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Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Economiques
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

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STATISTICS DIRECTORATE

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National Accounts - International Trade Statistics

RESULTS OF OECD' S QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE ITS 2001 MEETING

Paper prepared by Andreas Lindner, OECD - France

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contact: Andreas.LINDNER@oecd.org

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English - Or. English

RESULTS OF OECD'S QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE ITS 2001 MEETING

Introduction

There are a number of reasons, set out below, why the Secretariat issued this questionnaire to participating Member country delegations. Almost all countries responded and the Secretariat would like to thank them for the effort and time taken.

Accurate and timely international trade statistics are responding to a large variety of analytical needs throughout national and international bodies. And trade flow data certainly is one of the central pieces of the battery of economic indicators needed nowadays to explain economic structures, levels and trends in increasingly interconnected and global economies.

OECD and other international bodies feel the increasing pressure from users (be they in government, other international organisations, universities, and the private sector) to have at their disposal a maximum of detailed trade statistics at the very earliest moment in time. In fact, missing or late data about the linkages of economies with each other through trade constitutes a serious impediment for economic analysis and considerably weakens the ability of experts to say something meaningful and sound about the place, performance and perspectives of economies.

It is essentially for these reasons that OECD, in close co-operation with other international organisations, tries to have the most detailed amount of trade data available at the earliest moment in time. This issue was discussed at the past two ITS meetings of OECD (as well as in other fora, such as the meetings of the international Trade Task Force) and, again, is addressed at this 3rd ITS 2001 meeting in particular detail. Why ? Because there is still - and sometimes considerable - scope for feasible improvement. It has to be repeated that late availability of trade data at OECD has a knock-on effect on other international organisations (see Inter-Agency Statement of trade data needs STD/NA/ITS(2001)18).

- The Secretariat, therefore, will present the issue of timeliness under agenda item 4 (ii), consider the possible effects of provisional data availability and seek the opinion from Member countries on the scope for further intensified co-operation.

Delegates are invited to express their views at the first roundtable discussion on this topic.

In addition to the question of data availability, the questionnaire also asked for the specific treatment applying to confidentiality rules and the respective levels, eventual changes and estimated effects of the application of thresholds.

The reason for this inquiry is to be seen against the background of a tendency towards generally tighter confidentiality rules and higher thresholds applied to trade flows.

Delegates are invited to express their views on confidentiality and thresholds at the second roundtable discussion under agenda item 5 (c).

Part I of this document provides a synopsis of country responses received and part II provides the full response on a country by country basis.

I. Synopsis of country replies

Countries	Confidentiality	Threshold		Data availability				Data access
		Import	Export	Yearly		Monthly		
				Provisional	Final	Provisional	Final	
<u>AUS</u>	Passive confidentiality	Parcel post imports: excludes all transactions consigned through Australia Post with values less than \$1,000; and Other imports: excludes all consignments screened free or entered on Informal Clearance Documents (ICDs) for values less than \$250.	Parcel post exports: excludes all transactions consigned through Australia Post with values less than \$2,000; and Other exports: excludes all transaction lines (within an export consignment) where the value of the goods is less than \$500.	Not applicable	Imports: 12th working day after the end of December, (10 digit). Exports - 21st working day after the end of December, (8 digit).	Not applicable	Quarterly Both imports and exports are available 9 weeks after the end of the quarter.	- broad level detail ABS Web site - www.abs.gov.au - as a special data service through ABS Information Services (email client.services@abs.gov.au)
<u>BEL</u>	Passive confidentiality 2% of trade is camouflaged	- Intrastat: value threshold of 1000 euro and 1000 kilos per transaction - Extrastat: below 25.000.000 euro.		Mid March	Mid October	6 weeks after the month	Mid October	cd-rom and http://www.nbb.be (from 2002 onwards)
<u>CAN</u>	Passive confidentiality	1000 USD	- to US 2500 USD - to non US 1200 USD	February/March	six months after the referenced calendar year	Average 55 days after end of the reference month	Average 55 days after end of the reference month	Calendar release www.statcan.ca e-mail
<i>CHE</i> (*)	No estimation Code: XX99.9999	- value threshold of 1000 swiss francs and 1000 kilos per transaction			End of January	20 days of the the following month	End of januray	http://www.admin.ch/ezy SWISS-impex
<i>CZE</i> (*)	Passive confidentiality			End of January/ February	August	15th day of the following month	Data are continually updated during any of the next annual processing	By e-mail
<i>DEU</i> (*)		Intrasta: 200 000 DM Extra-stat: value threshold of 1600 DM and for weight 1000 kilograms		40 days after the reference-year	6 month after the reference year	40 days after the reference-month		http://194.95.119.6/zeitreih/home.htm

