

Statistics on the trading of goods – User Guide



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION



THEME 6
External trade



A great deal of additional information on the European Union is available on the Internet.
It can be accessed through the Europa server (<http://europa.eu.int>).

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USER GUIDE

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.0. Purpose of the user guide

1. The purpose of this user guide is to assist in the use and analysis of the statistics of trade in goods published by the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat). The guide describes the basic methodology used for the compilation of statistics, the role of Eurostat in the dissemination of them as well as the sources which are available to the users. It provides also some information on the differences that exist between EU statistics and those published by Member States and by other international organisations.
2. This publication is aimed at the general user of these statistics and does not require a specialist background to be understood. However, while it is written as a free-standing document, it is part of a wider project (still underway) which provides detail on the methods that should be used for the collection of trade data and on the concepts and definitions on which those data are based .
3. This edition was completed in May 2002 and reflects the position at that date.
4. The information contained in this guide does not supersede existing regulations governing international trade statistics and has no legal force. Eurostat (Unit C/4, fax: (352) 43 01 34339) will be pleased to provide further information to users on particular issues not dealt with.
5. The guide can be read in complete sequence or by accessing particular sections. The most important part of the guide for the user is certainly Section 2 on methods. This describes most of the basic concepts and definitions and explains the variables that the user can exploit. It also addresses the differences that may exist between different sources. The guide is supported by 15 annexes

1.1. Use of international trade statistics

6. The need for statistics on trade in goods is self-evident. International trade forms an important part of the world economy and, as such, must be measured reliably and the relevant statistical data should be comparable and widely disseminated .
7. International trade statistics are an important primary source for most public- and private-sector decision-makers. For example, they help European companies carry out market research and define their commercial strategy; they enable Community authorities to prepare for multilateral and bilateral

negotiations within the framework of the common commercial policy and to evaluate the progress of the internal Market and the integration of European economies. In addition, they constitute an essential source of information for balance of payments statistics, national accounts and short-term economic studies.

8. The statistics satisfy this need in a variety of ways. Users may need either very aggregated or very detailed data on products or partner countries. They may be interested in movements of values of trade in current prices or in movements of the volume of trade at constant prices. Alternatively, their interest may be in the weight of trade or some other quantity measure.
9. These examples, which are far from exhaustive, show the diversity of the users and their requirements. Eurostat tries to meet these various needs and to adapt to the changing environment as the progression toward globalisation, in particular, is becoming more and more important.
10. The system for collecting statistics on the trade in goods has undergone major changes in recent years. The introduction in 1988 of the Combined Nomenclature (CN) and Single Administrative Document (SAD) led to important changes in statistics on trade with non-member countries. Subsequently, the advent of the Single Market on 1 January 1993, with its removal of customs formalities (the traditional source of statistical data on international trade) between Member States enforced the adoption of a new data collection system, Intrastat, as the basis for statistics on intra-Community trade.
11. The introduction of Intrastat involved a methodological break with the past and, initially at least, reduced the quality of the statistics. Many efforts have been made to improve the quality of the results but also to rationalise the statistical system and reduce the burden on data providers while maintaining a satisfactory level of information.

1.2. Links with balance of payments and national accounts

12. One important use of international trade statistics in the majority of countries is to provide a data source for the estimation of those components of the balance of payments and the national accounts which relate to trade in goods. The most appropriate definitions for these components are set out internationally in the *Balance of Payments Manual (Fifth edition)* (BPM5) published by the International Monetary Fund and in the *System of National Accounts – 1993* (SNA) jointly published by the United Nations, the Commission of the European Communities and other international organisations.
13. The latest international recommendations which particularly relate to trade statistics are given by *International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions (Series M, No 52, Rev. 2)* published in 1998 (IMTS). While these take account of the recommendations of BPM5 and recommend a

move toward harmonisation among different concepts, there are differences between the recommendations for international trade statistics and the goods account of the balance of payments in, for example, coverage, valuation and some special aspects .

14. These differences reflect both the differing priorities of users and the problems of data collection because of the more detailed requirements of international trade statistics.
15. It is not the purpose of this guide to discuss in detail the adjustments that must be made to international trade statistics to convert them to figures on a balance of payments basis (where it is the trade statistics that are the source of the balance of payments figures). It is sufficient to note that such conversion is necessary. It may have a substantial effect on the figures, for example from the different methods of valuation used for imports.

1.3. Institutional framework

1.3.0. General

16. The compilation of trade figures rests on a series of Council and/or European Parliament and Commission regulations; the final work is a co-operative effort between Eurostat and the appropriate bodies in the Member States which are responsible for collecting and processing the basic information.

1.3.1. National authorities

17. Annex 1 provides a list of competent authorities in each Member State. These are most often the national statistical institutes but also include some national Customs authorities and, for Belgium, even the National Bank. In practice, the division of responsibilities for collection, processing and dissemination of trade data may be quite complex and vary from Member State to Member State. The authorities listed in Annex 1 can be contacted by users of trade data who wish to query some aspects of national data.

1.3.2. Community authorities

18. Eurostat (the Statistical Office of European Communities) has the responsibility for overseeing and developing work on international trade statistics of goods.
19. The main areas for which Eurostat is responsible are as follows:
 - Methodology;
 - Classifications;

- Dissemination of EU statistics;
 - Analysis;
 - Co-operation
 - EDICOM program.¹
20. Eurostat Directorate C operates in this area of responsibility in close collaboration with other Eurostat services and with the other Directorates General with an interest in the use of statistics on international trade in goods.
21. Co-operation between Member States and Eurostat is full and regular. It has been formalised by the creation of working parties and management committees. Where discussion is directed toward the creation or amendment of Council, European Parliament or Commission regulations serving as a basis for statistics, the procedures naturally follow those appropriate for EU legislation more generally.

1.4. Legal background

1.4.0. General

22. Eurostat is responsible for harmonising Community legislation in the field of statistics on the trading in goods and ensuring that the legislation is applied correctly. The statistics to be provided to Eurostat are therefore based on precise legal texts, directly applicable in the Member States, and on definitions and procedures which have to a large extent been harmonised. Different legislation applies to statistics on trade between Member States (known as “intra-EU trade statistics” or “Intrastat”) and trade between Member States and countries that are not members of the European Union (“extra-EU trade statistics” or “Extrastat”).
23. Annex 2 gives a complete list of references to the relevant Community legislation. The position, however, is not static with new legislation regularly being updated and adapted to reflect new needs and to further harmonise practices . Indeed, two important Commission regulations were introduced in September 2000 which consolidated and improved the legislation relating to the implementation of the original basic regulations.
24. The user of trade statistics does not require a detailed knowledge of this legislation. The consequences of the legislation in terms of issues of concern

¹ A set of actions relating to the trans-European network for the collection, production and dissemination of statistics on the intra- and extra-EU trading of goods (Edicom)

to the user, such as the trade systems and classifications used, are set out in Section 2 – Methods – below.

1.4.1. Intra-European Union trade

25. Statistics on trade between the Member States of the European Union are based on Council Regulation (EEC) No 3330/91 of 7 November 1991 and on the various implementing Regulations which lay down or supplement the rules on methodology, thresholds and questionnaires. The Intrastat system, which was created as a means of collection of these statistics, came into operation on 1 January 1993. Its main features are given in the following paragraphs.
26. It provides for **direct collection of information from companies**, which send the relevant national administration a summary declaration for the previous month's operations. In France and Italy, these declarations also serve statistical and fiscal purposes.
27. It is based on a **close link with the VAT system** relating to intra-EU trade. The tax authorities of the Member States are required, at least once every quarter, to transmit to the statistical services a list of operators who have made purchases or sales and the value of these operations, so that the exhaustiveness and quality of the statistical data can be checked.
28. It aims **to reduce the burden on companies as far as possible**. For all companies involved, Intrastat meant a lighter workload compared with the previous system. The application of a threshold system meant, in practice, that very many operators were exempted from any formalities or the information which they had to provide was significantly reduced. The burden on providers is regularly reviewed.
29. Measures to **modernise data collection production and dissemination** have been introduced as part of a program called EDICOM. Numerous tools were developed. They were intended for both the information providers (for example, IDEP software helping in the compilation of declarations) and the national statistical services (collection and processing of statistical data).

1.4.2. Extra-European Union trade

30. Statistics on the European Union's trade with non-member countries are currently based on Council Regulation No 1172/95 of 22 May 1995. Two features of Regulation 1172/95 deserve special mention.
31. The subject of extra-EU trade statistics and the information which they contain are defined with reference to the legislation and **customs procedures**, whereas the collection of data is based mainly on the Single Administrative Document (SAD).
32. In order to meet their **specific national needs**, the Member States collect and process other information which is contained in the SAD but which is not

required at Community level. Similarly, particular requirements governing certain fields exist at national level in the absence of harmonisation at Community level. This is particularly so in the case of 'specific movements', for example, military goods and postal consignments (see 2.4). Some Member States also compile statistics on transit, customs warehouses and free zones.

1.4.3. Other Community legislation

33. There is a range of other legislation which has relevance to statistics on trading in goods:

- Council² regulations relating to EU statistics, which provide a reference framework for all statistics, including those for trade;
- Customs regulations, particularly the community customs code and regulations for product nomenclature;
- decisions regarding the electronic exchange of information that serves as a reference framework for the Edicom program.

1.4.4. International recommendations and provisions

34. In addition to the EU legal requirements there are a number of international recommendations and conventions relevant to this topic although they do not generally have direct legal force. Among them, many recommendations, as noted in 2.0 below, are contained in the United Nations Statistics Division publication *International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions (Series M, No 52, Rev.2)* (IMTS) which represents an international reference publication on this subject.

35. A set of definitions concerning Customs issues that are relevant for some data on trade statistics is given within the Kyoto Convention (*International convention on the simplification and harmonisation of customs procedures*).

1.4.5. National legislation

36. While EU legislation harmonised most important aspects of the data that are compiled by Member States for transmission to Eurostat, members of the EU have the freedom to publish national statistics on alternative bases. Where such distinctions are important they are discussed in the relevant part of the guide (see 2.17.1).

37. Member States draw up their own instructions or national regulations. It is not the purpose of the guide to set out this legislation which may be available, however, from the national authorities listed in Annex 1.

² n°322/97 of 17.2.97 JO L52 of 22.2.97

2. METHODS

2.0. General

38. The statistics of trading in goods by the European Union (EU) cover both outward flows from Member States and inward flows into Member States. Methodology differs in a number of ways for external trade of the EU (extra-EU trade) or for trade between Member States (intra-EU trade).
39. In broad terms, outward flows from a Member State to a non-member country are called "exports": outward flows from one Member state to another are called "dispatches". Inward flows from a non-member country are called "imports": inward flows from another Member State are called "arrivals".
40. There is a range of methodological issues relevant to the definition and measurement of these international trade flows . These are considered fully in the United Nations Statistics Division publication *International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions (Series M, No 52, Rev.2)* (IMTS) which sets out internationally agreed recommendations for the treatment of the various issues.
41. Both the EU legislation and national practices are for the most part in line with the recent recommendations of the United Nations (1998). But there are some differences. This guide concentrates on describing the Community rules .
42. Community rules differ as between intra-EU trade and extra-EU trade. The following sections describe the main features of the largely harmonised statistics on trade in goods as published by Eurostat. It should be noted, however, that data published by individual Member States of their own trade do not always follow the concepts and definitions applicable for data transmitted to Eurostat. The main differences are mentioned in 2.17.

2.1. Trade systems

2.1.1. General trade and special trade

43. There are broadly two approaches, closely linked with customs procedures, used for the measurement of international trade in goods. These are the general trade system and the special trade system.
44. The general trade system is the wider concept and under it the recorded aggregates include all goods entering or leaving the economic territory of a

country with the exception of simple transit trade. In particular, all goods which are received into customs warehouses are recorded as imports at that stage whether or not they subsequently go into free circulation in the Member State of receipt. Similarly, outgoing goods from customs warehouses are included in the general trade aggregates at the time they leave the Member State.

45. The special trade system, on the other hand, is a narrower concept. Goods from a foreign country which are received into customs warehouses are not recorded in the special trade aggregates unless they subsequently go into free circulation in the country of receipt (or are placed under the customs procedures for inward processing). Similarly, outgoing goods from customs warehouses are not recorded as exports.
46. The differences between the two systems cause in particular a time lag when the movements are recorded, but it is more than that. For example, goods from country A, placed in a customs warehouse of country B and re-exported from there to country C will appear in general trade statistics for country B (if such a system is applied) but never in special trade statistics for that country.
47. Statistics on extra-EU trade are compiled on a special trade basis. Intra-EU trade statistics, however, which are defined specifically in terms of the Intrastat system and do not have a direct link to customs procedures, are not compiled on a general or special trade basis.
48. For their main national figures of extra-trade, twelve Member States use a special trade basis as required for data transmitted to Eurostat; three Member States, Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom, use the general trade system but provide extra-EU trade data to Eurostat on a special trade basis. Germany, and perhaps other Member States, also publish some figures of trade on a general trade basis.
49. All Member States base their measurement of intra-EU trade on Intrastat system rules. However, the United Kingdom publish their national figures of intra-EU trade fully on a general trade basis, including goods under custom control . They differ, therefore, from the figures they provide to Eurostat.

2.1.2. Intra-European Union trade

50. Intra-EU trade statistics record the arrival and dispatch of goods flowing between Member States according to the rules of the Intrastat system.
51. **Arrivals** in a given Member State include:
 - a) goods in free circulation which enter the statistical territory (see 2.5 below) of the Member State;
 - b) goods which have been placed under the customs procedure for inward processing or processing under customs control (for processing, transformation or repair) in another Member State and which enter the

statistical territory of the Member State in question;

- c) some goods movements are included in statistics based on specific conditions (see 2.4 below). In particular, aircraft and ships whose ownership has been transferred from a person established in another Member State to a person established in the Member State in question are included in the statistics of arrivals of this latter Member State.

52. **Dispatches** from a given Member State include:

- a) goods in free circulation which leave the statistical territory of the Member State bound for another Member State;
- b) goods which have been placed under the customs procedure for inward processing or processing under customs control (for processing, transformation or repair) in the Member State and which are destined for another Member State;
- c) some goods movements are included in statistics based on specific conditions (see 2.4 below). In particular, aircraft and ships whose ownership has been transferred from a person established in the Member State in question to a person established in another Member State are included in the statistics on dispatches of the former Member State.

53. Statistics do not cover goods in transit, that is goods that are merely passing across a Member State, by any means of transport, but are not stored there for any but transport reasons.

54. Diagrams illustrating the procedure for the statistical recording of arrivals and dispatches are given in Annexes 3A and 3B.

2.1.3. **Extra-European Union trade**

55. Extra-EU trade statistics record goods imported and exported by the European Union.

56. **Imports** into a given Member State include :-

- a) goods which enter the statistical territory of the Member State from a non-member country and are:
 - placed under the customs procedure for release into free circulation (goods that will be consumed in the importing Member State or dispatched to another Member State), either immediately or after a period in a customs warehouse; or
 - placed under the customs procedure for inward processing or processing under customs control (usually goods destined to be processed, transformed or repaired for subsequent re-export) either immediately or after a period in a customs warehouse.
- b) some movements of goods are included in statistics based on specific conditions (see 2.4 below). In particular, aircraft and ships whose ownership has been transferred from a person established in a

non-member country to a person established in the Member State in question are included in import statistics of this Member State.

57. **Exports** from a given Member State include:
- a) goods which leave the statistical territory (see 2.5 below) of the Member State bound for a non-member country after having been placed:
 - under the customs export procedure (final export, export following inward processing, etc.); or
 - under the customs outward-processing procedure (usually goods destined to be processed, transformed or repaired for subsequent re-import).
 - b) some goods movements are included in statistics based on specific conditions (see 2.4 below). In particular, aircraft and ships whose ownership has been transferred from a person established in the Member State in question to a person established in a non-member country are included in export statistics of that Member State.
58. Extra-EU trade statistics do not, therefore, record exchanges involving goods in transit, placed in a customs warehouse (purely for storage) or given temporary admission (for trade fairs, temporary exhibitions, tests,...).
59. Diagrams of the procedure for the statistical recording of imports and exports are given in Annexes 3A and 3B.

2.2. Coverage

60. In broad terms, the aim of international trade statistics is to record all imports or exports of goods that add to or subtract from the stock of material resources of a country.
61. There are inevitably some problems in practice in defining the precise boundary that corresponds to the theoretical aim and more so in implementing the regular, timely and detailed production of monthly data.
62. The coverage of the statistics that are required to be sent to Eurostat follows almost entirely from Community legislation although on a few points the interpretation is implicit rather than explicit. The following paragraphs indicate the major areas that may raise problems.
63. **Barter trade** is included (although there are inevitably some problems of valuation).
64. Goods on **consignment** are included. (Goods on consignment are goods intended for sale but not actually sold at the time they cross the frontier).
65. Goods on **operational lease** are generally excluded but are included in their national figures and in the figures that they provide to Eurostat by France, Greece and Sweden.

- 66. **Goods on financial lease** are generally included. (A financial lease effectively transfers the ownership of the goods to the lessee).
- 67. **Goods traded between enterprises under common ownership** are included (although this may raise problems of valuation).
- 68. **Goods traded on government account** are generally included.
- 69. Trade in **electrical energy** – and indeed gas and water - is included (even though electrical energy might not be intuitively seen as a physical good).
- 70. **Goods in transit** (either in simple transit or transit involving transshipment) across the European Union area are not included in trade statistics. However, goods which enter the European Union area, are released into free circulation and are then transferred from the Member State of entry to another Member State or, conversely, originate in one Member State but leave the European Union area through another where customs procedures are carried out, must be included in statistics .
- 71. Four Member States (Austria, Denmark, Luxembourg and Netherlands) do not follow this practice in their national figures and goods in transit are excluded from statistics. Before 1998 Belgium also did not cover these flows.
- 72. Statistics do not generally include **illegal trade**, for obvious practical reasons, although figures for Germany include illegal trade that has been discovered. (That may also be the practice for some other countries)
- 73. **Improvement and repair trade** is generally included but Denmark, France and Finland exclude it from their national figures. (See also the treatment of the repair of transport equipment which is mentioned in 2.4 below)

2.3. Exclusions

- 74. The implementing Regulations covering the compilation of intra-EU and extra-EU trade statistics contain explicit exclusions lists, which are very similar (see lists in Annex 4).
- 75. The list of exclusions also includes means of payment which are legal tender and securities and monetary gold. Monetary gold is gold effectively held by a country's authorities as a reserve asset. Trade in "non-monetary gold" is, therefore, included; the United Kingdom is unable for practical reasons to include monetary and non-monetary gold held as a store of value; both are therefore excluded by this Member State.
- 76. Trade data generally reflect the coverage implied by the list of exclusions although for Greece which, for practical reasons, includes goods on temporary admission in their main national figures, the EU data also include these goods.
- 77. It should be noted that statistics of intra-EU trade do not cover transactions between private individuals.

2.4. Specific movements

78. Specific movements are defined within Community legislation as movements of goods whose characteristics are significant for the interpretation of the information. The characteristics may relate to the movement itself, the nature of the goods, the transaction which originates the movement, or the exporter or importer of the goods.
79. They are often categories of goods where the general guidelines given above may not entirely clearly indicate whether the categories should be included or excluded from trade statistics. They may also be categories where there are particular difficulties of data collection.
80. These “specific movements” of goods as currently defined in the Community legislation are:-
- a) industrial plants;
 - b) vessels and aircraft;
 - c) sea products;
 - d) ships’ and aircraft’s stores and supplies;
 - e) staggered consignments;
 - f) military goods;
 - g) offshore installations;
 - h) spacecraft and spacecraft launchers;
 - i) motor vehicle and aircraft parts;
 - j) postal consignments (extra-EU trade only);
 - k) petroleum products (extra-EU trade only);
 - l) waste products.
81. The collection and processing of information relating to these goods are generally covered by special rules. For both intra-EU trade and extra-EU trade, harmonised rules are contained within the regulations for (a) and (b) and (d) to (h) above. In the absence otherwise of harmonised statistical rules at Community level, national special provisions are applicable.
82. Some of the trade involving specific movements of goods is included in statistics published by Eurostat under alphanumeric codes (see Annex 5) rather than relevant headings of the numeric product nomenclature.

