Package ‘comtradr’

October 12, 2022

Title Interface with the United Nations Comtrade API
Version 0.3.0
Description Interface with and extract data from the United Nations Comtrade API <https://comtrade.un.org/data/>. 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 (>= 3.5.0)
License GPL-3
Encoding UTF-8
LazyData true
Imports httr, jsonlite, magrittr (>= 1.5), purrr
RoxygenNote 7.1.1
URL https://docs.ropensci.org/comtradr/, https://github.com/ropensci/comtradr
BugReports https://github.com/ropensci/comtradr/issues
NeedsCompilation no
Maintainer Chris Muir <chrismuirRVA@gmail.com>
Suggests testthat, knitr, rmarkdown, ggplot2, dplyr
VignetteBuilder knitr
Author Chris Muir [aut, cre],
Alicia Schep [rev] (<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3915-0618>, Alicia reviewed the package for rOpenSci, see https://github.com/ropensci/onboarding/issues/141),
Rafael Hellwig [rev] (<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3092-3493>, Rafael reviewed the package for rOpenSci, see https://github.com/ropensci/onboarding/issues/141),
Juergen Amann [ctb]
Repository CRAN
Date/Publication 2022-04-20 06:32:29 UTC
R topics documented:

- comtradr .................................................. 2
- ct_commodity_db_type ............................... 3
- ct_commodity_lookup ................................. 4
- ct_country_lookup ....................................... 5
- ct_get_remaining_hourly_queries ................. 6
- ct_get_reset_time ....................................... 7
- ct_pretty_cols .......................................... 7
- ct_register_token ....................................... 8
- ct_search .................................................. 8
- ct_update_databases .................................... 11
- ct_use_pretty_cols ..................................... 13

Index 14

comtradr  

Interface to the United Nations Comtrade API

Description

Interface with and extract data from the United Nations Comtrade API. 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.

Package Vignette

- ../doc/comtradr-vignette.html

Documentation for the Comtrade API

- Main Comtrade Site https://comtrade.un.org/
- Comtrade Data Query Web GUI https://comtrade.un.org/data/
- Full API Documentation https://comtrade.un.org/data/doc/api/

Development links

- https://github.com/ropensci/comtradr
- Report bugs at https://github.com/ropensci/comtradr/issues

comtradr features the following functions

- ct_commodity_db_type
- ct_commodity_lookup
- ct_country_lookup
- ct_get_remaining_hourly_queries
ct_commodity_db_type

- ct_get_reset_time
- ct_register_token
- ct_search
- ct_update_databases
- ct_use_pretty_cols

---

ct_commodity_db_type  Get current commodity database type

Description

Return the "type" of the current commodity database being used by comtradr. For a complete list of the different commodity DB types, see "details".

Usage

ct_commodity_db_type()

Details

Below is a list of all of the commodity database "types", with a very brief description for each. For more information on each of these types, see https://comtrade.un.org/data/doc/api/#DataAvailabilityRequests

- HS: Harmonized System (HS), as reported
- HS1992: HS 1992
- HS1996: HS 1996
- HS2002: HS 2002
- HS2007: HS 2007
- HS2012: HS 2012
- SITC: Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), as reported
- SITCrev1: SITC Revision 1
- SITCrev2: SITC Revision 2
- SITCrev3: SITC Revision 3
- SITCrev4: SITC Revision 4
- BEC: Broad Economic Categories
- EB02: Extended Balance of Payments Services Classification

Value

character vector of the "type" of the current commodity database.

Examples

ct_commodity_db_type()
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://comtrade.un.org/data/doc/api/

Usage

ct_commodity_lookup(
  search_terms,
  return_code = FALSE,
  return_char = FALSE,
  verbose = TRUE,
  ignore.case = TRUE,
  ...
)

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.
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.
...

