



STATISTICS DIRECTORATE

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National Accounts and Economic Statistics - International Trade Statistics

5th International Trade Statistics meeting
26- 29 APRIL 2004
DRAFT SUMMARY

**6th OECD INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS EXPERT MEETING (ITS) & OECD-EUROSTAT
MEETING OF EXPERTS IN TRADE-IN-SERVICES STATISTICS (TIS)**
Tour Europe, Salle des Nations, 12-15 September 2005

This document has been prepared by Mr. Andreas Lindner, OECD, for information and adoption, under item 2 of the draft agenda : Report of the 5th ITS Meeting 12-14 April 2004

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**5th International Trade Statistics meeting
26- 29 APRIL 2004
DRAFT SUMMARY**

Chair: Andreas Lindner, Head of the International Trade and Structural Economics Statistics Section

Agenda:

- 1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda**
- 2. Report of the 4th ITS meeting 7-9 April [2003 Agenda](#)**
- 3. Recent developments at OECD**
 - a) Integrating HS 2002 into ITS [STD/NAES/TASS/ITS\(2004\)9](#) [OECD PowerPoint](#)*
 - b) Status of the ITS database [Room document 13](#) [OECD PowerPoint](#)*
 - c) Towards more timely and high quality data [Room document 14](#) [OECD PowerPoint](#)*
 - d) General developments and initiatives at OECD regarding statistical information systems - [OECD](#) [OECD PowerPoint](#)*

Summary :

- *Integration of HS 2002 is major challenge and reveals need to coordinate with UNSD given the joint database*
- *Despite significant progress, speed of data transmission remains crucial, strong pleas to member countries to improve:*
 - *timeliness (no improvement shown on 2002 data collection speed vs. 2001),*
 - *comprehensive data and metadata quality,*
 - *automation of data transfer,*
- *Links between OECD / UNSD / WTO became stronger through joint activities and data sharing ,*
- *Monthly data are becoming more important, in particular for press releases and nowcasts/ forecasts.*
 - *Internet-based updating needs more stability, better coverage and advance time table to facilitate efficient automatic updating procedures.*
 - *OECD informed Delegates about new developments regarding statistics. The new Statistical Information Strategy was presented.*

4. Recent developments in OECD Member Countries

Delegates were asked to report on significant developments in their country regarding trade statistics.

Summary of the tour de table:

Summary :

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| <i>Austria</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Preparation for EU enlargement: new countries are significant trade partners ; campaign of information for companies in co-operation with Chamber of Commerce,</i> – <i>Web form interface in destination of large companies in order to ease the upload process (2500 users, 15% of the declarations,</i> – <i>Last estimates currently in process to meet ECB requirements on data transmission (flash estimate, forecast data),</i> – <i>EDICOM2 project: combination of Trade and Transport data to improve the trade structure view, this additional information allows further checks of inconsistencies.</i> |
| <i>Belgium</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>New monthly publication: change in methodology, emphasis put on regional data,</i> – <i>Dissemination: implementation of Beyond 20/20 jointly with a campaign of information for the companies on how to use the new tool and the Intrastat definitions,</i> – <i>Geographical indices under study (availability end 2004),</i> – <i>Implementation in 2005 of new IntraStat Regulations.</i> |
| <i>Canada</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Improvement of the data quality (done for imports, exports are the next steps) in synergy with US customs,</i> – <i>Analysis on major exporters (e.g. diamonds, beef),</i> – <i>Analysis on the effect of import prices on domestic consumer prices,</i> – <i>Trade data reconciliation exercise on Korea, China and Mexico: undercoverage and misallocations, exports are biggest problem, exchange rate effects on trade, effects of internationalisation of production and the role of multinationals.</i> |
| <i>Denmark</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Procedures put in place to improve data collection efficiency and timeliness,</i> – <i>Data consistency checks at enterprise level based on Excel tool,</i> – <i>Internet publications done through more flexible tables and dimensions,</i> – <i>Adjustments to the new EU legislation (estimates).</i> |
| <i>Finland</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Progress made in data quality (method for estimating data below threshold values, checking methods),</i> – <i>Improvements in data collection: allow speeding up of Intrastat declaration,</i> – <i>Comparison between Business & Trade statistics – study available on Internet,</i> – <i>Globalisation: analysis on intra-company flows in Multinational Enterprise Comparison,</i> – <i>EU enlargement: statistics on goods in transit with Russia available since May.</i> |
| <i>France</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Quality improvements realised: statistical procedure to estimate final data and reduce gap between 3% and 5% difference only between preliminary and final data,</i> – <i>Project: End 2004, survey to better estimate C.I.F. values.</i> |