2.5. Statistical territory

83. The statistical territory of the European Union (and its Member States) corresponds generally to its customs territory. However, the statistical

territory (but not the customs territory) of Germany includes Heligoland and until 31 December 1996, the statistical territories of France and Spain did not include the French overseas departments – Guadeloupe, Guyana, Martinique and Réunion - and the Canary Islands respectively (which are part of the customs territories of the two Member States). A description of the customs territory of the EU, and hence of its statistical territory, is given in Annex 6.

2.6. Nomenclatures and classifications

2.6.0. General

84. The basic classifications to be used for trade statistics are laid down in Community legislation and are necessarily used by all Member States. These classifications are discussed in the following sub-sections.

2.6.1. Product classifications

2.6.1.1. Combined Nomenclature

85. The most detailed results which can be accessed by the public are broken down by sub-headings of the Combined Nomenclature (CN). This tariff and statistical classification, based on the international classification known as the Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System, or more simply the Harmonised System or HS, includes more than 10 000 eight-digit codes.

86. Some changes are made to CN once a year to ensure that it is kept up date to reflect developing technology and trade exchanges. Diverging interests exist between users, who as a general rule seek more detail, and providers who would prefer to give less.

87. There are also alphanumeric product codes which make it possible to process confidential or adjusted data, and a number of individual cases for which it is not always possible to break the results down at a detailed level of the classification. These codes are accessible via the COMEXT database (see Annex 5).

88. The shape of the HS and CN classifications is illustrated in the following table.

Architecture of the classification (in 2002)

Nomenclature	Levels of breakdown	Code	Number
Harmonised System (HS)	Section	One digit	21
	Chapter	Two digits	99
	Heading	Four digits	1 244
	Sub-heading	Six digits	5 224
Combined Nomenclature (CN)	Sub-heading	Eight digits	10 400

SITC	Section	One digit	10
	Division	Two digits	67
	Group	Three digits	261
	Sub-group	Four digits	1 033
	Sub-heading	Five digits	3 118

89. As an example of the classification of a product in the Combined Nomenclature:

Chapter 10 of the HS: cereals

Heading 10 06 of the HS: rice

Sub-heading 10 06 20 of the HS: husked brown rice

Sub-heading 10 06 20 11 of the CN: Parboiled round-grain rice, husked brown rice.

2.6.1.2. TARIC

90. Results are also available at Eurostat in accordance with TARIC sub-headings (Integrated Tariff of the European Communities), although these data cannot be accessed by the general public. TARIC applies only to imports (that is flows from third countries) and concerns Community measures such as quotas or preferences. Each TARIC code comprises 10 digits (a sub-division of a CN eight-digit code).

2.6.1.3. Standard International Trade Classification

91. The HS and CN are in a sense multi-purpose classifications for both Customs and statistical applications. They are therefore concerned heavily with the nature or material of the products. For analytical purposes alternative classifications may be used. Certain results are presented in accordance with the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), which is managed by the United Nations. Aggregated data on trade are often presented by the one and two digit categories of the SITC. An example of a

1-digit category (section) is "chemical products" and of a 2-digit category (division) "medicinal and pharmaceutical products".

92. The adoption of the HS in 1988 necessitated a revision of the SITC. This latest version (Rev. 3) adopts the structure of the HS, so that the smallest modules of the SITC Rev. 3 are defined by HS sub-headings. A link is available from SITC Rev.3 to CN.

2.6.1.4. Other product classifications

93. Before the adoption of HS and CN, external trade statistics used a product classification called **Nimexe**. This is not used any more but users may come across some historic series in terms of this classification.
94. Data on foreign trade may sometimes be published and analysed by a number of other classifications all of which can be related to the finest CN headings that are used to collect the basic data. The following classifications may be encountered by the user.
95. The **Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC)** permits the conversion of international trade data compiled on the SITC into end-use categories that are more meaningful for economic analysis and within the framework of the System of National Accounts (capital, intermediate and consumer goods).
96. The BEC includes nineteen basic categories. The allocation of components of the SITC to BEC is carried out on the basis of the main end-use of the commodities in each SITC, Rev.3, basic heading, although it is recognised that the use of many commodities that are traded internationally, for example passenger cars, may vary .
97. The **Classification of Products by Activity in the European Economic Community (CPA 96)** is a European version of the **United Nations' Central Product Classification (CPC)** but arranged so that each product heading is assignable to a single heading of the European activity classification NACE Rev 1. (See below). A further product classification related to the CPA which is used for studying industrial production is the PRODCOM list. The relationship between the classifications PRODCOM and the CN means that it is possible to compare external trade and domestic production of individual goods at a fine level of detail.

2.6.2. Classification by activity

98. The classification of activities is **NACE Rev 1** which was made obligatory in the European Union from January 1993. It is not a classification of products but of economic activities that create products. However, it is possible to associate the sub-headings of the CN with the activities or industries indicated in NACE Rev 1 and so create an analysis of foreign trade in terms of headings of NACE Rev 1 that are familiar to many users of

industrial statistics.

99. However, it is important to note that such a figure of, say, exports for a particular industry does not represent the exports of that industry when it is defined in the usual business statistics way as the aggregate of statistical units classified to that particular industry. This is because an industry in general makes (and exports) some products that are the products of other industries. Similarly, the analysis of imports may generate confusion.

2.6.3. Nomenclature of countries and territories

100. It is essential to have a precise definition of countries (and territories) to be recorded as trading partners in the compilation of foreign trade statistics. It is also convenient to have a standard set of abbreviations for these countries. The nomenclature of countries and territories to be used for the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States was defined by the Commission. For some countries, it is necessary to define exactly what is to be understood as its territory. For example, for the purposes of extra-EU trade statistics, the territory of the United States includes Puerto Rico but that of New Zealand excludes the Ross Dependency.
101. Since 1 January 1999 the country nomenclature has formally been based, at collection level, on the ISO alpha-2 classification, which means that each country is identified with a two-letter alphabetical code. For example, FR stands for France and GB for the United Kingdom (see coding system in Annex 10).
102. Particular care is needed in the use of country aggregates to check whether, where a definition of a zone has changed over time, the data series are constructed using current definitions of the zones or using those that applied for the reference year of the data concerned.

2.7. Reference period

103. **Intra-EU trade statistics** are compiled monthly. The reference period is the calendar month, the information for each arrival or dispatch being assigned to a given month on the basis of the date on which Value Added Tax becomes payable. In practice, information is generally recorded in the month in which the goods were traded or, failing that, the following month.
104. **Extra-EU trade statistics** are also compiled monthly. The reference period in theory is again the calendar month in which the goods are imported or exported. In practice, information is generally assigned to the month in which the customs authority accepts the declaration.
105. For balance of payments purposes, the reference timing is that of change of ownership. In practice, it would be difficult to operate such a definition for international trade figures and in any event that would not in theory be such a

satisfactory definition for those interested in the transport aspects of the trade data. However, it is believed that the definitions used generally coincide with the timing of ownership changes, although by no means always.

106. In Eurostat publications, quarterly and yearly data are formed from the aggregation of the relevant months. National practices in the treatment of revisions and corrections, however, may mean that the position is more complex and figures for a quarter or a year may be published which are not exactly the aggregates of published monthly figures.

2.8. Statistical thresholds

2.8.0. General

107. In order to limit the burden on businesses of providing information on trade, while at the same time maintaining an acceptable quality of data, a system of thresholds is operated for both intra-EU trade and extra-EU trade below which no information, or reduced information, is collected.

2.8.1. Intra-EU trade thresholds

108. In order to reduce the burden on enterprises, particularly small and medium sized ones, the Intrastat system is designed so that the workload for information providers varies according to the amount of trade in which they are engaged. To achieve this, each Member State applies a system of thresholds aimed at guaranteeing a satisfactory quality of statistical data and limiting the workload for companies. (The adjustments carried out by some Member States to estimate for information not collected because of these thresholds are discussed in Annex 8).
109. There are various types of threshold. They are discussed in the following paragraphs.
110. It has already been mentioned that intra-EU trade statistics do not cover arrivals and dispatches effected by private individuals. In addition small businesses which are exempt from periodic value added tax declarations are exempt also from Intrastat declarations
111. There is an **assimilation threshold** below which no statistical declaration is required. In certain Member States, however, estimates are made on the basis of historical or tax data .
112. The Community legislation provides for a **simplification threshold**, below which only data on 'product', 'partner Member State' and 'value' are required. Moreover, only the ten most important subheadings in terms of value of the CN need be provided. This threshold is applied in France and Luxembourg only.

113. There is a **specific** threshold which has exempted some information providers from reporting some data (statistical value, which is calculated by the statistical institute, delivery terms, mode of transport and "statistical procedure").
114. There is a **transaction threshold** which allows information providers to group together transactions with individual values of less than 100 euro.
115. The thresholds applied by the individual Member States are agreed annually. Those in operation since 1993 are set out in Annex 7.

2.8.2. Extra-EU trade threshold

116. Extra-EU trade statistics do not cover imports and exports whose value and net mass are lower than statistical thresholds fixed by Member States within the limits permitted by Community legislation. The limits in the legislation are fixed so that no export or import with neither net mass of more than one tonne nor a value of more than 1000 euros need be recorded. Since 2002, legislation, however, requires Member States to adjust their statistical data to incorporate trade below the threshold in their total results.
117. The amount of trade below the thresholds adopted by the Member States is generally below 1% for both imports and exports. The amount may be higher for some particular products.

2.9. Statistical data

2.9.1. Intra-EU trade data

118. The main statistical data published by Eurostat for intra-EU trade are as follows:
- the declaring Member State
 - the reference period
 - the flow
 - the product, as defined in the Common Nomenclature
 - the trading partner (see 2.11)
 - the statistical value (see 2.12)
 - the net mass (in tonnes) (see 2.13.1)
 - the quantity in any supplementary units (litres, number of parts, etc.) (see 2.13.2)
 - the mode of transport (see 2.14.1).

2.9.2. Extra-EU trade data

119. All the data described in paragraph 118 are also available for extra-EU trade. In addition data are available to the public for trade with third countries on:-
- the statistical procedure (see 2.10)
 - the nationality of the means of transport at the frontier (see 2.14.2)
 - whether or not the goods are transported in a container (2.14.3)
120. Information on tariff data (TARIC, preference) is also available in COMEXT, but access is restricted to public authorities.

2.10. Statistical procedure

2.10.0. General

121. Within extra-EU trade, goods may be transferred from a Member State to a third country, or the other way around, under Customs control, and then return to the country of departure. Community legislation requires that these transfers are classified in various categories. These categories are known as statistical procedures, following from customs procedures.
122. The procedures are described in the paragraphs below. It should be noted that the application of a procedure is independent of the nature of the transaction concerned (purchase/sale, processing under contract, etc.). In particular, some of the goods traded for processing, in the more general economic sense of the term, are included under normal imports and exports.

2.10.1. Normal imports and exports

123. Normal imports and exports are mainly goods exported definitively, or released into free circulation, either directly or via a customs warehouse.

2.10.2. Inward processing trade

124. The inward processing procedure makes it possible to import goods temporarily so that they can be processed (assembled, transformed or repaired) and then to export the resulting compensating products, while benefiting from an exemption from duties, levies or checks which would be carried out under the trade policy normally applicable to imported goods.
125. The 'suspension' system covers non-Community goods, generally destined for re-export outside the Community's customs territory as compensating products, without the goods being subject to import duties or trade policy

measures.

126. The 'drawback system' covers goods in free circulation, with a reimbursement of, or rebate on, import duties relating to these goods if they are exported outside the European Union customs territory as compensating products.
127. Data are available separately on:
- Imports for inward processing (suspension system)
 - Imports for inward processing (drawback system)
 - Exports after inward processing (suspension system).
 - Exports after inward processing (drawback system)

2.10.3. Outward processing trade

128. Outward processing makes it possible to export goods temporarily for processing and to import the compensating products with a full or partial exemption from duties and levies. The 'textiles' variant, introduced in 1995, concerns only certain textile products or clothing, whereas the 'tariff' variant is applicable to all other products.
129. Data are available separately on:-
- Imports after outward processing
 - Imports after outward processing for textiles
 - Exports for outward processing
 - Exports for outward processing for textiles

2.11. Partner country allocation

130. For exports and dispatches, the trading partner is in principle the country (or Member State) of final destination of the goods (as it is known at the time of export/dispatch). This practice is also applied by all Member States in their national figures.
131. For imports (extra-EU trade), the trading partner is the country of origin of the goods. Goods obtained entirely from a given country are regarded as originating in that country; goods produced in two or more countries are deemed to originate in the last country where a substantial processing took place. This concept is applied by all Member States except the Netherlands, who provide data broken down by country of consignment. .
132. In certain well defined cases (returned goods, goods which have been processed in a third country, works of art), the partner country required for imports is the country of consignment.

133. For arrivals (intra-EU trade), the trading partner is the Member State of consignment of the goods. This is the Member State from which the goods were despatched without some halt or legal formality in another country apart from any for transport reasons. Conversely, if there was such an operation in another country, that country becomes the Member State of consignment.
134. The method of trade allocation to a partner country is one major reason for problems that arise with the comparison of national and community figures. (See 2.17.1.)

2.12. Valuation

135. The statistical value, which is used for the trade data, is the value calculated at national frontiers. It is an FOB value (free on board), for exports and dispatches, or CIF (cost, insurance, freight) for imports and arrivals: it therefore includes only incidental expenses (freight, insurance) incurred, in the case of exports and dispatches, in the part of the journey located on the territory of the Member State from which the goods are exported and, in the case of imports and arrivals, in the part of the journey located outside the territory of the Member State into which goods are imported.
136. The statistical value is based on the customs value in the case of extra-EU trade, or on taxable value in the case of intra-EU trade. Under the Intrastat system, the statistical value is not provided systematically by the information providers; it may be calculated by the national authorities from the invoiced amount given in the declaration.
137. In the case of goods imported or exported for processing, it is always the total value of the goods which should be entered, before and after processing, not just the value added by the processing procedure.
138. Values are collected in the national currency. In the Eurostat publications, they are expressed in multiples of euros. The currency conversion is based on the monthly average of the conversion rates or for recent figures the fixed conversion rates from national currencies to euros.

2.13. Quantity measurement

2.13.1. Net mass

139. The most common unit of measurement of quantity used in the collection of trade data is the net mass. This was collected for all goods until 1997. Since then it has not been required for certain categories of goods in intra-EU trade when it is not the most suitable quantity unit.

140. The net mass is the net mass of the goods without packaging. It is collected in kilograms but in publications it is usually expressed in tonnes.

2.13.2. Supplementary units

141. Supplementary units are units other than the net mass, for example, litres, number of parts or square metres. They have to be indicated for certain goods where they are deemed useful. The appropriate supplementary unit is given, where relevant, in the published version of the Combined Nomenclature.

142. There can of course be differences of scale between the units collected and forwarded to Eurostat and those appearing in the publications (for example, hectolitre is used instead of litre). Extra attention is, therefore, necessary.

2.14. Transport data

2.14.1. Mode of transport

143. The "mode of transport" at the frontier is one of the statistical data that are available for both intra-EU and extra-EU trade; however, from 1 January 2001, the collection of mode of transport in intra-EU trade has been optional for Member States and applies only to those providers above a certain threshold.

144. The mode is defined for exports/despaches as the active means of transport with which goods are presumed to leave the statistical territory of the Community for exports or of the Member State of dispatch for dispatches. For imports/arrivals it is defined as the means of transport with which the goods are presumed to have entered the statistical territory of the Community for imports or of the territory of the relevant Member State for arrivals.

145. The modes of transport put forward to be distinguished by the Community legislation are:

- Sea transport
- Rail transport
- Road transport
- Air transport
- Postal consignment
- Fixed transport installations
- Inland water transport
- Own propulsion

Further detail may be collected by Member States.

2.14.2. Nationality of means of transport

146. For extra-EU trade, data are collected on the nationality of the means of transport at the Community frontier when the transport is by sea, road, air or inland waterway.

2.14.3. Containerisation

147. Again for extra-EU trade, information is collected on whether or not goods are transported in containers (except for postal consignment or the own propulsion category).

2.15. Confidentiality (methodology)

2.15.1. Confidential data

148. As a general definition, data used by the national and Community authorities for the production of Community statistics are considered confidential when they allow statistical units to be identified, either directly or indirectly, so disclosing individual information. The precise operational criteria determining which statistical data are considered confidential are fixed by each Member State in the light of national legislation or practice.

149. Data can be classed as confidential for all types of trade flows (imports, exports, arrivals or dispatches); confidentiality can concern both value and quantity variables, all the partner countries or a particular partner country. The considerable amount of detail of external trade data that combines the products of the Combined Nomenclature with partner country means that the potential for the creation of confidential data is extremely high.

2.15.2. Passive confidentiality

150. For statistics on trading in goods Member States generally apply the principle of "passive confidentiality", that is they have to take appropriate measures only at the request of importers or exporters who feel that their interests would be harmed by the dissemination of the data.

2.15.3. Active confidentiality

151. Passive confidentiality is therefore different from "active confidentiality", where the statistical service takes the initiative in acting on a potentially

disclosive situation.

2.15.4. Product confidentiality

152. Information about a product being traded may be regarded as commercially sensitive by the information provider for either the value of trade, the quantity of trade, or perhaps the ratio between the two since this would give an indication of price of the product. There are various ways in which the nature of the product can be concealed although at the cost of a loss of information to the user of the statistics. These methods are discussed further in 4.4.

2.15.5. Country confidentiality

153. Alternatively, in addition, the information provider may regard the origin or destination of a good as commercially sensitive.

2.16. Statistical discrepancies and asymmetries

2.16.1. Asymmetries and "mirror" statistics

154. Users interested in the flow of trade from country A to country B may examine exports from A to B (as reported by A) or imports into B from A (as reported by B) or both. They may use national figures, Eurostat data or those of other international organisations. Each source is likely to give to some extent different data. This causes uncertainty and difficulties for the user.

155. The existence of these discrepancies is an obstacle for the user who may have little way of deciding which source to prefer. But it also represents the starting point for detailed comparison that may help to improve the measurement of flows.

156. In bilateral comparisons it is advisable first to ensure that the comparisons are possible in the sense that data are legitimately comparable. In particular, it is difficult to make comparisons of flows that do not follow from the same basic concept (for example external trade and balance of payments).

157. Problems can arise concerning aggregated data for the "European Union". The exports of the EU to the rest of the world are clearly not the same as the sum of the total exports/dispatches of each Member State since the latter includes intra-EU trade.

158. Bilateral comparison in the form of "mirror" exercises are a traditional tool for detecting the causes of differences in statistics.

159. "Mirror" statistics may be compiled for extra-EU or intra-EU trade statistics, using either national data or harmonised data. Some sources of asymmetries

are common to all these data sets, while others have an impact on a specific one only. "Mirror" statistics of conceptually harmonised Intrastat data should generally be less affected by asymmetries than those for extra-EU trade.

