



STATISTICS DIRECTORATE

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National Accounts and Economic Statistics - International Trade Statistics

Item 5 c): First results of the UNSD Questionnaire 2006 (jointly sent out with OECD to NSOs) on national compilation and dissemination practices in international merchandise trade statistics.

**7th OECD INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS EXPERT MEETING ITS
and OECD-EUROSTAT MEETING OF EXPERTS IN TRADE-IN-SERVICES STATISTICS (TIS)**

Tour Europe - Paris La Défense, Salle des Nations, 11-14 September 2006

This document has been prepared by Ronald Jansen, UNSD, for information and discussion, under item 5 c) of the draft agenda.

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UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

STATISTICS DIVISION
TRADE STATISTICS BRANCH

7TH OECD INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS EXPERT MEETING
Paris, 11-13 September 2006

item 5(c) of the provisional agenda

Questionnaire 2006 on
National Compilation and Dissemination Practices
of International Merchandise Trade Statistics

Note by UNSD

The Inter-Agency Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS), which monitors implementation and updating of recommendations on trade statistics decided to review the status of compliance. The information received would be used to update the National Compilation and Dissemination Practices (NCDP) database and to better prepare for the next revision of the international guidelines. Therefore, a worldwide survey was undertaken by sending out the NCDP Questionnaire 2006 on IMTS.

NCDP Questionnaire 2006

The questionnaire was constructed on the basis of the International Merchandise Trade Statistics, Concepts and Definitions, Rev.2, (IMTS, Rev.2) and the Compilers Manual to IMTS, Rev.2. Furthermore, questions were added in view of concepts and data demands of National Accounts and Balance of Payments. The questionnaire was produced by UNSD with input from the members of the Task Force on IMTS. It consists of two parts. Part 1 contains questions on the main recommendations and is divided into 11 sections, namely:

- Section 1: Institutional arrangements
- Section 2: Sources of data
- Section 3: Coverage and Time of recording
- Section 4: Customs procedures
- Section 5: Trade system
- Section 6: Commodity classifications and Quantity measurement
- Section 7: Valuation and currency conversion
- Section 8: Partner country

Section 9: Data Quality Control
 Section 10: Mode of transport
 Section 11: Reporting and dissemination

Part 2 asks about the details of inclusion or exclusion of particular items in the international merchandise trade statistics, such as monetary gold, humanitarian aid, goods for military use or goods on financial lease.

The full NCDP Questionnaire 2006 is added to the OECD website as background information.

Execution of survey

The sending out of the questionnaires was divided into two distributions, one for OECD member countries and one for non-OECD countries. Questionnaires were pre-filled as much as possible on a country by country basis with information received in the past or retrieved from the country's Internet site. In addition, they were made available in five languages (English, French, Spanish, Russian and Arabic) to facilitate the task for the national compilers.

The Statistics Directorate of OECD pre-filled and sent (in August 2006) the questionnaires to its member states accompanied by a letter jointly drafted and signed with UNSD. Questionnaires to all the non-OECD countries or areas were sent (in July 2006) by UNSD accompanied by a letter signed jointly by UNSD and WTO, as chair of the Task Force of IMTS.

Preliminary results

In total, questionnaires were sent out to 206 countries or areas, of which the 30 OECD member states. Up to 1 September 2006, 58 completed questionnaires were received. A breakdown for the two groups can be shown as follows:

<i>NCDP Questionnaire</i>	Sent	Received
OECD member states	30	4
non-OECD countries or areas	176	54
Total	206	58

Next steps

UNSD will send reminders to all (non-OECD) countries or areas which so far did not return a completed questionnaire. Thereafter, UNSD will start the analysis of all responses and will report these in the first instance to the Task Force at its 2007 meeting in Rome. The report will become part of the Supplement to the Compilers Manual (to be published by the end of 2007). Further, there will be a NCDP database available on the Internet where country practices of IMTS can be searched. This database will be integrated into UN Comtrade (see agenda item 5b).