<i>Greece</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Projects in progress to improve timeliness and quality; increase in the number of electronically transmitted trade data.</i>
<i>Island</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Quality: collaboration with customs reinforced (data reconciliation exercise) .</i>
<i>Italy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>EU enlargement is estimated to lead to some 8000 firm creations.</i> – <i>IntraStat system has been improved (error checks, thresholds adapted, switch from UVI to import prices)</i> – <i>Reconciliation exercise between Structural Business Statistics and Balance of Payment; mirror statistics exercise with Germany,</i> – <i>Quarterly newsletter created on Italian trade performance.</i>
<i>Norway</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Quality improvement in indices quality,</i> – <i>Increased use of Business register</i> – <i>Effort focused on Trade in services,</i> – <i>New system of trading declaration based upon questionnaires postponed,</i> – <i>Paper publication stopped, data dissemination exclusively on line.</i>
<i>New Zealand</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Merchandise trade volume indices: unit values completed with prices,</i> – <i>Quality: quality plan introduced regarding BoP statistics,</i> – <i>Comparison and integration of trade with other business data,</i> – <i>Internet: B20/20 table by commodity/partner available on web site.</i>
<i>Netherlands</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Comparison and integration of trade with other business data,</i> – <i>EU enlargement : improvement of the system (web application form for on line declaration),</i> – <i>CNA figures disseminated on line including data above the threshold of 1 M Euros.</i>
<i>Poland</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Accession to EU implies considerable changes for 2004:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Modification of the customs declaration to SAD (system in place since 1992),</i> ▪ <i>Implementation of the IntraStat system since May 2004.</i> ▪ <i>Burden sharing: Customs compile data, CSO disseminates</i>
<i>Slovak Republic</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Changes in internal and external trade: 80% of trade is related to EU and EU accession countries,</i> – <i>Multinational enterprises impact growingt,</i> – <i>2003 deficit increased by 25% versus 2002, importance of FDI.</i>
<i>Czech Republic</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Pilot project to check the data transmission flow: customs office responsible for data collection and the CSO for processing,</i> – <i>Move from monthly data reporting to quarterly updating.</i>
<i>United Kingdom</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>New export system set up by customs (electronic declaration replacing paper declaration),</i> – <i>Change in methodology leading to revisions in ONS monthly data reporting.</i>
<i>Sweden</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Quality: by reducing the level of detail for traded goods from 8 digits to 6 digits the reliability of the data have been much improved. Eurostat data will remain at 8 digit, but with a lower quality,</i> – <i>Integration of the trade statistics with business statistics : data by company size available,</i> – <i>EU enlargement: preparation with staff training.</i>

