

# Country Experience: The Philippines: Confidentiality Act (ch. 1)

1.17. *The Confidentiality Act of the Philippines.* Confidentiality of trade data in the Philippines is based on provisions of Commonwealth Act 591, section 4. The Act states, inter alia, that data furnished to the National Statistics Office by an individual, corporation, partnership, institution or business enterprise shall not be used in any court or in any public office as evidence either for or against the individual, corporation, association, partnership, institution or business enterprise from whom such data emanate; nor shall such data or information be divulged to any person except authorized employees of the National Statistics Office, acting in the performance of their duties; nor shall such data be published except in the form of summaries or statistical tables in which no reference to an individual, corporation, association, partnership, institution or business enterprise shall appear. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine or by imprisonment, or by both. Strict compliance with Commonwealth Act 591, section 4, is being implemented in the Philippines in the compilation and dissemination of international merchandise trade statistics. Data being released are all in summary form, and tables are in aggregate value, with no reference to individual importer or exporter data. Value and volume of import and export data are released only by commodity and by country. No information on the identity of the exporter or the importer is indicated in the statistical tables.