

Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Statistics Division

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Trade by Country



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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

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In some tables, the designation “developed” economies is intended for statistical convenience and does not necessarily express a judgement about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process.

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PREFACE

The *2016 International Trade Statistics Yearbook* (2016 ITSY) is the sixty-fifth 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 2016. The two volumes are prepared at different points in time during 2017: *Volume I - Trade by Country* is made electronically available in June, and *Volume II - Trade by Commodity*, in December, as the preparation of the tables in Volume II requires additional country data which, normally, become available later in the year.

Beginning with 2013 edition, trade in services data was introduced to the *International Trade Statistics Yearbook: Volume I - Trade by Country*. Therefore, the content and format of the yearbook were redesigned to take into account new additions of graphs, tables and analytical text. The data used in the tables and graphs in both volumes of the yearbook are taken at a specific time (May 2017) from the publicly available UN Comtrade (<https://comtrade.un.org>) database. Users are advised to visit the database for additional and more current information as it is continuously updated.

The *International Trade Statistics Yearbook* is prepared by the Trade 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, Ronald Jansen, the programme manager is Markie Muryawan and the chief editor is Habibur Rahman Khan, assisted by Marjorie Imperial-Damaso and Bekuretsion Amdemariam, and Htu Aung who have the leading role in the processing of merchandise and services data, respectively. Habibur Rahman Khan, Kenneth Iversen, Nancy Snyder, Karoly Kovacs, Salomon Cameo and Markie Muryawan provided valuable contribution to the inclusion of trade in services data and the improvement of production processes. However, all staff of the branch are involved in the generation of the data and the review/validation of the yearbook. Markie Muryawan, Salomon Cameo and Luis Gonzalez Morales developed the original software which is maintained by Melissa Paca and Daniel Buenavad.

Comments and feedback on the yearbook are welcome. They may be sent to comtrade@un.org / tradeserv@un.org or to United Nations Statistics Division, Trade Statistics Branch, New York, New York 10017, USA.

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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 trade data users and common audience at large. The presented data, charts and analyses will benefit policy makers, government agencies, non-government organizations, civil society organizations, journalists, academics, researchers, students, businesses and anyone who is interested in trade issues.
2. The main content of the yearbook is divided into two parts. Part 1 consists of two detailed world data tables on merchandise trade. One presents total merchandise imports and exports by countries, areas and regions in a time series up to the latest year, the other shows world merchandise exports by group of commodity and by provenance and destination in many smaller time series sub-tables. Part 2 contains the country trade profiles for most countries and areas in the world. The profiles offer an insight into the merchandise and services trade performance of individual countries and areas by means of brief descriptive text, concise data 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 (<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publications>). For more detailed and latest available data, please visit UN Comtrade, which is the source of the information presented in the yearbook, and which is continuously updated.

Concepts and definitions of International Merchandise Trade Statistics

4. The merchandise trade data 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).¹ 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: 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 data 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 warehousing or commercial free zones and exports include goods leaving those territorial elements;

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