- Switzerland* – *Project: possibility to analyze the customs fees*
- *for agricultural or industrial or total trade at 2 to 8 digit level,*
 - *by partner (at country level and zone level).*
- *Project "international trade indices" :*
- *identification of the extreme values with a filter based on ARIMA model,*
 - *indices corrected by the number of working days.*
- *Quality processes analyzed :*
- *sources of error analyzed,*
 - *improving the final outputs for the press release,*
 - *CD-Rom production,*
 - *Sort of declarations.*
- *New Transit System set up since April 2004 and built by Eurostat for road traffic, but need to be improved since combination of rail/road is not taken in account,*
- *Analysis of diamond statistics,*
 - *Dissemination policy : less paper publication, more online dissemination.*
 - *Quality project launched*
- Eurostat*
- *EU enlargement : new domain EU25 for declaring countries,*
 - *New organigramme after restructuring,*
 - *New dissemination policy, reduction of paper publication, free dissemination of all data on Internet (target plan: open information starting October 2004),*
 - *New Intrastat regulation :*
 - *new deadline for aggregated information (40 days after the reference month),*
 - *Quality reports send every year to Eurostat become mandatory,*
 - *New provision in line with extra-EU allowing passive confidentiality,*
 - *Simplification of the system of threshold: 97% of trade is covered; all countries will have to submit adjusted data to provide full coverage.*
- WCO*
- *New director*
- WTO*
- *Reorganization : Statistics Division has been restructured into two Sections (Trade Statistics Section and Tariffs Section) and been integrated into the Economic Research and Statistics Division,,*
 - *Trade statistics are received mainly through other international organizations, foremost Eurostat, IMF, OECD and UNSD,*
 - *Emphasis put on timeliness of data transmission and on estimations,*
 - *Publication of Annual World Trade report (analytical report),*
 - *Migration to a new database based on SQL server.*
- UNSD*
- *Merchandise Trade Statistics Compiler Manual presenting official practices and methodology published,*
 - *Review of metadata : web site based on questionnaires,*
 - *Web site provides data (free for countries, access based on fee for private companies).*
 - *UNSD joins forces with OECD*
 - *Extension to Trade in Services (use of OECD data for OECD countries).-*

5. Inter - Agency Co-operation and coordination

a) *Report on the 35th UN Statistical Commission* [STD/NAES/TASS/ITS\(2004\)5](#)

b) *Oral report by WTO on the Inter Agency Task Force meeting in Addis Ababa , 23-25 March 2004:*

Summary :

The objective of the Inter-agency Task force is to coordinate the actions of the international organizations. This Group meets once a year with the objective of improving the process, comprehensiveness and consistency in 4 areas :

- 1. Data collection (guide of the data collection on conceptual and methodology issues) ;*
- 2. Exchange of foreign trade data (common data dissemination (CDS), copyright issues) ;*
- 3. Horizontal issues (information issues, BPM6 pre-project, exchange of indicators) ;*
- 4. Technical assistance (improve the coverage and the quality of the statistics and metadata).*

c) *Towards one consistent world trade database : OECD and UNSD data sharing:*
[STD/NAES/TASS/ITS\(2004\)3](#) [OECD PowerPoint](#)

- Joint letter to OECD countries
- Data issues and adjustment, processing routines
- IT issues

Summary :

The objective for OECD and UNSD is to improve timeliness and quality through synergies. As a result, a World Trade database will be shared by the 2 agencies: OECD will provide data for its member countries and UNSD for the rest of the World. A joint OECD/UNSD letter has been sent to countries in February 2004 announcing this finalisation of burden sharing.

The current achievements are:

- *IT solutions agreed (development of a unique application, databases of both organisations will be synchronised with each other),*
- *Data processing methods harmonized (country codes, memorandum items, conversions...),*
- *Quantity units will follow WTO requirements (quality should be improved in this field since this information is more and more requested by end users),*
- *Metadata comparison and integration.*

Next steps:

- *Storage procedures,*
- *Tests will be performed by end of 2004.*

d) The Common Data Set Project - WTO update [STD/NAES/TASS/ITS\(2004\)7](#)

Summary :

Presentation made by WTO. The objective of the Common Data Set Project is to improve comparability and comprehensiveness between agencies regarding trade aggregates. WTO coordinates the reconciliation of Total merchandise trade imports and exports figures.

In 2003, a first round of this reconciliation has been done for 1995 to 2001 data. This exercise will be updated in 2004 with 2002 and 2003 data. It is to become a regular yearly exercise.

