



**REPÚBLICA DEMOCRÁTICA DE TIMOR-LESTE
MINISTÉRIO DO PLANO E DAS FINANÇAS
DIRECÇÃO NACIONAL DE ESTATÍSTICA**



**TIMOR LESTE
OVERSEAS TRADE STATISTICS
2004**

Dili, Timor Leste
March 2005

Preface

It gives me great pleasure to present ***Overseas Trade Statistics 2004***, the first official publication of annual Trade Statistics for Timor Leste. The statistics contained in this report reflect the patterns of international trade relating to Timor Leste during the 2004 calendar year.

Due to some unique characteristics of the Timor Leste economy it is important that readers are aware of the concepts and definitions used in the compilation of this report. I would urge therefore that special attention be given to the initial sections of the report that provide clarification on some aspects of the data.

This publication is aimed at users of economic statistics in government, the donor community, NGOs, universities, research organisations and the private sector. It is intended to produce similar reports each year, along with the regular monthly Trade data releases that began in January 2004.

Overseas Trade statistics are compiled from declarations made to the Timor Leste Customs Service by importers and exporters, or their agents. I would therefore like to express my thanks for the cooperation of the Customs Service in providing the data used for this publication.

I would also like to extend my appreciation for the support provided by the Asian Development Bank through a Technical Assistance program over the past 2 years. As a result of this TA which included expertise provided by Mr Gavin Lucas, there is now a fully operational Trade Statistics Section within the DIRECÇÃO NACIONAL DE ESTATÍSTICA. I have confidence that the staff of the Trade Statistics Section will be able to provide excellent service to users of Trade data in the future.

Copies of this annual publication will be available in English, Portuguese and Bahasa (Indonesian). I would welcome any comments from users of this publication as such feedback would help in improving the usefulness of future Trade Statistics releases.

Manuel Mendonça
Director
National Statistics Directorate

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Introduction

With the publication of this annual Trade Statistics report the DIREÇÃO NACIONAL DE ESTATÍSTICA provides the latest available data on imports and exports for Timor Leste during the 2004 calendar year.

As a “stand alone” indicator Trade statistics form a valuable source of information on the economic health of a country, as well as being used by a wide variety of planning and business organisations. Statistics on imports and exports form a valuable component of a country’s statement of economic transactions in the National Accounts and Balance of Payments. Accordingly, internationally comparable Trade Statistics that are accurate, detailed and timely have always been a statistical priority. Such information is vitally important for the planning and future development of Timor Leste.

The information contained in this report aggregates the regular monthly releases of Trade Statistics issued by the Directorate during 2004. Additionally there are tables and charts that aim to provide a more comprehensive picture of trading patterns than is possible from viewing a single month’s data.

In the setting up of a system for the production of Trade Statistics there must always be a “balancing act” between the need for accurate, timely information that meets certain acceptable standards whilst at the same time taking into account the limited resources of both personnel and equipment. The sustainability of any system put in place is critical and refinements to data quality and coverage can be incorporated as staff gain further experience.

No two economies are identical nor have exactly the same overseas trading patterns and these factors need to be considered when attempting to compare Trade Statistics published by various countries and via different agencies. As a newly developing nation Timor Leste has some unique economic features of its own that require special attention when compiling and analysing Overseas Trade Statistics. Within the following Section titled “Concepts and Definitions” these differences from the “international norm” are identified and further explained.

The statistical methods and concepts used to compile data for this report closely follow the recommendations of UN publication “**International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions (IMTS, Rev.2)**” wherever possible. The objective of **Overseas Trade Statistics, 2004** is to provide an aggregated view of import and export statistics for the 2004 calendar year, accepting the fact that more detailed analysis of specific commodities will be available in future statistical publications.

Concepts, Definitions and Explanations of Data

The following section aims to provide additional information on the methods used to collect and analyse the Trade Statistics contained in this report. As already mentioned, these Trade Statistics are compiled using the UN *“International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions (IMTS, Rev.2)”* as a guide and quotations from that publication are included here.

Additionally there are explanations of specific situations in the Timor Leste economy that may differ from international convention, meaning caution should be exercised when analysing some of the data contained in this report.

