

Glossary: Harmonized commodity description and coding system

Statistics Explained

The **Harmonized commodity description and coding system** is a multi-purpose international product nomenclature developed by the [World Customs Organization \(WCO\)](#) .It is often simply called **Harmonized System** and abbreviated as **HS** .

The HS 2007 is made up of about 5,000 commodity groups defined at a six-digit level (with an additional two digits if eight-digit sub-divisions are required), in a legal and logical structure and based on well-defined rules, in order to achieve a uniform classification.

More than 200 countries and economies make use of the system as a basis for their national customs tariffs and for the collection of economic statistical data. Over 98 % of merchandise in international trade is classified in terms of the HS.

Example

Section II Vegetable products

0207 Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers.

07.01 Potatoes, fresh or chilled.

0701.10 - Seed

0701.90 - Other

07.02 Tomatoes, fresh or chilled.

0702.00 Tomatoes, fresh or chilled.

07.03 Onions, shallots, garlic, leeks and other alliaceous vegetables, fresh or chilled.

0703.10 - Onions and shallots

0703.20 - Garlic

0703.90 - Leeks and other alliaceous vegetables

Further information

- [European Commission - Harmonized System](#)
- [Different versions of the commodity description and coding system](#)

Statistical data

- [International trade in goods](#)