
About the WTO

The World Trade Organization deals with the global rules of trade between nations. Its main function is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible.

About this publication

“World Trade Statistical Review” provides a detailed analysis of the latest developments in world trade. It will be produced on an annual basis and replaces “International Trade Statistics”, the WTO’s former annual statistical publication.

For more information

All data used in this report, as well as additional charts and tables not included, can be downloaded from the WTO web site at www.wto.org/statistics

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This publication is also available online at www.wto.org/statistics

For more information on the contents of this report, comments or suggestions for improvement may be sent by email to the International Trade Statistics Section (statistics@wto.org).

A message from Director-General Roberto Azevêdo



“World Trade Statistical Review” is the WTO’s new flagship statistical publication. Like its predecessor, “International Trade Statistics”, the aim of the publication is to show the latest trends in world trade and to improve understanding of global trade patterns.

This publication has existed in many guises since it was first produced as “International Trade” in 1952. Over the years, it has evolved in many ways, just as world trade has evolved. For example, in 2014 it included for the first time data on global value chains, a key measure for understanding the impact of global trade.

This new edition sees a transformation of the publication from a “statistical compendium” to a publication that analyses these statistics within a global economic context, using statistical data to explain how and why global trade is changing.

The new structure of the publication allows for more comprehensive information about trade and trade policy developments to be provided, and in a more timely way. This new publication will be released online in July each year, bringing it closer to the reporting period. A print version will be published in early September. Inevitably, this means that the publication will rely more on estimates of trade over the previous year rather than final data but by publishing the information earlier, it will allow us to highlight and analyse the latest trends more quickly. This is of obvious benefit to policy makers, trade analysts and all those involved in world trade.

A further update of the statistical data will be made online in October once final data are available, in line with previous years.

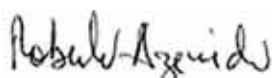
This new publication continues to provide comprehensive data on trade in goods and services but now has a broader coverage of world trade developments, including a particular focus on trade policy, an analysis of the participation of developing economies in world trade and a more detailed look at selected goods and services. All of this is accompanied by a detailed explanation of how the information is sourced and the methodology used in compiling the data.

In parallel to the revamping of our flagship statistical publication, we are also making improvements to our other annual statistical publications. Rather than having separate “profiles” for merchandise trade and trade in commercial services, these will be combined into one publication, with two pages of key data devoted to each economy.

“World Trade Statistical Review combines detailed statistics with an analytical review of trade data to enhance understanding of the latest developments in global trade.”

The new version of “Trade Profiles” will be published alongside “Tariff Profiles”, which will continue to provide information on tariffs and non-tariff measures applied by over 170 economies around the world. This publication will continue to be prepared in cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Trade Centre (ITC). Both these publications will continue to be published in October each year. Other profiles, on the Aid for Trade initiative and on trade in value added, will only be made available online.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has worked on this report. The gathering of these statistics and the analysis of the data would not be possible without the cooperation of our WTO members’ missions, other international organizations and national statistical authorities. Within the WTO, a number of divisions across the Secretariat have come together to help create this publication. I thank all of them for their invaluable contribution to this report.



Roberto Azevêdo
Director-General

Abbreviations and symbols

ACP African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
ASEAN Association of South-East Asian Nations
AFTA ASEAN Free Trade Area
BOP Balance of Payments
BPM5 Balance of Payments Manual, fifth edition
BPM6 Balance of Payments Manual, sixth edition
CACM Central American Common Market
CARICOM Caribbean Common Market
CEMAC Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa
CIS Commonwealth of Independent States
COMESA Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
ECCAS Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS Economic Community of West African States
EFTA European Free Trade Association
EU European Union
EUROSTAT Statistical Office of the European Communities
FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FATS Foreign Affiliates Statistics
FDI Foreign Direct Investment
GCC Gulf Co-operation Council
GDP Gross Domestic Product

GNP Gross National Product
HS Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System
IEA International Energy Agency
IMF International Monetary Fund
GTIS Global Trade Information Services Inc.
ISIC International Standard Industrial Classification
LDCs Least-developed countries
MERCOSUR Southern Common Market
NAFTA North American Free Trade Agreement
OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SAARC South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation
SADC South African Development Community
SAPTA South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement
SITC Standard International Trade Classification
UNECE United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNECLAC United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
UNCTAD United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNSD United Nations Statistics Division
WAEMU West African Economic and Monetary Union

c.i.f. cost, insurance and freight
 f.o.b. free on board
 n.e.s. not elsewhere specified
 n.i.e. not included elsewhere

The following symbols are used in this publication:

... not available or growth rates exceeding 500%
 0 figure is zero or became zero due to rounding
 - not applicable
 \$ United States dollars
 Q1, Q2 1st quarter, 2nd quarter
 | break in comparability of data series. Data after the symbol do not form a consistent series with those from earlier years.

Billion means one thousand million.

Minor discrepancies between constituent figures and totals are due to rounding.

Unless otherwise indicated, (i) all value figures are expressed in U.S. dollars; (ii) trade figures include the intra-trade of free trade areas, customs unions, geographical and other groups; (iii) merchandise trade figures are on a customs basis and (iv) merchandise exports are f.o.b. and merchandise imports are c.i.f. Data for the latest year are provisional.

The statistical data in this publication are supplied by and under the responsibility of the relevant statistical authorities. The use of such data by the WTO is without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, or to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries.

**Closing date for provision of data:
15 May 2016**