Countries	Confidentiality	Threshold		Data availability				Data access
		Import	Export	Yearly		Monthly		
				Provisional	Final	Provisional	Final	
<u>DNK</u>	<p>Passive confidentiality (one company has more than 85% of trade of a single code) Trade on the CN8 level must be significant, i.e. in practice more than 2 mio. DKK yearly.</p> <p>Four levels of confidentiality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Total</i>, in which case CN8 commodity and partner country are changed to confidentiality codes. • <i>Country</i>, in which case partner country are changed to confidentiality code • <i>Value</i>, in which case the quantities are published on real codes and value on confidentiality codes • <i>Quantity</i>, opposite of the value confidentiality above 	<p>Eu countries: - 1.5 mio. DKK (1993-1996: 0.5 mio. DKK) – coverage app. 97.5 per cent (1993-1996: 99.0 per cent)</p> <p>- The published figures cover in principle 100 per cent of trade.</p>	<p>Eu countries: - 2.5 mio. DKK (1993-1996: 0.8 mio. DKK) – coverage app. 98.0 per cent (1993-1996: 99.0 per cent)</p>	Mid February	Mid September	6 weeks after reference month on CN8	9 months after end of year	http://www.statistikbanken.dk
FIN(*)		<p>Intrastat: 600000 FIM Extrastat: 3000 FIM Transactions below 600000 FIM are available only as a total value aggregate.</p>		10 weeks after the end of the reference year	20 weeks after the end of the reference year	- Totals in 6 weeks after the end of the reference month	Monthly figures are corrected and completed continuously during the year in question	http://ultika.internet - Paper publication for indices
<u>GBR</u>	Passive confidentiality	<p>Intrastat - Assimilation - £233,000 per annum for arrivals and dispatches Delivery terms - £12,500,000 per annum for arrivals and despatches. Will be raised to £13,500,000 for 2002. - arrivals and dispatches. Values £80 - for imports and exports. values of £600</p>		<p>23.01.02 (Extra-EC Dec.2001 year to date) 25.02.02 (Intra-EC Dec.2001 year to date)</p>	<p>09.08.02 (Extra-EC Annual 2001 Data) 19.08.02 (Intra-EC Annual 2001 Data)</p>	<p>For Extra-EC Data and Intra-EC Data: Within 42 calendar days following the reporting period.</p>	<p>- Extra-EC Data: within 42 calendar days following the reporting period. - Intra-EC Data: within 55 calendar days following the reporting period.</p>	<p>Access: www.uktradeinfo.com and ISDN line CD-Roms</p>

Countries	Confidentiality	Threshold		Data availability				Data access
		Import	Export	Yearly		Monthly		
				Provisional	Final	Provisional	Final	
<u>HUN</u>	- passive confidentiality applied at commodity level. - Chapters of HS nomenclature (1-2 positions) are available.	no threshold		first half of March SITC (Rev.3) 1 and 2 digits	June CN 6 digits, SITC 2 digits, NACE	10 days after the month concerned	in a few days after publishing the provisional data	- Aggregated data the Internet website www.ksh.hu - CD-ROM
<u>IRL</u>	Passive confidentiality if required	Intrastat: €190,500 per annum for arrivals	€635,000 per annum for dispatches		-End of March	Between 55 and 60 days	Between 86 and 90 days	- electronic media and via email - Statistical releases
ITA(*)	Passive confidentiality			- For non-EU trade, 2 months after the reference month - For EU 3 months after the end of the reference month	10 months after reference year	- For non-EU trade, 4 weeks after the reference month - For EU 7/8 weeks after the reference month	10 months after reference year	http://www.istat.it -CD-ROM
<u>ISL</u>	Passive confidentiality However, confidentiality is only applied to one HS number for exports and only for the country breakdown, monthly figures.	- 500 ISK for all data, - 25,000 ISK for postal items imported/exported by individuals		No provisional figures	End of February - Advance release calendar, www.statice.is	No provisional figures	Approximately 30 days after the reference month	Press release, including aggregates, available on the internet (www.statice.is), Zip files
<u>NLD</u>	Passive confidentiality	no distinction is made between thresholds for arrivals and for dispatches. From 1 January 1995, the simplification threshold was abolished and only companies above the assimilation threshold have to declare for Intrastat.		Provisional data at detailed level are not published. Commodity groups (1250) by country groups (50) are published.	Y+ 6 months	M + 8 weeks	Y+ 6 months	Cn-8 for Eurostat available through COMEXT CN-2 and SITC(2) and CN4 available through STATLINE at www.cbs.nl and paper publication

Countries	Confidentiality						Threshold					Data availability				Data access	
							Import			Export		Yearly		Monthly			
						Provisional	Final	Provisional	Final								
NLD	Confidentiality in 1999 in %						Total trade		Adjustements								
	Exports			Imports			Mil-lion NLG	Mil-lion Euro	Mil-lion NLG	Mil-lion Euro	In %						
	Intra	Extra	Total	Intra	Extra	Total	Arrival	231	105	5.8	2.6	2,5					
	9,23	13,4	10,2	2,52	6,76	4,45	Dispatches	325	147.5	3.5	1.6	1,1					
<u>NOR</u>	Passive confidentiality						Norway use only extrastat and base on Customs declarations only (surveys for ships, oil/gas, electric current, aircraft.).							End of April or beginning of May the following year	The preliminary data for a previous month, are released the 15 th (two weeks) after the end of the data month.	http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/09/	
							Imports: 1000 NOK per declaration ITEM - lost of 0.4 per cent of total value (normal average per year), but counts for about 38 per cent of the data volume. - Customs use no thresholds for imports.		- lost is 0.05 per cent of total value (1999), but counts for about 25 per cent of the data volume. - Customs use a declaration total threshold on NOK 4 500,-.								
<u>POL</u>	- one subheading on the level of 9-digit PCN ¹ is confidential. This item is produced and exported by one enterprise. Data concerning this 9-digit subheading is included in the another 9-digit PCN of the same 4-digit Combined Nomenclature; - passive confidentiality						of value \geq 50.000 USD.					No provisional data provided to OECD	end of June 2002	indices: - 80 days after reference period. - since May 2002 – about 2 months after reference period..	June 2002	Internet e-mail	
<u>SVK</u>	Passive confidentiality						1 200 EUR		1 200 EUR					End of August	20-th day of following month	July following after reference year	Data Release is published on web-site www.statistics.sk
<u>SWE(*)</u>	Passive confidentiality						1 500 000 SEK for a current 12-month value					Detailed data t + 11 weeks	Final status t + 15 months	Aggregated global imports/exports values t + 25 days	Final status t + 15 months	http://www.scb.se/databaser/makro/password.asp	

Countries	Confidentiality	Threshold		Data availability				Data access
		Import	Export	Yearly		Monthly		
				Provisional	Final	Provisional	Final	
TUR(*)	Passive confidentiality			available 8-10 weeks after the end of the reference year	available 4-5 months after the end of the reference year	45-50 days after end of month	75-80 days after end of month	www.die.gov.tr/English/index.html e-mail
<u>USA</u>	Passive confidentiality	\$2,000	\$2,501	mid-February	mid-June	50 days after end of month for all level of detailed	mid-June	- Internet drop-box by special arrangement - CD ROM – dbf format
		250 for some products, primarily involving quotas or duties						

(*) Country report of the first OECD trade statistics meeting in June 1999

II. Country replies by country

AUSTRALIA

1. Confidentiality rules

Australia's international merchandise trade statistics are confidentialised to prevent the identification of the activities of individual exporters and importers, where this is requested by the individual or organisation concerned and it is determined that their data would otherwise be identifiable.

