



Republic
of Rwanda



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METHODOLOGICAL NOTE ON THE MAIN REVISION ON FORMAL EXTERNAL TRADE IN GOODS STATISTICS

1 Introduction

External Trade statistics are one of the important indicators of the economy. It is used extensively by public institutions and organizations, business environment, academia and international organizations.

2 Trade systems used for External trade statistics

There are two systems for producing External trade statistics, the general trade system and the special trade system. From these systems; the general trade system covers all goods entering and leaving a country's economic area. The economic area of a country overlaps with the geographical borders of that country. In this system; free zones, customs warehouses and all goods entering and leaving the free circulation area are recorded. In other words, the statistical area and the economic area overlap in the general trade system.

In the special trade system, customs warehouses and free zones are not covered in statistics, only goods that enter and leave the country's free circulation area are covered.

In the special trade system, customs warehouses and free zones are not considered as the customs zone of that country. While the goods entering the free circulation area from the free zones and from the free circulation area to the free zones and customs warehouses are registered, goods entering /leaving the customs warehouses and free zones from abroad are not recorded.

It is recommended to use the general trade system since it covers all the goods entering or leaving the country's economic area. In addition, this system is compatible with economic statistics such as national accounts (SNA 2008) and balance of payments (BPM6).

3 Reasons of main revision

The Methodological enhancement made on the side of data collection required that trade statisticians accommodate the changes to avoid any structural break in the series since the changes necessitated a very big "revamp" on the technical procedures to be followed and methodological revisions practices have been revisited and challenges addressed.

As a result, plausible changes in figures by General Trade system and Special Trade System in both flows took place.

4 Length of the main revision

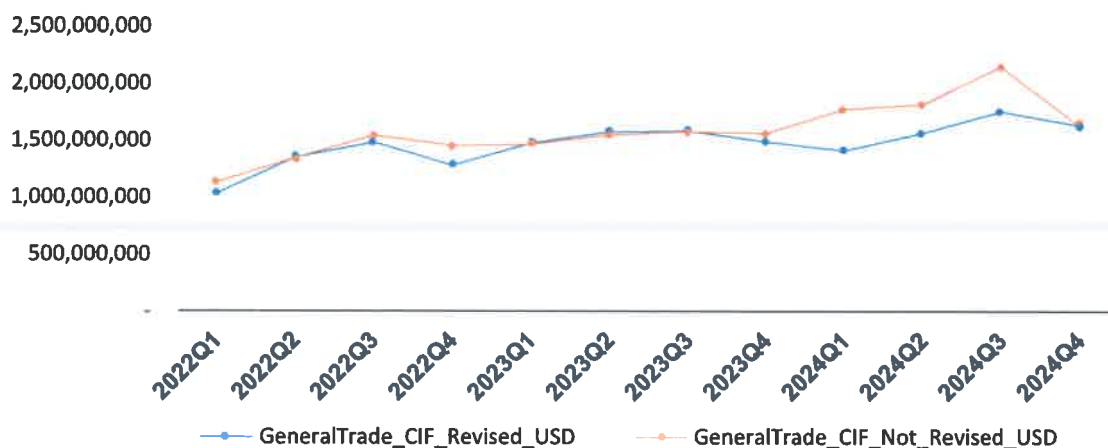
Since the main issue has been resolved from the data source effective November 2021, the revision process took effect from the year 2022 onwards.

5 Depth of the main revision

The revision process was made for the import, export and re-exports series but since the main differences were on the imports side, the current note will only put emphasis on imports figures by General Trade System.

6 Effects of the main revision

The following figure presents the comparison between the revised figures over the existing published General Trade system based Data on Quarterly basis. As the general insight, the revised General Trade System generated figures of imports look plausible and now straightforward.



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