

Regional Workshop on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS)



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To fulfil SARS' mandate

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS



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Institutional Arrangements

IMTS 2010 New Recommendations

Consider as a matter of high priority the establishment of the institutional arrangements necessary to ensure the compilation of high-quality trade statistics and periodically review their effectiveness (para. 8.17)

Systematic approach to data quality: Follow a systematic approach to data quality and develop standards and related good practices covering the institutional arrangements, the statistical processes and outputs (the entire trade statistics programme) (para. 9.4)



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Institutional Arrangements

- ❑ The purpose of institutional arrangement is to ensure that high-quality national trade statistics are put at the disposal of national and international users in a timely and convenient manner, and that the statistical process is carried out with the maximum possible efficiency.
- ❑ According to the **Customs and Excise Act 91 of 1964**, *“such imports and exports trade of the Republic and excisable goods manufactured in the Republic and of fuel levy goods manufactured in and as the Minister may determine, shall be compiled and tabulated by the Commissioner and published at such times and inasmuch a manner as the Minister may direct.”* <https://www.sars.gov.za/ClientSegments/Customs-Excise/Pages/Legislative-Framework.aspx>



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Institutional Arrangements

- ❑ The Trade Statistics division is delegated by the Commissioner to disclose trade statistics to persons, institutions and organs. In line with international best practice SARS is committed to provide, at the request of a client and as quickly and as accurately as possible, information relating to trade statistics within the ambit of Customs legislation.

<https://www.sars.gov.za/AllDocs/OpsDocs/Policies/SC-GP-15%20-%20Trade%20Statistics%20-%20External%20Policy.pdf>



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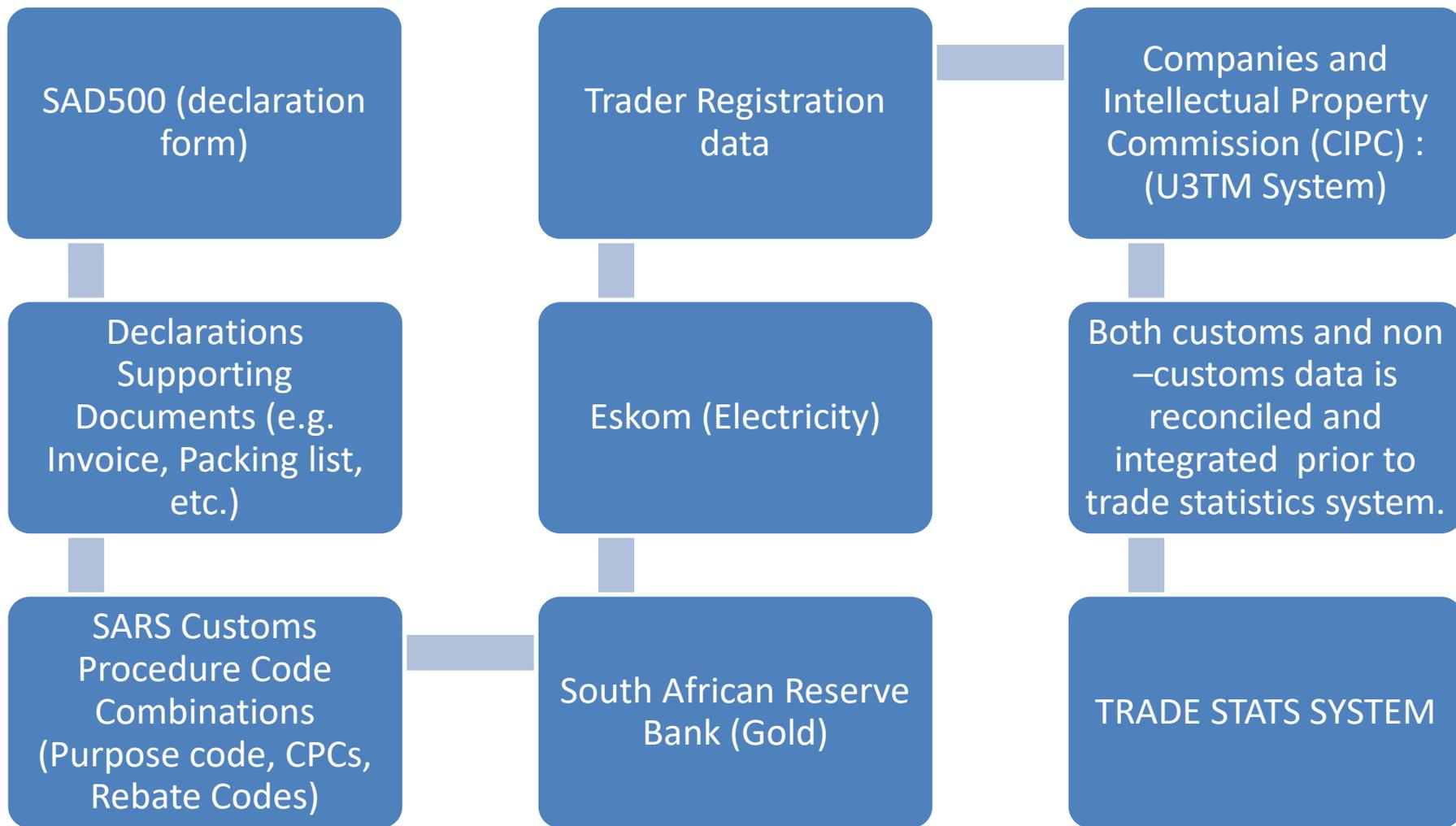
Institutional Arrangements

