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**The Government of the Union of Myanmar  
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**Collection and Compilation of Import data  
in the Union of Myanmar**

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**ASTI**

**WORKSHOP ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF ASEAN SHORT-TERM  
INDICATORS**



# **Collection and Compilation of Import data in Myanmar**

## **General background**

### **The Land**

The Union of Myanmar, because of its geographical location and strategic position is known to the world as "The Heartland of Aisa". With a total land area of 676,577 sq.km, it is the largest country on the mainland of Southeast Asia, sharing a total of 5,858 km. of international borders with Bangladesh and India on the north-west, China on the north-east, Laos on the east and Thailand, on the south-east.

### **Climate**

Myanmar has three distinctive seasons namely, hot (March to May), rainy (June to October) and cool (November to February).

### **Nationalities and Religion**

Myanmar is a union of many nationalities, as many as 135 groups, speaking over one hundred languages and dialects. Over 80% of the Myanmar are Buddhists. There are also Christians, Muslims, Hindus and even some animists. However, there is full freedom of worship for followers of other religions.

### **Population**

The Union of Myanmar is an agro-based country with an estimated population of 50.13 million in 2002-2001. Approximately 75 per cent of the people live in the rural areas and majority of rural population are farmers engaged in agricultural activities.

### **Myanmar Economy**

Since late 1988, Myanmar has replaced the centrally planned economy to a more liberalized economic policy based on market-oriented system. In moving towards a more market oriented economy, Myanmar has liberalized domestic and external trade, promoting the role of private sector and opening up to foreign investment. Foreign Investment Law, new Central Bank of Myanmar Law, Financial Institutions of Myanmar Law and Myanmar Tourism Law have been enacted and Chamber of Commerce have been reactivated.

Agriculture remains the main sector of the economy and measure have been taken to increase productivity, diversification of crop patterns and revitalization of agriculture exports.

The Statistical System of Myanmar is basically a decentralized one. The Government Departments and Enterprises collect and compile statistics to meet their needs. The Central Statistical Organization (C.S.O), formerly known as Central Statistical and Economic Department (CSED) has been formed under the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development by the Central Statistical Authority Act, Act No. 34 of 1952. The CSO plays a central role to national statistical system and has been disseminating economic and social statistics of national level in co-operation with source agencies.

The annual publication are Statistical Yearbook, Statistical Abstract, Vital Statistics Report and Foreign Trade Statistics at Myanmar. The agriculture Statistics and Statistical Profile of Children and Women published bi-annually. Bi-monthly and monthly publications are Selected Monthly Economic Indicators and Consumer Price Index.

### **Foreign Trade Statistics**

Foreign Trade Statistics at Myanmar provides detailed statistics on import and export, normal and border on annual basics. It is intended to meet the incessant trade data demands at the government agencies, Joint venture, private companies, regional associations and international organization involved in development of Myanmar economy.

Imports are shown by commodity and country at origin and consignment while exports are stated by commodity and country of destination. Commodities are classified according to the "Myanmar Tariff and Statistical Nomenclature and Classification, 1992" which is based on the internationally accepted Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS).

The adoption of the Harmonized System is significant because

- (a) it facilitates international trade through a uniform application of classification on commodity not only for custom purpose but also for international trading commodities.
- (b) it provides standardized data for bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations and
- (c) it creates more transparency between all parties which are involved in international trade, being a combined system of tariff and statistical codification.

The Myanmar Customs Tariff based on the 1996 Version of the Harmonized System has been amended and updated with the revision of tariff rate and Customs procedures will be introduced on 1 January, 1997.

### **Source of data**

Export declaration forms and Import declaration forms filled by the respective exporters and importers and checked by custom officials constitute the major source of information in compiling foreign trade statistics. Statistics on rice and rice products, timber, gem, marine products and oil and gas are obtained from the Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading, Myanmar Timber Enterprise, Myanmar Gem Enterprise, Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited, Department of Fishery and Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise respectively. Now a day we collect the data only from Customs Department.

### **Coverage**

Figures include government and private exports and imports on trade account, gifts, aids and parcel posts. Sale of goods, whether foreign or national to all foreign trading ships are included in export statistics. All data exclude exports and imports under military accounts. Exports and imports under diplomatic privileges have been excluded since 1966. Starting from November 1988, when border trade was opened, the total foreign trade data include border trade. There are 4 Border Trade countries i.e. Thailand, China, India and Bangladesh.

### **Exports**

Domestic exports are exports of national produce. All exports are domestic exports plus re-exports from bond and other than from bond. Exports formerly recorded according to the date of shipment have been recorded according to the date of completion of consignment, since November 1967.

### **Imports**

The information represents General Imports or All Imports. It is the sum of goods released direct from Customs wharves for home consumption (direct imports for consumption) and goods passed to be bonded (imports into bond). Imports which had been recorded according to the date of arrival of goods, since November 1967 have been recorded as of the date of payment of duty beginning April 1996.