Supplement to the Compilers Manual

IMTS: Supplement to Compilers Manual is included in the UNSD publication programme for the biennium 2006-2007. The provisional draft has to be prepared by July 2007. It will be placed on the EDG of the Task Force of IMTS for electronic discussion. The final draft of the Supplement, which will incorporate the Task Force comments, has to be submitted for printing in November 2007.

Based on assessment of materials available to UNSD, including expected updated information on country compilation and dissemination practices, and on commitments made by other Task Force members, UNSD developed an initial draft table of content (see annex). The Supplement will consist of two parts, namely one part on the national compilation and dissemination practices of IMTS, and the other part on selected data compilation and reporting issues. These selected issues are – for instance – the revised Kyoto convention and its implications for data compilation, globalization issues linking trade and structural business statistics, and Intrastat's achievements and challenges. There will also be a chapter on compilation of data on goods for processing. Given recent developments, it is likely that trade in goods in terms of Balance of Payments will be quite different from international merchandise trade statistics, mainly because of a different treatment of goods sent abroad for processing. This chapter of the Supplement will discuss all compilation issues involved.

International workshop on country practices

With the purpose of discussing the results of the NCDP Questionnaire and some selected issues for inclusion in the Supplement, UNSD organizes an international workshop on country practices in the compilation of international merchandise trade statistics. The workshop will be held at UN/ESCAP in Bangkok from 12 to 15 December 2006. UNSD will fund participants mostly from national offices of the Asia-Pacific region. UNSD would like to extend an invitation to participate in this workshop to all interested OECD member states.

At the April 2006 meeting of the Task Force of IMTS in Santiago de Chile, it was decided to start the process of updating the existing UN recommendations on IMTS (to be finished in 2010). The results from the discussions in the upcoming workshop will also be used as input to this revision process of the IMTS Concept and Definitions.

Annex
IMTS: Supplement to Compilers Manual
Draft table of contents

Part I National compilation and dissemination practices in international merchandise trade statistics

- Chapter 1 Coverage and time of recording
- Chapter 2 Trade systems and definitions of statistical territories
- Chapter 3 Commodity classifications
- Chapter 4 Valuation
- Chapter 5 Quantity measurements
- Chapter 6 Partner country
- Chapter 7 Reporting and dissemination
- Chapter 8 Compliance with IMTS, Revision 2: an overview

Part II Selected data compilation and reporting issues

- Chapter 1 Kyoto 2000 and its implications for data compilation
- Chapter 2 Boundary between IMTS and SITS, including compilation of data on goods for processing
- Chapter 3 Globalization issues, linking trade and structural business statistics
- Chapter 4 INTRASTAT: achievements and current challenges

Chapter 5 Feasibility of recording transactions between residents and nonresidents and recording of change of ownership

- Chapter 6 Experience in compilation of FOB imports
- Chapter 7 Lessening country reporting burden to international organizations

Chapter 8 Other issues (e.g., origin of used goods including antiques; goods exported under financial lease but sent back in a less than a year)

Questionnaire 2006 on National Compilation and Dissemination Practices for International Merchandise Trade Statistics

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Code	Section	Question	Please answer only with Yes, NO or Not Applicable	Comments
PART 1: Main recommendations of the International Merchandise Trade Statistics, Concepts and Definitions, Rev.2, (IMTS, Rev.2) and the Compilers Manual to IMTS, Rev.2				
1.01	Section 1: Institutional arrangements	Is your national methodology of compilation and dissemination of foreign merchandise trade statistics (hereafter called 'trade statistics') based on IMTS, Rev.2 ?		
1.02		Is the National Statistical Office the responsible agency for the compilation and dissemination of trade statistics ? <i>If No , please specify in the Comments field which agency is responsible for this.</i>		
		Do the following agencies provide data to your office for use in the compilation of the trade statistics:		
1.03		Customs administration		
1.04		Central Bank		

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1.05			Commodity board <i>If Yes</i> , please specify in Comments field		
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Code	Section	Question		Please answer only with Yes, NO or Not Applicable	Comments
1.06			National Energy Agency		
1.07			Other, <i>If Yes</i> , please specify in Comments field		
1.08		Does your office have any memorandum of understanding or any similar working agreement with any of the mentioned agencies?			
1.09		If you have working agreements with other agencies, does your office regularly meet or consult with these agencies before release of the trade statistics?			
2.01	Section 2: Sources of data	Are customs declarations the main source of data? <i>If No</i> , please specify your main source of data in the Comments field		YES	
		Do you use the following as additional sources of data:			
2.02			Foreign shipping manifests		
2.03			Currency exchange records or other records of monetary authorities		

