Regional Workshop on International Merchandise Trade Statistics

Data Reconsiliation and Bilateral Trade Asymetries

Johannesburg, 24 - 28 June 2019

Ways of improving quality (1)

1. Reaction from users and customers.
2. Time series - erratic/stable patterns.
3. Index calculations.
4. Asymmetry/Mirror Analysis:
   - comparison with partner countries.
   - investigation of data discrepancies.

Ways of improving quality (2)

The asymmetries analysis: a way to improve the data comparability between Countries

- The aim is to gradually improve the data quality through various actions and tools. The asymmetry is one of the main quality actions.
- The objective is to investigate the asymmetries observed between the in mirror flows and to reconcile the figures wherever possible.
- The target is to acknowledge the issues impacting the data reliability and to take any necessary measures aiming at avoiding them in the future.

What is a reconciliation analysis?

- Once discrepancies are identified and measured, further analytical work should be initiated to identify and explain their causes.
- Some are easy to pinpoint and correct while for some cases it may be harder.

  Data corrections and/or changes in methodologies and practices require involved countries to **perform the analysis jointly**, to **agree on the asymmetry causes** as well as on the possible corrections to do in their respective data.

Reasons for Asymmetries (1)

A. Non-comparability is caused by:

- Differences in coverage,
- Treatment of certain goods (e.g. Military goods, ship's stores, confidential data),
- Value increases in intermediary countries,
- Differences in classification of goods,
- Time lags in reporting,
- Differences in valuation, including CIF/FOB differences,
- Currency conversion,
- Methods of partner country attribution, and
- Trade via third country intermediaries (consignment country).

Reasons for Asymmetries (2)

B. Non-comparability may be substantially reduced by the adoption of the concepts and definitions recommended by the UNSD.

C. Non-comparability will remain due to the following:

- Valuation and partner country attribution for imports and exports
- Variations in data sources,
- Reporting errors,
- Errors in data collection or in the processing and forwarding of results,
- The use of fraudulent documents
- The inability of traders to furnish accurate information,

Tables and Calculation (1)

1. Indonesia to AMS Asymmetries (Total Value)

2. Indonesia vs one of AMS country (HS 2 Digit)

Case Study : - Indonesia vs Malaysia

- Indonesia vs Singapore

Tables and Calculation (2)

2018						
ID EXPORT vs AMS IMPORT						
	ID Export Value	AMS Import Value	% total	DIFF(EX-IM)	Abs (DIFF)	Discrepancy
Brunei	33.522.107	71.447.941	0,2%	-37.925.834	37.925.834	72,3%
Cambodia	525.311.815		0,9%	525.311.815	525.311.815	200,0%
Lao PDR	7.290.372		0,0%	7.290.372	7.290.372	200,0%
Malaysia	9.433.056.517		16,3%	9.433.056.517	9.433.056.517	200,0%
Myanmar	897.459.102	936.164.871	3,2%	-38.705.769	38.705.769	4,2%
Philippines	6.824.853.253	6.789.010.669	23,5%	35.842.584	35.842.584	0,5%
Singapore	12.990.099.372		22,4%	12.990.099.372	12.990.099.372	200,0%
Thailand	6.818.467.308	8.044.722.660	25,6%	-1.226.255.352	1.226.255.352	16,5%
Vietnam	4.583.748.836		7,9%	4.583.748.836	4.583.748.836	200,0%
TOTAL	42.113.808.682	15.841.346.141		-26.272.462.541		90,7%
				Weighted Average Discrepancy:		99,7%

Tables and Calculation (3)

2018						
ID IMPORT vs. AMS EXPORT						
	ID Import Value	AMS Export Value	% total	DIFF(IM-EX)	Abs (DIFF)	Discrepancy
Brunei	11.037.000	34.984.899	0,1%	-23.947.899	23.947.899	104,1%
Cambodia	33.022.314		0,1%	33.022.314	33.022.314	200,0%
Lao PDR	25.677.551		0,0%	25.677.551	25.677.551	200,0%
Malaysia	8.602.836.314		15,1%	8.602.836.314	8.602.836.314	200,0%
Myanmar	151.560.511	123.025.983	0,5%	28.534.528	28.534.528	20,8%
Philippines	958.432.327	866.202.792	3,2%	92.229.535	92.229.535	10,1%
Singapore	21.439.441.620		37,7%	21.439.441.620	21.439.441.620	200,0%
Thailand	10.879.957.449	10.063.465.079	36,8%	816.492.370	816.492.370	7,8%
Vietnam	3.794.629.194		6,7%	3.794.629.194	3.794.629.194	200,0%
TOTAL	45.885.557.280	11.052.693.854		-34.832.863.426		122,4%
				Weighted Average Discrepancy:		122,4%

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