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

# Look up commodity descriptions related to "halibut"
ct_commodity_lookup("halibut",
  return_code = FALSE,
  return_char = FALSE,
  verbose = TRUE)

# Look up commodity codes related to "shrimp".
ct_commodity_lookup("shrimp",
  return_code = TRUE,
  return_char = FALSE,
  verbose = TRUE)

ct_country_lookup

Description

Country names passed to the Comtrade API must have precise spelling/capitalization. This is a helper function for querying the country names/spelling used by Comtrade. It takes as input a vector of country names, output is any country names that contain any of the input strings, using regex via the base function grepl. For use with the UN Comtrade API, full API docs can be found at https://comtrade.un.org/data/doc/api/

Usage

ct_country_lookup(
  search_terms, 
  type = c("reporter", "partner"),
  ignore.case = TRUE,
  ...
)

Arguments

search_terms Char vector of country names.
type str, the country list to use for the search, valid inputs are "reporter" and "partner".
ignore.case logical, to be passed along to arg ignore.case within grepl. Default value is TRUE.

... additional args to be passed along to grepl.
ct_get_remaining_hourly_queries

Details

This function uses regular expressions (regex) to find matches within the country DB. This means it will treat as a match any country string 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 character vector of country names that are complete or partial matches with any of the input country names.

See Also

grepl

Examples

# Look up all reporters that contain the terms "korea" and "vietnam"
ct_country_lookup(c("korea", "vietnam"), "reporter")

cat_get_remaining_hourly_queries

Comtradr rate limit check

Description

Get the remaining number of queries left in the current hour.

Usage

cat_get_remaining_hourly_queries()

Value

numeric value, number of current queries left in the hour.

Examples

cat_get_remaining_hourly_queries()
ct_get_reset_time

Description
Get the time in which the hourly limit will reset.

Usage
ct_get_reset_time(set = NULL)

Arguments
set logical, if TRUE and the current reset time is NULL, set the reset time to be one
hour from the current Sys.time.

Value
date and time in which the hourly query limit will reset. Return is a "POSIXct" object (see
DateTimeClasses).

Examples
ct_get_reset_time()

# Get minutes remaining until limit reset, as numeric value.
as.double(ct_get_reset_time() - Sys.time())

c_t_pretty_cols

"pretty" column headers for Comtrade API data.

Description
Named vector of polished column headers, intended for use with plots, publication tables, etc.

Format
Named vector, with the polished column headers as the names, and the machine-readable column
headers as the values. Each element is meant to be treated as a key-value pair. The function
c_t_search returns data with the machine-readable column headers by default.

Examples
data(ct_pretty_cols)
ct_register_token  
*Comtrad set API token*

**Description**

Function to set an API token for the UN Comtrade API. Details on tokens and rate limits can be found [https://comtrade.un.org/data/doc/api/#Authentication](https://comtrade.un.org/data/doc/api/#Authentication)

**Usage**

```r
cr_register_token(token)
```

**Arguments**

token  
char string, valid API token.

**Value**

Set comtradr API token and update rate limits.

**Examples**

```r
## Not run:
cr_register_token("some_valid_token_str")
## End(Not run)
```

cr_search  
*Get UN Comtrade data*

**Description**

Make queries to the UN Comtrade API, data is returned as a tidy data frame. Comtrade is a DB hosted by the United Nations that houses country-level shipping data. Full API docs can be found here: [https://comtrade.un.org/data/doc/api/](https://comtrade.un.org/data/doc/api/)

**Usage**

```r
cr_search(
  reporters,
  partners,
  trade_direction = c("all", "imports", "exports", "re_imports", "re_exports"),
  freq = c("annual", "monthly"),
  start_date = "all",
  end_date = "all",
  commod_codes = "TOTAL",
```
max_rec = NULL,
    type = c("goods", "services"),
    url = "https://comtrade.un.org/api/get"
)

