

Meeting on compilation issues of IMTS 2010
6 – 9 December 2011, Mexico City, Mexico

Agenda items 10 to 16:
Presentation of draft Chapters
of the IMTS Compilers Manual
(Structure, issues and changes)



Presentation
by UNSD

United Nations Statistics Division
Meeting on compilation issues of IMTS 2010
Mexico City, 6-9 December 2011

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Part I:
Legal framework and data sources

- Chapter 1 – Legal framework
- Chapter 2 – Customs declarations and related customs records
- Chapter 3 – Non-customs administrative and other sources
- Chapter 4 – Enterprise surveys and other surveys

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Ch 1: Legal framework **Structure**

- A. The importance of the legal framework for trade statistics
- B. Legal acts governing customs records
- C. Legal acts regulating non-customs data sources and institutional arrangements
- D. Legal acts protecting confidentiality of traders and trade information
- E. Case Studies

Ch 1: Legal framework **Issues and changes**

- Some discussion of legal acts relevant for institutional arrangements was moved to chapter 5
- Should we add a paragraph on the advantages and disadvantages of legal acts versus regulations?
- Should we further discuss the responsibility of the data compiling agency to take action if compilation is hampered by malfunctioning data collection or exchange.
- Can we include a case study which shows the process to develop regulation or law.

Ch 2: Customs declarations and related customs records

Structure

- A. Customs declarations as the most prevalent source of trade data
- B. Structure of the revised Kyoto Convention
- C. Customs Procedures and IMTS
- D. Verification of the declared information
- E. Lodgement of declarations and data-collection issues
- F. Other customs declarations and procedures
- G. Information required to complete a goods declaration
- H. Training in how to complete customs documents
- I. Reporting thresholds and retention of records
- J. Case Studies

Ch 2: Customs declarations and related customs records

Issues and changes

- Do we need to add a paragraph (or case studies) on trading practices which differ from the intended customs procedures, such as transit trade, temporary admission, inward processing?
- Do we need to add more on the role of NSO in completing customs records on basis of accompanying documents?

Ch 3: Non-customs data sources

Structure

- A. Additional data sources – Overview
- B. Additional data sources – often used to supplement customs records
 - 1. Parcel post and letter post records
 - 2. Aircraft and ship registers
 - 3. Enterprise surveys
 - 4. Data exchanges between countries
- C. Additional data sources used for supplementing and verifying of customs records
 - 1. Foreign shipping manifests
 - 2. Currency exchange records and records of monetary authorities
 - 3. Reports of commodity boards
 - 4. Administrative records associated with taxation
 - 5. Merging and cross-checking data obtained from customs and non-customs sources
- D. Case Study

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Ch 3: Non-customs data sources

Issues and changes

- Is the topic of exchange of data between countries of increasing importance and should this be reflected in this chapter?
- Are there cases where we need to change the customs value into statistical value based on supplementary information?

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Ch 4: Enterprise surveys and other surveys

Structure

- A. General description of enterprise and other surveys
- B. Use of business registers and frames
- C. Organization of surveys
- D. Advantages and disadvantages of surveys
- E. Examples of surveys for airline and shipping companies
- F. Examples of border surveys
- G. Examples of surveys used in the Intrastat system
- H. Examples of enterprise surveys providing additional information
- I. Merging of data from enterprise surveys with customs data
- J. Response burden of enterprises and traders

Ch 4: Enterprise surveys and other surveys

Issues and changes

- Do we need to add a paragraph to emphasize cooperation with BOP compilers in certain enterprise surveys (like airline or shipping companies)?
- Do we need to refer in this chapter to the matching of identification of companies in enterprise survey and customs declarations?
- Do we need to add a paragraph on the valuation of enterprise survey data with reference to the use of INCOTERMS?

Part II: Data compilation

- Chapter 5 – Institutional arrangements
- Chapter 6 – Statistical territory and organization of data collection
- Chapter 7 – Integration of data from different sources
- Chapter 8 – Data processing and database management
- Chapter 9 – Data quality: assurance, measurement and reporting
- Chapter 10 – Data compilation in the case of customs union
- Chapter 11 – Integrating trade and business statistics

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Ch 5: *Institutional arrangements* Structure

- A. Introduction
 - B. Purposes of institutional arrangements
 - C. Characteristics of effective institutional arrangements
 - D. Governance and mechanisms of cooperation
 1. Statistical office as the responsible agency
 2. Customs administration as the responsible agency
 3. Central bank as the responsible agency
 - E. Towards improved institutional arrangements
 - F. Institutional arrangements and data quality
- Annex 5.1: Country experiences in institutional arrangements
1. Experience of the USA
 2. Experience of Mexico
 3. Experience of Brazil
 4. Experience of the Philippines
 5. The experience of China

