

# Foreign Trade Data Processing & Dissemination

## Foreign Trade Data Processing

While the Foreign Trade data are generated in the forms of Bills of Entry (BE) for Imports and Shipping Bills (SB) for Exports in various customs offices and SEZs located all over India, the copy of these documents in the form of the Daily Trade Return (DTRs) are sent to DGCIS for compilation of Foreign Trade statistics. The role of DGCIS in Foreign Trade data collection is in the nature of a secondary agency. While data is uploaded in the main server by the EDP Division, the validation and scrutiny work is carried out by Import and Export divisions separately.

The DTRs from Customs and SEZs are received in DGCIS in three different modes, namely, (i) electronic data interchange (EDI) mode, (ii) through e-mail/CD (non-EDI), and (iii) in hard copy in handwritten formats (manual mode). While the receipt of EDI data is instantaneous and that of non-EDI is within a reasonable time lag, there is significant delay in receipt of manual data, although not very significant in terms of the total value of trade.

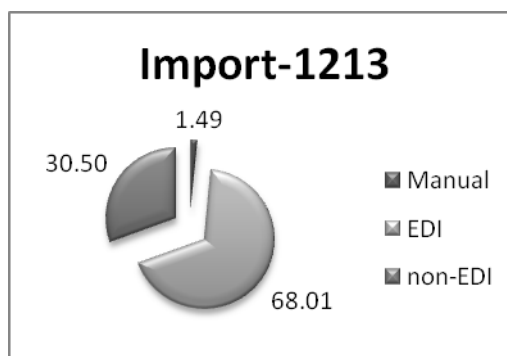
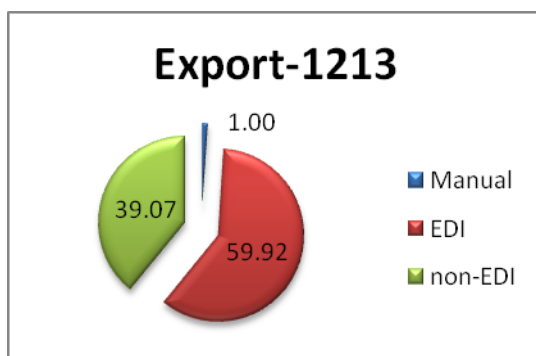
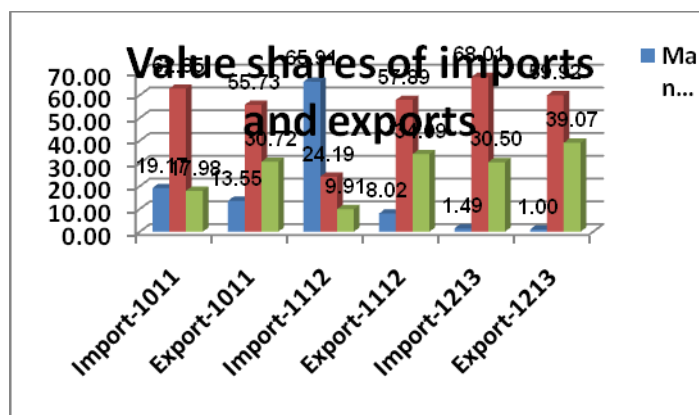
## Data Volume

The total number of records received through different modes in the form of EDI, Non-EDI & Manual DTRs, their total values and percentage shares during 2010-11 to 2012-13 are shown in Table 1. It is seen from the table that the EDI DTRs are the bulk of data. The no. of records processed for exports were 4906335, 5912562 and 6560137 covering 85%, 87% and 88% of export data respectively during 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13. Similarly for import, there were 5023243, 5822588 and 6092092 no. of records in EDI covering 94%, 93% and 93% respectively during 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13.

