

International Trade Data Bank

Introduction

The International Trade Data Bank incorporates a flexible data manipulation and reporting system to provide annual data on the imports and exports of 66 individual major trading countries, as well as for both the EEC of 9 as a group and the aggregate of OECD member countries. A listing of these countries and groupings is presented in Table I on the next page. As can be seen in the right hand column, data are available from 1962 onwards, for most of the industrialized countries. The annual data are reported to the United Nations Statistical Office (Geneva, Switzerland) by each of the reporting countries. The data are received by the International Economic Policy Secretariat on magnetic tape, on an individual country basis.

The reporting countries report the origin of their imports and the destination of their exports according to the United Nations Standard Country Classification System (Statistical Papers Series M.NO.49), providing annual commodity trade information by region and trading partner. However, two exceptions apply: