistics

Report of 48th session of the UN Statistical Commission (2017) on the item 3 (m) of Business Register

Harmonized System 2017

Events & Capacity Building >

Coordination >

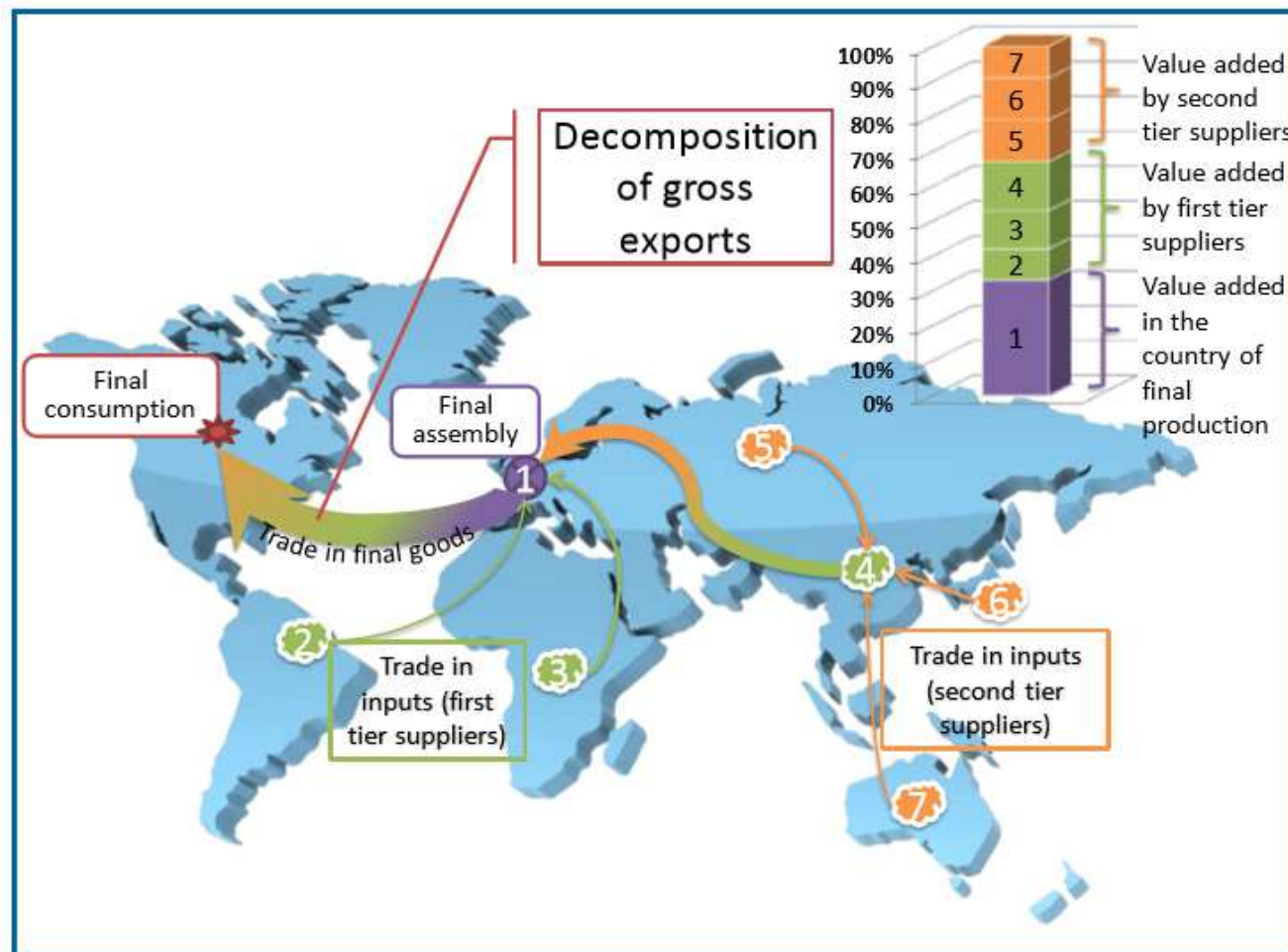


UN Expert Group on international trade and economic globalization statistics

- **UN Expert Group on International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics (EG-ITEGS)** was established to address the measurement challenges emerging from globalization, namely:
 - ***measurement of interconnectedness of economies***
 - ***accounting for global value chains***
 - ***maintaining perspective of national statistical system***
 - ***better measures of domestic and foreign share of value added***
 - ***domestic and foreign labor and capital used in the production of goods and services***
- Previous meetings:
 - ❑ *International Conference on Measurement of Trade and Economic Globalization, Aguascalientes, Mexico, 29 Sep - 1 Oct 2014*
 - ❑ *First Meeting of the Expert Group on International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics, New York, USA, 26-28 January 2016*
 - ❑ *Second Meeting of the Expert Group on International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics, New York, USA, 29 Nov - 1 Dec 2016*
 - ❑ *Meeting of the Expert Group on International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics, Luxembourg, 6-8 June 2017*



The changing meaning of trade statistics due to fragmentation of the production process





What is SDMX?

- The Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX)
- Common and standard **description** of data and metadata
- **Statistical** and **technical** standards to facilitate the exchange of statistical data and metadata using IT

Why do we need SDMX?

- Countries and organizations use different models/approaches for their data and metadata
- As a result, exchange of data and metadata is time consuming, resource demanding and difficult to automatize



Working group on SDMX for IMTS

- **A Working Group (WG) was established in 2013 consisting of Eurostat, ITC, OECD, UN, UNCTAD**
- **UNSD is the secretariat of the WG**
- **WG is developing a Data Structure Definition (DSD) for IMTS that specifies:**
 - A set of concepts which describe and identify the data. Concepts are of three types; ***dimensions*** (such as Time period), ***attributes*** (such as Trade system), and ***measurements*** (the value).
 - The attachment level of both dimension and attribute (Data Set, Group, Series/Section, Observation), as well as their status (mandatory or conditional).
 - Code lists with acceptable values for the concepts



Working group on SDMX for IMTS

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
- Draft code lists for IMTS
- Worldwide consultation with the countries (May-June 2015)
- Agreement on maintenance and governance

Work in Progress

- Finalize a first global reporting framework for IMTS
- Gradual implementation of version 1 of global reporting framework for IMTS