Table 1: No. of Records and Value (in Rs. Crores) of Trade during 2010-11 to 2012-13												
2010-11				2011-12				2012-13				
IMPORT												
Type of trade	No. of Records	% share	value	% share	No. of Records	% share	value	% share	No. of Records	% share	value	% share
Manual	90950	1.71	322648	19.17	42750	0.69	232397	9.91	25663	0.39	39758	1.49
EDI	5023243	94.27	1058105	62.85	5822588	93.41	1545810	65.91	6092092	92.89	1815225	68.01
non-EDI	214624	4.03	302714	17.98	368102	5.91	567256	24.19	440537	6.72	814178	30.50
All DTRs	5328817	100.00	1683466.956	100.00	6233440	100.00	2345463	100.00	6558292	100.00	2669162	100.00
EXPORT												
	No. of Records	% share	value	% share	No. of Records	% share	value	% share	No. of Records	% share	value	% share
Manual	334604	5.82	154865.5054	13.55	282457	4.17	117572	8.02	150533	2.02	16387	1.00
EDI	4906335	85.31	636931.3898	55.73	5912562	87.22	848581	57.89	6560137	87.94	979327	59.92
non-EDI	510520	8.88	351125.0266	30.72	584102	8.62	499806	34.09	749152	10.04	638604	39.07
All DTRs	5751459	100.00	1142921.922	100.00	6779121	100.00	1465959	100.00	7459822	100.00	1634318	100.00

In value terms, the export EDI data had shares of 56%, 58% and 60% respectively for 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13. While more and more ports are shifting from manual mode to non-EDI and EDI mode, the no. of records as well as value shares are decreasing over the years. The manual DTRs for export in 2010-11 had a value share of 14% but in 2012-13, the share reduced to only 1% and in terms of no. of records, the share reduced to 2% in 2012-13 against 6% in 2010-11. However, the conversion of manual ports to EDI is slow compare to the conversion of manual ports to non-EDI ports.

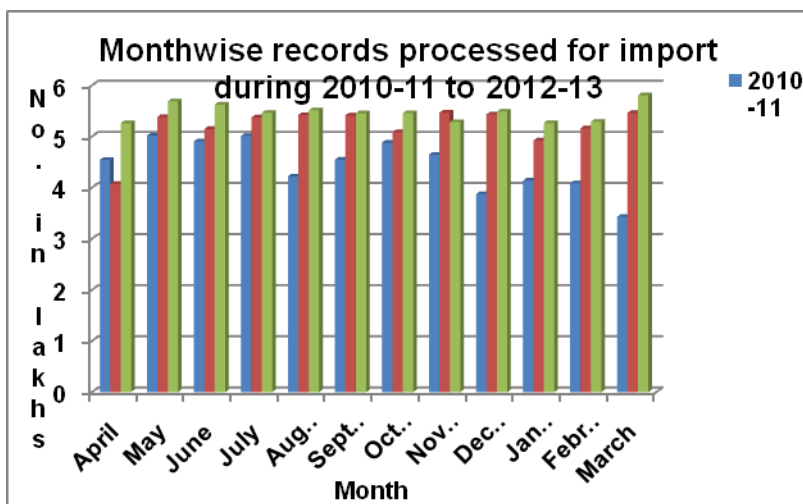
For imports, there were similar situations. While the value share reduced from 19% in 2010-11 to 1.5% in 2012-13, the shares in terms of no. of records reduced from 2% in 2010-11 to 0.4% in 2012-13 for manual mode.



The monthwise details of the number of records processed are given in Table 2. During 2010-11, the monthly number of records ranged between 4.1 lakhs to 6.0 lakhs for export whereas the same for import varied between 3.4 lakhs to 5.0 lakhs. In 2011-12, the number of records had increased for both export and import and were between 4.99 lakhs to 6.5 lakhs for export whereas the same for import varied between 4.1 lakhs to 5.5 lakhs in 2011-12. During 2012-13, the records for exports varied from 5.6 lakhs to 7.4 lakhs and the same for imports varied from 5.3 lakhs to 5.8 lakhs in 2012-13. In terms of total volume of records, the records for exports were increasing at a faster rate. The no. of records increased from 5.7 million in 2010-11 to 7.5 million in 2012-13 for exports whereas, for imports, it was 5.3 million in 2010-11 and 6.6 million in 2012-13.

