

OF THE INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON STATISTICS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN SERVICES

N°5 - December 2009



FOCUS

The Draft of the Revised Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services (2010) is finalized

Dear Reader,

The Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services (TFSITS) has recently completed the revised Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010, (MSITS 2010). This task was carried out by the TFSITS with the support and use of three rounds of world wide consultations. The UN Statistical Commission will meet between 23 and 26 February 2010 and will consider the report that the TFSITS has prepared to present its recent activities and

achievements, as well as its future plans of work.

This 5th issue of the Newsletter presents the summary of the revision process of MSITS 2010 as well as an overview of its new features, of the embedded implementation programme and the future work identified by the TFSITS and put forward to the Statistical Commission.

Members of TFSITS

THE REVISED MANUAL ON STATISTICS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN SERVICES (MSITS 2010)

Introduction

In implementing the Commission's decisions after 2002, the United Nations Interagency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services (TFSITS)¹ began to organize the revision process and to develop its views on the scope and content of the future revised manual. The revision process included eight (bi-annual) meetings of the TFSITS, three worldwide consultations including data producers, policy makers, international organizations and regional bodies, and beginning from 2008, two joint meetings with the inter-agency Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (TFIMTS). There was a close cooperation with the IMF in developing the methodology on services in BPM6. Meanwhile, as the IMF was planning the revision of its compilation guide following the release of BPM6, the TFSITS decided to postpone the elaboration of a compilation guide which

had been decided in 2002. Another reason for this adjournment was the existence of some compilation guidance on Foreign Affiliates Statistics (FATS) in the OECD Handbook on Economic Globalisation Indicators (HEGI) and, at that time, Eurostat's forthcoming *Recommendations Manual on the Production of Foreign Affiliates Statistics (FATS)*.

The revised Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010 (Manual) is designed to serve a broad spectrum of statistical needs, but places special emphasis on those of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). This second edition of the MSITS proposes a limited updating, aligning the Manual as far as possible with well-established revised standards for compilation, in particular the sixth edition of the IMF Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6), the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA2008) and the

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¹. Members of TFSITS are Eurostat, IMF, OECD, UNCTAD, UNSD, UNWTO and WTO. Other organizations were also involved in discussions of TFSITS in recent years (COMESA, UNECLAC, UNESCAP, UNESCWA, WHO) The TFSITS also benefits from the participation of country experts from Germany, Italy, Japan, Philippines and the United States

The Manual on SITS is available at: [HTTP://UNSTATS.UN.ORG/UNSD/TRADESERV/TFSITS/MANUAL.HTM](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/tfsits/manual.htm)

revised OECD Benchmark Definition for Foreign Direct Investment (BD4). Nonetheless, the draft Manual takes a broader view of international trade in services than the conventional balance of payments perspective set out in BPM6.

The Manual provides a more detailed classification of services delivered through conventional trade between residents and non-residents than is contained in BPM6. This Extended Balance of Payments Services classification (EBOPS 2010) has been revised in line with existing statistical frameworks. The Manual includes a treatment of local delivery of services through foreign commercial presence and takes a further step towards linking these

two systems. The Manual includes a new chapter discussing “modes of supply” described in GATS through which services can be delivered, and elaborates recommendations for a statistical treatment of these modes. The annex presenting the nature and purpose of the Tourism Satellite Account has been updated. Correspondence tables will be provided as online documents between **EBOPS 2010** and the **Central Product Classification version 2.0, (CPC Ver. 2.0)**, and the **International Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities Revision 4 (ISIC Rev. 4)**; and the GATS services negotiating list. A new analytical annex will be provided online on the Task Force’s website which is hosted by UNSD.

Revision of MSITS: Worldwide Consultations and Joint Sessions of TFSITS and TFIMTS

Extensive consultations and review processes have been undertaken in the preparation of the revised Manual. In addition to reviews by a range of expert groups and public availability of drafts on the Task Force website, the Task Force organized three worldwide consultations. Drafts of the Manual were circulated by the United Nations Statistics Division, the World Trade Organization and the International Monetary Fund to statistical organizations, central banks, trade delegations, international organizations and regional bodies of all their respective member countries. At each stage, responses were on the whole very supportive. Some respondents however warned that some of the data breakdowns suggested would be difficult to collect.

The first stage of the worldwide consultation review process was held from May to July 2006. 114 sets of country comments were received. Reviewing these remarks at the January 2007 meeting at UNWTO headquarters (Madrid), the Task Force agreed to add an analytical annex to the Manual and to develop a chapter on trade in services statistics by mode of supply.

