



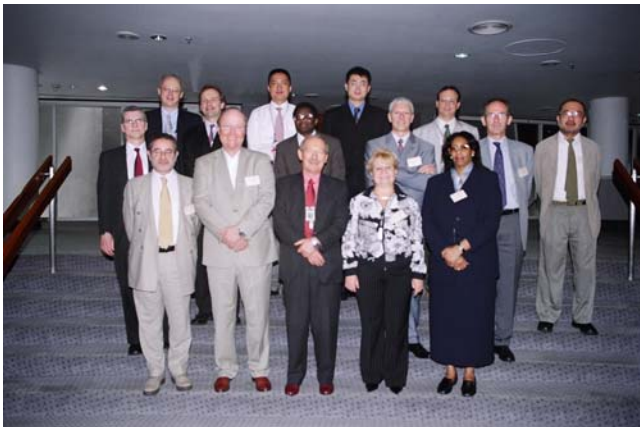
SPECIAL FEATURE:

TASK FORCE ON INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS

The annual meeting of the Inter-agency Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) was this year hosted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in Bangkok from 15-17 March 2005. The Task Force is made up of representatives of international agencies that deal with trade statistics, namely the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and

first of all given to the creation of a website for the Task Force. WTO – the convener and chair of the Task Force – will host and develop the site which will contain meeting documents and reference materials on international merchandise

Further development of first of a kind partnership between UNSD and OECD on data collection, processing and dissemination



Andrew Flatt, UNESCAP, welcomed the Task Force members at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok.

Development (OECD), the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Trade Center (ITC), the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Secretariat – represented by the UN Statistics Division

Bangkok Task Force meeting focuses on combining efforts

(UNSD) – and the UN Regional Commissions. At the meeting attention was

trade statistics. In addition, the Common Data Set will be located here. This dataset contains annual merchandise trade totals for which responsibility is shared among participating Task Force members. UNSD and OECD jointly reported on further progress which has been made over the last year in their shared development of a data processing system with common standards.

UNSD and OECD already merged the collection of OECD member states trade data which is fully channeled via OECD. Now, in addition, the organizations share the technology and further development of the dissemination of international trade data via the Internet (besides sharing data collection efforts with OECD,

Convergence on metadata structure and data quality assurance

UNSD also works together with FAO, ITC, ESCWA and ECLAC in combining efforts to improve the collection of basic trade data).

Convergence of approaches was noticeable in the area of data quality assurance

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Hint: to access any website mentioned, just click on it.

Visit
United Nations
Publications at
<http://unp.un.org>

Access the World
Customs Organi-
zation's (WCO)
website at:
<http://www.wcoomd.org/ie/index.html>

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and reporting of meta-data. IMF presented its Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) which includes concepts used in the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) project (see <http://www.sdmx.org/>), whereas OECD reported progress on its MetaStore project which proposes a common structure and vocabulary for storing and presenting meta-data. MetaStore also builds on SDMX concepts. UNSD, which participates in the SDMX project and cooperates closely with OECD regarding meta-data for IMTS, announced that it will conduct its review of the National Compiling and Reporting practices within the framework of DQAF.

On other issues, progress was reported by IMF on the development of the manual for imports and exports price indices, by OECD on its handbook on globalization indicators and by Eurostat on globalization studies regarding the structure of exporting industries and the differences among EU member states in making BOP adjustments to merchandise trade data. In its annual status report on UN Comtrade, UNSD devoted this year a larger section on new developments regarding the data transfer possibilities from the Comtrade server to international agencies using XML file structures and MS Web Services tools.

Progress reports on other issues

DATABASES AND PUBLICATIONS:

OECD FACTBOOK 2005, STATISTICAL YEARBOOK FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

OECD Factbook 2005: Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics

A key reference tool for everyone working on economic and policy issues, covering a wide range of areas such as: economy, agriculture, education, energy, environment, foreign aid, health and quality of life, industry, information and communications, population/labour force, trade and investment, taxation, public expenditure and R&D (for more details see http://www.oecd.org/document/62/0,2340,en_21571361_34374092_34420734_1_1_1_1,00.html).



Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2003

The Yearbook provides a comprehensive compilation of statistical tables relating to the ESCAP region.

It provides each country's data in a single section: population, manpower, national accounts, agriculture, forestry and fishing, industry, energy, transport and communications, etc. For

more information and paper copies please go to <http://unp.un.org/> (Sales No. 04.II.F.1).



COOPERATION WITH COUNTRIES AND AGENCIES

35TH SESSION OF THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM COMMITTEE

The Harmonized System (HS) Committee, 35th Session met 14-24 March 2005 in Brussels. Over 30 contracting parties and observer countries and several international organizations attended the session. There were several outcomes of particular interest: The HS Committee examined the draft of the Correlation Tables between the 2002 and 2007 versions of the HS and approved it with few

exceptions. The Correlation Tables will be published on the internet after their approval by the HS Committee. The Secretariat released the publication schedule for the unilingual (in September 2005) and bilingual version (in August 2006) of the 2007 HS Nomenclature. Also a new brochure concerning the "Amendments to the HS Nomen-

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The World Customs Organization (WCO) was established in 1952, as the Customs Co-operation Council

WCO is an independent inter-governmental body

WCO mission: enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations.

With 159 Member Governments, it is the only intergovernmental worldwide organization competent in Customs matters.

UNECLAC is headquartered in Santiago, Chile.

UNECLAC is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations.

It was founded for the purposes of contributing to the economic development of Latin America, coordinating actions directed towards this end, and reinforcing economic relationships among the countries and with the other nations of the world.

