



International Trade Statistics

Newsletter

THE COMPILERS GUIDE FOR MSITS 2010 HAS BEEN FINALIZED

The Compilers Guide for MSITS 2010 was developed under guidance from the Inter-agency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services (TF-SITS) with strong support by the UN Expert Group on compilation of SITS, as mandated by the United Nations Statistical Commission. This whole process itself was organized by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

Already in the beginning of the process, national statistical agencies, national central banks, international and regional organizations were consulted on the annotated outline of the Compilers Guide through world-wide consultation. Based on this consultation, initial drafts of each chapter were produced and reviewed during four consecutive virtual meetings in 2012 and early 2013, involving an extended Expert Group, and one face-to-face meeting of the actual UN Expert Group in June 2013. In addition to those meetings the Task Force also met separately on the development of the guide in meetings in 2012, 2013 and 2014. The consultation, reviews, and virtual and in-person meetings were coordinated by

UNSD, OECD and WTO. The process benefited immensely from the advice (and country examples) received during the various meetings.

The Guide serves the purpose of harmonizing and improving the ways in which statisticians at the national level collect, compile and disseminate trade in services statistics. While the international standards in economic statistics are in the process of being implemented, this Guide comes timely, providing the statistical community with guidelines, best practices, case studies, and practical advice on the compilation of the trade in services statistics. These statistics consist of transactions between residents and non-residents in services classified by the Extended Balance of Payments Services (EBOPS) categories and by the country of residency; they also include foreign affiliates statistics (FATS) and statistics on modes of supply. The overarching aim of this Guide is to increase the availability and quality of these statistics in order to fulfil the urgent needs and demands for such data by policy makers, researchers, market analysts and the public in general.

GLOBAL CONSULTATION ON THE 5TH REVISION OF THE CLASSIFICATION BY BROAD ECONOMIC CATEGORIES

At its biennial meeting in May 2011 in New York, the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications agreed to establish a technical subgroup for the revision of the Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC). The terms of reference of this group stipulated that

it should improve the fourth edition of the BEC by re-defining the BEC structure to better reflect current economic reality and by extending its scope, including services as well as goods, while giving extra attention to the definition of products for intermediate consumption. This process was supported by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its meeting in 2012.

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All parts and tables of the Yearbook are available online:

<http://comtrade.un.org/pb/>



The analytical trade tables are published in the



UN Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (MBS)

They are also available online at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/data/tables.asp>

METHODOLOGY

SECOND MEETING OF THE FOC ON TRADE AND GLOBALIZATION AGUASCALIENTES, MEXICO, 2 OCTOBER 2014

The second meeting of the Friends of the Chair (FOC) group took place in Aguascalientes on 2 October 2014 and was preceded by a 3-day International Conference on the Measurement of International Trade and Economic Globalization. Immediately after this conference the FOC group convened and built on the outcomes of the international conference. The group was in agreement that the medium term programme of work should have a focus on (i) Drafting a handbook on a system of extended international and global accounts; (ii)

Promoting and advancing the creation of a global enterprise group register; (iii) Improving the measurement of firm heterogeneity for GVC purposes; (iv) Addressing asymmetries in bilateral trade and investment; (v) Mainstreaming the development of recurrent global SUTs and IOT, building on work done by OECD, to expand the coverage of the OECD-WTO TiVA database.

Unedited version of the report to the Statistical Commission is available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc15/2015-12-TradeStats.pdf>

FIRST MEETING OF THE UN GLOBAL WORKING GROUP ON BIG DATA BEIJING, CHINA, 31 OCTOBER 2014

The UN Global Working Group (GWG) on Big Data for official statistics was established in March 2014 by the UN Statistical Commission and met in person for the first time in Beijing on 31 October 2014. The Australian Bureau of Statistics chairs the GWG, which otherwise consists of about 30 members from national and international organizations. This meeting built on the preceding Conference and started by recapitulating its outcomes. The main topics of discussion were the Terms of Reference of the GWG and the work programme for the coming year. Seven broad issues of work were identified, namely use of mobile phone data,

use of satellite imagery, data access and partnerships, communication and advocacy, linking Big Data to the SDGs, training, skills and capacity building, and finally cross-cutting issues, classifications and taxonomy. The GWG will report on its work to the Commission for its upcoming 46th session in March 2015. UAE offered to host the next Global Conference on Big Data and 2nd GWG meeting in October 2015.