- Further refinement of DSD, especially for DSD3



Task Force on international trade statistics

Task Force on International Trade Statistics

METHODOLOGY

MEETINGS

CAPACITY BUILDING

Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics



Promoting the development of international standards

Improving international cooperation in the collection, processing and dissemination of trade statistics

Coordinating the work on capacity building

Acting as a forum to identify new conceptual and data compilation issues

Improving the availability, quality and comparability of international trade statistics

Promoting the development of national statistical systems that enable the provision of the best quality estimates of trade in value added

Promoting integrated accounting frameworks that give greater emphasis to firms engaged in global value chains

MEMBERS

Eurostat, FAO, IMF, OECD, UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNSD, UN regional commissions, WCO, WTO



Methodology

TFITS promotes the development of international standards (e.g., IMTS and MSITS) and respective compilation guidance, systems and classifications for international trade statistics.



Meetings

TFITS meets once a year to document and coordinate its efforts in supporting the implementation of international standards and facilitating improvements to data reporting by trade statistics compilers.



Capacity Building

TFITS coordinates training and capacity-building initiatives, especially in developing countries, to ensure higher efficiency of achieving a better harmonization of country data compilation and dissemination practices.



Task Force Newsletter

All issues of the newsletters are available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/tfsits/newsletter.htm>

NEWSLETTER



OF THE INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS

N° 12 - December 2016

Reducing Merchandise Trade Asymmetries

High quality, consistent and harmonised international merchandise trade statistics are essential for empirical analyses of international trade and global value chains. However, currently, available official merchandise trade statistics do not fully meet these requirements. Differences with respect to the valuation of transactions, customs regimes, and methodologies create trade statistics asymmetries across countries; which are further exacerbated by differences in confidentiality policies, product

classifications, and time of recording. Standards for merchandise trade statistics typically favour recoding import flows by country of origin and export flows by country of last known destination, which inherently result in trade asymmetries. Moreover, increasing complexities in global production arrangements (such as factory-less producers, merchanting, processors, transfer pricing), driven by global value chains, have made measurement more challenging and have augmented the scope for asymmetries.

