An overview of National Compilation and Dissemination Practices

Updated Chapter 1 of
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A.   Introduction

1.1.   This chapter provides an overview of national compilation and dissemination practices and their compliance with the recommendations contained in *International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions, Revision 2* (IMTS, Rev.2) and compilation guidelines outlined in *International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Compilers Manual*. The results shown are based on 132 responses to the questionnaire which was drafted by UNSD, reviewed by other TFIMTS members and sent out jointly by UNSD, OECD and WTO to trade statistics compilers in 2006.

1.2.   The questionnaire contained 173 questions covering all recommendations contained in IMTS, Rev.2 and guidelines provided in IMTS: Compilers Manual. It included a number of the same questions used in a survey conducted between 1992 and 1995. This allowed, with respect to the topics covered in those questions, to assess changes in country practices over time. Below is a summary of findings organized by the questionnaire's sections.

B.   Institutional arrangements

1.3.   The country responses confirmed that the compilation and dissemination of IMTS are normally the responsibility of national statistical offices (78.0% of countries confirmed that). However, in the remaining countries the official international merchandise trade statistics (thereafter, trade statistics) is compiled and disseminated by other governmental agencies such as statistical departments of the customs administrations (e.g., in China and the Russian Federation) or central banks (e.g., in Latin American countries).

1.4.   It is encouraging that in most countries Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) or similar working agreements between the agency responsible for official trade statistics and agencies that are providing data are established (MoUs exist in 66.3% of developing and transitional and in 64.5% of developed countries).[1] However, only 43.6% and 25.8% of the same countries reported conducting regular inter-agency meetings before the release of statistics (see Table 1.1).

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[1] For explanation and details regarding the distinction of developed and developing/transitional countries used in this text please see the website of the Millennium Development Goals at http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Default.aspx. Please note that there is no established convention for the designation of "developed" and "developing" countries or areas in the United Nations system. In common practice, Japan in Asia, Canada and the United States in North America, Australia and New Zealand in Oceania, and most of Europe are considered "developed" regions.

Table 1.1 Questions on institutional arrangements

Question	All 132 countries or areas			Developed			Developing and transitional		
	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A
Does your office have any memorandum of understanding or any similar working agreement with any of the mentioned agencies?	65.9	28.0	6.1	64.5	25.8	9.7	66.3	28.7	5.0
If you have working agreements with other agencies, does your office regularly meet or consult with these agencies before release of the trade statistics?	39.4	45.5	15.2	25.8	54.8	19.4	43.6	42.6	13.9

C.   Sources of data

1.5   For 87.9% of countries customs declarations remain the main source of data (see Table 1.2). However, there is a considerable difference in country practices as only 54.8% of developed countries confirmed that customs declarations are the main source of data compared with 98.0% of developing and transitional countries. Developed countries use more additional data sources, such as administrative records associated with taxation (58.1%) and enterprise surveys (58.1%) as compared with developing and transitional countries where these percentages are only 21.8% and 20.8%, respectively. This is one of the consequences of the abolition of customs controls among countries of the European Union and the significant simplification of customs procedures among other developed countries. The trend towards more active use of non-customs sources is also due to the fact that in certain countries some important trade flows are not declared to customs.

Table 1.2 Questions on sources of data

Question		All 132 countries or areas			Developed			Developing and transitional		
		Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A
Are customs declarations the main source of data?		87.9	9.8	2.3	54.8	41.9	3.2	98.0	0.0	2.0
Do you use the following as additional sources of data:										
	Parcel and letter post records	31.1	62.1	6.8	9.7	87.1	3.2	37.6	54.5	7.9
	Administrative records associated with taxation	30.3	60.6	9.1	58.1	38.7	3.2	21.8	67.3	10.9
	Currency exchange records or other records of monetary authorities	28.0	65.2	6.8	22.6	74.2	3.2	29.7	62.4	7.9

	All 132 countries or areas			Developed			Developing and transitional		
Enterprise surveys	29.5	59.8	10.6	58.1	38.7	3.2	20.8	66.3	12.9
Aircraft and ship registers	25.0	66.7	8.3	41.9	54.8	3.2	19.8	70.3	9.9
Foreign shipping manifests	15.2	78.8	6.1	6.5	93.5	0.0	17.8	74.3	7.9
Reports of commodity boards	10.6	74.2	15.2	6.5	87.1	6.5	11.9	70.3	17.8

D. Coverage and time of recording

1.6.   The information presented in Table 1.3 proves that countries overwhelmingly base their trade statistics on the principle of physical movement of goods between countries as recommended in IMTS, Rev.2. Change of ownership is also used for some categories of goods by 61.3% of developed and 19.8% of other countries. However, the capability of compiling detailed trade statistics on the basis of change of ownership is confirmed only by 16.1% of developed countries. Ability to compile detailed trade statistics on this basis was indicted by 31.7% of other countries. Availability of trade statistics on the change of ownership basis is very important for balance of payments statistics and national accounts.

1.7.   In general, time of recording is the time of lodgement of the customs declaration (72.0% of responses) as recommended.

Table 1.3 Questions on coverage and time of recording

Question	All 132 countries or areas			Developed			Developing and transitional		
	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A
As a general rule, do you include in trade statistics goods which enter (imports) or leave (exports) your economic territory (except for goods in transit and temporary admissions/ withdrawals) ?	91.7	4.5	3.8	96.8	3.2	0.0	90.1	5.0	5.0
Do you use change of ownership (between residents and non-residents) as a basis for inclusion of certain goods in trade statistics?	29.5	64.4	6.1	61.3	38.7	0.0	19.8	72.3	7.9
Can your office compile detailed commodity by partner trade statistics on the basis of change of ownership?	28.0	65.9	6.1	16.1	80.6	3.2	31.7	61.4	6.9
Do you use date of lodgement of the customs declaration as an approximation for the time when goods enter/leave your territory?	72.0	25.0	3.0	64.5	35.5	0.0	74.3	21.8	4.0

E.   Categories of included and excluded goods

1.8.   Annexes 1 and 2 to this report summarize countries' responses to the questions about their practices with respect to the inclusion and exclusion of certain categories of goods. Both annexes list those goods in a descending order of percentage of "Yes" answers by all respondents. Several general observations are provided below. Annex 3 contains a comparison of current and past responses (a similar survey was conducted between 1992 and 1995).

