

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

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**International Trade**  
**Statistics Yearbook**

Volume I  
Trade by Country



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## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

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## PREFACE

The *2011 International Trade Statistics Yearbook* (2011 ITSY) is the sixtieth edition of this yearbook. Its objective is to inform about the detailed merchandise imports and exports of individual countries (areas) by commodity and partner country (volume I), the world trade in individual commodities (3-digit SITC groups) (volume II) and total world trade - up to the year 2011. The two volumes are prepared at different points in time during 2011: *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 the 2008 edition, the yearbook is published in a redesigned format in respect to the presentation of data for individual countries and commodities to provide a more analytical and condensed view of the international merchandise trade data. The detailed information about the trade of particular countries by commodity and partner (values and quantities) contained in the tables and graphs for individual countries in Volume I and commodities in Volume II are taken from the publicly available database UN Comtrade (<http://comtrade.un.org/db/default.aspx>). Users are advised to visit UN Comtrade for any additional and more current information as it is continuously updated.

The *International Trade Statistics Yearbook* is prepared by the International Merchandise Trade Statistics Section, 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 Matthias Reister and the chief editor is Marjorie Imperial-Damaso, assisted by Melissa Paca. Bekuretsion Amdemariam has the leading role in the processing of the data for UN Comtrade. However, all staff of the section are involved in the generation of the data and the yearbook. Markie Muryawan, Salomon Cameo and Luis Gonzalez Morales developed the software which is maintained by Salomon Cameo. Nelnan Koumtingue made very substantial contributions to this redesigned yearbook as its first chief editor. Comments on the present yearbook are welcome. They may be sent to [comtrade@un.org](mailto:comtrade@un.org) or to United Nations Statistics Division, International Merchandise Trade Statistics Section, New York, New York 10017, USA.



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# INTRODUCTION

## The new yearbook

1. The *2011 International Trade Statistics Yearbook* (2011 ITSY) is being issued in two volumes which are prepared at different points in time during 2012.<sup>1</sup> Volume I is compiled early in 2012 to allow for an advanced release of an overview of international merchandise trade in 2011 and for a much earlier publication of the available 2011 country (area) data. Volume II contains the detailed tables showing international trade in main commodity groups and is finalized approximately six months after the completion of Volume I as the preparation of those tables requires additional country data which, normally, become available later in the year. Volume II contains also updated versions of the two world trade tables published in Volume I.

2. Detailed data for a total of 174 countries (or areas) are shown in Volume I with the 2011 data on imports and exports by commodity and trading partner provided for 92 countries (areas), representing approximately 79 percent of world trade of 2011. All tables of Volume I are made available electronically shortly after the completion of the manuscript. Beginning with the 2008 edition, Volume I is published in a redesigned format in respect to the presentation of data for individual countries with the aim to provide a more analytical and condensed view of a country's trade performance (country trade profile).

3. The detailed information about the trade of particular countries by commodity and partner (values and quantities) contained in the tables and graphs for individual countries in Volume I and commodities in Volume II are taken from the publicly available database UN Comtrade (<http://comtrade.un.org/db/default.aspx>). Users are advised to visit UN Comtrade for any additional and more current information as it is continuously updated.

## Concepts and definitions of International Merchandise Trade Statistics

4. The statistics in this Yearbook have been compiled by national statistical authorities largely consistent with the United Nations recommended *International Merchandise Trade Statistics, Concepts and Definitions 2010* (IMTS 2010).<sup>2</sup> The main elements of the concepts and definitions are:

1. **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

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<sup>1</sup> The 2011 ITSY is the sixtieth edition of this yearbook.

<sup>2</sup> At its forty-first session, held from 23 to 26 February 2010, the Statistical Commission adopted the revised recommendations "International merchandise trade statistics: concepts and definitions 2010" (IMTS 2010) which provide very important amendments while retaining the existing conceptual framework contained in the previous recommendations. The publication is available under Statistical Papers, Series M No. 52, Rev.3 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XVII.13) and electronically at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs/gesgrid.asp?id=449>.

particular, to the specific guidelines in chapter 1 concerning the inclusion or exclusion of certain categories of goods.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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;

*(b) The special trade system* is in use when the statistical territory comprises only a particular part of the economic territory, so that certain flows of goods which are in the scope of IMTS 2010 are not included in either import or export statistics of the compiling country. The strict definition of the special trade system is in use when the statistical territory comprises only the free circulation area, that is, the part within which goods “may be disposed of without customs restriction”. Consequently, in such a case, imports include only goods entering the free circulation area of a compiling country and exports include only goods leaving the free circulation area of a compiling country.

*(c) The relaxed definition of the special trade system* is in use when (a) goods that

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