

# International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Compilers Manual

*An Overview*

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Introduction

Part I A compilers manual

Part II Concepts and definitions

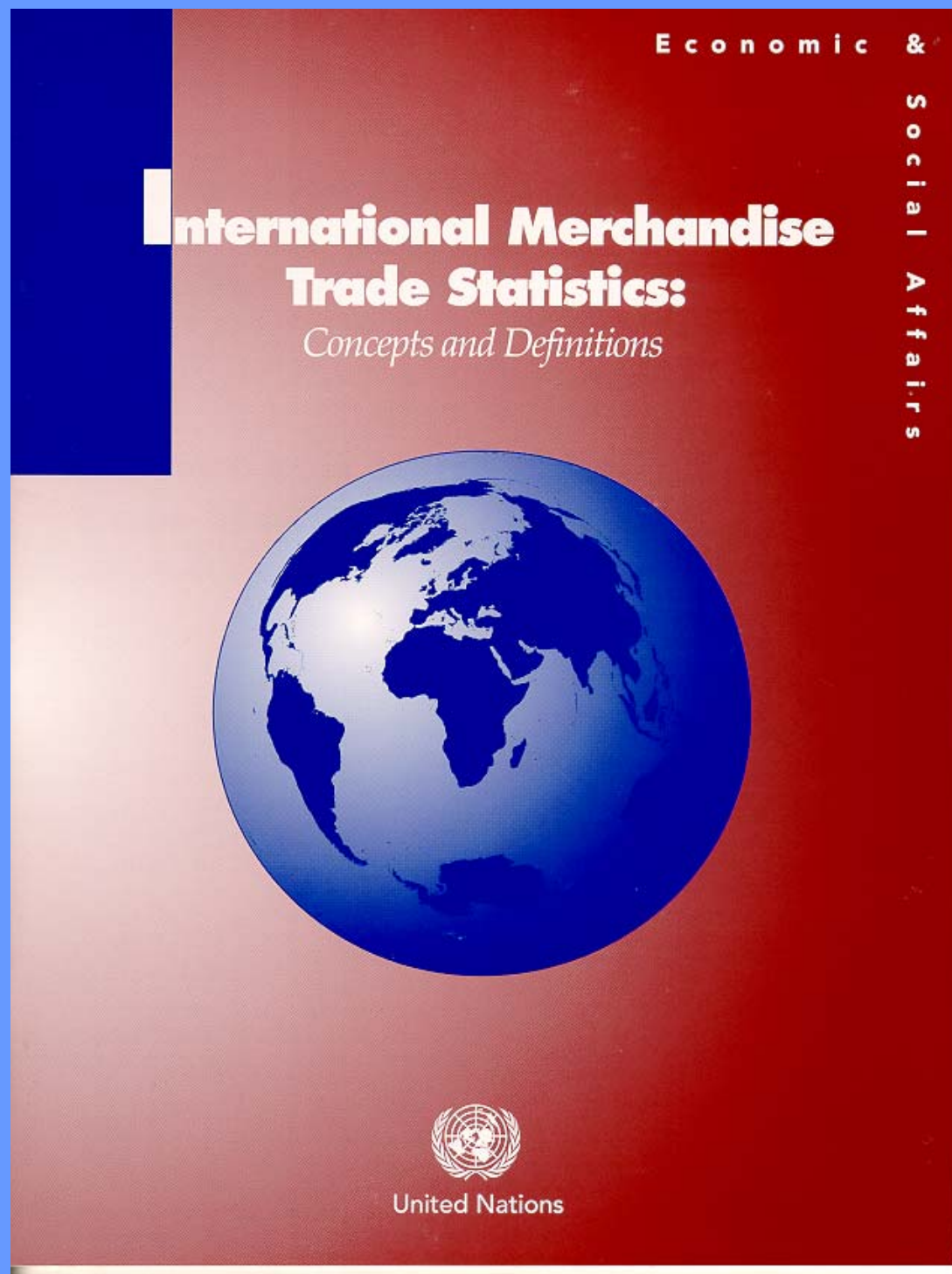
Annexes

Original 1970

First revision 1992

Last (second) revision 1998:

- general update
- accordance with SNA 1993
- accordance with BPM5



# Usage of IMTS

## TYPES OF USAGE

General economic policy

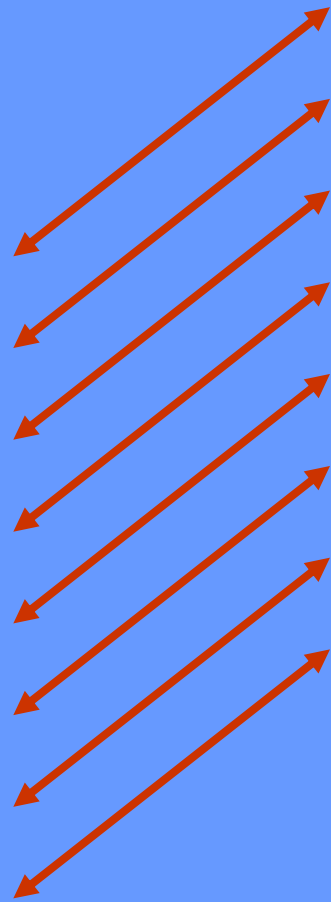
Trade policy

Market analysis

Supply balances

Infrastructure planning

Input for other statistics:  
transport statistics  
SNA and BOP  
price-indices



## USER CATEGORIES

Government

Parliament

Research Institutes

Education Institutes

Public Media

Private sector Businesses

General Public

International Institutions

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Ch 14 International merchandise trade statistics, national accounts, and balance of payments statistics

# ANNEXES

- A. Examples of customs documents.
- B. Adjustments to invoice price to obtain a CIF- or FOB-type value of goods depending on the terms of delivery of exported goods
- C. Conversion factors
- D. Country experiences
- E. Main differences in coverage of flows of goods: international merchandise trade statistics and balance of payments statistics



# Conceptual framework

- **IMTS, Rev.2**
- **The 1993 SNA, BPM5 and Manual on International Trade in Services**
- **The WCO conventions: Kyoto Convention on customs procedures, the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System convention**
- **The WTO agreements: Agreement on Implementation of Article VII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, Agreement on Rules of Origin**

# Problems and Solutions

- Identify deviations from recommendations
- Identify omissions from compilers manual
- Identify difficulties in your work that need solutions



# Institutional framework

- Roles of national statistical offices, customs, and other national agencies
  - Legal framework for data compilation
  - Institutional arrangements
  - Cooperation among agencies
- Institutional arrangements in the case of customs unions

# Institutional arrangements

- national statistical offices, customs, central banks, ministries of commerce/economy, trade development boards, commodity boards, etc.
- to ensure accurate and timely production and distribution of trade statistics
- these activities include collection of basic records, data editing, database maintenance and dissemination.

# Customs Role

- Customs Declarations

What is required (imports and exports)

- Customs Procedures

How many different procedures?

- **ASYCUDA**

# Non-customs sources of data

- Reports of commodity boards
- Administrative records associated with taxation
- Enterprise surveys
  
- Foreign shipping manifests
- Currency exchange records and records of monetary authorities
- Parcel post and letter post records
- Aircraft and ship registers

# Time of recording

- Crossing the border
- Use of date of lodgement of the customs declaration

Lodgement,

Registration in Warehouse,

Clearance of Goods

# Goods to be included in trade statistics

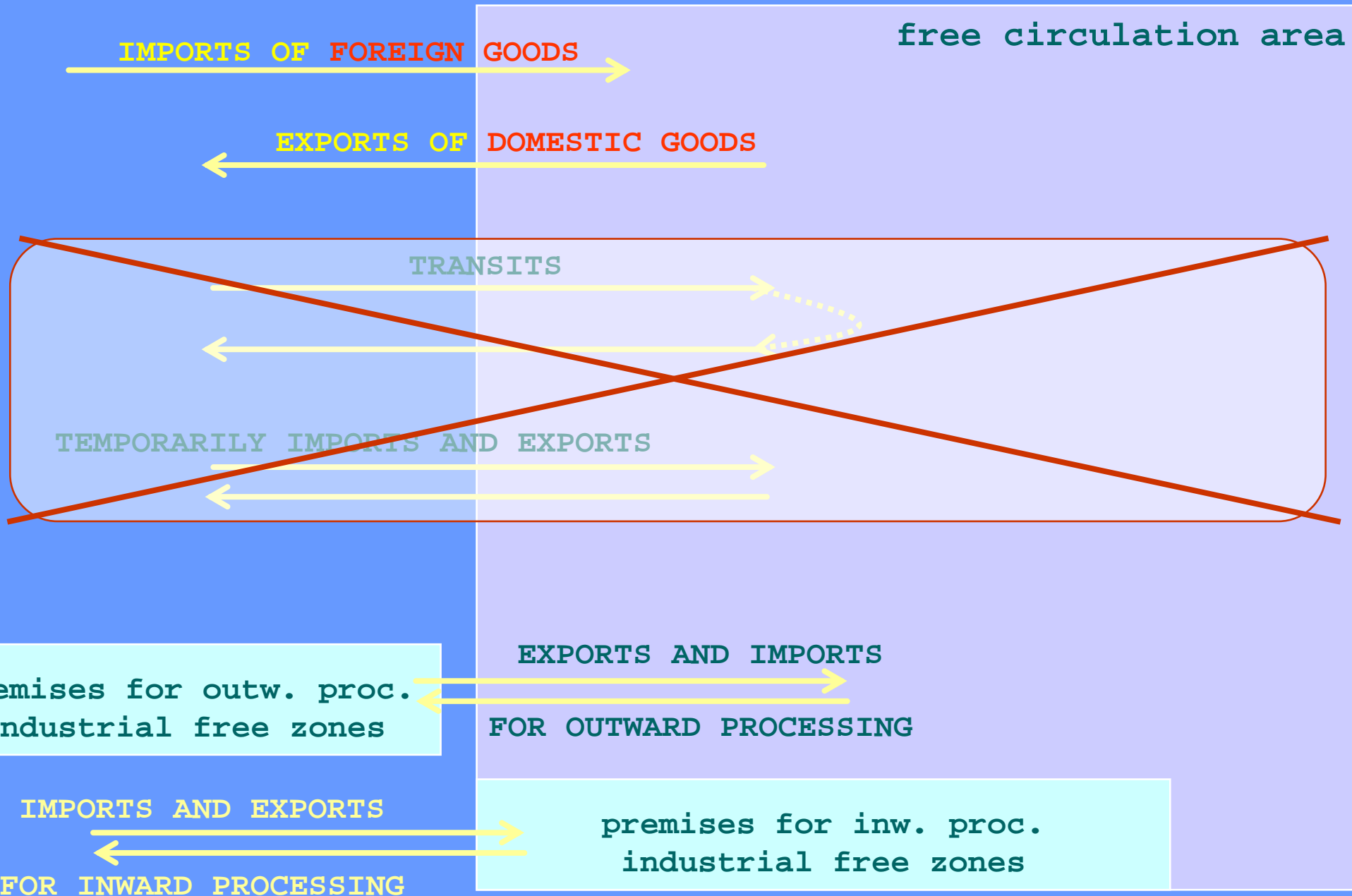
- Food and other humanitarian aid
- Goods for processing
- Goods which cross borders as a result of transactions between parent corporations and their direct investment enterprises



