



Current Development in International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics

The UN Statistical Commission requested at its 46th session to prepare a handbook on a system of extended international and global accounts, which will serve as the measurement framework for international trade and economic globalization. The handbook will build on the existing work in this area, in particular by the UNECE, the OECD and Eurostat, and address issues of micro-data linking of business and trade statistics, as well as address the integration of economic, environmental and social dimensions of trade and globalization as an extension of the 2008 SNA and the 2012 SEEA. In addition to the handbook, the

Commission also agreed with some priorities for the programme of work in this area of international trade and economic globalization statistics, namely (i) a global enterprise group register, building on the ongoing Euro Groups Register project; (ii) improving the measurement of firm heterogeneity by further developing a classification of business functions; (iii) addressing asymmetries in bilateral trade and foreign direct investment; and (iv) global supply-use and input-output tables with the aim of increasing the coverage of the

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Monitoring Sustainable Tourism Targets in the 2030 Agenda

Rio+20 (in 2012) resulted in a political outcome document ("The Future we want") on measures for implementing sustainable development. It represented a global movement of change in which governments, the private sector and civil society all contribute to achieving global prosperity while protecting the environment. It was decided at the Rio+20 conference to establish an "inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process open to all stakeholders, with a view to developing global sustainable development

goals [SDGs] to be agreed by the General Assembly".

This led eventually to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on 25 September 2015 at the opening of the 70th session of the General Assembly, containing 17 SDGs and 169 related targets of which 3 address tourism specifically:

- Target 8.9 – By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote

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Reconciling Bilateral Merchandise Trade Asymmetries

High quality, consistent and harmonized international trade statistics are vital for the adequate analysis of international trade and global value chains. However, the bilateral trade flows are compiled by two different administrations at either end of the trade flow and this necessarily leads to smaller and at times large difference in trade values, which are mostly due to a variety of methodological differences and in some cases due to differences in data collection and compilation. Large differences in bilateral trade statistics can make bilateral trade negotiations difficult, and countries have therefore been trying to reconcile their trade statistics at occasion. Recently these efforts have been stepped up because of the need for harmonized bilateral trade data as input to the global input-output tables, from which estimates of trade in value added are derived.

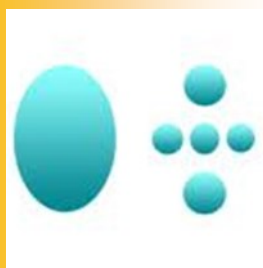
UNSD approached the reconciliation of asymmetries of bilateral merchandise trade statistics from the methodological side and commissioned a report on this matter for the International Conference on the Measurement of International Trade and Economic Globalization at the end of September 2014 in Aguascalientes, Mexico. The report (available on the Conference website) described three main causes of asymmetries, namely partner country attribution, valuation and differences in trade system, and pointed out that the new recommendations of IMTS 2010 on country of consignment (in addition to country of origin) and imports FOB (in addition to imports CIF) could bring bilateral trade statistics closer together. In 2015, analyses were performed on the first data sets (received for UN Comtrade) with country of consignment data. The results confirmed that

partner attribution by consignment instead of by origin / destination reduces the asymmetries considerable.

Besides the methodological considerations, UNSD is also working out a data strategy to find all relevant bilateral trade asymmetries in the UN Comtrade database. This comprehensive approach uses functionalities, which have been worked out in close collaboration with the SAS institute.

Starting with SAS Visual Analytics, custom-made functionalities were developed which can present the largest asymmetries (in absolute terms) at bilateral level with possibilities of drilling down to specific 6-digit HS subheadings. These functionalities have been made available to UNSD, and can be shared with partner organizations. UNSD will present both the methodological analysis and the data strategy at the meeting of the UN expert group in January 2016.

Given its work on the OECD-WTO Trade in Value Added database and the corresponding immediate need for harmonized bilateral trade statistics, OECD has started to construct a balanced international merchandise trade database at the HS 6 digit level. A detailed methodological paper was presented to the TFITS meeting in October 2015, which outlined the OECD's balancing strategy, building on existing best practices in the academic literature, ongoing collaboration with national trade statisticians, and the input received from the OECD Bilateral Trade Asymmetry meetings that are organized in the context of the OECD



Trade Asymmetries

Global SDMX IMTS Data Structure Definition



An inter-agency working group comprising of Eurostat, the International Trade Centre (ITC), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD - as secretariat and chair of the working group), and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has been established in 2013 to support the implementation of SDMX standards in International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS). The working group, which develops these new standards, seeks to specify uniform structures, concept definitions and code lists for IMTS data and metadata which comply with the latest version of the SDMX standard (2.1), and which follow the latest recommendations for IMTS (IMTS 2010). To the extent possible, SDMX-IMTS reuses concepts and code lists that have been already agreed internationally. The design of zero draft Data Structure Definition (DSD) for SDMX-IMTS was completed in early May 2015 and was released for global consultation and public review in order to receive broad input on the proposed DSD. As of October 2015, the draft DSD consists of 31 concepts of which 18 dimensions and 12 attributes. The draft of DSDs is accessible from <http://comtrade.un.org/sdmx>.

The SDMX-IMTS global consultation (or

public review) was conducted in May and June 2015 to obtain feedback on the contents, implementation plan and capacity building needs. A total of 87 countries and organizations have responded. Considering the technical nature of SDMX, those responses may indicate the high interest in countries. Out of 87 respondents, 3 were international / supranational organizations (SESRIC, UNWTO, and WTO). SDMX Secretariat Technical Working Group (TWG) provided a general feedback separately. It is expected that results of the global consultation are to be analysed and integrated into the final global SDMX-IMTS.