Source of Data	<p>Data is obtained from import and export documents lodged with the Customs Service of Timor-Leste. This data is then processed by the National Statistics Directorate to produce Merchandise Trade Statistics that conform to United Nations statistical concepts.</p> <p>The ASYCUDA (Automated System for Customs Data) system became operational in the Timor Leste Customs Service in October 2003. This system provides the basic data from which Merchandise Trade Statistics are prepared. Currently this system provides coverage of all imports and exports from the main airport and seaports plus parcel post. Some documentation from “small” ports is also processed at the Dili Customs Office, however it should be noted that approximately 4% of entries (those not lodged electronically via ASYCUDA), may not be included in the Trade Statistics.</p>
Time of Recording	<p>Import and Export Statistics are compiled by Date of Assessment. This is the date on which the duty to be paid (if any) is assessed by the Customs Service, in effect “clearing” the goods for import/export.</p>
System of Recording	<p>Overseas Trade statistics are compiled in close accordance with the United Nations International Merchandise Trade Statistics Concepts and Definitions. The system is known as the “general” system of recording trade statistics as defined in UN statistical papers M52. Under this system imports includes all goods entering the economic territory of a compiling country and exports includes all goods leaving the economic territory of a compiling country. The “economic territory” includes bonded warehouses.</p>
Merchandise Trade	<p>Merchandise Trade is the import or export of goods that alter the nation’s stock of material resources as a result of their movement in or out of the country.</p>
Non Merchandise Trade	<p>Goods which do not permanently add to the material resources of a country are identified as “Non Merchandise” trade. Some common examples would be temporary imports, returnable containers, goods in transit and goods consigned to foreign embassies or military installations within a host country.</p>

Country Statistics	<p>Import statistics are available by “Country of Origin” - the country of manufacture of the goods.</p> <p>Export statistics are available by “Country of Destination” – the country of final destination as shown on the export declaration.</p>
Commodity Classification	<p>Goods are classified by Customs using the Customs Tariff which is based on the international “Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System”, or “HS” as it is sometimes called.</p>
Limitations of data	<p>Overseas Trade statistics are compiled from documents provided by exporters and importers to the Timor Leste Customs Service. Considerable reliance is placed on the exporters/importers and their agents submitting correct codes and information. Before the data is released for statistical purposes it is validated and detected errors corrected however no warranty can be given that this information contains no errors.</p> <p>It should also be noted that goods crossing international borders without appropriate Customs documentation would not be included in Trade Statistics.</p>
F.O.B. (Free on Board)	<p>Method of valuation for Exports. This valuation includes the cost of the goods plus their delivery on board ship ready for departure.</p>
C.I.F. (Cost, Insurance and Freight)	<p>Method of valuation for Imports. This valuation includes the cost of the goods, cost of insuring the goods during transportation and cost of freight.</p>
Re Exports	<p>Re Exports are goods leaving the country that were previously imported into Timor Leste and comprise less than 50 percent Timor Leste value by content at time of export.</p>

NOTE: The Treatment of Re Exports Data

It is standard practice when compiling Export statistics to collect separate data on both Exports and Re Exports. It is also normal practice (according to international convention) to include the total Re Export value in published “TOTAL EXPORT” values.

Applying this convention to Timor Leste would mean a disproportionately large portion of the “TOTAL EXPORTS” would in fact be Re Exports. The situation arises due to the large outflows of personnel and equipment returning to home countries as UNIMISSET operations are scaled down. For this reason, when referring to “TOTAL EXPORTS” in this report, Re Exports have been excluded but further identified in separate tables.

Key Statistics

- SUMMARY OF TOTALS -

Totals for the 2004 Calendar Year	Merchandise Imports (\$000)	\$113,491
	Non Merchandise Imports (\$000)	\$32,619
	Total all Imports (\$000)	\$146,110
	Exports (\$000)	\$6,973
	Re Exports (\$000)	\$98,682
	Total Exports (incl. Re Exports) (\$000)	\$105,656

- FURTHER TOTALS OF INTEREST -

Trade Balance for 2004 Calendar Year	Calculated by subtracting Exports from Merchandise Imports	Deficit of \$106,518 (\$000)
Total Re Exports for the 2004 Calendar Year	Total comprises large values for equipment belonging to outgoing peacekeeping forces	\$98,682 (\$000)
Total Value of Coffee Exports for 2004 Calendar Year	Includes exports of green beans, roasted beans and ground coffee	\$6,900 (\$000)
Largest Value Trading Partner (Imports)	Contribution to Merchandise Imports, based on Country of Origin	Indonesia - \$60,201 (\$000)
Largest Value Trading Partner (Exports)	Contribution to Exports, based on Country of Destination	USA - \$3,551 (\$000)

Key Statistics – (continued)

