

National Practices in Compilation and Dissemination of External Trade Index Numbers

A Technical Report

$$\sum \frac{P_n Q_n}{P_o Q_n} \quad \sum \frac{P_n Q_o}{P_o Q_o}$$



Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Statistics Division

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**National Practices in Compilation and Dissemination
of External Trade Index Numbers**

A Technical Report



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ABBREVIATIONS

ASYCUDA	Automated System for Customs Data
BEC	Classification by Broad Economic Categories
CESTAT	Central European Cooperation in Statistics
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CN	Combined Nomenclature
CPA	Statistical Classification of Products by Activity in the European Community
CPC	Central Product Classification
EU	European Union
f.o.b.	free on board
HS	Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System
Intrastat	Intra-community trade statistics
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities
NACE Rev.1	Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification

INTRODUCTION

1. At its twenty-ninth session, in 1997, the Statistical Commission decided that one of the priority activities in the area of international merchandise trade statistics should be the collection of technical information on the index numbers of international trade statistics.¹ Following that decision, the United Nations Statistics Division conducted a survey to collect information on national practices in the compilation and dissemination of index numbers of external trade.

2. A questionnaire was sent to a number of countries at the beginning of 1999. Between 1999 and 2002, the Division corresponded with those countries to seek clarification on their responses to the questionnaire, to request additional feedback from them, and obtained further information from relevant national publications. By December 2002, the Division had received responses on compilation practices from a total of 76 countries and one customs union.

3. The present report describes the compilation practices of each respondent according to the following characteristics:

- (a) Index number series produced;
- (b) Source of information;
- (c) Index calculation methods;
- (d) Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country;
- (e) Release dates;
- (f) Revision policy;
- (g) Dissemination;
- (h) Compiling agency and contact information.

The results of the survey are summarized below, and descriptions of national practices are contained in the body of the report.

Index number series produced

4. All 77 respondents compile unit value and/or price indices. Of these, 75 per cent calculate unit value

indices only, 17 per cent price indices only and 8 per cent both unit value and price indices. Volume index numbers are produced by 79 per cent of the respondents.

5. Ninety-six per cent of the respondents construct indices for total exports and imports while the remaining 4 per cent compile indices for imports only. Ninety-five per cent of the respondents compile indices by various commodity classifications, the most common of which are the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), used by 45 per cent of the respondents; the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS), used by 19 per cent; and the Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC), used by 16 per cent. Many also compile indices according to either national or international classifications of industrial activities (21 per cent).

6. All of the respondents produce series of annual indices. Sixteen per cent produce annual series only, 34 per cent produce both annual and quarterly series, and 36 per cent produce annual, quarterly and monthly series.

Source of information

7. Ninety-five per cent of the respondents use customs records, and for 60 per cent of those respondents, customs records are the sole source of data. For 35 per cent of the respondents, customs records are supplemented by other sources such as price surveys or the reports of various governmental agencies or commercial organizations. Only 5 per cent of the respondents use price surveys as the sole source of data.

Index calculation method

8. Unit value indices, price indices and volume index numbers are calculated by applying Laspeyres, Paasche or Fisher formulae. Volume index numbers are also derived as quotients of value index numbers and unit value index numbers. Table I illustrates the proportion of respondents that use the various formula combinations. The combination most frequently used

¹Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 4 (E/1997/24), para. 39 (a).

Table 1. Index calculation

<i>Formula combinations</i>		<i>As percentage of use by respondents</i>	
<i>Unit value or price indices</i>	<i>Volume index numbers</i>	<i>Combination</i>	<i>Total</i>
Paasche	Paasche	1	30
	Laspeyres	25	
	Derived	4	
Laspeyres	Paasche	4	18
	Laspeyres	14	
Fisher	Laspeyres	1	21
	Fisher	11	
	Derived	9	
Multiple combinations			9
No combination, unit value or price only			22
			100

Source: Compiled from country responses to questionnaire.

(25 per cent of the respondents) is a Paasche unit value or price index number and a Laspeyres volume index number. Fourteen per cent of the respondents calculate a Laspeyres index number for the unit value or price index and for the volume index, while 9 per cent of the respondents employ a Fisher unit value or price index and a derived volume index. Nine per cent of the respondents use multiple formulae to calculate unit value or price index numbers and volume index numbers. Some of the respondents use fixed base (direct) indices while others use chained indices; however, the information provided was insufficient to permit calculation of those percentages.

Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations

9. The problems most frequently encountered in the compilation of index numbers of external trade are:

- (a) Data entry errors and omissions;
- (b) Incorrect commodity coding and/or description;
- (c) Changes in HS;
- (d) Commodity groups too heterogeneous at certain levels of SITC;
- (e) Inaccuracy and inconsistency of quantity data for selected commodities;
- (f) Lack of adjustment for quality change.

10. Additional problems encountered by many of the respondents are:

- (a) Inability to compile seasonally adjusted indices;
- (b) Lack of experienced personnel or experts to train existing staff;
- (c) Uncertainty regarding treatment of extreme unit value relatives, including selection of the upper and lower limits of acceptable relatives;
- (d) Determining whether or not a particular tariff item is representative;
- (e) Lack of up-to-date technology and/or funds;
- (f) Accounting for exchange rate fluctuations; and
- (g) Selection or design of appropriate software.

Release dates

11. Table 2 shows the time lag between the end of the reference month and the availability of monthly, quarterly and annual indices. In most cases, monthly and quarterly indices are available within 60 days of the end of the reference month. Annual indices are, in the majority of cases, released within 46 to 90 days. Only 28 per cent of the respondents take more than three months to release their annual index numbers.

Table 2. Time lag in data release

<i>Time lag after the end of the reference month</i>	<i>All respondents (percentage)</i>		
	<i>Monthly indices</i>	<i>Quarterly indices</i>	<i>Annual indices</i>
15 days	23	3	—
16-30 days	17	19	9
31-45 days	14	11	9
46-60 days	26	39	19
61-90 days	20	22	34
90 days	—	6	28

Source: Compiled from country responses to questionnaire.

Revision policy

12. Of the 69 per cent of respondents that revise their indices, 24 per cent do so only if and when trade or other related data are revised, while 45 per cent set a fixed month for a final revision. For the latter group, monthly and quarterly data are revised continually throughout the year, or at the end of every quarter, and the final revision month ranges from February to December of the following year. Respondents that rely solely on final trade data to compile their index numbers do not revise those numbers.

Dissemination

13. Dissemination of indices normally includes their provision to various governmental agencies,

the business community and the general public. Nine per cent of the respondents, however, do not disseminate their indices either to the business community or to the general public. While most of the respondents publish their indices in monthly, quarterly and annual reports, about 43 per cent disseminate them via web sites as well.

Compiling agency and contact information

14. For 84 per cent of the respondents, the national statistical office is the compiling agency. For the remainder, central banks, customs administrations and specialized governmental organizations act as the compiling agencies. Contact information on the compiling agencies can be found in the body of the present report.

COUNTRY RESPONSES

ALBANIA

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:

- By section and chapter of HS
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Paasche

Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Limitation:

- Indices are not seasonally adjusted. Price trends for commodities with seasonal patterns may therefore require a longer time-span for proper analysis.

Problems:

- Lack of trained personnel
- Treatment of extreme unit value relatives and definition of upper and lower limits of acceptable price relatives
- Determining whether or not a tariff number is representative

5. Release dates

Quarterly data are released on the twentieth day of the second month of the quarter following the reference quarter, except in the case of the fourth quarter. Fourth quarter and annual data are released on 15 March of the following year.

6. Revision policy

Quarterly and monthly data for the year are finalized in June of the following year.

7. Dissemination

Indices are used internally for the national accounts sector of the Institute of Statistics of Albania. The International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Ministry of Finance of Albania and the Bank of Albania also receive the index number data.

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Institute of Statistics of Albania
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ARGENTINA

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly and annual price indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:

- By BEC, for exports
 - Primary products
 - Manufacture of agricultural products
 - Manufacture of goods of industrial origin
 - Mineral oil
- By principal usage, for imports

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Price: Paasche
Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

No information provided

5. Release dates

Data are available 20 days after the close of the quarter.

6. Revision policy

No information provided

7. Dissemination

- Press releases
- Web site: <http://indec.mecon.ar>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos, Ministerio de Economía y Obras y Servicios Públicos
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ARMENIA

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports (in the methodology design stage):

- By Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries
- By all except CIS countries
- By commodity subgroup, group and sector classified in the commodity list of external economic activity
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Laspeyres

Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

The most difficult problem is the design of the correct methodology and of the software for the derivation of external trade indices. Another problem is the definition of upper and lower limits of price comparatives and their impact on the calculation of index numbers.

5. Release dates

Monthly data for the processing and calculation of index numbers is received by the twenty-fifth day of the next month.

6. Revision policy

Data are revised and corrected on a quarterly basis.

