WORKSHOP ON THE COMPILATION OF INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS
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Country Presentation

Statistics - Nigeria

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INTRODUCTION

International trade statistics of most countries of the world are compiled from the customs bills of entry. These single good Declaration (bills of entry) are the official certificates issued by the customs department to the importers, exporters or their agents for recording information on their consignments as contained in the invoiced. Data capture through this source contained basically the same features for most countries even though national demands in the different countries necessitate variations in the details of the compilations. When two or more sets of data were brought together from different countries, such data were usually not comparable due to the variations in the methods of compilation. The need was then felt that an internationally accepted method of these national practices in foreign trade statistics compilations was necessary. The United Nations Statistical Commission then recommended that Governments should adopt some methods of compiling national trade data and adjust already compiled data so that common practices would make any two or more sets of data comparable and such data would conform well to a standard set of definitions.

Consequently, in 1965, the commission recommended the compilation and publication of common practices in the definition and statistical treatment of the main categories of commodities in the flow of international trade.

COMPILATION OF FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS IN NIGERIA

Statistics of foreign trade show the records of all goods which add to or subtract from the stock of material resources of a country as a result of their movement into and out of the country.

The Federal Office of Statistics, (F.O.S) in compiling foreign trade statistics of Nigeria adopts the recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission in terms of coverage, trade system, commodity classification, valuation, quantity measurement, partner country definitions and also in the treatment and use of other important concepts. These details in the areas of imports and non-oil exports are met from the triplicate copy of the Single Good Declaration and Asycuda from the Nigeria Custom Services from all ports and border posts in the country.

The Single Good Declaration/Asycuda were initially and basically designed for the purpose of collecting revenue for the government while the statistical uses for international trade data compilation were secondary. However, the bills are supplemented by petroleum returns from the NNPC and oil prospecting companies in Nigeria.

THE CUSTOM BILL OF ENTRY (SEE APPENDIX I)

For now the Single Good Declaration/Asycuda capture all import, export, and re-export transactions of Nigeria. The available alternative could be the Central Bank of Nigeria's foreign exchange approval. The foreign exchange approvals cover only the goods for which requests are made for imports. Policy changes do affect the composition of goods for which approvals could be sought. Therefore the custom bill of entry SGD remains the most appropriate document for the collection of data on Nigeria's foreign trade. Furthermore, most countries of the world compile their international trade data from the custom bills of entry.

CONTENTS OF FOREIGN TRADE STATGISTICS

The custom bill of entry contains:

(i)   Name and address of importer and exporter
(ii)   Tariff code and commodity description
(iii)   Country of origin/destination of goods
(iv)   Quantity
(v)   Value
(vi)   Rate of duty and duty collected where applicable
(vii)   Port of arrival/departure of goods.
(viii) Mode of transport and name of vessel/carrier.

Meanwhile, the following categories of goods and transactions are supposed to be included in the compilation of foreign trade statistics of any country.

(a)   Non-monetary gold,
(b)   Trade on government accounts,
(c)   Trade on the accounts of foreign concessionaries i.e aids in whatever form,
(d)   Electricity and water,
(e)   Transactions which represent a service transaction apart from the traditional movement of physical merchandise e.g computer tapes etcs
(f)   Transactions in which one or both national boundaries are not crossed e.g Martine, vessels, aircrafts, bunker, and other off-shore trades,
(g)   Data on transborder trades – purchases of commodities of locally manufactured items from open markets by traders from neighboring countries.
(h)   Improvement and repair trade'
(i)   Temporary transactions and
(j)   Goods on lease.

SYSTEM OF RECORDING TRADE

There are two recognized systems of recording foreign trade statistics namely,

special and general system.

Nigeria's foreign trade statistics is compiled according to the general system. Under the general system of recording trade, the following concepts and definitions are used:

Imports: These are all goods entered for use in Nigeria at the time of importation and goods entered for warehousing including in both cases, goods (other than transit goods) which are subsequently re-exported.

Exports: These comprise domestic exports i.e. agricultural goods and produce or manufactures of Nigeria.

Re-exports: All imported goods (other than goods declared in transit or transshipment) which are subsequently re-exported including goods cleared ex-warehoused.

Transit Goods: These are goods declared on arrival as transit through Nigeria in to some landlocked countries e.g. Mali.

Short Shipment: This situation occurs when an exporter is not able to export the entire luggage or quantity of goods originally stated on the shipment bill due to lack of space on board the ship/plane.

Partner Country: Imports are credited to the country of origin. In the case of primary products, the country of origin is the country in which the goods are grown or produced.

Exports on the other hand, are credited to the country of final destination i.e. the country to which the goofs are consigned with or without breaking bulk in the course of transportation but without any commercial transaction in any intermediate country.

