



Lunchtime Seminar on
International Trade Statistics,
29 Feb 2012, UNSC2012

**"What is the value-added of
official statistics in the
measurement of trade?"**

Paul Schreyer OECD

Outline

- Value-added of international trade statistics
- International statistics on trade in value-added



Value-added of international trade statistics (1)

- Still significant interest in ‘traditional’ trade statistics
 - Macro perspective: competitiveness discussion: export performance
 - Business perspective – witness the existence of commercial database products that exploit the detailed product information of foreign trade statistics



Value-added of international trade statistics (2)

- More work needed
 - better integration of trade in goods and trade in services statistics (driven by business and analytical interest rather than exclusively being driven by trade negotiations)
 - In particular: trade in intellectual property
 - better price/volume split:
 - Start with good system of UVIs
 - In the event, genuine import and export price indices required → see discussion on US Productivity measurement



Trade in value-added (1)

- Important tool to track domestic value-added directly and indirectly embodied in gross exports
- Does not replace traditional export figures but provides a novel way to decompose them
- No implications for the overall size of the trade balance or the current account balance
- But new interpretation and new structure by country and by industry/product



Trade in value-added (2)

- More work needed:
 - TiVA discussion has focused on merchandise trade but services also important.
 - Linking TIS statistics to input-output matrices;
 - Capture flows that may be presently (incorrectly) recorded as primary income rather than good and services, in particular payments for intellectual property products



Trade in value-added (2)

- More work needed:
 - TiVA by industrial activity:.
 - Motivating new views of input-output tables:
 - Trade in intermediates and global production networks invalidates assumption of 'homogeneous' activities
 - Required: more disaggregated input-output tables that split sectors on this basis, including, ideally, ownership.



Trade in value-added (3)

- Major OECD project has started
- Responds to the issues described earlier
- Capitalises on existing data and initiatives
- Builds up and maintains the necessary statistical and analytical infrastructure for measuring TiVA and for other analytical purposes.
- Cooperates with other agencies and initiatives, in particular WTO, ID-JETRO, WIOD



Thank you!

Contacts:

Paul.Schreyer@OECD.org

Nadim.Ahmad@OECD.org

