

QUICK GUIDE TO EASY COMEXT

Contents

- *Preface*
- *Main toolbars*
- *Register (first time)*
- *Make an extraction*
- *Display the results of an extraction*
- *Access to metadata*
- *Retrieve a saved query*
- *Downloads*

Preface

“Easy Comext” is an HTML based interface giving to the public at Eurostat’s External Trade database.

The access to “Easy Comext” interface is done through the Eurostat’s internet site

There are two types of users of “Easy Comext”:

- Not registered users or registered and not logged in

The system allows to carry out the following interactive operations:

- Select the appropriate dataset
- Define an extraction (new query)
- Extract interactively data according to an extraction definition
- Visualise and download extracted data
- Visualise and download metadata (methodology, classifications etc.)

- Registered users (logged in)

The system allows to carry out all operations of a not logged in user, plus:

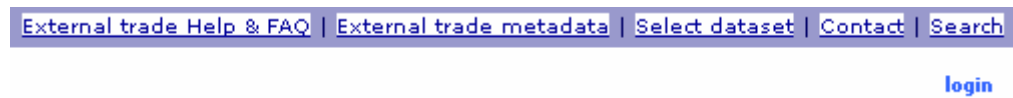
- Save and retrieve a query
- Extract more data than a non registered user
- Extract in batch mode. In this case, the job is submitted to the system for later execution (when system resources are available). Extraction results are stored at the server for 48 hours and the user can display or download them during this period
- Get information on the status of a batch extraction (waiting, running, finished)
- Display list of terminated work during the last 48 hours
- Display and download extraction results
- Be informed by e-mail when an extraction has finished

- Registration has to be done only once. To register, a user must select “**login**” and then click on “**registrer**”. It is important to provide a correct e-mail address since a **user name** and a **password** will be sent to this address.

Main toolbars

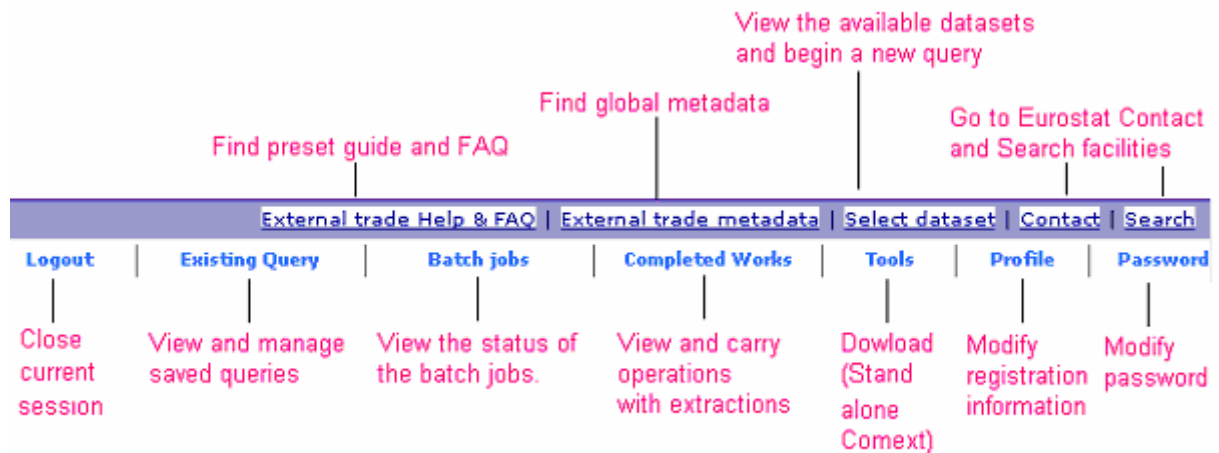
The system provides the user with the following two main toolbars and facilities:

For not logged in users



Select login to initiate a session as a register user or to register for the first time (a valid e-mail address is necessary)

For logged in users



Register (first time)

[login](#)

If you already have an account, please enter your email and password below.