7. Dissemination

The indices will be published quarterly in:

- Monthly report of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia
- Bulletins and handbooks
- Web site: <http://www.armstat.am>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia
Ministry of Statistics, State Registry and Analysis

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Fax: (3741) 52-19-21

E-mail: armstat@sci.am

AUSTRALIA

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly and fiscal year price indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:

- By section and selected division of SITC
- By Australia and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification; selected industry of origin division and subdivision
- By BEC, and broad balance of payments category, consumption and capital goods (for imports only)
- By selected section (for imports only) of the harmonized tariff item statistical classification
- By balance of payments group, rural and non-rural goods (for exports only)
- By selected section (for exports only) of the Australian Harmonised Export Commodity Classification
- By total

2. Source of information

Price data are obtained from major exporters and importers of the selected items included in the index calculation.

3. Index calculation methods

Price: Laspeyres

Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Imports are priced on a free on board (f.o.b.) and country of origin basis. Quantity re-evaluation is used extensively for volume index numbers. The methodology assumes homogeneous goods and services and no quality change.

5. Release dates

Quarterly price index data are released during approximately the third week of the month that follows the last month of the reference quarter. Quarterly volume index data are released approximately nine weeks following the reference quarter.

6. Revision policy

Price index numbers for the current reference quarter and the previous quarters are final and are not, in general, subject to revision. Volume index numbers for the previous four quarters are subject to revision. Historical series are revised every two years.

7. Dissemination

- *International Trade Price Indexes*, a quarterly publication issued by the Australian Bureau of Statistics
- *Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product*, a quarterly publication issued by the Bureau
- Web site: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

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AUSTRIA

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:

- By section of SITC
- By Statistical Classification of Products by Activity in the European Economic Community (CPA), three-digit level
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records and Intra-community trade statistics (Intrastat)

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Paasche

Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

No information provided

5. Release dates

Data are released 12 weeks after the reference period.

6. Revision policy

The final figures of a reference year are available in June of the following year and all indices are revised accordingly.

7. Dissemination

- *The Statistical Yearbook of Austria*
- *Foreign Trade of Austria* (semi-annual and annual)

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Statistics Austria

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BANGLADESH

1. Index number series produced

Monthly, quarterly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:

- By section of HS
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Laspeyres

Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

- Lack of training for most coders
- Unsatisfactory coordination among trade data-generating agencies
- Individual value and quantity for each commodity rarely provided in the import and export documents

5. Release dates

No information provided

6. Revision policy

No information provided

7. Dissemination

- *Foreign Trade Statistics of Bangladesh*
- *Statistical Yearbook of Bangladesh*
- *Statistical Pocketbook of Bangladesh*
- *Monthly Statistical Bulletin, Bangladesh*

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

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BARBADOS

1. Index number series produced

Monthly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:

- By SITC
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records, petroleum dealers, the Barbados Agricultural Management Company, and the General Post Office

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Laspeyres

Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

- Exchange rate fluctuations create difficulty in explaining fluctuations in average values.
- There is a question as to how and when to re-base the index, and what the resulting implications would be.

5. Release dates

No information provided

6. Revision policy

No information provided

7. Dissemination

Indices are not yet available for dissemination.

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Barbados Statistical Service
Trade and National Accounts Division

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BELGIUM

1. Index number series produced

Monthly, quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:

- By Combined Nomenclatures (CN) eight-digit level
- By section of SITC
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records and Intrastat

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Fisher

Volume: Derived by dividing value index by corresponding unit value index

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

- Indices are not seasonally adjusted.
- Extensive “filters” are needed to eliminate certain CN8 from the index calculations because, inter alia:
 - Their value is too small
 - The code has changed throughout the years
 - There is no requirement to declare weights for the codes

5. Release dates

Monthly data are released 10 weeks after the month.

6. Revision policy

Data are revised, on average, every two or three months.

7. Dissemination

- *Foreign Trade Statistics, Monthly Bulletin*
- *Foreign Trade Statistics, Quarterly Bulletin*
- Web site: <http://www.nbb.be>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

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BOLIVIA

1. Index number series produced

Monthly, quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:

- By traditional and non-traditional products
- By International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), Rev.3
- By clasificación según uso o destino económico
- By BEC
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Laspeyres

Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

No information provided

5. Release dates

Quarterly data are released on the twentieth day of the second month of the quarter following the reference quarter, except in the case of the fourth quarter. Fourth quarter and annual data are released in March of the following year.

6. Revision policy

Data are revised each quarter for the previous three months to reflect late reports and corrections. Quarterly and monthly data are finalized for the year in April of the next year.

7. Dissemination

- *The Statistical Yearbook of the National Institute of Statistics of Bolivia*
- *Actualidad Estadística* (quarterly)
- Web site: <http://www.ine.gov.bo>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

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BOTSWANA

1. Index number series produced

Annual unit value and volume index numbers:

- Of fuel imports
- Of major exported commodity groups

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Fisher

Volume: Fisher

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

No information provided

5. Release dates

No information provided

6. Revision policy

No information provided

7. Dissemination

Annual trade supplement report

8. Compiling agency and contact information

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Telephone: (267) 395-2200

Fax: (267) 395-2201

BULGARIA

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly and annual price index numbers of exports and imports:

- By section of SITC, Rev.3
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Price: Paasche

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Index numbers are not seasonally adjusted.

5. Release dates

Quarterly data are released 10 weeks after the reference period. Annual data are released in September of the following year.

6. Revision policy

Quarterly data for the year are finalized in August of the following year.

7. Dissemination

- Quarterly bulletin; exports and imports
- Foreign Trade of the Republic of Bulgaria (annual)
- Web site: <http://www.nsi.bg>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: National Statistical Institute of the Republic of Bulgaria

Name: Emilia Danailova, Head, Foreign Trade Division

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1038 Sofia, Bulgaria

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CANADA

1. Index number series produced

Monthly, quarterly and cumulative year-to-date price indices and volume index numbers (raw and seasonally adjusted) of imports and exports:

- By commodity group
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records. In cases where a quantity is not provided or data is not adequate, Statistics Canada uses proxies.

3. Index calculation methods

Price: Paasche and Laspeyres

Volume: Paasche and Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

No information provided

5. Release dates

Monthly data are released approximately seven weeks after the reference month.

6. Revision policy

The Monthly International Merchandise Trade Price Index for the current year is subject to revisions until the preliminary release of the January index for the following year. Data remain unchanged for the next 12 months, after which they are subject to a final revision process. Under normal circumstances, the revision covers, at most, the preceding four years.

7. Dissemination

- *Canadian International Trade Tables (English: catalogue No. 65F0003XPE; French: catalogue No. 65F0003XPF)*
- *Canadian International Merchandise Trade (Catalogue No. 65001XPB)*
- Web site: <http://www.statcan.ca>

8. Compiling agency and contact information:

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CHILE

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly and annual price indices and volume index numbers of exports and imports:

- By commodity group
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Paasche

Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

No information provided

5. Release dates

Indices are released on a quarterly basis.

6. Revision policy

In general, indices are revised once a year. They are also revised, when necessary, to reflect improvement in the sources of information or changes in methodology.

7. Dissemination

- *Informe Económico y Financiero*
- *Boletín Mensual*
- *Anuario de Balanza de Pagos*
- Special publications, such as *Índices de Exportación: 1986-1999*

8. Compiling agency and contact information

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CHINA

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers for imports and exports:

- By products (HS, two-digit and four-digit levels)
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Paasche

Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Limitations:

- Inadequate sample coverage that causes calculation bias for some commodity items
- Exclusive compilation of chained and HS-based indices, which do not fully meet analytical needs
- The indices are not yet officially published; they are distributed only to specific agencies for reference

Problem:

- Lack of experience in the practical compilation of import and export unit value indices (e.g., lack of knowledge on how to select samples, how to convert data from HS, SITC and BEC, lack of knowledge on formula and reference year selections).

5. Release dates

Quarterly data are released on the twentieth day of the second month of the following quarter.

6. Revision policy

No information provided

7. Dissemination

Since 1993, the Customs General Administration (CGA) has released a quarterly publication entitled, *China's External Trade Indices*, which, though still in the pilot stage, is sent to relevant government institutions and international organizations (e.g., the International Monetary Fund) for reference. A plan is under way to publish China's export and import indices early in 2002.

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Statistical Department
Customs General Administration
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CHINA, HONG KONG SAR

1. Index number series produced

Monthly, quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports, total exports, domestic exports, and re-exports:

- By commodity group (domestic exports)
- By end-use (imports and re-exports)
- By country or territory of consignment
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Laspeyres

Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Unit value indices are subject to some limitations, arising from incomplete use of the product specification approach.

5. Release dates

Monthly, quarterly and annual statistics are released within a period of eight weeks after the end of the reference period.

6. Revision policy

There is no routine revision to published trade index numbers. Non-routine revision is conducted from time to time due to the need for re-basing or because of enhancement in compilation methodology.

