

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

N°6 - December 2010



FOCUS

Tourism as an Internationally Traded Service and Beyond[†]

Dear Reader,

The UN Statistical Commission at its forty-first meeting (23-26 February 2010) expressed its appreciation for the intensive work carried by the members of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services in revising the *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services* and adopted the revised manual (Manual of International Trade in Services 2010). The Statistical Commission also endorsed the implementation programme and recognized that training is particularly important in trade in services statistics because of its methodological complexity.

This 6th issue of the Newsletter focuses on a particular service item, tourism and gives further information on its importance in and effect to the whole economy.

Members of TFSITS

TOURISM AS AN INTERNATIONALLY TRADED SERVICE AND BEYOND

The Backdrop for Trade: Tourism as an Economic Phenomenon

Tourism is a social, cultural and economic phenomenon which entails the movement of people to countries or places outside their usual environment for personal or business/professional purposes. These people are called *visitors*¹ and tourism has to do with their activities, some of which imply tourism expenditure—the basis for defining tourism as an economic phenomenon. The measurement of tourism's contribution from the supply side of the economy—in other words, looking at tourism from the perspective of industries that cater to visitor demand—is important because tourism is not an industry in the traditional sense: industries are classified according to what they produce, while tourism is defined by the demand for products coming from a special type of consumer, the visitor.

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) defines the *tourism sector* as the cluster of production units in different industries that provide goods and services typically demanded by visitors. Such industries are called *tourism industries* because visitor acquisition represents such a

significant share of their supply that, in the absence of visitors, their production of these goods and services would cease to exist in meaningful quantity. Tourism industries include the provision of accommodation for visitors, food and beverage serving activities, passenger transportation, travel agencies and other reservation services activities, cultural activities, sports and recreational activities, as well as other country-specific activities. Tourism is thus a collection of industries (note that not everything produced by tourism industries goes to visitors. For instance, a restaurant caters to visitors and non-visitors alike). The challenge of measuring tourism's economic contribution lies in matching the supplying industries to the products actually demanded by visitors; and this is exactly what the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) does.

Visitor Expenditure Determines the Macroeconomic Aggregates of Tourism

As a series of accounts that follow National Accounts logic and Keynesian economic principles, the TSA identifies the value of tourism in total output, consumption, investments, general government consumption, exports and imports. It allows

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¹ A *visitor* is a traveler taking a trip to a main destination outside his/her usual environment, for less than a year, for any main purpose (business, leisure or other personal purpose) other than to be employed by a resident entity in the country or place visited. A visitor (domestic, inbound or outbound) is classified as a *tourist* (or overnight visitor), if his/her trip includes an overnight stay, or as a *same-day visitor* (or excursionist) otherwise. See UNWTO's *Understanding Tourism: Basic Glossary*.

“JUST LIKE GDP REFLECTS THE SIZE OF AN ECONOMY, TOURISM DIRECT GDP REFLECTS THE SIZE OF THE TOURISM SECTOR ...”

for deriving this information in great detail (demand and supply according to CPC product and ISIC industry categories, respectively) and in macroeconomic aggregates (like the Tourism Direct GVA or Tourism Direct GDP).

Just like GDP reflects the size of an economy, Tourism Direct GDP reflects the size of the tourism sector. It conveys how much of each economy corresponds to visitor demand for goods and services. This is also known as the *direct contribution* of tourism and allows for international comparability, measuring the economic response to a demand generated by visitors (tourists or excursionists), regardless of where the visitors come from (residents or non-resident).

Demand by visitors is calculated from their aggregated expenditure. As a specific kind of consumer, visitors on a trip in the economy of reference generate a specific kind of expenditure: resident visitors bring about *domestic tourism expenditure* and non-resident visitors produce *inbound tourism expenditure*. Both of these expenditures bring forth economic activity in the economy of reference. Residents on a trip outside the economy of reference generate *outbound tourism expenditure*; this expenditure (and the economic activity it brings forth) corresponds to economies other than the economy of reference.

A helpful way of presenting the flow of uses and resources in a national economy is to identify total output (GDP) in terms of the following identity:

$$O = C + I + G + (X - M),$$

where O: Total output, C: Consumption by households, I: Investments, G: general government consumption, X: Exports and M: Imports. Note that (X-M) equals net exports.

In a world with visitors (either tourists or excursionists; residents or non-residents) who acquire goods and services on their trips, the two forms of tourism (inbound and domestic) have a tourism related expenditure that are embedded in X and C, respectively.

