

Policy on use and re-dissemination of UN COMTRADE data

UN COMTRADE

- i. UN COMTRADE contains annual imports and exports statistics for more than 160 reporting countries or areas, which account for almost all trade worldwide. The trade statistics are detailed giving value and quantity for each traded commodity broken down by trading partner. For more information see: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradekb/Knowledgebase/What-is-UN-COMTRADE?Keywords=UN+COMTRADE>

Free unlimited access

- ii. Free unlimited access to UN COMTRADE is available for all users on the website of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) at <http://COMTRADE.un.org/db/default.aspx> . A download limit of 50,000 data records per query is applicable for technical reasons. There is no limit on the number of queries. The same free access and limitations apply for obtaining UN COMTRADE data via the WITS application.
- iii. Institutional users from developing countries and users from International Organizations can register at the UN COMTRADE website and will be provided with special arrangements on the download limitation.

Copyright statement

- iv. Data from the UN COMTRADE database are copyrighted by the United Nations.
- v. UN COMTRADE data are provided for internal use only and may not be re-disseminated in any form without the written permission of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

Internal use

- vi. Internal use is defined as: only for use by staff members of the institutional unit for the benefit of the unit; internal use explicitly excludes data dissemination to any entity outside of the institutional unit.
- vii. The definition of institutional unit is derived from the definition which has been established for the System of National Accounts publication (SNA, 1993), namely:

An institutional unit is: An entity that has a status of a legal person in accordance with national law and is capable, in its own right, of owning assets, incurring liabilities and engaging in economic or other activities and in transactions with other entities.

- viii. If UN COMTRADE data are used within the boundaries of the definition of internal use, then a written permission of UNSD for use of UN COMTRADE data is not necessary and a royalty fee does not apply.

Use of data within joint project

- ix. UNSD allows the sharing of UN COMTRADE data beyond the definition of internal use only, if UN COMTRADE data are shared with another institution within the framework of a joint project. In all other cases written permission from UNSD for sharing of UN COMTRADE data is necessary and a royalty fee may apply.

License Agreement

- x. Use of UN COMTRADE data is subject to a license agreement which can be found at <http://COMTRADE.un.org/db/help/LicenseAgreement.aspx> , irrespective whether the data is accessed via free or premium access.

Disclaimer

- xi. Use of UN COMTRADE data is also subject to acknowledgement of the disclaimer which is given in the section “Read me first” on the UN COMTRADE website at: <http://COMTRADE.un.org/db/help/uReadMeFirst.aspx> .

Additional information on UN COMTRADE

- xii. Further details regarding the free basic data access to UN COMTRADE as well as information on premium access options at <https://unp.un.org/COMTRADE.aspx> .
- xiii. For metadata see the UN International Trade Statistics Knowledgebase at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradekb/Default.aspx> or the UN COMTRADE website itself, for example at <http://comtrade.un.org/db/mr/daPubNoteDetail.aspx> .

Permission for small sets of data

- xiv. Permission for re-dissemination of UN COMTRADE data needs to be requested in writing; in general, permission will be granted without application of a royalty fee if the amount of data used does not exceed 1,000 records. For publication of UN COMTRADE data in a few tables or graphs in newspaper articles, journals, other magazines or books it is not necessary to request permission; please refer to the source of the data as United Nations COMTRADE database, *DESA/UNSD*.

Re-dissemination of other than small sets of data

- xv. In case of re-dissemination of UN COMTRADE data other than in small data sets, a written permission for re-dissemination needs to be obtained from the United Nations (contact comtrade@un.org).
- xvi. The following rationale is applied in the decision if a royalty fee is due or not.
 - a. If data are re-disseminated which are substantially different from the data provided in the UN COMTRADE database, then a royalty fee shall not apply;
 - b. If data are re-disseminated which are substantially the same as data provided in the UN COMTRADE database, then a royalty fee shall apply where the level of the fee is based on:
 - 1) the number of records re-disseminated;
 - 2) whether data is re-disseminated against a fee or free-of-charge;
 - 3) and whether the access to this data is limited to a specific audience or open to the public in general.

The actual fees are calculated in relation to the price of the Premium Site Licence (PSL), which is \$6,065 in 2010 (unchanged from 2009).

- xvii. Exceptionally, case by case decisions will be taken, with a general rule of applying a royalty fee of one time the subscription fee, while still granting any applicable discount.

The following royalty fee scheme incorporates the considerations given above:

Royalty Fee Scheme*

Free-of-charge re-dissemination		
# of records	Limited Access (<i>Basic rates</i>)	Open Access
< 100,000	4% of PSL (US\$ 243)	8% of PSL (US\$ 485)
< 1,000,000	20% of PSL (US\$ 1,213)	40% of PSL (US\$ 2,426)
< 5,000,000	80% of PSL (US\$ 4,852)	160% of PSL (US\$ 9,704)
< 20,000,000	2 X PSL (US\$ 12,130)**	4 X PSL (US\$ 24,260)**
Re-dissemination involving fees		
# of records	Limited Access	Open Access
< 100,000	10% of PSL (US\$ 607)	20% of PSL (US\$ 1,213)
< 1,000,000	50% of PSL (US\$ 3,013)	1 X PSL (US\$ 6,025)
< 5,000,000	2 X PSL (US\$ 12,130)	4 X PSL (US\$ 24,260)
< 20,000,000	5 X PSL (US\$ 30,325) **	10 X PSL (US\$ 60,650) **

* The royalty fees are based on the price of a Premium Site License (PSL) which is US\$ 6,065 in 2010 and which can change every year. Accordingly, the fees indicated in brackets are the ones applicable for 2010 only. The current subscription prices are available at <https://unp.un.org/COMTRADE.aspx>.

** If more than 20 million records are needed, specific arrangements need to be established on a case by case basis