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Ch 5: Institutional arrangements

Issues and changes

- **Issues. Elaboration of country experiences and good practices are needed on:**
 1. Characteristics of a good MoU (para 5.13)
 2. Essential elements of a long term strategy of improving trade statistics (para 5.23)
 3. Division of labor between various institutions on trade data quality assurance (para 5.35)

- **Changes after the virtual meeting review**
 1. Duplication with chapter 1 is removed
 2. Sections on immediate steps and longer term strategy are merged
 3. Annexes containing country practices are added

Ch 6: Statistical territory and organization of data collection

Structure

- A. Statistical territory
- B. Description of the elements of statistical territory
- C. Organization of the data collection in respect to different territorial elements
- D. Application of the trade system
 1. General trade system
 2. Special trade system
 3. Moving to the general trade system
- E. Examples of good country practices

Ch 6: Statistical territory and organization of data collection

Issues and changes

- **Issues. Elaboration of country experiences and good practices are needed on:**
 1. Storing of domestic goods in customs warehouses (para. 6.12)
 2. Limiting inward processing to specific locations (para 6.13)
 3. Section C is pending and comments on its content are required
 4. Section D is pending and comments on its content are required
 5. Scope of Sections E has to be discussed in conjunction with the scope of chapters 2, 3 and 4. Comments are invited.
- **Changes**
 - No significant structural changes with respect to an annotated outline

Ch 7: Integration of data from different sources

Structure

- A. Advantages and limitations of customs and non-customs data sources
- B. Issues encountered when merging data sources
- C. Examples of merging data from other administrative sources with customs data
- D. Examples of merging data from enterprise surveys with customs data
- E. General conclusions on merging different data sources
- F. Integrated approach to economic statistics

Ch 7: Integration of data from different sources

Issues and changes

- Core chapter for compilers linking Part 1 with data compilation (needs work and inputs)
- Can we deliver the needed detailed case studies?
- Do we need to add information on how to integrate less detailed non-customs data with the more detailed customs records to complete the full set of IMTS data?

Ch 8: Data processing and database management

Structure

- A. Data processing and database management at Customs
 1. Requirements for automation at customs
 2. Characteristics of data processing at customs
 3. Examples of automated systems at customs and its interface with statistical data
- B. Data processing and database management at the responsible agency
 1. Characteristics of data processing, data flow and data transformations
 2. Examples of data processing systems at the responsible agency
- C. Data fields required for statistical purposes

Ch 8: Data processing and database management

Issues and changes

- Suggestions were incorporated.
- Further suggestions for improvements?
- Include link to chapters on compilation, i.e. institutional arrangements?
- More detailed country examples?

Ch 9: Data quality: assurance, measurement and reporting

Structure

- A. Quality assurance
 1. An overview of the main elements of national quality assurance frameworks
 2. Quality assurance at customs
 3. Quality assurance at the responsible agency
 4. Major quality issues and how to approach them
 5. Country examples and best practices
- B. Quality measurement and reporting
 1. Steps and guidelines for producing data quality reports
 2. User-oriented quality reports – contents and examples
 3. Producer-oriented quality reports – contents and examples
 4. Measuring data quality
- C. Reconciliation studies, cross-country comparability and bilateral data exchanges
- D. Inter-agency collaboration on data quality

Ch 9: Data quality: assurance, measurement and reporting

Structure (cont.)

Annex 9.1: Brazilian statistical depuration system

1. Preventive depuration
2. Continuous depuration
3. Post depuration

Annex 9.2: ASYCUDA Data quality assurance, measurement and reporting – Controls and reports

1. Existence controls
2. Data Format controls
3. Referential and validity controls
4. Consistency controls
5. ASYCUDA statistical reports

Annex 9.3: Detailed discussion of data items that affect statistical discrepancies between countries and further guidance

Annex 9.4: Experience of Brazil

Ch 9: Data quality: assurance, measurement and reporting

Issues and changes

- Suggestions were incorporated.
- Chapter contains three topics and multiple annexes: ok or split up? Move parts of annexes on website?
- Link better to other chapters, i.e. institutional arrangements

Ch 10: Data compilation in the case of customs union

Structure

- A. Description of main types of customs unions and their implications for trade data compilers
 1. European Union: Customs unions as a single market
 2. Customs unions of developing and transitional countries
- B. Current challenges and good practices in the organization of data compilation
- C. Longer term strategies
- D. Good practices in other multi-country data exchanges

