

Package ‘comtradr’

July 31, 2026

Title Interface with the United Nations Comtrade API

Version 1.0.6

Maintainer Paul Bochtler <paulbochtler.gh@gmail.com>

Description Interface with and extract data from the United Nations 'Comtrade' API <<https://comtradeplus.un.org/>>. 'Comtrade' provides country level shipping data for a variety of commodities, these functions allow for easy API query and data returned as a tidy data frame.

Depends R (>= 4.1.0)

Imports lifecycle, fs, readr, askpass, cli, httr2, rlang, stringr, dplyr, lubridate, purrr, tools, rappdirs, memoise, cachem

Suggests covr, ggplot2, httptest2, knitr, rmarkdown, spelling, testthat (>= 3.0.0), callr

License GPL-3

Encoding UTF-8

LazyData true

RoxygenNote 7.3.3

URL <https://docs.ropensci.org/comtradr/>,
<https://github.com/ropensci/comtradr>

BugReports <https://github.com/ropensci/comtradr/issues>

NeedsCompilation no

VignetteBuilder knitr

Config/testthat/edition 3

Language en-US

Author Paul Bochtler [aut, cre, cph] (ORCID:
<<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9146-6185>>),
Harriet Goers [aut],
Chris Muir [aut],
Alicia Schep [rev] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3915-0618>>,
Alicia reviewed the package for rOpenSci, see
<https://github.com/ropensci/onboarding/issues/141>),

Rafael Hellwig [rev] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3092-3493>>, Rafael reviewed the package for rOpenSci, see <https://github.com/ropensci/onboarding/issues/141>), Ernest Guevarra [rev] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4887-4415>>, Ernest reviewed the package for rOpenSci, see <https://github.com/ropensci/software-review/issues/613>), Nicholas Potter [rev] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3410-3732>>, Nicholas reviewed the package for rOpenSci, see <https://github.com/ropensci/software-review/issues/613>), Juergen Amann [ctb]

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2026-07-30 23:10:02 UTC

Contents

country_codes	2
ct_commodity_db_type	3
ct_commodity_lookup	4
ct_country_lookup	5
ct_get_bulk	6
ct_get_data	7
ct_get_ref_table	10
ct_get_remaining_hourly_queries	12
ct_get_reset_time	12
ct_migrate_cache	13
ct_pretty_cols	13
ct_register_token	14
ct_search	14
ct_update_databases	15
ct_use_pretty_cols	15
get_primary_comtrade_key	16
set_primary_comtrade_key	17

Index	18
-------	----

country_codes	<i>Country codes</i>
---------------	----------------------

Description

A full dataset of all reporter and partner codes available in the UN Comtrade database.

Usage

country_codes

Format

country_codes A dataframe with 312 rows and eight columns:

id Unique country code.

country Name of the country (in English).

iso_3 The country's ISO 3 code.

iso_2 The country's ISO 2 code.

note Notes about the country.

entry_year The country's entry into the international system or 1900 (whichever is largest).

exit_year The country's exit from the international system, if applicable.

group Indicates whether the entity is a group of countries. For example, ASEAN or the European Union.

reporter Indicates whether the country is a reporter in the UN Comtrade database.

partner Indicates whether the country can be reported on by others in the UN Comtrade database. Not all partners are reporters. For example, the World cannot report its trade values.

Source

<https://comtradeapi.un.org/files/v1/app/reference/Reporters.json> and <https://comtradeapi.un.org/files/v1/app/reference/partnerAreas.json>

ct_commodity_db_type	<i>ct_commodity_db_type</i>
----------------------	-----------------------------

Description

This function is deprecated. There is currently no alternative for this function. **[Superseded]**

Usage

```
ct_commodity_db_type(...)
```

Arguments

... Used to catch all possible arguments that users have supplied to this function.

Value

depreciation error

Examples

```
# no examples because only legacy function
```

ct_commodity_lookup *UN Comtrade commodities database query*

Description

The Comtrade API requires that searches for specific commodities be done using commodity codes. This is a helper function for querying the Comtrade commodity database. It takes as input a vector of commodities or commodity codes. Output is a list or vector of commodity descriptions or codes associated with the input search_terms. For use with the UN Comtrade API, full API docs can be found at <https://unstats.un.org/wiki/display/comtrade/>

Usage

```
ct_commodity_lookup(
  search_terms,
  return_code = FALSE,
  commodity_classification = "HS",
  type = "goods",
  return_char = FALSE,
  verbose = TRUE,
  ignore.case = TRUE,
  update = FALSE,
  ...
)
```

