

**SO. AFRICAN CUSTOMS  
UNION**

**Elemental mercury imports and exports**

**Data source:** UN DESA/ESD/UNSD - Comtrade statistics - downloaded 11Apr2006

**Tarif system:** SITC rev.2

**Tarif code:** 52216

**Filter:** Trade value ≥ \$US 0

**Comments:**

Period	Exporting partner countries		Target country:				Importing partner countries			
			So. African Customs Union		So. African Customs Union					
		Reported exports to target country		Reported imports from partner country (on left)		Reported exports to partner country (on right)		Reported imports from target country		
Year	Country name	Kg mercury	Value (\$US)	Kg mercury	Value (\$US)	Kg mercury	Value (\$US)	Kg mercury	Value (\$US)	Country name
1995	Areas, nes			65	377	0	165			Areas, nes
1995	China			3937	21805	0	2077			Dem. Rep. of the Congo
1995	France	0	5014	22	5017	0	4314			Mozambique
1995	Germany	699	26000	226	26431	0	14885	8875	15301	USA
1995	Netherlands			1062	5813	0	11615	707	13419	Zambia
1995	Russian Federation			57269	271740			3437	18370	Zimbabwe
1995	Spain	1062	4901	1062	5102					
1995	USA			9	841					
1996	Areas, nes			2	152	0	435			Areas, nes
1996	France	0	1563			0	1012			Dem. Rep. of the Congo
1996	Germany	398	21263	234	21365			125	664	Germany
1996	Netherlands			1375	7613	0	1565			India
1996	Russian Federation			15187	86893	0	107507			Netherlands
1996	United Kingdom			207	1563			179	1140	Zimbabwe
1996	USA	507	6600	25	5674					
1997	Areas, nes			14	248	0	309			Areas, nes
1997	Finland			3437	18990			24148	88473	India
1997	France			97	9392	0	145555			Netherlands
1997	Germany	2125	29989	242	22069	0	3883			Sweden
1997	Netherlands	1000	3076					32472	141399	USA
1997	Russian Federation			6875	39095			85	2577	Zambia
1997	Spain	2750	25814	515	2672	0	3343	351	5433	Zimbabwe
1997	United Kingdom	597	6742	609	7056					
1998	Areas, nes			158	481	0	255			Areas, nes
1998	Finland			13812	72014	0	5346			Dem. Rep. of the Congo
1998	France	6000	4246			0	132061			Germany
1998	Germany	203	3000	109	7962	0	38250			Netherlands

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		Kg mercury	Value (\$US)	Kg mercury	Value (\$US)	Kg mercury	Value (\$US)	Kg mercury	Value (\$US)	
1998	Netherlands	6187	30804			0	2522	85	1070	United Rep. of Tanzania
1998	Spain	2625	26041	515	2922	0	3968			Zimbabwe
1998	United Kingdom	30859	160600	44	5482					
1998	Zambia	9	63769							
1999	Belgium	449	4259			38	418			Areas, nes
1999	Finland			10375	53687	3812	30674			Dem. Rep. of the Congo
1999	Germany	48	544	52	729			187	906	Ghana
1999	Netherlands	8062	40116	1562	8605	50	707	50	649	Mauritius
1999	Russian Federation			3625	18423			312	2488	Zimbabwe
1999	Spain	515	2580	554	2842					
1999	Tunisia			3437	17561					
1999	United Kingdom	816	45835	476	5801					
1999	USA			410	1690					

### ***Explanation of table entries -***

The purpose of the table above is to summarize all of the basic statistics for imports and exports of elemental mercury to and from the "target" country during 1995-2005. On the date of 11 April 2006, when these statistics were retrieved from the Comtrade database, the database was thought to be quite incomplete for the year 2005, mostly complete for the year 2004, and quite complete for previous years.

The six columns on the left side of this table present mercury flows from other countries into the target country. These six columns include four columns with details of the mercury import flows into the target country – two columns for reported mercury quantity, and two columns for reported mercury value. The rationale for presenting these four columns is quite simple. For a variety of reasons, the trade flow of mercury between the partner country (second column on the left) and the target country may have been recorded (and reported to Comtrade) by the partner country, by the target country, or by both countries. Regardless of which country or countries submitted trade statistics to the Comtrade database, and regardless of the details of the statistics submitted, all statistics concerning mercury flows into the target country are included in the left side of this table.

The five columns on the right side of this table list mercury flows from the target country into other countries. These five columns include four columns with details of the mercury export flows from the target country to each partner country (far right column) – two columns for reported mercury quantity, and two columns for reported mercury value. As described above, different countries may have submitted different sets of trade statistics to Comtrade. Regardless of which country or countries submitted trade statistics to the Comtrade database, and regardless of the details of the statistics submitted, all statistics concerning mercury flows leaving the target country are included in the right side of this table.

It is therefore possible that statistics submitted by some trade partners are not the same as those submitted by the target country. If the discrepancies are large, it could be useful for the reporting agencies of the partner country and the target country to compare their records in order to better understand the details of the mercury trade between their two countries. In the interest of improving its own understanding of global mercury trade and statistical challenges, UNEP Chemicals would be pleased to receive explanations of any such discrepancies investigated by the reporting agencies, as appropriate.