GOODS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE DETAILED INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS

1.9.   Annexes 1 and 3 confirm a relatively good compliance with the IMTS, Rev.2 recommendations regarding certain inclusions (IMTS, Rev.2, paragraphs 19-41) and they show improvement in the compliance rate for most of the economically important categories of goods since 1996. The low compliance (less than 50%) is taking place typically in the cases of goods in which international trade is relatively less significant and where there is no customs recording or such recording is very limited. Certain categories of goods, which are shown hereafter, are of special interest.

1.10.   *Goods for processing.* 96.8% developed and 78.2% of developing and transitional countries include these goods in their trade statistics. Countries reported also that valuation of such goods is on a gross basis. It should be noted that countries are usually unable to separately identify goods for processing if they are not so declared. A detailed discussion of the issue of goods for processing is given in chapter 4.B.

1.11.   *Goods used as carriers of information and software developed for general or commercial use.* Most of developed (90.3%) and developing and transitional countries (72.3%) include these goods in their statistics of external trade (more precisely, 16.8% of developing and transitional countries indicated not to include these goods and the remaining 10.9% provided no answer or indicated that it was not applicable). Countries reported also that valuation of such goods is based on their full value.

1.12.   *Goods crossing borders as a result of transactions between parent corporations and their direct investment enterprises (affiliates/branches).* All developed countries follow the recommendation to include this category of goods into their trade statistics. For developing and transitional countries it proved to be more difficult to implement as only 67.3% of them confirmed compliance (17.8% indicated not to include these goods and 14.9% provided no answer or indicated that it was not applicable).

1.13.   *Water.* The information of country practices in respect to the inclusion of water is important in view of growing environmental concerns. It is encouraging that 71.0% of developed countries indicated that they are compiling data reflecting trade in water. However, only 39.6% of developing and transitional countries indicated so (32.7% indicated not to include water and 27.7% provided no answer or indicated that it was not applicable).

1.14.   *Estimates of unrecorded trade.* The country responses show that inclusion of estimates of unrecorded trade into official statistics is not a widespread practice as only 22.6% of developed and 10.9% of developing and transitional countries include such estimates.

GOODS TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE DETAILED INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS

1.15.   The responses shown in Annexes 2 and 3 to questions about the exclusion of particular categories of goods (IMTS, Rev.2, paragraphs 42-54) show that most countries comply with the recommended list of specific exclusions and that the compliance rate improved noticeable for most of those categories. However, for many important categories of goods the compliance rate among developed countries is noticeably higher than among other countries. Several examples of this kind are provided below.

1.16.   *Goods acquired by all categories of travelers, including non-resident workers, for their own use and carried across the border in amounts or values not exceeding those established by national law.* Goods of this category are recommended for exclusion from merchandise trade as they are to be included in trade in services. The country responses show that almost all developed countries (96.8%) exclude them with 70.3% of developing and transitional countries doing the same.

1.17.   *Goods under operational lease.* There is a dramatic increase in the compliance rate with respect to this recommendation between 1996 and 2006 (from 78.8% to 96.8% for developed countries and from only 59.1% to 65.3% for developing and transitional countries).

1.18.   *Non-financial assets, ownership of which has been transferred from residents to non-residents, without crossing borders.* In case of these goods 96.8% of developed countries exclude them, but only 60.4% of developing and transitional countries reported their exclusion (13.9% indicated not to exclude these goods and 25.7% provided no answer or indicated that it was not applicable).

1.19.   *Used or second hand goods.* These goods are not recommended for exclusion and the question was asked to obtain information on actual country practices. The responses confirm that these goods are not excluded by 90.3% of developed and 55.4% of other countries.

F.   Kyoto convention and relevant customs procedures

1.20.   A clear majority of countries (71.2%) use the Kyoto convention on customs procedures as the basis for their customs legislation. This is noteworthy as the application of the same customs standards is an important factor to improve comparability of customs records and the resulting trade statistics. Table 1.4 below provides a summary of responses to the question of whether customs procedures followed in countries allow for collection of data on certain flows of goods. In general, all countries are in a very similar position. There is a slight tendency that developed countries use more extensively the procedures allowing for recording of goods in

inward and outward processing, whereas developing and transitional countries use more procedures reflecting flows in and out of free trade zones.

Table 1.4 Questions regarding the Kyoto convention and relevant customs procedures

Question	All 132 countries or areas			Developed			Developing and transitional		
	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A
Does your country use the Kyoto Convention (*the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs procedures*) as the basis for the definitions of customs procedures ?	71.2	12.9	15.9	80.6	12.9	6.5	68.3	12.9	18.8
Does the recording by customs procedures allow for the identification of:									
Importation of goods under clearance for home use	88.6	9.1	2.3	83.9	16.1	0.0	90.1	6.9	3.0
Reimportation of goods in the same state	84.8	9.1	6.1	87.1	6.5	6.5	84.2	9.9	5.9
Exportation of domestic goods (outright exportation)	83.3	9.1	7.6	77.4	22.6	0.0	85.1	5.0	9.9
Temporary admission of goods subject to re-exportation in the same state	82.6	10.6	6.8	77.4	16.1	6.5	84.2	8.9	6.9
Re-exportation of goods in the same state	87.1	6.8	6.1	83.9	9.7	6.5	88.1	5.9	5.9
Temporary admission of goods for inward processing	74.2	13.6	12.1	87.1	9.7	3.2	70.3	14.9	14.9
Goods leaving the country after inward processing	72.7	14.4	12.9	83.9	12.9	3.2	69.3	14.9	15.8
Temporary exportation of goods for outward processing	73.5	14.4	12.1	90.3	9.7	0.0	68.3	15.8	15.8
Reimportation of goods after temporary exportation for outward processing	75.8	13.6	10.6	93.5	6.5	0.0	70.3	15.8	13.9
Goods admitted into a customs warehouse?	72.0	15.2	12.9	80.6	16.1	3.2	69.3	14.9	15.8
Goods leaving a customs warehouse?	73.5	11.4	15.2	83.9	12.9	3.2	70.3	10.9	18.8
Goods admitted into a commercial free zone (zones where only minimal repackaging and similar processing of goods is allowed) ?	51.5	26.5	22.0	45.2	32.3	22.6	53.5	24.8	21.8
Goods leaving a commercial free zone?	52.3	25.0	22.7	41.9	35.5	22.6	55.4	21.8	22.8
Goods admitted into an industrial free zone (zones where specific processing or manufacturing of goods is allowed) ?	52.3	24.2	23.5	48.4	29.0	22.6	53.5	22.8	23.8
Goods leaving an industrial free zone?	56.8	19.7	23.5	48.4	29.0	22.6	59.4	16.8	23.8

| Goods in customs transit? | 56.8 | 34.1 | 9.1 | 48.4 | 48.4 | 3.2 | 59.4 | 29.7 | 10.9 |

G. Trade system

1.21.   According to the replies shown in Table 1.5 a high percentage of countries (40.2%) do not follow the recommendation to apply the general trade system of recording which is calling for the inclusion of all goods entering or leaving the economic territory of a country. This is in particular the case for developed countries with 54.8% of them indicating that they disseminate trade data only on the basis of the special trade system.

