1.1.1. Shortcut Query

1.1.1.1. Outline and Examples

Selecting Shortcut Query displays the following filter interface – already populated in the example below:

```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Show</th>
<th>Export of cars in the year 2004</th>
<th>from Japan to World in any classification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
```

Clicking Search displays the following summarized results:

![Image of search results]

Figure 1: Shortcut Query selection interface – here: cars exported from Japan in 2004

Commodity code in the classification
Figure 2: search results for the selected data

Note: the date contained in some commodity classification codes isn’t related to the selected statistics year(s). It is the date the classification was defined or revised. UNSD and OECD mostly receive data according to the last HS version. Data is then converted into older HS and SITC versions as well as into BEC.

In the example above, HS2002 is used. HS stands for ‘Harmonized System’. 2002 means that this classification has been in use since 2002. Another classification is SITC rev. 3 (Standard International Trade Classification revision 3). All the classifications are based on commodity features (kind, production stage, primary material of not, durable or not, etc). The default classification in Comtrade is HS2002. See the Comtrade Glossary entry later in this document.

If a commodity isn’t found in a classification, Shortcut Query searches other classifications for it.

In fig. 13, we notice that commodity codes are in fact links; what we get when clicking them is illustrated below:

Figure 3: direct selection of an item by clicking its code (here, 871130)

The following form is displayed:

![Commodity List](#)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>Name: ALL COMMODITIES Description: ALL COMMODITIES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87</td>
<td>Name: Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock Description: Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock, and parts and accessories thereof</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8711</td>
<td>Name: Motorcycles (including mopeds) and cycles fitted with an auxiliary motor Description: Motorcycles (including mopeds) and cycles fitted with an auxiliary motor, with or without side-cars: side-cars.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>871130</td>
<td>Name: Motorcycles (incl. mopeds) &amp; cycles fitted with an auxiliary motor, with/vi ... Description: Motorcycles (incl. mopeds) &amp; cycles fitted with an auxiliary motor, with/without side-cars, with recip. int. comb. piston engine of a cyl. cap. &gt;250cc but not &gt;500cc</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 4: description of the selected commodity and its ancestors

This tree-structured report describes all the commodity classes from the root (ALL COMMODITIES) to the selected item. Again, the item codes can be selected to get more specific information.

The Snapshot link leads to the already met Comtrade Explorer –Snapshot. Refer to fig. 5 for an example of such a snapshot, and to the Comtrade Explorer section for a thorough description of the processor.

(Continued on the next page)
Clicking a Data Availability link displays the commodity statistics availability by country and by year:

### Search Results: General Data Availability

*Total Available Commodities: 1 for commodity codes: 871130 (HS2002)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Data Availability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>871130</td>
<td>Motorcycles (incl. mopeds) &amp; cycles fitted with an auxiliary motor, with/without a sidecar</td>
<td>2002 - 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>116 countries with 6159 records reported</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Search Results: Detail Data Availability

*Total Reported Reporters: 117 for commodity codes: 871130 (HS2002)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Reporter</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>2002, 2003, ALL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>660</td>
<td>Anguilla</td>
<td>2002, 2003, ALL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>Armenia</td>
<td>2004, ALL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>2004, ALL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 5: data availability by year for the selected commodity

Clicking one year in the list leads back to another query processor and shows the trade values:

### Basic Query Results

*Statistics: 5 rows returned in 0.25 seconds.*

Your access has been restricted to Normal View. Please contact us, if you need further information.

#### Quick filter

Selected classification: HS2002
Selected commodities: 871130 (Motorcycles (incl. mopeds) & cycles fitted with an auxiliary motor, with/without a sidecar)
Selected reporters: Albania
Selected years: 2003
Selected partners: All
Selected trade flows: All

Sort Order: --None--  

[Modify Selection] [View graph] [Printable Format] [View Explanation] [Notes] [SDMX Download]

Figure 6: data availability - trade details for year 2003
The actions represented by the links above are discussed in this section. Notice the Query processor name: Basic Query. This specific processor is fully described in its own section in this document.

