



Statistics Committee  
9<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
29 September 2015  
Milan, Italy

**Data concepts and variables used in the  
statistics of the Organization**

**Background**

1. This document updates WP-Board 934/03 which contains the basic definitions of all data concepts and variables used in the statistics of the Organization. It serves to clarify certain misunderstandings some people may have in interpreting the basic data and concepts of the ICO statistical data series.
2. In addition, during the past few years the Organization has been asked regularly to clarify the methodology used to derive certain figures published in statistical documents, as they may differ compared to data published by other sources.

**Action**

The Statistics Committee is requested to review the information presented in this document prior to making its recommendation to the Council.

**DATA CONCEPTS AND VARIABLES USED  
IN THE STATISTICS OF THE ORGANIZATION**

DATA CONCEPT/VARIABLE		DESCRIPTION
<b>Supply</b>		
1.	<b>Total production</b>	Estimates are provided by the Members for current crop year (and revised on a quarterly basis). After the end of the crop year, estimates are replaced by derived production. In the absence of estimates provided by Members alternative sources are used (USDA, F.O. Licht, LMC International, etc.).
1a.	<b>Derived production</b>	Calculated after the close of the crop year on the basis of change in stocks, total exports and total imports during the year.
2.	<b>Domestic consumption</b>	Estimates are provided by the Members. In the absence of a recent estimate for the current crop year, the previous year's estimate is used.
3.	<b>Exportable production</b>	Calculated as the difference between total production minus domestic consumption.
4.	<b>Arabica/Robusta breakdown</b>	Members that produce more than one type of coffee are requested to provide the percentage of each type produced. Unless a separate breakdown is given for domestic consumption, the same percentage will be used in the calculation for domestic consumption of each type.
5.	<b>Crop percentage distribution</b>	Represents the availability of the crop in each quarter so that supply data can be converted from crop to coffee or calendar year basis (request for this information was made in document ED-1840/02).
6.	<b>Gross opening stocks</b>	Estimates are provided by Members and they refer to the amount of coffee held at the end of each crop year.
7.	<b>Prices paid to growers</b>	Average price paid to the grower at farmgate level, or the minimum price guaranteed by the Government to the grower, by form and weight reported in the national currency in which the coffee is purchased and converted into US cents/lb).
8.	<b>Gross availability for export</b>	Is the result of exportable production added to gross opening stocks and imports.
9.	<b>Area under coffee</b>	Area of hectares (HA) in production and in formation.
10.	<b>Number of trees</b>	Number of trees producing coffee and in formation.
<b>Exports by exporting Members</b>		
1.	<b>Total exports</b>	Volume of coffee, in GBE, exported in a given month. Information is based on data provided in monthly statistical reports and Certificates of Origin.
1a.	<b>Estimated exports</b>	In the absence of data provided by Members, alternative sources (press stories, F.O. Licht, GTIS and import statistics) are used. In the absence of any data available from any source, estimates are made based on performance in previous years.
2.	<b>Value of exports</b>	Value of exports (FOB) of coffee provided in monthly reports. When data are not provided by the Member, estimates are made on the same basis as in item 1a. In the absence of any data, estimates are based on the last month for which data are available – using the unit value to derive the value.

