UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

STATISTICS DIVISION
TRADE STATISTICS BRANCH

TASK FORCE ON INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS
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Reports on Data Quality by International Organizations

Report by UNSD

1. Quality control for data published in UN Comtrade has the following elements: review of totals from various sources; review of metadata; detailed review of processing reports, decks and outputs, entailing the review of time series development for major partners and commodities; check of quantity information by using SUV, previous values and unit values of country; sharing of processing notes with OECD and direct consultations with country in case of questions.

2. Organizational arrangements within UNSD to ensure data quality are the sharing of processing practices, review of all processing reports, decks and outputs by a second person before publication and the rotation of countries between editors.

3. An important measure to ensure and improve data quality of already published data is the reprocessing of data previously processed in the mainframe for the years 2000 to 2004. For the second half of 2007 it is planned to systematically review the existing quantity information in UN Comtrade.