

ESCWA Comtrade User Guide

(updated 16 January 2009)

The ESCWA Comtrade is a web application that allows web users to follow a wizard that ultimately creates a query into the database, which translates into one of the pre-set reports.

The Query Wizard

It guides user to set up selection criteria for the query.

Commodities Selection

The ESCWA Comtrade query builder starts with the following screen The criteria to be selected on this first page of the wizard is:

The screenshot displays the 'Select Valuation and Flow' step of the query wizard. On the left, a navigation menu includes 'Commodities', 'Reporters', 'Partners', 'Years', and 'Others'. The main area is divided into three sections: 'Flows', 'Classification', and 'Valuation'. The 'Flows' section has a dropdown menu with options: '(All)', 'Import', 'Export', and 'Re-Exports'. The 'Classification' section has a dropdown menu with options: 'HS 92', 'HS 96', 'HS 02', and 'HS 07'. The 'Valuation' section has a dropdown menu with options: '(All)', 'CIF', and 'FOB'. Below these sections is the 'Enter Commodity Codes' section, which includes a search box, a dropdown for '1. Select Source', and a search button. The '2. Select Items' section has a search box containing the word 'animal', a search button, and an 'Aggregation Level' dropdown set to '2'. There is also a checkbox for 'All Commodities'. A list of commodity descriptions is shown, with several items highlighted in blue: 'Animal, vegetable fats and oils, cleavage products, et -- [/TOTAL/]', 'Articles of leather, animal gut, harness, travel good -- [/TOTAL/]', 'Dairy products, eggs, honey, edible animal product ne -- [/TOTAL/]', 'Live animals -- [/TOTAL/]', 'Products of animal origin, nes -- [/TOTAL/]', 'Residues, wastes of food industry, animal fodder -- [/TOTAL/]', and 'Wool, animal hair, horsehair yarn and fabric thereof -- [/TOTAL/]'. To the right of this list is a 'Selected Items' box, which is currently empty. At the bottom of the list are buttons for 'Add', 'Remove', and 'Remove All'. A 'Set as My List' button is located to the right of the 'Selected Items' box. A 'Next' button is at the bottom right of the interface.

1. Trade flow: Any of Import, Export, Re-export, Re-import
2. Classification: One of the SITC, HS series of commodity classifications

Please note that more than one item can be selected from each list by holding the CTRL or SHIFT keys while clicking on the item.

Further, the user can select the commodity codes to be queried for data by:

- Searching for commodity by keyword
- Using preset lists created by administrators
- Using a list of favorite commodities saved earlier by user

To search for a commodity, simply type in the keyword in the search box, and use the drop-down to select an aggregation level. Leaving the aggregation level at (All) would yield most results.

Narrowing down the search should provide the user with the most relevant searches.

Search results marked [/TOTAL/] are on the highest level of aggregation available.

To include the commodities in the query, simply select by clicking on the list (multi-selection possible), and click on the **Add** button. The selected commodities will be added to the list of **Selected Items**.

Click on an item in the **Selected Items** list then on the **Remove** button to remove that item from the list.

The **Remove All** button will clear the list.

To save the list of selected items for later use, click on the **Set as My List** button. The list would then be saved in your browser for later using the browser cookies.

You can retrieve your list by choosing Favourite Commodities from the **Select Source** drop-down.

When the commodities are selected, click on the **Next** button to move to the next step in the wizard.

Reporters Selection

The second step would be selection of reporting countries:

The screenshot shows a web interface for selecting reporting countries. On the left, a blue sidebar contains navigation links: [Commodities](#), [Reporters](#) (highlighted), [Partners](#), [Years](#), and [Others](#). The main content area is titled "Enter Reporters Code" and is divided into two sections: "1. Select Source" and "2. Select Items". In the "1. Select Source" section, a dropdown menu is set to "Countries with available data". In the "2. Select Items" section, a list box contains the entry "Bahrain". To the right of this is a "Selected Items" list box, which also contains "Bahrain". Below the "Selected Items" list is a button labeled "Set as My List". At the bottom of the main area are three buttons: "Add", "Remove", and "Remove All". At the bottom right of the interface are two buttons: "Previous" and "Next".

Countries with available data will be selected by default in the **Select Source** drop-down, and the **Select Items** list will contain only the countries that have reported data related to the commodities selected in the first step.

The user has the option to select All ESCWA Countries, All Arab Countries or My List from the Select Source drop-down. The first two choices are self explanatory and would add the named list of countries to the query selection. Selecting My List will bring back countries previously selected by clicking the **Set as My List** button

Click **Next** when you're done to move on.

Selecting partners and years

The next 2 steps in our wizard go almost the same as the above. Please make sure to select the partners and years you need for the final report. Below is a sample screenshot:

The screenshot shows a web application interface for selecting partners. On the left is a blue sidebar with navigation links: [Commodities](#), [Reporters](#), [Partners](#) (highlighted), [Years](#), and [Others](#). The main content area is titled 'Enter Partners Code' and contains two steps:

1. Select Source: A dropdown menu with 'Available data' selected.
2. Select Items: A list box containing the following items: World, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Argentina, China, Hong Kong SAR, Australia, and Kenya.

To the right of the list box is a 'Selected Items' area, which is currently empty. Below it is a 'Set as My List' button. At the bottom of the main area are three buttons: 'Add', 'Remove', and 'Remove All'. At the very bottom are 'Previous' and 'Next' navigation buttons.

Final step – report selection

The final step is selecting the report to be rendered. Reports are pre-set by the developers of this application and the administrators.

The screenshot shows the final step of the wizard, titled 'Select output layout:'. The left sidebar is the same as in the previous screenshot. The main content area contains a list box with the following options: 'Default (reporter, year, partner, commodity, value)', 'All (*)', 'Short (commodity, value)', and 'Totals Matrix'. The 'Totals Matrix' option is currently selected and highlighted in blue. At the bottom right of the main area are 'Previous' and 'Finish' buttons.

- The Default report should present the user with the data in a table showing the Reporter, Year, Partner, Commodity (description) and Value in US Dollars.
- The All (*) report will simply show all the information saved in the database regarding the query issued.

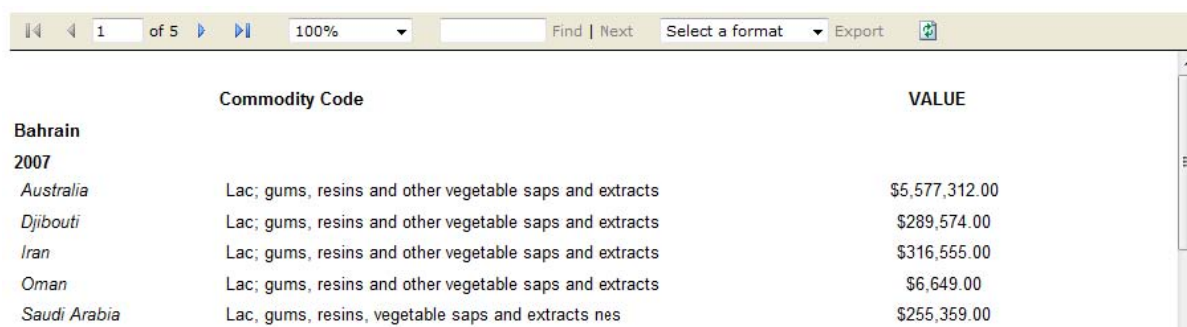
Clicking the **Finish** button will render the final report.

Result Page

The result page provides some basic navigation and possibility to export data to other formats.

The generated report is easily exportable to Excel for further manipulation of the data.

Simply select either PDF or Excel from the Export Format drop-down on the top header of the report.



	Commodity Code	VALUE
Bahrain		
2007		
<i>Australia</i>	Lac; gums, resins and other vegetable saps and extracts	\$5,577,312.00
<i>Djibouti</i>	Lac; gums, resins and other vegetable saps and extracts	\$289,574.00
<i>Iran</i>	Lac; gums, resins and other vegetable saps and extracts	\$316,555.00
<i>Oman</i>	Lac; gums, resins and other vegetable saps and extracts	\$6,649.00
<i>Saudi Arabia</i>	Lac, gums, resins, vegetable saps and extracts nes	\$255,359.00

ESCWA Comtrade data source

The data source is UN Comtrade (<http://comtrade.un.org>). Any questions regarding data content or substantive matters, please contact comtrade@un.org

Data Limitation (taken from [UN Comtrade Readme first](#))

UN Comtrade is available to the general public and should be used with good knowledge of its limitations. Please read the following points very carefully before extracting and using data:

1. The values of the reported detailed commodity data do not necessarily sum up to the total trade value for a given country dataset. Due to confidentiality, countries may not report some of its detailed trade. This trade will - however - be included at the higher commodity level and in the total trade value. For instance, trade data not reported for a specific 6-digit HS code will be included in the total trade and may be included in the 2-digit HS chapter. Similar situations could occur for other commodity classifications. Detailed data processed after 1. January 2006 and published in HS will sum up to the respective totals due to the introduction of adjustment items with commodity code 9999 and 999999.
2. Countries (or areas) do not necessarily report their trade statistics for each and every year. This means that aggregations of data into groups of countries may involve countries with no reported data for a specific year. UN Comtrade does not contain estimates for missing data. Therefore, trade of a country group could be understated due to unavailability of some country data.
3. Data are made available in several commodity classifications, but not all countries necessarily report in the most recent commodity classification. Again, UN Comtrade does not contain estimates for data of countries which do not report in the most recent classification.
4. When data are converted from a more recent to an older classification it may occur that some of the converted commodity codes contain more (or less) products than what is implied by the official commodity heading. No adjustments are made for these cases.
5. Imports reported by one country do not coincide with exports reported by its trading partner. Differences are due to various factors including valuation (imports CIF, exports FOB), differences in inclusions/ exclusions of particular commodities, timing etc. The recommendations for international merchandise trade statistics can be found in the [International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Compilers Manual](#)). Additional methodological information can be found on the same web page.
6. Almost all countries report as partner country for imports the country of origin (see Metadata & References > Explanatory Notes) which is determined by the rules of origin established by each country (see International Merchandise Trade Statistics, Concepts and Definitions, Rev.2, para. 139 and 140). Hence, the term 'partner country' in the case of imports does not necessarily imply any direct trading relationship.