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## Nota di contenuto

""Cover""; ""Table of Contents""; ""Preface""; ""1. Introduction""; ""1.1 Purpose""; ""1.2 Background""; ""1.3 Uses of the Data""; ""1.4 Current Methodology and Practice""; ""1.4.1 Coverage""; ""1.4.2 Territory""; ""1.4.3 Valuation""; ""1.4.4 Timing""; ""1.4.5 Trade systems""; ""1.4.6 Partner country""; ""1.4.7 Discrepancies and asymmetries in trade statistics""; ""2. Data Collection""; ""2.1 Basic Data""; ""2.2 Procedures for Data Collection""; ""2.3 Format of Reported Data""; ""3. Data Base Processing""; ""3.1 Reformatting of Reported Data""; ""3.1.1 Conversion""; ""3.1.2 C.i.f. and f.o.b. valuation""; ""3.1.3 Partner country codification""; ""3.1.4 Summation and area totals""; ""3.2 Estimation""; ""3.2.1 Estimation procedure""; ""3.2.2 Limitations in DOTS estimates""; ""3.3 Compilation of Aggregates for DOTS World and Area Tables""; ""4. Data Dissemination in DOTS, Magnetic Computer Tapes, and CD-ROM""; ""4.1 DOTS Quarterly Issues""; ""4.1.1 World, industrial, and developing countries tables""; ""4.1.2 Country pages""; ""4.2 DOTS Yearbook""; ""4.2.1 World and area summary tables""; ""4.2.2 Country pages""; ""4.3 Tape Subscription and CD-ROM""; ""5. Fund Internal Access to the Data Base for Direction of Trade Statistics""; ""5.1 Structure of the Time Series Key""; ""5.2 Retrieving the Data from EIS Terminals""; ""5.2.1 Displaying the data on screen""; ""5.2.2 Printouts of DOTS data""; ""5.3 Downloading DOTS data to AREMOS and LOTUS on Microcomputers""; ""5.4 Special Requests""; ""Appendices""; ""I. Country and Area Codes""; ""II. Breaksigns Used in the DOTS Master File for Direction of Trade Statistics""; ""III. The Compilation of Estimates for DOTS""; ""IV. Procedure for Printing Partner Country Data""

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## Sommario/riassunto

This handbook issued by the IMF is primarily intended for users of the IMF's direction of trade database. The guide describes the collection, compilation, and dissemination of statistics on exports and imports by partner country. National compilers of statistics on trade by country may also derive some benefit from the Guide.

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