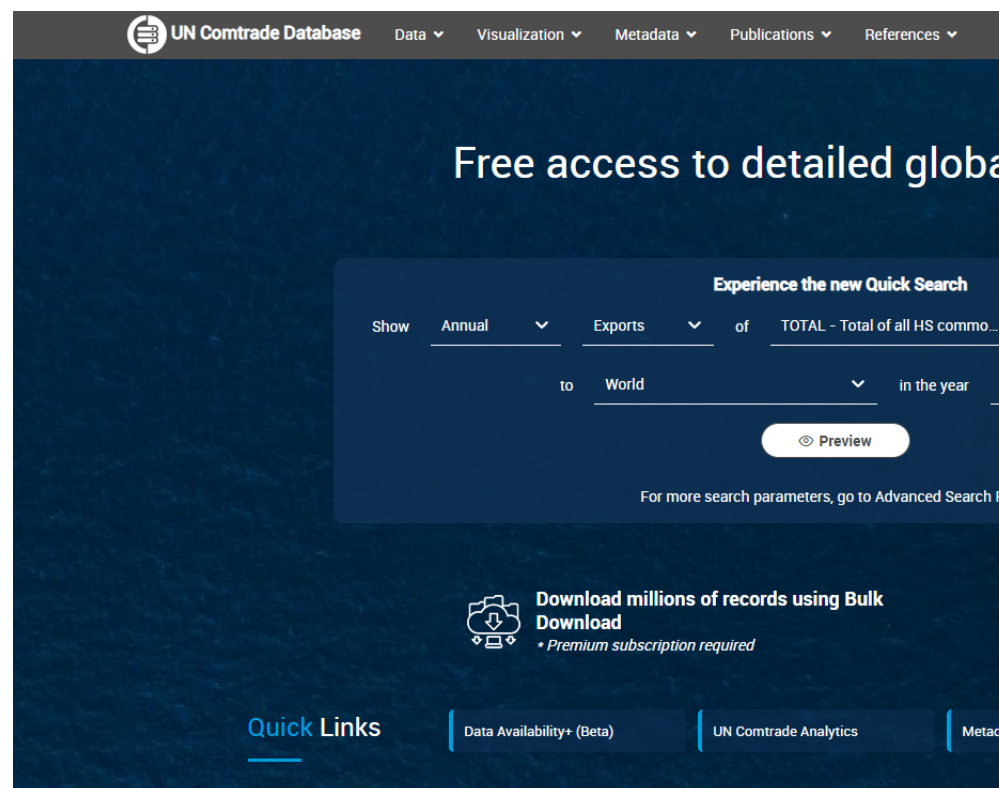


New Comtrade FAQ for First Time Users

Erstellt von UNSD_MM, zuletzt geändert von UNSD_MP am Jan 05, 2024

The new Comtrade | the United Nations comprehensive global trade data platform



Need a guidance on the User Interface? Go to [New Comtrade User Guide](#)

FAQ for advanced users can be access [here](#).

Zuletzt aktualisiert

[Correlation between ISIC and SITC codes \(or Commodity and Industry\)](#)

Jan 09, 2024 • aktualisiert von Vysaul Nyirongo • Änderung anzeigen

[Commodity indexes for SITC](#)

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[Areas not elsewhere specified](#)

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What is UN Comtrade?

The UN COMTRADE Database is maintained by the DESA/UN Statistics Division. It provides detailed imports and exports statistics in goods and services reported by statistical authorities of close to 200 countries/areas since 1962. It is considered the most comprehensive online trade database available, with tens of billions of data points.

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What's new about UN Comtrade? | An overview

- New look and intuitive design
- New data, more parameters
- A more sophisticated and refined search
- Ability to save searches and build custom groupings
- More filtering options
- Comtrade Labs
- Comtrade Trend
- Premium services (see subscription plan below)
- Email notifications for data download completion
- Mobile friendly (transformation of data into cards)
- More powerful data API options
- Single sign-on
- More frequent social media notifications

See more at [What's new in UN Comtrade+ - YouTube](#)

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Why has the subscription price increased?