- ❑ SARS ~ Trade Statistics
- ❑ SARB ~ Balance of Payments
- ❑ Statistics South Africa ~ National Accounts
- ❑ **Customs records** are the main source of trade data and are subject to customs laws and regulations.
- ❑ SARS reports merchandise trade stats based on goods movement as per IMTS recommendation.
- ❑ However, only Gold is reported based on ownership as recorded by SARB and Eskom **verifies** electricity data.



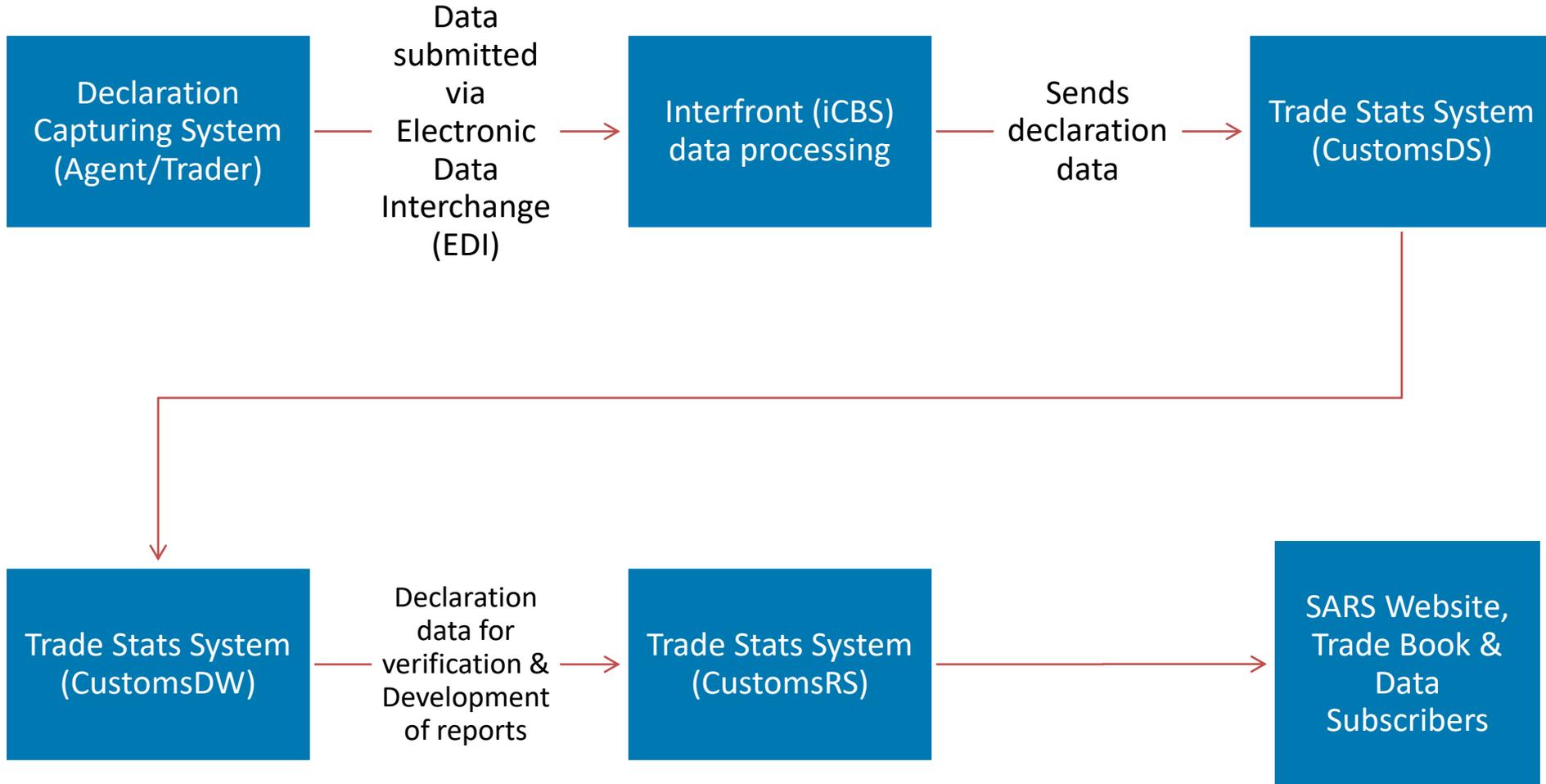
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Sources of Trade Data



