Workshop on updated and new recommendations for International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS 2010) and their implementation in countries of the Sub-Saharan Africa region

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Overview of the statistics of international trade in services

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The growing importance of trade in services… in the world

World exports of goods and services, 2000-2008

Source: IMF BoP Statistics
UN Service Trade database

... and in Africa

Source: IMF BoP Statistics
This presentation: a short introduction to UN ServiceTrade

1. Features
2. Data sources and processing, …

and to the international recommendations for the statistics of trade in services
I - UN ServiceTrade

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/servicetrade/

- Detailed annual trade data from 2000 up to 2009;
- Same interface as the UN Comtrade data browser;
- Data sources:
  - Mainly NSOs, central banks
  - A MoU with Eurostat for EU countries;
  - But also IMF’s BoP statistics, WTO (about 50 countries);
- Free access;
- User friendly
UN ServiceTrade: Data processing

- All received data are processed by UNSD before uploading to UN Service Trade database to ensure data quality (accuracy, comparability etc.)

Currently,
- no estimation of missing values or statistical projection
- No aggregation

✓ Metadata is uploaded to the database if provided by the reporting country.
Currently, the Extended Balance of Payments Services Classification – EBOPS 2002

Major categories:

1. Transportation
2. Travel
3. Communications services
4. Construction services
5. Insurance services
6. Financial services
7. Computer and information services
8. Royalties and license fees
9. Other business services
10. Personal, cultural, and recreational services
11. Government services, n.i.e.
UN ServiceTrade: data availability

Number of reporting countries

2009 data collection: since July 2010, 66 countries with 2009 data
II - Methodological framework

Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services

- Need to address a growing demand for data from government, business and analysts,
- Data requirement for International trade negotiations and agreements (GATS)
- Led by an Interagency Task Force comprising 6 international organizations
- Worldwide consultation in 1999-2000
- Approved by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2001;
- Published in 2002
Revision:

After implementing the manual many changes occurred, like:

- Experience of compilers in countries and international organization;
- Revision of the System of National Account,, classifications (ISIC, CPC)
- Revision of the Balance of Payment methodology and the extended classification of services (EBOPS)…
- Also changes in practice of trading services

Need to updated the manual
Revised classification:
Extended Balance of Payments Services Classification – EBOPS 2010

1. Manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others.
2. Maintenance and repair services n.i.e.
3. Transport
4. Travel
5. Construction
6. Insurance and pension services
7. Financial services
8. Charges for the use of intellectual property, n.i.e.
9. Telecommunications, computer and information services
10. Other business services
11. Personal, cultural and recreational services
12. Government goods and services n.i.e.
Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services (MSITS 2010)

Revision process: similar to IMTS 2010

- Task Force meetings
- Worldwide consultation
- Adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in 2010.

Current status:

- Under edition, expected 2011
- White cover version available online at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/TFSITS/msits.htm
- Task Force currently working on implementation strategies
- Technical assistance (workshops)
- Task Force activities on the website.
Useful links:
