

International Workshop on Supply and Use tables

11-13 September 2018, Beijing, China

Draft Concept Note

Background

Supply and Use Tables (SUTs) are an integral part of the System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA). They describe how supplies of different kinds of goods and services originate from domestic industries and imports, how those supplies are allocated between various intermediate or final uses, including exports and how value added by industries are generated.

SUTs provide a rigorous statistical framework for the derivation of a single estimate of GDP based on the production, income and expenditure approach as they bring together into a single framework the components of the production approach (i.e. output and intermediate consumption), income approach (i.e. compensation of employees, gross operating surplus), and expenditure approach (e.g. final consumption expenditure, gross capital formation, imports and exports). When SUTs are linked with the institutional sector accounts through common statistical units, they further ensure the overall quality, consistency and coherency of the national accounts. By confronting data from different sources, SUTs allow for more exhaustive measures of economic activities including, for example, better measurements of the informal sector. SUTs provide benchmarks which represent the contemporary economy, setting the foundation for the ongoing production of fit-for-purpose national accounts estimates in nominal and volume measures.

The benefits of compiling SUTs, however, are not only statistical – e.g. the improvement of the national accounts and the basic information system, but also analytical. In their analytical application, SUTs, allow for growth and productivity analysis of industries at a detailed level of disaggregation, by foreign and domestic ownership, size and trade characteristics. In addition, they can be easily extended to study specific areas of interest, such as, for example, the interactions between the economy and the environment by extending SUTs to environmental aspects, or labour analysis by linking SUTs to labour statistics. In addition to more standard economic, environmental, impact and policy analysis (such as on export shares, import penetration, concentration ratios, links between prices and costs, etc.), SUTs provide the basis for the understanding of the interconnected links of today's global economy and, in particular, the understanding of Trade in Value Added (TiVA) related to the vertical integration of cross border production arrangements in Global Value Chains (GVC).

Although SUTs are useful for improving the quality and analytical use of national accounts there are several challenges to address. These include the need for more detail classification of products and industries for GVC analysis, improving the timeliness of releasing SUTs, automation of procedures (software and more automated procedures for balancing) and the development of additional sources, both through surveys, administrative data and Big Data.

Objectives and organization of the Workshop

The workshop is jointly organized by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the National Bureau of Statistics of China (NBS) hosted by NBS. It will take place from 10 to 14 September 2018 in China.

The Workshop will bring together experts in charge of supply and use tables or national accounts from the national statistical offices of the Asia Pacific countries. Experts from regional and international organizations and from selected statistical offices will also be invited to participate as resource persons.

The objectives of the Workshop are to increase the capacity of participating countries in the compilation, dissemination and policy applications of SUTs, share experience and challenges they face in the compilation of SUTs and suggest good practices and areas for improvements.

Building on the extensive capacity building work done by ADB and OECD in SUT and TiVA in most countries in the Asia and Pacific region the workshop will cover more practical compilation rather than conceptual issues. Furthermore, the workshop will also explore the use of new technologies and tool kits to allow countries and contributing agencies to continue sharing their practices after the workshop. It is expected that the workshop will also incorporate the GVC SUT framework and integrated business statistics through the profiling of MNEs and lead companies of GVCs and building the GVC statistical backbone of core and supporting functions in the SUT.

The workshop will cover the following topics

- Brief Introduction of analytical and statistical usefulness of SUT
- Compilation and dissemination of SUTs in line with the 2008 SNA
 - Statistical unit, Classifications, data sources, specific questionnaires
 - Detailed Compilation methods and balancing techniques (current prices);
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 - Country Experiences
- IT tools for the compilation of SUTs;
- Specific methodological and measurement issues (e.g. trade margins, prices used in SUTs, linking to institutional sector accounts);
- Strategy for implementation;
- Transforming SUTs into IOTs.