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Data Quality and Verification



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DATA VISUALIZATION AND COMMUNICATION



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Data Visualisation and Communication

IMTS 2010 New Recommendation

Dissemination (chap. X)

52. Confidentiality rules: Use passive confidentiality as much as possible, unless the use of active confidentiality is already the established, desired and accepted practice (para. 10.3) *New recommendation*

53. Reporting of confidential information: Report information deemed confidential in full detail at the next higher level of commodity and/or partner aggregation that adequately protects confidentiality (para. 10.3) *Unchanged*

54. Data dissemination timetable: Announce in advance the precise dates at which the statistics will be released and revised (para. 10.5) *Updated recommendation*

55. Publication of provisional estimates: Explore the possibility of publishing provisional estimates soon after the end of the reference period (para. 10.8) *New encouragement*

56. Revision policy: Develop a revision policy that is synchronized with the release calendar (para. 10.11) *Updated encouragement*

57. Data dissemination: Treat all users equally and disseminate data without preference to any national or international user group. Choose the dissemination format that best suits user needs (para. 10.13) *New recommendation*



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Data Visualisation and Communication

- ❑ SARS trade data is revised as far as 5 years back. As a result, revised figures are shared each month-end during publication. SARS trade data available to the public is as from January 2010. Below are reason for revision of trade figures:
- ✓ Incorrect use of tariff, meaning that goods are incorrectly classified according to the HS system.
 - ✓ Incorrect Customs values being declared.
 - ✓ The quantity declared is incorrect because the statistical unit is incorrectly converted from (example: metric tons to Kilograms) and or no statistical conversion was done.
 - ✓ Incorrect use of CPCs (customs procedure code).

<https://www.sars.gov.za/Media/MediaReleases/Pages/31-May-2019---Trade-Statistics-for-April-2019.aspx>



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Data Visualisation and Communication

data dissemination -Website

Monthly
Press
Releases

Trade
Reports

Data
Visualization

Data
Download

<https://www.sars.gov.za/ClientSegments/Customs-Excise/Trade-Statistics/Pages/default.aspx>



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Data Visualisation and Communication

Limitations

- Users can only select up to a maximum of 2 years per download, therefore the “select all” option does not work under period.
- Our website does not allow the user to download data on both trade types (Exports and imports) simultaneously.

Future enhancements

- Automation of provisional estimates using BI Tool.
- Inclusion of more data fields to meet user demands.
- Login credentials to be added for personal trade data download.



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SARS

South African Revenue Service

Thank you



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