

**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**

***Agenda item 4: New Developments in OECD  
Member Countries***

**Responses received so far by the Secretariat (Friday 8 September 2006)**

<b>Country: AUSTRIA</b> _____ <b>Contact person: Walter SEIRINGER</b> _____
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## 1. Merchandise trade data for reporting year 2006

Many improvements have taken place in 2006 with respect to timeliness. But here is still scope for further improvements. What is the likely date of data submission to OECD in 2007 ?

Please state the approximate date for

- Yearly commodity trade
  - Target date for Provisional data : *End of February 2007*
    - Classification and Level of detail:  
*Monthly data broken down by partner country and CN8*
  - Target date for Final data: *End of June 2007 (expected)*
    - Classification and Level of detail:  
*Monthly data broken down by partner country and CN8*
  
- Monthly Statistics of International Trade:
  - Days after reference period:
    - Total value: *40 days (macroindicators Intrastat/Extrastat)*
    - Totals by partner country: *70 days (detailed Intrastat data), 40 days (detailed Extrastat data)*
    - Totals by SITC section: *70 days (Intrastat), 40 days (Extrastat)*
    - Volume and value indices: *only quarterly produced - about 90 days*
  - Supplementary question: to what extent could OECD increase access to monthly data via Internet for the above data sets? Could this process be automated/standardised?  
*Statistics Austria publishes monthly press releases and some tables ([http://www.statistik.at/fachbereich\\_06/txt.shtml](http://www.statistik.at/fachbereich_06/txt.shtml)) including the main results. Austrian national foreign trade data tables according to OECD needs (aggregated/detailed data and indices) can not be derived from internet.  
But: Austrian foreign trade data according to EU concept are stored in the COMEXT database by Eurostat.*

## 2. Developments during the past 12 to 18 months and planned developments/studies

a) Operational/managerial improvements having led to improved timeliness/ and/or improved quality/coverage:

### Projects Edicom II (2005 Action plan)

#### 1. Upgrade of the WEB form for Intrastat declaration

The upload facility and the revision of the English version of the national WEB form have been improved. The number of users will increase from 2.500 in 2003 (year of launch) to presumably 6.000 in 2006 (in 2005 approx. 5.800 users).

#### 2. Advanced estimates for foreign trade statistics macro-indicators

Upgrade of the existing Holt Winters system on methodological basis and technical basis (switch from SAS based forecasting procedure to an R-programme based one). The calculation is now much faster and the weighting of variables is monthly revised (before just once a year as it was technically resource intensive).

**Upgrade of the foreign trade index calculation programme**

The new programme is now more flexible and completely run on SAS surface. Some calculation procedures have been calibrated and improved, i.e. the input data were homogenised and product groups were weighted. The method nationally published is the Fisher chain-index newly based every 5 years.

**B Plans:**

**Switch to the Gesmes format**

We intend to transmit data to Eurostat according to GESMES format. This might be possible in the second half of year 2007.

**Preparation for the new Extrastat legislation**

In particular the new data collection of invoice currency and the centralized clearance

**Participation within a cooperation project for Intrastat simplification**

The aim of this cooperation is to find out possibilities to simplify the Intrastat system by bearing in mind user needs for Intrastat statistics. Cooperation partners are Hungary (organizer), Slovenia, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Austria.

**b) Particular research work (e.g. reconciliation exercises, methodological research). If applicable, please describe briefly the main objective(s) and outcomes. In case of multiple response, please rank according to importance or relevance (limit to 3):**

**c) Studies/research with respect to the use and possible linking of registers (interoperability of registers):**

**“Standardisation Exercise”: Linkage of the General Business Register with foreign trade data**

Objective: First, to test the feasibility of merging trade registers with business registers, and second, to produce predefined tables broken down by enterprise statistics.

Outcome: This study shows that by merging trade registers with business registers it is possible to achieve better comparability between trade and business statistics. The method provides new aspects of the structure of external trade and complements the information of business statistics.

Results for the reference year 2003 will be sent to Eurostat in September 2006.

(Participation in the EUROSTAT-Standardization Exercise in 2003, 2005, 2006 for the reference years 2000, 2002 and 2003).

**d) Globalisation indicators, new forms of trading, re-exports/re-imports, characteristics of traders:**

Country: <u>Belgium</u> Contact person: <u>peter boby</u>
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**1. Merchandise trade data for reporting year 2006**

**Many improvements have taken place in 2006 with respect to timeliness. But here is still scope for further improvements. What is the likely date of data submission to OECD in 2007 ?**

Please state the approximate date for

- Yearly commodity trade
  - Target date for Provisional data : y+10 weeks
    - Classification and Level of detail: cn8/country
  - Target date for Final data: y+6 months
    - Classification and Level of detail: cn8/country
- Monthly Statistics of International Trade:
  - Days after reference period:
    - Total value : 42
    - Totals by partner country 42
    - Totals by SITC section; 42
    - Volume and value indices: 42
  - Supplementary question: to what extent could OECD increase access to monthly data via Internet for the above data sets? Could this process be automated/standardised? We prefer email transmission

## **2. Developments during the past 12 to 18 months and planned developments/studies**

**a) Operational/managerial improvements having led to improved timeliness/ and/or improved quality/coverage:**

**b) Particular research work (e.g. reconciliation exercises, methodological research). If applicable, please describe briefly the main objective(s) and outcomes. In case of multiple response, please rank according to importance or relevance (limit to 3):**

**improvements in calculation methods for national concept (still in progress)**

**c) Studies/research with respect to the use and possible linking of registers (interoperability of registers):**

**d) Globalisation indicators, new forms of trading, re-exports/re-imports, characteristics of traders:**

<b>Country:</b> Czech Republic	<b>Contact person:</b> Sarka Pisarikova, Monika Bartlova
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### **1. Merchandise trade data for reporting year 2006**

