

What is UN Comtrade?

[UN COMTRADE](#) is the pseudonym for United Nations International Trade Statistics Database. Over 170 reporter countries/areas provide the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) with their annual international trade statistics data detailed by commodities/service categories and partner countries. These data are subsequently transformed into the United Nations Statistics Division standard format with consistent coding and valuation using the processing system.

The [UN COMTRADE](#) is the largest depository of international trade data. It contains well over 3 billion data records since 1962 and is available publicly on the internet. In addition, it offers [public and premium data API](#) for easier integration/download.

All commodity values are converted from national currency into US dollars using exchange rates supplied by the reporter countries, or derived from monthly market rates and volume of trade. Quantities, when provided with the reporter country data and when possible, are converted into metric units. Commodities are reported in the current classification and revision (HS 2012 in most cases as of 2016) and are converted all the way down to the earliest classification SITC revision 1. Therefore, if data is received in HS 2012 version, it is converted to HS 2007, HS 2002, HS1996, HS1988, SITC rev. 3, SITC rev. 2, SITC rev. 1 and BEC. The data are permanently stored in the [UN COMTRADE](#) database server.

Commodities are classified according to SITC (Rev.1 from 1962, Rev.2 from 1976 and Rev.3 from 1988), the Harmonized System (HS) (from 1988 with revisions in 1996, 2002, 2007, 2012 and 2017) and Broad Economic Categories (BEC). Learn more about [Harmonized System](#).

Time series of data for reporter countries starts as far back as 1962 and goes up to the most recent completed year. Current data is published annually in the [International Trade Statistics Yearbook](#) and can be purchased through the [UN Publication](#).

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This is only applicable to Legacy UN Comtrade. For further information, see [UN Comtrade Manual Sets](#) . Browser Warning: [Legacy UN Comtrade](#) works best with Internet Explorer Web Browser. In other browsers, some pages might not work properly.

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UN Comtrade Upgrade Project (ongoing)

To comply with IMTS 2010 and MSITS 2010, UNSD has been requesting more detailed data (i.e., addition of second partner country) to data providers. This requires upgrade to underlying existing data infrastructure, and UN Comtrade has been undertaken ongoing improvement. As part of the project, monthly merchandise trade, services trade and analytical trade data had been added to UN Comtrade data catalog in 2014-2016 and Data API has been re-worked.

Monitor the progress of the upgrade project at
<https://comtrade.un.org/data/doc/releasenotes/>

Trade Knowledgebase

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/b/Knowledgebase/50075/What-is-UN-Comtrade>