Table 1.5 Questions on trade system

Question	All 132 countries or areas			Developed			Developing and transitional		
	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A
Do you disseminate trade statistics **only** according to the general trade system?	42.4	53.0	4.5	16.1	83.9	0.0	50.5	43.6	5.9
Do you disseminate trade statistics **only** according to the special trade system?	40.2	53.0	6.8	54.8	38.7	6.5	35.6	57.4	6.9
Do you disseminate trade statistics according to **both** the general **and** special trade system?	21.2	60.6	18.2	22.6	71.0	6.5	20.8	57.4	21.8
Do you include in your trade statistics goods entering or leaving the following territorial elements									
industrial free zones	48.5	28.8	22.7	35.5	41.9	22.6	52.5	24.8	22.8
commercial free zones	47.0	29.5	23.5	29.0	45.2	25.8	52.5	24.8	22.8
customs warehouses	61.4	29.5	9.1	58.1	41.9	0.0	62.4	25.7	11.9
premises designated for inward processing	56.8	25.8	17.4	74.2	19.4	6.5	51.5	27.7	20.8
territorial waters, and continental shelf	32.6	36.4	31.1	41.9	29.0	29.0	29.7	38.6	31.7
offshore territories, possessions, dependencies etc (including outer space installations).	19.7	43.2	37.1	22.6	35.5	41.9	18.8	45.5	35.6
your country's embassies, military bases and other territorial enclaves in other countries	17.4	62.1	20.5	12.9	80.6	6.5	18.8	56.4	24.8

1.22.   Difficulties in the application of the general trade system are mostly due to difficulties with compiling data in the absence of customs controls, in particular, on goods moving in and out of the territorial elements having a special status such as commercial or industrial free zones and customs warehouses. The responses confirm that just about half of countries have procedures in place to record movements in and out of commercial or industrial free zones. On the other

hand, inclusion in trade statistics of goods admitted into or withdrawn from the customs warehouses is possible in 61.4% of countries.

1.23.　About 20% of countries are able to include in trade statistics goods entering or leaving their offshore territories, possessions, dependencies etc (including outer space installations) (19.7%) as well as their country's embassies, military bases and other territorial enclaves in other countries (17.4%). In view of relatively small value of this kind of trade countries often do not develop procedures to capture it.

H.　Commodity classifications

1.24.　Table 1.6 provides the confirmation of almost universal use of the Harmonized System (HS) for recording trade flows and dissemination of trade statistics as recommended by IMTS, Rev.2. It should be highlighted that the compliance with this recommendation increased from 72.3% in 1996 to 93.9% in 2006 (see Annex 3). The Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) remains an important dissemination tool for most countries, especially for developed countries (83.9% confirmed its use). The responses indicated that the Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC) is applied to 45.5% of countries. The application of the Central Product Classification (CPC) and the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) is not widespread – 9.1% of countries use CPC and 22.0% use ISIC for publishing of their trade data.

Table 1.6 Questions on the use of commodity classifications

Question	All 132 countries or areas			Developed			Developing and transitional		
	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A
Do you use the Harmonized System (HS) as the basis for your detailed commodity trade database?	93.9	3.0	3.0	96.8	3.2	0.0	93.1	3.0	4.0
Do you use the Harmonized System for dissemination purposes?	85.6	10.6	3.8	87.1	9.7	3.2	85.1	10.9	4.0
Do you publish any data in terms of Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)?	63.6	34.8	1.5	83.9	16.1	0.0	57.4	40.6	2.0
Do you publish any data in terms of Common Product Classification (CPC)?	9.1	85.6	5.3	9.7	90.3	0.0	8.9	84.2	6.9
Do you publish any data in terms of the Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC)?	45.5	47.7	6.8	41.9	54.8	3.2	46.5	45.5	7.9
Do you publish any data in terms of International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC)?	22.0	72.7	5.3	12.9	87.1	0.0	24.8	68.3	6.9

I.   Quantity measurements

1.25.   Table 1.7 demonstrates that all developed and almost all other countries collect quantity data. The percentage of countries collecting such data increased from 79.7% in 1996 to 92.4% in 2006 (see Annex 3). There is a solid compliance with the IMTS, Rev.2 recommendation to use net weight for quantity measurement of all commodities, where applicable (73.5% of all countries in 2006 as compared with 52.7% in 1996). It should be noted that in the past 69.7% of developed countries compiled net weight data and 71.0% confirmed this practice in 2006. The use of the WCO recommended units of quantity at the HS headings level is rather a common practice as well (67.4% of countries confirmed this).

Table 1.7 Questions on quantity measurements

Question	All 132 countries or areas			Developed			Developing and transitional		
	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A
Do you collect quantity data?	92.4	4.5	3.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	90.1	5.9	4.0
Do you record or estimate net weight for quantity measurement of all commodities, where applicable?	73.5	22.7	3.8	71.0	29.0	0.0	74.3	20.8	5.0
Do you record or estimate the World Customs Organizations (WCO) recommended units of quantity for each of the headings of the HS?	67.4	24.2	8.3	58.1	29.0	12.9	70.3	22.8	6.9

J.   Valuation

1.26.   Country responses to questions on valuation (see Table 1.8 below) reveal that the two main recommendations (use of CIF-type valuation of imported goods and FOB-type valuation of exported goods) are very well implemented. Comparison with country responses provided more than ten years ago indicate that there is a constantly high compliance rate with recommendations on valuation. The percentage of countries applying CIF-type valuation for imported goods has been almost equally high in 1996 and 2006 (90.5% compared to 92.4%) and the same is the case for the application of FOB-type valuation for exports (94.6% compared to 96.2%) (see Annex 3).

1.27.   The recommendation to compile data on international freight and insurance is followed by 42.4% countries while ten years ago only 29.7% of countries were compiling such data. In addition, 19.4% of developed and 30.7% of developing and transitional countries confirmed that they already compile and publish FOB valued imports data.

1.28.   At the same time, country responses showed a low compliance with respect to recommended practices for currency conversion both for use of the midpoint between the selling and buying rates (24.2% of countries use it) and use of the average rate for the shortest period applicable (31.8% do it).

