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Phríomh-Oifig  
Staidrimh**

Central  
Statistics  
Office

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# Comparing Forestry Statistics in Eurostat Trade Database with UNECE Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire

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# Overview of Presentation

- This presentation reviews the reasons for differences in the full exports and imports Trade file sent by CSO Trade division to Eurostat each month and the more specific annual wood and paper products questionnaire that is submitted by CSO Environment division to Eurostat and the UNECE
- The differences are based on the relatively low importance of wood and paper products in the full Trade file compared with the specific focus on those products in the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire
- Data collections using very detailed coding systems (e.g. 4407 19 20) are more precise statistically but more difficult for enterprises to use compared with a description (e.g. coniferous sawnwood) especially if the codes are being updated regularly
- Data collections requiring very detailed coding to be done by respondents need careful checking by statisticians for time series consistency especially for items of less importance
- The SDG forestry indicators relate to areas under forestry and ecosystem condition but the general reasons for differences in Trade databases should still apply



# CSO Trade Statistics

- Monthly statistics with each month received three times by CSO from Customs/Revenue
- Each annual file has over 3 million records
- Forestry accounts for 2% of the total value of imports and 0.5% of the total value of exports
- Very detailed product coding in Trade statistics i.e. an eight-digit Common Nomenclature (CN) code
- There are some changes to CN codes every year and a higher proportion of changes every five years
- Importers and exporters find it difficult to keep choosing the correct CN code for each product



# UNECE Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire

- UNECE JFSQ questionnaire is an annual voluntary questionnaire
- For EU countries, the Trade part of the questionnaire could be completed using international trade statistics databases
- NSIs tend to submit Trade statistics whereas other agencies may complete JFSQ and not use Trade statistics so differences may arise if there are different reporting thresholds
- Forest owners and sawmills are not enterprises with strong support administrative teams for compiling statistics
- JFSQ questionnaire and CN codes are tough going even for a statistical office 😊
- JFSQ categories are very detailed



<b>ROUNDWOOD (INCLUDING WOOD IN THE ROUGH)</b>
<b>WOOD FUEL (INCLUDING WOOD FOR CHARCOAL)</b>
Coniferous
Non-Coniferous
<b>INDUSTRIAL ROUNDWOOD</b>
Coniferous
Non-Coniferous
of which: Tropical
<b>WOOD CHARCOAL</b>
<b>WOOD CHIPS, PARTICLES AND RESIDUES</b>
WOOD CHIPS AND PARTICLES
WOOD RESIDUES (INCLUDING WOOD FOR AGGLOMERATES)
<b>RECOVERED POST-CONSUMER WOOD</b>
<b>WOOD PELLETS AND OTHER AGGLOMERATES</b>
WOOD PELLETS
OTHER AGGLOMERATES
<b>SAWNWOOD (INCLUDING SLEEPERS)</b>
Coniferous
Non-Coniferous
of which: Tropical
<b>VENEER SHEETS</b>
Coniferous
Non-Coniferous
of which: Tropical
<b>WOOD-BASED PANELS</b>
<b>PLYWOOD</b>
Coniferous
Non-Coniferous
of which: Tropical
<b>PARTICLE BOARD, ORIENTED STRAND BOARD (OSB) AND SIMILAR BOARD</b>
of which: ORIENTED STRAND BOARD (OSB)
<b>FIBREBOARD</b>
HARDBOARD
MEDIUM/HIGH DENSITY FIBREBOARD (MDF/HDF)
OTHER FIBREBOARD
<b>WOOD PULP</b>
MECHANICAL AND SEMI-CHEMICAL WOOD PULP
CHEMICAL WOOD PULP
SULPHATE PULP