Aggregate international merchandise trade statistics are potentially available in a great deal of detail, but not all possible cross-classifications are released. Restrictions are placed on the release of statistics where the data for an individual or organisation is identifiable, and that entity has requested that the data be suppressed. In practice, the way that a restriction is achieved is to combine sensitive information with data in other cells.

This means that international merchandise trade statistics, unlike most other statistics released by the ABS, are subject to a passive confidentiality policy i.e. statistics are able to be released without explicit regard to confidentiality, unless and until an individual or organisation demonstrates that such disclosure would be likely to enable the identification of that person or organisation.

Where restriction of statistics is necessary to preserve confidentiality, the ABS negotiates with the individual or organisation concerned on a form of restriction which protects their interests, while still allowing as much useful statistical information as possible to be released. For example, a Selected Country restriction, where several countries are combined, is considered before a No Country Detail restriction is contemplated.

In the September quarter 2001, \$1,627m (1.3%) of exports and \$78m (0.06%) of imports were subject to a confidentiality restriction. For more information on the restrictions applied, see Chapter 6 of International Merchandise Trade, Australia: Concepts, Sources and Methods 2001 (ABS Cat. no. 5489.0).

2. Thresholds:

Exports

- Parcel post exports: excludes all transactions consigned through Australia Post with values less than \$2,000; and
- Other exports: excludes all transaction lines (within an export consignment) where the value of the goods is less than \$500.

Exporters are not required to submit entries to the Australian Customs Service (Customs) for exports below \$500. If any entries are submitted, they are not processed by the ABS. Customs propose to increase the export entry threshold from \$500 to \$2000, however, the timing is yet to be determined.

Imports

- Parcel post imports: excludes all transactions consigned through Australia Post with values less than \$1,000; and
- Other imports: excludes all consignments screened free or entered on Informal Clearance Documents (ICDs) for values less than \$250.

Individual import transaction lines (within a formally entered import consignment), where the value of the goods is less than \$250, are not processed by the ABS and are excluded from import statistics.

An analysis of export and import transactions with respect to July 2000 found that just over 8% of export input records were valued below \$500, representing 0.02% of the total value of exports. For imports, nearly 34% of entries were below \$250, representing 0.19% of the total value of imports. These figures represent entries that were passed to the ABS. The value of exports or imports for which no form has been lodged with Customs cannot be determined, but is expected to be statistically insignificant.

3. Data availability in 2002:**a) Yearly detailed commodity data**➤ *Earliest moment for provisional data:*

Not applicable - data are treated as final when published, although monthly data for both imports and exports can be revised for up to 6 months after the reference month. Revisions to initial estimates are generally minimal, usually less than 0.01%.

➤ *Earliest moment for final data:*

Imports - 12th working day after the end of December, available at finest level of detail (10 digit HTISC statistical codes).

Exports - 21st working day after the end of December, available at finest level of detail (8 digit AHECC statistical codes).

See Chapter 4 of International Merchandise Trade, Australia: Concepts, Sources and Methods 2001 (ABS Cat. no. 5489.0) for a description of the classifications used.

➤ *Access possibility or dissemination*

Broad level data released in ABS publications are available free on the ABS Web site - www.abs.gov.au Fine level data are only available to subscribers via AusStats (information about this service is available on the ABS Web site) or as a special data service through ABS Information Services (email client.services@abs.gov.au), for which a charge is incurred.

b) Monthly data➤ *Earliest moment for provisional data by type:*

Aggregates, commodity level of detail:

Not applicable - see 3a) above

Volume indices/Unit Value indices:

Not available monthly. Only available quarterly on a Balance of Payments basis: both imports and exports are available 9 weeks after the end of the quarter.

➤ *Earliest moment for final data:*

Aggregates, commodity level of detail:

Imports - 12th working day after the end of the month, available at finest level of detail (10 digit HTISC)

Exports - 21st working day after the end of the month, available at finest level of detail (8 digit AHECC)

Volume indices/Unit Value indices:

Not available monthly. Only available quarterly on a Balance of Payments basis: both imports and exports are available 9 weeks after the end of the quarter.

➤ *Access possibility or dissemination:*

See 3a) above.

Australian Bureau of Statistics

BELGIUM

1. Confidentiality rules

In Belgium, we apply the principle of "passive confidentiality", which means that data are hidden only at the request of traders. This guarantees a minimalist approach, or an approach which has a minimal impact on trade data (about 2% of trade is camouflaged). Traders can successfully apply for confidentiality when they are quasi-monopolists (i.e. when they are one of maximum 2 traders active in a CN8 commodity heading, and when these two traders together (or one trader) represent at least 80% of trade in the commodity code for which they ask confidentiality). We normally shift trade for this commodity to a "dustbin" commodity code, reserved for confidential trade. We normally do not camouflage country data (only when normal rules cannot apply because the commodity codes which have to be camouflaged according to normal rules, make up 80% or more of trade with a particular country; in that case the whole trade with that particular country has to be camouflaged by shifting this trade to a dustbin country code).

Confidentiality is applied for one year at a time, but can be prolonged. Confidentiality is applied from the start of the year onwards, not somewhere in the middle of the year. It can also be applied for one flow only.

2. Thresholds:

Extrastat: no changes: value threshold of 1000 euro and 1000 kilos per transaction

Intrastat: no changes, apart from the introduction from 2002 onwards, of a supplementary threshold in order to distinguish between a normal and an extended declaration (extended means including incoterms and mode of transport). The extended declaration covers all companies above 25.000.000 euro. These companies represent 5% of all intrastat declarants and cover about 70 % of intratrade value.

