



STATISTICS DIRECTORATE

**INTERNATIONAL TRADE
BY
COMMODITY STATISTICS**

***DVD
BEYOND 20/20***

User Guide

Edition 2006

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1. Foreword

International Trade by Commodity Statistics (ITCS in short) on DVD contains long and detailed time series corresponding to the OECD paper publication with the same name. Data are available in Beyond 20/20 software, which is an application for viewing multidimensional data.

The Beyond 20/20 data browser is included in the DVD. Installation instructions are provided in the next chapter.

This guide presents a summary of the contents of this electronic product, together with summarized methodological information.

Methodological information is also provided on each data file in the menu File > Summary.

For detailed methodological information, please consult [online definitions and country notes](#). Visit our web site www.oecd.org/std/trade-goods for up to date information on merchandise trade statistics.

If you have any query regarding the data or the format please write to std.tradestats@oecd.org.

2. Installation procedure

2.1 Installing Beyond 20/20 on your Hard Disk

Follow the indications.

2.2 Installing data

Two procedures are available. You can either use data directly from the DVD (Express set-up), or copy them on your hard disk (custom set-up). Due to a large volume of data, you should better use data directly from the DVD.

After completion of this installation, you can use International Trade by Commodity Statistics by clicking on the Beyond 20/20 icon.

3. Contents of ITCS on beyond 20/20

3.1 General characteristics

The OECD [International Trade by Commodity Statistics](#) database contains detailed values and quantities of exports and imports of OECD countries by partner country and by commodity or industry.

Three sets of DVDs are available according to different commodity classifications: **ITCS SITC¹ Rev.3**, **ITCS SITC Rev. 2** and **ITCS HS² 96**. From 1961 to 1988 data are only available in **SITC Rev. 2 (Historical series)**. For additional information regarding these classifications and the way the data are converted, please see the [ITCS online methodological information](#).

Each classification is now released 5 times a year and all reporter countries are now available on each DVD and updated as the data become available.

¹ Standard International Trade Classification.

² Harmonised System

The database dimensions are: commodity, value, quantity, reporter country, partner country, flow and year.

Commodities are available at the most detailed level of the SITC (Revision 2 and 3) and of the HS 1996.

Values are expressed in current USD. Users of OECD's International Trade Statistics databases should note that since February 2002 the national exchange rates for the Euro area countries have been converted into the Euro (€). The option chosen by OECD is to convert exchange rates for periods prior to entry into European Monetary Union (EMU), i.e. prior to 1999 for all members apart from Greece, which acceded in 2001, from the former national currency exchange rate using the appropriate irrevocable exchange rate. Such a conversion facilitates comparisons over time within a country and also preserves the historical evolution (i.e. growth rates). However, pre-EMU euro rates are notional units and are not always suitable to form area aggregates or for cross country comparisons. For further details, see [The Statistics Brief Number 2, February 2002](#).

Quantity units are: Area in square meters, Electrical energy in thousands of kilowatt-hours, Length in meters, Number of items, Thousands of items, Weight in kilograms, Number of packages, Number of pairs, Dozen of items, Volume in liters, Volume in cubic meters, Weight in carats, Curies.

Reporter country: 30 OECD member countries plus Chinese Taipei and EU15 – Extra EU.

Partner country: 280 individual countries and country areas are presented in ISO codes or in long labels. Economic and geographic country groups are also presented. The new OECD Trade [geonomenclature](#) has been implemented in 2006.

Flow: Imports, Exports, Re-imports and Re-exports.

Time: From 1961, depending on countries and classifications.

3.2 Content of ITCS DVDs

Each ITCS DVD contains three types of .ivt files:

3.2.1 Data for individual reporter country

Each OECD Member country as reporting country is presented individually in one file. Data in the *Beyond 20/20* software are presented in a 5-dimensional table.

On opening the tables, for one country, value data by detailed commodities are presented vertically with time shown across the page. The table layout may be changed easily using the “Drag and drop” function on each dimension.

You may choose the level of commodity detail by clicking on the commodity group (which appears in bold in the commodity list) to reduce the view to its components only. To expand the commodity list, click on the arrow in the highlighted dimension.

Methodological information is available on each data file by clicking in the menu File > Summary.

3.2.2 Annual trade conversion factors for each country (6TEXCH.IVT):

Conversion factors are expressed in USD per National Currency unit. Please refer to the File > Summary menu for detailed methodological information on conversion factors.

3.2.3 Total trade in value for each country (6TTOTV.IVT):

Total trade in value is presented for all reporter countries with all partner countries and country groups.

3.3 The joint OECD-UN Trade Data Collection and Processing System

The OECD and the United Nation Statistics Division (UNSD) have been working together during the past years to agree on the best statistical treatments of all aspects relating to international trade data and to align their respective data processing practices. **The new OECD International Trade by Commodity Statistics (ITCS) database is a joint OECD-UN Trade Data Collection and Processing System.** To reduce the statistical reporting burden on national data providers, OECD has sole data collection responsibility for OECD countries and transmits the data to UNSD. Both organisations have identical data since 2005 and are also progressively aligning their historical data. The resulting improvement in data quality and data consistency is mirrored in this publication as well.

Additional information on methodological changes is available in the online document [“The new and operational UNSD-OECD Joint Trade Data Collection and Processing System, Methodological Issues”](#).

4. How to extract data

After defining your query (see item 3.2), choose your required format (e.g. .xls or .txt) in the File > Save as menu.