<b>DISSOLVING GRADES</b>
<b>OTHER PULP</b>
PULP FROM FIBRES OTHER THAN WOOD
RECOVERED FIBRE PULP
<b>RECOVERED PAPER</b>
<b>PAPER AND PAPERBOARD</b>
<b>GRAPHIC PAPERS</b>
NEWSPRINT
UNCOATED MECHANICAL
UNCOATED WOODFREE
COATED PAPERS
<b>HOUSEHOLD AND SANITARY PAPERS</b>
<b>PACKAGING MATERIALS</b>
CASE MATERIALS
CARTONBOARD
WRAPPING PAPERS
OTHER PAPERS MAINLY FOR PACKAGING
<b>OTHER PAPER AND PAPERBOARD N.E.S. (NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED)</b>
<b>SECONDARY WOOD PRODUCTS</b>
<b>FURTHER PROCESSED SAWNWOOD</b>
Coniferous
Non-coniferous
of which: Tropical
<b>WOODEN WRAPPING AND PACKAGING MATERIAL</b>
<b>WOOD PRODUCTS FOR DOMESTIC/DECORATIVE USE</b>
<b>BUILDER'S JOINERY AND CARPENTRY OF WOOD</b>
<b>WOODEN FURNITURE</b>
<b>PREFABRICATED BUILDINGS OF WOOD</b>
<b>OTHER MANUFACTURED WOOD PRODUCTS</b>
<b>SECONDARY PAPER PRODUCTS</b>
COMPOSITE PAPER AND PAPERBOARD
SPECIAL COATED PAPER AND PULP PRODUCTS
HOUSEHOLD AND SANITARY PAPER, READY FOR USE
PACKAGING CARTONS, BOXES ETC.
<b>OTHER ARTICLES OF PAPER AND PAPERBOARD, READY FOR USE</b>
of which: PRINTING AND WRITING PAPER, READY FOR USE
of which: ARTICLES, MOULDED OR PRESSED FROM PULP
of which: FILTER PAPER AND PAPERBOARD, READY FOR USE

# Example CN Code for Coniferous Sawnwood

4407

Wood sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or end-jointed, of a thickness exceeding 6 mm

- Coniferous

-- 440719 Other

--- 44071910 End-jointed, whether or not planed or sanded

--- 44071920 Planed



--- 44071990 Other

Wood sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded or end-jointed, of a thickness exceeding 6 mm

Commodity Code	Description
4407 11	∨ Coniferous
4407 11	> Of pine ( <i>Pinus</i> spp.)
4407 12	> Of fir ( <i>Abies</i> spp.) and spruce ( <i>Picea</i> spp.)
4407 13	> Of S-P-F (spruce ( <i>Picea</i> spp.), pine ( <i>Pinus</i> spp.) and fir ( <i>Abies</i> spp.))
4407 14	> Of Hem-fir (Western hemlock ( <i>Tsuga heterophylla</i> ) and fir ( <i>Abies</i> spp.))
4407 19	> Other
4407 21	> Of tropical wood
4407 91	> Other

# UNECE Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire

- UNECE provide guidance on identifying and classification of CN codes
- CSO Environment extracted all relevant CN codes for 1995-2020
- This involved classifying many old CN codes that are no longer in use
- There were **five million monthly import and export transactions in the CSO Environment JFSQ file for 1995-2020**
- Data quality checking included:
  - - Was the correct CN code used (trader level history)
  - - Examining Euro per tonne conversion factors
  - - Examining cubic metres per tonne conversion factors
- Microdata changes balanced out for monetary value
- CN code changes resulted in movement between JFSQ categories





2020	Observations	Tonnes	Value €000
<b>Imports 1995-2020 Ireland</b>			
<b>All Records</b>	2,520,828	40,933,146	96,655,220
<b>Unedited forestry</b>	80,904 (3.2%)	2,183,760 (5.3%)	1,792,177 (1.9%)
<b>Edited forestry</b>	80,904	1,844,086 (4.5%)	1,792,114
<b>Exports 1995-2020 Ireland</b>			
<b>All Records</b>	667,336	18,563,406	162,601,291
<b>Unedited forestry</b>	16,192 (2.4%)	1,828,223 (9.8%)	751,728 (0.5%)
<b>Edited forestry</b>	16,192	1,850,302 (10.0%)	751,290



# Conclusions

- For very specific data requests, the microdata may need to be checked more rigorously
- There should be better consistency if SDG indicator is already part of international reporting
- National Statistical Institutes and other national organisations do not have the resources to adequately examine the data underlying all SDG indicators
- The level of data quality scrutiny required may mean access to confidential data is required hence non-NSI organisations would not have the legal right to undertake it
- Fewer SDG indicators may give more time to check data consistency

Things to watch out for:

- Are different organisations doing the reporting?
- Are there statistical exemptions for enterprises below reporting thresholds?
- Is it a well-established indicator?





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