



UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION

**Workshop on compilation of international merchandise trade statistics,
Abuja, Nigeria, 30 août - 2 septembre 2005**

Country Presentation

Statistics – Sierra Leone

Statistics Sierra Leone



***PRESENTATION: Compilation process of Sierra Leone's
Merchandised Trade Statistics***

By

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1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Statistics Act of 2002 gives Statistics Sierra Leone (**SSL**) the statutory mandate to effectively plan and coordinate statistical activities in Sierra Leone with the aim of collecting, processing, analyzing and disseminating accurate, clear, relevant, timely and high quality statistical information on social, demographic, economic and financial activities to serve the need of users, including government and the general public.

Statistics Sierra Leone (**SSL**) as the main body responsible for statistical activities in Sierra Leone is quite aware of the importance of foreign trade statistics and as an institution, frantic efforts are always made with the aim of producing accurate and reliable trade statistics.

1.2 SIERRA LEONE'S TRADE SYSTEM

Sierra Leone's trade system is discussed under the following headings: Statistical territory, coverage, source(s) of data, data collection approach (es), processing and dissemination.

1.2.1 STATISTICAL TERRITORY

The country's economic territory largely coincides with its customs territory where record of goods that enter or leave country are taken which serves as the main source of foreign trade data.

1.2.2 TRADE TYPE

There are two main types of trade system, Special and General trade.

1.2.2.1 SPECIAL TRADE

1.2.2.2 GENERAL TRADE

1.2.2.1SPECIAL TRADE SYSTEM

This type of trade system is in use when the statistical territory comprises only the free circulation area-the part within which “goods may be disposed of without customs restriction”. With this type of trade system, imports include all goods entering the free circulation areas of a compiling country, which means cleared through customs for home use, and exports include all goods leaving the free circulation area of a compiling country. It then means that certain movements of goods into and out of customs-controlled areas (such as bonded warehouse is excluded.

1.2.2.2GENERAL TRADE SYSTEM

This type of trade system is in use when the statistical territory of a country coincides with its economic territory. With this type of trade system, imports include all goods entering the economic territory of the compiling country and exports include all goods leaving the economic territory of the compiling country. In short, trade statistics compiled under general trade cover all goods “that add to or subtract from the stock of the material resources of a country by entering its economic territory. Sierra Leone compiles general trade statistic, which is consistent with the system of National Accounts (SNA).

1.2.3 COVERAGE

As mentioned, Sierra Leone compiles foreign trade statistics that cover all goods “that add to or subtract from the stock of the material resources of the country either by entering (imports) or leaving (exports) its customs territory”.

1.2.4 SOURCE (S) OF DATA

The main source of foreign trade statistics is declarations lodged at customs, which are based on data provided by importers and exporters.

Other sources include:

- The Bulk unit of the National Revenue Authority at customs, where import figures on rice are obtained
- Oil companies, where import statistics on petroleum (fuel) is obtained and
- Gold and Diamond Department (GDD) where exports statistics on diamond are obtained

1.2.5 DATA COLLECTION APPROACH (ES)

Before now, Statistics Sierra Leone on weekly basis used to send its staff to the Customs and Excise Department of the National Revenue Authority (NRA) to collect declarations/batches. At customs, staff sign for the batches they receive after checking the pages to ensure all Bills of entry are in the batch serially with invoices. In the situation where batches are incomplete or without invoices, customs officers in charge are approached on the matter to ensure that incomplete batches are completed with attached invoices. During such times, the following problems were encountered:

- (i) Missing declarations for some transactions
- (ii) Declarations delivered without invoices
- (iii) Faded declarations because of manual processing
- (iv) Delay in receiving and processing declarations

Sometime in January 2005, a meeting of stakeholders-Bank of Sierra Leone (BSL), National Revenue Authority (NRA) and Statistics Sierra Leone (SSL) was held to discuss issues that relate to the compilation of accurate and reliable trade statistics and the preparation of SSL to fully take over the compilation process of trade statistics from Bank of Sierra Leone. Several issues were discussed and decision taken to move the processing of trade statistics from Statistics Sierra Leone to Customs. This was done and for the past six months, data capture has been going on at customs. In which case, the problems outlined above have been overcome to a greater extent. However, due to the low level of cooperation from customs officials, the entire process has not been fully relinquished to customs as part of the decision. Nevertheless, the contracting stakeholders to the decision agreed to put modalities in place to meet with other agencies on quarterly bases with the aim of discussing difficulties encountered in the compilation of foreign trade statistic

1.2.6 COMMODITY CLASSIFICATION

The commodity structure of external trade flows of goods is analysed using various internationally adopted commodity classifications, which have different

levels of detail classification criteria. The guidelines recommend the use of three classification systems:

1.2.6.1 THE HARMONIZED COMMODITY DESCRIPTION AND

CODING SYSTEM (HS, OR HARMONIZED SYSTEM)

This system classification is based on the nature of commodity. As a general rule, goods are arranged in order of their degree of manufacture: raw materials, unworked products, semi-finished products and finished products. For example, live animals fall under **chapter 1**, 0101-live horses, asses, mules and hinnies; Skins under **chapter 41**, 4101.50.00-whole hides and skins of a weight exceeding 16kg(International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions Series M, No52, Re.2 See page 39, para 98,99)

1.2.6.2 THE STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION,

REVISION 3(SITC, REV3)

This system classifies goods/commodities according to their stage of production, market practices and the uses of the product. The system contains 3, 118 basic headings and subheadings, which are assembled in: 261 groups, 67 divisions and 10 sections. The sections are:

- 0 Food and live animals
- 1 Beverages and tobacco
- 2 Crude materials, inedible, except fuels
- 3 Mineral fuels, Lubricants and related materials
- 4 Animal and vegetable oils, fats and
- 5 Chemicals and related products, not elsewhere specified
- 6 Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material
- 7 Manufactured and Transport equipment
- 8 Miscellaneous manufactured articles
- 9 Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere in SITC

Note: The above sections are the headings for classification of imports according to broad economic categories

1.2.6.3 BROAD ECONOMIC CATEGORIES IS DEFINED IN TERMS OF SITC, REV 3(BEC)

Classifies goods/commodities according to “end-use” classes that are meaningful within the framework of SNA, namely capital goods, final consumption and intermediate consumption. BEC has 19 basic categories that can be aggregated to approximate the basic classes of goods, thus permitting trade statistics to be considered jointly with other sets general economic statistics-such as national accounts and industrial statistics-for national, regional or global economic analysis.

Note: It is recognized that countries might wish to adapt the classification (BEC) for national purposes in different ways to meet national requirement .So the classification is not regarded as a “standard” classification as SITC.

1.2.6.4 INTERNATIONAL STANDARD INDUSTRIAL

CLASSIFICATION, REVISION 3 (ISIC, REV.3)

Classifies according to the principal industrial origin of products. The primary aim for this classification is to classify productive economic activities

1.2.6.5 THE CENTRAL PRODUCT CLASSIFICATION (CPC)

The **CPC** combines the main classification principle of “1.2.5.4” with criteria applied in “1.2.5.1”.

1.2.6.6 SIERRA LEONE’S POSITION ON COMMODITY

CLASSIFICATION PROCEDURE

Statistics Sierra Leone compiles foreign trade statistics by countries and commodities in terms of the Harmonized System (HS- up to 8 digits, 2002), SITC, Rev.3 and BEC.

1.2.7 DATA PROCESSING

Statistics Sierra Leone compiles foreign trade statistics through microcomputers using the Euro trace (DOS Version) software. Currently, 2 coders (verifiers also), 1 data entering operator, 1 Statistician and an Assistant are involved at SSL in the production of foreign trade statistics. Two Work Stations and a master Unit are set up for data processing. For ease of work, the production process is divided into the following stages:

- **Data collection**
- **Coding**
- **Verification**
- **Data capture and Transfer**
- **Listing**
- **Production and Dissemination of Statistics**

1.2.8 PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION OF STATISTICS

Statistics Sierra Leone is aware of user needs for trade statistics, which include providing clear information on the sources and methods used to collecting and compiling timely, regular and reliable trade data. As an office, we do publicly disseminate data when and where requests come in through the Statistician General. In addition, progress has been made in trying to provide regular quarterly reporting of trade data (in consultation with other stakeholders) beginning this year and data are revised whenever additional information is available.

1.2.9 CURRENT STATUS

Of recent, the Master Unit and a work station broke down. We installed the Master Unit afresh, but unable to import the folder containing the trade data into the system. This has brought the compilation and processing of trade data to a standstill.

TRADE STATISTICS IN PRESENTATION

TABLE 1: VALUE OF IMPORTS IN MILLION LEONES F OR THE PERIOD 200-2004

PERIOD	FOOD	BEVERAGES & TOBACCO	CRUDE MATERIALS	MINERAL FUELS AND LUBRICANTS	ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE OILS	CHEMICALS	MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED BY MATERIALS	MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT
2000	95,823.1	10,052.0	9,851.0	84,135.1	4,762.7	26,943.4	27,832.9	38,727.7
2001	104,757.2	9,616.3	11,562.8	86,875.9	3,219.3	17,831.4	43,910.4	75,584.3
2002	148,303.1	23,778.4	19,371.1	108,648.7	5,926.3	38,506.1	75,548.7	105,340.0
2003	174,361.3	25,795.4	16,054.8	182,304.2	5,065.5	45,160.5	96,713.3	132,087.0
2004	154,057.6	30,143.7	20,532.7	255,943.3	5,267.7	47,476.1	86,376.2	138,267.0
TOTAL	677,302.3	99,385.8	77,372.4	717,907.2	24,241.5	175,917.5	330,381.5	490,007.0

SOURCE: Customs and Excise Department and Individual Oil Importing Companies

TABLE 2: VALUE OF MAJOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN MILLION LEONES F OR THE PERIOD 200-2004

PERIOD	DIAMONDS	BAUXITE	RUTILE	GOLD	ILLMENITE	COFFEE	COCOA	PIASSAVA	FI	SH
2000	20,600.6	-	-	-	-	1,464.2	679.7	40.0		
2001	50,113.20	-	-	2.0	-	48.2	573.3	14.4		
2002	87,390.20	-	-	-	-	557.3	2,577.0	54.8		
2003	180,007.1	-	-	-	-	96.8	5,852.0	6.5		
2004	341,352.0	-	-	-	-	145,829.2	14,451.0	5,596.7		
TOTAL	679,463.1			2.0		147,995.7	24,132.97	5712.4		61

SOURCE: Customs and Excise Department and Individual Oil Importing Companies

TABLE 3: VALUE OF IMPORTS IN MILLION LEONES BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

DESCRIPTION	CODE	YEARS		
		2000	2001	2002
Imports from ECOWAS Countries: Total	CD 01	177,018,450	153,086,636	136,453,395
Of which:				
Benin	CD 02	---	---	4,800
Burkina Faso	CD 03	---	---	---
Cape Verde	CD 04	---	3,862	---
Co [^] te d'Ivoire	CD 05	**95,201,749	118,666,151	113,307,027
The Gambia	CD 06	**1,699,646	1,762,476	734,549
Ghana	CD 07	**1,583,252	1,891,690	1,096,444
Guinea	CD 08	**1,864,871	1,768,200	2,132,234
Guinea-Bissau	CD 09	---	---	---
Liberia	CD 10	**201,456	1,942,757	253,948
Mali	CD 11	**64,110	47,265	---
Niger	CD 13		225	134,563
Nigeria	CD 14	**2,258,636	2,001,273	9,936,191
Senegal	CD 15	**14,131,035	25,002,737	8,795,424
Sierra Leone	CD 16			
Togo	CD 17	13,695	---	58,215
Total from Mauritania	CD 12	---	---	---
Total from Central Africa	CD 18	12	15,715	24,252
Total from Eastern Africa	CD 19	340	15,967	127,981
Total from Southern Africa	CD 20	**1,637,082	5,024,669	4,610,492