3. Data availability in 2002:

a) *Yearly detailed commodity data*

➤ *Earliest moment for provisional data:*

15/3/2003 for annual data regarding 2002
Level of detail: CN8/partnercountry

➤ *Earliest moment for final data:*

15/10/2003 for annual data regarding 2002
Level of detail: CN8/partnercountry

➤ *Access possibility or dissemination:*

cd-rom and www.nbb.be (from 2002 onwards)

b) Monthly data

➤ *Earliest moment for provisional data by type:*

Aggregates, commodity level of detail: 6 weeks after the month (SITC1)

Volume indices/Unit Value indices: 6 weeks for total trade indices

➤ *Earliest moment for final data:*

- Aggregates, commodity level of detail: 15/10/2003 for monthly data regarding 2002, CN8/partner country

- Volume indices/Unit Value indices: 15/10/2003 for monthly data regarding 2002

➤ *Access possibility or dissemination:*

cd-rom and www.nbb.be (from 2002 onwards)

CANADA

1. Confidentiality rules

Statistics Canada has a "passive approach" to confidentiality where trade data are concerned and this differs significantly from the approach used for other statistics produced by the Agency.

Essentially, the data are not scrutinized for breach of confidentiality before release. Since data are based on individual transactions compiled on a monthly basis, the information does not divulge the overall operations of individuals or business. However, should an individual or a business believe that international trade information published by Statistics Canada can be attributed to them they can so indicate to Statistics Canada and a review will be undertaken to determine if there is in fact a breach of confidentiality. Data will be suppressed if one of the following conditions apply:

- there is only one exporter/importer showing trade for at least 6 consecutive months in a given year;
- there are 2 exporters/importers showing trade and one exporter/importer has at least XX% of
- the total value for at least 6 consecutive months in the given year;
- there are 3 exporters/importers showing trade and one exporter/importer has at least YY% of
- the total value for at least 6 consecutive months in the given year.

In more recent years, Statistics Canada has sought the approval of the businesses in question to publish confidential information given that the data are being published by the trading partner.

2. Thresholds: (Approx to \$ US)

Imports - \$1000 - estimates made and allocated to 9901 (i.e. no undercoverage, but mis-allocation)

Exports - to U.S. \$2500 - estimates made (by USBC) and allocated to 9901 to non-US \$1200 - no estimates made, so undercoverage of < 0.1 %

Estimates on a BOP basis include all sizes of transactions

3. Data availability in 2002

- a) *Yearly detailed commodity data*
 b) *Monthly data*

Statistics Canada - Statistique Canada
International Trade Division - Division du commerce international

2002

Canadian International Merchandise Trade
Le Commerce international de marchandises du Canada

<u>Statistical Month/ Mois statistique</u>	<u>Release Date (8:30 a.m.)/ Échéancier (8 h 30 h.a.e.)</u>
November/novembre 2001	18 Jan./janv. 2002 (Friday/vendredi)
December/décembre 2001	21 Feb./fév. 2002 (Thursday/jeudi)
January/janvier 2002	19 March/mars 2002 (Tuesday/mardi)
February/février 2002	17 April/avril 2002 (Wednesday/mercredi)
March/mars 2002	17 May/mai 2002 (Friday/vendredi)
April/avril 2002	20 June/juin 2002 (Thursday/jeudi)
May/mai 2002	19 July/juillet 2002 (Friday/vendredi)
June/juin 2002	20 Aug./août 2002 (Tuesday/mardi)
July/juillet 2002	18 Sept./sept. 2002 (Wednesday/mercredi)
August/août 2002	18 Oct./oct. 2002 (Friday/vendredi)
September/septembre 2002	19 Nov./nov. 2002 (Tuesday/mardi)
October/octobre 2002	18 Dec./déc. 2002 (Wednesday/mercredi)
November/novembre 2002	17 Jan./janv. 2003 (Friday/vendredi)
December/décembre 2002	20 Feb./fév. 2003 (Thursday/jeudi)

September 20, 2001

Marketing and Client Services Section

Revisions to these monthly data are scheduled as shown below:

	Customs Basis	Balance of Payments Basis
Current data year	Monthly	Monthly
Previous data year	In Feb,May,Aug,Nov	NA
Current and 3 previous data years	In February	NA
Previous 4 data years	NA	In June

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Telephone: 1 613 951-9647 / 1 800 294-5583
 Fax : 1 613 951-0117 / 1 800 664-0055
 Internet trade@statcan.ca

➤ *Accessibility to Trade data:*

Statistics Canada can provide data through various mediums including: Internet, CD-ROM, paper, ASCII files, etc.

For more information at the International Trade Division, Statistics Canada.

Phone: (613) 951- 9647 Toll free 1 800 294- 5583

Fax: (613) 951- 0117 Toll free 1 800 664- 0055

E- mail: trade@ statcan. ca

Statistics Canada website at www.statcan.ca

General Confidentiality Rules

1. **Entity:** Any information revealing an individual entity's activities (either wholly or in part) cannot be disclosed to anyone not sworn in under the *Statistics Act*, except as described in Rule 3;
2. **Tombstone:** 'Tombstone' information such as names, Business Numbers, addresses, account security numbers, etc. cannot be disclosed to anyone not sworn in under the *Statistics Act*, except as described in Rule 3;
3. **Supplier:** Confidential information may be returned to the supplier (or its agent) provided that it is returned in the same form as received by ITD. This allows the compilation or re-arrangement of such information. The term 'supplier' includes (inter alia) the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, the National Energy Board and the U.S. Bureau of the Census;
4. **Release:** Original or revised data are to be considered confidential until they are made available to the entire public;
5. **Disclosure:** Any information disclosed to ITD staff by respondents may only be relayed to persons sworn in under the *Statistics Act*;
6. **In:** Information disclosed to ITD staff may be transmitted to ITD/STC via any means, at the supplier's own risk;
7. **Out:** Confidential information transmitted from ITD may only be sent via secure lines of communication such as telephone, mail, courier or by encrypted file transmission.