- 2004 IMPORTS, TOP TEN COMMODITIES -

HS Chap.	Description	Value (\$000)
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	36,757
87	Vehicles; other than railway or tramway rolling stock, and parts and accessories thereof	14,735
85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers; television etc.	9,821
10	Cereals	8,111
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	4,651
90	Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus	2,657
30	Pharmaceutical products	2,653
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	2,171
19	Preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk; pastrycooks' products	2,113
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	1,739
		85,408

- 2004 IMPORTS, TOP TEN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN -

Country of Origin	Value (\$000)
Indonesia	60,201
Australia	20,051
Singapore	15,154
Viet Nam	5,242
Italy	2,117
Portugal	1,686
Denmark	1,655
Thailand	1,306
Japan	1,269
China, Peoples Republic of	1,149
	109,830

Imports Tables

**Table 1: Merchandise Imports by Chapter Heading (HS2).
Annual 2004.**

HS2 Code	HS Description	Value (\$US,000)
01	Animals; live	10
02	Meat and edible meat offal	905
03	Fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates	134
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs; natural honey; edible products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included	1,066
05	Animal originated products; not elsewhere specified or included	15
06	Trees and other plants, live; bulbs, roots and the like; cut flowers and ornamental foliage	5
07	Vegetables and certain roots and tubers; edible	324
08	Fruit and nuts, edible; peel of citrus fruit or melons	215
09	Coffee, tea, mate and spices	101
10	Cereals	8,111
11	Products of the milling industry; malt, starches, inulin, wheat gluten	1,192
12	Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit, industrial or medicinal plants; straw etc.	76
13	Lac; gums, resins and other vegetable saps and extracts	2
14	Vegetable plaiting materials; vegetable products not elsewhere specified or included	10
15	Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared animal fats; animal or vegetable waxes	1,077
16	Meat, fish or crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates; preparations thereof	379
17	Sugars and sugar confectionery	1,392
18	Cocoa and cocoa preparations	75
19	Preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk; pastrycooks' products	2,113
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts or other parts of plants	216
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	302
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	1,739
23	Food industries, residues and wastes thereof; prepared animal fodder	82
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	2,171
25	Salt; sulphur; earths, stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	1,598
26	Ores, slag and ash	89
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	36,757
28	Inorganic chemicals; organic and inorganic compounds of precious metals; of rare earth metals	388
29	Organic chemicals	83
30	Pharmaceutical products	2,653

Table 1: Merchandise Imports by Chapter Heading (HS2) – Ctd.

31	Fertilizers	30
32	Tanning or dyeing extracts; tannins and their derivatives; dyes, pigments and other colouring matter; paints etc.	439
33	Essential oils and resinoids; perfumery, cosmetic or toilet preparations	457
34	Soap, organic surface-active agents; washing, lubricating, polishing or scouring preparations	845
35	Albuminoidal substances; modified starches; glues; enzymes	41
36	Explosives; pyrotechnic products; matches; pyrophoric alloys; certain combustible preparations	32
37	Photographic or cinematographic goods	88
38	Chemical products n.e.s.	221
39	Plastics and articles thereof	1,287
40	Rubber and articles thereof	1,038
41	Raw hides and skins (other than furskins) and leather	1
42	Articles of leather; saddlery and harness; travel goods, handbags and similar containers; articles of animal gut	58
43	Furskins and artificial fur; manufactures thereof	2
44	Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal	765
45	Cork and articles of cork	1
46	Manufactures of straw, esparto or other plaiting materials; basketware and wickerwork	4
47	Pulp of wood or other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard	6
48	Paper and paperboard; articles of paper pulp, of paper or paperboard	1,005
49	Printed books, newspapers, pictures and other products of the printing industry; manuscripts etc.	538
50	Silk	13
51	Wool, fine or coarse animal hair; horsehair yarn and woven fabric	5
52	Cotton	35
53	Vegetable textile fibres; paper yarn and woven fabrics of paper yarn	2
54	Man-made filaments	8
55	Man-made staple fibres	14
56	Wadding, felt and nonwovens, special yarns; twine, cordage, ropes and cables and articles thereof	105
57	Carpets and other textile floor coverings	17
58	Fabrics; special woven fabrics, tufted textile fabrics, lace, tapestries, trimmings, embroidery	10
59	Textile fabrics; impregnated, coated, covered or laminated; textile articles of a kind suitable for industrial use	42
60	Fabrics; knitted or crocheted	8
61	Apparel and clothing accessories; knitted or crocheted	318
62	Apparel and clothing accessories; not knitted or crocheted	165
63	Textiles, made up articles; sets; worn clothing and worn textile articles; rags	518
64	Footwear; gaiters and the like; parts of such articles	502
65	Headgear and parts thereof	24

Table 1: Merchandise Imports by Chapter Heading (HS2) – Ctd.

