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**NEW STATISTICAL PRODUCTS**

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## NEW STATISTICAL PRODUCTS

### Introduction

1. The reform of OECD's statistical strategy affects literally the entire organization and the way statistics are collected, harmonised and disseminated to the outside. A fundamental aspect of this effort is the necessity to address statistical issues to a larger public on a regular and also more frequent basis. Several initiatives have been undertaken in this respect and have given already very positive results.
2. This paper will briefly outline the key characteristics of new statistical products available. They fall in three categories:
  - 1) Internet-based
  - 2) Paper/electronic products
  - 3) Media-related electronic products

### 1. Internet-based

3. The main factor contributing to the availability of timely and detailed statistics clearly is Internet. This medium allows an ever increasing volume of information (statistical and non-statistical) to be disseminated. In particular, there are three different possibilities of accessing OECD information which are of interest to national statistical authorities.
  - a) **SourceOECD.** All publications (statistical and non-statistical) are available in electronic format in this service to external users. This new service offers various subscription modalities and can be fully personalised according to the subscriber's preferences and fields of interest.
  - b) **OLISnet.** This is the more traditional channel through which authorised users (committee members, delegates to working groups, etc.) access OECD published and unpublished data sets. Although it had been created before the widespread use of Internet, it still presents a number of advantages. While *SourceOECD* can only contain data files in one specific format, called Beyond2020, *OLISnet* contains all data files published by the OECD. This includes Beyond2020 files, MS Excel files, Access to SQL databases, MS Access databases as well as simple .csv files. *OLISnet*, in particular, permits to download entire files in a format suitable for the bulk updating of a database. In addition, *OLISnet* permits the presentation of OECD data according to a thematic classification while *SourceOECD* simply lists the datafiles. Finally, *OLISnet* also permits authorised users to access "reserved" areas, where Directorates place preliminary or unofficial data to invite comments and to prepare for Committee meetings.
  - c) **Statistical Portal:** In the framework of the new OECD web site, the Statistics Directorate of OECD has developed, in co-operation with other OECD Directorates and Services a "*Statistical Portal*". In particular, it is now possible to navigate across all statistical subject domains

following a unique classification, derived from the UN classification of statistical themes (the same classification will also be used in the presentation of the OECD Statistical Programme and the OECD statistics glossary). Full implementation of the “portal” (scheduled for the end of the year) will permit access to a selection of available statistics for each theme. This bundling of statistical information is of particular relevance to OECD, where - traditionally - statistical activities were scattered across activities and also sometimes difficult to find because they were “hidden” within analytical activities. It is, hence, expected that this new product will significantly facilitate a structured and comprehensive access to OECD data across themes and Directorates. Current thinking is that it will contain a representative selection of statistics and that access will be free. The question of paying access (and if so, which are the various options ?) or access for free will have to be addressed in a more general and strategic context of OECD’s dissemination policy.

A presentation of the *Statistical Portal* will be given under agenda item 4(i). It will be of particular interest to Delegates that all OECD trade data is readily available on the Internet, representing a considerable amount of statistical data which can be visualised, plotted and downloaded. A more detailed demonstration of how to consult OECD trade data on Internet will be given after the general introduction of the *Statistical Portal*.

## 2. New statistical electronic/paper products

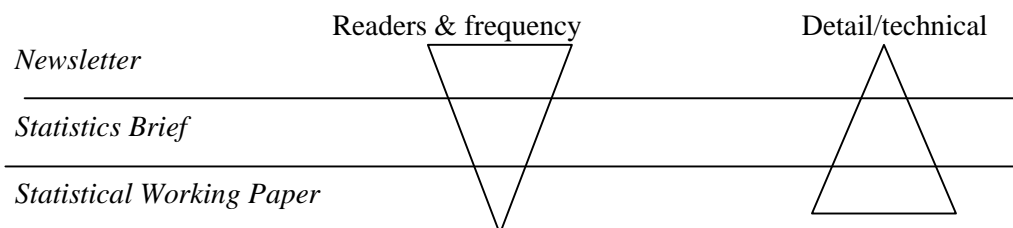
4. As part of the new statistical dissemination strategy, OECD has launched the release of three different statistical brochures/publications, namely the *Statistics Newsletter*, the *Statistics Brief* and *OECD Working Papers in Statistics*.