DENMARK

1. Confidentiality rules:

Confidentiality is applied on the request of a company, that alone or with only one more company has more than 85 per cent of the trade on the CN8 commodity. Furthermore the trade on the CN8 level must be significant, i.e. in practice more than 2 mio. DKK yearly.

There are four levels of confidentiality:

- Total, in which case CN8 commodity and partner country are changed to confidentiality codes.
- Country, in which case partner country are changed to confidentiality code
- Value, in which case the quantities are published on real codes and value on confidentiality codes
- Quantity, opposite of the value confidentiality above

2. Thresholds:

Statistical threshold in trade with EU countries:

Import: companies with import below 1.5 mio. DKK (1993-1996: 0.5 mio. DKK) are exempted from reporting – coverage app. 97.5 per cent (1993-1996: 99.0 per cent)

Export: companies with export below 2.5 mio. DKK (1993-1996: 0.8 mio. DKK) are exempted from reporting – coverage app. 98.0 per cent (1993-1996: 99.0 per cent)

The missing data are estimated based on VAT information concerning total EU buys and sales and distributed by goods and countries. In 1997 data back to 1993 was recalculated. The published figures cover in principle 100 per cent of trade.

3. Data availability in 2002:

a) Yearly detailed commodity data

➤ *Earliest moment for provisional data:*

Mid february Level of detail: CN8

➤ *Earliest moment for final data:*

Mid september Level of detail: CN8

➤ *Access possibility or dissemination:*

www.statistikbanken.dk

b) Monthly data

➤ *Earliest moment for provisional data by type:*

Aggregates, commodity level of detail: 6 weeks after reference month on CN8

Volume indices/Unit Value indices: 6 weeks after reference month

➤ *Earliest moment for final data:*

Aggregates, commodity level of detail: 9 months after end of year on CN8

Volume indices/Unit Value indices: 9 months after end of year

➤ *Access possibility or dissemination:*

www.statistikbanken.dk

HUNGARY

1. Confidentiality rules:

Data confidentiality is applied at commodity level. Military goods and individual data (if the original data are supplied by less than three enterprises) are qualified as confidential. All of data aggregated on the chapters of HS nomenclature (1-2 positions) are available.

2. Thresholds:

There is no threshold in the Hungarian external trade statistics. Coverage of statistics: the Hungarian external trade statistics in principle cover all the movements of goods between residents and non-residents, entering or leaving the customs territory of the Hungarian Republic and thereby increase or decrease the material resources of the country, regardless of whether change of ownership is involved. In practice the statistics cover the external trade transactions crossing the customs border.

3. Data availability in 2002:

a) *Yearly detailed commodity data*

- *Earliest moment for provisional data: first half of March.*

Level of detail: SITC (Rev.3) 1 and 2 digits

- *Earliest moment for final data: June*

Level of detail: CN 6 digits, SITC 2 digits, NACE

- *Access possibility or dissemination:*

Aggregated data are available via the Internet website of the HCSO: www.ksh.hu and CD-ROM.

b) *Monthly data*

- *Earliest moment for provisional data by type:*

according to Release Calendar of HCSO, about 10 days after the month concerned

Aggregates, commodity level of detail: SITC (Rev3.) 1 digit (5 main aggregates)

Volume indices/Unit Value indices: The monthly volume indices are calculated with an estimated unit value index. Seasonally adjusted monthly volume indices are prepared on the basis of the monthly average of external trade in 1995. The seasonal adjustment is carried out by use of X11 ARIMA/88 computer-technical program parcel, on basis of moving averages.

- *Earliest moment for final data:*

in a few days after publishing the provisional data

Aggregates, commodity level of detail: SITC (Rev3.) 2 digits

Volume indices/Unit Value indices: Due to the retrospective data-corrections data concerning the prior months of the reference year may change from month to month. Monthly data are qualified as final data when yearly data concerning the reference year are published.

➤ *Access possibility or disseminatio:*

Data are available via the Internet website of the HCSO: www.ksh.hu

ICELAND

1. Confidentiality rules:

The basic rule for confidentiality, which has been applied for years, is that a importer/exporter can request suppression of detailed data, if there are only few companies involved in the trade. However, confidentiality is only applied to one HS number for exports and only for the country breakdown, monthly figures. As a result, confidentiality has minor impact on the Icelandic external trade data. No changes regarding confidentiality rules are foreseen in the near future.

2. Thresholds:

The Icelandic external trade is mainly based on customs data. For years, the value threshold has been 500 ISK for all data, also are postal items imported/exported by individuals under 25,000 ISK excluded. As the threshold is very low, it has minor impact on the Icelandic external trade data. No changes are foreseen in the near future regarding the threshold.

3. Data availability in 2002:

a) *Yearly detailed commodity data*

➤ *Earliest moment for provisional data:*

No provisional data is published.

➤ *Earliest moment for final data:*

Final 2001 data will be available 28 February 2002 at 09:30. (advance release calendar, www.statice.is)

Level of detail: Commodity (HS8) by country.

➤ *Access possibility or dissemination:*

Press release, including aggregates, available on the internet (www.statice.is), also sent to subscribers. Internet access of detailed data for subscribers. Zip files including detailed data for subscribers or available by request. CD-ROM is published in June 2002 in relation to Statistics Iceland's publication of yearbooks on external trade.

b) *Monthly data*

➤ *Earliest moment for provisional data by type:*

No provisional data is published.

➤ *Earliest moment for final data:*

Usually before the end of the month after the month in question, i.e. approximately 30 days after the reference month (advance release calendar, www.statice.is).

Aggregates, commodity level of detail: Aggregates and commodity (HS8) by country.