2.16.2. Intra-EU statistical discrepancies

160. In theory, intra-EU statistics of Member States are easily compared – in particular if the COMEXT source is used rather than national figures, since:
- the data to be compared are drawn up on the basis of a broadly common methodology and common definitions;
 - the problem of the FOB and CIF valuations generally plays a smaller role in view of the geographical context and the structure of intra-Community trade;
 - given the rules for determining reference periods, time delays should not have a such a large impact - at least on annual results;
 - the trading partner for arrivals is always the Member State of consignment, not the country of origin of the goods.
161. However, since the Intrastat system came into operation, bilateral comparisons have revealed major and persistent discrepancies in the various Member States' intra-EU trade statistics. The main reasons are given in the following paragraphs.
162. Intrastat is based on a system of thresholds (see 2.8 and 4.2) which makes it possible to exempt two-thirds of operators (especially small and medium-sized enterprises) from statistical formalities. For a given transaction, therefore a company might be required to provide statistical information in one Member State, whereas its supplier or customer in another Member State is exempted. The coverage of trade, after application of the statistical thresholds, has varied between 93% and almost 100% depending on the Member State. The imbalance caused by the thresholds can be reduced at a global level by means of adjustments, but not all Member States make such adjustments and, if they do, they may not do so at the level of detail that is relevant for the comparison.
163. The phenomenon of late or non-response by certain companies is a serious weakness in the Intrastat system. The non-response rate has decreased since 1993, but remains high, with over 10% of companies failing to provide information. This represents about 3-4% in terms of value at Community level. There does not appear to be a significant downward trend in this rate. The majority of Member States try to offset the loss of coverage by means of adjustments (ranging from less than 1% to 14% of the trade value).
164. It is possible that an operation is not published by one of the two partners because of statistical confidentiality but is by the other. However, the application of confidentiality procedures should not generally affect the results for total trade.

165. Although adjustments (see 4.2) are carried out designed to improve the quality of the statistics and compensate for the negative effects of non-response and thresholds, they do not avoid inconsistencies between the statistics of the various Member States, because of the lack of methodological harmonisation. Moreover, five Member States (France, Greece, Italy, Spain and Portugal) do not adjust the data forwarded to Eurostat.
166. In theory, with the Intrastat system there should be no time lag between the date of registration of a transaction as a dispatch in one Member State and the date on which the same transaction is recorded as an arrival in another. In practice, the reference month is generally the month in which the goods are exchanged or, at worst, the following month. However, misapplication of the rules and delays in the data processing can have a non-negligible impact on monthly statistics.
167. Classification of products under one of over 10 000 sub-headings in the Combined Nomenclature can be a problem for businesses - particularly those which are not computerised. The result can be errors and discrepancies at the most detailed level.
168. Although intra-Community trade statistics are based on a methodology which is harmonised to a great extent, there are still a number of specific movements for which, in the absence of common rules, national practices diverge. In particular, in certain cases, simplifications may be allowed which can affect comparisons of results at the most detailed level (see 2.4).
169. Valuation of transactions is one of the main reasons for discrepancies, particularly the use of different methods for calculating the statistical value of dispatches (FOB value) and arrivals (CIF value).
170. Triangular trade can affect comparisons of both intra- and extra-EU trade. In the intra-EU context triangular trade is said to exist in the case of a company in Member State A which sells goods to a company in Member State B, which in turn sells them to a company in Member State C, although the goods are "physically" forwarded only once - from A to C.
171. In cases such as this, intra-Community trade statistics should record a dispatch from A bound for C, and an arrival in C of goods from A. There is, however, a considerable risk that A or C will regard Member State B as its trading partner.

172. An example illustrating another problem linked to indirect movements, in particular when combined with the special treatment of transit trade adopted by some Member States, is given below. (For background see 2.2). The phenomenon described is known as the "Rotterdam" effect.

Japanese goods are imported into Europe; they are released for free circulation in the Netherlands, then dispatched to France (Member State of consumption). For such an operation, the various recordings will be as follows:

For Community statistics, three operations are recorded:

- import of goods originating in Japan (with the Netherlands as the declaring Member State, since the customs declaration is made there);
- dispatch (intra) from the Netherlands to France;
- arrival (intra) in France.

For Netherlands national statistics, no trade is recorded, as the import from Japan and dispatch to France are regarded as transit trade.

For French national statistics, goods originating in Japan are entered as imports. France records Japan as the country of origin, as indicated on the Intrastat declaration. This information is considered statistically more relevant at national level.

2.16.3. Extra-EU statistical discrepancies

173. A comparison of the statistics on extra-EU trade with the figures published by non-member countries for the same trade flows inevitably shows some discrepancies. These exist whether national or Community sources are used.

174. Many of these differences can be largely explained by the following factors:

- Methodological differences: trade coverage, definition of partner country, definition of statistical territory, different valuations in theory or practice particularly the difference between FOB and CIF valuations;
- Time lag: the same operation can be recorded under a different reference period because of transport times or also because of processing delays;
- Statistical confidentiality: the same operation cannot be recorded in the trade of one of the two partners because of statistical confidentiality (or the procedures used to avoid disclosure may differ);
- Different practices in the treatment of revisions;
- Problems of currency conversion.

175. These practical and methodological issues can give rise to considerable discrepancies. Eurostat regularly performs a reconciliation of EU trade statistics with those of its main trading partners (for example, USA, Canada and Japan) in order to measure and, so far as possible, explain differences .

2.17. Methodological differences

2.17.1. Differences between Community and national figures

176. There are differences between the methodology applicable to trade statistics published by Eurostat (known as Community figures) and those published by Member States. The differences exist because, while the information provided to Eurostat is largely harmonised, Member States may publish data based on different concepts and definitions. Some of these differences have been mentioned in Section 2 and the most important identified there. They are summarised here. Member States may publish more than one version of their trade figures or may separately publish information which could be used for different purposes. The comparisons that follow are made with what is regarded as their main data.
177. The main sources of conceptual differences between national and Community figures are given in the following paragraphs.
178. *Treatment of goods in transit.* Goods in transit through the European Union (both simple transit and transit with transshipment) are not included in trade statistics. However, goods which enter the European Union through one Member State where they are released for free circulation before being transferred to another, or originate in one Member State and leave the EU through another where exports customs formalities are carried out, should be covered in Community data by both Member States. However, four Member States do not currently follow this practice at national level for extra-EU trade and two do not for intra-EU trade.
179. *Trade system.* For extra-EU trade, three Member States use a general trade system completely for their national figures while providing data on a special trade basis to Eurostat. The position is different for intra-EU trade, with only one Member State publishing its figures on a general trade basis but sending data to Eurostat following the Intrastat regulations .
180. *Partner country – imports:* One Member State provides data for their imports to Eurostat on a country of origin basis but publishes them at national level on a country of consignment basis.
181. *Partner country – arrivals:* Six Member States provide data to Eurostat on a country of consignment basis but use country of origin as criterion for their national figures.

Conceptual differences between national figures and those sent to Eurostat by Member States

	A	B	DK	FIN	F	D	GR	IRE	I	L	NL	P	E	S	UK
Goods in Transit	*		*							*	*				
Trade systems			*					*							*
Partner country for imports															*
Partner country for arrivals	*			*	*	*		*					*		

182. It is worth noting that coverage differences, in the sense of the inclusion or exclusion of particular products, do not contribute significantly to the differences in sources. Even if there is some lack of harmonisation in the treatment of some movements or goods, almost always there is a correspondence between the treatment adopted for national figures and that used for data transmitted to Eurostat. The only exceptions known are Denmark and France which exclude from national figures improvement and repair trade while this is covered in the figures that they send to Eurostat.

2.17.2. Differences between Community figures and other international sources

183. No changes are made by Member States in passing data to UN, OECD or IMF. The differences that exist between data published by Eurostat and those published by Member States will therefore exist between Eurostat data and that published by these other international organisations.

184. There are two other practical reasons for discrepancies between the data published by the various international organisations.

185. The first is the issue of revisions. The national practices in revising data to correct past estimates are complex and vary between Member States as does their practice in providing revisions to Eurostat and other international organisations. It is clear that against this background it is likely that the data published by different organisations and related to different generations of data may differ .

186. Having a less important effect, methods to convert national data onto a common currency – euro for Community figures, dollars for other sources – may be different. For example, if the data flow to an international organisation is only annual, it seems the conversion must be carried out with an annual factor. This will produce different results from conversion on a monthly basis; the latter - used by Eurostat - is of course preferable.

187. These data management problems are regarded as major contributory factors to the differences. An agreement has been reached to limit the problem laying down that UN will obtain data from OECD and this organisation will be provided with totals for the EU and for the euro-zone by Eurostat.

188. However, users of multiple sources should be aware of these problems. The selection of a source may be based on other factors such as how old, how detailed or how up-to-date the information available is. From this standpoint

it is worth noting that the Community database COMEXT is based on a regular monthly flow of data that should allow revisions to be taken on a regular basis .

3. DATA COLLECTION

3.0. General

- 189 This guide is aimed at users of trade statistics and does not have the objective of giving a detailed description of collection procedures. Nevertheless in this section a little general information is given on this issue.
190. A fundamental aspect of those procedures is that intra-EU flows are measured twice by Member States – both as dispatches and as arrivals.

3.1. Data sources

191. Information on extra-EU trade is collected by the Member States from the statistical copy of the customs declaration (SAD). Several Member States use simplified collection procedures (for example, electronic declarations), which do not generally affect the content of the information forwarded to Eurostat.
192. Information on intra-EU trade is collected by the Member States using the various media placed at the disposal of the information providers. These may be the Intrastat forms made available in conformity with Commission Regulation (EEC) No.3590/92 or other media (including electronic media) provided for at national level. France and Italy use a form that is for both statistical and tax purposes. The declarations are summary and are addressed directly to the competent national administrations.
193. The information providers are generally enterprises of a sufficient size according to the thresholds system implemented within the framework of Intrastat.
194. For intra-EU trade (and to a lesser extent for extra-EU trade) there are a number of thresholds below which the information is either absent or simplified. These have been adopted to limit the burden on information providers, while preserving an acceptable quality of statistical information.
195. Within the framework of Intrastat, Eurostat has developed a number of tools designed to facilitate the various stages of statistics production: completion of the declaration (using electronic forms and software), exchange of data between providers and the national administrations, data processing at national level, exchange of data between the national authorities and Eurostat and, finally, dissemination. All these tools have been developed under the

EDICOM Programme (**E**lectronic **D**ata **I**nterchange in **C**ommerce).

196. For certain particular types of goods (ships and aircraft, for example), the statistical services may use other sources of information for both intra-EU and extra-EU trade.

3.2. Register of Providers of Statistical Information (PSIs)

197. An important tool for the statistics collection and compilation process is the register of information providers and indeed it is a mandatory requirement that a register is created and managed of units involved in intra-EU trade.

198. Three main uses for the register can be distinguished:

- The register provides an aid to efficient and timely collection. It can be used to monitor the receipt of information and operate reminder procedures;
- The register provides assistance in quality checking of received data, in particular by facilitating comparisons with past data;
- The register is an aid to analytical work. It provides a means of estimating for those units that have not responded or are below a threshold.

3.3. Data transmission

199. Once the data have been collected, checked and processed by the Member States, they are forwarded to Eurostat on electronic media which meet precise standards.

200. The data transmission deadlines to Eurostat are:

- for extra-EU trade: six weeks after the end of the reference month;
- for intra-EU trade: eight weeks after the end of the reference month to which the results refer in the case of total values of trade (by trading partner) and ten weeks for fully detailed results.

201. Not all Member States are currently able to meet these transmission timetables although the situation has improved in recent years. Eurostat publish preliminary aggregates using, if necessary, estimates for missing countries.

202. Inevitably, the data first sent for a month are subject to the possibility of later revision, as a consequence of errors, omissions or – particularly with the Intrastat system – late declarations by information providers.

4. DATA PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS

4.1. Quality control

203. There are a range of aspects that are relevant to the quality of data: accuracy, measured in some suitable way, but also timeliness, availability and coherence with other data. This section is concerned essentially with the accuracy of the data and the methods used to check it.
204. The prime responsibility for ensuring the accuracy of the published trade data rest with national authorities . They generally have access to the detailed data, often at the individual transaction level, which facilitates many checking procedures. They are in contact with the information providers to follow-up incorrect or doubtful declarations.
205. Some procedures of control are quite basic. They ensure that documents have been fully completed and that codes entered are valid and that the correct units have been used.
206. Other checks are more sophisticated and assess the plausibility of the basic data, and sometimes aggregates, both in themselves and in comparison with other variables (for example past data).
207. Further limited checks are carried out by Eurostat, essentially to ensure that the transmission of the requested data has been carried out satisfactorily.
208. Another type of control can be carried out under the auspices of Eurostat or by Member States; it is a "mirror" comparison of trade flows between two countries measured by each of the partner countries This is a fruitful method of identifying recurring problem areas (See 2.16 above).
209. As in all statistical work, a balance has to be struck between the resources devoted to checking and the likely benefit. With many millions of individual data forming the basis of trade statistics it is impossible to achieve complete accuracy for the published statistics. This places two important recommendations for users.
210. The first is to become aware of the margin of inaccuracies in the data used. This is particularly so in the commodity codes. The CN structure is detailed and, while it is supported by very precise explanatory notes, coding is not always easy.
211. A further major problem which may lead to inaccurate statistics, and that is certainly a constraint on the use of detailed data, is the practice of concealing confidential information. (See 2.15 and 4.4.).
212. The second recommendation for users of detailed information is to regard themselves as part of the checking procedure. In practice they will often have specialist knowledge that allows them to identify plausibility of published

data. Eurostat and the national offices will generally welcome any comment on the disseminated data.

4.2. Adjustments

4.2.0. General

213. The discussion here is primarily concerned with adjustments made to the trade statistics of Member States because of the incomplete coverage within the framework of Intrastat but also, to a much lesser extent, for extra-EU trade. This use of the term "adjustments" should not be confused with the procedures adopted to convert data produced following the standards for international trade into data in conformity with the system of national accounts or the balance of payments. (See points 1.2 above and 4.2.3 below).
214. Some Member States choose to make some corrections for incomplete coverage only in their balance of payment figures rather than in their trade statistics on which their balance of payments figures are based. These Member States feel that the lack of reliable product or partner country detail makes the adjustments more suitable for the more aggregated figures in the goods account of the balance of payments.

4.2.1. Adjustment of values

215. Sub-section 2.8.1 discussed the various statistical thresholds that exist within the Intrastat system. In order to minimise the burden on information providers these thresholds remove or reduce the data requirements for smaller and medium-sized enterprises. In addition, there is inevitably a problem of late or non-response by information providers.
216. There is not yet a harmonised approach to these problems. However, the majority of Member States make adjustments for some or all of these factors in their national trade statistics; these adjustment are generally passed to Eurostat. Consequently, the issue of adjustments, while significant in relation to the quality of Community data is not a major factor in the differences between data published by Eurostat and that published by national offices and made available to other international organisations.
217. The overall results published by Eurostat take into account the adjusted results provided by nine Member States, and are available in a specific domain - the 'Intra-Trade Adjusted Data' domain, which contains monthly results, broken down by trading partner.
218. In addition, the adjustments made by seven Member States are included in the results broken down by product, either at the sub-heading level of the Combined Nomenclature (Austria, Denmark) or in Chapter 99 (see Annex 5).

219. The Intrastat regulation in principle excludes trade carried out by private individuals or very small enterprises which are not subject to VAT obligations. A priori, no adjustments are made to balance this loss of information.
220. More detailed information on individual Member States' adjustment practices for Intrastat data is given in Annex 8.
221. The position is less complex for Member States' trade with non-member countries. Almost all Member States operate a threshold below which individual transactions are not recorded. Five Member States (Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands and United Kingdom) already make estimates of the amount of trade below this threshold and include them both in their national figures and in the data they send to Eurostat. Since 2002, such adjustments have been mandatory.

4.2.2. Adjustment of quantities

222. There are two general situations in which quantity information can be estimated. When Member States operate a simplification threshold, and when information on quantities for certain products is not requested (see adjustment practices in Member States, Annex 8).

4.2.3. Adjustments to a balance of payments basis

223. Most Member States estimate the goods account of their balance of payments by making adjustments to their international trade statistics to meet the different definitions required for the balance of payments. (Belgium and Greece, however, use information on settlements.) In practice, these adjustments aim to convert the international trade statistics to the basis required for the national accounts since flows of goods and services are defined, in terms of coverage, in virtually identical fashion in the manuals relating to national accounts and balance of payment.
224. The necessary adjustments deal with differences of coverage, the treatment of particular operations and the time of recording of the transaction. In addition, as said, some Member States make adjustments to deal with the incomplete coverage of their trade statistics.
225. These adjustments are not discussed further in this guide. It should, however, be stressed again that it is necessary to distinguish carefully between the two methods of calculation to avoid confusion and to note that international trade statistics provide the most suitable data set for the measurement of physical flows of goods.

4.3. Revisions

226. Sub-section 3.3 noted that early versions of data sent to Eurostat by Member States are inevitably subject to revision for a number of reasons. Member States must inform Eurostat of the revisions to be made for each past month. Several Member States regularly make such corrections. Some transmit revisions only once a year to Eurostat for an entire 12-month period. Corrections, when received, are entered in the databases. They can entail many, often major, modifications to the published results.
227. Original data and revisions are entered onto the COMEXT database as soon as practicable. The users of the on-line database have the benefit of the latest data available, although the lack of known timetables for updating can lead to the possibility of confusion.
228. When mistakes refer to relatively old data, national administrations judge the desirability of revising the data.
229. Member States revise their national figures and those sent to Eurostat, often on different timetables. They in general provide revisions of their data to other international organisations. This is (as already mentioned) another reason for differences between data published by Eurostat and data published by various other international organisations.

4.4. Confidentiality (processing)

4.4.1. Confidential data

230. Sub-section 2.15 outlined the methodology for treating confidential data. The treatment of confidential data rests with Member States who, with the exception of the Netherlands, adopt identical procedures for their national figures and the data they send to Eurostat. It is believed that no difference exists between national figures and data provided to other international organisations.

The data can be camouflaged only on the level of the results detailed by product. Member States' real trade with a particular partner country - at total exports and imports level - is thus known.

231. Confidentiality has an inevitable effect on the quality of the data. In particular the existence of data regarded as confidential can change over time and so create discontinuities in the series. In order to minimise this effect on the quality and usefulness of the published data, the treatment that has been adopted is documented so far as is possible in the COMEXT database without of course disclosing the actual information (see below and Annex 5.) There are mainly two types of confidentiality.

4.4.2. Country confidentiality

232. If a Member State wishes to conceal the destination or the origin of a product, the code of the partner country is replaced by a 'secret country' code. This usually distinguishes between intra-EU trade and extra-EU trade.
233. The following example illustrates the use of the "secret country" codes to conceal trading partner information.

Application by a Member State of 'trading partner confidentiality' to exports and dispatches of a particular product

<i>Partners</i>	<i>values</i>
<u>declared trade:</u>	
Germany	1000
Italy	500
Japan	3000
Canada	200
<u>published trade:</u>	
Germany	0
Italy	0
Intra-EU trade	1500
Japan	0
Canada	0
Extra-EU trade	3200

4.4.3. Product confidentiality

234. A Member State may decide to make all or part of the trade under a product code confidential and so suppress the nature of the commodity involved. This may be because the value, quantity or their ratio – as a measure of price – is commercially sensitive. There are various degrees of confidentiality at product level.
235. The trade can be assigned to one of the special codes available in COMEXT containing one or more 'S's after the chapter (the first two digits), followed by the three-digit SITC code. Where the SITC classification is itself confidential, this SITC code is replaced by 999. (See Annex 5 for further details and the list of alpha-numeric codes used.) This method has the advantage that it permits the publication of results not camouflaged on the level of the chapters or SITC groups.

