

FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS IN NAMIBIA



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



WHAT IS FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS

- Records of the flow of goods between countries
- Government statistics compiled as a by-product of its operation
- Foreign Trade Statistics is about observing and counting commodity movement between countries

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IMTS 2010 RECOMMENDATIONS

- No re-imports of domestic goods is being recorded/captured.



RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS IN NAMIBIA

- Ministry of Finance, Directorate of Customs & Excise (C&E)
- C&E is the primary source of Foreign Trade Statistics Data
- Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) has the responsibility to process, analyze, compile, and disseminate Trade Statistics
- Both institutions have to ensure that the trade data is of good quality, reliable and timely



COVERRAGE

- Trade data covers goods that are imported and exported through customs offices (Borders).
- There are currently 28 customs offices through which goods enter and exit the country (Namibia).
- 98% of all the 28 offices are linked to the head office through the ASYCUDA ++ system.



TRADE SYSTEMS

- NSA uses the General Trade System for compiling Foreign Trade Statistics.
 - This system include all goods entering/leaving the economic territory of a compiling country.
 - It provide a more comprehensive recording of external trade flows
- Other systems (e.g. special, both) can also be used depending on the purpose of the information required



CLASSIFICATIONS USED IN FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS

- The Harmonized Description and Coding System (HS) is the primary commodity classification for collection purposes that is currently being used.
- Other classifications are Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) and Broad Economic Categories (BEC).



DATA CAPTURING

- All Customs and Excise declarations are done on a (Single Administrative Document), SAD 500, a document used by traders and declarants who are involved in international trade
- Advantages:
 - one document used for different purposes, e.g. exports, imports, transit and warehousing
 - It conform to international standards



Continued...

- ASYCUDA++ system is C & E's main data capturing software in Namibia
- ASYCUDA++ can be configured to meet each country specific needs
- Almost 98% of Customs offices and border post (28) are connected to the ASYCUDA++ system



DATA TRANSFER TO THE NSA

- There exist a MoU between the two offices on how and when must data flow from C & E to CBS. Data is transmitted from C & E to CBS on a monthly basis, (7 days) after the end of the previous month
- Data is transferred in soft format by means of a USB device or an external hard drive



DATA PROCESSING

- NSA uses EUROTRACE software for the processing and production of Trade Statistics
- Advantages:
 - Can be configured to meet each country specific needs
 - It is very compatible with the Asycuda ++ system



DISSEMINATION OF TRADE STATISTICS

- Data requested can be provided electronically i.e. via email, USB. And in hard copies i.e. fax mail
- NSA produces publications of External Trade Statistics on quarterly and annual basis
- Namibia's trade Statistics is not yet available on the website



Successes

- Trade Statistics by foreign currencies e.g. USD, Pound, and Euro.
- Introduce a new data bank for Cost Insurance and Freight (CIF) and Free on Board (FOB).



Constraints

- Calculations of trade indices is not incorporated.
- Importation of data due to implementation of HS 2012.



Challenges

- Trade Statistics on SITC and BEC classifications can be produced, but they is difference in aggregates.
- Connect the EUROTRACE (NSA) to ASYCUDA ++ (C & E).
- The use of the EUROTRACE latest version.
- Load the system's database on the office saver.



What has been done

- Technical assistance was offered by a consultant from COMESA.
- The office has been in constant communication with the user group.



AREAS FOR POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS

- CIF value must be declared appropriately,
- Customs values should correspond to declared commodity,
- Customs Officers and Trade Statisticians should enhance their skills in the area of Trade Statistics



THANK YOU