- a) The *Statistics Newsletter* aims at raising the visibility and reflect the high quality of the range of statistical work done in OECD and to facilitate and strengthen statistical networking within OECD and with colleagues in member and non-member countries. It is, hence, linking producers and users of statistics. Attractively designed, it presents topical, *newsworthy* information to reflect the full range of statistical work at the OPECD and elsewhere in the statistical communities of OECD countries. It presents methodological and development work; new OECD releases, products, working papers; highlights future (OECD and other) meetings - including topics of interest/issues to be discussed; OECD "opinions" on key issues, feature articles and the presentation of databases. It targets a large public in member and non-member countries, experts, researchers in universities, delegates to OED meetings, other international organisations; specialist journalists, and so forth.

The *Statistics Newsletter*, of which around 8 to 10 issues are published per year, provides an overview summary of several statistical issues senior management and non-specialist can refer to and helps raising awareness of statistical methods, issues, developments to keep abreast of. It also provides a link to the two other products described below by alerting the reader to the forthcoming releases. By the time of writing, the 5<sup>th</sup> issue (November 2001) has been released and is available as room document to the Delegates.

- b) The second element, the *Statistics Brief*, is placed in terms of level of detail and target population/frequency in between the Statistics Newsletter and the Statistical Working Paper series. Unlike the *Statistics Newsletter*, it concentrates on one theme and not a variety of different topics. Whereas the *Working Papers* address a more specialised audience with a view to providing an in-depth treatment of statistical issues and a more exhaustive presentation of statistical sources, the *Statistics Brief* addresses an audience of decision (policy) makers, journalists and the wider public

and is drafted in a non-technical manner. The relationship between the three products can be visualised as follows:



Typically, the *Statistics Brief* addresses statistical measurement techniques, issues and problems. It summarises findings and is intended to contribute to a better understanding of statistical issues related to important policy or analytical questions. The first issue of *Statistics Brief* covers a subject of particular interest to this group: trade. It summarises some key trends in trade in goods and services, and concentrates on measurement issues for trade in goods and trade in services. Also the necessary adjustments to move from a customs-based framework to the Balance of Payments framework are highlighted, of course in a very condensed form. A major achievement of an inter-agency effort, namely the new Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services which now has reached sufficient maturity for publication, is summarised as well.

Besides these information, supplementary information is provided in a glossary of statistical terms and related OECD databases are listed as well for reference and follow up in case of interest.

- c) ***OECD Working Papers in Statistics***: This will be a series of substantive and more detailed specialised scientific papers written by OECD experts and external experts who participate in various OECD statistical meetings. OECD has been publishing working papers on a full range of economic issues; the bundling into a series of statistical working papers underlines the importance given to statistical measurement aspects.

### 3. Press Releases

5. Since September this year, the OECD Statistics Directorate issues regular Press Releases on short-term economic statistics. Containing most up-to-date monthly and quarterly data and summary analysis for the OECD area, country groupings and G 7, these Press Releases are intended to draw the media's attention to trends in key short-term indicators of the OECD area. It is a well-known fact that OECD has been successful in building up its capacity and ability to provide "fresh" and reliable key statistics for its Member countries.
6. It is certainly of particular interest to this group that OECD's "Monthly Statistics of International Trade" belong to the selected group of economic indicators for Press Releases. Using quarterly trade data, a test run has been made in October, which provided very interesting and pertinent results (see Annex below). It was encouraging to see that the analytical results of this simulated test issue (that is, it was ready for publication as Press Release, but was not published) have been published in a quite similar form and in substance by other organisations or agencies. The MSIT Press Release will be quarterly, the first one is scheduled for January 2002 and will cover the first three quarters of 2001.

***Delegates are invited to express their views on the usefulness of the new statistical products available at OECD and to provide comments on possible future additions.***

Delegates will be informed in more detail about new initiatives with regard to economic short-term statistics under point 8 of the agenda.

