

## 1.1. Metadata & Reference

This section deals with the contents of the statistical database *reference* tables. These tables contain the names and descriptions of commodities and countries and their associated codes. The *Database Dissemination Model* document gives concrete details on these topics.

The Metadata<sup>1</sup> & Reference links are as follows:

Metadata & Reference
<a href="#">Commodity list</a>
<a href="#">Country list</a>
<a href="#">Explanatory Notes</a>
<a href="#">Glossary</a>

Figure 1: the Metadata & Reference links

### 1.1.1. Commodity List

Clicking the 'Commodity list' entry displays the list of all the registered commodities, nodes or leaves, sorted according to their classification code. The classification can be changed. The picture below is the top part of this list:

Commodity List		
Input keywords: <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Search"/>		
<b>Commodity List</b>		
Total Commodities defined : 98		
<input type="radio"/> SITC Rev.1 <input type="radio"/> SITC Rev.2 <input type="radio"/> SITC Rev.3 <input type="radio"/> HS1992 <input checked="" type="radio"/> HS1996 <input type="radio"/> HS2002 <input type="radio"/> BEC		
Code	Description	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Name:</b> ALL COMMODITIES <b>Description:</b> ALL COMMODITIES	<a href="#">Data Availability</a> <a href="#">Snapshot</a>
<u>01</u>	<b>Name:</b> Live animals <b>Description:</b> Live animals	<a href="#">Data Availability</a> <a href="#">Snapshot</a>
<u>02</u>	<b>Name:</b> Meat and edible meat offal <b>Description:</b> Meat and edible meat offal	<a href="#">Data Availability</a> <a href="#">Snapshot</a>
<u>03</u>	<b>Name:</b> Fish, crustaceans, molluscs, aquatic invertebrates nes <b>Description:</b> Fish & crustacean, mollusc & other aquatic invertebrate	<a href="#">Data Availability</a> <a href="#">Snapshot</a>
<u>04</u>	<b>Name:</b> Dairy products, eggs, honey, edible animal product nes <b>Description:</b> Dairy prod; birds' eggs; natural honey; edible prod nes	<a href="#">Data Availability</a> <a href="#">Snapshot</a>
<u>05</u>	<b>Name:</b> Products of animal origin, nes <b>Description:</b> Products of animal origin, nes or included.	<a href="#">Data Availability</a> <a href="#">Snapshot</a>
<u>06</u>	<b>Name:</b> Live trees, plants, bulbs, roots, cut flowers etc <b>Description:</b> Live tree & other plant; bulb, root; cut flowers etc	<a href="#">Data Availability</a> <a href="#">Snapshot</a>
<u>07</u>	<b>Name:</b> Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers <b>Description:</b> Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers.	<a href="#">Data Availability</a> <a href="#">Snapshot</a>
<u>08</u>	<b>Name:</b> Edible fruit, nuts, peel of citrus fruit, melons <b>Description:</b> Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons.	<a href="#">Data Availability</a> <a href="#">Snapshot</a>
<u>09</u>	<b>Name:</b> Coffee, tea, mate and spices <b>Description:</b> Coffee, tea, mate and spices.	<a href="#">Data Availability</a> <a href="#">Snapshot</a>
<u>10</u>	<b>Name:</b> Cereals <b>Description:</b> Cereals	<a href="#">Data Availability</a> <a href="#">Snapshot</a>

Figure 2: commodity list for classification HS1996 (partial view)

<sup>1</sup> A metadata item describes a data item

Clicking a node commodity code expands it to its lower level, and so on, until a leaf code is reached, as illustrated below:

Code	Description	
<u>TOTAL</u>	<b>Name:</b> ALL COMMODITIES <b>Description:</b> ALL COMMODITIES	<a href="#">Data Availability</a> <a href="#">Snapshot</a>
<u>_02</u>	<b>Name:</b> Meat and edible meat offal <b>Description:</b> Meat and edible meat offal	<a href="#">Data Availability</a> <a href="#">Snapshot</a>
<u>0201</u>	<b>Name:</b> Meat of bovine animals, fresh or chilled <b>Description:</b> Meat of bovine animals, fresh or chilled.	<a href="#">Data Availability</a> <a href="#">Snapshot</a>
<u>020110</u>	<b>Name:</b> Bovine carcasses and half carcasses, fresh or chilled <b>Description:</b> Carcasses and half-carcasses	<a href="#">Data Availability</a> <a href="#">Snapshot</a>
<u>020120</u>	<b>Name:</b> Bovine cuts bone in, fresh or chilled <b>Description:</b> Other cuts with bone in	<a href="#">Data Availability</a> <a href="#">Snapshot</a>
<u>020130</u>	<b>Name:</b> Bovine cuts boneless, fresh or chilled <b>Description:</b> Boneless	<a href="#">Data Availability</a> <a href="#">Snapshot</a>

Figure 3: expanding the 02 node and its descendant(s)

[Data Availability](#) and [Snapshot](#) links have already been described.

