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Explanatory notes on foreign trade statistics

1st: general concepts:

1. Definition: foreign trade statistics is the monitoring action of good-exchange activities with the world's countries, **wither** such goods were produced locally, imported, or re-exported, during a fixed period of time.
2. Data sources:
 - Customs authority:
The foreign trade statistics depend primarily on the CSO'S copy of the customs form that is transferred from custom points directly to the cso. In addition, there is limited electronic data transfer from the automated asycuda system. This became available only in 2004.
 - The ministry of oil and mineral resources:
The data on raw oil exports is gathered in cooperation with the general department of oil marketing and the Aden refinery company through a form that was designed for monthly data collection of government exports, in addition to monthly export lists issued by oil companies. The data on imports and exports of raw oil and derivatives through the Aden refinery company is also collected through monthly forms that show monthly export quantities in barrels and tones, the us\$ value for each shipment, and the destination country. The us\$ value is later transformed, into yr using the average monthly us\$ to yr exchange rate published by the central bank of Yemen.
3. Terminology and basics:
 - Import trade:
Includes imported goods put for consumption, wether right after reaching the country or as they are accepted as re-export goods.
 - Export trade:
Is the export of local goods and goods of foreign origin being re-exported after being **entered** as imports, both custom cleared and otherwise.
 - Weight:
Is the net weight of any good wether imported, exported, or re-exported.
 - Country of origin:
Is the country of production for agricultural and animal goods, and the country where the last production phases took place for industrial goods.
 - Country of destination:
Is the last destination country of exported goods.
4. Evaluation:

- A. Import value are calculated on (CIF) basis, i.e. good value in yr at origin plus transport, insurance, and other fees to destination custom port, excluding custom fees.
- B. Export and re-export values are calculated on (FOB) **basis,i.e.** good value in yr including all costs to port of export, and excluding transport and insurance cost.
- C. Average yr value in us\$: (1/161.73- 1/168.69-1/175.62- 1/183.45) for the years 2000-2004, respectively.

5. Classification of goods:

All data in the foreign trade bulletin is classified using the **HS** to the sixth and eighth level.

6. Comprehensiveness:

- A. All imports, exports, and re-exports for all economic sectors.
- B. All oil imports and exports for oil companies within the national trade.
- C. All imports, exports, and re-exports of foreign companies, within national trade.
- D. All goods imported on credit.
- E. All in – kind aid goods.
- F. All gold imports for jewelry.
- G. Containers, gas bottles, and other good-packaging containers, including the empty re-exported containers that go back to the originating destination.

Foreign trade data does not cover:

- A. Gold, golden currency, and raw gold or residue.
- B. Goods exported for demonstration / exhibition purposes and re-exported later such as cinema films or exhibit goods.
- C. Tourist and visitors goods, including automobiles.
- D. Goods confiscated by law and sold in auctions.
- E. Transit goods.
- F. Goods re-claimed after being replaced or repaired under warranties.

2 nd: technical notes:

A. main causes for discrepancies between foreign trade statistics and other data sources (local and foreign):

- Degree of coverage and comprehensiveness of data.
- Variance between import/ export evaluation methods as a statistical activity and the evaluation method used to compute the bop, where imports are recalculated on fop basis rather than CIF to cover transport and insurance costs and other costs.

- Technical difficulties arising from use of paper customs forms with automated forms, especially in values, weights, and units.
- Delays in releasing updated data from some source agencies.
- Variance of evaluation methods between countries (destination countries versus origin countries).
- Variance of reference dates for imports/exports between trade partners.
- Variance of reference period used for monitoring imports and exports between trade partners.
- Use of different classification systems such as Sitc and HS.
- Differences in used trade systems from country to another (public/private trade systems).
- Inability to monitor illegal trafficking of goods (smuggling).

B. Dissemination technicalities:

- Export data include oil-company-data of oil exports for the years 1998-2004, which were not included in pervious bulletins.
- Oil export values were calculated based on the monthly average us\$ -yr exchange rate published by the central bank of Yemen.
- Total value of exports slumped in 1998 because of low oil prices internationally.
- Import shipment of values less than 100.000 yr entered as "other goods" to control the bulletin size and to keep in – line with standard dissemination practices.
- International economic blocks were classified to the international guide issued by the un in 1999, adding regional Arab and Islamic blocks that were not included in the guide.
- No data was published by country of origin due to technical difficulties caused by custom forms.