

**Department of Economic and Social Affairs**  
Statistics Division

# 2019

# International Trade Statistics Yearbook

Volume I  
Trade by Country



United Nations  
New York, 2020

## **Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

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## PREFACE

The *2019 International Trade Statistics Yearbook* (2019 ITSY) is the sixty-seventh edition of this yearbook. Its objective is to inform about the detailed merchandise and services imports and exports of individual countries (areas) by commodity and service categories and by partner countries (volume I), the world trade in individual commodities (3-digit SITC groups and 11 main EBOPS categories) (volume II) and total world merchandise trade up to the year 2019. The two volumes are prepared at different points in time: *Volume I - Trade by Country* is made electronically available in June-July, and *Volume II - Trade by Product*, in December, as the preparation of the tables in Volume II requires comprehensive country statistics which, normally, become available later in the year.

Beginning with the 2017 edition, part 1 of the yearbook was completely redesigned to consider new additions of graphs, tables and analytical text for global, regional and selected trade or economic groupings. The data used in the tables and graphs in this volume of the yearbook are taken at a specific time (June 2020) from the publicly available UN Comtrade database<sup>1</sup>. Users are advised to visit the database for additional and more current information as it is continuously updated.

This *International Trade Statistics Yearbook* has been prepared by the Economic Statistics Branch of the Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, under the general supervision of the Chief of Branch, Ivo Havinga. The team consists of Markie Muryawan as the programme manager, Vysaul Nyirongo as the chief editor, assisted by Melissa Paca and Arlene Adriano, Marjorie Imperial-Damaso and Bekuretsion Amdemariam (as supervisors of data processing) and Habibur Khan, Jing Zhang, Swe Winn Mar, Su Thant, Tewabe Mihret Kebede and Byungkwan Lee (contributed to the processing and validation of the collected trade data and the review of the yearbook). The IT manager was Govindaraj Rangaraj, assisted by Daniel Buenavad and Melissa Paca.

Comments and feedback on the yearbook are welcome. They may be sent to [tradedstat@un.org](mailto:tradedstat@un.org) or to United Nations Statistics Division, Economic Statistics Branch, New York, New York 10017, USA.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://comtrade.un.org>

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction.....	vii
Concepts and definitions of International Merchandise Trade Statistics .....	viii
Concepts and definitions of Statistics of International Trade in Services .....	x
Description of world, regional and selected trade or economic groupings profiles in part 1 ...	xiv
Description of tables and graphs of country profiles in part 2 .....	xv
Sources.....	xvii
Method of estimation.....	xviii
Conversion of classifications .....	xviii
Currency conversion and period .....	xix
Country nomenclature and regional groupings.....	xx
Abbreviations and explanation of symbols.....	xxiii
Disclaimer .....	xxiv
Contact .....	xxiv
Part 1: World, Regional and Selected Trade or Economic Groupings Profiles .....	1
World merchandise trade profile.....	2
SDG regional groupings merchandise trade profiles .....	4
Selected trade or economic groupings merchandise trade profiles .....	15
Part 2: Country Trade Profiles .....	31
Countries (or areas).....	32

## Part 1: WORLD AND REGIONAL TRADE PROFILES

<b>World</b>	2	<b>Trade or Economic Groupings</b>	
<b>SDG regional groupings</b>		Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)	15
Central Asia	4	Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)	16
Eastern Asia	5	Central American Common Market (CACM)	17
Europe	6	Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM)	18
Latin American and the Caribbean	7	Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA)	19
Northern America	8	Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC)	20
Australia and New Zealand	9	Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)	21
Oceania excluding Australia and New Zealand	10	East African Community (EAC)	22
South-Eastern Asia	11	Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)	23
Southern Asia	12	European Union 28 (EU-28)	24
Sub-Saharan Africa	13	The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC)	25
Western Asia and Northern Africa	14	Latin American Integration Association (LAIA)	26
		League of Arab States (LAS)	27
		Mercado Común del Sur (MERCOSUR)	28
		Northern American Free Trade Area (NAFTA)	29
		Southern African Development Community (SADC)	30

## Part 2: COUNTRY TRADE PROFILES

Afghanistan	32	Brazil	80	Egypt	130
Albania	34	Brunei Darussalam	82	El Salvador	132
Algeria	36	Bulgaria	84	Estonia	134
Andorra	38	Burkina Faso	86	Eswatini	136
Angola	40	Burundi	88	Ethiopia	138
Antigua and Barbuda	42	Cabo Verde	90	Fiji	140
Argentina	44	Cambodia	92	Finland	142
Armenia	46	Cameroon	94	France including Monaco	144
Aruba	48	Canada	96	French Polynesia	146
Australia	50	Central African Republic	98	Gambia	148
Austria	52	Chile	100	Georgia	150
Azerbaijan	54	China	102	Germany	152
Bahamas	56	China, Hong Kong SAR	104	Ghana	154
Bahrain	58	China, Macao SAR	106	Greece	156
Bangladesh	60	Colombia	108	Greenland	158
Barbados	62	Comoros	110	Guatemala	160
Belarus	64	Congo	112	Guinea	162
Belgium	66	Costa Rica	114	Guyana	164
Belize	68	Côte d'Ivoire	116	Honduras	166
Benin	70	Croatia	118	Hungary	168
Bermuda	72	Cyprus	120	Iceland	170
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	74	Czechia	122	India	172
Bosnia and Herzegovina	76	Denmark	124	Indonesia	174
Botswana	78	Dominican Republic	126	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	176
		Ecuador	128	Iraq	178