Table 1.8 Questions on valuation

Question	All 132 countries or areas			Developed			Developing and transitional		
	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A
Are you using provisions of the WTO Agreement on Valuation as the basis for calculating the statistical value of goods?	58.3	20.5	21.2	61.3	9.7	29.0	57.4	23.8	18.8
Is the statistical value of imported goods a CIF-type value?	92.4	6.1	1.5	93.5	6.5	0.0	92.1	5.9	2.0
Are data for international freight and insurance associated with the importation of goods available separately?	42.4	56.1	1.5	25.8	74.2	0.0	47.5	50.5	2.0
Do you compile and publish value of imported goods as a FOB-type value?	28.0	69.7	2.3	19.4	80.6	0.0	30.7	66.3	3.0
Is the statistical value of exported goods an FOB-type value?	96.2	2.3	1.5	96.8	3.2	0.0	96.0	2.0	2.0
Do you record and maintain information on the currency which was used in specifying the value on the customs declaration?	62.1	32.6	5.3	67.7	25.8	6.5	60.4	34.7	5.0
In conversion of foreign currencies into national currency, do you use a rate published by the official authorities of your country?	78.8	5.3	15.9	83.9	0.0	16.1	77.2	6.9	15.8
If both buying and selling rates are available, do you use for conversion purposes a midpoint between the two?	24.2	52.3	23.5	29.0	32.3	38.7	22.8	58.4	18.8
Do you use the exchange rate which is in effect at the date of exportation or importation? If No, please indicate which exchange rates are used for this purpose in the Comments field.	63.6	20.5	15.9	45.2	29.0	25.8	69.3	17.8	12.9
If an exchange rate is not available for the date of exportation or importation, do you use the average rate for the shortest period applicable?	31.8	29.5	38.6	35.5	12.9	51.6	30.7	34.7	34.7

K.   Partner country

1.29.   The IMTS, Rev.2 recommendations on partner country attributions are well followed (see table 1.9 below) with 90.2% of countries compiling the country of origin for imports and 90.9% compiling the country of last known destination for exports. In both cases the compliance rate is similar compared with the 1996 situation (81.8% and 87.8% respectively). In determining the country of origin the provisions of Kyoto convention are followed by 80.6% of developed and by 59.4% of developing and transitional countries. This makes partner data of developing and transitional countries less comparable than similar data of developed countries.

1.30.   The use of country of consignment as additional partner attribution was reported only by 47.0% of countries for imports and by 19.7% for exports. It can be noted that most developed countries (77.4%) use country of consignment for imports, but only a few of them (9.7%) for exports.

Table 1.9 Questions concerning partner country attribution

Question	All 132 countries or areas			Developed			Developing and transitional		
	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A
Do you identify your trade partners on the basis of the definition of the statistical territory as given by your partners themselves?	57.6	13.6	28.8	51.6	25.8	22.6	59.4	9.9	30.7
Do you compile **import** statistics by:									
country of origin?	90.2	7.6	2.3	96.8	3.2	0.0	88.1	8.9	3.0
If Yes, do you broadly follow the origin criteria outlined in the Kyoto Convention?	64.4	5.3	30.3	80.6	9.7	9.7	59.4	4.0	36.6
country of consignment?	47.0	46.2	6.8	77.4	22.6	0.0	37.6	53.5	8.9
country of purchase?	29.5	64.4	6.1	9.7	90.3	0.0	35.6	56.4	7.9
other?	13.6	42.4	43.9	9.7	58.1	32.3	14.9	37.6	47.5
Do you **record** for **imports:**									
country of requested preferential treatment	23.5	55.3	21.2	19.4	74.2	6.5	24.8	49.5	25.7
country of granted preferential treatment	32.6	47.7	19.7	38.7	54.8	6.5	30.7	45.5	23.8
Do you compile **export** statistics by:									
country of last known destination?	90.9	6.1	3.0	93.5	6.5	0.0	90.1	5.9	4.0
country of consignment?	19.7	62.9	17.4	9.7	87.1	3.2	22.8	55.4	21.8
country of sale?	22.0	71.2	6.8	0.0	100.0	0.0	28.7	62.4	8.9
other?	6.8	46.2	47.0	3.2	67.7	29.0	7.9	39.6	52.5

L.   Data quality

1.31.   The questionnaire contained several questions intended to obtain some information on country practices relevant for the assessment of data quality. The received country responses (shown in Table 1.10) are quite informative in a number of respects. For example, 80.3% of the countries customs administrations conduct seminars to train traders and their agents in the filing of customs declarations and 72.7% of countries use commodity prices or unit values to assess the credibility of customs records.

1.32.   The use of carefully prepared estimates to replace missing values and quantities is encouraged by the IMTS: Compilers Manual. Yet, currently this is not a common practice as only about every third country is doing it (31.1% for missing values and 34.1% for missing quantities). Less than half (41.9%) of developed countries make estimates of trade below the mandatory declaration threshold and include them in their trade statistics while this is being done only by 8.9% of developing and transitional countries.

1.33.   An important factor in improving data quality is conducting bilateral or multilateral reconciliation studies with the trading partners. It is a very good sign that such studies have become a common practice for most developed (71.0%) and a significant part (40.6%) of developing and transitional countries.

1.34.   The responses confirmed that UNCTAD's work on development and promotion of ASYCUDA (Automated SYstem for CUstoms DAta) for automated entry and checking of customs declarations is paying off as over half (51.5%) of developing and transitional countries use it.

Table 1.10 Questions on data quality

Question	All 132 countries or areas			Developed			Developing and transitional		
	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A
Do you use a threshold value below which customs declarations are not required to be filed?	37.9	51.5	10.6	61.3	38.7	0.0	30.7	55.4	13.9
If you use a threshold value, do you make estimates of trade below the threshold and include them in your trade statistics?	16.7	45.5	37.9	41.9	32.3	25.8	8.9	49.5	41.6
Does the Customs administration of your country use ASYCUDA (Automated SYstem for CUstoms DAta) for automated entry and checking of customs declarations?	43.9	49.2	6.8	19.4	71.0	9.7	51.5	42.6	5.9
Is physical inspection of cargo by Customs based on risk assessment?	74.2	8.3	17.4	90.3	0.0	9.7	69.3	10.9	19.8
Does the Customs administration of your country conduct seminars to train traders and their agents in the filing of customs declarations?	80.3	12.9	6.8	83.9	12.9	3.2	79.2	12.9	7.9
Does your office use Eurotrace to process the customs records?	15.2	76.5	8.3	3.2	96.8	0.0	18.8	70.3	10.9
Do you use commodity prices or unit values to assess the credibility of customs records?	72.7	22.7	4.5	87.1	6.5	6.5	68.3	27.7	4.0
Do you use estimates to replace missing values at detailed record level?	31.1	60.6	8.3	35.5	61.3	3.2	29.7	60.4	9.9
Do you use estimates to replace missing quantities at detailed record level?	34.1	56.8	9.1	38.7	54.8	6.5	32.7	57.4	9.9
If Yes, *do you use different estimation methods (for quantities) depending on the kind of commodities traded? Please specify, if necessary.*	16.7	14.4	68.9	9.7	29.0	61.3	18.8	9.9	71.3