Unedited version of the report to the Statistical Commission is available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc15/2015-4-BigData.pdf>

PARTICIPATION OF UNSD IN THE UNECE/HLG BIG DATA TASK TEAMS

Recognising the importance and the potential use of big data for official statistics, UNSD has participated in the UNECE Big data task teams on quality, privacy, partnership and sandbox in the second semester of 2014. The task teams brought together national statisticians, methodologist, IT experts from the statistical community with the main aim to discuss how to move forward on big data sources. The tasks team on quality and privacy focused on providing guidelines for national compilers in various methodological issues concerning the use

of big data. The partnership task team tried to resolve common challenges regarding access to data and establishing a partnership with other stakeholders. Finally, the sandbox task team explores new emerging technologies that are relevant to collect, process and manage big data.

The quality task team assessed several existing quality frameworks for official statistics with respect to their applicability to big data. The team concluded that extensions to existing quality frameworks were



needed to encompass the particular aspects of the quality of Big Data. Therefore, a Big Data quality framework was developed, building on dimensions and concepts of existing frameworks and providing a structured view of quality at three phases of the business process: input, throughput and output. The new framework is using a hierarchical structure composed of three hyper-dimensions with quality dimensions nested within each hyper-dimension (source, metadata and data). The task team has recommended some principles as well as quality dimensions, in a forthcoming report titled “a Suggested Framework for the Quality of Big Data”, that would be useful for an NSO to evaluate Big Data sources and products.

The task team on privacy prepared a report that highlighted privacy aspects relevant to Big Data sources. The report provides an overview of existing tools for risk management in view of privacy issues. It describes specific characteristics of big data such as volume, velocity, variety and veracity, and how those characteristics translate into risk

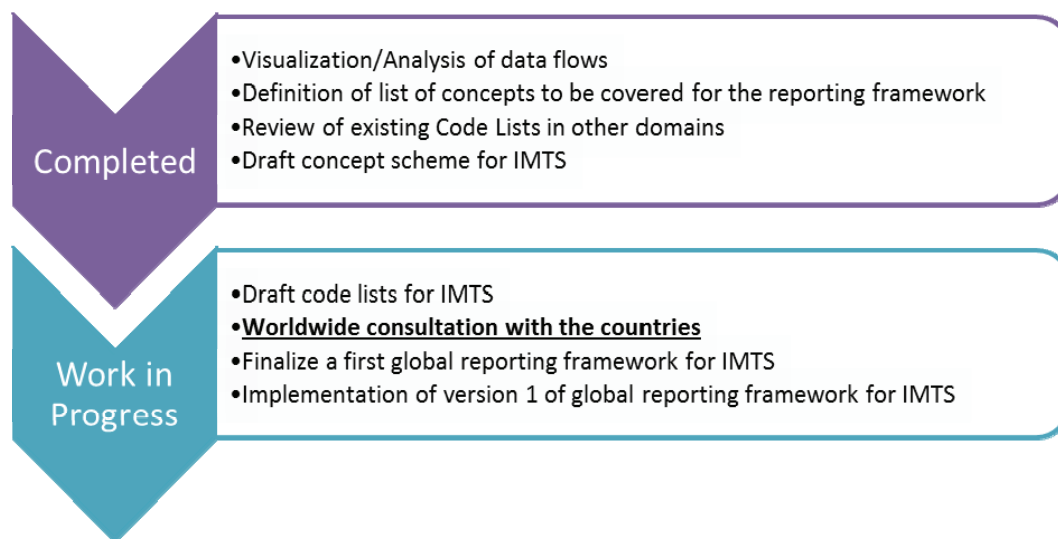
of disclosure. Finally the report provides recommendations for NSOs on the management of privacy risks related to Big Data. These recommendations touch upon areas such as monitoring database activity, security of IT systems, data encryptions, balancing data utility and disclosure risk, accountability, and informed consent, among many others.

