

TARIFFS

CTS DATABASE: THE TRANSPOSITION TO HS2002

The **CONSOLIDATED TARIFF SCHEDULES (CTS)** database records in a standard format WTO Members' tariff commitments (bound duties) for agricultural and non-agricultural products as well as specific commitments in Agriculture such as tariff quotas and export subsidies. These data, sourced from the various WTO legal instruments established over the years, were recorded in different national customs nomenclatures.

In the Uruguay Round an attempt was made to **ADOPT A STANDARDIZED INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED NOMENCLATURE** through the introduction of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, HS in short. The results of the UR were recorded in the second version of the HS system, in the HS 1992 version.

When the CTS database was established in 1999-2001, a number of countries had, by that time, already converted their commitments to the HS 1996 version. For the remaining countries, the Secretariat did the conversion on a "provisional basis" to be approved later on. As a result, the original version of the CTS presented the commitments according to the HS 1996 version of the nomenclature for most Members.

Adapting Members' commitments to new HS versions was covered in various WTO Decisions (L/5470/Rev.1 in 1983, L/6905 in 1991 and WT/L/407 in 2001) stating the obligation of Members to transpose their pre-UR schedule into HS and then to implement any future changes relating to the HS. Non compliance or the limited number of Members' submissions received for the introduction of HS2002 changes into their schedules of concessions led to the 2005 General Council Decision (WT/L/605) according to which the Secretariat would provide assistance to developing country Members in their submission for the HS 2002 transposition exercise and in the preparation of files for the multilateral review of this transposition.

Further to the GC Decision and in order to have the bound duties expressed in the latest version of the HS nomenclature as in Members' national applied schedules, the IDB Section started in 2005 to translate Members' commitments into HS 2002. This complex and technical exercise called "transposition" was prepared by the Secretariat for developing Members and developed Members prepared their own transposition file. The transposition should not affect the level of commitments which remain the same in the new version of the nomenclature.

The result of the transposition exercise is reviewed by all Members during special meetings of the Committee on Market Access called "multilateral reviews". Revisions are made to include changes agreed through exchange of comments between the Member under review and the other Members. When the transposition exercise is approved by all Members and by the Member itself, the Secretariat can proceed with the certification of the transposition file. A document is prepared and circulated to all Members for a period of three months after which it is certified if no comments are raised during that period. The resulting legal instrument is then used as a new source for the CTS database.

In addition to the transposition to the HS 2002 nomenclature, the CTS

database is being revamped in order to be more user friendly. In its new version, the CTS database has fewer tables and a simplified structure for some tables. **NEW INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE:** the unbound tariff lines are now included in table Concession. Amongst other changes: the base duty and the implementation period are provided only for commitments implemented later than 2005.

The CTS data is available freely at the tariff line level through the [Tariff Analysis Online facility \(TAO\)](#). At the level of standard HS six-digit sub-headings an aggregated version is available through the [Tariff Download Facility \(TDF\)](#). Should you require more details on the CTS, you can send an e-mail to: tdb@wto.org

CTS DATABASE TIMELINE

DECISION OF 12 JULY 1983 (L/5470/REV.1):

PROCEDURES DEVELOPED BY THE GATT COMMITTEE ON TARIFF CONCESSIONS FOR THE TRANSPOSITION OF PRE-UR SCHEDULES INTO THE HS NOMENCLATURE

DECISION OF 8 OCTOBER 1991 (L/6905):

COMMITTEE ON TARIFF CONCESSIONS ADOPTED SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURES TO IMPLEMENT THE HS92 AND ANY FUTURE CHANGES RELATING TO THE HS

URUGUAY ROUND: USE OF STANDARDIZED COUNTRY CUSTOMS NOMENCLATURES, INTRODUCTION OF THE HS SYSTEM (HS92)

1999-2001: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CTS DATABASE IN HS96 FOR MOST MEMBERS

2001 (WT/L/407): NEW PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED BY THE GENERAL COUNCIL FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF HS2002 CHANGES

2002: CTS DATA FIRST DISSEMINATED TO MEMBERS IN ELECTRONIC FORM (FIRST IN THE FILE TRANSFER FACILITY (FTF) AND THEN IN THE INTERNET ANALYSIS FACILITY (IAF))