Since the year 2000, did you conduct bilateral or multilateral reconciliation studies with your trading partners or do you plan to conduct such studies in the near future?	47.7	40.2	12.1	71.0	29.0	0.0	40.6	43.6	15.8

M.   Trade by mode of transport

1.35.   Compilation of trade statistics by mode of transport is increasingly a common practice as 90.3% of developed and 74.3% of other countries compile such data (see Table 1.11 below).

Table 1.11 Questions on mode of transport

Questions	All 132 countries or areas			Developed			Developing and transitional		
	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A
Do you compile trade statistics by mode of transport?	78.0	16.7	5.3	90.3	6.5	3.2	74.3	19.8	5.9
If you compile trade statistics by mode of transport, do you identify the following modes:									
Air	85.6	8.3	6.1	93.5	0.0	6.5	83.2	10.9	5.9
Sea	75.0	12.1	12.9	83.9	6.5	9.7	72.3	13.9	13.9
Inland waterway	33.3	37.9	28.8	54.8	22.6	22.6	26.7	42.6	30.7
Railway	53.0	26.5	20.5	71.0	12.9	16.1	47.5	30.7	21.8
Road	66.7	18.2	15.2	71.0	12.9	16.1	65.3	19.8	14.9
Pipeline	38.6	35.6	25.8	61.3	16.1	22.6	31.7	41.6	26.7

N.   Reporting and dissemination

Table 1.12 Timeliness of reporting

Countries or areas	Monthly data becomes available within			Quarterly data becomes available within			Annual data becomes available within		
	0-43 days	44-66 days	67 and more	0-43	44-66 days	67 and more	0-139 days	140-210 days	211 and more
All 132 countries or areas	79.3	14.4	6.3	65.3	22.4	12.2	82.7	8.2	9.1
Developed	74.2	12.9	12.9	69.6	17.4	13.0	92.3	0.0	7.7
Developing and transitional	81.3	15.0	3.8	64.0	24.0	12.0	79.8	10.7	9.5

1.36.   *Timeliness*. Timeliness in general has improved since 1996. In 2006, 79.3% of countries who submitted a detailed response were able to provide monthly data in less than 43 days (see Table 1.12). More developing and transitional countries (81.3%) are able to fit within this time frame than developed countries (74.2%). Unfortunately, there is no information to compare the quality of such data compiled by these two groups of countries. Quarterly data are disseminated by most countries within 66 days (87.7%). Annual data typically (in 90.9% of countries)

becomes available within 210 days. It follows that timeliness of external trade statistics, in most cases, complies or even exceeds normally recommended guidelines for economic statistics.

1.37.   It should be noted that international reporting as manifested in the provision of annual data to UN Comtrade lags significantly behind the data availability reported by countries in this questionnaire.

1.38.   *Details of released data*. Table 1.13 shows the country replies concerning data dissemination. For example, 96.8% of developed countries publish monthly data by major trading partners or by major commodity groups while 70.3% of developing and transitional countries do this.

1.39.   *Public announcements of the release dates.* Developing and transitional countries are much less frequently providing public announcements of the release dates than developed countries (56.4% versus 93.5% respectively).

1.40.   *Confidentiality.* Preserving confidentiality of individual data is a general requirement and countries normally have adequate policies in place. At the same time such policies should be implemented in a way that minimizes the impact on availability of aggregated data. In this respect country policies differ. Table 1.13 shows that while most developed countries (64.5%) always report the full trading partner detail at the next higher level of commodity aggregation that adequately protects confidentiality, only 44.6% of developing and transitional countries do this. However, 32.3% of developed countries explicitly indicated that they do not have such a policy, whereas only 23.8% of developing and transitional countries did so, implying that of this group 31.7% did not answer or indicated that it was not applicable to its trade data.

1.41.   *Dissemination of metadata.* Availability of metadata contributes to the overall quality of trade statistics (see paragraphs 1.31-1.34 above). The responses to the questionnaire confirmed that most countries (73.5%) disseminate metadata. Yet, while most developed countries disseminate metadata (96.8%) only two thirds of developing and transitional countries are doing so (see table 1.13).

1.42.   *Revision policy.* Table 1.13 also shows that 90.9% of countries revise their data when new information becomes available. This applies almost equally to developed (93.5%) and developing and transitional (90.1%) countries.

Table 1.13 Questions on dissemination

Question	All 132 countries or areas			Developed			Developing and transitional		
	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A
Do you make aggregate data (by major trading partners or by commodity groups) publicly available on a monthly basis?	76.5	20.5	3.0	96.8	3.2	0.0	70.3	25.7	4.0
Do you make detailed data by commodity and partner publicly available on a quarterly basis?	63.6	28.0	8.3	64.5	25.8	9.7	63.4	28.7	7.9

When confidentiality is applied to certain products, do you always report the full trading partner detail at the next higher level of commodity aggregation that adequately protects confidentiality?	49.2	25.8	25.0	64.5	32.3	3.2	44.6	23.8	31.7
Do you make documentation on your sources and methods publicly available?	73.5	18.2	8.3	96.8	3.2	0.0	66.3	22.8	10.9
Do you publicly announce scheduled release dates?	65.2	28.8	6.1	93.5	6.5	0.0	56.4	35.6	7.9
Do you make data available on a Web site?	84.1	11.4	4.5	96.8	3.2	0.0	80.2	13.9	5.9
Do you regularly revise data (when additional information is available)?	90.9	4.5	4.5	93.5	3.2	3.2	90.1	5.0	5.0

Annex 1   Distribution of responses with respect to goods recommended for inclusion