The second stage of the review process was

conducted in September, October and November 2008, following the March 2008 meeting of the TFSITS, held in Vienna. About 100 additional comments were received. At the Vienna meeting, following the February 2008 Statistical Commission request that the revised recommendations on concept and definitions of international merchandise trade be harmonized to the extent possible with the updated recommendations for statistics of international trade in services, the Task Force held its first joint session with the inter-agency Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (TFIMTS). The purpose of this first meeting was twofold, first, to coordinate with the TFIMTS on compilation matters associated with cross-cutting issues between goods and services, second, on presentational and harmonization matters, to allow for an improved consistency with BPM6 and SNA 2008 which were still being fine-tuned at that time. At that meeting, it was also decided to delay the submission of MSITS 2010 to the Statistical Commission for being able to emphasize the co-operation that has taken place between both Task Forces in revising these Manuals.

The third stage of the world wide consultation was held from July to August

² Parts of the Manual have been discussed by the Advisory Group on National Accounts (AEG) and by the Group of Experts on the Impact of Globalization on National Accounts (WGGNA).

2009, following the March 2009 meeting of the TFSITS in Bangkok. In this stage, 38 countries responded, and 25 provided comments on the revised text of the Manual.

Summary of the Revised Draft MSITS 2010

MSITS 2010 addresses the needs of a variety of producers and users of trade in services statistics. While it is primarily a guide for statistical compilers, it is also a tool for governments and international organizations that use statistical information in connection with international negotiations on trade in services. The *Manual* also provides economists and policy analysts with an important instrument for better assessing the role of services in the context of economic globalization. Furthermore, it can aid businesses and others that need to monitor developments in international services markets.

The first version of the Manual was approved and adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its thirty-second session in March 2001 and was officially published in 2002. It represented an important advance relative to previous standards, providing a clearer, more detailed and comprehensive system for measuring services trade.

The updated Manual is particularly important for trade agreements, since these often cover services in addition to goods. Statistics are consequently needed on both goods and services, to guide negotiations and to support implementation of these agreements. The most well known and wide-reaching agreement involving services is the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), which became effective in 1995. The need for statistics has fueled the demand for developing a more comprehensive and integrated approach to statistical issues pertaining to trade in services.

The conceptual framework of the Manual is not only built around the requirements of GATS negotiations, but also on the concepts defined in the System of National Accounts (SNA), the Balance of Payments Manual (BPM), and those related to foreign affiliates statistics (FATS) and the OECD Benchmark Definition of Foreign Direct Investment, 4th Edition (BD4). The Manual is written along

A second joint meeting between the TFIMTS and TFSITS also took place in Bangkok in March 2009.

the lines of those three pillars.

Since the publication of the first version of the Manual, significant revisions have affected the SNA and the BPM, as well as related classifications such as the Central Product Classification (CPC) and International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC). To keep its concepts and definitions consistent, the Manual has been updated accordingly.

During the first worldwide consultation, aside from updating the Manual for conceptual changes in related statistical frameworks and classifications, the opportunity was seized to ask the countries' opinion on an overall review of the Manual.

As a result, the related chapters of the Manual were updated as follows: Chapter III reflects the updates in the recently released sixth edition of the Balance of Payment and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6). Chapter IV now separates more clearly between inward and outward FATS and is aligned with updates given in BPM6, the OECD Benchmark Definition 4th edition (BD4) and the current OECD Handbook on Economic Globalisation Indicators. It is also in line with the Eurostat Recommendations on Foreign Affiliates Statistics. Further, a more in-depth discussion of modes of supply is given in a separate chapter (Chapter V). There is also an updated annex clarifying the relation between the Manual and the International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics 2008 and the Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework 2008 Other annexes, and in particular the classification correspondence tables, will be presented online in order to allow modifications, as the common understanding of the impact of the changes to the different classifications improves over time. A new analytical annex will be provided online and updated regularly.



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Information about the SNA update and BPM5 revision is available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/sna2008.asp> and www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/bop/2007/bopman6.htm

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An important feature of the Manual is a description of the modalities through which services may be supplied, of which GATS identifies four: cross border, consumption abroad, commercial presence and presence of natural persons. Distinctions between these modes are based on whether the service supplier, the consumer, or neither, are present in one country or another for the transaction to be effected.

The Manual reflects an emerging international consensus on the need for statistics on commercial presence of firms in which a foreign investor has control.

Since the publication of the first version of the Manual, significant improvements have been made in clarifying statistical concepts and definitions for the supply of services through the presence of natural persons. This newly developed framework is included in Chapter V of this Manual.