DATA CONCEPT/VARIABLE		DESCRIPTION
3.	<b>Unit value of exports</b>	Information derived from monthly reports. It is the result of total value divided by total volume expressed in US cents/lb.
4.	<b>Processed coffee information (ratio by type)</b>	For countries that produce/export both Arabica and Robusta coffee, data for roasted and soluble coffee are converted into GBE and classified as Arabica and Robusta using a 50/50 ratio.
<b>Imports and re-exports by importing Members</b>		
1.	<b>Total imports/total re-exports</b>	Volume of coffee, in GBE, imported/re-exported from all origins/to all destinations in a given month. Information is provided in monthly statistical reports.
1a.	<b>Estimated imports</b>	In the absence of data from Members, alternative sources (F.O. Licht, Eurostat, GTIS, etc.) are used. In the absence of data available from any source, estimates are made based on performance in previous years.
2.	<b>Value of imports/re-exports</b>	Value of imports (CIF) and re-exports (FOB) of coffee provided in monthly reports. In the absence of data provided by Members, estimates are made following procedures similar to those for exporting Members.
3.	<b>Net imports</b>	Are equal to gross imports less re-exports.
4.	<b>Unit value of imports/re-exports</b>	Information derived from monthly reports. It is the result of total value divided by total volume expressed in US cents/lb.
5.	<b>Inventories and stocks</b>	Refer to the stocks of green coffee held by importers and roasters. Information in selected European ports is provided by the European Coffee Federation (ECF).
6.	<b>Roastings</b>	Refer to the amount of net weight of green coffee which has been processed in the country during the period covered by the report.
7.	<b>Disappearance</b>	Level of consumption in importing Members which is measured by deducting re-exports from imports and adjusting the resulting figure for changes in visible inventories.
<b>Imports/exports/re-exports by non-members</b>		
1.	<b>Total imports/exports/re-exports (volume and value)</b>	Annual data obtained from National Statistics Offices in non-member countries giving total volume/value of imports/exports/re-exports of all forms of coffee imported/exported/re-exported from all sources/to all destinations.
1a.	<b>Estimated imports/exports/re-exports (volume and value)</b>	In the absence of data from non-members alternative sources (FAO, GTIS, UN Comtrade, F.O. Licht, derived statistics, etc.) are used. In the absence of data available from any source, estimates are made based on performance in previous years.
2.	<b>Net imports</b>	Are equal to gross imports less (re)-exports. In non-member countries, net imports are considered to be the actual consumption of coffee.
3.	<b>Unit value of imports/exports/re-exports</b>	Information derived from the annual data received in item 1. It is the result of total value divided by total volume expressed in US cents/lb.

DATA CONCEPT/VARIABLE		DESCRIPTION
<b>Variable and/or concepts common to all databases</b>		
1.	<b>Average of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> positions in the futures markets</b>	Is the average of the futures prices of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> positions in the London (Robustas) and New York (Arabicas) markets.
2.	<b>Certified stocks</b>	Is data published by ICE on the stocks held in warehouses linked to the New York and London Futures markets.
3.	<b>Consumer price index</b>	Is the index (provided by the IMF) used to convert prices and values from current to constant terms.
4.	<b>Daily prices</b>	Represent the spot prices of various growths of coffee traded daily in the US, German and French physicals markets. These prices are collected by the ICO agent in each market and transmitted to the Organization in accordance with the procedures established in document <a href="#">ICC-105-17</a> . They are the basis for the calculation of group indicator prices.
5.	<b>Exchange rate</b>	Is the value of exchange (provided by the IMF on a monthly basis) used to convert national currencies to US dollars. Daily exchange rates used in calculating the indicator prices are from the Financial Times.
6.	<b>Form of coffee</b>	Forms of coffee include dry cherry, parchment, green, roasted, ground, decaffeinated, liquid and soluble coffee.
7.	<b>Global consumption</b>	Is the result of world consumption added to domestic consumption in exporting Members.
8.	<b>Gradings</b>	In order to provide additional information on coffee quality the ICO monitors the results of 'pass' or 'fail' gradings published by the ICE Futures Exchanges of New York and London. See also Quality.
9.	<b>Group indicator prices</b>	Represent the price of each group of coffee calculated in accordance with the Rules contained in document <a href="#">ICC-105-17</a> and weighted on the basis of the exports of each group to the EU and the USA
10.	<b>Groups of coffee (see note below)</b>	Refer to the traditional ICO classification for grouping exporting members in accordance with the coffee they produce. They are: Colombian Milds, Other Milds, Brazilian Naturals and Robustas.
11.	<b>ICO composite indicator price</b>	Is the price calculated based on the market share of exports of each group of coffee weighted in accordance with information contained in Annex I of document <a href="#">ICC-105-17 Add. 2</a> (revised every two years).
12.	<b>Mode of shipment</b>	Coffee is usually shipped in one of the following modes: Bags, Bulk, Containers, Bags in Containers or Bulk in Containers.
13.	<b>Organic coffee</b>	Is grown as part of an agricultural production management system that includes the composting of organic materials, mulching, shade regulation and biological pest control. It excludes the use of agro-chemicals. For the product to be marketed as organic, it must be certified as such by a third party.
14.	<b>Per capita consumption</b>	Is the result obtained by dividing disappearance in importing countries (or domestic consumption in exporting countries) by the population in that country (provided by the IMF).
15.	<b>Processing</b>	Green coffee beans may be processed either by wet or dry methods of processing, producing washed and unwashed coffees respectively.
16.	<b>Quality</b>	The CQP (ICO Resolution 420) requests that exporting countries report information on the quality of coffee exported to the Organization on a voluntary basis via Certificates of Origin. Coffee must conform to specified defect and moisture standards in accordance with Resolution 420. See also Gradings.