The working group and other relevant partner organisations have been discussing the implementation strategies and capacity building activities in countries. Some of the ideas as follows: establishment of pilot implementation project in countries, alignment with WCO Data Model (SDMX-IMTS as Derived Information Package), or creation of SDMX-IMTS extraction module in commonly used trade data processing system (i.e., EUROTRACE). Furthermore, raising awareness of SDMX-IMTS should be part of regular technical assistance activities.

(Continued from page 2, Reconciling Bilateral...)

Working Party on International Trade in Goods and Services Statistics (WPTGS). A first version of the balanced merchandise trade statistics data is planned for publication in the first quarter of 2016, after which the dataset will be further extended and improved over time. For more information and a copy of

the methodological paper, please send email to: STD.Tradestats@oecd.org.

WTO collaborates with OECD on further developing this balanced dataset, building on WTO's experience in constructing an annual trade by origin and destination matrix for

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¹ <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/events/2014/mexico/documents/session4/Asymmetries%20in%20official%20ITS%20and%20analysis%20of%20globalization%20-%20V%20Markhonko%20-%2018%20Sep%202014.pdf>

TFITS Trade in Services Metadata Questionnaire

Eurostat (for EU countries) and OECD (for non-EU OECD countries) have recently implemented a joint web-based questionnaire to systematically collect detailed metadata on Trade in Services Statistics by EBOPS categories. The joint metadata questionnaire was developed by the TFITS and includes various general questions on e.g. the institutional context, including applicable laws and confidentiality rules; the concepts and definitions applied; and any exercises undertaken to improve data quality. The survey also includes detailed and systematic questions for each of the main EBOPS categories on the main data sources used (including their limitations) and the compilation methodologies, including the

extent to which these possibly deviated from the international standards.

The results of the survey are made available in a comparative format, here as part of the OECD database on Trade in Services Statistics and here as part of the Eurostat dataset. The standardised format proved to be useful to document and quickly compare national methodologies, but can also be used to identify possible reasons for bilateral trade asymmetries. Eurostat and OECD agreed to prepare an overview of these results as one of the online annexes to the MSITS 2010 Compilers Guide to help other countries with the systematic recording of metadata.

Classification by Broad Economic Categories, Revision 5

The draft manual of the fifth revision of the BEC (BEC Rev.5) was circulated for a global consultation at the end of June 2014. Overall, the countries supported the new structure of BEC Rev.5 with its new 8 broad economic categories and its new 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 end-use of imported goods. The latest meeting of the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications took place on 19-22 May 2015 in New York,

where UNSD gave an overview of work undertaken in the review of the BEC. As noted in the report of this meeting, the BEC had not fundamentally changed over time, since the 1960s, until this 5th revision. A technical sub-group (established in 2011) was set to redefine BEC to better reflect current economic reality, and to extend its scope to include services, to improve the explanatory materials and provide an updated correspondence.

The new BEC Rev.5 is the outcome of a review process that spanned several years and involved contributions from many classifications experts and data users around the world. This process resulted in a BEC structure that is more detailed than the

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Continued from page 1, Sustainable Tourism...

sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

- Target 12.b – Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
- Target 14.7 – By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism



The 2030 Agenda requested specifically that the United Nations Statistical Commission formulates a global indicator framework at its 47th session in March 2016. The Commission established for this purpose an Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), composed of Member States and including regional and international agencies as observers. One or more indicators were developed for each target.

While the target (8.9) is complex and covers multiple dimensions, the element of “sustainable tourism” lies at its crux. Sustainable tourism is in principle a policy concept. From a statistical point of view, the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) measures the relationship between tourism and the economy and the System of Environmental

Economic Accounting (SEEA) measures the relationship between the economy and the environment. The linking of TSA and SEEA results in a statistical framework in support of sustainable tourism policies. This framework will provide information of the impact of tourism on the economy and the environment. In this way, several relevant indicators can be derived for target 8.9, namely (1) Tourism GDP as the percentage of total GDP related to Tourism (derived from TSA); (2) Tourism Jobs as the percentage of total employment related to Tourism (derived from TSA); and (3) Tourism Energy-use as the ratio of value added to net domestic energy use in the Tourism sector (derived from TSA and SEEA).

So, the suggested indicators comprise tourism-related GDP, jobs and energy, covering the key dimensions of sustainable tourism, and stem from a systems approach based on sound, internationally-agreed methodology. Moreover, a significant number of countries already produce data, which can be used to feed TSA and SEEA to derive these indicators. Tourism jobs can also be used for target 12.b and new indicators (related to use of marine resources and tourism) can be derived from the TSA-SEEA framework for target 14.7.

Continued from page 3, Reconciling bilateral...

selected product aggregates and regional groupings. This ‘network of world merchandise trade’ dataset is based on exports, starting from total trade and distributing these flows by destination and then by product. The estimates are based on data from UN Comtrade, Eurostat, GTIS and national statistics. Adjustments for re-exports, compliance with international

standards, ships or non-monetary gold are included to reduce the asymmetries measured in the individual countries' trade flows.



Continued from page 1, Current development...

OECD-WTO database on trade in value-added.

The Commission endorsed also the recommendation to establish an expert group tasked with the development of the handbook on a system of extended international and global accounts, and recommended the creation of an inter-secretariat working group for international trade and economic globalization statistics (ISWG-ITEGS), which will coordinate the work.