Month	no. of records					
	2010-11		2011-12		2012-13	
	import	export	import	export	import	export
April	454279	470638	407451	499153	525987	581963
May	501636	449484	538227	570156	568710	616873
June	490473	458621	514834	554382	562233	638795
July	501386	456078	537208	563733	546233	630201
August	421781	448888	541997	538241	551377	603265
September	454678	413392	541464	547453	545352	607714
October	487900	432731	508363	524123	545587	588908
November	464255	404077	546585	551146	528347	562891
December	387220	552468	543118	615666	548692	630674
January	413913	529975	492146	577953	526426	629962

February	408547	535425	515961	590640	528825	626721
March	342749	599682	546086	646473	580523	741855
<b>All Months</b>	<b>5328817</b>	<b>5751459</b>	6233440	6779119	6558292	7459822



## Data scrutiny

The DTRs received through EDI and non EDI modes are loaded into the database through software packages, developed in-house. The scrutiny of such trade data is started as soon as the DTRs are uploaded into the main server. For manual DTRs, scrutiny is done meticulously once the DTRs are received. After scrutiny, the manual DTRs are batched and sent for data entry. Once the data entry work is complete, the data are uploaded into the database.

The advance stages of scrutiny of the data are done directly on-line to reduce the processing time. The updations are simultaneously reflected in the database. The main emphasis on scrutiny is on rectifying the wrong commodity (ITCHS) codes, wrong quantity figures due to reporting in non-specified unit of quantity, etc. Cases are referred to custom authorities or Exporters/Importers for clarification when there is an abnormal/doubtful entry in value, quantity, unit, ITCHS code, country, etc.

## Revision and Release Policy of Trade Data

### Quick Estimates and Press Note

The Quick Estimates and the Press Note for a month are prepared by 10<sup>th</sup> of the following month based on the data received from the Customs and SEZs, and the estimation for non-receipt of data from the ports. While making the estimates, due care is taken for the items generally exported/imported through the ports for which the estimates are made. The estimates so prepared are submitted to DGFT/Ministry for internal use and to brief the media about trade during the previous month.

### Principal Commodity Data

Principal commodity level provisional monthly data is released by the following month. Earlier it was being released with a gap of 2-3 months. While releasing the provisional data of a particular month, the data of the previous months of the financial year is also get revised on account of late received data. This ensures comparability of the total of monthly figures when added up from April to any particular

month with the cumulative figures shown against that month when the data is released. This process of updating data continues till data for the year is frozen at the time of release of final March data.

### **Commodity Level 8- digit ITC (HS) Data**

The 8-digit ITC (HS) commodity level monthly data is released within 2 months. While releasing the data of a particular month, the data of the previous months of the financial year is also get revised on account of late received data. This ensures comparability of the total of monthly figures when added up from April to any particular month with the cumulative figures shown against that month when the data is released. This process of updating data continues till data for the year is frozen at the time of release of final March data.

### **Data Release**

On release of the trade data for a particular month, the same along with the revised data of the previous months of the year are sent to the Ministry for updating/replacing the data in the Ministry's portal. At present, the full set of data is being sent to the Department of Commerce, RBI and GTIS (WTA) on monthly basis and to United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) on annual basis. While, the annual data to UNSD are sent after finalization of data, the monthly data to DOC, RBI & GTIS are sent every month along with revised data of the previous months.

This revision policy has been implemented from 2009-10.

### **Data Dissemination**

The main responsibility of DGCIS is to collect, compile and disseminate the Foreign Trade Statistics at the national and international level. While Export and Import Divisions are responsible for compilation, finalization and publication of export and import data, the Dissemination division is responsible for disseminating Foreign Trade Statistics to the specific users as per their requirements. Data is disseminated to the users at the level of commodity, country and port and also any combination of these.

