

Item No	Concept name	Details
<b>1</b>	<b>Contact</b>	
1.1	Contact Organisation	Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry
1.2	Compiling agency	Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry
1.3	Custodian agency	CBIC, Min of Finance
1.4	Contact Details	565, Anandapur, Plot-22, Sector-I, Kolkata-700107
<b>2</b>	<b>Data Description and Presentation</b>	
2.1	Data description	India's Merchandise Trade (Export and Import) statistics
2.2	System of Classification	As per the recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) and contained in the International Merchandise Trade Statistics Revision 2 (IMTS Rev.2): Compilers Manual 2010. It is compiled by applying the General Trade System (GTS) under which, recording takes place at the time when goods enter (import) or leave (export) the economic territory of the compiling country approximated by dates associated with the lodgment of the customs declaration, i.e., the time of recording of merchandise foreign trade in India. At present the exports are recorded at "Let Export Order" (LEO) and imports on the day when the goods arrive and consignments are cleared from Customs, i.e. at "Out of Charge" (OOC) stages, linked respectively with submission of Shipping Bills/Bills of Entry (Customs Declaration). The country of destination, as recorded by customs, is used as the partner for the purposes of export statistics while imports are, by and large, credited to the country of consignment. No information on the last known destination for exports and country of origin for imports is compiled.
2.3	International/ National Standards Classification/Codes, if followed	The HS Nomenclature of the World Customs Organization is followed for classification of the commodities. A detailed classification of the commodities at 8-digit level (augmenting the WCO 6-digit classification with 2 additional digits to meet the country specific requirements) has been prepared and adopted. Moreover, for compilation and reporting trade data in an efficient manner, ITCHS codes (Tariff Heads) of homogeneous nature have been taken together to constitute 168 Principal Commodity (PC) Groups.
2.4	Sector coverage	Merchandise Trade
2.5	Concepts and definitions	India's international merchandise trade statistics records all goods which add to or subtract from the stock of material resources of the country by entering (imports) or leaving (exports) its economic territory. Goods simply being transported through the country (goods in transit) or temporarily admitted or withdrawn (except for goods for inward or outward processing) are not included in the international merchandise trade statistics. Goods which are included in international merchandise trade statistics are 1.Non-monetary gold, 2. Banknotes and securities, and coins not in circulation, 3.Goods traded in accordance with barter agreements, 4.Goods traded on government account, 5.Humanitarian aid including emergency aid, 6.Goods for processing with or without change of ownership, 7. Returned goods as 'Re-imports'(Similarly, for re-export); 8.Goods dispatched or received through postal or courier services, 9.Goods under financial lease, 10.Ships and aircrafts where change of ownership takes place are included whether they enter/leave economic territory of the involved countries or remain in international waters or are used in international flights. These transactions are not the subject of customs documents, hence they are recorded using non-customs data sources, such as registry of additions and deletions of Directorate General of Shipping/Civil Aviation, 11.Goods delivered to or dispatched from offshore installations, 12.Goods received or sent abroad by international organizations, 13.Goods in electronic commerce, 14.Used goods, 15.Waste and scrap, 16. Mobile equipment that moves outside the country of residence of its original owner: For example, equipment which are sent for temporary use and for a specific purpose - such as for construction work, fire-fighting, offshore drilling or disaster relief - from one country to another, are included in exports/imports and classified as "Project Goods" in the Indian Trade Classification (ITCHS). Certain goods which are excluded from international merchandise trade statistics are: 1. Monetary gold, 2. Issued banknotes and securities and coins in circulation, 3. Goods under operational lease without involving transfer of ownership are excluded from international merchandise trade statistics, 4. Goods consigned to and from the territorial waters, 5. The movement of goods between a country and its exclusive abroad is
2.6	Unit of compilation	Customs Tariff Classification provides standard unit of measurement for Quantity corresponding each 8-digit level item being traded. The quantity figures reported are net of packing. Exports are recorded on free on board (FOB) basis while imports are recorded cost, insurance & freight (CIF) basis. The average monthly exchange rate (Rs. per US\$) as provided by the Reserve Bank of India is used to convert all trade data in US\$.
2.7	Population coverage	
2.8	Reference Period	Published continually at Monthly and Annual interval.
2.9	Duration and period of enumeration	Published throughout the Year at Monthly interval.
2.1	Sample size/Dataset Size	
2.11	Data Confidentiality	Transaction level data (Shipping Bill/ Bill of Entry wise, Shipment/Consignment/Invoice wise, Daily Date wise) is not disseminated. Company/Firm/Vendor/Organization/IEC/Exporter/Importer wise data is also not disseminated.
<b>3</b>	<b>Institutional Mandate</b>	
3.1	Legal acts and other agreements	The copyright of trade data is reserved by DGCIS Kolkata. No part of the data received by users except small portions for other than commercial purposes with appropriate acknowledgement to DGCIS, shall be reproduced or re-disseminated, without obtaining prior permission from Director General DGCIS Kolkata.

