

Foreward

権利	Copyrights 日本貿易振興機構（ジェトロ）アジア 経済研究所 / Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO) http://www.ide.go.jp
シリーズタイトル(英)	I.D.E. statistical data series
シリーズ番号	74
journal or publication title	Consistency of commodity trade statistics in the Asian Pacific region : comparison of export values and corresponding import values
page range	[v]-[v]
year	1997
URL	http://doi.org/10.20561/00044957

FORWARD

Industrialization and the economy have become more interdependent in the Asian Pacific region since 1980. Trade transactions have accordingly become diversified and active, and the importance of commodity trade statistics as one set of basic data revealing current conditions has continued to increase. As commodity trade statistics are general customs clearance statistics and are figures recorded as exports in one country and as imports by the trading partner, these two set of statistics should essentially be consistent in the sense that the export value, incorporating international transportation and insurance fees, should conform to the corresponding import value. There are, however, many questionable statistics within trade negotiations as well, which although they should be consistent, include frequent cases in which both trading partners claim deficits. Although certain explanations for these differences have been offered, especially with regard to recent differences between Japan and the United States and Japan and Canada, concrete examinations of the realities behind these figures by direct comparison of discrepant figures from a number of countries have not been conducted. For this reason, research examining the consistency of commodity trade statistics in the APEC region was conducted by the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE) in 1995, seeking an understanding of the realities of consistency and reasons for discrepancy. This report represents a portion of the results of this research. Multiple interrelated elements are involved in the factors causing inconsistency in commodity trade statistics, but the most dominant of these reasons is the issue of who is declared as the trading partner for cargo delivered via a third country. In order to clarify this, this research committee used Hong Kong

re-export trade statistical data differentiating the country of origin and destination, as Hong Kong plays an important role as an entrepot port in the APEC region, to examine its influence on consistency. This report illustrates consistency clearly through the comparison of data from exporting and importing countries, creating a matrix table which includes consistency ratios of importing country data divided by exporting country data, as well as values and ratios of re-export via Hong Kong evaluated and distributed by exports from the country of origin. This matrix table is comprised from tables of total amounts and tables of 28 commodity groups for the years from 1988 to 1993. We hope that this report offers suggestions and areas for consideration to those who use trade statistics.

The following members participated in this research: Chief Investigator Yasuko Yamamoto (Senior Officer, Statistical Research Department, IDE), Secretary Yosuke Noda (Deputy Chief, Data Processing Division, Statistical Research Department, IDE), Sueo Kojima (Director, China-North Asia Section, Overseas Research Division, Japan External Trade Organization) as a joint researcher, Kyoichi Ishihara (Professor, Faculty of Cross-Cultural Studies, Kobe University) as a joint researcher, Yukari Sawada (Lecturer, Faculty of Foreign Language, Kanagawa University) as a joint researcher, and Yukihito Sato (Area Studies Department, Institute of Developing Economies) as an observer. We also received local research support from Ms. Yuh-Jiun Nancy Lin (Associate Research Fellow, Chung-Hua Institution for Economic Research).

Finally, we would like to offer our sincere appreciation to the Hong Kong Government, Census and Statistics Department for their kind assistance in

offering detailed trade statistics for Hong Kong which are not officially published.

March 1997

Takao Sano

Director, Statistical Research Department, IDE

Yasuko Yamamoto

Senior Officer, Statistical Research Department, IDE

Yosuke Noda

Deputy Chief, Data Processing Division, Statistical Research Department, IDE