7. Dissemination

- Monthly press releases by the Census and Statistics Department (C and SD)
- Hong Kong trade index numbers (monthly), C and SD
- Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics, C and SD
- Web site: <http://www.info.gov.hk/censtatd/>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Census and Statistics Department
Name: Elsa Lee
Address: Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road
Wan chai, Hong Kong SAR, China
Telephone: (852) 2582 4915
Fax: (852) 2802 1101
E-mail: trade@censtatd.gov.hk

CHINA, MACAO SAR

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports:

- By basic classes of BEC
- By total

Quarterly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers of total exports, domestic exports and re-exports:

- By group of the Macao Standard Industrial Classification, Rev.1
- By textile and non-textile
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Paasche

Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Limitation:

- Indices not seasonally adjusted

Problem:

- Treatment of extreme unit value relatives

5. Release dates

Quarterly data are released in the third month of the following quarter, while annual data are released in March of the following year.

6. Revision policy

Quarterly data are revised in March of the following year.

7. Dissemination

- *External Trade Index*, issued quarterly by the Statistics and Census Service
- Web site: <http://www.dsec.gov.mo>

More detailed trade indices are also available on request.

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Statistics and Census Service
Name: Mok Iun Lei, Acting Director
Address: Dynasty Plaza Bldg., 17th floor
411-417 Alameda Dr. Carlos d'Assumpção
Macao SAR, China.
Telephone: (853) 3995311
Fax: (853) 307825
E-mail: info@dsec.gov.mo

COLOMBIA

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly and annual price indices and volume index numbers of exports and imports:

- By national account nomenclature, two-digit level
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Price: Laspeyres

Volume: Paasche

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Limitations and problems:

- Changes in quality and definition of products
- Technical smuggling (contraband)

5. Release dates

Index numbers are prepared during the first 15 days of the second month of the following quarter.

6. Revision policy

Prices are compared to those published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the *International Financial Statistics* and to those published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

7. Dissemination

International trade index numbers are not published directly. However, implicit prices (current and constant) of exports and imports at the two-digit level of the national accounts nomenclature are published annually.

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (DANE)

Name: José Eduardo Granados Fernández
Director de Metodología y Producción Estadística

Address: Av. El Dorado—CAN Edificio DANE
Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia

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Fax: (571) 597-8326

E-mail: jegranadosf@dane.gov.co

CROATIA

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:

- By commodity sector of SITC, Rev.3
- By national classification of economic activities
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Price: Fisher

Volume: Derived by dividing value index by corresponding unit value index

4. Limitations of indexes, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Data with zero quantity, and unit value ratio of unacceptable deviation, are excluded from the calculation of indices.

5. Release dates

Data are released two months after the reference quarter.

6. Revision policy

To date, indices are not revised.

7. Dissemination

Web site: <http://www.dzs.hr>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Croatian Bureau of Statistics

Name: Marija Bjelotomić

Address: P.O. Box 80, Ilica 3, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia

Telephone: (3851) 4806-271

Fax: (3851) 4817-666

E-mail: vrcam@dzs.hr

CZECH REPUBLIC

1. Index number series produced

Monthly, quarterly and annual price and unit value indices of imports and exports:

- By section of SITC, Rev.3
- By HS, one- and two-digit levels (price indices only)
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records and price surveys

3. Index calculation methods

Price: Laspeyres

Unit value: Paasche

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Indices are not seasonally adjusted.

5. Release dates

Price indices are available monthly on the Internet and in published form on the forty-fifth calendar day after the end of the surveyed month. Unit value index numbers are available two months after the surveyed month.

6. Revision policy

Data are not revised backward. Complex revisions are carried out every five to seven years, the last time being the year 2000.

7. Dissemination

- *Import and Export Price Indices in the Czech Republic* (monthly)
- *Monthly Statistics of the Czech Republic*
- Web site (price indices only): <http://www.czso.cz>
- *External Trade of the Czech Republic* (monthly, unit value indices only)

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Czech Statistical Office
International Cooperation Department

Name: Zdeněk Veselý, Director

Address: Sokolovská n. 142
186 04 Prague 8
Czech Republic

Telephone: (4202) 6631-1229, (4202) 6604-1111

Fax: (4202) 822490

E-mail: Bondyova@gw.czso.cz

Agency: Prices Statistics Department

Name: Miroslava Ciznerova

Telephone: (4202) 7405-2709

E-mail: Ciznerova@gw.czso.cz

Agency: External Trade Statistics Department
Business Cycle Survey Statistics Department

Name: Vera Petraskova

Telephone: (4202) 7405-2213

E-mail: Petraskova@gw.czso.cz

DENMARK

1. Index number series produced

Monthly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:

- By BEC (imports only)
- By konjunkturgrupper (commodity nomenclature based on SITC, exports only)
- By chapter and section of SITC, Rev.3
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Price: Fisher

Volume: Fisher

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

No specific problems

5. Release dates

Data for each month are released six to seven weeks after the end of the reference month.

6. Revision policy

Data are revised each month for all months in the current year and of the previous year, until the data of the previous year are finalized (seven to eight months after the end of the same year).

7. Dissemination

- *Monthly Review of Statistics*, issued by Statistics Denmark (DS)
- *The Monthly Statistical Bulletin*, issued by DS
- *The Statistical Yearbook*, issued by DS
- Web site: <http://www.statistikbanken.dk>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Statistics Denmark

Name: Peter Ottosen

Head of Section

Address: Postboks 2550, Sejrøgade 11

DK-2100 Copenhagen, Denmark

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Fax: (4539) 17-39-99
E-mail: pot@dst.dk

DOMINICA

1. Index number series produced

Annual unit value and volume index numbers of imports and exports:

- By section of SITC, Rev.3
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Laspeyres and Paasche

Volume: Laspeyres and Paasche

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

- Indices not seasonally adjusted
- Inconsistencies in, and lack of, net weights and quantity data for selected commodities

5. Release dates

Index numbers are released in March of the following year.

6. Revision policy

Revisions are made after final corrections and amendments are completed.

7. Dissemination

Annual report on external trade (summary tables)

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Central Statistical Office

Ministry of Finance

Name: Prayma Blatze Burton

Chief Statistician (Ag.)

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Roseau, The Commonwealth of Dominica, West Indies

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E-mail: csoda@cwdom.dm

EGYPT

1. Index number series produced

Annual unit value and volume index numbers of total imports and exports

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Paasche

Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

- Lack of training on index number compilation
- Indices not seasonally adjusted

5. Release dates

Data are released annually.

6. Revision policy

The base year revision from 1987 to 1998 is due in 2001/02.

7. Dissemination

International Trade Bulletin

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics

Name: Farida Abdel-Fatah El-Gallad

Director of Indices and Prices Department

Address: P.O. Box 2086, Nasr City

Cairo, Egypt

Telephone: (202) 402-4632

Fax: (202) 402-4099

ESTONIA

1. Index number series produced

Monthly, quarterly and annual price indices of exports and imports:

- By Estonian classification of economic activities developed according to Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the Euro-

pean Community (NACE), Rev.1, beginning in 2000; prior to 2000, indices were calculated according to HS

- By total

2. Source of information

Price surveys

3. Index calculation methods

Price: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Limitation:

- Indices are not seasonally adjusted.

5. Release dates

Monthly and quarterly data are released on the twentieth of the following month, except when the twentieth is a holiday, in which case the data are released on the next business day.

6. Revision policy

The data are generally considered final when first released. There is a possibility to revise data for the previous three months if there are late reports and corrections in prices.

7. Dissemination

- *Estonian Statistics* (monthly)
- *Statistical Yearbook of Estonia*
- Web site: <http://www.stat.ee>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Statistical Office of Estonia

Name: Maie Nogelainen

Deputy Director General, Head of Development of
Statistics Division

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15174 Tallinn, Estonia

Telephone: (372) 625-9202, (372) 625-9208

Fax: (372) 625-9370

EUROPEAN UNION AND EURO AREA

1. Index number series produced

Monthly, quarterly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:

- By intra and extra European Union (EU) and intra and extra euro area by HS two-digit; SITC, Rev.3, two-digit; BEC one-digit
- By section of SITC, Rev.3, and main partner countries
- By section and subsection of CPA and main partner countries

2. Source of information

Customs administrations and Intrastat

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Fisher (chained yearly)

Volume: Fisher (chained yearly)

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

- Aggregated indices may include partial estimation for missing data.
- Unit value indices are not seasonally adjusted, but volume indices are.
- Some difficulties are linked to detection and correction of outliers.

5. Release dates

Monthly data are released 10 weeks after the reference month.

6. Revision policy

Monthly indices are recalculated on a 12-month sliding period.

7. Dissemination

- Eurostat online databases (New Cronos, COMEXT)
- *External and Intra-European Union Trade* (monthly)
- Web site: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat> (aggregate indices)

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Eurostat

Name: Henri Tyrman, Head of Section
Unit C/4 (Intra and Extra-EU Trade)

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rue Alcide de Gasperi
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5 rue Alphonse Weicker
L-2721 Luxembourg
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Fax: (352) 4301-34339
E-mail: henri.tyrman@cec.eu.int

FIJI

1. Index number series produced

Annual price and volume indices for total imports and domestic exports:

- By total

Annual unit value index numbers of imports:

- By section of SITC, Rev.3

Annual and quarterly unit value indices:

- By food imports
- By commodities of domestic exports

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Fisher

Price: Fisher

Volume (import): Fisher

Volume (export): Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Problem:

- The most common problem encountered is inaccuracy in the quantity figures of commodities.