### **Different users of Foreign Trade Data**

1. Ministries/Departments of Central and State Governments
2. Reserve Bank of India, Public Sector Undertakings
3. Indian Embassies/High Commissions abroad and Foreign Embassies
4. International Organisations like United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), etc.
5. Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Boards, Industrial bodies like CII, BCC, etc.
6. Private users

### **Publications of Foreign Trade Data**

Foreign Trade Statistics are published/released in CD form in different stages. The sector-wise monthly Quick Estimates and Press Note of Export and Import data are released by DGFT/DOC. The provisional monthly data at country and principal commodity level are released as a publication called 'Foreign Trade Statistics of India (Principal Commodities & Countries)'-[FTSI(PC&C)]. The 8-digit commodity level data are released as 'Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India, Vol. I (for Exports including Re-Exports) and Vol. II (for Imports) – [MSFTI, Vol. I & Vol. II]' after proper validation. These data in CD has query support for the users. 'Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India by Countries Vol. – I (for Exports including Re-Exports) and Vol. – II (for Imports) – [SFTIC, Vol. I & Vol. II]', are quarterly publications in CD form and provides Country by Commodity level data.

## **Priced Information Service System (PISS)**

The data to all the Government Ministries and Departments, RBI, Indian Embassies and some International organizations are provided at free of cost. However, for other users, data are given on payment basis under a system called 'Priced Information Service System (PISS)' of DGCIS. Under this system, the users have to pay Re 1/- per unit record of information. The data are provided for specified commodities by countries and/or ports. When an user asks the whole basket of 8-digit commodity level data for any particular period, it is not provided under this system. Instead, he/she is advised to purchase the CD publication which is less costly.

## **System and Software Packages**

Data Processing is done with menu driven front-end software using Oracle RDBMS and Java platform in SUN ULTRA M-4000 database server and SUN T-2000 application server. Database migration and application migration from previous SUN Ultra E-450 System has been completed and the new system is now in operation. Although this Software was developed by M/s. Wipro for the old system, the migration of database and application to the new system has been done in-house. For disseminating Foreign Trade data to the users, software on UNIX platform was developed in-house. A number of other in-house software packages have also been developed for processing Foreign Trade Data and Ancillary statistics.

## **Computerisation of all the Divisions**

Keeping in view the modernization of DGCIS, it has been decided that all the officials of the Directorate will be equipped with PCs starting with Export and Import Divisions. All the officials of Export/Import Divisions were earlier provided with computers. The rest of the staff is being covered in phases. While, all the officers are provided with printers, the two Deputy Director Generals have been provided with multifunctional machine (printer, copier, scanner, fax, etc) to facilitate fax and copier along with scanning urgent/ important documents. Provision has been made for providing printing facilities to the divisions through LAN. The maintenance of such computer equipments along with large system of packages and operating systems is the responsibility of EDP Division.

## **DGCIS website**

The website [www.dgciskol.gov.in](http://www.dgciskol.gov.in) of the Directorate is in operation since April 2003. The website has two parts – static pages and dynamic pages. The static pages consist of history of DGCIS and its various activities in brief. Chapters on RTI, RFD, Data Privacy Policy have also been incorporated in the site. It also contains summary of final foreign trade data on principal commodities, chapters, sections, economic regions and country. The dynamic pages of website are mainly for on-line data dissemination by providing access on both free and payment basis to the subscribers. This member section contains latest 24 months final foreign trade data at 8-digit commodity and principal commodity level. As DGCIS disseminates trade data under Priced Information Service System (PISS), a small payment module is available in the website to inform the interested users to avail the facility. In this system, one can become a member after registering through the website and making an advance payment of Rs 1000/-. This advance payment is adjusted online as and when user extracts the data through web. The cost of data is kept nominal and at present is Re 1 per output record and no other charges are involved if data is extracted through web. A query module has been hosted in the site for searching details about commodities according to commodity code (ITCHS) or description.