

EXTERNAL SECTOR – MERCHANDISE TRADE

0. Prerequisites	
0.1 Legal environment	<p>0.1.1 Responsibility for collecting, processing, and disseminating statistics</p> <p><u>Office of Planning and Statistics</u></p> <p>The Statistics Act of 2011 gives the Office of Planning and Statistics (OPS) of the Ministry of Finance the authority to collect, compile and disseminate Palau’s statistical data.</p> <p>0.1.2 Data sharing and coordination among data producing agencies</p> <p><u>Office of Planning and Statistics</u></p> <p>The OPS does data sharing and coordination with a variety of agencies in Palau. Of these, the most important are Social Security Administration (especially on labor statistics), Financial Institutions Commission (on banking statistics), and Ministry of Finance (on government finance statistics). These data sharing and coordination arrangements work effectively.</p> <p>0.1.3 Confidentiality of individual reporters' data</p> <p><u>Office of Planning and Statistics</u></p> <p>Confidentiality of individual reporters’ data is protected through a number of ways. First, the Statistics Act of 2011 provides for protection of confidentiality (Section 204). Second, OPS staff is required take an oath of protecting confidentiality. Third, computer passwords also protect individual data confidentiality.</p> <p>0.1.4 Ensuring statistical reporting</p> <p><u>Office of Planning and Statistics</u></p> <p>Statistical reporting of data is ensured by the fact that the Statistics Act of 2011 gives the OPS authority to collect statistical data.</p>
0.2 Resources	<p>0.2.1 Staff, facilities, computing resources, and financing</p> <p>The Office of Planning and Statistics (OPS) compiles and disseminates Palau’s merchandise trade data with the help of four staffs and TA from the Secretariat of Pacific Community (SPC).</p>
1. Integrity	
1.2 Transparency	<p>1.2.1 Disclosure of terms and conditions for statistical collection, processing, and dissemination</p> <p><u>Office of Planning and Statistics</u></p> <p>The Statistics Act of 2011, which is available to the public, spells out the terms and conditions for the collection, compilation and dissemination of Palau’s statistical data.</p> <p>1.2.2 Internal governmental access to statistics prior to release</p> <p><u>Office of Planning and Statistics</u></p> <p>Statistical data compiled by the OPS are reviewed by the Director prior to publication.</p> <p>1.2.4 Advance notice of major changes in methodology, source data, and statistical techniques.</p> <p><u>Office of Planning and Statistics</u></p>

EXTERNAL SECTOR – MERCHANDISE TRADE

	No advance notice given.
2. Methodology	
2.1 Concepts and definitions	2.1.1 Concepts and definitions
	The OPS compiles the merchandise trade statistics broadly according to the guidelines recommended in <i>International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS2): Concepts and Definitions 2010</i> , published by the United Nations.
2.2 Scope	Scope of the data
	All merchandise imports passing through the customs are reflected in the merchandise trade statistics. Government and embassy imports are also included. No export data are published (although they are compiled) as Palau has virtually no merchandise exports other than fish.
	Exceptions to coverage
	No merchandise export data are published.
2.3 Classification/sectorization	2.3.1 Classification/sectorization
	Merchandise trade data are published according to Harmonized System (HS) Classification and Broad Economic Classification (BEC).
2.4 Basis for recording	2.4.1 Valuation
	Customs data on imports are provided on the basis of f.o.b.
	2.4.3 Grossing/netting procedures
	Import data includes imports for re-exports.
3. Accuracy and reliability	
3.1 Source data	3.1.1 Source data collection programs
	Source data for merchandise import statistics are provided by the Customs. These come every month with HS Classification. The OPS compiles monthly data into annual totals.
3.2 Assessment of source data	3.2.1 Source data assessment
	The OPS compilers examine the Customs data. When discrepancies are found, they discuss these with the Customs. Data are then corrected.
3.5 Revision studies	3.5.1 Revision studies and analyses

EXTERNAL SECTOR – MERCHANDISE TRADE

	No revision studies conducted.
4. Serviceability	
4.1 Periodicity and timeliness	<p>4.1.1 Periodicity</p> <p>Annual—based on Palau’s fiscal year (October to September).</p> <p>4.1.2 Timeliness</p> <p>Timeliness is 3-4 months.</p>
4.3 Revision	<p>4.3.1 Revision schedule</p> <p><u>Total exports and total imports</u></p> <p>No revision schedule has been published.</p> <p>4.3.2 Identification of preliminary and/or revised data</p> <p><u>Total exports and total imports</u></p> <p>Data are identified as preliminary or revised.</p>
5. Accessibility	
5.1 Data	<p>5.1.1 Statistical presentation</p> <p>Data are published in tables.</p> <p>Hard copy - Other</p> <p><i>Economic Statistics</i>, Graduate School USA.</p> <p><i>Statistical Yearbook</i>, Office of Planning and Statistics (OPS).</p> <p>5.1.3 Advance release calendar</p> <p><u>Office of Planning and Statistics</u></p> <p>No ARC published.</p> <p>5.1.4 Simultaneous release</p> <p><u>Office of Planning and Statistics</u></p> <p>Statistical data are simultaneously released to all, usually through the OPS’s website.</p>
5.2 Metadata	5.2.1 Dissemination of documentation on concepts, scope, classifications, basis of recording, data sources, and statistical techniques

EXTERNAL SECTOR – MERCHANDISE TRADE

	No metadata published.
9. Plans	
9.2 General	Plans for improvement - Short-term <u>Office of Planning and Statistics</u> (0.2.1) To build up statistical capacity. (0.2.1) To upgrade and modernize OPS's IT systems. <u>Total exports and total imports</u> (2.3.1) To produce merchandise trade data based on Standard International Trade Classification (SITC). (5.1.2) To post merchandise trade data on the OPS's website.
9.3 Financial	Plans for improvement - TA/financing needs - Short-term <u>Office of Planning and Statistics</u> Assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Secretariat of Pacific Community (SPC) required for the plans mentioned above.