The first meeting of the expert group takes place on 26-28 January 2016 in New York, which will be followed by the first meeting of the inter-secretariat working group on 29 January 2016. The ISWG-ITEGS is established to ensure proper cooperation

among international agencies regarding work programs and activities worldwide, taking account of existing work and reducing duplication. The group should also promote the development of databases, at international, regional and national level for international trade and economic globalization statistics; and coordinate and promote capacity building activities to improve these statistics at micro-level for the better calculation of statistics at the macro-level. Members of the ISWG-ITEGS are Eurostat, IMF, OECD, UNCTAD, UNSD and WTO.

The full report to the 47th Session of the UN Statistical Commission is available at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/47thsession/documents/>

Continued from page 4, Classification by Broad...

previous version, responding to the need to have more relevant economic categories, to identify services in addition to goods, and to more clearly distinguish the end-use of products. New broad categories include “Mining and energy”, “Construction and housing”, “Textile and footwear”, “Information and communication” and “Health and education”. The relation of the BEC to the analysis of global value chains is also highlighted in this manual. In that regard, BEC Rev.5 adds generic and specified intermediate products as a new dimension.

Next steps

At the forthcoming 47th session of the Statistical Commission in March 2016, BEC Rev.5 will be made available in its final (unedited) version as a background document. In the course of 2016, BEC Rev.5 will be edited and printed, and will also be available on the website of UNSD together with the correspondence tables between BEC Rev.5 and HS-2012 as well as BEC Rev.5 and CPC 2.1 (and EBOPS 2010).



**WORLD
STATISTICS
DAY**
20.10.2015
BETTER DATA.
BETTER LIVES.

ICT Services and ICT-Enabled Services

The UNCTAD Technical Note on "Measuring International Trade in ICT Services and ICT-enabled Services" is a new useful reference for countries interested in compiling and reporting internationally-comparable data for the two specific sectors. The approach taken here builds on existing international statistical standards and methods for measuring international trade in services. The note defines and recommends the measurement of two new EBOPS 2010 complementary groupings, namely: i) ICT services, which can be compiled from existing data sources on international trade in services provided that countries report at the third level of EBOPS 2010, and ii) ICT-enabled services, which would require the collection of data by mode of supply (as defined by GATS), or using a business survey approach explained in the technical note. ICT-enabled services are defined as

services delivered remotely over ICT networks.

The note was developed with the collaboration of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development and its Inter Agency Task Group on ICT and ICT-enabled Services (TGServ), whose members include WTO, OECD, UNSD, UNCTAD, UNESCWA, World Bank and ITU.

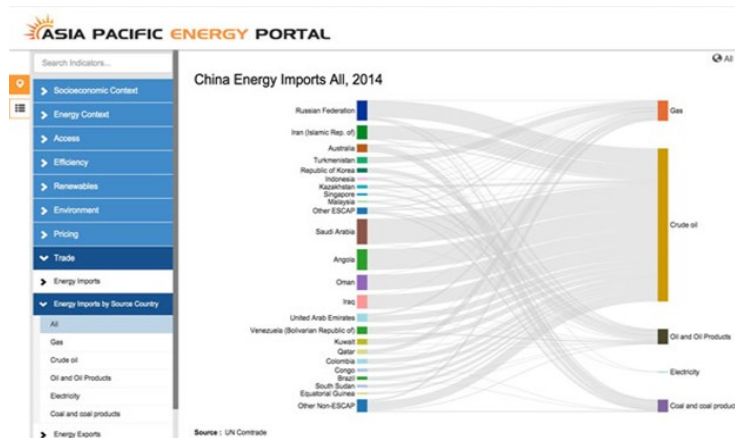
UNCTAD's work on measuring ICT is supported financially by the Government of Sweden. TFITS welcomed the final version of the technical note in its 2015 report to the UN Statistical Commission. Countries interested in measuring international trade in ICT services and in ICT-enabled services are invited to download the report at: http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/tn_unctad_ict4d03_en.pdf and can contact UNCTAD at ICT4D@unctad.org.

Data Visualizations on the Basis of UN Comtrade

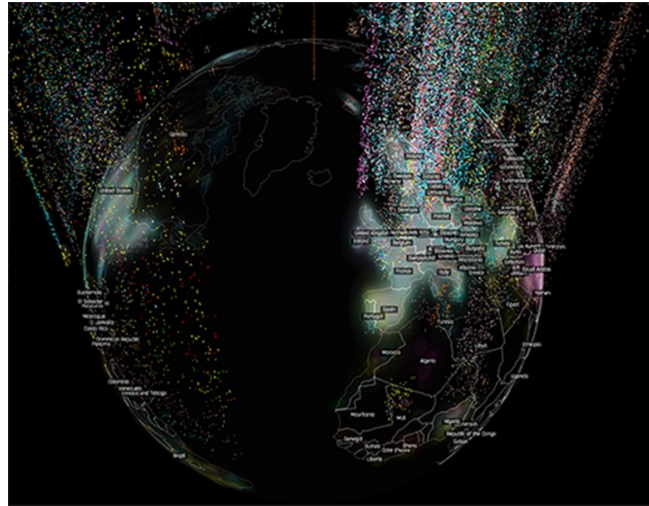
Thanks to UN Comtrade Public API, there are more and more institutions developing advanced and innovative data visualization using Comtrade data. These data visualizations are being catalogued and made publicly available at UN Comtrade

Labs (<http://comtrade.un.org/labs/>). Thus, it 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 2015:

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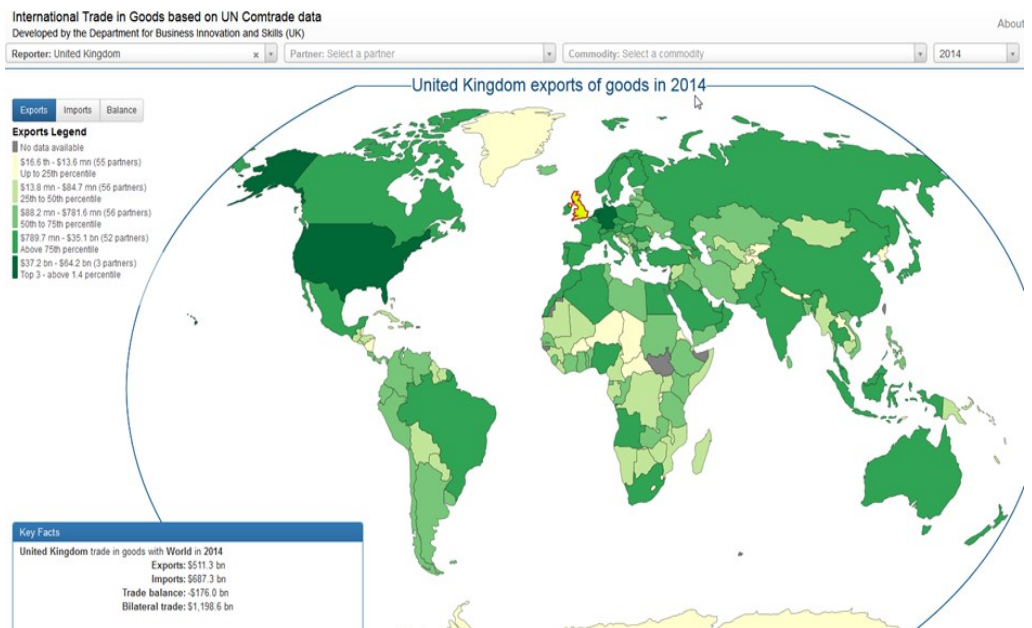


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- BIS International Trade in Goods Visualization by the UK Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS) <http://asiapacificenergy.org> The UK Department for Business, Innovation & Skills has created this interactive visualization which reflects the very latest data available in UN Comtrade. Countries' exports, imports and trade balances are displayed in a user-friendly, color-coded world map, along with downloadable time-series data and information on the top 10 trading partners and traded commodities. The visualizations can be further customized by selecting specific trading partners and/or commodities. The tool utilizes the UN Comtrade Application Programming Interface (API), which currently allows up to 100 requests per hour.
- The Globe of Economic Complexity by the Center for International Development at Harvard University <http://globe.cid.harvard.edu> .
- The Globe of Economic Complexity dynamically maps all countries'

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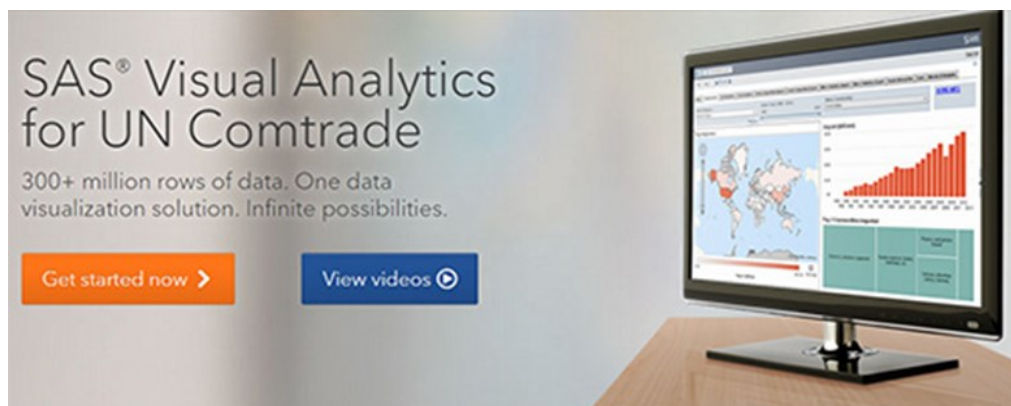
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traded commodities, their volumes and export destinations, and allows users to navigate export networks and intricate connections between products. The tool utilizes novel web technologies (WebGL) and design to visualize trade flows as 3-d “confetti,” with the ability to morph into bar charts, compounded country

textures, and node-link diagrams.

- Asia Pacific Energy Portal, Provided by UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) <http://comtrade.un.org/labs/BIS-trade-in-goods/>
- The Asia Pacific Energy Portal , Provided by UN Economic and

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TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND SEMINARS

Statistical Capacity Building (SCB) for Trade in Services Statistics

The members of the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics increasingly coordinate their statistical capacity building activities related to trade in services statistics. Their strategy for improving trade in services statistics in the countries, with a particular emphasis on developing countries, is three-pronged:

- First, an e-learning course is developed to replace general awareness seminars. This activity is spearheaded by UNCTAD and WTO, with the support of the TFITS. The course is expected to be finalized in summer 2016.
- Second, more dedicated seminars on specific topics (like FISIM or manufacturing services on inputs owned by others) will be designed.

- Third, to help countries with the implementation of the MSITS2010, the TFITS plans to establish a fund based on a global partnership, exercised by the TFITS. It is planned that such a facility would act as precursor and coordinating mechanism by helping countries to identify and formulate projects aimed at improving their trade in services statistics. The facility would both finance project preparation and the execution of projects accepted by the global partnership.

The WTO, as coordinator of the TFITS activities in SCB, is currently following up this strategy.

SUMMARY OF PAST, CURRENT AND PLANNED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES AND AWARENESS RAISING RELATING TO IMTS 2010, MSITS 2010 AND TOURISM STATISTICS

Organiser(s)	Resource persons	Location (Date)	Title of event	Countries and economies targeted	Focus on compilation	Domain
2016						
UNSD		? Asia (2016)	Tourism statistics with special focus on sustainable tourism indicators of SDG	Selected Asian countries	X	T/S
UNSD, AUC		? (Africa) (2016)	Linking trade (merchandise, services) and business registers	African countries	X	M,S
UNSD		? (Latin America) (2016)	Linking trade (merchandise, services) and business registers	Latin American countries	X	M,S
UNSD		San Salvador, El Salvador (Dec 2016)	Taller sobre el mejoramiento de las estadísticas de comercio internacional en El Salvador (3th phase)	El Salvador with support from Mexico and Paraguay	X	M
ADB	UNSD	Putrajaya, Malaysia (May 2016)	In country discussion on Linking Malaysian Statistical Business Register with Trade Statistics (follow up)	Malaysia	X	M
SACU, UNSD, AUC	UNSD	Johannesburg, South Africa (April 2016)	IMTS workshop in SACU region	SACU member countries + selected African countries	X	M
UNSD		Mexico City, Mexico (March 2016)	Taller sobre el mejoramiento de las estadísticas de comercio internacional en El Salvador (4th phase)	El Salvador with support from Mexico	X	M
UNSD, GCC		Oman/Qatar (Feb 2016)	IMTS workshop in GCC region	GCC member countries	X	M
IMF	IMF staff and/or consultants	Headquarters courses, regional capacity building centers, regional center courses, external sector statistics missions	Goods and Services covered generally in BOP courses/missions	Selection of countries	X	G+S
IMF/CARTAC	consultants	Selected CARTAC countries	One-week technical assistance missions focusing on travel services	CARTAC member countries	X	S
IMF/DFID	consultants	EAC countries	Technical assistance and hands-on workshops focusing on topical BOP areas including the goods and services	EAC member countries (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda)	X	G+S
2015						
ITC	UNSD	Kingston, Jamaica (29 Sep - 1 Oct 2015)	Training workshop trade indices and ITC Market Analysis Tools	Jamaica	X	M
UNSD		Aguascalientes, Mexico (28 September 2015)	Taller sobre el mejoramiento de las estadísticas de comercio internacional en El Salvador (3rd phase)	El Salvador with support from Mexico	X	M
ADB	UNSD	Putrajaya, Malaysia (17-23 September)	In country discussion on Linking Malaysian Statistical Business Register with Trade Statistics	Malaysia	X	M
WCO	WTO, UNSD	Freeport, Bahamas (6-8 May 2015)	2015 WCO IT Conference & Exhibition Inclusiveness Through Information Technologies	General awareness for trade statistics		M

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Organiser(s)	Resource persons	Location (Date)	Title of event	Countries and economies targeted	Focus on compilation	Domain
WCO	WTO, UNSD	Freeport, Bahamas (6-8 May 2015)	2015 WCO III Conference & Exhibition Inclusiveness Through Information Technologies	General awareness for trade statistics		M
UNSD		Asuncion, Paraguay (17-19 March 2015)	Taller sobre el mejoramiento de las estadísticas de comercio internacional en El Salvador (2nd phase)	El Salvador with support from Paraguay	X	M
UNSD		San Salvador, El Salvador (3-5 Feb 2015)	Taller sobre el mejoramiento de las estadísticas de comercio internacional en El Salvador (1st phase)	El Salvador with support from Mexico and Paraguay	X	M
SADC		11-13 November 2015 (?)	Training workshop on trade in service statistics	South Africa	X	S
IMF	IMF staff and/or consultants	Headquarters courses, regional capacity building centers, regional center courses, external sector statistics missions	Goods and Services covered generally in BOP courses/missions	Selection of countries	X	G+S
UNWTO	?	Postponed/cancelled (due to budgetary constraints)	Series of capacity building for tourism statistics	Spanish-speaking Americas	X	S
UNWTO		Kazakhstan	Regional workshop for Central Asian country on tourism statistics	Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan	X	S
IMF/METAC	consultant	Egypt (July 2015)	One-week technical assistance mission to improve trade in services statistics	Egypt	X	S
AMF, WTO in cooperation with UNESCWA, UNSD and UAE	2 consultants, ITC?	Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (January 2015)	Workshop on international trade in services statistics	ESCWA member countries (tentative)	X	S
SADC/WTO		? (March 2015)	SADC/WTO 2nd Workshop on Statistics of International Trade in Services	Angola; Botswana; Dem. Rep. of Congo; Lesotho; Madagascar; Malawi; Mauritius; Mozambique; Namibia; Seychelles; South Africa; Swaziland; Tanzania; Zambia; Zimbabwe	X	S
ASEAN, UNSD		? (March 2015)	Regional workshop for ASEAN countries (Manufacturing services/ Goods for processing ?)	ASEAN member countries	X	S
UNWTO	?	? (2015)	Series of capacity building for tourism statistics	Spanish-speaking Americas	X	S
UNWTO	?	First seminar for French speaking Africa (planned for October 2014, but needs to be postponed to 2015 and possibly a new location)	Capacity building seminars on tourism statistics	Selection of French speaking African countries	X	S

SUMMARY OF PAST, CURRENT AND PLANNED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES AND AWARENESS RAISING RELATING TO IMTS 2010, MSITS 2010 AND TOURISM STATISTICS

