

HTS to TSUS Concordance

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We have constructed a concordance from the codes used in the 1989 Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) to the codes used in the 1987 Tariff Schedules of the United States Annotated (TSUS). The HTS codes are reported at the 8-digit level (the level at which tariffs are set). The TSUS codes are reported at the 7-digit level (tariffs were set at the 5-digit level). We describe the sources of the concordance in the rest of this document.

Main Source The construction is based largely on the document “Continuity of Import and Export Trade Statistics After Implementation of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System,” produced by the United States International Trade Commission and included with our concordance.¹ We digitized this document using optical character recognition software. The USITC concordance contains just over 27,000 HTS–TSUS pairs. In our concordance, these pairs have a value of **USITC concordance: page x** in the **Source** column, where x is the page in the PDF.

Additional HTS–TSUS Matches The USITC concordance was missing about 100 1989 HTS codes, so we manually examined the 1989 HTS and 1987 TSUS to find the corresponding TSUS codes. These pairs have a value of **Comparison of 1989 HTS and 1988 TSUS** in the **Source** column.

Fabrics Finally, about 81,000 rows of the concordance cover a subset of woven fabrics with very detailed classifications. When an HTS code originated from one of these woven fabrics, the USITC crosswalk did not list every possible TSUS code but, instead, a summary TSUS code. Pages 10 and 11 of the PDF of the USITC document contain details about how these summary codes were formed.

For each summary TSUS code, we found all TSUS codes that were actually used during the 1963–1987 period, based on our trade and tariff data. We then replaced the summary code with these codes. For example, the 51 7-digit TSUS codes that start with 32009 are all reported as 3200900 in the USITC concordance. We removed all rows with 3200900 from the concordance and replaced them with the 51 codes. These rows have a value of **Fabric** in the **Source** column.

References

Feenstra, Robert C, “US imports, 1972-1994: Data and concordances,” Technical Report, National Bureau of Economic Research 1996.

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¹This is the same document that formed the basis of the HTS–TSUS concordance constructed by Feenstra (1996). We found that Feenstra’s concordance contained nearly 1000 HTS–TSUS pairs that, based on our own digitization, are not in the USITC’s concordance. A large portion of these pairs had HTS codes that are not in the 1989 HTS. We also found that this concordance was missing nearly 2000 HTS–TSUS pairs that are in the USITC’s concordance.