5. Release dates

No information provided

6. Revision policy

No information provided

7. Dissemination

Current Economic Statistics

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics
Name: Rajeshwaran Naidu
For the Government Statistician
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Suva, Fiji
Telephone: (679) 315-822
Fax: (679) 330-656

FINLAND

1. Index number series produced

Monthly and cumulative monthly unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:

- By two- and three-digit levels of NACE or CPA
- By one-digit level of the main industrial groupings classification
- By total

2. Source of data information

Customs records and Intrastat

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Laspeyres

Volume: Paasche

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

- Lack of trained personnel
- Changing composition of the set of goods within CN8 during the calculation period
- Treatment of extreme unit value relatives

5. Release dates

At the moment, there are no fixed release dates. However, data for each month, as well as cumulative monthly data, are released on the fifteenth of the following month.

6. Revision policy

Monthly data are not revised. Revisions are included in cumulative monthly index numbers.

7. Dissemination

- *Foreign Trade Monthly Bulletin*
- Special monthly publication for Finnish foreign trade indices
- Web site: <http://www.tulli.fi>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: National Board of Customs
Statistical Unit
Name: Seppo Virtanen
Address: Hämeentie 3
P.O. Box 512
FIN-00101 Helsinki, Finland
Telephone: (3589) 614-3846
Fax: (3589) 614-3860
E-mail: Seppo.Virtanen@tulli.fi

FRANCE

1. Index number series produced

Monthly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:

- By products
- By zones
- By total (all zones and all products)

2. Source of information

Customs records and Intrastat

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Paasche and Fisher

Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Indices fluctuate more than national price indices.

5. Release dates

Indices are released 45 days after the end of the reference month.

6. Revision policy

None

7. Dissemination

- *Informations Rapides*
- *Bulletin Mensuel de la Statistique de l'INSEE*
- *Banque de données macro-économiques*
- *Annuaire Statistique de la France*

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Institut National de la Statistique et des
Études Économiques (INSEE)

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92245 Malakoff Cedex
75675 Paris (Cedex 14), France

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E-mail: laurent.Fauvet@insee.fr

GERMANY

1. Index number series produced

Monthly, quarterly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:

- By commodity group, commodity and country groups
- By product group and branch
- By section of SITC, Rev.3, and groups of countries
- By investment and consumer goods and groups of countries
- By groups of countries, total

2. Source of information

Customs records and Intrastat

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Paasche

Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Limitation:

- Indices not seasonally adjusted

Problems :

- Determining whether or not a tariff number is representative
- Treatment of extreme unit value relatives
- Defining upper and lower limits of still acceptable price relatives

5. Release dates

Monthly data are released eight weeks after the reference month.

6. Revision policy

Final revised data for the previous year are available in September of the next year.

7. Dissemination

- Press releases (monthly)
- *Foreign Trade according to SITC, Rev.3, Special Trade*
- *Aussenhandel, Zusammenfassende Übersichten für den Aussenhandel*
- Best-known cross-section publications: *Statistical Yearbook*; monthly *Wirtschaft und Statistik*; *Statistischer Wochendienst*; and *Key Data on Germany* booklet
- Web site: <http://www.destatis.de>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Federal Statistical Office
Statistical Information Service
Name: Albrecht Krockow, Section Head
Foreign Trade Division
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65189 Wiesbaden, Germany
Telephone: (49611) 75-2481
Fax: (49611) 75-3965
E-mail: gruppe-vb@destatis.de

GHANA

1. Index number series produced

Monthly, quarterly and annual unit value indices of imports and exports:

- By section of SITC
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records, the Electric Company of Ghana, and the Ministry of Trade and Industry

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Paasche

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

- Data not adjusted to reflect price trends for commodities with seasonal patterns
- Lack of trained personnel
- Treatment of extreme value relatives
- Definition of upper and lower limits of acceptable price relatives

5. Release dates

The indices have not been calculated for a period of time owing to problems in determining a new base year. The base year for which data are available is 1980 and there is difficulty in obtaining base year data for updating the base year. There is no fixed date for the release of the available indices since the office depends on customs for the data and there is often a delay of 3 to 6 months before such data are released to the Statistical Office.

6. Revision policy

No revision policy is currently in place but, with improvements in the data received by customs, a decision can be expected regarding the length of time required for revision of an index.

7. Dissemination

The indices calculated in the past have been published in the *Quarterly Digest of Statistics*. Copies were made available to government agencies and universities, and the data were made available to others on request.

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Ghana Statistical Service
 Name: Anthony Amuzu
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 Ghana
 Telephone: (233) 21682692
 Fax: (233) 21671731
 E-mail: amuzua@yahoo.com

GREECE

1. Index number series produced

Monthly, quarterly, cumulative monthly, and annual unit value and volume indices of total imports and exports:

- By group and section of SITC
- By section of SITC and regions (such as EU, rest of the world, total)
- By country of destination and origin

2. Source of information

Customs records and Intrastat

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Paasche

Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

No information provided

5. Release dates

No information provided

6. Revision policy

No information provided

7. Dissemination

- *Monthly Statistical Bulletin*
- *Statistical Yearbook of Greece*

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: General Secretariat of National Statistical Service of Greece (NSSG)

Name: K. Harissis
Head of the Division

Address: Ministry of National Economy, NSSG
Division of Industry and External Trade
14-16 Lycourgou Street
101 66—Athens, Greece

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Fax: (301) 3237-524

GUATEMALA

1. Index number series produced

Monthly, quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices of total imports and exports

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Paasche

Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Problems:

- Lack of up-to-date technology
- Lack of a database on commodity prices
- Lack of qualified staff

5. Release dates

Monthly data are published two months after the reference month. Quarterly data are published in the first two months of the quarter following the reference quarter. Data for December, fourth quarter and annual data are published in the first 15 days of April of the following year.

6. Revision policy

Data are revised each month, quarter and year before publication in order to reflect corrections or adjustments.

7. Dissemination

- Quarterly tables of international trade, by the National Statistical Institute (INE)
- Monthly and quarterly bulletins, by the Bank of Guatemala (Central Bank)
- *International Trade Yearbook* by INE

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Instituto Nacional de Estadística

Name: Ricardo Avila Avila

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Address: 8a., Calle 9-55, zona 1

Edificio América

Guatemala, Guatemala

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HAITI

1. Index number series produced

Monthly and annual unit value and volume indices of export:

- By primary products
- By industrial products
- By total exports

Monthly and annual price and volume indices of total imports

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Paasche

Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

No information provided

5. Release dates

No information provided

6. Revision policy

No information provided

7. Dissemination

No information provided

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Institut Haïtien de Statistiques et d'Informatique

Name: Evens Joseph, Director-General

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Port-au-Prince, Haiti

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Fax: (509) 23-5501

HUNGARY

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly, cumulative monthly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:

- By section of SITC, Rev.3
- By country groups
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Fisher

Volume: Derived by dividing value index by corresponding unit value index

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

No information provided

5. Release dates

Data are released about 50 days after the reference period.

6. Revision policy

- Unit value indices: revision is made when yearly indices are calculated.
- Volume indices: revision is made whenever trade value and quantity data are changed. Volume indices are qualified as final when annual trade data of a reference period are finalized.

7. Dissemination

Cumulative monthly volume indices are published monthly while cumulative quarterly unit value indices are published quarterly, in the following publications:

- *Rapid Reports on External Trade*
- *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*
- *Statistical Report of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office*

Annual indices are published in the following:

- *Statistical Yearbook of External Trade*
- *Statistical Pocket Book of Hungary*
- *Statistical Yearbook of Hungary*
- Web site: <http://www.ksh.hu> (cumulative monthly volume indices)

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Hungarian Central Statistical Office
Name: Katalin Kelecsenyi, Director
Foreign Trade Statistics Department
Address: Postal: P.O. Box 51
1525 Budapest
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E-mail: elnokhl@ksh.hu

ICELAND

1. Index number series produced

Cumulative monthly, quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:

- By main economic categories for imports
- By mode of processing for exports

Monthly price index numbers of exported fish products

2. Source of information

Customs records. Data for calculating the price index of exported fish products are from a monthly sample survey of several exporters.

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Fisher

Price: Laspeyres

Volume: Derived by dividing value index by corresponding unit value index

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

- Indices not seasonally adjusted
- Extreme price changes excluded from the calculations

5. Release dates

Quarterly data on unit value indices are released three months after the reference period. Monthly price indices for exported fish products are normally published two weeks after the reference month.

6. Revision policy

Revisions of indices from first release are negligible, with the exception of quarterly indices, due to use of the Laspeyres formula for the preliminary indices and the Fisher formula for the final indices.