Arguments

search_terms	Commodity names or commodity codes, as a char or numeric vector.
return_code	Logical, if set to FALSE, the function will return a set of commodity descriptions along with commodity codes (as a single string for each match found), if set to TRUE it will return only the commodity codes. Default value is FALSE.
commodity_classification	The trade classification scheme. Possible values for goods: c('HS', 'S1', 'S2', 'S3', 'S4', 'SS', 'B4', for services: c('EB02', 'EB10', 'EB10S', 'EB'). Default: 'HS'.
type	The type of returned trade data. Possible values: 'goods' for trade in goods, 'services' for trade in services. Default: 'goods'.
return_char	Logical, if set to FALSE, the function will return the matches as a named list, if set to TRUE it will return them as a character vector. Default value is FALSE.
verbose	Logical, if set to TRUE, a warning message will print to console if any of the elements of input "search_terms" returned no matches (message will indicate which elements returned no data). Default is TRUE.
ignore.case	logical, to be passed along to arg ignore.case within grepl . Default value is TRUE.
update	If TRUE, downloads possibly updated reference tables from the UN. Default: FALSE.
...	additional args to be passed along to grepl .

Details

This function uses regular expressions (regex) to find matches within the commodity DB. This means it will treat as a match any commodity description that contains the input search term. For more on using regex within R, see <https://stat.ethz.ch/R-manual/R-devel/library/base/html/regex.html>

Value

A list or character vector of commodity descriptions and/or commodity codes that are matches with the elements of "search_terms".

See Also

[grepl](#)

Examples

```
comtradr::ct_commodity_lookup("wine")
```

ct_country_lookup	<i>ct_country_lookup</i>
-------------------	--------------------------

Description

This function is deprecated. You can use `country_codes` to return a dataset with all possible country codes, but in general the specification of iso 3 codes makes a look-up unnecessary. **[Superseded]**

Usage

```
ct_country_lookup(...)
```

Arguments

... Used to catch all possible arguments that users have supplied to this function.

Value

depreciation error

Examples

```
# no examples because only legacy function
```

ct_get_bulk

Get trade data from the UN Comtrade API

Description

This function queries the UN Comtrade API to retrieve international trade data. It allows for detailed specification of the query, including the type of data (goods or services), frequency (annual or monthly), commodity classification, flow direction, and more. By providing everything for certain parameters, you can query all possible values. The function is opinionated in that it already verifies certain parameters for you and is more than a pure wrapper around the API.

Usage

```
ct_get_bulk(
  type = "goods",
  frequency = "A",
  commodity_classification = "HS",
  reporter = "all_countries",
  start_date = NULL,
  end_date = NULL,
  tidy_cols = TRUE,
  verbose = FALSE,
  primary_token = get_primary_comtrade_key(),
  update = FALSE,
  requests_per_second = 10/60,
  cache = FALSE,
  download_bulk_files = TRUE
)
```

Arguments

type	The type of returned trade data. Possible values: 'goods' for trade in goods, 'services' for trade in services. Default: 'goods'.
frequency	The frequency of returned trade data. Possible values: 'A' for annual data, 'M' for monthly data. Default: 'A'.
commodity_classification	The trade classification scheme. Possible values for goods: c('HS', 'H0', 'H1', 'H2', 'H3', 'H4', 'H5', 'S1', 'S2', 'S3', 'S4', 'SS', 'B4', 'B5'); for services: c('EB02', 'EB10', 'EB10S', 'EB'). Default: 'HS'.
reporter	Reporter ISO3 code(s), everything or all_countries. See <code>comtradr::country_codes</code> or <code>comtradr::ct_get_ref_table('reporter')</code> for possible values. <code>all_countries</code> returns all countries without aggregates everything returns all possible parameters. Default: 'all_countries'.
start_date	The start date of the query. Format: yyyy for yearly, yyyy-mm for monthly.
end_date	The end date of the query. Format: yyyy for yearly, yyyy-mm for monthly. Max: 12 years after start date for annual data, one year for monthly data.

tidy_cols	If TRUE, returns tidy column names. If FALSE, returns raw column names. Default: TRUE.
verbose	If TRUE, sends status updates to the console. If FALSE, runs functions quietly. Default: FALSE.
primary_token	Your primary UN Comtrade API token. Default: stored token from <code>comtrade::set_primary_comtrade_token()</code> .
update	If TRUE, downloads possibly updated reference tables from the UN. Default: FALSE.
requests_per_second	Rate of requests per second executed, usually specified as a fraction, e.g. 10/60 for 10 requests per minute, see <code>req_throttle()</code> for details.
cache	A logical value to determine, whether requests should be cached or not. If set to True, <code>tools::R_user_dir(which = 'cache')</code> is used to determine the location of the cache. Use the <code>.Renv</code> file to set the <code>R_USER_CACHE_DIR</code> in order to change this location. Default: False.
download_bulk_files	If TRUE downloads all files that are returned from the Comtrade API as a list for the specified parameters. This can result in large writing and reading operations from your file system.