DATA CONCEPT/VARIABLE		DESCRIPTION
17.	<b>Special characteristic</b>	Is coffee that has been certified as being grown under internationally agreed standards that govern the following: 4C Association, Fairtrade, Kaffee Practice, Rainforest Alliance, UTZ, etc.
18.	<b>Type of coffee</b>	The two main types of coffee traded internationally are <i>Arabica</i> and <i>Robusta</i> . <i>Excelsa</i> and <i>Liberica</i> coffees are also produced commercially but in much smaller quantities.
19.	<b>United Nations index</b>	Refers to the UN index of unit values of exports of manufactured goods from developed market economies. It is used to convert values/unit values from current to constant terms.
20.	<b>Value of exports/imports of all goods</b>	Is merchandise data as published by the IMF, UNCTAD and WTO.
21.	<b>Value of exports/imports of all goods and services</b>	Is merchandise data and Commercial Services Trade as published by the IMF, UNCTAD and WTO.
22.	<b>Votes</b>	Calculated on the basis of a pro-rata distribution of average gross exports and imports performance in the four preceding calendar years.
23.	<b>Wholesale and retail market prices of roasted/soluble coffee</b>	Represent the price paid by the consumer to the commercial distributor/outlet.
24.	<b>World consumption</b>	Represents the result of disappearance in importing Members added to net-imports in non-members.

Further information and a Glossary of Terms used by the ICO can be found at <http://www.ico.org/glossary.asp>

Note: Traditionally exporting countries are grouped as follows:

Colombian Milds:	Colombia, Kenya and Tanzania
Other Milds:	Bolivia, Burundi, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Jamaica, Malawi, Mexico, Nepal, Nicaragua, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Rwanda, Venezuela, Zambia and Zimbabwe
Brazilian Naturals:	Brazil, Ethiopia, Paraguay Timor-Leste and Yemen
Robustas:	Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo Dem. Rep. of, Congo Rep., Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Indonesia, Lao, People's Dem. Rep., Liberia, Madagascar, Nigeria, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda and Vietnam

However, countries with dual production may be listed in more than one group in accordance with the method used to process their coffee. These countries are:

Country	Traditional output grouped under	2 <sup>nd</sup> output grouped under
Brazil	Brazilian Naturals	Robustas
Burundi	Other Milds	Robustas
Cameroon	Robustas	Other Milds
Congo Dem. Rep. of	Robustas	Other Milds
Dominican Republic	Other Milds	Robustas
Ecuador	Other Milds	Robustas
Guatemala	Other Milds	Robustas
India	Other Milds	Robustas
Indonesia	Robustas	Other Milds
Madagascar	Robustas	Other Milds
Mexico	Other Milds	Robustas
Papua New Guinea	Other Milds	Robustas
Philippines	Robustas	Brazilian Naturals
Tanzania	Colombian Milds	Robustas
Thailand	Robustas	Brazilian Naturals
Timor-Leste	Brazilian Naturals	Robustas
Uganda	Robustas	Other Milds
Vietnam	Robustas	Brazilian Naturals

**LIST OF ACRONYMS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT**

CIF	Cost Insurance Freight
CQP	Coffee Quality-Improvement Programme
ECF	European Coffee Federation
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FOB	Free on Board
GBE	Green Been Equivalent
GTIS	Global Trade Information Services, Inc.
ICE	Intercontinental Exchange
ICO	International Coffee
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LMC International	Landell Mills Commodities International
UN	United Nations
UN COMTRADE	United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
WTO	World Trade Organization