

## Directory of statistical services of international organisations



<p><b>Brief description of the organisation<sup>1</sup></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The World Trade Organization's (WTO) primary purpose is to open trade for the benefit of all. The WTO provides a forum for negotiating agreements aimed at reducing obstacles to international trade and ensuring a level playing field for all, thus contributing to economic growth and development. The WTO also provides a legal and institutional framework for the implementation and monitoring of these agreements, as well as for settling disputes arising from their interpretation and application. It was established in 1995 and is situated in Geneva (Switzerland).</li> <li>• WTO's Statistics Group of the Economic Research and Statistics Division provides the organization's principal statistical services.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mission<sup>2</sup></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The WTO Statistics Group provides assistance to member governments and the Secretariat in all statistical activities that are carried out by the Organisation, comprising: the provision of quantitative information related to economic and trade policy issues; the development and maintenance of databases; international cooperation in the field of trade statistics; the production of annual time series released online and as publications, e.g. the "WTO International Trade Statistics", Trade and Tariff Profiles, etc.; the maintenance, development and provision of technical assistance.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Fields of Activity/ structure</b></p> <p><i>Statistics</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The WTO Statistics Group provides statistical services for Members and the Secretariat, and actively contributes to the development of a consistent, internationally-recognized set of up-to-date international trade statistics and tariff information.</li> <li>• The WTO supports actively ongoing efforts to improve coordination in data collection and dissemination through the inter-agency Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (TF IMTS) and other bodies.</li> <li>• Coordinates the inter-agency MDG-Trade group of Geneva (ITC/UNCTAD/WTO) that monitors market access conditions for developing and least-developed countries and produces corresponding MDG indicators. The work focuses on improving the measurement and interpretation of related MDG indicators (<a href="http://www.mdg-trade.org">http://www.mdg-trade.org</a>). Collects primary tariffs and tariff related imports from national compilers; and actively cooperates with UNCTAD and the International Trade Centre (ITC) to enhance the exchange of tariff information through a Common Analytical Market Access database</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Description of the statistics section/department in the organization

<sup>2</sup> Mission of the statistics section/department of the organization

	<p>(CAMAD) combining information on tariffs and imports at the tariff line level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active participation in the work of the inter-agency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services with particular emphasis on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ revising the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services</li> <li>▪ developing compilation guidance</li> <li>▪ assisting in statistical capacity building, and</li> <li>▪ developing statistical concepts and related statistics on the movement of natural persons</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Joint Session with the inter-agency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services to identify and discuss cross-cutting issues of trade in goods and services (conceptual and definitional). Co-operation with the Working Group on the Impact of Globalization on National Accounts.</li> <li>• Analysis of gross trade flows by value-added.</li> <li>• The WTO Statistics Group is organised in three Sections: The International Trade Statistics Section, the Integrated Data Base Section (tariff information) and System Development and Production Section.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mandate</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "The responsibility of the WTO Secretariat (including, Statistics Group) is to provide a high-quality, independent support to WTO member governments on all of the activities that are carried out by the Organisation, and to serve the WTO with professionalism, impartiality and integrity. The Secretariat is a multicultural team of highly-qualified individuals who possess the wide range of skills, knowledge and experience required to handle the Secretariat's responsibilities and to work together as an efficient and diligent international civil service".</li> </ul>
<p><b>Statistical work programme</b></p>	<p><b>International trade statistics and tariff information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Trade flow and tariff statistics</li> <li>▪ Project on measuring trade by value-added using input/output tables</li> <li>▪ Other trade-related economic statistics</li> <li>▪ Publications and online databases</li> <li>▪ Combining UNIDO, FAO and WTO databases on production, trade and tariffs in the agribusiness sector to enhance analysis</li> <li>▪ Study on historical developments of tariffs.</li> </ul> <p><b>International co-operation (through inter-agency Task Forces)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Revision of the International Merchandise Statistics – Concepts and Definitions, IMTS, Rev.2 (with an Expert Group composed of national experts).</li> <li>▪ Maintaining the inter-agency Common Dataset (CDS) of aggregate merchandise trade values that includes officially reported data and reconciled data (UNSD, IMF, UNCTAD, OECD, Eurostat, WTO).</li> <li>▪ Improving the coverage, consistency, quality and timeliness of aggregate and detailed merchandise trade statistics</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide analysts, policy-makers and other users with easily accessible, analytically valuable data by maintaining an online, interactive database on the Task Force's website for the inter-agency Common Data Set (<a href="http://imts.wto.org/common_dataset_e.htm">http://imts.wto.org/common_dataset_e.htm</a>)</li> <li>▪ Finalizing draft individual chapters for the revision of the Manual focusing on the measurement of trade in services by modes of supply, in particular the mode 4 measurement.</li> </ul> <p><b>Technical co-operation</b> (mainly in tariffs and trade in services).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Carrying out statistical capacity building seminars (national and regional seminars).</li> </ul>
<b>Number of staff</b> <i>Total / Statistical division</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 30</li> </ul>
<b>Flagship Publications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ International Trade Statistics</li> <li>▪ Trade profiles</li> <li>▪ Tariff profiles</li> </ul>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/statis_e/statis_e.htm">http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/statis_e/statis_e.htm</a>

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