Organiser(s)	Resource persons	Location (Date)	Title of event	Countries and economies targeted	Focus on compilation	Domain
ONB/Statistics Austria at Eurostat request		Austria, May 2015	Study visit on International Trade in Services in the frame of Instrument of the Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) Multi-beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme for 2012	Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia, Turkey	X	S
Eurostat		Respective economies and Luxembourg	(Cont. 2014) Pilot project on International Trade in Services in candidate countries: second and final round of expert missions to the countries and a workshop in Luxembourg (June 2015) in the frame of the Instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) Multi-beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme for 2012	Albania; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Montenegro; UNMIK Kosovo (Service contract) / Serbia and Turkey (Grant contract)	X	S
2014						
IMF		Headquarters courses, regional capacity building centers, regional center courses, external sector statistics missions	Services covered generally in BOP courses/missions	Selection of countries	X	S
WTO	WTO	Geneva	Regular participation in WTO Advanced Trade Policy Courses; Trade in Services Statistics	Selection of WTO Members and Observers		S
SADC/WTO	UNSD, Consultant	Gaborone, Botswana (January 2014)	SADC/WTO 1st Workshop on Statistics of International Trade in Services	Angola; Botswana; Dem. Rep. of Congo; Lesotho; Malawi; Mauritius; Mozambique; Namibia; Seychelles; South Africa; Swaziland; Tanzania; Zambia; Zimbabwe	X	S
SADC	Consultant	Angola; Botswana; Lesotho; Mozambique; Namibia; Swaziland (February-September 2014)	Development of TIS/FATS questionnaires and work with countries	Angola; Botswana; Lesotho; Mozambique; Namibia; Swaziland	X	S
SADC	WTO, Consultant	Johannesburg, South Africa (March and August 2014)	SADC Regional meetings on trade in services statistics	Angola; Botswana; Dem. Rep. of Congo; Lesotho; Malawi; Mauritius; Mozambique; Namibia; Seychelles; South Africa; Swaziland; Tanzania; Zambia; Zimbabwe	X	S
UNSD, AUC, ECA	UNSD, RECs	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (May 2014)	Workshop on international trade statistics	Algeria; Angola; Benin; Botswana; Congo; Cameroon; Cape Verde; Cote D'Ivoire; Egypt; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Ghana; Equatorial Guinea; Lesotho; Mali; Malawi; Morocco; Mozambique; Nigeria; Rwanda; South Africa; Tunisia; Zambia; Zimbabwe; and BCEAO, ECOWAS, COMESA, AfDB	X	S
ALADI	UNECLAC	Uruguay (July 2014)	Workshop on trade in services statistics, FATS Cooperation Program of trade in services statistics	Argentina; Bolivia; Plurinational State of; Brazil; Chile; Colombia; Ecuador; Mexico; Panama; Paraguay; Peru; Uruguay; Venezuela, Bolivian Rep. of	X	S
WTO	WTO	Geneva (September 2014)	Seminar on Trade in Services Statistics for negotiators	Selection of WTO Members and Observers		S
ASEAN	Consultant	Jakarta, Indonesia (September 2014)	ASEANstats Workshop on Statistics on International Trade in Services (inward FATS and modes of supply)	Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; Indonesia; Lao People's Dem. Rep.; Malaysia; Myanmar; Philippines; Singapore; Thailand; Vietnam	X	S

SUMMARY OF PAST, CURRENT AND PLANNED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES AND AWARENESS RAISING RELATING TO IMTS 2010, MSITS 2010 AND TOURISM STATISTICS

Organiser(s)	Resource	Location (Date)	Title of event	Countries and economies targeted	Focus on	Domain
UNSD, DGCIS of India	ASEAN, ESCAP, ITC, UNCTAD, WTO, WTL, Consultant	New Delhi, India (November 2014)	Workshop on international trade statistics	Afghanistan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; India; Indonesia; Korea, Rep. of; Maldives; Mongolia; Nepal; Pakistan; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Timor-Leste; + other ASEAN, member countries	X	S
UNWTO (in cooperation with Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, OIC)	Consultant	Ankara Turkey (December 2014)	Workshop/training seminar on tourism statistics	Selection of Middle East countries	X	S
CEFTA/WTO	UNCTAD, country experts?	Brussels, Belgium (December 2014)	Workshop on Foreign Affiliates Statistics	Albania; Bosnia and Herzegovina; FYR Macedonia; Moldova; Montenegro; Serbia; UNMIK/Kosovo	X	S
Eurostat	Consultants	Respective economies	Pilot project in candidate countries: first round of expert missions to the countries starting June 2014 in the frame of the Instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) Multi-beneficiary Statistical Cooperation Programme for 2012	Albania; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Montenegro; UNMIK Kosovo (Service contract) / Serbia and Turkey (Grant contract)	X	S
AANZFTA	Consultants	Cambodia, Laos PDR, and Myanmar (?)	Development of a SITs Pilot Survey	Cambodia, Laos PDR, and Myanmar	X	S
Eurostat/MedStat Moroccan Office des Changes	?	? (mid-2014)	EuroMed Working Group on Trade statistics	Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia	X	S
UNWTO	?	?	Capacity building seminars on tourism statistics	Explore options to organise a regional capacity building event(s) for Portuguese-speaking countries (pending)	X	S
WTO	?	Kinshasa	WTO National Seminar on Statistics of International Trade in Services	Congo, Democratic Republic	X	S
WTO	?	Bostwana	WTO National Seminar on Statistics of International Trade in Services	Botswana	X	S
ITC, WTO?		Ecuador	National activity on trade in services statistics	Ecuador	X	S
UNCTAD	Consultant	UEMOA region	UEMOA Capacity building on trade in services statistics (3-year programme)	Benin; Burkina Faso; Côte d'Ivoire; Guinea-Bissau; Mali; Niger; Senegal; Togo	X	S
UNCTAD	?	Angola	Train-for trade on trade related activities (including trade in services statistics)	Angola	X	S

PUBLICATIONS AND DATABASES

UNSD Database/Publication on Statistics of International Trade in Services

International Merchandise Trade Statistics

The United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database (UN Comtrade) contains detailed goods imports and exports statistics reported by statistical authorities of close to 200 countries or areas. UN Comtrade is considered the most comprehensive trade database, with more than 3 billion records available. It includes annual trade data detailed by commodities and partner countries from 1962 to the most recent year and monthly data for numerous countries since 2010.