236. The confidential trade relating to one CN code can be hidden under another code from the same chapter with the same 6-digit root. The selected code generally brings together a set of heterogeneous products. This method of concealment makes it possible to obtain HS 2 and 4-digit level results not marred by confidentiality.
237. If trading in the product is so sensitive that the HS chapter under which it should be classified must not be identified, it is included under Chapter 99.
238. As an example, the results relating to CN code 17024010 (isoglucose in solid form, containing, in the dry state, 20% and < 50% by weight of fructose) might be included in COMEXT under one of the following codes:
- 17024090 glucose in solid form and glucose syrup not containing added flavouring or colouring matter, and containing, in the dry state, 20% and < 50% by weight of fructose (excluding isoglucose)
 - 17SSS061 confidential information about trade in Chapter 17 of the CN (sugars and sugar confectionery) and in Group 061 of the SITC Rev 3 (sugars, molasses and honey)
 - 17SSS999 confidential information about trade in Chapter 17 of the CN (sugars and sugar confectionery) and unknown SITC Rev 3 Group
 - 99SSS999 confidential information, unknown product.

4.5. Treatment of discontinuities

239. An almost inevitable problem in the compilation of statistics over time is the existence of discontinuities in the data collected. These can arise from methodological changes, from changes in classification or of definition of aggregates or – as was discussed in 4.4 above - from the application of different procedures for dealing with confidential data.
240. Some of the discontinuities may be insignificant, at least for the major aggregates; others may be sufficiently large to be relevant to interpretation of the data as a time series. While in theory it may seem desirable to remove the discontinuities by reworking back data or estimating it on current definitions, this is often not possible, at least at the detailed level. In the particular case of the creation of discontinuities by the treatment of confidential data, the nature of the problem means that the discontinuities cannot be removed. However, even information on the existence of these discontinuities is a warning for the users.
241. One particular, clearly identified, problem arises from the enlargement of the European Union, for example from the accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden in 1995. The entry of Greece into the euro-zone in January 2001, increasing its membership from eleven to twelve Member States, is another more recent example.

242. The most appropriate treatment for such "discontinuities" is not absolutely clear-cut and may depend on the particular use or analysis for which the data are intended. For example, a study of a time series of euro-zone exports from 1999 onwards should include Greece only if required by the aim of the analysis.
243. A number of causes of discontinuity are worth mentioning:
- German reunification in October 1990. No adjustments to earlier data have been made for this.
 - The introduction of the Intrastat system for recording intra-EU trade in 1993 led to a discontinuity because of changing methods, particularly the introduction of the threshold system.
 - The enlargement of the EU from twelve to fifteen members in 1995. So far as possible the discontinuity has been removed from major time series.
 - Until 31 December 1996 the statistical territory of France did not include the French overseas departments and that of Spain did not include the Canary Islands. (See 2.5.).
 - Since 1999 data recording for Belgium and Luxembourg is separate.
 - The new treatment methods of specific movements laid down in the legislation valid from the year 2001 are also likely to introduce discontinuities difficult to assess.

4.6. Currency conversion (of aggregates)

244. Currency conversion plays two roles in the compilation of trade figures. First there is the need to convert individual transaction values, which may be expressed in any currency, to the currency of the Member State compiling the data. That is a methodological problem touched on in 2.12.
245. There is also the need to convert Member States' aggregate statistics, expressed in their national currencies, into a common currency for the publication of Community data. Until the end of 1998 the common currency was the ECU. Since then it has been the euro. The conversions from national currencies to ECU or euro have been performed using monthly averages of daily exchange rates. These conversion factors are generally provided in Eurostat publications and, of course, for members of the euro-zone coincide with the irrevocably fixed rates for the period 1 January 1999 onwards.
246. It should be noted that conversion at the monthly level can lead to discrepancies between annual data (Eurostat source) and figures from other international sources where the conversion may have been carried out directly (and less satisfactorily) on the annual statistics.

4.7. Analyses

4.7.1. Unit value and volume indices

247. Data provided to Eurostat are in current prices, that is the prices relevant to the reference period concerned. For several analyses it is satisfactory to work in those values. For a study of movements of the current price value over time it may be helpful to convert the series of values into an index form but that is a simple arithmetic operation.
248. However, the development over time of the value of trade flows is determined by both the quantities sold and price variations. For a number of analytical purposes it is necessary to distinguish between these two elements and in particular to measure movements in the volume of trade estimated in constant prices of some previous base year. It is thus desirable to have some measure of the development of price movements of international trade.
249. Over the EU as a whole there is no fully detailed and reliable set of relevant price deflators even at the total trade level that is derived from surveys of export prices which could be used to create series of the volume of trade. (See 4.7.2 below). It is therefore necessary to use the information from the trade system itself on values and related quantities to estimate a set of deflators. These are used to calculate unit value indices and to derive estimates of volumes .
250. The data transmitted for intra- and extra-EU trade statistics are used at their most detailed level, that is 8-digit CN sub-positions and by partner country, for calculating the indices. The movements of "unit values", which are derived from current price values divided by quantities for each flow, are used as indicators of price variations. (The unit value indices are calculated from "normal trade" (see 2.10) only, although total trade is used for the calculation of the volume indices).
251. The calculation programs comprise a first stage for identifying extreme unit values which show implausible price movements and which must be disregarded in the calculations. There are also a limited number of areas (for example, ships) where the division of value by quantity gives an unsatisfactory measure of price performance.
252. As a second stage the system weights the finest level detail together in the most appropriate way. The weighting system adopted by Eurostat for the calculation of the indices uses the principle of chaining. That is, the weights are recalculated each year and movements from year to year are chained to give a longer run of data. This is in contrast to using weights from the pattern of trade in a base year changed only every five years.
253. The chaining procedure has the advantage that the weights used are more relevant to the periods measured and, in particular, improves the estimation

of recent movements – which are generally those of most interest to analysts. It also makes it easier to deal with the annual changes to CN. However, although the calculation system uses weights which are changed annually, the published indices are presented for the convenience of users on reference years that are changed only once every five years. The current reference year for the unit value and volume indices is 2000.

254. The year to year links used in the calculations of the indices use the Fisher formula. This is a geometric average of the Laspeyres index and the Paasche index. (Technical details can be found in Annex 9).
255. The unit value and volume indices are disseminated from the COMEXT database. Indices are available for both exports/dispatches and imports/arrivals for a large number of partner countries and geographic and economic zones cross-analysed by section levels of the SITC Rev 3 and the 16 two-alpha-character headings of CPA/NACE Rev 1 (and aggregates based on them). There are more detailed product indices available by intra-EU trade, extra-EU trade and the world. These include the 3-digit level of CPA/NACE Rev 1, the 2-digit level of SITC Rev 3 and the 2-digit level of HS. In addition, there are various hierarchic aggregations based on those classifications and also data for Broad Economic Categories (see 2.6.1.4) and for versions of NACE CLIO (a classification used within the national accounts).
256. Unit value and volume indices are calculated for the various aggregates for which data are adjusted for seasonal variations (see 4.9 below). They are disseminated through New Cronos. In addition, series of the evolution of terms of trade and volume cover index derived from the unit value and volume series are available. The evolution of terms of trade is measured by dividing the export unit value index by the import unit value index; it is said to be favourable when it increases, since the movement permits a country to purchase a larger quantity of imports for a given quantity of exports. The volume cover index is calculated by dividing the export volume index by the import volume index. The cover index (value), that is the export value index divided by the import value index, can be split into two factors: the volume cover index and the evolution of terms of trade. This permits the separation of price and volume movements in the trade position of a given country or zone.

4.7.2. Price indices

257. The absence of a complete and detailed set of deflators from an independent source that could be used to create estimates of the volume of trade has already been stressed. However, it is worth noting that several Member States compile an index of export prices derived from the analysis of price quotations and some also have similar import price information. Information on output prices of non-domestic turnover (essentially exports plus dispatches) is required at 2-, 3- and 4- digit level of NACE by Council Regulation (EC) No 1165/98 concerning short-term statistics. However, this

seeks no partner country detail and in any event Member States are allowed to construct suitable unit value indices although these do not correspond to genuine price indices.

258. At the end of 2000, four Member States provided information on the price movements of non-domestic turnover from direct analysis of price quotations. The data are available in the New Cronos database (see 5.3.3). For the time being, there is no breakdown of these price statistics by partner country, so that they cannot be used at the euro-zone or EU 15 level.

4.7.3. Other analyses

259. Another source of information for carrying out analysis is given by EUROPROMS (European production and market statistics). This puts together detailed and comparable data on the values and quantities of production and external trade of almost 4 400 industrial products in the Member States and derives estimates of the domestic markets for each product (in particular, for comparability between trade headings and those of the PRODCOM list see 2.6.1.4.). This is a valuable tool for enterprises (and in particular it permits the identification of possible errors in the basic data).
260. Some other analyses of potential value can only be made by national statistical institutes since they depend on access to information about individual enterprises which is not generally available to Eurostat. These exploit the power of the registers used in the collection of the basic data (see 3.2). An example of analyses of trade data that can be carried out nationally is the measurement of the trade by sector of activity of importers or exporters. Interested users should address their queries to the relevant national authorities.

4.8. Regional aggregation

4.8.0. General

261. The data available from COMEXT provide complete detail, subject to the limitations of confidentiality, on the matrix of flows from and to Member States for each heading of the CN. In order to meet the users' requirements, aggregations by partner countries are possible .
262. The geo-nomenclature involved for gathering data was discussed in 2.6.3. Eurostat has defined certain geographical and economic zones for aggregating data.

4.8.1. Geographic zones

263. Examples of geographic zones are:-

- North America;
- Near and Middle East;
- Oceania and polar regions.

264. The geographic zones cover the whole world without overlaps. They are shown in detail in Annex 10A.

4.8.2. Economic zones

265. In addition to the purely geographic zones, a number of groupings of countries with some common economic features are defined. Examples of such economic zones are:-

- EU15 (Member States of the European Union);
- Euro-zone (Member States who have adopted the euro: sometimes referred to as EUR 11 or, from 1 January 2001, EUR 12);
- EFTA (European Free Trade Association);
- OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries)
- NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement).

266. The economic zones currently defined do not cover the whole world and there is some overlap between zones. The current list of economic zones is shown in Annex 10.

4.9. Correction for working days and seasonal adjustment

267. Information on EU trade is available monthly and much of it at a less detailed level is presented in publications and databases in a time series form. As with most economic data, the interpretation of the monthly or quarterly time series is made more difficult because of regularly recurring seasonal movements. For example, trade in many agricultural products is highly seasonal and month to month movements are often dominated by these seasonal factors.

268. Monthly, and quarterly, data are also affected by the varying lengths of months (and in particular the number of working days that they contain) and the effects of public holidays that may change from month to month in different years: Easter is the prime example.

269. One partial solution to the effects of seasonality on comparisons over time is to make them only with the same month or quarter of the previous year. But

that is not a very satisfactory procedure since it cannot provide a proper measure of the movement of an aggregate through a year which does not equally depend on the movement through the previous year.

270. To deal with this problem a range of procedures has been devised to estimate and then to remove the seasonal (including working day and holiday) effects from time series. Their essence is to breakdown the original monthly (or quarterly) data into three components: a seasonal component, a trend component and an irregular component.
271. The estimation of the seasonal component depends in part on a judgement as to how quickly it may change over time. The estimation of the trend depends similarly on assumptions about the appropriate model or method to use to estimate it.
272. During recent years, many improvements have been brought about in methodology and in the number of seasonally adjusted series available.
273. The series on extra-EU trade are processed by the software DEMETRA, developed by Eurostat, that carries out corrections for working days as well as launching a method of seasonal adjustment known as TRAMO/SEATS. An analysis of the various methods available had been carried out previously. A full technical discussion of the methods available and the criteria for the choice is available in:

<http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/dsis/eurosam/home>.
274. The main impact on the user is in the number of series that are available. The country analysis will differ a little between the euro-zone series and the EU-15 series to provide series for non-euro-zone Member States as partners for the euro-zone series.
275. Series of values, as well as volume indices, are published in the New Cronos database (see 5.3.3) as a set of raw series, adjusted series to take the number of working days and seasonal variations into account, and as trends. Unit value indices (see 4.7.1. above.) are not adjusted to take the number of working days and seasonal variations into account, due to their modest seasonality.
276. A key feature of the data set is its coherence. All series are calculated from the same data set taken at one point in time. As a consequence, for example, volume indices are equal to the value movements divided by the unit value indices. In addition, the more aggregated seasonally adjusted series are formed by the addition of their components (for example, the Member States series agree with aggregate data for the euro zone and EU-15 countries).

5. DISSEMINATION

5.1. Type of users

277. Eurostat is responsible for disseminating EU and euro-zone statistics. In parallel to the actions carried out to improve the quality and the availability of the statistics, Eurostat has also diversified the means of dissemination: while the monthly production of a CD-ROM and the traditional publications are addressed to the public, the Community administrations have also on-line access to the 'COMEXT' database (which contains all the available data on foreign trade). Very aggregated results can also be accessed via the Internet.
278. Eurostat is aware of the wide range of users and their divergent interests, which may be served either directly via publications and access to data bases or indirectly via press releases allowing a broad dissemination of the most significant indicators for the general public.
279. In addition, Eurostat has to ensure that its methods of dissemination meet the needs of the Commission and the other European institutions, the national authorities and the European Central Bank to permit them to carry out their functions. These again range from the most up to date possible evidence on broad aggregates to permit economic analysis to the very detailed data generally required for trade negotiations.
280. Certain users may be mainly interested in trade value and others - such as transport companies or port authorities - by some measure of its quantity.
281. Eurostat has designed a system of dissemination which meets most of these needs, while directing the users to appropriate data sources and providing them with the necessary information for the understanding and interpretation of the statistics.

5.2. Type of statistics

282. Most data are raw value figures. These are available for the complete matrix of 8-digit CN sub-positions and by partner country (subject to confidentiality constraints). Corresponding information is available for quantities – net mass or, where relevant, supplementary units (see 2.13.2).
283. Time series are available on the unit value and volume indices, described in detail in sub-section 4.7 and Annex 9. These are again available by product and partner country.
284. Seasonally adjusted series, as described in sub-section 4.9 and Annex 11 are also available.

285. Freight transport data in value and net mass terms are also available by product and partner country. These provide data on the mode of transport and for extra-EU trade whether or not the goods are transported in a container and the nationality of the means of transport. (See 2.14.) Statistics on transport are disseminated using a more aggregated special product classification (SNTR - Simplified Nomenclature of Transport).

5.3. Databases

5.3.1. COMEXT (on-line)

286. This database, which is based on the client/server concept, is Eurostat's reference base for external trade. It provides access not only to both recent and historic data from the EU Member States but also to statistics of a significant number of third countries. Connection to COMEXT on line is officially granted to the internal users of the Commission and any other European institution or Community body. The database is also accessible to the administrations of Member States belonging to the European Statistical System and to those Candidate Countries providing statistics to Eurostat. In the context of dissemination, access is also given to the Eurostat Data Shops network (See 5.6 and Annex 12A).

287. Because of its considerable flexibility, COMEXT offers users access to several types of data from various sources and with different structures, via a unique interrogation interface. Data available in COMEXT can be grouped in 5 large sets.

288. The first and main set gathers monthly, quarterly and annual data transmitted by Member States from the time of their entry into the European Union. Depending on the period, the products are classified by the NIMEXE nomenclature (1976-1987) or (since 1988) following the Combined Nomenclature. Detail by SITC product is available for the years before 1976.

This data set contains the statistics that Eurostat collected according to the definitions described in section 2. The statistical value in thousands of euros or national currency, the net mass in 100 kg or tonnes and, possibly, the supplementary unit according to the selected CN code are the available indicators. The partner country is identified on the basis of the geonomenclature.

Additional information is accessible in COMEXT depending on the type of trade (intra- or extra-EU trade) and flow (imports or exports).

In particular, there is a breakdown by sub-heading of the TARIC (Integrated Tariff of the European Communities) collected for imports from third countries. However, data detailed by TARIC heading can only be consulted by the Community authorities.

For extra-UE imports, COMEXT database users also have at their disposal

information on tariff preferences with, in particular, a distinction between normal tariffs, generalised preference system or other preferences, with suspension or tariff quotas.

Transport statistics are available for intra- and extra-EU trade. These identify the means of transport: by sea, air, road, rail, inland waterway, own propulsion or by fixed transport installation. Additional information is collected extra-EU flows: container transport and nationality of the means of transport.

Unit value and volume indices are also disseminated from COMEXT, - see sub-section 4.7 -. They are calculated on the basis of the detailed monthly statistic transmitted to Eurostat by the Member States. These indices are available by SITC and BEC product (see 2.6.1).

289. The second large data set corresponds to an extension of the first set to the Candidate Countries. This data set gathers monthly, quarterly and annual data transmitted by Candidate Countries. From 1999, these statistics were harmonized with those of the Member States as much as possible: special trade concept, application of the Combined Nomenclature and geonomenclature, country partner corresponding to the country of origin within the framework of imports. Before 1999, the transmitted data could not be systematically harmonized and their level of detail varies depending on the Candidate Country.

290. The third large data set contains statistics transmitted by those countries that are privileged partners of the European Union within the framework of association or co-operation programs: EFTA countries, MED, TACIS and the Balkans.

The EFTA countries provide Eurostat with monthly statistics broken down by Harmonized System 6-digit code. These statistics are available since 1988 and until the most recent months for Iceland, Norway and Switzerland. For Austria, Finland and Sweden, available data refer to the period before their entry into the European Union - from 1988 to 1995 -.

MED countries began the transmission of monthly statistics to Eurostat within the framework of the MEDA co-operation program. These statistics are generally available as from January 2000 and are broken down by Harmonized System 6-digit code.

Eight out of thirteen TACIS countries transmit statistics detailed by Harmonized System product on at least a quarterly basis. Time series start from 1st quarter of 1998, 1999 or 2000 depending on the country.

Statistics are available for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and for Albania. The level of details varies from one country to the other and depending on the period. The periodicity of the data is either monthly or annual and the reference product nomenclature is either the Harmonized System or the Combined Nomenclature.

291 The fourth data set gathers statistics transmitted by partners with whom Eurostat signed agreements of data exchange. They are, for example, the

United States, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

292 The fifth and last data set corresponds to trade statistics available in the United Nations (COMTRADE) and IMF databases. This data set allows the COMEXT database users to access trade results of most of the world countries at different levels of detail depending on the reference database: annual statistics - since 1980 - broken down by HS or SITC products from the COMTRADE database and monthly statistics - since 1958 - at a global level from the IMF database. Users of these data should take into account comments under point 2.17.2 above "Differences between Community figures and other international sources".

293. The COMEXT database interrogation interface offers the advantage of many functions. One of the most significant is the possibility of building aggregates, i.e. to define groups of codes starting from the same statistical characteristic. The use of such "aggregates" makes it possible to obtain information more "aggregated" than that stored in the database. In particular, all the indicators published at European Union or euro-zone level are calculated starting from aggregates gathering the 15 country codes corresponding to the Member States of the European Union or the 12 country codes corresponding to the members of the Monetary Union. Similarly, any annual result comes from the aggregation of the monthly statistics. One essential use of the aggregates is based on tables of correspondence between various product nomenclatures: correspondence between CN and SITC, CN and CPA, CN and SNTR or between CN and BEC. Thus, by means of aggregates defined by the COMEXT support team, users can, for example, directly extract from the database statistics by SITC product code whereas only statistics broken down by CN code are stored.

Among the other functions, in particular there is the possibility of defining arithmetic formulas in order, for example, to calculate a growth rate or to evaluate a Member State's contribution to the European Union trade or the relevance of a partner country with respect to extra-EU exchanges. By the means of a formula, trade values expressed in a currency other than that proposed to the user can also be extracted - Member States national currencies or euros - or also unit values by product.