2005 (WT/L/605): WTO TO ASSIST DEVELOPING COUNTRY MEMBERS IN THE TRANSPOSITION TO HS2002 USING THE CTS DATABASE

2009: REVAMP OF THE CTS DATABASE

2010: CTS DATA AVAILABLE IN THE TAO FACILITY (REVISION OF THE IAF); AGGREGATED VERSION IN THE TDF FACILITY

M E S S A G E S

to the

STATISTICS Group (SG)



I'm a college student from China. Would you please tell me where I can find the tariff data of HS07 from 2000 to 2008. All I can find on the WTO web now are aggregate tariff data of several countries, but I need those of every country.

[Online facility \(TAO\)](#). This facility allows users to conduct analyses for an individual market at the tariff line level (to obtain information on specific products) and at summary levels (for example, tariff averages for a group of products).



For your convenience, listed below are some useful on-line tariff databases where you might be able to find the information you are looking for:

Apart from these features, in the [WTO Members and Observers](#) webpage where you can click on any WTO Member, under "Goods schedules and tariff data" - "Historical applied tariffs", you will get tariffs at six-digit level. You can also consult bound tariffs information in the same page.

Your first option should be the six-digit [Tariff Download Facility \(TDF\)](#) where users can now search for members' customs duty rates as actually applied, as well as legally bound maximums (and in many cases imports). This is the only source offering conversion of old systems to HS07. The same information can be found at the tariff line level in the [Tariff Analysis](#)

The World Tariff Profiles publication also shows aggregated information for each country, covering 147 countries (2009 edition). It can be downloaded entirely from the [International Trade and Tariff Summary Table](#) where some other useful publications are also listed. This publication, however, does not include time series data.



STATISTICAL TOOLS

ADDITIONAL PROFILES, UPDATED SHORT-TERM INDICATORS

SERVICES PROFILES:

More than 30 countries added to the list! These are Albania, Armenia, Azerbaidjan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin and Bosnia and Hercegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Iceland, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Macao (China), Maldives, Mauritius, Mexico, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Senegal, Taipei Chinese, Tanzania and Vietnam.

SHORT-TERM INDICATORS:

1st Quarter 2010 merchandise trade data available! Second, third and fourth quarters of 2010 data will be available on 1 September, 1 December 2010 and 7 March 2011 respectively.

WORLD AND REGIONAL EXPORT PROFILES:

Finally a tabulated profile of World and Regional merchandise exports since 2000. Merchandise Export 2008 profiles available for World, North America, South and Central America, Europe, Commonwealth of Independent States, Africa, Middle East and Asia. Next update is in November 2010.

Trade Policy Courses and Technical Assistance, January - June 2010

Tariff data and Scheduling

22 January Geneva	49th WTO Trade Policy Course Integrated Data Base (IDB)
2-5 March Swaziland	Regional Seminar on NAMA for African English Speaking Countries
8 March Geneva	Advanced Technical Course on Agriculture
29 March Geneva	Reference Centres Training for the Netherlands Trainee Programme (NTP) and the Mission Internship Programme (MIP): Integrated Data Base (IDB) and Consolidated Tariff Schedules (CTS)
7 May Geneva	Geneva Week: Training on NAMA scheduling
8-10 June Port of Spain	Regional Workshop on Non-Agricultural Market Access Negotiations (NAMA) for the Caribbean Countries

Trade in Services

4 March Geneva	49th WTO Trade Policy Course Trade in Services Statistics
10-12 March Kuala Lumpur	National Seminar on International Trade in Services Statistics

Merchandise Trade

22 January Geneva	49th WTO Trade Policy Course Merchandise Trade Statistics
29 March Geneva	Reference Centres Training for the Netherlands Trainee Programme (NTP) and the Mission Internship Programme: Sources of International Trade Statistics

The **Statistics Group** supports WTO Members and the Secretariat with quantitative information in relation to economic and trade policy issues. The group is the principal supplier of WTO trade statistics and information on tariffs.

Comments regarding this issue can be forwarded to:

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We are on the Web!

[International Trade and Tariff Data](#)

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