All commodity values are converted from national currency into US dollars using exchange rates supplied by the reporter countries, or derived from monthly market rates and volume of trade. Quantities, when provided with the reporter country data, are converted into metric units when possible.

Commodities are classified according to SITC (Rev.1 from 1962, Rev.2 from 1976, Rev.3 from 1988 and Rev. 4 from 2006), the Harmonized System (HS) (from 1988 with revisions in 1996, 2002, 2007 and 2012) and Broad Economic Categories (BEC).

Commodities are reported in the current classification and revision and are converted to the other classifications and the earlier versions of the classifications.

Statistics of International Trade in Services

UN ServiceTrade, a global database on International Trade in Services, is publicly and freely available at the UNSD website at the following address: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/servicetrade/default.aspx>

The main scope of UN ServiceTrade is resident to non-resident trade in services and and some related data series, broken down by

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Eurostat Statistics on International Trade in Services

Extremely detailed data on International Trade in Services are publicly and freely available from Eurostat website (database by themes: Economy and Finance – Balance of Payments) at the following address: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database/AITS>

Not only for all the EU28 Member States, but also for Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and the Candidate Countries to the European Union, the on-line Eurostat database contains annual

data on ITS.

The main sources of data are central banks and the national statistical offices. All values are expressed in millions of Euro. Quarterly data for 11 main types of service and a reduced geographical breakdown are also available from Eurostat public database, as part of the tables related to quarterly balance of payments data.





OECD Statistics on International Trade in Services

New: G20 Quarterly International Merchandise Trade Statistics

On 3 December 2015, the newly developed statistics on the G20 Total International Merchandise Trade were published by OECD for the first time. The [News Release](#) indicated that G20 Total International Merchandise Trade, seasonally adjusted and expressed in current US dollars, continued to contract in the third quarter of 2015, albeit at a slower pace than in previous quarters.

The G20 Total International Merchandise Trade statistics have been developed in the

context of the G20 Data Gaps Initiative, which recommends that G20 zone aggregates should be being developed for a variety of statistical indicators, under the auspices of the Inter-Agency Group on Economic and Financial Statistics (IAG). The G20 News Release was accompanied by a [technical note](#), which explained the exact compilation method of the G20 aggregate. OECD will continue to disseminate the G20 Total International Merchandise Trade statistics on a quarterly basis at 60 days after the reference period.

UNCTAD Statistics on International Trade in Services

UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics

Trade in services statistics are presented in two main sets of tables: total trade in services and trade in services by category of services. The first set presents exports and imports of total trade in services by individual country, geographical region, economic grouping and trade group. The aggregate data include estimates of missing values that are not shown separately. The second set presents statistics by category of service for selected country groups and for major individual exporters and importers among developing and transition economies, as well as among developed countries.

UNCTAD Country Profile (New)

UNCTAD Country Profile presents an overview of key economic statistics by country. A selected international merchandise and services statistics are presented in the Country Profile with a link to the corresponding table or folder in UNCTAD's Data Center (link: <http://>



unctadstat.unctad.org/wds/ReportFolders/reportFolders.aspx?sCS_ChosenLang=en), allowing users to easily locate longer time series data. This publication also provides statistical information on national accounts, foreign direct investment, external financial resources, population and labor force, information economy and maritime transport.



The Geneva Cooperation: UNCTAD-WTO-ITC

The three Geneva-based organizations – UNCTAD, WTO, and ITC - share the work on annual statistics of the international trade in services. WTO, UNCTAD, and ITC make use of all available sources, international and national, in order to fill in the data gaps where possible and compile consistent and comprehensive series. The three agencies publish results simultaneously, at their respective websites, opting for dissemination approaches pertinent to their objectives.

The WTO Statistics Database (<http://stat.wto.org/Home/WSDBHome.aspx?Language=E>) and UNCTADstat (<http://unctadstat.unctad.org>) present two annual series:

- i. BPM6, covering the period from 2005 till the latest year available, updated once a year (June);
- ii. BPM5, covering the period from 1980 to 2013, no longer updated.

These yearly series contain figures and estimates on 18 selected services items for about 200 individual economies and over 80 country groups.

In addition to statistics in US-dollar values, UNCTADstat offers pre-calculated derived indicators, such as shares in total world trade, shares of sub-items in total services, growth rates, etc.

In its Trade Map tool (<http://www.trade-map.org>), ITC publishes official annual

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- Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) <http://comtrade.un.org/labs/BIS-trade-in-goods/>
- The Asia Pacific Energy Portal provides interactive visualization of energy-related data and policy information for ESCAP member and associate member States, including information on pricing, international trade, investment, environment, access and related policies. It also provides maps and Sankey diagrams of energy imports and exports based through UN Comtrade Public Data API.
- SAS Visual Analytics for UN Comtrade by SAS http://www.sas.com/en_us/software/visual-analytics-comtrade.html
- The UN Statistics Division and SAS have collaborated to provide real-time insights and analytics on 300+ million rows of data from UN

Comtrade, unlocking rich insights hidden in its wealth of trade information to policy makers, the business community, research institutions and the general public.

