IMPORT – METHODOLOGICAL CARD

CONCEPT OR VARIABLE	DESCRIPTION
RESEARCH TITLE	**FOREIGN TRADE, STATISTICS ON IMPORTS**
RESEARCH ACRONYM	IMPO (By its acronym in Spanish)
BACKGROUND	In 1916 the period publication of the Foreign Trade Annals was started. Then, between 1916 and 1951, all statistics related to imports were approved by the General Director of Statistics (part of the Controller's Office). By 1951 and up to August 1953, these publications were assigned to National Director of Statistics (part of the President's Office). After 1953, and ever since, the National Administrative Department of Statistics has performed all the functions related to the production and dissemination of statistical information.
GENERAL OBJECTIVE	To obtain periodical information regarding the goods Colombia buys from other countries.
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	To validate the monthly statistical information produced by the National Direction of Taxes and Customs – DIAN

To calculate the balance of trade.

To disseminate provisional and definite import information on a periodical basis. |
| **BASIC DEFINITIONS** | · Imports: They are the legal introduction of goods and services into the port of a country either from a foreign country or from a tax free zone. The data is produced based on the date of the import declarations.

 - CIF Value: Cost, Insurance, and Freight. The quoted price includes delivery to the FOB point including the cost of insurance on the goods.

 - Free on Board Value (FOB): Term meaning that an exporter of goods that are damaged or destroyed during international shipment relinquishes responsibility for the damage or destruction once the goods reach the point of destination.

 - Destination Country: It's the country known at the moment of shipping, as the place where the goods will be delivered.

 - CUODE: Classification according to Economic Use or Destination: Merchandise coding according to their destination: capital goods, intermediate goods, and consumption goods.

 - CIIU: International Standard Classification of all Economic Activities.

 - Region of Origin: It is the place where the goods were cultivated or elaborated, or where the last step in the production process was completed.

 - Balance of Trade: It is the difference between the monetary value of exports and imports of output in an economy over a certain period. It is the relationship between a nation's imports and exports. A positive or favorable balance of trade is known as a trade surplus if it consists of exporting more than is imported; a negative or unfavorable balance is referred to as a trade deficit or, informally, a trade gap. |
THEMATIC COVERAGE	It covers all the legal requirements for the goods being purchased in other countries, and for the tax free zones within the country.
TYPE OF RESEARCH	Administrative Registries.
VARIABLES AND INDICATORS	**Classification Variables:** country of origin, region of origin of the goods, shipment country, place of destination, means of transportation, tariff headings, and kind of importer (private, mixed, or public).

	Analysis Variables: Tariff heading, merchandise net kilograms, commercial unit of measurement, quantity of units, FOB (US $) value of merchandise, added national value, FOB value of merchandise, value of freight, insurance values, CIF (US $) value, CIF (Colombian Pesos) value.
ESTIMATING PARAMETERS	Does not apply
SCOPE OF STUDY	Colombian good and service importers
POPULATION AND SAMPLING	Colombian good and service importers
STATISTICAL UNITS OF OBSERVATION, SAMPLING, AND ANALYSIS	The secondary information contained in the import declarations is the starting point for the elaboration of import statistics. DANE collects it by using a special file on DANE's server.
AMOUNT OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SOURCES	A monthly average of 40.000 import declarations is completed, which represent approximately 140,000 notes on the registry.
STATISTICAL FRAMEWORK	The list of the import declarations that have been presented by importers and that present all the information related to the identification of the person or company exporting the good, both the physical characteristics of the good (weight, volume, quantity, etc) as well as the economical ones (total value, unit value, other expenses, etc). Moreover, they include information related to the country of origin, purchase of the goods, region of destination, and other characteristics that guarantee data confiability.
PRECISION REQUIREMENTS	100% on definite numbers
SAMPLING DESIGN	Does not apply
TYPE OF SAMPLE	Does not apply
SELECTION METHOD	Does not apply
SAMPLE SIZE	Does not apply
CONSERVATION OF SAMPLE	Does not apply
QUALITY INDICATORS	Result Chart
GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE	Nationwide
REFERENCE PERIOD	Previous Month
COLLECTION PERIOD	Monthly.
COLLECTION PERIODICITY	Monthly.
FREQUENCY OF RESULT REPORTS	Monthly
DISAGGREGATION OF RESULTS	Tariff heading, country of origin, country of purchase, CIIU Rev 2 and 3 classification, and CUODE (classification according the use or destination, imports and customs, and destination region).
COLLECTION METHOD	Administrative registries, import declaration, and available archive on DIAN's server.
AVAILABLE YEARS AND PERIODS	The statistical information showing imports completed during the period of 1916 to 1999 is available on the Foreign Trade Annals. The information for the years 1970 to

	2005 is available to be processed in magnetic media
MEANS OF DISSEMINATION	Bulletin, Monthly Bulletin, annals, and direct requests by users.
COMPUTER SYSTEMS: **A TOOL FOR DEVELOPMENT**	SAS statistical packet.
PUBLICATION	Bulletins, Foreign Trade Annals, and Monthly Bulletins.