294 To define which information must be extracted from the base, the COMEXT user must create an "extraction plan". The selected aggregates and formulas at the extraction plan level will make it possible to obtain the results sought even if the latter are not stored just as they are in the base. The typical example corresponds to the extraction of annual series without product detail for the EU as a whole, which corresponds to an aggregation of the monthly statistics transmitted by the 15 Member States at 8-digits level of the Combined Nomenclature.

The user can either consult his extraction results on the screen and then export into Excel what is really necessary for him, or define table forms which will be automatically applied to the extracted data. The file obtained can then be opened by a spreadsheet. In order to feed a database, it is also possible to extract flat format files.

5.3.2. COMEXT (CD-ROM)

295. External trade statistics users can find a selection of the data transmitted by the Member States in a CD-ROM which is produced on a monthly basis. This CD-ROM contains, for the most recent months, data broken down by Combined Nomenclature product and intra- and extra-EU partner country.
296. The monthly COMEXT CD-ROM is supplemented by two other CD-ROMs produced on an annual basis. The purpose of these two CD-ROMs is to allow the extraction of longer time series.
297. In addition to statistics, the CD-ROM contains methodological information. In particular, there are confidentiality notes allowing the user to identify the products for which part of the trade was concealed by one or more Member States.
298. The COMEXT CD-ROM runs under Windows and offers a wide variety of functions, among which there are:
- interrogation and extraction of data;
 - creation of files that can be imported into a spreadsheet or a database;
 - product code search by keywords;
 - creation of aggregates defined by characteristic, period, declarant or partner country and product.

During the year 2002, the old interrogation software was gradually replaced by the application Comext Stand Alone.

299. A user manual, is available with the CD-ROM; it can be consulted directly or printed out.

5.3.3. New Cronos

300. New Cronos is a numerical database containing macro-economic time series. Information is available in three languages (English, French and German) and the database holds more than 70 million items of statistical data, divided into 49 domains covering the themes dealt with by Eurostat publications. One of these themes - theme 6 - is "external trade". Under theme 6 of New Cronos the main statistical indicators are available such as figures of trade flows by country, partner regions and product groups. In addition to raw figures, from 2001 the database includes seasonally adjusted series. (See 4.9).

5.3.4. EUROPROMS

301. A further specialised database providing information on external trade of Member States and the EU as a whole is EUROPROMS – European

production and market statistics. (See 4.7.3) By matching external trade data with data from the PRODCOM production system, EUROPROMS provides detailed and comparable data on the production, external trade and markets of almost 4 400 industrial products in the EU.

302. EUROPROMS data are available under a New Cronos domain and from a CD-ROM. The application used to consult the data of this CD-ROM will soon be Comext Stand Alone.

5.3.5. Websites

303. The Eurostat website (www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat) gives access to a number of aggregated indicators, such as total imports and exports or the trade balance of the EU and euro-zone. The list of Eurostat Data Shops and publications is also accessible via the Internet site.

From 2003, it will also be possible to interrogate the on line COMEXT database via the Website but this procedure will be reserved for a limited number of users.

304. In addition, most national statistical institutes have their own websites which disseminate information to varying degrees of detail. These sites are not listed in this publication.

5.4. Paper publications

305. Press releases disseminate the short-term economic information as quickly as possible. These monthly releases contain the first trade results of the EU and the euro zone as well as the Member States. They are published according to a calendar established on an annual basis and defined following the publication time which is fixed as 7 weeks after the reference month.

306. The monthly bulletin complements the Statistical Yearbook (see below) with short-term data. It is designed to give, as rapidly as possible, the short term evolution of the external trade of the EU and its Member States. In particular, it contains trade flows, broken down by major SITC product groups, between the EU and its main trading partners. The monthly bulletin is also available as a PDF file.

307. For each of the nine statistical themes which Eurostat deals with, the Statistics in Focus collection contains up-to-date summaries of the main results of surveys, studies and analyses. In the field of external trade, these studies cover the EU's trade with its main trading partners (such as, for example, USA, Japan or Latin America), trade in certain strategic goods (such as, for example, high technology products or energy), or trade of particular interest (such as EU trade with the candidate countries). Each issue is between 4 and 8 pages in length and contains text, tables and graphs.

308. The Statistical Yearbook on intra-EU and extra-EU trade describes the long-term trends since 1958 in trade by the EU and its Member States. In

particular, it sets out changes in the structure of trade between the EU and its main trading partners. The Statistical Yearbook is also available as a PDF file.

5.5. User helpdesk

309. The network of Eurostat data shops fulfils some aspects of the role of assistance to users at a European level. More specific comments and queries can be addressed to Unit C4 of Eurostat by fax at 352 43 01 34339 or e-mail (comextsupport@cec.eu.int). This guide does not contain a list of contact points for individual Member States. Users can contact the authorities listed in Annex 1.

5.6. Metadata

310. Users of trade data, as of any statistics, need to have information about the data that are available to them to access, and the necessary descriptive background to help them understand the nature and limitations of the data. It is the purpose of this guide to help the general reader in these areas.
311. This guide does not give full detail of the methods used by each Member State in compiling their trade figures or of the particular analyses that may be available nationally. To obtain this information the national authorities listed in Annex 1 can be contacted.
312. In a European context, the three main sources of information are the Eurostat website, the Eurostat Data Shops network and the Sales Network of the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities (see Annex 12.)
313. The Eurostat website is a source for some aggregate data. It also provides information on publications available on particular topics and ways to obtain them. It provides additional services for registered users. Some useful background information, for example, a full account of the evolution of the nomenclature (see 2.6.3) or an up-to-date catalogue of major publications, can be down-loaded free of charge from the site. Information is presented by theme: "external trade" is Theme 6.
314. The network of Eurostat Data Shops (listed at Annex 12A) provides virtually immediate access to official European statistics. It provides a wide range of tailor-made services including data from the COMEXT data base.
315. Annex 12B lists those offices which are authorised to disseminate publications.

6. CO-OPERATION

6.0. General

316. International co-operation is a major area of concern for Eurostat. Foreign trade statistics are a key indicator of the economic development of the European Union's trading partners and co-operation is a key instrument for improving the quality and comparability of these statistics.
317. For those reasons, Eurostat plays a full part in all discussions on a world-wide basis, mainly coordinated by the Task Force on International Trade Statistics under the auspices of the World Trade Organisation. The UN work has of course been important in setting an harmonised framework both for classifications and the conceptual approach.
318. Most of the action taken by Eurostat is implemented in close co-operation with the Member States, which are responsible for collecting and processing the basic information.

6.1. Data comparison and reconciliation

319. Comparison of statistics, which can lead to data reconciliation, is a fundamental step towards the evaluation of the quality of data.
320. The work is regularly carried out both for comparisons of flows within the EU and for trade flows with the EU's major trading partners such as the US and Japan. The work is heavy on resources and requires full co-operation from the countries involved if it is to be pursued to the full and fine detail which can often be necessary to understand asymmetries. The work may be concerned with a particular bi-lateral comparison for all trade or may range wider in terms of countries but concentrate on a particular area of trade.
321. This kind of comparison helps to determine the conceptual reasons for differences that occur and so improves understanding of the position. It can also lead to the discovery of irregularities that can be removed at a later stage.
322. It also possible to measure the same flow with the same declaring countries but based on data of different organisations. (See 2.17.) Such differences may be unwelcome to users, although they are inevitable where Member States use a different methodology for Community data which are sent to Eurostat and nationally published data which are sent to other international organisations.

6.2. Technical assistance

323. The improvement and greater congruence of trade statistics is a key issue and Eurostat's work on the problem is not confined to an interest in the EU's major trading partners.
324. Foreign trade data accounts for one of the key areas for co-operation.
325. The purpose of co-operation is to lay the foundations for real partnerships in trade relations between countries and areas, as well as to permit the measurement of the implications and consequences of projects to create customs unions for different economic areas.
326. Technical support in the area of trade statistics aims to ensure that up-to-date and accurate figures are provided on a regular basis; generally speaking it includes the following activities,
- the transfer of know-how for the methodology and calculation of indices;
 - support to improve the collection, processing and dissemination of data;
 - the provision of instruments such as Eurotrace, a software package for the production of statistics on trading in goods;
 - measures taken to improve the quality and comparability of data (for instance, reconciliation exercises);
 - the implementation of databases;
 - the training of customs officers on statistics; the training of statisticians on statistical techniques and analysis;
 - data exchange.
327. The activities listed above are adapted to take the individual situation of each beneficiary country or region into account;
328. Beneficiary countries are those involved in the PHARE, TACIS, MEDA and Mercosur programs as well as Chile, China and India. As far as ACP countries are concerned, an important project is being implemented with African countries, with a view to achieving regional harmonisation among the various customs offices and statistical systems.
329. The priority established here is to adopt a regional approach and create a direct and permanent link between measures taken in the field of statistics and broader programs with objectives of a political, economic and social nature.

330. Special attention will be focused on candidate countries. The objectives are to fund, organise and propose activities of statistical co-operation as part of the Phare program, with the aim to allow ten beneficiary countries;
- To gradually integrate their national systems into the European statistical system;
 - To encourage compliance with the *acquis communautaire* and improve comparability with EU statistics;
 - To provide the data needed for international trade purposes;
 - To expand the institutional capabilities of their respective statistical systems.

ANNEX 1

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF THE COMPETENT NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

BELGIUM

Banque Nationale de Belgique
14, bd. de Berlaimont
B-1000 BRUXELLES
Fax: (32) 2 221 31 46

DENMARK

Danmarks Statistik
Sejrøgade 11
DK-2100 KØBENHAVN Ø
Fax: (45) 31 18 48 01

GERMANY

Statistisches Bundesamt
Postfach 5528
Gustav-Stresemann-Ring 11
D-65180 WIESBADEN
Fax: (49) 611 75 3965

GREECE

National Statistical Service of Greece
14-16, Likourgou
GR - 101 66 ATHENS
Fax: (30) 1 323 75 24

SPAIN

D G Aduanas e I.IEE
Avda. Llano Castellano, 17
E - 28071 MADRID
Fax: (34) 1 554 7896

FINLAND

National Board of Customs
Statistics and Information Services
P.O.B. 512
FIN - 00101 HELSINKI
Fax: (358) 9614 3860

FRANCE

Directorate-General for customs and excise
duties
8, rue de la Tour des Dames
F-75436 PARIS CEDEX 09
Fax: (33) 1 55 07 49 41

IRELAND

The Revenue Commissioners
Wicklow House
South Great George's Street
IRL - DUBLIN 2
Fax: (353) 16 718 297

ITALY

ISTAT - Istituto Nazionale di Statistica
Via Cesare Balbo, 16
I - 00100 ROMA
Fax: (39) 6 4673 2560

LUXEMBOURG

STATEC
6 boulevard Royale
L - 2449 LUXEMBOURG
Fax: (352) 46 42 89

NETHERLANDS

Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (CBS)
Kloosterweg 1, PO Box 4481
NL - 6401 CZ HEERLEN
Fax: (31) 45 5 72 74 40

AUSTRIA

Österreichisches Statistisches Zentralamt
Hintere Zollamtstrasse 2b
Postfach 4000
A - 1033 WIEN
Fax: (43) 1.715 0748

PORTUGAL

Instituto Nacional de Estatística
Av. Ant. José de Almeida
P - 1078 LISBOA, Codex
Fax: (351) 21 842 63 72

SWEDEN

Statistiska Centralbyrån
Box 24 300
S - 104 51 STOCKHOLM
Fax: (46) 8-783 4571

UNITED KINGDOM

HM Customs & Excise
Tariff and Statistical Office
Alexander House
21 Victoria Avenue
GB - Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS99 1AA
Fax: (44) 1702 367166

ANNEX 2

COMMUNITY LEGISLATION RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS

1. Sub-section 1.4 discusses the general legislative framework within which international trade statistics of the European Union are collected. This annex lists in detail the individual legislative documents that are relevant.
2. A problem in describing this body of legislation is that it has developed and changed over time to take account of the continuous process of improvement and amendment that underlies the collection and compilation of the trade data. There is no single set of legislation that is relevant to a data series compiled over a period of years. New legislation is introduced to take effect either on its introduction or more usually at some future date – perhaps also permitting a period of transition for those Member States who would have difficulties in meeting requirements immediately. A particular major example, discussed in 1.4, is the introduction of revised and corrected legislation in September 2000 which consolidated and improved a considerable number of older acts.
3. It is beyond the scope of this guide to indicate how far individual Member States met each individual piece of legislation for each time period that the user may wish to consider. The following material does not aim to describe this development over time but sets out the current legislative framework.

A. **STATISTICS RELATING TO THE TRADING OF GOODS BETWEEN MEMBER STATES**

A.1 BASIC REGULATION

Council Regulation (EEC) No 3330/91 of 7 November 1991 on the statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States
(OJ No L 316 of 16.11.1991, p. 1)

amended by :

Commission Regulation (EEC) No 3046/92 of 22 October 1992 laying down provisions implementing and amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 3330/91 on the statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States - article 22
(OJ No L 307 of 23.10.1992, p. 27)

Regulation (EC) No 1182/99 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 May 1999 amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 3330/91 on the statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States with a view to reducing the data to be provided
(OJ No L 144 of 9.06.1999, p.1)

Regulation (EC) No 1624/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 July 2000 amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 3330/91 on the statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States, with specific reference to a simplified application of the nomenclature of products
(OJ No L 187 of 26.07.2000, p.1)

A.2 IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1901/2000 of 07 September 2000 laying down certain provisions for the implementation of Council Regulation (EEC) No 3330/91 on the statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States
(OJ No L 228 of 8.9.2000, p. 28)

amended by :

Commission Regulation (EC) No 2150/2001 of 31 October 2001 amending Regulation (EC) No 1901/2000 with regard to the simplification of the statement of net mass
(OJ No L 288 of 1.11.2001, p. 30)

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1835/2002 of 15 October 2002 amending Regulation (EC) No 1901/2000 laying down certain provisions for the implementation of Council Regulation (EEC) No 3330/91 on the statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States
(OJ No L 278 of 16.10.2002, p. 9)

Commission Regulation (EC) No 3590/92 of 11 December 1992 concerning the statistical information media for statistics on trade between Member States
(OJ No L 364 of 12.12.1992, p. 32)

B. STATISTICS RELATING TO THE TRADING OF GOODS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

B.1 BASIC REGULATION

Council Regulation (EC) No 1172/95 of 22 May 1995 on the statistics relating to the trading of goods by the Community and its Member States with non-member countries
(OJ No L 118 of 25.5.1995, p.10)

amended by :

Council Regulation (EC) No 476/97 of 13 March 1997 amending, with respect to statistical territory, Regulation (EC) No 1172/95 on the statistics relating to the trading of goods by the Community and its member States with non-member countries
(OJ No L 75 of 15.3.1997, p.1)

Council Regulation (EC) No 374/98 of 12 February 1998 amending Articles 6 and 9 of Regulation (EC) No 1172/95 on the statistics relating to the trading of goods by the Community and its Members States with non-member countries
(OJ No L 48 of 19.2.98, p. 6)

B.2 IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1917/2000 of 07 September 2000 laying down certain provisions for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1172/95 as regards statistics on external trade.
(OJ No L 229 of 9.9.2000, p. 4)

amended by :

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1669/2001 of 20 August 2001 amending Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1917/2000 laying down certain provisions for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1172/95 as regards statistics on external trade
(OJ No L 224 of 21.8.2001, p. 3)

C. NOMENCLATURES

C.1 GOODS NOMENCLATURE

C.1.1. Tariff and statistical nomenclature

Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 of 23 July 1987 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff
(OJ No L 256 of 7.9.1987, p.1)

amended by:

Council Regulation (EEC) No 3528/89 of 23 November 1989 amending Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff
(OJ No L 347 of 28.11.89, p.1)

Council Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92 of 12 October 1992 establishing the Community Customs Code - *Article 252*
(OJ No L 302 of 19.10.1992, p.50)

Council Regulation (EEC) No 1969/93 of 19 July 1993 amending Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff
(OJ L 180 of 23.7.1993, p.9)

Council Regulation (EC) No 254/2000 of 31 January 2000 amending Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff
(OJ L 28 of 3.02.2000, p.16)

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1832/2002 of 1 August 2002 amending Annex I to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff
(OJ No L 290 of 28.10.2002, p. 1)

C.1.2 Code of conduct for the management of the combined nomenclature

Commission Communication. Code of conduct for the management of the combined nomenclature (CN)
(OJ C 150 of 30.5.2000, p. 4)

C.1.3 Explanatory notes to the Combined Nomenclature

Commission Communication. Explanatory notes to the Combined Nomenclature of the European Communities.
(OJ C 256 of 23.10.2002, p.1)

C.2. NOMENCLATURE OF COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1779/2002 of 4 October 2002 on the nomenclature of countries and territories for the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States
(OJ No L 269 of 6.10.2002, p. 6)

D. EDICOM

Decision No 507/2001/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 March 2001 concerning a set of actions relating to the trans-European network for the collection, production and dissemination of statistics on the trading of goods within the Community and between the Community and non-member countries (Edicom)
(OJ No L 76 of 16.3.2001, p. 1)

Commission Decision of 18 June 2001 on the implementation of Decision 507/2001/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning a set of actions relating to the trans-European network for the collection, production and dissemination of statistics on the trading of goods within the Community and between the Community and non-member countries (Edicom)
(OJ No L 177 of 30.6.2001, p. 81)

2002/314/EC: Commission Decision of 25 April 2002 on the implementation of Decision 507/2001/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning a set of actions relating to the trans-European network for the collection, production and dissemination of statistics on the trading of goods within the Community and between the Community and non-member countries (Edicom) (notified under document number C(2002) 1282)
(OJ No L 113 of 30.4.2002, p. 23)

E. OTHER PROVISIONS

Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 of 17 February 1997 on Community Statistics
(OJ No L 52 of 22.2.1997, p. 1)

Council Regulation (Euratom, EEC) No 1588/90 of 11 June 1990 on the transmission of data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European Communities
(OJ No L 151 of 15.6.1990, p. 1)

ANNEX 3 A

SCHEME OF STATISTICAL RECORDING OF IMPORTS (EXTRA-EU TRADE)

AND ARRIVALS (INTRA-EU TRADE)

Goods entering the statistical territory of a Member State are recorded:			
<i>as non-community goods¹</i>		<i>as community goods¹</i>	
1. immediately released for free circulation <i>(goods intended for consumption in the importing Member State or for dispatch to another Member State)</i>	2. immediately placed under a customs procedure for inward processing or processing under customs control	3. immediately placed under a warehouse or	4. immediately placed under a transit procedure
1.1 from another Member State where they were placed under a procedure for inward processing or processing under customs control	2.1 from another Member State where they were placed under a procedure for inward processing or processing under customs control	free zone or	5. arriving from another Member State: not in direct or interrupted transit in the Member State of arrival in direct or interrupted transit in the Member State of arrival but leaving that Member State following export formalities outside Community statistical territory
1.2 case other than that referred to in 1.1²	2.2 case other than that referred to in 2.1²	temporary admission procedure	
	6. following case 2: released for free circulation or again placed under a customs procedure for inward processing or	7. following cases 3 or 4: released for free circulation or placed under a customs procedure for inward processing	

¹ The concepts of 'Community' and 'non-Community' goods depend, not on the origin of goods, but on their customs status.

² Mainly goods coming directly from a non-member country.

	processing under customs control in the same Member State	or processing under customs control in the same Member State	
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Are included in extra-EU trade statistics³, the goods referred to in 1.2., 2.2. and 7 (in bold/light grey)

Are included in intra-EU trade statistics³, the goods referred to in 1.1, 2.1 and 5 (in bold/dark grey)

³ By way of derogation from the rules set out in this table, the criterion for recording of boats and aircrafts in the statistics of intra-Community or extra-Community trade is the transfer of property between residents and non-residents.