The task team on partnership conducted a survey to provide an overview of active Big Data projects and to identify lessons learned and good practices when it comes to establishing partnership. Building on the responses to the survey, the task team prepared a report titled: “Guidelines for the establishment and use of partnership in Big Data projects for Official Statistics”, which will be finalized in the beginning of 2015. The report reviews common issues for different types of partners such as financial and contractual arrangements, legislative, privacy and confidentiality issues, risks to be managed and responsibilities and ownership.

GLOBAL TRADE (IMTS) SDMX DATA STRUCTURE DEFINITION NOVEMBER 2014 UPDATE

In the second half of 2014, the working group on Trade SDMX (consists of UNSD, Eurostat, OECD, ITC and UNCTAD) has completed the analysis of existing data flows, has defined the concept scheme for the whole domain (total of 42 concepts) and has agreed to develop three separate Data Structure Definitions with only relevant concepts used. So far, the forty-two concepts

are classified into 26 dimensions and 16 attributes. The group is currently working for codification of concepts scheme, and followed by the worldwide consultation on the proposed data structure. The illustration below shows the completed tasks and work in progress until the implementation phase.



To learn more about upcoming IMTS workshops, please visit:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/events>

(Continued from page 1)

The technical sub-group held its first meeting (virtually) in May 2012 in which it agreed on some basic points, which worked out in the course of 2013 and the first half of 2014, namely:

- (1) The main purpose of the BEC is to present international trade in terms of the end-use categories of the SNA, namely intermediate and final consumption, and gross fixed capital formation;
- (2) Services should be added, and a goods-services dimension should be visible in BEC;
- (3) Important economic sectors should be visible in BEC;
- (4) Further distinctions should be included in the BEC, if possible, for
 - Primary versus processed,
 - Intermediate versus finished, and
 - Generic intermediates versus customized intermediates;
- (5) The BEC manual should
 - elaborate on the underlying principles of the BEC,
 - give concise descriptions of the categories in the revised classification and
 - provide the guidelines and principles used to allocate the basic categories of HS and CPC to the BEC categories

The draft version of the 5th Manual of the

Classification by Broad Economic Categories was sent for a global consultation in June 2014 to the statistical offices of all UN member states. Offices were requested for their overall opinion on the content of the manual and on some specific questions on the proposed revisions regarding the structure, scope, and definitions of the BEC. The deadline of the consultation was set for 30 September 2014.

The responses were received from 49 institutes of 48 countries (both the NSO and the central Bank of Bolivia responded separately). Overall, the countries support the new structure of the BEC with its new 8 broad economic classes and its 6 dimensions. The respondents also agreed that a full breakdown of all combinations does not make sense in a number of cases, which implies that the final tree structure of the BEC will be pruned on certain branches. Some extra attention will need to be spent on the treatment of dual-use goods, as countries generally do not run surveys to determine the use. Finally, the majority of the respondents advised against discussing the links between BEC classes and non-standard classifications.

The suggestions received through this survey will be incorporated in the draft manual, and the final results will be shared with the technical sub-group and will then be presented to the bureau of the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications around April 2015.

CAPACITY BUILDING

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BIG DATA FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS BEIJING, CHINA, 28-30 OCTOBER 2014

The United Nations Statistics Division in collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics of China organized an international conference on Big Data for official statistics in Beijing, China from 28 to 30 October 2014. The Conference brought together 120 statisticians and data scientists from national and international institutes around the world to discuss the potential of Big Data in delivering more timely and more relevant statistics for policy purposes. Big Data could supplement, reduce or replace

traditional data collections. However, the statistical community is conscious of the fact that in order to be able to take advantage of these innovative data sources, it needs to adequately address issues pertaining to methodology, quality, technology, legislation, privacy, management and finance. The Conference opened with statements of Mr. Ma, Chief Statistician of China, Mr. Schweinfest, Director of UNSD, and Mr. Sutton, Deputy Australian Statistician.