Ch 10: Data compilation in the case of customs union

Issues and changes

- New chapter: are core issues properly addressed?
- How to further improve?
- Need for additional examples
- Strong link to data sources and issue of institutional arrangements

Ch 11: Integrating trade and business statistics

Structure

- A. Integrated approach to economic statistics
- B. The benefits of integrating trade and business statistics
- C. Integrating trade and business statistics in data compilation – possibilities and examples
- D. Ensuring quality of the linked data sources and the quality of the linked/integrated data
- E. Generation and dissemination of additional information – possibilities and examples
- F. Required institutional and working arrangements

Ch 11: Integrating trade and business statistics

Issues and changes

- The few suggestions were incorporated
- More specific country practices desirable
- Any input/ feedback from colleagues working on business and econ. statistics?
- Any suggestions on how to improve contents further?

Part III:

- Chapter 12 – Time of recording
- Chapter 13 – Commodity classification
- Chapter 14 – Valuation
- Chapter 15 – Quantity measurement
- Chapter 16 – Partner country
- Chapter 17 – Mode of transport

Ch 12: Time of recording **Structure**

- A. Basic concepts and data sources: an overview
- B. Approximation of time of recording

Ch 12: Time of recording Issues and changes

- **Issues. Elaboration of country experiences and good practices are needed on:**
 1. Use of shipping manifests, bills of landing and other transport documents (para. 12.17)
 2. Time of recording in enterprise surveys (para. 12.18)
 3. Time of recording in the case of free zones (para. 12.20)

- **Changes after the virtual meeting:**
 1. Details on lodgement of customs declarations are added
 2. Material on time of recording under various special circumstances is consolidated in one section B entitled “Approximation of time of recording”

Ch 13: Commodity classification Structure

- A. Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System-
Introduction
- B. HS overview
- C. 2012 edition of HS
- D. Application of the HS for coding traded goods – challenges and
good practices
- E. Country experiences in the use of the HS for data dissemination
and analytical purposes
- F. Other International Classifications relevant to trade statistics
- G. Standard International Trade Classification
- H. Central Product Classification
- I. Classification by Broad Economic Categories
- J. International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic
Activities
- K. Correspondence and conversion tables and their use

Ch 13: Commodity classification

Issues and changes

- **Issues. Elaboration of country experiences and good practices are needed on:**
 1. The chapter is too long and contains material which is not relevant to trade data compilation. Should the information on the classifications other than HS be moved to (a) to an additional chapter (closer to dissemination?) or (b) to an annex?
 2. Section E on country experiences in the use of the HS for data dissemination and analytical purposes needs input
 3. Country experiences on the use of CPC for trade statistics purposes are needed (para. 13.63)
- **Changes after the virtual meeting:**
 1. No significant structural changes were introduced
 2. Focus on HS2012 is added

Ch 14: Valuation

Structure

- A. Statistical value and its components: an overview
- B. Compilation of the statistical value of imported goods
- C. Compilation of statistical values of exported goods
- D. Valuation of selected categories of imported and exported goods
- E. Issues of currency recording and conversion

Ch 14: Valuation

Issues and changes

- **Issues:**
 1. Is the list of cost items provided in paragraph 14.9 sufficient? Do we need to provide definitions/descriptions of each cost item?
 2. Are tables 1, 2 and 3 OK?
 3. Not enough good practices on Imports FOB
 4. Not enough country experiences/good practices on valuation of some categories of goods in Section D
 5. No country experiences on issues encountered in currency conversion and on solutions applied (para. 14.14); input is needed
- **Changes after the virtual meeting**
 1. Incoterms 2010 are added
 2. Provided country practices reflected

Ch 15: Quantity measurement

Structure

- A. An overview of the WCO standard units of quantity
 - B. Weight concept
 - C. Compilation of quantity data from customs sources
 - D. Compilation of quantity data from non-customs sources
 - E. Conversion factors from non-standard to standard units of quantity
 - F. Quality issues
 - G. Estimation and imputation of quantity data
- Annex 15.1: Conversion factors for mathematical conversion
- Annex 15.2: Quantity conversion factors used by the United Nations Statistics Division

Ch 15: Quantity measurement

Issues and changes

- Input required for how to compile from customs and non-customs sources
- How to improve compilation of quantity information - best practices needed
- Examples for quantity estimation and imputation needed