The Economic Contribution of Tourism

Regarding the measurement of tourism expenditure, *internal* (domestic + inbound)

Table 1. Tourism expenditure* in selected economies

Countries	Tourism expenditure (%)	
	Inbound	Domestic
Australia	25.6	74.4
Brazil	23.9	76.1
Canada	20.3	79.7
China	9.2	90.8
France	35.0	65.0
Germany	19.9	79.6
India	18.2	81.8
Indonesia	37.9	62.1
Italy	46.9	53.1
Japan	5.7	94.3
Korea, Republic of	47.2	52.8
Mexico	13.3	86.7
Saudi Arabia	46.6	53.4
South Africa	48.4	51.6
Spain	44.0	56.0
United Kingdom	18.1	81.9
USA	13.8	86.2

Source: World Tourism Organization's (UNWTO) TSA Data Around the World (June 2009), National Statistical Office sources, Eurostat's Tourism Accounts in the European Union (2009) or data provided/ updated by country in revision round.

(*) Data obtained from countries' TSA. For each country, the year with the most complete and recent data was taken. For this reason, the years may vary among countries so that figures are not strictly comparable between countries. However, it must be noted that as year-to-year changes in these aggregates are generally quite small, the comparability for primarily exploratory purposes is not severely compromised. Note that country figures may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

and *international* (inbound + outbound) flows should be identified and analyzed separately. The first is used for accounting the size of tourism in an economy, discussed here; the second for accounting tourism as part of international trade, discussed in the next section.

Internal tourism expenditure is the key aggregate for measuring tourism's economic contribution from the demand side. The table below shows that, in many economies, tourism's economic contribution is a function of inbound tourism but, most importantly, of domestic tourism (which often triples or more the value of inbound tourism expenditure).

Like any economic sector, tourism is embedded in the economy—provoking



“INBOUND
TOURISM
RANGES
BETWEEN 9.3%
(JAPAN) AND
85.5%
(CAMBODIA)
OF SERVICES
EXPORTS”

“TOURISM
TRIPS HAVE A
QUITE
ELASTIC
DEMAND IN
TERMS OF
INCOME“

rippling economic effects as well as assuming them from other economic sectors. This happens through the different industries producing goods and services demanded by a special subset of travelers, identified as visitors, whom are the ‘core element’ of tourism. It is important to highlight the difference between measuring the size of the tourism sector (TSA issue) and its total economic impact (a modeling issue) which includes these ripples (i.e. indirect and induced effects). The TSA offers an excellent statistical input for modeling techniques—like Input-Output, Computational General Equilibrium and others—to analyze potential effects of policy changes (e.g. a change in a tax), external shocks (an abrupt change in demand) and linkages with an array of industries and production factors.

Tourism as part of Exports

Tourism as an internationally traded service is becoming increasingly important in all types of countries, and consequently, so is its measurement. In terms of international trade, the sector generates foreign revenues inflow for the country of reference through the provision of services to non-residents (inbound tourism). In order to satisfy internal tourism demand, the country may import goods and services to supplement the output of domestic producers. Conversely, resident visitors traveling abroad (outbound tourism) bring revenues to other economies².

As such, the expenditure associated to inbound and outbound tourism is part of the Balance of Payments (specifically, these expenditures are included in the ‘travel’ and ‘international transport passenger services’ items). Inbound tourism, if significant enough, contributes to more favorable trade balances and national income; outbound tourism has the opposite effect.

The BPM6 has changed the relationship between tourism and travel by suggesting, in those countries where international tourism is relevant, to develop and ask for estimates of tourism related expenditure. It states: “an approximation to tourism expenditure may be shown as a supplementary item that identifies relevant tourism-related goods and services in the travel and passenger transport items”.

The expenditure related to trans-border flows of visitors allows for a complementary perspective when considering the tourism contribution to the national economy. The table 2 shows data on inbound and outbound tourism from the perspective of international trade. It can be seen that, as an internationally exported service, inbound tourism ranges between 9.3% (Japan) and 85.5% (Cambodia) of services exports.

Just like trade in other goods and services, tourism affects national income and may face trade restrictions in the form of entry quotas, travel duties or strict visa requirements. From a purely economic theory view, the reciprocally free movement of products and people benefits society at large in all countries by allowing each country to specialize in what it produces best and by providing each country with a larger variety of goods and services.

