



POLICY ON USE AND RE-DISSEMINATION OF UN COMTRADE DATA (FEBRUARY 2014 REVISION)

In February 2014, UNSD released the revised policy on use and re-dissemination on UN Comtrade data. The revision of the policy was driven by inquiries and requests from data users to clarify the use and re-use of data through data visualisation and analytical application. The previous policy did not take into account the specificities of those applications as it was focused on re-dissemination of basic data records. Therefore, it did not properly cover the use and re-use of data within data visualisation/analytics applications as they do not necessarily show the basic trade figures.

The new policy waives the re-dissemination fee if the Comtrade data is used within free-of-charge (or not-for-profit) visualization and analytical applications. In addition, it also allows the re-dissemination through free-of-charge data extraction application (characterized by fully flexible query and strong data extraction capabilities) as long as the download limit per query does not exceed that of UN Comtrade. Read in detail the latest Policy on Use and Re-dissemination of UN Comtrade at <http://comtrade.un.org/db/help/PolicyOnUseAndRedissemination.pdf>

DISSEMINATION AND PUBLICATIONS

2013 INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS YEARBOOK

The 2013 International Trade Statistics Yearbook: Volume I – Trade by Country was released in June 2014. This is the sixty-second edition of the publication.

A new feature in the 2013 edition is that trade in services data has been included. Therefore, the content and format of the yearbook has been redesigned to take into account new addition of graphs, tables and analytic text. The yearbook offers detailed merchandise and services imports and exports data of individual countries or areas by commodity and service categories and by partner countries up to the year 2013. It is aimed at both specialist trade data users and common audience at large. We believe the presented data, charts and analyses will bene-

fit policy makers, government agencies, non-government organizations, civil society organizations, journalists, academics, researchers, students, businesses and anyone who is interested in trade issues.

The main content of the yearbook is divided into two parts: Part 1 and Part 2. Part 1 consists of two detailed world data tables on merchandise trade. One table presents total imports and exports by countries, areas and regions in a time series up to the latest year, the other table shows world merchandise exports by group of commodity and by provenance and destination in many smaller time series sub-tables. Part 2 contains the country trade profiles for most countries and

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All parts and tables of the Yearbook are available online:

[http://
comtrade.un.org/pb/](http://comtrade.un.org/pb/)



The analytical trade tables are published in the



[UN Monthly Bulletin of Statistics \(MBS\)](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/imts/analyticaltradetables.htm)

They are also available online at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/imts/analyticaltradetables.htm>

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areas in the world. The profiles offer an insight into the merchandise and services trade performance of individual countries and areas by means of brief descriptive text, concise data tables and charts using latest available data.

The yearbook is also made available online at UN Statistics Division publications repository (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs>).

The data used in the tables and graphs are taken from the publicly available UN Comtrade (<http://comtrade.un.org>) and UN Service Trade (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/servicetrade>) databases. Users are advised to visit these databases for additional and more current information as they are continuously updated.

COMTRADE LABS AND TEST OF NEW UN COMTRADE DATA EXTRACTION INTERFACE

In February 2014 Comtrade Labs (<http://comtrade.un.org/labs/>) and a new data extraction interface for UN Comtrade were released (<http://comtrade.un.org/data/>). Comtrade Labs is a place to showcase innovative uses of UN Comtrade data, especially visualizations and tools for mass data extraction. Visualizations include "Global Economic Dynamics" by the Bertelsmann Foundation, "The Observatory of Economic Complexity" by MIT and the "Interactive Graphic System of International Economic Trends" by ECLAC. At the same time we released a test version of the new UN Comtrade data

extraction interface. We are actively receiving feedback from users regarding the interface and continuously updating it to better serve users of UN Comtrade.

The new interface allows users to query annual and monthly trade statistics all in one place. It is also compatible with mobile phones, tablets and all modern browsers. The entire interface is built on our new public API. Over the next year we plan to release further features, including trade in services data, Excel export, SDMX export, visualizations with query results and more.