### 1.1.2. Country List

'Country list' is the second entry in the Metadata & Reference menu:

#### Country List

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z All

Input keywords:

Country List

Total countries defined : 275

Code	Name	ISO	Valid Years	
4	<b>Abbreviation:</b> Afghanistan <b>Full Name:</b> Afghanistan <b>Description:</b> N/A <b>Comment:</b> N/A <b>Type:</b> Reporters/Partners	AF/AFG	1962 - Now	<a href="#">Data Availability</a> <a href="#">Explanatory Notes</a> <a href="#">Snapshot</a> <a href="#">ITC Country Profile</a> <a href="#">Trade Compilation</a>
472	<b>Abbreviation:</b> Africa CAMEU region, nes <b>Full Name:</b> Africa CAMEU region, not elsewhere specified <b>Description:</b> N/A <b>Comment:</b> N/A <b>Type:</b> Partners Only	N/A	1962 - Now	N/A
8	<b>Abbreviation:</b> Albania <b>Full Name:</b> Albania <b>Description:</b> N/A <b>Comment:</b> N/A <b>Type:</b> Reporters/Partners	AL/ALB	1962 - Now	<a href="#">Data Availability</a> <a href="#">Explanatory Notes</a> <a href="#">Snapshot</a> <a href="#">ITC Country Profile</a> <a href="#">Trade Compilation</a>
12	<b>Abbreviation:</b> Algeria <b>Full Name:</b> Algeria <b>Description:</b> N/A <b>Comment:</b> N/A <b>Type:</b> Reporters/Partners	DZ/DZA	1962 - Now	<a href="#">Data Availability</a> <a href="#">Explanatory Notes</a> <a href="#">Snapshot</a> <a href="#">ITC Country Profile</a> <a href="#">Trade Compilation</a>

Country first letter or keyword filter

Links

Figure 4: Country list – all countries selected (partial view)

We see the ISO country codes and data collection year range for each country. A country selection can be achieved through a first-letter list.

The first three links have already been described with the Query processor they use. The ITC<sup>2</sup> Country Profile entry is particularly interesting:

Figure 5: ITC country information (Bahrain selected here)

The links in this interface display economic data in PDF (Adobe) or Excel format; for instance:

Imports of Bahrain									
RANK	HS Code and product label	Imports 2003 (US\$ m.)	Net imports 2003 (%)	Import growth 99-2003	Group import growth (%)	Share in world (%)	Leading exporting countries		
							1st	2nd	
.	ALL GOODS	5,384	.	.	9	.	.	.	.
.	ALL GOODS (WTO)	5,116	-1,248	.	.	.	.	.	.
32	0104 Live sheep and goats	20	20	21	18	2.5	AUS	71	SAU 11
25	0207 Meat & edible offal of poultry meat	23	23	1	5	0.2	BRA	64	CHN 11
37	0402 Milk and cream, concentrated or sweetened	18	17	.	5	0.2	NLD	27	SAU 19
34	0406 Cheese and curd	19	19	5	1	0.1	AUS	26	DNK 19
26	1006 Rice	22	22	-7	-7	0.4	PAK	73	IND 22
28	1905 Bread, biscuits, wafers, cakes and pastries	22	12	.	8	0.2	SAU	28	ARE 10
24	2009 Fruit & vegetable juices, unfermented	23	18	.	14	0.3	SAU	67	KWT 11
31	2208 Spirits, liqueurs, other spirit beverages, alcoholic preparations	20	20	.	8	0.2	GBR	77	FRA 7
14	2402 Cigars, cheroots, cigarillos & cigarettes	28	28	.	-5	0.2	USA	51	GBR 35
10	2523 Cements, portland, aluminous, slag, supersulfate & similar hydraulic cer	39	39	.	14	0.9	SAU	72	ARE 25
4	2601 Iron ores & concentrates; including roasted iron pyrites	65	-177	5	5	0.6	BRA	77	IRN 23
35	2708 Pitch & pitch coke, obtained from coal tar or from other mineral tars	18	18	.	13	5.5	DEU	61	BEL 39
1	2710 Petroleum oils, not crude	2,080	-2,601	.	21	1.4	nes	99	ARE 0
18	2713 Petroleum coke, petroleum bitumen & other residues of petroleum oils	26	26	.	6	0.7	KWT	58	BRA 27
3	2818 Aluminium oxide (incl artificial corundum); aluminium hydroxide	209	209	.	27	3.6	AUS	100	NLD 0

Figure 6: ITC country information for Bahrain - National Import Profile selected (partial view)

We won't discuss this ITC interface to any longer extent, for it is not directly related to the Joint System application.