**Annex : Model of Press Release on Quarterly Trade Statistics**

***Trade in OECD Countries Turns Negative in Second Quarter 2001: First Annual Fall in Two Years***

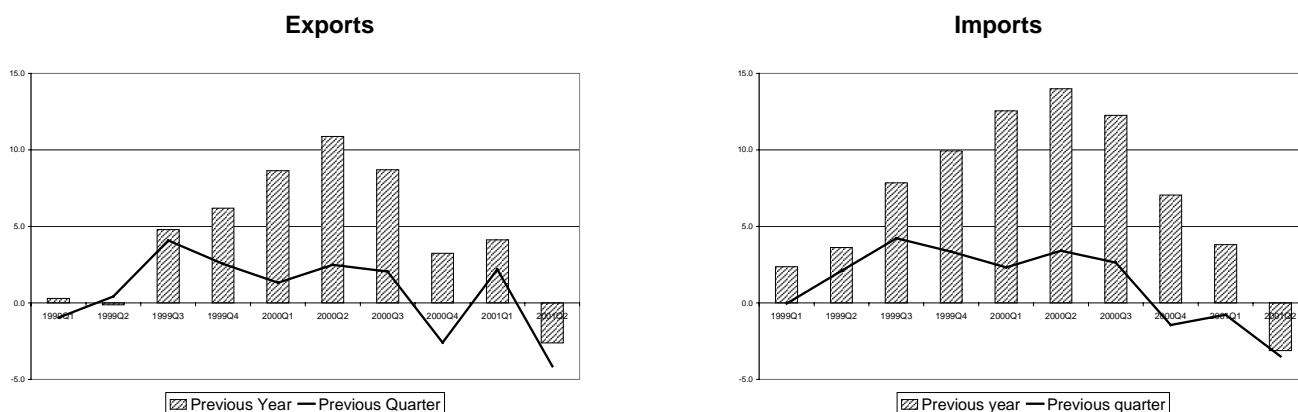
The value of exports and imports in OECD countries fell in the second quarter of 2001 on both a quarterly and year-on-year basis, according to the organisation's latest quarterly trade figures. Exports from the OECD's 30 member countries fell a total of 4.1% in value compared with the first quarter while imports were 3.5% lower.

On a year-on-year basis the preliminary second quarter estimates showed the first fall in two years. Exports declined 2.6% and imports dropped 3.1% compared with the same quarter of 2000.

The slowdown follows particularly rapid growth in OECD trade until the first quarter of 2000. Exports had risen 10.9% in value and imports had gained 14.0% between the second quarter of 1999 and the same period of the following year.

**OECD Growth in Merchandise Trade**

*Percentage change over the previous year and previous quarter*



**Annual Export Value Growth**

*Percentage change over previous year*

	1999Q1	1999Q2	1999Q3	1999Q4	2000Q1	2000Q2	2000Q3	2000Q4	2001Q1	2001Q2
<b>OECD</b>	0.3	-0.1	4.8	6.2	8.6	10.9	8.7	3.2	4.1	<b>-2.6</b>
<b>EU15</b>	1.8	-2.5	0.3	1.8	2.5	5.1	2.5	-1.3	5.2	<b>-1.2</b>
<b>Euro area</b>	3.2	-2.3	-0.2	1.0	1.3	4.4	2.7	-1.1	6.6	<b>0.3</b>
<b>Major seven</b>	-0.3	-0.3	4.6	5.5	8.0	10.7	8.1	3.3	3.5	<b>-3.8</b>
<b>Canada</b>	5.4	8.6	14.8	16.7	18.5	18.2	16.1	11.8	5.2	<b>-1.7</b>
<b>USA</b>	-3.4	1.1	6.2	4.9	10.8	13.5	14.6	9.3	6.3	<b>-2.1</b>
<b>Japan</b>	-0.7	3.2	14.4	15.4	16.6	23.9	13.7	3.8	-5.7	<b>-15.8</b>
<b>France</b>	2.5	-1.9	0.0	-3.1	0.3	2.6	-1.7	-3.2	2.5	<b>-5.3</b>
<b>Germany</b>	3.6	-1.7	-0.3	-1.1	1.6	2.7	1.3	-0.3	6.7	<b>2.5</b>
<b>Italy</b>	-0.1	-6.8	-5.8	6.3	-2.8	2.7	7.7	-3.4	8.9	<b>2.6</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	-6.5	-5.5	3.5	6.5	10.9	9.2	0.6	-1.5	0.4	<b>-6.1</b>