Tourism’s Resilience: the Interplay between Inbound and Domestic Tourism

To understand the resilience of tourism, consider again tourism as an economic sector, with its roots in internal tourism expenditure. Especially in times of crisis, many stakeholders marvel at the stability of tourism’s contribution to GDP while international tourism indicators (such as arrival figures and Balance of Payments data) have shown marked negative trends since 2008. There are a couple of reasons that explain this false paradox:

- Many people consider tourism trips a non-renounceable commodity. Tourism trips have a quite elastic demand in terms of income because a non-dramatic increase or decrease of it does not affect the amount of trips consumed. Even so, their varying income may induce them to switch between outbound and domestic trips, giving way to a substitution effect.
- Tourism behavior is also linked to business cycles: When in an expansionary economic cycle, people are more likely to venture on more expensive trips abroad (outbound tourism increases but, if things go well abroad also, so does inbound tourism). When economic growth slows down, people may trade them in for more modest domestic trips. With higher domestic expenditures compensating for lower

² Note that the IRTS 2008 specifies the term ‘tourism expenditure’ to denote “the amount paid for the acquisition of consumption goods and services, as well as valuable, for own use or to give away, for and during tourism trips”. Even so, some documents still refer to inbound tourism expenditure as ‘international tourist receipts’ (as it corresponds to foreign revenue inflow for the country visited, from a Balance of Payments perspective) and to outbound tourism expenditure as ‘international tourist expenditure’ (just because it corresponds to domestic revenue outflow for the country of reference).

Table 2. Inbound tourism expenditure and tourism balance in selected economies

Countries	Inbound tourism expenditure in % of exports of:			Tourism balance* (in millions US\$)
	goods	services	goods and services	
Argentina	7.6	43.9	6.5	-666
Armenia	33.8	58.3	21.4	-6
Australia	15.1	62.9	12.2	3,567
Barbados	240.9	73.2	56.2	898
Brazil	3.1	20.1	2.7	-7,160
Cambodia	29.7	85.0	22.0	1,218
Canada	3.8	26.7	3.4	-15,680
China	3.1	30.0	2.8	3,143
Costa Rica	26.4	61.9	18.5	1,808
Egypt	40.6	48.6	22.1	8,714
France	9.3	34.1	7.3	17,424
Finland	5.0	15.2	3.8	-673
Germany	3.4	20.8	2.9	-52,525
India	6.6	12.1	4.3	380
Indonesia	5.8	53.5	5.3	-651
Italy	8.9	40.6	7.3	10,954
Japan	1.8	9.3	1.5	-25,195
Korea, Republic of	2.9	16.8	2.5	-7,977
Mexico	5.0	79.3	4.7	4,462
Mozambique	8.0	38.4	6.6	-28
Nepal	35.8	48.8	20.6	-192
Peru	7.6	65.9	6.8	1,043
Russian Federation	3.4	31.0	3.0	-11,212
Saudi Arabia	1.9	63.0	1.8	-9,439
South Africa	10.7	71.7	9.3	2,274
Spain	24.6	48.9	16.4	43,405
Sri Lanka	9.9	40.1	7.9	26
Turkey	17.7	71.5	14.2	20,904
United Kingdom	9.9	16.0	6.1	-37,937
USA	13.0	30.5	9.1	48,644

(*) Tourism balance is equal to the inbound minus outbound tourism expenditure

inbound expenditures during times of crisis, the net effect on tourism contribution may vary only modestly over business cycles, other things being equal.

- The value of domestic tourism expenditure is, in general, significantly larger than that of inbound tourism. This means that inbound tourism, and its fluctuations, affect total tourism expenditure in a relatively small degree. Japan offers the most evident example; with 94.3% of internal tourism coming from resident visitors, its domestic tourism weighs more than 16 times the value of inbound. It is intuitive that domestic tourism is a function of the size of country population and geographical territory: the larger the population and country, the more likely

people are to take tourism trips to places within national borders.

- Finally, resilience is inherent in macroeconomic aggregates in general because they are a cumulative measure. The relative economic weight of the tourism sector is quite resilient over time because the effects of its many components largely smooth each other out.

When considering tourism as an economic phenomenon, it is important to look both at the macroeconomic aggregates and the way its constituents (inbound and domestic) interact and evolve over time.

(†) This article was prepared by the UNWTO. If you need further information, please send an email to cvanderpol@unwto.org.

[IN JAPAN],
DOMESTIC
TOURISM
WEIGHS MORE
THAN 16 TIMES
THE VALUE OF
INBOUND
TOURISM

TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND SEMINARS

GLOBAL FORUM
ON TRADE
STATISTICS --
MEASURING
GLOBAL TRADE -
DO WE HAVE THE
RIGHT NUMBERS?