Volume indices/Unit Value indices: Uptil the end of this year, the National Economic Institute is responsible for publishing indices for external trade. From 1 January 2002, Statistics Iceland will be responsible for external trade indices. Statistics Iceland plans to publish indices at least quarterly, but decision on extent, implementation and timing has not been taken yet. Statistics Iceland will include this publication in its advance release calendar.

➤ *Access possibility or dissemination*

Press release, including aggregates, available on the internet (www.statice.is), also sent to subscribers. Internet access of detailed data for subscribers. Zip files including detailed data for subscribers or available by request.

IRLANDE

1. Confidentiality rules:

If a company requests suppression of trade in a commodity or country of origin/destination then we would usually oblige. Otherwise, there is no attempt to suppress information. The following table indicates the extent of data suppression for the year 2000;

<i>Imports</i>	<i>SITC</i>					
	NonConfidential		Confidential		Total	
Origin/Destination	YTD Value £000	%	YTD Value £000	%	YTD Value £000	%
<i>NonConfidential</i>	43,895,927	99.9	23,059	0.1	43,918,986	100.0
Extra EU Confidential	8,609	0.0	-	-	8,609	0.0
Total	43,904,536	99.9	23,059	0.1	43,927,595	100.0

<i>Exports</i>	<i>SITC</i>					
	NonConfidential		Confidential		Total	
Origin/Destination	YTD Value £000	%	YTD Value £000	%	YTD Value £000	%
<i>NonConfidential</i>	65,742,711	99.7	202,437	0.3	65,945,148	100.0
Total	65,742,711	99.7	202,437	0.3	65,945,148	100.0

2. Thresholds (please summarise and highlight changes and estimated effects on data coverage):

The only thresholds are applied to intrastat. €190,500 per annum for arrivals and €635,000 per annum for dispatches. 98.4% of total imports are covered while 99.1% of total exports are covered.

3. Data availability in 2002:**a) *Yearly detailed commodity data***

- *Earliest moment for provisional data: End of March*

Level of detail: Complete

- *Earliest moment for final data: End of March*

Level of detail: Complete

- *Access possibility or dissemination*

Zipped ASCII files can be emailed.

b) *Monthly data*

- *Earliest moment for provisional data by type: Between 55 and 60 days*

- *Earliest moment for final data: Between 86 and 90 days*

- *Access possibility or dissemination*

Zipped ASCII files can be emailed.

NETHERLANDS

1. Confidentiality rules:

In the Netherlands for ITS, passive confidentiality is applied. It means that a company must apply for confidentiality at Statistics Netherlands before any decisions are taken whether any data should be restricted from publications or not.

The effect of confidentiality on total trade is illustrated in the table below.

Table 1 The effect of confidentiality on total trade

1999	Export (% of value)			Import (% of value)		
	Intra-trade	Extra-trade	Total	Intra-trade	Extra-trade	Total
Confidentialia 1	9,23%	13,48%	10,24%	2,52%	6,76%	4,45%

2. Thresholds:

Intrastat threshold

In the Netherlands, no distinction is made between thresholds for arrivals and for dispatches. From 1 January 1995, the simplification threshold was abolished and only companies above the assimilation threshold have to declare for Intrastat. Adjustments are made for trade below the threshold.

Table 2

	Assimilation NLG	Simplification NLG	Assimilation EUR	Simplification EUR
1993	175.000	400.000	79.500	181.500
1994	175.000	400.000	81.000	185.000
1995	400.000	-	187.000	-
1996	400.000	-	190.000	-
1997	500.000	-	235.000	-
1998	500.000	-	235.000	-
1999	500.000	-	227.000	-
2000	500.000	-	227.000	-
2001	500.000	-	227.000	-
2002	-	-	225.000	-

An indication of the effect of the threshold is given in table 3.

Table 3 Adjustments for below threshold trade (1999)

	Total trade		Adjustments		
	million NLG	million EUR	million NLG	million EUR	in %
Arrivals	231.000	105.000	5.800	2.600	2,5%
Dispatches	325.000	147.500	3.500	1.600	1,1%

Extrastat threshold

Statistics Netherlands processes all extra-trade declarations. In the system of the International Trade Department it is more efficient to process all declarations, than to remove the declarations below the statistical threshold and develop a method to adjust for the trade below the threshold.

3. Data availability in 2002:

According to Statistics Netherlands' dissemination policy each month is published three times: provisional figures (M + 8 weeks), provisional definite figures (Q + 16 weeks) and definite figures (Y + 6 months). For extra-trade figures an exception is made; extra-trade is published four times to fulfil EU-regulations. Besides the three ways as mentioned earlier, it is also published at M + 6 weeks.

Data sent to the Eurostat are registration at CN(8) and adjustments at chapter level.

Policy

Statistics Netherlands does not publish provisional data at detailed level. Detailed information is published when it becomes provisional definite. Due to non-response the provisional figures are incomplete. Instead we publish commodity groups (1250) by country groups (50). We can make reliable estimates for non-response at this level. CBS-Commodity groups (~CN-4) are available through STATLINE at www.cbs.nl after Y+6 months.

a) Yearly detailed commodity data

- *Earliest moment for provisional data: july (Y+6 months)*

Level of detail: CN-8

- *Earliest moment for final data: july (Y+6 months)*

Level of detail: CN-8

- *Access possibility or dissemination:*

CD-ROM EUROSTAT

b) Monthly data

- *Earliest moment for provisional data by type: M + 8 weeks*

Aggregates, commodity level of detail:

- CN-8 for Eurostat available through CD_ROM Eurostat
- CN-2 and SITC(2) available through STATLINE at www.cbs.nl and paper publication
- CBS-Commodity groups (~CN-4) on request

Volume indices/Unit Value indices: CBS-commodity groups (~CN-4)

- *Earliest moment for final data: Y+ 6 months = same as yearly data*

NORWAY

1. Confidentiality rules:

Norway use passive confidentiality, i.e. the exporters or importers have to take the initiative and contact Statistics Norway, if they want their data suppressed.

For more details about confidentiality, see attached: Doc. PHARE no. 25, which I wrote in 1999.