**Quarterly Export Value Growth***Percentage change over previous quarter*

	1999Q1	1999Q2	1999Q3	1999Q4	2000Q1	2000Q2	2000Q3	2000Q4	2001Q1	2001Q2
<b>OECD</b>	-0.9	0.4	4.1	2.6	1.3	2.5	2.0	-2.6	2.2	<b>-4.1</b>
<b>EU15</b>	-1.6	-0.9	3.1	1.2	-0.9	1.6	0.6	-2.6	5.8	<b>-4.6</b>
<b>Euro area</b>	-1.5	-1.3	2.7	1.1	-1.2	1.7	1.1	-2.7	6.5	<b>-4.3</b>
<b>Major seven</b>	-0.9	0.1	4.1	2.2	1.4	2.6	1.6	-2.4	1.7	<b>-4.7</b>
<b>Canada</b>	3.4	3.1	5.1	4.2	5.0	2.9	3.1	0.4	-1.3	<b>-3.8</b>
<b>USA</b>	-2.5	1.6	3.9	1.9	3.0	4.1	4.9	-2.8	0.2	<b>-4.2</b>
<b>Japan</b>	2.4	-1.2	8.0	5.6	3.4	5.1	-0.9	-3.6	-6.0	<b>-6.2</b>
<b>France</b>	-3.6	-1.1	3.9	-2.1	-0.3	1.2	-0.5	-3.6	5.6	<b>-6.6</b>
<b>Germany</b>	-2.4	-0.8	1.8	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	-1.3	7.2	<b>-3.6</b>
<b>Italy</b>	3.1	-2.9	-0.4	6.6	-5.7	2.6	4.5	-4.4	6.4	<b>-3.4</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	-2.8	2.0	6.2	1.2	1.2	0.4	-2.2	-0.9	3.2	<b>-6.0</b>

**Annual Import Value Growth***Percentage change over previous year*

	1999Q1	1999Q2	1999Q3	1999Q4	2000Q1	2000Q2	2000Q3	2000Q4	2001Q1	2001Q2
<b>OECD</b>	2.4	3.6	7.9	9.9	12.5	14.0	12.3	7.1	3.8	<b>-3.1</b>
<b>EU15</b>	3.2	0.2	2.5	3.2	4.4	7.2	5.4	1.2	3.7	<b>-2.3</b>
<b>Euro area</b>	4.2	1.1	2.2	2.7	3.9	6.8	6.0	1.8	5.0	<b>-1.4</b>
<b>Major seven</b>	2.3	4.0	8.8	10.8	13.4	15.0	13.4	8.8	3.8	<b>-2.8</b>
<b>Canada</b>	0.9	4.4	10.8	13.2	14.9	14.0	12.4	4.9	-3.5	<b>-4.8</b>
<b>USA</b>	5.4	9.8	15.7	17.2	21.2	20.6	19.6	14.7	5.0	<b>-3.1</b>
<b>Japan</b>	-4.2	7.6	16.5	25.2	22.5	29.1	22.6	15.6	5.6	<b>-4.3</b>
<b>France</b>	3.3	0.4	0.9	-0.7	5.1	6.2	6.5	2.1	2.6	<b>-4.5</b>
<b>Germany</b>	2.7	0.4	1.3	-1.7	4.8	5.5	6.5	6.5	4.9	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Italy</b>	1.2	-1.3	1.7	13.2	4.0	11.6	14.1	1.1	8.4	<b>0.2</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	0.1	-3.7	5.1	6.6	6.9	9.5	1.8	-0.4	-0.7	<b>-3.7</b>

**Quarterly Import Value Growth***Percentage change over previous quarter*

	1999Q1	1999Q2	1999Q3	1999Q4	2000Q1	2000Q2	2000Q3	2000Q4	2001Q1	2001Q2
<b>OECD</b>	0.0	2.1	4.2	3.3	2.3	3.4	2.6	-1.4	-0.8	<b>-3.5</b>
<b>EU15</b>	-1.1	-0.3	3.6	1.1	0.0	2.4	1.8	-2.9	2.5	<b>-3.5</b>
<b>Euro area</b>	-1.1	-0.2	2.9	1.2	0.1	2.5	2.1	-2.8	3.2	<b>-3.8</b>
<b>Major seven</b>	0.6	2.3	4.3	3.2	2.9	3.8	2.9	-1.0	-1.8	<b>-2.8</b>
<b>Canada</b>	1.2	3.1	3.2	5.1	2.8	2.3	1.8	-1.9	-5.5	<b>1.0</b>
<b>USA</b>	2.4	5.0	4.5	4.4	5.9	4.5	3.6	0.1	-3.1	<b>-3.6</b>
<b>Japan</b>	4.7	2.9	6.9	8.7	2.4	8.5	1.5	2.5	-6.4	<b>-1.7</b>
<b>France</b>	-3.8	-0.1	3.3	0.1	1.8	1.0	3.6	-4.1	2.3	<b>-6.0</b>
<b>Germany</b>	-3.3	1.0	1.4	-0.8	3.1	1.7	2.4	-0.8	1.5	<b>-3.0</b>
<b>Italy</b>	4.1	-0.8	4.0	5.3	-4.3	6.5	6.3	-6.7	2.7	<b>-1.6</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	-0.9	-0.8	7.9	0.5	-0.6	1.6	0.2	-1.6	-1.0	<b>-1.4</b>