User Name

Password

If you are not registered, you can [register](#) easily. It is free.

[Forgot your password?](#)

Please fill in the details in the form. The entries marked with a * must be completed.

* eMail	<input type="text"/>	Street	<input type="text"/>
* Name	<input type="text"/>	City	<input type="text"/>
Surname	<input type="text"/>	State/Province	<input type="text"/>
Company	<input type="text"/>	Postal Code/ZIP	<input type="text"/>
Occupation	<input type="text" value="Company/Organisation"/>	Country	<input type="text" value="Select..."/>

Make an extraction

When a user click on the name of a dataset, “Easy Comext” displays a floating menu. The user should select “**new query**” to begin the three steps operation.

Non registered user (no previous login)	Registered user (with login)
<p style="text-align: center;"><input type="button" value="Search"/></p> <p>Available datasets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">EU TRADE SINCE 1995 BY CNSEU TRADE New QueryEU TRADE Download FilesEU TRADE MetadataPRODUCTI	<p style="text-align: center;"><input type="button" value="Search"/></p> <p>Available datasets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">EU TRADE SINCE 1995 BY CNSEU TRADE S Existing QueryEU TRADE S New QueryEU TRADE S Download FilesEU TRADE S Batch JobsEU TRADE S Completed WorkEU TRADE S MetadataPRODUCTI

STEP 1

Step **1** **2** **3**

In order to define a query, the user should select at least one element per dimension. After clicking on the name of the dimension, the dimension selection form is activated and displays the list its contents (items and groups if available). A group is a list of dimension items.

The user may select a group as a whole or he can open the group and select individual items.

Groups are used by the system to facilitate the access to big classifications and the selection of classification items. When a group is selected as a whole, it appears in red colour. However, in the extraction only the contents of the group are shown. For example if a group contains 200 items, the user will dispose in the extraction all the 200 items and no indication of the group.

It is possible to define a query containing for one or more dimensions, groups, parts of groups, simple dimension elements. An estimated number of cells (with data or empty) is displayed at the bottom left of the screen.

In the following example, the product dimension contains one group (in red colour) and two products. The extraction will contain all individual products included in the group plus the two products

Dataset Name: **DS-016894 - EU TRADE SINCE 1995 BY HS2-HS4** Dataset metadata

For each dimension, select which data you want to extract by clicking on the dimension name above the corresponding list.

REPORTER	PARTNER	PRODUCT
0 group(s), 3 code(s) AT-AUSTRIA GB-UNITED KINGDOM HU-HUNGARY	0 group(s), 2 code(s) FI-FINLAND JP-JAPAN	1 group(s), 2 code(s) 12-CEREALS 1701-CANE OR BEET SUGAR AND CHEM 1703-MOLASSES RESULTING FROM THE

FLOW	PERIOD	INDICATORS
0 group(s), 2 code(s) 1-IMPORT 2-EXPORT	0 group(s), 3 code(s) 200211-Nov. 2002 200212-Dec. 2002 200252-Jan.-Dec. 2002	0 group(s), 2 code(s) QUANTITY_IN_100KG VALUE_IN_EUROS

Estimated number of non-empty cells: 94
Remarks:

- The maximum number of non-empty cells you can extract in interactive mode is: 4500
- The maximum number of non-empty cells you can extract in batch mode is: 9000

click on dimension names to select codes or groups

Continue

Each time the user clicks on a dimension, the system opens a form that enables the selection of codes or groups (groups are not available for all dimensions).