2.04			Parcel and letter post records		
2.05			Aircraft and ship registers		
2.06			Reports of commodity boards		
2.07			Administrative records associated with taxation		

Code	Section	Question		Please answer only with Yes, NO or Not Applicable	Comments
2.08			Enterprise surveys		
2.09			Other <i>if Yes , please provide examples in Comments</i>		
3.01	Section 3: Coverage and Time of recording	As a general rule, do you include in trade statistics goods which enter (imports) or leave (exports) your economic territory (except for goods in transit and temporary admissions/ withdrawals) ?			
3.02		Do you use change of ownership (between residents and non-residents) as a basis for inclusion of certain goods in trade statistics? <i>if Yes , please provide examples in Comments</i>			
3.03		Can your office compile detailed commodity by partner trade statistics on the basis of change of ownership?			
		Do you use date of lodgement of the customs declaration as an approximation for the time when goods enter/leave your territory?			

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3.04		<i>If No</i> , please indicate which dates are used for this purpose in the Comments field.			
4.01	Section 4: Customs procedures	Does your country use the Kyoto Convention (<i>the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs procedures</i>) as the basis for the definitions of customs procedures ?			
		Does the recording by customs procedures allow for the identification of:			
4.02			Importation of goods under clearance for home use		

Code	Section	Question		Please answer only with Yes, NO or Not Applicable	Comments
4.03			Reimportation of goods in the same state		
4.04			Exportation of domestic goods (outright exportation)	N/A	
4.05			Temporary admission of goods subject to re-exportation in the same state		
4.06			Re-exportation of goods in the same state	N/A	
4.07			Temporary admission of goods for inward processing	N/A	
4.08			Goods leaving the country after inward processing	N/A	
4.09			Temporary exportation of goods for outward processing		

4.10			Reimportation of goods after temporary exportation for outward processing		
4.11			Goods admitted into a customs warehouse?	NO	
4.12			Goods leaving a customs warehouse?	YES	
4.13			Goods admitted into a commercial free zone (zones where only minimal repackaging and similar processing of goods is allowed) ?		
4.14			Goods leaving a commercial free zone?		
4.15			Goods admitted into an industrial free zone (zones where specific processing or manufacturing of goods is allowed) ?		
4.16			Goods leaving an industrial free zone?		

Code	Section	Question		Please answer only with Yes, NO or Not Applicable	Comments
4.17			Goods in customs transit?	YES	
	Section 5: Trade system	Do you include in your trade statistics goods entering or leaving the following territorial elements			
5.01			industrial free zones		
5.02			commercial free zones		
5.03			customs warehouses		
5.04			premises designated for inward processing		

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5.05			territorial waters, and continental shelf		
5.06			offshore territories, possessions, dependencies etc (including outer space installations).		
5.07			your country's embassies, military bases and other territorial enclaves in other countries		
		If your country is a member of a customs union, do the trade data cover:			
5.08			both trade with countries outside the union and intratrade with the member states of the union?		
5.09			only trade with countries outside the union and exclude intratrade with the member states?		
5.10		Do you disseminate trade statistics only according to the general trade system ?		NO	

Code	Section	Question	Please answer only with Yes, NO or Not Applicable	Comments
5.11		Do you disseminate trade statistics only according to the special trade system ?	YES	
5.12		Do you disseminate trade statistics according to both the general and special trade system ?		

6.01	Section 6: Commodity classifications and Quantity measurement	Do you use the Harmonized System (HS) as the basis for your detailed commodity trade database? <i>If Yes</i> , please give the number of digits at which you maintain your commodity codes in the Comment field.	YES	
6.02		Do you use the Harmonized System for dissemination purposes?		
6.03		Do you publish any data in terms of Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) ?	YES	SITC, Rev.3, extended to 6-digit.
6.04		Do you publish any data in terms of Common Product Classification (CPC) ?		
6.05		Do you publish any data in terms of the Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC) ?		
6.06		Do you publish any data in terms of International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) ?		
6.07		Do you collect quantity data?		
6.08		Do you record or estimate net weight for quantity measurement of all commodities, where applicable?		
6.09		Do you record or estimate the World Customs Organizations (WCO) recommended units of quantity for each of the headings of the HS?		