ANALYTICAL TRADE TABLES PUBLISHED IN THE MONTHLY BULLETIN OF STATISTICS

The following analytical tables on international merchandise trade statistics have been updated since the last issue of this newsletter. They are published in the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (MBS) and are also available online at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/imts/analyticaltradetables.htm>.

Table	Description	Latest data	Published
T 18	Fuel imports, developed economies: unit values, volume indices and value	1st quarter, 2014	June 2014
T 19	Indicators on fuel imports, developed economies	1st quarter, 2014	June 2014
T 35	Total imports and exports by regions and countries or areas	March 2014	June 2014
T 36	Total imports and exports: value, volume and unit value/price	March 2014	June 2014
T 37	Trade indices for countries in U.S. dollars	4th quarter 2013	April 2014
T 38	External trade conversion factors by countries	1st quarter, 2014	June 2014
T 39	Trade indices for regions in U.S. dollars	4th quarter 2013	May 2014
T 40	Manufactured goods exports: unit values, volume indices and value	1st quarter, 2014	June 2014

PUBLIC API FOR UN COMTRADE DATA

In June 2014 we released a public application programming interface (API) for all UN Comtrade data. This interface allows web programmers around the world to access UN Comtrade annual and monthly data freely for analysis and to create visualizations using standard interactive graphing tools. In time we hope this will lead to an ecosystem of applications combining UN Comtrade data with other data sources in novel ways. By releasing UN Comtrade data

in a machine readable format we have moved UN Comtrade closer to open data standards. Currently the API supports JSON and CSV exports and is documented at <http://comtrade.un.org/data/doc/api/>. We are striving to make the API easy to use, offering examples of how to make graphs (<http://jsfiddle.net/UNTradeStats/9hs2f/>) and analyse UN Comtrade data in R (<http://comtrade.un.org/data/doc/api/ex/r>).



BIG DATA

ESTABLISHMENT OF UN GLOBAL WORKING GROUP ON BIG DATA FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS

At its 45th session in March 2014, the Statistical Commission recognized the need to further investigate and share experiences on possible data sources, challenges and areas of use of Big Data for official statistics at the global level and supported, therefore, the creation of a global working group on the use of Big Data for official statistics to manage the globally relevant issues.

The Commission requested (see <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc14/2014-Report-E.pdf> for the exact text of Decision 45/110) that the global working group complement the work carried out by the regional commissions, such as the High-level Group for the Modernization of Statistical Production and Services coordinated by ECE, recent initiatives and events focused on the modernization of statistical organizations in the Asia-Pacific region organized in 2013 by ESCAP and SIAP, work done by sub-regional statistical forums such as SAARCSTAT and other international statistical agencies, such as activities in the framework of the European Statistical System (ESS).

The Commission requested that the global working group pay special attention to the

circumstances of developing countries, in particular to the capacity constraints of Least Developed Countries.

Based on Decision 45/110, the mandate of the working group is formulated as follows:

- a) Provide strategic vision, direction and coordination of a global programme on Big Data for official statistics;
- b) Promote practical use of sources of Big Data for official statistics, while building on the existing precedents in Big Data and finding solutions for:
 - i. Methodological issues, covering quality concerns and data analytics;
 - ii. Legal issues of access to data sources;
 - iii. Privacy issues, in particular those relevant to the use and reuse of data, data linking and re-identification
 - iv. Security and management of data, including assessment of cloud computing and storage;
 - v. IT/technological expertise, including cost benefit analysis;
- c) Promote capacity building, training and sharing of experience;

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- d) Foster communication and advocacy of use of Big Data for policy applications;
- e) Build public trust in the use of private sector Big Data for official statistics including issues of confidentiality and privacy.

