Singapore’s Statistics of International Trade in Services (SITS)

1. General compilation strategies for resident/ non-resident trade in services by EBOPS categories, including data sources, coverage, time of recording, and institutional arrangements;

a. Data Sources

Singapore’s SITS are compiled from various sources due to the wide diversity of trade in services. The bulk of the data is compiled from the International Trade in Services Survey (TIS) conducted annually by DOS. These are supplemented by data from other sources to compile the complete trade in services.

Data for the following services components are not collected from TIS survey but from other sources.

Services Component and Data Sources:
- Travel services - Overseas Visitors Survey
- Government services - Administrative Data
- Freight and Insurance on goods imports - Survey of Transportation Costs

There is no breakdown available for data by partner country from these supplementary sources. Hence, statistics on trade in services by partner country are solely based on data compiled from the TIS survey.

The TIS data are used as inputs to compile the current account section in Singapore’s Balance of Payments (BOP).

b. Scope and Coverage of TIS Survey

The survey covers establishments from manufacturing, construction, wholesale & retail, hoteling, transport & logistics, financial, professional and business services which engage in international trade in services.

c. Survey Frame and Sample Selection for TIS Survey

The survey frame of TIS survey covers establishments with international services trade and was mainly based on the results of the previous year’s survey. Establishments which engaged in international services trade were also identified via zero-rated goods and services tax data, screening questions in other existing establishment surveys as well as media sources.
d. Concepts and Definitions

Compilation of International Trade in Services statistics follows closely the principles and guidelines set out by the International Monetary Fund's Balance of Payments Manual, fifth edition (BPM5) and the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services (MSITS).

e. Publications on Singapore's Trade in Services

Detailed SITS are released annually in the Singapore Department of Statistics website at www.singstat.gov.sg. Trade in services data by broad categories are also published in the Annual/Quarterly Economic Survey of Singapore.

2. Specific compilation practices regarding
   - Transports services
   - Travel services
   - Other business services

f. Transportation

Transportation services covers services that involve the carriage of passengers, the movement of goods, charter of carriers with crew, and related supporting and auxiliary services. This category also includes port services and commissions arising from services provided to foreign shipping lines/airlines. The published components of Transportation are Freight (which includes the movement of goods and charter with crew) and Others.

All components of transportation services data are currently compiled from the TIS survey, except for freight on imports, which is estimated by applying freight factors to the value of imports (c.i.f). These factors are obtained from the survey of transportation costs for goods imports.

g. Travel

Travel covers the range of goods and services consumed by travellers during visits to a particular economy for less than one year. Travellers going abroad for business activities or for purposes other than business such as holidays, social visits, and education and health-related purposes are included under travel. Expenditures incurred by an individual (and their dependants) as an employee of his or her government stationed in another economy are included under government services and not in travel.

The primary data source for travel services is the Overseas Visitor Survey (OVS) conducted by the Singapore Tourism Board.
h. Other Business Services

‘Other business services’ are compiled from the TIS survey results, and cover a range of services transactions which can be further categorised into the following components:

- Accounting services
- Advertising services
- Architectural services
- **Business management services** include administrative and consultancy services provided to businesses; as well as the reimbursement of operating expenses between related business entities.
- Engineering and technical services
- Legal services
- Research and development services
- **Trade-related services** consist of merchanting and commissions arising from the trading of goods. Merchanting is the purchase of goods by a resident of the compiling economy from a non-resident and the subsequent resale of the goods to another non-resident. During the process, the goods do not enter or leave the compiling economy. Merchanting service is measured by the margin between the value of goods when acquired and the value of goods when resold.
- **Other miscellaneous business services** cover operational leasing services (without operators) of ships, aircraft and transportation equipment; real estate services and other business services that cannot be classified to any of the business services listed above.

3. General compilation strategies for FATS statistics

Singapore does not currently compile FATS statistics.