## Goods for temporary storage to be excluded

- Goods which enter a country for temporary storage and leave the country shortly afterwards, or re-enter a country after they were temporarily dispatched from that country are not to be treated as re-exports or re-imports and should be excluded from trade statistics.

# Basic Trade Flows



# Treatment of compensating products

- In the case of inward processing

if origin does not change



these products remain foreign goods and should be recorded as re-exports.

- In the case of outward processing

if origin does not change



the compensating products remain domestic goods and should be recorded as re-imports.

# Trade Systems

- General Trade

statistical territory =  
economic territory

- Special Trade

- strict definition

statistical territory =  
free circulation area

- relaxed definition

statistical territory =  
free circulation area  
+ inward processing area  
+ industrial free zones

# The Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System

- Maintenance of the HS
- The structure of the HS
- The HS 2002 and beyond

# Analytical classifications

The Standard International Trade Classification (SITC, Rev. 3)

Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC)

Central Product Classification (CPC)

International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC, Rev. 3).

# Statistical value and its components

- Statistical value and customs value
- Transaction value and the invoice price of goods
- The value of services

# The WCO standard units of quantity

- The WCO recommended a single standard unit of quantity for each HS 6-digit heading
- If the WCO unit of quantity is other than net weight, the net weight should be collected (where applicable).



# Partner country attribution

- Country of origin for import statistics
- Country of last known destination for export statistics
- Country of consignment, in addition

# Country of Origin

- 'Rules of origin as established by each country'
- Relevant for customs duties (i.a. GSP)
- Principles:
  1. 'wholly obtained' in case only one country involved
  2. 'substantial transformation' in other cases
  3. provide documentary evidence of origin
  4. direct consignment (required by several countries)
  5. cumulative origin (allowed by several countries under certain conditions)
- Momentary under review (harmonization) by 'Committee on Rules of Origin' (WTO) and 'Technical Committee on Rules of Origin' (WCO)

- **process criterion**  
(example: change in 4 digit heading of HS)
- **percentage criterion**  
(example: contribution not less than 35% of appraised value)

# Reporting and Dissemination

- Recommendations 'Concepts & Definitions':
  - monthly base
  - confidential data to be aggregated at next level
  - reconciliation studies
  - index numbers
  - seasonally adjusted data
  - relation with SNA93 and BPM5

# Registration error

Problem areas

Errors, and missing or incomplete information

Quality control by customs

Implementation of a system for automated submission of required documentation (automatic detection of errors)

Increased customs enforcement of filing requirements

Outreach and education

# Data reconciliation and exchanges

- a. Setting the objectives for the project and reaching agreement on basic procedures;
- b. Establishing a common conceptual framework for reconciliation purposes;
- c. Conversion of the official published data to the common framework;
- d. Examination of the differences in the data;
- e. Making necessary data adjustments to achieve mutually agreed sets of trade figures; and,
- f. Formulation of conclusions.

*An individual study could be limited to (a), (b) and (c) above*

# Reasons for differences in data

- Coverage
- Trade System
- Time of recording
- Commodity classification
- Valuation (CIF/ FOB)
- Partner country attribution

Thank you  
for your attention