**Many improvements have taken place in 2006 with respect to timeliness. But here is still scope for further improvements. What is the likely date of data submission to OECD in 2007 ?**

Please state the approximate date for

- Yearly commodity trade
  - Target date for Provisional data: Preliminary and updated data for the preceding year (2006) will be published in February 2007 and June 2007, respectively.
    - Classification and Level of detail: complete commodity and partner breakdown (i.e. CN8, country of origin, country of destination)
  - Target date for Final data: Final data for the preceding year will be published in September 2007
    - Classification and Level of detail: complete commodity and partner breakdown (i.e. CN8, country of origin, country of destination)
- Monthly Statistics of International Trade:
  - Days after reference period:
    - Total value:
    - Totals by partner country:
    - Totals by SITC section:
    - Volume and value indices: According to Regulation (EC) No 1915/2005, since the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006 data on net mass in kg is provided only for those items of goods for which the quantity in supplementary units is not given. Considering that the CZSO does not compute Unit Value Indices any more.
- Supplementary question: to what extent could OECD increase access to monthly data via Internet for the above data sets? Could this process be automated/standardised?

Following statistical data are available through the query system on CZSO web pages (<http://dw.czso.cz/pls/stazo/STAZO.STAZO?jazyk=EN>): reference period (from January 1999), flow (imports, exports, balance, turnover), commodity (HS 2-6, CN, SITC 1-5), partner country, net mass/quantity in supplementary unit (from 1 January 2006, net mass in kg is provided only for those items of goods /CN8/ for which the quantity in supplementary units is not given) and statistical value (CZK, EUR, USD).

## 2. Developments during the past 12 to 18 months and planned developments/studies

### a) Operational/managerial improvements having led to improved timeliness/ and/or improved quality/coverage:

In 2005 the Czech Statistical Office (CZSO) participated in Eurostat's Edicom 3 programmes that focused on the data quality (namely in actions Quality of foreign trade statistics, Creating and improving dissemination and query system, Improving the system of registers). In 2006 the CZSO continues in improving software that is used for checking of data.

### b) Particular research work (e.g. reconciliation exercises, methodological research). If applicable, please describe briefly the main objective(s) and outcomes. In case of multiple response, please rank according to importance or relevance (limit to 3):

The CZSO systematically performs bilateral mirror exercises with Germany and the Slovak Republic to detect the main causes of asymmetries. Furthermore, mirror comparisons with Austria, Italy, Bulgaria and Ukraine was made during the past 12 month.

The CZSO (in cooperation with the Czech National Bank) participates in the Eurostat's Task Force on the Reconciliation between Balance of Payments and Foreign Trade Statistics.

**c) Studies/research with respect to the use and possible linking of registers (interoperability of registers):**

**d) Globalisation indicators, new forms of trading, re-exports/re-imports, characteristics of traders:**

Country: <u>Denmark</u> Contact person: <u>Peter Ottosen</u>
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### 1. Merchandise trade data for reporting year 2006

Many improvements have taken place in 2006 with respect to timeliness. But here is still scope for further improvements. What is the likely date of data submission to OECD in 2007 ?

Please state the approximate date for

- Yearly commodity trade
  - Target date for Provisional data : 8 February 2007/12 March 2007
    - Classification and Level of detail: SITC sections/CN, 8 digit
  - Target date for Final data: 10 September 2007
    - Classification and Level of detail: CN, 8 digit
  
- Monthly Statistics of International Trade:
  - Days after reference period:
    - Total value : 40 days
    - Totals by partner country: 70 day (most after 40 days)
    - Totals by SITC section; 40 days
    - Volume and value indices: 40 days
  - Supplementary question: to what extent could OECD increase access to monthly data via Internet for the above data sets? Could this process be automated/standardised? All data are available for free on the internet databank at [www.statbank.dk](http://www.statbank.dk). The process can be automated.

### 2. Developments during the past 12 to 18 months and planned developments/studies

Change of platform from Mainframe to Oracle (still ongoing) has reduced most development in other areas.

#### a) Operational/managerial improvements having led to improved timeliness/ and/or improved quality/coverage:

A better use of the early information from the VAT report on total EU-buys/sales has improved timeliness from 42 to 40 days.

#### b) Particular research work (e.g. reconciliation exercises, methodological research). If applicable, please describe briefly the main objective(s) and outcomes. In case of multiple response, please rank according to importance or relevance (limit to 3):

Cooperation between Belgium, Netherlands and Denmark exchanging micro data to identify specific asymmetries and the causes

In October Denmark is host of a asymmetry seminar with participation of all nordic countries and Belgium and Netherlands.

#### c) Studies/research with respect to the use and possible linking of registers (interoperability of registers): none

#### d) Globalisation indicators, new forms of trading, re-exports/re-imports, characteristics of traders: none

**Country: European Commission (Eurostat) Contact person: Karo Nuortila, Evangelos Pongas, Clemens Schroeter**

## **1. Merchandise trade data for reporting year 2006**

**Many improvements have taken place in 2006 with respect to timeliness. But here is still scope for further improvements. What is the likely date of data submission to OECD in 2007 ?**

Please state the approximate date for

- Yearly commodity trade
  - Target date for Provisional data :
    - Extra EU data will available by mid February 2007. The complete data for Extra and Intra EU data will be available by mid Mars 2007.
  - Target date for Final data:
  - Almost final data will available in October 2007. (some revisions may occur however later)
    - Classification and Level of detail:
      - Combined nomenclature (8 digits) and HS (all levels)
      - SITC levels 5,3,2,1
      - BEC all levels
      - NSTR-rev1 by mode of transport – all levels
- Monthly Statistics of International Trade:
  - All detailed data above are available on a monthly and annual basis. Three indicators are provided: Value, Net mass and supplementary quantity.
  - Days after reference period:
    - All detailed data are available as follows: 42 days for Extra EU and 70 days for Intra EU. In practice for most EU Member States data are available earlier.
    - Total value :
    - Totals by partner country
    - Totals by SITC section;
    - Volume and value indices:
  - Supplementary question: to what extend could OECD increase access to monthly data via Internet for the above data sets? Could this process be automated/standardised?
  - All detailed data are available through internet. They can be accessed through: Easy Comext interface, Analytical Comext Interface, downloadable files through http.

