# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON <br> TARIFFS AND TRADE 

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Multilateral Trade Negotiations<br>Group "Sector Approachi

## AVAILABKLIIY OF STATISTICS FOR SECTORAL STUDIES

Note by the Secretariat
?. A proposal calling for studies of sectors covering electrical machinery, electronics and chemicals was put forward at the last meeting of the Group on 1-3 July 1975. The Group agreed to revert to the issue at its next meeting in which it wished to examine, in particular, the existing statistical documentation on production and trade in the sectors. The present note reviews the statistical information currently collected and published by national authorities, the United Nations and the OECD.
2. The availability of statistics required for sectoral studies was described in broad terms in the secretariat note of 3 February 1975 (MTN/3C/1). A detailed survey of the data available with respect to industrial production in the countries participating in the lariff Study, based on replies to a questionnaire, was published in 1972 in connexion with the Feasibility Study ( $\operatorname{Spec}(72) 32$ and Add.I). Finally, the problems involved in the compilation of time series of production and consumption stutistios, concorded to the taxiff and trade data: were illustrated in document (Spec('72)i30) by collating production and apparent consumption statistics for a rumber of SITC sub-groups selected from different sectors of industrial activity and covering a wide range of industrial products including chemicals, electrical mechinery and electronics.
3. The folloving general conclusions were reached in these papers with respect to developed countries:
(i) Tarifi measures can, in general, be related to trade flows for all items of national customs tariffs: some non-tariff measures can alao be so correlated; a large proportion of those non-tariff barriers which have been recorded by the secretariat are of general application and cannot be directly related to particular products or sectors (L/3496, para.12), but have to be cited for the sector as a whole.
(ii) Detailed production data can only be obtained for selected products which may be representative for some -- but not for all - industry sectors. since production statistics are not yet compiled in the same detail as the customs and foreign trade data. In countries collecting detailed output
statistics, certain information cannot be disclosed because of secrecy provisions protecting such information in cases where a limited number of enterprises are involved in the production process or are not fully reported when production is dispersed among small establishments exempt from statistical reporting; reporting of intermediate products is often incomplete if the production process is highly integrated.
(iii) Aggregated production data (input/output tables, production indices etc.) are compiled in most developed countries; and the tariff-trade information can be ageregated and averaged into correspondinc categories. However, these categories are not always internationally comparable and the ageregated trade datia and tariff averages appear to be less useful for negotiation purposes.
(iv) Statistics on Gross and net output, investment, stocks and employnnent by major inciustry sroups ( 3 -digits of the ISIC) are compiled in most countries and published annually by the United Nations (The Growth of World Industry: latest issue relating to 1962-71).
4. Statistics compiled in the other countries participating in the negotiations particulaxly in the less-developed countries, are still less comprehensive, and problems of concordance between tariff/trade and production statistics occur even more frequently.
5. Since collection of production and consumption statistics comparable with the tariff and trade data is usually the most important task, and since trade data pose no problens, the examination of the docunentation available for sectoral studies of chemicels : electricai encincering and electronic products has been focused on output data. In this field, the OECD and the UN/ECE launched a major effort to compile for their member countries production (or shipment) statistics comparable with trade data.
6. The OECD and the UN/ECE COMpilations ${ }^{I}$ are based on the SITC $^{2}$ and cover 100 individual items representing the most significant products of the engineexing industries, including electric and other power-generating machinery (such as steam boilers and nuclear reactors), telecomunication apparatus and electronic components. In the field of chemicals, over thirty basic organic and inorganic

IThe engineering industries in OTCD member countries Vol. I and II OECD 1973, The Chemical Inclustries OECD, latest issue 1972/73. Annual Revjew of the Chemical Industry, UTV/ECE, latest issue 1973/74 (document ECE/CHEM/8). The Growth of World Industry UW: latest issue 1971.
${ }^{2}$ Standard International Trade Classification Revised 1: United Nations.
chemicals: are covered, end about forty products of the chemical industry, such as fertilizers: plastic materisis, synthetic fibres, dyestuffs, soaps and detergents, pharmaceuticals, photo and cinema supplies etc. So fex, the data heve been published for the period 1963-69 for engineering products and up to 1973 with respect to chemicals. The series on engineering products axe expected to be updated to 1972 before the end of this year. The products covered in these series are listed in the Annex. Countries reporting shipments (or production) of these goods and the units (quantity or value) in which these data are reported by the $O E C D$ or the UN/ECE are also shown. The secretariat has also examined national statistical sources, and where additional information on products included in the OECD and UN/ECE surveys is available it has been included in the Annex.

