



National practice in IMTS and the plans for the implementation of IMTS 2010 in the Republic of Serbia

Introduction

We have a long tradition in implementing IMTS-Concepts and Definitions. Namely, we made efforts to implement many items from IMTS Rev. 2 published during 1998 with a view to follow activities in the world and to make External Trade Statistics the Republic of Serbia, in the most extent, comparable with the statistics from other countries.

Scope and time recording

As a general guideline, in line with UN recommendations, on IMTS External Trade Statistics record all goods which add to or subtract from the stock of material resources of the Republic of Serbia by entering or leaving of our economic territory. Using these guidelines, the scope of ETS of the Republic of Serbia cover exports and imports as follows:

1. Exports cover all goods originating from domestic production, i.e. from domestic trade, including also so-called nationalized goods, the goods imported and customs cleared and that are unchanged exported as the goods of our origin, as well as the goods that are re-exported from customs warehouses and free zones.
2. Imports cover all goods imported, which is released into free circulation for reproduction, investments or

consumption regardless of whether they are commercial or non commercial nature. Also, imports comprise the customs procedures that end with customs warehousing and entering the free zone.

Change of ownership.

Change of ownership of the goods entering or leaving economic territory of the Republic of Serbia we defined in accordance with BPM6 and 2008 SNA at the moment when change of economic ownership is occurred.

Time of recording.

We adopted general guideline and we record data at the time when the goods enter or leave economic territory of the Republic of Serbia. Since, that sole source for data compiling are customs declarations we use the date of lodgement of the customs declaration as the time that the best approximated the moment when the change of economic ownership was occurred.

Specific guidelines.

We adopted recommendations as to which goods should be included in ETS, which the goods should not be included in ETS and goods should be excluded but separately recorded for Balance of Payment and National Accounts needs or requirements.

Trade system.

Since 2010 year ETS of the Republic of Serbia collects, processes and publishes data on the bases of general trade system. Also, we reconstructed data for 2007, 2008 and

2009 year. For the year preceding the year 2007 we used special trade system-relaxed definition.

Commodity Classifications.

We adopted Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System from 1988 with all regular updates till now. At present, we use last version of HS from 2007 for the collection, compilation and dissemination ETS. Also, we adopted SITC Revision 4 for the dissemination and the analysis of external trade statistics according to user requirements. In addition to these classifications we use classifications as follows:

Classification by Broad Economic Categories with all updated version;
International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities with all updated revisions.

Valuation.

Statistical value of goods in External Trade Statistics has been shown on the basis of prices fixed by organizations and enterprises by contractual stipulation. All values have been computed on the basis of parity free on the border of the Republic of Serbia, i.e. F.O.B. prices regarding exports and C.I.F. prices regarding imports, (invoice value of goods increased by transportation costs, insurance, etc. to the border of the Republic of Serbia). Value data have been computed on the basis of exchange rates being applied for establishing customs base. Costs of shipping, insurance and reloading, etc. paid in foreign currency have been calculated at current exchange rates being applied for establishing

customs base. It should be noted that by our customs regulation we compile data separately for freight and insurance, at the detailed commodity and partner level.

This enables us to collect and to process FOB-type values of imports for BPM and SNA needs or requirements.

Quantity of measurement.

Quantity of goods is collected in our External Trade Statistics in net mass and gross mass unit of measurement - kilograms. In addition, products for which the presenting has been predicted in other units of measurement, also, are collected in these units of measurement.

As a rule, net weight is shown for all goods. In cases of gross weight being charged instead of net weight, gross weight is recorded. Therefore, we respect all WCO standard units of quantity. Also, we use conversation factors to convert specific unit of measurement in net mass or vice versa in the cases where boxes 33 or 38 empty or incorrectly filled in.

Partner country.

In collecting and publishing external trade statistics of the Republic of Serbia, the basic principle applied in imports is the principle of country of origin. However, for some other analytical purposes, the principles of country of consignment and country of sale are supplementary used. For exports, the principle of country of last known destination is basically applied, and the principle of country of purchase is supplementary applied for some analytical purposes. Of course, when country of origin is in the question we follow the relevant provisions of the Revised Kyoto convention for determining country of origin.

Mode of transport.

For exports the mode of transport is defined as the active means of transport with which goods are anticipated to leave the statistical territory of the country. For imports 'mode of transport' is defined as the means of transport with which the goods are presumed to have entered the statistical territory of the country. We compile and disseminate data by mode of transport at the most detailed commodity level for some specific users.

Data compilation strategies.