Code	Section	Question	Please answer only with Yes, NO or Not Applicable	Comments
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7.01	Section 7: Valuation and currency conversion	Are you using provisions of the WTO Agreement on Valuation as the basis for calculating the statistical value of goods ?		
7.02		Is the statistical value of imported goods a CIF-type value?	YES	
7.03		Are data for international freight and insurance associated with the importation of goods available separately?	NO	
7.04		Do you compile and publish value of imported goods as a FOB-type value?		
7.05		Is the statistical value of exported goods an FOB-type value?	YES	
7.06		Do you record and maintain information on the currency which was used in specifying the value on the customs declaration?		
7.07		In conversion of foreign currencies into national currency, do you use a rate published by the official authorities of your country?		
7.08		If both buying and selling rates are available, do you use for conversion purposes a midpoint between the two?		
7.09		Do you use the exchange rate which is in effect at the date of exportation or importation? <i>If No , please indicate which exchange rates are used for this purpose in the Comments field .</i>		
7.10		If an exchange rate is not available for the date of exportation or importation, do you use the average rate for the shortest period applicable?		

Code	Section	Question	Please answer only with Yes, NO or Not Applicable	Comments
8.01	Section 8: Partner country	Do you identify your trade partners on the basis of the definition of the statistical territory as given by your partners themselves?		
		Do you compile import statistics by:		
8.02		country of origin?	YES	
8.03		<i>If Yes , do you broadly follow the origin criteria outlined in the Kyoto Convention?</i>		
8.04		country of consignment?	NO	
8.05		country of purchase?	NO	
8.06		other? <i>If Yes , please specify in Comments field</i>		
		Do you record for imports :		
8.07		country of requested preferential treatment		
8.08		country of granted preferential treatment		
		Do you compile export statistics by:		
8.09		country of last known destination?	YES	

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8.10			country of consignment?		
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Code	Section	Question		Please answer only with Yes, NO or Not Applicable	Comments
8.11			country of sale?	NO	
8.12			other? <i>If Yes</i> , please specify in Comments field		
9.01	Section 9: Data Quality Control	Do you use a threshold value below which customs declarations are not required to be filed ? <i>If Yes</i> , please specify the level of the threshold in the Comments field		NO	
9.02		If you use a threshold value, do you make estimates of trade below the threshold and include them in your trade statistics ?			
9.03		Does the Customs administration of your country use ASYCUDA (Automated SYstem for CUstoms DAta) for automated entry and checking of customs declarations ?			
9.04		Is physical inspection of cargo by Customs based on risk assessment?			
9.05		Does the Customs administration of your country conduct seminars to train traders and their agents in the filing of customs declarations ?			
9.06		Does your office use Eurotrace to process the customs records ? <i>If No</i> , please specify (in the Comments field) which software you use for treating basic transactions			

9.07		Do you use commodity prices or unit values to assess the credibility of customs records ? <i>If Yes , please specify in the Comments field</i>			
9.08		Do you use estimates to replace missing values at detailed record level? <i>If Yes , please specify in the Comments field</i>			
Page 10 of 19 Code	Section	Question		Please answer only with Yes, NO or Not Applicable	Comments
9.09		Do you use estimates to replace missing quantities at detailed record level?			
9.10		<i>If Yes , do you use different estimation methods (for quantities) depending on the kind of commodities traded ? Please specify, if necessary.</i>			
9.11		Since the year 2000, did you conduct bilateral or multilateral reconciliation studies with your trading partners or do you plan to conduct such studies in the near future?			
10.01	Section 10: Mode of transport	Do you compile trade statistics by mode of transport?			
		If you compile trade statistics by mode of transport, do you identify the following modes:			
10.02			air	YES	
10.03			sea	YES	