- GFCC Competitiveness Decoder by the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils <http://decoder.thegfcc.org>

The GFCC Competitiveness Decoder™ is the first data-based tool developed to visualize the key drivers of national competitiveness. Developed by the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils, the Decoder™ is built on more than 130 competitiveness metrics and the UN Comtrade dataset, covering more than hundred countries over the last 35 years. The Decoder™ allows users to understand global competitiveness by creating advanced visualizations like timelines, maps and ranks of countries. The Decoder™ is a tool for thinking, learning and action.

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EBOPS category and partner country, starting with the year 2000 provided on an annual basis. The main sources of data and metadata are national statistical offices, central banks, Eurostat and IMF. All values are expressed in US dollars. Services are classified according to EBOPS and its memorandum items and some additional BOP components and direct investment.

2014 International Trade Statistics Yearbook – Volume II Trade by Product

The 2014 International Trade Statistics Yearbook: Volume II – Trade by Product (the sixty-third edition) is being released in December 2015. The yearbook is aimed at both specialist trade data users and common audience at large. We believe the presented data, charts and analyses will benefit policy makers, government agencies, non-government organizations, civil society organizations, journalists, academics, researchers, students, businesses and anyone who is interested in trade issues.



Trade in services data were included for the first time in last year's edition of the International Trade Statistics Yearbook. 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 258 individual commodities (3-digit SITC groups) through 2014 and part 3 contains profiles of service trade for the 11 main EBOPS categories through 2013. 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 on commodity trade in this year's edition of the yearbook is based on data provided by 148 countries (areas), representing 95.9% of world trade in 2014 and the information on service trade for 2013 is based on data provided by 161 countries (areas).

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

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figures for all individual economies for as many EBOPS services categories as possible. When available, detailed partner country statistics are also presented, currently for around 49 reporting economies.

Trade Map presents two annual time series:

- i. BPM6, covering the period from 2005 till the latest year available, updated once a year (June);
- ii. Combination of BPM6 and BPM5 covering the period from 2000 until the last year available. BPM6 data are easily distinguishable in blue color.

WTO and UNCTAD also publish BPM6

quarterly values of total and commercial services statistics, covering over 140 individual economies. In their quarterly releases in 2016, the two agencies are planning to add BPM6 sub-items: transport, travel, other commercial services, and goods-related services. The figures start with Quarter 1 2005 and go up to the latest quarter available. ITC is also planning to publish quarterly trade statistics in 2016.

WTO also maintains a monthly trade in commercial services data set (BPM6). These statistics are published for individual economies who present their monthly figures (approximately 30), the updates being posted online on the WTO website once a month.

PAST EVENTS

Meeting of the Inter Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics (TFITS), 15 - 16 October 2015, Paris

The Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics (TFITS) has been formed by a merger of the Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (TFIMTS) and the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services (TFSITS), to reflect the increased coherence and interrelationships of both sets of statistics, and to formalize the practice of the Task Forces to meet jointly since 2008. The most recent meeting of the TFITS took place on 15-16 October 2015.

The TFITS discussed activities towards **statistical capacity building**, welcoming the progress made by UNCTAD and WTO to develop a trade in services e-learning course to replace general awareness seminars, which will be finalized in the summer of 2016. Once available, technical assistance seminars will focus on specific implementation problems of the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services (MSITS 2010), e.g. manufacturing services on inputs owned by others and FISIM. In addition, to assist countries with the implementation of the MSITS2010, the TFITS plans to establish a fund - referred to as facility - based on a global partnership, exercised by the TFITS. This facility would both finance project preparation and the execution of projects accepted by the global partnership. WTO will contact potential donors and develop a draft of the operational guidelines, for review by the Governance of the Fund.

The TFITS completed and published the

MSITS 2010 Compilers Guide in December 2014, while recognizing that more compilation guidance still needed to be developed. The TFITS therefore agreed to set up a dedicated website where additional material and country experiences related to the MSITS 2010 could be made available. One of the first additions to this online version will be the draft concordance tables between EBOPS 2010 and CPC rev.2. In addition, TFITS agreed that the material gathered by OECD on merchanting and manufacturing services, and on more detailed trade statistics, in the context of its work on the WPTGS, would be useful to be published as an online annex to the MSITS Compilers Guide. Finally, the TFITS Metadata Questionnaire on Trade in Services Statistics by EBOPS categories, and the survey results as collected by Eurostat and OECD, will also be added as an online annex to help other countries with the systematic recording of metadata. The TFITS discussed the progress related to the reduction of **bilateral trade asymmetries** in services and in merchandise trade, appreciating the joint work of OECD and WTO on the development of a world matrix of bilateral trade in services statistics by main EBOPS categories and a balanced international merchandise trade statistics dataset, noting that both datasets will be published in 2016. The TFITS also welcomed the work of UNSD on visualizing asymmetries in UN Comtrade using SAS.

Finally, the TFITS considered statistics on **new trade in services categories and**



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breakdowns. It took note of the international progress made towards measuring trade in services by modes of supply, and welcomed the final version of the UNCTAD technical note on *Measuring International Trade in ICT Services and ICT-enabled Services* as a

useful reference for enabling countries to collect comparable official statistics in these two areas.

² <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/taskforce/methodology.asp>

Interagency Task Force on International Trade Statistics



EDITORIAL NOTE

The Newsletter of the Interagency Task Force on International Trade Statistics (TFITS) is a joint publication of the members of the task force: the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) - the Task Force is chaired by OECD and WTO. The Newsletter is prepared by the Trade Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division - Department of Economic and Social Affairs. This Newsletter does not necessarily express the official position of any of the members nor is it an official document of the United Nations.

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