TABLE 3: VALUE OF IMPORTS IN MILLION LEONES BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (cont'd)

DESCRIPTION	CODE	YEARS		
		2000	2001	2002
Total from Northern Africa	CD 21	**1,653,585	5,013,270	6,058,980
Total from Europe	CD 22	**104,786,942	116,423,498	128,629,087
Of which: Total from EU Countries	CD 23	**104,207,618	106,663,535	123,212,279
Total from the United States of America	CD 24	**40,145,710	30,049,180	12,860,421
Total from Latin America	CD 25	**4,537,732	5,316,532	3,698,316
Total from Canada	CD 26	**3,549,773	3,447,503	2,602,181
Total from Japan	CD 27	**9,282,961	8,191,089	10,344,115
Total from China	CD 28	**36,507,907	21,209,981	17,966,565
Total form other Asian Countries	CD 29	70,544,967	64,034,987	56,395,307
Total from the Gulf	CD 30	1,274,079	3,311,769	8,030,290
Of which:				
Israel	CD 31	4,460	---	13,648
Saudi Arabia	CD 32	**451,977	2,257,666	3,885,655
Iran	CD 33	**252,620	152,933	214,696
Iraq	CD 34	**85	---	49,192
Turkey	CD 35	**359,987	824,613	3,454,212
Jordan	CD 36	**31	76,557	379,222
Kuwait	CD 37	**204,919	---	33,665

COMMENTS: ** Revised,

Figures for 2004 are for the first six months

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TABLE 4: VALUE OF EXPORTS IN MILLION LEONES BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION

DESCRIPTION	CODE	YEARS			
		2000	2001	2002	2003
Export to ECOWAS Countries: Total	CD 01	3,319,792	5,350,189	1,132,194	---
Of which:					
Benin	CE 02	302	---	---	---
Burkina Faso	CE 03	---	---	---	---
Cape Verde	CE 04	---	---	---	---
Co^te d'Ivoire	CE 05	---	2,174,118	---	---
The Gambia	CE 06	380	286,076	16	---
Ghana	CE 07	11,200	671,909	---	---
Guinea	CE 08	2,879,642	896,719	1,130,428	---
Guinea-Bissau	CE 09	84,056	---	---	---
Liberia	CE 10	233,573	28,569	---	---
Mali	CE 11	---	34,437	---	---
Niger	CD 13	34,500	6,303	---	---

Nigeria	CD 14	62,923	13,850	1,750	---
Senegal	CD 15	13,216	1,238,208	---	---
Sierra Leone	CD 16				---
Togo	CD 17	---	---	---	---
Total to Mauritania	CD 12	---	---	---	---
Total to Central Africa	CE 18	---	---	---	---
Total to Eastern Africa	CE 19	---	4,594	---	---
Total to Southern Africa	CE 20	---	189,475	---	---
Total to Northern Africa	CE 21	---	126,061	---	---
TABLE 4: VALUE OF EXPORTS IN MILLION LEONES BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION(cont'd)					
Total to Europe	CE 22	**2,334,699	901,489	27,000	1,307,390
Of which: Total from EU Countries	CE 23	2,188,995	770,331	27,000	1,285,897
Total to the United States of America	CE 24	**472,120	37,484	---	---
Total to Latin America	CE 25	**3,725	---	---	---
Total to Canada	CE 26	---	---	---	---
Total to Japan	CE 27	---	56,853	---	24,178
Total to China	CE 28	---	---	---	--
Total to other Asian Countries	CE 29	55,999	158,524	---	666,488
Total to the Gulf	CE 30	**16,524,768	323,745	---	---
Of which:					
Israel	CE 31	---	---	---	---
Saudi Arabia	CE 32	---	122,936	---	---
Iran	CE 33	---	---	---	---
Iraq	CE 34	---	---	---	---
Turkey	CE 35	---	200,809	---	---
Jordan	CE 36	**16,524,768	---	---	---
Kuwait	CE 37	---	---	---	---

COMMENTS: ** Revised, Figures for 2004 are for the first six months

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