In **volume terms**, exports from the **United States** fell 1.8% in the second quarter of 2001 compared with the same period of the previous year, while imports declined 1.1%. This compares with first quarter year-on-year growth of 5.4% for exports and 5.1% for imports. The annual growth rate of US imports was generally higher than that of Germany and of Japan, but below the average of G7 countries in the first two quarters of 2001.

**Germany** maintained trade growth during the second quarter of 2001 with a 4.0% rise in export volume and a 2.7% increase in import volume compared with the same period of the previous year. Export growth was above the G7 average.

By contrast, **Japan's** export volumes fell by 11.1% and imports by 0.3% year on year in the second quarter of 2001. Japanese exports recovered quickly from negative growth in early 1999 to two-digit growth in the first two quarters of 2000 but have since fallen markedly. Import growth, however, continued to correspond to the G7 average.

### Annual Export Volume Growth

*Percentage change over previous year*

	1999Q1	1999Q2	1999Q3	1999Q4	2000Q1	2000Q2	2000Q3	2000Q4	2001Q1	2001Q2
<b>Major seven</b>	-0.1	2.2	6.4	8.3	13.1	12.3	10.1	8.6	4.4	<b>-1.2</b>
<b>Canada</b>	12.7	10.6	10.8	9.9	10.6	11.3	8.3	5.0	-1.5	<b>-2.5</b>
<b>USA</b>	0.1	3.5	6.5	5.6	10.1	12.8	14.1	8.3	5.4	<b>-1.8</b>
<b>Japan</b>	-3.1	-1.4	4.1	9.0	13.7	13.3	8.1	3.2	-4.4	<b>-11.1</b>
<b>France</b>	-1.8	-0.4	4.4	7.5	12.7	13.3	8.3	11.3	6.8	<b>-0.7</b>
<b>Germany</b>	1.3	4.0	8.2	11.6	17.0	11.9	9.3	11.9	7.4	<b>4.0</b>
<b>Italy</b>	-6.1	-1.5	1.6	5.4	12.7	9.6	15.1	12.6	11.2	<b>4.7</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	-1.9	0.1	8.4	8.3	13.5	12.4	4.9	7.2	6.2	<b>-0.6</b>