ANNEX 3 B
SCHEME OF STATISTICAL RECORDING OF EXPORTS (EXTRA-EU TRADE)
AND DISPATCHES (INTRA-EU TRADE)

Goods leaving the statistical territory of a Member State are recorded:				
<i>as non-community goods¹</i>			<i>as community goods¹</i>	
1. final export to a non-member country	2. exported with provisional destination in a non-member country under an outward processing procedure	3. dispatched to another Member State	4. exported to a non-member country	5. dispatched to another Member State² and:
1.1 following a customs procedure for inward processing or processing under customs control	2.1 following customs procedure for inward processing or processing under customs control	3.1 following a customs procedure for inward processing or processing under customs control	4.1 final export	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not in direct or interrupted transit in the Member State of dispatch
1.2 following a warehouse/free-zone or temporary admission procedure	2.2 following a warehouse/free-zone or temporary admission procedure	3.2 following a warehouse/free-zone or temporary admission procedure 3.3 under a transit procedure	4.2 export under a customs procedure for outward processing 4.3 temporary export for later return without modification 4.4 in transit ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in direct or interrupted transit in the Member State of dispatch, but previously put into free circulation in that Member State as non-Community

¹ The concepts of 'Community' and 'non-Community' goods depend, not on the origin of goods, but on their customs status.

² Including goods which will, in the Member State of destination, be the subject of a customs declaration for export to a non-member country.

				goods
--	--	--	--	--------------

Are included in extra-EU trade statistics⁴, the goods referred to in 1.1, 2.1, 4.1 et 4.2 (in bold/light grey)
Are included in intra-EU trade statistics⁴, the goods referred to in 3.1 and 5 (in bold/dark grey)

³ Goods from another Member State, in which the export declaration was drawn up.

⁴ By way of derogation from the rules set out in this table, the criterion for recording of boats and aircrafts in the statistics of intra-Community or extra-Community trade is the transfer of property between residents and non-residents.

ANNEX 4

EXCLUSIONS

1. Sub-section 2.3 discussed categories of goods explicitly excluded by EU legislation from the compilation of statistics. Lists of these exclusions or exemptions are given in the respective Annex 1 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1917/2000 of 9 September 2000 for extra-EU trade and of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1901/2000 of 7 September 2000 for intra-EU trade.
2. The lists of excluded categories in the two regulations are not precisely identical but have most features in common.
3. In particular, the list applicable for extra-EU trade does not include goods where trade is temporary, goods under a customs procedure of temporary importation or exportation being expliciting excluded from the coverage of commerce.
 - a) *means of payment which are legal tender, and securities;*
 - b) *monetary gold;*
 - c) *emergency aid for disaster areas;*
 - d) *because of the diplomatic or similar nature of their intended use:*
 1. *goods benefiting from diplomatic and consular or similar immunity;*
 2. *gifts to a Head of State or to members of a government or parliament;*
 3. *items being circulated within the framework of administrative mutual aid;*
 - e) *provided that the trade is temporary:*
 1. *goods intended for fairs and exhibitions;*
 2. *theatrical scenery;*
 3. *merry-go-rounds and other fairgrounds attractions;*
 4. *professional equipment within the meaning of the International Customs Convention of 8 June 1968;*
 5. *cinematographic films;*
 6. *apparatus and equipment for experimental purposes;*
 7. *animals for show, breeding, racing etc.;*
 8. *commercial samples;*
 9. *means of transport, containers and equipment connected with transport;*
 10. *goods for the repair of the means of transport, containers and related transport equipment and parts replaced during the repairs*
 11. *packaging;*
 12. *goods on hire;*
 13. *plant and equipment for civil engineering works;*
 14. *goods destined for examination, analysis or test purposes;*

- f) *provided that they are not the subject of a commercial transaction:*
1. *decorations, honorary distinctions and prizes, commemorative badges and medals;*
 2. *travel equipment, provisions and other items, including sports equipment, intended for personal use or consumption which accompany, precede or follow the traveller;*
 3. *bridal outfits, items involved in moving house, or heirlooms;*
 4. *coffins, funerary urns, ornamental funerary articles and items for the upkeep of graves and funeral monuments;*
 5. *printed advertising material, instructions for use, price lists and other advertising items;*
 6. *goods which have become unusable, or which cannot be used for industrial purposes;*
 7. *ballast;*
 8. *postage stamps;*
 9. *pharmaceutical products used at international sporting events;*
- g) *products used as part of exceptional common measures for the protection of persons or of the environment;*
- h) *goods which are the subject of non-commercial traffic between persons resident in the adjacent zone of the Member States (frontier traffic); products obtained by agricultural producers on properties located outside, but adjacent to, the statistical territory within which they have their principal undertaking;*
- i) *goods leaving a given statistical territory to return after crossing a foreign territory, either directly, or with halts inherent in the transport.*
- j) *goods dispatched to national armed forces stationed outside the statistical territory as well as goods received from another Member State which had been conveyed outside the statistical territory by the national armed forces, as well as goods acquired or disposed of on the statistical territory of a Member State by the armed forces of another Member State which are stationed there;*
- k) *goods used as carriers of information such as floppy disks, computer tapes, films, plans, audio- and videotapes, CD-ROMs which are traded in order to provide information, where developed to order for a particular client or where they are not the subject of a commercial transaction, as well as goods which complement a previous delivery e.g. an update, and for which the consignee is not invoiced.*
- l) *satellite launchers,*
- *on dispatch and on arrival pending launching into space;*
 - *at the time of launching into space."*

ANNEX 5

ALPHANUMERIC CODES

1. Alphanumeric codes are used in intra- and extra-EU trade statistics to identify confidential or adjusted data and trade for which a breakdown of the results at a detailed level of the product classification is not possible. This usually concerns goods for which some Member States allow a simplified declaration to be made.
2. In principle, the results relating to the alphanumeric codes are included under the relevant chapter of the CN (e.g.: 63EEE000 Selections of goods of Chapter 63). If the chapter cannot be identified, the results are included under Chapter 99 (e.g.: 99EEE000 Selections of goods not specified elsewhere).

Codes containing the letter A

Intra-EU trade involving transactions falling below the 'transaction threshold'. (See 2.8.1)

Codes containing the letter B

Catering and bunker supplies intended for the fuelling of ships and aircraft, for which a simplified declaration applies

Codes containing the letter E

Selections of goods, for which a simplified declaration applies

Codes containing the letter I

Components of industrial plant, for which a simplified declaration applies. 'Industrial plant' means a combination of machines, appliances, equipment, instruments and material coming under various headings of the Harmonised System classification and contributing to the activity of a large establishment for purposes of producing goods or supplying services.

Codes containing the letter M

Trade broken down at Chapter level only

Codes containing the letter P

Goods transported by post, for which a simplified declaration applies

Codes containing the letter R

Returned goods, for which a simplified declaration applies

Codes containing the letter S

Confidential data. (See 2.15 and 4.4.)

Codes containing the letter T

Foodstuffs, drinks and tobacco, for which a simplified declaration applies

Codes containing the letter V

Motor vehicle components, for which a simplified declaration applies

Codes containing the letter Y

Adjusted data. (See 4.2.)

ANNEX 6

STATISTICAL TERRITORY

1. The statistical territory of the European Union and of its Member States generally coincides with their customs territory. The customs territory of the EU is defined in the Customs legislation.
2. As an example of the difference between statistical territory and customs territory, the statistical territory of Germany, and hence of the EU, includes Heligoland although it is not part of the customs territory.
3. The statistical territory of certain Member States can be defined as follows:

Germany - including the island of Heligoland but excluding the territory of Büsingen

Spain - including the Balearic Islands and the Canary islands but excluding Ceuta and Melilla.

France - including Monaco and the French overseas departments (Réunion, Guadeloupe, Martinique and French Guiana).

Finland - including Åland Islands

Italy - including Livigno but excluding the municipality of Campione d'Italia

Portugal - including Azores and Madeira

United Kingdom - Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales), Northern Island, Channel Islands and Isle of Man

4. The customs territory of the Community (and hence the statistical territory) includes the territorial waters, the inland waters and the airspace of the Member States.

ANNEX 7

INTRASTAT THRESHOLDS

The following tables describe the thresholds applied by Member States from 1993 to 2001. They are so-called "assimilation thresholds", below of which Member States are not obliged to make statistical declarations (see 2.8.1). The techniques applied by Member States for estimating trade below these thresholds are described in Annex 8.

A. Assimilation threshold

	ECU/Eur								
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Dispatch									
Belgium	104 000	104 000	107 000	108 500	107 500	247 500	245 500	245 500	245 500
Denmark	105 500	105 500	107 000	110 000	340 500	335 000	332 500	332 500	336 000
Germany	102 000	103 500	104 500	106 500	105 000	102 000	200 000	200 000	200 000
Greece	29 000	27 000	37 500	35 500	42 500	42 000	45 500	45 500	44 000
Spain	28 500	25 000	37 500	37 500	56 500	54 500	95 500	95 500	95 500
France	37 500	38 000	38 000	38 500	38 500	38 000	38 000	38 000	100 000
Ireland	674 000	628 500	631 500	610 000	621 500	672 500	636 000	636 000	636 000
Italy	85 500	79 000	75 500	72 000	75 000	155 500	154 000	154 000	154 000
Luxembourg	104 000	104 000	107 000	107 000	107 500	103 500	103 000	103 000	103 000
Netherlands	79 500	81 000	187 000	190 000	235 000	227 000	224 500	224 500	225 000
Austria	-	-	112 000	113 500	112 000	109 000	108 000	145 000	145 000
Portugal	97 000	86 500	86 500	86 500	86 500	86 500	84 000	84 000	84 000
Finland	-	-	112 000	97 500	93 500	94 000	100 000	100 000	100 000
Sweden	-	-	98 500	104 000	105 000	172 000	172 500	172 500	177 000
United Kingdom	169 000	185 000	192 500	189 000	235 000	320 000	346 000	351 000	401 000
Arrival									
Belgium	104 000	104 000	107 000	108 500	107 500	247 500	245 500	245 500	245 500
Denmark	66 000	66 000	66 500	68 500	204 500	201 000	199 500	199 500	202 000
Germany	102 000	103 500	104 500	106 500	105 000	102 000	200 000	200 000	200 000
Greece	19 500	18 000	23 500	22 500	26 000	26 000	30 500	30 500	29 000
Spain	28 500	25 000	37 500	37 500	56 500	54 500	95 500	96 500	95 500
France	37 500	38 000	38 000	38 500	38 500	38 000	38 000	38 000	100 000
Ireland	135 000	125 500	126 500	122 000	124 500	134 500	127 000	127 000	190 500
Italy	85 500	79 000	75 500	72 000	75 000	103 500	102 500	102 500	102 500
Luxembourg	104 000	104 000	107 000	107 000	107 500	103 500	103 000	103 000	103 000
Netherlands	79 500	81 000	187 000	190 000	235 000	227 000	224 500	224 500	225 000
Austria	-	-	112 000	113 500	112 000	109 000	108 000	145 000	145 000
Portugal	45 500	61 000	61 000	61 000	61 000	61 000	59 500	59 500	59 500
Finland	-	-	51 500	53 000	51 000	94 000	100 000	100 000	100 000
Sweden	-	-	98 500	104 000	105 000	172 000	172 500	172 500	177 000
United Kingdom	169 000	185 000	192 500	189 000	235 000	320 000	346 000	351 500	401 000

B. Simplification threshold

	ECU/Eur								
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Dispatch									
Belgium	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Denmark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Germany	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greece	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spain	100 000	88 500	99 500	100 000	100 000	96 500	-	-	-
France	209 500	212 000	212 500	216 000	216 000	454 000	457 500	457 500	457 500
Ireland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Italy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Luxembourg	248 000	248 000	254 500	254 500	256 000	370 500	368 500	368 500	368 500
Netherlands	181 500	185 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Austria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Portugal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Finland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sweden	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arrival									
Belgium	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Denmark	105 500	105 500	107 000	110 000	-	-	-	-	-
Germany	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greece	50 000	47 000	84 500	80 500	94 500	94 000	-	-	-
Spain	100 000	88 500	99 500	100 000	100 000	96 500	-	-	-
France	105 000	106 000	106 500	108 000	108 000	227 000	228 500	228 500	228 500
Ireland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Italy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Luxembourg	248 000	248 000	254 500	254 500	256 000	370 500	368 500	368 500	368 500
Netherlands	181 500	185 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Austria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Portugal	68 500	67 500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Finland	-	-	112 000	97 500	93 500	-	-	-	-
Sweden	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note: Conversion rates for 2001 for Denmark, Greece, Sweden and United Kingdom are those of 27.10.2000

C. "Specific" threshold

This threshold was known, upto 2000, as the threshold of "statistical value", but its importance has been amplified by the revising legislation of 2000.

	Thousands of ECU/Euro			
	1998	1999	2000	2001
Dispatch				
Belgium	All information providers are freed			
Denmark	All information providers are freed			
Germany	10 211	10 129	10 129	12 271
Greece	2 266	2 050	2 050	1 708
Spain	6 045	5 969	5 969	5 969
France	2 270	2 286	2 286	2 286
Ireland	40 357	38 154	38 154	38 154
Italy	3 627	3 595	3 595	3 595
Luxembourg	4 446	4 419	4 419	4 419
Netherlands	All information providers are freed			
Austria	3 627	3 634	3 634	3 634
Portugal	4 772	4 966	4 966	5 886
Finland	17 091	16 818	16 818	16 818
Sweden	11 464	11 487	11 487	11 487
United Kingdom	All information providers are freed			
Arrival				
Belgium	All information providers are freed			
Denmark	All information providers are freed			
Germany	7 658	7 589	7 589	8 181
Greece	647	917	917	1 266
Spain	6 045	5 969	5 969	5 969
France	2 270	2 286	2 286	2 286
Ireland	5 380	5 087	5 087	5 087
Italy	1 813	1 797	1 797	1 797
Luxembourg	2 470	2 455	2 455	2 455
Netherlands	All information providers are freed			
Austria	3 627	3 634	3 634	3 634
Portugal	3 096	3 166	3 166	4 190
Finland	6 836	6 672	6 672	8 409
Sweden	6 878	6 892	6 892	7 081
United Kingdom	All information providers are freed			

Note: Conversion rates for 2001 for Denmark, Greece, Sweden and United Kingdom are those of 27.10.2000

ANNEX 8

ADJUSTMENT PRACTICES

1. Sub-section 2.8.1 discussed the range of thresholds operated under the Intrastat system for the measurement of intra-EU trade (the levels adopted since the inception of the system are set out in Annex 7.) The general approach to the adjustment of data collected to compensate for the effect of these thresholds was discussed in 4.2.1 and 4.2.2. This annex sets out the approaches adopted by Member States to the issue of adjustments and an indication of the extent and way in which adjusted data, or the actual adjustments, are made available nationally or in data sent to Eurostat.
2. It should be emphasised that, in general, the material relates to the treatment of figures on an international trade statistics basis. Where no adjustments to these data are made, it may be the case that broad adjustments are included in the transition made by many Member States from data on an international trade statistics basis to data on a balance of payments basis.

A. Adjustment of values

Practices and availability of adjusted statistics

Belgium To make adjustments for non-response, a variation rate calculated from the declarations available for a given month is applied to the exhaustive data for the same month of the previous year (for final results, non-response is estimated from VAT data). The estimates for trade falling below the assimilation threshold are based on VAT data.

Only the adjusted total results are transmitted to Eurostat.

Denmark The adjustments for non-response and trade below the assimilation threshold are based on VAT data. If no Intrastat declaration is made, the fiscal value is used. If the fiscal value is much higher than the Intrastat value, the fiscal value is used. Adjustments are broken down by product and partner country. In April 1997, trade falling below the assimilation threshold was included in statistics (with a breakdown by product) for the first time.

Until 1995, only adjusted overall results were provided. Since 1996, adjustments have been provided with declared trade.

Germany The estimates for non-response and trade falling below the assimilation threshold are based on VAT data. They are made in a breakdown by EU-countries. Between 1993 and 1996, adjustments for trade falling below the assimilation threshold were calculated only for national accounts and balance of payments purposes.

Adjustments are provided with declared trade.

- Greece** No adjustment is made for non-response. Adjustments for trade falling below the assimilation threshold are made only at national level and are not transmitted to Eurostat.
- No adjustment is transmitted to Eurostat.**
- Spain** **No adjustment is made for non-response or for trade falling below the assimilation threshold.** Trade falling below the simplification threshold was included in annual national publications only and was not transmitted to Eurostat.
- France** **No adjustment is made for non-response or for trade falling below the assimilation threshold.**
- Finland** No adjustment is made for non-response. Estimates for trade falling below the assimilation threshold are based on the VAT data.
- Adjustments are transmitted together with the data on declared trade.**
- Ireland** Estimates for non-response and trade falling below the assimilation threshold are based partly on the information providers' historical data and partly on tax data. The detail of adjusted information is a function of the available historical information.
- Adjustments are transmitted with the data on declared trade.**
- Italy** **No adjustment is made for non-response or for trade falling below the assimilation threshold.**
- Luxembourg** Luxembourg has two adjustment practices, one for the final data and another for the provisional data. The first adjustment is based on VAT data of the companies which did not send or sent incomplete Intrastat data. The second adjustment is based on the tendencies observed for declaring companies.
- Only the total results adjusted for non-response are transmitted to Eurostat.**
- Netherlands** The estimates for trade falling below the assimilation threshold (at aggregated level) are based on the VAT data. For non-response, two different methods are used: use of historical data and/or VAT data.
- Only the adjusted overall results are currently transmitted to Eurostat.**
- Austria** Estimates for non-response are made for each company: the declarations available the same month of the previous year are multiplied by the average rate of increase for companies in the same branch and of similar size. Estimates for trade falling below the assimilation threshold are made at a global level on base of VIES data and are broken down at the

most detailed level by applying the structure of transactions of enterprises of the same branch closely above the threshold.

Adjustments are transmitted together with the data on declared trade.

Portugal An overall adjustment is calculated (non-response, trade falling below the assimilation threshold). It amounts to 3-4%.

Adjustments are made at national level only and are not transmitted to Eurostat.

Sweden Estimates for non-response are based on historical Intrastat data of the company or company's VAT data. The estimates for trade below the assimilation threshold are based on the VAT data. Distribution of company's estimated total trade by countries and commodities is based on historical Intrastat data of the companies or Intrastat data of similar companies (size and sector of activity).

Only the total results adjusted for non-response and for trade below threshold are transmitted to Eurostat.

United Kingdom Estimates for non-response are based on data from the same month the previous year and the available declarations of enterprises trading in similar goods. The estimates for trade falling below the assimilation threshold are based on VAT data and the structure of transactions by enterprises situated just above the threshold.

B. Adjustment of quantities

Denmark When necessary, quantities are adjusted at the detailed level. The estimates are included in Eurostat's statistics.

Finland Quantities were estimated and included in Eurostat statistics for 1996 and 1997: the threshold was removed for 1998.

Spain No quantities were estimated for the years to 1998 when a threshold existed, since trade falling below the simplification threshold was not included in the statistics transmitted to Eurostat.

France France started estimating quantities in 1996 (trade below the simplification threshold). The estimates are now included in Eurostat statistics.

Ireland Quantities have been estimated and included in Eurostat statistics since 1993. The estimates are based on historical data (this relates to trade below other thresholds or non-response: Ireland has never applied a simplification threshold.)

Luxembourg Quantities are estimated but not transferred to Eurostat.

Netherlands Quantities are estimated in the same way as the values.