## **2. Developments during the past 12 to 18 months and planned developments/studies**

### **a) Operational/managerial improvements having led to improved timeliness/ and/or improved quality/coverage:**

Methodological works to define sets of standard validations to be implemented by EU Member States and Eurostat have been carried out. Two methodological guides were developed: one for primary data collection and the second for aggregated data before and after transmission to Eurostat. Works continue in the fields of auto-correction and the development of common validation metadata. A generic validation system has been developed (XT-NET EDIT) to assist Eurostat and Member states in the implementation. The system is already used for Trade and other statistics in Eurostat.

A regulation has been implemented to exempt repair transactions for Extrastat in January 2006 ( Intrastat exempt repair since 2005).

Guidelines to implement the Intrastat legislation have been elaborated

**b) Particular research work (e.g. reconciliation exercises, methodological research). If applicable, please describe briefly the main objective(s) and outcomes. In case of multiple response, please rank according to importance or relevance (limit to 3):**

- A new database was constructed with the linking of tariff information and statistical one. The database make available data by tariff regime (MFN, Preferential) and respective use by the trades (MFN zero/not zero, Preferential zero/not zero). The database will be accessible with Easy Comext by end of September 2006.

- Several works to analyse and correct Intra EU asymmetries at detailed product level have been carried by a Task Force. Besides data correction, works provide solid documentation on the use of administrative sources and the impact of methodological discrepancies on asymmetries.

- A Task Force to reconcile Balance of Payments and Foreign Trade Statistics has been set up. Its main objectives are to define a common transition table from trade statistics to Balance of Payments and to harmonise adjustments (CIF/FOB, etc.)

**c) Studies/research with respect to the use and possible linking of registers (interoperability of registers):**

The results of the second pilot study on the matching of trade and business registers and reconciling trade data according to enterprise characteristics was published in July 2006 on Eurostat webpage. The main outcome of the study was that matching of registers is in most cases a feasible and effective way to compile new trade indicators.

New pilot study was launched in June 2006. Results are expected for the beginning of 2007.

**d) Globalisation indicators, new forms of trading, re-exports/re-imports, characteristics of traders:**

**Country: GREECE Contact person: BAKALIDOU SOFIA**

### **1. Merchandise trade data for reporting year 2006**

**Many improvements have taken place in 2006 with respect to timeliness. But here is still scope for further improvements. What is the likely date of data submission to OECD in 2007 ?**

Please state the approximate date for

- Yearly commodity trade
  - Target date for Provisional data : **March 2007**
    - Classification and Level of detail: **CN8 Code, Flow, Partner Country**
  - Target date for Final data: **2009**
    - Classification and Level of detail: **CN8 Code, Flow, Partner Country**
- Monthly Statistics of International Trade:
  - Days after reference period: **56 days for provisional data**
    - Total value : **Yes**
    - Totals by partner country: **Yes**
    - Totals by SITC section; **Yes**
    - Volume and value indices: **Yes, but only when data are final**

Supplementary question: to what extent could OECD increase access to monthly data via Internet for the above data sets? Could this process be automated /standardised? **Not yet applicable**

### **2. Developments during the past 12 to 18 months and planned developments/studies**

**a) Operational/managerial improvements having led to improved timeliness/ and/or improved quality/coverage:**

*Intrastat:*

- *Development of an off-line application for the submission of Intrastat data. The application will be distributed to PSIs within the year.*
- *PSIs are currently able to extract Intrastat data from their data base, working in their preferred (own) programming environment; i.e., Java, Perl, Visual Studio, .net, etc., and subsequently submit those data converted automatically into the Intrastat format in use by the NSSG. For this application PSIs make use of the Intrastat Web Service based on the SOAP & WSDL standards.*

**b) Particular research work (e.g. reconciliation exercises, methodological research). If applicable, please describe briefly the main objective(s) and outcomes. In case of multiple response, please rank according to importance or relevance (limit to 3):**

**c) Studies/research with respect to the use and possible linking of registers (interoperability of registers):**

**d) Globalisation indicators, new forms of trading, re-exports/re-imports, characteristics of traders:**

<b>Country: Iceland</b>	<b>Contact person: Auður Ólína Svavarsdóttir</b>
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## 1. Merchandise trade data for reporting year 2006

Many improvements have taken place in 2006 with respect to timeliness. But here is still scope for further improvements. What is the likely date of data submission to OECD in 2007 ?

Please state the approximate date for

- Yearly commodity trade
  - Target date for Provisional data : No later than 3-4 days after the end of the reference period, i.e. the date of publication of provisional figures for December each year.  
Classification and Level of detail: Total value for exports and imports
  - Target date for Final data: Within 8 weeks after the end of the reference period, usually around February 25th
    - Classification and Level of detail: All
  
- Monthly Statistics of International Trade:
  - Days after reference period: On average within 31 days after the end of the reference period. Provisional total figures are published no later than 3-4 days after the end of the reference period.
    - Total value : = or < 31 days
    - Totals by partner country: = or < 31 days
    - Totals by SITC section: = or <31 days
    - Volume and value indices: Indices for export and import are not available for monthly data. Indices are calculated for the first quarter of each year and then on monthly basis, cumulative figures for the year in question. The reason for that is the small size of the Icelandic market. The classification used is, for export an Icelandic classification of branches of processing and for import, the BEC classification. Still it would be relatively easy to calculate the indices by, for example, the SITC classification. These indices are not published officially yet, only indices for the whole year are official, but official publication for quarterly indices is planned.
  - Supplementary question: to what extent could OECD increase access to monthly data via Internet for the above data sets? Could this process be automated/standardised? On Statistics Iceland's website ([www.statice.is](http://www.statice.is)) monthly data for import (cif) and export (fob) is published by SITC, 2 digits as well as totals by partner country.