[Continued on page 3](#)

Treatment of Non-Monetary Gold Coins in International Merchandise Trade Statistics

At the meeting of the Task Force on International Trade Statistics in New York on 10-11 October 2016, the Task Force discussed a special issue regarding the treatment of certain gold coins in international

coins classified under HS code 7118 90, while from a legal point of view are considered legal tender, may have an intrinsic value based on the price of their precious metal that is higher than their face value. This implies that such

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UNSD Capacity Building Activities

IMTS-related workshops

- ➔ 2016: Turkmenistan & GCC
- ➔ 2017: Maldives & China

Country projects

- ➔ South Africa (2014-2016)
- ➔ El Salvador (2015-2016)
- ➔ Maldives (2016-2017)
- ➔ Pakistan (2017-...)

SDMX pilot projects

- ➔ Mexico (2017-...)
- ➔ Morocco (2017-...)

Coordination

- ➔ Eurotrace User Group <https://comtrade.un.org/eurotrace/>



Global Assessments

-National Compilation Reporting Practices Survey - 2017

Decennial metadata questionnaire. Results posted to UNSD website.

-IMTS SDMX on proposed Data Structure Definition (DSD) - 2015

87 respondents reported they found the DSD to be complete and adequate. A number of comments and suggestions were received on the code lists.

-External Trade Indices - 2015

Among the 96 respondents, 67 reported that are currently compiling and disseminating external trade indices, mostly prices/unit-values, with fewer also compiling volume indices. The data source used is mostly unit-value data with only some reporting the use of price surveys.

-Linking Trade Statistics to the Business Register – 2015

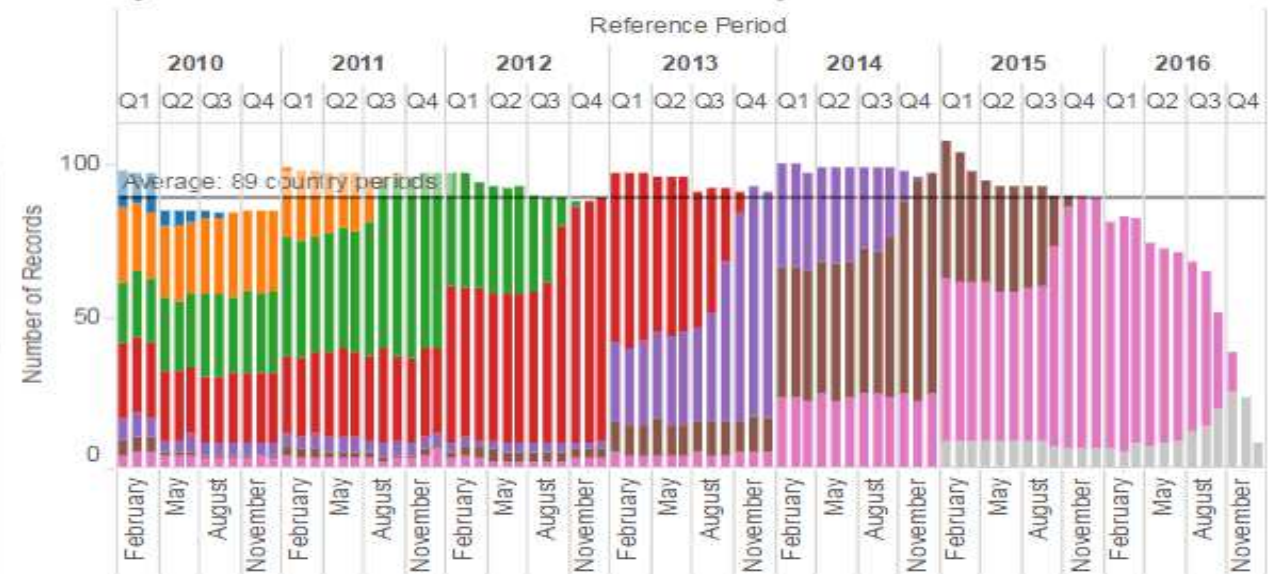
Among the 98 respondents, 91 currently have a functioning BR. 50 percent have linked IMTS to the BR; 29 percent have linked SITS; and 28 percent have linked foreign direct investment statistics (FDI). Only 2 of 22 respondents from Asia-Pacific reported linking IMTS to BR.