ANNEX 9

METHODOLOGY AND SOURCES

1. Fixed Base Indices versus Chained Indices

- 1.1. This introduction sets out how Eurostat's external trade indices are calculated. The indices are of the chained Fisher type. In other words: the base year is revised each year. The 1989 indices have 1988 as base year, the 1990 indices have 1989 as base year, and so on. Each index is expressed in terms of 1995 as reference year (i.e., 1995 = 100) by chaining all the links back and up to 1995.
- 1.2. Chain indices have several attractive properties. Firstly, the index weights used to construct the index will be derived from recent values and quantities traded, and will therefore be responsive to the changing patterns of world trade. To take a concrete example, suppose that fuel prices have decreased dramatically between the reference year and last year, but between last year and this all prices have been static. A rise in fuel imports and a fall in non-fuel imports compared with last year that kept the total value of imports unchanged would be recorded by a chain index as no change in Volume or Price, which seems intuitively reasonable. A Laspeyres Volume index with a fixed base year at the start of the reference period would show a rise in Volume between last year and this year, and the corresponding Paasche Unit Value index would register a fall.
- 1.3. A second advantage of chain indices is that they are more robust in the face of an abnormal event such as a temporary peak in commodity prices. If this occurs in the base year, it can distort the weighting of a fixed base index until it is re-based.
- 1.4. Thirdly, since the CN nomenclature changes each year due to the subdivision and regrouping of headings, better quality comparisons are made by focusing on year to year changes. The alternative is to find groupings of products that are stable over several years, and these are defined over a wider range of products.
- 1.5. There is a particular interest in obtaining good indicators of short-term trends expressed by users of external trade data. Few would deny the superiority of chain indices for this purpose. Though there is more controversy about their advantages as medium- and long-term indicators, many recent writers on the subject prefer them.

2. The Choice of an Index Formula

- 2.1. The Member States use various formulae to calculate external trade indices. Four countries use a Fisher formula for Unit Value indices, four use a Paasche index and one uses a Laspeyres index. Users within the Commission expressed a preference for indices of the Fisher type. Over the longer term, chain Laspeyres and Paasche indices drift apart. There does not appear to be any reason to believe that one gives a 'truer' result than the other. On the other hand, the chain Fisher index, a geometric average of the two, closely approximates the Törnqvist-Theil approximation to the Divisia index, which has a number of advocates.

2.2. The conventional index formulae are used for calculating the links between years, months and the average of the previous year. These are:

Unit Value Link (Laspeyres formula):

$$(1) \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n V(y-1, i) \frac{u(y, m, i)}{U(y-1, i)}}{\sum_{i=1}^n V(y-1, i)}$$

Unit Value Link (Paasche formula):

$$(2) \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n v(y, m, i)}{\sum_{i=1}^n v(y, m, i) \left/ \frac{u(y, m, i)}{U(y-1, i)} \right.}$$

Value Link:

$$(3) \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n v(y, m, i)}{\sum_{i=1}^n V(y-1, i)}$$

Volume Link (Laspeyres formula):

$$(4) \frac{\text{Value Link}}{\text{Paasche Unit Value Link}}$$

Paasche Volume Link (Paasche formula):

$$(5) \frac{\text{Value Link}}{\text{Laspeyres Unit Value Link}}$$

Fisher Link:

$$(6) \sqrt{\text{Laspeyres Link} \times \text{Paasche Link}}$$

where:

$v(y, m, i)$ = value of trade in item i for month m of year y

$$V(y-1, i) = \frac{1}{12} \sum_{m=1}^{12} v(y-1, m, i)$$

$u(y, m, i)$ = Unit Value of item i for month m of year y

$U(y-1, i)$ = average Unit Value of item i for year $y-1$, calculated as total value divided by total quantity.

2.3. The values of the current month rather than those of the whole of the current year are used for weighting in the Paasche Link (2), in spite of their greater instability. The reasons for this choice are first to preserve the relation (4) and secondly, because the annual weights are available only after the end of the current year.

3. The data sources

3.1. The primary sources of data are the CN trade statistics supplied to Eurostat by the Member States. **Please note** that since the first of January 1993, the date of abolition of the inner frontiers of the European Union, the statistics relative to the trade between the Member States are no longer collected using customs declarations. Instead, monthly- and recapitulative statistical declarations are transmitted directly by companies to the relevant national administrations. Within the framework of this new statistical system, called Intrastat, the smallest companies, which are the majority, are exempted from statistical obligations or only need to supply a simplified declaration on which no quantity of goods - in net mass or supplementary units - is indicated. The delay in transmission of the detailed results to Eurostat is relatively long and numerous Member States are confronted by the non-response problem of companies which should provide information. This change is the source of the observed break in the behaviour of the volume index with the partners Intra-EU and World between 1992 and 1993.

For the following groups of products (defined in SITC rev.3), unit values calculated from trade data give an unsatisfactory indication of price performance:

SITC 525 Radioactive and associated materials

SITC 667 Pearls, precious and semi-precious stones, unworked or worked

SITC 792 Aircraft and associated equipment; spacecraft (including satellites) and spacecraft launch vehicles; and parts thereof

SITC 793 Ships, boats (including hover craft) and floating structures

SITC 883 Cinematograph film, exposed and developed, whether or not incorporating sound track or consisting only of sound track

SITC 896 Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques

SITC 897 Jewellery, goldsmiths' and silversmiths' wares, etc.

At present the Unit Value Ratio¹ of each of these groups is imputed from the Unit Value Ratio of the non-rejected products belonging to the same SITC division.

3.2. The raw data is classified by country, flow, CN code and partner country. Eurostat's approach is to work with the data at this detailed level while most Member States calculate their indices after the data has been summed over partner countries. This has certain apparent advantages. In addition to reducing the dimensionality of the data, the number of discontinuities is also reduced. Trade with a particular partner may be recorded for only a few months of the year, whereas there is trade with some partners during almost all months. On the other hand, even a cursory examination of Unit Value series broken down by partner shows that the hypothesis of a common Unit Value is very often unrealistic. This is because either identical goods are priced differently for different partners or because the CN sub-heading covers a number of qualities or types of product and different partners demand or supply different proportions of these individual

¹ Unit value ratio: $u(y,m,i)/U(y-1,i)$

products. Therefore unit values calculated after aggregation over partners may fluctuate because of the instability of the partner breakdown of trade. The same arguments apply to aggregated versus detailed products. In all events, information on the partner permits the stratification of unit values into more homogeneous product groups. For these reasons, Eurostat's Unit Value indices are calculated from the original data without aggregation over partners or products.

- 3.3.** One exception to the rule of no aggregation is where there is a change in the CN nomenclature between two years. In this case products are combined to produce an aggregate with the same definition in both years. Changes in the geographical definition of partner countries are much less frequent and are usually insignificant. In this case the most appropriate match between pairs of countries is made.
- 3.4.** For most CN codes there is information on value, weight and sometimes a second, supplementary quantity unit, such as number of items. In this case two types of Unit Value (per tonne and per supplementary unit) are available. A Unit Value based on supplementary unit (for example, value per car) is not necessarily a better measure of price than value per tonne. If there are several products covered by a CN code, and if their price is perfectly correlated with their weight, then value per tonne will be unaffected by fluctuations in product composition. The reliability with which weight is measured compared with the reliability of supplementary unit data is also a factor., Eurostat prefers to use the average value per tonne since evidence from indirect tests suggests recently that weight seems to have been measured more reliably than supplementary units Over the longer run, technical change can cause substantial biases in both types of Unit Value.
- 3.5.** One of the ways in which confidentiality is treated in the CN data is to allocate trade in a product to a special geographic code, in order to disguise the origin or destination. There are some products where this is an important factor, and the percentage of the declared value of trade to the actual value for a particular geographic zone (such as Extra-EU) may fluctuate from month to month. No attempt is made at present to adjust the Volume indices to compensate for these fluctuations.
- 3.6.** CN data records the value of trade in thousands of euro. All Eurostat's Unit Value indices are expressed in euro terms. Conversion to other currency units is straightforward.
- 3.7.** CN data is also broken down by statistical regime, so that, for example, goods imported for intermediate processing before re-exporting them to their country of origin, are distinguished from normal imports. Only normal trade (statistical regime 1) is used to calculate Unit Value indices, though total trade is used for the Value indices from which the Volume indices are calculated.
- 3.8.** Any errors in the monthly data are only corrected months later. Therefore an Annual index based on the 12 months aggregated would contain errors too. However, there are partly corrected annual figures. These are used for calculating the annual Volume links that are chained back to the reference year. Where they occur, the errors in the monthly data may distort the monthly and quarterly Volume figures. Thus, for the more detailed indices, there are occasional discrepancies between the annual average of the Monthly and Quarterly Volume index, and the Annual index.

4. Dealing with extreme values

- 4.1.** Administrative procedures for validating trade data vary between Member States. Since the monthly data used by Eurostat to calculate indices is the first release of this data, and there are often substantial revisions made subsequently, it is an unfortunate fact that extremely large Unit Value movements are not at all unusual. In one sample of data, a Unit Value 700 times greater than that of the previous year was found. In general, we would expect underlying prices to move fairly smoothly. These extremes are therefore due either to recording errors or to data inhomogeneity. In any case, a wide-tailed distribution of Unit Value changes can lead to the usual Index formulae giving unreliable results. Eurostat's method for dealing with wide tailed distributions is to use the regression technique described by Hinich and Talwar.²
- 4.2.** The method rest on the observation that whereas the level of unit values across partner countries may differ, the changes in levels are very similar not only across partner countries but also across related products, compared with the background level of noise in Unit Value data. A study by Eurostat however showed significant variations across reporting countries (related to exchange rate fluctuations etc.). Eurostat has, therefore, divided the raw data into 200 blocks of data for each reporting country and flow. Each block contains data for a particular set of CN sub-headings and for all partner countries corresponding to these codes. The assumption is that within a block, every Unit Value behaves in the same way.
- 4.3.** Thus the items will be accepted whose Unit Value change relative to the median Unit Value change of its block behaves within certain bounds (for example, plus or minus 10%) and provisionally reject the others. Provisional rejection of an item may be because the month m-1 Unit Value is of doubtful quality, or is not available. Therefore these items are tested for a second pair of months. Normally the change between months m and m-2 is then used. In this case the item is accepted if it passes the second test. These rules were derived from a simple probabilistic model for the frequency of high and low outliers. Though they weed out false observations in the current month, they do not give any protection against outliers in the base year unit values. One solution would be to calculate the annual figure only from monthly data where the item was accepted. However for technical reasons this is not done at present. An item is, therefore, rejected if the ratio of the Unit Value in the current month to that of the base year is outside the range $([0,2;5,0])$. This range was set after examination of the typical price variations found in seasonal and non-seasonal goods, and can be changed in unusual circumstances.
- 4.4.** The above rejection procedure has the virtue of identifying a Unit Value ratio as extreme compared with the general movement in its class (= block) from month to month. This is likely to be more satisfactory than setting an arbitrary range for absolute fluctuations. The next step is simply to calculate Laspeyres and Paasche Links for the current month (with last year as base year) using only the accepted items. These links are then used as an estimation of the Unit Value change for

² Hinich M.J., Talwar P.P. 'A simple method for robust regression', Journal of the American Statistical Association, March 1975.

items whose unit values have been rejected. The definitions of the blocks are independent of the final indices and the data in them may be used by more than one final Index. For each Index a record is kept of the current month value and the base year value of items with non-zero trade that are accepted by the above tests. Current weighted and base period weighted sample coverage ratios are then calculated (i.e. accepted value as a percentage of total value), and a compromise figure for the sample coverage is found by taking the geometric average.

- 4.5. The Value Links are calculated using all items and not just accepted ones. The implied assumption is that doubtful unit values are due to errors in quantities alone. Some 11% of the current value of items is rejected on average (this corresponds with a sample coverage of 89%).
- 4.6. The exclusion of items with a small value of trade in the previous year has been found to make virtually no impact on the Index Links that are weighted by value. However there is a considerable saving in computational effort since there are large numbers of such items. Currently items with a base year value less than 1% of its blocks' base year value, if they are also less than 100 000 euro, are not considered when calculating Unit Value indices. This results in excluding on average 3% of the total value of trade, but over 70% of all items by number.

5. Calculation of the monthly Index Links.

- 5.1. At the start of each year, CN codes for the previous year and the current year are related to blocks and to indices. The cumulative annual data for the previous year is processed, retaining items defined by flow/product/partner which are above the threshold for each block. Changes in the Combined Nomenclature are dealt with by creating product aggregates with the same constituents in both years. There are also a few seasonal CN codes that are combined to give a product aggregate which covers the whole year.
- 5.2. Each month, the 'isolated' monthly CN data for retained items is processed, block by block, to give Laspeyres and Paasche numerators and denominators for all the primary indices that are required. This information is stored, and used by a further stage of processing to produce index Links at a higher level of product or aggregation zone. In addition external price information may be combined with the Unit Value indices at this stage.
- 5.3. Sets of indices are calculated for several product nomenclatures. Higher levels of product class (e.g. SITC 1-digit section) are found by aggregation of the numerators and denominators of the constituent indices. Sometimes a constituent index for a small country is missing for one month. Either its trade is zero, or its coverage ratio is judged too low to give a reliable Unit Value Index. It has been considered that it was not satisfactory to calculate the higher level Index simply by aggregating those constituent indices that happen to be available, since if the missing index has an important weight and has a level different from the others, the aggregate index will jump about as the index comes in and out. Eurostat's solution is to estimate the level of the missing Unit Value Index, and (in the case of zero trade) the index weight for the Paasche index.

- 5.4.** Indices for the European Union as reporting unit are calculated by combining the country indices. Laspeyres Unit Value and Volume Links for the EU are calculated by weighting the Laspeyres Links for each individual reporting country by the value of trade for the previous year (before elimination of items under the threshold). The EU Value Link is found by combining the Value Links for individual reporters with the same weights. The Paasche Links for the EU are calculated by division.
- 5.5.** CN data is usually not available for new Member States in the years before they joined the EU. Therefore the EU index is calculated without Greece as reporting country until December 1981, refers to the EU without Spain and Portugal until December 1985 and refers to the EU without Austria, Finland and Sweden until December 1995. Thus a 1986 Index is calculated by splicing the change for EUR12 between 1985 and 1986 into the 1985 level of the index for EUR10.

6. Chaining the Links

- 6.1.** The Monthly Laspeyres and Paasche Volume Links give an index of Volume for the current month relative to the average of the data (isolated) of the previous year. Quarterly Unit Value and Volume Links are calculated by summing the Monthly Links over the quarter and dividing by three. Annual Unit Value Links are found by summing the Quarterly Links and dividing by four. The Annual Value Link used to calculate the Volume Index, is calculated from revised annual data (cumulative), rather than the original monthly values. This can cause more or less important differences in the implied Monthly Value Index! The chaining of Links is the cause of this phenomena. Thus the Quarterly and Annual Unit Value Links are effectively averages of the Monthly Unit Value Links weighted by the Monthly Volume Links. This method is used, rather than the simple averaging of the Monthly Unit Value Links, to preserve the relationship 'Volume x Unit_Value_Change = Value_Change' for all periodicities. The annual indices so obtained may differ from those that would be calculated from annual data directly, in part due to the elimination of extreme unit values at the monthly level.
- 6.2.** Once the Annual Links have been calculated, the indices are chained backwards and forwards to the reference year (at present, 1995).

Example of the chaining of an index for month m of year y (where y is higher than 1995)

$$\begin{aligned}
 &100 \times (\text{Annual Link for 1996, base 1995}) \\
 &\quad \times (\text{Annual Link for 1997, base 1996}) \\
 &\quad \times \dots\dots\dots \\
 &\quad \times (\text{Annual Link for year } y-1, \text{ base } y-2) \\
 &\quad \times (\text{Monthly Link for month } m, \text{ year } y, \text{ base } y-1).
 \end{aligned}$$

ANNEX 10A

DEFINITIONS OF GEOGRAPHIC ZONES

5000 World

- 5100 Europe
- 5200 Africa
- 5300 America
- 5400 Asia
- 5500 Oceania and Polar regions
- 5900 Miscellaneous (countries not specified) and countries not determined

5100 Europe

- 5110 European Union
- 5190 Other European countries

5110 European Union

- AT 038 Austria
- BE 017 Belgium
- DE 004 Germany
- DK 008 Denmark
- ES 011 Spain
- FI 032 Finland
- FR 001 France
- GB 006 United Kingdom
- GR 009 Greece
- IE 007 Ireland
- IT 005 Italy
- LU 018 Luxembourg
- NL 003 Netherlands
- PT 010 Portugal
- SE 030 Sweden
- 5910 Miscellaneous (countries not specified) intra

5190 Other European countries

- AD 043 Andorra
- AL 070 Albania

BA	093	Bosnia and Herzegovina
BG	068	Bulgaria
BY	073	Belarus
CH	039	Switzerland
CY	600	Cyprus
CZ	061	Czech Republic
EE	053	Estonia
FO	041	Faroe Islands
GI	044	Gibraltar
HR	092	Croatia
HU	064	Hungary
IS	024	Iceland
LI	037	Liechtenstein
LT	055	Lithuania
LV	054	Latvia
MD	074	Moldova (Republic of)
MK	096	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
MT	046	Malta
NO	028	Norway
PL	060	Poland
RO	066	Romania
RU	075	Russian Federation
SI	091	Slovenia
SK	063	Slovakia
SM	047	San Marino
TR	052	Turkey
UA	072	Ukraine
VA	045	Holy See
YU	094	Yugoslavia

5200 Africa

5210 North Africa

5290 Other African countries

5210 North Africa

DZ 208 Algeria

EG	220	Egypt
LY	216	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
MA	204	Morocco
TN	212	Tunisia
XC	021	Ceuta
XL	023	Melilla
5290		Other African countries
AO	330	Angola
BF	236	Burkina Faso
BI	328	Burundi
BJ	284	Benin
BW	391	Botswana
CD	322	Congo (Democratic Republic of)
CF	306	Central African Republic
CG	318	Congo
CI	272	Côte d'Ivoire
CM	302	Cameroon
CV	247	Cape Verde
DJ	338	Djibouti
ER	336	Eritrea
ET	334	Ethiopia
GA	314	Gabon
GH	276	Ghana
GM	252	Gambia
GN	260	Guinea
GQ	310	Equatorial Guinea
GW	257	Guinea-Bissau
IO	357	British Indian Ocean Territory
KE	346	Kenya
KM	375	Comoros
LR	268	Liberia
LS	395	Lesotho
MG	370	Madagascar
ML	232	Mali

MR	228	Mauritania
MU	373	Mauritius
MW	386	Malawi
MZ	366	Mozambique
NA	389	Namibia
NE	240	Niger
NG	288	Nigeria
RW	324	Rwanda
SC	355	Seychelles
SD	224	Sudan
SH	329	Saint Helena
SL	264	Sierra Leone
SN	248	Senegal
SO	342	Somalia
ST	311	São Tomé and Príncipe
SZ	393	Swaziland
TD	244	Chad
TG	280	Togo
TZ	352	Tanzania (United Republic of)
UG	350	Uganda
YT	377	Mayotte
ZA	388	South Africa
ZM	378	Zambia
ZW	382	Zimbabwe

5300 America

5310 North America
5320 Central America and Caribbean
5330 South America

5310 North America

CA	404	Canada
GL	406	Greenland
PM	408	St Pierre and Miquelon
US	400	United States