BPM6 differs from its previous version on a number of issues, including some in the Goods and Services Account. Following the recommendation of the 2008 SNA to strictly apply the change-of-ownership principle, certain economically important items were rearranged in the classification of goods and services.

The Extended Balance of Payments Services Classification (EBOPS) is an extension of the main services components of the BPM6. The major changes in the BPM6 goods and services accounts were therefore reflected in EBOPS: goods sent abroad for processing and returned without a change of ownership were moved to services (previously under goods in BPM6), and compilation rearranged (manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others); merchanting (of goods), was removed from other business services (and included under

goods in BPM6); repairs of equipment were reclassified to services.

With respect to FATS, the main difference introduced in more recent guidelines lies in the concept of control (i.e. majority ownership of voting power) of foreign affiliates instead of majority ownership of ordinary shares or of voting power. MSITS 2010 provides further clarifications on inward and outward FATS, and also describes the links between FATS and the international supply of services. Finally, the ISIC Categories for Foreign Affiliates in services (ICFA) was revised to take into account the revisions introduced in ISIC Rev.4.

The treatment in the present Manual of both balance of payments statistics on trade in services and FATS, even within the constraints of current statistical frameworks, represents a significant step toward better linking these two frameworks. This linkage poses a challenge to statisticians who may have to draw on expertise and information spread among central banks, national statistical offices, and government ministries. As statistics on trade in services are developed, more cooperation will be required among the institutions involved in countries.

The Manual suggests that compilers implement a complete set of elements that build on internationally agreed standards and recommendations, so as to progressively achieve comparability of published statistics on international trade in services. These elements, if fully implemented, would represent a considerable increase in the information available on trade in services. It is recognized that many countries will see the full implementation of the recommendations as a long-term goal.

Overview of the implementation programme and future work

MSITS 2010 proposes a phased approach to the implementation of its recommendations. This will allow countries, including those that are beginning to develop statistics on international trade in services, to gradually

structure the available information in line with this international standard framework. The sequence of recommendations takes into account the relative ease that many compilers may find in their implementation. The order is quite flexible,



Further information on the work of the Interagency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services can be found at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/tfsits/>

and the Task Force can be contacted at std.servstat@oecd.org

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so that countries can meet the priority needs of their own institutions. Full implementation — to be seen as a long-term goal — would provide a considerable increase in the information available on trade in services. Such goal should, however, be viewed as a compromise between the detailed needs of users and the difficulty of data collection experienced by compilers.

MSITS 2010, building on the existence of other frameworks, and expanding those, lists four core elements to implement: a) BPM6 guidelines in particular those pertaining to trade in services, b) EBOPS – with some detail and partner country data for the twelve main categories of services identified as a first priority, c) Foreign Direct Investment statistics (FDI) by ISIC Rev.4, partner country detail and major activity categories; and d) Foreign Affiliates Statistics (FATS) by activity (basic variables), partner country detail, and major industry categories. MSITS 2010 also includes other recommended elements – these include EBOPS (complementary details), FATS (further details), trade between related and unrelated parties, developing estimates according to GATS modes of supply, and collect information on presence of natural persons.

In response to this challenge, the Task Force will provide its assistance in developing the BPM6 Compilation Guide with respect to trade in services (Chapter 10 of BPM6). Involvement of country practice is seen as essential in this respect and the TFSITS plans to expand to cover a broad range of expertise. The TFSITS will also coordinate implementation of the Manual by organizing technical assistance in the context of a capacity building program. In this context, one yearly seminar is expected to be organized. In addition, the TFSITS will focus on issues like data capturing for partner country breakdown, data consistency checking, and compiling Foreign Affiliates Statistics (FATS).

For elaborating the compilation guide, a modular approach with a “virtual” structure is favoured. As modules prepared, they will be analyzed and agreed at seminars of

compilers and then posted on the Internet. After completion, a print may be issued. The programme of modules will be elaborated and reviewed regularly by the Task Force.

In general, as countries implement the recommendations of the Manual, they are encouraged to provide explanatory notes alongside published data on data coverage and applied concepts and definitions to enhance transparency. This will improve data quality and the users’ ability to compare data internationally.

