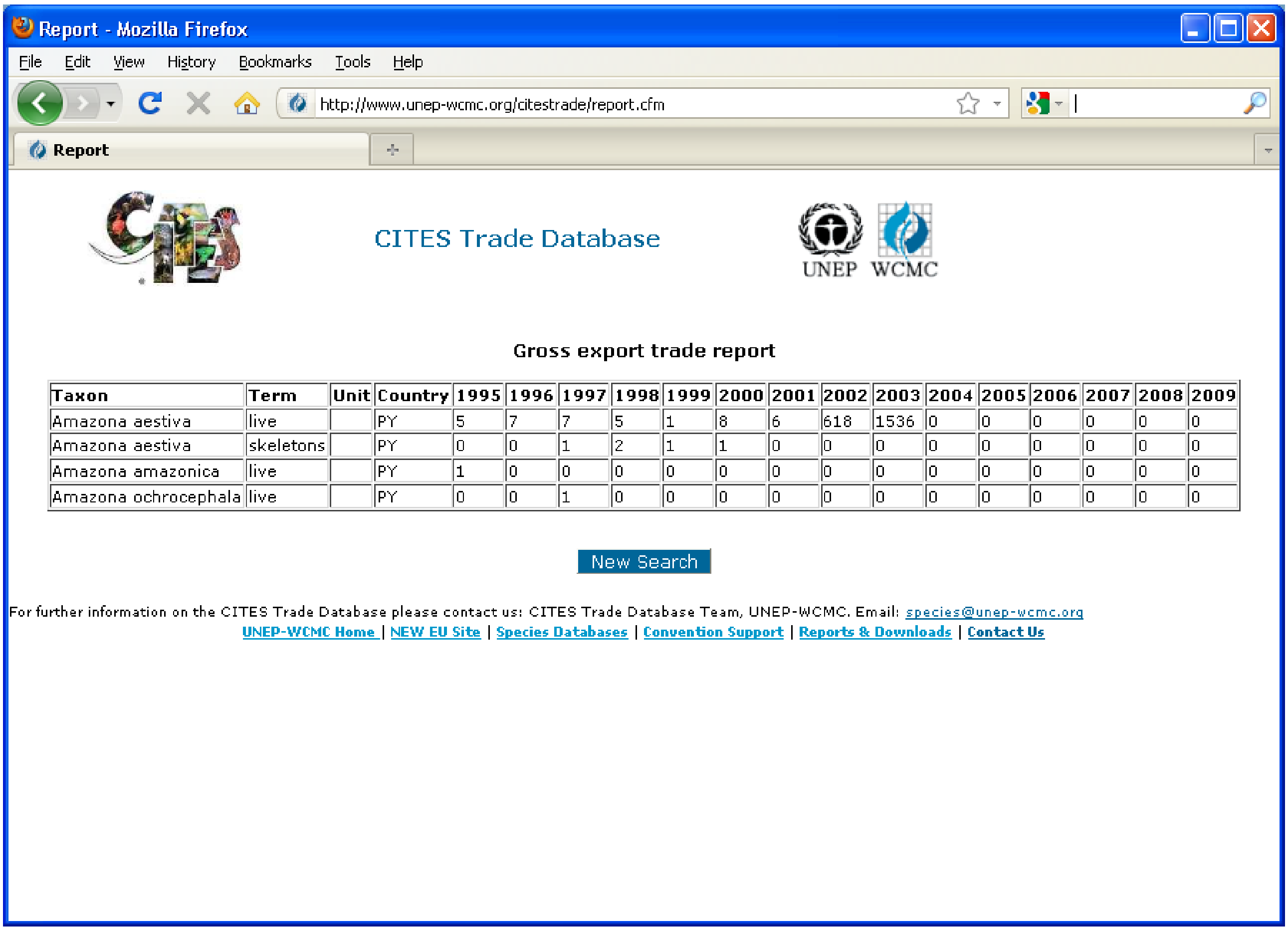
Gross/net trade reports

This output is most commonly used to determine the volume of trade in a given species or genus; however, one can also use it determine the volume of trade involving a particular country. As the CITES Trade Database data covers 1975 to the present (although the last year for which comprehensive statistics are available is usually two years before the present one; see Section 1.2.2 of the full *Guide to Interpreting Outputs from the UNEP-WCMC CITES Trade Database*), trade levels and patterns can be analysed over a period of time. Before creating the report, the user is prompted to select one of the following report types: **gross exports, gross imports, net exports, net imports** or **all**. It should be noted that gross/net outputs are often overestimates of the quantity traded as where different quantities have been reported by the importer and the exporter, the program selects the larger quantity.

Important note:

Net trade is the positive difference between a country's re-exports and its imports. Therefore if your data selection only involved imports to, or exports from, specified countries, you cannot calculate net imports or exports, as not all the data necessary for the calculation will be available. You will only be able to obtain gross imports or exports.

The image below shows a sample Web report for gross exports of *Amazona aestiva* from Paraguay between 1995 and 2009:



Taxon	Term	Unit	Country	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Amazona aestiva	live		PY	5	7	7	5	1	8	6	618	1536	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amazona aestiva	skeletons		PY	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amazona amazonica	live		PY	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Amazona ochrocephala	live		PY	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Interpretation of Gross/net trade reports

The gross/net trade reports are not completely standard in appearance. They may contain a combination of the following headings:

Taxon .... scientific name of animal or plant involved.
Term .... description of specimens traded (see Annex 1).
Unit....................... e.g. kg. If no unit is shown, the figure represents the total number of specimens.
Country................ the country involved in the trade (if you have selected gross/net imports this will be the country of import, if you have selected gross/net exports, this will be the country of export). Please note this program takes no account of the country of origin of re-exports when calculating outputs.
Year....................... year in which trade occurred.

This program was designed to estimate the number of items traded annually. Gross trade is a simple measure of the total number of items recorded in international trade while net trade is a reflection of the actual number of items being traded, e.g. if 50 lizard skins are exported from Indonesia to Singapore and are then re-exported to Hong Kong SAR and from there to France, the number of items in trade is 50, and not the 150 that would be obtained from the gross export output. It should be noted that both of these outputs tend to overestimate trade levels.

The output program compares the trade reported between countries, and initially calculates the total number of items imported or (re-)exported. Each trade record is treated both as an export and an import record for the purpose of the calculation and, in the case where one of the trading partners reports more than the other, or perhaps one country fails to report (e.g. where the trade involves a non-Party); the higher figure is selected to avoid underestimating the trade. The program then subtracts each country's re-exports from their gross imports in order to calculate the net trade. It should be noted that total global gross exports will be the same figure as total global gross imports for a given taxon in a given year and similarly, total global net exports will be the same as total global net imports.

Net exports = the positive difference between total (re-)exports (gross) and total imports (gross)

Net imports = the positive difference between total imports (gross) and total (re-)exports (gross)

Gross exports = the total quantity (re-)exported of a given commodity

Gross imports = the total quantity imported of a given commodity