2-4 FEBRUARY
2011, GENEVA,
SWITZERLAND

Eurostat:

◆ *First meeting of the Travel Workshop relating to International Trade in Services Statistics* organized by Eurostat, Statistics Austria and Oesterreichische Nationalbank, Vienna, Austria 29-30 November 2010.

IMF:

◆ *Seminar on Statistics of International Trade in Services* at the Center of Excellence in Finance, Slovenia during January 18-22, 2010 for countries of South East Europe.

◆ *Seminar on Statistics of International Trade in Services* at the IMF-Singapore Regional Training Institute during June 7-11, 2010 for countries of the Asia-Pacific region and Afghanistan.

WTO:

◆ Cairo (January 2010) and Vienna (February 2010), within the World Bank course on Services Trade Reform and Negotiations in the CIS and Balkan countries, module on "*Measuring Trade in Services*".

◆ Malaysia, *National Seminar on Statistics of International Trade in Services*, Kuala Lumpur, 10-12 March 2010.

◆ China, *The 5th International Seminar on Trade in Services*, Kunming, China, 30 November – 1 December 2010.

UNSD:

◆ *Workshop on Tourism Statistics for CIS countries and Georgia*, 29 June - 2 July, 2010, Chisinau, Moldova – The Workshop was organized by the United Nations Statistics Division in collaboration with the UN World Tourism Organization, the Interstate Statistical Committee of the CIS and the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova, with the support of the United National Development Programme – Moldova. Further information is available at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/Workshops/Chisinau/default.htm>

◆ *Workshop on Statistics of International Trade in Services for the South-East Asian countries*, Hanoi - Vietnam, 30 November - 3 December 2010. The workshop was organized by the United Nations Statistics Division in cooperation with the General Statistical Office of Vietnam, the World Trade Organization and Eurostat. Further information is available at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/Workshops/hanoi2010/default.htm>

◆ *Global Forum on Trade Statistics -- Measuring Global Trade - Do We Have the Right Numbers?* 2-4 February 2011, Geneva, Switzerland. The event is being organized jointly by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), and in collaboration with the World Trade Organization (WTO). For more information, visit the website of the event at: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/s_geneva2011/geneva2011.htm

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.

OECD Statistics on International Trade in Services

International trade in services data are published by OECD in two datasets: *Trade in services by service category* (TIS dataset) and *Trade in service by partner country* (TISP dataset).

The dataset *Trade in services by service category* seeks to provide balance of payments data by type of service (EBOPS classification) at the most detailed level for the 34 OECD member countries, plus the Russian Federation, Brazil, India, Indonesia, China and South Africa. Published data go back to 1970, and historic series are available to the extent that countries can report them. All values are expressed both in million of US dollars and in national currency, and are provided on an annual basis.

An extract of the TIS dataset is freely available at:

<http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?datasetcode=TIS>

The dataset *Trade in service by partner country* provides statistical information on international trade in services broken down by partner country to the extent that countries can report them. Published data start in 1999, and relate to 32 OECD member countries (Iceland and Switzerland have not provided any bilateral data yet), plus the Russian Federation and Hong Kong (S.A.R. China) All values are expressed in million of US dollars and are provided on an annual basis.

An extract of the TISP dataset is freely available at:

<http://stats.oecd.org/wbos/default.aspx?datasetcode=TISP>

Each dataset is followed by the correspondent metadata. The main sources of data and metadata for both TIS and TISP datasets are Eurostat, national statistical offices, central banks, and IMF.

WTO International Trade Statistics, Trade Profiles and Services Profiles, 2010 editions

In addition to merchandise trade data, the International Trade Statistics 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.

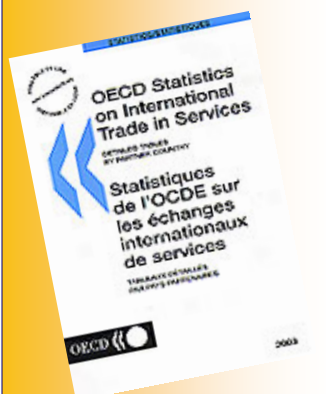
Major trade developments are summarized in the highlights of each chapter of the report. Total commercial services trade time series for the last decade broken down by reporter are provided in the Appendix. The publication also presents available data on sales of services by foreign affiliates which 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 2010 the WTO updated its "Services Profiles" which provide standard information on key "Infrastructure services" (*transportation, telecommunications, finance and insurance*) for over 90 economies.

