



## Selecting data using UN Comtrade

This guide will introduce you to the Comtrade Express Selection interface by carrying out a simple and hopefully typical research task using the United Nations Comtrade database

### Who can access Comtrade

Accessing UN Comtrade through the UK Data Service, gives staff and student from UK Higher and further education institutions access to the premium service. This includes the ability for users to bulk download data.

- <http://comtrade.ukdataservice.ac.uk/db/default.aspx>

Unlike the other international macrodata we host, UN Comtrade is not available via UKDS.Stat, but through the UN's own interface.

Users from other communities can access the free version of Comtrade directly from [comtrade.un.org](http://comtrade.un.org)

### The task

Download data concerning snails imported to France from all countries between 2000 to 2013

#### Step 1: Finding and selecting the data

From the UK Data Service homepage (<http://ukdataservice.ac.uk/>)

- Click Get Data
- Click Explore Online
- Click UN Comtrade

You will now need to select your institution and login (only staff and student from UK Higher and further education institutions are permitted to access Comtrade through the UK Data Service).

In order to use the personalisation features, you will need to enter your email address. Click the **Account Info** link, and enter your email address. We recommend that you click the dropdown menu and change it to **forever**.



UN comtrade  
United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database | Statistics Division

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Shortcut Query

Seen the new **beta interface**? Take a look and tell us what you think.

Show **Import** of **Type commodity text h** in the year **recent years**  
to **Cayman Ids** from **World**  
in **any** classification. **Search**

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Where the designation "country or area" appears on this internet site, it covers countries, territories or areas.

The data of the Comtrade database shown on this internet site are copyrighted by the United Nations and are provided for your internal use only. They may not be re-disseminated in any form without written permission of the United Nations Statistics Division.

Welcome to UN Comtrade!  
As a user of [UK Data Service](#) you can now download the data you need.

In order to use the personalization features, please type your email address at [Account Info](#).

If you have questions, please ask your Master User or [Contact Us](#).

**What's New on Comtrade** [RSS](#)

[2014.03.07] UN Comtrade news has moved to twitter: [@UNTradeStats](#) [more...](#)

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Enter search terms **Go**

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UN Comtrade offers several ways to query data, we recommend using the "express selection" feature, as it's easy to use, and contains a wider range of options.

On entering the UN Comtrade database home page, select the Data query menu, and click **Express selection**

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Shortcut Query

Short **Basic Selection**

**Express Selection**

Seen the new **beta interface**? Take a look and tell us what you think.

Show **Import** of **Type commodity text here** in the year **recent years**  
to **Côte d'Ivoire** from **World**  
in **any** classification. **Search**

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**Step 0. Load Saved Query (optional)**

-- No Saved Query found --

**Step 1. Select Classification**

HS:  As reported  92  96  02  07  12  BEC

SITC:  As reported  Rev.1  Rev.2  Rev.3  Rev.4

**Step 2. Enter Commodities, Reporters, Partners, Years and Select Trade Flow**

Basic Items	Advanced Items
<b>Enter Commodity Codes / Text</b> Special Codes : All, AG0,AG1, .. AG6 (aggregate level) and LF (leaf). Use - to exclude. Wild characters : * (Any string of zero or more characters) and ? (Any single character) <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Save Lookup"/>	
<b>Enter Reporters Codes / Text</b> Separated by comma. Special code: All. Minus sign is not applicable. <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Save Lookup"/>	
<b>Enter Partners Codes / Text</b> Separated by comma. Special code: All. Minus sign is not applicable. <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Save Lookup"/>	
<b>Enter Years</b> Separated by comma. Special code: All. Minus sign is not applicable. <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Save Lookup"/>	
<b>Select Trade Flow</b> Exports figures always include Re-exports; Re-exports should be used only to distinguish between Domestic exports and Re-exports. <input type="checkbox"/> Import <input type="checkbox"/> Export <input type="checkbox"/> re-Export <input type="checkbox"/> re-Import	

**Step 3. Save Query (optional)**

Enter query name and Set Notification Option

Enable Notification:  Enable AutoBatch:  Update Type:

Select the HS as reported radio button. For information regarding the classification see:

- [unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/dataextract/dataclass.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/dataextract/dataclass.htm)
- [unstats.un.org/unsd/tradekb/Knowledgebase/Trade-Statistics-Coding-Systems](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradekb/Knowledgebase/Trade-Statistics-Coding-Systems)
- [comtrade.un.org/db/mr/rfGlossaryList.aspx](http://comtrade.un.org/db/mr/rfGlossaryList.aspx)

For commodity code, click **lookup** and a new window will appear

- Type **snails** into the search box and click search. Now expand the results until you reach **030760 snails, other than sea snails**, then tick the checkbox



- You may need to scroll to the right in order to complete the following:
- Click **Add** (notice that your selection now appears in the box on the right)
- Click **Apply & close** which will return you to the express selection screen

In the **Reporters Codes / Text** - use the same method as above and select **France**

In the **Partners Codes / Text box** type in **All**

For **Years** click **lookup** and as before select all years from **2013** to **2000** (you can select multiple years by holding down your keyboards **Shift** key), Click **Add** and **Apply & Close**

Tick the **Import** checkbox

Your screen should now look like this:



**Step 0. Load Saved Query (optional)**

-- No Saved Query found --

**Step 1. Select Classification**

HS:  As reported  92  96  02  07  12  BEC

SITC:  As reported  Rev.1  Rev.2  Rev.3  Rev.4

**Step 2. Enter Commodities, Reporters, Partners, Years and Select Trade Flow**

**Basic Items** | **Advanced Items**

**Enter Commodity Codes / Text**  
Special Codes : All, AG0,AG1, .. AG6 (aggregate level) and LF (leaf). Use - to exclude. Wild characters : \* (Any string of zero or more characters) and ? (Any single character)  
030760

**Enter Reporters Codes / Text**  
Separated by comma. Special code: All. Minus sign is not applicable.  
251

**Enter Partners Codes / Text**  
Separated by comma. Special code: All. Minus sign is not applicable.  
ALL

**Enter Years**  
Separated by comma. Special code: All. Minus sign is not applicable.  
2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013

**Select Trade Flow**  
Exports figures always include Re-exports; Re-exports should be used only to distinguish between Domestic exports and Re-exports.  
 Import  Export  re-Export  re-Import

**Step 3. Save Query (optional)**

Enter query name and Set Notification Option

Enable Notification:  Enable AutoBatch:  Update Type:

If you have selected a small amount of data click **submit query**  
If you have selected a large amount of data, click **submit to batch processing**

If it is your first time using Comtrade (using another computer or cleared your cookies) then a page named "Read Me First" will be displayed. Have a read through, tick the box and click the continue link.

## Step 2: Downloading the data



If you have selected *submit to batch processing* then you will receive an email indicating when your results are ready.

If you selected *Submit Query*, then your will appear on the screen. You can change the order in which the rows are displayed by selecting the "sort order" dropdown box. You cannot change the order of the columns. Notice that the results are displayed 20 per page.

Sort Order  Refresh

[Direct Download](#) [SDMX Download](#) [Printable Format](#)

[Modify Selection](#) [View Graph & Map](#) [View Explanatory Notes](#) [View Not-Available-Data](#)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ...

Period	Trade Flow	Reporter	Partner	Code	Trade Value	NetWeight (kg)	Quantity Unit	Trade Quantity	Flag
2000	Import	France	World	<a href="#">030760</a>	\$14,883,306	3,143,100	g	3,143,100	0
2000	Import	France	Turkey	<a href="#">030760</a>	\$4,193,002	854,900	g	854,900	0
2000	Import	France	Greece	<a href="#">030760</a>	\$2,848,220	497,300	g	497,300	0
2000	Import	France	Romania	<a href="#">030760</a>	\$2,035,005	436,400	g	436,400	0
2000	Import	France	Czech Rep.	<a href="#">030760</a>	\$1,264,752	225,000	g	225,000	0
2000	Import	France	Hungary	<a href="#">030760</a>	\$1,175,035	207,500	g	207,500	0
2000	Import	France	Bulgaria	<a href="#">030760</a>	\$815,602	200,800	g	200,800	0

You can change the order in which the rows are displayed by selecting the "sort order" dropdown box. You cannot change the order of the columns. The data can be downloaded in .csv format by clicking the Download link (there is also an SDMX download option).

The rest of the process is the same as downloading any file from the web. Click "Direct Download"

If you wish to download a large amount of data then we recommend that you use the batch processing (this is only available to staff and students from UK Further/Higher education institutions)