This is the first-time subscription increase after more than a decade. The new price also reflects the addition of new state-of-the-art features and functionality that UN Comtrade customers will enjoy, including: a new look and intuitive design; new data with more parameters; more powerful API options; premium services (bulk and delivery download, access to Data Lake); and single sign-on.

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Tell me more about the new features of UN Comtrade.

- New data: trade value in CIF and FOB, quantity in secondary unit codes, and gross weight. Further, tariffline data are made publicly available.
- More parameters: mode of transport, 2nd partner country, customs procedure codes, more trade flows.
- Premium services: including bulk and delivery download and (forthcoming – additional subscription) access to Data Lake.
- More powerful data API options: Powered by Azure API Management for reliability and scalability. Built-in developer portal.
- Comtrade Trend: real-time analytics of recently released datasets and the data that users are looking for on UN Comtrade
- Comtrade Labs: innovative and experimental data visualizations by our subscribers using UN Comtrade data
- Custom Groupings: Summarize the detailed trade data by providing custom groupings
- New saving features: options to save search criteria and parameters for registered users

Nov 02, 2023 • aktualisiert von
UNSD_MP • Änderung anzeigen

[What is Data Preview?](#)

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[New Comtrade FAQ for First Time Users](#)

Okt 19, 2023 • aktualisiert von
UNSD DB • Änderung anzeigen

[What is Data Preview?](#)

Okt 19, 2023 • aktualisiert von
UNSD DB • Änderung anzeigen

- Large data sets emailed to your inbox: data extraction runs in the background when a data download is complete, a link to the dataset is sent to subscribers by email notification.
- New mobile-friendly features: the transformation of data tables into data cards for easy viewing and sharing on mobile devices
- Single sign-on: Use selected providers of single sign-on to login to UN Comtrade – no need to create a new account/password

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What is the tariffline data?

Tariffline data is the harmonized original data submitted by the countries. The harmonization is applied to all data dimensions except the commodity; therefore, data at the tariffline level (more than 6-digit HS) may be available. Further, the value is converted to USD. The tariffline data do not have the aggregated high-level data (such as a total commodity, partner World), there is no outliers detection nor quantity estimation, and the data are not converted to other classifications such as BEC, SITC. In brief, it is very close to the original data.

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What is bulk file download?

"Bulk files" are pre-packaged datasets available in compressed format. Each bulk file consists of data for the combination of goods/services, classification, frequency, country, and period (for example merchandise trade data of Germany March 2022 in HS2022 classification). The bulk file download feature offers users a quick method to download full datasets as these are prepackaged in compressed files. As of mid-2023, there are around 230,000 datasets in UN Comtrade and the number keeps growing.

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What is data delivery?

For premium subscribers, the data delivery feature (formerly known as batch download) will query your data in the background and a link to a file will be sent to your email.

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What types of data can I find on UN Comtrade?

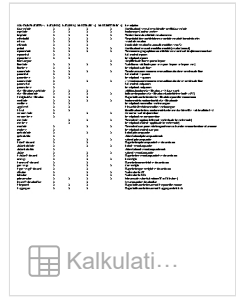
You can find the detailed bilateral trade data by commodities/service categories.

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Which new data items have been added?

UN Comtrade contains more breakdowns (mode of transport, 2nd partner country, custom procedure codes) and measurements (trade values in CIF and FOB, trade quantity in secondary unit codes, and gross weight) which opens up more granular and targeted data analysis. Please note the availability of these data parameters may vary depending on the national compilation guideline. Further information on the description and limitations are available at <https://comtrade.un.org/data/doc/UpgradePlan>

The [excel file](#) contains description of data variables including their code lists.



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Where can I learn more about the methodology?

You can read the following the [Methodology Guide for UN Comtrade](#).



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How has the search experience for customers been improved?