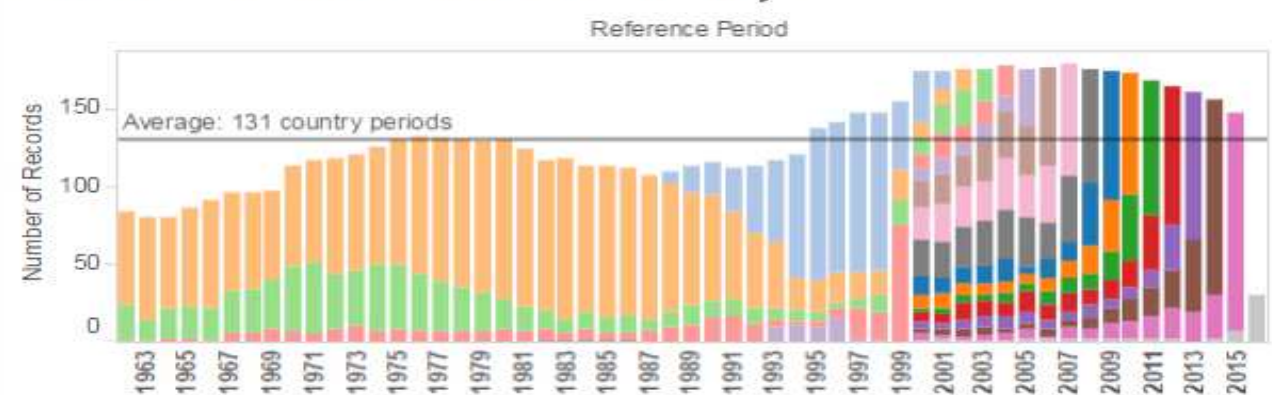
UN Comtrade data availability

- 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

Monthly Merchandise Trade Data Availability



Annual Merchandise Trade Data Availability





New UN Comtrade interface

1. Type of product & Frequency

Type of product

Goods Services

Frequency

Annual Monthly

2. Classification

HS

As reported 92 96 02 07 12

SITC

As reported * Rev. 1 Rev. 2 Rev. 3 Rev. 4

BEC

BEC

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.

HS (as reported) commodity 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.](#)