Details

The UN Comtrade database provides a repository of official international trade statistics and relevant analytical tables. It contains annual trade statistics starting from 1988 and monthly trade statistics since 2000 for goods data

Parameters that accept everything will query all possible values. For example, setting `commodity_code = 'everything'` will retrieve data for all commodity codes. This can be useful for broad queries but may result in large datasets.

Value

A data.frame with trade data or, if `download_bulk_files = FALSE`, a data.frame listing the available bulk files for the given parameters.

ct_get_data

Get trade data from the UN Comtrade API

Description

This function queries the UN Comtrade API to retrieve international trade data. It allows for detailed specification of the query, including the type of data (goods or services), frequency (annual or monthly), commodity classification, flow direction, and more. By providing everything for certain parameters, you can query all possible values. The function is opinionated in that it already verifies certain parameters for you and is more than a pure wrapper around the API.

Usage

```

ct_get_data(
  type = "goods",
  frequency = "A",
  commodity_classification = "HS",
  commodity_code = "TOTAL",
  flow_direction = c("Import", "Export", "Re-export", "Re-import"),
  reporter = "all_countries",
  partner = "World",
  start_date = NULL,
  end_date = NULL,
  process = TRUE,
  tidy_cols = TRUE,
  verbose = FALSE,
  primary_token = get_primary_comtrade_key(),
  mode_of_transport = "TOTAL modes of transport",
  partner_2 = "World",
  customs_code = "C00",
  update = FALSE,
  requests_per_second = 10/60,
  extra_params = NULL,
  cache = FALSE
)

```

Arguments

type	The type of returned trade data. Possible values: 'goods' for trade in goods, 'services' for trade in services. Default: 'goods'.
frequency	The frequency of returned trade data. Possible values: 'A' for annual data, 'M' for monthly data. Default: 'A'.
commodity_classification	The trade classification scheme. Possible values for goods: c('HS', 'S1', 'S2', 'S3', 'S4', 'SS', 'B4', for services: c('EB02', 'EB10', 'EB10S', 'EB'). Default: 'HS'.
commodity_code	The commodity code(s) or everything for all possible codes. See <code>comtradr::ct_get_ref_table('HS'</code> for possible values. Default: 'TOTAL' (sum of all commodities).
flow_direction	The direction of trade flows or everything. Possible values can be found in <code>ct_get_ref_table('flow_direction')</code> . These are implemented case-insensitive, 'import' and 'Import' are equivalent. Default: c('import', 'export', 're-export', 're-import').
reporter	Reporter ISO3 code(s), everything or <code>all_countries</code> . See <code>comtradr::country_codes</code> or <code>comtradr::ct_get_ref_table('reporter')</code> for possible values. <code>all_countries</code> returns all countries without aggregates everything returns all possible parameters. Default: 'all_countries'.
partner	Partner ISO3 code(s), everything or <code>all_countries</code> . See <code>comtradr::country_codes</code> for possible values. <code>all_countries</code> returns all countries without aggregates everything returns all possible parameters, incl. aggregates like World. Default: 'World' (all partners as an aggregate).