Tuesday 27 April - 9.30 am

6. Classification issues affecting trade statistics

a) Harmonized System HS 2002 implementation and simplification - WCO [WCO PowerPoint](#)

Summary :

Presentation made by the WCO on HS amendments and review cycle.

In 2003, 94 contracting parties were involved in the review of HS amendments. Those amendments are made in order to simplify the existing HS and to keep up with technological change.

The amendments are implemented in respect of the following procedure :

- *in March 2004, Sub-Committee issue recommendations,*
- *in May 2004, HS Committee adopt the recommendations and propose amendments,*
- *in June 2004, the Council adopt the amendments,*
- *then, customs administrations of the contracting parties have 6 months to agree or put a reservation on one or all amendments.*

As a result, the amendments agreed on January 2005 will be implemented in 2007. The third review cycle focused on High Tech area and mainly implies movements in headings 84, 85 and 90.

b) Revision of activity and product classifications - implications for trade - OECD, UNSD [STD/NAES/TASS/ITS\(2004\)6](#) [OECD PowerPoint](#)

Summary :

Presentation made by UNSD on the impacts the HS 2007 revision will have on SITC.

HS 2007 implies a new revision of SITC, this will be done with the following steps:

- *in June 2004, UNSD will issue proposals for the SITC revision and will be communicated to Trade Experts to collect their views,*
- *in July 2005, an Expert group will be created and review the draft SITC 4 revisions,*
- *in March 2006, UN Statistical Commission will amend the revisions,*
- *November 2006, finalisation and correlation tables between:*
 - *HS 07 and SITC rev.4,*
 - *SITC rev.3 and SITC rev.4,*
 - *HS 02 and SITC rev.4.*

A presentation was made by OECD on the impacts that the HS 2007 revisions will have on ISIC.

7. Methodological research and development

a) Interaction/reconciliation issues with BoP [STD/NAES/TASS/ITS\(2004\)11](#)

Summary :

Presentation by EUROSTAT.

Main results of the reconciliation exercise between Trade Statistics and BoP data for the 25 EU countries. Results from a survey sent to the Foreign Trade statisticians and BoP compilers of the 25 EU.

Main differences are due to:

1. *Differences in methodology:*
 - *CIF/FOB basis,*
 - *treatment of goods for repair,*
2. *Adjustments made on BoP data:*
 - *goods not crossing the border,*
 - *goods for processing,*
 - *missing trade intra community fraud,*
 - *returned goods.*

The next step will be for EUROSTAT to adjust their trade data to converge more with BoP data. The main difficulty of the adjustment will be to assess a CIF/FOB ratio.

→ Comment:

For the OECD 2005 Trade Expert Meeting, it was suggested to include this issue on the agenda as follow-up .

b) Linkages of Structural Business Statistics and Trade Statistics - country experiences and recent developments [STD/NAES/TASS/ITS\(2004\)10](#)

Summary :

Presentation by EUROSTAT.

Two different issues have been investigated:

1. *The measure of intra-firm trade. Such information is increasingly becoming relevant in the globalisation context. Eurostat hopes that, instead of amending existing IntraStat regulations, another approaches to data collection can be found to keep the respondents burden within reasonable bounds. Major results are not expected in the short term.*
2. *Linkage between trade registers and general business registers, new indicators on trade statistics. Before summer, EUROSTAT will publish the main results in "Statistic in Focus". Main features will include:*
 - *trade according to the size of enterprise,*
 - *at an aggregated level, product Export / Import crossed with economic activity,*
 - *trade by concentration of firm.*

→ Comments:

- *Belgium: other field of investigation can be Export intensity: compare export data with turnover data at company level and analyse if bigger companies are more oriented towards exports than smaller companies.*
- *Italy: a prerequisite before starting this type of analysis should be a new register regulation to make the registration form compulsory.*

c) Measuring export under coverage and misallocation (Canada) - [Canada PowerPoint](#)

Summary :

Presentation made by Statistics Canada.