**Arguments**

- **reporters**: Country(s) of interest, as a character vector. Can either be a vector of country names, or "All" to represent all countries.
- **partners**: Country(s) that have interacted with the reporter country(s), as a character vector. Can either be a vector of country names, or "All" to represent all countries.
- **trade_direction**: Indication of which trade directions on which to focus, as a character vector. Must either be "all", or a vector containing any combination of the following: "imports", "exports", "re_imports", "re_exports". Default value is "all".
- **freq**: Time frequency of the returned results, as a character string. Must be either "annual" or "monthly". Default value is "annual".
- **start_date**: Start date of a time period, or "all". Default value is "all". See "details" for more info on valid input formats when not using "all" as input.
- **end_date**: End date of a time period, or "all". Default value is "all". See "details" for more info on valid input formats when not using "all" as input.
- **commod_codes**: Character vector of commodity codes, or "TOTAL". Valid commodity codes as input will restrict the query to only look for trade related to those commodities, "TOTAL" as input will return all trade between the indicated reporter country(s) and partner country(s). Default value is "TOTAL".
- **max_rec**: Max number of records returned from each API call, as an integer. If max_rec is set to NULL, then value is determined by whether or not an API token has been registered. API cap without a token is 50000, cap with a valid token is 250000. Default value is NULL. For details on how to register a valid token, see [ct_register_token](https://comtrade.un.org/api/get/). Default value is NULL.
- **type**: Type of trade, as a character string. Must be either "goods" or "services". Default value is "goods".
- **url**: Base of the Comtrade url string, as a character string. Default value is "https://comtrade.un.org/api/get/" and should not be changed unless Comtrade changes their endpoint url.

**Details**

Basic rate limit restrictions listed below. For details on how to register a valid token, see [ct_register_token](https://comtrade.un.org/api/get/). For API docs on rate limits, see [https://comtrade.un.org/data/doc/api/#Limits](https://comtrade.un.org/data/doc/api/#Limits)

- Without authentication token: 1 request per second, 100 requests per hour (each per IP address).
- With valid authentication token: 1 request per second, 10,000 requests per hour (each per IP address or authenticated user).

In addition to these rate limits, the API imposes some limits on parameter combinations, they are listed below:
- Between params "reporters", "partners", and the query date range (as dictated by the two params "start_date" and "end_date"), only one of these three may use the catch-all input "All".
- For the same group of three ("reporters", "partners", date range), if the input is not "All", then the maximum number of input values for each is five. For date range, if not using "All", then the "start_date" and "end_date" must not span more than five months or five years. There is one exception to this rule, if arg "freq" is "monthly", then a single year can be passed to "start_date" and "end_date" and the API will return all of the monthly data for that year.
- For param "commod_codes", if not using input "All", then the maximum number of input values is 20 (although "All" is always a valid input).

This function returns objects with metadata related to the API call that can be accessed via attributes. The metadata accessible is:
- url: url of the API call.
- time_stamp: date-time of the API call.
- req_duration: total duration of the API call, in seconds.

For args start_date and end_date, if inputting a date (as opposed to the catch-all input "all"), valid input format is dependent on the input passed to arg freq. If freq is "annual", start_date and end_date must be either a string w/ format "yyyy" or "yyyy-mm-dd", or a year as an integer (so "2016", "2016-01-01", and 2016 would all be valid). If freq is "monthly", start_date and end_date must be a string with format "yyyy-mm" or "yyyy-mm-dd" (so "2016-02" and "2016-02-01" would both be valid).

Value

Data frame of Comtrade shipping data.

Examples

```r
## Not run:
## Example API call number 1:
# All exports from China to South Korea, United States and Mexico over all 
# years.
ex_1 <- ct_search(reporters = "China", 
                  partners = c("Rep. of Korea", "USA", "Mexico"), 
                  trade_direction = "exports")
nrow(ex_1)

## Example API call number 2:
## All shipments related to shrimp between Canada and all other countries, 
## between 2011 and 2015.
# Perform "shrimp" query
shrimp_codes <- ct_commodity_lookup("shrimp", 
                                   return_code = TRUE, 
                                   return_char = TRUE)
# Make API call
ex_2 <- ct_search(reporters = "Canada", 
                   partners = "All", 
                   trade_direction = "all", 
                   commod_codes = shrimp_codes)
```
ct_update_databases

start_date = 2011,
end_date = 2015,
commod_codes = shrimp_codes)
nrow(ex_2)

# Access metadata
attributes(ex_2)$url
attributes(ex_2)$time_stamp
attributes(ex_2)$req_duration

## End(Not run)

cr_update_databases Check for updates to country/commodity databases

Description
Use of the Comtrade API requires access to the Comtrade countries database and commodities database. The comtradr package keeps each DB saved as a data frame in the package directory, as Comtrade makes updates to these DB’s infrequently (roughly once per year).