2. Thresholds:

Norway use only extrastat (not a MS) and base on Customs declarations only (surveys for ships, oil/gas, electric current, aircraft.).

- Import thresholds is 1000 NOK per declaration ITEM.

For imports this result in a loss of 0.4 per cent of total value (normal average per year), but counts for about 38 per cent of the data volume (number of items in the 'raw' data files. Customs use no thresholds for imports.

- For exports the loss is 0.05 per cent of total value (1999), but counts for about 25 per cent of the data volume. Customs use a declaration total threshold on NOK 4 500,-.

3. Data availability in 2002:

The preliminary (currently revised including the last month) data for a previous month, are released the 15th (two weeks) after the end of the data month.

ALL data are released and available at the same moment, ALL level of aggregation, simultaneously, see:

http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/09/05/muh_en/

a) Yearly detailed commodity data

➤ Earliest moment for final data

The final data for previous year is normally released in the end of April or beginning of May the following year. Trade data will never be further edited, even the National Accounts / BoP has this possibility. The revision work is everyday work and concerns all months in a year.

➤ Access possibility

Last final data, see:

http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/09/05/muh_en/

b) Monthly data: see above

See: http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/09/05/muh_en/mu2000/tab06-01.shtml

POLAND

1. Confidentiality rules:

The confidentiality rules are based on the Polish LAW issued on 29 June 1995 on official statistics (published in the Journal of Law of the Republic of Poland no 88 of 31 July 1995):

Article 10:

The collected and gathered in the statistical surveys of official statistics individual and personal data shall be confidential and subject to particular protection; the data would be used exclusively for statistical calculations, compilations and analyses and for the creation by the statistical services of official statistics sampling frames for statistical surveys conducted by those services; providing or use of individual and personal data for other than specified above purposes shall be prohibited (statistical confidentiality).

In practice, in the Polish external trade statistical system:

- *generally data concerning goods and partner countries are not confidential;*
- with one exclusion: one subheading on the level of 9-digit PCN¹ is confidential. This item is produced and exported by one enterprise. Data concerning this 9-digit subheading is included in the another 9-digit PCN of the same 4-digit Combined Nomenclature;
- individual data (i.e. exporters and importers) are confidential.

2. thresholds:

The statistical thresholds are not applied in the Polish system of external trade statistics (based on data of the Single Administrative Document).

But the Central Statistical Office of Poland sends to OECD and the UN (the last transmission to this organisation concerned the information for the year 1999) its external trade data of value ≥ 50.000 USD. Starting from January 2000, due to the request of UN SD, the Central Statistical Office of Poland stopped a transmission of Polish data to the UN and UN SD simultaneously use the same data transmitted to OECD.

3. Data availability in 2002:

a) *Yearly detailed commodity data for 2001*

➤ *Earliest moment for provisional data:*

CSO is not transmitted yearly provisional data to OECD.

➤ *Earliest moment for final data: end of June 2002*

Level of detail: according to:

- 1) partner country,
- 2) 1-digit SITC,
- 3) 9-digit PCN¹ (commodity/partner country),
- 4) 5-digit SITC (commodity/partner country).

¹ 9-digit PCN (Polish Combined Nomenclature) = 8-digit CN + 1 digit for the Polish purposes

➤ *Access possibility:*

Internet e-mail

b) *Monthly data:*

➤ *Earliest moment for provisional data by type:*

Aggregates, commodity level of detail:

according to partner country and 1-digit SITC:

- data concerning January – April 2002 – June 2002,
- since May 2002 – about 2 months after reference period.

Volume indices/Unit Value indices: - 80 days after reference period.

➤ *Earliest moment for final data (concerning 2001):*

is expected to be sent at end of June 2002.

Aggregates, commodity level of detail: according to:

- 1) partner country,
- 2) 1-digit SITC,
- 3) 9-digit PCN¹ (commodity/partner country),
- 4) 5-digit SITC (commodity/partner country).

Volume indices/Unit Value indices: June 2002

➤ *Access possibility:*

Internet e-mail.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

1. Confidentiality rules:

Statistical Office has to assure protection of individual data. In the case of foreign trade statistics, data are considered as individual when three or fewer importers respectively exporters exist for given level of detail.

Information on foreign trade of the Slovak Republic is provided international organisation (e.g. IMF, OECD, FAO, UNECE, Eurostat etc.) in required structure without restriction referring to individual data protection. In the case of providing of data for individual users (enterprises, private persons etc.) the protection of individual data cannot be infringed and such data are not provided to users or more aggregated data are provided. Share of individual data on the most detail commodity (8-digit CN) level is about 22 % of import records and 40 % export records.

2. Thresholds:

Declarant is allowed to lodge declaration verbally if value of goods is smaller than 1 200 EUR and he meets other provisions of law. Foreign trade statistics does not include these data. In statistical point of view all transactions that are covered according to the methodology are included, irrespective of value or weight.

3. Data availability in 2002:

a) Yearly detailed commodity data

- *earliest moment for provisional data: End of January 2003*
Level of detail: partner country and month, SITC sections and month
- *Earliest moment for final data: End of August 2003*
Level of detail: partner country, 8-digit CN and month
- *Access possibility or dissemination:*

The selected tables from publication Foreign Trade of the Slovak Republic and Press Release are accessible on website www.statistics.sk. The data are broken down by selected countries, months and sections of the Harmonised System. There is not possibility to download any data. Data are disseminated usually in spreadsheet format by e-mail or as a hardcopy. Dissemination on CD-ROM is possible on demand.

b) Monthly data

- *Earliest moment for provisional data by type:*
Statistical Office receives the detail data around on 20-th day of following month. The data are released no later than end of following month after reference period according to Calendar of First Data Release of the SO SR which is part of the Special Data Dissemination Standard of IMF. The

Calendar of First Data Release is published on website www.statistics.sk. All data for previous months are updated monthly.

