**Note to User**

The Canadian International Merchandise Trade (CIMT) online database offers detailed trade data using the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) classification of goods (based on the 6-digit commodity level). The HS is an international commodity classification system made up of 6 digits (HS-06). The official interpretation of HS is given in the Explanatory Notes (5 volumes in English and French) published by the World Customs Organization. The HS is used by more than 167 countries or economic unions to classify more than 95% of total world trade. In Canada, the international 6-digit root was extended to 8 digits for exports and 10 digits for imports. Both export and import statistics used in the CIMT database are at this HS-06 detailed level.

Revisions to HS codes at the 8th or 10th digit level may happen throughout the year and they usually comprise a minimal number of description changes, additions and deletions. However changes at the HS 6 digit level happen on average every 5-year. The first set of changes affecting the 6 digit level came into effect on January 1, 1992, followed by revisions in 1996, 2002, 2007 and 2012. The next round of revisions by the World Customs Organization will be implemented for January 2017. The detailed level HS 6 digit code descriptions for the exports (including re-exports) and imports of a commodity can be different. Hence, the metadata files are separated by the trade type. The start date and end date associated with each HS-06 code description are provided in the metadata files to show the changes overtime.