Ch 16: Partner country

Structure

- A. Introduction
- B. Country of origin and its use in import statistics
 1. Kyoto Convention
 2. The status of the WCO work on the harmonized rules of origin
 3. Country experiences in definition of goods origin and challenges in their application
- C. Country of last known destination and its use in export statistics
 1. Concept of country of last known destination
 2. Country experiences in the approximation of country of last known destination
- D. Country of consignment
- E. Definitions of partner country in trade between members of a customs union
- F. Partner country coding for statistical purposes

Ch 16: Partner country **Issues and changes**

- **Issues. Elaboration of country experiences and good practices are needed on:**
 1. Subsection B.3 on country experiences in definition of goods origin and challenges in their application, including on national definitions of “wholly produced” , “substantial transformation” (para. 16.24-25)
 2. On selected special cases (para. 16.26)
 3. Section D needs additional input on national practices regarding commercial transactions/operations which change the legal status of goods (para. 16.38)
- **Changes after the virtual meeting**
 1. No significant structural changes
 2. Provided country practices reflected

Ch 17: Mode of transport **Structure**

- A. Basic concepts and data sources: an overview
 1. Basic concepts
 2. Description of particular modes of transport
 3. Other considerations
- B. Compilation of MoT trade statistics: countries experiences
- C. Dissemination of MoT statistics: countries experiences

Ch 17: Mode of transport

Issues and changes

- **Issues:**
 1. The scope of particular modes of transport has to be defined but this requires more input
 2. Elaboration of country experiences with multimodal and predominant mode of transport is needed
 3. Should we (can we) provide good practices on the use of additional data sources (para. 17.14) and on how to estimate MoT? (para. 17.15)
 4. Elaboration of quality assurance on MoT data is needed
- **Changes after the virtual meeting:**
 1. Material on MoT compilation under different trade systems into one section B
 2. Dissemination of MoT data is discussed in a separate section C.

Ch 17b: Custom procedure code

Structure

- A. Introduction
- B. IMTS 2010 recommendation
- C. Importance of compilation and international reporting
- D. Customs procedures applied by countries
- E. Examples

Ch 17b: Customs procedure code

Issues:

- New chapter suggested for inclusion
- Importance and limitations of this information
- Need to get information on custom procedures applied by countries
- Need for examples
- What else to include?

Part IV: Compilation of data on trade in selected categories of goods

- Chapter 18 – Scope of IMTS
- Chapter 19 – Goods for processing
- Chapter 20 – Goods which cross borders as a result of transactions between related parties
- Chapter 21 – Electricity, gas, oil and water
- Chapter 22 – Ships and aircraft
- Chapter 23 – Other special cases
- Chapter 24 – Overview of data compilation for NA and BoP

Ch 18: Scope of IMTS **Structure**

- A. The general guideline
- B. Comparison of specific categories of goods
- C. Economic territory and categories of goods
- D. Cross-border trade and smuggling
- E. Customs and statistical threshold, treatment of non-response
- F. Confidential data and incomplete coverage by data omission

Ch 18: Scope of IMTS **Issues and changes**

- New chapter
- What else to include in table 18.2 / section B?
- Additional section F on confidential data and omission of data

Ch 19: Goods for processing

Structure

- A. Definition and examples of goods for processing
- B. Transactions and activities that are not goods for processing
- C. Treatment of goods for processing in the 2008 SNA/ BPM6
- D. Measuring trade in goods for processing – with or without change of ownership - and implications for the balance of payments compilation
- E. Examples of good practices
- F. Additional issues

Ch 19: Goods for processing

Issues and changes

- Suggestions were incorporated
- Any suggestions on how to further improve this chapter
- More examples would be useful
- Any additional suggestions regarding its identification (para. 19.14)

Ch 20: Goods which cross borders as a result of transactions between related parties

Structure

- A. Definition of related parties and examples of trade between related parties
- B. Purposes of identifying trade between related parties (including valuation)
- C. Ways to obtain information on trade between related parties
- D. Good practices

Ch 20: Goods which cross borders as a result of transactions between related parties

Issues and changes

- Suggestions were incorporated
- Any suggestions how to further improve
- More examples useful
- Request for some input on EU Eurogroup register

Ch 21: Electricity, gas, oil and water **Structure**

- A. Characteristics of trade in electricity, gas, oil and water
- B. Recording of pipeline trade in electricity, gas, oil and water
- C. Country experience in the compilation of electricity, gas, oil and water
- D. Valuation issues and issues related to the timing of recording

Ch 21: Electricity, gas, oil and water **Issues and changes**

- Suggestions were incorporated
- More information needed on valuation practices, partner attribution, time of recording
- More information needed on international cooperation in measurement

Ch 22: Ships and aircraft

- A. Difficulties encountered in the measurement of trade in ships and aircraft
- B. Existing practices for recording and measuring trade in ships and aircraft
- C. Possibilities for improving the international measurement of trade in ships and aircraft
- D. Leasing
- E. Case studies

Ch 22: Ships and aircraft **Issues and changes**

- Suggestions were incorporated
- Any example on the use of leasing agreements and agreements of operation of vessels for identifying change of ownership available?
- How to make this chapter more useful?