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON BIG DATA FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS AND DECISION MAKING 16-17 JUNE 2014, MEXICO CITY

Mr. Ronald Jansen, Chief of the Trade Statistics Branch of UNSD, gave a keynote speech during the opening session of the international seminar on the topic of "Big Data and Official Statistics" in Mexico City, 16-17 June 2014. He highlighted the sources, characteristics and benefits of Big Data, and its potential use for official statistics. Current applications of Big Data which show a lot of promise are mobile phone positioning data for application in tourism statistics, supermarket scanner data for price statistics, vehicle sensor data for transport statistics, Twitter data for consumer confidence indicators, and satellite

imagery for agriculture statistics. One of the most important ways forward is building strong partnerships (at the national level) among government, private sector and academia/research institutes. The presenters, as well as the audience, at this meeting consisted of representatives of private sector, academia and the government. The meeting was divided into three sessions on Big Data sources, technologies for analysing Big Data, and applications of Big Data. It was organized by INEGI (the national statistical office of Mexico), INFOTEC, a public research institute, and CIDE, a centre of research and higher education.

WORKSHOP ON USING BIG DATA FOR FORECASTING AND STATISTICS FRANKFURT, GERMANY, 7-8 APRIL 2014

The Chief of the International Trade in Services Statistics Section participated at the Workshop on Using Big Data for Forecasting and Statistics organized by the European Central Bank which was attended also by representatives of central banks, national statistical offices and academia. The keynote addresses were delivered by the chief economist of Google and a professor from the Massachusetts Institute for Technology. The first day of the workshop provided an opportunity for central banks and national statistical offices to present their experiences and to discuss the big data as new

sources and opportunities for statistics, as well as the methods and modelling of big data. The second day was devoted to the application of the current methodology for forecasting. Many of the discussions centered around the quality framework of big data. The workshop concluded with a very interesting debate on the challenges and opportunities of big data initiatives for central bankers. The UNSD representative held discussions with the representative of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and representatives from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries.

To learn more about upcoming IMTS workshops, please visit:

[http://
unstats.un.org/
unsd/trade/](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/)



INTERNATIONAL TRADE & GLOBALIZATION

PREPARATION OF THE CONCEPT PAPER ON THE MEASUREMENT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION

At the 45th session of UN Statistical Commission in March 2014, the report on the measurement of international trade and economic globalization (see <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc14/2014-7-Trade-E.pdf>) was deliberated, and the Statistical Commission congratulated the Friends of the Chair (FOC) group for its work accomplished so far.

The importance of obtaining more clarity in the complex measurement issues of cross-border economic relations, as well as some of its social and environmental aspects was emphasized during the discussion. Fur-

thermore, the Statistical Commission requested FOC to continue its work in the preparation of the concept paper on the measurement of international trade and economic globalization.

FOC is requested to pay special attention to issues such as discrepancies in mirror statistics, institutional arrangements among data-compiling agencies, the legal aspects of sharing microdata, the complexities of obtaining information on the activities of multinational enterprises, the informal cross-border trade, the role of small and medium-sized enterprises, the data sources for global input-

output tables, the importance and peculiarities of measuring intraregional trade and the relation of this work to the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Assistance for Least Developed Countries. It is expected that FOC to submit a report, including the conceptual framework, programme of work and coordination mechanism, to the Statistical Commission for consideration at its 46th session in 2015.

For further information, see Decision 45/106 at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc14/2014-Report-E.pdf>



CONFERENCE ON MODERNIZATION OF EUROPEAN ENTERPRISE AND TRADE STATISTICS (MEETS)

LUXEMBOURG, 25-26 JUNE 2014

The Chief of the Trade Statistics Branch of UNSD participated in this international conference, which highlighted the achievements of the MEETS programme. This European Union programme, which started in 2008, covered 8 projects with each three or more so-called Work Packages (WP). Six to eight EU member countries would work for about 3 years on each of these WPs. The output (presented at this conference) can be found at the CROS-Portal of Eurostat (see <http://www.cros-portal.eu/content/meets-essnet-projects>). The Chief Statistician of the EU (Mr. Walter Radermacher) congratulated the members on the work achieved so far, but emphasized the need to bring the results into practice, while at the same

time merging better the macro- (national accounts) and micro- (basic economic) statistics. The results of MEETS are strongly related to the work of the UN Friends of the Chair group on the measurement of Trade and Globalization, and the UNSD representative met with some European members of the FOC group to discuss the impact of the MEETS results.