## 2. Developments during the past 12 to 18 months and planned developments/studies

Statistics Iceland has been working together with the Central Bank of Iceland in preparing for a new data collection system for external trade in services. Due to limited resources most of our effort has been devoted to this project.

### a) Operational/managerial improvements having led to improved timeliness/ and/or improved quality/coverage:

- 1) Statistics Iceland's ongoing projects (with the Ministry of Finance and the Customs Authorities) to improve timeliness and quality.
- 2) Provisional monthly figures for totals of import and exports are now being published no later than 3-4 days after the end of the reference period.

### c) Studies/research with respect to the use and possible linking of registers (interoperability of registers):

- 1) Statistics Iceland's project of data warehouse (data cube), linking external trade data to other statistics.

2) Research regarding linking the Business Register, The Settlement System, VAT, External Trade, Direct Foreign Investment and Pay-as-you-earn register in order to find the sample of companies for survey of services. Results showed some discrepancies in the registers.

Country: the Netherlands

Contact person: Jasper Roos

**1. Merchandise trade data for reporting year 2006**

Many improvements have taken place in 2006 with respect to timeliness. But here is still scope for further improvements. What is the likely date of data submission to OECD in 2007 ?

Please state the approximate date for

- Yearly commodity trade
  - Target date for Provisional data : *before the end of februari 2007*
    - Classification and Level of detail: *SITC 1-digit*
  - Target date for Final data: *juli / august 2007*
    - Classification and Level of detail: *all details*
- Monthly Statistics of International Trade:
  - Days after reference period:
    - Total value : *± 45 days*
    - Totals by partner country: *± 56 days*
    - Totals by SITC section: *± 45 days*
    - Volume and value indices: *± 45 days (only totals)*
  - Supplementary question: to what extend could OECD increase access to monthly data via Internet for the above data sets? Could this process be automated/standardised? *All figures are published in our internet database www.statline.nl.*

**2. Developments during the past 12 to 18 months and planned developments/studies****a) Operational/managerial improvements having led to improved timeliness/ and/or improved quality/coverage:**

In may a new legal procedure was implemented. In that procedure companies with late respons / non-respons can easier be uphold their reporting duty.

**b) Particular research work (e.g. reconciliation exercises, methodological research). If applicable, please describe briefly the main objective(s) and outcomes. In case of multiple response, please rank according to importance or relevance (limit to 3):**

A study on asymmetries, especially with Belgium, took place, and will continue in the future. A few substantial asymmetries were eliminated.

A project started to link the international trade data with transport data started. The goal is to tell which part of the incoming good flows is imported, how many is re-exported, and how many is in fact transit.

**c) Studies/research with respect to the use and possible linking of registers (interoperability of registers):**

The new business register has been implemented in juli 2006. This opens possibilities to enhance the link between the VAT-register and the business-register.

**d) Globalisation indicators, new forms of trading, re-exports/re-imports, characteristics of traders:**

In the end of 2005 a pilot-study on the possibility of measuring the effects of outsourcing to China took place.


In 2006 the study on re-exports continued, and will lead to more reliable and detailed figures about the re-exports.

Country:       NORWAY       Contact person: Leif Korbøl

### 1. Merchandise trade data for reporting year 2006

Many improvements have taken place in 2006 with respect to timeliness. But here is still scope for further improvements. What is the likely date of data submission to OECD in 2007 ?

Please state the approximate date for

- Yearly commodity trade
  - Target date for Provisional data: 15 January 2007 for 2006 (See however also point 2.a)
    - Classification and Level of detail: SITC five digits; eight digit customs and statistical nomenclature: HS + two national digits
  - Target date for Final data: 15 May 2007 (or next workday)
    - Classification and Level of detail: Same as provisional
  
- Monthly Statistics of International Trade:
  - Days after reference period:
    - Total value: 15 days
    - Totals by partner country: 15 days
    - Totals by SITC section; 15 days
    - Volume and value indices: quarterly, 15 days
  - Supplementary question: to what extent could OECD increase access to monthly data via Internet for the above data sets? Please see the attached document:  
  
0055\_001.pdf
  
  - 
  - Could this process be automated/standardised? Provided the tables cover the OECD needs, the access to the tables is open for all interested parties. It is a major goal for StaBank that it should serve the OECD (and other international agencies) to the largest extent possible. We expect that any technical problems should be solvable between your and our dissemination IT experts.

### 2. Developments during the past 12 to 18 months and planned developments/studies

#### a) Operational/managerial improvements having led to improved timeliness/ and/or improved quality/coverage:

**External trade price indices for deflation** From the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2005 the volume and price indices are enhanced by new price information and procedures. In order to better identify commodity codes where the price information from the customs declarations may be utilised for deflating the values (obtaining volume indices) the new procedure has a first stage of two steps: stratification and control of extreme prices. In the first step, data in each commodity code are stratified below the code level. The aim of the stratification is partly to arrive at more homogeneous strains within the code and, simultaneously, to reduce the overall variation observed on the code level. The stratification levels are three: Enterprise (VAT number), partner country (ISO code) and quantity groups (based on weight or supplementary unit). The choice of the best stratification variable for a commodity code in the reference year is done by means of automated analyses run on the data of the previous year (base year). This means that in the new system, the price information is collected from *within* the commodity codes themselves. — In the second step, before the estimation of

indices, the data are run through an editing procedure controlling for extreme prices. The data are subjected to a HB (Hidrioglou-Berthelot)-based procedure for identifying extremes, both on the stratum level and within the strata. Extremes that are identified are excluded from the further use of the data.