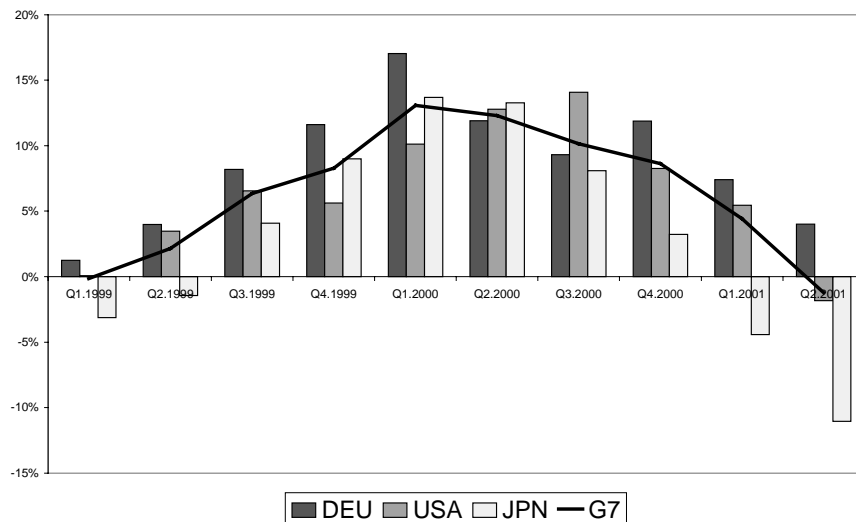
### Annual Import Volume Growth

*Percentage change over previous year*

	1999Q1	1999Q2	1999Q3	1999Q4	2000Q1	2000Q2	2000Q3	2000Q4	2001Q1	2001Q2
<b>Major seven</b>	4.8	6.7	10.2	10.0	12.4	12.5	10.6	10.2	6.3	<b>0.3</b>
<b>Canada</b>	5.0	6.9	11.2	12.0	13.9	11.5	9.8	3.3	-3.6	<b>-4.0</b>
<b>USA</b>	10.6	11.4	14.3	13.2	14.3	14.7	14.0	11.1	5.1	<b>-1.1</b>
<b>Japan</b>	4.1	8.7	9.4	16.3	10.6	12.6	10.9	9.6	6.3	<b>-0.3</b>
<b>France</b>	-8.2	-4.7	6.6	-0.2	12.2	13.5	2.6	15.1	20.5	<b>4.2</b>
<b>Germany</b>	4.3	7.5	7.9	7.2	12.4	9.3	8.7	10.5	3.6	<b>2.7</b>
<b>Italy</b>	-1.7	4.2	4.4	9.2	8.6	9.8	13.8	9.0	8.3	<b>0.5</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	7.2	2.9	9.3	9.8	9.6	13.0	8.3	8.3	7.5	<b>0.5</b>

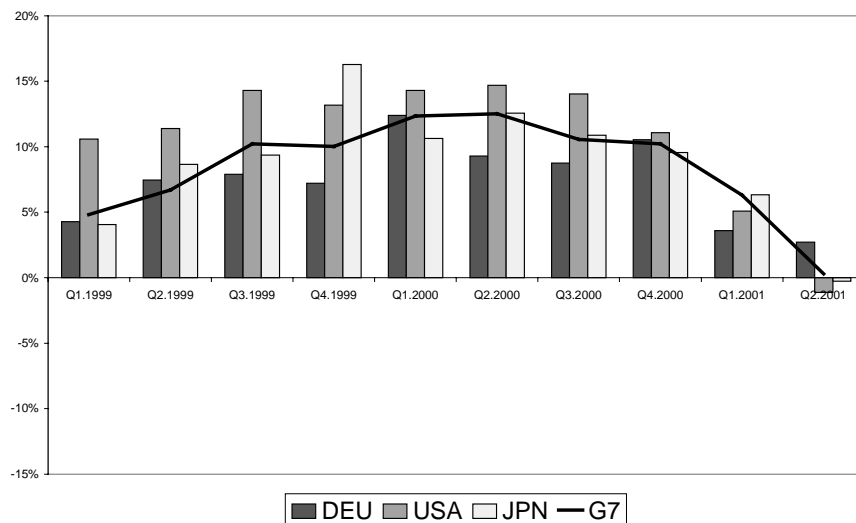
### Annual Export Volume Growth

*Percentage change over the same quarter of the previous year*



### Annual Import Volume Growth

*Percentage change over the same quarter of the previous year*



### Methodological Notes

All data in this Press Release is based upon OECD's Monthly Statistics of International Trade (MSIT) database.

This Press Release can be found on the OECD web site: [www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org).

OECD covers the 30 Member countries listed above. EU15 covers the 15 Member countries of the European Union, consisting of the Euro area and Denmark, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The Euro

area covers the 12 following countries: Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain.

Quarterly trade estimates for the OECD area are based on monthly trade data reported by the member countries, supplemented by estimates from the OECD Secretariat as appropriate. Seasonally adjusted data are calculated by the Secretariat using the Arima X-12 method, developed by the U.S. Bureau of Census.

Aggregate annual and quarterly growth rates in value terms are based on seasonally adjusted data expressed in current US dollars. Aggregate annual volume growth rates are obtained by the addition of constant data expressed in 1995 US dollars.

OECD's Monthly Statistics of International Trade (MSIT) cover aggregate indicators, trade indices and trade broken down by Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) sections and by partner countries. In addition to monthly and quarterly trade, OECD manages a comprehensive annual trade database by commodities and by partner country, called ITCS (International Trade by Commodities Statistics).

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*The next release for quarterly trade data will be published in January 2002.*