Background and Objectives

International trade is the exchange of capital, goods, and services across international borders or territories because there is a need or want of goods or services. In most countries, international trade represents a significant share of the gross domestic product (GDP) and its importance increases in socio-economic and political fields in recent decades.

Despite its growing importance, international trade is a complex process when compared to domestic trade. That is because factors like currency, government policies, economy, judicial system, laws, and markets have an influence on it. Yet, increasing international trade is crucial to the continuance of globalisation. Without international trade, countries would be limited to the goods and services produced within their own borders. In terms of portraying the trade linkages and cooperation among the countries, international trade in goods statistics plays a significant role. These statistics give not only an idea on the countries’ level of industrialisation but also their interconnectedness with the rest of the world.

As the formulation of sound national policies related to trade depend on high quality data, trade statistics are among the most developed and exchanged in the official statistics community. However, ensuring the comparability of these indicators among countries requires a comprehensive and methodological approach for the collection, collation, compilation, processing, and dissemination of international trade in goods statistics.

Against this background and within the framework of its Statistical Experience Sharing Webinar Series, SESRIC will conduct a webinar jointly with the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) and NSOs of other OIC countries on their experiences and practices in International Trade in Goods Statistics.

This webinar will cover the following topics related to the International Trade in Goods Statistics:

- Methodology
- Data compilation
- Data production and analysis
- Publication and dissemination

To enrich the content and discussions of the webinar, the interested NSOs of OIC countries are kindly invited to share their experiences during the Webinar. The participating NSOs of OIC countries are highly encouraged to nominate presenters to share experiences of their institutions in international trade in goods statistics during the Webinar. Presenters should send their presentations to statistics@sesric.org by 2 April 2021.

Format

- Around 2 hours of webinar via Zoom with presentations.
- The webinar will be conducted in English only.
- The webinar will be open to NSOs of OIC member countries interested in the subject.
**Draft Work Programme**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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| 14:00 – 14:15 | Introduction and Agenda Setting:  
*Dr. Atilla KARAMAN* (5 mins)  
*Director of Statistics and Information Department, SESRIC*  
*SESRIC Presentation* (10 mins)  
*State of International Trade in Goods in OIC Member Countries*  
*Presenter: Dr. Kenan BAĞCI, Senior Researcher, Research Department* |
• Methodology  
• Data compilation  
• Data production and analysis  
• Publication and dissemination  
*Presenter: Mr. Murat ÖZTÜRK, TurkStat* |
| 15:15 – 15:55 | Experiences of Other OIC Member Countries and Q&A  
*Palestine and Saudi Arabia* |
| 15:55 – 16:00 | Closing Remarks by SESRIC |

*All times are indicated in Ankara, Turkey (UTC +3) time. For time difference information, please refer to:*  
[https://time.is/compare/1400_06_Apr_2021_in_Ankara](https://time.is/compare/1400_06_Apr_2021_in_Ankara)