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10.04			inland waterway	N/A		
10.05			railway	N/A		
10.06			road	N/A		
10.07			pipeline	N/A		
10.08			other? <i>If Yes , please specify in Comments field</i>	N/A		
	Section 11: Reporting and dissemination	Data become available in how many days after the closing of the reference period (exactly or approximately):				
Page 11 of 19 Code	Section	Question			Please answer only with Yes, NO or Not Applicable	Comments
11.01			for monthly data, please type the number of days in the Comments fields			
11.02			for quarterly data, please type the number of days in the Comments fields			
11.03			for annual data, please type the number of days in the Comments fields			
11.04		Do you make documentation on your sources and methods publicly available ?				
11.05		Do you publicly announce scheduled release dates?				
11.06		Do you make data available on a Web site?				
11.07		Do you regularly revise data (when additional information is available)?				

		Do you make your annual data available:				
11.08			according to the Gregorian calendar (January to December) ?			
11.09			on any other period basis ? <i>if Yes , please specify in the Comments field</i>			
11.10		Do you make aggregate data (by major trading partners or by commodity groups) publicly available on a monthly basis?				
11.11		Do you make detailed data by commodity and partner publicly available on a quarterly basis?				
11.12		When confidentiality is applied to certain products, do you always report the full trading partner detail at the next higher level of commodity aggregation that adequately protects confidentiality ? <i>If No , please specify how confidentiality is applied in Comments field.</i>				
Page 12 of 19 Code	Section	Question			Please answer only with Yes, NO or Not Applicable	Comments
		Part 2: Details on INCLUSIONS and EXCLUSIONS of particular items in the international merchandise trade statistics				
		Do you INCLUDE in trade statistics the following:				
12.01			non-monetary gold	YES		
12.02			unissued banknotes and securities, and coins not in circulation			

12.03			<i>If Yes , do you value unissued banknotes and securities and coins not in circulation on a basis of the transaction value of the printed matter or stamped metal?</i>		
12.04			goods traded in accordance with barter agreements	YES	As long as the goods come through the national customs frontier
12.05			goods traded on government account	YES	
12.06			food and other humanitarian aid	YES	As long as the goods come through the national customs frontier
12.07			goods for military use	NO	
12.08			goods transferred from foreign enclaves (embassies, military or other foreign installations)		
12.09			goods acquired by all categories of travellers, including non-resident workers, to a significant scale (i.e., excluding goods for their own use) as defined by national law; for example, so-called Shuttle Trade.		
12.10			goods on consignment		
Page 13 of 19 Code	Section	Question		Please answer only with Yes, NO or Not Applicable	Comments
12.11			goods used as carriers of information and software developed for general or commercial use (e.g., packaged sets containing CD-ROM or DVD with stored computer software and/or data); Note: this category excludes materials developed "to order".	YES	

12.12			<i>If Yes , do you value these goods on a basis of their full transaction value?</i>		
12.13			goods for processing (i.e., goods sent abroad or brought into your country for processing, including processing under contract and processing under the inward processing procedure)	YES	
12.14			<i>If Yes , do you record goods for processing and the goods resulting from such processing on a gross basis before and after processing?</i>		
12.15			goods which cross borders as a result of transactions between parent corporations and their direct investment enterprises (affiliates/branches)		
12.16			returned goods		
12.17			electricity and gas		
12.18			water		
12.19			goods dispatched through postal or courier services	YES	
12.20			migrants' effects		
Page 14 of 19 Code	Section	Question		Please answer only with Yes, NO or Not Applicable	Comments
12.21			goods transferred from or to a buffer stock organization		
12.22			goods under financial lease (i.e., a lease of one year or more)	YES	