<sup>2</sup> International Trade Centre

The last link in the Country list is *Trade Compilation*. Clicking it in a country record (see [fig. 86](#)) brings up the following interface:

## International Merchandise Trade Statistics National Compilation and Reporting Practices

Introduction | **Research countries** | Research questions | List of UN recommendations

**AZERBAIJAN**

41 answers comply with UN recommendations (blue). (78.8%)  
 11 answers do not comply with UN recommendations (red, with ?). (21.2%)  
 0 questions have no answer. (0%)  
 Click on any question to see all responses to that question.

[\[Back\]](#)

1. Do you include in trade statistics non-monetary gold?	YES
2. Do you include in trade statistics trade on government account?	YES
3. Do you include in trade statistics military goods?	YES
4. Do you include in trade statistics electricity, gas and water?	YES
5. Do you include in trade statistics postal items?	YES
6. Do you include in trade statistics goods used as carriers of information and software (not to order)?	YES
7. Do you include in trade statistics trade in marine vessels and aircraft that engage in international traffic?	YES
8. Do you include in trade statistics mobile equipment (i.e. drilling rigs) operating in international waters?	YES
9. Do you include in trade statistics goods delivered to and from offshore installations located in the economic territory of the compiling country?	YES
10. Do you include in trade statistics trade in products mined from the seabed in international waters?	NO ?
11. Do you include in trade statistics bunkers, stores, ballast and dunnage supplied to foreign vessels or aircraft in the national territory?	YES

Answers to UN questions

**Figure 7: Trade Compilation for Azerbaijan (partial view)**

This form is essentially a country report on national compilation and reporting practices in international merchandise trade statistics. It lists the answers to a series of 156 questions sent to countries, asking them:

- what they include in trade statistics (e.g., postal items, products mined from the seabed...),
- which trade system they use (general, special),
- which classification system they use (e.g., SITC, HS),
- what sources they use (e.g., customs declarations),
- how quickly they report their data, ...

For 52 of the 156 questions there is a UN recommendation on what countries should do.

When an answer doesn't comply with the corresponding UN recommendation (if any), it appears in **red** and is flagged with a question mark (?), like entry 10. above. A non-complying answer can be YES or NO. Complying answers appear in blue. Answers to questions that haven't a UN recommendation appear in grey.

The Trade compilation form also includes links to publications, explanatory texts and specific statistical reports. These topics are considered beyond the scope of this Manual.

### 1.1.3. Explanatory Notes

Clicking this entry brings up the following form:

**Explanatory Notes - by Reporter**

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z All

Input keywords:  Search

**Search Results**

Number of reporters: 245

Code	Name	Years
4	<a href="#">Afghanistan</a> <a href="#">View Description</a>	<a href="#">1967MX</a> , <a href="#">1968MX</a> , <a href="#">1969MX</a> , <a href="#">1970MX</a> , <a href="#">1971MX</a> , <a href="#">1972MX</a> , <a href="#">1973MX</a> , <a href="#">1974MX</a> , <a href="#">1975MX</a> , <a href="#">1976MX</a> , <a href="#">1977MX</a> , <a href="#">ALL</a>
8	<a href="#">Albania</a> <a href="#">View Description</a>	<a href="#">1996MX</a> , <a href="#">1997MX</a> , <a href="#">1998MX</a> , <a href="#">1999MX</a> , <a href="#">2000MX</a> , <a href="#">2001MX</a> , <a href="#">2002MX</a> , <a href="#">2003MX</a> , <a href="#">2004MX</a> , <a href="#">ALL</a>
12	<a href="#">Algeria</a> <a href="#">View Description</a>	<a href="#">1968MX</a> , <a href="#">1969MX</a> , <a href="#">1970MX</a> , <a href="#">1971MX</a> , <a href="#">1973MX</a> , <a href="#">1974MX</a> , <a href="#">1975MX</a> , <a href="#">1976MX</a> , <a href="#">1977MX</a> , <a href="#">1978MX</a> , <a href="#">1979MX</a> , <a href="#">1980MX</a> , <a href="#">1981MX</a> , <a href="#">1982MX</a> , <a href="#">1983MX</a> , <a href="#">1984MX</a> , <a href="#">1985MX</a> , <a href="#">1986MX</a> , <a href="#">1987MX</a> , <a href="#">1988MX</a> , <a href="#">1989MX</a> , <a href="#">1990MX</a> , <a href="#">1991MX</a> , <a href="#">1992MX</a> , <a href="#">1993MX</a> , <a href="#">1994MX</a> , <a href="#">1995MX</a> , <a href="#">1996MX</a> , <a href="#">1997MX</a> , <a href="#">1998MX</a> , <a href="#">1999MX</a> , <a href="#">2000MX</a> , <a href="#">2001MX</a> , <a href="#">2002MX</a> , <a href="#">2003MX</a> , <a href="#">2004MX</a> , <a href="#">ALL</a>
20	<a href="#">Andorra</a> <a href="#">View Description</a>	<a href="#">1995MX</a> , <a href="#">1996MX</a> , <a href="#">1997MX</a> , <a href="#">1998MX</a> , <a href="#">1999MX</a> , <a href="#">2000MX</a> , <a href="#">2001MX</a> , <a href="#">2002MX</a> , <a href="#">2003MX</a> , <a href="#">2004MX</a> , <a href="#">ALL</a>
24	<a href="#">Angola</a> <a href="#">View Description</a>	<a href="#">1962MX</a> , <a href="#">1969MX</a> , <a href="#">1970MX</a> , <a href="#">1971MX</a> , <a href="#">1972MX</a> , <a href="#">1973MX</a> , <a href="#">1974MX</a> , <a href="#">1978X</a> , <a href="#">1979X</a> , <a href="#">1980X</a> , <a href="#">1981X</a> , <a href="#">1985M</a> , <a href="#">1990X</a> , <a href="#">1991X</a> , <a href="#">ALL</a>
660	<a href="#">Anguilla</a> <a href="#">View Description</a>	<a href="#">2000MX</a> , <a href="#">2001MX</a> , <a href="#">2002MX</a> , <a href="#">2003MX</a> , <a href="#">2004MX</a> , <a href="#">ALL</a>
28	<a href="#">Antigua and Barbuda</a> <a href="#">View Description</a>	<a href="#">1973MXR</a> , <a href="#">1974MXR</a> , <a href="#">1975MXR</a> , <a href="#">1977MXR</a> , <a href="#">1978MXR</a> , <a href="#">1981MXR</a> , <a href="#">1999MXR</a> , <a href="#">2000MXR</a> , <a href="#">ALL</a>
32	<a href="#">Argentina</a> <a href="#">View Description</a>	<a href="#">1967MX</a> , <a href="#">1968MX</a> , <a href="#">1969MX</a> , <a href="#">1970MX</a> , <a href="#">1971MX</a> , <a href="#">1972MX</a> , <a href="#">1973MX</a> , <a href="#">1974MX</a> , <a href="#">1975MX</a> , <a href="#">1976MX</a> , <a href="#">1977MX</a> , <a href="#">1978MX</a> , <a href="#">1979MX</a> , <a href="#">1980MX</a> , <a href="#">1981MX</a> , <a href="#">1982MX</a> , <a href="#">1983MX</a> , <a href="#">1984MX</a> , <a href="#">1985MX</a> , <a href="#">1986MX</a> , <a href="#">1987MX</a> , <a href="#">1988MX</a> , <a href="#">1989MX</a> , <a href="#">1990MX</a> , <a href="#">1991X</a> , <a href="#">1992MX</a> , <a href="#">1993MX</a> , <a href="#">1994MX</a> , <a href="#">1995MX</a> , <a href="#">1996MX</a> , <a href="#">1997MX</a> , <a href="#">1998MX</a> , <a href="#">1999MX</a> , <a href="#">2000MX</a> , <a href="#">2001MX</a> , <a href="#">2002MX</a> , <a href="#">2003MX</a> , <a href="#">2004MX</a> , <a href="#">ALL</a>
51	<a href="#">Armenia</a> <a href="#">View Description</a>	<a href="#">1997MX</a> , <a href="#">1999MX</a> , <a href="#">2000MXR</a> , <a href="#">2002MXR</a> , <a href="#">2003MXR</a> , <a href="#">2004MXR</a> , <a href="#">ALL</a>
533	<a href="#">Aruba</a> <a href="#">View Description</a>	<a href="#">1988MX</a> , <a href="#">1989MX</a> , <a href="#">1990MX</a> , <a href="#">1991MX</a> , <a href="#">1995MX</a> , <a href="#">1996MX</a> , <a href="#">1997MX</a> , <a href="#">1998MX</a> , <a href="#">1999MX</a> , <a href="#">2000MX</a> , <a href="#">2001MX</a> , <a href="#">2002MX</a> , <a href="#">2003MX</a> , <a href="#">2004MX</a> , <a href="#">ALL</a>