Dataset: **EU TRADE SINCE 1995 BY HS2-HS4** Dataset metadata

Dimension: **PRODUCT** Metadata

Available Groups
(98 groups)

1- PRODUCTS OF THE MILLING INDUSTRY; MALT; STARCHES;
12 OIL SEEDS AND OLEAGINOUS FLINTS; MISCELLANEOUS GP
13-LAC; GUMS, RESINS AND OTHER VEGETABLE SAPS AND EX
14-VEGETABLE PLANTING MATERIALS; VEGETABLE PRODUCTS
15-ANIMAL OR VEGETABLE FATS AND OILS AND THEIR CLEAN
16-PREPARATIONS OF MEAT, OF FISH OR OF CRUSTACEANS, M
17-SUGARS AND SUGAR CONFECTIONERY
18-DRUGS AND DRUG PREPARATIONS
19-PREPARATIONS OF CEREALS, FLOUR, STARCH OF MILK; FA
20-PREPARATIONS OF VEGETABLES, FRUIT, NUTS OR OTHER
21-MISCELLANEOUS EDIBLE PREPARATIONS

Selected
1 group(s), 0 individual(s)

10-CEFEA_0

>> << Add All Remove All

Group Details

Advanced selection [help]: By Search

Select Cancel

click on group details to open a group and select codes

When button “group details” is clicked, all the codes that are included in the marked group will be displayed for individual selection.

Dataset: **EU TRADE SINCE 1995 BY HS2-HS4** Dataset metadata

Dimension: **PRODUCT** Metadata

Group: **17-SUGARS AND SUGAR CONFECTIONERY**

Available Codes
(7 individuals)

1701-CANE OR BEET SUGAR AND CHEMICALLY PURE SUCROSE, II
1702-OTHER SUGARS, INCL. CHEMICALLY PURE LACTOSE, MALTO
1703-MOLASSES RESULTING FROM THE EXTRACTION OR FERMEN
1704-SUGAR CONFECTIONERY NOT CONTAINING CCCC, INCL. W
1705-CORRECTONS DUE TO ERRONEOUS CODES BELONGING TO
1706-TRADE BROKEN DOWN AT CHAPTER LEVEL ONLY
1707-CONFIDENTIAL TRADE OF CH- AFTER 17

Selected
0 group(s), 2 individual(s)

1701-CANE OR BEET SUGAR AND CHEMICALLY PURE SUCROSE, II
1702-OTHER SUGARS, INCL. CHEMICALLY PURE LACTOSE, MALTO

>> << Add All Remove All

Add whole group Add selected codes Cancel

STEP 3

Step 1 2 3

The user must submit the query to “Easy Comext”. If the submission is interactive, the user should wait until “Easy Comext” has extracted and prepared the data for display. A green coloured indicator at the bottom right of the navigator window shows the processing of the operation. **It is important that the user waits until the end of the extraction.** The submission is launched through the following screen (not logged in users)

You are currently not logged in.

To perform the extraction, please click on the 'Finish' button.

To be able to save a query or to perform an extraction in batch mode, please click on 'Login' link.

Finish

A logged-in user has the possibility to submit an extraction in batch and display or download the data later, to receive notification by e-mail when the extraction is done, to save the query for later retrieve and to define the format of the final output. MTX is the internal multi-dimensional format of “Easy Comext”. When the user selects MTX, he will have the possibility to visualise the results and to transform them in all available formats (text, html, graphics etc.).

Options:

<input type="checkbox"/> Batch extraction (send notification), instead of on-line extraction (HTML)
Extraction Name: <input type="text"/>
Output format : <input type="text" value="MTX only"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate zeroes
Show in output : <input type="radio"/> Labels <input type="radio"/> Code <input checked="" type="radio"/> Codes and Labels
<input type="checkbox"/> Notify me whenever this dataset is updated
<input type="checkbox"/> Save Query
Query name : <input type="text"/>
Description : <input type="text"/>

Finish

When a batch job is launched the user can visualise the processing status through the option “**batch jobs**”. The submitted bath job is added to the list of the “**completed works**” as soon as the extraction has finished. Both windows are shown below.

[Logout](#) | [New Query](#) | [Existing Query](#) | [Batch jobs](#) | [Completed Work](#) | [Download](#) | [Profile](#)

This is your list of batch jobs from your recent queries.

