GENERAL NOTES

These notes summarize the content of each part of the *Handbook* according to the revised Table of Contents of the present issue of the *Handbook of Statistics*.

The tables included in this book represent analytical summaries of the full time series contained in the *UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics 2008* on DVD and on the statistics portal of the UNCTAD website at www.unctad.org. In certain instances, the two electronic versions might contain different figures from the printed volume, as they are published somewhat later and may reflect more recent data.

PART ONE
International merchandise trade

Tables 1.1 show the value of total exports and imports, expressed in millions of dollars and percentages of the world total, of individual countries and geographical regions (1.1.1), economic groupings (1.1.2), and trade groups (1.1.3). The trade flows shown in table 1.1.1 refer to the General Trade System except for the countries which employ the Special Trade System and which are marked with an asterisk. The General Trade System is used when the statistical territory of a compiling country coincides with its economic territory. Consequently, imports include all goods entering the economic territory of a compiling country and exports include all goods leaving the economic territory of the compiling country. The Special Trade System is used when the statistical territory comprises only a particular part of the economic territory within which "goods may be disposed of without customs restriction". In such a case, imports include all goods entering the free circulation area of the compiling country, which means cleared through customs for home use, and exports include all goods leaving the free circulation area of a compiling country.

Average annual growth rates of international trade derived from table 1.1 are presented in tables 1.2.

Tables 1.3 contain trade balances (exports f.o.b. minus imports c.i.f.) and these balances, as a percentage of imports of individual countries, geographical regions and economic groupings.

Table 1.4 shows the relative importance of trade among group members as compared to the regional or total trade of that group.

PART TWO
International merchandise trade by region

Table 2.1 shows the export and import structure of individual countries by main regions of origin and destination. Data are presented for as many individual countries as possible, while trade partners are grouped in 14 major clusters.

Table 2.2 presents the structure of exports by destination and imports by origin by major commodity groups for 12 selected country groups. The table provides detailed information on the world trade network for 19 regions of origin and destination and six commodity groups.

Totals of international merchandise trade presented in the tables found in parts one and two are not strictly comparable due to complementary but different sources and remaining unallocated trade flows, despite efforts to distribute trade flows by destination, origin and commodity group.

Exports by destination may differ considerably in some cases from data on imports as reported by countries of destination for a variety of factors, among which the following may be of particular importance:

- Most import data are reported on a c.i.f. rather than an f.o.b. basis.

- There is a time lag between the date on which goods are recorded as exports and their arrival at their destination;

- There may be considerable differences between the recorded destination of exports and the actual destination as shown in import statistics.

PART THREE
International merchandise trade by product

Table 3.1 shows the export and import structure of individual economies by commodity groups for selected years for nine commodity groups (total, all food items, agricultural raw materials, fuels, ores and metals, manufactured goods, including chemical products, machinery and transport equipment and other manufactured goods).

Tables 3.2 (A, B and C, respectively) present the structure of exports for the world and for developed and developing economies, by product, at the SITC group (Revision 3, 3-digit) level. Each product share of world exports is calculated for each economic grouping as well as the average annual growth rate and the latter's deviation in relation to the world growth rate.

Table 3.2D establishes for each economy the list of main products exported (SITC group Revision 3, 3-digit level). Each product's share of total exports of individual countries, geographical regions and the world is also indicated.

Table 3.2E lists major exporters of 70 leading products among developing economies at the SITC group (Revision 3, 3-digit) level as well as corresponding shares in world trade.

Table 3.3 provides concentration indices and structural change indices for exports and imports by product group at SITC (Revision 3, 3-digit) level. The first indicator shows how a product market is concentrated in a few countries or homogeneously distributed among several countries. The structural change indicator shows whether the market share for a given product among export countries has changed significantly when compared with a reference year.

Totals of international merchandise trade presented in the tables of this third part may also differ from the data contained in the first and second parts for the above reasons, to which must be added margins of exports and imports not distributed by commodity group or the use of different product nomenclatures by the exporting and importing countries.

PART FOUR
International merchandise trade indicators

Tables 4.1 include calculation results of concentration and diversification indices for individual countries, geographical regions and economic groupings. This concentration index specifically shows how exports and imports of individual countries or country groupings are concentrated on several products or otherwise distributed in a more homogeneous manner among a series of products. The diversification indicator signals whether the structure of exports or imports by product of a given country or country grouping differs from the structure by product shown for the world.

Tables 4.2 contain volume indices of exports and imports, rounding out the unit values available in tables 1.1 and 1.2, and derived terms of trade and purchasing power of exports calculated at the level of individual countries and geographical regions (4.2.1) and economic groupings (4.2.2).

To improve data coverage, especially for the latest periods, the following procedure was used in the calculation of unit value indices::

- A set of average prices indices at SITC (Revision 3, 3-digit) group level was constructed using available sources.

- At the country level, unit value indices were calculated using previous year's trade values at the SITC 3-digit level available in table 3.2 as weights.