Although the new procedures make better use of the unit price information, there are economically important products where the external trade data do not yield any proper price information or have properties that make them unduly vulnerable in standard routines. Moreover, the Norwegian data are for many products too fragmented. In the new regime those shortcomings are addressed by making use of the following three categories of price information:

For commodity codes with very high value and where the product is homogeneous over time, the unit price on the level of commodity code overrules any other information. This is the case for exports of e.g. crude oil and natural gas, iron and steel, certain ferro-metals, aluminium and imports and exports of electricity and some seasonal goods.

In some important products, the Norwegian data are too fragmented to yield relevant price information. To compensate for such shortcomings, the cooperation with the system of indices of producer prices has been further developed and strengthened, in that more price indexes based on direct reporting by the exporters and importers are used as indicators in the external trade statistics.

Furthermore, the previously established practice of using price information from international commodity exchanges and foreign statistical agencies has been extended. For internationally traded commodities (refined oil products, nickel etc) price data are collected from London Stock Exchange and London Metal Exchange. For other products (especially export and import of capital goods), international price indicators are in some cases considered to be representative also for the price development of the same product group in the Norwegian trade. Price indices for the import of computers into the US published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics are in some instances used as indicators of the price development of Norwegian exports (e.g. computer equipment).

#### **Error detection and correction**

Development of better procedures for error detection and correction has been a major concern that shall be finalised within the coming months.

#### **Later target date — better quality?**

With a view to improve the quality of the provisional data, we shall be considering to extend the target date for publishing to the 25<sup>th</sup>, which would allow ten more days for data editing. This would enable a more complete inclusion of corrections from the customs officers in response to the queries from Statistics Norway in the first release of the statistics.

**b) Particular research work (e.g. reconciliation exercises, methodological research). If applicable, please describe briefly the main objective(s) and outcomes. In case of multiple responses, please rank according to importance or relevance (limit to 3):**

**c) Studies/research with respect to the use and possible linking of registers (interoperability of registers):**

Norway took part in the Eurostat linkage exercise between Business Register and External Trade in 2005, and will also take part in 2006.

Furthermore, Norway is a member of the Steering Group on linking Trade Statistics with Business Statistics and will thus also provide data to the inquiry that is steered by the group.

**d) Globalisation indicators, new forms of trading, re-exports/re-imports, characteristics of traders:**

Statistics Norway is participating in a Eurostat task force on "International sourcing" in order to provide statistical data and information on reasons, extent and consequences of international sourcing, where the main objectives of the project are:

- Establish a set of (indirect) indicators on international sourcing by utilising existing sources. As a starting point it is planned to take the "OECD Handbook on Economic Globalisation Indicators" and evaluate at national level what indicators are already available, what indicators could be produced easily and what indicators would be desirable to produce but requires more resources and effort.
- Targeted business survey to collect direct information about international sourcing, as a supplementary to already existing sources.

Country: <u>Poland</u>	Contact person: <u>Julita Kapsa</u>
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## 1. Merchandise trade data for reporting year 2006

Many improvements have taken place in 2006 with respect to timeliness. But here is still scope for further improvements. What is the likely date of data submission to OECD in 2007 ?

Please state the approximate date for

- Yearly commodity trade
  - Target date for Provisional data : *SITC 1-digit, partner countries*
    - Classification and Level of detail:  
*Provisional yearly data for 2006 will be available in the last decade of February 2007.*
  - Target date for Final data:
    - Classification and Level of detail: *SITC 1-digit, partner countries*  
*Final yearly data for 2006 will be available in the last decade of July 2007*
    - Classification and Level of detail: *CN8/partner country breakdown*  
*Final yearly data for 2006 on the lowest level of aggregation will be available at the beginning of August 2007*
  
- Monthly Statistics of International Trade:
  - Days after reference period:
    - Total value : *c.a. 40 days*
    - Totals by partner country; *c.a. 40 days*
    - Totals by SITC section; *c.a. 40 days*
    - Volume and value indices: *c.a. 70 days (as regard price indices)*
  - Supplementary question: to what extent could OECD increase access to monthly data via Internet for the above data sets? Could this process be automated/standardised?  
*In the Central Statistical Office of Poland, the Foreign Trade Section of Economic Statistics Division prepares current information on provisional monthly foreign trade results in the form of preliminary release "Foreign trade turnover in total and by countries".*  
*Preliminary release is issued c.a. after 40 days from the end of given reference month and contains monthly (cumulated since the beginning of the year) data on exports, imports and trade balance in breakdown by country groups (turnovers expressed in value – PLN, USD and EUR). It contains also value of trade turnover for exports and imports in breakdown by most important partner countries (which is a country of destination in case of export and a country of origin in case of import).*  
*Preliminary release accessible in paper form and also on the internet website of CSO ([http://www.stat.gov.pl/english/wyniki\\_wstepne/index.htm](http://www.stat.gov.pl/english/wyniki_wstepne/index.htm))*

## 2. Developments during the past 12 to 18 months and planned developments/studies

### a) Operational/managerial improvements having led to improved timeliness/ and/or improved quality/coverage:

*Customs Administration developed specialised unit in the framework of CAAC – Analytical Center of Customs Administration, which is responsible only for generation of statistical dataset concerning*

*foreign trade statistics. Establishment of such unit resulted in increase of efficiency as regards usage of available human and equipment resources.*

*In order to improve the quality of service and help for providers of statistical information for INTRASTAT system Central Help-Desk has been established. Help Desk is responsible for providing help for PSI's from the whole territory of Poland. Help Desk operates in the framework of Polish Customs Administration, Customs Chamber in Katowice.*

**b) Particular research work (e.g. reconciliation exercises, methodological research). If applicable, please describe briefly the main objective(s) and outcomes. In case of multiple response, please rank according to importance or relevance (limit to 3):**