3.2	Data sharing/Data Dissemination	Data are published at monthly Aggregated level only (export and import) – Commodity (8-digit ITCHS and Principal Commodity Group), Country and Port level. DGCIS also disseminates 'Export by State of Origin, District of Origin (since April, 2021)' & 'Import by Country of Origin (since April, 2021)' data but with disclaimer. Foreign trade data is disseminated by DGCIS through "Foreign Trade Data Dissemination Portal"
3.3	Release calendar	1. Press release – Quick Estimate figures of a month by 15 days of next month, 2. Principal Commodity – Group of 168 commodity level data of a month by 21 days of next month, 3. Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade in India (MSFTI) – ITC HS Code level data of a month within 45 days.
3.4	Frequency of dissemination	DGCIS follows its Release calendar.
3.5	Data access	Data are available at Data Dissemination Portal. Login credential is required. There are three (3) types of users – (1) 'Free Users' (Governments, Embassies, UN Bodies, RBI, etc) who do not have to pay to access data. (2) 'Registered Paid Users', i.e., mainly Private Subscribers who are frequently uses of the Portal maintains a 'Pre-paid Account balance' and 3. 'Guest Users', anybody requiring Data can make payment online through Net Banking/Debit Card for the cost of Data he/she actually downloaded. The cost of Data is Re 1 per record.
<b>4 Quality Management</b>		
4.1	Documentation on methodology	Secondary data received from CBIC are used here and those are collated, corrected and presented & disseminated
4.2	Quality documentation	The documentation is ISO certified
4.3	Quality assurance	Timely dissemination of credible trade statistics over hundred years.
<b>5 Accuracy and Reliability</b>		
5.1	Sampling error	No Sample survey is done
5.2	Measures of reliability	Not applicable
<b>6 Timeliness</b>		
6.1	Timeliness	Data are published as per Release calendar.
<b>7 Coherence and Comparability</b>		
7.1	Comparability – over time	Moreover, it has adopted "Dynamic Data Revision Policy" since April 2009. According to Dynamic Data Revision Policy, while releasing the trade data of a particular month, the data of all the previous months of the financial year (April – March Cycle) is revised by taking into account the late receipted data in the respective months, which were received after the initial release of data for that month. This establishes comparability as monthly data, if added up from April to any particular month will tally with the cumulative figures shown against that month in the latest monthly data release.  Data is available in digital format from the year 2000 onwards and before that in physical format. However, the comparability may be affected by change of ITCHS over the years.
7.2	Coherence	Change in ITC(HS) Coding system, especially cases for 'many to many' changes poses challenge for maintaining comparability over time.
<b>8 Data Processing</b>		
8.1	Source data type	Shipping Bills (SBs) for exports and Bills of Entry (BEs) for imports are submitted to the customs authority which form the source document for preparation of trade returns, commonly known as 'Daily Trade Returns' (DTR) and is transmitted by the customs authority to the DGCIS. Other Sources Special Economic Zones (SEZs) of India are considered to be independent economic territory within the economic territory of India for the purpose of merchandise trade. Any goods (merchandise) entering/leaving the SEZ are following the procedure similar to the Customs procedure but processed by the SEZ authority under the administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. Only the physical exports/imports of SEZ are considered for Nations' merchandise trade and excludes the 'deemed exports' & 'DTA sales' of the SEZ. The Export/Import data of Merchandise cleared through all SEZs of India are included. The Statistics relate to Imports and Exports of Merchandise cleared through all the recognized Sea-Ports, Air-Ports and Land Customs Stations, Inland Containers Depots, Export Processing Zones and Foreign Post Offices and all SEZs located all over the country are sourced for compiling and releasing foreign trade statistics.
8.2	Frequency of data collection	EDI mode is transmitted daily. Manual/Non-EDI data is received on monthly basis after completion of the month.
8.3	Mode and method of data collection	DGCIS receives transaction level (item level) foreign trade data from the Customs as well as Special Economic Zones in three different modes, namely, (i) through electronic transfer from the Indian Customs Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Gateway on daily basis, (ii) in electronic media or through e-mail from customs locations across the country and (iii) in the form of hand-written DTRs. These three modes are termed respectively as EDI, Non-EDI and Manual.
8.4	Data validation	Done through Inhouse software package
8.5	Data compilation	Done through Inhouse software package
8.6	Data identifier(s)	
<b>9 Metadata Update</b>		
9.1	Metadata last posted	As and when changed
9.2	Metadata last update	

NMDS2.0 pertains to data disseminated by DGCIS and does not include any data / information that may be disseminated by other departments of DoC.