Users can now refine by mode of transport, 2nd partner, custom procedure code, trade flows, partners, reporters, periods, and commodity/services codes. A registered (free) user can also save these parameters and searches.

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How has the data API been improved?

UN Comtrade has more powerful data API options with which users can save data in new machine-readable formats (CSV and JSON). The API is backed by Azure API Management, offering automatic scalability and reliability during the spike in data demand, thus making the API suitable for production-level data pipelines.

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How frequently is the data updated?

The data is continuously updated with the submission from countries. You can check [the data availability page](#) to check the latest updates.

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What are the data sources for UN Comtrade?

The data is sourced from the official national agencies mandated to disseminate trade statistics, which may vary in countries due to a variety of national institutional

arrangements. The data source can be found in the publication notes.

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Who owns the data on UN Comtrade? Is it owned by the United Nations?

UN Comtrade data is copyrighted by United Nations. You can browse the Copyright information at <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/copyright>. The terms and conditions of use of UN websites are outlined at <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/terms-of-use>. Please note that both copyright and terms of use are not specific to the statistical dataset; therefore, we are drafting the specific terms of use of datasets.

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What are the benefits for data providers?

Data providers will benefit from your institution's trade data visibility as it will be referenced by many users, such as trade negotiations in WTO, various academic journals, and news articles. The data providers are given complimentary access to UN Comtrade; therefore, they can take advantage of other datasets submitted by other providers (for example, to compare bilateral trade figures).

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Can I access UN Comtrade on a tablet or mobile device?

Yes, the platform is optimized for both desktop and mobile devices. One new feature of UN Comtrade is the transformation of data tables into data cards on mobile devices for easier viewing and sharing. In addition, the selection criteria user interface is also optimized for mobile devices.

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Can we switch to different languages? What are the limitations?

Users can select English (En), French (Fr), and Spanish (Es). The multi-language support is only applied to the User Interface, and not to the data such as the descriptions of data variables. Please note that we used the automated machine translation of the English text followed by a review by the native speakers.

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How can I subscribe to UN Comtrade?

UN Comtrade subscriptions are available to individual users and for-profit institutions at different rates. Contact your institution or library to see if they already have a UN Comtrade subscription. Subscription features allow institution-wide use and a large download of the UN Comtrade data. For more information, contact subscriptions@un.org.

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Which subscriptions can I choose from?

UN Comtrade offers free access to official trade statistics through a *basic individual* subscription. Registration is free, and users can unlock a range of features with a registered UN Comtrade account. These features include data preview, data download of 100K records per call, and data API access for up to 500 calls/day. API

access is available through our UN Comtrade Developer portal, where users can request a free subscription key.

We encourage our users to fully explore the features available through our free *basic individual* subscription. Most users find that a free account provides enough access to meet their data requirements.

For users with more extensive data requirements and features, a premium subscription to UN Comtrade may be a good option. In addition to the basic features, premium subscribers can access pre-packaged data files called bulk files and wider API access with increased limits.

To help users evaluate the account type for their needs, the table below shows an overview of what's included in each account type.

Features	Public	Basic Individual	Premium Individual	Premium Institutional
				Pro 1 - not-for-profit and academic institutions Pro 2 - for-profit and private sector institutions
<i>Number of Users</i>	Registration not required	Single	Single	Multiple
<i>Yearly Subscription</i>	Free	Free	Visit shop.un.org	Visit shop.un.org
<i>Type of Access</i>	Anonymous	Individual	Individual	Institution-wide
<i>Authentication</i>	Non-authenticated	Registered email	Registered email	Registered email domain
<i>User Interface (UI)</i>				
• Data Preview	✓	✓	✓	✓
• Data Download	✗	✓	✓	✓
• Data Delivery	✗	✗	✓	✓
• Aggregation Option	✓	✓	✓	✓
• Save Parameters	✗	✓	✓	✓
• Save Searches	✗	✓	✓	✓
<i>Download Options</i>				
• UI Download	✗	✓ max 100K records per	✓ max of 250k records per	✓ max of 250k records per

