

For any question on data and metadata, please contact ASEANstats at: stats@asean.org

1. Contact	
1.1. Contact organisation	Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN)
1.2. Contact organisation unit	ASEANstats
1.5. Contact mail address	ASEAN Secretariat 70 A Jalan Sisingamangaraja Jakarta 12110 Indonesia

2. Metadata update	
2.1. Metadata last certified	03 October 2018
2.2. Metadata last posted	03 October 2018
2.3. Metadata last update	November 2018

3. Statistical presentation	
3.1. Data description	
<p>International Merchandise trade statistics (IMTS) published by ASEAN Secretariat measure the value of goods traded between the ASEAN Member States (intra-ASEAN trade) and goods traded by the ASEAN Member States with non-ASEAN countries (extra-ASEAN trade). ‘Goods’ means all movable property including electricity. ‘ASEAN’ means that the statistics are compiled on the basis of the concepts and definitions set out in ASEAN agreements. ‘National’ statistics, i.e. statistics published at national level by the Member States, are compiled on the basis of national rules.</p> <p>The IMTS are compiled (collected, processed and disseminated) under the guidance and support of the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee The data transmission protocol (version of 24 April 2017) defines the list of variables to be transmitted to ASEAN secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mandatory fields: Period, year, product, reporter, partner, flow (import and export). Trade value is CIF for import (including the value of international transport and insurance up to the national border) and FOB for export (excluding the value of international transport and insurance after goods leave the national territory);• Optional fields: net mass in KG, quantity and its supplementary unit, mode of transport, country of consignment and free trade agreements codes. <p>The periodicity of the data transmission which consist of the transmission of the three months of the quarter, 60 days after the last quarter’s month.</p> <p>Annual revisions are usually transmitted the next year in October, but ad-hoc revisions can also be transmitted on a voluntary basis.</p> <p>Statistical dimensions</p> <p>The following statistical fields are always available in the disseminated datasets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reporter country: 10 AMS countries (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam) and ASEAN as an aggregate;• Reference period: month;	

- Trade flows: import and export;
- Product at 2, 4 6 and 8 digits level according to the relevant AHTN classification;

For Malaysia, intra community trade is provided at 6 digits level until march 2017. (in ASEAN database, the 6 digits commodity codes are completed by “MM” to be provided at the same level of details than the other MS).

- Partner country based on two-letter code (alpha-2) ISO 3166 classification. Import statistics use the country of origin for the partner country, while the country of last known destination is used for export statistics.

For Lao PDR, country of consignment was used until 2017 instead of country of destination.

3.2. Classification system

ASEAN Harmonised Tariff system (AHTN) as primary product classification

The AHTN is agreed by each ASEAN member state. It is based on the Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System (managed by the World Customs Organisation (WCO)). The Harmonised System (HS) is an international classification at two, four and six-digit level which classifies goods according to their nature. The AHTN corresponds to the HS plus a further breakdown at eight-digit level defined to meet Asean needs. It is subject to revisions when new HS revisions are issued. AHTN 8 digits codes can be completed at national level to cover national needs.

Data disseminated on ASEAN web site are harmonised in AHNT2002 from 2002 to 2006, AHTN2007 from 2007 to 2011, AHNT2012 from 2012 to 2016 and AHTN2017 from 2017. The data can be found in <https://data.aseanstats.org/trade>.

Other product nomenclatures: ASEAN manages correspondence tables enabling the transposition of detailed data collected according to the AHTN8 into the **Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), Revision 4** –The SITC (managed by the United Nations) is correlated with the subheadings of the Harmonised System.

Country classification: The reporting and partner countries are classified based on two-letter code (alpha-2) ISO 3166 classification

All classifications are available on ASEANstats web site’s (AHTN 2007, AHTN 2012, AHTN2017)

3.3. Coverage - sector

The aim of international trade in goods statistics is to record all goods which add to or subtract from the stock of material resources of a country by entering (imports) or leaving (exports) its economic territory. At ASEAN level, the economic territory is the statistical territory of a Member State, which corresponds to its customs territory.

3.4. Reference period

The reference period for the information on international trade transaction should be the calendar month of dispatch/export.

In all AMS, the time of recording is the date of entry of the customs declaration, which provides an approximation of the time of crossing the border of the economic territory.

3.5. Trade system: General Trade system

4. Statistical processing

4.1. Data collection

The Member States collect, compile and transmit international trade in goods statistics to Aseanstats on a quarterly basis. In addition to the data collected from Customs, completed with additional sources.

MS are following as much as possible United nation's recommendations, contained in the International Merchandise Trade Statistics Concepts and Definitions, published in 2010 available at UNSD publications web site: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs>. (see details for each AMS)

- ASEANstats collects data at 8 digits level on a monthly basis starting from 2010 except for Cambodia providing quarterly data until 2014.
- Data from 2000 to 2010 are available at 6 digits level on a monthly basis.
- Data prior to 2010 are partially available at 6 digits level on a yearly basis.
- 8-digits AHTN data for annual data for the period of 2012/2015 - latest one
- Quarterly time-series 2-digits HS Code data for the period of 2012 - latest one.

The data collection is performed using a specific tool called Data transmission tool (DTT) allowing to securely transmitting the data from AMS to a secured dedicated web server.

4.2. Data validation

The prime responsibility for ensuring the accuracy of international trade data rests with national authorities. Further checks are carried out by ASEANstats, essentially to ensure that the transmission of the requested data has been carried out satisfactorily, that datasets are complete, error-free.

4.3. Data compilation

ASEAN aggregates are calculated on the basis of the harmonised figures provided by the Member States according to the Community concept.

- Trade values are converted in USD if not provided as such, using national bank monthly exchange rate.
- Product codes used in the AMS not compliant with the AHTN in force over the period (see product classification) are converted into a valid AHTN code for the period
- Invalid commodity codes are corrected to the closest related commodity codes: it can be 8 digits codes ending with "90" or 6 digits codes completed with MM or if the 6 digits codes is still invalid chapter level extended with "CCCOMM" to keep the chapter level information for the code.
- Specific 98 codes used in the country are converted to code "999999XX" where XX is 01 for Brunei, 02 for Cambodia, 03 for Indonesia, 04 for Lao PDR, 05 for Malaysia, 06 for Myanmar, 07 for Philippines, 08 for Singapore, 09 for Thailand and 10 for Viet Nam.
- For Myanmar, specific code of chapter "00" implemented for country needs and used in case of exports are also converted to "99999906".
- Harmonisation of country codes and correction of invalid country codes.
- Harmonisation of mode of transport codes and correction of invalid mode of transport.
- Exportation of AMS with the AMS as partner are not allowed and partner is changed to

unknown.

4.4. Confidentiality

No confidentiality policy defined at regional ASEAN level. The criteria determining which statistical data are considered confidential are fixed by each ASEAN Member State in the light of national legislation or practice.

4.5. Release policy

Release calendar is defined and available on the website here <https://www.aseanstats.org/official-documents/>. Detailed data are disseminated on an annual basis.

4.6. Discrepancies between ASEAN and National figures

There are differences between the methodology applicable to IMTS statistics published by ASEAN and those published by Member States. The main sources of conceptual differences:

- Correction of invalid codes and harmonisation of AHTN nomenclatures
- Revision applied at national level but not yet transmitted at ASEANstats.
- Methods to convert national data into USD may be different (for instance daily basis at national level and monthly basis at ASEAN level, different sources of exchange rate...).

5. Improvement plans

SITC, Harmonisation of quantity and supplementary information
Publication of the trade value data by Mode of Transport