start_date	The start date of the query. Format: yyyy for yearly, yyyy-mm for monthly.
end_date	The end date of the query. Format: yyyy for yearly, yyyy-mm for monthly. Max: 12 years after start date for annual data, one year for monthly data.
process	If TRUE, returns a data.frame with results. If FALSE, returns the raw http2 request. Default: TRUE.
tidy_cols	If TRUE, returns tidy column names. If FALSE, returns raw column names. Default: TRUE.
verbose	If TRUE, sends status updates to the console. If FALSE, runs functions quietly. Default: FALSE.
primary_token	Your primary UN Comtrade API token. Default: stored token from <code>comtrade::set_primary_comtrade</code> .
mode_of_transport	Text code of mode of transport or everything for all possible parameters. See <code>ct_get_ref_table(dataset_id = 'mode_of_transport')</code> for possible values. Default: 'TOTAL modes of transport' (TOTAL).
partner_2	Partner 2 ISO3 code(s), everything or all_countries. See <code>comtrade::country_codes</code> for possible values. <code>all_countries</code> returns all countries without aggregates everything returns all possible parameters, incl. aggregates like World. Default: 'World' (all partners as an aggregate).
customs_code	Customs Code ID or everything for all possible parameters. See <code>ct_get_ref_table(dataset_id = 'customs_code')</code> for possible values. Default: 'C00' (TOTAL).
update	If TRUE, downloads possibly updated reference tables from the UN. Default: FALSE.
requests_per_second	Rate of requests per second executed, usually specified as a fraction, e.g. 10/60 for 10 requests per minute, see <code>req_throttle()</code> for details.
extra_params	Additional parameters to the API, passed as query parameters without checking. Please provide a named list to this parameter. Default: NULL.
cache	A logical value to determine, whether requests should be cached or not. If set to True, <code>tools::R_user_dir(which = 'cache')</code> is used to determine the location of the cache. Use the <code>.Renv</code> file to set the <code>R_USER_CACHE_DIR</code> in order to change this location. Default: False.

Details

The UN Comtrade database provides a repository of official international trade statistics and relevant analytical tables. It contains annual trade statistics starting from 1988 and monthly trade statistics since 2000 for goods data

Parameters that accept everything will query all possible values. For example, setting `commodity_code = 'everything'` will retrieve data for all commodity codes. This can be useful for broad queries but may result in large datasets.

The Comtrade API rejects requests whose URL is too long. If long lists of partner or reporter codes (e.g. `partner = 'all_countries'`) would exceed this limit, the query is automatically split into several requests and the results are combined into a single data.frame. This is not possible with `process = FALSE`, because a single response object is returned.

Value

A data.frame with trade data or, if process = F, a httr2 response object.

Examples

```
# Query goods data for China's trade with Argentina and Germany in 2019
ct_get_data(
  type = "goods",
  commodity_classification = "HS",
  commodity_code = "TOTAL",
  reporter = "CHN",
  partner = c("ARG", "DEU"),
  start_date = "2019",
  end_date = "2019",
  flow_direction = "Import",
  partner_2 = "World",
  verbose = TRUE
)

# Query all commodity codes for China's imports from Germany in 2019
ct_get_data(
  commodity_code = "everything",
  reporter = "CHN",
  partner = "DEU",
  start_date = "2019",
  end_date = "2019",
  flow_direction = "Import"
)

# Query all commodity codes for China's imports from Germany
# from January to June of 2019
ct_get_data(
  commodity_code = "everything",
  reporter = "CHN",
  partner = "DEU",
  start_date = "2019",
  end_date = "2019",
  flow_direction = "import"
)
```

ct_get_ref_table

Get reference table from package data

Description

The first time, the function will read from disk, the second time from the environment. In the case of a necessary update the new data will be saved to the environment for the current session. You can use this table to look at the reference tables and if necessary extract respective classification codes by hand. In general we would recommend the function `ct_commodity_lookup` for this purpose. It uses the present function in the backend.

Usage

```
ct_get_ref_table(dataset_id, update = FALSE, verbose = FALSE)
```

Arguments

dataset_id	The dataset ID, which is either partner, reporter or a valid classification scheme.
update	If TRUE, downloads possibly updated reference tables from the UN. Default: FALSE.
verbose	If TRUE, sends status updates to the console. If FALSE, runs functions quietly. Default: FALSE.

Details

The function allows you to query most possible input parameters that are listed by the Comtrade API. The following dataset_ids are permitted:

- Datasets that contain codes for the commodity_code argument. The name is the same as you would provide under commodity_classification.
 - 'HS' This is probably the most common classification for goods.
 - 'B4'
 - 'B5'
 - 'EB02'
 - 'EB10'
 - 'EB10S'
 - 'EB'
 - 'S1'
 - 'S2'
 - 'S3'
 - 'S4'
 - 'SS'
- 'reporter'
- 'partner'
- 'mode_of_transport'
- 'customs_code'
- 'flow_direction'
- 'frequency'
- 'mode_of_supply'
- 'units_of_quantity'
- 'available_variables'

Value

a tidy dataset with a reference table

Examples

```
## get HS commodity table
ct_get_ref_table("HS")

## get reporter table
ct_get_ref_table("reporter")
```

```
ct_get_remaining_hourly_queries
      ct_get_remaining_hourly_queries
```

Description

This function is deprecated. There is no more reset time, as the upper limit of 250 calls per day is enforced daily. **[Superseded]**

Usage

```
ct_get_remaining_hourly_queries(...)
```

Arguments

... Used to catch all possible arguments that users have supplied to this function.

