

International Trade Statistics

International Trade Statistics

International Trade in Goods

Purpose

To produce consistent and timely international trade data for OECD member countries and ensure methodological soundness and comparability of international trade data. To conduct research to improve the quality of the concepts underlying international trade data and play an active role in the development of international standards.

Objectives and outputs

Collects and maintains two databases for analytical use: (a) monthly data of exports and imports at current prices by partner countries and main categories of commodities, and volume and average value indices for selected countries and main categories; and (b) detailed annual data of exports and imports by commodities and by partner countries using three classifications (SITC, HS, ISIC).

Full implementation of the OECD-UNSD data sharing agreement covering all OECD member countries. A successful completion of the first phase (data collection and transmission to UNSD) of this initiative has already resulted in a reduction of the response burden for member countries and has led in 2006 to identical trade figures published by both the UN and the OECD (processed data). The OECD meeting of experts in international trade will continue to stimulate the exchange of views and research on methodological issues. The 2007 ITS expert meeting attracted 140 participants.

OECD continues to participate in and contribute to the Inter-Agency Merchandise Trade Task Force and manages, and moderates together with WTO, the EDG "Tradenet" on methodological and co-ordination issues affecting various national and international organisations.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Brazil, China, Chinese Taipei, Estonia, Israel, Russian Federation, Slovenia

Databases

International trade by Commodity Statistics

Monthly Statistics of International Trade

Main Developments for 2009

General aspects:

In 2009, data quality and timeliness of processed data should be generally further improved following the results of the Quality Review for all OECD countries.

The new ITCS in OECD.Stat has stabilized in 2008 and efficiency results are expected through the purchase of two dedicated servers for ITCS.

As the Trade Indicators Project (TIP) has reached maturity as an interactive Web-based analytical tool, its content has been enriched (ICT, world-totals instead OECD totals. a new interactive "radar" summary of trade indicators etc.) Depending on additional resources, further developments are planned in 2008 to enrich the indicators on globalisation.

A new Steering group on linking trade to business statistics, set up in 2006, has provided encouraging results in 2008 and will focus in 2009 on further extension of country coverage and documenting methodology.

Data collection:

Concurrent use of the ITCS OECD-UNSD common data collection and processing system and the OECD trade ITCS in OECD.Stat. Full addition of ISIC classification.

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International Trade in Services

Purpose

To provide detailed, relevant and internationally comparable data for trade policy and economic analysis. The information needs of international trade negotiations including the General Agreement on Trade in Services and the observed increase in internationalisation of services production are driving new developments.

Objectives and outputs

An annual joint effort publication with Eurostat and database: "OECD Statistics on International Trade in Services - Detailed tables by category of service". This covers the 30 member countries. Data are based on the concepts of the IMF's 5th Balance of Payments Manual and are broken down according to the detailed EBOPS Classification of Trade in Services. The publication "OECD Statistics on International Trade in Services - Detailed Tables by Partner Country" provides bilateral service trade flows for 28 member countries, Hong Kong SAR and Russian Federation.

Coordinate the work of the Interagency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services including the update of the "The Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services" (MSITS), to be completed in 2009. Promoting the implementation of MSITS. A report on MSITS implementation and data quality will be submitted to the experts and the IMF.

Contribute to organisation of the WP on trade in goods and trade in services statistics.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Brazil, Chile, China, Estonia, India, Indonesia, Israel, Russian Federation, Slovenia, South Africa

Databases

International trade in services by category of service (TIS)

OECD Statistics on International Trade in Services by Service Category and by Partner Country

Main Developments for 2009

General aspects:

Develop as far as possible in coordination with TAD and STI estimates of trade in services by mode of supply.

Facilitate to the extent possible links between the classifications EBOPS and ISIC.

Coordinate with other agencies and agree final proposals for the revised Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services - after full consultation with OECD members.

Expand published trade in services data by partner country using new facilities in StatWorks and OECD.Stat. Improve the timeliness, with rolling updates, and detail of published data. Monitor progress in the implementation of MSITS recommendations. Contribute to revision work of BPM6, where it is related to trade in services.

Contribute to OECD analytical work and in particular work closely with TAD and STI on data needs for the Services Trade Restrictiveness Index. Improve estimates of world trade flows of services.

Cooperate with Eurostat to collect and make available as far as possible partner country data on remittances.

Develop cooperation with UNSD and other agencies on data sharing in trade in services.

Data collection:

Rolling update of trade in services by partner country data as data become available. This will significantly improve timeliness.

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Monthly International Trade

Purpose

To produce consistent and timely international trade data for OECD member countries, ensure methodological soundness and comparability of international trade data, conduct research to improve the quality of the concepts underlying international trade data and play an active role in the development of international standards.

Objectives and outputs

Collect data and maintain database for analytical use: monthly data of exports and imports at current prices by partner countries and main categories of commodities, and volume and average value indices for selected countries and main categories. Continuous and close co-operation with key users at OECD. Updating cycles optimised to respond to needs of Economic Outlook. Online availability of OECD's detailed international trade data. OECD continues to actively participate and contribute to the International Trade Task Force (Inter-Agency TF)

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Russian Federation, Slovenia

Databases

Monthly Statistics of International Trade (MSIT)

Main Developments for 2009

General aspects:

Following the recommendations of the WPTGS and the work carried out by the Secretariat, it is planned for 2009 to implement the methodological questionnaire results; advance total trade data submission to MSIT to feed into MEI in a timely manner (after aligning methodologies between MSIT and MEI) and to produce identical, consistent monthly trade aggregate figures in the two publications; expand scope of countries to include the 5 Accession countries with help from additional resources earmarked to that effect.

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Services Trade Restrictiveness Index

Purpose

To build a database for the Services Trade Restrictiveness Index project of the Trade Committee.

Objectives and outputs

Three datasets have been created at the bilateral by sector level:

- Cross-border trade in services
- FDI stocks
- FATS statistics

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Chile, China, Estonia, India, Indonesia, Israel, Russian Federation, Slovenia, South Africa

Main Developments for 2009

General aspects:

Data will be updated and completed.