

Regional Workshop on Integrating Business and Trade Statistics

Santiago, Chile
9 -11 September 2025
Organized jointly by UNSD and ECLAC

Concept Note

Background

Traditionally, business and trade statistics have been compiled and utilized separately. However, there is a growing appreciation within the international statistics community and other stakeholders for having more elements that can provide a better understanding of the linkage between production and trade in an increasingly globalized economy. In this regard, integrating business and trade statistics can offer additional tools for gaining deeper insights into the role of business in international trade.

Linked business and trade in goods and services data provide policymakers with valuable tools, improving their understanding of the role that firms engaged in international trade play in the local economy. This includes how economic sectors in each subnational area contribute to value-added and are involved in global supply chains. Given the interconnectedness of economies, integrated trade and business statistics can also provide insight into broader economic topics, such as employment, productivity, investment, income, and wealth, as well as new areas of research, including the role of and impact of gender, the adoption of digital technologies, and the environment for international trade.

Recognizing these demands, the UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics developed the Handbook on Integrating Business and Trade Statistics¹, which was endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2025. The Handbook contains guidelines for countries to produce new indicators of business and trade by linking them using proven techniques and methods. It also contains examples and national practices from other countries that have done the linkage.

Objectives of the Workshop

This workshop aims to support the Latin America and Caribbean countries by:

- (a) Raising awareness on the needs and usefulness of linking business and trade statistics;
- (b) Advancing the production of linked business and trade statistics in an internationally comparable manner;

¹ <https://unstats.un.org/go/dfddc8>

- (c) Strengthening and building capacities in linking methods for integrating business statistics with international trade statistics on goods and services.
- (d) Providing guidelines on trade by enterprise characteristics compilation and dissemination.
- (e) Exchanging country practices and experiences of integrating business and trade statistics.

Workshop methodology

The workshop will be developed according to the agenda, and it will include:

- (a) Lectures on conceptual framework and methodology for integrating business and trade statistics.
- (b) Sharing of country practices on the challenges of compiling indicators on business and trade statistics.
- (c) A round table discussion regarding the application of linked business and trade statistics.

Target Audience

The primary target beneficiaries of the Workshop include compilers and producers of data and statistics related to business and international trade. About 25 representatives from countries in Latin America and the Caribbean will participate.

Logistics

The meeting will be held in Santiago, Chile, from 9 to 11 September 2025. The venue would be provided by ECLAC. Simultaneous two-way translation between Spanish and English, as well as English and Spanish, will be provided.