Usage
cr_update_databases(
  force = FALSE,
  verbose = TRUE,
                     "SITC", "SITCrev1", "SITCrev2", "SITCrev3", "SITCrev4", "BEC", "EB02"),
  commodity_url = NULL,
  reporter_url = NULL,
  partner_url = NULL
)

Arguments

force logical, if TRUE, both the country and commodity databases will be downloaded, regardless of the status of the DB's on file. Default value is FALSE.

verbose logical, if TRUE, an update status message will be printed to console. Default value is TRUE.

commodity_type Trade data classification scheme to use, see "details" for a list of the valid inputs. Default value is "HS", which is the default "type" of the commodity database on file upon install of comtradr. Please note that if the value passed to this arg doesn’t match the values in variable "type" of the current commodity DB, then this function will replace the current commodity DB with that of the type specified by this arg. If you don’t intend to change the type of the current commodity DB, then no input for this arg is required. To see the "type" of the current commodity DB, use ct_commodity_db_type.
commodity_url  Default value NULL, otherwise this should be the base url of the Comtrade json data directory. Only necessary if the Comtrade site changes from "https://comtrade.un.org/data/cache". This partial url string will have a commodity extension appended to it to create a valid url. The commodity extension will be chosen based on the input to arg commodity_type.

reporter_url  Default value NULL, otherwise this should be a url as a char string that points to the reporter areas JSON dataset on the Comtrade website. Only necessary if the Comtrade site changes from https://comtrade.un.org/data/cache/reporterAreas.json

partner_url  Default value NULL, otherwise this should be a url as a char string that points to the reporter areas JSON dataset on the Comtrade website. Only necessary if the Comtrade site changes from https://comtrade.un.org/data/cache/partnerAreas.json

Details

This function will check to see if Comtrade has made any updates to either database. If an update is found, it will download the updated DB and save it to the comtradr package directory, and update the DB for use within the current R session.

The default for arg commodity_type is HS. Below is a list of all valid inputs with a very brief description for each, for more information on each of these types, see https://comtrade.un.org/data/doc/api/#DataAvailabilityRequests

- HS: Harmonized System (HS), as reported
- HS1992: HS 1992
- HS1996: HS 1996
- HS2002: HS 2002
- HS2007: HS 2007
- HS2012: HS 2012
- HS2017: HS 2017
- SITC: Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), as reported
- SITCrev1: SITC Revision 1
- SITCrev2: SITC Revision 2
- SITCrev3: SITC Revision 3
- SITCrev4: SITC Revision 4
- BEC: Broad Economic Categories
- EB02: Extended Balance of Payments Services Classification

Value

Updated database of commodities and countries.
ct_use_pretty_cols

Examples
## Not run:
ct_update_databases()

## End(Not run)

ct_use_pretty_cols      Use Pretty Column Headers

Description
Transform the column headers of return data from function ct_search into a more "polished" set of column headers. Intended for use with plots, publication tables, etc.

Usage
crct_use_pretty_cols(df)

Arguments
df data frame, Comtrade API data frame, returned from function ct_search.

Value
data frame, input df with polish column headers.

Examples
## Not run:
# Pull API data
df <- ct_search("Germany", "Canada")

# Use polished column names
df <- ct_use_pretty_cols(df)

## End(Not run)
Index

attributes, 10

comtradr, 2
ct_commodity_db_type, 2, 3, 11
ct_commodity_lookup, 2, 4
ct_country_lookup, 2, 5
ct_get_remaining_hourly_queries, 2, 6
ct_get_reset_time, 3, 7
ct_pretty_cols, 7
ct_register_token, 3, 8, 9
ct_search, 3, 7, 8, 13
ct_update_databases, 3, 11
ct_use_pretty_cols, 3, 13

DateTimeClasses, 7

grepl, 4–6