		call	call	call
• UI Bulk	✗	✗	✓	✓
• UI Deliver	✗	✗	✓ max of 2.5M records per call	✓ max of 2.5M records per call
• Data API	✗	✓ max 100K records per call	✓ max of 250k records per call	✓ max of 250k records per call
• Bulk API	✗	✗	✓	✓
• Async API	✗	✗	✓ max of 2.5M records per call	✓ max of 2.5M records per call
API				
• Preview data API	✓ Limited to 500 records and 1 single period per call	✓ 500 calls/day	✓ 5000 calls/day	✓ Unlimited calls per day
• Data API	✗			
• Bulk API	✗			
• Async API	✗			

*No discount based on countries' development status or income level

Users who are considering a premium subscription may request a 15-day premium trial subscription. It is intended to showcase the enhanced capabilities of our premium service and allow users to make an informed decision before purchasing a premium subscription.

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What's the download capacity for users?

See the available data services for users [above](#).

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What's offered in a premium trial subscription?

Trial accounts offer the same features as [premium subscriptions](#), such as an intuitive interface, customization options, and download capabilities. This includes access to a limited set of bulk data files and the UN Comtrade API, albeit with a restricted daily usage quota.

Trial subscriptions have access to the UN Comtrade API with a limited daily quota.

- Limited set of bulk data files
- Limited API calls with results up to 250k records per call
- Limited API calls using Async/Deliver option

You can request a subscription key to the Premium Trial APIs through the [UN Comtrade Developer](#) portal once your trial account request has been approved and established. The trial subscription is strictly for 15 business days. To purchase a subscription, please visit <https://shop.un.org/databases> or email subscriptions@un.org.

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How do I request a premium trial account?

You must have a registered account in UN Comtrade before requesting a trial subscription.

1. Register a free UN Comtrade account at <https://comtrade.un.org>
2. Please fill out the form at: <https://forms.office.com/e/gvdYUCydxJ>. Incomplete requests will not be accepted.
3. Please allow us 3-5 business days to review and process your trial account request.
4. You will receive an email notification from comtrade@un.org once your trial account is established.

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My institution has a UN Comtrade subscription. We are having difficulties accessing the content. What should we do?

Kindly send an email to comtrade@un.org, providing specific details regarding your issue. Our support team will reach out to offer assistance.

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Who should I contact if I have data (substantive) or technical questions?

For technical questions about the UN Comtrade site or data, please contact comtrade@un.org.

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Who should I contact about licensing questions?

For questions about licensing UN Comtrade data, please write to subscriptions@un.org.

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How can I receive updates?

Please go to [UN Comtrade | Shop.un.org](#) and click Subscribe (at the bottom page) to sign up for our email updates. You can also subscribe to the UN Trade Statistics Twitter handle at [@UNTradeStats](#) for data updates and important announcements.

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Is there any Python/R package to call the APIs?

As an alternative of calling the APIs directly, the Python package **comtradeapicall** can be utilized. It is available at the Python Package Index: <https://pypi.org/project/comtradeapicall/>. Instruction and examples are available at the

project site in PyPi and at GitHub <https://github.com/uncomtrade/comtradeapicall>.
The package is provided as is and support for the maintenance and improvement relies on the users.

```
# Extracting tariffline data into a data frame
mydf = comtradeapicall.previewTarifflineData(typeCode='C', frequencyCode='A',
                                             reporterCode='36',
                                             partner2Code=None,
                                             customsCode=None,
                                             countOnly=None, includeIncoterms=False)

# Downloading tariffline data to specific folder
comtradeapicall.bulkDownloadTarifflineFile(subscription_key, directory='data',
                                           period='2010', reportYear='2010')
```

Unfortunately, the R package is not available.

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- [UN Comtrade Premium Subscription Trial](#)

[comtrade+](#) [faq](#)

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