

# **International Trade Statistics**

# International Trade Statistics

## International Trade in Goods

### Purpose

To produce consistent and timely international trade data for OECD member countries and ensure methodological soundness and comparability of international trade data. To conduct research to improve the quality of the concepts underlying international trade data and play an active role in the development of international standards.

### Objectives and outputs

Collects and maintains two databases for analytical use: (a) monthly data of exports and imports at current prices by partner countries and main categories of commodities, and volume and average value indices for selected countries and main categories (see page 65); and (b) detailed annual data of exports and imports by commodities and by partner countries using three classifications (SITC, HS, ISIC).

Full implementation of the OECD-UNSD data sharing agreement covering all OECD member countries. A successful completion of the first phase (data collection and transmission to UNSD) of this initiative has already resulted in a reduction of the response burden for member countries and is hoped to lead in 2004 to identical trade figures published by both the UN and the OECD (processed data). After the success of the first three OECD meetings of experts in international trade, it was decided to continue to use this forum to stimulate the exchange of view and deepen research on methodological issues amongst government officials and trade experts. Online availability of OECD's detailed international trade data.

OECD continues to participate in and contribute to the Inter-Agency Trade Task Force manages, and moderates together with WTO, the EDG "Tradenet" on methodological and co-ordination issues affecting various national and international organisations.

### Publications

International Trade by Commodity Statistics (ITCS)

### Databases

International trade by Commodity Statistics

## Main Developments for 2004

### General aspects:

The new HS 2002 trade classification will be fully implemented.

Full migration completed from Oracle/Express to SQL. This will facilitate data sharing with UNSD, allow the design and use of new functionalities and facilitate data management and documentation.

Further improved data quality and timeliness for some countries. As a matter of fact both OECD and UNSD act jointly to guarantee best data quality and data availability as of this year.

**Data collection:**

Optimize frequency, timeliness and metadata for SQL storage.

**Data management:**

Migration from Oracle/Express towards SQL underway. Introduction of HS 2002 as new (additional) classification.

# International Trade Statistics

## International Trade in Services

### Purpose

To provide detailed, relevant and internationally comparable data for trade policy and economic analysis. The information stemming from international trade negotiations including the General Agreement on Trade in Services is driving new developments.

### Objectives and outputs

An annual joint publication with Eurostat and database: "OECD Statistics on International Trade in Services". This covers the 30 member countries. Data are based on the concepts of the IMF's 5th Balance of Payments Manual and are broken down according to the detailed EBOPS Classification of Trade in Services. The data feed into the STAN database.

Promotion with other sponsoring agencies of "The Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services" (MSITS). The implementation of its recommendations in OECD countries will be discussed with Eurostat and OECD experts.

A publication "OECD Statistics on International Trade in Services - Detailed Tables by Partner Country" provides bilateral service trade flows for 26 member countries and Hong Kong SAR.

### Publications

OECD Statistics on International Trade in Services : Volume II - Detailed Tables by Partner Country

OECD Statistics on International Trade in Services: Volume I - Detailed Tables by Service Category

### Databases

International Trade-in-Services

OECD Statistics on International Trade in Services

## Main Developments for 2004

### General aspects:

Expansion of published trade in services data by partner country and progress in the implementation of MSITS recommendations.

### Data collection:

Expansion of partner country data.

# International Trade Statistics

## Monthly International Trade

### Purpose

To produce consistent and timely international trade data for OECD Member countries, ensure methodological soundness and comparability of international trade data, conduct research to improve the quality of the concepts underlying international trade data and play an active role in the development of international standards.

### Objectives and outputs

Collects and maintains database for analytical use: monthly data of exports and imports at current prices by partner countries and main categories of commodities, and volume and average value indices for selected countries and main categories. Continuous and close co-operation with key users at OECD. Updating cycles optimised to respond to needs of Economic Outlook. Online availability of OECD's detailed international trade data. OECD continues to actively participate and contribute to the International Trade Task Force (Inter-Agency TF)

### Databases

Monthly Statistics of International Trade (MSIT)

### Main Developments for 2004

#### General aspects:

Improvement of consistency and timeliness with regard to other OECD databases.

Improvement of data capture techniques.