



# INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE PUBLICATION OPTIONS

Consultation paper

5 October 2021



## SUMMARY

This consultation paper presents two options for the monthly international merchandise trade publication, which will replace the current monthly publication International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia, from the January 2022 reference month.

The ABS are seeking your feedback on which option you would prefer.

We recommend you first read the paper '[Enhancing the quality of Australia's international trade statistics](#)' for important background information.

## OPTIONS – SUMMARY

|                   | Option 1   | Option 2   |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Timing of release | Approx. 3-3.5 weeks*   | Approx. 4-4.5 weeks*   |
| Content           | <b>Merchandise trade, original data**</b><br><br>Time series including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SITC 1, 2, and 3</li> <li>• Country</li> <li>• State/territory, and</li> <li>• various cross classifications</li> </ul> | <b>Merchandise trade, original and seasonally adjusted data**</b><br><br>Time series including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SITC 1, 2, and 3</li> <li>• Country</li> <li>• State/territory, and</li> <li>• various cross classifications</li> </ul> |
| Analysis          | High level commodity and country analysis  | Commodity and country analysis, with additional analysis on topical items  |

\*After end of reference month.

\*\* Both options will contain merchandise trade basis<sup>1</sup> data only.

SITC – Standard International Trade Classification.<sup>2</sup>

## OPTION 1 - DETAILED

**Timing:** Option 1, monthly international merchandise trade statistics would be released 3 to 3.5 weeks after the end of the reference month.

For example: the January 2022 reference month would be released between 22 and 25 February; the February 2022 reference month would be released between 22 and 25 March and so on.

<sup>1</sup> Merchandise trade statistics on merchandise trade basis are compiled from information submitted by exporters and importers or their agents to the [Department of Home Affairs](#). For more information see: [International Merchandise Trade, Australia: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#), section title Scope.

<sup>2</sup> [International Merchandise Trade, Australia: Concepts, Sources, Methods](#). See section titled Classifications

**Content:** The content of Option 1 would include merchandise trade (imports and exports) on an original basis only.

Time series spreadsheets (original only) would include imports and exports by:

- Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) 1, 2 and 3 digit.
- Country.
- State of origin / State of arrival.

Data cubes would include imports and exports by:

- SITC 1 and 2 digit by country – for 7 months.

For a complete list of all time series spreadsheets and data cubes, see **Appendix A**.

ABS.Stat would include imports and exports by:

- SITC 1, 2 and 3 digit, state/territory, and country.

ABS.Stat allows a user to create unique tables of data using any of the variables loaded, so various cross classifications of SITC (1, 2 or 3), country and state over time can be produced. For example, users will be able to produce the following type of outputs:

- Iron ore and concentrates exported from Western Australia to China.
- Imports of road vehicles from Japan to New South Wales.
- Every SITC 3 commodity exported to the United States of America over time.

Analysis would include commodity drivers of the change in imports and exports and country analysis for both imports and exports.

## OPTION 2 – DETAILED

**Timing:** Option 2 monthly international merchandise trade statistics would be released in 4 to 4.5 weeks after the end of the reference month.

For example: the January 2022 reference month would be released between 28 February and 3 March; the February 2022 reference month would be released between 28 and 31 March and so on.

**Content:** The content of Option 2 would include merchandise trade (imports and exports), original and seasonally adjusted.

Time series spreadsheets would include imports and exports by:

- Standard International Trade Classification, 1 digit, seasonally adjusted.
- Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) 1, 2 and 3 digit, original.
- Country, original.
- State of origin / State of arrival, original.

Data cubes would include imports and exports by:

- SITC 1 and 2 digit by country – for 7 months – imports and exports.

For a complete list of all time series spreadsheets and data cubes, see **Appendix A**.

ABS.Stat would include imports and exports by:

- SITC 1, 2 and 3 digit, state/territory, and country

ABS.Stat allows a user to create unique tables of data using any of the variables loaded, so various cross classifications of SITC (1, 2 or 3), country and state over time can be produced. See examples above under Option 1.

Analysis would include commodity drivers of the change in imports and exports, country analysis for both imports and exports, and analysis on other topical items.

## NEXT STEPS

Please complete the online survey and tell us which of the options you prefer and why.

If you have any technical difficulties accessing the survey, please email:  
[international.trade@abs.gov.au](mailto:international.trade@abs.gov.au).

## APPENDIX A – TIME SERIES AND DATA CUBES LIST

Below is a complete list of all time series and data cubes planned for release with both Option 1 and Option 2.

### Please note:

- Table 1 will differ between the options, with Table 1 including original data only for Option 1, and original and seasonally adjusted data for Option 2.
- Table numbering and names may change between now and release of the publication.

### Time series spreadsheets

Table 1: Summary Statistics (balance, total goods and standard international trade classification 1 digit imports and exports)\*\*

Table 2: Merchandise exports, standard international trade classification (1 and 2 digit), FOB value

Table 3: Merchandise exports, standard international trade classification (3 digit), FOB value

Table 4: Merchandise imports, standard international trade classification (1 and 2 digit), customs value

Table 5: Merchandise imports, standard international trade classification (3 digit), customs value

Table 6: Merchandise exports, country, FOB value

Table 7: Merchandise imports, country, customs value

Table 8: Merchandise exports, state and Australia, FOB value

Table 9: Merchandise imports, state and Australia, customs value

Table 10: Merchandise exports, state of origin New South Wales, by country, FOB value

Table 11: Merchandise exports, state of origin Victoria, by country, FOB value

Table 12: Merchandise exports, state of origin Queensland, by country, FOB value

Table 13: Merchandise exports, state of origin South Australia, by country, FOB value

Table 14: Merchandise exports, state of origin Western Australia, by country, FOB value

Table 15: Merchandise exports, state of origin Tasmania, by country, FOB value

Table 16: Merchandise exports, state of origin Northern Territory, by country, FOB value

Table 17: Merchandise exports, state of origin Australian Capital Territory, by country, FOB value

Table 18: Merchandise exports, state of origin not available, by country, FOB value

Table 19: Merchandise exports, re-exports, by country, FOB value

Table 20: Merchandise imports, state of destination New South Wales, by country, customs value

Table 21: Merchandise imports, state of destination Victoria, by country, customs value

Table 22: Merchandise imports, state of destination Queensland, by country, customs value

Table 23: Merchandise imports, state of destination South Australia, by country, customs value

Table 24: Merchandise imports, state of destination Western Australia, by country, customs value

Table 25: Merchandise imports, state of destination Tasmania, by country, customs value

Table 26: Merchandise imports, state of destination Northern Territory, by country, customs value

Table 27: Merchandise imports, state of destination Australian Capital Territory, by country, customs value

Table 28: Merchandise imports, state of destination not available, by country, customs value

Table 29: Summary of revisions (imports and exports)

### Data cubes

Table 30: Merchandise exports, standard international trade classification (1 and 2 digit), by country, latest 7 months, FOB value

Table 31: Merchandise imports, standard international trade classification (1 and 2 digit), by country, latest 7 months, customs value

\*\* **Option 2** will include seasonally adjusted data at SITC 1 digit level, while **Option 1** will only include original data.