Ireland	180	New Caledonia	250	Slovenia	316
Israel	182	New Zealand	252	Solomon Islands	318
Italy	184	Nicaragua	254	South Africa	320
Jamaica	186	Niger	256	Spain	322
Japan	188	Nigeria	258	Sri Lanka	324
Jordan	190	North Macedonia	260	State of Palestine	326
Kazakhstan	192	Norway, including	262	Sudan	328
Kenya	194	Svalbard and Jan Mayen		Suriname	330
Kiribati	196	Islands		Sweden	332
Korea, Republic of	198	Oman	264	Switzerland-	334
Kuwait	200	Pakistan	266	Liechtenstein	
Kyrgyzstan	202	Palau	268	Thailand	336
Lao People's Democratic	204	Panama	270	Timor-Leste	338
Republic		Paraguay	272	Togo	340
Latvia	206	Peru	274	Trinidad and Tobago	342
Lebanon	208	Philippines	276	Tunisia	344
Lesotho	210	Poland	278	Turkey	346
Lithuania	212	Portugal	280	Uganda	348
Luxembourg	214	Qatar	282	Ukraine	350
Madagascar	216	Republic of Moldova	284	United Arab Emirates	352
Malawi	218	Romania	286	United Kingdom	354
Malaysia	220	Russian Federation	288	United Republic of	356
Maldives	222	Rwanda	290	Tanzania	
Mali	224	Saint Kitts and Nevis	292	United States of	358
Malta	226	Saint Lucia	294	America, including	
Mauritania	228	Saint Vincent and the	296	Puerto Rico and US	
Mauritius	230	Grenadines		Virgin Islands	
Mexico	232	Samoa	298	Uruguay	360
Mongolia	234	Sao Tome and Principe	300	Uzbekistan	362
Montenegro	236	Saudi Arabia	302	Viet Nam	364
Morocco	238	Senegal	304	Yemen	366
Mozambique	240	Serbia	306	Zambia	368
Myanmar	242	Seychelles	308	Zimbabwe	370
Namibia	244	Sierra Leone	310		
Nepal	246	Singapore	312		
Netherlands	248	Slovakia	314		

## INTRODUCTION

1. The *International Trade Statistics Yearbook: Volume I - Trade by Country*, provides an overview of the latest trends of trade in goods and services of most countries and areas in the world. The publication is aimed at both specialist and general trade statistics users from government, academic and business sectors.

2. The main content of the yearbook is divided into two parts. Part 1 consists of merchandise trade profiles for the world, regional and selected trade or economic groupings. The profiles offer an insight into the merchandise trade performance, composition and structure of the global, regional and selected trade or economic groupings by means of infographics and brief descriptive text, using latest available statistics. Part 2 contains the country trade profiles for most countries and areas in the world. The profiles offer an insight into the trade performance in goods and services of individual countries and areas by means of brief descriptive texts and statistics in concise tables and charts using latest available data. For further information on data availability, please see the sources section of this Introduction.

3. The yearbook is also made available online at the publications repository of the UN Statistics Division<sup>2</sup>. For more detailed and latest available data, please visit UN Comtrade, which is the source of the information presented in the yearbook and is continuously updated.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publications>

## Concepts and definitions of International Merchandise Trade Statistics

4. The merchandise trade data used in this Yearbook have been compiled by national statistical authorities largely complying with the United Nations recommended *International Merchandise Trade Statistics, Concepts and Definitions 2010* (IMTS 2010).<sup>3</sup> The main elements of the concepts and definitions are:

i. Coverage: As a general guideline, it is recommended that international merchandise trade statistics record all goods which add to or subtract from the stock of material resources of a country by entering (imports) or leaving (exports) its economic territory. The general guideline is subject to the clarifications provided in IMTS 2010, in particular, to the specific guidelines in chapter 1 concerning the inclusion or exclusion of certain categories of goods.

ii. Time of recording of transactions: As a general guideline, it is recommended that goods be recorded at the time when they enter or leave the economic territory of a country.

iii. Statistical territory: The statistical territory of a country is the territory with respect to which trade statistics are being compiled. The definition of the statistical territory may or may not coincide with the economic territory of a country or its customs territory, depending on the availability of data sources and other considerations. It follows that when the statistical territory of a country and its economic territory differ, international merchandise trade statistics do not provide a complete record of inward and outward flows of goods.

iv. Trade systems: Depending on what parts of the economic territory are included in the statistical territory, the trade data-compilation system adopted by a country (its trade system) may be referred to as general or special.

a) The general trade system is in use when the statistical territory coincides with the economic territory. Consequently, it is recommended that the statistical territory of a country applying the general trade system comprises all applicable territorial elements. In this case, imports include goods entering the free circulation area, premises for inward processing, industrial free zones, premises for customs

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