**1**

*In the framework of Eurostat EDICOM program Division of Economic Statistics runs project aimed at improvement of data validation. In the framework of this project specialists from the CSO and Polish Customs Administration work on creation of self-updating price ranges (concerning value/mass net ratio and value/quantity in supplementary unit ratio). Price ranges are defined for each CN8 commodity code with help of data mining techniques (clusters) and expert methods. Development of such self-updating mechanisms will help to detect immediately all outliers (values significantly different from others concerning the same commodity code).*

**2.**

*In compliance with Eurostat recommendations, Central Statistical Office is developing works aimed at efficient usage of alternative data sources in INTRASTAT and EXTRASTAT system. These efforts concern implementation of alternative data sources for specific movement of goods.*

*So far the CSO has established cooperation with Polish Energy Market Agency concerning data on the foreign trade in such commodities as natural gas and electricity. Since January 2006 information obtained from Energy Market Agency on monthly basis substitute INTRASTAT reporting and data obtained from SAD documents as regards turnover with natural gas and electricity.*

*Data are also obtained from Fishery Monitoring Center in Gdynia and these data concern trade in fishery products, including purchase/sale of fishery which was the subject of trade transaction before being landed by sea-going vessels. This information is added on quarterly basis to the statistical data set.*

*To simplify the process of aggregation of statistical data set and addition of data obtained from alternative data sources Specialist from CAAC developed IT application allowing easy and fast inclusion of new data to the existing data set.*

*The CSO also cooperates with Civil Aviation Office and Maritime Chambers at Voivodship Courts in Gdańsk and Szczecin. In the framework of this cooperation data are obtained from Polish official registers of ships and vessels and civil aircraft. These data are used only for control purposes.*

**c) Studies/research with respect to the use and possible linking of registers (interoperability of registers):**

*Register of PSIs in the framework of INTRASTAT system is linked with National Official Business Register – REGON via REGON identification number. So far there is a possibility to trace the foreign trade turnover of a single company, as long as it uses the same identification number. There is no possibility to create long time series for companies, which changed their identification numbers due to mergers, acquisition, splits or similar operations.*

*Register of PSI s is also linked with VAT system via NIP (tax identification number)*

**d) Globalisation indicators, new forms of trading, re-exports/re-imports, characteristics of traders:**

*No such activities are in development so far.*

**Country: Slovak Republic**

**Contact person: Alzbeta Ridzonova**

## **1. Merchandise trade data for reporting year 2006**

**Many improvements have taken place in 2006 with respect to timeliness. But here is still scope for further improvements. What is the likely date of data submission to OECD in 2007?**

Please state the approximate date for

- Yearly commodity trade
  - Target date for Provisional data: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2007
    - Classification and Level of detail: Partner country and Combined Nomenclature (CN8)
  - Target date for Final data: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2007
    - Classification and Level of detail: Partner country and Combined Nomenclature (CN8)
- Monthly Statistics of International Trade:
  - Days after reference period:
    - Total value: 42 days
    - Totals by partner country: 74 days
    - Totals by SITC section: 74 days
    - Volume and value indices: 74 days - only value indices are available
  - Supplementary question: to what extent could OECD have access to monthly data via Internet for the above data sets? Could this process be automated/standardised?

Full version of monthly publication is available via Internet 90 days after reference month <http://www.statistics.sk/webdata/english/public/ft/ftpub.htm>. On the website, the data broken down by partners country and HS headings are published in xls format. Data are not suitable for automatic data processing.

## **2. Developments during the past 12 to 18 months**

**a) Operational/managerial improvements having led to improved timeliness/ and/or improved quality/coverage:**

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**b) Particular research work (e.g. reconciliation exercises, methodological research). If applicable, please describe briefly the main objective(s) and outcomes. In case of multiple responses, please rank according to importance or relevance (limit to 3):**

Analyses of reporting specific movements such as aircraft and vessels, delivery for aircraft and vessels, industrial plants and electricity have been carried out. The results will be applied for compilation of definitive data for the year 2005.

First steps for implementation survey on ancillary cost have been realised in order to derive CIF/FOB value from invoiced amount within Intrastat system.

From the year 2005 development of prices in foreign trade is monitored on sample of representatives (8-digit subheadings of

Combined Nomenclature), which were selected on the basis of data for the year 2004. The representatives, which annual value of import/export covered together minimally 70 % of the total import/export, were included into the sample. Indices are calculated comparing Unit Value of each representative. The year 2004 is a new basic period, on the base of which new weight scheme and unit values of basic period for selected representatives were set. Weight of each representative is a share of import/export value of the representative on the total value of import/export of all representatives.

Pilot survey on price in foreign trade was carried out. Regular survey will be implemented in the year 2007.

**c) Studies/research with respect to the use and possible linking of registers (interoperability of registers):**

The project with objective to ensure regular updating of Register of Foreign Trade Operators through linkage with Business Register has been implemented during the year 2006. The linkage Register of Foreign Trade Operators with Business Register enables:

- a) to compile foreign trade statistics according to enterprises characteristics;
- b) to produce more accurate estimation of commodity structure for non-response and below thresholds adjustments;
- c) to establish regular contact with foreign trade operators.

The module of application program for processing foreign trade data will be developed in order to implement automatic processing of data from business register.

**d) Globalisation indicators, new forms of trading, re-exports/re-imports, characteristics of traders:**

See item c).

**Country: Sweden**

**Contact person : Erik Eklund**

## **1. Merchandise trade data for reporting year 2006**

**Many improvements have taken place in 2006 with respect to timeliness. But here is still scope for further improvements. What is the likely date of data submission to OECD in 2007 ?**

Please state the approximate date for

- Yearly commodity trade
  - Target date for Provisional data: **March 2006**
    - Classification and Level of detail: **CN8/Partner country etc**
  - Target date for Final data: **March 2007** (year 2005 is revised last time)
    - Classification and Level of detail: **CN8/Partner country etc**
- Monthly Statistics of International Trade:
  - Days after reference period:
    - Total value: early estimates: **25 days**
    - Totals by partner country: **55 days (Extrastat figures 40 days)**
    - Totals by SITC section: **55 days (Extrastat figures 40 days)**
    - Volume and value indices: **65 days (published quarterly)**
  - Supplementary question: to what extent could OECD have access to monthly data via Internet for the above data sets? **Via [Statistics Sweden's own statistical databases](#), or via Eurostat.**
  - Could this process be automated/standardised?