Around 100 indicators relating to investment, market performance, production, employment, trade as well as performance rankings are available. 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>



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.



United Nations Service Trade Statistics Database | Statistics Division

Home My Account Data Query Data Availability Metadata & Reference Support Fast tracks

Home

Shortcut Query

Show **Export** of **Total EBOPS Services** in the year **latest reported data**

from **Russian Federation** to **Netherlands**

Search

Trade in Graph

Russian Federation in 2009 :
Top 5 exported service categories (Level 1 EBOPS) to Netherlands

■	268
■	205
■	236
■	245
■	262
■	Others

- 9 Other business services** (55.53%)
- 1 Transportation** (16.11%)
- 2 Travel** (10.31%)
- 3 Communications services** (5.01%)
- 7 Computer and information services** (4.00%)
- 6 Others** (9.04%)

(details), graph more...

What's New

A Batch Processing functionality has been added to UN ServiceTrade queries. The download limit is now 20 million records per query.

The access to the database is free of charge. You just need to register first at [Registration Page](#).

Access Box

Hello
Please always click log off to exit.
Log Off

Released data

	# of country periods
today (2010.12.22)	0
last 7 days	0
last 30 days	263
year-to-date	1017
last year	1035
all data	1794

UNWTO publications

UNWTO Compendium of Tourism Statistics:

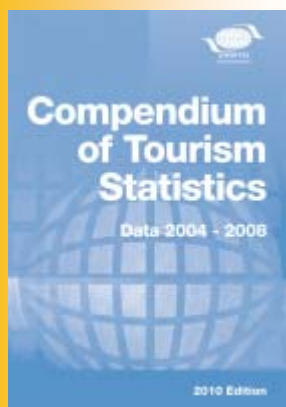
This publication is designed to provide a condensed and quick-reference guide on the major tourism statistical indicators in each country. The 2010 edition (published in April 2010) provides statistical information on tourism in 210 countries and territories around the world for the period 2004 – 2008. 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. Besides the convenient access by alphabetical or geographical selection, the *Tourism Factbook* offers a multiple country search as well as other additional data sets.

It is available at: <http://www.wtoelibrary.org>



Overview of existing databases covering SITS at different international organizations

The table below presents an overview of existing databases providing statistics of international trade in services maintained at different international organizations member of the Task Force. Further information on the collection, processing and dissemination of these statistics are available on the website of each respective agency (see left).

					
Mandate	Regulation (EC) No 184/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council	Article VIII of the IMF's Articles of Agreement	OECD Working Party on International Trade in Goods and Services Statistics (WPTGS) mandate for TIS and TISP annual data collection	Statistical Commission at its 23rd Session (2001)	GATS, RTA transparency mechanism require monitoring & surveillance of trade flows for assessing trade liberalization
Geographical coverage	Europe, EEA members (30), + Croatia, Turkey, Norway, Switzerland, Iceland, Japan, USA	All economies. Regional and world aggregates.	TIS: 30 Member countries (MCs) , Estonia, Russian Federation, Brazil, India, Indonesia, China South Africa TISP: 31 MCs (excl. Switzerland and Iceland), Estonia, Russian Federation, Hong Kong, SAR of China	Member states (180 of 192) + some 15 territories	All economies: Regional and world aggregates are produced including estimations for missing reporter data
Format	Standard questionnaire via GESMES format (full SDMX compatible)	Integrated Correspondence System (ICS) Standard Excel questionnaire	EU-OECD countries: download from EUROSTAT website Non EU-OECD countries: Standard Excel questionnaire	File exported from National Statistical Offices (NSO) or Central Banks (CB) database in delimited text file or Standard Excel questionnaire	
Source	Data collection	Data collection	EU-OECD countries (excl. Germany for TISP): EUROSTAT Non EU-OECD countries (incl. Russian Federation for TIS and TISP, Hong Kong SAR of China and Germany for TISP) : Data collection (CBs or NSOs) BRIICS for TIS (exc Russian Federation): IMF	Data collection (NSO, CB) + electronic data transfer from Eurostat + IMF monthly BOP statistics database	IMF monthly BOPS database + Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, websites of NSO, CB + WTO estimations
Time	Annual: 1985-latest year Quarterly: from 1994Q1	1948 to latest year	TIS: from 1970 - latest year TISP: from 1999 - latest year	2000 - latest year	1980 – latest year
Service classification	EBOPS	BPM5	EBOPS	EBOPS	For all economies Commercial services (excl. government services n.i.e.): Transportation, Travel, Other commercial services. More details for selected economies
Breakdown by products (CPC)	No	No	Ongoing research project on trade by product and industries	No, but experimental CPC module is planned	No
Number of countries with partner data	32 countries (27 MCs, Croatia, Turkey, Norway, Switzerland and Japan)	No	34 countries (31 of the 33 OECD member countries plus Estonia, Russian Federation and Hong Kong SAR of China)	46 countries	Selected economies
Availability of metadata	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, in development	Yes
Collection cycle	Annual: Sep, a-1 Quarterly: m-3	May-Sep, t-1	from EUROSTAT: Dec, t-1 Standard Excel questionnaire: --- TIS: Jan, t-2 --- TISP: Feb, t-2 IMF: Dec, t-1	July, t-1	Follows publication calendar: twice a year (March and June/July t-1) for main aggregates and only June/July (t-1) for more detailed information. Short-term data every quarter
Publication cycle	May, t-1 (prelim.) Annual: November, t-1 Quarterly: T+110 days	Monthly	Rolling update on OECD.Stat	Continuous – Target deadline for data February, t-2	March, t-1 October, t-1
Format of publication	Internet database download	Internet database download CD-ROM, Printed publication	Internet database download Paper publication, CD-ROM	Internet database download	Internet download of predefined tables and/or time-series, e-publication and print
Website	http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat	http://www2.imfstat.istics.org/BOP/	TIS: http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?data_setcode=TIS TISP : http://stats.oecd.org/wbos/default.aspx?datasetcode=TISP	http://unstats.un.org/unsd/serVICetrade/	http://stat.wto.org/Home/WSDBHome.aspx?Language=E