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

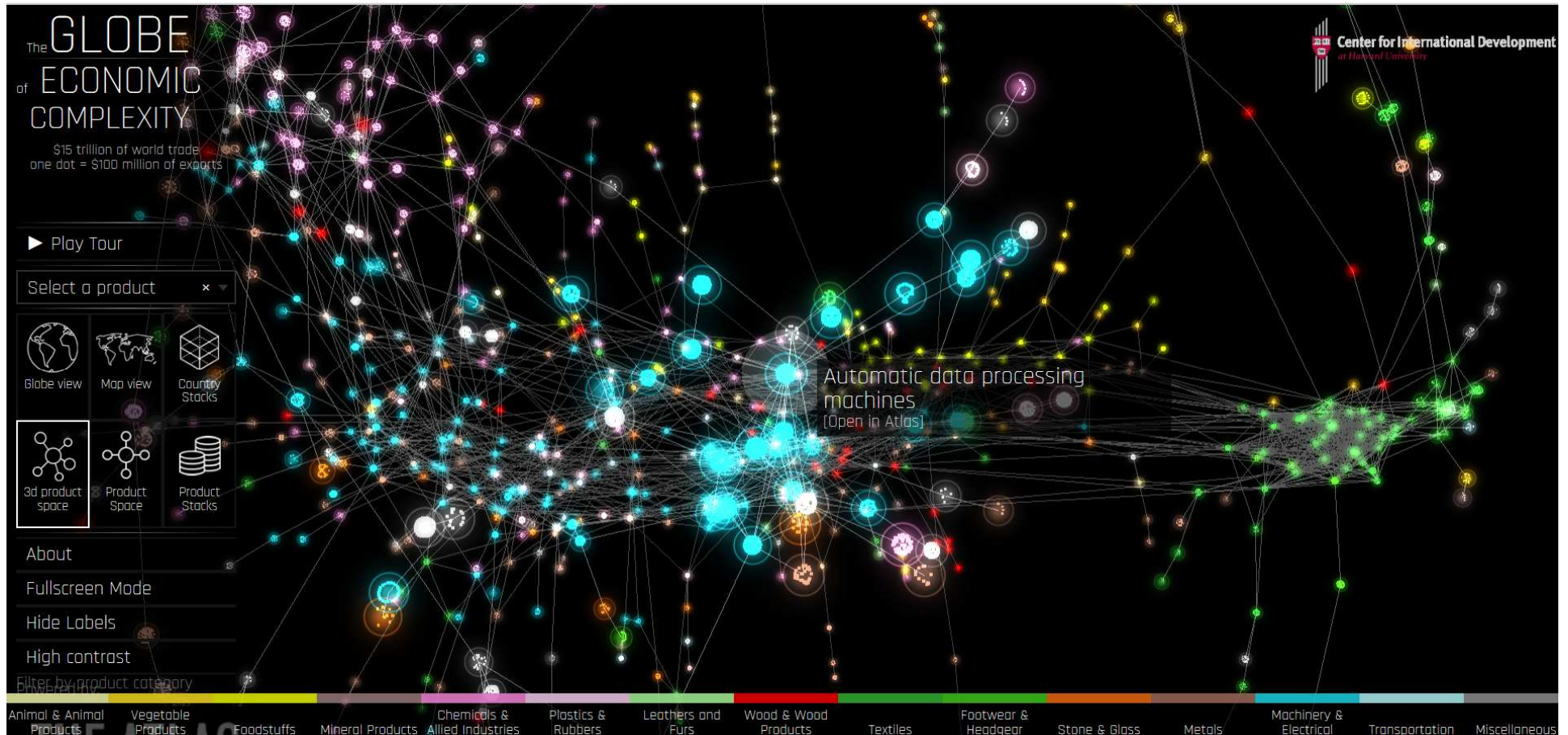
- Add as additional data dimension

Customs procedure codes (CPC)

- Customs procedures applied to individual transactions to be made part of the data set provided by customs



UN Comtrade Labs



<https://comtrade.un.org/labs/>



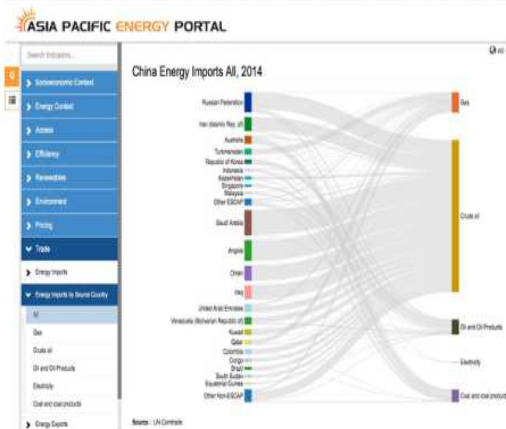
UN Comtrade Labs



A World of Oil Provided by GSM London

A World of Oil uses UN Comtrade's data to showcase 20 years of the global oil trade - who buys it, who supplies it, and how these relationships change over the years. See the volumes and values of oil traded between the world's ten biggest importers and exporters for every year from 1995 to 2014.

Explore »

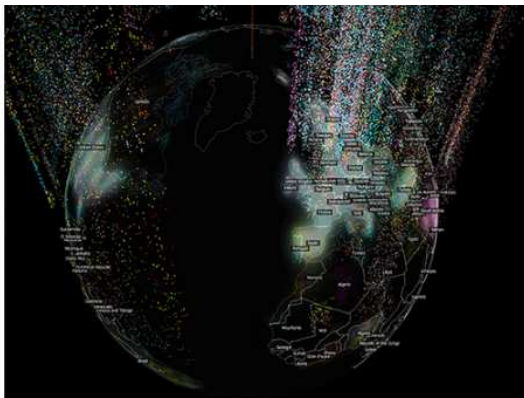


Asia Pacific Energy Portal

Provided by UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

The Asia Pacific Energy Portal provides interactive visualization of energy-related data and policy information for ESCAP member and associate member States, including information on pricing, international trade, investment, environment, access and related policies. It also provides maps and Sankey diagrams of energy imports and exports based through UN Comtrade Public Data API.

Explore »



The Globe of Economic Complexity

Provided by the Center for International Development at Harvard University

The Globe of Economic Complexity dynamically maps all countries' traded commodities, their volumes and export destinations, and allows users to navigate export networks and intricate connections between products. The tool utilizes novel web technologies (WebGL) and design to visualize trade flows as 3-d "confetti," with the ability to morph into bar charts, compounded country textures, and node-link diagrams.