## **2. Developments during the past 12 to 18 months and planned developments/studies**

New methods for producing early estimates (first released figures) were introduced in the statistics in July 2005. You find further information on the improvements below.

During 2006 planned development studies are carried out within the Edicom Programme 2005. Four studies are in progress. These studies concern

- development and implementation of a system for output checking in Intrastat and Extrastat by industrial sector. New checking methods, routines and a system based on a division of the total foreign trade into industrial sectors or branches will be implemented with the intention of increasing the quality of the statistics.

- improvement of the reliability of the estimated distribution keys in Intrastat. Expected results of the project work is to implement new improved methods for the distribution keys of the estimated Intra trade, where it will be possible to have information about collected and estimated trade on commodity and country level for each enterprise.

- simplification of the Intrastat system. The aim is to find some way(s) to simplify the Intrastat system (burden, costs etc) without jeopardising the data quality.

- promotion of tools for electronic reporting in Intrastat. The objective is to increase the number of PSIs who report electronically, increase and improve the co-operation with the software houses producing Intrastat software and the producers of business systems with Intrastat functionality.

### **a) Operational/managerial improvements having led to improved timeliness/ and/or improved quality/coverage:**

From 2006 onwards, the publication of foreign trade with goods and volume statistics has been brought forward by two weeks. At the same time, changes have been implemented in Intrastat production and to the estimation methods in Intrastat. The changes to Intrastat production primarily concern the handling and

checking of VAT data and the introduction of a system with monthly dispatches of fine notifications to the largest and most important enterprises. As many of the VAT values do not arrive from the Swedish Tax Board in time for the production run, new methods for estimation of data under the threshold value and for non-response have been introduced. Simply put, the methods are based on the average trade value according to the following two steps:

- 1) Calculation of the average value of trade under the threshold value per enterprise and per month (refers to the previous 12-month period).
- 2) Average values in 1) are then multiplied by seasonal components.

**b) Particular research work (e.g. reconciliation exercises, methodological research). If applicable, please describe briefly the main objective(s) and outcomes. In case of multiple response, please rank according to importance or relevance (limit to 3):**

During autumn 2005, a development project was carried out on simplification thresholds. According to the advisory Intrastat regulations (638/2004), every member state can use simplification threshold values that should relate to a maximum of 6 % of the smallest enterprises (in terms of value) that have an obligation to provide information (critical small enterprises). These critical small enterprises are exempt from the obligation to report for the variables transaction type, weight and other quantity, and are only required to report commodity code, country code and invoice value. The simplified reporting principles also mean that the critical small enterprises, to simplify the process even further, can use a simplified commodity code for trade not relating to the ten largest commodity codes (9950 0000). A third simplification relates to all enterprises with an obligation to provide information to Intrastat and concerns a threshold value for a transaction amount. This threshold value can be a maximum of 200 Euro and therefore refers only to very small transaction values for each reported commodity item. Simplification thresholds have not yet been implemented in the Swedish Intrastat system.

**c) Studies/research with respect to the use and possible linking of registers (interoperability of registers):**

By linking trade and business registers, Statistics Sweden can provide organisations, government authorities, enterprises etc. with regional and sector-based statistics on commission. These data enable users to analyse the effect of international trade on the economic sector, geographical regions, employment levels and enterprise performance. The main advantage of this method is that it does not require additional collection from trade data providers. We have therefore participated in Eurostat's EDICOM II programme "Standardisation Exercise". This exercise supplies Eurostat with trade statistics linked to business statistics and is intended to be included in the revision of the Extrastat Regulation, concerning both intra-EU and extra-EU statistics. However, there is still room for methodological improvements. There are in certain cases problems with using the legal entity as a link between the registers and with confidentiality.

**d) Globalisattion indicators:**

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<b>Country: United States</b>	<b>Contact person: David M. Dickerson</b>
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## 1. Merchandise trade data for reporting year 2006

**Many improvements have taken place in 2006 with respect to timeliness. But here is still scope for further improvements. What is the likely date of data submission to OECD in 2007 ?**

Please state the approximate date for

- Yearly commodity trade
  - Target date for Provisional data :
    - Classification and Level of detail:
  - Target date for Final data:
    - Classification and Level of detail:
- Monthly Statistics of International Trade:
  - Days after reference period:
    - Total value :
    - Totals by partner country
    - Totals by SITC section;
    - Volume and value indices:
  - Supplementary question: to what extent could OECD have access to monthly data via Internet for the above data sets? Could this process be automated/standardised?

Yearly Commodity Trade:

Annual 2006 trade data will be available with the release of December 2006 data on February 13, 2007. In June 2007, annual 2006 data will be released again and include any revisions. The exact release date in June 2007 is not available at this time. Dates for this release and all monthly releases in 2007 will be available later this year, likely in late September or October. For the most up to date list of release dates go to: [www.census.gov/foreign-trade/faq/gen/gen0007.html](http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/faq/gen/gen0007.html)

The general level of detail available is ten-digit Harmonized System commodity classification by country of origin (imports)/destination (exports) by district of entry (imports)/export (exports). Among several measurements, quantity and value are available at the above levels of detail.