Question	All 132 countries or areas			Developed			Developing and transitional		
	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A
Do you INCLUDE in trade statistics the following:									
non-monetary gold	86.4	10.6	3.0	96.8	3.2	0.0	83.2	12.9	4.0
goods for processing (i.e., goods sent abroad or brought into your country for processing, including processing under contract and processing under the inward processing procedure)	82.6	9.1	8.3	96.8	0.0	3.2	78.2	11.9	9.9
goods dispatched through postal or courier services	82.6	12.9	4.5	96.8	3.2	0.0	78.2	15.8	5.9
waste and scrap, the value of which is positive	81.8	9.8	8.3	93.5	6.5	0.0	78.2	10.9	10.9
goods traded on government account	80.3	14.4	5.3	93.5	3.2	3.2	76.2	17.8	5.9
goods used as carriers of information and software developed for general or commercial use (e.g., packaged sets containing CD-ROM or DVD with stored computer software and/or data); Note: this category excl	76.5	15.2	8.3	90.3	9.7	0.0	72.3	16.8	10.9
food and other humanitarian aid	75.8	22.0	2.3	64.5	35.5	0.0	79.2	17.8	3.0
goods which cross borders as a result of transactions between parent corporations and their direct investment enterprises (affiliates/branches)	75.0	13.6	11.4	100.0	0.0	0.0	67.3	17.8	14.9
ships, aircraft and other mobile equipment	75.0	18.2	6.8	96.8	3.2	0.0	68.3	22.8	8.9
returned goods	71.2	16.7	12.1	96.8	3.2	0.0	63.4	20.8	15.8
electricity and gas	68.2	15.9	15.9	90.3	3.2	6.5	61.4	19.8	18.8
goods under financial lease (i.e., a lease of one year or more)	66.7	22.7	10.6	96.8	3.2	0.0	57.4	28.7	13.9
goods traded in accordance with barter agreements	61.4	27.3	11.4	90.3	3.2	6.5	52.5	34.7	12.9
gifts, if to significant scale as defined by national law	60.6	28.8	10.6	58.1	38.7	3.2	61.4	25.7	12.9
goods for military use	59.8	32.6	7.6	90.3	6.5	3.2	50.5	40.6	8.9
empty bottles not meant for refilling	59.1	25.8	15.2	67.7	22.6	9.7	56.4	26.7	16.8
goods on consignment	57.6	28.0	14.4	74.2	16.1	9.7	52.5	31.7	15.8
unissued banknotes and securities, and coins not in circulation	54.5	38.6	6.8	74.2	22.6	3.2	48.5	43.6	7.9
fish catch, minerals from the seabed and salvage landed from foreign vessels in national ports	54.5	27.3	18.2	80.6	3.2	16.1	46.5	34.7	18.8
goods acquired by all categories of travellers, including non-resident workers, to a significant scale (i.e., excluding goods for their own use) as defined by national law; for example, so-called Shuttle Trade	51.5	37.1	11.4	35.5	58.1	6.5	56.4	30.7	12.9

Question	All 132 countries or areas			Developed			Developing and transitional		
	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A
bunkers, stores, ballast and dunnage supplied to foreign vessels/aircraft in the economic territory of your country	51.5	35.6	12.9	58.1	35.5	6.5	49.5	35.6	14.9
water	47.0	28.0	25.0	71.0	12.9	16.1	39.6	32.7	27.7
migrants' effects	47.0	41.7	11.4	19.4	74.2	6.5	55.4	31.7	12.9
fish catch, minerals from the seabed and salvage acquired by national vessels on the high seas from foreign vessels	42.4	37.9	19.7	64.5	19.4	16.1	35.6	43.6	20.8
goods transferred from or to a buffer stock organization	39.4	27.3	33.3	61.3	16.1	22.6	32.7	30.7	36.6
local border trade	37.1	49.2	13.6	45.2	38.7	16.1	34.7	52.5	12.9
goods delivered from the rest of the world to offshore installations located in the economic territory of your country, and goods dispatched to the rest of the world from offshore installations located in the economic territory of your country	34.1	39.4	26.5	51.6	12.9	35.5	28.7	47.5	23.8
goods seized by customs and subsequently resold	33.3	48.5	18.2	29.0	54.8	16.1	34.7	46.5	18.8
bunkers, stores, ballast and dunnage landed in national ports from foreign vessels/aircraft	32.6	40.9	26.5	29.0	45.2	25.8	33.7	39.6	26.7
bunkers, stores, ballast and dunnage acquired by national vessels/aircraft from foreign vessels/aircraft in the economic territory of your country	28.0	45.5	26.5	22.6	54.8	22.6	29.7	42.6	27.7
estimates of unrecorded trade	13.6	70.5	15.9	22.6	71.0	6.5	10.9	70.3	18.8

Annex 2   Distribution of responses with respect to goods recommended for exclusion

Question	All 132 countries or areas			Developed			Developing and transitional		
	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A
Do you EXCLUDE from trade statistics the following:									
issued banknotes and securities and coins in circulation	86.4	9.1	4.5	96.8	3.2	0.0	83.2	10.9	5.9
goods in transit	81.8	11.4	6.8	96.8	3.2	0.0	77.2	13.9	8.9
monetary gold (i.e., that gold which is exchanged between national or international monetary authorities or authorized banks)	79.5	12.1	8.3	96.8	3.2	0.0	74.3	14.9	10.9
goods acquired by all categories of travelers, including non-resident workers, for their own use and carried across the border in amounts or values not exceeding those established by national law	76.5	14.4	9.1	96.8	3.2	0.0	70.3	17.8	11.9
goods moving between your country and territorial enclaves of your country in other countries (e.g., your embassies, military or other installations)	75.8	12.1	12.1	87.1	12.9	0.0	72.3	11.9	15.8
goods purchased by foreign embassies, military or other installations located in your country, for their own use	73.5	15.2	11.4	87.1	12.9	0.0	69.3	15.8	14.9
goods temporarily admitted or dispatched	72.7	18.9	8.3	93.5	6.5	0.0	66.3	22.8	10.9
goods under operational lease (i.e., a lease of less than one year)	72.7	13.6	13.6	96.8	3.2	0.0	65.3	16.8	17.8
goods which are acquired and relinquished within your country, by non-residents, within the same recording period, and which do not cross the frontiers of the country	72.0	12.1	15.9	96.8	3.2	0.0	64.4	14.9	20.8
non-financial assets, ownership of which has been transferred from residents to non-residents, without crossing borders	68.9	11.4	19.7	96.8	3.2	0.0	60.4	13.9	25.7
goods which left the economic territory of the exporting country but lost or destroyed before entering the economic territory of your country	67.4	14.4	18.2	87.1	9.7	3.2	61.4	15.8	22.8
newspapers and periodicals sent under direct subscription	65.2	22.0	12.9	71.0	29.0	0.0	63.4	19.8	16.8
empty bottles which are returned to be refilled	62.1	25.0	12.9	77.4	19.4	3.2	57.4	26.7	15.8
waste and scrap having no positive value	62.1	26.5	11.4	77.4	19.4	3.2	57.4	28.7	13.9
fish caught on the high seas by national vessels of your country and landed in its economic territory	59.1	14.4	26.5	61.3	22.6	16.1	58.4	11.9	29.7

Question	All 132 countries or areas			Developed			Developing and transitional		
	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A
goods purchased by international organizations located in the economic territory of your country, from your country, for their own use;	53.0	27.3	19.7	58.1	32.3	9.7	51.5	25.7	22.8
goods entering or leaving the economic territory of your country illegally;	50.0	23.5	26.5	54.8	25.8	19.4	48.5	22.8	28.7
bunkers, stores, ballast and dunnage that are acquired by national vessels/aircraft outside the economic territory of your country;	47.7	22.7	29.5	61.3	22.6	16.1	43.6	22.8	33.7
goods for repair;	47.7	37.1	15.2	58.1	35.5	6.5	44.6	37.6	17.8
bunkers, stores, ballast and dunnage that are supplied by national vessels/aircraft to foreign vessels/aircraft outside the economic territory of your country or landed in foreign ports from national ves	43.2	24.2	32.6	38.7	38.7	22.6	44.6	19.8	35.6
mobile equipment that changes ownership while outside the country of residence of its original owner;	40.9	31.8	27.3	29.0	61.3	9.7	44.6	22.8	32.7
fish catch, minerals from the seabed and salvage sold from national vessels in foreign ports or from national vessels on the high seas to foreign vessels;	34.8	30.3	34.8	22.6	54.8	22.6	38.6	22.8	38.6
goods exported from your country but lost or destroyed after ownership has been acquired by the importer;	31.1	47.0	22.0	32.3	58.1	9.7	30.7	43.6	25.7
any category of used or second-hand goods ?	14.4	63.6	22.0	3.2	90.3	6.5	17.8	55.4	26.7

Annex 3   Comparison of responses in 1996 and 2006 versions of the questionnaire

Questions	Distribution of responses by region (in %)	1996			2006			Difference
		Yes	**No**	**N/A**	**Yes**	**No**	**N/A**	
Do you INCLUDE in trade statistics:								
non-monetary gold								
	All respondents	77.7	17.6	4.7	86.4	10.6	3.0	8.7
	Developed economies	81.8	18.2	0.0	96.8	3.2	0.0	15.0
	Developing and transitional	76.5	17.4	6.1	83.2	12.9	4.0	6.7
goods traded on government account								
	All respondents	79.7	14.9	5.4	80.3	14.4	5.3	0.6
	Developed economies	84.8	12.1	3.0	93.5	3.2	3.2	8.7
	Developing and transitional	78.3	15.7	6.1	76.2	17.8	5.9	-2.1
goods for military use								
	All respondents	50.0	42.6	7.4	59.8	32.6	7.6	9.8
	Developed economies	84.8	12.1	3.0	90.3	6.5	3.2	5.5
	Developing and transitional	40.0	51.3	8.7	50.5	40.6	8.9	10.5
electricity and gas (and water for 1996 results only)								
	All respondents	74.3	18.9	6.8	68.2	15.9	15.9	-6.1
	Developed economies	93.9	3.0	3.0	90.3	3.2	6.5	-3.6
	Developing and transitional	68.7	23.5	7.8	61.4	19.8	18.8	-7.3
goods dispatched through postal or courier services								
	All respondents	75.7	20.9	3.4	82.6	12.9	4.5	6.9
	Developed economies	97.0	3.0	0.0	96.8	3.2	0.0	-0.2
	Developing and transitional	69.6	26.1	4.3	78.2	15.8	5.9	8.6
ships, aircraft (and other mobile equipment for 2006 results only)								
	All respondents	52.7	37.8	9.5	75.0	18.2	6.8	22.3
	Developed economies	69.7	27.3	3.0	96.8	3.2	0.0	27.1
	Developing and transitional	47.8	40.9	11.3	68.3	22.8	8.9	20.5
goods delivered from the rest of the world to offshore installations located in the economic territory of your country, and goods dispatched to the rest of the world from offshore installations located in the economic territory of your country								
	All respondents	27.0	54.1	18.9	34.1	39.4	26.5	7.1
	Developed economies	57.6	27.3	15.2	51.6	12.9	35.5	-6.0
	Developing and transitional	18.3	61.7	20.0	28.7	47.5	23.8	10.4
bunkers, stores, ballast and dunnage supplied to foreign vessels/aircraft in the economic territory of your country								
	All respondents	49.3	43.2	7.4	51.5	35.6	12.9	2.2
	Developed economies	51.5	45.5	3.0	58.1	35.5	6.5	6.6
	Developing and transitional	48.7	42.6	8.7	49.5	35.6	14.9	0.8

Questions	Distribution of responses by region (in %)	1996			2006			Difference
		Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	
bunkers, stores, ballast and dunnage landed in national ports from foreign vessels/aircraft								
	All respondents	38.5	51.4	10.1	32.6	40.9	26.5	-5.9
	Developed economies	54.5	39.4	6.1	29.0	45.2	25.8	-25.5
	Developing and transitional	33.9	54.8	11.3	33.7	39.6	26.7	-0.2
fish catch, minerals from the seabed and salvage landed from foreign vessels in national ports								
	All respondents	50.7	35.8	13.5	54.5	27.3	18.2	3.8
	Developed economies	84.8	9.1	6.1	80.6	3.2	16.1	-4.2
	Developing and transitional	40.9	43.5	15.7	46.5	34.7	18.8	5.6
fish catch, minerals from the seabed and salvage acquired by national vessels on the high seas from foreign vessels								
	All respondents	33.8	48.6	17.6	42.4	37.9	19.7	8.6
	Developed economies	48.5	36.4	15.2	64.5	19.4	16.1	16.0
	Developing and transitional	29.6	52.2	18.3	35.6	43.6	20.8	6.0
goods for processing								
	All respondents	84.5	8.8	6.8	82.6	9.1	8.3	-1.9
	Developed economies	100.0	0.0	0.0	96.8	0.0	3.2	-3.2
	Developing and transitional	80.0	11.3	8.7	78.2	11.9	9.9	-1.8
goods under financial lease								
	All respondents	62.2	29.7	8.1	66.7	22.7	10.6	4.5
	Developed economies	87.9	12.1	0.0	96.8	3.2	0.0	8.9
	Developing and transitional	54.8	34.8	10.4	57.4	28.7	13.9	2.6
goods traded in accordance with barter agreements								
	All respondents	57.4	36.5	6.1	61.4	27.3	11.4	4.0
	Developed economies	90.9	6.1	3.0	90.3	3.2	6.5	-0.6
	Developing and transitional	47.8	45.2	7.0	52.5	34.7	12.9	4.7
food and other humanitarian aid								
	All respondents	63.5	32.4	4.1	75.8	22.0	2.3	12.3
	Developed economies	69.7	30.3	0.0	64.5	35.5	0.0	-5.2
	Developing and transitional	61.7	33.0	5.2	79.2	17.8	3.0	17.5
local border trade								
	All respondents	36.5	53.4	10.1	37.1	49.2	13.6	0.6
	Developed economies	45.5	36.4	18.2	45.2	38.7	16.1	-0.3
	Developing and transitional	33.9	58.3	7.8	34.7	52.5	12.9	0.8
Do you EXCLUDE from trade statistics:								
goods in transit								
	All respondents	70.9	10.8	18.2	81.8	11.4	6.8	10.9
	Developed economies	90.9	3.0	6.1	96.8	3.2	0.0	5.9
	Developing and transitional	65.2	13.0	21.7	77.2	13.9	8.9	12.0

