

Since the data are usually utilized to describe the movements of commodities in international trade on a comparable basis, the national currency values are converted to multiples of \$1,000 United States (current), by means of rates furnished by the International Monetary Fund, usually par or mid-point rates. However, the national currency values can also be retrieved, if requested.

The trade data are also available in quantity terms for certain commodities and reporting countries. This quantity information is normally expressed in metric tons, although other units are reported by some reporting countries. The detailed information on the availability of quantity data is available on request.

The reports produced by the Report Writing System are available in standard computer printout form, on magnetic tape or on microfiche. The reports are available in English, French, or in a Bilingual version.

With respect to user charges an initial estimate is presented to clients upon receipt of an information request. Final billing is subsequently effected on the basis of an actual cost recovery. These costs vary depending on the following predetermined criteria: number of SITC products, partner countries, reporting countries, years and options which are required for a given report.