



UN List of Industrial Products

United Nations Statistics Division

WS-ECE 09/04

History

- ◆ UN list of industrial products was developed in the framework of 1973 world programme on Industrial Statistics
- ◆ Scope of world programme
 - organization and conduct of industrial inquiries
 - indicators to be compiled

History

- ◆ World programme made provisions on:
 - collection of information according to uniform procedures
 - compilation of this information in a uniform manner
- ◆ The aim of the world programme was:
 - to guide and coordinate national activity in industrial census-taking
 - broaden the scope and improve the comparability on industrial statistics

Purpose

The UN List of industrial products served as:

- ◆ A guide in reporting and collecting data on major industrial products for all countries and areas

- ◆ A tool to observe and compare industrial production on a worldwide basis

- ◆ The list represents
 - a pure form of product statistics
 - physical quantity production data

Criteria

- ◆ Only a selective list, not comprehensive
- ◆ Main criteria for inclusion were:
 - current or prospective importance of the commodity in the international economy
 - balance within the industrial sector
 - importance of the commodity within the group to which it belongs

- ◆ ST/STAT/Ser.M/54/II

Definition and coding

- ◆ Products were defined based on:
 - explanatory notes of BTN (CCC, 1955)
 - early version of SITC
 - national practices and comments received
- ◆ Products were grouped and coded according to industries (ISIC Rev.2 - 4 digits), with a running numbering for individual products (2 additional digits), e.g. 2302-01 "Copper ore"

Definition and coding

- ◆ Data collection and measurement issues embedded in:
 - coding system
 - definitions of products
 - measurement units
- ◆ Example:
 - 2301-01 – “Iron ores and concentrates, gross weight”
 - 2301-01M – “Iron ores and concentrates, metal content”

Data collection

- ◆ UNSD collects physical data on the annual production of commodities
- ◆ Data is collected through UN questionnaire on commodity production statistics sent yearly to NSO-s
- ◆ Major publication: Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook
 - annual publication, contains data for the latest 10 years
- ◆ Other publications:
 - United Nations Statistics Yearbook
 - Monthly Bulletin of Statistics

Need for revision

- ◆ Changes in the economic structure, new products
- ◆ The content of 1973 list has become out of date
 - has to be complemented with new products
 - not necessarily completely altered
- ◆ Changes in underlying classifications

Revision goals

- ◆ Reflect products representative of today's industries
- ◆ Based on current classifications (CPC, HS)
- ◆ Consider national product lists (!)
- ◆ Update of supporting methodology
- ◆ Applicable for calculation of price indices
- ◆ No "clean slate" approach

Initial steps

- the link to CPC/HS for each product of the list was evaluated (1:1, 1:n, m:1, m:n)
- the "history" of existing list was looked at
 - a rank from 0 to 10 (0-worst, 10-best) was attached to each product
 - the criteria for ranking on the next slide
- industry coverage by the current list was looked at
 - trade data and national production data to be used as a source
 - new products to be added (for instance: high-tech, pharmaceuticals)

The criteria for ranking

- ◆ Quantity of data
 - number of countries reporting, completeness of series
- ◆ Source of data
 - National data has priority vs. data from other sources
- ◆ Quality of data
 - Number and content of footnotes
- ◆ Clarity of definition of the product
- ◆ The relative importance of the product within the group considered
- ◆ The importance of the product for developing countries

Distribution of ranks in the old list

rank	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
number	232	1	33	14	84	28	76

rank	7	8	9	10
number	86	61	42	16

Methodological approach

- ◆ Base the definition and coding of the products on CPC
- ◆ CPC subclass level of detail or below (HS detail)
- ◆ The list “to spread along” CPC divisions 11-49
Agriculture, livestock, forestry, fishery products excluded

Methodological Approach (cont')

- ◆ Create a balanced/ well structured list
 - Approximately try to spread the number of products along the CPC divisions proportionally to subclass detail
 - Have a feasible coverage and representation of CPC divisions and detail below
 - ◆ in terms of size – production data or size estimated by trade data
 - ◆ in terms of content – consideration of the entirety of products belonging to each division

Practical considerations

- ◆ Original purposes for developing a list of industrial products still relevant today
- ◆ Try “to save” as many historical time series as possible
- ◆ A selective list; upper limit: 700 products
- ◆ Criteria for inclusion remain the same as in the past
 - Importance internationally, balance within the industrial sector, relative importance
- ◆ Looking at actual production data (or trade data as estimates) is important!

CPC	Title	number (proposal)	number (new list)
1	Products of agriculture, horticulture and market gardening	1	0
2	Live animals and animal products	2	0
3	Forestry and logging products	-	0
4	Fish and other fishing products	-	0
11	Coal and lignite; peat	3	5
12	Crude petroleum and natural gas	3	3
13	Uranium and thorium ores	2	1
14	Metal ores	5	12
15	Stone, sand and clay	5	7
16	Other minerals	5	14
17	Electricity, town gas, steam and hot water	2	3
18	Water	-	0
21	Meat, fish, fruit, vegetables, oils and fats	20	27
22	Dairy products	5	6
23	Grain mill products, starches and starch products; other food products	20	21
24	Beverages	5	7
25	Tobacco products	2	3
26	Yarn and thread; woven and tufted textile fabrics	20	17
27	Textile articles other than apparel	15	15
28	Knitted or crocheted fabrics; wearing apparel	25	25
29	Leather and leather products; footwear	10	9

31	Products of wood, cork, straw and plaiting materials	10	10
32	Pulp, paper and paper products; printed matter and related articles	20	12
33	Coke oven products; refined petroleum products; nuclear fuel	13	15
34	Basic chemicals	35	38
35	Other chemical products; man-made fibres	25	35
36	Rubber and plastics products	17	18
37	Glass and glass products and other non-metallic products n.e.c.	15	15
38	Furniture; other transportable goods n.e.c.	30	24
39	Wastes or scraps	-	0
41	Basic metals	40	31
42	Fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment	20	14
43	General-purpose machinery	35	22
44	Special-purpose machinery	45	40
45	Office, accounting and computing machinery	20	17
46	Electrical machinery and apparatus	25	31
47	Radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus	45	30
48	Medical appliances, precision and optical instruments, watches and clocks	30	23
49	Transport equipment	40	24
		615	574

Some statistics

- ◆ The draft list that has been recently distributed for consultation contains 574 products; among these:
 - 190 carried over unchanged
 - 92 carried over with some change
 - 292 new products introduced

- ◆ Reasons for deletions (486 products deleted):
 - Not relevant products anymore
 - Poor production data
 - “Difficult” (m:n, 1:n) links to CPC subclasses
 - ◆ In such cases the whole group of products (m:n or 1:n) was replaced with new ones, covering as a group the same scope/content

◆ Some statistics (cont')

- 242 products in the draft new list coincide with full CPC subclasses, 8 products with full combinations of CPC subclasses
- The rest is usually below CPC subclass detail; HS categories or combinations of them

◆ The non-existing products such as high-tech and pharmaceuticals have been introduced

◆ Reporting in physical units and in value

Consultation

The draft list has been sent to the following countries for an initial consultation:

Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Iran, Jordan, Russia, Serbia & Mont., South Africa, Uganda

And to

Eurostat, OECD, UNIDO and UN Regional Commissions