Back to Fig. 13, we see that the imprecise commodity definition results in a wide range of retrieved items. We can select some of these items by ticking their checkboxes:

| Motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport ... (HS2002 - 8703) | 2004 |
| Vehcles (excl. of 87.02) princ. designed for the tpt. of persons, special ... (HS2002 - 870310) | 2004 |

Figure 7: two items selected from the commodity list

Then clicking ‘View trade Data’ displays detailed information about the selected items through the Basic Query processor:

![Basic Query Results:](image)

Statistics: 2 rows returned in 0.17 seconds.
Your access has been restricted to Normal View. Please contact us, if you need further information.

Quick filter combo

| Selection summary |
| List of actions |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Trade Flow</th>
<th>Reporter</th>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Trade Value</th>
<th>Net Weight (kg)</th>
<th>Quantity Unit</th>
<th>Trade Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Export</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>World</td>
<td>8703</td>
<td>$74,922,924,212</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>5,210,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Export</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>World</td>
<td>870310</td>
<td>$130,340,025</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>23,149</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 8: detailed information on two commodities

The order retrieved entries are displayed can be changed through the Sort Order combo. This combo contains all the criterion combinations that can be used as ordered sort list:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sort Order</th>
<th>Refresh</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comm:Year;Rep;Flow;TradeVal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comm:Year;Flow;Rep;TradeVal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year:Flow;Rep;Comm:TradeVal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year:Rep;Flow;Comm:TradeVal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flow;Year:Rep;Comm:TradeVal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year:Rep;Flow;Comm:TradeVal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comm:Year;Flow;Rep;TradeVal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comm:Year;Rep;Flow;TradeVal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comm:Year;Rep;Flow;TradeVal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 9: sort order selection

Click Refresh to make the new selection the current selection.
A list of links is present under the Sort Order combo (fig. 19); each of them represents an action. These actions are described in the following level 4 paragraphs.

There are no actions to directly download query results or record queries: this is because the connected User is a Guest. Downloading extracted data as a text file (what we call ‘direct download’) and saving the definition of a query are reserved to registered Users. What registered Users only can do is described in section 3.

1.1.1.2. Modify Selection

Clicking this link loads the Express Selection interface with the current selection in its fields:

![Express Selection Interface](image)

Figure 10: getting the Express Selection interface from the Shortcut Query

The User can add selection criteria, modify the existing ones or change the display sort order. The Express Selection form is fully described in this document.
1.1.1.3. View Graph

Clicking View Graph in the list of actions brings up a pie chart that reflects the current selection:

![Pie chart showing trade values](image)

Figure 11: detailed information on two commodities – graphical form

This is the Comtrade Explorer Processor interface we already met in fig. 5; also see Note 1 below this figure. The pie chart shows the two selected items trade values compared to all the other commodities.

Again, a “tooltip” text pops up when moving the mouse cursor over the pie chart.

Back to fig. 5, we notice the already described Quick Filter and Further Research combos.

1.1.1.4. Printable Format

This action simply displays the trade information in fig. 19 using the whole screen width, so as to get a full-page report. Also notice the included commodity labels:

![Table showing trade values](image)

Figure 12: Printable Format display – may need enlargement
1.1.1.5. View Explanatory Notes

This link displays trade information on a country for a given year (e.g., local currency / USD conversion factor):

**Figure 13: notes on Japan for 2004**

“All” can be selected from Reporter (country) and Year combos; in this case, the resulting report looks like this:

**Figure 14: trade notes for all countries and all years (first page bottom part)**
1.1.1.6. SDMX Download

The results of a query can be downloaded to the User’s station in SDMX format, provided the User doesn’t download more than 1,000 records the same day.

The SDMX format is introduced in the Data Transfer Mechanism Manual; it is based on the XML\(^1\) format and adapted to statistical data description and transfer.

To illustrate this download operation, we can start from the following query results:

![Basic Query Results](image)

- Statistics: 280 rows returned in 3.98 seconds.
- Your access has been restricted to Normal View. Please contact us, if you need further information.
- Selected classification: HS2002
- Selected commodities: 871190 (Side cars for motorcycles)
- Selected reporters: All
- Selected years: All
- Selected partners: World
- Selected trade flows: Import

Sort Order: Year,Flow,Rep,Comm,TradeVal;  
Refresh

Modify Selection, View Graph, Printable Format, View Explanatory Notes, SDMX Download

View Not Available Data

Figure 15: Basic Query results

Clicking ‘SDMX Download’ brings up the following warning message box:

![File Download](image)

Some files can harm your computer. If the file information below looks suspicious, or you do not fully trust the source, do not open or save this file.