66	Umbrellas, sun umbrellas, walking-sticks, seat sticks, whips, riding crops; and parts thereof	13
67	Feathers and down, prepared; and articles made of feather or of down; artificial flowers; articles of human hair	11
68	Stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica or similar materials; articles thereof	205
69	Ceramic products	427
70	Glass and glassware	358
71	Natural, cultured pearls; precious, semi-precious stones; precious metals, metals clad with precious metal etc.	9
72	Iron and steel	1,484
73	Iron or steel articles	1,391
74	Copper and articles thereof	113
75	Nickel and articles thereof	31
76	Aluminium and articles thereof	509
78	Lead and articles thereof	26
79	Zinc and articles thereof	426
80	Tin; articles thereof	7
81	Metals; n.e.s., cermets and articles thereof	14
82	Tools, implements, cutlery, spoons and forks, of base metal; parts thereof, of base metal	502
83	Metal; miscellaneous products of base metal	364
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	4,651
85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers; television etc.	9,821
86	Railway, tramway locomotives, rolling-stock and parts thereof; railway or tramway track fixtures and fittings	1,400
87	Vehicles; other than railway or tramway rolling stock, and parts and accessories thereof	14,735
88	Aircraft, spacecraft and parts thereof	11
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	51
90	Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus	2,657
91	Clocks and watches and parts thereof	28
92	Musical instruments; parts and accessories of such articles	21
93	Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof	261
94	Furniture; bedding, mattresses, mattress supports, cushions and similar stuffed furnishings; lamps and lighting	1,175
95	Toys, games and sports requisites; parts and accessories thereof	355
96	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	505
97	Works of art; collectors' pieces and antiques	5
Total Merchandise Imports		\$113,491

**Table 2: Merchandise Imports by Country of Origin.
Annual 2004.**

Country of Origin	Value (\$US,000)
Indonesia	60,201
Australia	20,051
Singapore	15,154
Viet Nam	5,242
Italy	2,117
Portugal	1,686
Denmark	1,655
Thailand	1,306
Japan	1,269
China, Peoples Republic of	1,149
India	1,143
Malaysia	709
United States of America	618
Belgium	352
Hong Kong	314
Others	525
Total	113,491

**Table 3: Non Merchandise Imports by Country of Origin.
Annual 2004.**

Country of Origin	Value (\$US,000)
Australia	16,208
Bangladesh	4,954
Portugal	2,627
Indonesia	2,371
United States of America	1,785
Singapore	1,257
Japan	1,074
Brazil	989
China, Peoples Republic of	172
Italy	162
Denmark	157
Russia	155
Malaysia	99
Netherlands	88
India	76
Others	445
Total	32,619

Exports Tables

**Table 4: Exports by Country of Destination.
Annual 2004.**

Country of Destination	Value (\$US,000)
United States of America	3,551
Indonesia	1,277
Portugal	580
Australia	512
Germany	441
Singapore	158
Netherlands	94
Taiwan	93
Japan	80
Norway	71
Others	115
Total	6,972

**Table 5: Re Exports by Country of Destination.
Annual 2004.**

Country of Destination	Value (\$US,000)
Australia	43,557
Japan	24,034
Portugal	13,132
Bangladesh	4,226
Italy	3,637
Canada	2,768
Malaysia	1,703
Pakistan	1,443
Indonesia	1,352
Singapore	829
United States of America	787
Others	1,214
Total	98,682

**Table 6: Coffee Exports by Country of Destination.
Annual 2004.**

Country of Destination	Quantity (Kg,000)	Value (\$US,000)
United States of America	3,053	3,551
Indonesia	2,512	1,265
Portugal	453	580
Australia	405	511
Germany	670	441
Singapore	229	158
Netherlands	73	94
Japan	43	80
Norway	54	71
Gambia	77	52
Others	121	96
Total	7,691	6,900

**Table 7: Coffee Exports by Month, Quantity and Value.
Monthly 2004.**

Months	Quantity (Kg,000)	Value (\$US,000)
January	152	77
February	1,028	1,036
March	90	106
April	158	100
May	517	303
June	474	323
July	766	828
August	1,196	1,090
September	1,095	950
October	1,083	973
November	799	834
December	335	281
Total	7,691	6,900

**Chart 1: Coffee Exports by Month, Quantity and Value.
Monthly 2004.**