WCO COUNCIL MEETING BRUSSELS, 26-27 JUNE 2014

The Chief of the Trade Statistics Branch of UNSD delivered a statement at the 124th session of the WCO Council meeting on 27 June 2014. This meeting is attended by all heads of national Customs administrations. The statement was delivered on behalf of UNSD and the inter-agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics, which consists – among others – of WTO, OECD, FAO, Eurostat, UNCTAD, IMF and the WCO. The UNSD representative congratulated WCO's HS Committee with the important work accomplished over the last year and recalled the long-standing cooperation between Customs administrations and Trade Statistics. He then announced that the Task Force in close cooperation with the WCO secretariat will organize two events in 2015 on the theme of "Customs and Statistics", which reinforce and promote the cooperation between Customs and the community of official statistics. The first event will take place in Dakar in May 2015 during the WCO IT Conference and the second event will take place during the HS Committee meeting in September 2015.

REGIONAL SEMINAR ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS: IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 12-16 MAY 2014

The African Union Commission (AUC) and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) organized a joint Regional Seminar on International Trade Statistics in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) from 12 to 16 May 2014 at the AUC Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

This seminar brought together national experts in the compilation of international merchandise trade statistics (IMTS), statistics of international trade in services (SITS), and the goods and services accounts of the balance of payments. The agenda intended to stimulate hands-on discussion and focused on the status

and, in particular, the challenges encountered in the implementation of the international recommendations in these fields. The seminar also introduced the integrated economic statistics perspective to participants, which could lead to a more effective way of organizing the economic statistics process.

A specific item on the agenda was the report on the IMTS quality assessment and informal cross border trade questionnaires. Other topics included bridging IMTS and BOP, informal cross border trade, linking trade and the business register, FDI and FATS, and data dissemination. This joint activity was an important component in the overall effort to improve evi-

dence-based policy making in Africa.

The seminar was attended by representatives and experts from Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia (North Africa), Ghana, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Benin, Mali and Nigeria (West Africa), Cameroun, Congo, and Equatorial Guinea (Central Africa), Rwanda, Eritrea and Ethiopia (East Africa), Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe (Southern Africa), as well as, from various organizations (COMESA, SACU, ECOWAS, UEMOA, UNECA, and BCEAO). The materials and conclusions of the meeting are accessible from the seminar website at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/events/2014/addis2014.asp>

AFRICAN IMTS QUALITY ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

In preparation for the Regional Seminar on International Trade Statistics that was organized in cooperation with the African Union Commission (AUC) in Addis Ababa 12-16 May 2014, an online survey on the National Compilation Practices of International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) in Africa was conducted. This questionnaire referred to the internationally endorsed recommendations of International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) contained in the IMTS 2010, Concepts and Definitions, manual (see <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/methodology%20IMTS.htm>).

The purpose of the survey was to obtain an overview of the status of IMTS by comparing the existing national compilation practice against those recommendations. The questions covered practices and circumstances, and were organized according to the national quality assurance framework, which was recently endorsed

for use by the Statistical Commission (see <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/QualityNQAF/nqaf.aspx>)

A total of 37 responses were received (23 in French, 14 in English). Among the 37 responses, the survey was completed by 33 National Statistical Offices, by 2 Customs administration and 2 by Central Banks. Some of the main findings of the assessment:

- ◆ Customs declarations are the main source for all but one country, but other sources such as surveys are also important. Around one third of countries use enterprise surveys to complement customs records.
- ◆ Half of countries have conducted bilateral or multilateral reconciliation studies. Countries have performed reconciliation studies within regions. This indicates that countries are more likely destined to conduct reconciliation studies with their neighboring countries

rather with their major trading partners.

- ◆ Besides outright exports and imports for home use, other trade flows are important for measuring economic globalization. However, re-export is the only trade flow that is included by most countries. Only around one third of countries include the other trade flows. The fact that so many countries do not have yet breakdown of extended trade flows would be a limitation to the development of indicators of economic globalization such as trade in value added.
- ◆ Only a few countries provide both origin and consignment for imports (new recommendation in IMTS 2010), which is important for internationally comparable partner data for analytical purposes as well as for trade reconciliation studies.

MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE ON INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR STATISTICAL BUSINESS REGISTERS

Members of the Task Force on International Guidelines for Statistical Business Registers (TFSBR) met in Luxembourg on 28 April 2014 as part of the drafting process of the International Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers. Participants took stock of the editor's comments and suggestions, and discussed further improvements to the various chapters of the draft.

The International Guidelines for Statistical Business Registers (SBR) aim not simply at repeating materials from other manuals, but to provide practical recommendations that are applicable to a wide audience, includ-

ing countries outside of the European Union and countries that do not yet have developed business registers. Also, they will be aligned to the existing international statistical standards, including the definitions of units from the System of National Accounts and the International Standard Industrial Classification.

The guidelines will emphasize the role of SBR in the statistical system as the backbone for the production of integrated statistics, and provide practical guidance on how to build and maintain business registers from the ground up. It will include conceptual chapters on the different roles

that the SBR has to play within national statistical systems, the coverage of the SBR, and the definition of units of the SBR and their characteristics. It will also cover chapters on data sources, maintenance strategies, survey frame methodology, quality, and dissemination. A final chapter will provide guidance on how to establish a SBR.

During the meeting, participants discussed cross-cutting issues such as entrepreneurship indicators, modernization of statistical production and services, environmental accounting and sustainable indicators, and dissemination strategies.

SECOND FACE-TO-FACE MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN SDMX IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK FOR IMTS

From 29 to 30 April, UNSD chaired the second face-to-face meeting of the working group for the development of an SDMX implementation framework for International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS), which was hosted by Eurostat in Luxembourg. OECD also attended the meeting.

The SDMX concept scheme for IMTS is intended to support data flows related to (1) data exchange between international organizations, (2) data collection from national data providers to international organizations, and (3) data dissemination, according to the latest recommendations from the manual on "International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Con-

cepts and Definitions" (IMTS 2010).

Therefore, it will support different commodity classifications and versions, and allow for country-specific breakdown of commodity codes. Moreover, the working group is focusing on keeping the SDMX implementation for IMTS aligned as much as possible to the recently released data structure definitions for Balance of Payments and National Accounts, for instance, with respect to code lists for geographic areas.

During the meeting, agreement was reached on various conceptual issues, including: (1) handling of confidentiality of partner areas and commodities; (2) handling of country-

specific commodity breakdowns; (3) inclusion of new dimensions/attributes. Also, draft code lists for all dimensions relevant to IMTS were reviewed, and agreements were reached on the timeline harmonizing codes across all the organizations involved.

The meeting concluded with agreements on the communication strategy to ensure that a consistent message is conveyed to countries during the upcoming consultation phase, which will include a content-review of the initial proposal by country experts from different regions, as well as the design of a pilot implementation to test the draft proposal in the field.

ADVISORY MISSION OF UNSD TO THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM OF SOUTH AFRICA PRETORIA, 3-5 FEBRUARY 2014

The South African Revenue Service (SARS), as the responsible agency for the compilation and dissemination of international merchandise trade statistics (IMTS) in South Africa, announced recently changes in data coverage (inclusion of Botswana,

Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland) and treatment of data compilation. In this context, SARS approached UNSD to conduct a technical review on the proposed changes and advise them

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on related quality issues. Responding to this request, UNSD organized a technical visit, involving not only SARS, but also the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) and Statistics South Africa (SSA) on 3-5 February 2014. The main agenda included a

review of proposed changes and their implications for Balance of Payments and National Accounts (BOP/NA). The opportunity was taken to review the adjustments of IMTS data for BOP/NA purposes, such as CIF-FOB adjustment and the recording of gold exports. Also the linking of trade and

business statistics via use of business register was discussed. The 2nd day of the meeting brought all stakeholders together at the premises of SARB and was attended by officials from SARS, SARB, SSA and the National Treasury.