Building on above elements as well as discussions during recent meetings of the Task Forces and the Joint Sessions with the TFIMTS, the TFSITS agreed on the following recommendations and guidelines for future joint work:

- **Give priority to the implementation of the recommendations of MSITS 2010;**
- **Develop complementary compilation guidance on BOP trade in services items (in relation to BPM6 compilation guidance on services), FATS as well as other aspects developed in the chapter on modes of supply;**
- **Establish a statistical capacity building programme and coordinate technical assistance among the members of the TFSITS for the implementation of the MSITS 2010 recommendations .**
- **Improve data quality of trade in services and foreign affiliates statistics (including metadata);**
- **Develop a more integrated statistical view for both services and goods in collaboration with TFIMTS on**
 - **dissemination of an integrated variables list;**
 - **cross-cutting issues between trade in services and merchandise;**
 - **identifying data sources to collect trade in goods for processing, intra-firm trade, and related transactions,**
 - **trade by enterprise characteristics, linking business to trade registers, including enterprise groups.**

³ The WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration also refers in Annex C to targeted technical assistance. It spells out that "... such assistance should be provided on, *inter alia*, compiling and analyzing statistical data on trade in services, ..."

PAST EVENTS

Twenty-ninth Meeting of the Interagency Task Force on Statistics on International Trade in Services Statistics (TFSITS), Paris, 19-20 November 2009 hosted by OECD

The Task Force reviewed and discussed the comments received following the third - and last - worldwide consultation (WWC3) held in July and August 2009. 221 countries were invited to complete the WWC3 questionnaire. 38 responses were received including 25 completed questionnaires or comments on the revised text of the MSITS 2010. The five chapters and five annexes of the printed version of MSITS 2010, to be presented to the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) at the end of February 2010 were being read for consistency by a consultant. The Task Force endorsed MSITS 2010 and agreed on the proposal to present all correspondence tables on line on the Task Force's website hosted by the UNSD to allow modifications as the understanding of the impact of changes in classifications improves over time. The report to the UNSC, including strategy for implementation, was discussed and finalized. Data quality was also, once again, an essential item on the agenda. Further details about the meeting are available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/TFSITS/meeting-2009-11.htm>.

The Task Force meeting took place after the **2nd Meeting of the Working Party on International Trade in Goods and Trade in Services Statistics – WPTGS** organized by OECD. WPTGS was this year organised in two parts, the Merchandise trade and trade in services part and the part dealing with Trade and globalisation issues. For more information about WPTGS see: www.oecd.org/std/its/wptgs2009

Twenty-eighth Meeting of the Interagency Task Force on Statistics on International Trade in Services Statistics (TFSITS), Bangkok, 10-11 March 2009 hosted by UN ESCAP

The Task Force reviewed the latest drafts of the Manual of Statistics on International Trade in services (MSITS 2010) following the second worldwide consultation (WWC2) held from the 29th August to the 24th of November 2008. It was noted that WWC2 was the result of a good cooperation between International agencies. 221 countries had been approached (NSOs, CBs, International Agencies) and more than 100 replies had been received including 77 which were elaborated. The TF acknowledged that in general the countries were supporting MSITS 2010. After the discussions on country comments, the Task Force updated a time table describing division of labour and highlighting the different deadlines. The Task Force agreed on the need to hire a consultant to read MSITS 2010 through for consistency. The future content of the report to the statistical commission, - including a strategy for implementation - was agreed. The Promotion of trade in services statistics also in emerging and developing countries was agreed. A significant part of the meeting was devoted to the issue of data quality *i.e.* addressing the mutual concern regarding user's possible confusion when comparing country data which may sometime be different across International Organisations. Also, updates on the OECD a) Service Trade Restrictiveness Index project and b) Health accounts were presented. Further details about the meeting are available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/TFSITS/meeting-2009-03.htm>

On the last day there was a joint meeting of TFSITS and the Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics. A report from the UN Statistical Commission and Working Group on the Impact of Globalization on National Accounts was presented. The issues of the new treatment of goods for processing and intra-firm trade of multinationals discussed. There were presentations on an alternative presentation of trade by product and on the issue of recording software. The recommendation of the Joint Session and future work were agreed.

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TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND SEMINARS

International Trade in Services Course (including the measuring trade in services module, organized by the World Bank), Washington, DC, March , 23rd-April 1 st, 2009.

Developing National Systems of Tourism Statistics: Challenges and Good Practices, Regional Workshop for South-East Asian countries, jointly organized by the United Nations Statistics Division and World Tourism Organization, Vientiane, Lao, 16 – 19 June 2009.

Workshop on Statistics of International Trade in Services for BRIC countries and selected middle income economies, organized by the World Bank, Durban, South Africa, 15-17 June 2009.

National Seminar on Statistics of International Trade in Services, organized by World Trade Organization, Lusaka, Zambia, 26-27 November 2009.

Statistics of International Trade in Service: Challenges and Good Practices, Regional Workshop for Latin American and Caribbean Countries Organized by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)

in close collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and Banco Central do Brasil Rio De Janeiro, hosted by Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1 – 4 December 2009.