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12.23			ships, aircraft and other mobile equipment	YES	
12.24			goods delivered from the rest of the world to offshore installations located in the economic territory of your country, and goods dispatched to the rest of the world from offshore installations located in the economic territory of your country	YES	As long as the goods come through the national customs frontier
12.25			fish catch, minerals from the seabed and salvage landed from foreign vessels in national ports	YES	
12.26			fish catch, minerals from the seabed and salvage acquired by national vessels on the high seas from foreign vessels	YES	As long as the goods come through the national customs frontier
12.27			bunkers, stores, ballast and dunnage acquired by national vessels/aircraft from foreign vessels/aircraft in the economic territory of your country		
12.28			bunkers, stores, ballast and dunnage landed in national ports from foreign vessels/aircraft		
12.29			bunkers, stores, ballast and dunnage supplied to foreign vessels/aircraft in the economic territory of your country	YES	
12.30			empty bottles not meant for refilling		
12.31			waste and scrap, the value of which is positive		
12.32			local border trade	NO	
12.33			gifts, if to significant scale as defined by national law		
Page 15 of 19 Code	Section	Question		Please answer only with Yes, NO or Not Applicable	Comments
12.34			goods seized by customs and subsequently resold		

12.35			estimates of unrecorded trade		
		Do you EXCLUDE from trade statistics the following:			
13.01			monetary gold (i.e., that gold which is exchanged between national or international monetary authorities or authorized banks)		
13.02			issued banknotes and securities and coins in circulation		
13.03			goods temporarily admitted or dispatched		
13.04			goods in transit		
13.05			goods moving between your country and territorial enclaves of your country in other countries (e.g., your embassies, military or other installations)		
13.06			non-financial assets, ownership of which has been transferred from residents to non-residents, without crossing borders		
13.07			goods acquired by all categories of travellers, including nonresident workers, for their own use and carried across the border in amounts or values not exceeding those established by national law		
13.08			newspapers and periodicals sent under direct subscription		
13.09			goods purchased by foreign embassies, military or other installations located in your country, for their own use		
Page 16 of 19 Code	Section	Question		Please answer only with Yes, NO or Not Applicable	Comments

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13.10			fish caught on the high seas by national vessels of your country and landed in its economic territory		
13.11			goods which are acquired and relinquished within your country, by non-residents, within the same recording period, and which do not cross the frontiers of the country		
13.12			goods under operational lease (i.e., a lease of less than one year)		
13.13			goods which left the economic territory of the exporting country but lost or destroyed before entering the economic territory of your country		
13.14			empty bottles which are returned to be refilled		
13.15			any category of used or second-hand goods ? <i>If Yes</i> , <i>please specify in the Comments field</i>		
13.16			waste and scrap having no positive value		
13.17			mobile equipment that changes ownership while outside the country of residence of its original owner; <i>if Yes</i> , <i>please indicate in Comments whether you record the transaction separately.</i>		
13.18			fish catch, minerals from the seabed and salvage sold from national vessels in foreign ports or from national vessels on the high seas to foreign vessels; <i>if Yes</i> , <i>please indicate in Comments whether you record the transaction separately</i>		

Page 17 of 19 Code	Section	Question		Please answer only with Yes, NO or Not Applicable	Comments
13.19			bunkers, stores, ballast and dunnage that are acquired by national vessels/aircraft outside the economic territory of your country; if Yes , please indicate in Comments whether you record the transaction separately.		
13.20			bunkers, stores, ballast and dunnage that are supplied by national vessels/aircraft to foreign vessels/aircraft outside the economic territory of your country or landed in foreign ports from national vessels/aircraft; if Yes , please indicate in Comments whether you record the transaction separately		
13.21			goods purchased by international organizations located in the economic territory of your country, from your country, for their own use; if Yes , please indicate in Comments whether you record the transaction separately.		
13.22			goods for repair; if Yes , please indicate in Comments whether you record the transaction separately.		
13.23			If No (so, if you include goods for repair), do you value goods for repair at the value of the repair only?		

13.24			goods entering or leaving the economic territory of your country illegally; if Yes , please indicate in Comments whether you record the transaction separately.		
Page 18 of 19 Code	Section	Question		Please answer only with Yes, NO or Not Applicable	Comments
13.25			goods exported from your country but lost or destroyed after ownership has been acquired by the importer; if Yes , please indicate in Comments whether you record the transaction separately .		
			If you would like to add any remark or would like to pose any issue relevant for consideration in the update of the recommendations of international merchandise trade statistics please use the space below this cell.		
			Your comments:		
			THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR COOPERATION !		