Country first letter or keyword filter – see previous

Figure 8: Explanatory Notes – all countries selected (partial view)

The View Description link gives the same results as the [Country list](#) entry –for the associated country only. Clicking a year in a country entry brings up the already met [detailed report](#):

**Explanatory Note in Detail**

Step 1. Select Selection Filter

Reporter:  Year:  [Printable Format](#)

Step 2. View Search Results

Reporter	Reported Classification	Reported Currency	Trade Flow	Currency Conversion Factor	Trade System	Valuation	Partner
Azerbaijan (2004)	HS2002	USD	Import	1.000000	General	CIF	Origin
Azerbaijan (2004)	HS2002	USD	Export	1.000000	General	FOB	Destination

Cost Insurance and Freight

Free On Board

Figure 9: detailed Explanatory Note for Azerbaijan

### 1.1.4. Glossary

This menu entry displays a general glossary of terms used in the Joint System application. The picture below reproduces the first entries in this glossary:

Glossary																									
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z All																									
Term List																									
Total terms defined : 18																									
Term	Description																								
Commodity Classification	The complex nature of the basic customs and statistical needs makes it necessary to have a rather detailed commodity classification. The Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System, or HS), or extended versions based on HS, such as the Combined Nomenclature used by the countries that are members of the European Union provide such details. Classification using these nomenclatures is based on the nature of the commodity. However, for analytical purposes, such a division of products is not the most appropriate. Commodity categories more suitable for economic analysis are provided by the Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 3 (SITC, Rev.3), which classifies commodities according to their stage of production.																								
Conversion of data from one classification to another	<p>A correlation between two classifications (e.g., A and B) is a description of the relationship between the scope of their headings. That relationship can be established by means of two tables: the table correlating headings of A to B and the table correlating headings of B to A. Each table defines the scope of the headings of one classification in terms of the scope of the headings of the other. If the scope of a given heading of classification A coincides with the scope of a single heading of classification B (a "one-to-one" relationship), the correlation of that heading to classification B is definite. If the scope of a given heading of classification A is distributed among several headings of classification B (a "one-to-many" relationship) the correlation of that heading to classification B is split. Correlation tables usually contain both definite and split correlations.</p> <p>While various users of classifications often prepare correlation tables for their own internal purposes, official versions are generally issued by the organization which maintains one or both of the classifications involved. Whenever successive versions of the same classification are produced, a correlation table between the headings of the revised and original versions is issued. A reverse table, showing the correlation between headings of the original and revised versions, is also frequently produced. Correlation tables enable users to express data in various versions of a classification in order to obtain a continuous time series. However, if the scope of a heading of one version is split between several headings of the other version an exact correlation becomes impossible and there is a discontinuity in the corresponding statistical series. For data processing purposes it is often desirable to substitute a split correlation by an approximate, but one-to-one correlation. Such approximations are warranted if the scope of the correlated headings is quite similar. However, differences in scope between certain basic headings may be so great that no meaningful one-to-one correlation is possible at that level. In such a case, a correlation can only be established between basic headings of one version and the higher level headings of the other version.</p>																								
Date of recording	The IMTS recommends that goods be included at the time when they enter or leave the economic territory of a country. In the case of customs-based data-collection systems, which provide the compiler with a choice of dates at which transactions may be recorded, consistency strongly suggests that a single date be adopted for all transactions. It is recommended that the time of recording be the date of lodgement of the customs declaration since that																								

Figure 10: general application glossary (partial view)

(Continued on the next page)

An interesting entry in this glossary is the list of quantity codes:

Quantity Unit	0:Not reported
Reference	1:No Quantity (all quantities zero, standard if 0-3 digits)
	2:Area in square metres
	3:Electrical energy in thousands of kilowatt-hours
	4:Length in metres
	5:Number of items
	6:Number of pairs
	7:Volume in litres
	8:Weight in kilograms

**Figure 11: list of quantity codes in the glossary**

We met these codes in a variety of reports.

**As usual, a first-letter selection can be carried out.**