



Global Trade Atlas®

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Which countries' trade data do you publish?

At present we publish, with monthly updates, the official “merchandise trade” data of over 85 countries/regions. We are continuously adding to this list. In addition, annual UN data is available via Global Trade Atlas® (GTA).

2. How much historical data is available for each country?

The availability of historical data varies from country to country. For most of the major trading countries around the world, monthly trade data is available back to at least 1995.

3. What type of data is available in your software?

Data is based on the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HS Codes) and is displayed in value, quantity, unit price, for both exports and imports. Merchandise trade data is available at the 2-digit, 4-digit, and 6-digit levels, and down to the most detailed levels provided by each country. Some countries provide additional information such as ports, customs districts and mode of transportation data. This can be accessed via the Extra Data Field module by clicking on the (E) icon on the bottom of each screen or selecting the Extra Data Fields module when signing in with your username and password.

4. What is the source of your data?

We only use the official source from each reporting country. This is usually the customs agency or the national statistics agency.

5. How do you deal with different currency exchange rates?

Global Trade Atlas® software allows the user to convert from the reporting currency to any other major currency using the monthly exchange rates of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. This is located at: www.federalreserve.gov/releases/g5/current

6. What is the time lag for the release of the data?

This depends on the country. Some countries publish data one month after the figures are processed, while other countries may have a time lag of several months before the data is released. On average, there is a time lag of 2.5 months. GTA software is updated as soon as the data is received from the source country.

7. How are goods classified?

Goods are classified using the **Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System**, also known as the **Harmonized System (HS)**. HS Codes are an internationally standardized system of names and numbers to classify traded products. It came into effect in 1988 and has since been developed and maintained by the World Customs Organization.

8. Do you publish production data, or information on tariffs?

We currently do not publish this information in our software.

**For more information, please contact us at
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