7. Dissemination

- *Short Term Economic Indicators* (monthly price indices for exported fish products)
- *Industrial Statistics*: on Icelandic version of web site only (annual unit value indices for exported manufactured products)
- *Quarterly National Accounts* (quarterly and annual unit value indices of total exports and imports)
- Web site: <http://www.hagstofa.is> (annual indices for total exports and imports “see Iceland External Trade”)

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Statistics Iceland
Name: Stefan Jansen
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150 Reykjavik, Iceland
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Fax: (354) 528-1299
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INDIA

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly and fiscal year (ending March 31) unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:

- By commodity group and section of SITC, Rev.3
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Paasche
Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

- Indices not seasonally adjusted
- Base year used, 1978/79, not recent

5. Release dates

Indices for each quarter are released soon after release of the final eight-digit trade statistics. Indices for the fiscal year are released within two months of the release of the eight-digit trade data.

6. Revision policy

Index numbers are revised only if and when trade data are revised.

7. Dissemination

- *Selected Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India*, Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics
- *Monthly Abstract of Statistics*, Central Statistical Organization (CSO)
- *Statistical Abstract, India* (annual), CSO

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics

Name: Mita Roy Chowdhury
Director (for Director General)

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Calcutta—700001, India

Telephone: (9133) 2248-3111/3112/3113/3114

Fax: (9133) 2248-6528

E-mail: Comint@cal2.vsnl.net.in
Mrc@dgcis.nic.in

ISRAEL

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:

- By aggregated economic branch (exports)
- By end use (imports)
- By aggregated industries of manufactured goods exports
- By commodity groups of imported investment products
- By raw materials by commodity group
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Fisher

Volume: Fisher

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

- Information used to estimate unit value indices comprised only 50 per cent of total imports and exports.

5. Release dates

Approximately 45 to 50 days after the end of the reference period

6. Revision policy

No information provided

Data are revised continuously throughout the reference year. The data for a specific year are revised at the end of the year, when fourth quarter data are available.

7. Dissemination

- *Statistical Abstract of Israel*
- *Foreign Trade Statistics* (quarterly)
- Web site: <http://www.cbs.gov.il>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Central Bureau of Statistics

Foreign Trade Division

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ITALY

1. Index number series produced

Monthly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:

- By geographical area

- By geo-economic area
- By NACE, Rev.1

2. Source of information

Customs records and Intrastat

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Fisher

Volume: Fisher

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Not able to report intra-EU and extra-EU indices at the same time due to Intrastat data collection system

5. Release dates

Indices relating to intra-EU are released two months after the reference period, while indices relating to extra-EU countries are released one month afterwards.

6. Revision policy

At the end of each year all the indices relating to the same year are revised, in order to take into account the latest data collected by customs.

7. Dissemination

- Press release (monthly)
- *External Trade Annual Report*
- Other publications

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: National Institute of Statistics of Italy

Name: Dr. Paola Anitori

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00184 Rome, Italy

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Fax: (396) 46732560

E-mail: anitori@istat.it

JAMAICA

1. Index number series produced

Annual unit value and volume indices of imports and domestic exports:

- By section of SITC
- By BEC (import index numbers only)

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Laspeyres

Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

No information provided

5. Release dates

Indices are released one year after the reference year.

6. Revision policy

Indices are not compiled until each year's data are revised and updated.

7. Dissemination

External Trade (annual)

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: The Statistical Institute of Jamaica

Name: M. Bartley

Address: 7 Cecelio Avenue
Kingston 10, Jamaica

E-mail: statinja@infochan.com

JAPAN

1. Index number series produced

Monthly, quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:

- By principal commodity

- By special classifications (food, raw materials, mineral fuels and manufactures)
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Fisher

Volume: Derived by dividing value index by corresponding unit value index

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

None

5. Release dates

Monthly data are released at the end of the following month. Quarterly data are released at the end of the first month of the following quarter. Semi-annual data are released at the end of the first month of the following half-year. Annual data are released at the end of January of the following year.

6. Revision policy

Revised annual data are released in February or March of the following year.

7. Dissemination

Summary Report on Trade of Japan (monthly), Japan Tariff Association

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Statistics Bureau

Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs

Post and Telecommunications

Name: Takao Ito

Director, International Statistical Affairs Division

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JORDAN

1. Index number series produced

Monthly, quarterly and annual price index numbers of imports and exports:

- By group of HS and BEC
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Price: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

- Lack of trained personnel
- Lack of equipment and funds to hire sufficient staff
- Definition of upper and lower limits of still acceptable price relatives

5. Release dates

Data will be released five weeks after the end of the reference month or quarter. For the month and quarter ending in December, data will be released on 15 March of the following year.

6. Revision policy

Indices will be considered for revision if significant discrepancy is found when export indices are compared to producer price indices, and import indices to wholesale price indices.

7. Dissemination

Indices are expected to be available to users beginning in 2004.

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Department of Statistics

Name: Siham Gammoh

Rabeh Abu Affar

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Amman 11181, Jordan

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KAZAKHSTAN

1. Index number series produced

Monthly, quarterly and annual unit value indices for total exports and imports:

- By section and chapter of HS
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Imputed prices are used to smooth out drastic fluctuations in unit values.

5. Release dates

Monthly indices are released five to six days after the end of the reference month. Annual indices are released in February of the following year.

6. Revision policy

Indices are not revised.

7. Dissemination

- Monthly and annual publications of the Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: The Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Name: J. Kulekeev

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480008 Almaty Kalasi
Kazakhstan

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KENYA

1. Index number series produced

Annual unit value index and volume index numbers of imports and exports:

- By sections 0-8 of SITC
- By total non-oil imports and exports
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Laspeyres

Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

The problem encountered in the compilation of index numbers is the treatment of extreme unit value relatives (outliers).

5. Release dates

Annual data are released by the end of May of the following year.

6. Revision policy

Revision is made once a year, after the Customs Office revises trade data.

7. Dissemination

- *Statistical Abstract* (annual), Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)
- *Economic Survey* (annual), CBS

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Central Bureau of Statistics

Ministry of Planning and National Development

Name: David S. O. Nalo, Director of Statistics

Address: P.O. Box 30266

Nairobi, Kenya

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Fax: (2542) 333030

E-mail: eurotrace@iconnect.go.ke

KUWAIT

1. Index number series produced

Annual unit value and volume indices of imports

2. Source of information

Customs records, oil authorities and Kuwait Airways

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Paasche

Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

No information provided

5. Release dates

No information provided

6. Revision policy

No information provided

7. Dissemination

Annual Statistical Abstract

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Central Statistical Office

Ministry of Planning

Name: Hamad M. H. Monawer

Assistant Under-Secretary

Statistical and Information Sector

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13122 Safat, Kuwait

Telephone: (965) 2454968

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KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:

- By section and chapter of HS
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Paasche

Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Comparability of data pertaining to current and preceding period is limited.

5. Release dates

Fifty-five days after the reference period

6. Revision policy

No information provided

7. Dissemination

The Foreign Trade of Kyrgyz Republic

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic

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LATVIA

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly and annual unit value index numbers of exports and imports:

- By chapter and section of CN
- By class, division and section of NACE, Rev.1
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records. For non-homogeneous goods, data are collected for specific representative goods in importing enterprises.

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

The main problem in the calculation of indices is occasional large unit values by quarter.

5. Release dates

Quarterly data are released on the twenty-first day of the second month of the following quarter.

6. Revision policy

The published data are final and are not usually revised.

7. Dissemination

- *Monthly Bulletin of Latvian Statistics*, issued by the Central Statistical Bureau (CSB)
- *Foreign Trade Unit Value Indices* (quarterly), issued by CSB
- *Statistical Yearbook of Latvia*, issued by CSB
- Press releases
- Web site: <http://www.csb.lv>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia

Name: Aleksandrs Gržibovskis

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Rīga, LV-1301, Latvia

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LITHUANIA

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:

- By group, chapter and section of CN

Monthly, quarterly and annual price index numbers of exports:

- By class, group, division, section and subsection of NACE, Rev.1
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records and monthly sample surveys

3. Index calculation methods

Price: Laspeyres

Unit value: Laspeyres

Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Limitation:

- Indices are not seasonally adjusted. As a consequence, price trends for commodities with seasonal patterns may require longer time-spans for proper analysis.

Problems:

- Groups of commodities too heterogeneous; even the most detailed commodity specification in CN is not detailed enough for price data
- Treatment of extreme unit value relatives
- Definition of upper and lower limits of still acceptable price relatives and influence of limits on value of index

5. Release dates

Export price index data are released on the tenth working day of the month following the reference month. The quarterly export and import unit value indices and volume index numbers are released in the third month following the reference quarter.

6. Revision policy

Foreign trade statistics are revised, if necessary, every month for all previous months of the year, and are corrected once a year. Corrected records are included in the month of the original transaction. Data for the full year are usually finalized towards the end of the first quarter following the reference year. Every April, the quarterly export and import unit value and volume indices for the previous year are recalculated.

Export price indices are routinely subject to revision one month after their original publication to reflect corrections made by company respondents. Both the list of sampled representative goods and the weights for all indices are revised and updated at the beginning of every year.