Under coverage and misallocation are the most important factors impacting on quality. This has been revealed by:

- *reconciliation studies at global level,*
- *ad hoc studies in marine ports, airports, highway border crossings at detailed level..*

Two types of action have been taken to solve under coverage issue:

- *estimating the under coverage based upon sample movements per day,*
- *changing customs environment.*

→ Comments:

- *UK: exports trade are adjusted for about +1.5% based upon checks of customs documentation,*

- *New Zealand: under coverage estimated between 1 to 3%. This bias comes from confusion between exporters and freight holders who filled the documentation. This situation has been improved.*
- *Denmark: in the past, some companies failed to report their exports to Greenland,*
- *Eurostat: in the EU, the VAT system provides protection against under coverage.*

d) VAT missing trader intra-community Fraud: the effect on Trade statistics
[STD/NAES/TASS/ITS\(2004\)2 ONS PowerPoint](#)

Summary :

Presentation by the United Kingdom (ONS).

The presentation explained how MTIC fraud (acquisition and carousel fraud) causes a trade surplus to be overstated and a trade deficit to be understated, leading also to increased asymmetries in Intra-Community mirror statistics. The Office for National Statistics corrections and revisions for MTIC fraud contributed to a more coherent BoP.

8. Dissemination of trade data

a) OECDs Quarterly Trade Press Release:

- *Results from and OECD inquiry to Member Countries*
- *Towards a monthly Press Release?*
- *Should BoP - based trade in goods and services summaries be included? [Room document 12 OECD PowerPoint](#)*

Summary :

Presentation by OECD:

- *OECD reported on the results obtained through an inquiry to member countries on earliest possible data delivery of monthly/quarterly data for the OECD Quarterly Trade Press Release. Depending on countries and data (indices, aggregates, and partner country data), the results were very different as to the countries' ability to submit data. An overall range of 60 to 110 days was identified which reasonably could be reduced to 60-90 days. OECD is working together with countries towards improving timeliness This issue will be a regular agenda item for future ITS meetings.*
- *There was no clear signal to move from a quarterly towards a monthly press release. Given that OECD publishes monthly data, this could also put to much strain on scarce OECD resources.*
- *The inclusion of BoP data in the Quarterly Press Release was generally welcomed although some concern was expressed that BoP data would be less timely than merchandise trade data. [NB: Since the 2004 meeting OECD is releasing Quarterly Press Releases on Trade including BoP Summaries]*

b) Pro's and cons of various media for disseminating trade data (Internet, CD-ROM, etc.)

Delegates are invited (tour de table) to express their views and experiences

Summary :

This agenda item did not trigger any notable discussion, There seemed to be consensus among participants that Internet is the key dissemination tool, followed by DVDs and CD-ROMS.

9. Future ITS Programme of Work and Conclusions
Other business and date of next meeting

Summary :

The Chair asked Delegates to express their views on

a) the usefulness of the annual ITS meeting; and

b) Suggestions for agenda items for the 2005 meeting

Below are the (condensed) reactions from country delegates on (a) and/or (b):

Austria: Useful, business registers

Belgium: Useful

Canada: Useful, continue with structure of issues as now

Denmark: Useful, concentrate on experience sharing with other countries

Finland: Useful, more focus on case studies/examples and business registers

Greece: Useful and very interesting, add Intra-Firm trade next time

Iceland: Very valuable OECD meeting, good programme

Italy: Useful, all methodological research and development issues are interesting

Norway: Useful

New Zealand: Useful, country participation very interesting. Proposal to include in minutes links to papers

[NB: Done!]

Slovak Republic: Thankful for ITS meeting, IntraStat/ExtraStat issues for next meeting's discussion

United Kingdom: Useful and enriching. Next time: Globalisation issues, Linkages, Under- and over-coverage, Exchange rates.