EUROSTAT:
[Balance of payments - International transactions](#)

IMF:
[Balance of Payments Statistics](#)

OECD:
[Trade by service category](#)

[Trade by Partner Country](#)

UN:
[UN ServiceTrade](#)

WTO:
<http://stat.wto.org>

The overview of these databases is also available at:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/TFSITS/matrix.htm>

PAST EVENTS

Thirty-first Meeting of the Interagency Task Force on Statistics on International Trade in Services Statistics (TFSITS), Paris, 7 October 2010 hosted by OECD

The Task Force noted the status of the edited version of the MSITS 2010 and the revision of concordance annexes to the manual. TF noted that there should be as much consistency as possible between the EBOPS-ICFA and the EBOPS-CPC correspondence. The Task Force agreed that the IMF BOPCOM which is taking place at the end of October would be the right forum to raise the important issue of the delayed availability of the BPM6 coding system which has significant implications on BPM6 data compilation at the country level. The TF agreed that annex I of the training module would ultimately be incorporated into the analytical toolbox. The Task Force took note of the presentation on measuring

trade in health care goods and services and well as on FATS in the context of gathering data collection experience for the MSITS 2010 compilation guidance. The TF also discussed the proposed relevant research areas that were identified in the successive world wide consultations on MSITS 2010. The Task Force agreed on the follow up procedure in regards to the BPM6 compilation guide as well as a separate MSITS 2010 Compilation Guide. TF also discussed the taxonomy setting up and practical examples.

Further details about the meeting are available at

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/TFSITS/meeting-2010-10.htm>

Thirtieth Meeting of the Interagency Task Force on Statistics on International Trade in Services Statistics (TFSITS), 23-24 March 2010 (joint meeting with TF on merchandise trade : 25 March 2010), Beirut, Lebanon, hosted by ESCWA

The TF discussed the presentation of the report on submission of *MSITS 2010* to United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) and its decision. Revision of concordance annexes to MSITS 2010 was also discussed (EBOPS 2010 and CPC version 2, EBOPS 2010 and GNS/W/120, EBOPS 2010 and ICFA, the revision of BEC, its possible extension to services). The TF also noted the presentation of the paper on the analytical annex including follow up of STRI project. A decision was taken on the drafting of the glossary and list of acronyms, the index and the bibliography and also the foreword and the acknowledgements. The TF acknowledged the presentation on the

experience and plans from ESCWA region as well as Experience and plans from Central Bank of Lebanon. The MSITS 2010 implementation process including the drafting of the compilation guidance was discussed. The TF was also informed about the BPM6 Compilation Guide preparation. The agenda included presentations on data quality and comparability of databases between international organizations as well as on the current status of the data collection at different international organizations.

Further details about the meeting are available at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/TFSITS/meeting-2010-03.htm>

Further information is available at the Interagency Task Force on SITS at:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/TFSITS/default.htm>

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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