ICT GOODS CONVERSION FROM HS 2007 TO HS 2012

The Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development (the Partnership) is a multi-stakeholder initiative which promotes the measurement of the information society at the international level, and is aimed at improving the availability and quality of internationally comparable ICT statistics. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is a founding member of the Partnership, focusing on measuring the information economy. UNCTAD, among other things, is responsible for the collection of the two Partnership Core Indicators on trade in ICT goods: the proportion of ICT goods in total exports and total imports by country.

With the adoption of HS 2012 as of 1

January 2012, the definition of ICT goods needed to be updated to account for the latest HS edition. UNCTAD requested the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) to establish the exact correspondence between HS 2007 and HS 2012 ICT goods subheadings. The correspondence table would cover all five categories of ICT goods: a) electronic components, b) computers and peripheral equipment, c) communication equipment, d) consumer electronic equipment, e) miscellaneous. The main goal was to update the ICT goods definition of the Partnership from HS 2007 to HS 2012 and to minimize the impact of converted data. The HS 2007 definition of ICT

goods from the Partnership Core Indicators 2010 (http://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/ind/D-IND-ICT_CORE-2010-PDF-E.pdf) was used together with the UNSD correlation table between HS 2007 and HS 2012 (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/conversions/HS%20Correlation%20and%20Conversion%20tables.htm>). Correlation tables specify how subheadings in a given HS edition will be converted into subheadings of a different HS edition.

The result of this exercise conducted by the Trade Statistics Branch of UNSD is available from UNCTAD website.

TRADE IN SERVICES

SADC WORKSHOP ON STATISTICS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN SERVICES GABORONE, BOTSWANA, 28-31 JANUARY 2014

In 2014, WTO Secretariat and SADC initiated a 2-year work program on the improvement of statistical capacity on statistics of trade in services in SADC member countries (Angola, Botswana, Dem. Rep. of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe). WTO and SADC organize 4-day meeting in Gaborone, Botswana from 28 to 31 January 2014 and invited the other members of Task Force on International Trade Statistics to contribute and participate in order to kick start this project.

Around 60 statisticians from National Statistical Offices and Central Banks and trade negotiators from the Ministry of Trade of the 14 SADC member states participated. The

increased demand for timely and high quality statistics on trade in services in SADC region is driven by trade negotiations in different fora, such as SADC Trade in Services Protocol, EU-SADC Economic Partnership Agreement, and Tri-Partite (EAC, COMESA, SADC) Phase Two Agreement. The agenda of the workshop focused on six priority services sectors: communication, construction, energy-related, financial, tourism and transport, as required by the SADC Trade in Services Protocol.

UNSD recognizes the importance of trade statistics capacity development activities in Africa within the broad framework of implementation of SNA 2008 and integrated economic statistics. In this regard, UNSD contributed in the

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meeting in the following agenda items:

- ◆ Compiler's Guide and UN Expert Group on SITS 2010; Main data collection tools
- ◆ Transportation and Energy-related services; Main concepts and definitions, collection and compilation practice
- ◆ Construction services; Main concepts and definitions, collection and compilation practices

STATUS OF DATA COLLECTION IN UN SERVICE TRADE DATABASE

The 2012 data collection cycle was launched in July 2013. The table below indicates the summary of data collection for this cycle, indicating the reception of the international trade in services data by EBOPS (or main BOP) categories that are received directly either from the national statistical office or the central bank as well as from our partners with whom UNSD shares the data collection to reduce burden on reporting economies.

As of 25 June 2014, UNSD has collected data from 152 reporting countries or areas:

	2011 data	2012 data
Total datasets submitted by NSOs or central banks (new or revised)	89	83
Additional datasets received from partners (Eurostat, OECD, etc)	31	30
Datasets that were obtained from other sources (NSOs on-line, IMF, etc.)	32	31
Datasets that can be obtained from other sources but are not yet available	7	pending
Datasets that were received in last year's data collection but have not yet been submitted	11	na

The database is available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/servicetrade/default.aspx>