In some instances these indices may differ from the estimates published in official sources, since the main aim is to provide tentative estimates for most developing countries on a comparable basis.

Table 4.3 presents average applied import MFN tariff rates for major categories of non-agricultural and non-fuel products by individual markets.

PART FIVE
International trade in services

Tables 5.1.1, 5.1.2, and 5.1.3 present the value of total trade in services by individual country, geographical region, economic grouping and trade group. The tables show values of exports (credits) and imports (debits) of services that were derived from statistics on international service transactions as presented in the IMF's *Balance of Payments Statistics*. Services are defined as the economic output of intangible commodities that may be produced, transferred and consumed at the same time. However, services cover a heterogeneous range of intangible products and activities that are difficult to capture within a single definition and are sometimes hard to separate from goods. Services are outputs produced to order, and they typically include changes in the condition of the consumers realized through the activities of the producers at the demand of customers. By the time production of a service is completed, it must have been provided to a consumer.

Services figures shown here comprise 11 principal services categories according to the concepts and definitions of the IMF *Balance of Payments Manual* (BPM5, 1993). These categories cover transport; travel; communications; construction; insurance; financial services; computer and information services; royalties and license fees; other business services; personal, cultural and recreational services; and government services n.i.e. Given the general difficulties involved in statistically capturing certain aspects of the trade in services, the balance-of-payments figures presented here may be somewhat downward-biased as compared with the actual value of the international trade in services. The aggregate data from tables 5.1 include the UNCTAD secretariat's estimates of missing values that are not shown separately.

Table 5.2 indicates 20 major exporters and importers, among developing economies, for each of the 10 principal services sectors as defined in the IMF *Balance of Payments Manual* (BPM5, 1993), which are transport; travel; communication; construction; computer and information services; insurance; financial services; royalties and licence fees; other business services; and personal, cultural and recreational services. Government services n.i.e. are not included.

Table 5.3 focuses on tourism services in individual countries in recent years. It presents the following statistics: value of total expenditure of visitors, value of visitors' expenditure excluding transportation, number of tourists' overnight stays, and number of arrivals of visitors. All figures refer to non-resident visitors (inbound tourism). The international (non-resident) visitor is an international traveller travelling to a place other than her/his usual environment for a stay of less than 12 months and whose main purpose of a trip is other than exercise an activity remunerated from within the place visited. This includes all persons who arrive in a particular economy to stay for less than a year for business purposes or personal reasons. Tourists are those who stay at least one night in a collective or private accommodation in the country visited. Same-day visitors are persons who do not stay overnight in a country visited.

Table 5.4 concerns international maritime transport. It contains data on the world merchant fleet by flag of registration and by type of ship by region and economy, highlighting the group of major open-registry countries. A ship owner who registers his or her vessel in an open-registry country does not need to have any connection with a country of registry. The number of open-registry countries has varied over the years. In order to better show their relevance, the group of "major open- and international-registry countries" now includes a higher number of countries (10 in total) than the one described in the previous versions of the *Handbook*. Table 5.4 contains consolidated time series from various issues of the UNCTAD *Review of Maritime Transport.* It reports on the worldwide evolution of shipping, ports and multimodal transport related to the major traffics of liquid bulk, dry bulk and containers.

PART SIX
Commodities

Table 6.1 includes aggregated price indices for primary commodity groups such as food, tropical beverages, vegetable oilseeds and oils, agricultural raw materials and minerals, ores and metals, as well as an all groups price index in current US dollars. Also included are the annual and quarterly free-market price indices for selected commodities exported by developing economies. The weight of price indices for the above mentioned commodity groups (2000=100) are based on the value of exports of developing countries from 1999 to 2001. The table is based on data from the *UNCTAD Commodity Price Statistics* database, available on the statistics portal of the UNCTAD website.

Table 6.2 presents instability indices and trends in free-market prices for selected primary commodities that are of particular interest to developing economies.

Table 6.3 presents information on the production of aluminium and copper at different processing stages and consumption by individual country and by geographical region. Figures for the production of bauxite are expressed at gross volume, while those for copper ore production are shown in metal content.

PART SEVEN
International finance

Table 7.1 presents summaries of the current account of the balance of payments for individual countries and territories. Balance-of-payments current account data cover all transactions between residents and non-residents of a reporting economy, involving economic values and mainly concerning goods, services, income and current transfers. Data on these principal categories, with an additional detail on direct investment income, are covered in the table. For information about the concepts regarding the categories mentioned, please see the IMF *Balance of Payments Manual* (BPM5, 1993).

Table 7.2 contains summaries of the capital and financial account of the balance of payments for individual economies. Capital and financial account figures cover transactions in foreign assets and liabilities. Assets represent claims on non-residents, while liabilities are indebtedness to non-residents of the reporting economy. No valuation changes or other non-transaction modifications of net foreign assets are reflected in these accounts. Capital account includes capital transfers and acquisition and disposal of non-produced, non-financial assets. Financial account covers investments (direct, portfolio and other) and reserve assets (comprised of monetary gold, SDRs, foreign exchange and others). Statistics on these principal categories of the capital and financial account are included in the *Handbook*. Detailed notes with explanations of categories and terminology used are provided after the table. For more information, see the IMF *Balance of Payments Manual* (BPM5, 1993).