Sweden: Very useful, next meeting: Structural Business Statistics plus Business Registers plus Trade

Switzerland: Useful, Mode of transport, smuggled goods, data protection, re-exports

Eurostat: Useful, confidentiality, free dissemination, good practices, adjustment techniques

IMF: Useful, more country research results desired

WTO: like IMF

UNSD: Useful, earlier data dissemination

Tuesday, 27 April afternoon

Joint session with the OECD-Eurostat Experts in Trade-in-Services Statistics

10. Welcome and opening by the Chief Statistician of OECD and Director of the Statistics Directorate

Summary:

The Chief Statistician and Director of the Statistics Directorate, Mr. Giovannini, welcomed the group.

He stressed the need to further enhance the quality of international statistics, of which trade statistics are an essential part. The international statistical system is based upon pillars such as the fundamental principles of official statistics, multilateral surveillance (e.g. SDDS/GDDS), joint Websites and common infrastructures, such as SDMX.

He stated that the ITS/TIS Work of OECD is exactly along these lines. The co-operation with UNSD is a big jump forward in international Inter-Agency co-operation as is the very close co-operation with Eurostat on trade-in-services statistics. International quality guidelines become more important in a context of increasing amounts of statistical information disseminated.

Concerning Indicators, a promising area of new research is the linking of trade with other sources, such as structural business statistics. The importance of register design and linkages between registers was stressed to allow integration at micro-data level. OECD will further investigate scope of future involvement.

Mr. Giovannini also reported on the creation of the new Committee for Statistics at OECD. Besides a strengthening of the statistics function of OECD, this creation represents important opportunities and challenges. Organisational change, which flow from the existence of a Committee (e.g. the transformation of expert groups into working groups or working parties) are likely to affect also this group.

11. Globalisation, production and trade indicators

a) OECD, presentations by:

- OECD Statistics Directorate (STD) [OECD PowerPoint](#)

Summary :

Presentation by OECD/STD,

A progress report summarized the main milestones achieved so far and stated the next steps to be taken over the forthcoming year. The methodological work has advanced well as has the choice of indicators. An intermediate step of the Trade Indicators Project will be the contribution to OECD's Handbook of Economic Globalisation Indicators (HEGI) where STD will provide the trade chapter. The Handbook will be published in 2005.

The next step planned is the development of an interactive Web tool for analysts using trade indicators data. There was consensus that OECD is uniquely well suited for cross-disciplinary research and data tools such as this one. Building upon the large range of available in-house databases using a common framework for ensuring high-quality data and clear methodological guidance were considered a strong advantage. Links to other organisations,

such as WTO and ITC are envisaged as well to complete the coverage of the OECD Trade Indicators. An identified linkage to business statistics will be further explored as well.

A wealth of information is available across OECD, but “isolated” in different databases. OECD Directorates will work together and STD will also collaborate with other agencies to build up and link indicators to avoid duplication and conceptual differences.

- OECD Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry (DSTI) [STD/NAES/TASS/ITS\(2004\)4](#)

Summary :

Presentation made by OECD/DSTI:

The Trade Experts Group was informed about progress made concerning the finalisation of the “Trade Globalisation” Chapter of HEGI. The practical and methodological problems, in particular with respect to intra-firm and intra-industry trade as well as regional trade were highlighted.

Given the difficulties in correctly measuring activities of multinationals, a proposal was made that this Trade Expert Group should perhaps take this issue on board for future work.

Another field of suggested investigation was the need to advance in the domain of adequate and comparable statistical units. The work in STD on Structural Business Statistics, including SMEs and the methodological initiatives stemming from the Istanbul Ministerial Declaration on SMEs were welcomed. There is a clear need to bridge amongst concepts used and developed in OECD countries and to explain and translate different terminologies. This “statistical prerequisite” for solid policy analysis is a typical and very useful role for STD.