VALUATION:

Imports are valued c.i.f. – cost, insurance and freight, i.e. the price of the goods in an open market at the port or place of importation, plus freight and insurance for carrying the goods from the exporting country, unloading and other charges incurred in bringing the goods from the exporting ship to the Customs area where the goods are to be delivered to the importer or his agents. It excludes all import duties and other levies payable in the country of importation.

Exports are valued f.o.b. (free on board); This value represent the cost of the goods at the inland location of the exporting country, plus the freight, insurance, loading and unloading charges, cost of packing and other costs incurred until the goods are delivered to the exporting ship. In addition it includes export duties, royalties and inspection fees and all other charges payable before the shipment of the goods.

Valuation of crude oil is usually based on "realized prices" or official (OPEC) prices per barrel.

HARMONISED SYSTEM (HS)

With the installation of the Eurotrace in the FOS the adoption of the Harmonized System (HS) of commodity classification became inevitable. It replaces the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Rev. 2 which had been in use in the FOS since 1985.

The HS differs from the SITC Rev. 2 significantly in the sense that items which were formally lumped together under one code in the SITC Rev. 2 are separately itemized in the HS. Thus the SITC Rev. 2 had a summary classification of ten sections and a broad breakdown of about 3,000 items, while the HS has a summary classification of 21 sections, 98 chapters and a broad breakdown of over 6,300 items.

ROLE OF ASYCUDA AND EUROTRACE:

The Automated System for Customs Data, ASYCUDA is basically a computerized system designed to assist in processing Customs procedures and data. It was initially designed by

UNCTAD, in collaboration with and, at the request of the ECOWAS, for the collection and management of information on international movement of goods in ECOWAS Member State.

Note: Eurotrace is a subject of Asycuda .

In essence, ASYCUDA is a positive means of achieving timeliness and efficiency in external trade data analysis.

EUROTRACE on the other hand, is a specialized software designed specifically for the Management of External Trade Statistics. The software was designed by the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT) and has been installed in all ECOWAS Member States with the exception of Liberia. EUROTRACE has, of course, been installed in the Federal Office of Statistics (FOS), Lagos.

Eurotrace takes information from the Customs declaration form ASYCUDA or directly from a keyboard within Eurotrace or from an ASCII file from other sources. The system maintain 12 databases. Eurotrace updates all the databanks and contains aggregated data from Customs declaration on monthly, quarterly or yearly basis. It is capable of analyzing foreign trade data by product, country of import/export, period (Quarterly, Monthly or Annually). Customs office, trader and procedure. The software is also well disposed to generating a Balanced of Trade. With its installation and supply of accurate foreign trade data, a timely, correct and reliable trade data analysis can be achieved.

We use Control Tables and Nomenclature like

Office,   Declarants,   Enterprises, Transport mode, Regimes, Countries, Taxes, Supplementary unit, Currencies, Contract type.

Other linked tables are:

        (1)   HS and BEC
        (2)   HS and Rev. 3
        (3)   HS and SITC
        (4)   Country Regional Groupings.

EUROTRACE: Technical requirements.

Eurotrace has a modular structure.

    a.   Data capture
    b.   Data transfer
    c.   Databanks update
    d.   Viewing and tabulation
    e.   Control Tables Management
    f.   System configuration
    g.   User menu (Graphics software, Word processor, Spreadsheets)

Out put:

(1)   Monthly Bulletin
(2)   Quarterly Statisticalnews
(3)   Nigeria Trade Summary
(4)   Nigeria Trade Review
(5)   Trade Indices Nigeria

REQUIREMENT:

Simple as the solution for achieving timely and efficient trade data analysis may be there are basic infrastructure required for its success. These include:

Operating Space:

(i)   Inadequate space for convenient operation is one of the problems FOS is presently facing but the office is presently negotiating for accommodation which will be a very suitable and conducive environment for work.

(ii)   Good telephone system, particularly if modems will be used for data communication;

(iii)   Trained personnel to man, and process not only each installation at the ports, but also the connectivities between Customs ports and Headquarters as well as the FOS and NCS Headquarters;

(iv)   Adequate funding to sustain all facilities installed, including data communication equipment and computer upgrades; and above all,

(v)   A positive attitude towards the implementation of a change system..

CONCLUSION:

Once again, Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I sincerely thank the organizers of this Workshop for extending their invitation to me. I have spoken from the view of the practitioner. I have also simplified my solution, which, on its own, is complex and which depends on sound computer and Information Technology expertise. I thank you for listening.

References:

(1)   European Commission Statistical co-operation

        In external trade statistics Romesh Paul

(2)   Community Computer Center Publication 1995
(3)   United nations Statistical Commission Publication 1965
(4)   F. O. S. Publications
(5)   N. C. S   Tariff   bulletins
(6)   The trade statistics sub-committee of the FOS/CBN collaboration on statistics production.