

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: TRADE METHODOLOGY

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Country: Trinidad & Tobago

Name and Address of Agency: Central Statistical Office Cor. Edward & Independence Square, Port of Spain

Tel/Fax/Email: 868- 623-4322: 868- 625- 3802 : naeostat@wow .net

Contact Person: Senior Statistician

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SECTION 1 I: INTERNATIONAL STANDARD GUIDELINES

1. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The Standard International Trade Classification (S.I.T.C.) Rev.3 issued by the United Nations Statistical Office, Statistical Papers Series M. No. 34/Rev.3 1986 has been adopted with suitable modifications for the classification of all merchandise. The main sections of the S.I.T.C. (Rev.3) are:

Section	0	-	Food and Live Animals chiefly for food
	1	-	Beverages and Tobacco
	2	-	Crude Materials, Inedible, except fuel
	3	-	Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials
	4	-	Animal and Vegetable Oils, Fats and Waxes

5	-	Chemicals
6	-	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material
7	-	Machinery and Transport Equipment
8	-	Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles
9	-	Commodities and Transactions not classified elsewhere in the S.I.T.C.

2. TRADE SYSTEM IN USE

The "SPECIAL TRADE" system has been used in the tabulations, that is,

- (a) imports relate to all imports cleared by the Customs for the local economy, that is they exclude all imports which remain under the control of the Customs authorities in bonded ware houses.
- (b) Exports include exports of domestic produce and also the re-exports of imported goods which have previously been cleared from Customs Control for the local economy. Imported goods which are re exported directly from bonded warehouses are excluded.

SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION OF COMMODITY ITEMS

The classification list of commodity used by importers and exporters for classifying commodity items imported into and exported from the country is the Trinidad and Tobago Tariff and Trade classification.

This classification is based on the Harmonised System (HS) and the SITC Rev 3.

The current classification was introduced from January 1st 1991.

3. VALUATION

Cost, insurance and freight (C.I.F.) value is used in respect of all imports and free on board (f.o.b) is used for exports.

The c.i.f valuation is by definition the price an importer would pay for the goods in the open market, if the goods are delivered to him in bond at the port of importation, freight, insurance and all charges and expenses made in respect of packing and preparing the articles for shipping having been paid.

Free on board (F. O.B.) value is used in respect of exports. This is defined as the value at which goods were sold by the exporter, and includes all local charges to the exporting vessel or aircraft. Sea and airfreight, and marine and air insurance are not included and cash and trade discounts to the purchaser abroad are deducted.

SECTION 1 I: SOURCES AND METHOD OF COMPILATION

4. DATA SOURCES

ASYCUDA is **not** the source of trade data. This system has been implemented but significant differences appear between CSO's trade figures and ASYCUDA's values which are both sourced directly from Customs documents. The CSO has its own Unit engaged in editing, coding and processing the documents.

5 DATA COLLECTION AND RELATED ISSUES

All ports in Trinidad and Tobago are covered.

6. COVERAGE

EXCLUSIONS

The following items have been excluded from the Trade Statistics:-

- (a) Ships/aircraft stores and bunkers supplied to locally registered craft.
- (b) Gold coin and bullion, issued coinage and issued bank notes.
- (c) Goods on lease such as cinematographic films.
- (d) Goods on loan such as samples for exhibition or study.
- (e) Personal and Household effects including motor cars of tourists and travelers other than immigrants and emigrants.

IMPORTS BY PARCEL POST

Imports by parcel post include (i) Parcels of \$200 and over and (ii) Parcels of less than \$200.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF PETROLEUM UNDER THE PROCESSING AGREEMENT

Imports and Exports of Petroleum under the processing agreement relate to crude oil or petroleum products which are imported solely for further refining and the refined products that are subsequently re-exported on a special processing agreement whereby only a processing fee accrues to the country.

GOODS FOR REPAIR

Articles imported into the country for repair are not valued on importation and only the cost of repairs (plus any other appropriate charges) are shown on re-exportation. Similarly, articles exported from the country for repair are not valued on exportation and only the cost of repairs (plus any other appropriate charges) are shown on re-importation.

7. PERIOD COVERED

The figures of imports and exports represent totals shown on all customs documents brought to account during the calendar year 1st January to 31st December, 2000. These do not necessarily represent the actual amount of goods arriving in the harbours and airports or shipped from the harbours and airports during the period. This definition although it may on occasions result in apparent discrepancies between the customs figures of imports and exports and figures obtained from other sources, must for various reasons be maintained.

8. DATA PROCESSING

Eurotrace is not used to process trade data. The Statistical Office edits, codes and processes the Customs documents (C82 forms) using in house programmers and supporting staff

9. QUANTITIES AND VALUES

Generally, all quantities and values have been based upon the declaration of importers and exporters on the **customs documents (C82)**, which are subject to verification by customs and statistics officials.

All values are shown in Trinidad & Tobago Dollars

10. PARTNER COUNTRY

The Statistics reported refer to the territory of Trinidad & Tobago.

Imports are ascribed to the countries of origin of the goods. The Country of origin is defined as the country in which the goods were wholly produced or manufactured, or the country in which

any final operation altered, to any appreciable extent, the character, composition and value of partly manufactured goods imported into the country.

Exports are ascribed to the countries of final destination, when known, or alternatively they are ascribed to the countries of last known destination.

The definition of countries and areas are given in a draft country list prepared by the United Nations Statistical Office (see special notes on geographical breakdown).

SECTION 111: OTHER ISSUES

An exercise is currently in progress to reconcile CSO's trade figures with ASYCUDA. The objective is to use ASYCUDA and avoid the duplication of effort.

Also, Customs data on trade under the Processing Agreement cannot be reconciled with the Oil Company's data (which also has implications for the Balance of Payments). The reconciliation process is in progress.

Volume and Value statistics were produced for the year 199---. These were computer generated indices. The exercise has not been revisited.