File name: comtrade_trade_data.sdmx
File type: SDMX File
From: unstats.un.org

Would you like to open the file or save it to your computer?

- Open
- Save
- Cancel
- More Info

Always ask before opening this type of file

Figure 16: file download warning message

Notice the constant filename. Clicking Save displays the usual ‘Save As’ interface that allows the User to select the destination file (path and name)

---

\(^1\) Extensible Markup Language: a standard for designing and creating HTML documents
Finally, the downloaded file is visible through Windows Explorer:

As stated before, this file has a XML-like structure; it can be read by Internet Explorer:

```
<xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" ?>
  <CrossSectionalData xmlns="http://www.SDMX.org/resources/SDMXXML/schemas/v1_0/message" xmlns:unstats="http://unstats.un.org/structure/key_families/cross/UN_COMTRADE_H2"
    xmlns:cross="http://www.SDMX.org/resources/SDMXXML/schemas/v1_0/cross"
    xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
    xmlns:schemaLocation="http://www.SDMX.org/resources/SDMXXML/schemas/v1_0/message
    SDMXMessage.xsd http://unstats.un.org/structure/key_families/cross/UN_COMTRADE_H2
    UN_COMTRADE_H2_CrossSectional.xsd
    http://www.SDMX.org/resources/SDMXXML/schemas/v1_0/cross SDMXCrossSectionalData.wsd">
    <headers>
      <ID>UN613931300</ID>
      <Test>true</Test>
      <Truncated>False</Truncated>
      <Prepared>2008-12-29T10:11:29</Prepared>
      <Sender id="UN"></Sender>
      <Name xml:lang="en">United Nations</Name>
    </Sender>
    <KeyFamilyRef>UN_COMTRADE_H2</KeyFamilyRef>
    <DataSetDoc U1>U1</DataSetDoc>
    <DataSetAction Update="Update" DataSetAction>
      <Extracted>2008-12-29T10:11:29</Extracted>
    </DataSetAction>
  </headers>
  <un:unDataSet>
    <un:unGroup RPT="0" time="2008" CL="H2" UNIT_MULTI="1" DECIMALS="1" CURRENCY="USD" FREQ="A" TIME_FORMAT="P1Y" REPORTED_CLASSIFICATION="H2" FLOWS_IN_DATASET="N">
      <un:unSection TIF="1" REPORTED_CURRENCY="LEK" CONVERSION_FACTOR="0.008246" VALUATION="General" TRADE_SYSTEMS="CIF" PARTNER="Origin">
        <un:unObs CC="H26" CC="871190" PRT="0" netweight="0" qty="169" QUM="S" value="451888" />
      </un:unSection>
    </un:unGroup>
  </un:unDataSet>
</xml>
```

Figure 17: the downloaded SDMX file (highlighted) – the name was left unchanged

Figure 18: SDMX file contents (partial view)
1.1.1.7. View Not Available Data

This function points out the data items that are not available (i.e., that haven’t been provided by the selected country, or that have been rejected by UNSD...), for the selected year, classification and commodity. Most of the time, the data will be available, and the following form will pop up:

### Not-Available data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected classification:</th>
<th>BEC</th>
<th>Selected commodities:</th>
<th>51 (Transport equipment, passenger motor cars)</th>
<th>Selected reporters:</th>
<th>Indonesia</th>
<th>Selected years:</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>Selected partners:</th>
<th>World</th>
<th>Selected trade flows: Export</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### Not Available Data

Based on your selection of classification, reporters and years only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Country Name</th>
<th>Data is not available in the following years:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>None. Data is available in selected year(s) for given classification.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 19: not available data: none for this example

Another selection can show unavailable data for a specific year:

### Not-Available data

|--------------------------|--------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|----------------|-------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|----------------------------|

#### Not Available Data

Based on your selection of classification, reporters and years only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Country Name</th>
<th>Data is not available in the following years:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>2002</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 20: data from Albania unavailable in 2002 for the selected commodities