UNWTO Statistics Capacity-building Programme for the Middle East, 1st workshop, Saudi Arabia, April 2010 (TBC).

UNWTO Statistics Capacity-building Programme for Europe (Russian-speaking countries) followed up with a regional seminar focusing on developing the national systems of tourism statistics in the CIS countries organized UNSD and UNWTO, Azerbaijan, 2010 (TBC).

UNWTO Statistics Capacity-building Programme for Asia, 1st workshop, Thailand, May-June 2010 (TBC).

UNWTO Statistics Capacity-building Programme for Africa, 4th workshop, South Africa, August 2010.

PUBLICATIONS AND DATABASES

Eurostat Statistics on International Trade in Services

Extremely detailed data on International Trade in Services are publicly and freely available from Eurostat website since 1 October 2004 at the following address: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/balance_of_payments/data/database

For all the EU27 Member States, but also for Croatia, Turkey, Iceland, Norway, the United States and Japan, the on-line Eurostat database contains annual data on ITS broken down by EBOPS category and

partner country, starting, for some countries, from year 1985. The main sources of data are the national statistical offices or central banks. All values are expressed in million of Euro.

Quarterly data for 11 main types of service and a reduced geographical breakdown are also available from Eurostat database, as part of the tables related to quarterly balance of payments data.

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OECD Statistics on International Trade in Services

Volume I: Detailed Tables by Service Category; and Volume II: Detailed Tables by Partner Country.

Volume I is an annual joint publication with Eurostat and presents, for 30 OECD countries and the EU, balance of payments data by type of service at the most detailed level. The electronic version covers 1970-2007. Historic series are available to the extent that countries can report them.

Volume II provides partner country

breakdowns by type of service. The electronic version provides breakdowns by partner and the EBOPS classification to the extent that countries can report them. It covers the years 1999-2007. Data are provided for 28 OECD countries, the EU, Hong Kong (S.A.R. China) and the Russian Federation.

The databases are available at the following address: <http://stats.oecd.org/wbos/Index.aspx?datasetcode=TISP>

UNSD database on 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 since June 2007, 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 some related data series, broken down

by 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.

UNWTO Publications

UNWTO Compendium of Tourism Statistics. This publication is designed to provide a condensed and quick-reference guide on the major tourism statistical indicators in each country. The 2009 edition (published in April 2009) provides statistical information on tourism in 208 countries and territories around the world for the period 2003 – 2007. The 2010 edition (to be published by April 2010) will provide information for the period 2004 – 2008. A CD including all statistical data in


separate Excel files (one per country) is also available. Further information is available at: <http://www.unwto.org/statistics/data/data.htm>

UNWTO Tourism Factbook. This online database provides information on a country basis and includes all the available data from the Compendium of Tourism Statistics, the Yearbook of Tourism Statistics and outbound data. It is available at: <http://www.wtoelibrary.org>

WTO International Trade Statistics, Trade Profiles and Services Profiles, 2009 editions

In addition to merchandise trade data, this report provides comprehensive, comparable and up-to-date statistics on trade in commercial services (i.e. excluding

government services n.i.e.) between residents and non-residents for an assessment of world trade flows by country, region and main services category.



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The coverage of statistics on international trade in services, has been updated in the latest paper edition. Major trade developments are summarized in the highlights of each chapter of the report. Total commercial services trade time series for the last decade broken down by reporter are provided in the Appendix. The publication also presents available data on sales of services by foreign affiliates which is useful to estimate the supply of services through mode 3. The accompanying database is updated twice a year and contains time series from 1980 for total commercial services, transportation, travel and other commercial services.

The WTO Secretariat also updates twice a year its trade profiles series for 180 members, observers and other selected economies (once a year for the paper version). They present for each economy standard information on the structural trade

situation (including commercial services trade) and relevant trade policy measures. The profiles are complemented with general macroeconomic indicators.

In the spring of 2009 the WTO has released on the web a new statistical product. The "Services Profiles" provide standard information on key "Infrastructure services" (*transportation, telecommunications, finance and insurance*). Around 100 indicators relating to investment, market performance, production, employment, trade as well as performance rankings are available for some 60 economies. Indicators are derived from various statistical domains such as the national accounts; employment statistics; balance of payments statistics; FATS and FDI statistics as well as sector-specific quantitative indicators. For more information see: <http://stat.wto.org>

EDITORIAL NOTE

The Newsletter of the Interagency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services (TFSITS) 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. The Newsletter is prepared by the International Trade Statistics Section 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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