Aggregates, commodity level of detail:

The data on imports and exports from and to all countries, continents and selected economic groupings by the country of origin and country of destination are published monthly. Above mentioned publication also covers the data on total import or export broken down by sections and chapters of the Harmonised System and the data on import or export by selected countries and groups at 1-digit level of the SITC, Rev. 3. In the monthly publication, there are also information on imports and exports by NACE classification at 4-digit level. Publication is issued no later than 6 week after reference period.

Volume indices/Unit Value indices:

Volume indices are not calculated. Published value indices compare value in current prices with corresponding value for the same period of previous year.

The unit value indices are published quarterly (60 days after reference period) broken down by sections and chapters of Harmonized System. They are derived from the value and quantity expressed in kilogram or in supplementary measurement units. Individual unit value indices are calculated at 8-digit level of Combined Nomenclature from the data processing for given period.

➤ *Earliest moment for final data:*

Final data are processed in July following after reference year.

Aggregates, commodity level of detail:

Final data are processed on the same level of detail as monthly data. Moreover, Yearbook of Foreign Trade of the Slovak republic is issued, where are the data by 2-digit level (groups) of SITC, Rev. 3 and also the data for selected twenty-two countries broken down by subheadings of the Harmonised System.

More detailed information (at 8-digit level of CN and 3-digit level of SITC Rev. 3) is available on request, but the individual data protection has to be assured.

Volume indices/Unit Value indices:

Volume indices are not calculated. Published value indices compare value in current prices with corresponding value for the same period of previous year.

Unit value indices are not recalculated on the basis of final data, for their calculation is used the data processed for reference period.

➤ *Access possibility or dissemination:*

Definitive data are published on the website www.statistics.sk. The data are broken down by selected countries, months and sections of the Harmonised System. There is not possibility to download any data. Data are disseminated usually in spreadsheet format by e-mail or as a hardcopy.

Information on foreign trade of the Slovak Republic is provided international organizations in required structure without restriction referring to individual data protection. Dissemination on CD-ROM is possible on demand.

UNITED KINGDOM

1. Confidentiality rules:

We have two separate suppression systems.

The first relates to the trade data. It is a passive suppression system; the data is published unless a trader requests a suppression and is able to satisfy us that publication of the data discloses the company's activities.

The second system applies to importers names. For each commodity, we publish the names of the importers as long as there are at least 3 of them. If there are fewer than 3, we roll up to the next level of aggregation and publish if there are then three companies. If not, we roll up again successively until there are at least 3 businesses in the cell.

Both of these systems have existed for many years and are widely known to providers and users alike. The number of extant suppressions is relatively small.

2. Thresholds:

Intrastat - Assimilation - £233,000 per annum for arrivals and dispatches. Will remain the same for 2002.

Delivery terms - £12,500,000 per annum for arrivals and dispatches. Will be raised to £13,500,000 for 2002.

Low value thresholds for arrivals and dispatches. Transactions with a value of £80 (approx. 100 euros) or less are aggregated and classified to a single commodity code (95000000).

Low value thresholds for imports and exports. Transactions with a value of £600 (around 1000 euros) or less are aggregated and classified to a single commodity code (95000000).

3. Data availability in 2002:

a) Yearly detailed commodity data

➤ *Earliest moment for provisional data:*

23.01.02 (Extra-EC Dec.2001 year to date)

25.02.02 (Intra-EC Dec.2001 year to date)

Level of detail: CN level data. Product code and country based data

➤ *Earliest moment for final data:*

09.08.02 (Extra-EC Annual 2001 Data)

19.08.02 (Intra-EC Annual 2001 Data)

Level of detail: CN level data. Product code and country based data

➤ *Access possibility or dissemination:*

Access: www.uktradeinfo.com

Dissemination: Electronic transmissions via internet and ISDN line

CD-Roms for Government appointed Marketing Agents (Data Retailers) and customers

b) Monthly data

➤ *Earliest moment for provisional data by type:*

Within 42 calendar days following the reporting period (Extra-EC Data)

Within 42 calendar days following the reporting period (Intra-EC Data)

Detailed timetable available - if required.

Aggregates, commodity level of detail:

CN level data (Extra-EC Data)

SITC Divisional Level (Intra-EC Data)

Volume indices/Unit Value indices:

Within 42 calendar days following the reporting period

➤ *Earliest moment for final data:*

Within 42 calendar days following the reporting period (Extra-EC Data)

Within 55 calendar days following the reporting period (Intra-EC Data)

Detailed timetable available - if required.

Aggregates, commodity level of detail:

CN level Data. Product code and country based data.

Volume indices/Unit Value indices:

Within 42 calendar days following the reporting period

Access possibility or dissemination:

Access: www.uktradeinfo.com

Dissemination: Electronic transmissions via internet and ISDN line

CD-Roms for Government appointed Marketing Agents (Data Retailers) and customers

USA

1. Confidentiality rules:

There have been no changes in policy or practice.

Published data - passive disclosure - publish at required levels and suppress or combine data only in response to complaints.

Special tabulations – examine for additional disclosures. Generally refuse requests for tabulations that pose significant new disclosure risks. For requests posing lesser risks, we suppress or combine cells to avoid disclosure as needed.

2. Thresholds:

Exports - \$2,501 U.S. dollars; Imports - \$2,000 for most commodities, \$250 for some products, primarily involving quotas or duties.

We estimate the value below the reporting thresholds.

3. Data availability in 2002:

a) Yearly detailed commodity data

- *Earliest moment for provisional data: February 21*

Level of detail: 10-digit HS x country.

- *Earliest moment for final data: June 20*

Level of detail: 10-digit HS x country

- *Access possibility or dissemination:*

Internet drop-box by special arrangement

b) Monthly data

- *Earliest moment for provisional data by type:*

approximately 50 days from end of reference month for all levels of detail. Most detailed is 10-digit HS x country.

- *Access possibility or dissemination:*

CD ROM – dbf format

Submitted by: Diane Oberg, Foreign Trade Division, U.S. Census Bureau.