

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

1. Contact	
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2. Metadata update	
2.1. Metadata last certified	08 November 2018
2.2. Metadata last posted	July 2020
2.3. Metadata last update	July 2021

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 (AMS) 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. The IMTS published by ASEANstats is based on the data submitted by national statistics authorities in each AMS.</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: <i>period, year, product, reporter, partner, flow (import and export)</i>. 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: <i>net mass (in kg), quantity and its supplementary unit, mode of transport, country of consignment and free trade agreements codes</i>. <p>The periodicity of data transmission which consist of the transmission of three months of the quarter, 60 days after the last quarter's month.</p> <p>Annual revisions are usually transmitted in October of the following year, 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: monthly;	

- 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 Member States (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 AMS. 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 (2), four (4) and six (6) digit level which classifies goods according to their nature. The AHTN corresponds to the HS with a further breakdown at eight (8) 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 AHTN 2002 from 2002 to 2006, AHTN 2007 from 2007 to 2011, AHTN 2012 from 2012 to 2016 and AHTN 2017 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 HS.

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, AHTN 2017)

3.3. Coverage – sector

The aim of IMTS 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 the dispatch or arrival of goods.

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 and Data dissemination

AMS collect, compile and transmit data on IMTS to ASEANstats on a monthly and quarterly basis using a specific tool called Data Transmission Tool (DTT). This tool allows to securely transmit the data from AMS to a secured dedicated web server at ASEAN Secretariat. AMS data are sourced from Customs and other additional sources.

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

Starting in 2010, ASEANstats collects trade data at 8-digits level on a monthly and quarterly basis from AMS, except Cambodia that started to submit the data in 2015.

Data availability in ASEANstats:

- Monthly basis: Data from 2010 to the latest available one; except Cambodia from 2015
- Quarterly basis: Data from 2010 to the latest available one; except Cambodia from 2015
- Annual basis: Data from 2003 to the latest available one. Prior to 2003 are partially available (not complete for 10 AMS) at aggregate level.

Data dissemination in ASEANstats website:

- Monthly time-series: upon request through email from 2012 to the latest available;
- Quarterly time-series: 2-digits HS Code data for the period of 2012 to the latest available
- Annual time-series: 2-digits AHTN data for the period of 2003 to the latest available
- Annual time-series: 4-digits AHTN data for the period of 2010 to the latest available
- Annual time-series: 6-digits AHTN data for the period of 2010 to the latest available
- Annual time-series: 8-digits AHTN data for the period of 2012 to the latest available

At the 4th WGIMTS Meeting in 2018, AMS agreed to disseminate quarterly and annually data whereas the agreement to disseminate monthly data was notable at the 5th WGIMTS Meeting in 2019, started from 2012 to the latest available.

Please see ANNEX on ASEAN IMTS data availability and data dissemination.

Starting 25 July 2021 we disseminate the EU countries by EU27 and EU28 with the following details:

- EU27 data for the period of 2011 to the latest available
- EU28 data:
 - Annual time-series: 2-digits AHTN data for the period of 2003 to 2019
 - Annual time-series: 4-digits AHTN data for the period of 2010 to 2019
 - Annual time-series: 6-digits AHTN data for the period of 2010 to 2019
 - Annual time-series: 8-digits AHTN data for the period of 2012 to 2019

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 and error-free.

4.3. Data compilation

ASEAN aggregates are calculated on the basis of the harmonised figures provided by AMS according to the IMTS 2010 Concepts and Definitions.

- 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 (for Import) and XX (for Export) 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 is not allowed and partner is changed to unknown.
- Lao PDR data has revised for 2016 – 2017 due to the registration of electricity products.

4.4. Confidentiality

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

4.5. Release policy

Release calendar is defined and available in ASEANstats website (<https://www.aseanstats.org/official-documents/>). Detailed data are disseminated on an annual and quarterly basis. Starting 2020, ASEANstats is able to provide monthly data where users could request through email.

4.6. Discrepancies between ASEAN and National figures

There are differences between the methodology applied to IMTS statistics published by ASEANstats and those published by AMS. The main sources of difference are as follows:

- 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, etc).

5. Improvement plans

SITC, Harmonisation of quantity and supplementary information

Publication of the trade value data by Mode of Transport

Publication of the trade value data by Unit of Quantity