- OECD Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs (DAF) [DAFFE/IME/STAT\(2004\)1/REV1](#)

Summary :

Presentation made by OECD/DAF :

An update on key statistical issues of the Investment Committee was given. Again, the lack of an universally accepted definition of a multinational enterprise seriously impede advances.

Multinational enterprises analysis necessitates to bring together at least three dimensions :

- Foreign Direct Investment,
- Activity statistics,
- Trade statistics.

b) Presentations by other national and international bodies

- ICE Italy [ITALY PowerPoint](#)

A consultant of the national Institute for Foreign Trade, Italy, which works together with the OECD on the Trade Indicators Project, made an oral presentation reviewing the progress made so far and gave some examples of international performance and competitiveness indicators and structural indicators.

Some new research results on structural indicators, including intra-industry trade were summarized. As already mentioned by many delegations, the need for enterprise-related statistics was underlined.

The Indicators Project (see 11(a)) will progressively include more indicators which have passed the validation stage, to become a true integrated analysis tool for visualizing the main features of economic globalisation.

- CBS Netherlands [STD/NAES/TASS/ITS\(2004\)12](#) [CBS PowerPoint](#)

The Dutch delegate made an interesting analysis of one of the rather overlooked facets of globalisation, namely the degree of imports in exports. Referring to the OECD work on globalisation indicators, a model measuring the import content of Dutch exports was presented. A fundamental requirement for doing this type of analysis is the availability of separate re-exports data of both imports and exports.

The focus on the internationalisation process in a global economy, namely the relative integration with and dependence on foreign production lends to the model presented a particular relevance

On average, some 40% of Dutch exports contain imported elements. Input-output calculations using the refined model presented allow to determine –inter alia – the degree of import dependence of one exporting sector from another sector.

- WTO Indicators [STD/NAES/TASS/ITS\(2004\)8](#)

The WTO delegate presented the WTO “Country Trade-Related Indicators”, a new statistical product launched in 2003. It became available early 2004 on WTO’s Intranet site and will be part later in 2004 of the new, interactive WTO Statistics Gateway.

The objectives of this product were to

- provide WTO staff with consistent quantitative summaries on trade structures and trade policy measures*
- enhance internal coherence and reduce duplication of work*
- improve data quality through analysis.*

12. Annotated Outline (AO) of Revised Balance of Payments Manual:

Aspects related to trade in goods and services - Overview of issues, process and timetable - presentation by IMF [STD/NAES/TASS/ITS\(2004\)1](#) . Revision of the balance of payments - [Manual, fifth edition](#) (IMF)

Summary :

IMF gave a presentation on the Annotated Outline of a revised Balance of Payments Manual. She set out the IMF priorities for the revision, and an approximate timetable, which was planned to culminate in 2008 with a new Manual. She summarised those parts of the AO related to measuring trade in goods and services – mainly chapters four and nine.

Wednesday, 28 April OECD-Eurostat Experts in Trade-in-Services Statistics - continued (10 a.m.)

13. Discussion and presentations of issues related to both trade in goods and trade in services

- i. Question of breakdown of goods and services account
- ii. Proposals on breakdown of merchandise trade in BOP
- iii. Treatment of re-exports
- iv. Treatment of merchanting services (presentation by Bank of Japan)
- v. Goods for processing
- vi. Repairs on goods
- vii. Trade in goods and services between related parties
- viii. Software - OECD presentation of trade in software data

Summary and Conclusions :

Issues in AO Chapter 9 concerning trade in goods only or both goods and services

i) Question of breakdown of the goods and services account

The trade policy interest in developments in trade in goods and trade in services, given separate trade agreements, was felt to justify separate balances for each of goods and services. It was important for economic analysis to show the combined 'balance of trade' covering both goods and services. It was also acknowledged that for domestic production in SNA the distinction between goods and services was becoming slightly less important.