Monthly Statistics of International Trade:

In general, monthly trade statistics are available 40 - 45 days after the reference month. A list of release dates is available using the link above. The partner country and SITC section data are e-mailed each month, on the day of release, to [std.tradestats@oecd.org](mailto:std.tradestats@oecd.org). Similar data can be obtained through the Internet using the following link: [www.census.gov/foreign-trade/statistics/country/index.html](http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/statistics/country/index.html)

## 2. Developments during the past 12 to 18 months

**a) Operational/managerial improvements having led to improved timeliness/ and/or improved quality/coverage:**

Processing Improvements to Produce the Profile of U.S. Exporters

During the past year, the Foreign Trade Division of the U.S. Census Bureau has re-designed the process for creating the exporter database, that houses merged merchandise trade and business data, in order to reduce the time to produce the Profile of U.S. Exporters release. We improved the efficiency of our electronic matching routines by eliminating unnecessary clerical steps and combining similar output files. We also revised the disclosure review process to allow us to more quickly determine and implement appropriate disclosure mitigation strategies for all possible data summarization options. These changes resulted in releasing this year's annual report four months earlier than last year's report.

**b) Particular research work (e.g. reconciliation exercises, methodological research). If applicable, please describe briefly the main objective(s) and outcomes. In case of multiple response, please rank according to importance or relevance (limit to 3):**

The Foreign Trade Division (FTD) of the U.S. Census Bureau has been researching data editing procedures as a way to reduce costs and improve effectiveness, while maintaining quality and timeliness of the merchandise trade statistics. Two areas of research are automated edit parameter updates and selective editing.

#### Automated Edit Parameter Updates

In order to ensure the quality of the published merchandise trade data, the FTD edits the reported data by using a set of edit parameters. Historically, subject-matter analysts have manually updated these parameters that are based on commodity. However, there are roughly 10,000 export and 17,000 import commodity classifications, all of which may be edited against 30 or more different parameters that must be maintained individually for each commodity. Manually maintaining effective parameters has become increasingly challenging. As a result, FTD has been researching a new way of automating updates to the edit parameters.

In order to develop an automated system to refresh edit parameters, we wanted to select a methodology that would determine an acceptable range of data values by commodity, since all of our editing is done on a commodity basis. We selected an outlier-detection method known as Resistant Fences, which develops edit parameters based on the distribution of data for a particular commodity. The philosophy behind the Resistant Fences method is that the majority of data are reported accurately, so by looking at the bulk of the data, one can develop reasonable parameters (called fences) that would be able to detect unusual data values. The methodology could be applied to most commodities (except those with historically poor reporting), for either imports or exports, and any edit parameter for which there is a sufficient amount of data. As newer data become available, the parameters can be updated using this methodology, and this process can be automated. This would allow our commodity analysts to spend less time updating parameters, and to have more time for contacting data filers and correcting misreported data. Additionally, our updated parameters would be more current and accurate, resulting in improvements to the quality of our published data.

We are continuing to test and refine this methodology. With the help of several commodity analysts, we were able to identify those commodities that are sensitive or often misreported, and thus, should not be updated using this methodology for fear of producing edit parameters based on incorrect data. Beginning in May 2006, we implemented an update to eligible export unit price (value/quantity) edit parameters for commodities from five out of eight commodity groupings (or sections). We are currently working with commodity analysts to examine the results of using these updated parameters. Once the commodity analysts become comfortable with the methodology, we intend to phase in the automation of updates to the parameters one edit at a time.

#### Selective Editing

In addition to updating the parameters, we are also investigating macro-editing techniques to reduce time spent manually editing merchandise trade data. Currently, FTD processes millions of records per month, yielding an average of 12,000 rejects on imports and 10,000 rejects on exports. Each analyst must resolve roughly 600 of these rejected records per month. There is a time pressure to resolve these rejected records more quickly in order to publish earlier. As a result, we are researching ways of selectively editing our data to relieve some of this pressure without affecting the quality of the published statistics and enabling us to possibly publish the statistics earlier.

Currently, we are investigating a selective editing methodology, which allows us to compute scores that rank the impact of each rejected data record on our published statistics. We are able to compare this score against a cut-off value where scores below the cut-off indicate that editing one more record will have little impact on the published data. These records, whose scores are below the cut-off value, are automatically handled by the editing system. Observations with a score larger than the critical value are marked for our analysts to follow-up with the data filer before we publish our monthly statistics. The goal is to reduce the cost and burden to our analysts associated with contacting filers. We also intend on focusing on suspicious records that may have a significant impact on the estimates without affecting overall data quality.

We are continuing to research and refine this methodology for use with the merchandise trade data. In our current research, we ranked those records that rejected our editing programs after calculating the scores composed of the three ratio edits (value/quantity, quantity relationship, and quantity/shipping weight). The rankings were done by commodity groupings (sections), which is how the rejects are divided among the analysts. The score combines the maximum suspiciousness with the summation of the impact of the three ratios. We are currently trying to measure the effectiveness of our score function. Additionally, as our current editing philosophy is to resolve all rejects, we are not presently looking at calculating a cut-off value below which rejected records would have a significant impact on our published statistics. Instead, we anticipate that ranking the scores can be used to prioritize which rejected records our analysts should devote more time to resolving.

**c) Studies/research with respect to the use and possible linking of registers (interoperability of registers):**

As stated in last year's questionnaire, the Foreign Trade Division (FTD) releases a Profile of U.S. Exporters each year. The profile is created from the Exporter Database (EDB), which is created from the export statistical documentation with employment and industry type characteristics obtained from the Census Bureau's Business Register.

The latest version of the Profile is available on our FTD website at <http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/aip/index.html#profile>. It covers the data years 2003 - 2004 and was released on March 9, 2006. The improvements made to our processes have made it possible to release the data in a more timely and efficient manner without affecting the integrity or the quality of the statistics.

We continue to research the possibility of creating a Profile of U.S. Importers. At this time, our research is still preliminary.

**d) Globalisation indicators, new forms of trading, re-exports/re-imports, characteristics of traders:**

No developments to report.