For the Buropean Comunities : publications by the Comanity's Statistical Office have also been consulted. Since statistics are not olways available for the Communities of Nine: data published by the Community (as well as OECD and UN/ECE) with respect to individual member countries are listed at the end of the Annex. For industrial countries as a group the OECD and the UN/ECE shipment (or production) and foreign trade data represent in general the best of internationally comparable compilations. It could only be improved upon through further and substantial involvenent of national authorities.
7. As may be seen from the Annex, even for these industries a number of technical problens arise. For instance:
(i) All countries do not report every product covered by the enquiry even in cases where production is important; this is particularly frequent for electrical engineering and chenicals in the EEC countries where certsin production is concentrated in one or two enterprises. For this reason, comprehensive figures for the HEC combined could not be systematically obtained.
(ii) For engineering products the data on shipments are in value (current US dollars): quantity statistics beine available in a few cases only. For chemicals, on the other hand quantities are reported most frequently and shipment values are exceptional: the absence of either quantity or value data is a sexious limitation since the values available so far are in most cases at pre"-1971. exchange rates and cannot reasonably be related to more recent trade values. Also the quantity units in which output is reported are not always satisfactory (the units adopted in production and in trade statistics are not always the some and important production in other countries would also be missed in a number of cases. The quantities reported are not meaninfful if the product catecrory is heterogeneous).

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(iii) The production or shipment data are in general less detailed than nctional customs tariffs.
(iv) Despite the care taken by the OECD statisticians, the correspondence between the statistics on the principal factors of production (based on ISIC) and on shipment or output (SIIC based) is imperfect.
8. As indicated in document Spec (72)32, more detailed and comprehensive production statistics related to foreign trade classification are available for. the United States and the Nordic countries. The data for the United States are reported in the 5 to 7-digit detail of the US Standard Industrial Classification and can be correlated with the customs tariffl: those for the Nordic countries are generally published in the same detail as national customs tarifi and for sone countries also at the 4 or 5 -digit level of the SITC ${ }^{2}$. The series are generally reported in value, quantity data are available for a large number of chemical. but only for a few engineering goocs, comparable data are published for recent years, generally up to 1971 or 1972. Comparability of longer-term series would in some cases be affected by changes in classifications. Froduction statistics for the nine members of the Kuropean Commuity ${ }^{3}$ are at present available for only a few products of the industries examined. The Communty s and national statistical services are working out programmes for collection of comprehensive production (or shipment) statistics by industries; those on electrical engineering: electronics and chemicals could, however, not be expected in the near future.
9. For countries not covered by the OECD surveys internationally comparable production statistics are available in the Unitea Nations publications. ${ }^{4}$ The data are reported in quantities and cover a less extensive list of commodities,

[^0]the product definitions are based on the ISICl which, in turn is more or less directly correlated with the SITC. The date on output of the products on the OECD list which are avallable in the NN pablicbtion for other important producing countries has also been sunsmarized in the Annex and the informetion completed, to the extent possible, by national sources available in the GATM library. The UN sexies extends over the last decade (to 1973) but data for individual countries are not aiways available for the whole pexiod.

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## Annex

Stetistics on production or shiments aveilable in the OSCD, UM/ECE and UHSO surveys

Symbols employed:
V $=$ Value (generally in US $\$$ )
Q * Quantity
$W=$ Weight (generaliy metiric tons)
CW $=$ Content weight of the element or active egent (sulphur, nitrogen, phosphoric oxide otc.)
$\mathrm{N}=$ Number
$L=$ Length
.. = Not available
()$=$ The avalable data do not strictly comply with the OECD or UN/ECE dofinitions.




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[^0]:    IUS Commodity Exports and Imports as related to Output: US Department of Comerce, latest issue 1970-71.

    Industrial Statistics: Official Statistics of Finland, latest issue 1972. Industrial Statistics, Central Bureau of Statistics of Morway; latest issue 1972. Manufacturing: Official Statistics of Sweden: latest issue 1973.
    ${ }^{3}$ Industrial Statistics, Statistical Office for the Buropean Commuities, latest issue third quarter 1974 .

    4The Growth of World Industry United Nations latest issues 1964-1973.

[^1]:    ${ }^{1}$ International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities, United Nations.