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clature - effective from 1 January 2007" will be published in the second half of 2005. Under the topic cooperation with other international organiza-

tions UNSD informed the Committee about the revision process and timetable of Revision 4 of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC).

COOPERATION WITH COUNTRIES AND AGENCIES WCO REGIONAL SEMINAR ON THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM IN VIETNAM

WCO Regional Seminar on the Harmonized Description and Coding System (HS) for the Far East, South and South-East Asia, Australasia and the Pacific Islands Region, 25-29 October 2004 in Hanoi, Vietnam. Customs representatives from 22 countries and areas and two observers from international organization (ASEAN and UNSD) participated at the seminar. The Seminar was sponsored by the World Customs Organization (WCO), hosted by Vietnam

Customs and mainly funded by the Customs Administration of Japan. The objectives of this seminar were to share HS related issues encountered by participant administrations, classification questions, the implementation of HS02 and HS07 and to increase the knowledge on HS classification of participants. UNSD gave a presentation on selected topics from the Compiler's Manual and the UN Comtrade database.

Did YOU KNOW ... ?

ELEGANT MARRIAGE OF ANALYSIS AND LATEST AVAILABLE DATA

The [Series de Comercio Internacional](http://www.eclac.cl/Comercio/serieCP/eclactrade/comercio.htm) (<http://www.eclac.cl/Comercio/serieCP/eclactrade/comercio.htm>) of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC) show graphs of international merchandise trade statistics on its website in Santiago de Chile. In itself these graphs are well-designed and contain useful information. What makes them different from most other graphs, however, is the fact that the data used in the application come directly from the UN Comtrade database in New York. It is an interactive and eye-catching interface feeding real time data from UN Comtrade via MS Web Services to the

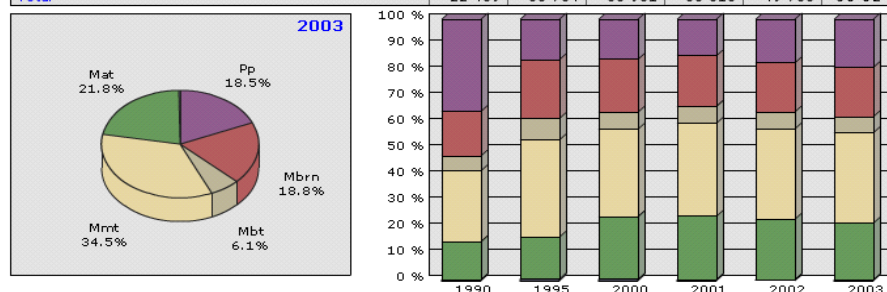
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SERIE 109

Brazil

Brazil : Importaciones de bienes por categoría de productos, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2001, 2002 y 2003
(Millones de dólares)

	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003
Productos Primarios	7 910	8 314	9 036	8 199	8 319	9 387
Manufacturas basadas en recursos naturales	3 827	12 105	11 943	11 330	9 324	9 565
Manufacturas de baja tecnología	1 287	4 397	3 836	3 728	3 225	3 108
Manufacturas de media tecnología	6 088	19 953	19 723	20 817	17 181	17 536
Manufacturas de alta tecnología	3 235	8 597	14 085	14 163	11 483	11 075
Otras Transacciones	112	368	310	273	203	154
Total	22 459	53 734	58 931	58 510	49 735	50 824



Fuente: CEPAL, División de Comercio Internacional e Integración (www.cepal.org/comercio), sobre la base de cifras oficiales obtenidas de UN Comtrade, United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database, DESA/UNSD.
Notas:

The promotion of the region's social development was later included among its primary objectives.

For merchandise trade data by commodity and partner country please visit UN Comtrade at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/comtrade/>

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application in Santiago. The result is the best from two worlds: Data presentation for local analytical purposes from UNECLAC and the latest available data from UN Comtrade. The great advantage for UNECLAC is that it does not need to store the basic trade data in its own database. UNECLAC and UNSD have been co-operating in the development of these analytical applications, but they can be built in-

dependently by the user organization. Changes in the application do not affect UN Comtrade and vice-versa. As a result, UN Comtrade becomes a virtual internet database permitting organizations to make their own applications for data analysis without worrying how to duplicate and synchronize data. Any newly added or revised data will immediately be available and visible in the local application.

YOU HAVE ASKED US

DO YOU HAVE TOTAL WORLD EXPORTS/IMPORTS OF SPECIFIC ITEMS?

Q: I would like to find out the total world exports/imports of a specific item?

A: UN Comtrade does not store - at this moment - the World as a Reporter (whereas there is World as a Partner), because not all countries or areas in the world report to us. Creating such an entity called World Reporter in-

volves adding estimated trade data at detailed commodity level to the database, which we were not ready to do so far. Yet, UN Comtrade allows users to create a Country Group (under My Favorites) that contains all available reporting countries and areas. Such group could serve as a proxy to get World exports or imports of a specific item.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WORKSHOPS ON INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE AND ON TRADE IN SERVICES

Joint UNSD/UNECLAC workshop on Statistics of International Trade in Services, September 2005. Participants from Central Banks and National Statistical Offices will be invited to this workshop in the ECLAC/CARICOM region to share their experiences in the compilation of international trade in services and in the implementation of the Manual on Statistics of international trade in services (MSITS). Countries will be asked to present case studies to specific compilation issues

and resource persons will be available to support the learning experience.

Joint UNSD/UNCTAD workshop on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS), August/September 2005. The workshop on the compilation of IMTS for francophone countries in Africa will be held at the ECOWAS conference centre in Abuja. Customs officers and statisticians of the National Statistical Offices will be brought together to solve local problems in producing trade data.

EDITORIAL NOTE

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