

Workshop for Developing Countries on the Revision of
the International Recommendations for International
Merchandise Trade Statistics
Bangkok, 9-12 September, 2008

UNSD activities in the field of International Trade Statistics

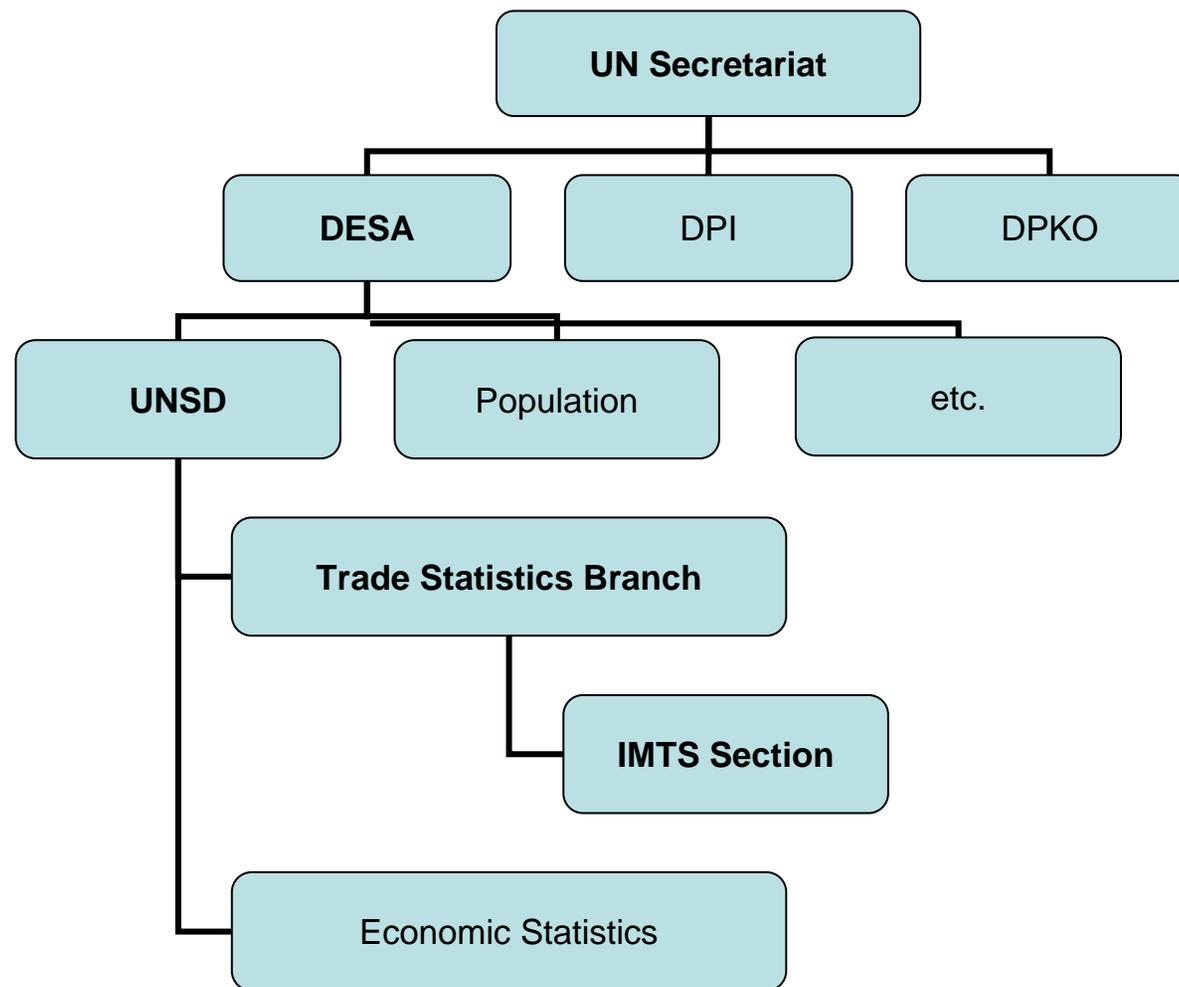


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Review of UNSD activities

Structure of United Nations



Activities of the International Trade Merchandise Statistics (IMTS) Section

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/imts/imts_default.htm

1. Methodology / International standards and recommendations
2. UN Comtrade Database
3. Analytical tables (publications)
4. International Coordination and Technical Assistances

1. Methodological work on IMTS

IMTS is responsible for the development and maintenance of the IMTS methodology, including IMTS concepts and definitions (IMTS, Rev. 2) and the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC).

i. Concepts & Methods

- IMTS, Concepts & Definitions <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp?id=317>
- IMTS, Compilers Manual <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp?id=111>
- IMTS, Supplement to the Compilers Manual (2008)
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/imtssupplcompilersmanual.htm>
- IMTS, Concepts and Definitions, Rev.3 (2010)
- Unit Value index calculation and trade indices

ii. National Practices

- IMTS, National Compilation and Dissemination Practices 2006 (2008) <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradereport/default.asp>

1. Methodological work on IMTS (cont.)

iii. Inventory of IMTS classifications and related correspondence tables.

- SITC, Revision 4 and correspondence tables
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/sitcrev4.htm>
- BEC, Rev.4 (in terms of HS-2002 and SITC, R3)
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/methodology%20IMTS.htm>
- Other IMTS classifications and related correspondence tables
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/methodology%20IMTS.htm>
- Statistical Territories of the World for Use in International Merchandise Trade Statistics
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/methodology%20IMTS.htm>

2. UN Comtrade Database

The UN Comtrade database contains more than 1 billion trade records starting from 1962 (<http://comtrade.un.org/>)

- Collection and standardization of detailed merchandise trade statistics by partner and commodity (over 160 reporters)
- Modern data processing system with extensive verification procedures regarding totals, data by partner and commodity, and quantity information
- Powerful web-based dissemination system with free and subscriber access
- Additional services:
 - Knowledgebase, Web Services, Community Forum

→ Standard database for worldwide data on IMTS

→ Also available at UN Data <http://data.un.org/>

Analytical tables (publications)

Free access to the latest analytical tables which cover trade values and indices for individual countries and regions.

- International Trade Statistics Yearbook tables
 - Consisting of country tables, Commodity tables, and analytical tables
- Monthly Bulletin of Statistics tables
 - Analytical tables (containing world and region totals for trade values and trade indices for total exports, total imports, manufactured goods exports and fuel imports)
- Annual Totals Table (Country totals compared)
- Historical data (1900-1960) (forthcoming)
- Other analytical outputs:
 - Unit value calculation based on UN Comtrade data
 - Conversion factor calculation

International Cooperation and Technical Assistance

- UN Statistical Commission
- Task force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics
- Further cooperation with other international and regional organizations such as OECD, FAO, WTO, WCO, regional commissions and other regional organizations such as Eurostat, ALADI (Latin America) etc.
- Conduct workshops to support countries in the implementation of the international recommendations on IMTS
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/workshops_imts.htm
- Participation in other meetings/ workshops on IMTS

Thank you for your attention