

Frequently Asked Questions

When are the monthly updates available?

This depends on the country. The average time lag is about 2.5 months. Some countries publish their data about one month later, while other countries may have a time lag of several months before the data is released. We pride ourselves to load the data the same day or day after we receive it.

Where can I see what the official release dates are?

At the moment you can't see this information. Some countries do indeed publish their targeted release dates. They are their targets and can change. For those countries where we do have this information available, we will include it into the Data Availability chart.

Where can I see what data is available?

After being logged into Global Trade Tracker, simply click on the Data Availability tab to see which countries and months.

Where can I see when the updates were loaded last?

On the Data Availability tab, you will also see when we updated the country's data last. A color coded scheme helps you to quickly assess which countries were most recently updated.

Is there a way to be notified when new data is available?

You can set Alerts on your search in an easy and convenient way, such that you will be notified as soon as new data will be available for your report.

Which countries' trade data do you publish?

We publish monthly updates of the official trade data of over 50 countries. We are continuously adding to this list and intend to offer at least 55 countries during 2008.

What is the source of your data?

We only use the official source from each reporting country. Typically this represents the customs or the national statistics office.

How much historical data is available for each country?

This varies from country to country. For most countries we offer data from at 2002 onwards. While historical data is important to figure out trends over a long time period, 5 years is typically sufficient for an analysis. It is however more relevant to have the latest data available as quickly as possible. This is where we excel.

How are commodities classified?

Commodities are classified using the Harmonized System (HS), which is the most common coding system used for international trade data.

How do I find the commodity I am interested in?

You have several paths you can take to find out the HS codes you should be interested in: A good starting point is to find out what HS code you use when you export your good. Another good possibility is to use the search feature in Global Trade Tracker, which uses full text search technology to retrieve relevant results. Lastly, you can use the Hierarchy of the HS tree. There you will need to keep in mind that the HS codes categorize the commodities by the materials used in those products.

How do you deal with different currency exchange rates?

Global Trade Tracker allows you to view your results in any of the major currencies. In addition we offer the possibility to enter your own exchange rate for all other currencies.

What does it mean when a country suppresses some data and how can I find out which data is suppressed?

Countries can suppress data in ways to mask trade of certain commodities. This is typically the case when there would only be 1 or 2 exporters or importers of a given product. Publishing this data would allow to directly see this company's trade with the world. Due to confidentiality reasons such a company can ask the government to suppress this data. Many times however, you can still estimate this value using Global Trade Tracker's mirroring functionality, which essentially reports on what was imported or exported from the other reporting countries to the country suppressing the information. For now, we don't offer the ability to see which commodities are suppressed. We will however implement this feature in the short future.

What does the complete and partial data mean?

Right now, this only affects Turkey and Portugal. Due to Turkish and Portuguese regulations a significant amount of commodities are suppressed. We therefore want to make you aware of the fact that they don't publish the full data.