7. Dissemination

The quarterly and annual export and import unit value indices and volume index numbers are released to the National Accounts Unit of Statistics Lithuania, as well as to the Bank of Lithuania and to all interested parties.

Export price index numbers, and export and import unit value index numbers are published:

- In *Economic and Social Development in Lithuania* (monthly)
- In consumer and producer price indices (quarterly)

Annual export and import unit value indices and volume index numbers are published in the *Statistical Yearbook of Lithuania*.

8. Compiling agency and contact information

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Agency: Statistics Lithuania
Name: Valdone Kasperuniene
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MALAYSIA

1. Index number series produced

Monthly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:

- By section of SITC
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Laspeyres

Volume: Paasche

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Problems:

- Introduction of new products in the calculation of indices
- Zero trade values and quantities

5. Release dates

Trade indices are released within 70 days after the reference month.

6. Revision policy

Revisions are made from time to time as a result of quality checks and the changes are incorporated in subsequent issues of publications.

7. Dissemination

- Indices (1970-1987) were disseminated as a supplement to the *Monthly External Trade Statistics* publication. Production of these indices was discontinued in 1988
- A new series of indices began in January 2000 and will be available in January 2003 in the publication *External Trade Indices—Malaysia* (at base year 1999)
- Web site: <http://www.statistics.gov.my>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Department of Statistics
External Trade Statistics Division

Name: Director of External Trade Statistics Division for
Chief Statistician

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Federal Government Administrative Center
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Telephone: (603) 8888-9218, (603) 8885-7676

Fax: (603) 8888-9221, (603) 8888-9248

E-mail: fauziah@stats.gov.my
jpbpo@stats.gov.my

MAURITIUS

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly and annual unit value index numbers of imports and domestic exports and price index numbers of domestic exports:

- By group and section of SITC, Rev.3
- By total

2. Sources of information

Customs records and data from representative samples of exporting firms

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Laspeyres

Price: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

- Indices are not seasonally adjusted.
- For the export price index, the price most often quoted is the contract price, which may have been negotiated much earlier in foreign currencies (mostly United States dollars). The price, in Mauritian rupees, that was used for the calculation of the index for a particular quarter may therefore not reflect the actual price.

5. Release dates

Index numbers are published 10 weeks after the reference period.

6. Revision policy

Index numbers are revised periodically whenever there are major revisions in the value and quantity data supplied by the customs administration.

7. Dissemination

- *Economic and Social Indicators* (quarterly):
 - *Export Price Index*
 - *External Trade* (unit value index numbers)
- Web site: <http://statsmauritius.gov.mu>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Central Statistics Office

Name: G. Vydelingum

Ag. Principal Statistician

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President John Kennedy St.

Port Louis, Mauritius

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Fax: (230) 211-4150

E-mail: cso@intnet.mu

MEXICO

1. Index number series produced

Monthly and annual price indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports

2. Source of information

- Customs records
- International commodity prices of products exported by Mexico
- Unit prices for imports and price index for United States exports

3. Index calculation methods

Price: Paasche

Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

No information provided

5. Release dates

No information provided

6. Revision policy

No information provided

7. Dissemination

Indices de Precios (monthly)

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Banco de México

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NETHERLANDS

1. Index number series produced

Monthly, quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices of exports and imports:

- By chapter of HS (quarterly and annual)
- By section of HS (monthly)

2. Source of information

Customs records and Intrastat

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Fisher

Volume: Fisher

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

No information provided

5. Release dates

Data for each month are released about two months after the reference month. The data are provisional.

6. Revision policy

Data for each month of the quarter are revised about two months after the release date of the last month in the reference quarter (provisional definitive figures). Data for each month of the year are revised about half a year after the last month of the reference year (definitive figures).

7. Dissemination

- *Monthly Bulletin of Financial Statistics*
- *Monthly Bulletin of International Trade Statistics*
- Web site: <http://www.cbs.nl>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Statistics Netherlands
Division of Trade, Transport and Services
Sector International Trade

Name: M. Slootbeek

Address: P.O. Box 4000
2270 JM Voorburg, Netherlands

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Fax: (31) 70-387-7429

E-mail: PLTN@cbs.nl (Luyten P.E.)

NEW ZEALAND

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:

- By major commodity groups
- By end use (imports only)
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Fisher

Volume: Fisher

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Many imported goods classified under particular codes are not sufficiently homogeneous. Unit values for those goods are not suitable for inclusion in the indices.

5. Release dates

Provisional quarterly indices are available on the twelfth working day of the third month of the following quarter. Final quarterly indices are released three months later. Annual indices are available when the corresponding fourth quarter indices are released.

6. Revision policy

Merchandise trade price and volume indices are provisional for one quarter to allow for the inclusion of late data and amendments to the merchandise trade data source.

7. Dissemination

- *Hot Off the Press* releases
- Information Network for Official Statistics (INFOS) database
- *Key Statistics articles* (monthly)
- *New Zealand Official Yearbook* (annual)
- Web site: <http://www.stats.govt.nz>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Price indices

Agency: Statistics New Zealand
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P.O. Box 2922
Wellington, New Zealand
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Volume indices

Agency: Statistics New Zealand
Name: Fiona Thomson
Address: Dollan House
401 Madras Street
Private Bag 4741, Christchurch, New Zealand
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Fax: (643) 964-8964
E-mail: fiona_thomson@stats.govt.nz

NORWAY

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly and annual unit value and seasonally adjusted volume indices of imports and exports:

- By SITC (three-digit selected commodity group, two-digit and section)
- By total, excluding ships and oil platforms
- By total, excluding ships, oil platforms, crude oil and natural gas (exports only)

2. Source of information

Customs records, except for data on ships and mobile oil platforms, and exports of crude oil and natural gas that are collected directly by Statistics Norway

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Paasche
Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Limitation:

- Indices not seasonally adjusted

Problems:

- Heterogeneity within economically important commodity groups (e.g., machinery), resulting in few representative tariff numbers
- Price measurement of capital goods because of complexity of products involved
- Lack of adjustment for quality change
- Definition of upper and lower limits of still acceptable price relatives

5. Release dates

Indices for the first quarter are released on 15 May. Indices for the second, third and fourth quarters are released on the 15 July, October and January, respectively.

6. Revision policy

Indices for the previous quarters are updated to reflect late reports and corrections. Final figures for the previous year are published in May of the following year.

7. Dissemination

Indices are disseminated by the web site of Statistics Norway as follows:

- *The Statistical Yearbook of Norway*, <http://www.ssb.no/english/yearbook>
- *Monthly Bulletin of External Trade*, http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/09/05/muh_en
- *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*, http://www.ssb.no/english/monthly_bulletin/topic09.shtml

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Statistics Norway
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N-0033 Oslo
Office Kongens gate 6
Oslo
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OMAN

1. Index number series produced

Annual unit value indices of import:

- By section of SITC, Rev.1
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

The most difficult problem encountered by the index compilers is lack of an accurate quantitative unit of measurement that is linked to specifications of goods.

5. Release dates

Indices are released on an annual basis.

6. Revision policy

Indices are not revised.

7. Dissemination

Statistical Yearbook

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Directorate General of Economic Statistics
Ministry of National Economy

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PAKISTAN

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:

- By section of SITC, Rev.3
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Laspeyres

Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Limitation:

- Index numbers not seasonally adjusted

Problems:

- Lack of trained personnel
- Determining whether or not a tariff number is representative
- Defining upper and lower limits of still acceptable price relatives and influence of limits on value of index

5. Release dates

Quarterly data are released by the twenty-fifth day of the second month of the following quarter.

6. Revision policy

Indices are not revised, as final revised trade data are used to calculate index numbers.

7. Dissemination

- *Monthly Statistical Bulletin*
- *Pakistan Statistical Yearbook*

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Federal Bureau of Statistics

Name: Nazeer Ahmed

Director, Trade

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PAPUA NEW GUINEA

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly and annual unit value and price indices for exports and annual unit value indices for imports:

- By commodity groups (exports)
- By section (imports) of SITC
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Laspeyres

Price: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Limitations:

- Substantial difference in values between average of quarterly indices and annual index numbers

Problems:

- Lack of expertise to advise on index numbers
- Lack of funding to carry out statistical surveys for additional data on export and import prices
- Data from customs authorities not timely, as they are received 6-12 months late
- The Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) set up in major ports only, thereby delaying data input from other ports

5. Release dates

Data for each month are released quarterly, on the last working day of the quarter. Quarterly data are released 30 days after the end of the quarter. Data for the fourth quarter and annual data are released before the end of the first quarter of the following year.

6. Revision policy

Data are revised each month for the previous quarter to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections. Quarterly and monthly data for the year are finalized in March of the following year.

7. Dissemination

Economic Indicators

Web site: <http://www.nso.gov.pg>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: National Statistical Office of Papua New Guinea

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National Statistician

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PERU

1. Index number series produced

Annual unit value and volume index numbers of exports and imports:

- By Central Product Classification (CPC)
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Paasche

Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Because the quantity of all items is expressed in gross units, it becomes necessary to use other indicators, such as international market prices for minerals, petroleum and petroleum products, and fish, to validate certain price indices. A specialist is needed to train staff on index numbers computation methodology.