ii) Proposals on breakdown of merchandise trade in BOP

The meeting heard that there was a policy interest in an aggregated breakdown of general merchandise trade on a BOP basis. Among compilers there was reluctance to introduce much new estimation on a BOP basis of data that were readily available on a merchandise trade basis. The tentative conclusion was that if individual countries wished to present a breakdown of general merchandise in BOP, that should be their prerogative rather than introduce a more detailed international standard breakdown, as export profiles were very different between countries. In cases where there was some identified deficiency in merchandise trade data, e.g. of under-coverage, there was a need for more discussion between countries on how this should be presented and

whether corrections should be made to IMTS or BOP statistics.

iii) Treatment of re-exports

The AO questioned whether to continue to show re-exports separately within merchandise trade or exclude re-exports from merchandise trade and include the difference re-export – original import as a service e.g. transport etc.

The UNSD reminded the meeting of current guidelines that re-exports should be identified separately within merchandise trade. For certain countries, including Netherlands, re-exports were very important and certainly should be separately identified, since the value added from re-exports to the reporting economy was very different from other exports. UK said that it had dropped identifying these separately in 1970. It was agreed that the issue of reporting re-exports should be subject to further investigation for the next year's meeting.

iv) Treatment of merchanting services

Ms Yamaguchi (Bank of Japan) introduced paper [STD/NAES/TASS/ITS\(2004\)13 JAPAN PowerPoint](#) which argued for a new treatment of merchanting services in BOP. The current treatment had the following weaknesses:

- a) it breached the change of ownership rule for trade in goods;*
- b) there were global and regional discrepancies;*
- c) bilateral conceptual asymmetries were caused;*
- d) it created the possibility of negative exports.*

A gross treatment of these as trade in goods would overcome these problems. Some further refinement of the treatment of non-monetary gold was advocated.

On the other hand such a gross treatment would significantly expand the perception of the size of trade in goods creating a time series problem. It would also be analytically unhelpful as the 'exported' merchanting goods were unconnected with any goods production in the reporting country. Merchanting was after all a service. In BPM4 this had been treated as trade in goods based on the change in ownership principle. There could be an argument to maintain the BPM5 decision of making it a service on the grounds of continuity. This item "merchanting services" was currently difficult to interpret in EU statistics. Given the mixed views on this item a further discussion paper should be developed.

v) Goods for processing

The AO posed the question whether processing of goods should be recorded as a service charge. Also whether it should be split into goods processed abroad and goods processed in the reporting economy. This is also an issue for the SNA revision.

The issues raised in the discussion included the question of whether data would be likely to be available on processing abroad and in the reporting economy. There was both support for the split - goods processed abroad and goods processed in the reporting economy, as well as significant support for no change to BPM5.

vi) Repairs on goods

The AO proposal was to move that part of repairs treated as goods trade to services. There was a discussion and some confusion as to the meaning and scope of the term 'repairs', whether

major or minor. Major repairs were in BOP are likely to be regarded as goods for processing and so excluded. There appeared to be a terminological classification problem with lack of harmony between CPC and BOP. There were also practical data collection issues to consider. There seemed to be some consensus that major repairs under whatever name should be in goods trade, and that minor repairs are services.

vii) Trade in goods and services between related parties

The AO raised the analytical interest in separately recording trade in goods and services between related parties (mistakenly identified with FATS in the AO). The meeting noted this proposal.

viii) Trade in software

Mr Cave OECD/STD gave a presentation of trade in software data [OECD PowerPoint](#), which he related to the recommendations of an OECD National Accounts study on measurement of software in the national accounts. Software could be traded as a good, in principle packaged software; or as a service, in principle customised software or software maintenance; or through license fees, in principle for the reproduction and sale of software. In practice it could be difficult to distinguish these types of trade. Computer services was the fastest growing of these components and more countries were encouraged to report software royalties and license fees.

There is a problem of data sources. Information may be available by industry and not by product. The recommendations of IMTS to include the full value of trade in packaged software are difficult to apply.

The treatment of software should be reviewed and definitions of license fees clarified in the new BPM.

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