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All previous newsletters are available online at:

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

China has been working on Big Data since 2012, and follows a dual track strategy, developing Big Data applications in parallel to its production work. UNSD placed Big Data in the context of the recent call by the international community for a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, and Australia, as Chair of the UN Global Working Group on Big Data, recognized that this group will need to deliver a global work programme for the coming years. The Conference consisted of a number of technical sessions over the next three days, covering

topics such as: use of mobile phone positioning data, use of satellite imagery and other geo-spatial information, use of social media data, benefits and challenges of Big Data sources, and how to introduce innovation in a statistical system. The final session was devoted to the question of how to make the business case for starting a Big Data project. The materials and conclusions of the meeting are accessible from the seminar website at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/events/2014/Beijing/default.asp>

RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN EUROTRACE

Taking into account the recent development in Eurotrace (as an open source application), in July 2014, UNSD and Eurostat had discussion on various issues related to maintenance and improvement of Eurotrace. Some of discussion points are as follows:

1) Eurotrace is now an Open Source Application

Eurostat released Eurotrace in June 2014 (the modules of DBMS and WinTim, but not Comext) as an open source application (see <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/software/eurotrace/description>). This opens up a new chapter as anyone can now obtain the source codes and improve them. Nevertheless, UNSD would like to coordinate any improvement initiatives in order to maximize its usefulness in other countries.

2) Maintenance and improvement of Eurotrace

Eurostat continues to provide training and maintenance including provision of training and improvement of features. The main focus for this year is to improve the outliers' detection method. Other possible improvement would be Trade SDMX module and integration

with UN Comtrade. In addition, Eurostat also commits to fix any bugs, such as in SQL integration module. UNSD has set up as a bug reporting form for end-users, and would convey the issues to Eurostat for follow up. If you have any technical issues, please fill up the form at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/eurotraceissues>

3) Web Comext

Using Comext application suites, it is possible for countries to disseminate detailed trade data through Web Easy Comext or using Analytical Comext (both web-based). With this context, UNSD would like to collect countries' experience in using such data dissemination systems.

4) Trade Indices Module

The issues with existing WINTIM module have been recognised, but due limited resources, it cannot yet be improved/corrected. In this regard, there is a possibility to implement new and improved methodology for calculation of trade indices. On the related issues, UNSD and ITC are currently working to develop new methodology for the calculation of external trade indices based on unit values.

INT'L CONFERENCE ON THE MEASUREMENT OF TRADE AND ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION AGUASCALIENTES, MEXICO, 29 SEP - 2 OCT 2014

UNSD and INEGI (the national statistical office of Mexico) in cooperation with OECD, WTO and Eurostat organized an international conference on the measurement of trade and economic globalization. In order to understand the true nature of trade relationships, it is necessary to know what each country along a global value chain contributes to the value of a final product. In addition, it is important to understand how that contribution is linked to those of other suppliers in other countries coming before and after along the chain, and how much employment and income is generated through this value addition. With this objective in mind, the following topics were discussed: enterprise group registers, classification of enterprises with further breakdown by firm heterogeneity in terms of off-shoring of business functions, foreign control and enterprise size, bilateral asymmetries in trade (goods and services) and investment, and finally the compilation of a global Supply and Use table. Immediately following the conference, the intergovernmental Friends of the Chair group (on the same issue) met and prepared proposals for a work programme to the Statistical Commission along the lines of the issues discussed at the Conference and agreed that a Handbook on a new System of International Accounts should be developed to harmonize statistics in this area and as a basis for future capacity building programmes. The materials and conclusions of the meeting are accessible from the seminar website at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/events/2014/mexico/default.asp>

REGIONAL SEMINAR ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS NEW DELHI, 3-6 NOVEMBER 2014

The United Nations Statistics Division organized this seminar on international trade statistics in collaboration with the Directorate General for Commercial Intelligence and Statistics of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and with the Central Statistical Organization of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in cooperation with the EU-ASEAN Compass project. The seminar was opened by Mr. Ronald Jansen, Chief of the Trade Statistics Branch of UNSD, followed by an inaugural address by Dr. T.C. Anant, Chief Statistician of India and a keynote address of Mr. Praveer Kumar, Deputy-Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The seminar brought together about 55 statisticians from various agencies of national and international organizations, including UNCTAD, WTO, ITC and UNESCAP. About 24 mostly South- and South-East Asian countries were represented. The overall objective of the seminar was to improve the quality of trade statistics by improving the existing compilation practices. The themes addressed in the seminar covered international merchandise trade statistics, statistics of international trade in services, external trade indices, linking trade and business statistics, travel and tourism statistics, asymmetries in bilateral trade statistics, and SDMX for trade statistics. The materials and conclusions of the meeting are accessible from the seminar website at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/events/2014/india/default.asp>

COORDINATION

MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS (TFITS) HOSTED BY WTO 22-23 OCTOBER 2014, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

The Task Force discussed in details the final draft of the Compilers Guide for MSITS 2010 (CG MSITS 2010) and concluded that the draft text of February 2014 was successfully updated and streamlined and it is ready in its current state for publication. Further developments, the good country practices will be collected in the future and will be posted in the electronic version of the CG MSITS 2010 as the MSITS 2010 implementation process is spreading in more countries in the coming years. The

asymmetries in trade statistics were also thoroughly discussed at the meeting and it was suggested that the UN Expert Group on IMTS could develop a “playbook” including a solution to reduce such asymmetries. Several other topics were also discussed at the meeting. A side meeting was also hold between ITC, UNCTAD, UNSD and WTO on the development of the SITS databases and the current status of data collection.

33RD CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN INCOME AND WEALTH (IARIW)

ROTTERDAM, NETHERLANDS
24-30 AUG 2014

The Chief of the Trade Statistics Branch of UNSD participated in the 33rd General Conference of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (IARIW), which took place in Rotterdam from 24 to 30 August 2014. He presented a paper on the ongoing work of the Friends of the Chair group on the measurement of international trade and economic globalization in a session titled "Global Production: Measurement, Causes and Consequences". The paper was co-authored with Statistics Canada and Statistics Netherlands and showed the importance of linking the micro-data on trade, investment and multi-national statistics with the macro-frame of national and international accounts.

UNECE BIG DATA SANDBOX MEETING

9-12 SEPTEMBER 2014

From 9 to 12 September, IT expert from UNSD participated in the face-to-face meeting of the UNECE Big Data Project Sandbox Task Team, hosted by CBS Netherlands in Heerlen. Participants included UNSD, UNECE, Statistics Canada, INEGI, SURS, Istat, Eurostat, Statistics Sweden, TurkStat, CSO Ireland, and CBS Netherlands. During the meeting eight ongoing projects were discussed and agreement was reached on next steps forward, including: (1) summarizing experience regarding privacy, quality and partnership considerations; (2) technical security considerations for confidential data; (3) required upgrades to the sandbox Hadoop cluster; (4) future data sets of interest to official statistics; (5) outputs required for the final project report and experiment reports. The meeting concluded by spending time helping each other become more familiar with a variety of Big Data tools through peer training.

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON KNOWLEDGE SHARING FOR TOURISM DESTINATIONS

VIENNA, AUSTRIA, 12 SEPTEMBER 2014

On 12 September, UNSD delivered a keynote speech at the Seminar on "Knowledge management and transfer for tourism destinations" organized by the European Travel Commission (ETC) and the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). The presentation provided an overview of the post-2015 development agenda and the role of international guidelines on Tourism Statistics, the Tourism Satellite Account, and System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) in measuring progress towards the new sustainable tourism target. The meeting also emphasized the benefits from using big data to generate timely and detailed information relevant for tourism policy making.

13TH GLOBAL FORUM OF TOURISM STATISTICS AND THE UNWTO SPECIAL WORKSHOP ON TOURISM STATISTICS

17-21 NOVEMBER 2014, NARA, JAPAN

The Forum was organized by Eurostat and OECD supported by the Japan Tourism Agency (JTA) and discussed the following main topics: contribution of regional tourism, analysis of tourism consumption, the utilization of tourism statistics for business and policy analysis and potential use of Big Data in tourism statistics. More than 200 people from 50 countries participated at the Forum.

