

NEW TRADE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON TRADSYS ONLINE SPECIFIC DETAILS BY TRADING PARTNERS

The **CARICOM Secretariat** wishes to announce the availability of a new report at the level of Member States for the **Tradsys Online** facility. This report makes available information on imports/exports by trading partners (individual countries or trading blocs) for different levels of aggregations based on the level of access that the user is allowed. Information in this new report is provided for the following two trade classification systems:

- The Standard International Trade Classification Revision4 (SITC Rev. 4);
- The Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System 2007 (HS2007).

How was the detailed classification facilitated?

In the process of enabling the rolling out of this report there were two issues to be addressed. The first issue related to changes in the HS classification over its updating such as the removal of codes from previous versions (discontinued trend) of the HS, the introduction of new codes (new trend) or re-classifying of items within the updated HS. Considerable work was undertaken by the Regional Statistics Programme utilising a 10-digit extension of the HS 2007 classification in an effort to harmonise the HS classifications to the HS 2007. In addition notes about the changes in the classification systems were also provided. Further information is provided below.

Why is the ten (10) digit code format needed?

Member States implemented various versions of the Common External Tariff (CET) which is based on the HS at different periods, and using different versions of the HS. This resulted in a regional dataset that is not strictly comparable over time due to the changes made at the international level in the HS classifications as well as in the period (month/year) of implementation by countries.

The CARICOM Secretariat, in an attempt to *normalize* the data to facilitate, among other things, comparing like with like as far as is feasible for trend analyses, created a correlation table that was used to convert data classified under the different version of the HS 1996 and 2002 of the CET to the HS 2007 version. The 10- digit codes include information about the actual changes

in the HS used to guide the user about the limitations of the comparability of the data over time. This information on the changes in the classification versions is reflected in the digits 9 and 10 of a particular code.

A 10-digit number ending in 01 signifies that the commodity being analysed was formerly classified according to the 1996 version of the HS during the period of the trend; on the other hand, a number ending in 02 means that the HS2002 classification was in use. A 10-digit number ending in 00 signifies that the trend in the data across classifications has not been affected. Under the Methodology link on this website, you will find a table showing the versions of the HS classification being used by each CARICOM Member State over the years. This table can be used in order to more clearly understand the trend in commodities using the 10-digit code extension.

Notes are provided within the commodity description at this level in order to guide the user where these changes have taken place. For example, the note “Code added in HS02 - previously included in HS96-030310 (now HS07 - 030319)” means that there was a change that occurred in the 2002 revision of the CET; the item was previously included in HS96-030310, but given that the data were converted to the 2007 CET, the historical data was now placed under HS07- 030319, since it is not possible to split the data and allocate portions to the newly disaggregated HS2007 numbers, 030311 and 030319.

About the Levels of Disaggregation Available to Users

Users that are registered as Tier 1 will be able access information up to the 2-digit level for both the SITC and HS classifications by trading partners for each CARICOM Member State.

Users that are registered as Tier 2 (Privileged users) will be able to access information by trading partners for the levels of disaggregation specified in the table below for each Member State.

Member States	Level of Disaggregation - Tier Two Access
Antigua and Barbuda	10 digits
The Bahamas	10 digits
Barbados	10 digits
Belize	10 digits
Dominica	10 digits
Grenada	10 digits
Guyana	4 digits
Jamaica	10 digits
Montserrat	2 digits
St. Kitts and Nevis	4 digits
Saint Lucia	10 digits
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	4 digits
Suriname	4 digits
Trinidad and Tobago	6 digits

For more information, you can write to us at stats1@caricom.org .

Additional Information on the new report

The user may specify the following levels of SITC/HS aggregation depending on their category of access:-

HS:

- 2-digit or CHAPTER Level
- 4-digit or HEADING Level
- 6-digit or INTERNATIONAL ITEM level
- 8-digit or REGIONAL ITEM Level
- 10-digit- This ITEM level records the changes that have occurred across classifications.

SITC:

- 1-digit or SECTION Level
- 2-digit or DIVISION Level
- 3-digit or GROUP Level
- ITEM Level