Questions	Distribution of responses by region (in %)	1996			2006			Difference
		Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	
goods entering or leaving the economic territory of your country illegally								
	All respondents	83.1	10.1	6.8	50.0	23.5	26.5	-33.1
	Developed economies	87.9	9.1	3.0	54.8	25.8	19.4	-33.1
	Developing and transitional	81.7	10.4	7.8	48.5	22.8	28.7	-33.2
monetary gold								
	All respondents	78.4	13.5	8.1	79.5	12.1	8.3	1.1
	Developed economies	90.9	9.1	0.0	96.8	3.2	0.0	5.9
	Developing and transitional	74.8	14.8	10.4	74.3	14.9	10.9	-0.5
fish catch, minerals from the seabed and salvage sold from national vessels in foreign ports or from national vessels on the high seas to foreign vessels								
	All respondents	59.5	25.7	14.9	34.8	30.3	34.8	-24.7
	Developed economies	54.5	36.4	9.1	22.6	54.8	22.6	-31.9
	Developing and transitional	60.9	22.6	16.5	38.6	22.8	38.6	-22.3
goods under operational lease								
	All respondents	63.5	27.7	8.8	72.7	13.6	13.6	9.2
	Developed economies	78.8	21.2	0.0	96.8	3.2	0.0	18.0
	Developing and transitional	59.1	29.6	11.3	65.3	16.8	17.8	6.2
goods for repair								
	All respondents	44.6	45.9	9.5	47.7	37.1	15.2	3.1
	Developed economies	48.5	51.5	0.0	58.1	35.5	6.5	9.6
	Developing and transitional	43.5	44.3	12.2	44.6	37.6	17.8	1.1
goods temporarily admitted or dispatched								
	All respondents	61.5	30.4	8.1	72.7	18.9	8.3	11.2
	Developed economies	72.7	24.2	3.0	93.5	6.5	0.0	20.8
	Developing and transitional	58.3	32.2	9.6	66.3	22.8	10.9	8.0

Valuation

Questions	Distribution of responses by region (in %)	1996			2006			Difference
		Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	
Is the statistical value of imported goods a CIF-type value?								
	All respondents	90.5	6.1	3.4	92.4	6.1	1.5	1.9
	Developed economies	93.9	6.1	0.0	93.5	6.5	0.0	-0.4
	Developing and transitional	89.6	6.1	4.3	92.1	5.9	2.0	2.5
Is the statistical value of exported goods an FOB-type value?								
	All respondents	94.6	2.0	3.4	96.2	2.3	1.5	1.6
	Developed economies	97.0	3.0	0.0	96.8	3.2	0.0	-0.2
	Developing and transitional	93.9	1.7	4.3	96.0	2.0	2.0	2.1
Do you use the exchange rate which is in effect at the date of exportation or importation?								
	All respondents	52.7	25.7	21.6	63.6	20.5	15.9	10.9
	Developed economies	45.5	45.5	9.1	45.2	29.0	25.8	-0.3
	Developing and transitional	54.8	20.0	25.2	69.3	17.8	12.9	14.5

Questions	Distribution of responses by region (in %)	1996			2006			Difference
		Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	
Are data for international freight and insurance associated with the importation of goods available separately?								
	All respondents	29.7	65.5	4.7	42.4	56.1	1.5	12.7
	Developed economies	42.4	57.6	0.0	25.8	74.2	0.0	-16.6
	Developing and transitional	26.1	67.8	6.1	47.5	50.5	2.0	21.4
Partner country								
Do you compile import statistics by:								
country of origin?								
	All respondents	81.8	14.9	3.4	90.2	7.6	2.3	8.4
	Developed economies	93.9	6.1	0.0	96.8	3.2	0.0	2.9
	Developing and transitional	78.3	17.4	4.3	88.1	8.9	3.0	9.8
country of consignment?								
	All respondents	50.0	44.6	5.4	47.0	46.2	6.8	-3.0
	Developed economies	60.6	39.4	0.0	77.4	22.6	0.0	16.8
	Developing and transitional	47.0	46.1	7.0	37.6	53.5	8.9	-9.4
Do you compile export statistics by:								
country of last known destination?								
	All respondents	87.8	7.4	4.7	90.9	6.1	3.0	3.1
	Developed economies	97.0	3.0	0.0	93.5	6.5	0.0	-3.5
	Developing and transitional	85.2	8.7	6.1	90.1	5.9	4.0	4.9
Commodity classifications and quantity measurements								
Do you use the Harmonized System (HS) as the basis for your detailed commodity trade database?								
	All respondents	72.3	8.8	18.9	93.9	3.0	3.0	21.6
	Developed economies	90.9	3.0	6.1	96.8	3.2	0.0	5.9
	Developing and transitional	67.0	10.4	22.6	93.1	3.0	4.0	26.1
Do you collect quantity data?								
	All respondents	79.7	2.0	18.2	92.4	4.5	3.0	12.7
	Developed economies	93.9	0.0	6.1	100.0	0.0	0.0	6.1
	Developing and transitional	75.7	2.6	21.7	90.1	5.9	4.0	14.4
Do you record or estimate net weight for quantity measurement of all commodities, where applicable?								
	All respondents	52.7	28.4	18.9	73.5	22.7	3.8	20.8
	Developed economies	69.7	21.2	9.1	71.0	29.0	0.0	1.3
	Developing and transitional	47.8	30.4	21.7	74.3	20.8	5.0	26.5