



Emerging data needs: an OECD perspective

Annabelle Mourougane

Head of Trade and Productivity Statistics

Statistics and Data Directorate



@OECD_Stat



OECD Statistics



www.oecd.org/sdd



www.stats.oecd.org



Overview

Growing demand to

1. Fill in information gaps
2. Improve the timeliness of data
3. Get more granular data
4. Help undertake multidimensional analyses





Data gaps

Information gaps on 'basic' data (e.g. services trade deflators, bilateral trade flows)

Information gaps from 'new' issues (e.g. digitalisation)

→ Revised version of the Handbook on measuring digital trade together with the IMF, WTO and UNCTAD



Timeliness

The COVID crisis has underlined the need for more timely data.

The OECD is engaging in a number of nowcasting exercises using machine-learning techniques together with more traditional approaches.

→ Complement rather than a substitute, but a necessary complement to inform policymaking



Granularity

More granularity helps to better target policy.

Example of the productivity debate.

Reflecting this, the OECD is using more and more micro-data
→ Having a unique firm identifier is going to simplify matters.

Tension between granularity and timeliness



Multidimensional analysis

Policy domains are closely interrelated.

Need to make some adjustment to official data to get a fuller picture (e.g. sustainable productivity with adjustment for dimensions that are not yet covered and adjustment for 'bad' output and natural resource depletion)

Policy making is heading toward a more nuanced assessment of the economy and requires more complex data.

→ Need involvement of statisticians to ensure that analyses continue to rely on high-quality data.



Thank you

 @OECD_Stat  OECD Statistics  www.oecd.org/sdd  www.stats.oecd.org