The Forum was followed by the Workshop on Tourism statistics, organized by UNWTO supported by the JTA. Measuring sustainable tourism, the post 2015 development, issues on

measuring tourism for policy making, the implementation of Tourism Satellite Accounts were the main topics covered. Participants, including developing countries, were very actively participated at the workshop, asked questions and shared experience on the presented topics. UNSD made a presentation on the post 2015 development agenda relation to travel/tourism statistics.



MEETING ON STATISTICAL BUSINESS REGISTER FOR IMPROVED INFORMATION ON SMALL, SIZED, AND LARGE ENTERPRISES, COLOMBO, SRI LANKA, 30 JUNE – 2 JULY 2014

The Chief of the international merchandise trade statistics section participated in this inception meeting, which was organized by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). A well-functioning Statistical Business Register (SBR) provides statistics on all enterprises in the formal economy, and this information would improve the inputs into strategy formulation and impact evaluation on national small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) development policies and related government support measure. Within this context, ADB has launched a multi-year (2014-2017) technical assistance project that aims to establish or improve SBR in five participating countries: Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia and Sri Lanka. The meeting was attended by around 30 participants, mainly officials from National Statistical Offices, National Tax Authorities, and National Agencies responsible for business registration. The UNSD representative presented on the international experiences in linking trade and statistical business registers as one of possible outputs of SBR. The main outcome of this inception meeting was an agreement on national strategic development plans (for each of the five countries) for the establishment and maintenance of a SBR that will guide activities for the duration of the project.

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON STATISTICAL METHODOLOGIES FOR REGISTRATION OF TRADE FLOWS IN CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES 11-12 NOVEMBER 2014

The workshop organised by Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) discussed national practices and challenges of IMTS compilation in the following Caribbean countries: Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Kitts and Nevis, Belize, the Bahamas and Barbados. IDB presented the INTrade: The IDB Information System on Trade and Integration including the DataINTAL database system. The Chief of the international merchandise trade statistics section made a presentation on IMTS 2010 concepts and definitions, trade in ships, SDMX global data structure for trade and data visualization, and established working relationships with the IMTS compilers in the region. The main finding of the workshop is that Caribbean countries are generally able to compile trade data regularly (due to good relationship between Customs and Statistical Office), and to disseminate aggregated data through various dissemination channels. However, for many countries, disseminating large amount of disaggregated data is technically challenging. In this regard, countries may wish to explore the possibility of using Easy Web Comext (part of Eurotrace application suites) to disseminate detailed trade data.

24TH MEETING OF THE WIESBADEN GROUP ON BUSINESS REGISTERS VIENNA, AUSTRIA, 15-18 SEPTEMBER 2014

From 15 to 18 September, UNSD participated in the 24th Meeting of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers (15-18 September 2014) and presented a paper on the "Role of statistical business register programmes from the perspective of the Generic Statistical Business Process Model". Some of the main topics discussed in the meeting included: country progress reports; structure and process of development of the EuroGroups Register; drafting process of the International Guidelines for Statistical Business Registers; definition of statistical units and profiling strategies; the Global Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) initiative; role of SBR in managing respondents' burden;

the backbone role of the SBR in the national and international statistical systems; and maintenance and data dissemination strategies for SBR programmes. More than 40 countries and international organizations participated in the meeting, including the African Union, OECD, Eurostat, the European Central Bank, UN-ECE and UNIDO. Along the sessions, participants strongly emphasized the need to support statistical capacity building for developing and modernizing SBR programmes to support the compilation of integrated economic statistics, both at the national and international levels.

Also on 18 September, UNSD partici-

pated in the meeting of the Steering Group of the Wiesbaden Group. The Steering Group agreed to hold the next Wiesbaden Group meeting in Japan. The group also discussed the drafting process of the report to the UN Statistical Commission, and agreed to underline the need to strengthen statistical capacity building efforts in the area of Statistical Business Registers. It also agreed to review the Terms of Reference of the Wiesbaden Group, with a view to promote the representation of countries from developing regions. UNSD expressed its interest in continuing the cooperation with the Wiesbaden Group meeting, particularly in the fields of statistical capacity building.