Explore »



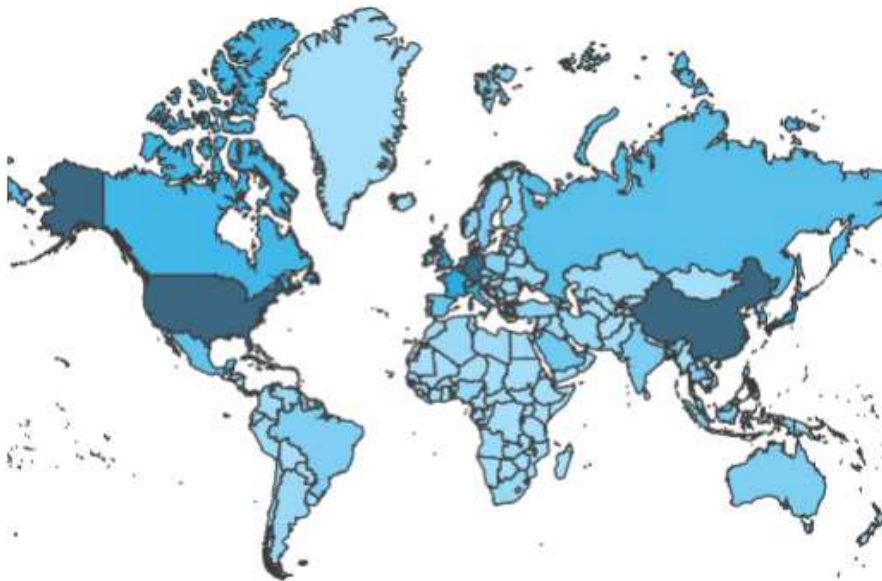
<https://comtrade.un.org/labs/>



Comtrade Analytics

Exporting countries/areas

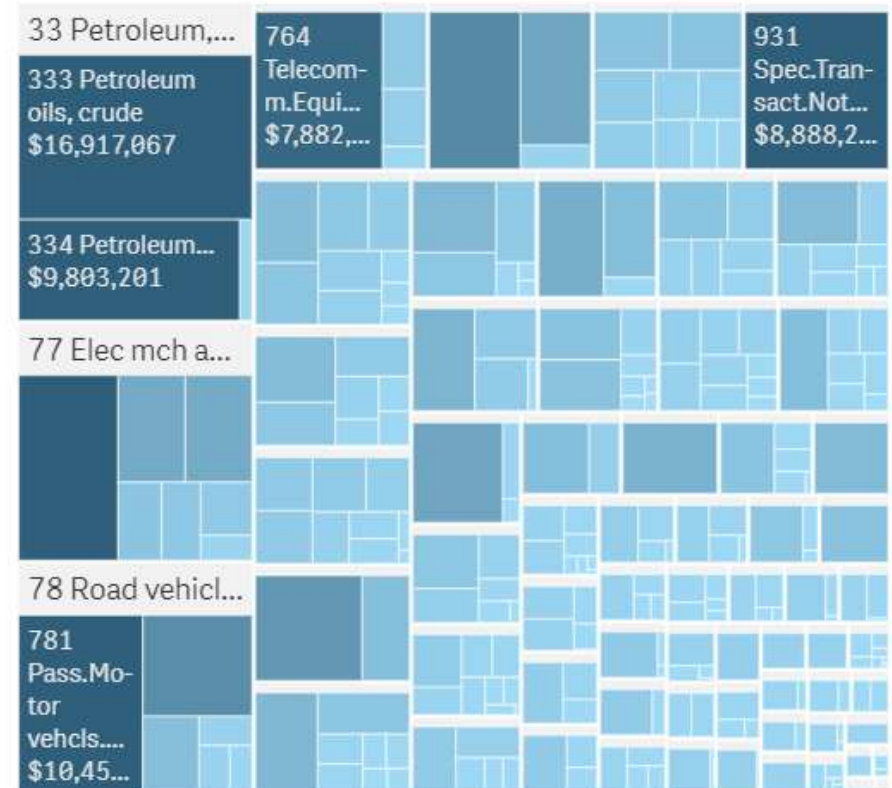
(MLN US\$)



* **Disclaimer:** The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Commodities

(MLN US\$)