5. Release dates

Indices are published in May of the following year.

6. Revision policy

Index numbers for the reference year are preliminary. They are revised, and final figures are published in the next issue of the annual publication.

7. Dissemination

Oferta y Demanda Global

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática
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PHILIPPINES

1. Index number series produced

Monthly, quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:

- By one-, two- and three-digit levels of the 1993 Philippine Standard Commodity Classification
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Paasche

Volume: Value indices divided by unit value indices

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

No information provided

5. Release dates

No information provided

6. Revision policy

No information provided

7. Dissemination

- Special releases by the National Statistics Office
- Web site: www.census.gov.ph

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: National Statistics Office
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Industry and Trade Statistics Department
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Manila, Philippines
Telephone: (632) 713-7074, (632) 716-0454
Fax: (632) 713-7073, (632) 716-3924
E-mail: [M. Morada@census.gov.ph](mailto:M.Morada@census.gov.ph)

POLAND

1. Index number series produced

Monthly, quarterly and annual price and volume indices of imports and exports:

- By division and section of the combined nomenclature of Poland
- By division and section of SITC
- By lines of business, branches and groups of customs postal branches
- By EU, by Central and Eastern Europe; developed and developing countries
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records and price surveys

3. Index calculation methods

Price: Paasche
Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

No information provided

5. Release dates

External trade price survey results are released 80 days after the surveyed month.

6. Revision policy

The data are revised monthly and corrections are made for the previous month. All data are finalized for the year 90 days after the surveyed period.

7. Dissemination

Monthly:

- *Prices in the National Economy* (Ceny w Gospodarce narodowej)
- *Information on the Economic Situation of the Country* (Informacja o Sytuacji Spoleczno-Gospodarczej Kraju)
- *Statistical Bulletin* (Biuletyn Statystyczny)

Quarterly:

- *Foreign Trade* (Handel Zagraniczny)
- *CESTAT Statistical Bulletin*

Annual:

- *Prices in the National Economy* (Ceny w Gospodarce narodowej)
- *Yearbook of Foreign Trade Statistics* (Rocznik Statystyczny Handlu Zagranicznego)
- *Statistical Yearbook* (Rocznik Statystyczny)
- *Concise Statistical Yearbook of Poland* (Mały Rocznik Statystyczny)

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: European Integration and International Co-operation Bureau
Central Statistical Office of Poland

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00-925 Warsaw, Poland

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PORTUGAL

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly and annual unit value indices and volume index numbers of imports and exports:

- By commodity flow
- By intra- and extra-community (annual indices only)
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records and Intrastat

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Paasche and Laspeyres

Volume: Paasche and Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

No information provided

5. Release dates

Quarterly indices are released at the beginning of the fourth month after the end of the reference period.

Annual indices are released by the end of the following year.

6. Revision policy

Indices are revised at the end of the following year.

7. Dissemination

- Release papers
- *International Trade Statistics* (annual)
- Web site: <http://www.ine.pt/inf/prodserv/quadros>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Instituto Nacional de Estatística

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Serviço de Estatísticas do Comércio International

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Fax: (351) 218426380, (351) 218426552

E-mail: antonio.dias@ine.pt

QATAR

1. Index number series produced

Annual unit value and volume index numbers of imports:

- By section of SITC, Rev.3
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Fisher

Volume: Fisher

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

No information provided

5. Release dates

Index number data for each year are released the following year.

6. Revision policy

No information provided

7. Dissemination

- *Annual Statistical Abstract* issued by the Planning Council of the State of Qatar
- Web site: <http://www.planning.gov.qa>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Statistics Department of the Planning Council

Name: Ahmed Bin Mohammad Bin Jabor Al-Thani
Secretary-General

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Doha, Qatar

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Fax: (974) 425555

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

1. Index number series produced

Monthly, quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:

- By principal commodity
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Paasche

Volume: Derived by dividing value index by corresponding unit value index

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

No information provided

5. Release dates

Data for each month (except December) are released between the tenth and fifteenth of the following month; for each quarter, except the fourth quarter, between the tenth and fifteenth of the second month of the following quarter; and for December, the fourth quarter and the year, between the tenth and fifteenth of March of the following year.

6. Revision policy

- A change of over \$30 million a month is made in the import and export figures of the Korea Customs Service.
- Quarterly and monthly data are finalized for the year in March of the following year.

7. Dissemination

- *Monthly Statistical Bulletin of the Bank of Korea*
- *Monthly Balance of Payments Bulletin*
- *Economic Statistics Yearbook*
- Press releases
- Web site: <http://www.bok.or.kr>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: The Bank of Korea
Economic Statistics Department
Balance of Payments Statistics Team

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REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly and annual unit value index numbers of imports and exports:

- By section of HS
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Paasche

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

No information provided

5. Release dates

No information provided

6. Revision policy

No information provided

7. Dissemination

- *External Trade of the Republic of Moldova*
- *Statistical Yearbook* prepared by the Main Division of Trade and Services Statistics
- Web site: <http://www.statistica.md/statistics>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Department for Statistics and Sociology of the Republic of Moldova

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Director General
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Fax: (3732) 545162

ROMANIA

1. Index number series produced

Annual unit value indices for exports and imports:

- By six-, four- and two-digit levels and section of CN
- By group of countries (European Union, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, transition and other countries)
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records and statistical reports for electrical energy and natural gas

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Paasche

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Limitation:

- Indices are not seasonally adjusted.

Problems:

- Lack of trained personnel
- Determining whether or not a tariff number is representative
- Treatment of extreme unit value relatives
- Definition of upper and lower limits of still acceptable price relatives and influence of limits on value of index

5. Release dates

Monthly indices are released 45 days after the end of the reference month.

Quarterly unit value indices are released 90 days after the end of the reference quarter (beginning with data for the first quarter of 2002).

6. Revision policy

Quarterly data for the current year are finalized at the end of the first quarter of the next year.

7. Dissemination

- *Romanian Statistical Yearbook*
- *Romanian Foreign Trade Yearbook*
- *Romania in Figures*
- Specialized publications

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: National Institute of Statistics
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices for total exports and imports:

- By section and chapter of HS
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Paasche

Volume: Derived by dividing value index by corresponding unit value index

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Calculation of index numbers in trade among members of a customs union

5. Release dates

On the sixtieth day after the reference period

6. Revision policy

Revised when the database is updated

7. Dissemination

- Quarterly and annual publications of the State Customs Committee of the Russian Federation
- Web site: <http://www.customs.ru> (Russian)

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: State Customs Committee

Name: Valery Orlov, Head

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Address: 10-3-288 Gabrichevskaya Street

Moscow, Russian Federation

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Fax: (7095) 449-70-66

E-mail: utsa-sog@gnivc.customs.ru

SENEGAL

1. Index number series produced

Annual unit value indices for exports and imports:

- By products
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records and records of the International Trade Office

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Problems:

- Base year too old
- Lack of powerful computers

5. Release dates

No information provided

6. Revision policy

No information provided

7. Dissemination

Note d'Analyse du Commerce Extérieur

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Direction de la Prévision et de la Statistique
Ministère de l'Économie, des Finances et du Plan
Name: Moussa Faye, Director
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Fax: (221) 824-9001

SINGAPORE

1. Index number series produced

Monthly and annual price indices of exports and imports:

- By commodity group, division and section of SITC
- By total

2. Source of information

Data from monthly price surveys of exporters and importers

3. Index calculation methods

Price: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Indices are not seasonally adjusted.

5. Release dates

Data for each month are released on the thirtieth of the following month.

6. Revision policy

Data published are considered final and are not normally revised.

7. Dissemination

- *Monthly Digest of Statistics*
- *Yearbook of Statistics*
- Web site: <http://www.singstat.gov.sg>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Singapore Department of Statistics
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SLOVAKIA

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly and annual unit value indices of exports and imports:

- By geographical zones
- By section and chapter of HS

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Unit value indices by geographical zones, starting in the year 2000 are not comparable with those prior to 2000.

5. Release dates

Unit value indices are released 60 days after the reference quarter.

6. Revision policy

Unit value indices are not revised.

7. Dissemination

- Press agency
- *Foreign Trade of the Slovak Republic* (monthly)
- *Price indices in the Foreign Trade of the Slovak Republic* (quarterly)

8. Compiling agency and contact information

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SLOVENIA

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices of exports and imports

- By section and division of SITC, Rev.3
- By section, subsection and division of NACE, Rev.1
- By BEC
- By total

Monthly unit value indices of imports and exports:

- By section and division of SITC, Rev.3
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Fisher

Volume: Derived by dividing value index by corresponding unit value index

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

- Lack of trained personnel for unit value index calculation
- Determining whether or not a tariff number is representative
- Definition of upper and lower limits of still acceptable price relatives and influence of limits on value of index

5. Release dates

Monthly and annual indices are produced six weeks after the end of the reference period. Quarterly indices are available to users six and a half to seven weeks after the end of the reference quarter. They are published approximately two and a half months after the end of the reference quarter.