Date submitted	Job	Dataset	State	Date started	Date completed
2004/09/23 14:36:36	bolship1-0	EU25 SINCE 1999 CN (SIMULATED)	Completed	2004/09/23 14:36:48	2004/09/23 14:47:55
2004/09/21 11:39:53	EUUSACSV	EU TRADE SINCE 1995 BY HS2-HS4	Completed	2004/09/21 11:43:46	2004/09/21 11:43:55
2004/09/21 11:35:54	EUUSAPHARMA	EU TRADE SINCE 1995 BY HS2-HS4	Completed	2004/09/21 11:41:20	2004/09/21 11:41:44
2004/09/20 15:08:39	test2	EU TRADE SINCE 1995 BY HS2-HS4	Completed	2004/09/20 15:08:54	2004/09/20 15:09:00
2004/09/20 15:03:28	batch at 15:31	EU TRADE SINCE 1995 BY HS2-HS4	Completed	2004/09/20 15:03:41	2004/09/20 15:03:55
2004/09/20 11:43:47	batch test 11:44	EU TRADE SINCE 1995 BY HS2-HS4	Completed	2004/09/20 11:44:00	2004/09/20 11:44:10
2004/09/17 15:26:41	batch demo 20-9-2004	EU TRADE SINCE 1995 BY HS2-HS4	Completed	2004/09/17 16:42:28	2004/09/17 16:42:39

[Logout](#) | [Existing Query](#) | [Batch jobs](#) | [Completed Works](#) | [Tools](#) | [Profile](#) | [Passwo](#)

WARNING! The data you previously submitted has been cleaned from the session.

is is your list of results from your recent queries. You should download them now since they will be deleted after 48 hours from the query execution.

Name	Dataset	Size	Date	Format	
Jntitled_2C0-0927	CS-0:6894 - EU TRADE SINCE 1995 BY HS2-HS4	2112	2004/C9/27 10:46:42	MTX	Download Display
Jntitled_2C0-0927	CS-0:6894 - EU TRADE SINCE 1995 BY HS2-HS4	152	2004/C9/27 10:45:17	MTX	Download Display
Graph	CS-0:6893 - EU TRADE SINCE 1995 BY HS6	12453	2004/C9/24 18:04:27	Graph	Download
aaa	CS-0:6893 - EU TRADE SINCE 1995 BY HS6	1244	2004/C9/24 18:03:21	Output	Download
aaa	CS-0:6893 - EU TRADE SINCE 1995 BY HS6	1244	2004/C9/24 18:03:23	Output	Download
asadad	CS-0:6893 - EU TRADE SINCE 1995 BY HS6	1244	2004/C9/24 17:55:41	Output	Download
asadad	CS-0:6893 - EU TRADE SINCE 1995 BY HS6	1240	2004/C9/24 17:55:23	Output	Download
Jntitled_2C0-0924	CS-0:6893 - EU TRADE SINCE 1995 BY HS6	24192	2004/C9/24 17:54:25	MTX	Download Display

Display the results of an extraction

An extraction can be displayed either after an interactive extraction or after clicking on the “display” button associated to the extraction list in the completed work window.

File: Save to File Graphic Map

Format: CSV Line Chart

Dataset: **EU TRADE SINCE 1995 BY HS2-HS4** Print preview Modify query

Extraction name: Untitled_20040927

Dimensions:

PARTNER: UNITED STATES Refresh

PRODUCT: ACYCLIC HYDROCARBONS Change Layout

INDICATORS: VALUE_IN_EUROS

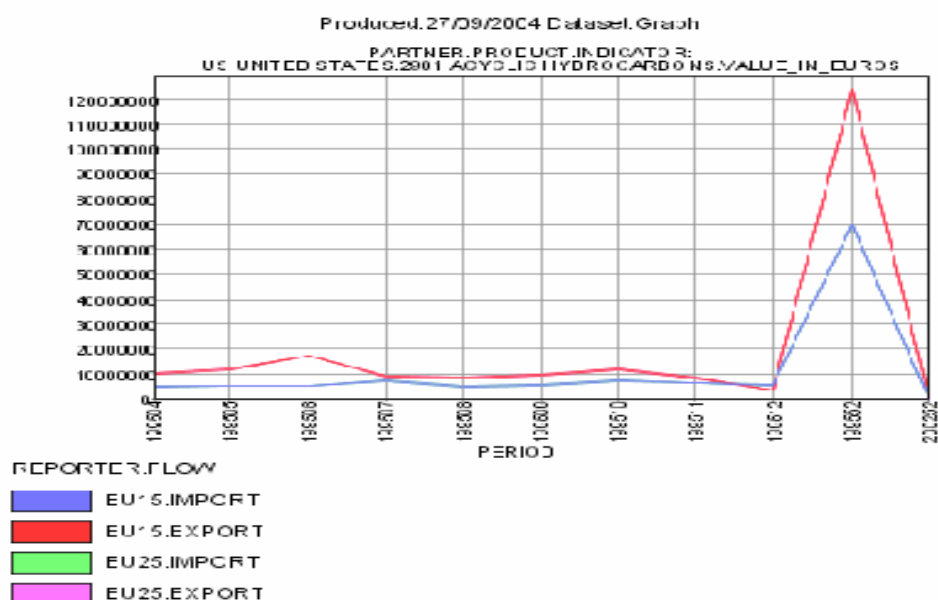
FLOW	REPORTER / PERIOD	199504	199505	199506	199507	199508	199509	199510	199511	199512	199552	200252
IMPORT	EU15	4669596	5126293	5000366	7345623	4590027	5508348	7493629	6287369	5565427	69682207	-
	EU25	4669596	5126293	5000366	7345623	4590027	5508348	7493629	6287369	5565427	69682207	-
EXPORT	EU15	10287800	11938230	17403780	9165165	8548002	9466840	12048180	8435037	3490898	124135028	-
	EU25	10287800	11938230	17403780	9165165	8548002	9466840	12048180	8435037	3490898	124135028	-

At this stage, the user is given the following options: make new selection in the header dimensions (partner, product, ..) and **refresh** the view; **change layout**; **print preview**; **modify query** (a new extraction is done); **save to ...** option downloads the data in the requested format in the user’s PC (csv for raw data and HTML for formatted tables). The typical download form is opened. The user can also **select** with the mouse the table on the screen, **copy** the table (ctrl-c) and **paste** the table directly to a spreadsheet or a document (ctrl-v). Before making a graphic, the user must have a simple and significant table for the requested graphic. It should be noted that during all operations all data remain in Eurostat’s server (for 48 hours) and the user can access them later from even another computer.

Normally, for a line graphic the user should put time in columns and display less than 10 rows.

For a pie graphic only one row is permitted.

The graphic representation of the previous table is the following:



Access to Metadata

Metadata can be accessed at three levels.

- From the main toolbar the user can have global metadata covering all datasets.
- From each dataset the user may access metadata related to the specific dataset
- From each opened dimension the user can access metadata related to this dimension.

All files can be downloaded or opened.

In general the user can find metadata related to methodology, classifications, quality, timelines information and update information, important notices and software.

Retrieve a saved query

A logged in user can access his previously saved query with the “**existing query**” option in the main toolbar. He can open the query and launch an extraction with modifications or not. To save the modifications, the query should be stored under a new name.

Your Server queries can be sorted by clicking the column name.

Query	Dataset	Query description	Last Updated	
mairy	EU TRADE SINCE 1995 BY HS6	dosta ola	2004-09-24	Open Delete
gpdeytera	EU TRADE SINCE 1995 BY HS2-HS4		2004-09-27	Open Delete

Downloads

Downloads can be done either from the main toolbar through the tools options (only software) or from each dataset (selected important information).