UN International Trade Statistics Yearbook

India

Goods Imports: CIF, by origin

Goods Exports: FOB, by last known destination

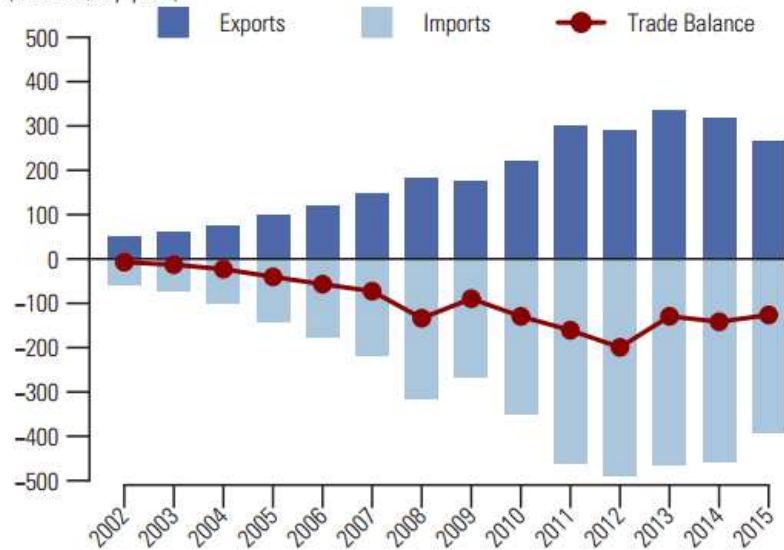
Trade System: General

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\$.

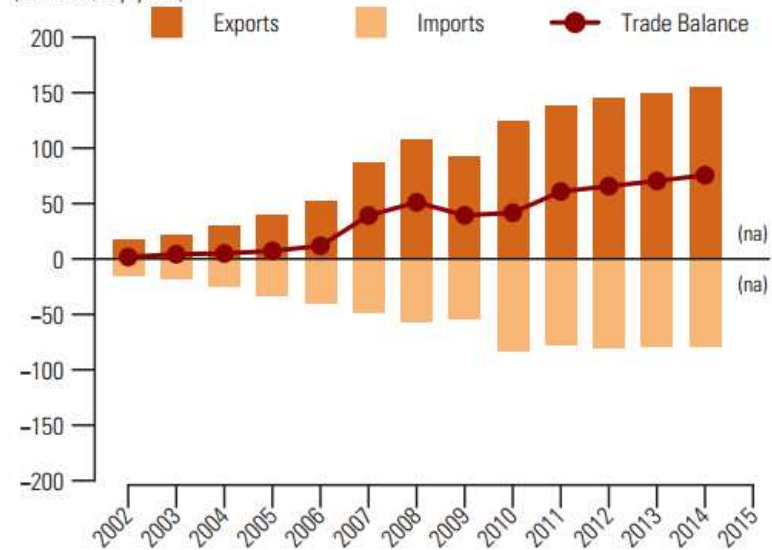
Graph 1: Total merchandise trade, by value

(Bln US\$ by year)



Graph 2: Total services trade, by value

(Bln US\$ by year)





UN Analytical Tables

ANALYTICAL TABLES

The analytical tables cover trade values and indices for individual countries and regions. These analytical tables are either published as part printed publications or only electronically.

Monthly Bulletin of Statistics Annual Totals Historical

Monthly tables of imports and exports (t+3 months)

Quarterly tables of import and export indices

Table 35

Imports and exports for countries and regions in U.S. dollars

Technical notes
Archive

Total imports and exports by regions and countries or areas

(Imports C.I.F., exports F.O.B. and balance in million U.S. dollars)

Published as table 34 in the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics

Download data series

Download Footnotes

Table 37

Trade indices for countries in U.S. dollars (t+4 months)

Technical notes
Archive

Total exports and imports by countries or areas

(Volume, unit value/price, terms of trade and purchasing power of exports, in US dollars (2000 = 100))

Published in January, April, July, October as table 36 in the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics

Download data series

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Table 40

Values and indices for manufactured goods exports (t+3 months)

Technical notes
Archive

Manufactured goods exports

(Unit value indices (US dollars, SDR's and national currency), volume indices (2000=100) and value (thousand millions US dollars))

Published in March, June, September, December as table 39 of the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics

Download data series

Table 18

Values and indices for fuel imports (t+3 months)

Technical notes
Archive

Fuel imports, developed economies

(Unit value indices (US dollars and national currency))

Published in March, June, September, December as table 18 of the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics

Download data series

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/data/tables.asp#monthlytotal>



First UN Comtrade Data Fair

UN Comtrade Data Fair

Organized by UNSD, WTO

and the Graduate Institute's Centre for Trade and Economic Integration

📍 Geneva, Switzerland 📅 25 September 2017



WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION



<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/events/2017/comtrade-data-fair/default.asp>