Chapter 23 (and 24): Other special categories of goods and the compilation for NA and BoP purposes

Structure

- A. Goods to be recorded similarly in IMTS and BPM6/NA
- B. Goods to be recorded differently in IMTS and BPM6/NA
- C. Common metadata to be provided by IMTS and BOP compilers

Chapter 23 (and 24): Other special categories of goods and the compilation for NA and BoP purposes

Issues and changes

- New chapter
- Combines 23 and 24 covering special items in combination with compilation of data for BOP purposes
- Any suggestion how to make this chapter more useful? Any additional items?
- Any example of cooperation with BOP compilers on data compilation?

Part V: Metadata and dissemination

Chapter 25 – Metadata

Chapter 26 – Dissemination

Ch 25: Metadata Structure

- A. Introduction
- B. Presentation and dissemination of metadata
- C. Metadata items relevant for international merchandise trade statistics
- D. Country practices

Ch 25: Metadata Issues and changes

- It is necessary to provide more concrete guidance on metadata registries (25.10) by presenting a practical example / best practice
- Are the lists of items in pars. 25.12 and 25.13 exhaustive? Can this be considered as a “minimum metadata set” for IMTS?
- Should there be a distinction between metadata “for public dissemination” and metadata “for internal use”?
- Are there any examples/experiences on the implementation of SDMX for IMTS

Ch 26: Dissemination Structure

- A. Factors to consider in data and metadata dissemination
 1. Variables to be made available
 2. Timeliness
 3. Coherence between disseminated datasets
 4. Statistical confidentiality
 5. Revision policy
 6. Users
 7. Formats and means of dissemination
 8. Dissemination of metadata and information on data quality
- B. Combined presentation of statistics on external trade in goods and services

Ch 26: Dissemination Issues and changes

- **Issues.** Elaboration of country experiences and good practices are needed on:
 1. Preparation and publishing provisional estimates (para.26.10)
 2. Coherence of monthly, quarterly and annual data (para. 26.11)
 3. National confidentiality rules (para. 26.13)
 4. Revision policy (para 26.16),
 5. User satisfaction surveys (para. 26.20),
 6. On-line data and metadata dissemination (para 26.25-26)
 7. Scope and structure of section B have to be discussed and more input provided
- **Changes:**
 1. No significant structural changes were introduced
 2. Provided country practices reflected

Part VI: External trade indices and seasonally adjusted data

- Chapter 27 – External trade indices
Chapter 28 – Seasonally adjusted data

Ch 27: External trade indices

Structure

- A. General overview
- B. Measurement approaches
- C. Criticalities in the approaches
- D. Methodological issues
- E. Other issues
- F. Best practices
 - 1. The Norwegian experience
 - 2. The Canadian experience
 - 3. The Czech experience
 - 4. The German experience

Ch 27: External trade indices

Structure (cont.)

Annex 27.1: The Norwegian experience

- 1. Unit values from customs records
- 2. Producer Price Indices (PPIs) for external trade
- 3. Data validation and editing
- 4. Institutional framework

Annex 27.2: The Canadian experience

Ch 27: External trade indices

Issues and changes

- **Issues:**
 - Need to include description and characteristics of most used formulas (e.g., Laspeyres, Paasche and Fisher), including their chained versions (27.16)
 - Is it necessary to provide example/guidance on survey design for price indices ?
- **Changes:**
 1. No significant structural changes were introduced
 2. Additions and amendments on country practices are reflected

Ch 28: Seasonally adjusted data

Structure

- A. Basic concepts and uses of seasonally adjusted trade data
- B. Preliminary treatment of data prior to seasonal adjustment
- C. Seasonal adjustment
- D. Revision policies
- E. Quality of seasonal adjustment
- F. Specific issues
- G. Data presentation
- H. Specific issues related to trade data

Ch 28: Seasonally adjusted data

Issues and changes

- It was suggested to change references to X-12-ARIMA to X-13-ARIMA-SEATS
- Are there any specific issues related to trade data?
- Need to include more country practices regarding seasonal adjustment of trade data