5320 Central America and Caribbean

AG	459	Antigua and Barbuda
AI	446	Anguilla
AN	478	Netherlands Antilles
AW	474	Aruba
BB	469	Barbados
BM	413	Bermuda
BS	453	Bahamas
BZ	421	Belize
CR	436	Costa Rica
CU	448	Cuba
DM	460	Dominica
DO	456	Dominican Republic
GD	473	Grenada
GT	416	Guatemala
HN	424	Honduras
HT	452	Haiti
JM	464	Jamaica
KN	449	St Kitts and Nevis
KT	463	Cayman Islands
LC	465	St Lucia
MS	470	Montserrat
MX	412	Mexico
NI	432	Nicaragua
PA	442	Panama
SV	428	El Salvador
TC	454	Turks and Caicos Islands
TT	472	Trinidad and Tobago
VC	467	St Vincent and the Grenadines
VG	468	Virgin Islands (British)
VI	457	Virgin Islands (US)

5330 South America

AR	528	Argentina
BO	516	Bolivia

BR	508	Brazil
CL	512	Chile
CO	480	Colombia
EC	500	Ecuador
FK	529	Falkland Islands
GY	488	Guyana
PE	504	Peru
PY	520	Paraguay
SR	492	Suriname
UY	524	Uruguay
VE	484	Venezuela
5400		Asia
5410		Near and Middle Eastern countries
5490		Other Asian countries
5410		Near and Middle Eastern countries
AE	647	United Arab Emirates
AM	077	Armenia
AZ	078	Azerbaijan
BH	640	Bahrain
GE	076	Georgia
IL	624	Israel
IQ	612	Iraq
IR	616	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
JO	628	Jordan
KW	636	Kuwait
LB	604	Lebanon
OM	649	Oman
PS	625	Occupied Palestinian Territory
QA	644	Qatar
SA	632	Saudi Arabia
SY	608	Syrian Arab Republic
YE	653	Yemen
5490		Other Asian countries
AF	660	Afghanistan

BD	666	Bangladesh
BN	703	Brunei Darussalam
BT	675	Bhutan
CN	720	China (People's Republic of)
HK	740	Hong Kong
ID	700	Indonesia
IN	664	India
JP	732	Japan
KG	083	Kyrgyzstan
KH	696	Cambodia
KP	724	Korea (Democratic People's Republic of)
KR	728	Korea (Republic of)
KZ	079	Kazakhstan
LA	684	Lao (People's Democratic Republic)
LK	669	Sri Lanka
MM	676	Myanmar
MN	716	Mongolia
MO	743	Macao
MV	667	Maldives
MY	701	Malaysia
NP	672	Nepal
PH	708	Philippines
PK	662	Pakistan
SG	706	Singapore
TH	680	Thailand
TJ	082	Tajikistan
TM	080	Turkmenistan
TP	626	East Timor
TW	736	Taiwan
UZ	081	Uzbekistan
VN	690	Vietnam
5500		Oceania and Polar regions
	5510	Australia and New Zealand
	5590	Other countries of Oceania and Polar regions

5510 Australia and New Zealand

AU	800	Australia
CC	833	Cocos (Keeling), Islands
CK	837	Cook Islands
CX	834	Christmas Island
HM	835	Heard and McDonald Islands
NF	836	Norfolk Island
NU	838	Niue
NZ	804	New Zealand
TK	839	Tokelau

5590 Other countries of Oceania and Polar regions

AQ	891	Antarctica
AS	830	American Samoa
BV	892	Bouvet Island
FJ	815	Fiji
FM	823	Micronesia (Federated States of)
GS	893	South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands
GU	831	Guam
KI	812	Kiribati
MH	824	Marshall Islands
MP	820	Northern Mariana Islands
NC	809	New Caledonia
NR	803	Nauru
PF	822	French Polynesia
PG	801	Papua New Guinea
PN	813	Pitcairn
PW	825	Palau
SB	806	Solomon Islands
TF	894	French Southern Territories
TO	817	Tonga
TV	807	Tuvalu
VU	816	Vanuatu
UM	832	United States Minor Outlying Islands
WF	811	Wallis and Futuna

WS	819	Samoa
5900	Miscellaneous (countries not specified) and countries not determined	
	5910	Miscellaneous (countries not specified) intra
	5920	Miscellaneous (countries not specified) extra
	5990	Miscellaneous (countries not specified) not determined
5910	Miscellaneous (countries not specified) intra	
QR	951	Stores and provisions within the framework of intra-Community trade
QV	959	Countries and territories not determined in the context of intra-EU trade
QY	978	Countries and territories not specified for commercial or military reasons in the context of intra-EU trade
5920	Miscellaneous (countries not specified) intra	
QS	952	Stores and provisions within the framework of trade with third countries
QW	960	Countries and territories not determined in the context of trade with non-member countries
QZ	979	Countries and territories not specified for commercial or military reasons in the context of trade with non-member countries
5990	Miscellaneous (countries not specified) not determined	
QQ	950	Stores and provisions
QU	958	Countries and territories not determined
QX	977	Countries and territories not specified for commercial or military reasons

NOTES

1. Geographic areas of the same level do not overlap and can therefore be used to form larger aggregates. The coding system is hierarchic. The level is indicated by the number of non-zero digits in the code. Thus "World" (5000) is the highest level and is composed of a number of major geographic areas such as "Africa" (5200) and "Africa" is composed of a number of three digit sub-areas.
2. The definitions and nomenclature are those applying to the year 2002.
3. The code and nomenclature assigned to MK – Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – is provisional and does not prejudice in any way the definitive nomenclature for this country, which will be agreed following the conclusion of international negotiations currently taking place on this subject.

ANNEX 10 B

DEFINITIONS OF ECONOMIC ZONES

1021 EFTA

European Free Trade Association

CH	039	Switzerland
IS	024	Iceland
LI	037	Liechtenstein
NO	028	Norway

1031 ACP

African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, signatories to the Partnership Agreement

AG	459	Antigua and Barbuda
AO	330	Angola
BB	469	Barbados
BF	236	Burkina Faso
BI	328	Burundi
BJ	284	Benin
BS	453	Bahamas
BW	391	Botswana
BZ	421	Belize
CD	322	Congo (Democratic Republic of)
CF	306	Central African Republic
CG	318	Congo
CI	272	Côte d'Ivoire
CK	837	Cook Islands
CM	302	Cameroon
CV	247	Cape Verde
DJ	338	Djibouti
DM	460	Dominica
DO	456	Dominican Republic
ER	336	Eritrea
ET	334	Ethiopia
FJ	815	Fiji

FM	823	Micronesia (Federated States of)
GA	314	Gabon
GD	473	Grenada
GH	276	Ghana
GM	252	Gambia
GN	260	Guinea
GQ	310	Equatorial Guinea
GW	257	Guinea-Bissau
GY	488	Guyana
HT	452	Haiti
JM	464	Jamaica
KE	346	Kenya
KI	812	Kiribati
KM	375	Comoros
KN	449	St Kitts and Nevis
LC	465	St Lucia
LR	268	Liberia
LS	395	Lesotho
MG	370	Madagascar
MH	824	Marshall Islands
ML	232	Mali
MR	228	Mauritania
MU	373	Mauritius
MW	386	Malawi
MZ	366	Mozambique
NA	389	Namibia
NE	240	Niger
NG	288	Nigeria
NR	803	Nauru
NU	838	Niue
PG	801	Papua New Guinea
PW	825	Palau
RW	324	Rwanda
SB	806	Solomon Islands

SC	355	Seychelles
SD	224	Sudan
SL	264	Sierra Leone
SN	248	Senegal
SO	342	Somalia
SR	492	Suriname
ST	311	São Tomé and Príncipe
SZ	393	Swaziland
TD	244	Chad
TG	280	Togo
TO	817	Tonga
TT	472	Trinidad and Tobago
TV	807	Tuvalu
TZ	352	Tanzania (United Republic of)
UG	350	Uganda
VC	467	St Vincent and the Grenadines
VU	816	Vanuatu
WS	819	Samoa
ZA	388	South Africa
ZM	378	Zambia
ZW	382	Zimbabwe
1051		Mediterranean basin countries
AL	070	Albania
BA	093	Bosnia and Herzegovina
CY	600	Cyprus
DZ	208	Algeria
EG	220	Egypt
GI	044	Gibraltar
HR	092	Croatia
JO	628	Jordan
LB	604	Lebanon
LY	216	Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
MA	204	Morocco
MK	096	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

MT	046	Malta
PS	625	Occupied Palestinian Territory
SI	091	Slovenia
SY	608	Syrian Arab Republic
TN	212	Tunisia
TR	052	Turkey
XC	021	Ceuta
XL	023	Melilla
YU	094	Yugoslavia

1053 OPEC

Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries

AE	647	United Arab Emirates
DZ	208	Algeria
ID	700	Indonesia
IQ	612	Iraq
IR	616	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
KW	636	Kuwait
LY	216	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
NG	288	Nigeria
QA	644	Qatar
SA	632	Saudi Arabia
VE	484	Venezuela

1055 MEDA

Mediterranean countries in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership

CY	600	Cyprus
DZ	208	Algeria
EG	220	Egypt
IL	624	Israel
JO	628	Jordan
LB	604	Lebanon
MA	204	Morocco
MT	046	Malta
PS	625	Occupied Palestinian Territory
SY	608	Syrian Arab Republic

TN 212 Tunisia

TR 052 Turkey

1057 ASEAN

Association of South-East

Asian Nations

BN 703 Brunei Darussalam

ID 700 Indonesia

KH 696 Cambodia

LA 684 Lao (People's Democratic Republic)

MM 676 Myanmar

MY 701 Malaysia

PH 708 Philippines

SG 706 Singapore

TH 680 Thailand

VN 690 Vietnam

1058 Latin American countries

AR 528 Argentina

BO 516 Bolivia

BR 508 Brazil

CL 512 Chile

CO 480 Colombia

CR 436 Costa Rica

CU 448 Cuba

DO 456 Dominican Republic

EC 500 Ecuador

GT 416 Guatemala

HN 424 Honduras

HT 452 Haïti

MX 412 Mexico

NI 432 Nicaragua

PA 442 Panama

PE 504 Peru

PY 520 Paraguay

SV 428 El Salvador

UY 524 Uruguay
VE 484 Venezuela

1059 SAARC

South Asian Association for

Regional Cooperation

BD 666 Bangladesh
BT 675 Bhutan
IN 664 India
LK 669 Sri Lanka
MV 667 Maldives
NP 672 Nepal
PK 662 Pakistan

1110 European Union (15)

AT 038 Austria
BE 017 Belgium
DE 004 Germany
DK 008 Denmark
ES 011 Spain
FI 032 Finland
FR 001 France
GB 006 United Kingdom
GR 009 Greece
IE 007 Ireland
IT 005 Italy
LU 018 Luxembourg
NL 003 Netherlands
PT 010 Portugal
SE 030 Sweden

5910 Miscellaneous (countries not specified) intra

1115 EEA

European Economic Area

IS 024 Iceland
LI 037 Liechtenstein
NO 028 Norway

1110 EU-15

1120 CEEC

Central and Eastern European countries

AL 070 Albania

BA 093 Bosnia and Herzegovina

BG 068 Bulgaria

CZ 061 Czech Republic

EE 053 Estonia

HR 092 Croatia

HU 064 Hungary

LT 055 Lithuania

LV 054 Latvia

MK 096 Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

PL 060 Poland

RO 066 Romania

SI 091 Slovenia

SK 063 Slovakia

YU 094 Yugoslavia

1130 Candidate countries

BG 068 Bulgaria

CY 600 Cyprus

CZ 061 Czech Republic

EE 053 Estonia

HU 064 Hungary

LT 055 Lithuania

LV 054 Latvia

MT 046 Malta

PL 060 Poland

RO 066 Romania

SI 091 Slovenia

SK 063 Slovakia

TR 052 Turkey

1310 NAFTA

North American Free Trade Agreement

CA 404 Canada
MX 412 Mexico
US 400 United States

1330 MERCOSUR

South American Common Market

AR 528 Argentina
BR 508 Brazil
PY 520 Paraguay
UY 524 Uruguay

1410 NICs

Newly-industrialised Asian countries

HK 740 Hong Kong
KR 728 Korea (Republic of)
SG 706 Singapore
TW 736 Taiwan

1415 DAS

Dynamic Asian economies

HK 740 Hong Kong
KR 728 Korea (Republic of)
MY 701 Malaysia
SG 706 Singapore
TH 680 Thailand
TW 736 Taiwan

1420 APEC

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation

AU 800 Australia
BN 703 Brunei Darussalam
CA 404 Canada
CL 512 Chile
CN 720 China (People's Republic of)
HK 740 Hong Kong
ID 700 Indonesia
JP 732 Japan
KR 728 Korea (Republic of)

MX	412	Mexico
MY	701	Malaysia
NZ	804	New Zealand
PE	504	Peru
PG	801	Papua New Guinea
PH	708	Philippines
RU	075	Russian Federation
SG	706	Singapore
TH	680	Thailand
TW	736	Taiwan
US	400	United States
VN	690	Vietnam

1811 Extra-European Union 15

5190	Other European countries
5200	Africa
5300	America
5400	Asia
5500	Oceania and Polar regions
5920	Miscellaneous (countries not specified) extra

1815 CIS

Commonwealth of Independent States

AM	077	Armenia
AZ	078	Azerbaijan
BY	073	Belarus
GE	076	Georgia
KG	083	Kyrgyzstan
KZ	079	Kazakhstan
MD	074	Moldova (Republic of)
RU	075	Russian Federation
TJ	082	Tajikistan
TM	080	Turkmenistan
UA	072	Ukraine
UZ	081	Uzbekistan

1820 OECD excluding E.U.

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, excluding EU

AU	800	Australia
CA	404	Canada
CC	833	Cocos (Keeling), Islands
CH	039	Switzerland
CX	834	Christmas Island
CZ	061	Czech Republic
HM	835	Heard Island and McDonald Islands
HU	064	Hungary
IS	024	Iceland
JP	732	Japan
KR	728	Korea (Republic of)
MX	412	Mexico
NF	836	Norfolk Island
NO	028	Norway
NZ	804	New Zealand
PL	060	Poland
SK	063	Slovakia
TR	052	Turkey
US	400	United States
VI	457	Virgin Islands (US)

NOTES

1. Economic zones can overlap and therefore must not be used to construct larger aggregates.
2. The definitions and nomenclature are those applying to the year 2002.
3. The code and nomenclature assigned to MK – Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – is provisional and does not prejudice in any way the definitive nomenclature for this country, which will be agreed following the conclusion of international negotiations currently taking place on this subject.

ANNEX 11

SERIES CORRECTED FOR WORKING DAYS AND SEASONAL VARIATIONS

This annex sets out the detail of the main seasonal series which are adjusted and published in the New Cronos data base. The objective and the procedure are described in paragraph 4.9.

A. Euro-zone

Partner country/zone		Commodity	
			SITC Rev 3
0006	United Kingdom	0	Food and live animals chiefly for food
0008	Denmark	1	Beverages and tobacco
0009	Greece	2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels
0028	Norway	3	Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials
0030	Sweden	4	Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes
0039	Switzerland	5	Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.
0075	Russia	6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material
0400	United States	7	Machinery and transport equipment
0404	Canada	8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles
0720	China	TTT	Total trade incl. adj. data
0732	Japan		
1053	OPEC		
1057	ASEAN	9	Goods n.e.s (used for total trade only)
1058	Latin America		(TTT-0-1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8)
1130	Candidate countries		
1310	NAFTA	FDT	Food, drink and tobacco
1815	CIS		(0+1)
5190	EUROPE - EU15		
5200	AFRICA	RMT	Raw materials
5300	AMERICA		(2+4)
5400	ASIA		
5500	OCEANIA AND POLAR REGIONS	OMP	Other manufactured products
			(6+8)
		MAN	Manufactured products
			(5 to 8)
EX12	EUROPE minus euro-zone		
	(5190+0006+0008+0009+0030)		
XE15	Extra-EU15		
	(XM12-0006-0008-0009-0030)		
DIV1	MISC./Extra-euro-zone		
	(XM12-EX12-5200-5300-5400-5500)		

IM12 XM12	Intra-euro-zone		SITC Rev 3
	Extra-euro-zone	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 TTT 9 FDT RMT OMP <i>MAN</i>	Food and live animals chiefly for food Beverages and tobacco Crude materials, inedible, except fuels Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes Chemicals and related products, n.e.s. Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material Machinery and transport equipment Miscellaneous manufactured articles Total trade incl. adj. data Goods n.e.s (used for total trade only) (TTT-0-1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8) Food, drink and tobacco (0+1) Raw materials (2+4) Other manufactured products (6+8) <i>Manufactured products</i> (5 to 8)
			BEC : CAP CNS CTR INT
			Capital goods Consumer goods Consumption goods ¹ Intermediate goods

¹ CTR = CNS + cars and

B. European Union

Partner country/zone		Commodity	
			SITC Rev 3
0028	Norway	0	Food and live animals chiefly for food
0039	Switzerland	1	Beverages and tobacco
0052	Turkey	2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels
0075	Russia	3	Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials
0400	United States	4	Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes
0404	Canada	5	Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.
0720	China	6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material
0732	Japan	7	Machinery and transport equipment
1031	ACP	8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles
1051	Med. Basin	TTT	Total trade incl. adj. data
1053	OPEC		
1057	ASEAN		
1058	Latin America	9	Goods n.e.s (used for total trade only)
1120	CEEC (without Russia)		(TTT-0-1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8)
1130	ACCESSION	FDT	Food, drink and tobacco
1310	NAFTA		(0+1)
1415	DAE		
1815	CIS	RMT	Raw materials
5190	EUROPE - EU15		(2+4)
5200	AFRICA		
5300	AMERICA	OMP	Other manufactured products
5400	ASIA		(6+8)
5500	OCEANIA AND POLAR REGIONS	MAN	<i>Manufactured products</i> (5 to 8)
DIV2	MISC./Extra-EU15 (XE15-5190-5200-5300- 5400-5500)		

IE15 XE15	Intra-EU15 Extra-EU15	0	SITC Rev 3 Food and live animals chiefly for food
		1	Beverages and tobacco
		2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels
		3	Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials
		4	Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes
		5	Chemicals and related products, n.e.s.
		6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material
		7	Machinery and transport equipment
		8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles
		TTT	Total trade incl. adj. data
		9	Goods n.e.s (used for total trade only) (TTT-0-1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8)
		FDT	Food, drink and tobacco (0+1)
		RMT	Raw materials (2+4)
		OMP	Other manufactured products (6+8)
		MAN	<i>Manufactured products</i> (5 to 8)
			BEC :
		CAP	Capital goods
		CNS	Consumer goods
		CTR	Consumption goods ²
		INT	Intermediate goods

² CTR = CNS + cars and

C. Member States

<i>Partner country/zone</i>		Commodity	
			BEC :
IM12	Intra-euro-zone	TTT	Total trade incl. adj. data
XM12	Extra-euro-zone	CAP	Capital goods (BEC)
IE15	Intra-EU15	CNS	Consumer goods (BEC)
XE15	Extra-EU15	CTR	Consumption goods (BEC) ⁴
E03	EU3³	INT	Intermediate goods (BEC)

NOTES

- A.** There are series for a full cross-analysis of euro-zone trade with the areas and products shown above for each of the three flows – imports/arrivals, exports/dispatches and balance. This gives a total of 1 239 series for the euro-zone (M12) as a declarant.
- B.** There are series for a full cross-analysis of EU-15 trade with the areas and products shown above for each of the three flows – imports/arrivals, exports/dispatches and balance. This gives a total of 1 194 series for the European Union (EU-15) as a declarant.
- C.** There are series for a full cross-analysis of each Member-State with the areas and products shown above for each of the three flows – imports/arrivals, exports/dispatches and balance. This gives a total of 75 series for each Member-State as a declarant.

³ EU3 includes Sweden Denmark and the United Kingdom. This aggregate establishes the link between the EURO area (UEM12) and the EU (currently EU15).

⁴ CTR = CNS + cars and

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