



UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE
CARIBBEAN

**Workshop for Developing Countries on the Revision of the International
Recommendations for International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS),
Bogotá, 31 March -3 April, 2009**

Country Note

Jamaica

Important Issues for IMTS in Jamaica

Issue 1 - Coverage

Are goods in transit and temporary admissions/withdrawals excluded from Jamaica's trade?

Yes they are excluded.

IMPORTS

Inclusions:

- (a) All goods which come into Jamaica for domestic consumption
- (b) Enter for transformation
- (c) Entering customs storage or manufacturing warehouses

Also included would be non-monetary gold, goods imported by government, goods dispatched by courier service or by post, goods imported for humanitarian purposes

EXPORTS

Inclusions:

- (a) Grown in the country or extracted from its natural resources
- (b) Manufactured in the country
- (c) Of foreign origin which have been assembled or transformed in the country

REEXPORTS

Inclusions:

- (a) Exports of goods of foreign origin which have not been materially transformed while in Jamaica. This includes goods moving outward from customs storage or manufacturing warehouses.

Exclusions from the trade data:

- (a) Migrant's effects and personal purchases by travelers
- (b) Ship's/aircraft stores and bunkers supplied to locally registered craft
- (c) Monetary gold and bullion, bank notes and coins in circulation
- (d) Goods consigned to territorial enclaves and international organizations (Embassies, High Commissions and Diplomatic Representatives etc.)
- (e) Goods on lease for less than 1 year
- (f) Goods on loan, samples or goods brought in for exhibition or study
- (g) Goods being trans-shipped through the island
- (h) Goods entering and leaving the Free Zones are not currently included, but should be if not 'temporarily admitted'..

Recommendation

Clarify temporary admissions.

Issue 2 – Change of ownership between residents and non-residents

This is not being collected in Jamaica and would be difficult to track.
Advice is needed from countries which collect and compile this data.

Recommendation

As suggested on the consultation paper – clarify the use of change of ownership between residents and non-residents as an alternative criterion for inclusion of certain categories of goods. Develop, review and add a list of such categories of goods to the revised manual.

Issue 3 – Packaged Software

This will be dealt with in Jamaica's presentation.

Issue 4 – Goods for Processing

SNA's recommendation – Goods brought into a country for inward processing should not be included in the imports of merchandise ie. They enter for processing and are sent back to the owner. An example for Jamaica would be clothing manufacturing (cut, make and trim (CMT)). SNA recommends on the export side, when the good is sent back to the owner this would represent the export of a manufacturing service.

IMTS recommendation – Include these goods as imports and exports of the respective countries.

In Jamaica Free Zones are not currently included, but should be.

Recommendation

This needs to be discussed and a decision taken on how to harmonize the treatment of these goods with the SNA.

Issue 5 – Transactions between parent and affiliated branches

These are included in Jamaica's trade.

Jamaica however has a problem with the treatment of certain miscellaneous items being traded between individuals in parent courier companies and individuals their affiliated branches for example personal effects.

Should these items be included in the trade?

Issue 6 – Downloadable or otherwise electronically delivered computer software and audiovisual products

This will be dealt with in Jamaica's presentation.

Issue 7 – Asymmetric inclusions and exclusions

This will be dealt with in Jamaica's presentation.

Issue 8 – Adding mode of Transport

Data are collected and compiled and are available on request.

Recommendation

Review IMTS rev1 recommendations and elaborate them in IMTS, Rev.3

Issue 9 – Adding Imports on FOB-type basis

Currently imports are compiled on a CIF basis. This is a very important issue for Jamaica for harmonization with the SNA 93 and BPM 5.

The challenge faced is that most invoices do not disaggregate the total value into cost, insurance and freight

Recommendation

Imports should be compiled on a FOB basis. Guidelines are needed to do these computations.

Issue 10 – Strengthening country of consignment for Imports

Jamaica compiles data on country of origin and consignment. When country of origin is not clear, country of consignment is attributed.

Data on consignment is not published.

Recommendation

Countries should collect data on country of consignment also.

Issue 11 – Optional or recommended country of consignment for Exports

For Jamaica destination/consignment is synonymous. There is no separation on the export form.

A redesign of the customs document would be required to facilitate the separation of these two terms.

Issue 12 – Use of non-customs source and data compilation strategies

Customs declaration forms are the main source of data, and supplementary data supplied by the major importers and exporters are also used.

Data are available from the Tax Payers Audit and Assessment Department on companies classified by the Jamaica Industrial Classification which is based on the International Standard Industrial Classification, but are not currently being used by compilers of the trade data. However time of recording will have to be considered.

Issue 13 – Maintaining Institutional Arrangements

No memorandum of understanding currently exists, but good working relationships are established with the major stakeholders such as customs, brokers, government agencies and private sector companies.

MOU should be established.

Issue 14 – Recommendations on quality of international merchandise trade statistics

Jamaica agrees that IMTS rev 3 should provide recommendations on the quality of International Merchandise Trade Statistics as this would standardize the quality and comparability of trade statistics.

Issue 15 – Providing additional recommendations on the compilation and dissemination of metadata of International Merchandise Trade Statistics

Scheduled release dates are currently being worked on. All other recommendations are being adhered to. Metadata are available on the IMF GDDS web site.

Issue 16 – Compilation of External Trade Indices

IMTS should provide more detailed recommendations on the compilation, dissemination and use of external trade indices.

Jamaica is currently working on the re-introduction of the trade indices. The unit value approach is mainly being utilized. Other indices from within the organization and other countries and price data from the London metal Exchange are also used.

Issue 17 – Compilation of Seasonally adjusted data

Jamaica currently does not seasonally adjust the data.