TOURISM ISSUES

12TH GLOBAL FORUM ON TOURISM STATISTICS PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC, 15-16 MAY 2014

This 12th Global Forum on Tourism Statistics was organized by OECD and Eurostat with the support of the UN World Tourism Organization. It brought together about 200 producers and users of tourism statistics. The forum was opened by the Czech Minister of Regional Development and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. A keynote address was given by Martine Durand, Chief Statistician of the OECD, on the value added of the Tourism Industry. Main themes of the Forum were (1) using Big Data for Tourism statistics (including the

use of mobile phone positioning data, to which a workshop was devoted on the preceding Wednesday 14 May in the afternoon), (2) using Business Registers for Tourism statistics, (3) measuring the Tourism labour market, and (4) Competitiveness and Sustainability of Tourism. The UNSD Chief of Trade and Tourism Statistics attended the Forum and connected with key players in the fields of Big Data and Tourism Statistics, as well as on measurement of Sustainable Tourism.

All previous newsletters are available online at:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/newsletter.htm>

STRENGTHENING STATISTICAL CAPACITY FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND TOURISM LUNCHTIME SEMINAR DURING THE 45TH STATISTICAL COMMISSION, NEW YORK, 5 MARCH 2014

At the Ninth Ministerial Conference, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 7 December 2013, ministers adopted the “Bali Package”, a series of decisions aimed at streamlining trade, allowing developing countries more options for providing food security, boosting least-developed countries’ trade and helping development more generally. It will reduce the cost of trading, smooth the flow of goods across borders and provide more certainty for business. Least developed countries will also benefit from increased access to markets for goods and services in developed countries. At the same time, EU-US trade and investment negotiations have made steady progress in the past months.

Within this context, high quality and timely official statistics on international trade and tourism remain extreme-

ly important. As a collaborative effort, several international organizations (Eurostat, IMF, OECD, WTO, UNWTO, and UNSD) presented their views and outlined their efforts to strengthen the capacity of the national statistical systems, especially in the developing countries, at a lunchtime seminar during the 45th Statistical Commission. The just completed draft Compilers guides for statistics of international trade in services and for tourism statistics were briefly introduced, and explanation was given on the outstanding work on compilation guidance. Reference was also made to the Compilation Guide for BPM6 and the Compilers manual for IMTS 2010.

Moreover, the agencies reported on recent and upcoming technical cooperation and capacity-building programs, such as Eurostat’s MEDSTAT

seminars; WTO’s efforts on trade in services; UNWTO’s capacity building programme for Tourism statistics; IMF’s technical assistance programmes and UNSD’s capacity-building seminars on trade and tourism statistics. In many cases, the international agencies as well as experts from advanced statistical offices join forces in the capacity development activities.

This lunch seminar was chaired by Mr. Ronald Jansen (United Nations Statistics Division) and the panellists were Ms. Marie Bohatá (Eurostat), Mr. Robert Heath (International Monetary Fund), Mr. Hubert Escaith (World Trade Organization), Mr. Paul Schreyer (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) and Mr. Oliver Herrmann (World Tourism Organization).

FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE UNWTO COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS AND TOURISM SATELLITE ACCOUNT MADRID, SPAIN , 14 - 15 JANUARY 2014

The fourteenth meeting of the UN World Tourism Organization Committee (UNWTO) on Statistics and Tourism Satellite Accounts took place on 14 - 15 January 2014 at the UNWTO Headquarters in Madrid, Spain, with the participation of representatives of 19 countries, 6 affiliate member organizations and 6 institutions and international organizations. The Committee this year focused mainly on

the updated version of the International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics 2008 (IRTS 2008) Compilation Guide but discussed also other, current issues in tourism statistics and Tourism Satellite Account. After discussion the Committee supported that the draft Compilers Guide would be submitted to the UN Statistical Commission and agreed with the report to the Commission drafted by

UNWTO. The Chief of the International Trade in Services Section represented UNSD at the meeting and made three presentations on the IRTS 2008 Compilation Guide’s new Chapter on metadata, quality assessment and dissemination; on the draft of the Manual on Statistics on International Trade in Services 2010 (MSITS 2010) Compilers Guide and on the UN Statistical Commission.

EDITORIAL NOTE

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