6. Revision policy

Monthly, quarterly and annual unit value indices are calculated from revised external trade data and are therefore not revised.

7. Dissemination

- Rapid reports (quarterly indices, all classifications)
- *Monthly Statistical Review of the Republic of Slovenia* (quarterly indices, total only)
- *Statistical Yearbook* (annual indices, total only)
- *Slovenia in Figures* (annual indices, total only)
- *CESTAT Statistical Bulletin* (quarterly, annual indices, total only)
- Web site: <http://www.sigov.si>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia
Department of External Trade Statistics

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SOUTH AFRICA

1. Index number series produced

Monthly and annual unit value and volume indices of exports and imports:

- By section and commodity group of SITC
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Paasche

Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

- Export declarations are not fully automated yet and figures may not be entirely accurate.
- There is a lack of experienced staff during the first checking phase at the ports.

5. Release dates

Data are released on or before the last day of the month.

6. Revision policy

Revisions are made to the preliminary (unaudited) figures during the audit for a specific month. Any other revisions made by importers or exporters to their original declarations are included in the cumulative figures for the month the revision is submitted to customs.

7. Dissemination

- *Monthly Abstract of Trade Statistics*
- *Foreign Trade Statistics*
- Web site: <http://www.sars.gov.za>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: South African Revenue Service

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SWEDEN

1. Index number series produced

Monthly, quarterly and annual price indices, and quarterly and annual volume indices of exports and imports:

- By section of ISIC
- By SITC
- By total

2. Source of information

Data from special surveys by Statistics Sweden and data from foreign trade statistics.

3. Index calculation methods

Price: Paasche
Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

None

5. Release dates

Quarterly data are released two and a half months after the end of the quarter. Yearly data are released two and a half months after the end of the year.

6. Revision policy

Revisions are undertaken each quarter for the preceding two quarters. End-of-year revisions for yearly and quarterly indices are made in August of the following year.

7. Dissemination

- *Statistiska Meddelanden*
- *Monthly Digest of Swedish Statistics*
- *Statistical Yearbook of Sweden*
- Web site: <http://www.scb.se/allmanmanadsstatistik>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

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SWITZERLAND

1. Index number series produced

Monthly, cumulative monthly, quarterly and annual unit value and volume indices of exports and imports:

- By nature of goods (Swiss nomenclature)
- By BEC (Swiss nomenclature)
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Fisher

Volume: Derived by dividing value index by corresponding unit value index

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Problems:

- Determining whether or not a tariff number is representative
- Treatment of extreme unit value relatives
- Interpretation of resulting index numbers

5. Release dates

The data are published in printed form and are available electronically two to three weeks after the end of the reference period. The exact date of release can be found on the web site below.

6. Revision policy

No information provided

7. Dissemination

- Statistics by goods and by countries
- Annual report
- *La Vie économique—Revue de politique économique*
- CD-ROM by domain
- SWISS-impex (statistical database)
- Web site: <http://www.zoll.admin.ch/d/aussenhandel/statindd.htm>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Directorate General of Swiss Customs

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SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

1. Index number series produced

Annual unit value and volume indices of exports and imports:

- By section and division of SITC, Rev.3
- By country of origin and destination, and tariff headings
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Laspeyres and Paasche

Volume: Laspeyres and Paasche

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Problem:

- Definition of upper and lower limits of still acceptable price relatives and influence of limits on value of index numbers.

5. Release dates

Annual data are released at the end of May of the following year.

6. Revision policy

7. Dissemination

- *Foreign Trade Statistics*, Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)
- *Quarterly Bulletin*, Central Bank of Syria
- *Statistical Abstract*, CBS

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Central Bureau of Statistics

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Fax: (96311) 332-2292

E-mail: cbs@mail.sy

THAILAND

1. Index number series produced

Monthly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:

- By SITC one-digit
- By economic classification by end use imports
- By product group—classification by economic sector (exports)

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Fisher (chained)

Volume: Derived by dividing value index by corresponding unit value index

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Unit value may not be a proper choice for the calculation of price indices, especially for heterogeneous commodities.

5. Release dates

Indices of the reference month are released on the last working day of the following month.

6. Revision policy

7. Dissemination

- *Economic and Financial Statistics* (quarterly)
- Web site: http://www.bot.or.th/bothomepage/databank/EconData/Econ/EconData_e.htm

Seasonally adjusted series are also available for classification by product group and by economic classification.

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Bank of Thailand
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Fax: (662) 283-5185
E-mail: nuannutt@bot.or.th

TURKEY

1. Index number series produced

Monthly and annual unit value and volume indices of imports and exports:

- By sector and subsector of ISIC, Rev.3 and Rev.2
- By section of SITC, Rev.3
- By BEC
- By national sector classification
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Fisher

Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Limitation:

- Indices are not seasonally adjusted. As a result, price trends for commodities with seasonal patterns may require a longer time-span for proper analysis.

Problems:

- Lack of trained personnel
- Determining whether or not a tariff number is representative
- Treatment of extreme unit value relatives
- Defining upper and lower limits of still acceptable price relatives and influence of limits on value of index

5. Release dates

Although there is no specified date for release, data for each month (except December) are released two months after the reference month.

6. Revision policy

Indices are not revised.

7. Dissemination

- News releases
- *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*
- *Foreign Trade Statistics*
- *Statistical Yearbook of Turkey*
- Web site: <http://www.die.gov.tr>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: State Institute of Statistics

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UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

1. Index number series produced

Monthly, quarterly and annual price indices and volume index numbers for exports and imports:

- By division and section of SITC, Rev.3
- By EU, by non-EU and by world
- By total

2. Source of information

Data are from the Office of National Statistics and from United Kingdom manufacturers. For import prices where products are dealt on a world market basis, details on the movements of world market prices are used. For other products, price quotes are obtained by the Office directly from importing companies. For commodities other than manufactured goods, price movements continue to be derived from customs-based data.

3. Index calculation methods

Price: Laspeyres

Volume: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

Problems:

- Exchange rate movements

Problems in direct collection of export and import price information:

- Resistance of businesses to providing information on the grounds that it has already been reported to customs
- Difficulty in identifying businesses that can provide regular monthly price quotes, particularly for imports of capital goods (for the same product and country)

5. Release dates

Currently, non-EU data are published on the fifteenth working day of the following month and EU and world data on the fifteenth working day of the second month after the month to which the data relate. From March 2002, world, EU and non-EU data for each month are published on the fortieth calendar day after the end of the month to which the data relate.

6. Revision policy

The monthly estimates for trade in goods are revised when the following month's figures are first published, to reflect adjustments to overseas trade statistics data and revisions to the previous month's seasonal factors. Long-

run revisions to previously published data, such as for balance-of-payments and national accounts calculations, can be made only at certain points in the year to ensure consistent trade data in the United Kingdom. All months of the current year are open to revision to coincide with the quarterly balance of payments and national accounts, while revisions to earlier years are made once or twice a year.

7. Dissemination

- *United Kingdom Trade First Release on a Balance of Payments (BOP) Basis* (monthly)
- *Monthly Review of External Trade Statistics*
- *Monthly Digest of Statistics*

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: Office for National Statistics
Name: David Ruffles
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BOPFS D3/19
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Fax: (44207) 533-6061
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1. Index number series produced

Monthly, quarterly and annual price index numbers of imports and exports:

- By Bureau of Economic Analysis end-use
- By section, division (selected) and group (selected) of SITC, Rev.3
- By section and chapter (selected) of HS
- By locality of origin
- By selected categories of services
- By total

2. Source of information

Data are collected from companies through sample surveys conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

3. Index calculation methods

Price: Laspeyres

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

- Indices are not seasonally adjusted. As a consequence, price trends for commodities with seasonal patterns may require a longer time-span for proper analysis.
- Use of the appropriate exchange rate in converting from a foreign currency price to a dollar price when items are priced in foreign currencies.

5. Release dates

Monthly data are available on the fifteenth day of the month following the reference month.

6. Revision policy

Data are revised for the previous three months to reflect the late reports and corrections by respondents.

7. Dissemination

- Monthly news release (*NEWS*)
- Web site: <http://stats.bls.gov/mxp>

8. Compiling agency and contact information

Agency: United States Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Division of International Prices

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Fax: (202) 691-7195

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becker_e@bls.gov

URUGUAY

1. Index number series produced

Quarterly and annual unit value indices of imports and exports:

- By detailed level of national classification
- By chapter and section of HS
- By ISIC and BEC for imports
- By total

2. Source of information

Customs records

3. Index calculation methods

Unit value: Fisher

4. Limitations of indices, problems encountered and other methodological observations specific to the country

No information provided

5. Release dates

No information provided

6. Revision policy

No information provided

7. Dissemination

Indices are published in the March, June, September and December issues of the *Boletín Estadístico*, issued by the Banco Central del Uruguay.

8. Compiling agency and contact information

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