Recommendations for International Merchandise Trade Statistics: IMTS 2010 and its implementation

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Relevance and uses of IMTS

- Development of **national, regional and international trade policy**, including trade negotiations, monitoring trade agreements and settling trade disputes;
- Establishing **general economic policy**, including policies on sustainable development, fiscal, monetary, structural and sectoral matters as well as addressing issues of environmental and health concerns;
- **Market analysis** to find supply sources or foreign markets and, in combination with structural business statistics, to determine economic characteristics of traders;
- **Infrastructure planning** (harbours, airports, roads etc.);

Why IMTS 2010 was necessary?

A new revision on IMTS was necessary

1. changes in commercial practices
2. revised international conventions
3. new recommendations in related areas of statistics (SNA, BOP, SITS)

IMTS 2010 changed valuation, partner country, mode of transport and reporting of customs procedures to create a better basis for

- an integrated approach to trade statistics and business statistic
- addressing the new challenges the official statistics is facing in the context of globalization

Valuation

1. The statistical value of exported goods be an FOB value;

2. The statistical value of imported goods be a CIF and FOB value

Partner country

1. For Imports: country of origin; and country of consignment

2. For Exports: country of last known destination and country of consignment

Country of consignment

In import statistics

The country of consignment is the country from which goods were dispatched to the importing country, *without any commercial transactions or other operations which change the legal status of the goods taking place in any intermediate country.*

In export statistics

The country of consignment is the country to which goods are dispatched from the exporting country, *without being subject to any commercial transactions or other operations which change the legal status of the goods taking place in any intermediate country.*

Goods to be included in IMTS – two special cases

Media, whether or not recorded are included *at full transaction value* except for media used for carrying customized software

Goods for processing with or without change of ownership are goods sent abroad or brought into a country under a specific arrangement between the involved parties and for specific operations as defined by the statistical authorities of the compiling country

Goods to be excluded from IMTS – selected cases

Goods treated as part of trade in services:

➢ Goods acquired by all categories of travellers
➢ Newspapers and periodicals sent under direct subscription
➢ Goods supplied by and to enclaves of foreign governments, such as embassies, military bases
➢ Media carrying software customized or written for a specific client

Goods under merchanting. Merchanting is defined as the purchase of goods by a resident of the compiling economy from a nonresident combined with the subsequent resale of the same goods to another nonresident *without the goods being present or crossing the border of the compiling country. (Note: included in goods part of balance of payments by BPM6)*

Compilers Manual for IMTS 2010

The updated IMTS Compilers Manual consists of 6 parts and 28 chapters.

Part I	Legal framework and data sources
Part II	Data compilation
Part III	Compilation of particular data items
Part IV	Compilation of data on trade in selected goods
Part V	Metadata and dissemination
Part VI	External trade indices and seasonally adjusted data

Compilers Manual for IMTS 2010

Part I   Legal framework and data sources

1. Legal framework for IMTS

2. Customs declarations and related customs records

3. Non-Customs data sources

4. Enterprise and other surveys

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Part II   Data compilation

5. Institutional arrangements

6. Statistical territory and organization of data collection

7. Integration of data from different sources

8. Data processing and database management

9. Data quality: Assurance, measurement and reporting

10. Data compilation in the case of Customs Unions

11. Integrating Trade and Business statistics

Compilers Manual for IMTS 2010

Part III   Compilation of particular data items

12. Time of recording

13. Harmonized commodity description and coding system

14. Valuation

15. Quantity measurement

16. Partner country

17. Mode of Transport

18. Customs procedure codes

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Part IV   Compilation of data on trade in selected goods

19. Scope of IMTS

20. Goods for processing

21. Goods which cross borders as a result of a transactions between related parties

22. Pipeline trade and trade via fixed powerlines

23. Ships and Aircraft

24. Other special categories of goods for BOP and SNA

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Part V   Metadata and dissemination

25. Metadata

26. Dissemination

27. Other international classifications relevant for trade

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Part VI   External trade indices and seasonally adjusted data

28. External trade indices

29. Seasonal adjustment

Future research agenda

➢ Finding innovative methods of linking trade and business statistics in the context of an integrated approach to economic statistics

➢ Trade in terms of value added and to clarify the international production chain.

Thank you