The sole source for data compilation is customs-based data collection. We have written agreement with customs authorities by which we established expert's group which discusses every month issues of both interest. In the aim to improve data collection system we intend to use non-customs sources of data to ensure full coverage of ETS especially in the case of specific movements of goods.

Data quality and metadata.

The present methodological guidelines of SORS do not include all details of the method that we use in collecting, processing and analysis. Several mayor data source are at disposal, such as: website, printed publications and our main database *DB2* on mainframe.

Our website is the source of basic information, however also offers information on publications dealing with separate areas and on the way to trace them. Thereby supplementary

services are obtainable for users. Other useful information, such as the nomenclatures and updated catalogues of major publications are also found at the website of our Office.

Likewise, all required information is provided in the Office's library, PR division and from the professional service of external trade statistics team.

Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia has devoted great attention to data quality in general and particularly ETS team has developed a variety of methods to improve quality of data. Also, we intend to continue systematic approach to data quality using EU standards or standards other international.

Dissemination.

On our website we announced in advance the precise dates at which the statistics will be released all publications and also, when data bases with aggregated and detailed data will be loading with new data. In that way our users know in advance when to expect information of interest to them.

We applied active confidentiality rules and under these rules if one of levels we determine that it is sensitive or confidential we publish it in one of the following levels at which it can not recognize or detect.

In current practice, we had not requests from companies or operators to apply the rules of confidentiality and because of that we didn't apply passive confidentiality rules so far.

As for the revised data, it is in our work every month so that the final data we have under mid-year for the previous year.

It should be noted that we treat all users equally and all strive to be satisfied.

SORS is the only body authorized to disseminate external trade statistics. Therefore and in order to improve the quality and availability of external trade statistics we introduced various dissemination modes. Monthly these data appear in

the form of traditional publications, such as communications, monthly reviews, etc. and annually within the Statistical yearbook of Serbia and in the Statistical yearbook of external trade, which are designed for wide public. For governmental bodies we introduced the on-line access to *DB-2* database, which comprise all available data on external trade of the Republic of Serbia. However, only certain ministries and agencies of the Serbian Government, as well as the National Bank of Serbia, which are all considered as the users of special importance, have this opportunity. Highly aggregated data, as well as the products on the SITC level, can be accessed by Internet and are at disposal on our website or database on which contains the final data on external trade of the Republic of Serbia for the previous year and separated by months. The data are classified by all levels of SITC, Rev. 4 and by partner countries. Along with data, CD-ROM offers all necessary methodological guidelines for proper usage.

Supplementary topics.

We have long tradition in calculating unit value indices based on custom document. The main objective of making these calculations is to enable users to look at changes in the volume of real exports and imports. These data we publish on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis. We calculate unit value indices and publish these data by commodity groups, by classification of activities, by economic end-use of products and by degree of manufacture. Unit value Indices we obtain by calculating the quantities of exported / imported goods in the current year at the prices from previous year. In addition to the index of unit value we calculate also the index of physical volume and terms of trade.

Regularly on a monthly basis we calculate also seasonally adjusted indices using X11 method, by means of X11-ARIMA program package developed by Statistics of Canada. For many analytical purposes we provides data of trade by enterprise characteristics with the aim of establishing broader data set by comparing economy information on enterprises with the most significant external trade indicators since these broader data set is to enable more detailed and profound analysis of external trade structure. For creating mentioned data set we use data from customs declarations and data from Statistical Business Register.

The plan for implementation IMTS2010.

Some of recommendations from IMTS2010 we've already adopted and implemented.

In accordance with the Development Strategy of the Official Statistics 2011-2015 we envisaged to implement some remained new recommendations gradually depending on changes in the overall infrastructure that is necessary to build in order to some recommendations could be applied in our statistical system.

- 1) First of all, we intend to use non-customs records as a supplementary source in the case of specific movements of goods i.e. electric energy and gas, during next year. What we do that? Because of, if we used only the customs source we would get data with a delay of several months.
- 2) We planned to introduce the indicators by enterprise characteristics and CPA classification in the end of this year or by January next year.
- 3) As mentioned before we use FOB-type valuation for exports and CIF-type valuation for imports. However, next year we are going to start new

project under we'll compile FOB-type value of imported goods as supplementary information on monthly basis which is an important indicator of national accounts statistics and balance of payments.

- 4) We began to consider possibilities for building infrastructure to compile data which is result transactions ordered and paid for via Internet, i.e. goods in electronic commerce. This means that we will try to find methods for compiling data or develop appropriate assessment methods or procedures over time.

Other recommendations will be included in the new Development Strategy of the Official Statistics 2015-2019.

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