Tables 7.3.1, 7.3.2 and 7.3.3 contain information on foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows and outflows by individual country, geographical region, economic grouping and trade group. These figures correspond to the Statistical Annexes of the UNCTAD *World Investment Report 2006: FDI from Developing and Transition Economies: Implications for Development.* Foreign direct investment (FDI) is defined as an investment involving a long-term relationship and reflecting a lasting interest in and control by a resident entity in one economy (foreign direct investor or parent enterprise) of an enterprise resident in a different economy (FDI enterprise or affiliate enterprise or foreign affiliate). Such investment involves both the initial transaction between the two entities and all subsequent transactions between them and among foreign affiliates. A direct investment enterprise is defined as an incorporated or unincorporated enterprise in which the direct investor, resident in another economy, owns 10 percent or more of the ordinary shares or voting power (or the equivalent).

Table 7.4 presents values of receipts and payments of workers' remittances for individual economies. It also shows workers' remittances as a percentage of international trade (exports and imports, balance-of-payments data). According to the definition of the IMF *Balance of Payments Manual* (*BPM5, 1993*), workers' remittances are goods and financial instruments transferred by migrants living and working (considered to be residents) in a new economy to residents of the economy in which the migrants formerly resided. A migrant must live and work in the new economy for more than one year to be considered a resident there. The *BPM5* classifies workers' remittances separately from compensation of employees. Table 7.4 includes the sum of the two categories in the values shown, in order to present a clearer picture of the flows that enter or exit economies via transfers by migrant or non-resident workers.

Table 7.5 presents data on international reserves (total reserves minus gold) of developing economies by country, region and economic grouping. Other calculations included show months of imports that these reserves could finance at current import levels, as well as the annual change in total reserves. According to the IMF definition, total reserves minus gold consist of the sum of the country's foreign exchange, its reserve position in the IMF and the US dollar value of SDR holdings by its monetary authorities.

Table 7.6 gives a summary of official financial flows to developing economies by type of flow, country, geographical region and economic grouping. Flows from bilateral and multilateral sources are shown as recorded by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC – OECD).

Table 7.7 presents time series on the external long-term indebtedness of developing economies for major economic groupings. It also provides a detailed breakdown of public and publicly guaranteed debt by source of lending. External debt data in this table are based on the Debtor Reporting System (DRS) maintained by the World Bank.

PART EIGHT

Development indicators

Tables 8.1 provide information on total and per capita nominal GDP by individual country, geographical region and economic grouping. The GDP figures in dollars are derived from GDP data provided in national currencies. The prevailing annual average market exchange rates, as reported by IMF, have been used for the conversion from national currencies to dollars for most countries.

Tables 8.2 contain annual average growth rates of total and per capita real GDP by individual country, geographical region and economic grouping. The growth rates are based on GDP in constant 1990 dollars.

Tables 8.3 provide data on GDP by type of expenditure and kind of economic activity, by individual country, geographical region and economic grouping.

Tables 8.4 provide data on population and labour force: total population, urban population as a percentage of total population, total labour force, female labour force as a percentage of total labour force, total agriculture labour force and female labour force as a percentage of total agriculture labour force.

Basic population and labour data are rounded out by the demographic indicators in table 8.5: population growth rate, natural increase rate per 1,000 inhabitants, net migration rate per 1,000 inhabitants, crude birth and death rate per 1,000 inhabitants, infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births and life expectancy at birth.

OTHER NOTES

Unless otherwise specified, country aggregates are the sums of the relevant country data by group. Calculations of aggregates may in some cases include data estimated by the UNCTAD secretariat that are not necessarily all reported separately.

Because of rounding, details and percentages in tables do not necessarily add up to totals.

Data were collected and checked to ensure that they matched the geographical coverage of the countries, as described at the beginning of the *Handbook*. However, some gaps could not be avoided due to data unavailability and are described in the notes at the end tables.

Unless otherwise stated, dollars ($) refer to US dollars and data in dollars are expressed in current US dollars of the year to which they refer.

Average annual growth rates are defined as the coefficient b in the exponential trend function $y = ae^{bt}$ where t stands for time. This method takes all observations in a period into account. Therefore, the resulting growth rates reflect trends that are not unduly influenced by exceptional values.

EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS

0   Zero means that the amount is nil or negligible.

_   The symbol underscore indicates that the item is not applicable.

..   Two dots indicate that the data are not available or are not separately reported.

-    Use of a hyphen between years (e.g. 1985-1990) signifies the full period involved, including the initial and final years.

(e) Estimate

(p) Provisional data

(r) Revised data

Some exceptions are indicated in footnotes.