## **Valuation**

Exports are valued at FOB, that is Free on Board (Ship or other means of international transport) at port or place of dispatch of exporting country (including export duties, internal taxes and similar changes to the extent that they remain charged on the goods and passed on to the importers).

Imports are valued at CIF, that is, Cost, Insurance and Freight, ex-ship (or other means of international transport); at port or place of arrival of the country (excluding customs duty and other import charges).

Before 1990, border trade assessment values are determined by ' Cross-border Trading Co-operating Board ' . From 1990 onwards, assessment values are determined by the Head Office of the Customs Department.

## **Country Information**

Exports are credited to the country of final destination or of ultimate consumption and imports are credited to the country of primary origin or production.

## **Import and Export Indices**

Quantum Indices of exports and imports are computed to gauge the changes in the quantity of external trade when the effects on price movements are eliminated. Unit value indices are designed to provide means of measuring changes in the average unit value of commodities exported or imported.

## **Trade Category**

General import figures and domestic export figures for certain selected commodities are used in computing the indices and include trades under private and government accounts.

## **Method**

Both the Quantum and the Price Indices are of the aggregative type computed with Laspeyre's formula. The unit sale of each commodity is the CIF or F.O.B per unit value of general imports and domestic exports respectively.

## **Base Period**

1985-86 = 100 ie, 1985-86 is the year of comparison.

## **Calculation of the Foreign Trade Statistics**

In harmonized commodity Description and Coding System, there are (21) sections and (98) sub headings. In calculating the Foreign Trade Statistics we use (10) digits of the Harmonized System. Although international use in (6) digits, we use (10) digits in Myanmar. The second last 2 digits are for custom purpose and the last 2 digits are for statistical purpose.

## **Current Position**

In Myanmar the Centrally planned socialist economic system had been replaced by liberalized open door economic policy based on a market-oriented system since 1989-90. As part of the institution of market oriented economic policies, the private sectors is permitted to engage virtually in all economic activities. According to the economic system, participation of private sector are extended.

At present, Myanmar has been collecting and compilation of the Foreign Trade Statistics, commodity wise as well as country wise since 1992 by H.S system. This is an age of knowledge intensive, accordingly the programme to the completed depends on technical know-how, experience and skill accordidng to the principles laid down by the United Nations. Myanmar is striving to fulfile the requirement as to meeting the standard ways for formulating Foreign Trade Statistics in Myanmar the year to come.

Sustained efforts have been made to constantly improve the system of collection and compilation of Foreign Trade Statistics to have more and wider coverage, particularly in the private sector. It is most earnestly hoped that exchange of view on collection and compilation of import statistics and country experience made possible by this workshop will contribute most of resolving the numerous problems and difficulties encountered in compilation of import statistics in Myanmar. It is also anticipated that the discussion on specific problems and issues experienced by the participants and approach and measures adopted in overcoming these problem will significantly contribute to the development of better system for collection and compilation of import data in our country.

**Table (1). VALUE OF FOREIGN TRADE**

S.N.	Year	Export	Import	(Kyat Million)
				Balance of Trade
1	1985-86	2566.1	4802.0	(-) 2235.9
2	1990-91	2952.6	5522.8	(-) 2570.2
3	1992-93	3590.0	5365.3	(-) 1775.3
4	1993-94	4227.8	7923.3	(-) 3695.5
5	1994-95	5405.2	8332.3	(-) 2927.1
6	1995-96	5032.7	10301.6	(-) 5268.9
7	1996-97	5487.7	11778.8	(-) 6291.1
8	1997-98(r)	6446.8	14366.1	(-) 7919.3
9	1998-99	6755.8	16871.7	(-)10115.9
10	1999-2000(p.a)	7103.3	16264.8	(-)9161.5

Note: From 1988-89 onward, data include border trade.

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Revised

Sources: 1. Customs Department.  
2. Department of Fisheries.  
3. Myanma Agricultural Produce Trading  
4. Myanma Gem Enterprise.  
5. Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise.  
6. Myanma Timber Enterprise.  
7.

Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings  
Limited.

Table (2). TERMS OF  
TRADE

(Base Year  
1985-  
86=100)

S.N.	Year	Unit Value Index		Terms of Trade
		Export	Import	
1	1985-86	100.0	100.0	100.0
2	1990-91	97.7	131.1	74.5
3	1992-93	73.8	140.1	52.7
4	1993-94	68.9	145.9	47.2
5	1994-95	91.3	163.2	55.9
6	1995-96	107.9	168.4	64.1
7	1996-97	101.5	208.0	48.8
8	1997-98	91.5	245.3	37.3
9	1998-99	84.3	247.0	34.1
10	1999-2000 (p.a)	78.1	240.0	32.5