DATA

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/data/tables.asp>

Table	Description	Latest data	Published
T 18	Fuel imports, developed economies: unit values, volume indices and value	3rd quarter, 2014	Dec 2014
T 19	Indicators on fuel imports, developed economies	3rd quarter, 2014	Dec 2014
T 35	Total imports and exports by regions and countries or areas	Sep 2014	Dec 2014
T 36	Total imports and exports: value, volume and unit value/price	Sep 2014	Dec 2014
T 37	Trade indices for countries in U.S. dollars	2nd quarter, 2014	Oct 2014
T 38	External trade conversion factors by countries	3rd quarter, 2014	Dec 2014
T 39	Trade indices for regions in U.S. dollars	2nd quarter, 2014	Nov 2014
T 40	Manufactured goods exports: unit values, volume indices and value	3rd quarter, 2014	Dec 2014

STATUS OF DATA COLLECTION IN UN SERVICE TRADE DATABASE

The 2013 data collection cycle for UN Service Trade Database was launched in July 2014. The table below indicates the summary of data collection for this cycle indicating the reception of the international trade in services data by Extended Balance of Payments (EBOPS) categories that are received directly either from the national statistical office (NSOs) or the central banks (CBs), as well as from our partners (Eurostat, OECD, and regional organizations, such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)) with whom UNSD shares the data collection to reduce burden on reporting entities.

As of 15 December 2014, UNSD has collected new or revised 2012 data in this collection cycle from 116 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>

Services data on the 11 main EBOPS categories are also for the first time being included in the 2013 International Trade Statistics Yearbook: Volume II, being released in December 2014 and which will be available at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs>.

2013 INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS YEARBOOK – VOLUME II TRADE BY PRODUCT



The 2013 International Trade Statistics Yearbook: Volume II – Trade by Product was released in December 2014 (available at <http://comtrade.un.org/pb/>). 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 re-designed to take into account new addition of graphs, tables and analytic text. The yearbook provides an

overview of the latest trends of trade in goods and services showing international trade for commodity groups (3-digit SITC groups) and for the main Extended Balance of Payments Services (EBOPS) categories. It is aimed at both specialist trade data users and common audience at large. The presented data, charts and analyses would benefit 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 three parts. Part 1 consists of 11 detailed world data tables on merchandise trade, part 2 contains the commodity trade profiles for 257 individual commodities and part 3 contains profiles of service trade for the 11 main EBOPS categories. The profiles offer an insight into the trends in individual commodities and service categories by means of brief descriptive text, concise data tables

and charts using latest available data.

The information is based on merchandise trade data provided by 153 countries (areas), representing approximately 96.7% of UNSD estimates of world merchandise trade in 2013 and services trade data provided by 179 countries (areas) covering around 98.3% of WTO estimates of world service trade in 2012. The reported detailed merchandise trade data is complemented by estimates, to the extent possible, in order to attain world coverage

The yearbook is also made available online at the publications repository of the UN Statistics Division (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/pubs>). For more detailed and latest available data, please consult UN Comtrade (<http://comtrade.un.org>) and UN Service-Trade (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/servicetrade>), which are the sources of the information presented in the yearbook, and which are continuously updated.

NEW ADDITIONS TO COMTRADE LABS



Comtrade Labs (<http://comtrade.un.org/labs>) is a place to showcase innovative and experimental uses of UN Comtrade data. Several trade data visualization initiatives have been added to Comtrade

Labs in the period June – December 2014: **SAS Visual Analytics for UN Comtrade** provided by SAS, **The Atlas of Economic Complexity** provided by Harvard Center for International Development, **Partner Concentration of**

Trade, 2013 provided by United Nations Office of Information and Communication Technology and **Resources Futures** provided by Chatham House,.

EDITORIAL NOTE

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