Value

depreciation error

Examples

```
# no examples because only legacy function
```

```
ct_get_reset_time        ct_get_reset_time
```

Description

This function is deprecated. There is no more reset time, as the upper limit of 250 calls per day is enforced daily. **[Superseded]**

Usage

```
ct_get_reset_time(...)
```

Arguments

... Used to catch all possible arguments that users have supplied to this function.

Value

depreciation error

Examples

```
# no examples because only legacy function
```

ct_migrate_cache	<i>Migrate cache to new location</i>
------------------	--------------------------------------

Description

Comtradr versions previous to version 1.0.1 have used a cache location that was not CRAN compliant. You can migrate any remaining files to the new cache location using this function. It will delete the old cache.

Usage

```
ct_migrate_cache()
```

Value

Nothing

Examples

```
ct_migrate_cache()
```

ct_pretty_cols	<i>ct_pretty_cols</i>
----------------	-----------------------

Description

A data.frame with a matched list of tidy and untidy column names for the results.

Usage

```
ct_pretty_cols
```

Format

country_codes A dataframe with 47 rows and two columns:
to tidy columns
from original column names

ct_register_token	<i>ct_register_token</i>
-------------------	--------------------------

Description

This function is deprecated. Please use set_primary_comtrade_key() instead. **[Superseded]**

Usage

ct_register_token(...)

Arguments

... Used to catch all possible arguments that users have supplied to this function.

Value

depreciation error

Examples

no examples because only legacy function

ct_search	<i>ct_search</i>
-----------	------------------

Description

This function is deprecated Please use ct_get_data() instead. **[Superseded]**

Usage

ct_search(...)

Arguments

... Used to catch all possible arguments that users have supplied to this function.

Value

depreciation error

Examples

no examples because only legacy function

ct_update_databases	<i>ct_update_databases</i>
---------------------	----------------------------

Description

This function is deprecated. Please use update parameter in the main ct_get_data function instead. **[Superseded]**

Usage

ct_update_databases(...)

Arguments

... Used to catch all possible arguments that users have supplied to this function.

Value

depreciation error

Examples

no examples because only legacy function

ct_use_pretty_cols	<i>ct_use_pretty_cols</i>
--------------------	---------------------------

Description

This function is deprecated. Please use the process argument in the main function instead. **[Superseded]**

Usage

ct_use_pretty_cols(...)

Arguments

... Used to catch all possible arguments that users have supplied to this function.

Value

depreciation error

Examples

```
# no examples because only legacy function
```

```
get_primary_comtrade_key  
                          get_primary_comtrade_key
```

Description

If you would like your Comtrade API key to persist in between sessions, use `usethis::edit_r_environ()` to add the env variable `COMTRADE_PRIMARY` to your environment file.

Usage

```
get_primary_comtrade_key()
```

Value

Gets your primary comtrade key from the environment var `COMTRADE_PRIMARY`

Examples

```
## get API key  
get_primary_comtrade_key()
```

`set_primary_comtrade_key`*Set your primary Comtrade API key in the environment variable*

Description

If you would like your Comtrade API key to persist in between sessions, use `usethis::edit_r_environ()` to add the env variable `COMTRADE_PRIMARY` to your environment file.

Usage

```
set_primary_comtrade_key(key = NULL)
```

Arguments

<code>key</code>	Provide your primary comtrade key
------------------	-----------------------------------

Value

Saves your comtrade primary key in the environment.

Examples

```
## set API key  
set_primary_comtrade_key("xxxxxc678ca4dbxxxxxxxxx8285r3")
```

Index

* datasets

- country_codes, [2](#)
- ct_pretty_cols, [13](#)

- country_codes, [2](#)
- ct_commodity_db_type, [3](#)
- ct_commodity_lookup, [4](#)
- ct_country_lookup, [5](#)
- ct_get_bulk, [6](#)
- ct_get_data, [7](#)
- ct_get_ref_table, [10](#)
- ct_get_remaining_hourly_queries, [12](#)
- ct_get_reset_time, [12](#)
- ct_migrate_cache, [13](#)
- ct_pretty_cols, [13](#)
- ct_register_token, [14](#)
- ct_search, [14](#)
- ct_update_databases, [15](#)
- ct_use_pretty_cols, [15](#)

- get_primary_comtrade_key, [16](#)
- grepl, [4](#), [5](#)

- set_primary_comtrade_key, [17](#)