

**Title:** Year of the Exporter: Alternative Views of Merchandise Trade Data

**Abstract:**

There are many ways to look at merchandise trade data, dependant on focus. Recent developments by Statistics New Zealand offer users alternative views and perspectives of the data which are expected to provide further insight and context than previously available.

New Zealand merchandise trade data is presented primarily by commodity grouping, but demand exists for trade data by level of processing. Consultation with key users has led Statistics NZ to release trade data by the United Nations' Standard International Trade Classification and to develop a custom grouping of this classification to provide a more explicit indication of trade by level of processing.

Traditionally NZ trade data has lived in isolation, in that it has no common linkage to other Statistics NZ datasets. This has recently changed with a probabilistic matching exercise to a common Statistics NZ identifier (in the form of an enterprise number). Of significant interest is the ability to directly associate imports and exports of commodities with the industries that are trading internationally.

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