

**Statistics of International Trade in Services:
Challenges and Good Practices
Workshop for the Latin American and the
Caribbean countries
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Claudia de Camino

Statistics and Economic Projections Division



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Results of the questionnaire on Statistics on International Trade in Services in LAC countries

- ❖ a total of 20 questionnaires were received from LAC countries
- ❖ 13 countries are attending this workshop



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The legal and institutional framework

Questions 1- 4

1.- Does your country have the necessary legal framework for the conduct of Statistics of International Trade in Services (SITS)?

❖ **Yes, 13 countries**

→ 10 of them have a law on statistics, the rest have other legislative act or laws

❖ **No, 6 countries**



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The legal and institutional framework

Questions 1- 4

2.-¿Which agency(ies) are involved in collecting and processing data?

- ❖ **Central bank** **17 countries**
- ❖ **National statistical office** **10 countries**
- ❖ **Trade ministry** **1 country**
- ❖ **Other agency(ies)** **3 countries**

→ national tourism authorities or agencies, subregional institutions (Eastern Caribbean Central Bank ECCB)



The legal and institutional framework

Questions 1- 4

3.-¿Do you have any cooperation agreement with other agencies working on the field of SITS?

❖ **No** **12 countries**

❖ **Yes** **9 countries**

—————> many countries have interinstitutional platforms (central bank, national statistical office, government institutions like border control agencies, tourism ministry, board or institute)



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The legal and institutional framework

Questions 1- 4

4.-¿Which organization is responsible for the official publication of SITS?

- ❖ Central bank 14 countries
- ❖ National statistical office 6 countries
- ❖ Other agency(ies)



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Methodological framework question 5

5.- ¿Which methodological framework is used in SITS in your country?

❖ **Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services**
7 countries

❖ **Balance of Payment Manual, 5th edition (BPM5)**
20 countries

❖ **Balance of Payment Manual, 6th edition (BPM6)**
2 countries

❖ **Eurostat methodological recommendations**

❖ **National methodology**



The availability of data

questions 6-10

6.- Trade in services between residents and nonresidents containing information on:

- ❖ **BPM standard categories** 18 countries
- ❖ **Extended Balance of Payment Services classification (EBOPS) categories** 5 countries
- ❖ **Partner countries** 1 country
- ❖ **Supplementary items of EBOPS** 1 country
- ❖ **Memorandum items of EBOPS**
- ❖ **Central Product Classification (CPC) categories** 1 country
- ❖ **National classification categories** 2 countries



The availability of data questions 6-10

7.- If you do not compile service trade statistics with a partner country break-down at the moment do you plan to introduce partner country break-down in your statistics in the coming years?

❖ No 6 countries

❖ Yes 11 countries

→ in general, countries are planning to implement this breakdown in the short or medium term



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The availability of data questions 6-10

8.- ¿Is trade in services statistics available in your country through foreign affiliates?

❖ **No** **16 countries**

❖ **Yes** **4 countries (Belize, Saint Kitts and Nevis,
Saint Vicent and the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago)**

→ some of them compile data of production, aggregated value, employment, quantity of enterprises, gross capital formation, etc.



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The availability of data questions 6-10

9.- ¿ Are there any data on foreign direct investment in your country?

- ❖ No 1 country (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)
- ❖ Yes 19 countries



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The availability of data questions 6-10

10.- ¿Are there any data on your country's direct investment in other countries?

- ❖ No 6 countries
- ❖ Yes 14 countries



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27: List the most important and still unresolved problems:

Legal Framework:

- The absence of a law on statistics which force enterprises to provide information ...

Motivation:

- Enterprises are less motivated to provide information

... both cause a low response rate to surveys on services by the private sector

Resources:

- Creation and updating of business registers => difficulties in sample and expansion of sample results



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Financial and human resources constraints

27: List the most important and still unresolved problems:

Methodological issues:

- **Volume and price indexes for exports and imports of services (national accounts)**
- **Compilation of other services**
- **Lack of data harmonization and coordination among data providers**
- **Comparability between BPM6 and MSITS**
- **Difficulties in implementing MSITS 2002, specially in statistics by mode of supply and the partner country data**



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28: What are the problems that you were able to solve in the past few years and experience which you could share with other countries

Institutional:

- Creation of an Interinstitutional Comitee on Service Statistics (Colombia, Costa Rica)

Motivation:

- Progress in the visibility of the service sector (Col.)

Data improvement:

- ITRS implementation (Panama)

• The use of datawarehouse software to access a large volume of high-frequency ITRS data has allowed the development of a solid business register and the improvement of sample methods and surveys (Brasil)⁵



28: What are the problems that you were able to solve in the past few years and experience which you could share with other countries

Methodological issues:

- **BPM5 implementation (Guatemala), EBOPS (Jamaica)**
- **Improvements in coverage and data sources, specially through satellite accounts and/or specialized surveys (Argentina, Chile, Ecuador)**
- **Estimates Harmonization between SNA and Balance of Payments (Ven.)**
- **Mistakes in classification and discrepancies among data sources were solved based on requests to enterprises**
- **FATS data collection (Trinidad & Tabago)**
- **Data by partner countries (Brasil, Chile)**



Claudia de Camino
División de Estadística y Proyecciones
Económicas



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